Overview

1. Büchi Automata
2. NBA and $\omega$-Regular Languages
3. Checking Non-emptiness of NBA
4. Deterministic Büchi Automata
5. Generalised Nondeterministic Büchi Automata

Verifying $\omega$-Regular Properties

finite transition system $T$

$\omega$-regular property $E$

NBA $A$ for the bad behaviors, i.e., for $(2^{AP})^\omega \setminus E$

$persistence\ checking$

$T \otimes A \models \text{“eventually forever } \neg F\text{”}$

yes

no + error indication

**ω-Regular Properties**

**Definition: ω-regular language**

The set $L$ of infinite works over the alphabet $\Sigma$ is $\omega$-regular if $L = L_\omega(G)$ for some $\omega$-regular expression $G$ over $\Sigma$.

**Definition: ω-regular properties**

LT property $E$ over $AP$ is $\omega$-regular if $E$ is an $\omega$-regular language over $2^{AP}$.

We will see that this is equivalent to:

LT property $E$ over $AP$ is $\omega$-regular if $E$ is accepted by a non-deterministic Büchi automaton (over the alphabet $2^{AP}$).

But not by a deterministic Büchi automaton.

**Example ω-Regular Properties**

- Any invariant $E$ is an $\omega$-regular property
  - $\Phi^\omega$ describes $E$ with invariant condition $\Phi$

- Any regular safety property $E$ is an $\omega$-regular property
  - $\overline{E} = \text{BadPref}(E).\{a\}^\omega$ is $\omega$-regular
  - and $\omega$-regular languages are closed under complement

- Let $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$ Then:
  - Infinitely often $a$:
    $$((\emptyset + \{a\} + \{b\})^* + \{a\}).\{b\})^\omega$$
  - Eventually $a$:
    $$(\emptyset + \{a\} + \{b\} + \{a\}).\{b\}^\omega$$

**Shorthand Notation**

Examples for $AP = \{a, b\}$

- invariant with invariant condition $a \lor \neg b$
  $$\omega (a \lor \neg b) \equiv (\emptyset + \{a\} + \{b\})^\omega$$

- “infinitely often $a$”
  $$\omega ((\neg a)^* a) \equiv ((\emptyset + \{b\})^* + \{a\} + \{a, b\})^\omega$$

- “from some moment on $a$”:
  $$\omega \text{true}.a$$

- “whenever $a$ then $b$ will hold sometime later”
  $$\omega ((\neg a)^* a . \text{true}.b)^* (\neg a) + ((\neg a)^* a . \text{true}.b)$$

**Julius Richard Büchi**

Julius Richard Büchi (1924 – †1984)
### Nondeterministic Büchi automata

**Definition: Nondeterministic Büchi automaton**

A nondeterministic Büchi automaton (NBA) $\mathfrak{A} = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, Q_0, F)$ with:

- $Q$ is a finite set of states
- $\Sigma$ is an alphabet
- $\delta : Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow 2^Q$ is a transition function
- $Q_0 \subseteq Q$ a set of initial states
- $F \subseteq Q$ is a set of accept (or: final) states.

This definition is the same as for NFA.

The acceptance condition of NBA is different though.

### Language of a Büchi Automaton

- NBA $\mathfrak{A} = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, Q_0, F)$ and infinite word $w = A_1 A_2 \ldots \in \Sigma^\omega$
- A run for $w$ in $\mathfrak{A}$ is an infinite sequence $q_0 q_1 \ldots \in Q^\omega$ such that:
  - $q_0 \in Q_0$ and $q_i \xrightarrow{A_i} q_{i+1}$ for all $0 \leq i$
- Run $q_0 q_1 \ldots$ is accepting if $q_i \in F$ for infinitely many $i$
- The accepted language of $\mathfrak{A}$:
  $$L_\omega(\mathfrak{A}) = \{ w \in \Sigma^\omega \mid \mathfrak{A}\text{ has an accepting run for } w \}$$
- NBA $\mathfrak{A}$ and $\mathfrak{A}'$ are equivalent if $L_\omega(\mathfrak{A}) = L_\omega(\mathfrak{A}')$

### Examples

**NBA for LT Properties**

- ACCEPTED LANGUAGE:
  - set of all infinite words that contain infinitely many $A$'s
  - $(B^* A)^\omega$

- ACCEPTED LANGUAGE:
  - "every $B$ is preceded by a positive even number of $A$'s"
  - $((A.A)^+ B)^\omega + ((A.A)^+ B)^* A^\omega$
NBA versus NFA

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NBA and ω-Regular Languages

Theorem

1. For every NBA $A$, the language $L_\omega(A)$ is ω-regular.
2. For every ω-regular language $L$, there is an NBA $A$ with $L = L_\omega(A)$.

