INF5140 – Specification and Verification of Parallel Systems
Lecture 5 - Introduction to Logical Model Checking and Theoretical Foundations

Spring 2017

Institutt for informatikk, Universitetet i Oslo

March 3, 2017



#### Credits:

 Many slides (all the figures with blue background and few others) were taken from Holzmann's slides on "Logical Model Checking", course given at Caltech http://spinroot.com/spin/Doc/course/index.html (http://spinroot.com/spin/Doc/course/index.html)

## Outline

#### 2. Logic Model Checking: What is it about?

The Basic Method General remarks Motivating Examples

#### 3. Automata and Logic

Finite State Automata Büchi Automata Something on Logic and Automata Implications in Model Checking Automata Products

4. Model Checking Algorithm Preliminaries The Algorithm

#### 5. Final Remarks

Something on Automata

## Logic Model Checking: What is it about?

# Logic Model Checking (1)

- Model checking is a technique for verifying *finite-state* concurrent systems
- Theoretically speaking, model checking consists of the following tasks:
- 1. Modeling the system
  - It may require the use of abstraction
  - Often using some kind of automaton
- 2. Specifying the properties the design must satisfy
  - It is impossible to determine all the properties the systems should satisfy
  - Often using some kind of temporal logic
- 3. Verifying that the system satisfies its specification
  - In case of a negative result: error trace
  - An error trace may be product of a specification error

# Logic Model Checking (2)

The *application* of model checking at the design stage of a system typically consists of the following steps:

- 1. Choose the properties (correctness requirements) critical to the sytem you want to build (software, hardware, protocols)
- 2. Build a model of the system (will use for verification) guided by the above correctness requirements
  - The model should be as small as possible (for efficiency)
  - It should, however, capture everything which is relevant to the properties to be verified
- Select the appropriate verification method based on the model and the properties (LTL-, CTL\*-based, probabilistic, timed, weighted)
- 4. Refine the verification model and correctness requirements until all correctness concerns are adequately satisfied
- Main causes of combinatorial complexity in SPIN/Promela<sup>3</sup>
  - The number of and size of buffered channels
  - The number of asynchronous processes

<sup>3</sup>and in other model checkers.

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There are different model checking techniques. We will use the *automata-theoretic approach* which is implemented in the SPIN model checker (tool). Theoretically:

- System:  $\mathcal{L}(S)$  (set of possible behaviors/traces/words of S)
- Property:  $\mathcal{L}(P)$  (the set of valid/desirable behaviors)
- Prove that  $\mathcal{L}(S) \subseteq \mathcal{L}(P)$  (everything possible is valid)
  - Proving language inclusion is complicated
- Method
  - Let  $\overline{\mathcal{L}(P)}$  be the language  $\Sigma^{\omega} \setminus \mathcal{L}(P)$  of words not accepted by P
  - Prove  $\mathcal{L}(S) \cap \overline{\mathcal{L}(P)} = \emptyset$ 
    - There is no accepted word by S disallowed by P

This will be clear at the end of the talk, .... I hope

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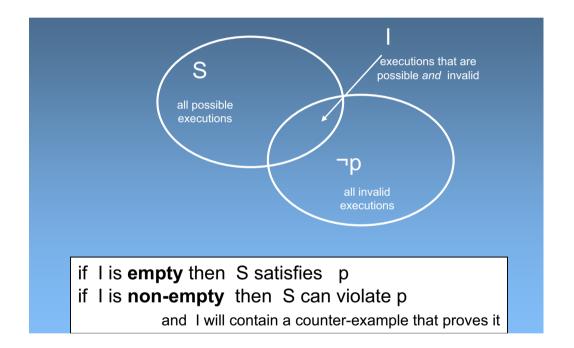
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#### Graphically:



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# Scope of the method

- Logic model checkers (LMC) are suitable for concurrent and multi-threading finite state systems
- Some of the errors LMC may catch:
  - Deadlocks (two or more competing processes are waiting for the other to finish, and thus neither ever does)
  - Livelocks (two or more processes continually change their state in response to changes in the other processes)
  - Starvation (a process is perpetually denied access to necessary resources)
  - Priority and locking problems
  - Race conditions (attempting to perform two or more operations at the same time, which must be done in the proper sequence in order to be done correctly)
  - Resource allocation problems
  - Dead code (unreachable code)
  - Violation of certain system bounds
  - Logic problems: e.g, temporal relations

The following diagram shows the evolution of the theoretical foundations of LMC:

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	·	SMV: a symbolic CTL model checker targeting <i>hardware</i> circuit verification (sy there are hundreds of other model checkers – there a everal variants of Spin)						eoretic framew · LTL model ch 86: Mazurkiew	e the automata etic framework FL model checking Mazurkiewicz r on trace theory	

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# On correctness (reminder)

