

**Journée MDSC**

**Analysing Biological Networks  
with Exhaustive and Abstract Methods**

**Analyse des réseaux biologiques par des méthodes exhaustives  
et d'approximation**

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## Overview of This Presentation

**Frameworks:** the models we will talk about

- **Thomas modeling** (historically widespread)
- **Asynchronous Automata Networks** (generalization)

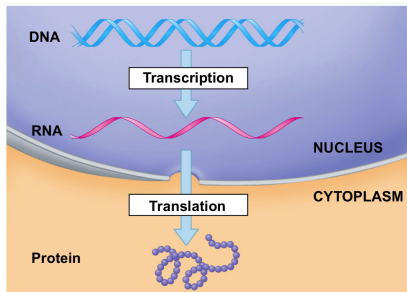
**Exhaustive analyses:** classical model-checking approaches with a high complexity

- Modal logic with an explicit fixed point:  **$\mu$ -calculus**
- Logic programming: **Answer Set Programming**

**Static analyses:** approximations of the dynamics for lower complexity

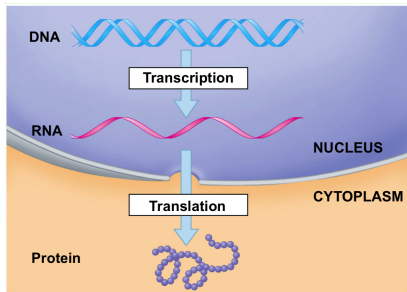
- **Classical results** of static analysis
- **Abstract interpretation:** a finer approach

## Abstractions of the Representation

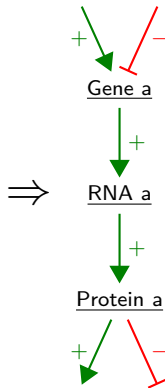


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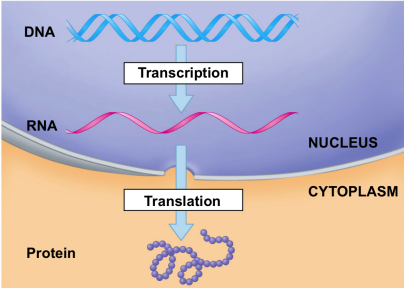
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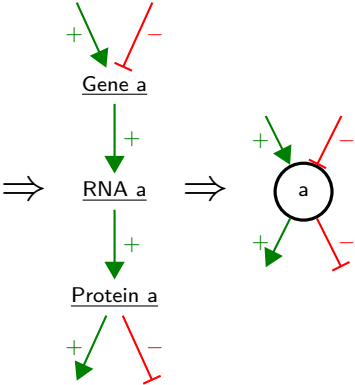
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# Abstractions of the Representation



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## Discrete Networks / Thomas Modeling

[Kauffman, *Journal of Theoretical Biology*, 1969]

[Thomas, *Journal of Theoretical Biology*, 1973]

- A set of components  $N = \{a, b, z\}$



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- A set of components  $N = \{a, b, z\}$
- A set of discrete expression levels for each component  $a \in \mathbb{F}^a = \llbracket 0; 2 \rrbracket$
- The set of global states  $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{F}^a \times \mathbb{F}^b \times \mathbb{F}^z$

 $\llbracket 0; 2 \rrbracket$  $\llbracket 0; 1 \rrbracket$  $\llbracket 0; 1 \rrbracket$

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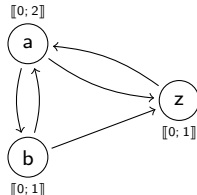
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- An evolution function for each component  $f^z : \mathbb{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^z$

$a$	$f^b(a)$
0	<b>0</b>
1	<b>1</b>
2	<b>1</b>

$z$	$b$	$f^a(z, b)$
0	0	<b>1</b>
0	1	<b>0</b>
1	0	<b>1</b>
1	1	<b>2</b>

$a$	$b$	$f^z(a, b)$
0	0	<b>0</b>
0	1	<b>0</b>
1	0	<b>0</b>
1	1	<b>0</b>
2	0	<b>0</b>
2	1	<b>1</b>





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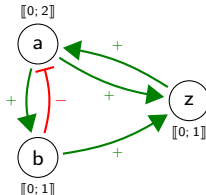
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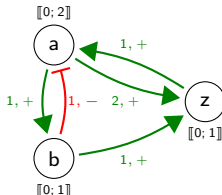
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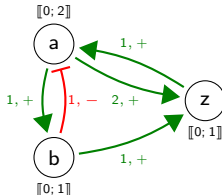


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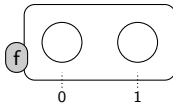
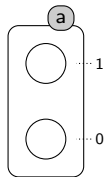
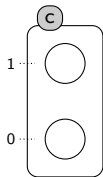
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- Discrete parameters / evolution functions  $f^a : \mathbb{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^a$

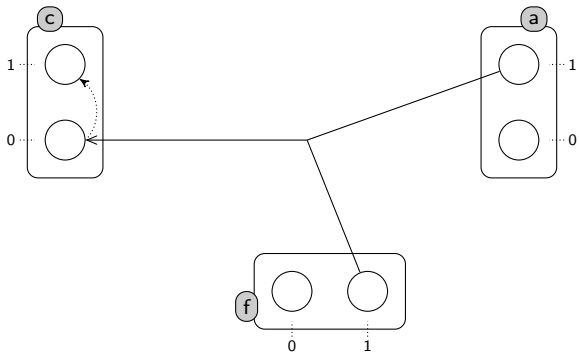
$a$	$f^b(a)$	$z$	$b$	$f^a(z, b)$	$a$	$b$	$f^z(a, b)$
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1	<b>1</b>	0	1	<b>0</b>	0	1	<b>0</b>
2	<b>1</b>	1	0	<b>1</b>	1	0	<b>0</b>
		1	1	<b>2</b>	1	1	<b>0</b>
					2	0	<b>0</b>
					2	1	<b>1</b>



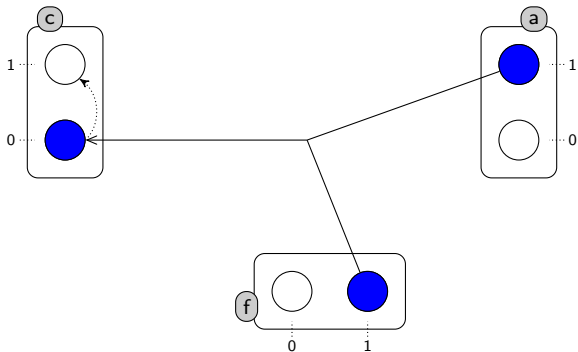
# Asynchronous Automata Networks (AAN) Enriched Process Hitting (PH)



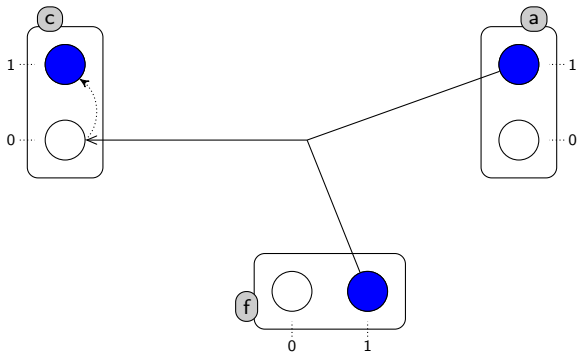
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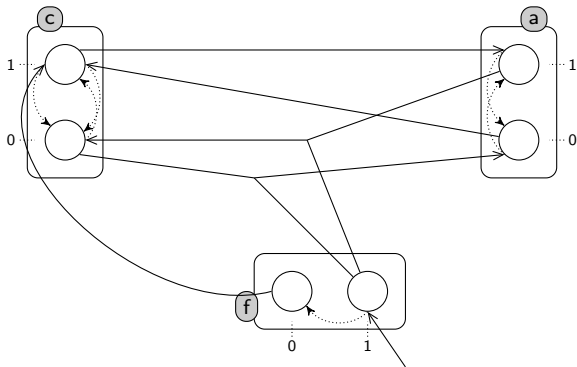
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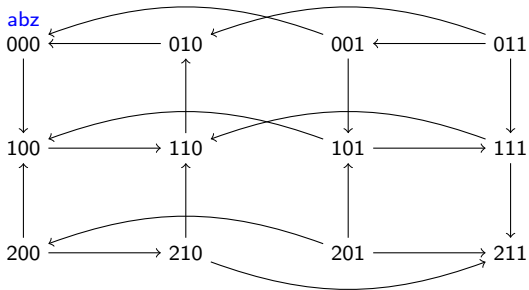
# Asynchronous Automata Networks (AAN) Enriched Process Hitting (PH)

