

# The Periodicity Problem of Cellular Automata

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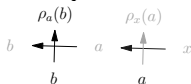
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**MealyM, Paris — July 12th, 2017**



## From Mealy to OCA

Reset Mealy automata



OCA



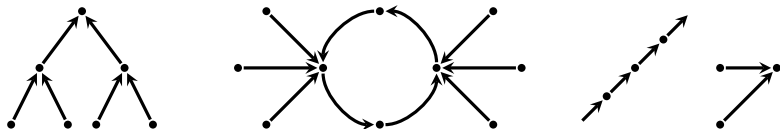
### Proposition

The group generated by the reset automaton  $(X, X, \rho, Id)$  is finite if and only if the OCA  $(X, f : (b, a) \mapsto \rho_a(b))$  is periodic.

- ▶ In the general case of CA, the periodicity problem is undecidable (Kari-Ollinger[2008]), the proof uses an encoding of some class of Turing machines and cannot be adapted to OCA.
- ▶ In our case, Boyle and Maass [2000] have given a decidable characterization of a subclass of the periodic ones (when every two-letter word is a wall). But the general question is still open.

# Discrete dynamical systems

**Definition** A **DDS** is a pair  $(X, F)$  where  $X$  is a topological space and  $F : X \rightarrow X$  is a continuous map.



**Definition** The **orbit** of  $x \in X$  is the sequence  $(F^n(x))$  obtained by iterating  $F$ .

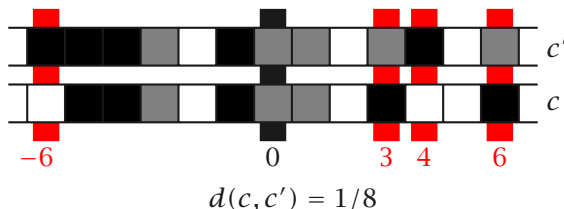
In this talk,  $X = S^{\mathbb{Z}}$  is endowed with the **Cantor topology** (product of the discrete topology on  $S$ ), and  $F$  is a continuous map **invariant by translation**.

# Cantor topology

**Definition** The **Cantor topology** on  $S^{\mathbb{Z}}$  is the product topology over  $\mathbb{Z}$  of the discrete topology on  $S$ .

**Remark** The Cantor topology is **metric** and **compact**.

$$\forall c, c' \in S^{\mathbb{Z}}, d(c, c') = 2^{-\min\{|p| \mid c_p \neq c'_p\}}$$



**Definition** A **subshift** is a non-empty set both topologically closed and closed by translation.

# The nilpotency problem (Nil)

**Definition** A DDS is **nilpotent** if  
 $\exists z \in X, \forall x \in X, \exists n \in \mathbb{N}, F^n(x) = z.$

Given a recursive encoding of the DDS, can we **decide** nilpotency?

A DDS is **uniformly nilpotent** if  
 $\exists z \in X, \exists n \in \mathbb{N}, \forall x \in X, F^n(x) = z.$

Given a recursive encoding of the DDS, can we **bound recursively**  $n$ ?



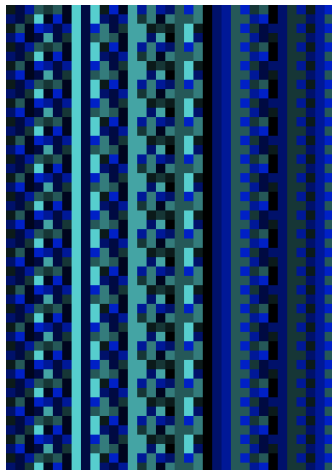
# The periodicity problem (Per)

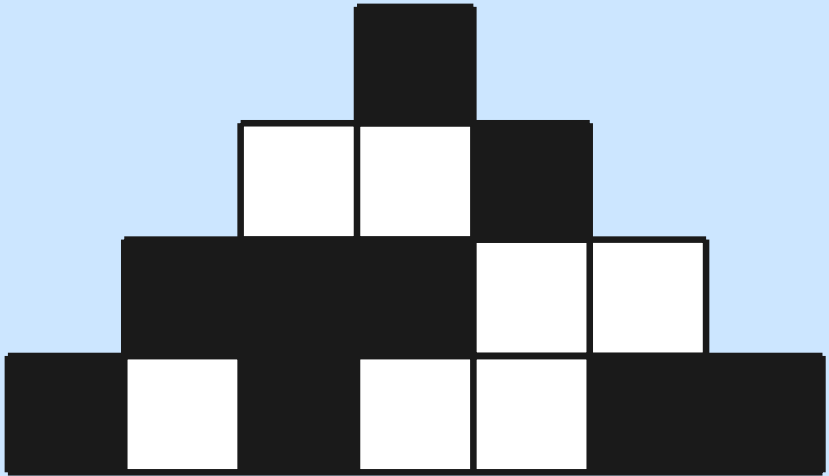
**Definition** A DDS is **periodic** if  
 $\forall x \in X, \exists n \in \mathbb{N}, F^n(x) = x$ .

Given a recursive encoding of the DDS, can we **decide** periodicity?

A DDS is **uniformly periodic** if  
 $\exists n \in \mathbb{N}, \forall x \in X, F^n(x) = x$ .

Given a recursive encoding of the DDS, can we **bound recursively**  $n$ ?



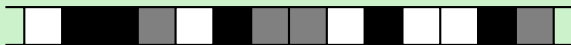


## 1. Cellular Automata

# Cellular automata

**Definition** A **CA** is a triple  $(S, r, f)$  where  $S$  is a **finite set of states**,  $r \in \mathbb{N}$  is the **radius** and  $f : S^{2r+1} \rightarrow S$  is the **local rule** of the cellular automaton.

A **configuration**  $c \in S^{\mathbb{Z}}$  is a coloring of  $\mathbb{Z}$  by  $S$ .

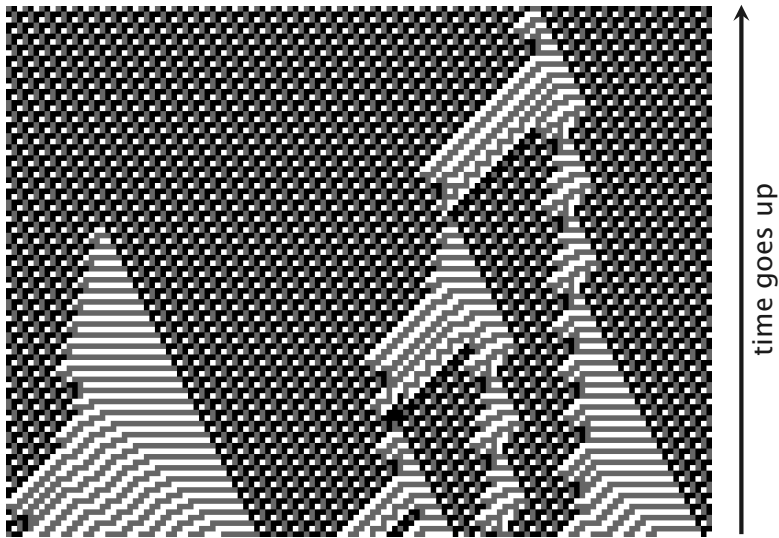


The **global map**  $F : S^{\mathbb{Z}} \rightarrow S^{\mathbb{Z}}$  applies  $f$  uniformly and locally:  
$$\forall c \in S^{\mathbb{Z}}, \forall z \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad F(c)(z) = f(c(z-r), \dots, c(z+r)).$$

A **space-time diagram**  $\Delta \in S^{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}}$  satisfies, for all  $t \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ ,  
$$\Delta(t+1) = F(\Delta(t)).$$



# Space-time diagram



$$S = \{0, 1, 2\}, r = 1, f(x, y, z) = \lfloor 6450288690466 / 3^{9x+3y+z} \rfloor \pmod{3}$$

# Turing universality

**Theorem** There exists **Turing-universal** CA.

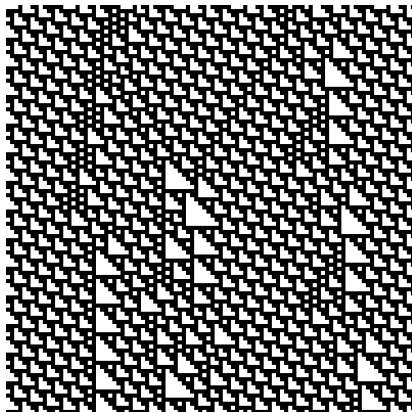
*à la* Smith III

...BBBBBabaabBBBBB...  
                  S



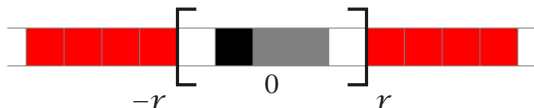
$(S \cup \Sigma, 2, f)$

*à la* Cook (rule 110)



# Curtis-Hedlund-Lyndon's theorem

$$[m] = \{c \in S^{\mathbb{Z}} \mid \forall p \in \mathbb{Z}, |p| \leq r \Rightarrow c(p) = m(p)\}$$



**Remark** The **clopen sets** are finite unions of cylinders.

Therefore in this topology **continuity** means **locality**.

