

FTSCS 2015

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Paris, France

What's Decidable

About Parametric Timed Automata?

Étienne André

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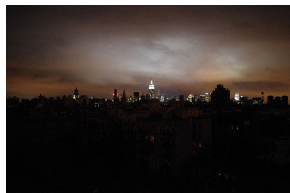


Context: Model checking (1/2)

- Need for early bug detection

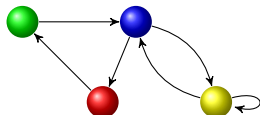
- Bugs discovered when final testing: **expensive**

- ↪ Need for a thorough **modeling** and **verification** phase



Context: Model checking (2/2)

■ Model checking



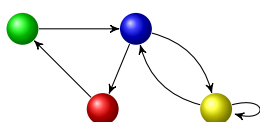
A **model** of the system

● is unreachable

A **property** to be satisfied

Context: Model checking (2/2)

■ Model checking



?

$\models$

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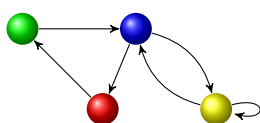
A **model** of the system

A **property** to be satisfied

■ Question: does the model of the system **satisfy** the property?

Context: Model checking (2/2)

■ Model checking



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$\models$

● is unreachable

A **model** of the system

A **property** to be satisfied

■ Question: does the model of the system **satisfy** the property?

Yes



No



Counterexample

Context: Timed model checking

- Timed systems are characterized by a **set of timing constants**
 - “The packet transmission lasts for 50 ms”
 - “The sensor reads the value every 10 s”
- Powerful model checking tools, e.g.:
 - UPPAAL [Larsen et al., 1997]
 - PAT [Sun et al., 2009]

Beyond timed model checking: parameter synthesis

- Verification for **one** set of constants does not usually guarantee the correctness for other values
- Challenges
 - **Numerous verifications**: is the system correct for any value within $[40; 60]$?
 - **Optimization**: until what value can we increase 10?
 - **Robustness** [Markey, 2011]: What happens if 50 is implemented with 49.99?

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- **Parameter synthesis**
 - Consider that timing constants are unknown constants (**parameters**)
 - Find **good values** for the parameters

Outline

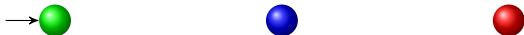
- 1 Parametric Timed Automata
- 2 Decision Problems
- 3 Almost All is Undecidable in General
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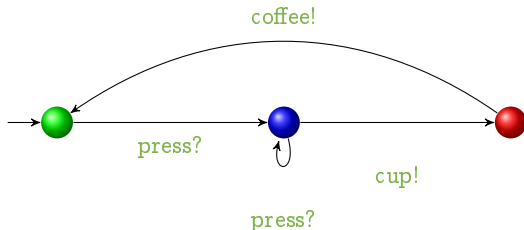
Timed automaton (TA)

- Finite state automaton (sets of locations)



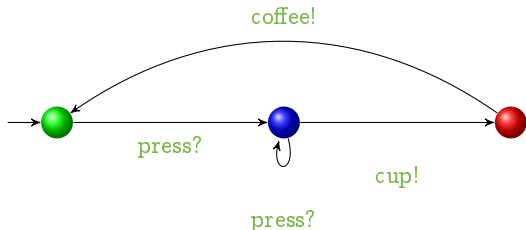
Timed automaton (TA)

- Finite state automaton (sets of **locations** and **actions**)



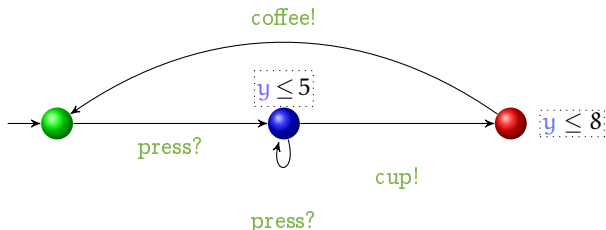
Timed automaton (TA)

- Finite state automaton (sets of **locations** and **actions**) augmented with a set X of **clocks** [Alur and Dill, 1994]
 - Real-valued variables evolving linearly at the same rate



