

A Fresh Look at Linear Temporal Logic

Javier Esparza Technical University of Munich

Joint work with Jan Křetínský and Salomon Sickert







If all bandersnatches are borogoves and all borogoves are slithy, then all bandersnatches are slithy.



If all bandersnatches are borogoves and all borogoves are slithy, then all bandersnatches are slithy.

"True"



If all X are Y and all Y are Z, then all X are Z.



Logic is the subject of identifying true statements in a language of which you only know a few words.

Temporal Logic

Different logics study different language fragments:

- Propositional logic: and, or, not, if ... then
- Temporal logic: propositional logic
 + today, tomorrow, eventually,
 never, ...

Studied within mathematical logic since the end of the XIX century.



Clarence Lewis (1883-1964)



Arthur Prior (1914-1969)

Temporal logic in computer science

• Amir Pnueli proposes in 1977 to use temporal logic to reason about computer programs





אמיר פנואלי Amir Pnueli (1941-2009) Turing Award 1996 THE TEMPORAL LOGIC OF PROGRAMS* Amir Pnueli University of Pennsylvania, Pa. 19104 and Tel-Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel

Summary:

A unified approach to program verification is suggested, which applies to both sequential and parallel programs. The main proof method suggested is that of temporal reasoning in which the time dependence of events is the basic concept. Two formal systems are presented for providing a basis for temporal reasoning. One forms a formalization of the method of intermittent assertions, while the other is an adaptation of the tense logic system K_b, and is

particularly suitable for reasoning about concurrent programs.

Temporal logic in computer science

```
A worker that succeeds in acquiring a
lock will eventually release it,
assuming its "doResult" call returns.
                             The req close state is always
                              in close enabled state.
If artist1 registers for event2
before artist2 does, then once
dispatcher receives event2 from
the ADT, it will first send it
to artist1 and then to artist2.
                                The OK button on the login
                                 window is enabled as soon as
                                 the application is started
                                 and the login window is first
                                 displayed to the user.
 None of the available methods
 can be called until connect is
 called.
```

Mathew Dwyer, Temporal Specification Patterns, https://matthewbdwyer.github.io/psp/

Linear Temporal Logic (LTL)

- LTL extends propositional logic with temporal operators.
- Syntax:

 $\varphi := \mathbf{true} \mid \mathbf{false} \mid p \mid \neg p \mid \varphi_1 \land \varphi_2 \mid \varphi_1 \lor \varphi_2$ $\mathbf{X}\varphi_1 \mid \varphi_1 \mathbf{U}\varphi_2 \mid \varphi_1 \mathbf{W}\varphi_2$

 $\varphi_1 \mathbf{R} \varphi_2 | \varphi_1 \mathbf{M} \varphi_2 |$ past operators (Past LTL)

 $\mathbf{F}\varphi \coloneqq \mathbf{true} \ \mathbf{U} \ \varphi \quad (\text{eventually } \varphi \text{ or finally } \varphi).$ $\mathbf{G}\varphi \coloneqq \varphi \ \mathbf{W} \ \mathbf{false} \quad (\text{always } \varphi \text{ or globally } \varphi).$

Temporal logic in computer science

A worker that succeeds in acquiring a lock will **eventually** release it, assuming its "doResult" call returns.

 $\mathbf{G}(\mathsf{call}_{\mathsf{doResult}} \rightarrow \mathbf{F} \: \mathsf{return}_{\mathsf{doResult}}) \rightarrow \mathbf{G}(\mathsf{return}_{\mathsf{lockacq}} \rightarrow \mathbf{F} \: \mathsf{call}_{\mathsf{lockrel}})$

If artistl registers for event **before** artist2 does, then **once** dispatcher receives event from the ADT, it will **first** notify artistl **and then** artist2.

 $\begin{array}{l} \mathbf{G}((\operatorname{reg.} a_1 \land (\neg \operatorname{unreg.} a_1 \mathbf{U} (\operatorname{reg.} a_2 \land (\neg \operatorname{unreg.} a_1 \land \neg \operatorname{unreg.} a_2) \mathbf{U} \operatorname{notify}))) \\ \rightarrow \\ \mathbf{F} (\operatorname{notify} \land (\neg \operatorname{notify.} a_2 \mathbf{U} \operatorname{notify.} a_1))) \end{array}$

Specifying and verifying reactive systems

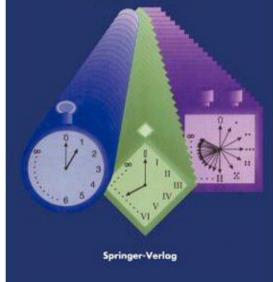


זוהר מנה Zohar Manna (1939-2018)

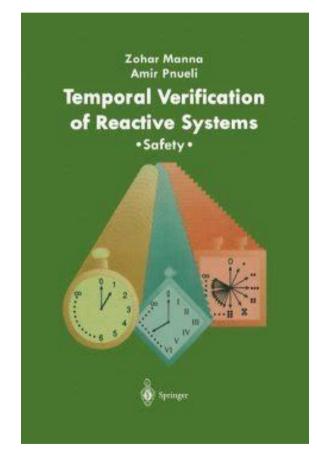


אמיר פנואלי Amir Pnueli (1941-2009)



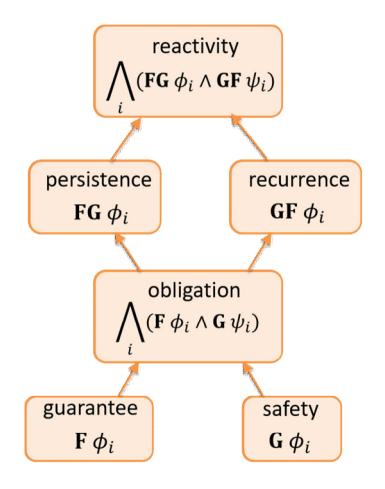


1992



1995

The Safety-Progress Hierarchy



 ϕ_i and ψ_i are past formulas

Proof rules for different classes in the hierarchy:

