Lecture 3

Automata-Based Representation of Linear-Time Properties and Linear Temporal Logic (LTL)

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Outline

- Automata-based representation of linear-time properties
- Syntax and semantics of LTL
- Specifying properties in LTL
- Equivalence of LTL formulas
- Fairness in LTL
- •Other temporal logics (if time)



Principles of Model Checking, Christel Baier and Joost-Pieter Katoen. MIT Press, 2008.

Chapter 5

Representations of linear-time properties

Two more representations of linear-time properties:

 Automata-based:
readable by machine

 Linear temporal logic (LTL): readable by humans

•LTL is a formal language for describing linear-time properties

• It provides particularly useful operators for constructing linear-time properties without explicitly specifying sets (of, e.g., infinite sequences of subsets of atomic propositions)



Nondeterministic finite automaton (NFA)

A nondeterministic finite automaton $\mathcal{A} = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, Q_0, F)$ is a tuple with

- A is a set of states,
- Σ is an alphabet,
- $\delta: Q \times \Sigma \to 2^Q$ is a transition function,
- $Q_0 \subseteq Q$ is a set of initial states, and
- $F \subseteq Q$ is a set of accept (or: final) states.

set of finite words

Let $w = A_1 \dots A_n \in \Sigma^*$ be a finite word. A *run* for w in \mathcal{A} is a finite sequence of states $q_0q_1 \dots q_n$ s.t.

$$- q_0 \in Q_0$$

- $q_i \xrightarrow{A_{i+1}} q_{i+1}$ for all $0 \le i < n$.

A run $q_0q_1 \ldots q_n$ is called accepting if $q_n \in F$.

A finite word in accepted if it leads to an accepting run.

The accepted language $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A})$ of \mathcal{A} is the set of finite words in Σ^* accepted by \mathcal{A} .



Regular safety properties

A set $\mathcal{L} \subseteq \Sigma^*$ of finite strings is called a regular language \mathcal{L} if there is a nondeterministic finite automaton \mathcal{A} s.t. $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A})$.

A safety property P_{safe} over AP is called *regular* if its set of bad prefixes constitutes a regular language over 2^{AP} .

That is: \exists NFA \mathcal{A} s.t. $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A}) = \text{bad prefixes of } P_{safe}$

Example: AP = {red, green, yellow} "Each red must be preceded immediately by a yellow" is a regular safety property.

Sample bad prefixes:

- {}{}{red}
- {}{red}
- {yellow}{yellow}{green}{red}

• $A_0A_1 \dots A_n$ s.t. $n > 0, red \in A_n$, and $yellow \notin A_{n-1}$

general form of minimal bad prefixes





language (set of

finite words)

accepted by

the NFA

Verifying regular safety properties

Given a transition system TS and a regular safety property P_{safe} , both over the atomic propositions AP.

Let \mathcal{A} be an NFA s.t. $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{A}) = BadPref(P_{safe}).$



For words w and σ , w. σ denotes their concatenation.

<u>Safety</u>

state condition

something bad never happens <u>Liveness</u>

something good will happen eventually

violated at individual states

any infinite run violating the property has a finite prefix

violated only by infinite runs

verification: find the reachable states and check the invariant condition verification: based on nondeterministic finite automaton which accepts "finite runs" verification:

?

Nondeterministic Buchi automaton (NBA)

A nondeterministic Buchi automaton is same as an NFA $\mathcal{A} = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, Q_0, F)$ with its runs interpreted differently.

Let $w = A_1 A_2 \ldots \in \Sigma^{\omega}$ be an infinite string. A *run* for w in \mathcal{A} is an infinite sequence $q_0 q_1 \ldots$ of states s.t.

- $q_0 \in Q_0$ and - $q_0 \xrightarrow{A_1} q_1 \xrightarrow{A_2} q_2 \xrightarrow{A_3} \dots$

A run is *accepting* if $q_j \in F$ for infinitely many j.

A string w is accepted by \mathcal{A} if there is an accepting run of w in \mathcal{A} .

 $\mathcal{L}_{\omega}(\mathcal{A})$: set of infinite strings accepted by \mathcal{A} .

A set of infinite string $\mathcal{L}_{\omega} \subseteq \Sigma^{\omega}$ is called an ω -regular language if there is an NBA \mathcal{A} s.t. $\mathcal{L}_{\omega} = \mathcal{L}_{\omega}(\mathcal{A})$.

