

Some Advice to Budding Researchers

Joël Ouaknine

Max Planck Institute for Software Systems &
Department of Computer Science, Oxford University

Logic Mentoring Workshop
6 July 2020

How Should You Listen to Such a Talk?

How Should You Listen to Such a Talk?

Some things will be familiar or immediately resonate with you

How Should You Listen to Such a Talk?

Some things will be familiar or immediately resonate with you

- *Good!*

How Should You Listen to Such a Talk?

Some things will be familiar or immediately resonate with you

- *Good!*

Some things will sound like complete rubbish!

How Should You Listen to Such a Talk?

Some things will be familiar or immediately resonate with you

- *Good!*

Some things will sound like complete rubbish!

- *Feel free to ignore!*

How Should You Listen to Such a Talk?

Some things will be familiar or immediately resonate with you

- *Good!*

Some things will sound like complete rubbish!

- *Feel free to ignore!*

Some things will sound unfamiliar but intriguing

How Should You Listen to Such a Talk?

Some things will be familiar or immediately resonate with you

- *Good!*

Some things will sound like complete rubbish!

- *Feel free to ignore!*

Some things will sound unfamiliar but intriguing

- *Perhaps make a note and revisit later . . .*

How Should You Listen to Such a Talk?



Richard Hamming

“You and Your Research”

Transcription of the
Bell Communications Research Colloquium Seminar
7 March 1986

J. F. Kaiser
Bell Communications Research
445 South Street
Morristown, NJ 07962-1910
jfk@bellcore.com



MANUEL BLUM

Advice to a Beginning Graduate Student

or

What is Research?

or

The 4 R's of Graduate School:

Reading, Rithmetic, Research, and Writing

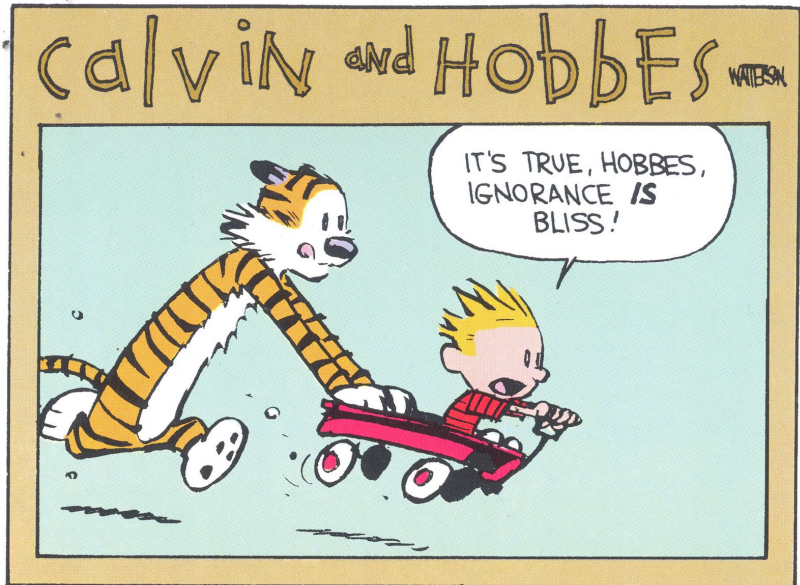
Books Are Not Scrolls!



≠



Ignorance Can be an Asset



The Feynman Method Meets Timed Automata

For A and B automata, " $L(A) \subseteq L(B)$?" is decidable (Kleene ??)

The Feynman Method Meets Timed Automata

For A and B automata, " $L(A) \subseteq L(B)$?" is decidable (Kleene ??)

For A and B **timed automata**, " $L(A) \subseteq L(B)$?" is **undecidable**
(Alur & Dill 1990)

The Feynman Method Meets Timed Automata

For A and B automata, " $L(A) \subseteq L(B)$?" is decidable (Kleene ??)

For A and B **timed automata**, " $L(A) \subseteq L(B)$?" is **undecidable**
(Alur & Dill 1990)

- *What if we bound the time duration?* (2002)

The Feynman Method Meets Timed Automata

For A and B automata, " $L(A) \subseteq L(B)$?" is decidable (Kleene ??)

