

# Abstraction and Verification of Large-scale Biological Networks

PPS - March 7th, 2013

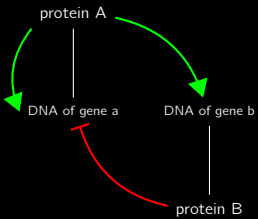
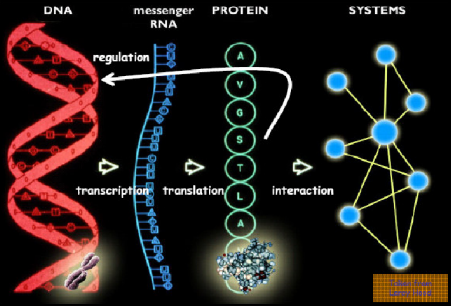
Loïc Paulevé

ETH Zürich (BISON group, Heinz Koepl)

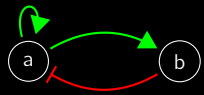
<http://loicpauleve.name>

# Biological Regulatory Networks (BRNs)

The Interaction Graph



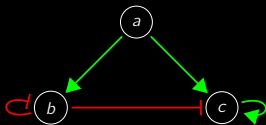
Interaction graph



## Boolean/Discrete Networks

- Each component has a finite set of **qualitative levels** ( $\{0, 1, 2\}$ ).
- Functions associate the **next level** given the **state of the regulators**.

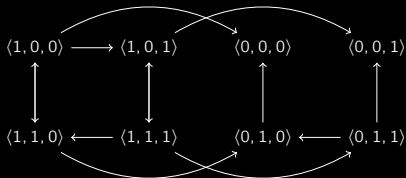
## Boolean network example



$$f^a(a, b, c) = 0$$

$$f^b(a, b, c) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } a = 1 \text{ and } b = 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$f^c(a, b, c) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } b = 0 \text{ and } (a = 1 \text{ or } c = 1); \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



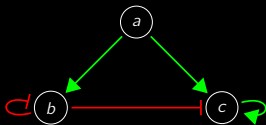
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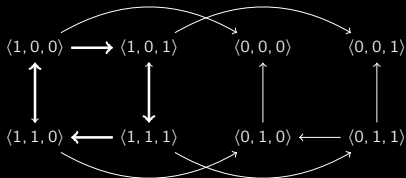
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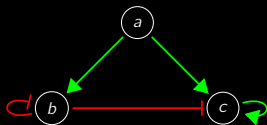
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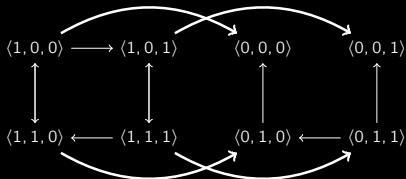
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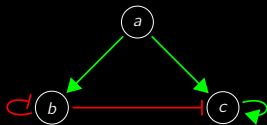
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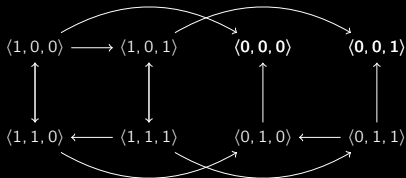
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## Motivation and Challenges

Prove dynamical properties      Validate/Refute a model

- Fixed points (steady states) analysis;
- Reachability properties;
- Attractors characterisation.

Control dynamical properties      Therapeutic targets

- Necessary or sufficient conditions.
- Key components/influences/parameters.

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Large-scale models

- Lack of details (knowledge) for some interactions  
→ avoid model/parameters enumeration.
- Numerous environment inputs: uncertainty for the initial conditions  
→ handle multiple initial states at once.
- Work around the state-space combinatoric explosion  
→ abstraction techniques.



## Approach, Results

### Methods

- New formalism: **Process Hitting** (class of Asynchronous Automata Networks).
- Dedicated **abstract interpretation** of dynamics.
- Static **causality analysis**.

### Fixed Point Enumeration

- Reduction to the  $n$ -cliques of a  $n$ -partite graph.

### Successive reachability properties $\text{EF } a_i \wedge (\text{EF } b_j \wedge \dots)$

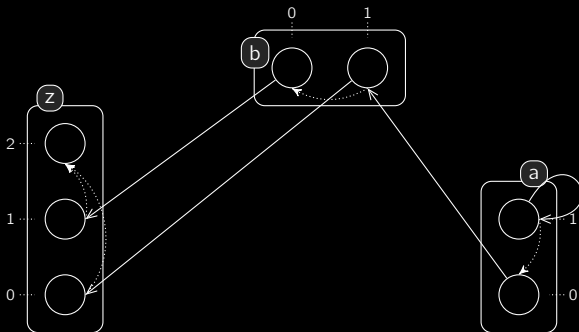
- **Reduced complexity** but may be inconclusive (**Yes/No/Inconc**):  
poly(#automata), exp(#local states within one automata).
- Necessary/sufficient **patterns in a Graph of Local Causality**.
- Identification of **cut sets for reachability** (towards control).

## Outline

- 1 Biological Regulatory Networks
- 2 **Qualitative Modelling with the Process Hitting**  
Generalised Dynamics of Interaction Graph  
Refinement with Cooperation
- 3 Fixed Points
- 4 Causality Analysis: Reachability and Cut Sets  
Graph of Local Causality  
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## The Process Hitting Framework

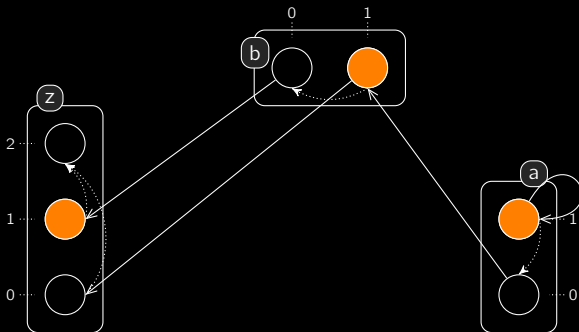
[Paulevé, Magnin, Roux in TCSB 2011]



- **Automata:**  $a, b, z$ ; **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 Asynchronous Automata Networks.

