

# Solving Infinite Games on Graphs via Quasi-Dominions

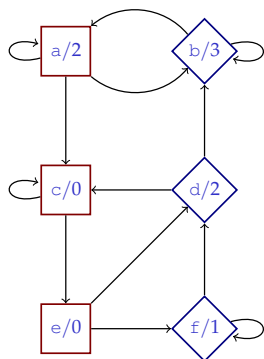
**Fabio Mogavero**

(joint work with Massimo Benerecetti and Daniele Dell'Erba)

Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II

Udine, January 22, 2020

# GAMES ON GRAPHS



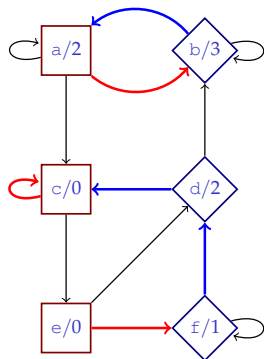
## An Arena is a directed graph

- two players (player  $\blacklozenge$  and player  $\blacksquare$ );
- each position (node) belongs to one of the two players ( $\blacklozenge$ -positions and  $\blacksquare$ -positions);
- nodes are labeled with numerical values.

## Turn-based infinite-duration game

- each player  $\alpha \in \{\blacklozenge, \blacksquare\}$  chooses an edge (move) at its positions;
- players choices induce **plays**: infinite paths in the arena;
- a play is winning for a player if it satisfies some **winning condition**;
- players have opposite winning conditions (**zero-sum**).

# PARITY GAMES



## Parity Game

- player  $\blacklozenge$  called **Even**, player  $\blacksquare$  called **Odd**.
- positions are labeled with natural numbers called **priorities**

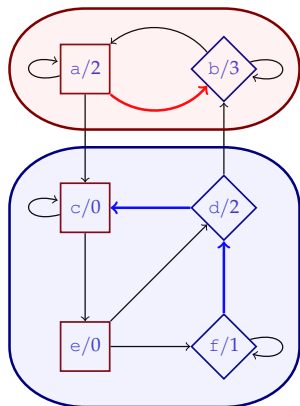
## Winning Condition for $\alpha \in \{\blacklozenge, \blacksquare\}$

the **highest priority** occurring infinitely often along the play is of **parity**  $\alpha$ .

## Examples

- the maximal recurring priority in play  $(ab)^\omega$  is **3**;
- the maximal recurring priority in play  $efd(c)^\omega$  is **0**.

# STRATEGIES AND DETERMINACY



Memoryless strategy for player  $\alpha \in \{\blacklozenge, \blacksquare\}$

function  $\sigma_\alpha$  from  $\alpha$ -positions to arbitrary positions.

Winning position for  $\alpha \in \{\blacklozenge, \blacksquare\}$

$v$  is winning for  $\alpha$  if it has a strategy  $\sigma_\alpha$  s.t., regardless of the strategy of  $\bar{\alpha}$ , the induced plays from  $v$  are all winning for  $\alpha$ .

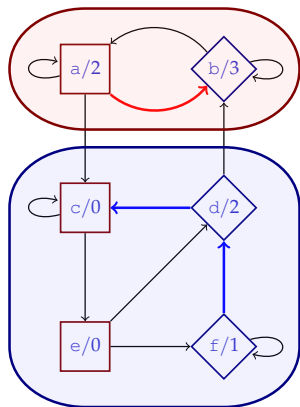
Winning Region for  $\alpha \in \{\blacklozenge, \blacksquare\}$

maximal set  $Wn_\alpha$  of winning positions for  $\alpha$ .

The Decision Problem

Identify the **winning regions** of the players.

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Identify the **winning regions** of the players.

## Determinacy

there is a *bipartition* ( $Wn_{\blacklozenge}, Wn_{\blacksquare}$ ) of the positions s.t.:

- player  $\blacklozenge$  has a winning strategy on  $Wn_{\blacklozenge}$ ;
- player  $\blacksquare$  has a winning strategy on  $Wn_{\blacksquare}$ .

# RELEVANCE OF PARITY GAMES

## Applications

- modal  $\mu$ CALCULUS model checking (linear-time interreducible)
- reactive synthesis from LTL specifications
- emptiness and membership problems for alternating tree automata;
- automata theory, *e.g.*, complementation and determinisation problems;
- ...

## COMPLEXITY STATUS

Parity Games are *memoryless determined*, i.e.,  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \bullet \text{ there are } \textit{no draws} \\ \bullet \text{ } \textit{no memory} \text{ is needed to win} \end{array} \right.$

Parity Games are in  $\text{NPTIME} \cap \text{CONPTIME}$ .

### Open Problem

Is the *solution problem* in PTIME?

It is known to be PTIME-HARD!

### Known Upper Bounds

- Quasi-PTime upper bound:  $n^{O(\log k)}$  [Calude et al., 2017].

# STATE OF THE ART

## Some solution algorithms for Parity Games

Solution Algorithm	Time Complexity	Space Complexity
Recursive	$O(m \cdot n^k)$	$O(m \cdot n)$
Dominion Decomposition	$n^{\alpha(\sqrt{n})}$	$O(m \cdot n)$
Big Step	$O(m \cdot n^{k/3})$	$O(n \cdot m + k \cdot \log n)$
<b>Priority Promotion</b>	$O\left(m \cdot \left(3 \frac{n-2}{k-2}\right)^{k-1}\right)$	$O(n \cdot \log k)$
Small Progress Measure	$O\left(m \cdot k \cdot \left(\frac{n}{k}\right)^{k/2}\right)$	$O(k \cdot n \cdot \log n)$
Strategy Improvement	$O(m \cdot n \cdot 2^m)$	$O(n^2)$
Calude <i>et al.</i> QP	$O(n^{\log k + 6})$	$O(n^{\log k + 5})$
Jurdzinski & Lazic QP	$O(m \cdot n^{\log k - \log \log n + 4.03})$	$O(n \cdot \log n \cdot \log k)$
Fearnley <i>et al.</i> QP	$O\left(m \cdot \frac{k}{\log n} \cdot n^{\log k - \log \log n + 1.45}\right)$	$O(n \cdot \log n \cdot \log k)$

$n$  number of positions

$m$  number of moves

$k$  number of priorities



# PRIORITY PROMOTION: SOLVING PARITY GAMES WITH QUASI-DOMINIONS

A novel approach based on the new notions of

- *quasi-dominion*
- *priority promotion*

- best proven asymptotic space complexity:  $O(n \cdot \log k)$ ;
- outperforms the other solvers of at least *one order of magnitude*.

