

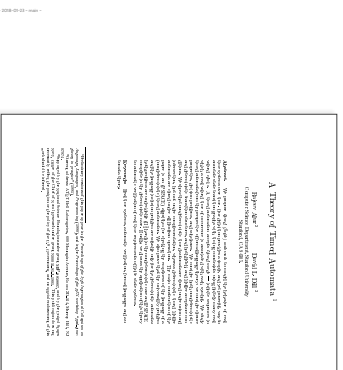
Real-Time Systems

Lecture 18: The Universality Problem of Timed Buchi Automata

20/8/01/23

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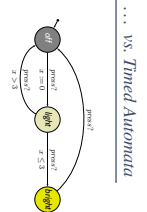
Alur and Dill (1994) 3/4

Content

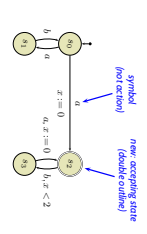
- Timed Buchi Automata
- Parameterized Timed Automata
- Timed word, timed language
- accepting TBA runs
- language of a TBA
- The Universality Problem of TBA
- definition, universality problem
- undecidability claim
- proof idea: 2-counter machines again
- construct observer for non-recurring computations
- Consequences
 - the language inclusion problem
 - the complementation problem
- Beyond Timed Regular

Timed Buchi Automata

Alur and Dill (1994)



... vs. Timed Automata



timed automaton \mathcal{A} induces computation paths and runs such as

$$\xi = (\text{act } 0, 0 \xrightarrow{a} \text{act } 1, 1 \xrightarrow{\text{proct } 1, 1} \text{act } 0, 1 \xrightarrow{a} \text{act } 3, 4 \xrightarrow{\text{proct } 3, 4} \text{act } 3, 4 \dots)$$

Behaviour of \mathcal{A} : set of computation paths / runs

Language of \mathcal{A} : set of accepted timed words

Timed Languages

Definition. A time sequence $\tau = \tau_1, \tau_2, \dots$ is an infinite sequence of time values $\tau_i \in \mathbb{R}_0^+$, satisfying the following constraints:

- (i) Monotonicity: τ increases strictly monotonically, i.e. $\tau_i < \tau_{i+1}$ for all $i \geq 1$.
- (ii) Progress: For every $t \in \mathbb{R}_0^+$, there is some $i \geq 1$ such that $\tau_i > t$.

Definition. A timed word over an alphabet Σ is a pair (σ, τ) where

- $\sigma = \sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots \in \Sigma^*$ is an infinite word over Σ , and
- τ is a time sequence.

Definition. A timed language over an alphabet Σ is a set of timed words over Σ .

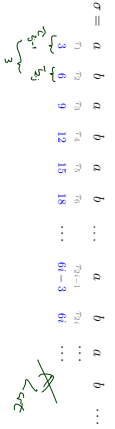
Example: Timed Language

Timed word over alphabet Σ a pair (σ, τ) where

- $\sigma = a_1 a_2 a_3 \dots$ is an infinite word over Σ and
- τ is a time sequence (strictly (!) monotonic, non-zero)

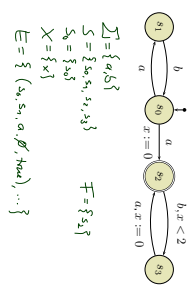
$(\sigma, \tau) \in L_{\text{timed}}$ iff $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$

$$L_{\text{timed}} = \{((ab)^n, \tau) \mid \exists i \in \mathbb{N}^+ \forall j \geq i : (\tau_j < \tau_{j-1} + 2)\}$$



Example: TBA

$A = (\Sigma, S, S_0, X, E, F)$
 $(s, s', a, \lambda, \delta) \in E$



Example: Timed Language

Timed word over alphabet Σ a pair (σ, τ) where

- $\sigma = a_1 a_2 a_3 \dots$ is an infinite word over Σ and
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$$L_{\text{timed}} = \{((ab)^n, \tau) \mid \exists i \in \mathbb{N}^+ \forall j \geq i : (\tau_j < \tau_{j-1} + 2)\}$$



(Accepting) TBA Runs

Definition: A run r denoted by (s, ρ) of a TBA $(\Sigma, S, S_0, X, E, F)$ over a timed word (σ, τ) is an infinite sequence of the form

$$r : (s_0, t_0) \xrightarrow{\tau_0, (s_0, t_0)} (s_1, t_1) \xrightarrow{\tau_1, (s_1, t_1)} (s_2, t_2) \xrightarrow{\tau_2, (s_2, t_2)} \dots$$

with $s_i \in S$ and $t_i : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+^k$ satisfying the following requirements:

Timed Buchi Automata

Definition: The set $\Phi(X)$ of clock constraints over X is defined inductively by

$$\delta ::= x \leq c \mid c \leq x \mid \neg \delta \mid \delta_1 \wedge \delta_2 \quad \text{where } x \in X, c \in \mathbb{Q}$$

Definition: A timed Buchi automaton (TBA) A is a tuple $(\Sigma, S, S_0, X, E, F)$ where

- Σ is an alphabet.
- S is a finite set of states, $S_0 \subseteq S$ is a set of start states.
- X is a finite set of clocks, and
- $E \subseteq S \times S \times \Sigma \times 2^X \times \Phi(X)$ gives the set of transitions.

An edge $(s, s', a, \lambda, \delta)$ represents a transition from state s to state s' on input a . The label λ gives the clocks to be reset with this transition, and δ is a clock constraint over X .

$F \subseteq S$ is a set of accepting states.

(Accepting) TBA Runs

Definition: A run r denoted by (s, ρ) of a TBA $(\Sigma, S, S_0, X, E, F)$ over a timed word (σ, τ) is an infinite sequence of the form

$$r : (s_0, t_0) \xrightarrow{\tau_0, (s_0, t_0)} (s_1, t_1) \xrightarrow{\tau_1, (s_1, t_1)} (s_2, t_2) \xrightarrow{\tau_2, (s_2, t_2)} \dots$$

with $s_i \in S$ and $t_i : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+^k$ satisfying the following requirements

- Initiation: $s_0 \in S_0$ and $t(0) = 0$ for all $x \in X$.
- Consistency: for all $i \geq 1$, there is $(s_{i-1}, s_i, a, \lambda, \delta)$ in E such that
- $(s_{i-1} + (a - \tau_{i-1})) \wedge \lambda_i = 0$, and
- $t_i = (s_{i-1} + (a - \tau_{i-1})) \wedge \lambda_i = 0$.

Definition: A run r , denoted by (s, ρ) , of a TBA $(\Sigma, S, S_0, X, E, F)$ over a timed word (α, τ) is an infinite sequence of the form

$$r: (s_0, \alpha_0) \xrightarrow{\tau_0} (s_1, \alpha_1) \xrightarrow{\tau_1} (s_2, \alpha_2) \xrightarrow{\tau_2} \dots$$

with $s_i \in S$ and $\tau_i: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$, satisfying the following requirements:

- **Initiation:** $s_0 \in S_0$ and $\tau_i(\emptyset) = 0$ for all $i \in \mathbb{N}$.
- **Consistency:** for all $i \geq 1$, there is $(s_{i-1}, s_i, \alpha_i, \lambda_i)$ in E such that
 - $(\alpha_{i-1} + (\tau_i - \tau_{i-1}))$ satisfies δ_i , and
 - $\tau_i = (\alpha_{i-1} + (\tau_i - \tau_{i-1})) \setminus \lambda_i = 0$.

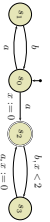
The set $\text{inf}(r) \subseteq S$ consists of those states $s \in S$ such that $s = s_i$ for infinitely many $i \geq 0$.

Definition: A run $r = (s, \rho)$ of a TBA over timed word (α, τ) is called (an) **accepting (run)** if and only if $\text{inf}(r) \cap F \neq \emptyset$.

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Example: Language of a TBA

$L(A) = \{(\alpha, \tau) \mid A \text{ has an accepting run over } (\alpha, \tau)\}$.



Claim: $L(A) = L_{\text{acc}} = \{((ab)^n, \tau) \mid \exists t \forall j \geq t: (\tau_j < \tau_{j-1} + 2)\}$

• $(\alpha, \tau) \in L(A) \implies (\alpha, \tau) \in L_{\text{acc}}$ ✓

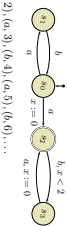
• $(\alpha, \tau) \in L_{\text{acc}} \implies (\alpha, \tau) \in L(A)$ ✓

Question: Is L_{acc} timed regular or not? $\checkmark \in \Sigma^*$

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Example: (Accepting) Runs

$r: (s_0, \alpha_0) \xrightarrow{\tau_0} (s_1, \alpha_1) \xrightarrow{\tau_1} (s_2, \alpha_2) \xrightarrow{\tau_2} \dots$, final and $(s_{i-1}, s_i, \alpha_i, \lambda_i) \in E$, s.t. $(\alpha_{i-1} + (\tau_i - \tau_{i-1})) \models \delta_i, \tau_i = (\alpha_{i-1} + (\tau_i - \tau_{i-1})) \setminus \lambda_i = 0$, accepting iff $\text{inf}(r) \cap F \neq \emptyset$.



