

Complexity of timeline-based planning over dense temporal domains: exploring the middle ground

GandALF 2018

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September 27, 2018

Point-based vs. interval-based MC

- Model checking (MC) is usually **point-based**:
 - properties express requirements over points (snapshots) of a computation (states of the state-transition system)
 - they are specified by means of point-based temporal logics such as LTL, CTL, and CTL* .

- **Interval-based** MC:
 - Interval-based properties express conditions on **computation stretches**
 - they are specified by means of **interval temporal logics**, which feature intervals as their basic ontological entities (e.g., **HS**)
 - » ability to express: **actions with duration, accomplishments, temporal aggregations**
 - » applied to computational linguistics, artificial intelligence, temporal databases, formal verification

The logic HS

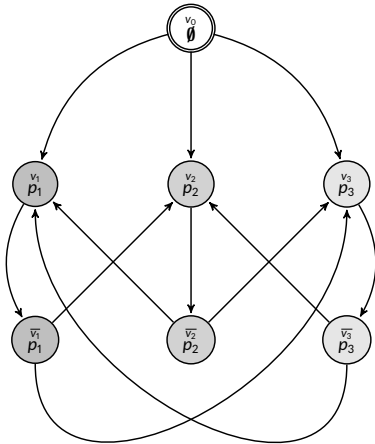
HS features a modality for each of the 13 Allen's ordering relations between pairs of intervals (except for equality)

Allen rel.	HS	Definition	Example
<i>meets</i>	$\langle A \rangle$	$[x, y] \mathcal{R}_A [v, z] \iff y = v$	
<i>before</i>	$\langle L \rangle$	$[x, y] \mathcal{R}_L [v, z] \iff y < v$	
<i>started-by</i>	$\langle B \rangle$	$[x, y] \mathcal{R}_B [v, z] \iff x = v \wedge z < y$	
<i>finished-by</i>	$\langle E \rangle$	$[x, y] \mathcal{R}_E [v, z] \iff y = z \wedge x < v$	
<i>contains</i>	$\langle D \rangle$	$[x, y] \mathcal{R}_D [v, z] \iff x < v \wedge z < y$	
<i>overlaps</i>	$\langle O \rangle$	$[x, y] \mathcal{R}_O [v, z] \iff x < v < y < z$	

$$\psi ::= p \mid \neg \psi \mid \psi \vee \psi \mid \langle X \rangle \psi \mid \langle \bar{X} \rangle \psi$$

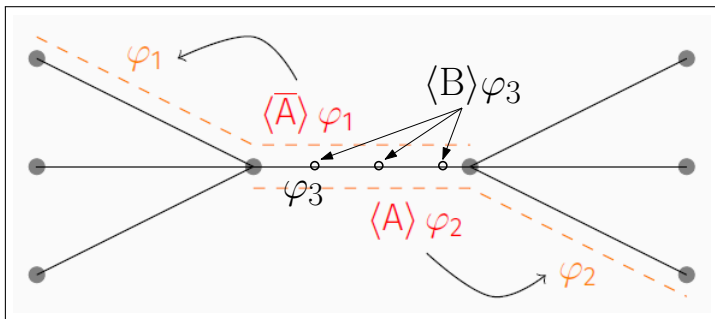
$$X \in \{A, L, B, E, D, O\}.$$

Kripke structures



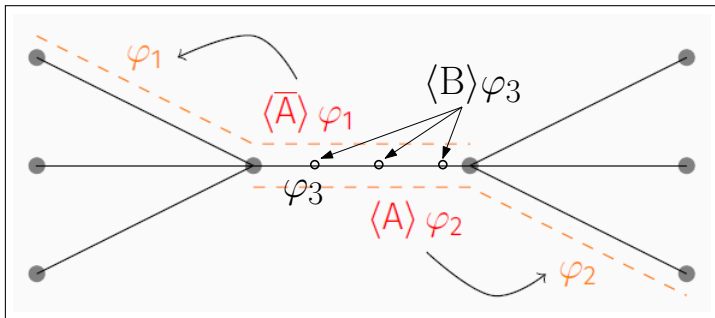
- HS formulas are interpreted over (finite) state-transition systems whose states are labeled with sets of proposition letters (**Kripke structures**)
- An interval is a **trace** (finite path) in a Kripke structure

