

Introduction to Model Checking

René Thiemann

Institute of Computer Science
University of Innsbruck

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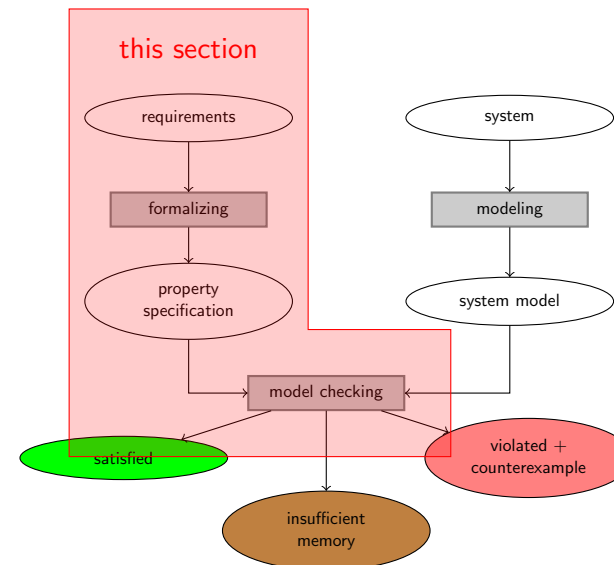
Outline

- Specifying Linear Time Properties
- LTL - Linear Time Logic
 - Syntax
 - Semantics
 - Equivalences
- LTL Model Checking
 - Overview
 - Transforming LTL into GNBA
 - Complexity of LTL Model Checking

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Model checking overview



Requirements \neq Specification

requirements

- high-level description (consider scheduler for exclusive access)
 - (the scheduler should be correct)
 - no two clients get access at the same time
 - the scheduler should be fair
 - there is no deadlock
 - what we observe from system: $Traces(TS) \subseteq (2^{AP})^\omega$
- \Rightarrow how to answer question “does system satisfy requirements”?
problem: to imprecise
- \Rightarrow we need requirements in a precise, i.e., mathematical **specification**

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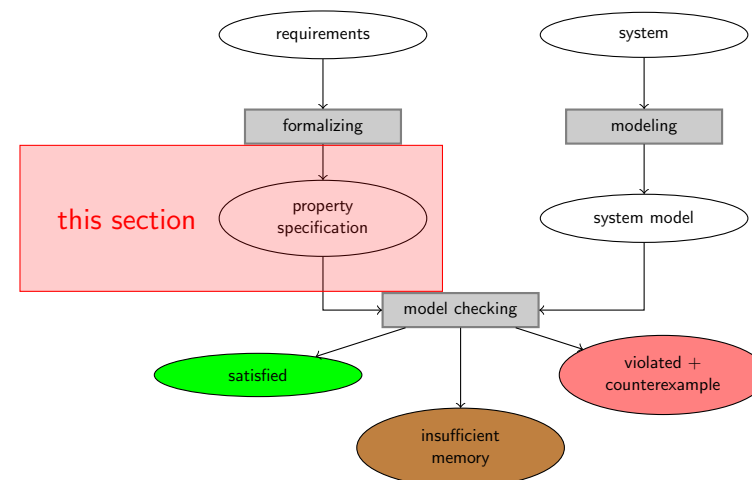
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Linear Time Properties

one main idea to specify requirements: describe allowed traces

- specification is set $\mathcal{S} \subseteq (2^{AP})^\omega$ (**linear time property**)
- system TS satisfies \mathcal{S} iff every trace of TS is allowed w.r.t. \mathcal{S} :
 $Traces(TS) \subseteq \mathcal{S}$
- **model checking of linear time properties**:
given $Traces(TS)$ and \mathcal{S} , answer $Traces(TS) \subseteq \mathcal{S}$
 \Rightarrow precise formulation, no ambiguity
- upcoming problems
 - how to **specify sets \mathcal{S} conveniently** ...
 - ... such that **$Traces(TS) \subseteq \mathcal{S}$ can be decided**