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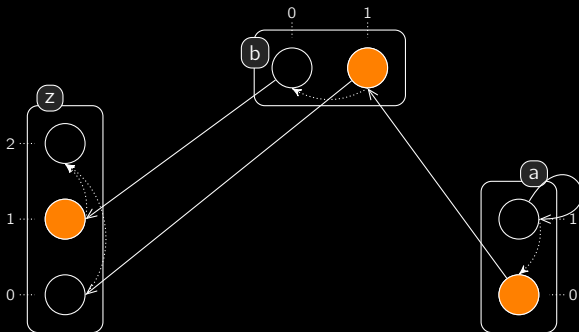
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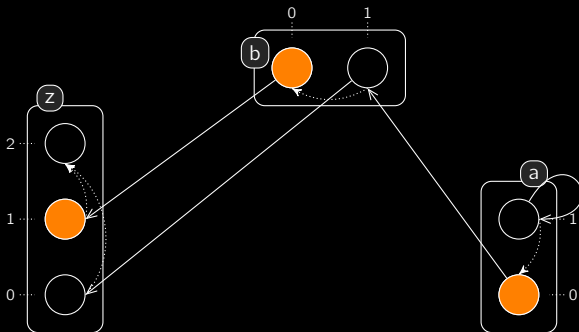
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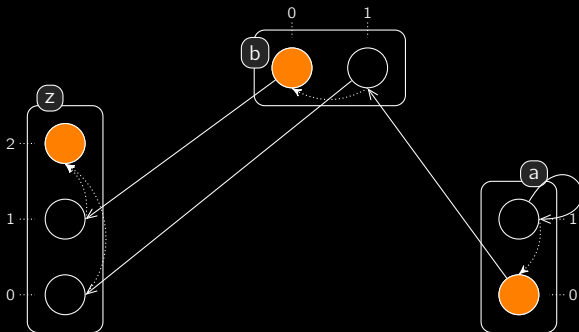
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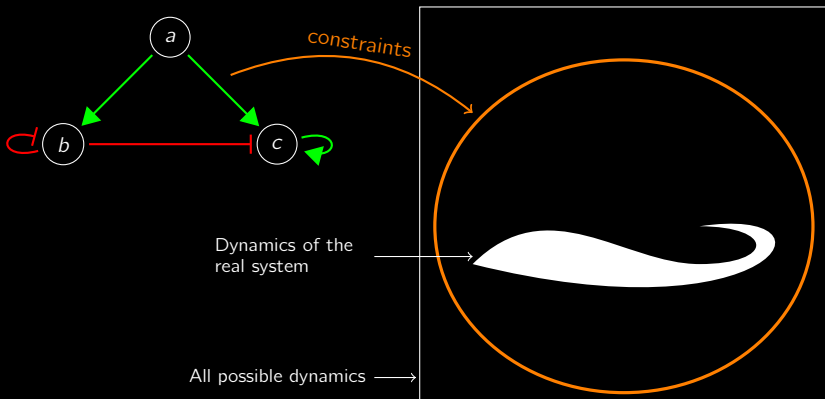
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## Generalised Dynamics of Regulatory Networks



### Dynamics over-approximation

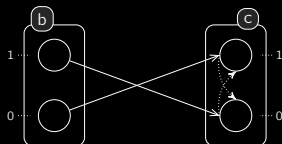
- A component **can not increase** if **none** effective **activator** is present.
- A component **can not decrease** if **none** effective **inhibitor** is present.



## Generalized Dynamics of BRNs

- Idea: the **most permissive** dynamics [Paulevé, Magnin, Roux in TCSB 2011].
- **Without knowledge of functions** between components.

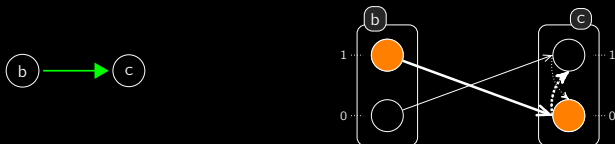
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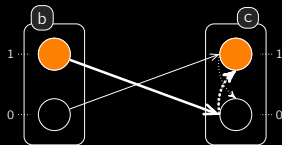
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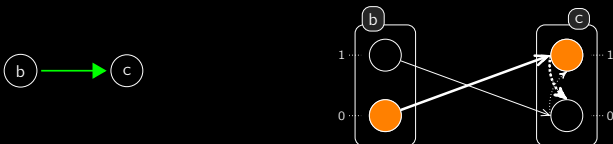
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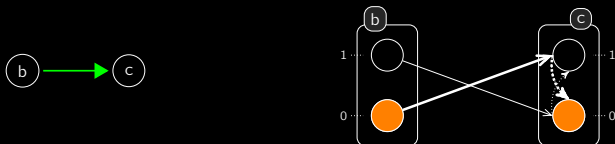
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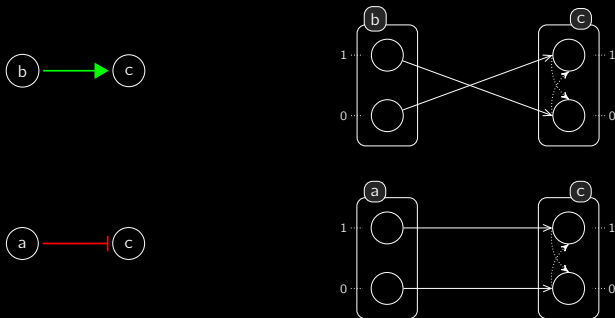
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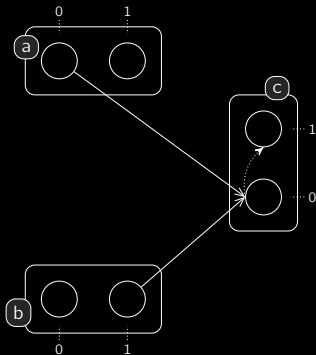
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Note: this construction can be easily extended to multi-valued components.

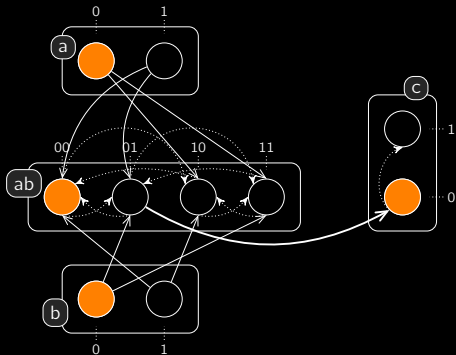
## Refining with Cooperation

- Idea:  $c_0 \mapsto c_1$  when  $a_0$  and  $b_1$  are present.
- Introduction of a **cooperative automata** reflecting the state of  $a$  and  $b$ .



