Verification of liveness properties

Programs and ω-executions

- Recall: a full execution of a program is an execution that cannot be extended (either infinite or ending at a configuration without successors).

- We consider programs that may have ω-executions.

- We assume w.l.o.g. that every full execution of the program is infinite (see next slide).

- Therefore: full executions = ω-executions

Handling finite full executions

```
1   while x = 1 do
2       if y = 1 then
3           x ← 0
4       y ← 1 − x
5   end
```

We artificially ensure that every full execution is infinite by adding a self-loop to every state without successors.
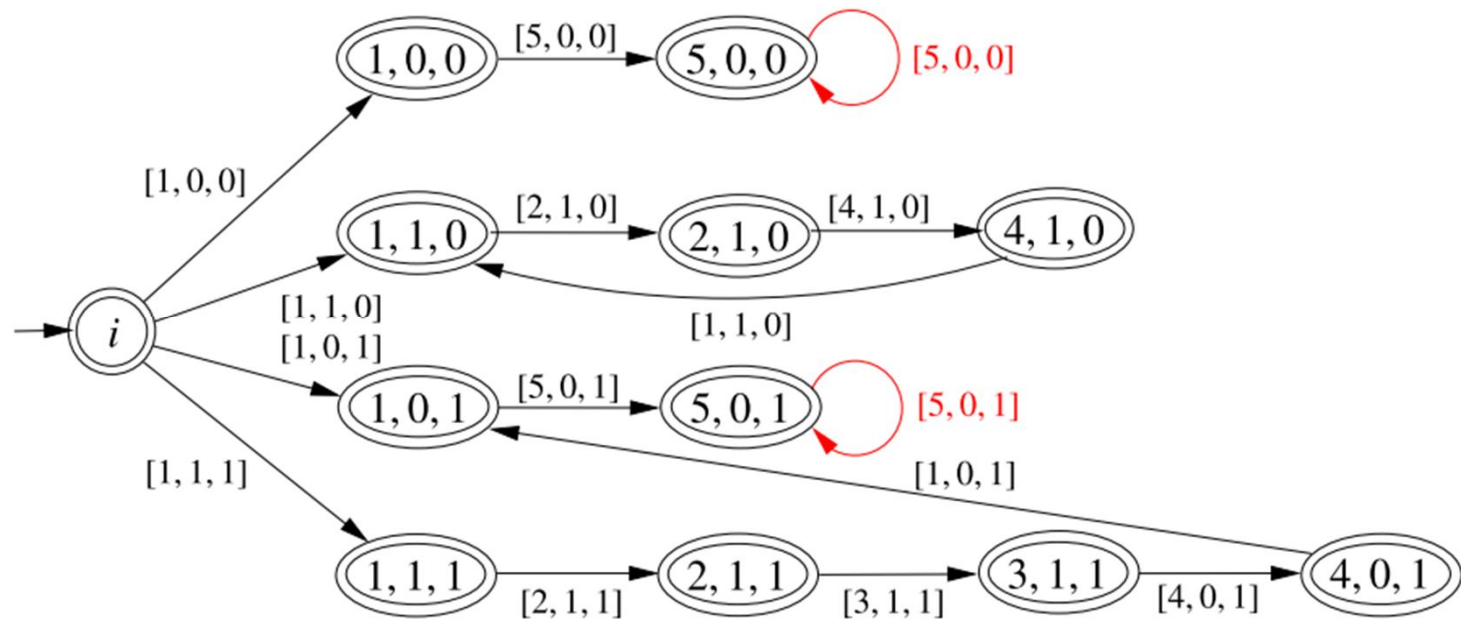
Verifying a program

- Goal: automatically check if some ω-execution violates a property.
- Safety property: "nothing bad happens"
  - No configuration satisfies $x = 1$.
  - No configuration is a deadlock.
  - Along an execution the value of x cannot decrease.
- Liveness property: "something good eventually happens"
  - Eventually x has value 1.
  - Every message sent during the execution is eventually received.

Safety and liveness: more precisely

- A finite execution w is bad for a given property if every potential ω-execution of the form $w\,w'$ violates the property.

- A property is a safety property if every ω-execution that violates the property has a bad prefix.

  (Intuitively: after finite time we can already say that the property does not hold)

- A property is a liveness property if some ω-execution that violates the property has no bad prefix.

  (We can only tell that the property is a violation ``after seeing the complete ω-execution).

