

ON STRATEGIES IN DIFFERENTIAL GAMES*

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Piecewise-programmed, piecewise-synthesizing and recursive strategies in differential games are examined. It is shown that in a specific sense these strategies can be considered as special cases of upper Δ -strategies. The paper borders on the studies in /1-8/.

1. Let the dynamics of a game be described by the vector differential equation

$$dx/dt = f(t, x, u, v), \quad t_0 \leq t \leq T, \quad x \in R^n, \quad u \in P(t) \subset U, \quad v \in Q(t) \subset V \quad (1.1)$$

where $U (V)$ is a compact set in Euclidean space $R^p (R^q)$ and at least one pair of controls $u(t)$ and $v(t)$ measurable on $[t_0, T]$ exists, such that $u(t) \in P(t), v(t) \in Q(t), t_0 \leq t \leq T$. The function f on the right-hand side of the motion Eqs. (1.1) is continuous on $[t_0, T] \times R^n \times U \times V$ and on this set satisfies a Lipschitz condition in x with a constant λ . We shall examine two controlled dynamic systems /6/ governed by Eq. (1.1).

Dynamic system $\Sigma_1 = ([t_0, T], R^n, D_1, D_2, \kappa)$. The set $D_1 (D_2)$ of admissible controls of the first (second) player in system Σ_1 consists of all vector-valued functions $u(t) (v(t))$ measurable on interval $[t_0, T]$, satisfying the conditions $u(t) \in P(t) (v(t) \in Q(t)), t_0 \leq t \leq T$. The paths $x(t) = \kappa(t, t_*, x_*, u, v)$ of this system are defined as the solutions of the system of Eqs. (1.1) when $u = u(t) \in D_1$ and $v = v(t) \in D_2$ under the initial condition $x(t_*) = x_*$.

Dynamic system $\Sigma_2 = ([t_0, T], R^n, D_1(k_1), D_2(k_2), \kappa)$. The set $D_1(k_1) (D_2(k_2))$ of admissible controls of the first (second) player consists of all vector-valued functions $u(t, x) (v(t, x))$ defined on $[t_0, T] \times R^n$, taking values in $U (V), u(t, x) \in P(t) \subset U (v(t, x) \in Q(t) \subset V), t_0 \leq t \leq T, x \in R^n$, measurable in t on $[t_0, T]$ for each fixed x , and satisfying a Lipschitz condition in x with constant $k_1 (k_2)$ on set $[t_0, T] \times R^n$. The set $D_1(k_1) (D_2(k_2))$ can be looked upon as a set consisting of mappings of interval $[t_0, T]$ into the set of functions

$$U_1 = \{u(x) \in C[R^n, U] \mid \|u(x_1) - u(x_2)\| \leq k_1 \|x_1 - x_2\|, \text{ for all } x_1, x_2 \in R^n\}$$

$$V_1 = \{v(x) \in C[R^n, V] \mid \|v(x_1) - v(x_2)\| \leq k_2 \|x_1 - x_2\|, \text{ for all } x_1, x_2 \in R^n\}$$

The paths $x(t) = \kappa(t, t_*, x_*, u, v)$ of system Σ_2 are defined as the solutions of the system of Eqs. (1.1) when $u = u(t, x) \in D_1(k_1)$ and $v = v(t, x) \in D_2(k_2)$ under the initial condition $x(t_*) = x_*$. It is assumed that function j on the right hand side of the motion Eqs. (1.1) satisfy on set $[t_0, T] \times R^n \times U \times V$ a Lipschitz condition in x, u, v with a constant λ .

2. Piecewise-programmed strategies /6,7/ in system Σ_2 will be called piecewise-synthesizing strategies. By $D_1^* [k_1, t_*] (D_2^* [k_2, t_*])$ we denote the set of all piecewise-synthesizing strategies of the first (second) player in the quasidynamic system $\Sigma_2(t_*, x_*)$ /6/. Let $\Delta = \{t_* = t_0^\Delta < t_1^\Delta < \dots < t_{n(\Delta)}^\Delta = T\}$ be any finite partitioning of interval $[t_*, T]$. By $D_{1\Delta} [t_*] (D_{2\Delta} [t_*])$ we denote the set of all upper Δ -strategies, by $D_{1\Delta} [t_*] (D_{2\Delta} [t_*])$ we denote the set of all Δ -strategies, and by $D_1^* [t_*] (D_2^* [t_*])$ we denote the set of all piecewise-programmed strategies of the first (second) player in system $\Sigma_1(t_*, x_*)$ /6/. The following statement is valid.

