

Solving Initial-State Non-Determinism in Stochastic Linear Hybrid Automata with Underapproximative Backwards Refinement

Master Thesis Defense

Yvonne Heimowski
Supervision: József Kovács

LuFG Theory of Hybrid Systems

SS 2026



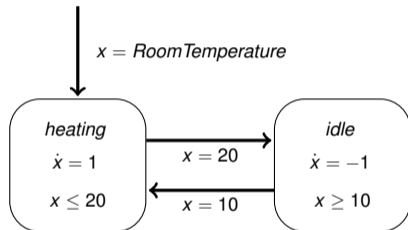
Contents

- 1 Hybrid Automata
- 2 Stochastic Hybrid Automata
- 3 Initial-State Non-Determinism
- 4 Conceptual Approach
- 5 Implementation
- 6 Benchmarks
- 7 Conclusion

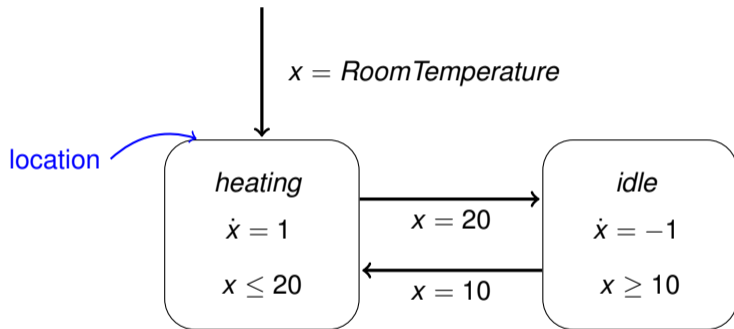
- Combine
 - Continuous Behavior
 - Discrete State Changes
- Example: Thermostat
 - Continuous Behavior: Temperature Rises and Falls
 - States: Heating (Temperature Rises), Idle (Temperature Falls)
 - State Changes: Switch between States when minimum resp. maximum temperature is reached

Hybrid Automata

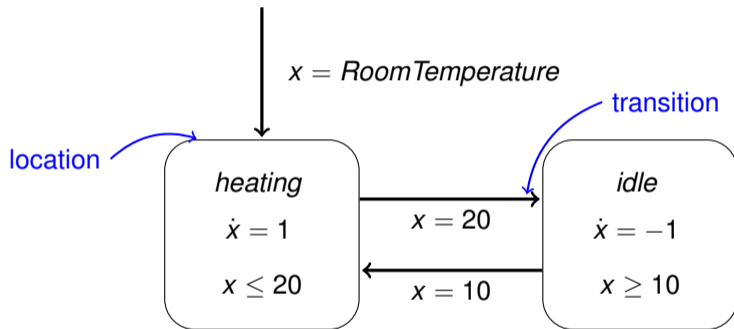
- Represent Hybrid Systems
- Model behavior and states



