

# Concurrency Theory

Winter 2025/26

Lecture 13: Timed Modelling

Thomas Noll, Peter Thiemann  
Programming Languages Group  
University of Freiburg

<https://proglang.github.io/teaching/25ws/ct.html>

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# Outline of Lecture 13

- 1 Real-Time Reactive Systems
- 2 CCS with Time Delays
- 3 Syntax of Timed CCS
- 4 Semantics of Timed CCS
- 5 Handling Parallel Composition

# So far: “Qualitative” Modelling

- Algebraic language (CCS) for syntactic description of concurrent systems
- Meaning given by LTSs that define dynamic behaviour of process terms
- Structural operational semantics for mapping CCS processes to LTSs
- Modal logics (HML) to specify desired system properties
- Notions of behavioural equivalence (trace equivalence, bisimilarity) for comparing process behaviours
- Later: Petri Nets as model of true concurrency with partial-order semantics

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  - Notions of behavioural equivalence (trace equivalence, bisimilarity) for comparing process behaviours
  - Later: Petri Nets as model of true concurrency with partial-order semantics
- ⇒ Very abstract (if any) notion of time:  
logical order of computation steps (causality)

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- Plant controls
- Mobile phones
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The correct behaviour of a real-time system does not only depend on the **logical order** in which events are performed but also on their **timing**.

## Example 13.2 (Untimed vs. timed)

- Untimed: "If the car crashes, eventually the airbag will be inflated."
- Timed: "If the car crashes, the airbag must be inflated within 50 milliseconds."

# Theory of Real-Time Systems

Extensive research work on **formal methods for real-time systems**:

- **Modelling**

- extensions of CCS: Timed CCS (Yi 1990), Temporal Process Algebra (Hennessy/Regan 1995), Temporal CCS (Moller/Tofte 1990)
- extensions of other untimed process algebras (ACP, CSP)
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- HML with time (Laroussinie et al. 1990)
- extensions of LTL: Timed Propositional Temporal Logic (TPTL; Alur/Henzinger 1994), Metric Temporal Logic (MTL; Koymans 1990)
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- abstraction of timed automata via regions and zones

- **Here: Syntax and semantics of Timed CCS (TCCS)**

- Wang Yi: *Real-time behaviour of asynchronous agents*, CONCUR 1990

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## Example 13.3 (Light switch)

- (1) If the switch is off, and is pressed once, then the light will turn on.
- (2) If the switch is pressed again “soon” after the light was turned on, the light becomes brighter. Otherwise, the light is turned off by the next button press.
- (3) The light is also turned off by a button press when it is bright.

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  - in CCS:  $\text{Light} = \text{press}.\text{Bright} + \tau.\text{press}.\text{Off}$
  - but: does not properly capture the “soon” requirement
  - rather: system may internally choose to switch off light after next button press  
(after “timeout” action  $\tau$ )
- (3) The light is also turned off by a button press when it is bright.
  - in CCS:  $\text{Bright} = \text{press}.\text{Off}$

## Modelling with time delays

$$\text{Light} = \text{press.Bright} + \varepsilon(1.5).\tau.\text{press.Off}$$

- Passage of time viewed as “action” performed by system.
- Specified by new prefixing operator  $\varepsilon(d).P$  where  $d \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  gives amount of time that needs to elapse before process  $P$  is enabled.
- Thus: “soon” interpreted as “within 1.5 time units.”
- Use of  $\tau$  is crucial here: must be performed when enabled (details later).

# Timed Labelled Transition Systems I

The semantic model for our timed extension of CCS is provided by the following concept:

## Definition 13.4 (Timed labelled transition system)

A **timed labelled transition system (TLTS)** is a triple  $(S, Lab, \longrightarrow)$  consisting of

- a set  $S$  of **states**,
- a set  $Lab = Act \cup \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  of **labels**
  - actions  $\alpha \in Act$
  - time delays  $d \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ , and
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Additional requirements:

- **Time additivity**: if  $s \xrightarrow{d} s'$  and  $0 \leq d' \leq d$ , then  $s \xrightarrow{d'} s'' \xrightarrow{d-d'} s'$  for some  $s'' \in S$ .
- **Self-reachability without delay**:  $s \xrightarrow{0} s$  for each  $s \in S$ .
- **Time determinism**: if  $s \xrightarrow{d} s'$  and  $s \xrightarrow{d} s''$ , then  $s' = s''$ .

