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# How Much Lookahead is Needed to Win Infinite Games?

Joint work with Felix Klein (Saarland University)

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February 13th, 2015

Workshop Automata, Concurrency and Timed Systems  
Chennai Mathematical Institute, Chennai, India

# Introduction

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- Hosch & Landweber ('72), Holtmann, Kaiser & Thomas ('10): allow one player to **delay** her moves, thereby gain a lookahead on her opponents moves.

# The Delay Game $\Gamma_f(L)$

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- Delay function:  $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}_+$ .
- $\omega$ -language  $L \subseteq (\Sigma_I \times \Sigma_O)^\omega$ .
- Two players: Input ( $I$ ) vs. Output ( $O$ ).

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  - $I$  picks **word**  $u_i \in \Sigma_I^{f(i)}$  (building  $\alpha = u_0 u_1 \dots$ ).
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Questions we are interested in:

- Given  $L$ , is there an  $f$  such that  $O$  wins  $\Gamma_f(L)$ ?
- How *large* does  $f$  have to be?
- How hard is the problem to solve?

# Examples

---

- $(\begin{smallmatrix} \alpha(0) \\ \beta(0) \end{smallmatrix}) (\begin{smallmatrix} \alpha(1) \\ \beta(1) \end{smallmatrix}) \cdots \in L_1 \subseteq (\{a, b\} \times \{a, b\})^\omega$ , if  $\beta(i) = \alpha(i + 2)$ .

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$O:$	$a$	$a$			$O:$	$b$	$b$	$a$	$b$	$a$	$\dots$		

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# Previous Results

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## Theorem (Hosch & Landweber '72)

*The following problem is decidable: Given  $\omega$ -regular  $L$ , does  $O$  win  $\Gamma_f(L)$  for some constant  $f$ ?*

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## Theorem (Holtmann, Kaiser & Thomas '10)

1. *TFAE for  $L$  given by deterministic parity automaton  $\mathcal{A}$ :*
  - *$O$  wins  $\Gamma_f(L)$  for some  $f$ .*
  - *$O$  wins  $\Gamma_f(L)$  for some constant  $f$  with  $f(0) \leq 2^{2^{|\mathcal{A}|}}$ .*
2. *Deciding whether this is the case is in  $2\text{EXPTIME}$ .*

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## Theorem (Fridman, Löding & Z. '11)

*The following problem is undecidable: Given (one-counter, weak, and deterministic) context-free  $L$ , does  $O$  win  $\Gamma_f(L)$  for some  $f$ ?*

# Uniformization of Relations

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- A strategy  $\sigma$  for  $O$  in  $\Gamma_f(L)$  induces a mapping

$$f_\sigma: \Sigma_I^\omega \rightarrow \Sigma_O^\omega$$

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Continuity in terms of strategies:

- Strategy without lookahead:  $i$ -th letter of  $f_\sigma(\alpha)$  only depends on first  $i$  letters of  $\alpha$  (very strong notion of continuity).

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**Holtmann, Kaiser, Thomas:** for  $\omega$ -regular  $L$

$L$  uniformizable by continuous function

$\Leftrightarrow$

$L$  uniformizable by Lipschitz-continuous function



# Open Questions

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- No results for subclasses of  $\omega$ -regular conditions.

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We consider two subclasses:

Fix  $\mathcal{A} = (Q, \Sigma, q_0, \Delta, F)$

- Reachability acceptance:

$$L_{\exists}(\mathcal{A}) = \{w \in \Sigma^{\omega} \mid \mathcal{A} \text{ has run on } w \text{ that visits } F\}$$

- Safety acceptance:

$$L_{\forall}(\mathcal{A}) = \{w \in \Sigma^{\omega} \mid \mathcal{A} \text{ has run on } w \text{ that never visits } V \setminus F\}$$

# Outline

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1. Lower Bounds on Lookahead
2. Complexity: Reachability Conditions
3. Complexity: Safety Conditions
4. Complexity:  $\omega$ -regular Conditions
5. Beyond  $\omega$ -regularity: WMSO+U conditions
6. Conclusion

# Lower Bounds for Reachability Conditions

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## Theorem

For every  $n > 1$  there is a language  $L_n$  such that

- $L_n = L_{\exists}(\mathcal{A}_n)$  for some deterministic reachability automaton  $\mathcal{A}_n$  with  $|\mathcal{A}_n| \in \mathcal{O}(n)$ ,
- $O$  wins  $\Gamma_f(L_n)$  for some constant delay function  $f$ , but
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## Proof:

- $\Sigma_I = \Sigma_O = \{1, \dots, n\}$ .
- $w \in \Sigma_I^*$  contains *bad  $j$ -pair* ( $j \in \Sigma_I$ ) if there are two occurrences of  $j$  in  $w$  such that no  $j' > j$  occurs in between.

