

Lookahead Games for

History-Deterministic Parity Automata

Rohan Acharya, Marcin Jurdziński, Aditya Prakash

University of Warwick, UK

# Deterministic Parity Automata

Efficient in algorithms

Non-deterministic  
parity automata

Succinct

Deterministic  
parity automata

Efficient in  
algorithms

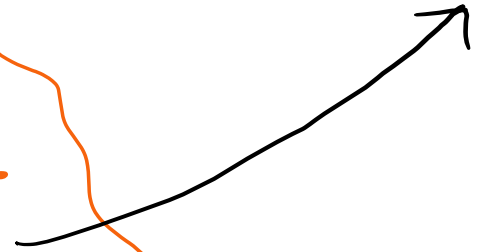
Non-deterministic  
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Succinct

History-deterministic  
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Deterministic  
parity automata

Efficient in  
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Problem: Given:  $A$   Non-det-  
parity automaton

Is  $A$  HD?

Complexity: OPEN since 2006

\* Checking History-Determinism is NP-hard  
for Parity Automata AP FoSSaCS'24

\* Lookahead Games and Efficient Determinisation  
of HD Büchi Automata

Rohan Acharya, Marcin Jurdziński, AP ICALP'24

I. (Recognising HD Parity Automata)

# Parity Condition

3, 1, 2, 1, 2, ...

4, 2, 3, 2, 3, ...

} → Sequence of natural numbers



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"Highest number occurring  $\infty$  often is even."

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✓

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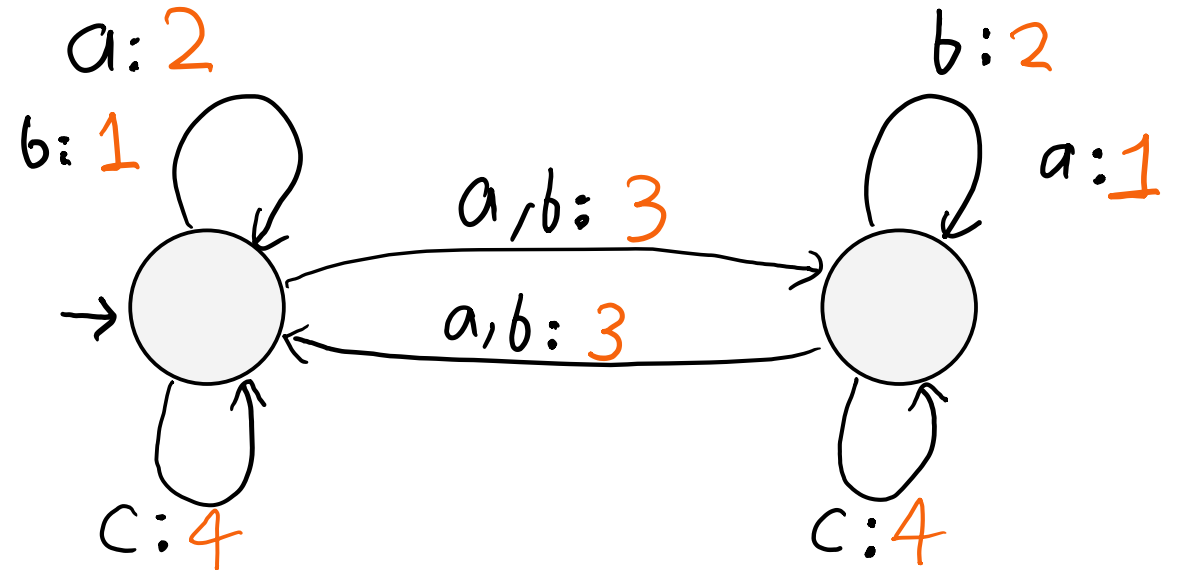
✗

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# Parity Automata

Input:  $w \in \{a,b,c\}^{\mathbb{N}}$

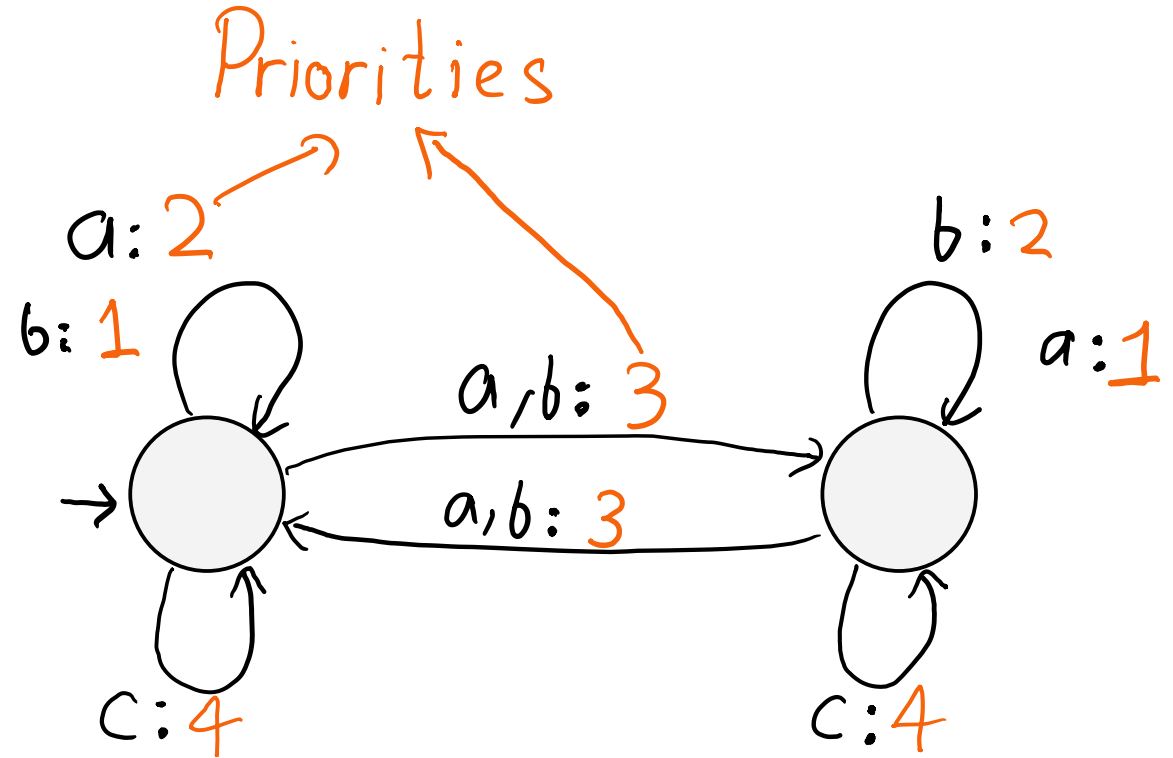


# Parity Automata

Input:  $w \in \{a,b,c\}^{\mathbb{N}}$

Accepting run:

Sequence of priorities satisfies the parity condition.



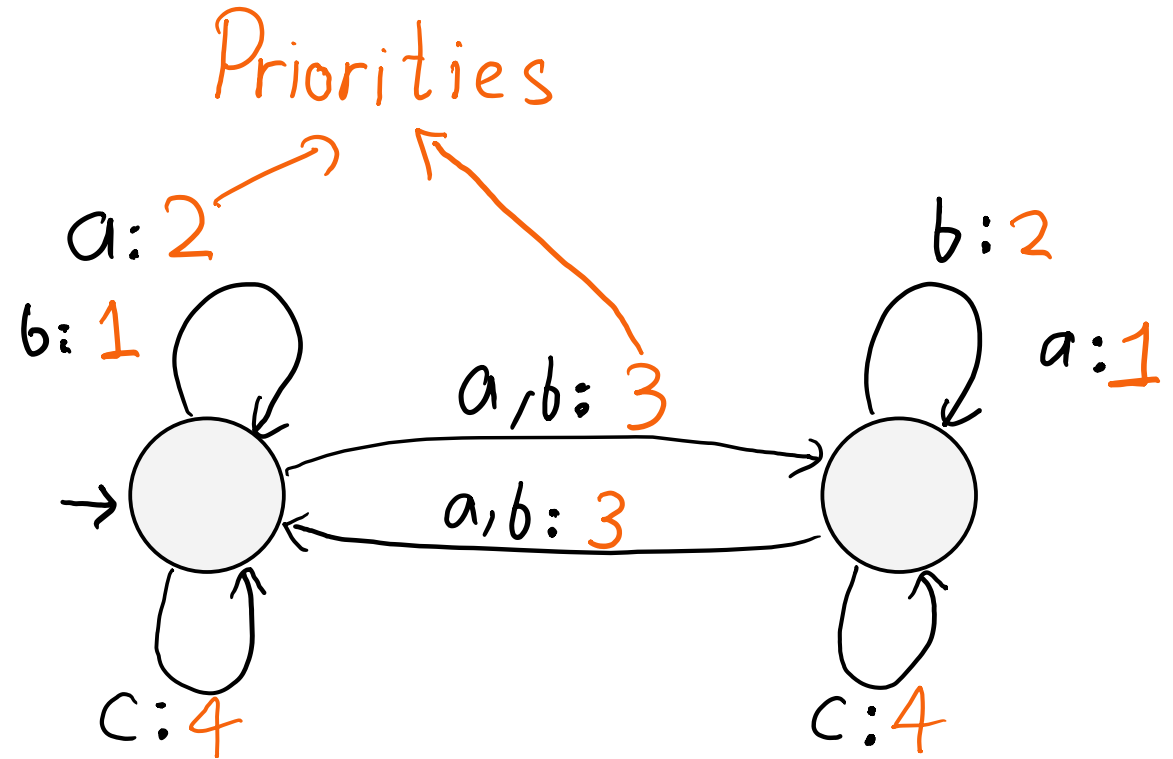
# Parity Automata

Input:  $w \in \{a,b,c\}^{\mathbb{N}}$

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Accepting word: If the automaton has an accepting run on it.



# Parity Automata

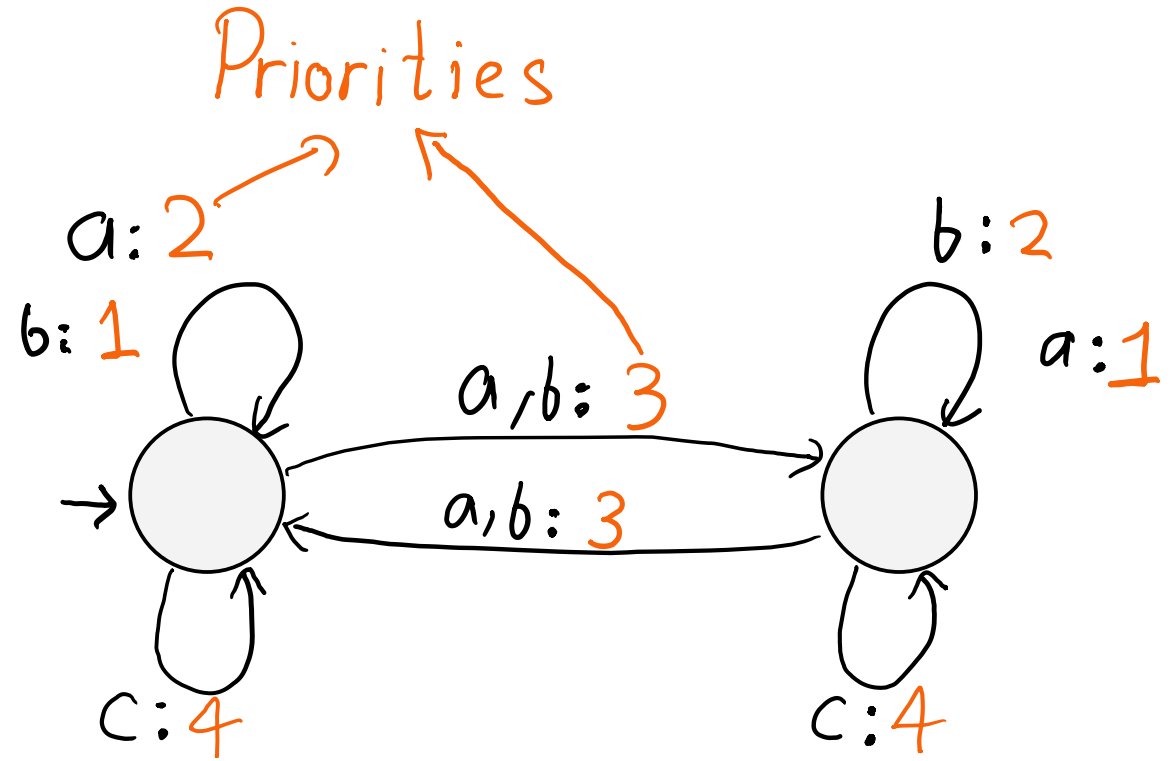
Input:  $w \in \{a, b, c\}^{\mathbb{N}}$

Accepting run:

Sequence of priorities satisfies the parity condition.

Accepting word: If the automaton has an accepting run on it.

Language: Set of accepting words.



# History - Deterministic Automata

Nondeterminism that arises while reading a word can be resolved based only on the prefix read so far.

Hen-zinger, Piterman 2006

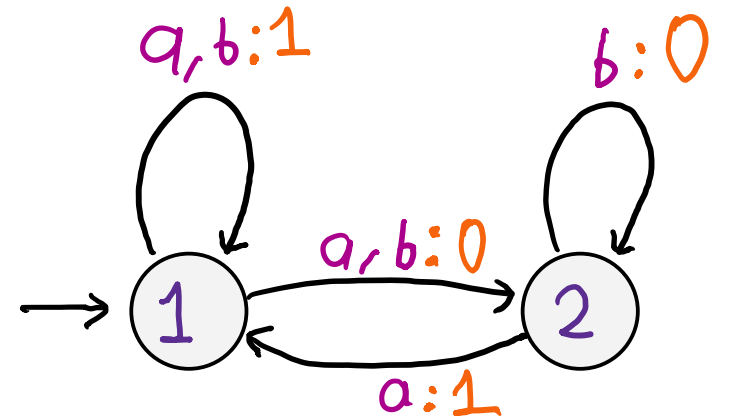


# History-Determinism Game

Starts at  $\rightarrow 1$

Adam selects letter  $a_i$

Eve selects transition  $q_i \xrightarrow{a_i} q_{i+1}$



H.D. Game

Adam

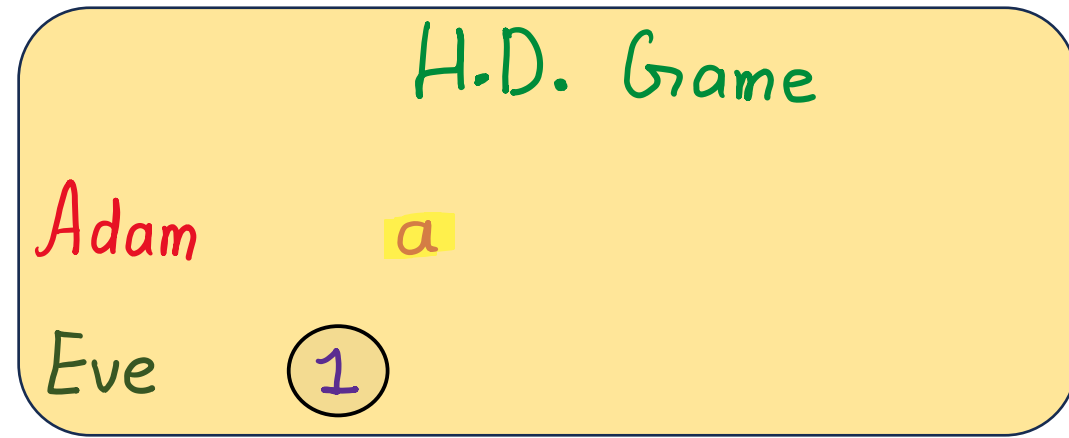
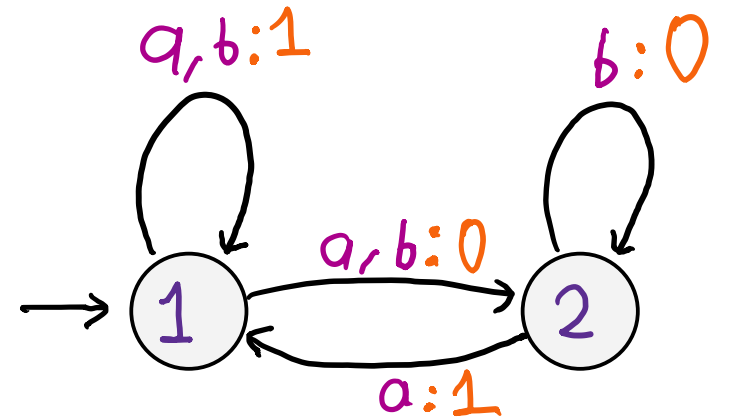
Eve  $1$

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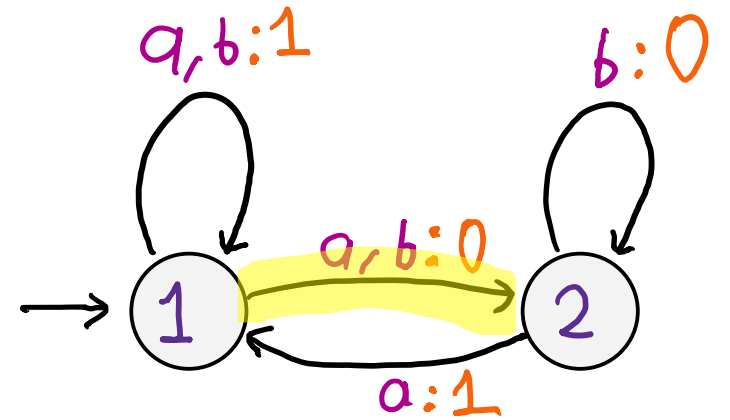


# History-Determinism Game

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H.D. Game

Adam  $a$

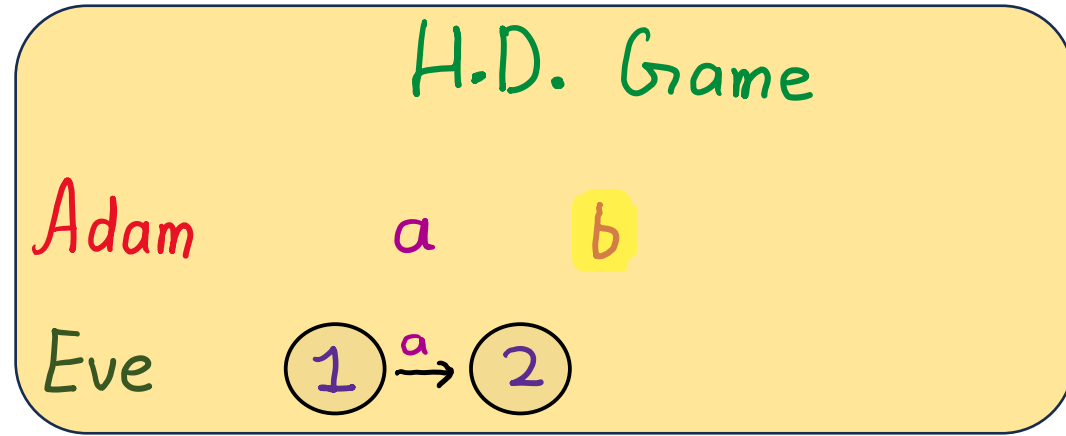
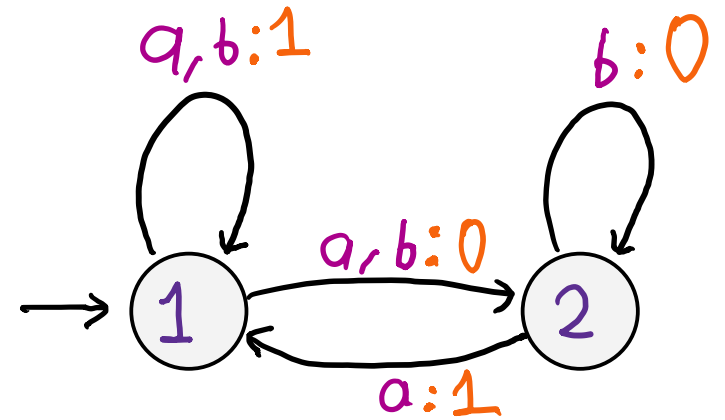
Eve  $1 \xrightarrow{a} 2$

