

# The Temporal Logic of Actions I

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## Introduction

- Concurrent algorithm typically described by a program.
  - *Correctness* of algorithm means program satisfies desired property.
- TLA = Temporal Logic of Actions.
  - Lamport, 1994.
  - Both algorithm and property are specified by formulas in single logic.
  - Correctness of algorithm means algorithm *implies* property.
- Reasonable to abandon programming language?
  - Mostly reasoning about concurrent *algorithms*.
  - Concurrent *programs* are much too complicated.
  - 1 page algorithm = 5000 lines of C code.
  - Goal to detect *algorithmic* errors.

*Talking about concurrent algorithms!*

## Logic Versus Programming

- Aren't programs simpler than logic formulas?
  - Everyday mathematics simpler than programs.
  - Assignment versus equality!
  - *Program versus mathematical functions.*
- Methods for reasoning about programs based on toy languages.
  - Simpler than real programming languages.
  - More complicated than simple logic.
- Resemblance often misleading:
  - $\{ x = 0 \} y := x + 1 \{ y = x + 1 \}$
  - $x := 0; y := x + 1; \text{write}(y, x + 1)$
  - May be different in certain contexts (aliasing)!

*Real languages contain difficult concepts because they must yield reasonably efficient programs for complex computers.*

## Goals of a Programming Logic

Reasoning about concurrent algorithms.

- Simpler alternative to programming languages.
  - No point in trading language for a complicated logic.
- Expressive to describe real algorithms.
  - Formulas must not be too long and complicated to understand.
- TLA formulas:
  - Familiar mathematical operators ( $\wedge$ ).
  - ' (prime),  $\square$ ,  $\exists$ .
- Combination of two logics:
  - A logic of actions.
  - A standard temporal logic.

## The Logic of Actions

Values, variables and state.

- Collection **Val** of *values*.
  - Algorithms manipulate data.
  - Numbers, strings, sets.
- Infinite set **Var** of *variable* names.
  - Algorithms assign values to variables.
- A *state* assigns values to variables.
  - $s \in \mathbf{St} = \mathbf{Var} \rightarrow \mathbf{Val}$ .
  - $s[[x]] := s(x)$ .
  - $[[x]] \in \mathbf{St} \rightarrow \mathbf{Val}$ .
  - Semantic meaning  $[[x]]$  of syntactic object  $x$ .

## State Functions and Predicates

- *State function*

- Expression built from variables and constant symbols.
- $s[[x^2 + y - 3]] = (s[[x]])^2 + s[[y]] - 3$ .
- $s[[f]] := f(\forall 'v': s[[v]]/v)$
- Correspond to program expressions (and subexpressions of assertions).

- *State predicate*

- Boolean expression.
- $x^2 = y - 3$
- $s[[P]] \in \{\mathbf{true}, \mathbf{false}\}$ .
- $s$  satisfies  $P$  iff  $s[[P]] = \mathbf{true}$ .
- Correspond to assertions (and boolean-valued program expressions).

## Actions

- *Action* = boolean-valued expression.
  - Variables, primed variables, constant symbols.
  - $x' + y = y, x - 1 \in z'$ .
- Relation between *old* state and *new* state.
  - Unprimed variables refer to old state.
  - Primed variables refer to new state.
  - Representation of atomic operation of concurrent program.
- Formalization of A
  - $[[A]] \in \mathbf{St} \rightarrow \mathbf{S} \rightarrow \mathbf{Bool}$
  - $s[[A]]t \in \mathbf{Bool}$ .
  - Old state  $s$ , new state  $t$ .
  - $s[[A]]t \equiv A(\forall 'v: s[[v]]/v, t[[v]]/v')$ .
  - $s[[y = x' + 1]]t = (s[[y]] = t[[x]] + 1)$ .
  - $s, t$  is an A *step* iff  $s[[A]]t = \mathbf{true}$ .

