

# Boundedness problems in games: a roadmap

GT Jeux'2012

Nathanaël Fijalkow

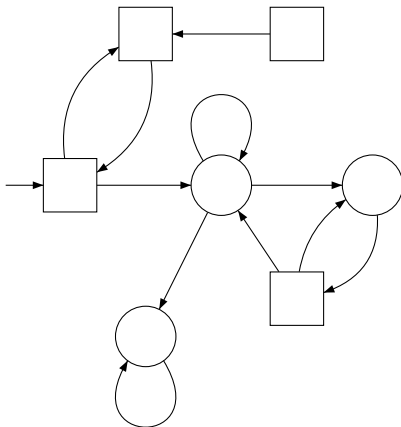
(based on a joint work with Martin Zimmermann)

Institute of Informatics, Warsaw University – Poland

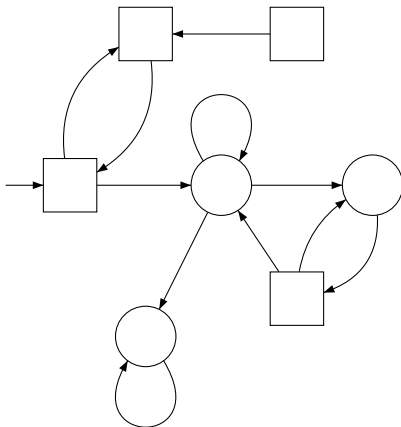
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September 21st, 2012

Two-player turn-based games over **finite** graphs



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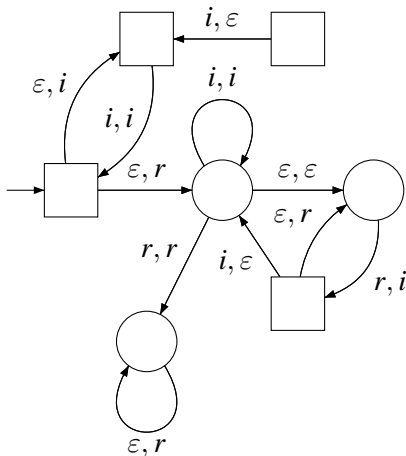


$$c_1 \doteq 0$$

$$c_2 \doteq 0$$

Winning condition: “there exists B, such that ...”

Two-player turn-based games over **finite** graphs



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Winning condition: “there exists B, such that ...”

**increment:**  $i$  or “ $c \longleftarrow c + 1$ ”

**no action:**  $\varepsilon$

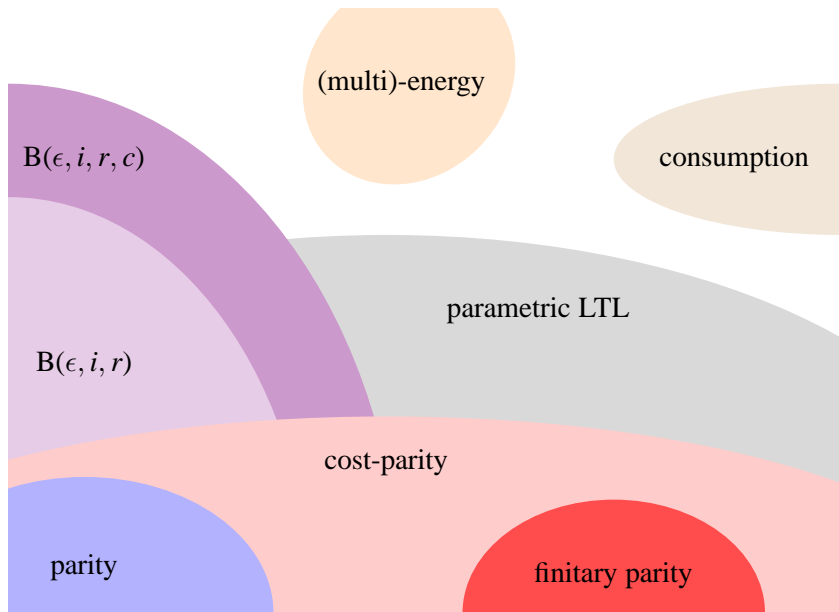
**reset:**  $r$  or “ $c \longleftarrow 0$ ”

**decrement:** “ $c \longleftarrow c - 1$ ”

**refill:** “ $c \longleftarrow c + \omega$ ”

# Roadmap

3



# The robust: $B$ -conditions (Bojańczyk, Colcombet)

Actions:  $\varepsilon, i, r$ .