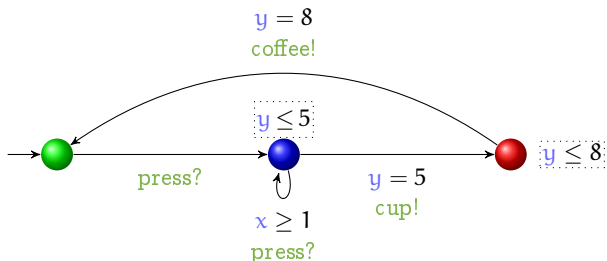
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 - Location **invariant**: property to be verified to stay at a location



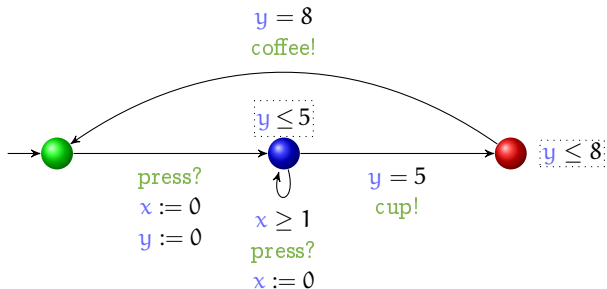
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 - Real-valued variables evolving linearly at the same rate
- Features
 - Location **invariant**: property to be verified to stay at a location
 - Transition **guard**: property to be verified to enable a transition
 - Clock **reset**: some of the clocks can be set to 0 at each transition



Concrete semantics of timed automata

- **Concrete state** of a TA: pair (l, w) , where
 - l is a location,
 - w is a **valuation** of each clock
- **Concrete run**: alternating sequence of **concrete states** and **actions** or **elapsing of time**
 - Possible concrete runs for the coffee machine

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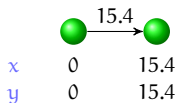


