

4507/ 6507 Software and Hardware Verification

Introduction to LTL

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These slides contain material from Denisa Diaconescu, Georg Struth and Traian Florin Șerbănuță

LTL = Linear(-time) Temporal Logic

Introduced into computer science by Amir Pnueli in 1977

A logic for reasoning about execution paths of systems

One of the most important logics for software and hardware verification

Overview

Syntax: LTL formulas

Semantics: labeled transition systems

Practical specification patterns

Formula equivalence

Basic Intuition

- Consider execution paths of a system into the future.
- Label states with atomic propositions p, q, r, \dots that hold along paths at various points in time.
- LTL formulas can express **regular patterns** about these propositions as execution proceeds.

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Say we start in a state where x is 0.

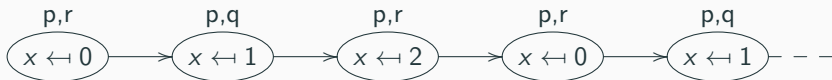
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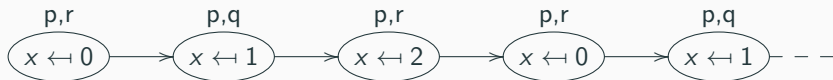
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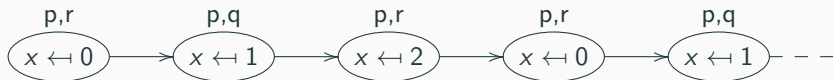
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Always p holds.

Always $[p \text{ implies } (q \text{ or } r)]$.

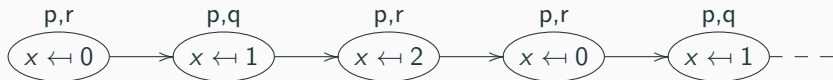
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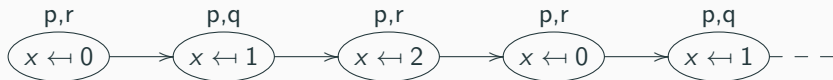
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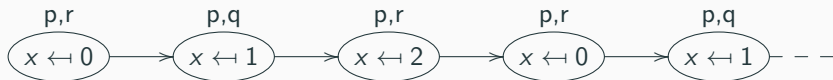
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Can you think of other patterns?

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Pronunciation:

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The unary connectives

$\neg, \bigcirc, \diamond, \square$ have higher precedence than the binary connectives $\wedge, \vee, \rightarrow, \text{ U}$.

E.g., $\square\varphi \vee \psi$ is the same as $(\square\varphi) \vee \psi$.

Syntax – Examples and Non-Examples

The following are LTL formulas:

- $(\Diamond p \wedge \Box q) \rightarrow (p \cup r)$
- $\Diamond(p \rightarrow \Box r) \vee (\neg q \cup p)$
- $p \cup (q \cup r)$
- $\Box \Diamond p \rightarrow \Diamond(q \vee s)$

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The following are **not** LTL formulas:

- $U r$
- $q \square p$

Exercise. 1. Give five more examples of correctly constructed formulas. Include a formula that contains five atoms p, q, r, u, v , and a formula that contains three occurrences of \diamond , one occurrence of \square and two occurrences of U . Read aloud the formulas that you have constructed.

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The following are LTL formulas:

- $(\diamond p \wedge \square q) \rightarrow (p \cup r)$
- $\diamond(p \rightarrow \square r) \vee (\neg q \cup p)$
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The following are **not** LTL formulas:

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Exercise. 1. Give five more examples of correctly constructed formulas. Include a formula that contains five atoms p, q, r, u, v , and a formula that contains three occurrences of \diamond , one occurrence of \square and two occurrences of U . Read aloud the formulas that you have constructed.

2. Give two examples of incorrectly constructed formulas that do not contain U or \square .

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 - $\varphi \text{ U } \psi$ holds if φ holds until ψ holds; i.e., ψ holds now or at some point in the future, and φ holds continuously until then.

Informal Semantics – Examples

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□ *enabled* means:

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□ $\neg(\textit{read} \wedge \textit{write})$ means:

Always (i.e., now and at all points in the future), it is not the case that *read* and *write* hold. In other words: It is never the case that *read* and *write* hold at the same time.



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$\square\diamond$ *enabled* means:

Always eventually *enabled* holds. In other words: Now and for all future points, there is a point further up in the future where *enabled* holds.

Another way to say this: *enabled* holds infinitely often.