**Theorem [Hedlund69]** Cellular automata coincide with continuous maps invariant by translation.

# Undecidability results

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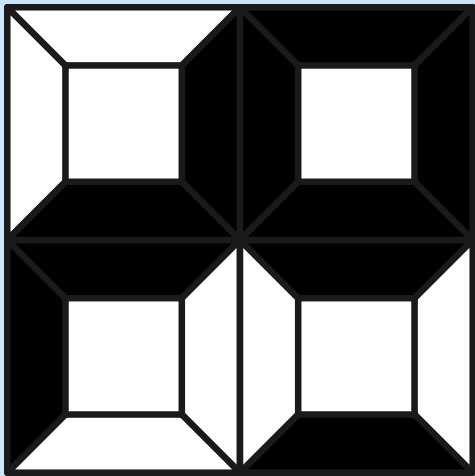
**Theorem** Both **Nil** and **Per** are **recursively undecidable**.

The proofs inject **computation** into **dynamics**.

Undecidability is not necessarily a negative result:  
it is a **hint of complexity**.

**Remark** Due to **universe configurations** both nilpotency and periodicity are uniform.

The bounds grow **faster than any recursive function**: there exists simple nilpotent or periodic CA with huge bounds.

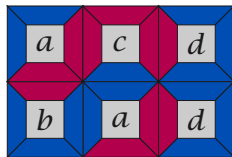
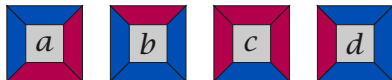


## **2. Nilpotency and tilings**

# The Domino Problem (DP)

*“Assume we are **given a finite set of square plates** of the same size with **edges colored**, each in a different manner. Suppose further there are infinitely many copies of each plate (plate type). We are **not permitted to rotate or reflect a plate**. The question is to find an effective procedure by which we can **decide**, for each given finite set of plates, **whether we can cover up the whole plane** (or, equivalently, an infinite quadrant thereof) **with copies of the plates subject to the restriction that adjoining edges must have the same color.**”*

(Wang, 1961)



# Undecidability of DP

**Theorem[Berger64]** DP is **recursively undecidable**.

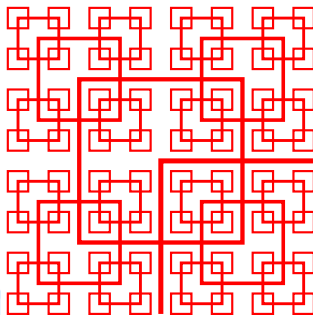
**Remark** To prove it one needs **aperiodic** tile sets.

## Idea of the proof

Enforce an (aperiodic) **self-similar structure** using local rules.

Insert a **Turing machine** computation **everywhere** using the structure.

**Remark** Plenty of different proofs!



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THE UNDECIDABILITY  
OF THE DOMINO PROBLEM

by

ROBERT BERGER

*“(...) In 1966 R. Berger discovered the first aperiodic tile set. It contains 20,426 Wang tiles, (...)*

*Berger himself managed to reduce the number of tiles to 104 and he described these in his thesis, though they were omitted from the published version (Berger [1966]).*

*(...)”*

*[GrSh, p.584]*



# THE UNDECIDABILITY OF THE DOMINO PROBLEM

A thesis presented

by

Robert Berger

to

The Division of Engineering and Applied Physics

in partial fulfillment of the requirements

for the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

in the subject of

Applied Mathematics

Harvard University

Cambridge, Massachusetts

July 1964

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## APPENDIX II

### A SIMPLER SOLVABLE DOMINO SET WITH NO TORUS

The skeleton set, K, analyzed in PART 3, is a solvable domino set with no torus. Since it is designed to serve also as a base set for modeling of Turing machines, it is not surprising that simpler solvable, torus-less domino sets exist. One such set, call it Q, is specified by Tables 9-12. The first three tables show the base, skeleton, and parity prototypes of Q. Although these tables show symbols in the center of domino edges, the base, skeleton, and parity channels should be thought of as distinct. Table 12 serves the same function for Q as did Table 4 for K, namely that of specifying which products of prototypes are permitted. However, since Q is a fairly small set, it is not too cumbersome to enumerate only those dominoes which are actually used in solutions of Q, 104 in all. (No concerted attempt has been made to find the smallest solvable torus-less domino set.)

Figure 24 shows, separately, skeleton signals and parity signals in the same portion of a solution of Q. If Figure 24 is rotated one-eighth turn clockwise, its skeleton signals bear a strong resemblance to the CD-signals of K.

A person who understands the skeleton set should have no trouble convincing himself of the likelihood that all solutions of Q look like extensions of Figure 24. The following hints will help.

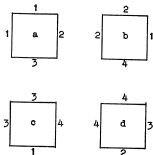


Table 9  
Base Prototypes of Q

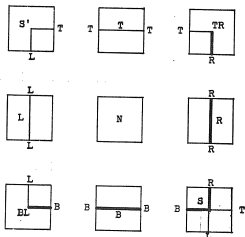


Table 10  
Skeleton Prototypes of Q

Note:  
Use of same  
line weight for  
a horizontal and  
a (different)  
vertical signal  
introduces no  
ambiguity.

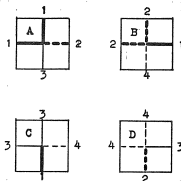
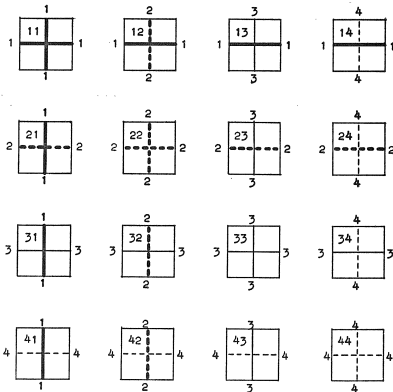
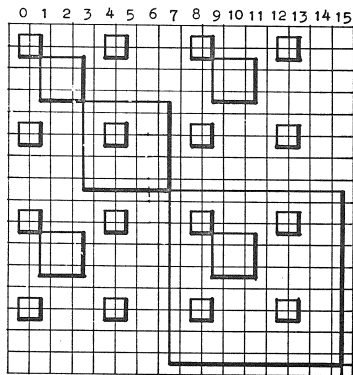


Table 11  
Parity Prototypes of Q

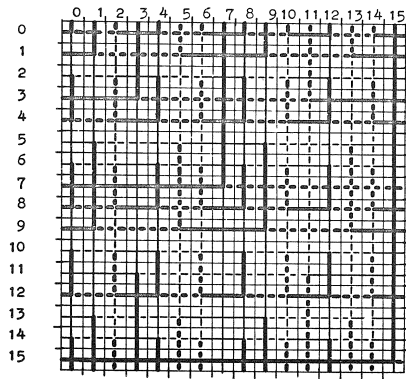


[illegible]

Table 12 Prototype Products in Q

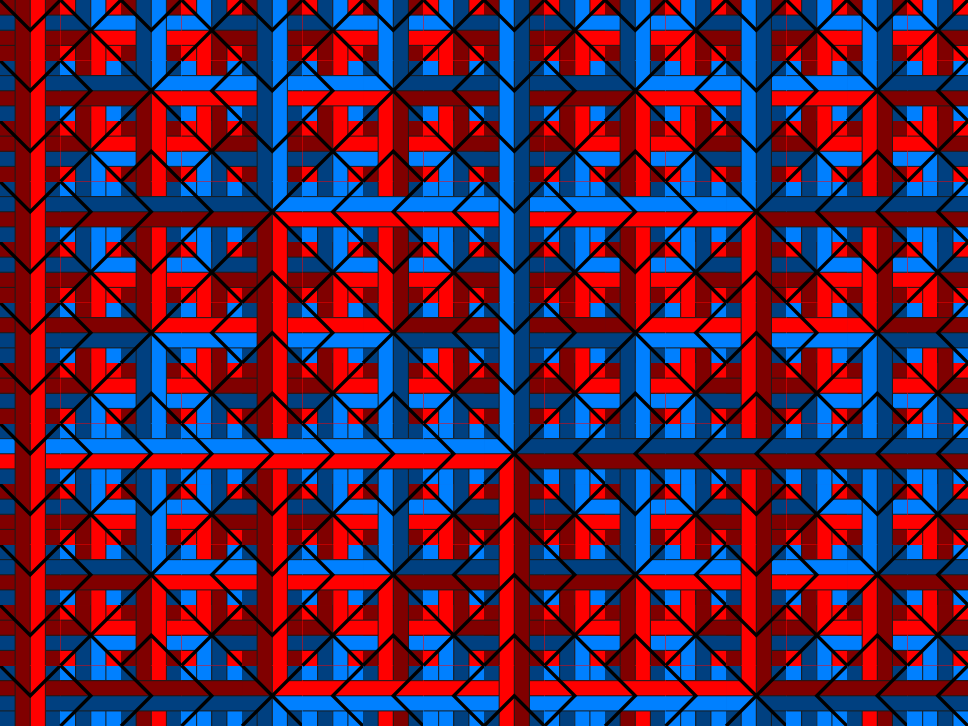


Skeleton Signals



Parity Signals

Figure 24 Part of the Solution of Q



# Nilpotency and limit set

**Definition** The **limit set** of a CA  $F$  is the non-empty subshift

$$\Lambda_F = \bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} F^n(S^{\mathbb{Z}})$$

**Remark**  $\Lambda_F$  is the set of configurations appearing in **biinfinite space-time diagrams**  $\Delta \in S^{\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}}$  such that  $\forall t \in \mathbb{Z}, \Delta(t+1) = F(\Delta(t))$ .

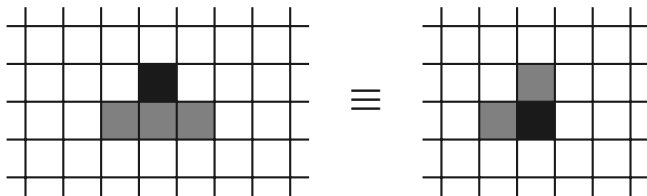
**Lemma** A CA is nilpotent iff its limit set is a **singleton**.