Theorem 1. For any piecewise-synthesizing strategy $\varphi \in D_1^* [k_1, t_*] (\psi \in D_2^* [k_2, t_*])$ there exists an upper Δ -strategy $\varphi^\Delta \in D_{1\Delta} [t_*] (\psi^\Delta \in D_{2\Delta} [t_*])$ such that

$$\kappa(t, t_*, x_*, \varphi, \psi^\Delta) = \kappa(t, t_*, x_*, \varphi^\Delta, \psi)$$

for all Δ -strategies $\psi_\Delta \in D_{2\Delta} [t_*]$

$$\kappa(t, t_*, x_*, \varphi_\Delta, \psi) = \kappa(t, t_*, x_*, \varphi^\Delta, \psi^\Delta)$$

for all Δ -strategies $\varphi_\Delta \in D_{1\Delta} [t_*]$.

3. Let

$$S(t_*) = \bigcup_{t_* < t < T} [D_1 [t_*, t] \times D_2 [t_*, t)], \quad \Pi(t_*) = \bigcup_{\substack{t_* < t < T \\ t < \theta \leq T}} D_1 [t, \theta)$$

Definition 1. Any finite collection of mappings $a = (a_1, \dots, a_n)$, where $a = a_1 \in D_1 [t_*, T)$ for $n = 1$ and

$$a_1 \in \bigcup_{t_* < t < T} D_1 [t_*, t), \quad a_k : S(t_*) \rightarrow \Pi(t_*), \quad k = 2, \dots, n$$

for $n \geq 2$, and where the conditions $a_n(u_i, v_i) \in D_1 [t, T)$ and $a_k(u_i, v_i) \in D_1 [t, \theta), t < \theta \leq T, k = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$, are fulfilled if $\{u_i, v_i\} \in D_1 [t_*, t) \times D_2 [t_*, t), t_* < t < T$, is called the first player's recursive strategy in system $\Sigma_1(t_*, x_*)$. The second player's recursive strategy $b = (b_1, \dots, b_m)$ in system $\Sigma_1(t_*, x_*)$ is defined analogously.

The path $x(t) = \kappa(t, t_*, x_*, a, b)$ of system Σ_1 , generated by a pair of recursive strategies

$a = (a_1, \dots, a_n)$ and $b = (b_1, \dots, b_m)$, is determined as follows. At the initial instant t_* the players choose the controls

$$u_1 = a_1 \in D_1 [t_*, t_{11}), \quad v_1 = b_1 \in D_2 [t_*, t_{21})$$

For definiteness let $t_{11} < t_{21}$. Then at instant t_{11} the first player chooses the control $u_2 = a_2(u_1, v_{11}) \in D_1 [t_{11}, t_{12})$, depending on the controls u_1 and v_{11} realized by the players on interval $[t_*, t_{11})$, where v_{11} denotes the restriction of control $v_1 = b_1$ on the interval $[t_*, t_{11})$. (We note that in contrast to piecewise-programmed strategies the instant t_{12} , in general, also depends on controls u_1 and v_{11} : $t_{12} = t_{12}(u_1, v_{11})$). We compare the quantities t_{21} and t_{12} . If $t_{21} < t_{12}$, then at instant t_{21} the second player chooses the control

$$v_2 = b_2(u_1, u_{21}, v_1) \in D_2 [t_{21}, t_{22}(u_1, u_{21}, v_1))$$

depending on the controls (u_1, u_{21}) and v_1 realized by the players on the interval $[t_*, t_{21})$ (u_{21} denotes the restriction of control u_2 on the interval $[t_{11}, t_{21})$). If $t_{21} > t_{12}$, then at instant t_{12} the first player chooses the control

$$u_3 = a_3(u_1, u_2, v_{12}) \in D_1 [t_{12}, t_{13}(u_1, u_2, v_{12}))$$

where v_{12} denotes the restriction of control v_1 on $[t_*, t_{12})$.