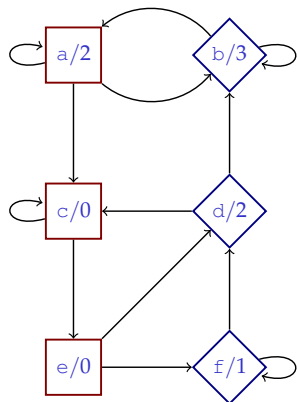
## Priority Promotion Approach

## PREDECESSOR & ATTRACTOR

Predecessors for  $\alpha \in \{\blacklozenge, \blacksquare\}$

$\text{pre}^\alpha(X)$  contains:

- the  $\alpha$ -positions that can *reach*  $X$  in one move;
- the  $\bar{\alpha}$ -positions that are forced to *reach*  $X$  in one move.

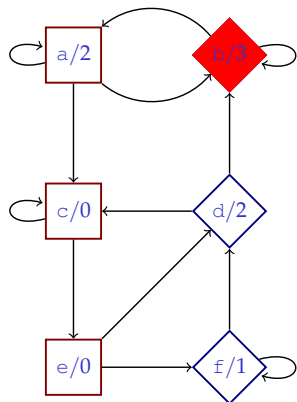


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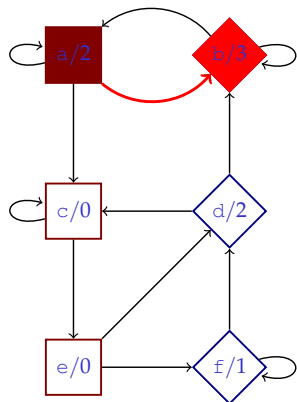


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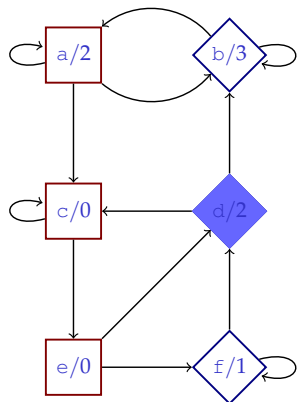


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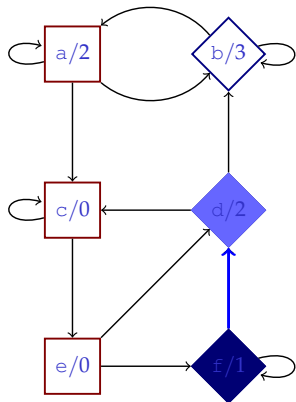


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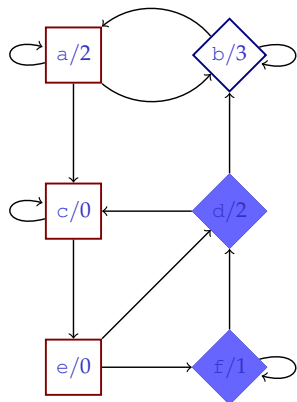


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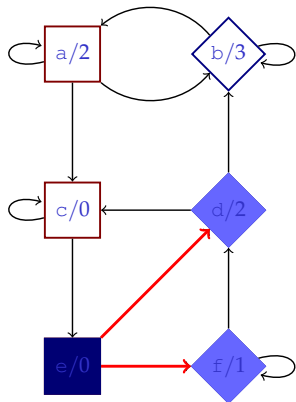


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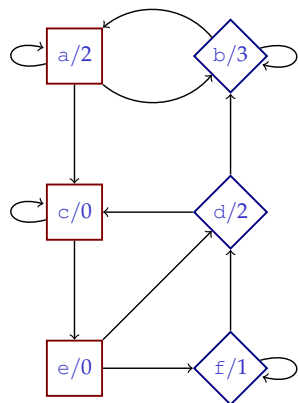
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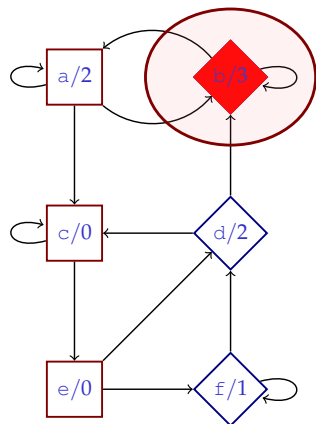
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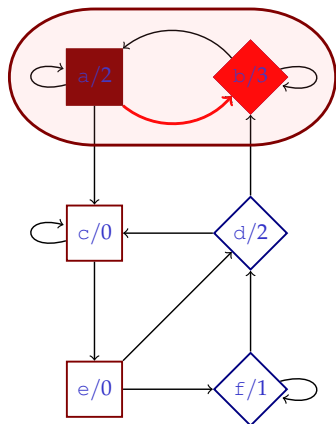
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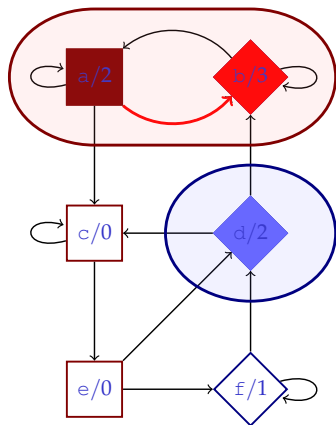
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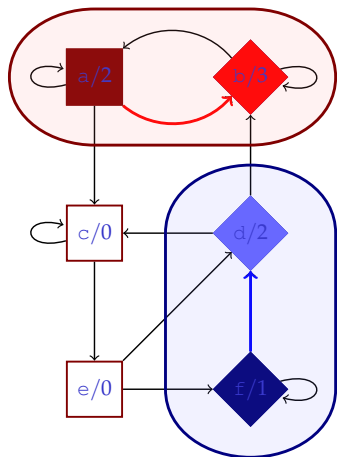
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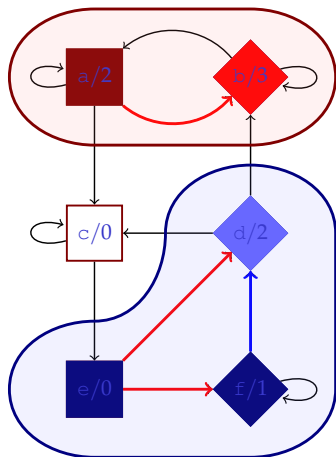
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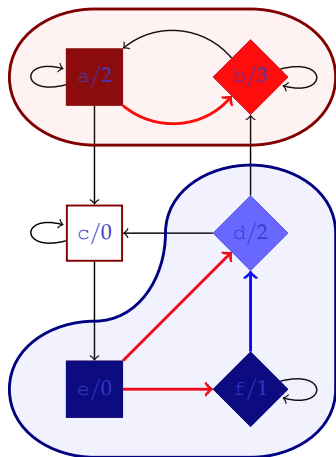
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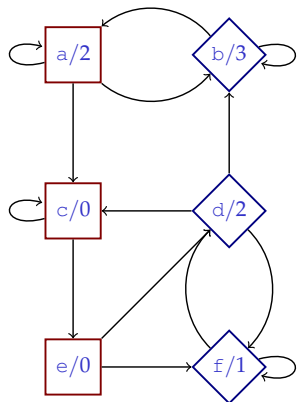
## Properties of $\text{atr}^\alpha(X)$

- An  $\alpha$ -position not belonging to  $\text{atr}^\alpha(X)$  cannot have a move leading to it.
- Player  $\alpha$  has a strategy to force any play that remains in  $\text{atr}^\alpha(X)$  forever to visit a position in  $X$  infinitely often.



