

Weighted Rewriting: Semiring Semantics for Abstract Reduction Systems

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RWTH Aachen University
16.07.2025

$$\psi = Ra \wedge (Pab \vee Pbb)$$

R		
a		true
b		false
P		
a	a	true
b	a	false
a	b	true
b	b	true

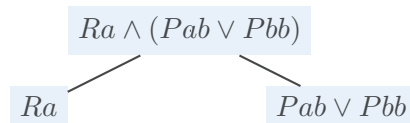
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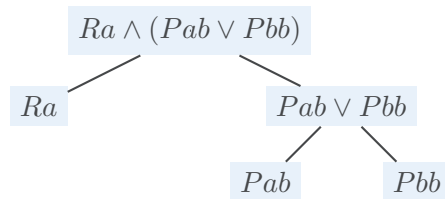
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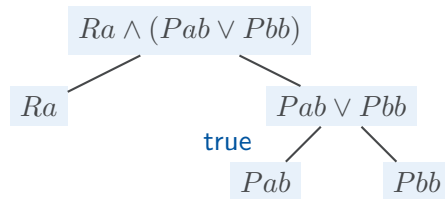
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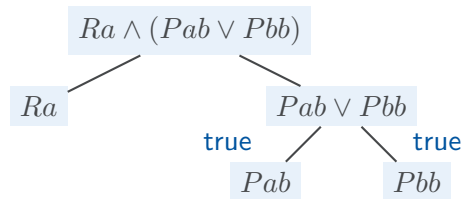
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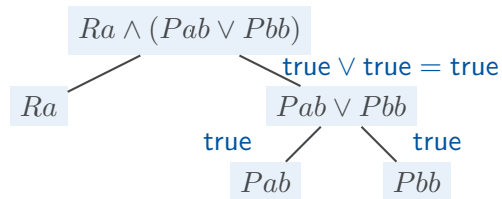
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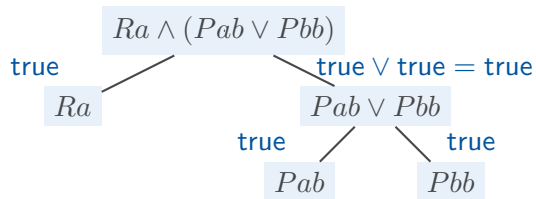
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Provenance Analysis in Databases

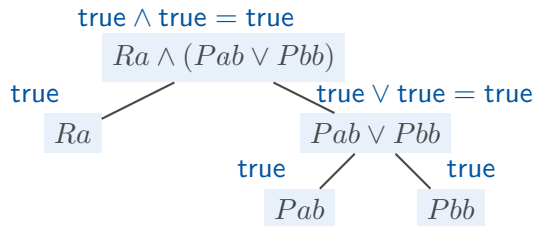
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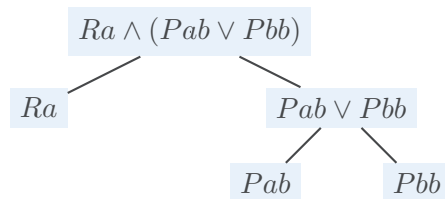
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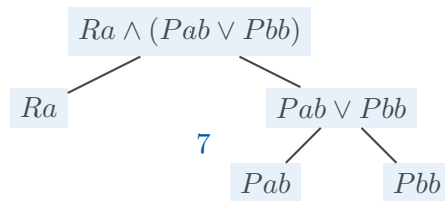
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R			cost
a		true	2
b		false	∞
P			cost
a	a	true	2
b	a	false	∞
a	b	true	7
b	b	true	10



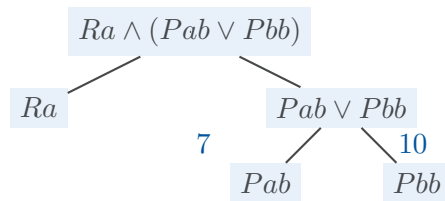
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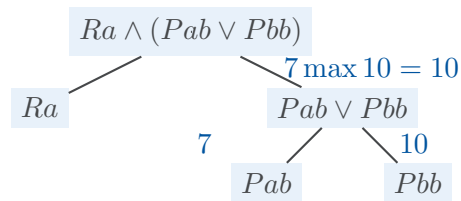
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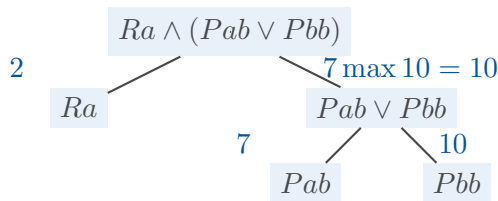
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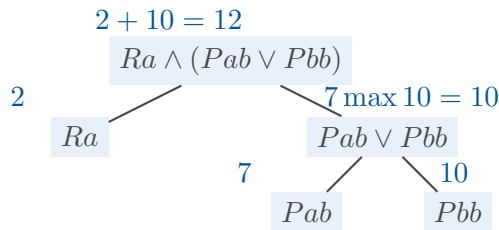
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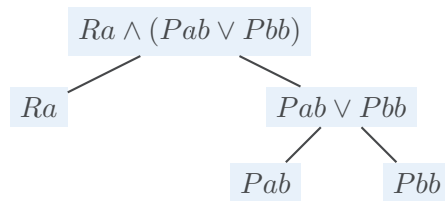
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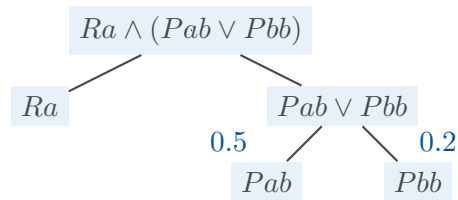
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R			cost	confidence
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b		false	∞	0
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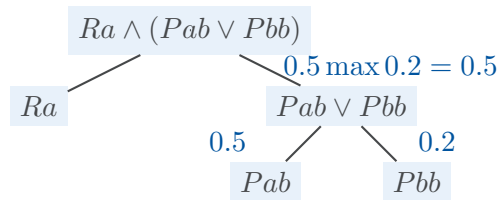
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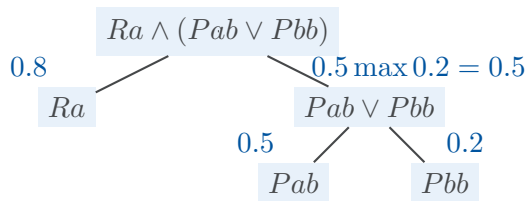
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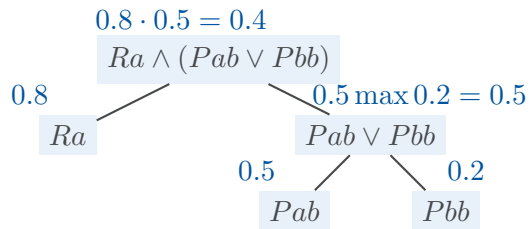
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Abstract Reduction System

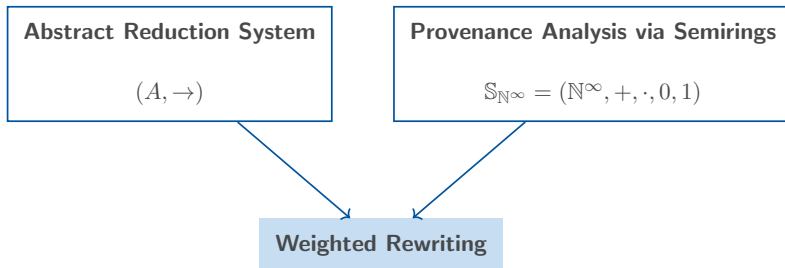
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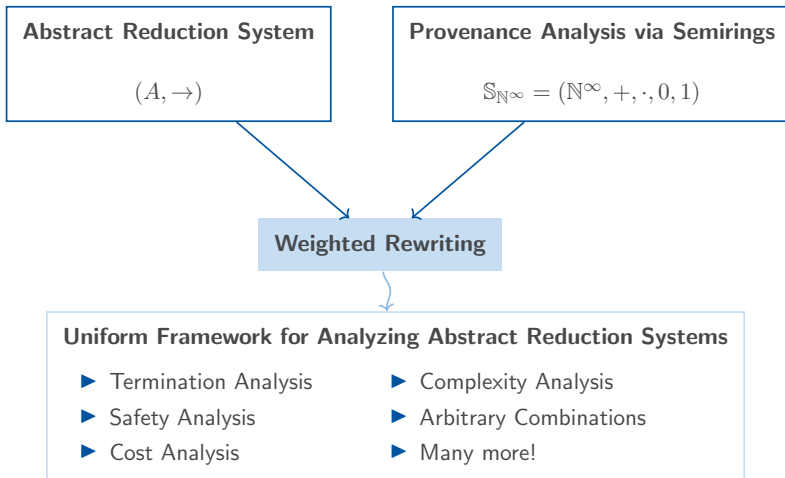
Abstract Reduction System

$$(A, \rightarrow)$$

Provenance Analysis via Semirings

$$\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{N}^\infty} = (\mathbb{N}^\infty, +, \cdot, 0, 1)$$





