Real-Time Systems

Lecture 18: The Universality Problem of Timed Büchi Automata

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A Theory of Timed Automata $^{\rm 1}$

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Abstract. We propose timed (finite) automate to model the behavior of real time systems ever time. Our definition provides a timple, and yes powerful, way to value of the control of the

¹Preliminary versions of this paper appear in the Proceedings of the 17th International Colloquium on Automata, Longuages, and Programming (1990), and in the Proceedings of the REX workshop "Real-lime: theory in practice" (1991).

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• Timed Büchi Automata

- → vs. Pure/Extended Timed Automata
- ← timed word, timed language
- accepting TBA runs
- └ **language** of a TBA

The Universality Problem of TBA

- definition: universality problem
- undecidability claim
- oproof idea: 2-counter machines again
- construct observer for non-recurring computations

Consequences

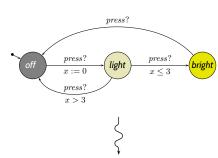
- → the language inclusion problem
- the complementation problem
- Beyond Timed Regular

4/36

Timed Büchi Automata

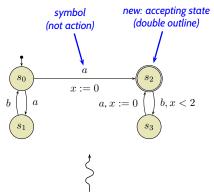
Alur and Dill (1994)

... vs. Timed Automata



$$\begin{split} \xi &= \langle \textit{off}, 0 \rangle, 0 \stackrel{1}{\longrightarrow} \langle \textit{off}, 1 \rangle, 1 \\ &\stackrel{press?}{\longrightarrow} \langle \textit{light}, 0 \rangle, 1 \stackrel{3}{\longrightarrow} \langle \textit{light}, 3 \rangle, 4 \\ &\stackrel{press?}{\longrightarrow} \langle \textit{bright}, 3 \rangle, 4 \rightarrow \dots \end{split}$$

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



Timed Büchi Automaton A accepts timed words such as

$$(a,1),(b,2),(a,3),(b,4),(a,5),(b,6),\ldots$$

6/36

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 $i \ge 1$.
- (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

- $\sigma = \sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots \in \Sigma^{\omega}$ is an infinite word over Σ , and
- \bullet au 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

- $\sigma = \sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots$ is an infinite word over Σ , and
- τ is a time sequence (strictly (!) monotonic, non-Zeno).

- 2018-01-23 - Stba -

8/36

Example: Timed Language

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- 18 - 2018-01-23 - Stba -

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

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

Definition.

A timed Büchi automaton (TBA) \mathcal{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,λ,δ) represents a transition from state s to state s' on input symbol a. The set $\lambda\subseteq X$ 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.

9/36

Example: TBA

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

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 $E = \{ (s_6, s_1, \alpha, \beta, true), ... \}$

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

$$r: \underbrace{\langle s_0, \nu_0 \rangle}_{\tau_1} \underbrace{\langle s_1, \nu_1 \rangle}_{\tau_2} \underbrace{\langle s_2, \nu_2 \rangle}_{\tau_3} \underbrace{\langle s_2, \nu_2 \rangle}_{\tau_3} \dots$$

with $s_i \in S$ and $\nu_i : X \to \mathbb{R}^+_0$, satisfying the following requirements:

18 - 2018-01-23 - Stha -

11/36

(Accepting) TBA Runs

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

$$r: \langle s_0, \nu_0 \rangle \xrightarrow[\tau_1]{\sigma_1} \langle s_1, \nu_1 \rangle \xrightarrow[\tau_2]{\sigma_2} \langle s_2, \nu_2 \rangle \xrightarrow[\tau_3]{\sigma_3} \dots$$

with $s_i \in S$ and $\nu_i: X \to \mathbb{R}^+_0$, satisfying the following requirements:

- Initiation: $s_0 \in S_0$ and $\nu(x) = 0$ for all $x \in X$.
- Consecution: for all $i \geq 1$, there is $(s_{i-1}, s_i, \sigma_i, \lambda_i, \delta_i)$ in E such that
 - $(\nu_{i-1} + (\tau_i \tau_{i-1}))$ satisfies δ_i , and
 - $\nu_i = (\nu_{i-1} + (\tau_i \tau_{i-1}))[\lambda_i := 0].$

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

$$r: \langle s_0, \nu_0 \rangle \xrightarrow{\sigma_1} \langle s_1, \nu_1 \rangle \xrightarrow{\sigma_2} \langle s_2, \nu_2 \rangle \xrightarrow{\sigma_3} \dots$$

with $s_i \in S$ and $\nu_i : X \to \mathbb{R}_0^+$, satisfying the following requirements:

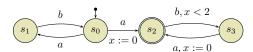
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 - $(\nu_{i-1} + (\tau_i \tau_{i-1}))$ satisfies δ_i , and
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The set $inf(r) \subseteq S$ consists of those states $s \in S$ such that $s = s_i$ for infinitely many $i \geq 0$.

