

# Games for Controller Synthesis

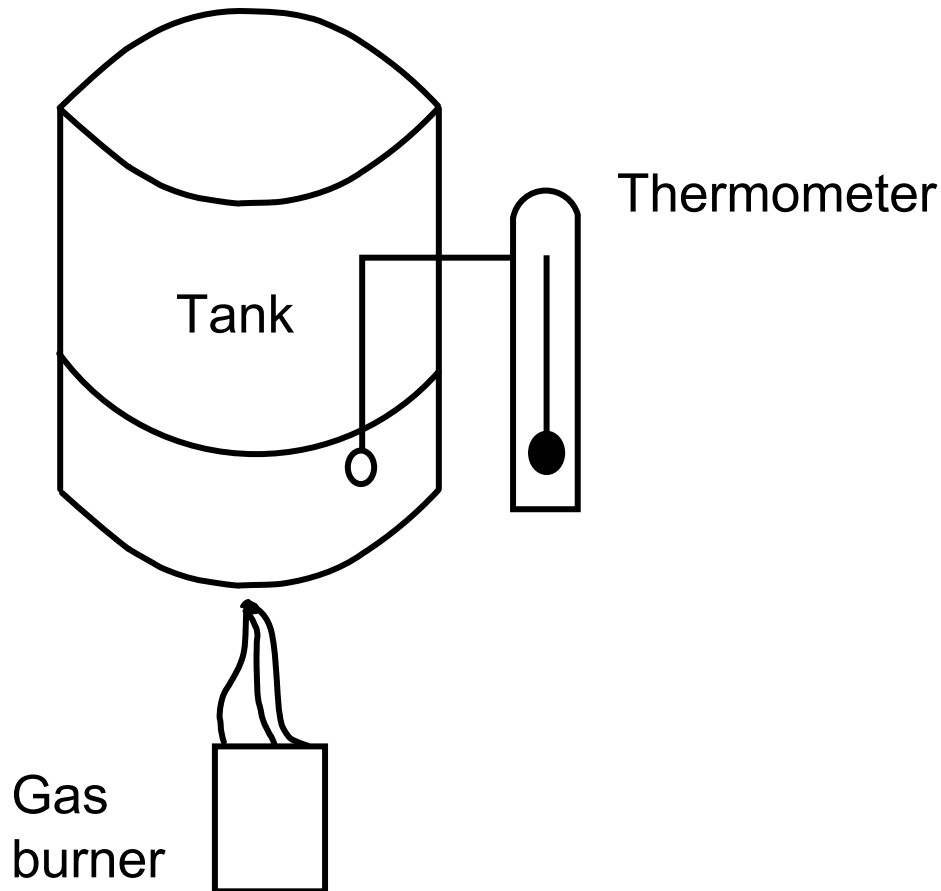
Laurent Doyen

EPFL

MoVeP'08

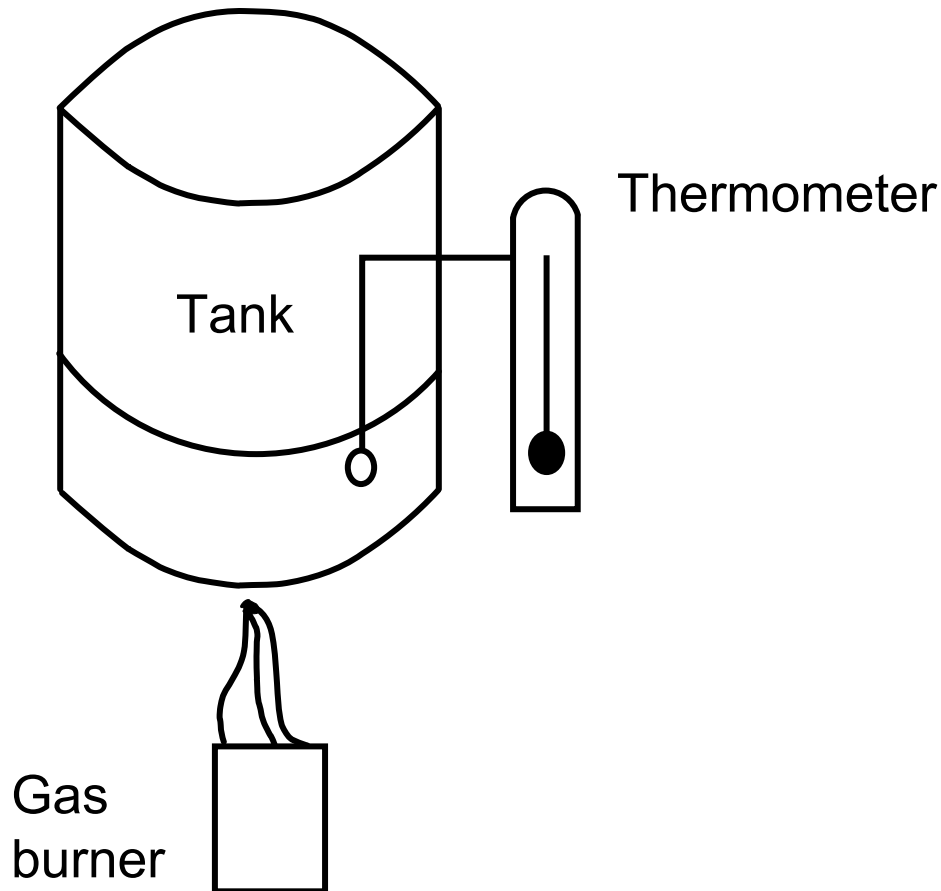
# The Synthesis Question

Given a plant  $P$  ...



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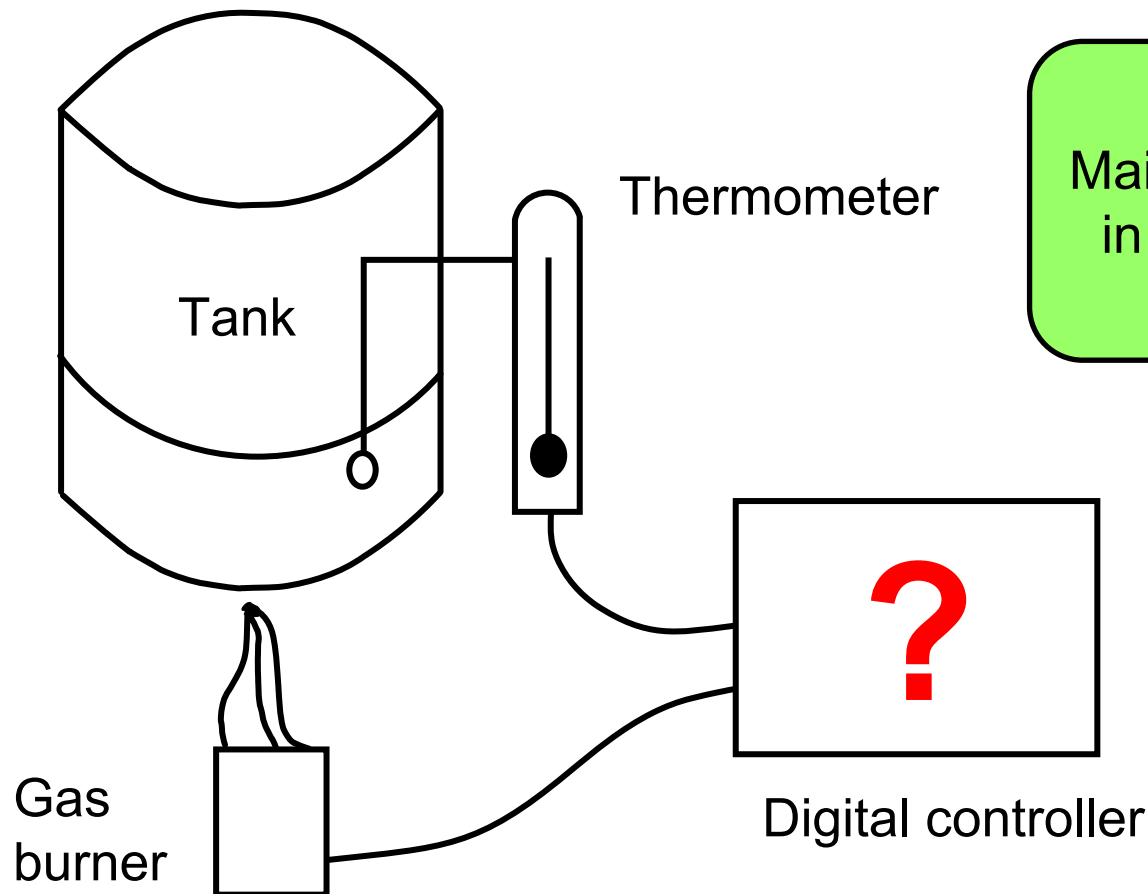
Given a plant  $P$  and a specification  $\varphi$ ,...



Maintain the temperature  
in the range  $[T_{\min}, T_{\max}]$ .

# The Synthesis Question

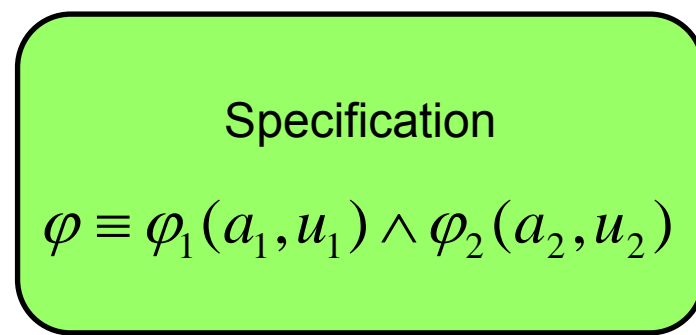
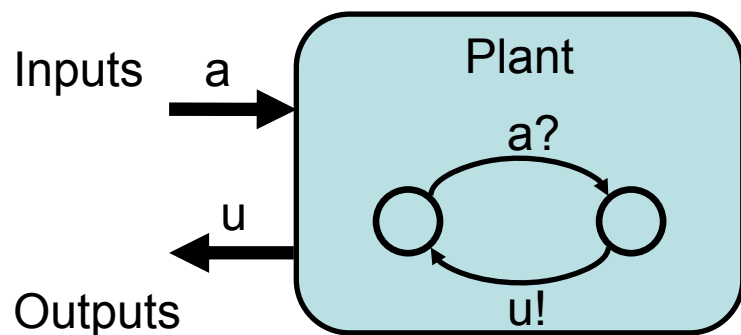
Given a **plant**  $P$  and a **specification**  $\phi$ , is there a **controller**  $C$  such that the closed-loop system  $C \parallel P$  satisfies  $\phi$  ?



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# Synthesis as a game

Given a **plant**  $P$  and a **specification**  $\varphi$ , is there a **controller**  $C$  such that the closed-loop system  $C \parallel P$  satisfies  $\varphi$  ?



**Plant:** 2-players game arena

Input (Player 1, System, Controller)

vs.

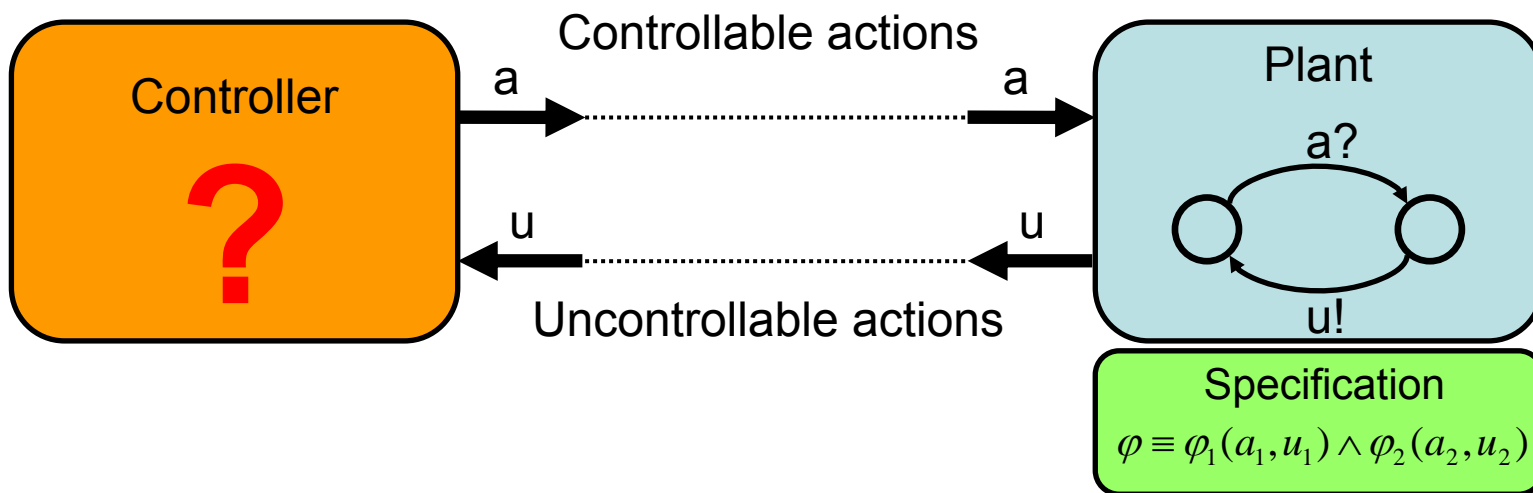
Output (Player 2, Environment, Plant)

**Specification:** game objective

for Player 1

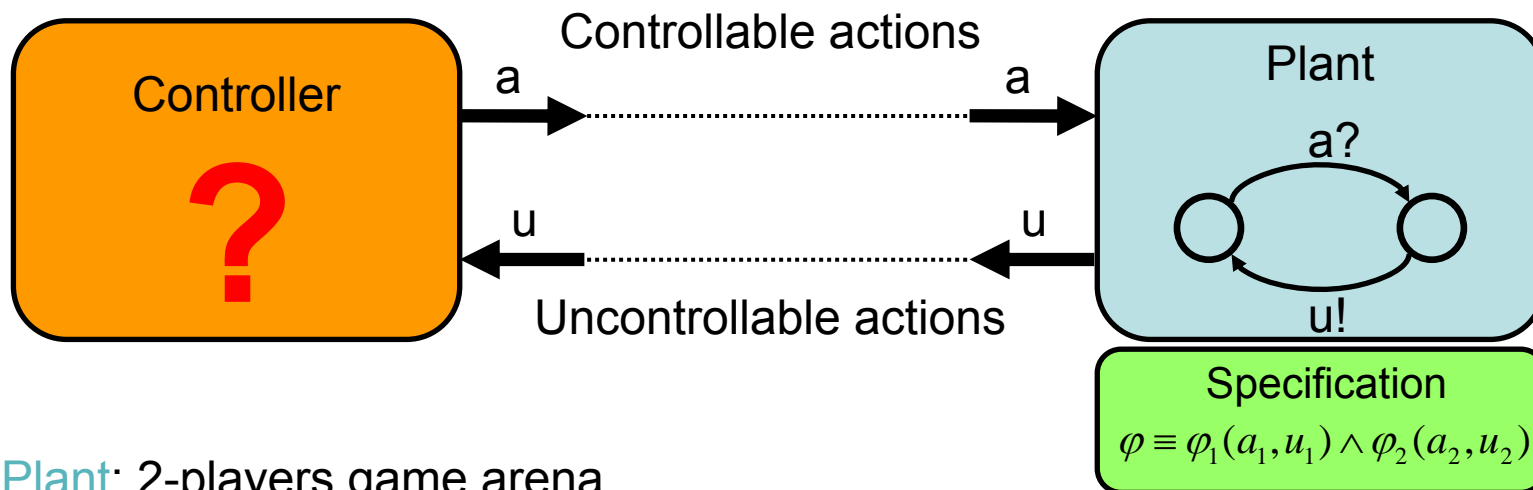
# The Synthesis Question

Given a **plant**  $P$  and a **specification**  $\varphi$ , is there a **controller**  $C$  such that the closed-loop system  $C \parallel P$  satisfies  $\varphi$  ?



If a **controller**  $C$  exists, then construct such a **controller**.

# Synthesis as a game



**Plant:** 2-players game arena

**Specification:** game objective for Player 1

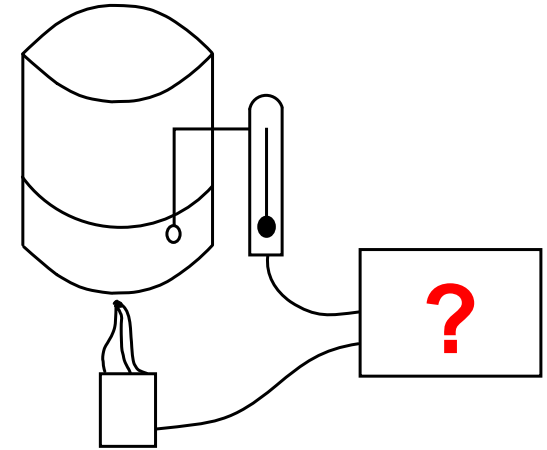
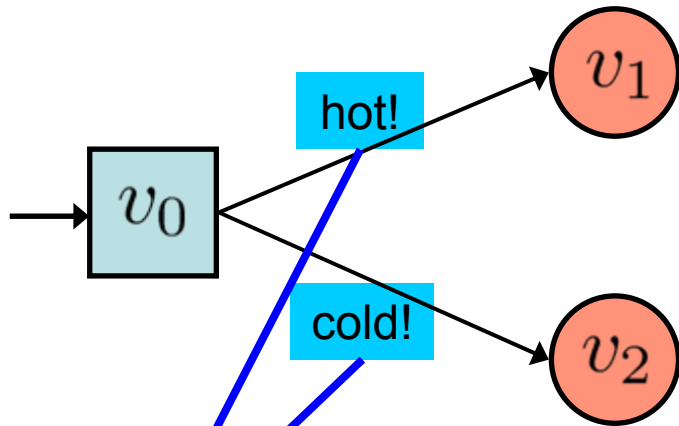
**Controller:** winning strategy for Player 1

We are often interested in simple controllers:  
finite-state, or even stateless (memoryless).

We are also often interested in “least restrictive” controllers.

# Example

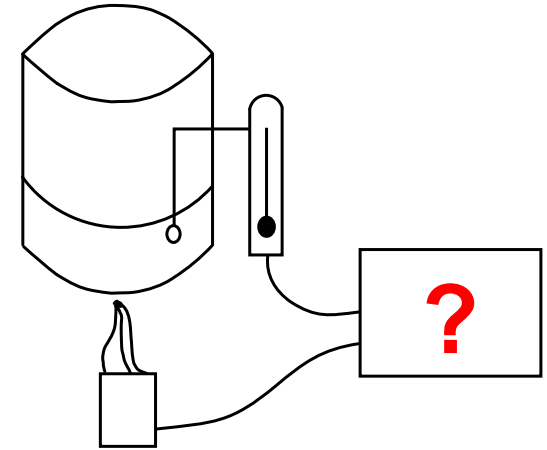
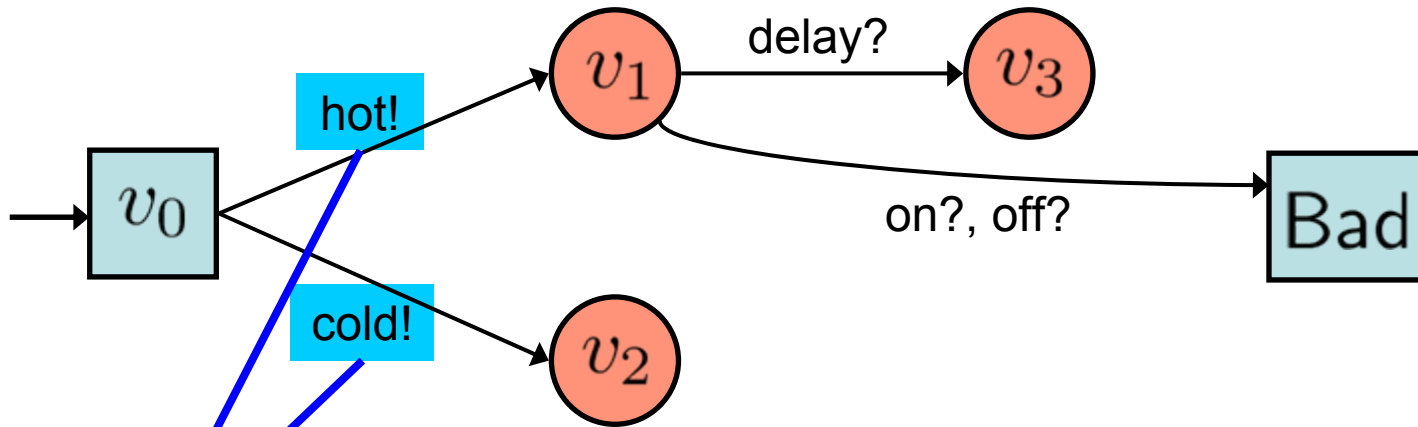
Objective: avoid Bad





# Example

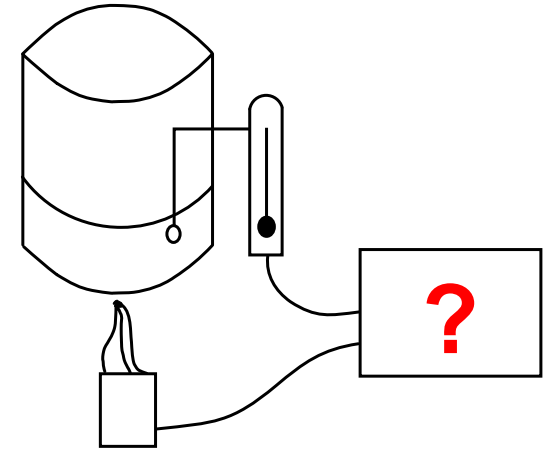
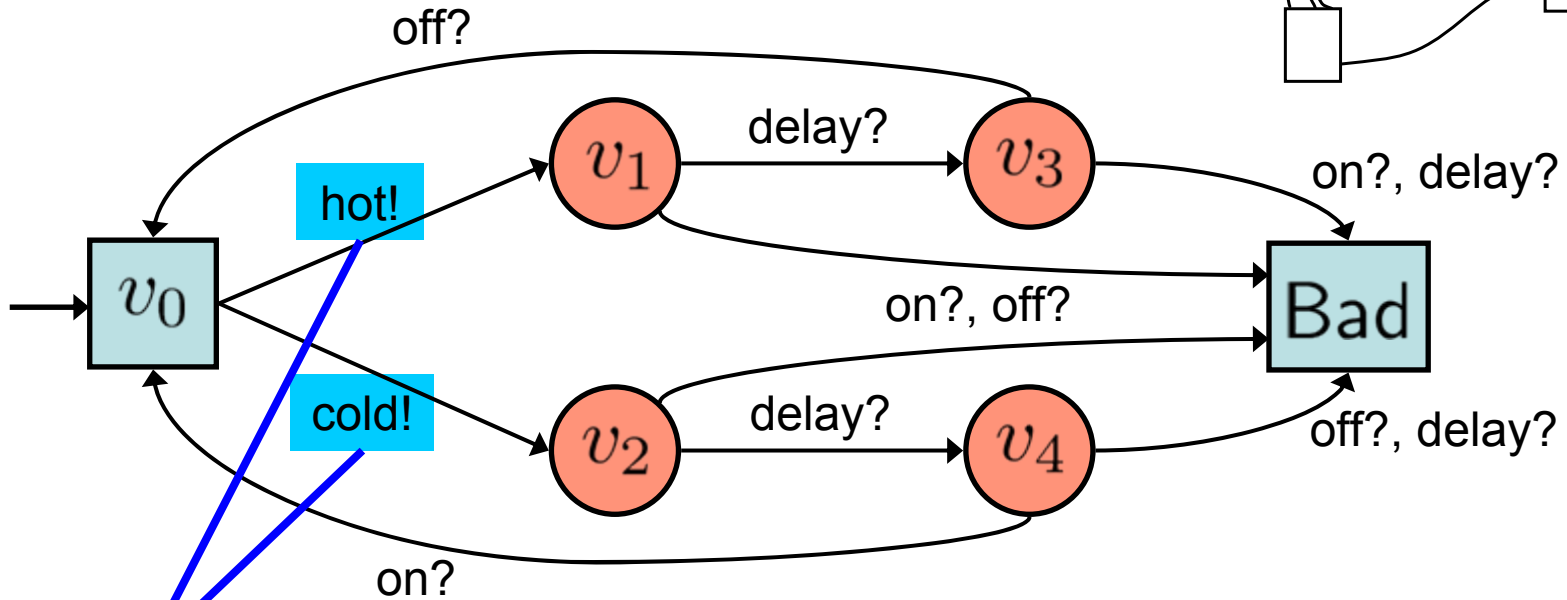
Objective: avoid Bad



Uncontrollable  
actions

# Example

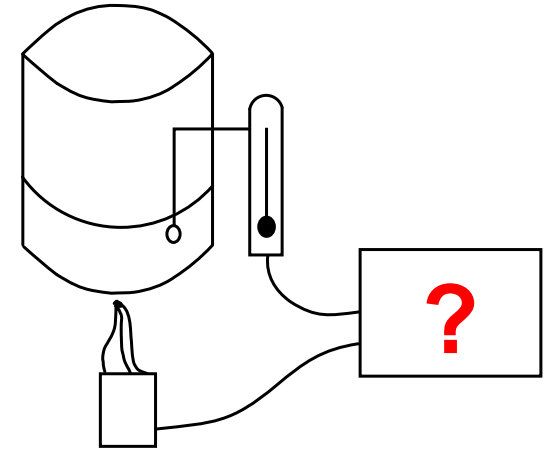
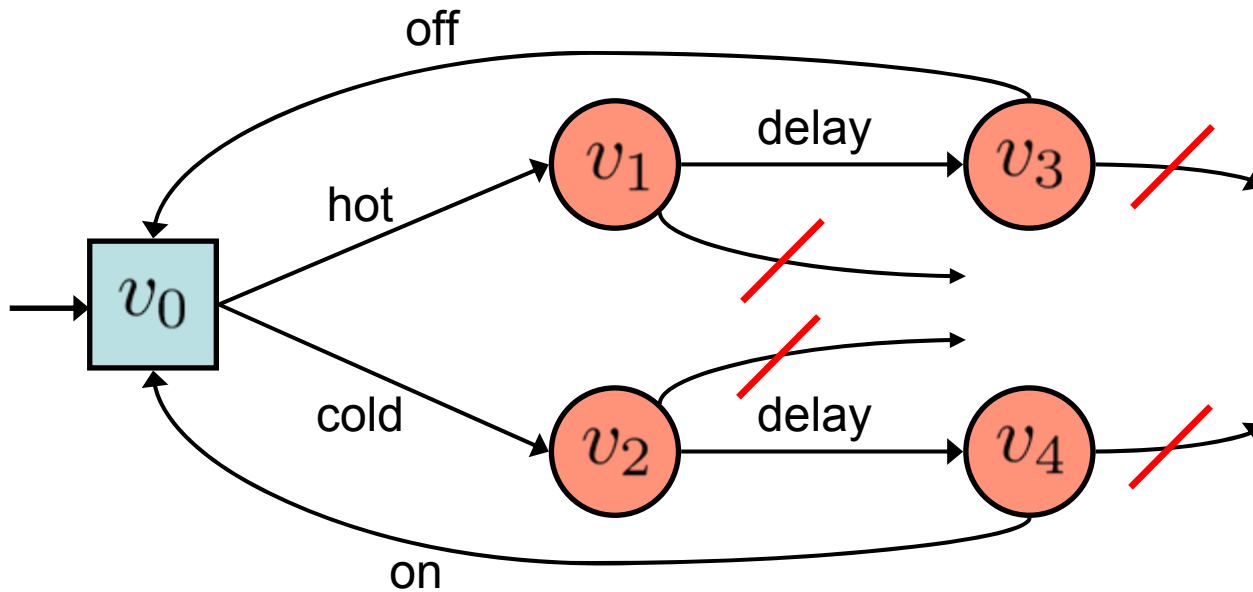
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Uncontrollable  
actions

# Example

Objective: avoid Bad



Winning strategy = Controller

Several types of games:

- Turn-based vs. Concurrent
- Perfect-information vs. Partial information
- Sure vs. Almost-sure winning
- Objective: graph labelling vs. monitor
- Timed vs. untimed
- Stochastic vs. deterministic
- etc. ...

This tutorial: Games played on graphs, 2 players, turn-based,  $\omega$ -regular objectives.