- A system is correct if it meets its design requirements.
  - There is no notion of "absolute" correctness: It is always w.r.t. a given specification
- Getting the properties (requirements) right is as important as getting the model of the system right
- Examples of correctness requirements
  - A system should not deadlock
  - No process should starve another
  - Fairness assumptions
    - E.g., an infinite often enabled process should be executed infinitely often
  - Causal relations
    - E.g., each time a request is send, and acknowledgment must be received (*response* property)

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- The use of abstraction is needed for building models (systems may be extremely big)
  - A model is always an abstraction of the reality
- The choice of the model/abstractions depends on the requirements to be checked
- A good model keeps only relevant information
  - A trade-off must be found: too much detail may complicate the model; too much abstraction may oversimplify the reality
- Time and probability are usually abstracted away in LMC

- Statements about system design and system requirement must be separated
  - One formalism for specifying behavior (system design)
  - Another formalism for specifying system requirements (correctness properties)
- The two types of statements define a verification model
- A model checker can now
  - Check that the behavior specification (the design) is logically consistent with the requirement specification (the desired properties)

Two asynchronous processes may easily get blocked when competing for a shared resource

in real-life conflicts ultimately get resolved by *human judgment.* computers, though, must be able to resolve it with fixed algorithms

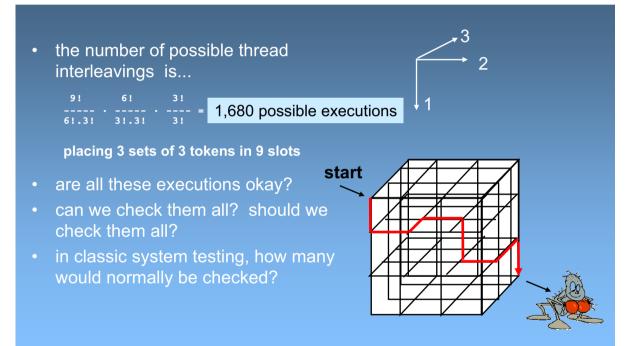


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int x, y, r; int \*p, \*q, \*z; int \*\*a; thread 1(void) /\* initialize p, q, and r \*/ { p = &x;q = &y;z = &r;} thread 2(void) /\* swap contents of x and y \*/ { r = \*p;\*p = \*q; \*q = r;} thread 3(void) /\* access z via a and p \*/ { 3 asynchronous threads a = &p;accessing shared data \*a = z; \*\*a = 12;3 statements each how many test runs are needed to } check that no data corruption can occur?

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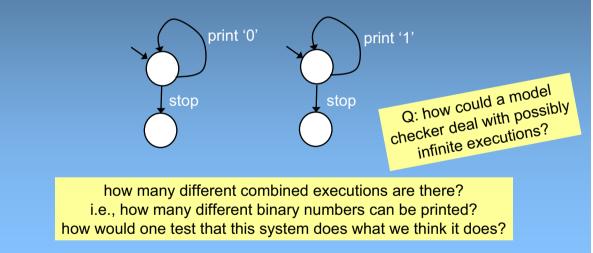
## Thread Interleaving



## A Simpler Example



- representing two asynchronous processes
- one can print an arbitrary number of '0' digits, or stop
- the other can print an arbitrary number of '1' digits, or stop



# Automata and Logic

A finite state automaton is a tuple  $(S, s_0, L, F, T)$ , where

- *S* is finite set of states
- $s_0 \in S$  is a distinguished initial state
- *L* is a finite set of labels (symbols)
- $F \subseteq S$  is the (possibly empty) set of final states
- $T \subseteq S \times L \times S$  is the transition relation, connecting states in S

We will, in general, follow Holzmann's notation: A.S denotes the state S of automaton A, A.T denotes the transition relation T of A, and so on....

If understood from the context, we will avoid the use of A.\_\_

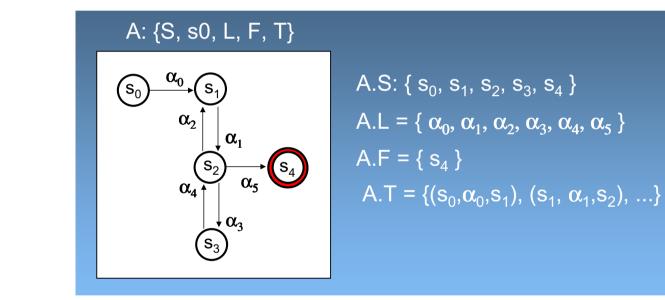
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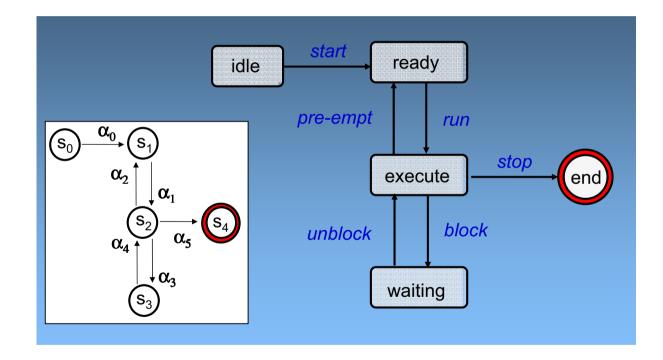
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# Finite State Automata Example



