





#### **ACES** team seminar

January 24th, 2024 Saint-Jean-de-Beauregard, France

# Preventing Timing Leaks using Parametric Timed Model Checking

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Based on join works with Étienne André, Shapagat Bolat, Engel Lefaucheux, Didier Lime, and Sun Jun

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▶ Threats to a system using non-algorithmic weaknesses

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  - Cache attacks
  - ► Electromagnetic attacks
  - Power attacks
  - Acoustic attacks
  - Timing attacks
  - ► Temperature attacks
  - etc.

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- Example
  - Number of pizzas (and order time) ordered by the white house prior to major war announcements <sup>1</sup>

http://home.xnet.com/~warinner/pizzacites.html

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# input pwd : Real password
# input attempt: Tentative password
for i = 0 to min(len(pwd), len(attempt)) - 1 do
    if pwd[i] ≠ attempt[i] then
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done
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pwd c h i c k e n attempt c h e e s e
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Execution time:

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Execution time:  $\epsilon$ 

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```
pwdchickenattemptcheese
```

Execution time:  $\epsilon + \epsilon$ 

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done
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```

pwd	С	h	i	С	k	е	n
attempt	С	h	е	е	s	е	

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

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

### 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

### Timing attacks

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

#### Issues:

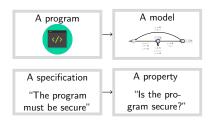
- May depend on the implementation (or, even worse, be introduced by the compiler)
- A relatively trivial solution: make the program last always its maximum execution time
   Drawback: loss of efficiency
- → Non-trivial problem

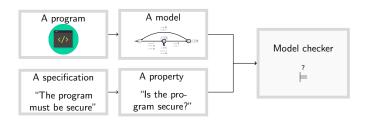
We want formal guarantees  $\rightarrow$  formal methods

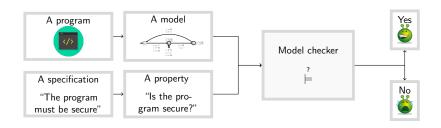


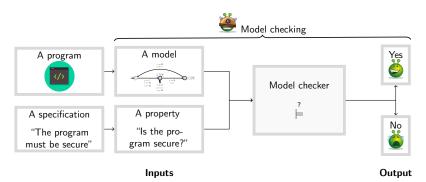
A specification

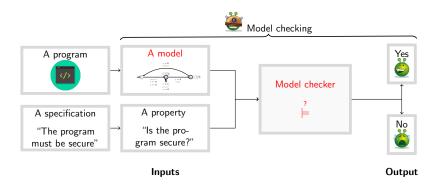
"The program must be secure"





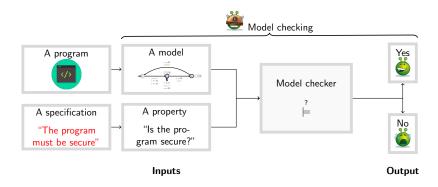






#### Outline

1. Preliminaries: Timed model checking



#### Outline

- 1. Preliminaries: Timed model checking
- 2. Execution-time opacity

Preliminaries: (Parametric) Timed model checking

Execution-time opacity

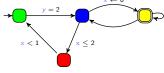
Conclusion & Perspectives

Preliminaries: (Parametric) Timed model checking
Timed model checking and Timed automata
Parametric timed model checking and Parametric timed
automata

Execution-time opacity

Conclusion & Perspectives

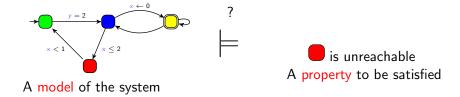
### Timed model checking



A model of the system

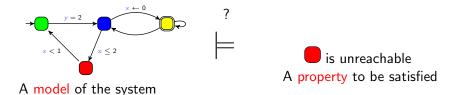
is unreachable
A property to be satisfied