Approach to automatic verification

- Represent the set of ω-executions of the program as a NBA. (The system NBA).

- Represent the set of possible ω-executions that violate the property as a NBA (or an ω-regular expression). (The property NBA).

- Check emptiness of the intersection of the two NBAs.

Problem: Fairness

- We may want to exclude some ω-executions because they are "unfair".

- Example: finite waiting property in Lamport's mutex algorithm.

Lamport's algorithm
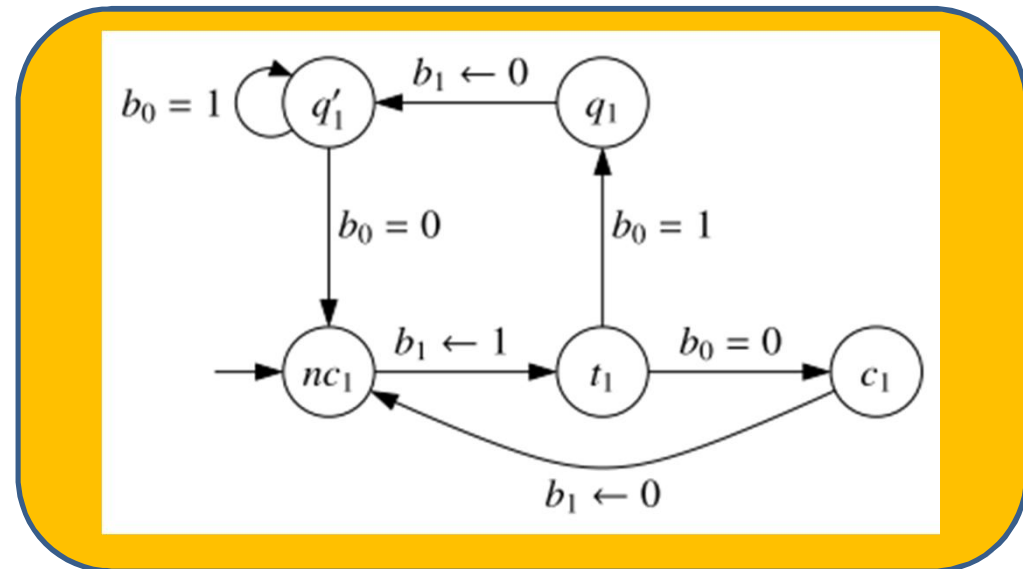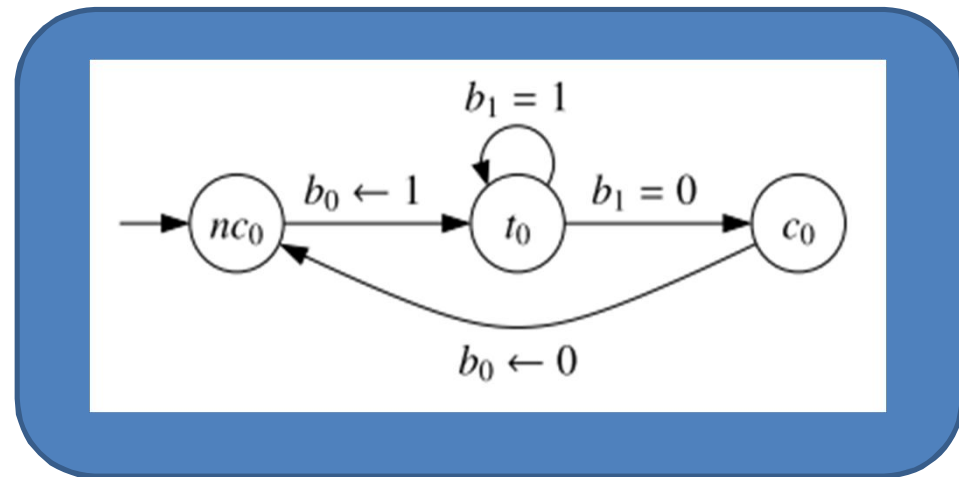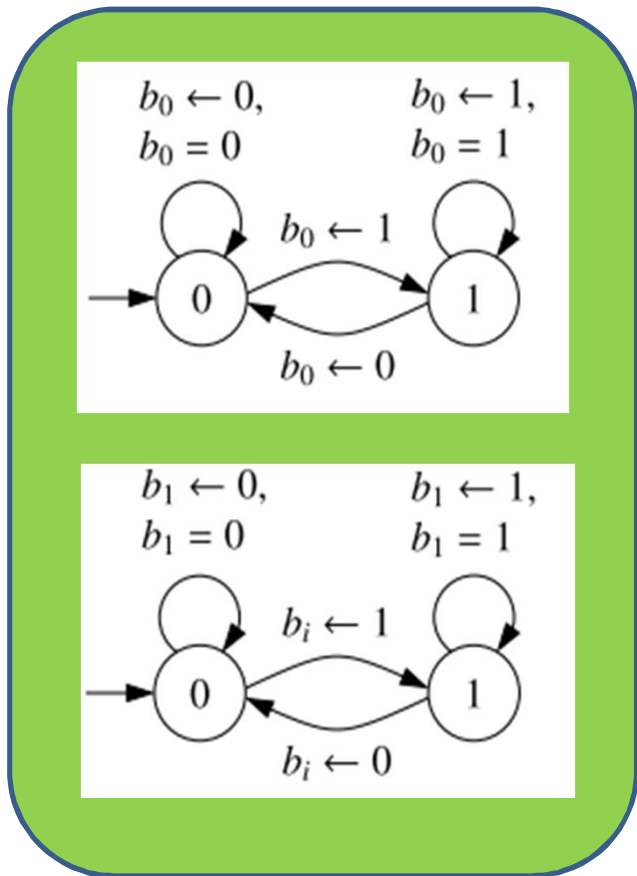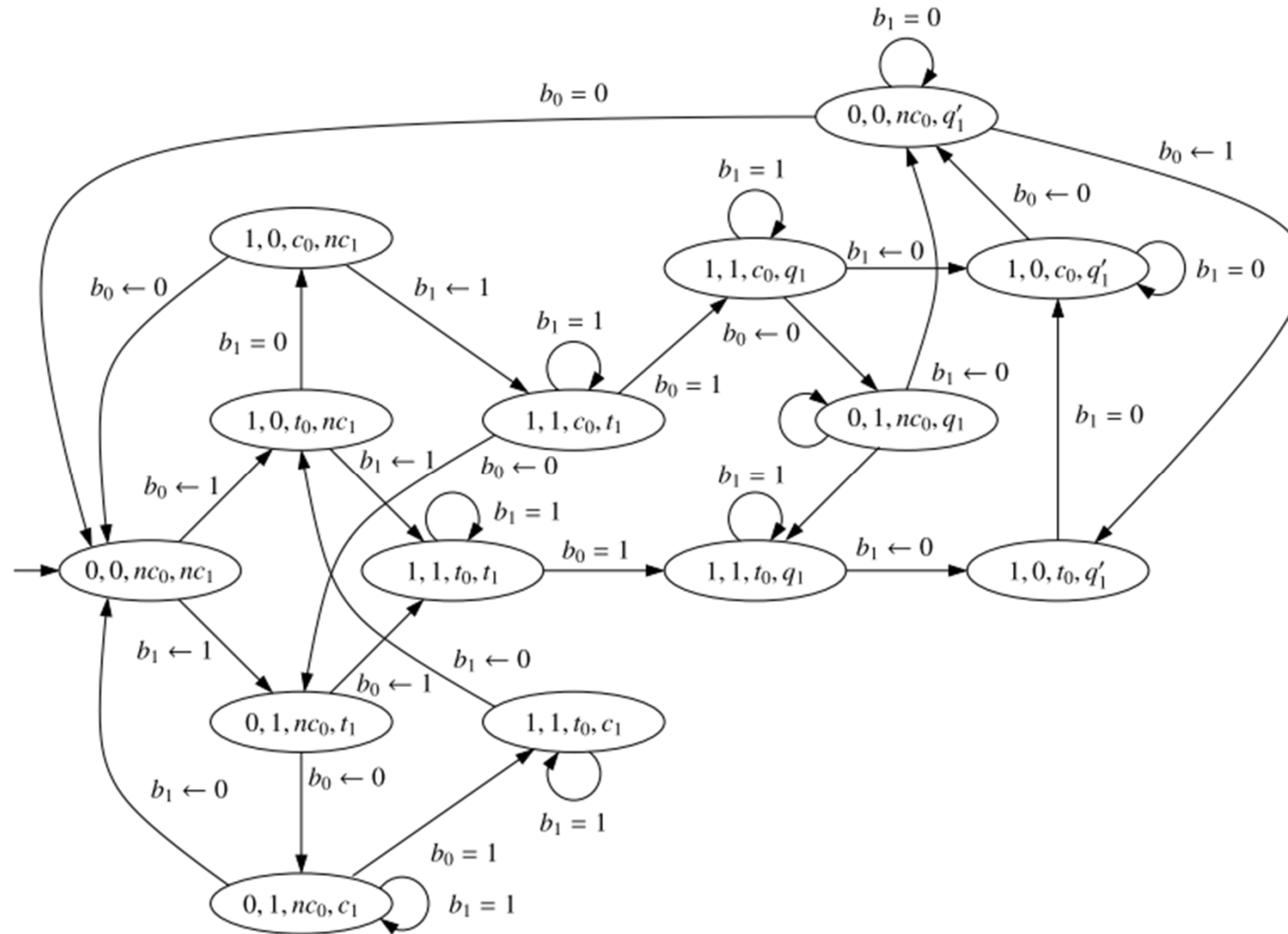
Asynchronous product