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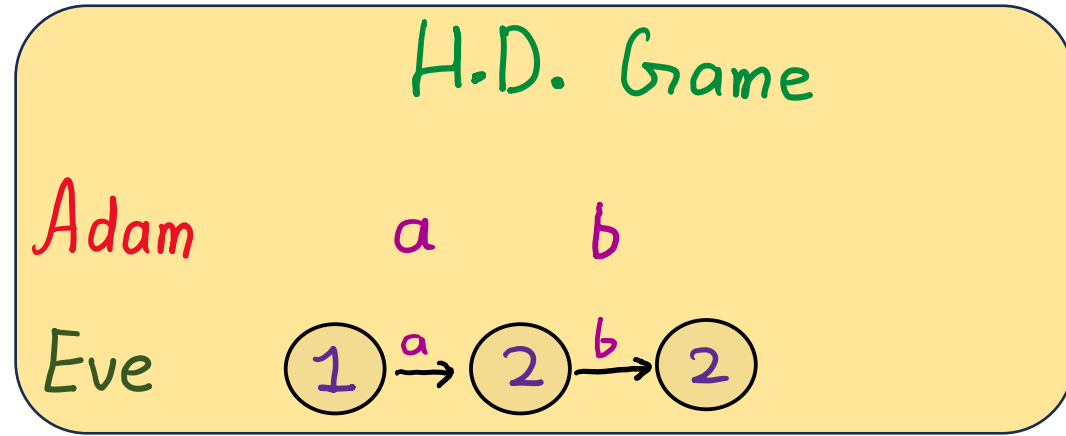
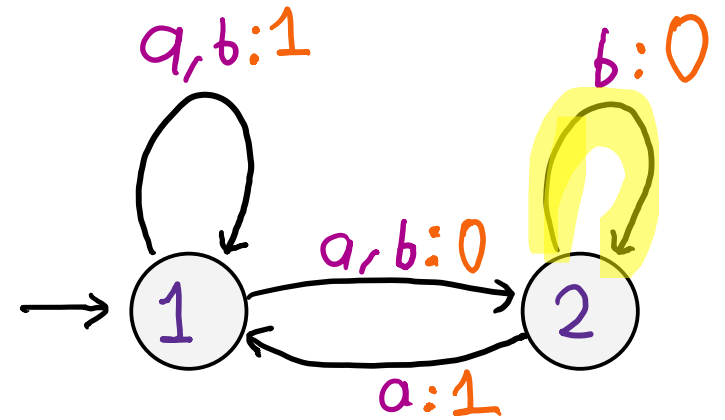


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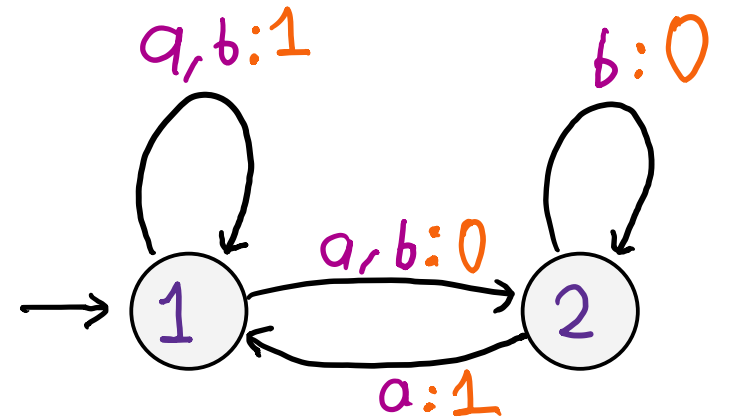


# History-Determinism Game

Starts at  $\rightarrow$  ①

Adam selects letter  $a_i$

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H.D. Game

Adam a b a ...

Eve ①  $\xrightarrow{a}$  ②  $\xrightarrow{b}$  ②  $\xrightarrow{a}$  ①  $\rightarrow \dots$

# History-Determinism Game

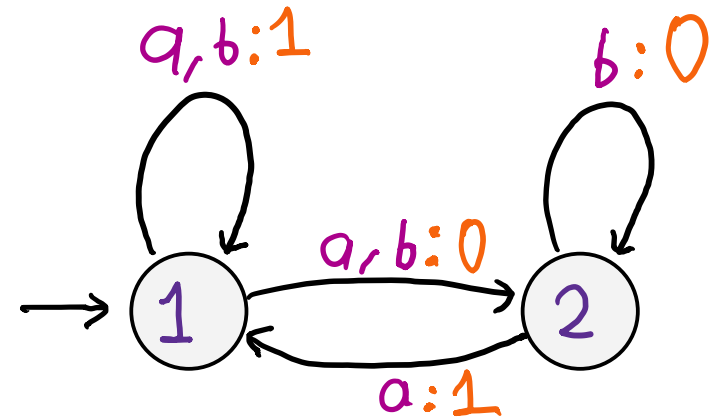
Starts at  $\rightarrow 1$

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Winning cond<sup>n</sup>. for Eve:

Construct an accepting run if Adam's word is accepting.

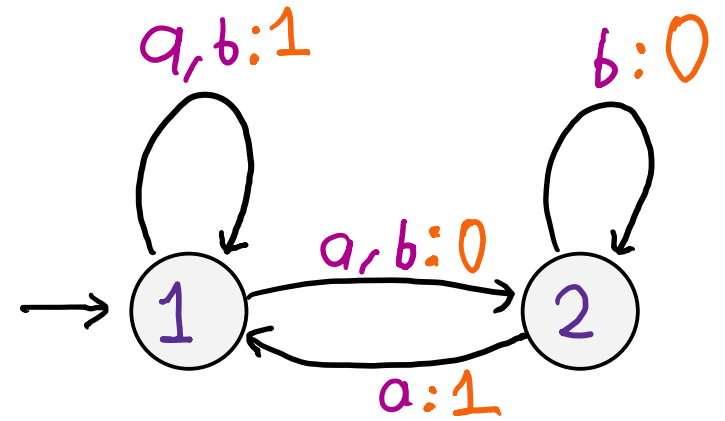


H.D. Game

Adam a b a ...

Eve 1  $\xrightarrow{a}$  2  $\xrightarrow{b}$  2  $\xrightarrow{a}$  1  $\rightarrow \dots$

# History-Determinism Game



Starts at  $\rightarrow 1$

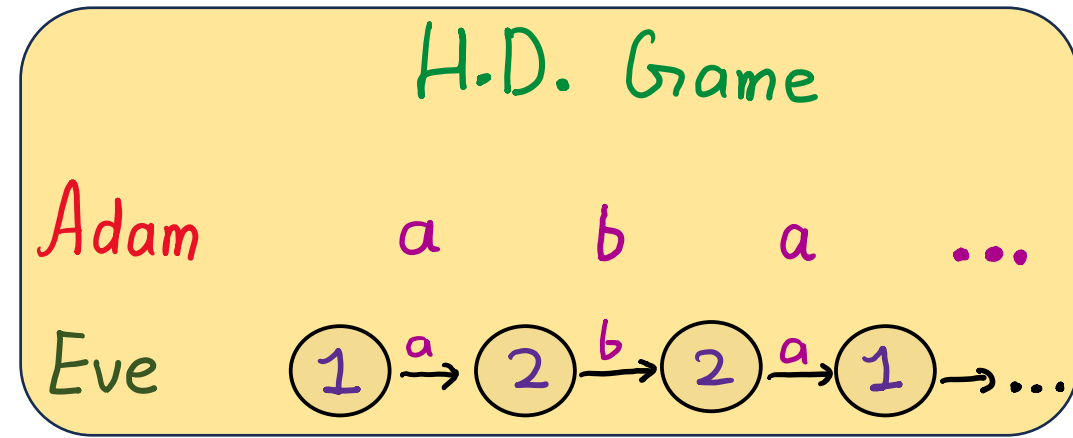
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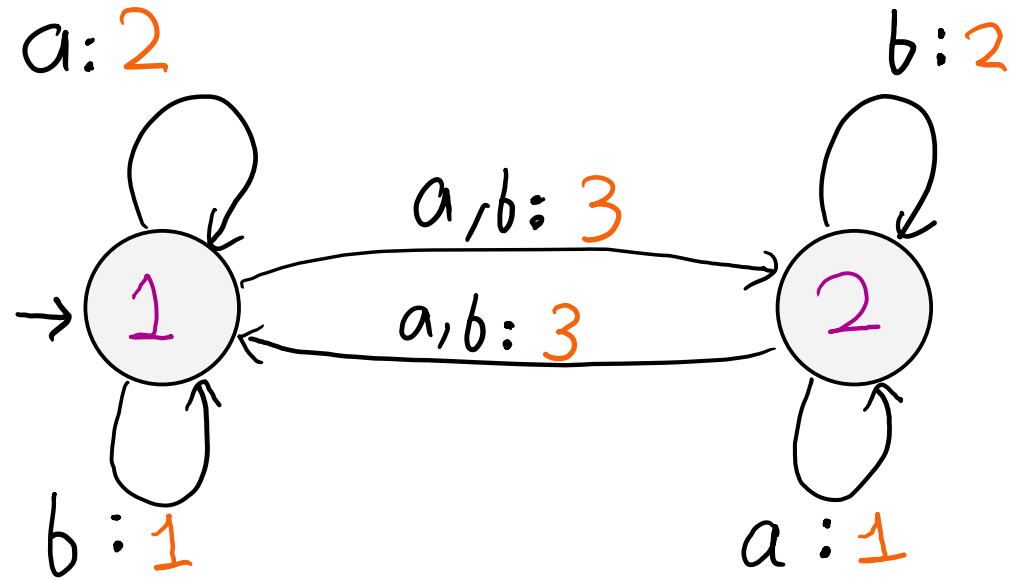
Construct an accepting run if Adam's word is accepting.

HD Automata: Eve has a winning strategy

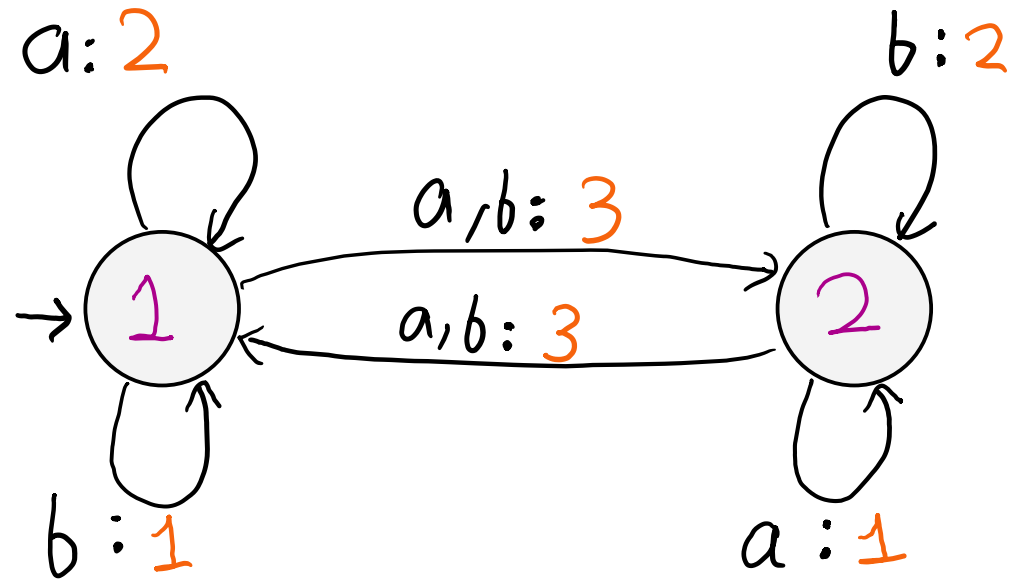




# Non-example

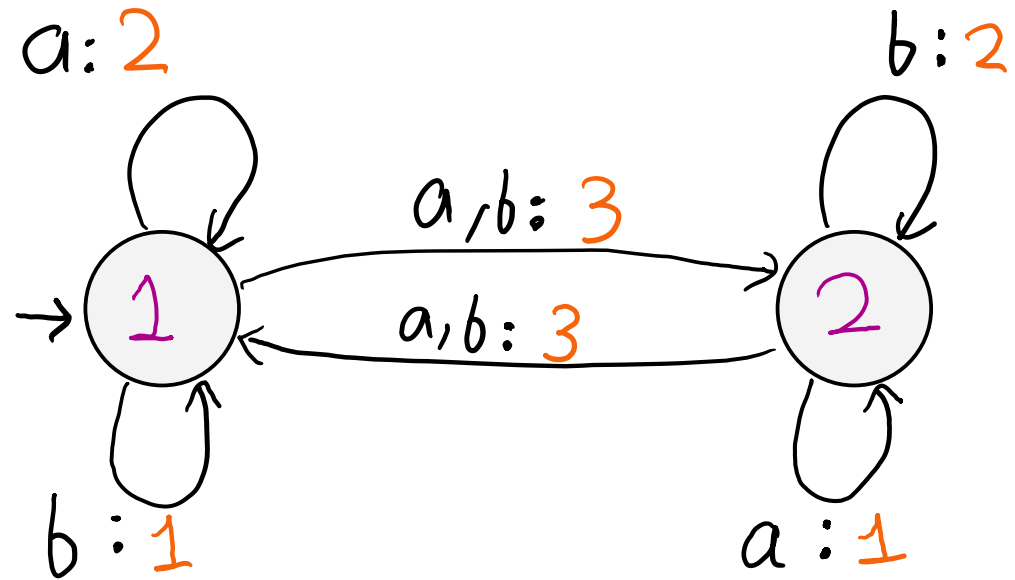


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$$L = (a+b)^w$$

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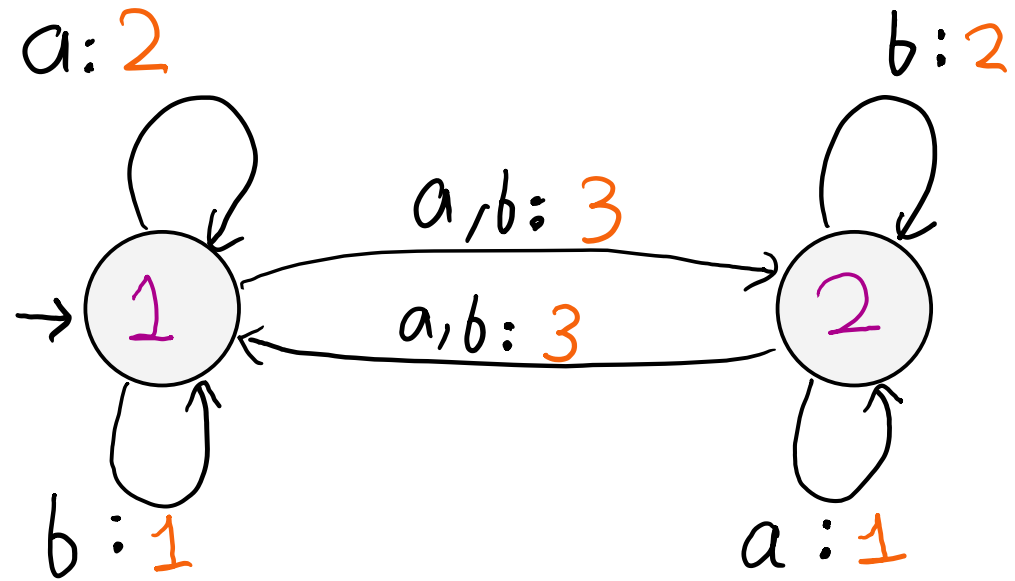
$$L = (a+b)^w$$

HD Game

Adam:

Eve: 1

# Non-example



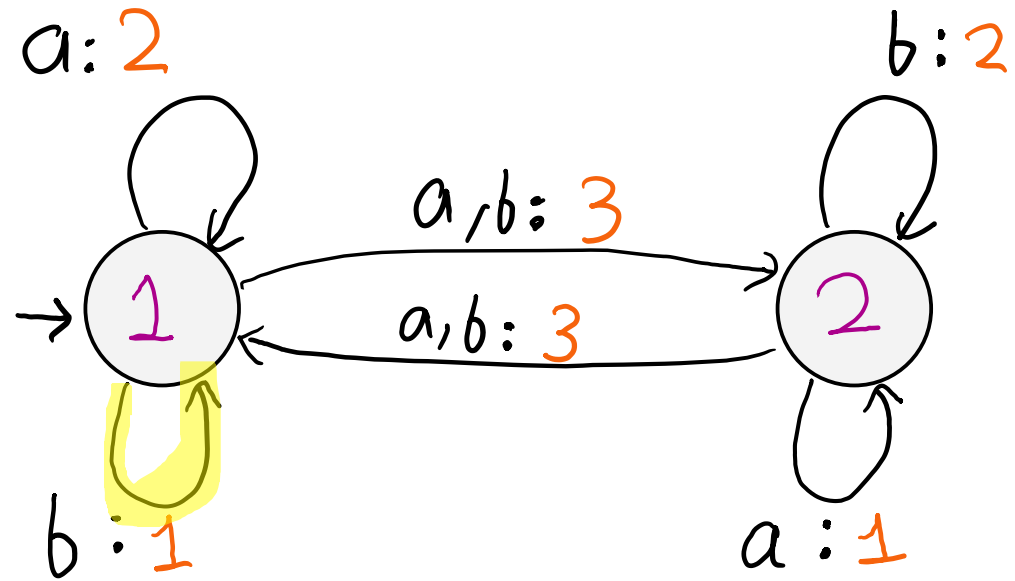
$$L = (a+b)^w$$

HD Game

Adam: b

Eve: 1

# Non-example



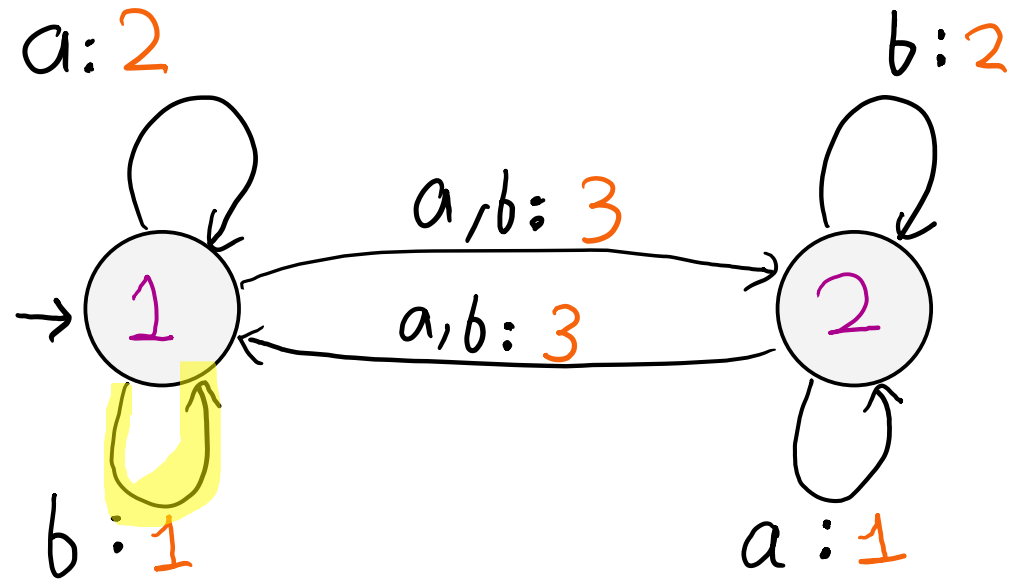
$$L = (a+b)^w$$

HD Game

Adam:  $b$

Eve:  $1 \rightarrow 1$

# Non-example



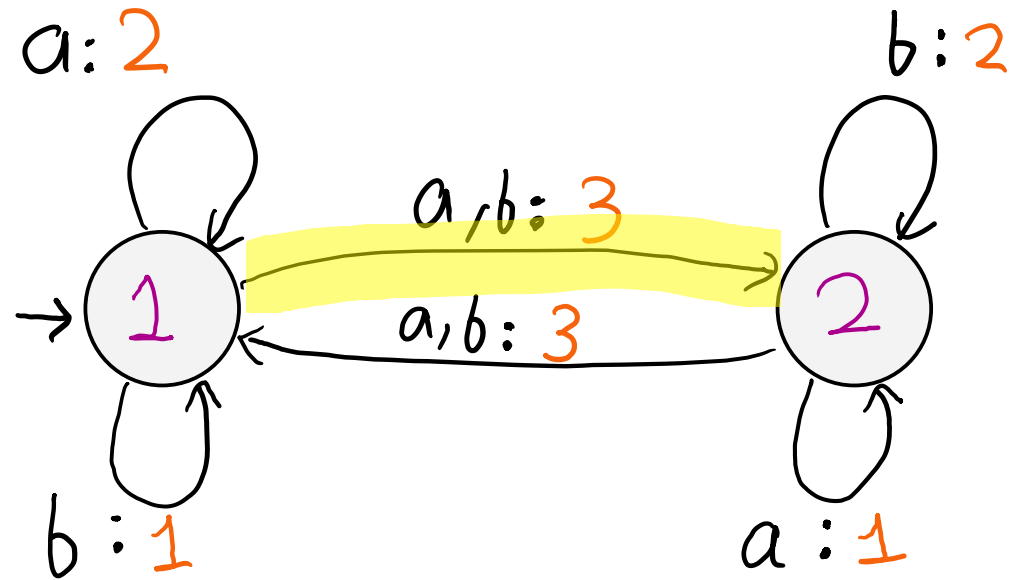
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HD Game

