

Department of Mathematics, Computer Science and Physics, University of Udine

# The Safety Fragment of Temporal Logics on Infinite Sequences

Lesson 13

Luca Geatti

luca.geatti@uniud.it

Angelo Montanari

angelo.montanari@uniud.it

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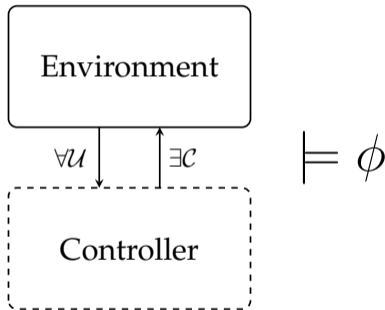
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  - ② The First- and Second-order Theory of One Successor
  - ③ Automata over finite and infinite words
  - ④ Linear Temporal Logic
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  - ② Characterizations and Normal Forms
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  - ③ Construction of the automaton for the bad prefixes
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- ⑤ Succinctness and Pastification
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# REACTIVE SYNTHESIS

*from safety fragments of LTL*



- 1 What are **realizability** and **reactive synthesis**?
  - model-based design: all the effort on the quality of the specification
  - culmination of declarative programming
- 2 Complexity:
  - for S1S: non-elementary
  - for LTL: 2EXPTIME-complete.



### Definition (Strategy)

Let  $\Sigma = \mathcal{C} \cup \mathcal{U}$  be an alphabet partitioned into the set of **controllable** variables  $\mathcal{C}$  and the set of **uncontrollable** ones  $\mathcal{U}$ , such that  $\mathcal{C} \cap \mathcal{U} = \emptyset$ . A *strategy for Controller* is a function

$$g : (2^{\mathcal{U}})^+ \rightarrow 2^{\mathcal{C}}$$

that, given the sequence  $\mathbf{U} = \langle U_0, \dots, U_n \rangle$  of choices made by *Environment* so far, determines the current choices  $\mathbf{C}_n = g(\mathbf{U})$  of *Controller*.



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### Definition (Realizability and Synthesis)

Let  $\phi$  be a temporal formula over the alphabet  $\Sigma = \mathcal{C} \cup \mathcal{U}$ . We say that  $\phi$  is *realizable* if and only if

- $\exists g : (2^{\mathcal{U}})^+ \rightarrow 2^{\mathcal{C}}$
- $\forall \omega$ -sequence  $\mathbf{U} = \langle U_0, U_1, \dots \rangle \in (2^{\mathcal{U}})^\omega$
- $\langle U_0 \cup g(\langle U_0 \rangle), U_1 \cup g(\langle U_0, U_1 \rangle), \dots \rangle \models \phi$

In this case,  $g$  is called *winning strategy*. If  $\phi$  is realizable, the synthesis problem is the problem of computing such a strategy  $g$ .



### Definition (Finitely representable strategies)

Let  $g : (2^U)^+ \rightarrow 2^C$  be a strategy. We say that  $g$  is *finitely representable* iff there exists a Mealy machine  $M_g$  “equivalent” to  $g$ .

### Proposition (Small model property of LTL)

*Let  $\phi$  be an LTL formula and  $n = |\phi|$ . If  $\phi$  is realizable, then there exists a finitely representable winning strategy  $g$  such that its corresponding Mealy machine has at most  $2^{2^c \cdot n}$  states, for some constant  $c$ .*

### Reference:

**Amir Pnueli and Roni Rosner (1989). “On the Synthesis of a Reactive Module”.**  
In: *Proceedings of POPL’89*. ACM Press, pp. 179–190. DOI: 10.1145/75277.75293





