

# Abstractions for Reverse Engineering

## Validating the Computerization of Relay-based Interlocking

---

PhD Candidate: **Anna Becchi**

Advisor: Prof. Alessandro Cimatti

September 26th 2025



UNIVERSITY  
OF TRENTO

# Motivation: modernizing railway interlocking systems

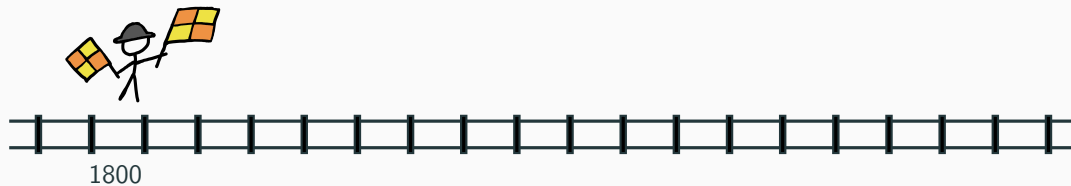
---

## Motivation: modernizing railway interlocking systems

---



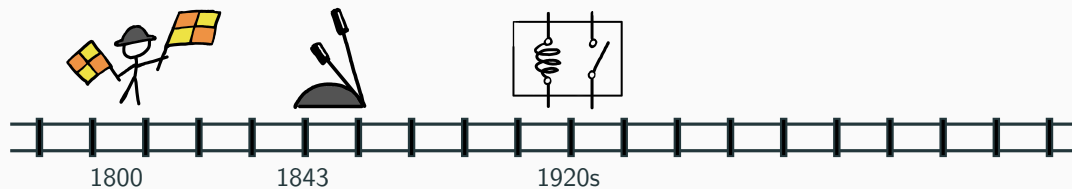
## Motivation: modernizing railway interlocking systems



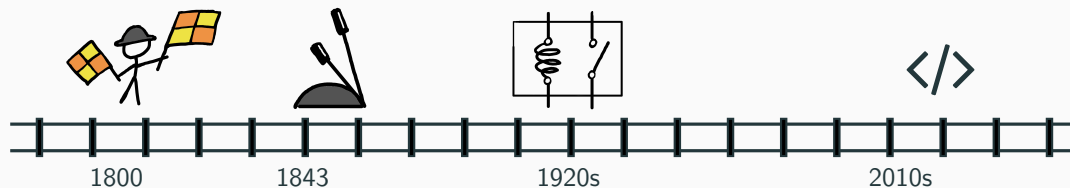
## Motivation: modernizing railway interlocking systems



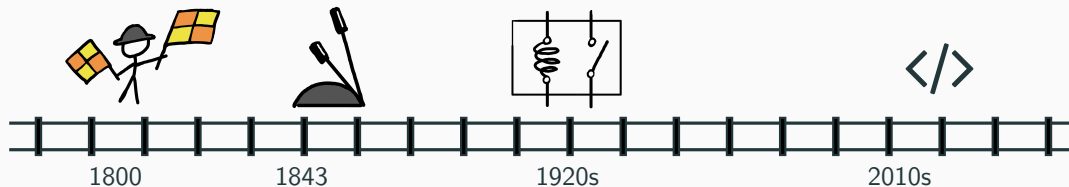
## Motivation: modernizing railway interlocking systems



# Motivation: modernizing railway interlocking systems



# Motivation: modernizing railway interlocking systems



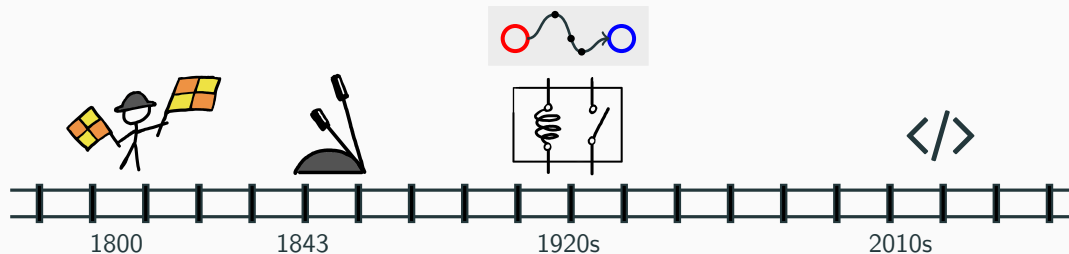
Embracing new technologies means:

👍 Improve efficiency, sustainability, safety

⚠️ Sometimes rethink the whole system



# Motivation: modernizing railway interlocking systems

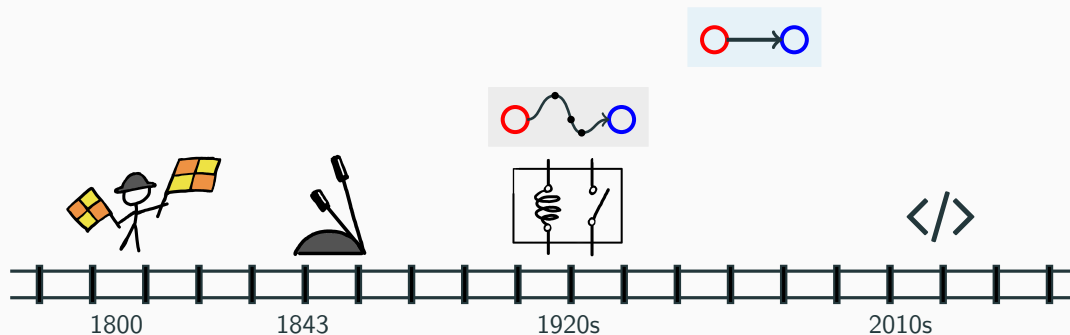


Embracing new technologies means:

👍 Improve efficiency, sustainability, safety

⚠️ Sometimes rethink the whole system

# Motivation: modernizing railway interlocking systems

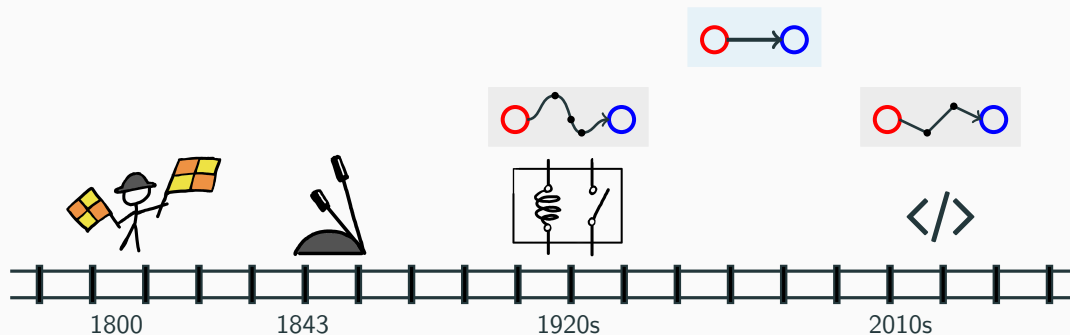


Embracing new technologies means:

👍 Improve efficiency, sustainability, safety

⚠️ Sometimes rethink the whole system

# Motivation: modernizing railway interlocking systems

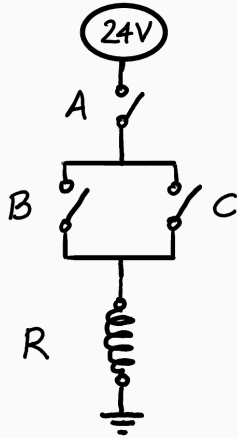


Embracing new technologies means:

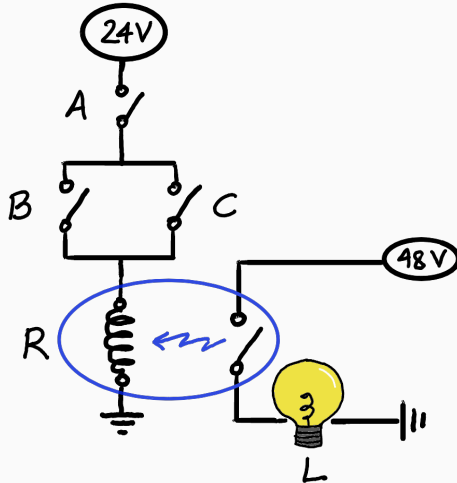
👍 Improve efficiency, sustainability, safety

⚠️ Sometimes rethink the whole system

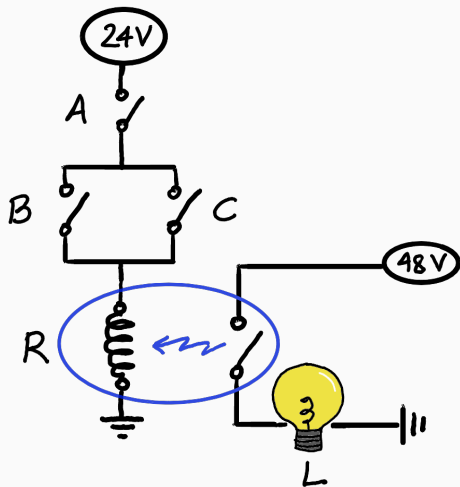
## Example: understanding a relay-based circuit