Adam:  $b \quad b \dots b$

Eve:  $1 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow 1$

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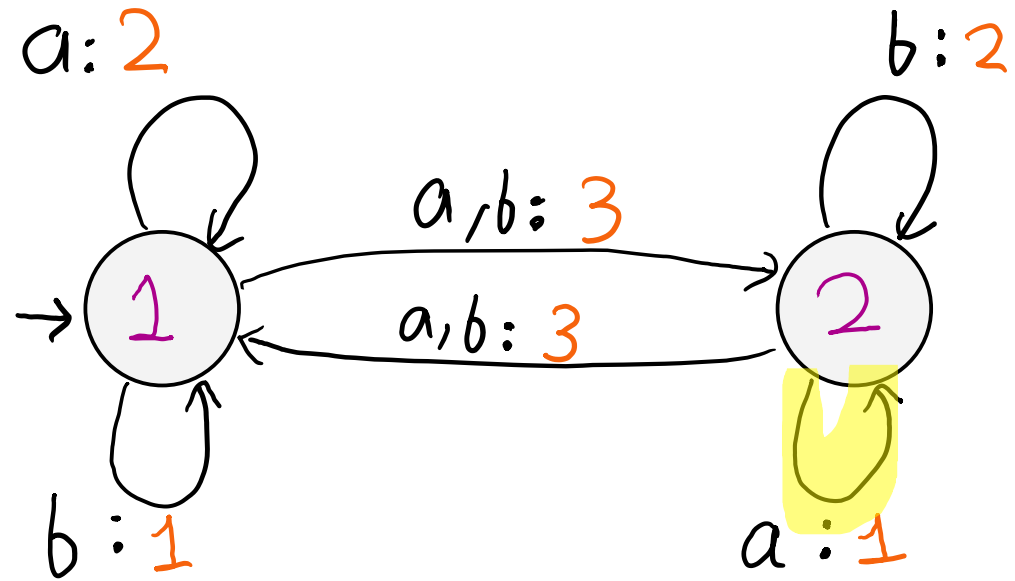
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HD Game

Adam:  $b \quad b \dots b$

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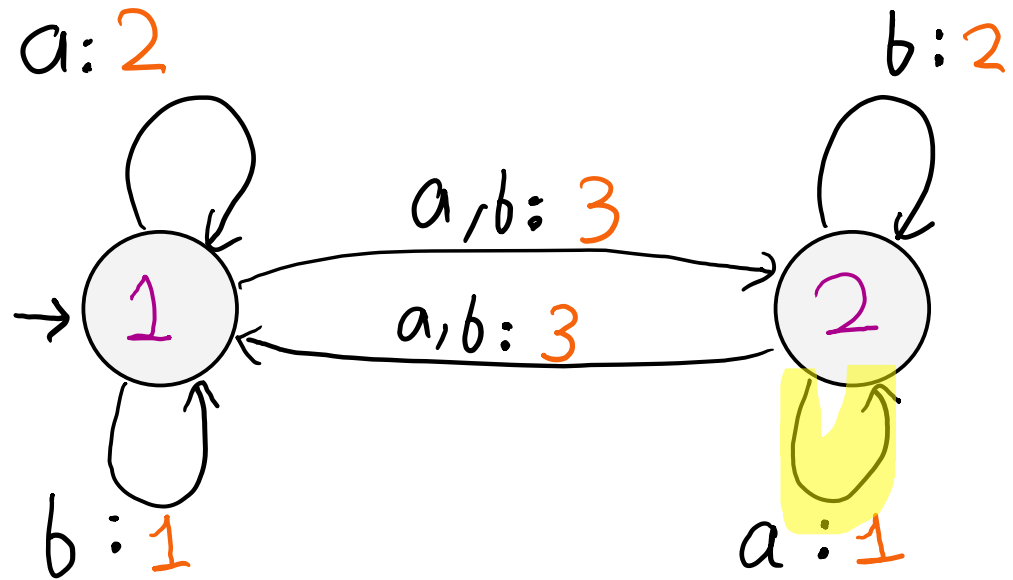
HD Game

Adam:  $b \quad b \dots b \quad a \dots a$

Eve:  $1 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow 2$



# Non-example



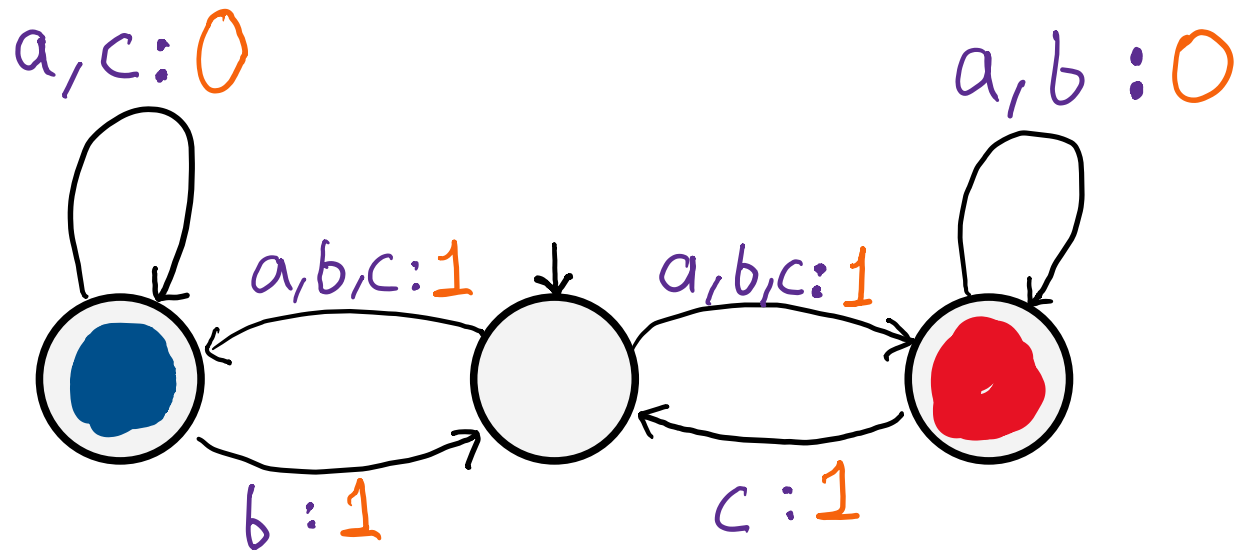
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HD Game

Adam:  $b \quad b \dots b \quad a \dots a \in L$

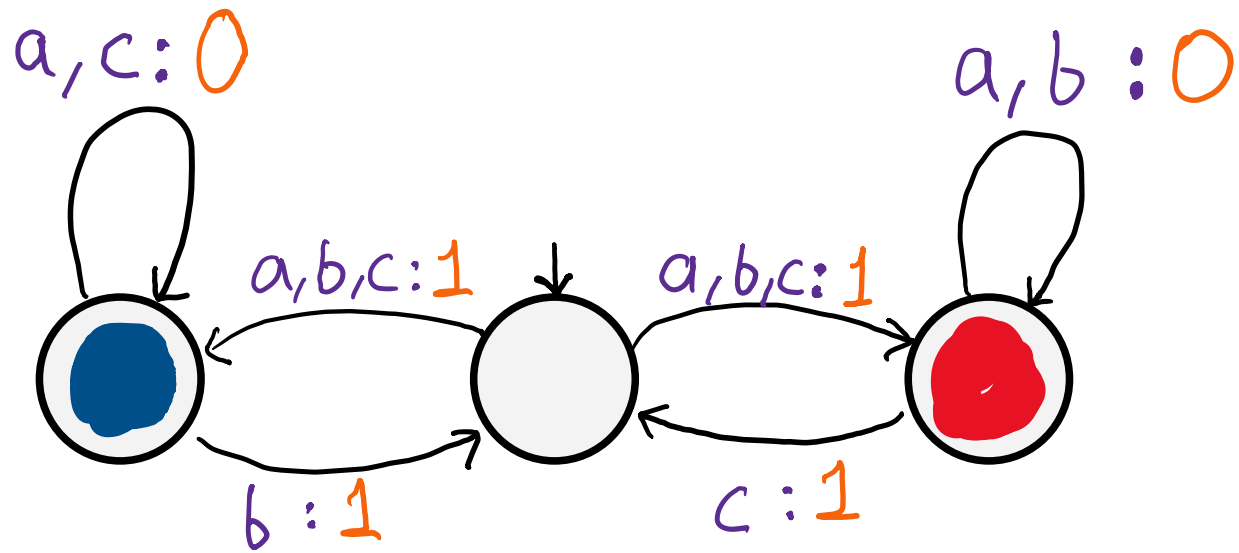
Eve:  $1 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow 2 \quad X$

# Example: coBüchi automata



Accepting Condition: Finitely many 1's

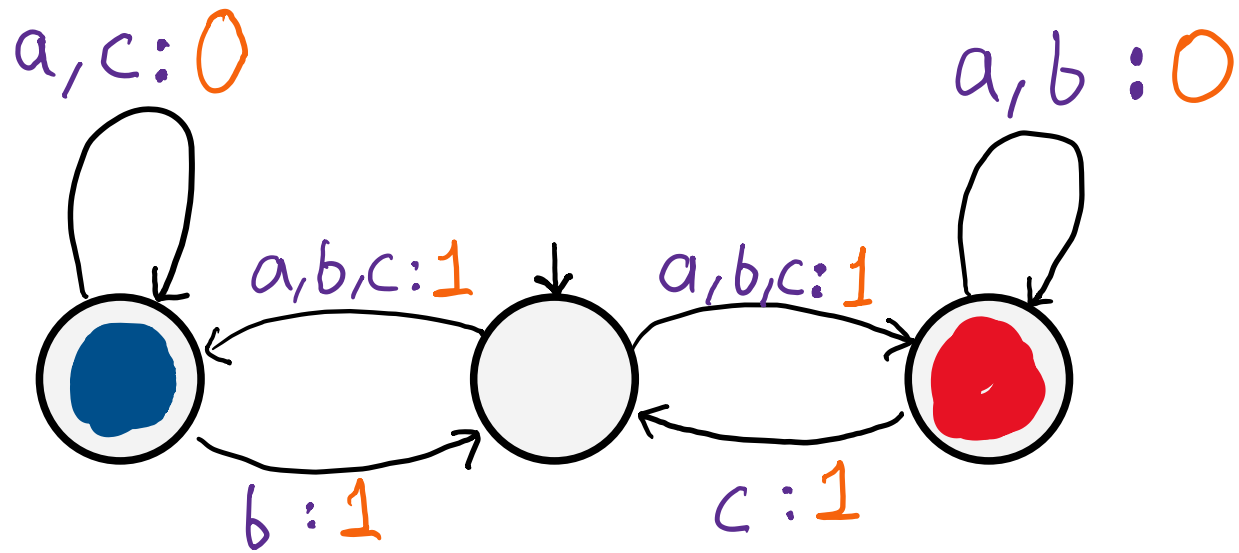
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Accepting Condition: Finitely many 1's

$$L = \{w \mid w \text{ contains finitely many } b\text{'s or finitely many } c\text{'s}\}$$

# Example: coBüchi automata



HD game strategy:

Alternate between



Accepting Condition: Finitely many 1's

$$L = \{w \mid w \text{ contains finitely many } b\text{'s or finitely many } c\text{'s}\}$$

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Language Inclusion

I

S

Implementation

Specification

$$L(I) \subseteq L(S)?$$

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Parity Automata: PSPACE

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Language Inclusion

$I$                        $S \xrightarrow{\text{(Folklore)}} \text{If } S \text{ is HD:}$

Implementation

Specification

$L(I) \subseteq L(S)?$

Equivalent to asking:

Does  $S$  simulate  $I$ ?

Parity Automata: PSPACE  $\rightsquigarrow$  NP

# (Fair) Simulation Game

Automata  $I$ ,  $S$

Starts at  $\rightarrow p_0$ ,  $\rightarrow s_0$

In round  $i$ :

1. Adam selects  $a_i$

2. Adam selects  $p_i \xrightarrow{a_i} p_{i+1}$  in  $I$

3. Eve selects  $s_i \xrightarrow{a_i} s_{i+1}$  in  $S$



# (Fair) Simulation Game

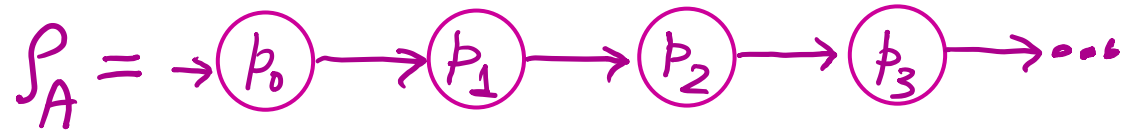
Automata  $I$ ,  $S$

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$\omega = a_0 a_1 a_2 a_3 \dots$



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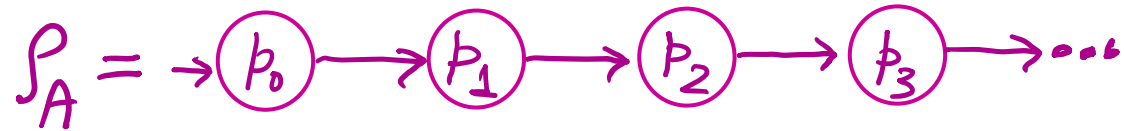
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Winning condition for Eve:

$P_A$  is accepting  $\Rightarrow P_E$  is accepting

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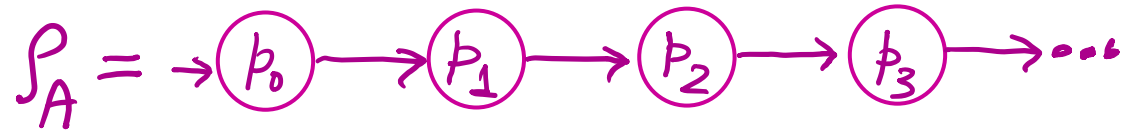
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$S$  simulates  $I$  if Eve has a winning strategy.

$I \iff S$

$w = a_0 a_1 a_2 a_3 \dots$



Winning condition for Eve:

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# Why History-Determinism?

\* Model-checking: Inclusion reduces to simulation

Lemma : If  $S$  is HD, then for all  $I$ ,

$$L(I) \subseteq L(S) \iff S \text{ simulates } I$$

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$\Rightarrow$ : Winning strategy for Eve in simulation game:

select transitions using Eve's winning strategy in HD game on  $S$ .

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Lemma : If  $S$  is HD, then for all  $I$ ,  
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Corollary : Deciding  $L(I) \subseteq L(S)$  is in NP  
if  $S$  is HD.



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Lemma : If  $S$  is HD, then for all  $I$ ,  
 $L(I) \subseteq L(S) \iff S$  simulates  $I$

Theorem 1: Deciding  $L(I) \subseteq L(S)$  is in ~~NP~~ quasi-polynomial time  
if  $S$  is HD.

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\* Model-checking: Inclusion reduces to simulation

\* Good-for-games [Henzinger, Piterman'06]

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But : No known tractable algorithm to construct HD automata

Nevertheless: Still useful in synthesis [Khalimov, Ehlers'24]

# Recognising HD Parity Automata

Given a parity automaton  $S$ , is  $S$  HD?

