

# *Real-Time Systems*

## *Lecture 12: Location Reachability (or: The Region Automaton)*

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# Contents & Goals

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## Last Lecture:

- Networks of Timed Automata
- Uppaal Demo

## This Lecture:

- **Educational Objectives:** Capabilities for following tasks/questions.
  - What are decidable problems of TA?
  - How can we show this? What are the essential premises of decidability?
  - What is a region? What is the region automaton of this TA?
  - What's the time abstract system of a TA? Why did we consider this?
  - What can you say about the complexity of Region-automaton based reachability analysis?
- **Content:**
  - ~~Timed Transition System of network of timed automata~~
  - Location Reachability Problem
  - Constructive, region-based decidability proof

# *The Location Reachability Problem*

# The Location Reachability Problem

**Given:** A timed automaton  $\mathcal{A}$  and one of its control locations  $\ell$ .

**Question:** Is  $\ell$  **reachable**?

That is, is there a transition sequence of the form

$$\langle \ell_{ini}, \nu_0 \rangle \xrightarrow{\lambda_1} \langle \ell_1, \nu_1 \rangle \xrightarrow{\lambda_2} \langle \ell_2, \nu_2 \rangle \xrightarrow{\lambda_3} \dots \xrightarrow{\lambda_n} \langle \ell_n, \nu_n \rangle = \langle \ell, \nu \rangle$$

in the labelled transition system  $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{A})$ ?

- **Note:** Decidability is not **soo** obvious, recall that
  - clocks range over real numbers, thus infinitely many configurations,
  - at each configuration, uncountably many transitions  $\xrightarrow{t}$  may originate
- **Consequence:** The timed automata as we consider them here **cannot** encode a 2-counter machine, and they are strictly less expressive than DC.

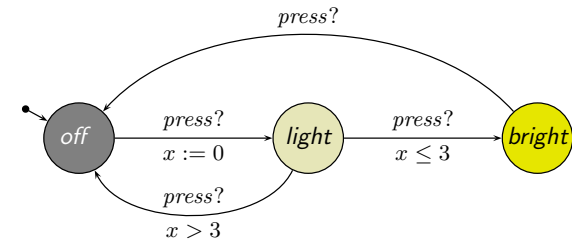
# Decidability of The Location Reachability Problem

## Claim: (Theorem 4.33)

The location reachability problem is **decidable** for timed automata.

## Approach: Constructive proof.

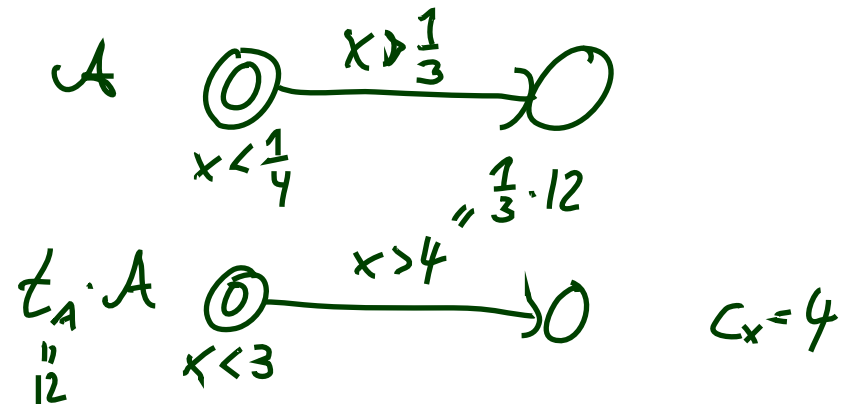
- Observe: clock constraints are **simple**  
— w.l.o.g. assume constants  $c \in \mathbb{N}_0$ .
- **Def. 4.19: time-abstract transition system**  $\mathcal{U}(\mathcal{A})$  — abstracts from uncountably many delay transitions, still infinite-state.
- **Lem. 4.20:** location reachability of  $\mathcal{A}$  is **preserved** in  $\mathcal{U}(\mathcal{A})$ .
- **Def. 4.29: region automaton**  $\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A})$  — equivalent configurations collapse into regions
- **Lem. 4.32:** location reachability of  $\mathcal{U}(\mathcal{A})$  is **preserved** in  $\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A})$ .
- **Lem. 4.28:**  $\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A})$  is **finite**.



# Without Loss of Generality: Natural Constants

**Recall:** Simple clock constraints are  $\varphi ::= x \sim c \mid x - y \sim c \mid \varphi \wedge \varphi$   
with  $x, y \in X$ ,  $c \in \mathbb{Q}_0^+$ , and  $\sim \in \{<, >, \leq, \geq\}$ .

- Let  $C(\mathcal{A}) = \{c \in \mathbb{Q}_0^+ \mid c \text{ appears in } \mathcal{A}\}$  —  $C(\mathcal{A})$  is **finite!** (Why?)
- Let  $t_{\mathcal{A}}$  be the **least common multiple of the denominators** in  $C(\mathcal{A})$ .
- Let  $\underline{t_{\mathcal{A}} \cdot \mathcal{A}}$  be the TA obtained from  $\mathcal{A}$  by **multiplying** all constants by  $t_{\mathcal{A}}$ .



