

A fresh look at testing for synchronous communication

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Joint work with Puneet Bhateja and Madhavan Mukund

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Outline

1 Introduction

Input/Output semantics

IO-Blocks semantics

Queue semantics (Tretman)

Conclusion

Introduction

Verification of software or hardware

- ▶ Proof
- ▶ Model checking
- ▶ Test

Synchronous testing

- ▶ The tester interacts synchronously with the system.
- ▶ The tester proposes an action which is either refused or accepted and executed by the system.
- ▶ The tester has an immediate feedback.

Asynchronous testing

- ▶ The tester **communicate asynchronously** with the system
- ▶ The tester **provides inputs** and **observes outputs**.
- ▶ The tester does not necessarily know whether its inputs have been used by the system or not.

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- ▶ Tests are computed in advance and are sent as a whole stream to the system
- ▶ The tester then observes the output streams generated by the system

on the fly test generation – IO-Blocks semantics

- ▶ Inputs are supplied incrementally.
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- ▶ Equivalence of two systems for a given test semantics.
- ▶ We study the expressiveness and the decidability of some test equivalences.

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Related work



I. Castellani and M Hennessy: Testing Theories for Asynchronous Languages, *Proc. FSTTCS '98*, Springer Lecture Notes in Computer Science **1530** (1998) 90–101.



R. de Nicola and M. Hennessy: Testing equivalences for processes, *Theoretical Computer Science*, **34** (1984) 83–133.



A. Petrenko, N. Yevtushenko and J.L. Huo: Testing Transition Systems with Input and Output Testers, *Proc IFIP TC6/WG6.1 XV International Conference on Testing of Communicating Systems (TestCom 2003)*, Sophia Antipolis, France, (2003) 129–145.



J. Tretmans: Test Generation with Inputs, Outputs and Repetitive Quiescence, *Software—Concepts and Tools*, **17**(3) (1996) 103–120.

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The model

Labelled transition system

$TS = (S, \Sigma, I, T)$ where

- ▶ S is the set of states
- ▶ $I \subseteq S$ is the set of initial states
- ▶ $\Sigma = \Sigma_i \uplus \Sigma_o$ is the set of input/output actions
- ▶ $T \subseteq S \times \Sigma \times S$ is the set of transitions

$L(TS) = \{w \in \Sigma^* \mid I \xrightarrow{w} \text{ in } TS\}$.

$s \in S$ is **deadlocked** if it refuses all output actions: $s \not\xrightarrow{\Sigma_o}$.

Some further properties

- ▶ No infinite output only behaviour.
- ▶ Receptiveness: $\forall s \in S, \forall a \in \Sigma_i, s \xrightarrow{a}$
If this is not the case, we may
 - ▶ discard unexpected inputs
 - ▶ enter a dead state accepting all inputs and with no possible outputs.

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Asynchronous IO-Behaviours

Intuition: Provide some test input $u \in \Sigma_i^*$ up front and observe the maximal outcome $v \in \Sigma_o^*$. Corresponds to static test generation.

Definition: IO-Behaviours

Let $TS = (S, \Sigma, I, T)$. $IOBeh(TS)$ is the set of pairs $(u, v) \in \Sigma_i^* \times \Sigma_o^*$ such that there is a (maximal) run $i \xrightarrow{w} s$ in TS with

- ▶ $i \in I$ and s deadlocked
- ▶ $\pi_o(w) = v$, and
- ▶ either $\pi_i(w) = u$ or there exists $a \in \Sigma_i$ such that $\pi_i(w)a \preceq u$ and $s \not\xrightarrow{a}$.