Semiring

Semiring $\mathbb{S} = (S, \oplus, \odot, \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{1})$ with

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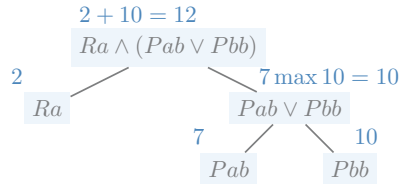
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For example: $\mathbb{N} \subseteq \mathbb{N}^{\pm\infty}$ and $\sup \mathbb{N} = \top = \infty \in \mathbb{N}^{\pm\infty}$

One Framework Fits All

Weighted Abstract Reduction System $(A, \rightarrow, \mathbb{S}, f_{\text{NF}}, \text{Aggr})$ with

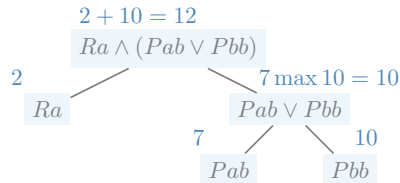
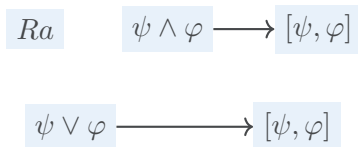


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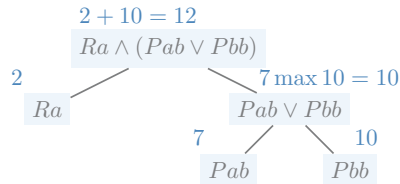
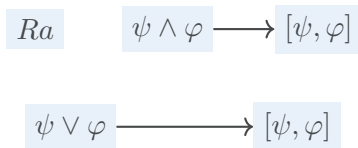


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Weighted Abstract Reduction System $(A, \rightarrow, \mathbb{S}, f_{\text{NF}}, \text{Aggr})$ with

- ▶ sequence abstract reduction system (A, \rightarrow) ,
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Costs in database: Choose $\mathbb{S}_{\text{arc}} = (\mathbb{N}^{\pm\infty}, \max, +, -\infty, 0)$ and

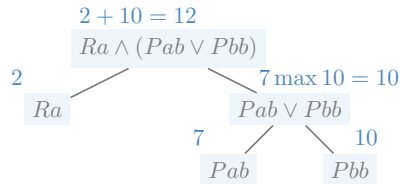
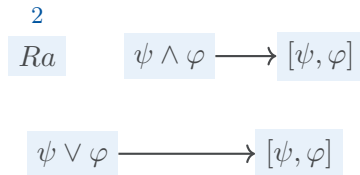


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Weighted Abstract Reduction System $(A, \rightarrow, \mathbb{S}, f_{\text{NF}}, \text{Aggr})$ with

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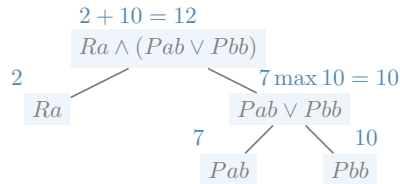
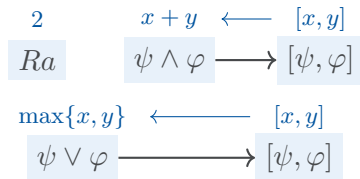


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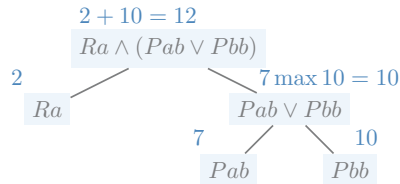
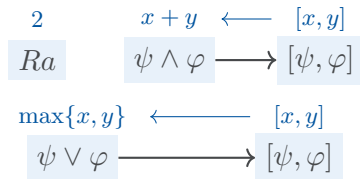


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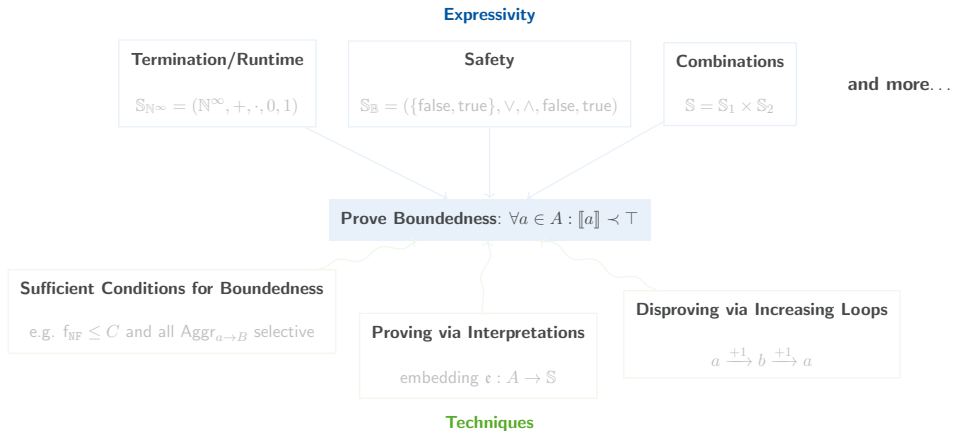
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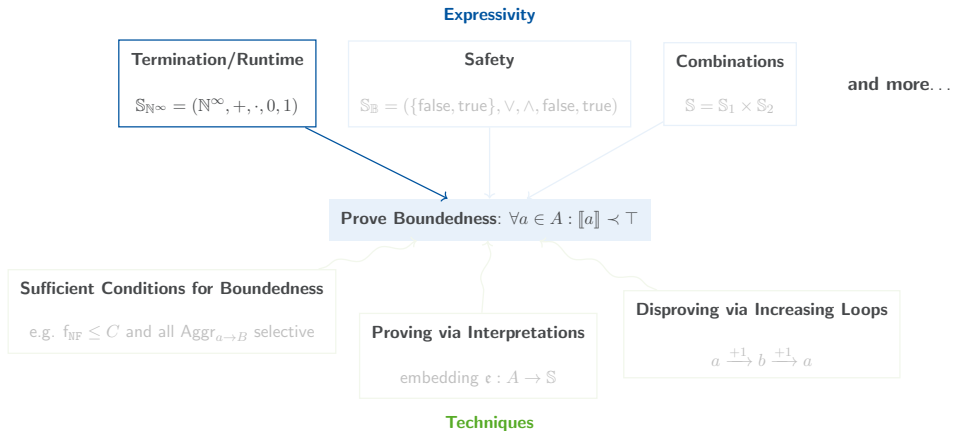
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The *weight* of $a \in A$ is $\llbracket a \rrbracket$ with e.g. $\llbracket Ra \wedge (Pab \vee Pbb) \rrbracket = 12$.





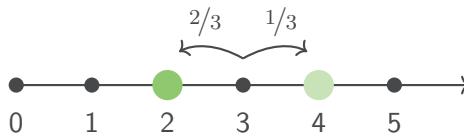
Complexity of the Random Walk



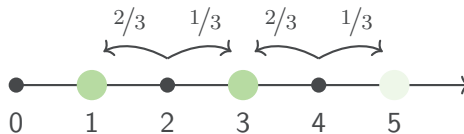
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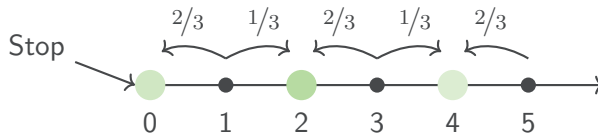
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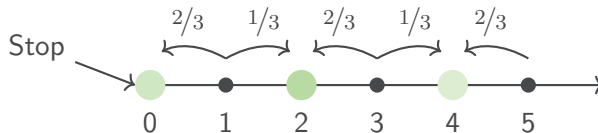
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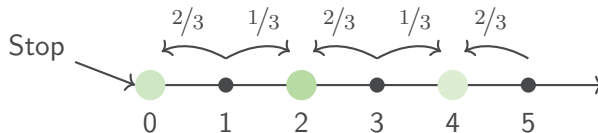
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Sequence abstract reduction system $(\mathbb{N}, \rightarrow)$ with grammar

$$n + 1 \rightarrow [n, n + 2]$$

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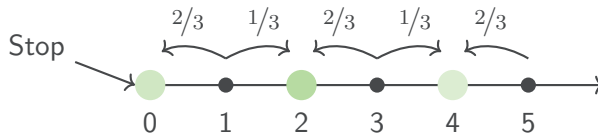


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and normal form $NF_{\rightarrow} = \{0\}$.

