
Introductory Lecture
Games Computer Scientists Play

Martin Zimmermann

July 19th, 2018

The Pumping Lemma

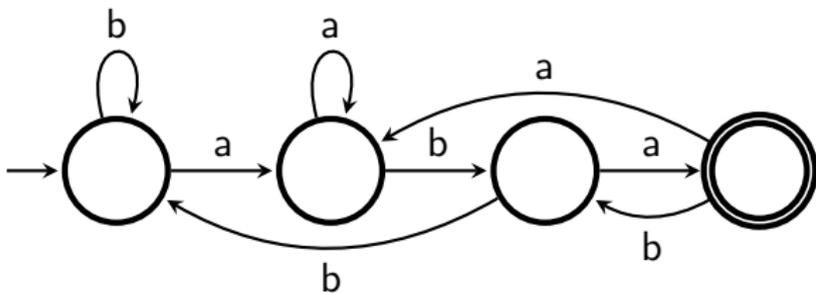
$L \subseteq \Sigma^*$ regular implies

$$\begin{aligned} \exists n \in \mathbb{N} \forall w \in L \cap \Sigma^{\geq n} \exists x, y, z \in \Sigma^* \quad &xyz = w \wedge \\ &|xy| \leq n \wedge \\ &|y| > 0 \wedge \\ &\forall i \in \mathbb{N} \quad xy^iz \in L \end{aligned}$$

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Model Checking

Intuition

Quantifiers and logical connectives correspond to moves in a game between a player trying to satisfy a formula and an opponent trying to falsify it.

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Example

$\mathfrak{A} = (\mathbb{N}, <, |, 1)$ and

$$\varphi = \forall x \exists y (x < y \wedge \forall z (\neg(z | y) \vee z = 1) \vee z = y)$$

Model Checking Games

A game between **Verifier** and **Falsifier**.

- Positions: (ψ, β) where ψ is a subformula of φ and β is a partial variable valuation.
- Moves for Verifier:

$$(\exists x\psi, \beta) \longrightarrow (\psi, \beta[x \mapsto a]) \text{ for all } a \text{ of } \mathcal{A}$$

$$(\psi_0 \vee \psi_1, \beta) \begin{array}{l} \nearrow (\psi_0, \beta) \\ \searrow (\psi_1, \beta) \end{array}$$

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Winning for Verifier if and only if $(\beta(x_1), \dots, \beta(x_n)) \in R^{\mathfrak{A}}$.

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$$(\forall x \exists y \psi, \emptyset)$$

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Winning for Verifier, as 13 does not divide 7

Example Continued

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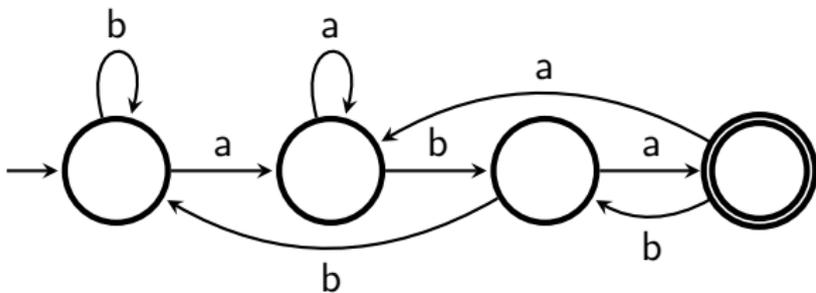
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Theorem

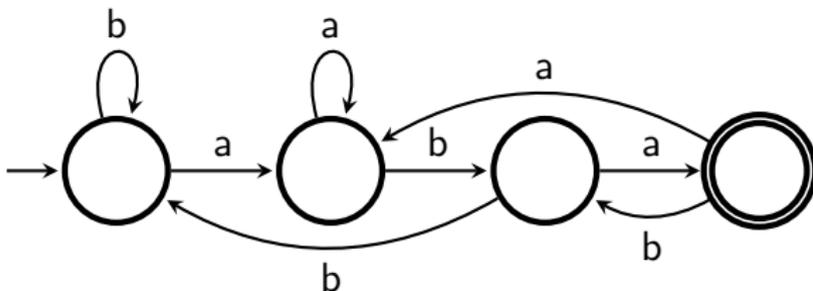
The following are equivalent:

1. \mathfrak{A} satisfies φ .
2. Verifier has a winning strategy for the game induced by \mathfrak{A} and φ .

Word Automata Emptiness

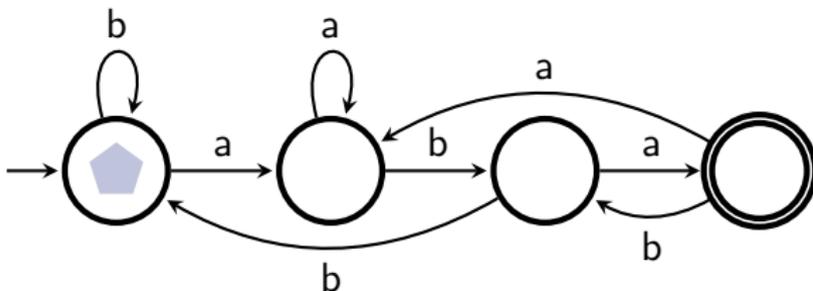


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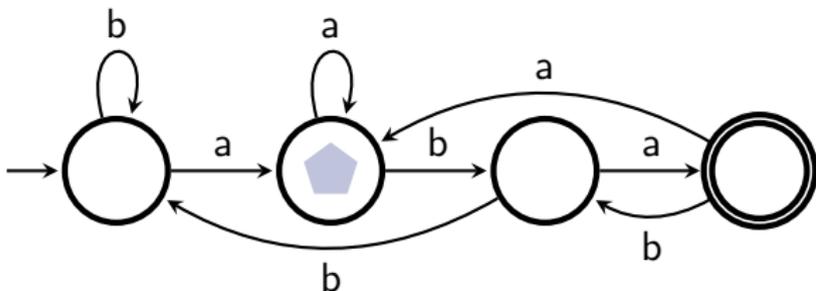
For automata on finite words, emptiness can be expressed as a (trivial) one-player reachability game: find a path from the initial state to some accepting state.

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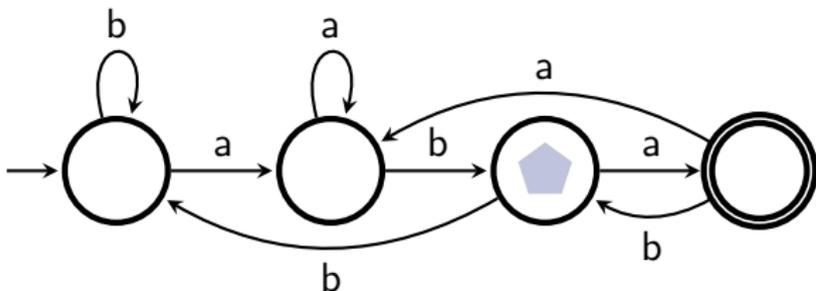
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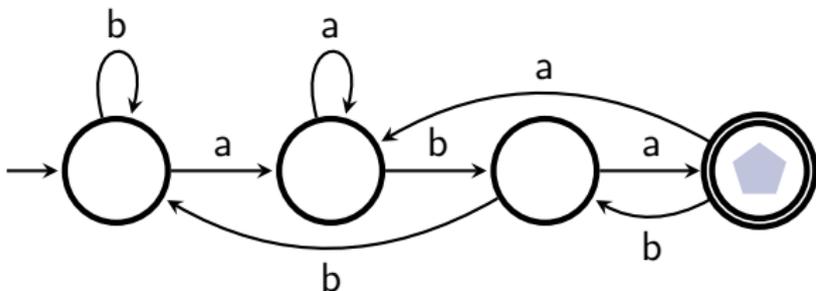
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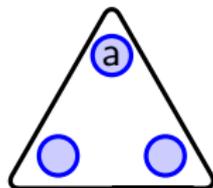
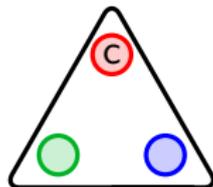
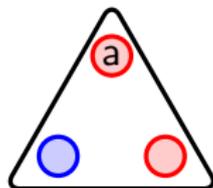
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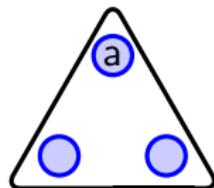
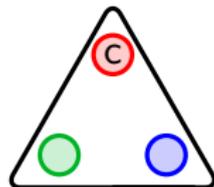
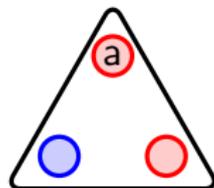
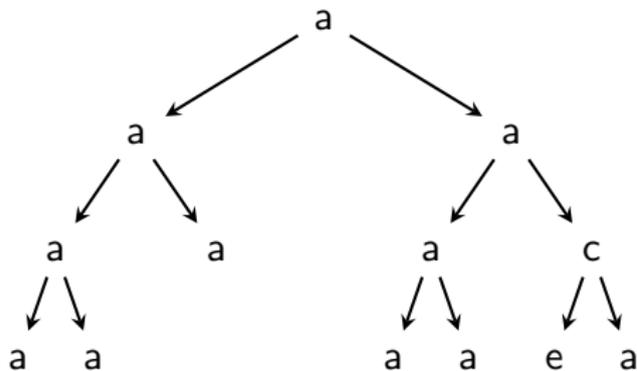
Tree Automata Emptiness