# Reactive Synthesis

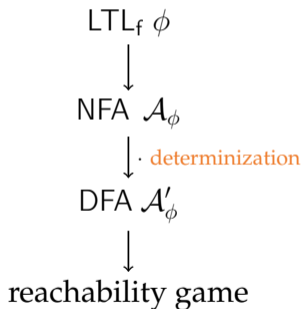
## Definition and Classic Approach

- Realizability is modeled as a *two-players game* over an *arena / automaton*  $\mathcal{A}_\phi$  built from  $\phi$ :
  - **Controller** player: his objective is to enforce the satisfaction of the specification, no matter the choices of the other player (winning strategy)
  - **Environment** player: his objective is to enforce the violation of the specification, no matter the choices of the other player
- **Environment** player moves first.
- The game is played on deterministic automata obtained from the initial specification.
  - there are simple algorithms for synthesis over deterministic arenas
    - $\Rightarrow$  backward fixpoint computations
  - LTL formula  $\phi \rightsquigarrow$  DRA  $\mathcal{A}_\phi$



We consider first the case of *finite words*.

### Standard Approach:



- The DFA  $\mathcal{A}'_\phi$  is *equivalent* to  $\phi$ :

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A}'_\phi) = \mathcal{L}(\phi)$$

- Controller can force to the game to reach a *final* state of  $\mathcal{A}'_\phi$  iff there is a winning strategy for the formula  $\phi$ :
  - playing over the DFA  $\mathcal{A}'_\phi$  is equivalent to solve the reactive synthesis problem for  $\phi$ .



## Definition (Strong Predecessor)

Let  $\mathcal{A} = \langle Q, 2^U \cup 2^C, q_0, \delta, F \rangle$  be a DFA and let  $S \subseteq Q$ . We define the *strong predecessors* of  $S$  as follows:

$$\text{pre}(S) := \{s \in Q \mid \forall u \in 2^U . \exists c \in 2^C . \\ s \xrightarrow{u,c} s', \text{ for some } s' \in S\}$$

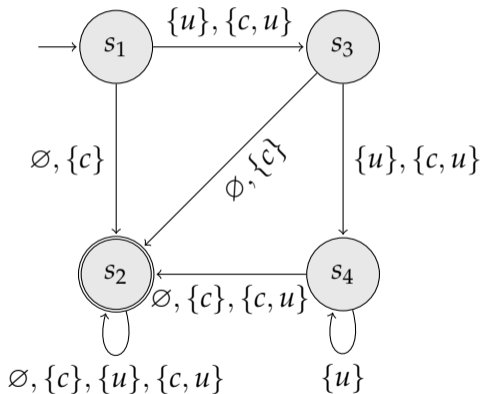
$\text{pre}(S)$  is the set of states of  $\mathcal{A}$  from which **Controller** can force the game into a state of  $S$  in one step.

- The *winning region* is the set of states from which **Controller** can force the game to reach a final state.
  - $\Rightarrow$  **reachability games**
- Computation of the winning region (greatest fixed point):
  - $W_0 := F$
  - $W_{i+1} := W_i \cup \text{pre}(W_i)$
- We stop when  $W_i = W_{i+1}$  (fixed point).
- **Controller** wins iff  $q_0 \in W_i$ . The initial specification is *realizable*.
- Otherwise, **Environment** has a strategy for violating the specification.



# Reachability Games

## Backward fixpoint algorithm for DFA

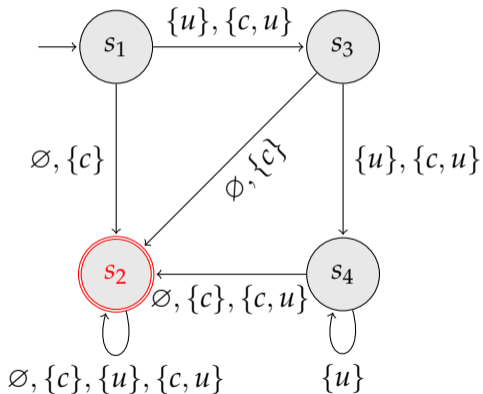


- DFA for the formula  $F(u \rightarrow XXc)$ , with  $u \in \mathcal{U}$  and  $c \in \mathcal{C}$ .



