

Time Warps, from Algebra to Algorithms

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RAMICS 2021

November 3, 2021

Time Warps

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- $\langle \mathscr{W}, \wedge, \vee, \perp, \top \rangle$ is a bounded lattice with \wedge and \vee defined point-wise (e.g., $(f \wedge g)(p) = \max\{f(p), g(p)\}$), $\perp(p) = 0$ for all $p \in \omega^+$, and $\top(p) = \omega$ for all $p \in \omega^+ \setminus \{0\}$.

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- For all $f, g, h \in \mathscr{W}$

$$f \circ g \leq h \iff g \leq f \backslash h \iff f \leq h / g, \quad (\text{residuation})$$

where $f \backslash g = \bigvee \{h \in \mathscr{W} \mid f \circ h \leq g\}$, $g / f = \bigvee \{h \in \mathscr{W} \mid h \circ f \leq g\}$.

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We call \mathbf{W} the **time warp algebra**.

Properties

- 1 A map $f: \omega^+ \rightarrow \omega^+$ is a time warp if and only if it is order-preserving and satisfies $f(0) = 0$ and $f(\omega) = \bigvee \{f(n) \mid n \in \omega\}$.

Properties of the Time Warp Algebra

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- 2 *$\langle \mathcal{W}, \wedge, \vee \rangle$ is a complete distributive lattice.*
- 3 *For all $f, g_1, g_2, h \in \mathcal{W}$,*

$$f(g_1 \vee g_2)h = fg_1h \vee fg_2h \text{ and } f(g_1 \wedge g_2)h = fg_1h \wedge fg_2h.$$

Motivation

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For potential real-world applications of time warps as graded modalities it is important to have a decidable equational theory, i.e., an algorithm to decide which equations hold in the time warp algebra.

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Main Theorem

The equational theory of the time warp algebra \mathbf{W} is decidable.

We fix a countably infinite set of variables Var and the term algebra $\mathbf{T}(\text{Var})$ over the language $\{\wedge, \vee, \circ, \backslash, /, id, \perp, \top\}$ of type $(2, 2, 2, 2, 0, 0, 0)$.

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We call elements t of $\mathbf{T}(\text{Var})$ **time warp terms** and denote by $s \leq t$ the equation $s \wedge t \approx s$.

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Then we have $\mathbf{W} \models s \approx t$ if and only if $\mathbf{W} \models s \leq t$ and $\mathbf{W} \models t \leq s$, and, by residuation, $\mathbf{W} \models s \leq t$ if and only if $\mathbf{W} \models id \leq s \backslash t$.

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Therefore, to show that the equational theory of \mathbf{W} is decidable it is enough to show that for every time warp term t it is decidable whether $\mathbf{W} \models id \leq t$ holds or not.

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Input. A time warp term t in the variables x_1, \dots, x_k .

Output. If $\mathbf{W} \models id \leq t$, the algorithm returns 'Valid';
if $\mathbf{W} \not\models id \leq t$, the algorithm returns 'Invalid at $(\hat{f}_1, \dots, \hat{f}_k, p)$ ' for some $p \in \omega^+$ and **finite descriptions** $\hat{f}_1, \dots, \hat{f}_k$ of time warps f_1, \dots, f_k such that $\llbracket t \rrbracket(p) < p$, where $\llbracket t \rrbracket$ is the time warp obtained from t by mapping each x_i to f_i .

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- 2 **Step 2.** We give a finitary characterization of ‘potential counterexamples’ via ‘diagrams’¹.

¹The name ‘diagram’ recalls a similar concept used to prove the decidability of the equational theory of ℓ -groups (Holland and McCleary 1979).

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The proof of the main theorem can be divided into three parts:

- 1 **Step 1.** We prove that time warp terms can be ‘brought’ into a normal form.
- 2 **Step 2.** We give a finitary characterization of ‘potential counterexamples’ via ‘diagrams’¹.
- 3 **Step 3.** We encode the existence of a ‘diagram’ as a first-order satisfiability problem over $\langle \mathbb{N}, \leq^{\mathbb{N}} \rangle$.

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Step 1. A Normal Form for Time Warps

For a time warp f we define

$$f^\ell := id/f, \quad f^r := f \setminus id, \quad \text{and} \quad f^\circ := \top \setminus f.$$

and we call terms constructed using only the operations \circ , id , \perp and the defined operations $t^\ell = id/t$, $t^r = t \setminus id$, and $t^\circ = \top \setminus t$ **basic terms**.

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One can show that join and meet 'distribute' over the residuals and that for any time warps f, g ,

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Theorem

There is an effective procedure that given any time warp term t , produces positive integers m, n_1, \dots, n_m and a set of basic time warp terms $\{t_{i,j} \mid 1 \leq i \leq m; 1 \leq j \leq n_i\}$ satisfying $\mathbf{W} \models t \approx \bigwedge_{i=1}^m \bigvee_{j=1}^{n_i} t_{i,j}$.