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- Let  $t_{\mathcal{A}}$  be the **least common multiple of the denominators** in  $C(\mathcal{A})$ .
- Let  $t_{\mathcal{A}} \cdot \mathcal{A}$  be the TA obtained from  $\mathcal{A}$  by **multiplying** all constants by  $t_{\mathcal{A}}$ .
- Then:
  - $C(t_{\mathcal{A}} \cdot \mathcal{A}) \subset \mathbb{N}_0$ .
  - A location  $\ell$  is reachable in  $t_{\mathcal{A}} \cdot \mathcal{A}$  if and only if  $\ell$  is reachable in  $\mathcal{A}$ .
- That is: we can **without loss of generality** in the following consider only timed automata  $\mathcal{A}$  with  $C(\mathcal{A}) \subset \mathbb{N}_0$ .

**Definition.** Let  $x$  be a clock of timed automaton  $\mathcal{A}$  (with  $C(\mathcal{A}) \subset \mathbb{N}_0$ ). We denote by  $c_x \in \mathbb{N}_0$  the **largest time constant**  $c$  that appears together with  $x$  in a constraint of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

# Decidability of The Location Reachability Problem

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## Claim: (Theorem 4.33)

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## Approach: Constructive proof.

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# Helper: Relational Composition

**Recall:**  $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{A}) = (\text{Conf}(\mathcal{A}), \text{Time} \cup B_{?!}, \{\xrightarrow{\lambda} \mid \lambda \in \text{Time} \cup B_{?!}\}, C_{ini})$

- Note: The  $\xrightarrow{\lambda}$  are binary relations on configurations.

**Definition.** Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a TA. For all  $\langle \ell_1, \nu_1 \rangle, \langle \ell_2, \nu_2 \rangle \in \text{Conf}(\mathcal{A})$ ,

$$\langle \ell_1, \nu_1 \rangle \xrightarrow{\lambda_1} \circ \xrightarrow{\lambda_2} \langle \ell_2, \nu_2 \rangle$$

if and only if there **exists some**  $\langle \ell', \nu' \rangle \in \text{Conf}(\mathcal{A})$  such that

$$\langle \ell_1, \nu_1 \rangle \xrightarrow{\lambda_1} \langle \ell', \nu' \rangle \text{ and } \langle \ell', \nu' \rangle \xrightarrow{\lambda_2} \langle \ell_2, \nu_2 \rangle.$$

**Remark.** The following property of **time additivity** holds.

$$\forall t_1, t_2 \in \text{Time} : \xrightarrow{t_1} \circ \xrightarrow{t_2} = \xrightarrow{t_1+t_2}$$

# Time-abstract Transition System

**Definition 4.19.** [*Time-abstract transition system*]

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a timed automaton.

The **time-abstract transition system**  $\mathcal{U}(\mathcal{A})$  is obtained from  $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{A})$  (Def. 4.4) by taking

$$\mathcal{U}(\mathcal{A}) = (\text{Conf}(\mathcal{A}), B_{?!}, \{\xrightarrow{\alpha} \mid \alpha \in B_{?!}\}, C_{ini})$$

where

$$\xrightarrow{\alpha} \subseteq \text{Conf}(\mathcal{A}) \times \text{Conf}(\mathcal{A})$$

is defined as follows: Let  $\langle l, \nu \rangle, \langle l', \nu' \rangle \in \text{Conf}(\mathcal{A})$  be configurations of  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\alpha \in B_{?!}$  an action. Then

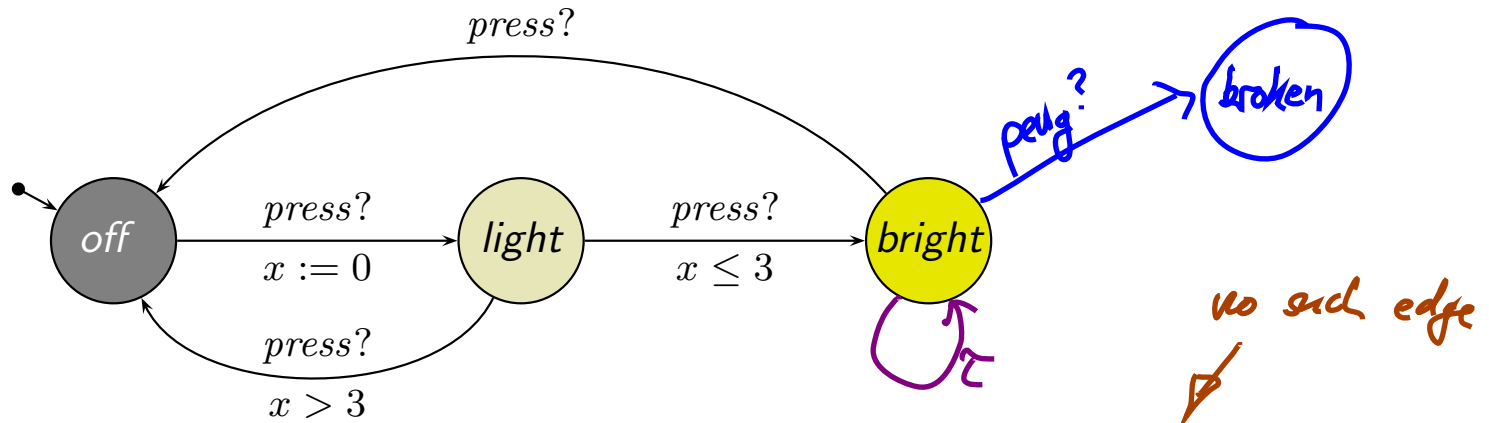
$$\langle l, \nu \rangle \xrightarrow{\alpha} \langle l', \nu' \rangle$$

if and only if there exists  $t \in \text{Time}$  such that

$$\langle l, \nu \rangle \xrightarrow{t} \circ \xrightarrow{\alpha} \langle l', \nu' \rangle.$$