HS (state-based) semantics



- Branching semantics of past/future operators

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MC

$\mathcal{K} \models \psi \iff$ for all *initial traces* ρ of \mathcal{K} , it holds that $\mathcal{K}, \rho \models \psi$

Possibly **infinitely many traces!**

Decidability of HS MC

Theorem

The MC problem for full HS over Kripke structures is *decidable* (with a non-elementary algorithm)

Reference

A. Molinari, A. Montanari, A. Murano, G. Perelli, and A. Peron. Checking interval properties of computations.

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Theorem

The MC problem for BE over Kripke structures, under homogeneity, is **EXSPACE-hard**

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L. Bozzelli, A. Molinari, A. Montanari, A. Peron, and P. Sala. Interval Temporal Logic Model Checking: the Border Between Good and Bad HS Fragments.

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Many other HS fragments studied (**PSPACE** \rightsquigarrow **NP**).

Ongoing work

We are looking for possible **replacements of Kripke structures** by more expressive system models in interval-based MC:

- **interval-based system models**, that allow one to directly describe systems on the basis of their interval behavior/properties (e.g., **timelines**).
- **visibly pushdown systems**, that can encode recursive programs and infinite state systems;

Timelines

- **Timelines** have been fruitfully exploited in temporal planning
- **Timeline-based planning** (TP for short) is a **more declarative** alternative to the classic action-based planning

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- **Timelines** have been fruitfully exploited in temporal planning
- **Timeline-based planning** (TP for short) is a **more declarative alternative to the classic action-based planning**
- Temporal domain commonly assumed **discrete**.
- Gigante et al. showed that TP with bounded temporal relations and token durations, and no temporal horizon, is **EXPSPACE**-complete and expressive enough to capture action-based temporal planning. (**EXPSPACE**-completeness also with unbounded relations)

Timelines

State variable

$$x = (V_x, T_x, D_x)$$

where, e.g.,

- $V_x = \{a, b, c\}$,
- $T_x(a) = \{b, c\}$, $T_x(b) = \{a, b, c\}$, $T_x(c) = \{a, b\}$ and
- $D_x(a) = [5, 8]$, $D_x(b) = [1, 4]$, $D_x(c) = [2, \infty[$

Timelines

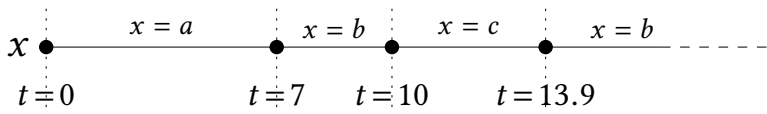
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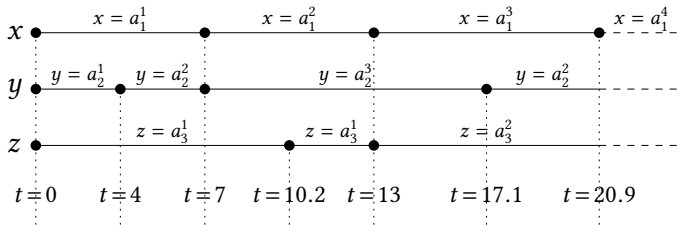
Example of **timeline** for x :



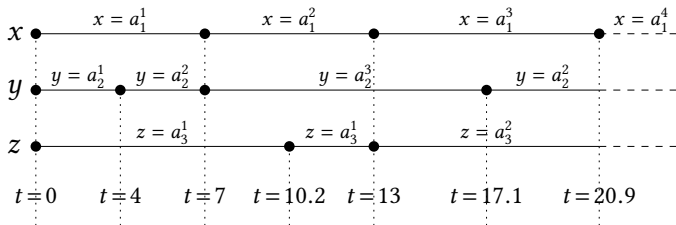
$$(a, 7)(b, 3)(c, 3.9) \dots$$

Pairs of value/duration are called **tokens**.

Timelines



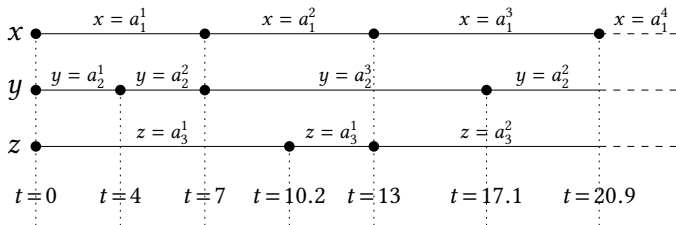
Timelines



Synchronization rules on timelines:

$$\forall o_0[x = a_1^1] \rightarrow \exists o_1[z = a_3^1] \exists o_2[y = a_2^2]. (o_0 \leq_{[3,4]}^{e,s} o_1 \wedge o_0 \leq_{[5,\infty[}^{s,s} o_2)$$

Timelines



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Trigger-less rules.

