

Real-Time Systems

## Lecture 13: Location Reachability (or: The Region Automaton)

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### Contents & Goals

**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

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### 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

$$(s_{init}, h_0) \xrightarrow{\lambda_1} (s_1, v_1) \xrightarrow{\lambda_2} (s_2, v_2) \xrightarrow{\lambda_3} \dots \xrightarrow{\lambda_n} (s_n, h_n), s_n = \ell$$

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  $\rightarrow$  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.

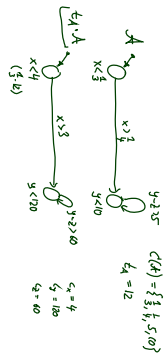


- Approach:** Constructive proof.
- Observe: clock constraints are **simple**
    - w.l.o.g. assume constants  $c \in \mathbb{N}_0$ .
  - **Def. 4.19: time-abstract transition system**  $\mathcal{U}(\mathcal{A})$  — abstracts from uncountably many delay transitions, still infinite-state.
  - **Lem. 4.20:** 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  $\varphi ::= x \sim c \mid x - y \sim c \mid \varphi \wedge \psi$  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  $l_A$  be the **least common multiple** of the denominators in  $C(\mathcal{A})$ .
- Let  $l_A \cdot \mathcal{A}$  be the TA obtained from  $\mathcal{A}$  by **multiplying** all constants by  $l_A$ .





## 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  $\mathcal{U}(\mathcal{A})$ .

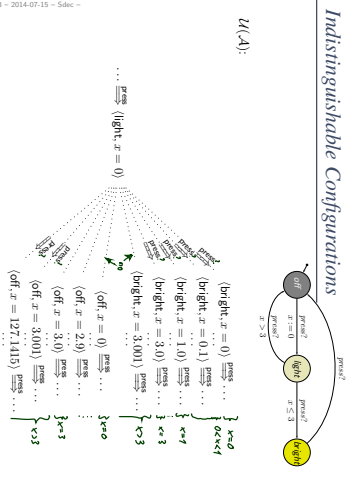
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## Indistinguishable Configurations



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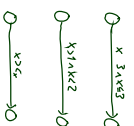
## Distinguishing Clock Valuations: One Clock

• Assume  $\mathcal{A}$  with only a single clock, i.e.  $X = \{x\}$  (recall  $C(\mathcal{A}) \subset \mathbb{R}$ )

•  $\mathcal{A}$  could detect, for a given  $v_1$ , whether  $v_2(x) \in \{0, \dots, c_2\}$ .

•  $\mathcal{A}$  cannot distinguish  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  if  $v_1(x) \in (k, k+1]$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , and  $k \in \{0, \dots, c_2 - 1\}$ .

•  $\mathcal{A}$  cannot distinguish  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  if  $v_1(x) > c_2$ ,  $k = 1, 2$ .



• If  $c_2 \geq 1$ , there are  $(2c_2 + 2)$  equivalence classes:

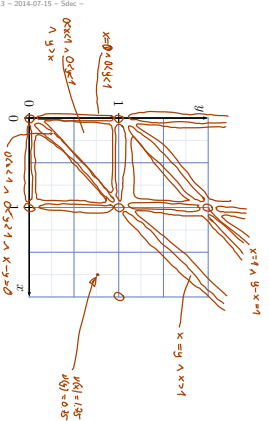
$$\{0\}, \{0, 1\}, \{1\}, \{1, 2\}, \dots, \{c_2\}, \{c_2, \infty\}$$

If  $v_1(x)$  and  $v_2(x)$  are in the same equivalence class, then  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  are indistinguishable by  $\mathcal{A}$ .

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## Distinguishing Clock Valuations: Two Clocks

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



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## Helper: Floor and Fraction

• **Recall:**

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

• **floor**  $\lfloor q \rfloor \in \mathbb{N}_0$  and

• **fraction**  $\text{frac}(q) \in (0, 1)$

such that

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

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## 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  $v_1, v_2$  clock valuations of  $X$ . We set  $v_1 \cong v_2$  iff the following four conditions are satisfied.

(1) For all  $x \in X$ ,  $\lfloor v_1(x) \rfloor = \lfloor v_2(x) \rfloor$  or both  $v_1(x) > c_x$  and  $v_2(x) > c_x$ .

(2) For all  $x \in X$  with  $v_1(x) \leq c_x$ ,  $\text{frac}(v_1(x)) = 0$  if and only if  $\text{frac}(v_2(x)) = 0$ .

(3) For all  $x, y \in X$ ,  $\lfloor v_1(x) - v_1(y) \rfloor = \lfloor v_2(x) - v_2(y) \rfloor$  or both  $\lfloor v_1(x) - v_1(y) \rfloor > c$  and  $\lfloor v_2(x) - v_2(y) \rfloor > c$ .

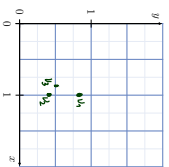
(4) For all  $x, y \in X$  with  $-c \leq v_1(x) - v_1(y) \leq c$ ,  $\text{frac}(v_1(x) - v_1(y)) = 0$  if and only if  $\text{frac}(v_2(x) - v_2(y)) = 0$ .

