

# Timed Games with Bounded Window Parity Objectives

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# Talk overview

- **Window objectives** reinforce long-term objectives (e.g., mean-payoff objectives, parity objectives) with **timing constraints**.
- We study window parity objectives in a **continuous-time setting**.

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<sup>1</sup>Main, Randour, and Sproston, “Time Flies When Looking out of the Window: Timed Games with Window Parity Objectives”, CONCUR 2021.

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- A **good window** for the parity objective is a time frame of size less than  $\lambda$  such that the **smallest priority** in this time frame is even.

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- The **bounded timed window parity objective** requires that there exists a  $\lambda$  s. t., **from all configurations** of a run, there is a good window for  $\lambda$ .
- **Fixed timed window parity objectives** were first studied in [MRS21]<sup>1</sup>.
- We discuss the complexity of verification and realizability for bounded objectives.

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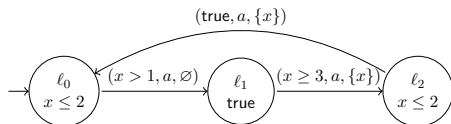
# Timed automata

## Introduction

- **Timed automata** [AD94]<sup>2</sup> are used to model **real-time systems**.

A timed automaton consists of:

- a finite set  $C$  of **clocks** progressing at the **same rate**;
- a finite set of **locations**  $L$  constrained by **invariants**;
- a finite set of **edges**  $E$  labelled by **actions**, **guards** and **clock resets**.
- Guards and invariants are given by conjunctions of conditions of the form  $x \leq c$ ,  $x < c$ ,  $x \geq c$  and  $x > c$  where  $x$  is a clock and  $c \in \mathbb{N}$ .



<sup>2</sup>Alur and Dill, "A Theory of Timed Automata", TCS 1994.



# Timed automata

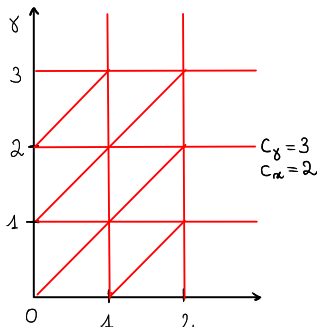
## Semantics

A timed automaton gives rise to an **uncountable transition system**.

- The state space  $S$  of this transition system consists of pairs of **locations** and **clock valuations** (mappings  $C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ ).
- The **initial state** is  $(\ell_{\text{init}}, \mathbf{0}^C)$ .
- Moves are pairs  $(d, a)$  where  $d \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  is a **delay** and  $a$  is an **action** of the timed automaton or a special **standby action**  $\perp$ .
- Transitions are constrained by the **invariants** and **guards** of the timed automaton. We distinguish **two types** of transitions.
  - **Delays transitions**: for any  $\delta \geq 0$ ,  $(\ell, v) \xrightarrow{\delta, \perp} (\ell, v + \delta)$  if  $v + \delta \models \text{Inv}(\ell)$
  - **Edge transitions**: for any  $\delta \geq 0$  and action  $a$ ,  $(\ell, v) \xrightarrow{\delta, a} (\ell', v')$  if there is an edge  $(\ell, g, a, D, \ell') \in E$ ,  $v + \delta \models \text{Inv}(\ell) \wedge g$ ,  $v' = \text{reset}_D(v + \delta)$  and  $v' \models \text{Inv}(\ell')$ .

# Clock-equivalence and regions

- We assume that there is a clock  $\gamma$  that **cannot be reset**.
- We use **clock-equivalence** and **region-equivalence** [AD94]<sup>3</sup>.



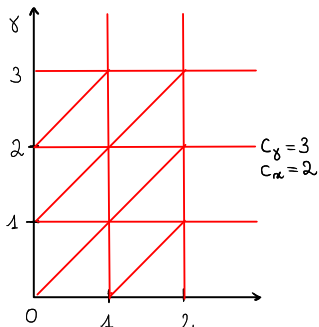
We have  $v \equiv v'$  if

- for all  $x \in C$ ,  $v(x) > c_x$  iff  $v'(x) > c_x$ ;
- for all  $x \in \{z \in C \mid v(z) \leq c_x\}$ ,  
 $\lfloor v(x) \rfloor = \lfloor v'(x) \rfloor$ ;
- for all  $x, y \in \{z \in C \mid v(z) \leq c_x\} \cup \{\gamma\}$ ,  
 $v(x) \in \mathbb{N}$  iff  $v'(x) \in \mathbb{N}$ , and  
 $\text{frac}(v(x)) \leq \text{frac}(v(y))$  iff  
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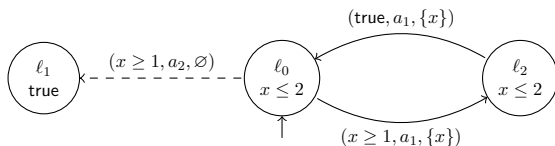
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- There are **exponentially many** clock regions.
- We let  $\text{Reg}$  denote the set of clock regions.