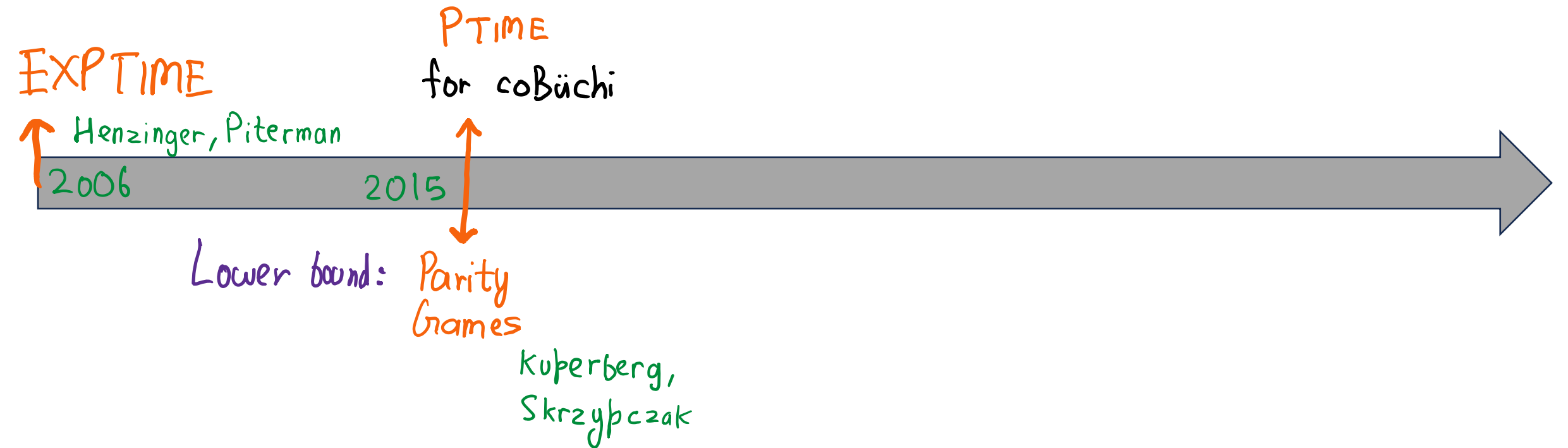
EXPTIME

↑ Henzinger, Piterman  
2006



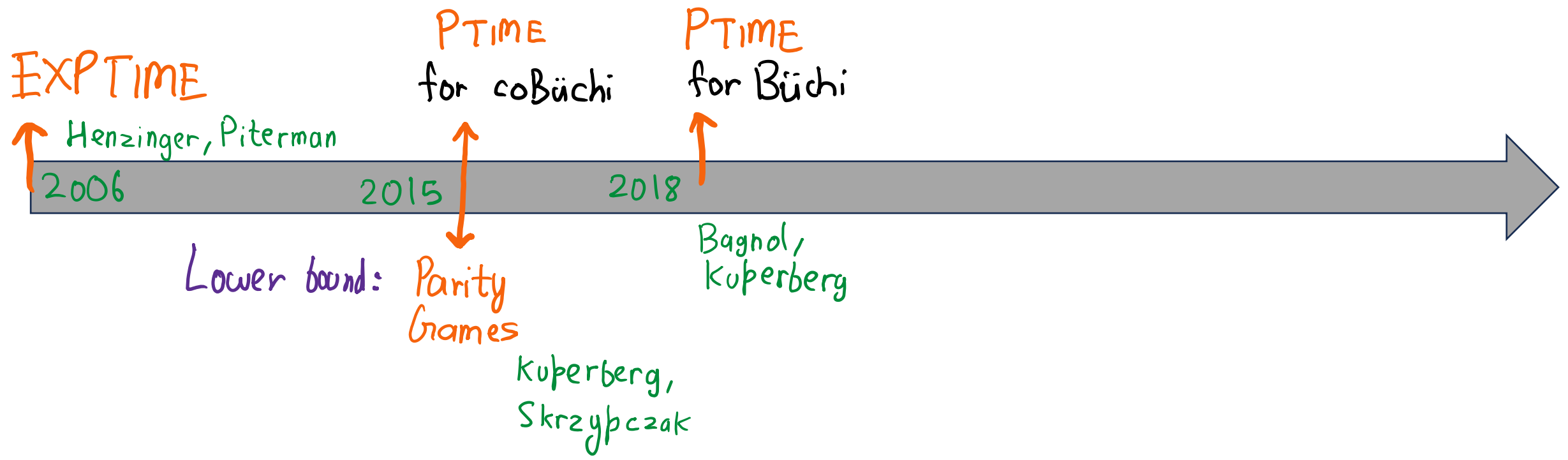
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# Recognising HD Parity Automata

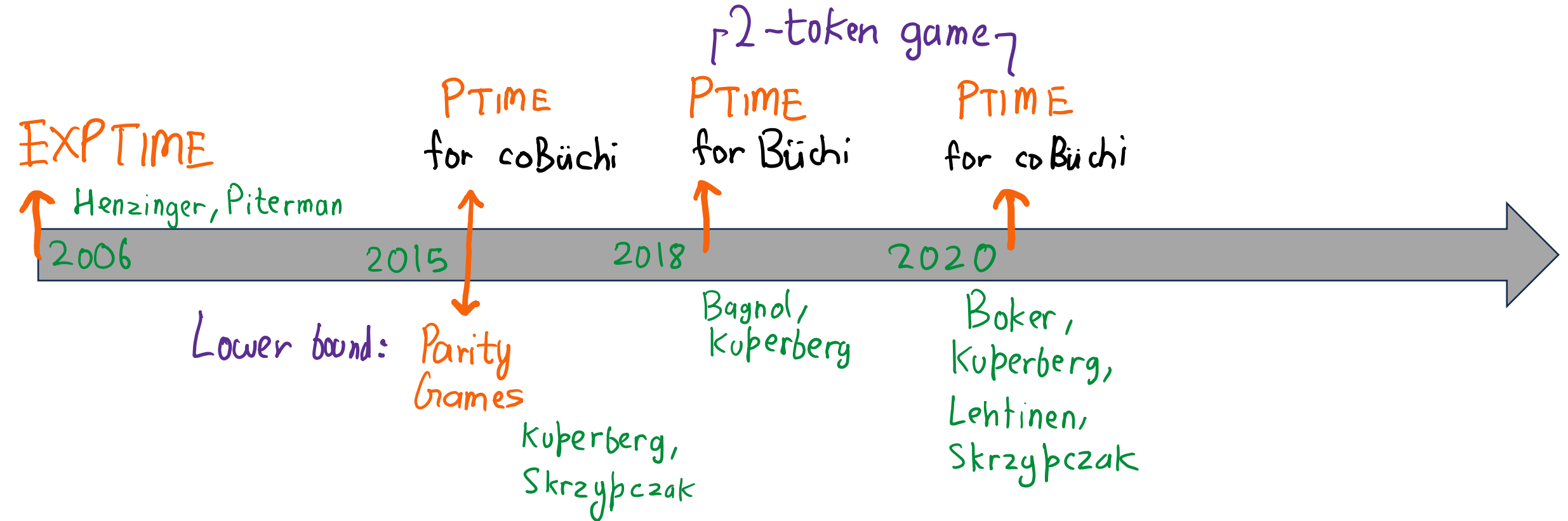
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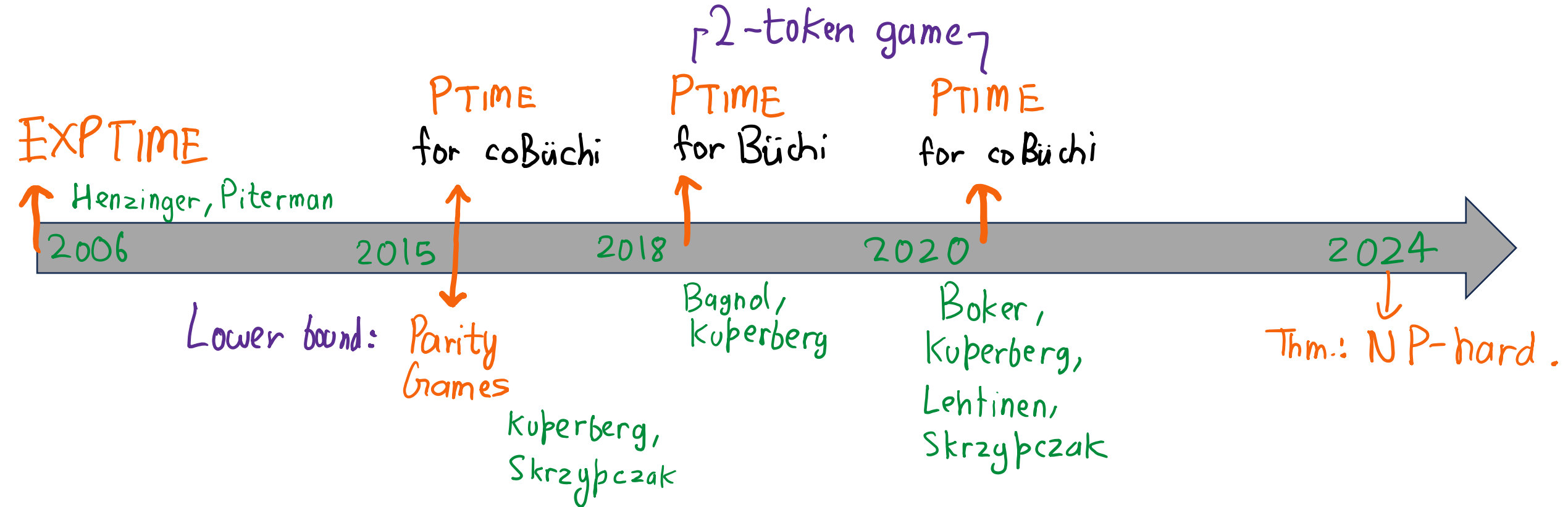
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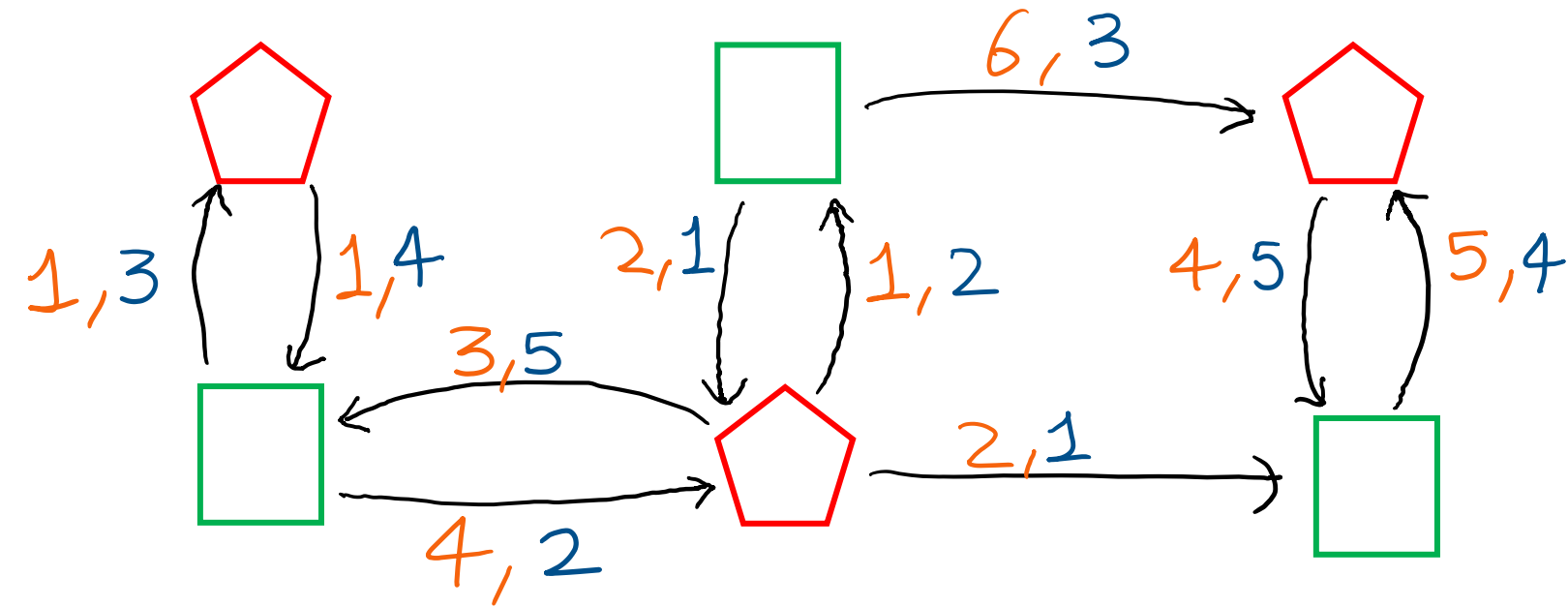
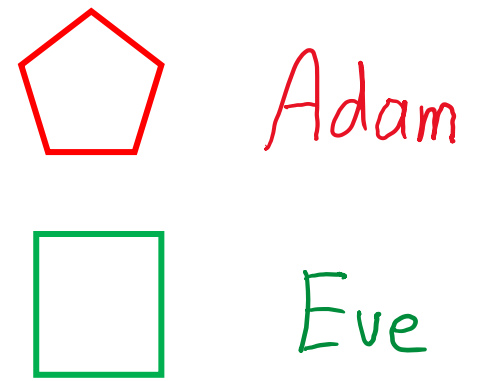
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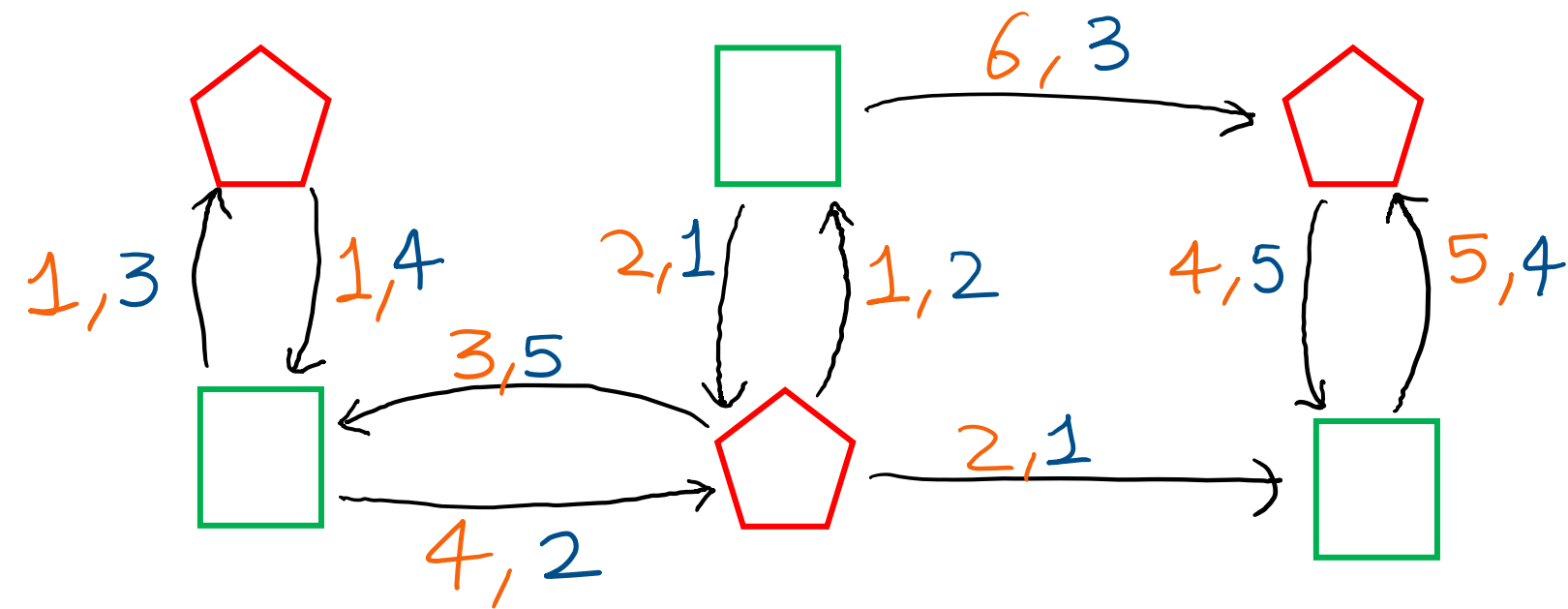
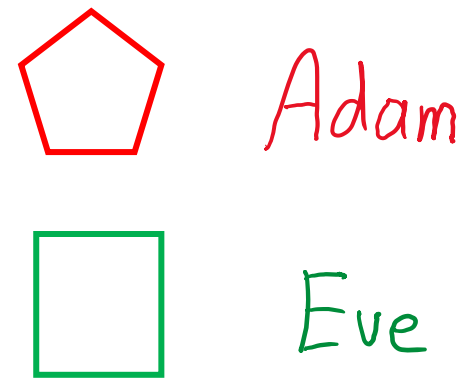
**Theorem:** Checking history-determinism is NP-hard for parity automata.

**Proof:** Reduction from 2-D parity game

# 2-D Parity Games

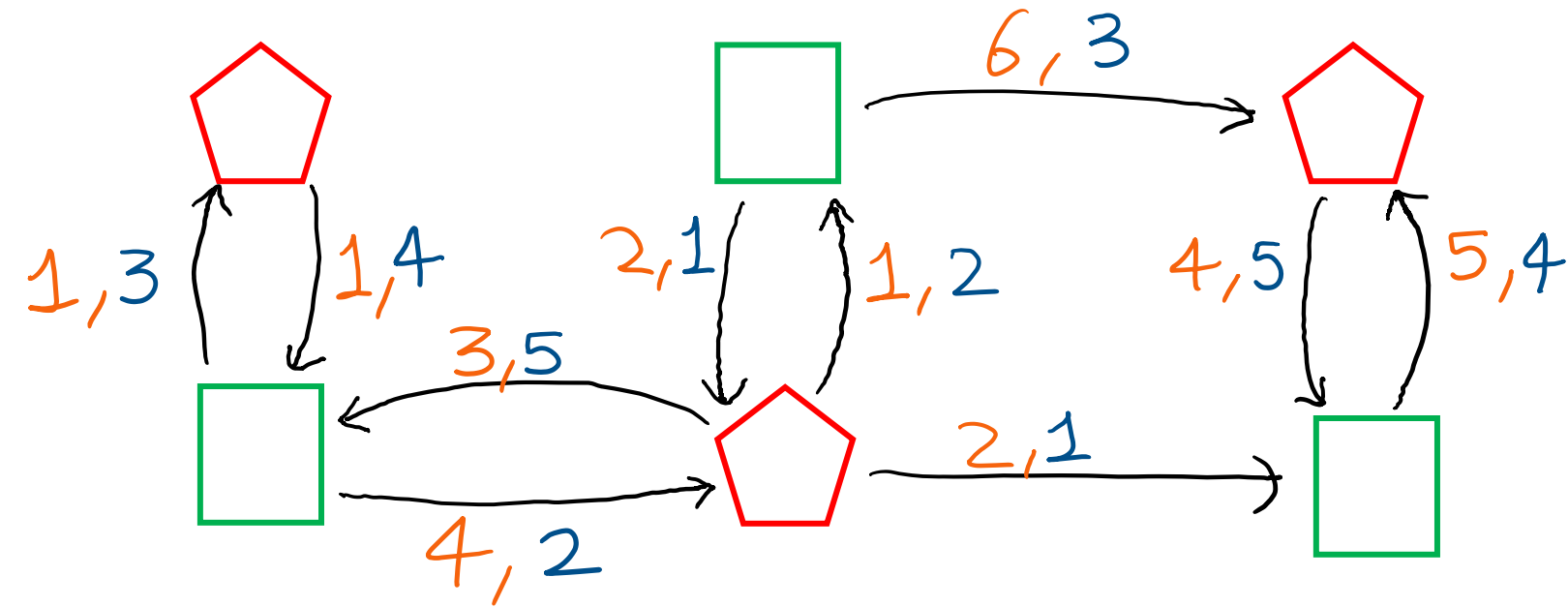
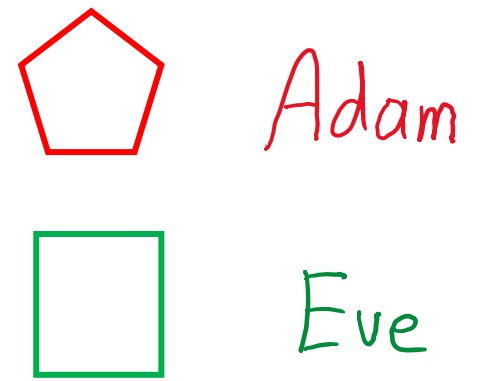


# 2-D Parity Games



(1,3) (1,4) (4,2) (2,1) (6,3) ...

# 2-D Parity Games



(1,3) (1,4) (4,2) (2,1) (6,3) ...

Winning cond<sup>n</sup> for Eve: Play satisfies Orange or Blue parity cond<sup>n</sup>.

Chatterjee, Henzinger, Piterman '05

Deciding if Eve wins a 2-D parity game is NP-complete.

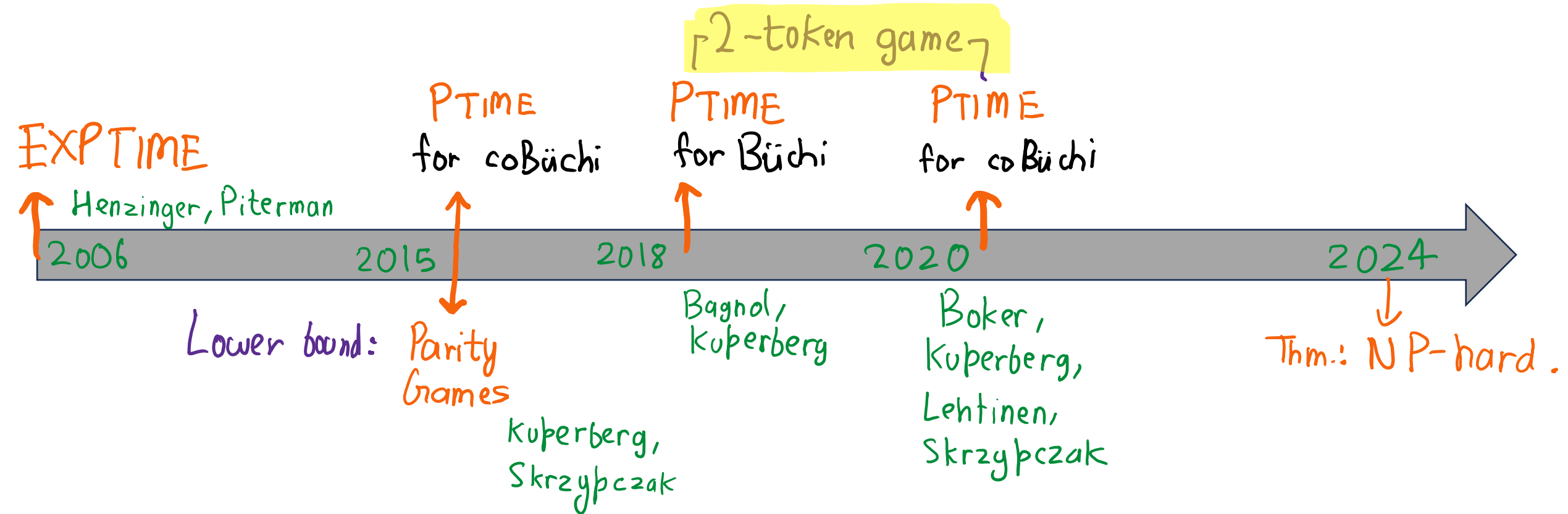
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## II. Token Games



# Recognising HD Parity Automata

Given a parity automaton  $S$ , is  $S$  HD?