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

11/36

Example: (Accepting) Runs



Timed word: $(a, 1), (b, 2), (a, 3), (b, 4), (a, 5), (b, 6), \dots$

• Can we construct any run? Is it accepting?

$$s: \langle s_0, 0 \rangle \xrightarrow{q} \langle s_2, 0 \rangle \xrightarrow{b} \langle s_3, 1 \rangle \xrightarrow{q} \langle s_2, 0 \rangle \dots \qquad inf(r) = \{s_3, s_2\} \neq \emptyset$$

• Can we construct a non-run?

SLET
$$(a,1), (b,10), (a,1), (b,12), \dots$$
 $(s_0,0) \xrightarrow{a} (s_2,0) \xrightarrow{b} (s_2,0) \xrightarrow{q} (s_2,0) \dots$

• Can we construct a (non-)accepting run?

$$\langle S_{0_1} O \xrightarrow{\alpha} \langle S_{2_1} A \rangle \xrightarrow{b} \langle S_{0_1} Z \rangle \xrightarrow{\alpha} \langle S_{1_1} Z \rangle \cdots$$

-18 - 2018-01-23 - Stba

The Language of a TBA

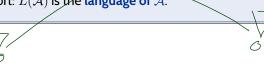


Definition. For a TBA \mathcal{A} ,

the language $L(\mathcal{A})$ of timed words it accepts is defined to be the set

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

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



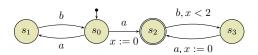
Definition. A timed language L is a timed regular language if and only if $L = L(\mathcal{A})$ for some TBA \mathcal{A} .

8 - 2018-01-33 - Stha

13/36

Example: Language of a TBA

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



 $\textbf{Claim} \text{: } L(\mathcal{A}) = L_{crt} \ (= \{((ab)^\omega, \tau) \mid \exists \, i \, \forall \, j \geq i : (\tau_{2j} < \tau_{2j-1} + 2)\})$

•
$$(\sigma, \tau) \in L(\mathcal{A}) \implies (\sigma, \tau) \in L_{crt}$$
:

• $(\sigma, \tau) \in L_{crt} \implies (\sigma, \tau) \in L(\mathcal{A})$:

The Universality Problem is Undecidable for TBA

Alur and Dill (1994)

8 - 2018-01-23 - main

15/36

The Universality Problem

- Given: A TBA \mathcal{A} over alphabet Σ .
- Question: Does $\mathcal A$ accept all timed words over Σ ?

 In other words: Is $L(\mathcal A) = \{(\sigma,\tau) \mid \sigma \in \Sigma^\omega, \tau \text{ time sequence}\}.$
- Obvious examples exist: Let $\Sigma = \{a,b,c\}$, then



accepts all timed words over Σ .

• In general not that obvious.

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

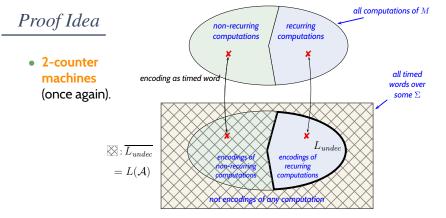
Theorem 5.2. The problem of deciding whether a timed automaton over alphabet Σ accepts all timed words over Σ is Π_1^1 -hard.

("The class Π_1^1 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) Büchi Automata, this is different:

- Let \mathcal{B} be a Büchi Automaton over Σ .
- \mathcal{B} is universal if and only if $\overline{L(\mathcal{B})} = \emptyset$.
- \mathcal{B}' such that $L(\mathcal{B}') = \overline{L(\mathcal{B})}$ is effectively computable.
- Language emptyness is decidable for Büchi Automata.

16/36



- Consider a language L_{undec} consisting of the recurring computations of a 2-counter machine M.
- Construct a TBA \mathcal{A} from M which accepts the complement of L_{undec} , i.e. with $L(\mathcal{A})$ $\overline{L_{undec}}$.
- Then A is universal if and only if L_{undec} 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.

- 18 - 2018-01-23 - Suniv -

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 $\{b_1, \ldots, b_n\}$. An instruction increments or decrements one of the counters, or jumps, here even non-deterministically.

A configuration of M is a triple $\langle i, c, d \rangle \in \{1, \dots, n\} \times \mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0$:

- 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

$$\langle 1, 0, 0 \rangle = \langle i_0, c_0, d_0 \rangle, \langle i_1, c_1, d_1 \rangle, \langle i_2, c_2, d_2 \rangle, \dots$$
 where

- $\langle i_0, c_0, d_0 \rangle = \langle 1, 0, 0 \rangle$,
- $\langle i_{j+1}, c_{j+1}, d_{j+1} \rangle$ is a result executing instruction b_{i_j} at $\langle i_j, c_j, d_j \rangle$ for all $j \in \mathbb{N}_0$.