I1.
$$\Theta \to \varphi$$

I2. $\varphi \to q$
I3. $\{\varphi\} \mathcal{T} \{\varphi\}$
 $\Box q$
C1. $\Box(p \to (q \lor \varphi))$
C2. $\{\varphi\} \mathcal{T} \{q \lor \varphi\}$
C3. $\{\varphi\} \mathcal{T} \{q\}$
C4. $\mathcal{T} - \{\tau\} \vdash \Box(\varphi \to \diamondsuit(q \lor En(\tau)))$
 $\Box(p \to \diamondsuit q)$

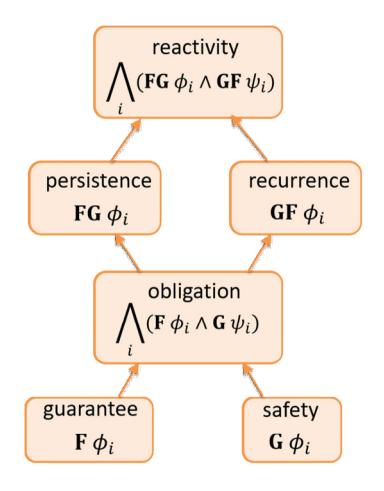
B1.
$$\Box(p \to (q \lor \varphi))$$

B2.
$$\{\varphi \land (\delta = \alpha)\} \mathcal{T} \{q \lor (\varphi \land (\delta \preceq \alpha))\}$$

B3.
$$\Box([\varphi \land (\delta = \alpha) \land r] \to \diamondsuit[q \lor (\delta \prec \alpha)])$$

$$\Box((p \land \Box \diamondsuit r) \to \diamondsuit q)$$

The Safety-Progress Hierarchy



Normal form theorem Every formula is equivalent to a reactivity formula.

 ϕ_i and ψ_i are past formulas

The Glory of The Past

Orna Lichtenstein Dept. of Computer Science Tel Aviv University Ramat Aviv, Israel

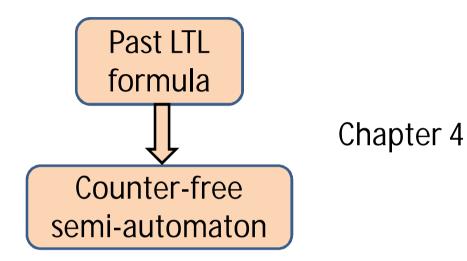
Amir Pnueli and Lenore Zuck^{*} Dept. of Applied Mathematics The Weizmann Institute of Science Rehovot, 76100 Israel

"The proof [...] is based on many previous results, including [Buc], [MNP], [C], [T] and [GPSS] which, when combined, yield the theorems almost immediately."

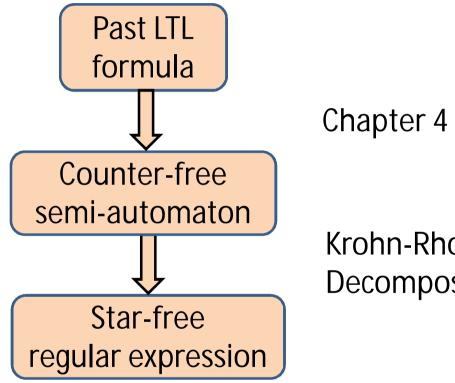
Lichtenstein, Pnueli, Zuck: Logic of Programs, 1985