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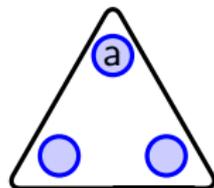
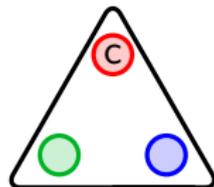
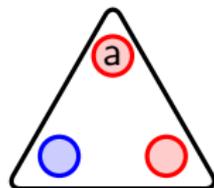
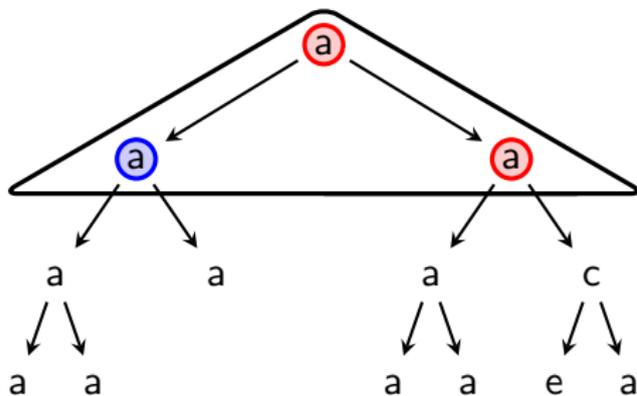
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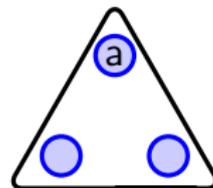
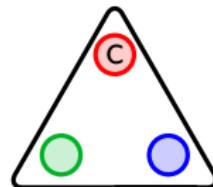
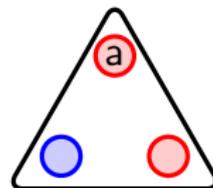
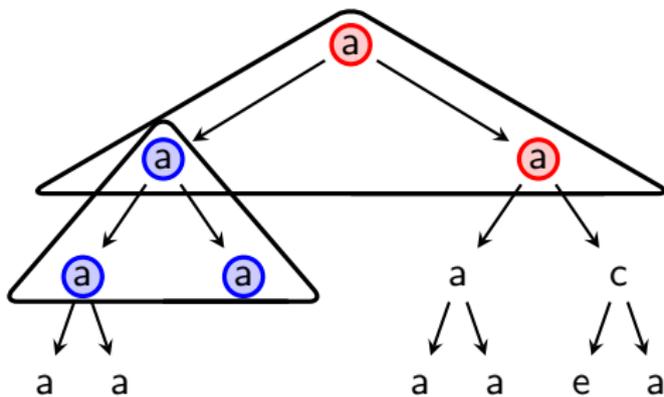
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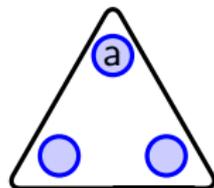
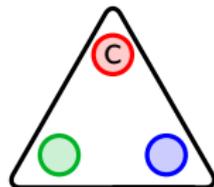
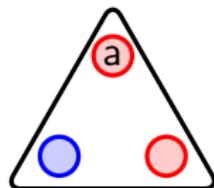
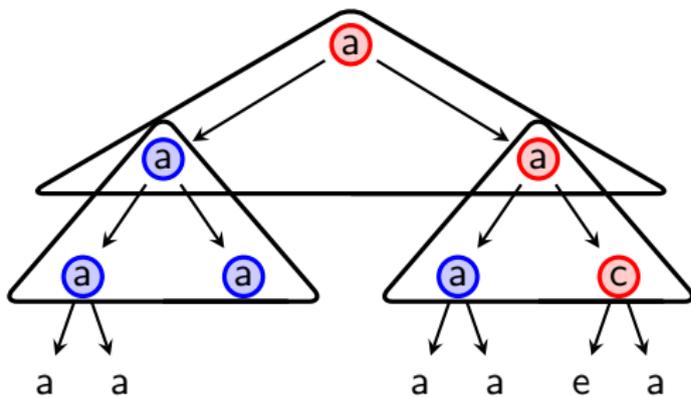
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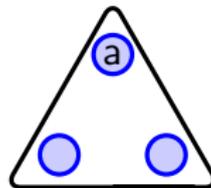
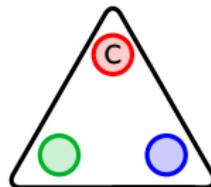
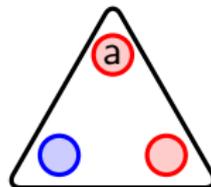
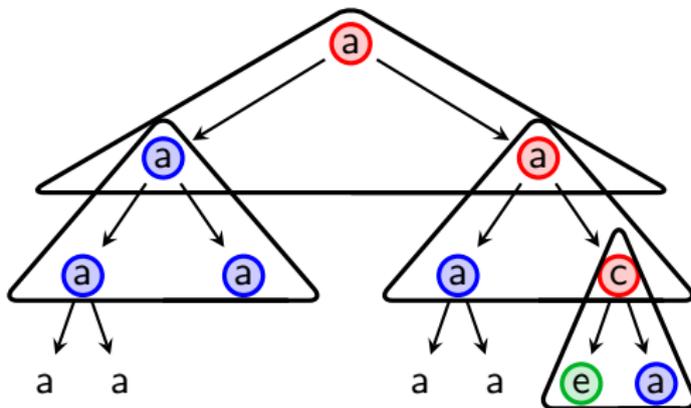
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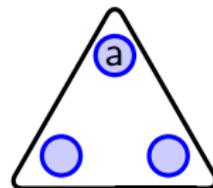
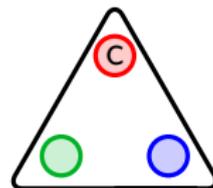
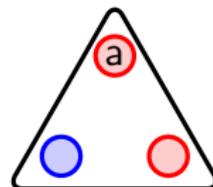
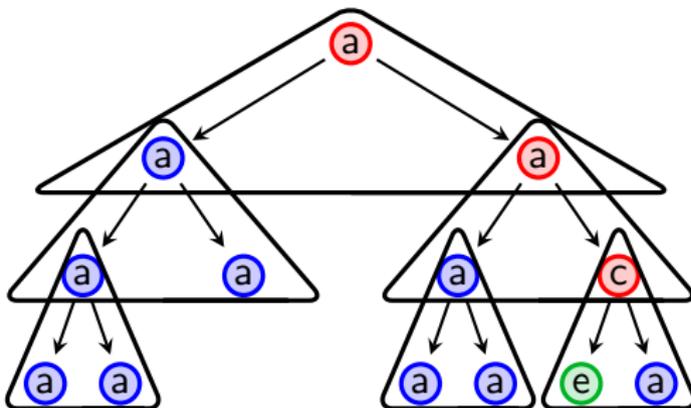
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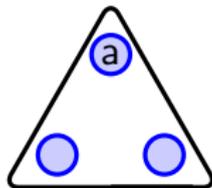
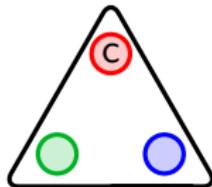
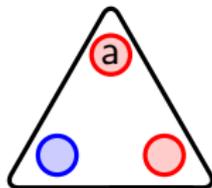


Tree Automata Emptiness



The Emptiness Game

One player picks transitions, the other (implicitly) the structure of the input tree.

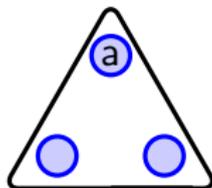
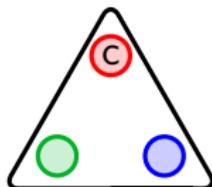
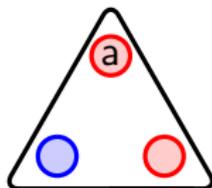


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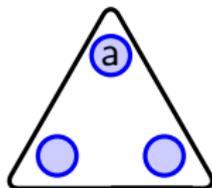
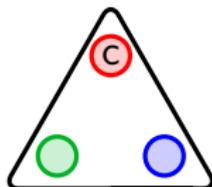
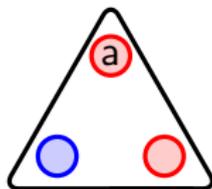
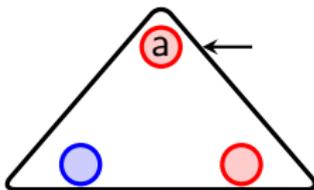


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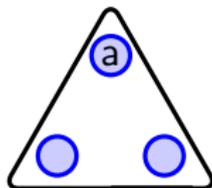
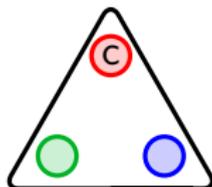
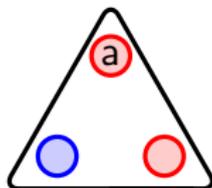
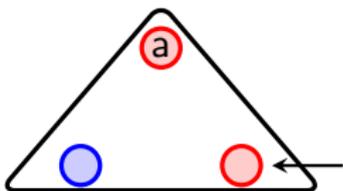


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The Emptiness Game

One player picks transitions, the other (implicitly) the structure of the input tree.

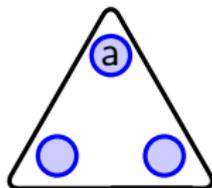
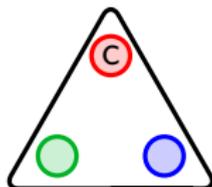
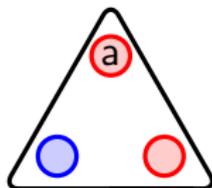
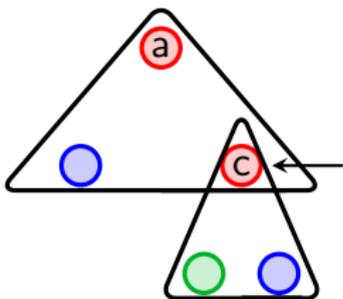


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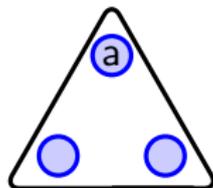
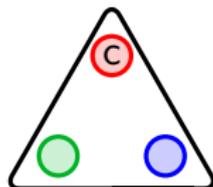
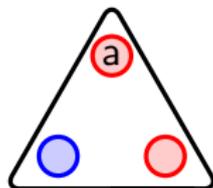
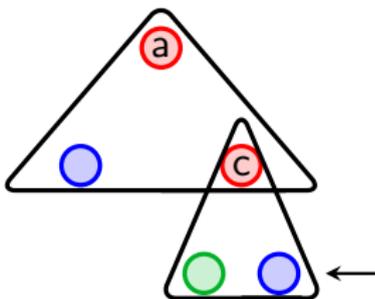


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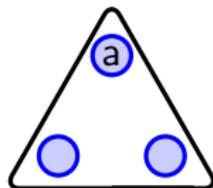
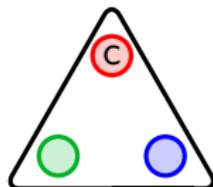
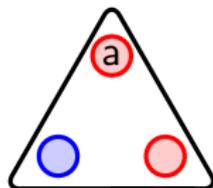
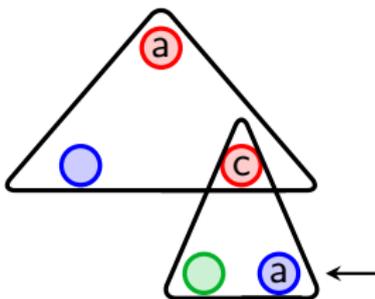


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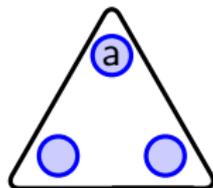
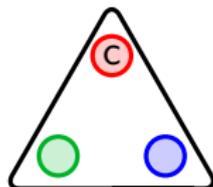
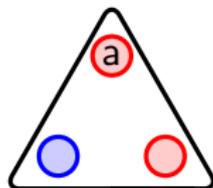
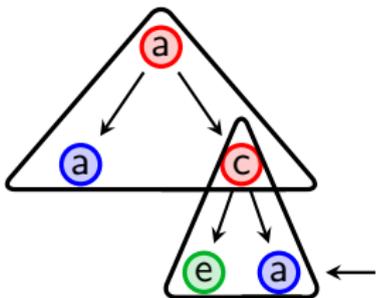


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An analogous result holds for automata on infinite trees. However, the resulting game is an infinite-duration game.

