

Differential Algebraic Equations (Benchmark Proposal)

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Abstract

This benchmark suite consists of eight small to large scale index-1 to index-3 linear differential algebraic systems derived from various application domains in engineering and science exemplifying the prevalence of such systems in cyber-physical system applications. While in the last two decades numerous verification approaches and tools have been developed for systems described by ordinary differential equations, there is currently a lack of research methods for differential algebraic equations (DAE). Thus, the verification of DAE systems remains an open problem that has not been adequately addressed in the research literature. The following paper seeks to address this shortcoming by presenting a series of benchmark problems and a software tool *Daev* in order to stimulate the development of efficient and scalable tools for DAE verification and falsification. The benchmark models presented in this manuscript are available in the SpaceEx format by using the tool *Daev* for model generation.

Category: academic **Difficulty:** hard

1 Context and Origins

Reachability analysis is a fundamental task in verifying and falsifying cyber-physical systems (CPS). These systems are governed by physical laws typically described by a set of differential equations. In recent years, there have been numerous tools and approaches developed for a class of cyber-physical systems described by ordinary differential equations (ODE). In this context, given an initial set of states, we typically wish to compute an over-approximation of the reachable states in a given time period using techniques such as zonotopes [2, 13], support functions [14], Taylor methods [8], the generalized star set [3, 10], and various other set representations. While there are numerous verification approaches for ODEs, there is a lack of methodology in dealing with systems described by differential algebraic equations (DAE). Differential algebraic equations express a more general class of dynamics than ODEs and are extensively used to describe numerous problems in engineering and science such as multi-body mechanics, electrical circuit design, chemical process simulation, heat and gas transfer, neural network modeling, atmospheric physics, thermodynamic systems, and water distribution

networks [5]. In this domain, a differential equation describing the dynamics of the system is coupled with algebraic constraints expressing restrictions on the system’s allowable behaviors. These restrictions typically include conservation laws, position constraints, circuit laws, or mass and entropy balance equations [17].

The verification of DAE systems is significantly more complex than for ODE systems, especially for high index DAEs, since they are described by both differential and algebraic equations. Thus in order to perform reachability analysis on such a system, it must first be decoupled into an ODE subsystem and one or several algebraic constraints. Additionally, unlike in ODE verification, where the user is freely allowed to specify an initial set of states, in order to guarantee a solution for a DAE, the initial states and inputs of a system must be consistent and satisfy certain conditions. Thus we must employ consistency checking methods for the initial set in order to compute the reachable set of a DAE system. To the best of the authors’ knowledge, there is only one existing verification framework for DAE systems. The methods presented in that work, deal with non-linear, semi-explicit index-1 DAE systems [1] and the authors make use of zonotopes as the state-set representation. While this work serves as an preliminary step towards DAE verification, there is an urgent need for methods and tools that can deal with higher index DAEs due to the large number of CPS applications involving high index DAE dynamics.

Inspired by the lack of verification methods for high-index DAEs in research literature, the central contribution of this paper is the provision of a series of executable and scalable benchmark problems for linear DAE systems of up to index-3. The set of benchmarks that we present in this paper are widely used in practice and will be useful in the development of novel reachability methods for the verification and falsification of DAE CPS. The problems that we consider exemplify a wide range of problems in electronic circuits, physics, and fluid dynamics with up to $n = 4880$ state variables. Conversion of the benchmark suite into a format that can be analyzed by the available verification tools is non-trivial, and in order to do this we must first decouple the DAE system and perform a consistency check of its initial set of states and inputs. Once the DAE is decoupled and the consistency of its parameters is ensured, we can construct an automaton using the ODE subsystem and express the algebraic constraints as a set of invariants derived from the decoupling process. This conversion and printing into the SpaceEx [11] input format is implemented in a tool called *Daev*¹ that makes use of python and its standard packages numpy, scipy, and matplotlib. Currently the only DAEs that can be analyzed by the tools available in the research community are of index-1.