Past LTL formula

Zuck, PhD Thesis, 1986

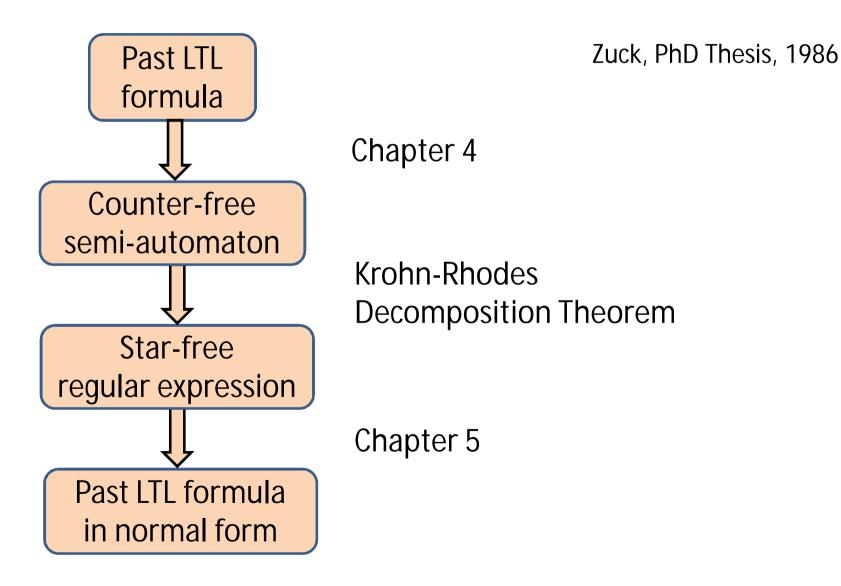


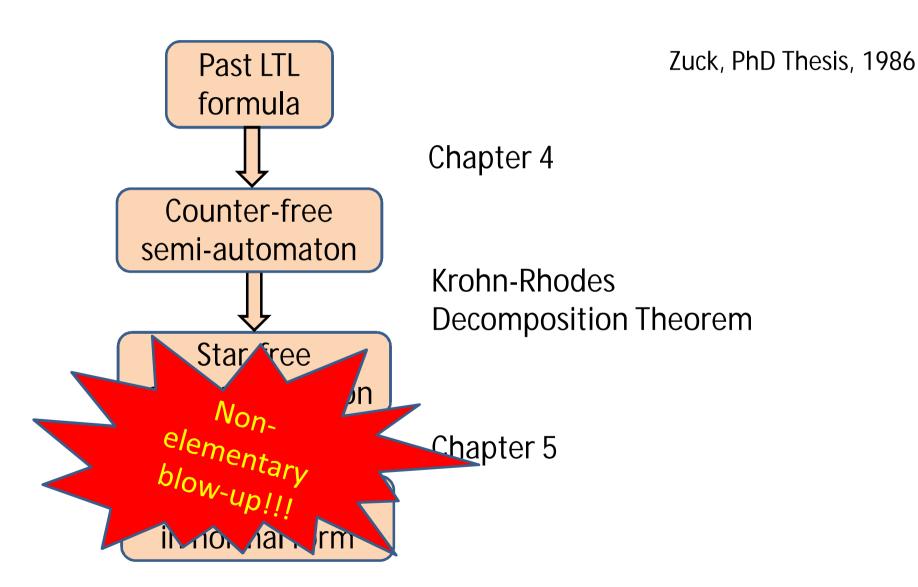
Zuck, PhD Thesis, 1986

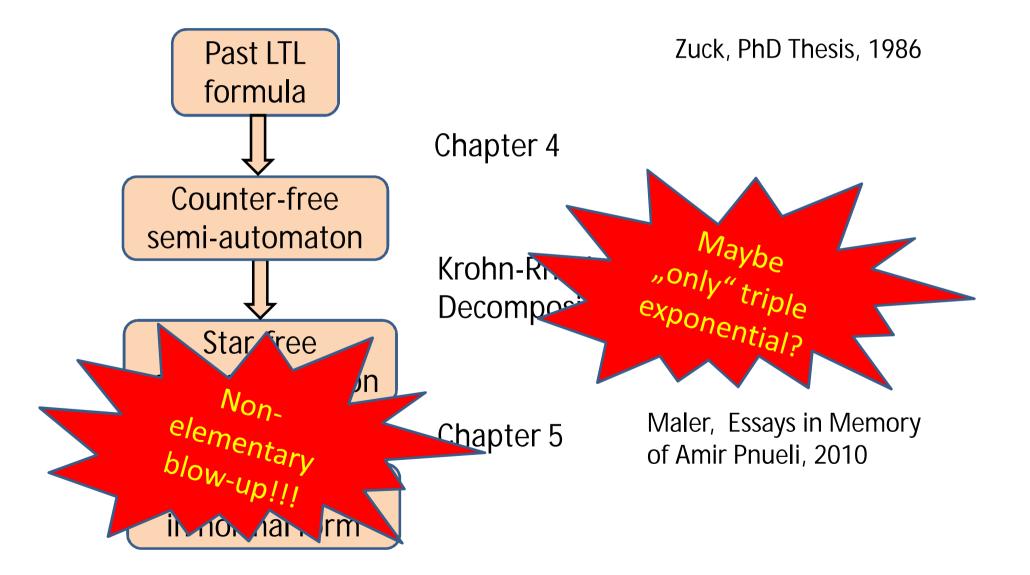


Zuck, PhD Thesis, 1986

Krohn-Rhodes Decomposition Theorem







... and the rest is silence.

No further attempts to improve on these bounds, even though there is no lower bound!

How come?

... and the rest is silence.

No further attempts to improve on these bounds, even though there is no lower bound!

An Automata-Theoretic Approach to Automatic Program Verification



Moshe Y. Vardi CSLI, Ventura Hall, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305.



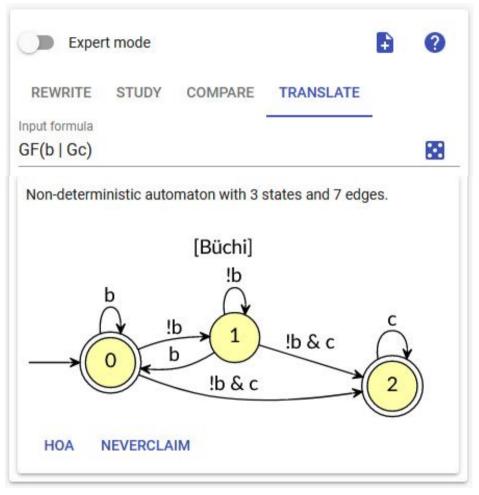
Pierre Wolper

AT&T Bell Laboratories 600 Mountain Ave. Murray Hill, NJ 07974

Gödel Prize 2000

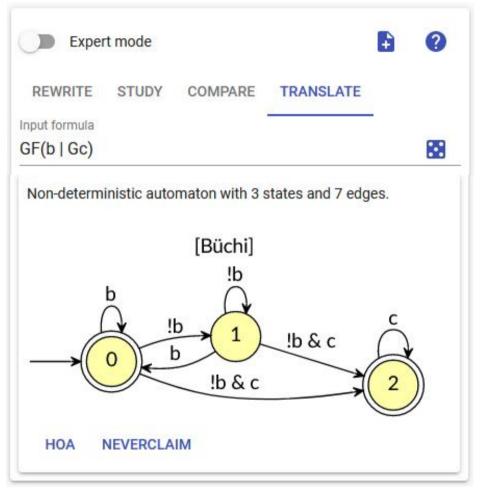
LICS '86

- Translates the formula into an ω-automaton (automaton on infinite words) and "throws the formula away"
- Proofs replaced by automata-theoretic algorithms
- No need for hierarchies, proof rules, or axiom systems



Duret-Lutz: Spot Online Translator https://spot.lrde.epita.fr/app/

- Translates the formula into an ω-automaton (automaton on infinite words) and "throws the formula away"
- Proofs replaced by automata-theoretic algorithms
- No need for hierarchies, proof rules, or axiom systems
- LTL "demoted" to syntax for automata

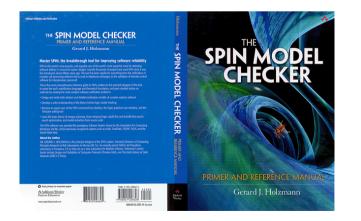


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During the next decades the automata-theoretic approach

