

# Algorithms for Model Checking (2IW55)

## Lecture 12

Timed Verification: Timed Automata  
Background material: Chapter 16, 17 and  
handout R. Alur, "Timed Automata"

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HG 6.81

## Outline

- 1 Timed Automata
- 2 Analysing Semantics
- 3 Reachability Problem
- 4 Clock Equivalence
- 5 Region Automata
- 6 Exercise

## Timed Automata

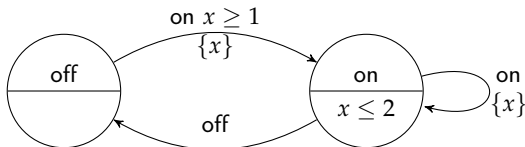
Recalling notation:

- A **clock valuation**  $\nu$  for a set  $C$  of clocks is a function  $\nu : C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$
- We write  $\nu \models \phi$  iff  $[\phi]_{\nu} = \text{true}$ .
- Clock valuation update:  $\nu + d$  is defined as:  $(\nu + d)(x) = \nu(x) + d$  for all  $d \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ .
- Clock valuation reset:  $[\nu]_R$  is defined as:  $[\nu]_R(x) = 0$  if  $x \in R$ , else  $\nu(x)$ .
- Let  $\mathcal{C}(C)$  be the set of clock constraints over  $C$ .

## Timed Automata

A **timed automaton** is a tuple  $\mathcal{T} = \langle L, L_0, Act, C, \longrightarrow, \iota \rangle$

- $L$  is a finite set of **locations**;  $L_0 \subseteq L$  is a non-empty set of **initial** locations
- $Act$  is the set of **actions**
- $C$  is a finite set of clock variables
- $\longrightarrow \subseteq L \times \mathcal{C}(C) \times Act \times 2^C \times L$  is the set of **switches**
- $\iota : L \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(C)$  is the **invariant** assignment function



## Timed Automata

Recalling intuition:

- A switch  $l \xrightarrow{g \ a \ R} l'$  means that:
  - action  $a$  is **enabled** whenever guard  $g$  evaluates to true.
  - upon executing the switch, we move from location  $l$  to location  $l'$  and reset all clocks in  $R$  to zero.
  - only locations  $l'$  that can be reached with clock values that **satisfy the location invariant**.
- an invariant  $\iota(l)$  **limits** the time that can be spent in location  $l$ .
  - staying in location  $l$  only is allowed as long as the invariant evaluates to true.
  - before the invariant becomes invalid location  $l$  must be left.
  - if no switch is enabled when the invariant becomes invalid no further progress is possible: **timed deadlock**, or **time-lock**.

## Timed Automata

Let  $\mathcal{T} = \langle L, L_0, Act, C, \longrightarrow, \iota \rangle$  be a Timed Automaton.

Its semantics is defined as a **timed transition system**:  $[T] = \langle S, S_0, Act, \rightarrow, \mapsto \rangle$

- $S = \{(l, \nu) \in L \times (C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}) \mid \nu \models \iota(l)\}$ , i.e. all combinations of locations and clock valuations that **do not violate** the location invariant.
- $S_0 = \{(l, \nu) \in L_0 \times (C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}) \mid \nu \models \iota(l) \wedge \forall x \in C : \nu(x) = 0\}$ .
- $\longrightarrow \subseteq S \times Act \times S$  is defined as follows:

$$\frac{l \xrightarrow{g \ a \ R} l' \quad \nu \models g \wedge \iota(l) \quad \nu' = [\nu]_R \quad \nu' \models \iota(l')}{(l, \nu) \xrightarrow{a} (l', \nu')}$$

- $\mapsto \subseteq S \times \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \times S$  is defined as follows:

$$\frac{\nu \models \iota(l) \quad \nu + d \models \iota(l)}{(l, \nu) \mapsto^d (l, \nu + d)}$$

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## Analysing Semantics

Let  $\mathcal{T} = \langle L, L_0, Act, C, \longrightarrow, \iota \rangle$  be a Timed Automaton.