# Reduction

A state  $\perp \in S$  is **spreading** if  $f(N) = \perp$  when  $\perp \in N$ .

A CA with a spreading state  $\perp$  is not nilpotent iff it admits a biinfinite space-time diagram without  $\perp$ .

**A tiling problem** Find a coloring  $\Delta \in (S \setminus \{\perp\})^{\mathbb{Z}^2}$  satisfying the tiling constraints given by  $f$ .



**Theorem[Kari92]** NW-DP  $\leq_m$  Nil

# Revisiting DP

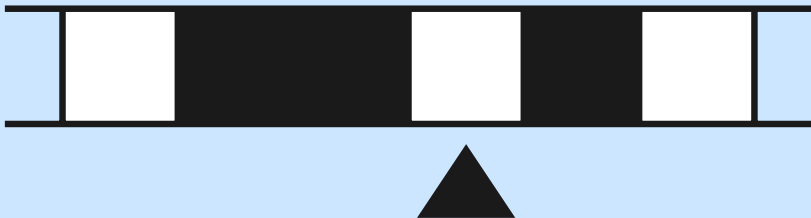
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**Theorem[Kari92]** NW-**DP** is **recursively undecidable**.

**Remark** Reprove of undecidability of **DP** with the additional determinism constraint!

**Corollary** **Nil** is **recursively undecidable**.





### **3. Periodicity and mortality**

# The Immortality Problem (IP)

*“(T<sub>2</sub>) To find an effective method, which for every Turing-machine  $M$  decides whether or not, for all tapes  $I$  (finite and infinite) and all states  $B$ ,  $M$  will eventually halt if started in state  $B$  on tape  $I$ ”*  
(Büchi, 1962)

**Definition** A **TM** is a triple  $(S, \Sigma, T)$  with  $S$  the set of states,  $\Sigma$  the alphabet and  $T$  a set of instructions of two kinds:

$(s, \delta, t) : \text{“in state } s \text{ move in direction } \delta \text{ and enter state } t\text{.”}$

$(s, a, t, b) : \text{“in state } s, \text{ reading letter } a, \text{ write letter } b \text{ and enter state } t\text{.”}$

A **configuration**  $c \in S \times \Sigma^{\mathbb{Z}}$  is a pair  $(s, c)$  where  $s$  is the state and the head points at position 0 of the tape  $c$ .

For **deterministic** TM, the **global map**  $G : S \times \Sigma^{\mathbb{Z}} \rightarrow S \times \Sigma^{\mathbb{Z}}$  which applies instructions is a partial continuous map.

# Undecidability of IP

---

**Definition** A TM is **mortal** if all configurations are ultimately halting.

**Theorem[Hooper66]** IP is **recursively undecidable**.

**Remark** To prove it one needs **aperiodic** TM.

## Idea of the proof

Simulate 2-counters machines *à la* Minsky  $(s, \underline{1}^m \times 2^n y)$

Replace **unbounded searches** by **recursive calls** to initial segments of the simulation.

# Periodicity and reversibility

**Definition** A CA  $F$  is **reversible** if there exists a CA  $G$  such that  $G = F^{-1}$ .

**Theorem** A CA is **reversible** iff it is **bijective**.

**Remark** **Periodicity** implies **reversibility**.

**Definition** A TM  $(S, \Sigma, T)$  is **reversible** if  $(S, \Sigma, T^{-1})$  is deterministic, where

$$\begin{aligned}(s, \delta, t)^{-1} &= (t, \delta, s) \\ (s, a, t, b)^{-1} &= (t, b, s, a)\end{aligned}$$

# Reduction

---

**Theorem[KO2008]  $\mathbf{R-IP} \leq_m \mathbf{TM-Per} \leq_m \mathbf{Per}$**

**Idea for  $\mathbf{TM-Per} \leq_m \mathbf{Per}$**

Let  $\mathcal{M} = (S, \Sigma, T)$  be a complete RTM

Let  $(S', 2, f)$  be the RCA with set of states

$\Sigma \times (S \times \{+, -\} \cup \{\leftarrow, \rightarrow\})$  simulating  $\mathcal{M}$  on  $+$  and  $\mathcal{M}^{-1}$  on  $-$ .

In case of local inconsistency, invert polarity.

The RCA is periodic iff  $\mathcal{M}$  is periodic.

# Revisiting IP

---

**Theorem[KO2008]** **R-IP** is **recursively undecidable**.

**Remark** Reprove of undecidability of **IP** with the additional reversibility constraint!

**Corollary** **TM-Per** and **Per** are **recursively undecidable**.

# Immortality: a first attempt

---

*“(T<sub>2</sub>) To find an effective method, which for every Turing-machine  $M$  decides whether or not, for all tapes  $I$  (finite and infinite) and all states  $B$ ,  $M$  will eventually halt if started in state  $B$  on tape  $I$ ”* (Büchi, 1962)

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**[Hooper66] IP** is undecidable for DTM.

*Idea* TM with recursive calls! (we will discuss this)





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**[Lecerf63]** Every DTM is **simulated** by a RTM.

*Idea* Keep history on a stack encoded on the tape.



# Immortality: a first attempt

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**[Lecerf63]** Every DTM is **simulated** by a RTM.

*Idea* Keep history on a stack encoded on the tape.



**Problem** The simulation **does not** preserve immortality due to **unbounded searches**. We need to rewrite Hooper's proof for reversible machines.

# Immortality: simulating RCM

---

**Theorem 7** IP is undecidable for RTM.

**Reduction** reduce HP for 2-RCM  $(s, @1^m \times 2^n y)$

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**Problem** unbounded searches produce immortality.

*Idea by compacity, extract infinite failure sequence*

# Immortality: simulating RCM

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**Problem** unbounded searches produce immortality.

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**Hooper's trick** use bounded searches with **recursive calls** to initial segments of the simulation of increasing sizes:

$\frac{@1111111111111111x2222y}{s} \quad \text{search } x \rightarrow$

# Immortality: simulating RCM

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$@ \underset{\bar{s}_1}{1111111111111111} x 2222y$       *bounded search 1*

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@11111111111111x2222y      *bounded search 2*  
     $s_2$

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$@1111111111111111x2222y$       *bounded search 3*  
           $\bar{s}_3$



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@ $s_0$  **$sxy$** 1111111111x2222y      recursive call

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**Hooper's trick** use bounded searches with **recursive calls** to initial segments of the simulation of increasing sizes:

@@<sub>s</sub>1111x2222<sub>y</sub>x2222y      ultimately in case of collision...

<sub>s<sub>c</sub></sub>

# Immortality: simulating RCM

---

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**Hooper's trick** use bounded searches with **recursive calls** to initial segments of the simulation of increasing sizes:

@<sub>S<sub>b</sub></sub>xy1111111111x2222y      ...revert to clean

# Immortality: simulating RCM

---

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**Reduction** reduce HP for 2-RCM ( $s, @1^m x 2^n y$ )

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**Hooper's trick** use bounded searches with **recursive calls** to initial segments of the simulation of increasing sizes:

@1111111111111111x2222y      *pop and continue bounded search 1*  
       $\bar{s}_1$

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**Hooper's trick** use bounded searches with **recursive calls** to initial segments of the simulation of increasing sizes:

@11111111111111x2222y      *bounded search 2*  
           $\bar{s}_2$

# Immortality: simulating RCM

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**Hooper's trick** use bounded searches with **recursive calls** to initial segments of the simulation of increasing sizes:

@1111111111111x2222y      *bounded search 3*  
           $\bar{s}_3$

# Immortality: simulating RCM

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**Reduction** reduce HP for 2-RCM ( $s, @1^m x 2^n y$ )

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*Idea* by compacity, extract infinite failure sequence

**Hooper's trick** use bounded searches with **recursive calls** to initial segments of the simulation of increasing sizes:

@111@<sub>s</sub>**xy**1111111x2222y      *recursive call*  
      **s<sub>0</sub>**

# Immortality: simulating RCM

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**Theorem 7** IP is undecidable for RTM.

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      **s<sub>0</sub>**



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@111@<sub>s</sub>**xy**1111111x2222y      recursive call  
      s<sub>0</sub>

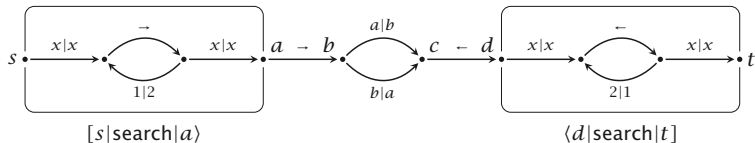
The RTM is immortal iff the 2-RCM is mortal on  $(s_0, (0, 0))$ .