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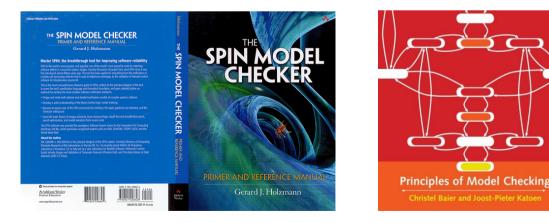
• is implemented in sophisticated, very successful tools



2004

During the next decades the automata-theoretic approach

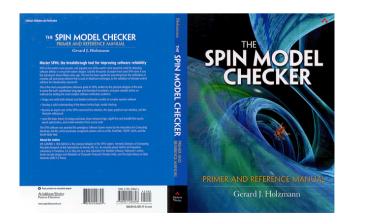
- is implemented in sophisticated, very successful tools
- is extended to the verification of probabilistic systems

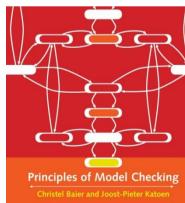




During the next decades the automata-theoretic approach

- is implemented in sophisticated, very successful tools
- is extended to the verification of probabilistic systems
- is applied to reactive synthesis: automatic synthesis of reactive systems from LTL specifications







2014-today



The challenge

Reactive synthesis requires to translate
 LTL into deterministic ω-automata

 Probabilistic verification requires to translate LTL into limit deterministic (or deterministic) ω-automata

The theoretical challenge



On The Complexity of ω -Automata^{*}

Shmuel Safra

Department of Applied Mathematics Weizmann Institute of Science Rehovot 76100, Israel

FOCS 1988: Determinization procedure for ω -automata





The Complexity of Probabilistic Verification

COSTAS COURCOUBETIS University of Crete, and ICS, Farth, Heraklion, Greece

AND

MIHALIS YANNAKAKIS

AT&T Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, New Jersey

(see also Vardi 1985)

JACM 1995: Limit-determinization procedure for ω -automata

The algorithmic challenge

These translations

- have double-exponential blow-up.
 (contrary to single-exponential for LTL → nondet. automata)

The algorithmic challenge

$ j = 1 \\ j = 2 $	5
i = 2	5
	17
$\bigwedge_{i=1}^{j} (\mathbf{GF}a_i) \implies \bigwedge_{i=1}^{j} (\mathbf{GF}b_i) \qquad \qquad j=3$	49
j=4	129
k = 2	4385
$k: \bigwedge_{i=1}^{k} (\mathbf{GF}a_i \vee \mathbf{FG}b_i) \qquad \qquad k=3$	*
f(0,0)	5
f(0,2)	10
f(0,4)	12
$f(0,j) = (\mathbf{GF}a_0)\mathbf{U}(\mathbf{X}^j b) \qquad f(1,0)$	196
f(1,2) 1	09839
$f(i+1,j) = (\mathbf{GF}a_{i+1})\mathbf{U}(\mathbf{G}f(i,j)) \qquad \qquad f(1,4)$	*
f(2,0) $f(2,0)$	99793
f(2,2)	*
f(2,4)	*

S. Sickert, J. Esparza, S. Jaax and J. Kretinsky. CAV 2016

How can I do better in the future?



How can I do better in the future?

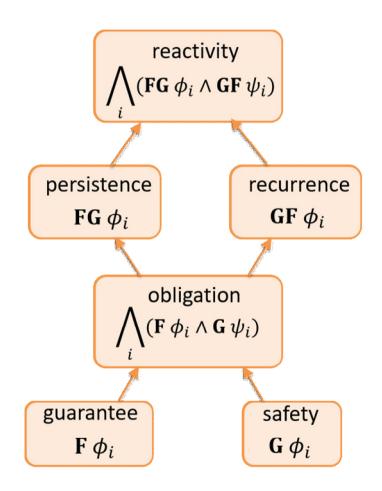


Do better in the past!

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Back to the 1980s: The Safety-Progress Hierarchy

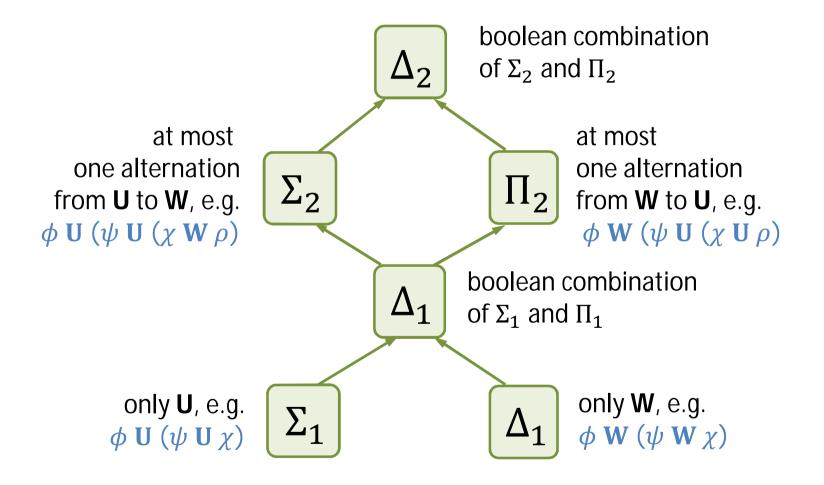


Normal form theorem Every formula is equivalent to a reactivity formula.