# Reachability Games

## Backward fixpoint algorithm for DFA

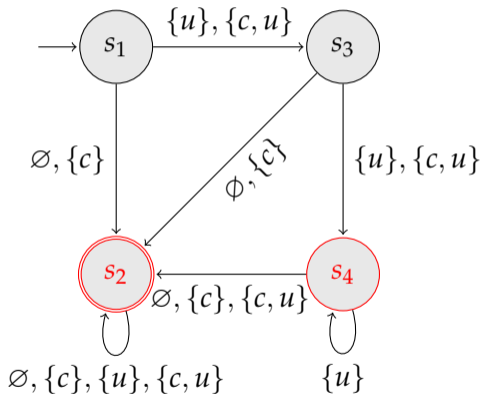


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- $W_0 := \{s_2\}$



# Reachability Games

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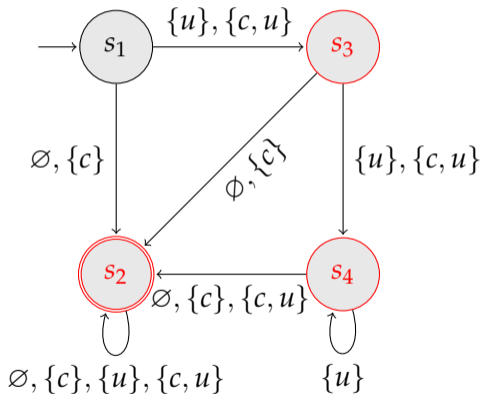


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- $W_1 := \{s_2, s_4\}$



# Reachability Games

## Backward fixpoint algorithm for DFA

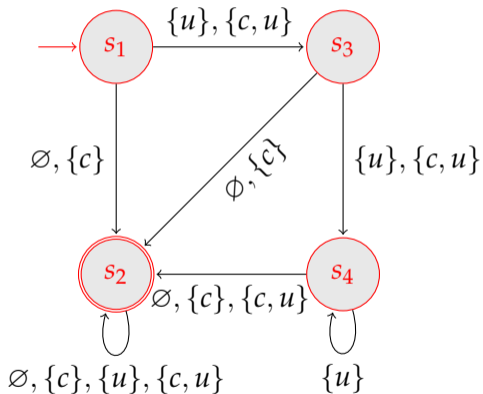


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# Reachability Games

## Backward fixpoint algorithm for DFA



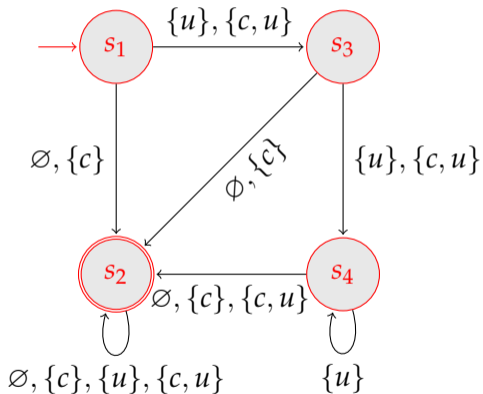
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# Reachability Games

## Backward fixpoint algorithm for DFA

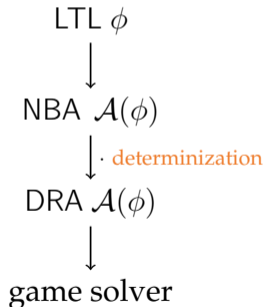


- DFA for the formula  $F(u \rightarrow XXc)$ , with  $u \in \mathcal{U}$  and  $c \in \mathcal{C}$ .
- $W_0 := \{s_2\}$
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- $W_2 := \{s_2, s_4, s_3\}$
- $W_3 := \{s_2, s_4, s_3, s_1\}$
- $W_3 \cap I \neq \emptyset \Rightarrow$  the formula is realizable.



### The case of Infinite Words

Standard approach:



The case for *infinite words* (like in the case for LTL) is much more difficult.

