

# MODEL-CHECKING GAMES

Seminar on Games in Verification and Synthesis  
(University of Saarland, Reactive Systems Group, Klaus Draeger)

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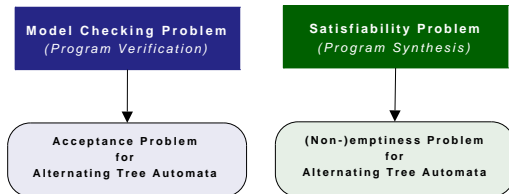
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A model checking/synthesis approach:

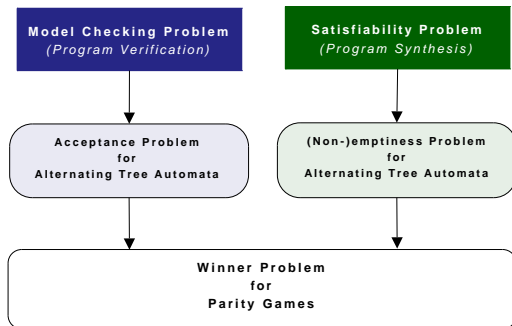
**Model Checking Problem**  
*(Program Verification)*

**Satisfiability Problem**  
*(Program Synthesis)*

A model checking/synthesis approach:



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# MODEL CHECKING APPROACH

For a system  $\mathcal{S}$  and a specification  $\mathcal{P}$ , decide whether  $\mathcal{S}$  satisfies  $\mathcal{P}$ , where:

- models of systems are represented as **Kripke structures**, and
- specifications are described in **modal  $\mu$ -calculus**

# KRIPKE STRUCTURES

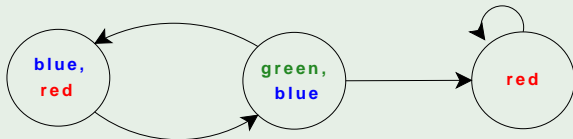
## Definition

A Kripke structure is a tuple  $\mathcal{K} = (W, A, \kappa)$  where:

- $W$  is a set of *worlds*
- $A \subseteq W \times W$  is an *accessibility relation*
- $\kappa: \mathcal{Q} \rightarrow 2^W$  is an *interpretation* of the propositional variables, which assigns to each propositional variable the set of worlds where it holds true

A *pointed Kripke structure* is a pair  $(\mathcal{K}, \omega)$  where  $\mathcal{K}$  is a Kripke structure and  $\omega$  a world of it; a *Kripke query* is a class of pointed Kripke structures

## Example



*Modal  $\mu$ -calculus* is a temporal logic augmented by operators for least and greatest fixed points

- Used to express properties of *Kripke structures*
- Very expressive
  - LTL, CTL and CTL\* can be encoded in the  $\mu$ -calculus
  - as expressive as *alternating tree automata* (later)



## Syntax

Let  $Var$  be a set of fixed point variables,  $Prop$  be a set of propositional variables:

$$\varphi, \psi \in \mathcal{L}_\mu ::= \perp \mid \top \mid X \mid p \mid \neg p \mid \varphi \wedge \psi \mid \varphi \vee \psi \mid \Box \varphi \mid \Diamond \varphi \mid \mu X \varphi \mid \nu X \varphi$$

where  $p \in Prop$ ,  $X \in Var$  and  $\mu$  ( $\nu$ ) is the least (greatest) fixed point operator

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Let  $K$  be a Kripke structure, then  $\varphi \in \mathcal{L}_\mu$  is evaluated to  $\|\varphi\|_K \subseteq \mathcal{W}^K$  in  $K$

**Atomic formulas:**

- $\|\perp\|_K = \emptyset, \quad \|\top\|_K = \mathcal{W}^K$

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- $\|\perp\|_K = \emptyset$ ,       $\|\top\|_K = \mathcal{W}^K$
- $\|p\|_K = \kappa^K(p)$ ,       $\|\neg p\|_K = \mathcal{W}^K \setminus \kappa^K(p)$

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### Modal operators:

- $\|\Box \varphi\|_K = \{ w \in \mathcal{W}^K \mid SCS_K(w) \subseteq \|\varphi\|_K \}$

( $SCS_K(w)$ : is the set of all successors of  $w$  in  $K$ )