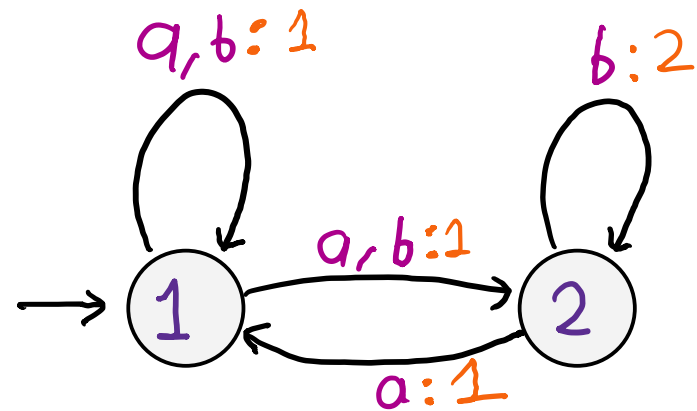
# 2-Token Games

Starts at  $\rightarrow$  (1),  $\rightarrow$  (1),  $\rightarrow$  (1)

Adam selects letter  $a_i$

Eve selects transition  $q_i \xrightarrow{a_i} q_{i+1}$

Adam selects transitions  $p_i^1 \xrightarrow{a_i} p_{i+1}^1$   
 $p_i^2 \xrightarrow{a_i} p_{i+1}^2$



## 2-Token Game

Adam

Eve (1)

Adam (1)

Adam (1)

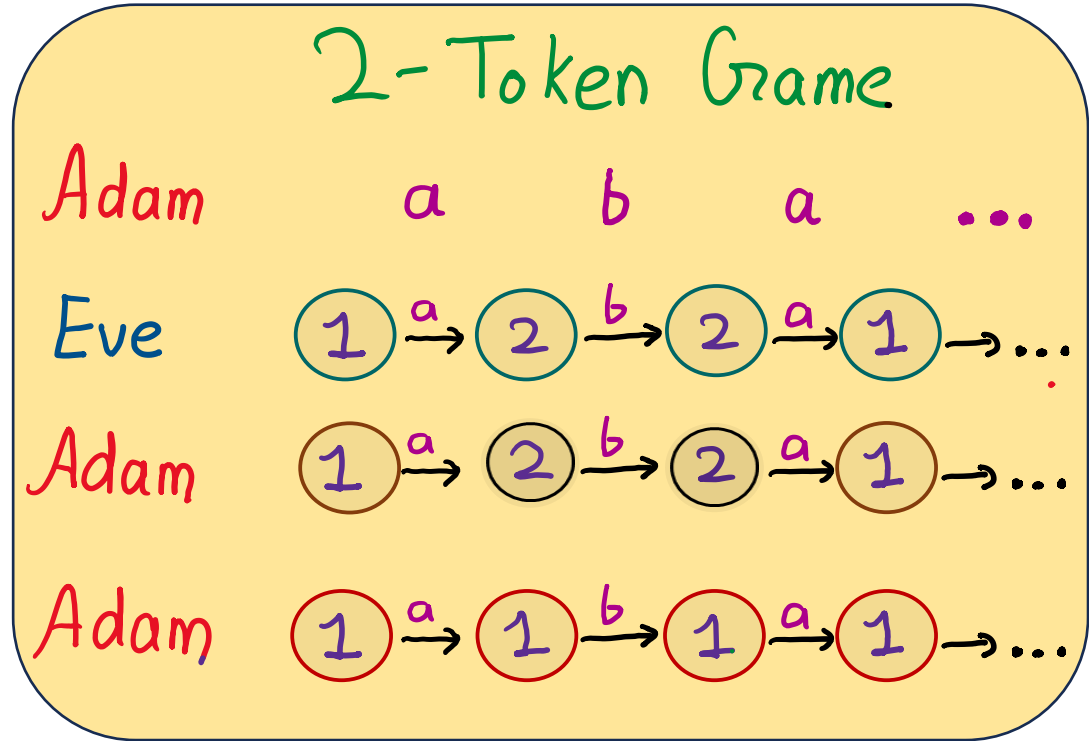
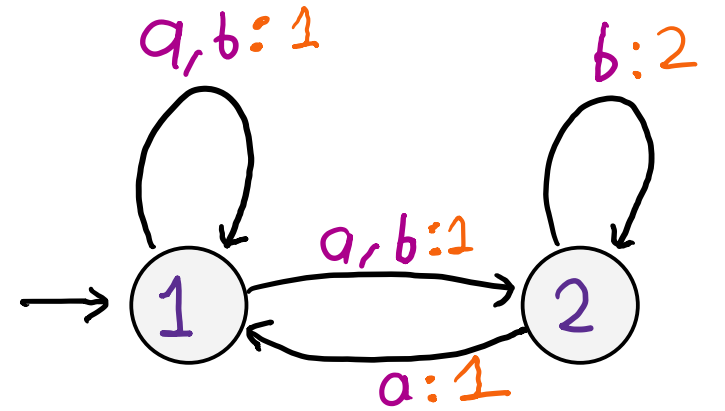
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Starts at  $\rightarrow$  (1),  $\rightarrow$  (1),  $\rightarrow$  (1)

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Eve selects transition  $q_i \xrightarrow{a_i} q_{i+1}$

Adam selects transitions

$$\begin{array}{c} p_i^2 \xrightarrow{a_i} p_{i+1}^1 \\ p_i^1 \xrightarrow{a_i} p_{i+1}^2 \end{array}$$


# 2-Token Games

Starts at  $\rightarrow$  (1),  $\rightarrow$  (1),  $\rightarrow$  (1)

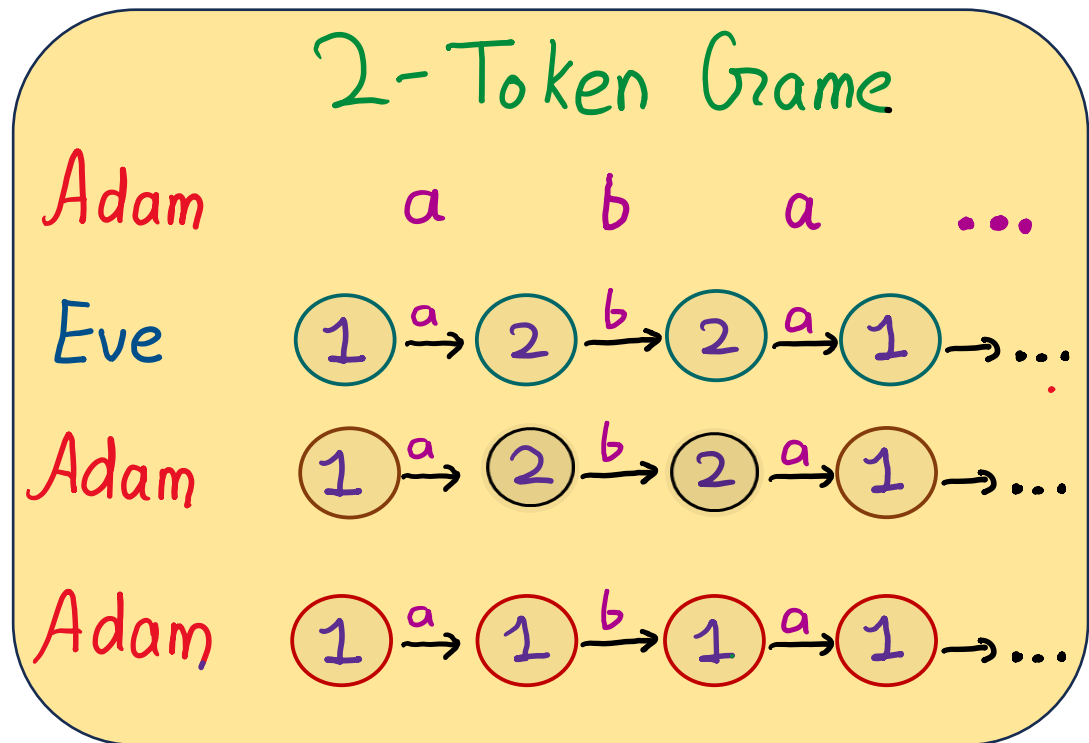
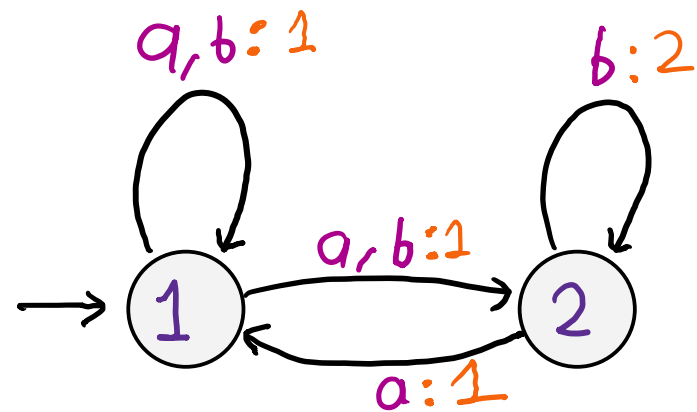
Adam selects letter  $a_i$

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$p_i^2 \xrightarrow{a_i} p_{i+1}^2$

Winning cond<sup>n</sup>. for Eve: Construct an accepting run if one of Adam's run is accepting.



# HD Game v/s 2-Token Game

## History-Determinism Game

Starts at  $\rightarrow 1$

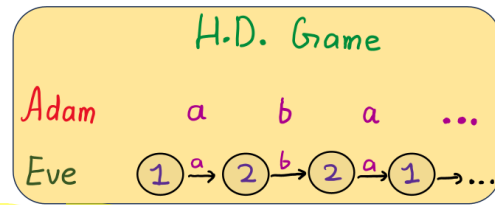
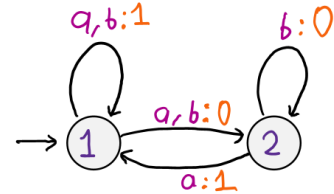
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Winning cond<sup>n</sup> for Eve:

Construct an accepting run if Adam's word is accepting.

HD Automata: Eve has a winning strategy



## 2-Token Games

Starts at  $\rightarrow 1, \rightarrow 1, \rightarrow 1$

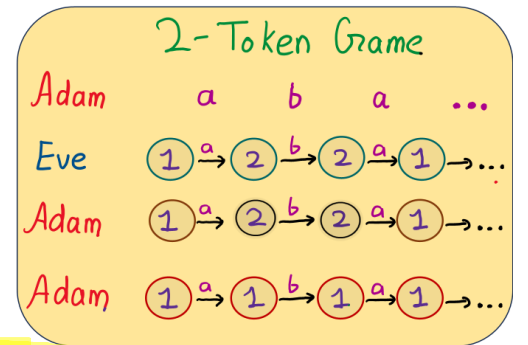
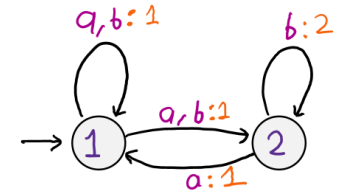
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# HD Game v/s 2-Token Game

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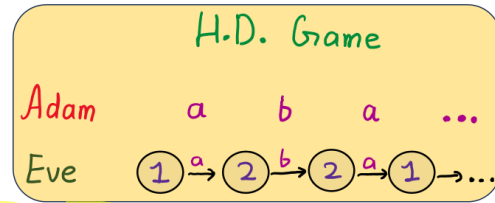
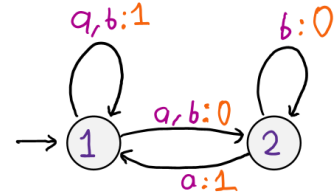
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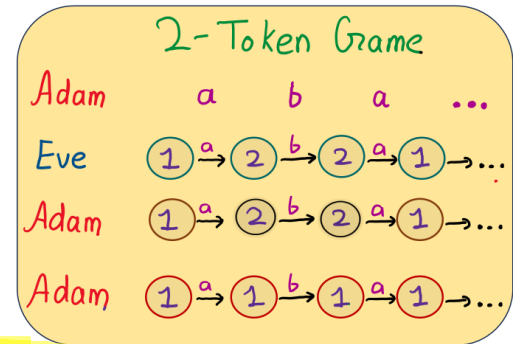
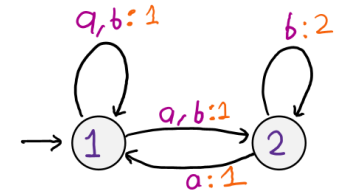
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Eve wins HD Game  $\Rightarrow$  Eve wins 2-token game

# HD Game v/s 2-Token Game

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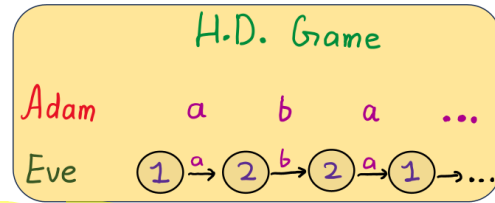
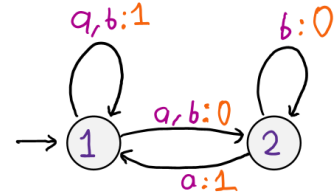
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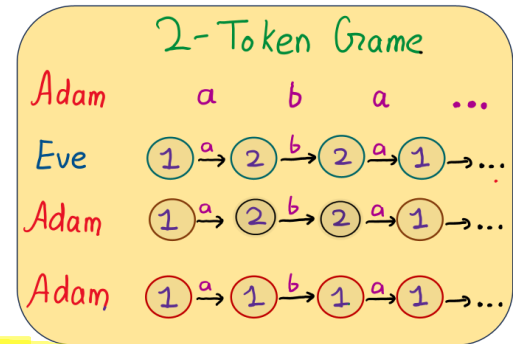
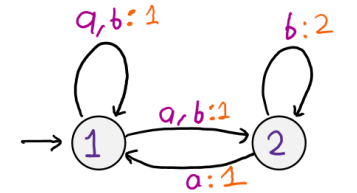
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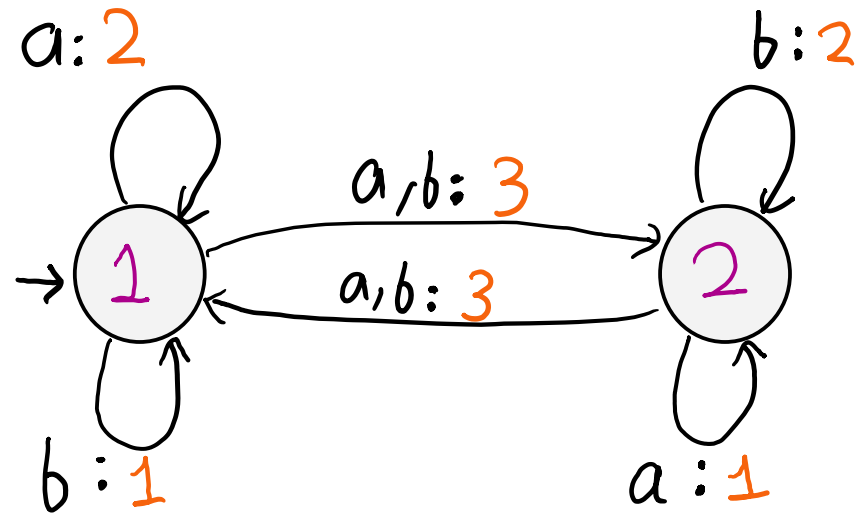
Eve wins HD Game  $\Rightarrow$  Eve wins 2-token game



for Büchi, co Büchi

# Why 2-tokens?

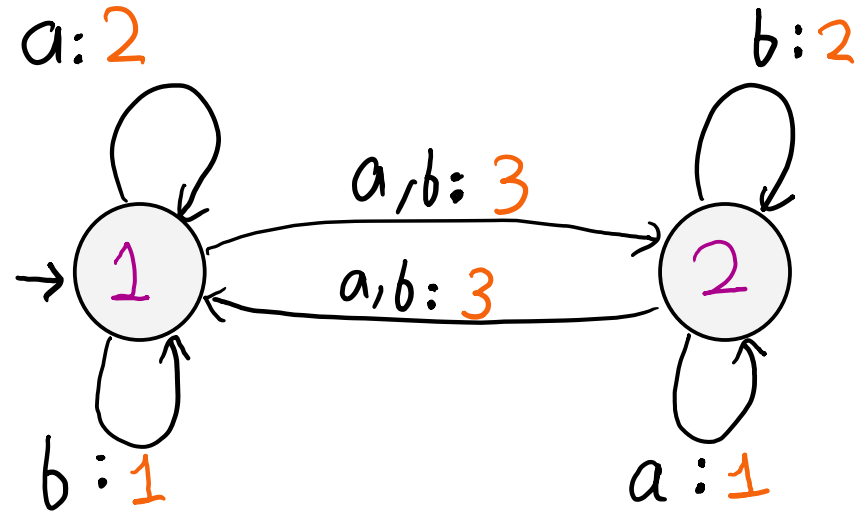
1. 1-token game is not enough:





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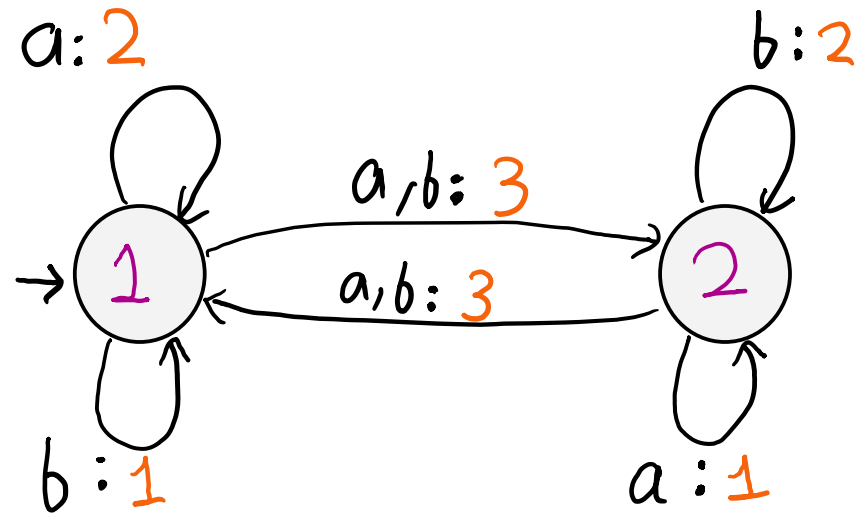


Not HD.

Eve wins 1-token game.

# Why 2-tokens?

1. 1-token game is not enough:



Not HD.

Eve wins 1-token game.

Strategy: Go to Adam's state.

# Why 2-tokens?

1. 1-token game is not enough:
2. 2-tokens are plenty!

**Lemma** Bagnol, Kuperberg'18

Eve wins 2-token game  $\iff$  Eve wins  $k$ -token game for all  $k \geq 1$ .

# Token Games for checking History-Determinism

Lemma Bagnol, Kupferberg '18

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For any Büchi automaton  $A$ , Eve wins 2-token game on  $A$  iff  $A$  is HD

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↳ **Implies:** HD parity automata can be recognised in **PSPACE**,  
and in **PTIME** if parity index is fixed.



