

Multi-objective Reasoning with Probabilistic Model Checking

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Probabilistic model checking

- Probabilistic model checking
 - formal construction/analysis of probabilistic models
 - "correctness" properties expressed in temporal logic
 - e.g. trigger \rightarrow P_{≥ 0.999} [F^{≤ 20} deploy]
 - mix of exhaustive & numerical/quantitative reasoning



- Trends and advances
 - increasingly expressive/powerful model classes
 - from verification problems to control problems
 - ever widening range of application domains



Overview

- Multi-objective probabilistic model checking
 - Markov decision processes (MDPs)
 - examples: robot navigation, task scheduling
- Multiple players: competition/collaboration
 - rPATL model checking and strategy synthesis
 - stochastic multi-player games (SMGs)
 - example: energy management
 - concurrent stochastic games (CSGs)
 - example: investor models
- Multiple players and multiple objectives
 - (social welfare) Nash equilibria
 - example: communication protocols

Verification vs. Strategy synthesis

- Markov decision processes (MDPs)
 - models nondeterministic (actions, strategies) and probabilistic behaviour
 - strategies: randomisation, memory, ...
- 1. Verification
 - quantify over all possible strategies (i.e. best/worst-case)
 - $P_{\leq 0.1}$ [F *err*]: "the probability of an error occurring is ≤ 0.1 for all strategies"
- 2. Strategy synthesis
 - generation of "correct-by-construction" controllers
 - $P_{\leq 0.1}$ [F *err*]: "does there exist a strategy for which the probability of an error occurring is ≤ 0.1 ?"



Strategy synthesis for MDPs

- Core property: probabilistic reachability
 - solvable with value iteration, policy iteration, linear programming, interval iteration, ...
- Wide range of useful extensions
 - expected costs/rewards
 - linear temporal logic (LTL)
 - multi-objective model checking
 - real-time (PTAs)
 - partial observability (POMDPs)

Applications

 dynamic power management, robot navigation, UUV mission planning, task scheduling









Multi-objective model checking

- Multi-objective probabilistic model checking
 - investigate trade-offs between conflicting objectives
 - in PRISM, objectives are probabilistic LTL or expected rewards
- Achievability queries: multi($P_{\geq 0.95}$ [F send], $R^{time}_{\geq 10}$ [C])
 - e.g. "is there a strategy such that the probability of message transmission is ≥ 0.95 and expected battery life ≥ 10 hrs?"
- Numerical queries: multi(P_{max=?} [F send], R^{time}_{≥10} [C])
 - e.g. "maximum probability of message transmission, assuming expected battery life-time is \geq 10 hrs?"

Pareto queries:

- multi(P_{max=?}[F send], R^{time}max=?[C])
- e.g. "Pareto curve for maximising probability of transmission and expected battery life-time"



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Multi-objective model checking

- PRISM implements two distinct approaches
- 1. Linear programming
 - solve dual problem to classical LP formulation
- 2. Value iteration based weighted sweep
 - approximate exploration/construction of Pareto curve
 - e.g. $P_{\geq r1}$ [...] $\land P_{\geq r2}$ [...] for $r=(r_1,r_2)=(0.2,0.7)$



method 2 extends to step-bounded objectives

Application: Robot navigation

- Robot navigation planning: [IROS'14,IJCAI'15,ICAPS'17,IJRR'19]
 - learnt MDP models navigation through uncertain environment
 - co-safe LTL used to formally specify tasks to be executed by robot
 - finite-memory strategy synthesis to construct plans/controllers
 - ROS module based on PRISM
 - 100s of hrs of autonomous deployment





G4S Technology, Tewkesbury (STRANDS)

Multi-objective: Partial satisfiability

- Partially satisfiable task specifications
 - e.g. $P_{max=?}$ [$\neg zone_3 U (room_1 \land (F room_4 \land F room_5)] < 1$
- Synthesise strategies that, in decreasing order of priority:
 - maximise the probability of finishing the task;
 - maximise progress towards completion, if this is not possible;
 - minimise the expected time (or cost) required
- Progress function constructed from DFA
 - (distance to accepting states, reward for decreasing distance)
- Encode prioritisation using multi-objective queries:
 - $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{P}_{max=?} [task]$
 - $r = multi(R_{max=?}^{prog} [C], P_{>=p} [task])$
 - multi($R_{min=?}^{time}$ [task], $P_{>=p}$ [task] $\land R_{>=r}^{prog}$ [C])
- Or alternatively, using nested value iteration