The NBA on the right accepts the infinite words satisfying the LT property: "infinitely often green."



NBA: $\mathcal{A} = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, Q_0, F)$

ω -regular properties

An LT property P over AP is called ω -regular if P is an ω -regular language over 2^{AP} .

Invariant, regular safety, and various liveness properties are ω -regular.

Let P be an ω -regular property and \mathcal{A} be an NBA that represents the "bad traces" for P.

Basic idea behind model checking ω -regular properties:

$$TS \not\models P \quad \text{if and only if} \quad Traces(TS) \not\subseteq P$$

if and only if
$$Traces(TS) \cap \left((2^{AP})^{\omega} \setminus P \right) \neq \emptyset$$

if and only if
$$Traces(TS) \cap \overline{P} \neq \emptyset$$

if and only if
$$Traces(TS) \cap \mathcal{L}_{\omega}(\mathcal{A}) \neq \emptyset$$

<u>Safety</u>

state condition

something bad never happens <u>Liveness</u>

something good will happen eventually

violated at individual states

any infinite run violating the property has a finite prefix

violated only by infinite runs

verification: find the reachable states and check the invariant condition verification: based on nondeterministic finite automaton which accepts "finite runs"

verification: based on nondeterministic Buchi automaton which accepts infinite runs

Representations of linear-time properties

Two more representations of linear-time properties:

 Automata-based:
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 Linear temporal logic (LTL): readable by humans

•LTL is a formal language for describing linear-time properties

• It provides particularly useful operators for constructing linear-time properties without explicitly specifying sets (of, e.g., infinite sequences of subsets of atomic propositions)



Temporal logic

Two key operators in temporal logic

- $\cdot \diamond$ "eventually" a property is satisfied at some point in the future
- \cdot "always" a property is satisfied now and forever into the future

"Temporal" refers underlying nature of time

- *Linear* temporal logic \Rightarrow each moment in time has a well-defined successor moment
- Branching temporal logic \Rightarrow reason about multiple possible time courses
- "Temporal" here refers to "ordered events"; no explicit notion of time

LTL = linear temporal logic

- Specific class of operators for specifying linear time properties
- Introduced by Pneuli in the 1970s (recently passed away)
- Large collection of tools for specification, design, analysis

Other temporal logics

- CTL = computation tree logic (branching time; will see later, if time)
- •TCTL = timed CTL check to make sure certain events occur in a certain time
- TLA = temporal logic of actions (Lamport) [variant of LTL]
- µ calculus = add "least fixed point" operator (more tomorrow)

Syntax of LTL

LTL formulas:

 $\varphi ::= \operatorname{true} \left| \begin{array}{c|c} a & \varphi_1 \wedge \varphi_2 & \neg \varphi & \bigcirc \varphi & \varphi_1 \cup \varphi_2 \end{array} \right|$

- a = atomic proposition
- \bigcirc = "next": φ is true at next step
- •U = "until": ϕ_2 is true at some point, ϕ_1 is true until that time

Formula evaluation: evaluate LTL propositions over a sequence of subsets of atomic propositions



Additional operators and formulas

Derived temporal logic operators

- Eventually $\Diamond \varphi := true U \varphi \quad \varphi$ will become true at some point in the future
- •Always $\Box \varphi := \neg \Diamond \neg \varphi$ φ is always true; "(never (eventually $(\neg \varphi)$))"



Some common composite operators

- $p \rightarrow \Diamond q$ p implies eventually q (response)
- $\cdot p \rightarrow q U r$ p implies q until r (precedence)
- □◊p always eventually p (progress)
- ◊□p eventually always p (stability)
- $\diamond p \rightarrow \diamond q$ eventually p implies eventually q (correlation)

Operator precedence

•Unary binds stronger than binary

¬ φ₁ U ◯ φ₂ = (¬ φ₁)U (◯ φ₂)

- Bind from right to left:
 □◊p = (□ (◊p))
 p U q U r = p U (q U r)
- •U takes precedence over \land, \lor and \rightarrow

Semantics: when does a path satisfy an LTL spec?