Determinacy

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The proof works by bottom-up induction over the finite tree of positions.

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Question

Is every infinite-duration two-player zero-sum game of perfect information determined?

Chomp

- There is a (rectangular) chocolate bar with $m \times n$ pieces.
- A move consists of taking a piece and all others that are to the right and above.
- Two players, Player 0 and Player 1, move in alternation, starting with Player 0.
- The player who takes the bottom-left piece loses.

Let's Play



PLAYER O'S TURN

Let's Play



PLAYER 1'S TURN

Let's Play



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Let's Play



PLAYER 1'S TURN

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PLAYER 0 WINS

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Claim

Player 0 has a winning strategy for every bar (unless $m = n = 1$).

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Note

- The proof is non-constructive..
- ..winning strategy only known for special cases $n \times n$, $n \times 2$, $2 \times n$, $n \times 1$, and $1 \times n$ (try to find them).

Hamming Distance

In the following: $\mathbb{B} = \{0, 1\}$

Definition

For $x = x_0x_1x_2\cdots$ and $y = y_0y_1y_2\cdots$ in \mathbb{B}^ω , the *Hamming distance* between x and y is defined as

$$\text{hd}(x, y) = |\{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid x_n \neq y_n\}| \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}.$$

Example

- $\text{hd}(0101101000\cdots, 1010100000\cdots) = 5$
- $\text{hd}(1010101010\cdots, 0101010101\cdots) = \infty$
- $\text{hd}(1010101010\cdots, 1111111111\cdots) = \infty.$

Infinite XOR Functions

Definition

A function $f: \mathbb{B}^\omega \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$ is an *infinite XOR function*, if $hd(x, y) = 1$ implies $f(x) \neq f(y)$ for all $x, y \in \mathbb{B}^\omega$.

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1100 0 000000110000 1100101 1 100000 ...

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- Formally, \mathcal{G}_f is played in rounds $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$
- In round n , first Player 0 picks $w_{2n} \in \mathbb{B}^+$, then Player 1 picks $w_{2n+1} \in \mathbb{B}^+$.
- Play w_0, w_1, w_2, \dots is won by Player $f(w_0 w_1 w_2 \dots)$.

There are Undetermined Games

Theorem

Let f be an infinite XOR function. No player has a winning strategy for \mathcal{G}_f .

Proof Idea

Strategy stealing:

- For every strategy τ of Player 1, we construct two counter strategies σ and σ' that mimic τ .
- The only difference between σ and σ' is that one starts by playing a 0, the other by playing a 1.
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The argument showing that Player 0 has no winning strategy is similar.

Proof

Let τ be a strategy for Player 1 in \mathcal{G}_f . We show that τ is not winning by constructing counter strategies σ and σ' as above.