# Example

$$\langle l, \nu \rangle \xRightarrow{\alpha} \langle l', \nu' \rangle \text{ iff } \exists t \in \text{Time} \bullet \langle l, \nu \rangle \xrightarrow{t} \circ \xrightarrow{\alpha} \langle l', \nu' \rangle$$



$$\langle \text{off}, x=3 \rangle \not\xRightarrow{\alpha} \langle \text{off}, x=3.5 \rangle$$

$$\langle \text{off}, x=4 \rangle \xRightarrow{\text{press?}} \langle \text{light}, x=0 \rangle$$

$$\langle \text{off}, x=4 \rangle \not\xRightarrow{\text{press?}} \langle \text{light}, x=1 \rangle$$

$$\langle \text{off}, x=7 \rangle \not\xRightarrow{\text{press?}} \langle \text{bright}, x=3 \rangle$$

$$\langle \text{broken}, x=13 \rangle \not\xRightarrow{\alpha} \langle \text{broken}, x=27 \rangle$$

$$\langle \text{bright}, x=13 \rangle \xRightarrow{\text{press?}} \langle \text{broken}, x=13 \rangle$$

$$\langle \text{bright}, x=10 \rangle \xRightarrow{\tau} \langle \text{bright}, x=20 \rangle$$

$$\text{iff } \exists t \bullet \langle \text{off}, x=3 \rangle \xrightarrow{t} \circ \xrightarrow{\tau} \langle \text{off}, x=3.5 \rangle$$

e.g. with  $t=0$  (any  $t \in \text{Time}$  works)

because  $\langle \text{off}, x=t \rangle \xrightarrow{t'} \circ \xrightarrow{\text{press?}} \langle \text{light}, x=t' \rangle$   
implies  $t'=0$

because  $\text{off} \rightsquigarrow \text{bright}$  needs two actions

no  $\xRightarrow{\alpha}$  originate at "side states",

$\xRightarrow{\alpha}$  is never a pure delay

with  $t=0$

with  $t=10$

# Location Reachability is preserved in $\mathcal{U}(\mathcal{A})$

**Lemma 4.20.** For all locations  $\ell$  of a given timed automaton  $\mathcal{A}$  the following holds:

$\ell$  is reachable in  $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{A})$  if and only if  $\ell$  is reachable in  $\mathcal{U}(\mathcal{A})$ .

**Proof:**

" $\Leftarrow$ ": easy

" $\Rightarrow$ ":  $\ell$  reachable in  $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{A})$   $n \geq 0$ , i.e. could be empty

$(\Rightarrow)$  there is  $\langle \ell_0, v_0 \rangle \xrightarrow{t_0} \langle \ell_{0,1}, v_{0,1} \rangle \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \langle \ell_{0,n}, v_{0,n} \rangle \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} \langle \ell_n, v_n \rangle$

$\xrightarrow{t_{n,1}} \langle \ell_{n,1}, v_{n,1} \rangle \rightarrow \dots$   $t_1 := \sum_{i=1}^n t_{0,i}$

$\vdots$

$\xrightarrow{t_{n,2}} \dots \rightarrow \langle \ell_{n,n}, v_{n,n} \rangle \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} \langle \ell_n, v_n \rangle = \langle \ell, v_n \rangle$

$\Rightarrow \langle \ell_0, v_0 \rangle \xRightarrow{\alpha_n} \dots \xRightarrow{\alpha_n} \langle \ell_n, v_n \rangle$

$\uparrow$   
by  $\xrightarrow{t_1} 0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_1}$