Model checking overview



Syntax of Linear Temporal Logic

modal logic over infinite sequences [Pnueli 1977]

propositional logic

- true
- $a, \text{paid}, \text{sprite}, \dots \in AP$
- $\neg\varphi$ and $\varphi \wedge \psi$

atomic proposition
negation and conjunction

temporal operators

- $X\varphi$ neXt step fulfills φ
- $F\varphi$ sometimes in the Future φ will hold
- $G\varphi$ φ Globally holds
- $\varphi U \psi$ φ holds Until ψ holds

linear temporal logic is a logic for describing linear time properties

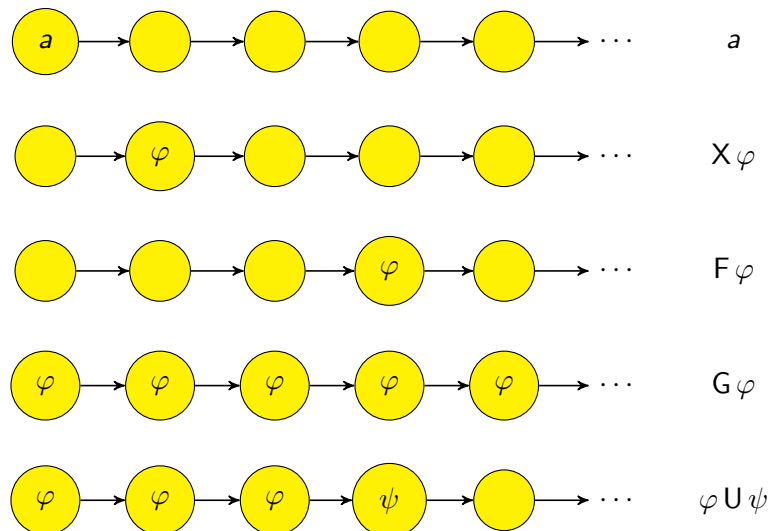
Derived operators

$$\begin{aligned} \text{false} &\equiv \neg \text{true} \\ \varphi \vee \psi &\equiv \neg(\neg\varphi \wedge \neg\psi) \\ \varphi \Rightarrow \psi &\equiv \neg\varphi \vee \psi \\ \varphi \Leftrightarrow \psi &\equiv (\varphi \Rightarrow \psi) \wedge (\psi \Rightarrow \varphi) \\ \varphi \oplus \psi &\equiv \neg(\varphi \Leftrightarrow \psi) \end{aligned}$$

precedence order: the unary operators bind stronger than the binary ones.
 \neg and X bind equally strong. U takes precedence over \wedge , \vee , and \Rightarrow

$$\neg, X, F, G > U > \wedge, \vee, \Rightarrow, \Leftrightarrow$$

Intuitive semantics



Properties of a traffic light

- the light is never red and green: $\neg(\text{red} \wedge \text{green})$
- whenever the light is red, it cannot become green immediately afterwards:

$$\text{red} \Rightarrow \neg X \text{green}$$

- eventually, the light becomes green: $F \text{green}$
- green holds until red appears and at sometime orange appears; moreover, the red is later than the orange

$$(\text{green} U \text{red}) \wedge F(\text{orange} \wedge X F \text{red})$$

most of these requirements do not correspond to the specifications

Practical properties in LTL

- Reachability

- reachability
- conditional reachability
- reachability from any state

 $F\psi$
 $\varphi U \psi$

not expressible

- Safety

 $G\neg\varphi$

- Liveness

 $G(\varphi \Rightarrow F\psi)$ and others

- Fairness

 $GF\varphi$ and others

Semantics for Transition Systems

semantics is defined via set inclusion as indicated in previous section, so a system satisfies a formula iff all traces are allowed w.r.t. the formula:

$$TS \models \varphi \text{ iff } \text{Traces}(TS) \subseteq \mathcal{L}(\varphi)$$

Semantics over words

the language induced by LTL formula φ over $AP = \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$ is:

$$\mathcal{L}(\varphi) = \{w \in (2^{AP})^\omega \mid w \models \varphi\}, \text{ where } \models \text{ is defined as follows:}$$

(let $w = A_0A_1A_2\dots$ and $w[i..] = A_iA_{i+1}A_{i+2}\dots$ is the suffix of w from index i on)

 $w \models \text{true}$
 $w \models a_i \quad \text{iff } a_i \in A_0$
 $w \models \varphi_1 \wedge \varphi_2 \quad \text{iff } w \models \varphi_1 \text{ and } w \models \varphi_2$
 $w \models \neg\varphi \quad \text{iff } w \not\models \varphi$
 $w \models X\varphi \quad \text{iff } w[1..] = A_1A_2A_3\dots \models \varphi$
 $w \models \varphi_1 U \varphi_2 \quad \text{iff } \exists j \geq 0. w[j..] \models \varphi_2 \text{ and } \forall 0 \leq i < j : w[i..] \models \varphi_1$
 $w \models F\varphi \quad \text{iff } \exists j \geq 0. w[j..] \models \varphi$
 $w \models G\varphi \quad \text{iff } \forall j \geq 0. w[j..] \models \varphi$