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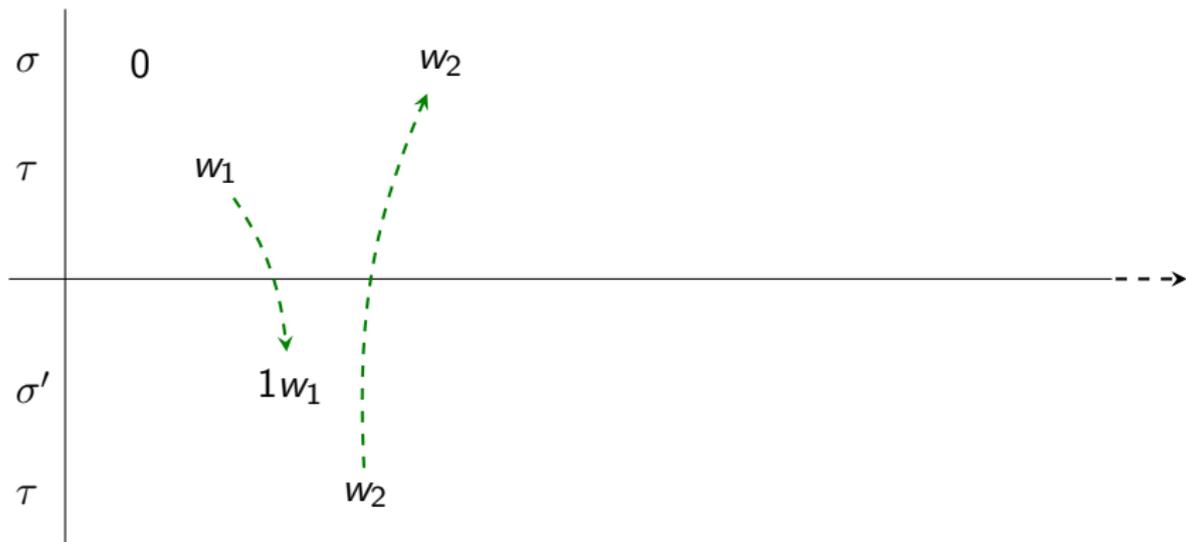
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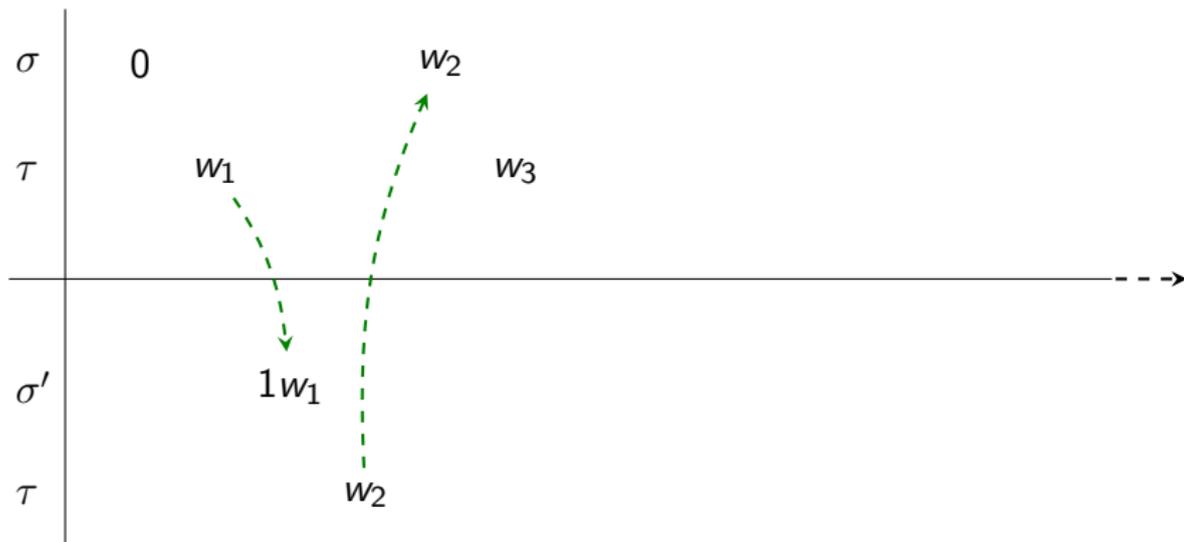
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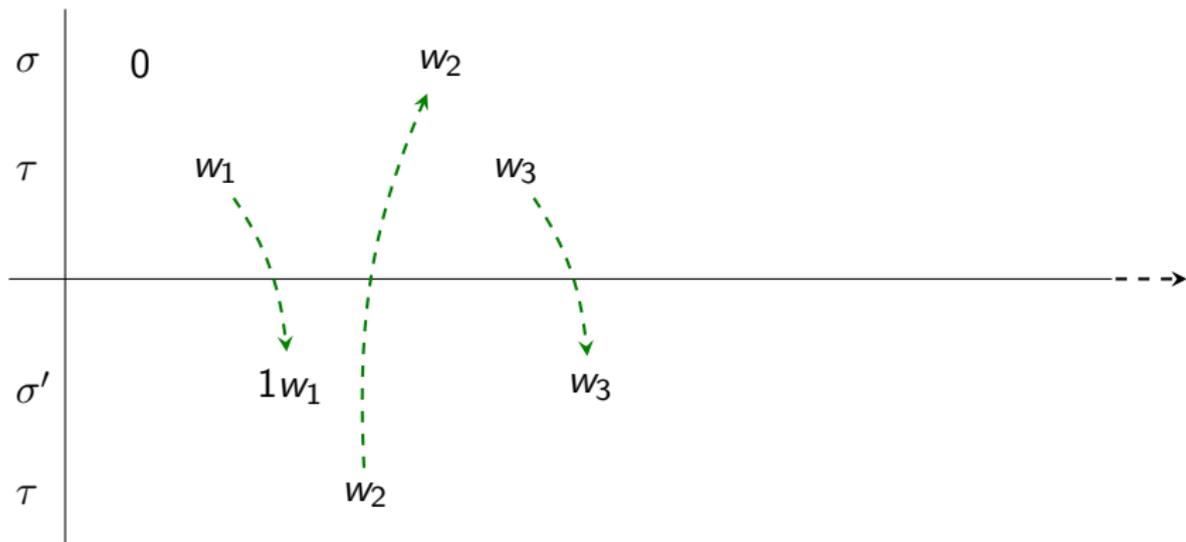
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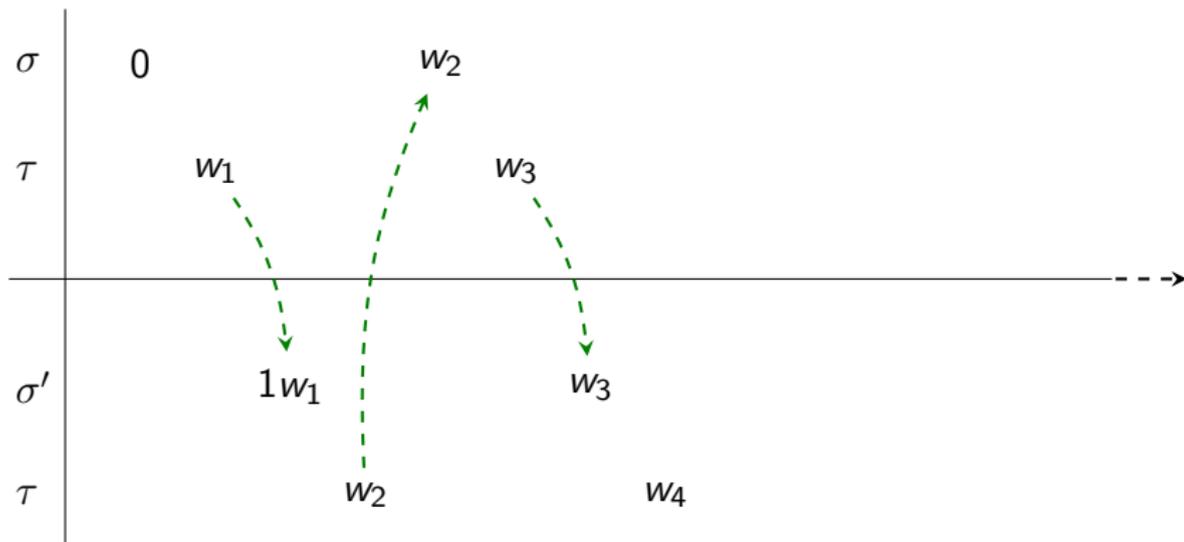
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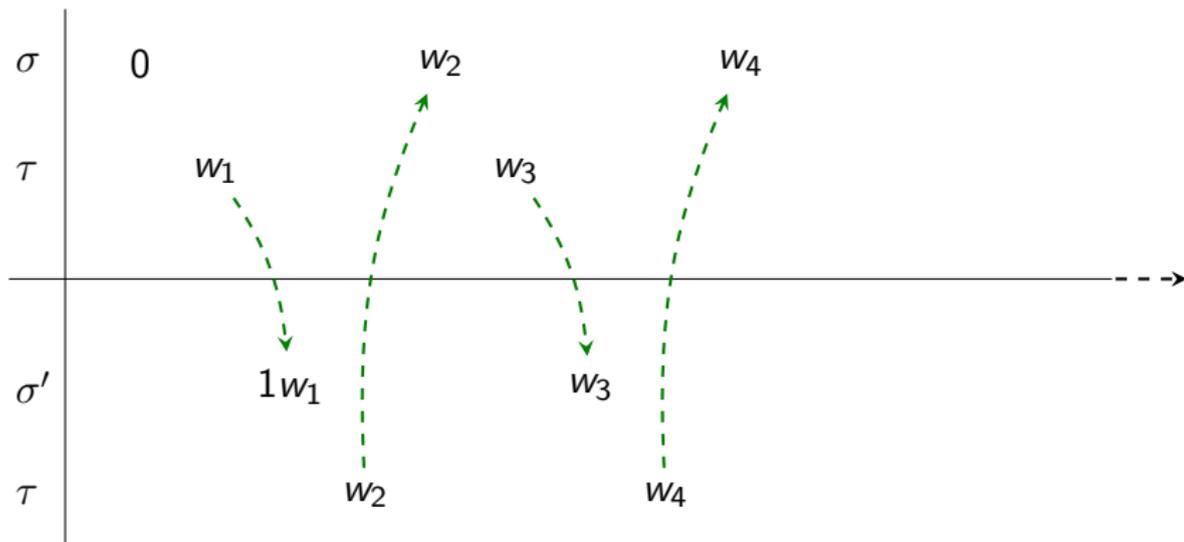
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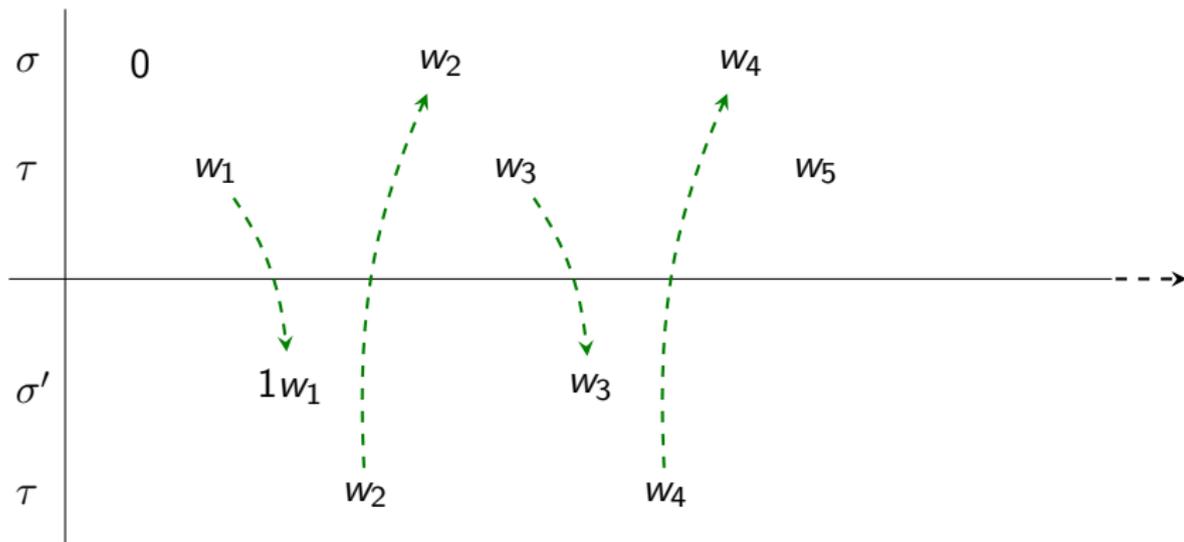
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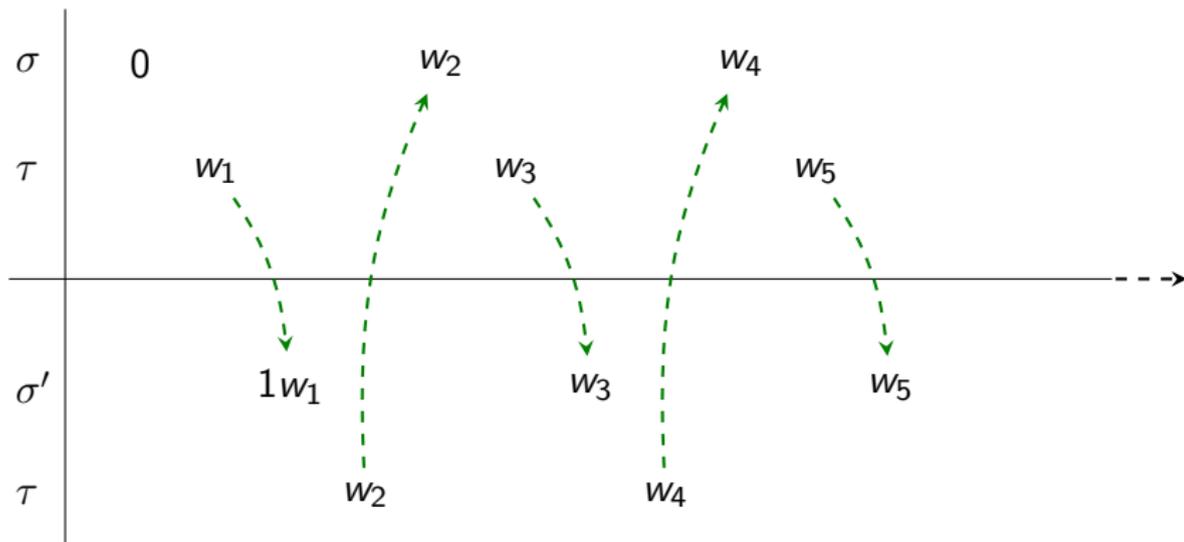
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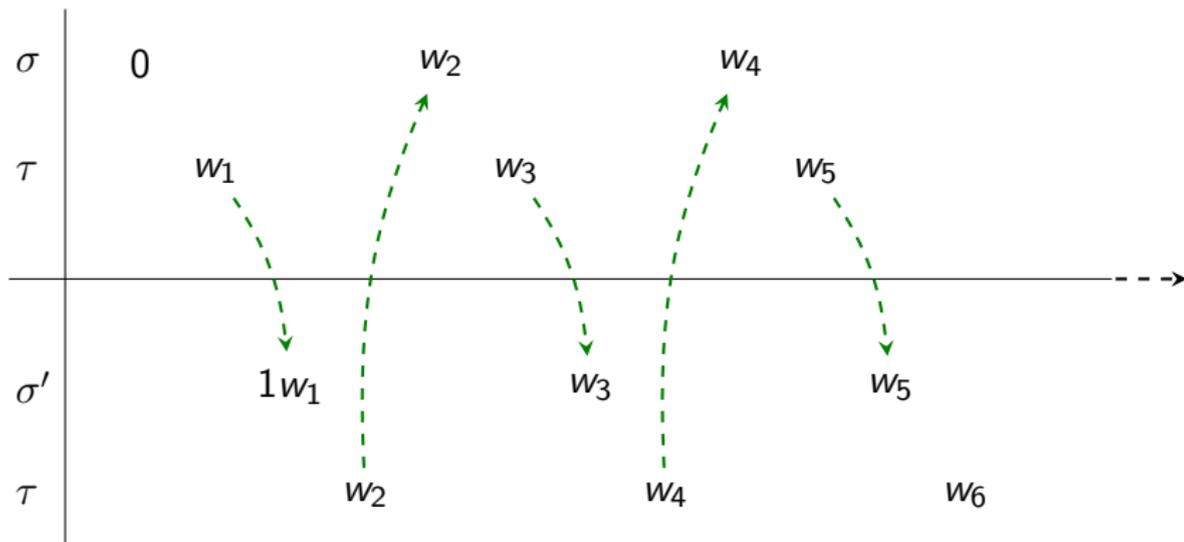
