

Reachability analysis
of
first-order definable pushdown systems
(= pushdown systems in sets with atoms)

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joint work with Lorenzo Clemente

builds on previous joint work with:

Mikołaj Bojańczyk, Bartek Klin, Joanna Ochremiak, Szymon Toruńczyk

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Outline

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- Re-interpreting models of computation in FO definable sets

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- FO definable PDA
- Well-behaved case: oligomorphic and homogeneous atoms
- Reachability in FO definable PDA over oligomorphic atoms
- Ill-behaved case: time atoms

Atoms

Fix a countably infinite relational structure \mathbb{A} over a finite vocabulary, and call it **atoms**.

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Consider subsets of \mathbb{A}^n described by first-order formulas $\phi(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ with constants or without constants.

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$$x_1 = x_2 \neq x_3 \vee x_1 \neq x_2 = x_3$$

$$x_1 < x_2 \leq x_3$$

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Example:

$$\{ (x_1, x_2, x_3) : x_1 < x_2 \leq x_3 \} \cup \{ (x_1, x_2) : x_1 \neq x_2 \}$$

different dimensions

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Option: **quantifier-free definable** sets.

Simple idea

Relax finiteness to... **FO definability**

Instantiate widely accepted symbolic approach: instead of enumerating sets, represent them and process symbolically.

FO definable NFA

[Bojańczyk, Klin, L. 2011, 2014]

- alphabet A
- states Q
- transitions $\delta \subseteq Q \times A \times Q$
- $I, F \subseteq Q$

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DFA:

- $\delta : Q \times A \rightarrow Q$

input alphabet: $\mathbb{A} = \mathbb{A}$

language: "exactly two different atoms appear"

states:

transitions:

initial state:

accepting states:

input alphabet: $\mathbb{A} = \mathbb{A}$

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number of registers may vary
from one location to another

states: $\mathbb{Q} = \mathbb{A}^0 \cup \mathbb{A}^0 \cup \mathbb{A}^1 \cup \mathbb{A}^2$

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$\delta(\text{init}, a) =$	(a)	a atom
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if in state **init** atom a is
read, goto state (a)

initial state: **init**

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transitions: $\delta : Q \times \mathbb{A} \rightarrow Q$

$\delta(\text{init}, a) =$	(a)	a atom
$\delta((a), b) =$	(ab)	$a \neq b$

if in state (a) , atom $b \neq a$ is read, goto state (ab)

initial state: init

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$\delta((ab), c) =$	reject	$c \neq a, b$

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Register automata?

Over equality atoms, FO definable NFA slightly generalize register automata (aka finite-memory automata) of [\[Francez, Kaminsky 1994\]](#):

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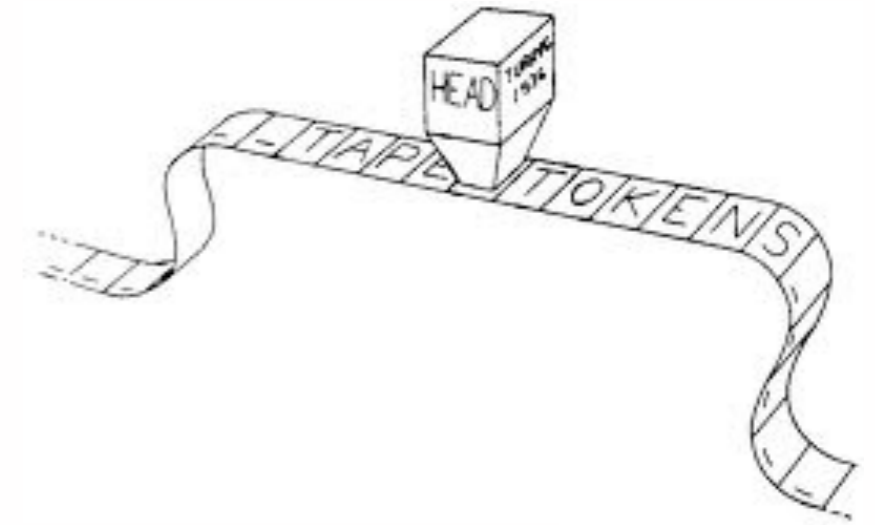
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- arbitrary FO constraints on register valuations and transitions

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- number of registers may vary from one control state to another
- alphabet letters may contain more than one atom
- arbitrary FO constraints on register valuations and transitions
- instead of (finite set) $\times \mathbb{A}$, disjoint union $\mathbb{A} \cup \mathbb{A} \cup \dots$

FO definable Turing machines

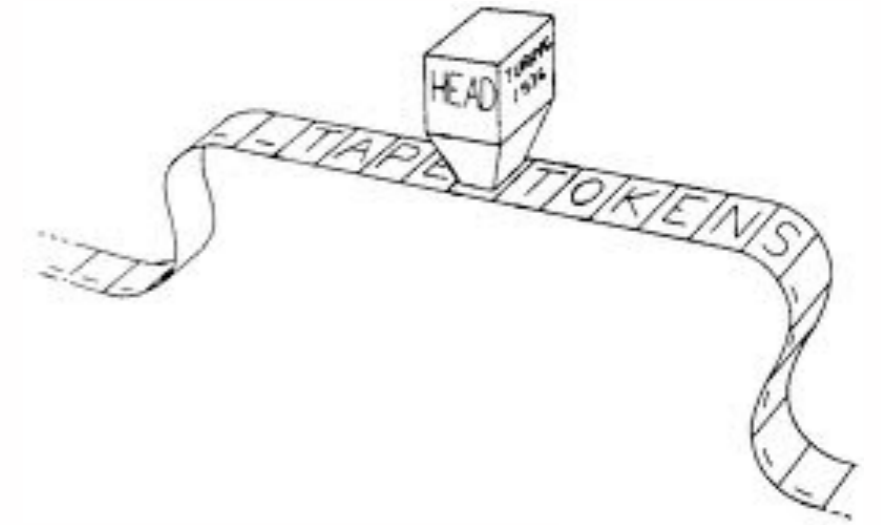


[Bojańczyk, Klin, L., Toruńczyk 2013]

