

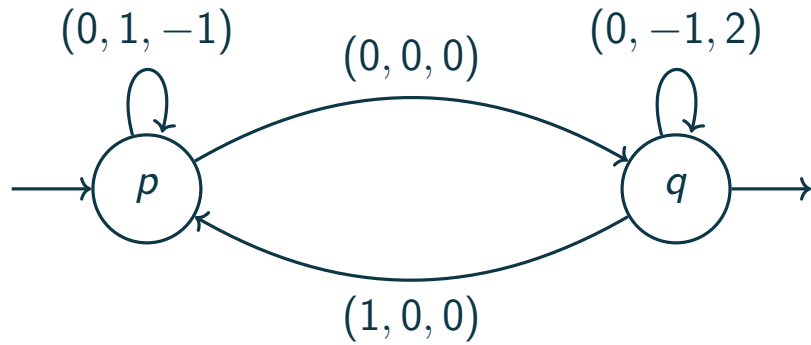
Reachability in VAS is not Elementary

Jérôme Leroux (LaBRI : CNRS & Univ. Bordeaux & Bordeaux-INP)
Joint work with W. Czerwiński, S. Lasota, R. Lazić and F. Mazowiecki.

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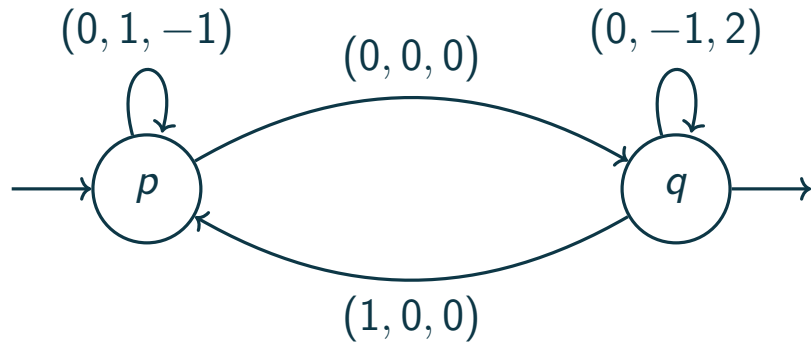
Vector addition systems with states (VASS)



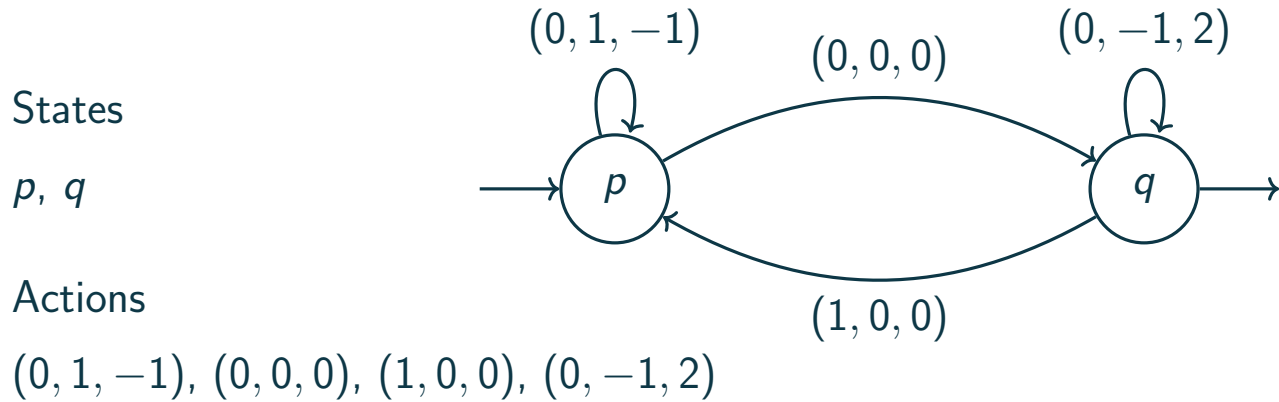
Vector addition systems with states (VASS)