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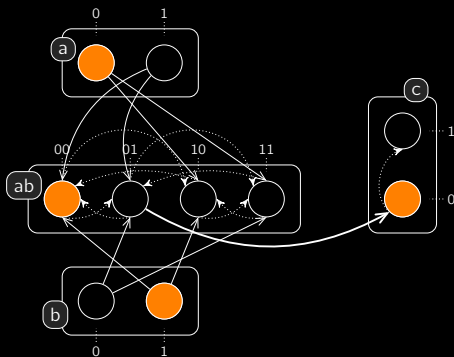
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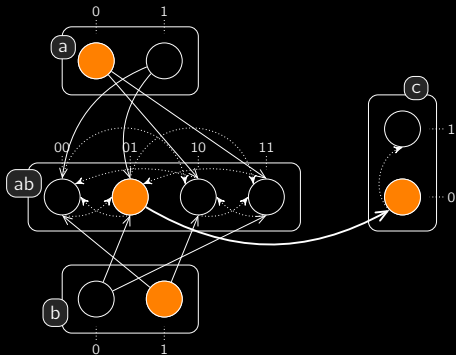
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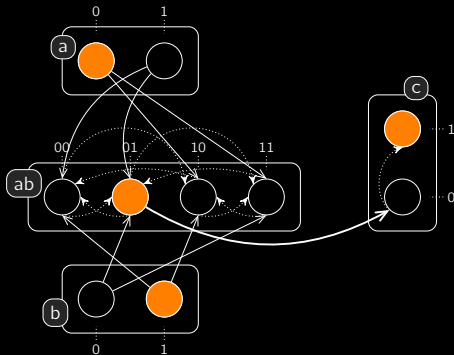
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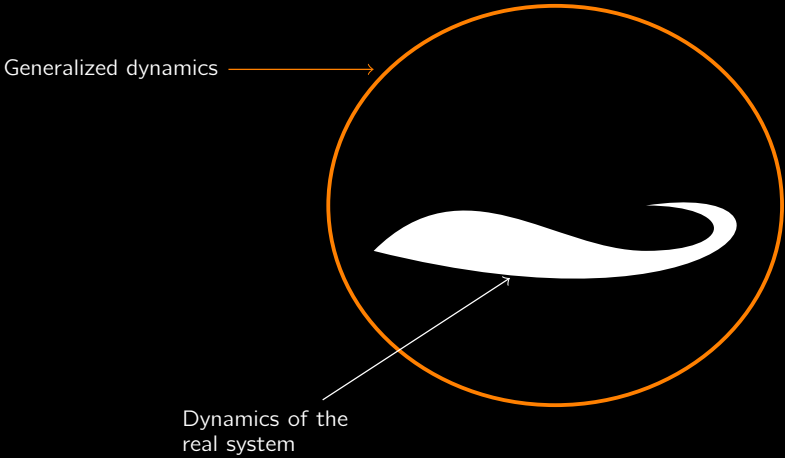
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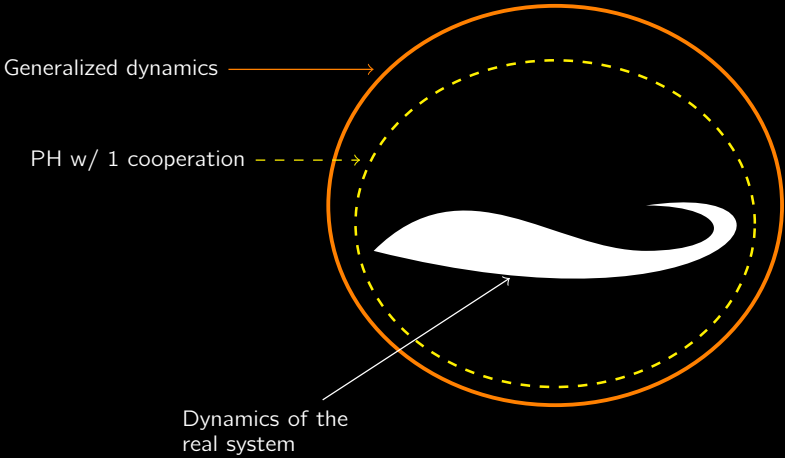


⇒ introduce a temporal shift; **similar to complexes**.

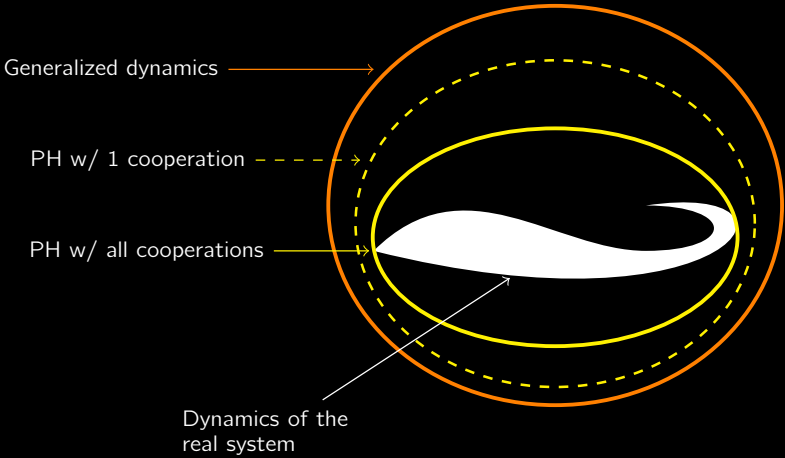
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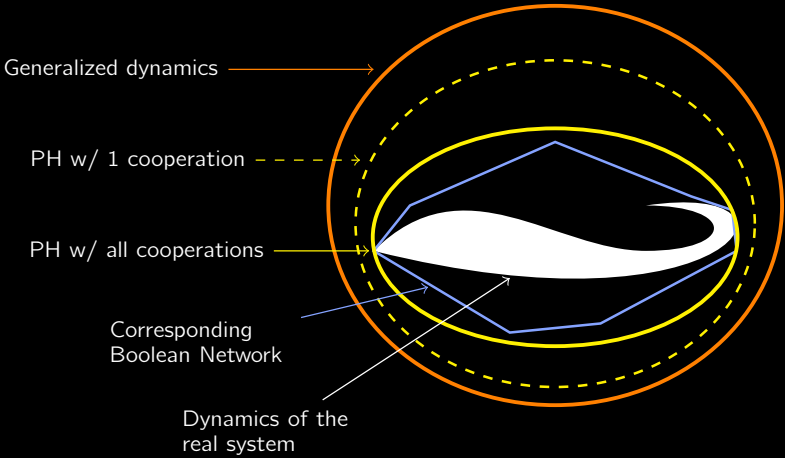
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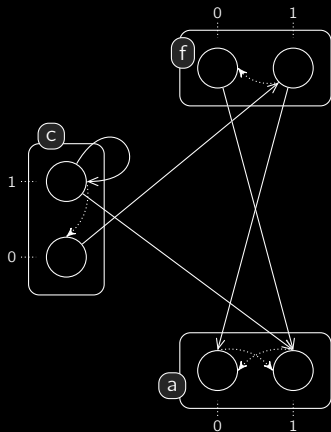
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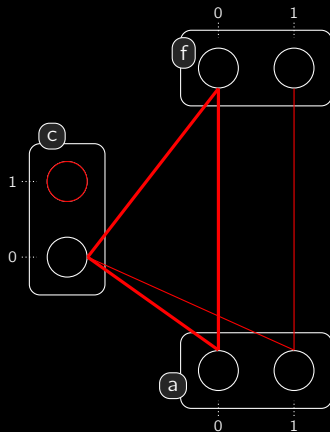
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[Paulevé, Magnin, Roux in TCSB 2011]

