

# Alternating-Time Temporal Logics

Fabienne Eigner

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“Games in Verification and Synthesis”  
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# Outline

- 1 Motivation
- 2 Computational Model
- 3 Specification Logic
- 4 Symbolic Model Checking for ATL

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# Motivation

## Railroad Crossing Example



# Motivation

## Railroad Crossing Example

- Use abstractions to model (real world) situations and applications, like the  example.
- Use logic to formulate a specification.
- Check whether the model satisfies the specification.
- Examples for such logics: LTL, CTL, CTL\*

# Motivation

## Railroad Crossing Example



Examples for properties the model might fulfill:

- “Sooner or later the train will drive past the gate.”  
in CTL:  $\forall \diamond in\_gate$
- “It is possible that the train will never enter the gate.”  
in CTL:  $\exists \square out\_of\_gate$
- **BUT:** What about open system where multiple participants interact, like the train and some gate-controller?
- Questions like “Can the controller prevent the train from entering the gate?” cannot be formulated in LTL or CTL.
- Solution: **ATL** (Alternating-Time Temporal Logic) can be used to state such properties.

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# Concurrent Game Structures

- Goal: Model compositions of open systems with multiple participants
- Open system: system components and environment interact
- Our computational model: **Concurrent Game Structures**



# Concurrent Game Structures

## Definition

A concurrent game structure  $S = (k, Q, \Pi, \pi, d, \delta)$  is defined as:

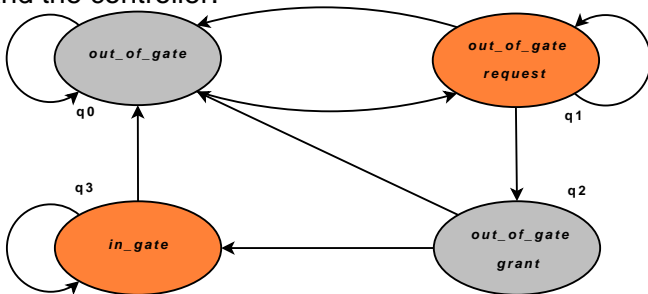
- $k \in \mathbb{N}$ : number of players (named from 1 to  $k$ )
- $Q$ : finite set of states
- $\Pi$ : finite set of propositions
- $\pi : Q \rightarrow 2^\Pi$ : labeling function
- $d : \{1, \dots, k\} \times Q \rightarrow \mathbb{N}^+$ :  $d_a(q)$  = number of possible moves of player  $a$  at state  $q$
- $\delta$ : transition function from one state to the next, w.r.t. the moves of each player

# Concurrent Game Structures

## Example



Define the situation as a (turn-based) game between the train and the controller:



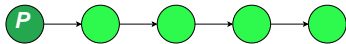
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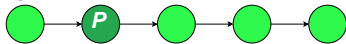
# Linear-Time Temporal Logic LTL

## An Intuition

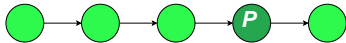
$P$  “boolean formula”



$\bigcirc P$  “next P”



$\diamond P$  “eventually P”



$\square P := \neg \diamond \neg P$  “always P”

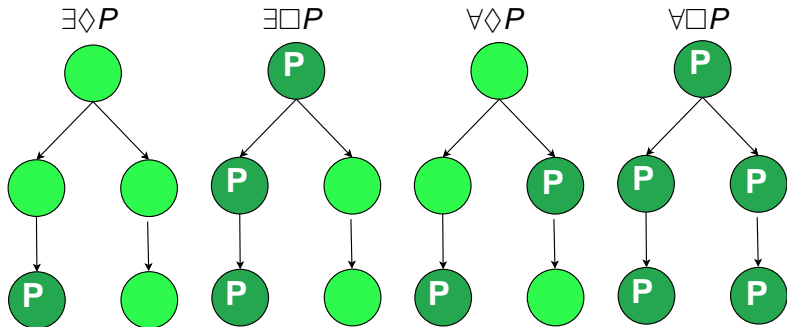


$P \mathcal{U} Q$  “P until Q”