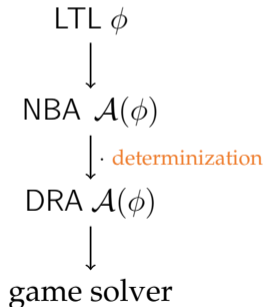
Two reasons:

- Büchi games
- NBA cannot be determinized easily. Indeed, *Safra's construction* is:
  - very complicated
  - difficult to implement
  - not amenable to optimizations



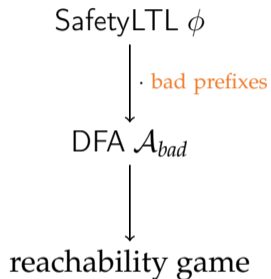
### The case of Infinite Words

#### Standard approach:



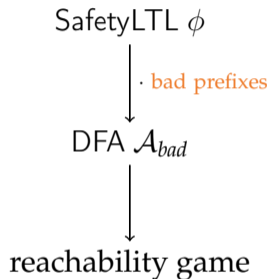
Research mainly focused on two lines

- 1 finding good algorithms for the average case
  - Safrless approaches
  - Bounded synthesis
- 2 restricting the expressiveness of the specification language
  - GR(1)
  - SafetyLTL



Game:

- Now, **Controller** moves first
- Goal of **Controller**: always avoid final states of  $\mathcal{A}_{bad}$ .
- Goal of **Environment**: reach a final state of  $\mathcal{A}_{bad}$ .

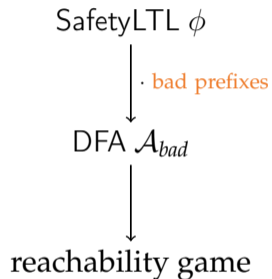


### Pros:

- infinite words  $\rightsquigarrow$  finite word
- Safra's algorithm is *avoided*.
- We use standard subset construction for  $\mathcal{A}_{bad}$ :
  - easily implementable
  - easily optimizable

### Cons:

- the size of  $\mathcal{A}_{bad}$  is  $2^{2^{\Theta(n)}}$ .
- this is prohibitive when  $\phi$  is large.

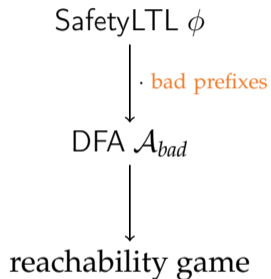


Tool: SSyft

Reference:

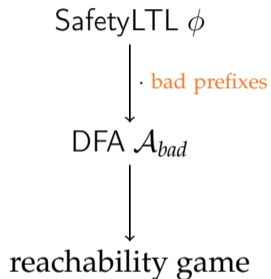
**Shufang Zhu et al. (2017). “A Symbolic Approach to Safety LTL Synthesis”. In: *Proceedings of the 13th International Haifa Verification Conference*. Ed. by Ofer Strichman and Rachel Tzoref-Brill. Vol. 10629. Lecture Notes in Computer Science. Springer, pp. 147–162. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-319-70389-3\\_10**

Link: <https://github.com/Shufang-Zhu/Syft-safety>



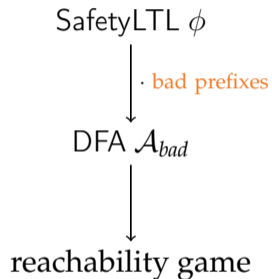
Tool: SSyft

- 1 Let  $\phi$  be a SafetyLTL formula.
- 2 Translate  $\neg\phi$  into an equivalent formula  $\psi$  of S1S[FO] interpreted over finite words.
  - the models of  $\psi$  are exactly the *bad prefixes* of  $\phi$
- 3 Call the tool MONA for building the equivalent and *minimal* DFA.
- 4 Solve a reachability game.



- MONA is a very efficient tool for the construction of automata starting from formulas.
- MONA implements decision procedures for the Weak Second-order Theory of One or Two successors.
- Link : <https://www.brics.dk/mona/>





### Theorem

SafetyLTL realizability is 2EXPTIME-complete.