Process Hitting



Hitless graph

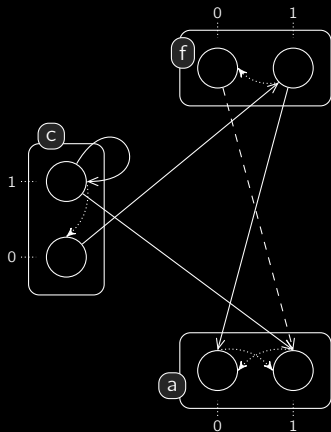


$n$ -cliques are fixed points

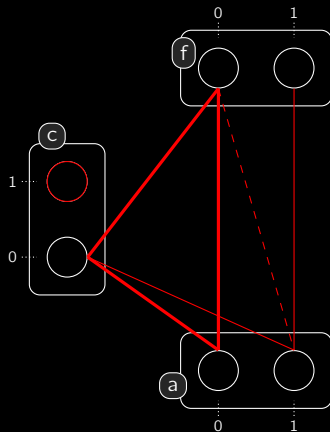
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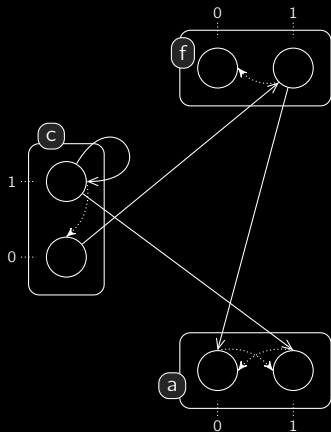


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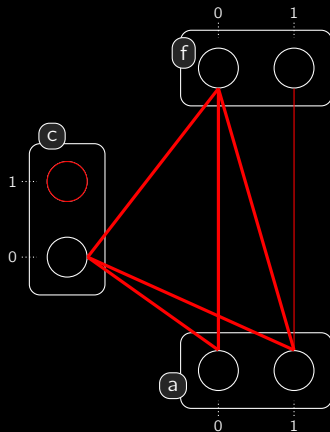
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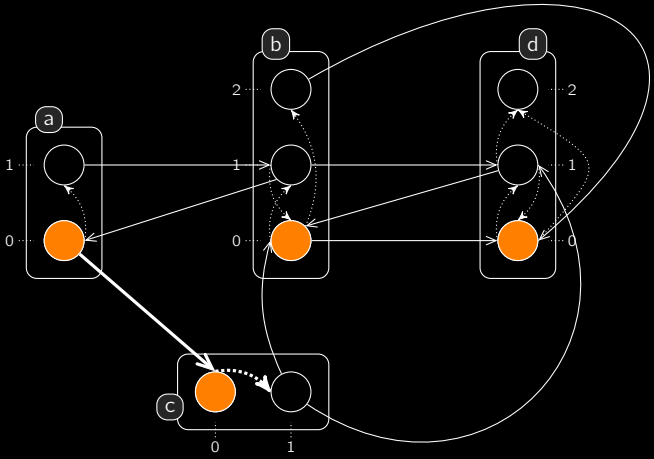


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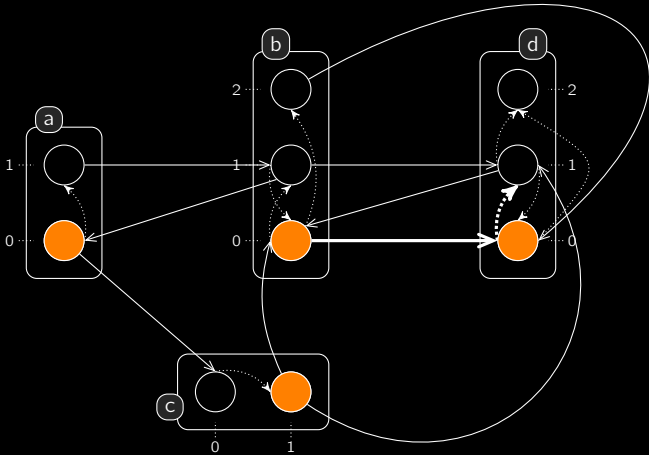
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Scenarios



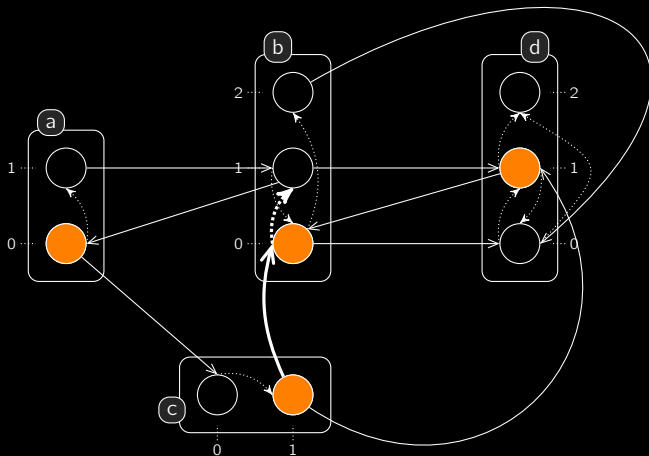
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# Scenarios



