

## SynCoP

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# Execution-time opacity problems in (parametric) timed automata

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Join works with Étienne André, Engél Lefauchaux, Didier Lime, and Sun Jun

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and the ANR research program BisoUS (ANR-22-CE48-0012).

## Context: timing attacks

- ▶ Principle: deduce **private information** from timing data (**execution time**)

### Issues:

- ▶ May depend on the **implementation** (or, even worse, be **introduced by the compiler**)
- ▶ A relatively trivial solution: make the program last always its maximum execution time  
Drawback: **loss of efficiency**

↪ Non-trivial problem

## A simple example of timing attack

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1 # input pwd      : Real password
2 # input attempt: Tentative password
3 for i = 0 to min(len(pwd), len(attempt)) - 1 do
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7 return true
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|     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| pwd | c | h | i | c | k | e | n |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

|         |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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Execution time:

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Execution time:  $\epsilon + \epsilon + \epsilon$

- **Problem:** The execution time is proportional to the number of consecutive correct characters from the beginning of attempt



# Informal problems

Question: can we exhibit **secure execution times**?

Computation problem: Execution-time opacity computation

Exhibit **execution times** for which it is not possible to infer information on the internal behavior

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Computation problem: Execution-time opacity computation

Exhibit **execution times** for which it is not possible to infer information on the internal behavior

Question: can we make sure all **execution times** are **secure**?

Decision problem: Full execution-time opacity

Can we decide whether it is impossible to infer information on the internal behavior, whatever (**for all**) **execution times**?

## Informal parametric problems

Further question: can we also tune internal timing constants to make the system resisting to timing attacks?

Synthesis problem: Execution-time opacity synthesis

Exhibit **execution times** and **internal timing constants** for which it is not possible to infer information on the internal behavior

# Outline

ET-opacity problems in timed automata

ET-opacity parametrization

Results

Perspectives

# Outline

## ET-opacity problems in timed automata

Timed model checking and timed automata

Execution-Time Opacity Problems

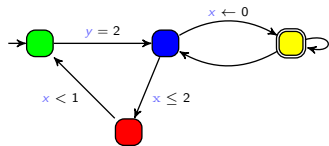
Expiring-ET-Opacity Problems

## ET-opacity parametrization

## Results

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# Timed model checking

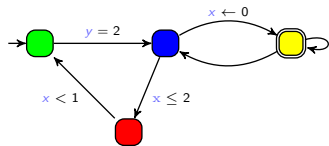


A **model** of the system

**Red** is unreachable

A **property** to be satisfied

# Timed model checking



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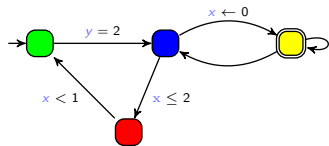
⊨

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$\models$

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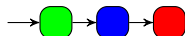
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Yes



No

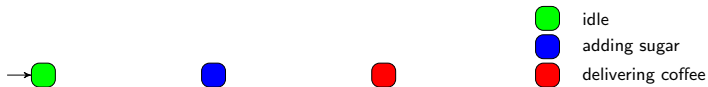


Counterexample



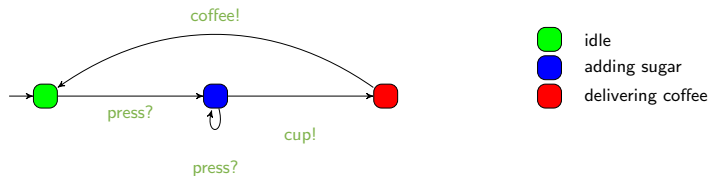
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- ▶ Finite state automaton (sets of **locations**)



# Timed automaton (TA)

- ▶ Finite state automaton (sets of **locations** and **actions**)

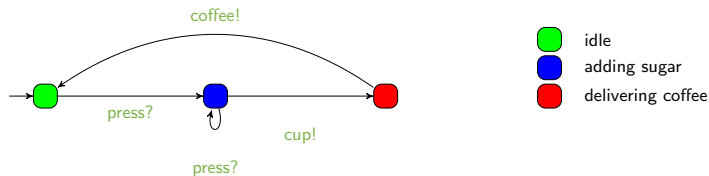


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[AD94] Rajeev Alur and David L. Dill. "A theory of timed automata". In: *Theoretical Computer Science* 126.2 (Apr. 1994), pp. 183–235. DOI: 10.1016/0304-3975(94)90010-8

# Timed automaton (TA)

- ▶ Finite state automaton (sets of **locations** and **actions**) augmented with a set  $X$  of **clocks** [AD94]
  - ▶ Real-valued variables evolving linearly **at the same rate**

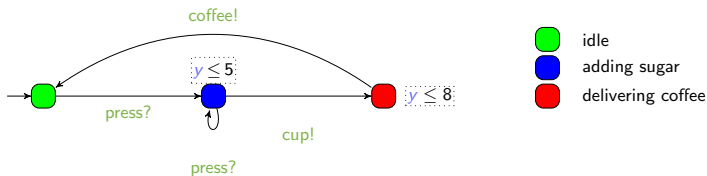


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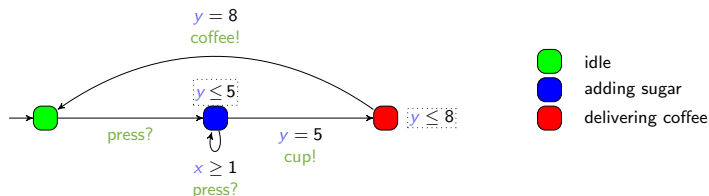
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- ▶ Features
  - ▶ Location **invariant**: property to be verified to stay at a location