2 Description of Benchmarks

The general form a linear DAE system is given by:

$$\mathbf{E}\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}(t) + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}(t), \quad (2.1)$$

$$\mathbf{y}(t) = \mathbf{C}^T \mathbf{x}(t) + \mathbf{D}^T \mathbf{u}(t) \quad (2.2)$$

where $\mathbf{x}(t) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is the state vector of the system, $\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$, $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times l}$, and $\mathbf{D} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times l}$ are the system’s coefficient matrices in which $\mathbf{E}$ is *singular*, and $\mathbf{u}(t) \in \mathbb{R}^m$, $\mathbf{y}(t) \in \mathbb{R}^l$ are the input and output of the system respectively.

¹The benchmark problems and software tool *Daev* are available online at: <https://github.com/trhoangdung/daev/tree/master/daev>

Bearing the above in mind, in this section we present a brief description of the benchmark problems for DAE verification. Table 5.1 summarizes the DAE index, number of variables, and safety specifications for each benchmark. A complete description of the initial conditions and inputs for each benchmark can be found in the model files included in the supplementary material for this paper.

2.1 RL Network

In circuit analysis, the dynamics of many resistor networks can be characterized by DAEs. Typically, this results from the use of the modified nodal analysis method (MNA) which characteristically yields a DAE. [4]. In this problem, we consider a simple RL network and wish to determine the current through the inductor as well as the node voltages for the system shown in Figure 2.1. The system matrices, state vector, and input function are given by the following

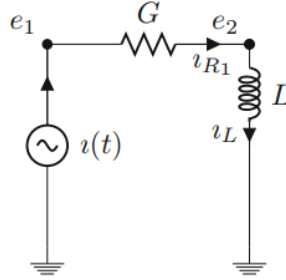


Figure 2.1: Simple RL network as given in [4]

index-2 DAE:

$$\mathbf{E}\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}(t) + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}(t), \quad \mathbf{x}(0) = \mathbf{x}_0 \quad (2.3)$$

$$\mathbf{y}(t) = \mathbf{C}^T \mathbf{x}(t) \quad (2.4)$$

where $\mathbf{u}(t) = u(t)$, $\mathbf{x}(t) = [e_1, e_2, i_L]$

$$\mathbf{E} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & L \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} -G & G & 0 \\ G & -G & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{C} = \mathbf{B}.$$

In this benchmark, we consider two safety specifications related to value of the node voltages. The first specification seeks to determine whether the node voltage e_1 and e_2 drops below -0.2 V and -0.1 V respectively and the second specification seeks to verify whether the node voltage e_2 remains above 0.2 V at all times.

2.2 RLC Circuit

The RLC circuit benchmark consists of a simple circuit network described in [9]. The equations characterizing the circuit are given by:

$$\begin{bmatrix} L & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dot{I}(t) \\ \dot{V}_L(t) \\ \dot{V}_C(t) \\ \dot{V}_R(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{1}{C} & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -R & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I(t) \\ V_L(t) \\ V_C(t) \\ V_R(t) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} V_s(t) \quad (2.5)$$

where the voltage source $V_s(t)$ is the control input, and $V_R(t)$, $V_L(t)$, $V_C(t)$ denote the voltage across the resistor, inductor, and capacitor respectively. In this benchmark, we consider the following safety specifications: the sum of value of the current in the circuit loop and the value of the voltage across the resistor should have a value greater than 0.2 V. The second specification requires that the voltage across the resistor remains below -0.3 V at all times.

