
Easy to Win, Hard to Master: Optimal Strategies in Parity Games with Costs

Joint work with Martin Zimmermann

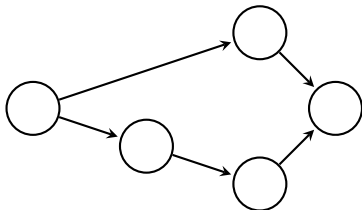
Alexander Weinert

Saarland University

August 31st, 2016

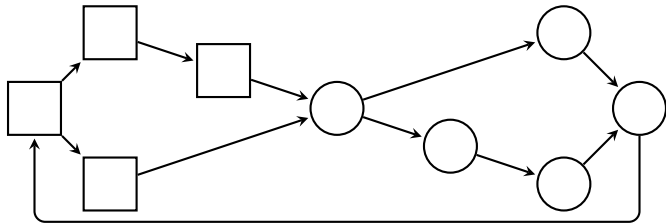
CSL 2016 - Marseille, France

Parity Games



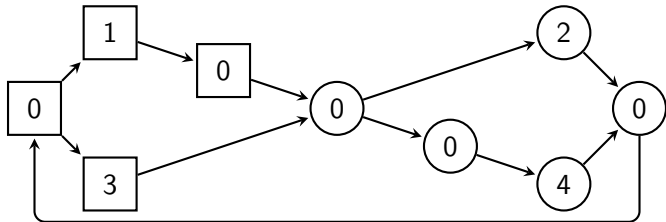
Example due to (Fijalkow and Chatterjee, Infinite-state games, 2013)

Parity Games



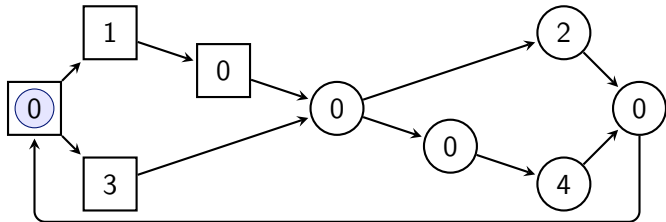
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Parity Games



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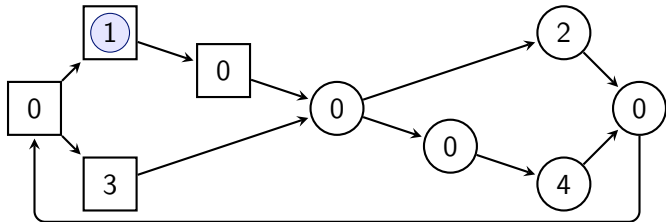
Parity Games



0

Example due to (Fijalkow and Chatterjee, Infinite-state games, 2013)

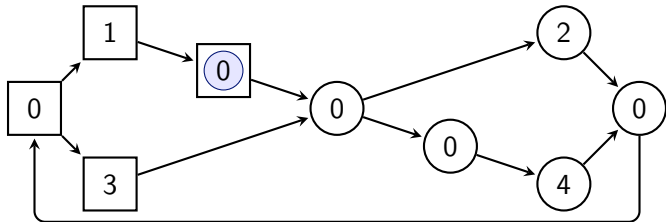
Parity Games



$0 \rightarrow 1$

Example due to (Fijalkow and Chatterjee, Infinite-state games, 2013)

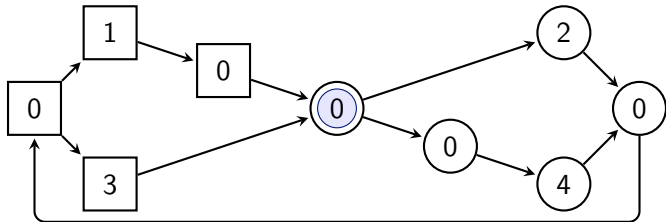
Parity Games



$0 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 0$

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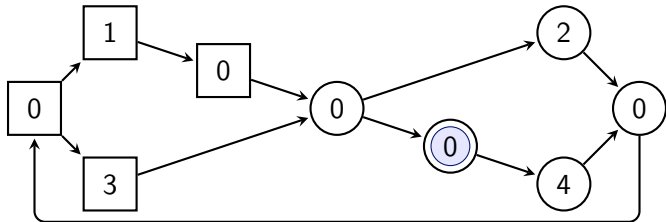
Parity Games