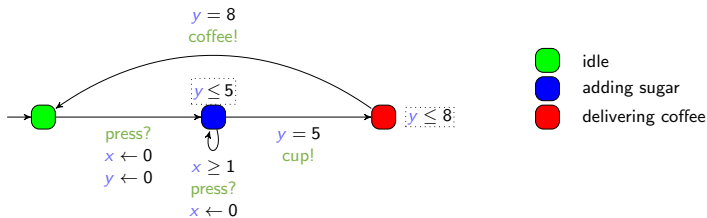
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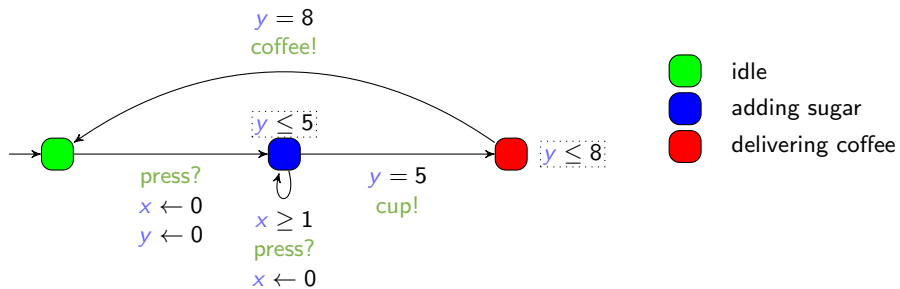


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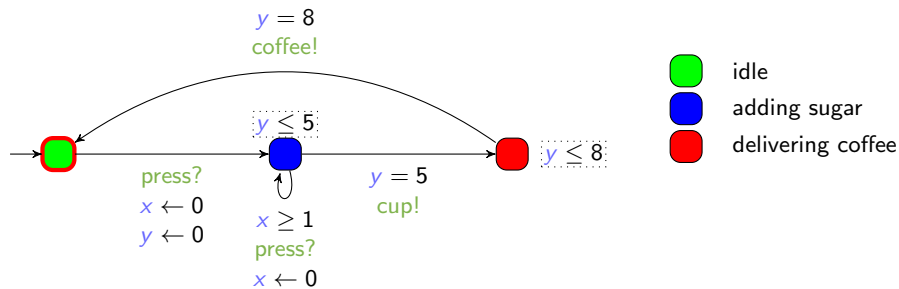
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  - ▶ Clock **reset**: some of the clocks can be **set to 0** along transitions



# The most critical system: The coffee machine



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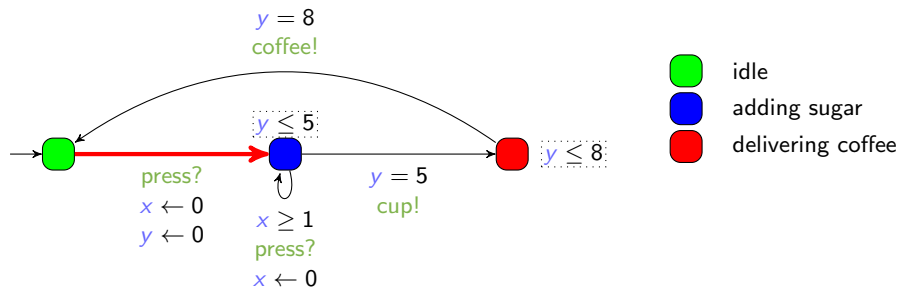


- ▶ Example of concrete run for the coffee machine
  - ▶ Coffee with 2 doses of sugar

  
 $x = 0$   
 $y = 0$

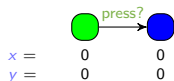


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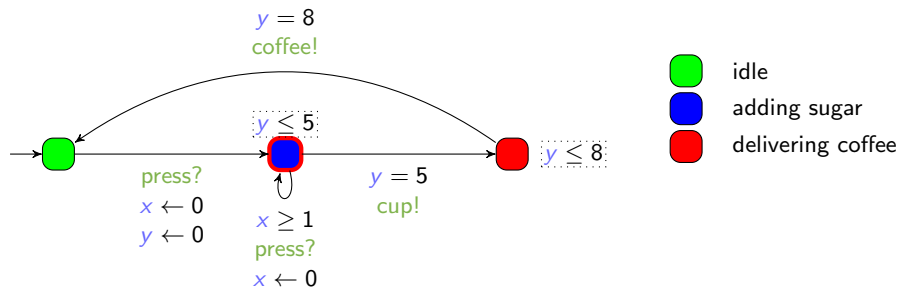


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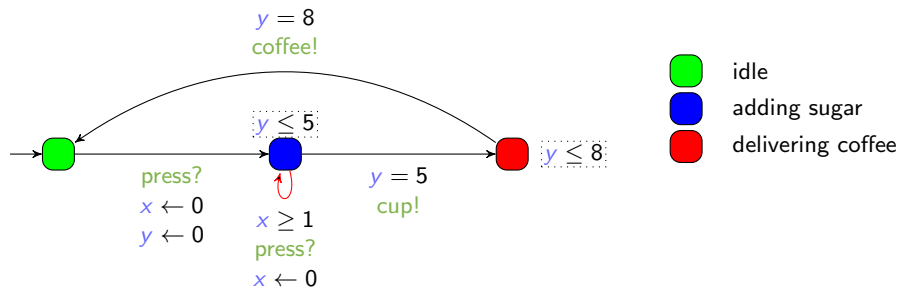


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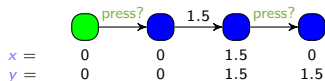


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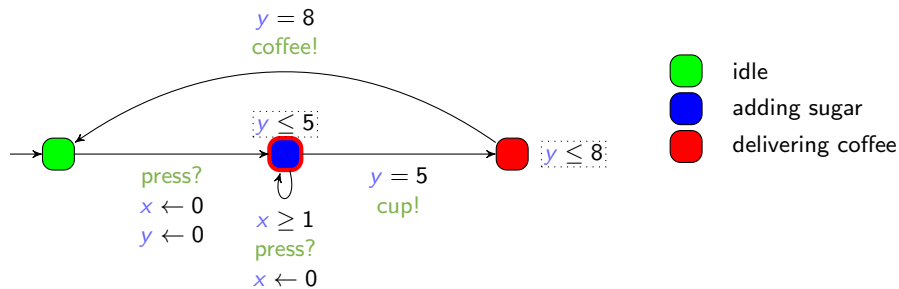


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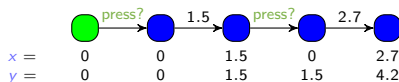