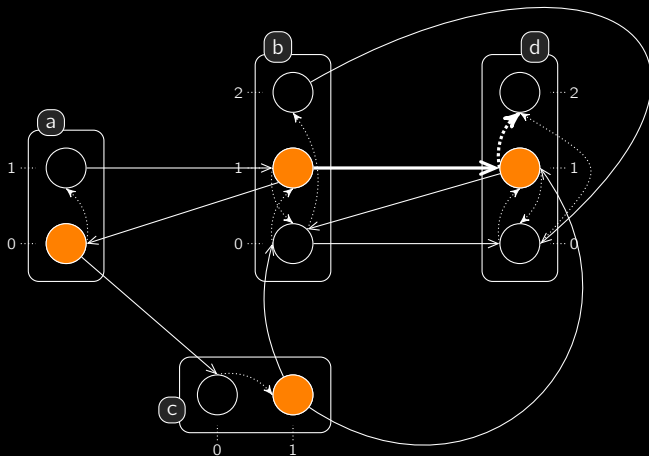
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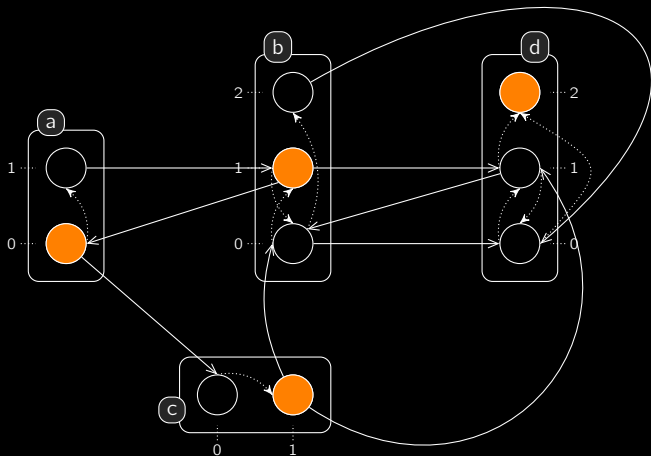
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## Two Complementary Abstractions of Scenarios

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### Abstraction by Objective Sequences

- $c_0 \uparrow^* c_1 :: d_0 \uparrow^* d_1 :: b_0 \uparrow^* b_1 :: d_1 \uparrow^* d_2;$

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- $d_0 \uparrow^* d_2, \dots$

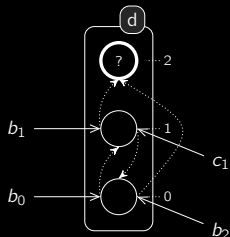
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- $c_0 \uparrow^* c_1 :: d_0 \uparrow^* d_1 :: b_0 \uparrow^* b_1 :: d_1 \uparrow^* d_2$ ;
- $b_0 \uparrow^* b_1 :: d_0 \uparrow^* d_2$
- $d_0 \uparrow^* d_2, \dots$

### Abstraction by Bounce Sequences



E.g.:  $b_0 \rightarrow d_0 \uparrow^* d_1 :: b_1 \rightarrow d_1 \uparrow^* d_2$  ( $d_0 \uparrow^* d_2$ )

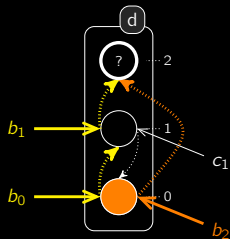
## Two Complementary Abstractions of Scenarios

$$a_0 \rightarrow c_0 \uparrow^* c_1 :: b_0 \rightarrow d_0 \uparrow^* d_1 :: c_1 \rightarrow b_0 \uparrow^* b_1 :: b_1 \rightarrow d_1 \uparrow^* d_2$$

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E.g.:  $b_0 \rightarrow d_0 \uparrow^* d_1 :: b_1 \rightarrow d_1 \uparrow^* d_2$  ( $d_0 \uparrow^* d_2$ )  
 $\Rightarrow$  can be computed off-line:

- $BS(d_0 \uparrow^* d_2) = \{b_0 \rightarrow d_0 \uparrow^* d_1 :: b_1 \rightarrow d_1 \uparrow^* d_2, b_2 \rightarrow d_0 \uparrow^* d_2\}$ ;
- $BS^\wedge(d_0 \uparrow^* d_2) = \{\{b_0, b_1\}, \{b_2\}\}$ .

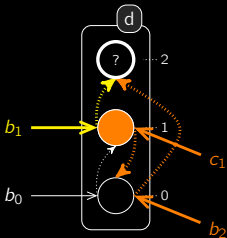
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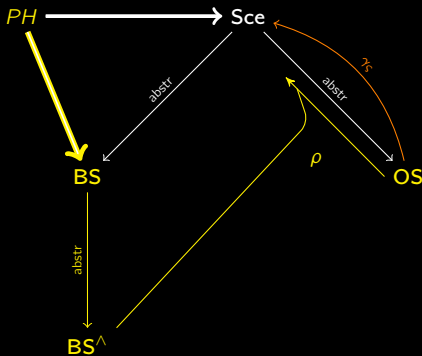
## Abstract Interpretation of Scenarios

### Inputs

- **Context:** For each automata, subset of **initial processes**.  
E.g.  $\varsigma = \langle a_0, \{b_0, b_2\}, c_0, d_0 \rangle$ .
- **Objective Sequence (OS):** reachability property.  
E.g.  $\omega = b_0 \uparrow^* b_1 :: d_0 \uparrow^* d_2$  (or  $EF (b_1 \wedge EF d_2)$ ).

### Overall approach

- 2 complementary abstractions;
- Concretization:  $\gamma_\varsigma : OS \mapsto \wp(Sce)$ ;
- Refinements:  $\rho : OS \mapsto \wp(OS)$ ;
- $\gamma_\varsigma(\omega) = \gamma_\varsigma(\rho(\omega))$ .





## Objective Sequence Refinements

$$\gamma_{\varsigma}(\omega) = \{\delta \in \mathbf{Sce} \mid \omega \text{ abstracts } \delta \wedge \text{support}(\delta) \subseteq \varsigma\}.$$

Objective Refinement by  $\mathbf{BS}^{\wedge}$ :  $\rho^{\wedge}$

$\mathbf{Obj} \times \wp(\mathbf{BS}^{\wedge})$	$\wp(\mathbf{OS})$
$d_0 \overset{*}{\mapsto} d_2$ , $\{\{b_0, b_1\}, \{b_2\}\}$	$\star \overset{*}{\mapsto} b_0 :: b_0 \overset{*}{\mapsto} b_1 :: d_0 \overset{*}{\mapsto} d_2,$ $\star \overset{*}{\mapsto} b_1 :: b_1 \overset{*}{\mapsto} b_0 :: d_0 \overset{*}{\mapsto} d_2,$ $\star \overset{*}{\mapsto} b_2 :: d_0 \overset{*}{\mapsto} d_2$
$\gamma_{\varsigma}(d_0 \overset{*}{\mapsto} d_2)$	$= \gamma_{\varsigma}(\rho^{\wedge}(d_0 \overset{*}{\mapsto} d_2, \mathbf{BS}^{\wedge}(d_0 \overset{*}{\mapsto} d_2)))$