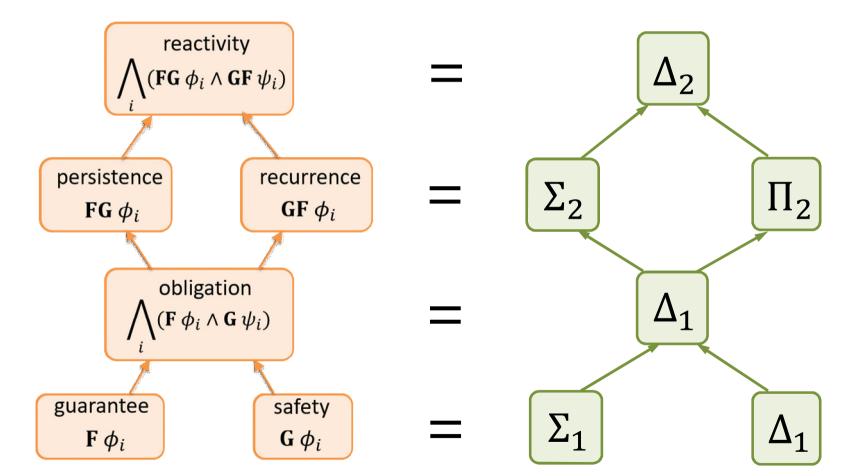


 ϕ_i and ψ_i are past formulas

The Alternation Hierarchy



The Alternation Hierarchy

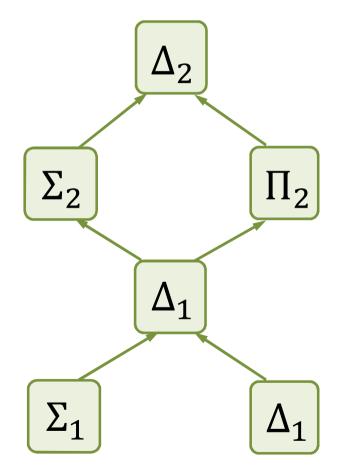


Chang, Manna, and Pnueli, ICALP 1992. Pelánek and Strejček, CIAA 2005

The Alternation Hierarchy

Normal form theorem Every formula is equivalent to a Δ_2 -formula.





 $\mathbf{F}(a \wedge \mathbf{G}(b \vee \mathbf{F}c))$

 $\mathbf{F}(a \wedge \mathbf{G} (b \vee \mathbf{F}c))$

 $\mathbf{F}(a \wedge \mathbf{G} (b \vee \mathbf{F}c))$

Case 1: Fc holds infinitely often (GFc holds)

Case 2: Fc only holds finitely often $(\neg GFc \text{ holds})$

$$\mathbf{F}(a \wedge \mathbf{G} (b \vee \mathbf{F}c))$$

Case 1: Fc holds infinitely often (GFc holds) Then $G(b \lor Fc) \equiv^{GFc} true$

Case 2: Fc only holds finitely often $(\neg GFc \text{ holds})$

$$\mathbf{F}(a \wedge \mathbf{G} (b \vee \mathbf{F}c))$$

Case 1: Fc holds infinitely often (GFc holds) Then $G(b \lor Fc) \equiv^{GFc} true$

Case 2: Fc only holds finitely often (\neg GFc holds) Then G ($b \lor$ Fc) $\equiv \neg$ GFc ($b \lor$ Fc) U (G b)

$$\mathbf{F}(a \wedge \mathbf{G} (b \vee \mathbf{F}c))$$

Case 1: Fc holds infinitely often (GFc holds) Then $G(b \lor Fc) \equiv^{GFc} true$

Case 2: Fc only holds finitely often (\neg GFc holds) Then G ($b \lor$ Fc) $\equiv \neg$ GFc ($b \lor$ Fc) U (G b)

 $WU \rightarrow UW !!$



Photo by freepik – www.freepik.com

 $\mathbf{F}(a \wedge \mathbf{G} (b \vee \mathbf{F}c))$

$\mathbf{F}(a \wedge \mathbf{G} (b \vee \mathbf{F}c)) \equiv \mathbf{GF}c \wedge \mathbf{F}(a \wedge \mathbf{G} (b \vee \mathbf{F}c))$ $\vee \nabla$ $\neg \mathbf{GF}c \wedge \mathbf{F}(a \wedge \mathbf{G} (b \vee \mathbf{F}c))$

$\mathbf{F}(a \wedge \mathbf{G} (b \vee \mathbf{F}c)) \equiv \mathbf{GF}c \wedge \mathbf{F}(a \wedge \mathbf{G} (b \vee \mathbf{F}c))$ $\vee \nabla$ $\neg \mathbf{GF}c \wedge \mathbf{F}(a \wedge \mathbf{G} (b \vee \mathbf{F}c))$

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Correct because **GF***c* holds at some moment iff it holds at every moment!



$\mathbf{F}(a \wedge \mathbf{G} (b \vee \mathbf{F}c)) \equiv \mathbf{GF}c \wedge \mathbf{F}(a \wedge \mathbf{true})$ \vee $\neg \mathbf{GF}c \wedge \mathbf{F}(a \wedge (b \vee \mathbf{F}c)\mathbf{U} \mathbf{G}b)$

Correct because ¬**GF***c* holds at some moment iff it holds at every moment!





$\mathbf{F}(a \wedge \mathbf{G} (b \vee \mathbf{F}c)) \equiv \mathbf{GF}c \wedge \mathbf{F}a$ \vee $\mathbf{F}(a \wedge (b \vee \mathbf{F}c)\mathbf{U} \mathbf{G}b)$

 $\mathbf{F}(a \wedge \mathbf{G}(b \vee \mathbf{F}(c \wedge \mathbf{G}d)))$

 $\mathbf{F}(a \wedge \mathbf{G}(b \vee \mathbf{F}(c \wedge \mathbf{G}d)))$

$$F\left(a \wedge G\left(b \vee F(c \wedge Gd)\right)\right)$$

$$\equiv FGd \wedge F\left(a \wedge G\left(b \vee F(c \wedge Gd)\right)\right)$$

$$\vee$$

$$\neg FGd \wedge F\left(a \wedge G\left(b \vee F(c \wedge Gd)\right)\right)$$

$$F\left(a \wedge G\left(b \vee F(c \wedge Gd)\right)\right)$$

$$\equiv FGd \wedge F\left(a \wedge G\left(b \vee (Fc W (c \wedge Gd))\right)\right)$$

$$\vee$$

$$\neg FGd \wedge F(a \wedge G (b \vee false))$$

$$\mathbf{F}\left(a \wedge \mathbf{G}\left(b \vee \mathbf{F}(c \wedge \mathbf{G}d)\right)\right)$$