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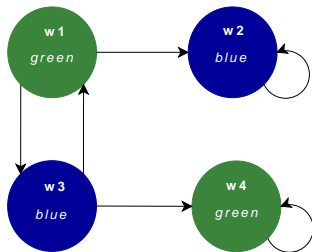
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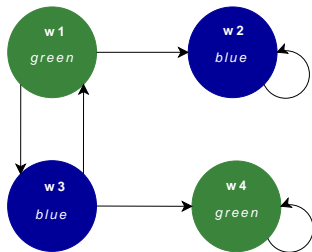
# MODAL $\mu$ -CALCULUS - EXAMPLE



- $\varphi_0 = \mu x(\Box x)$

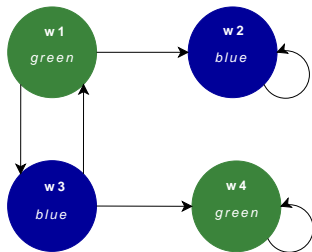


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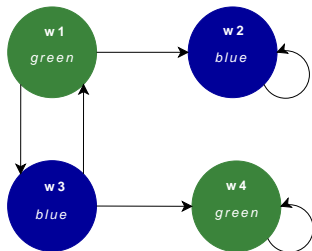
- $\varphi_0 = \mu x(\Box x)$ 
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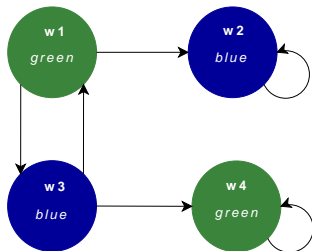
- $\varphi_0 = \mu x(\Box x)$ 
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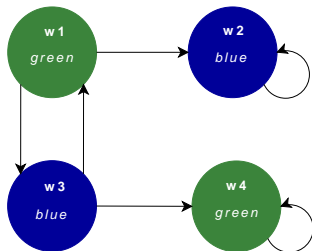
- $\varphi_0 = \mu x(\Box x)$ 
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  - $\|\varphi_1\|_K = \{w_4\}$ , (CTL:  $\forall \Box \mathbf{green}$ )

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- $\varphi_2 = \mu x(\nu y(\mathbf{green} \wedge \Box y) \vee \Diamond x)$ 
  - $\|\varphi_2\|_K = \{w_1, w_3, w_4\}$ , (CTL:  $\exists \Diamond \forall \Box \mathbf{green}$ )

- Alternating tree automata are finite-state devices designed to accept or reject pointed Kripke structures
- They can deal with arbitrary branching in a very natural way

## Definition

An alternating tree automaton (ATA) is a tuple  $\mathcal{A} = (S, s_I, \delta, \Omega)$  where:

- $S$  is a finite set of *states*
- $s_I$  is an *initial state*
- $\delta$  is a *transition function*
- $\Omega: S \rightarrow \omega$  is a *priority function*, which assigns a *priority* to each state

The transition function  $\delta$  maps every state to a transition condition over  $S$  where the set of all *transition conditions* over  $S$  contains conditions of the form:

$$0, 1, q, \neg q, s, \Box s, \Diamond s, s \wedge s', s \vee s'$$

for every  $s, s' \in S$  and for every  $q \in \mathcal{Q}$

# ALTERNATING TREE AUTOMATA

## Runs

A *run* of an ATA  $\mathcal{A}$  on  $(\mathcal{K}, w_0)$  is a  $(W \times S)$ -vertex labeled tree  $R = (V^R, E^R, \lambda^R)$  where the initial vertex is labeled by  $(w_0, s_0)$  and every vertex  $v$  with label  $(w, s)$  the following conditions are satisfied ( $\delta(s) \neq 0$ ):

$\delta(s)$	Condition
$q$	$w \in \kappa^K(q)$
$\neg q$	$w \notin \kappa^K(q)$
$\diamond s'$	there exists $v' \in SCS_R(v)$ such that $s^R(v') = s'$ and $w^R(v') \in SCS_K(w)$
$\square s'$	for every $w' \in SCS_K(w)$ there exists $v' \in SCS_R(v)$ such that $\lambda(v') = (w', s')$