The above automaton may be interpreted as a Process Scheduler:



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A finite state automaton  $A = (S, s_0, L, F, T)$  is deterministic iff

$$\forall s \; \forall I, ((s, I, s') \in A.T \land (s, I, s'') \in A.T) \implies s' \equiv s''$$

I.e., the destination state of a transition is uniquely determined by the source state and the transition label. An automaton is called non-deterministic if it does not have this property

#### Examples:

- The automaton corresponding to the process scheduler is deterministic
- Automaton from definition is non-deterministic (think of distinction between *relations* and *partial functions*)

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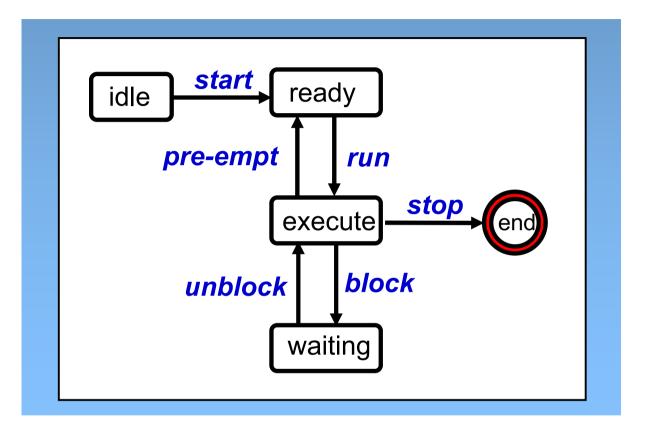
A run of a finite state automaton  $A = (S, s_0, L, F, T)$  is an ordered and possibly infinite set of transitions (a sequence) from T

$$\sigma = \{(s_0, l_0, s_1), (s_1, l_1, s_2), \ldots)\}$$

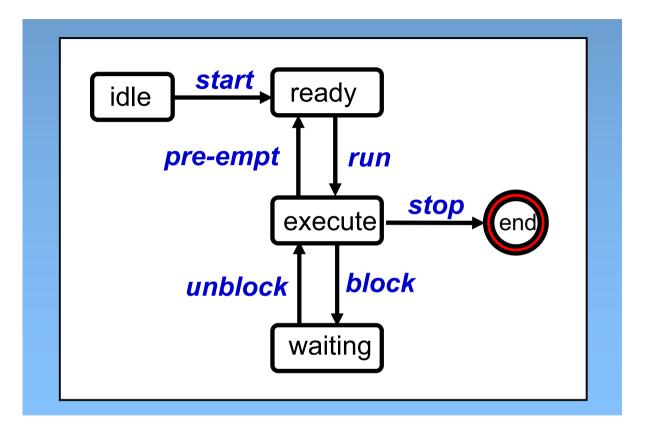
such that

$$\forall i, i \geq 0 \ s.th. \ (s_i, l_i, s_{i+1}) \in T$$

Each run corresponds to a state sequence in S and a word in L



- A state sequence from a run:
  - $\{idle, ready, \{execute, waiting\}^*\}$
- The corresponding word in *L*: {*start*, *run*, {*block*, *unblock*}\*}
- A single state sequence may correspond to more than one wort<sup>58</sup>/<sup>229</sup>



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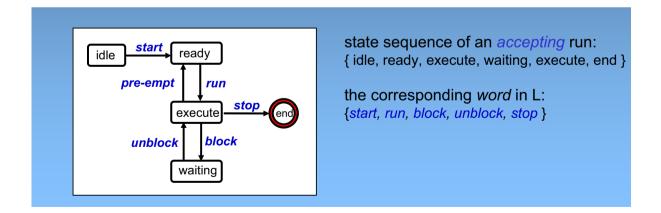
#### **Remarks**:

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An accepting run of a finite state automaton  $A = (S, s_0, L, F, T)$  is a finite run  $\sigma$  in which the final transition  $(s_{n-1}, I_{n-1}, s_n)$  has the property that  $s_n \in A.F$ 

Example:



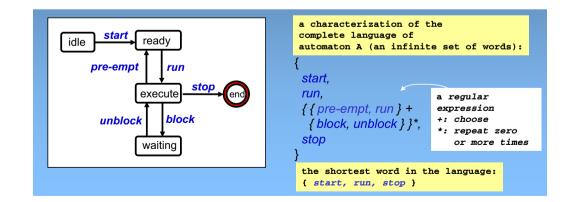
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## Language Accepted by an Automaton