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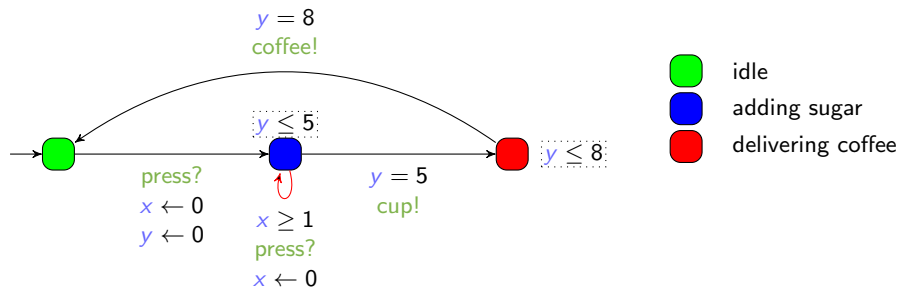


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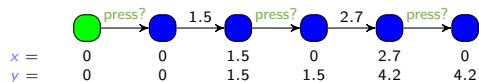


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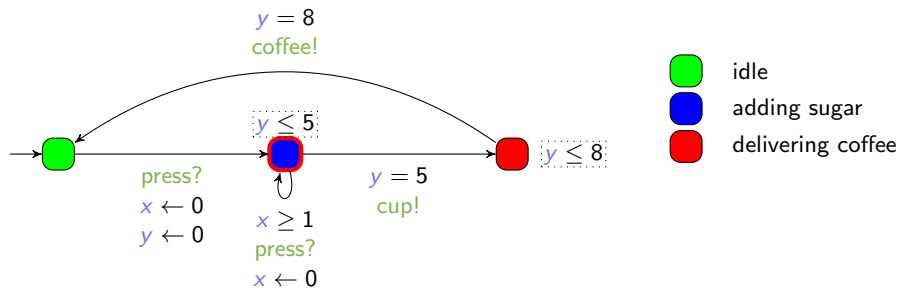


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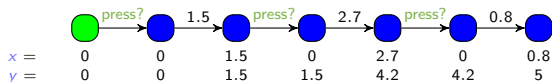


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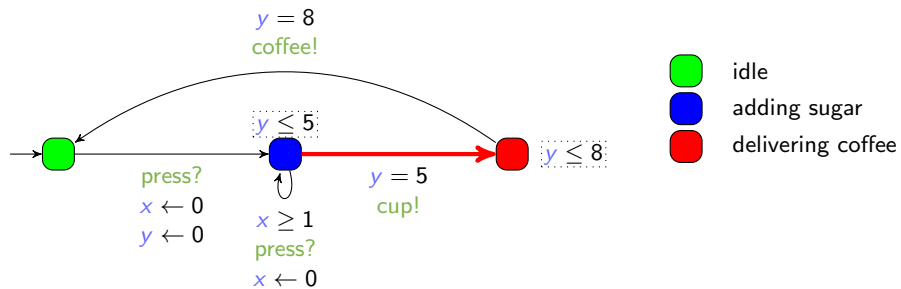


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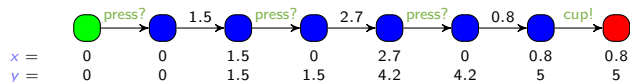


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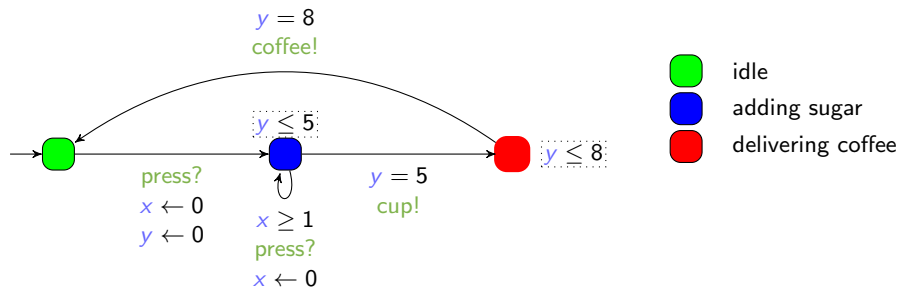


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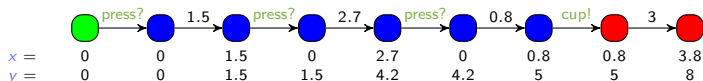


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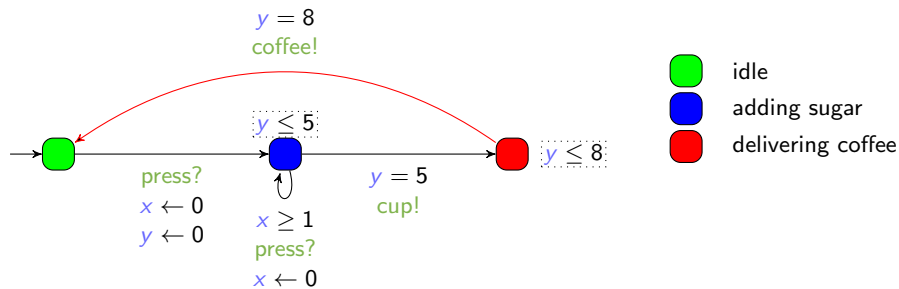
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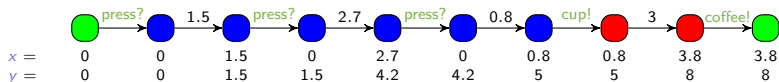


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Timed model checking and timed automata

**Execution-Time Opacity Problems**

Expiring-ET-Opacity Problems

ET-opacity parametrization

Results

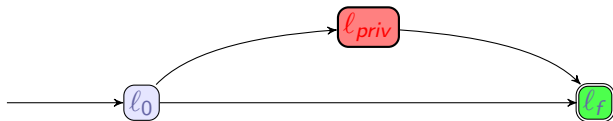
Perspectives

# Formalization

Hypotheses:

[AS19]

- ▶ A start location  $l_0$  and an end location  $l_f$
- ▶ A special private location  $l_{priv}$



## Definition (execution-time opacity)

The system is **ET-opaque** for a **duration  $d$**  if there exist two runs to  $l_f$  of duration  $d$

1. one visiting  $l_{priv}$
2. one *not* visiting  $l_{priv}$

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[AS19] Étienne André and Jun Sun. "Parametric Timed Model Checking for Guaranteeing Timed Opacity". In: ATVA (Oct. 28–31, 2019). Ed. by Yu-Fang Chen, Chih-Hong Cheng, and Javier Esparza. Vol. 11781. Lecture Notes in Computer Science. Taipei, Taiwan: Springer, 2019, pp. 115–130. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-030-31784-3\_7