Continuing this process, in at most $n + m - 1$ steps we obtain uniquely the pair of controls

$$u = (u_1, \dots, u_n) = u(a, b), \quad v = (v_1, \dots, v_m) = v(a, b)$$

generated by the pair of strategies a and b . Thus, a pair of recursive strategies a and b determines a unique path $x(t) = \kappa(t, t_*, x_*, a, b) = \kappa(t, t_*, x_*, u(a, b), v(a, b))$ of system Σ_1 . The choice of recursive strategy $a = (a_1, \dots, a_n)$ by the first player signifies that in the course of the game he can change his control n times, depending on the information at hand. The control switching instants are not fixed at the start of the game as when applying piecewise-programmed strategies, but are determined by the player during the game.

Notes. 1^o. Any finite collection of mappings $a = (a_1, \dots, a_n)$, where

$$a = a_1 \in \mathcal{U}_1, \quad n = 1, \quad a_k \in \bigcup_{t_* < t < T} D_1 [t_*, t), \quad a_k: [t_*, T] \times R^n \rightarrow \Pi(t_*), \quad n \geq 2, \quad k = 2, \dots, n$$

satisfying the following conditions:

$$a_n(t, x) \in D_1 [t, T), \quad a_k(t, x) \in D_1 [t, \theta), \quad t < \theta < T, \quad k = 1, \dots, n - 1$$

is called the first player's positional recursive strategy in system $\Sigma_1(t_*, x_*)$ (see /8/). The second player's positional recursive strategy is defined in the same manner. Any positional recursive strategy $a = (a_1, \dots, a_n)$ induces a recursive strategy $a = (a_1, a_2^*, \dots, a_n^*)$, where

$$a_k^*(u_i, v_i) = a_k(t, \kappa(t, t_*, x_*, u_i, v_i)), \quad k = 2, \dots, n$$

thus, positional recursive strategies are special cases of recursive strategies.

2^o. A pair $\varphi = (\Delta, \varphi_\Delta)$, where Δ is any finite partitioning of interval $[t_*, T]$ and φ_Δ is a first player's recursive strategy $\varphi_\Delta = (\varphi_{\Delta,1}, \dots, \varphi_{\Delta,n(\Delta)})$ such that $\varphi_{\Delta,k}(u_{k-1}, v_{k-1}) \in D_1 [t_{k-1}^\Delta, t_k^\Delta)$ if

$$(u_{k-1}, v_{k-1}) \in D_1 [t_*, t_{k-1}^\Delta) \times D_2 [t_*, t_{k-1}^\Delta), \quad k = 2, \dots, n(\Delta)$$

is called the first player's piecewise-programmed strategy in system $\Sigma_1(t_*, x_*)$ (see /3,6,7/). In analogous fashion we can rephrase the definition of piecewise-programmed strategies for the second player. Consequently,

$$D_k^* [t_*] \subset D_k^r [t_*], \quad k = 1, 2$$

where $D_k^r [t_*]$ is the set of all recursive strategies of the k -th player in system $\Sigma_1(t_*, x_*)$.

We obtain the next statement by comparing the definitions of recursive and upper Δ -strategies.

Theorem 2. For any finite partitioning Δ of interval $[t_*, T]$ and any recursive strategy $a \in D_1^r [t_*]$ ($b \in D_2^r [t_*]$) an upper Δ -strategy $\varphi^\Delta \in D_1^\Delta [t_*]$ ($\psi^\Delta \in D_2^\Delta [t_*]$) exists such that

$$u(a, \varphi_\Delta) = u(\varphi^\Delta, \psi_\Delta), \quad v(a, \psi_\Delta) = v(\varphi^\Delta, \psi_\Delta), \quad (u(\varphi_\Delta, b) = u(\varphi_\Delta, \psi^\Delta), \quad v(\varphi_\Delta, b) = v(\varphi_\Delta, \psi^\Delta)) \quad (3.1)$$

for all $\psi_\Delta \in D_{2,\Delta} [t_*]$ ($\varphi_\Delta \in D_{1,\Delta} [t_*]$).