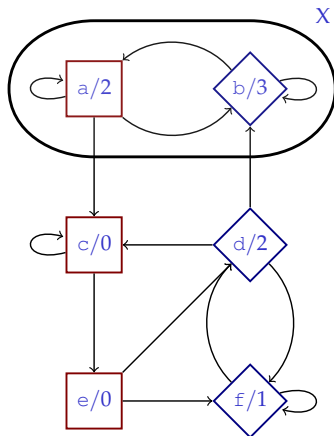


## SUBGAME



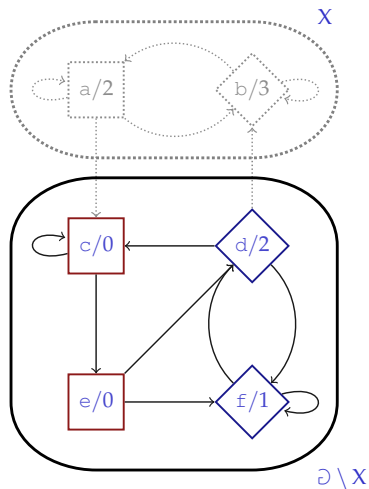
For a game  $\mathcal{G}$  and a set of position  $X$ ,  $\mathcal{G} \setminus X$  denotes the subgame obtained by removing  $X$  and all the moves from and to  $X$ .

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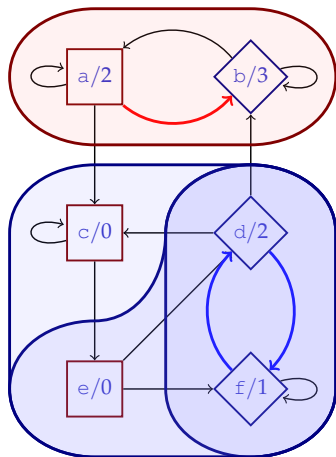
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# DOMINIONS

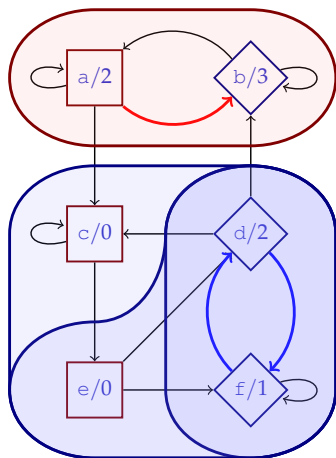


Dominion for  $\alpha \in \{\blacklozenge, \blacksquare\}$

non-empty set of positions  $D$  s.t.

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- $\bar{\alpha}$  cannot escape from  $D$

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- $\alpha$  has a winning strategy on  $D$
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Property

Let  $D$  an  $\alpha$ -dominion and  $\hat{D} \triangleq \text{atr}^\alpha(D)$ , then  $\hat{D}$  is an  $\alpha$ -dominion.

## SOLUTION VIA DOMINIONS

①  $(W_{n_\blacklozenge}, W_{n_\blacksquare}) \leftarrow (\emptyset, \emptyset)$

② WHILE  $\mathcal{D}$  is non-empty DO

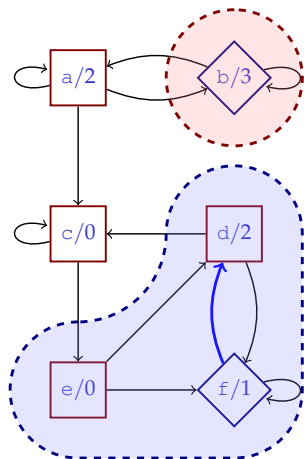
① find an  $\alpha$ -dominion  $D$  for some  $\alpha \in \{\blacklozenge, \blacksquare\}$

②  $\hat{D} \leftarrow \text{atr}^\alpha(D)$  (compute the  $\alpha$ -attractor of  $D$ )

③  $W_{n_\alpha} \leftarrow W_{n_\alpha} \cup \hat{D}$  (compose the results)

④  $\mathcal{D} \leftarrow \mathcal{D} \setminus \hat{D}$  (reduce the game)

# QUASI DOMINIONS



## Quasi Dominion for $\alpha \in \{\blacklozenge, \blacksquare\}$

non-empty set of positions  $Q$  on which  $\alpha$  has a strategy  $\sigma_\alpha$  whose induced plays

- either remain in  $Q$  forever and are winning for  $\alpha$
- or are forced to exit from  $Q$  by the opponent  $\bar{\alpha}$

## Property

a quasi  $\alpha$ -dominion  $Q$  from which  $\bar{\alpha}$  cannot escape is an  $\alpha$ -dominion

# DOMINION PROBLEM

## Problem

find an  $\alpha$ -dominion for some player  $\alpha \in \{\blacklozenge, \blacksquare\}$

## Observations

dominions are hard to find

quasi dominions are easy to find

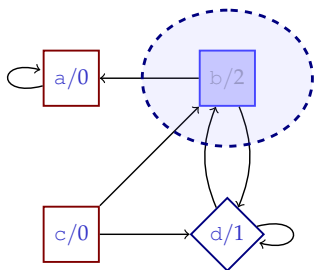
## High-Level Idea

compute quasi dominions in the game and suitably *compose* quasi dominions of the same player until a dominion is eventually obtained:

- extract a quasi  $\alpha$ -dominion  $Q$  for some player  $\alpha \in \{\blacklozenge, \blacksquare\}$
- check if  $Q$  is an  $\alpha$ -dominion in the entire game
- if not, try to merge  $Q$  with a previously computed quasi  $\alpha$ -dominion and repeat



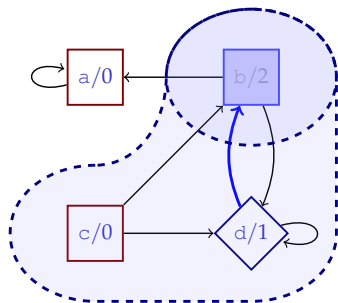
# QUASI DOMINION CONSTRUCTION



## Quasi $\alpha$ -Dominion Computation

the set  $P$  of position with maximal priority of parity  $\alpha$  is a quasi  $\alpha$ -dominion

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## Quasi $\alpha$ -Dominion Maximization

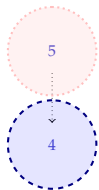
the  $\alpha$ -attractor  $R = \text{atr}^\alpha(P)$  of  $P$  is a quasi  $\alpha$ -dominion.

