

# Abstract Interpretation of Dynamics of Biological Regulatory Networks

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ENS / Working group: Computational Biology  
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## Computer science for systems biology

- Models for **dynamical concurrent systems**.
- **Validation** of the model / **control** of the system.
- We focus on **Biological Regulatory Networks** (BRNs).
- We introduce a new modelling framework: the **Process Hitting**.

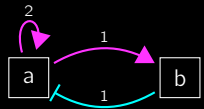
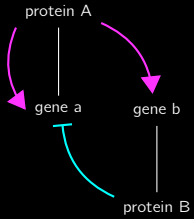
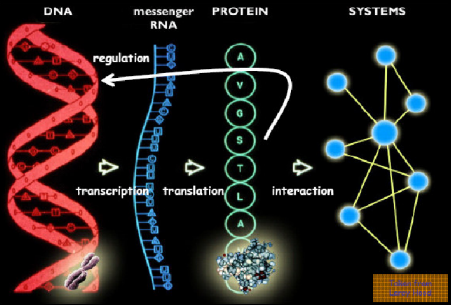
## Large scale model checking (dynamical properties)

- Cope with state space explosion.
- Our approach: **static analysis** of the model.

## Outline

- ① Introduction to BRNs.
- ② The **Process Hitting**.
- ③ **Abstract interpretation and static analysis** of **reachability** properties.
- ④ Applications to large BRNs + on-going work.

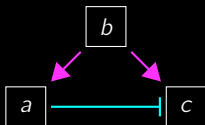
# Biological Regulatory Networks (BRNs)



# Biological Regulatory Networks (BRNs)

- Relates **components** with actions of **activation** and **inhibition**;
- each component has a **finite number of ordered discrete states**;
- the next state of a component is function of its activators/inhibitors.

## Interaction graph



## Cooperation

For instance (boolean case):  $c = \neg a \wedge b$ .

[René Thomas in *Journal of Theoretical Biology*, 1973] [A. Richard, J.-P. Comet, G. Bernot in *Modern Formal Methods and Applications*, 2006]

## Dynamics Properties from Interaction Graph

An interaction graph can describe a **large set of different dynamics** (think to different cooperations between components).



Mathematical work on **relationship between the interaction graph and dynamical properties**:

- Multi-stationnarity requires a positive circuit (René Thomas conjecture) [Soule in ComPlexUs, 2003] [Richard, Comet in Discrete Appl. Math., 2007].
- Sustained oscillations requires a negative circuit (René Thomas conjecture) [Remy, et al. in Adv. Appl. Math., 2008] [Richard in Adv. Appl. Math., 2010].
- The maximum number of fixed points can be characterized [Aracena in Bul. of Mathematical Biology, 2008]; [Richard in Discrete Appl. Math., 2009].
- Topological Fixed Points [Paulevé, Richard in CRAS 2010].

## Scalable Dynamics Analysis

### Objectives

- Analyse dynamics of **large BRNs**.
- Don't get lost in the state space.
- SotA: 20-30 components (we address easily 100 components).

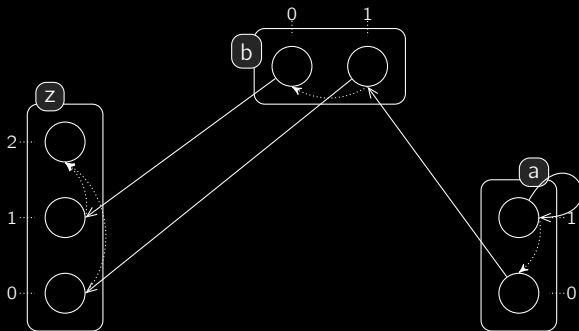
### Methods

- **Static analysis + Abstract interpretation**.
- Focus on the **Process Hitting**.
- Take advantage of **Process Hitting simple structures**.

### Outline

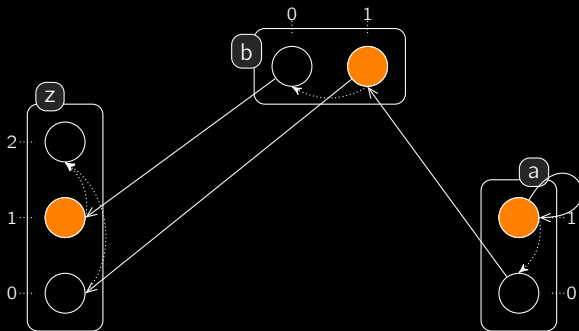
- The Process Hitting.
- Interpretation of BRNs in Process Hitting.
- Static analysis of reachability properties (over- and under-approximations).
- Application to BRNs of 94 and 104 components.

## The Process Hitting Framework



- **Sorts:**  $a, b, z$ ; **Processes:**  $a_0, a_1, b_0, b_1, z_0, z_1, z_2$ ;
- **Actions:**  $a_0$  hits  $b_1$  to make it bounce to  $b_0, \dots$ ;
- **States:**  $\langle a_1, b_1, z_1 \rangle, \langle a_0, b_1, z_1 \rangle, \langle a_0, b_0, z_1 \rangle, \dots$ ;
- Restriction of Communicating Finite-State Machines.

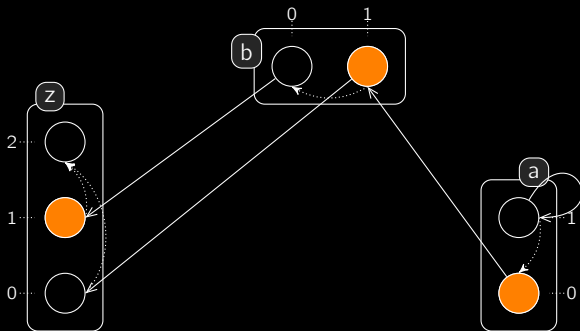
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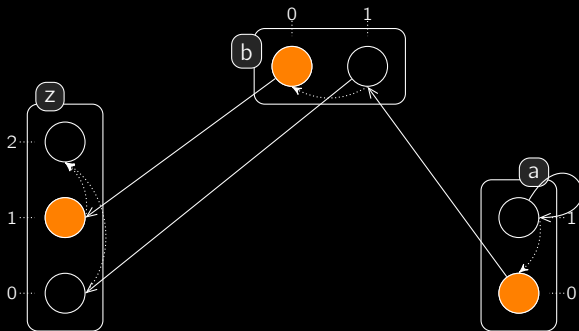


# The Process Hitting Framework



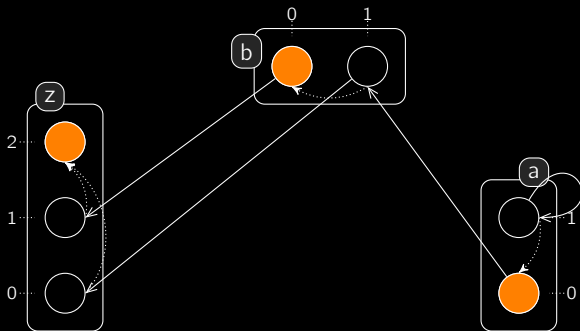
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## The Process Hitting Framework