2.3 Electrical Generator

The following benchmark deals with a time-invariant model of an electrical generator presented in [12]. The model is characterized by the following parameters as shown in Figure 2.2:

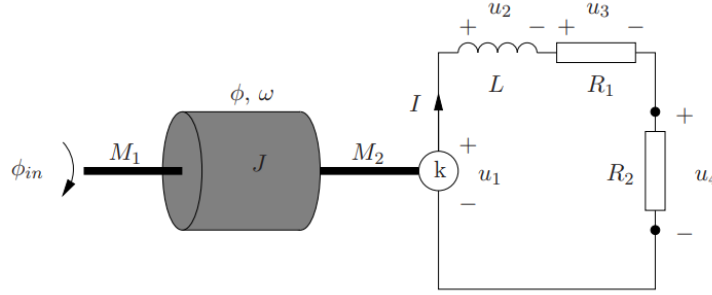


Figure 2.2: Model of electrical generator as presented in [12]

where ϕ_{in} is the input angle on the left axis, ϕ denotes the angle with which the mass is rotated with respect to the axis, ω is the angular velocity, and $M1$ and $M2$ represent the torques on the right and left side of the mass respectively. The rotating mass is then connected to the generator on another axis which is composed of resistors and an inductor. The current-dependent value of the torque is given by $M2 = kI$ and the voltage across the connection point, k , is given by the relation $u_1 = k\omega$. In this problem, the quantity that we are concerned with is the voltage across the resistor R_2 [12]. The system equations are given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_{in} &= \phi & \dot{\phi} &= \omega & J\dot{\omega} &= M_1 + M_2 \\ M_2 &= kI & u_1 &= k\omega & u_2 &= L\dot{I} \\ u_3 &= R_1 I & u_4 &= R_2 I & u_1 &= u_2 + u_3 + u_4 \end{aligned}$$

The two safety specifications we considered in this problem were as follows: the first determined if the voltage across the resistor R_2 remained above 0.01 V, and the second specification determined if the torque had a value of 1.0 $N \cdot m$ or greater.

2.4 Damped Mass

In this benchmark, we consider a holonomically constrained damped mass-spring system. The system is constructed by connecting the i -th mass of weight m_i to mass m_{i+1} with an additional connection to the ground using a spring and a damper (one of each is employed for each connection). The damper and spring constants are δ_i and d_i , k_i and κ_i respectively. The only exception to the described configuration is that the first mass is connected to the last mass, and it is this mass that we control. Figure 2.3 displays the architecture of the damped mass-spring system. The vibrations of the system can be described by the following equations [15]:

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\mathbf{p}}(t) &= \mathbf{v}(t), \\ M\dot{\mathbf{v}}(t) &= K\mathbf{p}(t) + D\mathbf{v}(t) - G^T\lambda(t) + B_2u(t), \\ 0 &= G\mathbf{p}(t), \\ y(t) &= C_1\mathbf{p}(t)\end{aligned}\tag{2.6}$$

where $\mathbf{p}(t) \in \mathbb{R}^g$ is the position vector, $\mathbf{v}(t) \in \mathbb{R}^g$ is the velocity vector, $\lambda(t) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ is the Lagrange multiplier, $M = \text{diag}(m_1, \dots, m_g)$ is the mass matrix, D and K are the tridiagonal damping and stiffness matrices, $G = [1, 0, \dots, 0, -1] \in \mathbb{R}^{1,g}$ is the constraint matrix, $B_2 = e_1$ and $C_1 = [e_1, e_2, e_{s-1}]^T$. e_i denotes the i -th column of the identity matrix I_g . The DAE describing this system is of index-3 and in this system we considered two safety specifications relating to the position of the masses. These specifications can be found in Table 5.1.