# HIGH-LEVEL SIMULATION I

5

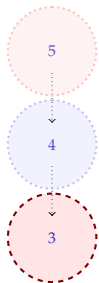
- Proceed in decreasing order of priorities
- Maximize the set of positions with maximal priority in the current subgame.
- Remove the quasi dominion obtained from the current subgame.

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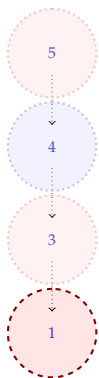
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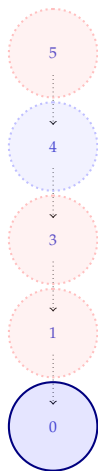
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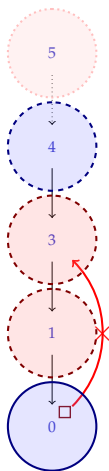
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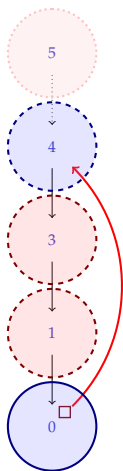
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The opponent  $\bar{\alpha}$  can only escape from this  $\alpha$ -dominion by moving to a quasi  $\alpha$ -dominion of higher priority.



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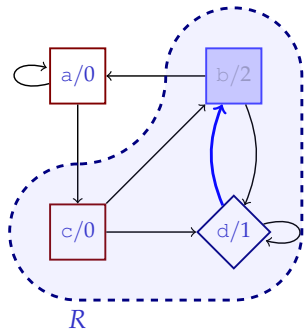


- Proceed in decreasing order of priorities
- Maximize the set of positions with maximal priority in the current subgame.
- Remove the quasi dominion obtained from the current subgame.

Clearly, a local  $\alpha$ -dominion will be found in some subgame, eventually.

The opponent  $\bar{\alpha}$  can only escape from this  $\alpha$ -dominion by moving to a quasi  $\alpha$ -dominion of higher priority.

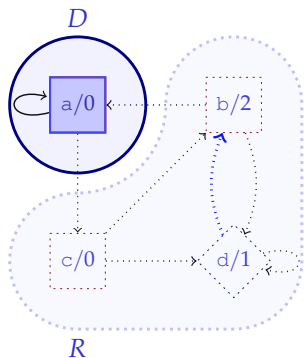
# QUASI DOMINION MERGING



## Property 2: Merge

if  $R$  is a quasi  $\alpha$ -dominion in the game  $\mathcal{D}$  and  $D$  an  $\alpha$ -dominion in the subgame  $\mathcal{D} \setminus R$ , then  $R \cup D$  is a quasi  $\alpha$ -dominion in  $\mathcal{D}$ .

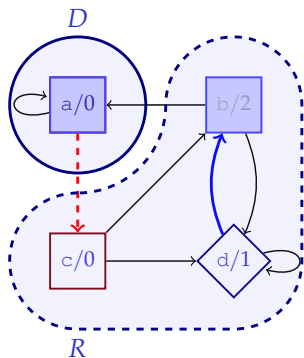
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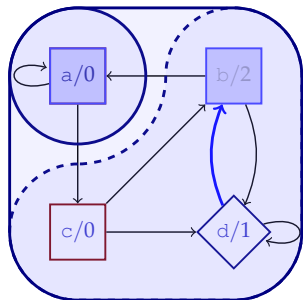
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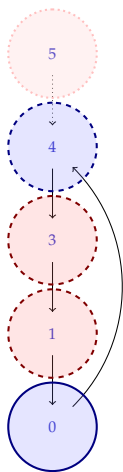


$R \cup D$

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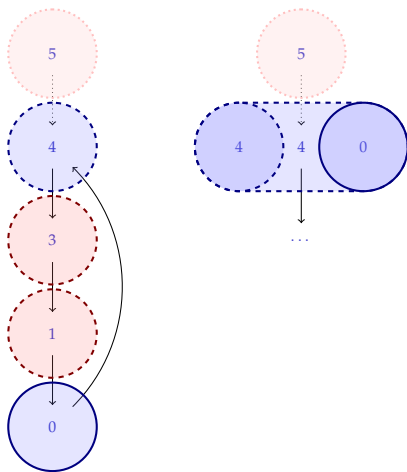
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## HIGH-LEVEL SIMULATION II



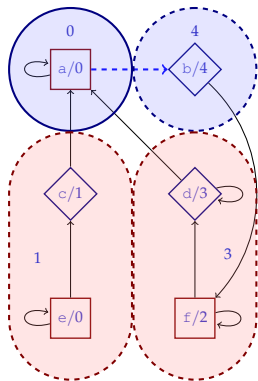
When a  $\alpha$ -dominion in a subgame is eventually found, we can apply Property 2, **merge** it with another  $\alpha$ -quasi dominion and **maximize** the result.

## HIGH-LEVEL SIMULATION II



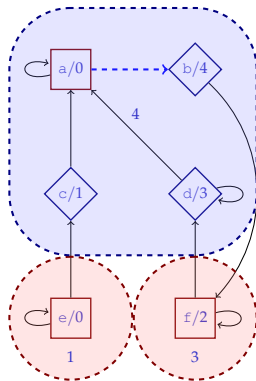
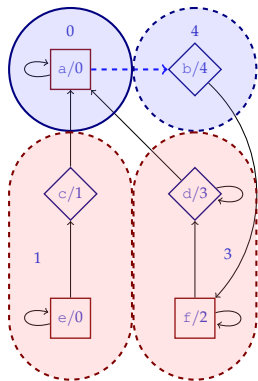
When a  $\alpha$ -dominion in a subgame is eventually found, we can apply Property 2, **merge** it with another  $\alpha$ -quasi dominion and **maximize** the result.