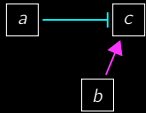
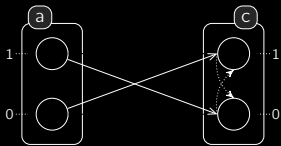
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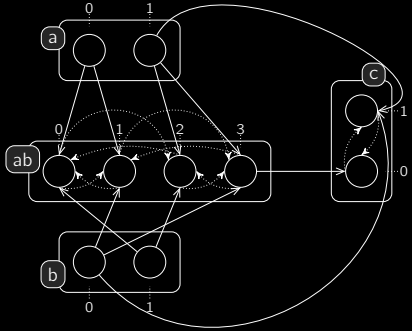


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## From BRNs to Process Hittings

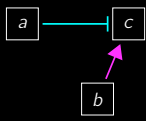
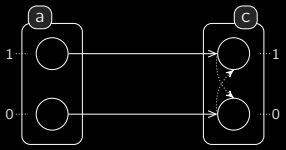


$$c = \bar{a} \wedge b$$

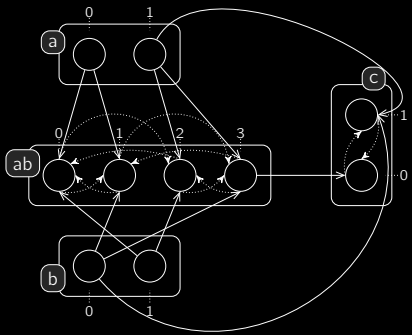


[Paulevé, Magnin, Roux on Trans. on Computational Systems Biology, 2010]

## From BRNs to Process Hittings



$$c = \neg a \wedge b$$



[Paulevé, Magnin, Roux on Trans. on Computational Systems Biology, 2010]

## The Process Reachability Problem

**Scenario:** sequence of successively playable actions.

$$b_1 \rightarrow a_0 \uparrow a_1, a_1 \rightarrow b_1 \uparrow b_0, b_0 \rightarrow d_0 \uparrow d_1, c_0 \rightarrow d_1 \uparrow d_2$$

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Abstraction by objective sequences

- $a_0 \uparrow^* a_1, b_1 \uparrow^* b_0, d_0 \uparrow^* d_1, d_1 \uparrow^* d_2$

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- $b_1 \uparrow^* b_0, d_0 \uparrow^* d_2$
- $d_0 \uparrow^* d_2$
- ...

### Abstraction by bounce sequences

- $a_1 \rightarrow b_1 \uparrow b_0$  ( $b_1 \uparrow^* b_0$ )

## The Process Reachability Problem

**Scenario:** sequence of successively playable actions.

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- $a_1 \rightarrow b_1 \uparrow b_0$  ( $b_1 \uparrow^* b_0$ )
- $b_0 \rightarrow d_0 \uparrow d_1, c_0 \rightarrow d_1 \uparrow d_2$  ( $d_0 \uparrow^* d_2$ )

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**Scenario:** sequence of successively playable actions.

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- $b_0 \rightarrow d_0 \uparrow d_1, c_0 \rightarrow d_1 \uparrow d_2$  ( $d_0 \uparrow^* d_2$ )

### Process Reachability

Is an **objective sequence**  $a_i \uparrow^* a_j, \dots, z_k \uparrow^* z_l$  **concretizable** in a state  $s$ ?

$$EF(s_a = a_j \wedge EF(\dots \wedge EF(s_z = z_l) \dots))$$

[Paulevé, Magnin, Roux at SASB 2010 + MSCS in prep.]

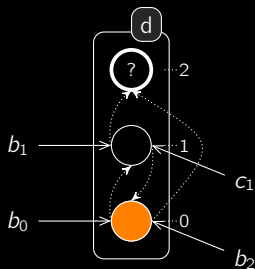
## (Abstracted) Bounce Sequences

### Objectives

$d_0 \dot{\mapsto}^* d_2, d_1 \dot{\mapsto}^* d_2, \dots$

### Bounce Sequences

Only minimal sequences are kept.



$$\mathcal{BS}(d_0 \dot{\mapsto}^* d_2) = \{ [b_0 \rightarrow d_0 \dot{\mapsto} d_1; b_1 \rightarrow d_1 \dot{\mapsto} d_2], \\ [b_2 \rightarrow d_0 \dot{\mapsto} d_2] \}$$

$$\mathcal{BS}(d_1 \dot{\mapsto}^* d_2) = \{ [b_1 \rightarrow d_1 \dot{\mapsto} d_2], \\ [c_1 \rightarrow d_1 \dot{\mapsto} d_0; b_2 \rightarrow d_0 \dot{\mapsto} d_2] \}$$

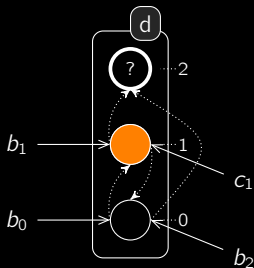
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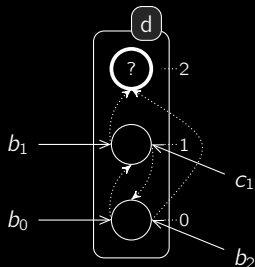
## (Abstracted) Bounce Sequences

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$$d_0 \dot{\mapsto}^* d_2, d_1 \dot{\mapsto}^* d_2, \dots$$

## Bounce Sequences

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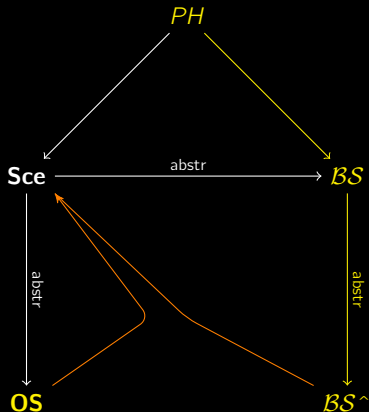
## Abstracted Bounce Sequences

Only hitters are kept, and the order is forgotten.

$$\mathcal{BS}^\wedge(d_0 \dot{\mapsto}^* d_2) = \{\{b_0, b_1\}, \{b_2\}\}$$

$$\mathcal{BS}^\wedge(d_1 \dot{\mapsto}^* d_2) = \{\{b_1\}, \{b_2, c_1\}\}$$

## Overall Approach



Idea: merge bounce sequences and objective sequences to form a scenario.

$$\omega = a_0 \dot{\rightarrow}^* a_1, d_0 \dot{\rightarrow}^* d_2$$

$$\mathcal{BS}(a_0 \dot{\rightarrow}^* a_1) = \{[b_1 \rightarrow a_0 \dot{\rightarrow} a_1]\}$$

$$\mathcal{BS}(d_0 \dot{\rightarrow}^* d_2) = \{[a_1 \rightarrow d_0 \dot{\rightarrow} d_1; b_0 \rightarrow d_1 \dot{\rightarrow} d_2]\}$$

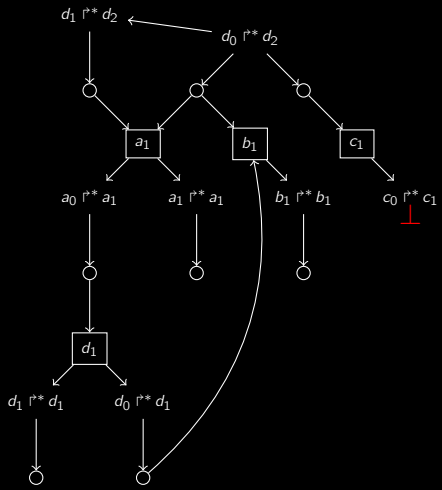
$$\mathcal{BS}^\wedge(a_0 \dot{\rightarrow}^* a_1) = \{\{b_1\}\}$$

$$\mathcal{BS}^\wedge(d_0 \dot{\rightarrow}^* d_2) = \{\{a_1, b_0\}\}$$

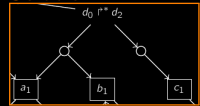
Use of an abstract structure relating dependencies between objectives and processes.