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What is the probability to reach 0 in 3 steps? What about finitely many steps?

What is the expected runtime?

Complexity of the Random Walk

Probability to reach 0 in 3 steps?

Complexity of the Random Walk

Probability to reach 0 in 3 steps? Choose $\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{R}^\infty} = (\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^\infty, +, \cdot, 0, 1)$ and

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$$\begin{array}{cc} 1 & \\ 0 & n+1 \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 0 \end{array} \quad n+1 \longrightarrow [n, n+2]$$

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$$\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 0 \end{array} \quad n+1 \longrightarrow \begin{array}{c} [x, y] \\ [n, n+2] \end{array}$$

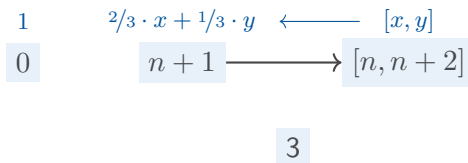
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$$\begin{array}{ccc} 1 & \frac{2}{3} \cdot x + \frac{1}{3} \cdot y & \longleftarrow [x, y] \\ 0 & n + 1 & \longrightarrow [n, n + 2] \end{array}$$

Complexity of the Random Walk

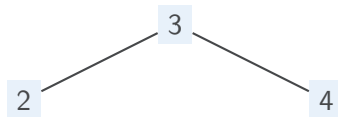
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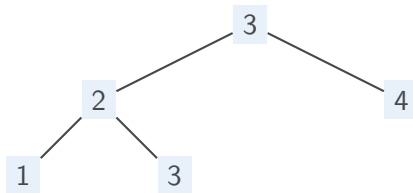
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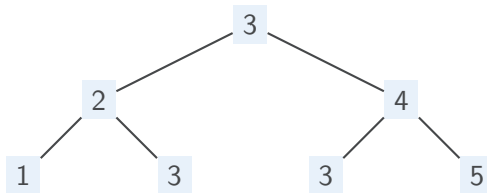
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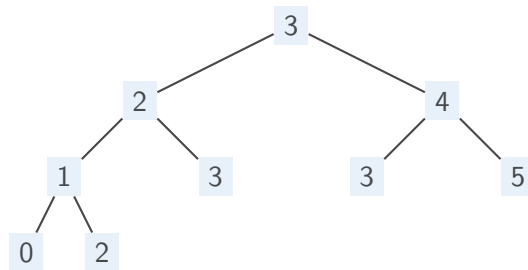
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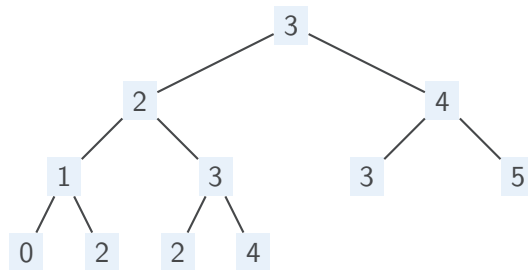
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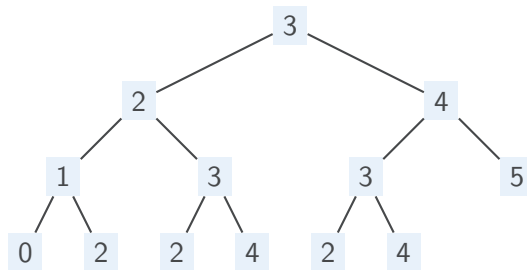
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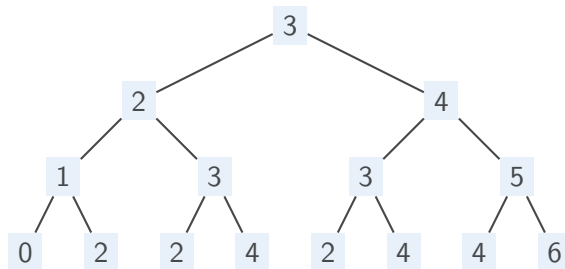
$$\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 0 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \frac{2}{3} \cdot x + \frac{1}{3} \cdot y \\ n + 1 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \longleftarrow [x, y] \\ \longrightarrow [n, n + 2] \end{array}$$