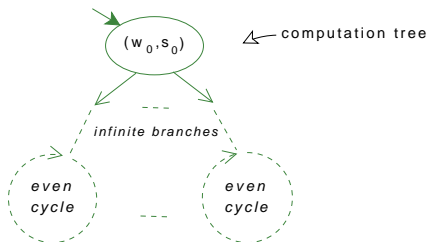


## Runs (contd.)

$\delta(s)$	Condition
$s' \vee s''$	there exists $v' \in \text{Scs}_R(v)$ such that $\lambda(v') = (w, s')$ or $\lambda(v') = (w, s'')$
$s' \wedge s''$	there exists $v', v'' \in \text{Scs}_R(v)$ such that $\lambda(v') = (w, s')$ and $\lambda(v'') = (w, s'')$

# ALTERNATING TREE AUTOMATA

- A run is accepting if the state labeling of every infinite branch through  $R$  satisfies the parity acceptance condition determined by  $\Omega$



# TRANSLATION: FROM $\mu$ -CALCULUS TO ATAs

Constructing an alternating tree automaton for every  $\mathcal{L}_\mu$  formula that recognizes the exact query that the formula defines is straightforward (proof is more complicated)

## Example

Let  $\varphi = \mu q_1(q_0 \vee \diamond q_1)$ . Construct the corresponding automaton  $\mathcal{A}$ .

- We construct a state  $\langle \psi \rangle$  for every subformula  $\psi$  of  $\varphi$ :

$\langle \mu q_1(q_0 \vee \diamond q_1) \rangle, \langle q_0 \vee \diamond q_1 \rangle, \langle q_0 \rangle, \langle \diamond q_1 \rangle, \langle q_1 \rangle$

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- The transition function is given by:

$$\begin{aligned}\delta(\langle \mu q_1(q_0 \vee \diamond q_1) \rangle) &= \langle q_0 \vee \diamond q_1 \rangle, \\ \delta(\langle q_0 \vee \diamond q_1 \rangle) &= \langle q_0 \rangle \vee \langle \diamond q_1 \rangle, \\ \delta(\langle q_0 \rangle) &= q_0, \\ \delta(\langle \diamond q_1 \rangle) &= \diamond \langle q_1 \rangle, \\ \delta(\langle q_1 \rangle) &= \langle \mu q_1(q_0 \vee \diamond q_1) \rangle\end{aligned}$$

## Example (contd.)

- The definition of the transition function can be shortened to:

$$\begin{aligned}\delta(\langle \mu q_1(q_0 \vee \diamond q_1) \rangle) &= \langle q_0 \rangle \vee \langle \diamond q_1 \rangle, \\ \delta(\langle q_0 \rangle) &= q_0, \\ \delta(\langle \diamond q_1 \rangle) &= \diamond \langle \mu q_1(q_0 \vee \diamond q_1) \rangle\end{aligned}$$

- $\langle \mu q_1(q_0 \vee \diamond q_1) \rangle$  is the initial state; it gets priority 1 (all other states get priority 0)

# REDUCTION TO THE ACCEPTANCE PROBLEM (ATAs)

The model checking problem can be reduced to the acceptance problem for alternating tree automata:

MODEL CHECKING: given a finite pointed Kripke structure  $(\mathcal{K}, w)$  and an  $\mathcal{L}_\mu$  formula  $\varphi$ , determine whether or not  $(\mathcal{K}, w) \models \varphi$

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ACCEPTS: given a finite pointed Kripke structure  $(\mathcal{K}, w)$  and an alternating tree automaton  $\mathcal{A}$ , determine whether  $\mathcal{A}$  accepts  $(\mathcal{K}, w)$

## Definition

Formally, a *parity game* is a tuple  $\mathcal{P} = (L_0, L_1, l_I, M, \Omega)$  where:

- $L_0$  and  $L_1$  are disjoint sets, the sets of Player 0's and Player 1's locations, resp.
- $l_I \in L_0 \cup L_1$  is an *initial location*
- $M \subseteq (L_0 \cup L_1) \times (L_0 \cup L_1)$  is a set of *moves*, and
- $\Omega: (L_0 \cup L_1) \rightarrow \omega$  is a *priority function* with a finite range.

$\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{P})$  is a directed graph called the *game graph* of  $\mathcal{P}$ .

