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Timed Refusals Graph for Non-Deterministic Timed Systems

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Abstract— In this paper we are interested in refusals based model for validating timed systems. We propose a new refusals graph named timed refusals regions graphs (TRRGs). In this case specifications are modeled by durational actions timed automata (DATA*) based on maximality semantics which claim that actions have durations. This latter model is in one hand useful for modeling and validating reel aspects of systems. In the other hand, it is determinizable. In TRRG, refusals could be temporary or permanent. Permanent refusals are provoked by the non-determinism in the specifications. However, temporary refusals are the result of the fact that actions elapse in time. We propose a framework for generating timed refusals regions graph. This framework is implemented by a combination of Meta-modelling and Graph Grammars, to transform a DATA* structure into a TRRG. This permits the automatic generation of a visual modeling tool. Finally, we argue the use of TRRG in formal test of timed systems.

Index Terms— Formal Testing Models, Refusal Graphs, Timed Systems, DATA* and Maximality Semantics

I. INTRODUCTION

NOWADAYS, technology is looking for distributed applications to develop and increase its domains (network, telecommunication...etc). This kind of applications is known by their big complexity. Formal validation methods are the most used technique to deal with concurrent systems safe requirements, because of formal methods ability to describe the system behavior without ambiguity; it offers several verification approaches for assessing systems behaviors. In this paper we are interested by formal testing approach of real time systems based on timed refusals. Formal testing techniques [8], [9], [21], [20], [23] provide systematic procedures to ensure implementations conformity and it allows also checking the correctness of systems and helps to ensure their quality.

In this paper, the system is represented by the “Durational Action Timed Automata model (DATA*)”, which is a timed model, its semantic expresses the durations of actions and other notions for specifying the real-time systems such as urgency [3]. This model is based on the maximality semantics

[19] and advocates the true concurrency; from this point of view it is well suitable for modelling real time, concurrent and distributed systems.

A. Contribution

In this paper firstly, we define a new structure named timed refusals graph that provides additional insight in the practice and theory of generating tests. Timed refusals graphs (TRGs) are generated from deterministic specifications graphs. In our case specifications are modeled by DATA*.

We proceed at first by determinization of automaton, after we calculate sets of refusals; which decorate each location in the specification graph. An important aspect considered at this level is the non-determinism which is captured by permanent refusals. Temporary refusals are induced by the fact that actions elapse in time. In the DATA* model the durations of actions are captured by temporal constraints on edges and on locations.

We propose a framework to generate the TRG’s structure and we reduce its states space by an aggregation regions graph approach. Initially this approach was developed for reducing timed automata [10].

Finally, an implementation for this algorithm is proposed, using graph grammar and graph transformation for generating a visual tool. We argue the use of the proposed structure (TRRG) for testing timed systems.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 reviews durational actions timed automata and different concepts about this model. Section 3 introduces the testing framework named timed refusals graph also its generation and minimization of refusals sets. Section 4 extends a method presented as an alternative simple to reduce states space of TRG structure. Section 5 deals with a prototype implementation and illustrates the method on a small case study. Section 6 and section 7 we discuss the use of TRRG in test generation and we conclude through future work plans.

II. DURATIONAL ACTIONS TIMED AUTOMATA (DATA*)

A. Intuition of Maximality Based Semantics and Maximality Based Timed Automata

The semantics associated to the specification model allows the choice of an adequate representation. In the case of timed automata the underlying semantic used is the interleaving semantics [12], [24], [5]. In which concurrent executions of two actions are interpreted by their interleaved executions in time. Following this semantics, every action is supposed to be atomic (structural and temporal) i.e., actions are not divisible and may not elapse in time. These hypotheses make the associated theory simple and the validation tools relatively easy to build. In real world systems, actions are not instantaneous, but have durations. This realistic characteristic is important in many cases.

Maximality semantics based models respect the principles below: For every action is assigned an event name that materializes its effective execution. The event name will condition the execution of the following actions if they are dependent on this first one. There are sets of event names on states; they correspond to actions that are running simultaneously. When an action ends the event name which corresponds to it is released.

A relevant aspect of systems specification is the concurrency. In the opposite of interleaving semantics based models, the true concurrency is specified with elegant and natural way by models based on maximality semantics.