Proof.
The next couple of slides. First consider the first part.

From NBA to ω-Regular Expressions

For every NBA $A$, the language $L_\omega(A)$ is ω-regular.

Proof.
Let NBA $A = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, Q_0, F)$ and let $p, q \in Q$ be states in $A$. Define $A_{q,p}$ as the NFA $(Q, \Sigma, \delta, q, \{ p \})$. Then:

$$L_\omega(A) = \bigcup_{q \in Q_0} \bigcup_{p \in F} L(A_{q,p}) \cdot (L(A_{p,p}) \setminus \{ \epsilon \})^\omega$$

is ω-regular as $L(A_{q,p})$ and $L(A_{p,p})$ are regular.
Theorem

1. For every NBA $A$, the language $L_\omega(A)$ is $\omega$-regular.

2. For every $\omega$-regular language $L$, there is an NBA $A$ with $L = L_\omega(A)$.

Proof.

The next couple of slides. Now consider the second part.
From $\omega$-Regular Expression to NBA

- How to construct an NBA for the $\omega$-regular expression:

  \[ G = E_1.F_1^\omega + \ldots + E_n.F_n^\omega \]

  where $E_i$ and $F_i$ are regular expressions over alphabet $\Sigma$ with $\varepsilon \notin F_i$

- Use operators on NBA mimicking operators on $\omega$-regular expressions. Let NFA $A_i$ for $E_i$ and $B_i$ for $F_i$.

  1. construct NBA $\omega_i^\omega$ for expression $F_i^\omega$ omega on NFA
  2. construct NBA $C_i = \omega_i^\omega . B_i$ for expression $E_i.F_i^\omega$ concatenating NFA and NBA
  3. construct NBA for $\bigcup_{0 < i \leq n} \omega_i(L_i)$ union

Concatenating an NFA and NBA

NFA $A_1$        NBA $A_2$

NBA for $L(A_1). L_\omega(A_2)$:

NBA for $L_\omega(A_1) \cup L_\omega(A_2)$

The Omega-Operator on NFA (1)

Step 1: make sure all final states in the NFA are terminal

... add a new final state $p'$...
**The Omega-Operator on NFA (2)**

Step 2: for every predecessor \(q\) of the new accepting state \(p'\), add \(p' \xrightarrow{B} q\) for each incoming \(B\)-transition of \(q\).

\[ \delta^*(q, \varepsilon) = \{ q \} \quad \text{and} \quad \delta^*(q, A) = \delta(q, A) \]

\[ \delta^*(q, A_1 A_2 \ldots A_n) = \bigcup_{p \in \delta(q, A_1)} \delta^*(p, A_2 \ldots A_n) \]

\[ \delta^*(q, w) = \text{set of states reachable from } q \text{ for the word } w \]
Checking Non-emptiness

For every NBA $\mathcal{A}$,

$$L_\omega(\mathcal{A}) \neq \emptyset$$

if and only if

$$\exists q_0 \in Q_0, \exists q \in F, \exists w \in \Sigma^* \text{. } \exists v \in \Sigma^+. q \in \delta^*(q_0, w) \land q \in \delta^*(q, v)$$

there is a reachable accept state on a cycle

The emptiness problem for NBA $\mathcal{A}$ can be solved by graph algorithms in time $O(|\mathcal{A}|)$

The Powerset Construction for NBA Fails

Büchi Automata

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Deterministic Büchi Automata

Definition: Deterministic Büchi automaton

Büchi automaton $\mathcal{A}$ is deterministic if

$$|Q_0| \leq 1 \text{ and } |\delta(q, A)| \leq 1$$

for all $q \in Q$ and $A \in \Sigma$.

A DBA is total if both inequalities are equalities.