## Definition

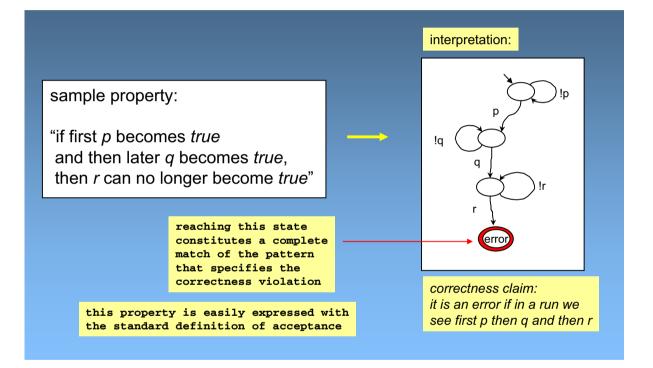
The language  $\mathcal{L}(A)$  of automaton  $A = (S, s_0, L, F, T)$  is the set of words in A.L that correspond to the set of all the accepting runs of A

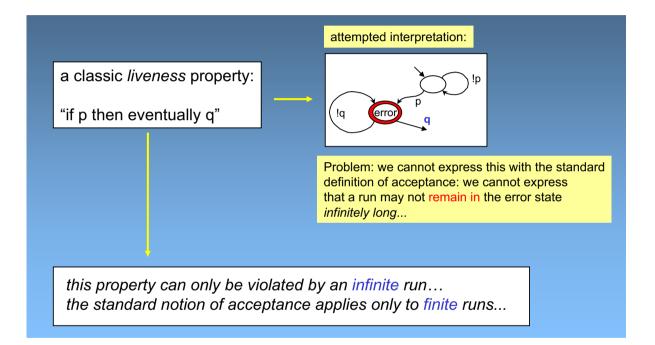
Notice that there can be infinitely many words in the language of even a small finite state automaton **Example:** 



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## Reasoning about Runs





We need, thus, to extend the notion of run, acceptance, ...

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## Büchi Acceptance

- An infinite run is often called an  $\omega$ -run ("omega run")
- An acceptance property for  $\omega$ -runs are called  $\omega$ -acceptance and can be defined in different ways
  - The so-called Büchi, Müller, Rabin, Streett, etc, acceptance conditions
  - We adopt here the one introduced by Büchi [?] [?]

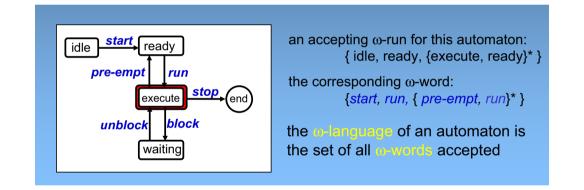
#### Definition

An accepting  $\omega$ -run of finite state automaton  $A = (S, s_0, L, F, T)$  is an infinite run  $\sigma$  such that

$$\exists i \geq 0, (s_{i-1}, l_{i-1}, s_i) \in \sigma \text{ s.th. } s_i \in A.F \land s_i \in \sigma^{\omega}$$

i.e., at *least one state* in *A*.*F* is visited infinitely often. Automata with the above acceptance condition are called Büchi automata

#### Büchi Automata <sub>Example</sub>



A generalized Büchi automaton is an automaton  $A = (S, s_0, L, F, T)$ , where  $F \subseteq 2^S$  ( $F = \{f_1, \ldots, f_n\}$  and  $f_i \subseteq S$ ). A run  $\sigma$  of A is accepting if

for each  $f_i \in F$ ,  $inf(\sigma) \cap f_i \neq \emptyset$ .

- A generalized Büchi Automaton differs from a Büchi Automaton by allowing multiple accepting sets instead of only one
- Generalized Büchi automata are not more expressive than usual Büchi automata

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- It would be convenient to include the acceptance for finite runs as a special case of acceptance for infinite runs - For that we need:
  - Let  $\varepsilon$  be a predefined nil symbol
  - The label set of the automaton is extended to  $L \cup \{\varepsilon\}$
  - To determine  $\omega$ -acceptance, a finite run is (thought to be) extended into an equivalent infinite run by stuttering the final state on  $\varepsilon$

The stutter extension of a finite run  $\sigma$  with final state  $s_n$ , is the  $\omega$ -run

$$\sigma (\mathbf{s}_n, \varepsilon, \mathbf{s}_n)^{\omega}$$

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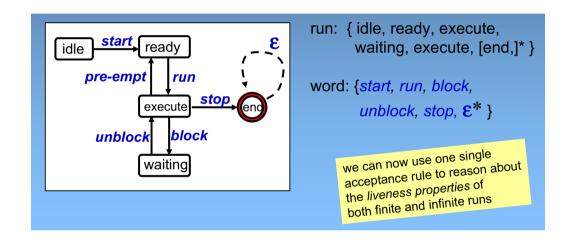
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# The Stutter Extension Rule Example



We define the notion that an LTL formula  $\varphi$  is true (false) relative to a path  $\sigma$ , written  $\sigma \models \varphi$  ( $\sigma \not\models \varphi$ ) as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma &\models \varphi & \text{iff} \quad \sigma_0 \models \varphi \text{ when } \varphi \in \mathcal{L} \\ \sigma &\models \neg \varphi & \text{iff} \quad \sigma \not\models \varphi \\ \sigma &\models \varphi \lor \psi & \text{iff} \quad \sigma \models \varphi \text{ or } \sigma \models \psi \end{aligned}$$

$$\sigma \models \Box \varphi \quad \text{iff} \quad \sigma^{k} \models \varphi \text{ for all } k \ge 0$$
  
$$\sigma \models \Diamond \varphi \quad \text{iff} \quad \sigma^{k} \models \varphi \text{ for some } k \ge 0$$
  
$$\sigma \models \bigcirc \varphi \quad \text{iff} \quad \sigma^{1} \models \varphi$$

(cont.)