# Programming tips and tricks (1/2)

We designed a TM programming language called Gnirut:

<http://github.com/nopid/gnirut>

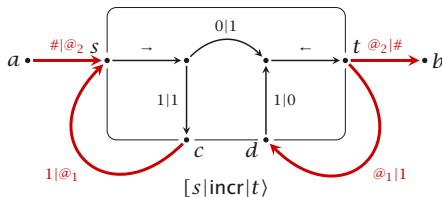
**First ingredient** use **macros** to avoid repetitions:



```
1  def [s|search|t] :      6  [s|search|a]
2    s. x ⊢ x, u          7  a. →, b
3    u. →, r              8  b. a ⊢ b, c | b ⊢ a, c
4    r. 1 ⊢ 2, u | x ⊢ x, t 9  c. ←, d
5                          10 ⟨d|search|t⟩
```

# Programming tips and tricks (2/2)

Second ingredient use **recursive calls**:



```

1 fun [s|incr|t] :           8 call [a|incr|b] from #  $\Leftarrow$  call 2
2   s.  $\rightarrow, r$ 
3   r.  $0 \vdash 1, b \mid 1 \vdash 1, c$ 
4   call [c|incr|d] from 1  $\Leftarrow$  call 1
5   d.  $1 \vdash 0, b$ 
6   b.  $\leftarrow, t$ 
7

```

# Immortality: skeleton

---

$[s|\text{check}_1|t\rangle$  satisfies  $s. \underline{a}_\alpha 1^m x \vdash \underline{a}_\alpha 1^m x, t$  or  $s. \underline{a}_\alpha 1^\omega \uparrow$  or halt.

# Immortality: skeleton

---

$[s|\text{check}_1|t\rangle$  satisfies  $s. \underline{a}_\alpha 1^m \mathbf{x} \vdash \underline{a}_\alpha 1^m \mathbf{x}, t$  or  $s. \underline{a}_\alpha 1^\omega \uparrow$  or halt.

$[s|\text{search}_1|t_0, t_1, t_2\rangle$  satisfies  $s. \underline{a}_\alpha 1^m \mathbf{x} \vdash \underline{a}_\alpha 1^m \underline{\mathbf{x}}, t_{m[3]}$  or ...

# Immortality: skeleton

---

$[s|\text{check}_1|t\rangle$  satisfies  $s. @_{\alpha}1^m x \vdash @_{\alpha}1^m x, t$  or  $s. @_{\alpha}1^{\omega} \uparrow$  or halt.

$[s|\text{search}_1|t_0, t_1, t_2\rangle$  satisfies  $s. @_{\alpha}1^m x \vdash @_{\alpha}1^m \underline{x}, t_{m[3]}$  or ...

**RCM** ingredients:

testing counters

increment counter

decrement counter

$[s|\text{test1}|z, p\rangle$  and  $[s|\text{test2}|z, p\rangle$

$[s|\text{inc1}|t, co\rangle$  and  $[s|\text{inc2}|t, co\rangle$

$[s|\text{dec1}|t, co\rangle$  and  $[s|\text{dec2}|t, co\rangle$

# Immortality: skeleton

---

$[s|\text{check}_1|t\rangle$  satisfies  $s. @_{\alpha}1^m x \vdash @_{\alpha}1^m x, t$  or  $s. @_{\alpha}1^{\omega} \uparrow$  or halt.

$[s|\text{search}_1|t_0, t_1, t_2\rangle$  satisfies  $s. @_{\alpha}1^m x \vdash @_{\alpha}1^m \underline{x}, t_{m[3]}$  or ...

**RCM** ingredients:

testing counters

$[s|\text{test1}|z, p\rangle$  and  $[s|\text{test2}|z, p\rangle$

increment counter

$[s|\text{inc1}|t, co\rangle$  and  $[s|\text{inc2}|t, co\rangle$

decrement counter

$[s|\text{dec1}|t, co\rangle$  and  $[s|\text{dec2}|t, co\rangle$

Simulator  $[s|\text{RCM}_{\alpha}|co_1, co_2, \dots\rangle$  initialize then compute

# Immortality: skeleton

---

$[s|\text{check}_1|t\rangle$  satisfies  $s. @_{\alpha}1^m \mathbf{x} \vdash @_{\alpha}1^m \mathbf{x}, t$  or  $s. @_{\alpha}1^{\omega} \uparrow$  or halt.

$[s|\text{search}_1|t_0, t_1, t_2\rangle$  satisfies  $s. @_{\alpha}1^m \mathbf{x} \vdash @_{\alpha}1^m \mathbf{x}, t_{m[3]}$  or ...

**RCM ingredients:**

testing counters

$[s|\text{test1}|z, p\rangle$  and  $[s|\text{test2}|z, p\rangle$

increment counter

$[s|\text{inc1}|t, co\rangle$  and  $[s|\text{inc2}|t, co\rangle$

decrement counter

$[s|\text{dec1}|t, co\rangle$  and  $[s|\text{dec2}|t, co\rangle$

Simulator  $[s|\text{RCM}_{\alpha}|co_1, co_2, \dots\rangle$  initialize then compute

$$[s|\text{check}_{\alpha}|t\rangle = [s|\text{RCM}_{\alpha}|co_1, co_2, \dots\rangle + \langle co_1, co_2, \dots|\text{RCM}_{\alpha}|s]$$



# Program it!

```

1 def [s]search1|t0, t1, t2 :
2   s.  $\underline{\alpha} \vdash \underline{\alpha}, l$ 
3   l.  $\rightarrow, u$ 
4   u.  $\underline{x} \vdash \underline{x}, t_0$ 
5   |  $\underline{1x} \vdash \underline{1x}, t_1$ 
6   |  $\underline{11x} \vdash \underline{11x}, t_2$ 
7   |  $\underline{111} \vdash \underline{111}, c$ 
8   call [c|check1|p] from 1
9   p.  $\underline{111} \vdash \underline{111}, l$ 
10
11 def [s]search2|t0, t1, t2 :
12   s.  $\underline{x} \vdash \underline{x}, l$ 
13   l.  $\rightarrow, u$ 
14   u.  $\underline{y} \vdash \underline{y}, t_0$ 
15   |  $\underline{2y} \vdash \underline{2y}, t_1$ 
16   |  $\underline{22y} \vdash \underline{22y}, t_2$ 
17   |  $\underline{222} \vdash \underline{222}, c$ 
18   call [c|check2|p] from 2
19   p.  $\underline{222} \vdash \underline{222}, l$ 
20
21 def [s]test1|z, p :
22   s.  $\underline{\alpha}x \vdash \underline{\alpha}x, z$ 
23   |  $\underline{\alpha}1 \vdash \underline{\alpha}1, p$ 
24
25 def [s]endtest2|z, p :
26   s.  $\underline{xy} \vdash \underline{xy}, z$ 
27   |  $\underline{x2} \vdash \underline{x2}, p$ 
28
29 def [s]test2|z, p :
30   [s]search1|t0, t1, t2
31   [t0|endtest2|z0, p0]
32   [t1|endtest2|z1, p1]
33   [t2|endtest2|z2, p2]
34   [z0, z1, z2|search1|z]
35   [p0, p1, p2|search1|p]
36
37 def [s]mark1|t, co :
38   s.  $\underline{y1} \vdash \underline{2y}, t$ 
39   |  $\underline{yx} \vdash \underline{yx}, co$ 
40
41 def [s]endinc1|t, co :
42   [s]search2|r0, r1, r2
43   [r0|mark1|t0, co0]
44   [r1|mark1|t1, co1]
45   [r2|mark1|t2, co2]
46   [t2, t0, t1|search2|t]
47   [co0, co1, co2|search2|co]
48
49 def [s]inc2|t, co :
50   [s]search1|r0, r1, r2
51   [r0|endinc1|t0, co0]
52   [r1|endinc1|t1, co1]
53   [r2|endinc1|t2, co2]
54   [t0, t1, t2|search1|t]
55   [co0, co1, co2|search1|co]
56
57 def [s]dec2|t :
58   [s, co]inc2|t]
59
60 def [s]mark2|t, co :
61   s.  $\underline{y2} \vdash \underline{2y}, t$ 
62   |  $\underline{yx} \vdash \underline{yx}, co$ 
63
64 def [s]endinc2|t, co :
65   [s]search2|r0, r1, r2
66   [r0|mark2|t0, co0]
67   [r1|mark2|t1, co1]
68   [r2|mark2|t2, co2]
69   [t2, t0, t1|search2|t]
70   [co0, co1, co2|search2|co]
71
72 def [s]inc2|t, co :
73   [s]search1|r0, r1, r2
74   [r0|endinc2|t0, co0]
75   [r1|endinc2|t1, co1]
76   [r2|endinc2|t2, co2]
77   [t0, t1, t2|search1|t]
78   [co0, co1, co2|search1|co]
79
80 def [s]dec2|t :
81   [s, co]inc2|t]
82
83 def [s]pushinc1|t, co :
84   s.  $\underline{x2} \vdash \underline{1x}, c$ 
85   |  $\underline{xy1} \vdash \underline{1xy}, pt$ 
86   |  $\underline{xyx} \vdash \underline{1yx}, pco$ 
87   [c|endinc1|pt0, pco0]
88   pt0.  $\rightarrow, t0$ 
89   t0.  $2 \vdash 2, pt$ 
90   pt.  $\rightarrow, t$ 
91   pco0.  $x \vdash 2, pco$ 
92   pco.  $\rightarrow, zco$ 
93   zco.  $1 \vdash x, co$ 
94
95 def [s]inc1|t, co :
96   [s]search1|r0, r1, r2
97   [r0|pushinc1|t0, co0]
98   [r1|pushinc1|t1, co1]
99   [r2|pushinc1|t2, co2]
100  [t2, t0, t1|search1|t]
101  [co0, co1, co2|search1|co]
102
103 def [s]dec1|t :
104  [s, co]inc1|t]
105
106 def [s]pushinc2|t, co :
107  s.  $\underline{x2} \vdash \underline{1x}, c$ 
108  |  $\underline{xy2} \vdash \underline{1xy}, pt$ 
109  |  $\underline{xyy} \vdash \underline{1yy}, pco$ 
110  [c|endinc2|pt0, pco0]
111  pt0.  $\rightarrow, t0$ 
112  t0.  $2 \vdash 2, pt$ 
113  pt.  $\rightarrow, t$ 
114  pco0.  $x \vdash 2, pco$ 
115  pco.  $\rightarrow, zco$ 
116  zco.  $1 \vdash x, co$ 
117
118 def [s]inc2|t, co :
119  [s]search1|r0, r1, r2
120  [r0|pushinc2|t0, co0]
121  [r1|pushinc2|t1, co1]
122  [r2|pushinc2|t2, co2]
123  [t2, t0, t1|search1|t]
124  [co0, co1, co2|search1|co]
125
126 def [s]dec2|t :
127  [s, co]inc2|t]
128
129 def [s]init1|r :
130  s.  $\rightarrow, u$ 
131  u.  $\underline{11} \vdash \underline{xy}, e$ 
132  e.  $\rightarrow, r$ 
133
134 def [s]RCM1|co1, co2 :
135  [s]init1|s0]
136  [s0|test1|s12, n]
137  [s1inc1|s2, co1]
138  [s2inc2|s3, co2]
139  [s3|test1|n', s1p]
140  [s12, s1p|test1|s1]
141
142 def [s]init2|r :
143  s.  $\rightarrow, u$ 
144  u.  $\underline{22} \vdash \underline{xy}, e$ 
145  e.  $\rightarrow, r$ 
146
147 def [s]RCM2|co1, co2 :
148  [s]init2|s0]
149  [s0|test1|s12, n]
150  [s1inc1|s2, co1]
151  [s2inc2|s3, co2]
152  [s3|test1|n', s1p]
153  [s12, s1p|test1|s1]
154
155 fun [s]check1|t :
156  [s]RCM1|co1, co2, ...
157  [co1, co2, ...].RCM1|t]
158
159 fun [s]check2|t :
160  [s]RCM2|co1, co2, ...
161  [co1, co2, ...].RCM2|t]