## Example: understanding a relay-based circuit

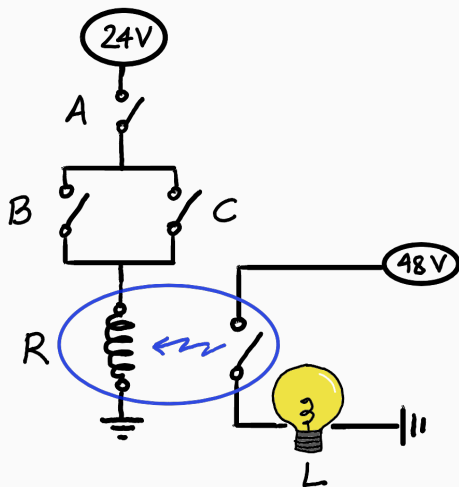


## Example: understanding a relay-based circuit



```
def lamp_control(A, B, C) {  
  R := A & (B | C);  
  
  L := R;  
}
```

## Example: understanding a relay-based circuit

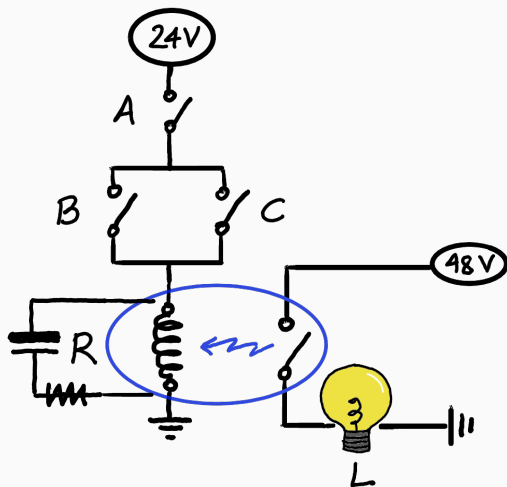


```
def lamp_control(A, B, C) {  
  R := A & (B | C);  
  
  L := R;  
}
```



$(A \ \& \ (B \ | \ C)) \ \leftrightarrow \ L$

## Example: understanding a relay-based circuit



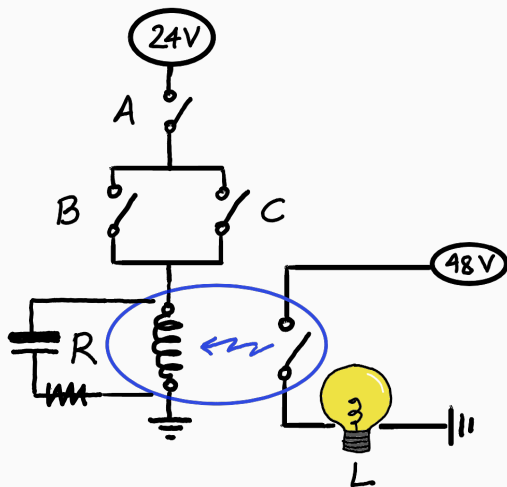
```
def lamp_control(A, B, C) {  
  R := A & (B | C);  
  charge_capacitor()  
  L := R;  
}
```



$(A \ \& \ (B \ | \ C)) \ \leftrightarrow \ L$



## Example: understanding a relay-based circuit



```
def lamp_control(A, B, C) {  
  R := A & (B | C);  
  charge_capacitor()  
  L := R;  
}
```



$(A \ \& \ (B \ | \ C)) \leftrightarrow L$

$(A \ \& \ (B \ | \ C)) \rightarrow F_{10s} \ L$



Abstraction Modulo Stability (AMS)

[CAV'22, FMDS'24]





Abstraction Modulo Stability (AMS)

Minimal P-stable Abstraction

[CAV'22, FMDS'24]

[SoSyM'24]





Abstraction Modulo Stability (AMS)

Minimal P-stable Abstraction

SMT-based encoding and optimizations of relay circuits

[CAV'22, FMDS'24]

[SoSyM'24]

[TACAS'22]





Abstraction Modulo Stability (AMS)

[CAV'22, FMDS'24]

Minimal P-stable Abstraction

[SoSyM'24]

SMT-based encoding and optimizations of relay circuits

[TACAS'22]

New QE algorithm for LRA

[TBD]





Abstraction Modulo Stability (AMS)

[CAV'22, FMDS'24]

Minimal P-stable Abstraction

[SoSyM'24]

SMT-based encoding and optimizations of relay circuits

[TACAS'22]

New QE algorithm for LRA

[TBD]



Extract properties from relay circuits and validate the new software

[CAV'24]





Abstraction Modulo Stability (AMS)

[CAV'22, FMDS'24]

Minimal P-stable Abstraction

[SoSyM'24]

SMT-based encoding and optimizations of relay circuits

[TACAS'22]

New QE algorithm for LRA

[TBD]



Extract properties from relay circuits and validate the new software

[CAV'24]



PID controller stability verification

[DSN-W'23]







Abstraction Modulo Stability (AMS)

[CAV'22, FMDS'24]

Minimal P-stable Abstraction

[SoSyM'24]

SMT-based encoding and optimizations of relay circuits

[TACAS'22]

New QE algorithm for LRA

[TBD]



Extract properties from relay circuits and validate the new software

[CAV'24]



PID controller stability verification

[DSN-W'23]



NORMA: a tool for the analysis of relay circuits



Abstraction Modulo Stability (AMS)

[CAV'22, FMDS'24]

Minimal P-stable Abstraction

[SoSyM'24]

SMT-based encoding and optimizations of relay circuits

[TACAS'22]

New QE algorithm for LRA

[TBD]



Extract properties from relay circuits and validate the new software

[CAV'24]



PID controller stability verification

[DSN-W'23]



NORMA: a tool for the analysis of relay circuits

Tool for reachability analysis in pwc hybrid systems

# Plan of the talk

---

[TBD]

[CAV'22, FMSD'24]

[TACAS'22]

[CAV'24]

## Prelude: SMT and Model Checking

[TBD]

[CAV'22, FMSD'24]

[TACAS'22]

[CAV'24]

## Prelude: SMT and Model Checking

[TBD]

## Act I: Abstraction Modulo Stability

✎ Extract high-level properties from timed transition systems

[CAV'22, FMSD'24]

[TACAS'22]

[CAV'24]

## Prelude: SMT and Model Checking

[TBD]

## Act I: Abstraction Modulo Stability

✎ Extract high-level properties from timed transition systems

[CAV'22, FMDS'24]

## Act II: Model Checking Relay-based Interlocking

✓ SMT-based encoding and optimizations of relay circuits

[TACAS'22]

[CAV'24]

## Prelude: SMT and Model Checking

[TBD]

## Act I: Abstraction Modulo Stability

✎ Extract high-level properties from timed transition systems

[CAV'22, FMDS'24]

## Act II: Model Checking Relay-based Interlocking

✓ SMT-based encoding and optimizations of relay circuits

[TACAS'22]

## Act III: Supporting RFI's migration towards software interlocking

🔧 Use AMS to compare the relay and the new software interlocking

[CAV'24]

**Infinite-state Timed Transition System**  $\mathcal{M} \doteq \langle X, C, I, \text{Init}(X), \text{Invar}(X), \text{Trans}(X, I, X') \rangle$




## Background: super-dense time model

---

Boolean&theory state vars

**Infinite-state Timed Transition System**  $\mathcal{M} \doteq \langle X, C, I, \text{Init}(X), \text{Invar}(X), \text{Trans}(X, I, X') \rangle$



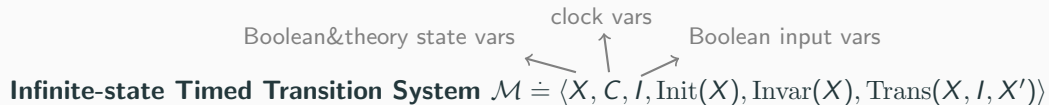
## Background: super-dense time model

Boolean&theory state vars      clock vars

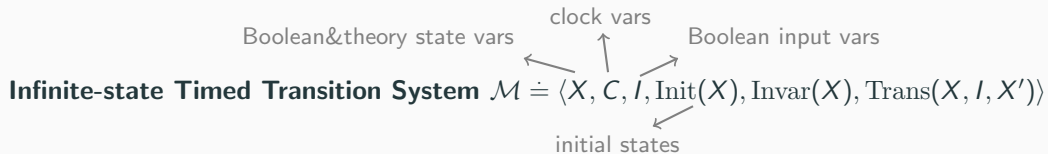
↙      ↗

**Infinite-state Timed Transition System**  $\mathcal{M} \doteq \langle X, C, I, \text{Init}(X), \text{Invar}(X), \text{Trans}(X, I, X') \rangle$