$$\equiv \mathbf{F}\mathbf{G}d \wedge \mathbf{F}\left(a \wedge \mathbf{G}\left(b \vee (\mathbf{F}c \mathbf{W}(c \wedge \mathbf{G}d))\right)\right)$$

$$\vee$$

 $\mathbf{GF} \neg d \land \mathbf{F}(a \land \mathbf{G}b)$

$$F(a \wedge G(b \vee F(c \wedge Gd)))$$

= FGd \wedge F(a \wedge G(b \vee (Fc W (c \wedge Gd))))
\vee v

 $\mathbf{GF} \neg d \land \mathbf{F}(a \land \mathbf{G}b)$

$$F\left(a \wedge G\left(b \vee F(c \wedge Gd)\right)\right)$$

$$\equiv FGd \wedge F\left(a \wedge G\left(b \vee (Fc \ W \ (c \wedge Gd))\right)\right)$$

$$\vee$$

$$GF \neg d \wedge F(a \wedge Gb)$$

$$\mathbf{F}\left(a \wedge \mathbf{G}\left(b \vee \mathbf{F}(c \wedge \mathbf{G}d)\right)\right)$$

$$\equiv \mathbf{F}\mathbf{G}d \wedge \left(\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{G}\mathbf{F}c \wedge \mathbf{F}\left(a \wedge \mathbf{G}\left(b \vee (\mathbf{F}c \mathbf{W}(c \wedge \mathbf{G}d))\right)\right) \\ \vee \\ \neg \mathbf{G}\mathbf{F}c \wedge \mathbf{F}\left(a \wedge \mathbf{G}\left(b \vee (\mathbf{F}c \mathbf{W}(c \wedge \mathbf{G}d))\right)\right)\right)$$

$$\vee \\ \mathbf{G}\mathbf{F}\neg d \wedge \mathbf{F}(a \wedge \mathbf{G}b)$$

$$F\left(a \land G\left(b \lor F(c \land Gd)\right)\right)$$

$$\equiv FGd \land \begin{pmatrix} GFc \land F(a \land true) \\ \lor \\ FG \neg c \land F\left(a \land F(c \land Gd) \cup G(b \lor (c \land Gd))\right) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\lor$$

$$GF \neg d \land F(a \land Gb)$$

... et voilá!

$$\mathbf{F}\left(a \wedge \mathbf{G}\left(b \vee \mathbf{F}(c \wedge \mathbf{G}d)\right)\right)$$

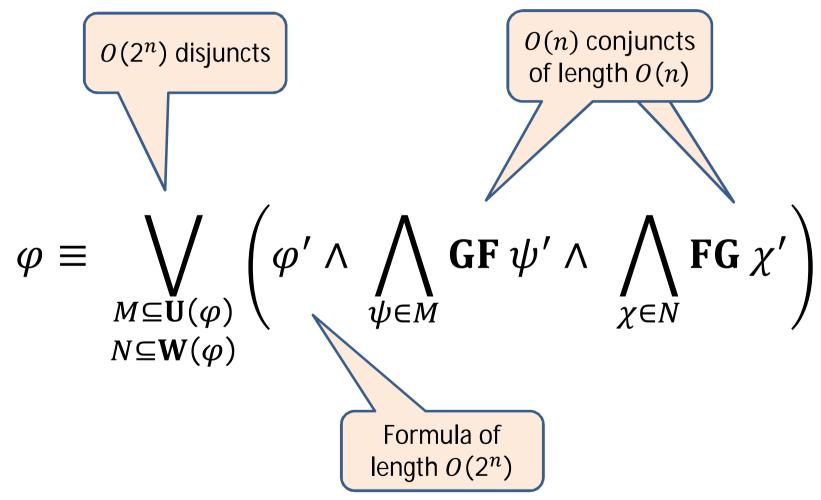
 $\equiv \mathbf{F}\mathbf{G}d \wedge \mathbf{G}\mathbf{F}c \wedge \mathbf{F}a$ \vee $\mathbf{F}\mathbf{G}d \wedge \mathbf{F}\left(a \wedge \mathbf{F}(c \wedge \mathbf{G}d) \cup \mathbf{G}\left(b \vee (c \wedge \mathbf{G}d)\right)\right)$ \vee $\mathbf{F}(a \wedge \mathbf{G}b)$

Closed-form expression

$$\varphi \equiv \bigvee_{\substack{M \subseteq \mathbf{U}(\varphi) \\ N \subseteq \mathbf{W}(\varphi)}} \left(\varphi' \wedge \bigwedge_{\psi \in M} \mathbf{GF} \, \psi' \wedge \bigwedge_{\chi \in N} \mathbf{FG} \, \chi' \right)$$

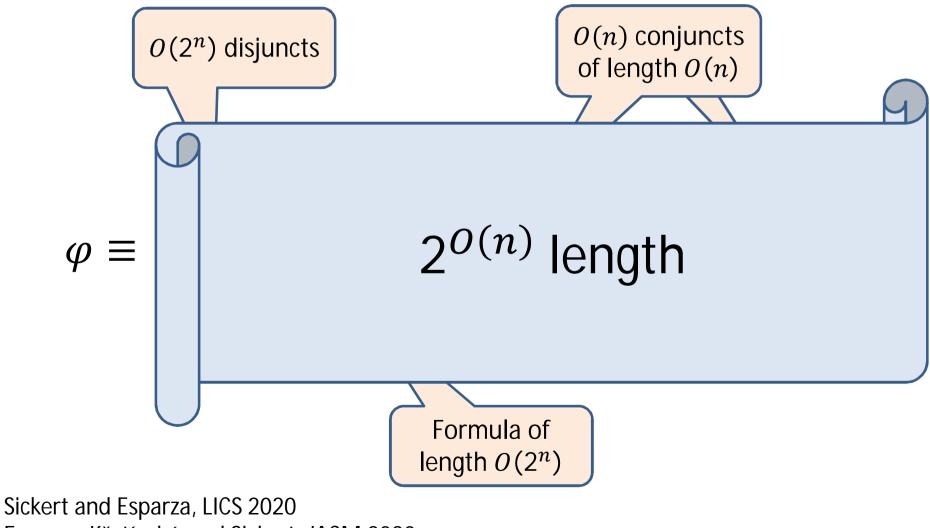
Sickert and Esparza, LICS 2020 Esparza, Křetínský, and Sickert, JACM 2020