# QUASI-DOMINION RESET

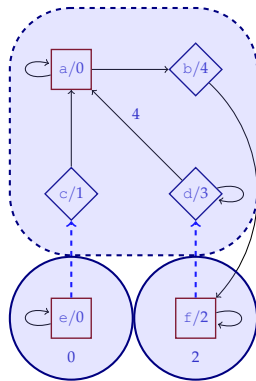
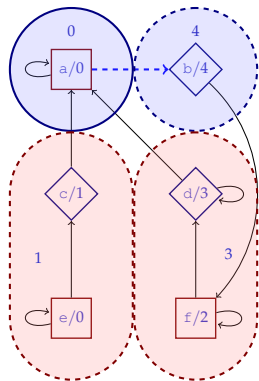




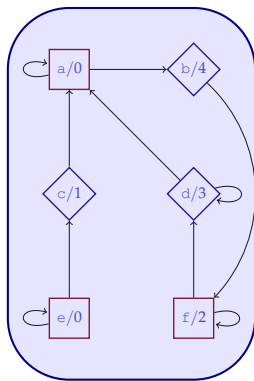
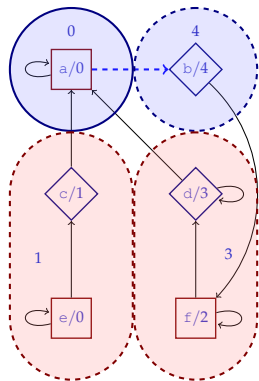
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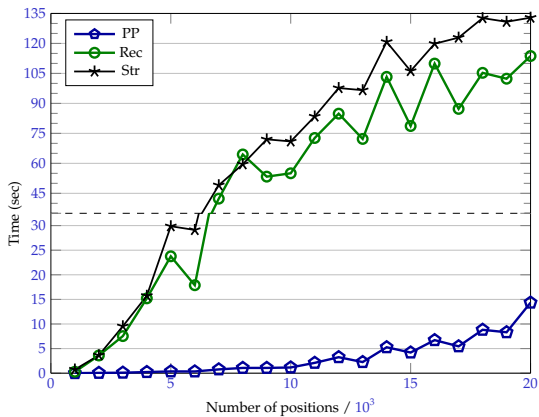


## Results

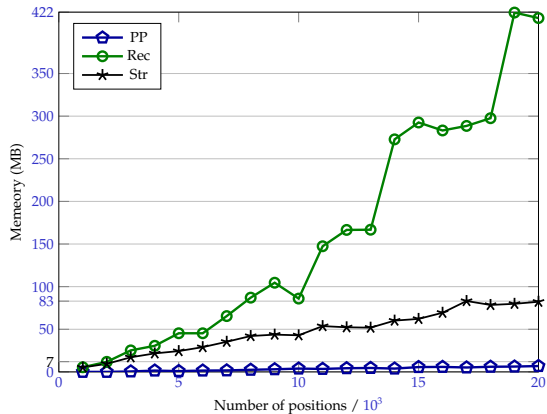
# EXPERIMENTAL EVALUATION ON CONCRETE BENCHMARKS

Benchmark	Positions	FJSSW-QP (C++)	JL-QP (OCaml)	PP (OCaml)	Rec (OCaml)	StrImp (OCaml)
Hanoi	$1.9 \cdot 10^4$	7.7	†	0.0	0.0	†
Hanoi	$5.9 \cdot 10^4$	72.5	†	0.0	0.1	†
Elevator	$2.7 \cdot 10^3$	13.0	†	0.0	0.0	208.5
Elevator	$1.5 \cdot 10^4$	342.3	†	0.0	0.1	†
Elevator	$1 \cdot 10^5$	†	†	0.2	0.9	†
Lang. Incl.	$4.4 \cdot 10^4$	25.7	†	0.0	0.2	†
Lang. Incl.	$7.8 \cdot 10^4$	71.8	†	0.0	0.3	†
Lang. Incl.	$1.2 \cdot 10^5$	149.3	†	0.1	0.4	†
Ladder	$1 \cdot 10^4$	121.1	†	0.0	0.0	30.0
Ladder	$2 \cdot 10^4$	501.5	†	0.0	0.0	131.6
Str. Imp.	$1.2 \cdot 10^4$	3.7	†	0.0	0.0	†
Str. Imp.	$4.6 \cdot 10^4$	42.6	†	0.0	0.2	†
Str. Imp.	$1 \cdot 10^5$	227.9	†	0.1	0.4	†
Clique	$2 \cdot 10^2$	0.8	†	0.0	0.0	0.1
Clique	$1 \cdot 10^3$	102.1	†	0.1	4.6	8.4
Clique	$1.5 \cdot 10^3$	518.6	†	0.4	15.2	31.5
MC. Lad.	$3 \cdot 10^4$	9.2	†	0.0	0.0	0.9
MC. Lad.	$1.5 \cdot 10^5$	254.5	†	0.0	0.1	2.7
Rec. Lad.	$5 \cdot 10^3$	13.1	†	0.5	†	570.2
Rec. Lad.	$2.5 \cdot 10^4$	288.2	†	13.8	†	†
Jurdziński	$7.5 \cdot 10^3$	54.6	†	3.4	316.7	41.1
Jurdziński	$1.2 \cdot 10^4$	89.6	†	9.6	†	67.2
Jurdziński	$1.9 \cdot 10^4$	320.4	†	25.41	†	312.7

# EXPERIMENTAL EVALUATION ON RANDOM GAMES: TIME



# EXPERIMENTAL EVALUATION ON RANDOM GAMES: MEMORY



## EXPERIMENTAL EVALUATION: ON RANDOM GAMES

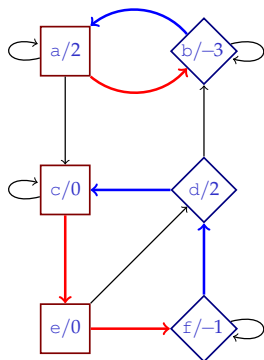
<i>Positions</i>	Dom	Big	Str	Rec	SmPr	PP
$1 \cdot 10^4$	60.00	15.22	55.24	0.65	60.00	<b>0.14</b>
$3 \cdot 10^4$	60.00	35.31	59.37	2.94	60.00	<b>0.40</b>
$5 \cdot 10^4$	60.00	45.04	60.00	5.79	60.00	<b>1.39</b>
$7 \cdot 10^4$	60.00	50.67	60.00	5.12	59.70	<b>0.79</b>
$1 \cdot 10^5$	60.00	58.43	60.00	8.89	60.00	<b>1.83</b>
Timeout	100%	49%	95.4%	1%	99.67%	<b>0%</b>

**Table:** Logarithmic number of priorities, average time over 120 games per row.



## Mean-Payoff Games

# MEAN-PAYOFF GAMES



## Mean-Payoff Game

- positions are labeled with integer numbers called **weights**;
- the **payoff** of a play is the sum of the weights of its positions.

