

# DETERMINABILITY & DETERMINISTIC SEPARABILITY of TIMED AUTOMATA

by Lorenzo Clemente, joint work with  
Sławek Lasota & Radek Piórkowski.

University of Warsaw (Poland)

# Summary

TITLE : Deterministic membership and separability problems for Timed automata.

- DTA one less expressive than NTA : last letter appeared 1 f.u. before. (Note it is unambiguous).

Intuition : need  $\infty$ -many clocks to recognise L deterministically.

L is 1-NTA recognisable : guess the second-last appearance of the last letter next the clock and measure 1 f.u.

- Deterministic membership is undecidable for  $K \geq 2$  clocks. Decidable for  $K=1$

- Future directions : UTA membership & separability problems.

clocks

- Open problem : DTA Separability (holerow games are undecidable). (LQO techniques)

- Open problem : is there a NTA & coNTA language which is not DTA?

Not true for 1-NTA : 1-NTA  $\&$  1-coNTA  $\Rightarrow$  DTA.

# DETERMINISTIC TA LESS EXPRESSIVE

$L = \text{"last letter occurred 1 t.u. earlier"}$ , over  $\Sigma = \{a\}$



- NTA for  $L$  with 1-clock:

guess the second-last occurrence and measure 1 t.u.

- No DTA for  $L$ : deterministically  $\infty$ -many clocks are required to store unboundedly many timestamps.

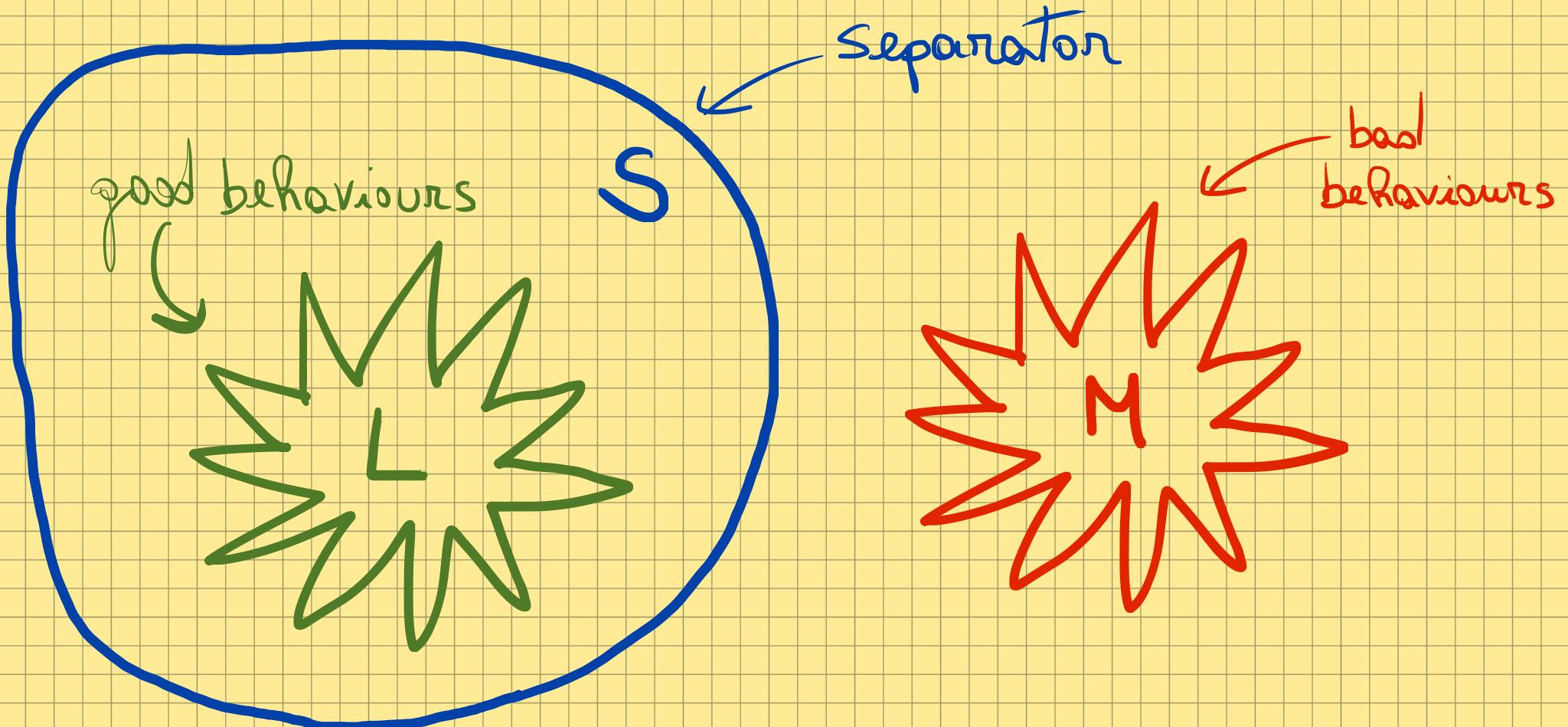
→ any DTA with  $k$  clocks can be "fooled" since some important timestamp must be forgotten.