$B$ -conditions are conjunctions of:

- “counter  $c$  is bounded”
- Büchi( $F$ ): “ $F$  appears infinitely often”
- CoBüchi( $G$ ): “ $G$  appears finitely often”

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## Observation

*Eve wins “counter  $c$  is bounded”  
if and only if  
she wins “Büchi( $i$ )  $\Rightarrow$  Büchi( $r$ )”.*



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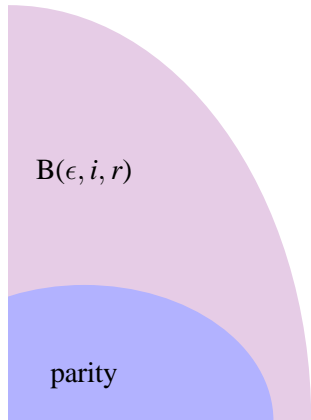
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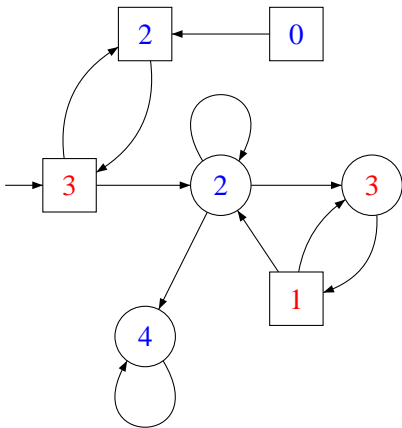
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## Corollary

*One can decide who wins a  $B$ -game and Eve needs finite memory.*

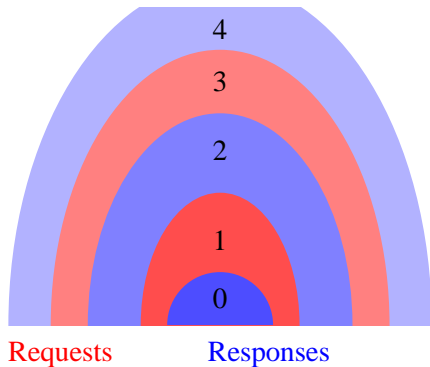
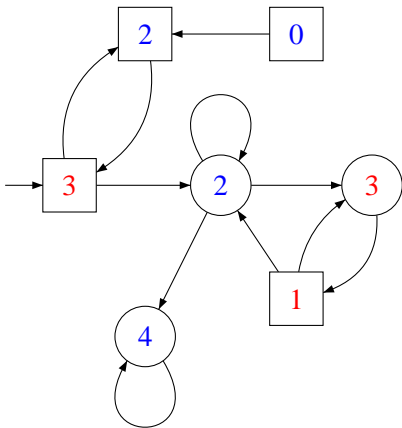


# The surprising: finitary parity (Alur,Henzinger)

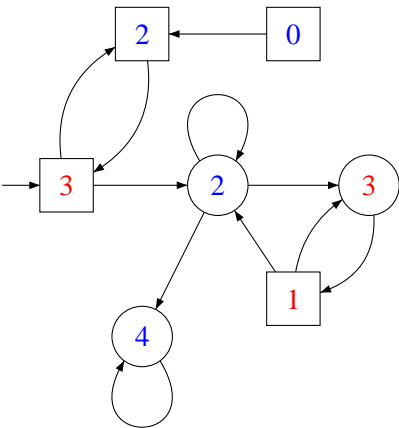


# The surprising: finitary parity (Alur,Henzinger)

5



# The surprising: finitary parity (Alur,Henzinger)

**Parity:**

Almost all requests are answered.

**Finitary parity:**

There exists a bound  $b$ , s.t. almost all requests are answered *within  $b$  steps*.

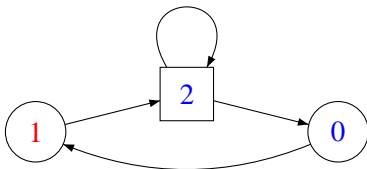
# Parity games and finitary parity games are different

**Parity:**

Almost all requests are answered.

**Finitary parity:**

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Eve wins for the parity condition,

but loses for the finitary parity condition!