## Winning Condition for $\alpha \in \{\blacklozenge, \blacksquare\}$

the **mean payoff** of the play  $\pi$

$$\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^n w(\pi_i)$$

is **positive** (resp., **non-positive**).

## Examples

- the mean payoff of play  $(ab)^\omega$  is  $-\frac{1}{2}$ ;
- the mean payoff of play  $(efdc)^\omega$  is  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

A play is winning for player  $\blacklozenge \iff$  its payoff diverges to  $+\infty$ .

# RELEVANCE OF MEAN-PAYOFF GAMES

## Applications

- *specification, verification* of systems against quantitative properties;
- *synthesis* of resource bounded systems: memory, power, bandwidth, etc.
- consistency of Temporal Network (used in temporal planning, scheduling).
- ...

## COMPLEXITY STATUS

Mean-Payoff Games are *memoryless determined*, i.e.,

- there are *no draws*
- *no memory* is needed to win

mean payoff  $\rightsquigarrow$  discounted payoff  $\rightsquigarrow$  simple stochastic

$\rightsquigarrow$

$\text{NPTIME} \cap \text{CONPTIME}$

### Known Upper Bounds

- Pseudo-PTime upper bound:  $O(m \cdot n \cdot W \cdot \log(n \cdot W))$  [Brim *et al.*, 2011];
- with  $n$  the number of positions,  $m$  the number of moves and  $W$  the maximal positive weight in the game.

# SOLVING MPG WITH QUASI-DOMINIONS

## Best algorithm for Mean-Payoff Games

- Based on the notion of **■**-*progress measure*: a local condition among adjacent positions witnessing the existence of a winning **■**-strategy
- A progress measure is computed by iteratively updating a *Payoff measure function*  $\mu$  that associates a natural number with each position
- The *measure*  $\mu(v)$  of position  $v$  estimates the payoff that player **◆** can enforce along finite plays starting in  $v$

## The Goal

- Speed up the convergence of the most efficient algorithm for mean payoff games: *Small Energy Progress Measure* (Brim *et al.*)

## THE PROGRESS MEASURE APPROACH: INTUITIONS

### Measure Invariant

The measure of any position  $v$  **under-approximates** the payoff that player  $\blacklozenge$  can enforce along some **finite play** starting from  $v$ .

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### Observation

The payoff of a simple play cannot exceed the sum of all the positive weights in the game ( $S = \sum \{w(v) : w(v) > 0\}$ ).

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### Computing a Progress Measure

Players are allowed to change the measure of their positions only by choosing moves:

- choosing move  $(v, u)$  will grant to position  $v$  the measure  $\mu(v) = w(v) + \mu(u)$
- Player  $\blacklozenge$  will choose moves that make the measures of his positions increase as much as possible.
- Player  $\blacksquare$  will choose move that make the measures of his positions as low as possible.

# MEAN-PAYOFF PROGRESS MEASURE

## Progress Measure

A measure function  $\mu : V \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$  is a **progress measure** if

- 1 for all  $\blacklozenge$ -positions  $v$ ,  $\mu(u) + w(v) \leq \mu(v)$ , for all moves  $(v, u)$ .
- 2 for all  $\blacksquare$ -positions  $v$ ,  $\mu(u) + w(v) \leq \mu(v)$ , for some move  $(v, u)$ .

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## Example



$$\sum_{i=0}^3 (\mu(v_{i+1}) + w(v_i)) \leq \sum_{i=0}^3 \mu(v_i)$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^3 w(v_i) \leq \sum_{i=0}^3 (\mu(v_i) - \mu(v_{i+1})) = \mu(v_0) - \mu(v_4)$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^3 w(v_i) \leq \mu(v_0) - \mu(v_0) = 0$$

# MEAN-PAYOFF PROGRESS MEASURE

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- 2 for all  $\blacksquare$ -positions  $v$ ,  $\mu(u) + w(v) \leq \mu(v)$ , for some move  $(v, u)$ .

## The Solution

The winning regions of the two player:

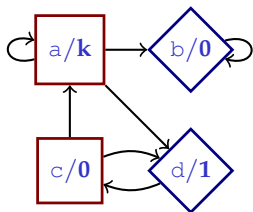
- $W_{\blacklozenge}$  contains the positions  $v$  s.t.  $\mu(v) = \infty$ ;
- $W_{\blacksquare}$  contains the positions  $v$  s.t.  $\mu(v) \neq \infty$

# COMPUTING A PROGRESS MEASURE

The least fixpoint of the following lift operator

$$\text{lift}(\mu)(v) \triangleq \begin{cases} \max\{\mu(u) + w(v) : (v, u) \in \mathcal{D}\}, & \text{if } v \in \blacklozenge; \\ \min\{\mu(u) + w(v) : (v, u) \in \mathcal{D}\}, & \text{if } v \in \blacksquare. \end{cases}$$

	a	b	c	d
$\mu_0$	0	0	0	0

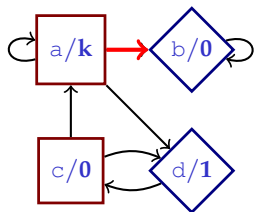


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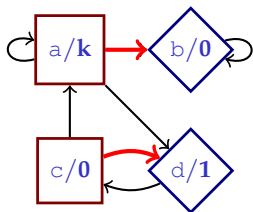
	a	b	c	d
$\mu_0$	0	0	0	0
$\mu_1$	k	0	0	1

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	a	b	c	d
$\mu_0$	0	0	0	0
$\mu_1$	k	0	0	1
$\mu_2$	k	0	1	1

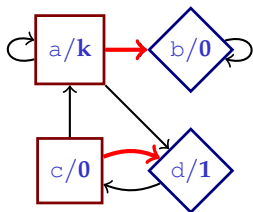
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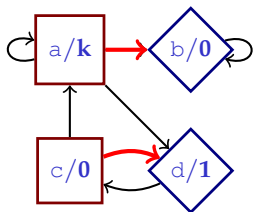
	a	b	c	d
$\mu_0$	0	0	0	0
$\mu_1$	$k$	0	0	1
$\mu_2$	$k$	0	1	1
$\mu_3$	$k$	0	1	2

|

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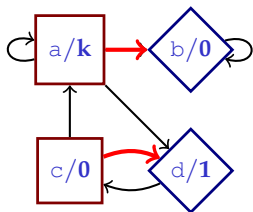
	a	b	c	d
$\mu_0$	0	0	0	0
$\mu_1$	k	0	0	1
$\mu_2$	k	0	1	1
$\mu_3$	k	0	1	2
$\mu_4$	k	0	2	2
$\mu_5$	k	0	2	3
...	...	...	...	...
$\mu_{2k}$	k	0	k	k

