

# Modelling time and recursion

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# Summary

1. Modelling time: clocks vs registers.
2. Modelling recursion: timed pushdown automata.
3. Solution technique: reduction to 1-BVASS( $\pm$ ).

# Clocks vs registers

In a nutshell:

- Clocks record the *difference* between events' timestamps.
- Registers record the events' timestamps themselves.

The two approaches are essentially equivalent\*.

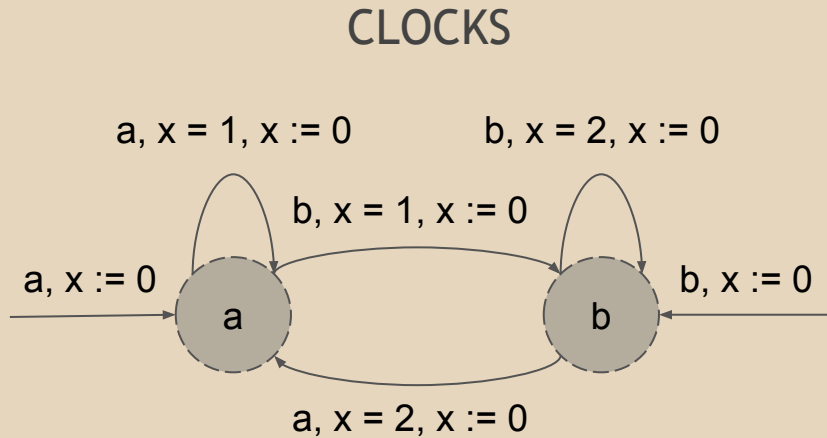
\*with uninitialised clocks (preserves emptiness)

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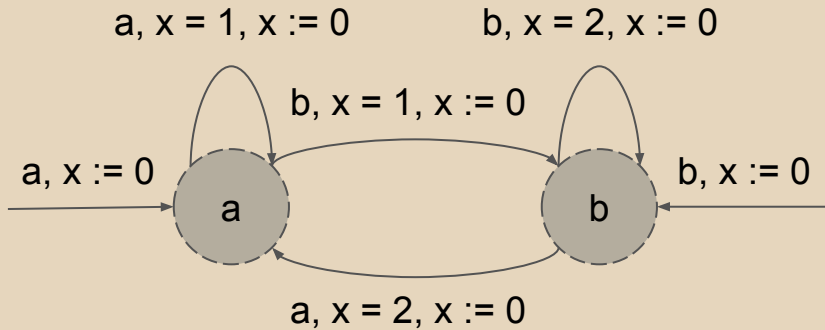
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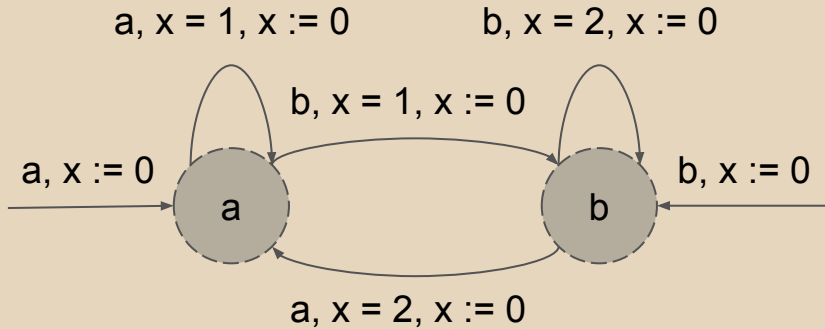
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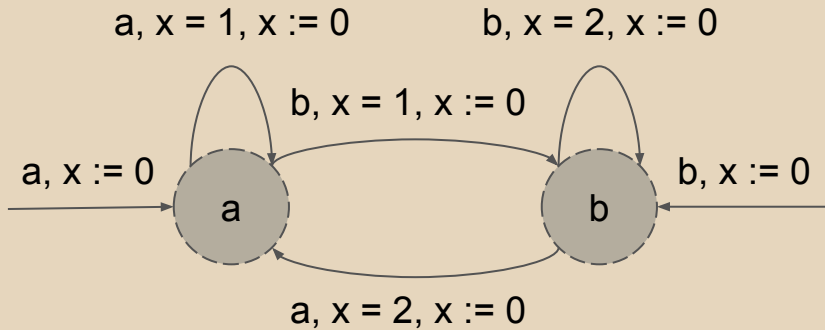


