

Layered controller synthesis for dynamic multi-agent systems

Emily Clement¹ Nicolas Perrin-Gilbert¹ Philipp Schlehuber-Caissier²

¹Sorbonne Université, CNRS, Institut des Systèmes Intelligents et de Robotique, ISIR, F-75005
Paris, France

²EPITA Research Laboratory

March 16 2023

Introduction

Dynamic multi-agent system's verification

`https://perso.eleves.ens-rennes.fr/people/Emily.Clement/Videos/
example_episodes/ex_0.mp4`



Issues of different methods

- ▶ Timed Automata: issues to ...
 - 1) represent speed variation
 - 2) scales to be executed in real-time

`https://perso.eleves.ens-rennes.fr/people/Emily.Clement/Videos/
example_episodes/ex_0.mp4`



Issues of different methods

- ▶ Timed Automata: issues to ...
 - 1) represent speed variation
 - 2) scales to be executed in real-time
- ▶ Reinforcement Learning:
 - 1) combinatorial aspects
 - 2) continuous aspects

https://perso.eleves.ens-rennes.fr/people/Emily.Clement/Videos/example_episodes/ex_0.mp4



Issues of different methods

- ▶ Timed Automata: issues to ...
 - 1) represent speed variation
 - 2) scales to be executed in real-time
- ▶ Reinforcement Learning:
 - 1) combinatorial aspects
 - 2) continuous aspects



Our solution

- ▶ Solve a (simplified) model with an efficient Timed Automata reachability algorithm

https://perso.eleves.ens-rennes.fr/people/Emily.Clement/Videos/example_episodes/ex_0.mp4



Issues of different methods

- ▶ Timed Automata: issues to ...
 - 1) represent speed variation
 - 2) scales to be executed in real-time
- ▶ Reinforcement Learning:
 - 1) combinatorial aspects
 - 2) continuous aspects



Our solution

- ▶ Solve a (simplified) model with an efficient Timed Automata reachability algorithm
- ▶ Relax the simplification assumption for the speed changes using an SMT solver

https://perso.eleves.ens-rennes.fr/people/Emily.Clement/Videos/example_episodes/ex_0.mp4



Issues of different methods

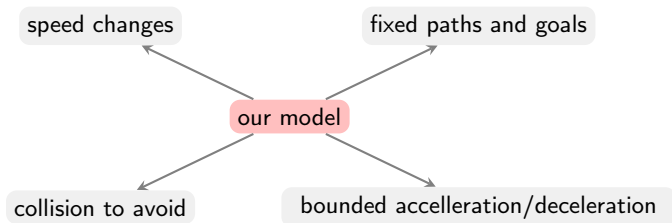
- ▶ Timed Automata: issues to ...
 - 1) represent speed variation
 - 2) scales to be executed in real-time
- ▶ Reinforcement Learning:
 - 1) combinatorial aspects
 - 2) continuous aspects



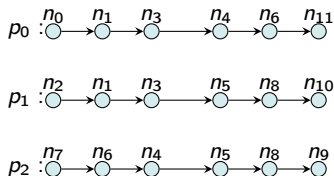
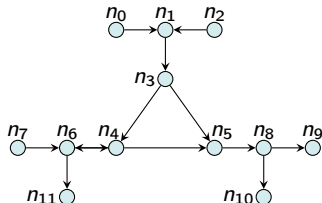
Our solution

- ▶ Solve a (simplified) model with an efficient Timed Automata reachability algorithm
- ▶ Relax the simplification assumption for the speed changes using an SMT solver
- ▶ Generate an SWA-SMT solver to help RL solving this problem.

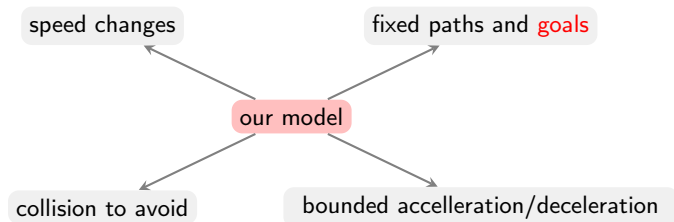
- Our model



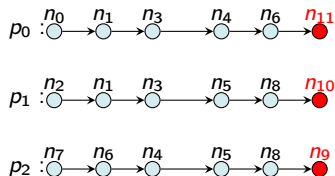
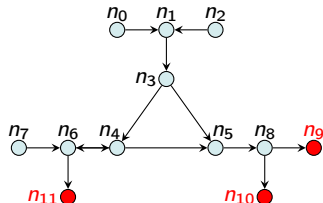
- Example of traffic (left) and associated paths p_0, p_1, p_2 (right)

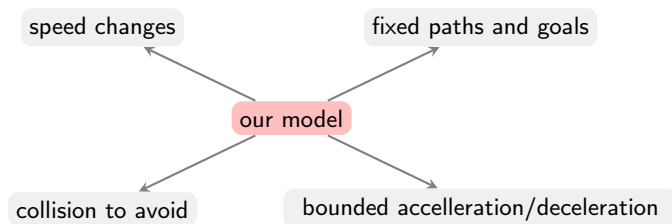


- Our model



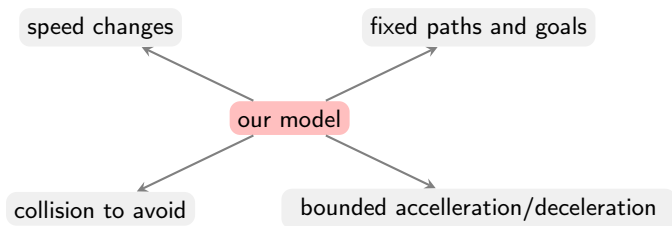
- Example of traffic (left) and associated paths p_0, p_1, p_2 (right)