- Assume  $v \models \iota(l)$  and  $v + d \models \iota(l)$  for fixed  $d \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$
- A possible execution fragment starting from the location  $l$  is:

$$(l, v) \xrightarrow{d_1} (l, v + d_1) \xrightarrow{d_2} (l, v + d_1 + d_2) \xrightarrow{d_3} (l, v + d_1 + d_2 + d_3) \xrightarrow{d_4} \dots$$

- where  $d_i > 0$  and the infinite sequence  $d_1 + d_2 + \dots$  **converges** towards  $d$
- such path fragments are called **time-convergent**, i.e. time advances only up to a certain value.
- Time-convergent execution fragments are unrealistic and **ignored**
  - compare to unrealistic executions in Kripke Structures and **fairness constraints** that eliminate these



## Analysing Semantics

Let  $\mathcal{T} = \langle L, L_0, Act, C, \longrightarrow, \iota \rangle$  be a Timed Automaton.

- Infinite path  $\pi$  is **time-divergent** if  $\Delta(\pi) = \infty$
- The function  $\Delta : Act \cup \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  is defined as follows:

$$\Delta(\tau) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \tau \in Act \\ d & \text{if } \tau = \tau \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \end{cases}$$

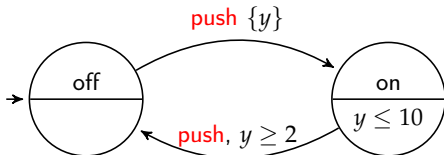
- For infinite execution fragments  $\sigma = s_0 \xrightarrow{\tau_1} s_1 \xrightarrow{\tau_2} s_2 \dots$  in  $[\mathcal{T}]$  (with  $\Longrightarrow \in \{\rightarrow, \mapsto\}$ ), let:

$$\Delta(\sigma) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \Delta(\tau_i)$$

- for path fragment  $\pi$  in  $[\mathcal{T}]$  induced by execution fragment  $\sigma$ :  $\Delta(\pi) = \Delta(\sigma)$
- For a state  $s \in [\mathcal{T}]$ :  $\text{Path}_{\text{div}}(s) = \{\pi \in \text{path}(s) \mid \pi \text{ is time-divergent}\}$

## Analysing Semantics

Light automaton:



- The path  $\pi \in [\text{Light}]$  in which on-and off-periods of one/two time units alternate:

$$\pi = (\text{off}, 0) (\text{off}, 1) (\text{on}, 0) (\text{on}, 1) (\text{on}, 2) (\text{off}, 2) (\text{off}, 3) (\text{on}, 0) (\text{on}, 1) \dots$$

is **time-divergent** as  $\Delta(\pi) = 1 + 2 + 1 + 2 + \dots = \infty$

- The path:

$$\pi' = (\text{off}, 0) (\text{off}, \frac{1}{2}) (\text{off}, \frac{3}{4}) (\text{off}, \frac{7}{8}) (\text{off}, \frac{15}{16}) \dots$$

is **time-convergent**, since  $\Delta(\pi') = \sum_{i \geq 1} (\frac{1}{2})^i = 1 < \infty$

## Analysing Semantics

Let  $\mathcal{T} = \langle L, L_0, Act, C, \longrightarrow, \iota \rangle$  be a Timed Automaton.

- State  $s \in [\mathcal{T}]$  contains a **timelock** if  $\text{Path}_{\text{div}}(s) = \emptyset$ 
  - there is no behaviour in  $s$  where time can progress *ad infinitum*
- $\mathcal{T}$  is **timelock-free** if no reachable state in  $[\mathcal{T}]$  contains a timelock
- Thus, timelocks can only be detected by means of an analysis of the infinite semantics of  $\mathcal{T}$
- Timelocks are usually **modelling flaws** that should be avoided
  - like deadlocks, we need mechanisms to check their presence

## Analysing Semantics

Let  $\mathcal{T} = \langle L, L_0, Act, C, \longrightarrow, \iota \rangle$  be a Timed Automaton.

- If  $\mathcal{T}$  can perform **infinitely** many actions in **finite** time it is **Zeno**
- A path  $\pi$  in  $[\mathcal{T}]$  is **Zeno** if:
  - it is time-convergent, and
  - infinitely many actions  $a \in Act$  are executed along the execution fragment  $\sigma$  underlying path  $\pi$
- $\mathcal{T}$  is **non-Zeno** if there is no initial Zeno path in  $[\mathcal{T}]$ , i.e., for all paths  $\pi$ :
  - $\pi \in \text{path}([\mathcal{T}])$  is time-divergent or
  - $\pi$  is time-convergent, with nearly all (except for **finitely many**) transitions being delay transitions
- Zeno paths are considered **modelling flaws** that should be avoided
  - like deadlocks and timelocks, we need mechanisms to check for Zenoness
- Zenoness can be checked **syntactically**

## Analysing Semantics

Let  $\mathcal{T} = \langle L, L_0, Act, C, \longrightarrow, \iota \rangle$  be a Timed Automaton.

