

FORMATS 2016

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On the Expressiveness of Parametric Timed Automata

Étienne André^{1,2}, Didier Lime², Olivier H. Roux²

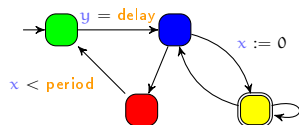
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² École Centrale de Nantes, IRCCyN, CNRS, UMR 6597, France



Context: timed model checking

■ Timed model checking



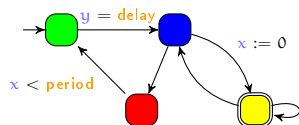
A **model** of the system

is unreachable

A **property** to be satisfied


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?

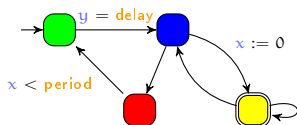
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■ Question: does the model of the system satisfy the property?

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A **model** of the system

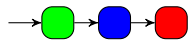
A **property** to be satisfied

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Yes



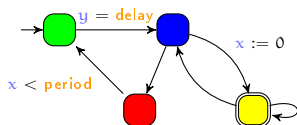
No



Counterexample


Context: parametric timed model checking

■ Timed model checking



?

≡

 is unreachable
A **model** of the systemA **property** to be satisfied

- Question: for what values of the parameters does the model of the system satisfy the property?

Yes if...



$$2\text{delay} > \text{period} \\ \wedge \text{period} < 20.46$$

Outline

- 1 Parametric Timed Automata
- 2 Motivation
- 3 Definitions
- 4 Integers vs. Rationals
- 5 Comparison of the Expressiveness
- 6 Conclusion and Perspectives

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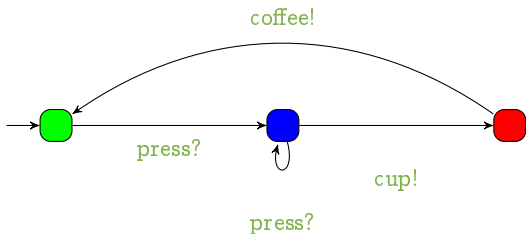
Timed automaton (TA)

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



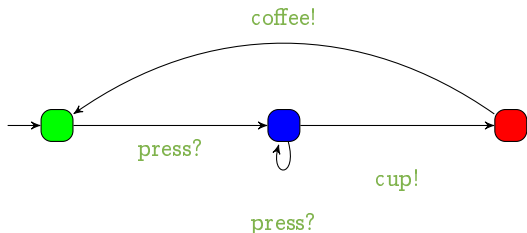
Timed automaton (TA)

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



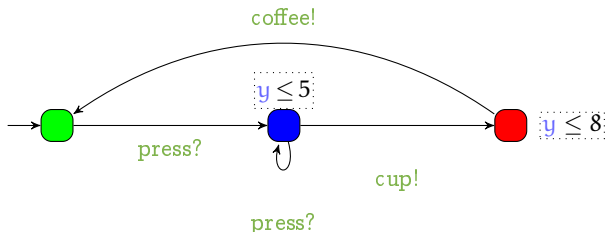
Timed automaton (TA)

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



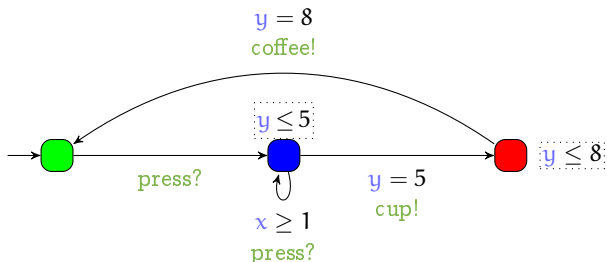
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 - Location **invariant**: constraint to be verified to stay at a location



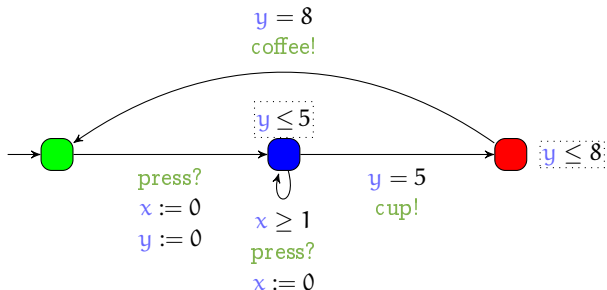
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 - Location **invariant**: constraint to be verified to stay at a location
 - Transition **guard**: constraint to be verified to enable a transition
 - Clock **reset**: some of the clocks can be set to 0 at each transition