[Klin, L., Ochremiak, Toruńczyk 2014]

- tape alphabet A
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- $I, F \subseteq Q$

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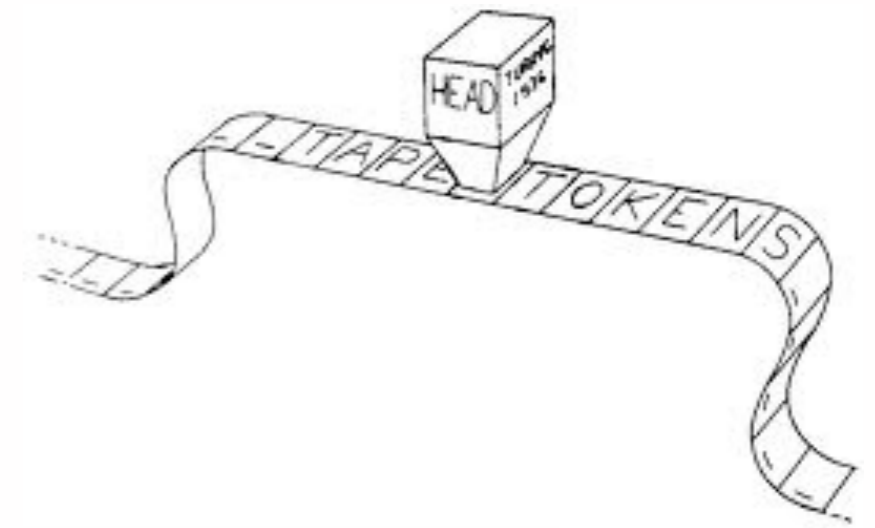
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FO definable sets
instead of finite ones

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Acceptance defined as for classical Turing machines.

Finite presentation

FO definable NFA, Turing machines, PDA, etc.
can be finitely presented.

Outline

- Re-interpreting models of computation in FO definable sets
- **FO definable PDA**
- Well-behaved case: oligomorphic and homogeneous atoms
- Reachability in FO definable PDA over oligomorphic atoms
- Ill-behaved case: time atoms

FO-definable PDA

- alphabet A
- states Q
- stack alphabet S
- $\rho \subseteq Q \times S \times (A \cup \{\varepsilon\}) \times Q \times S^*$
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Acceptance defined as for classical PDA, e.g. configurations = $Q \times S^*$

input alphabet: $A = \mathbb{Q}$

language: "ordered palindromes"

states:

stack alphabet:

transitions:

initial state:

accepting state:

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states: $Q = \{\text{init}, \text{finish}, \text{acc}\}$

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init, \perp, a	$\text{init}, a\perp$	$a \text{ atom}$
-------------------------	-----------------------	------------------

if in state **init**, \perp is topmost on the stack and atom a is read, stay in state **init** and push a on the stack

initial state: **init**accepting state: **acc**

input alphabet: $A = \mathbb{Q}$

language: "ordered palindromes"

states: $Q = \{\text{init}, \text{finish}, \text{acc}\}$

stack alphabet: $S = \mathbb{Q} \cup \{\perp\}$

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init, \perp , a	init, a \perp	a atom
init, b, c	init, cb	b < c

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finish, \perp , ε	acc, ε	

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Pushdown register automata?

Over equality atoms, FO definable PDA slightly generalize pushdown register automata of [\[Murawski, Ramsay, Tzevelekos 2014\]](#), exactly like FO definable NFA slightly generalize register automata.

FO-definable context-free grammars

- symbols S
- terminal symbols $A \subseteq S$
- an initial symbol
- $\rho \subseteq (S-A) \times S^*$

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Under what assumptions on atoms:

- are context-free grammars as expressive as PDA?
- is equivalence of two PDAs decidable?
- is reachability problem decidable for PDA?

Expressiveness

Theorem: [Bojańczyk, Klin, L. 2014]

The following models recognize the same languages:

- FO definable context-free grammars
 - FO definable PDA
 - FO definable prefix rewriting systems,
- when \mathbb{A} is **oligomorphic**

Equivalence-checking

Theorem: [\[Murawski, Ramsay, Tzevelekos 2015\]](#)
Bisimulation equivalence is undecidable for
FO definable PDA over equality atoms.

Reachability

Assumption: From now on assume that FO satisfiability problem in \mathbb{A} is decidable.

Given: an FO formula over
the vocabulary of \mathbb{A}

Question: is the formula
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This is necessary but far not enough!

Fact: The reachability problem for FO definable NFA over dense-time atoms $(\mathbb{Q}, <, +1)$ is undecidable.

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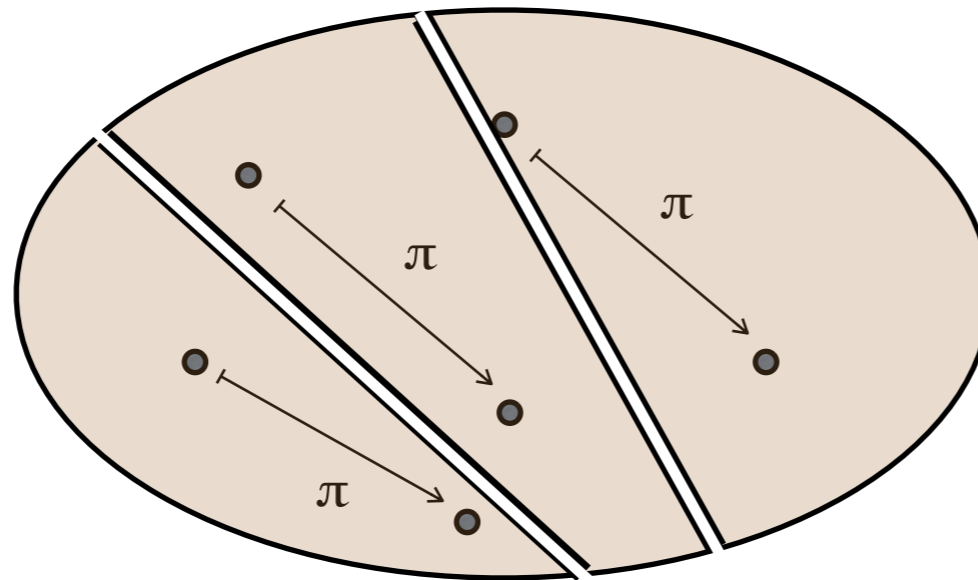
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total order atoms $(\mathbb{Q}, <)$	monotonic bijections
dense-time atoms $(\mathbb{Q}, <, +1)$	monotonic bijections preserving integer differences
discrete-time atoms $(\mathbb{Z}, <, +1)$	translations
equivalence atoms $(\mathbb{A}, \mathbb{R}, =)$	equivalence-preserving bijections
random graph $(\mathbb{V}, \mathbb{E}, =)$	random graph automorphisms
...	...