### Reference:

**Alessandro Artale et al. (2023). “Complexity of Safety and coSafety Fragments of Linear Temporal Logic”. In: *Proc. of the 36th AAAI Conf. on Artificial Intelligence*. AAAI Press**



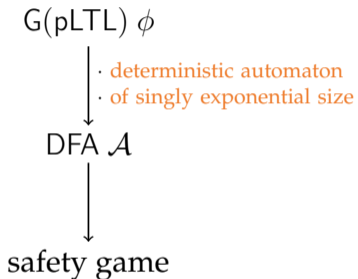
Logics	Problems		
	satisfiability	model checking	realizability
coSafetyLTL	PSPACE-c	???	2EXPTIME-c
F(pLTL)	PSPACE-c	???	EXPTIME-c
LTL[X, F]	NP-c	???	EXPTIME-c

Logics	Problems		
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G(pLTL)	PSPACE-c	???	EXPTIME-c
LTL[ $\tilde{X}$ , G]	PSPACE-c	???	EXPTIME-c



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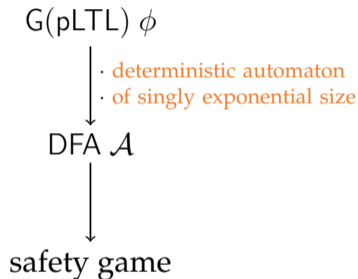
Algorithm:

- 1 Let  $G(\alpha)$  be a formula of  $G(\text{pLTL})$ .

### Theorem

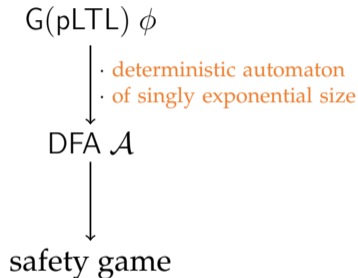
$\phi$  is realizable (with *Environment* moving first) iff  $\neg\phi$  is unrealizable (with *Controller* moving first).

$G(\alpha)$  is realizable iff  $F(\neg\alpha)$  is unrealizable (with *Controller* moving first).



### Algorithm:

- 1 Let  $G(\alpha)$  be a formula of  $G(\text{pLTL})$ .  
 $G(\alpha)$  is realizable iff  $F(\neg\alpha)$  is unrealizable
- 2 Build the DFA  $\mathcal{A}_{\neg\alpha}$  for  $\neg\alpha \in \text{pLTL}$ 
  - this can be done in  $2^{\mathcal{O}(n)}$
  - we will see later its construction
- 3 Solve a **reachability game** on  $\mathcal{A}_{\neg\alpha}$ :
  - if **Controller** (that moves first) wins:
    - $F(\neg\alpha)$  is realizable
    - $G(\alpha)$  is unrealizable
  - if **Environment** wins:
    - $F(\neg\alpha)$  is unrealizable
    - $G(\alpha)$  is realizable



- **Advantages:**

- The size of  $|\mathcal{A}|$  is  $2^{\mathcal{O}(n)}$ :
  - singly exponential
  - one exponential smaller than the set of bad prefixes of a SafetyLTL formula.
- The translation from pLTL into DFA can be done in a purely symbolic fashion

### Reference:

**Alessandro Cimatti et al. (2021). "Extended bounded response LTL: a new safety fragment for efficient reactive synthesis". In: *Formal Methods in System Design*, 1–49 (published online on November 18, 2021, doi: [10.1007/s10703-021-00383-3](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10703-021-00383-3))**



## Theorem

For any formula  $\phi$  of pLTL with  $n = |\phi|$ , there exists a DFA  $\mathcal{A}$  such that  $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A}) = \mathcal{L}(\phi)$  and  $|\mathcal{A}| \in 2^{\mathcal{O}(n)}$ .