Finite waiting property

- Finite waiting: If a process is trying to access the critical section, it eventually will.

- Formalization: Let NC_i, T_i, C_i be atomic propositions mapped to the sets of configurations where process i is in the non-critical section, trying to access it, and in the critical section, respectively.
  The full executions that violate finite waiting for process i are

$$\Sigma^* T_i \, (\Sigma \setminus C_i)^\omega$$

- Observe: all states of the system NBA are final, and so we can intersect NBAs using the algorithm for NFAs

Finite waiting property

- The finite waiting property does not hold because of

$$[0,0, nc_0, nc_1] \ [1,0, t_0, nc_1] \ [1,1, t_0, t_1]^{\omega}$$

- Is this a real problem of the algorithm?
  No! We have not specified correctly.

- Fairness assumption: both processes execute infinitely many actions.
  (Usually a weaker assumption is used: if a process can execute actions infinitely often, it executes infinitely many actions.)

- Reformulation: in every fair ω-execution, if a process is trying to access the critical section, it will eventually access it.

Finite waiting property

- The violations of the property under fairness are the intersection of $\Sigma^* T_i (\Sigma \setminus C_i)^\omega$ and the ω-executions in which both processes make a move infinitely often.

- Problem: how do we represent this condition as an ω-regular language?

- Solution: enrich the alphabet of the NBA
  Letter: pair (c, i) where c is a configuration and i is the index of the process making the move.

Finite waiting property

- Denote by M_0 and M_1 the set of letters with index 0 and 1, respectively.

- The possible ωexecutions where both processes move infinitely often is given by

$$\left((M_0 + M_1)^* M_0 M_1\right)^{\omega}$$

- Finite waiting holds under fairness for process 0 but not for process 1 because of

$$\left(\ [0,0,nc_0,nc_1][0,1,nc_0,t_1][1,1,t_0,t_1][1,1,t_0,q_1]\right.$$
$$\left.[1,0,t_0,q_1'][1,0,c_0,q_1'][0,0,nc_0,q_1']\ \right)^{\omega}$$

Temporal logic

- Writing property NBAs requires training in automata theory
- We search for a more intuitive (but still formal) description language: Temporal Logic.
- Temporal logic extends propositional logic with temporal operators like always and eventually.
- Linear Temporal Logic (LTL) is a temporal logic interpreted over linear structures.

Linear Temporal Logic (LTL)

- We are given:
  - A set AP of atomic propositions (names for basic properties)
  - A valuation assigning to each atomic proposition a set of configurations (intended meaning: the set of configurations that satisfy the property).

Example

```
1    while x = 1 do
2        if y = 1 then
3            x ← 0
4        y ← 1 − x
5    end
```

- AP : at_1, at_2, ... , at_5, x=0, x=1, y=0, y=1

- $V(\text{at}_i) = \{[\ell, x, y] \in C \mid \ell = i\}$ for every $i \in \{1, ..., 5\}$

- $V(\text{x=0}) = \{[\ell, x, y] \in C \mid x = 0\}$

Computations

- A computation is an infinite sequence of subsets of AP.
- Examples for $AP = \{p, q\}$

$$\emptyset^\omega \quad (\{p\}\{p, q\})^\omega \quad \{p\}\, \{p, q\}\, \emptyset\, \emptyset\, \{p\}^\omega$$

- We map every possible execution to a computation by mapping each configuration to the set of atomic propositions it satisfies.
- A computation is executable if some execution maps to it.