Step 1. A Normal Form for Time Warps

In universal algebra terms the normal form theorem states that the time warp algebra is term equivalent to the algebra $\langle \mathcal{W}, \wedge, \vee, \circ, r, \ell, \circ, id, \perp \rangle$, so as a direct consequence we get:

Corollary

The equational theory of \mathbf{W} is decidable if, and only if, there exists an effective procedure that decides for any finite non-empty set of basic time warp terms $\{t_1, \dots, t_n\}$ if $\mathbf{W} \models id \leq t_1 \vee \dots \vee t_n$.

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Accordingly in the following we will consider joins of basic terms. We extend a valuation $\theta: \text{Var} \rightarrow \mathscr{W}$ inductively to basic terms

$$\llbracket x \rrbracket_\theta := \theta(x), \quad \llbracket id \rrbracket_\theta := id, \quad \llbracket \perp \rrbracket_\theta := \perp,$$

$$\llbracket tu \rrbracket_\theta := \llbracket t \rrbracket_\theta \llbracket u \rrbracket_\theta, \quad \llbracket t^\star \rrbracket_\theta := \llbracket t \rrbracket_\theta^\star \text{ for } \star \in \{o, \ell, r\}.$$

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We fix a countably infinite set \mathcal{I}_V of **time variables** which we denote by κ, κ' , etc. and we define a **sample** to be an object belonging to the following grammar (where t is any basic term)

$$\mathcal{I} \ni \alpha ::= \kappa \mid t[\alpha] \mid s(\alpha) \mid p(\alpha) \mid \text{last}(t).$$

Samples are purely syntactic, but the notation already suggests the intended meaning.

Step 2. Saturated Sample Sets

We say that a sample set Δ is **saturated** if whenever $\alpha \in \Delta$ and $\alpha \rightsquigarrow \beta$, then $\beta \in \Delta$, where \rightsquigarrow is the relation between samples defined by

$$\begin{array}{ll} t[\alpha] \rightsquigarrow \alpha & t^{\circ}[\alpha] \rightsquigarrow t[\alpha] \\ s(\alpha) \rightsquigarrow \alpha & t^r[\alpha] \rightsquigarrow t[t^r[\alpha]], t[s(t^r[\alpha])] \\ p(\alpha) \rightsquigarrow \alpha & t^{\ell}[\alpha] \rightsquigarrow t[t^{\ell}[\alpha]], t[p(t^{\ell}[\alpha])] \\ tu[\alpha] \rightsquigarrow t[u[\alpha]] & t[\alpha] \rightsquigarrow t[\text{last}(t)]. \end{array}$$

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The **saturation** of a sample set Δ is defined as

$$\Delta^{\rightsquigarrow} := \{\beta \mid \exists \alpha \in \Delta, \alpha \rightsquigarrow^* \beta\},$$

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Lemma

If Δ is a finite sample set, then its saturation $\Delta^{\rightsquigarrow}$ is also finite.

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$$\forall t[\alpha], t[\beta] \in \Delta, \delta(\alpha) \leq \delta(\beta) \Rightarrow \delta(t[\alpha]) \leq \delta(t[\beta]) \quad (1)$$

$$\forall t[\alpha] \in \Delta, \delta(\alpha) = 0 \Rightarrow \delta(t[\alpha]) = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$\forall p(\alpha) \in \Delta, \delta(p(\alpha)) = \delta(\alpha) \ominus 1 \quad (3)$$

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$$p \ominus 1 := \begin{cases} p - 1 & \text{if } p \in \omega \setminus \{0\} \\ p & \text{if } p \in \{0, \omega\} \end{cases}, \quad p \oplus 1 := \begin{cases} p + 1 & \text{if } p \in \omega \\ p & \text{if } p = \omega \end{cases}$$

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There are 19 more conditions which capture how the three constants, the product, and the three residuals behave. For example condition (16) is

$$\forall t^r[\alpha] \in \Delta, (0 < \delta(\alpha) < \omega \text{ and } \delta(t^r[\alpha]) < \omega) \Rightarrow \delta(\alpha) < \delta(t[s(t^r[\alpha])])$$

Step 2. From Valuations to Diagrams

Proposition

Let T be a set of basic terms, κ a time variable, and Δ the saturation of the sample set $\{t[\kappa] \mid t \in T\}$. Then for any valuation θ and $p \in \omega^+$, there exists a Δ -diagram δ such that $\delta(\kappa) = p$ and $\delta(t[\kappa]) = \llbracket t \rrbracket_{\theta}(p)$ for all $t \in T$.