Proof. We take an arbitrary recursive strategy $a = (a_1, \dots, a_n) \in D_1^r [t_*]$ and any finite partitioning Δ of interval $[t_*, T]$. We need to show that with the use of strategy a we can construct an upper Δ -strategy $\varphi^\Delta = (\varphi^{\Delta,1}, \dots, \varphi^{\Delta,n(\Delta)})$ in system $\Sigma_1(t_*, x_*)$, satisfying relations (3.1). We indicate a method for constructing the mapping

$$\varphi^{\Delta,1}: D_2 [t_*, t_1^\Delta) \rightarrow D_1 [t_*, t_1^\Delta) \quad (3.2)$$

Let $a_1 \in D_1 [t_*, t_1)$. If $t_1 \geq t_1^\Delta$, then $\varphi^{\Delta,1}$ is the restriction of control a_1 on interval $[t_*, t_1^\Delta)$. In this case $\varphi^{\Delta,1}$ is independent of the control chosen by the second player on $[t_*, t_1^\Delta)$. Let $t_1 < t_1^\Delta$ and $a_2(a_1, v_1) \in D_1 [t_1, t_2)$. If $t_2 = t_2(a_1, v_1) \geq t_1^\Delta$, then $\varphi^{\Delta,1} = a_1$ on interval $[t_*, t_1)$, while on interval $[t_1, t_1^\Delta)$ it coincides with the restriction of control $a_2(a_1, v_1)$ on this

interval. If on interval $[t_*, t_1)$ the second player chose a control v_1 such that $t_2 = t_2(a_1, v_1) < t_1^\Delta$, but the condition

$$t_3 = t_3(a_1, a_2(a_1, v_1); v_2) \geq t_1^\Delta$$

is valid for the second player's control on interval $[t_*, t_2)$, then $\varphi^{\Delta,1} = a_1$ on interval $[t_*, t_1)$, $\varphi^{\Delta,1} = a_2(a_1, v_1)$ on interval $[t_1, t_2)$, and on $[t_2, t_1^\Delta)$ the mapping $\varphi^{\Delta,1}$ coincides with the restriction of mapping $a_3(a_1, a_2(a_1, v_1); v_2)$. Continuing these arguments, we construct the mapping (3.2). In analogous manner we can construct the mappings $\varphi^{\Delta,k}$, $k = 2, \dots, n(\Delta)$. The theorem is proved.

4. Let us consider recursive strategies in system $\Sigma_2(t_*, x_*)$. Let

$$S_1(t_*) = \bigcup_{t_* < t < T} [D_1[k_1, t_*, t) \times D_2[k_2, t_*, t)], \quad \Pi_1(t_*) = \bigcup_{\substack{t_* < t < T \\ t < \theta \leq T}} D_1[k_1, t, \theta)$$

Definition 2. Any finite collection of mappings $a = (a_1, \dots, a_n)$, where

$$a = a_1 \in D_1[k_1, t_*, T), \quad n = 1, \quad a_1 \in \bigcup_{t_* < t < T} D_1[k_1, t_*, t), \quad a_k: S_1(t_*) \rightarrow \Pi_1(t_*) \quad n \geq 2, \quad k = 2, \dots, n$$

and conditions

$$a_n(u_t, v_t) \in D_1[k_1, t, T), \quad a_k(u_t, v_t) \in D_1[k_1, t, \theta), \quad t < \theta \leq T, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$$

are fulfilled if $\{u_t, v_t\} \in D_1[k_1, t_*, t) \times D_2[k_2, t_*, t)$, $t_* < t < T$, is called the first player's recursive strategy in system $\Sigma_2(t_*, x_*)$.

The second player's recursive strategies in system $\Sigma_2(t_*, x_*)$ are defined analogously. By $D_1^r[k_1, t_*)$ ($D_2^r[k_2, t_*)$) we denote the set of all recursive strategies of the first (second) player in system $\Sigma_2(t_*, x_*)$. The inclusions

$$D_i^* [k_i, t_*) \subset D_i^r [k_i, t_*], \quad i = 1, 2$$

are valid. The following statement can be obtained by combining the methods of proofs of Theorems 1 and 2.