Example

$$\begin{aligned} IOBeh(TS_1): \\ &(\varepsilon, \varepsilon) \\ &(a, x), (a, xy) \\ &(a^2, x), (a^2, xy), (a^2, x^2) \\ &(a^n, x), (a^n, xy), (a^n, x^2) \text{ if } n \geq 2. \end{aligned}$$

Asynchronous IO-Behaviours

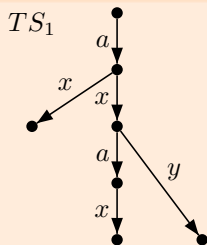
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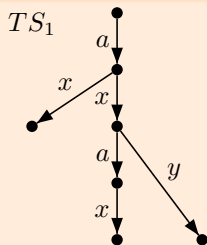
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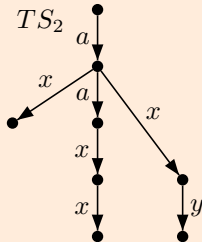
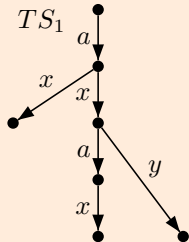
Asynchronous testing equivalence (1)

IO-equivalence

Two transition systems TS and TS' are IO-equivalent, denoted $TS \sim_{io} TS'$ if

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Example



$$IOBeh(TS_1) = IOBeh(TS_2):$$

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IO-equivalence corresponds to the [queued quiescent trace equivalence](#) of



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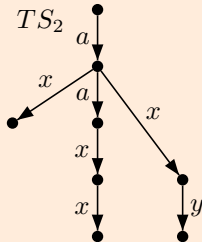
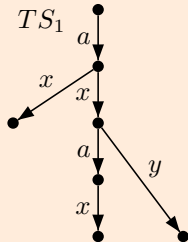
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Rational relations

Definition

Let A, B be two finite (and disjoint) alphabets.

A **rational relation** over A and B is a rational subset R of the monoid $A^* \times B^*$.

Equivalently, $R \subseteq A^* \times B^*$ is a rational relation if there exists an automaton $\mathcal{A} = (S, A \cup B, I, F, T)$ such that

$$R = \{(u, v) \in A^* \times B^* \mid \exists i \xrightarrow{w} f \text{ in } \mathcal{A} \text{ with } i \in I, f \in F, \pi_A(w) = u, \pi_B(w) = v\}$$

Example

$$\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A}) = \{(a, x), (a, xy), (a^2, x^2)\}$$

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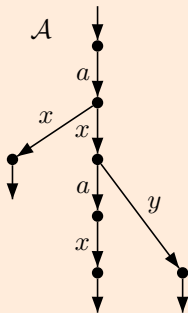
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From IO-behaviours to rational relations

Proposition

From a transition system $TS = (S, \Sigma, I, T)$, we can construct an automaton \mathcal{A} over $\Sigma = \Sigma_i \uplus \Sigma_o$ such that

$$IOBeh(TS) = \mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A})$$

Proof. Intuition: transform deadlocked states into final states

Let $D \subseteq S$ be the set of deadlocked states of TS . Define $\mathcal{A} = (S', \Sigma, I', F', T')$

- ▶ $S' = S \uplus \overline{D} \uplus \{f\}$ where \overline{D} is a copy of D .
- ▶ $I' = I \uplus \overline{I \cap D}$ and $F' = \overline{D} \uplus \{f\}$
- ▶ $T' = T \cup \{(r, a, \bar{s}) \mid (r, a, s) \in T \text{ and } s \in D\}$
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Let $(u, v) \in IOBeh(TS)$ and $i \xrightarrow{w} s$ in TS with $i \in I$, $s \in D$, $\pi_o(w) = v$ and $u = \pi_i(w)au'$ with $s \xrightarrow{a}$.

Then, $i \xrightarrow{w} \bar{s} \xrightarrow{a} f \xrightarrow{u'} f$ in \mathcal{A} and $u = \pi_i(wau')$, $w = \pi_o(wau')$.

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Decidability of IO-equivalence

Theorem

If $|A| = |B| = 1$ then equivalence of rational relations over A and B is decidable.

Corollary

If $|\Sigma_i| = |\Sigma_o| = 1$ then IO-equivalence is decidable.

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From rational relations to IO-behaviours

Several problems:

- ▶ Final states may not be deadlocked (easy to fix).
- ▶ Deadlocked states may not be final (harder to fix).