**Non-Zenoness** can be checked directly on the Timed Automaton:

Suppose that for every control cycle:

$$l_0 \xrightarrow{g_1 \ a_1 \ R_1} l_1 \xrightarrow{g_2 \ a_2 \ R_2} \dots \xrightarrow{g_n \ a_n \ R_n} l_n$$

with  $l_0 = l_n$ , there exists a clock  $x \in C$  such that:

- 1  $x \in R_i$  for some  $0 < i \leq n$ , and
- 2 for all clock evaluations  $v$ :

$$v(x) < 1 \text{ implies } (v \not\models g_j \text{ or } v \not\models \iota(l_j)) \text{ for some } 0 < j \leq n$$

Then  $\mathcal{T}$  is **non-Zeno**

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## Reachability Problem

## Problem Statement

Let  $\mathcal{T} = \langle L, L_0, Act, C, \longrightarrow, \iota \rangle$  be a non-Zeno Timed Automaton and  $L_F \subseteq L$ . The **reachability problem**  $(\mathcal{T}, L^F)$  is defined as:

$$\exists \pi \in \text{Path}_{\text{div}}([\mathcal{T}]) : \pi(0) \in L^0 \times (C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}) \wedge \exists i \in \mathbb{N} : \pi(i) \in L^F \times (C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$$

- Problem:  $[\mathcal{T}]$  is **infinite state**, so it cannot be explored exhaustively.
- Solution: construct a finite quotient of  $[\mathcal{T}]$  with respect to a **bisimulation** relation  $\sim$

## Reachability Problem

- $[T]$  contains **infinitely many states**; only some information is important
- $[T]$  contains **infinitely many transitions**; only some are of importance for the reachability problem.

### Definition (Time-abstract Transition System)

Let  $T = \langle S, S_0, Act, \vdash, \rightarrow \rangle$  be a timed transition system.

The **time-abstract transition system** of  $T$  is defined as  $T_a = \langle S, S_0, Act, \Longrightarrow \rangle$ , where:

$$s \Longrightarrow s' \text{ iff } \exists d \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}, s'' \in S : s \xrightarrow{d} s'' \xrightarrow{a} s'$$

**Observation:**  $(s, \nu)$  is reachable in  $T$  iff  $(s, \nu)$  is reachable in  $T_a$ .



## Reachability Problem

## Definition (Time-abstract bisimulation)

Let  $T_a = \langle S, S_0, Act, \Longrightarrow \rangle$  be a time-abstract transition system. Two states  $s$  and  $u$  are **time abstract bisimilar**, denoted  $s B u$  iff for all  $a \in Act$ :

- $s \xrightarrow{a} s'$  then there is a state  $u'$  such that  $u \xrightarrow{a} u'$  and  $s' B u'$ ,
- $u \xrightarrow{a} u'$  then there is a state  $s'$  such that  $s \xrightarrow{a} s'$  and  $s' B u'$ .

- Informally: two states  $(l, \nu)$  and  $(l', \nu')$  have the same behaviour when:
  - 1 Any **action transition** enabled from  $\nu$  is also enabled from  $\nu'$  and the target states have the same behaviour
  - 2 For any **delay transition**  $d$  from  $\nu$ , there is a delay transition  $d'$ , such that  $(l, \nu + d)$  and  $(l', \nu' + d')$  have the same behaviour
- A time-abstract bisimulation relation  $B$  is  **$L^F$  sensitive** iff whenever  $(l, \nu) B (l', \nu')$  implies both  $l$  and  $l'$  in  $L^F$  or both are not in  $L^F$ .
- The reachability problem  $(\mathcal{T}, L^F)$  can be solved by looking for an  $L^F$  sensitive time-abstract bisimulation relation with finitely many equivalence classes.