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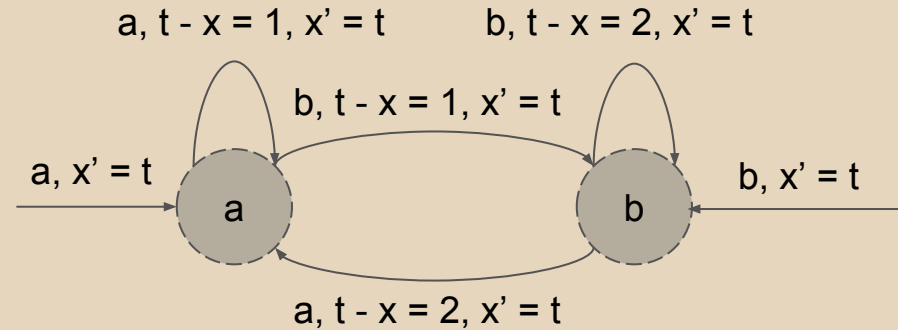
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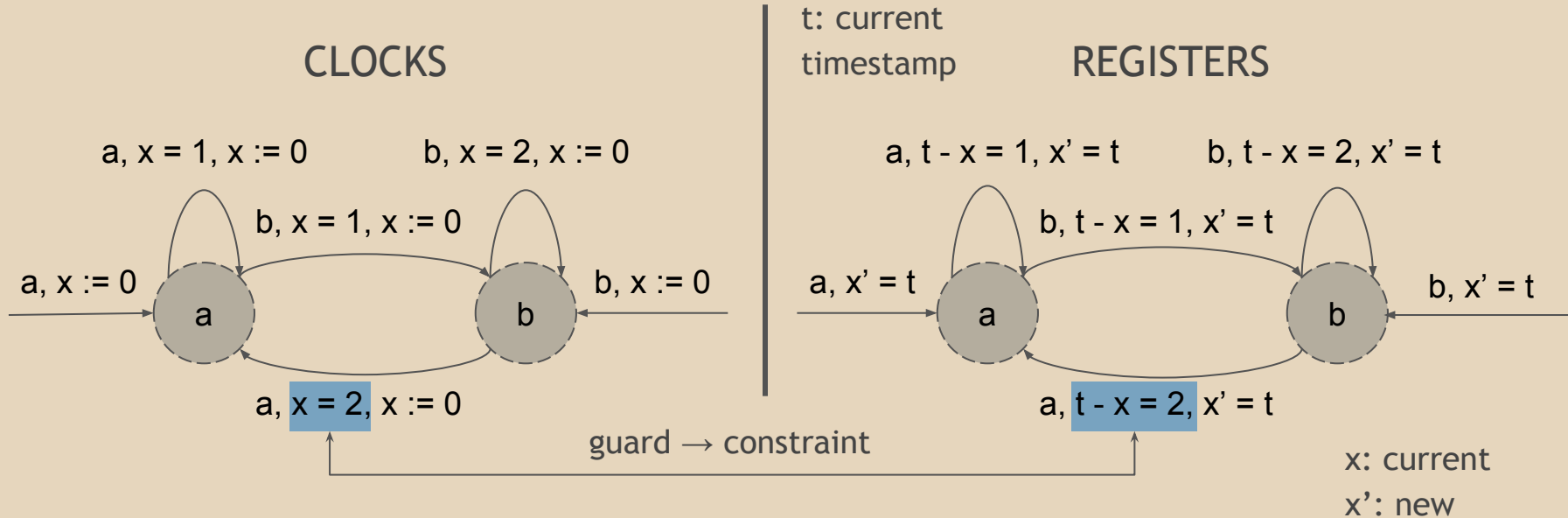


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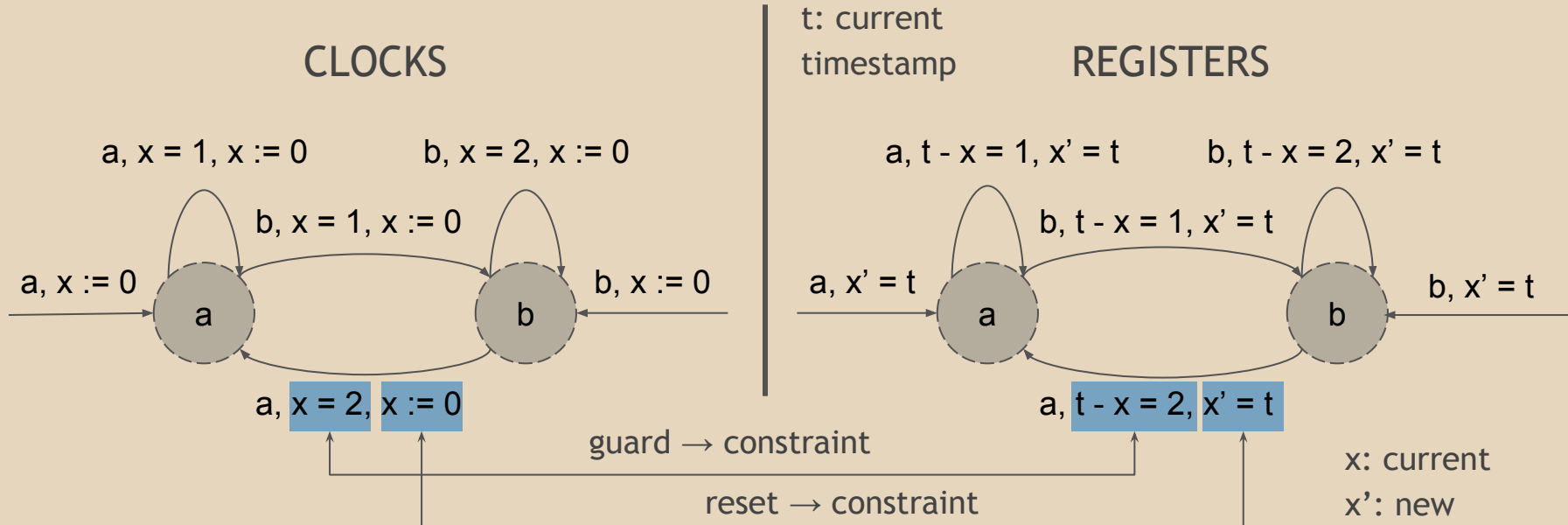
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- $(\mathbb{R}, \leq, +1)$ ,  $(\mathbb{Q}, \leq, +1)$ : dense timed automata.

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Fix finitely many registers  $X = \{x, y, \dots\}$ . A *timed register automaton* is a tuple

$$A = \langle Q, I, F, \Delta, \varphi(\delta) \rangle$$

where

- $Q$  is a finite set of control states, with  $I, F \subseteq Q$  the initial, final ones, resp.
- $\Delta \subseteq Q \times \Sigma \times Q$  is the transition relation.
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  - Boils down to conjunctions of  $y - x \in I$ , with  $I$  an interval in  $\mathbb{Q} \cup \{+\infty, -\infty\}$ .