# Process Hitting Abstract Structure



### Solution



$$\{\{a_1, b_1\}, \{c_1\}\} \subset BS^{\wedge}(d_0 \dot{r}^* d_2).$$

### Requirement



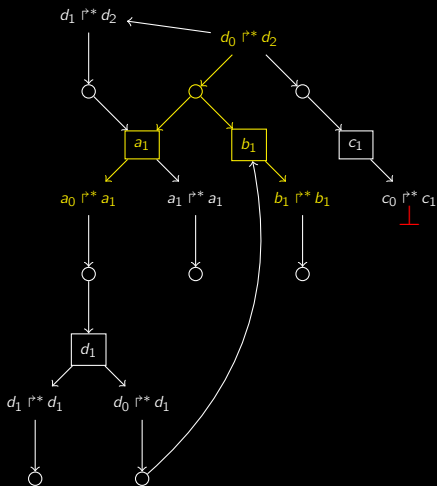
Objective to resolve (from current state).

### Continuity



Objective resolution split.

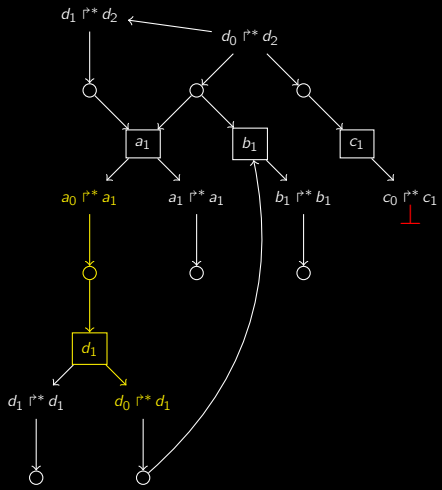
## Process Hitting Abstract Structure

Starting with state  $\langle a_0, b_1, c_0, d_0 \rangle$ : $d_0 \dot{\rceil}^* d_2$  $\downarrow$ 

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} a_0 \dot{\rceil}^* a_1, b_1 \dot{\rceil}^* b_1, d_0 \dot{\rceil}^* d_2 \\ b_1 \dot{\rceil}^* b_1, a_0 \dot{\rceil}^* a_1, d_0 \dot{\rceil}^* d_2 \end{array} \right.$$

# Process Hitting Abstract Structure

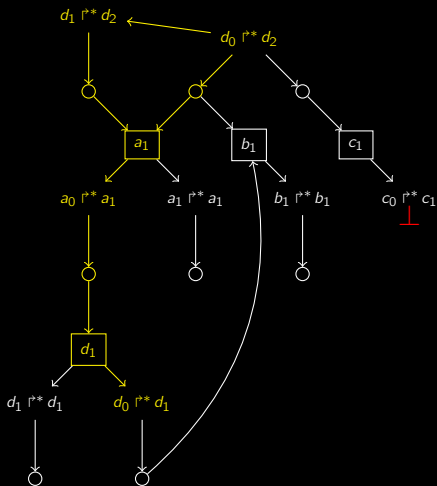
Starting with state  $\langle a_0, b_1, c_0, d_0 \rangle$ :



$$\begin{aligned}
 & d_0 \dot{\mapsto}^* d_2 \\
 & \quad \downarrow \\
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 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & a_0 \dot{\mapsto}^* a_1 \\
 & \quad \downarrow \\
 & d_0 \dot{\mapsto}^* d_1, a_0 \dot{\mapsto}^* a_1
 \end{aligned}$$

## Process Hitting Abstract Structure

Starting with state  $\langle a_0, b_1, c_0, d_0 \rangle$ :

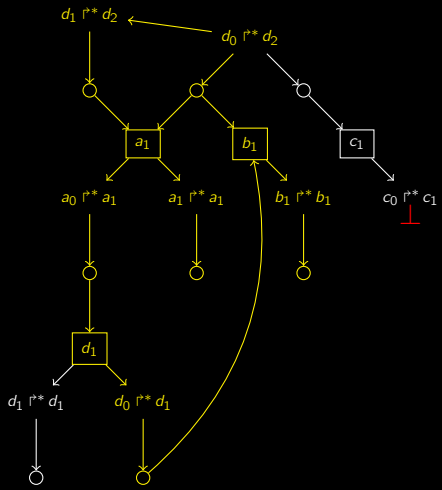
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# Process Hitting Abstract Structure

Starting with state  $\langle a_0, b_1, c_0, d_0 \rangle$ :



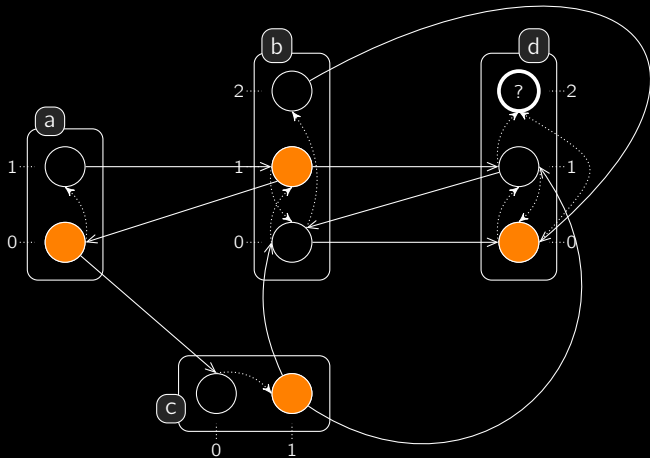
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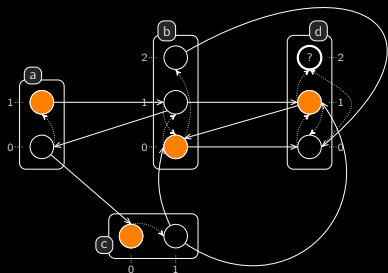
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 \end{aligned}$$

## Running Example

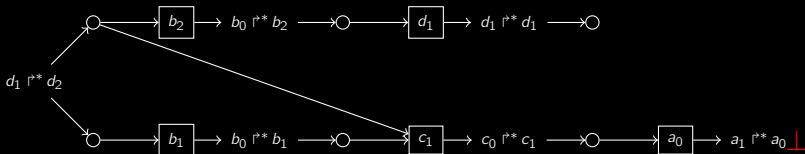


Is objective sequence  $d_0 \xrightarrow{*} d_2$  concretizable?