Multi-obj: Time-bounded guarantees

- Often need probabilistic time-bounded guarantees
 - e.g. "probability of completing tasks within 5 mins is >0.99"
 - but verification techniques for these are less efficient/scalable
 - and often needed in conjunction with secondary objectives
- Efficient generation of time-bounded guarantees [ICAPS'17]
 implemented in the PRISM model checker
- Key ideas:
 - optimize secondary goal wrt. guarantee
 - two phase verification: initial exploration of Pareto front on coarser untimed model
 - then generate guarantee from pruned model
 - significant gains in scalability



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Competitive/collaborative behaviour

Open systems

- multiple system components, not all under our control
- possibly with differing/opposing goals
- giving rise to competitive/collaborative behaviour
- Many occurrences in practice
 - e.g. security protocols, algorithms for distributed consensus, energy management or sensor network co-ordination
- Natural to adopt a game-theoretic view
 - here: stochastic multi-player games
 - key ingredients: temporal logic, probabilistic model checking, tool support (PRISM-games), case studies

Stochastic multi-player games

- Stochastic multi-player game (SMGs)
 - nondeterminism + probability + multiple players
 - for now: turn-based (players control states)
 - applications: e.g. security (system vs. attacker), controller synthesis (controller vs. environment)
- A (turn-based) SMG is a tuple (N, S, (S_i)_{i∈N}, A, δ, L) where:
 - N is a set of n players
 - S is a (finite) set of states
 - $-\langle S_i \rangle_{i \in N}$ is a partition of S
 - A is a set of action labels
 - $-\delta: S \times A \rightarrow Dist(S)$ is a (partial) transition probability function
 - $-L: S \rightarrow 2^{AP}$ is a labelling function



Strategies, probabilities & rewards

- Strategy for player i: resolves choices in S_i states
 - based on execution history, i.e. $\sigma_i : (SA)^*S_i \rightarrow Dist(A)$
 - can be: deterministic (pure), randomised, memoryless, finite-memory, ...
 - $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_i$ denotes the set of all strategies for player i
- Strategy profile: strategies for all players: $\sigma = (\sigma_1, ..., \sigma_n)$
 - induces a set of (infinite) paths from some start state $\ensuremath{\textbf{s}}$
 - a probability measure Pr_s^{σ} over these paths
 - expectation $E_s^{\sigma}(X)$ of random variable X over Pr_s^{σ}

Rewards (or costs)

- non-negative values assigned to states/transitions
- e.g. elapsed time, energy consumption, number of packets lost, net profit, ...

Property specification: rPATL

- rPATL (reward probabilistic alternating temporal logic)
 - branching-time temporal logic for SMGs
- CTL, extended with:
 - coalition operator $\langle\langle C \rangle\rangle$ of ATL
 - probabilistic operator P of PCTL
 - generalised (expected) reward operator R from PRISM
- In short:
 - zero-sum, probabilistic reachability + expected (total) reward
- Example:
 - $\langle \langle \{1,3\} \rangle \rangle P_{<0.01}$ [$F^{\le 10}$ error]
 - "players 1 and 3 have a strategy to ensure that the probability of an error occurring within 10 steps is less than 0.01, regardless of the strategies of other players"

rPATL syntax/semantics

• Syntax:

- $$\begin{split} \varphi &::= true \mid a \mid \neg \varphi \mid \varphi \land \varphi \mid \langle \langle C \rangle \rangle \mathsf{P}_{\bowtie q}[\psi] \mid \langle \langle C \rangle \rangle \mathsf{R}^{r}_{\bowtie x} \left[\rho \right] \\ \psi &::= X \varphi \mid \varphi \cup^{\leq k} \varphi \mid \varphi \cup \varphi \\ \rho &::= I^{=k} \mid C^{\leq k} \mid F \varphi \end{split}$$
- where:
 - a∈AP is an atomic proposition, C⊆N is a coalition of players, $\bowtie \in \{\leq, <, >, \geq\}, q \in [0,1] \cap \mathbb{Q}, x \in \mathbb{Q}_{\geq 0}, k \in \mathbb{N}$ r is a reward structure
- Semantics:
- e.g. P operator: $s \models \langle \langle C \rangle \rangle P_{\bowtie q}[\psi]$ iff:
 - "<u>there exist</u> strategies for players in coalition C such that, <u>for all</u> strategies of the other players, the probability of path formula ψ being true from state s satisfies $\bowtie q$ "