## Example 13.5 (Timed labelled transition system)

$(S, Lab, \longrightarrow)$  where

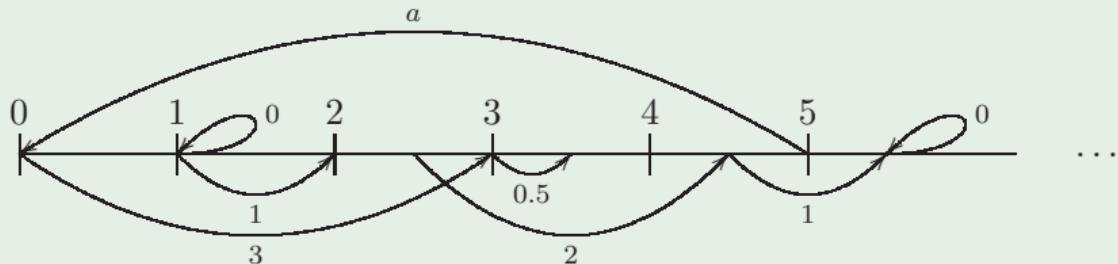
- $S = \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$
- $Lab = \{a\} \cup \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$
- $\xrightarrow{a} = \{(5, 0)\}$
- for all  $d \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ :  $\xrightarrow{d} = \{(s, s + d) \mid s \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}\}$

# Timed Labelled Transition Systems II

## Example 13.5 (Timed labelled transition system)

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- Let  $Pid$  be a set of **process identifiers**.
- The set  $Prc^*$  of **timed process expressions** is defined by the following syntax:

$P ::=$	nil	(inaction)
	$\alpha.P$	(prefixing)
	$\varepsilon(d).P$	(time delay)
	$P_1 + P_2$	(choice)
	$P_1 \parallel P_2$	(parallel composition)
	$P \setminus L$	(restriction)
	$P[f]$	(relabelling)
	$C$	(process call)

where  $\alpha \in Act$ ,  $d \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ ,  $\emptyset \neq L \subseteq A$ ,  $C \in Pid$ , and  $f : Act \rightarrow Act$  such that  $f(\tau) = \tau$  and  $f(\bar{a}) = \overline{f(a)}$  for each  $a \in A$ .

## Definition 13.6 (continued)

- A (recursive) timed process definition is an equation system of the form

$$(C_i = P_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq k)$$

where  $k \geq 1$ ,  $C_i \in Pid$  (pairwise distinct), and  $P_i \in Prc^*$  (with identifiers from  $\{C_1, \dots, C_k\}$ ).

- An occurrence of a process identifier  $C \in Pid$  in an expression  $P \in Prc^*$  is **guarded** if it occurs within a subexpression of  $P$  of the form  $\lambda.Q$  where  $\lambda \in Act$  or  $\lambda = \varepsilon(d)$  for some  $d > 0$ .
- A process expression/definition is **guarded** if all occurrences of process identifiers are guarded.

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## Conventions:

- Processes  $P$  and  $\varepsilon(0).P$  will not be distinguished.
- All process definitions have to be guarded, which avoids some semantic intricacies (for instance, the “self-reachability without delay” property of Definition 13.4 would otherwise not hold for TLTSSs derived from TCCS processes).

## Example 13.7

(1) For  $P = (a.C_1 + (C_2 \parallel b.C_3) + C_1) \parallel (\varepsilon(4.2).(C_4 \parallel \text{nil}) + \varepsilon(1.2).C_3) \in Prc^*$ :

- First occurrence of  $C_1$  is guarded, second unguarded.
- Occurrence of  $C_2$  is unguarded.
- Both occurrences of  $C_3$  are guarded.
- Occurrence of  $C_4$  is guarded.
- Overall expression is unguarded.

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(2) The process definition

$$Off = \text{press}.Light$$

$$Light = \text{press}.Bright + \varepsilon(1.5).\tau.\text{press}.Off$$

$$Bright = \text{press}.Off$$

is guarded.