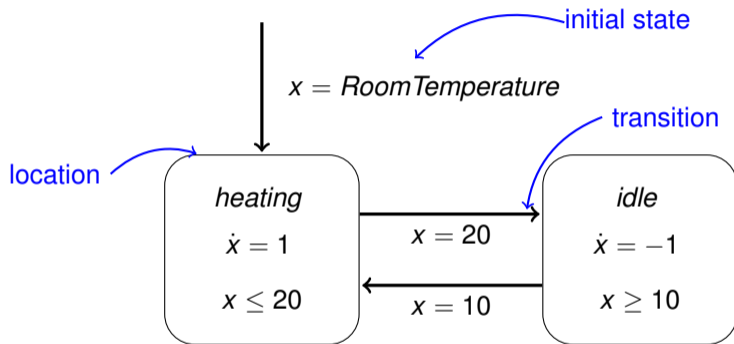
Hybrid Automata



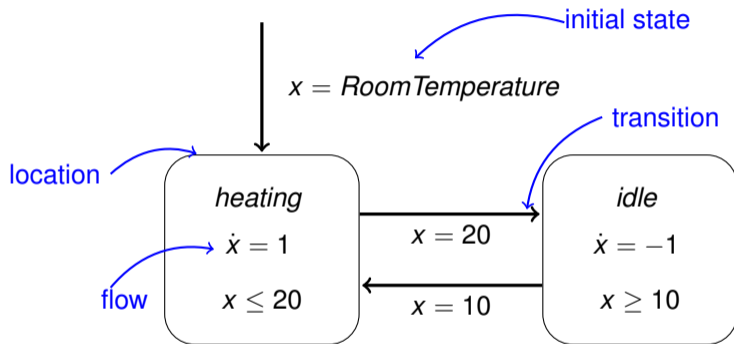
Hybrid Automata



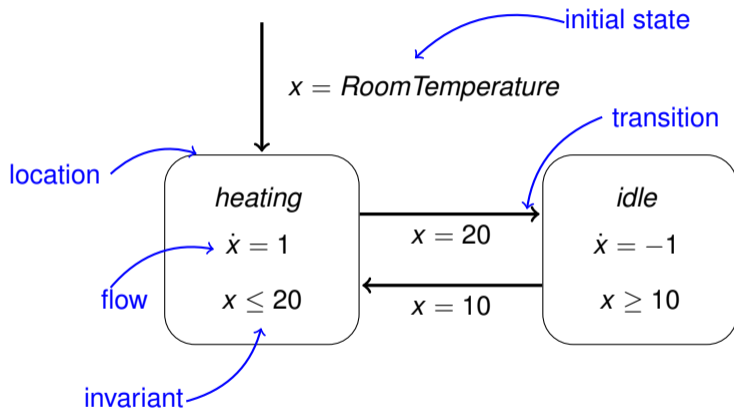
Hybrid Automata



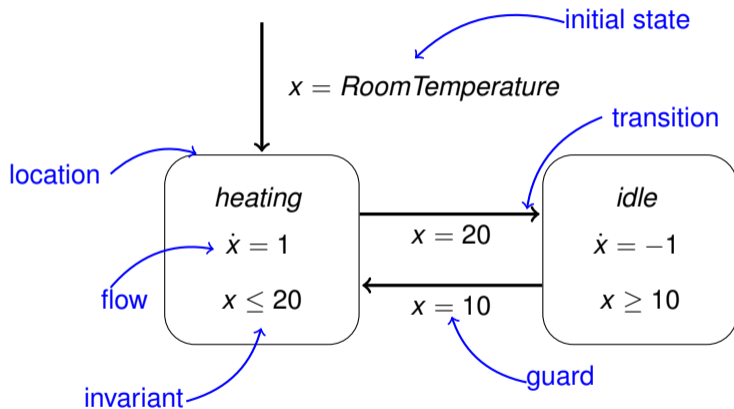
Hybrid Automata



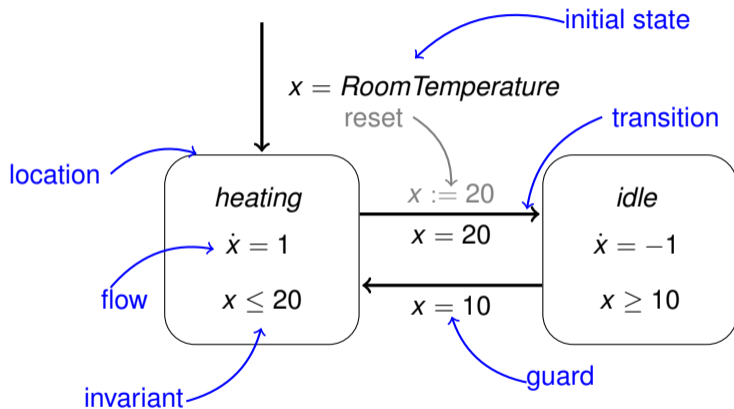
Hybrid Automata



Hybrid Automata



Hybrid Automata



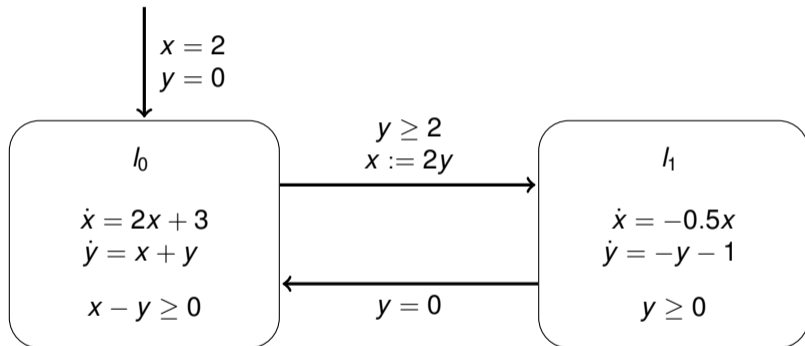
Rectangular Hybrid Automata:

- Uses Rectangular Sets for invariants, guards, flows and resets
- $[a,b]$ represents the rectangular set defined as $\{x \mid a \leq x \leq b\}$

Linear Hybrid Automaton (LHA) (with non-linear behavior):

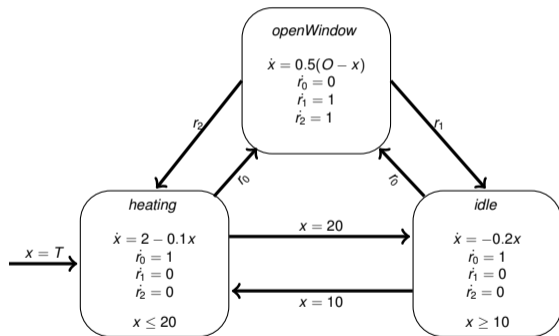
- Invariants, guards defined as systems of linear inequalities
- Flows defined as systems of linear Ordinary Differential Equation (ODE) : $\dot{x} = Ax + b$
- Resets are defined as affine mappings of the form $x' = Ax + b$

Linear Hybrid Automata



O = Outside Temperature
 T = Room Temperature

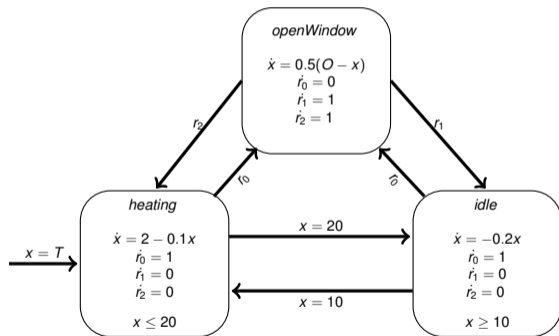
- Enhance Hybrid Systems with stochasticity



Stochastic Hybrid Automata

- Enhance Hybrid Systems with stochasticity
- Transition are composed of stochastic and non-stochastic ones

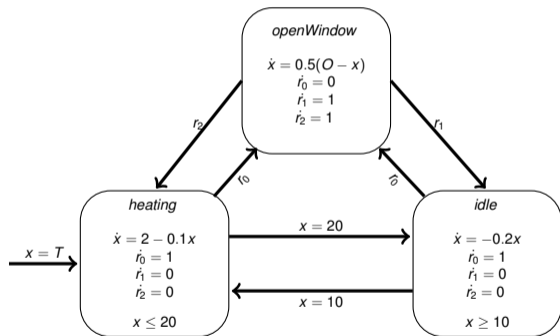
O = Outside Temperature
 T = Room Temperature



Stochastic Hybrid Automata

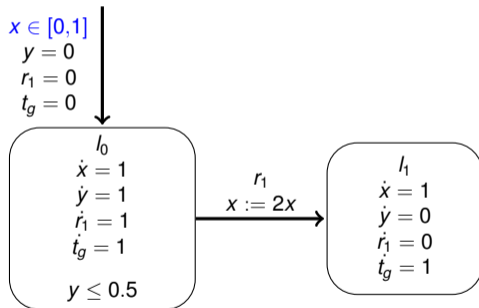
- Enhance Hybrid Systems with stochasticity
- Transitions are composed of stochastic and non-stochastic ones
- Stochastic transitions are accompanied by stochastic events and are syntactically modeled through random clocks

O = Outside Temperature
 T = Room Temperature



Initial-State Non-Determinism

- For LHA the initial set can be defined over a range of values
- The success of an automata run might depend on the point chosen from the initial set



Goal specification: $x \geq 2$
Time Bound: 1

$$x_{initial} = 0 \rightarrow x_{max} = 1.5 \text{ X}$$
$$x_{initial} = 1 \rightarrow x_{max} = 3 \text{ ✓}$$

- Use existing forward analysis and extend with backwards refinement
- Computes the origin of successful state in the initial set
- Deduce probability that any point from the initial set can reach the specification