# 3. Lookahead Games

# 1-Token Game

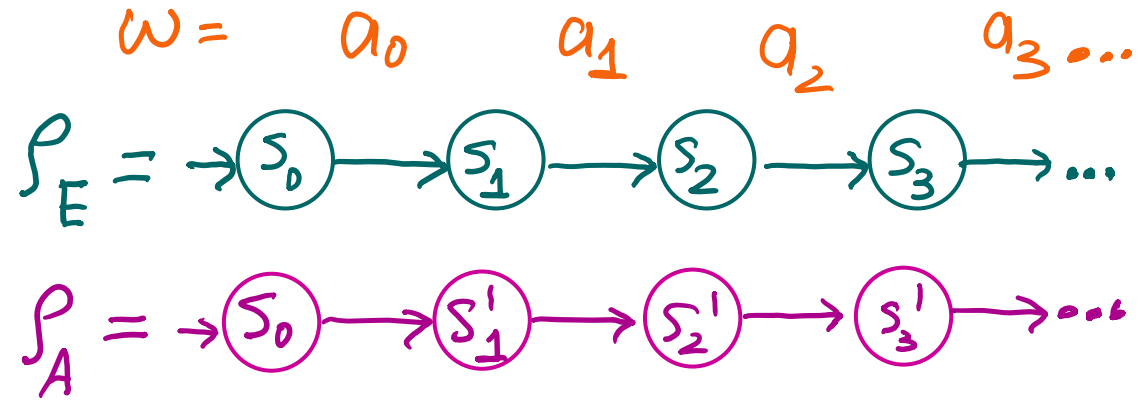
Automaton  $S$

Starts at  $\rightarrow (s_0)$ ,  $\rightarrow (s_0)$

In round  $i$ :

1. Adam selects  $a_i$
2. Eve selects  $(s_i) \xrightarrow{a_i} (s_{i+1})$
3. Adam selects  $(s'_i) \xrightarrow{a_i} (s'_{i+1})$

Winning condition for Eve:  $P_A$  is accepting  $\Rightarrow P_E$  is accepting



# 1-token game v/s Simulation game

## 1-Token Game

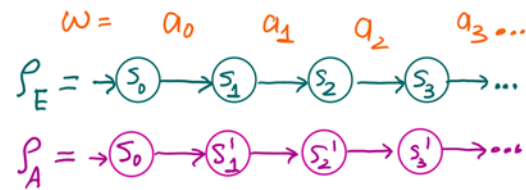
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## (Fair) Simulation Game

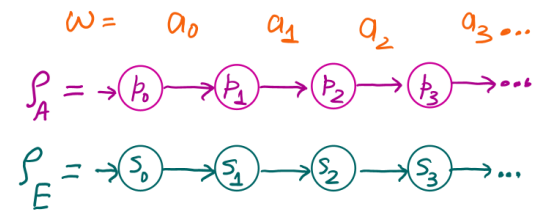
Automata  $I, S$

Starts at  $\rightarrow p_0$ ,  $\rightarrow s_0$

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# 1-token game v/s Simulation game

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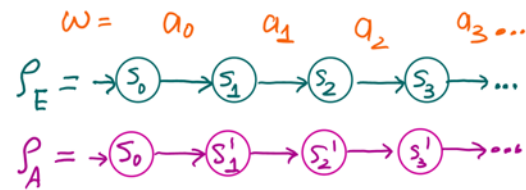
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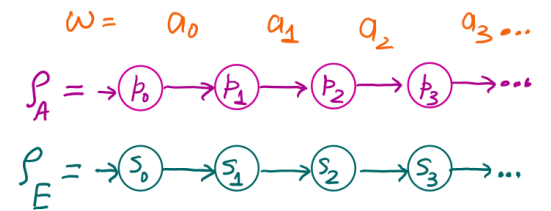
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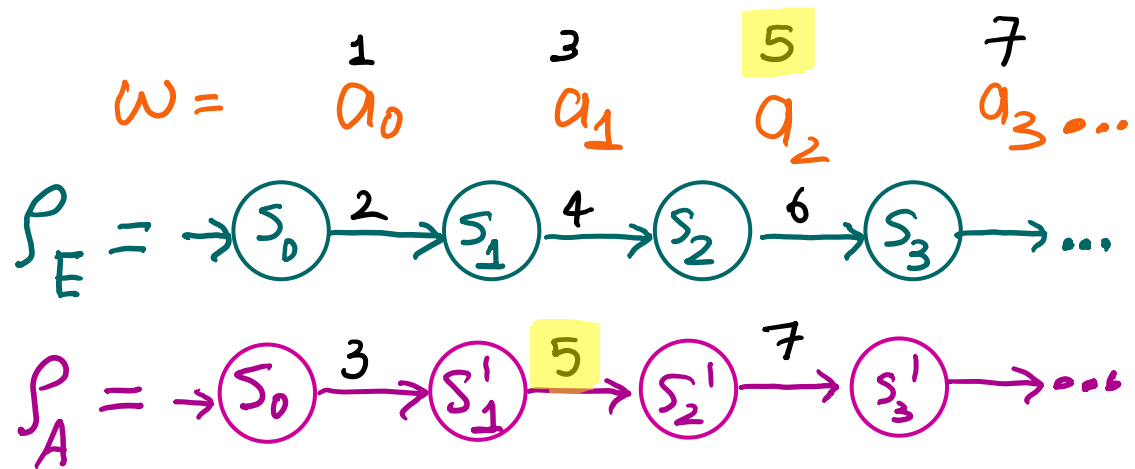
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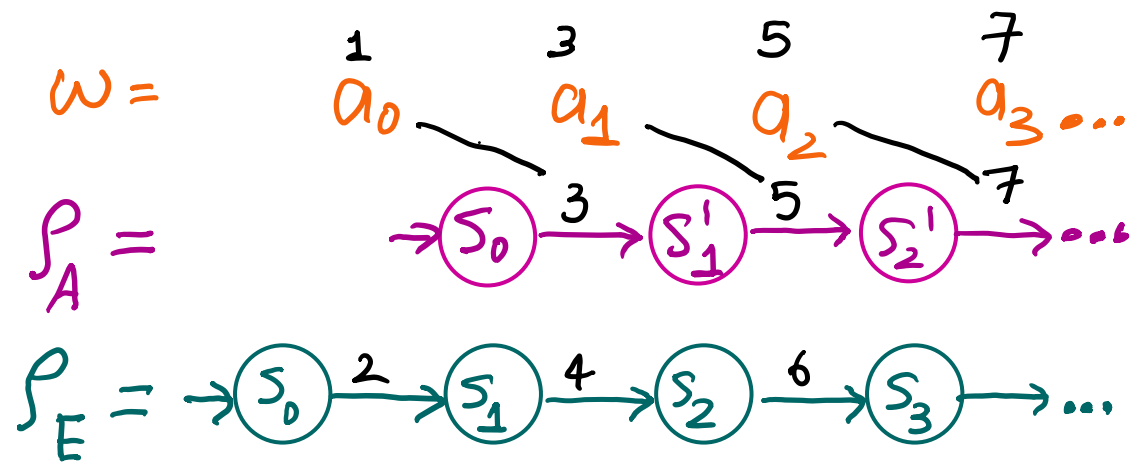
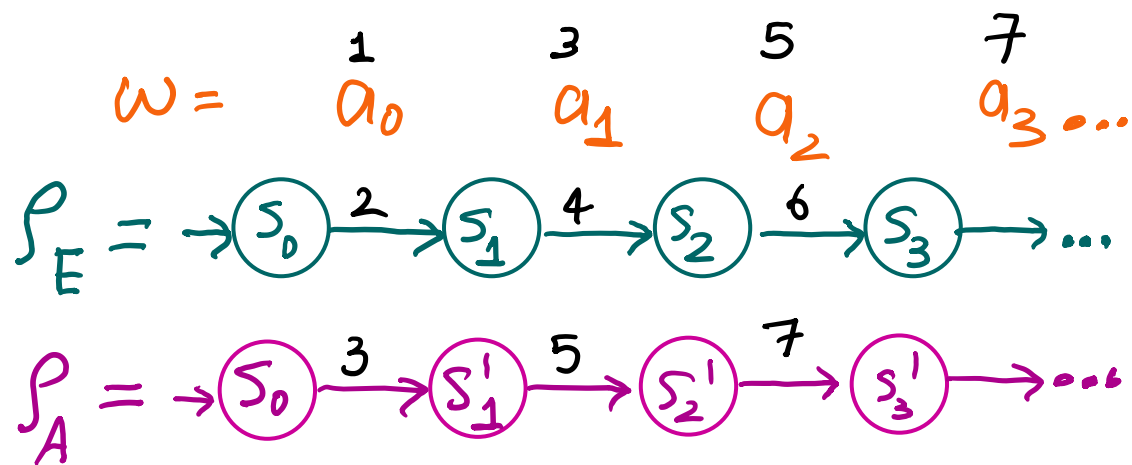
1-token game v/s

Simulation game



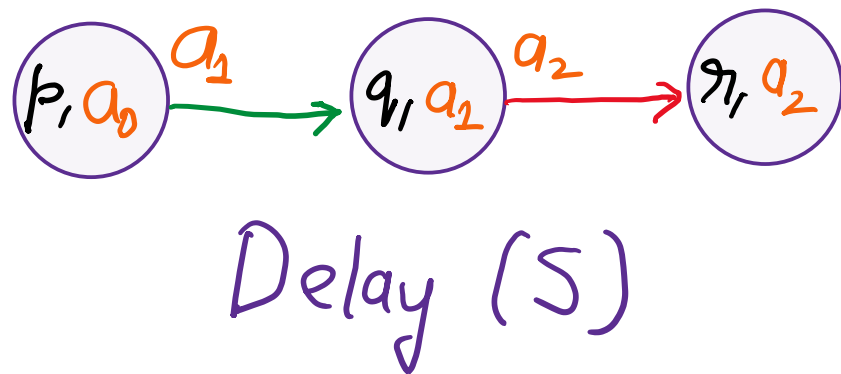
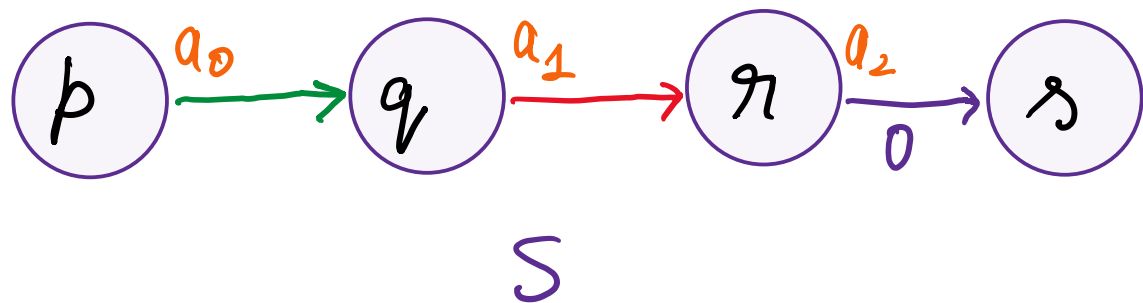
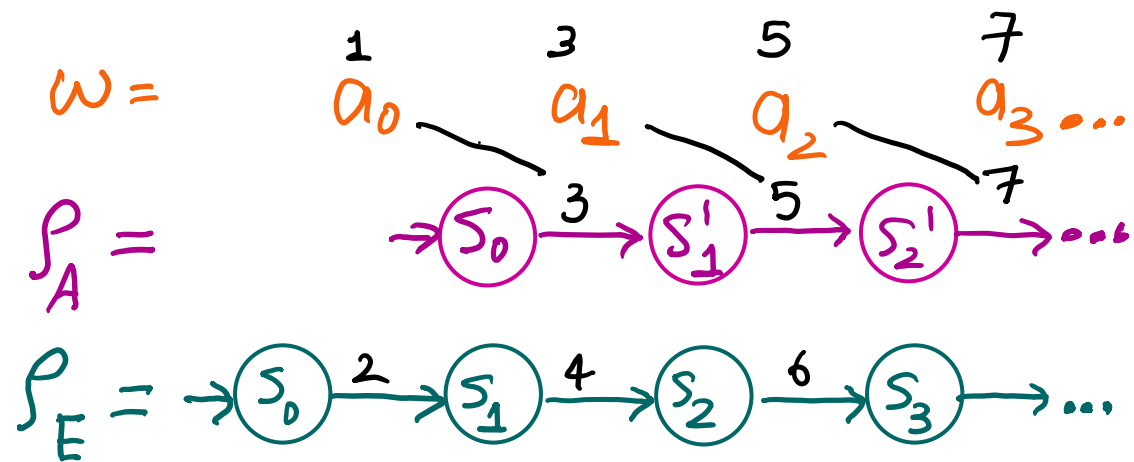
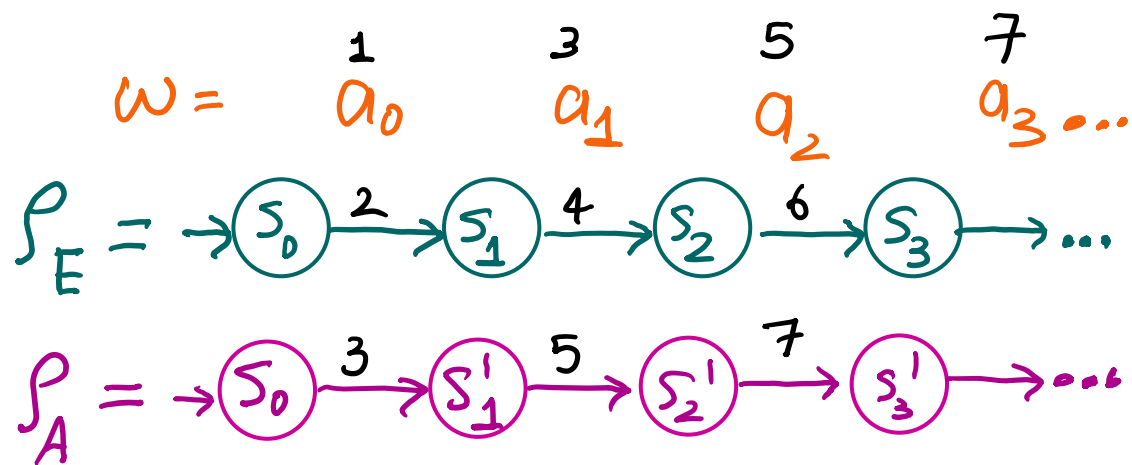
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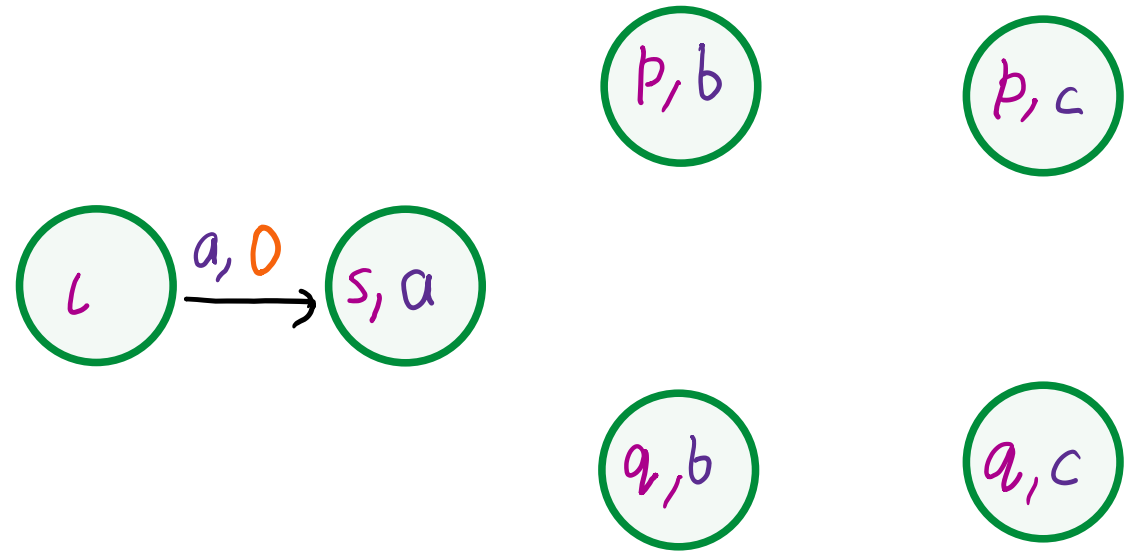
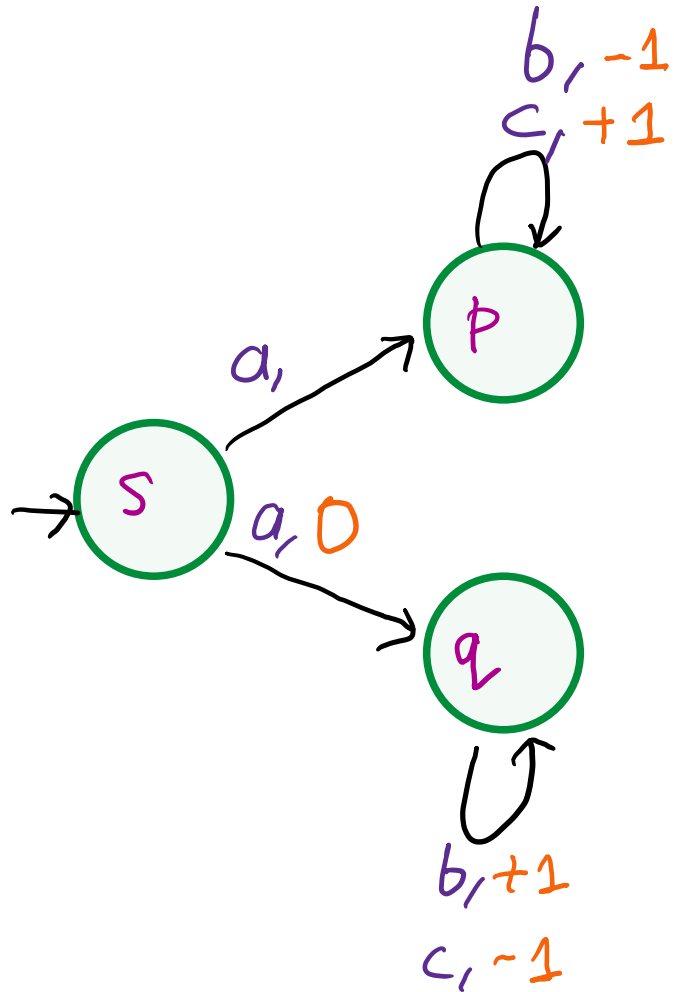