## Predicates as Actions

- $s[[P]]$  is boolean for any  $s$ .
- View  $P$  as action without primed variables.
  - $s[[P]]t = s[[P]]$  for any  $s, t$ .
  - $s, t$  is a  $P$  step iff  $s$  satisfies  $P$ .
- Replacement of unprimed variables:
  - State function or predicate  $F$ .
  - $F' := F(\forall 'v': v'/v)$ .
  - $s[[P']]t = t[[P]]$



## Validity and Provability

- Action  $A$  is *valid* ( $\models A$ )

- Every step is an  $A$  step.
- $\models A \equiv \forall s, t \in \mathbf{St}: s[[A]]t$
- $\models P \equiv \forall s \in \mathbf{St}: s[[P]]$
- True regardless of what values are substituted for primed and unprimed variables.
- $(x' + y \in \mathbf{Nat}) \Rightarrow (2(x' + y) \geq x' + y)$

- Formula  $F$  is provable ( $\vdash F$ )

- Formal derivation by rules of logic.

- *Soundness* of the logic.

- Every provable formula is valid.
- $\vdash F \Rightarrow \models F$ .

## Rigid Variables and Quantifiers

- Program described using parameter  $n$ .
  - Mathematician: *variable* (symbol does not represent known value).
  - Programmer: *constant* (value of  $n$  does not change).
- Two kinds of *variables*:
  - *Rigid variables* (unknown constant).
  - (*Flexible*) *variables* (program variable).
- *Constant expressions*:
  - Built from rigid variables and constant symbols.
  - Extend state functions and actions to contain constant expressions.
- *Quantification* over rigid variables
  - $s[[\exists m \in \mathbf{Nat}: mx' = n+x]] \equiv \exists m \in \mathbf{Nat}: m(t[[x]]) = n+s[[x]]$
  - A is valid if  $s[[A]]t$  equals **true** for all states  $s, t$  and all possible values of its free rigid variables.

## The Enabled Predicate

- *Enabled A*

- True for  $s$  iff it is possible to take an  $A$  step starting in  $s$ .
- $s[[\textit{Enabled A}]] \equiv \exists t \in \mathbf{St}: s[[A]]t$

- Syntactic definition

- $v_i$  all (flexible) variables in  $A$ .
- $\textit{Enabled A} \equiv$   
 $\exists c_1, \dots, c_n: A(c_1/v'_1, \dots, c_n/v'_n)$ .
- $\textit{Enabled}(y = (x')^2 + n) =$   
 $\exists c: y = c^2 + n$

- If  $A$  represents atomic operation, *Enabled A* is true for those states in which it is possible to perform the operation.

## Simple Temporal Logic

Execution of algorithm

- Sequence of steps.
- Each step produces new state changing the values of variables.
- Execution is sequence of states.
- Semantic meaning of algorithm is collection of all possible executions.

*Temporal logic allows reasoning about sequences of states.*

## Temporal Formulas

- *Always* ( $\Box$ )

- Elementary formulas  $E_1, E_2$
- $\neg E_1 \wedge \Box(\neg E_2)$
- $\Box(E_1 \Rightarrow \Box(E_1 \vee E_2))$

- Semantics based on *behaviors*

- Infinite sequences of states.
- Behavior  $\sigma = \langle s_0, s_1, \dots \rangle$
- $\sigma[[F]] \in \mathbf{Bool}$ .
- $\sigma$  satisfies  $F$  iff  $\sigma[[F]] = \mathbf{true}$ .

- Meaning of temporal formulas:

- $\langle s_0, s_1, \dots \rangle[[F]] \equiv s_0[[F]]$ , if  $F$  elementary.
- $\sigma[[F \wedge G]] \equiv \sigma[[F]] \wedge \sigma[[G]]$
- $\sigma[[\neg F]] \equiv \neg \sigma[[F]]$
- $\langle s_0, s_1, \dots \rangle[[\Box F]] \equiv$   
 $\forall n \in \mathbf{Nat}: \langle s_n, s_{n+1}, \dots \rangle[[F]]$

## Some Useful Temporal Formulas

- *Eventually* ( $\diamond$ )

- $F$  is eventually true.
- $\diamond F \equiv \neg \Box \neg F$ .
- $\langle s_0, s_1, \dots \rangle [[\diamond F]] \equiv \exists n \in \mathbf{Nat}: \langle s_n, s_{n+1}, \dots \rangle [[F]]$

- *Infinitely Often* ( $\Box \diamond$ )