# Three levels of ET-opacity

## Existential – $\exists$

There exist two runs of duration  $d$ ,  
one visiting  $\ell_{priv}$ ,  
one not visiting  $\ell_{priv}$

## Weak

For all duration  $d$ ,  
There exists a run of duration  $d$  visiting  $\ell_{priv}$   
 $\Rightarrow$   
There exists a run of duration  $d$  not visiting  $\ell_{priv}$

## Full

For all duration  $d$ ,  
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private durations  $\cap$  public durations  $\neq \emptyset$

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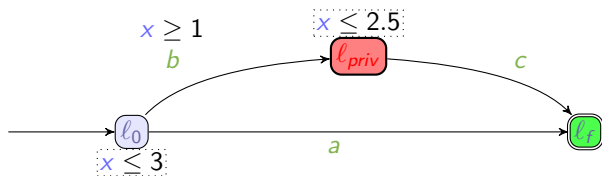
Weak

private durations  $\subseteq$  public durations

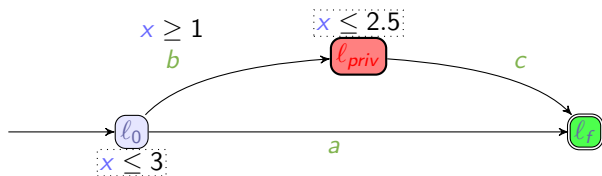
Full

private durations = public durations

# Example



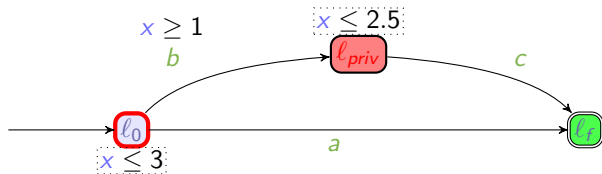
## Example



- ▶ There exist (at least) two runs of duration  $d = 2$ :



# Example

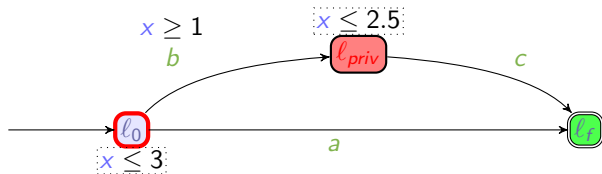


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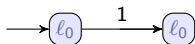


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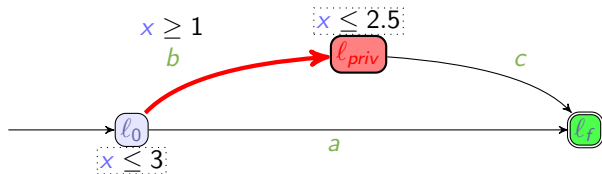


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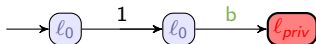


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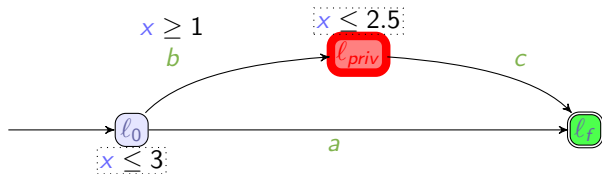


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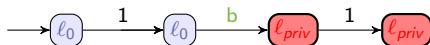


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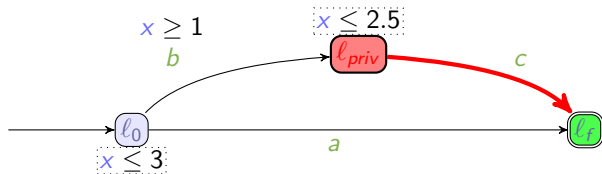


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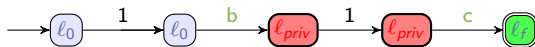


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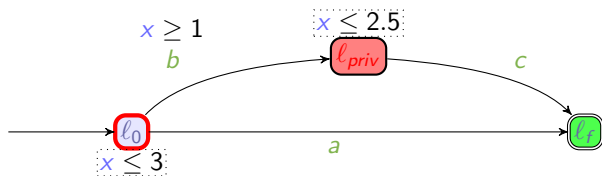


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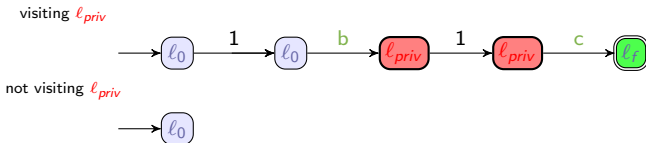
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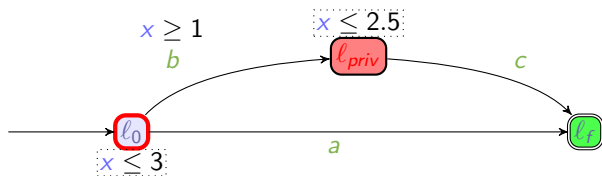
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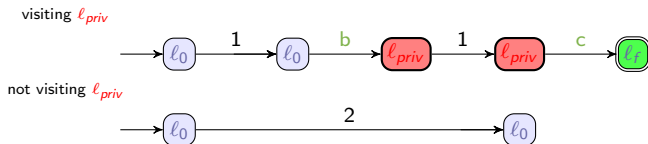
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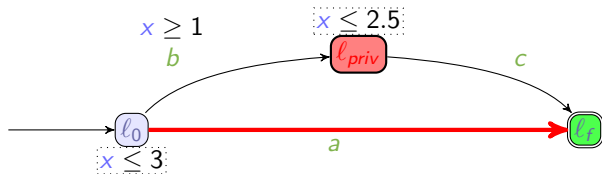
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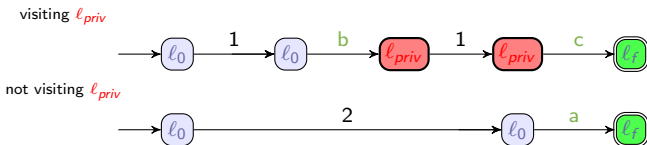
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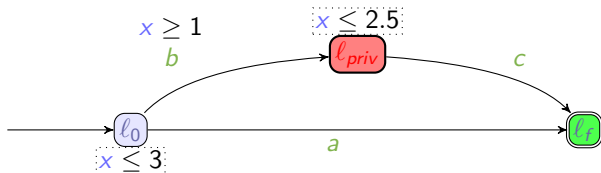