## Reference:

**Giuseppe De Giacomo et al. (2021).** “Pure-past linear temporal and dynamic logic on finite traces”. In: *Proceedings of the Twenty-Ninth International Conference on International Joint Conferences on Artificial Intelligence*, pp. 4959–4965



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## Intuition:

*Since past already happened, there is no need for nondeterminism.*

*There is this useful asymmetry:*

- *The automaton reads from left to right;*
- *The pure past formula predicates from right to left.*





## Theorem

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De Giacomo *et al.* prove the result passing from alternating automata.

## Theorem

*For any alternating finite automaton  $\mathcal{A}$ , there exists a DFA for its reverse language of size singly exponential in  $|\mathcal{A}|$ .*

## Reference:

**Ashok K. Chandra, Dexter Kozen, and Larry J. Stockmeyer (1981).**

**“Alternation”.** In: *J. ACM* 28.1, pp. 114–133. DOI: 10.1145/322234.322243. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1145/322234.322243>



## Theorem

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Here we give a direct construction.



## Definition (Closure of pLTL formulas)

The *closure* of a pLTL formula  $\phi$  over the atomic propositions  $\mathcal{AP}$ , denoted as  $\mathcal{C}(\phi)$ , is the smallest set of formulas satisfying the following properties:

- $\Upsilon\phi \in \mathcal{C}(\phi)$
  - $\phi \in \mathcal{C}(\phi)$ , and, for each **subformula**  $\phi'$  of  $\phi$ ,  $\phi' \in \mathcal{C}(\phi)$
  - for each  $p \in \mathcal{AP}$ ,  $p \in \mathcal{C}(\phi)$  if and only if  $\neg p \in \mathcal{C}(\phi)$
  - if  $\phi_1 \text{ S } \phi_2 \in \mathcal{C}(\phi)$ , then  $\Upsilon(\phi_1 \text{ S } \phi_2) \in \mathcal{C}(\phi)$ 
    - if  $\text{O}\phi_1 \in \mathcal{C}(\phi)$ , then  $\Upsilon(\text{O}\phi_1) \in \mathcal{C}(\phi)$
  - if  $\phi_1 \text{ T } \phi_2 \in \mathcal{C}(\phi)$ , then  $\tilde{\Upsilon}(\phi_1 \text{ T } \phi_2) \in \mathcal{C}(\phi)$ 
    - if  $\text{H}\phi_1 \in \mathcal{C}(\phi)$ , then  $\tilde{\Upsilon}(\text{H}\phi_1) \in \mathcal{C}(\phi)$
- 
- We denote by  $\mathcal{C}_{\Upsilon}(\phi)$  the set of formulas of type  $\Upsilon\phi_1$  in  $\mathcal{C}(\phi)$ .
  - We denote by  $\mathcal{C}_{\tilde{\Upsilon}}(\phi)$  the set of formulas of type  $\tilde{\Upsilon}\phi_1$  in  $\mathcal{C}(\phi)$ .



## Definition (Stepped Normal Form)

Let  $\phi$  be a pLTL formula over the atomic propositions  $\mathcal{AP}$ . Its *stepped normal form*, denoted by  $\text{snf}(\phi)$ , is defined as follows:

$$\text{snf}(\ell) = \ell \quad \text{where } \ell \in \{p, \neg p\}, \text{ for } p \in \mathcal{AP}$$

$$\text{snf}(\otimes \phi_1) = \otimes \phi_1 \quad \text{where } \otimes \in \{Y, \tilde{Y}\}$$

$$\text{snf}(\phi_1 \otimes \phi_2) = \text{snf}(\phi_1) \otimes \text{snf}(\phi_2) \quad \text{where } \otimes \in \{\wedge, \vee\}$$

$$\text{snf}(\phi_1 \text{ S } \phi_2) = \text{snf}(\phi_2) \vee (\text{snf}(\phi_1) \wedge Y(\phi_1 \text{ S } \phi_2))$$

$$\text{snf}(\phi_1 \text{ T } \phi_2) = \text{snf}(\phi_2) \wedge (\text{snf}(\phi_1) \vee \tilde{Y}(\phi_1 \text{ T } \phi_2))$$

Example:  $\text{snf}(Oq) = q \vee YOq$ .