Model from [François *et al.* in *Molecular Systems Biology*, 2007]



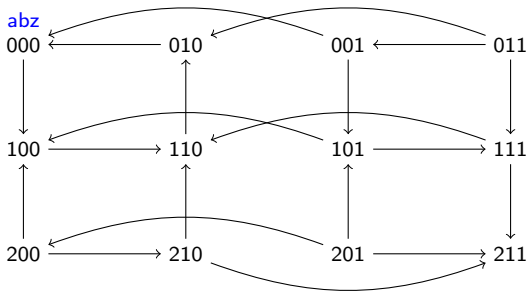
## State-graph

The state-graph depicts the whole dynamics  
Computation: **exponential** in the size of the model



## State-graph

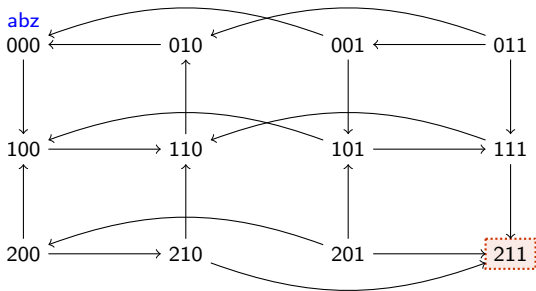
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**Attractor** = minimal set of states from which the dynamics cannot escape

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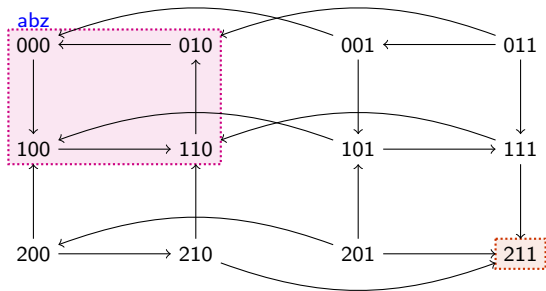


**Attractor** = minimal set of states from which the dynamics cannot escape

- **Stable state** (state with no successors)

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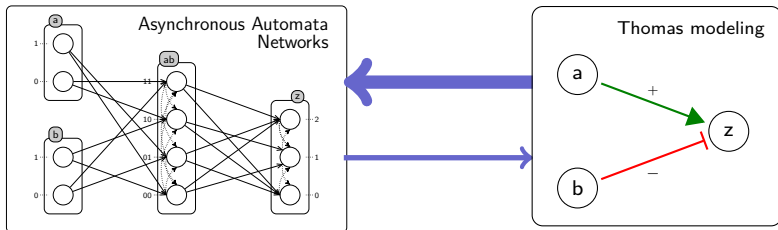
**Attractor** = minimal set of states from which the dynamics cannot escape

- **Stable state** (state with no successors)
- **Complex attractor** (loop or composition of loops)

# Translations Between AAN and Thomas Modeling

[Folschette *et al.*, *Theoretical Computer Science*, 2015a]

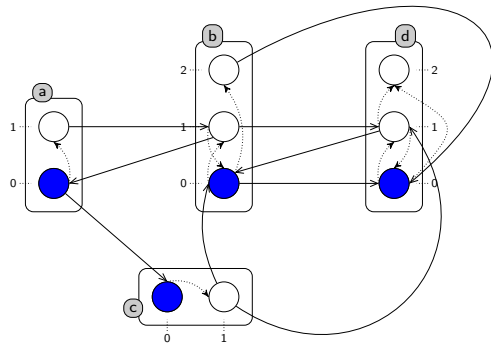
[Folschette *et al.*, *CS2Bio'13*, 2013]



- Asynchronous Automata Networks encompass Thomas modeling
- Mutual translations developed
- Results are also mutually applicable

# The Reachability Problem

[Paulevé et al., *Mathematical Structures in Computer Science*, 2012]

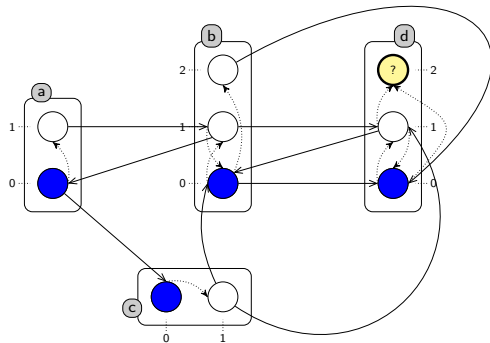


- Initial state

$\langle a_1, b_0, c_0, d_0 \rangle$

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[Paulevé et al., *Mathematical Structures in Computer Science*, 2012]



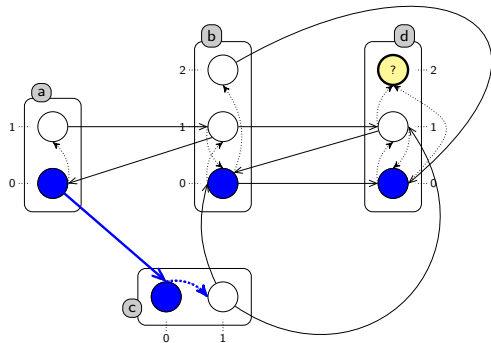
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$[ d_2 ]$



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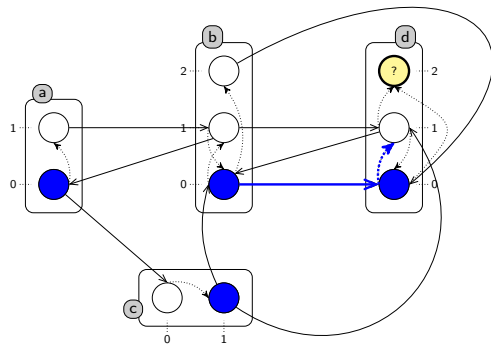
- Initial state
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 $\langle a_1, b_0, c_0, d_0 \rangle$  $[ d_2 ]$ 

→ Concretization of the objective = scenario

$$\underline{a_0 \rightarrow c_0 \uparrow c_1} :: b_0 \rightarrow d_0 \uparrow d_1 :: c_1 \rightarrow b_0 \uparrow b_1 :: b_1 \rightarrow d_1 \uparrow d_2$$

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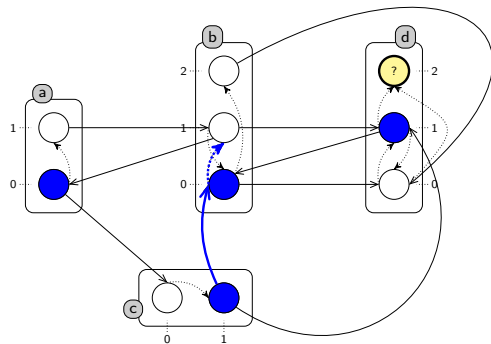
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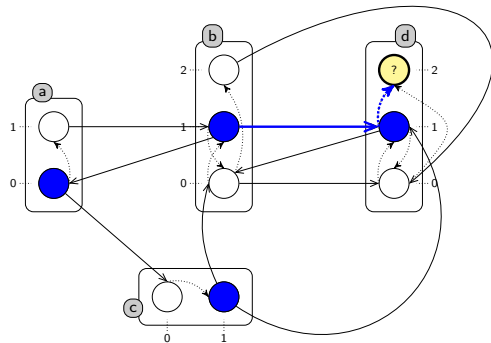
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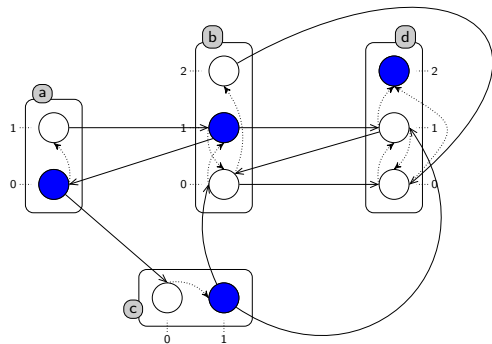
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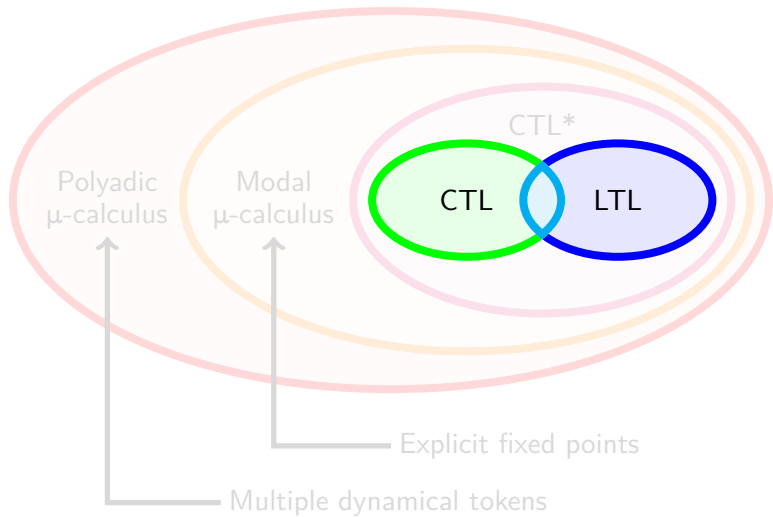
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 $\langle a_1, b_0, c_0, d_0 \rangle$  $[ d_2 ]$ 