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- $w \in \Sigma_O^*$  has no bad  $j$ -pair for any  $j \Rightarrow |w| \leq 2^n - 1$ .
- Exists  $w_n \in \Sigma_O^*$  with  $|w_n| = 2^n - 1$  and without bad  $j$ -pair.

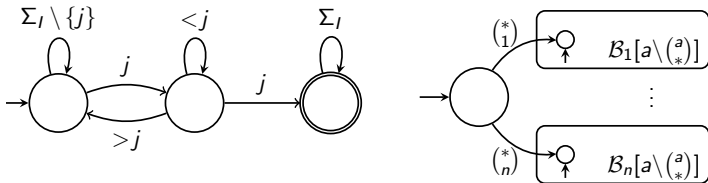
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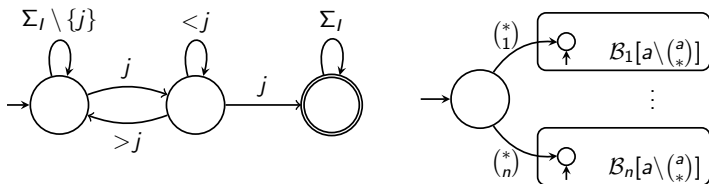
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# Lower Bounds for Reachability Conditions

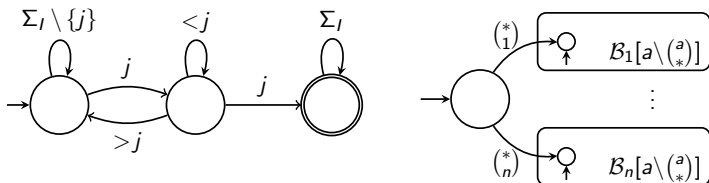
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- $O$  wins  $\Gamma_f(L_n)$ , if  $f(0) > 2^n$ : In first round,  $I$  picks  $u_0$  s.t.  $u_0$  without its first letter has bad  $j$ -pair.  $O$  picks  $j$  in first round.

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- $I$  wins  $\Gamma_f(L_n)$ , if  $f(0) \leq 2^n$ :
  - $I$  picks prefix of  $1w_n$  of length  $f(0)$  in first round,
  - $O$  answers by some  $j$ .
  - $I$  finishes  $w_n$  and then picks some  $j' \neq j$  ad infinitum.

# Remarks

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- The automata are deterministic.
- Similar construction works for safety, too.

# Remarks

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- The automata are deterministic.
- Similar construction works for safety, too.
- Alphabet size grows in  $n$ .
  - Constant-size alphabets possible using binary encoding.
  - Requires automata of size  $(n \log n)$ .

**Open question:** constant-size alphabet and automata of size  $\mathcal{O}(n)$  simultaneously achievable.

# Outline

---

1. Lower Bounds on Lookahead
- 2. Complexity: Reachability Conditions**
3. Complexity: Safety Conditions
4. Complexity:  $\omega$ -regular Conditions
5. Beyond  $\omega$ -regularity: WMSO+U conditions
6. Conclusion

## A Sufficient Condition

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$O$  wins  $\Gamma_f(L)$  for some  $f \Rightarrow$  projection  $\text{pr}_0(L)$  to  $\Sigma_I$  universal.

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## Theorem

Let  $L = L_{\exists}(\mathcal{A})$ , where  $\mathcal{A}$  is a *non-deterministic* reachability automaton. The following are equivalent:

1.  $O$  wins  $\Gamma_f(L)$  for some delay function  $f$ .
2.  $O$  wins  $\Gamma_f(L)$  for some constant delay function  $f$  with  $f(0) \leq 2^{|\mathcal{A}|}$ .
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## Corollary

The following problem is PSPACE-complete: Given a non-deterministic reachability automaton  $\mathcal{A}$ , does  $O$  win  $\Gamma_f(L_{\exists}(\mathcal{A}))$  for some  $f$ ?