- Our contribution: **Controller synthesis**

- ▶ Goal: reach goals while avoiding collisions between agents



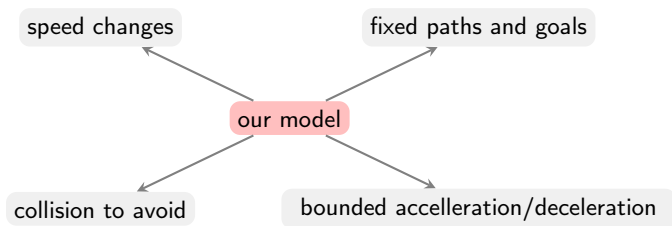
- Our contribution: Controller synthesis

- ▷ Goal: reach goals while avoiding collisions between agents
- ▷ **Three-layer** Method: SWA-SMT solver + RL Training:

SWA-SMT Solver

*Stage 1: Reachability
algorithm on system
of ISWA*

SWA



- Our contribution: Controller synthesis

- ▷ Goal: reach goals while avoiding collisions between agents
- ▷ **Three-layer** Method: SWA-SMT solver + RL Training:

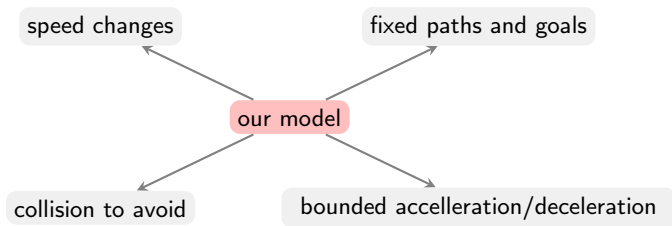
SWA-SMT Solver

Stage 1: Reachability algorithm on system of ISWA

SWA

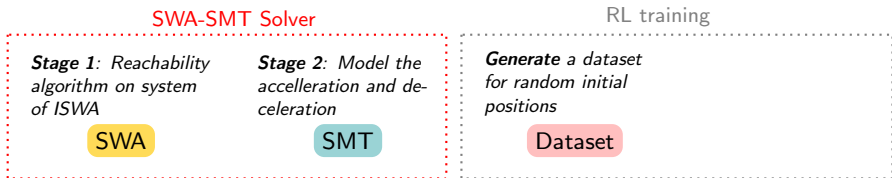
Stage 2: Model the acceleration and deceleration

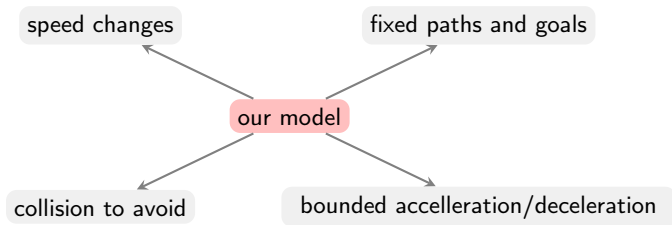
SMT



- Our contribution: Controller synthesis

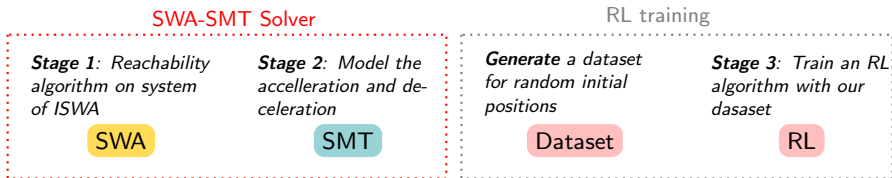
- ▷ Goal: reach goals while avoiding collisions between agents
- ▷ **Three-layer** Method: SWA-SMT solver + RL Training:






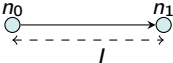
- Our contribution: Controller synthesis

- ▷ Goal: reach goals while avoiding collisions between agents
- ▷ **Three-layer** Method: SWA-SMT solver + RL Training:



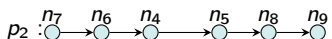
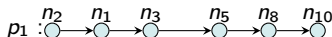
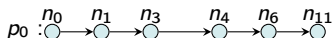
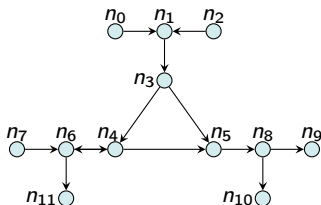
How to model a Car Traffic ?

▷ A point in \mathbb{R}^2 : a node n_0 


▷ A section $s_{[n_0, n_1], L}$ of the road: 

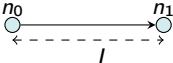
▷ A path: $p_0 : n_0 \rightarrow n_1 \rightarrow n_3 \rightarrow n_4 \rightarrow n_6 \rightarrow n_{11}$

▷ A car traffic: c_0, c_1, c_2 are each assigned paths p_0, p_1, p_2 :



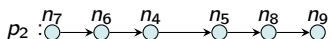
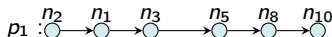
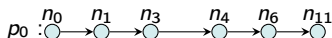
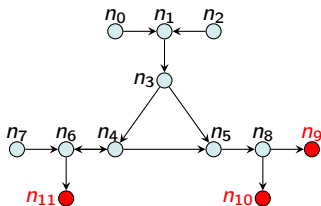
How to model a Car Traffic ?

▷ A point in \mathbb{R}^2 : a node n_0 

▷ A section $s_{[n_0, n_1], L}$ of the road: 

▷ A path: $p_0 : n_0 \rightarrow n_1 \rightarrow n_3 \rightarrow n_4 \rightarrow n_6 \rightarrow n_{11}$

▷ A car traffic: c_0, c_1, c_2 are each assigned paths p_0, p_1, p_2 :



- #1: security distance when driving in the same direction and between neighbouring sections
- #2: cars cannot share a section if driving in **opposite** direction
- #3: No Overtaking between cars

SWA-SMT solver

SWA solver

***Stage 1: Reachability
algorithm on system
of ISWA***

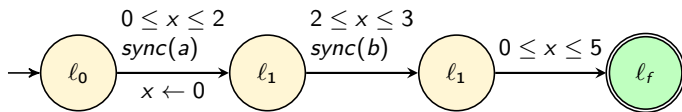
SWA

***Stage 2: Model the
acceleration and de-
celeration***

SMT

What is a Timed Automaton (and its variants) ?