### Timed model checking



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

### Timed model checking



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



# Timed automaton (TA)

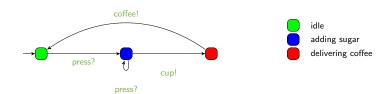
[AD94]

► Finite state automaton (sets of locations)



[AD94]

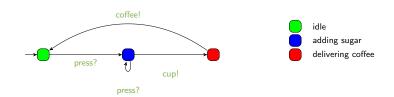
Finite state automaton (sets of locations and actions)



### Timed automaton (TA)

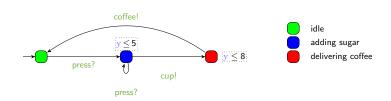
[AD94]

- Finite state automaton (sets of locations and actions) augmented with a set X of clocks
  - ► Real-valued variables evolving linearly at the same rate



[AD94]

- ► Finite state automaton (sets of locations and actions) augmented with a set X of clocks
  - ▶ Real-valued variables evolving linearly at the same rate
  - ► Can be compared to integer constants in invariants
- Features
  - Location invariant: property to be verified to stay at a location

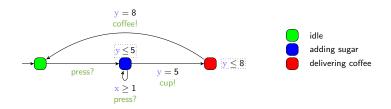


[AD94]

- ► Finite state automaton (sets of locations and actions) augmented with a set X of clocks
  - ► Real-valued variables evolving linearly at the same rate
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#### Features

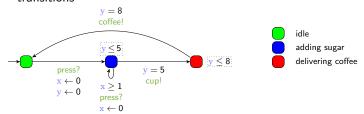
- Location invariant: property to be verified to stay at a location
- Transition guard: property to be verified to enable a transition



- Finite state automaton (sets of locations and actions) augmented with a set X of clocks
  - ▶ Real-valued variables evolving linearly at the same rate
  - ► Can be compared to integer constants in invariants and guards

#### Features

- Location invariant: property to be verified to stay at a location
- Transition guard: property to be verified to enable a transition
- Clock reset: some of the clocks can be set to 0 along transitions



Preliminaries: (Parametric) Timed model checking

Timed model checking and Timed automata

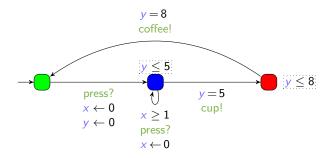
Parametric timed model checking and Parametric timed automata

Execution-time opacity

Conclusion & Perspectives

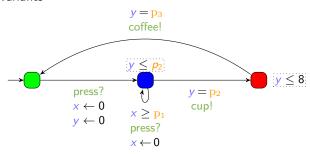
[AHV93]

► Timed automaton (sets of locations, actions and clocks)

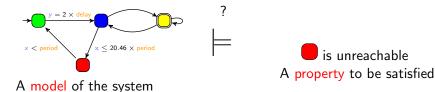


[AHV93]

- ► 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



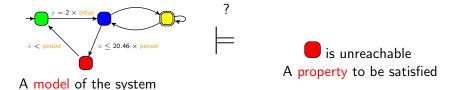
# timed model checking



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



# Parametric timed model checking



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

#### Yes if...





### Outline

Preliminaries: (Parametric) Timed model checking

Execution-time opacity

Conclusion & Perspectives

### Execution-time opacity

► How to detect timing-leak vulnerabilities?

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#### Goal

- Propose a formalization of the private information and attacker model
- Check whether a model is secure or not

### Execution-time opacity

How to detect timing-leak vulnerabilities?

#### Goal

- Propose a formalization of the private information and attacker model
- Check whether a model is secure or not