Given a set  $S \subseteq \mathcal{C}_Y(\phi) \cup \mathcal{C}_{\tilde{Y}}(\phi)$  and a  $\sigma \in 2^{\mathcal{AP}}$ , we write  $S, \sigma \models \phi$  iff  $\phi$  is true when:

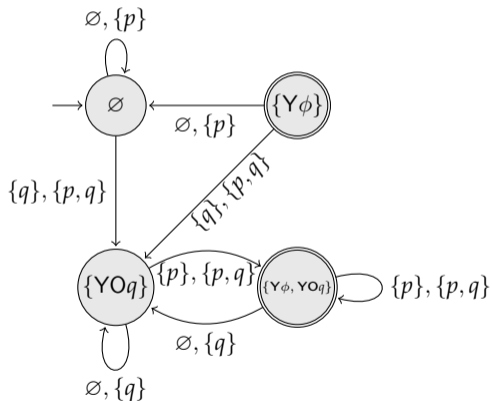
- $S$  is used for interpreting the subformulas of type  $Y\alpha$  and  $\tilde{Y}\alpha$
- $\sigma$  is used for interpreting proposition letters in  $\mathcal{AP}$

Example:

- $S = \{YOq\}$
- $\sigma = \emptyset$
- $S, \sigma \models q \vee YOq$

Given  $\phi \in \text{LTL}$  we define the DFA  
 $\mathcal{A}_\phi = \langle Q, \Sigma, q_0, \delta, F \rangle$  as follows:

Example:  $\phi := p \wedge Y\text{O}q$

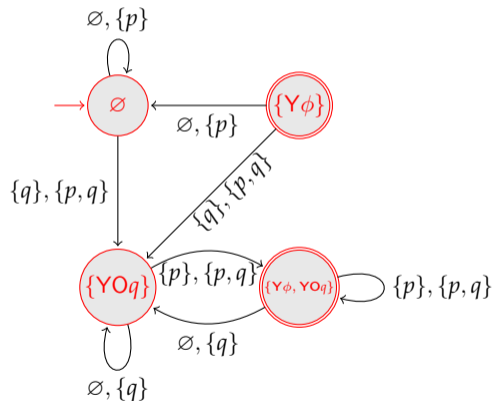


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- $Q = 2^{\mathcal{C}_Y(\phi) \cup \mathcal{C}_{\bar{Y}}(\phi)}$ 
  - $Q = \{\emptyset, \{Y\phi\}, \{YOq\}, \{Y\phi, YOq\}\}$

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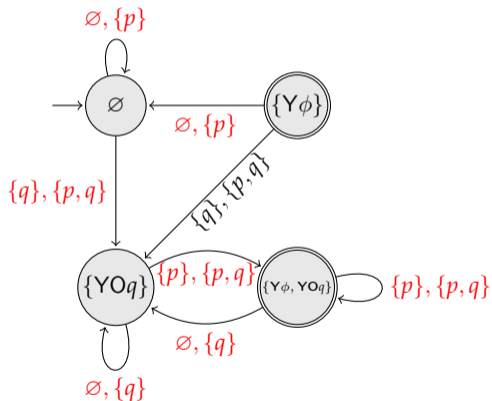


Given  $\phi \in \text{LTL}$  we define the DFA

$\mathcal{A}_\phi = \langle Q, \Sigma, q_0, \delta, F \rangle$  as follows:

- $Q = 2^{\mathcal{C}_Y(\phi) \cup \mathcal{C}_{\bar{Y}}(\phi)}$ 
  - $Q = \{\emptyset, \{Y\phi\}, \{YOq\}, \{Y\phi, YOq\}\}$
- $\Sigma = 2^{\mathcal{A}^P}$ 
  - $\Sigma = \{\emptyset, \{p\}, \{q\}, \{p, q\}\}$