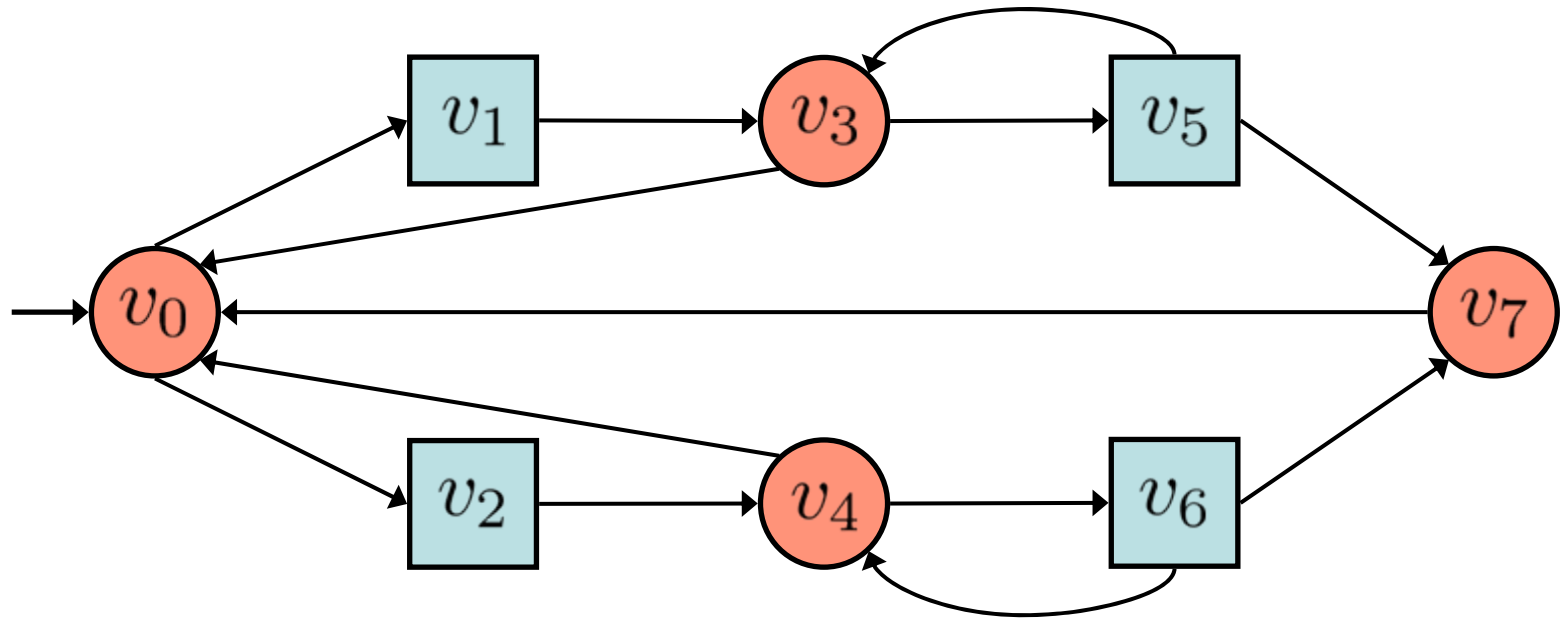
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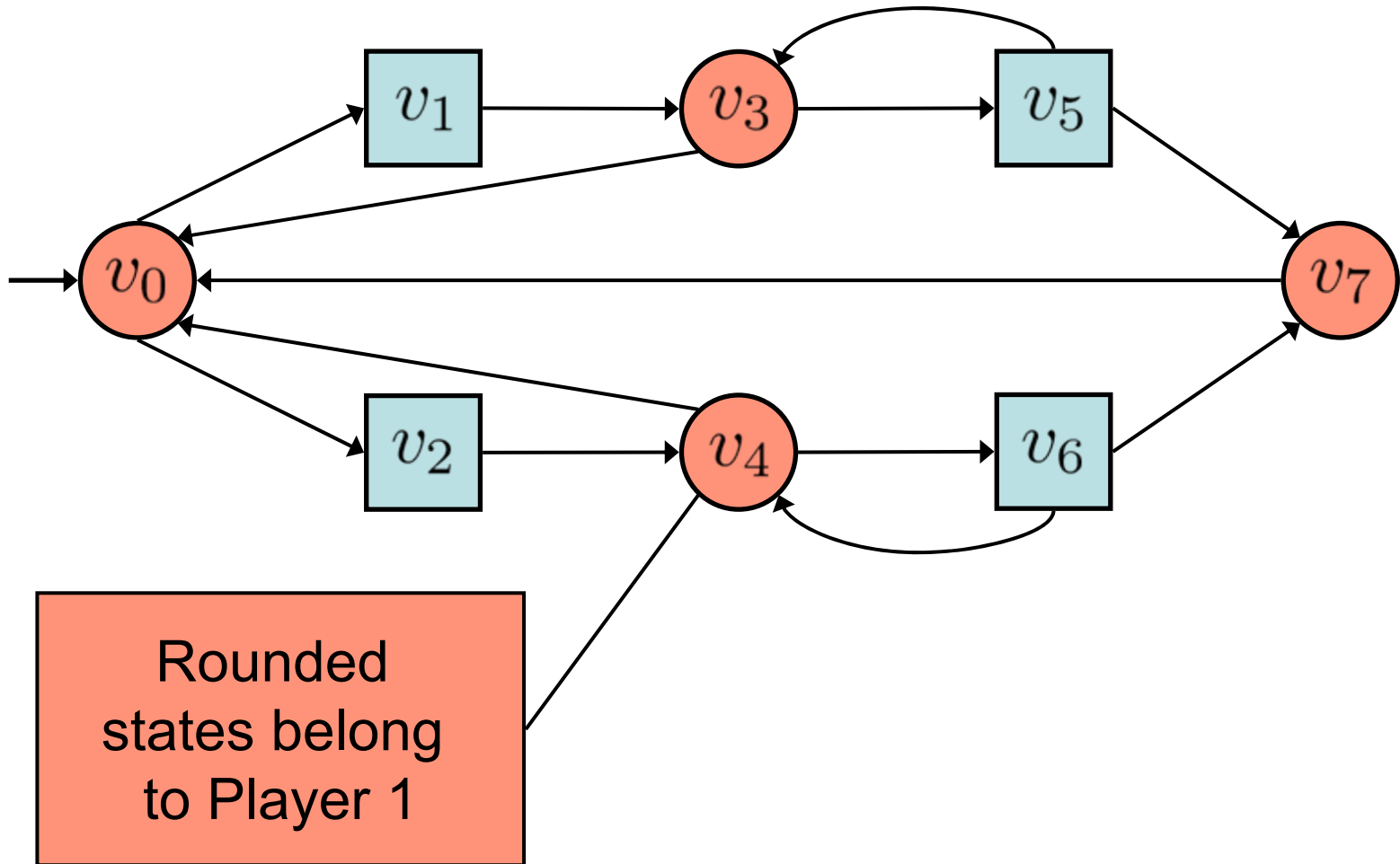
## Outline

Part #1: perfect-information

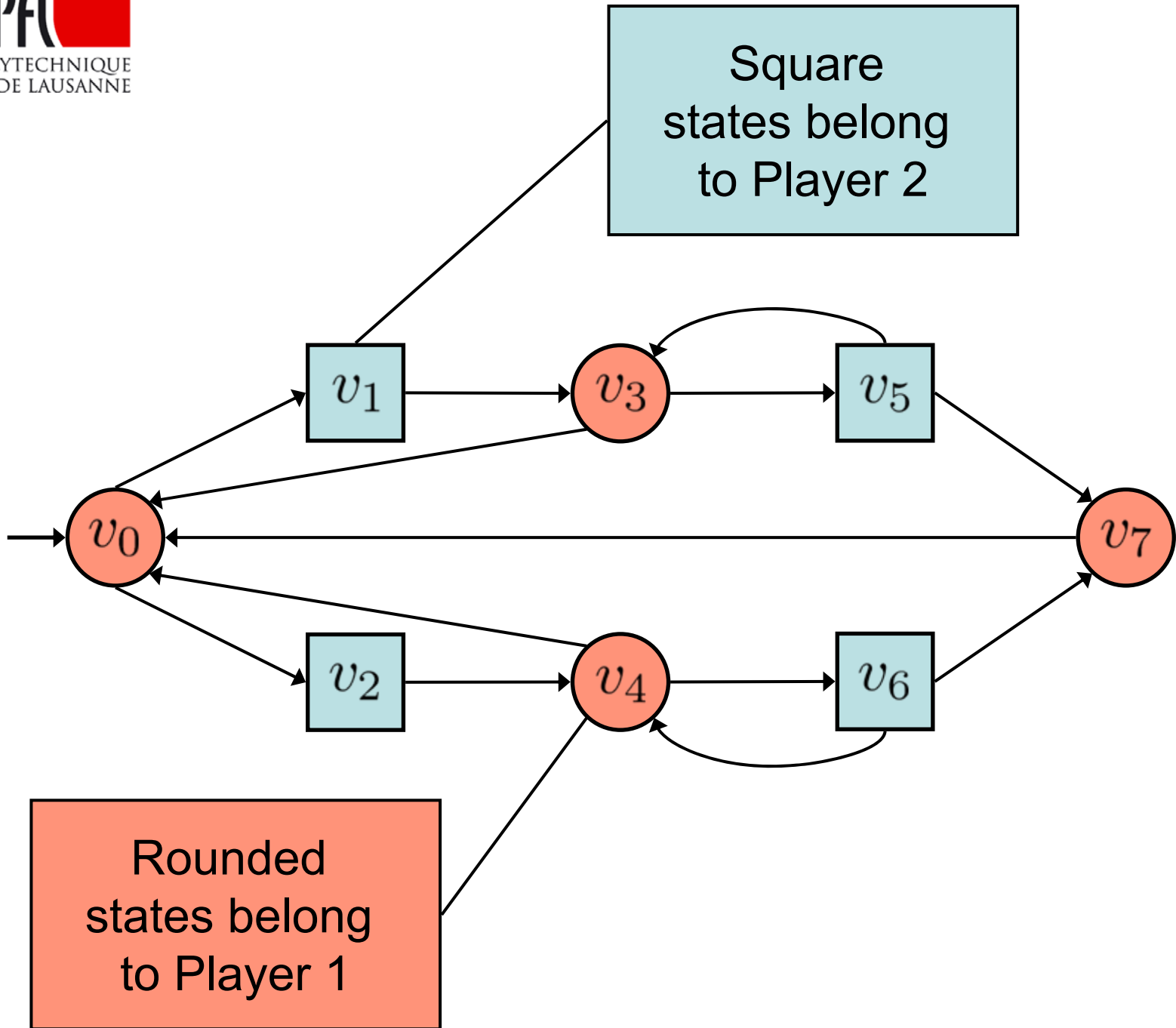
Part #2: partial-information

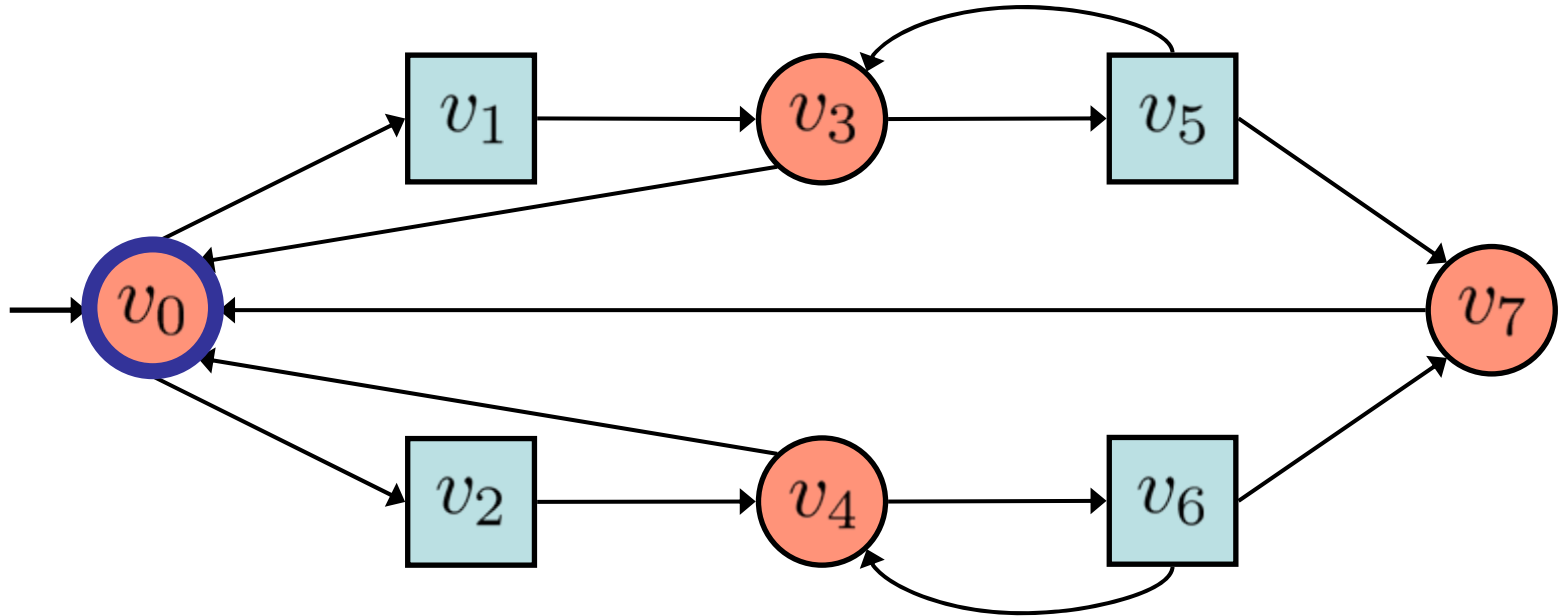
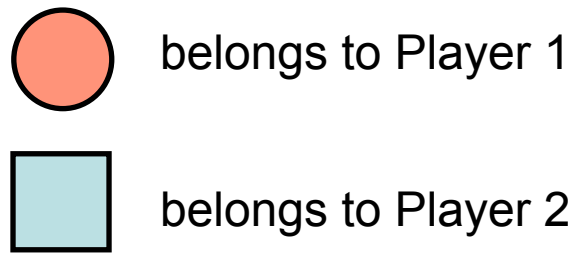
# Two-player game structures





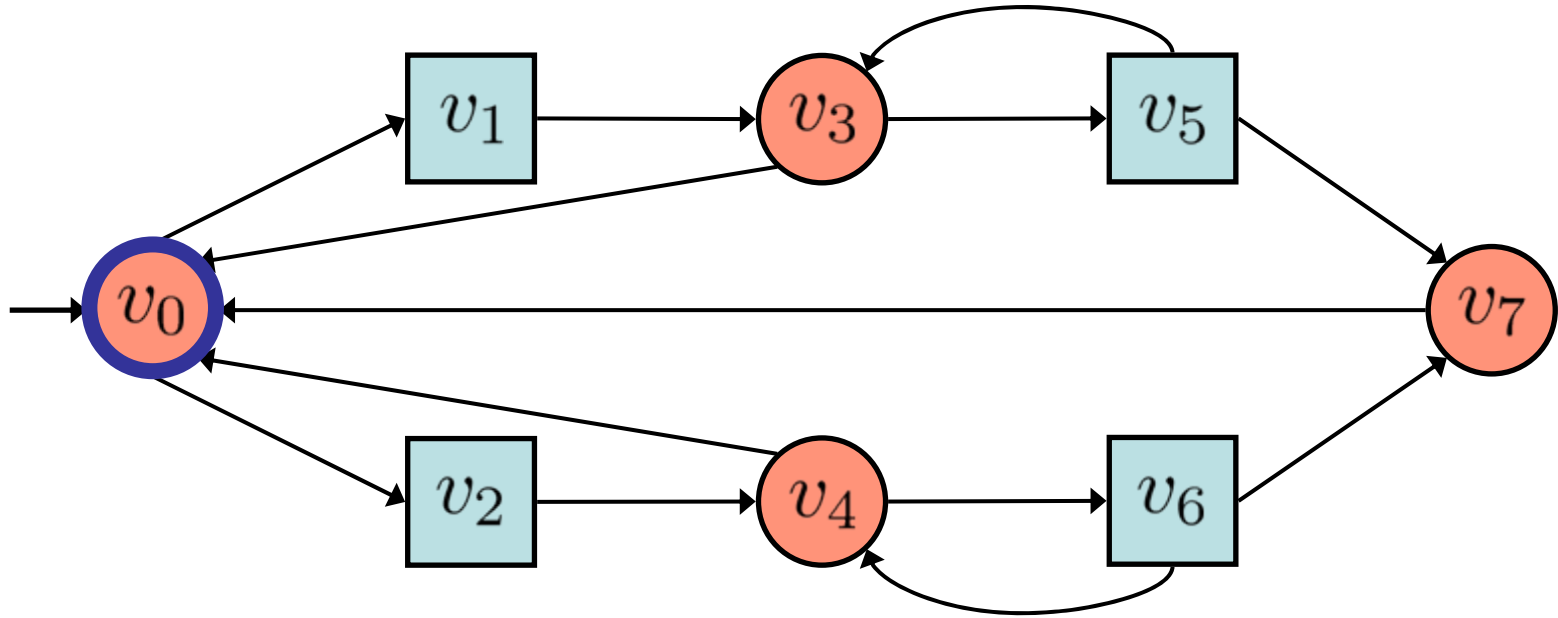
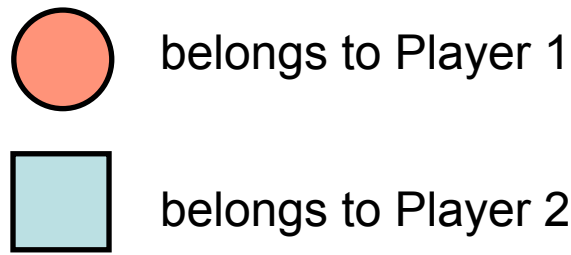




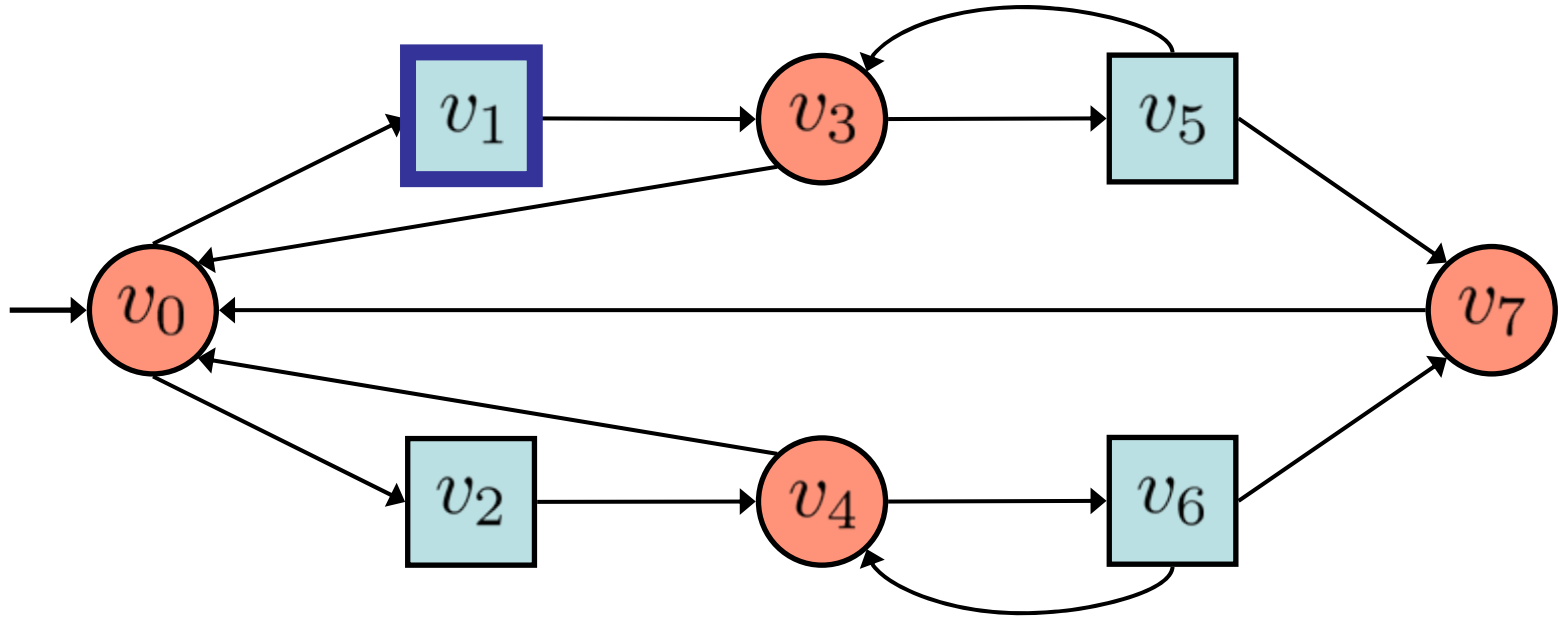
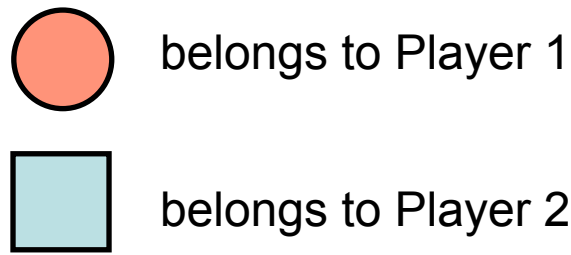


Playing the game: the players move a **token** along the edges of the graph

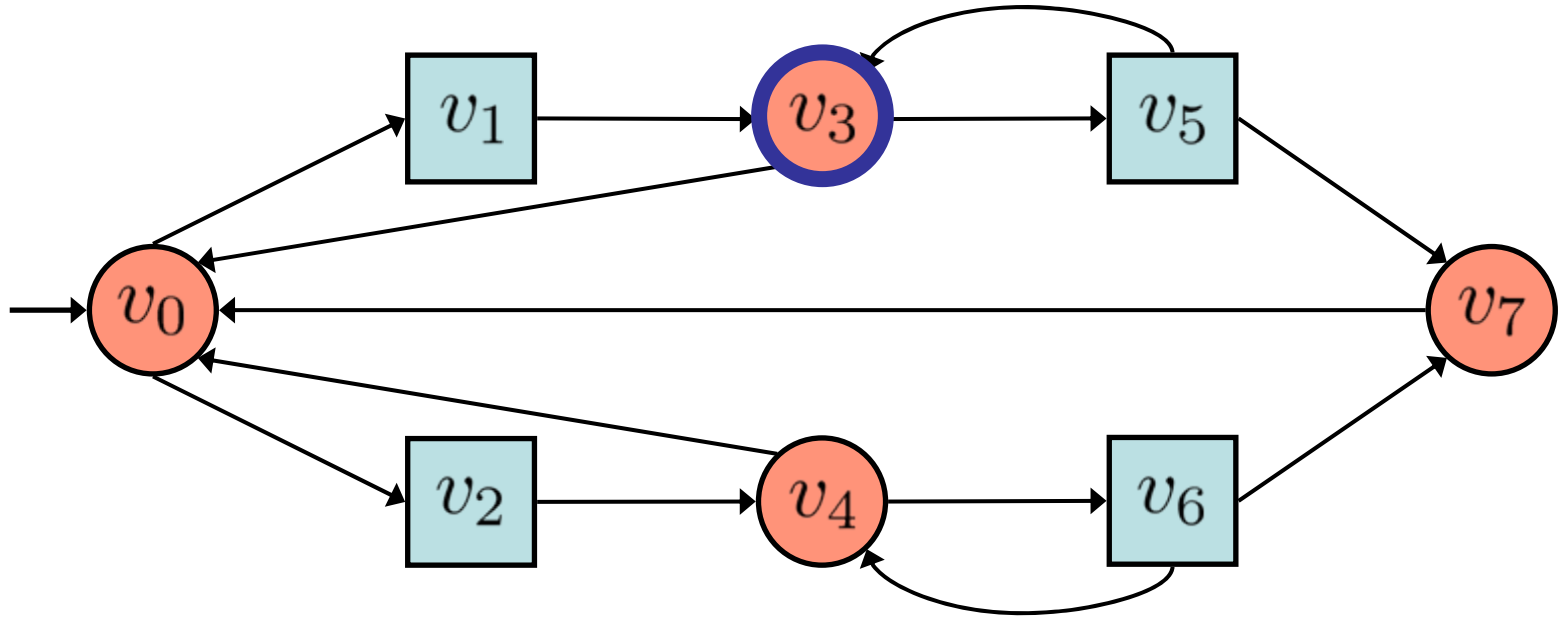
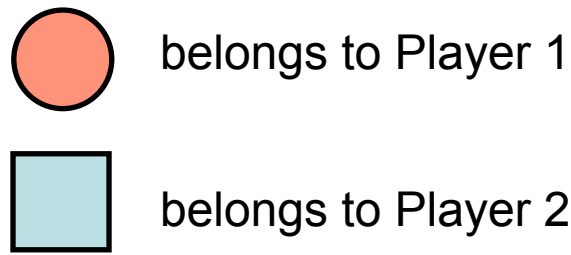
- The token is initially in  $v_0$ .
- In rounded states, Player 1 chooses the next state.
- In square states, Player 2 chooses the next state.



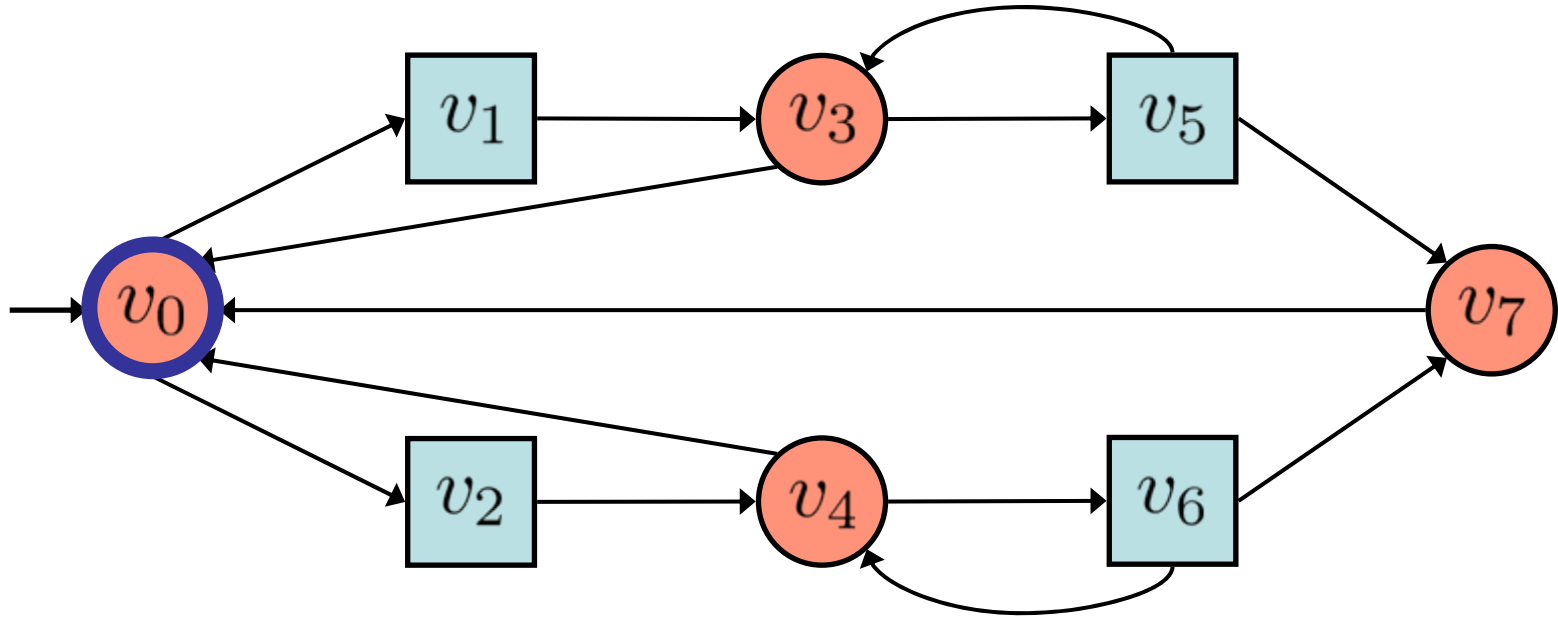
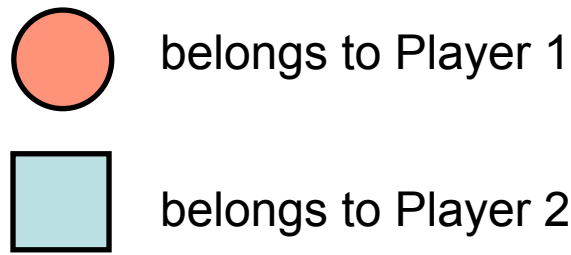
Play:  $v_0$



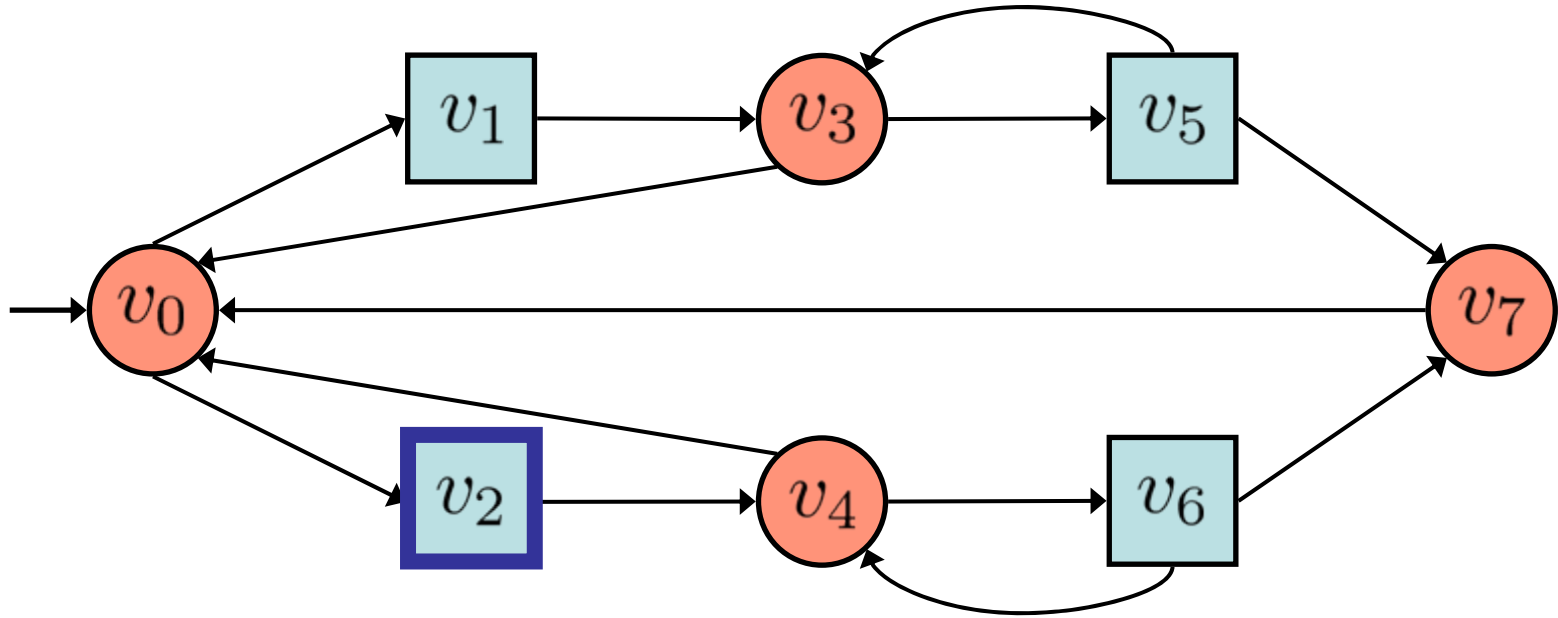
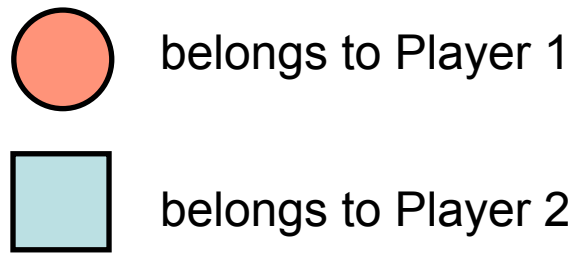
Play:  $v_0 v_1$



Play:  $v_0 v_1 v_3$

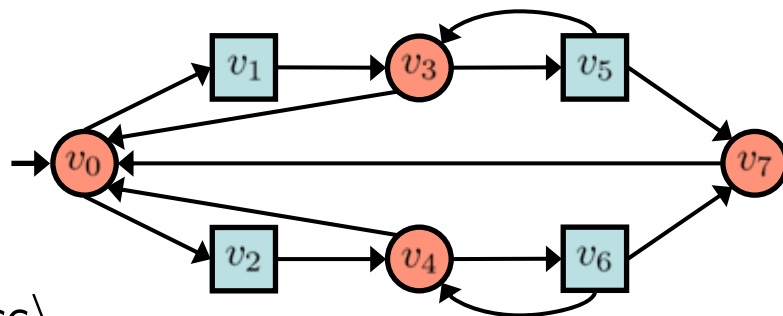


Play:  $v_0 v_1 v_3 v_0$



Play:  $v_0 v_1 v_3 v_0 v_2 \dots$

# Two-player game graphs

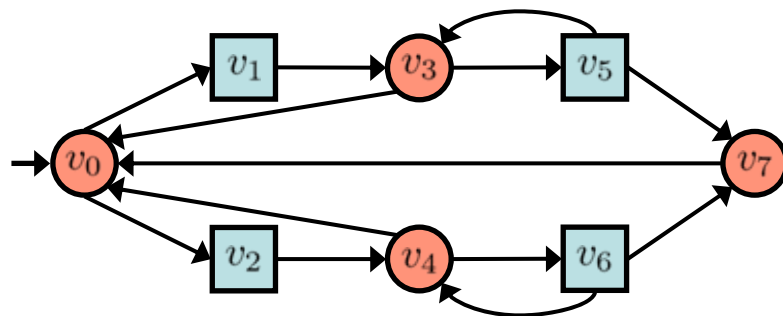


A **2-player game graph**  $G = \langle V_1, V_2, \hat{v}, \text{Succ} \rangle$  consists of:

- $V_1$  the set of Player 1 states,
- $V_2$  the set of Player 2 states,  
with  $V_1 \cap V_2 = \emptyset$  and  $V := V_1 \cup V_2$ ;
- $\hat{v} \in V$  the initial state,
- $\text{Succ} : V \rightarrow 2^V \setminus \emptyset$  the transition relation.