```

# Going further

What is the equivalent of an aperiodic tileset for RTM?

## Periodicity and Immortality in Reversible Computing

Jarkko Kari (Dpt. of Mathematics, University of Turku, Finland)

Nicolas Ollinger (LIF, Aix-Marseille Université, CNRS, France)

Toruń, Poland — August 27, 2008

J. Kari and N. Ollinger. Periodicity and Immortality in Reversible Computing.  
E. Ochmanski and J. Tysskiewicz (Eds.) MFCS 2008. LNCS 5162, pp. 419–430, 2008.

...

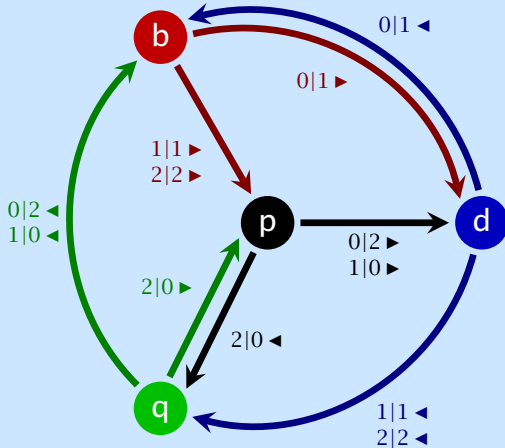
## Open Problems with conjectures

**Conjecture 1** It is undecidable whether a given complete 2-RCM admits a periodic configuration. (*proven if you remove complete or replace 2 by 3*)

**Conjecture 2** There exists a complete RTM without a periodic configuration. (*known for DTM [BCN02]*)

**Conjecture 3** It is undecidable whether a given complete RTM admits a periodic configuration. (*known for DTM [BCN02]*)

**Theorem** To find if a given **complete reversible Turing machine** admits a **periodic orbit** is  $\Sigma_1$ -complete.



## 4. Dynamics of Turing machines

# Turing machines (quintuples)

---

We go back to more classical TM.

**Definition** A **Turing machine** is a triple  $(Q, \Sigma, \delta)$  where  $Q$  is the finite set of states,  $\Sigma$  is the finite set of tape symbols and  $\delta : Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow Q \times \Sigma \times \{\blacktriangleleft, \blacktriangleright\}$  is the transition function.

Transition  $\delta(s, a) = (t, b, d)$  means:

*“in state  $s$ , when reading the symbol  $a$  on the tape, replace it by  $b$  move the head in direction  $d$  and enter state  $t$ .”*

**Remark** We do not care about blank symbol or initial and final states, we see Turing machines as dynamical systems.

# Reversible Turing machines

Intuitively, a TM is **reversible** if there exists another TM to compute backwards: “ $T_2 = T_1^{-1}$ ”. **Forget technical details...**

**Definition** A TM is **reversible** if  $\delta$  can be decomposed as:

$$\delta(s, a) = (t, b, \rho(t)) \quad \text{where } (t, b) = \sigma(s, a)$$

$$\rho : Q \rightarrow \{\blacktriangleleft, \blacktriangleright\}$$

$$\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_{Q \times \Sigma}$$

**Remark**  $\delta^{-1}(t, b) = (s, a, \blacklozenge(\rho(s)))$

# Moving head vs moving tape dynamics

TMH

$$X_h \subset (Q \cup \Sigma)^{\mathbb{Z}}$$

$$T_h : X_h \rightarrow X_h$$

... 000000**b**000000000...  
... 0000001**d**000000000...  
... 000000**b**110000000...  
... 0000001**p**100000000...  
... 00000010**d**000000000...  
... 0000001**b**010000000...  
... 00000011**d**100000000...  
... 0000001**q**110000000...  
... 000000**b**101000000...  
... 0000001**p**010000000...  
⋮

TMT

$$X_t = {}^{\omega}\Sigma \times Q \times \Sigma^{\omega}$$

$$T_t : X_t \rightarrow X_t$$

... 0000000**b**000000000...  
... 00000001**d**000000000...  
... 0000000**b**110000000...  
... 00000001**p**100000000...  
... 00000010**d**000000000...  
... 00000001**b**010000000...  
... 00000011**d**100000000...  
... 00000001**q**110000000...  
... 0000000**b**101000000...  
... 00000001**p**010000000...  
⋮

# Trace-shift dynamics

ST

$$S_T \subseteq (Q \times \Sigma)^\omega$$

$$\sigma : S_T \rightarrow S_T$$

TMT

$$X_t = {}^\omega\Sigma \times Q \times \Sigma^\omega$$

$$T_t : X_t \rightarrow X_t$$

The column shift of TMT

0 0 1 1 0 0 1 1 1 0  
**b** **d** **b** **p** **d** **b** **d** **q** **b** **p** ...

```

... 0000000b00000000...
... 0000001d00000000...
... 0000000b11000000...
... 0000001p10000000...
... 0000010d00000000...
... 0000001b01000000...
... 0000011d10000000...
... 0000001q11000000...
... 0000000b10100000...
... 0000001p01000000...
...

```

# Searching for a reduction

---

We want to prove the following:

**Theorem** To find if a given **complete reversible Turing machine** admits a **periodic orbit** is  $\Sigma_1$ -complete.

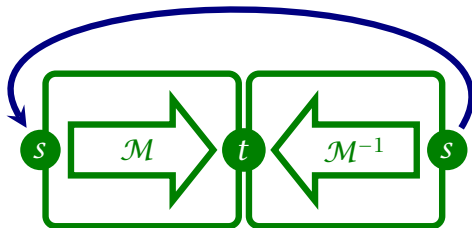
In the partial case we use the following tool:

**Prop[KO08]** To find if a given **(aperiodic) RTM** can reach a given state  $t$  from a given state  $s$  is  $\Sigma_1$ -complete.

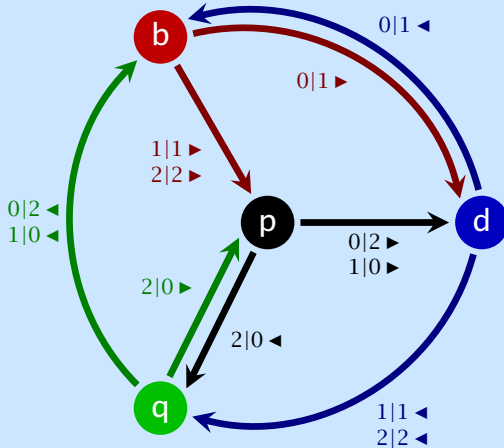


# The partial case

**Principle of the reduction** Associate to an (aperiodic) RTM  $\mathcal{M}$  with given  $s$  and  $t$  a new machine with a periodic orbit if and only if  $t$  is reachable from  $s$ .



We need to find a way to **complete** the constructed machine. We will **embed** it into a **complete aperiodic** RTM.