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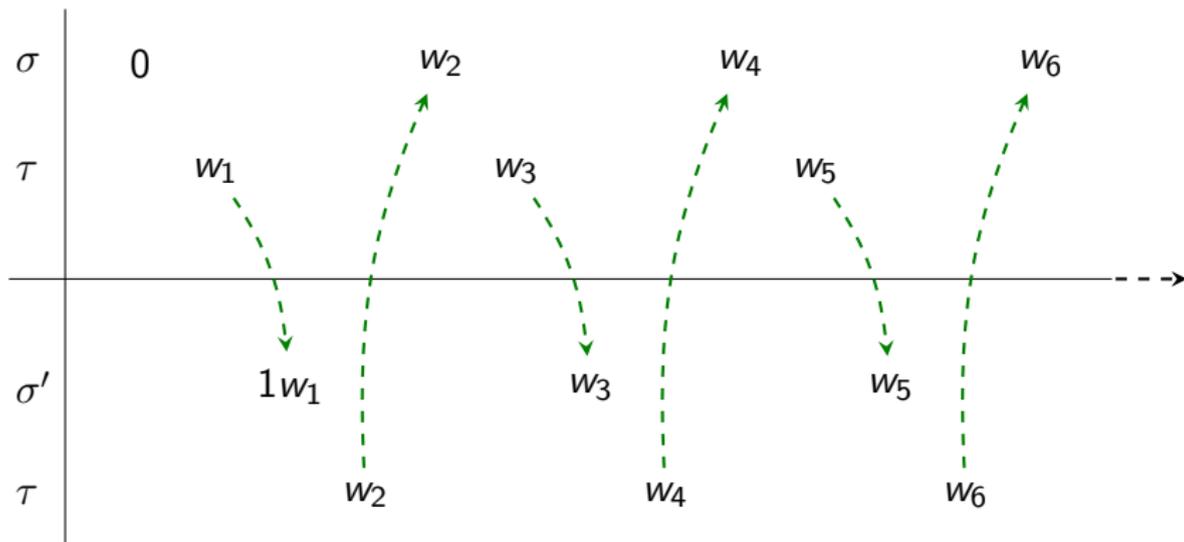
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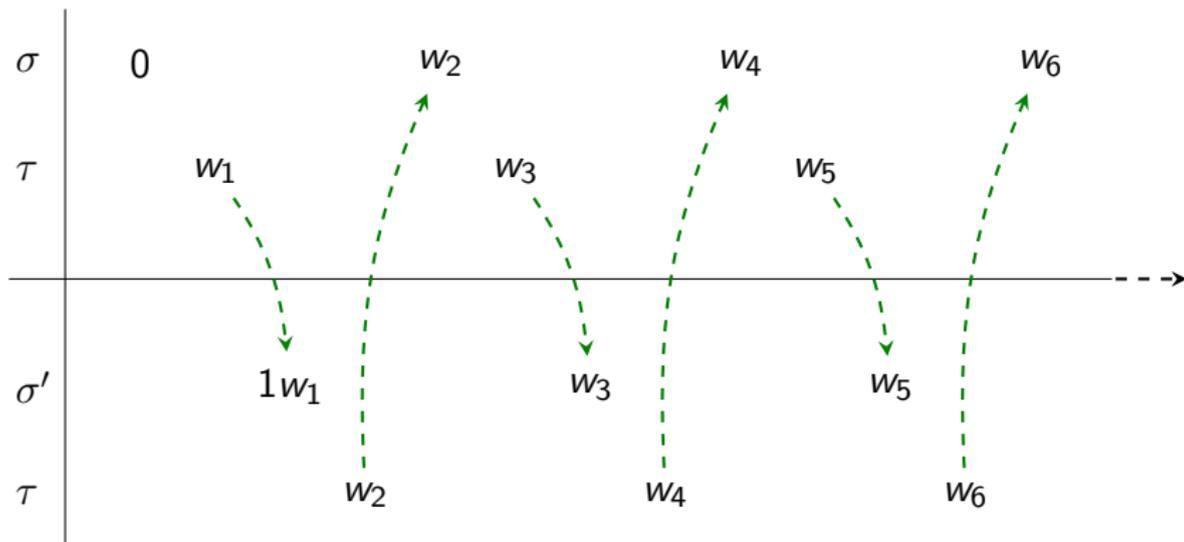
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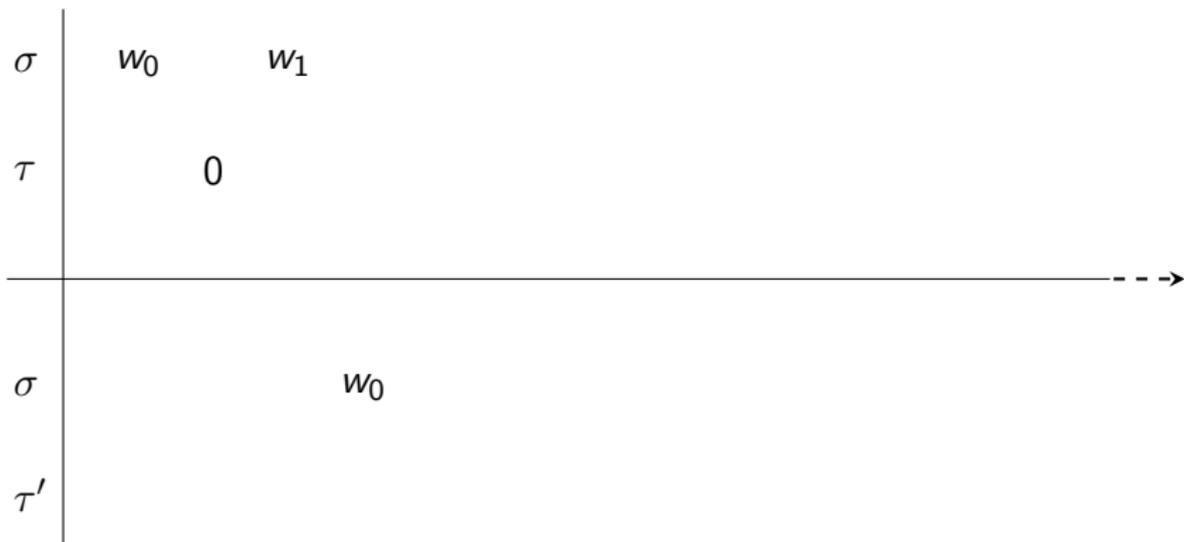
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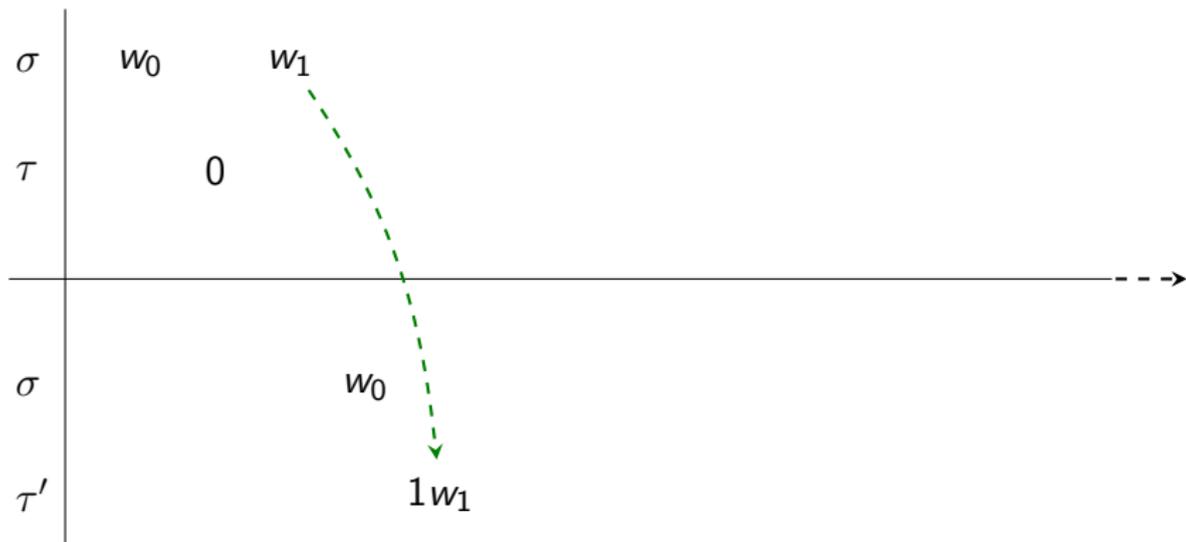
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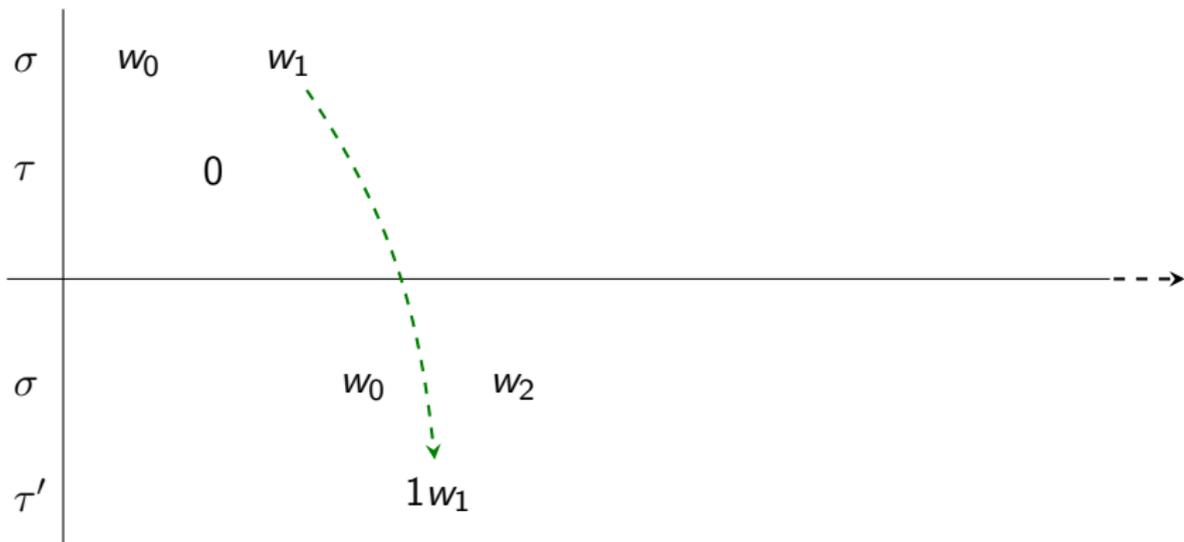
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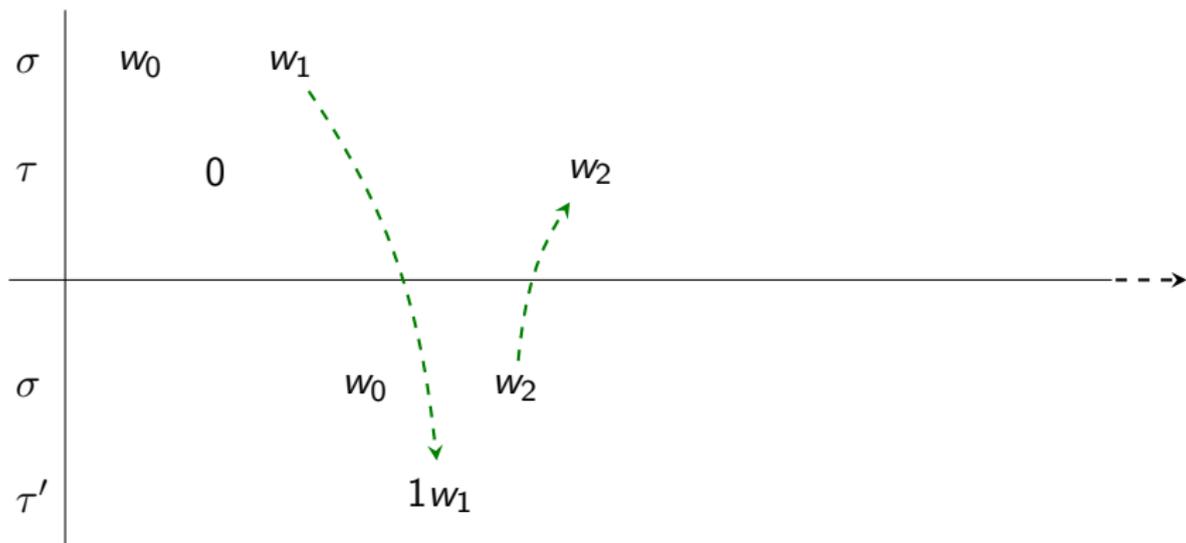
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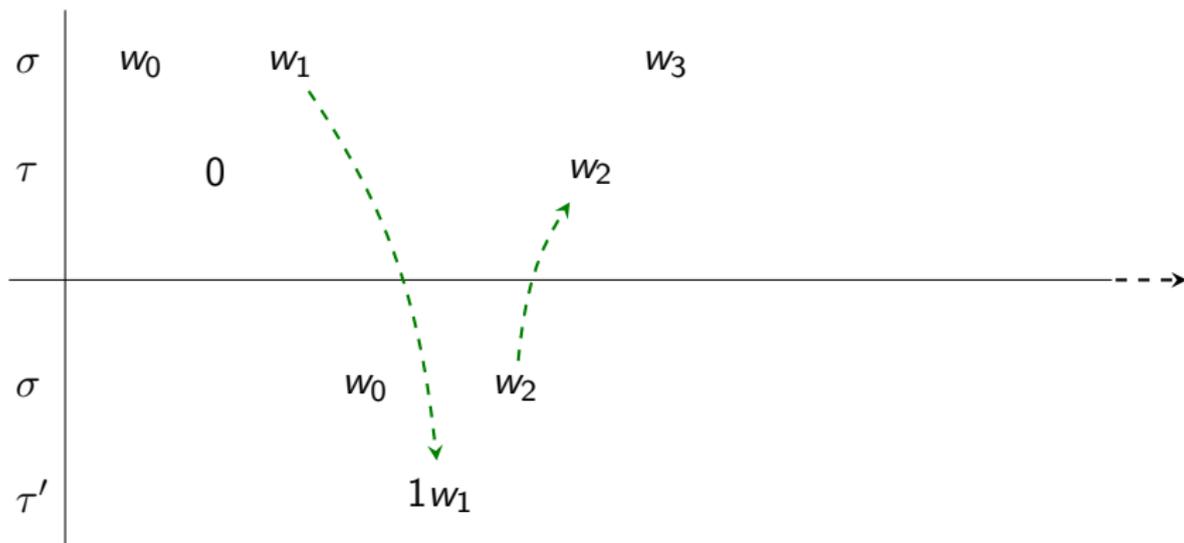