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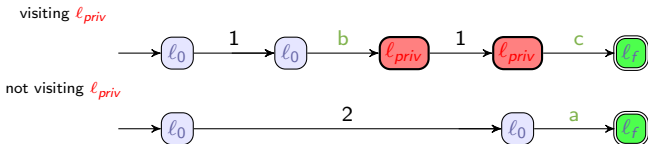




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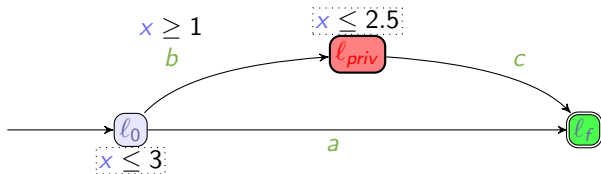
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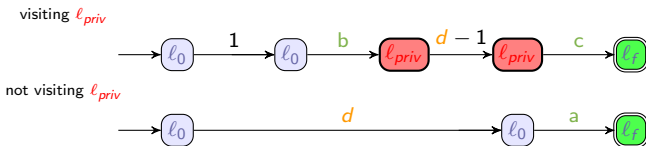
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The system is  **$\exists$ -ET-opaque**

# Example



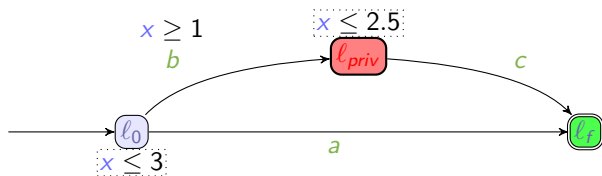
- ▶ There exist (at least) two runs of duration  $d$  for all durations  $d \in [1, 2.5]$ :



The system is **ET-opaque** for all durations in  $[1, 2.5]$

The system is  **$\exists$ -ET-opaque**

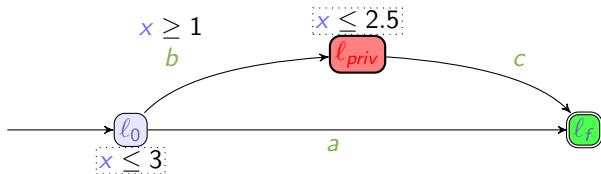
## Example



- ▶ There exist (at least) two runs of duration  $d$  for all durations  $d \in [1, 2.5]$

The system is  $\exists$ -ET-opaque

## Example

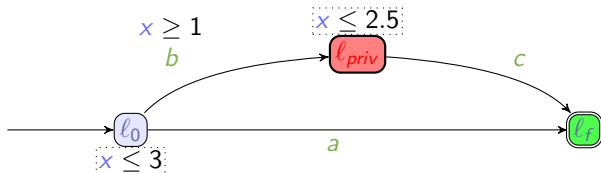


- ▶ There exist (at least) two runs of duration  $d$  for all durations  $d \in [1, 2.5]$

The system is  $\exists$ -ET-opaque

- ▶ But,
  - ▶ private execution times are  $[1, 2.5]$
  - ▶ public execution times are  $[0, 3]$

## Example

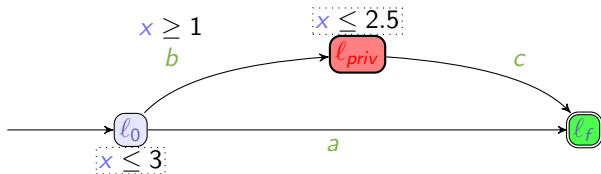


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- ▶ But,
  - ▶ private execution times are  $[1, 2.5]$
  - ▶ public execution times are  $[0, 3]$
  - ▶ private durations  $\subseteq$  public durations

## Example



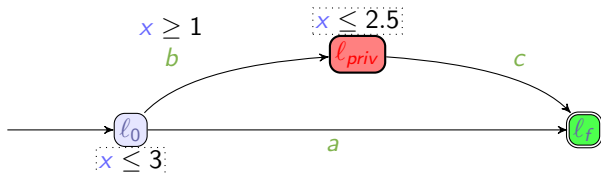
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- ▶ But,
  - ▶ private execution times are  $[1, 2.5]$
  - ▶ public execution times are  $[0, 3]$
  - ▶ private durations  $\subseteq$  public durations

The system is weakly ET-opaque

## Example



- ▶ There exist (at least) two runs of duration  $d$  for all durations  $d \in [1, 2.5]$

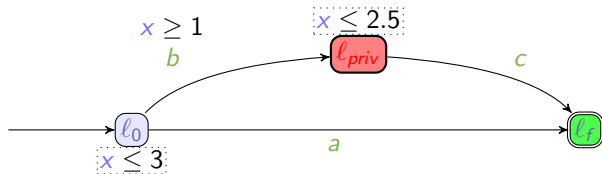
The system is  $\exists$ -ET-opaque

- ▶ But,
  - ▶ private execution times are  $[1, 2.5]$
  - ▶ public execution times are  $[0, 3]$
  - ▶ private durations  $\subseteq$  public durations

The system is weakly ET-opaque

- ▶ private durations  $\neq$  public durations

## Example



- ▶ There exist (at least) two runs of duration  $d$  for all durations  $d \in [1, 2.5]$

The system is  $\exists$ -ET-opaque

- ▶ But,
  - ▶ private execution times are  $[1, 2.5]$
  - ▶ public execution times are  $[0, 3]$
  - ▶ private durations  $\subseteq$  public durations

The system is weakly ET-opaque

- ▶ private durations  $\neq$  public durations

The system is not fully ET-opaque



# Outline

## ET-opacity problems in timed automata

Timed model checking and timed automata

Execution-Time Opacity Problems

Expiring-ET-Opacity Problems

ET-opacity parametrization

Results

Perspectives

# Expiring ET-opacity

## Idea

The secret can **expire**: beyond a certain duration, knowing the secret is useless to the attacker (e. g., a cache value)

|                     | Secret runs   | Non-secret runs   |
|---------------------|---|---|
| ET-opacity          | Runs visiting the private location<br>(= <b>private</b> runs)                           | Runs not visiting the private location<br>(= <b>public</b> runs)  |
| expiring-ET-opacity | <b>Private</b> runs with $\ell_{priv}$ visit $\leq \Delta$ before the system completion | (i) <b>Public</b> runs and<br>(ii) <b>Private</b> runs with $\ell_{priv}$ visit $> \Delta$ before the system completion |