Forward Flowpipe Construction

- Use Forward Flowpipe construction to approximate forward reachability given a time bound



first Segment

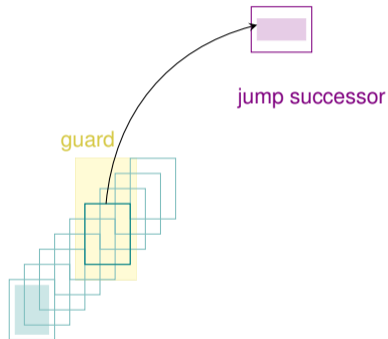
Forward Flowpipe Construction

- Use Forward Flowpipe construction to approximate forward reachability given a time bound



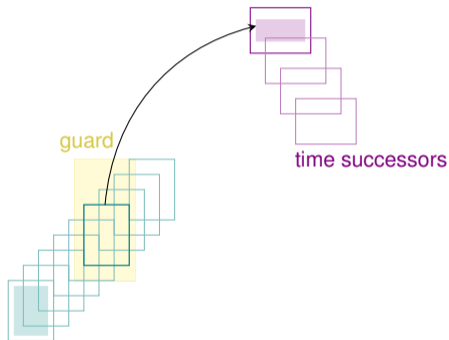
Forward Flowpipe Construction

- Use Forward Flowpipe construction to approximate forward reachability given a time bound



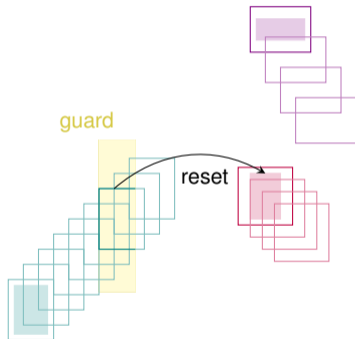
Forward Flowpipe Construction

- Use Forward Flowpipe construction to approximate forward reachability given a time bound



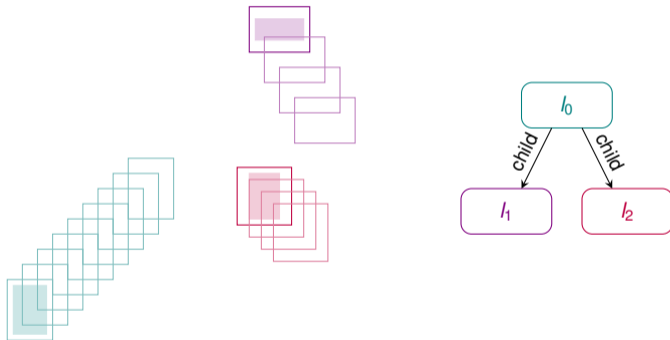
Forward Flowpipe Construction

- Use Forward Flowpipe construction to approximate forward reachability given a time bound



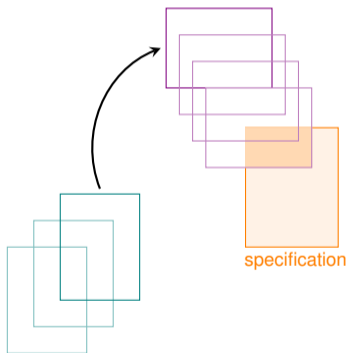
Forward Flowpipe Construction

- Use Forward Flowpipe construction to approximate forward reachability given a time bound



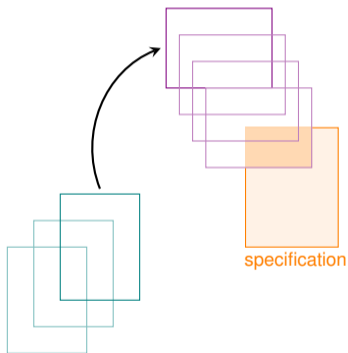
Forward Reachability

Take forward flowpipes and find intersection with specification



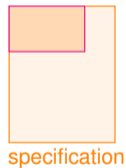
Backward Refinement - Concept

Input: Intersections of flowpipes and specification



Backward Refinement - Concept

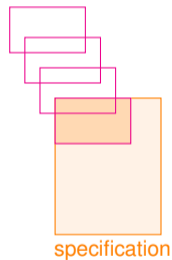
Input: Intersections of flowpipes and specification



Backward Refinement - Concept

Input: Intersections of flowpipes and specification

Process: Compute time and jumps backwards for each segment

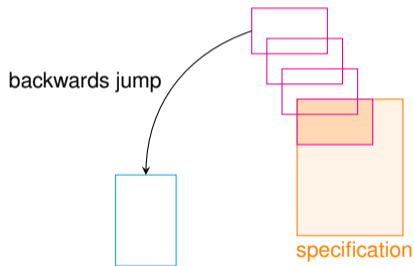


Backward Refinement - Concept

Input: Intersections of flowpipes and specification

Process: Compute time and jumps backwards for each segment

Goal: Subset of the initial set that lead to specification

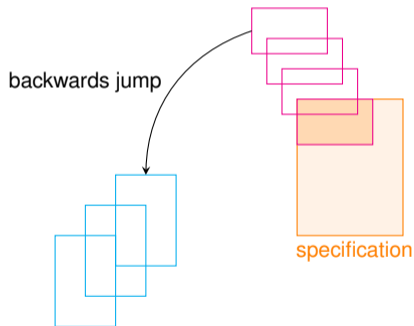


Backward Refinement - Concept

Input: Intersections of flowpipes and specification

Process: Compute time and jumps backwards for each segment

Goal: Subset of the initial set that lead to specification

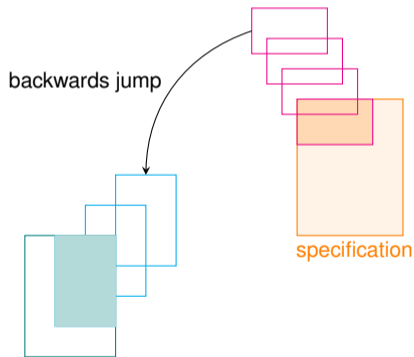


Backward Refinement - Concept

Input: Intersections of flowpipes and specification

Process: Compute time and jumps backwards for each segment

Goal: Subset of the initial set that lead to specification



Backwards Refinement - Backwards Time Step

Time step is defined by the flow of the location

Flow is defined as ODE

$$\dot{x} = Ax + b$$

Can be reconstructed as

$$\dot{y} = My \text{ with } y = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, M = \begin{bmatrix} A & b \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

To compute the time predecessor, flow must be inverted.