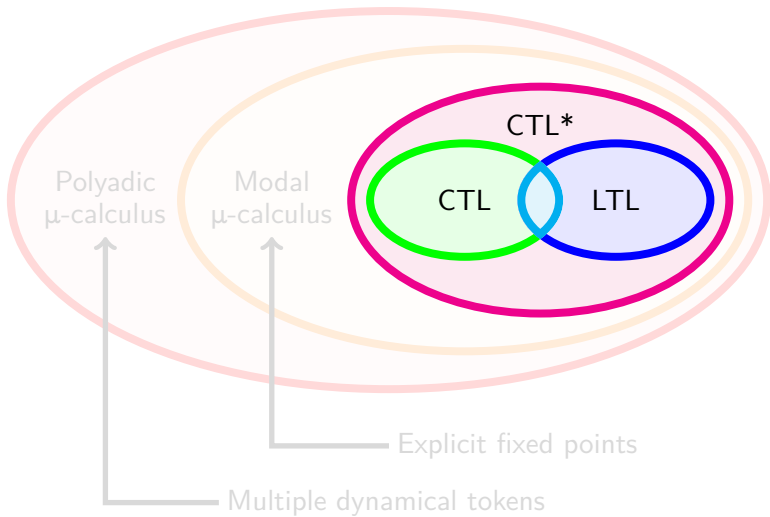
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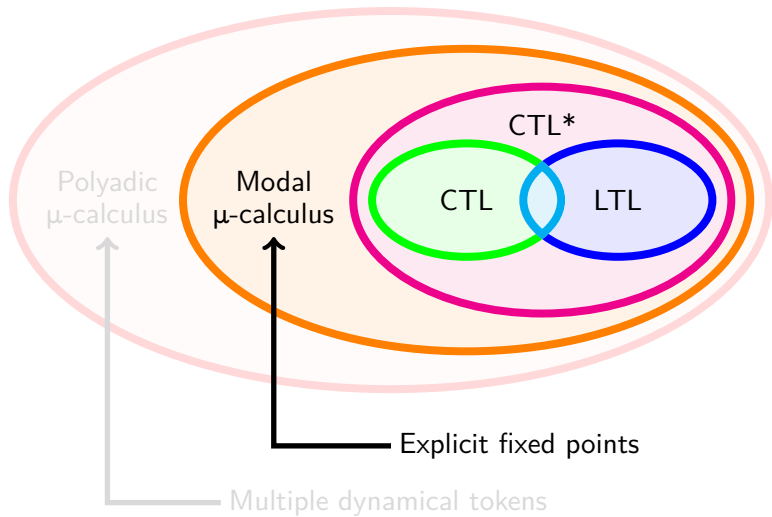
## The Polyadic $\mu$ -calculus



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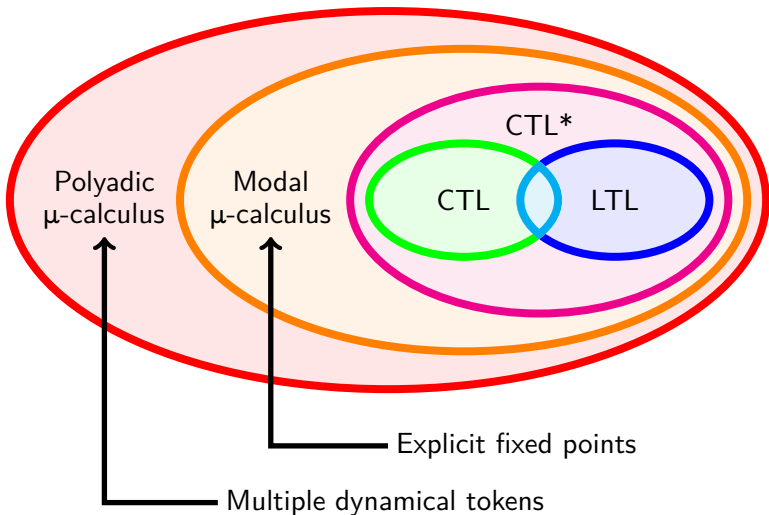


## The Polyadic $\mu$ -calculus





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## The Modal $\mu$ -calculus

**LTL:** Implicit fixed point of the “Until” operator

$p \ U \ q \equiv$  “Either  $q$ , or  $p$  and the next state also verifies  $p \ U \ q$ ”

(Modal)  $\mu$ -calculus makes such fixed points explicit

$$\varphi = p \mid \neg\varphi \mid \varphi \wedge \varphi \mid \varphi \vee \varphi \mid \diamond\varphi \mid \square\varphi \mid \mu X.\varphi \mid \nu X.\varphi \mid X$$

- Basic property:  $p$  (“ $p$  is verified in this node”)
- Modal operators:  $\square$  (“for all successors”),  $\diamond$  (“there exists a successor”)
- Fixed points:  $\mu$  (least fixed point),  $\nu$  (greatest fixed point)

**Polyadic (modal)  $\mu$ -calculus** allows to manipulate several tokens in parallel

$$\varphi = p_i \mid i \leftarrow j \mid i = j \mid \neg\varphi \mid \varphi \wedge \varphi \mid \varphi \vee \varphi \mid \diamond_i\varphi \mid \square_i\varphi \mid \mu X.\varphi \mid \nu X.\varphi \mid X$$

Token manipulations:

- $i = j$  (“make tokens  $i$  and  $j$  point to the same node”)
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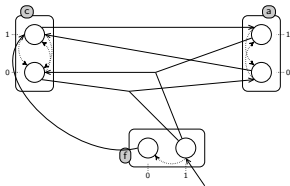
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Applications of the Polyadic  $\mu$ -calculus

**Objective:** Unify formulas for many dynamical problems

Not always possible with classical temporal logics (LTL, CTL, CTL\*):

1) From the initial state  $(a, b, z) = (0, 0, 0)$ , is it possible to reach  $z = 2$ ?

$$(a = 0 \wedge b = 0 \wedge z = 0) \Rightarrow \text{EF}(z = 2)$$

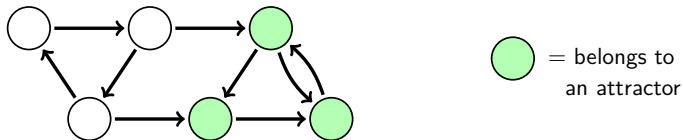
2) Does  $(0, 0, 0)$  belong to an attractor?

$$(a = 0 \wedge b = 0 \wedge z = 0) \Rightarrow \text{N}\perp \vee \text{AG}(\text{EF}(a = 0 \wedge b = 0 \wedge z = 0))$$

3) What is the set of attractors of the model?