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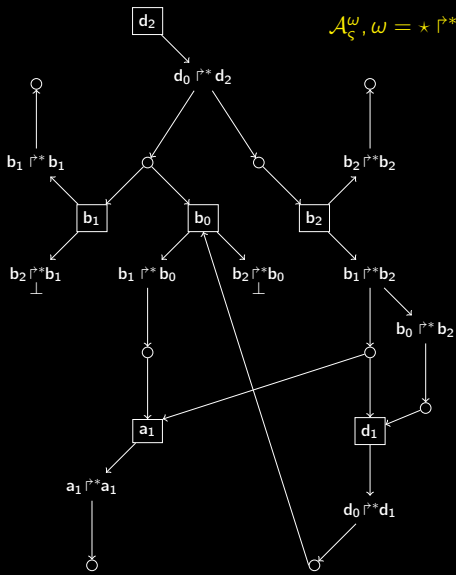
$\mathbf{Obj} \times \wp(\mathbf{BS}^{\wedge})$	$\wp(\mathbf{OS})$
$d_0 \overset{\rho^{\wedge}}{\vdash^*} d_2$ , $\{\{b_0, b_1\}, \{b_2\}\}$	$\star \overset{\rho^{\wedge}}{\vdash^*} b_0 :: b_0 \overset{\rho^{\wedge}}{\vdash^*} b_1 :: d_0 \overset{\rho^{\wedge}}{\vdash^*} d_2,$ $\star \overset{\rho^{\wedge}}{\vdash^*} b_1 :: b_1 \overset{\rho^{\wedge}}{\vdash^*} b_0 :: d_0 \overset{\rho^{\wedge}}{\vdash^*} d_2,$ $\star \overset{\rho^{\wedge}}{\vdash^*} b_2 :: d_0 \overset{\rho^{\wedge}}{\vdash^*} d_2$
$\gamma_{\varsigma}(d_0 \overset{\rho^{\wedge}}{\vdash^*} d_2)$	$= \gamma_{\varsigma}(\rho^{\wedge}(d_0 \overset{\rho^{\wedge}}{\vdash^*} d_2, \mathbf{BS}^{\wedge}(d_0 \overset{\rho^{\wedge}}{\vdash^*} d_2)))$

Generalization to  $\mathbf{OS}$  refinements:  $\tilde{\rho}$ 

$\mathbf{OS} \times \wp(\mathbf{BS}^{\wedge})$	$\wp(\mathbf{OS})$
$\omega, \mathbf{BS}^{\wedge}$	interleave $\begin{pmatrix} \omega' \\ \omega_{1..n-1} \end{pmatrix} :: \omega_{n.. \omega }$ where $n \in \mathbb{I}^{\omega}$ and $\omega' :: \omega_n \in \rho^{\wedge}(\omega_n, \mathbf{BS}^{\wedge}(\omega_n))$
$\gamma_{\varsigma}(\omega)$	$= \gamma_{\varsigma}(\tilde{\rho}(\omega, \mathbf{BS}^{\wedge}))$

# Graph of Local Causality

$$\mathcal{A}_S^\omega, \omega = \star \uparrow^* d_2, S = \langle a_1, \{b_1, b_2\}, c_1, d_0 \rangle$$



**Legend**

Requirement  
 $a_j \longrightarrow a_i \uparrow^* a_j$

Solution  
 $(\{b_i, c_j\} \in BS^\wedge(a_i \uparrow^* a_j))$

$a_i \uparrow^* a_j \longrightarrow \bigcirc \begin{matrix} \nearrow b_i \\ \searrow c_j \end{matrix}$

Continuity  
 $a_i \uparrow^* a_j \longrightarrow a_k \uparrow^* a_j$

Trivial solution  
 $a_i \uparrow^* a_j \longrightarrow \bigcirc$

No solution  
 $a_i \uparrow^* a_j \perp$

## Approximations of Successive Reachability

Over-  
approximations

- Un-ordered approximation.
- Ordered approximation.
- Ordered approximation with occurrences order constraints.

No / Inconc



Successive Process Reachability (reach  $a_i$ , then  $b_k$ , etc.)



Under-  
approximations

- Un-ordered approximation.
- Ordered approximation.

Yes / Inconc

[Paulevé, Magnin, Roux in *Mathematical Structures in Computer Science*, 2012]

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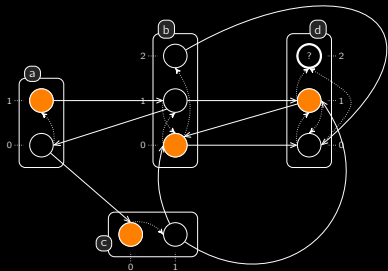
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## Un-ordered Over-approximation

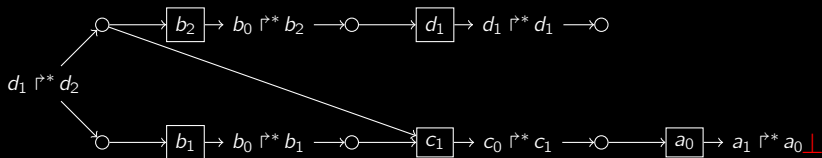
Example



Necessary condition for reaching  $d_2$ :

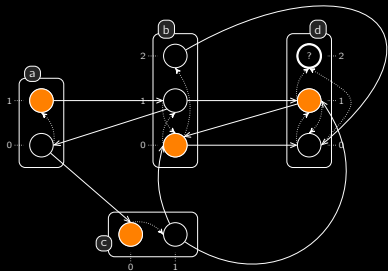
There exists a traversal of  $\mathcal{A}_\xi^\omega$  such that:

- objective  $\rightarrow$  follow at least one solution;
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- no cycle.