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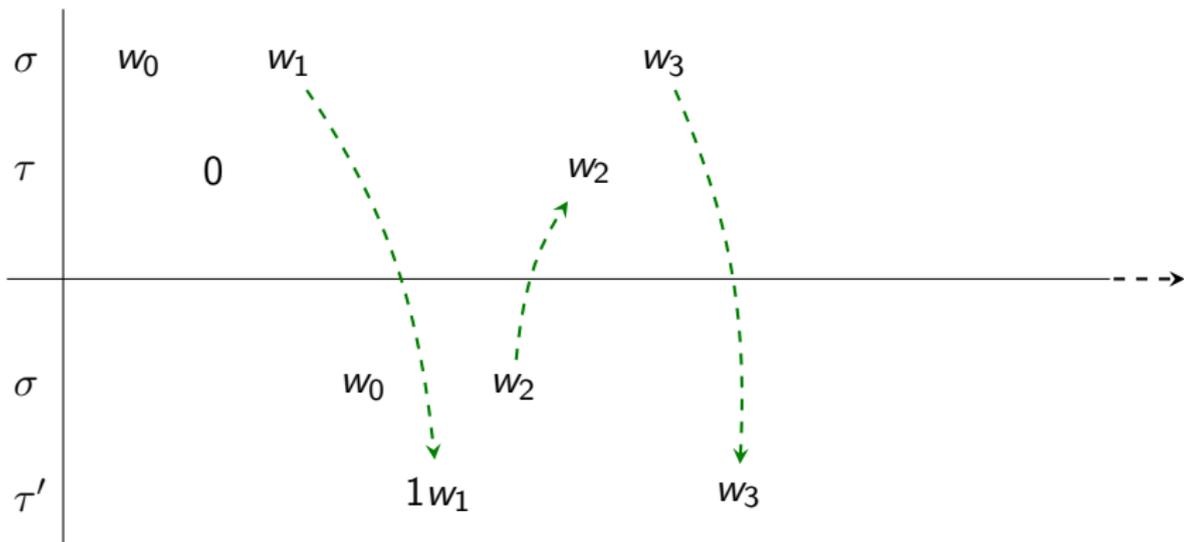
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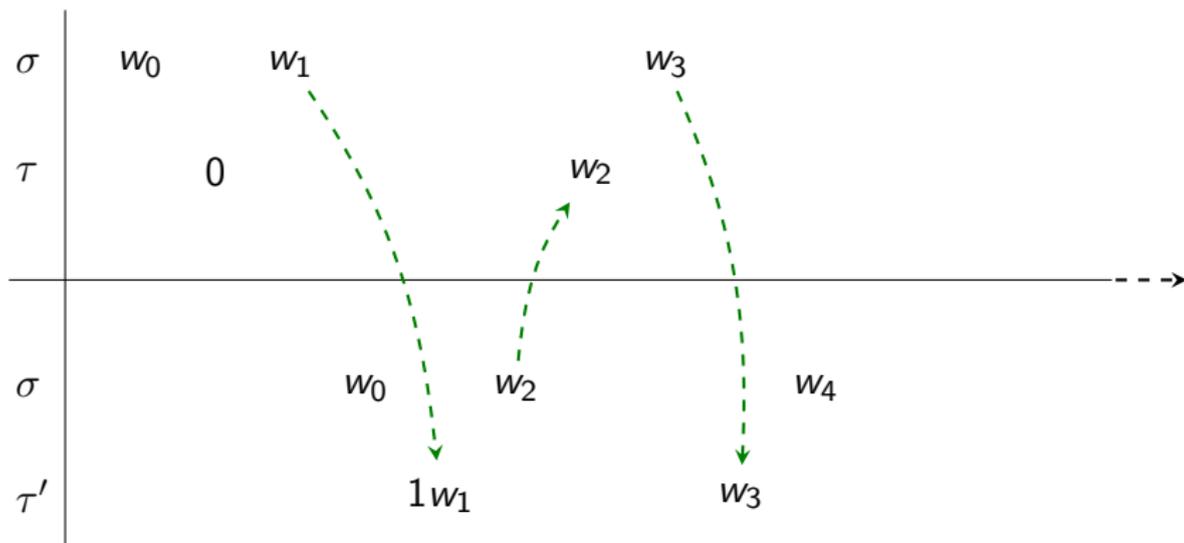
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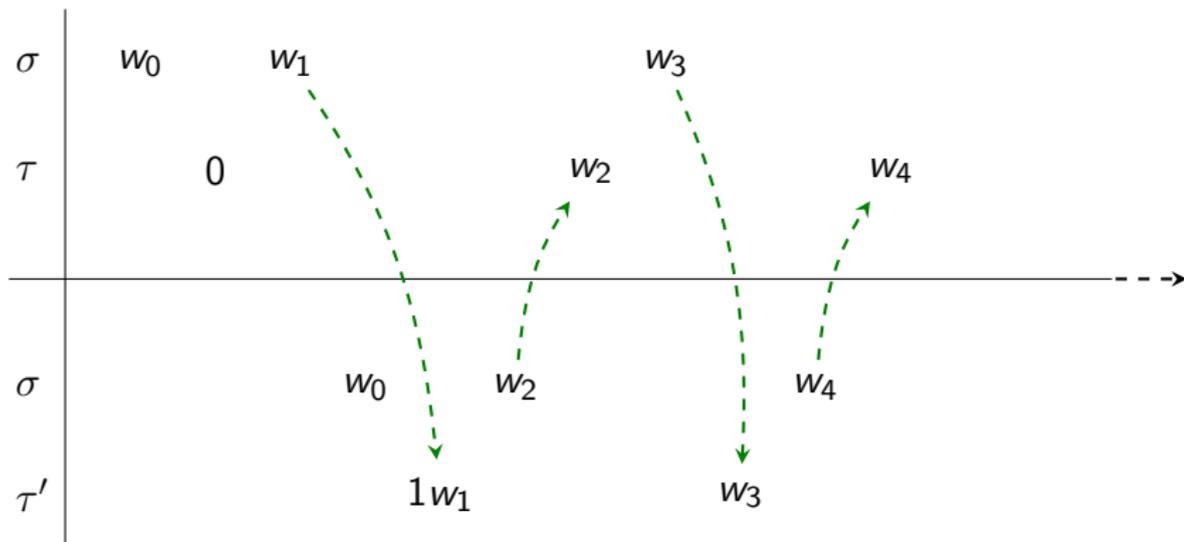
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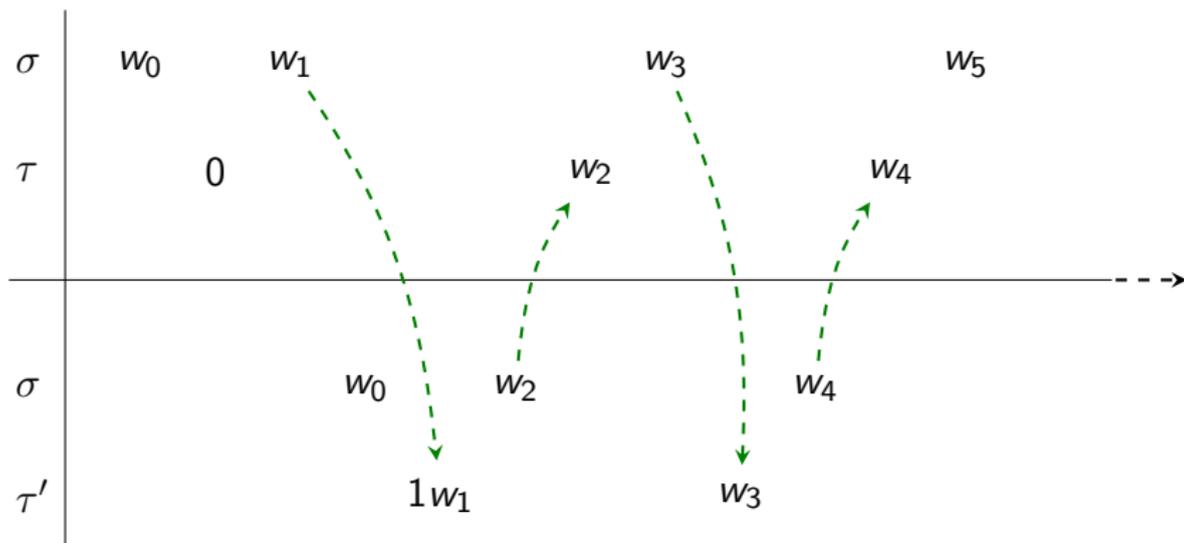
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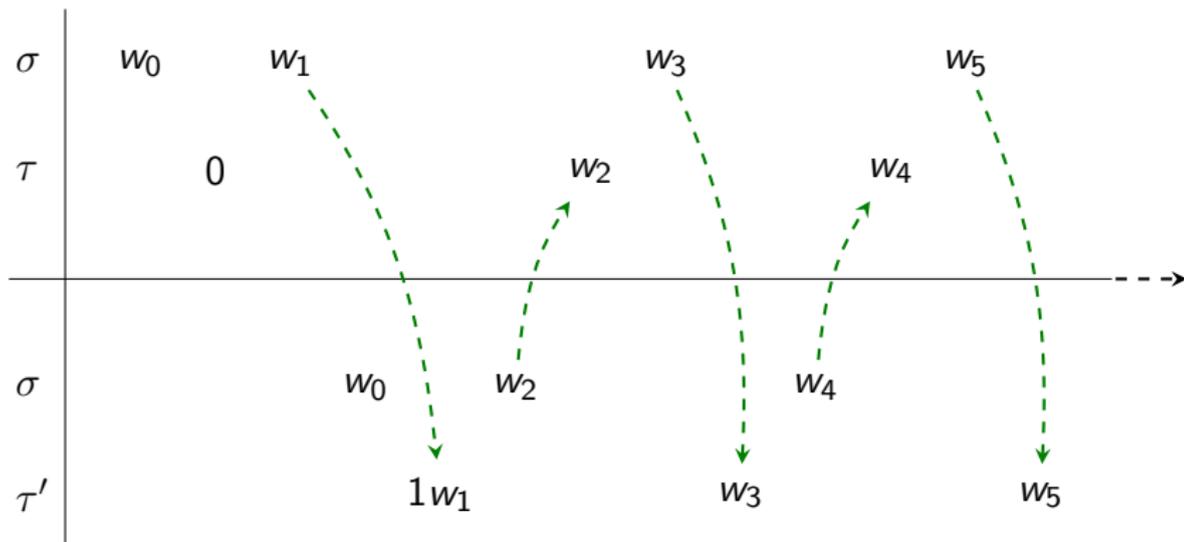
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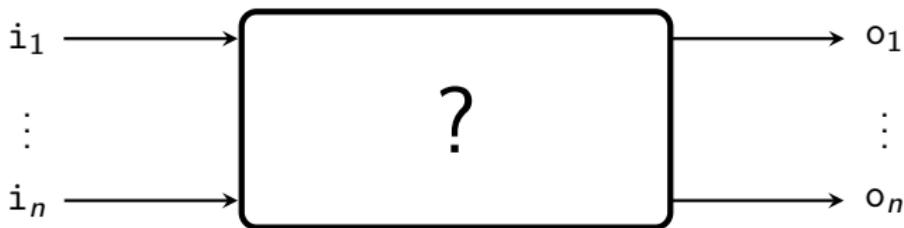
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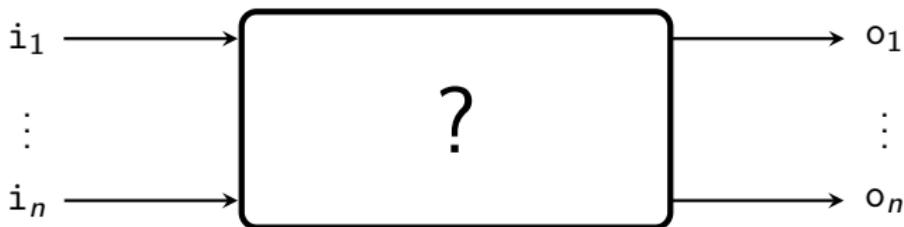
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Church's Synthesis Problem