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## Theorem

*The following problem is EXPTIME-hard: Given a deterministic safety automaton  $\mathcal{A}$ , does  $O$  win  $\Gamma_f(L_{\forall}(\mathcal{A}))$  for some  $f$ ?*

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## Theorem

*The following problem is EXPTIME-hard: Given a deterministic safety automaton  $\mathcal{A}$ , does  $O$  win  $\Gamma_f(L_{\forall}(\mathcal{A}))$  for some  $f$ ?*

## Proof:

By a reduction from alternating polynomial space Turing machines.

- $I$  produces configurations, picks existential transitions:
  - has to start with initial configuration, and
  - either copies the current configuration
  - or gives a new one.
- $O$  checks copies for correctness, picks universal transitions.

# Hardness of Safety Conditions

---

*I*:

*O*:

# Hardness of Safety Conditions

---

$I:$   $\boxed{N \mid c_0 \mid \exists}$

$O:$

# Hardness of Safety Conditions

---

$I$ :  $\boxed{N} \ c_0 \ \exists \ \boxed{N} \ c_1 \ \forall$

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# Hardness of Safety Conditions

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To prevent  $I$  from cheating,  $O$  can claim errors:

- an incorrect copy by marking the position in the original.
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- $c_0$  is initial configuration on  $w$ .
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- Some  $c_i$  is accepting.

# Hardness of Safety Conditions

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$I$ : 

N	$c_0$	$\exists$
---	-------	-----------

N	$c_1$	$\forall$
---	-------	-----------

C	$c_1$	$\forall$
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 ..... 

N	$c_2$	$\forall$
---	-------	-----------

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If this is the case, play is not accepted, i.e.,  $I$  wins.

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## Theorem

*The following problem is in EXPTIME: Given a deterministic automaton  $\mathcal{A}$ , does  $O$  win  $\Gamma_f(L(\mathcal{A}))$  for some  $f$ ?*

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- Define abstract game  $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{A})$ :
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  - In  $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{A})$ , Player  $I$  picks  $\equiv$ -equivalence classes, Player  $O$  constructs a run of  $\mathcal{A}$  on representatives of the picked classes (one move delay).
- $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{A})$  can be encoded as parity game of exponential size with the same colors as  $\mathcal{A}$ .
- Such a game can be solved in exponential time in  $|\mathcal{A}|$ .

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Let  $L = L(\mathcal{A})$  where  $\mathcal{A}$  is a deterministic parity automaton with  $k$  colors. The following are equivalent:

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**Note:**  $f(0) \leq 2^{2^{|\mathcal{A}|k+2}} + 2$  achievable by direct pumping argument.

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# Delay Games with WMSO+U conditions

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Two equivalent definitions:

1. **WMSO+U**: weak monadic second-order logic with the unbounding quantifier  $U$ .  $UX\varphi(X)$ : there are arbitrarily large finite sets  $X$  s.t.  $\varphi(X)$  holds.

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But constant delay is not always sufficient.

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## Open questions:

- Consider non-deterministic automata and
- Rabin, Streett, Muller automata.
- Can we determine minimal lookahead that is sufficient to win?
- Weak MSO+U w.r.t. arbitrary delay functions.

## 7. Backup Slides



# Upper Bounds for $\omega$ -regular Conditions

---

## Theorem

*The following problem is in EXPTIME: Given a deterministic automaton  $\mathcal{A}$ , does  $O$  win  $\Gamma_f(L(\mathcal{A}))$  for some  $f$ ?*

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- Extend  $\mathcal{A}$  to  $\mathcal{C}$  to keep track of maximal color seen during run using states of the form  $(q, c)$ .
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- $q$ : state reached by  $\mathcal{A}$  after processing  $(\alpha(0), \beta(0)) \cdots (\alpha(i), \beta(i))$ .

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- $q$ : state reached by  $\mathcal{A}$  after processing  $(\alpha(0), \beta(0)) \cdots (\alpha(i), \beta(i))$ .
- $P$ : set of states reachable by  $\text{pr}_0(\mathcal{C})$  from  $(q, \Omega(q))$  after processing  $\alpha(i+1) \cdots \alpha(j)$ .

# Proof Continued

---

- $\delta_{\mathcal{P}}$ : transition function of powerset automaton of  $\text{pr}_0(\mathcal{C})$ .