Example

Same rational relation: $\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A}_1) = \{(a^2, x^3)\} = \mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A}_2)$

But different IO-behaviours:

$$IOBeh(\mathcal{A}_1) = \{(\varepsilon, \varepsilon), (a, x^2)\} \cup \{(a^n, x^3) \mid n \geq 2\}$$

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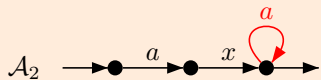
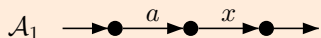
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Rat(B^*)-automata

Definition

A Rat(B^*)-automaton over A is a tuple $\mathcal{A} = (S, A, \lambda, \mu, \gamma)$ where

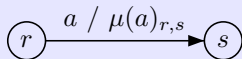
▶ S is the finite set of states

▶ $\lambda : S \rightarrow \text{Rat}(B^*)$



A word in λ_s is emitted when **entering** \mathcal{A} in state s .

▶ $\mu : A \rightarrow (S \times S \rightarrow \text{Rat}(B^*))$



A word in $\mu(a)_{r,s}$ is emitted when **taking a transition from r to s labelled a** .

▶ $\gamma : S \rightarrow \text{Rat}(B^*)$



A word in γ_s is emitted when **exiting** \mathcal{A} in state s .

Then, $(u, v) \in \mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A})$ if there is a path $P = s_0 \xrightarrow{a_1} s_1 \cdots s_{n-1} \xrightarrow{a_n} s_n$ in \mathcal{A} with

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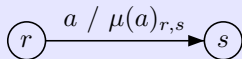
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Rat(B^*)-automata and rational relations

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A relation $R \subseteq A^* \times B^*$ is rational iff there exists a Rat(B^*)-automaton \mathcal{A} with $R = \mathcal{R}(\mathcal{A})$.

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If $|A| \geq 2$ then equivalence is undecidable for Rat(B^*)-automata over A .
This holds even if

- ▶ $|B| = 1$
- ▶ We use only finite languages: $\mathcal{P}_{\text{fin}}(B^*)$ -automata
- ▶ There is no output when entering the automaton: $\lambda_s \neq \emptyset$ implies $\lambda_s = \{\varepsilon\}$
- ▶ There is no output when exiting the automaton: $\gamma_s \neq \emptyset$ implies $\gamma_s = \{\varepsilon\}$
- ▶ All transitions are visible: $\varepsilon \notin \mu(a)_{r,s}$

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Undecidability of IO-equivalence

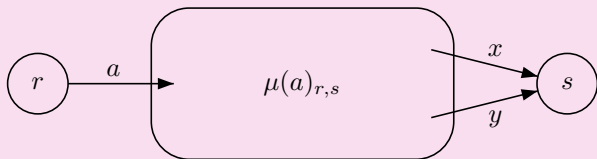
Theorem

IO-equivalence is undecidable.

Proof

Let $\mathcal{A} = (S, A, \lambda, \mu, \gamma)$ be a $\mathcal{P}_{\text{fin}}(B^+)$ -automaton. Define $\mathcal{A}' = (S', \Sigma, I', T')$ by

- ▶ $\Sigma_i = A$, $\Sigma_o = B \uplus \{\#\}$ and $I' = \{s \in I \mid \lambda_s \neq \emptyset \text{ (i.e., } \lambda_s = \{\varepsilon\})\}$
- ▶ transitions $r \xrightarrow{a / \mu(a)_{r,s}}$ of \mathcal{A} are replaced in \mathcal{A}' by



Note that deadlocked states of \mathcal{A}' are exactly the states of \mathcal{A} .

Claim: $(u, v) \in IOBeh(\mathcal{A}')$ iff there is a path $s_0 \xrightarrow{a_1} s_1 \cdots s_{n-1} \xrightarrow{a_n} s_n$ in \mathcal{A} with $\lambda_{s_0} = \{\varepsilon\}$, $v \in \mu(a_1)_{s_0, s_1} \cdots \mu(a_n)_{s_{n-1}, s_n}$, and $u = a_1 \cdots a_n$ or $u = a_1 \cdots a_n a u'$ with $\mu(a)_{s_n, s} = \emptyset$ for all $s \in S$.