|

# COMPUTING A PROGRESS MEASURE

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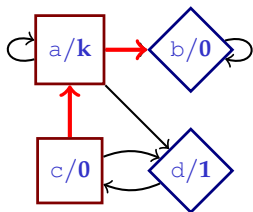
	a	b	c	d
$\mu_0$	0	0	0	0
$\mu_1$	$k$	0	0	1
$\mu_2$	$k$	0	1	1
$\mu_3$	$k$	0	1	2
$\mu_4$	$k$	0	2	2
$\mu_5$	$k$	0	2	3
...	...	...	...	...
$\mu_{2k}$	$k$	0	$k$	$k$
$\mu_{2k+1}$	$k$	0	$k$	$k+1$

|

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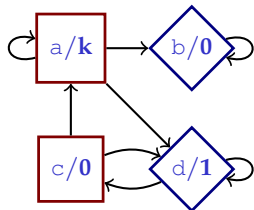


	a	b	c	d
$\mu_0$	0	0	0	0
$\mu_1$	$k$	0	0	1
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$\mu_5$	$k$	0	2	3
...	...	...	...	...
$\mu_{2k}$	$k$	0	$k$	$k$
$\mu_{2k+1}$	$k$	0	$k$	$k+1$
$\mu_{2k+2}$	$k$	0	$k$	$k+1$

## COMPUTING THE MINIMAL PROGRESS MEASURE

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$$\text{lift}(\mu)(v) \triangleq \begin{cases} \max\{\mu(u) + v : u \in Mv(v)\}, & \text{if } v \in \blacklozenge; \\ \min\{\mu(u) + v : u \in Mv(v)\}, & \text{if } v \in \blacksquare. \end{cases}$$



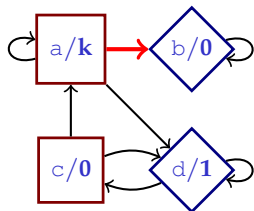
	a	b	c	d
$\mu_0$	0	0	0	0

|

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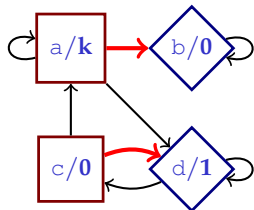
	a	b	c	d
$\mu_0$	0	0	0	0
$\mu_1$	k	0	0	1

|

# COMPUTING THE MINIMAL PROGRESS MEASURE

The least fixpoint of the following lift operator

$$\text{lift}(\mu)(v) \triangleq \begin{cases} \max\{\mu(u) + v : u \in Mv(v)\}, & \text{if } v \in \blacklozenge; \\ \min\{\mu(u) + v : u \in Mv(v)\}, & \text{if } v \in \blacksquare. \end{cases}$$



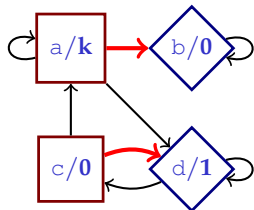
	a	b	c	d
$\mu_0$	0	0	0	0
$\mu_1$	$k$	0	0	1
$\mu_2$	$k$	0	1	2

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	a	b	c	d
$\mu_0$	0	0	0	0
$\mu_1$	$k$	0	0	1
$\mu_2$	$k$	0	1	2
$\mu_3$	$k$	0	2	3

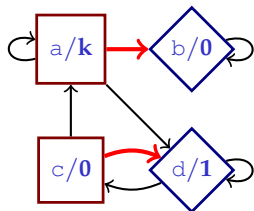
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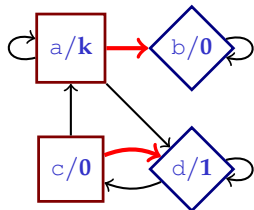
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$\mu_0$	0	0	0	0
$\mu_1$	$k$	0	0	1
$\mu_2$	$k$	0	1	2
$\mu_3$	$k$	0	2	3
$\mu_4$	$k$	0	3	4

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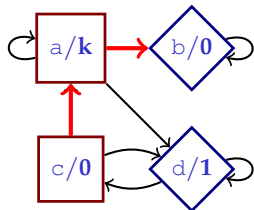
	a	b	c	d
$\mu_0$	0	0	0	0
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$\mu_2$	$k$	0	1	2
$\mu_3$	$k$	0	2	3
$\mu_4$	$k$	0	3	4
...	...	...	...	...
$\mu_{k+1}$	$k$	0	$k$	$k+1$

|

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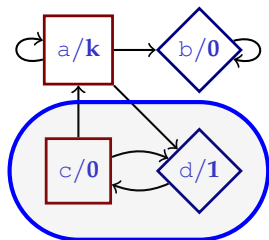
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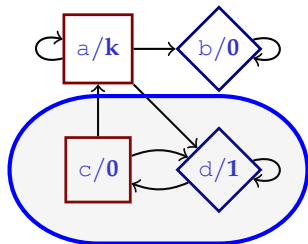
	a	b	c	d
$\mu_0$	0	0	0	0
$\mu_1$	$k$	0	0	1
$\mu_2$	$k$	0	1	2
$\mu_3$	$k$	0	2	3
$\mu_4$	$k$	0	3	4
...	...	...	...	...
$\mu_{k+1}$	$k$	0	$k$	$k+1$
$\mu_{k+2}$	$k$	0	$k$	$\infty$

## THE PROBLEM



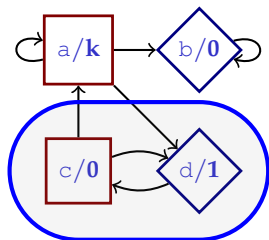
The number of iteration to reach a progress measure is linear in the weight  $k$  for both games.

This is due to the minimal measure increase policy employed by player  $\blacksquare$  within the *lift* operator.



The move from  $(c, d)$  is clearly a losing strategy for player  $\blacksquare$ .

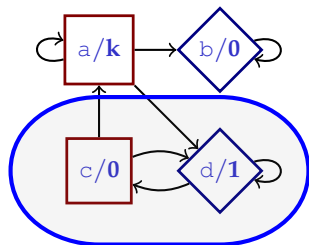
## THE PROBLEM



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The move from  $(c, d)$  is clearly a losing strategy for player  $\blacksquare$ .



Crucial observation

The set  $\{c, d\}$  forms a quasi  $\blacklozenge$ -dominion in both games.

# A QUASI-DOMINION PROGRESS MEASURE

A new approach based on the merge of notions of

- *quasi-dominion*
- *progress measure*

## Basic Concepts

Quasi  $\blacklozenge$ -dominion: set of positions where player  $\blacklozenge$  has a strategy to win all the play that **remain in the set forever** (*i.e.*, those where the opponent  $\blacksquare$  does not escape).