A computation of M is called recurring iff $i_j = 1$ for infinitely many $j \in \mathbb{N}_0$.

18/36

Step 1: Choose Alphabet

- Given: Let M be a 2-counter machine with n instructions $\{b_1, \ldots, b_n\}$.
- Wanted: a Timed Büchi Automaton \mathcal{A} which accepts timed words which do not encode a recurring computation of M.

That is, $\mathcal A$ should accept the complement of the set of timed words which do encode a recurring computation of M.

- Choose alphabet $\Sigma = \{b_1, \ldots, b_n, a_1, a_2\}.$
- A configuration

$$\langle i, c, d \rangle \in \{1, \dots, n\} \times \mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0$$

of ${\cal M}$ is represented by the letter sequence

$$b_i \underbrace{a_1 \dots a_1}_{c \text{ times}} \underbrace{a_2 \dots a_2}_{d \text{ times}} = b_i a_1^c a_2^d$$

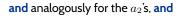
- 18 - 2018-01-23 - Suniv -

 (σ, τ) is in L_{undec} iff:

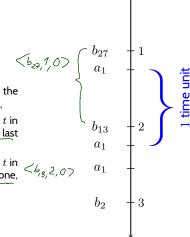
- $\sigma = b_{i_1} a_1^{c_1} a_2^{d_1} b_{i_2} a_1^{c_2} a_2^{d_2} \dots$, and
- the prefix of σ with times $0 \le t < 1$ encodes configuration $\langle 1, 0, 0 \rangle$, and
- the time of b_{i_j} is j, and
- For all $j \in \mathbb{N}_0$,

• the time of b_{i_j} is j

- if $c_{j+1}=c_j$: for every a_1 at time t in the interval [j,j+1] there is an a_1 at t+1,
- if $c_{j+1}=c_j+1$: for every a_1 at time t in the interval [j+1,j+2], except for the last one, there is an a_1 at time t-1,
- if $c_{j+1}=c_j-1$: for every a_1 at time t in the interval [j,j+1], except for the last one, there is an a_1 at time t+1,



• $\langle i_1, c_1, d_1 \rangle, \langle i_2, c_2, d_2 \rangle, \dots$ is a recurring computation of M, thus b_1 occurs infinitely often.



20/36

Construction Idea

 (σ, τ) is in L_{undec} iff:

- ullet $\sigma = b_{i_1} a_1^{c_1} a_2^{d_1} b_{i_2} a_1^{c_2} a_2^{d_2} \ldots$, and
- the prefix of σ with times $0 \le t < 1$ encodes configuration $\langle 1,0,0 \rangle$, and
- the time of b_{i_j} is j, and
- For all $j \in \mathbb{N}_0$,
 - the time of b_{i_j} is j.
 - if $c_{j+1}=c_j$: for every a_1 at time t in the interval [j,j+1] there is an a_1 at t+1,
 - if $c_{j+1}=c_j+1$: for every a_1 at time t in the interval [j+1,j+2], except for the last one, there is an a_1 at time t-1,
 - if $c_{j+1}=c_j-1$: for every a_1 at time t in the interval [j,j+1], except for the last one, there is an a_1 at time t+1,

and analogously for the a_2 's, and

• $\langle i_1, c_1, d_1 \rangle$, $\langle i_2, c_2, d_2 \rangle$, . . . is a recurring computation of M, thus b_1 occurs infinitely often.

 (σ, τ) is not in L_{undec} (i.e. $(\sigma, \tau) \in \overline{L_{undec}}$) iff:

- (i) the prefix of σ with times $0 \le t < 1$ doesn't encode $\langle 1,0,0 \rangle$, or
- (ii) b_i at time $j\in\mathbb{N}$ is missing, or there is a spurious b_i at time $t\in]j,j+1[$, or
- (iii) the configuration encoded in

$$[j+1, j+2[$$

doesn't faithfully represent the effect of instruction b_{ij} on the configuration encoded in [j,j+1[, or

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

Step 2: Construct "Observer" for $\overline{L_{undec}}$

Wanted: A TBA \mathcal{A} such that

$$L(\mathcal{A}) = \overline{L_{undec}},$$

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

Plan: Construct a TBA

- A_0 for case (ii) [missing b_i at time j, or spurious b_i],
- A_{init} for case (i) [initial configuration not encoded],
- A_{recur} for case (iv) [not recurring], and
- A_i for each instruction b_i for case (iii) [instruction effect not encoded].

Then set

$$\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_0 \cup \mathcal{A}_{init} \cup \mathcal{A}_{recur} \cup \bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq n} \mathcal{A}_i$$

21/36

Step 2.(ii): Construct A_0

(ii) The b_i at time $j \in \mathbb{N}$ is missing, or there is a spurious b_i at time $t \in]j, j+1[$.