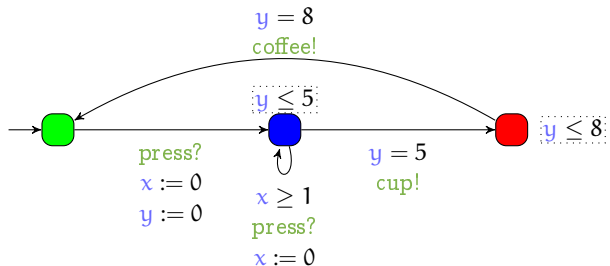


Concrete semantics of timed automata

- **Concrete state** of a TA: pair (l, w) , where
 - l is a location,
 - w is a **valuation** of each clock

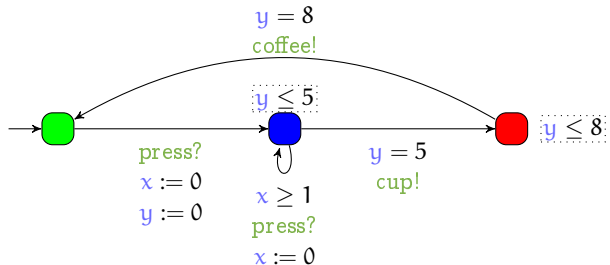
- **Concrete run**: alternating sequence of **concrete states** and **actions** or **time elapse**

Examples of concrete runs



- Possible concrete runs for the coffee machine

Examples of concrete runs

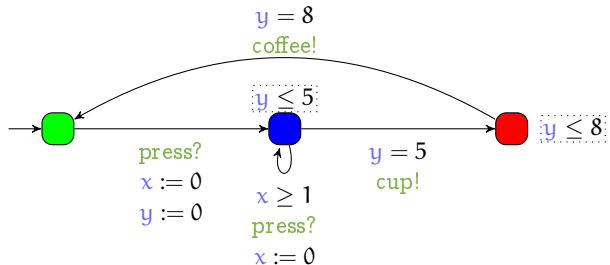


- Possible concrete runs for the coffee machine
 - Coffee with no sugar



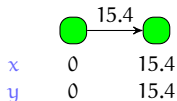
x 0
 y 0

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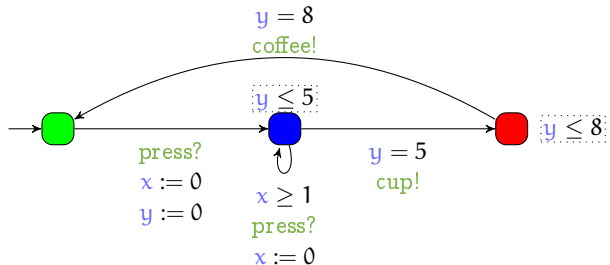


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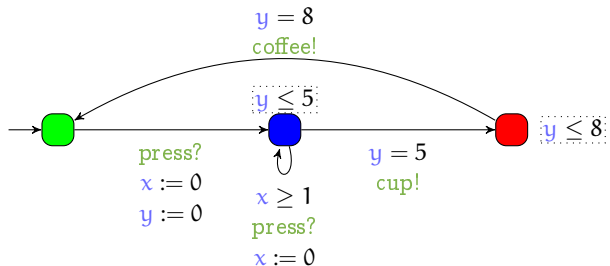
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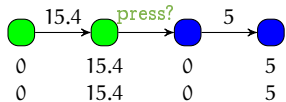
x	0	15.4	0
y	0	15.4	0

Examples of concrete runs

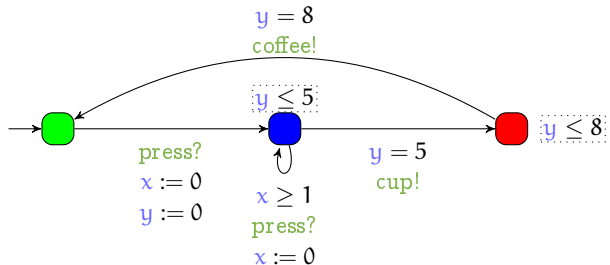


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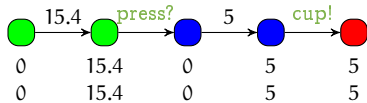


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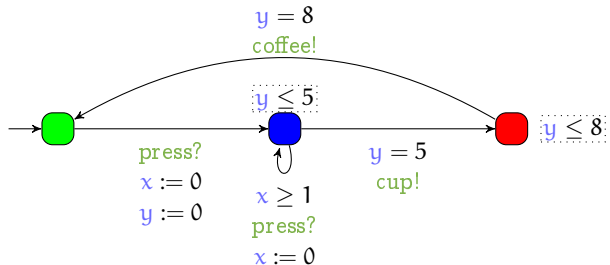