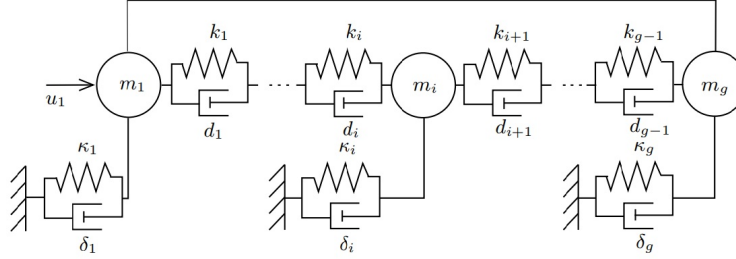


Figure 2.3: Architecture of a damped mass-spring system with a holonomic constraint as presented in [15]

2.5 Partial Element Equivalent Circuit (PEEC)

In electromagnetic circuit analysis, the partial element equivalent circuit method allows one to solve problems in which there is an electromagnetic part as well as a circuit portion [20]. As an example, the method can be employed for the calculation of inductance in interconnected problems. This approach is a full wave electromagnetic electrical procedure for embedded circuits including conductors in arbitrary dielectrics in terms of equivalent circuits [20]. As a result, these models are primarily used in two domains: time and frequency.

The PEEC model used in this paper is an LC circuit model of a patch antenna structure containing 2100 capacitances, 172 inductances and 6990 mutual inductances. The set up of the system considered in this paper contains 480 state variables [7]. This benchmark problem was originally proposed by Chahloui et al. in order to test numerical methods for order reduction abstraction techniques and we refer readers to this paper for further detail [6].

2.6 Modified Nodal Analysis (MNA)

The nodal analysis method has been widely utilized to describe and solve circuit equations in computer-aided network analysis. However, despite its success, this method has several limitations, including the inefficient treatment of voltage sources, the inability to include current-dependent elements, and a lack of accuracy in obtaining branch currents as part of the output of the program [16]. Therefore, a modified nodal analysis approach (MNA) has been developed to overcome these problems. The modified nodal analysis approach (MNA) can be written in general form as a system of differential algebraic equations [7]:

$$E\dot{\mathbf{x}}_{\mathbf{n}} = A\mathbf{x}_{\mathbf{n}} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}_{\mathbf{p}}, \quad (2.7)$$

$$\mathbf{i}_{\mathbf{p}} = C\mathbf{x}_{\mathbf{n}} \quad (2.8)$$

The i_p and u_p terms correspond to the port current and voltages respectively. The matrices of equation 2.7 can be written as

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} -N & -G \\ G^T & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{E} = \begin{bmatrix} L & 0 \\ 0 & H \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{x}_{\mathbf{n}} = \begin{bmatrix} v \\ i \end{bmatrix}$$

where v and i are the MNA variables corresponding to the node, inductor and source voltages respectively. $\mathbf{E} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is a singular matrix that corresponds to the susceptance matrix, and $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is the conductance matrix. N , L and H are the matrices containing the values of the resistors, capacitors and inductors, respectively. Finally, G represents the current variables in KCL equations, whose values can only be -1, 0 or 1. In this benchmark, the safety specification that we considered was related to the the node voltages. In particular we required the voltage of node1 to be greater than -0.001 V.

2.7 Interconnected Rotating Mass

The interconnected rotating mass system consists of two rotating masses connected on a rotational axis. The system is described by the torques M_1 , M_2 , M_3 , and M_4 , and by angular velocities z_1 and z_2 .

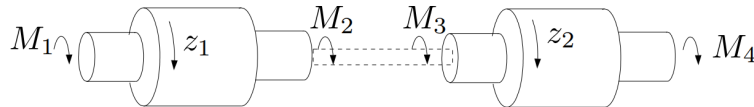


Figure 2.4: Structure of two rotating interconnected masses as presented in [21]

The dynamics of the system are described by:

$$\begin{aligned} J_1 z_1 &= M_1 + M_2, \\ J_1 z_1 &= M_1 + M_2, \\ M_2 &= -M_3, \\ z_1 &= z_2 \end{aligned} \quad (2.9)$$

We can write the dynamics of the system as a DAE system in standard form, obtaining the following equations as a result:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{J_1 J_2}{J_1 + J_2} & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{z}} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{z} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ \frac{J_2}{J_1 + J_2} & \frac{-J_1}{J_1 + J_2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} M_1 \\ M_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