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# Timed games

- We consider **two-player games** played on timed automata [Alf+03]<sup>4</sup>.
- A timed game is given by a **timed automaton** and a **partition**  $(\Sigma_1, \Sigma_2)$  **of the actions** of the timed automaton in  $\mathcal{P}_1$  actions and  $\mathcal{P}_2$  actions.
- These games are **concurrent**: at each round, both players present a move and the play proceeds following a **fastest move**.

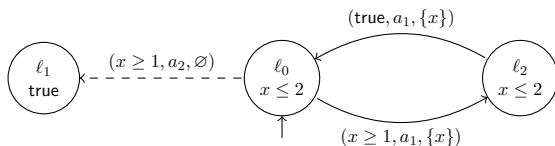


- Examples of the first round of a timed game:
  - $(l_0, 0) ((1, a_1), (0.5, a_2))$

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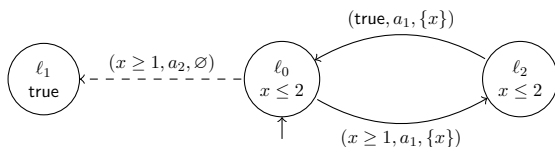


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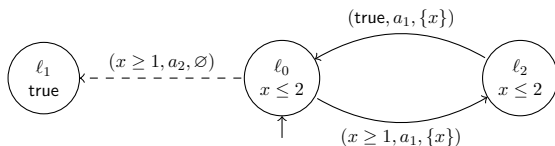


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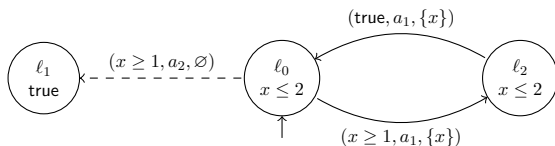


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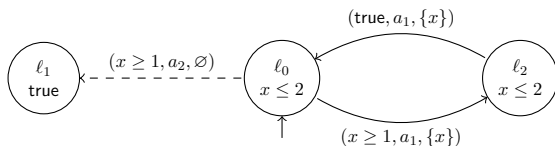
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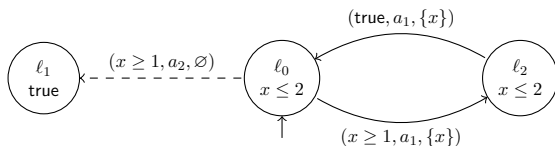


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# Timed games

- A **play** is an infinite sequence in  $(S((\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \times \Sigma_1) \times (\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \times \Sigma_2)))^\omega$  constructed according to the rules of the game.
- A **history** is a prefix of a play ending in a state.
- A **strategy** for  $\mathcal{P}_i$  is a function mapping histories to moves of  $\mathcal{P}_i$ .

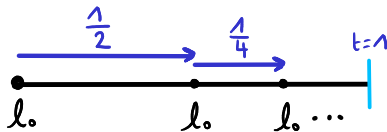
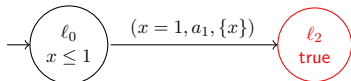
## Finite-memory region strategies

A strategy of  $\mathcal{P}_i$  is a **finite-memory region strategy** if it can be **encoded by a Mealy machine**  $\mathcal{M} = (\mathfrak{M}, \mathfrak{m}_{\text{init}}, \alpha_{\text{up}}, \alpha_{\text{mov}})$  where

- $\mathfrak{M}$  is a finite set of memory states,  $\mathfrak{m}_{\text{init}} \in \mathfrak{M}$ ;
- $\alpha_{\text{up}}: \mathfrak{M} \times L \times \text{Reg} \rightarrow \mathfrak{M}$  is a memory update function;
- $\alpha_{\text{mov}}: \mathfrak{M} \times S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \times \Sigma_i$  is a next-move function such that for all  $\mathfrak{m} \in \mathfrak{M}$  and two region-equivalent states  $s, s' \in S$ , the delays of the moves  $\alpha_{\text{mov}}(\mathfrak{m}, s)$  and  $\alpha_{\text{mov}}(\mathfrak{m}, s')$  **move to the same regions**.