Timelines as system models

- We study timeline-based planning (TP) over **dense domains** (no recourse to discretization).
 1. Why **TP before MC**? Timelines will be our system models. TP is a necessary condition for MC (**feasibility check** of the system description).
 2. Why **dense domains**? To avoid discreteness in system descriptions \Rightarrow abstraction at a higher level, neglecting unnecessary details, and paving the way for a more general interval-based MC;
- Both *(i)* the system model and *(ii)* the specifications (temporal formulas) can be translated into a common formalism (**timed automata**)

Undecidability of TP over dense domains

Theorem

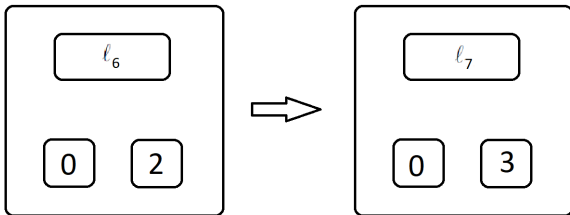
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- Undecidability proved via a reduction from the halting problem for Minsky 2-counter machines (inspired by SAT of Metric Temporal Logic with past/future on dense time).



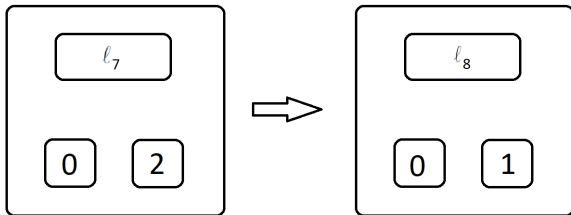
$l_6 : c_2 := c_2 + 1; \text{goto } l_7$

Undecidability of TP over dense domains

Theorem

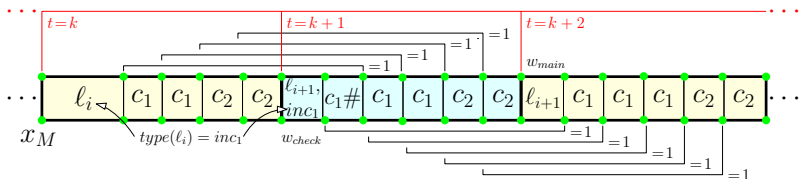
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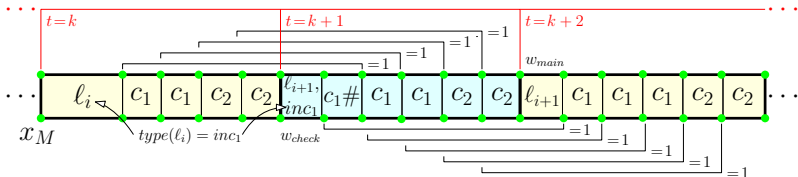
l_7 : if $c_2 > 0$ then $c_2 := c_2 - 1$; goto l_8 else goto l_{12}

Undecidability of TP over dense domains



- Exactly one occurrence of l_{init} and l_{halt} (transition function);

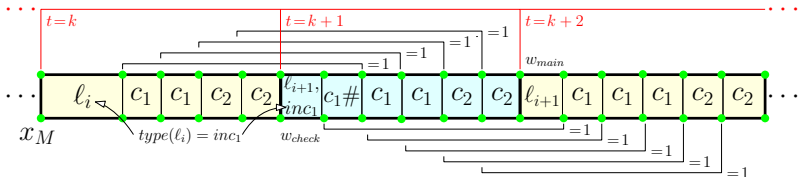
Undecidability of TP over dense domains



- Exactly one occurrence of l_{init} and l_{halt} (transition function);
- For each $v \in V_{ctrl} \setminus \{l_{halt}\}$,

$$o[x_M = v] \rightarrow \bigvee_{u \in V_{ctrl}} \exists o'[x_M = u]. o \leq_{[1,1]}^{s,s} o'.$$