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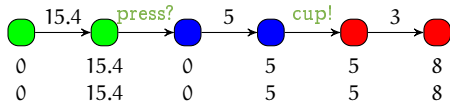


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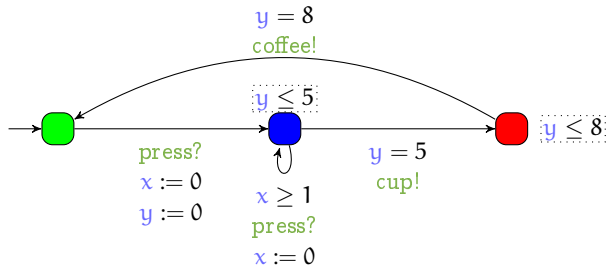


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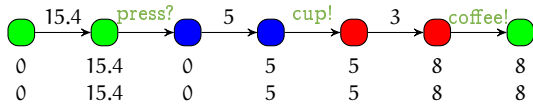


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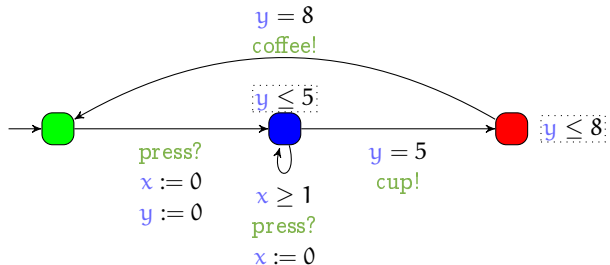


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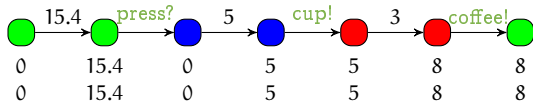


Examples of concrete runs



■ Possible concrete runs for the coffee machine

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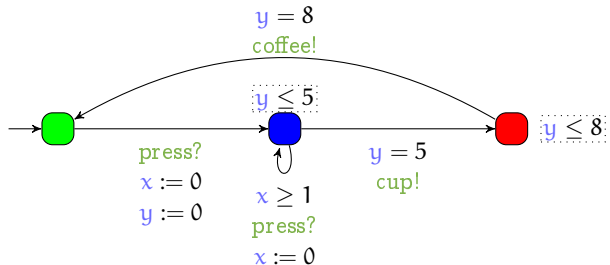


■ Coffee with 2 doses of sugar



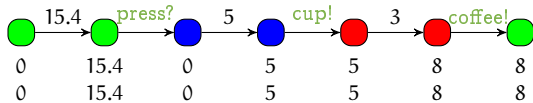
x	0
y	0

Examples of concrete runs

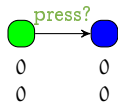


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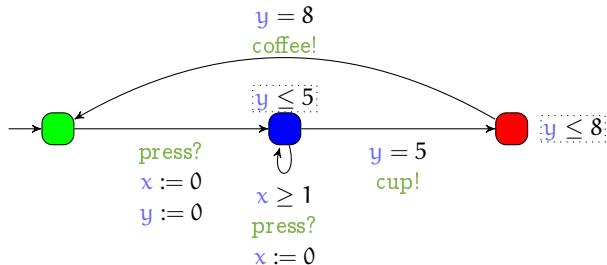
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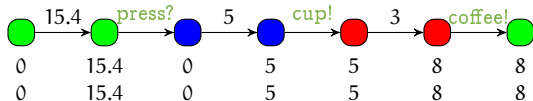


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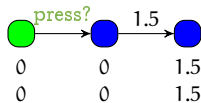


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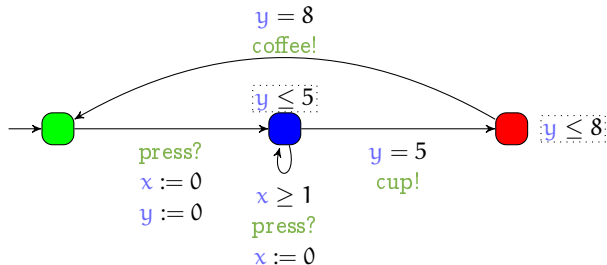
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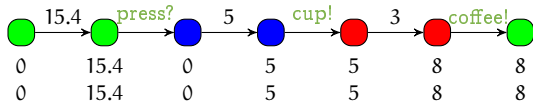