??? — Requires a quantification on the set of all states

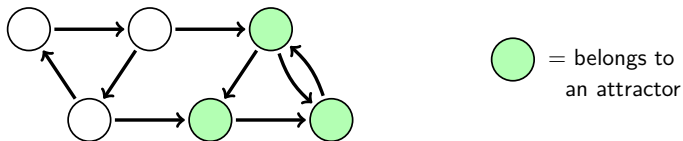
**Idea:** Use polyadic  $\mu$ -calculus with one token per automata

Search for Attractors with Polyadic  $\mu$ -calculus

$$\varphi_{\text{att}} = \{y \leftarrow x\} \nu W. \underbrace{(\mu Z. (x = y) \vee (\diamond_x Z))}_{\varphi_{\text{reach}}} \wedge (\square_x W)$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{15em}}_{\varphi_{\text{explore}}}$

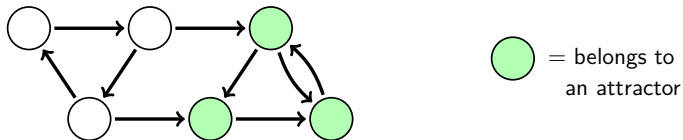
- $\llbracket \varphi_{\text{reach}} \rrbracket = \{(s; t) \mid s \rightarrow^* t\}$   
 $\varphi_{\text{reach}} \equiv$  "There exists a path from  $x$  to  $y$ "
- $\llbracket \varphi_{\text{explore}} \rrbracket = \{(s; t) \mid \forall s', s \rightarrow^* s' \Rightarrow s' \rightarrow^* t\}$   
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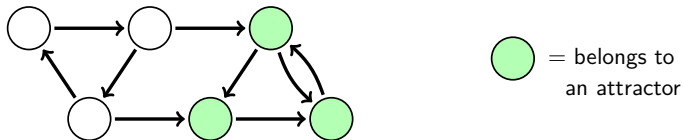
Search for Attractors with Polyadic  $\mu$ -calculus

$$\varphi_{\text{att}} = \{y \leftarrow x\} \nu W. \underbrace{(\mu Z. (x = y) \vee (\diamond_x Z))}_{\varphi_{\text{reach}}} \wedge (\square_x W)$$

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## Conclusion on Polyadic $\mu$ -calculus

### Properties expressed so far:

- Enumeration of attractors
- Enumeration of switches
- Bisimulation between two models (regarding a set of observables)
- Highlighting Zeno behaviors

**Aim:** Unification of properties without quantifiers

**Complexity:** Exponential (equivalent to building the state graph)

### Outlooks:

- New formulas
- Implementation
- Generate  $\mu$ -calculus formulas? (More readable interface)

## Answer Set Programming

**Answer Set Programming (ASP):** Declarative & logic programming

**Rule:**  $head \leftarrow body.$

“If  $body$  is true, then  $head$  must be true (usual logical consequence)”

**Fact:**  $head.$

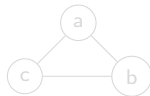
“ $head$  is always true”

**Constraint:**  $\perp \leftarrow body.$

“If  $body$  is true, it invalidates the whole answer set”

**Example:**

$node(a). node(b). node(c).$   
 $edge(a, b). edge(b, c). edge(a, c).$   
 $edge(X, Y) \leftarrow edge(Y, X).$



**Solving:** Finding the minimal set of atoms satisfying the problem

$node(a) node(c) node(b)$   
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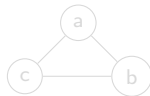
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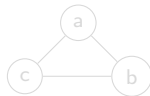
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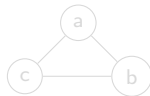
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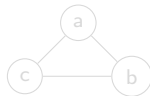
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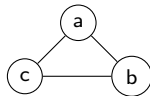
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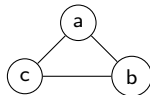
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## Answer Set Programming

**Cardinalities:**  $\min \{ atom : enum \} \max \leftarrow body.$

- Enumerates all atoms of the form *atom* according to the variables of *enum*
- Keep between *min* and *max* possibilities
- Creates as many answer sets as there are combinations

**General method:**

1) Enumerate of all candidate combinations using cardinalities

$color(red). color(green). color(blue).$

$1 \{ attrib(X, C) : color(C) \} 1 \leftarrow node(X).$

Answer set 1: `attrib(b,red) attrib(c,red) attrib(a,red)`

Answer set 2: `attrib(b,red) attrib(c,red) attrib(a,blue)`

Answer set 3: `attrib(b,red) attrib(c,green) attrib(a,blue)`

⋮  
: (27 answer sets)

2) Filter out the undesired candidates using constraints

$\perp \leftarrow attrib(X, C), attrib(Y, C), edge(X, Y).$

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## ASP for Model-checking

[Ben Abdallah, Folschette, Roux, Magnin, *BIBM'15*, 2015]

**Usage:** Describe the problem instead of its resolution

### Stable states enumeration

- 1) Describe the model with facts (automata, actions)
- 2) Describe what a playable action is with rules
- 3) Enumerate all states with cardinalities
- 4) Filter out states with a playable action

### Reachability analysis (reaching a given state)

- 1) Describe the model with facts (automata, actions, initial & target states)
- 2) Create the dynamics:
  - describe playability with rules
  - enumerate potential futures with cardinalities and constraints
- 3) Filter out paths that don't end in the target state

## Conclusion on ASP for Model-checking

[Ben Abdallah, Folschette, Roux, Magnin, *BIBM'15*, 2015]

**Complexity:** Exponential (exhaustive computation of the dynamics)  
But strong heuristics that give good results

Models		Stable states	Reachability analysis		
Name	States	ASP	libddd <sup>1</sup>	GINsim <sup>2</sup>	ASP
<b>egfr20</b>	2 <sup>64</sup>	<b>0.017s</b>	1min 55s	2min 32s	<b>12s</b>
<b>tcrsig40</b>	2 <sup>73</sup>	<b>0.021s</b>	∞	∞	<b>4min 28s</b>

<sup>1</sup> LIP6/Move [Couvreur *et al.*, *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, 2002]

<sup>2</sup> TAGC/IGC [Chaouiya, Naldi, Thieffry, *Methods in Molecular Biology*, 2012]

**egfr20** : Epithelial Growth Factor Receptor (20 components) [Sahin *et al.*, 2009]

**egfr104** : Epithelial Growth Factor Receptor (104 components) [Samaga *et al.*, 2009]

**Pros:** Very flexible (programming language),  
The complexity taken care of by the solver

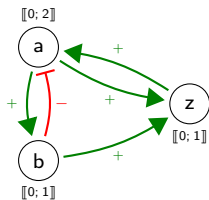
### Outlooks:

- New properties to check (reverse reachability, Eden gardens)
- Optimizations (exclude cycles)

# Static Analysis of Thomas Modeling

[Thomas, *Numerical Methods in the Study of Critical Phenomena*, 1981]

Conjectures of René Thomas:

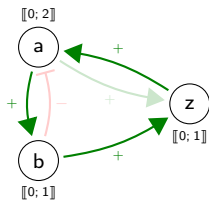


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- Multiple **stable states**  $\Rightarrow$  positive cycle in the graph



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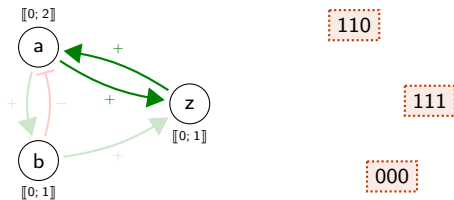


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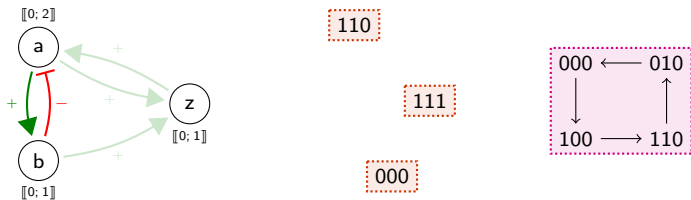


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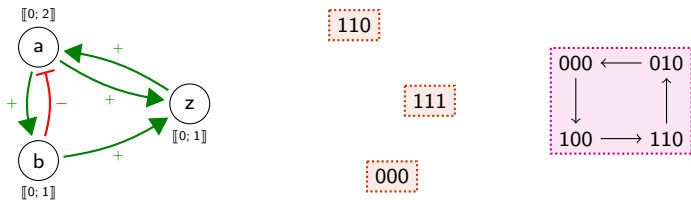


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Proofs: [Remy, Ruet & Thierry, *Advances in Applied Mathematics*, 2008]  
 [Richard, *Advances in Applied Mathematics*, 2010]  
 [Richard & Comet, *Discrete Applied Mathematics*, 2007]

## Static Analysis of Thomas Modeling

[Thomas, *Numerical Methods in the Study of Critical Phenomena*, 1981]

[Paulevé & Richard, *Electronic Notes in Theoretical Computer Science*, 2012]

### Contrapositives:

- No positive cycle in the graph  $\Rightarrow$  The **stable state** (if any) is unique
- No negative cycle in the graph  $\Rightarrow$  No **complex attractor** (only stable states)

### Other results:

- Lower & upper bounds of the number of attractors
- Functionality of the cycles
- Sufficient condition for no stable state
- Topological stable states

**Complexity:** Usually very low (searching for all cycles)

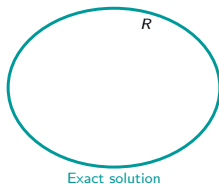
**Limitations:** Very broad results on the dynamics  
(cannot predict the evolution of one particular component)

$\rightarrow$  **Need for more precise methods**

## Over- and Under-approximations

[Paulevé *et al.*, *Mathematical Structures in Computer Science*, 2012]