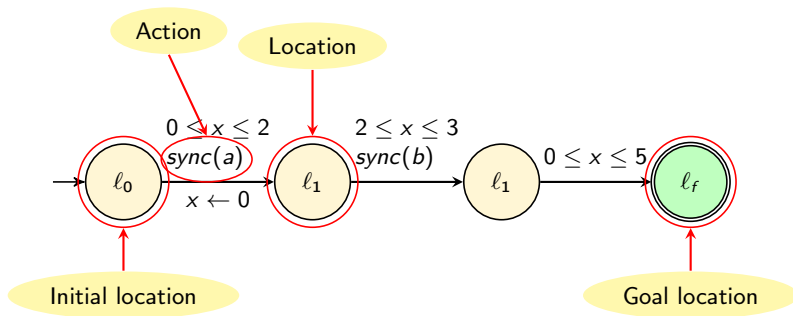
- A classic timed automaton



- Variants

What is a Timed Automaton (and its variants) ?

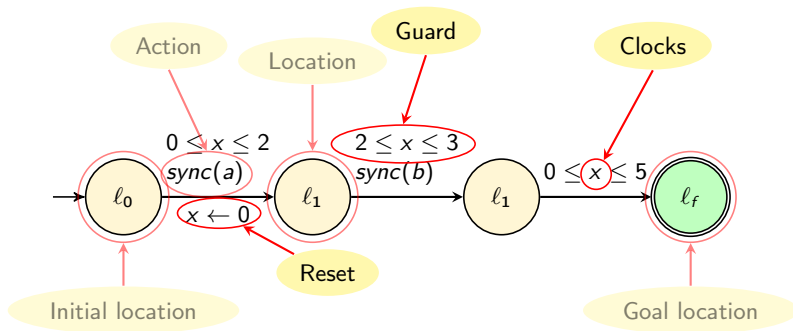
- A classic timed automaton



- Variants

What is a Timed Automaton (and its variants) ?

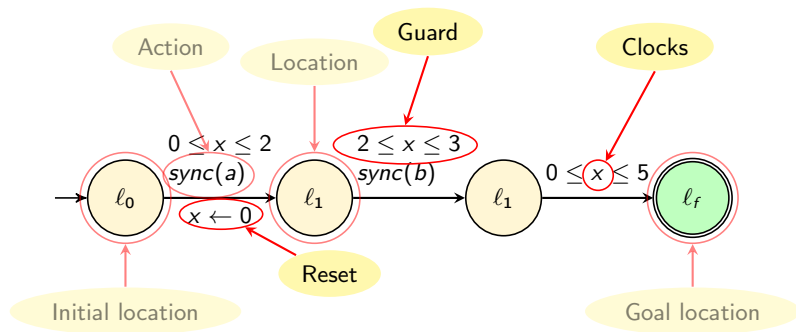
- A classic timed automaton



- Variants

What is a Timed Automaton (and its variants) ?

- A classic timed automaton

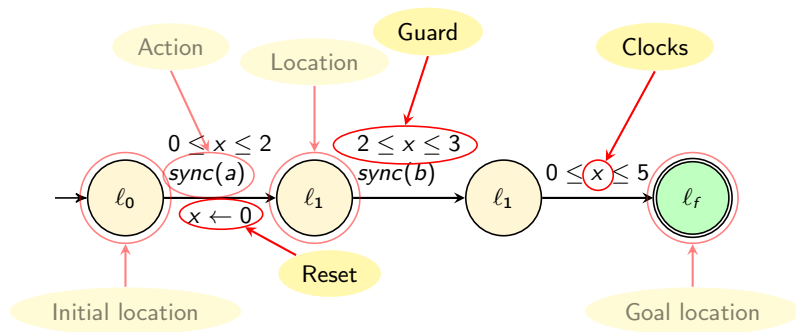


- Variants

▷ Stopwatch \rightarrow $(l_0, \{x\})$: clock x is stopped in location l_0 .

What is a Timed Automaton (and its variants) ?

- A classic timed automaton

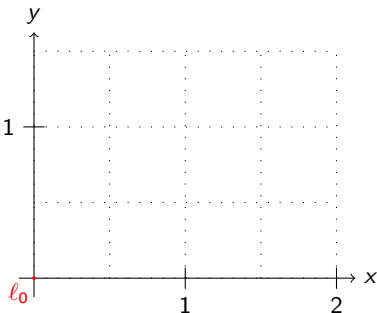
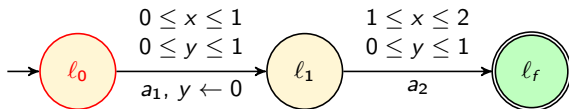


- Variants

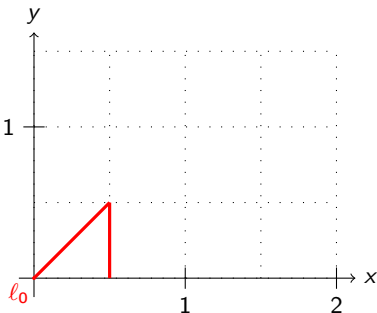
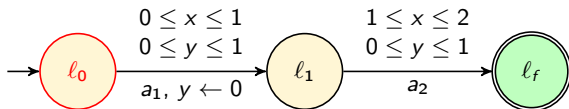
▷ Stopwatch \rightarrow $(l_0, \{x\})$: clock x is stopped in location l_0 .