rPATL and beyond

- Generalised reward operators [TACAS'12, FMSD'13]
 - ⟨⟨C⟩⟩R^r_{⋈x} [F^{*}φ] where ^{*} ∈ {∞,c,0}
 - F⁰ is tricky: needs finite-memory strategies
- Quantitative (numerical) properties:
 - $\langle \langle \{1\} \rangle \rangle P_{max=?} [Ferror], i.e. sup_{\sigma_1 \in \Sigma_1} inf_{\sigma_2 \in \Sigma_2} Pr_s^{\sigma_1, \sigma_2} (Ferror)$
 - "what is the maximum probability of reaching an error state that player 1 can guarantee?" (against player 2)
- Nesting (and n>2 players)
 - players: sensor₁, sensor₂, repairer
 - $\langle \langle \text{sensor}_1 \rangle \rangle P_{<0.01} [F(\neg \langle \langle \text{repairer} \rangle \rangle P_{\ge 0.95} [F \text{ "operational" }])]$
- And more...
 - rPATL*, reward-bounded [FMSD], exact bounds [CONCUR'12]
 - multi-objective model checking [QEST'13,TACAS15,I&C'17] 20

rPATL model checking for SMGs

- Reduces to solving zero-sum stochastic 2-player games
 - complexity: NP \cap coNP (without any R[F⁰] operators)
 - complexity for full logic: NEXP \cap coNEXP (due to R[F⁰])
- In practice, we use value iteration (numerical fixed points)
 - and more: graph-algorithms, sequences of fixed points, ...
- E.g. probabilistic reachability: $\langle \langle C \rangle \rangle P_{\geq q} [F \varphi]$
 - compute $sup_{\sigma_1 \in \Sigma_1} inf_{\sigma_2 \in \Sigma_2} Pr_s^{\sigma_1, \sigma_2}$ (F φ) for all states s
 - deterministic memoryless strategies suffice
 - value p(s) for state s is least fixed point of:

$$p(s) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } s \in Sat(\varphi) \\ max_{a \in A(s)} \Sigma_{s' \in S} \delta(s, a)(s') \cdot p(s') & \text{if } s \in S_1 \setminus Sat(\varphi) \\ min_{a \in A(s)} \Sigma_{s' \in S} \delta(s, a)(s') \cdot p(s') & \text{if } s \in S_2 \setminus Sat(\varphi) \end{cases}$$

- convergence criteria need to be selected carefully

PRISM-games

- PRISM-games: www.prismmodelchecker.org/games
 - extension of PRISM modelling language (see later)
 - implementation in explicit engine
 - prototype MTBDD version also available



- Example application domains
 - security: attack-defence trees; DNS bandwidth amplification
 - self-adaptive software architectures
 - autonomous urban driving
 - human-in-the-loop UAV mission planning
 - collective decision making and team formation protocols
 - energy management protocols

Application: Energy management

- Energy management protocol for Microgrid
 - randomised demand management protocol
 - random back-off when demand is high
- Original analysis [Hildmann/Saffre'11]
 - protocol increases "value" for clients
 - simulation-based, clients are honest

Our analysis

- stochastic multi-player game model
- clients can cheat (and cooperate)
- model checking: PRISM-games
- exposes protocol weakness (incentive for clients to act selfishly
- propose/verify simple fix using penalties





Results: Competitive behaviour

- Expected total value V per household
 - in rPATL: $\langle \langle C \rangle \rangle R^{r_{C_{max=?}}} [F^{0} time=max time] / |C|$
 - where $\mathbf{r}_{\mathbf{C}}$ is combined rewards for coalition \mathbf{C}



Results: Competitive behaviour

- Algorithm fix: simple punishment mechanism
 - distribution manager can cancel some loads exceeding c_{lim}



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Concurrent stochastic games

Concurrent stochastic games (CSGs)

- players choose actions concurrently
- jointly determines (probabilistic) successor state
- generalises turn-based stochastic games
- Key motivation:
 - more realistic model of components operating concurrently, making action choices without knowledge of others

• Formally

- set of n players N, state space S, actions A_i for player i
- transition probability function δ : S×A → Dist(S)
- where $A = (A_1 \cup \{\bot\}) \times \ldots \times (A_n \cup \{\bot\})$
- strategies σ_i : FPath \rightarrow Dist(A_i), strategy profiles $\sigma = (\sigma_1, ..., \sigma_n)$
- probability measure Pr_s^{σ} , expectations $E_s^{\sigma}(X)$

Example CSG: rock-paper-scissors

Rock-paper-scissors game

- 2 players repeated draw rock (r), paper (p), scissors (s), then restart the game (t)
- rock > scissors, paper > rock, scissors > paper, otherwise draw