Church 1957: Given a specification on the input/output behavior of a circuit (in some suitable logical language), decide whether such a circuit exists, and, if yes, compute one.

Church's Synthesis Problem



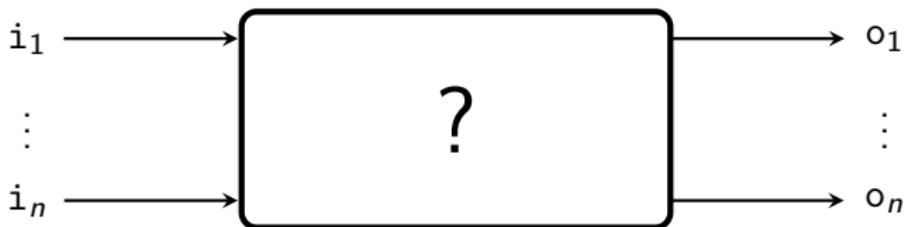
Example

Interpret input $i_j = 1$ as client j requesting a shared resource and output $o_j = 1$ as the corresponding grant to client j .

Typical properties:

1. Every request is eventually answered.
2. At most one grant at a time (mutual exclusion).
3. No spurious grants.

Church's Synthesis Problem



Solved by Büchi & Landweber in 1969.

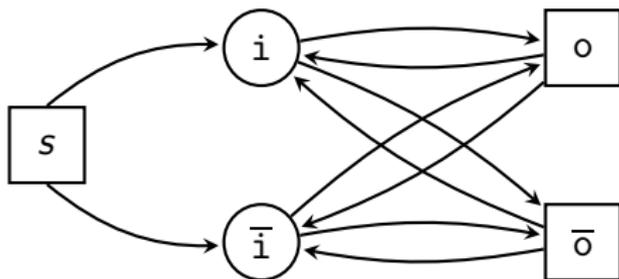
Insight: Problem can be expressed as two-player game of infinite duration between the environment (producing inputs) and the circuit (producing outputs).

Back to the Example

Consider the one-client case!

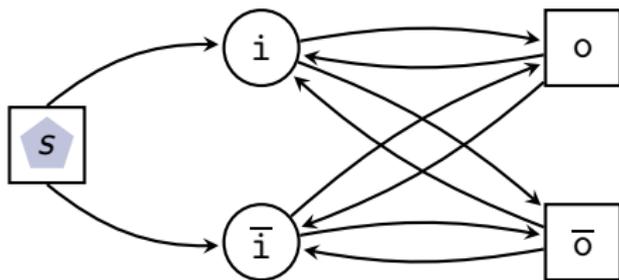
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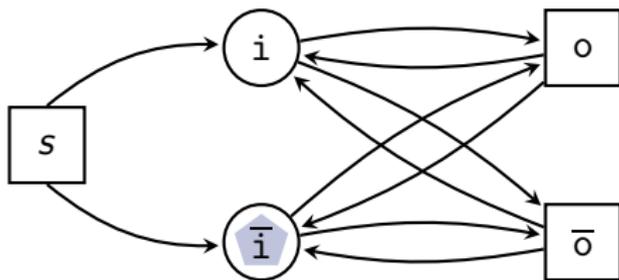


Input:

Output:

Back to the Example

Consider the one-client case!