# Two-player game graphs



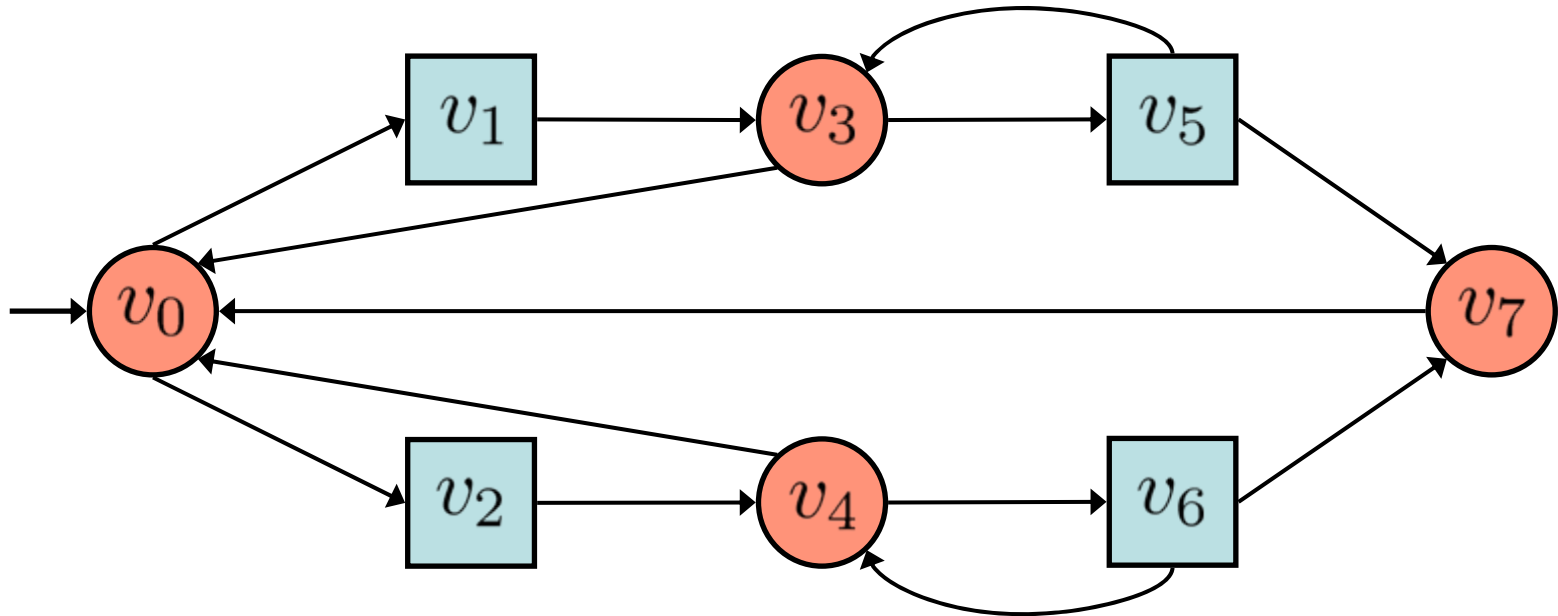
A **play** in  $G = \langle V_1, V_2, \hat{v}, \text{Succ} \rangle$  is an infinite sequence  $w = v_0 v_1 v_2 \dots \in V^\omega$  such that:

$$V = V_1 \cup V_2$$

$$\text{Succ} : V \rightarrow 2^V \setminus \emptyset$$

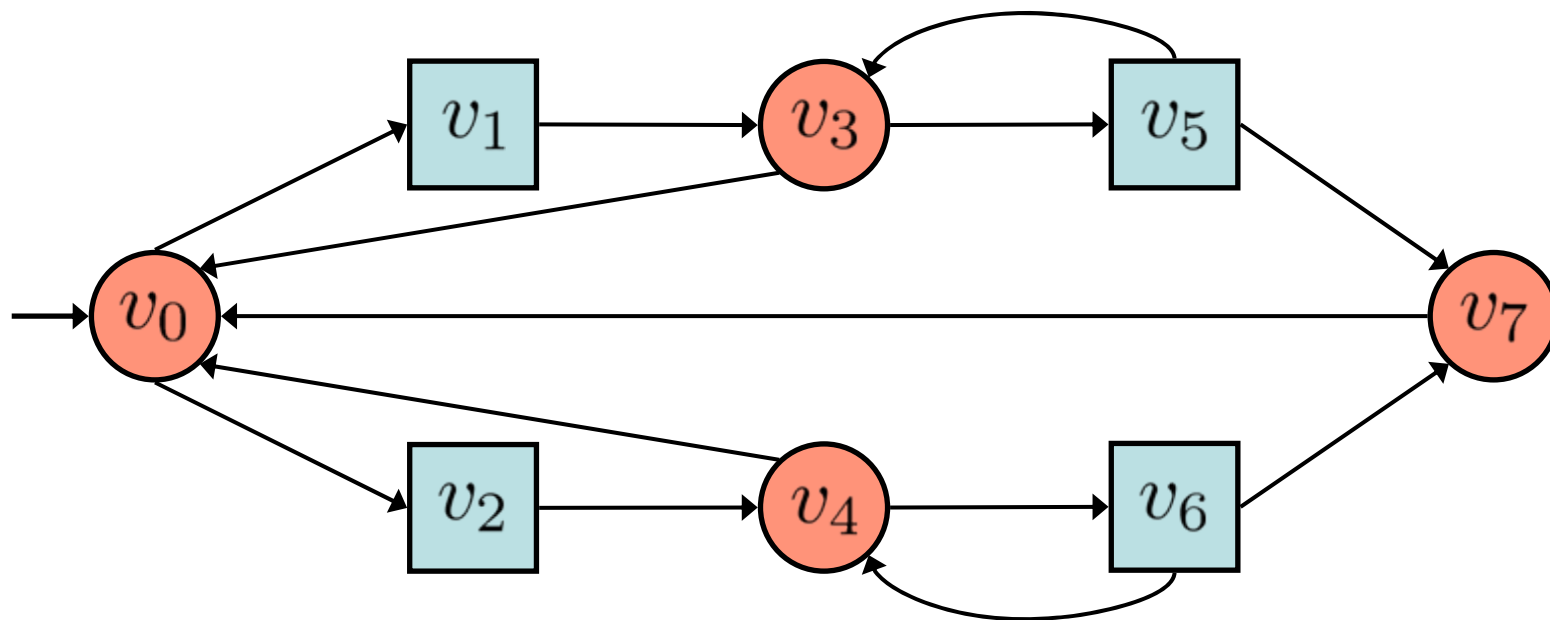
1.  $v_0 = \hat{v}$ ,
2.  $v_{i+1} \in \text{Succ}(v_i)$  for all  $i \geq 0$ .

# Who is winning ?



Play:  $v_0 v_1 v_3 v_0 v_2 \dots$

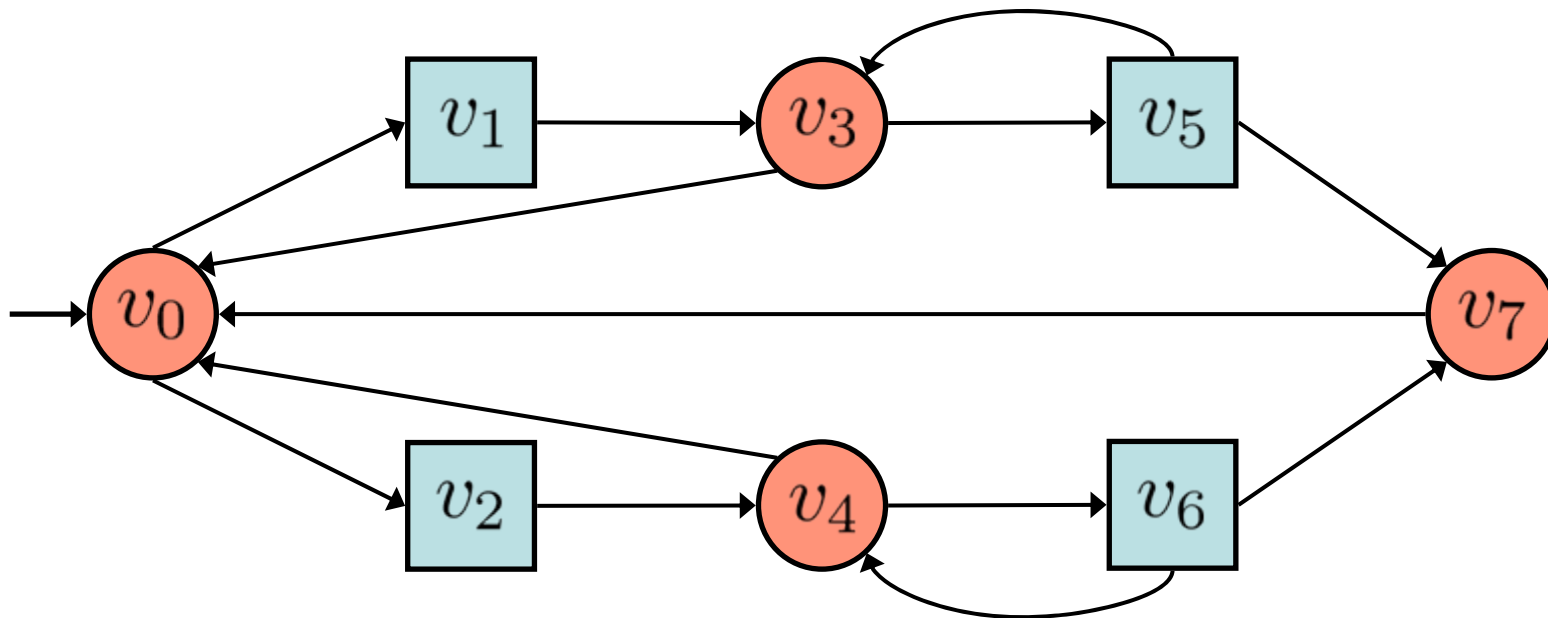
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A winning condition for Player  $k$  is a set  $W_k \subseteq V^\omega$  of plays.

# Who is winning ?



A **winning condition** for Player  $k$  is a set  $W_k \subseteq V^\omega$  of plays.

A 2-player game is **zero-sum** if  $W_2 = V^\omega \setminus W_1$ .

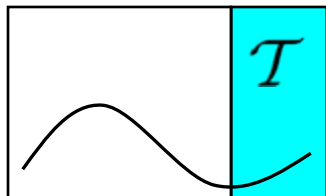
# Winning condition

A **winning condition** for Player  $k$  is a set  $W_k \subseteq V^\omega$  of plays.

Given  $\mathcal{T} \subseteq V$ , let

- $\text{Reach}(\mathcal{T}) = \{v_0v_1 \cdots \in V^\omega \mid \exists i : v_i \in \mathcal{T}\}$

Touch  $\mathcal{T}$  eventually



Reachability

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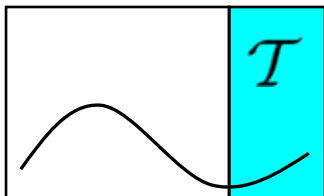
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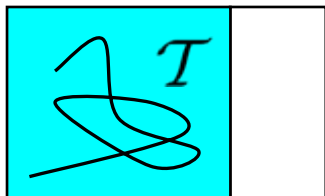
Touch  $\mathcal{T}$  eventually

- $\text{Safe}(\mathcal{T}) = \{v_0v_1 \cdots \in V^\omega \mid \forall i : v_i \in \mathcal{T}\}$

Avoid  $V \setminus \mathcal{T}$  forever



Reachability



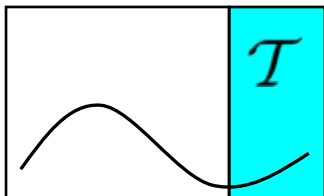
Safety

# Winning condition

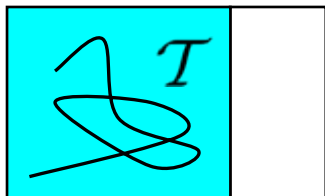
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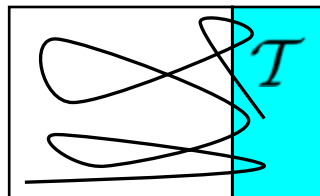
- $\text{Reach}(\mathcal{T}) = \{v_0v_1 \cdots \in V^\omega \mid \exists i : v_i \in \mathcal{T}\}$  Touch  $\mathcal{T}$  eventually
- $\text{Safe}(\mathcal{T}) = \{v_0v_1 \cdots \in V^\omega \mid \forall i : v_i \in \mathcal{T}\}$  Avoid  $V \setminus \mathcal{T}$  forever
- $\text{Büchi}(\mathcal{T}) = \{v_0v_1 \cdots \in V^\omega \mid \forall j \cdot \exists i \geq j : v_i \in \mathcal{T}\}$  Visit  $\mathcal{T}$   $\infty$ -often
- $\text{coBüchi}(\mathcal{T}) = \{v_0v_1 \cdots \in V^\omega \mid \exists j \cdot \forall i \geq j : v_i \in \mathcal{T}\}$  Visit  $V \setminus \mathcal{T}$  finitely often



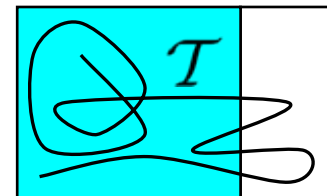
Reachability



Safety



Büchi



coBüchi

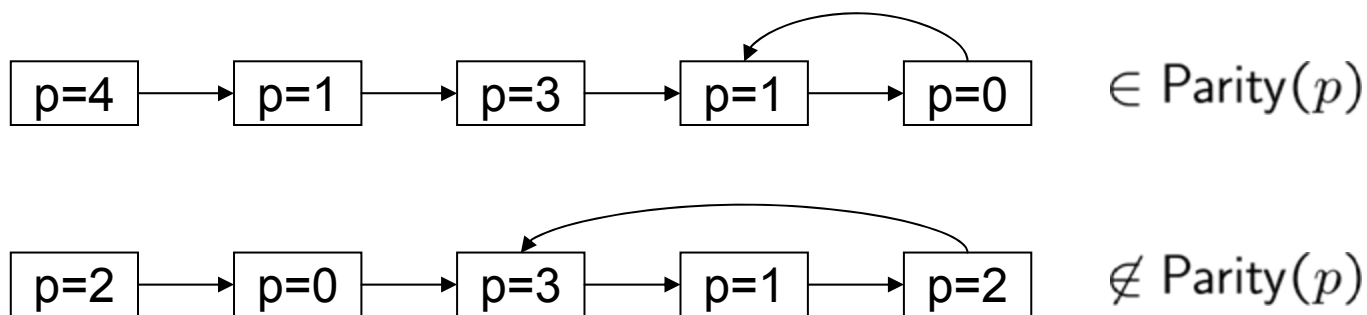
# Remark

A **winning condition** for Player  $k$  is a set  $W_k \subseteq V^\omega$  of plays.

$\text{Reach}(\mathcal{T})$ ,  $\text{Safe}(\mathcal{T})$ ,  $\text{Büchi}(\mathcal{T})$  and  $\text{coBüchi}(\mathcal{T})$  are subsumed by the **parity** condition:

- Given a priority function  $p : V \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ , define  $\text{Parity}(p) = \{v_0v_1 \dots \mid \min\{d \mid \forall i \cdot \exists j \geq i : p(v_i) = d\} \text{ is even}\}$

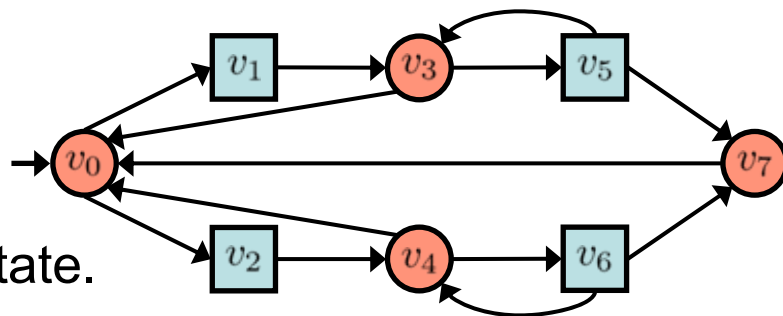
“Minimal priority seen  $\infty$ -often is even”





# Strategies

Players use strategies to play the game,  
*i.e.* to choose the successor of the current state.



$$G = \langle V_1, V_2, \hat{v}, \text{Succ} \rangle$$

A **strategy for Player k** is a function:

$$\lambda : V^* V_k \rightarrow V$$

such that

$$\lambda(v_1 v_2 \dots v_n) \in \text{Succ}(v_n) \text{ for all } v_1, \dots, v_{n-1} \in V \text{ and } v_n \in V_k$$

# Strategies outcome

Graph: nondeterministic generator of behaviors.

Strategy: deterministic selector of behavior.

---

Graph + Strategies for both players  $\rightarrow$  Behavior

# Strategies outcome

Given strategies  $\lambda_k$  for Player  $k$  ( $k = 1, 2$ ),  
the **outcome** of  $\langle \lambda_1, \lambda_2 \rangle$  is the play  
 $w = v_0 v_1 \dots$  such that:

$$v_i \in V_k \rightarrow v_{i+1} = \lambda_k(v_0 \dots v_i)$$

for all  $i \geq 0$  and  $k \in \{1, 2\}$

This play is denoted  $\text{Outcome}(G, \lambda_1, \lambda_2)$

# Winning strategies

- Given a game  $G$  and winning conditions  $W_1$  and  $W_2$ , a strategy  $\lambda_k$  is **winning** for Player  $k$  in  $(G, W_k)$  if for all strategies  $\lambda_{3-k}$  of Player  $3-k$ , the outcome of  $\{\lambda_k, \lambda_{3-k}\}$  in  $G$  is a winning play of  $W_k$ .

- Player 1 is winning if  $\exists \lambda_1 \cdot \forall \lambda_2 : \text{Outcome}(G, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) \in W_1$

- Player 2 is winning if  $\exists \lambda_2 \cdot \forall \lambda_1 : \text{Outcome}(G, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) \in W_2$

**Winning strategies**

=

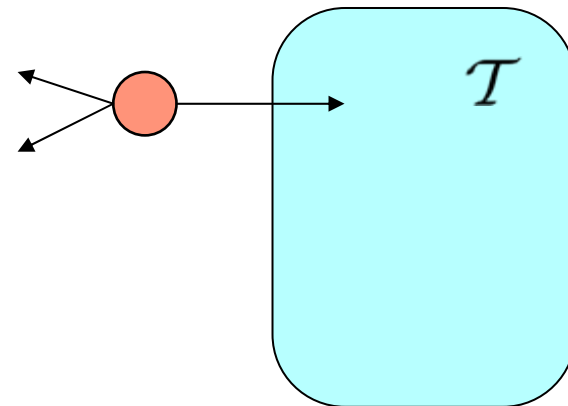
**Controllers that enforce  
winning plays**

# Symbolic algorithms to solve games

# Controllable predecessors

Given  $\mathcal{T} \subseteq V$ , let

- $\exists\text{CPre}(\mathcal{T}) = \{v \in V \mid \exists v' \in \text{Succ}(v) : v' \in \mathcal{T}\}$

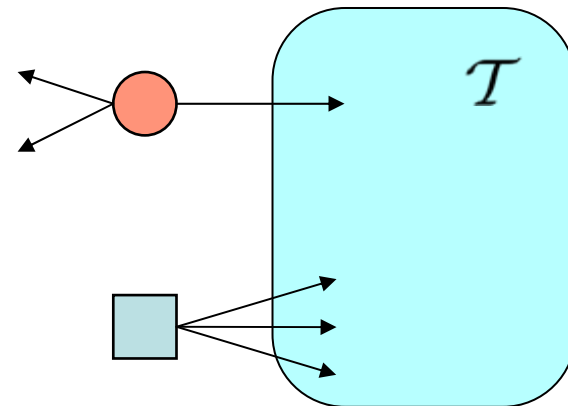


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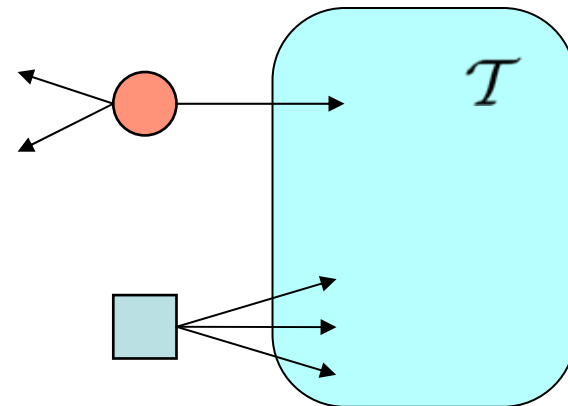




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- $\forall\text{CPre}(\mathcal{T}) = \{v \in V \mid \forall v' \in \text{Succ}(v) : v' \in \mathcal{T}\}$



From a state  $v$ , Player 1 can **force** the next position of the game to be in  $\mathcal{T}$  if:

$$v \in \underbrace{(\exists\text{CPre}(\mathcal{T}) \cap V_1) \cup (\forall\text{CPre}(\mathcal{T}) \cap V_2)}_{1\text{CPre}(\mathcal{T})}$$

# Controllable predecessors

$$1\text{CPre}(\mathcal{T}) := (\exists\text{CPre}(\mathcal{T}) \cap V_1) \cup (\forall\text{CPre}(\mathcal{T}) \cap V_2)$$

and symmetrically

$$2\text{CPre}(\mathcal{T}) := (\forall\text{CPre}(\mathcal{T}) \cap V_1) \cup (\exists\text{CPre}(\mathcal{T}) \cap V_2)$$

Note:  $\mathcal{T}' \subseteq \mathcal{T}$  implies  $\begin{cases} 1\text{CPre}(\mathcal{T}') \subseteq 1\text{CPre}(\mathcal{T}) \\ 2\text{CPre}(\mathcal{T}') \subseteq 2\text{CPre}(\mathcal{T}) \end{cases}$

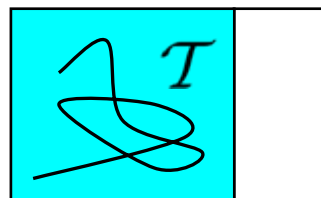
$1\text{CPre}(\cdot)$  and  $2\text{CPre}(\cdot)$  are **monotone** functions.

# Symbolic algorithm to solve **safety** games

# Solving safety games

$$\text{Safe}(\mathcal{T}) = \{v_0v_1 \cdots \in V^\omega \mid \forall i : v_i \in \mathcal{T}\}$$

Avoid  $V \setminus \mathcal{T}$  forever



To win a safety game, Player 1 should be able to force the game to be in  $\mathcal{T}$  at every step.

# Solving safety games

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States in which Player 1 can force the game to stay in  $\mathcal{T}$  for the next:

0 step:  $X_0 = \mathcal{T}$

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1 step:  $X_1 = \mathcal{T} \cap 1\text{CPre}(\mathcal{T})$

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1 step:  $X_1 = \mathcal{T} \cap 1\text{CPre}(\mathcal{T})$

2 steps:  $X_2 = \mathcal{T} \cap 1\text{CPre}(\mathcal{T}) \cap 1\text{CPre}(\mathcal{T} \cap 1\text{CPre}(\mathcal{T}))$

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2 steps:  $X_2 = \mathcal{T} \cap 1\text{CPre}(\mathcal{T}) \cap 1\text{CPre}(\mathcal{T} \cap 1\text{CPre}(\mathcal{T}))$

subset of  $\mathcal{T}$



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States in which Player 1 can force the game to stay in  $\mathcal{T}$  for the next:

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1 step:  $X_1 = \mathcal{T} \cap 1\text{CPre}(\mathcal{T})$

2 steps:  $X_2 = \mathcal{T} \cap 1\text{CPre}(\mathcal{T} \cap 1\text{CPre}(\mathcal{T}))$

# Solving safety games

To win a safety game, Player 1 should be able to force the game to be in  $\mathcal{T}$  at every step.