A total DBA has a unique run for each input word.
Complementation on DBA Fails

There is no DBA that accepts $L_\omega((A + B)^* B^\omega)$.

NFA and DFA are equally expressive but NBA and DBA are not!

DBA Are Too Weak For LT Properties

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Generalized Büchi Automata

- NBA are as expressive as \( \omega \)-regular languages
- Variants of NBA do exist that are equally expressive
  - Muller, Rabin, and Streett automata
  - generalized Büchi automata (GNBA)
- GNBA have multiple accept sets \( F_1, \ldots, F_k \), with \( k \in \mathbb{N} \) and \( F_i \subseteq Q \)
  - a run is accepting if all \( F_i \) are visited infinitely often
  - for \( k=0 \), all runs are accepting
  - for \( k=1 \), this is the same as for NBA

- Why considering GNBA?
  - they ease relating temporal logic and automata
  - they allow to define intersection of NBA

Example

![Diagram of a Büchi Automaton](#)

where \( F = \{ \{ q_1 \}, \{ q_2 \} \} \)

Specifies the LT property "infinitely often crit1 and infinitely often crit2"

Generalized Büchi Automata

Definition: Generalized Büchi automata

A generalized NBA (GNBA) \( \mathcal{G} \) is a tuple \((Q, \Sigma, \delta, Q_0, \mathcal{F})\) where \( Q, \Sigma, \delta, Q_0 \) are as before and

\[
\mathcal{F} = \{ F_1, \ldots, F_k \}
\]

for some natural \( k \in \mathbb{N} \).

Run \( q_0, q_1, \ldots \in Q^\omega \) is accepting if \( \forall F_j \in \mathcal{F}: q_i \in F_j \) for infinitely many \( i \)

The size of \( \mathcal{G} \), denoted \(|\mathcal{G}|\), is the number of states and transitions in \( \mathcal{G} \):

\[
|\mathcal{G}| = |Q| + \sum_{q \in Q} \sum_{A \in \Sigma} |\delta(q, A)|
\]

GNBA and NBA are equally expressive

For every GNBA \( \mathcal{G} \) there exists an NBA \( \mathcal{A} \) with

\[
\mathcal{L}_\omega(\mathcal{G}) = \mathcal{L}_\omega(\mathcal{A}) \quad \text{with} \quad |\mathcal{A}| = O(|\mathcal{G}| \cdot |\mathcal{F}|)
\]

where \( \mathcal{F} = \{ F_1, \ldots, F_k \} \) denotes the set of acceptance sets in \( \mathcal{G} \).

Proof.

For \( k=0,1 \), this result follows directly. For \( k > 1 \), make \( k \) copies:
The Product Construction on NBA Fails

For NBA $\mathcal{A}_i = (Q_i, \Sigma, \delta_i, Q_{0,i}, F_i)$ for $i = 1, 2$, there exists a GNBA $\mathcal{G}$ such that $\mathcal{L}_\omega(\mathcal{G}) = \mathcal{L}_\omega(\mathcal{A}_1) \cap \mathcal{L}_\omega(\mathcal{A}_2)$.

**Proof.**

Let $\mathcal{G} = (Q_1 \times Q_2, \Sigma, \delta, Q_{0,1} \times Q_{0,2}, F)$ with

- $\delta((q_1, q_2), A) = \{ (p_1, p_2) \mid p_1 \in \delta_1(q_1, A) \text{ and } p_2 \in \delta_2(q_2, A) \}$
- $F = \{ F_1 \times Q_2, Q_1 \times F_2 \}$.

It is not difficult to check that $\mathcal{L}_\omega(\mathcal{G}) = \mathcal{L}_\omega(\mathcal{A}_1) \cap \mathcal{L}_\omega(\mathcal{A}_2)$. □

**Summary**

The class of $\omega$-regular languages coincides with

1. the class of languages described by $\omega$-regular expressions
2. the class of languages recognised by nondeterministic Büchi automata
3. the class of languages recognised by generalised Büchi automata

But deterministic Büchi automata are strictly less expressive

The class of $\omega$-regular languages is closed under $\cap$, $\cup$ and complementation\(^1\)

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\(^1\)Without further details.
Next Lecture

Thursday November 7, 10:30