2.8 Semidiscretized Stokes Equation

The following benchmark deals with the safety analysis of a Stokes equation that describes the flow of an incompressible fluid in a two-dimensional spatial domain as described in [19]. The equations of the system are given by:

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = \Delta v - \nabla \rho + f, \text{ in } \Omega \times (0, T), \quad (2.10)$$

$$\nabla v = 0, \text{ in } \Omega \times (0, T), \quad (2.11)$$

where $v(\zeta, t) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ is the velocity vector, $\rho(\zeta, t) \in \mathbb{E}$ is the pressure, $f(\zeta, t) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ is the vector of external forces, $\Omega = [0, 1] \times [0, 1]$ is a square spatial domain, T is the endpoint of the time interval, ∇ denotes the divergence operator, and $\Delta = \nabla^2$. The stokes equations are parametrized using Dirichlet boundary conditions. Thus the velocity vanishes on the boundary of the domain. The equations are then semi-discretized over the spatial domain Ω using a uniform number of square cells and the well-known MAC scheme [15] (a scheme leveraging finite element methods) yielding an index-2 DAE with the following system matrices:

$$E = \begin{bmatrix} I_{n_v} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad A = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} \\ A_{12}^T & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} B_1 \\ B_2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad x = \begin{bmatrix} v_h \\ \rho_h \end{bmatrix}, \quad (2.12)$$

where $v_h \in \mathbb{R}^{n_v}$ and $\rho_h \in \mathbb{R}^{n_\rho}$ are the semi-discretized vectors of velocity and pressure, $A_{11} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_v \times n_v}$ is the discrete Laplace operator, $A_{12} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_v \times n_\rho}$ is the gradient operator, and $A_{12}^T \in \mathbb{R}^{n_\rho \times n_v}$ is the divergence operator. Furthermore, let n be the number of discretized segments of the domain on the x or y -axis, then the dimension of the DAE system is thus $3n^2 + 2n$. Thus by increasing the number of cells used to discretize the domain Ω we are able to obtain an index-2 DAE system with arbitrarily large dimension.

In this benchmark, we were primarily concerned with the velocity along the x and y axes, $v_x^c(t)$ and $v_y^c(t)$, of the fluid in the *central cell of the spatial domain* Ω and defined the unsafe set of the system to be $Unsafe \triangleq -v_x^c(t) - v_y^c(t) \leq 0.04$.

3 Reachability Analysis

In this section we present a brief analysis of the RLC circuit benchmark in order to demonstrate the use of verification tools for index-1 DAEs. Although we have chosen to store all of our verification problems in a format used by the SpaceX verification tool [11], only index-1 DAEs can be analyzed by the tools currently available in the research community. In order to construct the SpaceX model file needed for verification for the RLC circuit benchmark, the DAE system

given by (2.5) must be decoupled using the Marz decoupling method into an ODE subsystem coupled with algebraic constraints [18, 22]. Once the DAE has been decoupled, we must ensure that the initial set of states and initial conditions are consistent and satisfy certain conditions. We refer the reader to the following paper for an in-depth discussion of these requirements [18, 22]. The final step in generating the SpaceEx model file is the construction of an automaton with a single mode whose continuous evolution is specified by the ODE subsystem and governed by a set of invariants corresponding to the algebraic constraints. The initial set of states used in this example can be found in the supplementary material included with this paper. In this example we perform the DAE decoupling, consistency checking, and SpaceEx model file generation using our tool *Daev*. Figure 3.1 displays the results of generating the reachable set for the RLC Circuit over a ten second time period. Using this reachable set we can then reason about the overall safety of RLC circuit.