• Example CSG

- 2 players: N={1,2}
- $A_1 = A_2 = \{r, p, s, t\}$
- NB: no probabilities here



Matrix games

- Matrix games
 - finite, one-shot, 2-player, zero-sum games
 - utility function $u_i : A_1 \times A_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ for each player i
 - represented by matrix Z where $z_{ij} = u_1(a_i, b_j) = -u_2(a_i, b_j)$
- Optimal (player 1) strategy via LP solution (minimax):
 - compute value val(Z): maximise value v subject to:

$$\begin{array}{l} - \ v \leq x_{p} - x_{s} \\ v \leq x_{s} - x_{r,} \\ v \leq x_{s} - x_{p} \\ x_{r} + x_{p} + x_{s} = 1 \\ x_{r} \geq 0, \ x_{p} \geq 0, \ x_{s} \geq 0 \end{array}$$

Optimal strategy (randomised): $(x_r, x_p, x_s) = (\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3})$

rPATL for CSGs

- We use the same logic rPATL as for SMGs
- Examples for rock-paper-scissors game:
 - ((1)) P≥1 [F win1] player 1 can ensure it eventually wins a round of the game with probability 1
 - ((2)) P_{max=?} [¬win₁ U win₂] the maximum probability with which player 2 can ensure it wins before player 1
 - $\langle \langle 1 \rangle \rangle R_{max=?}^{utility_1} [C^{\leq 2K}]$ the maximum expected utility player 1 can ensure over K rounds (utility = 1/0/-1for win/draw/lose)



rPATL model checking for CSGs

- Extends model checking algorithm for SMGs [QEST'18]
 - key ingredients are solution of (zero-sum) 2-player CSGs
- E.g. $\langle \langle C \rangle \rangle P_{\geq q}$ [F φ] : max/min reachability probabilities
 - compute $\sup_{\sigma_1 \in \Sigma_1} \inf_{\sigma_2 \in \Sigma_2} Pr_s^{\sigma_1, \sigma_2}$ (F φ) for all states s
 - note that optimal strategies are now randomised
 - solution of the 2-player CSG is in PSPACE
 - we use a value iteration based approach
- Value **p(s)** for state **s** is least fixed point of:
 - p(s) = 1 if $s \in Sat(\varphi)$ and otherwise p(s) = val(Z) where:
 - Z is the matrix game with $z_{ij} = \Sigma_{s' \in S} \, \delta(s,(a_i,b_j))(s') \cdot p(s')$
 - so each iteration requires solution of a matrix game for each state (LP problem of size |A|, where A = action set)

CSGs in PRISM-games

- CSG model checking implemented in PRISM-games
- Extension of PRISM modelling language
 - player specification via partition of modules
 - unlike SMGs, all modules move simultaneously
 - concurrent updates modelled with multi-action commands, e.g. $[r1,r2] m1=0 \rightarrow ...$ and chained updates, e.g. (m2'=m1')

Explicit engine implementation

- plus LPsolve library for minimax LP solution
- experiments with CSGs up to ~3 million states

Case studies:

 future markets investor, trust models for user-centric networks, intrusion detection policies, jamming radio systems

CSGs in PRISM (rock-paper-scissors)

csg



[t1] (m1=1 & m2=2) | (m1=2 & m2=3) | (m1=3 & m2=1) : -1; // player 2 wins endrewards

Application: Future markets investor

- Model of interactions between:
 - stock market, evolves stochastically
 - two investors i_1 , i_2 decide when to invest
 - market decides whether to bar investors
- Modelled as a 3-player CSG



- investing/barring decisions are simultaneous
- profit reduced for simultaneous investments
- market cannot observe investors' decisions
- Analysed with rPATL model checking & strategy synthesis
 - distinct profit models considered: 'normal market', 'later cash-ins' and 'later cash-ins with fluctuation'
 - comparison between SMG and CSG models



Application: Future markets investor

- Example rPATL queries:
 - $\langle (investor_1) \rangle R_{max=?}^{profit_1}$ [F finished_1]
 - $\langle (investor_1, investor_2) \rangle R_{max=?}^{profit_{1,2}} [F finished_{1,2}]$
 - i.e. maximising individual/joint profit
- Results (joint profit) limited power of market shown
 - with (left) and without (right) fluctuations
 - optimal (randomised) investment strategies synthesised





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Multiple objectives: Nash equilibria