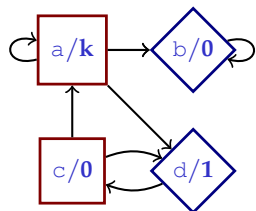
## Crucial Property

The set of positions with a *positive* measure always form a quasi  $\blacklozenge$ -dominion.

## THE ALGORITHM: INTUITIONS

We treat positions inside a quasi dominion differently from the ones outside

- Positions outside the quasi  $\blacklozenge$ -dominion (with non-positive measure) are lifted as in the standard way;
- Positions of player  $\blacksquare$  within the quasi  $\blacklozenge$ -dominion try to escape following the move that **exits the quasi dominion and grants the minimal measure increase**;
- Positions of player  $\blacklozenge$  within the quasi  $\blacklozenge$ -dominion try to remain in the quasi dominion if they can;



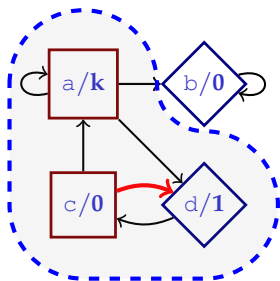
	a	b	c	d
$\mu_0$	0	0	0	0

|

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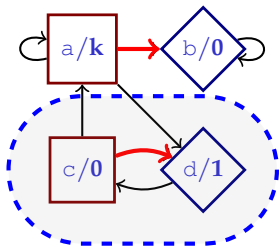
	a	b	c	d
$\mu_0$	0	0	0	0
$\mu_1$	k	0	1	1



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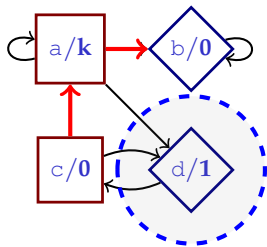


	a	b	c	d
$\mu_0$	0	0	0	0
$\mu_1$	$k$	0	1	1
$\mu_2$	$k$	0		

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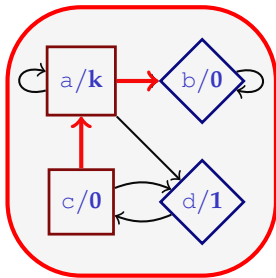


	a	b	c	d
$\mu_0$	0	0	0	0
$\mu_1$	k	0	1	1
$\mu_2$	k	0	k	

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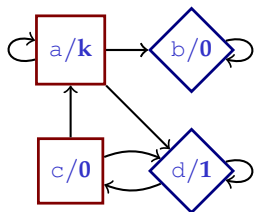


	a	b	c	d
$\mu_0$	0	0	0	0
$\mu_1$	$k$	0	1	1
$\mu_2$	$k$	0	$k$	$k+1$

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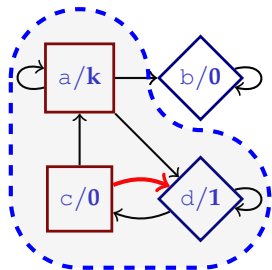
	a	b	c	d
$\mu_0$	0	0	0	0

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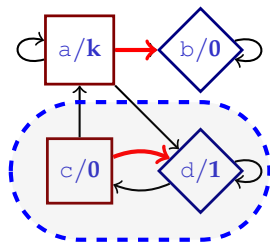


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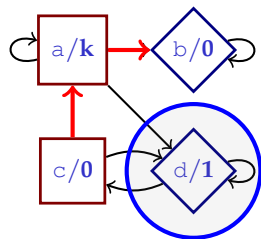


	a	b	c	d
$\mu_0$	0	0	0	0
$\mu_1$	k	0	1	1
$\mu_2$	k	0		

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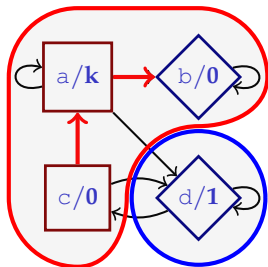


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$\mu_1$	$k$	0	1	1
$\mu_2$	$k$	0	$k$	

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$\mu_0$	0	0	0	0
$\mu_1$	$k$	0	1	1
$\mu_2$	$k$	0	$k$	$\infty$



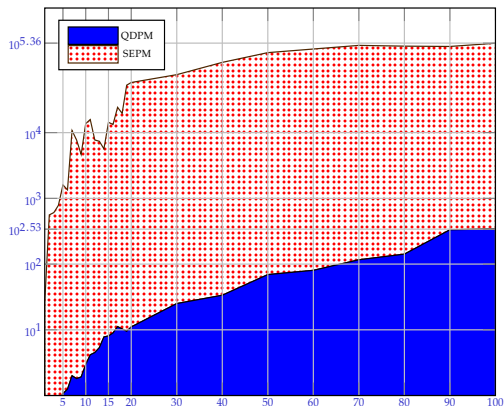
# EXPERIMENTAL EVALUATION

Benchmark	(Pos,Moves)	SEPM	QDPM
Elevator 1	(144, 234)	0.04	<b>0.0010</b>
Elevator 2	(564, 950)	8.80	<b>0.0042</b>
Elevator 3	(2688, 4544)	4675.71	<b>0.0064</b>
Lang. Incl. 1	(170, 1094)	3.18	<b>0.0021</b>
Lang. Incl. 2	(304, 1222)	16.76	<b>0.0019</b>
Lang. Incl. 3	(428, 878)	20.25	<b>0.0033</b>
Lang. Incl. 4	(628, 1538)	135.51	<b>0.0029</b>
Lang. Incl. 5	(509, 2126)	148.37	<b>0.0034</b>
Lang. Incl. 6	(835, 2914)	834.90	<b>0.0051</b>
Lang. Incl. 7	(1658, 4544)	2277.87	<b>0.0100</b>

concrete verification problems

SEPM: Small Energy Progress Measure

QDPM: Quasi Domionion Progress Measure



maximal out-degree 40

Number of positions:  $n \times 10^3$

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

A novel notion of *Quasi Dominion* that seems to

- be general enough to be applicable to different types of games
- be simple enough to be easily computed
- convey enough information to accelerate the convergence to the solution of the games considered so far.

It has led to a *New approach* for solving parity games

- exponentially more efficient in space complexity (*w.r.t.* # priorities)
- very effective in practice

Integration of *Mean-Payoff* progress measures and *Quasi Dominions*

- matches the state-of-art asymptotic time complexity:  $O(n \cdot m \cdot W \cdot \log(n \cdot W))$ ;
- very effective in practice;
- existence of a families of games on which it performs arbitrarily better than best solution algorithm.