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## Clock Equivalence

### Clock Equivalence (1)

- $v \models x < c$  whenever  $v(x) < c$
- Equivalently:  $\lfloor v(x) \rfloor < c$  (i.e. the greatest integer at most  $v(x)$ )
- $v \models x \leq c$  whenever  $v(x) < c$  or  $v(x) = c$
- Equivalently:  $\lfloor v(x) \rfloor < c$  or  $\lfloor v(x) \rfloor = c$  and  $\text{frac}(v(x)) = 0$

### First proposal

Two clock valuations  $v$  and  $v'$  are equivalent, denoted  $v \sim v'$  iff

- for any  $x \in C$ :

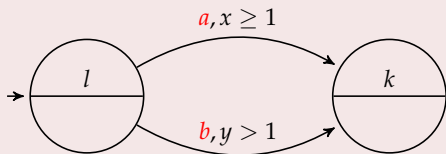
$$\lfloor v(x) \rfloor = \lfloor v'(x) \rfloor \text{ and } \text{frac}(v(x)) = 0 \text{ iff } \text{frac}(v'(x)) = 0$$

- Decidability of  $\sim$  is guaranteed because clocks are compared to natural numbers.

## Clock Equivalence

## Example

Consider the following Timed Automaton:



- Assume  $0 < v(x) < 1$  and  $0 < v(y) < 1$
- Obviously:  $(l, v) \not\rightarrow^a$  and  $(l, v) \not\rightarrow^b$
- Invariant  $l$  is true, so time may elapse
- The transition that is first enabled depends on  $x < y$  or  $x \geq y$
- This is not covered in the clock equivalence
- Action  $a$  is enabled first if  $\text{frac}(v(x)) \geq \text{frac}(v(y))$

## Clock Equivalence

### Clock Equivalence (2)

- Clustering clock valuations with equivalent integer bases is not sufficient.
- Ordering of fractional values of clocks is needed.

#### Second proposal

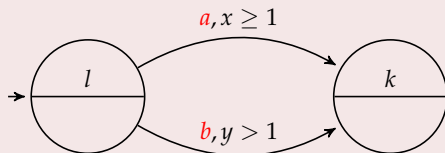
Two clock valuations  $\nu$  and  $\nu'$  are equivalent, denoted  $\nu \sim \nu'$  iff

- 1 for any  $x \in C$ :  
 $\lfloor \nu(x) \rfloor = \lfloor \nu'(x) \rfloor$ , and  $\text{frac}(\nu(x)) = 0$  iff  $\text{frac}(\nu'(x)) = 0$
- 2 for all  $x, y \in C$ :  $\text{frac}(\nu(x)) \leq \text{frac}(\nu(y))$  iff  $\text{frac}(\nu'(x)) \leq \text{frac}(\nu'(y))$

## Clock Equivalence

## Example

Consider the following Timed Automaton:



- Problem second proposal: countable, but **still infinite**:  $1 < x < 2$ ,  $2 < x < 3$ ,  $3 < x < 4$ , ...
- Observation: only the clock constraints in  $\mathcal{T}$  are relevant.

## Clock Equivalence

### Clock Equivalence (3)

- Let  $c_x \in \mathbb{N}$  be the **largest constant** to which  $x$  is compared in  $\mathcal{T}$
- If  $v(x) > c_x$ , then the exact value of  $x$  is of no importance ( $x$  only grows)

### Final proposal

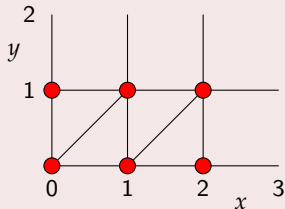
Two clock valuations  $v$  and  $v'$  are equivalent, denoted  $v \sim v'$  iff

- 1 for any  $x \in C$ :  $v(x), v'(x) > c_x$  or  $v(x), v'(x) \leq c_x$
- 2 for any  $x \in C$ : if  $v(x), v'(x) \leq c_x$  then:  
 $\lfloor v(x) \rfloor = \lfloor v'(x) \rfloor$  and  $\text{frac}(v(x)) = 0$  iff  $\text{frac}(v'(x)) = 0$
- 3 for any  $x, y \in C$ : if  $v(x), v'(x) \leq c_x$  and  $v(y), v'(y) \leq c_y$ , then:  
 $\text{frac}(v(x)) \leq \text{frac}(v(y))$  iff  $\text{frac}(v'(x)) \leq \text{frac}(v'(y))$