## 5. a SMART machine

# The SMART machine $\mathcal{C}$

---

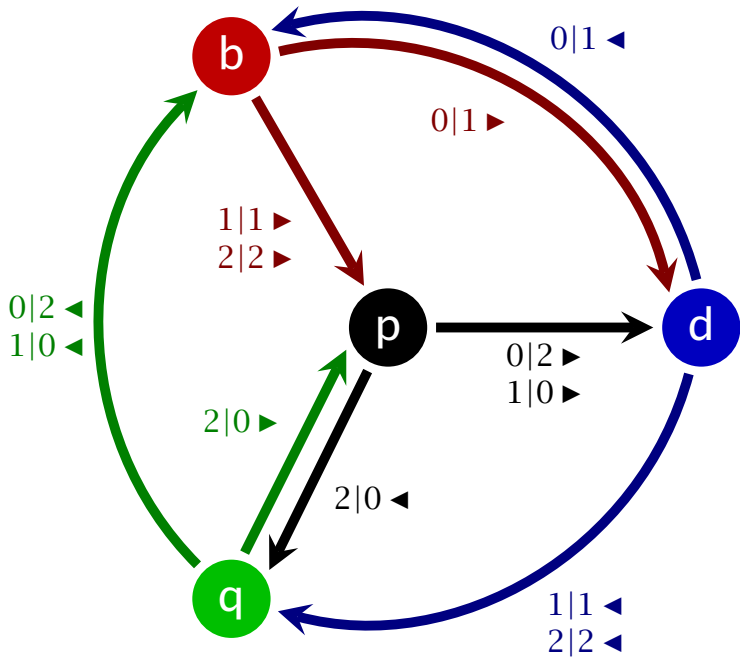
**Conj[Kůrka97]** Every **complete** TM has a **periodic** point.

**Thm[BCN02]** No, here is an **aperiodic** complete TM.

**Rk** It relies on the **bounded search** technique [Hooper66].

In 2008, I asked **J. Cassaigne** if he had a reversible version of the BCN construction. . .

. . . he answered with a small machine  $\mathcal{C}$  which is a reversible and (drastic) simplification of the BCN machine.





# The SMART machine $\mathcal{C}$

---

A 4-state 3-symbols TM with nice properties:

**complete** no halting configuration

**reversible** reversed by a TM...

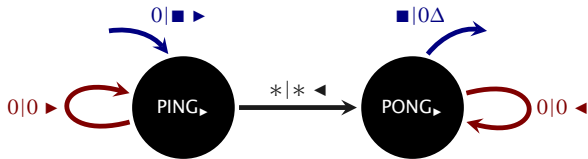
**time-symmetric** ... essentially itself (up to details)

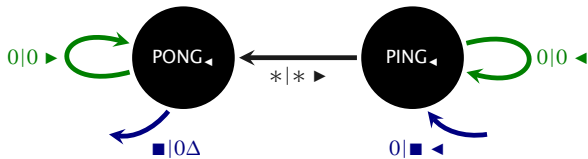
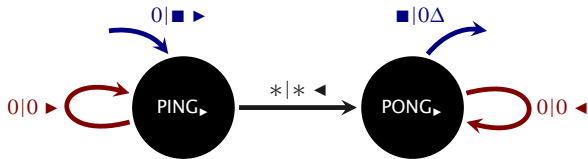
**aperiodic** no time periodic orbit

**substitutive** substitution-generated trace-shift language

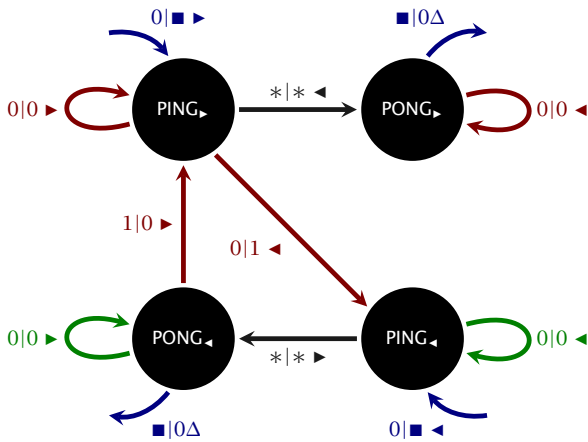
**TMT-minimal** every orbit is dense with moving tape

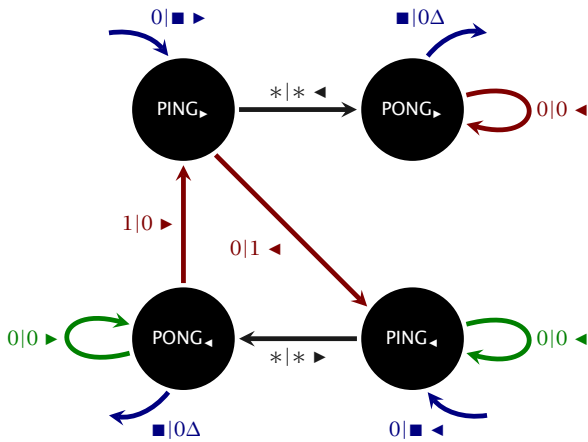
How does it work?