x	0
y	0

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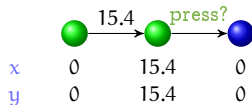
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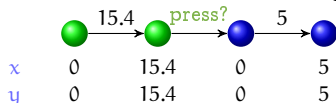
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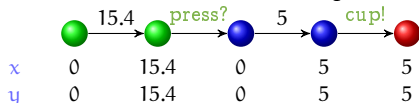
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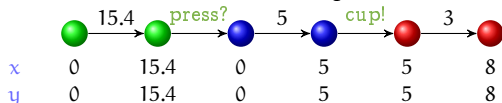
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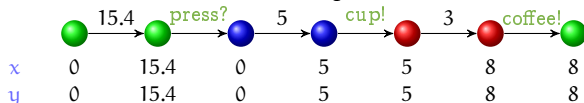
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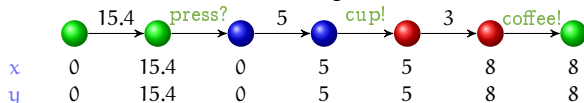
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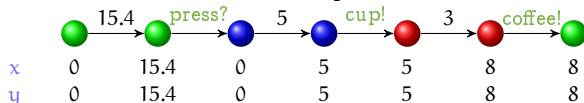
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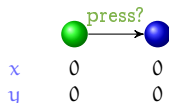
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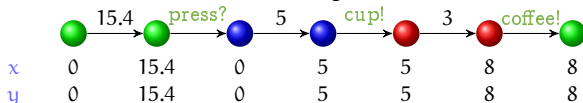
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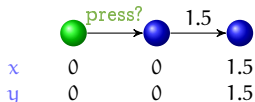
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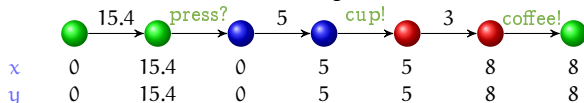
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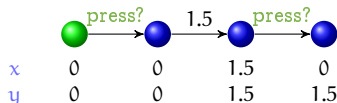
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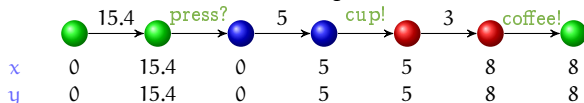
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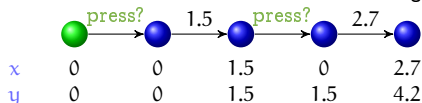
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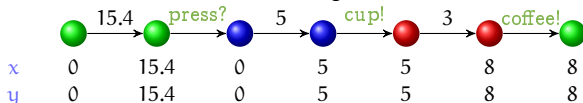
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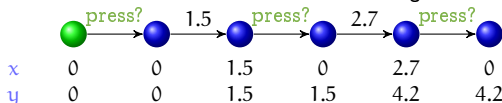
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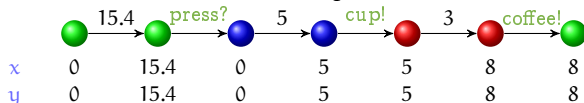
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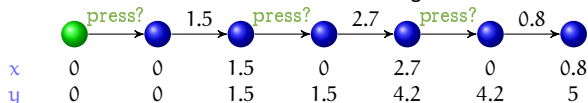
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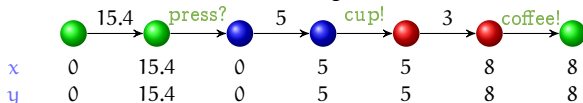
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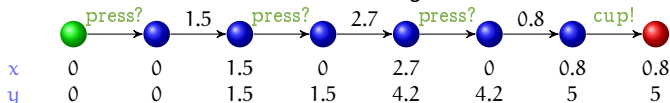
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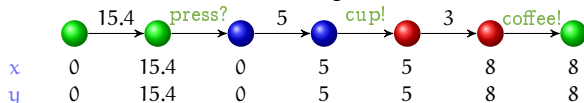
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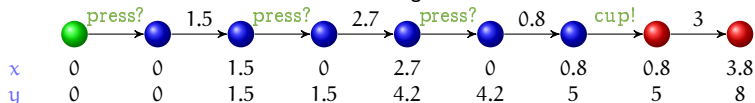
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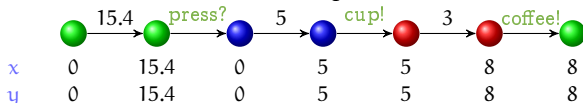
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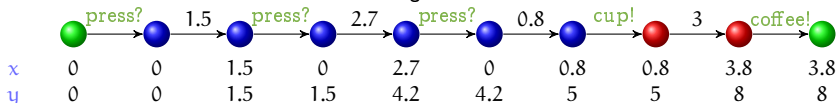
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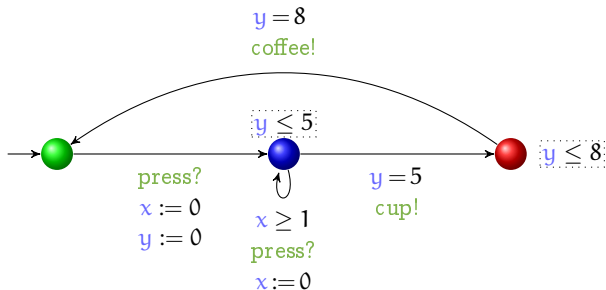


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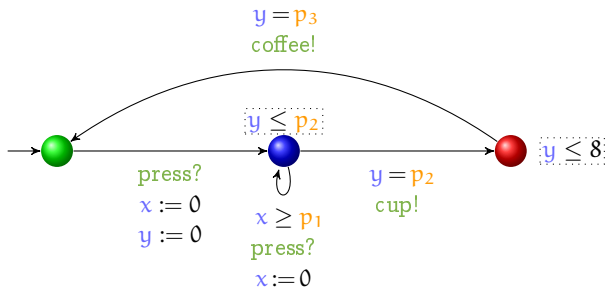
Parametric Timed Automaton (PTA)

- Timed automaton (sets of locations, actions and clocks)



Parametric Timed Automaton (PTA)

- Timed automaton (sets of locations, actions and clocks) augmented with a set P of parameters [Alur et al., 1993]
 - Unknown constants used in guards and invariants



Valuation of a PTA

- Given a PTA $\mathcal{A}$ and a parameter valuation $\mathbf{v}$, we denote by $\mathbf{v}(\mathcal{A})$ the (non-parametric) timed automaton where all parameters are valued by $\mathbf{v}$

Integers or rationals?