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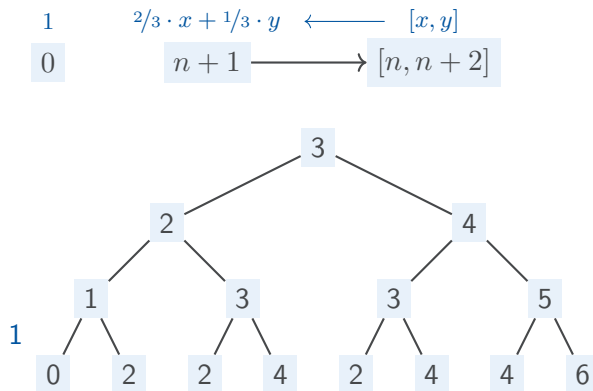
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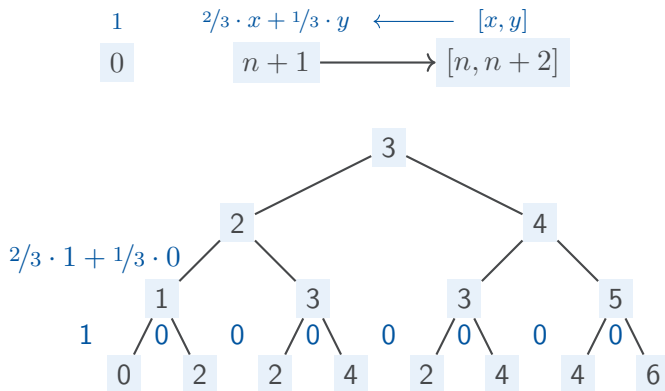
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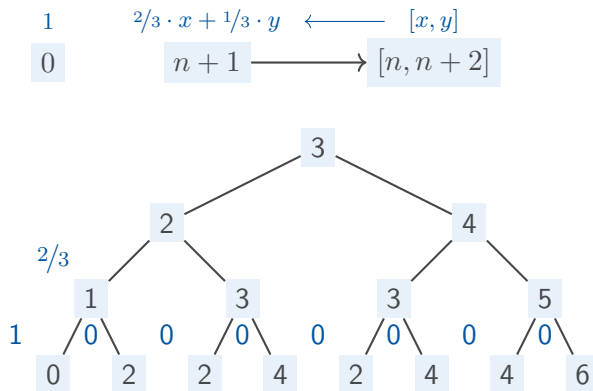
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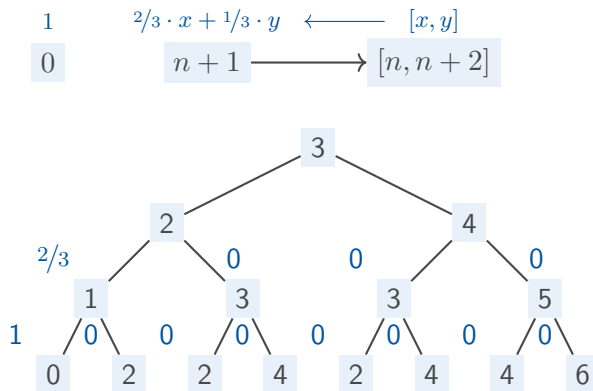
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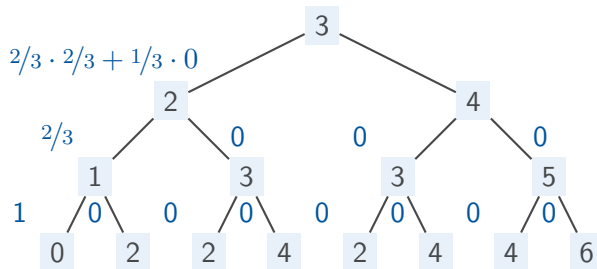
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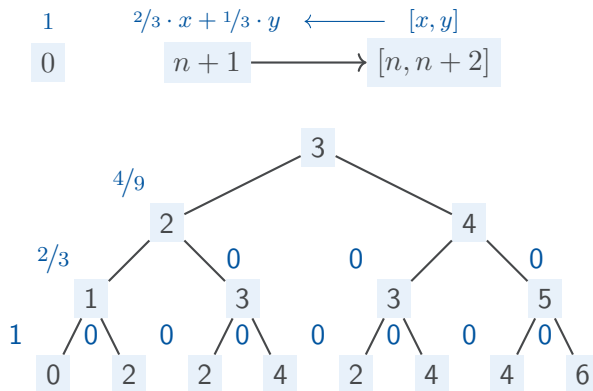
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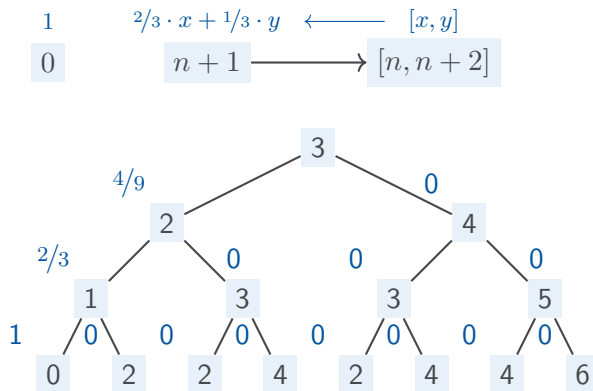
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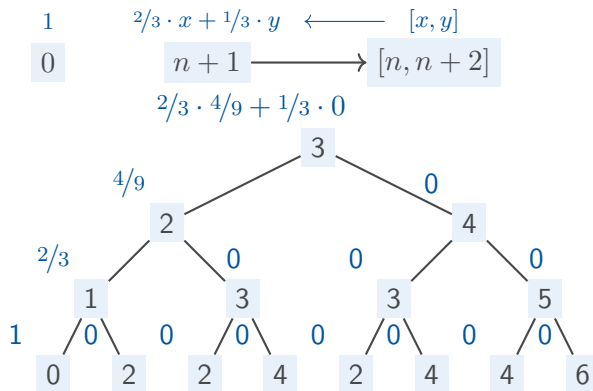
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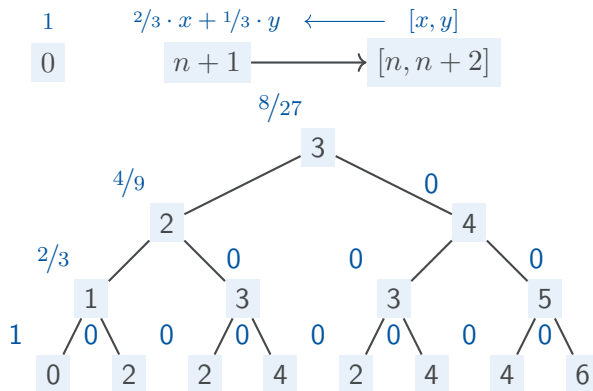
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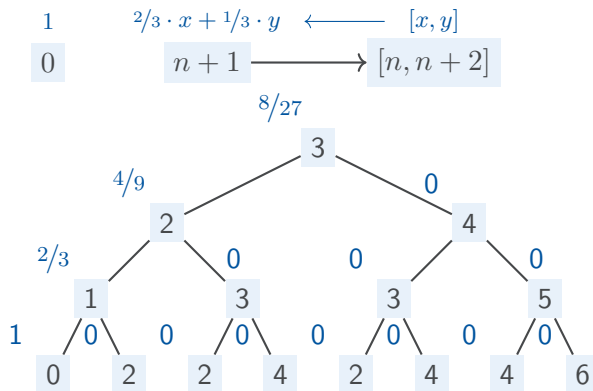
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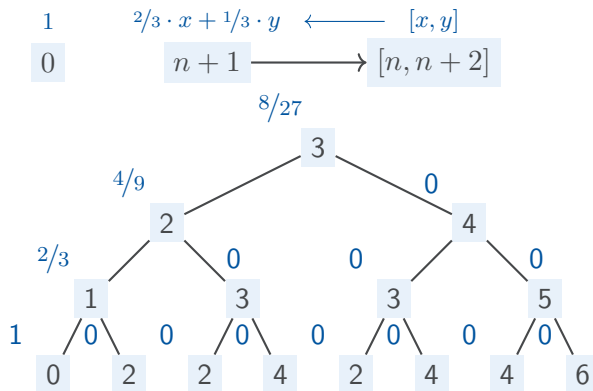
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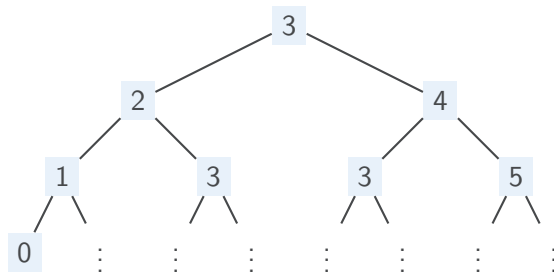
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Probability to reach 0 = $\sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \{ \text{Probability to reach 0 in (at most) } n \text{ steps} \}$ (Forward Unrolling)

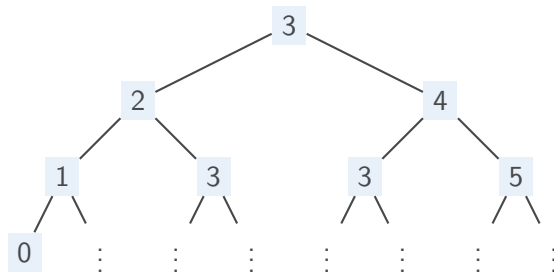
Complexity of the Random Walk

What is the expected runtime?