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

- (i) The prefix of the timed word with times $0 \leq t < 1$ doesn't encode $\langle 1, 0, 0 \rangle$.
- It accepts

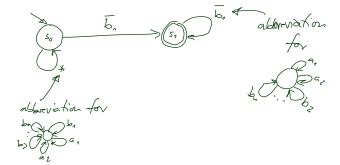
 $\{(\sigma_{j}, \tau_{j})_{j \in \mathbb{N}_{0}} \mid (\sigma_{0} \neq b_{1}) \lor (\tau_{0} \neq 0) \lor (\tau_{1} \neq 1)\}. \quad b_{1}$

- 2018-01-23 - Suniv -

23/36

Step 2.(iv): Construct A_{recur}

- (iv) The timed word is not recurring, i.e. it has only finitely many b_{ℓ} .
- ullet \mathcal{A}_{recur} accepts words with only finitely many $b_{\mathbf{\ell}}$.



8 - 2018-01-23 - Suniv -

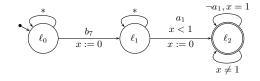
(iii) The configuration encoded in [j+1,j+2[doesn't faithfully represent the effect of instruction b_i on the configuration encoded in [j,j+1[.

Example: assume instruction 7 is:

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

Once again: stepwise. A_7 is $A_7^1 \cup \cdots \cup A_7^6$.

- \mathcal{A}_7^1 accepts words with b_7 at time j but neither b_3 nor b_5 at time j+1. "Easy to construct."
- \mathcal{A}_7^2 is



- A_7^3 accepts words which encode unexpected change of counter C.
- $\mathcal{A}_7^4, \dots, \mathcal{A}_7^6$ accept words with missing increment of D.

25/36

Content

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- 18 - 2018-01-23 - Scontent -

18 - 2018-01-23 - main -

27/36

Consequences: Language Inclusion

- Given: Two TBAs A_1 and A_2 over alphabet B.
- Question: Is $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A}_1) \subseteq \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A}_2)$?

Possible applications of a decision procedure:

- Characterise the allowed behaviour as A_2 and model design behaviour as A_1 .
- Automatically decide $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A}_1) \subseteq \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A}_2)$, 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 ${\cal A}$ by checking

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A}_{univ}) \subseteq \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A})$$

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

- 18 - 2018-01-23 - Sjaund -

- Given: A timed regular language W over B (that is, there is a TBA \mathcal{A} such that $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A}) = W$).
- Question: Is \overline{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_3 with $L(A_3) = \overline{L(A_2)}$ and check

$$L(\mathcal{A}_1) \cap L(\mathcal{A}_3) = \emptyset,$$

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

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

29/36

Consequences: Complementation

- Given: A timed regular language W over B (that is, there is a TBA \mathcal{A} such that $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A}) = W$).
- Question: Is \overline{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_1^1 -hardness of the inclusion problem." Alur and Dill (1994)

A non-complementable TBA A:

Complement language:

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

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• Timed Büchi Automata

- → vs. Pure/Extended Timed Automata
- → timed word, timed language
- accepting TBA runs

The Universality Problem of TBA

- definition: universality problem
- undecidability claim
- oproof idea: 2-counter machines again
- construct observer for non-recurring computations

Consequences

- → the language inclusion problem
- the complementation problem
- Beyond Timed Regular

30/36

Beyond Timed Regular

With clock constraints of the form

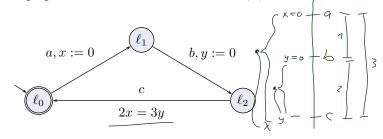
$$x + y \le x' + y'$$

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 \mathcal{A} with $L(\mathcal{A}) = L$.

Example:



$$\{((abc)^{\omega}, \tau) \mid \forall j . (\tau_{3j} - \tau_{3j-1}) = 2(\tau_{3j-1} - \tau_{3j-2})\}$$

32/36

Content

Timed Büchi Automata

- ✓• vs. Pure/Extended Timed Automata
- → timed word, timed language
- —(● accepting TBA runs
- language of a TBA

The Universality Problem of TBA

- definition: universality problem
- → undecidability claim
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Consequences

- the language inclusion problem
- the complementation problem
- Beyond Timed Regular

- 18 - 2018-01-23 - Scontent -

- Timed Büchi 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 <u>timed regular</u> if there exists a TBA whose language is L.
- Decidability results for Timed Büchi Automata
 - Emptyness: decidable (region construction)
 - Universality: undecidable (2-counter automata)
 - Language Inclusion: undecidable (universality)
 - Complementation: undecidable (non-compl'able TBA)
- Beyond Timed Regular
 - with more expressive clock constraints,
 - automata can accept non-timed regular languages.

34/36

References

References

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

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-18 - 2018-01-23 - main

36/36