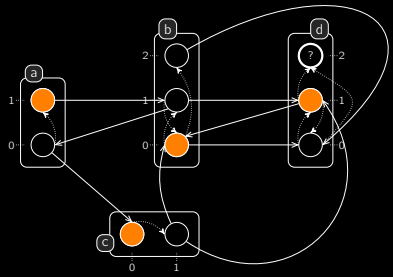
## Over-approximation of Process Reachability



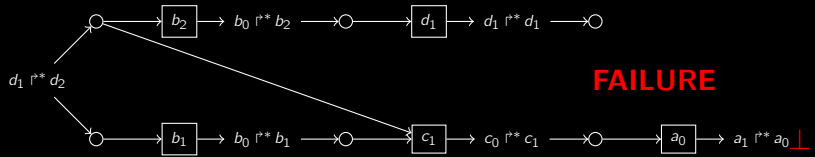
- Focus on **objectives starting from the initial state**;
- Add required objective redirections (not detailed);
- **Necessary condition**: there always exists a solution ending with a trivial objective.



## Over-approximation of Process Reachability



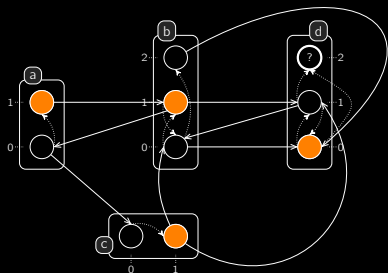
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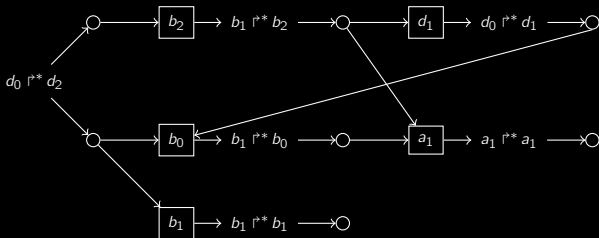
FAILURE



## Over-approximation of Process Reachability



- Focus on **objectives starting from the initial state**;
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- **Necessary condition**: there always exists a solution ending with a trivial objective.



OK

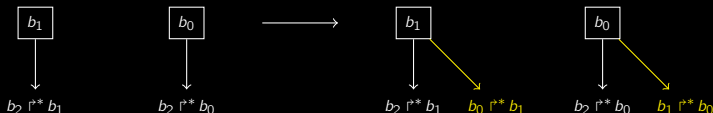
## Under-Approximation of Process Reachability

**Main idea:** whatever the order of resolution, there is always a solution.

### Conditions

- All objectives have at least one solution;
- No relation cycle;
- Requirements saturation;
- Continuity saturation (not detailed).

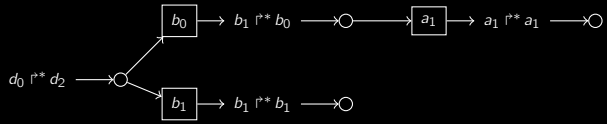
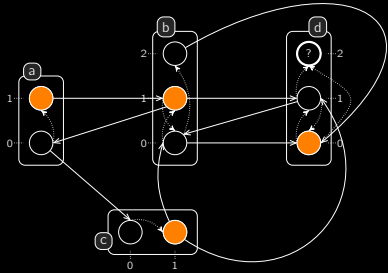
### Requirements saturation



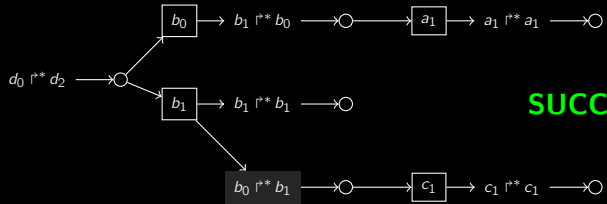
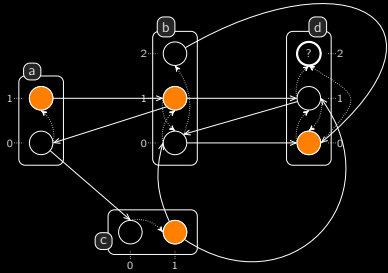
### Remark

To increase conclusiveness, one can **arbitrarily select objective solutions**.

# Under-Approximation of Process Reachability

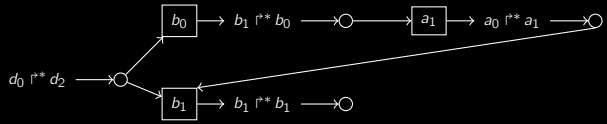
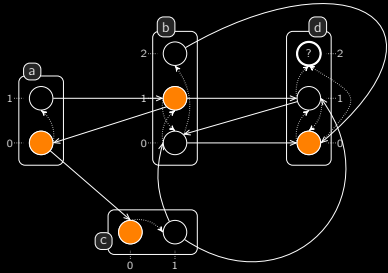


## Under-Approximation of Process Reachability

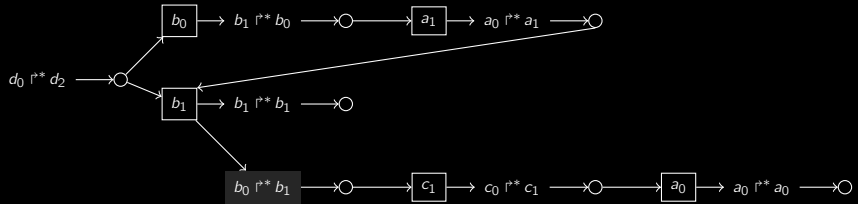
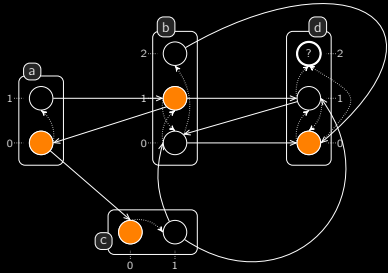


SUCCESS

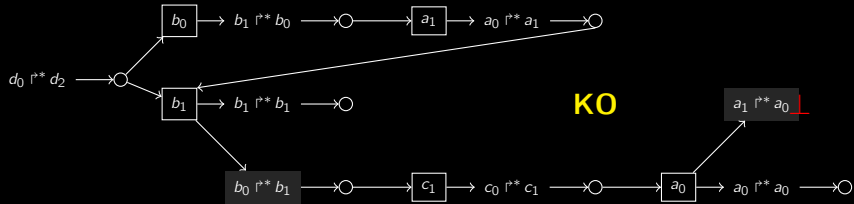
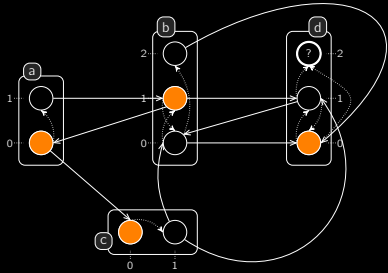
## Under-Approximation of Process Reachability



## Under-Approximation of Process Reachability



# Under-Approximation of Process Reachability



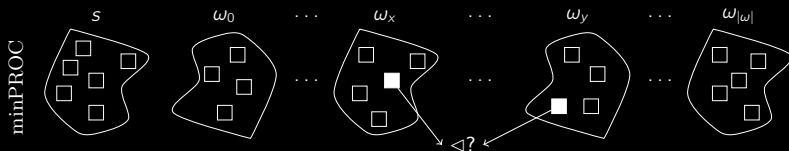
## Process Appearance Order Constraints

$a_j \triangleleft a_i \iff$  no scenario can be abstracted by  $a_i \uparrow^* a_j$ .

