

The Reachability Problem for Petri Nets is Not Elementary

Wojciech Czerwiński¹, Sławomir Lasota¹, Ranko Lazić²,
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LSV, ENS Cachan 2018

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Introduction

Petri Nets, VASS, programs with no zero tests

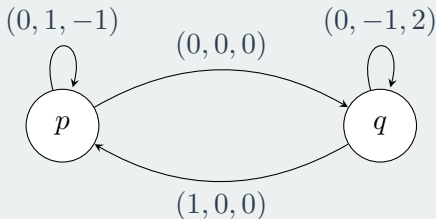
Vector addition systems with states (VASS)

(d, Q, T) , where $T \subseteq Q \times \mathbb{Z}^d \times Q$

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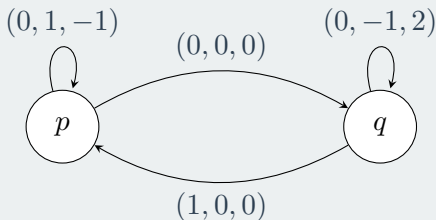
Example: $d = 3$, $Q = \{p, q\}$



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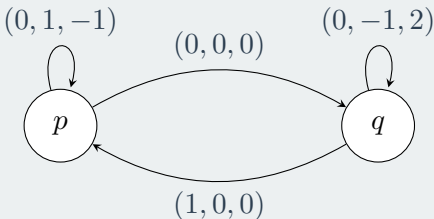


Configurations $p(\mathbf{v}) = (p, \mathbf{v}) \in Q \times \mathbb{N}^d$

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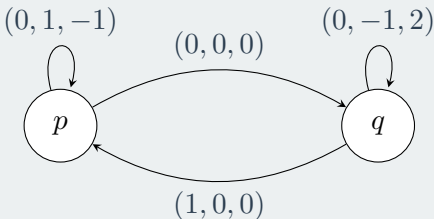
Example run:

$$p(0, 0, 1) \rightarrow p(0, 1, 0) \rightarrow q(0, 1, 0) \rightarrow q(0, 0, 2) \rightarrow p(1, 0, 2)$$

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$p(0, 0, 1) \rightarrow p(0, 1, 0) \rightarrow q(0, 1, 0) \rightarrow q(0, 0, 2) \rightarrow p(1, 0, 2)$

Notation: $p(0, 0, 1) \rightarrow^* p(1, 0, 2)$

Decision problems

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Reachability problem:

GIVEN: VASS (d, Q, T) and configurations $p(\mathbf{u}), q(\mathbf{v})$

DECIDE: whether $p(\mathbf{u}) \rightarrow^* q(\mathbf{v})$?

Decision problems

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GIVEN: VASS (d, Q, T) and configurations $p(\mathbf{u}), q(\mathbf{v})$

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Coverability problem:

GIVEN: VASS (d, Q, T) and configurations $p(\mathbf{u}), q(\mathbf{v})$

DECIDE: whether exists \mathbf{v}' s.t. $p(\mathbf{u}) \rightarrow^* q(\mathbf{v}')$ and $\mathbf{v}' \geq \mathbf{v}$?

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- Coverability can be reduced to reachability

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- Coverability can be reduced to reachability
- We can assume $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$

Counter programs with no zero tests

Counter programs with no zero tests

$x \ += m$	(add m to variable x)
$x \ -= m$	(subtract m from variable x)
goto L or L'	(jump to either line L or line L')
test $x = 0$	(continue if variable x is zero)
halt if $x_1, \dots, x_l = 0$	(terminate if listed variables are zero).

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- 1: $x' \ += B$
- 2: **goto** 6 **or** 3
- 3: $x \ += 1$ $x' \ -= 1$
- 4: $y \ += 2$
- 5: **goto** 2
- 6: **halt if** $x' = 0$.

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$x' \ += B$

loop

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$y \ += 2$

halt if $x' = 0$.