Existential- $\exists$ private durations  $\cap$  public durations  $\neq \emptyset$ 

Weak

private durations  $\subseteq$  public durations

Full

private durations = public durations

## Three levels of **expiring** ET-opacity

Existential- $\exists$  expiring

**secret** durations  $\cap$  **non-secret** durations  $\neq \emptyset$

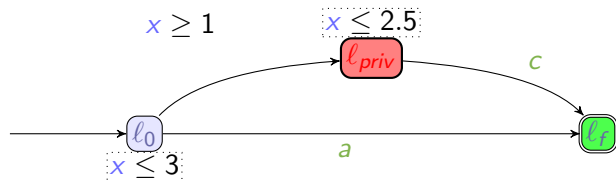
Weak expiring

**secret** durations  $\subseteq$  **non-secret** durations

Full expiring

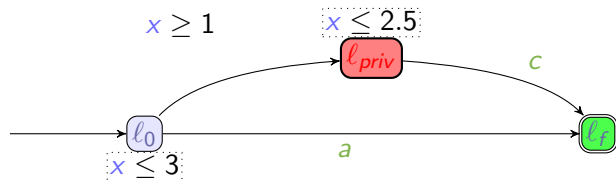
**secret** durations = **non-secret** durations

# Example



| ET-opacity notion      | Secret   | Non secret             | Answer |
|------------------------|----------|------------------------|--------|
| $\exists$              |          |                        | ✓      |
| weak                   | [1, 2.5] | [0, 3]                 | ✓      |
| full                   |          |                        | ✗      |
| $\exists$ -exp.        |          |                        | ✓      |
| $\Delta = 1$ weak-exp. | [1, 2.5] | $(2, 2.5] \cup [0, 3]$ | ✓      |
| full-exp.              |          |                        | ✗      |

# Example



| ET-opacity notion | Secret   | Non secret                | Answer       |
|-------------------|----------|---------------------------|--------------|
| $\exists$         |          |                           | $\checkmark$ |
| weak              | [1, 2.5] | [0, 3]                    | $\checkmark$ |
| full              |          |                           | $\times$     |
| $\Delta = 1$      |          |                           | $\checkmark$ |
| $\exists$ -exp.   |          |                           | $\checkmark$ |
| weak-exp.         | [1, 2.5] | $(2, 2.5] \cup [0, 3]$    | $\checkmark$ |
| full-exp.         |          |                           | $\times$     |
| $\Delta = 1.25$   |          |                           | $\checkmark$ |
| $\exists$ -exp.   |          |                           | $\checkmark$ |
| weak-exp.         | [1, 2.5] | $(2.25, 2.5] \cup [0, 3]$ | $\checkmark$ |
| full-exp.         |          |                           | $\times$     |

# Outline

ET-opacity problems in timed automata

**ET-opacity parametrization**

Results

Perspectives

# Outline

ET-opacity problems in timed automata

ET-opacity parametrization

Parametric timed automata

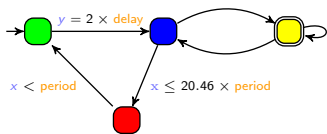
ET-opacity parametric problems

Results

Perspectives



# timed model checking



?

$\models$

 is unreachable

A **model** of the system

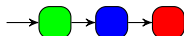
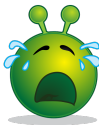
A **property** to be satisfied

► Question: does the model of the system satisfy the property?

Yes

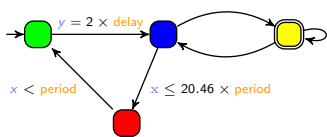


No



Counterexample

# Parametric timed model checking



A **model** of the system



 is unreachable

A **property** to be satisfied

- ▶ Question: for what values of the parameters does the model of the system **satisfy** the property?

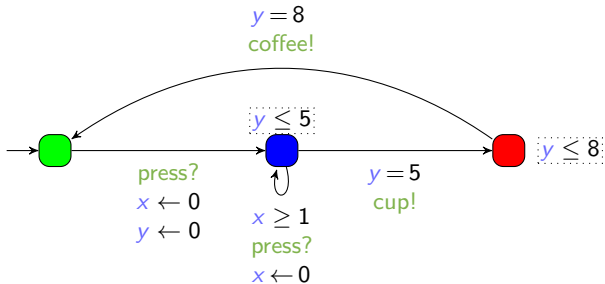
Yes if...

$$2 \times \text{delay} > 20.46 \times \text{period}$$



# Timed Automaton (PTA)

- ▶ Timed automaton (sets of locations, actions and clocks)



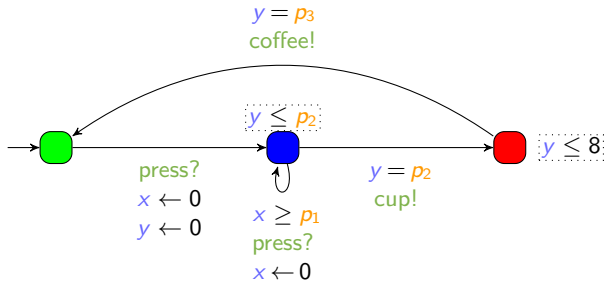
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[AHV93] Rajeev Alur, Thomas A. Henzinger, and Moshe Y. Vardi. "Parametric real-time reasoning". In: *STOC* (May 16–18, 1993). Ed. by S. Rao Kosaraju, David S. Johnson, and Alok Aggarwal. San Diego, California, United States: ACM, 1993, pp. 592–601. DOI: 10.1145/167088.167242

# Parametric Timed Automaton (PTA)

- ▶ Timed automaton (sets of locations, actions and clocks) augmented with a set  $P$  of parameters
- ▶ Unknown constants compared to a clock in guards and invariants

[AHV93]



[AHV93] Rajeev Alur, Thomas A. Henzinger, and Moshe Y. Vardi. "Parametric real-time reasoning". In: *STOC* (May 16–18, 1993). Ed. by S. Rao Kosaraju, David S. Johnson, and Alok Aggarwal. San Diego, California, United States: ACM, 1993, pp. 592–601. DOI: 10.1145/167088.167242

