SLICEANDMERGE: A Rodin Plug-in for Refactoring Refinement Structure of Event-B Machines

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Event-B supports flexible and rigorous modeling with a refinement mechanism based on proof obligation rules. The flexibility enables developers to decide a set of concepts and aspects of target systems focused on in each refinement step. The decision is important in modeling, because it has effects on understandability, maintainability, extensibility of Event-B models.

We focus on refactoring of refinement structure of machines, or re-deciding concepts and aspects of refinement steps in existing proved machines. We aim to realize it in a flexible way through slicing (decomposition) and merging (composition) of refinement steps.

In concrete, when the followings are given:

- Machines M_A and M_C such that M_C refines M_A
- V_B , which is a subset of M_C 's variables

Slicing of the refinement produces an intermediate machine M_B such that:

- M_C refines M_B 1 and M_B refines M_A
- M_B 's set of variables is a superset of V_B

Merging is the reverse operation of slicing.

Refinement slicing decomposes introduction of new variables and invariants through a refinement step into several steps. Moreover, it often reveals implicit properties of a concrete machine as explicit expressions of an intermediate machine. Therefore, it helps users to understand descriptions and proof of refinement steps, and thus improves maintainability. A typical problem that can be solved by refinement slicing is a refinement step with a large number of new variables and invariants, which tend to be difficult to understand.

Although Rodin platform supports refactoring expressions of machines and contexts, refactoring of refinement structures has not been tackled.

¹refines clauses of events in M_C are changed through this process.

We implemented a plug-in of Rodin platform named SLICEANDMERGE to support slicing and merging.

Our approach to slicing is as follows:

- 1. Calculate variables in the intermediate machine considering dependencies of variables and invariants.
- 2. Find fragments of M_A and M_C that should also be specified in M_B .
- 3. Add complementary specifications to the fragments, so that M_B becomes consistent.

SLICEANDMERGE supports users by automating step 1 and step 2 of the above. Users of SLICEANDMERGE can select a part of invariants of an intermediate machine M_B from a list of invariants of a concrete machine M_C (Fig. 1). Then the tool resolves dependencies between invariants and variables, finds fragments of M_A and M_C that should be included in the intermediate machine M_B , and generates a part of M_B . The tool also supports merging of refinement steps.

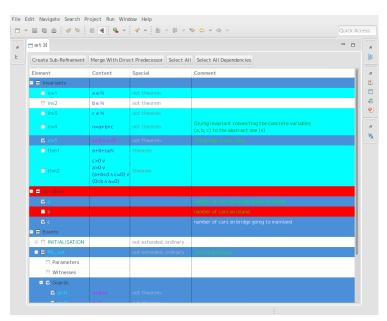


Figure 1: Interface for selection of invariants in intermediate machine

In this tool development presentation, we describe details of SLICEAND-MERGE and give a demonstration of the tool.