- $\langle s_0, s_1, \dots \rangle [[\Box \diamond F]] \equiv \forall n \in \mathbf{Nat}: \exists m \in \mathbf{Nat}: \langle s_{n+m}, s_{n+m+1}, \dots \rangle [[F]]$

- *Eventually Always* ( $\diamond \Box$ )

- $\langle s_0, s_1, \dots \rangle [[\diamond \Box F]] \equiv \exists n \in \mathbf{Nat}: \forall m \in \mathbf{Nat}: \langle s_{n+m}, s_{n+m+1}, \dots \rangle [[F]]$

- *Leads to* ( $\mapsto$ )

- $F \mapsto G \equiv \Box (F \Rightarrow \diamond G)$
- Any time  $F$  is true,  $G$  is true then or at some later time.

## Validity and Provability

- *Validity of  $F$  ( $\models F$ )*
  - $\models F \equiv \forall \sigma \in \mathbf{St}^\infty: \sigma[[F]]$
  - $\infty$  set of all possible behaviors.
- *Representation of algorithm:*
  - Temporal formula  $F$ :
  - $\sigma[[F]] = \mathbf{true}$  iff  $\sigma$  represents a possible execution of the algorithm.
- *Property  $G$  of algorithm:*
  - $\models F \Rightarrow G$ .
  - Algorithm represented by  $F$  satisfies property  $G$ .
- *Rules will be introduced for proving temporal formulas.*
  - Soundness:  $\vdash F \Rightarrow \models F$ .

## The Raw Logic

### Raw Temporal Logic of Actions (RTL<sub>A</sub>)

- Elementary temporal formulas are actions.
- Action  $A$  is true on behavior  $\sigma$ :
  - $\langle s_0, s_1, \dots \rangle [[A]] \equiv s_0 [[A]] s_1$
  - First pair  $s_0, s_1$  of behaviors is an  $A$  step.
- Temporal operator:
  - $\langle s_0, s_1, \dots \rangle [[\Box A]]$   
 $\equiv \forall n \in \mathbf{Nat}: \langle s_n, s_{n+1}, \dots \rangle [[A]]$   
 $\equiv \forall n \in \mathbf{Nat}: s_n [[A]] s_{n+1}$ .
- Predicates:
  - $\langle s_0, s_1, \dots \rangle [[P]] \equiv s_0 [[P]]$
  - $\langle s_0, s_1, \dots \rangle [[\Box P]] \equiv \forall n \in \mathbf{Nat}: s_n [[P]]$

*TLA formulas will be subset of RTL<sub>A</sub> formulas.*



## Describing Programs with RTLA

- Program in guarded command language.
  - **var natural**  $x, y = 0$
  - do**
  - $\langle \mathbf{true} \rightarrow x := x + 1 \rangle$
  - $\square$
  - $\langle \mathbf{true} \rightarrow y := y + 1 \rangle$
  - od**
- Formula  $\Phi$ 
  - $Init_{\Phi} \equiv (x = 0) \wedge (y = 0)$
  - $M_1 \equiv (x' = x + 1) \wedge (y' = y)$
  - $M_2 \equiv (y' = y + 1) \wedge (x' = x)$
  - $M \equiv M_1 \vee M_2$
  - $\Phi \equiv Init_{\Phi} \wedge \square M$
- $\sigma[[\Phi]] = \mathbf{true}$  iff  $\sigma$  represents possible execution of program.

## Describing Programs with RTLA

- $Init_{\Phi}$  asserts initial condition.
- Action  $M_1$  asserts effect of first guarded command.
- Action  $M_2$  asserts effect of second guarded command.
- Action  $M$  asserts effect of non-deterministic composition.
- Formular  $\Phi$  represents whole program:
  - $Init_{\Phi}$  is true in first state.
  - Every step is an  $M$  step.

