
Reducing ω -regular Specifications to Safety Conditions

Joint work with

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Saarland University

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ω -regular Specifications

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($Q, \Sigma, q_0, \Delta, F$) with $F \subseteq Q$ and
 $q_0 q_1 q_2 \cdots$ accepting $\Leftrightarrow \text{Inf}(q_0 q_1 q_2 \cdots) \cap F \neq \emptyset$

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- Deterministic automata with Muller acceptance
($Q, \Sigma, q_0, \delta, \mathcal{F}$) with $\mathcal{F} \subseteq 2^Q$ and
 $q_0 q_1 q_2 \cdots$ accepting $\Leftrightarrow \text{Inf}(q_0 q_1 q_2 \cdots) \in \mathcal{F}$

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 $q_0 q_1 q_2 \cdots$ accepting $\Leftrightarrow \text{Occ}(q_0 q_1 q_2 \cdots) \subseteq F$

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Generality: Every acceptance condition that only depends on the states visited infinitely often is a Muller condition.

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Weaker: not every ω -regular language is a safety condition.
Is it nevertheless possible to turn every Muller condition into an *equivalent* safety condition? (under which equivalence?)

Upside: simpler algorithms for safety conditions

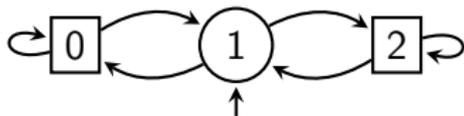
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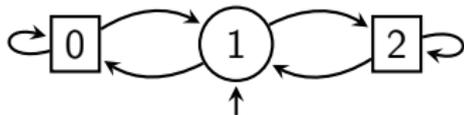
Running example



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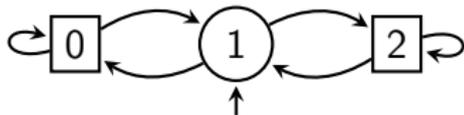


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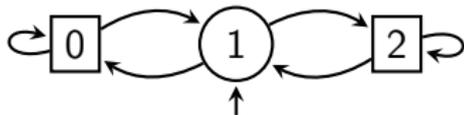
Formally: Muller game $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{F}_0, \mathcal{F}_1)$ with

- Arena $\mathcal{A} = (V, V_0, V_1, E, v)$ and partition $(\mathcal{F}_0, \mathcal{F}_1)$ of 2^V .
- Player i wins play ρ iff $\text{Inf}(\rho) \in \mathcal{F}_i$.

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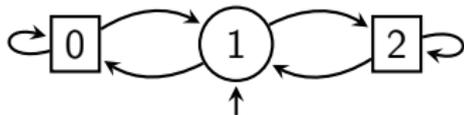
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Our goal: give winner-preserving reduction from Muller to safety games.

Playing Muller Games in Finite Time

Robert McNaughton:

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But there is a problem: it takes a long time to play an infinite game!

Playing Muller Games in Finite Time

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We believe that infinite games might have an interest for casual living-room recreation.

But there is a problem: it takes a long time to play an infinite game! Thus:

- Scoring functions for Muller games.
- Use threshold score to obtain finite-duration variant.
- If threshold is large enough, obtain finite game with the same winning regions as infinite game.

Question

How large has the threshold to guarantee same winner?

Scores and Accumulators

For $F \subseteq V$ define $\text{Sc}_F: V^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ and $\text{Acc}_F: V^+ \rightarrow 2^F$. Intuition:

- $\text{Sc}_F(w)$: maximal $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that F is visited k times since last vertex in $V \setminus F$ (reset).
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w	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	2
$Sc_{\{0\}}$								
$Acc_{\{0\}}$								
$Sc_{\{0,1\}}$								
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w	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	2
$Sc_{\{0\}}$	1							
$Acc_{\{0\}}$	\emptyset							
$Sc_{\{0,1\}}$								
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$Sc_{\{0\}}$	1	2						
$Acc_{\{0\}}$	\emptyset	\emptyset						
$Sc_{\{0,1\}}$								
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w	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	2
$Sc_{\{0\}}$	1	2	0					
$Acc_{\{0\}}$	\emptyset	\emptyset	\emptyset					
$Sc_{\{0,1\}}$								
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$Sc_{\{0\}}$	1	2	0	0				
$Acc_{\{0\}}$	\emptyset	\emptyset	\emptyset	\emptyset				
$Sc_{\{0,1\}}$								
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$Sc_{\{0\}}$	1	2	0	0	1			
$Acc_{\{0\}}$	\emptyset	\emptyset	\emptyset	\emptyset	\emptyset			
$Sc_{\{0,1\}}$								
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$Sc_{\{0\}}$	1	2	0	0	1	2		
$Acc_{\{0\}}$	\emptyset	\emptyset	\emptyset	\emptyset	\emptyset	\emptyset		
$Sc_{\{0,1\}}$								
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$Acc_{\{0\}}$	\emptyset							
$Sc_{\{0,1\}}$	0							
$Acc_{\{0,1\}}$	$\{0\}$							
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$Sc_{\{0\}}$	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	0
$Acc_{\{0\}}$	\emptyset							
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$Acc_{\{0\}}$	\emptyset							
$Sc_{\{0,1\}}$	0	0	1					
$Acc_{\{0,1\}}$	$\{0\}$	$\{0\}$	\emptyset					
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$Acc_{\{0\}}$	\emptyset							
$Sc_{\{0,1\}}$	0	0	1	1				
$Acc_{\{0,1\}}$	$\{0\}$	$\{0\}$	\emptyset	$\{1\}$				
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$Sc_{\{0\}}$	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	0
$Acc_{\{0\}}$	\emptyset							
$Sc_{\{0,1\}}$	0	0	1	1	2	2	3	
$Acc_{\{0,1\}}$	$\{0\}$	$\{0\}$	\emptyset	$\{1\}$	\emptyset	$\{0\}$	\emptyset	
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$Sc_{\{0,1\}}$	0	0	1	1	2	2	3	0
$Acc_{\{0,1\}}$	$\{0\}$	$\{0\}$	\emptyset	$\{1\}$	\emptyset	$\{0\}$	\emptyset	\emptyset
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$Sc_{\{0,1\}}$	0	0	1	1	2	2	3	0
$Acc_{\{0,1\}}$	$\{0\}$	$\{0\}$	\emptyset	$\{1\}$	\emptyset	$\{0\}$	\emptyset	\emptyset
$Sc_{\{0,1,2\}}$	0	0	0	0				
$Acc_{\{0,1,2\}}$	$\{0\}$	$\{0\}$	$\{0,1\}$	$\{0,1\}$				

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$Sc_{\{0,1\}}$	0	0	1	1	2	2	3	0
$Acc_{\{0,1\}}$	$\{0\}$	$\{0\}$	\emptyset	$\{1\}$	\emptyset	$\{0\}$	\emptyset	\emptyset
$Sc_{\{0,1,2\}}$	0	0	0	0	0			
$Acc_{\{0,1,2\}}$	$\{0\}$	$\{0\}$	$\{0,1\}$	$\{0,1\}$	$\{0,1\}$			

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- $Sc_F(w)$: maximal $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that F is visited k times since last vertex in $V \setminus F$ (reset).
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$Sc_{\{0\}}$	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	0
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Remark

$$F = \text{Inf}(\rho) \Leftrightarrow \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} Sc_F(\rho_0 \cdots \rho_n) = \infty$$

Results

McNaughton's version: stop play when some S_{CF} reaches $|F|! + 1$.

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Every Muller game and the variant up to score 3 are won by the same player.

Stronger statement, which implies the theorem:

Lemma

If Player i wins the Muller game, then she can prevent her opponent from ever reaching a score of 3 for every set $F \in \mathcal{F}_{1-i}$.

Game Reductions

Reduce complicated game \mathcal{G} to simpler game \mathcal{G}' : every play ρ in \mathcal{G} is mapped (continuously) to play ρ' in \mathcal{G}' that has the same winner.

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Remark

Muller games cannot be reduced to safety games.

Reducing Muller Games to Safety Games

Recall: If Player i wins a Muller game, then she can prevent her opponent from ever reaching a score of 3 for every set $F \in \mathcal{F}_{1-i}$.