A complete run ends with $x = B$, $y = 2B$

Programs with no zero test = VASS

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Reachability problem (for programs):

GIVEN: A counter program with no zero tests.

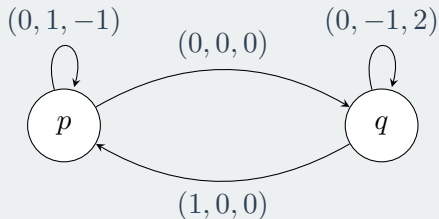
DECIDE: Does it have a complete run (executing **halt**)?

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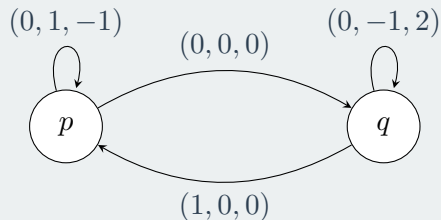


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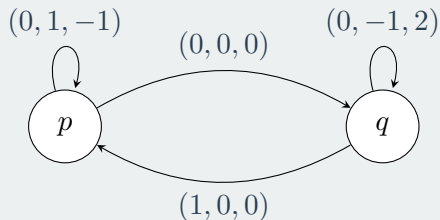
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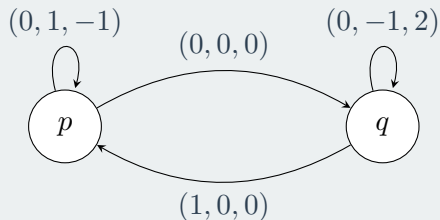
```
z += 1
loop
  loop
    y += 1    z -= 1
  loop
    y -= 1    z += 2
  x += 1
x -= 1    z -= 2
halt if x, y, z = 0.
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$x += 1$
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Coverability if **halt** is empty

$z += 1$

loop

loop

$y += 1 \quad z -= 1$

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$y -= 1 \quad z += 2$

$x += 1$

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halt if $x, y, z = 0$.

Reachability state of art

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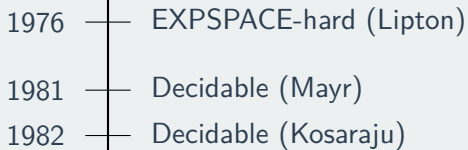
1976 — EXPSPACE-hard (Lipton)

Reachability state of art

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1981 — Decidable (Mayr)

Reachability state of art



A vertical timeline diagram with a central vertical line and three horizontal tick marks. To the left of the line are the years 1976, 1981, and 1982. To the right of the line are the corresponding milestones: EXPSPACE-hard (Lipton), Decidable (Mayr), and Decidable (Kosaraju).

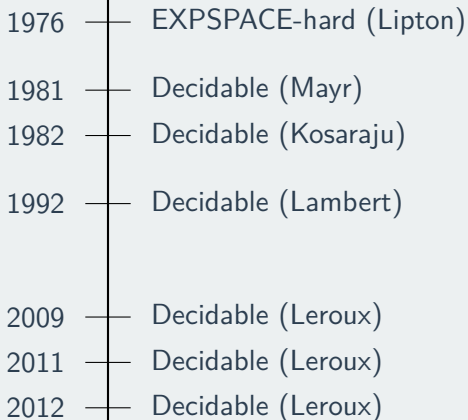
1976	EXPSPACE-hard (Lipton)
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Reachability state of art

A vertical timeline diagram with a central vertical line. Four horizontal tick marks cross the line at different points, corresponding to the years 1976, 1981, 1982, and 1992. To the left of the line are the years, and to the right are the corresponding reachability results.

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1981	Decidable (Mayr)
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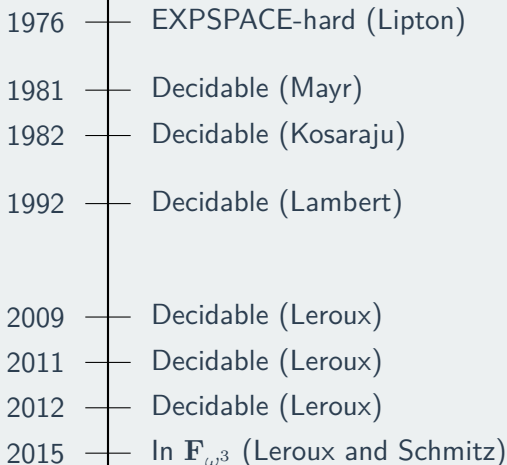
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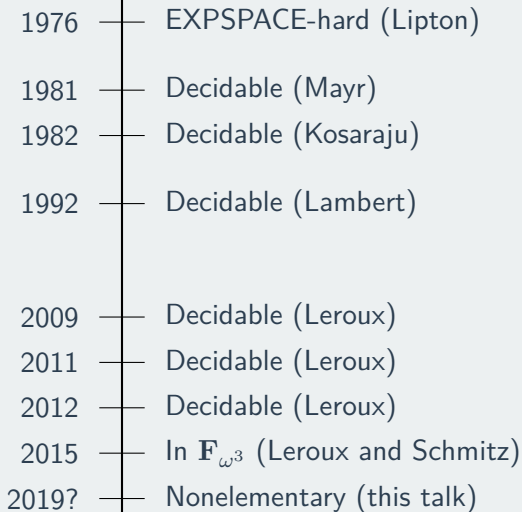