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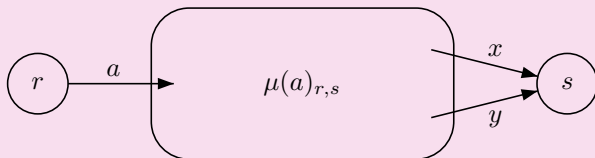
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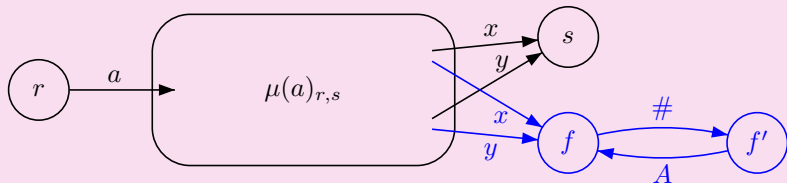
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Proof continued

Define $\mathcal{A}'' = (S'', \Sigma, I', T'')$ by adding to \mathcal{A}' when $\gamma_s = \{\varepsilon\}$:



Note that deadlocked states of \mathcal{A}' are exactly the states in $S \uplus \{f'\}$.

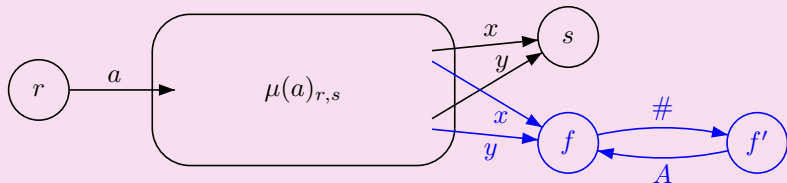
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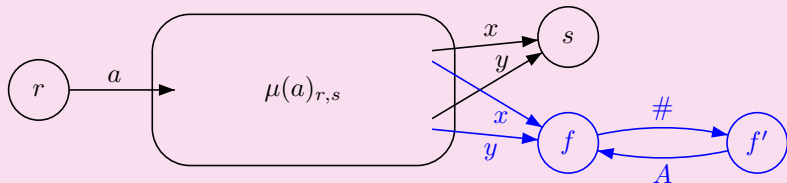
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Outline

Introduction

Input/Output semantics

3 IO-Blocks semantics

Queue semantics (Tretman)

Conclusion

Asynchronous IO-blocks semantics

Definition

A *block observation* of $TS = (S, \Sigma, I, T)$ is a sequence $(u_0, v_0)(u_1, v_1) \cdots (u_n, v_n)$ where

- ▶ $u_0 \in \Sigma_i^*$ and $u_j \in \Sigma_i^+$ for $1 \leq j \leq n$,
- ▶ $v_k \in \Sigma_o^*$ for $0 \leq k \leq n$

and there is a maximal run $r \xrightarrow{w_0} s_0 \xrightarrow{w_1} \cdots \xrightarrow{w_n} s_n$ with $r \in I$ such that:

- ▶ The states $s_0, s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n$ are the only deadlocked states along this run.
- ▶ $\forall 0 \leq j \leq n, \pi_o(w_j) = v_j$.
- ▶ $\forall 0 \leq j < n, \pi_i(w_j) = u_j$.
- ▶ Either $\pi_i(w_n) = u_n$ or there exists $a \in \Sigma_i$ with $\pi_i(w_n)a \preceq u_n$ and $s_n \xrightarrow{a}$.

Let $IOBlocks(TS)$ denote the set of block observations of TS .

IO-block equivalence

IO-block equivalence

Two transition systems TS and TS' are IO-block equivalent if

$$IOBlocks(TS) = IOBlocks(TS')$$

This equivalence is denoted $TS \sim_{ioblock} TS'$.