“Player 0 has a winning strategy iff she can prevent Player 1 from reaching a score of 3” \Rightarrow safety condition!

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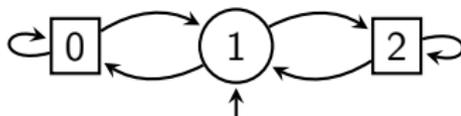
Construction:

- Ignore scores of Player 0.
- Identify plays having the same scores and accumulators for Player 1: $w =_{\mathcal{F}_1} w'$ iff $\text{last}(w) = \text{last}(w')$ and for all $F \in \mathcal{F}_1$:

$$\text{Sc}_F(w) = \text{Sc}_F(w') \text{ and } \text{Acc}_F(w) = \text{Acc}_F(w')$$

- Build $=_{\mathcal{F}_1}$ -quotient of unravelling up to score 3 for Player 1.
- Winning condition for Player 0: avoid $\text{Sc}_F = 3$ for all $F \in \mathcal{F}_1$.

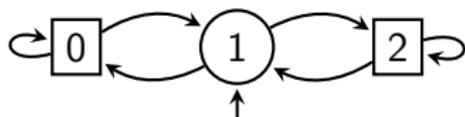
Continuing the Example



- $\mathcal{F}_0 = \{\{0, 1, 2\}, \{0\}, \{2\}\}$
- $\mathcal{F}_1 = \{\{0, 1\}, \{1, 2\}\}$

Player 0 wins from 1 : move to 0 and 2 alternatingly.