Definition (cont.)  $\sigma \models \varphi U \psi$  iff  $\sigma^k \models \psi$  for some  $k \ge 0$ , and  $\sigma^i \models \varphi$  for every *i* such that  $0 \le i < k$  $\sigma \models \varphi R \psi$  iff for every  $j \ge 0$ , if  $\sigma^i \not\models \varphi$  for every i < j then  $\sigma^j \models \psi$  $\sigma \models \varphi W \psi$  iff  $\sigma \models \varphi U \psi$  or  $\sigma \models \Box \varphi$ 

# From Kripke Structures to Büchi Automata

• LTL formulas can be interpreted on sets of infinite runs of Kripke structures

We recall the definition (slightly different from previous lecture)

## Definition

A Kripke structure M is a four-tuple  $(W, R, W_0, V)$  where

- W is a finite non-empty set of states (worlds)
- $R \subseteq W \times W$  is a total accessibility relation between states (transition relation)
- $W_0 \subseteq W$  is the set of starting states
- V : W → 2<sup>AP</sup> is a map labeling each state with a set of propositional variables

A path in *M* is an infinite sequence  $\sigma = w_0, w_1, w_2, ...$  of worlds such that for every  $i \ge 0$ ,  $w_i R w_{i+1}$ . One can think of a path as an infinite branch in a tree corresponding to the unwind of the Kripke structure.

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#### From Kripke Structures to Büchi Automata Obtaining the automaton

 An ω-regular automaton A = (S, s<sub>0</sub>, L, F, T) can be obtained from a Kripke structure M = (W, R, W<sub>0</sub>, V) as follows

• 
$$S = W \cup \{i\}$$

- $s_0 = \{i\}$
- $L = 2^{AP}$
- $F = W \cup \{i\}$
- For  $s, s' \in S$  s.th.  $(s, l, s') \in T$  iff  $(s, s') \in R \land l = V(s')$

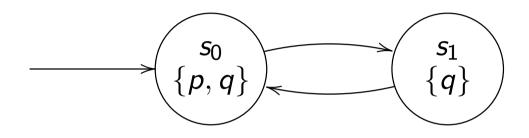
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•  $(i, I, s) \in T$  iff  $s \in W_0 \land I = V(s)$ 

#### From Kripke Structures to Büchi Automata Example

A Kripke structure (whose only infinite run is a model to  $\Box q$  and  $\Box \Diamond p$ , for instance):

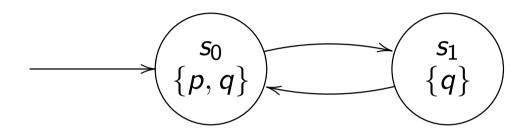


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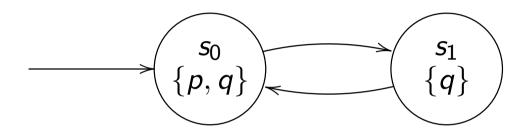


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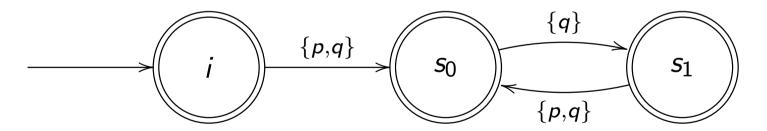
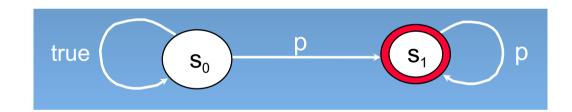


Figure: Büchi-Automaton

# From Logic to Automata

- For any LTL formula  $\psi$  there exists a Büchi automaton that accepts precisely those runs for which the formula  $\psi$  is satisfied
- Example: The formula \(\lambda \Display p\) corresponds to the following nondeterministic Büchi automaton:

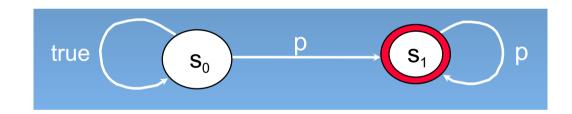


#### Figure: From LTL to automata

We will see the algorithm next lecture... For the moment, believe me that it is indeed the case 178/229