Remark

IO-block equivalence corresponds to the queued suspension trace equivalence of



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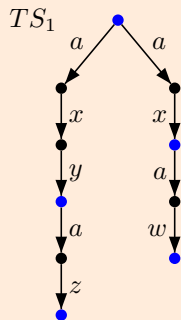
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IO-block equivalence

Example



$IOBlocks(TS_1):$

$(\varepsilon, \varepsilon)$
 (a, xy)
 $(a, xy)(a^n, z)$ for $n \geq 1$
 (a, x)
 $(a, x)(a^n, w)$ for $n \geq 1$

$IOBeh(TS_1):$

$(\varepsilon, \varepsilon)$
 (a, xy)
 (a^n, xyz) for $n \geq 2$
 (a, x)
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Proposition

If $TS_1 \sim_{ioblock} TS_2$, then $TS_1 \sim_{io} TS_2$.

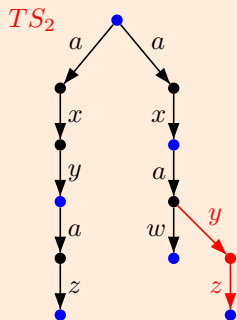
Proof

$IOBeh(TS) =$

$\{(u_0u_1 \dots u_n, v_0v_1 \dots v_n) \mid (u_0, v_0)(u_1, v_1) \dots (u_n, v_n) \in IOBlocks(TS)\}$

IO-block equivalence

Example



$IOBlocks(TS_2)$:

$(\varepsilon, \varepsilon)$
 (a, xy)
 $(a, xy)(a^n, z)$ for $n \geq 1$
 (a, x)
 $(a, x)(a^n, w)$ for $n \geq 1$
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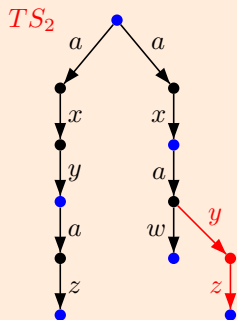
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Decidability of IO-block equivalence

Definition

A transition system is **well-structured** if every state either refuses Σ_i or refuses Σ_o .

Theorem

For finite well structured transition systems, $\sim_{ioblock}$ is decidable.

Proof

Let $D = \{s \in S \mid s \text{ is deadlocked}\}$.

For $a \in \Sigma_i$, let $D_a = \{s \in S \mid s \text{ is deadlocked and } s \xrightarrow{a}\}$.

For $X \subseteq S$, let $L_X(TS) = \{w \in \Sigma^* \mid I \xrightarrow{w} X\}$.

Claim. $TS_1 \sim_{ioblock} TS_2$ iff

- ▶ $L_D(TS_1) = L_D(TS_2)$, and
- ▶ $L_{D_a}(TS_1) = L_{D_a}(TS_2)$ for each $a \in \Sigma_i$.

Indeed, for well structured transition systems, we have

$$\begin{aligned} IOBlocks(TS) = & \{(\varepsilon, v_0)(a_1, v_1) \dots (a_n, v_n) \mid i \xrightarrow{v_0} s_0 \xrightarrow{a_1 v_1} s_1 \dots s_{n-1} \xrightarrow{a_n v_n} s_n\} \\ & \cup \{(\varepsilon, v_0)(a_1, v_1) \dots (a_n a_u, v_n) \mid i \xrightarrow{v_0} s_0 \xrightarrow{a_1 v_1} s_1 \dots s_{n-1} \xrightarrow{a_n v_n} s_n \xrightarrow{a}\} \end{aligned}$$

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Outline

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IO-Blocks semantics

4 Queue semantics (Tretman)

Conclusion

Queue semantics (Tretmans)

Definition

Let $TS = (S, \Sigma, I, T)$ be a transition system. Define $Q(TS) = (S', \Sigma, I', T')$ by

- ▶ $S' = S \times \Sigma_i^* \times \Sigma_o^*$: configurations of TS .
- ▶ $I' = I \times \{\varepsilon\} \times \{\varepsilon\}$: initial configurations
- ▶ Transitions of TS are broken up into two moves, one visible and one invisible (labelled τ):

Input

$$\frac{}{(s, \sigma_i, \sigma_o) \xrightarrow{a} (s, \sigma_i a, \sigma_o)} \qquad \frac{s \xrightarrow{a} s'}{(s, a\sigma_i, \sigma_o) \xrightarrow{\tau} (s', \sigma_i, \sigma_o)}$$

Output

$$\frac{s \xrightarrow{x} s'}{(s, \sigma_i, \sigma_o) \xrightarrow{\tau} (s', \sigma_i, \sigma_o x)} \qquad \frac{}{(s, \sigma_i, x\sigma_o) \xrightarrow{x} (s, \sigma_i, \sigma_o)}$$

- ▶ $L(Q(TS))$ is the set of traces of $Q(TS)$.