In PTAs, both the **clocks** and the **parameters** can be either integer-valued or rational-valued.

This gives three possibilities:

	Clocks	Parameters
Discrete time	$\mathbb{N}$	$\mathbb{N}$
Dense time	$\mathbb{R}^+$	$\mathbb{N}$
Dense time	$\mathbb{R}^+$	$\mathbb{Q}^+$

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...and this does have an **impact on decidability**.

Model checkers for PTAs

Tools taking PTAs as an input formalism

- HYTECH [Henzinger et al., 1997] (hybrid automata)
- An extension of UPPAAL [Hune et al., 2002]
- ROMÉO [Lime et al., 2009] (parametric time Petri nets)
- IMITATOR [André et al., 2012]

Case studies using PTAs

- Variants of train controllers [Alur et al., 1993, Hune et al., 2002]
- The root contention protocol [Hune et al., 2002]
- Philip's **bounded retransmission protocol** [Hune et al., 2002]
- An **asynchronous circuit** commercialized by ST-Microelectronics [Chevallier et al., 2009]
- A 4-phase handshake protocol [Knapik and Penczek, 2012]
- A distributed prospective architecture for the **flight control system** of the next generation of spacecrafts designed at ASTRIUM Space Transportation [Fribourg et al., 2012]
- Analysis of **music scores** [Fanchon and Jacquemard, 2013]
- The alternating bit protocol [Jovanović et al., 2015]
- (non-preemptive) **schedulability problems** [Jovanović et al., 2015]
- An unmanned aerial video system by Thales

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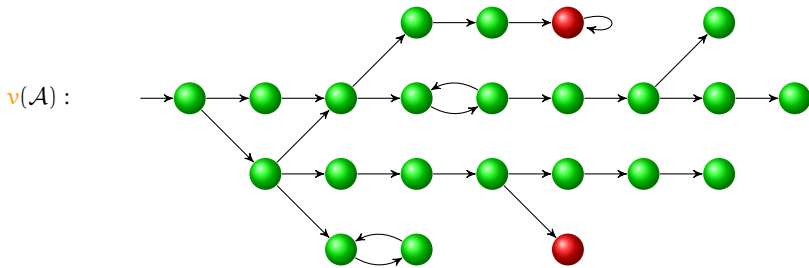
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Decision problems (1/3)

Definition (reachability emptiness (EF-emptiness))

Input: a PTA $\mathcal{A}$ and a set of locations G

Problem: Is the set of parameter valuations $\mathbf{v}$ such that there exists a run of $\mathbf{v}(\mathcal{A})$ reaching a location $l \in G$ empty?

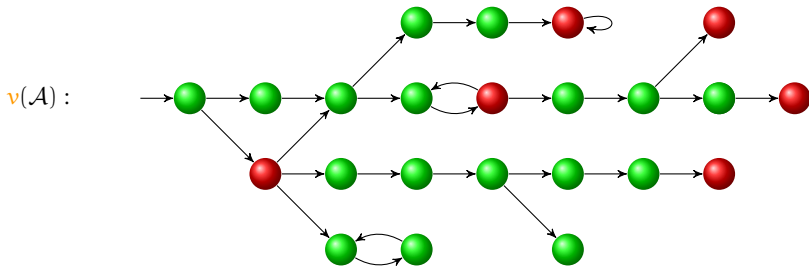


Decision problems (2/3)

Definition (unavoidability emptiness (AF-emptiness))

Input: a PTA $\mathcal{A}$ and a set of locations G

Problem: Is the set of parameter valuations v such that all runs of $v(\mathcal{A})$ eventually reach a location $l \in G$ empty?