States

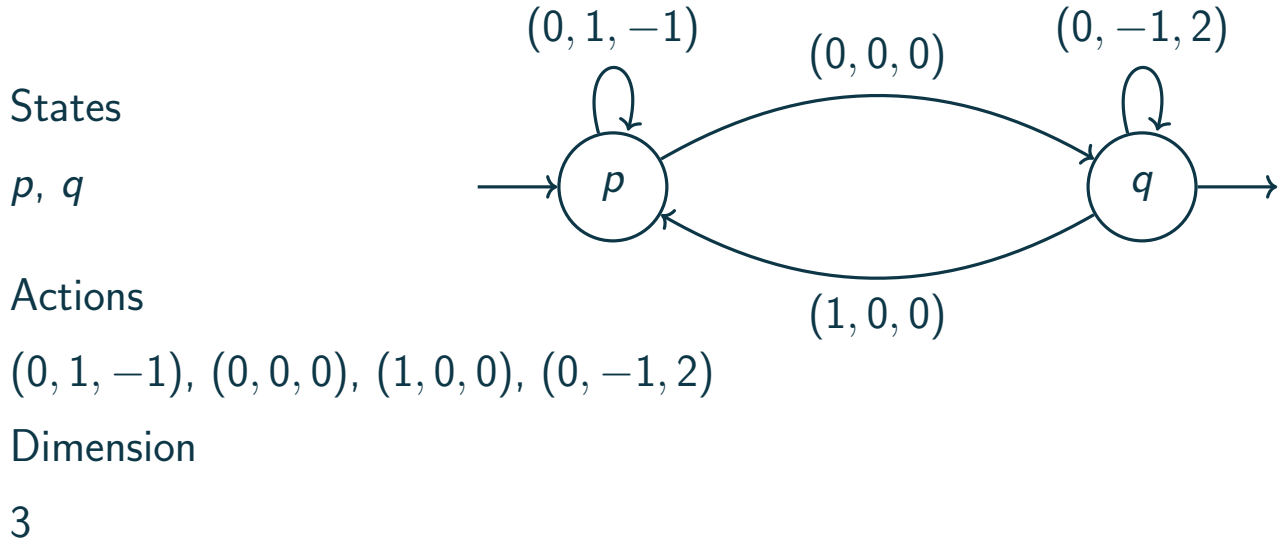
p, q



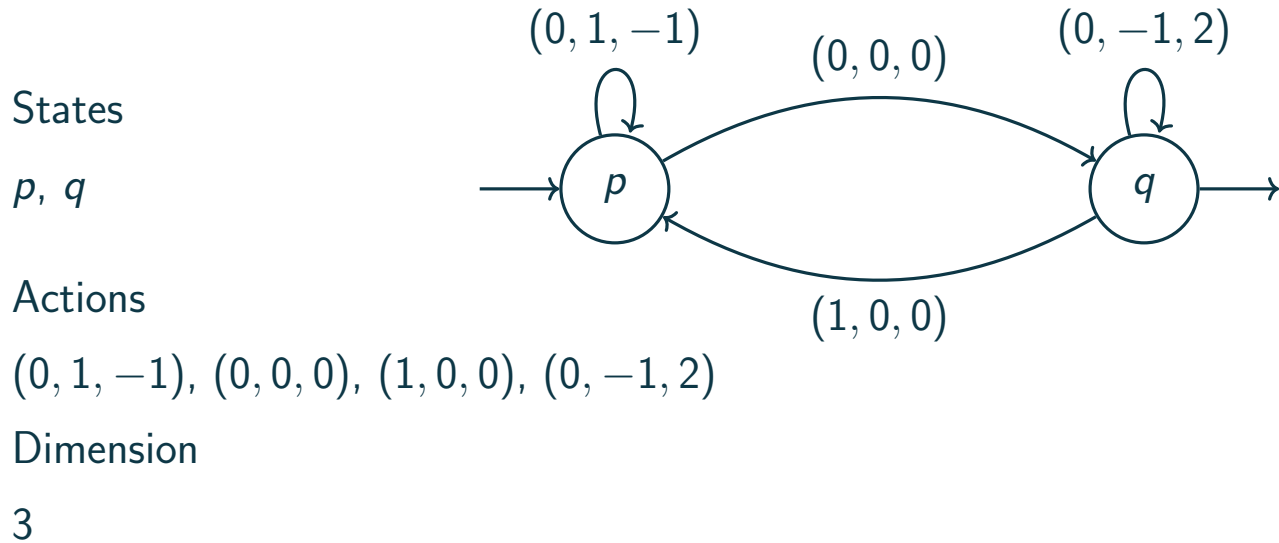
Vector addition systems with states (VASS)



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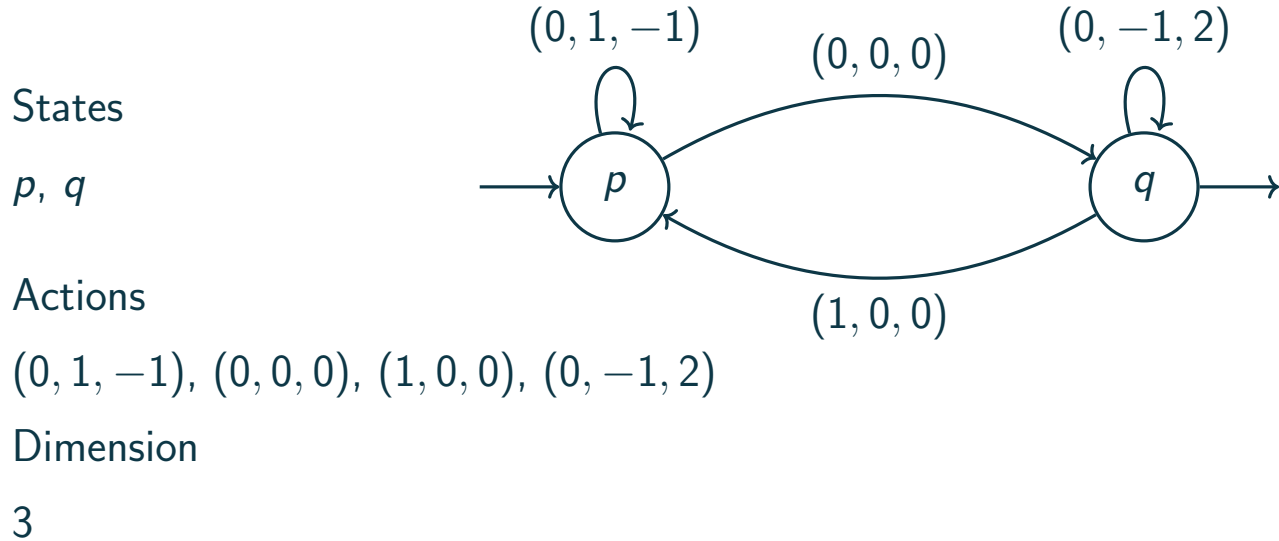
Vector addition systems with states (VASS)



Configurations

$p(x, y, z), q(x, y, z)$ with $x, y, z \in \mathbb{N}$

Vector addition systems with states (VASS)