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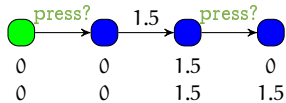


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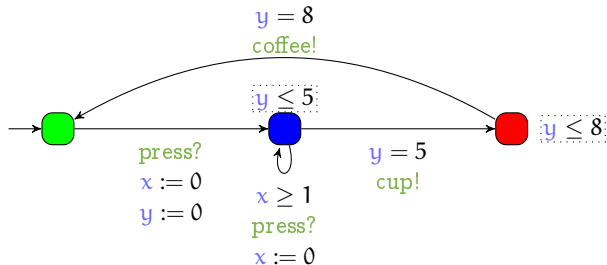
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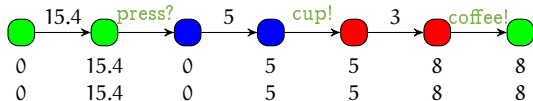


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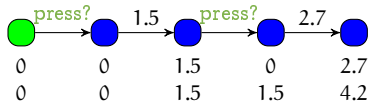


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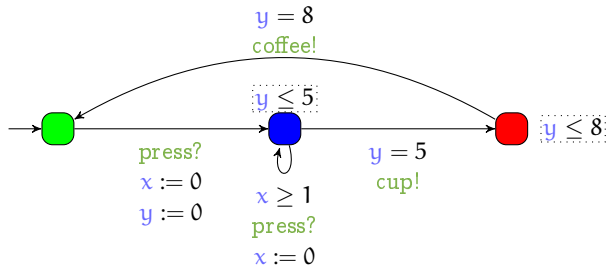
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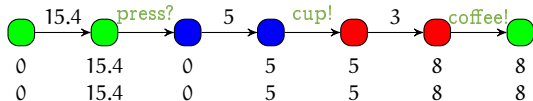


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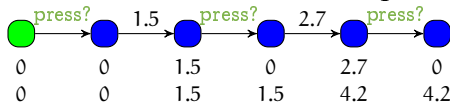


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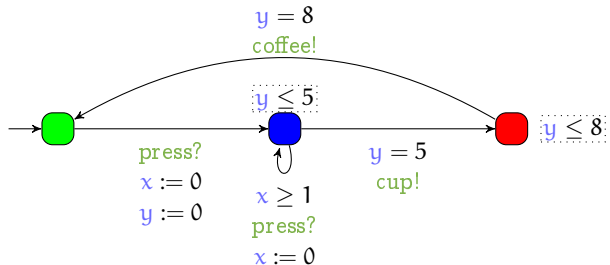
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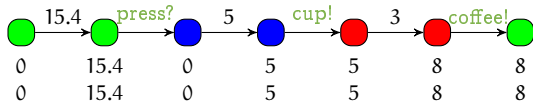


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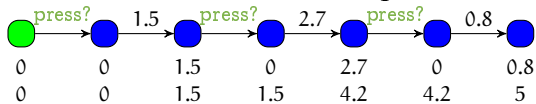


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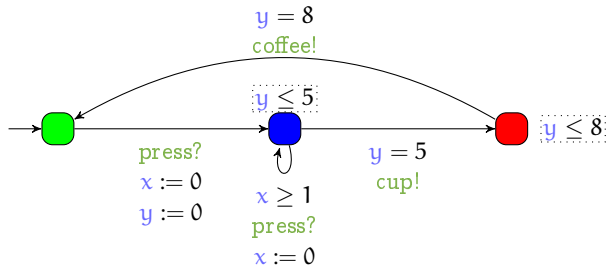
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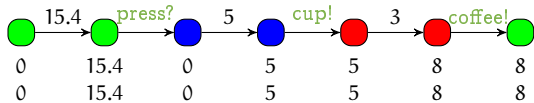


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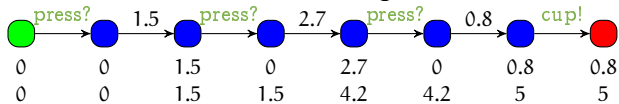


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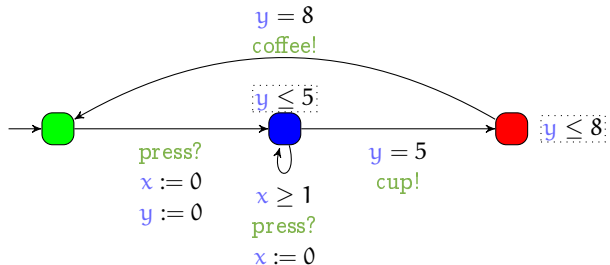
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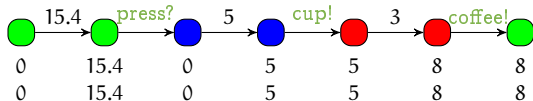