Closed-form expression



Sickert and Esparza, LICS 2020 Esparza, Křetínský, and Sickert, JACM 2020

Closed-form expression



Esparza, Křetínský, and Sickert, JACM 2020

Back from the past



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The Complexity of Probabilistic Verification

COSTAS COURCOUBETIS University of Crete, and ICS, Farth, Heraklion, Greece AND MIHALIS YANNAKAKIS



AT&T Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, New Jersey

1995: Limit-determinization procedure for ω -automata



The Complexity of Probabilistic Verification

COSTAS COURCOUBETIS University of Crete, and ICS. Farth, Heraklion, Greece AND MIHALIS YANNAKAKIS AT&T Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, New Jersey

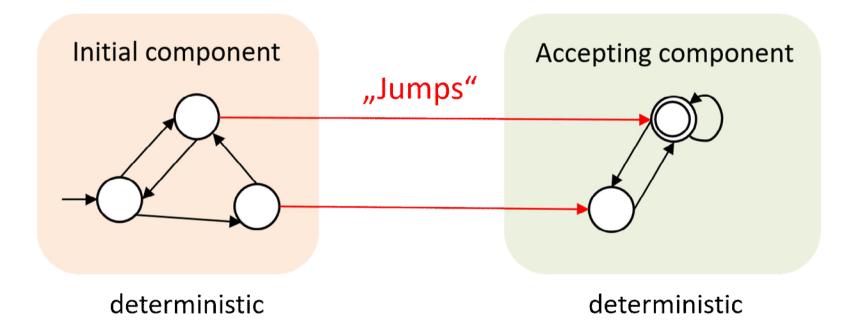


1995: Limit-determinization procedure for ω -automata

Formula

- $\Rightarrow \Delta_2$ -formula
- ⇒ Limit-deterministic Büchi automaton



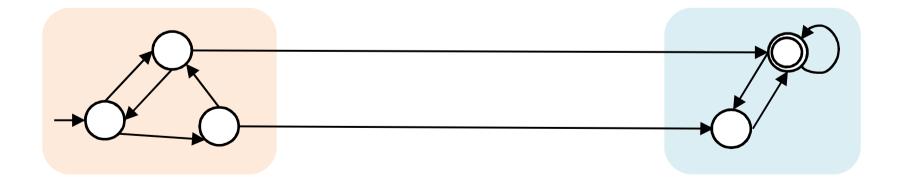


$\mathbf{F}(a \wedge \mathbf{G} (b \vee \mathbf{F}c))$

$\mathbf{F}(a \wedge \mathbf{G} (b \vee \mathbf{F}c))$ \equiv $(\mathbf{GF}c \wedge \mathbf{F}a) \vee \mathbf{F}(a \wedge (b \vee \mathbf{F}c) \mathbf{U} \mathbf{G}b)$

LTL ⇒ Limit-deterministic Büchi automata

$\mathbf{F}(a \wedge \mathbf{G} (b \vee \mathbf{F}c))$ \equiv $(\mathbf{GF}c \wedge \mathbf{F}a) \vee \mathbf{F}(a \wedge (b \vee \mathbf{F}c) \cup \mathbf{G}b)$



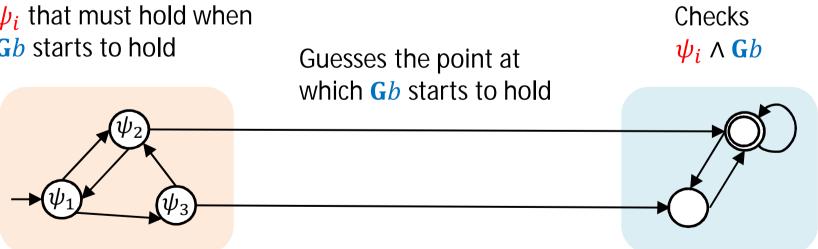
$LTL \Rightarrow Limit-deterministic Büchi automata$

$$\mathbf{F}(a \wedge \mathbf{G} (b \vee \mathbf{F}c))$$

$$\equiv$$

$$(\mathbf{GF}c \wedge \mathbf{F}a) \vee \mathbf{F}(a \wedge (b \vee \mathbf{F}c) \cup \mathbf{G}b)$$

Maintains the formula ψ_i that must hold when **G**b starts to hold



Size reduction

$$\bigwedge_{i=1}^{j}(\mathbf{GF}a_{i}) \implies \bigwedge_{i=1}^{j}(\mathbf{GF}b_{i})$$

 $k: \bigwedge_{i=1}^k (\mathbf{GF}a_i \vee \mathbf{FG}b_i)$

$$f(0,j) = (\mathbf{GF}a_0)\mathbf{U}(\mathbf{X}^j b)$$

 $f(i+1,j) = (\mathbf{GF}a_{i+1})\mathbf{U}(\mathbf{G}f(i,j))$

	LDBA	Safra (spot+ltl2dstar)
j = 1	3	5
j = 2	4	17
j = 3	5	49
j = 4	6	129
k = 2	5	4385
k = 3	9	*
f(0, 0)	5	5
f(0, 2)	10	10
f(0, 4)	16	12
f(1, 0)	6	196
f(1, 2)	28	109839
f(1, 4)	58	*
f(2, 0)	10	99793
f(2,2)	46	*
f(2, 4)	92	*

Ð

Sickert, Esparza, Jaax, and Kretinsky, CAV 2016

$LTL \Rightarrow$ deterministic Rabin automata



On The Complexity of $\omega\text{-}\mathrm{Automata}^*$

Shmuel Safra

Department of Applied Mathematics Weizmann Institute of Science Rehovot 76100, Israel



