

Water Level Control (HSCC 2011)

AVACS H4
Phase 2

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1 Description of the Model

We consider a model of a water level control system extended from the one of Alur et al. [1] and our previous paper [4]. In particular, we use this case study to demonstrate the influence which different abstractions of the same continuous stochastic command have. The abstraction of a guarded command with a continuous probability distribution into one with a discrete probability distribution is described in a recent publication [2]. A water tank is filled by a constant stream of water and is connected to a pump which is used to avoid overflow of the tank. A control system operates the pump in order to keep the water level within predefined bounds. The controller is connected to a sensor measuring the level of water in the tank. A sketch of the model is given in Figure 1. The state “Tank” models the tank and the pump, and w is the water level. Initially, the

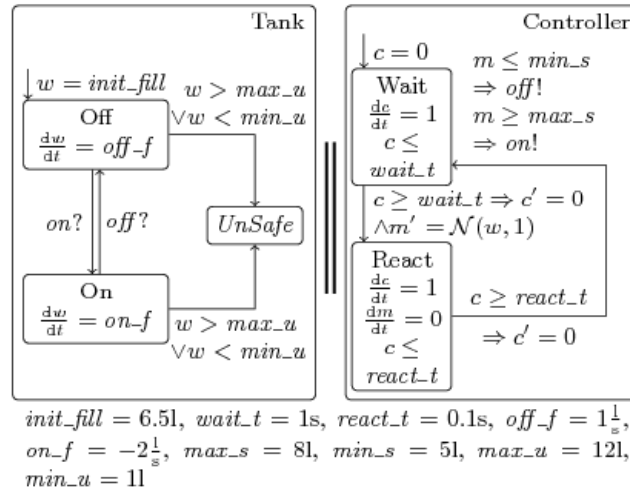


Figure 1: Sketch of the Water Level Control Model

tank contains a given amount of water. Whenever the pump is turned off in state “Off”, the tank fills with a constant rate due to the inflow. Conversely, more water is pumped out than flows in when the pump is on.

| Time bound | Abstraction A | | | Abstraction B | | |
|------------|---------------|-----------|--------|---------------|-----------|--------|
| | Prob. | Build (s) | States | Prob. | Build (s) | States |
| 20s | 0.1987 | 3 | 999 | 0.0982 | 3 | 1306 |
| 30s | 0.2830 | 6 | 2232 | 0.1433 | 8 | 2935 |
| 40s | 0.3580 | 16 | 3951 | 0.1860 | 18 | 5212 |
| 50s | 0.4250 | 34 | 6156 | 0.2264 | 42 | 8137 |
| 60s | 0.4848 | 67 | 8847 | 0.2647 | 86 | 11710 |

| Time bound | Abstraction C | | | Abstraction D | | |
|------------|---------------|-----------|--------|---------------|-----------|--------|
| | Prob. | Build (s) | States | Prob. | Build (s) | States |
| 20s | 0.1359 | 3 | 1306 | 0.0465 | 5 | 1920 |
| 30s | 0.1870 | 8 | 2935 | 0.0693 | 15 | 4341 |
| 40s | 0.2547 | 18 | 5212 | 0.0916 | 47 | 7734 |
| 50s | 0.3024 | 43 | 8137 | 0.1134 | 108 | 12099 |
| 60s | 0.3577 | 85 | 11710 | 0.1347 | 219 | 17436 |

Table 1: Water level control results. We round probabilities to four decimal places.

Abstractions used are $A = w + \{-2, 2\}, (-\infty, 1.9] \cup [1, 9, \infty)\}$,

$B = w + \{-2, 2\}, (-\infty, 1.9], [1.9, \infty)\}$,

$C = w + \{-2.7, 2.7\}, (-\infty, 1.2), [1.2, \infty)\}$,

$D = w + \{-1.5, 1.5\}, [-1.5, -2], [1.5, 2], (-\infty, 1.9), [1.9, \infty)\}$

The controller is modelled by automaton “Controller”. In state “Wait”, the controller waits for a certain amount of time. Upon the transition to “React”, the controller measures the water level. To model the uncertainties in measurement, we set the variable m to a normal distribution with expected value w (the actual water level) and standard deviation 1. According to the measurement obtained, the controller switches the pump off or on.

We are interested in the probability that within a given time bound, the water level leaves the legal interval.

2 Results

In Table 1, we give upper bounds for this probability for different time bounds computed by *ProHVer*¹ as well as the number of states in the abstraction computed by *PHAVer* [3] and the time needed for the analysis. Notice, that the resulting probabilities may be different than the ones in the paper for this model. The reason is that we manually

¹<http://depend.cs.uni-sb.de/tools/prohver>

inserted the precise values in the *.graph* files generated by the modified version of *PHAVer* which serve as input for *ProHVer*. For the stochastic guarded command simulating the measurement, we consider different abstractions by probabilistic guarded commands of different precision, for which we give the abstraction functions in the table caption. When we refine the abstraction *A* to a more precise *B*, the probability bound decreases. If we introduce additional non-determinism as in abstraction *C*, probabilities increase again. If we refine *B* again into *D*, we obtain even lower probability bounds. The price to be paid for increasing precision, however, is in the number of abstract states computed by *PHAVer* as well as a corresponding increase in the time needed to compute the abstraction.

Manual analysis shows that in this case study, the over-approximation of the probabilities only results from the abstraction of the stochastic guarded command into a probabilistic guarded command and is not increased further by the state-space abstraction.

References

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