- A *partial play* of  $\mathcal{P}$  is a path through  $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{P})$  starting with  $l_I$
- A *play* of  $\mathcal{P}$  is a maximum path through  $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{P})$  starting with  $l_I$



- A play  $p$  is *winning* for Player 0 if it is infinite and  $\text{sup}(p\Omega)$  is even or it is finite and  $p(*) \in L_1$
- A play  $p$  is *winning* for Player 1 if it is infinite and  $\text{sup}(p\Omega)$  is odd or it is finite and  $p(*) \in L_0$
- A *winning strategy* for Player 0 makes sure that whatever Player 1 does in a play, it will be a win for Player 0

A *strategy tree* for Player 0 in  $\mathcal{P}$  is a tree  $\mathcal{T}$  satisfying the following conditions:

- The root of  $\mathcal{T}$  is labeled  $l_1$
- Every  $v \in V^T$  with  $\lambda^T(v) \in L_0$  has a successor in  $\mathcal{T}$  labeled with a successor of  $\lambda^T(v)$  in  $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{P})$  (Player 0 must move when it is his turn)
- Every  $v \in V^T$  with  $\lambda^T(v) \in L_1$  has, for every successor  $l$  of  $\lambda^T(v)$  in  $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{P})$  a successor in  $\mathcal{T}$  labeled  $l$  (all options of player 1 have to be taken into account)

Winning conditions:

- A branch  $v$  of  $\mathcal{T}$  is *winning* if its labeling, which is a play is winning
- A strategy tree  $\mathcal{T}$  for Player 0 is *winning* if every branch through  $\mathcal{T}$  is winning
- Player 0 wins a game  $\mathcal{P}$  if there exists a winning strategy tree for him

# REDUCTION OF THE ACCEPTANCE PROBLEM

- Construct a game  $\mathcal{P} = (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{K}, w_I)$  such that Player 0 wins if and only if  $\mathcal{A}$  accepts  $(\mathcal{K}, w_I)$
- **Choices of Player 0:** correspond to the choices  $\mathcal{A}$  has to make when in a transition condition it has to satisfy a disjunction or a  $\diamond$  requirement
- **Choices of Player 1:** correspond to the choices  $\mathcal{A}$  has to make when in a transition condition it has to satisfy a conjunctions or  $\square$  requirements

# REDUCTION OF THE ACCEPTANCE PROBLEM

Formally,  $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{K}, w_I) = (L_0, L_1, (w_I^K, s_I^A), M, \Omega)$  where:

- $L_0$  is the set of all pairs  $(w, s)$  where  $\delta(s)$  is of the form  $0, q$  with  $q \notin \kappa^K(w)$ ,  $\neg q$  with  $q \in \kappa^K(w)$ ,  $s' \vee s''$ , or  $\diamond s$ ; this also determines  $L_1$
- The successors of a location  $(w, s)$  are determined by the following rules:

$\delta(s)$	Condition
$0, 1, q$ or $\neg q$	$(w, s)$ has no successors
$s'$	$(w, s)$ has one successor $(w, s')$
$s' \vee s'' (s' \wedge s'')$	$(w, s)$ has two successors $(w, s')$ and $(w, s'')$
$\diamond s' (\Box s')$	$(w, s)$ has a successor $(w', s')$ for every $w' \in \text{Scs}_K(w)$

- The priority function  $\Omega$  maps  $(w, s)$  to  $\Omega^A(s)$

# REDUCTION OF THE ACCEPTANCE PROBLEM

Accepting runs of  $\mathcal{A}$  on  $(\mathcal{K}, w)$  and winning strategy trees for Player 0 in  $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{K}, w)$  are identical; the acceptance problem for ATAs can be reduced to the winner problem for parity games:

ACCEPTS: given a finite pointed Kripke structure  $(\mathcal{K}, w)$  and an alternating tree automaton  $\mathcal{A}$ , determine whether  $\mathcal{A}$  accepts  $(\mathcal{K}, w)$

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WINS: given a finite parity game  $\mathcal{P}$ , determine whether or not Player 0 wins the game  $\mathcal{P}$

- Model checking modal  $\mu$ -calculus can be reduced to the winner problem for parity games
- Wins (for finite parity games) is solvable in  $\mathcal{O}(m(2n/b)^{\lfloor b/2 \rfloor})$  (P-hard)



*T. Wilke, Alternating tree automata, parity games, and modal mu-calculus, Bull. Belg. Math. Soc., vol. 8, iss. 2, pp. 359391, 2002.*



THANK YOU!