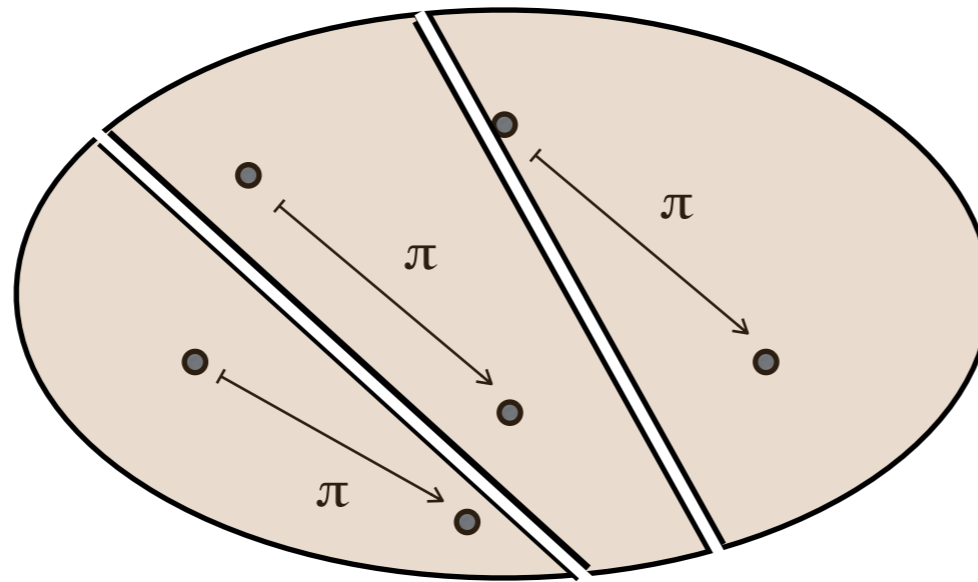
Orbits

Atom automorphisms π act on \mathbb{A}^n thus splitting it into **orbits**.



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Examples:

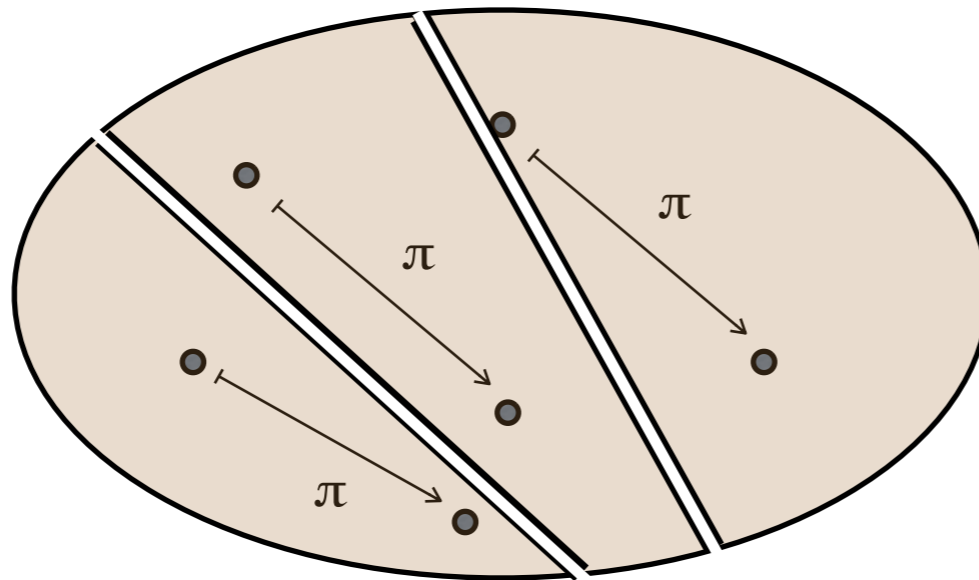
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Examples:

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$$x_1 < x_2 = x_3 < x_{1+1}$$

Non-examples:

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$$x_1 < x_2 \leq x_3$$

$$x_1 < x_2 \leq x_3 \leq x_{1+1} + 1$$

Oligomorphous structures

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Example: $(\mathbb{Q}, <)$

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\mathbb{Q}^2 has 3 orbits:

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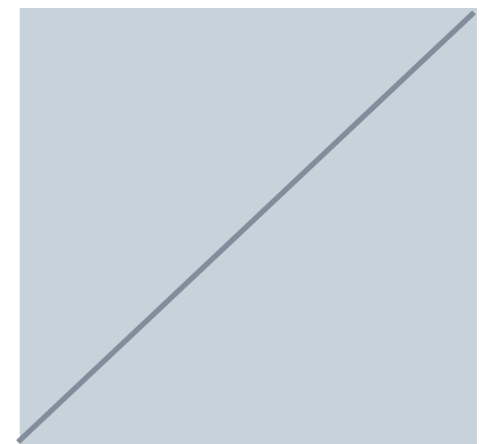
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\mathbb{Q}^2 has 3 orbits:

- $\{ (x, y) : x < y \}$
- $\{ (x, y) : x = y \}$
- $\{ (x, y) : x > y \}$



Oligomorphic structures

A relational structure \mathbb{A} is **oligomorphic**

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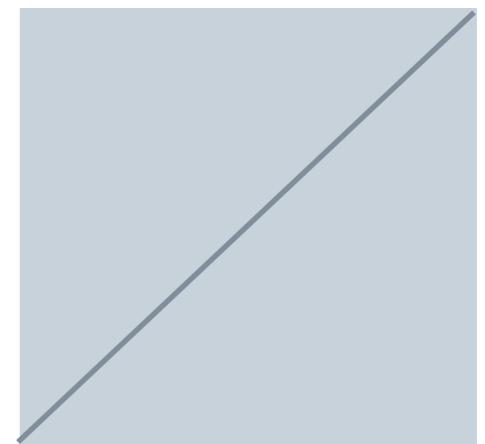
for every n , \mathbb{A}^n is **orbit-finite**, i.e. splits into finitely many orbits.

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\mathbb{Q}^3 has 13 orbits

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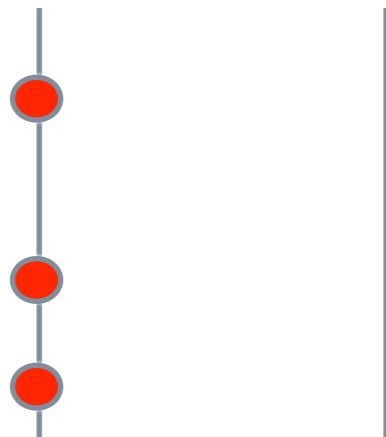
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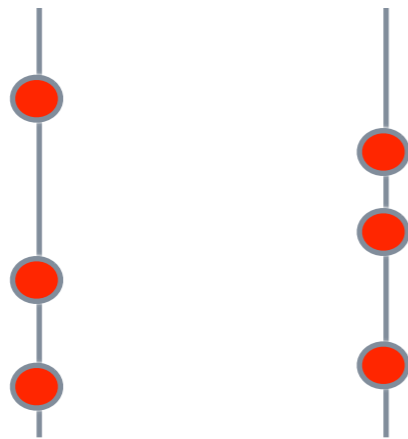
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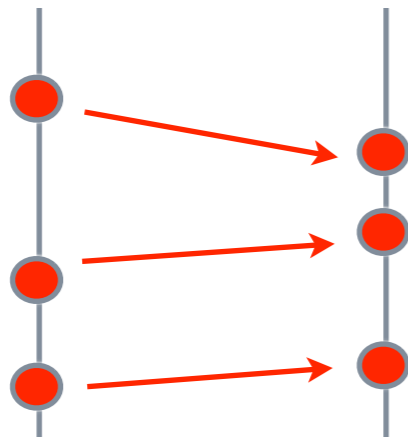
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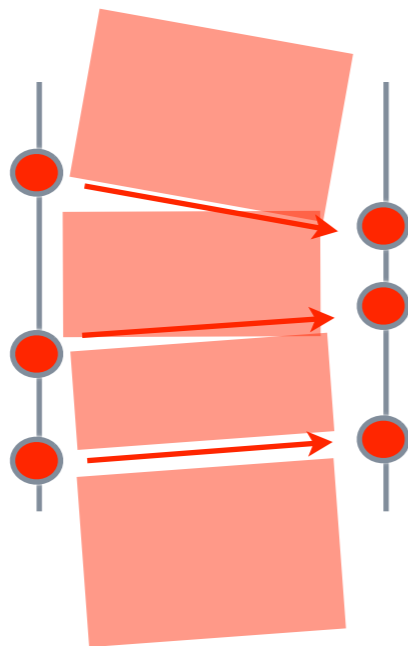
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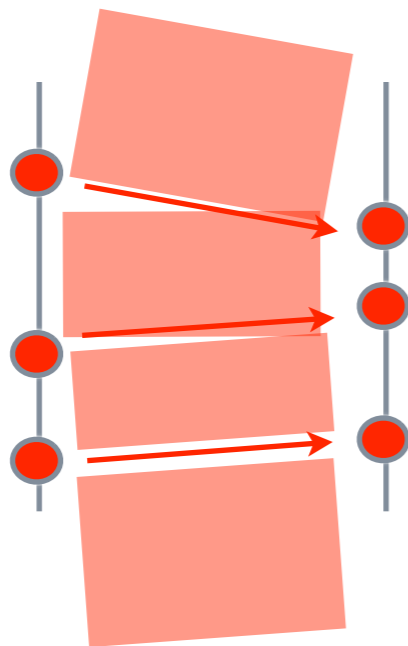
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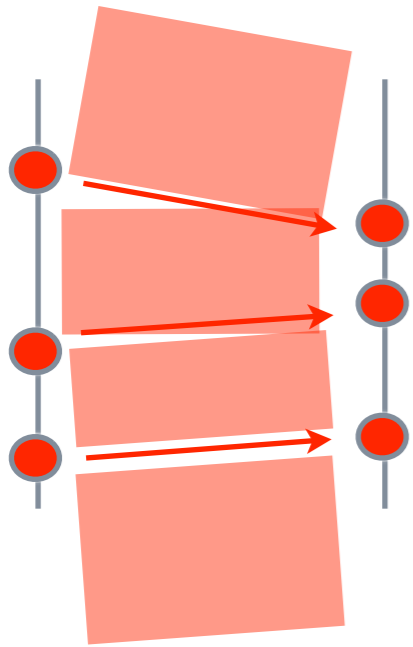
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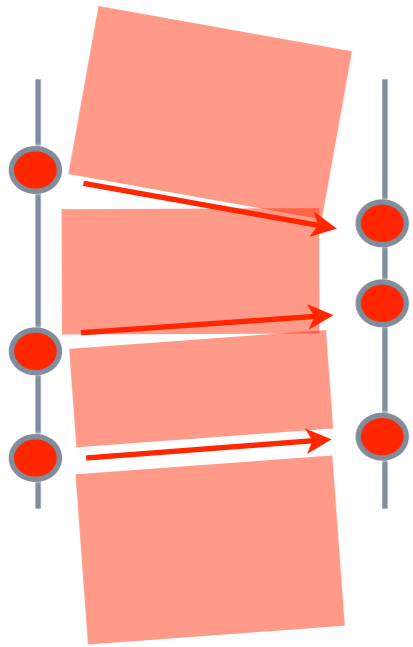
Theorem: [\[Freisse 1953\]](#)

A homogeneous structure is uniquely determined by its finite induced substructures (age).