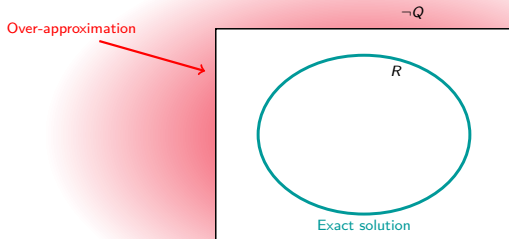
- Directly checking  $R$  is hard (**exponential**)
- Rather check **approximations**  $P$  and  $Q$  so that:  $P \Rightarrow R \Rightarrow Q$   
Computing  $P$  or  $Q$  is much simpler (roughly **polynomial**)



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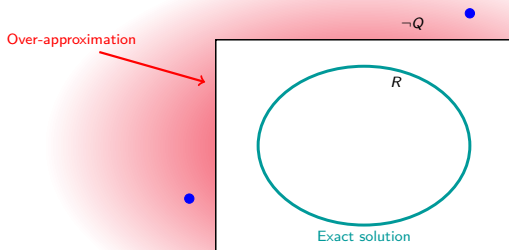
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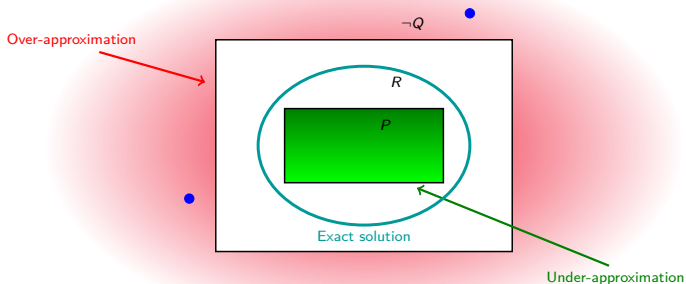
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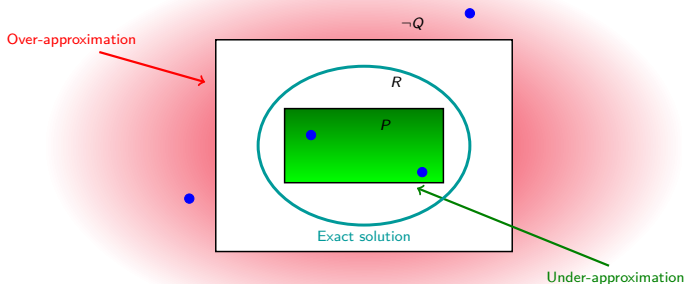




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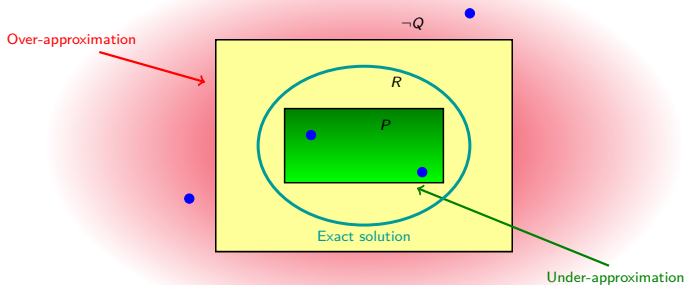
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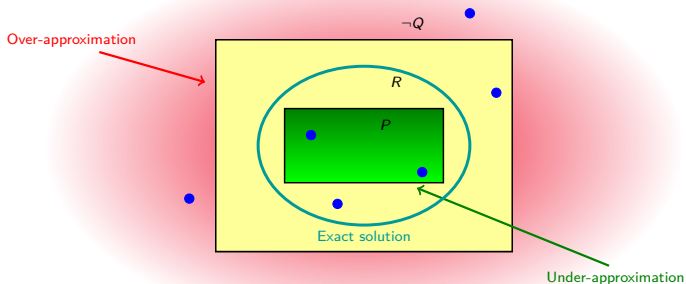
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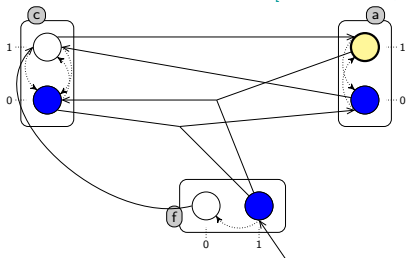
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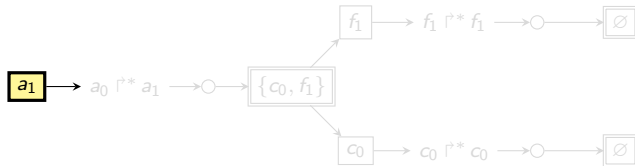


# Abstract Interpretation (Under-approximation)

[Folschette et al., *Theoretical Computer Science*, 2015b]



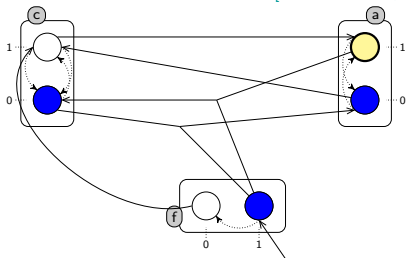
- No conflict
- All leaves are  $\emptyset$



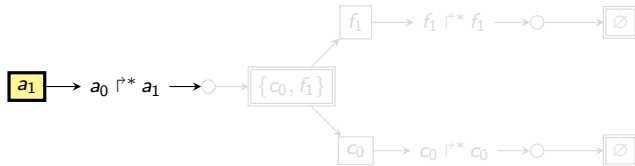
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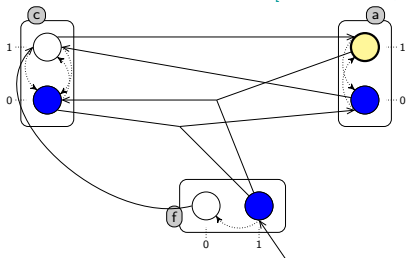
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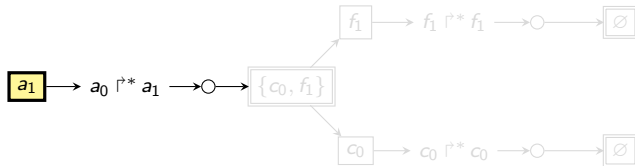
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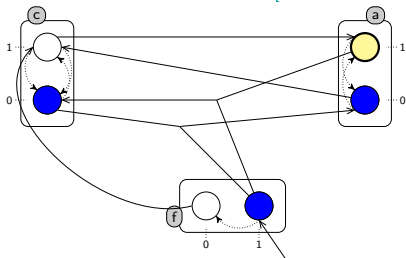
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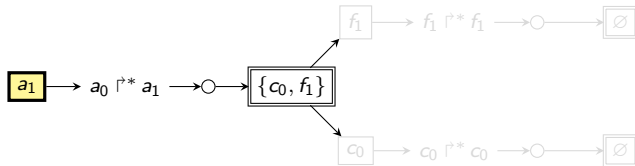
$$\{c_0, f_1\} \rightarrow a_0 \uparrow^* a_1$$

# Abstract Interpretation (Under-approximation)

[Folschette et al., *Theoretical Computer Science*, 2015b]



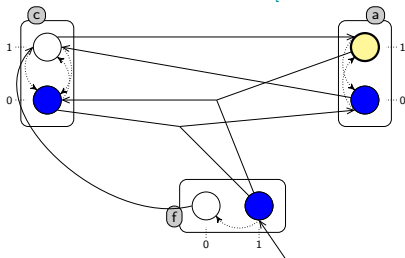
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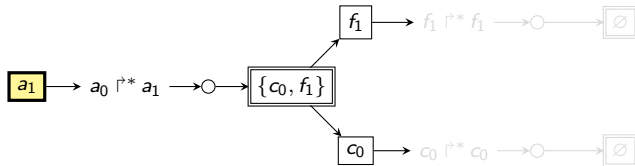
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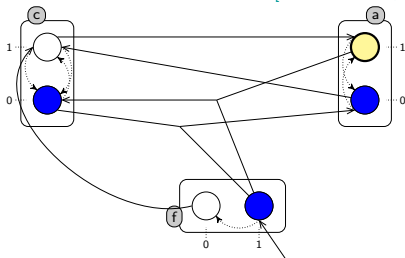


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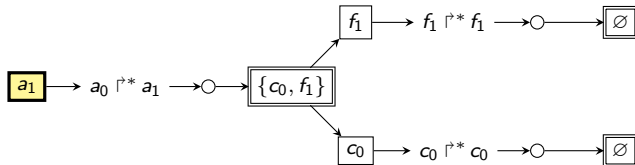