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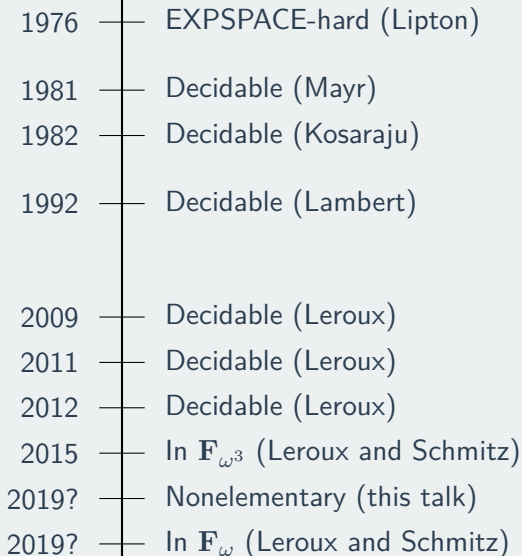
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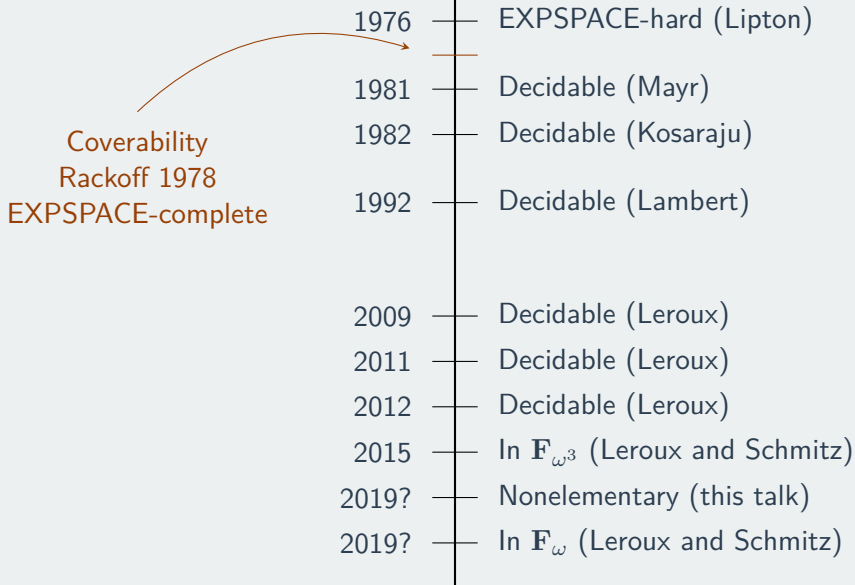
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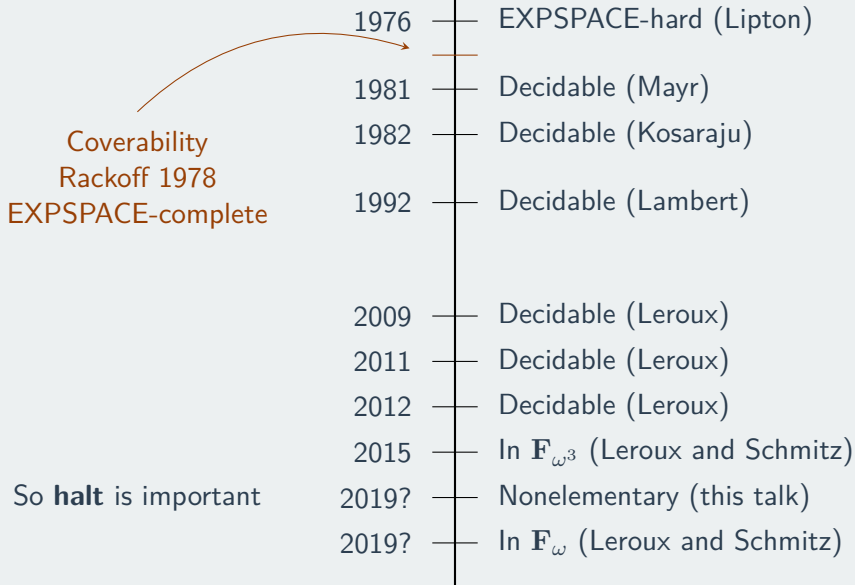
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Reachability state of art



Reachability state of art



Outline

- High level idea of the proof
- Key combinatorial lemma
- The construction

Programs with zero tests

Additional command: **test** $x = 0$

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Reachability becomes undecidable

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Let k – size of input

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Suppose counters are bounded by $B = f(k)$

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Let k – size of input

Suppose counters are bounded by $B = f(k)$

If f is n -EXP, i.e., $f(k) = 2^{\underbrace{\dots 2^k}_{n \text{ times}}}$

Then reachability is $(n - 1)$ -EXPSPACE-complete

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Lipton encoded programs for $f = 2$ -EXP

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Lipton encoded programs for $f = 2$ -EXP

We can do it for any $f = n$ -EXP

Encoding programs with zero tests and bounded counters

B – bound on the counters

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We encode this into programs with no zero tests

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Encoding: for every x_i add x'_i

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Intuitively $x_i + x'_i = B$, so start with:

loop

$$\begin{array}{l} x'_1 += 1 \quad \cdots \quad x'_l += 1 \\ b -= 1 \end{array}$$

Encoding programs with zero tests and bounded counters

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$x'_1 += 1 \quad \dots \quad x'_l += 1$
 $b -= 1$

Replace $x_i += m$ with $x_i += m \quad x'_i -= m$

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Replace $x_i += m$ with $x_i += m \quad x'_i -= m$

Replace $x_i -= m$ with $x_i -= m \quad x'_i += m$

Encoding (continued)

B – bound on the counters

$$b = B, \ c \geq 0, \ d = c \cdot b$$

$$x'_i = B - x_i$$

Encoding (continued)

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$b = B, c \geq 0, d = c \cdot b$ ← c is “number of zero tests” · 2