A note on negations

for trace w , it holds $w \models \varphi$ iff $w \not\models \neg\varphi$ since

$$\mathcal{L}(\neg\varphi) = (2^{AP})^\omega \setminus \mathcal{L}(\varphi)$$

but: $TS \not\models \varphi$ and $TS \models \neg\varphi$ are **not** equivalent in general
usually it holds: $TS \models \neg\varphi$ implies $TS \not\models \varphi$ but not always the reverse!

example:

- let w_1 and w_2 be two different traces of TS such that $w_1 \models \varphi$ and $w_2 \not\models \varphi$
 - due to w_2 we know $TS \not\models \varphi$
 - due to w_1 we know $w_1 \not\models \neg\varphi$ and hence $TS \not\models \neg\varphi$
- $\Rightarrow TS \not\models \varphi$ and $TS \not\models \neg\varphi$

Example

Equivalence of LTL formulas, Deriving F and G

LTL formulas φ, ψ are **equivalent**, denoted $\varphi \equiv \psi$, iff

$$\mathcal{L}(\varphi) = \mathcal{L}(\psi)$$

- $F\varphi \equiv \text{true} \cup \varphi$
- $G\varphi \equiv \neg(F\neg\varphi) \equiv \neg(\text{true} \cup \neg\varphi)$

Often used constructs

- $GF\varphi$ iff $\forall i \exists j \geq i : w[j..] \models \varphi$ iff
infinitely often φ is satisfied
- $FG\varphi$ iff $\exists i \forall j \geq i : w[j..] \models \varphi$ iff
from some point onwards φ is satisfied

Duality and idempotence laws

duality:

$$\begin{aligned} \neg G\varphi &\equiv F\neg\varphi \\ \neg F\varphi &\equiv G\neg\varphi \\ \neg X\varphi &\equiv X\neg\varphi \end{aligned}$$

idempotency:

$$\begin{aligned} GG\varphi &\equiv G\varphi \\ FF\varphi &\equiv F\varphi \\ \varphi \cup (\varphi \cup \psi) &\equiv \varphi \cup \psi \\ (\varphi \cup \psi) \cup \psi &\equiv \varphi \cup \psi \end{aligned}$$

Absorption and distributive laws

absorption:

$$\begin{aligned} FGF\varphi &\equiv GF\varphi \\ GFG\varphi &\equiv FG\varphi \end{aligned}$$

distribution:

$$\begin{aligned} X(\varphi U \psi) &\equiv X\varphi UX\psi \\ F(\varphi \vee \psi) &\equiv F\varphi \vee F\psi \\ G(\varphi \wedge \psi) &\equiv G\varphi \wedge G\psi \end{aligned}$$

but:

$$\begin{aligned} F(\varphi \wedge \psi) &\not\equiv F\varphi \wedge F\psi \\ G(\varphi \vee \psi) &\not\equiv G\varphi \vee G\psi \end{aligned}$$

Expansion laws

expansion:

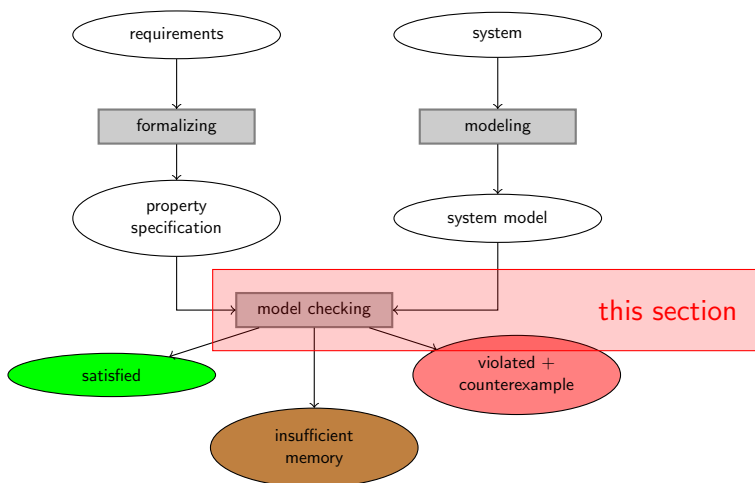
$$\begin{aligned} F\varphi &\equiv \varphi \vee XF\varphi \\ G\varphi &\equiv \varphi \wedge XG\varphi \\ \varphi U \psi &\equiv \psi \vee (\varphi \wedge X(\varphi U \psi)) \end{aligned}$$