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Define the map $\delta: \Delta \rightarrow \omega^+$ by structural induction on the samples in Δ as follows

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(\kappa) &:= p \\ \forall \text{last}(t) \in \Delta, \quad \delta(\text{last}(t)) &:= \bigwedge \{p \in \omega^+ \mid \llbracket t \rrbracket_{\theta}(p) = \llbracket t \rrbracket_{\theta}(\omega)\} \\ \forall t[\alpha] \in \Delta, \quad \delta(t[\alpha]) &:= \llbracket t \rrbracket_{\theta}(\delta(\alpha)) \\ \forall p(\alpha) \in \Delta, \quad \delta(p(\alpha)) &:= \delta(\alpha) \ominus 1 \\ \forall s(\alpha) \in \Delta, \quad \delta(s(\alpha)) &:= \delta(\alpha) \oplus 1. \end{aligned}$$

Step 2. From Diagrams to Valuations

To go from diagrams to valuations we define for a Δ -diagram δ and basic term t

$$\llbracket t \rrbracket_\delta := \{(\delta(\alpha), \delta(t[\alpha])) \mid t[\alpha] \in \Delta\}.$$

Note that $\llbracket t \rrbracket_\delta$ is a partial map from ω^+ to ω^+ .

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Note that $\lfloor t \rfloor_{\delta}$ is a partial map from ω^+ to ω^+ .

Proposition

There is an effective procedure that produces for any finite Δ -diagram δ , an algorithmic description of a valuation θ satisfying

$$\llbracket t \rrbracket_{\theta}(\delta(\alpha)) = \lfloor t \rfloor_{\delta}(\delta(\alpha)) \text{ for all } t[\alpha] \in \Delta.$$

Step 2. Diagram Theorem

Summarizing the two propositions we get

Theorem (Diagram Theorem)

Let t_1, \dots, t_n be basic terms, κ a time variable, and Δ the saturation of the sample set $\{t_1[\kappa], \dots, t_n[\kappa]\}$. Then $\mathbf{W} \not\models id \leq t_1 \vee \dots \vee t_n$ if, and only if, there exists a Δ -diagram δ such that $\delta(\kappa) > \delta(t_i[\kappa])$ for all $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$.

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So what remains to do is to describe an algorithm to decide whether a suitable diagram exists or not.

Step 3. Translation into Logic

Fix $\Delta = \{t_1[\kappa], \dots, t_n[\kappa]\}^{\rightsquigarrow}$. We consider the first-order (relational) signature $\tau = \{\preceq, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{O}, \mathcal{I}\}$ of type $(2, 2, 1, 1)$ and ω^+ as a τ structure by defining

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For example, the condition

$$\forall t[\alpha], t[\beta] \in \Delta, \delta(\alpha) \leq \delta(\beta) \Rightarrow \delta(t[\alpha]) \leq \delta(t[\beta]) \quad (1)$$

yields the set $\{\alpha \preceq \beta \Rightarrow t[\alpha] \preceq t[\beta] \mid t[\alpha], t[\beta] \in \Delta\}$.

Step 3. Decidability via Logic

If we set $\text{fail} := \{t_i[\kappa] \prec \kappa \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\}$ and take the conjunction over $\Gamma_\Delta \cup \text{fail}$, we get a quantifier-free formula ψ_Δ .

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Proposition

Let $\delta: \Delta \rightarrow \omega^+$ be a Δ -prediagram. Then $\omega^+, \delta \models \psi_\Delta$ if, and only if, δ is a Δ -diagram such that $\delta(t_i[\kappa]) < \delta(\kappa)$ for each $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$.

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Together with the Diagram Theorem we get that ψ_Δ is satisfiable in ω^+ if and only if $\mathbf{W} \not\models id \leq t_1 \vee \dots \vee t_n$. From this the decidability follows, by a classical decidability result about ordinals (Läuchli and Leonard 1966).

Step 3. Translation into a Problem over \mathbb{N}

A structure which is more commonly available in satisfiability solvers (for example in the Z3 theorem prover) is the structure $\langle \mathbb{N}, \leq^{\mathbb{N}}, 0^{\mathbb{N}}, \mathcal{S}^{\mathbb{N}} \rangle$, where $\leq^{\mathbb{N}}$ is the natural order, $0^{\mathbb{N}} = 0$, and $\mathcal{S}^{\mathbb{N}}$ is the successor relation.

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We can explicitly translate the τ -formula ψ_{Δ} into a quantifier-free $\{\leq, 0, \mathcal{S}\}$ -formula ϕ_{Δ} such that ψ_{Δ} is satisfiable in ω^{+} if and only if ϕ_{Δ} is satisfiable in \mathbb{N} .

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Theorem

The time warp equation $id \leq t_1 \vee \dots \vee t_n$ is valid in \mathbf{W} if, and only if, the quantifier-free formula ϕ_{Δ} is unsatisfiable in \mathbb{N} . Moreover, any valuation $w: \Delta \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ such that $\mathbb{N}, w \models \phi_{\Delta}$ effectively yields a valuation θ of the time warp variables occurring in $t_1 \vee \dots \vee t_n$ such that $\mathbf{W}, \theta \models id \not\leq t_1 \vee \dots \vee t_n$.

Conclusion and Further Directions

We found a procedure to decide whether an equation holds in \mathbf{W} . From the proof an upper bound for the complexity of the decidability problem can be calculated, but the precise complexity is unknown.

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- Generalizing the decidability proof to other residuated lattices of sup-preserving endomaps.

Thank you!

Thank you!

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