Homogeneous structures

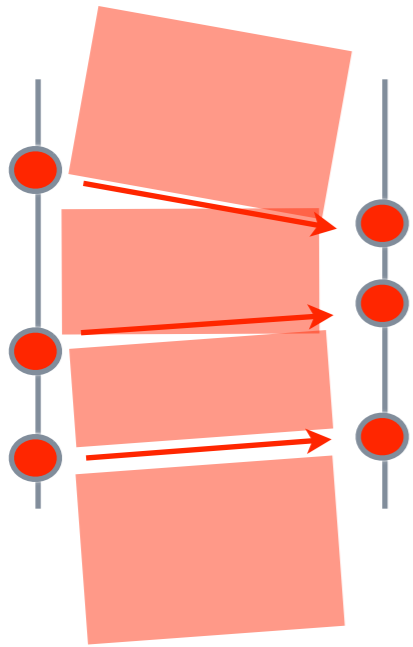


Homogeneous structures



equality atoms ($\mathbb{A}, =$)
total order atoms ($\mathbb{Q}, <$)
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Homogeneous structures

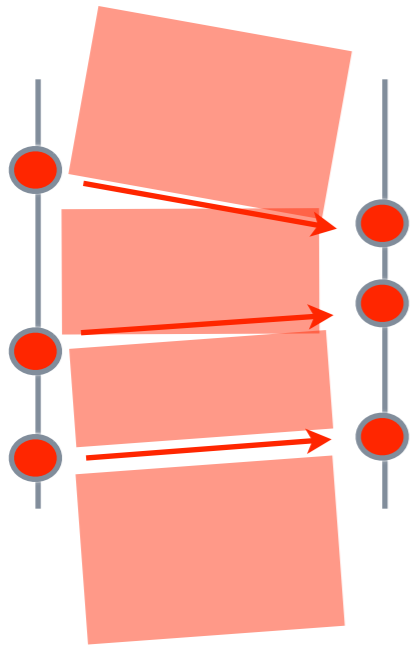


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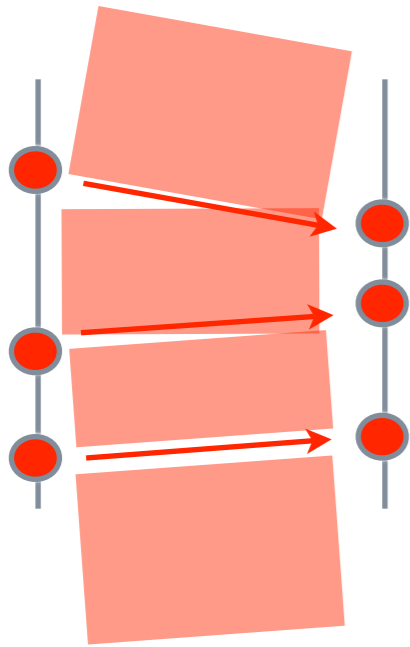
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equivalence atoms
universal (random) graph
universal partial order
universal directed graph
universal tournament
...

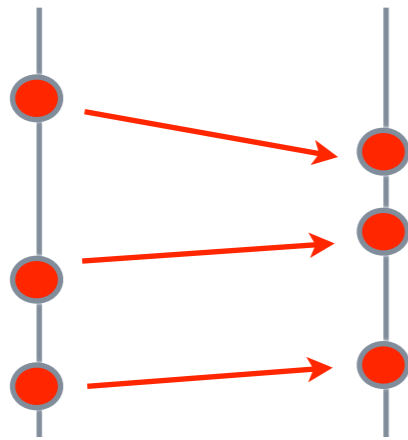
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Theorem: Every homogeneous relational structure is oligomorphic

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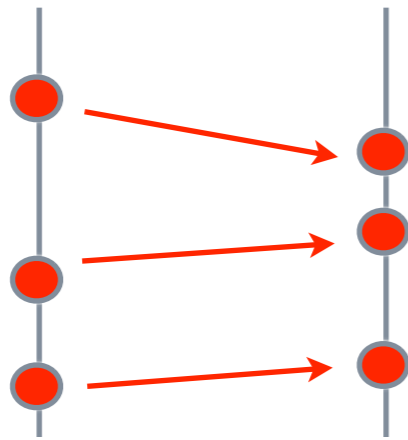
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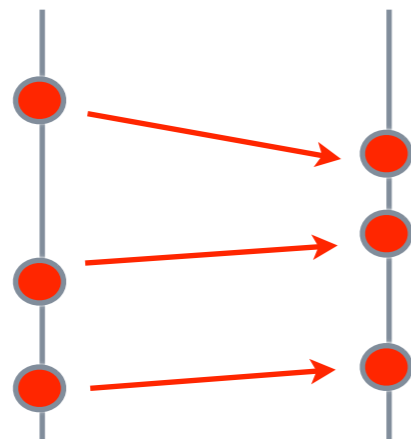


Theorem: Homogeneous = oligomorphic + quantifier elimination

Homogeneous is oligomorphic

Theorem: Every homogeneous relational structure is oligomorphic

Proof:



Theorem: Homogeneous = oligomorphic + quantifier elimination

Corollary: When \mathbb{A} is a homogeneous structure,

FO definable = quantifier-free definable

Outline

- Re-interpreting models of computation in FO definable sets
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Wlog. assume that transitions of PDA partition into:

$$\text{push} \subseteq Q \times S \times Q \times S^2 \quad \text{and}$$

$$\text{pop} \subseteq Q \times S \times Q$$

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Corollary: Configuration-to-configuration reachability of FO definable PDA is decidable

No proof idea!