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Model checking overview



The requirements of model checking

essentially we need a mechanism to represent $\mathcal{L}(\varphi)$ for LTL formula φ

- possible classes: finite, regular, context-free, context-sensitive, ...
- model checking requires checking $Traces(TS) \subseteq \mathcal{L}(\varphi)$ or equivalently: $Traces(TS) \cap \mathcal{L}(\neg\varphi) = \emptyset$
- ⇒ requirements on class of language
 - closure under intersection
 - emptiness decidable
 - expressive enough to represent $Traces(TS)$ and $\mathcal{L}(\varphi)$
- use **regular languages**, they are closed under all boolean operations
- possible representations of regular languages
 - regular expressions
 - non-recursive grammars
 - **finite automata**

Are GNBA's expressive enough to express LTL?

Safety properties: (refutation by a finite prefix of an ω -word)

1. always at most one traffic light is showing green
 $G \neg(\text{green}_1 \wedge \text{green}_2)$
2. green cannot be directly followed by red
 $\neg F(\text{green} \wedge X \text{red})$

Liveness properties: (refutation only by whole ω -word)

3. we will see green infinitely often
 $G F \text{green}$
4. whenever we select sprite then later on we will get a sprite
 $G(\text{sel_sprite} \Rightarrow X F \text{get_sprite})$

⇒ many interesting properties can be expressed by GNBA's
(and indeed every LTL formula can be translated into equivalent GNBA)

Properties as GNBA's

Model Checking with GNBA

transition system TS and LTL formula φ given

$$\begin{aligned} TS \models \varphi \\ \text{iff } \text{Traces}(TS) \subseteq \mathcal{L}(\varphi) \\ \text{iff } \text{Traces}(TS) \setminus \mathcal{L}(\varphi) = \text{Traces}(TS) \cap \mathcal{L}(\neg\varphi) = \emptyset \end{aligned}$$

\Rightarrow LTL model checking can be done in four steps

1. calculate GNBA \mathcal{A}_{TS} with $\text{Traces}(TS) = \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A}_{TS})$ (Chapter 2)
2. calculate GNBA $\mathcal{A}_{\neg\varphi}$ with $\mathcal{L}(\neg\varphi) = \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A}_{\neg\varphi})$ (this section)
3. calculate GNBA \mathcal{A} for intersection of \mathcal{A}_{TS} and $\mathcal{A}_{\neg\varphi}$ (Chapter 2)
4. perform non-emptiness test for $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A})$ (Chapter 2)

φ -Expansion

idea:

- expand word by new row for each $\psi \in cl(\varphi)$ which is not an atomic proposition
- write truth-values of ψ in i -th column for subword $w[i..]$

Definition

for $w \in (2^n)^\omega$ and LTL-formula φ with $cl(\varphi) = \varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_m$ define the φ -expansion as word $v \in (2^m)^\omega$:

$$v[i]^j = 1 \text{ iff } w[i..] \models \varphi_j$$

($v[i]$ is the i -th letter of the infinite word v ,
and $v[i]^j$ is the j -th component of the vector $v[i]$)

Fischer Ladner Closure

let φ be an LTL formula over $AP = \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$.

Definition

the **Fischer Ladner closure** $cl(\varphi)$ is the list of sub-formulas of φ (starting from small formulas and ending with φ):

$$a_1, \dots, a_n, \dots, \varphi$$

Example

Example

φ -expansion for $\varphi = \neg b \wedge (X a U b)$

Idea of LTL to GNBA Translation

- GNBA guesses the φ -expansion of w
- ... and **checks that guesses are correct** (mostly done locally!)
- ... and demands that value for whole formula is 1 for whole word w

Definition (Consistency Checks)

let $cl(\varphi) = \varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_m$; a sequence of two successive vectors $(b_1, \dots, b_m)^T (c_1, \dots, c_m)^T$ is **consistent w.r.t. $cl(\varphi)$** iff whenever