#### Contributions

► ET-opacity definition, decidability results and experiments

[TOSEM22]

Expiring ET-opacity definition and decidability results

[ICECCS23]

Untimed control

[FTSCS22]

#### Our attacker model

#### Attacker capabilities

- ► Has access to the model (white box)
- Can only observe the total execution time



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- ► Has access to the model (white box)
- ► Can only observe the total execution time



#### Attacker goal

- Wants to deduce some private information based on these observations
  - $\rightarrow$  visit of a private location

### Outline

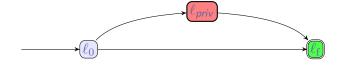
#### Execution-time opacity

ET-opacity problems in TAs

#### **Formalization**

Hypotheses: [AS19][TOSEM22]

- $\blacktriangleright$  A start location  $\ell_0$  and an end location  $\ell_f$
- ▶ A special private location  $\ell_{priv}$

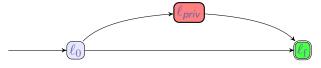


<sup>[</sup>TOSEM22] Étienne André, Didier Lime, Dylan Marinho, and Jun Sun. "Guaranteeing Timed Opacity using Parametric Timed Model Checking". In: ACM TOSEM (2022)

#### **Formalization**

Hypotheses: [AS19][TOSEM22]

- lacktriangle A start location  $\ell_0$  and an end location  $\ell_{
  m f}$
- ▶ A special private location  $\ell_{priv}$



#### Definition (execution-time opacity)

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

- 1. one visiting  $\ell_{priv}$
- 2. one *not* visiting  $\ell_{priv}$

<sup>[</sup>TOSEM22] Étienne André, Didier Lime, Dylan Marinho, and Jun Sun. "Guaranteeing Timed Opacity using Parametric Timed Model Checking". In: ACM TOSEM (2022)

### Existential (∃)

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

### Existential (∃)

private durations  $\cap$  public durations  $\neq \emptyset$ 

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private durations  $\cap$  public durations  $\neq \emptyset$ 

#### Weak

For all durations d, There exists a run of duration d visiting  $\ell_{\textit{priv}}$   $\Rightarrow$ 

There exists a run of duration d not visiting  $\ell_{\textit{priv}}$ 

#### Existential (∃)

private durations  $\cap$  public durations  $\neq \emptyset$ 

#### Weak

For all durations d, There exists a run of duration d visiting  $\ell_{\textit{priv}}$ 

 $\Rightarrow$ 

There exists a run of duration d not visiting  $\ell_{\textit{priv}}$ 

#### Full

For all durations d,

There exists a run of duration  ${
m d}$  visiting  $\ell_{\it priv}$ 

 $\Leftrightarrow$ 

There exists a run of duration d not visiting  $\ell_{\textit{priv}}$ 

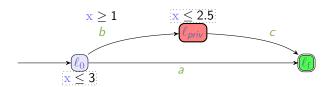
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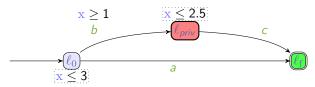
private durations  $\cap$  public durations  $\neq \emptyset$ 

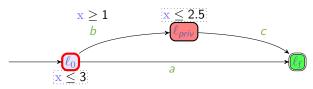
#### Weak

#### Full

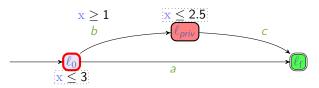
private durations = public durations

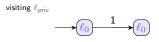


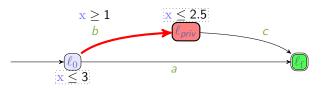


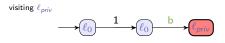


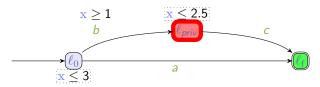


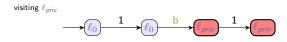