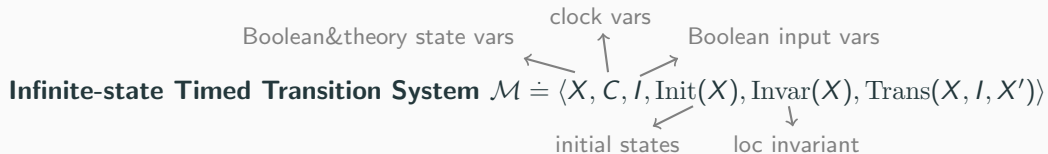
## Background: super-dense time model



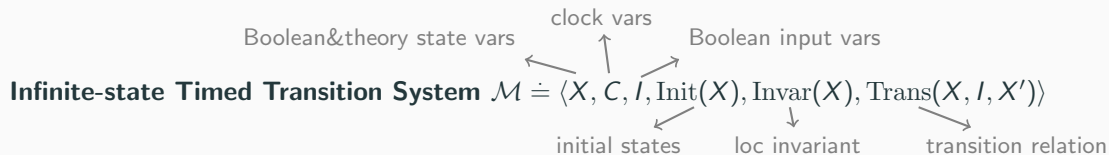
## Background: super-dense time model



## Background: super-dense time model



## Background: super-dense time model



# Background: super-dense time model

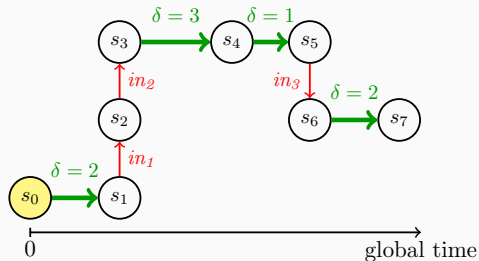
Infinite-state Timed Transition System  $\mathcal{M} \doteq \langle X, C, I, \text{Init}(X), \text{Invar}(X), \text{Trans}(X, I, X') \rangle$

Boolean&theory state vars    clock vars    Boolean input vars

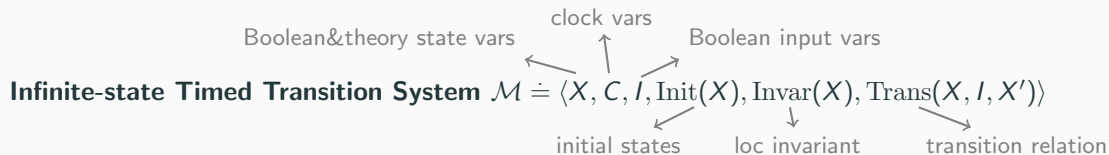
initial states    loc invariant    transition relation

Path of  $\mathcal{M}$ :  $\pi = (s_0, s_1, \dots)$

- **discrete step**:  $(s_i, in, s'_{i+1}) \models \text{Trans}$
- **timed step**:
  - $\forall c \in C. \quad (s_i, s'_{i+1}) \models (c' = c + \delta)$
  - $\forall x \in X \setminus C. \quad (s_i, s'_{i+1}) \models (x' = x)$

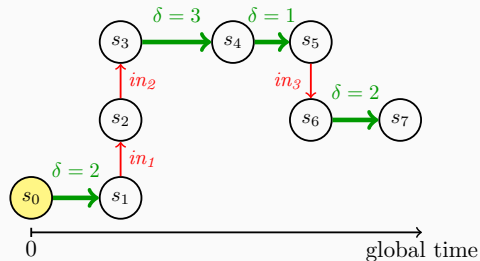


# Background: super-dense time model



**Path of  $\mathcal{M}$ :**  $\pi = (s_0, s_1, \dots)$

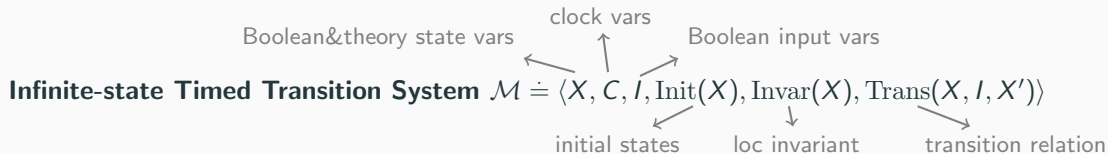
- **discrete step:**  $(s_i, in, s'_{i+1}) \models \text{Trans}$
- **timed step:**  
 $\forall c \in C. \quad (s_i, s'_{i+1}) \models (c' = c + \delta)$   
 $\forall x \in X \setminus C. \quad (s_i, s'_{i+1}) \models (x' = x)$



**Linear Temporal Logic + First Order + Super-dense:** Globally, Finally, neXt, timed neXt

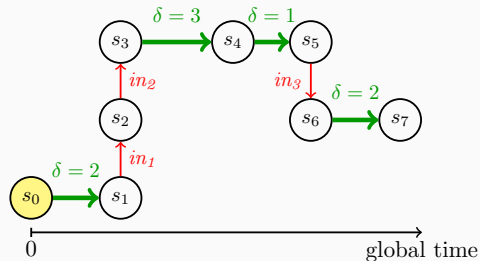


# Background: super-dense time model



**Path of  $\mathcal{M}$ :**  $\pi = (s_0, s_1, \dots)$

- **discrete step:**  $(s_i, in, s'_{i+1}) \models \text{Trans}$
- **timed step:**
  - $\forall c \in C. \quad (s_i, s'_{i+1}) \models (c' = c + \delta)$
  - $\forall x \in X \setminus C. \quad (s_i, s'_{i+1}) \models (x' = x)$



**Linear Temporal Logic + First Order + Super-dense:** Globally, Finally, neXt, timed neXt

**Model-checking:**  $\mathcal{M} \models_{\exists} \varphi$  iff there exists  $\pi \in \Pi(\mathcal{M})$  s.t.  $\pi \models \varphi$

**Satisfiability Modulo Linear Rational Arithmetic**  
(alternative representation: sets of convex polyhedra)

# Background: SMT and Quantifier Elimination

---

**Satisfiability Modulo Linear Rational Arithmetic**  
(alternative representation: sets of convex polyhedra)

**Quantifier Elimination:**  $\exists X. \Phi(X, Y)$

Projection, predicate abstraction, image computation, reachability, SMT-based model-checking

# Background: SMT and Quantifier Elimination

## Satisfiability Modulo Linear Rational Arithmetic

(alternative representation: sets of convex polyhedra)

## Quantifier Elimination: $\exists X. \Phi(X, Y)$

Projection, predicate abstraction, image computation, reachability, SMT-based model-checking

## Pre-Image: $\exists X', I. \text{Trans}(X, I, X') \wedge S(X')$

# Background: SMT and Quantifier Elimination

**Satisfiability Modulo Linear Rational Arithmetic**  
(alternative representation: sets of convex polyhedra)

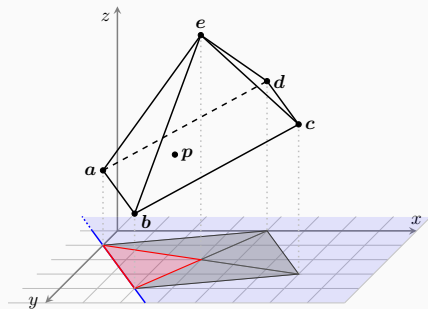
**Quantifier Elimination:**  $\exists X. \Phi(X, Y)$

Projection, predicate abstraction, image computation, reachability, SMT-based model-checking

**Pre-Image:**  $\exists X'. I. \text{Trans}(X, I, X') \wedge S(X')$

## QE with Bidirectional Model-Based Projection

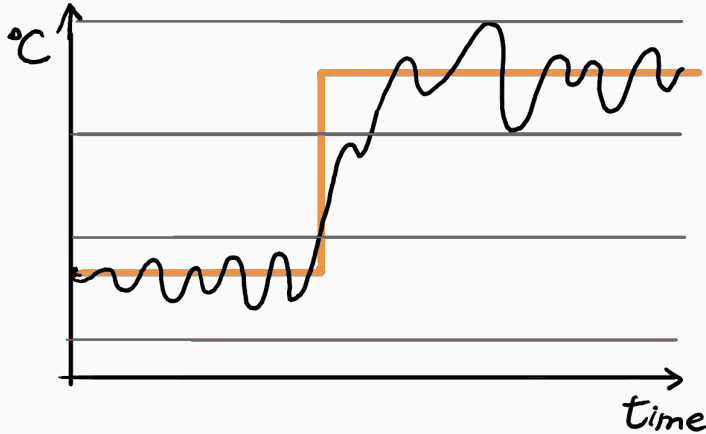
Solve QE by combining over- and under-approximations of convex polyhedra.