Undecidability of TP over dense domains



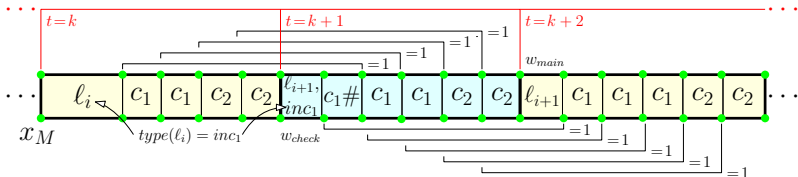
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- For each $i = 1, 2, v \in (U_{c_i} \cap V_{main}) \setminus V_{halt}$ (**forward**):

$$o[x_M = v] \rightarrow \bigvee_{u \in U_{c_i}} \exists o'[x_M = u]. o \leq_{[1,1]}^{s,s} o'.$$

Undecidability of TP over dense domains



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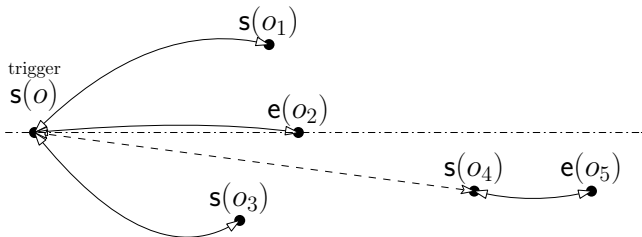
$$o[x_M = v] \rightarrow \bigvee_{u \in U_{c_i}} \exists o'[x_M = u]. o \leq_{[1,1]}^{s,s} o'.$$

- For each $i = 1, 2, v \in (U_{c_i} \cap V_{check}) \setminus V_{init}$ (**backward**):

$$o[x_M = v] \rightarrow \bigvee_{u \in U_{c_i}} \exists o'[x_M = u]. o' \leq_{[1,1]}^{s,s} o.$$

What happens if we restrict to future?

- **Future**: the token triggering a rule can only “refer” to other tokens in the future (i.e., starting after it).



Theorem

*Future TP is **non-primitive recursive-hard**, even with a single state variable.*

- Reduction from the halting problem for **Gainy counter machines**, known to be non-primitive recursive
- Only **forward** constraint can be expressed by future rules!

Decidability—(1) Translating rules

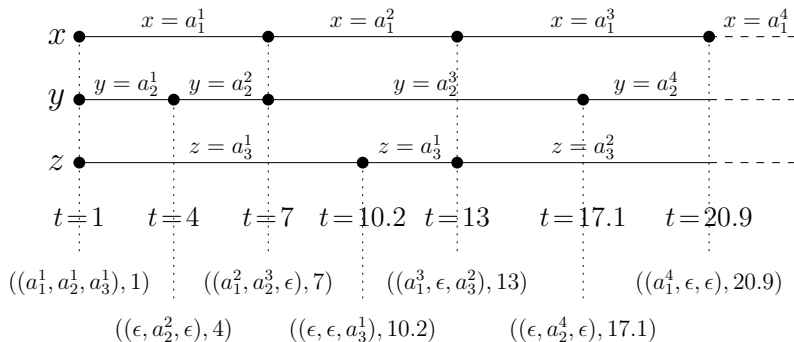
- Decidability of future TP with arbitrary trigger rules is open.
- We restrict to **simple** trigger rules:
all existentially quantified tokens (but not the trigger!) occur just once in the rule.
- **Decidability can be recovered** if rules are **simple** and **future**.

Translation into MTL/MITL

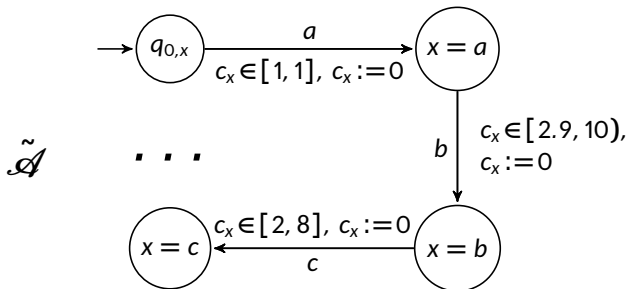
The simple form allows translation into MTL/MITL (future only+finite w!):

$$\varphi ::= \top \mid p \mid \varphi \vee \varphi \mid \neg \varphi \mid \varphi U_I \varphi$$