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registers on the stack

# Dense-timed pushdown automata

In dtPDA [Abdulla, Atig, Stenman LICS'12]:

- Guards are of the form  $x \in I$ .
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- No diagonal control-stack push clock constraints (unknown).
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Very strong collapse result:

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Intuition:

- Time is monotone + stack LIFO policy
  - ⇒ it suffices to keep track of finitely many pop constraints in the state
  - ⇒ pop guards can be eliminated while preserving the timed language

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Pop guards of the form  $x \in [2, 3]$  + time is monotone + stack LIFO policy

Upper bound constraints:

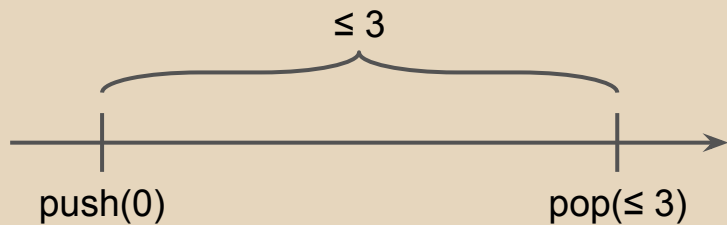
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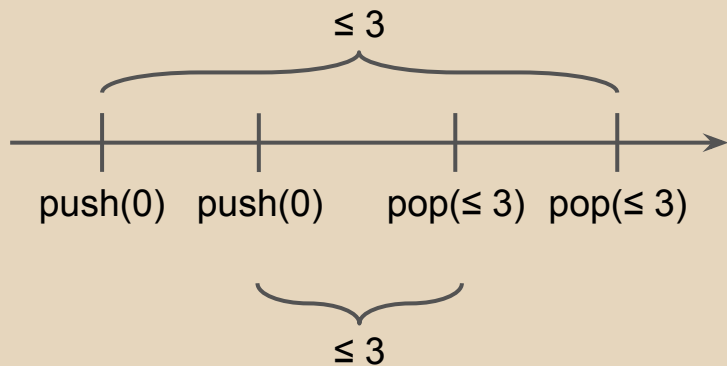


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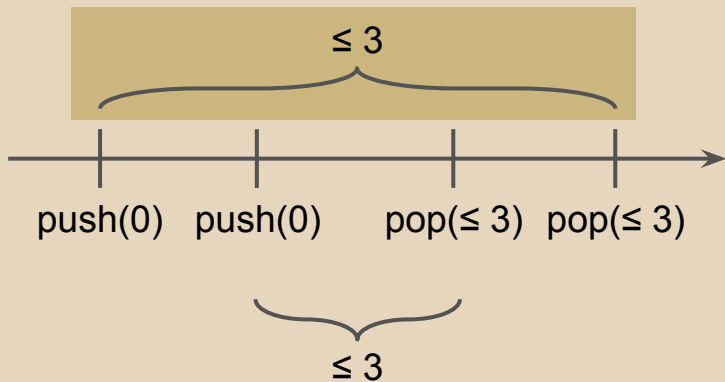


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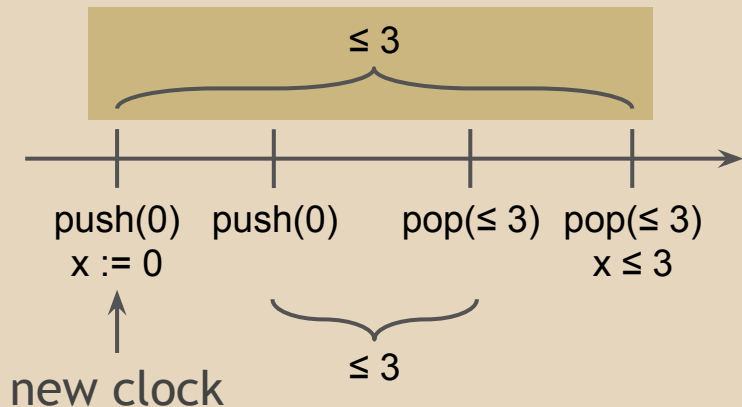
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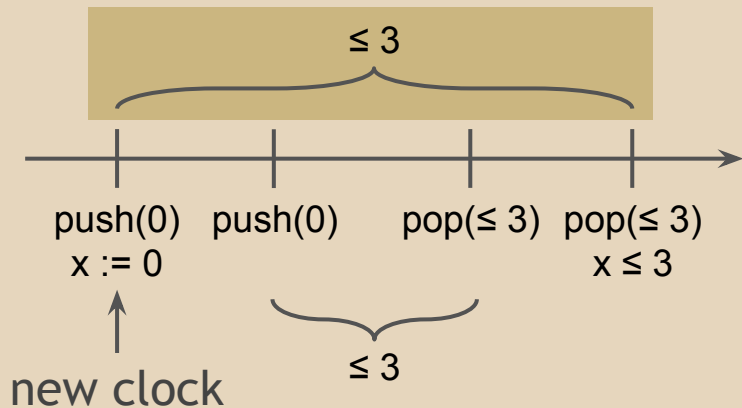
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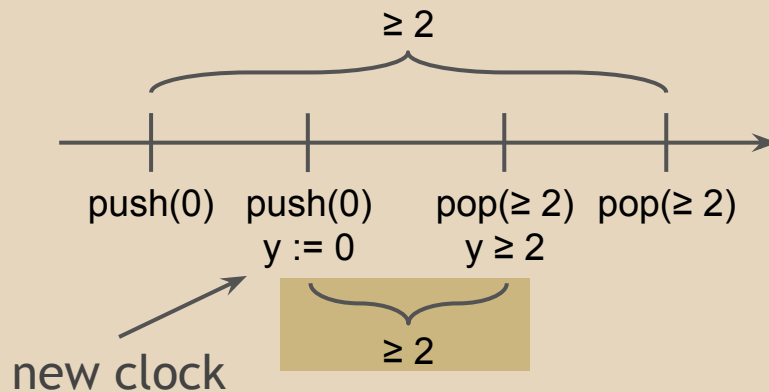
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Complexity:

- Add linearly many clocks and exponentially many control locations.
- Emptiness of PDTA is exponential in the number of clocks and polynomial in the number of control locations  $\Rightarrow$  emptiness of dtPDA is in EXPTIME.