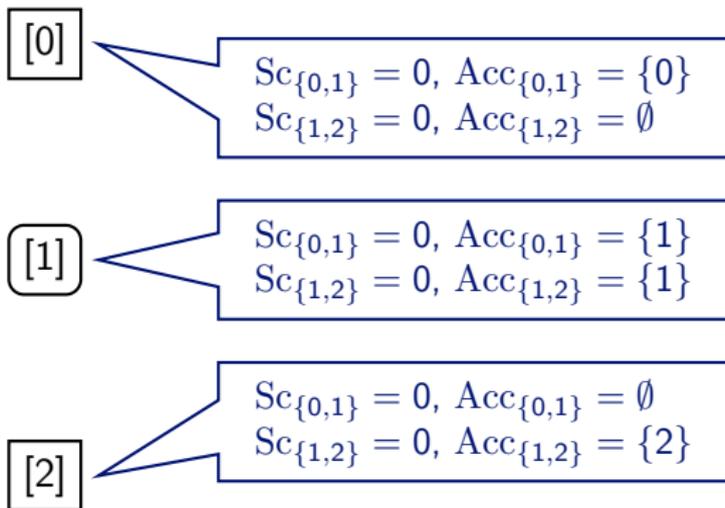
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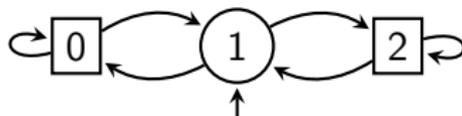
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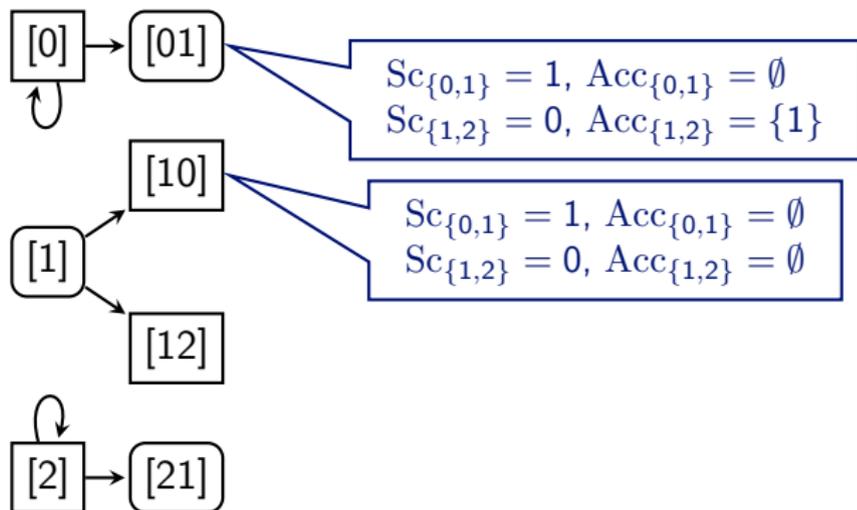
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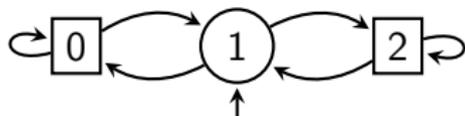
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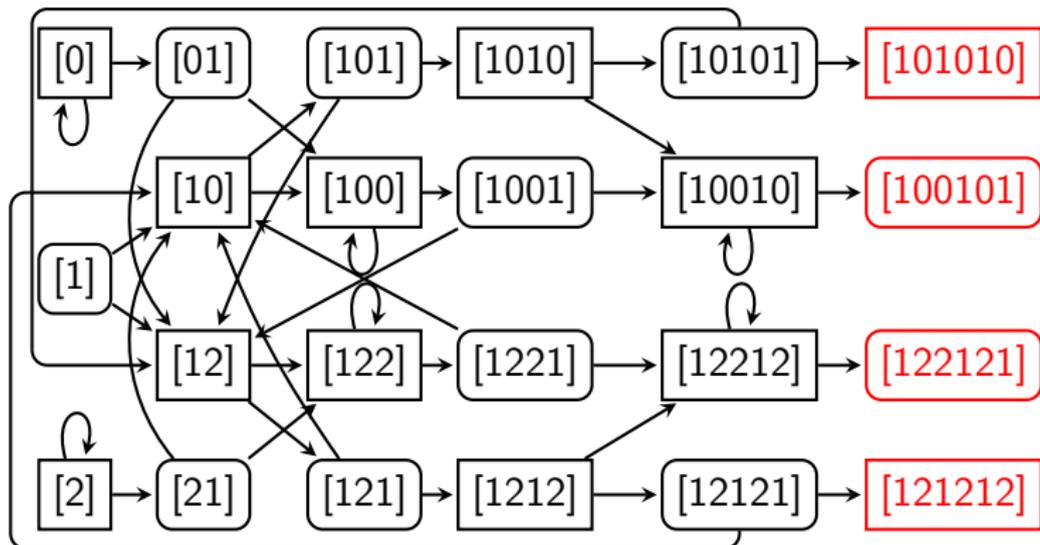
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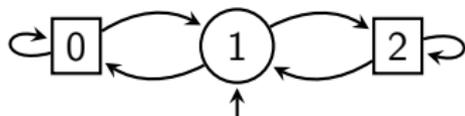
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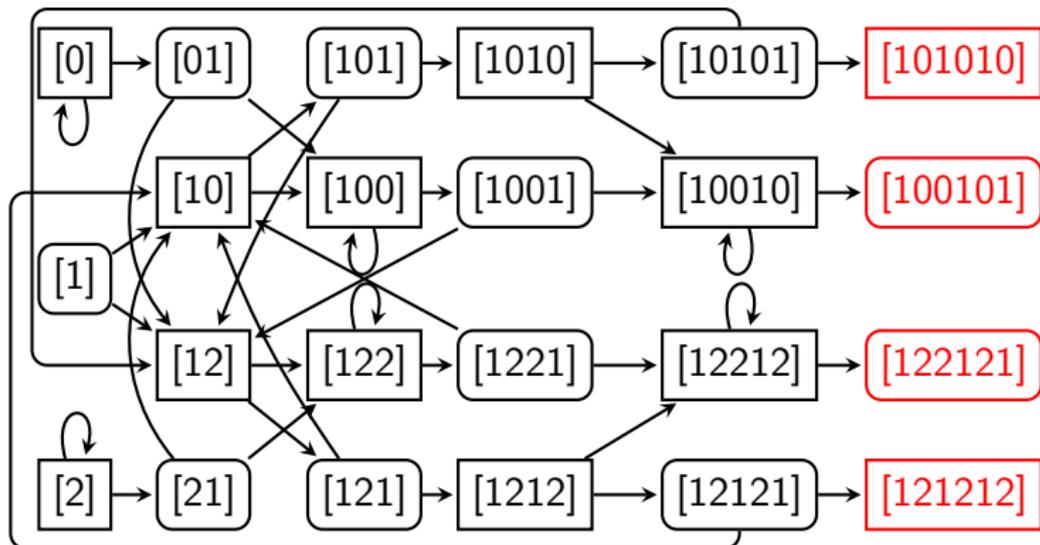