Deadlocked traces (Tretmans)

Deadlocked traces

- ▶ A trace $w \in L(Q(TS))$ is **deadlocked** if there is a run $(r, \varepsilon, \varepsilon) \xrightarrow{w} (s, \sigma_i, \varepsilon)$ with $r \in I$ and $(s, \sigma_i, \varepsilon)$ deadlocked in $Q(TS)$.
- ▶ We denote by $\delta_{\text{traces}}(Q(TS))$ the set of deadlocked traces of $Q(TS)$.

Empty and blocked deadlocked traces

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Proposition: $\delta_{\text{traces}}(Q(TS)) = \delta_{\text{empty}}(Q(TS)) \cup \delta_{\text{block}}(Q(TS))$

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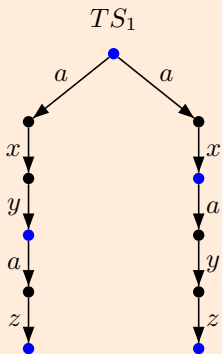
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Example



$\delta_{\text{empty}}(TS_1)$:

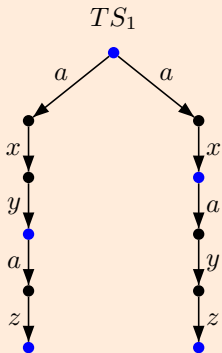
ε
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Deadlocked traces (Tretmans)

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Queue equivalence (Tretmans)

Definition

$$TS \sim_Q TS' \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} Q(TS) \sim_{syn} Q(TS').$$

Intuitively, **synchronous testing equivalence** \sim_{syn} corresponds to **failure semantics**.

Proposition (Tretmans)

$TS \sim_Q TS'$ iff $L(Q(TS)) = L(Q(TS'))$ and $\delta_{traces}(Q(TS)) = \delta_{traces}(Q(TS'))$

Ape relation (Tretmans)

Ape relation for the queue semantics

- ▶ Output actions may always be postponed:

For $x \in \Sigma_o$ and $a \in \Sigma_i$, we have

$$w_1 x a w_2 \in L(Q(TS)) \text{ implies } w_1 a x w_2 \in L(Q(TS)).$$

- ▶ Input actions may always be added:

For $a \in \Sigma_i$, we have

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- ▶ We denote @ the reflexive and transitive closure of the relations postponing an output action or adding an input action.

- ▶ $\text{Tracks}(TS)$ is the set of @-minimal words in $L(Q(TS))$.

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- ▶ $\text{Tracks}(TS) \subseteq L(TS)$.

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Ape relation (Tretmans)

Ape relation for the queue semantics

- ▶ Output actions may always be postponed:

For $x \in \Sigma_o$ and $a \in \Sigma_i$, we have

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Strict ape relation (Tretmans)

Strict ape relation for the queue semantics

- ▶ We denote $|\@|$ the reflexive and transitive closure of the relation **postponing an output action**.

- ▶ $\delta_{\text{empty}}(Q(TS)) = \{w \in \Sigma^* \mid \exists r \xrightarrow{w'} s \text{ in } TS \text{ with } r \in I, \\ s \text{ deadlocked and } w' |\@| w\}$.