Theorem 3. For any finite partitioning Δ of interval $[t_*, T]$ and any recursive strategy $a \in D_1^r [k_1, t_*)$ ($b \in D_2^r [k_2, t_*)$) an upper Δ -strategy $\varphi^\Delta \in D_1^\Delta [t_*)$ ($\psi^\Delta \in D_2^\Delta [t_*)$) exists such that

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa(t, t_*, x_*, a, \psi_\Delta) &= \kappa(t, t_*, x_*, \varphi^\Delta, \psi_\Delta) \\ (\kappa(t, t_*, x_*, \varphi_\Delta, b) &= \kappa(t, t_*, x_*, \varphi_\Delta, \psi^\Delta)) \end{aligned}$$

for all $\psi_\Delta \in D_{2\Delta} [t_*)$ ($\varphi_\Delta \in D_{1\Delta} [t_*)$).

Analogous statements are valid for global strategies /9/.

5. It can be proved that the sets $\Phi(\Sigma_1, t_*, x_*)$ and $\Phi(\Sigma_2, t_*, x_*)$ of all paths of systems $\Sigma_1(t_*, x_*)$ and $\Sigma_2(t_*, x_*)$ coincide, i.e.

$$\Phi(t_*, x_*) = \Phi(\Sigma_1, t_*, x_*) = \Phi(\Sigma_2, t_*, x_*)$$

(if function f satisfies a Lipschitz condition in (x, u, v)). Let a certain functional (the second player's gain) H be specified on set $\Phi(t_*, x_*)$. Then we have defined the second player's gain function

$$\begin{aligned} K(\varphi^\Delta, \psi_\Delta) &= H(\kappa(\cdot, t_*, x_*, \varphi^\Delta, \psi_\Delta)) \quad \text{on set } D_1^\Delta [t_*) \times D_{2\Delta} [t_*) \\ K(\varphi_\Delta, \psi^\Delta) &= H(\kappa(\cdot, t_*, x_*, \varphi_\Delta, \psi^\Delta)) \quad \text{on set } D_{1\Delta} [t_*) \times D_2^\Delta [t_*) \end{aligned}$$

$$K(\varphi, \psi) = H(\kappa(\cdot, t_*, x_*, \varphi, \psi)) \quad \text{on set } D_1^* [k_1, t_*) \times D_2^* [k_2, t_*) \quad (D_i^* [t_*) \subset D_i^* [k_i, t_*], \quad i = 1, 2),$$

$$K(a, b) = H(\kappa(\cdot, t_*, x_*, a, b)) \quad \text{on set } D_1^r [k_1, t_*) \times D_2^r [k_2, t_*) \subset (D_i^r [t_*) \subset D_i^r [k_i, t_*], \quad i = 1, 2).$$

Let us consider the antagonistic differential games:

$$\Gamma_1(t_*, x_*) = \langle D_1^* [t_*], D_2^* [t_*], K \rangle$$

in the class of piecewise-programmed strategies,

$$\Gamma_2(t_*, x_*) = \langle D_1^* [k_1, t_*], D_2^* [k_2, t_*], K \rangle$$

in the class of piecewise-synthesizing strategies,

$$\Gamma_3(t_*, x_*) = \langle D_1^r [t_*], D_2^r [t_*], K \rangle, \quad \Gamma_4(t_*, x_*) = \langle D_1^r [k_1, t_*], D_2^r [k_2, t_*], K \rangle$$

in the class of recursive strategies. By Theorem 1 we have

$$V^\Delta(t_*, x_*) = \inf_{\varphi_\Delta \in D_{1\Delta} [t_*]} \sup_{\psi^\Delta \in D_2^\Delta [t_*]} K(\varphi_\Delta, \psi^\Delta) \geq \inf_{\varphi_\Delta \in D_{1\Delta} [t_*]} \sup_{\psi \in D_2^* [k_2, t_*]} K(\varphi_\Delta, \psi) \geq$$

$$\inf_{\varphi \in D_1^* [k_1, t_*]} \sup_{\psi \in D_2^* [k_2, t_*]} K(\varphi, \psi) \geq \sup_{\psi \in D_2^* [k_2, t_*]} \inf_{\varphi \in D_1^* [k_1, t_*]} K(\varphi, \psi) \geq \sup_{\psi_\Delta \in D_{2\Delta} [t_*]} \inf_{\varphi^\Delta \in D_1^\Delta [t_*]} K(\varphi^\Delta, \psi_\Delta) = V_\Delta(t_*, x_*)$$