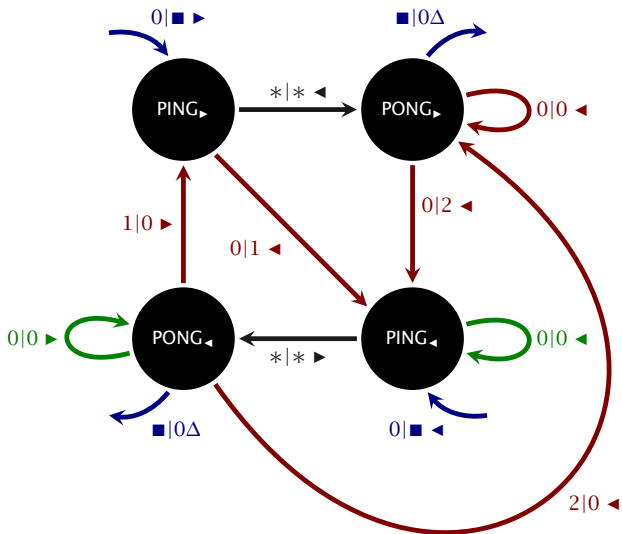


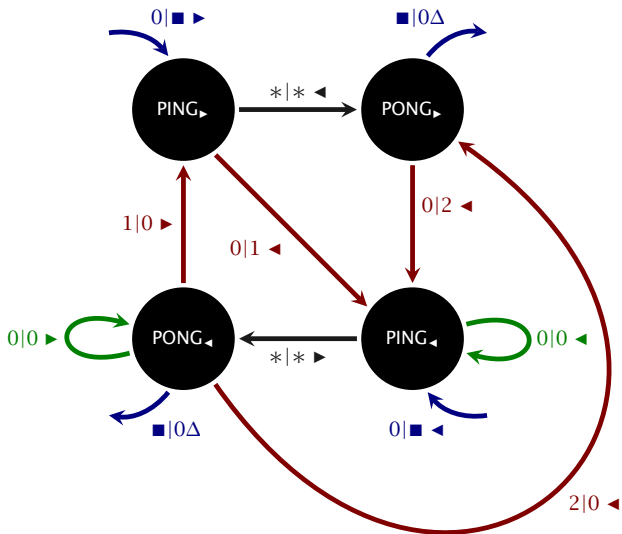


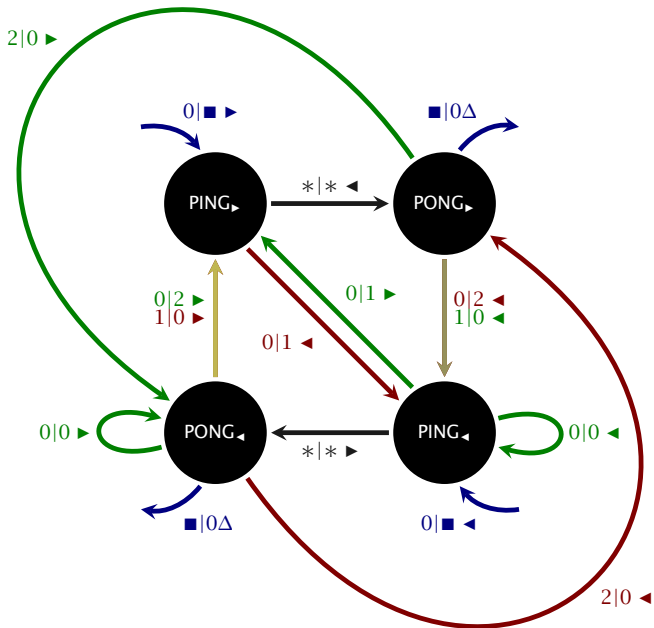


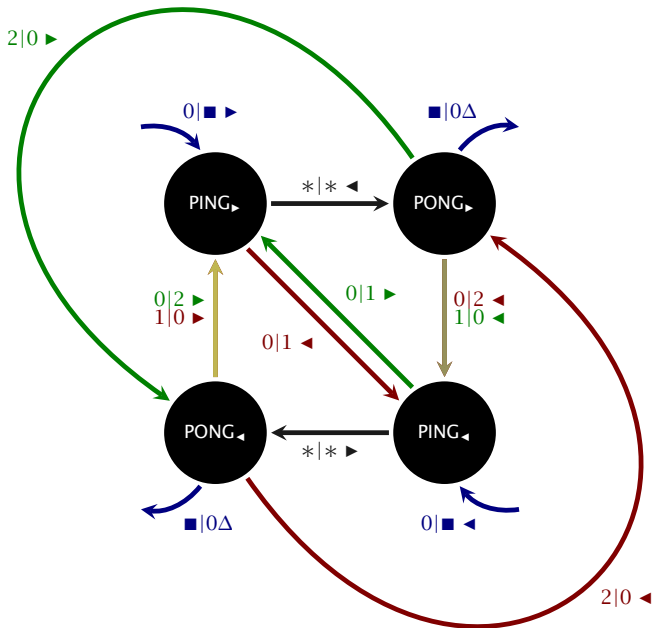


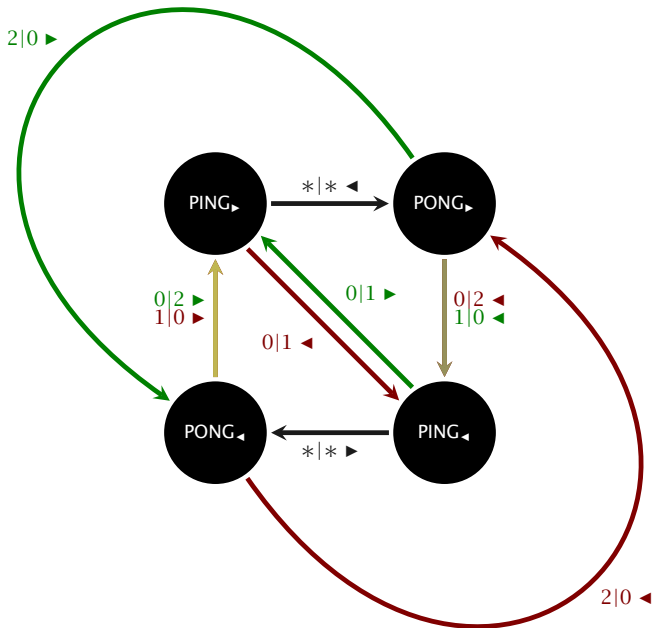


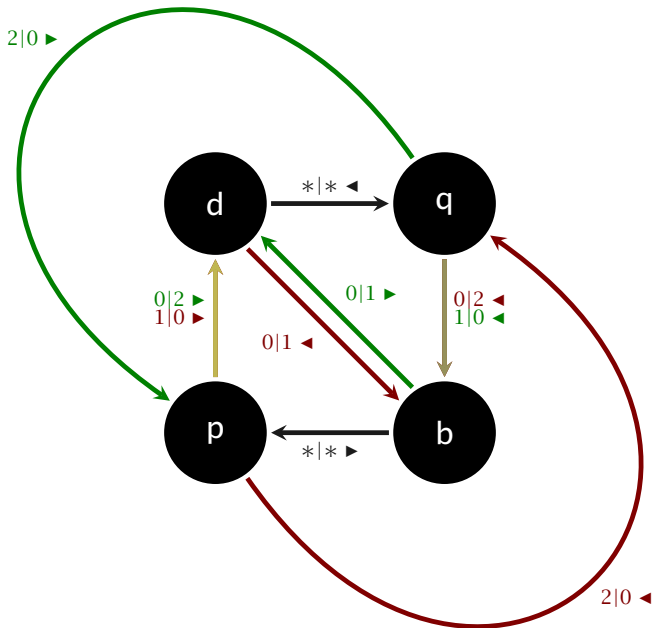














# Recursive behavior

---

PING<sub>▶</sub>(n):

for i=1 to n:

d. 0|1, b ◀

PING<sub>◀</sub>(i - 1)

d. x|x, q ◀

for i=n downto 1:

q. 0|2, b ◀

PING<sub>◀</sub>(i - 1)

q. y|0, α(y) τ(y)

PING<sub>◀</sub>(n):

for i=1 to n:

b. 0|1, d ▶

PING<sub>▶</sub>(i - 1)

b. x|x, p ▶

for i=n downto 1:

p. 0|2, d ▶

PING<sub>▶</sub>(i - 1)

p. y|0, α'(y) τ'(y)

$$\begin{cases} f(0) & = 2 \\ f(n+1) & = 3f(n) \end{cases}$$

# Substitutive trace subshift

---

$$\varphi \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \mathbf{b} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{matrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ \mathbf{b} & \mathbf{d} & \mathbf{b} & \mathbf{p} \end{matrix}$$

$$\varphi \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{b} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{matrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{b} \end{matrix}$$

$$\varphi \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \mathbf{p} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{matrix} 0 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ \mathbf{p} & \mathbf{d} & \mathbf{b} & \mathbf{p} \end{matrix}$$

$$\varphi \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{p} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{matrix} 0 & \mathbf{x} & 2 & \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{p} & \mathbf{d} & \mathbf{q} & \mathbf{p} \end{matrix}$$

$$\varphi \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \mathbf{d} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{matrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ \mathbf{d} & \mathbf{b} & \mathbf{d} & \mathbf{q} \end{matrix}$$

$$\varphi \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{d} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{matrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{d} \end{matrix}$$

$$\varphi \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \mathbf{q} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{matrix} 0 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ \mathbf{q} & \mathbf{b} & \mathbf{d} & \mathbf{q} \end{matrix}$$

$$\varphi \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{q} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{matrix} 0 & \mathbf{x} & 2 & \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{q} & \mathbf{b} & \mathbf{p} & \mathbf{q} \end{matrix}$$