## Un-ordered Over-approximation

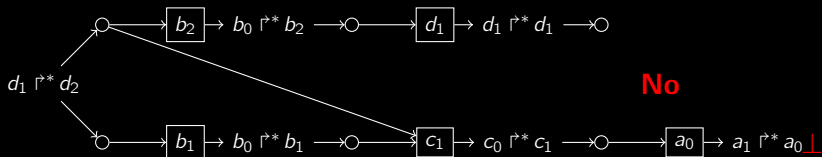
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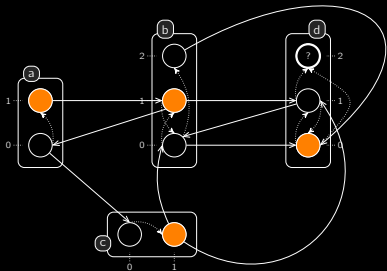
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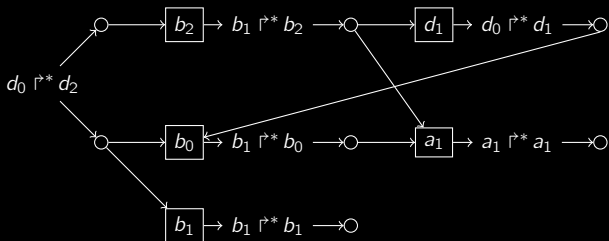
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Under-  
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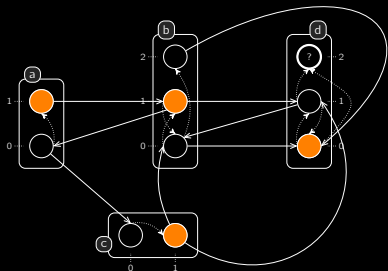
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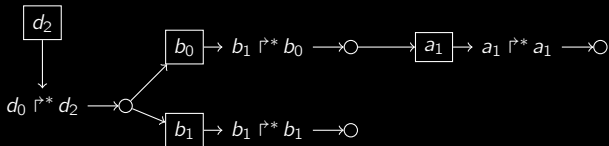
Example



Sufficient condition for reaching  $d_2$ :

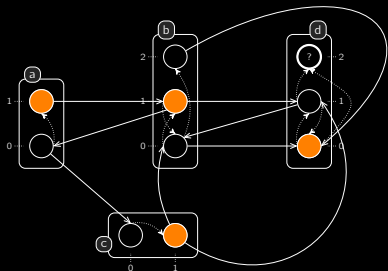
- $\lceil \mathcal{B}_\zeta^\omega \rceil$  has **no cycle**;
- each objective has **at least one solution**.

$\lceil \mathcal{B}_\zeta^\omega \rceil$ : saturated  $\mathcal{A}_\zeta^\omega$ .



## Un-ordered Under-approximation

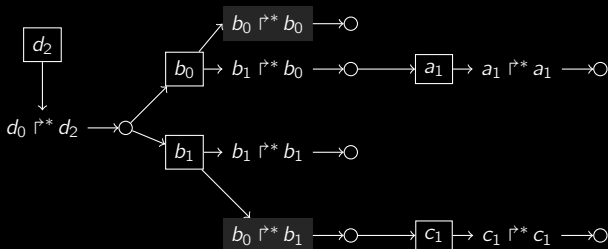
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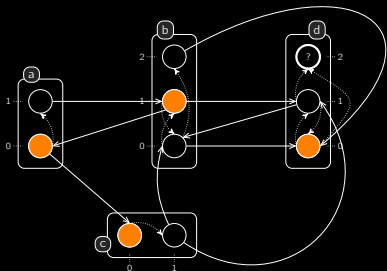
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Yes

## Un-ordered Under-approximation

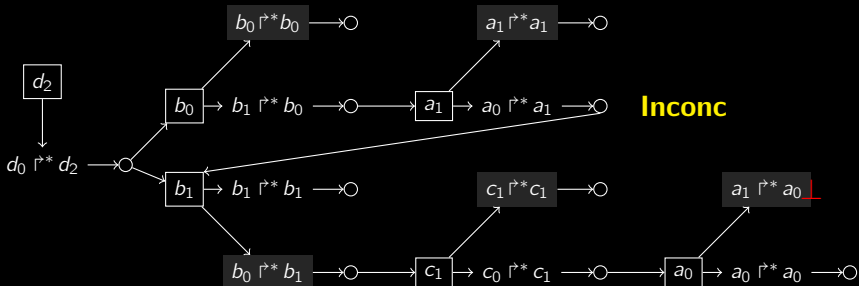
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## Static Analysis of Successive Reachability

Over-  
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- Ordered approximation with occurrences order constraints.

No / Inconc



Successive Process Reachability (reach  $a_i$ , then  $b_k$ , etc.)



Under-  
approximations

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- Ordered approximation.

Yes / Inconc

[Paulevé, Magnin, Roux in *Mathematical Structures in Computer Science*, 2012]

## Complexity

Graph of Local Causality  $\mathcal{A}_\zeta^\omega, \lceil \mathcal{B}_\zeta^\omega \rceil$ 

- $\mathbf{BS}^\wedge$ :  $\exp(\#\text{processes within one automata})$ .
- $\mathcal{A}_\zeta^\omega$  (and  $\lceil \mathcal{B}_\zeta^\omega \rceil$ ):  $\text{poly}(\#\text{processes}) \times \exp(\#\text{processes within one automata})$ .

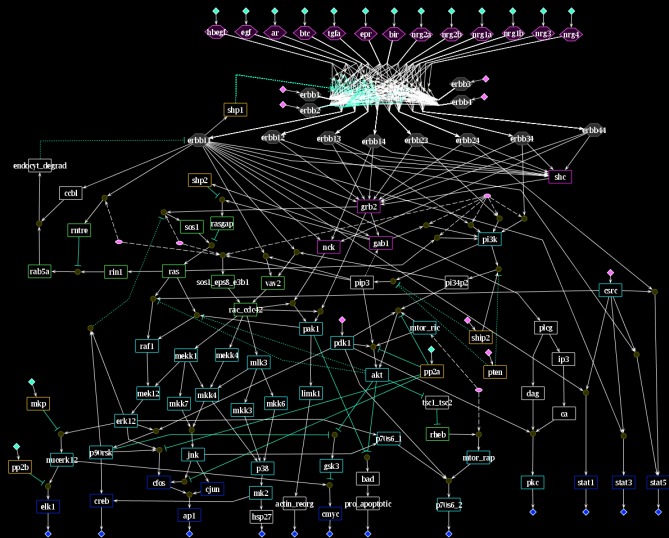
## Analyses

- Over-approximations: polynomial in the size of  $\mathcal{A}_\zeta^\omega$ .
- Different strategies of under-approximation:
  - global: polynomial in the size of  $\lceil \mathcal{B}_\zeta^\omega \rceil$ ;
  - per solution:  $\times$  exponential in the size of  $\mathbf{BS}^\wedge$ .

$\implies$  efficient with a small number of processes per automata, while a very large number of automata can be handled.