The example depicted by Fig. 1 shows those concepts. Fig. 1(a) illustrate the same representation of a system of two actions, a and b, at the left, they are in parallel, the right graph presents a choice on actions a and b.

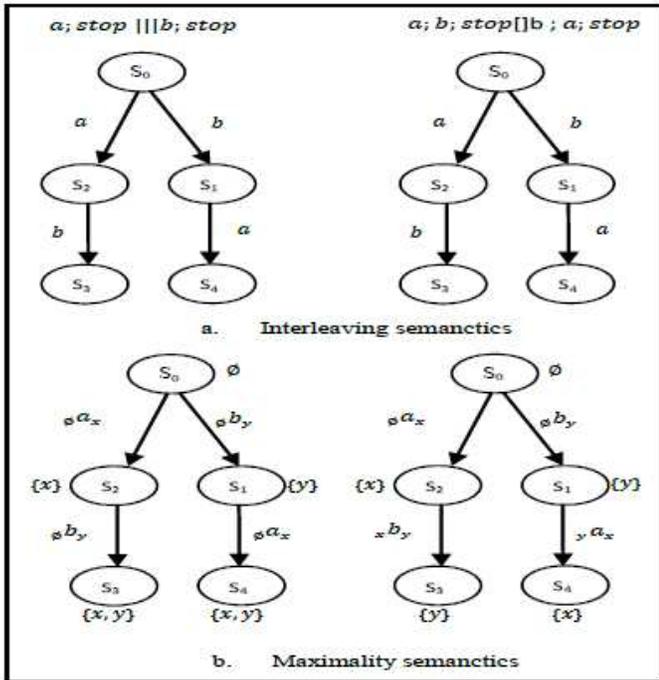


Fig. 1. Representation of concurrency and choice in maximality and in interleaving semantics

In fact, events name $\{x,y\}$ concerning the run of a and b captured on locations S_2 and S_4 , in Fig.1.b at the left makes the difference. It informs about the concurrent execution of actions (a and b).

Note that also at on the edges there exists a difference (Fig. 1(b) at the right), more information about dependence of actions. For example the atom (x,b,y) means that action b depend on event x (here x correspond to action a) and its own event name is y .

It is easy to see that the true concurrency and the auto concurrence are feasible.

B. Refusals in Maximality Based Model

This section defines new different kinds of refusals which are possible in models based on the maximality semantics.

Initially, refusals are defined as a set of actions which cannot be permitted from one state in systems behavior description. In our work those refusals are named forbidden actions to avoid ambiguity. At the time of test execution, forbidden actions lead to the failure verdict.

Other refusals are effectively possible in the same time. The permanent refusals are caused by the non-determinism in system behavior.

As illustrated by Fig. 2, after the system determination on action a (in left), the execution of the following actions (b and d) are uncontrolled and uncertain so each of them can be refused even they are offered after action a (in right).

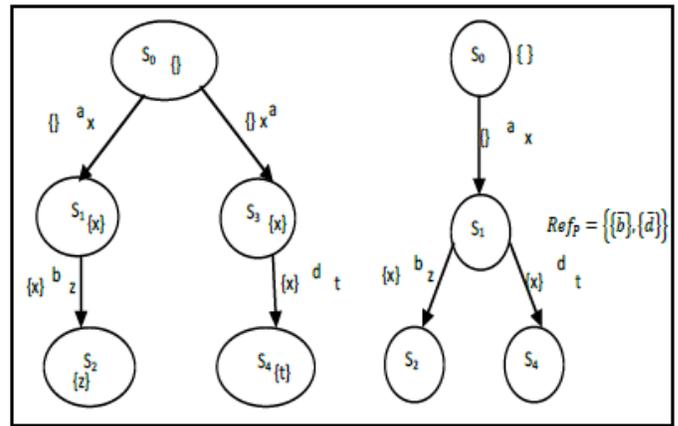


Fig. 2. Permanent refusals

The temporary refusals are provoked by actions which elapse in time; the elapsing property of action is associated to DATA* locations. Consequently certain executions are delayed until the termination of actions which they depend (in the sequential way). We show this in Fig.3. Temporary refusals on action (b), noted $\overline{(b)}$ in refusal sets Ref_T .