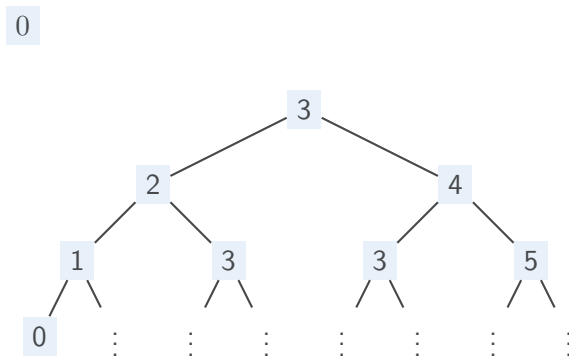
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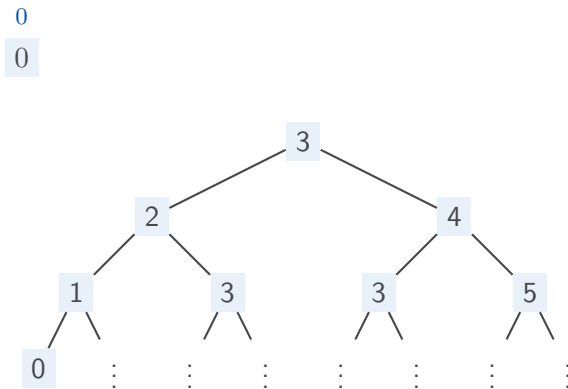
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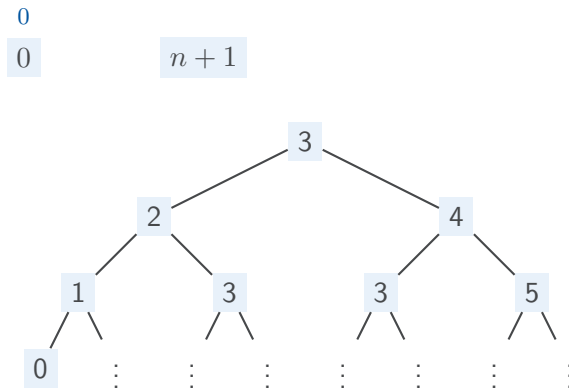
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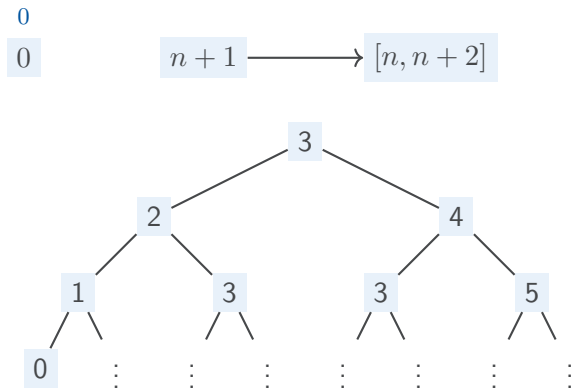
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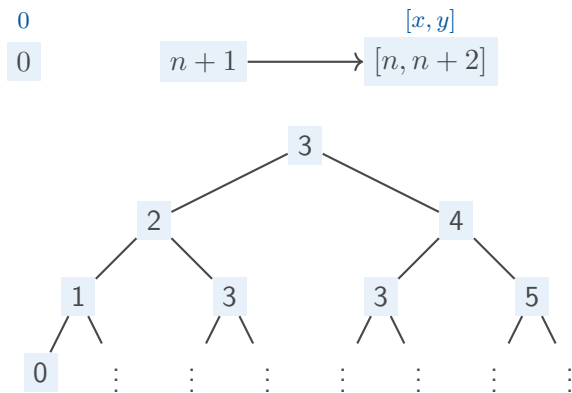
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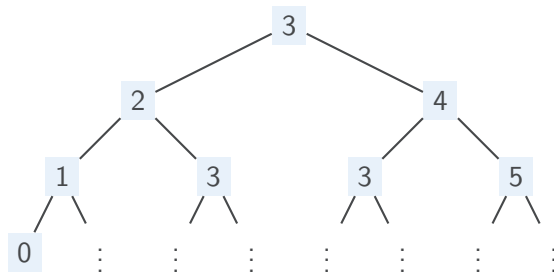
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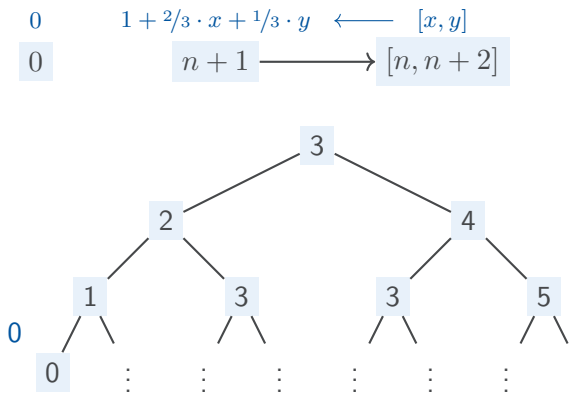
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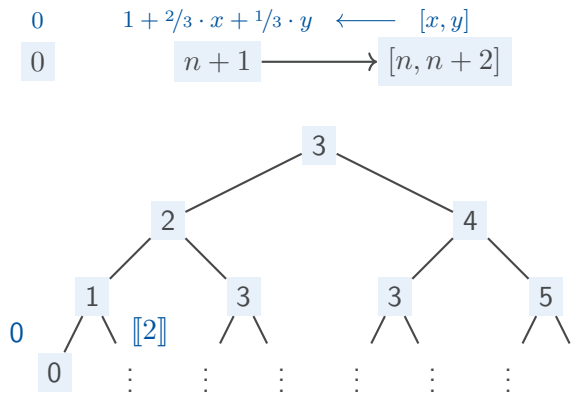
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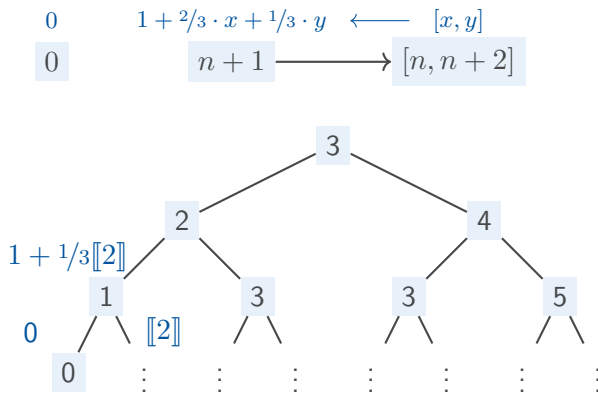
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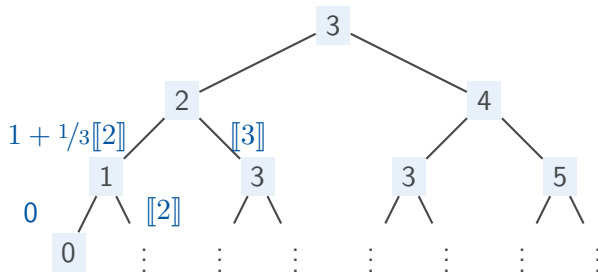
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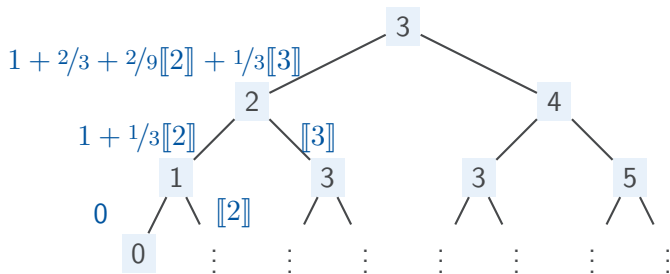
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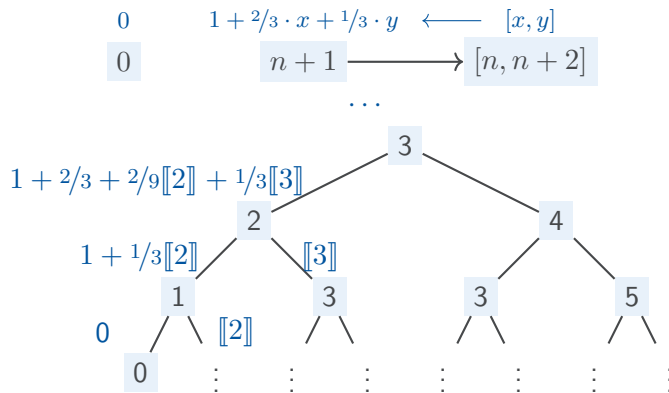
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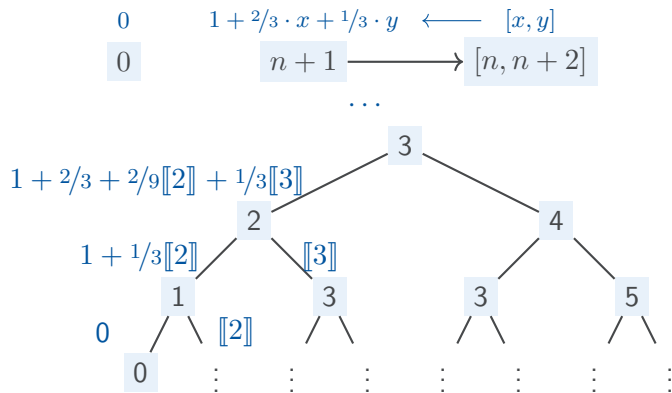
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Is $\llbracket n \rrbracket \prec \infty$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$?

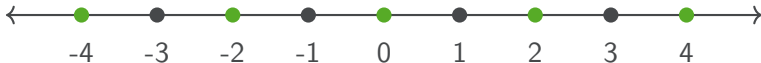
Termination and Runtime Complexity

Abstract reduction system $(\mathbb{Z}, \rightarrow)$ with

z is even and $z \leq -2$: $z \rightarrow z + 2$

z is even and $z \geq 2$: $z \rightarrow z - 2$

z is odd : $z \rightarrow -z$



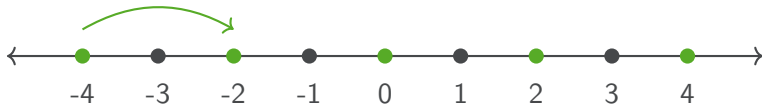
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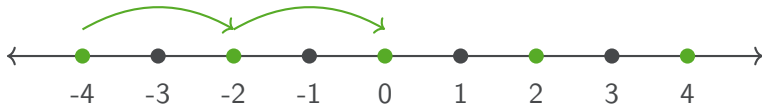
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and normal form $NF_{\rightarrow} = \{0\}$



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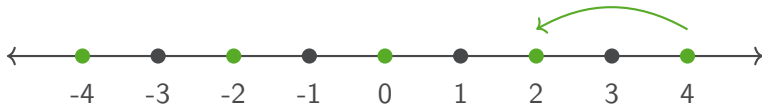
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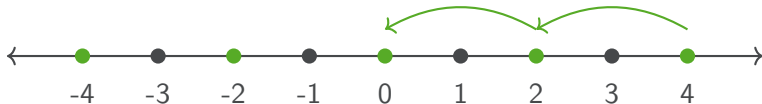
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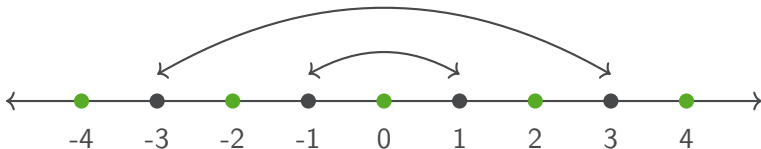
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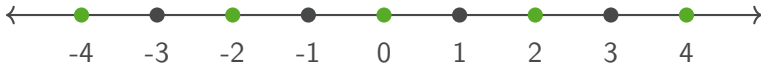
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Do all reductions terminate?