## Uncovering Order Constraints

$\mathcal{BS}(a_i \uparrow^* a_j) = \emptyset \implies a_j \triangleleft a_i$

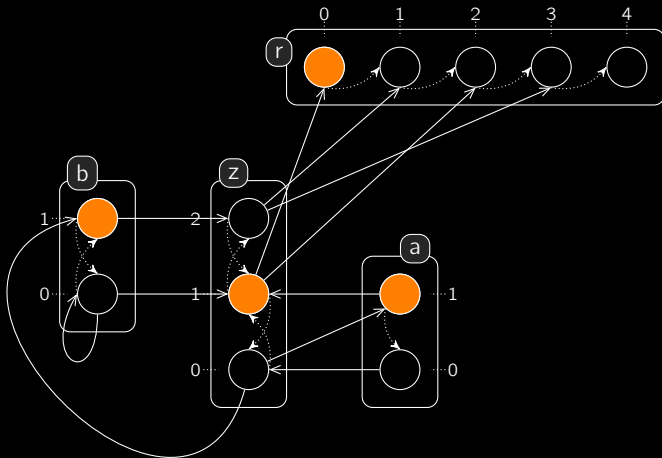
## Idea of Over-Approximation



- **Context**: set of potentially present processes.
- Computing **minimal processes** at step  $i$  needs to compute the **maximal context** at step  $i - 1$ .
- Work on the complete **saturated abstract structure**.



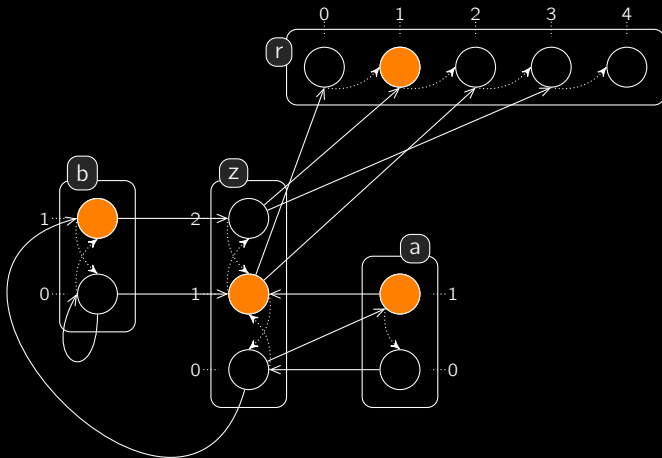
## Toy Example



$$BS(r_0 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} r_4) = \{[z_1 \rightarrow r_0 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} r_1, z_2 \rightarrow r_1 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} r_2, z_1 \rightarrow r_2 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} r_3, z_2 \rightarrow r_3 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} r_4]\}$$

Objective sequence to check:  $z_1 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} z_2, z_2 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} z_1, z_1 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} z_2.$

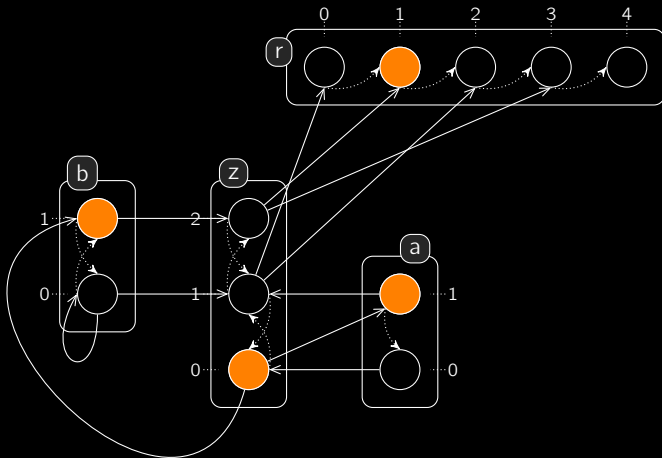
## Toy Example



$$BS(r_0 \vec{r}^* r_4) = \{[z_1 \vec{r}^* r_0, z_2 \vec{r}^* r_1, z_1 \vec{r}^* r_2, z_2 \vec{r}^* r_3, z_1 \vec{r}^* r_4]\}$$

Objective sequence to check:  $z_1 \vec{r}^* z_2, z_2 \vec{r}^* z_1, z_1 \vec{r}^* z_2$ .

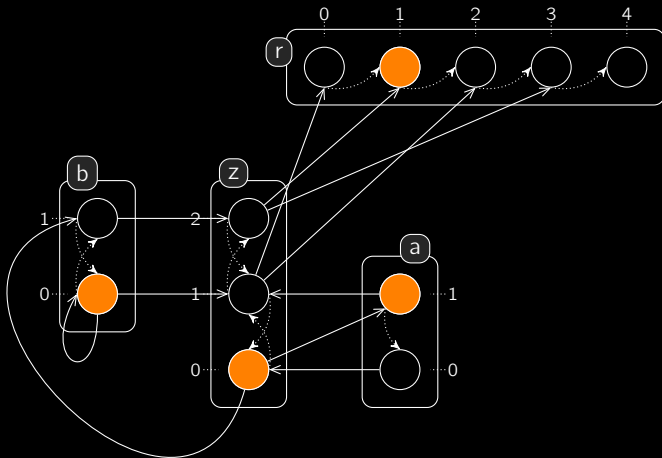
## Toy Example



$$BS(r_0 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} r_4) = \{[z_1 \rightarrow r_0 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} r_1, z_2 \rightarrow r_1 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} r_2, z_1 \rightarrow r_2 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} r_3, z_2 \rightarrow r_3 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} r_4]\}$$

Objective sequence to check:  $z_1 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} z_2, z_2 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} z_1, z_1 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} z_2.$

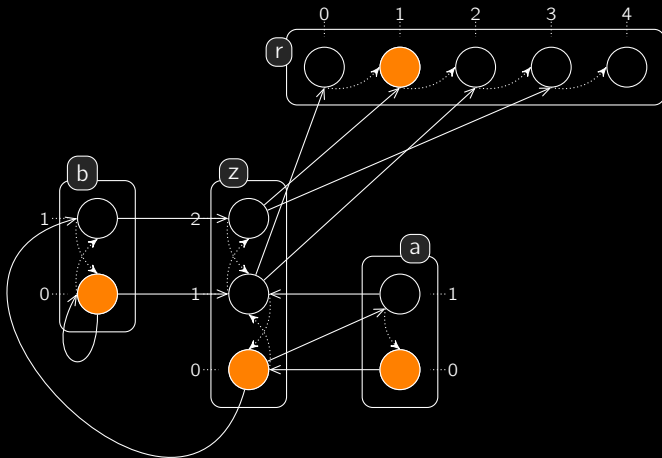
## Toy Example



$$BS(r_0 \vec{r}^* r_4) = \{[z_1 \vec{r}^* r_1, z_2 \vec{r}^* r_2, z_1 \vec{r}^* r_3, z_2 \vec{r}^* r_4]\}$$

Objective sequence to check:  $z_1 \vec{r}^* z_2, z_2 \vec{r}^* z_1, z_1 \vec{r}^* z_2$ .