# Outline

ET-opacity problems in timed automata

**ET-opacity parametrization**

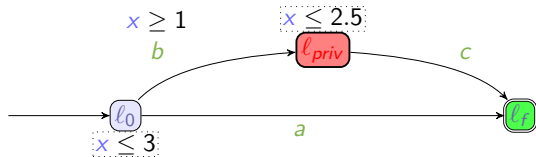
Parametric timed automata

**ET-opacity parametric problems**

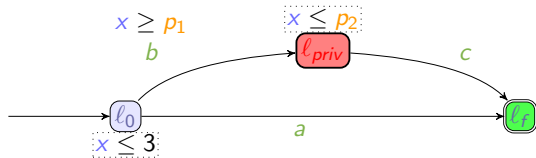
Results

Perspectives

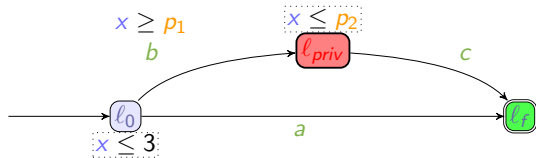
# Example



# Example



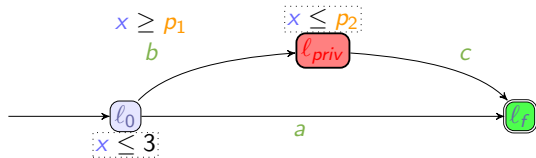
# Example



|         |              |
|---------|--------------|
| Private | $[p_1, p_2]$ |
| Public  | $[0, 3]$     |



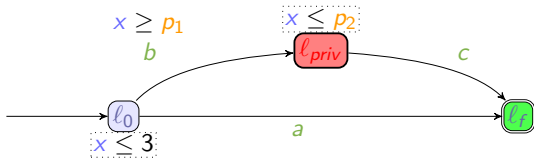
# Example



|         |              |
|---------|--------------|
| Private | $[p_1, p_2]$ |
| Public  | $[0, 3]$     |

| ET-opacity notion          | Private    | Public   | Answer |
|----------------------------|------------|----------|--------|
| $p_1 = 1 \wedge p_2 = 2.5$ |            |          |        |
| $\exists$                  |            |          | ✓      |
| weak                       | $[1, 2.5]$ | $[0, 3]$ | ✓      |
| full                       |            |          | ✗      |

# Example



|         |              |
|---------|--------------|
| Private | $[p_1, p_2]$ |
| Public  | $[0, 3]$     |

| ET-opacity notion          | Private    | Public   | Answer |
|----------------------------|------------|----------|--------|
| $p_1 = 1 \wedge p_2 = 2.5$ |            |          |        |
| $\exists$                  |            |          | ✓      |
| weak                       | $[1, 2.5]$ | $[0, 3]$ | ✓      |
| full                       |            |          | ✗      |
| $p_1 = 0 \wedge p_2 = 3$   |            |          |        |
| $\exists$                  |            |          | ✓      |
| weak                       | $[0, 3]$   | $[0, 3]$ | ✓      |
| full                       |            |          | ✓      |

## Two classes of parametric problems

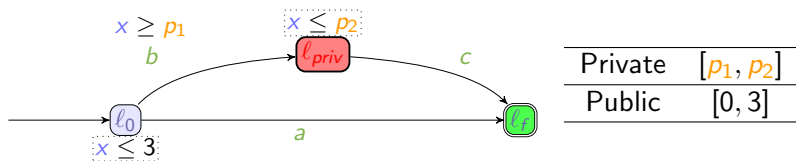
### p-Emptiness problem

Is the set of **parameter valuations** ensuring the property **empty**?

### p-Synthesis problem

**Synthesize** all the **parameter valuations** ensuring the property

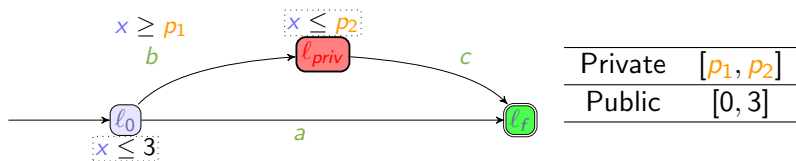
# Example



| ET-opacity notion | p-Emptiness | p-Synthesis |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|

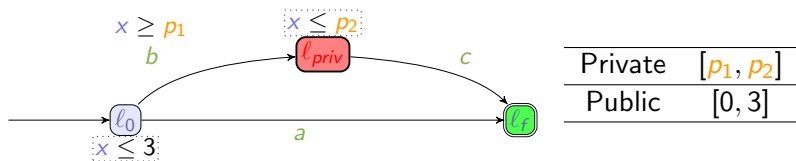
|                           |  |  |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| $\exists$<br>weak<br>full |  |  |
|---------------------------|--|--|

# Example



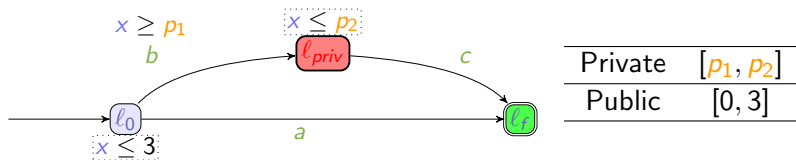
| ET-opacity notion | p-Emptiness          | p-Synthesis |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| $\exists$         | $\times (\exists v)$ |             |
| weak              | $\times (\exists v)$ |             |
| full              | $\times (\exists v)$ |             |

# Example



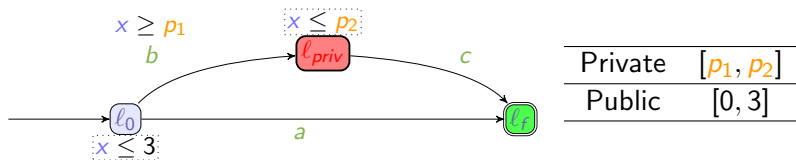
| ET-opacity notion | p-Emptiness          | p-Synthesis         |                       |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| $\exists$         | $\times (\exists v)$ | $0 \leq p_1 \leq 3$ | $\wedge p_1 \leq p_2$ |
| weak              | $\times (\exists v)$ |                     |                       |
| full              | $\times (\exists v)$ |                     |                       |