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$\diamond\square$ *enabled* means:

Eventually always *enabled* holds. In other words: Starting now or from a future point, *enabled* will hold continuously for all points in the future.



Informal Semantics – Examples

□ (*request* → ◇ *grant*) means:

Always [*request* implies eventually *grant*]. In other words: Always (i.e., now and at all points in the future), if *request* holds then eventually *grant* holds (i.e., there exists a point further up in the future where *grant* holds).



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□ ($request \rightarrow (request \cup grant)$) means:

Always, *request* implies [*request* until *grant*]. In other words: At every point in the future, if *request* holds then there exists a point further up in the future where *grant* holds, and *request* holds continuously until that point.



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Exercise. Consider the following LTL formulas:

(a) $\square (request \text{ U } grant)$

(b) $\square \diamond (request \rightarrow grant)$

(c) $\square \diamond request \rightarrow \square \diamond grant$

(d) $\square \diamond \square enabled$

1. What is the correct way to parenthesize the point (c) formula, based on the operator precedence?
2. Depict graphically the meaning of these formulas. What is the difference between the point (d) formula and $\diamond \square enabled$?

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- If a process is enabled infinitely often, then it will run infinitely often:

$$\square \diamond enabled \rightarrow \square \diamond run$$

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$$\square (@2 \wedge \text{upgoing} \wedge \text{pressed5} \rightarrow (\text{upgoing} \cup @5))$$

Formal Semantics

Let S be a set of states and $L : S \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(Atoms)$ be a labeling function associating to each state s a set $L(s)$ of all atoms that are true in that state.

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For an LTL formula φ , we define $\pi \models_L \varphi$, read " π satisfies φ w.r.t. labeling L " or " φ holds for π w.r.t. labeling L " by structural recursion on φ :

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When the labeling L is fixed, we can write $\pi \models \varphi$ instead of $\pi \models_L \varphi$.

Semantics of Atoms Illustrated

$\pi \models p$



Semantics of “Next” Illustrated

$\pi \models \circ p$



Semantics of “Eventually” Illustrated

$\pi \models \Diamond p$



Semantics of “Always” Illustrated

$\pi \models \Box p$



Combined Semantics of “Eventually” and “Always” Illustrated

$\pi \models \diamond \square p$



Semantics of “Until” Illustrated

$\pi \models pUq$



Exercises

Transition Systems and Paths

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Paths are written as $\pi = s_0 \rightarrow s_1 \rightarrow s_2 \rightarrow \dots$

Transition Systems and Paths – Example

Recall the example with two parallel processes, where, for $i \in \{1, 2\}$:

- n_i denotes “process i **n**ot in critical section”
- r_i denotes “process i **r**equesting to enter critical section”
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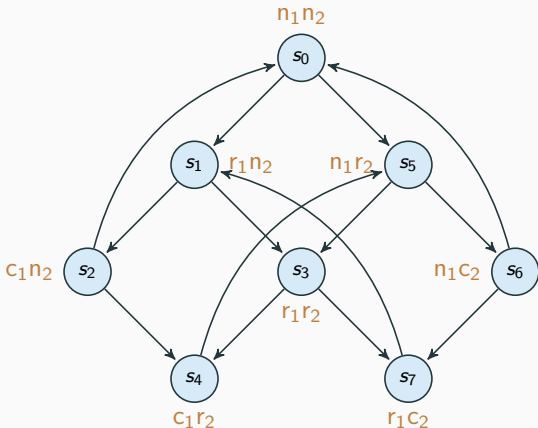
$$\text{Atoms} = \{n_1, n_2, r_1, r_2, c_1, c_2\}$$

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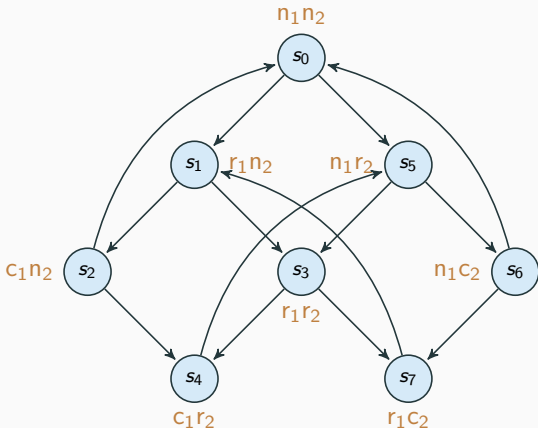


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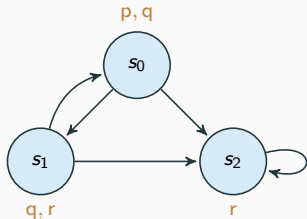
- $S = \{s_0, s_1, \dots, s_7\}$
- $\rightarrow = \{(s_0, s_1), (s_0, s_5), \dots\}$
- $L(s_0) = \{n_1, n_2\}$
- $L(s_1) = \{r_1, n_2\}$
- ...