For A and B **timed automata**, " $L(A) \subseteq L(B)$?" is **undecidable**
(Alur & Dill 1990)

- *What if we bound the time duration?* (2002)

Let A and B be timed automata and $T \in \mathbb{N}$ some time bound.

The Feynman Method Meets Timed Automata

For A and B automata, “ $L(A) \subseteq L(B)$?” is decidable (Kleene ??)

For A and B **timed automata**, “ $L(A) \subseteq L(B)$?” is **undecidable**
(Alur & Dill 1990)

- *What if we bound the time duration?* (2002)

Let A and B be timed automata and $T \in \mathbb{N}$ some time bound.

Is “ $L(A) \upharpoonright_T \subseteq L(B) \upharpoonright_T$?” decidable??

The Feynman Method Meets Timed Automata

For A and B automata, “ $L(A) \subseteq L(B)$?” is decidable (Kleene ??)

For A and B **timed automata**, “ $L(A) \subseteq L(B)$?” is **undecidable**
(Alur & Dill 1990)

- *What if we bound the time duration?* (2002)

Let A and B be timed automata and $T \in \mathbb{N}$ some time bound.

Is “ $L(A) \upharpoonright_T \subseteq L(B) \upharpoonright_T$?” decidable??

This led us to the development of alternating timed automata, the decidability of Metric Temporal Logic and related formalisms, etc. etc. — but the original time-bounded problem remained elusive!

The Feynman Method Meets Timed Automata

For A and B automata, “ $L(A) \subseteq L(B)$?” is decidable (Kleene ??)

For A and B **timed automata**, “ $L(A) \subseteq L(B)$?” is **undecidable**
(Alur & Dill 1990)

- *What if we bound the time duration?* (2002)

Let A and B be timed automata and $T \in \mathbb{N}$ some time bound.

Is “ $L(A) \upharpoonright_T \subseteq L(B) \upharpoonright_T$?” decidable??

This led us to the development of alternating timed automata, the decidability of Metric Temporal Logic and related formalisms, etc. etc. — but the original time-bounded problem remained elusive!

Until ...

The Feynman Method Meets Timed Automata



I met Alex Rabinovich at FORMATS 2008 ...

The Feynman Method Meets Timed Automata



Time-Bounded Verification*

Joël Ouaknine¹, Alexander Rabinovich², and James Worrell¹

¹ Oxford University Computing Laboratory, UK
{joel,jbw}@comlab.ox.ac.uk

² School of Computer Science, Tel Aviv University, Israel
rabinoa@post.tau.ac.il

Abstract. We study the decidability and complexity of verification problems for timed automata over time intervals of fixed, bounded length. One of our main results is that time-bounded language inclusion for timed automata is 2EXPSpace-complete. We also investigate the satisfiability and model-checking problems for Metric Temporal Logic (MTL), as well as monadic first- and second-order logics over the reals with order and the +1 function ($\text{FO}(<, +1)$ and $\text{MSO}(<, +1)$ respectively). We show that, over bounded time intervals, MTL satisfiability and model checking are EXPSpace-complete, whereas these problems are decidable but non-elementary for the predicate logics. Nevertheless, we show that MTL and $\text{FO}(<, +1)$ are equally expressive over bounded intervals, which can be viewed as an extension of Kamp's well-known theorem to metric logics.

It is worth recalling that, over unbounded time intervals, the various problems listed above are all undecidable.

I met Alex Rabinovich at FORMATS 2008 . . .

and we published at CONCUR 2009!

Embrace Discomfort & Play to Your Strengths

Embrace Discomfort & Play to Your Strengths

"Somewhere around every seven years make a significant, if not complete, shift in your field."

Richard Hamming

Seek Collaborations with People Smarter than Yourself

Seek Collaborations with People Smarter than Yourself



Seek Collaborations with People Smarter than Yourself



Seek Collaborations with People Smarter than Yourself



Joël Ouaknine is with James Worrell and Amaury Pouly at Mathematical Institute, University of Oxford.

October 25, 2017 · Oxford · 🌐 ▼

a mathematical storm is brewing



👍 😬 🤖 45

2 Comments 1 Share

Finally . . . Be Curious, and Above All Enjoy Yourself!



One Last Word: Problem Selection

One Last Word: Problem Selection



Ali Francis Garcia, Local207 Studios ©2016