# **Act I**

## **Abstraction Modulo Stability**

# Stability for Reverse-Engineering: Intuition

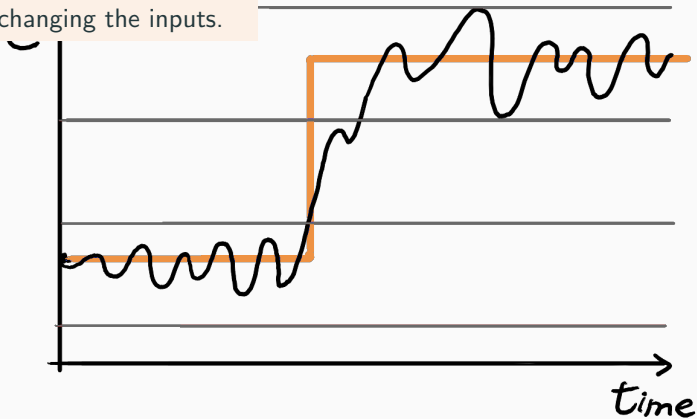


# Stability for Reverse-Engineering: Intuition

## Stimulus vs input

*Inputs* are values read by the system.

*Stimuli* are events changing the inputs.





# Stability for Reverse-Engineering: Intuition

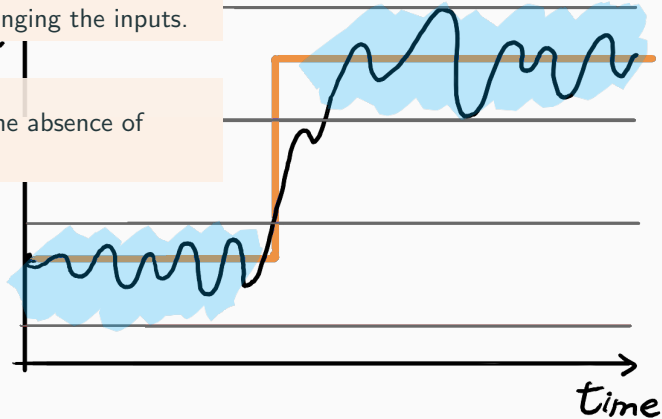
## Stimulus vs input

*Inputs* are values read by the system.

*Stimuli* are events changing the inputs.

## Closed system

Stability happens in the absence of interrupting stimuli.



# Stability for Reverse-Engineering: Intuition

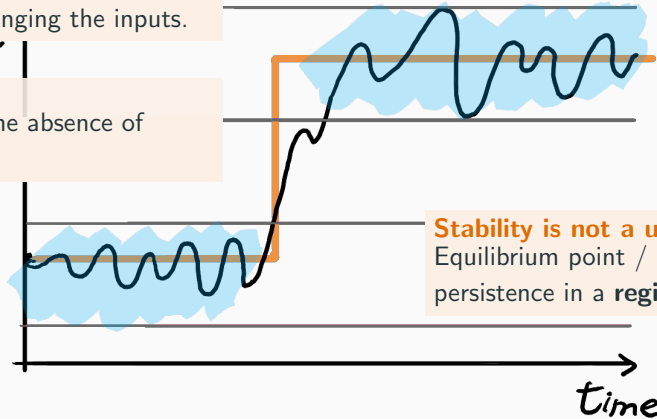
## Stimulus vs input

*Inputs* are values read by the system.

*Stimuli* are events changing the inputs.

## Closed system

Stability happens in the absence of interrupting stimuli.



## Stability is not a unique concept

Equilibrium point / invariance /  
persistence in a **region** ...

# Stability for Reverse-Engineering: Intuition

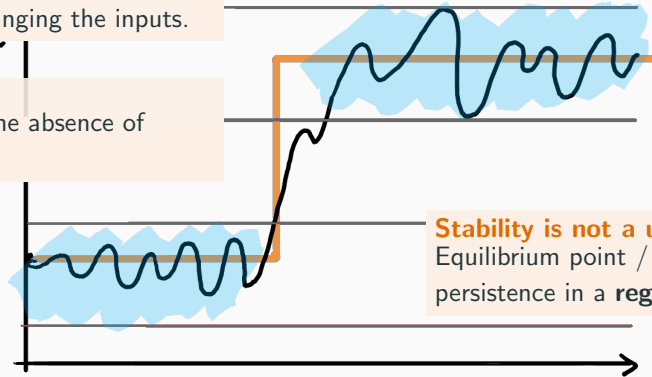
## Stimulus vs input

*Inputs* are values read by the system.

*Stimuli* are events changing the inputs.

## Closed system

Stability happens in the absence of interrupting stimuli.



## Stability is not a unique concept

Equilibrium point / invariance /  
persistence in a **region** ...

## Stability marks a transaction endpoints

Transient states (*how the action is performed*) should be abstracted.

## Ingredients:

- concrete system  $\mathcal{M} = \langle X, I, \text{Init}(X), \text{Trans}(X, I, X') \rangle$
- predicates  $P \subseteq X$
- stability criterion  $\sigma(X)$

## Ingredients:

- concrete system  $\mathcal{M} = \langle X, I, \text{Init}(X), \text{Trans}(X, I, X') \rangle$
- predicates  $P \subseteq X$
- stability criterion  $\sigma(X)$

## Abstract system:

$$\mathbf{AMS}(\mathcal{M}, \mathbf{P}, \sigma) \doteq \langle \mathbf{P}, \mathbf{I}, \text{Init}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathbf{P}), \text{Trans}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{I}, \mathbf{P}') \rangle$$

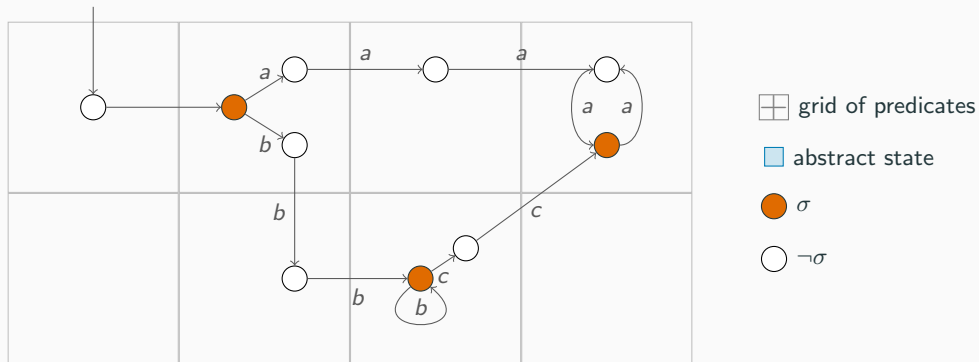
$$\text{Init}_{\mathcal{A}}(P) = \left\{ p_0 \mid \mathcal{M}^\tau \models \exists (\neg \sigma \cup (\sigma \wedge p_0)) \right\}$$

*"at initialization,  $\mathcal{M}$  may stabilize in these predicate assignments"*

$$\text{Trans}_{\mathcal{A}}(P, I, P') = \left\{ (p_1, in, p_2) \mid \mathcal{M} \models \exists F((\sigma \wedge p_1) \wedge (Gin \wedge X(\neg \sigma \cup (\sigma \wedge p_2)))) \right\}$$

*"if  $\mathcal{M}$  is stable in  $p_1$  and receives input  $in$ , it will stabilize in  $p_2$ "*

# Abstraction modulo $\sigma$ : more than predicate abstraction

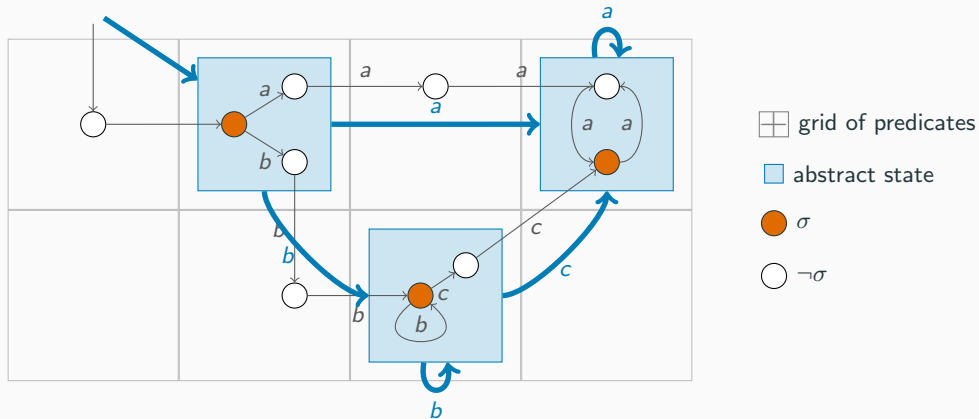








# Abstraction modulo $\sigma$ : more than predicate abstraction



**Theorem:** If  $\sigma \implies \sigma'$ , then  $\mathcal{A}_\sigma \lesssim \mathcal{A}_{\sigma'}$ .

### Our menu:

- *predicate abstraction*:  $\sigma_1 := \text{True}$
- *non-urgent abstraction*:  $\sigma_2 := \exists I, X', \delta . \text{Trans}(X, I, X') \wedge \delta > 0$
- *t-stable abstraction*:  $\sigma_3 := \delta > t$
- *same-predicates abstraction*:  $\sigma_4 := \left\{ s \in 2^X \mid \mathcal{M}^\tau, s \models \text{AGEq}(P) \right\}$

### Offline fix-point computation of $\sigma_4$

$$\sigma_4(V) \doteq \llbracket \text{AG}(P = P') \rrbracket = \neg(\mu Z. \text{preimage}(P \neq P') \cup \text{preimage}(Z))$$

# How to: build the abstract system

## Recall

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Init}_{\mathcal{A}}(P) &= \left\{ p_0 \mid \mathcal{M}^\tau \models \exists (\neg\sigma \text{ U } (\sigma \wedge p_0)) \right\} \\ \text{Trans}_{\mathcal{A}}(P, I, P') &= \left\{ (p_1, in, p_2) \mid \mathcal{M} \models \exists F ((\sigma \wedge p_1) \wedge (Gin \wedge X(\neg\sigma \text{ U } (\sigma \wedge p_2)))) \right\}\end{aligned}$$

## Algorithms

- **Naïve Enumerative algorithm:** Exponential number of LTL checks.
- **Parameter synthesis:** IC3-based algorithm to find all parameter assignments
- **Bounded algorithm:** QE on BMC-like unrolling until K bound or completeness is checked.