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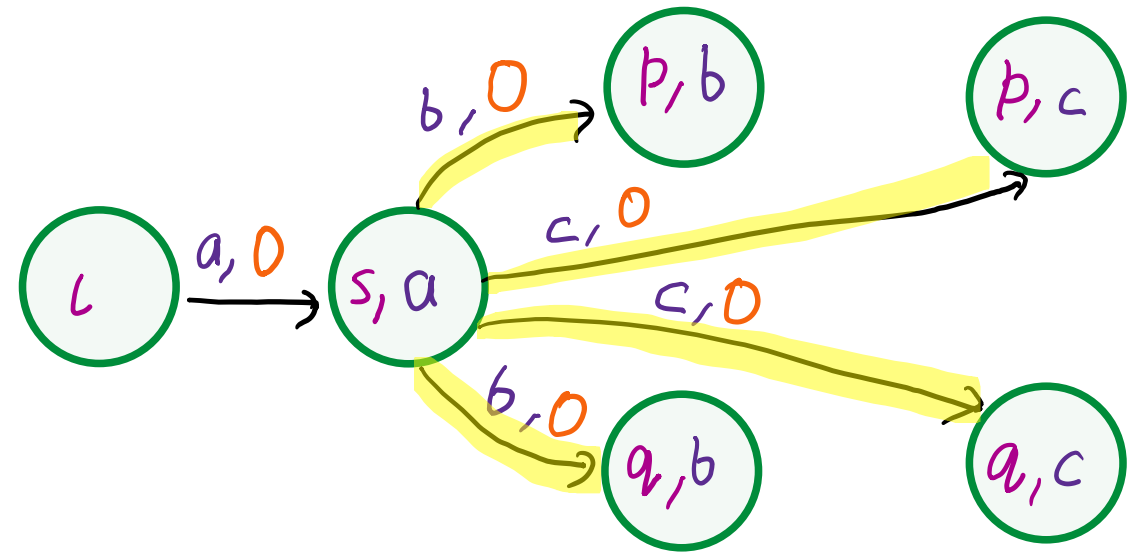
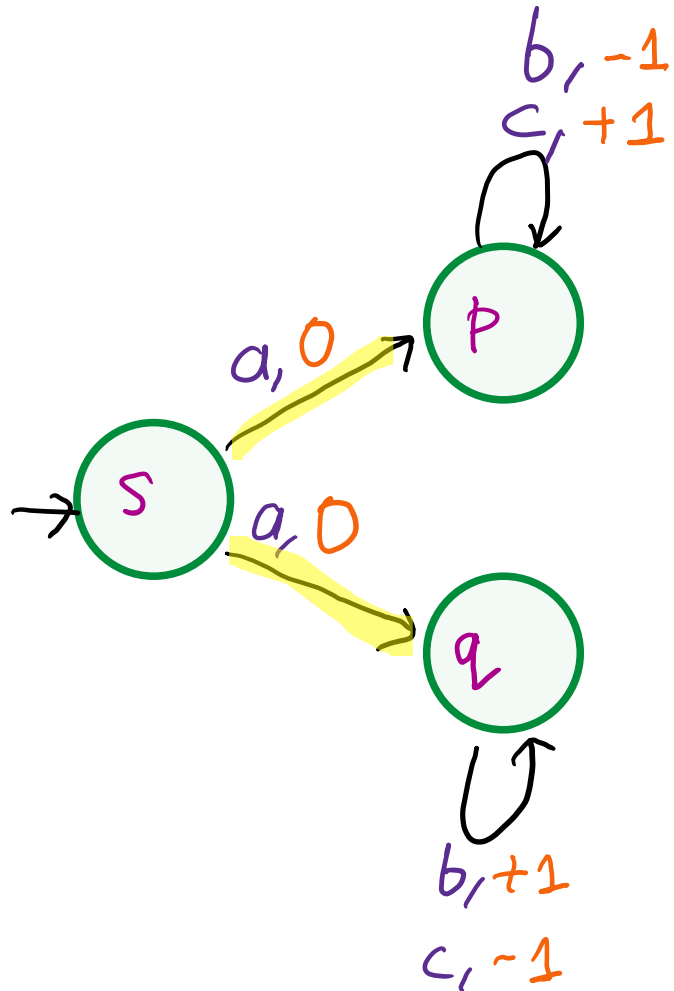


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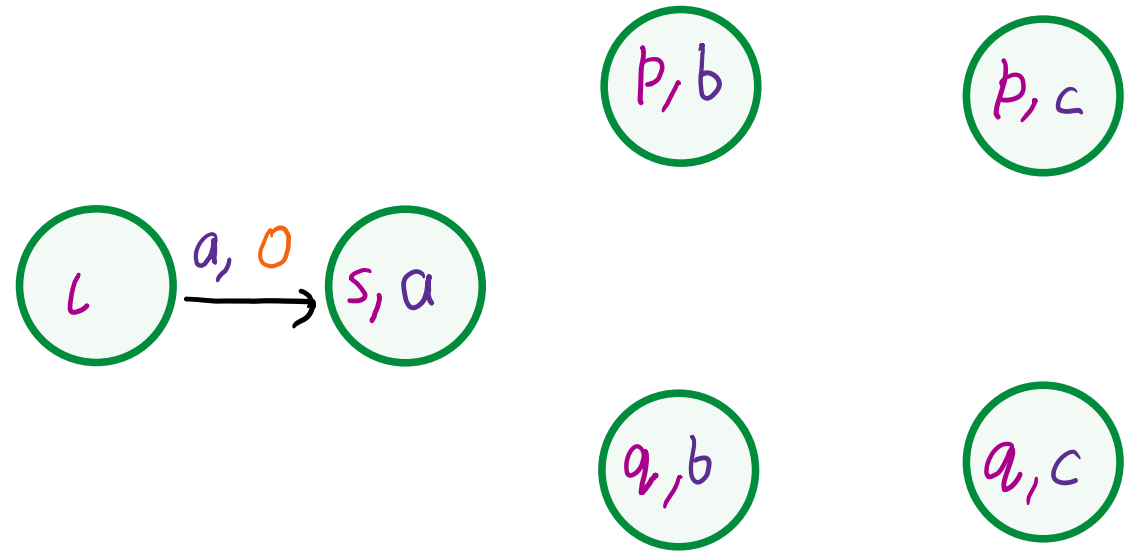
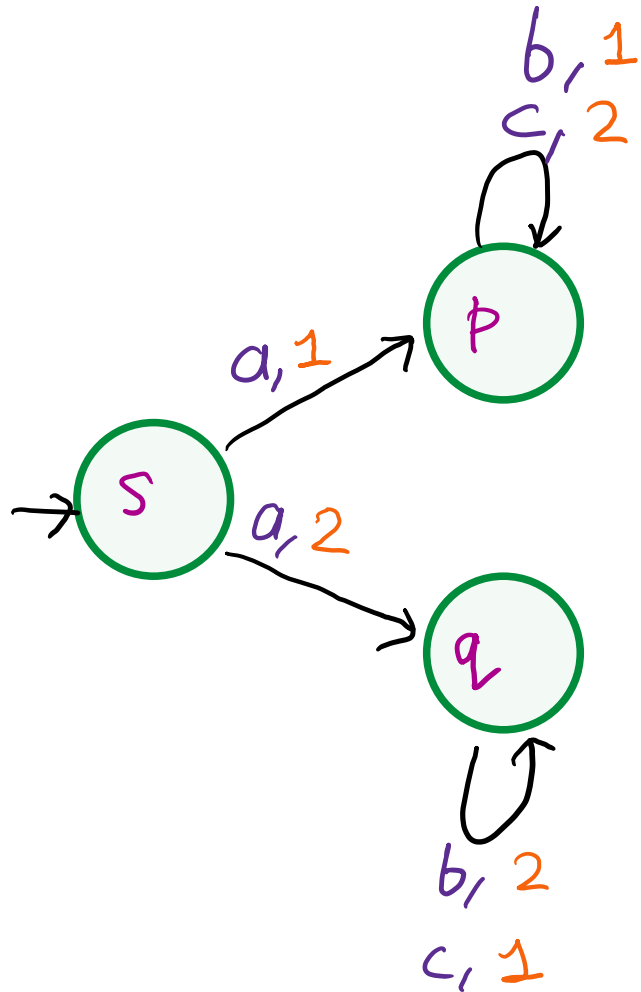




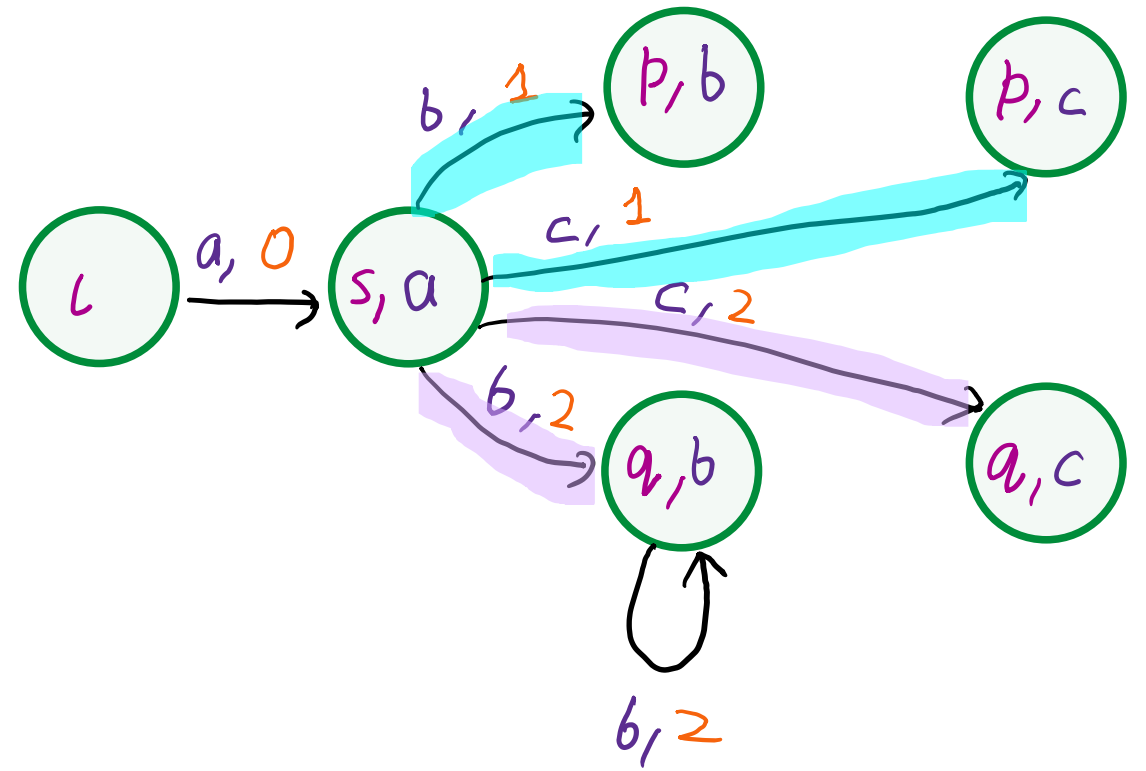
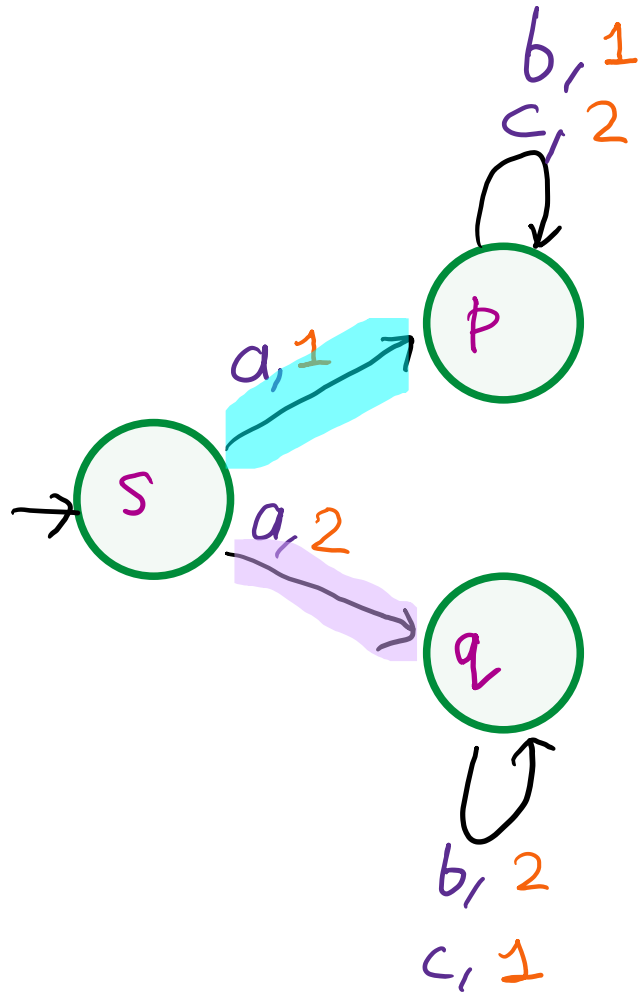
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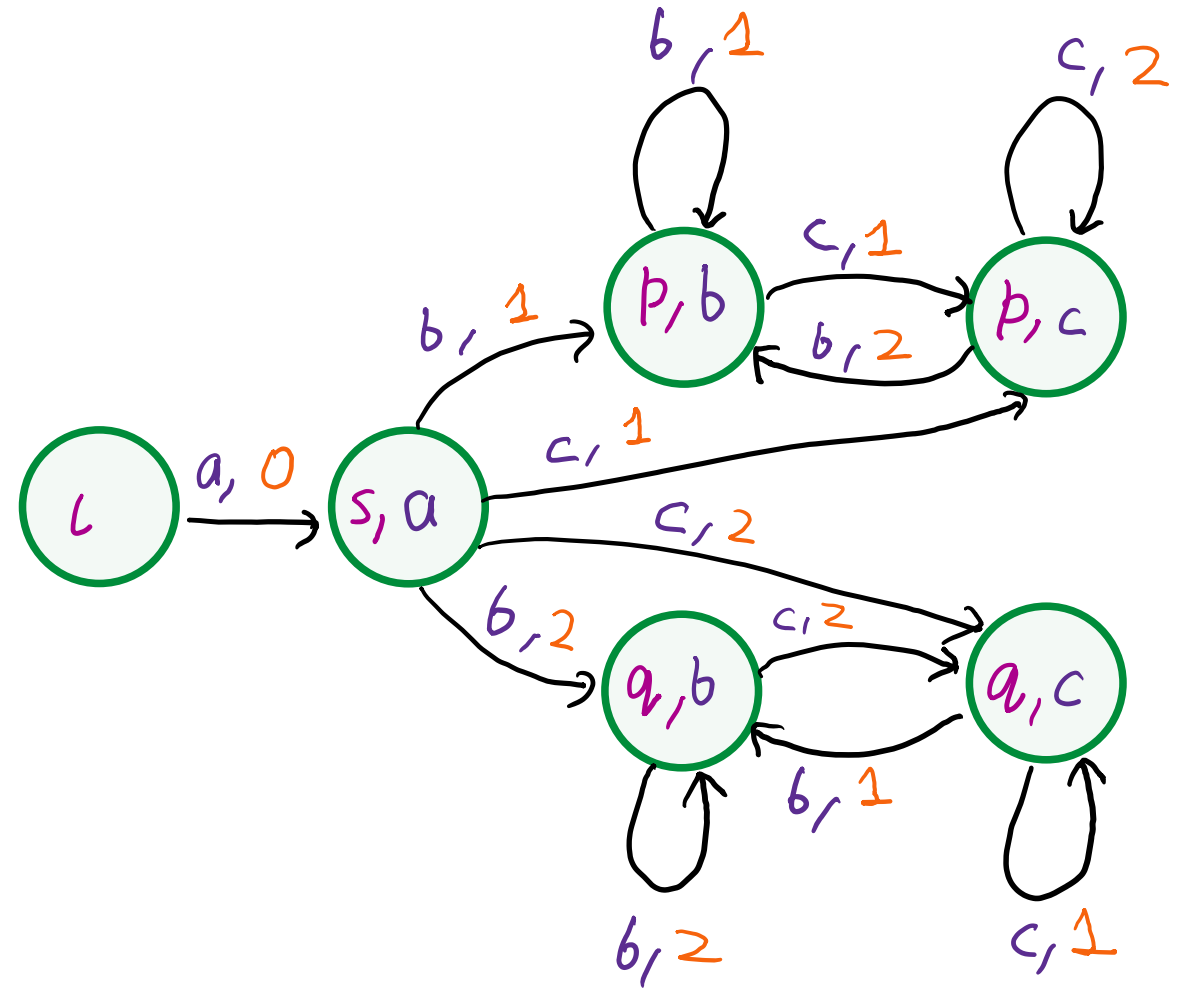
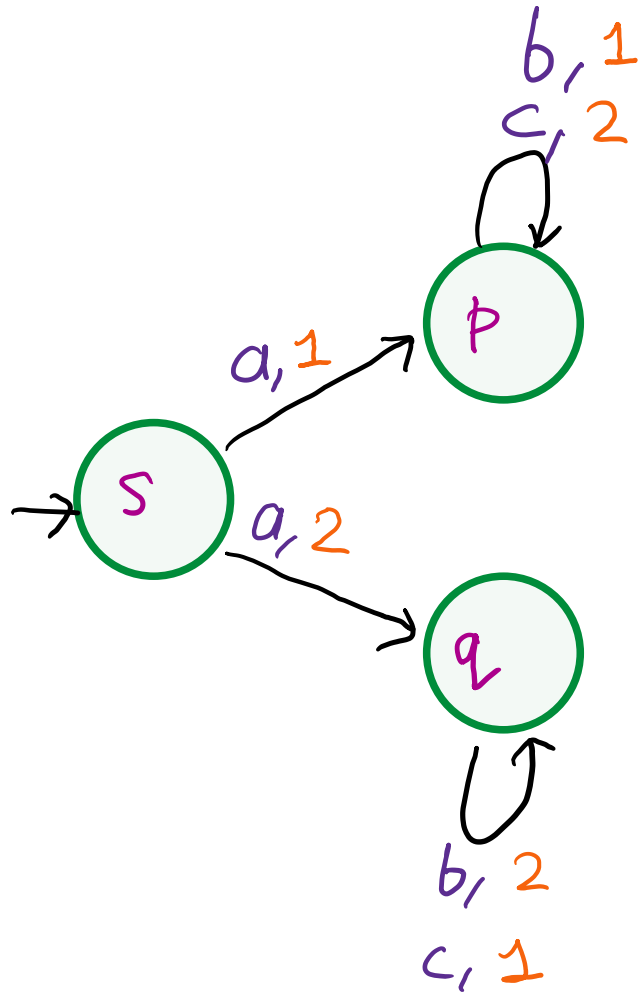
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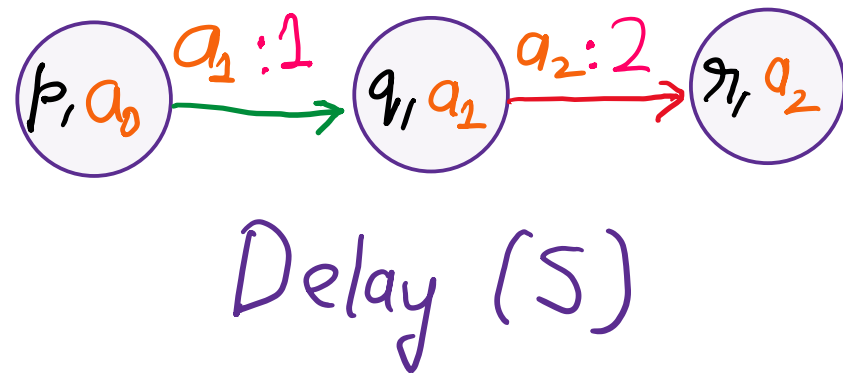
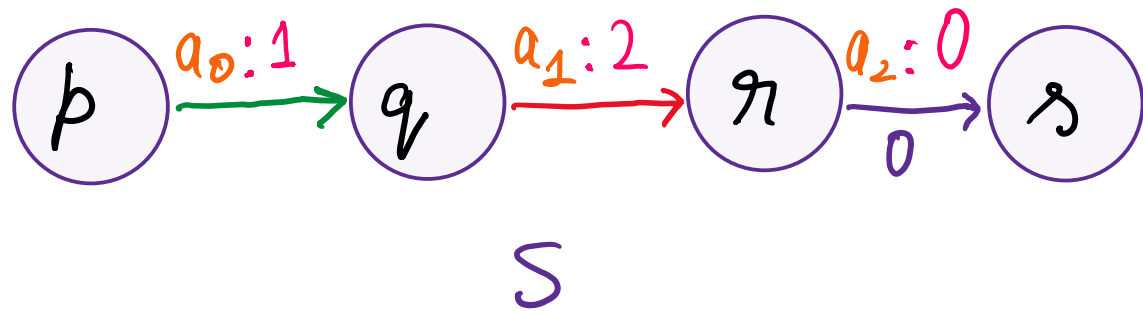
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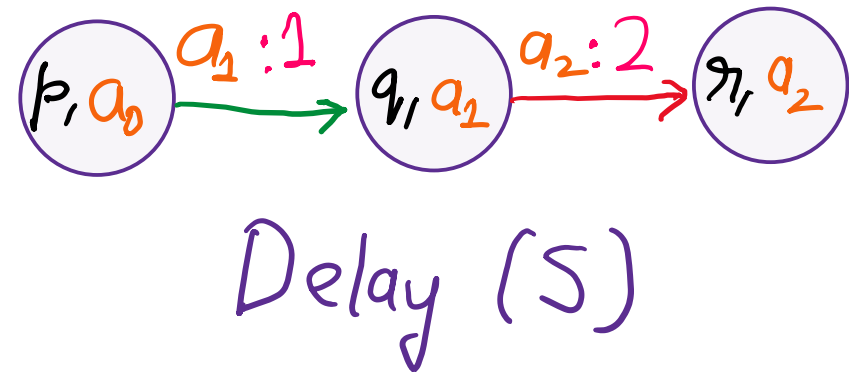
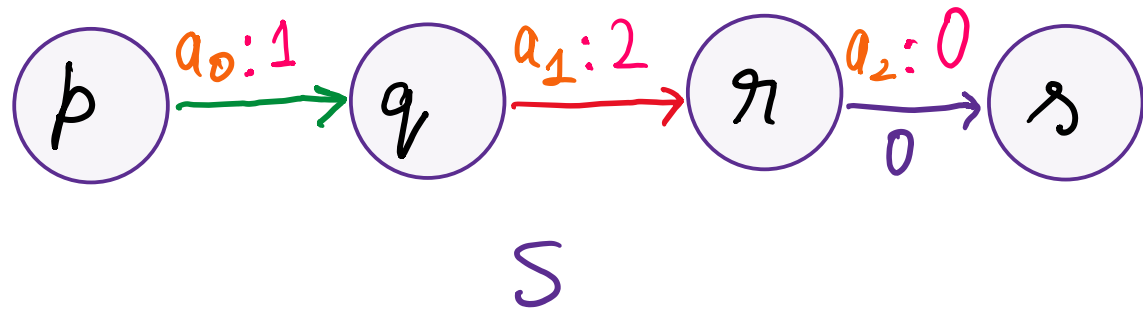