# Follow-ups to dtPDA

Abdulla, Atig, Stenman, “Zenoness for Timed Pushdown Automata”, INFINITY’13.

Abdulla, Atig, Stenman, “Computing Optimal Reachability Costs in Priced Dense-Timed Pushdown Automata, LATA’14.

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Bhave, Dave, Krishna, Phawade, Trivedi, “A Logical Characterization for Dense-time Visibly Pushdown Automata”, LATA’16.

Bhave, Dave, Krishna, Phawade, Trivedi, “A Perfect Class of Context-Sensitive Timed Languages”, DLT’16. (multitstack)

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Akshay, Gastin, Krishna, “Analyzing Timed Systems Using Tree Automata”, CONCUR’16. (tree-width approach)

# (Non)Example

Example from [BDKPT LATA'16] about logical characterisation of dtVPA.

$L =$  words of the form  $a^n b c^n d$  with  $n \geq 0$  s.t.

- first  $c$  comes after 1 time unit after last  $a$
- first  $a$  and last  $c$  are 2 time units apart
- every other matching  $a$  and  $c$  are in  $(1, 2)$

# (Non)Example

Example from [BDKPT LATA'16] about logical characterisation of dtVPA.

$L =$  words of the form  $a^n b c^n d$  with  $n \geq 0$  s.t.

- first  $c$  comes after 1 time unit after last  $a$  [1 clock],
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We do not need a timed stack to recognise this language (4 clocks suffice).  
In fact, they show that the stack can be untimed in the spirit of [CL LICS'15].

# Example

Consider the language of *timed palindromes*

$$L = \{ w w^R \mid w \in (\Sigma \times \mathbb{Q})^* \}$$

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- It is a non-monotone language.
  - Can be made monotone by requiring palindromicity only for the fractional values.

# Timed register pushdown automata

Fix a finite set of registers  $X, Y$ , input alphabet  $\Sigma$ , and stack alphabet  $\Gamma$ .

A *timed register pushdown automaton* (trPDA) is a tuple

$$A = \langle Q, I, F, \text{PUSH}, \text{POP}, \{ \varphi(\delta) \mid \delta \in \text{PUSH} \cup \text{POP} \}, K \rangle$$
 where

- $Q$  is a finite set of control states, with  $I, F \subseteq Q$  the initial, final ones, resp.
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$$X \cup X' \cup Y \cup \{t\}.$$

- $K \in \mathbb{N}$  is a *boundedness threshold* for state and stack registers.

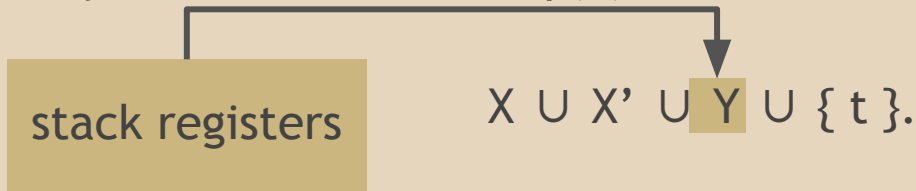
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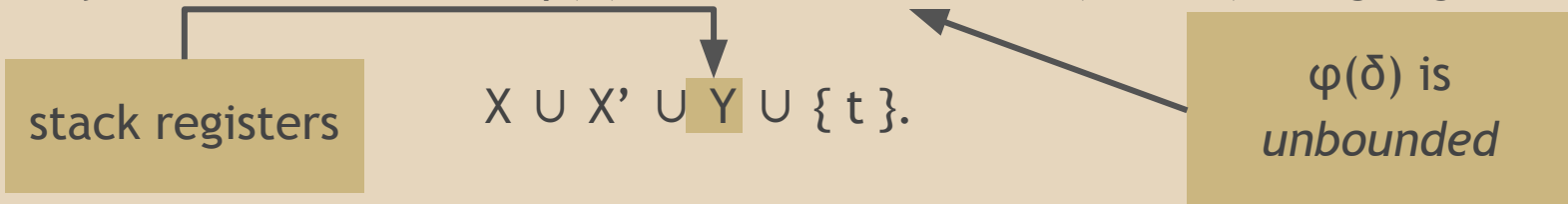
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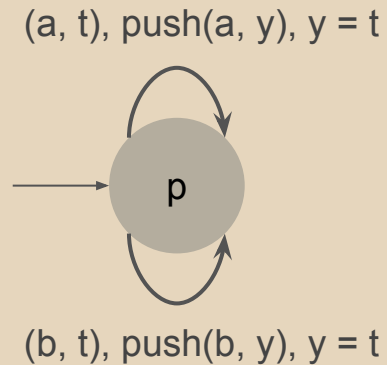
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*Timed palindromes* over  $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$ :  $L = \{ w w^R \mid w \in (\Sigma \times \mathbb{Q})^* \}$ .