🧪 The user picks stability criterion and predicate variables

✍️ Extraction of properties like:

💬 *if stable here and this input is received, it should be possible to go there*

💬 *this predicate configuration can never be stable*

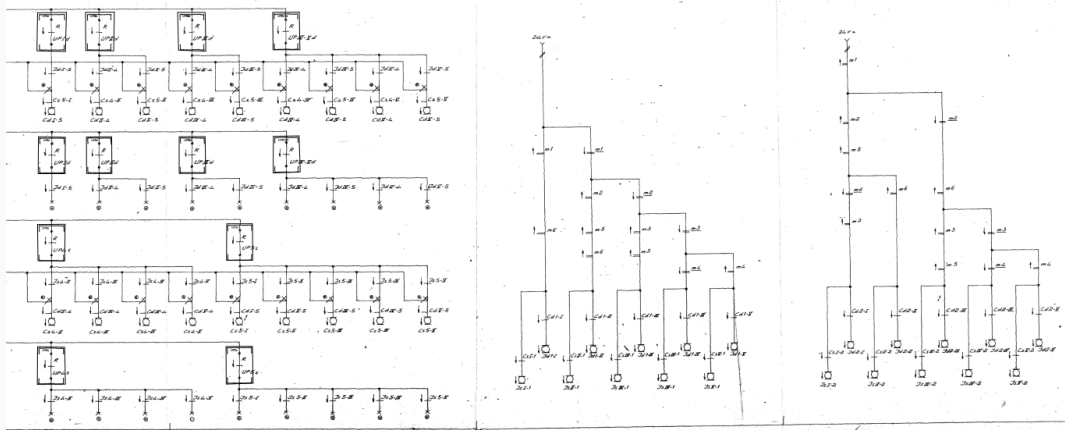
💬 *this input can never stably change this predicate value*

⚙️ Algorithms based on LTL model-checking and QE

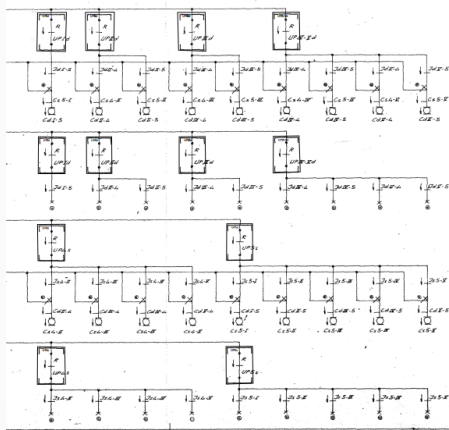
## **Act II**

**Model-checking relay-based circuits**

# Relay-based circuits: a complex domain



# Relay-based circuits: a complex domain



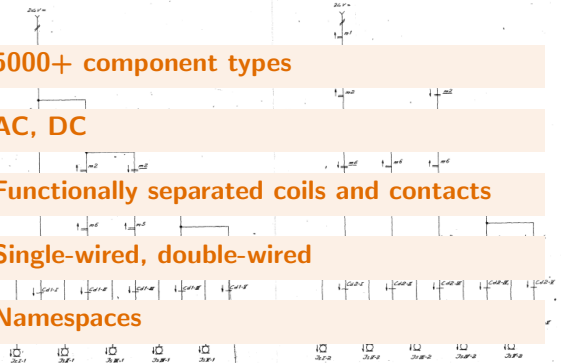
5000+ component types

AC, DC

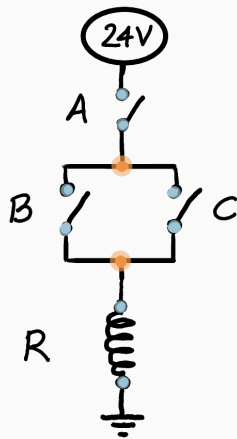
Functionally separated coils and contacts

Single-wired, double-wired

Namespaces

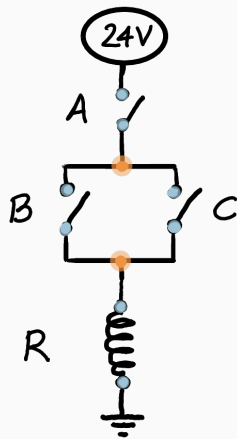


## Encoding relay-based circuits in timed transition systems





# Encoding relay-based circuits in timed transition systems



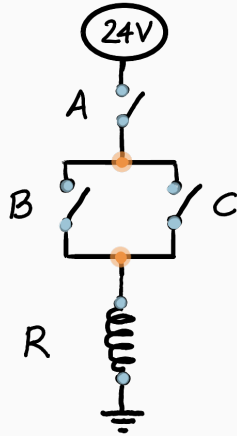
$$\neg A \rightarrow (i_A = 0)$$
$$A \rightarrow (v_A^{in} = v_A^{out})$$

$$\neg B \rightarrow (i_B = 0)$$
$$B \rightarrow (v_B^{in} = v_B^{out})$$

$$\neg C \rightarrow (i_C = 0)$$
$$C \rightarrow (v_C^{in} = v_C^{out})$$

$$R \leftrightarrow (i_R > 650\text{Amp})$$
$$i_R = 190\Omega \cdot (v_R^{in} - v_R^{out})$$

# Encoding relay-based circuits in timed transition systems



$$\neg A \rightarrow (i_A = 0)$$
$$A \rightarrow (v_A^{in} = v_A^{out})$$

$$i_A + i_B + i_C = 0$$
$$v_A^{out} = v_B^{in} = v_C^{in}$$

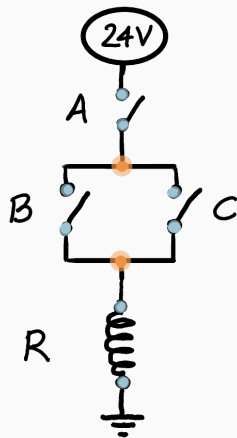
$$\neg B \rightarrow (i_B = 0)$$
$$B \rightarrow (v_B^{in} = v_B^{out})$$

$$\neg C \rightarrow (i_C = 0)$$
$$C \rightarrow (v_C^{in} = v_C^{out})$$

$$i_R + i_B + i_C = 0$$
$$v_R^{in} = v_B^{out} = v_C^{out}$$

$$R \leftrightarrow (i_R > 650\text{Amp})$$
$$i_R = 190\Omega \cdot (v_R^{in} - v_R^{out})$$

# Encoding relay-based circuits in timed transition systems



$$v_A = 24\text{Volt}$$

$$\neg A \rightarrow (i_A = 0)$$
$$A \rightarrow (v_A^{in} = v_A^{out})$$

$$i_A + i_B + i_C = 0$$
$$v_A^{out} = v_B^{in} = v_C^{in}$$

$$\neg B \rightarrow (i_B = 0)$$
$$B \rightarrow (v_B^{in} = v_B^{out})$$

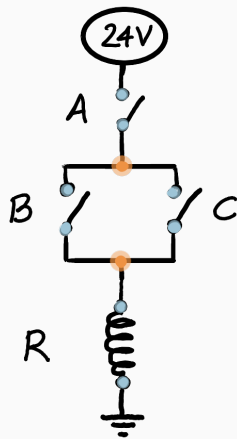
$$\neg C \rightarrow (i_C = 0)$$
$$C \rightarrow (v_C^{in} = v_C^{out})$$

$$i_R + i_B + i_C = 0$$
$$v_R^{in} = v_B^{out} = v_C^{out}$$

$$R \leftrightarrow (i_R > 650\text{Amp})$$
$$i_R = 190\Omega \cdot (v_R^{in} - v_R^{out})$$

$$v_R^{out} = 0$$

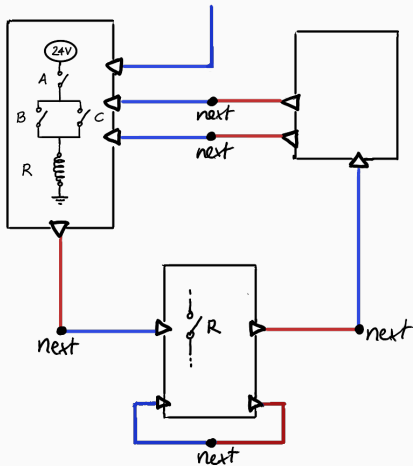
# Encoding relay-based circuits in timed transition systems