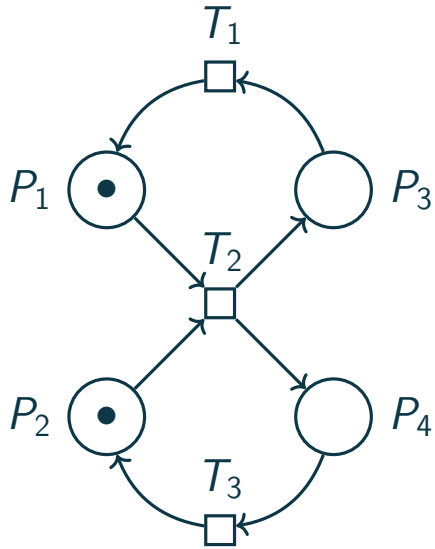
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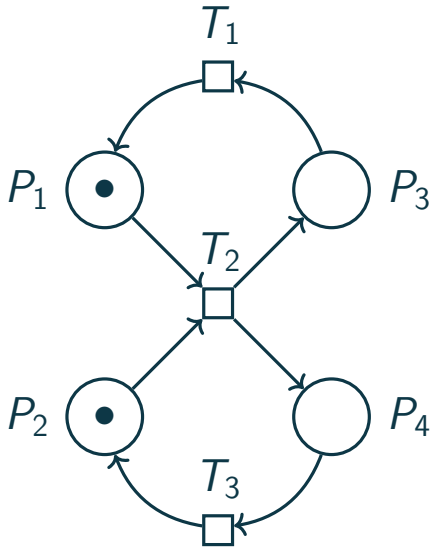
Runs

$p(0, 0, 1) \rightarrow p(0, 1, 0) \rightarrow q(0, 1, 0)$ also written $p(0, 0, 1) \xrightarrow{*} q(0, 1, 0)$

Petri nets



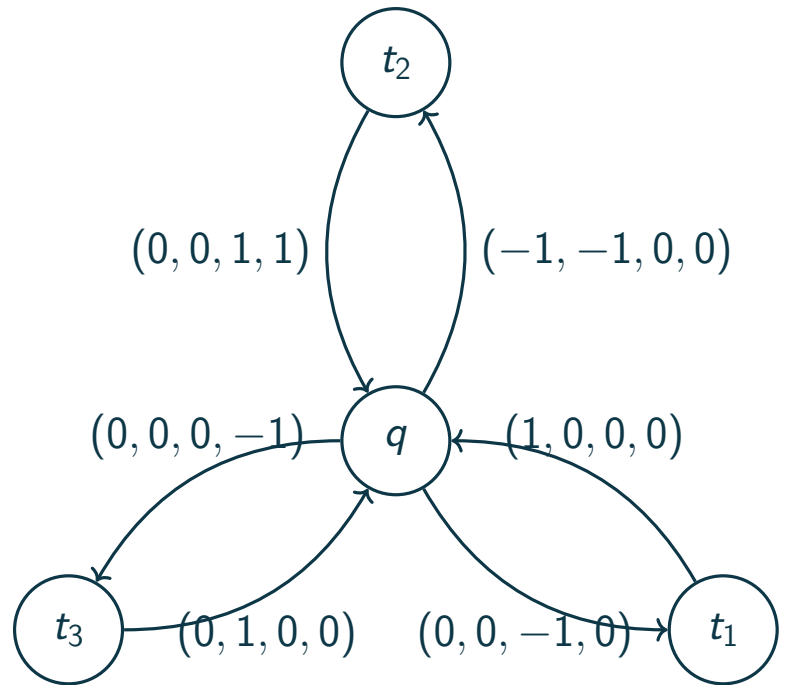
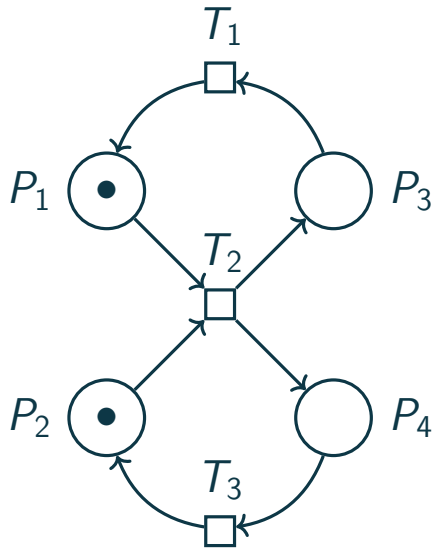
Petri nets



Model of concurrency with extensive applications in modelling and analysis of

- hardware and software,
- database systems,
- chemical, biological and business processes.

Petri nets



Petri nets \longleftrightarrow VASS

Decision problems

Reachability problem:

GIVEN: a VASS V

DECIDE: whether $p(0, \dots, 0) \xrightarrow{*} q(0, \dots, 0)$ with p initial and q final ?

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Coverability problem:

GIVEN: a VASS V

DECIDE: whether exists v s.t. $p(0, \dots, 0) \xrightarrow{*} q(v)$ with p initial and q final ?

Decision problems

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Many problems reduce to reachability or coverability

- Formal languages
- Logic
- Concurrent systems
- Process calculi,...

Reachability state of the art



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1976 — Expspace lower bound (Lipton)