Unwinding a Transition System

Visualise all paths from a given state s_0 by **unwinding the LTS** to obtain an infinite tree.

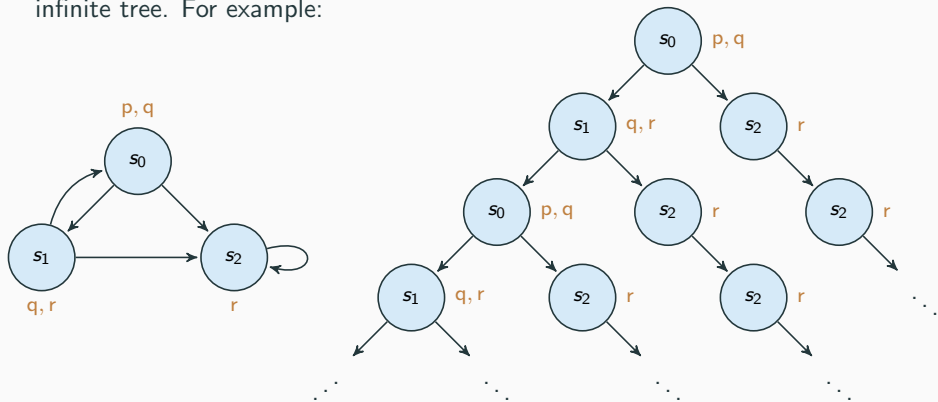
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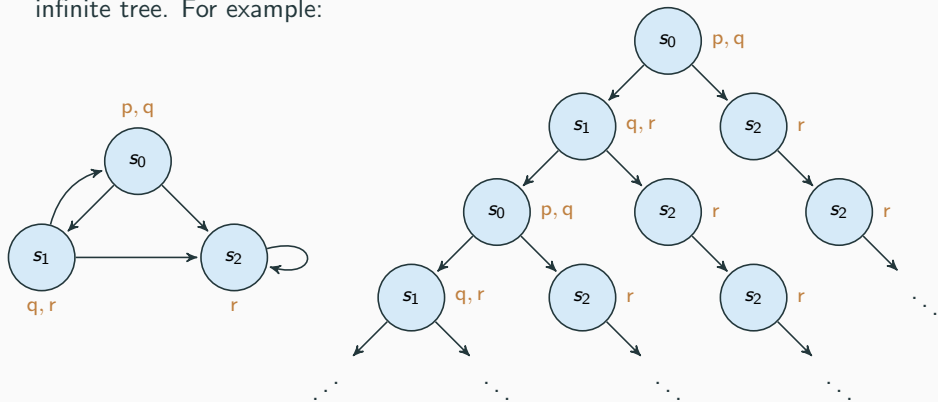
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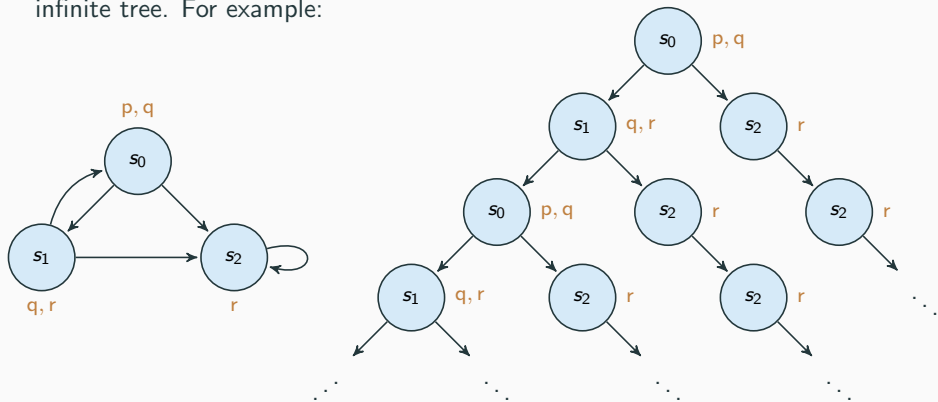
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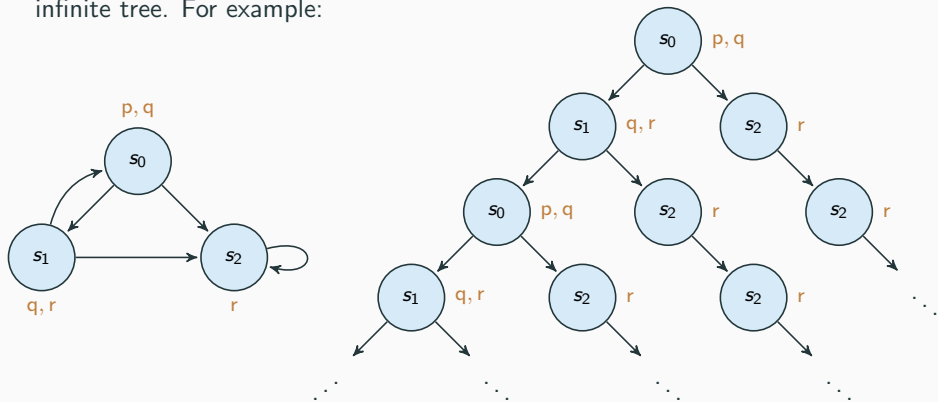