▷ Channels: FiFo queue of symbols (actions) to be pushed/read

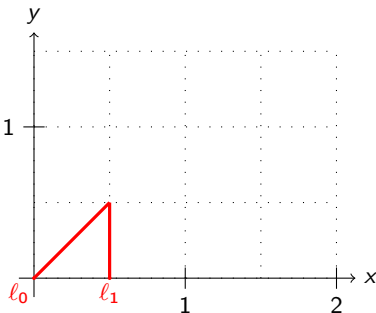
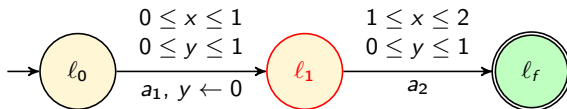
- A run of a two-clock Timed Automaton



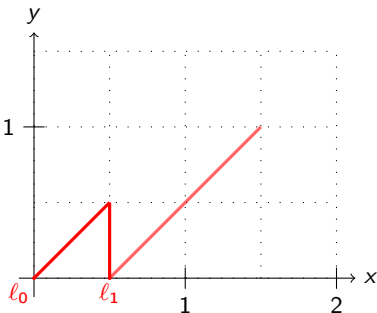
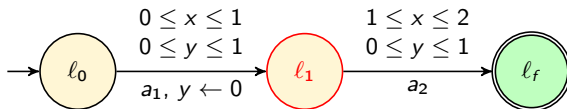
- A run of a two-clock Timed Automaton



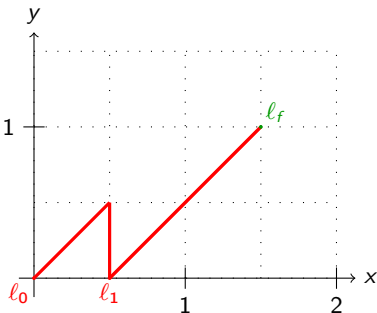
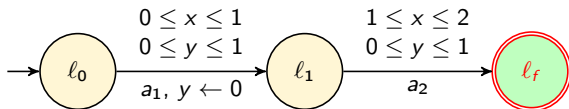
- A run of a two-clock Timed Automaton



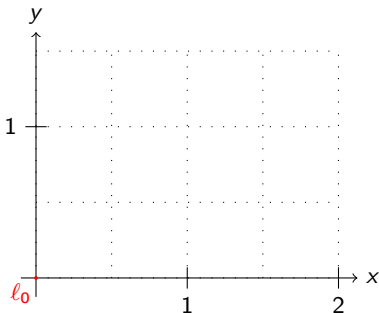
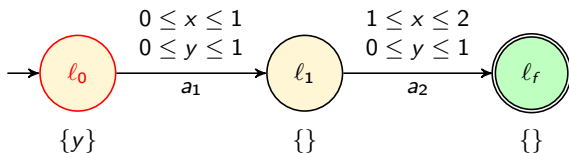
- A run of a two-clock Timed Automaton



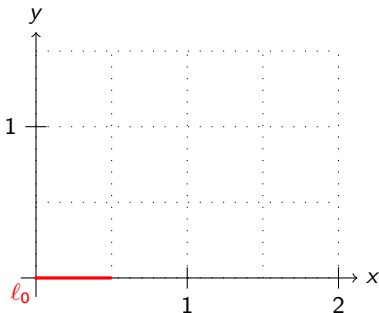
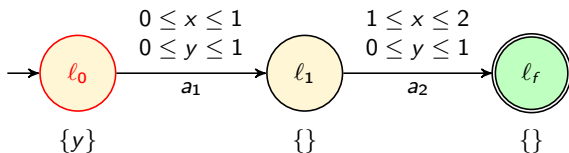
- A run of a two-clock Timed Automaton



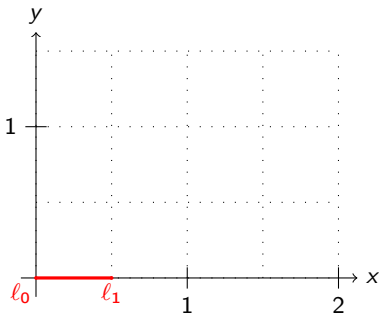
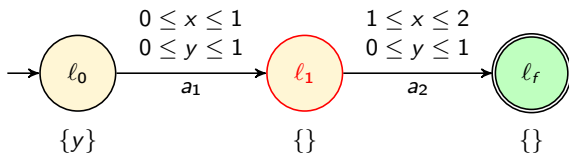
- A run with a (two-clock) stopwatch timed automaton (ISWA)



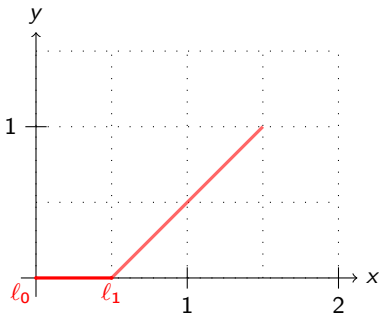
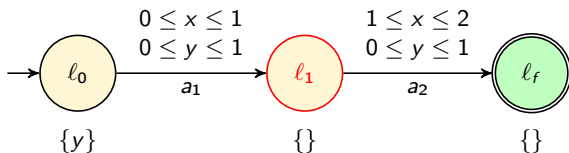
- A run with a (two-clock) stopwatch timed automaton (ISWA)



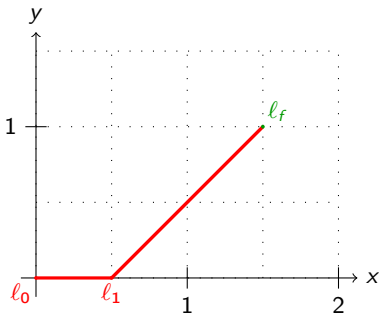
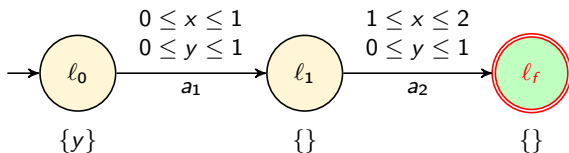
- A run with a (two-clock) stopwatch timed automaton (ISWA)