In this paper, we are interested by those kinds of refusals only.

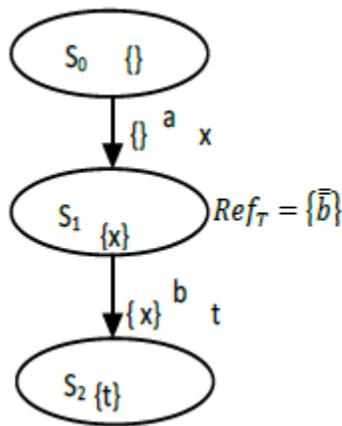


Fig. 3. Temporary refusals

C. Timed Automata with Duration of Actions

The durational actions timed automata (DATA*) model was proposed as an extension, which expand timed automata model by maximality semantics [13], [17], [18], [19]. Thus it permits to drop the assumption that actions are instantaneous. This allows specifying real time systems in a natural way.

The DATA* model is a timed model defined as timed automata over an alphabet representing actions to be executed. This model takes into account the duration of actions. Each clock in DATA* is variable that records the duration of associated action. According to this, it exist an association between label names and clock variables, during action life. This clock will be released as soon as the action ends its run.

The actions durations are represented by constraints on the transitions and in the target states of each of them. In this sense, any enabled transition represents the beginning of the action execution. On the target state of transitions, a timed expression means that actions are possibly under execution.

From operational point of view, each action is associated to a clock which is rested to zero at the start of the action. This clock will be used in the construction of the temporal constraints as guard of the transitions.

Starting from this, we can express different possibilities of real time systems behavior like delaying execution of action or limiting its offering time by manipulation of clock constraints.

Consider the following example describing the behavior of an automatic light switch. The Light Switch can be specified by a durational actions timed automaton A , with

- $S = \{s_0, s_1\}$
- $S_0 = S_f = \{s_0\}$
- $\Sigma = \{on, off\}$ and $dr(on) = 1$ $dr(off) = 0$
- $C = \{x\}$
- $E = \{(s_0, \emptyset, on, x, s_1), (s_1, 1 \leq x < 6, on, x, s_1), (s_1, x \geq 6, off, \emptyset, s_0)\}$

Its behavior can be explained as follows: The state of the system in which the light is off is represented by s_0 , and the state s_1 represents the situation where the light is on. The light can be turned on by pushing the *on* button which elapse 1 unit of time to be executed. After five time units the switch turns

itself *off*. Before that happens, the *on* button may be pushed again which will leave the light on, in this sense on is offered in the interval $[1, 6]$ of time only (Fig. 4).

On the location s_1 the temporal formula $\{x \geq 1\}$ represents the duration of the action *on*.

(This is important to distinguish from invariant in timed automata).

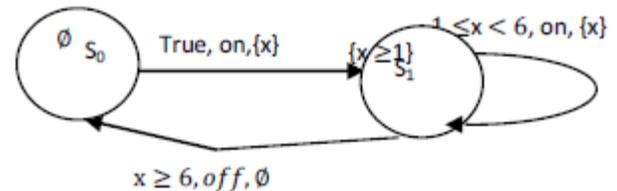


Fig. 4. Light switch example

Indeed, using durational actions timed automata model is very suitable to capture the true concurrency in systems behavior. Since each locality detain the information about current execution of action; when more than one action are under execution, the associated temporal formula are found in the following locations. With this simple technique, the true concurrency is finely captured without heavy artefact. As claimed above, this is inherited from the maximality semantics. Concurrent actions have different representation by transitions systems from choice on actions [4].

The model is interesting and increasing research efforts because of how it extends timed automata with maximality semantics [2], [17], [18], [20].

Definition 1 : a DATA* D is a tuple $(L, l_0, X, T_D, L_S, L_f)$ over ACT a finite set of actions, L is a finite set of locations, $l_0 \in L$ is the initial location, X is a finite set of variables named clocks and T_D is a set of edges. L_f is a subset of L for terminal locations.

A clock takes values from R^+ or it is undefined, denoted by \perp . Without loss of generality, we write $R^+_{\perp} = R^+ \cup \{\perp\}$ where the set of nonnegative real numbers is extended with the special value \perp .