Solve a time-continuous ODE involves forming the matrix exponential.

$$y(t) = e^{Mt} y(0)$$

for time step t .

The compute the time **predecessor**, computation must be inverted

$$y(0) = e^{Mt^{-1}} y(t)$$

Backwards Jump

To compute the pre-jump segment, we exploit the HPolytope representation.

$$H = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid Ax \leq b\}, A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}, b \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

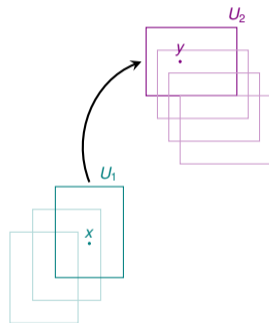
The forward pre- and post-jump segment can be defined as:

$$U_1 = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid K_1 x \leq c_1\}, K_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}, c_1 \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$U_2 = \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid K_2 y \leq c_2\}, K_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

The jump reset is defined by $Ax + b$, therefore

$$\forall y \in U_2 \exists x \in U_1 : y = Ax + b$$



Backwards Jump

Using this information for the backwards refinement:

$$U_1 = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid K_1 x \leq c_1\}, K_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}, c_1 \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$U_2 = \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid K_2 y \leq c_2\}, K_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

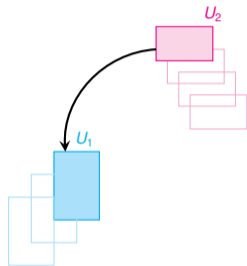
In the HPolytope definition of U_2 , we can replace y with the reset function $Ax + b$:

$$K_2(Ax + b) \leq c_2$$

$$K_2 Ax \leq c_2 - K_2 b : \forall x \in U_1$$

which provides alternative definition of U_1

$$U_1 = \{x \mid K_2 Ax \leq c_2 - K_2 b\}$$

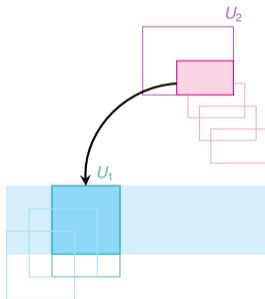


Backwards Jump - Infinite Bounds

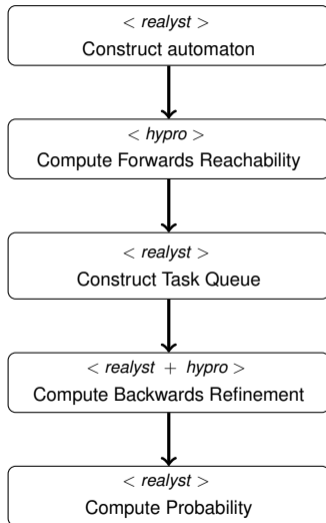
Problem: Some variables are not referenced in the reset

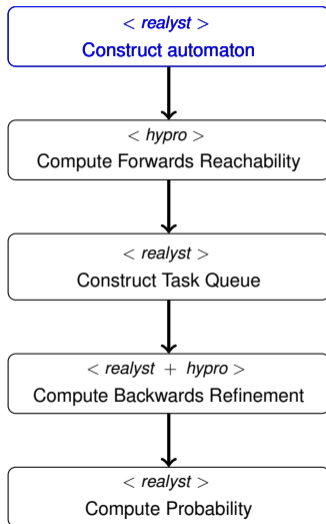
Example: $x := 3 \rightarrow$ No knowledge of pre-jump value of x

Solution: Intersect with pre-jump flowpipe



Implementation

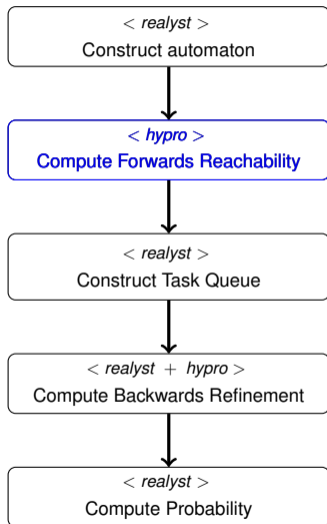




User must define

- The continuous and stochastic variables
- The locations
- The flow in each location
- The invariants in each location
- The jumps between the locations
- The guard of each jump
- The reset of each jump
- The probability distribution over the stochastic variables
- **the probability distribution over the initial set**
- The possible initial values for every variable
- The goal specification

Implementation

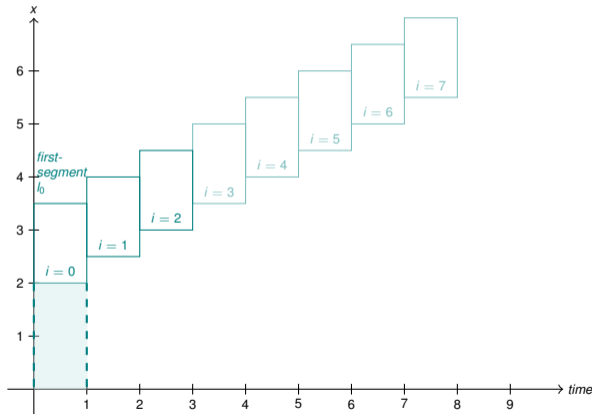


- Uses Forward Flowpipe Construction
- Can be computed over- or underapproximative
- Returns a Reach Tree

Implementation - Utilization of Timings

Reach Tree Nodes specify a Timings attribute

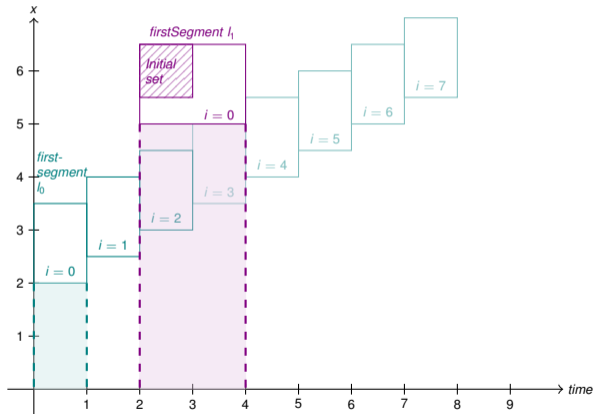
Timings define the global time covered by the initial set of the location