Reachability state of the art

-
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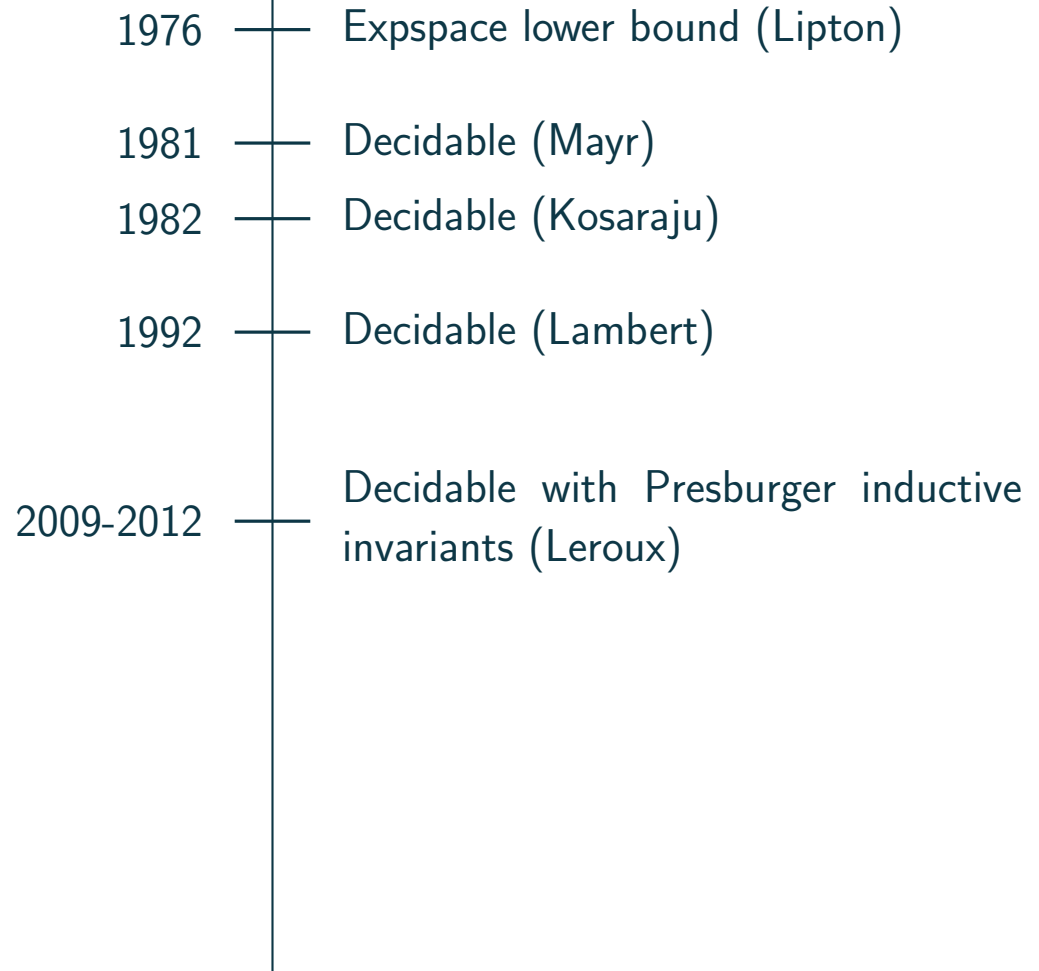
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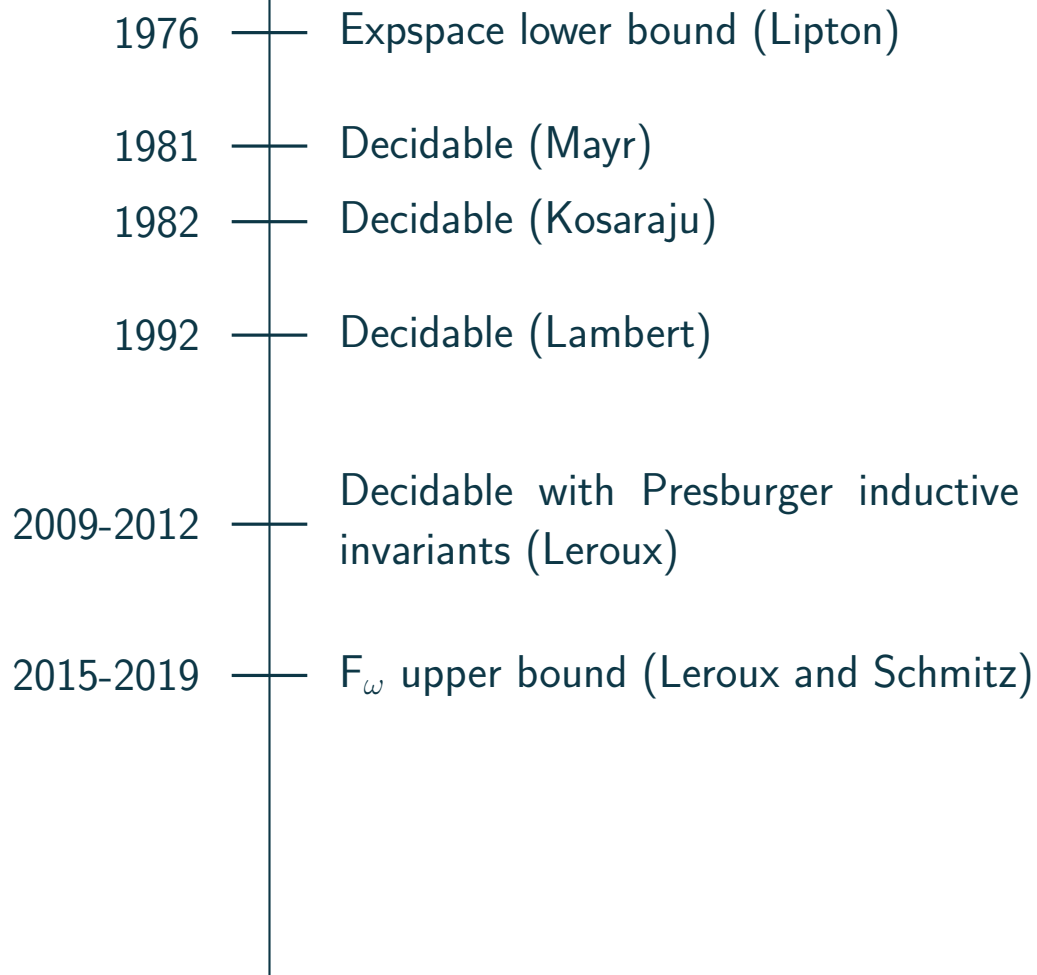
Reachability state of the art

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1992	—	Decidable (Lambert)