$$\text{Invar} \left( \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{A, B, C, R,} \\ v_A^{in}, v_A^{out}, i_A, \\ v_B^{in}, v_B^{out}, i_B, \\ v_C^{in}, v_C^{out}, i_C, \\ v_R^{in}, v_R^{out}, i_R \end{pmatrix} \right) :=$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{l} v_A = 24\text{Volt} \\ \neg A \rightarrow (i_A = 0) \\ A \rightarrow (v_A^{in} = v_A^{out}) \\ i_A + i_B + i_C = 0 \\ v_A^{out} = v_B^{in} = v_C^{in} \\ \neg B \rightarrow (i_B = 0) \\ B \rightarrow (v_B^{in} = v_B^{out}) \\ \neg C \rightarrow (i_C = 0) \\ C \rightarrow (v_C^{in} = v_C^{out}) \\ i_R + i_B + i_C = 0 \\ v_R^{in} = v_B^{out} = v_C^{out} \\ R \leftrightarrow (i_R > 650\text{Amp}) \\ i_R = 190\Omega \cdot (v_R^{in} - v_R^{out}) \\ v_R^{out} = 0 \end{array} \right)$$

## Encoding relay-based circuits in timed transition systems (cont'd)



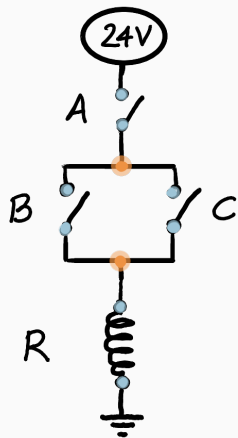
**Compose circuits:** Link **relays** with **switches**

Add a transition step:

TRANS `next`(**switch**) = **relay**

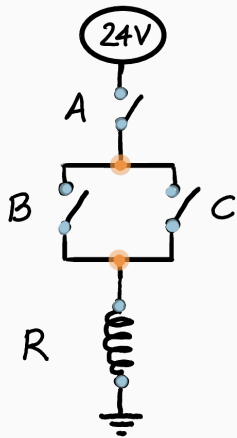
URGENT **switch** != **relay**

# Optimizing the encoding



$$\text{Invar} \left( \begin{array}{l} A, B, C, R, \\ v_A^{in}, v_A^{out}, i_A, \\ v_B^{in}, v_B^{out}, i_B, \\ v_C^{in}, v_C^{out}, i_C, \\ v_R^{in}, v_R^{out}, i_R \end{array} \right)$$

# Optimizing the encoding

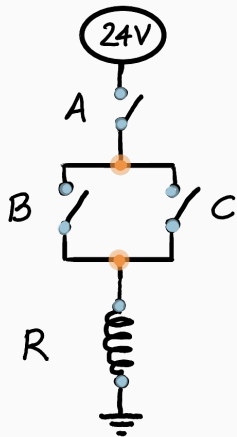


$$\text{Invar} \left( \begin{array}{l} A, B, C, R, \\ v_A^{in}, v_A^{out}, i_A, \\ v_B^{in}, v_B^{out}, i_B, \\ v_C^{in}, v_C^{out}, i_C, \\ v_R^{in}, v_R^{out}, i_R \end{array} \right)$$

Check determinism of relays

$$\left( \begin{array}{l} \text{Invar} \wedge \text{Invar}' \\ \wedge A = A' \\ \wedge B = B' \\ \wedge C = C' \end{array} \right) \models (R = R')$$

# Optimizing the encoding



$$\text{Invar} \left( \begin{array}{l} A, B, C, R, \\ v_A^{in}, v_A^{out}, i_A, \\ v_B^{in}, v_B^{out}, i_B, \\ v_C^{in}, v_C^{out}, i_C, \\ v_R^{in}, v_R^{out}, i_R \end{array} \right)$$

Check determinism of relays

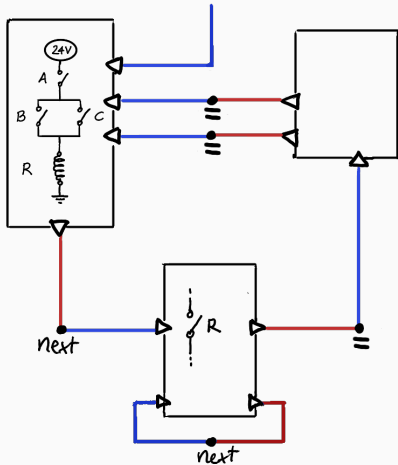
$$\left( \begin{array}{l} \text{Invar} \wedge \text{Invar}' \\ \wedge A = A' \\ \wedge B = B' \\ \wedge C = C' \end{array} \right) \models (R = R')$$

Optimized Invariant: remove electrical variables

$$\text{Invar}^{\text{opt}}(A, B, C, R) := (\exists \text{ Reals. Invar}) = (R \leftrightarrow (A \wedge (B \vee C)))$$



## Optimizing the encoding (cont'd)



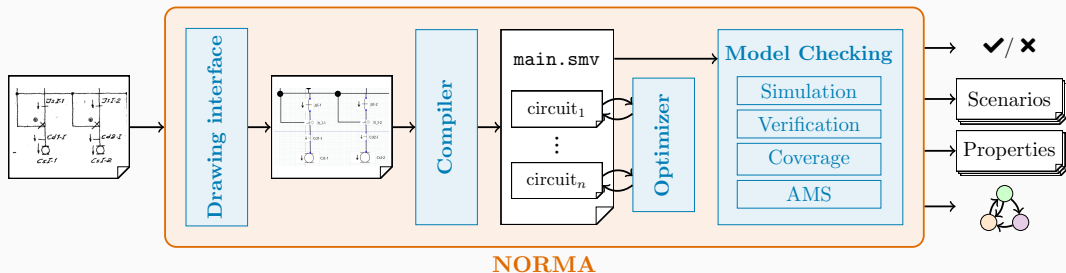
Only to break cyclic dependencies

TRANS next(**switch**) = **relay**

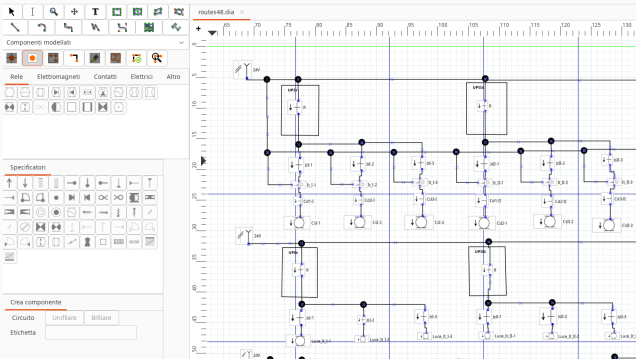
URGENT **switch** != **relay**

Everywhere else **switch** = **relay**

# Norma: a tool for the analysis of relay-based circuits



## Norma: digital modelling, simulation and verification made possible

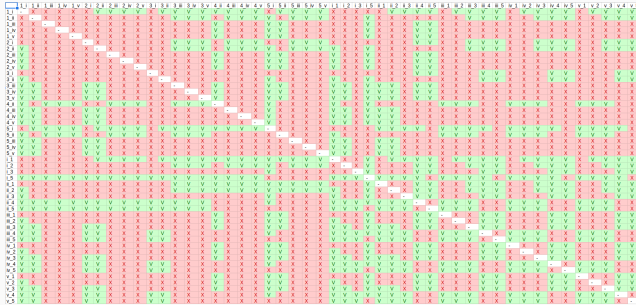


```

MODULE main
...
--- Sub-modules:
... VAR root : CircuitRoot;
...
MODULE CircuitRoot
...
--- Sub-modules:
... VAR net00 : Net00(
...     stub."Rte",
...     net14."A f0s0935".interface,
...     stub."CTR_normale",
...     stub."CTR_rovescio");
... VAR net11 : Net11(stub."CTR_elettromagnete");
... VAR net06 : Net06(
...     net05."AEDX f0s01279".interface,
...     stub."Ad",
...     net11."CEDX f0s0898".interface,
...     net05."BEDX f0s01281".interface);
... VAR net03 : Net03(
...     net01."DX f0s01022".interface,
...     net13."M f0s0934".interface,
...     net08."CBI f0s0848".interface,
...     stub."bp",
...     stub."bc",
...     net05."BEDX f0s01281".interface,
...     net05."AEDX f0s01279".interface,
...     net11."CEDX f0s0898".interface,
...     net04."Racc f0s01060".interface,
...     net01."mX f0s01014".interface,
...     net01."DX f0s01206".interface,
...     net01."mX f0s01207".interface);

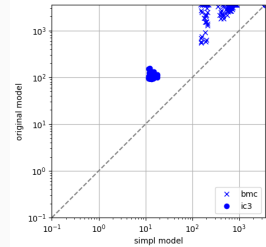
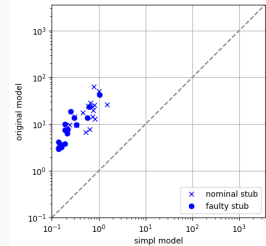
```