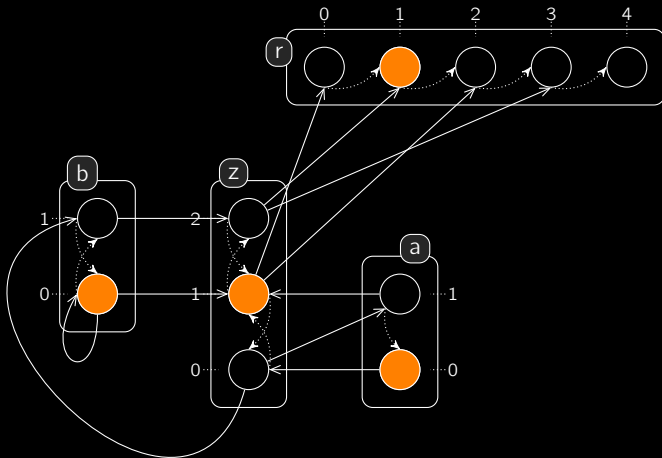
## Toy Example



$$BS(r_0 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} r_4) = \{[z_1 \rightarrow r_0 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} r_1, z_2 \rightarrow r_1 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} r_2, z_1 \rightarrow r_2 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} r_3, z_2 \rightarrow r_3 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} r_4]\}$$

Objective sequence to check:  $z_1 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} z_2, z_2 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} z_1, z_1 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} z_2$ .

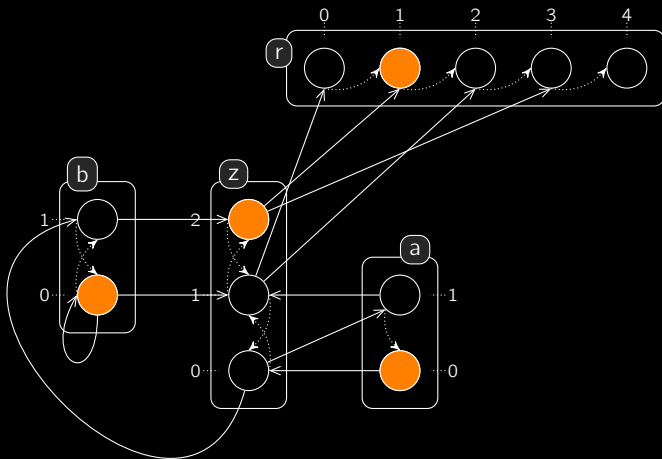
## Toy Example



$$BS(r_0 \vec{r}^* r_4) = \{[z_1 \vec{r}^* r_0, z_2 \vec{r}^* r_1, z_1 \vec{r}^* r_2, z_2 \vec{r}^* r_3, z_1 \vec{r}^* r_4]\}$$

Objective sequence to check:  $z_1 \vec{r}^* z_2, z_2 \vec{r}^* z_1, z_1 \vec{r}^* z_2$ .

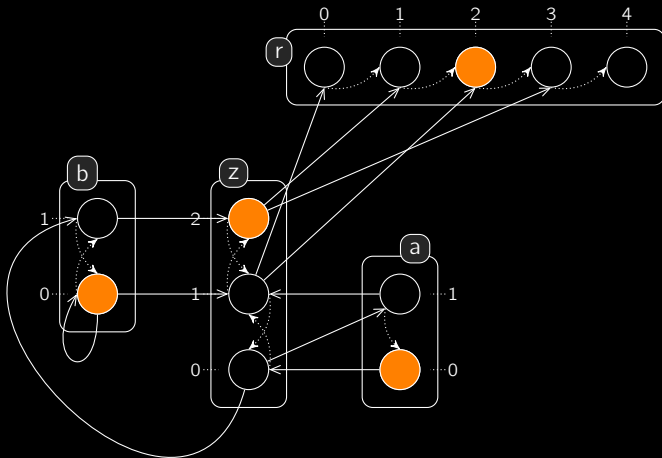
## Toy Example



$$BS(r_0 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} r_4) = \{[z_1 \rightarrow r_0 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} r_1, z_2 \rightarrow r_1 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} r_2, z_1 \rightarrow r_2 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} r_3, z_2 \rightarrow r_3 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} r_4]\}$$

Objective sequence to check:  $z_1 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} z_2, z_2 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} z_1, z_1 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} z_2$ .

## Toy Example

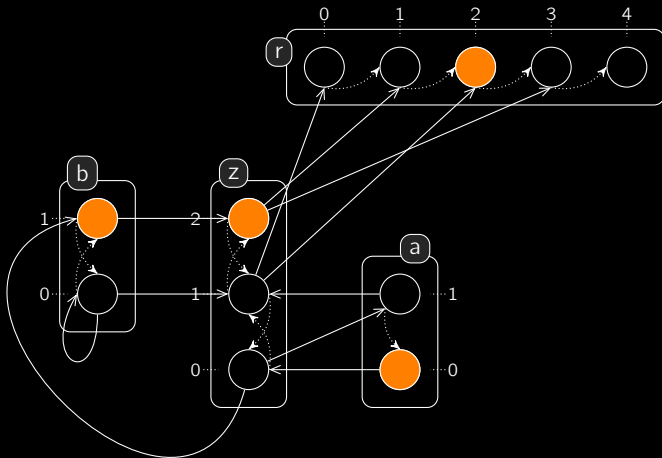


$$BS(r_0 \vec{r}^* r_4) = \{[z_1 \vec{r}^* r_0, z_2 \vec{r}^* r_1, z_1 \vec{r}^* r_2, z_2 \vec{r}^* r_3, z_1 \vec{r}^* r_4]\}$$

Objective sequence to check:  $z_1 \vec{r}^* z_2, z_2 \vec{r}^* z_1, z_1 \vec{r}^* z_2$ .



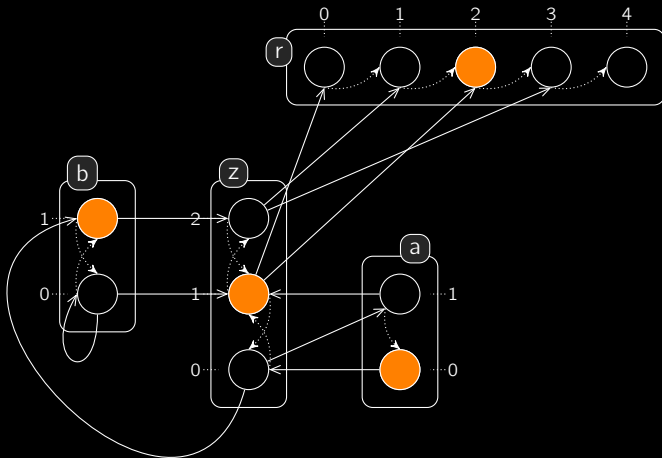
## Toy Example



$$BS(r_0 \vec{r}^* r_4) = \{[z_1 \vec{r}^* r_0 \vec{r}^* r_1, z_2 \vec{r}^* r_1 \vec{r}^* r_2, z_1 \vec{r}^* r_2 \vec{r}^* r_3, z_2 \vec{r}^* r_3 \vec{r}^* r_4]\}$$

Objective sequence to check:  $z_1 \vec{r}^* z_2, z_2 \vec{r}^* z_1, z_1 \vec{r}^* z_2$ .