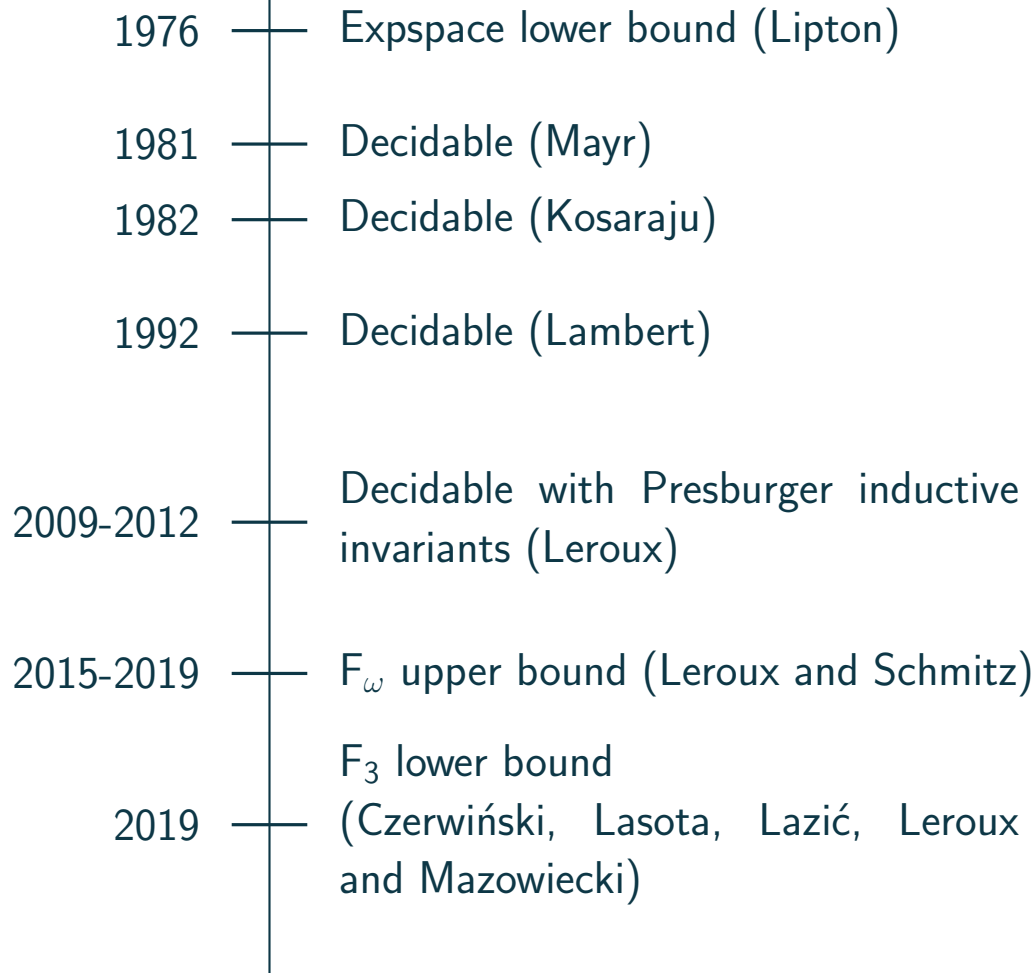
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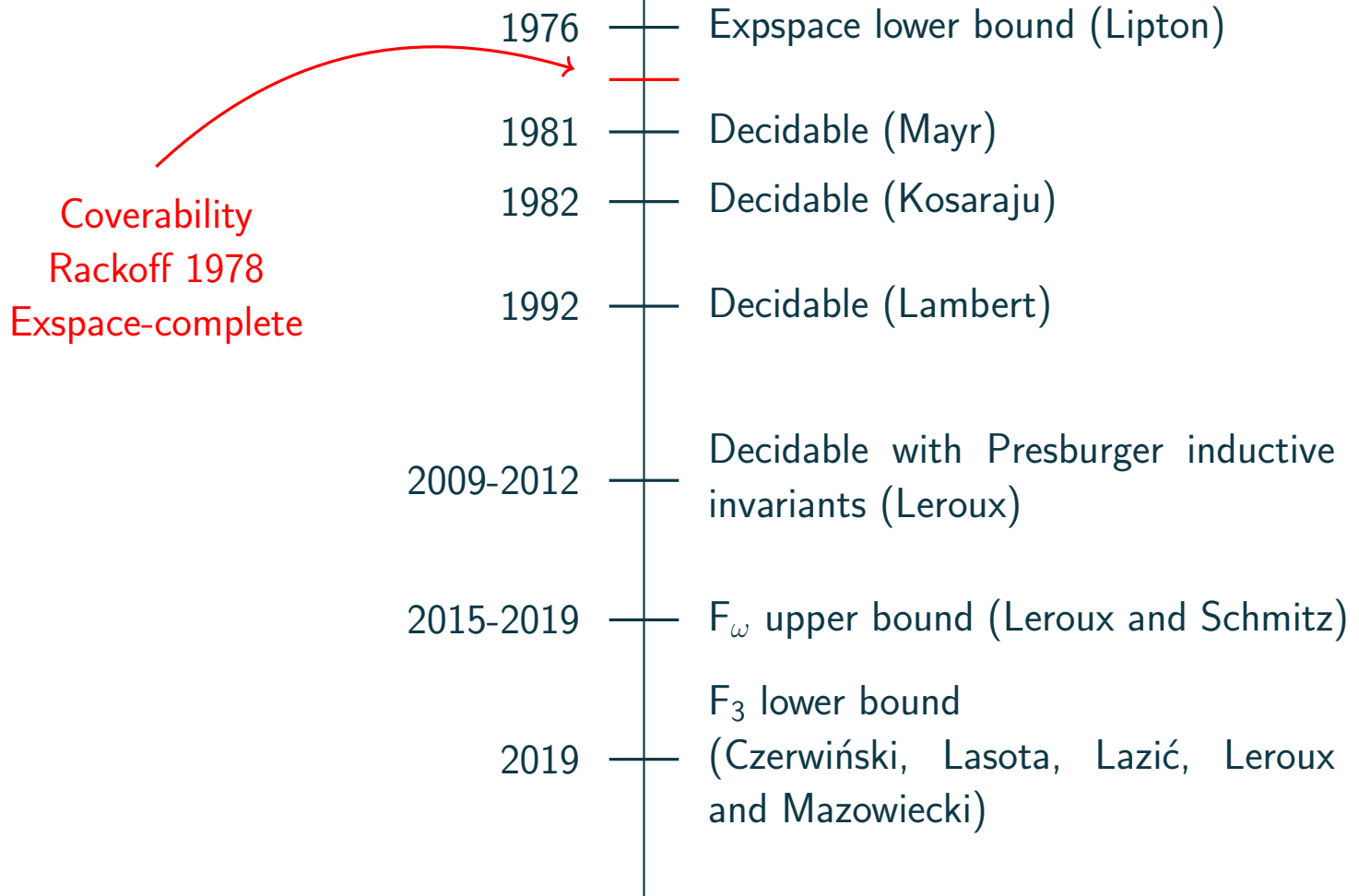
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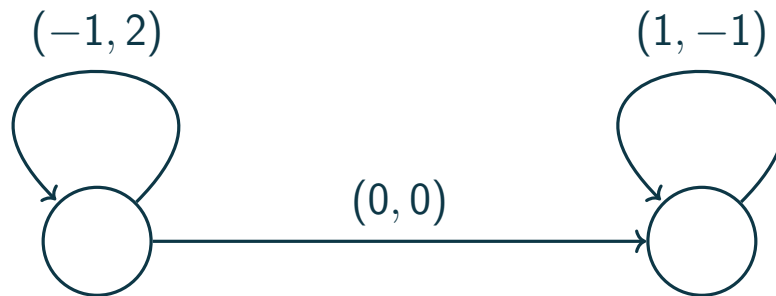
Reachability state of the art