Example
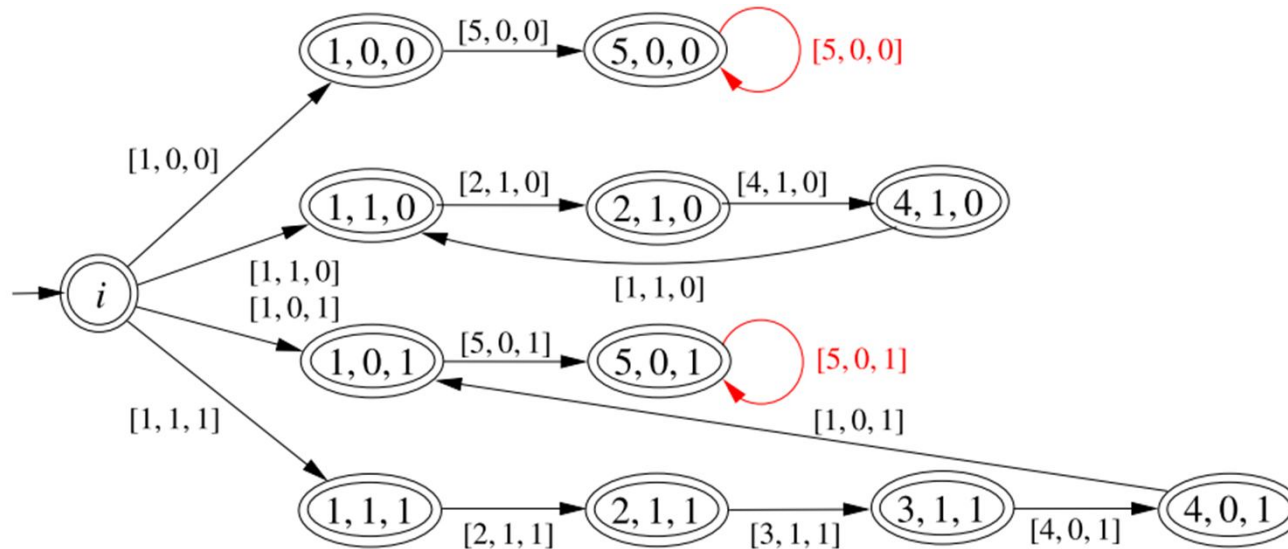
ω-executions:

$$e_1 = [1,0,0]\ [5,0,0]^{\omega}$$

$$e_2 = (\ [1,1,0]\ [2,1,0]\ [4,1,0]\ )^{\omega}$$

$$e_3 = [1,0,1][5,0,1]^{\omega}$$

$$e_4 = [1,1,1][2,1,1][3,1,1][4,0,1][1,0,1][5,0,1]^{\omega}$$

From executions to computations

$e_1 = [1,0,0] \, [5,0,0]^\omega$

$e_2 = (\, [1,1,0] \, [2,1,0] \, [4,1,0] \,)^\omega$

$\sigma_1 = \{at1, x=0, y=0\} \, \{at5, \, x=0, \, y=0\}^\omega$

$\sigma_2 = (\, \{at1, x=0, y=0\} \, \{at2, x=1, y=0\} \, \{at4, x=1, y=0\} \,)^\omega$

Syntax of LTL

- Given: set AP of atomic propositions, valuation assigning to each atomic proposition a set configurations.

- The formulas of LTL are given by the syntax:

  $$\varphi ::= \textbf{true} \mid p \mid \neg\varphi_1 \mid \varphi_1 \wedge \varphi_2 \mid X\varphi_1 \mid \varphi_1 U \varphi_2$$

  where $p \in AP$

Semantics of LTL

- Formulas are interpreted on computations (executable or not).

- The satisfaction relation $\sigma \vDash \varphi$ is given by:

$$\sigma \vDash \textbf{true}$$

$$\sigma \vDash p \text{ iff } p \in \sigma(0)$$

$$\sigma \vDash \neg\varphi \text{ iff not } \sigma \vDash \varphi$$

$$\sigma \vDash \varphi_1 \wedge \varphi_2 \text{ iff } \sigma \vDash \varphi_1 \text{ and } \sigma \vDash \varphi_2$$

$$\sigma \vDash X\varphi \text{ iff } \sigma^1 \vDash \varphi$$

$$\sigma \vDash \varphi_1 U \varphi_2 \text{ iff there is } k \geq 0 \text{ s.t.} : \sigma^k \vDash \varphi_2 \text{ and}$$
$$\sigma^i \vDash \varphi_1 \text{ for all } 0 \leq i \leq k$$

Abbreviations

- The boolean abbreviations **false**, ∨, →, ↔ etc. are defined as usual.