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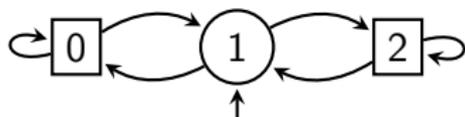


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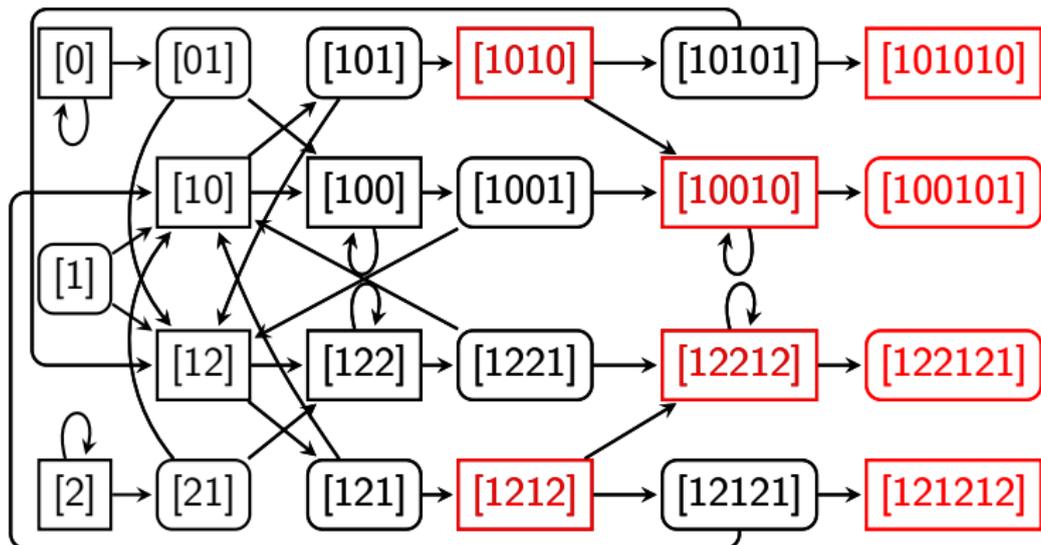
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Theorem (Neider, Rabinovich, Z. 2011)

1. *Player i wins the Muller game from v iff she wins the safety game from $[v]_{=\mathcal{F}_1}$.*
2. *Safety game can be turned into finite-state winning strategy for the Muller game.*
3. *Size of the safety game: $(n!)^3$.*

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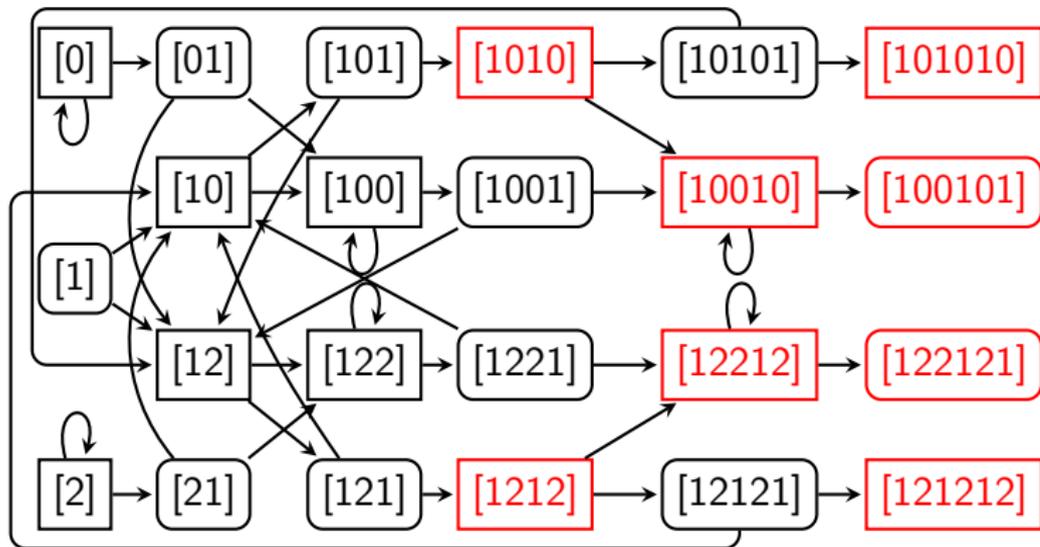
Remarks:

- Size of parity game in LAR-reduction $n!$. But: simpler algorithms for safety games.
- 2. does not hold for Player 1.
- Not a reduction in the classical sense: not every play of the Muller game can be mapped to a play in the safety game.

Proof Idea: Safety to Muller



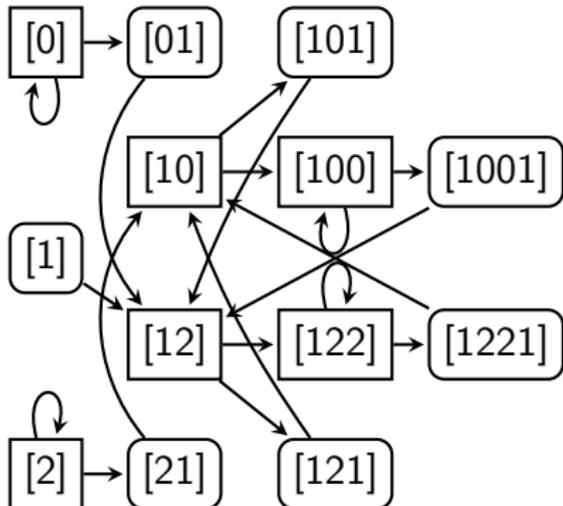
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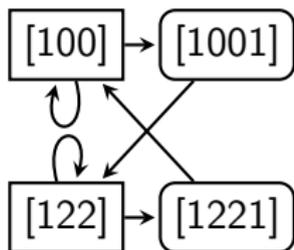


Pick a winning strategy for the safety game. This “is” a finite-state winning strategy for the Muller game.

Proof Idea: Safety to Muller



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Even better: only use “maximal” elements, yields smaller memory.

Safety Reductions

Definition

$\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{A}, \text{Win})$ with vertex set V is safety reducible, if there is a regular $L \subseteq V^*$ such that:

- For every $\rho \in V^\omega$: if $\text{Pref}(\rho) \subseteq L$, then $\rho \in \text{Win}$.
- If $v \in W_0(\mathcal{G})$, then Player 0 has a strategy σ with $\text{Pref}(\rho) \subseteq L$ for every ρ consistent with σ and starting in v .

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Theorem (Neider, Rabinovich, Z. 2011)

\mathcal{G} safety reducible with $L(\mathfrak{A}) \subseteq V^*$ for DFA $\mathfrak{A} = (Q, V, q_0, \delta, F)$.
Define the safety game $\mathcal{G}_S = (\mathcal{A} \times \mathfrak{A}, V \times F)$. Then:

1. Player i wins \mathcal{G} from v if and only if Player i wins \mathcal{G}_S from $(v, \delta(q_0, v))$.
2. Player 0 has a finite-state winning strategy for \mathcal{G} with memory states Q (if she wins \mathcal{G}).

Safety Reductions: Applications

- Reachability games: reach F after $|V \setminus F|$ steps.
- Büchi games: reach F every $|V \setminus F|$ steps.
- co-Büchi games: avoid visiting $v \in V \setminus F$ twice.
- Request-response games and poset games: bound waiting times (Horn, Thomas, Wallmeier 2008; Z. 2009).
- parity, Rabin, Streett games: progress measure algorithms “are” safety reductions (Jurdziński 2000; Piterman, Pnueli 2006).
- Muller games: bound scores.

If you can solve safety games, you can solve all these games.
Caveat: safety games will be larger than original game.