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Encoding (continued)

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Replace **test** $x_i = 0$ with

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$$d -= 1$$

$$c -= 1$$

loop

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Encoding (continued)

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Extend **halt** with $b, d = 0$

Encoding (continued)

B – bound on the counters

$b = B, c \geq 0, d = c \cdot b$ ← c is “number of zero tests” $\cdot 2$

$x'_i = B - x_i$ ← holds because $b = 0$

Replace **test** $x_i = 0$ with

loop

$x_i += 1 \quad x'_i -= 1$

$d -= 1$

$c -= 1$

loop

$x_i -= 1 \quad x'_i += 1$

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Encoding (continued)

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Replace **test** $x_i = 0$ with

loop	}	c decreased by 2 and d by at most $2B$
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$x'_i -= 1$		
$d -= 1$		
$c -= 1$		
loop		
$x_i -= 1$		
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} c decreased by 2 and d by at most $2B$

so a false zero test implies $d \neq 0$

Extend **halt** with $b, d = 0$

Encoding (continued)

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c decreased by 2 and d by at most $2B$

so a false zero test implies $d \neq 0$

Extend **halt** with $b, d = 0$

This is the challenge

Key combinatorial lemma

(forget about VASS and programs for now)

Identity on numbers

k – input number

Identity on numbers

k – input number

Lemma (Trivial)

There exist $r_{k,0}, \dots, r_{k,k}, r_k, s_{k,0}, \dots, s_{k,k}, s_k > 0$

s.t. $r_{k,i}, r_k, s_{k,i}, s_k = \mathcal{O}(k), \quad s_{k,i} > r_{k,i}, \quad s_k > r_k, \quad \text{and}$

$$\prod_{i=0}^k \frac{s_{k,i}}{r_{k,i}} = \frac{s_k}{r_k}$$

Identity on numbers

k – input number

Lemma (Trivial)

There exist $r_{k,0}, \dots, r_{k,k}, r_k, s_{k,0}, \dots, s_{k,k}, s_k > 0$

s.t. $r_{k,i}, r_k, s_{k,i}, s_k = \mathcal{O}(k), \quad s_{k,i} > r_{k,i}, \quad s_k > r_k, \quad \text{and}$

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Solution:

$$\prod_{i=0}^k \frac{i+2}{i+1} = \frac{k+2}{1}$$

Identity on numbers

k – input number

Lemma (Trivial)

There exist $r_{k,0}, \dots, r_{k,k}, r_k, s_{k,0}, \dots, s_{k,k}, s_k > 0$

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We need something more complicated