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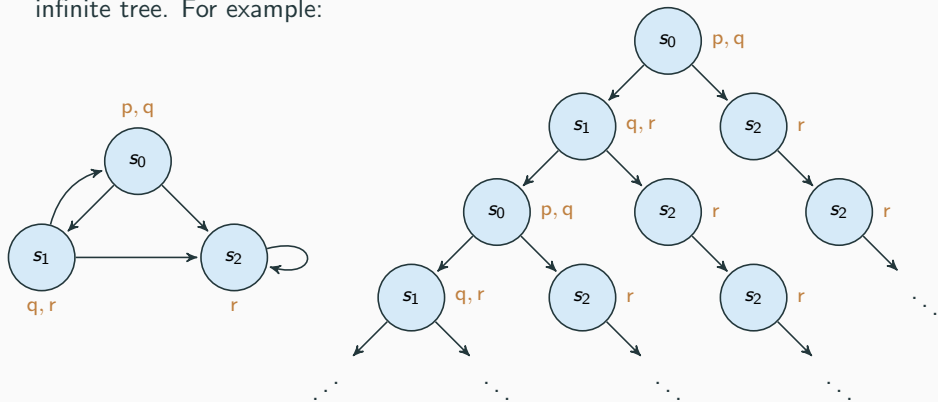
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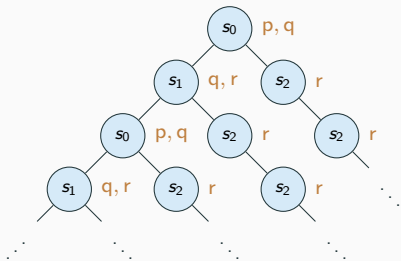
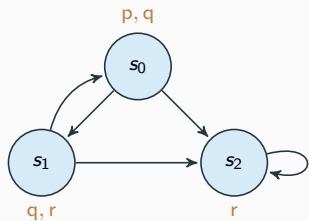
Formal Semantics Continued: Satisfaction Relation for LTSs

Let $\mathcal{M} = (S, \rightarrow, L)$ be an LTS and φ be an LTL formula.

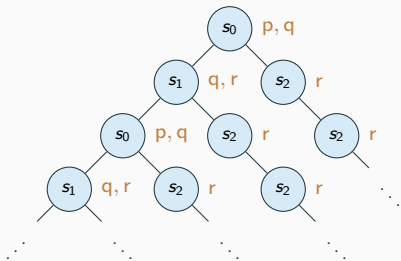
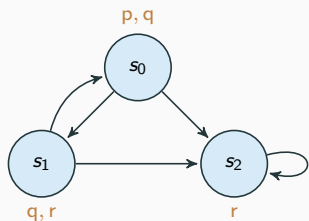
We extend the satisfaction relation from infinite sequences to LTSs as follows:

For a state $s \in S$, we define $\mathcal{M}, s \models \varphi$, read \mathcal{M} satisfies φ in state s or φ holds for \mathcal{M} in state s , to mean that $\pi \models_L \varphi$ for every path π of \mathcal{M} starting at state s .

