

The (strong) bisimilarity problem

Communication and Concurrency Lecture 16

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 - ▶ Check if $(E, F) \in \sim$.



Bisimilarity up to n

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} E & \sim_{n+1} & F \\ \downarrow a & & \downarrow a \\ E' & \sim_n & F' \end{array}$$



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Key result

Proposition For all $n \geq 0$,

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► **Proof:** 1. By induction on n .

► **Base:** $n = 0$. Trivial, because $E \sim_0 F$ for all E, F

► **Step:** Let $E \sim F$. We prove $E \sim_{n+1} F$.

Let $E \xrightarrow{a} E'$ be an arbitrary transition of E

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Since $E \sim F$, there is a transition $F \xrightarrow{a} F'$ of F such that $E' \sim F'$. By induction hypothesis, $E' \sim_n F'$.

Similarly we prove that for every transition $F \xrightarrow{a} F'$ of F there is a transition $E \xrightarrow{a} E'$ of E such that $E' \sim_n F'$.

By definition of \sim_{n+1} , we have $E \sim_{n+1} F$



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Let $E \xrightarrow{a} E'$ be an arbitrary transition of E .
- ▶ Since $E \sim_{n+2} F$, there is a transition $F \xrightarrow{a} F'$ of F such that $E' \sim_{n+1} F'$.



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- ▶ By induction hypothesis, $E' \sim_n F'$.
- ▶ Similarly we prove that for every transition $F \xrightarrow{a} F'$ of F there is a transition $E \xrightarrow{a} E'$ of E such that $E' \sim_n F'$.
So $E \sim_{n+1} F$.



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- ▶ Let $E \sim_n F$, and let $E \xrightarrow{a} E'$ be an arbitrary transition of E . Since $\sim_n = \sim_{n+1}$, we have $E \sim_{n+1} F$, and so there is a transition $F \xrightarrow{a} F'$ of F such that $E' \sim_n F'$.



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So \sim_n is a bisimulation.

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Scheme for the computation of \sim

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- ▶ Output \sim_i .
- ▶ **Correctness:** Part (3) of the Proposition.
- ▶ **Termination:** Assume the procedure does not terminate.
Then, by part (2) of the Proposition, we have an infinite chain

$$\sim_0 \supset \sim_1 \supset \sim_2 \dots$$

This contradicts the finiteness of S .



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 - ▶ all of E_1, \dots, E_k can do an a , and there are processes F_1, \dots, F_k such that $E_i \xrightarrow{a} F_i$ for every $1 \leq i \leq k$, and moreover $\{F_1, \dots, F_k\}$ is included in an element of the partition.
- ▶ **Proof sketch:** Show that the elements of a partition satisfy this property if and only if they are the equivalence classes of a bisimulation.
Show that the coarsest partition corresponds to \sim .



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Splitting

Given two elements P_1, P_2 of a partition of S and an action a , the result of splitting P_1 w.r.t P_2 and a are the sets

$$P'_1 = \{E \in P_1 \mid E \xrightarrow{a} F \text{ for some } F \in P_2\}$$
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Input: T_E, T_F

Output: equivalence classes of \sim on S

Initialize $\Pi := \{S\}$;

Iterate: Choose an action a and $P_1, P_2 \in \Pi$
Split P_1 with respect to P_2 and a ;

$\Pi = (\Pi \setminus \{P_1\}) \cup \{P'_1, P''_1\}$;
until a fixpoint is reached;

return Π



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- ▶ So the running time is $O(|S| \cdot (|S| + |\delta|))$
- ▶ Best known algorithm: $O(|\delta| \cdot \log(|S|))$

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- ▶ We consider the labelled transition system (S, δ) , where $S = S_E \cup S_F$ and $\delta = \delta_E \cup \delta_F$.



Main idea

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E and F are weakly bisimilar if and only if they are strongly bisimilar “with respect to the transition system $(S, \hat{\delta})$ ” obtained by replacing \Rightarrow through \rightarrow in the transition system (S, δ) .



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- ▶ Compute $(S, \hat{\delta})$ such that for every action a (including τ) and every pair of states $s, s' \in S$, $s \xrightarrow{a} s'$ in $(S, \hat{\delta})$ if and only if $s \xRightarrow{a} s'$ in (S, δ) .



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- ▶ Check if $E \sim F$ “with respect to the transition system $(S, \hat{\delta})$ ”.