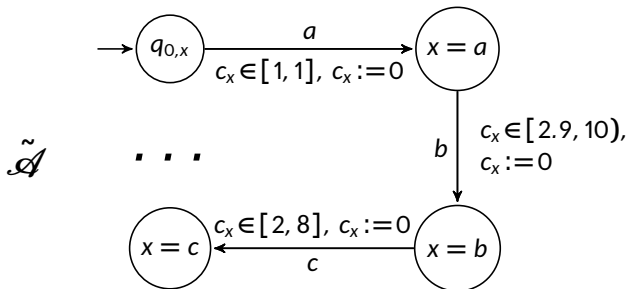
with $p \in \mathcal{AP}$, $I \in \text{Intv}$, U_I is the standard *strict timed until* MTL modality



Decidability—(2) Translating state variables



Decidability—(2) Translating state variables



Theorem

Future TP with simple trigger rules is **decidable** (in non-primitive recursive time). If the intervals in atoms of the trigger rules are non-singular (resp., belong to $\text{Int}v_{(0,\infty)}$), then it is **in EXPSpace** (resp., **in PSPACE**).

EXPSpace-completeness (resp., **PSPACE**-completeness) holds.

Timeline-based planning and MC: results

System model:

$$x_{\text{temp}} = (V_{\text{temp}}, T_{\text{temp}}, D_{\text{temp}})$$

$$x_{\text{proc}} = (V_{\text{proc}}, T_{\text{proc}}, D_{\text{proc}})$$

$$x_{\text{transm}} = (V_{\text{transm}}, T_{\text{transm}}, D_{\text{transm}})$$

+

Property specification:

Timeline-based planning and MC: results

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+

$$\forall o[x_{\text{proc}} = \text{reading}_1] \rightarrow$$

$$(\exists o_1[x_{\text{proc}} = \text{read}_0]. o \leq_{[0,1]}^{e,s} o_1) \vee$$

$$(\exists o_2[x_{\text{proc}} = \text{read}_1] \exists o_3[x_{\text{temp}} = \text{ready}]. o \leq_{[0,1]}^{e,s} o_2 \wedge o_3 \leq_{[0,+\infty[}^{e,e} o).$$

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Property specification:

$$F_{\leq 8} \psi(s, \text{read}_1)$$

$$F_{\geq 0} (\psi(s, \text{ready}) \wedge (\top U_{>0} \psi(s, \text{ready})))$$

Timeline-based planning and MC: results

Given a system model P (state vars + rules), it is possible to build a TA $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ that accepts all and only the (timed words encoding) computations of P .

Definition (Timeline-based model checking)

Given a **system model** (in the form of) $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ and a **MITL formula** φ , to decide if

$$\mathcal{L}_T(\tilde{\mathcal{A}}) \subseteq \mathcal{L}_T(\varphi).$$

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We make a product between $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ and $\mathcal{A}_{\neg\varphi}$ and check for emptiness.

Theorem

The MC problem for **MITL** formulas over timelines, with simple future trigger rules and **non-singular intervals**, is in **EXPSpace**.

The MC problem for **MITL_(0,∞)** formulas over timelines, with simple future trigger rules and **intervals in $Intv_{(0,∞)}$** , is in **PSPACE**.

Matching lower bounds derive from TP.

Thanks!

Publications

- [1] L. Bozzelli, A. Molinari, A. Montanari, and A. Peron.
An in-depth investigation of interval temporal logic model checking with regular expressions.
In *SEFM*, pages 104–119, 2017.
- [2] L. Bozzelli, A. Molinari, A. Montanari, A. Peron, and P. Sala.
Interval Temporal Logic Model Checking: the Border Between Good and Bad HS Fragments.
In *IJCAR*, pages 389–405, 2016.
- [3] L. Bozzelli, A. Molinari, A. Montanari, A. Peron, and P. Sala.
Interval vs. Point Temporal Logic Model Checking: an Expressiveness Comparison.
In *FSTTCS*, 2016.
- [4] A. Molinari, A. Montanari, A. Murano, G. Perelli, and A. Peron.
Checking interval properties of computations.
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HS (state-based) semantics and MC

Truth of a formula ψ over a trace ρ of a Kripke structure

$\mathcal{K} = (\mathcal{AP}, W, \delta, \mu, w_0)$:

- $\mathcal{K}, \rho \models p$ iff p labels all states of \mathcal{K} composing ρ , for any $p \in \mathcal{AP}$ (homogeneity assumption);

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Truth of a formula ψ over a trace ρ of a Kripke structure

$\mathcal{K} = (\mathcal{AP}, W, \delta, \mu, w_0)$:

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(labeling based on regular expressions);

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- $\mathcal{K}, \rho \models r$ iff the labeling of ρ is in $\mathcal{L}(r)$
(labeling based on regular expressions);
- negation, disjunction, and conjunction are standard;
- $\mathcal{K}, \rho \models \langle A \rangle \psi \dots$;
- $\mathcal{K}, \rho \models \langle B \rangle \psi \dots$;
- $\mathcal{K}, \rho \models \langle E \rangle \psi \dots$;
- inverse operators $\langle \bar{A} \rangle, \langle \bar{B} \rangle, \langle \bar{E} \rangle$

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MC

$\mathcal{K} \models \psi \iff$ for all *initial* traces ρ of \mathcal{K} , it holds that $\mathcal{K}, \rho \models \psi$

Possibly infinitely many traces!

HS (state-based) semantics and MC

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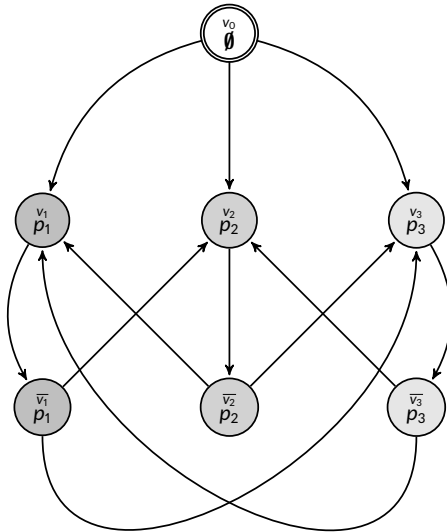
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$\mathcal{K} \models \psi \iff$ for all *initial* traces ρ of \mathcal{K} , it holds that $\mathcal{K}, \rho \models \psi$

Possibly **infinitely many traces!**

The Kripke structure $\mathcal{K}_{\text{Sched}}$ for a simple scheduler



A short account of $\mathcal{K}_{\text{Sched}}$

$\mathcal{K}_{\text{Sched}}$ models the behaviour of a **scheduler** serving 3 processes which are continuously requesting the use of a common resource (**easily generalizable** to an arbitrary number of processes)

Initial state: v_0 (no process is served in that state)

In v_i and \bar{v}_i the **i -th process** is served (p_i holds in those states)

The scheduler **cannot serve the same process twice** in two successive rounds:

- process i is served in state v_i , then, after “some time”, a transition u_i from v_i to \bar{v}_i is taken; subsequently, process i cannot be served again immediately, as v_i is not directly reachable from \bar{v}_i
- a transition r_j , with $j \neq i$, from \bar{v}_i to v_j is then taken and process j is served

Some properties to be checked over \mathcal{K}_{Sched}

Validity of properties over all reachable computation intervals can be forced by modality $[E]$ (they are suffixes of at least one initial trace).

- In any computation interval of length at least 4, at least 2 processes are witnessed (**YES**: no process can be executed twice in a row)

$$\mathcal{K}_{Sched} \models [E](\langle E \rangle^3 T \rightarrow (\chi(p_1, p_2) \vee \chi(p_1, p_3) \vee \chi(p_2, p_3))),$$

where $\chi(p, q) = \langle E \rangle \langle \bar{A} \rangle p \wedge \langle E \rangle \langle \bar{A} \rangle q$.

- In any computation interval of length at least 11, process 3 is executed at least once (**NO**: the scheduler can postpone the execution of a process ad libitum—starvation)

$$\mathcal{K}_{Sched} \not\models [E](\langle E \rangle^{10} T \rightarrow \langle E \rangle \langle \bar{A} \rangle p_3).$$

- In any computation interval of length at least 6, all processes are witnessed (**NO**: the scheduler should be forced to execute them in a strictly periodic manner, which is not the case)

$$\mathcal{K}_{Sched} \not\models [E](\langle E \rangle^5 \rightarrow (\langle E \rangle \langle \bar{A} \rangle p_1 \wedge \langle E \rangle \langle \bar{A} \rangle p_2 \wedge \langle E \rangle \langle \bar{A} \rangle p_3)).$$