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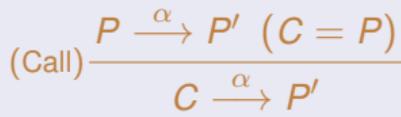
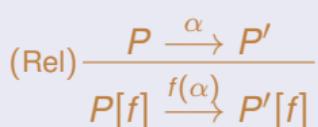
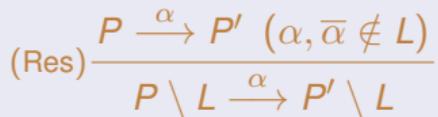
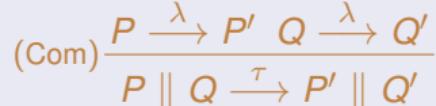
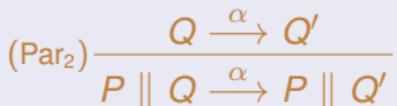
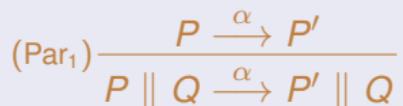
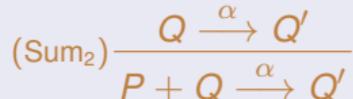
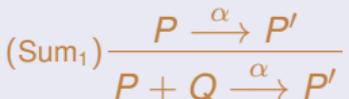
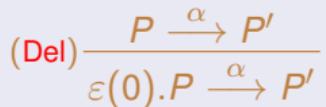
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# Semantics of Timed CCS

## Definition 13.8 (Semantics of TCCS – action transitions; cf. Definition 2.4)

A guarded process definition  $(C_i = P_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq k)$  determines the TLTS  $(Prc^*, Lab, \rightarrow)$  whose transitions can be inferred from the following rules ( $P, P', Q, Q' \in Prc^*$ ,  $\alpha \in Act$ ,  $\lambda \in A \cup \bar{A}$ ):



# Semantics of Timed CCS II

## Definition 13.8 (Semantics of TCCS – timed transitions)

Additionally for  $d, d' \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ :

$$(tAdd) \frac{P \xrightarrow{d'} P'}{\varepsilon(d).P \xrightarrow{d+d'} P'}$$

$$(tTau) \frac{}{\tau.P \xrightarrow{0} \tau.P}$$

$$(tRel) \frac{P \xrightarrow{d} P'}{P[f] \xrightarrow{d} P'[f]}$$

$$(tSub) \frac{(d' \leq d)}{\varepsilon(d).P \xrightarrow{d'} \varepsilon(d-d').P}$$

$$(tSum) \frac{P \xrightarrow{d} P' \quad Q \xrightarrow{d} Q'}{P + Q \xrightarrow{d} P' + Q'}$$

$$(tCall) \frac{P \xrightarrow{d} P' \quad (C = P)}{C \xrightarrow{d} P'}$$

$$(tAct) \frac{(\alpha \neq \tau)}{\alpha.P \xrightarrow{d} \alpha.P}$$

$$(tRes) \frac{P \xrightarrow{d} P'}{P \setminus L \xrightarrow{d} P' \setminus L}$$

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### Remarks:

- Delay transitions do *not* resolve non-deterministic choices (Rule (tSum))  
(according to time-determinism property of Definition 13.4).
- Rules (tAct) and (tTau) ensure that  $\tau$  cannot be delayed if enabled.
- Parallel composition will be considered later.

## Example 13.9 (Light switch)

*Off = press.Light*

*Light = press.Bright + ε(1.5).τ.press.Off*

*Bright = press.Off*

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(1)  $Light \xrightarrow{\text{press}} Bright$  ((Call), (Sum<sub>1</sub>), (Act))

(2) For  $0 \leq d \leq 1.5$ :

$Light \xrightarrow{d} \text{press}.Bright + \varepsilon(1.5 - d).\tau.\text{press}.Off$  ((Call), (tSum), (tAct), (tSub))

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(3) Especially for  $d = 1.5$  (and all  $d' \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ ):

$$\text{Light} \xrightarrow{1.5} \text{press}. \text{Bright} + \varepsilon(0). \tau. \text{press}. \text{Off} \quad (*) \quad ((\text{Call}), (\text{tSum}), (\text{tAct}), (\text{tSub}))$$

$$\xrightarrow{\tau} \text{press}. \text{Off} \quad ((\text{Sum}_2), (\text{Del}), (\text{Act}))$$

$$\xrightarrow{d'} \text{press}. \text{Off} \quad ((\text{tAct}))$$

$$\xrightarrow{\text{press}} \text{Off} \quad ((\text{Act}))$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \text{Light} &\xrightarrow{1.5} \text{press}. \text{Bright} + \varepsilon(0). \tau. \text{press}. \text{Off} \quad (*) \quad ((\text{Call}), (\text{tSum}), (\text{tAct}), (\text{tSub})) \\ &\xrightarrow{\tau} \text{press}. \text{Off} \quad ((\text{Sum}_2), (\text{Del}), (\text{Act})) \\ &\xrightarrow{d'} \text{press}. \text{Off} \quad ((\text{tAct})) \\ &\xrightarrow{\text{press}} \text{Off} \quad ((\text{Act})) \end{aligned}$$

(4) Moreover in (\*):  $\text{press}. \text{Bright} + \varepsilon(0). \tau. \text{press}. \text{Off} \not\xrightarrow{d}$  (for any  $d > 0$ )

$\Rightarrow$  First alternative only enabled up to time point 1.5.