# Decidability of The Location Reachability Problem

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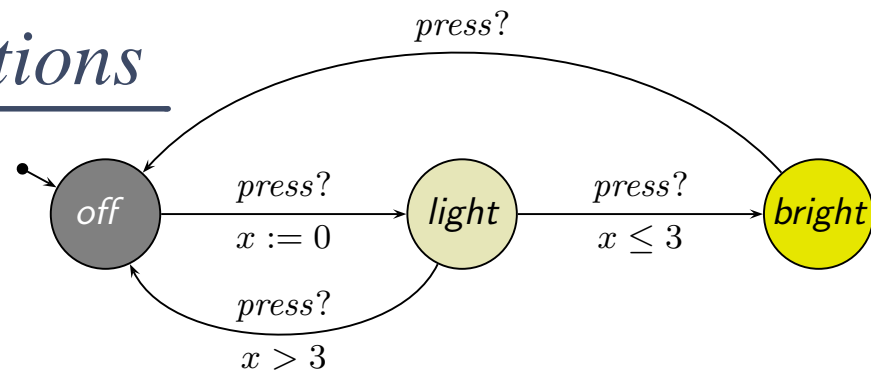
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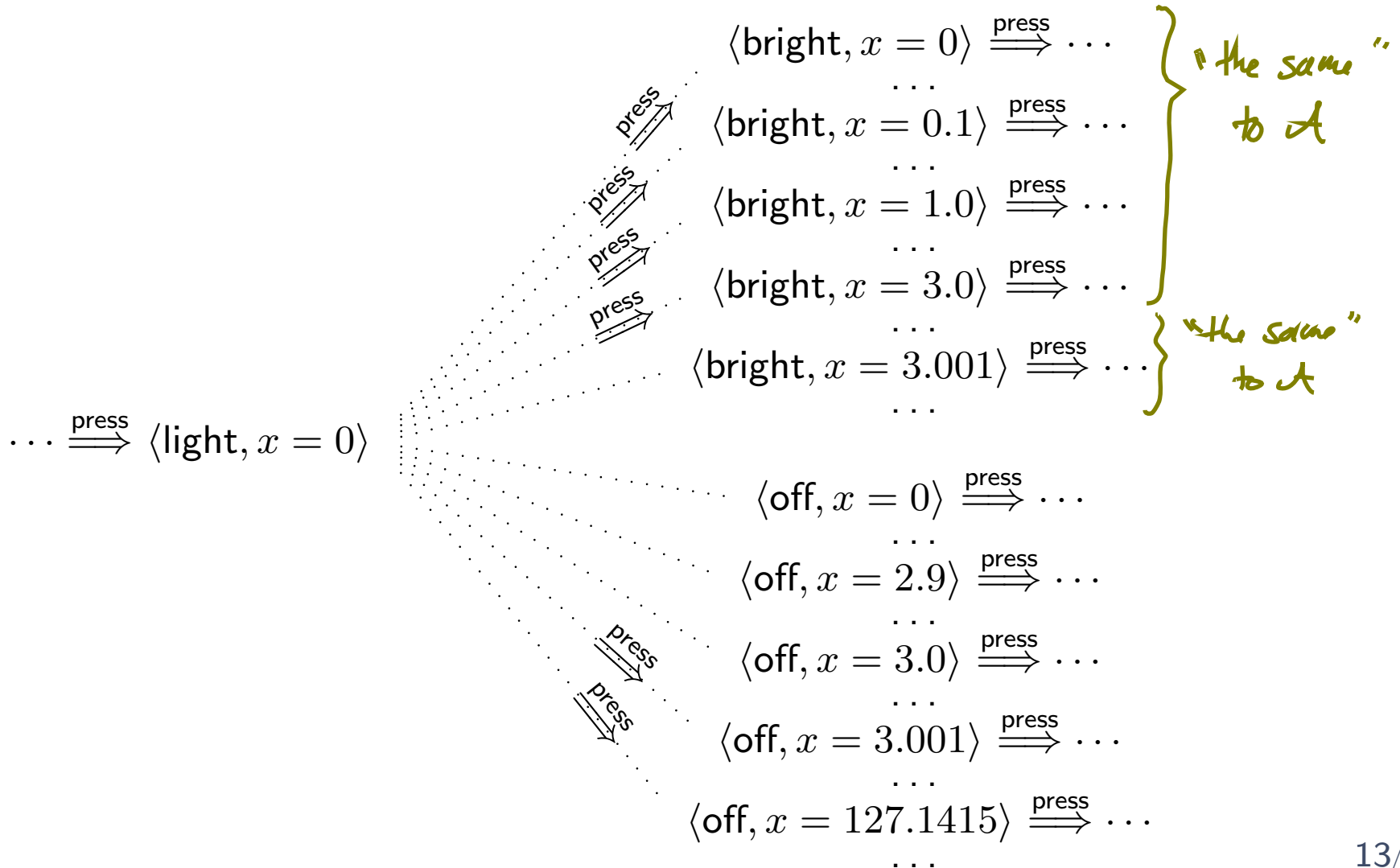
## Approach: Constructive proof.

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# Indistinguishable Configurations



$\mathcal{U}(\mathcal{A})$ :



# Distinguishing Clock Valuations: One Clock

---

- Assume  $\mathcal{A}$  with only a single clock, i.e.  $X = \{x\}$  (**recall**:  $C(\mathcal{A}) \subset \mathbb{N}$ .)
  - $\mathcal{A}$  **could detect**, for a given  $\nu$ , whether  $\nu(x) \in \{0, \dots, c_x\}$ .
  - $\mathcal{A}$  **cannot distinguish**  $\nu_1$  and  $\nu_2$  if  $\nu_i(x) \in (k, k + 1)$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , and  $k \in \{0, \dots, c_x - 1\}$ .
  - $\mathcal{A}$  **cannot distinguish**  $\nu_1$  and  $\nu_2$  if  $\nu_i(x) > c_x$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ .

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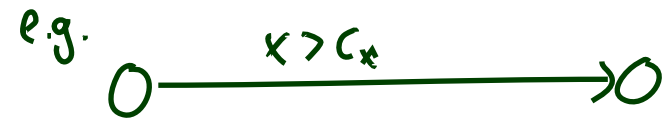
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- $\mathcal{A}$  **cannot distinguish**  $\nu_1$  and  $\nu_2$  if  $\nu_i(x) > c_x$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ .



- If  $c_x \geq 1$ , there are  $(2c_x + 2)$  **equivalence classes**:

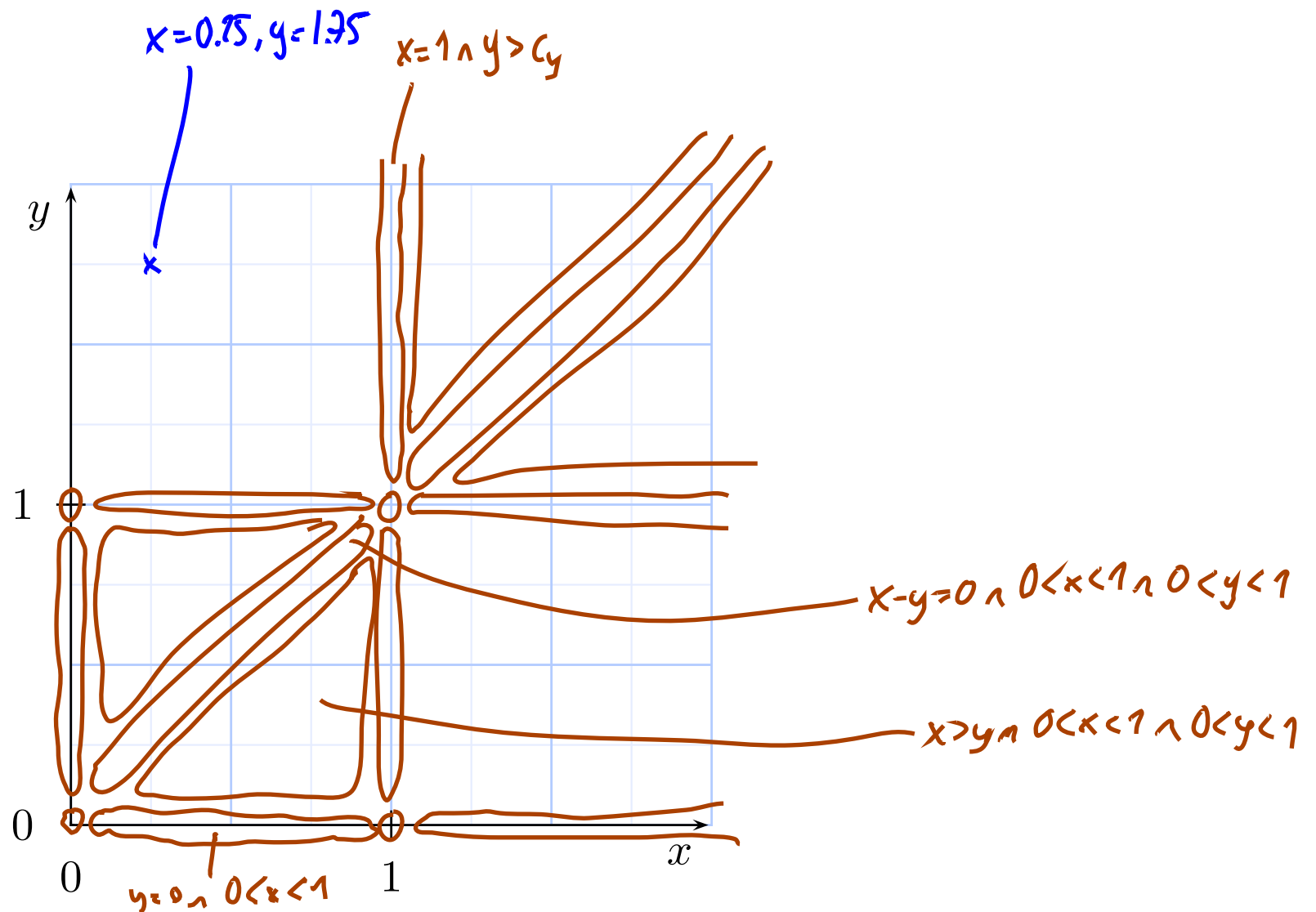
$$\{\{0\}, (0, 1), \{1\}, (1, 2), \dots, \{c_x\}, (c_x, \infty)\}$$

If  $\nu_1(x)$  and  $\nu_2(x)$  are in the **same** equivalence class, then  $\nu_1$  and  $\nu_2$  are **indistinguishable** by  $\mathcal{A}$ .



# Distinguishing Clock Valuations: Two Clocks

- $X = \{x, y\}$ ,  $c_x = 1$ ,  $c_y = 1$ .



# Helper: Floor and Fraction

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- **Recall:**

Each  $q \in \mathbb{R}_0^+$  can be split into

- **floor**  $\lfloor q \rfloor \in \mathbb{N}_0$  and
- **fraction**  $\text{frac}(q) \in [0, 1)$

such that

$$q = \lfloor q \rfloor + \text{frac}(q).$$

# An Equivalence-Relation on Valuations

**Definition.** Let  $X$  be a set of clocks,  $c_x \in \mathbb{N}_0$  for each clock  $x \in X$ , and  $\nu_1, \nu_2$  clock valuations of  $X$ .

We set  $\nu_1 \cong \nu_2$  iff the following **four** conditions are satisfied.