Termination and Runtime Complexity

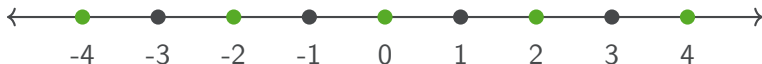
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Do all reductions terminate? Choose $\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{N}^\infty} = (\mathbb{N}, +, \cdot, 0, 1)$ and count steps.

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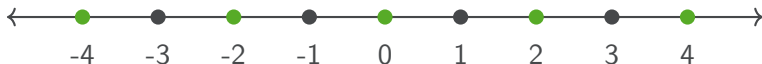
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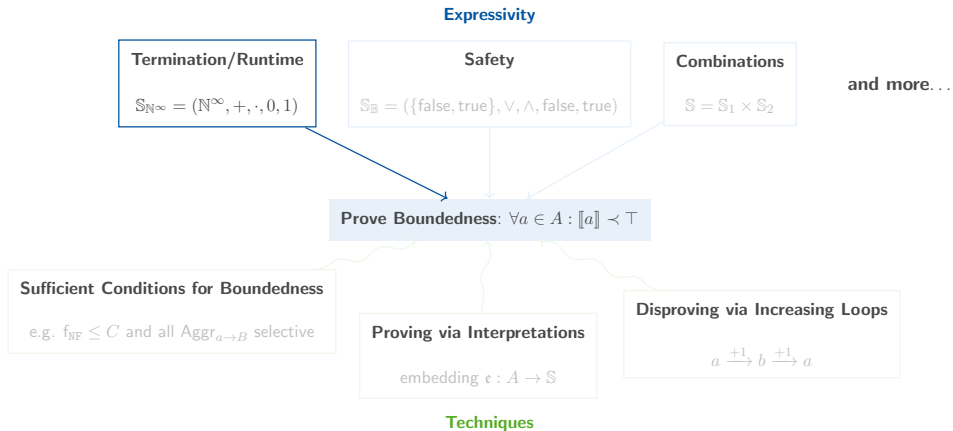
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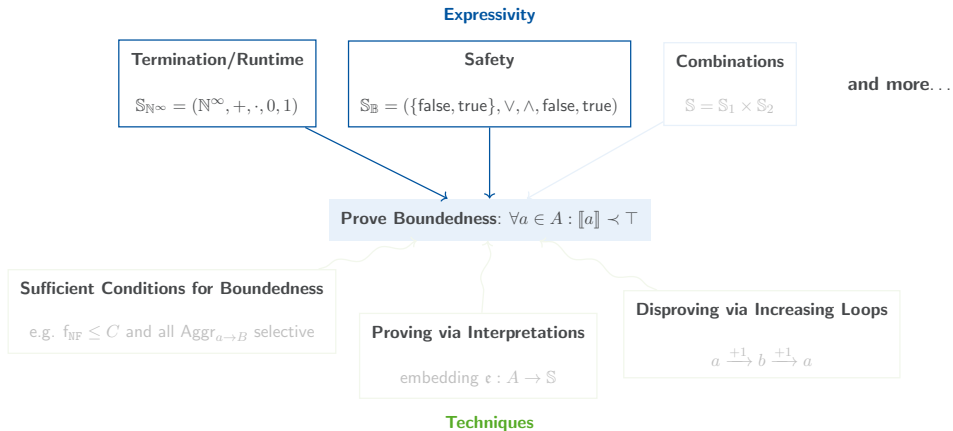
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Do all reductions terminate? Choose $\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{N}^{\infty}} = (\mathbb{N}, +, \cdot, 0, 1)$ and count steps. No!





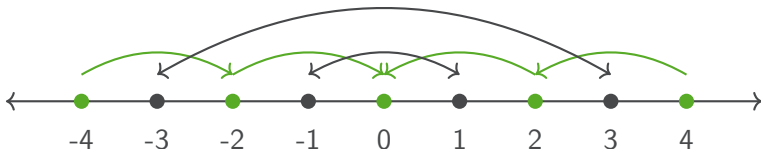
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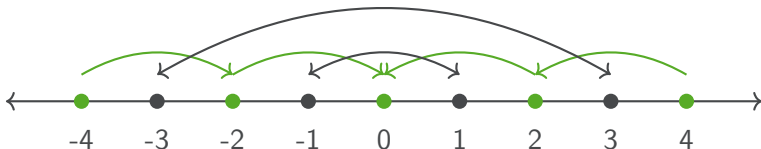
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Hitting an even number is “unsafe”. Are all reductions safe?

Hitting an even number is “unsafe” .
Are all reductions safe?

Hitting an even number is “unsafe”.

Are all reductions safe? Choose $\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{B}} = (\{\text{false}, \text{true}\}, \vee, \wedge, \text{false}, \text{true})$ and

z is even:

z is odd:

Hitting an even number is “unsafe”.

Are all reductions safe? Choose $\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{B}} = (\{\text{false}, \text{true}\}, \vee, \wedge, \text{false}, \text{true})$ and

0

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Safety

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true

0

z is even:

z

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true

0

z is even:

$z \longrightarrow z \pm 2$

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true

0

z is even:

z



$z \pm 2$

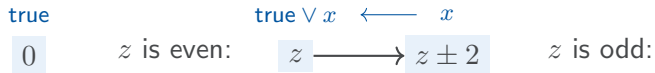
x

z is odd:

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Safety

Hitting an even number is “unsafe”.

Are all reductions safe? Choose $\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{B}} = (\{\text{false}, \text{true}\}, \vee, \wedge, \text{false}, \text{true})$ and

true

0

z is even:

$\text{true} \vee x \longleftarrow x$

z

\longrightarrow

$z \pm 2$

z is odd:

4

Safety

Hitting an even number is “unsafe”.

Are all reductions safe? Choose $\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{B}} = (\{\text{false}, \text{true}\}, \vee, \wedge, \text{false}, \text{true})$ and

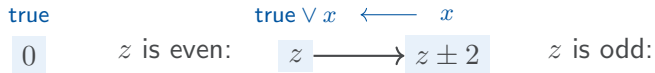
true
 0 z is even: $\text{true} \vee x \xleftarrow{\quad} x$
 $z \longrightarrow z \pm 2$ z is odd:

4
|
2

Safety

Hitting an even number is “unsafe”.

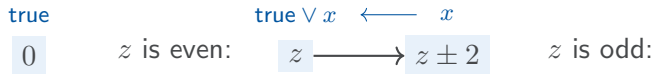
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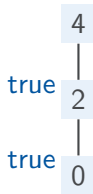
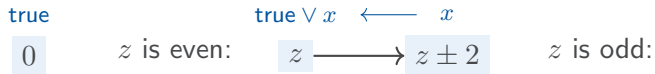
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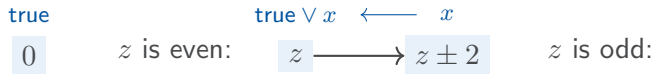
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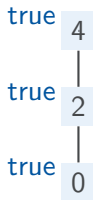
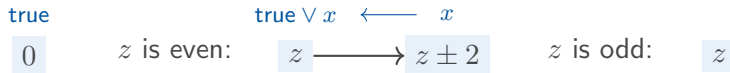
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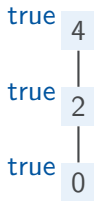
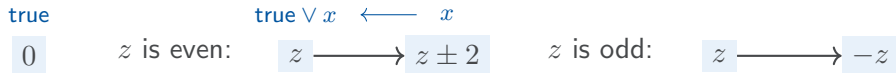
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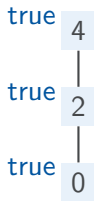
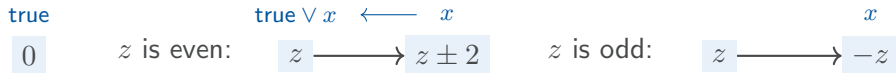
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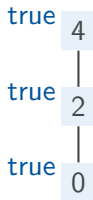
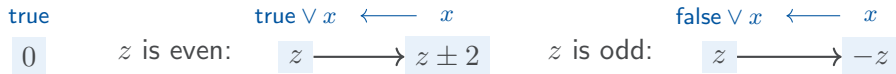
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Are all reductions safe? Choose $\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{B}} = (\{\text{false}, \text{true}\}, \vee, \wedge, \text{false}, \text{true})$ and

true

0

z is even:

$\text{true} \vee x \leftarrow x$

$z \longrightarrow z \pm 2$

z is odd:

$\text{false} \vee x \leftarrow x$

$z \longrightarrow -z$

true 4

true 2

true 0

5

Safety

Hitting an even number is “unsafe”.