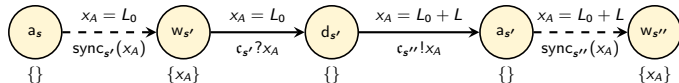
- A run with a (two-clock) stopwatch timed automaton (ISWA)



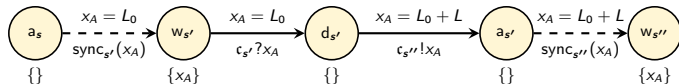
- A run with a (two-clock) stopwatch timed automaton (ISWA)



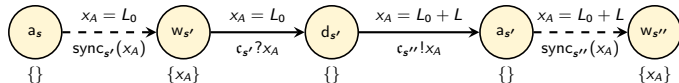
- Car A progress along its paths
 - ▷ x_A : distance travelled along its paths



- Car A progress along its paths
 - ▷ x_A : distance travelled along its paths
 - ▷ **Stopwatches** $\{x_A\}$: x_A stops/the car stops \Rightarrow : car stop instantly.

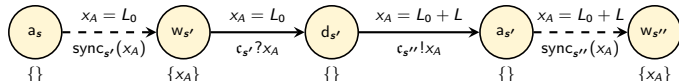


- Car A progress along its paths
 - ▷ x_A : distance travelled along its paths
 - ▷ **Stopwatches** $\{x_A\}$: x_A stops/the car stops \Rightarrow : car stop instantly.
 - ▷ **Channels** $c_{s'}!x_A/c_{s''}?x_A$: respect of order of cars in a section $s \Rightarrow$ no overtaking.

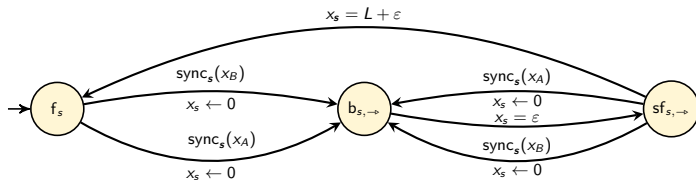
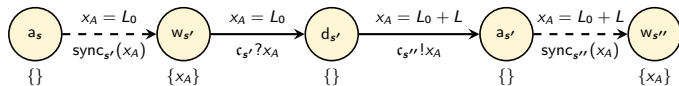


- Car A progress along its paths

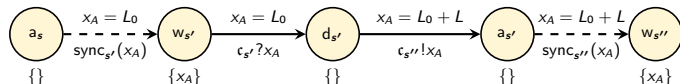
- ▷ x_A : distance travelled along its paths
- ▷ **Stopwatches** $\{x_A\}$: x_A stops/the car stops \Rightarrow : car stop instantly.
- ▷ **Channels** $c_{s'}!x_A/c_{s'}?x_A$: respect of order of cars in a section $s \Rightarrow$ no overtaking.
- ▷ **Intersection**: use classical synchronized action to active *intersection automata*



- Reminder: car automaton

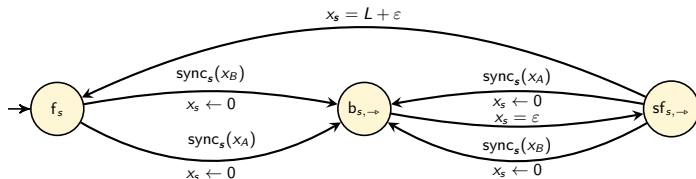


- Reminder: car automaton

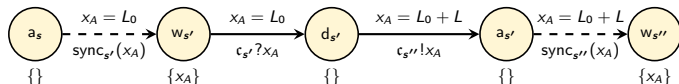


- Intersection automata

- Each intersection tracks the progress of the last entered car along s

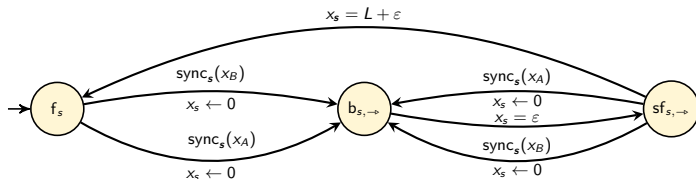


- Reminder: car automaton

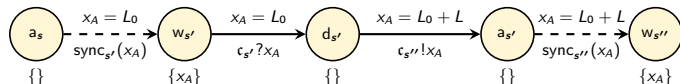


- Intersection automata

- Each intersection **tracks** the progress of the last entered car along s
- Goal: ensure that cars maintain a safe distance from each other (with **guards**)

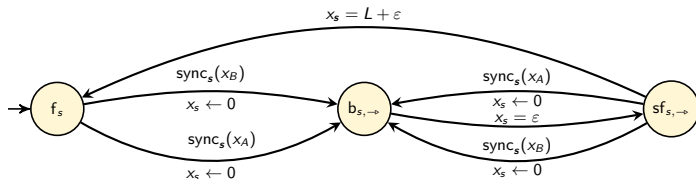


- Reminder: car automaton

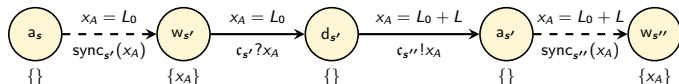


- Intersection automata

- Each intersection **tracks** the progress of the last entered car along s
- Goal: ensure that cars maintain a safe distance from each other (with **guards**)
- For A to enter in s : need to active $\text{sync}_s(x_A)$

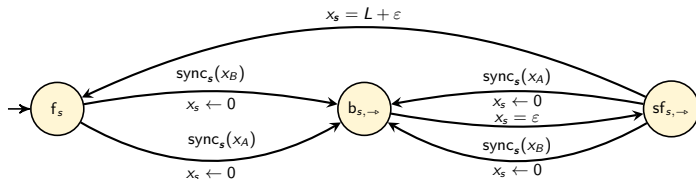


- Reminder: car automaton



- Intersection automata

- Each intersection **tracks** the progress of the last entered car along s
- Goal: ensure that cars maintain a safe distance from each other (with **guards**)
- For A to enter in s : need to active $\text{sync}_s(x_A)$
- Forbid cars to drive in both direction at the same time.