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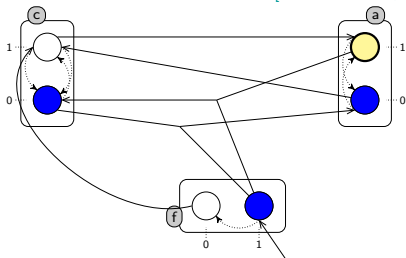
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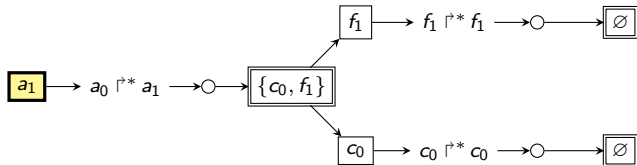
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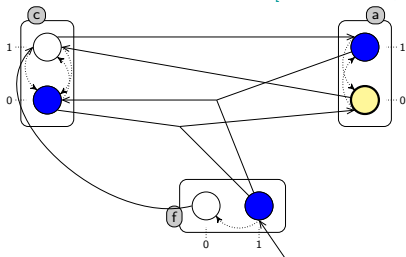
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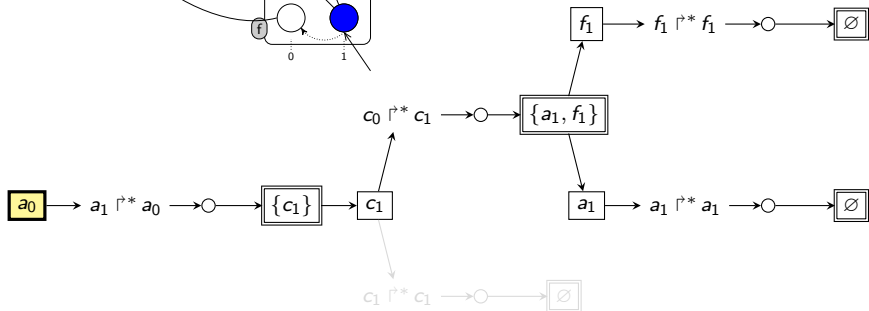
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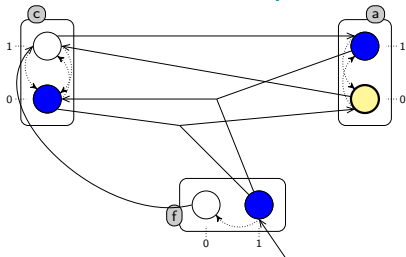
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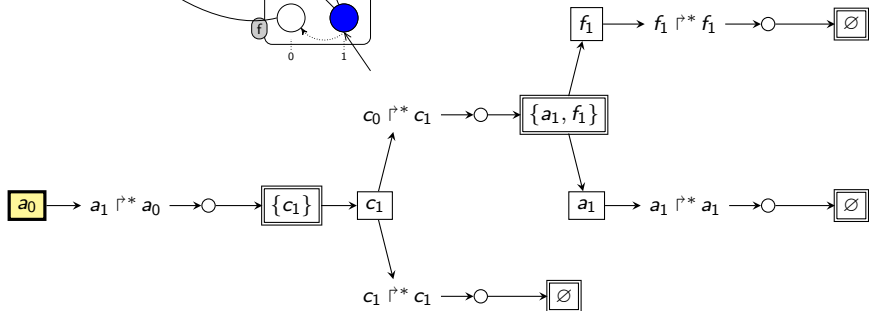
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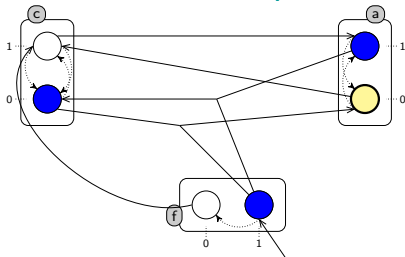
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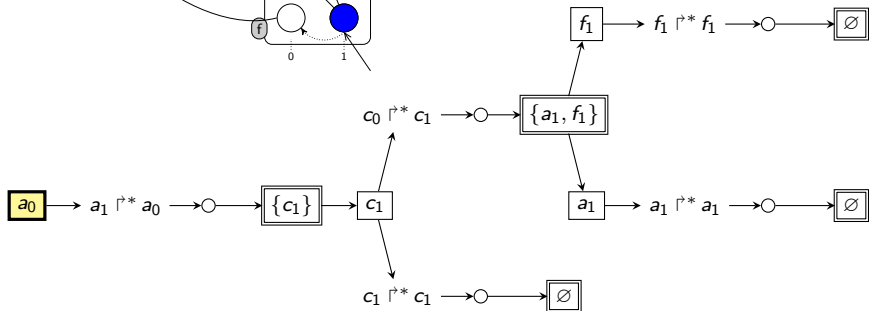
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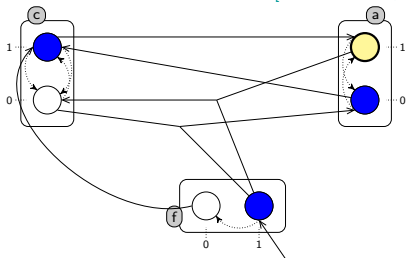
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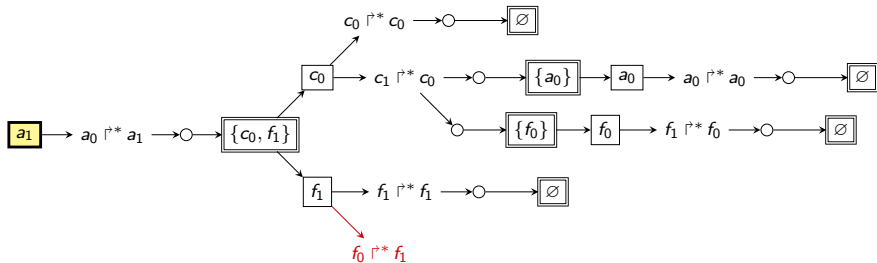
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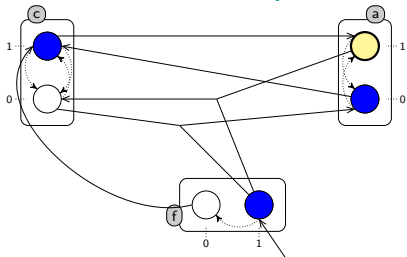
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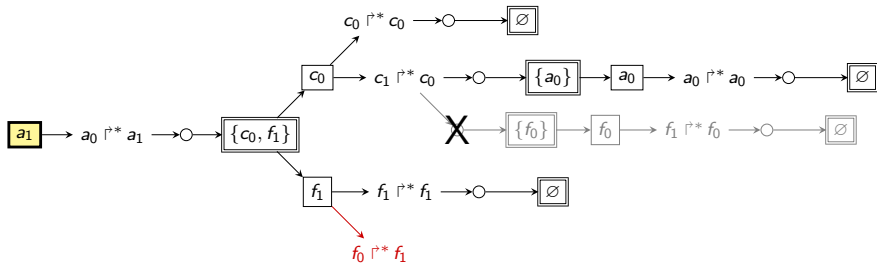
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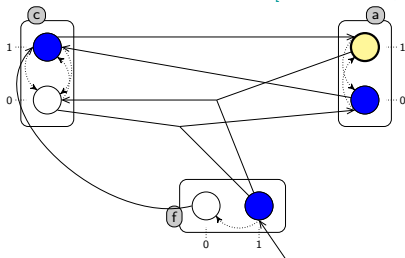
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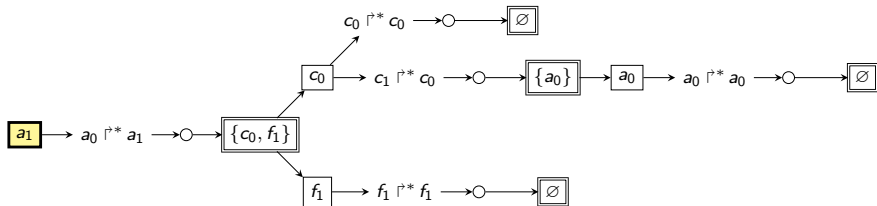
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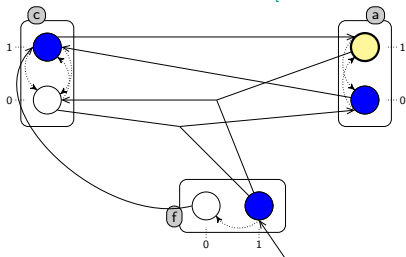