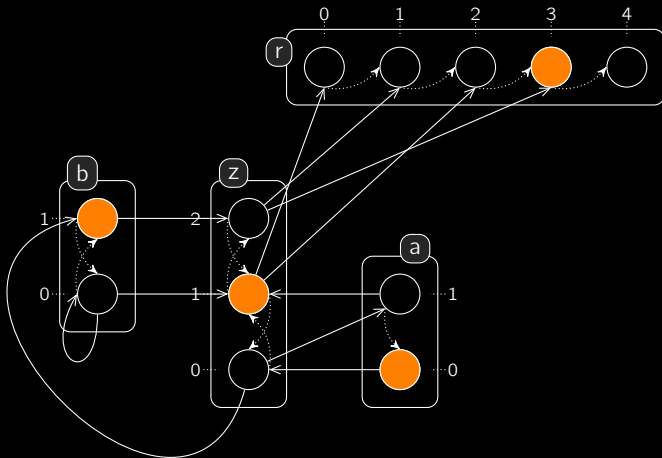
## Toy Example



$$BS(r_0 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} r_4) = \{[z_1 \rightarrow r_0 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} r_1, z_2 \rightarrow r_1 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} r_2, z_1 \rightarrow r_2 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} r_3, z_2 \rightarrow r_3 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} r_4]\}$$

Objective sequence to check:  $z_1 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} z_2, z_2 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} z_1, z_1 \overset{*}{\rightarrow} z_2$ .

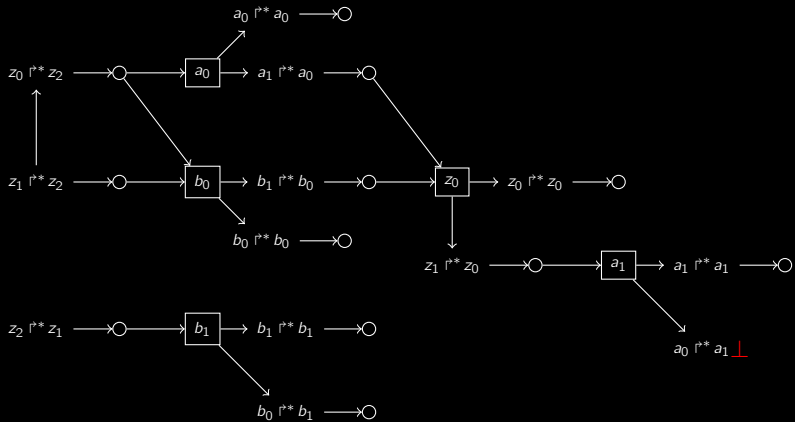
## Toy Example



$$BS(r_0 \vec{r}^* r_4) = \{[z_1 \vec{r}^* r_0 \vec{r}^* r_1, z_2 \vec{r}^* r_1 \vec{r}^* r_2, z_1 \vec{r}^* r_2 \vec{r}^* r_3, z_2 \vec{r}^* r_3 \vec{r}^* r_4]\}$$

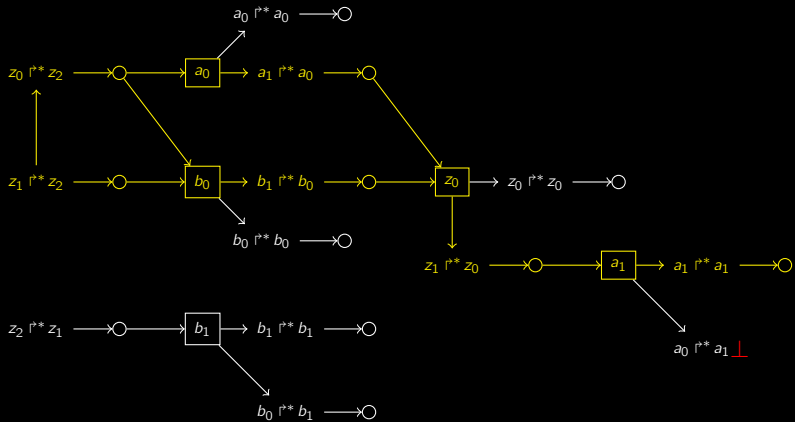
Objective sequence to check:  $z_1 \vec{r}^* z_2, z_2 \vec{r}^* z_1, z_1 \vec{r}^* z_2$ .

## Saturated Abstract Structure of Example



	s	$z_1 \uparrow^* z_2$	$z_2 \uparrow^* z_1$	$z_1 \uparrow^* z_2$
minPROC	$a_1, b_1, z_1$			
endPROC	$a_1, b_1, z_1$			

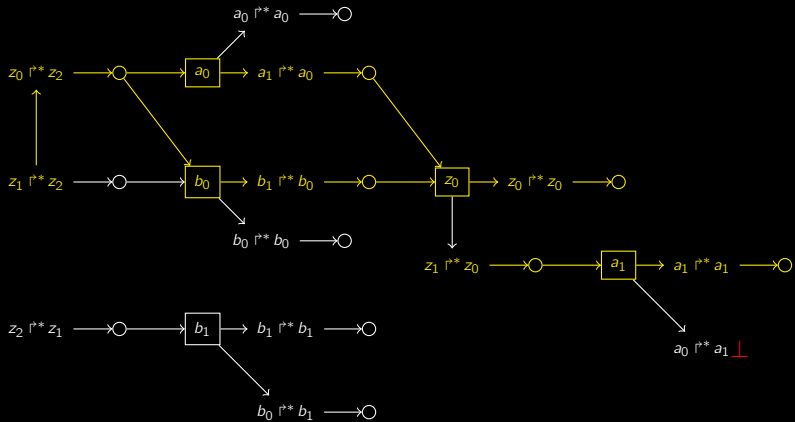
## Saturated Abstract Structure of Example



$a_1 \triangleleft a_0$

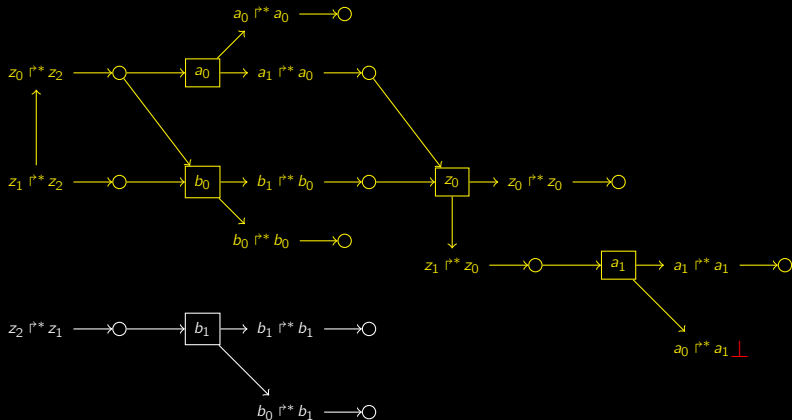
	s	$z_1 \uparrow^* z_2$	$z_2 \uparrow^* z_1$	$z_1 \uparrow^* z_2$
minPROC	$a_1, b_1, z_1$			
endPROC	$a_1, b_1, z_1$			