- Reachability for Timed Automata
 - ▷ **PSPACE**: equivalence with a untimed automaton

Goal: reachability algorithm

- Reachability for Timed Automata
 - ▷ **PSPACE**: equivalence with a untimed automaton
- Reachability for Stopwatch Timed Automata
 - ▷ **Undecidable** in general cases

- Reachability for Timed Automata
 - ▷ **PSPACE**: equivalence with a untimed automaton
- Reachability for Stopwatch Timed Automata
 - ▷ **Undecidable** in general cases
 - ▷ **Decidable** for Initialized Stopwatch Timed Automata (subclass)

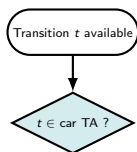
- Reachability for Timed Automata
 - ▷ **PSPACE**: equivalence with a untimed automaton
- Reachability for Stopwatch Timed Automata
 - ▷ **Undecidable** in general cases
 - ▷ **Decidable** for Initialized Stopwatch Timed Automata (subclass)
- Reachability with channels...
 - ▷ **Undecidable** in general cases

- Reachability for Timed Automata
 - ▷ **PSPACE**: equivalence with a untimed automaton
- Reachability for Stopwatch Timed Automata
 - ▷ **Undecidable** in general cases
 - ▷ **Decidable** for Initialized Stopwatch Timed Automata (subclass)
- Reachability with channels...
 - ▷ **Undecidable** in general cases
 - ▷ **Decidable** for bounded channels (bounded number of symbols)

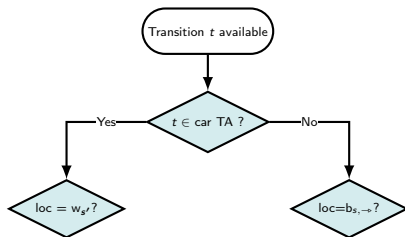
- Reachability for Timed Automata
 - ▷ **PSPACE**: equivalence with a untimed automaton
- Reachability for Stopwatch Timed Automata
 - ▷ **Undecidable** in general cases
 - ▷ **Decidable** for Initialized Stopwatch Timed Automata (subclass)
- Reachability with channels...
 - ▷ **Undecidable** in general cases
 - ▷ **Decidable** for bounded channels (bounded number of symbols)
- Our model and algorithm
 - ▷ Our Model: systems of **Initialized SWA** with *bounded channels*
 - ▷ They have a **specific form** (few cycles, stopwatches are always in the same locations...)

- Reachability for Timed Automata
 - ▷ **PSPACE**: equivalence with a untimed automaton
- Reachability for Stopwatch Timed Automata
 - ▷ **Undecidable** in general cases
 - ▷ **Decidable** for Initialized Stopwatch Timed Automata (subclass)
- Reachability with channels...
 - ▷ **Undecidable** in general cases
 - ▷ **Decidable** for bounded channels (bounded number of symbols)
- Our model and algorithm
 - ▷ Our Model: systems of **Initialized SWA** with *bounded channels*
 - ▷ They have a **specific form** (few cycles, stopwatches are always in the same locations...)
 - ▷ Our contribution: a specified reachability algorithm: a **DFS** with an optimised successor function.

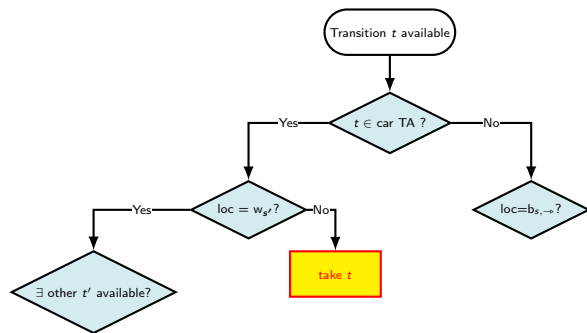
Our Algorithm: a DFS with an optimised succ function



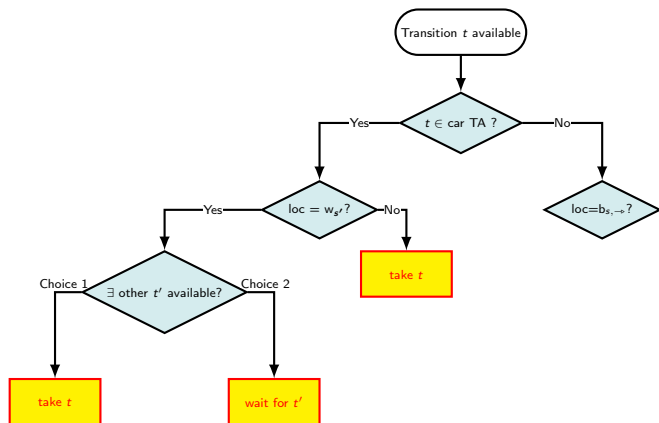
Our Algorithm: a DFS with an optimised succ function



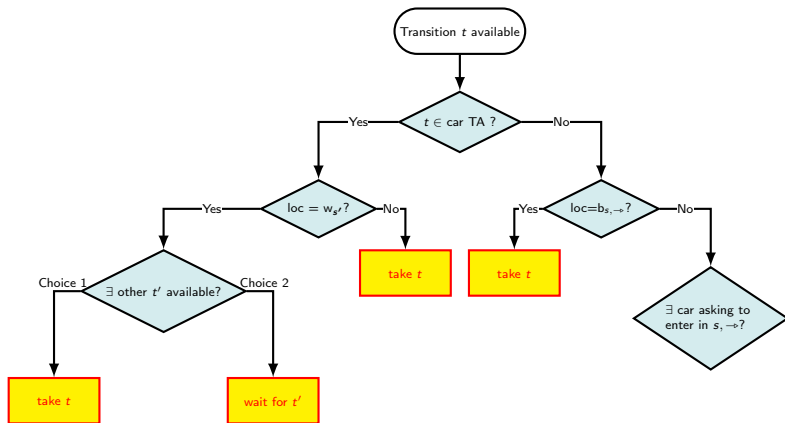
Our Algorithm: a DFS with an optimised succ function