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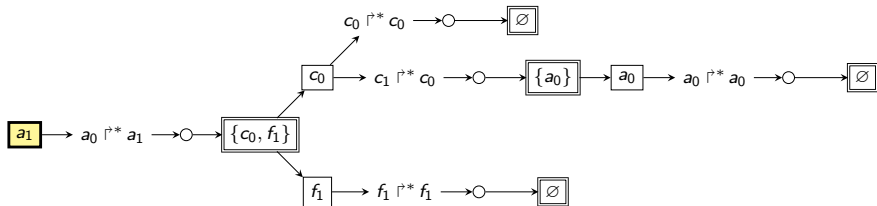


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## Implementation of the Abstract Interpretation

### Complexity:

- Computation of the local causality graph:
  - Polynomial in the number of automata
  - Exponential in the number of local states of each automata (usually very low, max. 4)
- Analysis of the graph (sufficient condition):
  - Polynomial in the size of the abstract graph
- Enumeration of the subsets of solutions (if needed):
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→ Very efficient on biological networks: **many components with few local states**

Model	Automata	Actions	States	libddd <sup>1</sup>	GINsim <sup>2</sup>	PINT <sup>3</sup>
<b>egfr20</b>	35	670	2 <sup>64</sup>		<1s	0.02s
<b>tcrsig40</b>	54	301	2 <sup>73</sup>		∞	0.02s
<b>tcrsig94</b>	133	1124	2 <sup>194</sup>	[>1min - ∞]		0.03s
<b>egfr104</b>	193	2356	2 <sup>320</sup>	[>1min - ∞]		0.16s

<sup>1</sup> LIP6/Move [Couvreur *et al.*, *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, 2002]

<sup>2</sup> TAGC/IGC [Chaouiya, Naldi, Thieffry, *Methods in Molecular Biology*, 2012]

<sup>3</sup> Loïc Paulevé [<http://loicpauleve.name/pint/>]

**egfr20** : Epithelial Growth Factor Receptor (20 components) [Sahin *et al.*, 2009]

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## Summary & Conclusion

- Discrete modeling = coherent abstraction of real biochemical phenomena
  - Discrete Networks / Thomas modeling
  - Asynchronous Automata Networks
  - ...And other extensions related to Asynchronous Automata Networks
- Polyadic  $\mu$ -calculus
  - More generic than CTL\*
  - Examples: enumeration of attractors, switches, bisimulation...
  - Ongoing implementation
- Answer Set Programming
  - Logic programming works!
  - Powerful heuristics giving good performances
- Static analysis by abstract interpretation
  - (Only) reachability properties (CTL operator EF)
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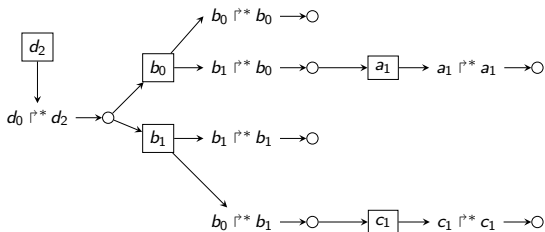
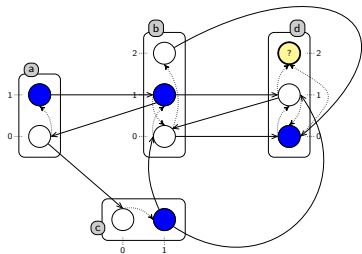
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## Bibliography

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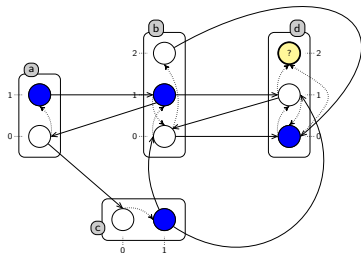


## Under-approximation



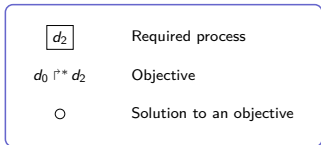
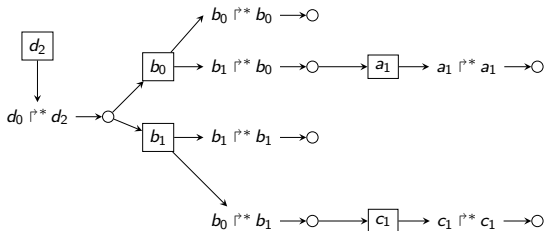
$d_2$	Required process
$d_0 \uparrow^{**} d_2$	Objective
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## Under-approximation

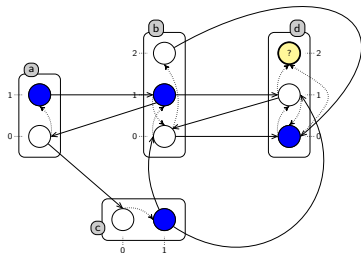


### Sufficient condition:

- no cycle
- each objective has a solution



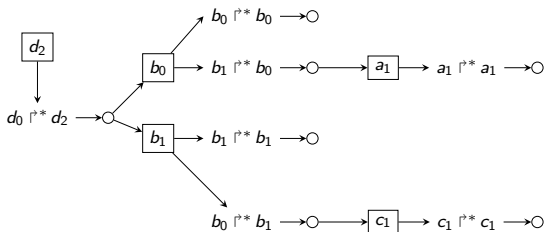
## Under-approximation



**Sufficient condition:**

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$P$  is true  $\Rightarrow R$  is true


 $d_2$ 

Required process

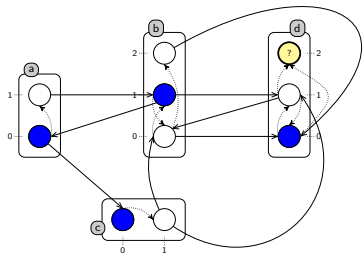
 $d_0 \uparrow^* d_2$ 

Objective

 $\circ$ 

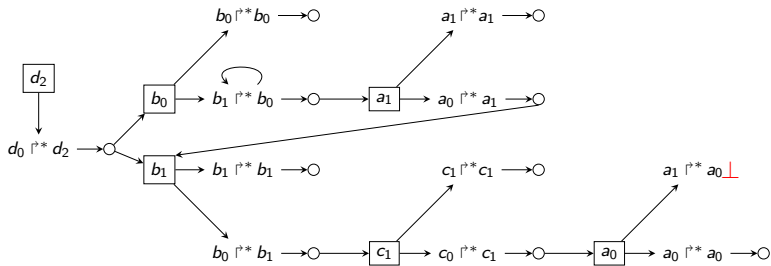
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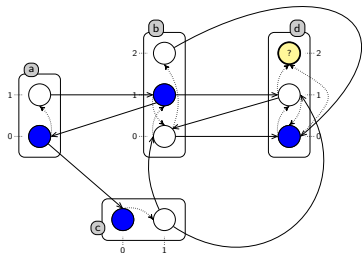


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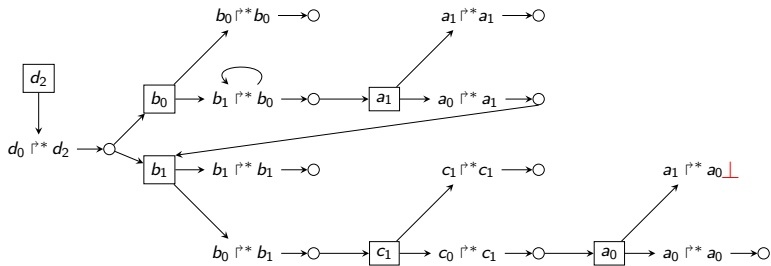
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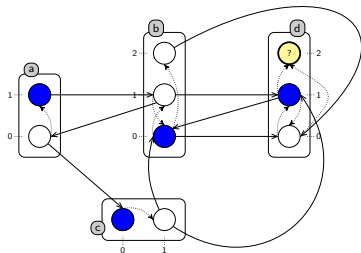
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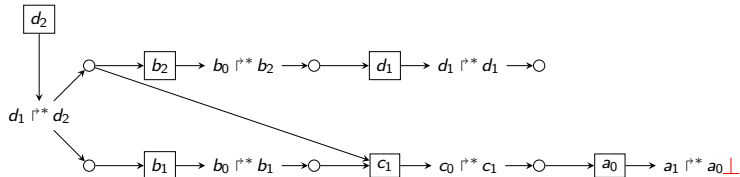
**$P$  is false  $\Rightarrow$  Inconclusive**



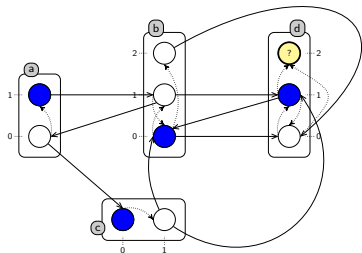
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**Necessary condition:**