# Passage of time

- It is possible to have a play in which a **finite amount** of time passes.
  - Example:  $(\ell_0, 0)((\frac{1}{2}, \perp), (\frac{1}{2}, \perp))(\ell_0, \frac{1}{2})((\frac{1}{4}, \perp), (\frac{1}{4}, \perp))(\ell_0, \frac{3}{4}) \dots$



- Plays in which the sum of delays converges are called **time-convergent**.
- Otherwise, a play is referred to as **time-divergent**.
- We use **winning conditions** that prevent a player from winning by making time converge, following [Alf+03]<sup>5</sup>.

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# Winning conditions

- An **objective** is a set of plays that represents the specification to be enforced.
- Given an objective, we say a play belongs to its associated winning condition for  $\mathcal{P}_1$  if one of the two following conditions is fulfilled:
  - the play is **time-divergent** and satisfies the **objective**;
  - the play is **time-convergent** and from some point on, **transitions** in the play **cannot** be achieved by  $\mathcal{P}_1$ 's moves.
- We say a strategy of  $\mathcal{P}_1$  is **winning** from some initial state if **all plays** starting in this state consistent with the strategy satisfy the winning condition of  $\mathcal{P}_1$ .

## Realizability problem

Given an objective, check whether  $\mathcal{P}_1$  has a winning strategy from the initial state.

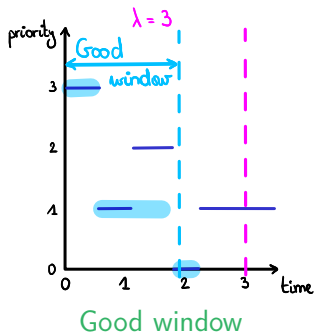
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# Good windows

- The window objectives are based on the notion of **good windows**.
- Fix a bound  $\lambda$  on the length of windows. A good window for the **parity objective** is a window in which:
  - **strictly less than  $\lambda$  time units** elapse and
  - the **smallest priority** appearing in the window is **even**.





## Window objectives

Let  $\pi = (\ell_0, v_0)(m_0^{(1)}, m_0^{(2)})(\ell_1, v_1) \dots$  be a play.

- $\pi$  satisfies the **timed good window parity objective**  $\text{TGW}(\lambda)$  if the **window at the start** of  $\pi$  is **good**. Formally,  $\pi \in \text{TGW}(\lambda)$  if and only if

$$\exists n, \left( \min_{0 \leq k \leq n} p(\ell_k) \right) \bmod 2 = 0 \wedge \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \text{delay}(m_k^{(1)}, m_k^{(2)}) < \lambda.$$

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- $\pi$  satisfies the **direct fixed timed window parity objective**  $\text{DFTW}(\lambda)$  if **all suffixes of  $\pi$  satisfy  $\text{TGW}(\lambda)$** .

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- $\pi$  satisfies the **fixed timed window parity objective**  $\text{FTW}(\lambda)$  if **some suffix of  $\pi$  satisfies  $\pi \in \text{DFTW}(\lambda)$** .
- $\pi$  satisfies the **bounded timed window parity objective**  $\text{BTW}$  if **some suffix of  $\pi$  satisfies  $\pi \in \text{DBTW}$** .

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# Direct bounded window objective

## Request-response objectives

- We can **reduce** the realizability problem for DBTW to the realizability problem for **request-response objectives**.

### Request-response objective

Let  $\mathcal{R} = ((Rq_i, Rp_i))_{i=1}^r$  where for all  $i$ ,  $Rq_i, Rp_i \subseteq L \times \text{Reg}$ . A play  $\pi = (\ell_0, v_0)(m_0^{(1)}, m_0^{(2)})(\ell_1, v_1) \dots$  satisfies the **request-response objective**  $RR(\mathcal{R})$  if for all  $i \in \{1, \dots, r\}$  and for all  $j \in \mathbb{N}$ , there exists  $k \geq j$  such that

$$(\ell_j, [v_j]) \in Rq_i \implies (\ell_k, [v_k]) \in Rp_i.$$

- Whenever  $\mathcal{P}_1$  has a winning strategy for a request-response objective, he also has a **region finite-memory winning strategy** using delays of **at most one**.

