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Well-structured transition systems [FS01]

Labeled WSTS $\mathcal{W} = (S, \leq, T, I, F)$ over Σ with
(S, \leq) well-quasi ordered states,
 $T \subseteq S \times \Sigma \times S$ transitions, (strongly) compatible with \leq ,
 $I \subseteq S$ initial states,
 $F \subseteq S$ final states, upward closed.

Coverability language:

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{W}) = \{w \in \Sigma^* \mid s_I \xrightarrow{w} s_F \text{ for some } s_I \in I, s_F \in F\}$$

Examples: Petri nets and extensions (transfer nets, reset nets, ...) with covering a marking as acceptance condition.

Finite branching

\mathcal{W} finitely branching if I and $\text{Post}_{\Sigma}(s)$ finite for all $s \in S$.
 \mathcal{W} deterministic if I and $\text{Post}_a(s)$ unique for all $s \in S, a \in \Sigma$.
 \mathcal{W} ω^2 -WSTS if (S, \leq) does not embed the Rado order.

Theorem: The following inclusions of language classes hold:

lang. of ω^2 -WSTS \subseteq lang. of deterministic WSTS,
lang. of fin.-branching WSTS \subseteq lang. of deterministic WSTS.

The result & its consequences

Theorem: If two WSTS languages, one of them finitely branching, are disjoint, then they are regularly separable.

Corollary: If a language and its complement are languages of finitely-branching WSTS, then they are necessarily regular.

Corollary: No subclass of the class of languages of finitely-branching WSTS beyond REG is closed under complement.

Proof approach:

1. Show that finitely-represented inductive **invariants** can be turned into regular separators.
2. Show that such invariants always exist using **ideals**.

Ideals [KP92] [FG12, BFM14]

Let $\widehat{\mathcal{W}}$ be the ideal completion of \mathcal{W} . Note: $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{W}) = \mathcal{L}(\widehat{\mathcal{W}})$.

Proposition: If X is an invariant for \mathcal{W} , then its ideal decomposition $\text{ID-DEC}(X)_{\downarrow}$ is a finitely-represented invariant for $\widehat{\mathcal{W}}$.