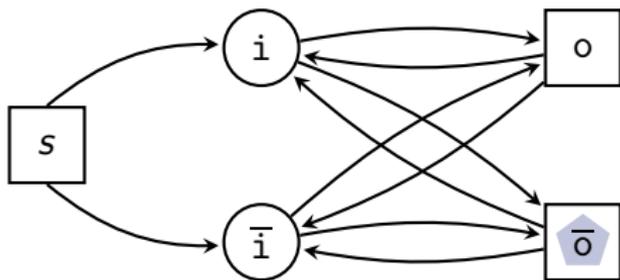


Input: 0

Output:

Back to the Example

Consider the one-client case!

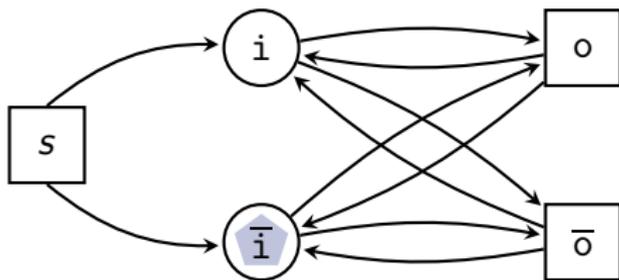


Input: 0

Output: 0

Back to the Example

Consider the one-client case!

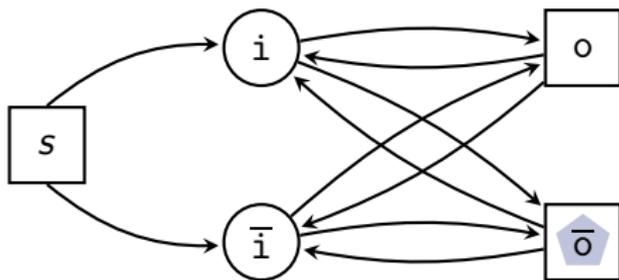


Input: 0 0

Output: 0

Back to the Example

Consider the one-client case!

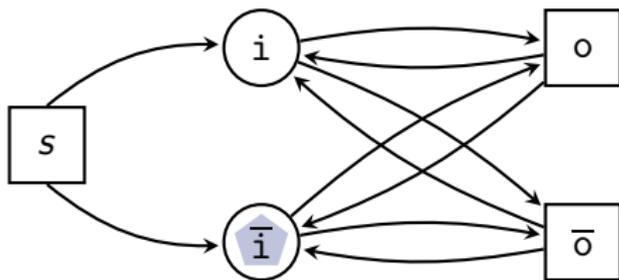


Input: 0 0

Output: 0 0

Back to the Example

Consider the one-client case!

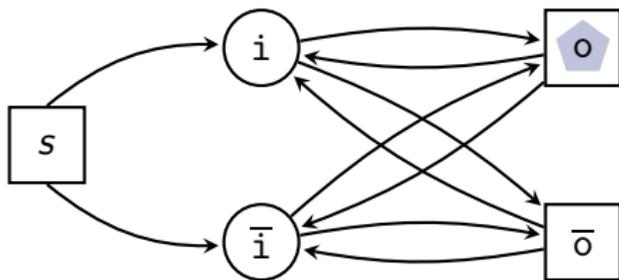


Input: 0 0 0

Output: 0 0

Back to the Example

Consider the one-client case!

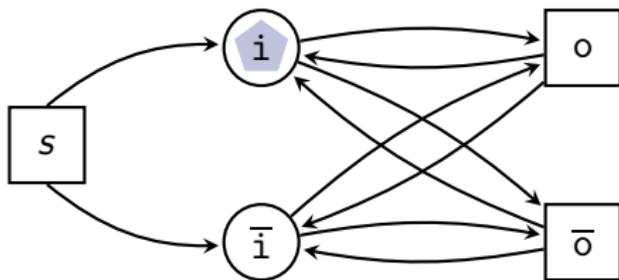


Input: 0 0 0

Output: 0 0 1

Back to the Example

Consider the one-client case!

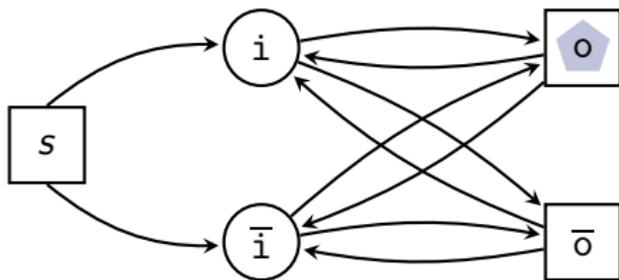


Input: 0 0 0 1

Output: 0 0 1

Back to the Example

Consider the one-client case!

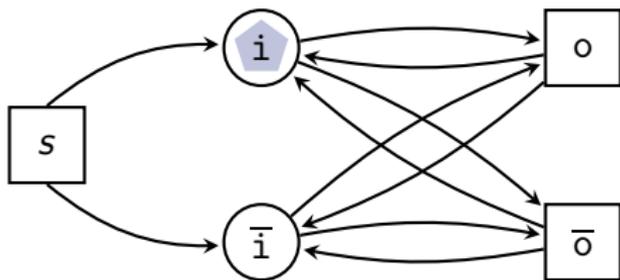


Input: 0 0 0 1

Output: 0 0 1 1

Back to the Example

Consider the one-client case!

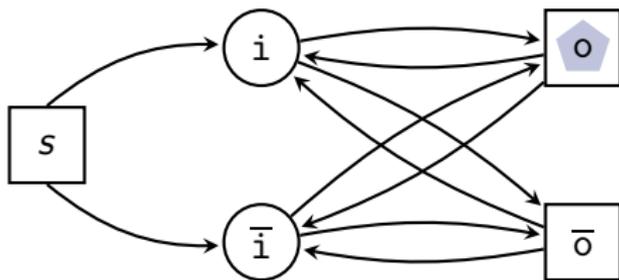


Input: 0 0 0 1 1

Output: 0 0 1 1

Back to the Example

Consider the one-client case!

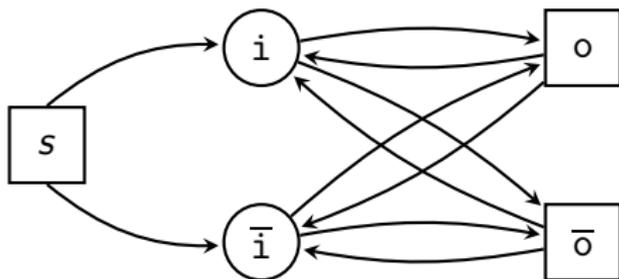


Input: 0 0 0 1 1

Output: 0 0 1 1 1

Back to the Example

Consider the one-client case!

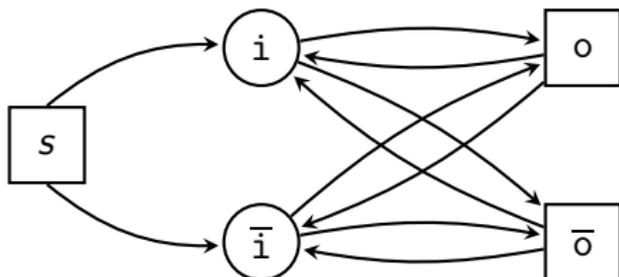


Input: 0 0 0 1 1 ...

Output: 0 0 1 1 1 ...

Back to the Example

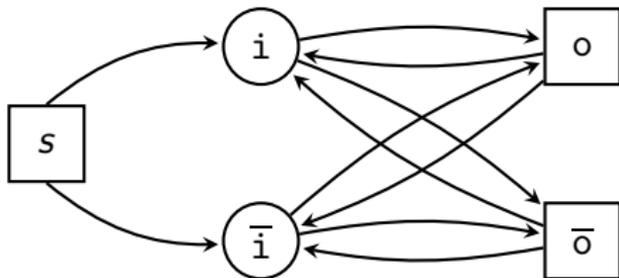
Consider the one-client case!



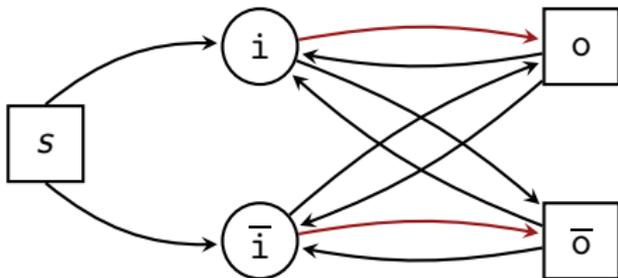
Winning plays for circuit player have to satisfy

1. if i is visited, then o as well at a later position, and
2. if o is visited, then it has not been visited since the last visit of i .

Büchi-Landweber in a Nutshell



Büchi-Landweber in a Nutshell



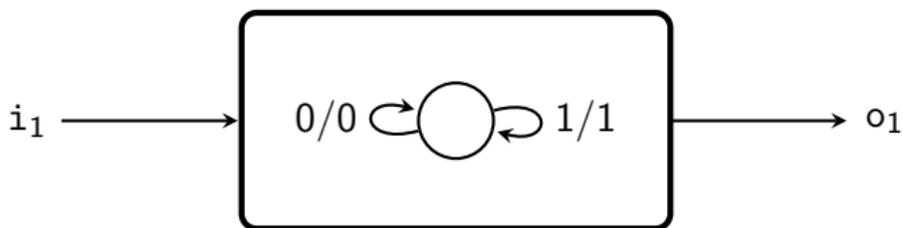
- Circuit player has a (memoryless) winning strategy,

Büchi-Landweber in a Nutshell



- Circuit player has a (memoryless) winning strategy,
- which can be turned into an automaton with output,

Büchi-Landweber in a Nutshell



- Circuit player has a (memoryless) winning strategy,
- which can be turned into an automaton with output,
- which can be turned into a circuit satisfying the specification.

Even More Games

- Logics
 - Ehrenfeucht Fraisse Games
- Set theory
 - Banach Mazur Games
 - Wadge Games
- Complexity theory
- Proof theory
- Automata theory
- Economics