*Each equivalent formula is a valid representation of the program.*

## TLA

- Formula  $\Phi$  is too simple.
  - Should allow *stuttering steps*
  - Leave both  $x$  and  $y$  unchanged.
- Example: clock specification.
  - Clock  $C_1$  with hours  $h$  and minutes  $m$ .
  - Clock  $C_2$  with hours  $h$ , minutes  $m$ , seconds  $s$ .
  - $C_2$  should satisfy specification of  $C_1$ .
  - But  $C_2$  has 59 steps where  $h$  and  $m$  do not change!
  - Such stuttering steps should be ignored.
- Modification of  $\Phi$ :
  - $\Phi \equiv \text{Init}_\Phi \wedge \Box(\text{M} \vee ((x' = x) \wedge (y' = y)))$
  - $\Phi \equiv \text{Init}_\Phi \wedge \Box \text{M}_{\langle x,y \rangle}$
  - $[A]_f := A \vee (f' = f)$
- TLA is subset of RTLA
  - Elementary formulas of form  $\Box[A]_f$

## Adding Liveness

- Modified  $\Phi$  also not acceptable:
  - $x, y$  might be never changed!
  - $\Phi$  only expresses *safety* property.
  - Program must not execute other than described steps.
- *Liveness* properties:
  - Something *does* eventually happen.
  - Program must eventually perform described steps.
- Dijkstra semantics:
  - Infinitely many steps increase  $x$  *or*  $y$ .
  - $\Phi \equiv \text{Init}_\Phi \wedge \Box M_{\langle x,y \rangle} \wedge \Box \Diamond M$ .
- Add *fairness* requirement:
  - Infinitely many steps increase  $x$  *and*  $y$ .
  - $\Phi \equiv \text{Init}_\Phi \wedge \Box M_{\langle x,y \rangle} \wedge \Box \Diamond M_1 \wedge \Box \Diamond M_2$ .

*Problem: Both are not TLA formulas!*

## Liveness as TLA Formulas

- $\Box[A]_f$  is TLA formula.

- $\neg\Box[\neg A]_f$
- $\equiv\Diamond\neg[\neg A]_f$
- $\equiv\Diamond\neg(\neg A \vee f' = f)$
- $\equiv\Diamond(A \wedge f' \neq f)$
- $\langle A \rangle_f \equiv A \wedge f' \neq f$
- $\langle A \rangle_f$  is TLA formula.

- Reformulation of  $\Phi$ :

- $\Phi \equiv \text{Init}_\Phi \wedge \Box M_{\langle x,y \rangle}$   
 $\wedge \Box\Diamond\langle M_1 \rangle_{\langle x,y \rangle} \wedge \Box\Diamond\langle M_2 \rangle_{\langle x,y \rangle}$

## Fairness

- Arbitrary liveness properties dangerous:
  - Used to express fairness requirements.
  - May unexpectedly add *safety* properties.
  - Add:  $\Box\Diamond(x = 0)$ .
  - Consequence:  $x$  never changes!
  - Solution: express liveness by fairness.
- Fairness:
  - If operation possible, program must eventually execute it.
- *Weak* fairness:
  - Operation must be executed if it remains possible to do so *for long enough time*.
  - $(\Diamond \text{ executed}) \vee (\Diamond \text{ impossible})$
- *Strong* fairness:
  - Operation must be executed if it is *often enough* possible to do so.
  - $(\Diamond \text{ executed}) \vee (\Diamond\Box \text{ impossible})$

## Fairness

- Fairness at all times:

- $\Box((\Diamond \text{executed}) \vee (\Diamond \text{impossible}))$
- $\Box((\Diamond \text{executed}) \vee (\Diamond \Box \text{impossible}))$

- Equivalent to:

- $(\Box \Diamond \text{executed}) \vee (\Box \Diamond \text{impossible})$
- $(\Box \Diamond \text{executed}) \vee (\Diamond \Box \text{impossible})$

- Formalization:

- $\text{executed} \equiv \langle A \rangle_f$ .
- $\text{impossible} \equiv \neg \text{Enabled} \langle A \rangle_f$ .

- Fairness conditions:

- $\text{WF}_f(A) \equiv (\Box \Diamond \langle A \rangle_f) \vee (\Box \Diamond \neg \text{Enabled} \langle A \rangle_f)$
- $\text{SF}_f(A) \equiv (\Box \Diamond \langle A \rangle_f) \vee (\Diamond \Box \neg \text{Enabled} \langle A \rangle_f)$
- $\text{SF}_f(A) \Rightarrow \text{WF}_f(A)$

## Rewriting the Fairness Requirement

- *Machine-closed*

- Pair  $(Init \wedge \Box[N]_f, F)$  is *machine-closed*  
 $\equiv Init \wedge \Box[N]_f \wedge F$  does not add additional safety properties.
- If  $F$  is conjunction of conditions  $WF_f(A)$  and/or  $SF_f(A)$ , where each  $\langle A \rangle_f$  implies  $N$ , then  $Init \wedge \Box[N]_v \wedge F$  is machine-closed.