# Computational Tree Logic CTL

## An Intuition



# Alternating-Time Temporal Logic

## Syntax

- ATL defined w.r.t. set  $\Sigma = \{1, \dots, k\}$  of players and finite set  $\Pi$  of propositions
- An ATL formula must be one of the following:
  - **(S1)**:  $p$ , where  $p \in \Pi$
  - **(S2)**:  $\neg\phi$  or  $\phi \vee \psi$ ,  
where  $\phi, \psi$  ATL formulas
  - **(S3)**:  $\langle\langle A \rangle\rangle \bigcirc \phi$ , or  $\langle\langle A \rangle\rangle \square \phi$ , or  $\langle\langle A \rangle\rangle \diamond \phi$ , or  $\langle\langle A \rangle\rangle \phi \mathcal{U} \psi$ ,  
where  $A \subseteq \Sigma$  is a set of players, and  $\phi, \psi$  are ATL formulas

# Alternating-Time Temporal Logic

## Semantics

State  $q$  satisfies ATL formula  $\phi$  in structure  $S$  ( $S, q \models \phi$ ), iff:

- $q \models p$  for propositions  $p \in \Pi$ , iff  $p \in \pi(q)$
- $q \models \neg\phi$ , iff  $q \not\models \phi$
- $q \models \phi \vee \psi$ , iff  $q \models \phi$  or  $q \models \psi$
- $q \models \langle\langle A \rangle\rangle \bigcirc \phi$ , iff there exists a strategy for each player in  $A$ , s.t. for all computations  $\lambda$  according to these strategies from  $q$ :  $\lambda[1] \models \phi$
- $q \models \langle\langle A \rangle\rangle \square \phi$ , iff for  $\lambda$  defined as above, and all positions  $i \geq 1$ :  $\lambda[i] \models \phi$
- $q \models \langle\langle A \rangle\rangle \phi \mathcal{U} \psi$ , iff for  $\lambda$  defined as above, there is a position  $i \geq 1$ :  $\lambda[j < i] \models \phi$  and  $\lambda[i] \models \psi$

# ATL

## A Few Remarks

- The definition of the other boolean operators and the  $\diamond$  operator follows immediately
- Dual of path quantifier  $\langle\langle A \rangle\rangle$ :  $[[A]]$  defined as follows:


$$[[A]]\phi := \neg\langle\langle A \rangle\rangle\neg\phi$$

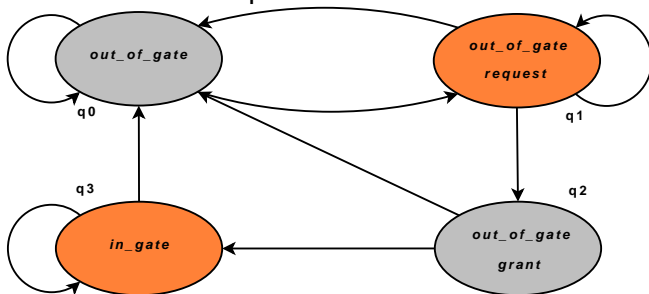
- Intuitive interpretation of the duals:
  - $\langle\langle A \rangle\rangle\phi$ : Players in  $A$  can cooperate to make  $\phi$  true
  - $[[A]]\phi$ : Players in  $A$  cannot cooperate to make  $\phi$  false
- There are other variants of ATL: e.g., ATL\*, Fair ATL



# ATL

## Example Formulas

Remember the  example:



# ATL

## Example Formulas

- 1 Whenever the train is outside the gate and has no grant to enter, then the controller can prevent it from entering:  
$$\langle\langle\rangle\rangle\Box((out\_of\_gate \wedge \neg grant) \rightarrow \langle\langle ctr\rangle\rangle\Box out\_of\_gate)$$
- 2 Whenever the train is outside the gate, the controller cannot force it to enter:  
$$\langle\langle\rangle\rangle\Box(out\_of\_gate \rightarrow [[ctr]]\Box out\_of\_gate)$$
- 3 Whenever the train is outside the gate, the train and the controller can cooperate so that the train will enter the gate:  
$$\langle\langle\rangle\rangle\Box(out\_of\_gate \rightarrow \langle\langle train, ctr\rangle\rangle\Diamond in\_gate)$$