Timed word: $(\alpha, \tau) = ((0, 2), (0, 3), (0, 4), (0, 5), (0, 6), \dots)$

- Can we construct any run? Is it accepting?
 - $r: \langle \alpha, \beta \rangle \xrightarrow{\tau} \langle s_0, \alpha_0 \rangle \xrightarrow{\tau_0} \langle s_1, \alpha_1 \rangle \xrightarrow{\tau_1} \langle s_2, \alpha_2 \rangle \dots$ $\text{inf}(r) = \{s_2, s_3\} \cap \{s_1, s_2\} = \emptyset \checkmark$
- Can we construct a non-run?
 - N.A. $\text{BUT } (s_1, \tau_1), (s_2, \tau_2) \dots$ $\langle s_0, \alpha_0 \rangle \xrightarrow{\tau_0} \langle s_1, \alpha_1 \rangle$ is not stable
- Can we construct a (non-)accepting run?
 - $\langle \alpha, \tau \rangle \xrightarrow{\tau} \langle s_0, \alpha_0 \rangle \xrightarrow{\tau_0} \langle s_1, \alpha_1 \rangle \xrightarrow{\tau_1} \langle s_2, \alpha_2 \rangle \dots$

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The Universality Problem is Undecidable for TBA

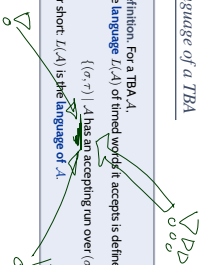
Alper and Hill (1994)

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The Language of a TBA

Definition: For a TBA A , the language $L(A)$ of timed words it accepts is defined to be the set $\{(\alpha, \tau) \mid A \text{ has an accepting run over } (\alpha, \tau)\}$

For short: $L(A)$ is the language of A .



Definition: A timed language L is a timed regular language if and only if $L = L(A)$ for some TBA A .

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The Universality Problem

- Given: A TBA A over alphabet Σ .
- Question: Does A accept **all** timed words over Σ^* in other words: Is $L(A) = \{(\alpha, \tau) \mid \alpha \in \Sigma^*, \tau \text{ time sequence}\}$?
- Obvious examples exist: Let $\Sigma = \{a, b, c\}$, then accepts all timed words over Σ .
- In general not that obvious.



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The Universality Problem

- Given: A TBA A over alphabet Σ .
- Question: Does A accept **all** timed words over Σ ?
In other words: Is $L(A) = \{(a, \tau) \mid a \in \Sigma^*, \tau \text{ time sequence}\}$?

Theorem 5.2: The problem of deciding whether a timed automaton over alphabet Σ accepts all timed words over Σ is Π -hard.

(The class Π consists of highly undecidable problems, including some nonarithmetical sets (for an exposition of the analytical hierarchy consult, for instance [Rogers, 1967]).

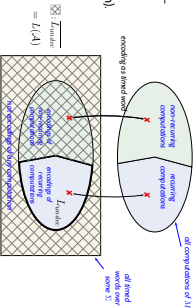
Recall: With classical (untimed) Buchi Automata, this is different:

- Let B be a Buchi Automaton over Σ .
- Let B be a Buchi Automaton over Σ .
- B is universal if and only if $L(B) = \emptyset$.
- B is such that $L(B) = L(\bar{B})$ is effectively completable.
- Language emptiness is decidable for Buchi Automata.

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Proof Idea

- 2-counter machines (once again)



- Consider a language L_{timed} , consisting of the recurring computations of a 2-counter machine M .

Construct a TBA A from M which accepts L_{timed} .

- Then A is universal if and only if L_{timed} is empty...
- ...if and only if M doesn't have a recurring computation.
- Thus if **universality** of TBA would be decidable, we had a decision procedure for recurrence of 2-counter machines.

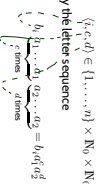
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Step 1: Choose Alphabet

- Given: Let M be a 2-counter machine with n instructions $\{b_1, \dots, b_n\}$.
- Wanted: a Timed Buchi Automaton A which accepts timed words which **do not** encode a recurring computation of M .
That is, A should accept the complement of the set of timed words which do encode a recurring computation of M .

- Choose alphabet $\Sigma = \{b_1, \dots, b_n, a_1, a_2\}$.