0 → 1 → 0 → 0

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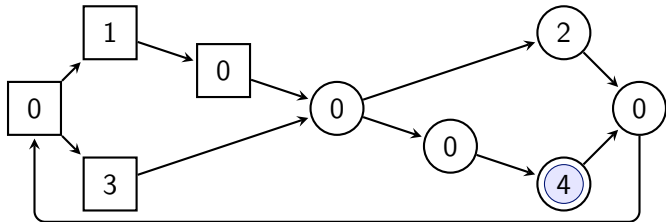
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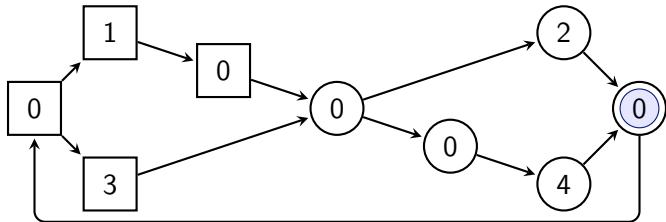
Parity Games



0 → 1 → 0 → 0 → 0 → 4

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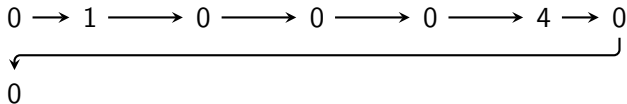
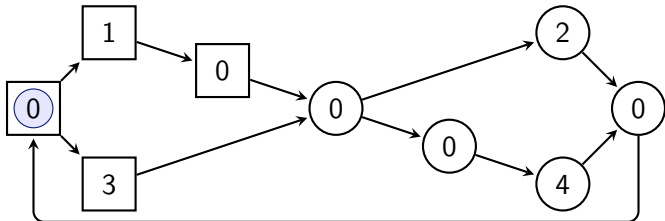
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0 → 1 → 0 → 0 → 0 → 0 → 4 → 0

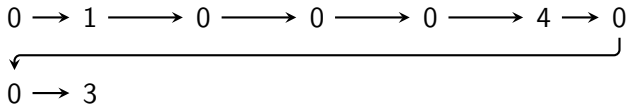
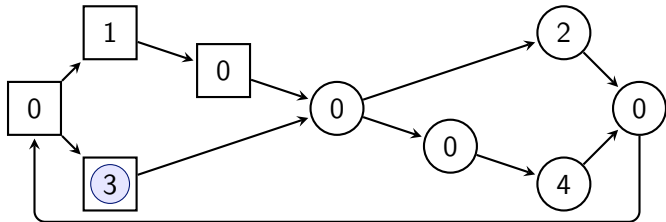
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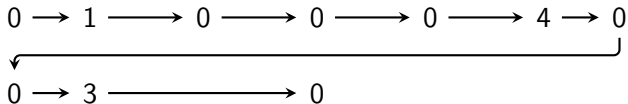
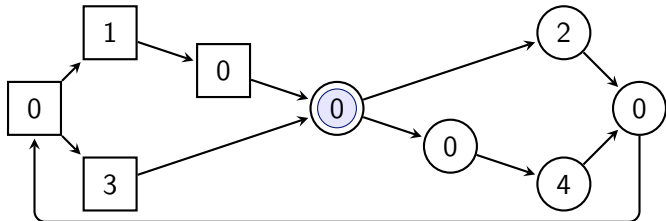