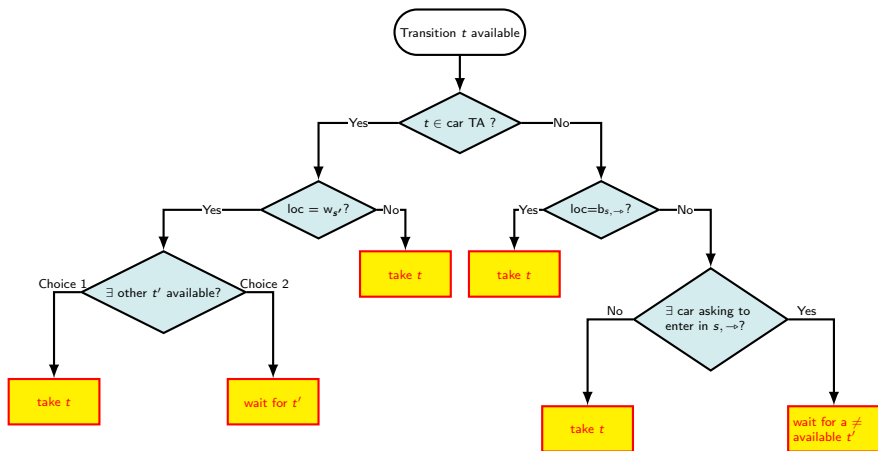
Our Algorithm: a DFS with an optimised succ function



Our Algorithm: a DFS with an optimised succ function

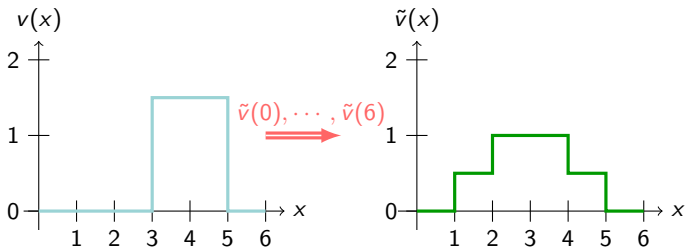


Our Algorithm: a DFS with an optimised succ function



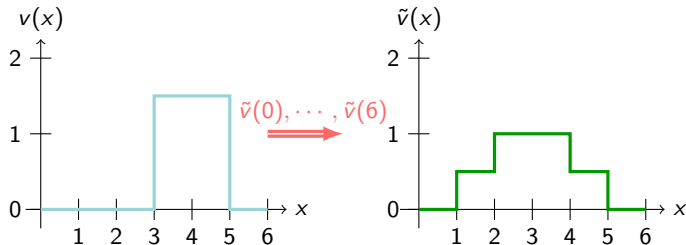
SWA-SMT solver

SMT solver



- Model speed as a constant piecewise affine function
 - ▷ A more realistic model that takes into account the **dynamic of the system**
 - ▷ **Different** car speed
 - ▷ **Bounds** on deceleration and acceleration

$$v_i \Rightarrow \tilde{v}_i(0), \dots, \tilde{v}_i(k-1)$$



New positions : $\tilde{x}_i(k) = \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} \tilde{v}_i(l)$

$$\tilde{x}_i(k) = \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} \tilde{v}_i(l)$$

- SMT solver

- ▷ Variables: $(\tilde{v}_i(l))_l$
- ▷ Constraints: linear inequalities w.t.r \tilde{v}_i and some constants (max acceleration, deceleration...)

$$\tilde{x}_i(k) = \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} \tilde{v}_i(l)$$

- SMT solver

- ▷ Variables: $(\tilde{v}_i(l))_l$
- ▷ Constraints: linear inequalities w.t.r \tilde{v}_i and some constants (max acceleration, deceleration...)

- Example of constraints given to the SMT solver for each step k :

- (1) $\tilde{v}_i(k) - d_{\max} \leq \tilde{v}_i(k+1) \leq \tilde{v}_i(k) + a_{\max}$
- (2) $0 \leq \tilde{v}_i(k) \leq v_{\max}$

RL training

***Generate a dataset
for random initial
positions***

Dataset

***Stage 3: Train an RL
algorithm with our
dataset***

RL

Trajectories

$s_0, \text{Obs}_0, \text{act}_0$

\downarrow rwd_0

$s_1, \text{Obs}_1, \text{act}_1$

\downarrow rwd_1

$s_2, \text{Obs}_2, \text{act}_2$

\downarrow rwd_2

\dots

- Discounted returns:

$$\text{rwd}_0 + \text{discount} \cdot \text{rwd}_1 + \text{discount}^2 \cdot \text{rwd}_2 + \dots$$

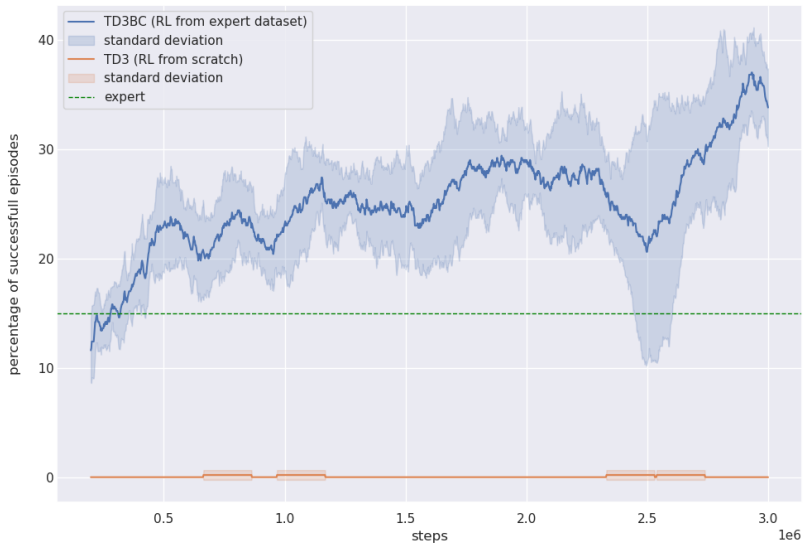
- Possible issues when RL training:
 - ▶ Local optima (gradient descent)