# Norma: digital modelling, simulation and verification made possible



table[i,j] = ✗: if route i is accepted, route j must wait

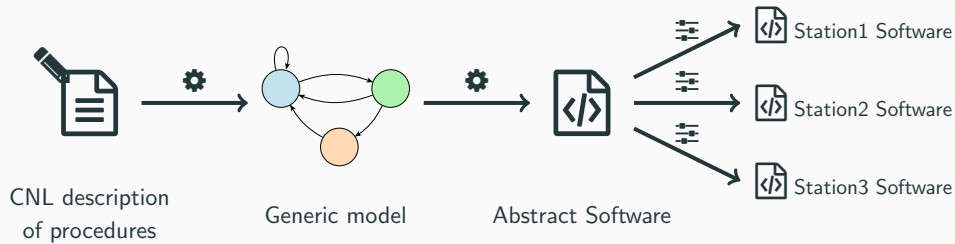
table[i,j] = ✔: route i and j can be accepted together



## **Act III**

**Validating the migration  
from relay-based to software interlocking**

# RFI's development of software interlocking



**My goal: StationX Relays  $\simeq$  StationX Software?**

## Use AMS to link the circuits with the new code

---

1. Extraction of simulations from relay circuits  $\mathcal{M}$
2. Translate simulations in sw system tests
3. Document differences / report bugs

# Use AMS to link the circuits with the new code

## 1. Extraction of simulations from relay circuits $\mathcal{M}$

800+ scenarios

Cover the AMS machine: for all  $(p_1, in, p_2) \in \text{Trans}_{\mathcal{A}}$ , collect

$$\pi \models F((\sigma \wedge p_1) \wedge G(in) \wedge X(\neg\sigma \cup (\sigma \wedge p_2)))$$

(+ other coverage criteria)

## 2. Translate simulations in sw system tests

## 3. Document differences / report bugs



# Use AMS to link the circuits with the new code

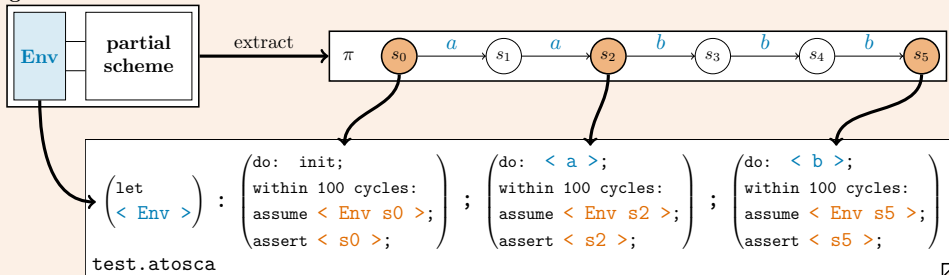
## 1. Extraction of simulations from relay circuits $\mathcal{M}$

800+ scenarios

## 2. Translate stable simulations in sw system tests

7K+ tests for 8 stations

generalized scheme



## 3. Document differences / report bugs

# Use AMS to link the circuits with the new code

1. Extraction of simulations from relay circuits  $\mathcal{M}$

800+ scenarios

2. Translate simulations in sw system tests

7K+ tests for 8 stations

3. Document differences / report bugs

10+ bugs from errors in the specs!

Execute tests on our platform simulator:

- ✓ pass : a behavior in the circuits is realizable in the sw
- 📄 fail with violation of environment assumptions: document
- ⚠ fail : unexpected discrepancy between circuits and sw!

# Conclusions

## What we did

- 💡 AMS framework
- </> AMS implementation (nuXmv, pySMT)
- 💡 Optimal encoding of relay circuits
- </> Norma tool for verifying circuits
- 🔧 Extract properties and tests from circuits
- 🔧 Testing the new software
- 💡 BMBP: a new QE algorithm for LRA
- </> Tool for reachability analysis of pwc HS

## What we did

- 💡 AMS framework
- </> AMS implementation (nuXmv, pySMT)
- 💡 Optimal encoding of relay circuits
- </> Norma tool for verifying circuits
- 🔧 Extract properties and tests from circuits
- 🔧 Testing the new software
- 💡 BMBP: a new QE algorithm for LRA
- </> Tool for reachability analysis of pwc HS

## Future works

- </> Improve integration with RFI toolset
- 🔧 Verify circuit properties on the code
- 🔧 Component-based reasoning on circuits
- 💡 Improve QE calls in AMS algorithms
- 💡 Other applications for AMS
- 💡 Extend BMBP-QE to other theories
- 💡 BMBP-QE in model-checkers

**Thank you!**

### Lyapunov stability in control theory [Liberzon03]

For  $\dot{x} = f(x)$ , stability is witnessed by a Lyapunov function  $V : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

- $V(x_{eq}) = 0$  and  $V(x) > 0$  for all  $x \neq x_{eq}$
- $\dot{V}(x) < 0$  for all  $x \neq x_{eq}$

Exponentially stable if:  $\dot{V}(x) \leq -\alpha V(x)$ .

### Synthesis of a Lyapunov function in dynamical systems

- Sum of squares decomposition [PapachristodoulouP02],
- counter-example guided synthesis [AbatePA20],
- numeric synthesis and SMT-based verification [Basagiannis+23]

## Stability in hybrid systems

- Global or piecewise quadratic Lyapunov function [Oehlerking11, JohanssonR98]
- guided synthesis [RavanbakhshS15],
- deductive verification [TanMP22]

Find conditions on switching sequences: average dwell time [BogomolovMP10, MitraL04] and **slow switching constraints**.

## Region Stability

Classical asymptotic stability is not adequate for most systems [PodelskiW06]. Verify invariance in a region with a model transformation.



- Reachability analysis on polyhedra: HyTech [HHWT97], PHAVer [Frehse05,Frehse08, BecchiZ19]
- Flowpipe construction: HyPro [SchuppÀMK17, SchuppÀE22], Ariadne [CollinsBGV12], JuliaReach [BogomolovFFPS19], Flow\* [ChenAS13]
- Theorem prover on differential dynamic logic: KeYmaera [PlatzerQ08]
- Model-checker via discretization: HyComp [CimattiGMT15]
- Model-checker for infinite-state timed TS: Timed nuXmv [CimattiGMRT19]

**Finite state systems: search for a cex as a lasso-shaped path  $\pi = uv^\omega$ .**

- BMC [BiereCCZ99, BiereCCSZ03]: SAT-based search of a path of length  $k$
- Liveness2Safety [BiereAS02]: reduce to  $FG\phi$ , then look for a cex where  $\neg\phi$  holds infinitely often.
- K-Liveness [ClaessenS12, CimattiGMT14]:  $\neg\phi$  holds at most  $k$  times
- rlive [XiaCGL24]: reachability of a bad state starting from an already proven reachable bad state

**Infinite state systems: a non lasso-shaped cex may exist**

- Liveness2Safety + implicit Predicate Abstraction [DanielCGTM16]
- rlive + implicit predicate abstraction + well founded sets [CimattiGJRT25]
- non lasso-shaped search [CimattiGM21, CimattiGM22]: cex are sequence of well founded funnels searched in a predicate space

## Interlocking Verification

- Verification of control tables from railway layout with: graph theory [SheSCY07], CSP [Winter02], Colored Petri Nets [SheZY14]
- Model-checking on general railway rules + configurations: BMP and K-induction [HongHP17, VuHP17]
- In Italy: computerized logic [CimattiGMRTT98] verified with SPIN.
- Compositional reasoning: [HaxthausenF23]

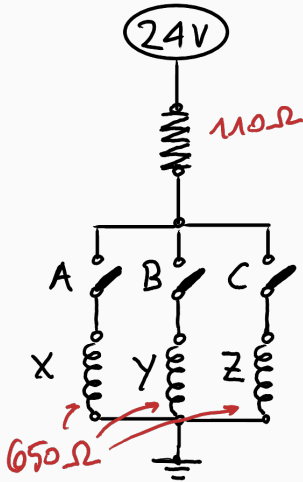
## Generation of new software interlocking

French railways:

- generation of event-B code from UML [BougachaWKAD19]
- generation **from relays**: from colored petri nets, to abstract machines in B-method, to code [SunDB15, SunBD15, PereiraDPB19, Pereira20]

- Danish relay-based interlocking: modelled in SAL [HaxthausenKB11], Boolean encoding [Haxthausen14]. Verified against properties extracted from interlocking tables (LTL).
- Ladder logic [GhoshDBDK17], to sets of Boolean equations, to propositional logic
- CSP [PereiraOBBD22] for capturing transient behavior and verify against ring-bell effects
- Italian case: SMT-based encoding of multi-domain Kirchhoff networks[CimattiMS17, CavadaCMSC18]. Norma inherits **electrical accuracy**