Saturate transitions $\delta \subseteq Q \times S \times Q$ of NFA A :

$\delta' := \delta \cup \text{pop}$

repeat

$\delta' := \delta \cup \text{forced}(\delta')$

until $\text{forced}(\delta') \subseteq \delta'$

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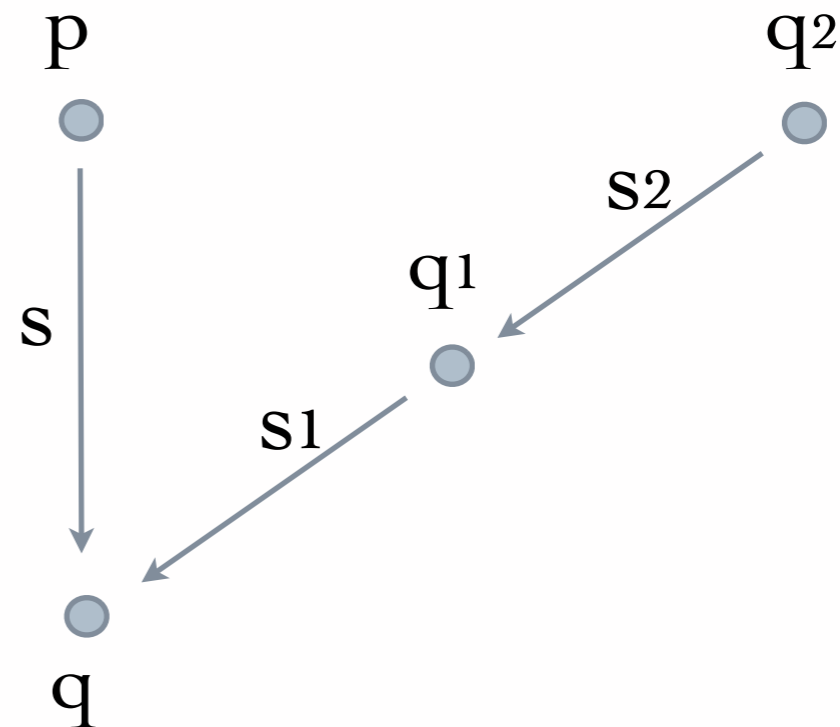
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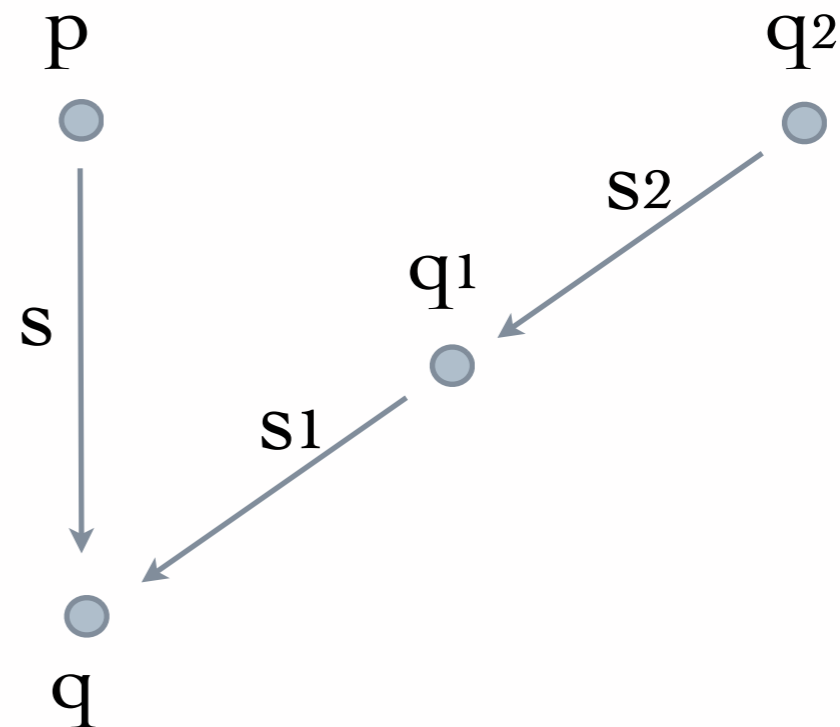
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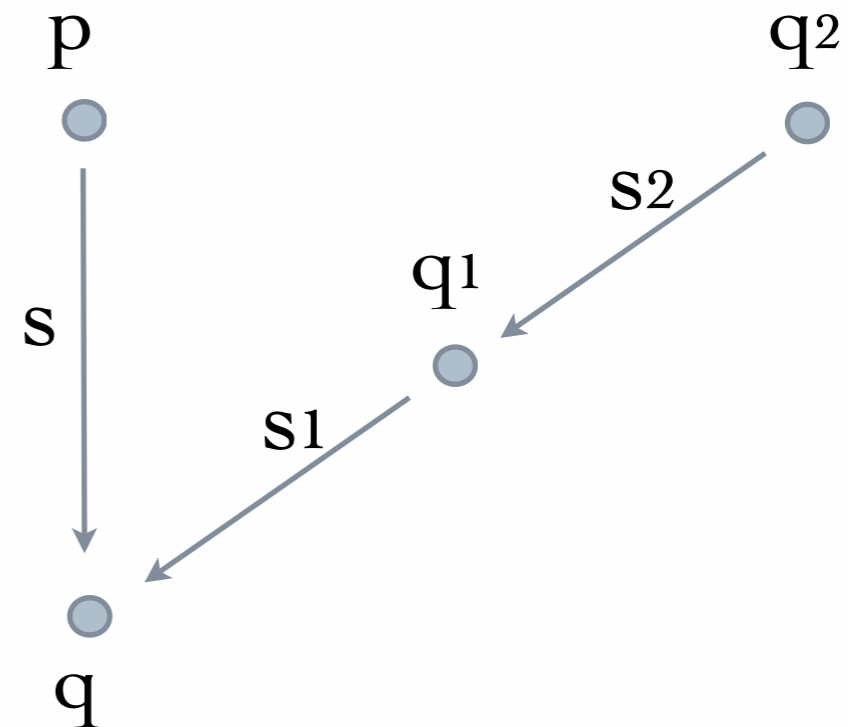
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termination due to oligomorphicity!