# DETERMINISABILITY

OUTPUT INPUT	DTA $K$ clocks $\text{constants} \leq M$	DTA $K$ clocks	DTA
NTA $> 2$ clocks	UNDECIDABLE <sup>(1)</sup>	UNDECIDABLE <sup>(1)</sup>	UNDECIDABLE <sup>(1)</sup>
NTA 1 clock $\epsilon$ -transitions	UNDECIDABLE <sup>(1)</sup>	UNDECIDABLE <sup>(1)</sup>	UNDECIDABLE <sup>(1)</sup>

(1) [Finkel '06], [Tripathi '06]

# DETERMINISTIC SEPARABILITY



$L, M$  are **complex** : NTA.  $S$  is **simple** : DTA .

# WHY SEPARABILITY?

- Simple explanation of disjointness.
  - Disjointness undecidable, but separability decidable.
    - Example : CFL and piecewise-testable separability.
- Generalisation of learning from positive & negative examples.
- Approximate determinability with guarantees.
  - Determinability undecidable, but det. sep. decidable.
    - Example : This work!
- Deeper understanding of nondeterminism vs. determinism.

checkable !

[

]

# RECENT WORKS on SEPARABILITY

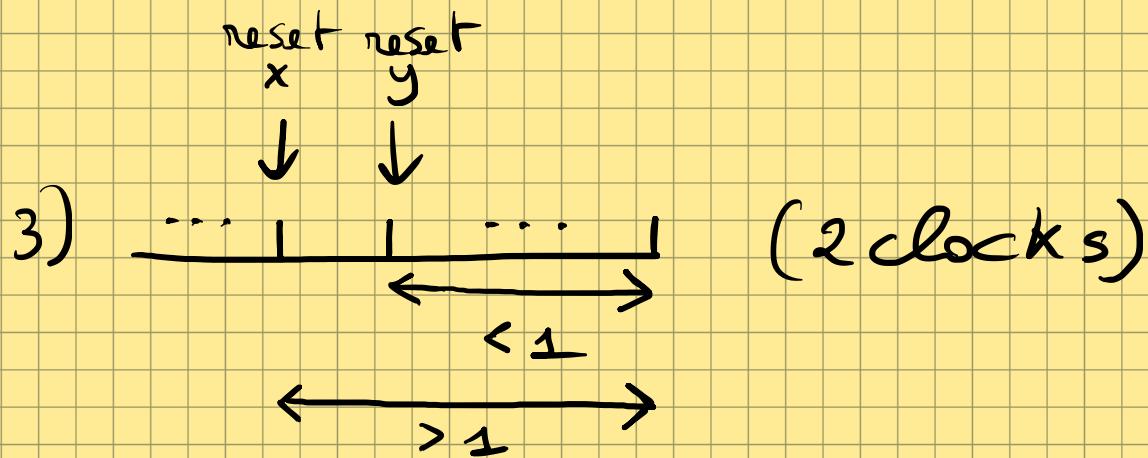
# DETERMINISTIC SEPARABILITY NONTRIVIAL

$L$  = "last letter occurred 1 t.u. earlier" (1-clock NTA).

$M$  = complement of  $L$  (2-clock NTA).

$w \in M$  iff either: 1)  $|w| = 1$ , or

2)  $w$  elapses  $< 1$  time unit, or

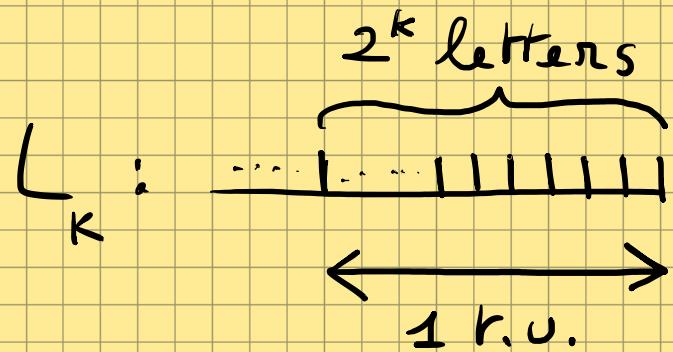


$\rightarrow L, M$  not DTA Separable.

$\rightarrow$  2 clocks necessary: 1-NTA  $\cap$  1-CONTA = DTA (unpublished).

$\rightarrow$  Stronger Conjecture: disjoint 1-NTAs always DTA-separable.

# SEPARATOR NEEDS MANY CLOCKS



NTA with  $2K+2$  clocks :

1 clock for measuring 1 t.u. (as before).

1 clock for strict monotonicity.