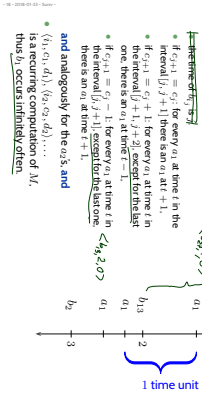
- A configuration



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Construction Idea

- (a, τ) is in L_{timed} iff:
 - $\sigma = b_{i_1} a_{j_1}^{c_1} b_{i_2} a_{j_2}^{c_2} \dots$ and
 - the prefix of σ with times $0 \leq t < 1$ encodes configuration $(1, 0, 0)$, and
 - the time of b_{i_j} is j , and
 - For all $j \in \mathbb{N}_0$,



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Once Again: Two Counter Machines (Different Flavour)

- A two-counter machine M
- has two counters C, D and
- a finite program consisting of n instructions $\{b_1, \dots, b_n\}$.
- A instruction increments or decrements one of the counters, or jumps, here even **non-deterministically**.
- A configuration of M is a triple $(i, c, d) \in \{1, \dots, n\} \times \mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0$:
- program counter $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$,
- values $c, d \in \mathbb{N}_0$ of counters C and D .

A computation of M is an infinite, initial, consecutive sequence

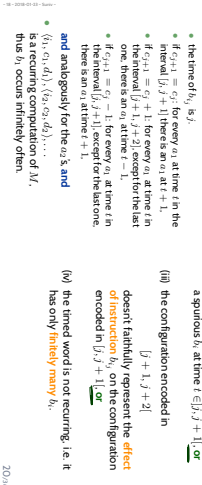
$$(1, 0, 0) = (i_0, c_0, d_0), (i_1, c_1, d_1), (i_2, c_2, d_2), \dots \text{ where}$$

- $(i_{j+1}, c_{j+1}, d_{j+1})$ is a result executing instruction b_{i_j} at (i_j, c_j, d_j) for all $j \in \mathbb{N}_0$,
- A computation of M is called recurring iff $i_j = 1$ for infinitely many $j \in \mathbb{N}_0$.

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Construction Idea

- (a, τ) is in L_{timed} iff:
 - $\sigma = b_{i_1} a_{j_1}^{c_1} b_{i_2} a_{j_2}^{c_2} \dots$ and
 - the prefix of σ with times $0 \leq t < 1$ encodes configuration $(1, 0, 0)$, and
 - the time of b_{i_j} is j , and
 - For all $j \in \mathbb{N}_0$,



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Step 2: Construct "Observer" for L_{index}

Wanted: A TBA, \mathcal{A} such that $L(\mathcal{A}) = L_{\text{index}}$

i.e., \mathcal{A} accepts a timed word (σ, τ) iff and only if $(\sigma, \tau) \in L_{\text{index}}$

Plan: Construct a TBA

- \mathcal{A}_0 for case (i)
- Missing b_j at time j or spurious b_j
- $\mathcal{A}_{\text{init}}$ for case (i)
- Initial configuration not encoded]
- $\mathcal{A}_{\text{recur}}$ for case (iv)
- not recurring] and
- \mathcal{A}_1 for each instruction b_i for case (iii)
- [instruction effect not encoded]

Then set

$$\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_0 \cup \mathcal{A}_{\text{init}} \cup \mathcal{A}_{\text{recur}} \cup \bigcup_{i \in \Sigma^{\text{bin}}} \mathcal{A}_i$$

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Step 2.(ii): Construct \mathcal{A}_0

(i) The b_j at time $j \in \mathbb{N}$ is missing or there is a spurious b_j at time $t \in \mathbb{N}, j \neq t$

Aur and Dill (1994): "It is easy to construct such a timed automaton"

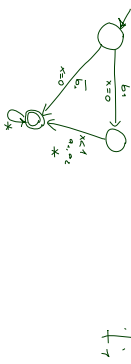
21.8

Step 2.(i): Construct $\mathcal{A}_{\text{init}}$

(i) The prefix of the timed word with times $0 \leq t < 1$ doesn't encode $(1, 0, 0)$

- It accepts

$$\{(\sigma, \tau) \in \Sigma^{\text{bin}} \mid (\sigma_0 \neq b_1) \vee (\sigma_0 \neq 0) \vee (\tau_0 \neq 1)\}$$

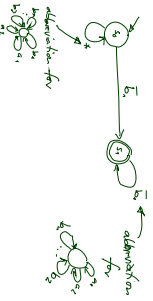


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Step 2.(iv): Construct $\mathcal{A}_{\text{recur}}$

(iv) The timed word is not recurring, i.e. it has only finitely many b_j

- $\mathcal{A}_{\text{recur}}$ accepts words with only finitely many b_j



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Step 2.(iii): Construct \mathcal{A}_i

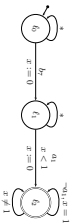
(iii) The configuration encoded in $[j+1, j+2]$ doesn't faithfully represent the effect of instruction b_j on the configuration encoded in $[j, j+1]$

Example: assume instruction T is

Increment counter D and jump non-deterministically to instruction 3 or 5.