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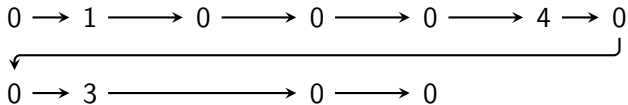
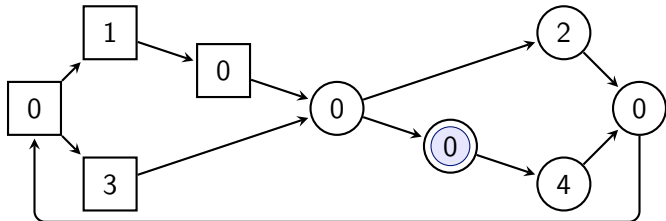
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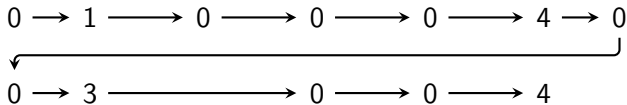
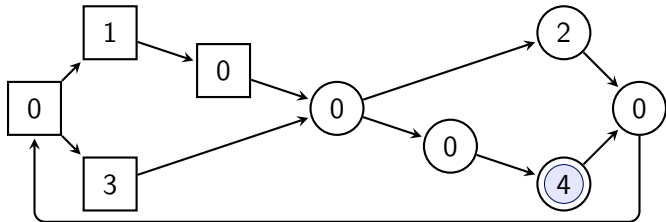
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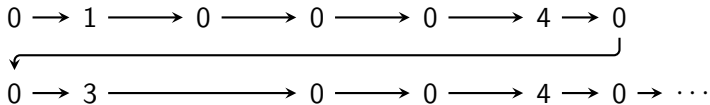
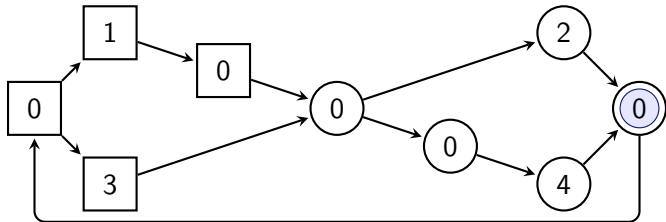
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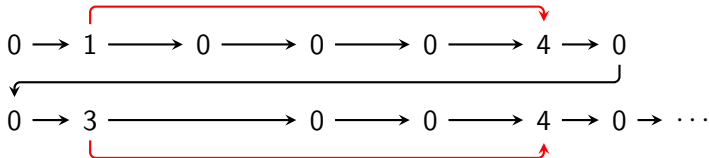
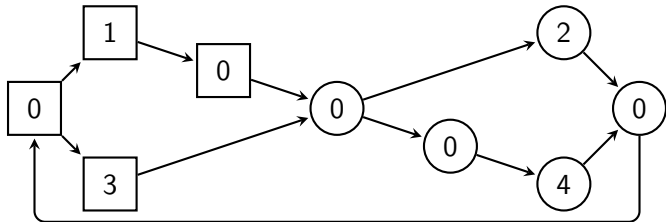
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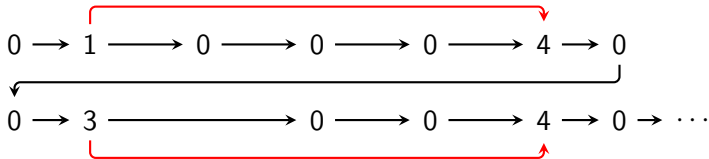
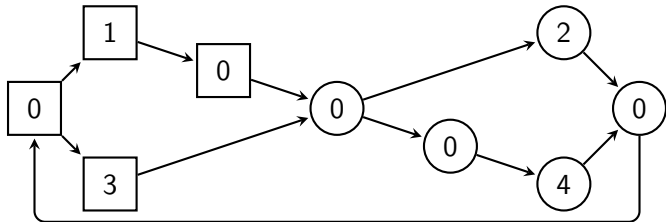
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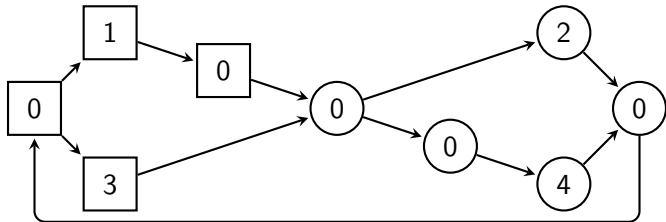