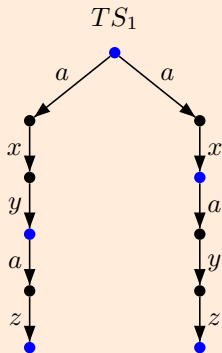
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Deadlocked traces (Tretmans)

Example



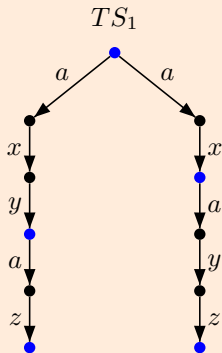
$\delta_{\text{empty}}(TS_1)$:
|@|-upper closure of
 ε
 ax
 axy
 $axyaz$

$axyaz$ |@| $axayz$
 $axyaz$ |@| $aaaxyz$

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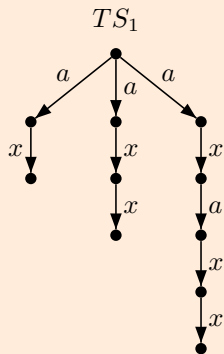
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Comparing the equivalences

Proposition

If $TS_1 \sim_Q TS_2$, then $TS_1 \sim_{io} TS_2$.

The converse does not hold



$\text{Tracks}(TS_1)$:

ε
 ax
 axx
 $axaxx$

$\text{IOBeh}(TS_1)$:

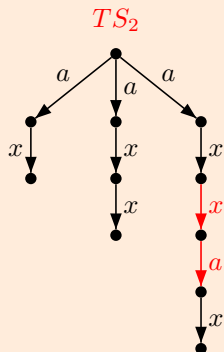
$(\varepsilon, \varepsilon)$
 (a^n, x) for $n \geq 1$
 (a^n, x^2) for $n \geq 1$
 (a^n, x^3) for $n \geq 2$

Comparing the equivalences

Proposition

If $TS_1 \sim_Q TS_2$, then $TS_1 \sim_{io} TS_2$.

The converse does not hold



$\text{Tracks}(TS_2)$:

ε
 ax
 axx
 $axxax$

 $axxax @ axaxx$

$\text{IOBeh}(TS_2)$:

$(\varepsilon, \varepsilon)$
 (a^n, x) for $n \geq 1$
 (a^n, x^2) for $n \geq 1$
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Undecidability of $Qtest$

Theorem

\sim_Q is undecidable

Proof

Reduction from the PCP problem.

A PCP instance consists in two morphisms $f, g : A^+ \rightarrow B^+$ where A, B are finite alphabets.

The PCP instance f, g has a solution if there exists $u \in A^+$ such that $f(u) = g(u)$.

We construct two systems M_1 and M_2 such that the PCP instance (f, g) has no solution iff $M_1 \sim_Q M_2$.

Reduction from the PCP problem

We want to compare the following two systems:

- ▶ $M_1 = S_0 + S_f + S_g$
- ▶ $M_2 = S_f + S_g$

Lemma

$$\delta_{\text{block}}(M_1) = \delta_{\text{block}}(M_2) = \emptyset.$$

Lemma

$$\text{Tracks}(M_1) = \text{Tracks}(M_2) = \text{Tracks}(S_f) = B^*.$$

Lemma

- ▶ $\delta_{\text{empty}}(S_0)$ is the $|\@|$ -upper closure of $A^+B^+\$$.
- ▶ Let $u \in A^+$ and $v \in B^+$. Then, $uv\$ \in \delta_{\text{empty}}(S_f)$ if and only if $v \neq f(u)$.

Theorem

$M_1 \sim_Q M_2$ iff the PCP instance (f, g) has no solution.

Outline

Introduction

Input/Output semantics

IO-Blocks semantics

Queue semantics (Tretman)

5 Conclusion

Conclusion

Summary

- ▶ We have investigated 3 asynchronous testing equivalences.
- ▶ We have shown that \sim_{io} is strictly weaker than \sim_Q and $\sim_{ioblock}$, but \sim_Q and $\sim_{ioblock}$ are incomparable.
- ▶ $\sim_{ioblock}$ is decidable, while \sim_{io} and \sim_Q are undecidable.

Open problems

- ▶ Construct test suites based on the IO-Blocks semantics.
- ▶ Investigate distributed testing.
See e.g. C. Jard: Synthesis of distributed testers from true-concurrency models of reactive systems, Information & Software Technology, 2003.

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