(1) For all  $x \in X$ ,

$$\lfloor \nu_1(x) \rfloor = \lfloor \nu_2(x) \rfloor \text{ or both } \nu_1(x) > c_x \text{ and } \nu_2(x) > c_x.$$

(2) For all  $x \in X$  with  $\nu_1(x) \leq c_x$ ,

$$\text{frac}(\nu_1(x)) = 0 \text{ if and only if } \text{frac}(\nu_2(x)) = 0.$$

(3) For all  $x, y \in X$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \lfloor \nu_1(x) - \nu_1(y) \rfloor &= \lfloor \nu_2(x) - \nu_2(y) \rfloor \\ \text{or both } |\nu_1(x) - \nu_1(y)| > c &\text{ and } |\nu_2(x) - \nu_2(y)| > c. \end{aligned}$$

(4) For all  $x, y \in X$  with  $-c \leq \nu_1(x) - \nu_1(y) \leq c$ ,

$$\text{frac}(\nu_1(x) - \nu_1(y)) = 0 \text{ if and only if } \text{frac}(\nu_2(x) - \nu_2(y)) = 0.$$

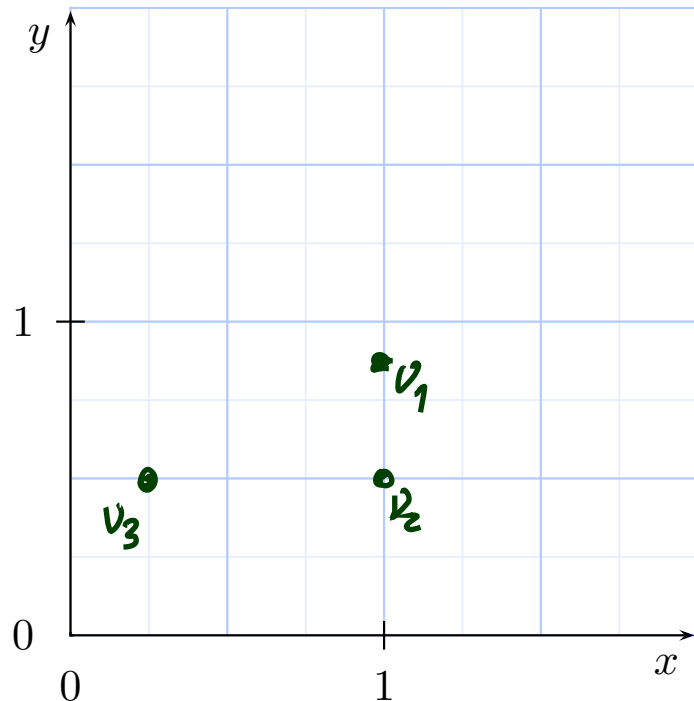
Where  $c = \max\{c_x, c_y\}$ .

# Example: Regions

- (1)  $\forall x \in X : \lfloor \nu_1(x) \rfloor = \lfloor \nu_2(x) \rfloor \vee (\nu_1(x) > c_x \wedge \nu_2(x) > c_x)$
- (2)  $\forall x \in X : \nu_1(x) \leq c_x$   
 $\implies (\text{frac}(\nu_1(x)) = 0 \iff \text{frac}(\nu_2(x)) = 0)$
- (3)  $\forall x, y \in X : \lfloor \nu_1(x) - \nu_1(y) \rfloor = \lfloor \nu_2(x) - \nu_2(y) \rfloor$   
 $\vee (|\nu_1(x) - \nu_1(y)| > c \wedge |\nu_2(x) - \nu_2(y)| > c)$
- (4)  $\forall x, y \in X : -c \leq \nu_1(x) - \nu_1(y) \leq c \implies$   
 $(\text{frac}(\nu_1(x) - \nu_1(y)) = 0 \iff \text{frac}(\nu_2(x) - \nu_2(y)) = 0)$

•  $\nu_3 \not\approx \nu_2$  because  $\lfloor \nu_3(x) \rfloor = 0 \neq 1 = \lfloor \nu_2(x) \rfloor$

•  $\nu_1 \approx \nu_2$



**Proposition.**  $\cong$  is an **equivalence relation**.

**Definition 4.27.** For a given valuation  $\nu$  we denote by  $[\nu]$  the equivalence class of  $\nu$ . We call equivalence classes of  $\cong$  **regions**.

*i.e.  $\{\nu' \mid \nu' \cong \nu\}$*

# The Region Automaton

**Definition 4.29.** [Region Automaton] The **region automaton**  $\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A})$  of the timed automaton  $\mathcal{A}$  is the labelled transition system

$$\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A}) = (\text{Conf}(\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A})), B_{?!}, \{\xrightarrow{\alpha}_{\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A})} \mid \alpha \in B_{?!}\}, C_{ini})$$

where

- $\text{Conf}(\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A})) = \{\langle \ell, [\nu] \rangle \mid \ell \in L, \nu : X \rightarrow \text{Time}, \nu \models I(\ell)\}$ ,
- for each  $\alpha \in B_{?!}$ ,

$$\langle \ell, [\nu] \rangle \xrightarrow{\alpha}_{\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A})} \langle \ell', [\nu'] \rangle \text{ if and only if } \langle \ell, \nu \rangle \xRightarrow{\alpha} \langle \ell', \nu' \rangle$$