Deciding winner in $UP \cap co-UP$

Positional Strategies

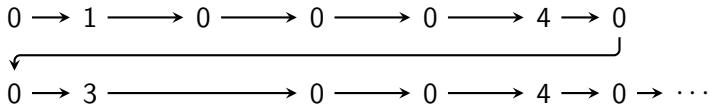
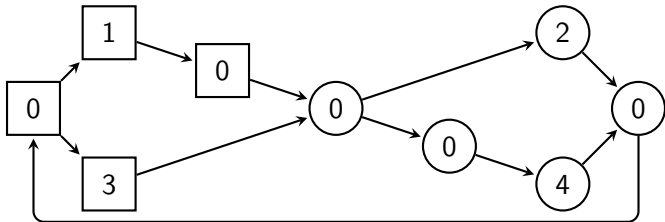
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Finitary Parity Games



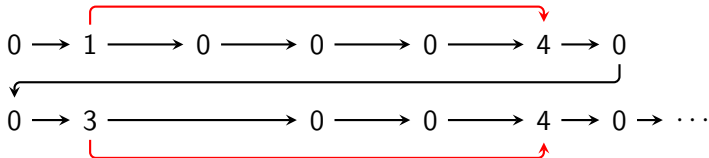
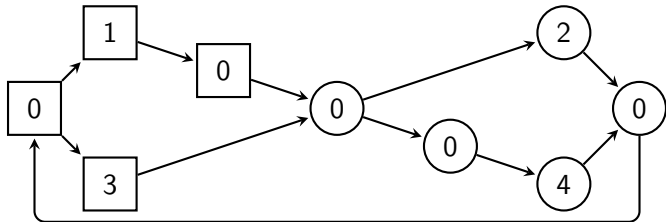
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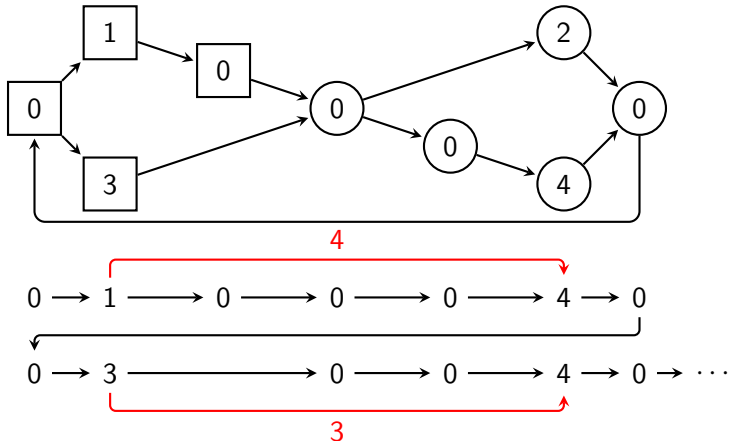
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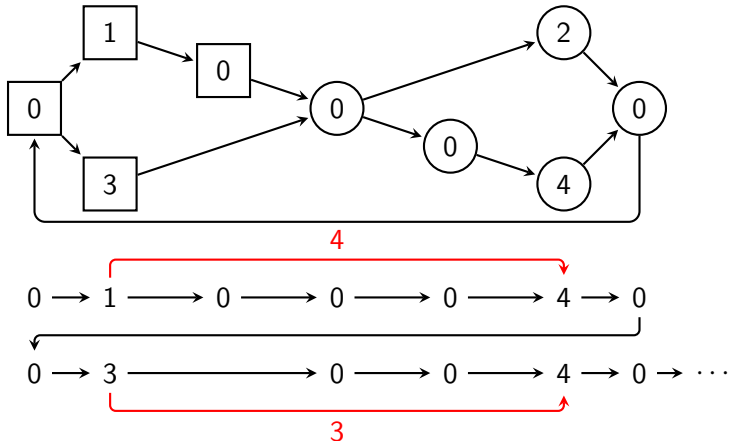
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Finitary Parity Games



Goal for Player 0: Bound response times

Example due to (Fijalkow and Chatterjee, Infinite-state games, 2013)

Decision Problem

Theorem (Chatterjee et al., Finitary Winning, 2009)

The following decision problem is in PTIME:

Input: Finitary parity game $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{A}, \text{FinParity}(\Omega))$

Question: Does there exist a strategy σ with $\text{Cst}(\sigma) < \infty$?

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The following decision problem is PSPACE-complete:

Input: Finitary parity game $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{A}, \text{FinParity}(\Omega))$,
bound $b \in \mathbb{N}$

Question: Does there exist a strategy σ with $\text{Cst}(\sigma) \leq b$?

Introduction

Introduction ✓

Introduction ✓



Complexity

in PSPACE

Introduction ✓



Complexity

in PSPACE

PSPACE-hard

Introduction ✓



Complexity

in PSPACE

PSPACE-hard



Exponential Memory

Sufficient

Introduction ✓



Complexity

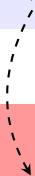
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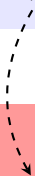
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From Finitary Parity to Parity

Given: Finitary parity game $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{A}, \text{FinParity}(\Omega))$, bound $b \in \mathbb{N}$.

Lemma

Deciding if Player 0 has strategy σ with $\text{Cst}(\sigma) \leq b$ is in PSPACE.

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⇒ Problem is in APTIME

(Chandra et al., Alternation, 1981)

⇒ Problem is in PSPACE

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Complexity

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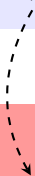
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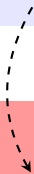
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PSPACE-completeness

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Idea: Reduction from Quantified Boolean Formulas, e.g.:

$$\forall x \exists y . (x \vee \neg y) \wedge (\neg x \vee y)$$

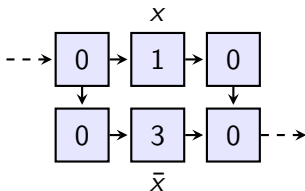
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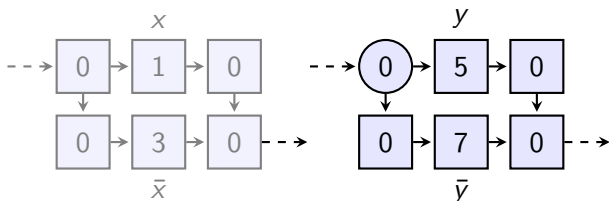
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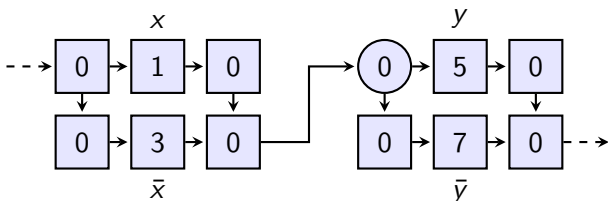
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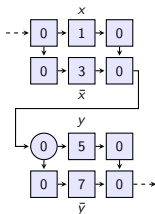
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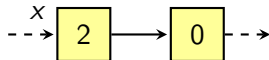
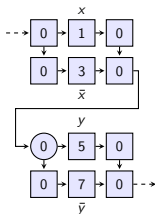
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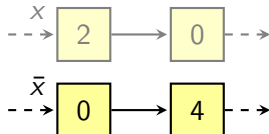
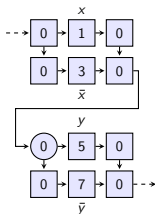
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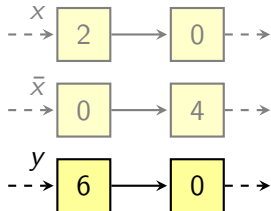
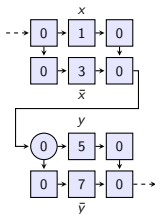
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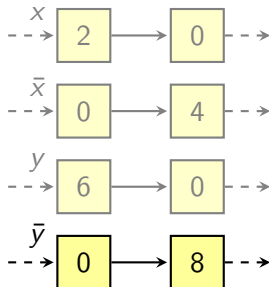
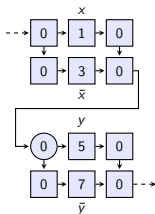
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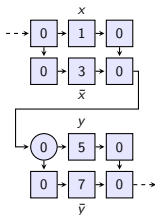
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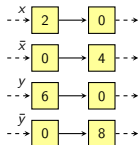
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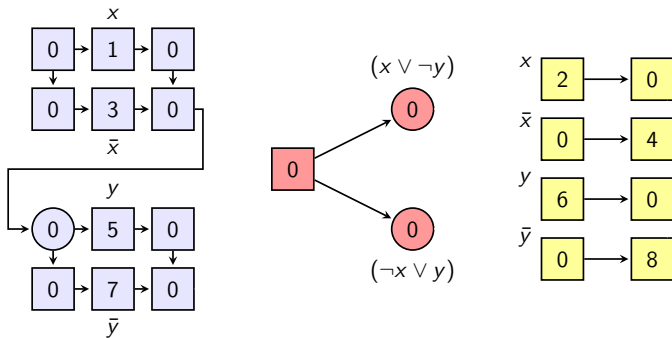
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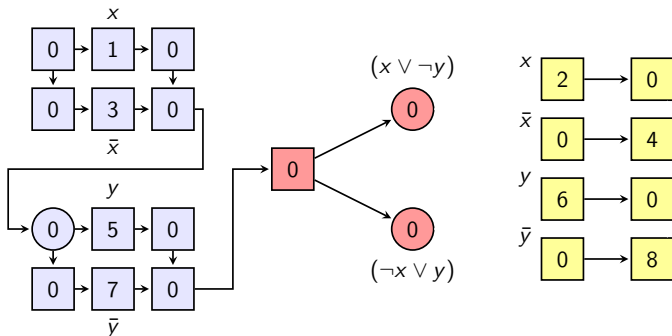
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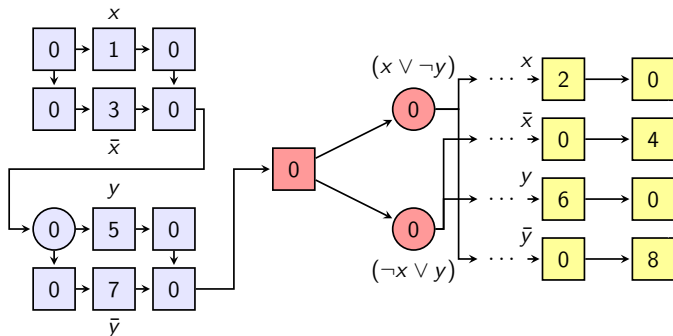
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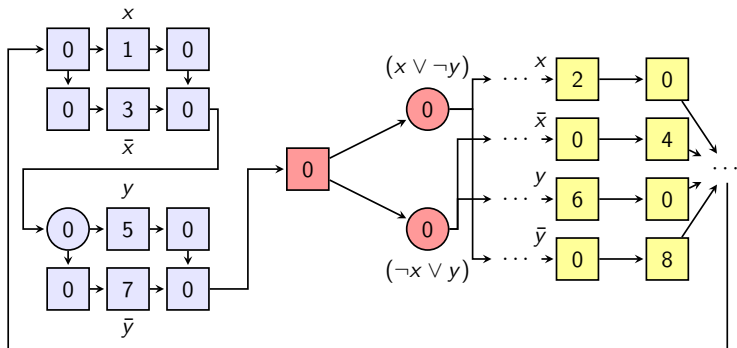
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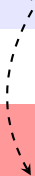
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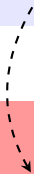
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Memory Requirements (for Player 0)

Theorem

Optimal strategies for parity games require exponential memory.