- $F\varphi :=$ **true** $U \varphi$ (eventually φ).

  According to the semantics:

  $\sigma \vDash F\varphi$ iff there is $k \geq 0$ s.t. $\sigma^k \vDash \varphi$

- $G\varphi := \neg\, F \neg \varphi$ (always φ or globally φ).

  According to the semantics:

  $\sigma \vDash G\varphi$ iff $\sigma^k \vDash \varphi$ for every $k \geq 0$

Examples of formulas

- AP : at_1, at_2, ... , at_5, x=0, x=1, y=0, y=1

  $V(\text{at}_i) = \{[\ell, x, y] \in C \mid \ell = i\}$ for every $i \in \{1, ..., 5\}$

  $V(\text{x=0}) = \{[\ell, x, y] \in C \mid \text{x=0}\}$

- φ_0 = x=1 $\wedge$ X y=1 $\wedge$ X X at3

- φ_1 = F x=0

- φ_2 = x=0 U at5

- φ_3 = y=1 $\wedge$ F(x=0 $\wedge$ at5) $\wedge$ ¬(F (y=0 $\wedge$ X y=1))

Lamport's algorithm

- $AP = \{ NC_0, T_0, C_0, NC_1, T_1, C_1, M_0, M_1 \}$
  Valuation as expected.

- Mutual exclusion:

- Naïve finite waiting:

- Finite waiting with fairness:

Lamport's algorithm

Bounded overtaking:

$$G\left(T_0 \rightarrow \left(\neg C_1 \ U \left(\ C_1 U \left(\neg C_1 U \ C_0\right)\right)\right)\right)$$

Whenever T_0 holds, the computation continues with a (possibly empty) interval at which $\neg C_1$ holds, followed by a (possibly empty) interval at which C_1 holds, followed by a point at which C_0 holds.

Getting used to LTL

- Express in natural language FGp, GFp
- Are these pairs of formulas equivalent?

FFp	Fp
FGp	GFp
$p \cup q$	$p \cup (p \wedge q)$

GGp	Gp
$FGFp$	GFp

Fp	$p \vee XFp$
Gp	$p \vee XGp$

Fp	$p \wedge XFp$
Gp	$p \wedge XGp$

$p \cup q$	$p \vee X (p \cup q)$
$p \cup q$	$q \vee X (p \cup q)$
$p \cup q$	$q \vee (p \wedge X (p \cup q)$

$p \cup q$	$p \wedge X (p \cup q)$
$p \cup q$	$q \wedge X (p \cup q)$
$p \cup q$	$q \wedge (p \vee X (p \cup q)$

From formulas to NBAs

- Given: set AP of atomic propositions
- Language $L(\varphi)$ of a formula φ : set of computations satisfying φ.
- Examples for $AP = \{p, q\}$
  - $L(Fp)$ = computations $s_1 s_2 s_3 \ldots$ such that $p \in s_i$ for some $i \geq 1$
  - $L\big(G(p \wedge q)\big) = \{\ \{p, q\}^\omega\ \}$
- $L(\varphi)$ is an ω-language over the alphabet 2^{AP}
- For $AP = \{p, q\}$ we get $2^{AP} = \{\emptyset, \{p\}, \{q\}, \{p, q\}\}$

NBAs for some formulas

$$AP = \{p, q\}$$

- Fp

- Gp

- $p \: U \: q$

- GFp

From LTL formulas to NGAs

We present an algorithm that takes a formula φ over a fixed set AP of atomic propositions as input and returns a NGA A_φ such that $L(A_\varphi) = L(\varphi)$.