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Further assumptions

From now on assume that

- the induced substructure problem for \mathbb{A} is decidable
- \mathbb{A} is homogeneous

Given: a finite relational structure
over the vocabulary of \mathbb{A}

Question: is the structure an
induced substructure of \mathbb{A} ?
(Does the structure belong to
age of \mathbb{A} ?)

Homogeneous atoms: complexity

Theorem: Reachability problem for FO definable PDA is EXPTIME-complete, *roughly speaking*

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greatest number n of vars
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Corollary: Reachability problem for FO definable PDA is fixed-parameter tractable wrt. the dimension

Theorem: [Murawski, Ramsay, Tzevelekos 2014]

Reachability problem for pushdown register automata is EXPTIME-complete.

Theorem: [\[Murawski, Ramsay, Tzevelekos 2014\]](#)

Reachability problem for pushdown register automata is EXPTIME-complete.

We generalize EXPTIME-completeness to arbitrary homogeneous atoms whose induced substructure problem is in polynomial time.

Arbitrarily high complexity

Theorem: Even when \mathbb{A} is homogeneous, the reachability problem for FO definable PDA can have arbitrary high complexity.

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The result applies to various structures of atoms:

- equality atoms
- total-order atoms
- equivalence atoms $(\mathbb{A}, R, =)$, isomorphic to the **wreath product**

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Potential application to infinite-state abstractions in analysis of recursive program.

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Time atoms are ill-behaved

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- reachability is undecidable already for FO definable NFA

Patch for time atoms?

- alphabet A
- states Q
- stack alphabet S
- $\rho \subseteq Q \times S \times Q \times S^*$
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This works for NFA [Bojańczyk, L. 2012], but not for PDA:

Theorem: Reachability problem is still undecidable

Another attempt

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orbit-finite?



FO definable

Too strong restriction! Span of transitions is bounded

Right choice: orbit-finite PDA

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Theorem: Reachability problem is in NEXPTIME