## Proof Continued

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### Lemma

*Fix domain  $D$ . If  $|w| \geq 2^{|C|^2}$ , then  $w$  is witness of a unique  $r \in \mathfrak{R}$  with domain  $D$ .*

# The Game $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{A})$

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Define new game  $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{A})$  between  $I$  and  $O$ :

- In round 0:
  - $I$  has to pick  $r_0 \in \mathfrak{R}$  with  $\text{dom}(r_0) = \{q_I^c\}$ ,
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## Lemma

$O$  wins  $\Gamma_f(L(\mathcal{A}))$  for some  $f$  if and only if  $O$  wins  $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{A})$ .

$O$  wins  $\Gamma_f(L(\mathcal{A})) \Rightarrow O$  wins  $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{A})$

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We can assume  $f$  to be constant [HKT10].

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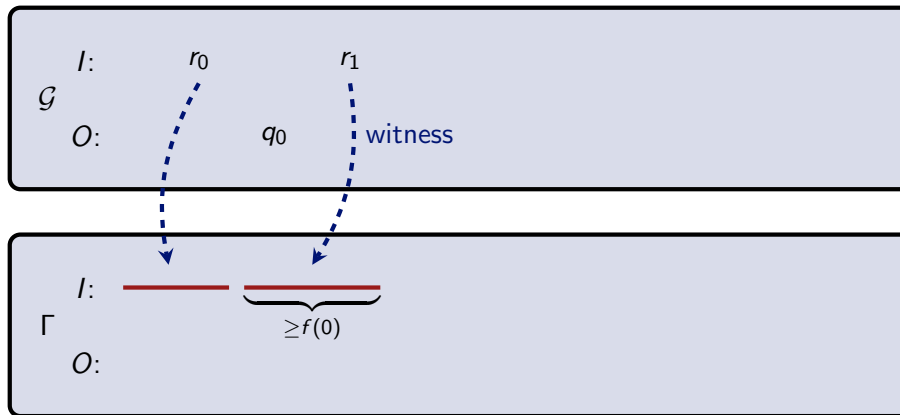
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# $O$ wins $\Gamma_f(L(\mathcal{A})) \Rightarrow O$ wins $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{A})$

We can assume  $f$  to be constant [HKT10].



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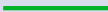
$\mathcal{G}$

$I:$   $r_0$   $r_1$

$O:$   $q_0$  witness

$\Gamma$

$I:$   

$O:$    
According to w.s.

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$\mathcal{G}$

$I:$	$r_0$	$r_1$
$O:$	$q_0$	

$\Gamma$

$I:$	
$O:$	

$q'_0$        $q'_1$

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$\mathcal{G}$

$I:$	$r_0$	$r_1$
$O:$	$q_0$	$q_1$

$\Gamma$

$I:$	—————	—————
$O:$	—————	

# $O$ wins $\Gamma_f(L(\mathcal{A})) \Rightarrow O$ wins $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{A})$


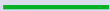
---

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$\mathcal{G}$

$I:$	$r_0$	$r_1$	$r_2$
$O:$	$q_0$	$q_1$	

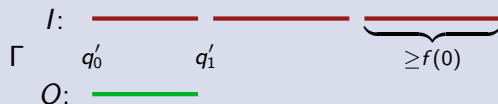
$\Gamma$

$I:$	
$O:$	

$q'_0$        $q'_1$

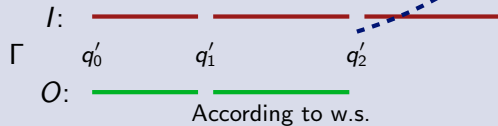
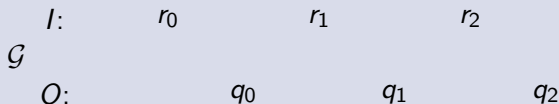
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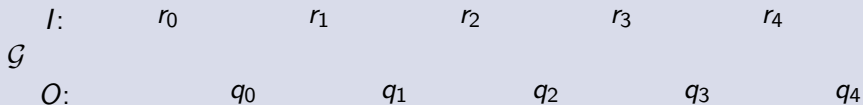




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# $O$ wins $\Gamma_f(L(\mathcal{A})) \Leftrightarrow O$ wins $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{A})$

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Let  $d = 2^{|\mathcal{C}|^2}$  and  $f(0) = 2d$ .