# EGFR/ErbB Signalling Network

(104 components)



[Samaga, *et al.* in PLoS Comput Biol, 2009]

**Process Hitting**  
193 automata,  
748 processes,  
2356 actions:  
 $\approx 2 \cdot 10^{96}$  states.

## Execution times

- Real biological models.
- Wide-range of biological/arbitrary reachability analysis.
- **Always conclusive.**

Model	autom.	procs	actions	states	Biocham <sup>1</sup>	libDDD <sup>2</sup>	PINT <sup>3</sup>
egfr20	35	196	670	$2^{64}$	[3s-KO]	[1s-150s]	<b>0.007s</b>
tcrsig40	54	156	301	$2^{73}$	[1s-KO]	[0.6s-KO]	<b>0.004s</b>
tcrsig94	133	448	1124	$2^{194}$	KO	KO	<b>0.030s</b>
egfr104	193	748	2356	$2^{320}$	KO	KO	<b>0.050s</b>

<sup>1</sup> <http://contraintes.inria.fr/biocham> (using NuSMV2)

<sup>2</sup> <http://move.lip6.fr/software/DDD>

<sup>3</sup> <http://process.hitting.free.fr>

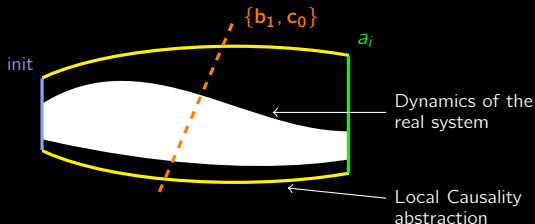


## Outline

- 1 Biological Regulatory Networks
- 2 Qualitative Modelling with the Process Hitting
  - Generalised Dynamics of Interaction Graph
  - Refinement with Cooperation
- 3 Fixed Points
- 4 **Causality Analysis: Reachability and Cut Sets**
  - Graph of Local Causality
  - Process Reachability
  - Cut Sets
- 5 Conclusion and Future Work

## Cut Sets of Processes for Reachability

Goal sets of processes whose action is necessary for a given process reachability.



### Results

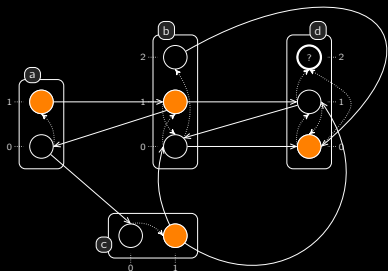
- Efficient under-approximation using the Graph of Local Causality: no candidate enumeration, no model-checking.
- Applicable to any automata network.

### Application

- Formal identification of therapeutic targets.
- Models of very large biological networks: PID (+9000 components): computation of 1- to 5-sets between 1s and 8min.

[Paulevé, Andrieux, Koepl at CAV 2013]

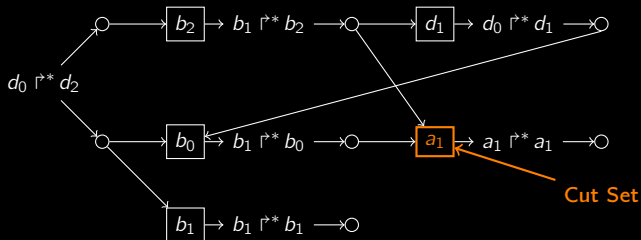
## Extraction of Cut Sets



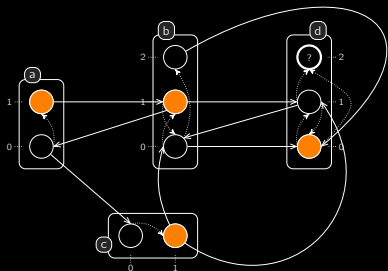
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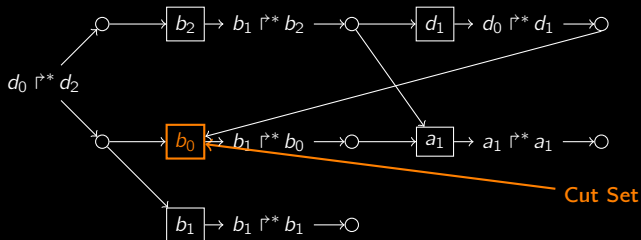
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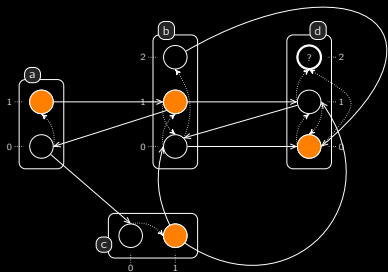
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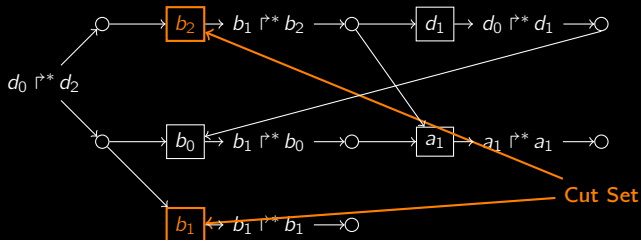
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## Conclusion

### The Process Hitting framework

- Qualitative asynchronous modelling.
- Different levels of dynamics abstractions (partial knowledge on cooperations).
- Automatic encoding of Boolean Networks (over-approximation).

### Abstract causality analysis

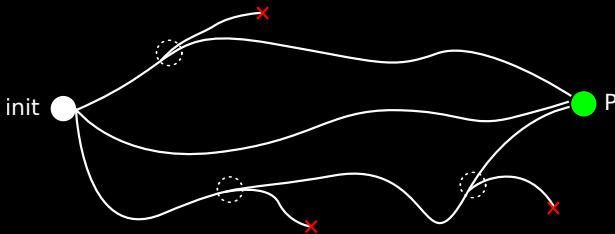
- Local causality reasoning.
- Over- and under-approximation of reachability properties.
- Extract necessary sets of processes (potential therapeutic targets).
- Tractable on very large networks.

Implementation: PINT software - <http://process.hitting.free.fr>

## Future work

## Process Hitting with Priorities

- Static split of actions into **priority classes**.
- An action can be played only if none action with higher priority can be played.
- $\Rightarrow$  **different time-scales**;
- $\Rightarrow$  **enhanced expressivity** (with 3 classes: Petri Nets).



## Link with static analyse of Boolean networks

- Relate Graph of Local Causality with Interaction Graph/Boolean functions constraints.



Thank you for your attention.