- Fairness requirements:

- Rewrite  $\Box\Diamond\langle M_1 \rangle_{x,y} \wedge \Box\Diamond\langle M_2 \rangle_{x,y}$  as fairness conditions.
- $Enabled \langle M_1 \rangle_{x,y} = Enabled \langle M_2 \rangle_{x,y} = \mathbf{true}$
- $WF_{\langle x,y \rangle}(M_1) = \Box\Diamond\langle M_1 \rangle_{x,y}$   
 $WF_{\langle x,y \rangle}(M_2) = \Box\Diamond\langle M_2 \rangle_{x,y}$
- $\Phi \equiv Init_\Phi \wedge \Box M_{\langle x,y \rangle}$   
 $\wedge WF_{\langle x,y \rangle}(M_1) \wedge WF_{\langle x,y \rangle}(M_2)$



## Examining Formula $\Phi$

- Each TLA formula representing program:
  - $Init \wedge \square[N]_f \wedge F$
  - $Init$  specifies initial variable values.
  - $N$  is the program's *next-state relation* that represents the execution of the individual atomic operations.
  - $f$  is the  $n$  tuple of all flexible variables.
  - $F$  is a conjunction of formulas of the form  $WF_f(A)$  and/or  $SF_f(A)$  wher  $A$  represents a subset of the program's atomic operations.
- Parallel composition:
  - Two programs represented by  $\Phi$  and  $\Psi$ .
  - No variables in common
  - $\Phi \wedge \Psi$  describes parallel composition of both programs!

## Syntax of Simple TLA

TLA logic without quantification.

- $\langle formula \rangle \equiv \langle predicate \rangle$   
 $\parallel \Box[\langle action \rangle]_{\langle state function \rangle} \parallel \neg \langle formula \rangle$   
 $\parallel \langle formula \rangle \wedge \langle formula \rangle \parallel \Box \langle formula \rangle$
- $\langle action \rangle \equiv$  boolean-valued expression  
of constant symbols,  
variables, and primed variables
- $\langle predicate \rangle \equiv$  *action* with no primed variables  
 $\parallel Enabled \langle action \rangle$
- $\langle state function \rangle \equiv$  non-boolean expression  
containing constant symbols and variables

## Semantics of Simple TLA

- $s[[f]] \equiv f(\forall 'v': s[[v]]/v)$
- $s[[A]]t \equiv A(\forall 'v': s[[v]]/v, t[[v]]/v')$
- $\langle s_0, s_1, \dots \rangle[[A]] \equiv s_0[[A]]s_1$
- $\models A \equiv \forall s, t \in \mathbf{St}: s[[A]]t$
- $s[[Enabled\ A]] \equiv \exists t \in \mathbf{St}: s[[A]]t$
- $\langle s_0, s_1, \dots \rangle[[\Box F]] \equiv$   
 $\quad \forall n \in \mathbf{Nat}: \langle s_n, s_{n+1}, \dots \rangle[[F]]$
- $\sigma[[F \wedge G]] \equiv \sigma[[F]] \wedge \sigma[[G]]$
- $\sigma[[\neg F]] \equiv \neg \sigma[[F]]$
- $\models F \equiv \forall \sigma \in \mathbf{St}^\infty: \sigma[[A]]t$

## Additional Notation

- $p' \equiv p(\forall v' v': v'/v)$
- $[A]_f \equiv A \vee (f' = f)$
- $\langle A \rangle_f \equiv A \wedge (f' \neq f)$
- *Unchanged*  $f \equiv f' = f$
- $\diamond F \equiv \neg \square \neg F$
- $F \mapsto G \equiv \square (F \Rightarrow \diamond G)$
- $WF_f(A) \equiv (\square \diamond \langle A \rangle_f) \vee (\square \diamond \neg \text{Enabled } \langle A \rangle_f)$
- $SF_f(A) \equiv (\square \diamond \langle A \rangle_f) \vee (\diamond \square \neg \text{Enabled } \langle A \rangle_f)$