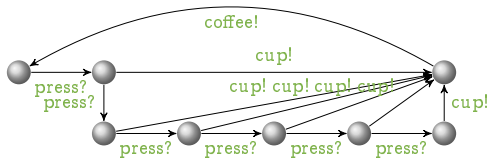
Decision problems (3/3)

Definition (language preservation emptiness)

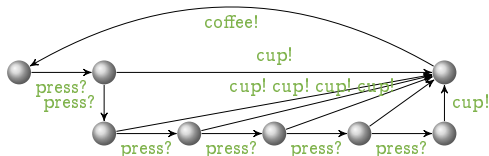
Input: a PTA $\mathcal{A}$ and a valuation $\mathbf{v}$

Problem: Does there exist another valuation $\mathbf{v}' \neq \mathbf{v}$ such that the untimed languages of $\mathbf{v}(\mathcal{A})$ and $\mathbf{v}'(\mathcal{A})$ are the same?

$\mathbf{v}(\mathcal{A}) :$



$\mathbf{v}'(\mathcal{A}) :$



Motivation

Why surveying decidability?

Without decidability, no hope for exact **synthesis**

- “Find all parameter valuations such that...”

(although approximated results can still be output in general, and exact results “sometimes”)

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Undecidability: reachability

Reachability emptiness

Reachability emptiness (“does there exist at least one parameter valuation reaching a given location l ?”) is **undecidable** for PTAs

[Alur et al., 1993]

- even with a single real-valued parameter [Miller, 2000]
- even with only strict constraints [Doyen, 2007]
- even with a single integer-valued parameter [Beneš et al., 2015]

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Proof.

By reduction from the halting problem of a 2-counter machine, which is undecidable [Minsky, 1967] □

Undecidability: unavailability

Unavailability emptiness

Unavailability emptiness (“does there exist at least one parameter valuation such that all runs reach a given location l ?”) is **undecidable** for PTAs, even with a single bounded parameter

[Jovanović et al., 2015]

Undecidability: language preservation

Language preservation

Language preservation emptiness is undecidable for PTAs, even with a single bounded parameter

[André and Markey, 2015]

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Bounding the number of clocks

- All problems are undecidable for just 1 parameter, and even over bounded-time
- However, bounding **clocks** brings decidability
 - **Parametric clocks**: clocks compared with a parameter in at least one guard or one invariant
 - **Non-parametric clocks**: clocks never compared with a parameter

EF-emptiness: main results

EF-emptiness is decidable for

- 1 parametric clock and arbitrarily many non-parametric clocks and parameters over discrete time [Bundala and Ouaknine, 2014]
- 2 parametric clocks, arbitrarily many non-parametric clocks and 1 parameter over discrete time [Bundala and Ouaknine, 2014]
- 1 parametric clock, no non-parametric clock and arbitrarily many parameters over dense time [Miller, 2000]

EF-emptiness is open for

- 2 parametric clocks, arbitrarily many non-parametric clocks and > 1 parameters over discrete time
- 1 parametric clock, 1 or 2 non-parametric clocks and any parameters over dense time
- 2 parametric clock, 0, 1 or 2 non-parametric clocks and any parameters over dense time