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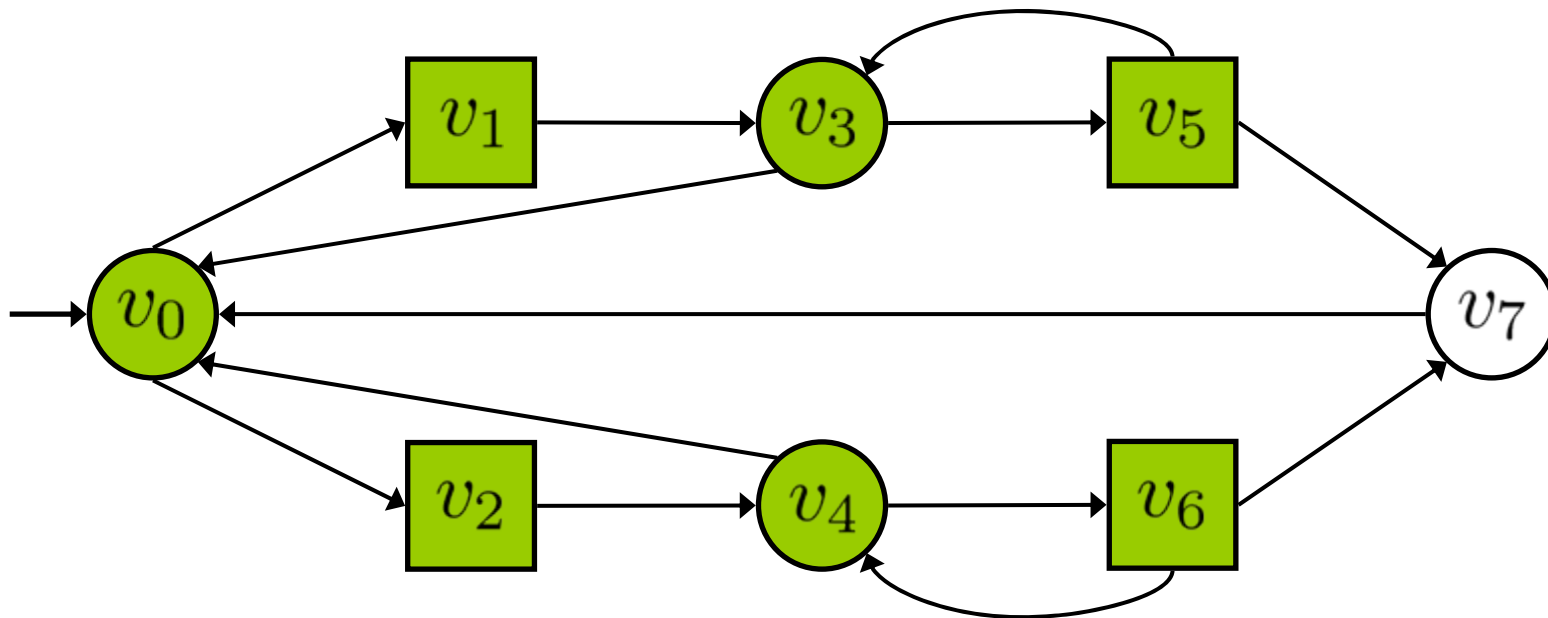
⋮

n steps:  $X_n = \mathcal{T} \cap 1\text{CPre}(X_{n-1})$

# Solving safety games

$$\mathcal{T} = V \setminus \{v_7\}$$

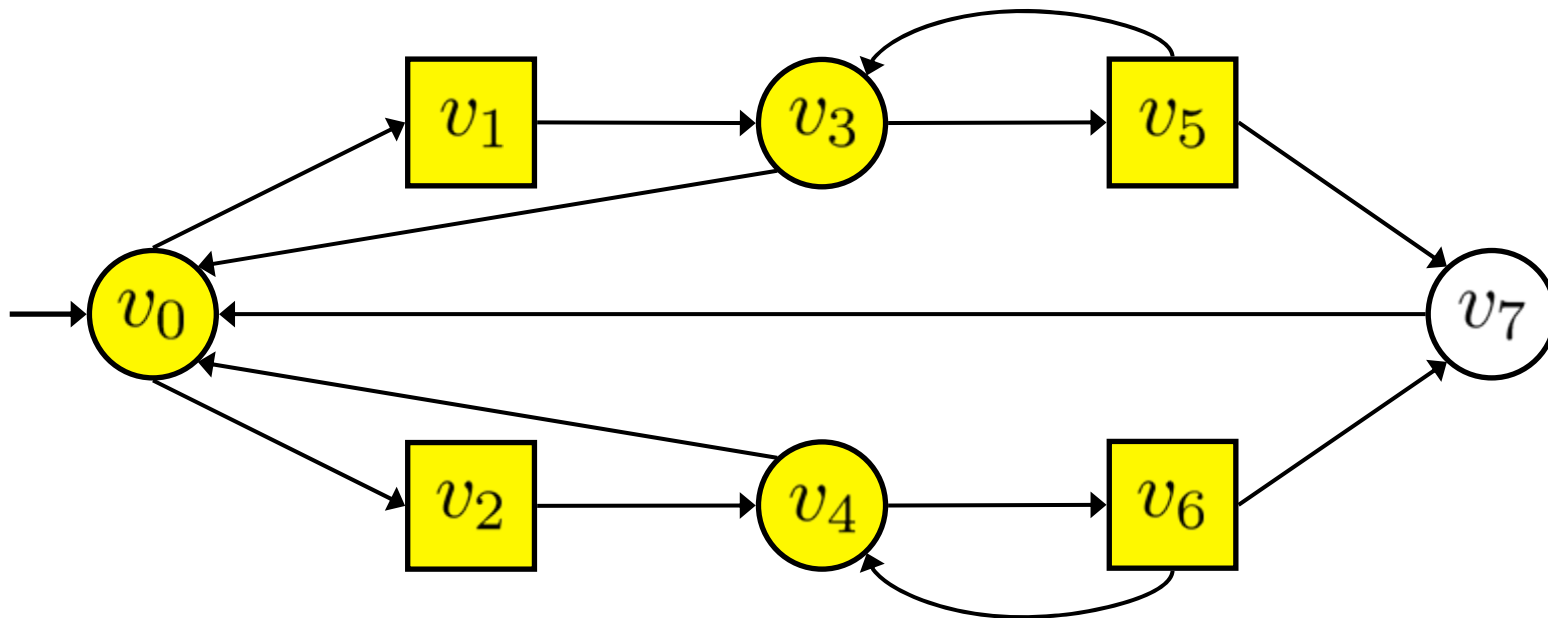
Objective: Safe( $\mathcal{T}$ )



# Solving safety games

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Objective: Safe( $\mathcal{T}$ )

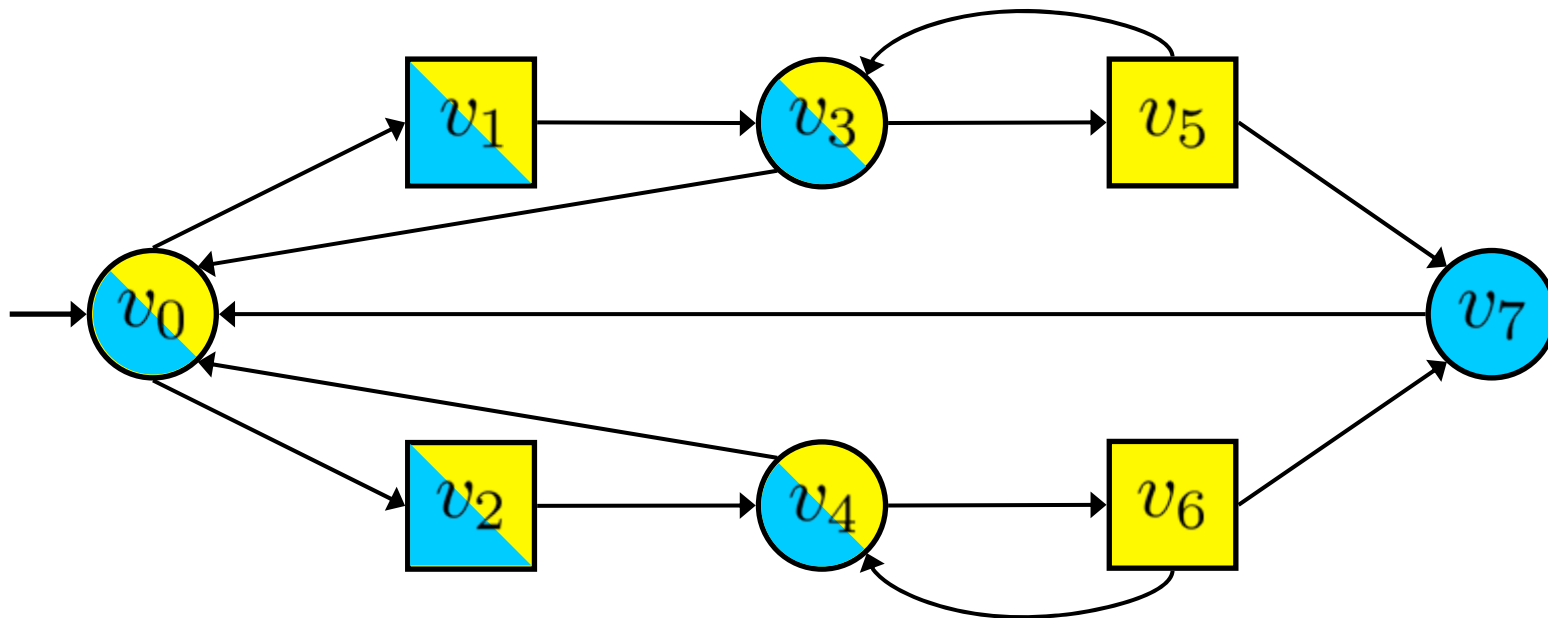


$$X_0 = \mathcal{T}$$

# Solving safety games

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Objective: Safe( $\mathcal{T}$ )



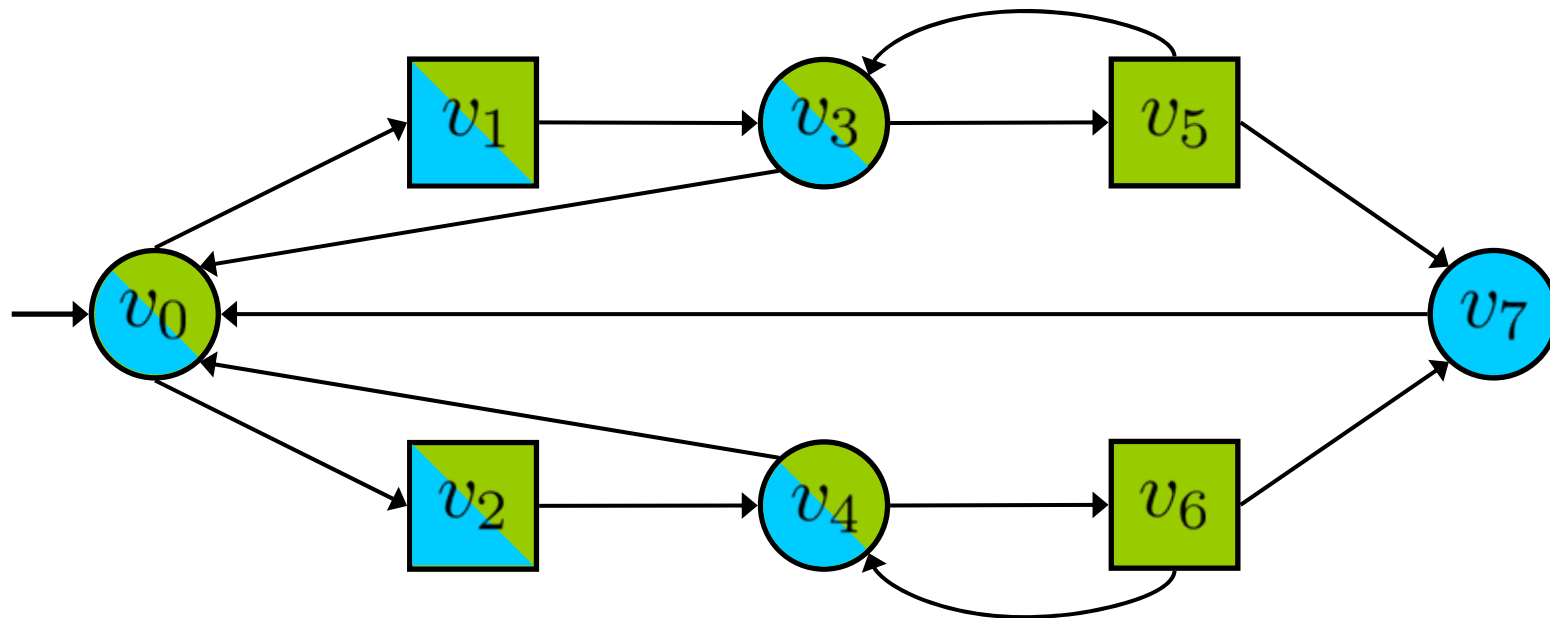
$$X_0 = \mathcal{T}$$

$$X_1 = \mathcal{T} \cap \text{1CPre}(X_0)$$

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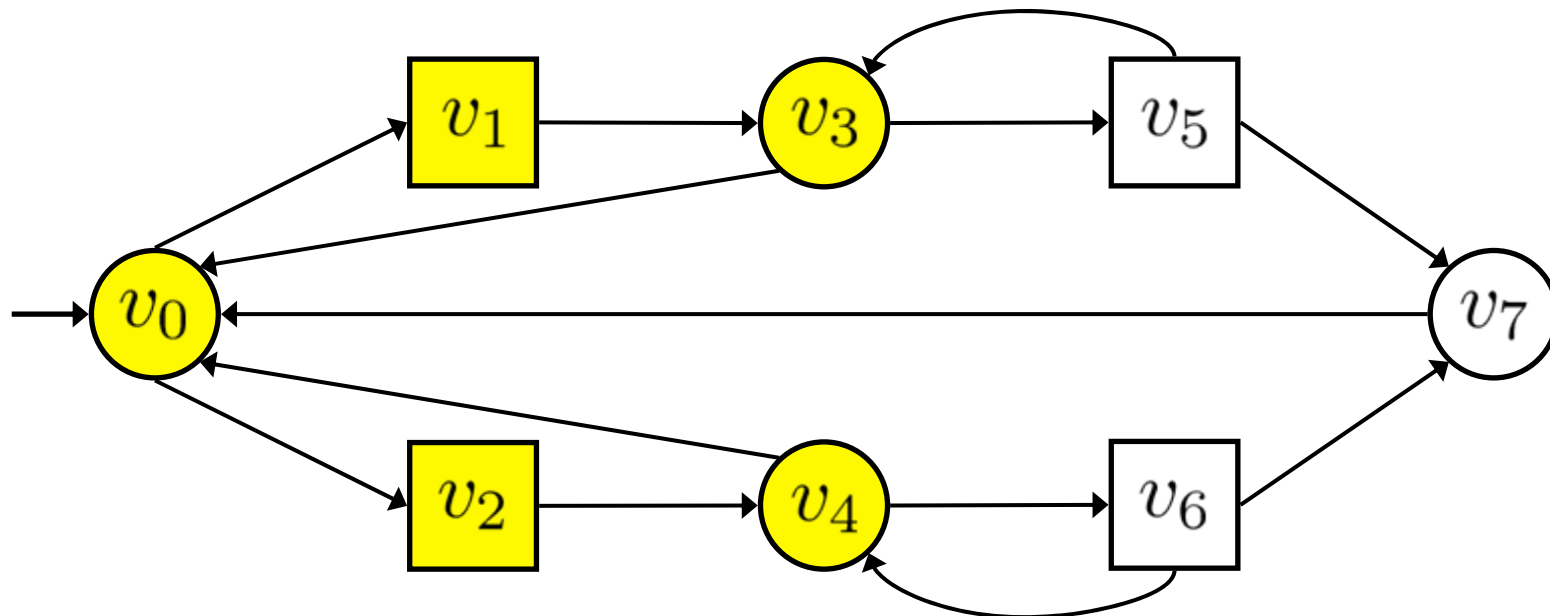
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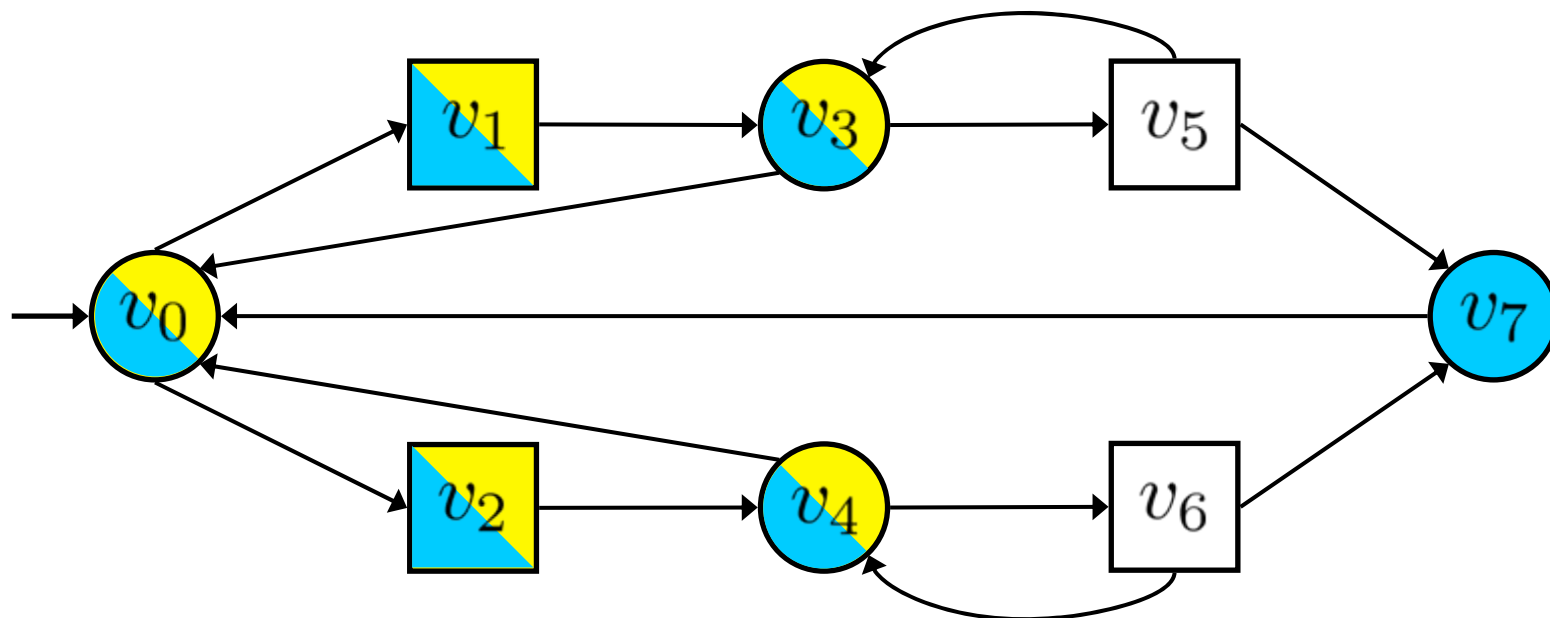
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# Solving safety games

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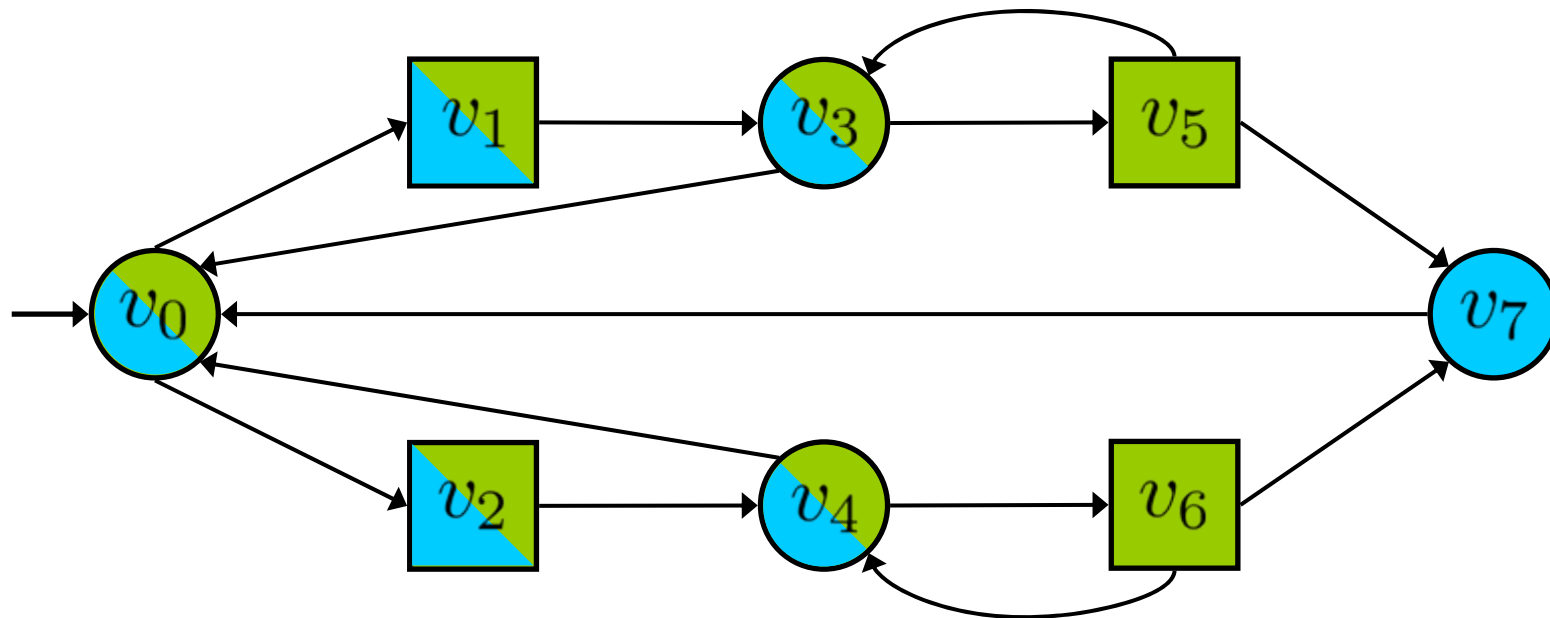
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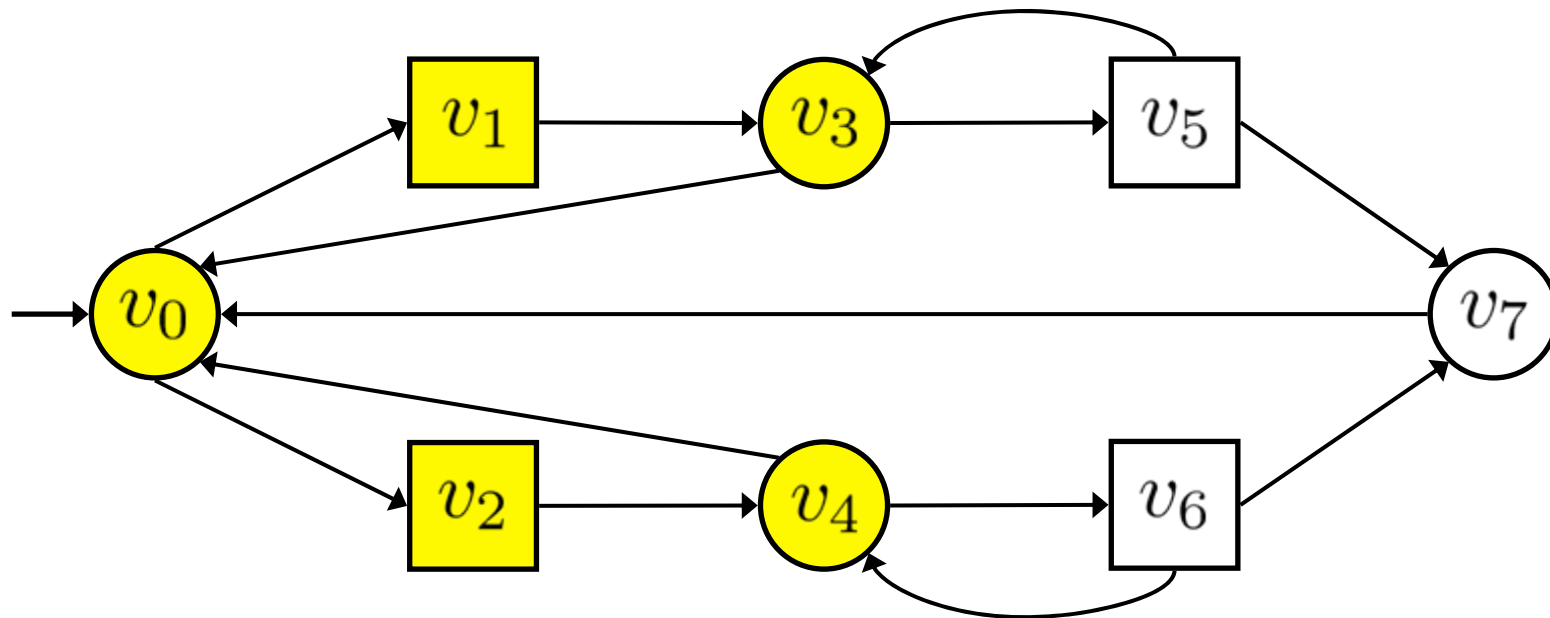
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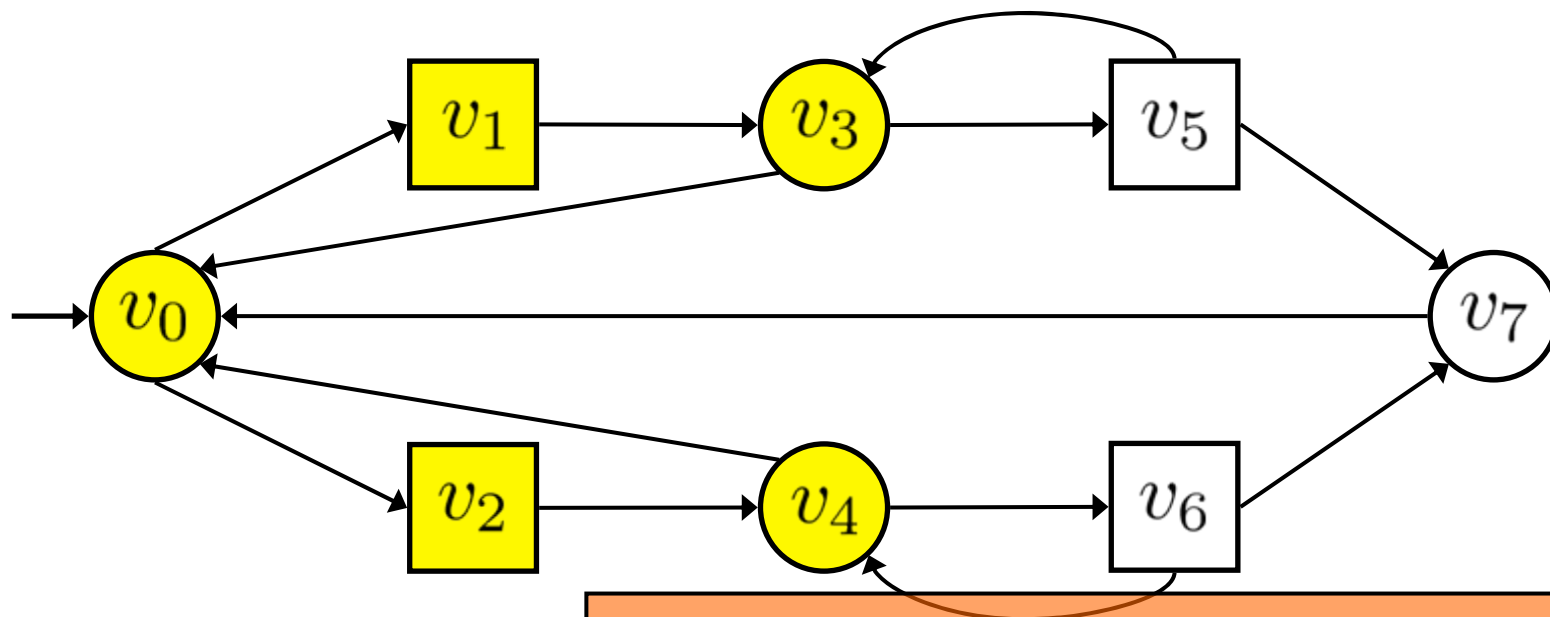
$$X_1 = \mathcal{T} \cap \text{1CPre}(X_0)$$

$$X_2 = \mathcal{T} \cap \text{1CPre}(X_1)$$

# Solving safety games

$$\mathcal{T} = V \setminus \{v_7\}$$

Objective: Safe( $\mathcal{T}$ )



This is the set of states from which Player 1 can confine the game in  $\mathcal{T}$  forever no matter how Player 2 behaves.

$$X_0 = \mathcal{T}$$

$$X_1 = \mathcal{T} \cap 1\text{CPre}(X_0)$$

$$X_2 = \mathcal{T} \cap 1\text{CPre}(X_1) = X_1$$

# Solving safety games

$X_2$  is a solution of the set-equation  $X = \mathcal{T} \cap \text{1CPre}(X)$

and it is the greatest solution.

# Solving safety games

$X_2$  is a solution of the set-equation  $X = \mathcal{T} \cap \text{1CPre}(X)$   
and it is the greatest solution.

We say that  $X_2$  is the **greatest fixpoint** of the  
function  $\mathcal{T} \cap \text{1CPre}(\cdot)$ , written:

$$X_2 = \underbrace{\nu X}_{\text{greatest fixpoint operator}} \cdot \mathcal{T} \cap \text{1CPre}(X)$$

**greatest fixpoint operator**

# On fixpoint computations

# Partial order

A partially ordered set  $\langle S, \sqsubseteq \rangle$  is a set  $S$  equipped with a **partial order**  $\sqsubseteq$ , *i.e.* a relation such that:

$\forall x$	$x \sqsubseteq x$	(reflexivity)
$\forall x, y, z$	if $x \sqsubseteq y$ and $y \sqsubseteq z$ then $x \sqsubseteq z$	(transitivity)
$\forall x, y$	if $x \sqsubseteq y$ and $y \sqsubseteq x$ then $x = y$	(anti-symmetry)

$\sqsubseteq$  is not necessarily total, *i.e.* there can be  $x, y$  such that  $x \not\sqsubseteq y$  and  $y \not\sqsubseteq x$ .



# Partial order

Let  $X \subseteq S$ .

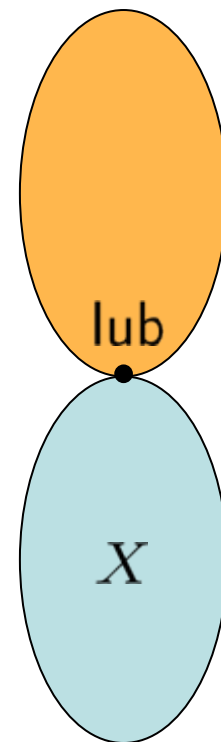
$y$  is an **upper bound** of  $X$  if  $x \sqsubseteq y$  for all  $x \in X$ .

$y$  is a **least upper bound** of  $X$  if

(1)  $y$  is an upper bound of  $X$ , and

(2)  $y \sqsubseteq y'$  for all upper bounds  $y'$  of  $X$ .

Note: if  $X$  has a least upper bound, then it is unique (by anti-symmetry), and we write  $y = \text{lub}(X)$ .



# Partial order

Examples:  $\langle \mathbb{N}, \leq \rangle$

$$X = \{3, 5, 7, 8\}$$

$$\text{lub}(X) = 8$$

$$X = \{1, 3, 5, 7, 9, \dots\}$$

$X$  has no lub

# Partial order

Examples:  $\langle \mathbb{N}, \leq \rangle$

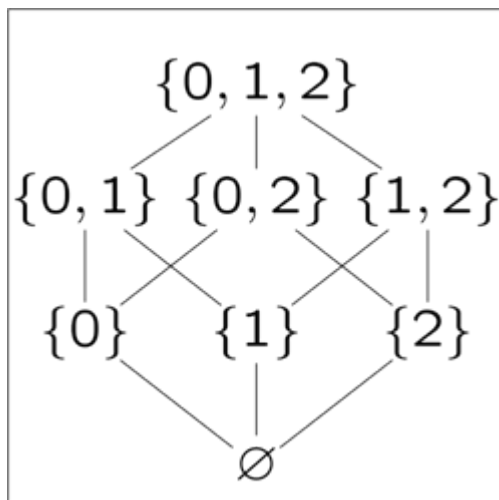
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$$X = \{1, 3, 5, 7, 9, \dots\}$$

$X$  has no lub

$\langle \mathcal{P}(\{0, 1, 2\}), \subseteq \rangle$



$$X = \{\{0\}, \{2\}\}$$

$$\text{lub}(X) = \{0, 2\}$$

# Partial order

A set  $X = \{x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots\}$  is a **chain** if  $x_0 \sqsubseteq x_1 \sqsubseteq x_2 \sqsubseteq \dots$

The partially ordered set  $\langle S, \sqsubseteq \rangle$  is **complete** if

- (1)  $\emptyset$  has a lub, written  $\text{lub}(\emptyset) = \perp$ , and
- (2) every chain  $X \subseteq S$  has a lub.

# Fixpoints

Let  $f : S \rightarrow S$  be a function.

$f$  is **monotonic** if  $x \sqsubseteq y$  implies  $f(x) \sqsubseteq f(y)$ .

$f$  is **continuous** if (1)  $f$  is monotonic, and

(2)  $f(\text{lub}(X)) = \text{lub}(f(X))$  for every chain  $X$ .

where  $f(X) = \{f(x_0), f(x_1), f(x_2), \dots\}$

Note:  $f(X)$  is a chain (i.e.  $f(x_0) \sqsubseteq f(x_1) \sqsubseteq f(x_2) \sqsubseteq \dots$ )

by monotonicity, and therefore  $\text{lub}(f(X))$  exists.

# Fixpoints

Let  $f : S \rightarrow S$  be a function.

$x$  is a **fixpoint** of  $f$  if  $x = f(x)$

$x$  is a **least fixpoint** of  $f$  if

(1)  $x$  is a fixpoint of  $f$ , and

(2)  $x \sqsubseteq x'$  for all fixpoints  $x'$  of  $f$ .

# Kleene-Tarski Theorem

Let  $\langle S, \sqsubseteq \rangle$  be a partially ordered set.

If  $\sqsubseteq$  is a complete partial order, and  $f : S \rightarrow S$   
is a continuous function, then

$f$  has a least fixpoint, denoted  $\text{lfp}(f)$

and  $\text{lfp}(f) = \text{lub}(\{\perp, f(\perp), f^2(\perp), f^3(\perp), \dots\})$

Proof: exercise.

# Kleene-Tarski Theorem

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Proof: exercise.