Satisfaction Relation for LTSs – Example

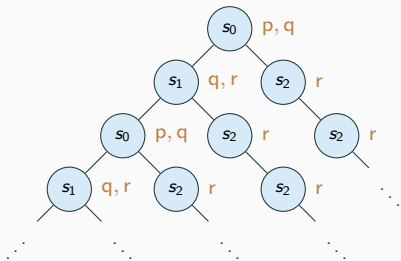
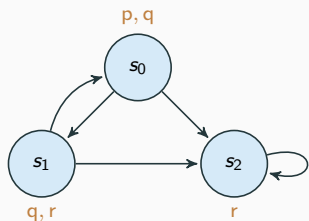


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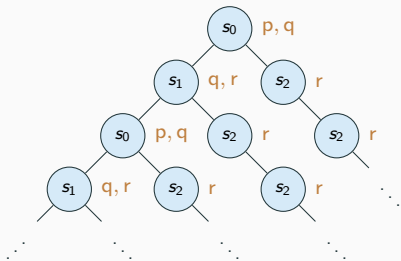
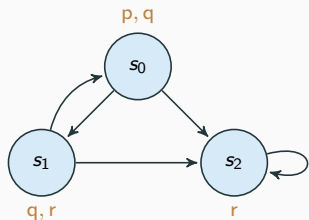
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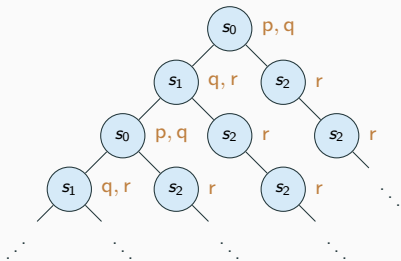
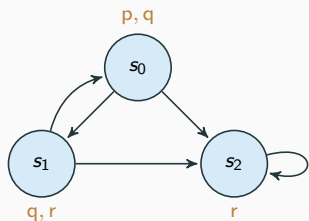
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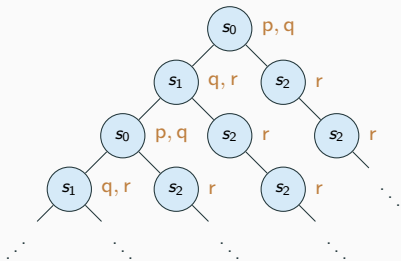
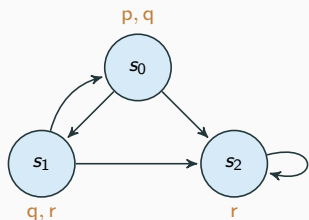
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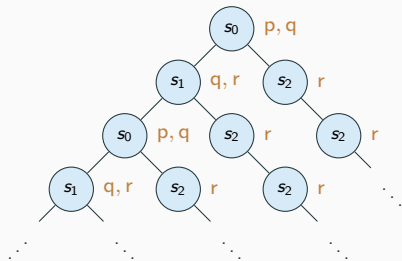
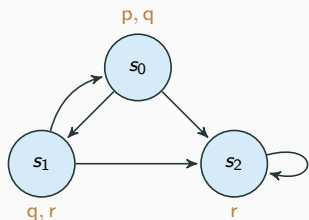
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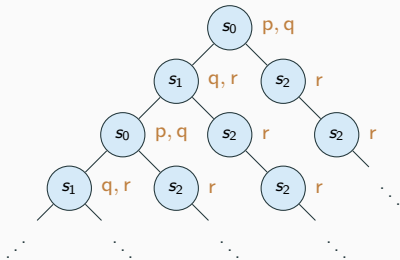
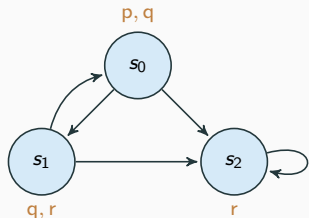
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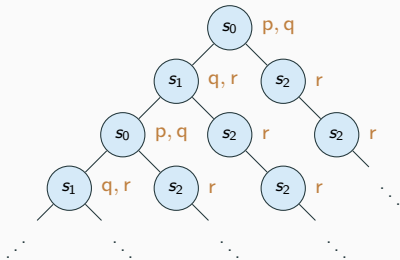
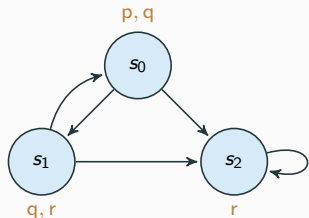
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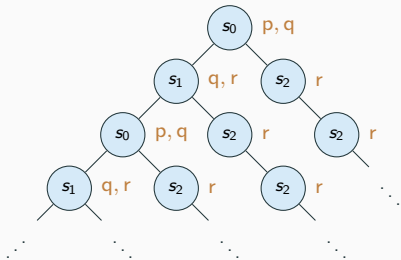
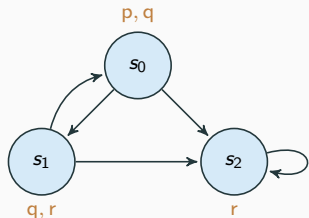
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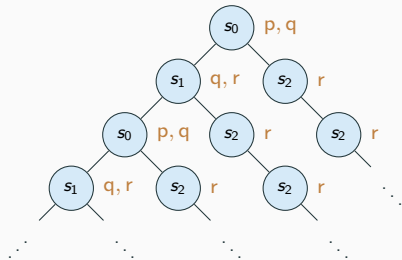
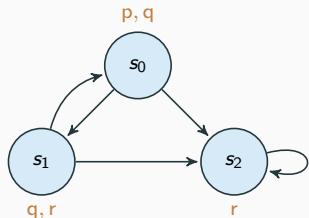
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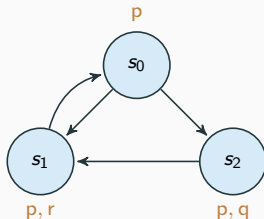