The inequalities

$$V^\Delta(t_*, x_*) \geq \inf_{a \in D_1^r [t_*]} \sup_{b \in D_2^r [t_*]} K(a, b) \geq \sup_{a \in D_1^r [t_*]} \inf_{b \in D_2^r [t_*]} K(a, b) \geq V_\Delta(t_*, x_*)$$

$$V^\Delta(t_*, x_*) \geq \inf_{a \in D_1^r[k_1, t_*]} \sup_{b \in D_1^r[k_2, t_*]} K(a, b) \geq \sup_{b \in D_2^r[k_2, t_*]} \inf_{a \in D_1^r[k_1, t_*]} K(a, b) \geq V_\Delta(t_*, x_*)$$

follow from Theorems 2 and 3. Thus, if

$$\inf_{\Delta} V^\Delta(t_*, x_*) = \sup_{\Delta} V_\Delta(t_*, x_*) \quad (5.1)$$

then all games $\Gamma_k(t_*, x_*)$, $k = 1, 2, 3, 4$, have the value

$$\text{val } \Gamma_1(t_*, x_*) = \text{val } \Gamma_k(t_*, x_*), \quad k = 2, 3, 4$$

It is well known that if H is a uniformly continuous functional on set $\Phi(t_*, x_*)$ (see /10/), then for the fulfillment of condition (5.1) it suffices to require that the function f on the right hand side of motion Eqs. (1.1) satisfy the condition

$$\inf_{v \in D_2} \sup_{u \in D_1} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \langle l, f(t_1, x, u(s), v(s)) \rangle ds - \sup_{u \in D_1} \inf_{v \in D_2} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \langle l, f(t_1, x, u(s), v(s)) \rangle ds \leq \gamma(t_2 - t_1), \quad \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\gamma(\delta)}{\delta} = 0 \quad (5.2)$$

for all $l, x \in R^n$, $t_0 \leq t_1 < t_2 < T$. This condition is fulfilled, for example, if

$$f(t, x, u, v) = f_1(t, x, u) + f_2(t, x, v)$$

where f_1 and f_2 are continuous vector-valued functions. If $P(t) = U$ and $Q(t) = V$ for all $t_* \leq t \leq T$, then it follows from the saddle point condition for a small game /1/.

6. Let certain sets M and N exist in $[t_0, T] \times R^n$ and let an initial game position $\{t_*, x_*\}$ be specified. We consider the following two problems /6/.

Approach problem. For any number $\varepsilon > 0$ find the first player's positional piecewise-programmed strategy φ_ε such that for all paths $(\varphi_\varepsilon = (\Delta(\varepsilon), \varphi_{\Delta(\varepsilon)}))$

$$x(t) = \kappa(t, t_*, x_*, \varphi_\varepsilon, \psi^{\Delta(\varepsilon)}, \psi^{\Delta(\varepsilon)}) \in D_2^{\Delta(\varepsilon)}[t_*]$$

the relations

$$\{\tau, x(\tau)\} \in M^\varepsilon, \quad \{t, x(t)\} \in N^\varepsilon, \quad t_* \leq t < \tau = \tau[x(\cdot)] = T \quad (6.1)$$

are fulfilled.

Evasion problem. Find a number $\varepsilon > 0$ and a second player's positional piecewise-programmed strategy ψ_ε such that contact (6.1) is excluded for all paths $(\psi_\varepsilon = (\Delta(\varepsilon), \psi_{\Delta(\varepsilon)}))$

$$x(t) = \kappa(t, t_*, x_*, \varphi^{\Delta(\varepsilon)}, \psi_\varepsilon, \varphi^{\Delta(\varepsilon)}) \in D_1^{\Delta(\varepsilon)}[t_*]$$

The following theorem on the alternative /1,2,6,10/ is valid.

Theorem 4. If condition (5.2) is fulfilled, then either the Approach problem or the Evasion problem is solvable for any position $\{t_*, x_*\}$.

The first player, in the Approach problem, and the second player, in the Evasion problem, employ upper Δ -strategies. They may even use past realizations of the controls of both players. This is due to the fact that a player-ally cannot impose any restrictions on the information available to the opponent /1/. Theorems 1-3 show that Theorem 4 on the alternative remains valid if the opponent is allowed to use recursive /8/, piecewise-synthesizing or global strategies /9/.

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