# Why electrical accuracy is important



Relay activation condition

$$X \iff (i_X > 19/650)$$

*If A, B and C are closed, then none of X, Y or Z can be active!*

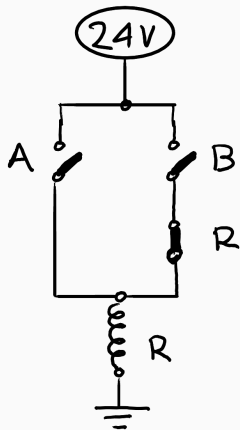
Correct invariant is:

$$X \iff (A \wedge (\neg B \vee \neg C))$$

$$Y \iff (B \wedge (\neg A \vee \neg C))$$

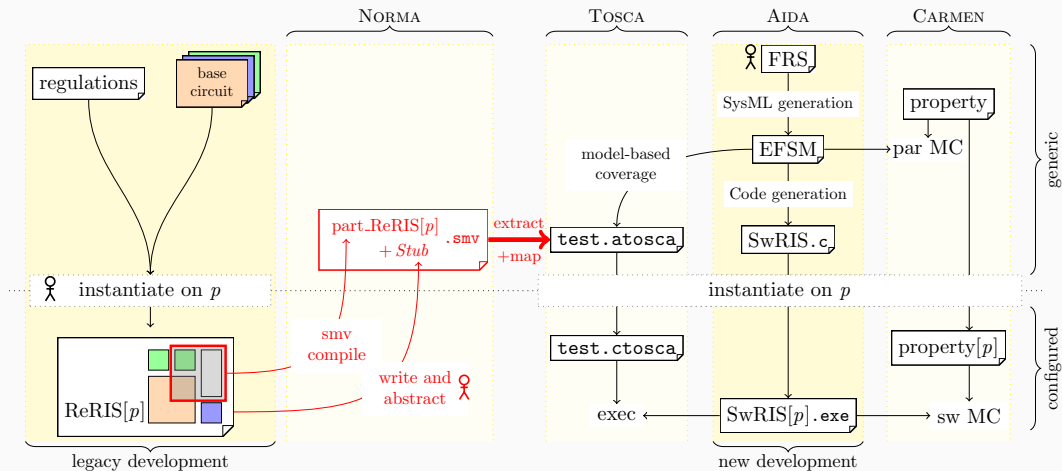
$$Z \iff (C \wedge (\neg A \vee \neg B))$$

## Stable transition properties



*Only A can stably change R.*

*Whatever B does, it cannot stably change R.*



## (Naïve) Enumerative algorithm

- $\text{Init}_{\mathcal{A}}$ :  $2^{|P|}$  checks like  $\mathcal{M}^\tau \models \neg \hat{\sigma} \text{ U } (\hat{\sigma} \wedge p)$
- $\text{Trans}_{\mathcal{A}}$ :  $2^{|P| \times |I| \times |P|}$  checks like  $\mathcal{M} \models \text{F}((\sigma \wedge p_1) \wedge \text{Gin} \wedge \text{X}(\neg \sigma \text{ U } (\sigma \wedge p_2)))$

## Parameter synthesis

- Introduce parameters  $\overline{P}_1, \overline{I}, \overline{P}_2$ .
- $\text{Init}_{\mathcal{A}}$ : find all  $\overline{p}_1$  s.t.  $\mathcal{M}^\tau[\overline{p}_1] \models \neg \hat{\sigma} \text{ U } (\hat{\sigma} \wedge (P = \overline{P}_1))$ ,
- $\text{Trans}_{\mathcal{A}}$ : find all  $\overline{p}_1, \overline{in}, \overline{p}_2$  s.t.  $\mathcal{M}[(\overline{p}_1, \overline{in}, \overline{p}_2)] \models \text{F} \left( \begin{array}{l} (\hat{\sigma} \wedge P = \overline{P}_1) \wedge \text{G}(I = \overline{I}) \\ \wedge \text{X}(\neg \hat{\sigma} \text{ U } (\hat{\sigma} \wedge P = \overline{P}_2)) \end{array} \right)$



## Bounded algorithm: QE on BMC-like unrolling until completeness

- $\text{Init}_{\mathcal{A}} := \bigvee_k \exists(\text{FV}(\pi_k) \setminus P_k) . \pi_k$

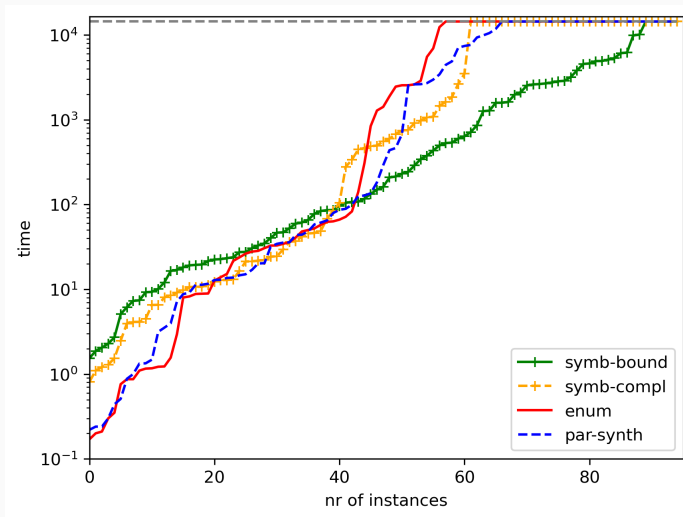
$$\pi_k := \text{Init}(V_0) \wedge \bigwedge_{0 \leq h < k} (\text{Trans}(V_h, I_h, V_{h+1}) \wedge I_h = I_{h+1} \wedge \neg \hat{\sigma}(V_h)) \wedge \hat{\sigma}(V_k)$$

- completeness check:  $\mathcal{M}^r \models \neg(\neg \hat{\sigma} \text{ U } (\hat{\sigma} \wedge \neg \text{Init}_{\mathcal{A}}))$
- $\text{Trans}_{\mathcal{A}} := \bigvee_{i < j} \exists(\text{FV}(\pi_{i,j}) \setminus P_i \setminus I_j \setminus P_k) . \pi_{i,j}$

$$\pi_{i,j} \doteq \text{Init}(V_0) \wedge \bigwedge_{0 \leq h < j} \text{Trans}(V_h, I_h, V_{h+1}) \wedge \left( \begin{array}{c} \hat{\sigma}(V_i) \wedge \hat{\sigma}(V_j) \wedge \\ \bigwedge_{i < h < j} (I_h = I_{h+1} \wedge \neg \hat{\sigma}(V_h)) \end{array} \right)$$

- $\text{iscomplete}(p_1, p_2) \doteq \neg \text{F} \left( (\hat{\sigma} \wedge p_1) \wedge \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{G}(I = \text{XI}) \wedge \\ \neg \text{Trans}_{\sigma}[p_1, p_2] \end{array} \right) \wedge \text{X}(\neg \hat{\sigma} \text{ U } (\hat{\sigma} \wedge p_2)) \right)$

# Comparing AMS algorithms



## Intuition

- Instance of AMS to capture invariance in multiple predicates.
- Capture oscillation in regions larger than  $p \in 2^P$ .
- Find minimal region  $\phi$  that are eventually invariant.

## Definition

- $\text{ATTR}(s, \phi) \doteq (\mathcal{M}^\tau, s \models \text{EFAG}\phi)$
- $\text{NO-STR-ATTR}(s, \phi) \doteq (\nexists \phi' \in \Phi. (\phi' \neq \phi \wedge (\phi' \models \phi) \wedge \text{ATTR}(s, \phi')))$
- $\text{STABLE}_{\min}(s, \phi) \doteq (\mathcal{M}^\tau, s \models \text{AG}\phi) \wedge \text{NO-STR-ATTR}(s, \phi)$
- $\text{ATTR}_{\min}(s, \phi) \doteq \text{ATTR}(s, \phi) \wedge \text{NO-STR-ATTR}(s, \phi)$

**As Galois Connection**  $(\wp(\Sigma), \subseteq) \xleftrightarrow[\alpha_1]{\gamma_1} (\wp(\Phi), \subseteq)$

- $\alpha_1(S) \doteq \left\{ \phi \in \Phi \mid \exists s \in S. \text{ATTR}_{\min}(s, \phi) \right\}$
- $\gamma_1(F) \doteq \left\{ s \in \Sigma \mid \forall \phi \in \Phi. \text{ATTR}_{\min}(s, \phi) \implies \phi \in F \right\}$

**Further abstractions**

$$(\wp(\Sigma), \subseteq) \xleftrightarrow[\alpha_1]{\gamma_1} (\wp(\Phi), \subseteq) \xleftrightarrow[\alpha_2]{\gamma_2} (\Phi, \models) \xleftrightarrow[\alpha_3]{\gamma_3} (\mathbb{K}, \models).$$

# Minimal P-stable abstraction: Implementation