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Homework Exercise 1

Consider the LTS shown in the picture:



1. Write down the mathematical definitions of its components S , \rightarrow and L .
2. Draw its unwinding tree.
3. Describe all its possible paths that start at state s_0 .
4. Determine which of the following are true, and explain why or why not:

$$s_1 \models p \wedge r$$

$$s_0 \models \bigcirc r$$

$$s_0 \models \bigcirc(p \vee r)$$

$$s_2 \models \Box p$$

$$s_0 \models (p \vee q) \cup r$$

$$s_1 \models (p \wedge \neg r) \cup q$$

5. Give your own examples of LTL formulas and states such that the formula holds or does not hold in the given state, and in each case explain why.

Homework Exercise 2

In the example with the two processes executed in parallel, determine whether the following properties are expressible in LTL; and if yes, whether they hold.

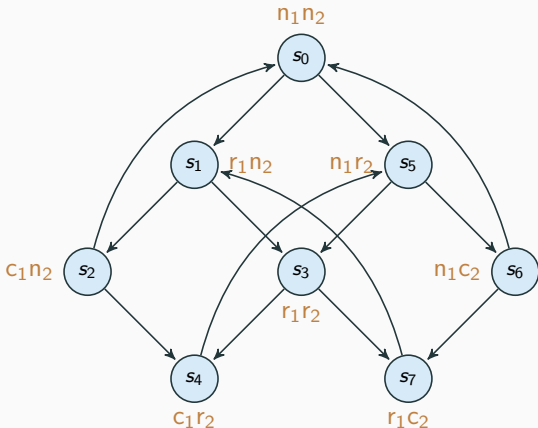
- **The safety property:** Only one process may execute critical section code at any point
- **The liveness property:** Whenever a process requests to enter its critical section, it will eventually be allowed to do so.
- **The non-blocking property:** A process can always request to enter its critical section.

Transition Systems and Paths – Example

Recall the example with two parallel processes, where, for $i \in \{1, 2\}$:

- n_i denotes “process i not in critical section”
- r_i denotes “process i requesting to enter critical section”
- c_i denotes “process i in critical section”

$Atoms = \{n_1, n_2, r_1, r_2, c_1, c_2\}$



$\mathcal{M} = (S, \rightarrow, L)$ where

- $S = \{s_0, s_1, \dots, s_7\}$
- $\rightarrow = \{(s_0, s_1), (s_0, s_5), \dots\}$
- $L(s_0) = \{n_1, n_2\}$
- $L(s_1) = \{r_1, n_2\}$
- ...

Homework Exercise 2 – Solution

In the example with the two processes executed in parallel, determine whether the following properties are expressible in LTL; and if yes, whether they hold (for s_0).

Let $\mathcal{M} = (S, \rightarrow, L)$ be that transition system.

Safety property: Only one process may execute critical section code at any point.

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An LTL formula expressing this is $\varphi = \Box (\neg(c_1 \wedge c_2))$.