**Over finite sets  $S$ ,  
all monotonic functions  
are continuous.**



# Kleene-Tarski Theorem

**The greatest fixpoint  
of  $f$  can be defined dually by**

$$\text{gfp}(f) = \text{glb}(\{\top, f(\top), f^2(\top), f^3(\top), \dots\})$$

**where  $\text{glb}(\cdot)$  is the greatest lower bound  
operator (dual of  $\text{lub}(\cdot)$ ) and  $\text{glb}(\emptyset) = \top$**

$$\text{and } \text{lfp}(f) = \text{lub}(\{\perp, f(\perp), f^2(\perp), f^3(\perp), \dots\})$$

Proof: exercise.

**Over finite sets  $S$ ,  
all monotonic functions  
are continuous.**

# Safety game

Winning states of a safety game:

$$\nu X \cdot \mathcal{T} \cap \text{1CPre}(X)$$

$$\text{gfp}(\mathcal{T} \cap \text{1CPre}(X))$$

Limit of the iterations:  $X_0 = \mathcal{T} \cap \text{1CPre}(V)$

$$X_1 = \mathcal{T} \cap \text{1CPre}(X_0)$$

$$X_2 = \mathcal{T} \cap \text{1CPre}(X_1)$$

⋮

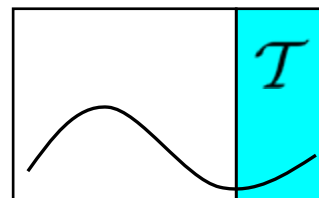
Partial order:  $\langle 2^V, \subseteq \rangle$  with  $\top = V$ ,  $\perp = \emptyset$ .

# Symbolic algorithm to solve **reachability** games

# Solving reachability games

$$\text{Reach}(\mathcal{T}) = \{v_0 v_1 \dots \in V^\omega \mid \exists i : v_i \in \mathcal{T}\}$$

Visit  $\mathcal{T}$  eventually

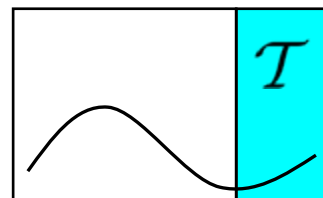


To win a reachability game, Player 1 should be able to force the game be in  $\mathcal{T}$  after finitely many steps.

# Solving reachability games

$$\text{Reach}(\mathcal{T}) = \{v_0v_1 \cdots \in V^\omega \mid \exists i : v_i \in \mathcal{T}\}$$

Visit  $\mathcal{T}$  eventually



To win a reachability game, Player 1 should be able to force the game to be in  $\mathcal{T}$  after finitely many steps.

Let  $X_i$  be the set of states from which Player 1 can force the game to be in  $\mathcal{T}$  within at most  $i$  steps:

$$\begin{aligned} X_0 &= \mathcal{T} \\ X_{i+1} &= X_i \cup \text{1CPre}(X_i) \quad \text{for all } i \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

The limit of this iteration is the **least fixpoint** of the function  $\mathcal{T} \cup \text{1CPre}(\cdot)$ , written:

$$\underbrace{\mu X}_{\text{least fixpoint operator}} \cdot \mathcal{T} \cup \text{1CPre}(X)$$

least fixpoint operator

Let  $G = \langle V_1, V_2, \hat{v}, \text{Succ} \rangle$  be a 2-player game graph.

## Theorem

Player 1 has a winning strategy

in  $\langle G, \text{Reach}(\mathcal{T}) \rangle$     iff     $\hat{v} \in \mu X \cdot \mathcal{T} \cup 1\text{CPre}(X)$

in  $\langle G, \text{Safe}(\mathcal{T}) \rangle$     iff     $\hat{v} \in \nu X \cdot \mathcal{T} \cap 1\text{CPre}(X)$

in  $\langle G, \text{Büchi}(\mathcal{T}) \rangle$     iff     $\hat{v} \in \nu Y \cdot \mu X \cdot 1\text{CPre}(X) \cup (\mathcal{T} \cap 1\text{CPre}(Y))$

in  $\langle G, \text{coBüchi}(\mathcal{T}) \rangle$     iff     $\hat{v} \in \mu Y \cdot \nu X \cdot 1\text{CPre}(X) \cap (\mathcal{T} \cup 1\text{CPre}(Y))$

# Remarks (I)

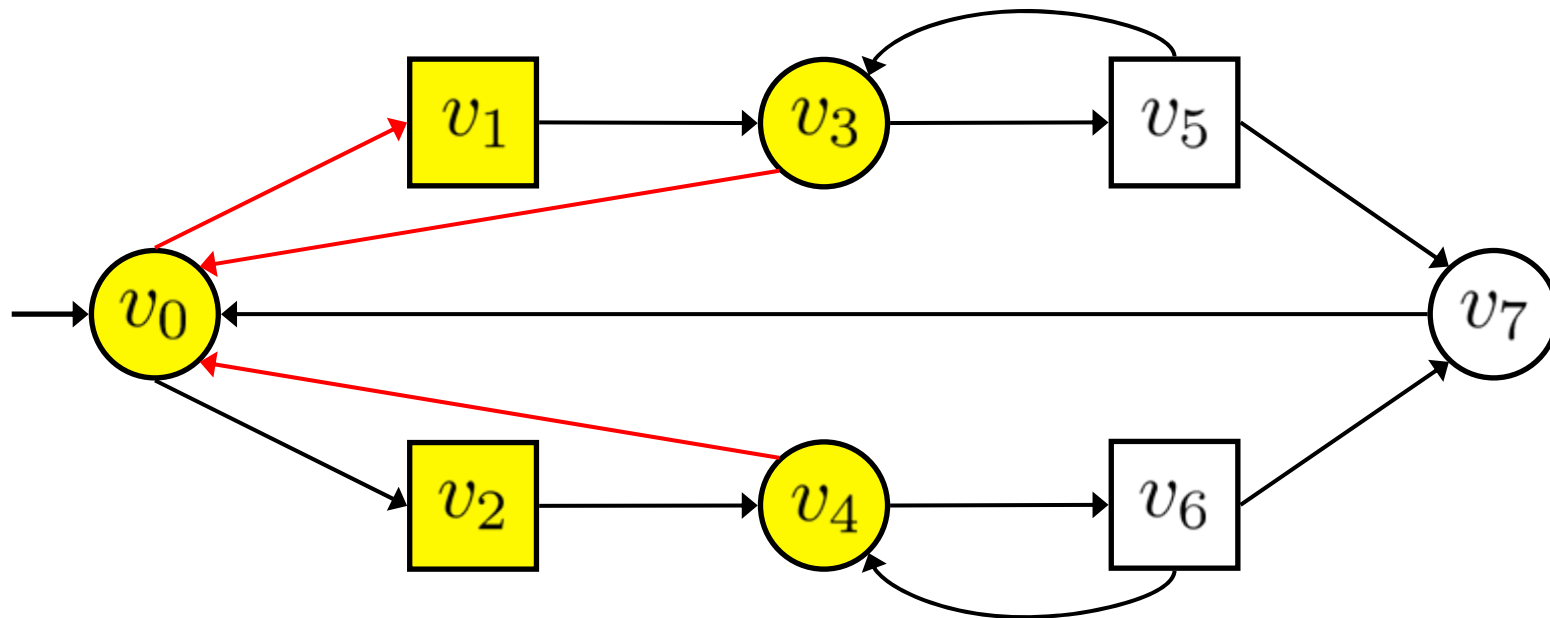
**Memoryless** strategies are always sufficient to win parity games, and therefore also for safety, reachability, Büchi and coBüchi objectives.



# Remarks (I)

$$\mathcal{T} = V \setminus \{v_7\}$$

Objective: Safe( $\mathcal{T}$ )



**A memoryless winning strategy**

# Remarks (II)

Parity games are **determined**:  
in every state, either Player 1 or Player 2 has a winning  
strategy.

# Remarks (II)

Parity games are **determined**:

in every state, either Player 1 or Player 2 has a winning strategy.

$$\phi_1 \equiv \exists \lambda_1 \cdot \forall \lambda_2 : \text{Outcome}(G, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) \in \text{Parity}(p)$$

$$\phi_2 \equiv \exists \lambda_2 \cdot \forall \lambda_1 : \text{Outcome}(G, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) \notin \text{Parity}(p)$$

**Determinacy says:**  $\phi_1 \vee \phi_2$

More generally, zero-sum games with Borel objectives are determined [Martin75].

# Remarks (II)

For instance, since  $V^\omega \setminus \text{Safe}(\mathcal{T}) = \text{Reach}(V \setminus \mathcal{T})$ ,

Player 1 does not win  $\langle G, \text{Safe}(\mathcal{T}) \rangle$

iff Player 2 wins  $\langle G, \text{Reach}(V \setminus \mathcal{T}) \rangle$ .

$$X_* = \nu X \cdot \mathcal{T} \cap 1\text{CPre}(X)$$

$$X'_* = \mu X' \cdot \mathcal{T}' \cup 2\text{CPre}(X')$$

Claim: if  $\mathcal{T}' = V \setminus \mathcal{T}$ , then  $X'_* = V \setminus X_*$

Proof: exercise

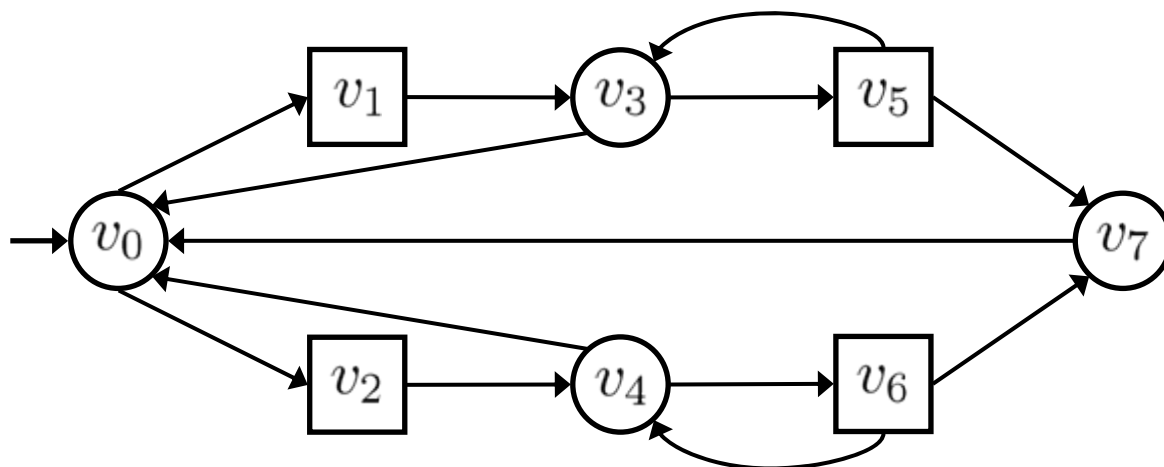
Hint: show that  $V \setminus 1\text{CPre}(X) = 2\text{CPre}(V \setminus X)$

# Remarks (II)

$$\mathcal{T} = V \setminus \{v_7\}$$

Objective for Player 1: Safe( $\mathcal{T}$ )

for Player 2: Reach( $\{v_7\}$ )



$$X_0 = \{v_0, v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4, v_5, v_6\}$$

$$X'_0 = \{v_7\}$$

$$X_1 = \{v_0, v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4\}$$

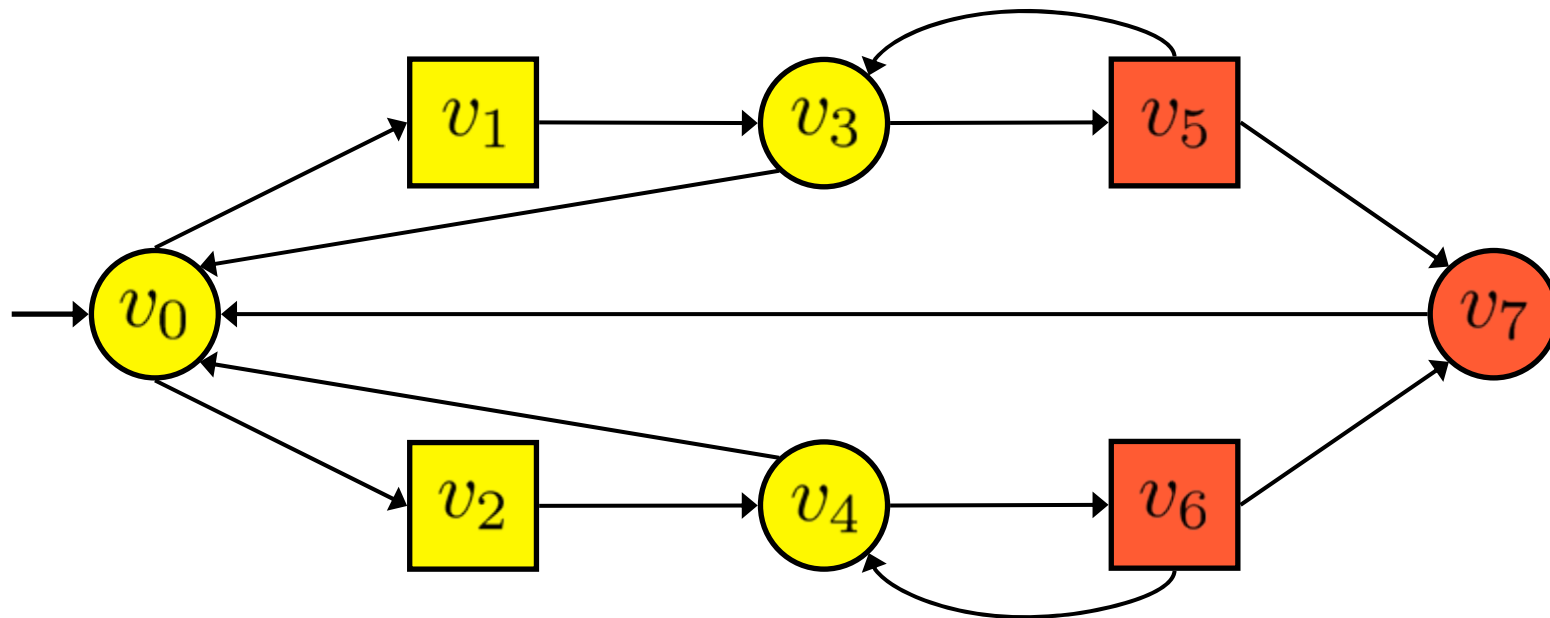
$$X'_1 = \{v_5, v_6, v_7\}$$

$$X_2 = \{v_0, v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4\}$$

$$X'_2 = \{v_5, v_6, v_7\}$$

# Remarks (II)

$$\mathcal{T} = V \setminus \{v_7\}$$

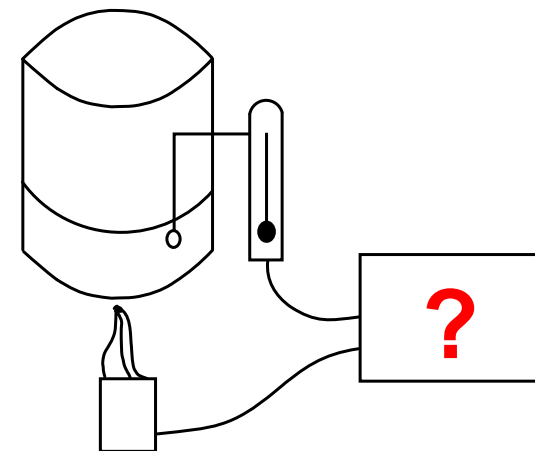
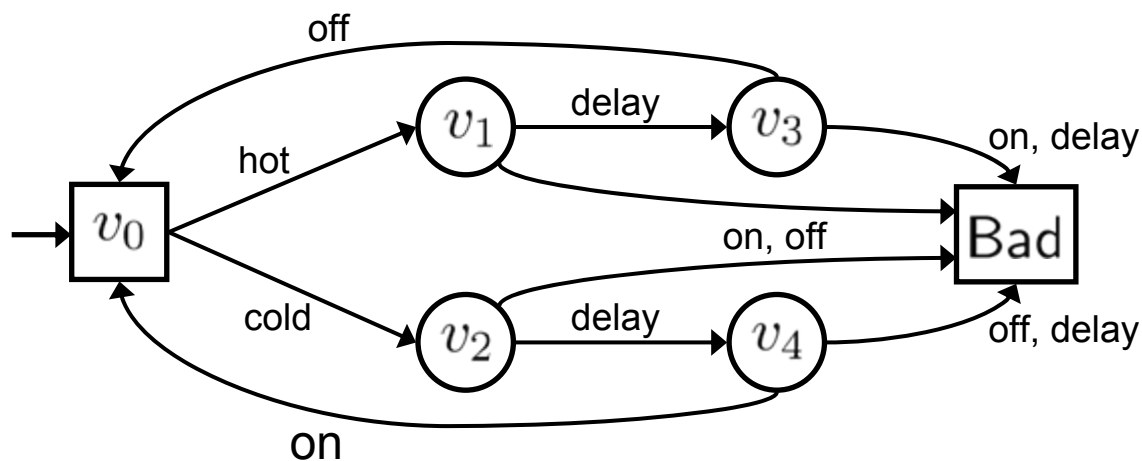


States in which Player 1  
wins for  $\text{Safe}(\mathcal{T})$ .

States in which Player 2  
wins for  $\text{Reach}(V \setminus \mathcal{T})$ .

# Games of imperfect information

# The Synthesis Question



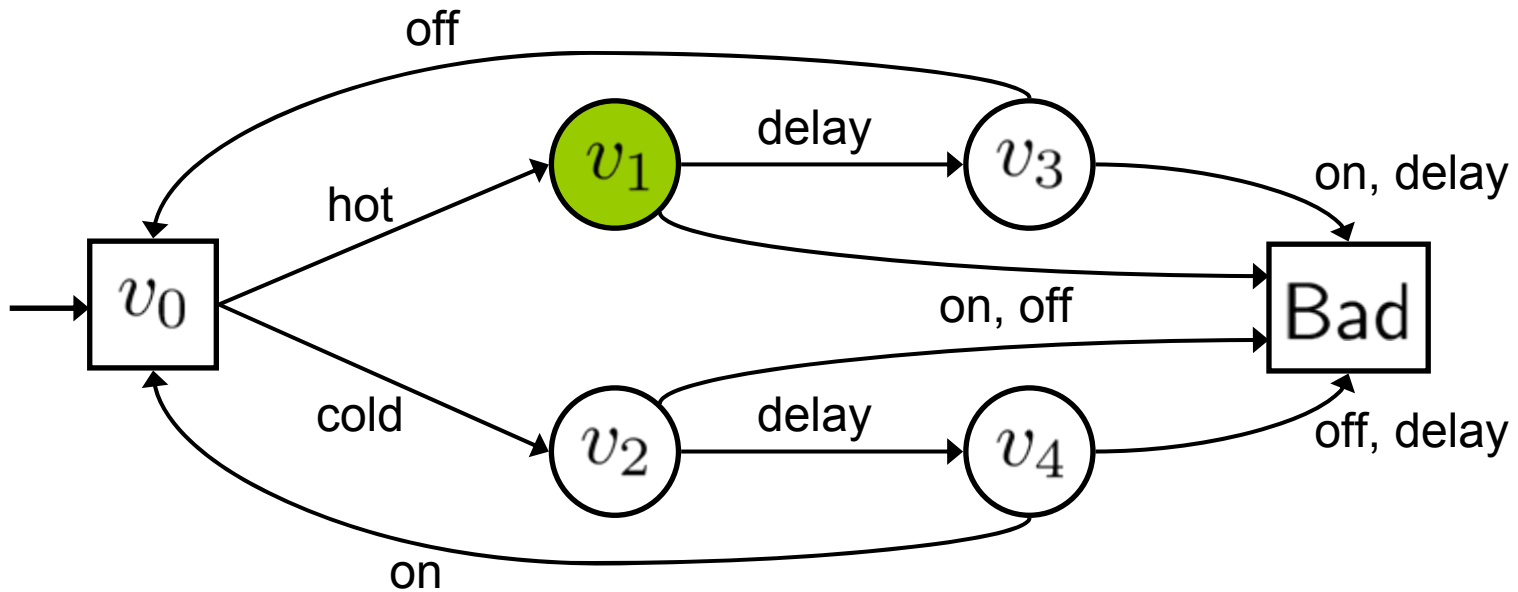
The controller knows the state of the plant (“perfect information”). This, however, is often unrealistic.

- Sensors provide partial information (imprecision),
- Sensors have internal delays,
- Some variables of the plant are invisible,
- etc....