- Now consider distinct objectives X_i for each player i
 - i.e., no longer restricted to zero-sum goals
- We use Nash equilibria (NE)
 - no incentive for any player to unilaterally change strategy
 - more precisely subgame-perfect e-Nash equilibrium
 - a strategy profile $\sigma = (\sigma_{1,...}, \sigma_n)$ for a CSG is a subgame-perfect ϵ -Nash equilibrium for objectives $X_1, ..., X_n$ iff:
 - $E_s^{\sigma}(X_i) \geq sup \left\{ E_s^{\sigma'}(X_i) \mid \sigma' = \sigma_{-i}[\sigma_i'] \text{ and } \sigma_i' \in \Sigma_i \right\} \varepsilon \text{ for all } i, s$
 - ϵ -NE (but not 0-NE) guaranteed to exist for CSGs
- In particular: social welfare Nash equilibria (SWNE)
 - NE which maximise sum $E_s^{\sigma}(X_1) + \dots E_s^{\sigma}(X_n)$

Example

- CSG example: Medium access control protocol
 - 2 players (senders); states = $e_1s_1 \\ e_2s_2$

(energy₁/sent₁, energy₂/sent₂)

- actions = t (transmit), w (wait)
- q = probability of success if messages collide
- If objectives X_i = probability to send successfully:
 - 2 SWNEs when one user waits for the other to transmit and then transmits
- If the objectives X_i = probability of being *first* to transmit their packet:
 - only 1 SWNE: both immediately try to transmit



rPATL + Nash operator

• Extension of rPATL for Nash equilibria [FM'19]

$$\begin{split} \varphi &::= true \mid a \mid \neg \varphi \mid \varphi \land \varphi \mid \\ &\langle \langle C \rangle \rangle P_{\bowtie q}[\psi] \mid \langle \langle C \rangle \rangle R^{r}_{\bowtie x}[\rho] \mid \langle \langle C, C' \rangle \rangle_{max \bowtie x}[\theta] \\ \theta &::= P[\psi] + P[\psi] \mid R^{r}[\rho] + R^{r}[\rho] \\ \psi &::= X \varphi \mid \varphi \cup U^{\leq k} \varphi \mid \varphi \cup \varphi \\ \rho &::= I^{=k} \mid C^{\leq k} \mid F \varphi \end{split}$$

- where:
 - $a \in AP$ is an atomic proposition, $C \subseteq N$ is a coalition of players and $C'=N\setminus C, \bowtie \in \{\leq, <, >, \geq\}$, $q \in [0,1] \cap \mathbb{Q}$, $x \in \mathbb{Q}_{\geq 0}$, $k \in \mathbb{N}$ r is a reward structure
- Semantics:
 - $\langle \langle C, C' \rangle \rangle_{max \bowtie x}$ [θ] is satisfied if there exist strategies for all players that form a SWNE between coalitions C and C'(=N\C), and under which the *sum* of the two objectives in θ is $\bowtie x$

Model checking for extended rPATL

- Key ingredient is now:
 - solution of SWNEs for bimatrix games
 - (basic problem is EXPTIME)
 - we adapt known approach using labelled polytopes, and implement using an encoding to SMT
- Two types of model checking operator
 - bounded: backwards induction
 - unbounded: value iteration, e.g.:

$$\mathsf{V}_{\mathsf{G}^{C}}(s,\theta,n) = \begin{cases} (1,1) & \text{if } s \in Sat(\phi^{1}) \cap Sat(\phi^{2}) \\ (1,\mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{G},s}^{\max}(\mathsf{F} \ \phi^{2})) & \text{else if } s \in Sat(\phi^{1}) \\ (\mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{G},s}^{\max}(\mathsf{F} \ \phi^{1}),1) & \text{else if } s \in Sat(\phi^{2}) \\ (0,0) & \text{else if } n=0 \\ val(\mathsf{Z}_{1},\mathsf{Z}_{2}) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- where Z_1 and Z_2 encode matrix games similar to before 42

PRISM-games support

Implementation in PRISM-games

- needed further extensions to modelling language
- extends CSG rPATL model checking implementation
- bimatrix games solved using Z3 encoding
- optimised filtering of dominated strategies
- scales up to CSGs with ~2 million states



Applications

- robot navigation in a grid, medium access control, Aloha communication protocol, power control
- SWNE strategies outperform those found with rPATL
- $\varepsilon\text{-Nash}$ equilibria found typically have $\varepsilon\text{=}0$

Conclusions

- Probabilistic model checking: PRISM & PRISM-games
 - multi-objective techniques for MDPs
 - rPATL model checking for
 - stochastic multi-player games (SMGs)
 - concurrent stochastic games (CSGs)
 - CSGs + (social welfare) Nash equilibria
 - wide variety of case studies studied
- Challenges & directions
 - extending to >2 players
 - scalability, e.g. symbolic methods, abstraction
 - partial information/observability & greater efficiency
 - further applications and case studies