# Parity games and finitary parity games are different

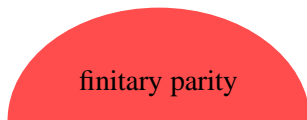
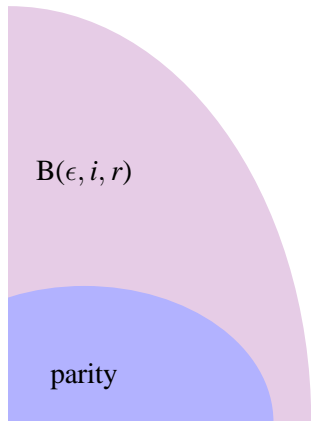
**Parity:**

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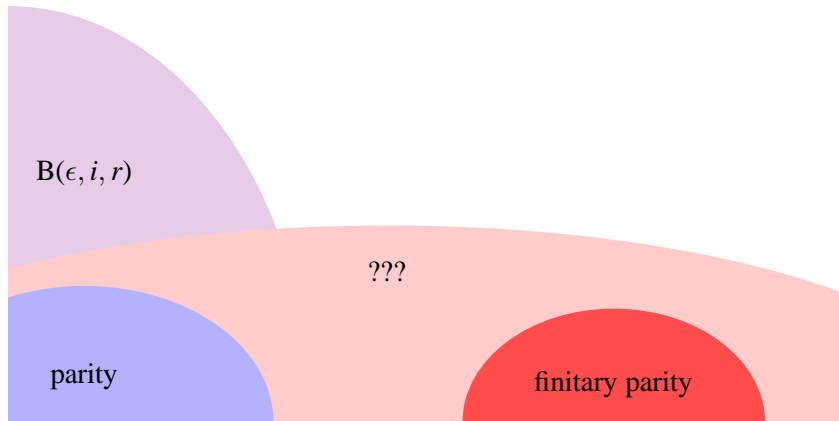
**Finitary parity:**

There exists a bound  $b$ , s.t. almost all requests are answered *within  $b$  steps*.

- Both players have positional winning strategies.
- Deciding the winner is in  $\text{NP} \cap \text{coNP}$ .
- Eve has positional winning strategies.
- Adam needs infinite memory.
- Deciding the winner is in PTIME.







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Almost all requests are answered.

**Finitary parity:**

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**Parity:**

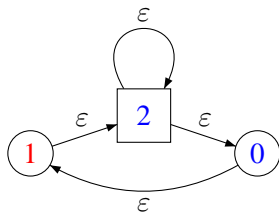
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**Finitary parity:**

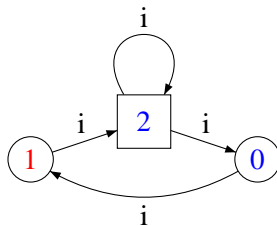
There exists a bound  $b$ , s.t.  
almost all requests are answered *within  $b$  steps*.

**Cost-parity:**

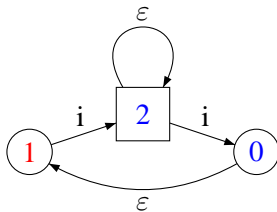
There exists a bound  $b$ , s.t.  
almost all requests are answered *with cost at most  $b$* .

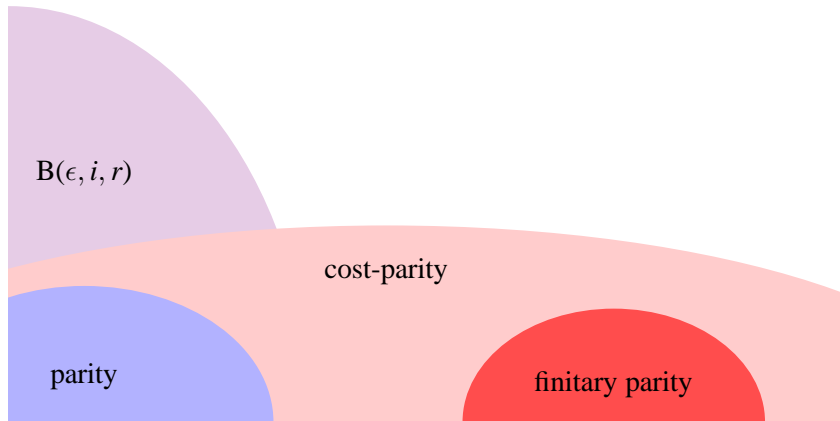


Parity game



Finitary parity game





$n$ : number of vertices

$m$ : number of edges

$d$ : number of colors

Theorem (F., Zimmermann 2012)

*Given a parity games solver of complexity  $T(n, m, d)$ ,  
we construct a cost-parity games solver of complexity*

$$O(n \cdot T(n \cdot d, m \cdot d, d + 2)) .$$

Objective: **strategy optimization**

Assume  $\sigma$  is a winning strategy.