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 $\Gamma$   
 $O$ :

$I$ :  
 $\mathcal{G}$   
 $O$ :

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$\Gamma$   $I$ :   $O$ :

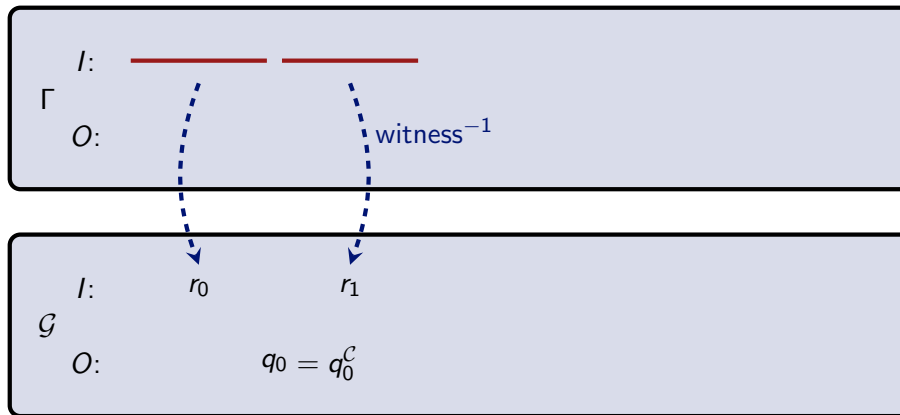
The diagram shows two horizontal red lines. Below each line is a black curly brace that spans the entire length of the line. Underneath each brace is the text "=d".

$\mathcal{G}$   $I$ :  
 $O$ :

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$\Gamma$

$I:$  

$O:$

$\mathcal{G}$

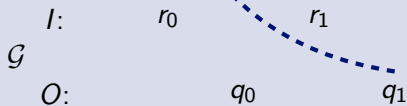
$I:$	$r_0$	$r_1$
$O:$	$q_0$	$q_1$

According to w.s.

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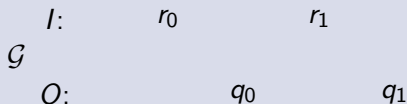
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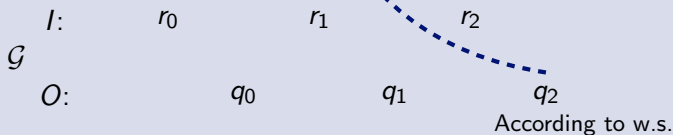
Let  $d = 2^{|C|^2}$  and  $f(0) = 2d$ .





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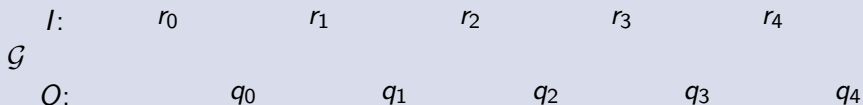
Let  $d = 2^{|\mathcal{C}|^2}$  and  $f(0) = 2d$ .



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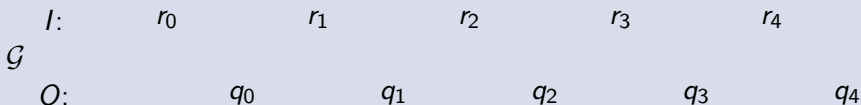
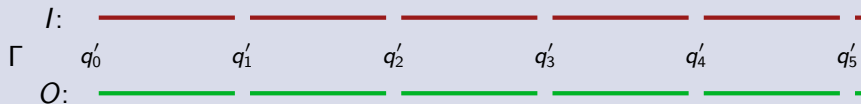
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- $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{A})$  can be encoded as parity game of exponential size with the same colors as  $\mathcal{A}$ .
- Such a game can be solved in exponential time in  $|\mathcal{A}|$ .

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Applying both directions of equivalence between  $\Gamma_f(L(\mathcal{A}))$  and  $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{A})$  yields upper bound on lookahead.

## Corollary

*Let  $L = L(\mathcal{A})$  where  $\mathcal{A}$  is a deterministic parity automaton with  $k$  colors. The following are equivalent:*

1.  *$O$  wins  $\Gamma_f(L)$  for some delay function  $f$ .*
2.  *$O$  wins  $\Gamma_f(L)$  for some constant delay function  $f$  with  $f(0) \leq 2^{(|\mathcal{A}|k)^2+1}$ .*

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**Note:**  $f(0) \leq 2^{2|\mathcal{A}|k+2} + 2$  achievable by direct pumping argument.