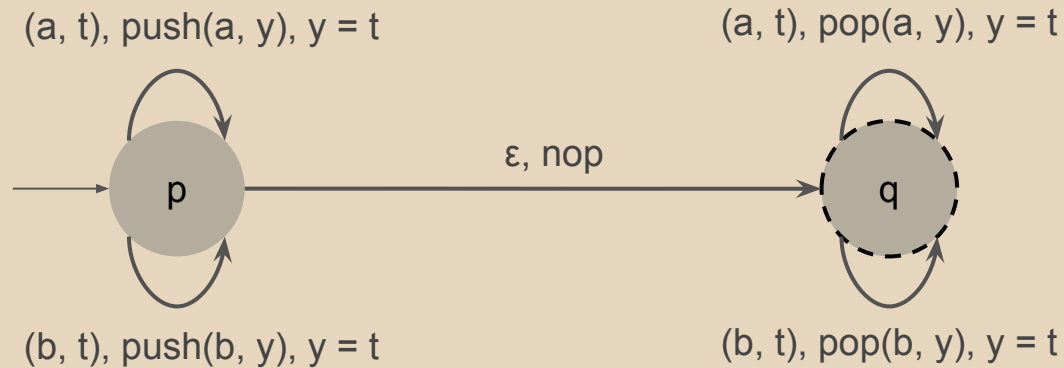
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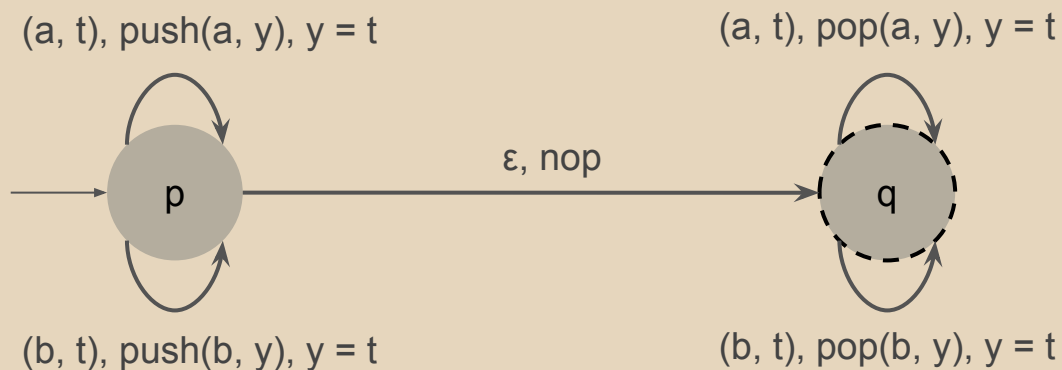
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The untiming projection of  $L$  is a context-free language.

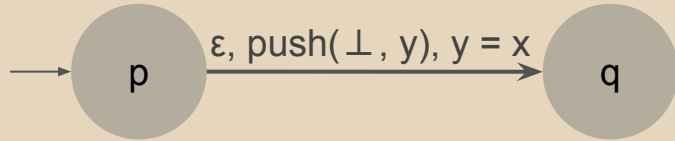
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Untimed palindromes *with the same number of a's and b's*.