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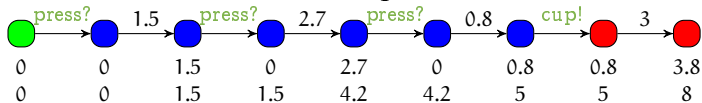


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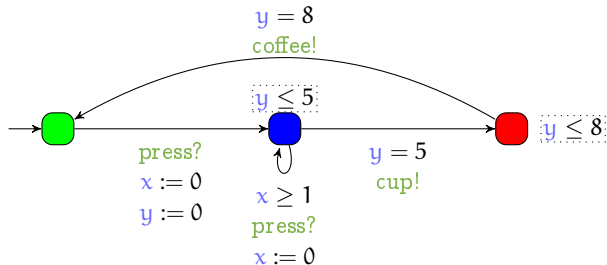
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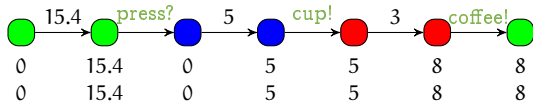


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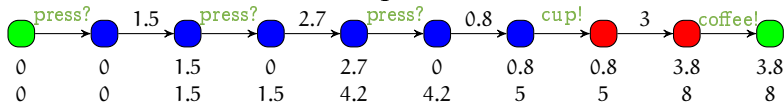


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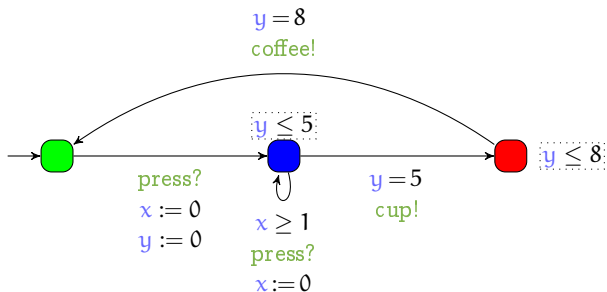


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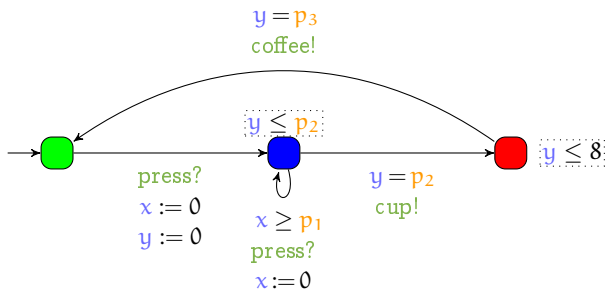
Parametric timed automaton (PTA)

- 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

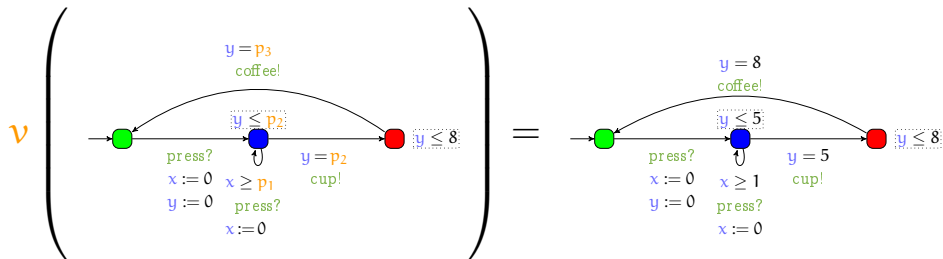


Valuation of a PTA

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

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$$\text{with } \nu : \begin{cases} p_1 & \rightarrow 1 \\ p_2 & \rightarrow 5 \\ p_3 & \rightarrow 8 \end{cases}$$

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 has an **impact on decidability**

[Alur et al., 1993, Miller, 2000, Beneš et al., 2015]

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Here: we consider (mainly) **dense time with integer-valued parameters**

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The question of the syntax

Almost each work in the literature defines its own syntax:

- guards
- invariants
- accepting locations or not

Are these definitions equivalently expressive?

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Integer vs. rational valued parameters

- For a rational valued PTA, can we find an integer-valued PTA with the same expressiveness?

Subclasses of PTAs

Several subclasses were defined for PTAs, e. g.:

- Lower-bound upper-bound PTAs

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

- **Bounded** PTAs (i. e., with a bounded parameter domain)

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And are PTAs any more expressive than TAs...?