Obs 0

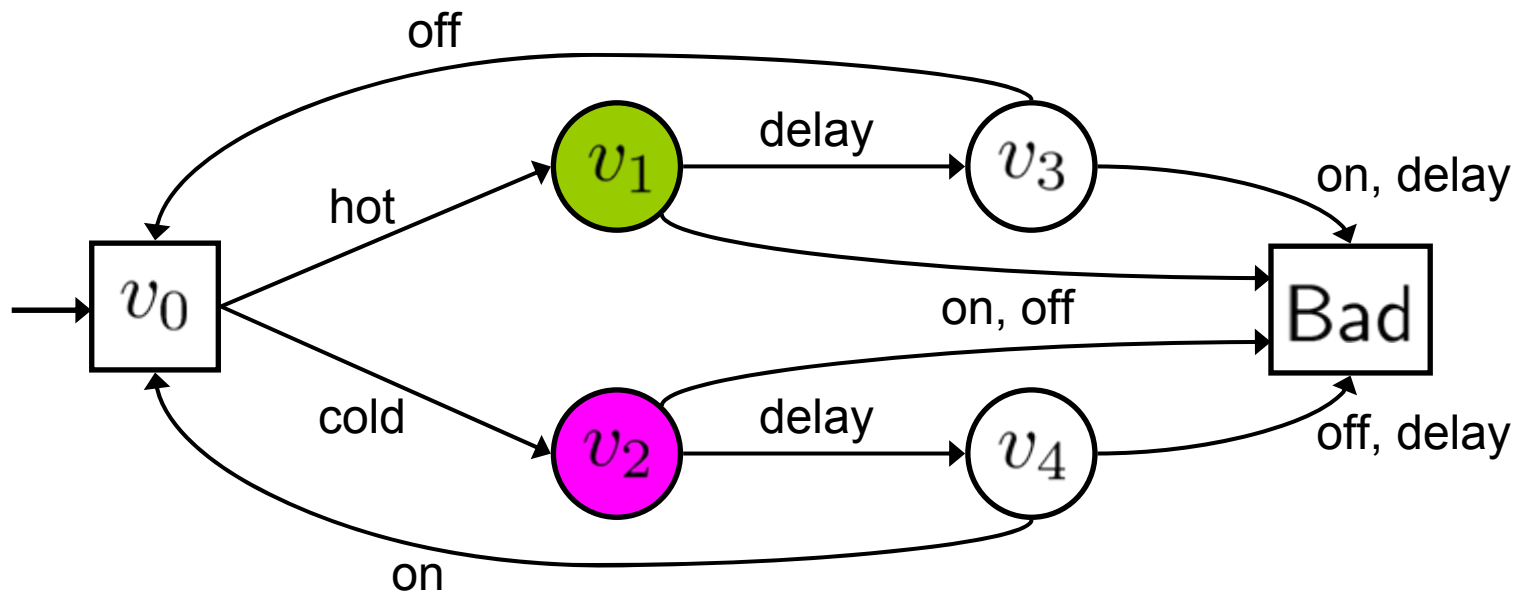
Imperfect information → Observations



Imperfect information → Observations

Obs 0

Obs 1

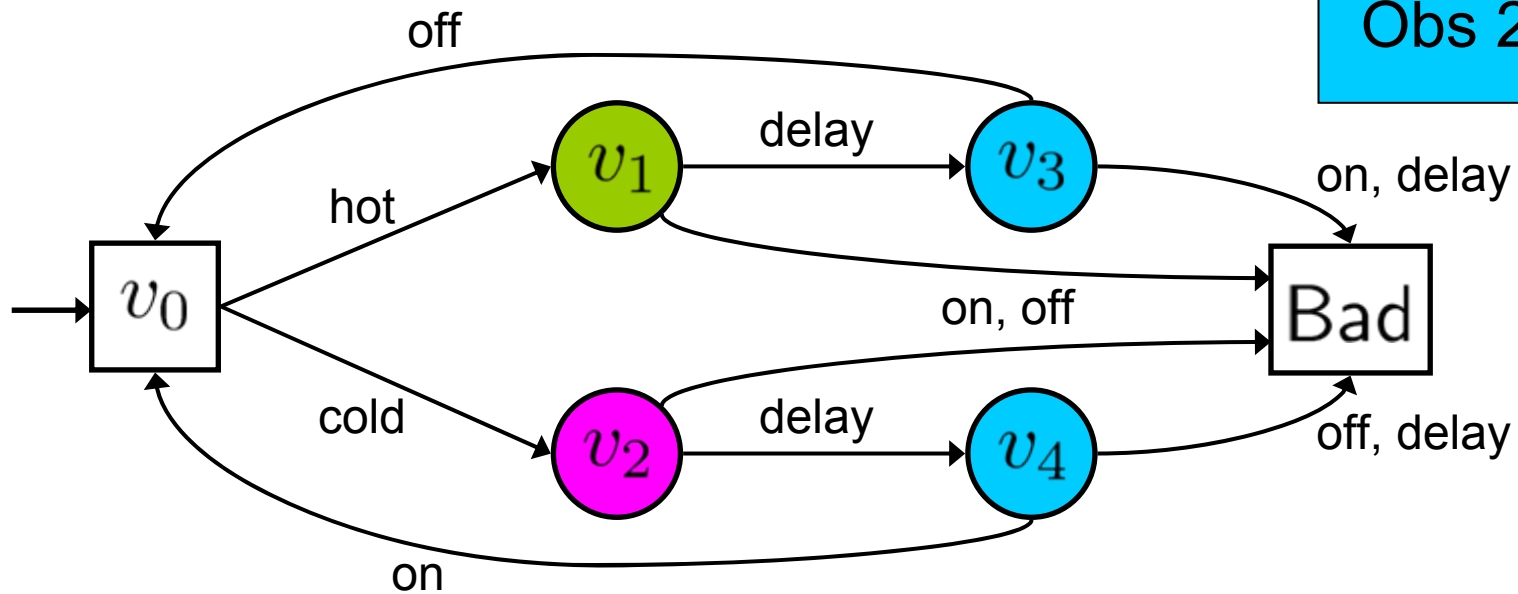


Imperfect information  $\rightarrow$  Observations

Obs 0

Obs 1

Obs 2

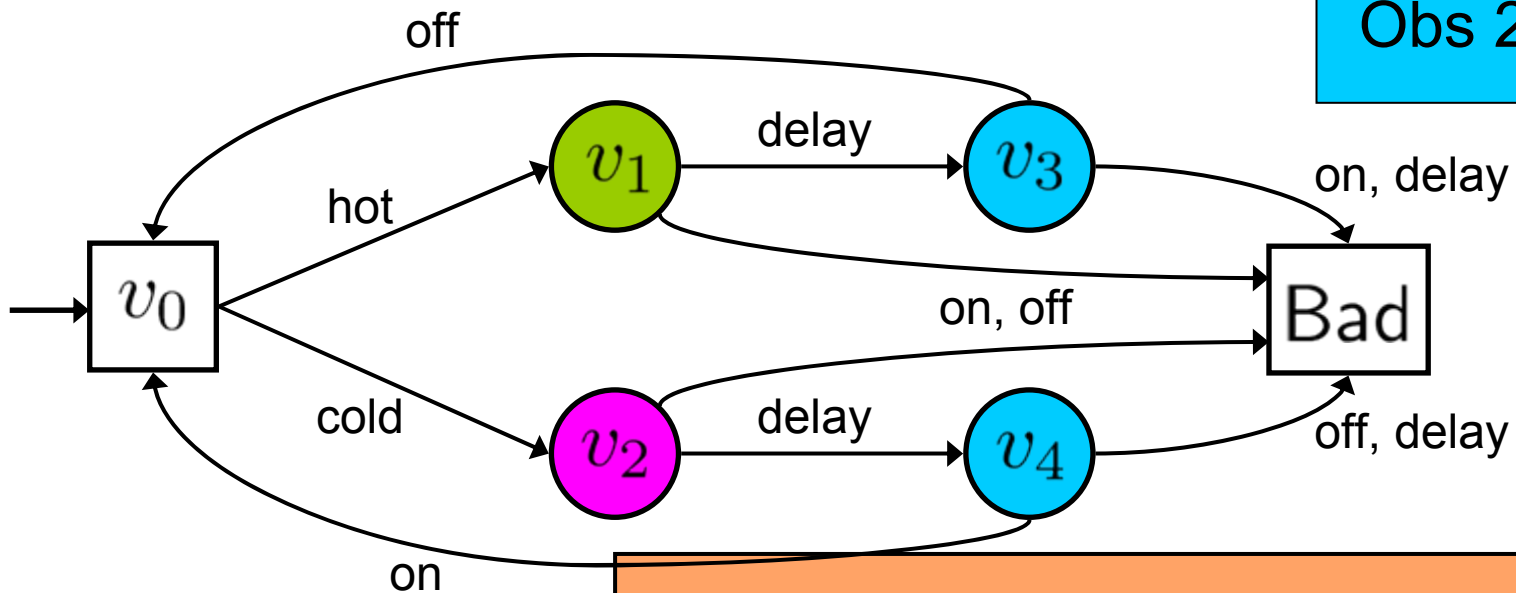


Imperfect information → Observations

Obs 0

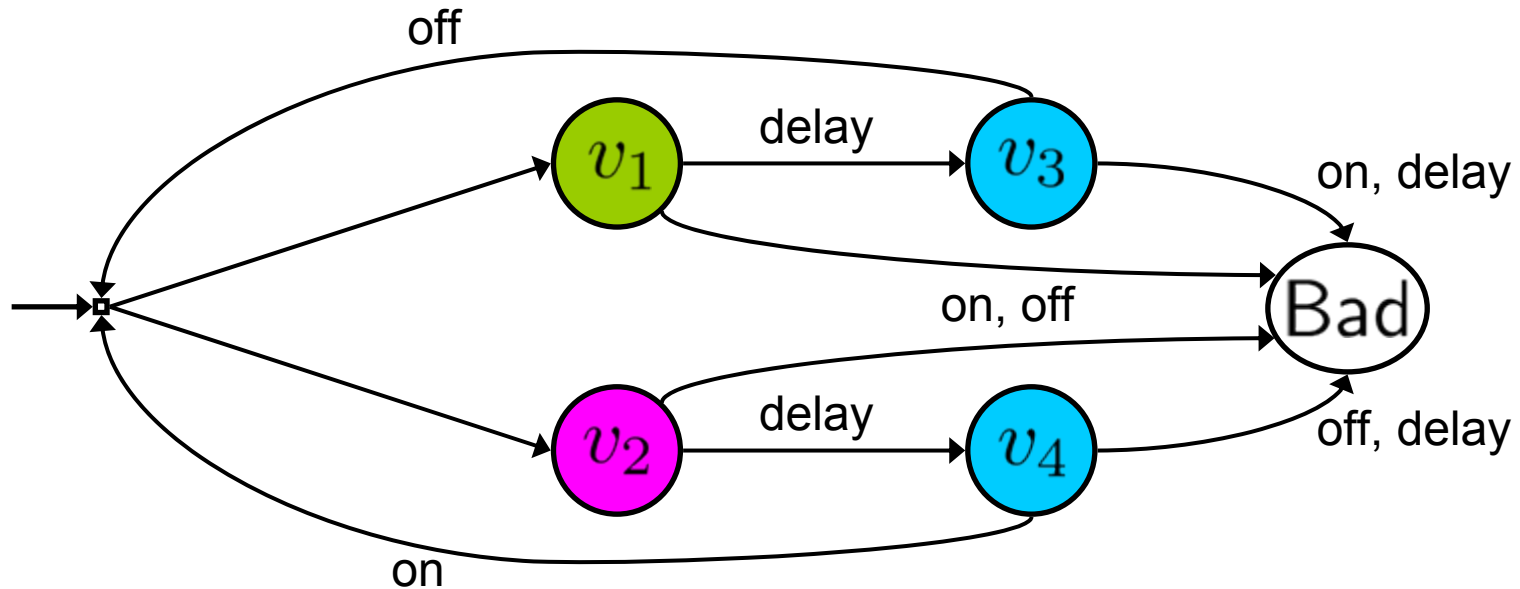
Obs 1

Obs 2



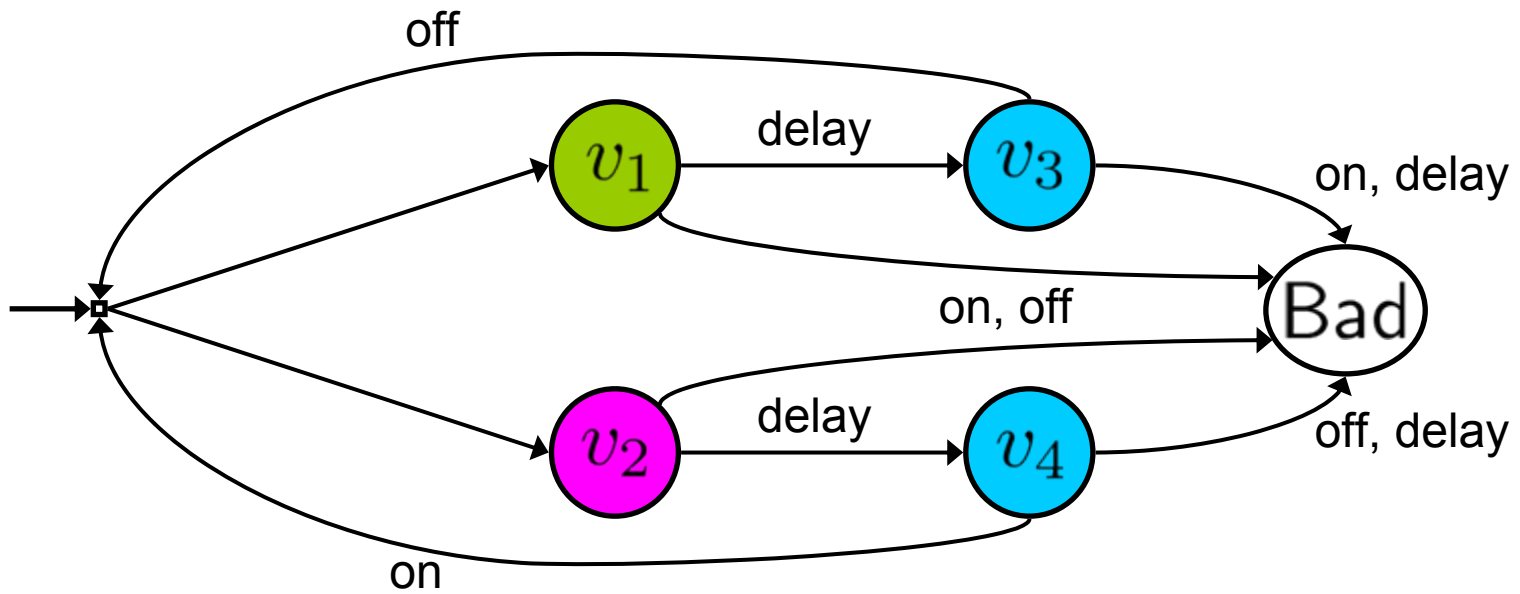
When observing Obs 2,  
there is no unique good choice:  
**memory is necessary**

## Player 2 states → Nondeterminism



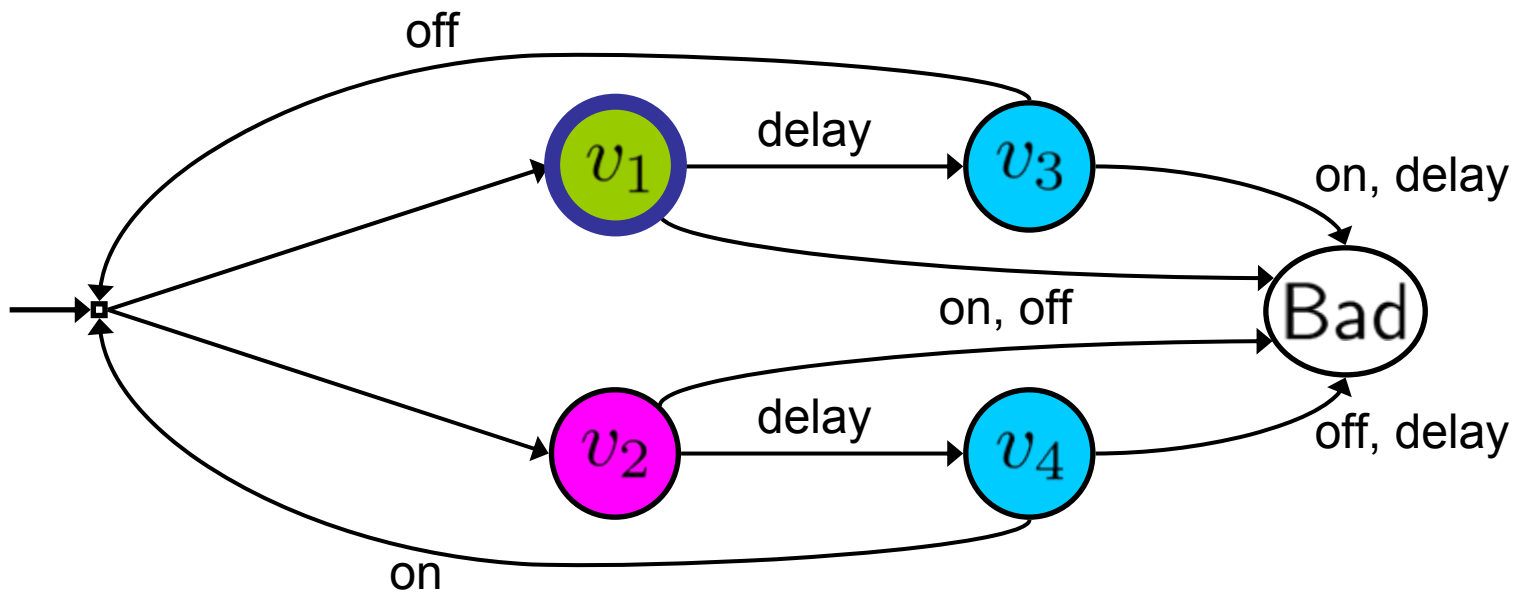
Playing the game: Player 2 moves a **token** along the edges of the graph,  
Player 1 does not see the position of the token.

- Player 1 chooses an action (on, off, delay), and then
- Player 2 resolves the nondeterminism and announces the color of the state.



Player 2:

Player 1:



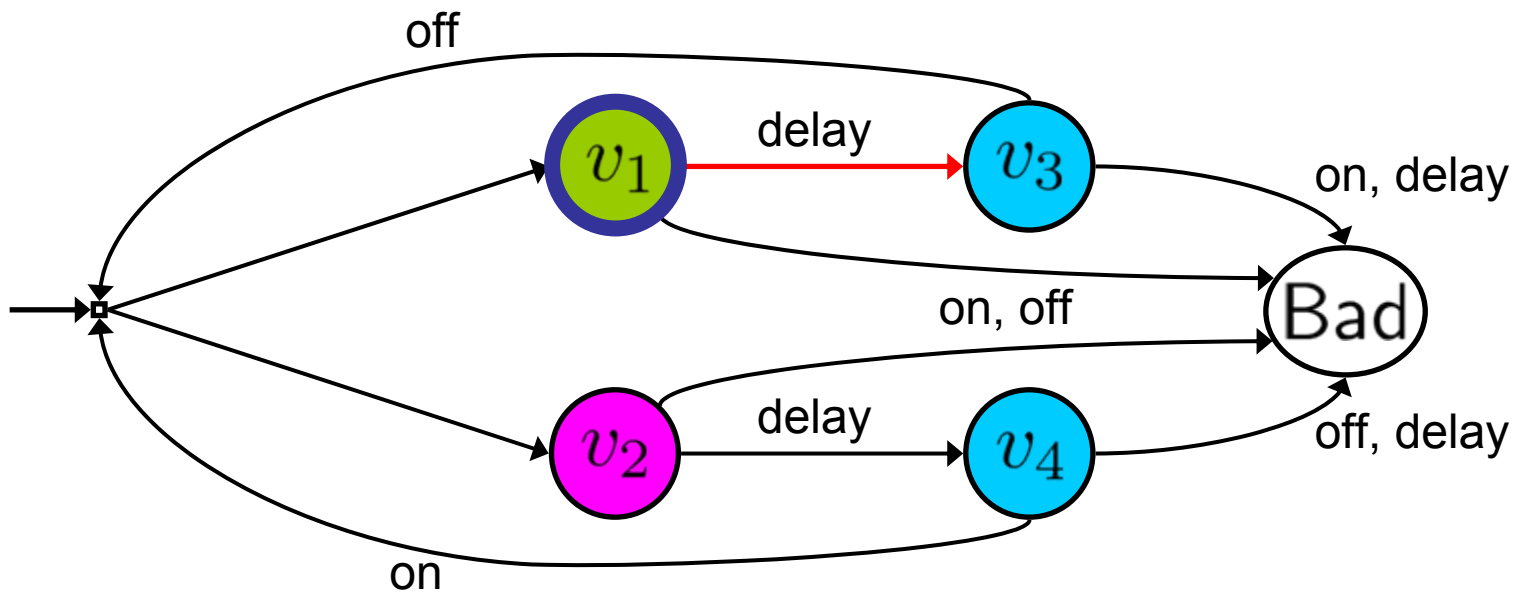
Player 2:

$v_1$   
⋮

chooses  $v_1$ , announces **Obs 0**

Player 1:

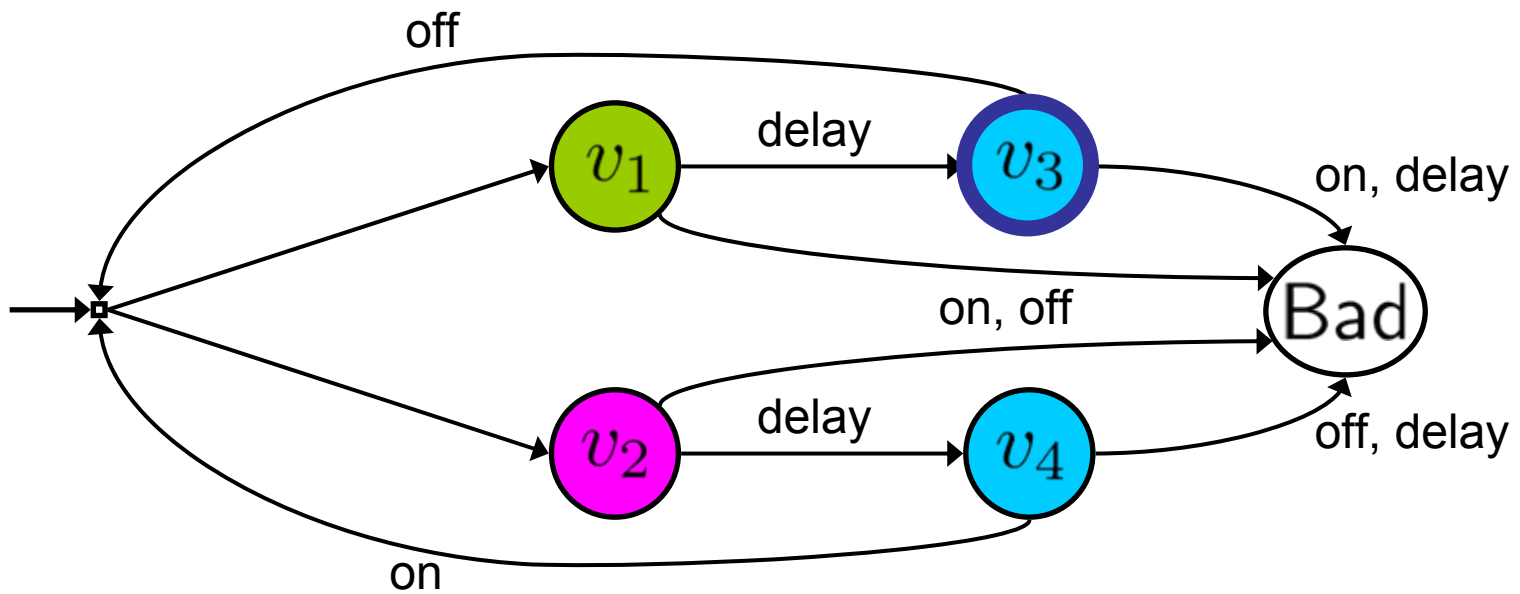




Player 2:  $v_1$  delay

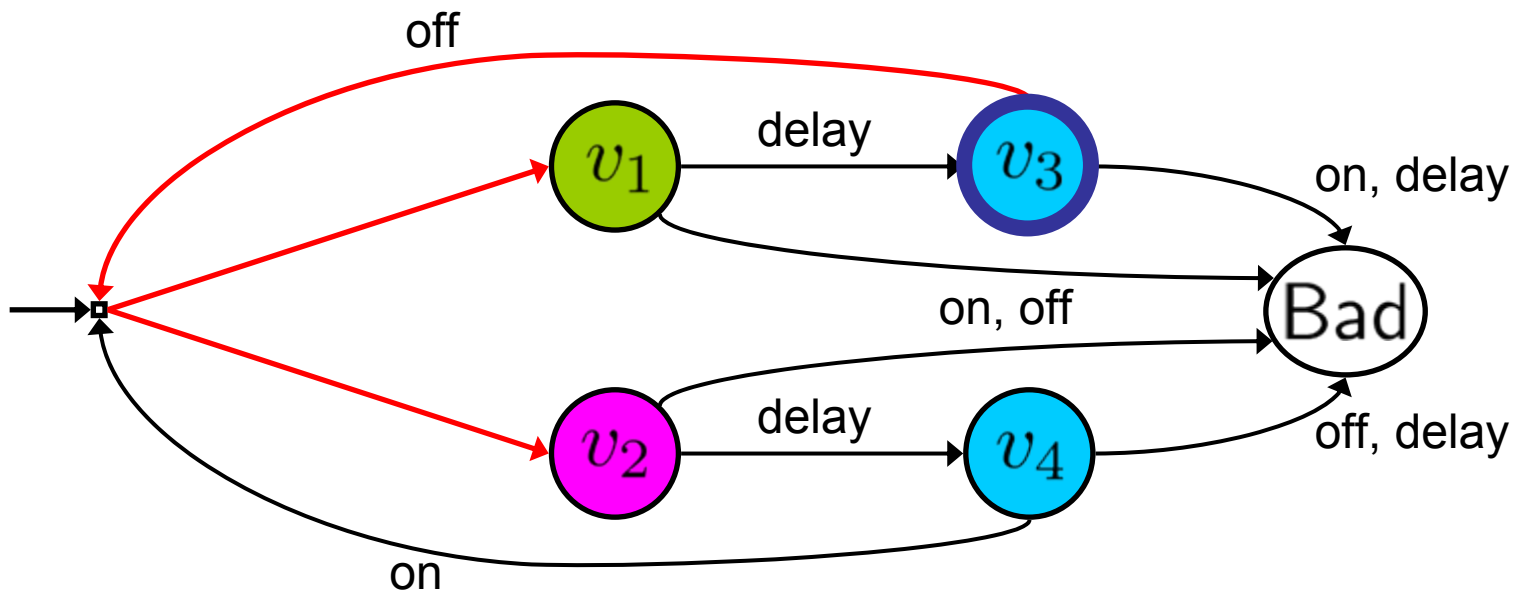
Player 1:  delay plays action *delay*





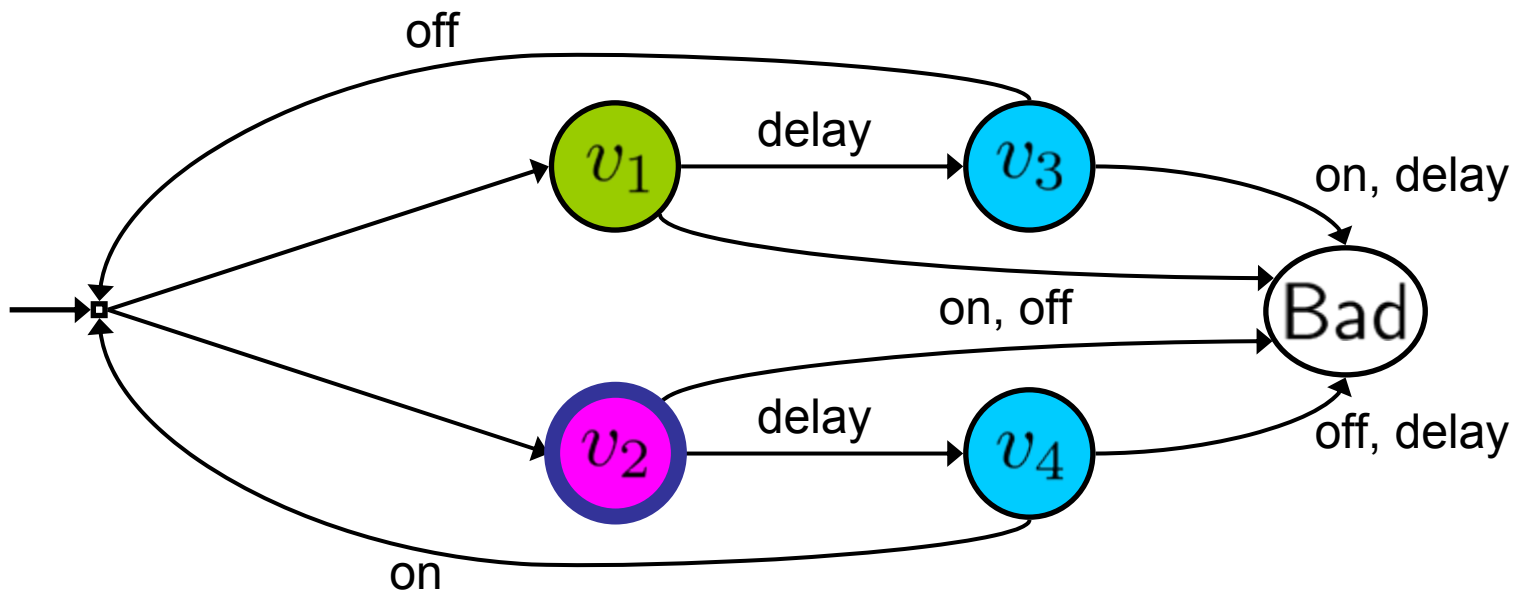
Player 2:       $v_1$       delay       $v_3$       chooses  $v_3$ , announces **Obs 2**

Player 1:            delay



Player 2:       $v_1$       delay       $v_3$       off

Player 1:            delay            off



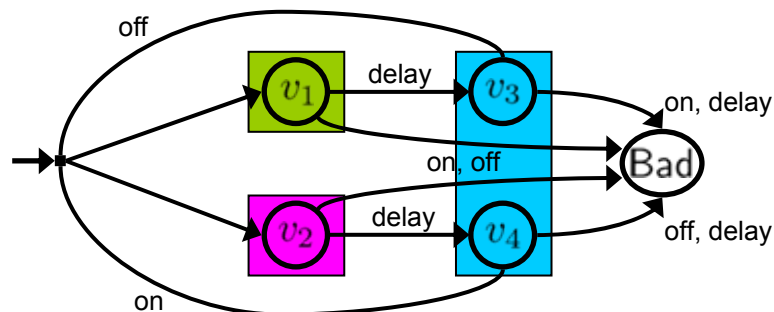
Player 2:	$v_1$	delay	$v_3$	off	$v_2$	...
					⋮	
Player 1:	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #90EE90; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	delay	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #00BFFF; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	off	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #FF00FF; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	...

# Imperfect information

## A game graph + Observation structure

$$G = \langle V, \hat{v}, \text{Succ} \rangle \quad \langle \Sigma, \text{Obs} \rangle$$

- $\Sigma$  is a finite alphabet,
- Obs is a partition of  $V$ ,
- $\text{Succ} : V \times \Sigma \rightarrow 2^V \setminus \emptyset$ .



$$\Sigma = \{delay, on, off\}$$

$$\text{Obs} = \{\{v_1\}, \{v_2\}, \{v_3, v_4\}\}$$

$$\text{Post}_\sigma(s) = \{v' \in \text{Succ}(v, \sigma) \mid v \in s\}$$

Indistinguishable states belong to the same observation.

Let  $\text{obs}(v) \in \text{Obs}$  be the (unique) observation containing  $v$ .

# Strategies

Player 1 chooses a letter in  $\Sigma$ ,

Player 2 resolves nondeterminism.

An **observation-based strategy for Player 1** is a function:

$$\lambda_1 : \text{Obs}^+ \rightarrow \Sigma$$

A strategy for Player 2 is a function:

$$\lambda_2 : V^+ \times \Sigma \rightarrow V$$

such that

$$\lambda_2(v_1 \dots v_n, \sigma) \in \text{Succ}(v_n, \sigma) \text{ for all } v_1, \dots, v_n \in V \text{ and } \sigma \in \Sigma$$

# Outcome

$$\lambda_1 : \text{Obs}^+ \rightarrow \Sigma$$

$$\lambda_2 : V^+ \times \Sigma \rightarrow V$$

The **outcome** of  $\langle \lambda_1, \lambda_2 \rangle$  is the play  
 $w = v_0 v_1 \dots$  such that:

$$v_{i+1} = \lambda_2(v_0 \dots v_i, \sigma) \text{ where } \sigma = \lambda_1(\text{obs}(v_0) \dots \text{obs}(v_i))$$

for all  $i \geq 0$ .

This play is denoted  $\text{Outcome}(G, \lambda_1, \lambda_2)$

# Winning strategies

A **winning condition** for Player 1 is a set  $U_1 \subseteq \text{Obs}^\omega$  of sequences of observations. The set  $U_1$  defines the set of winning plays:

$$W_1 = \{v_0v_1 \cdots \mid \text{obs}(v_0)\text{obs}(v_1) \cdots \in U_1\}$$

Player 1 is winning if

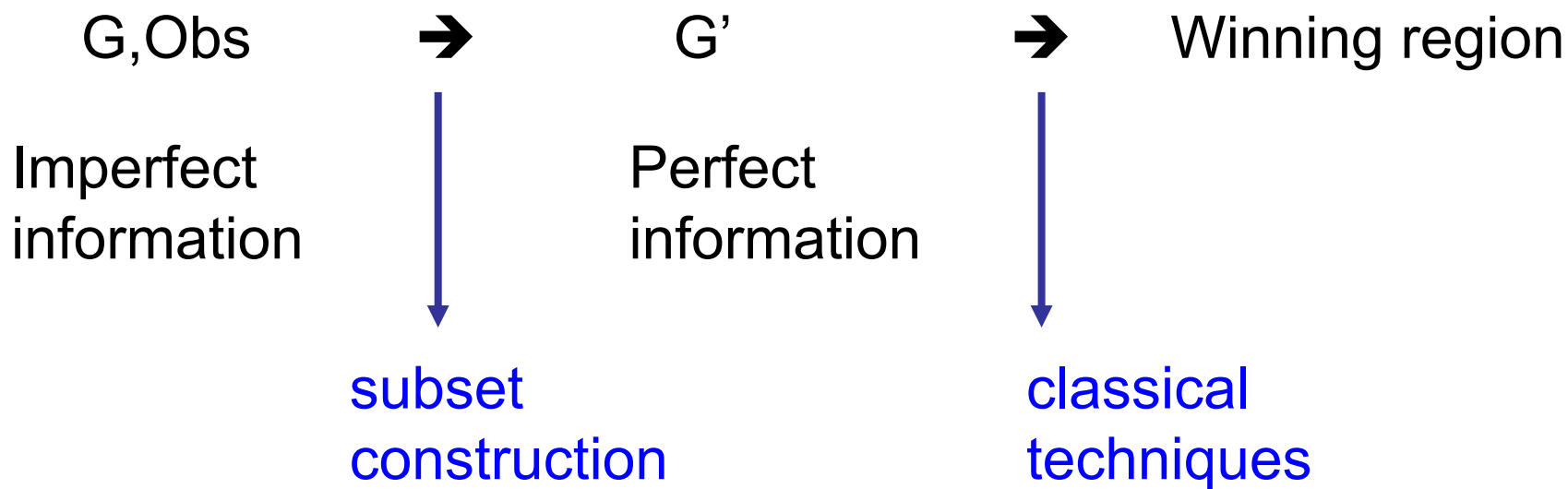
$$\exists \lambda_1 \cdot \forall \lambda_2 : \text{Outcome}(G, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) \in W_1$$

# Solving games of imperfect information



# Imperfect information

Games of imperfect information can be solved by a reduction to games of perfect information.

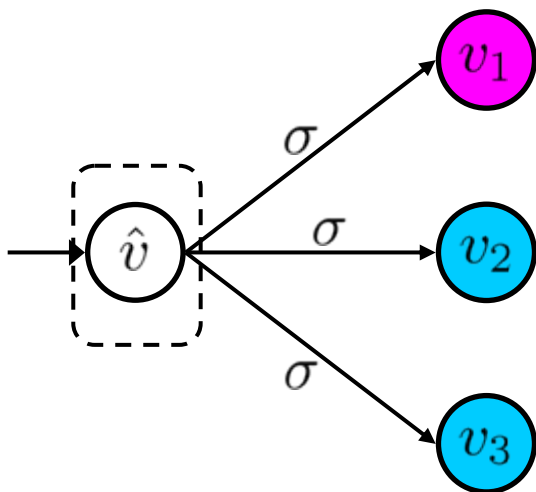


# Subset construction

After a finite prefix of a play, Player 1 has a partial knowledge of the current state of the game: **a set of states**, called a **cell**.

# Subset construction

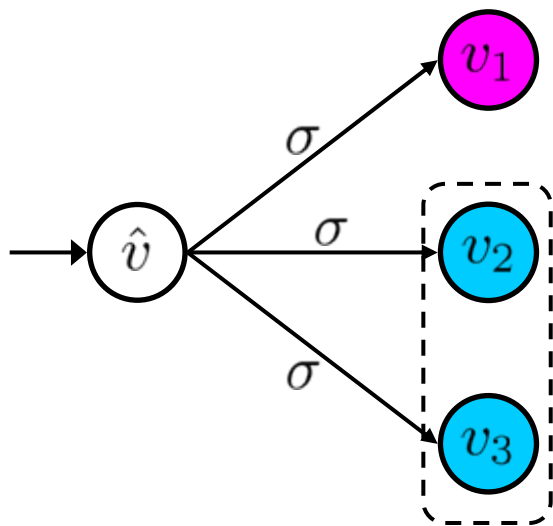
After a finite prefix of a play, Player 1 has a partial knowledge of the current state of the game: **a set of states**, called a **cell**.



Initial knowledge: cell  $\{\hat{v}\}$

# Subset construction

After a finite prefix of a play, Player 1 has a partial knowledge of the current state of the game: **a set of states**, called a **cell**.



Initial knowledge: cell  $\{\hat{v}\}$

Player 1 plays  $\sigma$ ,

Player 2 chooses  $v_2$ .