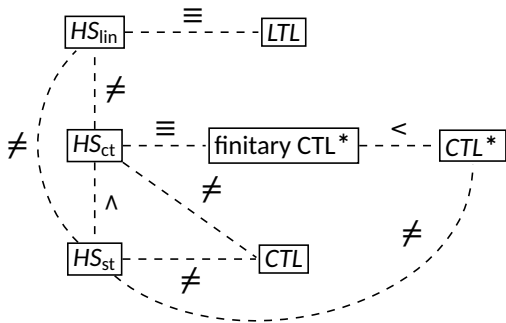
Complexity results

	Homogeneity
Full HS, BE	non-elementary EXSPACE-hard
$\overline{A}A\overline{B}\overline{B}\overline{E}$, $\overline{A}\overline{A}E\overline{B}\overline{E}$	$\in \mathbf{AEXP}_{\text{POL}}$ PSPACE-hard
$\overline{A}\overline{A}\overline{B}\overline{E}$	PSPACE-complete
$\overline{A}\overline{A}\overline{B}\overline{B}$, $\overline{B}\overline{B}$, \overline{B} , $\overline{A}\overline{A}\overline{E}\overline{E}$, $\overline{E}\overline{E}$, \overline{E}	PSPACE-complete
$\overline{A}\overline{A}\overline{B}$, $\overline{A}\overline{A}\overline{E}$, $\overline{A}\overline{B}$, $\overline{A}\overline{E}$	P^{NP}-complete
$\overline{A}\overline{A}$, $\overline{A}\overline{B}$, $\overline{A}\overline{E}$, \overline{A} , \overline{A}	$\in \mathbf{P}^{\text{NP}[O(\log^2 n)]}$ P^{NP}[O(log n)]-hard
Prop, B, E	co-NP-complete

Complexity results

	Homogeneity	Regular expressions
Full HS, BE	non-elementary EXSPACE-hard	non-elementary EXSPACE-hard
$A\bar{A}B\bar{B}\bar{E}$, $A\bar{A}E\bar{B}\bar{E}$	\in AEXP_{Pol} PSPACE-hard	AEXP_{Pol}-complete
$A\bar{A}B\bar{E}$	PSPACE-complete	\in AEXP_{Pol} PSPACE-hard
$A\bar{A}B\bar{B}$, $B\bar{B}$, \bar{B} , $A\bar{A}E\bar{E}$, $E\bar{E}$, \bar{E}	PSPACE-complete	PSPACE-complete
$A\bar{A}B$, $A\bar{A}E$, AB , $\bar{A}E$	P^{NP}-complete	PSPACE-complete
$A\bar{A}$, $\bar{A}B$, AE , A , \bar{A}	\in P^{NP}[$O(\log^2 n)$] P^{NP}[$O(\log n)$]-hard	PSPACE-complete
Prop, B, E	co-NP-complete	PSPACE-complete

Expressiveness results (under homogeneity)



Reference

L. Bozzelli, A. Molinari, A. Montanari, A. Peron, and P. Sala. Interval vs. Point Temporal Logic Model Checking: an Expressiveness Comparison. In *FSTTCS*, 2016

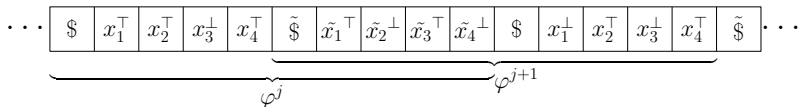
Sketch of PSPACE-hardness

- Reduction from the PSPACE-complete problem **Periodic SAT**
- We are given a Boolean formula $\varphi(x_1, \dots, x_n, x_1^{+1}, \dots, x_n^{+1})$ in CNF
- φ^j is φ in which we replace each x_i by a fresh x_i^j , and x_i^{+1} by x_i^{j+1} .
- Decide the satisfiability of the infinite-length formula

$$\Phi = \bigwedge_{j \geq 1} \varphi^j$$

(actually equivalent to $\Phi_f = \bigwedge_{j=1}^{2^{2^n}+1} \varphi^j$).