EF-emptiness: full state-of-the-art

T	P	Guards	Invariants	P-clocks	NP-clocks	Params	Decidability	Main ref.
N	N	$x < p$	$p \mid d^+$	1	any	any	NEXPTIME-compl.	[Bundala and Ouaknine, 2014]
N	N	$x \in I$	None	1	any	any	non-elementary	[Alur et al., 1993]
N	N	$x < p$	$p \mid d^+$	2	any	1	PSPACE ^{NEXP} -hard	[Bundala and Ouaknine, 2014]
N	N	any		2	any	> 1	open	
N	N	$x \sim p \mid d$	None	3	0	1	undecidable	[Beneš et al., 2015]
N	N	$x < p$		any	any	any	open	
N	N bounded	$x \sim p \mid t$	$x \preceq p \mid t$	any	any	any	decidable	[Jovanović et al., 2015] (conseq.)
R ⁺	N	$x \in I$	None	1	0	any	non-elementary	[Alur et al., 1993] (conseq.)
R ⁺	N	$x \sim p \mid d$	$x \preceq p$	1	any	any	NEXPTIME	[Beneš et al., 2015]
R ⁺	N	$x < p$	$p \mid d^+$	2	any	1	PSPACE ^{NEXP} -hard	[Bundala and Ouaknine, 2014]
R ⁺	N	any		2	any	> 1	open	
R ⁺	N	$x \sim p \mid d$	None	3	0	1	undecidable	[Beneš et al., 2015]
R ⁺	N	$x \sim p \mid t$	$x \preceq p \mid t$	3	0	2	undecidable	[Jovanović et al., 2015]
Q ⁺ /R ⁺	N	$x < p$		any	any	any	open	
R ⁺	N bounded	$x \sim p \mid t$	$x \preceq p \mid t$	any	any	any	PSPACE-complete	[Jovanović et al., 2015]
R ⁺	R ⁺	$x \in I$	None	1	0	any	non-elementary	[Alur et al., 1993]
R ⁺	Q ⁺	$x \sim p \mid d$		1	0	any	NP-complete	[Miller, 2000]
R ⁺	Q ⁺	$x \sim p \mid d$		1	0	bounded	PTIME	[Miller, 2000]
R ⁺	R ⁺	any		1	1 or 2	1	open	
R ⁺	Q ⁺	$x \sim p \mid d$		1	3	1	undecidable	[Miller, 2000]
R ⁺	R ⁺	any		2	any	any	open	
R ⁺	R ⁺	$x \in I$	None	3	0	6	undecidable	[Alur et al., 1993]
R ⁺	Q ⁺	$x \sim p \mid d$		3	0	1	undecidable	[Miller, 2000]
R ⁺	R ⁺ _[1,2]	$x \sim p \mid d$		1	3	1	undecidable	[Miller, 2000]
R ⁺	R ⁺ _[1,2]	$x \sim p \mid d$		3	0	1	undecidable	[Miller, 2000]
Q ⁺ /R ⁺	Q ⁺ /R ⁺	$x < p$		< 2	< 3	< 2	open	
Q ⁺ /R ⁺	Q ⁺ /R ⁺	$x < p$		2	3	2	undecidable	[Doyen, 2007]

Outline

- 1 Parametric Timed Automata
- 2 Decision Problems
- 3 Almost All is Undecidable in General
- 4 Bounding the Number of Clocks
- 5 Lower-bound/Upper-bound PTAs**
- 6 Conclusion and Perspectives

Restricting the use of parameters

So far:

- ☹ Bounding the number of parameters...
- ☹ Bounding time...
- ☹ Considering discrete-time...

does not bring decidability

Bounding the number of clocks brings decidability

- ☹ ...but can we still model something interesting with 1 clock?

Restricting the use of parameters

So far:

- ☹ Bounding the number of parameters...
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Bounding the number of clocks brings decidability

- ☹ ...but can we still model something interesting with 1 clock?

Idea: **restrict the syntactic use of the parameters**

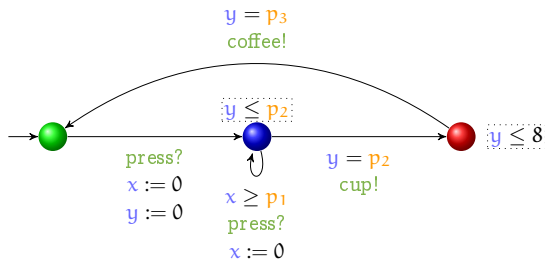
Lower-bound and upper-bound parameters

- A **lower-bound parameter** can only be compared with a clock from below
 - Examples: $p_l \leq x$, $p_l < x$
- An **upper-bound parameter** can only be compared with a clock from above
 - Examples: $p_u \geq x$, $p_u > x$

Lower-bound and upper-bound parameters

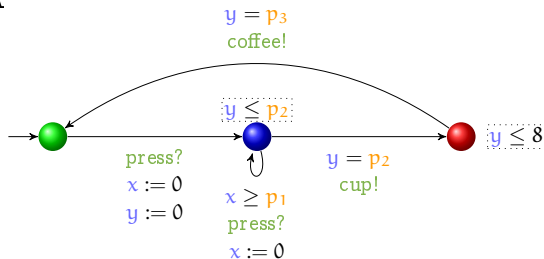
- A **lower-bound parameter** can only be compared with a clock from below
 - Examples: $p_l \leq x$, $p_l < x$
- An **upper-bound parameter** can only be compared with a clock from above
 - Examples: $p_u \geq x$, $p_u > x$
- An **L/U-PTA** contains only lower-bound and upper-bound parameters
- An **L-PTA** contains only lower-bound parameters
- A **U-PTA** contains only upper-bound parameters