Let ϕ be an LTL formula over *AP*. The linear-time property induced by ϕ is

Words(
$$\varphi$$
) = $\left\{ \sigma \in (2^{AP})^{\omega} \mid \sigma \models \varphi \right\}$

where the satisfaction relation is the smallest relation with the properties

For derived operators:

$$\sigma \models \Diamond \varphi \quad \text{iff} \quad \exists j \ge 0. \ \sigma[j \dots] \models \varphi$$
$$\sigma \models \Box \varphi \quad \text{iff} \quad \forall j \ge 0. \ \sigma[j \dots] \models \varphi.$$

$$\sigma \models \Box \Diamond \varphi \quad \text{iff} \quad \stackrel{\infty}{\exists} j. \sigma[j...] \models \varphi$$
$$\sigma \models \Diamond \Box \varphi \quad \text{iff} \quad \stackrel{\infty}{\forall} j. \sigma[j...] \models \varphi.$$

Sample derivation: $\sigma \models \Box \varphi = \neg \Diamond \neg \varphi \quad \text{iff} \quad \neg \exists j \ge 0. \ \sigma[j \dots] \models \neg \varphi \\ \quad \text{iff} \quad \neg \exists j \ge 0. \ \sigma[j \dots] \not\models \varphi \\ \quad \text{iff} \quad \forall j \ge 0. \ \sigma[j \dots] \models \varphi.$

$$\overset{\infty}{\exists} j \text{ means } \forall i \ge 0. \ \exists j \ge i.$$
$$\overset{\infty}{\forall} j \text{ means } \exists i \ge 0. \ \forall j \ge i.$$

Semantics: when does a system satisfy an LTL spec?

Let $TS = (S, Act, \rightarrow, I, AP, L)$ be a transition system without terminal states, and let φ be an LTL-formula over AP.

• For infinite path fragment π of TS, the satisfaction relation is defined by

 $\pi \models \varphi$ iff $trace(\pi) \models \varphi$.

• For state $s \in S$, the satisfaction relation \models is defined by

 $s \models \varphi$ iff $(\forall \pi \in Paths(s), \pi \models \varphi).$

• TS satisfies φ , denoted $TS \models \varphi$, if $Traces(TS) \subseteq Words(\varphi)$.

Putting together:

```
TS \models \varphi
Traces(TS) \subseteq Words(\varphi)
TS \models \psi \text{ for all } \pi \in Paths(TS)
S_0 \models \varphi \text{ for all } s_0 \in I.
[Bullet 3 above]
[Definition of satisfaction for LT properties]
[Definition of Words(\varphi)]
[Bullet 2 above]
```

Example: traffic light

System description

- Focus on lights in on particular direction
- ·Light can be any of three colors: green, yellow, read
- Atomic propositions = light color

Ordering specifications

•Liveness: "traffic light is green infinitely often"

□◊green

• Chronological ordering: "once red, the light cannot become green immediately"

 \Box (red $\rightarrow \neg \bigcirc$ green)

 More detailed: "once red, the light always becomes green eventually after being yellow for some time"

```
\Box(red \rightarrow (\Diamond green \land (\neg green U yellow)))
```

```
\Box (\text{red} \rightarrow \bigcirc (\text{red U} (\text{yellow } \land \bigcirc (\text{yellow U green}))))
```

Progress property

Every request will eventually lead to a response

 \Box (request \rightarrow \diamond response)



Example: autonomous navigation

Specify safe, allowable, required, or desired behavior of system and/ or environment.



Traffic rules:

- No collision $\Box (\operatorname{dist}(x, \operatorname{Obs}) \ge X_{\operatorname{safe}} \land \operatorname{dist}(x, \operatorname{Loc}(\operatorname{Veh})) \ge X_{\operatorname{safe}})$
- Obey speed limits

$$\Box (\operatorname{dist}(x, \operatorname{Obs}) \ge \Lambda_{\operatorname{safe}} \land \operatorname{dist}(x, \operatorname{Loc}(\operatorname{Ven})) \ge \Lambda_{\operatorname{sa}}$$
$$\Box ((x \in \operatorname{Reduced}\operatorname{Speed}\operatorname{Zone}) \to (v < v_{\operatorname{reduced}}))$$

- Stay in travel lane unless blocked
- Intersection precedence & merging, stop line, passing,...