An edge $e = (l, G, a, x, l')$ represents a transition from location l to location l' on input symbol a , x is a clock to be reset with this transition. G is the corresponding guard which must be satisfied to launch this transition.

Finally, $L_S : L \rightarrow P(C_X)$ is a maximality function which decorates each location by a set of timed formula named actions durations. Those concern overlapping execution of actions: C_X is a set of clock constraints over X .

The semantic of a DATA* D is given by the timed transitions system (TTS): (S_D, s_0, \rightarrow) over $ACT \cup R^+_{\perp}$. A state of S_D (or configuration) is a pair (l, v) such that l is a location of D and v is a valuation function over X , with initial

configuration (l_0, \perp) . A terminal (accepting) configuration of TTS is a pair (l, v) with l in L_f .

The transitions on S_D are labeled either by a real number representing the elapsed time (Time steps), or by an action in ACT (Discrete steps). The rules to derive the transitions on S_D are the following:

$$R1: \frac{d \in R^+ \quad \forall d' \leq d, v + d' \neq G}{(s, v) \xrightarrow{d} (s, v + d)} \quad (1)$$

$$R2: \frac{(s, G, a, x, s') \in T_D \quad v' \neq G}{(s, v) \xrightarrow{a} (s', v' \setminus \{x\} \leftarrow 0)} \quad (2)$$

D. Non-Deterministic DATA*

It's established [20], that durational actions timed automata are a subclass of timed automata which are determinizable. The determinism property of automaton ensures that at each point of execution of the system the next step is controlled, in that case, merely by the current location in the automaton and label name (offered action).

We consider the definition of determinism that was proposed for timed automata in [1].

Definition 2: The DATA* $D = (L, l_0, X, T_D, L_S, L_f)$ over Act is deterministic if and only if:

- It has at most one start location, and
- Two edges with the same source location and the same label name have mutually exclusive clock constraints; that is, if $(l, G_1, a, x, l') \in T_D$ and $(l, G_2, a, x, l'') \in T_D$ then for all clock valuation functions $v: v \neq G_1 \wedge G_2$.

E. Refusals in Non-Deterministic DATA*

We define the extended permanent and temporary refusals sets in DATA* model as :

$\bar{V} = \{\bar{a}(G)\} \in \text{Ref}_{\text{TPR}}(l)$: is a permanent refusal. It means that the action a may be refused permanently from the state l , this refusal is possible but not certain. This certitude will take place after the satisfaction of guard G .

$\bar{V} = \{\bar{a}(G)\} \in \text{Ref}_{\text{TPR}}(l)$: is a temporary refusal and it means that actions are refused as much as the guard G is not satisfied.

$P(P(\bar{V} \cup \bar{V}))$ is partition of parts of refusal sets.

Definition 3: Let D be a DATA*, for each location l in L , it is associated a refusal sets:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ref}_{\text{TPR}}(l) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\text{Ref}_T(l) \cup \text{Ref}_P(l)\}; \\ \text{Ref}_T(l) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{set of temporary refusals} \\ \text{Ref}_P(l) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{set of permanent refusals} \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

III. TIMED REFUSALS GRAPH

A timed refusals graph is a deterministic DATA* extended by refusals sets:

Definition 4: $\text{TRG} = (D, \text{Ref}_{\text{TPR}})$ with $D = (L, l_0, X, T_D, L_S, L_f)$ is a deterministic DATA* over Act and

$\text{Ref}_{\text{TPR}}: L \rightarrow P(P(\overline{Act} \cup \overline{Act}))$ is an application that associates for any $l \in L$ a set of refusals.

$\overline{Act} = \{\bar{a}(G) : a \in Act\}$ and $\overline{Act} = \{\bar{a}(G) : a \in ACT\}$.

Since temporary and permanent refusals graph is deterministic, then:

$$\forall l \in L \text{ if } (l \xrightarrow{G, a, x} l') \text{ and } (l \xrightarrow{G, a, x} l'') \in T_D \text{ and } G \wedge G' \neq \emptyset \text{ then } l' = l''. \quad (4)$$

A. Timed Refusals Graphs Generation

In this section we propose a framework to create timed refusals graphs from DATA* specifications. The proposed framework consists in two steps:

1) determinization of DATA* and 2) decoration of automaton with refusals sets.