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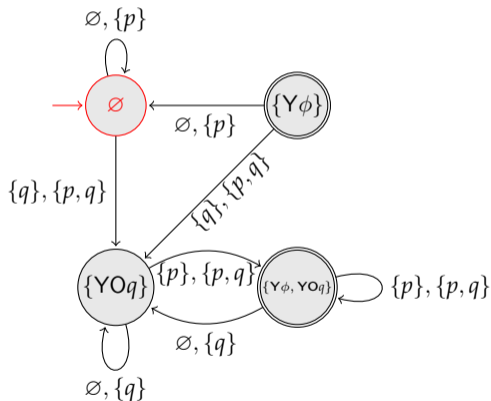


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  - $Q = \{\emptyset, \{Y\phi\}, \{YOq\}, \{Y\phi, YOq\}\}$
- $\Sigma = 2^{\mathcal{A}^P}$ 
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  - $q_0 = \emptyset$

Example:  $\phi := p \wedge YOq$

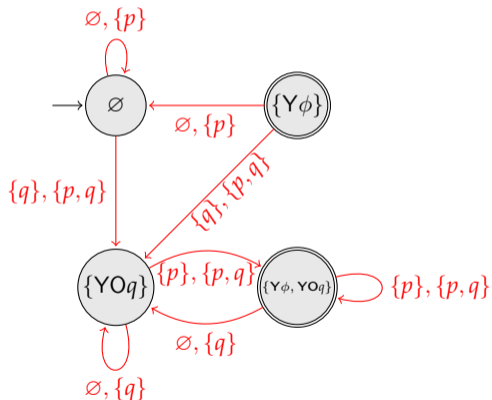


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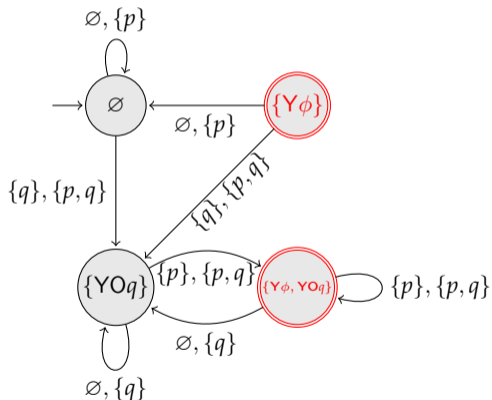


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  - see figure
- $F = \{S \subseteq \mathcal{C}_Y(\phi) \cup \mathcal{C}_{\tilde{Y}}(\phi) \mid Y\phi \in S\}$ 
  - $F = \{\{Y\phi\}, \{Y\phi, YOq\}\}$

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## Theorem

$G(\text{pLTL})$  realizability is EXPTIME-complete.

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## Reference:

**Alessandro Artale et al. (2023). “Complexity of Safety and coSafety Fragments of Linear Temporal Logic”. In: *Proc. of the 36th AAAI Conf. on Artificial Intelligence*. AAAI Press**



Logics	Problems		
	satisfiability	model checking	realizability
coSafetyLTL	PSPACE-c	???	2EXPTIME-c
F(pLTL)	PSPACE-c	???	EXPTIME-c
LTL[X, F]	NP-c	???	EXPTIME-c

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	satisfiability	model checking	realizability
SafetyLTL	PSPACE-c	???	2EXPTIME-c
G(pLTL)	PSPACE-c	???	EXPTIME-c
LTL[ $\tilde{X}$ , G]	PSPACE-c	???	EXPTIME-c



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- Pure past LTL plays a crucial role for safety fragments
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Two questions:

① Succinctness

*Can SafetyLTL be exponentially more succinct than  $G(\text{pLTL})$ ?*

② Pastification algorithms

*Can a logic be efficiently translated into a pure-past one, by preserving equivalence?*

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