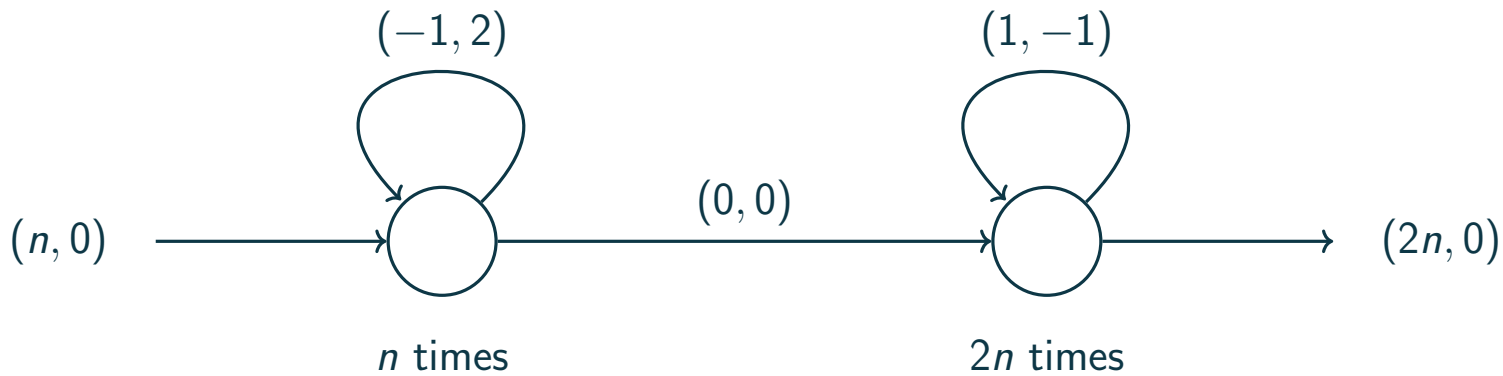


Outline

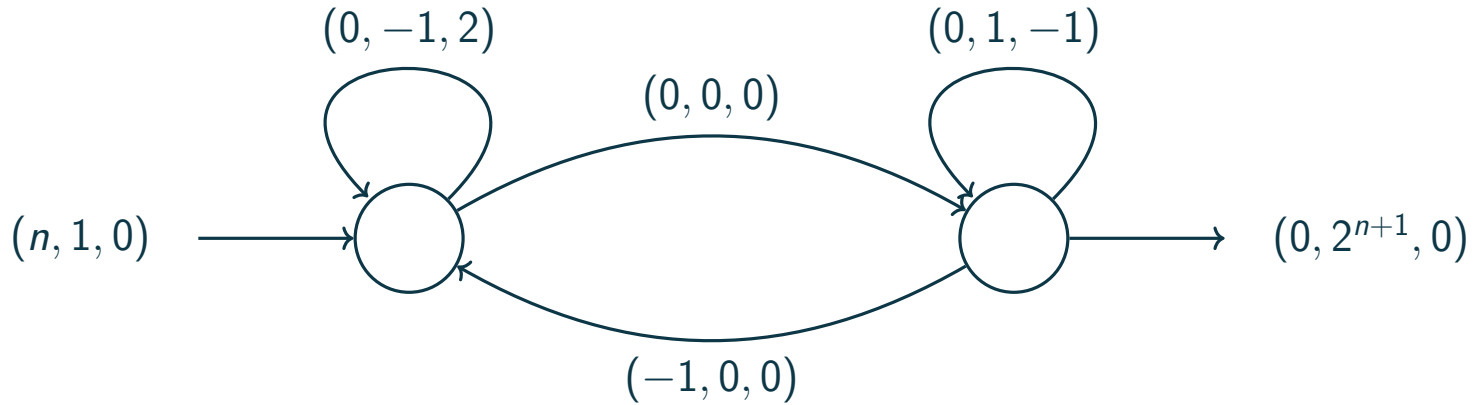
1. Large Configurations
2. Witness of Unreachability
3. Counter Programs
4. Lower Bounds

Large Configurations





The Hopcroft-Pansiot 1979 Example



Exponential behavior

Fast Growing Functions

$$F_0(n) = n + 1$$

$$F_{d+1}(n) = F_d^{n+1}(n)$$

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F_d weakly computable with VASSes in dim $d + 1$ (Mayr and Meyer 1981).