This requires computing $\text{Ref}_{\text{TPR}} = \{\cup_{l_i} (\text{Ref}_T(l_i) \cup \text{Ref}_P(l_i)) : l_i \in L\}$. It's done as follows:

Let $D = (L, l_0, X, T_D, L_S, L_f)$ be a DATA* over Act , the timed refusals graph of D , $\text{TRG}(\text{Det}(D)) = (\text{Det}(D), \text{Ref}_{\text{TPR}})$ is a deterministic graph structure constructed as follows:

Step1: Determinization :

$\text{Det}(A) = (ACT, L_D, l_{D0}, X, T_{DD}, L_S)$, is constructed as follows:

1. $L_D \subseteq P(L)$: The locations set of $\text{Det}(A)$.
2. ACT, X, L_S : are respectively the sets of actions, clocks and the maximality function. They are the same of A .
3. $l_{D0} = \{l_0\}$: The initial location of $\text{Det}(A)$.
4. For any location $l \in L_D$ and action $a \in ACT$, Let $E' \subseteq T_D$ be a set of edges, where $E' = \{e_i | e_i = (l, G_i, a, x, l_i)\}$.
5. For every $E'' \in P(E')$

Create a location

$$l' \in L_D \text{ and } l' = \{\beta(e_i) \wedge e_i \in E''\}$$

Compute a guard

$$G = \left(\bigwedge_{G \in \Gamma(E'')} G \right) \wedge \left(\bigwedge_{G \in \Gamma(E'/E'')} \neg G \right)$$

Create an edge $(l, G, a, x, l') \in T_{DD}$

6. The set $L_{Df} \subseteq L_D$ is the set of terminal locations if $L_{Df} \cap P(L_f) \neq \emptyset$

Step2: Refusals decoration:

For any location, $l \in L_D$,

- a. If e is deterministic, $e = (l, G, c, x, l_i)$, let $E \subseteq T_{DD}$ be a set of edges, where $E = \{e_i | e_i = (l, G_i, c, x, l_i)\}$ and characterized by the size of $(l_i) = 1$ so:

$$Ref_{TRG}(l) = \bigcup_{e \in E} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} Ref_T(l) = \{\bar{e}(G) \mid c \in e \text{ and } G \neq \emptyset\} \\ \bigcup Ref_T(l) = \emptyset \end{array} \right\} \quad (5)$$

b. Otherwise, e is non deterministic (i.e $e = (l, G, c, x, l_i)$ and characterized by the size of $(l_i) \geq 2$) so,

For every E'' and $(e_i) \in E''$ from step 5 of determinization:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} E''_i = \{e_j \mid e_j = (\beta(e_i), G_j, c_j, x_j, l_j) \text{ and } e_i \in E''\} \\ E''_i = \{e_k \mid e_k = (\beta(e_i), G_k, c_k, x_k, l_k) \text{ and } \\ e_i \in E'' \setminus \{e_i\}\} \end{array} \right\} \quad (6)$$

Note : Equ.7 defines the set of E''_i and its complement on E''

$$Ref_{TRG}(l) = \bigcup_{e_i \in E''} \left\{ \left[\bigcup_{e_j \in E''_i} \{(\bar{e}_j(G_j))\} \right] \cup \left[\bigcup_{e_k \in E''_i} \{(\bar{e}_k(G_k))\} \right] \right\} \quad (7)$$

Lemma 1: let $D = (L, l_0, X, T_D, L_S, L_f)$ be a DATA*, a timed refusals graph $T_{RG} = (D, Ref_{TRG})$ is a structure created by the previous framework, so it has the following properties:

1. The calculus of TRG terminates and verifies *Definition 4* of timed refusals graphs.
2. The DATA* and the corresponding TRG are trace equivalent.
3. The determinism of the TRG is insured.
4. After a timed trace σ , a set of actions which can be refused, is included in the set of refusals associated to the node g^i where $g^i = g_0 \sigma$.

Sketch of proof: The termination property of the framework is insured by the finite number of state and determinizability property of DATA* model [20].