Are all reductions safe? Choose $\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{B}} = (\{\text{false}, \text{true}\}, \vee, \wedge, \text{false}, \text{true})$ and

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0

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|
true 2
|
true 0

5
|
-5

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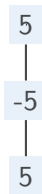
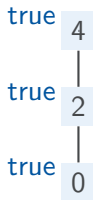
$\text{true} \vee x \xleftarrow{\quad} x$

$z \longrightarrow z \pm 2$

z is odd:

$\text{false} \vee x \xleftarrow{\quad} x$

$z \longrightarrow -z$



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0

z is even:

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z is odd:

$\text{false} \vee x \xleftarrow{\quad} x$

$z \longrightarrow -z$

true 4

true 2

true 0

5

-5

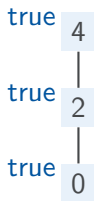
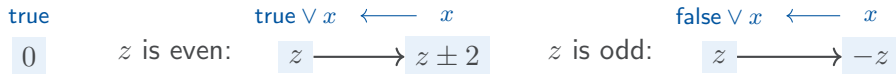
5

...

Safety

Hitting an even number is “unsafe”.

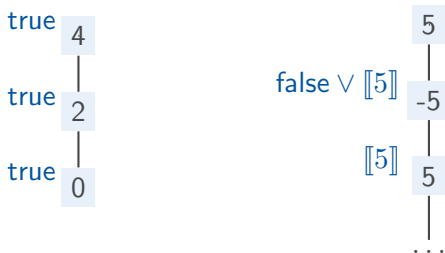
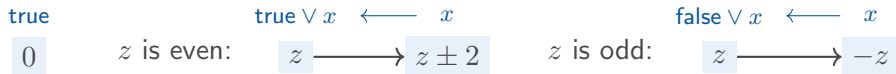
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Safety

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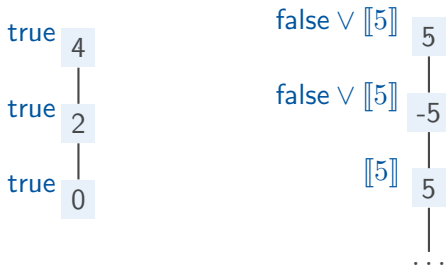
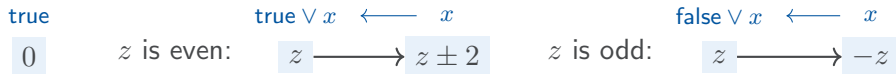
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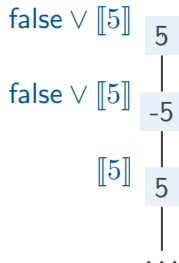
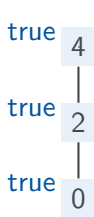
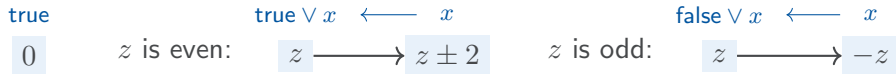
Are all reductions safe? Choose $\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{B}} = (\{\text{false}, \text{true}\}, \vee, \wedge, \text{false}, \text{true})$ and



Safety

Hitting an even number is “unsafe”.

Are all reductions safe? Choose $\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{B}} = (\{\text{false}, \text{true}\}, \vee, \wedge, \text{false}, \text{true})$ and

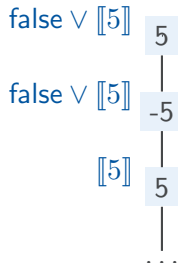
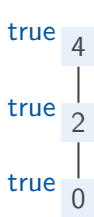
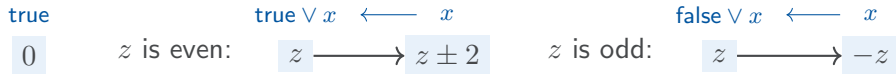


Is $\llbracket z \rrbracket < \text{true}$ for all $z \in \mathbb{Z}$?

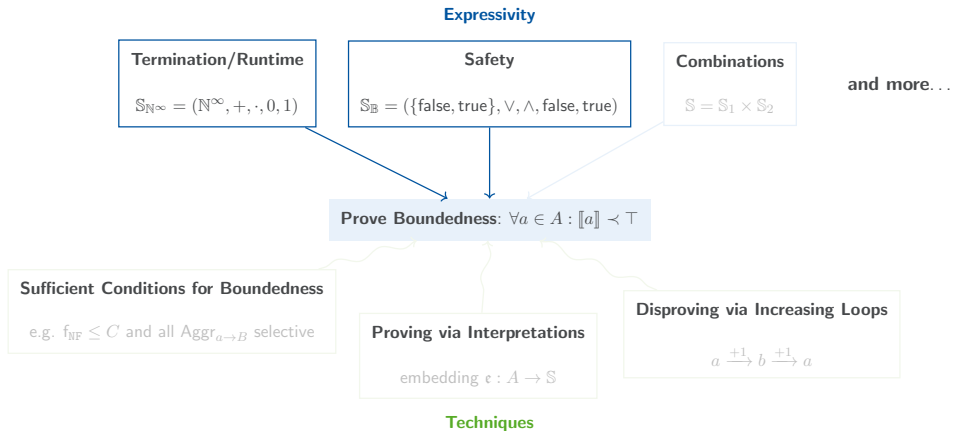
Safety

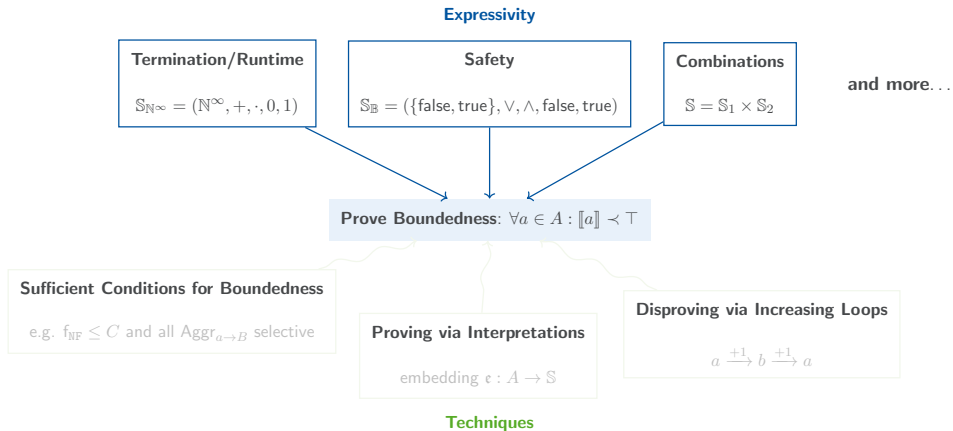
Hitting an even number is “unsafe”.

Are all reductions safe? Choose $\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{B}} = (\{\text{false}, \text{true}\}, \vee, \wedge, \text{false}, \text{true})$ and



Is $\llbracket z \rrbracket < \text{true}$ for all $z \in \mathbb{Z}$? No!





Combining Complexity and Safety

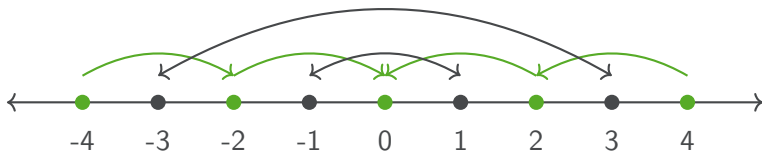
Abstract reduction system $(\mathbb{Z}, \rightarrow)$ with

$$z \text{ is even and } z \leq -2 : z \rightarrow z + 2$$

$$z \text{ is even and } z \geq 2 : z \rightarrow z - 2$$

$$z \text{ is odd} : z \rightarrow -z$$

and normal form $NF_{\rightarrow} = \{0\}$



Combining Complexity and Safety

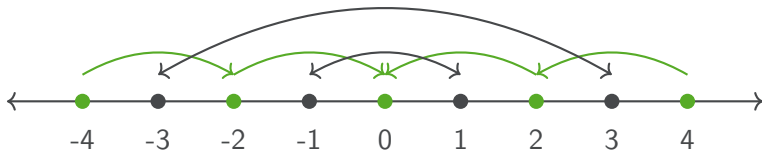
Abstract reduction system $(\mathbb{Z}, \rightarrow)$ with

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Are all runs terminating? Are all runs safe?