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

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### Example: Regions

- (1)  $\forall x \in X : |v_1(x)| = |v_2(x)| \vee (v_1(x) > c_1 \wedge v_2(x) > c_1)$
- (2)  $\forall x \in X : v_1(x) \leq c_1 \iff \text{func}(v_1(x)) = 0 \iff \text{func}(v_2(x)) = 0$
- (3)  $\forall x, y \in X : |v_1(x) - v_1(y)| = |v_2(x) - v_2(y)| > c_1 \vee (|v_1(x) - v_1(y)| > c_1 \wedge |v_2(x) - v_2(y)| > c_1)$
- (4)  $\forall x, y \in X : -c_2 \leq v_1(x) - v_1(y) \leq c_2 \iff \text{func}(v_1(x) - v_1(y)) = 0 \iff \text{func}(v_2(x) - v_2(y)) = 0$



- (1)  $|v_2(x)| = 1 = |v_1(x)|$
  - (2)  $\text{func}(v_1(x) - v_1(y)) = 0 \iff \text{func}(v_2(x) - v_2(y)) = 0$
  - (3)  $|v_1(x) - v_1(y)| = |v_2(x) - v_2(y)| > c_1$
  - (4)  $-c_2 \leq v_1(x) - v_1(y) \leq c_2$
- $v_1 \neq v_2$   
because  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  are not comparable

### Regions

**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**.

### 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

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

where

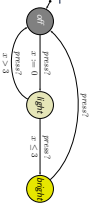
- $\text{Conf}(\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A})) = \{\langle \ell, [\nu] \rangle \mid \ell \in L, \nu : X \rightarrow \text{Time}, \nu \models I(\ell)\}$ ,
- for each  $\alpha \in B_{\text{in}}$ ,

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

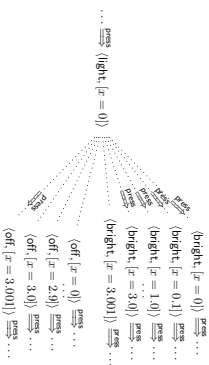
- in  $I(\mathcal{A})$ , and
- $C_{\text{int}} = \{\langle \ell_{\text{int}}, [\nu_{\text{int}}] \rangle\} \cap \text{Conf}(\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A}))$  with  $\nu_{\text{int}}(X) = \{0\}$ .

**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



$U(\mathcal{A})$ :



### Remark

**Remark 4.30.** That a configuration  $(\ell, [\nu])$  is reachable in  $\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A})$  represents the fact that all  $(\ell, \nu)$  are reachable. IAW: in  $\mathcal{A}$ , we can observe  $\nu$  when location  $\ell$  has just been entered. 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

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

**Lemma 4.32.** [Correctness] For all locations  $\ell$  of a given timed automaton  $\mathcal{A}$  the following holds:  
 $\ell$  is reachable in  $\mathcal{U}(\mathcal{A})$  if and only if  $\ell$  is reachable in  $\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A})$ .



**Definition 4.21.** [Bisimulation] An equivalence relation  $\sim$  on valuations is a **(strong) bisimulation** if and only if, whenever  $v_1 \sim v_2$  and  $(\ell, v_1) \xrightarrow{a, c} (\ell', v_1')$  then there exists  $v_2'$  with  $v_1' \sim v_2'$  and  $(\ell, v_2) \xrightarrow{a, c} (\ell', v_2')$ .

Observations Regarding the Number of Regions

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

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The Number of Regions

**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  
 $(2c+2)^{|X|} \cdot (4c+9)^{\frac{1}{2}|X|(|X|-1)}$   
 is an **upper bound on the number of regions**.

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

Putting It All Together

- Let  $\mathcal{A} = (L, B, X, I, E, \ell_{init})$  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 **Conf**( $\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A})$ ) is empty or whether there exists a sequence

$$\langle \ell_{init}, [v_{init}] \rangle \xrightarrow{a, c} \mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A}) \langle \ell_1, [v_1] \rangle \xrightarrow{a, c} \mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A}) \dots \xrightarrow{a, c} \mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A}) \langle \ell_n, [v_n] \rangle$$

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

So we have

**Theorem 4.33. [Decidability]**  
 The location reachability problem for timed automata is **decidable**.

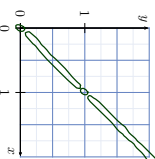
### The Constraint Reachability Problem

- **Given:** A timed automaton  $\mathcal{A}$ , one of its control locations  $\ell$ , and a clock constraint  $\varphi$ .
- **Question:** Is a configuration  $(\ell, \nu)$  **reachable** where  $\nu \models \varphi$ , i.e. is there a transition sequence of the form  $(\ell_{\text{init}}, \nu_{\text{init}}) \xrightarrow{\Delta_1} (\ell_1, \nu_1) \xrightarrow{\Delta_2} (\ell_2, \nu_2) \xrightarrow{\Delta_3} \dots \xrightarrow{\Delta_n} (\ell, \nu_n) = (\ell, \nu)$  in the labelled transition system  $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{A})$  with  $\nu \models \varphi$ ?
- **Note:** we just observed that  $\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A})$  loses some information about the clock valuations that are possible in/from a region.

**Theorem 4.34.** The constraint reachability problem for timed automata is decidable.

### The Delay Operation

- Let  $[v]$  be a clock region.
- We set  $\text{delay}[v] := \{v' + t \mid v' \approx v \text{ and } t \in \text{Time}\}$ .



- **Note:**  $\text{delay}[v]$  can be represented as a finite union of regions.

For example, with our two-clock example we have

$$\text{delay}[x = y = 0] = [x \in \mathbb{R}, y = 0] \vee [0 \leq x = y < 1] \vee [x = 1, y = 1]$$

### References

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