# Bisimulation 

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## Simulation

the quest for a behavioural equality: able to identify states that cannot be distinguished by any realistic form of observation

## Simulation

A state $q$ simulates another state $p$ if every transition from $q$ is corresponded by a transition from $p$ and this capacity is kept along the whole life of the system to which state space $q$ belongs to.

## Simulation

Definition
Given $\left\langle S_{1}, N, \downarrow_{1}, \longrightarrow_{1}\right\rangle$ and $\left\langle S_{2}, N, \downarrow_{2}, \longrightarrow_{2}\right\rangle$ over $N$, relation $R \subseteq S_{1} \times S_{2}$ is a simulation iff, for all $\langle p, q\rangle \in R$ and $a \in N$,
(1) $p \downarrow_{1} \Rightarrow q \downarrow_{2}$
(2) $p \xrightarrow{a} 1 p^{\prime} \Rightarrow\left\langle\exists q^{\prime}: q^{\prime} \in S_{2}: q \xrightarrow{a} 2 q^{\prime} \wedge\left\langle p^{\prime}, q^{\prime}\right\rangle \in R\right\rangle$


## Example



$$
q_{0} \lesssim p_{0} \quad \text { cf. } \quad\left\{\left\langle q_{0}, p_{0}\right\rangle,\left\langle q_{1}, p_{1}\right\rangle,\left\langle q_{4}, p_{1}\right\rangle,\left\langle q_{2}, p_{2}\right\rangle,\left\langle q_{3}, p_{3}\right\rangle\right\}
$$

## Similarity

## Definition

$$
p \lesssim q \Leftrightarrow\langle\exists R:: R \text { is a simulation and }\langle p, q\rangle \in R\rangle
$$

Lemma
The similarity relation is a preorder (ie, reflexive and transitive)

## Bisimulation

## Definition

Given $\left\langle S_{1}, N, \downarrow_{1}, \longrightarrow_{1}\right\rangle$ and $\left\langle S_{2}, N, \downarrow_{2}, \longrightarrow_{2}\right\rangle$ over $N$, relation $R \subseteq S_{1} \times S_{2}$ is a bisimulation iff both $R$ and its converse $R^{\circ}$ are simulations.
I.e., whenever $\langle p, q\rangle \in R$ and $a \in N$,
(1) $p \downarrow_{1} \Leftrightarrow q \downarrow_{2}$
(2.1) $p \xrightarrow{a}{ }_{1} p^{\prime} \Rightarrow\left\langle\exists q^{\prime}: q^{\prime} \in S_{2}: q \xrightarrow{a} 2 q^{\prime} \wedge\left\langle p^{\prime}, q^{\prime}\right\rangle \in R\right\rangle$
(2.1) $q \xrightarrow{a} 2 q^{\prime} \Rightarrow\left\langle\exists p^{\prime}: p^{\prime} \in S_{1}: p \xrightarrow{a}{ }_{1} p^{\prime} \wedge\left\langle p^{\prime}, q^{\prime}\right\rangle \in R\right\rangle$

## Bisimulation

The Game characterization
Two players $R$ and $I$ discuss whether the transition structures are mutually corresponding

- $R$ starts by chosing a transition
- I replies trying to match it
- if $I$ succeeds, $R$ plays again
- $R$ wins if $I$ fails to find a corresponding match
- I wins if it replies to all moves from $R$ and the game is in a configuration where all states have been visited or $R$ can't move further. In this case is said that I has a wining strategy


## Examples



$$
q_{1} \stackrel{a}{>} q_{2} \stackrel{a}{>} q_{3} \xrightarrow{a}
$$



## Bisimilarity

## Definition

$$
p \sim q \Leftrightarrow\langle\exists R:: R \text { is a bisimulation and }\langle p, q\rangle \in R\rangle
$$

## Lemma

1. The identity relation id is a bisimulation
2. The empty relation $\perp$ is a bisimulation
3. The converse $R^{\circ}$ of a bisimulation is a bisimulation
4. The composition $S \cdot R$ of two bisimulations $S$ and $R$ is a bisimulation
5. The $\bigcup_{i \in I} R_{i}$ of a family of bisimulations $\left\{R_{i} \mid i \in I\right\}$ is a bisimulation

## Bisimilarity

## Lemma

The bisimilarity relation is an equivalence relation (ie, reflexive, symmetric and transitive)

Lemma
The class of all bisimulations between two LTS has the structure of a complete lattice, ordered by set inclusion, whose top is the bisimilarity relation $\sim$.

## Bisimilarity

Warning
The bisimilarity relation $\sim$ is not the symmetric closure of $\lesssim$

## Example

$$
q_{0} \lesssim p_{0}, p_{0} \lesssim q_{0} \text { but } p_{0} \nsim q_{0}
$$

$$
q_{2} \xrightarrow{b} q_{3}
$$

$$
p_{0} \xrightarrow{a} p_{1} \xrightarrow{b} p_{3}
$$

## Notes

Similarity as the greatest simulation

$$
\lesssim \triangleq \bigcup\{S \mid S \text { is a simulation }\}
$$

Bisimilarity as the greatest bisimulation

$$
\sim \triangleq \bigcup\{S \mid S \text { is a bisimulation }\}
$$

cf relational translation of definitions
$\lesssim$ and $\sim$ as greatest fix points (Tarski's theorem)