# Properties of the Semantics

Lemma 13.10 (cf. Definition 13.4)

- (1) *Time additivity:* if  $P \xrightarrow{d} P'$  and  $0 \leq d' \leq d$ , then  $P \xrightarrow{d'} P'' \xrightarrow{d-d'} P'$  for some  $P'' \in \text{Prc}^*$ .
- (2) *Self-reachability without delay:*  $P \xrightarrow{0} P$  for each  $P \in \text{Prc}^*$ .
- (3) *Time determinism:* if  $P \xrightarrow{d} P'$  and  $P \xrightarrow{d} P''$ , then  $P' = P''$ .
- (4) *Persistency of action transitions:* for all  $P, Q \in \text{Prc}^*$ ,  $\alpha \in \text{Act}$  and  $d \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ , if  $P \xrightarrow{\alpha}$  and  $P \xrightarrow{d} Q$ , then  $Q \xrightarrow{\alpha}$ .

(1)–(3) implies that the semantics of a TCCS process is indeed a TLTS (Def. 13.4).

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- (2) *Self-reachability without delay:*  $P \xrightarrow{0} P$  for each  $P \in \text{Prc}^*$ .
- (3) *Time determinism:* if  $P \xrightarrow{d} P'$  and  $P \xrightarrow{d} P''$ , then  $P' = P''$ .
- (4) *Persistency of action transitions:* for all  $P, Q \in \text{Prc}^*$ ,  $\alpha \in \text{Act}$  and  $d \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ , if  $P \xrightarrow{\alpha}$  and  $P \xrightarrow{d} Q$ , then  $Q \xrightarrow{\alpha}$ .

(1)–(3) implies that the semantics of a TCCS process is indeed a TLTS (Def. 13.4).

Proof.

$$\begin{array}{c} (\text{tAdd}) \frac{P \xrightarrow{d'} P'}{\varepsilon(d).P \xrightarrow{d+d'} P'} \quad (\text{tSub}) \frac{(d' \leq d)}{\varepsilon(d).P \xrightarrow{d'} \varepsilon(d-d').P} \quad (\text{tAct}) \frac{(\alpha \neq \tau)}{\alpha.P \xrightarrow{d} \alpha.P} \quad (\text{tTau}) \frac{}{\tau.P \xrightarrow{0} \tau.P} \quad (\text{tSum}) \frac{P \xrightarrow{d} P' \quad Q \xrightarrow{d} Q'}{P + Q \xrightarrow{d} P' + Q'} \end{array}$$

By induction on derivation tree. Essential rules:

- (1) (tAdd) and (tSub)
- (2) (tSub), (tAct) and (tTau) (note that every  $P$  is guarded)
- (3) (tSum) (and later (tPar) in Definition 13.12)
- (4) all



# Outline of Lecture 13

- 1 Real-Time Reactive Systems
- 2 CCS with Time Delays
- 3 Syntax of Timed CCS
- 4 Semantics of Timed CCS
- 5 Handling Parallel Composition

# The Light Switch Example Revisited

## Example 13.11 (cf. Example 13.9)

*Off = press.Light*

*Light = press.Bright + ε(1.5).τ.press.Off*

*Bright = press.Off*

*FastUser = press.ε(0.3).press.nil*

# The Light Switch Example Revisited

## Example 13.11 (cf. Example 13.9)

$Off = \text{press}.Light$

$Light = \text{press}.Bright + \varepsilon(1.5).\tau.\text{press}.Off$

$Bright = \text{press}.Off$

$FastUser = \overline{\text{press}}.\varepsilon(0.3).\overline{\text{press}}.\text{nil}$

- Expect immediate synchronisation between  $FastUser$  and  $Off$ :

$$(FastUser \parallel Off) \setminus \text{press} \xrightarrow{\tau} (\varepsilon(0.3).\overline{\text{press}}.\text{nil} \parallel Light) \setminus \text{press}$$

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- Now  $\overline{\text{press}}$ -transition only enabled after 0.3 time units – also a possible delay for  $Light$ :

$$Light \xrightarrow{0.3} \text{press}.Bright + \varepsilon(1.2).\tau.\text{press}.Off$$