Sketch of PSPACE-hardness



For the t -th conjunct of φ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 o[y = \tilde{\$}] &\rightarrow \left(\bigvee_{x_i \in \Gamma \cap L_t^+} \exists o' [y = \tilde{x}_i^\top]. o \leq_{[0,4n]}^{e,s} o' \right) \vee \\
 &\quad \left(\bigvee_{x_i^{+1} \in \Gamma^{+1} \cap L_t^+} \exists o' [y = x_i^\top]. o \leq_{[0,4n]}^{e,s} o' \right) \vee \\
 &\quad \left(\bigvee_{x_i \in \Gamma \cap L_t^-} \exists o' [y = \tilde{x}_i^\perp]. o \leq_{[0,4n]}^{e,s} o' \right) \vee \\
 &\quad \left(\bigvee_{x_i^{+1} \in \Gamma^{+1} \cap L_t^-} \exists o' [y = x_i^\perp]. o \leq_{[0,4n]}^{e,s} o' \right) \vee
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\exists o'' [y = \text{stop}]. o \leq_{[0,2n]}^{e,s} o''.$$

Timelines with trigger-less rules only

- **Trigger-less synchronization rules** can be directly translated into a **timed automaton** (no need to translate into MTL)
- Timed automaton of exponential size: it gives us an **exponential bound (*)** on the **number of tokens** and on the **horizon**

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 1. timelines for different variables evolve **independently**, and
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Theorem

*TP with trigger-less rules only is **NP-complete**.*

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How we deal with 1. and 2.:

1. timeline evolutions are enforced by a **linear program** (where constants are exponential (*)), resting on results on **Eulerian multi-graphs** (thanks G. Woeginger!)
2. we **non-deterministically position tokens** (those to which rules refer) along timelines (their start/end times can be generated in polynomial time (*)) and check satisfaction of rules

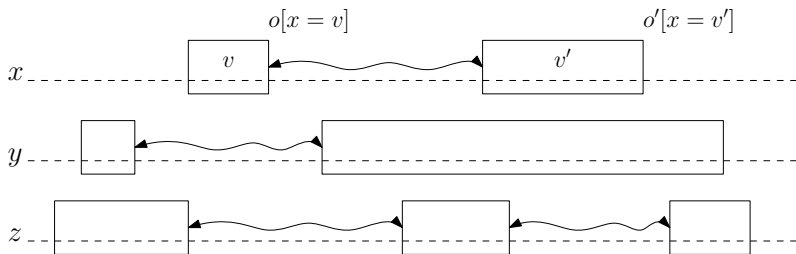
NP-completeness of the trigger-less case

- Timed automata give us (i) an exponential bound on the number of tokens of any plan and (ii) an exponential bound on the horizon.
- We start by reducing to integers all the rational values occurring in the instance.
- For every quantifier $o_i[x_i = v_i]$ in the rules, the algorithm guesses
 1. the integer part of the start and end time of the token for x_i to which o_i is mapped,
 2. an order of all fractional parts of such start/end times.

If we change the start/end time of (some of the) tokens associated with quantifiers, but we leave unchanged (i) all the integer parts, (ii) zeroness/non-zeroness of fractional parts, and (iii) the fractional parts' order, satisfaction of atoms in the rules does not change.

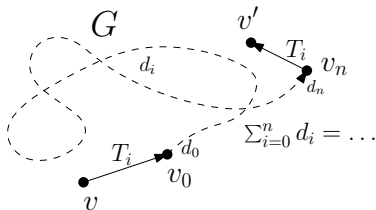
NP-completeness of the trigger-less case

- Now we have to check that there exists a legal timeline evolution “connecting” each pair of adjacent guessed tokens over the same variable



NP-completeness of the trigger-less case

- We interpret each state variable $x_i = (V_i, T_i, D_i)$ as a directed graph $G = (V_i, T_i)$ where D_i associates each $v \in V_i$ with a duration interval.
- For a pair of adjacent guessed tokens (x_i, v, d) and (x_j, v', d') :



- To this aim we guess a set of integers $\{\alpha_{u,v} \mid (u, v) \in T_i\}$ where $\alpha_{u,v}$ is the number of times the path traverses (u, v) and check that they specify a directed Eulerian path (in a multi-graph) $v_0 \rightsquigarrow v_n$.
- To check all this, we solve a **linear problem**. (thanks G. Woeginger!)

Theorem

TP with trigger-less rules is **NP-complete**.

NP-hardness: from existence of a Hamiltonian path in directed graph.