Outline

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2. Witness of Unreachability
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Witness of Unreachability

Presburger Arithmetic

$\text{FO}(\mathbb{N}, +)$

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Theorem (Ginsburg and Spanier 1966)

A subset of \mathbb{N}^d is Presburger (definable) if, and only if, it is *semilinear*.

I.e. a finite union of sets of the form $\vec{b} + \mathbb{N}\vec{p}_1 + \dots + \mathbb{N}\vec{p}_k$

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$$2\mathbb{N} \quad 0 + \mathbb{N}2$$

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Presburger Witness of Unreachability

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A **witness of unreachability** C for a VASS is a set of configurations such that:

- $q(0, \dots, 0) \in C$ for every initial state q
- $c \rightarrow c' \wedge c \in C \Rightarrow c' \in C$
- $q(0, \dots, 0) \notin C$ for every final state q

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Theorem (Leroux 2009-2012)

For every VASS:

- Either $p(0, \dots, 0) \xrightarrow{*} q(0, \dots, 0)$ with p initial and q final
- Or there exists a Presburger witness of unreachability

Outline

1. Large Configurations
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3. Counter Programs
4. Lower Bounds

Counter Programs

Counter Programs

Counter Programs

- Operations over bounded counters $\bar{x} \in \{0, \dots, B\}$:

$\bar{x} += 1$

$\bar{x} -= 1$

zero? \bar{x}

max? \bar{x}

- Operations over unbounded counters $x \in \mathbb{N}$:

$x += 1$

$x -= 1$

- Non deterministic **loop**

Examples

$$\bar{a} += 2 \longrightarrow \begin{array}{l} \bar{a} += 1 \\ \bar{a} += 1 \end{array}$$

$$x += 2 \longrightarrow \begin{array}{l} x += 1 \\ x += 1 \end{array}$$

Examples

$$\bar{a} += 2 \longrightarrow \begin{array}{l} \bar{a} += 1 \\ \bar{a} += 1 \end{array} \qquad x += 2 \longrightarrow \begin{array}{l} x += 1 \\ x += 1 \end{array}$$

$$\mathbf{assert} \bar{a} = 2 \longrightarrow \begin{array}{l} \bar{a} -= 2 \\ \mathbf{zero?} \bar{a} \\ \bar{a} += 2 \end{array}$$

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$$\text{assert } \bar{a} = 2 \longrightarrow \begin{array}{l} \bar{a} -= 2 \\ \text{zero? } \bar{a} \\ \bar{a} += 2 \end{array}$$

$$\bar{a} := 2 \longrightarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{loop} \\ \quad \bar{a} -= 1 \\ \quad \text{zero? } \bar{a} \\ \quad \bar{a} += 2 \end{array}$$

Reachability Problems

A run is **complete** if it starts and ends with zero in every counter.

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Reachability problem (for counter programs):

GIVEN: A counter program and a bound B .

DECIDE: Does it have a complete run ?

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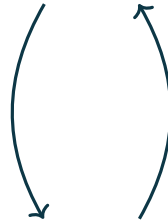
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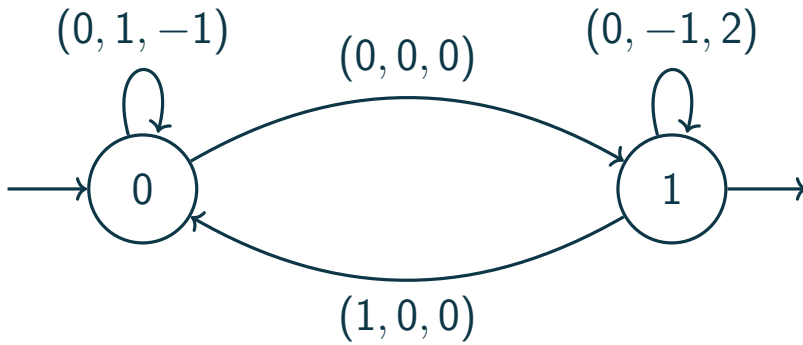


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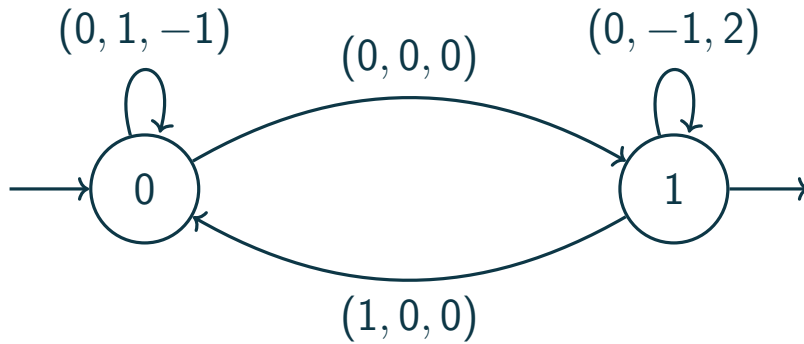
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VASS → Counter Programs



VASS → Counter Programs



```

loop
  loop
    assert  $\bar{a} = 0$ 
     $y += 1$     $z -= 1$     $\bar{a} := 0$ 
  loop
    assert  $\bar{a} = 0$ 
     $\bar{a} := 1$ 
  loop
    assert  $\bar{a} = 1$ 
     $y -= 1$     $z += 2$     $\bar{a} := 1$ 
  loop
    assert  $\bar{a} = 1$ 
     $x += 1$     $\bar{a} := 0$ 
  assert  $\bar{a} = 1$ 
   $\bar{a} := 0$ 
  
```

with $B = 1$.