Current knowledge: cell  $\{v_2, v_3\}$



$\text{Post}_\sigma(\{\hat{v}\}) \cap o_2$

# Subset construction

Imperfect information

$$G = \langle V, \hat{v}, \text{Succ} \rangle$$

$$\langle \Sigma, \text{Obs} \rangle$$

State  
space

$$V$$

Initial  
state

$$\hat{v}$$

Perfect information

$$G' = \langle V'_1, V'_2, \hat{v}', \text{Succ}' \rangle$$

$$V'_1 = 2^V$$

$$V'_2 = 2^V \times \Sigma$$

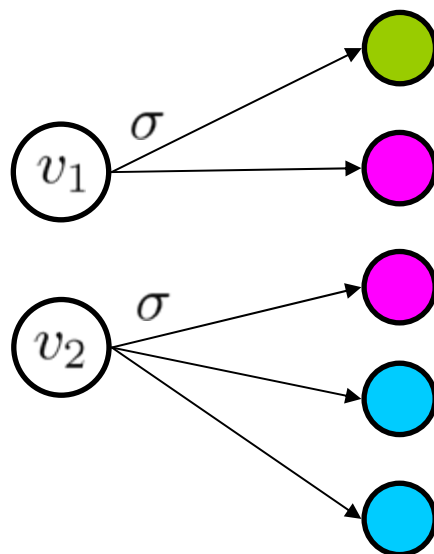
$$\hat{v}' = \{\hat{v}\}$$

# Subset construction

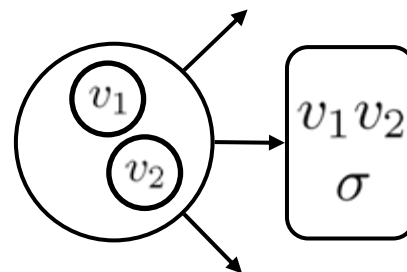
$$G = \langle V, \hat{v}, \text{Succ} \rangle$$

$$\langle \Sigma, \text{Obs} \rangle$$

Transitions



$$G' = \langle V'_1, V'_2, \hat{v}', \text{Succ}' \rangle$$



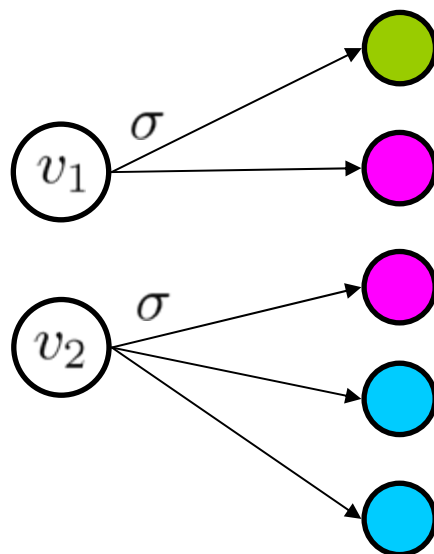
$$\text{Succ}'(s) = \{(s, \sigma) \mid \sigma \in \Sigma\}$$

# Subset construction

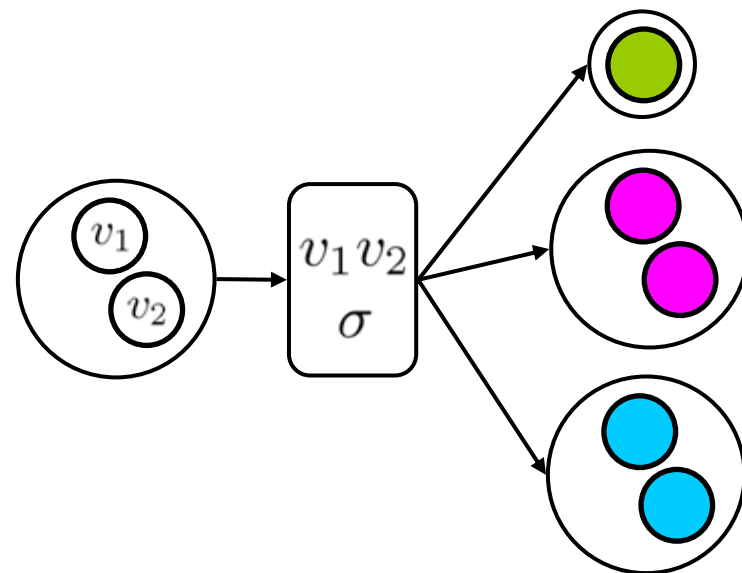
$$G = \langle V, \hat{v}, \text{Succ} \rangle$$

$$\langle \Sigma, \text{Obs} \rangle$$

Transitions



$$G' = \langle V'_1, V'_2, \hat{v}', \text{Succ}' \rangle$$



$$\text{Succ}'(s) = \{(s, \sigma) \mid \sigma \in \Sigma\}$$

$$\text{Succ}'(s, \sigma) = \{\text{Post}_\sigma(s) \cap o \mid o \in \text{Obs}\}$$

# Subset construction

$$G = \langle V, \hat{v}, \text{Succ} \rangle \\ \langle \Sigma, \text{Obs} \rangle$$

Parity  
condition

$$p : \text{Obs} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$

$$G' = \langle V'_1, V'_2, \hat{v}', \text{Succ}' \rangle$$

$$p' : V'_1 \cup V'_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$

$$p'(s) = p'(s, \sigma) = p(o) \\ \text{where } s \subseteq o.$$



# Subset construction

$$G = \langle V, \hat{v}, \text{Succ} \rangle$$

$$\langle \Sigma, \text{Obs} \rangle$$

Parity  
condition

$$p : \text{Obs} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$

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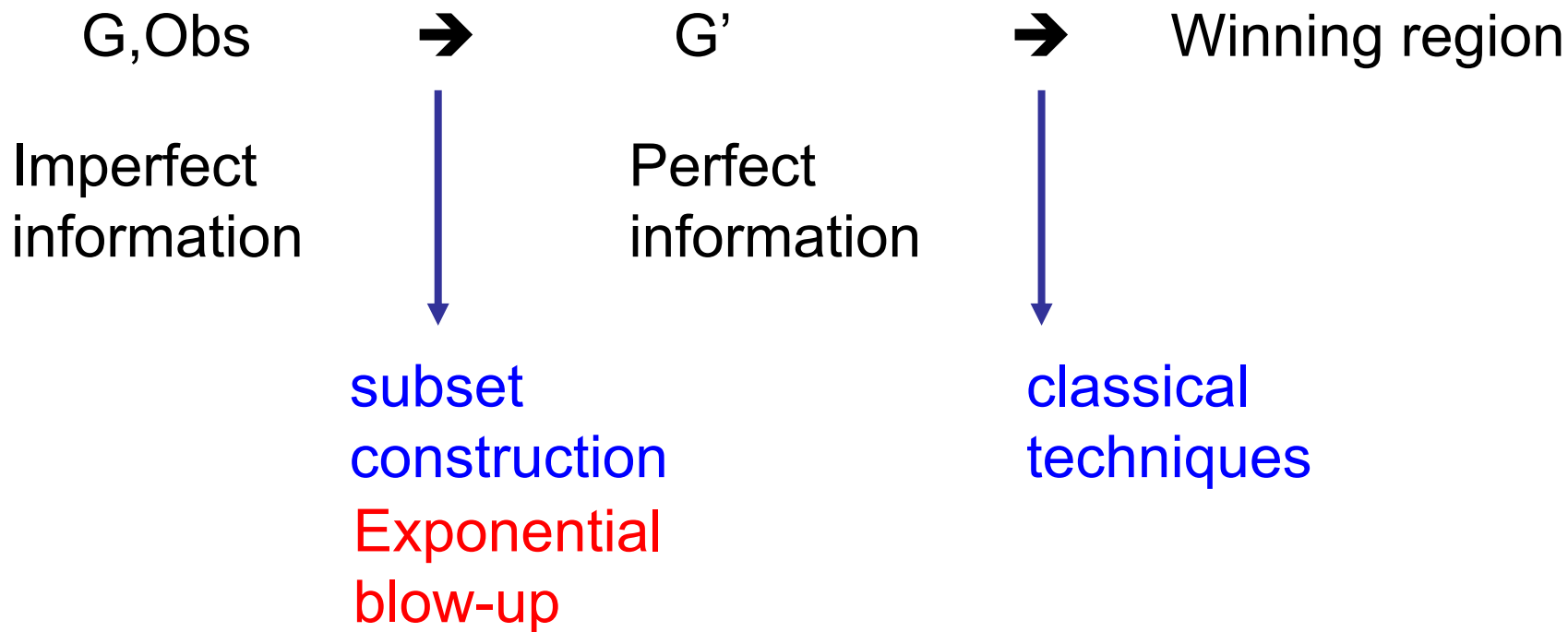
$$p'(s) = p'(s, \sigma) = p(o)$$

where  $s \subseteq o$ .

## Theorem

Player 1 is winning in  $G, p$  if and only if Player 1 is winning in  $G', p'$ .

# Imperfect information



# Imperfect information



Direct symbolic algorithm

# Symbolic algorithm

Controllable predecessor:  $1CPre : 2^{V_1'} \rightarrow 2^{V_1'}$

set of cells

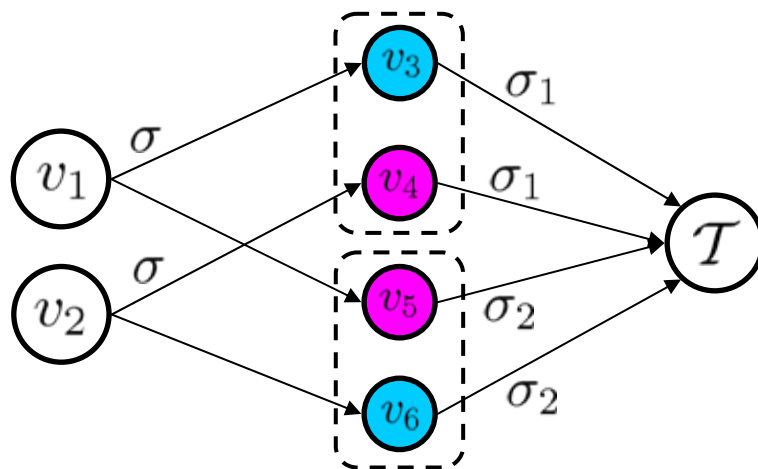
$$1CPre(q) = \{s \mid \exists (s, \sigma) \in Succ'(s) \cdot \forall s' \in Succ'(s, \sigma) : s' \in q\}$$

$$= \{s \mid \exists \sigma \in \Sigma \cdot \forall o \in Obs : Post_\sigma(s) \cap o \in q\}$$

set of cells

# Symbolic algorithm

$$G = \langle V, \hat{v}, \text{Succ} \rangle \quad \langle \Sigma, \text{Obs} \rangle$$



$$\begin{aligned} 1CPre(\{\{v_3, v_4\}, \{v_5, v_6\}\}) &= \{\{v_1\}, \{v_2\}\} \\ &\neq \{\{v_1, v_2\}\} \end{aligned}$$

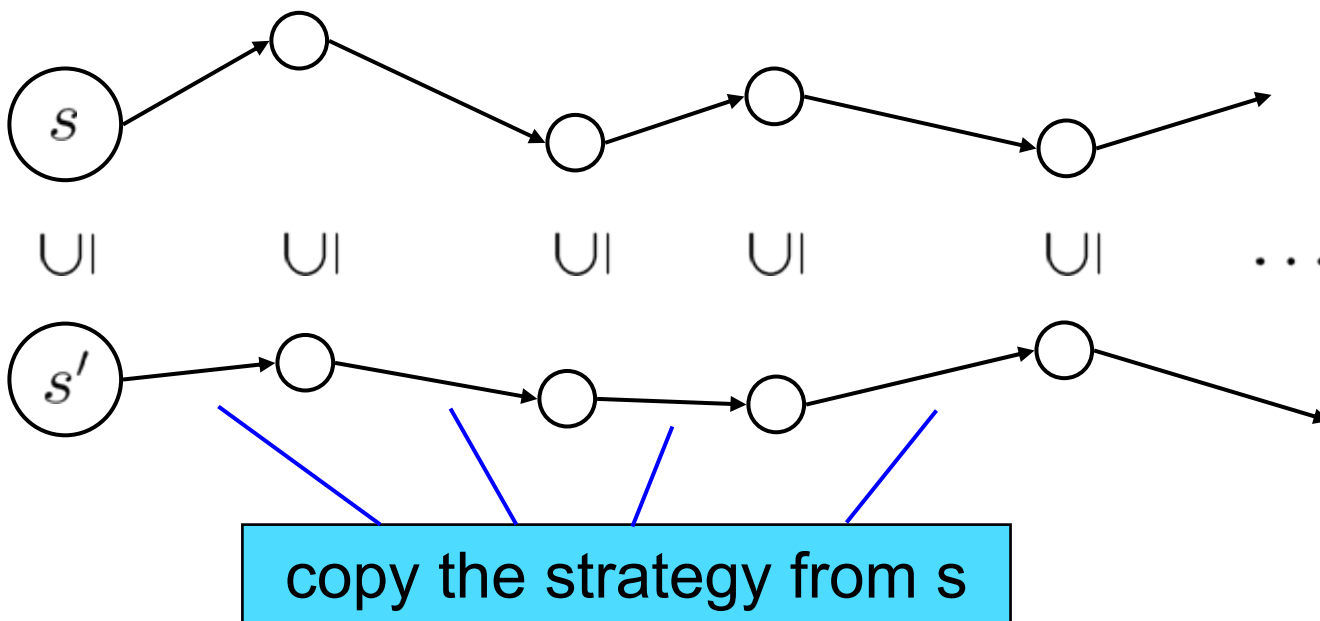
The union of two controllable cells is not necessarily controllable,

but...

# Symbolic algorithm

$$1CPre(q) = \{s \mid \exists \sigma \in \Sigma \cdot \forall o \in \text{Obs} : \text{Post}_\sigma(s) \cap o \in q\}$$

If a cell  $s$  is controllable (i.e. winning for Player 1), then all sub-cells  $s' \subseteq s$  are controllable.



# Symbolic algorithm

$$1\text{CPre}(q) = \{s \mid \exists \sigma \in \Sigma \cdot \forall o \in \text{Obs} : \text{Post}_\sigma(s) \cap o \in q\}$$

The sets of cells computed by the fixpoint iterations are **downward-closed**.

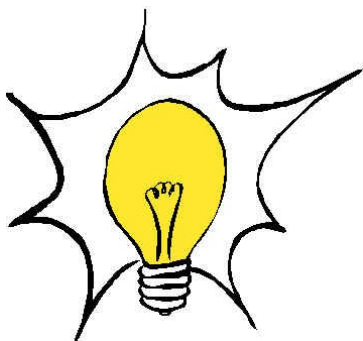
A set  $q$  of cells is downward-closed  
if  $s \in q$  and  $s' \subseteq s$  implies  $s' \in q$ .

# Symbolic algorithm

$$1CPre(q) = \{s \mid \exists \sigma \in \Sigma \cdot \forall o \in \text{Obs} : \text{Post}_\sigma(s) \cap o \in q\}$$

The sets of cells computed by the fixpoint iterations are **downward-closed**.

A set  $q$  of cells is downward-closed  
if  $s \in q$  and  $s' \subseteq s$  implies  $s' \in q$ .



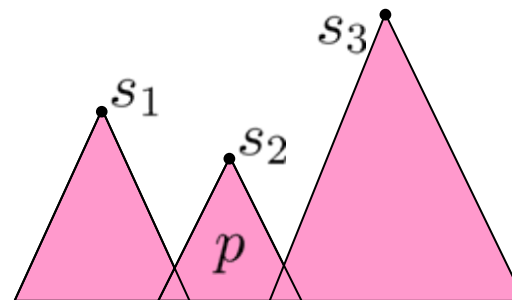
It is sufficient to keep only  
the **maximal cells**.



# Antichains

Maximal cells in  $p$ :  $[p] = \{s \in p \mid \forall s' \in p : s \not\subseteq s'\}$

$[p]$  is an **antichain**, *i.e.* a set of  $\subseteq$ -incomparable cells.



$$[p] = \{s_1, s_2, s_3\}$$

# Antichains

Maximal cells in  $p$ :  $\lceil p \rceil = \{s \in p \mid \forall s' \in p : s \not\subseteq s'\}$

$\lceil p \rceil$  is an **antichain**, *i.e.* a set of  $\subseteq$ -incomparable cells.

For downward-closed set  $p$ , we have:

$$\begin{aligned} 1\text{CPre}(p) &= \{s \mid \exists \sigma \in \Sigma \cdot \forall o \in \text{Obs} : \text{Post}_\sigma(s) \cap o \in p\} \\ &= \{s \mid \exists \sigma \in \Sigma \cdot \forall o \in \text{Obs} \cdot \exists s' \in \lceil p \rceil : \text{Post}_\sigma(s) \cap o \subseteq s'\} \end{aligned}$$

Hence, over antichains we define:

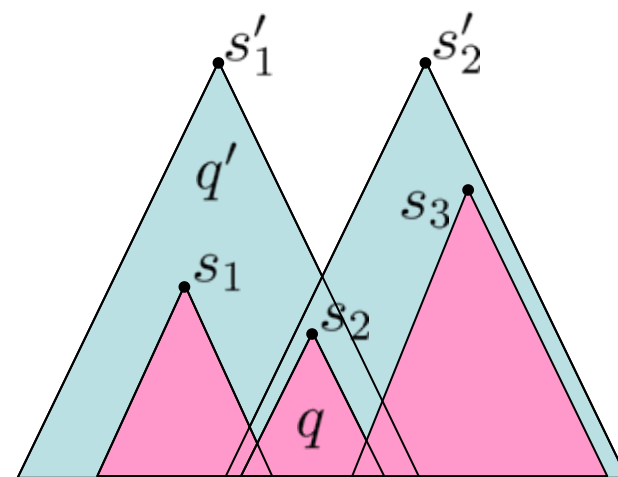
$$1\text{CPre}^A(q) = \lceil \{s \mid \exists \sigma \in \Sigma \cdot \forall o \in \text{Obs} \cdot \exists s' \in q : \text{Post}_\sigma(s) \cap o \subseteq s'\} \rceil$$

# Antichains

$1CPre(\cdot)$  is monotone with respect to the following order:

$$q \sqsubseteq q' \text{ iff } \forall s \in q \cdot \exists s' \in q' : s \subseteq s'$$

$\langle \mathcal{A}, \sqsubseteq \rangle$  is a complete partial order.



Least upper bound and greatest lower bound are defined by:

$$q \sqcup q' = \left[ \{s \mid s \in q \vee s \in q'\} \right]$$

$$q \sqcap q' = \left[ \{s \cap s' \mid s \in q \wedge s' \in q'\} \right]$$

# Symbolic algorithms

Let  $G = \langle V, \hat{v}, \text{Succ}, \Sigma, \text{Obs} \rangle$  be a 2-player game graph of imperfect information, and  $\mathcal{T} \subseteq \text{Obs}$  a set of observations.

Games of imperfect information can be solved by the same fixpoint formulas as for perfect information, namely:

## Theorem

Player 1 has a winning strategy

in  $\langle G, \text{Reach}(\mathcal{T}) \rangle$     iff     $\{\hat{v}\} \sqsubseteq \mu X \cdot \mathcal{T} \sqcup 1\text{CPre}(X)$

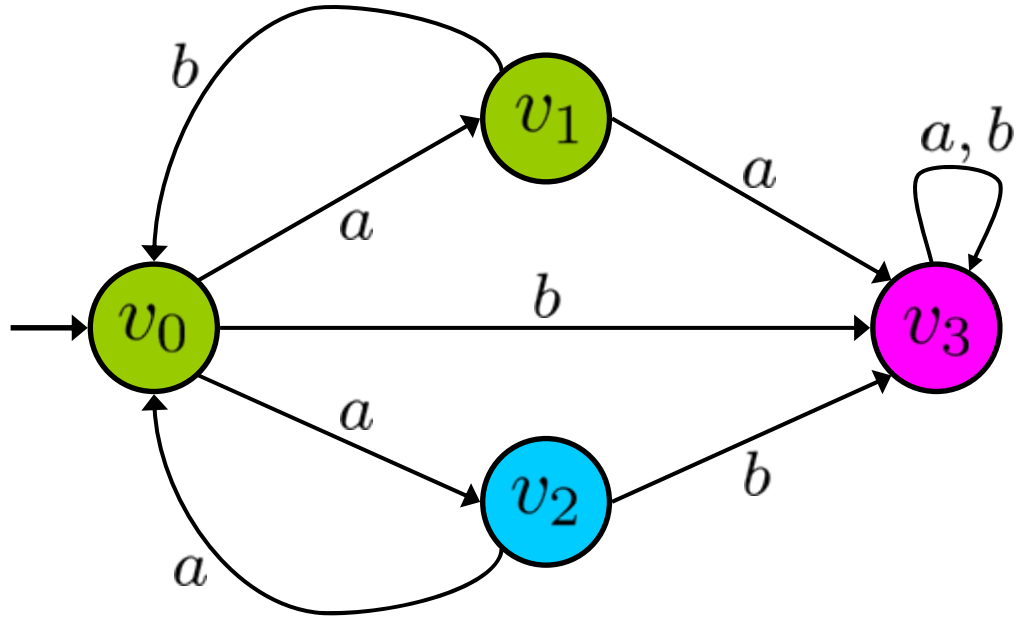
in  $\langle G, \text{Safe}(\mathcal{T}) \rangle$     iff     $\{\hat{v}\} \sqsubseteq \nu X \cdot \mathcal{T} \sqcap 1\text{CPre}(X)$

in  $\langle G, \text{Büchi}(\mathcal{T}) \rangle$     iff     $\{\hat{v}\} \sqsubseteq \nu Y \cdot \mu X \cdot 1\text{CPre}(X) \sqcup (\mathcal{T} \sqcap 1\text{CPre}(Y))$

in  $\langle G, \text{coBüchi}(\mathcal{T}) \rangle$     iff     $\{\hat{v}\} \sqsubseteq \mu Y \cdot \nu X \cdot 1\text{CPre}(X) \sqcap (\mathcal{T} \sqcup 1\text{CPre}(Y))$

# Solving safety games

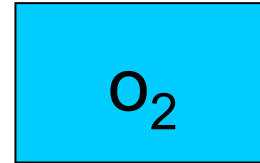
$$\mathcal{T} = \text{Obs} \setminus \{o_3\}$$



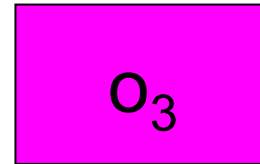
Objective: Safe( $\mathcal{T}$ )



$o_1$



$o_2$

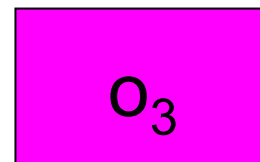
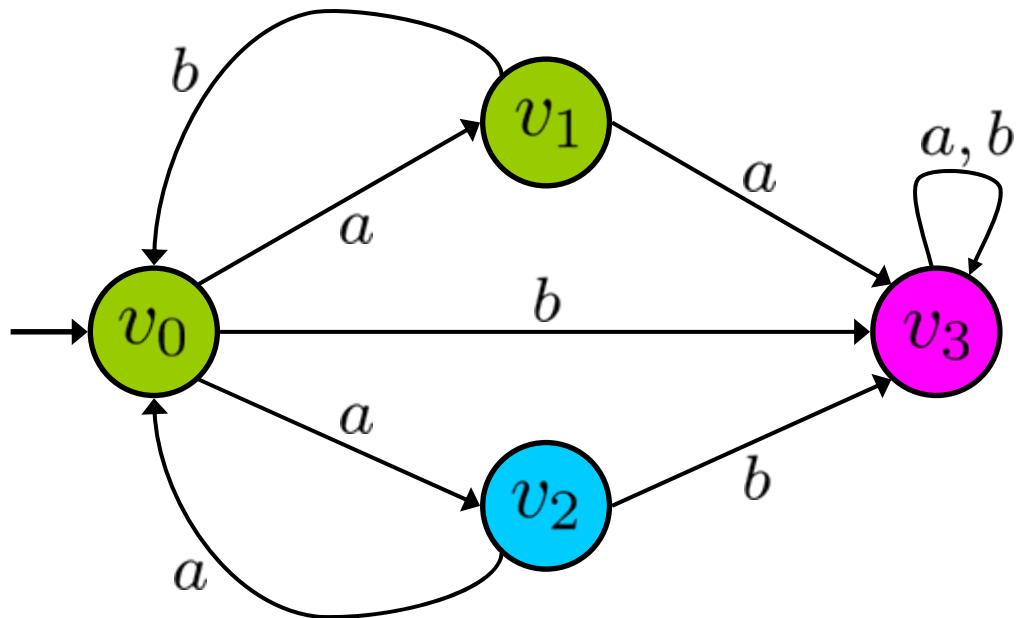


$o_3$

# Solving safety games

$$\mathcal{T} = \text{Obs} \setminus \{o_3\}$$

Objective: Safe( $\mathcal{T}$ )



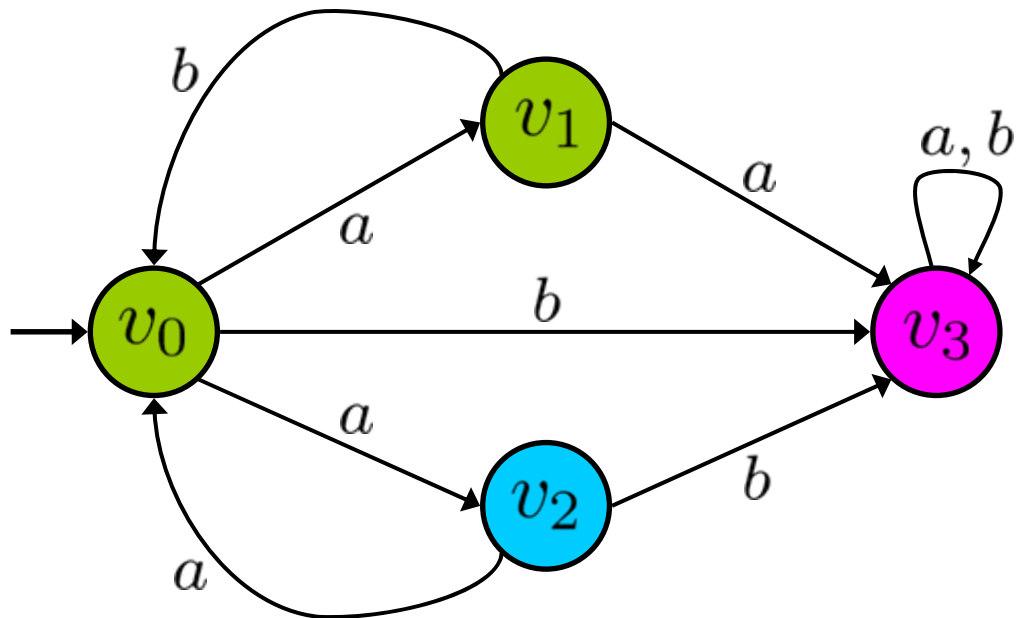
Has Player 1 an observation-based strategy to avoid  $v_3$  ?

We compute the fixpoint  $\nu X \cdot \mathcal{T} \sqcap 1CPre(X)$

# Solving safety games

$$\mathcal{T} = \text{Obs} \setminus \{o_3\}$$

Objective: Safe( $\mathcal{T}$ )

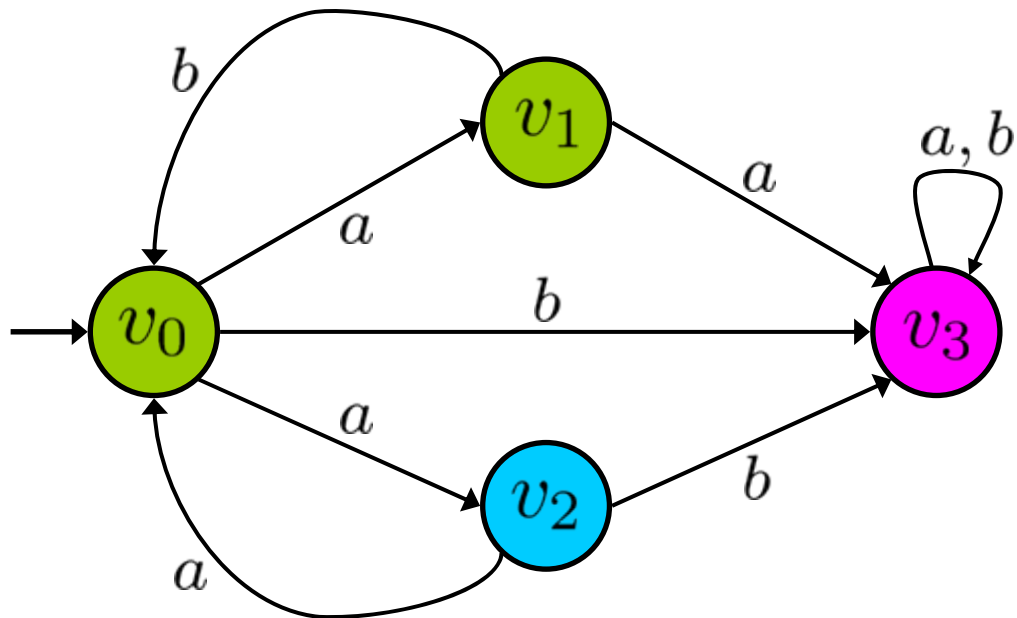


$$X_0 = \mathcal{T} = \{\{v_0, v_1\}, \{v_2\}\}$$

# Solving safety games

$$\mathcal{T} = \text{Obs} \setminus \{o_3\}$$

Objective: Safe( $\mathcal{T}$ )



$$X_0 = \{\{v_0, v_1\}, \{v_2\}\}$$

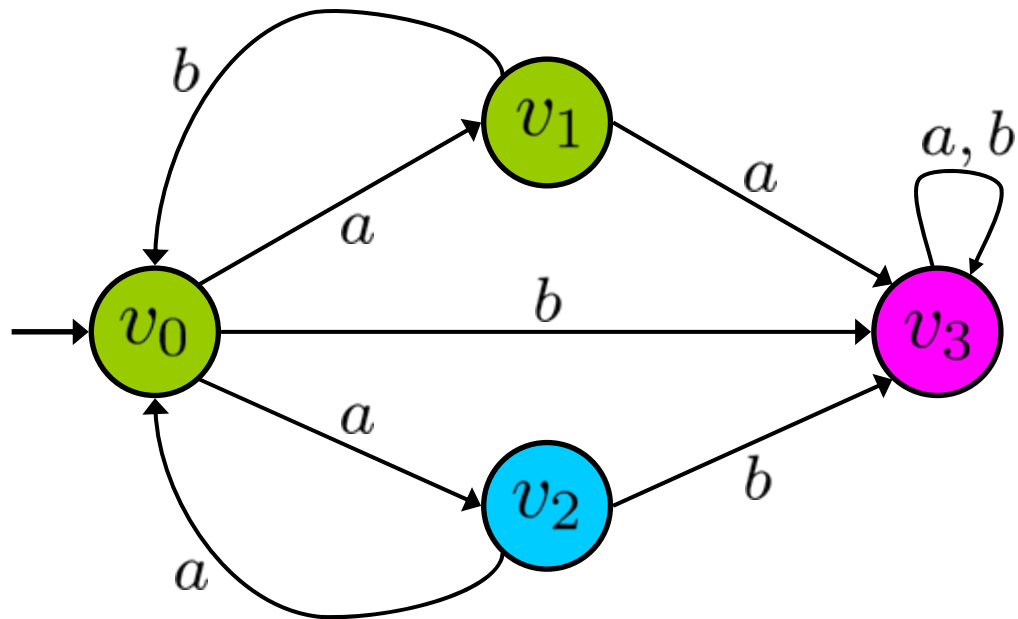
$$X_1 = \text{CPre}(X_0) \sqcap \mathcal{T} = \{\{v_1\}_b, \{v_0, v_2\}_a\} \sqcap \mathcal{T}$$



# Solving safety games

$$\mathcal{T} = \text{Obs} \setminus \{o_3\}$$

Objective: Safe( $\mathcal{T}$ )