***not* a context-free language**

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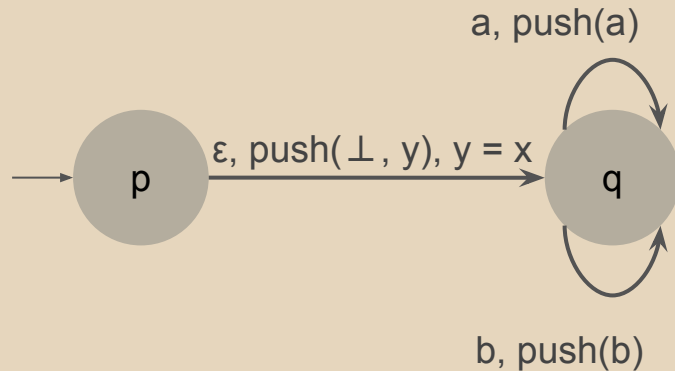
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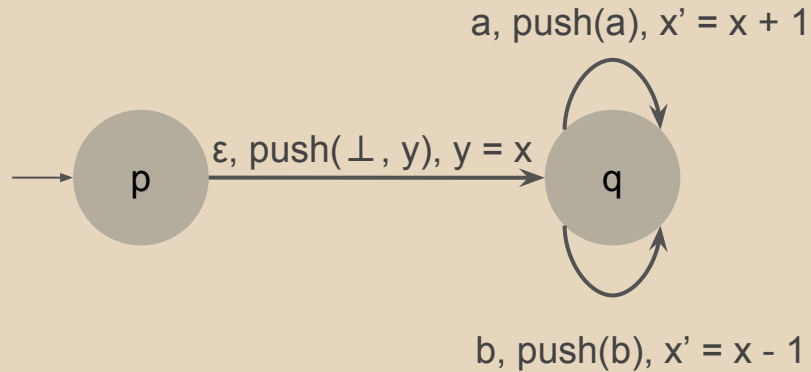
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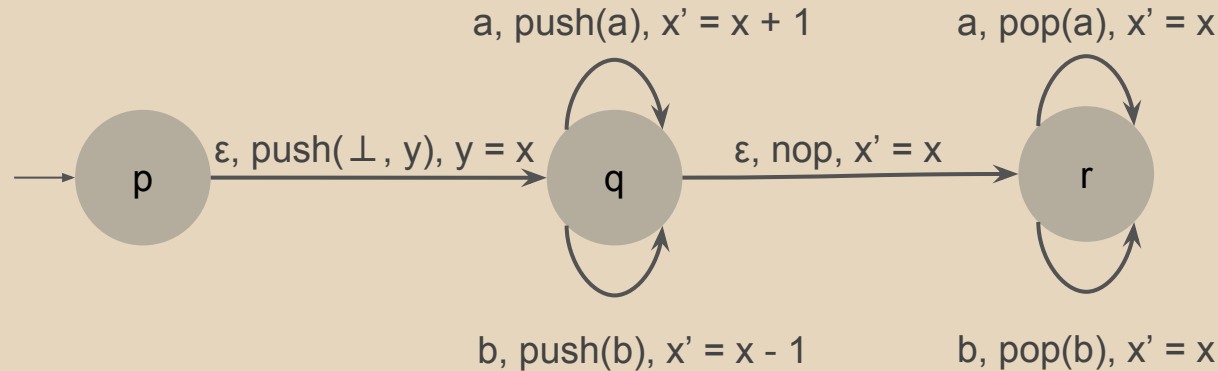
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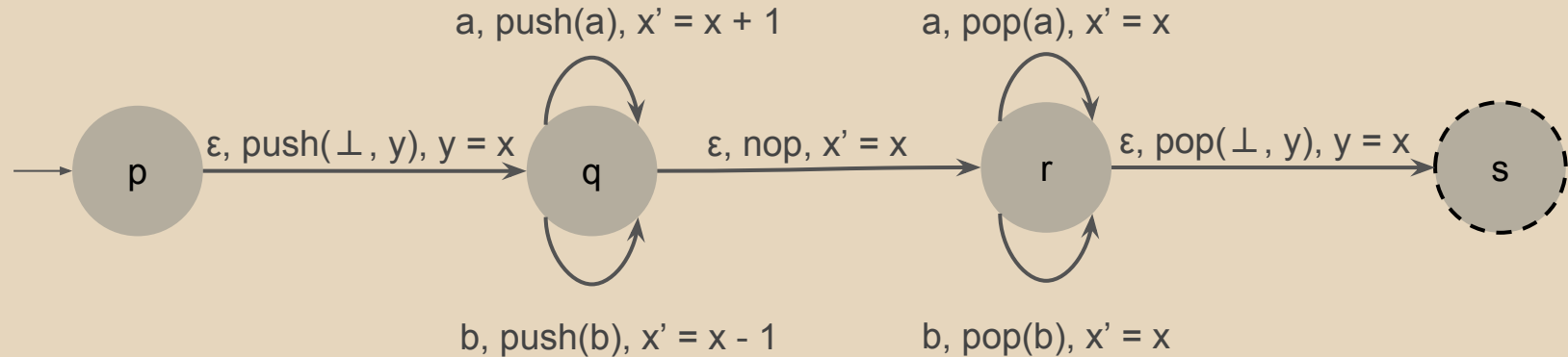


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# Deciding reachability

Timed automata

PSPACE

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Pushdown timed automata  
(untimed stack)

EXPTIME

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Timed register pushdown automata  
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# Deciding reachability

Timed automata

[AD TCS'94]