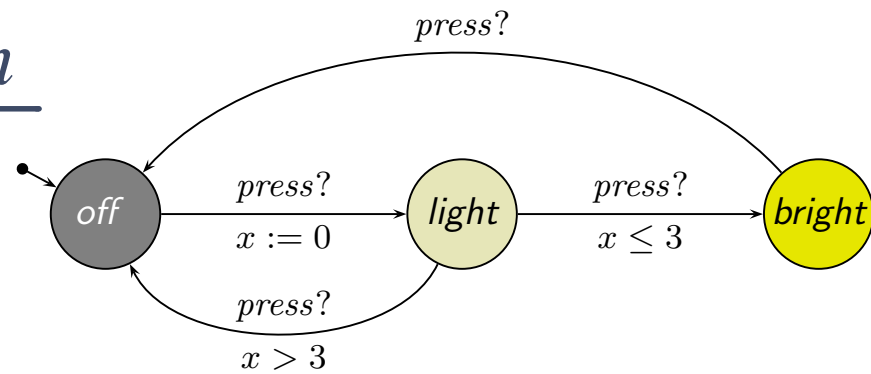
in  $\mathcal{U}(\mathcal{A})$ , and

- $C_{ini} = \{\langle \ell_{ini}, [\nu_{ini}] \rangle\} \cap \text{Conf}(\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A}))$  with  $\nu_{ini}(X) = \{0\}$ .

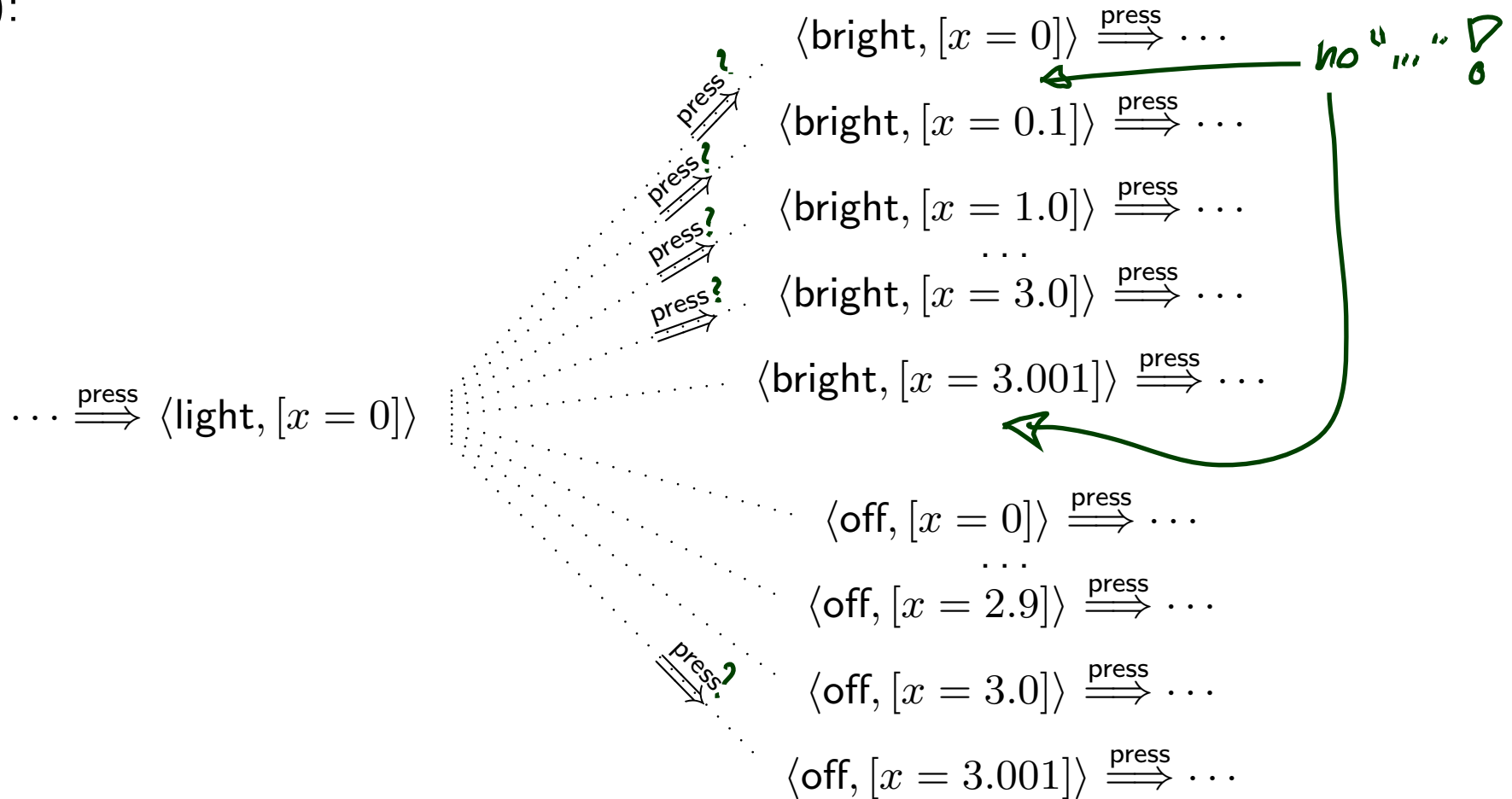
*representative*

**Proposition.** The transition relation of  $\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A})$  is **well-defined**, that is, independent of the choice of the representative  $\nu$  of a region  $[\nu]$ .