# From Logic to Automata

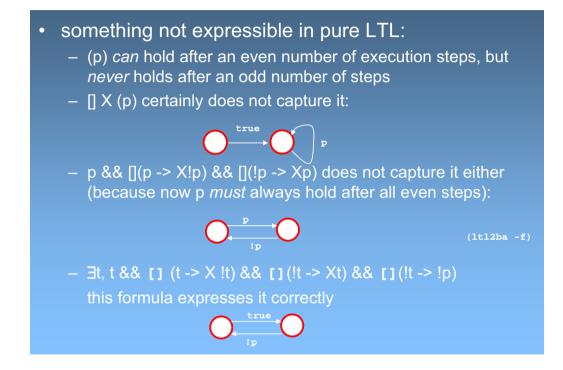
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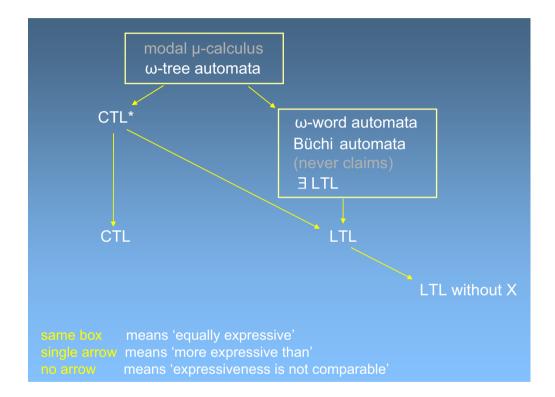
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## **Omega-regular** Properties



#### Figure: $\omega$ -regular properties



#### Figure: Expressiveness



• At the beginning we said that the automata-based model checking method was based on the following check:

$$\mathcal{L}(S) \cap \overline{\mathcal{L}(P)} = \emptyset$$

#### where S is a model of the system and P of the property

- So, the following Büchi automata's decidable properties are important for model checking
  - Language emptiness: are there any accepting runs?
  - Language intersection: are there any runs accepted by two or more automata?
  - Language complementation

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How does it work?

In theory:

- The system is represented as a Büchi automaton A
  - The automaton corresponds to the asynchronous product of automata  $A_1, \ldots, A_n$  (representing the asynchronous processes)

$$A=\prod_{i=1}^n A_i$$

- $\bullet\,$  The property is originally given as an LTL formula  $\psi\,$
- The property  $\psi$  is translated into a Büchi automaton  $B^4$
- We perform the following check:

$$\mathcal{L}(A) \cap \overline{\mathcal{L}(B)} = \emptyset$$

But... complementing a Büchi automaton is difficult!

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In practice (e.g., in SPIN) we want to avoid automata complementation:

- Assume *A* as before
- The negation of the property  $\psi$  is automatically translated into a Büchi automaton  $\overline{B}$  (since  $\overline{\mathcal{L}(B)} \equiv \mathcal{L}(\overline{B})$ )
- By making the synchronous product of A and  $\overline{B}$  ( $\overline{B} \otimes A$ ) we can check whether the system satisfies the property

$$\mathcal{L}(A) \cap \mathcal{L}(\overline{B}) = \emptyset$$

- If the intersection is empty, the property  $\psi$  holds for  ${\cal A}$
- Otherwise, use an accepted word of the nonempty intersection as a counterexample

#### Definition

The asynchronous product  $\prod$  of a finite set of finite automata  $A_1, \ldots A_n$  is a new finite state automaton  $A = (S, s_0, L, T, F)$  where:

- A.S is the Cartesian product  $A_1.S \times A_2.S \times \ldots \times A_n.S$
- $A.s_0$  is the *n*-tuple  $(A_1.s_0, A_2.s_0, ..., A_n.s_0)$
- A.L is the union set  $A_1.L \cup A_2.L \cup \ldots \cup A_n.L$
- A.T is the set of tuples  $((x_1, \ldots, x_n), I, (y_1, \ldots, y_n))$  such that  $\exists i, 1 \leq i \leq n, (x_i, I, y_i) \in A_i$ . T and  $\forall j, 1 \leq j \leq n, j \neq i \implies (x_j \equiv y_j)$
- A.F contains those states from A.S that satisfy  $\forall (A_1.s, A_2.s, \dots, A_n.s) \in A.F, \exists i, 1 \leq i \leq n, A_i.s \in A_i.F$

- Assume two non-terminating asynchronous processes A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2</sub>:
  - $A_1$  tests whether the value of a variable x is odd, in which case updates it to 3 \* x + 1
  - $A_2$  tests whether the value of a variable x is even, in which case updates it to x/2
- Let  $\psi$  the following property:  $\Box \Diamond (x \ge 4)$ 
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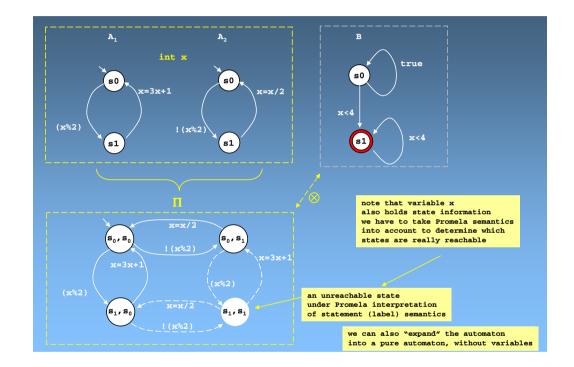
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In Promela semantics an expression statement has to evaluate to non-zero to be executable. So to test whether a variable x is odd we write !(x%2), and (x%2) for checking whether x is even. Given x=4, !(4%2) evaluates to !(0) or written more clearly as !(false) which is (true).