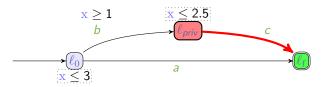


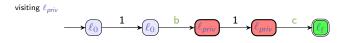


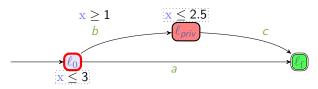


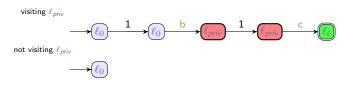


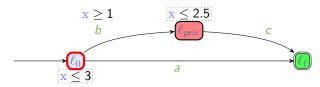


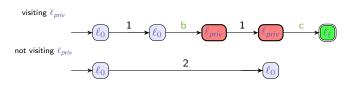


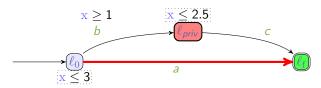


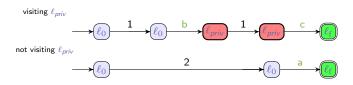


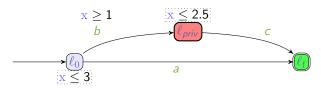




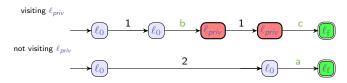




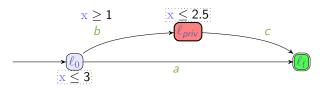




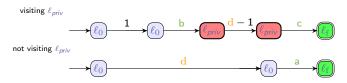
▶ There exist (at least) two runs of duration d = 2:



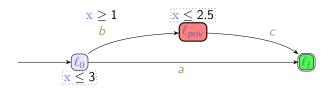
The system is ET-opaque for a duration d = 2



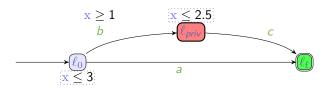
▶ There exist (at least) two runs of duration d for all durations  $d \in [1, 2.5]$ :



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



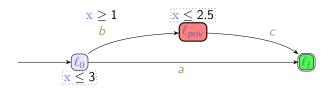
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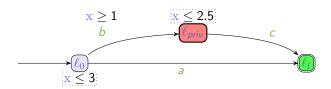
The system is ∃-ET-opaque

private durations are [1, 2.5] public durations are [0, 3]



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

- private durations are [1, 2.5] public durations are [0, 3]
- ▶ private durations ⊆ public durations

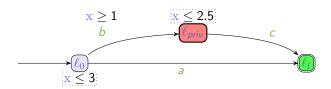


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#### The system is ∃-ET-opaque

- private durations are [1, 2.5] public durations are [0, 3]
- ▶ private durations ⊆ public durations

The system is weakly ET-opaque



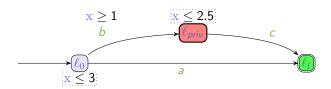
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#### The system is weakly ET-opaque

 $\triangleright$  private durations  $\neq$  public durations



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#### The system is ∃-ET-opaque

- private durations are [1, 2.5] public durations are [0, 3]
- ▶ private durations ⊆ public durations

#### The system is weakly ET-opaque

 $\triangleright$  private durations  $\neq$  public durations

The system is not fully ET-opaque

### Outline

Preliminaries: (Parametric) Timed model checking

#### Execution-time opacity

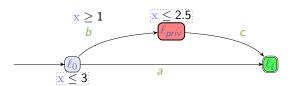
ET-opacity problems in TAs

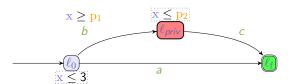
ET-opacity problems in PTAs

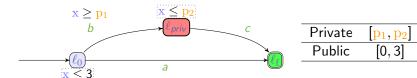
Computing ET-opaque durations

Extensions

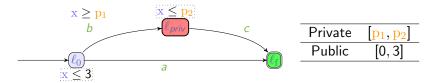
Conclusion & Perspectives





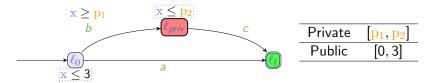


### Example



ET-opacity notion	Private	Public	Answer
$p_1 =$	$1 \wedge p_2 = 2$	2.5	
∃ weak	[1, 2.5]	[0, 3]	√ √
full			×

### Example



ET-opacity notion	Private	Public	Answer		
$p_1 = 1 \land p_2 = 2.5$					
$\exists$			$\sqrt{}$		
weak	[1, 2.5]	[0, 3]	$\sqrt{}$		
full			×		
$p_1 = 0 \land p_2 = 3$					
3			$\sqrt{}$		
weak	[0, 3]	[0, 3]	$\sqrt{}$		
full			$\sqrt{}$		

### Two classes of parametric problems

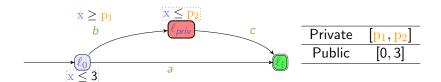
#### p-Emptiness problem

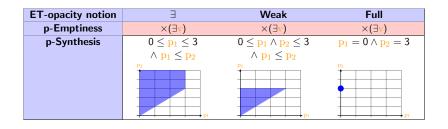
Decide the emptiness of the set of parameter valuations v s. t. v(P) is ET-opaque

#### p-Synthesis problem

Synthesize the set of parameter valuations v s. t. v(P) is ET-opaque