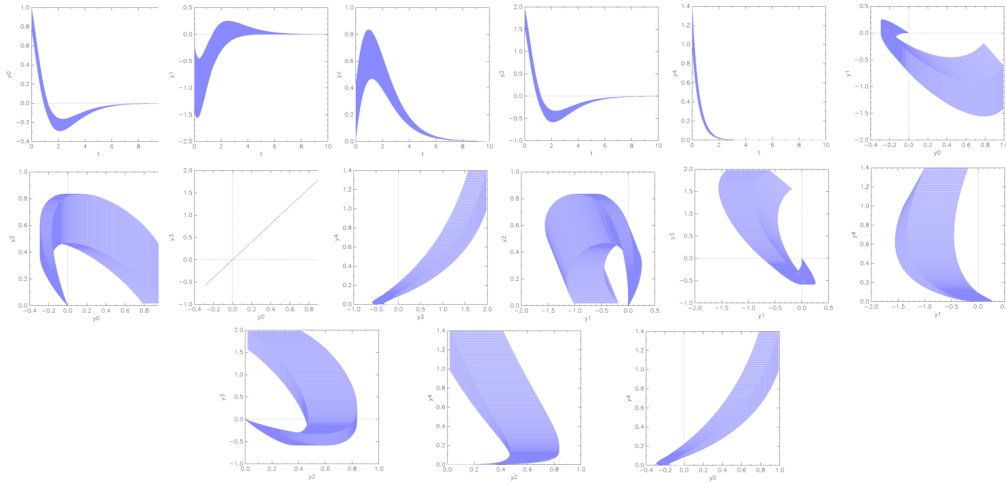


Figure 3.1: SpaceEx output for the RLC circuit benchmark reachable set over a ten second simulation

4 Outlook

In this manuscript we have presented a diverse set of challenging executable benchmarks for the verification of differential algebraic equations. We have also provided a tool named *Daev* that is able to print each benchmark in the SpaceEx format while ensuring the consistency of the initial sets and inputs of the benchmark problems. The problems detailed above range in dimensionality, DAE index, and come from various application domains in engineering and science. Despite the large number of CPS applications that involve high-index DAE dynamics, reachability analysis for DAE systems remains an open challenging problem that has not been adequately addressed in verification literature. To this end, the following paper seeks to stimulate the development of methodologies and research tools in the research community that can verify (or falsify) properties of safety critical DAE CPS. In future work, we wish to consider systems with index $\mu > 3$ as well as consider non-linear differential algebraic equations.

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5 Appendix: Benchmark dimensionality, index and safety specifications

Table 5.1: Overview of the dimensionality, index and safety specifications for the benchmark problems presented in this manuscript.

Benchmarks	n	Index	Unsafe Set
RL network [16]	3	2	$x_1 \leq -0.2 \wedge x_2 \leq -0.1$
RL network* [16]	3	2	$x_1 \geq 0.2$
RLC circuit [9]	4	1	$x_1 + x_3 \geq 0.2$
RLC circuit* [9]	4	1	$x_4 \leq -0.3$
Interconnected rotating mass [21]	4	2	$x_3 \leq -0.9$
Interconnected rotating mass* [21]	4	2	$x_4 \leq -1.0$
Generator [12]	9	3	$x_9 \geq 0.01$
Generator* [12]	9	3	$x_1 \geq 1.0$
Damped-mass spring [19]	11	3	$x_3 \leq 1 \wedge x_8 \leq 1.5$
Damped-mass spring* [19]	11	3	$x_8 \leq -0.2$
PEEC [7]	480	2	$x_{478} \geq 0.05$
PEEC* [7]	480	2	$x_{478} \geq 0.01$
MNA-1 [7]	578	2	$x_1 \geq -0.001$
MNA-1 [7]	578	2	$x_1 \geq -0.0015$
MNA-4 [7]	980	3	$x_2 \geq 0.0005$
MNA-4 [7]	980	3	$x_2 \geq 0.0002$
Stokes-equation [19]	4880	2	$v_x^c + v_y^c \leq -0.04$
Stokes-equation* [19]	4880	2	$v_x^c \geq 0.2$