Algorithms for Model Checking (2IW55)

Lecture 1

The temporal logics CTL*, CTL and LTL: syntax and semantics

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Outline

1. Motivation
2. Kripke Structures
3. Temporal Logics
   - CTL*
   - CTL and LTL
4. Exercise

Motivation

Model checking is an automated verification method. It can be used to check that a requirement holds for a model of a system.

- A (software or hardware) system is usually modelled in a particular specification language
- The requirements are specified as properties in some temporal logic
- As an intermediate step, a state space is generated from the specification. This is a graph, representing all possible behaviours
- A model checking algorithm decides whether the property holds for the model: the property can be verified or refuted. Sometimes, witnesses or counter examples can be provided

In practice, model checking proves to be an effective method to detect many *bugs* in early design phases

Motivation

Complexity of model checking arises from:

- State space explosion: the state space is usually much larger than the specification
- Expressive logics have complex model checking algorithms

Ways to deal with the state space explosion:

- equivalence reduction: remove states with identical potentials from a state space
- on-the-fly: integrate the generation and verification phases, to prune the state space
- symbolic model checking: represent sets of states by clever data structures
- partial-order reduction: ignore some executions, because they are covered by others
- abstraction: remove details by working on conservative over-approximation

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Kripke Structures

The behaviour of a system is modelled by a graph consisting of:

- nodes, representing states of the system (e.g. the value of a program counter, variables, registers, stack/heap contents, etc.)
- edges, representing state transitions of the system (e.g. events, input/output actions, internal computations)

Information can be put in states or on transitions (or both). There are two prevailing models, which will be used interchangeably in these lectures:

- Kripke Structures (KS): information on states, called atomic propositions
- Labelled Transition Systems (LTS): information on edges, called action labels

Today: only Kripke Structures

Kripke Structures

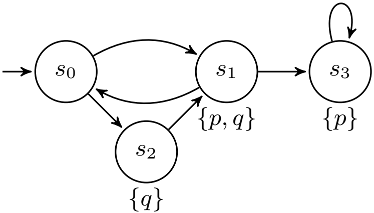
Let *AP* be a set of atomic propositions. A Kripke Structure over *AP* is a structure $M = \langle S, S_0, R, L \rangle$, where

- S is a finite set of states
- $S_0 \subseteq S$ is a non-empty set of initial states
- $R \subseteq S \times S$ is a total binary relation on S, representing the set of transitions. totality: for all $s \in S$, there exists $t \in S$, such that $(s,t) \in R$.
- $L : S \to 2^{AP}$, labels each state with the set of atomic propositions that hold in that state

Conventions:

- Sometimes S_0 is irrelevant and dropped; sometimes it is a single state, in which case it is written as s_0
- Instead of $(s,t) \in R$, we write sRt

Kripke Structures

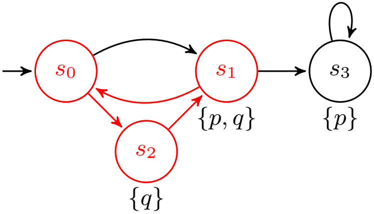


This is a Kripke Structure over *AP*, $M = \langle S, S_0, R, L \rangle$ as follows:

- $AP = \{p, q\}$
- $S = \{s_0, s_1, s_2, s_3\}$
- $S_0 = \{s_0\}$
- $R = \{(s_0, s_1), (s_1, s_0), (s_1, s_3), (s_3, s_3), (s_0, s_2), (s_2, s_1)\}$
- $L(s_0) = \emptyset, \quad L(s_1) = \{p, q\}$
  $L(s_2) = \{q\}, \quad L(s_3) = \{p\}$

Note: without the self-loop (s_3, s_3), R would not be total and we would not have a Kripke structure

Kripke Structures



Terminology

Given a fixed Kripke Structure $M = \langle S, R, L \rangle$.