1988: Determinization procedure for ω -automata

$LTL \Rightarrow deterministic Rabin automata$



On The Complexity of $\omega\text{-}\mathrm{Automata}^*$

Shmuel Safra

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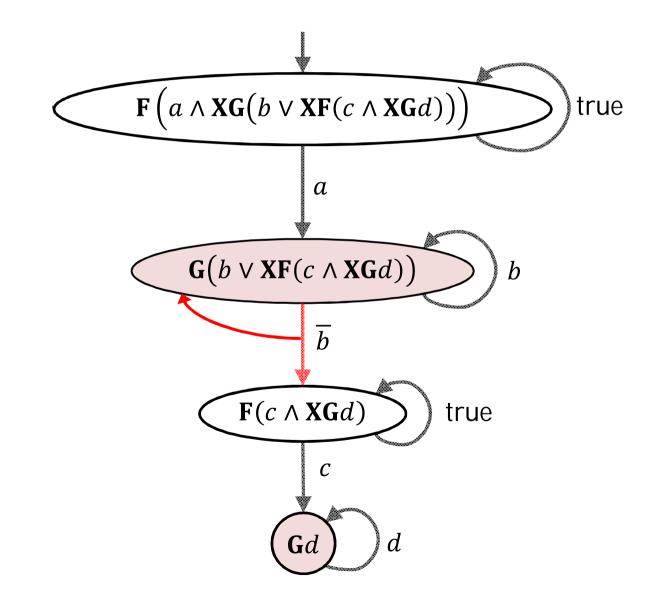
1988: Determinization procedure for ω -automata

Formula

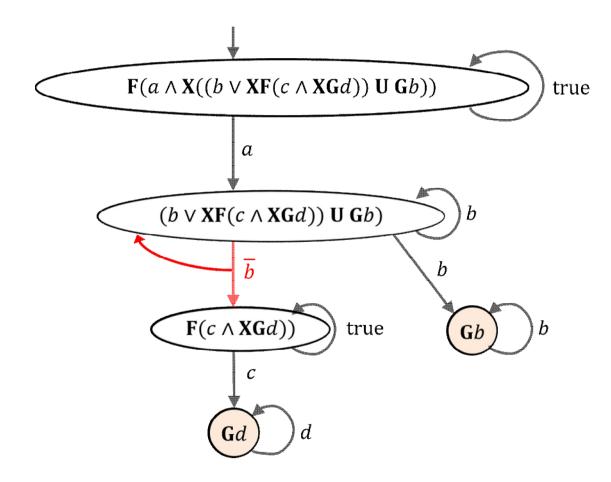
- $\Rightarrow \Delta_2$ -formula
- $\rightarrow \quad \text{very weak } \Delta_2 \text{-alternating} \\ \text{Büchi automaton}$
- \Rightarrow deterministic Rabin automaton



From LTL to very weak alternating Büchi automata

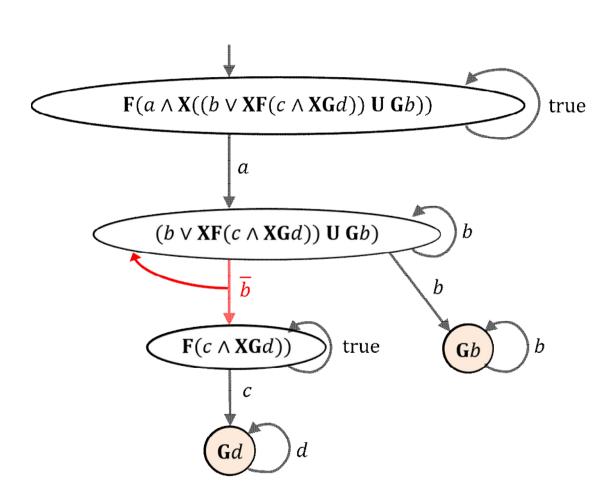


After Δ_2 -normalization



Disjunction of VWAA with *O(n)* states s.t. each path has only one alternation between accepting and non-accepting states

After Δ_2 -normalization



Lemma: A Δ_2 -VWAA accepts a word iff it has a run on it such that

- No level of the tree is (equiv. to) false, and
- All states of some level are accepting.

Equivalent deterministic Büchi or co-Büchi automaton using (a slight reformulation of) the breakpoint construction.

From trees of sets to pairs of sets.

Owl (owl.model.in.tum.de)

Owl

A Java tool collection and library for **O**mega**w**ords, ω-automata and **L**inear Temporal Logic (LTL). Batteries included.



OnlineDownloadDemoZIP File	View On GitLab
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Owl is a Java 11 tool collection and library for ω -words, ω -automata and linear temporal logic. It provides a wide range of algorithms for automata and LTL. It has

Křetínský , Meggendorfer, Sickert, ATVA 2018

Strix (strix.model.in.tum.de)

Tool for reactive LTL synthesis

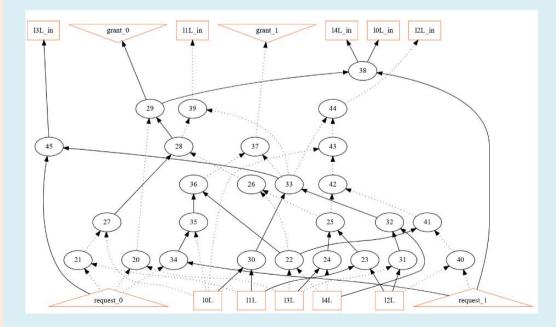
- direct translation LTL-to-DPA
- multi-threaded, explicit-state solver for parity games.

Winner of the SYNTCOMP competition in 2018,2019, 2020

State-of-the-art in reactive LTL synthesis

Luttenberger, Meyer, Sickert, CAV 2018 and Acta Informatica 2020





Imagine SAT without CNF

Imagine SAT without CNF

Imagine FOL without skolemization

Imagine SAT without CNF

Imagine FOL without skolemization

That's what happened to LTL

Thank you for your attention!



Thank you for your attention!