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Sufficiency: Corollary of proof of PSPACE-membership

Memory Requirements (for Player 0)

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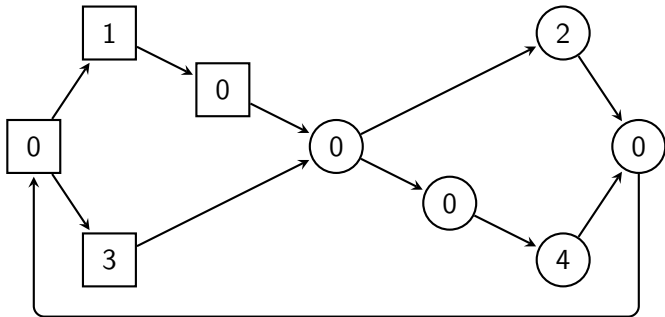
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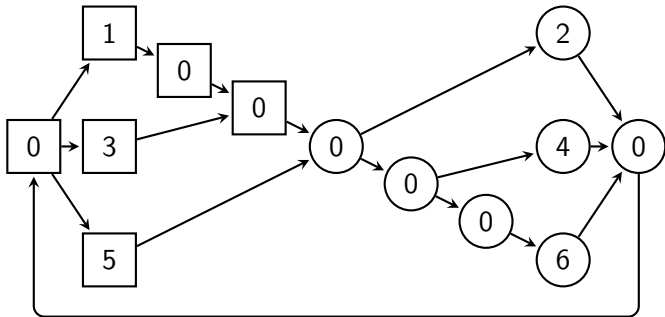
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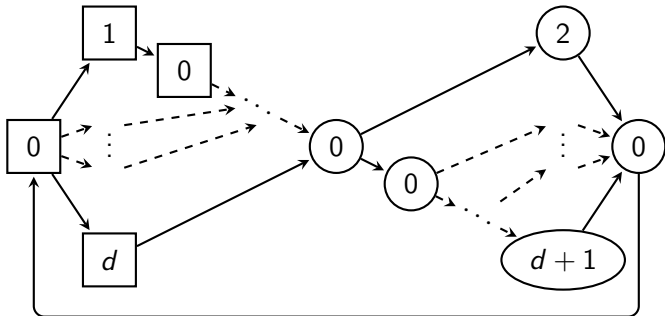
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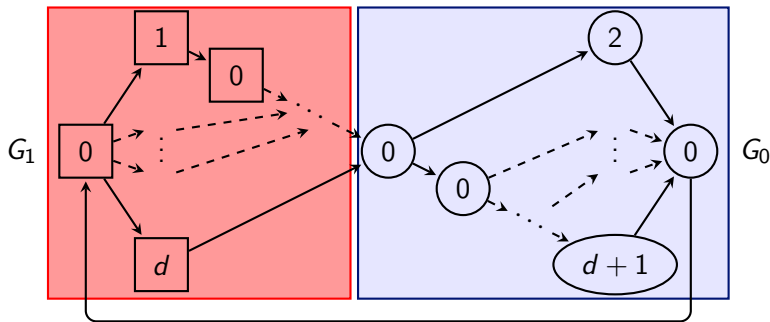
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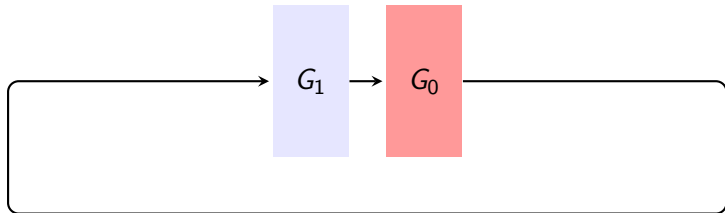
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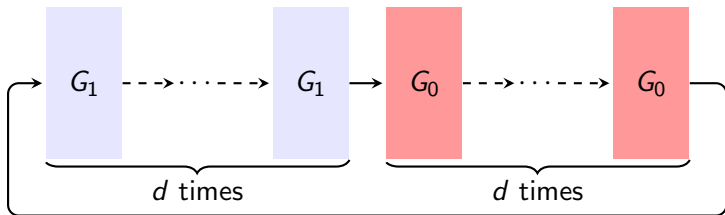
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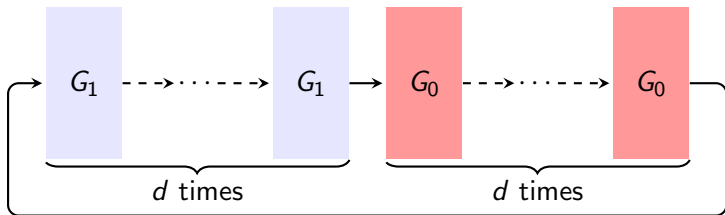
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Player 0 needs to store d choices of d possible values each