- A *path* π is an infinite sequence of states $s_0\ s_1 \ldots$ such that for all $i \in \mathbb{N}$: $s_i \in S$ and $s_i R s_{i+1}$
- Given a path $\pi = s_0\ s_1\ s_2\ \ldots$
  - $\pi(i)$ denotes the i-th state (counting from 0): s_i
  - π^i denotes the suffix of π starting at i: $s_i\ s_{i+1}\ \ldots$
- path(s) denotes the set of paths starting at s: $\{\pi \mid \pi(0) = s\}$

In the Kripke Structure above:

$(s_0\ s_2\ s_1)^\omega \in \text{path}(s_0)$, $((s_0\ s_2\ s_1)^\omega)(3) = s_0$, $((s_0\ s_2\ s_1)^\omega)^3 = (s_0\ s_2\ s_1)^\omega$

Outline

Temporal Logics: CTL*

CTL* is the Full Computation Tree Logic

- CTL* formulae express properties over states or paths
- CTL* has the following temporal operators, which are used to express properties of paths: neXt, Future, Globably, Until, Releases
  The operators have the following intuitive meaning:
  - X f: f holds in the next state in this path
  - F f: f holds somewhere in this path
  - G f: f holds everywhere on this path
  - $[f$ U $g]$: g holds somewhere on this path, and f holds in all preceding states
  - $[f$ R $g]$: g holds as long as f did not hold before

Example

F G p versus G F p: *almost always* versus *infinitely often*

Temporal Logics: CTL*

CTL* consists of:

- Atomic propositions (AP)
- Boolean connectives: $\neg$ (not), $\vee$ (or), $\wedge$ (and)
- Temporal operators (on paths, see previous slide)
- Path quantifiers (on states, see below)

Path quantifiers are capable of expressing properties on a system's branching structure:

for All paths versus there Exists a path

Path quantifiers have the following intuitive meaning:

- A f: f holds for all paths from this state
- E f: f holds for at least one path from this state

Temporal Logics: CTL*

CTL* state formulae ($\mathcal{S}$) and path formulae ($\mathcal{P}$) are defined simultaneously by induction:

$$\begin{array}{lcl} \mathcal{S} & ::= & \mathsf{true} \mid \mathsf{false} \mid AP \mid \neg\mathcal{S} \mid \mathcal{S} \wedge \mathcal{S} \mid \mathcal{S} \vee \mathcal{S} \mid \mathsf{E}\ \mathcal{P} \mid \mathsf{A}\ \mathcal{P} \\ \mathcal{P} & ::= & \mathcal{S} \mid \neg\mathcal{P} \mid \mathcal{P} \wedge \mathcal{P} \mid \mathcal{P} \vee \mathcal{P} \mid \mathsf{X}\ \mathcal{P} \mid \mathsf{F}\ \mathcal{P} \mid \mathsf{G}\ \mathcal{P} \mid [\mathcal{P}\ \mathsf{U}\ \mathcal{P}] \mid [\mathcal{P}\ \mathsf{R}\ \mathcal{P}] \end{array}$$

Summarising:

- State formulae ($\mathcal{S}$) are:
  - constants true and false and atomic propositions (basis)
  - Boolean combinations of state formulae
  - quantified path formulae
- Path formulae ($\mathcal{P}$) are:
  - state formulae (basis)
  - Boolean combinations of path formulae
  - temporal combinations of path formulae

Temporal Logics: CTL*

The semantics of CTL* state formulae and path formulae is defined relative to a fixed Kripke Structure $M = \langle S, S_0, R, L\rangle$ over *AP*:

For state formulae:

$s \models$ true		
$s \not\models$ false		
$s \models p$	iff	$p \in L(s)$
$s \models \neg f$	iff	$s \not\models f$
$s \models f \wedge g$	iff	$s \models f$ and $s \models g$
$s \models f \vee g$	iff	$s \models f$ or $s \models g$
$s \models \mathsf{E}\ f$	iff	for some $\pi \in \text{path}(s), \pi \models f$
$s \models \mathsf{A}\ f$	iff	for all $\pi \in \text{path}(s), \pi \models f$

Temporal Logics: CTL*

The semantics of CTL* state formulae and path formulae is defined relative to a fixed Kripke Structure $M = \langle S, S_0, R, L \rangle$ over *AP*:

For path formulae:

$\pi \models f$	iff	$\pi(0) \models f$	(if f is a state formula)
$\pi \models \neg f$	iff	$\pi \not\models f$	
$\pi \models f \wedge g$	iff	$\pi \models f$ and $\pi \models g$	
$\pi \models f \vee g$	iff	$\pi \models f$ or $\pi \models g$	
$\pi \models \mathsf{X}\ f$	iff	$\pi^1 \models f$	
$\pi \models \mathsf{F}\ f$	iff	for some $i \geq 0, \pi^i \models f$	
$\pi \models \mathsf{G}\ f$	iff	for all $i \geq 0, \pi^i \models f$	
$\pi \models [f\ \mathsf{U}\ g]$	iff	$\exists i \geq 0.\ \pi^i \models g \wedge \forall j < i.\ \pi^j \models f$	
$\pi \models [f\ \mathsf{R}\ g]$	iff	$\forall j \geq 0.\ ((\forall i < j.\ \pi^i \not\models f) \Rightarrow \pi^j \models g)$	

Temporal Logics: CTL*

A property f is satisfied by a Kripke Structure $M = \langle S, S_0, R, L\rangle$, denoted $M \models f$, iff $\forall s \in S_0.\ M, s \models f$.

Equivalence between two CTL* properties is defined as follows:

$$f \equiv g \text{ iff } \forall M\ \forall s\ .(M, s \models f \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad M, s \models g)$$

According to the semantics, we can derive several dualities:

- $\neg \mathsf{G}\ f \equiv \mathsf{F}\ (\neg f)$
- $\neg\neg f \equiv f$
- $\neg(f \wedge g) \equiv \neg f \vee \neg g$
- $\neg \mathsf{A}\ f \equiv \mathsf{E}\ (\neg f)$
- $\neg[f\ \mathsf{R}\ g] \equiv [(\neg f)\ \mathsf{U}\ (\neg g)]$
- $\neg \mathsf{X}\ f \equiv \mathsf{X}\ (\neg f)$
- $\mathsf{F}\ f \equiv [\mathsf{true}\ \mathsf{U}\ f]$

So all CTL* properties can be expressed using only: $\neg, \mathsf{true}, \vee, \mathsf{X}\ , [\ \mathsf{U}\ ], \mathsf{E}$

Temporal Logics: CTL and LTL

Two simpler sublogics of CTL* are defined:

- LTL: linear time logic
  - checks temporal operators along single paths
  - pro: -counter examples are easy: “lasso”
    -nice automat-theoretic algorithm
  - typical tool: SPIN
- CTL: computation tree logic
  - branching time logic
  - temporal operators should be preceded by path quantifiers
  - pro: -efficient model checking algorithm
    -amenable to symbolic techniques
  - typical tool: nuSMV

The expressive power of LTL and CTL is incomparable.

Temporal Logics: CTL and LTL

LTL state formulae ($\mathcal{S}$) and path formulae ($\mathcal{P}$):

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{S} &::= \mathsf{A}\ \mathcal{P} \\ \mathcal{P} &::= \mathsf{true} \mid \mathsf{false} \mid AP \mid \neg\mathcal{P} \mid \mathcal{P}\wedge\mathcal{P} \mid \mathcal{P}\vee\mathcal{P} \\ &\quad\ \mid \mathsf{X}\ \mathcal{P} \mid \mathsf{F}\ \mathcal{P} \mid \mathsf{G}\ \mathcal{P} \mid [\mathcal{P}\ \mathsf{U}\ \mathcal{P}] \mid [\mathcal{P}\ \mathsf{R}\ \mathcal{P}]\end{aligned}$$

Summarising:

- The only state formulae are:
  - all-quantified path formulae (hence, the A is sometimes omitted)
- Path formulae are:
  - constants true and false and atomic propositions
  - Boolean combinations of path formulae
  - temporal combinations of path formulae

Example

LTL expressions: $\mathsf{A\ F\ G}\ p$, $\mathsf{A}\ (\neg(\mathsf{G\ F}\ p) \vee \mathsf{F}\ q)$; not in LTL: $\mathsf{A\ F\ A\ G}\ p$, $\mathsf{A\ G\ E\ F}\ p$

Question: $\mathsf{A\ F\ G}\ p \stackrel{?}{\equiv} \mathsf{A\ F\ A\ G}\ p$

Temporal Logics: CTL and LTL

CTL state formulae ($\mathcal{S}$) and path formulae ($\mathcal{P}$):

$$\begin{array}{ll} \mathcal{S} & ::= \mathsf{true} \mid \mathsf{false} \mid AP \mid \neg\mathcal{S} \mid \mathcal{S} \vee \mathcal{S} \mid \mathsf{E}\ \mathcal{P} \mid \mathsf{A}\ \mathcal{P} \\ \mathcal{P} & ::= \mathsf{X}\ \mathcal{S} \mid \mathsf{F}\ \mathcal{S} \mid \mathsf{G}\ \mathcal{S} \mid [\mathcal{S}\ \mathsf{U}\ \mathcal{S}] \mid [\mathcal{S}\ \mathsf{R}\ \mathcal{S}] \end{array}$$