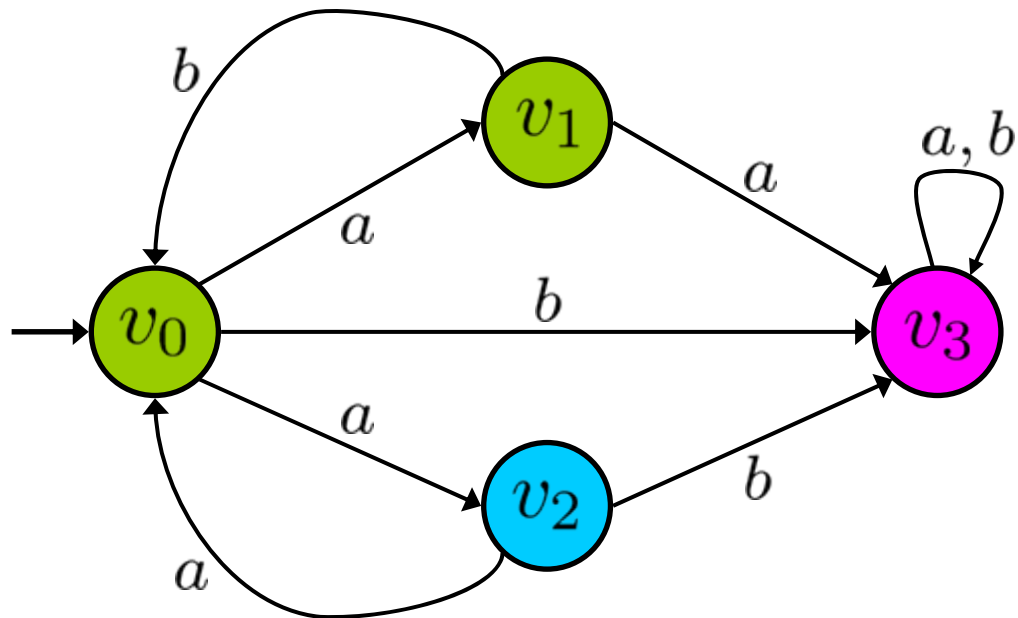


$$X_0 = \{\{v_0, v_1\}, \{v_2\}\}$$

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# Solving safety games

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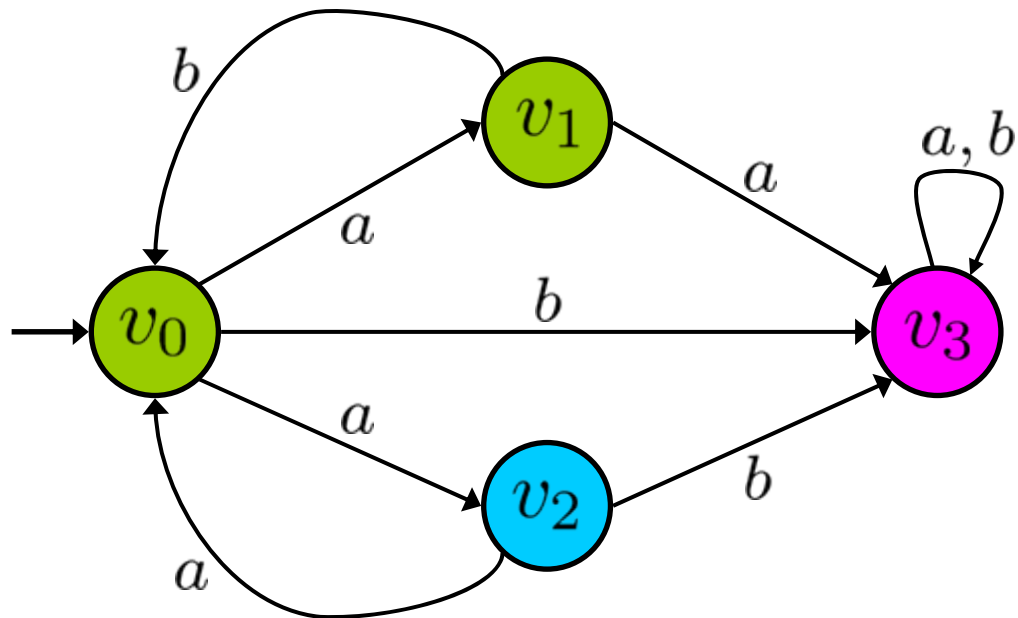
$$X_0 = \{\{v_0, v_1\}, \{v_2\}\}$$

$$X_1 = \{\{v_0\}, \{v_1\}, \{v_2\}\}$$

# Solving safety games

$$\mathcal{T} = \text{Obs} \setminus \{o_3\}$$

Objective: Safe( $\mathcal{T}$ )



$$X_0 = \{\{v_0, v_1\}, \{v_2\}\}$$

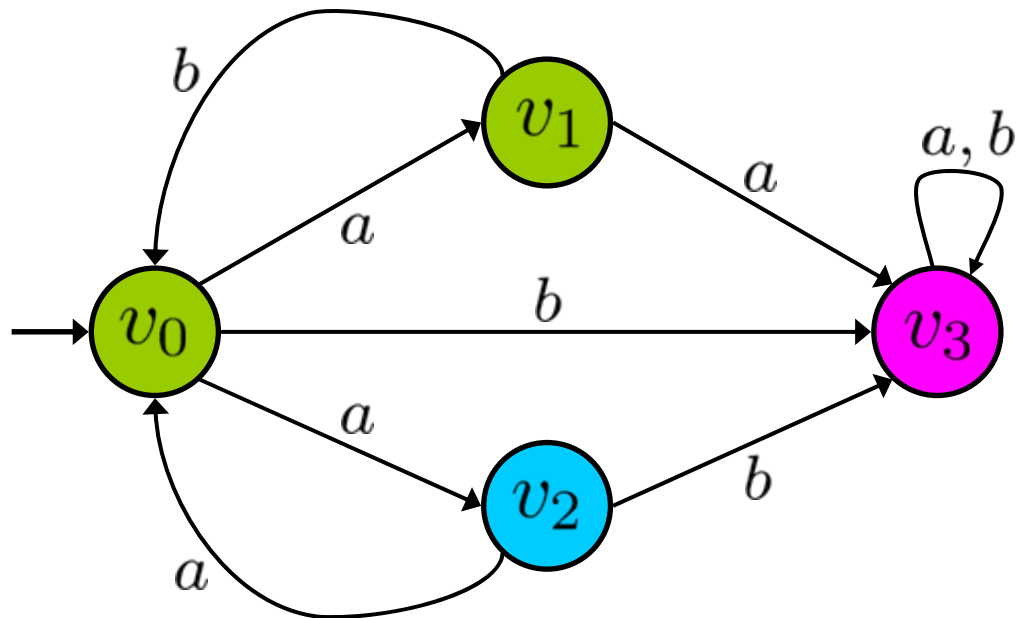
$$X_1 = \{\{v_0\}, \{v_1\}, \{v_2\}\}$$

$$X_2 = \text{CPre}(X_1) \sqcap \mathcal{T} = \{\{v_0\}_a, \{v_1\}_b, \{v_2\}_a\} \sqcap \mathcal{T}$$

# Solving safety games

$$\mathcal{T} = \text{Obs} \setminus \{o_3\}$$

Objective: Safe( $\mathcal{T}$ )



$$X_0 = \{\{v_0, v_1\}, \{v_2\}\}$$

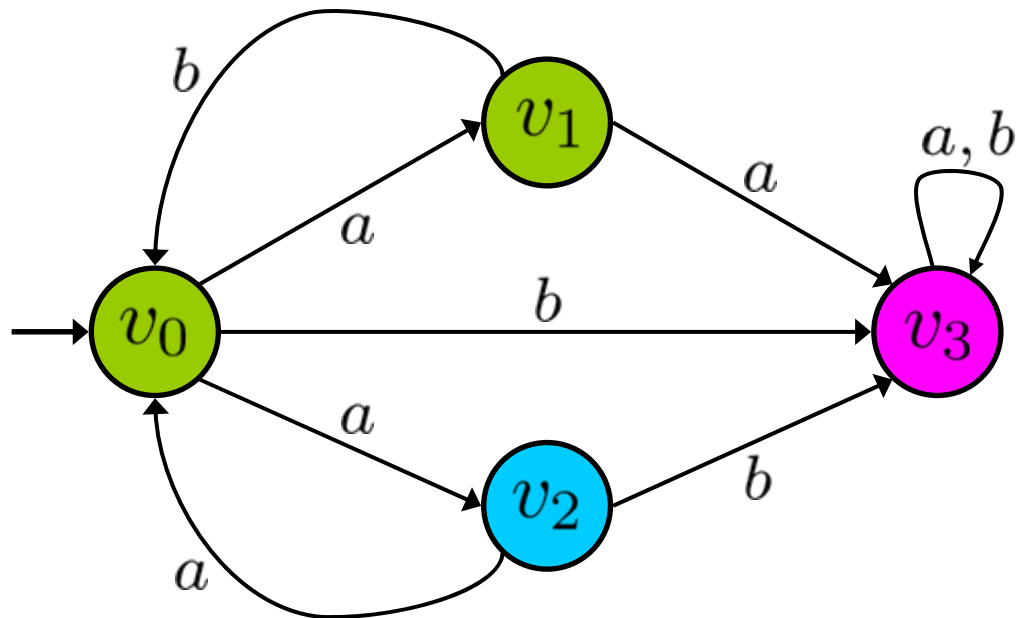
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# Solving safety games

$$\mathcal{T} = \text{Obs} \setminus \{o_3\}$$

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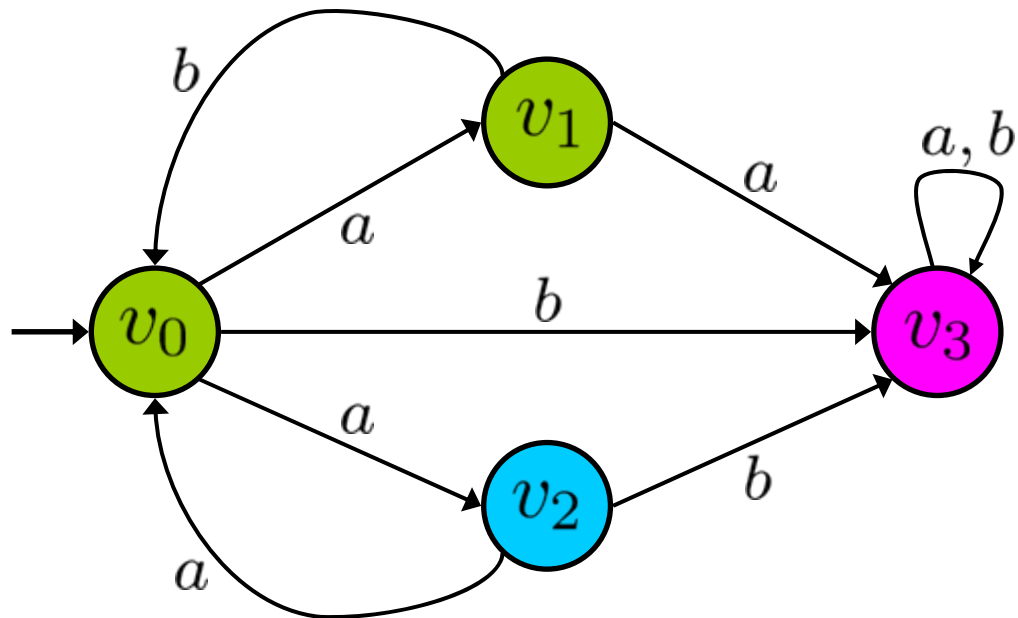
$$X_0 = \{\{v_0, v_1\}, \{v_2\}\}$$

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$$X_2 = \text{CPre}(X_1) \sqcap \mathcal{T} = \{\{v_0\}_a, \{v_1\}_b, \{v_2\}_a\} \sqcap \mathcal{T}$$

# Solving safety games

$$\mathcal{T} = \text{Obs} \setminus \{o_3\}$$



Objective: Safe( $\mathcal{T}$ )

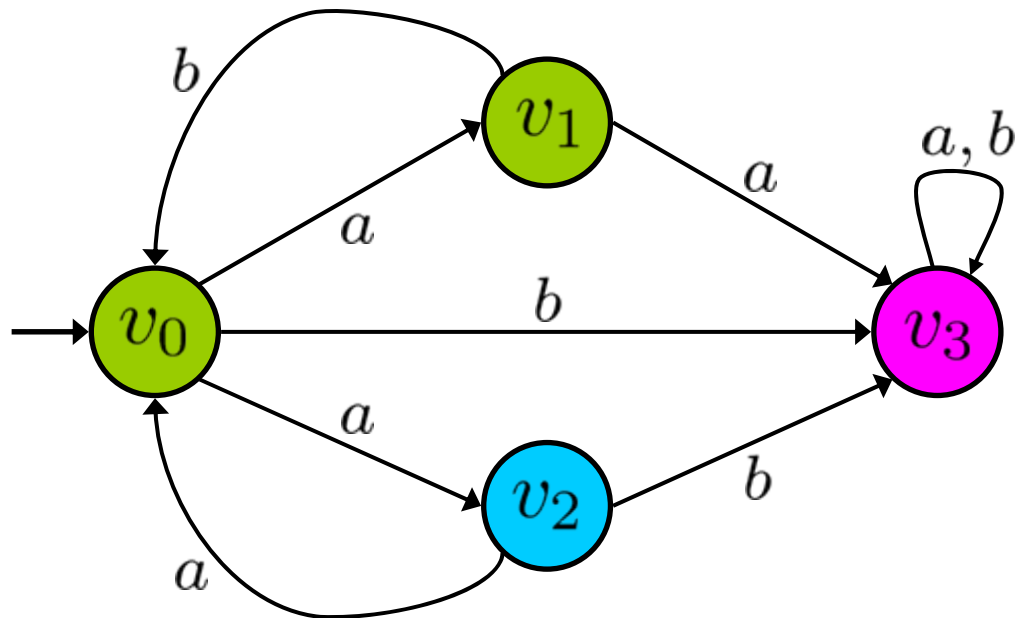
$$X_0 = \{\{v_0, v_1\}, \{v_2\}\}$$

$$X_1 = \{\{v_0\}, \{v_1\}, \{v_2\}\}$$

$$X_2 = \{\{v_0\}, \{v_1\}, \{v_2\}\}$$

# Solving safety games

$$\mathcal{T} = \text{Obs} \setminus \{o_3\}$$



Objective: Safe( $\mathcal{T}$ )

$$X_0 = \{\{v_0, v_1\}, \{v_2\}\}$$

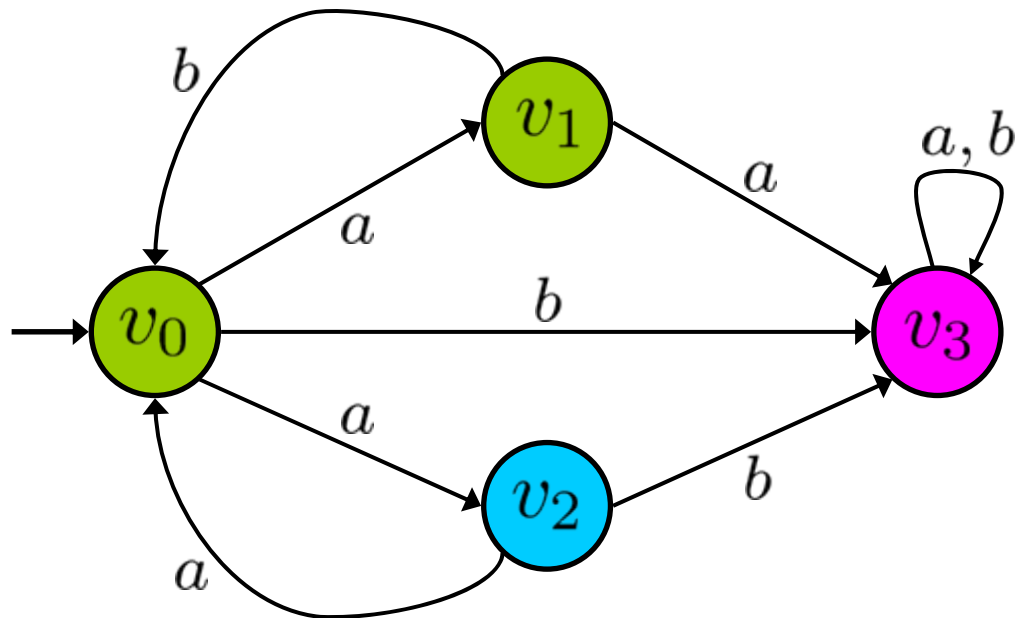
$$X_1 = \{\{v_0\}, \{v_1\}, \{v_2\}\}$$

$$X_2 = \{\{v_0\}, \{v_1\}, \{v_2\}\}$$

Fixed point

# Solving safety games

$$\mathcal{T} = \text{Obs} \setminus \{o_3\}$$



Objective: Safe( $\mathcal{T}$ )

$$X_0 = \{\{v_0, v_1\}, \{v_2\}\}$$

$$X_1 = \{\{v_0\}, \{v_1\}, \{v_2\}\}$$

$$X_2 = \{\{v_0\}, \{v_1\}, \{v_2\}\}$$

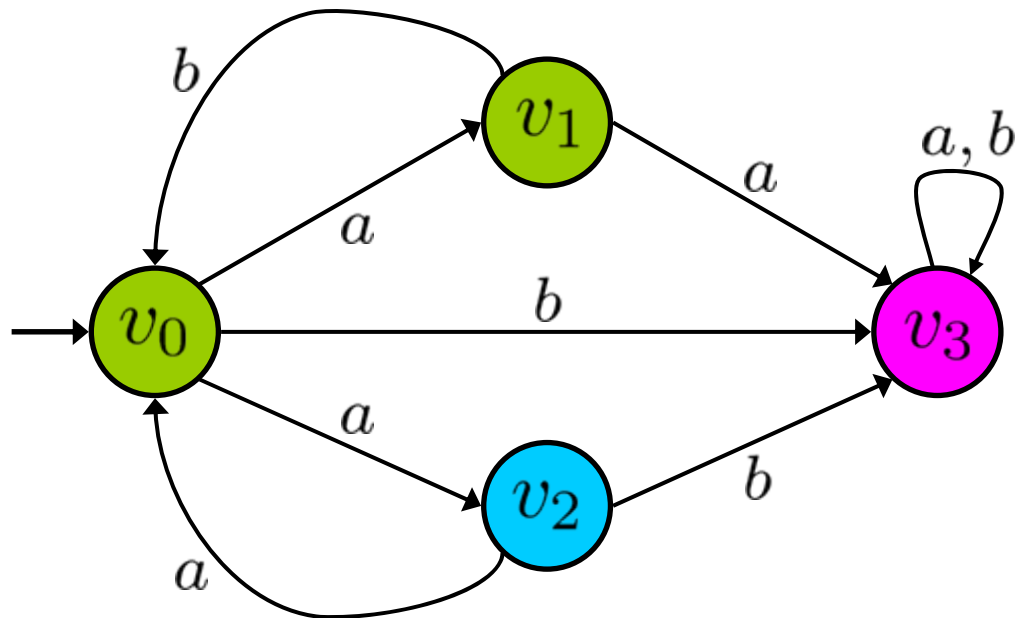
Fixed point

Player 1 is winning since  $\{v_0\} \in X_2$



# Solving safety games

$$\mathcal{T} = \text{Obs} \setminus \{o_3\}$$



Objective: Safe( $\mathcal{T}$ )

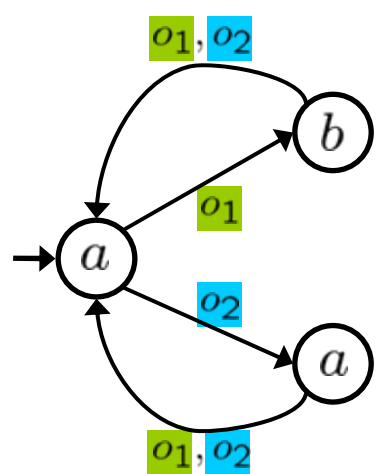
$$X_0 = \{\{v_0, v_1\}, \{v_2\}\}$$

$$X_1 = \{\{v_0\}, \{v_1\}, \{v_2\}\}$$

$$X_2 = \{\{v_0\}, \{v_1\}, \{v_2\}\}$$

Fixed point

A winning strategy:



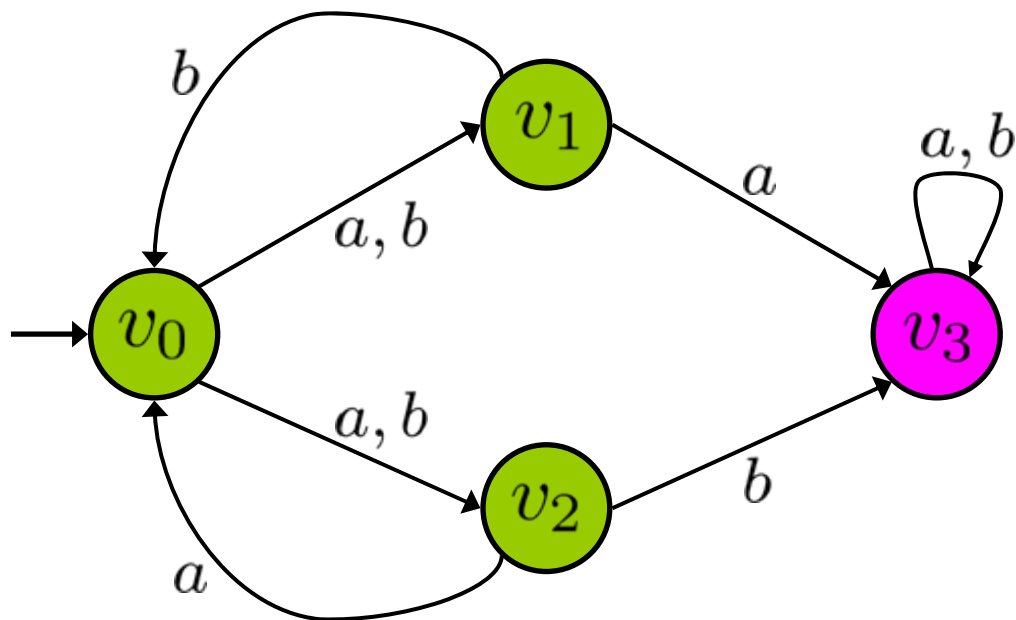
# Remarks

1. **Finite memory** may be necessary to win safety and reachability games of imperfect information, and therefore also for Büchi, coBüchi, and parity objectives.

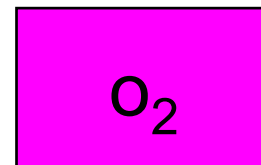
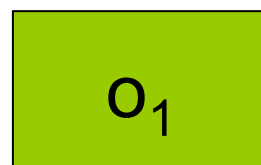
# Remarks

1. **Finite memory** may be necessary to win safety and reachability games of imperfect information, and therefore also for Büchi, coBüchi, and parity objectives.
2. Games of imperfect information are **not determined**.

# Non determinacy



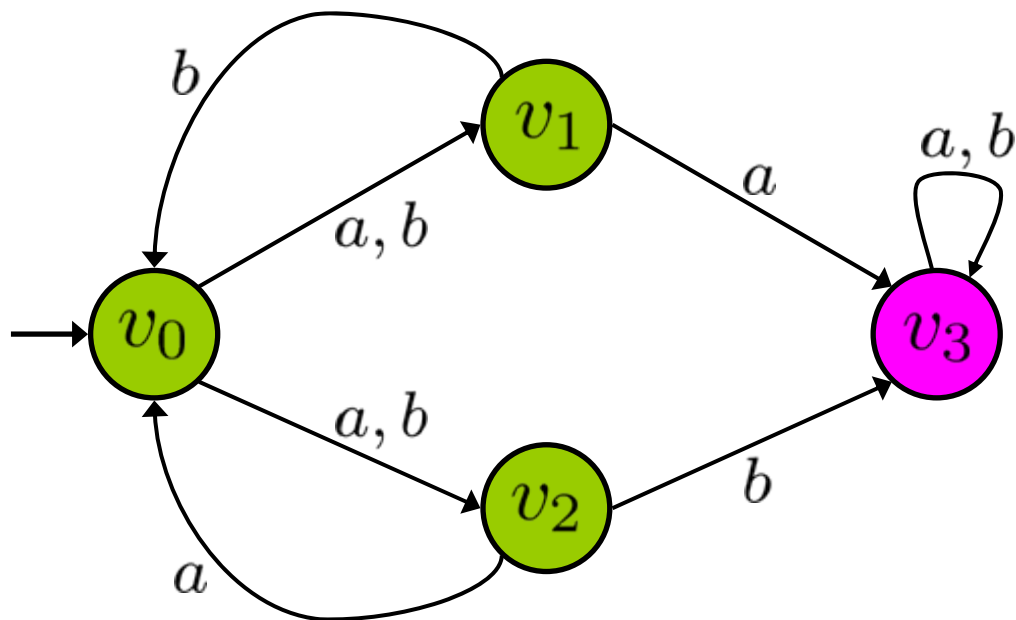
Objective:  $\text{Reach}(\{v_3\})$



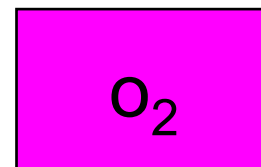
Any fixed strategy  $\lambda_1$  of Player 1 can be spoiled by a strategy  $\lambda_2$  of Player 2 as follows:

In  $v_0$ :  $\lambda_2$  chooses  $v_1$  if in the next step  $\lambda_1$  plays  $b$ , and  $\lambda_2$  chooses  $v_2$  if in the next step  $\lambda_1$  plays  $a$ .

# Non determinacy



Objective:  $\text{Reach}(\{v_3\})$



Player 1 cannot enforce  $\text{Reach}(\{v_3\})$ .

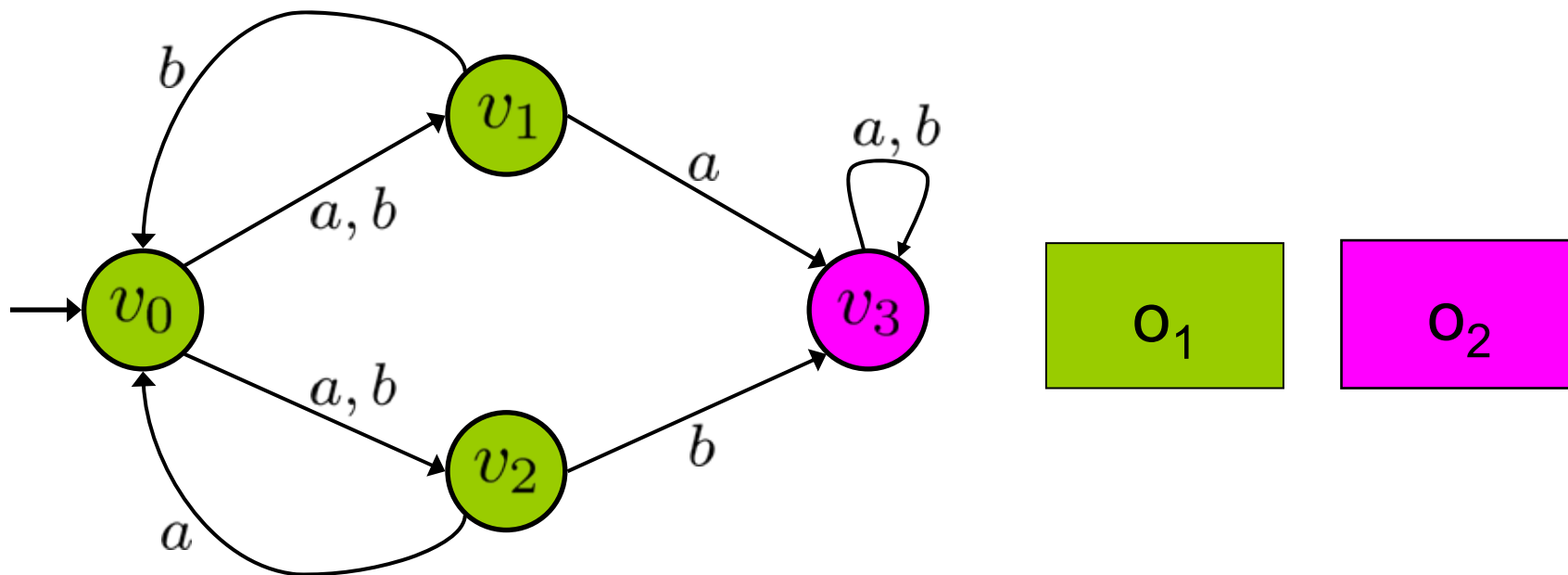
Similarly, Player 2 cannot enforce  $\text{Safe}(\{v_0, v_1, v_2\})$ .

because when a strategy  $\lambda_2$  of Player 2 is fixed, either  $\lambda_1(o_1o_1) = a$  or  $\lambda_1'(o_1o_1) = b$  is a spoiling strategy for Player 1.

# Remarks

1. **Finite memory** may be necessary to win safety and reachability games of imperfect information, and therefore also for Büchi, coBüchi, and parity objectives.
2. Games of imperfect information are **not determined**.
3. **Randomized** strategies are more powerful, already for reachability objectives.

# Randomization



The following strategy of Player 1 wins with probability 1:

At every step, play  $a$  and  $b$  uniformly at random.

After each visit to  $\{v_1, v_2\}$ , no matter the strategy of Player 2, Player 1 has probability  $\frac{1}{2}$  to win (reach  $v_3$ ).

# Summary

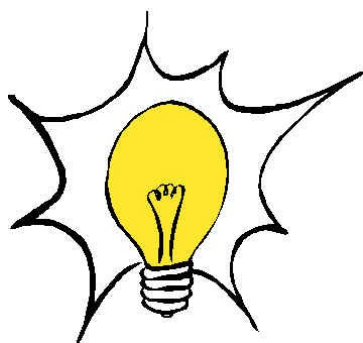


# Conclusion

- Games for controller synthesis: symbolic algorithms using fixpoint formulas.
- Imperfect information is more realistic, gives more robust controllers; but exponentially harder to solve.
- Antichains: exploit the structure of the subset construction.

# Conclusion

- Games for controller synthesis: symbolic algorithms using fixpoint formulas.
- Imperfect information is more realistic, gives more robust controllers; but exponentially harder to solve.
- Antichains: exploit the structure of the subset construction.



It is sufficient to keep only the **maximal elements**.

# Conclusion

- The antichain principle has applications in other problems where subset constructions are used:
  - Finite automata: language inclusion, universality, etc. [\[De Wulf,D,Henzinger,Raskin 06\]](#)
  - Alternating Büchi automata: emptiness and language inclusion. [\[D,Raskin 07\]](#)
  - LTL: satisfiability and model-checking. [\[De Wulf,D,Maquet,Raskin 08\]](#)

# Alaska

Antichains for Logic, Automata and  
Symbolic Kripke Structure Analysis

<http://www.antichains.be>

# Acknowledgments

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# Thank you !



# Questions ?



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