Word automaton

LOGSPACE

PSPACE

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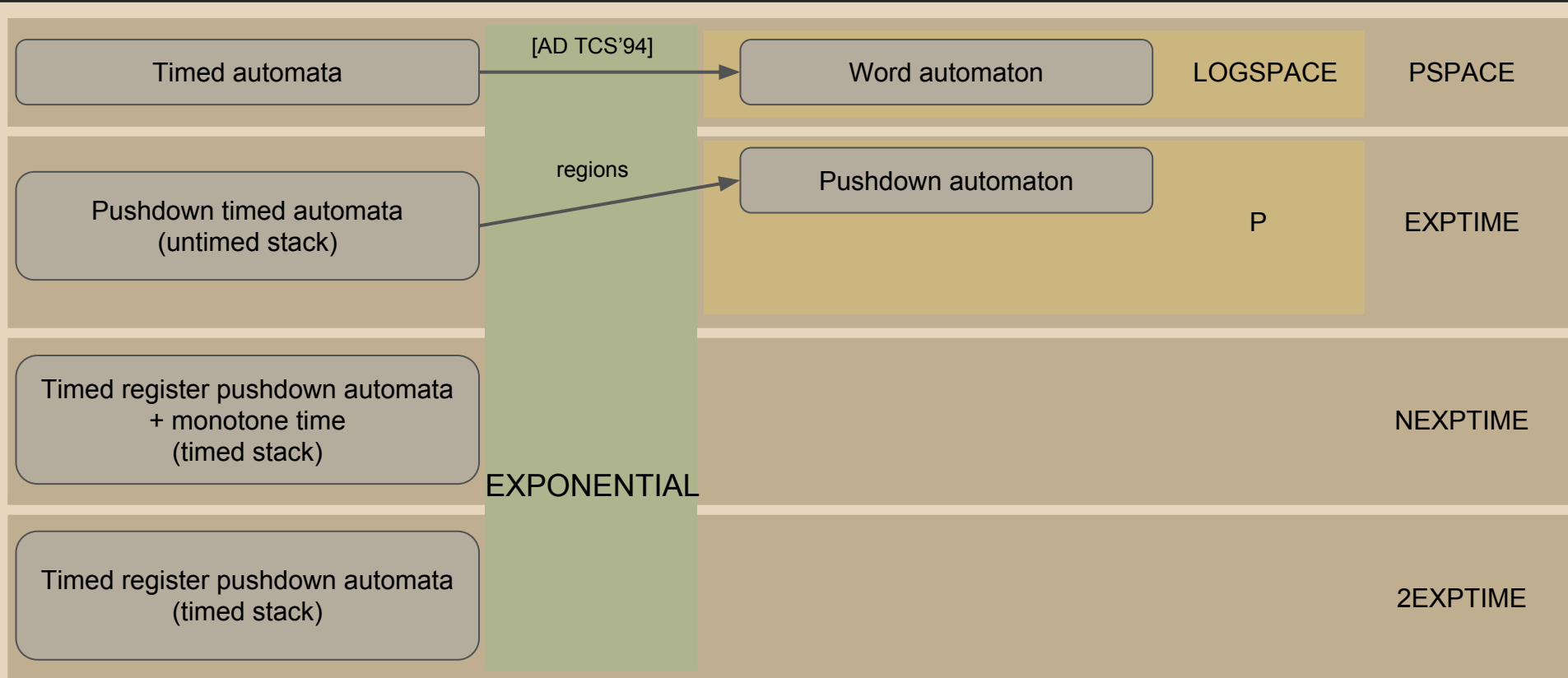
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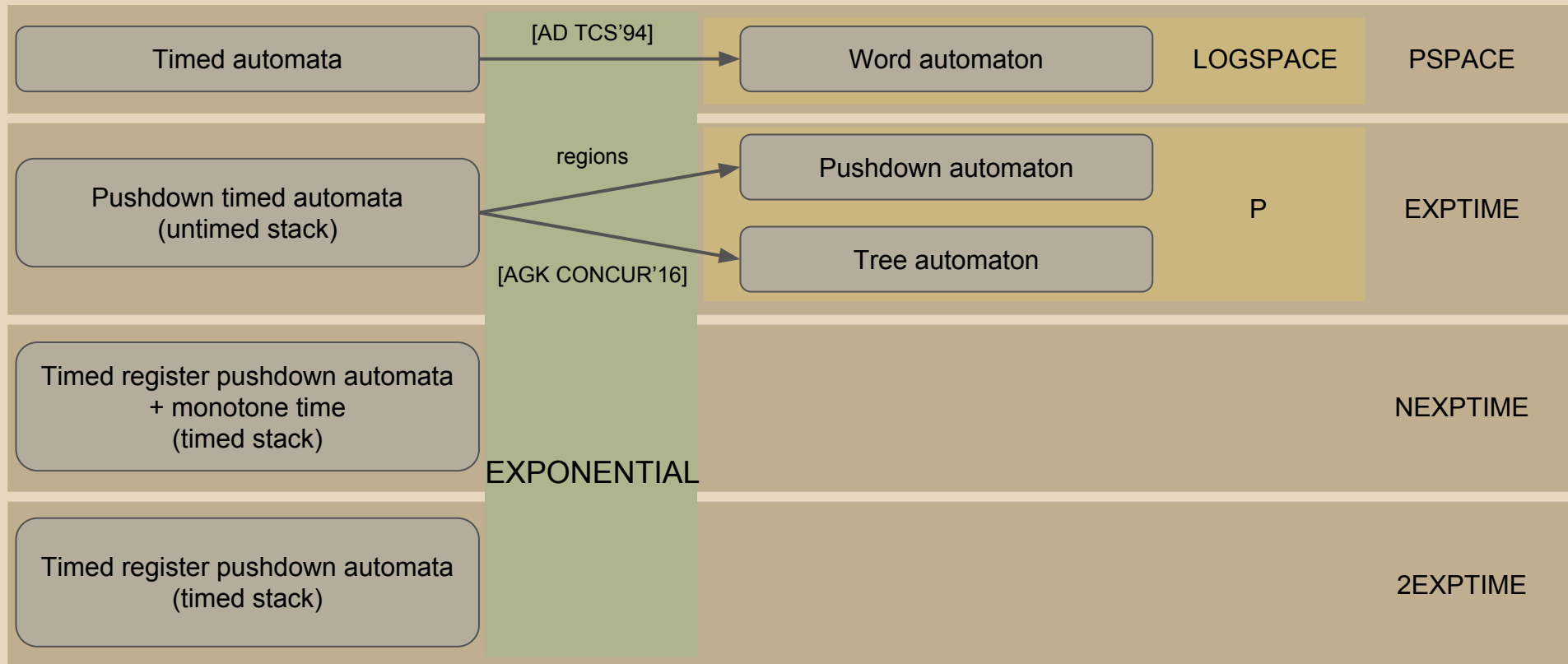
2EXPTIME