# Example



| ET-opacity notion | p-Emptiness          | p-Synthesis                    |                       |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| $\exists$         | $\times (\exists v)$ | $0 \leq p_1 \leq 3$            | $\wedge p_1 \leq p_2$ |
| weak              | $\times (\exists v)$ | $0 \leq p_1 \wedge p_2 \leq 3$ | $\wedge p_1 \leq p_2$ |
| full              | $\times (\exists v)$ |                                |                       |

# Example



| ET-opacity notion | p-Emptiness          | p-Synthesis                    |                       |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| $\exists$         | $\times (\exists v)$ | $0 \leq p_1 \leq 3$            | $\wedge p_1 \leq p_2$ |
| weak              | $\times (\exists v)$ | $0 \leq p_1 \wedge p_2 \leq 3$ | $\wedge p_1 \leq p_2$ |
| full              | $\times (\exists v)$ | $p_1 = 0 \wedge p_2 = 3$       |                       |



# Outline

ET-opacity problems in timed automata

ET-opacity parametrization

**Results**

Perspectives

# Outline

ET-opacity problems in timed automata

ET-opacity parametrization

## Results

ET-opacity

Expiring ET-opacity

Perspectives

# Summary of the results for ET-opacity [And+22]

|                   |         | $\exists$ -ET-opaque | weakly<br>opaque | ET- | fully<br>opaque | ET- |
|-------------------|---------|----------------------|------------------|-----|-----------------|-----|
| Decision          | TA      | ✓                    | ?                |     | ✓               |     |
| $\rho$ -emptiness | L/U-PTA | ✓                    | ?                |     | ×               |     |
|                   | PTA     | ×                    | ?                |     | ×               |     |
| $\rho$ -synthesis | L/U-PTA | ×                    | ?                |     | ×               |     |
|                   | PTA     | ×                    | ?                |     | ×               |     |

**L/U-PTA** (*Lower/Upper-PTA*): subclass of PTA where the parameters are partitioned into two sets (either compared to clocks as upperbound, or as lower bound) [BL09]

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[BL09] Laura Bozzelli and Salvatore La Torre. “Decision problems for lower/upper bound parametric timed automata”. In: *Formal Methods in System Design* 35.2 (2009), pp. 121–151. DOI: 10.1007/s10703-009-0074-0

[And+22] Étienne André, Didier Lime, Dylan Marinho, and Jun Sun. “Guaranteeing timed opacity using parametric timed model checking”. In: *ACM Transactions on Software Engineering and Methodology* 31.4 (Oct. 2022), pp. 1–36. DOI: 10.1145/3502851

# Outline

ET-opacity problems in timed automata

ET-opacity parametrization

## Results

ET-opacity

Expiring ET-opacity

Perspectives

# Summary of the results for expiring-ET-opacity [ALM23]

|                              |         | $\exists$ -expiring-ET-opaque | weakly expiring-ET-opaque | fully expiring-ET-opaque |
|------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| $\Delta$ -emptiness          |         | ?                             | ✓                         | ✓                        |
| $\Delta$ -synthesis          | TA      | ?                             | ✓                         | ?                        |
| $(\rho + \Delta)$ -emptiness | L/U-PTA | ?                             | ×                         | ×                        |
|                              | PTA     | ?                             | ×                         | ×                        |
| $(\rho + \Delta)$ -synthesis | L/U-PTA | ?                             | ×                         | ×                        |
|                              | PTA     | ?                             | ×                         | ×                        |

---

[ALM23] Étienne André, Engel Lefaucheux, and Dylan Marinho. "Expiring opacity problems in parametric timed automata". In: *ICECCS* (June 12–16, 2023). Ed. by Yamine Ait-Ameur and Ferhat Khendek. Accepted. Toulouse, France, 2023

# Outline

ET-opacity problems in timed automata

ET-opacity parametrization

Results

Perspectives

## Theory

- ▶ Some restricted problems remain open  
e. g., PTA with one clock
- ▶ Study more restrictive sub-classes, with the hope to exhibit a decidable one  
Promising subclass: U-PTAs (only upper-bound parameters)

# Perspectives

## Theory

- ▶ Some restricted problems remain open  
e. g., PTA with one clock
- ▶ Study more restrictive sub-classes, with the hope to exhibit a decidable one  
Promising subclass: U-PTAs (only upper-bound parameters)

## Algorithmic and implementation

- ▶ Automatic translation of **programs** to timed automata
- ▶ Repairing a non ET-opaque system



## References I

- [AD94] Rajeev Alur and David L. Dill. “A theory of timed automata”. In: *Theoretical Computer Science* 126.2 (Apr. 1994), pp. 183–235. DOI: 10.1016/0304-3975(94)90010-8.
- [AHV93] Rajeev Alur, Thomas A. Henzinger, and Moshe Y. Vardi. “Parametric real-time reasoning”. In: *STOC* (May 16–18, 1993). Ed. by S. Rao Kosaraju, David S. Johnson, and Alok Aggarwal. San Diego, California, United States: ACM, 1993, pp. 592–601. DOI: 10.1145/167088.167242.
- [ALM23] Étienne André, Engel Lefauchaux, and Dylan Marinho. “Expiring opacity problems in parametric timed automata”. In: *ICECCS* (June 12–16, 2023). Ed. by Yamine Ait-Ameur and Ferhat Khendek. Accepted. Toulouse, France, 2023.

## References II

- [And+22] Étienne André, Didier Lime, Dylan Marinho, and Jun Sun. “Guaranteeing timed opacity using parametric timed model checking”. In: *ACM Transactions on Software Engineering and Methodology* 31.4 (Oct. 2022), pp. 1–36. DOI: 10.1145/3502851.
- [AS19] Étienne André and Jun Sun. “Parametric Timed Model Checking for Guaranteeing Timed Opacity”. In: *ATVA* (Oct. 28–31, 2019). Ed. by Yu-Fang Chen, Chih-Hong Cheng, and Javier Esparza. Vol. 11781. Lecture Notes in Computer Science. Taipei, Taiwan: Springer, 2019, pp. 115–130. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-030-31784-3\_7.

## References III

- [BL09] Laura Bozzelli and Salvatore La Torre. “Decision problems for lower/upper bound parametric timed automata”. In: *Formal Methods in System Design* 35.2 (2009), pp. 121–151. DOI: [10.1007/s10703-009-0074-0](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10703-009-0074-0).