Serious identity on numbers

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Lemma (Key)

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Wrong solution:

$$\prod_{i=0}^k \left(\frac{2^{k+1} + 1}{2^{k+1}} \right)^{2^i} = \left(\frac{2^{k+1} + 1}{2^{k+1}} \right)^{2^{k+1}-1} < e$$

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A solution: $(a_k, a_{k,i}$ are auxiliary)

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Then $x, y = \Omega(2^{2^k})$

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Actually $x = y \cdot \frac{s_k}{r_k}$

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So x, y are initialized to multiples of $a \in \Omega(2^{2^k})$

The construction

(Now remember VASS, programs, the key lemma. . .)

Recall what we wanted

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$$b = B, \quad c \geq 0, \quad d = c \cdot b$$

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For this we need the combinatorial lemma

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$b = B$, $c \geq 0$, $d = c \cdot b$ gives us B -bounded 0-tests

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A program proving the lemma is what's left

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What is k ? Computable, assume some variable $k = k$

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Output: $b = B_k$, $c \geq 0$, $d = c \cdot b$

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High level description of the program

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$$B_k = \prod_{i=0}^k (s_{k,i})^{2^i}$$
$$A_k = \prod_{i=0}^k (r_{k,i})^{2^i}$$

Two auxiliary variables x, y (to check correctness)

At some point they satisfy

$$x = y \cdot \prod_{i=0}^k \left(\frac{s_{k,i}}{r_{k,i}} \right)^{2^i} = y \cdot \frac{s_k}{r_k}$$

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$c += 1 \quad d += 1 \quad x += 1 \quad y += 1$

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$x -= \boxed{s_k} \quad y -= \boxed{r_k}$

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7:     loop
8:       b -= 1    b' +=  $s_{k,i}$ 
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if any **loop** not maximal
then $x < y \cdot \frac{s_k}{r_k}$

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So maybe it's good to study restrictions of generalizations of etc. . .