EXPONENTIAL

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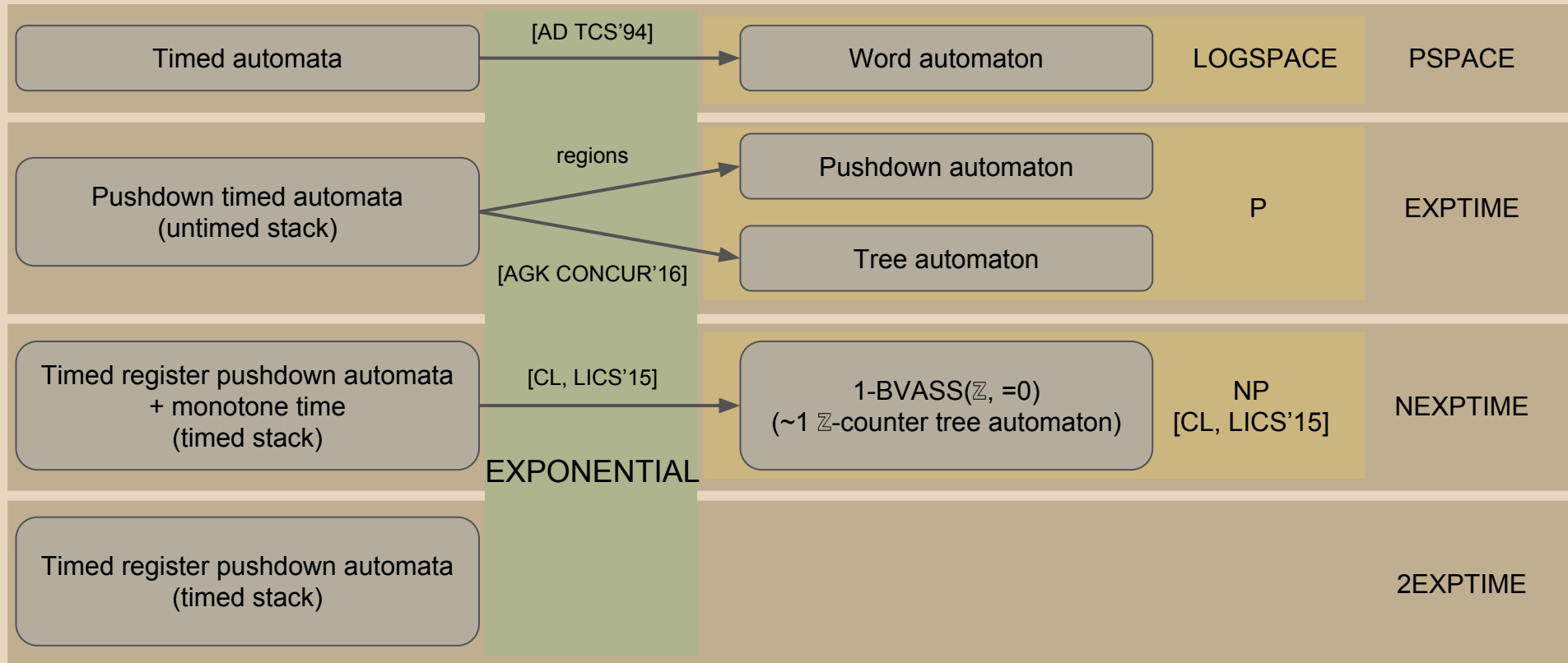


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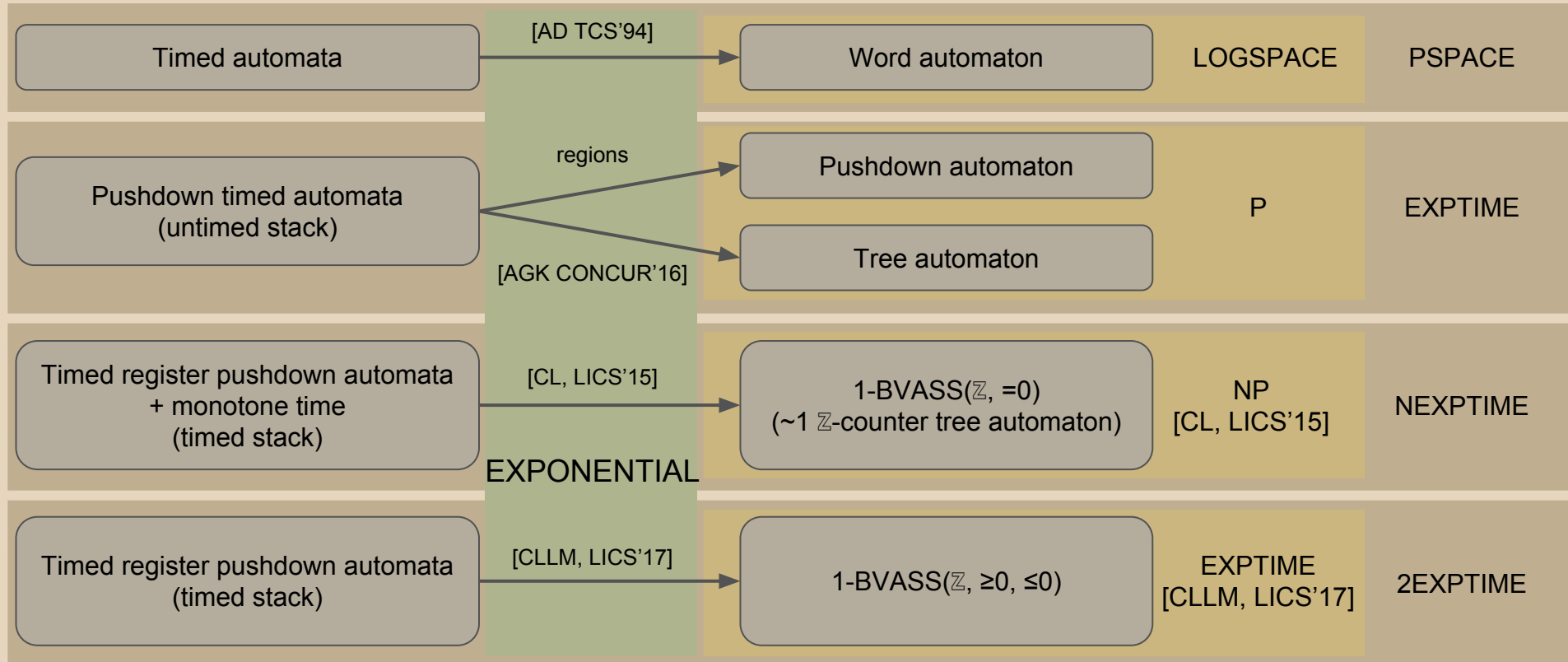




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To model time + recursion:

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Related models (not shown):

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Open questions:

- We have only an  $EXPTIME$  lower bound for our trPDA model.
- $1-BVASS(\mathbb{Z}, \geq 0, \leq 0)$  are in  $EXPTIME$  and  $PSPACE$ -hard.
- Truly expressive timed pushdown automata *with clocks*?