Closure of a formula

- Define $neg(\psi) = \begin{cases} \psi & \text{if } \varphi = \neg\psi \\ \neg\varphi & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

- The closure $cl(\varphi)$ of φ is the set containing ψ and $neg(\psi)$ for every subformula ψ of φ

- Example:

$$cl(p\ U \neg q) = \{p, \neg p, \neg q, q, pU \neg q, \neg(pU \neg q)\}$$

Satisfaction sequence

- The satisfaction sequence of a computation $s_0 s_1 s_2 \ldots$ with respect to φ is the sequence $\alpha_0 \alpha_1 \alpha_2 \ldots$ where α_i contains the formulas of $cl(\varphi)$ satisfied by $s_i s_{i+1} s_{i+2} \ldots$

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- The satisfaction sequence of $(\{p\}\{q\})^\omega$ w.r.t. $p \ U \ q$ is:

$$(\{p, \neg q, p \ U \ q\}\{\neg p, q, p \ U \ q\})^\omega$$

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- Examples of non-atoms for $\varphi = \neg(p \wedge q) \, U \, Fp$:
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Hintikka sequences

- A pre-Hinttika sequence for φ is a sequence $\alpha_0 \alpha_1 \alpha_2 \ldots$ of subsets of $cl(\varphi)$ satisfying the following conditions for every $i \geq 0$:

  - For every $X\psi \in cl(\varphi)$:
    $X\psi \in \alpha_i$ iff $\psi \in \alpha_{i+1}$

  - For every $\psi_1 U \psi_2 \in cl(\varphi)$:
    $\psi_1 U \psi_2 \in \alpha_i$ iff $\psi_2 \in \alpha_i$ or $\psi_1 \in \alpha_i$ and $\psi_1 U \psi_2 \in \alpha_{i+1}$

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- A pre-Hinttika sequence is a Hinttika sequence if it also satisfies for every $i \geq 0$:

  - For every $\psi_1 U \psi_2 \in cl(\varphi)$: if $\psi_1 U \psi_2 \in \alpha_i$ then there exists $j \geq i$ such that $\psi_2 \in \alpha_j$

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  5. $\{p, \neg q, \neg(p \wedge q), \neg r, s, \neg(r \wedge s), \varphi\}^{\omega}$

  6. $\{p, q, (p \wedge q), r, s, (r \wedge s,) \; \varphi\}^{\omega}$

Main theorem

- Definition: A Hintikka sequence $\alpha_0 \alpha_1 \alpha_2 \dots$ extends a computation $s_0 s_1 s_2 \dots$ if $s_i \cap cl(\varphi) = \alpha_i \cap AP$ for every $i \geq 0$.

- Theorem: Every computation $s_0 s_1 s_2 \dots$ can be extended to a unique Hintikka sequence, and this extension is equal to the satisfaction sequence.

Strategy for the NFA of a formula

- Let σ be a computation over AP.

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- We have: $\sigma \vDash \varphi$

       iff φ belongs to the first set of the satisfaction sequence for σ

       iff φ belongs to the first set of the Hintikka sequence for σ

Strategy for the NFA of a formula

- Let σ be a computation over AP.

- We have: $\qquad \sigma \models \varphi$

  iff $\quad \varphi$ belongs to the first set of the satisfaction sequence for σ

  iff $\quad \varphi$ belongs to the first set of the Hintikka sequence for σ

- Strategy: design the NGA so that for every σ

  - The runs on σ correspond to the pre-Hintikka sequences $\alpha_0 \alpha_1 \alpha_2 \ldots$ that extend σ and satisfy $\varphi \in \alpha_0$

  - A run is accepting iff its corresponding pre-Hintikka sequence is also a Hintikka sequence.

The NGA A_φ

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- Transitions: triples $\alpha \xrightarrow{s} \beta$ such that $\alpha \cap \{p, \neg p \mid p \in AP\} = s$ and α, β satisfies the conditions of a pre-Hintikka sequence.

The NGA A_φ

- Alphabet: 2^{AP}
- States: atoms of φ.
- Initial states: atoms containing φ.
- Transitions: triples $\alpha \xrightarrow{s} \beta$ such that $\alpha \cap AP = s$ and α, β satisfies the conditions of a pre-Hintikka sequence.
- Sets of accepting states: A set $F_{\psi_1 U \psi_2}$ for every until-subformula $\psi_1 U \psi_2$ of φ.

  $F_{\psi_1 U \psi_2}$ contains the atoms α such that $\psi_1 U \psi_2 \notin \alpha$ or $\psi_2 \in \alpha$.