- Possible issues when RL training:
 - ▷ Local optima (gradient descent)
 - ▷ Little changes (action) can have huge consequence of rewards

- Possible issues when RL training:
 - ▷ Local optima (gradient descent)
 - ▷ Little changes (action) can have huge consequence of rewards
 - ▷ Sparse reward signal is a hard exploration problem

- Possible issues when RL training:
 - ▷ Local optima (gradient descent)
 - ▷ Little changes (action) can have huge consequence of rewards
 - ▷ Sparse reward signal is a hard exploration problem
- Our problem is not easy to solve with single RL training:
 - ▷ Combinatorial aspects
 - ▷ Discrete and continuous decision together

Results with SWA-SMT solver, post SWA-SMT solver RL and single RL training



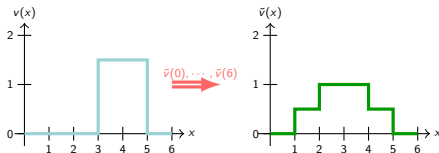
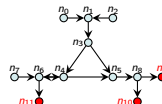
- SWA-SMT Solver

Automata-based model

Efficient algorithm
Abstract model with unrealistic speed model

Piecewise-affine speed graph

Bounded acceleration and deceleration
Different speed
SMT solver to model and solve the distance constraints



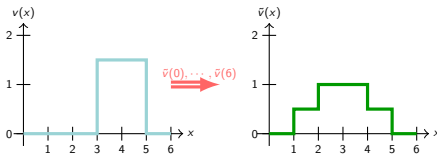
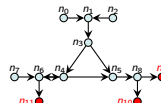
- SWA-SMT Solver

Automata-based model

Efficient algorithm
Abstract model with unrealistic speed model

Piecewise-affine speed graph

Bounded acceleration and deceleration
Different speed
SMT solver to model and solve the distance constraints



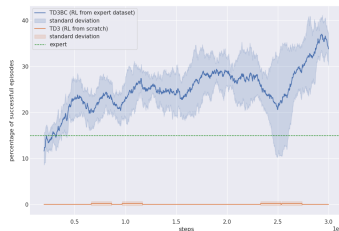
- RL training

Dataset

Trace generated with SWA-SMT solver
Random positions

Performance of RL (helped with SWA-SMT solver)

Better than single RL
Better than SWA-SMT solver
Runtime: ~ 2 days



Conclusion

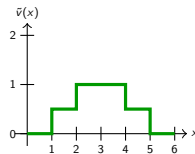
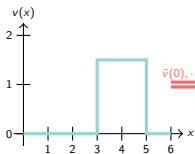
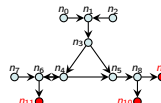
- SWA-SMT Solver

 - Automata-based model

 - Efficient algorithm*
 - Abstract model with unrealistic speed model*

 - Piecewise-affine speed graph

 - Bounded acceleration and deceleration*
 - Different speed*
 - SMT solver to model and solve the distance constraints*



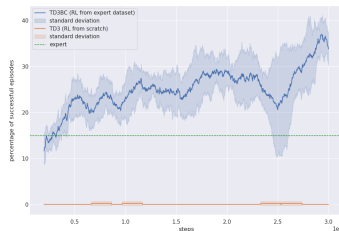
- RL training

 - Dataset

 - Trace generated with SWA-SMT solver*
 - Random positions*

 - Performance of RL (helped with SWA-SMT solver)

 - Better than single RL*
 - Better than SWA-SMT solver*
 - Runtime: ~ 2 days*



- Future work: Decentralized multi-agent systems

Appendix

Appendix

Formal translation of these rules

- ▶ **Same directed section:** for all cars $c_i, c_j \in \mathcal{C}$, $c_i \neq c_j$, for all $t \geq 0$, if $\text{sect}_d(c, t) = \text{sect}_d(c', t) = s$ then:

$$|p_s(c_i, t) - p_s(c_j, t)| \geq \varepsilon$$

- ▶ **Neighbouring sections:** for all cars $c_i = (i, [\dots, (s', d'_i), \dots]) \in \mathcal{C}$, if there exists a car $c_j = (j, [\dots, (s, d_j), (s', d'_j), (s'', d''_j), \dots]) \in \mathcal{C}$ we have two cases:

If $d'_i = d'_j$: then for all t s.t. $\text{sect}_d(c_i, t) = (s', d'_i)$, $\text{sect}_d(c_j, t) = (s'', d''_j)$ we have

$$L' - p_{(s', d'_i)}(c_i, t) + p_{(s'', d''_j)}(c_j, t) \geq \varepsilon.$$

If $d'_i \neq d'_j$: then for all t s.t. $\text{sect}_d(c_i, t) = (s', d'_i)$, $\text{sect}_d(c_j, t) = (s, d_j)$ we have

$$L' - p_{(s', d'_i)}(c_i, t) + L - p_{(s, d_j)}(c_j, t) \geq \varepsilon$$

- ▶ **Same section, opposite direction:** for all section $s \in \mathcal{S}$, for all $t \geq 0$ and for each pair of cars $c_i, c_j \in \mathcal{C}$:

$$\neg(\text{sect}_d(c_i, t) = (s, \rightarrow) \wedge \text{sect}_d(c_j, t) = (s, \leftarrow))$$

- ▶ **No overtaking:** we use channels to respect the order of cars.