Towards an expressiveness for PTAs

Problem

What is the expressiveness of a PTA?

Towards an expressiveness for PTAs

Problem

What is the expressiveness of a PTA?

Goal

Propose a definition of expressiveness for PTAs, and compare the syntax / subclasses of PTAs.

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Definition (PTA with hidden parameters)

A parametric timed automaton with hidden parameters (hereafter hPTA) \mathcal{A} is a tuple $(\Sigma, L, l_0, F, X, P, I, E)$, where:

- 1 Σ is a finite set of actions,
- 2 L is a finite set of locations,
- 3 $l_0 \in L$ is the initial location,
- 4 $F \subseteq L$ is a set of **accepting locations**,
- 5 X is a finite set of clocks,
- 6 $P = P_{\bar{v}} \uplus P_v$ is a finite set of parameters partitioned into **hidden parameters** $P_{\bar{v}}$ and **visible parameters** P_v ,
- 7 I is the invariant, assigning to every $l \in L$ a guard $I(l)$,
- 8 E is a finite set of edges $e = (l, g, a, R, l')$ where $l, l' \in L$ are the source and target locations, $a \in \Sigma \cup \{\epsilon\}$ (ϵ : **silent action**), $R \subseteq X$ is a set of clocks to be reset, and g is a guard.

Lower-bound / Upper-bound PTAs

Definition (hL/U-PTA [Hune et al., 2002, Bozzelli and La Torre, 2009])

An hL/U-PTA is an hPTA where the set of parameters is partitioned into:

- 1 a set of lower-bound parameters P^- where each parameter can only be compared to a clock as a lower bound (" $p \leq x$ ") and,
- 2 a set of upper-bound parameters P^+ (" $x \leq p$ ").

L/U-PTAs (without hidden parameters) benefit from some decidability properties, in contrast to general PTAs

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

A first definition of expressiveness

Definition (untimed language of an hPTA)

Given an hPTA \mathcal{A} , the **untimed language** $UL(\mathcal{A})$ of \mathcal{A} is

$$\bigcup_{v \in \mathcal{V}(P)} \{w \mid w \text{ is an untimed word accepted by } v(\mathcal{A})\}$$

Untimed word accepted by a TA: sequence of actions associated with a finite (timed) run ending in an accepting location

A second definition of expressiveness

Definition (constrained untimed language of an hPTA)

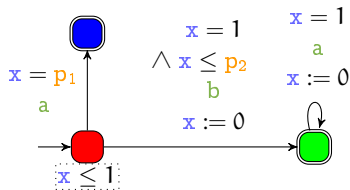
Given an hPTA \mathcal{A} , the **constrained untimed language** $\text{CUL}(\mathcal{A})$ of \mathcal{A} is

$$\bigcup_{v \in \mathcal{V}(P_v)} \left\{ (w, v) \mid \exists \bar{v} \in \mathcal{V}(P_{\bar{v}}) \text{ s.t. } w \text{ is an untimed word of } v(\bar{v}(\mathcal{A})) \right\}$$

Remarks:


- Only the **visible parameters** are considered
- **Constrained** because an alternative way to represent $\text{CUL}(\mathcal{A})$ is a set of pairs (w, K) (where K denotes all valuations accepting w)
- Only PTAs with the **same number of visible parameters** can be compared using **CUL**

Example



$UL(\mathcal{A}) = \{a\} \cup \{ba^n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ (also written $UL(\mathcal{A}) = a + ba^*$)

$CUL(\mathcal{A}) = \{(a, p_1 = i) \mid 0 \leq i \leq 1\} \cup \{(ba^n, p_1 = i) \mid i \in \mathbb{N}, n \in \mathbb{N}\}$
 (also written $CUL(\mathcal{A}) = \{(a, p_1 \leq 1), (ba^*, p_1 \geq 0)\}$, with $p_1 \in \mathbb{N}$)

Note: both the parameter p_2 and the fact that p_2 must be at least 1 to go to  are hidden.

Outline

- 1 Parametric Timed Automata
- 2 Motivation
- 3 Definitions
- 4 Integers vs. Rationals**
- 5 Comparison of the Expressiveness
- 6 Conclusion and Perspectives

Integers vs. Rationals

Proposition (Rationals and integers are equivalent for **UL**)

PTAs with rational parameters and PTAs with unbounded integer parameters are equivalent with respect to the untimed language.

Integers vs. Rationals

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PTAs with rational parameters and PTAs with unbounded integer parameters are equivalent with respect to the untimed language.