Counter Programs \rightarrow VASS

1: $\bar{i} += 1$

2: **loop**

3: $x += 1$

4: $\bar{i} += 1$

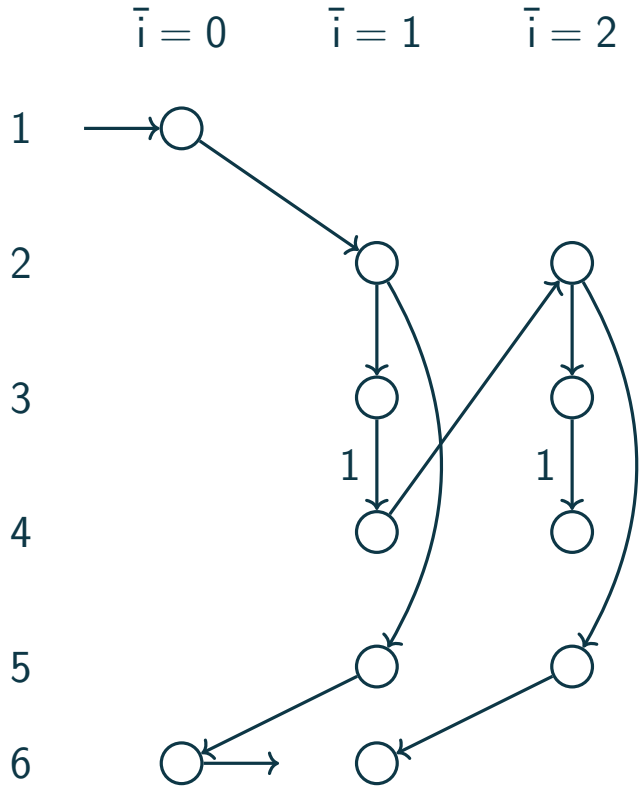
5: $\bar{i} -= 1$

6:

with $B = 2$.

Counter Programs \rightarrow VASS

1: $\bar{i} += 1$
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3: $x += 1$
4: $\bar{i} += 1$
5: $\bar{i} -= 1$
6:
with $B = 2$.



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Lower Bounds

Main idea

Implement with a counter program:

$$n \cdot \prod_{1 \leq i < B} \frac{i+1}{i} = n \cdot B$$

A weak multiplier by $\frac{3}{2}$

loop

$x \text{ --} = 2 \quad x' \text{ +} = 3$

loop

$x' \text{ --} = 1 \quad x \text{ +} = 1$

A weak multiplier by $\frac{3}{2}$

loop

$x \text{ --} = 2 \quad x' \text{ +} = 3$

loop

$x' \text{ --} = 1 \quad x \text{ +} = 1$

x	x'
14	0
12	3
10	6
8	9
6	12
4	15
2	18
0	21
1	20
2	19
⋮	⋮
20	1
$\frac{3}{2}14 = 21$	0

A weak multiplier by $\frac{3}{2}$

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loop

$x' \text{ --} = 1 \quad x \text{ +} = 1$

x	x'
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12	3
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2	18
0	21
<hr/>	
1	20
2	19
⋮	⋮
20	1
$\frac{3}{2}14 = 21$	0

x	x'
15	0
13	3
11	6
9	9
7	12
5	15
3	18
1	21
<hr/>	
2	20
3	19
⋮	⋮
21	1
$\frac{3}{2}15 > 22$	0

A weak multiplier by $\frac{\bar{i}+1}{i}$

loop

$x \text{ --} \bar{i} \quad x' \text{ +=} \bar{i} + 1$


loop

$x' \text{ --} 1 \quad x \text{ +=} 1$

A weak multiplier by $\frac{\bar{i}+1}{\bar{i}}$

```
loop
  x -=  $\bar{i}$    x' +=  $\bar{i} + 1$ 
loop
  x' -= 1   x += 1
```

```
loop
  x -= 1    $\bar{i}$  -= 1    $\bar{a}$  += 1
zero?  $\bar{i}$ 
loop
   $\bar{i}$  += 1    $\bar{a}$  -= 1
zero?  $\bar{a}$ 
```



A weak multiplier by $\frac{\bar{i}+1}{\bar{i}}$

loop

$x \text{ --=} \bar{i} \quad x' \text{ +=} \bar{i} + 1$

loop

$x' \text{ --=} 1 \quad x \text{ +=} 1$

loop

$x \text{ --=} 1 \quad \bar{i} \text{ --=} 1 \quad \bar{a} \text{ +=} 1$

zero? \bar{i}

loop

$\bar{i} \text{ +=} 1 \quad \bar{a} \text{ --=} 1$

zero? \bar{a}

$x' \text{ +=} 1$

loop

$x' \text{ +=} 1 \quad \bar{i} \text{ --=} 1 \quad \bar{a} \text{ +=} 1$

zero? \bar{i}

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Implementing $n \cdot \prod_{1 \leq i < B} \frac{i+1}{i} = n \cdot B$

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```

x += 1   y += 1
loop
  x += 1   y += 1
i += 1
  } init x and y to some  $n \geq 1$ 

loop
  loop
    x -= i   x' += i + 1
    loop
      x' -= 1   x += 1
    i += 1
  } weak multiplier by  $\frac{i+1}{i}$ 

max? i
loop
  x -= i   y -= 1
  } multiplication checker

loop
  i -= 1
  } reset i

```


Lower Bounds

Factorial amplifier:

- Simulate counters bounded by $B!$ with counters bounded by B .

Lower Bounds

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- Simulate counters bounded by $B!$ with counters bounded by B .

VASS reachability problem:

- F_3 lower bound.
- d -EXPSPACE lower bound in $\dim d + 13$.

Conclusion

- Reachability \ggg Coverability

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In formal languages, logic, concurrent systems, process calculi,...

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Can we do Tower in fixed dimension?

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Between Tower (F_3) and Ackermann (F_ω)

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Between Tower (F_3) and Ackermann (F_ω)
- Up to 15 months postdoc position in Bordeaux and/or Cachan (France)