# Example: Region Automaton



$\mathcal{U}(\mathcal{A})$ :



**Remark 4.30.** That a configuration  $\langle \ell, [\nu] \rangle$  is reachable in  $\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A})$  represents the fact, that all  $\langle \ell, \nu \rangle$  are reachable.

In  $\mathcal{A}$ , we can observe  $\nu$  when

location  $\ell$  has **just been entered**. *(no delay after entering)*

The clock values reachable by staying/letting time pass in  $\ell$  are **not explicitly** represented by the regions of  $\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A})$ .



# Decidability of The Location Reachability Problem

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## Approach: Constructive proof.

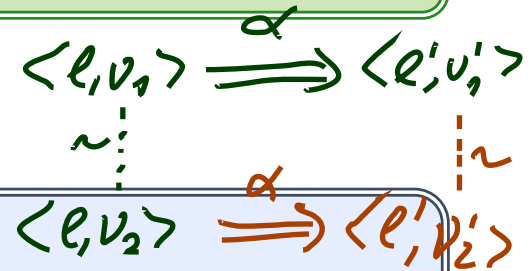
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# Region Automaton Properties

**Lemma 4.32.** [Correctness] For all locations  $l$  of a given timed automaton  $\mathcal{A}$  the following holds:

$l$  is reachable in  $\mathcal{U}(\mathcal{A})$  if and only if  $l$  is reachable in  $\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A})$ .

For the **Proof**:



**Definition 4.21.** [Bisimulation] An equivalence relation  $\sim$  on valuations is a **(strong) bisimulation** if and only if, whenever

$$\nu_1 \sim \nu_2 \text{ and } \langle l, \nu_1 \rangle \xrightarrow{\alpha} \langle l', \nu'_1 \rangle$$

then there exists  $\nu'_2$  with  $\nu'_1 \sim \nu'_2$  and  $\langle l, \nu_2 \rangle \xrightarrow{\alpha} \langle l', \nu'_2 \rangle$ .

**Lemma 4.26.** [Bisimulation]  $\cong$  is a **strong bisimulation**.

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# The Number of Regions

magnitude of  $X$   
(number of elements in  $X$ )

**Lemma 4.28.** Let  $X$  be a set of clocks,  $c_x \in \mathbb{N}_0$  the maximal constant for each  $x \in X$ , and  $c = \max\{c_x \mid x \in X\}$ . Then

$$(2c + 2)^{|X|} \cdot (4c + 3)^{\frac{1}{2}|X| \cdot (|X| - 1)}$$

is an **upper bound** on the **number of regions**.

**Proof:** [Olderog and Dierks, 2008]

# Observations Regarding the Number of Regions

- Lemma 4.28 **in particular** tells us that each timed automaton (in our definition) has **finitely** many regions.
- Note: the upper bound is a **worst case**, not an **exact bound**.

$$|L| \cdot \underbrace{|Regions|}_{\leq (2c+2)^{|X|} \dots}$$

$$A_1: L_1, X_1 \quad \bullet \quad 2 \cdot |L_1| = |L_2|$$

$$A_2: L_2, X_2 \quad \bullet \quad 2 \cdot |X_1| = |X_2|$$

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- ✓ **Def. 4.19: time-abstract transition system**  $\mathcal{U}(\mathcal{A})$  — abstracts from uncountably many delay transitions, still infinite-state.
- ✓ **Lem. 4.20:** location reachability of  $\mathcal{A}$  is **preserved** in  $\mathcal{U}(\mathcal{A})$ .
- ✓ **Def. 4.29: region automaton**  $\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A})$  — equivalent configurations collapse into regions
- ✓ **Lem. 4.32:** location reachability of  $\mathcal{U}(\mathcal{A})$  is **preserved** in  $\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A})$ .
- ✓ **Lem. 4.28:**  $\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A})$  is **finite**.

# Putting It All Together

Let  $\mathcal{A} = (L, B, X, I, E, \ell_{ini})$  be a timed automaton,  $\ell \in L$  a location.

- $\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A})$  can be constructed effectively.
- There are finitely many locations in  $L$  (by definition).
- There are finitely many regions by Lemma 4.28.
- So  $Conf(\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A}))$  is finite (by construction).
- It is decidable whether ( $C_{init}$  of  $\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A})$  is empty) or whether there exists a sequence

$$\langle \ell_{ini}, [\nu_{ini}] \rangle \xrightarrow{\alpha}_{R(\mathcal{A})} \langle \ell_1, [\nu_1] \rangle \xrightarrow{\alpha}_{R(\mathcal{A})} \cdots \xrightarrow{\alpha}_{R(\mathcal{A})} \langle \ell_n, [\nu_n] \rangle$$

such that  $\ell_n = \ell$  (reachability in graphs).

So we have

**Theorem 4.33.** [*Decidability*]

The location reachability problem for timed automata is **decidable**.

# *References*



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# References

[Olderog and Dierks, 2008] Olderog, E.-R. and Dierks, H. (2008). *Real-Time Systems - Formal Specification and Automatic Verification*. Cambridge University Press.