K clocks for counting  $2^k$  letters in binary.

$M_k$  = complement of  $L_k$ , also NTA with  $2K+2$  clocks.

A DTA for  $L_k$  needs  $2^K$  clocks.

# RESULTS ON DETERMINISTIC SEPARABILITY

SEPARATOR	DTA K clocks constants $\leq M$	DTA K clocks	DTA
INPUT			
NTA with $\epsilon$ -transitions	DECIDABLE	DECIDABLE	?

# RESULTS ON DETERMINISTIC SEPARABILITY

SEPARATOR INPUT	DTA K clocks constants $\leq M$	DTA K clocks	DTA
NTA with $\epsilon$ -transitions	DECIDABLE	DECIDABLE	?
Synthesis of a finite-memory winning strategy with ...	DECIDABLE	DECIDABLE	UNDECIDABLE
	K clocks constants $\leq M$	K clocks	arbitrary

ZO-RCOMP ↓      ZO-RCOMP ↓      ZO-RCOMP ↓

# SOLVING DETERMINISTIC SEPARABILITY

IDEA :

DETERMINISTIC  
SEPARABILITY

reduces to

TIMED  
GAMES

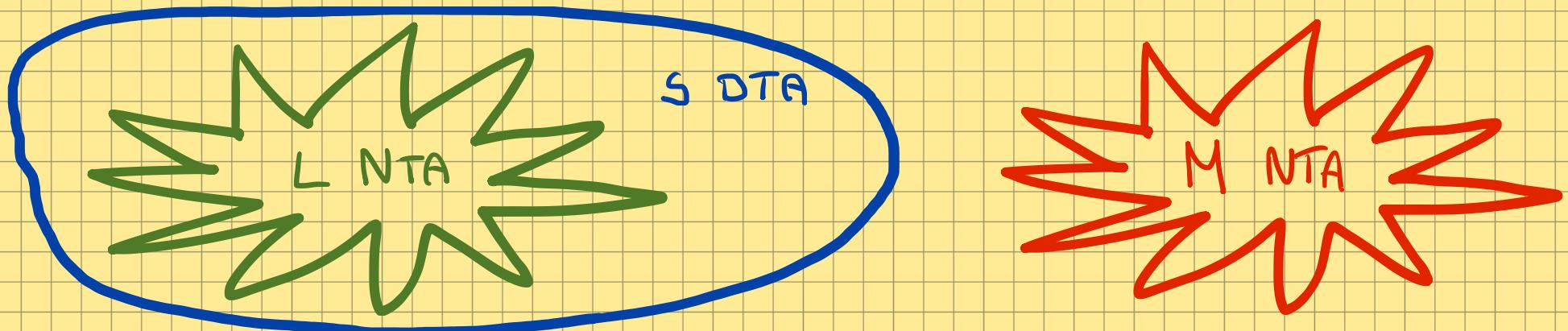
CORRECTNESS:

DETERMINISTIC  
SEPARATORS with  
 $k$  clocks,  
constants  $\leq M$

bijection

FINITE-MEMORY  
WINNING STRATEGIES  
 $k$  clocks,  
constants  $\leq M$

# DETERMINISTIC SEPARABILITY GAME



INPUT :  $(a, 0.2) \quad (b, 1) \dots = w$       Timed actions

SEPARATOR : reject      accept      ...      instantaneous untimed response

Winning condition :  
for INPUT :  
1) prefix of  $w \in L$  & SEPARATOR rejects, or  
2) prefix of  $w \in M$  & SEPARATOR accepts.

NTA language over  $\{a, b\} \times \{\text{accept}, \text{reject}\}$

## **NOVELTY: CONSTANT SYNTHESIS**

# TIMED BÜCHI-LANDWEBER GAMES

Winning condition			
$\beta_1$ INPUT	DECIDABLE	DECIDABLE	?
$\beta_2$ OUTPUT			







# DETERMINISABILITY

(1) [Finkbe '06], [Tripakis'06]

	OUTPUT DTA $K$ clocks constants $\leq M$	DTA $K$ clocks	DTA
INPUT NTA $> 2$ clocks	UNDECIDABLE <sup>(1)</sup>	UNDECIDABLE <sup>(1)</sup>	UNDECIDABLE <sup>(1)</sup>
NTA 1 clock $\epsilon$ -transitions	UNDECIDABLE <sup>(1)</sup>	UNDECIDABLE <sup>(1)</sup>	UNDECIDABLE <sup>(1)</sup>
NTA 1 clock no $\epsilon$ -tr.	DECIDABLE	DECIDABLE	UNDECIDABLE

## CONCLUSIONS

- Similar results for register automata over tractable data domains such as  $(A, =)$ ,  $(\mathbb{Q}, \leq)$ , ...

- Open problem: given  $L, M$  NTA s.t.  $M \models L^c$ .  
decide whether  $L$  is DTA? (promise problem)

