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- Now  $\text{press}$ -transition only enabled after 0.3 time units – also a possible delay for  $Light$ :

$$Light \xrightarrow{0.3} \text{press}.Bright + \varepsilon(1.2).\tau.\text{press}.Off$$

- Therefore expected that whole system can delay:

$$(\varepsilon(0.3).\overline{\text{press}}.\text{nil} \parallel Light) \setminus \text{press}$$

$$\xrightarrow{0.3} (\overline{\text{press}}.\text{nil} \parallel (\text{press}.Bright + \varepsilon(1.2).\tau.\text{press}.Off)) \setminus \text{press}$$

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## Example 13.11 (cf. Example 13.9)

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- Now  $\overline{\text{press}}$ -transition only enabled after 0.3 time units – also a possible delay for  $Light$ :

$$Light \xrightarrow{0.3} \text{press.Bright} + \varepsilon(1.2).\tau.\text{press.Off}$$

- Therefore expected that whole system can delay:

$$(\varepsilon(0.3).\overline{\text{press}}.\text{nil} \parallel Light) \setminus \text{press}$$

$$\xrightarrow{0.3} (\overline{\text{press}}.\text{nil} \parallel (\text{press.Bright} + \varepsilon(1.2).\tau.\text{press.Off})) \setminus \text{press}$$

- Now another synchronisation should be possible:

$$\begin{aligned} & (\overline{\text{press}}.\text{nil} \parallel (\text{press.Bright} + \varepsilon(1.2).\tau.\text{press.Off})) \setminus \text{press} \quad (*) \\ & \xrightarrow{\tau} (\text{nil} \parallel Bright) \setminus \text{press} \end{aligned}$$

# The Light Switch Example Revisited

## Example 13.11 (cf. Example 13.9)

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$$Light = press.Bright + \varepsilon(1.5).\tau.press.Off$$

$$Bright = press.Off$$

$$FastUser = \overline{press}.\varepsilon(0.3).\overline{press}.nil$$

- Therefore expected that whole system can delay:

$$(\varepsilon(0.3).\overline{press}.nil \parallel Light) \setminus press$$

$$\xrightarrow{0.3} (\overline{press}.nil \parallel (press.Bright + \varepsilon(1.2).\tau.press.Off)) \setminus press$$

- Now another synchronisation should be possible:

$$(\overline{press}.nil \parallel (press.Bright + \varepsilon(1.2).\tau.press.Off)) \setminus press \quad (*)$$

$$\xrightarrow{\tau} (nil \parallel Bright) \setminus press$$

- But: both parallel components of (\*) can **delay for 1.2 time units**, giving rise to

$$(*) \xrightarrow{1.2} \xrightarrow{\tau} \xrightarrow{\tau} (nil \parallel Off) \setminus press$$

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$Bright = \text{press}.Off$

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- Now another synchronisation should be possible:

$$\begin{aligned} & (\overline{\text{press}}.\text{nil} \parallel (\text{press}.Bright + \varepsilon(1.2).\tau.\text{press}.Off)) \setminus \text{press} \quad (*) \\ & \xrightarrow{\tau} (\text{nil} \parallel Bright) \setminus \text{press} \end{aligned}$$

- But: both parallel components of (\*) can **delay for 1.2 time units**, giving rise to

$$(*) \xrightarrow{1.2} \xrightarrow{\tau} \xrightarrow{\tau} (\text{nil} \parallel Off) \setminus \text{press}$$

- How to enforce that **intended synchronisation occurs immediately?**

# The Maximal-Progress Assumption

## Maximal-progress assumption

If a process is ready to perform an action that is **entirely under its control**, then it will immediately do so **without further delay**.

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If a process is ready to perform an action that is **entirely under its control**, then it will immediately do so **without further delay**.

In the setting of timed CCS, the only action that is entirely under the control of a process is the  $\tau$ -action. Therefore:

## Maximal-progress assumption for Timed CCS

For each TCCS process  $P \in Prc^*$ , if  $P \xrightarrow{\tau}$  then  $P \not\xrightarrow{d}$  for any  $d > 0$ .