Goals:

- Eventually visit the check point $\Diamond(x = ck_pt)$
- Every time check point is reached, eventually come to start $\Box((x = ck_pt) \rightarrow \Diamond(x = start))$

Environment assumptions:

- Each intersection is clear infinitely often $\Box \Diamond (Intersection = empty)$
- Limited sensing range, detect obstacles before too late,...





Property 1: TS |= [] a?

• Yes, all states are labeled with a

Property 2: TS |= X (a ^ b)?

• No: From s2 or s3, there are transitions for which a ^ b doesn't hold

Property 3: TS |= [] (!b -> [](a ^ !b))?

• True

Property 4: TS |= b U (a ^ !b)?

• False: (s1s2)^ω

Equivalence of LTL formulas

LTL formulae φ_1, φ_2 are equivalent, denoted $\varphi_1 \equiv \varphi_2$, if $Words(\varphi_1) = Words(\varphi_2)$.

duality law	idempotency law			
$\neg \bigcirc \varphi \equiv \bigcirc \neg \varphi$	$\Diamond \Diamond \varphi \equiv \Diamond \varphi$			
$\neg \Diamond \varphi \equiv \Box \neg \varphi$	$\Box \Box \varphi \equiv \Box \varphi$			
$\neg \Box \varphi \equiv \Diamond \neg \varphi$	$\varphi U(\varphi U \psi) \equiv \varphi U \psi$			
	$(\varphi U \psi) U \psi \ \equiv \ \varphi U \psi$			
absorption law	expansion law			
$\Diamond \Box \Diamond \varphi \equiv \Box \Diamond \varphi$	$\varphi U \psi \equiv \psi \lor (\varphi \land \bigcirc (\varphi U \psi))$			
$\Box \Diamond \Box \varphi \equiv \Diamond \Box \varphi$	$\Diamond \psi \equiv \psi \lor \bigcirc \Diamond \psi$			
	$\Box \psi \equiv \psi \land \bigcirc \Box \psi$			
distributive law Non-identities				
$\bigcirc (\varphi \cup \psi) \equiv (\bigcirc \varphi) \cup (\bigcirc \psi) \bullet \Diamond (a \land b) \neq \Diamond a \land \Diamond b$				
$\Diamond(\varphi \lor \psi) \equiv \Diamond \varphi \lor$	◊ψ ■ □(a ∨ b) ≠ □a ∨ □b			
$\Box(\varphi \wedge \psi) \equiv \Box \varphi /$	$\wedge \Box \psi$			

Specifying timed properties for synchronous systems

For synchronous systems, LTL can be used as a formalism to specify "real-time" properties that refer to a discrete time scale. Recall that in synchronous systems, the involved processes proceed in a lock step fashion, i.e., at each discrete time instance each process performs a (sometimes idle) step. In this kind of system, the next-step operator \bigcirc has a "timed" interpretation: $\bigcirc \varphi$ states that "at the next time instant φ holds". By putting applications of \bigcirc in sequence, we obtain, e.g.:

$$\bigcirc^{k} \varphi \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \underbrace{\bigcirc \bigcirc \ldots \bigcirc}_{k-\text{times}} \varphi \qquad \text{``φ holds after (exactly) k time instants".}$$

Assertions like " φ will hold within at most k time instants" are obtained by

$$\Diamond^{\leqslant k} \varphi = \bigvee_{0 \leqslant i \leqslant k} \bigcirc^i \varphi.$$

Statements like " φ holds now and will hold during the next k instants" can be represented as follows:

$$\Box^{\leqslant k}\varphi = \neg \Diamond^{\leqslant k} \neg \varphi = \neg \bigvee_{0 \leqslant i \leqslant k} \bigcirc^{i} \neg \varphi.$$

Fairness

Mainly an issue with concurrent processes

- To make sure that the proper interaction occurs, often need to know that each process gets executed reasonably often
- Multi-threaded execution: each thread should receive some fraction of processes time
- To rule out unrealistic behavior



Examples:

- •N processors sharing a service: ensure each processor gets access to the service
- In a distributed protocol, ensure that each agent communicates with its "neighbors" regularly (infinitely often)
- •Autonomous car at an intersection: ensure the intersection clears or the lights turn green in the future

Two issues:

- Implementation: How do we implement our algorithms to insure that we get "fairness" in execution?
- Specification: How do we model fairness in a formal way to reason about program correctness?