# Direct bounded window objective

## Reduction

- From a priority function  $p$ , we define a set of pairs of requests and responses  $\mathcal{R}(p)$ .
  - For each **odd priority**  $q$ , we have the **request**  $p^{-1}(q) \times \text{Reg}$ .
  - The matching **response** set is  $\bigcup_{q' \leq q, q \text{ even}} p^{-1}(q') \times \text{Reg}$ .

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## Theorem

Let  $D = \max_{\ell \in L} (p(\ell)) + 1$  and  $\lambda = 8 \cdot |L| \cdot |\text{Reg}| \cdot (\lfloor \frac{D}{2} \rfloor + 1) + 3$ .

- The sets of **winning states** for the objectives  $\text{RR}(\mathcal{R}(p))$ ,  $\text{DFTW}(\lambda)$  and  $\text{DBTW}$  **coincide**.
- There exists a **finite-memory region strategy** that is simultaneously winning for these three objectives from any winning state.



# Direct bounded window objective

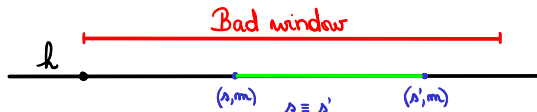
## Correctness of the reduction

- The chain of inclusions  $\text{DFTW}(\lambda) \subseteq \text{DBTW} \subseteq \text{RR}(\mathcal{R}(p))$  implies the similar chain for the sets of winning states.

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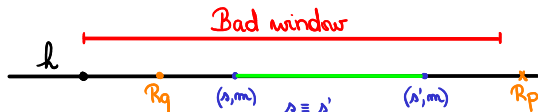
- The chain of inclusions  $\text{DFTW}(\lambda) \subseteq \text{DBTW} \subseteq \text{RR}(\mathcal{R}(p))$  implies the similar chain for the sets of winning states.
- To show that if a state is winning for  $\text{RR}(\mathcal{R}(p))$ , then it must be for  $\text{DFTW}(\lambda)$ , we proceed by contradiction.
- We fix a **finite-memory region winning strategy** for  $\text{RR}(\mathcal{R}(p))$  with  $4 \cdot (\lfloor \frac{D}{2} \rfloor + 1)$  states and assume by contradiction that it is not winning for  $\text{DFTW}(\lambda)$ .



# Direct bounded window objective

## Correctness of the reduction

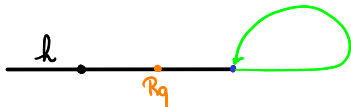
- The chain of inclusions  $\text{DFTW}(\lambda) \subseteq \text{DBTW} \subseteq \text{RR}(\mathcal{R}(p))$  implies the similar chain for the sets of winning states.
- To show that if a state is winning for  $\text{RR}(\mathcal{R}(p))$ , then it must be for  $\text{DFTW}(\lambda)$ , we proceed by contradiction.
- We fix a **finite-memory region winning strategy** for  $\text{RR}(\mathcal{R}(p))$  with  $4 \cdot (\lfloor \frac{D}{2} \rfloor + 1)$  states and assume by contradiction that it is not winning for  $\text{DFTW}(\lambda)$ .



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**Contradiction:** we have derived an outcome that is not winning for  $\text{RR}(\mathcal{R}(p))$ .

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- 2 Window parity objectives
- 3 Games with direct bounded window parity objectives
- 4 Games with indirect bounded window parity objectives**
- 5 Conclusion

# Indirect bounded window objective

## Algorithm

- To solve timed games with the BTW objective, we **repeatedly solve games with request-response objectives**, starting with  $RR(\mathcal{R}(p))$ .
- At each step, we **add** state regions that are declared **winning** to all **response sets**. We stop whenever no new state is declared winning.

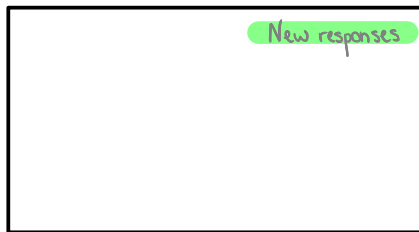


Illustration of the algorithm

- From any computed state, there is a winning strategy of  $\mathcal{P}_1$  for  $FTW(8 \cdot |L| \cdot |\text{Reg}| \cdot (\lfloor \frac{D}{2} \rfloor + 1) + 3)$ .