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_j = \text{true} & \quad \text{then } b_j \\ \varphi_j = \neg \varphi_{j_1} & \quad \text{then } b_j \Leftrightarrow \neg b_{j_1} \\ \varphi_j = \varphi_{j_1} \wedge \varphi_{j_2} & \quad \text{then } b_j \Leftrightarrow (b_{j_1} \wedge b_{j_2}) \\ \varphi_j = X \varphi_{j_1} & \quad \text{then } b_j \Leftrightarrow c_{j_1} \\ \varphi_j = \varphi_{j_1} U \varphi_{j_2} & \quad \text{then } b_j \Leftrightarrow (b_{j_2} \vee (b_{j_1} \wedge c_j)) \end{aligned}$$

(for last check recall expansion law: $\varphi_{j_1} U \varphi_{j_2} \equiv \varphi_{j_2} \vee (\varphi_{j_1} \wedge X(\varphi_{j_1} U \varphi_{j_2}))$)

Consistency Checks and LTL-Models

Lemma

$w \models \varphi$ iff there exists an expansion $v \in (2^m)^\omega$ of w such that

1. $v[i] v[i+1]$ is consistent for all i
2. $v[0]^m = 1$
3. whenever $\varphi_j = \varphi_{j_1} U \varphi_{j_2}$ and $v[i]^j = 1$ then there exists $i' \geq i$ such that $v[i']^{j_2} = 1$

Translating LTL to GNBA

Definition (GNBA for an LTL formula φ)

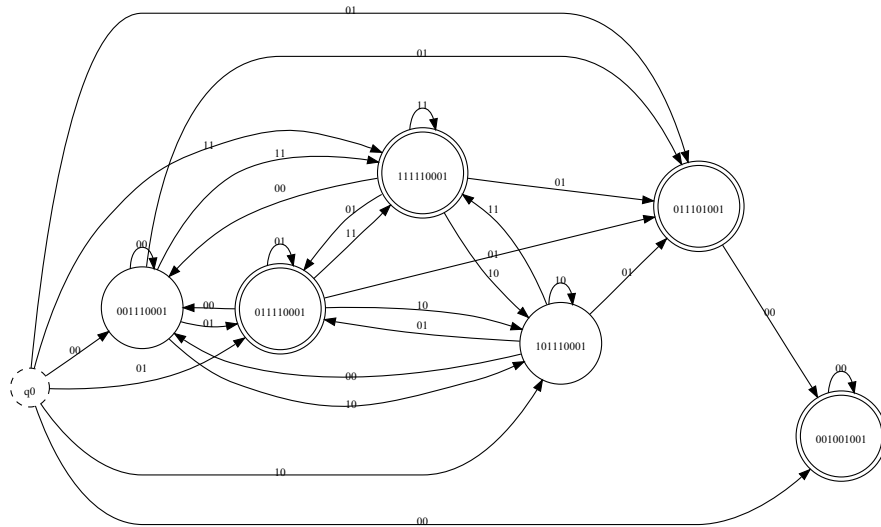
let $cl(\varphi) = a_1, \dots, a_n, \varphi_{n+1}, \dots, \varphi_m$ where $\varphi_m = \varphi$
define $\mathcal{A}_\varphi = (2^m \uplus \{q_0\}, 2^n, q_0, \delta, F_1, \dots, F_k)$ where

- $(c_1, \dots, c_m)^T \in \delta((b_1, \dots, b_m)^T, (d_1, \dots, d_n)^T)$ iff
 1. $c_j \Leftrightarrow d_j$ for all $j \leq n$ (expansion)
 2. $(b_1, \dots, b_m)^T (c_1, \dots, c_m)^T$ is consistent (consistent expansion)
- $(c_1, \dots, c_m)^T \in \delta(q_0, (d_1, \dots, d_n)^T)$ iff
 1. $c_j \Leftrightarrow d_j$ for all $j \leq n$ (expansion)
 2. c_m (φ is satisfied)
- if $\varphi_j = \varphi_{j_1} U \varphi_{j_2}$ is i -th U-subformula in $cl(\varphi)$ then

$$F_i = \{(b_1, \dots, b_m)^T \mid \neg b_j \vee b_{j_2}\}$$

Example

Example (parts of GNBA)



Optimizing the Translation

- observation: many states do not have outgoing transitions
- reason: several inconsistencies due to Boolean conditions
example: if $\varphi_j = \varphi_{j_1} \wedge \varphi_{j_2}$ then b_j cannot be freely chosen; value of b_j is determined by b_{j_1} and b_{j_2}
- idea: take **reduced Fischer-Ladner closure** $cl'(\varphi)$ which only contains
 - atomic propositions
 - X-formulas
 - U-formulas
 - ... and no other formula

and then incorporate the Boolean connectives directly into consistency, final states, ...