# ATL

## Difference ATL - CTL

- Only way of modelling the first two statements in CTL:
- $\forall \square (out\_of\_gate \rightarrow \exists \square out\_of\_gate)$
- From this formula we cannot deduce whether the train, or the controller, or the overall system keep the train from entering the gate
- $\Rightarrow$  ATL is more expressive than CTL

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# The Model-Checking Problem for ATL

The model-checking problem for ATL is defined as follows:

- For a given game structure  $S = (k, Q, \Pi, \pi, d, \delta)$  and an ATL formula  $\phi$  compute the set  $[\phi]_S$  of all states in  $S$  that satisfy  $\phi$
- We define a symbolic algorithm to solve the MP as follows (with implicit  $S$ ), using the functions:
- $Reg(p)$ ,  $p \in \Pi$  returns all states where  $p$  holds
- $q \in Pre(A, \rho)$ , iff in state  $q$ , the players in  $A$  can enforce the next state to be in  $\rho$ , by cooperating

# The Model-Checking Problem for ATL

## Algorithm

$MC(\phi)$

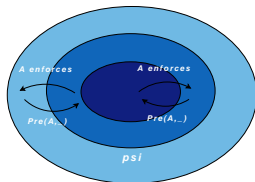
- **foreach** subformula  $\phi'$  of  $\phi$  (in ascending order) **do**
  - **case**  $\phi' = p$ : **return**  $Reg(\phi')$
  - **case**  $\phi' = \neg\psi$ : **return**  $Q \setminus MC(\psi)$
  - **case**  $\phi' = \psi_1 \vee \psi_2$ : **return**  $MC(\psi_1) \cup MC(\psi_2)$
  - **case**  $\phi' = \langle\langle A \rangle\rangle \circ \psi$ : **return**  $Pre(A, MC(\psi))$

# The Model-Checking Problem for ATL

## Algorithm Cont'd

- **case**  $\phi' = \langle\langle A \rangle\rangle \Box \psi$ :
  - $\rho := Q; \tau := MC(\psi)$
  - **while**  $\rho \not\subseteq \tau$  **do**  $\rho := \tau; \tau := Pre(A, \rho) \cap MC(\psi)$ ;
  - **return**  $\rho$

Intuitively: **do**



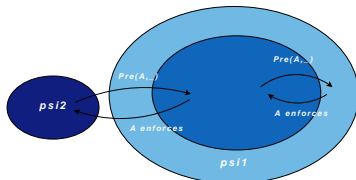
until the greatest fixpoint is reached

# The Model-Checking Problem for ATL

## Algorithm Cont'd

- **case**  $\phi' = \langle\langle A \rangle\rangle\psi_1 \mathcal{U} \psi_2$ :
  - $\rho := \emptyset; \tau := MC(\psi_2)$
  - **while**  $\tau \not\subseteq \rho$  **do**  $\rho := \rho \cup \tau; \tau := Pre(A, \rho) \cap MC(\psi_1)$ ;
  - **return**  $\rho$

Intuitively: **do**



until the smallest fixpoint is reached



# The Model-Checking Problem for ATL

## Complexity

The complexity of the algorithm  $MC(\phi)$  lies in  $\mathcal{O}(m \cdot l)$  where

- $l$  denotes the length of the formula  $\phi$   
One can see that the outer loop of the algorithm is evoked  $\mathcal{O}(l)$  times
- $m$  describes the number of transitions in the game structure  $S$   
Each case statement can be executed in  $\mathcal{O}(m)$  time

# Conclusion

- In order to model interactions between multiple participants we can use concurrent games
- ATL: powerful logic to state properties of concurrent games
- ATL more expressive than CTL (captures the capabilities of individual user)
- We have seen a symbolic algorithm for ATL-model-checking that runs in  $\mathcal{O}(m \cdot l)$  time

# Literature I



Rajeev Alur, Thomas Henzinger, and Orna Kupferman.  
*Alternating-Time Temporal Logic.*

[http://www.eecs.berkeley.edu/~tah/Publications/alternating-time\\_temporal\\_logic.html](http://www.eecs.berkeley.edu/~tah/Publications/alternating-time_temporal_logic.html)

# Thank you!