#### Remark

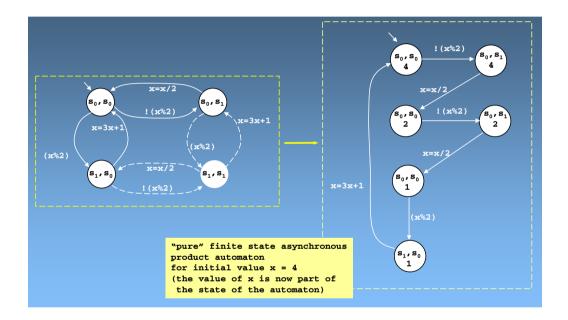
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# Asynchronous Product Example



#### Figure: Asynchronous product

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## Remarks

- Not all the states in A.S are necessary reachable from  $A.s_0$ 
  - Their reachability depends on the semantics given to the labels in *A.L* (the interpretation of the labels depends on Promela semantics as we'll see in a future lecture)
- The transitions in the product automaton are the transitions from the component automata arranged such that only one of the components automata can execute at a time
  - This gives an interleaving semantics of the processes
- Promela has also rendez-vous synchronization (A special global variable has to be set)
  - Some transitions may synchronize by sending and receiving a message
- For hardware verification, the asynchronous product is defined differently: **each** of the components with enabled transitions is making a transition (simultaneously)

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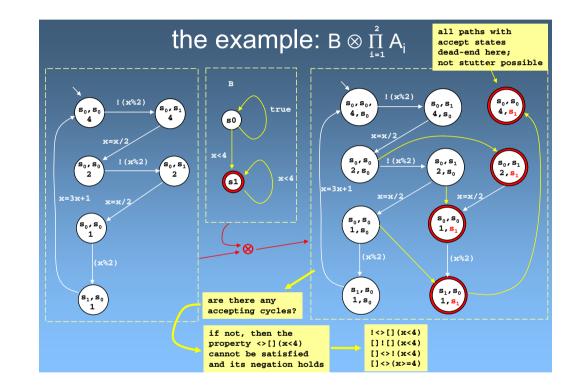
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- A.S is the Cartesian product  $P'.S \times B.S$  where P' is the stutter closure of P
  - A self-loop labeled with ε is attached to every state in P without outgoing transitions in P.T)
- $A.s_0$  is the pair  $(P.s_0, B.s_0)$
- A.L is the set of pairs  $(I_1, I_2)$  such that  $I_1 \in P'.L$  and  $I_2 \in B.L$
- A.T is the set of pairs  $(t_1, t_2)$  such that  $t_1 \in P'.T$  and  $t_2 \in B.T$
- A.F is the set of pairs  $(s_1, s_2)$  such that  $s_1 \in P'.F$  or  $s_2 \in B.F$



#### Figure: Synchronous product

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- We require the stutter-closure of *P* since *P* is a finite state automaton (the asynchronous product of the processes automata) and *B* is a standard Büchi automaton obtained form a LTL formula
- Not all the states in *A*.*S* or *A*.*F* are necessary reachable from *A*.*s*<sub>0</sub>
- The main difference between asynchronous and synchronous products are on the definitions of L and T – In a synchronous product:
  - The transitions correspond to *joint* transitions of the component automata
  - The labels are pairs: the combination of the two labels of the original transitions in the component automata
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## Definition

A subset  $S' \subseteq S$  in a directed graph is strongly-connected if there is a path between any pair of nodes in S', passing only through nodes in S'.

A strongly-connected component (SCC) is a maximal set of such nodes, i.e. it is not possible to add any node to that set and still maintain strong connectivity

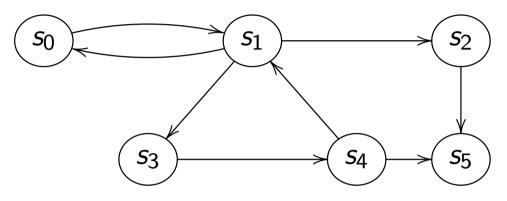


Figure: Strongly connected component

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- Strongly-connected subsets:
- Strongly-connected components:

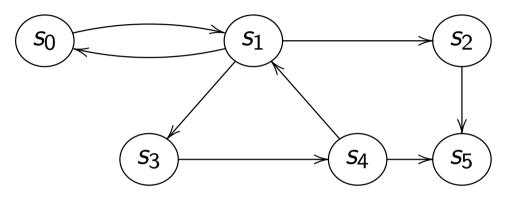


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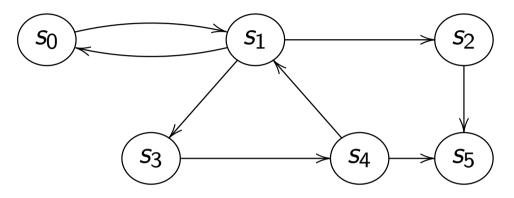


Figure: Strongly connected component

• Strongly-connected subsets:

$$S = \{s_0, s_1\}, S' = \{s_1, s_3, s_4\}, S'' = \{s_0, s_1, s_3, s_4\}$$

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• Strongly-connected components:

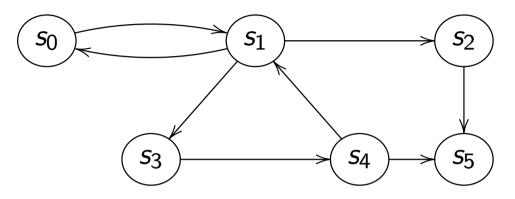


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## Checking Emptiness

- Let  $\sigma$  be an accepting run of a Büchi automaton  $A = (S, s_0, L, T, F)$ 
  - Since S is finite, there is some suffix  $\sigma'$  of  $\sigma$  s.t. every state on  $\sigma'$  is reachable from any other state on  $\sigma'$
  - I.e., the states on  $\sigma'$  are contained in a SCC of the graph of A
  - This component is reachable from an initial state and contains an accepting state
- Thus, checking non-emptiness of  $\mathcal{L}(A)$  is equivalent to finding a SCC in the graph of A that is reachable from an initial state and contains an accepting state
  - There are different algorithms for finding SCC. E.g.:
    - Tarjan's version of the *depth-first search* (DFS) algorithm
    - SPIN *nested depth-first search* algorithm
- If the language  $\mathcal{L}(A)$  is non-empty, then there is a counterexample which can be represented in a finite way
  - It is *ultimately periodic*, i.e., it is of the form  $\sigma_1 \sigma_2^{\omega}$ , where  $\sigma_1$  and  $\sigma_2$  are finite sequences

## Checking Emptiness

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- Let A be the automaton specifying the system and  $\overline{B}$  the automaton corresponding to the negation of the property  $\psi$
- 1. Construct the intersection automaton  $C = A \cap \overline{B}$
- 2. Apply an algorithm to find SCCs reachable from the initial states of *C*
- 3. If none of the SCCs found contains an accepting state
  - The model A satisfies the property/specification  $\psi$
- 4. Otherwise,
  - 4.1 Take one strongly-connected component SC of C
  - 4.2 Construct a path  $\sigma_1$  from an initial state of C to some accepting state s of SC
  - 4.3 Construct a cycle from *s* and back to itself (such cycle exists since *SC* is a strongly-connected component)
  - 4.4 Let  $\sigma_2$  be such cycle, excluding its first state *s*
  - 4.5 Announce that  $\sigma_1 \sigma_2^{\omega}$  is a counterexample that is accepted by *A*, but it is not allowed by the property/specification  $\psi$

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## **Final Remarks**

#### Observation

- In Peled's book "Software Reliability Methods" [Peled, 2001] the definition of a Büchi automaton is very similar to our Kripke structure, with the addition of acceptance states
  - There is a labeling of the states associating to each state a set of subsets of propositions (instead of having the propositions as transition labels)
- We have chosen to define Büchi Automata in the way we did since this definition is compatible with the implementation of SPIN
  - It was taken from Holzmann's book "The SPIN Model Checker" [?]

## Observation

- We have defined synchronous and asynchronous automata products with the aim of using SPIN (based on Holzmann's book)
  - The definition of asynchronous product is intended to capture the idea of (software) asynchronous processes running concurrently
  - The synchronous product is defined between an automaton specifying the concurrent asynchronous processes and an automaton obtained from an LTL formula (or obtained from a Promela never claim)
  - The purpose for adding the stutter closure (in the definition of the synchronous product) is to make it possible to verify both properties of finite and infinite sequences with the same algorithm

• I.e., you might find different definitions in the literature!

• In particular, in Peled's book the automata product is defined differently, since the definition of Büchi automata is different

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- The first two parts of this lecture were mainly based on Chap.
   6 of Holzmann's book "The SPIN Model Checker"
  - Automata products: Appendix A
- The 3rd part was taken from Peled's book

For next lecture (10./17.03.2017): Read Chap. 6 of Peled's book, mainly section 6.8 on translating LTL into Automata

• We will see how to apply the algorithm to an example

[Manna and Pnueli, 1992] Manna, Z. and Pnueli, A. (1992). The temporal logic of reactive and concurrent systems—Specification. Springer Verlag, New York.

[Peled, 2001] Peled, D. (2001). Software Reliability Methods. Springer Verlag.