Once again, stepwise, \mathcal{A}_i is $\mathcal{A}_i^1 \cup \dots \cup \mathcal{A}_i^k$

- \mathcal{A}_i^1 accepts words with b_j at time j but neither b_j nor b_j at time $j+1$. "Easy to construct"
- \mathcal{A}_i^2 is



- \mathcal{A}_i^3 accepts words which encode unexpected changes of counter C .
- $\mathcal{A}_i^4, \dots, \mathcal{A}_i^k$ accept words with missing increment of D .

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Alur, Arul...?

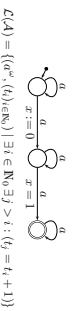
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Consequences: *Complementation*

- Given: A timed regular language W over B that is: there is a TBA A such that $L(A) = W$
- Question: Is W timed regular?

If the class of timed regular languages were closed under complementation, the complement of the inclusion problem is recursively enumerable. This contradicts the Π_1 -hardness of the inclusion problem. Alur and Dill (1994)

A non-complementable TBA A :



Complement language:

$$\overline{L(A)} = \{(a^n (a^i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}_0}) \mid \text{no two } a \text{ are separated by distance } 1\}$$

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Consequences: *Language Inclusion*

- Given: Two TBAs A_1 and A_2 over alphabet B .
- Question: Is $L(A_1) \subseteq L(A_2)$?

Possible applications of a decision procedure:

- Characterise the allowed behaviour as A_2 and model design behaviour as A_1 .
- Automatically decide $L(A_1) \subseteq L(A_2)$ that is, whether the behaviour of the design is a subset of the allowed behaviour.
- If yes, design is correct wrt requirement.

- If language inclusion was decidable, then we could use it to decide universality of A by checking

$$L(A_{\text{univ}}) \subseteq L(A)$$

where A_{univ} is any universal TBA (which is easy to construct).

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Consequences: *Complementation*

- Given: A timed regular language W over B that is: there is a TBA A such that $L(A) = W$
- Question: Is W timed regular?

Possible applications of a decision procedure:

- Characterise the allowed behaviour as A_2 and model design behaviour as A_1 .
- Automatically construct A_2 with $L(A_2) = \overline{L(A_1)}$ and check

$$L(A_1) \cap L(A_2) = \emptyset$$

that is, whether the design has any non-allowed behaviour.

- Taking for granted that:
 - The intersection automaton is effectively computable.
 - The emptiness problem for Buchi automata is decidable (proved by construction of region automaton Alur and Dill (1994))

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Beyond Timed Regular

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With clock constraints of the form

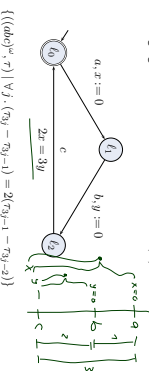
$$x + y \leq x' + y'$$

we can describe timed languages which are not timed regular.

In other words:

- There are strictly more timed languages than timed regular languages.
- There exists timed languages L such that there exists no A with $L(A) = L$.

Example:



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- Timed Buchi Automata accept timed words, Pure / Extended Timed Automata "produce" computation paths.
 - Different views on the same phenomenon.
- A set of timed words L is called **timed regular** if there exists a TBA whose language is L .
 - Different views on the same phenomenon.
- Decidability results for Timed Buchi Automata
 - Emptiness: **decidable** (region construction)
 - Universality: **undecidable** (2-counter automata)
 - Language Inclusion: **undecidable** (universality)
 - Complementation: **undecidable** (non-completable TBA)
- Beyond Timed Regular
 - with more expressive clock constraints.
 - automata can accept non-timed regular languages.

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References

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References

Alur, R. and Dill, D. L. (1994). A theory of timed automata. *Theoretical Computer Science*, 126/2:183–235.

Osherson, E. R. and Socher, H. (2008). *Real-Time Systems - Formal Specification and Automatic Verification*. Cambridge University Press.

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