# 1-Token Game



Lemma 1: Eve wins 1-token game on  $S$  iff  $S$  simulates  $\text{Delay}(S)$

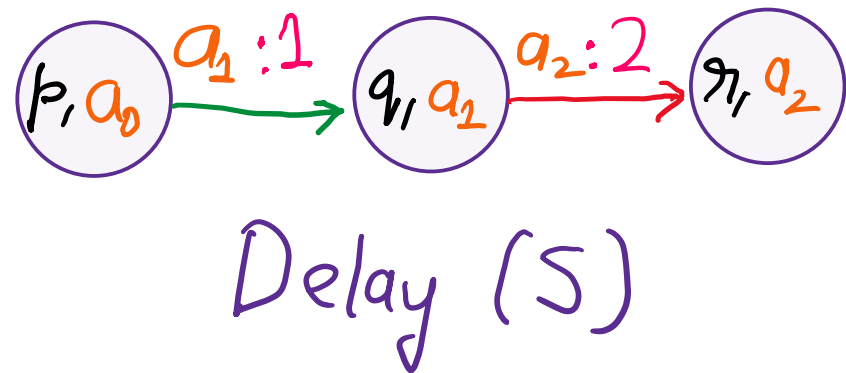
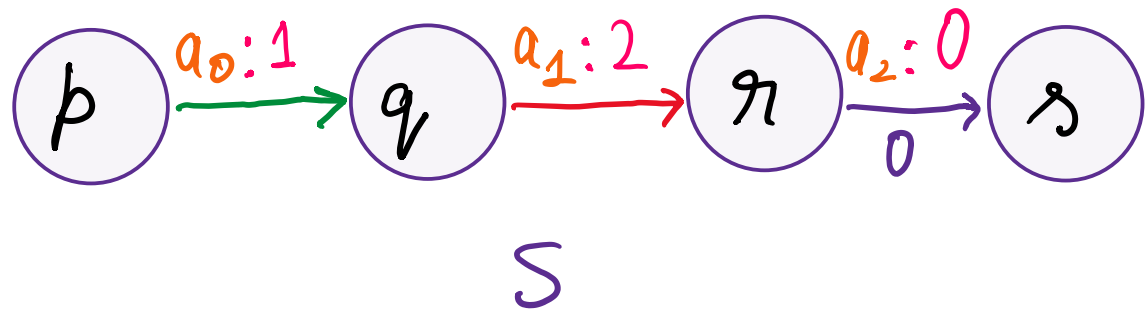
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$$\text{Delay}^2(S) \hookrightarrow \text{Delay}(S) \hookrightarrow S$$

# Lookahead Games

Theorem: Eve wins 1-token game on  $S$

$\Rightarrow$

$S$  simulates  $\text{Delay}^k(S)$  for all  $k \geq 0$



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$\downarrow$   
 $k$ -lookahead game

# Lookahead Games

## Theorem

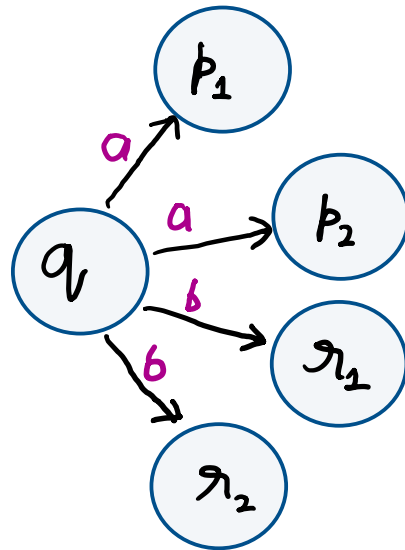
On a semantically deterministic Büchi automaton  $A$ ,  
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# Lookahead Games

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Semantic determinism:



$$L(p_i) = a^{-1} \cdot L(q)$$

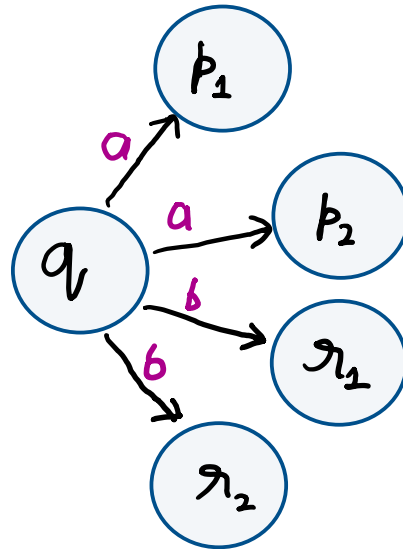
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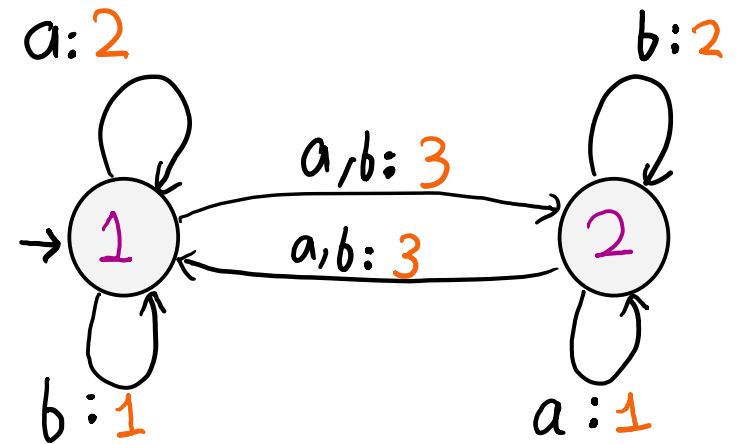
(Also known as residual)  
automata

# Lookahead Games

## Theorem

On a semantically deterministic Büchi automaton  $A$ ,  
Eve wins 1-token game on  $A \iff A$  is H.D.

Does not extend to parity automata:



# Determinisation of H.D. Büchi Automata

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Theorem [Kuperberg, Skrzypczak '15]

H.D. Büchi automaton with  $N$  states

⇓

Deterministic Büchi automaton with  $\Theta(N^2)$  states

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Requires non-deterministic polynomial time

**Problem:** Can H.D. Büchi automata be determinised in polynomial time?



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**Theorem:** Yes.

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$\Downarrow$

Deterministic Büchi automaton with  $\Theta(N^2)$  states

Requires non-deterministic polynomial time

**Problem:** Can H.D. Büchi automata be determinised in polynomial time?

**Theorem:** Yes. Proof: Trim the 1-token game arena.

# Conclusion

\* H.D. Büchi automaton  $\xrightarrow{\text{Poly. time}}$  Deterministic Büchi automaton  
 $N$  states  $\leq N^2$  states

Open: Can we do better than  $N^2$ ?

\* Eve wins 1-token game  $\Leftrightarrow$  Eve wins  $k$ -lookahead game  $\forall k \geq 0$ .

Open: 2-token conjecture

# Conclusion

\* Checking history-determinism is NP-hard for parity automata.

Upper bound: EXPTIME

2-token conjecture  $\Rightarrow$  PSPACE upper bound.

# Bonus Fact

**2-token conjecture:** For any parity automaton  $A$ , Eve wins 2-token game on  $A$  iff  $A$  is HD.

\* : For any parity automaton  $A$  with  $L(A) = \Sigma^\omega$ ,  
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Theorem: \*  $\implies$  2-token conjecture.

# Bonus Fact

**2-token conjecture:** For any parity automaton  $A$  with  $L(A) = \Sigma^w$ ,

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Winning cond<sup>n</sup> for Eve:  
Construct an accepting run if Adam's word is accepting.

HD Automata: Eve has a winning strategy

```
graph LR
    1((1)) -- "a, b: 1" --> 1
    1 -- "a, b: 0" --> 2((2))
    2 -- "a: 1" --> 1
    2 -- "b: 0" --> 2
```

H.D. Game

Adam	a	b	a	...
Eve	1	-a-> 2	-b-> 2	-a-> 1 -> ...

# Bonus Fact

2-token conjecture: For any parity automaton  $A$  with  $L(A) = \Sigma^w$ ,

Eve wins 2-token game on  $A \iff A$  is HD.

History-Determinism Game

Starts at  $\rightarrow 1$

Adam selects letter  $a_i$

Eve selects transition  $q_i \xrightarrow{a_i} q_{i+1}$

Winning cond<sup>n</sup> for Eve:

Construct an accepting run if Adam's word is accepting.

HD Automata: Eve has a winning strategy

H.D. Game

Adam	a	b	a	...
Eve	1 $\xrightarrow{a}$ 2	2 $\xrightarrow{b}$ 2	2 $\xrightarrow{a}$ 1	...

$\rightarrow$  A parity game.



Joker Game Kuperberg, Skrzypczak '15

# Joker Game

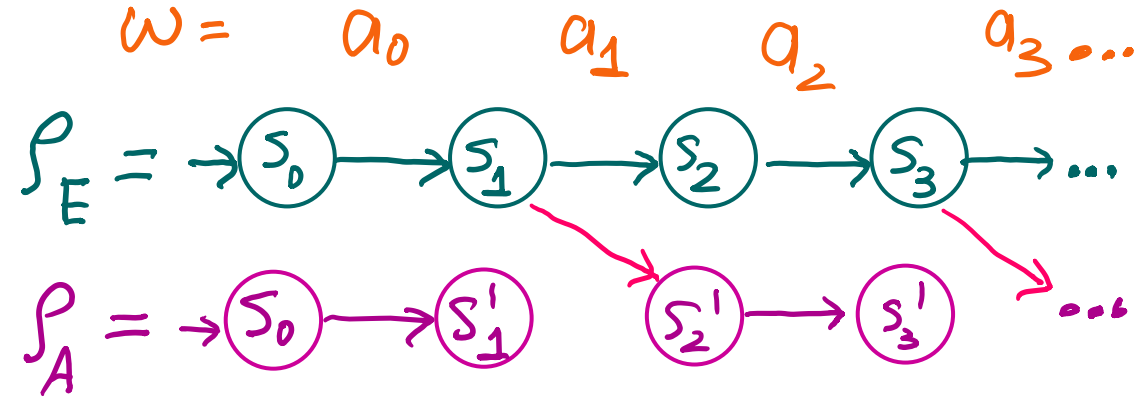
Kuperberg, Skrzypczak'15

Automaton  $S$

Starts at  $\rightarrow s_0$ ,  $\rightarrow s_0$

In round  $i$ :

1. Adam selects  $a_i$
2. Eve selects  $s_i \xrightarrow{a_i} s_{i+1}$
3. Adam selects  $s'_i \xrightarrow{a_i} s'_{i+1}$



OR  $s_i \xrightarrow{a_i} s'_{i+1}$   
 $\rightarrow$  Joker moves

# Joker Game

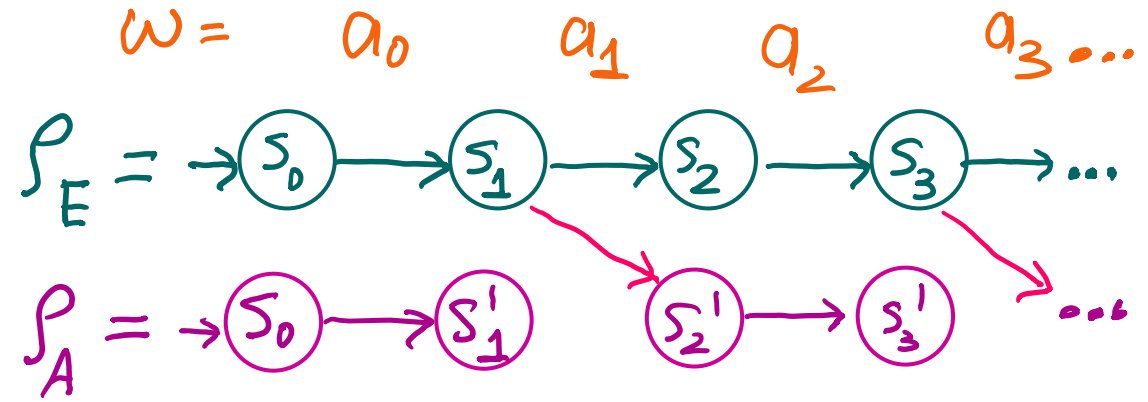
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OR selects  $s_i \xrightarrow{a_i} s'_{i+1}$   $\rightarrow$  Joker moves

Eve's winning condition: If  $P_A$  is accepting and finitely many **Jokers** have been played, then  $P_E$  is accepting.

# Joker Game

Theorem: For any Büchi automaton  $S$ ,  $S$  is HD



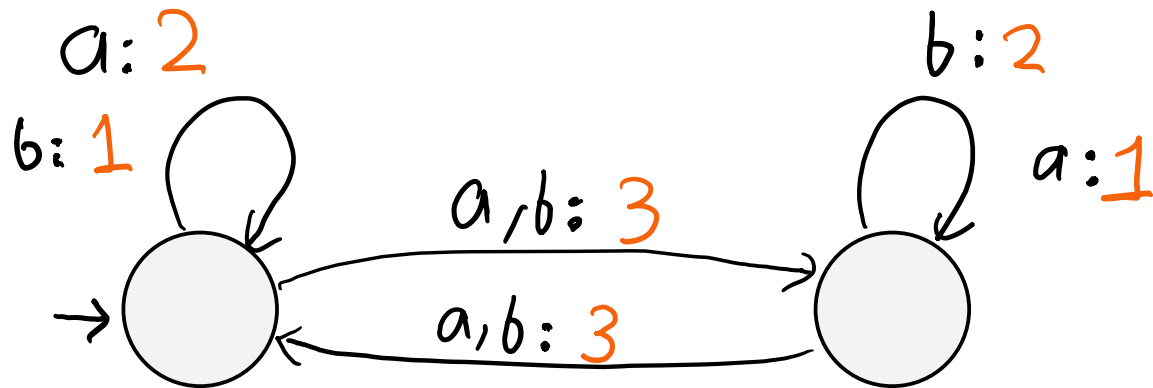
Eve wins Joker Game on  $S$ .

# Joker Game

Theorem: For any Büchi automaton  $S$ ,  $S$  is HD



Eve wins Joker Game on  $S$ .



Not true for parity automata.

III b. Determinisation

# HD CoBüchi Automata

Theorem Kupferman'24

HD CoBüchi automaton with  $n$  states  $\rightsquigarrow$  Deterministic CoBüchi automaton with  $2^n$  states

# HD CoBüchi Automata

Theorem Kupferman'24

HD CoBüchi automaton  $\rightsquigarrow$  Deterministic CoBüchi automaton with  $2^n$  states

Tight.

Kuperberg, Skrzypczak'15



# HD Büchi Automata

Theorem Kuperberg, Skrzybczak '15

HD Büchi automaton  $\rightsquigarrow$  Deterministic Büchi automaton with  $n^2$  states  
with  $n$  states

# HD Büchi Automata

Theorem Kupferberg, Skrzybczak '15

HD Büchi automaton  
with  $n$  states



Deterministic Büchi  
automaton with  $n^2$  states

Non-det.  
Polynomial time.

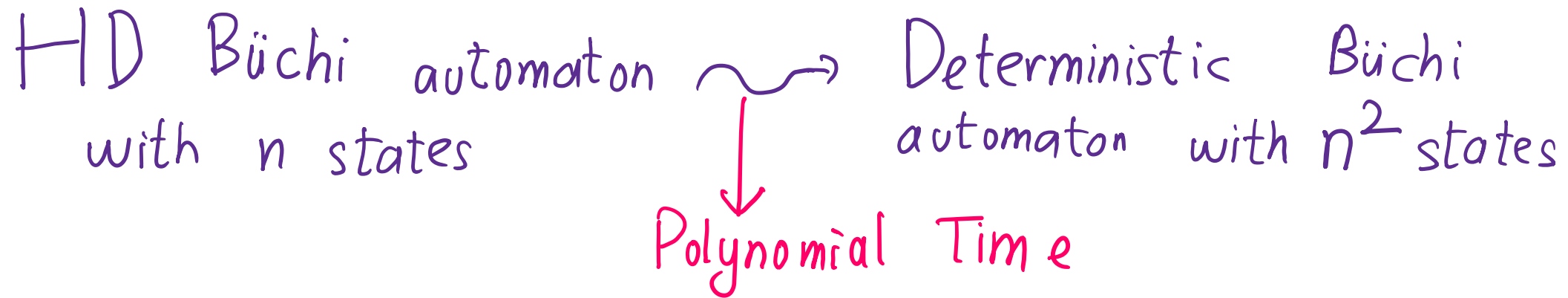
Not known to be  
tight.

# HD Büchi Automata

## Theorem

HD Büchi automaton with  $n$  states  $\rightsquigarrow$  Deterministic Büchi automaton with  $n^2$  states

Polynomial Time



# HD Büchi Automata

## Theorem

HD Büchi automaton with  $n$  states  $\rightsquigarrow$  Deterministic Büchi automaton with  $n^2$  states

↓  
Polynomial Time

Proof Sketch.

Modify and trim the arena of the Joker game.

# Conclusion

\* For  $A$  Büchi, Eve wins Joker Game  $\Leftrightarrow A$  is H.D.

# Conclusion

- \* For  $A$  Büchi, Eve wins Joker Game  $\Leftrightarrow A$  is H.D.
- \* H.D. Büchi automaton  $\xrightarrow{\text{Poly. time}}$  Deterministic Büchi automaton  
 $N$  states  $\subseteq N^2$  states

Open: Can we do better than  $N^2$ ?

# Conclusion

- \* For  $A$  Büchi, Eve wins Joker Game  $\Leftrightarrow A$  is H.D.
- \* H.D. Büchi automaton  $\xrightarrow{\text{Poly. time}}$  Deterministic Büchi automaton  
 $N$  states  $\subseteq N^2$  states
- \* Open: Can we do better than  $N^2$ ?
- \* Recognising HD Parity Automata: NP-hard  
2-token conjecture  $\Rightarrow$  PSPACE upper bound.