Proof idea

- Any integer-valued PTA can be simulated by a rational-valued PTA using appropriate gadgets
- A rational-valued PTA can be simulated by an integer-valued by scaling up all expressions: since we do not know by how much we need to scale, we add... a fresh parameter.

For example $x \leq 3p_1 + 2p_2 + 7$ becomes $x \leq 3p_1 + 2p_2 + 7p$.

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A similar result is shown for L/U-PTAs

[see paper]

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General PTAs: type 0

Lemma

Turing-recognizable languages are also recognizable by PTAs.

General PTAs: type 0

Lemma

Turing-recognizable languages are also recognizable by PTAs.

Proof idea

- all proofs of undecidability for PTAs reduce from the halting problem of a 2-counter machine.

e. g., [\[Alur et al., 1993\]](#)

- 2-counter machines are Turing equivalent

Single-clock PTAs: type 3

Lemma

*The untimed language recognized by a PTA with a single clock (and arbitrarily many rational-valued parameters) is **regular**.*

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Lemma

*The untimed language recognized by a PTA with a single clock (and arbitrarily many rational-valued parameters) is **regular**.*

Proof idea

From the fact that the parametric zone graph of a PTA with a single (necessarily parametric) clock and arbitrarily many parameters is finite.

[A. and Markey, 2015, Theorem 20]

Two clocks: at least type 1

Theorem

*PTAs with 1 parametric clock, 1 non-parametric clock and 1 parameter can recognize languages that are **context-sensitive**.*

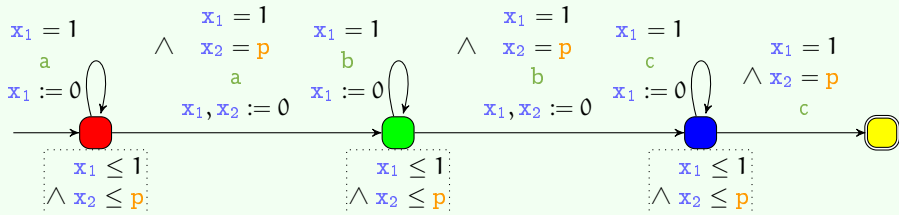
Two clocks: at least type 1

Theorem

PTAs with 1 parametric clock, 1 non-parametric clock and 1 parameter can recognize languages that are *context-sensitive*.

Proof idea

The following PTA recognizes $a^n b^n c^n$



Outline

5 Comparison of the Expressiveness

- PTAs in the Chomsky hierarchy
- Comparison w.r.t. the untimed language
- Comparison w.r.t. the constrained untimed language

TAs = L/U-PTAs

Proposition

Most subclasses of PTAs are not more expressive than timed automata w.r.t. the untimed language.

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Proof idea

- **L/U-PTAs**: union over all parameter valuations equivalent to the TA replacing lower-bound parameters with 0 and upper-bound parameter with a sufficiently large constant

[Bozzelli and La Torre, 2009]

TAs = L/U-PTAs = bounded PTAs

Proposition

Most subclasses of PTAs are not more expressive than timed automata w.r.t. the untimed language.

Proof idea

- **L/U-PTAs**: union over all parameter valuations equivalent to the TA replacing lower-bound parameters with 0 and upper-bound parameter with a sufficiently large constant
[Bozzelli and La Torre, 2009]
- **integer-valued bounded PTAs**: from the closure of regular languages

TAs < PTAs

Proposition

PTAs are strictly more expressive than TAs w.r.t. the untimed language.

Proof idea

From the results on the hierarchy of Chomsky.

PTAs = fcp-PTAs

Proposition

Fully parametric constraints PTAs (fpc-PTAs), i. e., allowing parametric linear terms ($3p_1 - p_2 > 5p_3$) in guards, are not more expressive than PTAs w.r.t. the untimed language.

Proof idea

- 1 By translation to an equivalent PTA w.r.t. the untimed language, that follows the most restrictive syntax (that of [\[Alur et al., 1993\]](#))

PTAs = fcp-PTAs = hPTAs

Proposition

Fully parametric constraints PTAs (fpc-PTAs), i. e., allowing parametric linear terms ($3p_1 - p_2 > 5p_3$) in guards, are not more expressive than PTAs w.r.t. the untimed language. hPTAs are equally expressive with PTAs w.r.t. the untimed language.