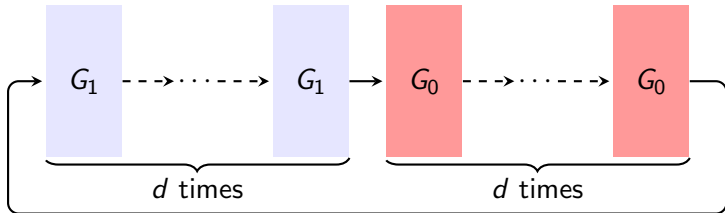
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Player 0 needs to store d choices of d possible values each
 \Rightarrow Player 0 requires $\approx 2^d$ many memory states

Introduction ✓



Complexity

in PSPACE ✓

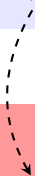
PSPACE-hard ✓



Exponential Memory

Sufficient

Necessary



Introduction ✓



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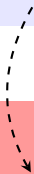
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Exponential Memory

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Conclusion

Parity

Complexity	$UP \cap co-UP$
Strategies	1

Conclusion

	Parity	Finitary Parity
		Winning
Complexity	$UP \cap co-UP$	P_{TIME}
Strategies	1	1

Conclusion

	Parity	Finitary Parity	
		Winning	Optimal
Complexity	$UP \cap co-UP$	P_{TIME}	$PSPACE\text{-comp.}$
Strategies	1	1	Exp.

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Take-away: Forcing Player 0 to answer quickly in parity games makes it harder

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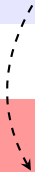
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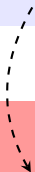
Exponential Memory

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Tradeoffs



Introduction ✓



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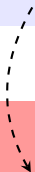
Necessary ✓



Tradeoffs



Parity Games with Costs



Tradeoffs



Tradeoffs



	Winning	Optimal
Size	1	2^d
Cost	$3d$	$2d$

Tradeoffs



	Winning		Optimal
Size	1	d	2^d
Cost	$3d$		$2d$

Tradeoffs



	Winning		Optimal
Size	1	d	2^d
Cost	$3d$	$3d - 1$	$2d$

Tradeoffs



	Winning		Optimal	
Size	1	d	2^{d-1}	2^d
Cost	$3d$	$3d - 1$		$2d$

Tradeoffs



	Winning		Optimal	
Size	1	d	2^{d-1}	2^d
Cost	$3d$	$3d - 1$	$2d + 1$	$2d$

Tradeoffs



	Winning				Optimal
Size	1	d	\dots	2^{d-1}	2^d
Cost	$3d$	$3d - 1$	\dots	$2d + 1$	$2d$

Introduction ✓



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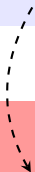
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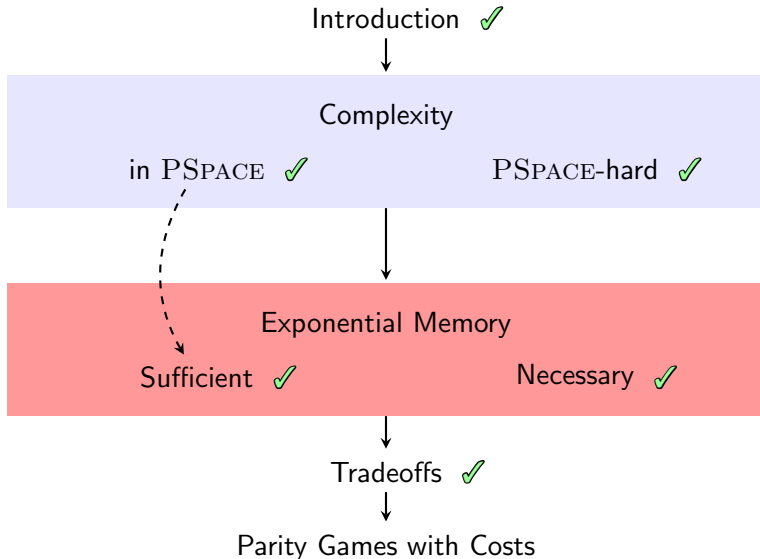