Implementation - Utilization of Timings

Reach Tree Nodes specify a Timings attribute

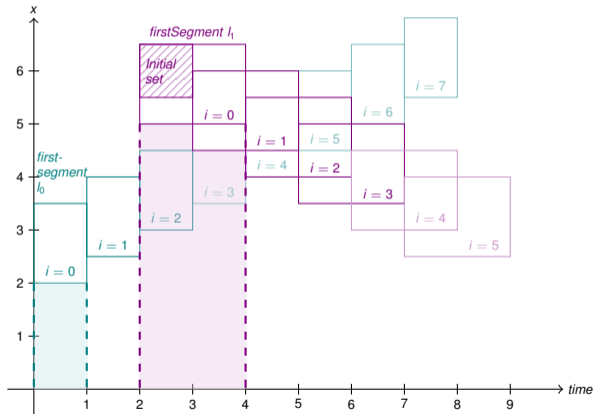
Timings define the global time covered by the initial set of the location



Implementation - Utilization of Timings

Reach Tree Nodes specify a Timings attribute

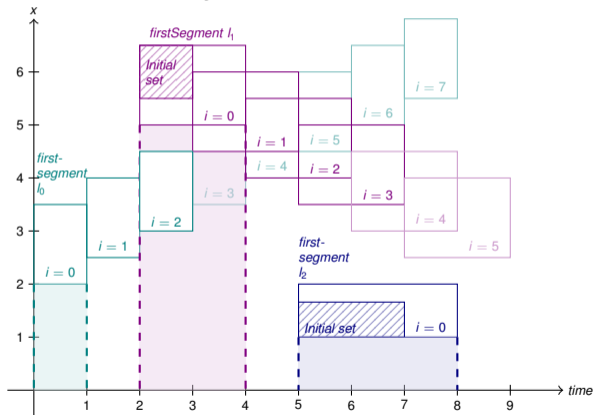
Timings define the global time covered by the initial set of the location



Implementation - Utilization of Timings

Reach Tree Nodes specify a Timings attribute

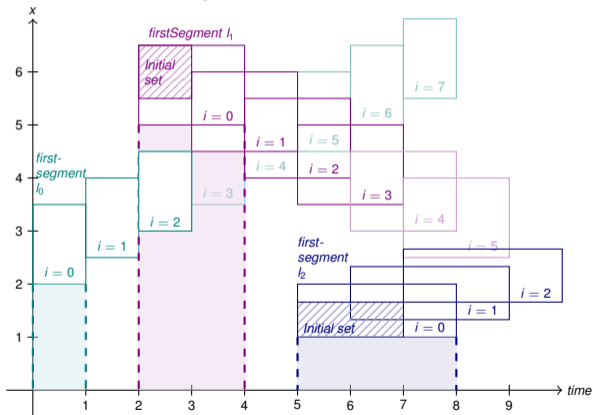
Timings define the global time covered by the initial set of the location



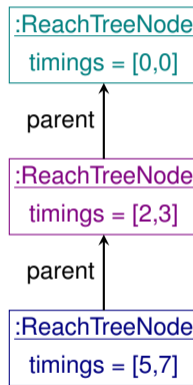
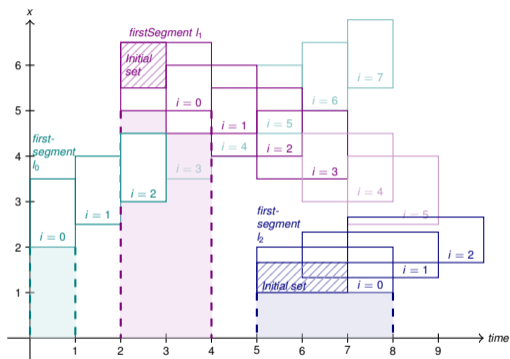
Implementation - Utilization of Timings

Reach Tree Nodes specify a Timings attribute

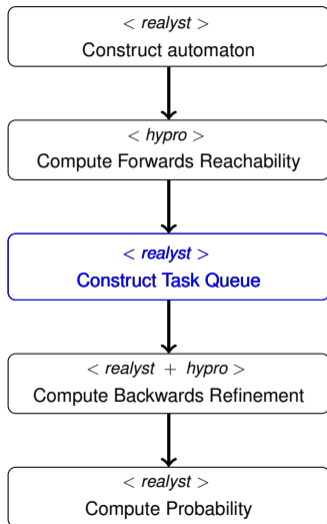
Timings define the global time covered by the initial set of the location



Implementation - Utilization of Timings

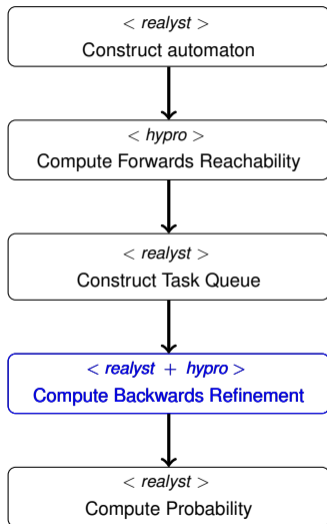


Implementation - Construct Task Queue



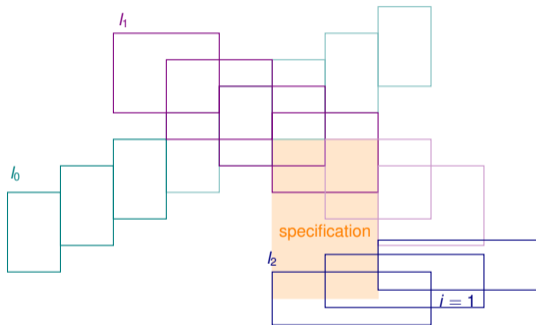
- 1 Check all flowpipes for intersection with specification
- 2 Create TraceElement for each intersection
- 3 Store all TraceElements of one ReachTreeNode's flowpipes in a Trace
- 4 Create a Task for each Trace

Implementation - Backwards Refinement



Iterate Task Queue to process each TraceElement in the Trace.