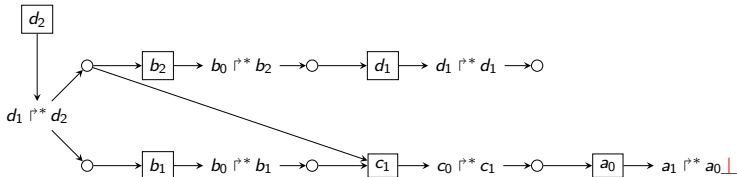
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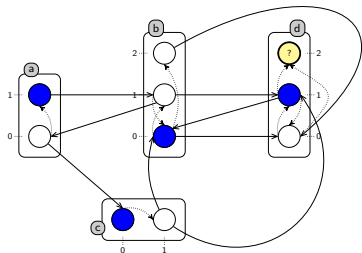
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- objective → follow **one** solution
- solution → follow **all** processes
- process → follow **all** objectives



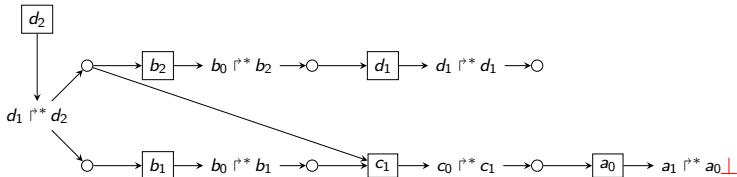
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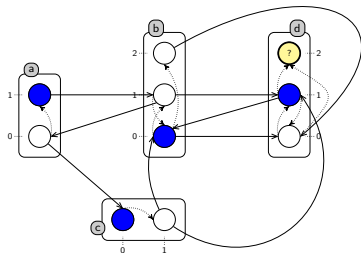
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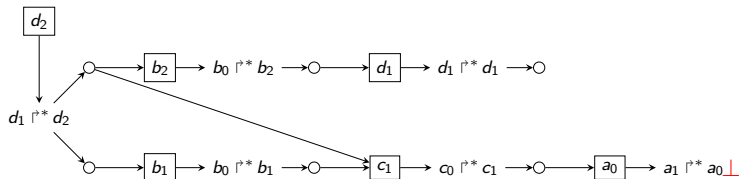


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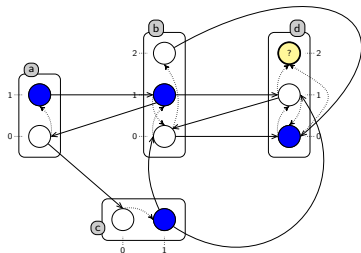
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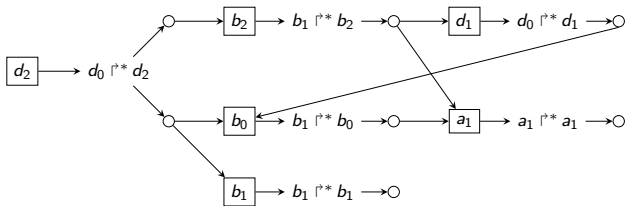
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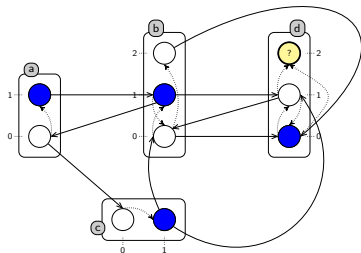
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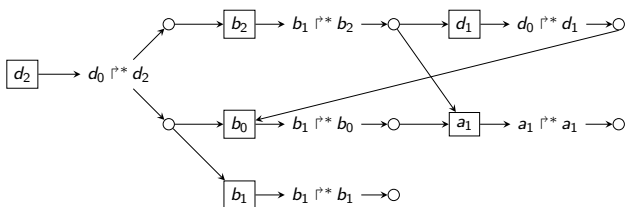


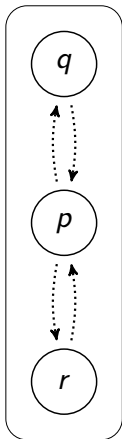
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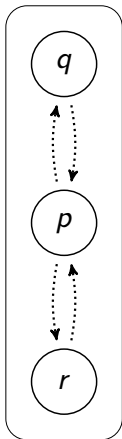


Examples with Modal  $\mu$ -calculus

No tokens: only one evolution is studied

**Atomic property** ( $p, q, r$ )

$$\llbracket p \rrbracket = \{p\}$$

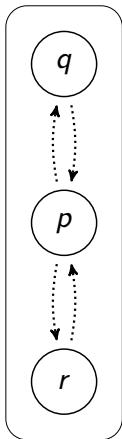
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Examples with Modal  $\mu$ -calculus

No tokens: only one evolution is studied

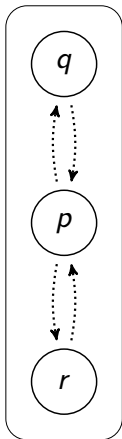
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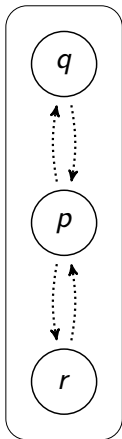
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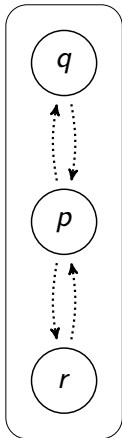
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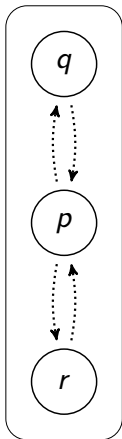


Examples with Polyadic  $\mu$ -calculus

**Atomic property**  $(p, q, r)$

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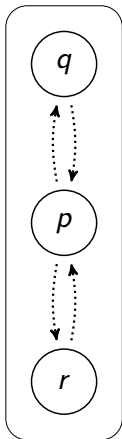
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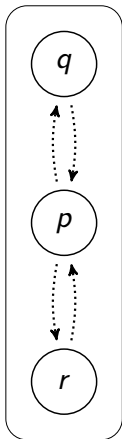
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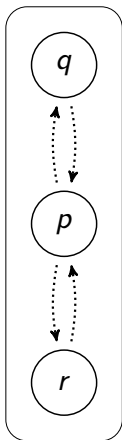
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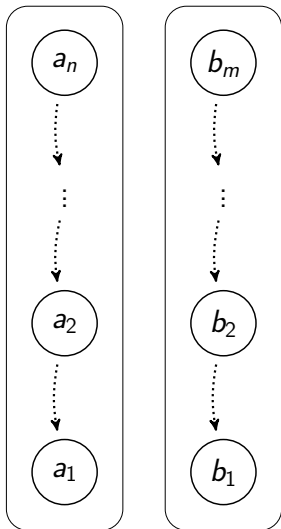
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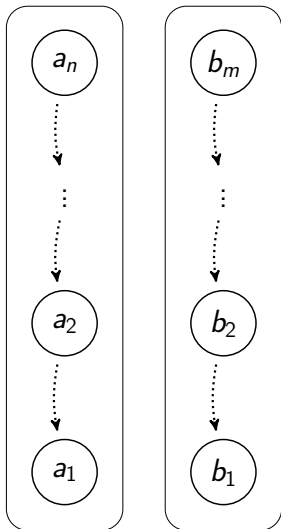
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**Least fixed point ( $\mu$ )**

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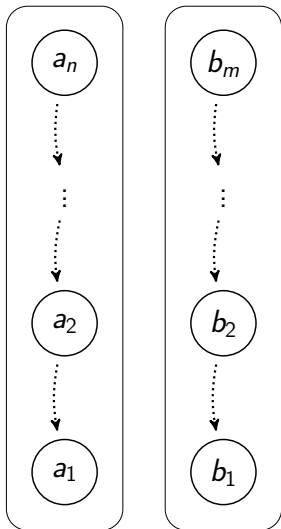
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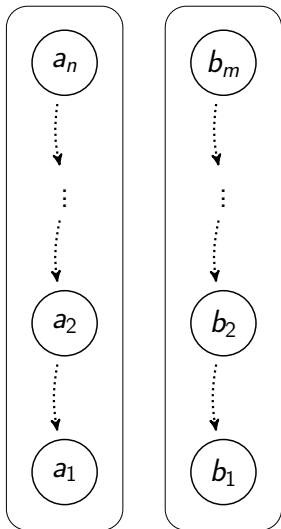
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$$\llbracket \phi \rrbracket = \{(a_i, b_i) \mid i \in [1; \min(m, n)]\}$$



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**Idea: use one (or  $n$ ) token per automata**