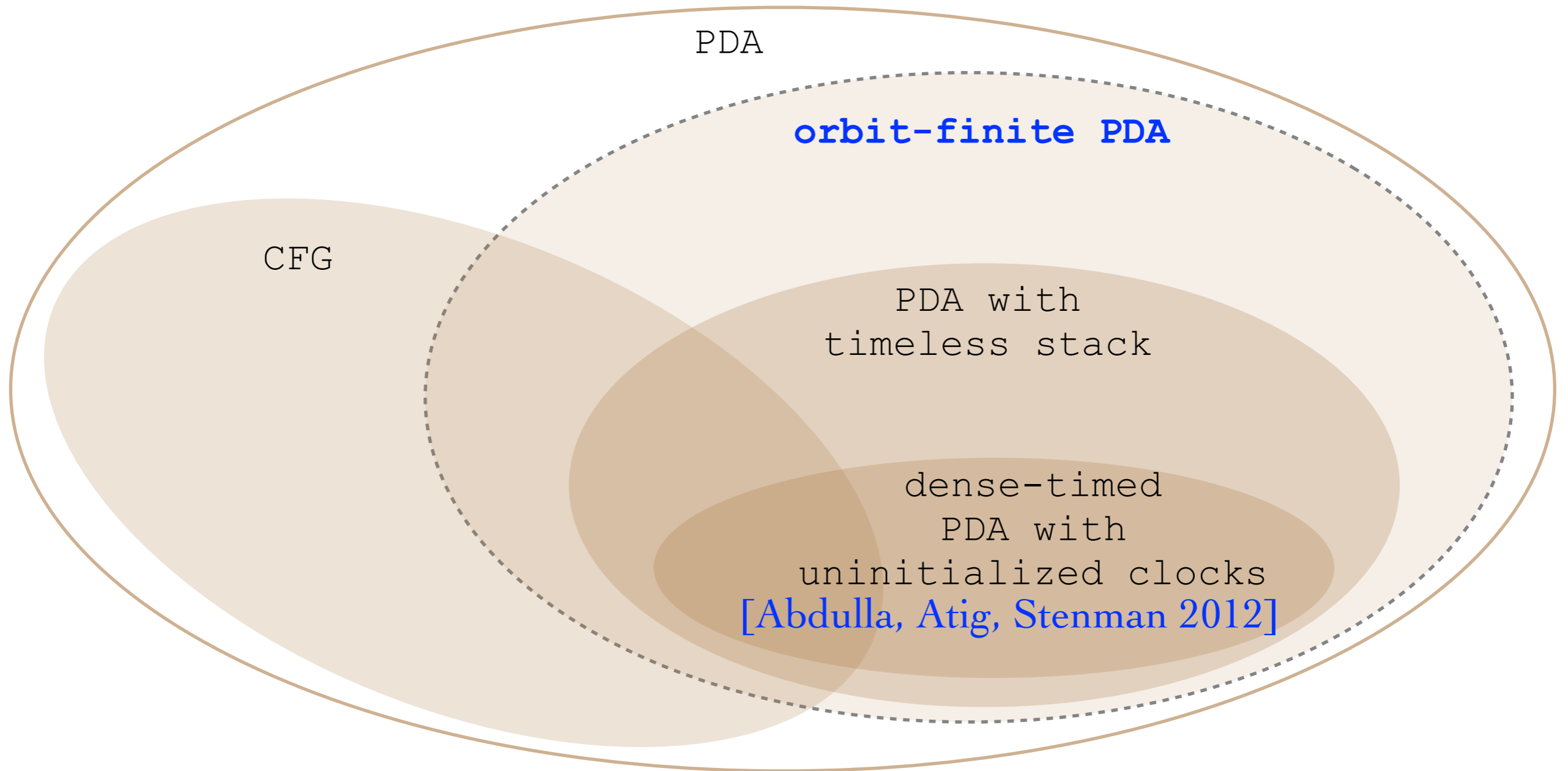
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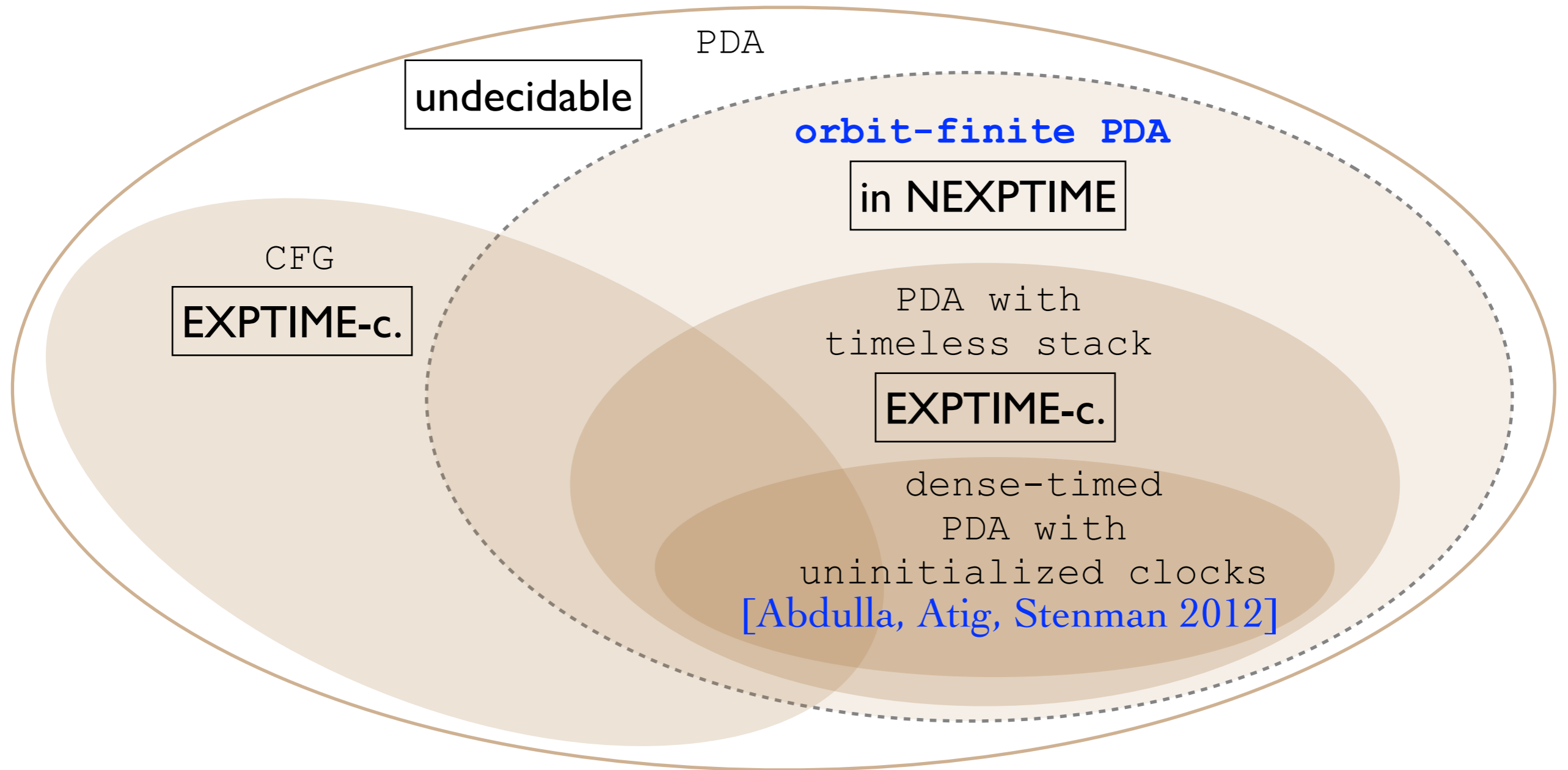
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Proof idea: Reduction to equations over sets of integers.

Expressiveness



Complexity of reachability



visit our blog

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `atoms.mimuw.edu.pl`. The page title is "Atompress | Computation with atoms". The browser's address bar shows "atoms.mimuw.edu.pl" and the search engine is "Google". The website has a dark sidebar on the left with the title "Atompress" and the subtitle "Computation with atoms". Below this, there is a "RECENT POSTS" section with several entries: "Characterization of Standard Alphabets", "Standard alphabets vs. homogenizability", "A conjecture concerning Brzozowski algorithm (PRIZE!)", "Derived alphabets", and "A pumping lemma for automata with atoms". At the bottom of the sidebar is a "Log in" link. The main content area has a navigation bar with "HOME", "ATOM BOOK", and "PEOPLE" links, and a search icon. The main heading is "COMPUTATION WITH ATOMS". Below this, there is a paragraph: "This page is devoted to exchanging information regarding computation with atoms, and techniques in Computer Science involving sets with atoms." This is followed by another paragraph: "Sets with atoms are also known under the names: Fraenkel-Mostowski sets, sets with urelements, permutation models, nominal sets, and others." Below this is a bulleted list with two items: "• [A book in progress](#)" and "• [People](#)". Another paragraph follows: "Below are some recent posts about stuff under development." The bottom section is titled "PAPERS" and features a large heading "CHARACTERIZATION OF STANDARD ALPHABETS". Below this heading, there is a line of text: "© MARCH 31, 2014 👤 SZYMTOR 💬 LEAVE A COMMENT".

thank you!