Soundness of Translation

Theorem

for every LTL formula φ

$$\mathcal{L}(\varphi) = \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A}_\varphi)$$

Proof of Lemma.

by induction on φ using the consistency checks

Proof of Theorem.

- construction of \mathcal{A}_φ directly corresponds to requirements 1 and 2 in lemma
- remaining difficulty:
show that visiting F_i infinitely often is the same as requirement 3 in lemma for i -th U-subformula $\varphi_j = \varphi_{j_1} \cup \varphi_{j_2}$

Towards an Improved Translation

let $cl'(\varphi) = \varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_m$ over $AP = \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$

Definition (Unwinding)

the **unwinding** of a subformula ψ of φ w.r.t. a vector $B = (b_1, \dots, b_m)$ is defined as $\mathcal{U}_B(\psi)$ where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{U}_B(a_i) &= b_i \text{ for all atomic propositions } a_i \\ \mathcal{U}_B(\text{true}) &= \text{true} \\ \mathcal{U}_B(\neg\psi) &= \neg\mathcal{U}_B(\psi) \\ \mathcal{U}_B(\psi_1 \wedge \psi_2) &= \mathcal{U}_B(\psi_1) \wedge \mathcal{U}_B(\psi_2) \\ \mathcal{U}_B(X\psi) &= b_j \text{ where } n < j \leq m \text{ is the index s.t. } \varphi_j = X\psi \\ \mathcal{U}_B(\psi \cup \chi) &= b_j \text{ where } n < j \leq m \text{ is the index s.t. } \varphi_j = \psi \cup \chi \end{aligned}$$

Towards an Improved Translation (2)

Definition (Compressed Consistency Checks)

let $cl'(\varphi) = \varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_m$; a sequence of two successive vectors
 $B = (b_1, \dots, b_m)^T$ and $C = (c_1, \dots, c_m)^T$ is **consistent w.r.t. $cl'(\varphi)$** iff
 whenever

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_j = X\psi & \text{ then } b_j \Leftrightarrow \mathcal{U}_C(\psi) \\ \varphi_j = \psi U\chi & \text{ then } b_j \Leftrightarrow (\mathcal{U}_B(\chi) \vee (\mathcal{U}_B(\psi) \wedge c_j)) \end{aligned}$$

Example

Improved Translation

Definition

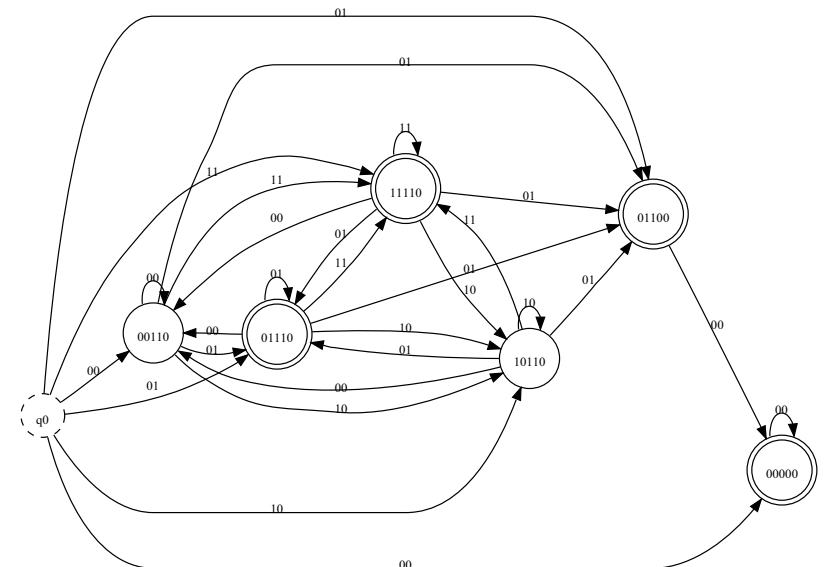
let $cl'(\varphi) = a_1, \dots, a_n, \varphi_{n+1}, \dots, \varphi_m$ define