# Saturated Abstract Structure of Example



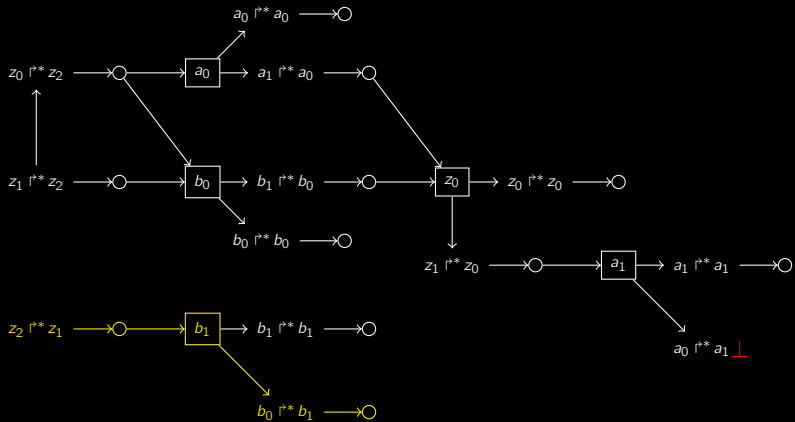
	s	$z_1 \uparrow^* z_2$	$z_2 \uparrow^* z_1$	$z_1 \uparrow^* z_2$
minPROC	$a_1, b_1, z_1$	$a_0, a_1, b_0$ $z_0, z_2$		
endPROC	$a_1, b_1, z_1$			

## Saturated Abstract Structure of Example

 $a_1 \triangleleft a_0$ 

	s	$z_1 \overset{r^{**}}{\rightarrow} z_2$	$z_2 \overset{r^{**}}{\rightarrow} z_1$	$z_1 \overset{r^{**}}{\rightarrow} z_2$
minPROC	$a_1, b_1, z_1$	$a_0, a_1, b_0$ $z_0, z_2$		
endPROC	$a_1, b_1, z_1$	$a_0, a_1, b_0$ $z_2$		

## Saturated Abstract Structure of Example

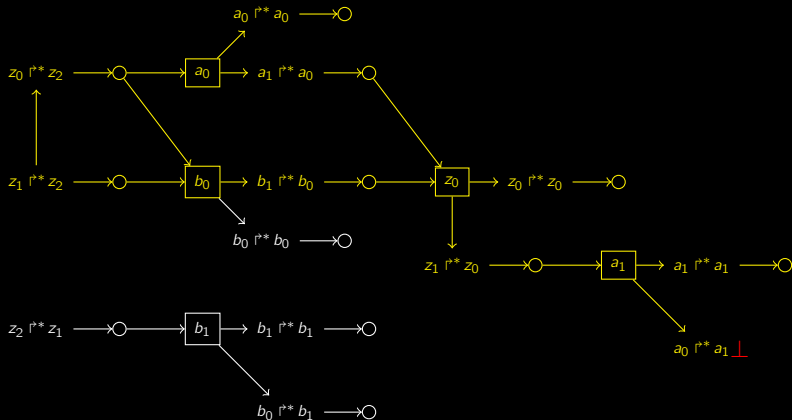


$a_1 \triangleleft a_0$

	s	$z_1 \uparrow^{**} z_2$	$z_2 \uparrow^{**} z_1$	$z_1 \uparrow^{**} z_2$
minPROC	$a_1, b_1, z_1$	$a_0, a_1, b_0$ $z_0, z_2$	$b_1, z_1$	
endPROC	$a_1, b_1, z_1$	$a_0, a_1, b_0$ $z_2$	$b_1, z_1$	



## Saturated Abstract Structure of Example

 $a_1 \triangleleft a_0$ 

	$s$	$z_1 \uparrow^* z_2$	$z_2 \uparrow^* z_1$	$z_1 \uparrow^* z_2$
minPROC	$a_1, b_1, z_1$	$a_0, a_1, b_0$ $z_0, z_2$	$b_1, z_1$	$a_0, a_1, b_0$ $z_0, z_2$
endPROC	$a_1, b_1, z_1$	$a_0, a_1, b_0$ $z_2$	$b_1, z_1$	

### Comments

- Quite **simple approximations** from Process Hittings;
- **prevent explicit state space** exploration;
- abstract structure provides **information on required steps** for reachability.

### Complexities

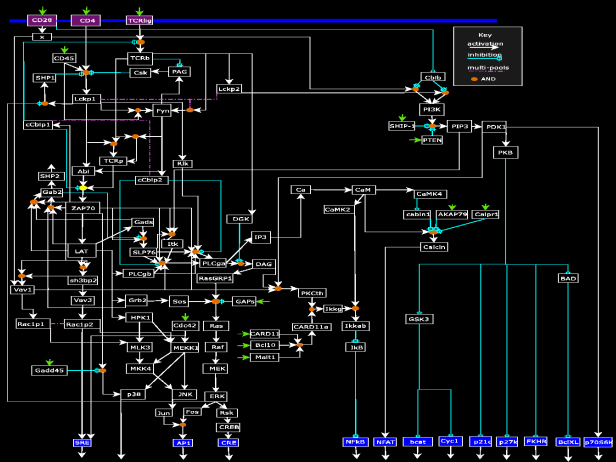
- Computing  $\mathcal{BS}^{\wedge}$  is exponential in the size of the sort;
- other operations are  $\approx$  **polynomial in the number of processes**.

### Ideas for reducing inconclusiveness (future work)

- Inconclusiveness: relation cycles and/or excessive saturation.
- Maximum context to improve the first over-approximation (and break cycles).
- Backward strategy?

# T-Cell Receptor Signalling Pathway

(94 components)



[Saez-Rodriguez, *et al.* in PLoS Comput Biol, 07]

## Process Hitting

133 sorts,  
448 processes,  
1124 actions:  
 $\approx 2 \cdot 10^{58}$  states.

Reachability analysis **always conclusive**; around 0.01s (compared to *libddd*: out of memory) [<http://ddd.lip6.fr>].



## Conclusion and Outlook

### Conclusion

- Efficient over- and under-approximation of **process reachability** decision;
- **static analysis** and abstract interpretation from the model;
- promising **scalability** for BRNs analysis.

### Bleeding-edge results

- Reduce inconclusiveness: exploit **partial order of process appearance**.
- Extract **necessary processes** for achieving reachabilities: **towards control**.
- Software (Pint) at <http://processhitting.wordpress.com>.

### On-going work

- Extension to the **Process Hitting with Priorities**.
- Two classes of actions: instantaneous and non-instantaneous.
- Towards **quantitative analysis**.