Example: The NGA $A_{p\ U\ q}$
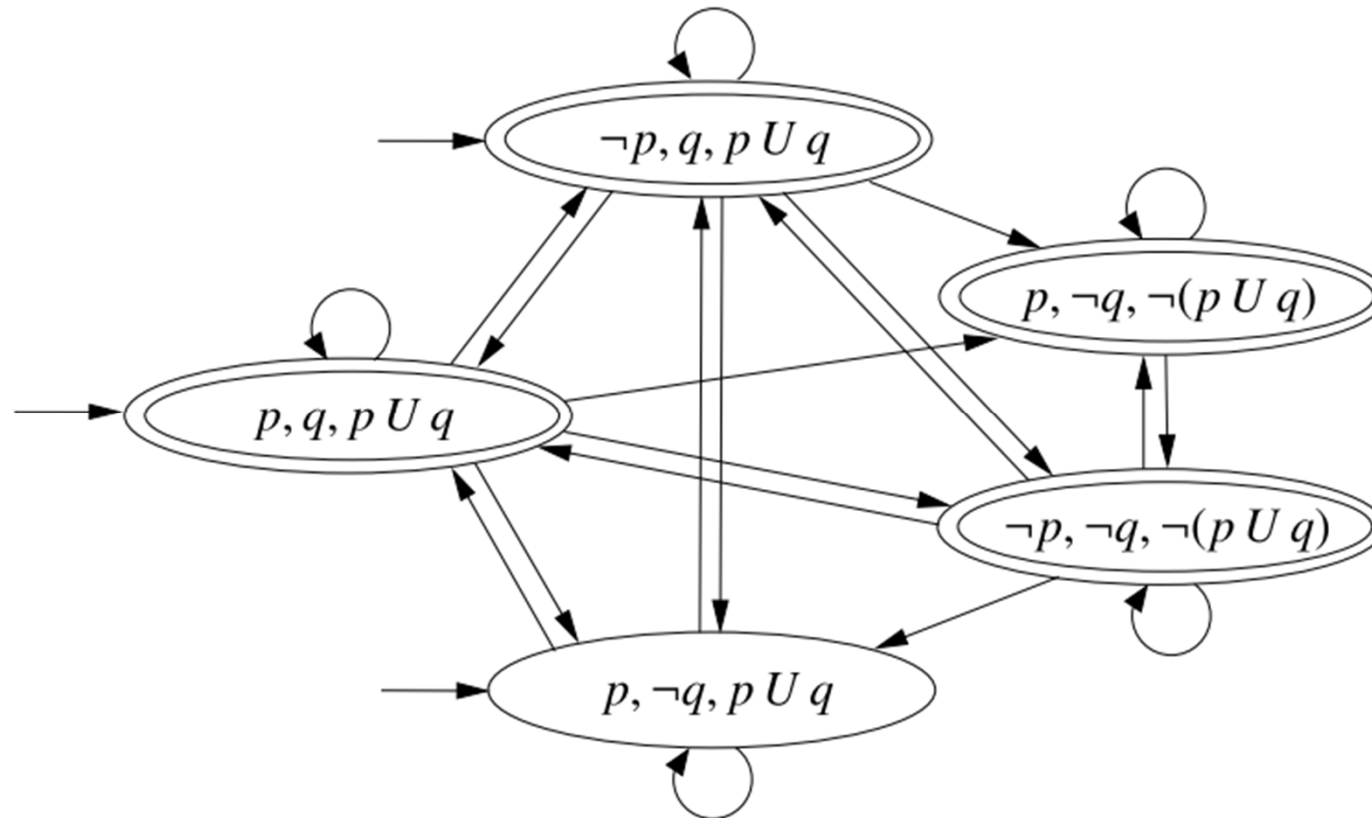
(Labels of transitions omitted. The label of a transition from atom α is the set $\{p \in AP \mid p \in \alpha\}$. There is only one set of accepting states.)

Some observations

- All transitions leaving a state carry the same label.
- For every computation $s_0 s_1 s_2 \dots$ satisfying φ there is a unique accepting run $\alpha_0 \xrightarrow{s_0} \alpha_1 \xrightarrow{s_1} \alpha_2 \xrightarrow{s_2} \cdots$, namely the one such that $\alpha_0 \alpha_1 \alpha_2 \dots$ is the satisfaction sequence for $s_0 s_1 s_2 \dots$.
- The sets of computations accepted from each initial state are pairwise disjoint.
- The number of states is bounded by $2^{|\varphi|}$.