# Operational Semantics with Maximal Progress

## Definition 13.12 (Semantics of TCCS – timed parallel transitions)

Additionally for  $P, P', Q, Q' \in Prc^*$  and  $d \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ :

$$(tPar) \frac{P \xrightarrow{d} P' \quad Q \xrightarrow{d} Q' \quad NoSync(P, Q, d)}{P \parallel Q \xrightarrow{d} P' \parallel Q'}$$

where predicate  $NoSync(P, Q, d)$  expresses that no synchronisation between  $P$  and  $Q$  becomes enabled by delaying less than  $d$  time units:

For each  $0 \leq d' < d$  and  $P', Q' \in Prc^*$ ,  
if  $P \xrightarrow{d'} P'$  and  $Q \xrightarrow{d'} Q'$ , then  $P' \parallel Q' \not\xrightarrow{\tau}$ .

# Operational Semantics with Maximal Progress

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## Example 13.13 (cf. Example 13.11)

- (1)  $(\varepsilon(0.3).\overline{press}.nil \parallel Light) \setminus press \not\xrightarrow{d}$  for any  $d > 0.3$ .

# Operational Semantics with Maximal Progress

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## Example 13.13 (cf. Example 13.11)

- (1)  $(\varepsilon(0.3).\overline{press}.nil \parallel Light) \setminus press \not\xrightarrow{d}$  for any  $d > 0.3$ .
- (2)  $(\overline{press}.nil \parallel (press.Bright + \varepsilon(1.2).\tau.press.Off)) \setminus press \not\xrightarrow{d}$  for any  $d > 0$ .

# Modelling a Slow User

## Example 13.14 (cf. Example 13.11)

*Off = press.Light*

*Light = press.Bright + ε(1.5).τ.press.Off*

*Bright = press.Off*

*SlowUser = press.ε(1.7).press.nil*

# Modelling a Slow User

## Example 13.14 (cf. Example 13.11)

$$Off = press.Light$$

$$Light = press.Bright + \varepsilon(1.5).\tau.press.Off$$

$$Bright = press.Off$$

$$SlowUser = \overline{press}.\varepsilon(1.7).\overline{press}.nil$$

- As before:

$$(SlowUser \parallel Off) \setminus press \xrightarrow{\tau} (\varepsilon(1.7).\overline{press}.nil \parallel Light) \setminus press$$

# Modelling a Slow User

## Example 13.14 (cf. Example 13.11)

$$Off = \text{press}.Light$$

$$Light = \text{press}.Bright + \varepsilon(1.5).\tau.\text{press}.Off$$

$$Bright = \text{press}.Off$$

$$SlowUser = \overline{\text{press}}.\varepsilon(1.7).\overline{\text{press}}.\text{nil}$$

- As before:

$$(\text{SlowUser} \parallel Off) \setminus \text{press} \xrightarrow{\tau} (\varepsilon(1.7).\overline{\text{press}}.\text{nil} \parallel Light) \setminus \text{press}$$

- Now  $\overline{\text{press}}$ -transition only enabled after 1.7 time units, but  $Light$  can only delay for at most 1.5 units:

$$\begin{aligned} & (\varepsilon(1.7).\overline{\text{press}}.\text{nil} \parallel Light) \setminus \text{press} \xrightarrow{1.5} \\ & (\varepsilon(0.2).\overline{\text{press}}.\text{nil} \parallel (\text{press}.Bright + \varepsilon(0).\tau.\text{press}.Off)) \setminus \text{press} \quad (*) \end{aligned}$$

# Modelling a Slow User

## Example 13.14 (cf. Example 13.11)

$$Off = \text{press}.Light$$

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$$Bright = \text{press}.Off$$

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- As before:

$$(SlowUser \parallel Off) \setminus \text{press} \xrightarrow{\tau} (\varepsilon(1.7).\overline{\text{press}}.\text{nil} \parallel Light) \setminus \text{press}$$

- Now  $\overline{\text{press}}$ -transition only enabled after 1.7 time units, but  $Light$  can only delay for at most 1.5 units:

$$\begin{aligned} &(\varepsilon(1.7).\overline{\text{press}}.\text{nil} \parallel Light) \setminus \text{press} \xrightarrow{1.5} \\ &(\varepsilon(0.2).\overline{\text{press}}.\text{nil} \parallel (\text{press}.Bright + \varepsilon(0).\tau.\text{press}.Off)) \setminus \text{press} \quad (*) \end{aligned}$$

- Here the right-hand process of  $(*)$  can do a  $\tau$ -action, disabling further delays and thus avoiding the  $Bright$  state:

$$(*) \xrightarrow{\tau} (\varepsilon(0.2).\overline{\text{press}}.\text{nil} \parallel \text{press}.Off) \setminus \text{press}$$