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means (by the semantics in an LTS)

for all $\pi \in \text{Paths}_{s_0}(\mathcal{M})$, $\pi \models_L \varphi$

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which means (by the semantics of the propositional connectives and atoms)

for all $\pi = t_0 t_1 t_2 \dots \in Paths_{s_0}(\mathcal{M})$, for all $i \geq 0$, not ($c_1 \in L(t_i)$ and $c_2 \in L(t_i)$)

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We conclude that $\mathcal{M}, s_0 \models \varphi$.

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This was backwards reasoning, reducing the goal to something true.

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An LTL formula expressing this is $\varphi = \Box((r_1 \rightarrow \Diamond c_1) \wedge (r_2 \rightarrow \Diamond c_2))$.

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By the semantics in an LTS, it suffices to find one $\pi \in Path_{s_0}(\mathcal{M})$ such that $\pi \not\models_L \varphi$.

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We take $\pi = s_0(s_1s_3s_7)^\infty$.

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An LTL formula expressing this is $\varphi = \square((r_1 \rightarrow \diamond c_1) \wedge (r_2 \rightarrow \diamond c_2))$.

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$(s_1s_3s_7)^\infty \not\models_L r_1 \rightarrow \diamond c_1$

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which is **false** – as can be seen by inspecting the system.

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In the example with the two processes executed in parallel, determine whether the following properties are expressible in LTL; and if yes, whether they hold (for s_0). Let $\mathcal{M} = (S, \rightarrow, L)$ be that transition system.

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which is **false** – as can be seen by inspecting the system.

Since the assumption $\pi \models_L \varphi$ leads to a contradiction, we conclude $\pi \not\models_L \varphi$.

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In the example with the two processes executed in parallel, determine whether the following properties are expressible in LTL; and if yes, whether they hold (for s_0).

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The properties NB1 and NB2 (hence NB as well) are true about the system \mathcal{M} .

This can be routinely checked by:

- looking at all the states s reachable from s_0 such that $c_1 \notin L(s)$
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But NB1, NB2 and NB are not expressible as LTL formulas.

Can we prove this? Hmm... what does it even mean?

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Let's assume NB1 expressible in LTL, and let φ be an LTL formula as above.

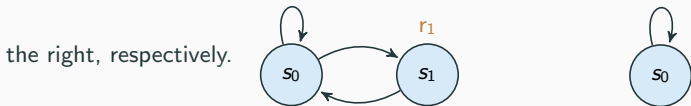
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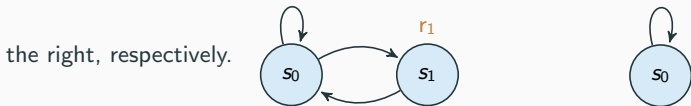
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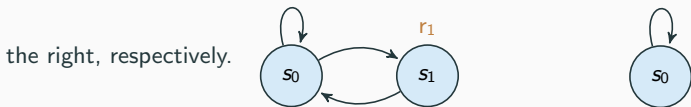
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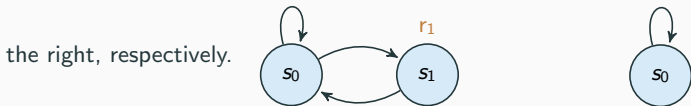
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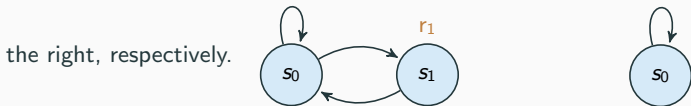
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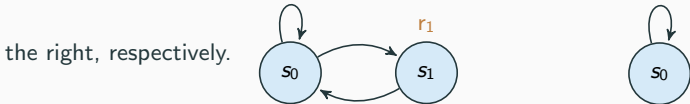
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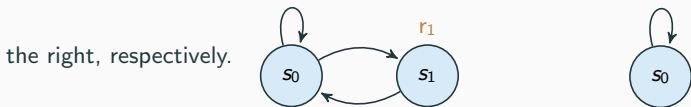
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We've reached a contradiction, meaning our assumption is false. So NB1 is not expressible in LTL.

Homework: Modify the proof to show that NB is not expressible in LTL.