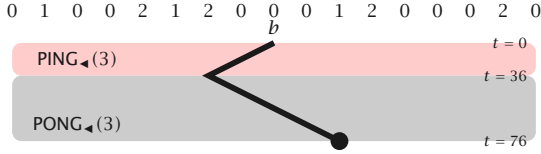
exponential time



0 1 0 0 2 1 2 0 0 0 1 2 0 0 0 2 0  
 $b$

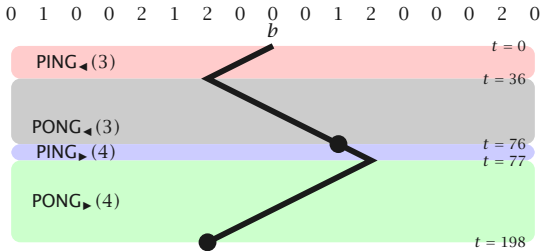
forward prediction

exponential time



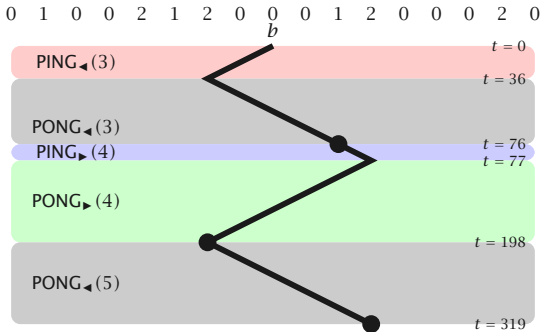
forward prediction

exponential time



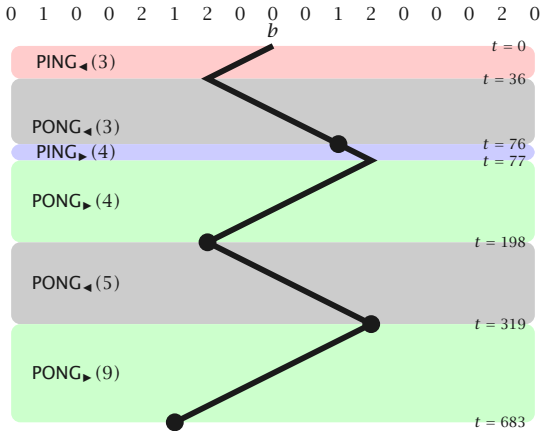
forward prediction

exponential time



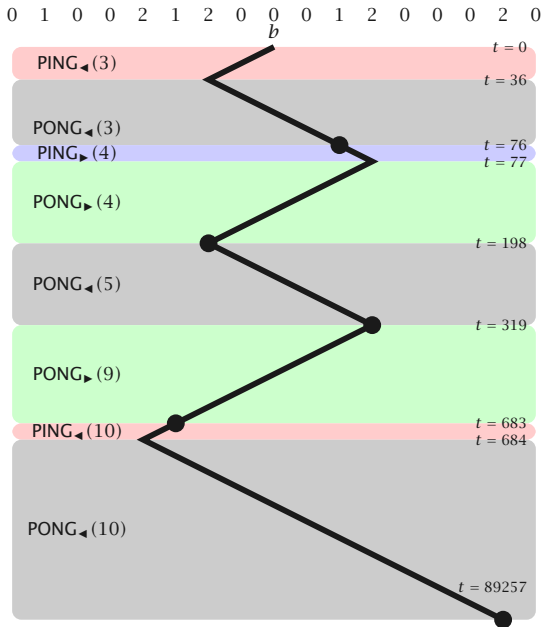
forward prediction

exponential time



forward prediction

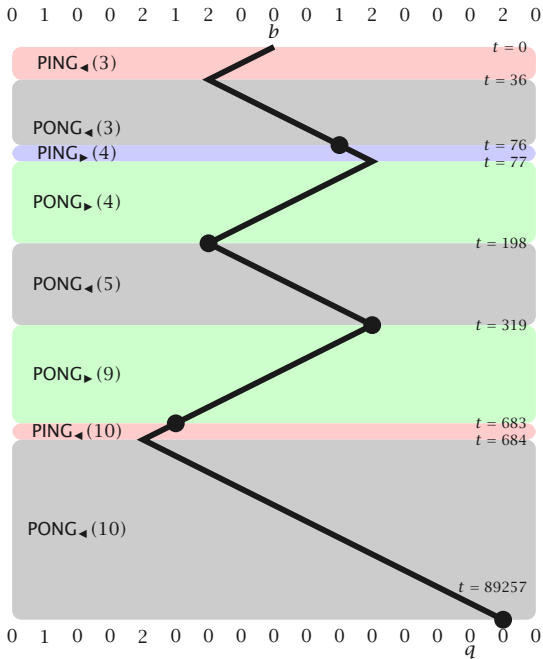
exponential time



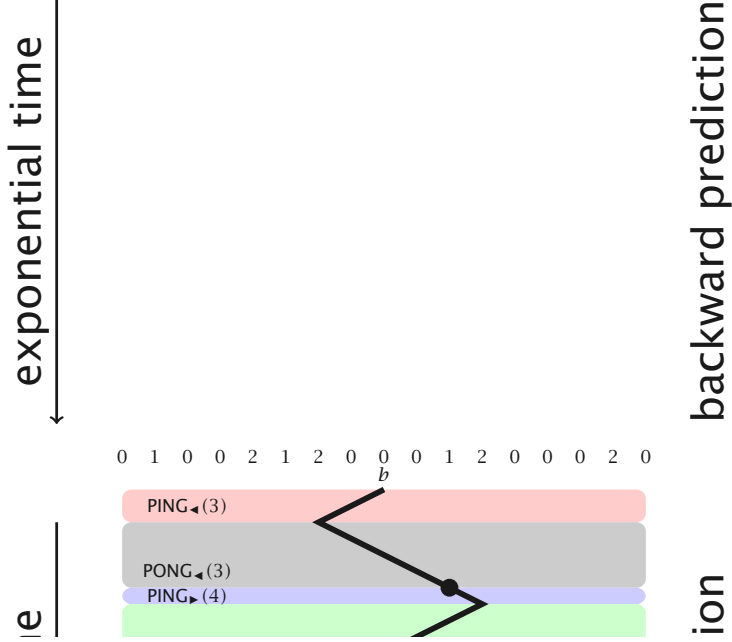
forward prediction

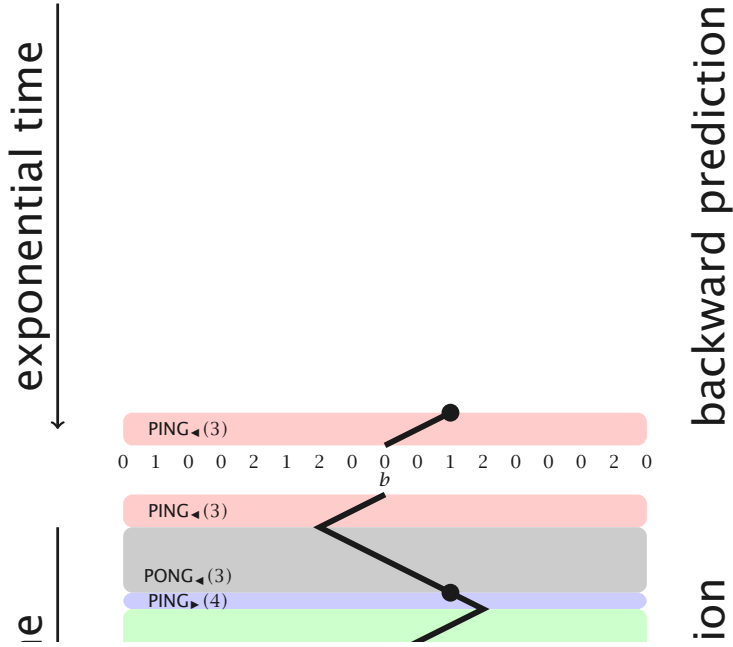


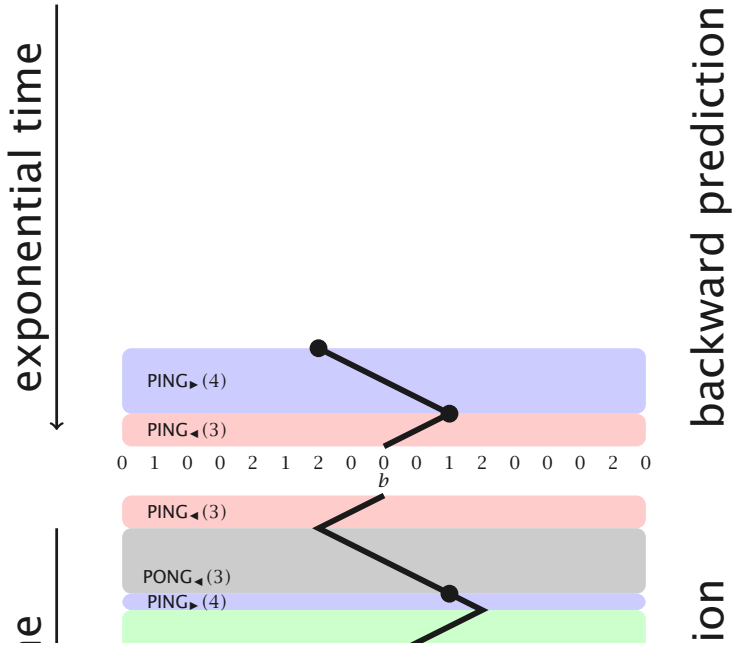
exponential time

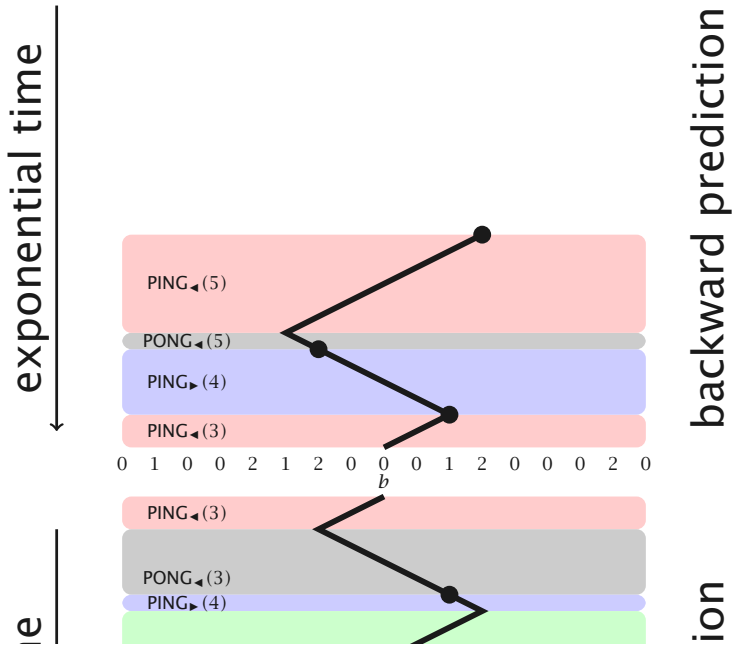


forward prediction

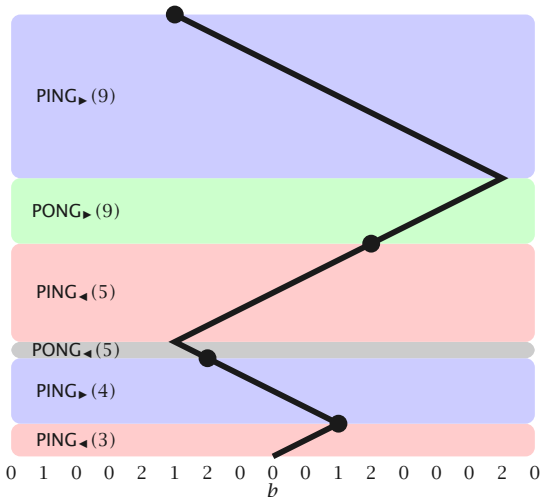






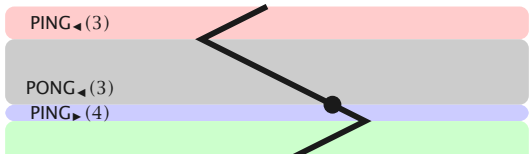


exponential time



backward prediction

e



ion

exponential time



0 1 0 0 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 0

*d*

PING<sub>▶</sub>(9)

PONG<sub>▶</sub>(9)

PING<sub>◀</sub>(5)

PONG<sub>◀</sub>(5)

PING<sub>▶</sub>(4)

PING<sub>◀</sub>(3)

0 1 0 0 2 1 2 0 0 1 2 0 0 0 2 0

*b*

PING<sub>◀</sub>(3)

PONG<sub>◀</sub>(3)

PING<sub>▶</sub>(4)

backward prediction

*e*

ion

# SMART is transitive in TMH, TMT and ST

**Proposition**  $\left( \begin{smallmatrix} \omega_2 & 2 & 2^\omega \\ & p & \end{smallmatrix} \right)$  is a **transitive point**.

## Proof

*(Forward)* For all  $k \geq 0$ :

$$\left( \begin{smallmatrix} \omega_2 & 2 & 2^\omega \\ & p & \end{smallmatrix} \right) \vdash^* \left( \begin{smallmatrix} \omega_2 & 2 & 0^k \cdot 0 & 0^k & 2^\omega \\ & q & \end{smallmatrix} \right) .$$

*(Backward)* For every partial configuration  $\left( \begin{smallmatrix} u & \dot{\alpha} & v \\ \leftarrow & & \rightarrow \end{smallmatrix} \right)$ , there exist  $w, w' \in \{0, 1, 2\}^*$  and  $k > 0$  big enough such that

$$\left( \begin{smallmatrix} \omega_2 & 2 & 0^k \cdot 0 & 0^k & 2^\omega \\ & q & \end{smallmatrix} \right) \vdash^* \left( \begin{smallmatrix} \omega_2 & w & u & \dot{\alpha} & v & w' & 2^\omega \\ & & \leftarrow & & \rightarrow & \end{smallmatrix} \right) .$$





# Typical use

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Combining the SMART machine with a generic **Embedding technique** provides new undecidability results.

**Theorem Transitivity** is  $\Pi_1^0$ -hard in TMH, TMT and ST.

**Theorem Minimality** is  $\Sigma_1^0$ -hard in TMT and ST.

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