Summarising:

- State formulae are:
  - constants true and false and atomic propositions
  - Boolean combinations of state formulae
  - quantified path formulae
- The only path formulae are:
  - temporal combinations of state formulae

Example

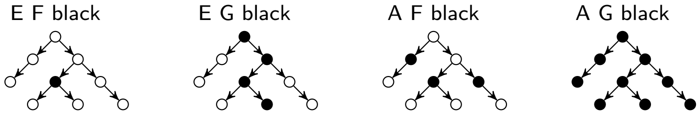
CTL expressions: A G E F p, E $[p$ U (E X $q)]$;
not in CTL: A F G p, A X X p, E $[p$ U (X $q)]$

Question: A X X $p \stackrel{?}{\equiv}$ A X A X p

Temporal Logics: CTL and LTL

Alternative view: CTL has only state formulae, with the following ten temporal combinators:

- A X and E X : for all/some next state
- A F and E F : inevitably and potentially
- A G and E G : invariantly and potentially always
- A [U] and E [U]: for all/some paths, until
- A [R] and E [R]: for all/some paths, releases



Temporal Logics: CTL and LTL

For CTL, only the following operators are needed:

- Boolean connectives: $\neg$, $\vee$ and constants true and AP
- Temporal combinations: E X , E G , E [U]

Standard transformations (derived from CTL*):

- E F $f \equiv$ E [true U f]
- A X $f \equiv \neg$E X $(\neg f)$
- A G $f \equiv \neg$E F $(\neg f)$
- A F $f \equiv \neg$E G $(\neg f)$
- A $[f$ R $g] \equiv \neg$E $[(\neg f)$ U $(\neg g)]$
- E $[f$ R $g] \equiv \neg$A $[(\neg f)$ U $(\neg g)]$

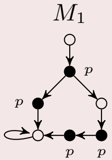
To remove A [U], note that:

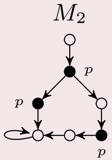
1. $[f$ R $g] \equiv [g$ U $(f \wedge g)] \vee$ G g
2. A $[f$ U $g] \equiv \neg$E $[(\neg f)$ R $(\neg g)]$
3. E $(f \vee g) \equiv$ E $f \vee$ E g

from this, we obtain A $[f$ U $g] \equiv \neg$E $[(\neg g)$ U $(\neg(f \vee g))] \wedge \neg$E G $(\neg g)$

Temporal Logics: CTL and LTL

Example (CTL versus LTL)





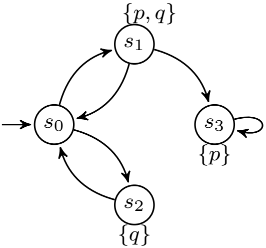
- $M_1 \models \mathsf{A\ F}\ (p \wedge \mathsf{X}\ p)$ but $M_1 \not\models \mathsf{A\ F}\ (p \wedge \mathsf{A\ X}\ p)$
- $M_2 \not\models \mathsf{A\ F}\ (p \wedge \mathsf{X}\ p)$ but $M_2 \models \mathsf{A\ F}\ (p \wedge \mathsf{E\ X}\ p)$

This shows that the LTL-formula $\mathsf{A\ F}\ (p \wedge \mathsf{X}\ p)$ is not equivalent to one of the CTL formulae $\mathsf{A\ F}\ (p \wedge \mathsf{A\ X}\ p)$ or $\mathsf{A\ F}\ (p \wedge \mathsf{E\ X}\ p)$.

Actually: $\mathsf{A\ F}\ (p \wedge \mathsf{X}\ p)$ is not expressible in CTL (does not follow from these observations)

Outline

Exercise



CTL* formulae: p, E $[q$ R $p]$, E F G p, A G F p, A G E F p, A G F $(p \wedge$ X $q)$, A G $(\neg q \vee$ F $p)$, A ((G p) $\vee$ (F q))

- For each formula, indicate whether it is in LTL and/or CTL
- Determine for each formula in which states of the above Kripke Structure it holds