Computing $(S, \hat{\delta})$

We consider an abstract algorithm first

Input: (S, δ)

Output: $(S, \hat{\delta})$

Initialize $\hat{\delta} := \delta \cup \{(s, \tau, s) \mid s \in S\}$;

Iterate: For every action a and $s, s', s'' \in S$

If $(s, a, s') \in \hat{\delta}$ and $(s', \tau, s'') \in \hat{\delta}$ or

$(s, \tau, s') \in \hat{\delta}$ and $(s', a, s'') \in \hat{\delta}$

then add (s, a, s'') to $\hat{\delta}$

until a fixpoint is reached;

return $(S, \hat{\delta})$



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- ▶ Complexity:
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- ▶ Overall time complexity: $O(|S|^5 \cdot |A|^2)$
- ▶ Space complexity: $O(|S|^2 \cdot |A|)$



A better algorithm

```
Input:  $(S, \delta)$    Output:  $(S, \hat{\delta})$ 
1  Initialize  $\hat{\delta} := \emptyset$ ;
2  Initialize  $\rho := \delta \cup \{(s, \tau, s) \mid s \in S\}$ ;
3  while  $\rho \neq \emptyset$  do
4    remove  $t = (s, a, s')$  from  $\rho$ ;
5    if  $t \notin \hat{\delta}$  then
6      add  $t$  to  $\hat{\delta}$ ;
7      for all  $s''$  such that  $(s'', \tau, s) \in \hat{\delta}$ 
8        if  $(s'', a, s') \notin \rho$ 
9          then add  $(s'', a, s')$  to  $\rho$ ;
10     for all  $s''$  such that  $(s', \tau, s'') \in \hat{\delta}$ 
11       if  $(s, a, s'') \notin \rho$ 
12         then add  $(s, a, s'')$  to  $\rho$ ;
13  return  $(S, \hat{\delta})$ 
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- ▶ If $(s, a, s') \in \hat{\delta}$ after termination, then $s \xrightarrow{a} s'$ w.r.t δ . (Easy)
- ▶ If $s \xrightarrow{a} s'$ w.r.t δ , then $(s, a, s') \in \hat{\delta}$ after termination.
Proof: By induction on the length n of the shortest sequence showing $s \xrightarrow{a} s'$. The base $n = 0$ is easy (this is the case $s = s'$ and $a = \tau$). For $n > 0$, we consider two cases:



Correctness (w.r.t = with respect to)

- ▶ **Termination.** Every iteration removes an element from ρ , but only finitely many add elements to it (because of line 5).
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 - ▶ There is a s'' such that $(s, \tau, s'') \in \delta$ and $s'' \xrightarrow{a} s'$ with respect to δ . Since the shortest sequence showing $s'' \xrightarrow{a} s'$ has length $n - 1$, by induction hypothesis (s'', a, s') is eventually added to $\hat{\delta}$. Since any element that is moved to $\hat{\delta}$ comes from ρ , (s'', a, s') must be eventually added to ρ . By lines 7-9, (s, a, s') is also eventually added to ρ , and so to $\hat{\delta}$.



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 - ▶ There is s'' such that $(s'', \tau, s') \in \delta$ and $s \xrightarrow{a} s''$ with respect to δ . Analogous argument to the previous case, this time using lines 10-12.



Time and space complexity

Time complexity:

1. Line 6 is executed $O(|S|^2 \cdot |A|)$ times.
No transition can be added to $\hat{\delta}$ twice because of line 5. Since there are at most $|S| \cdot |A| \cdot |S|$ transitions, the bound follows.
2. Lines 8 and 11 are executed $O(|S|^3 \cdot |A|)$ times.
They are executed at most once for each combination s, s', s'', a , because no element is added to $\hat{\delta}$ twice.
3. Line 4 is executed $O(|S|^3 \cdot |A|)$ times.
By 2., $O(|S|^3 \cdot |A|)$ elements are added to ρ during the execution of the algorithm, and so $O(|S|^3 \cdot |A|)$ elements are have been removed from it after termination.
4. Lines 1, 2, and 13 take together $O(|S|^2 \cdot |A|)$ time.
5. The overall time complexity is $O(|S|^3 \cdot |A|)$.

Space complexity: since ρ and $\hat{\delta}$ do not contain duplicates, they require $O(|S|^2 \cdot |A|)$ space.