Proof idea

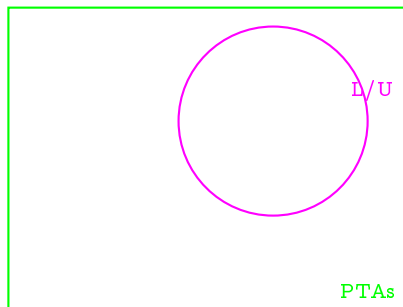
- 1 By translation to an equivalent PTA w.r.t. the untimed language, that follows the most restrictive syntax (that of [\[Alur et al., 1993\]](#))
- 2 By “de-hiding” parameters

Outline

5 Comparison of the Expressiveness

- PTAs in the Chomsky hierarchy
- Comparison w.r.t. the untimed language
- Comparison w.r.t. the constrained untimed language

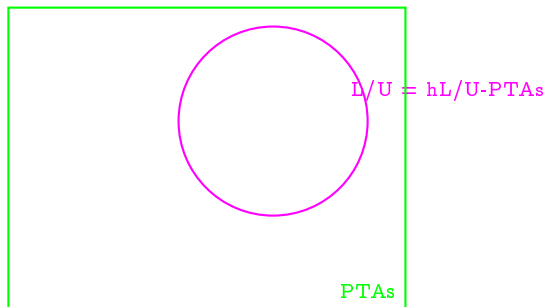
Expressiveness w.r.t. the CUL



Main results:

$L/U\text{-PTAs} < \text{PTAs}$

Expressiveness w.r.t. the CUL

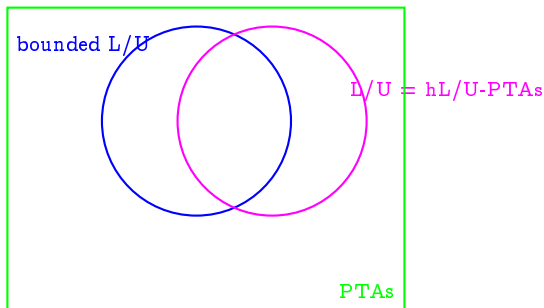


Main results:

$L/U\text{-PTAs} < PTAs$

$hL/U\text{-PTAs} = L/U\text{-PTAs}$

Expressiveness w.r.t. the CUL



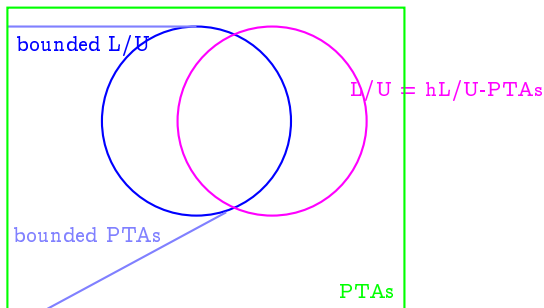
Main results:

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$bL/U\text{-PTA}$ incomp. with L/U

Expressiveness w.r.t. the CUL



Main results:

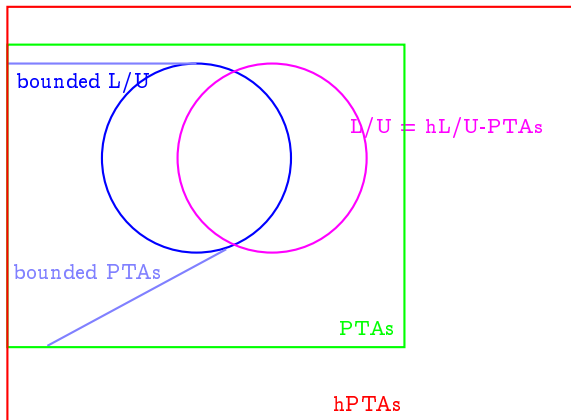
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Expressiveness w.r.t. the CUL



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(more in paper)

$\text{bounded PTAs} < \text{PTAs}$

$h\text{PTAs} > \text{PTAs}$

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Summary

- First attempt to define the **expressiveness** of parametric timed automata and subclasses
 - Including by **hiding parameters**
- **Untimed language**: most formalisms are not more expressive than timed automata
- **Constrained untimed language**: proposed a first classification of the main subclasses of PTAs

Perspectives

Consider the **timed language** and **constrained timed language** as well

- (But in fact, results do not seem to differ from their untimed counterparts)

The expressiveness of two-clock PTAs remains open

- And close to well-known open decision problems

Power of silent transitions in our definitions?

Relationship between the guard syntax and the number of clocks and parameters

- Is using a syntax " $x \sim p + c$ " equivalent to a syntax " $x \sim p \mid c$ " at the cost of one extra clock in the PTA?

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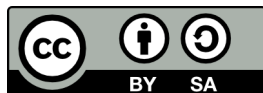
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