## The Rules of Simple Temporal Logic

- STL1. 
$$\frac{F \text{ provable by propositional logic}}{\Box F}$$
- STL2.  $\vdash \Box F \Rightarrow F$
- STL3.  $\vdash \Box \Box F \equiv \Box F$
- STL4. 
$$\frac{F \Rightarrow G}{\Box F \Rightarrow \Box G}$$
- STL5.  $\vdash \Box(F \wedge G) \equiv (\Box F) \wedge (\Box G)$
- STL6.  $\vdash (\Diamond \Box F) \wedge (\Diamond \Box G) \equiv \Diamond \Box(F \wedge G)$
- LATTICE.
 
$$\frac{F \wedge (c \in S) \Rightarrow (H_c \mapsto (G \vee \exists d \in S: (c > d) \wedge H_d))}{F \Rightarrow ((\exists c \in S: H_c) \mapsto G)}$$

> a well-founded partial order on set  $S$

## The Basic Rules of TLA

- TLA1. 
$$\frac{P \wedge (f = f') \Rightarrow P'}{\Box P \equiv P \wedge \Box [P \Rightarrow P']_f}$$
- TLA2. 
$$\frac{P \wedge \langle A \rangle_f \Rightarrow Q \wedge [B]_g}{\Box P \wedge \Box \langle A \rangle_f \Rightarrow \Box Q \wedge \Box [B]_g}$$

## Additional Rules

- INV1. 
$$\frac{I \wedge [N]_f \Rightarrow I'}{I \wedge \Box [N]_f \Rightarrow \Box I}$$
- INV2. 
$$\vdash \Box I \Rightarrow (\Box [N]_f \equiv \Box [N \wedge I \wedge I']_f)$$
- WF1. 
$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} P \wedge [N]_f \Rightarrow (P' \vee Q') \\ P \wedge \langle N \wedge A \rangle_f \Rightarrow Q' \\ P \Rightarrow \text{Enabled } \langle A \rangle_f \end{array}}{\Box [N]_f \wedge \text{WF}_f(A) \Rightarrow (P \mapsto Q)}$$

## Additional Rules

- WF2.

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \langle N \wedge B \rangle_f \Rightarrow \langle \overline{M} \rangle_{\overline{g}} \\
 P \wedge P' \wedge \langle N \wedge A \rangle_f \wedge \overline{Enabled \langle M \rangle_g} \Rightarrow B \\
 P \wedge \overline{Enabled \langle M \rangle_g} \Rightarrow Enabled \langle A \rangle_f \\
 \square[N \wedge \neg B]_f \wedge WF_f(A) \wedge \square F \\
 \wedge \diamond \square \overline{Enabled \langle M \rangle_g} \Rightarrow \diamond \square P \\
 \hline
 \square[N]_f \wedge WF_f(A) \wedge \square F \Rightarrow \overline{WF_g(M)}
 \end{array}$$

- SF1.

$$\begin{array}{l}
 P \wedge [N]_f \Rightarrow (P' \vee Q') \\
 P \wedge \langle N \wedge A \rangle_f \Rightarrow Q' \\
 \square P \wedge \square[N]_f \wedge \square F \Rightarrow \diamond Enabled \langle A \rangle_f \\
 \hline
 \square[N]_f \wedge SF_f(A) \wedge \square F \Rightarrow (P \mapsto Q)
 \end{array}$$

- SF2.

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \langle N \wedge B \rangle_f \Rightarrow \langle \overline{M} \rangle_{\overline{g}} \\
 P \wedge P' \wedge \langle N \wedge A \rangle_f \Rightarrow B \\
 P \wedge \overline{Enabled \langle M \rangle_g} \Rightarrow Enabled \langle A \rangle_f \\
 \square[N \wedge \neg B]_f \wedge SF_f(A) \wedge \square F \\
 \wedge \square \diamond \overline{Enabled \langle M \rangle_g} \Rightarrow \diamond \square P \\
 \hline
 \square[N]_f \wedge SF_f(A) \wedge \square F \Rightarrow \overline{SF_g(M)}
 \end{array}$$