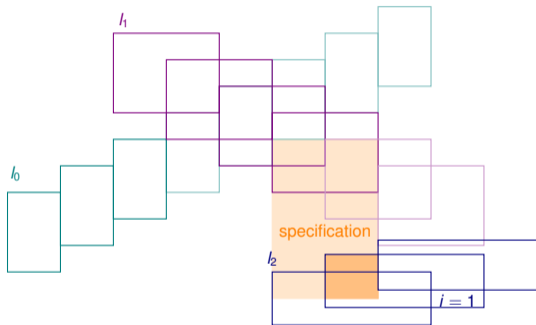
Implementation - Backwards Refinement



Process: Segment in l_3 with $i = 1$

- 1 Compute 1 Backwards Time Step

Implementation - Backwards Refinement



Process: Segment in l_3 with $i = 1$

- 1 Compute 1 Backwards Time Step

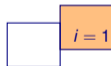
Process: Segment in l_3 with $i = 1$

- 1 Compute 1 Backwards Time Step

$i = 1$

Process: Segment in l_3 with $i = 1$

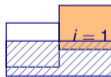
- 1 Compute 1 Backwards Time Step



Implementation - Backwards Refinement

Process: Segment in l_3 with $i = 1$

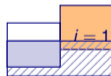
- 1 Compute 1 Backwards Time Step
- 2 Intersect with initial set in l_3

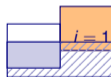


Implementation - Backwards Refinement

Process: Segment in l_3 with $i = 1$

- 1 Compute 1 Backwards Time Step
- 2 Intersect with initial set in l_3

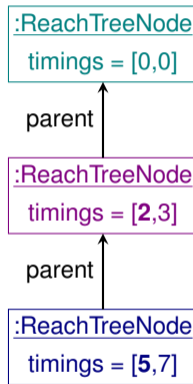
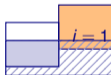




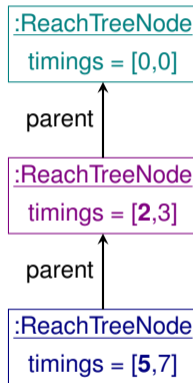
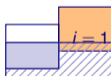
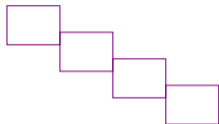
Process: Segment in l_3 with $i = 1$

- 1 Compute 1 Backwards Time Step
- 2 Intersect with initial set in l_3
- 3 Perform backwards jump \rightarrow Compute position in flowpipes vector from timings (3)

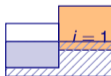
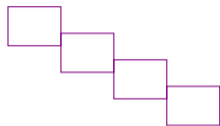
Implementation - Backwards Refinement



Implementation - Backwards Refinement



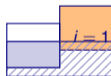
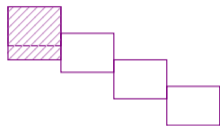
Implementation - Backwards Refinement



Process: Segment in l_3 with $i = 1$

- 1 Compute 1 Backwards Time Step
- 2 Intersect with initial set in l_3
- 3 Perform backwards jump \rightarrow Compute position in flowpipes vector from timings (3)
- 4 Compute 3 Backwards Time Step

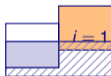
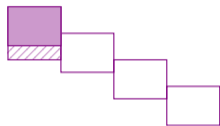
Implementation - Backwards Refinement



Process: Segment in l_3 with $i = 1$

- 1 Compute 1 Backwards Time Step
- 2 Intersect with initial set in l_3
- 3 Perform backwards jump \rightarrow Compute position in flowpipes vector from timings (3)
- 4 Compute 3 Backwards Time Step
- 5 Intersect with initial set in l_2

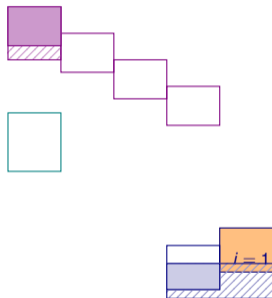
Implementation - Backwards Refinement



Process: Segment in l_3 with $i = 1$

- 1 Compute 1 Backwards Time Step
- 2 Intersect with initial set in l_3
- 3 Perform backwards jump \rightarrow Compute position in flowpipes vector from timings (3)
- 4 Compute 3 Backwards Time Step
- 5 Intersect with initial set in l_2

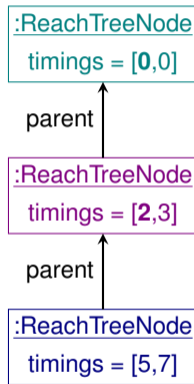
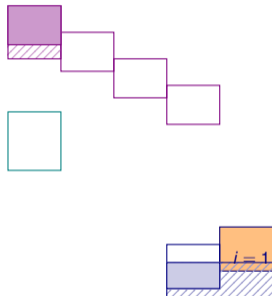
Implementation - Backwards Refinement



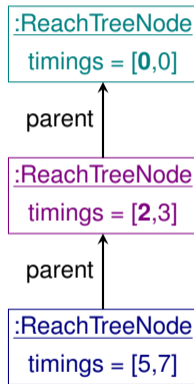
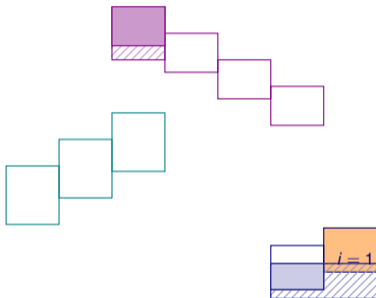
Process: Segment in l_3 with $i = 1$

- 1 Compute 1 Backwards Time Step
- 2 Intersect with initial set in l_3
- 3 Perform backwards jump \rightarrow Compute position in flowpipes vector from timings (3)
- 4 Compute 3 Backwards Time Step
- 5 Intersect with initial set in l_2
- 6 Perform backwards jump \rightarrow Compute position in flowpipes vector from timings (2)

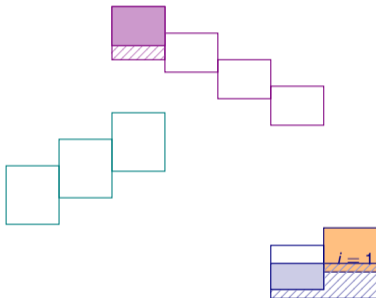
Implementation - Backwards Refinement



Implementation - Backwards Refinement



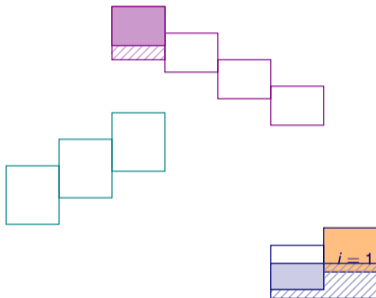
Implementation - Backwards Refinement



Process: Segment in l_3 with $i = 1$

- 1 Compute 1 Backwards Time Step
- 2 Intersect with initial set in l_3
- 3 Perform backwards jump \rightarrow Compute position in flowpipes vector from timings (3)
- 4 Compute 3 Backwards Time Step
- 5 Intersect with initial set in l_2
- 6 Perform backwards jump \rightarrow Compute position in flowpipes vector from timings (2)