Fairness properties & their LTL representation

Let Φ and Ψ be propositional logical formulas over a set of atomic propositions

Unconditional fairness	"Every process gets its turn infinitely often."	ufair = $\Box \Diamond \Psi$.
Strong fairness	"Every process that is enabled infinitely often gets its turn infinitely often."	sfair = $\Box \Diamond \Phi \longrightarrow \Box \Diamond \Psi$.
Weak fairness	"Every process that is continuously enabled from a certain time on gets its turn infinitely often."	wfair = $\Diamond \Box \Phi \longrightarrow \Box \Diamond \Psi$.

An LTL fairness assumption:

fair = ufair \land sfair \land wfair.

Rules of thumb

- strong (or unconditional) fairness: useful for solving contentions
- weak fairness: sufficient for resolving the non-determinism due to interleaving (i.e., a possible option is not consistently ignored)

$LTL \rightarrow Nondeterministic Buchi automata$

Theorem. There exists an algorithm that takes an LTL formula Φ and returns a Büchi automaton \mathcal{A} such that

 $Words(\Phi) = \mathcal{L}_{\omega}(\mathcal{A})$



A tool for constructing Buchi automata from LTL formulas: LTL2BA [http://www.lsv.ens-cachan.fr/~gastin/ltl2ba/index.php]

Branching time and computation tree logic (CTL)

LTL formulas are interpreted over paths; hence, there is a clear (and linear) notion of ordering of events over time.

Interpretation an LTL formula at a state: all paths starting from the state satisfy the formula.



LTL does not allow complicated quantification over the paths.

•E.g., "For every execution it is always possible to return to the initial state" cannot be specified in LTL.

Computation tree logic (CTL) allows evaluation over some or all paths.



Example: triply redundant control systems

Systems consists of three processors and a single voter

- si,j = i processors up, j voters up
- Assume processors fail one at a time; voter can fail at any time
- If voter fails, reset to fully functioning state (all three processors up)
- System in operation if at least 2 processors remain operational

Properties we might like to prove





Other types of temporal logic

CTL ≠ LTL

- Can show that LTL and CTL are not proper subsets of each other
- LTL reasons over a complete path; CTL from a give state



CTL* captures both

$$\Phi ::= \mathrm{true} \quad a \quad \Phi_1 \wedge \Phi_2 \quad \neg \Phi \quad \exists \varphi \qquad \varphi ::= \Phi \quad \varphi_1 \wedge \varphi_2 \quad \neg \varphi \quad \bigcirc \varphi \quad \varphi_1 \, \mathsf{U} \, \varphi_2$$

Timed Computational Tree Logic

- Extend notions of transition systems and CTL to include "clocks" (multiple clocks OK)
- Transitions can depend on the value of clocks
- Can require that certain properties happen within a given time window

 $\forall \Box (far \longrightarrow \forall \Diamond^{\leq 1} \forall \Box^{\leq 1} up)$



Summary: specifying behavior with (linear) temporal logic

Description

- State of the system is a snapshot of values of all variables
- Reason about *paths* σ : sequence of states of the system
- No strict notion of time, just ordering of events
- Actions are relations between states: state s is related to state t by action a if a takes s to t (via prime notation: x' = x + 1)
- Formulas (specifications) describe the set of allowable behaviors
- Safety specification: what actions are allowed
- Fairness specification: when can a component take an action (eg, infinitely often)

Example

- Action: *a* ≡ x' = x + 1
- Behavior: $\sigma \equiv x := 1, x := 2, x := 3, ...$
- Safety: $\Box x > 0$ (true for this behavior)
- Fairness: $\Box(x' = x + 1 \lor x' = x) \land \Box \Diamond (x' \neq x)$

- $\Box p \equiv always p$ (invariance)
- $\Diamond p = eventually p$ (guarantee)
- *p* → ◊*q* = *p* implies eventually *q* (response)
- $p \rightarrow q \ \mathcal{U} r \equiv p$ implies q until r (precedence)
- □◊p = always eventually p (progress)
- ◊□p = eventually always p (stability)
- ◊p → ◊q = eventually p implies eventually q (correlation)

Properties

- Can reason about time by adding "time variables" (t' = t + 1)
- Specifications and proofs can be difficult to interpret by hand, but computer tools existing (eg, TLC, Isabelle, PVS, SPIN, nuSMV, etc)