The timed refusals graph is inductively constructed by exploring all traces of the DATA*. This implies that they are trace equivalent.

The third and fourth properties result from the algorithm by steps (1) and (2). ■

B. Minimization of Refusals Sets

Minimizing refusals sets $Ref_{TRG}(l)$ allows minimization of timed refusals graphs. The minimization procedure of refusals sets eliminates redundant information about refusals at any location.

Definition 5: Let $T_{RG} = (D, Ref_{TRG})$ be a timed refusals graph, l an element of L and let A, B be elements of $Ref_{TRG}(l)$,

$$A \in B : \forall (\bar{a}, \emptyset) \in A, (\bar{a}, \emptyset) \in B \text{ and } \forall (\bar{a}, G) \in A \text{ either } (\bar{a}, G) \in B \text{ or } (\bar{a}, \emptyset) \in B$$

The minimization of refusals set A produces a new set A' calculated for any location $l \in L$ is as follows:

$$\forall A \in Ref_{TRG}(l) \text{ if } (\bar{a}, \emptyset) \in A \text{ and } (\bar{a}, G) \in$$

1. A then remove (\bar{a}, G) from A
 2. Minimize $Ref_{TRG}(l)$ with respect to the relation \in .
- In fact, if a set A of refusals is an element of $Ref_{TRG}(l)$, and both permanent and temporary refusals on action a are in A . It

means that a system may be in a state when action a is definitely refused or temporary refused.

Then, no way permits to ensure that action a will be offered after a laps of time. Which justifies the remove of temporary refusals of action a in the set A . In the second step, if $A \in B$ so A is removed. In fact, the refusals in B contain the refusals in A .

The timed refusals graph (TRG) is said minimal if the refusals set Ref_{TRG} remains unchangeable by the application of Step1 and Step2 for any locality $l \in L$.

IV. REDUCTIONS OF TIMED REFUSALS GRAPHS

The behavior of DATA* (respectively its TRG) can be captured by a temporized finite state machine, named regions automaton. In which states are formed in a pair by locations and clock regions. Regions are equivalent classes of clock valuations function. Nevertheless, the complexity of implementing regions automata is exponential in the number of clocks and in the length of timing constraints [16], [25].

A. Aggregate Regions Automata of DATA*

In previous work [10], we have defined an aggregation operation on regions automaton states, using an equivalence relation, and it serves to group regions. This aggregation reduces significantly the graph size. For this purpose we have proposed an algorithm implementing the aggregation relation starting from an initial partitioning of states. The generated aggregate regions automaton preserves the reachability property, thus the reachability question on DATA* model is reduced to reachability question about aggregate regions automata.

Definition 6: Let $D = (L, l_0, X, T_D, L_S, L_f)$ be a DATA*, its aggregate regions automaton $ARA(D) = (S, s_0, T_R)$ over ACT , is defined as follows:

All states of $ARA(D)$ are of the form $s_{ij} = (l_i, r_j)$ where l_i is a location and r_j is a clock region. The set of states is noted S . The initial state is $s_0 = (l_0, r_0)$. r_0 is the initial region where every clock is initialized by zero. $s_{ij}^f = (l_i, r_j)$ is a terminal state iff $l_i \in L_f$.

The set of transitions T_R is,

$$T_R = \left\{ l' / l' = (l, r) \xrightarrow{a} (l', r') \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \exists l' - \frac{g, a, x}{\text{such as } r \subseteq g \text{ and } r' = r''[x \leftarrow 0]} \rightarrow l' \in T_D \text{ and } \exists r'' \in \text{succ}(r) \end{array} \right. \right\} \quad (8)$$

While the regions graph associated to the DATA* was creating, the aggregation operation revealed symmetrical aspects of clock regions. Indeed, because of the causal dependence of actions when considering durations of actions, the guards of the transitions have a particular form also the clock reset on the start of action execution.

These two characteristics allow us deducing the form of regions and their successors which verify guards and clock reset at each point of time. To group localities (s, r_i) consists on

refuses some actions, however these refusals may disappear after applying extra events on it. In this theory, the origin of temporary refusals is unknown and extra events are needed to eliminate this lock.