Examples



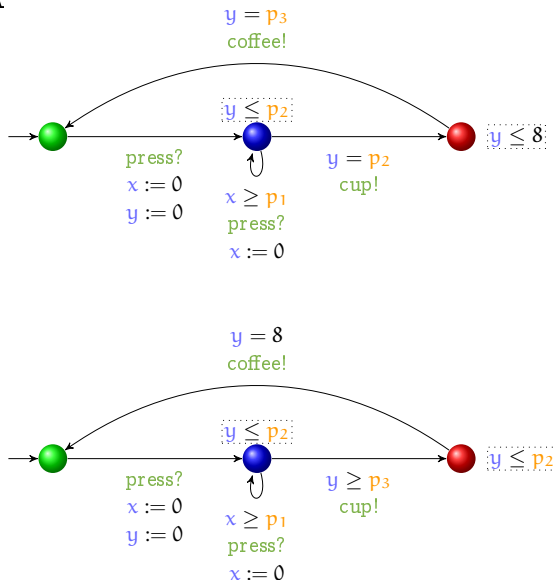
Examples

Not an L/U-PTA



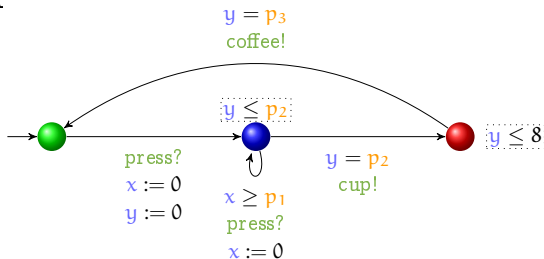
Examples

Not an L/U-PTA

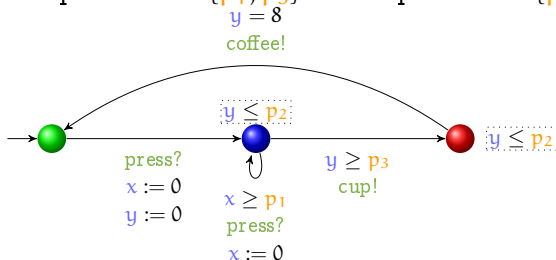


Examples

Not an L/U-PTA



An L/U-PTA with L-parameters $\{p_1, p_3\}$ and U-parameter $\{p_2\}$



Modeling with L/U-PTAs

- Many case studies in the literature are L/U-PTAs
 - Including case studies proposed before the definition of L/U-PTAs
- All models with intervals are L/U-PTAs
 - **Asynchronous circuits** with (parametric) bi-bounded delays
 - **Train controllers** with intervals
 - **Real-time systems** with (parametric) bi-bounded periods

Decidability for L/U-PTAs

Reachability emptiness

Reachability emptiness (“does there exist at least one parameter valuation reaching a given location l ?”) is **decidable** for L/U-PTAs

[Hune et al., 2002, Bozzelli and La Torre, 2009]

Decidability for L/U-PTAs

Reachability emptiness

Reachability emptiness (“does there exist at least one parameter valuation reaching a given location l ?”) is **decidable** for L/U-PTAs

[Hune et al., 2002, Bozzelli and La Torre, 2009]

Reachability universality

Reachability universality (“do all parameter valuations reach a given location l ?”) is **decidable** for L/U-PTAs

[Hune et al., 2002, Bozzelli and La Torre, 2009]

Undecidability for L/U-PTAs

Unavoidability emptiness

Unavoidability emptiness (“does there exist at least one parameter valuation such that all runs reach a given location l ?”) is **undecidable** for L/U-PTAs, even with a single bounded parameter

[Jovanović et al., 2015]

Undecidability for L/U-PTAs

Unavoidability emptiness

Unavoidability emptiness (“does there exist at least one parameter valuation such that all runs reach a given location l ?”) is **undecidable** for L/U-PTAs, even with a single bounded parameter

[Jovanović et al., 2015]

Language preservation

Language preservation emptiness is **undecidable** for L/U-PTAs, even with a single bounded parameter

[André and Markey, 2015]

Quite bad news

Synthesis

Although the emptiness and universality are decidable, the EF-synthesis (“synthesize all parameter valuations such that a given location l is reachable”) is **intractable** for L/U-PTAs

[Jovanović et al., 2015]

This rules out the possibility to do parameter synthesis for L/U-PTAs.

