

This reply is for the reviewer 1.

In the following, we refer to transition-based limit-deterministic generalized Büchi automaton as tLDGBA and non-generalized one as tLDBA.

1. About the correctness of Theorem 1 and the connection between RL-based synthesis and Theoretical results.

For an MDP M , the augmented tLDBA \bar{B}_φ corresponding to an LTL formula φ , and the product MDP M^\otimes of M and \bar{B}_φ , we see an optimal policy as an positional policy on the product M^\otimes . Then, we define a reward function based on the acceptance condition of \bar{B}_φ . Therefore, in the counterexample of the reviewer 1, the optimal policy and the reward function should be considered as one on the product M^\otimes and be designed based on the corresponding acceptance condition, respectively.

An positional policy on M^\otimes corresponds to an finite memory policy, thus the our example is meaningful as an example that shows we may not obtain any policy satisfying the given LTL formula if we use the corresponding limit-deterministic generalized Büchi automaton without the proper augmentation.

2. The reason we use LDBA.

The reason we use LDBA is explained in [1]. It is known that deterministic Rabin automata (DRA) and non-deterministic Büchi automata (NBA) can recognize all of the ω -regular language. However, there is an example of an MDP M and an LTL formula φ with Rabin index 2, such that, although there is an policy satisfying φ with probability 1, optimal policy obtained from any reward corresponding to the acceptance condition do not satisfy the LTL formula. Further, LDBAs are as expressive as general NBAs. However, in a LDBA (non-generalized), the order of visiting accepting sets is fixed. Therefore, the reward based on the acceptance condition tends to be sparse.

3. Notion of the omega in the exponent etc.

The omega in the exponent means the infinite connection, namely Σ^ω means $\Sigma\Sigma\dots$ and $S(\Sigma S)^\omega$ means $S\Sigma S\Sigma S\dots$. The scalar bounded reward means the reward $r_p \in [0, \infty)$. s_{init} is the initial state.

4. why we employ the notion of a formula being satisfied as the non-zero probability.

The reason we employ the notion of a formula being satisfied as the non-zero probability is to more generally evaluate an obtained policy. Underlying the notion, the goal is to obtain a policy maximizing the probability of satisfaction efficiently.

5. Contributions in our paper.

We propose an augmented tLDGBA. Consequently, our contributions are as follows.

- The sparsity of rewards is relaxed compared to the case of using LDBAs. Therefore, our proposed algorithm is more sample efficient.
- For a product MDP M^\otimes of an MDP M and an augmented tLDGBA \bar{B}_φ corresponding to a given LTL formula and a reward function based on the acceptance condition of M^\otimes , if there exists a finite-memory policy on the MDP M , we then obtain a positional policy satisfying φ on M^\otimes by a reinforcement learning algorithm maximizing the expected discounted reward.

References

- [1] E. M. Hahn, M. Perez, S. Schewe, F. Somenzi, A. Triverdi, and D. Wojtczak, “Omega-regular objective in model-free reinforcement learning,” *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, no. 11427, pp. 395–412, 2019.