### Example





### Decidability results for ET-opacity

		∃-ET-opaque	weakly ET- opaque	fully ET- opaque
Decision	TA	$\checkmark$		$$
<i>p</i> -emptiness	L/U-PTA	$\checkmark$	×	×
	PTA	×	×	×
<i>p</i> -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) [Hun+02]
- Proofs are based on the region automaton (for TAs) and by reduction from EF-emptiness (for PTAs).

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### Decidability results for ET-opacity

		∃-ET-opaque	weakly ET- opaque	fully ET- opaque
Decision	TA	$\checkmark$		$$
<i>p</i> -emptiness	L/U-PTA	$\checkmark$	×	×
	PTA	×	×	×
<i>p</i> -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) [Hun+02]
- Proofs are based on the region automaton (for TAs) and by reduction from EF-emptiness (for PTAs).

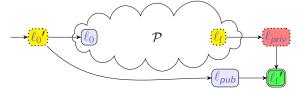
<sup>[</sup>TOSEM22] Étienne André, Didier Lime, Dylan Marinho, and Jun Sun. "Guaranteeing Timed Opacity using Parametric Timed Model Checking". In: ACM TOSEM (2022)

### ET-opacity synthesis is (very) difficult

#### Theorem (Undecidability of $\exists$ -ET-opacity p-emptiness)

Given  $\mathcal{P}$ , the mere existence of a parameter valuation v s. t.  $v(\mathcal{P})$   $\exists$ -ET-opacity is undecidable.

Proof idea: reduction from reachability-emptiness for PTAs



Remark: L/U-PTA is a decidable subclass

#### Outline

Preliminaries: (Parametric) Timed model checking

#### Execution-time opacity

ET-opacity problems in TAs ET-opacity problems in PTAs

Computing ET-opaque durations

Extensions

Conclusion & Perspectives

### Experiments: Computing ET-opaque durations

- ▶ Benchmark library + Library of Java programs <sup>2</sup>
  - ► Manually translated to PTAs
  - ightharpoonup User-input variables ightharpoonup (non-timing) parameters
- Algorithms
  - 1. "Is the TA ET-opaque for all execution times?"
  - 2. "Synthesize parameter valuations and durations ensuring ET-opacity of a given PTA"

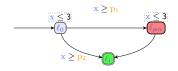
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>https://github.com/Apogee-Research/STAC/

### Experiments: Computing ET-opaque durations

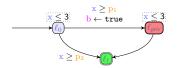
- ▶ Benchmark library + Library of Java programs <sup>2</sup>
  - Manually translated to PTAs
  - ightharpoonup User-input variables ightharpoonup (non-timing) parameters
- Algorithms
  - 1. "Is the TA ET-opaque for all execution times?"
  - 2. "Synthesize parameter valuations and durations ensuring ET-opacity of a given PTA"
- ightharpoonup Problems are undecidable ightarrow best-effort approach
- ► Algorithms based on parameter synthesis



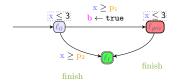
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>https://github.com/Apogee-Research/STAC/



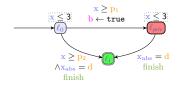
1. Add a Boolean flag b



- 1. Add a Boolean flag b
- 2. Add a synchronization action finish

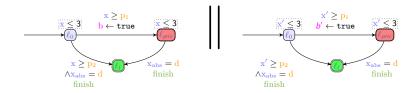


- 1. Add a Boolean flag b
- 2. Add a synchronization action finish
- 3. Measure the (parametric) duration to  $\ell_{\rm f}$



- 1. Add a Boolean flag b