Formula Equivalence

Two formulas φ and ψ are **equivalent**, denoted $\varphi \equiv \psi$, if they are satisfied by (i.e., hold for) exactly the same state labelings and infinite sequences of states: Given any labeling $L : S \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\text{Atoms})$ and any infinite sequence of states π , we have that $\pi \models_L \varphi$ iff $\pi \models_L \psi$

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Note. If $\varphi \equiv \psi$, then φ and ψ will also be satisfied by the same LTSs in the same states: Given any LTS $\mathcal{M} = (S, \rightarrow, L)$ and any $s \in S$, we have that $\mathcal{M}, s \models \varphi$ iff $\mathcal{M}, s \models \psi$.

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Homework Exercise 3: Explain why this is the case.

Some Formula Equivalences

Propositional tautologies:

$$\neg(\varphi \wedge \psi) \equiv \neg\varphi \vee \neg\psi \quad \neg(\varphi \vee \psi) \equiv \neg\varphi \wedge \neg\psi$$

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Distributive laws:

$$\Box(\varphi \wedge \psi) \equiv \Box\varphi \wedge \Box\psi \quad \Diamond(\varphi \vee \psi) \equiv \Diamond\varphi \vee \Diamond\psi \quad \bigcirc(\varphi \text{ U } \psi) \equiv \bigcirc\varphi \text{ U } \bigcirc\psi$$

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Note:

$$\Box(\varphi \vee \psi) \not\equiv \Box\varphi \vee \Box\psi \quad \Diamond(\varphi \wedge \psi) \not\equiv \Diamond\varphi \wedge \Diamond\psi$$

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Inter-definability laws:

$$\diamond\varphi \equiv \neg\Box\neg\varphi \quad \Box\varphi \equiv \neg\diamond\neg\varphi \quad \diamond\varphi \equiv \top \cup \varphi$$

where \top (read “True”) is an abbreviation for $p \rightarrow p$ for some atom p

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Expansion laws:

$$\diamond\varphi \equiv \varphi \vee \circ\diamond\varphi \quad \Box\varphi \equiv \varphi \wedge \circ\Box\varphi \quad \varphi \cup \psi \equiv \psi \vee (\varphi \wedge \circ(\varphi \cup \psi))$$

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Let us prove the following equivalence:

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Fix a labeling function $L : S \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(Atoms)$ and let π be an infinite sequence $s_0s_1s_2\dots$. We must prove two things:

- (1) $\pi \models \diamond\varphi$ implies $\pi \models \neg\Box\neg\varphi$.
- (2) $\pi \models \neg\Box\neg\varphi$ implies $\pi \models \diamond\varphi$.

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Proving that $\pi \models \Diamond\varphi$ implies $\pi \models \neg\Box\neg\varphi$:

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Proving that $\pi \models \Diamond\varphi$ implies $\pi \models \neg\Box\neg\varphi$:

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Proving that $\pi \models \diamond\varphi$ implies $\pi \models \neg\Box\neg\varphi$:

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Hence, by semantics of \diamond , there exists an i such that $\pi^i \models \varphi$.

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Proving that $\pi \models \Diamond\varphi$ implies $\pi \models \neg\Box\neg\varphi$:

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Hence, by semantics of \Diamond , we have $\pi \models \Diamond \varphi$.

Note. The proof of “ $\pi \models \neg \Box \neg \varphi$ implies $\pi \models \Diamond \varphi$ ” is the reverse of the proof of “ $\pi \models \Diamond \varphi$ implies $\pi \models \neg \Box \neg \varphi$ ”. So we could have proved directly “ $\pi \models \Diamond \varphi$ iff $\pi \models \neg \Box \neg \varphi$ ” by a chain of equivalent (iff-related) statements.

Homework Exercise 4

Choose from the previous two slides any three laws (except for the propositional tautologies) and prove them.

Hint. Take the approach shown above, using the semantics of formulas and logical reasoning.

Summary of the Discussed Concepts

- LTL = Linear Temporal Logic
- Syntax = formulas built from
 - atoms
 - propositional connectives
 - temporal connectives
- LTL can express some practical specification patterns
- Semantics = the satisfaction relation
 - between infinite sequences and formulas
 - between LTSs and formulas
- Formula equivalence

Further Reading

Sections 5.1.1–5.1.4 of Baier & Katoen's "Principles of Model Checking" (MIT Press 2008)

Section 3.2 of Huth & Ryan's "Logic in Computer Science: Modelling and Reasoning about Systems" (Cambridge University Press 2004)

Note. Uses another (standard) notation for the temporal connectives:

X instead of \bigcirc

F instead of \diamond (think "in the Future")

G instead of \square (think "Globally")