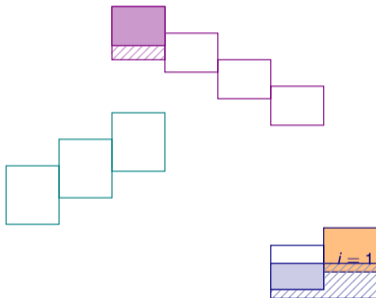
Implementation - Backwards Refinement



Process: Segment in l_3 with $i = 1$

- 1 Compute 1 Backwards Time Step
- 2 Intersect with initial set in l_3
- 3 Perform backwards jump \rightarrow Compute position in flowpipes vector from timings (3)
- 4 Compute 3 Backwards Time Step
- 5 Intersect with initial set in l_2
- 6 Perform backwards jump \rightarrow Compute position in flowpipes vector from timings (2)
- 7 Intersect with initial set in l_1

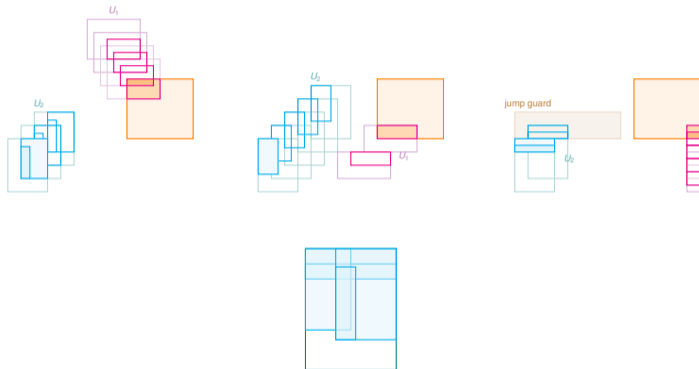
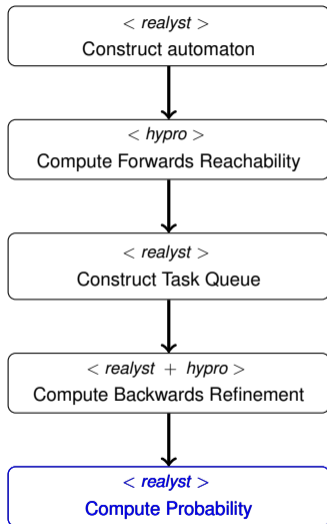
Implementation - Backwards Refinement



Process: Segment in l_3 with $i = 1$

- 1 Compute 1 Backwards Time Step
- 2 Intersect with initial set in l_3
- 3 Perform backwards jump \rightarrow Compute position in flowpipes vector from timings (3)
- 4 Compute 3 Backwards Time Step
- 5 Intersect with initial set in l_2
- 6 Perform backwards jump \rightarrow Compute position in flowpipes vector from timings (2)
- 7 Intersect with initial set in l_1
- 8 Cannot perform backwards jump \rightarrow Done

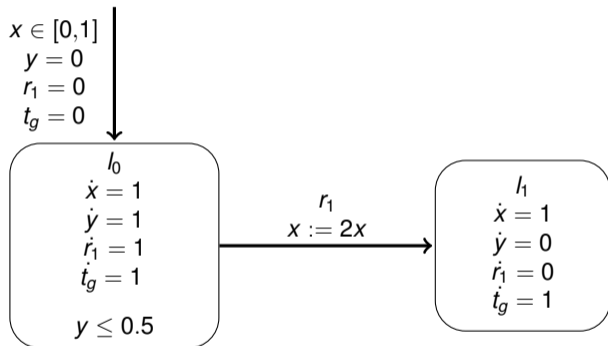
Implementation



⇒ Integrate using Monte Carlo Integration with defined Probability Distributions

⇒ Result: Initial-state Probability

Benchmark A



Goal Specification:

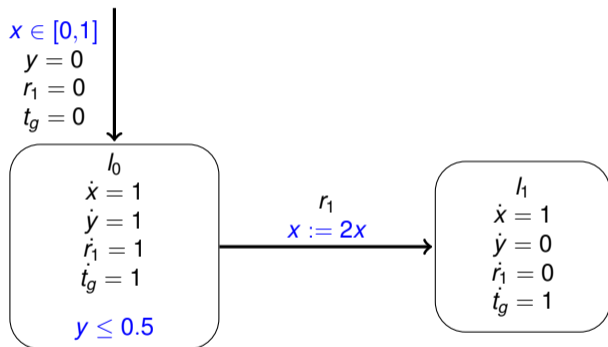
$$x \geq 2$$

$$t_g \leq 1$$

Time bound: 1

Uniform initial-state probability distributions for x over $[0,1]$

Benchmark A



Goal Specification:

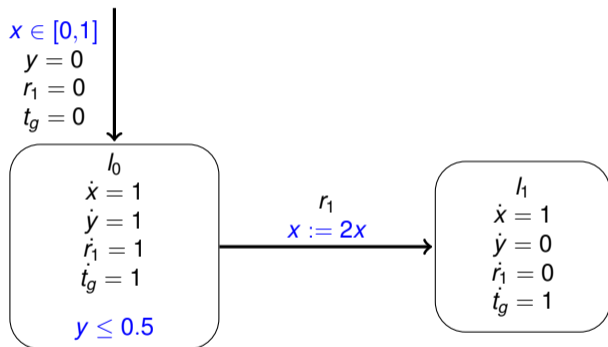
$$x \geq 2$$

$$t_g \leq 1$$

Time bound: 1

Uniform initial-state probability distributions for x over $[0,1]$

Benchmark A



Estimate:

$$x_{end} = 2(x_{init} + t_0) + (T - t_0)$$

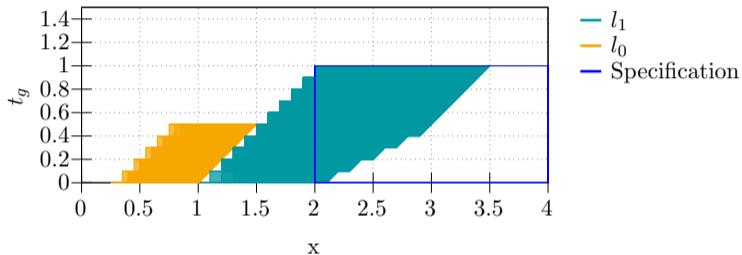
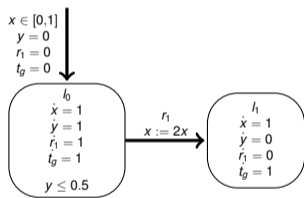
With $t_0 \leq 0.5$ due to invariant:

$$2 \leq 2(x_{min} + 0.5) + (1 - 0.5)$$

$$x_{min} \geq 0.25$$

\Rightarrow Initial-state probability of 75%

Benchmark A



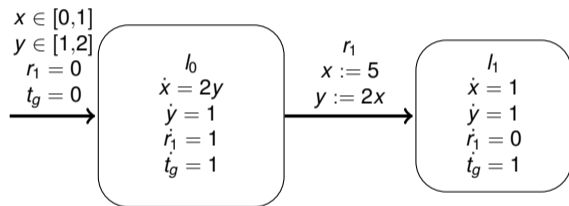
Result: 75%

Duration:

Forward reachability: 0.57s

Backwards refinement: 1.77s

Benchmark B



Goal Specification:

$$x \geq 5$$

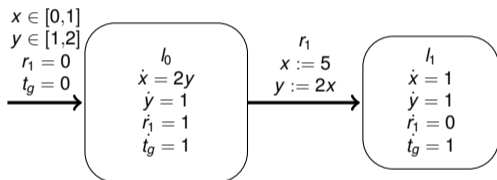
$$y \geq 20$$

$$t_g \leq 2$$

Time bound: 2

Uniform initial-state probability distributions

Benchmark B



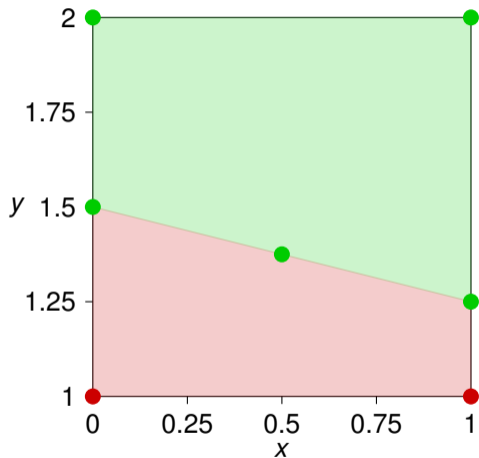
Estimate:

$$y_{end} = 2 \cdot \left(\int_0^{t_0} 2(y_{init} + t) dt + x_{init} \right) + (T - t_0)$$

Inserting values from specification:

$$2 \cdot t_0^2 + 4 \cdot y_{init} \cdot t_0 - t_0 + 2 \cdot x_{init} + 2 \geq 20$$

Benchmark B



Estimate:

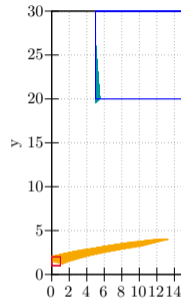
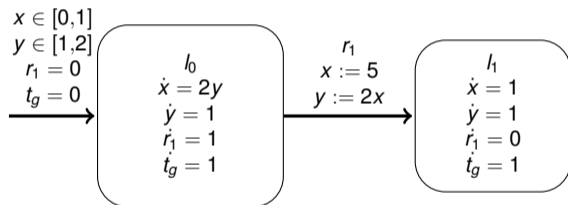
$$y_{end} = 2 \cdot \left(\int_0^{t_0} 2(y_{init} + t) dt + x_{init} \right) + (T - t_0)$$

Inserting values from specification:

$$2 \cdot t_0^2 + 4 \cdot y_{init} \cdot t_0 - t_0 + 2 \cdot x_{init} + 2 \geq 20$$

⇒ Initial-state probability of 62.5%

Benchmark B



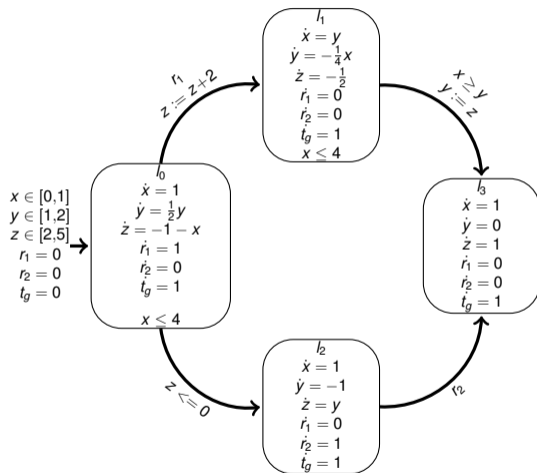
Result: 62.47% (62.29%)

Duration:

Forward analysis: 3.49s

Backwards Refinement: 1.89s

Benchmark C



Goal Specification:

$$x \geq 4$$

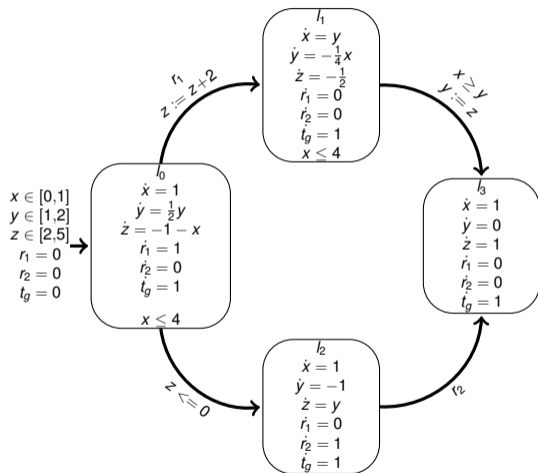
$$y \leq 3$$

$$t_g \leq 2$$

Time bound: 2

Uniform initial-state probability distributions

Benchmark C



No estimate possible

Result: 17.04% (17.01%)

Duration:

Forward Reachability: 5744.88s

Backwards Refinement: 930.14s

- Builds backwards refinement on top of forwards reachability
- Successfully approximates initial-state probability to solve initial-state non-determinism probabilistically
- Point of Extension for Maximum Reachability Probability
- Runtime increases with automata complexity → Needs improvement (Multi-threading, aggregation,...)

Thank you!

Thank you for your attention!

Additional - Plots Benchmark C