## Clock Equivalence

### Example

Consider a Timed Automaton with clocks  $x$  and  $y$ , with  $c_x = 2$  and  $c_y = 1$ . The clock regions are shown below:



Regions:

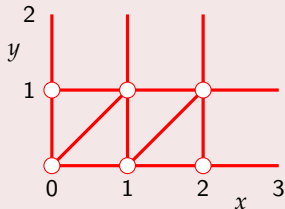
- 6 Corner points, e.g.  $[(0,0)]$



## Clock Equivalence

## Example

Consider a Timed Automaton with clocks  $x$  and  $y$ , with  $c_x = 2$  and  $c_y = 1$ . The clock regions are shown below:



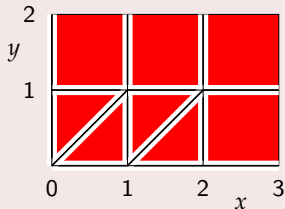
Regions:

- 14 Open line segments: e.g.  $[0 < x = y < 1]$

## Clock Equivalence

### Example

Consider a Timed Automaton with clocks  $x$  and  $y$ , with  $c_x = 2$  and  $c_y = 1$ . The clock regions are shown below:



Regions:

- 8 Open regions: e.g.  $[0 < x < y < 1]$

## Clock Equivalence

- The **clock region** of  $\nu \in [C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}]$ , denoted  $[\nu]$  is defined by:

$$[\nu] := \{\nu' : C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \mid \nu \sim \nu'\}$$

- The **state region** of a state  $(l, \nu)$  in  $[T]$  is defined by:

$$[(l, \nu)] := (l, [\nu])$$

- The number of clock regions is **bounded from below** by:

$$\text{if for all } x \in C : c_x \geq 1 \text{ then } R_l := |C|! \times \prod_{x \in C} c_x$$

- The number of clock regions is **bounded from above** by:

$$\text{if for all } x \in C : c_x \geq 1 \text{ then } R_u := |C|! \times 2^{|C|-1} \times \prod_{x \in C} (2(c_x + 1))$$

- The number of state regions in  $[T]/\sim$  is finite:

$$|L| \times R_l \leq S/\sim \leq |L| \times R_u$$

## Clock Equivalence

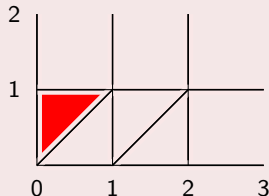
## Property

Let  $C$  be a set of clocks and let  $\phi \in \mathcal{C}(C)$ . For  $\nu, \nu' : C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  such that  $[\nu] = [\nu']$

$$\nu \models \phi \quad \text{iff} \quad \nu' \models \phi$$

## Example

Consider a Timed Automaton with clocks  $x$  and  $y$ , with  $c_x = 2$  and  $c_y = 1$ .



$$\begin{cases} \nu(x) = 0.5 \\ \nu(y) = 0.75 \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} \nu'(x) = 0.5 \\ \nu'(y) = 0.95 \end{cases}$$

- $\nu, \nu' \in [0 < x < y < 1]$
- $\nu \models x < 2$  iff  $\nu' \models x < 2$
- $\nu \models y > 1$  iff  $\nu' \models y > 1$

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## Region Automata

Let  $\mathcal{T} = \langle L, l_0, Act, C, \longrightarrow, \iota \rangle$  be a Timed Automaton.

- Clock region  $r_\infty = \{v \in [C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}] \mid \forall x \in C : v(x) > c_x\}$  is **unbounded**

- $r'$  is the **successor clock region** of  $r$ , denoted  $r' = \text{succ}(r)$ , if either:

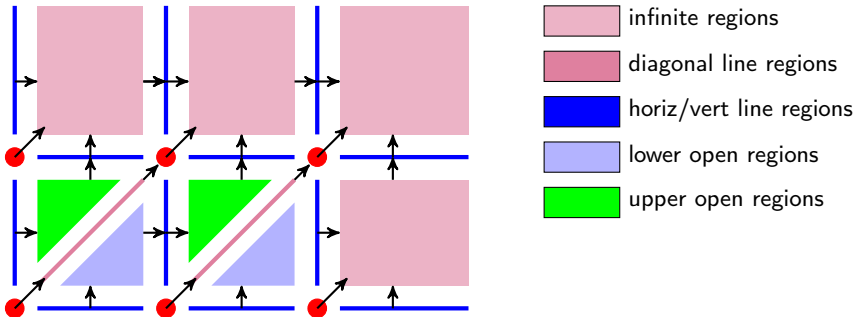
- 1  $r = r_\infty$  and  $r = r'$ , or
- 2  $r \neq r_\infty, r \neq r'$  and for all  $v \in r$ :

$$\exists d \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} : (v + d \in r' \quad \text{and} \quad \forall 0 \leq d' \leq d : v + d' \in r \cup r')$$

- The **successor region**:  $\text{succ}((l, v)) := (l, \text{succ}(v))$
- Resetting a region:  $r[R := 0] := \{v \in [C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}] \mid \exists v' \in r : v = [v']_R\}$

## Region Automata

Clock regions and their successor regions.



Representation of regions:

- for every clock  $x$ , one clock constraint from the set

$$\{x = c \mid c = 0, 1, \dots, c_x\} \cup \{c - 1 < x < c \mid c = 1, \dots, c_x\} \cup \{x > c_x\}$$

- for every pair of clocks  $x$  and  $y$  for which  $c - 1 < x < c$  and  $d - 1 < y < d$  appear in (1), whether  $\text{frac}(x)$  is less than, equal to, or greater than  $\text{frac}(y)$ .

## Region Automata

## Definition (Region Automaton)

The **Region Automaton**  $R(\mathcal{T})$  of a non-Zeno  $\mathcal{T} = \langle L, L_0, Act, C, \longrightarrow, \iota \rangle$  is defined as:

$$R(\mathcal{T}) = \langle S, S_0, Act \cup \{\tau\}, \rightarrow' \rangle$$

- $S = (L \times (C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})) / \sim = \{[s] \mid s \in S[\mathcal{T}]\}$
- $S_0 = \{[s] \mid s \in S_0[\mathcal{T}]\}$
- $\rightarrow' \subseteq S \times (Act \cup \{\tau\}) \times S$  is defined as:

$$\frac{l \xrightarrow{g \ a \ R} l' \quad r \models g \wedge \iota(l) \quad r[R := 0] \models \iota(l')}{(l, r) \xrightarrow{a'} (l', r[R := 0])}$$

$$\frac{r \models \iota(l) \quad \text{succ}(r) \models \iota(l)}{(l, r) \xrightarrow{\tau'} (l, \text{succ}(r))}$$



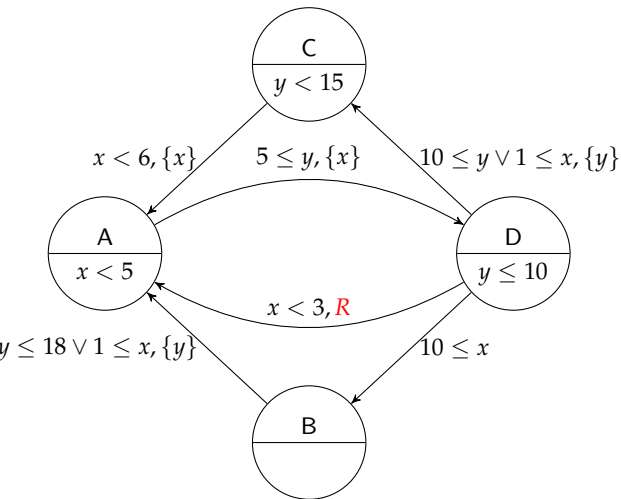
## Region Automata

- Location  $l$  in  $\mathcal{T}$  is reachable **iff** a state region  $(l, r)$  is reachable in  $R(\mathcal{T})$ .
- **Safety properties** can be translated to reachability problems
- Absence of time-lock in TA  $\mathcal{T}$  iff  $R(\mathcal{T})$  does not deadlock.
- Extension to model checking for **TCTL** follows basically the same recipe.

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## Exercise



Is the Timed Automaton  
Non-Zeno when:

- $R = \{x\}$
- $R = \{y\}$
- $R = \{x, y\}$

Is the Timed Automaton  
Timelock-free when:

- $R = \{x\}$
- $R = \{y\}$
- $R = \{x, y\}$

Explain and motivate your  
answers.