- 2. Add a synchronization action finish
- 3. Measure the (parametric) duration to  $\ell_{\rm f}$
- 4. Perform self-composition

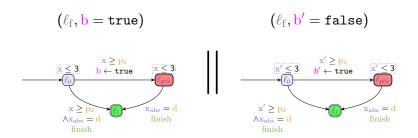
(a synchronization on shared actions of the PTA with a copy of itself)



### Applying reachability-synthesis

Synthesize all parameter valuations (including d) with a particular reachable state:

- $\blacktriangleright$   $\ell_f$  with b = true
- $\blacktriangleright$   $\ell_{\rm f}$  with b'= false



Formal proof of correctness: see [TOSEM22]

### Outline

Preliminaries: (Parametric) Timed model checking

#### Execution-time opacity

ET-opacity problems in TAs ET-opacity problems in PTAs Computing ET-opaque durations

Extensions

Conclusion & Perspectives

### Extension 1: Expiring ET-opacity

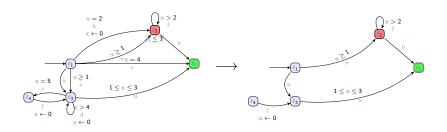
How to deal with outdated secrets?e. g., cache values, status of the memory, . . .



#### Idea

The secret can expire: beyond a certain duration, knowing the secret is useless to the attacker (e.g., a cache value) [Amm+21]

#### Extension 2: Untimed control



- Restrict the behavior of the system to ensure ET-opacity
- ightharpoonup Development of an open-source tool strategFTO (pprox 1200 lines of code, Java)
  - Enumeration of transition sets

<sup>[</sup>FTSCS22] Étienne André, Shapagat Bolat, Engel Lefaucheux, and Dylan Marinho. "strategFTO: Untimed control for timed opacity". In: FTSCS (2022). ACM, 2022

#### Outline

Preliminaries: (Parametric) Timed model checking

Execution-time opacity

Conclusion & Perspectives

#### Conclusion

### Context: vulnerability by timing-attacks

- Attacker model: observability of the global execution time
- Goal: avoid leaking information on whether some discrete state has been visited

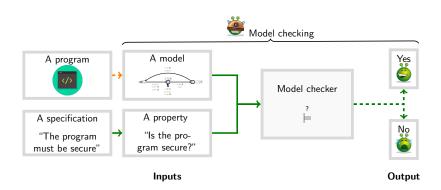
#### Several problems studied for timed automata

Mostly decidable

#### Extension to parametric timed automata

- Quickly undecidable
- One procedure for one synthesis problem
- ► Toolkit: IMITATOR
- ▶ Benchmarks: concurrent systems and Java programs

### Perspectives



### Perspectives

#### Theoretical perspectives

- Existential version of expiring ET-opacity
- Δ-synthesis for full expiring ET-opacity

#### Algorihtmic perspectives

- Synthesis for weak and full ET-opacity
- Synthesis for expiring problems

#### Automatic translation of programs to PTAs

- Our translation required non-trivial creativity
  - → Preliminary translation with Petri nets including cache system

#### References I

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[Hun+02] Thomas Hune, Judi Romijn, Mariëlle Stoelinga, and Frits W. Vaandrager. "Linear parametric model checking of timed automata". In: *Journal of Logic and Algebraic Programming* 52-53 (2002).

[ICECCS23] Étienne André, Engel Lefaucheux, and Dylan Marinho. "Expiring opacity problems in parametric timed automata". In: ICECCS (2023). To appear. Springer, 2023.

[TOSEM22] Étienne André, Didier Lime, Dylan Marinho, and Jun Sun. "Guaranteeing Timed Opacity using Parametric Timed Model Checking". In: ACM TOSEM 31 (2022).

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