$\mathcal{A}_\varphi = (2^m \uplus \{q_0\}, 2^n, q_0, \delta, F_1, \dots, F_k)$ where

- $(c_1, \dots, c_m)^T \in \delta((b_1, \dots, b_m)^T, (d_1, \dots, d_n)^T)$ iff
 1. $c_j \Leftrightarrow d_j$ for all $j \leq n$ (expansion)
 2. $(b_1, \dots, b_m)^T (c_1, \dots, c_m)^T$ is **consistent** (consistent expansion)
- $C = (c_1, \dots, c_m)^T \in \delta(q_0, (d_1, \dots, d_n)^T)$ iff
 1. $c_j \Leftrightarrow d_j$ for all $j \leq n$ (expansion)
 2. $\mathcal{U}_C(\varphi)$ (φ is satisfied)
- if $\varphi_j = \psi U\chi$ is i -th U-subformula in $cl(\varphi)$ then

$$F_i = \{B = (b_1, \dots, b_m)^T \mid \neg b_j \vee \mathcal{U}_B(\chi)\}$$

Example GNBA



Soundness of the Improved Transformation

Theorem

both transformations yield essentially the same automata; the only difference is that

- whenever $\varphi_i = \varphi_{i_1} \wedge \varphi_{i_2}$ then the i -th component is missing in the improved transformation; the state without the i -th component of the improved transformation is corresponding to the state $(\dots, b_{i_1}, \dots, b_{i_2}, \dots, b_i, \dots)$ where $b_i = b_{i_1} \wedge b_{i_2}$; moreover, all other states in the non-improved translation where $b_i \neq b_{i_1} \wedge b_{i_2}$ have no outgoing states
- a similar property is true for negations

\Rightarrow soundness of the non-improved translation implies soundness of the improved one

Lower bound

Theorem

there exists a family of LTL formulas φ_n over $AP = \{a\}$ with $|\varphi_n| = \mathcal{O}(\text{poly}(n))$ such that every NBA \mathcal{A}_n with $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A}_n) = \mathcal{L}(\varphi_n)$ has at least 2^n states

Complexity of LTL Model Checking

LTL model Checking: given TS and φ check

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

where

$$\mathcal{A}_1 = \mathcal{A}_{TS}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_2 = \mathcal{A}_{\neg\varphi}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_3 = \mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{A}_1 \cap \mathcal{A}_2}$$

number of states:

$$\mathcal{A}_1 : |TS| + 1$$

$$\mathcal{A}_2 : 2^{|AP|+|\varphi|} + 1 \quad \text{where } |\varphi| \text{ is number of temporal operators in } \varphi$$

$$\mathcal{A}_3 : (|TS| + 1) \cdot (2^{|AP|+|\varphi|} + 1)$$

\Rightarrow total complexity of $\mathcal{O}(|TS| \cdot 2^{|AP|+|\varphi|})$

Proof (1)

Proof (2)

Proving NP-hardness

to prove NP-hardness of problem p one can use a reduction:

1. find another problem q which is known to be NP-hard
2. reduce q to p in polynomial time, i.e., find a mapping $\mu : q \rightarrow p$ such that
 - q has a positive answer iff $\mu(q)$ has a positive answer
 - μ can be computed in polynomial time

Is Bad Complexity a Result of Automata Approach? **No!**

Theorem

the inverted LTL model checking problem

$$TS \not\models \varphi$$

is NP-hard

Corollary

the LTL model checking problem $TS \models \varphi$ is coNP-hard

\Rightarrow assuming $P \neq NP$, LTL model checking cannot be done in polynomial time

NP-Hardness of “ $TS \not\models \varphi$ ”

Example

... But There is a Limit

Theorem

the LTL model checking problem $TS \models \varphi$ is PSPACE-complete

Complexity is Even Worse ...

Theorem (Sistla, Clarke)

the LTL model checking problem $TS \models \varphi$ is PSPACE-hard

Summary

- LTL is a logic for specifying the allowed traces of a system; it extends propositional logic by temporal operators like X and U
- LTL model checking can be done by constructing a GNBA and then checking whether this GNBA accepts at least one word, the counterexample
- LTL model checking is PSPACE-complete