How to construct a memoryless winning strategy  $\sigma'$  from  $\sigma$ ?

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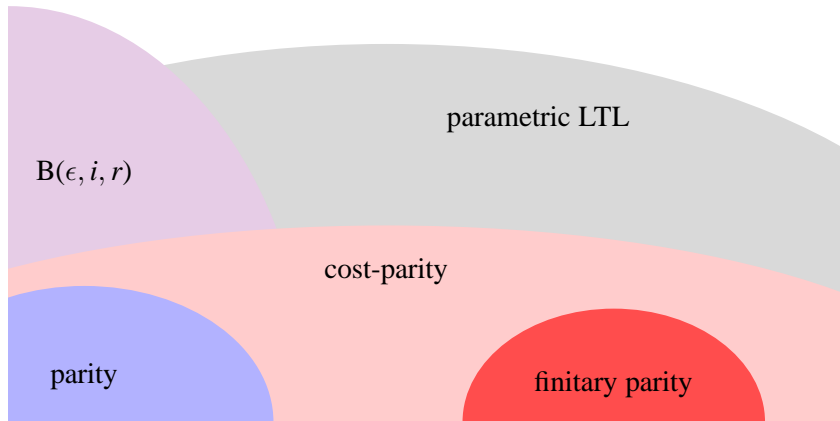
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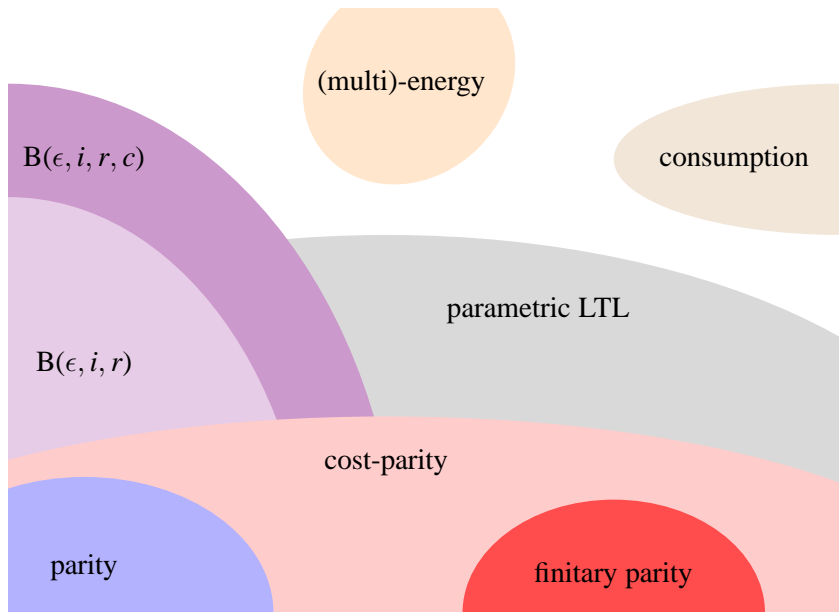
How to construct a memoryless winning strategy  $\sigma'$  from  $\sigma$ ?

Tool: **scoring functions**

“à la Müller and Schupp” past-oriented proof







**increment:**  $i$  or “ $c \leftarrow c + 1$ ”

**no action:**  $\varepsilon$

**decrement:** “ $c \leftarrow c - 1$ ”

(Tomáš Brázdil, Jakub Chaloupka, Krishnendu Chatterjee, Laurent Doyen, Uli Fahrenberg, Petr Jančar, Line Juhl, Antonín Kučera, Kim G. Larsen, Jean-François Raskin, Mickael Randour, Jiří Srba, . . .)

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(Tomáš Brázdil, Krishnendu Chatterjee, Antonín Kučera, Petr Novotný,  
CAV'2012)

**check:** “counter  $c$  is bounded on **checked** values”

**increment:**  $i$  or “ $c \leftarrow c + 1$ ”

**no action:**  $\varepsilon$

**reset:** “ $c \leftarrow 0$ ”

**max:** “ $c \leftarrow \max(c', c'')$ ”