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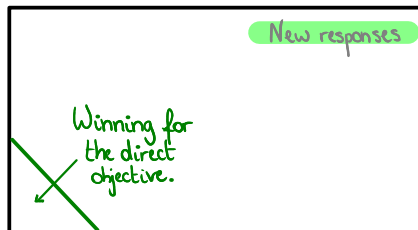


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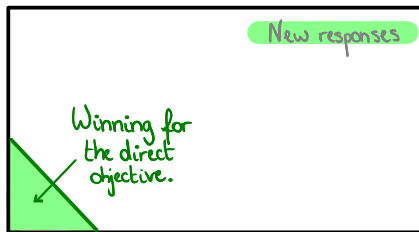


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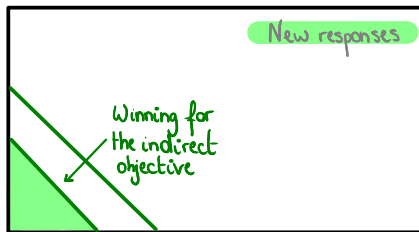


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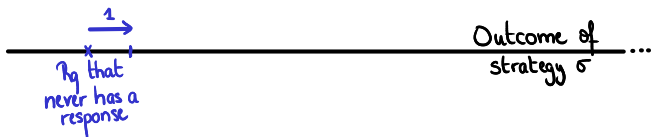
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# Indirect bounded window objective

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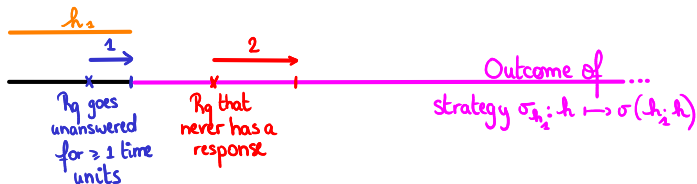
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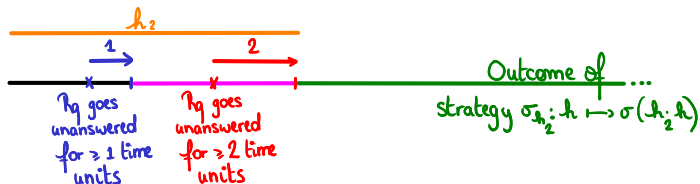
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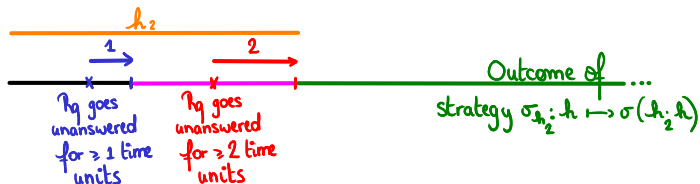
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# Indirect bounded window objective

## Correctness of the algorithm

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## Theorem

Let  $D = \max_{\ell \in L}(p(\ell)) + 1$  and  $\lambda = 8 \cdot |L| \cdot |\text{Reg}| \cdot (\lfloor \frac{D}{2} \rfloor + 1) + 3$ .

- The sets of **winning states** for the objectives FTW( $\lambda$ ) and BTW coincide.
- There exists a **finite-memory region strategy** that is simultaneously winning for these two objectives from any winning state.

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## Multi-dimensional objectives and complexity

- The algorithms for both variants of bounded window parity objectives can be used to handle **conjunctions** of direct bounded objectives or indirect bounded objectives.
- The **request-response objective** used for a conjunction described from priority functions  $p_1, \dots, p_k$  is  $\text{RR}(\bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq k} \mathcal{R}(p_i))$ .
- The algorithms for multi-dimensional objectives run in time:
  - **polynomial** in the size of the region abstraction;
  - **polynomial** in the number of priorities;
  - **exponential** in the number of dimensions.
- The realizability problem for BTW and DBTW can be shown **EXPTIME-hard** by a reduction from the realizability problem for safety objectives.

### Theorem

*The realizability problem for direct and indirect bounded timed window parity objectives is EXPTIME-complete.*



# Verification of timed automata

In addition to games, we have also studied the **verification problem** for bounded timed window objectives.

## Verification problem for timed automata

Given an objective, check whether all **time-divergent** paths of the timed automata satisfy the objective.

We have shown the following.

### Theorem

*The verification problem for direct and indirect bounded timed window parity objectives is PSPACE-complete.*

# Complexity overview

## Complexity summary for all variants of window parity objectives

	Single dimension	Multiple dimensions
Timed automata	PSPACE-complete	PSPACE-complete
Timed games	EXPTIME-complete	EXPTIME-complete
Games (untimed) [BHR16] <sup>6</sup>	P-complete	EXPTIME-complete

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<sup>6</sup>Bruyère, Hautem, and Randour, “Window parity games: an alternative approach toward parity games with time bounds”, GandALF 2016.

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