Tradeoffs

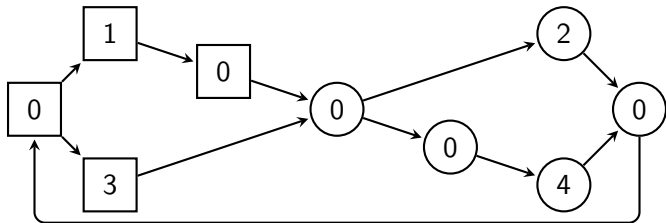


Parity Games with Costs

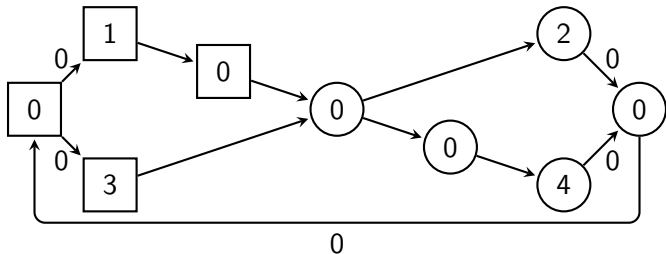




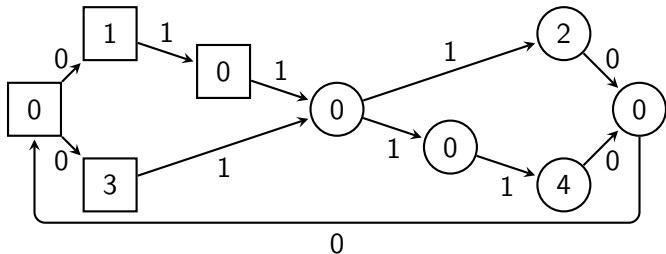
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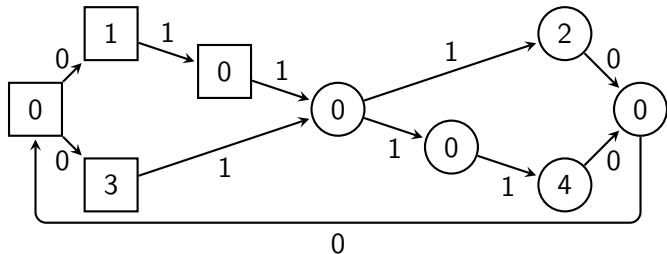
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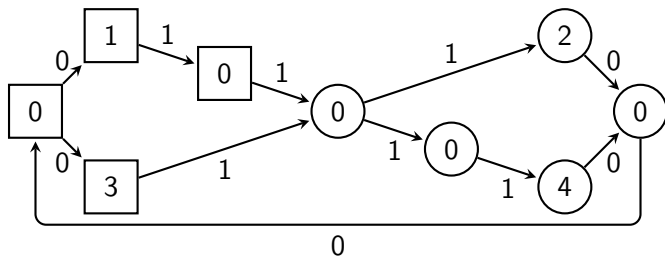


Parity Games with Cost



Finitary parity games are special case

Parity Games with Cost

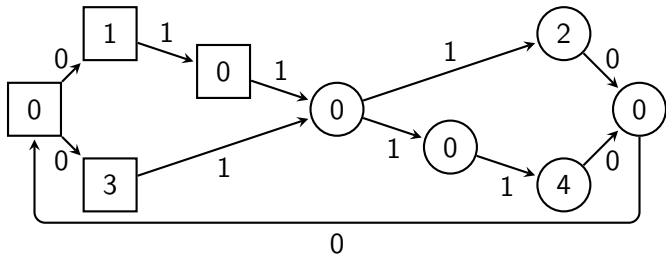


Finitary parity games are special case

⇒ PSPACE-hard

⇒ Exp. memory necessary

Parity Games with Cost

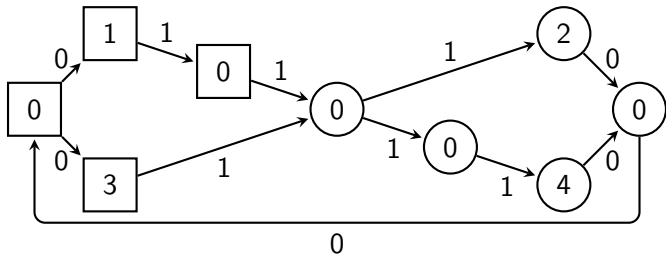


Finitary parity games are special case

\Rightarrow PSPACE-hard \Rightarrow Exp. memory necessary

Algorithm for solving finitary games works as well

Parity Games with Cost



Finitary parity games are special case

⇒ PSPACE-hard ⇒ Exp. memory necessary

Algorithm for solving finitary games works as well

⇒ In PSPACE ⇒ Exp. memory sufficient

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