Tretmans in [22] has defined the notion of quiescence in system behaviors, this situation may occur when a system executes a cyclic sequence of silent actions. To distinguish between quiescence situation and temporary refusals, Brinksma and al propose in [6] an extension of the conformance relation for real time systems and introduce a notion of quiescence parameterized by upper bound of duration for this lock. While this period has not expired, the refusal may be temporary, the system is considered in a quiescence location.

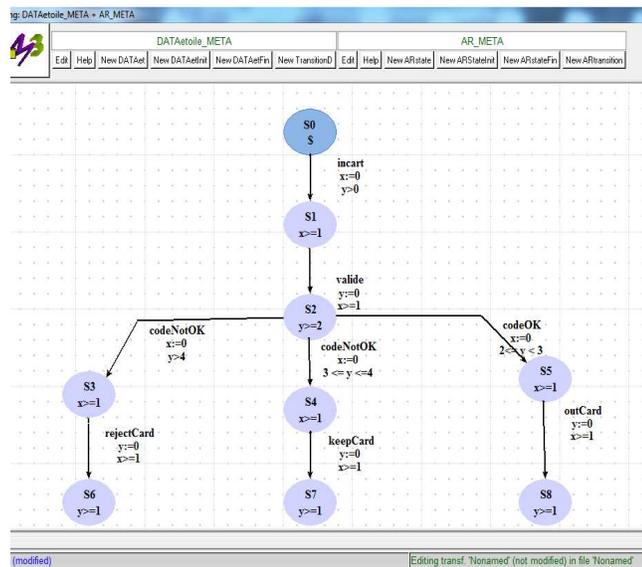


Fig. 8. DATA* of ATM system presented in ATOM3 tool

B. Testing with TRRG

In our case we introduce the use of TRRG in testing timed systems specified by DATA*. It's known that the use of timed model introduces several technical difficulties in testing since the durations associated to the actions are represented by constraints. Therefore, the conformance relation must be reformulated and we have to take into account actions which elapse in addition to temporal requirements.

The use of the TRRG structure, permits to define an timed extension of conformance relation for DATA*, based on *conf* relation defined in [28]. This relation was widely used in the practice of the test on Labeled Transitions Systems.

The TRRG considers two kinds of refusals, permanent and temporal refusals defined in section 2.4. Given the Fact that action have a duration represented by constraint in target state so the refusals are quantified.

We propose the following timed conformance relation named $conf_{TPR}$ defined as follows:

Definition 6:

σ is timed trace over Act.

$I \text{ conf}_{TPR} S \iff \forall \sigma \in$

$$TTraces(S) \left\{ \begin{array}{l} (Forb(I, \sigma) \subseteq Forb(S, \sigma)) \text{ and} \\ (Ref_{TPR}(I, \sigma) \subseteq Ref_{TPR}(S, \sigma)) \end{array} \right.$$

(9)

Intuitively, the relation presented in definition above holds between an implementation I and a specification S , if for every timed trace in the specification, the implementation does not contain unexpected deadlocks. It means that implementation and specification have the same timed traces in addition to forbidden actions (which are not allowed about current state noted *Forb* and the same sets of refusals (temporal or permanent).

The use of this notion of conformance makes DATA* more expressive. And the implementation relation defined above can be refined and used explicitly for creating a tester for deriving test cases. As described in the beginning of the paper the canonical tester can be created on the structure of TRRG with respect of $conf_{TPR}$ for testing DATA*.

VII. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we have introduced theory of refusal testing for a real-time systems modeled in Duration action time automata (DATA*). Next, we have proposed a timed refusals regions graph for DATA* specifications. In this variant of refusals graphs, temporary refusals are quantified, because actions have duration. Then, we have proposed a framework which generates timed refusals regions graph from DATA*. This framework is implemented by a combination of Meta-modelling and Graph Grammars, to transform a (DATA*) into a (TRRG) and to generate automatically a visual modeling tool. Finally, we discuss the use of the TRRG in testing theory. The timed refusal region graph is illustrated through an example.

As a perspective, we plan to use this result in order to construct a testing approach for real time systems by making explicit the conformance relation and to define how tests are applied to implementations. In this sense, we will construct a canonical tester based on TRRG; this will be done by deepening on the test selection method, in order to reduce the number of generated tests.

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