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Summary

Parametric timed automata

- 😊 Powerful and expressive formalism
- 😊 Used to solve many case studies
- 😊 Models robustness, uncertainty, unknown drift
- 😞 All non-trivial problems undecidable

L/U-PTAs

- 😊 Emptiness decidable
- 😊 Remain quite expressive
- 😞 Synthesis intractable

Perspectives

Open decidability issues

- Case of PTAs with 2 clocks over discrete time
- Classes of L-PTAs and U-PTAs
 - Less expressive than L/U-PTAs
 - All problems (decision and synthesis) are open

Perspectives

Open decidability issues

- Case of **PTAs with 2 clocks** over discrete time
- Classes of **L-PTAs** and **U-PTAs**
 - Less expressive than L/U-PTAs
 - All problems (decision and synthesis) are **open**

A unified syntax for PTAs and a comparison of expressiveness

- Nearly every paper defines a **different syntax**: are they all just as expressive?
- And what is **the expressiveness of PTAs**?

Perspectives

Open decidability issues

- Case of **PTAs with 2 clocks** over discrete time
- Classes of **L-PTAs** and **U-PTAs**
 - Less expressive than L/U-PTAs
 - All problems (decision and synthesis) are **open**

A unified syntax for PTAs and a comparison of expressiveness

- Nearly every paper defines a **different syntax**: are they all just as expressive?
- And what is **the expressiveness of PTAs**?

Is decidability really required?

- Use **approximated synthesis**
- Devise **efficient** (semi-)algorithms
- Propose restrictions dedicated to real-time scheduling

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Additional explanation

Explanation for the 4 pictures in the beginning



Allusion to the Northeast blackout (USA, 2003)
 Computer bug
 Consequences: 11 fatalities, huge cost
 (Picture actually from the Sandy Hurricane, 2012)



Error screen on the earliest versions of Macintosh



Allusion to the sinking of the Sleipner A offshore platform (Norway, 1991)
 No fatalities
 Computer bug: inaccurate finite element analysis modeling
 (Picture actually from the Deepwater Horizon Offshore Drilling Platform)



Allusion to the MIM-104 Patriot Missile Failure (Iraq, 1991)
 28 fatalities, hundreds of injured
 Computer bug: software error (clock drift)
 (Picture of an actual MIM-104 Patriot Missile, though not the one of 1991)

Decision problems for L/U-PTAs

Problem	$\mathbb{P}$	Complexity	Main ref.
EF-emptiness	$\mathbb{R}^+$	PSPACE	[Hune et al., 2002]
AG-emptiness	$\mathbb{R}^+$	PSPACE	[Hune et al., 2002]
AF-emptiness	$\mathbb{R}^+$	undecidable	[Jovanović et al., 2015]
EG-emptiness	$\mathbb{R}^+$	open	
BüEF-emptiness	$\mathbb{N}$	PSPACE-complete	[Bozzelli and La Torre, 2009]
BüEF-universality	$\mathbb{N}$	PSPACE-complete	[Bozzelli and La Torre, 2009]
BüEF-finiteness	$\mathbb{N}$	PSPACE-complete	[Bozzelli and La Torre, 2009]
constrained BüEF-emptiness	$\mathbb{N}$	undecidable	[Bozzelli and La Torre, 2009]
constrained BüEF-universality	$\mathbb{N}$	undecidable	[Bozzelli and La Torre, 2009]
L/U-constrained BüEF-emptiness	$\mathbb{N}$	PSPACE-complete	[Bozzelli and La Torre, 2009]
L/U-constrained BüEF-universality	$\mathbb{N}$	PSPACE-complete	[Bozzelli and La Torre, 2009]
Language preservation	$\mathbb{N}$	undecidable	[André and Markey, 2015]
Language preservation	$\mathbb{R}^+$	undecidable	[André and Markey, 2015]

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