Combining Complexity and Safety

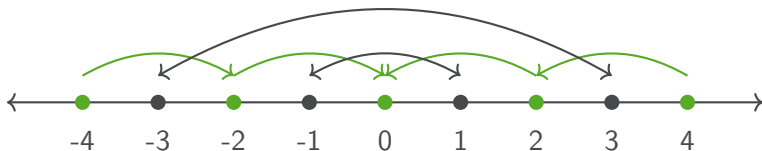
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and normal form $NF_{\rightarrow} = \{0\}$



Are all runs terminating? Are all runs safe?

Now: Are all runs terminating or safe?

Combining Complexity and Safety

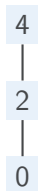
Are all runs terminating or safe?



Combining Complexity and Safety

Are all runs terminating or safe? Choose **product semiring** $\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{N}^\infty} \times \mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{B}}$ and

z is even:



z is odd:



Combining Complexity and Safety

Are all runs terminating or safe? Choose **product semiring** $\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{N}^\infty} \times \mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{B}}$ and

0

z is even:



z is odd:



Combining Complexity and Safety

Are all runs terminating or safe? Choose **product semiring** $\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{N}^\infty} \times \mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{B}}$ and

$(0, \text{true})$

0

z is even:

z is odd:



Combining Complexity and Safety

Are all runs terminating or safe? Choose **product semiring** $\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{N}^\infty} \times \mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{B}}$ and

$(0, \text{true})$

0

z is even:

z

z is odd:



Combining Complexity and Safety

Are all runs terminating or safe? Choose **product semiring** $\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{N}^\infty} \times \mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{B}}$ and

$(0, \text{true})$

0

z is even:

$z \longrightarrow z \pm 2$

z is odd:

4
|
2
|
0

5
|
-5
|
5
|
...

Combining Complexity and Safety

Are all runs terminating or safe? Choose **product semiring** $\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{N}^\infty} \times \mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{B}}$ and

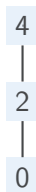
$(0, \text{true})$

0

z is even:



z is odd:



Combining Complexity and Safety

Are all runs terminating or safe? Choose **product semiring** $\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{N}^\infty} \times \mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{B}}$ and

$(0, \text{true})$

0

z is even:

$(1, \text{true}) \oplus x \leftarrow x$

z

\longrightarrow

$z \pm 2$

z is odd:

4
|
2
|
0

5
|
-5
|
5
|
...

Combining Complexity and Safety

Are all runs terminating or safe? Choose **product semiring** $\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{N}^\infty} \times \mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{B}}$ and

$(0, \text{true})$

0

z is even:

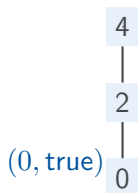
$(1, \text{true}) \oplus x \leftarrow x$

z

\longrightarrow

$z \pm 2$

z is odd:



Combining Complexity and Safety

Are all runs terminating or safe? Choose **product semiring** $\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{N}^\infty} \times \mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{B}}$ and

$(0, \text{true})$

0

z is even:

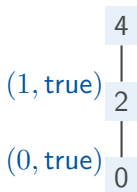
$(1, \text{true}) \oplus x \leftarrow x$

z

\longrightarrow

$z \pm 2$

z is odd:



Combining Complexity and Safety

Are all runs terminating or safe? Choose **product semiring** $\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{N}^\infty} \times \mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{B}}$ and

$(0, \text{true})$

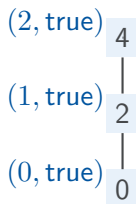
0

z is even:

$(1, \text{true}) \oplus x \leftarrow x$

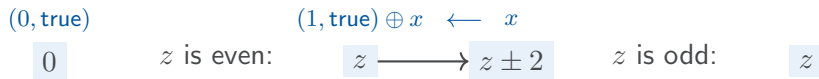
$z \longrightarrow z \pm 2$

z is odd:



Combining Complexity and Safety

Are all runs terminating or safe? Choose **product semiring** $\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{N}^\infty} \times \mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{B}}$ and



Combining Complexity and Safety

Are all runs terminating or safe? Choose **product semiring** $\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{N}^\infty} \times \mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{B}}$ and

$(0, \text{true})$

0

z is even:

$(1, \text{true}) \oplus x \leftarrow x$

$z \longrightarrow z \pm 2$

z is odd:

$z \longrightarrow -z$

$(2, \text{true})$

4

$(1, \text{true})$

2

$(0, \text{true})$

0

5

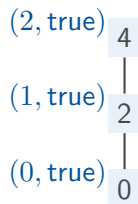
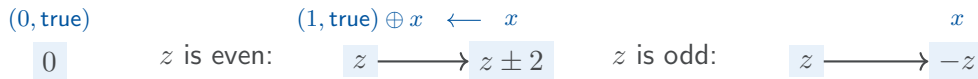
-5

5

...

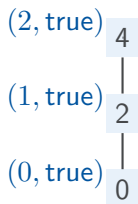
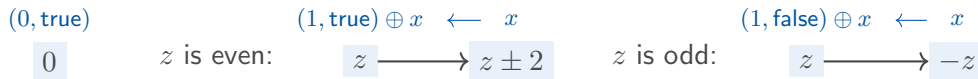
Combining Complexity and Safety

Are all runs terminating or safe? Choose **product semiring** $\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{N}^\infty} \times \mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{B}}$ and



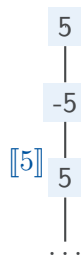
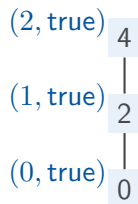
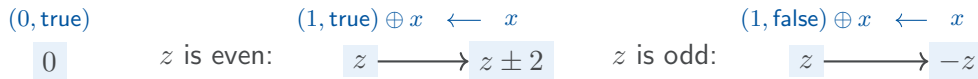
Combining Complexity and Safety

Are all runs terminating or safe? Choose **product semiring** $\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{N}^\infty} \times \mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{B}}$ and



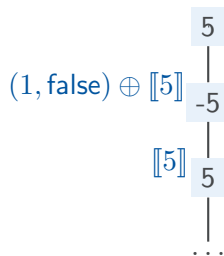
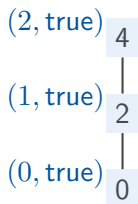
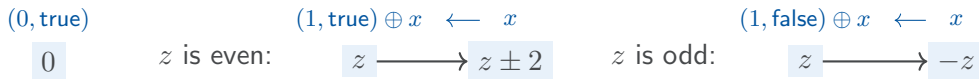
Combining Complexity and Safety

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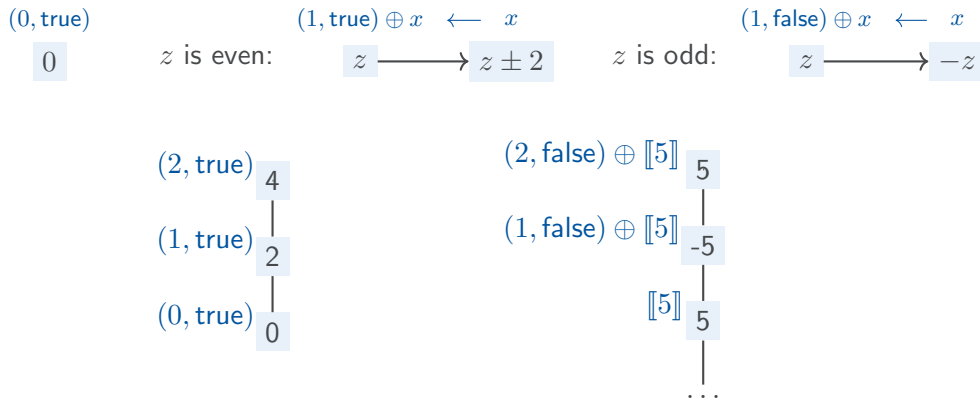
Combining Complexity and Safety

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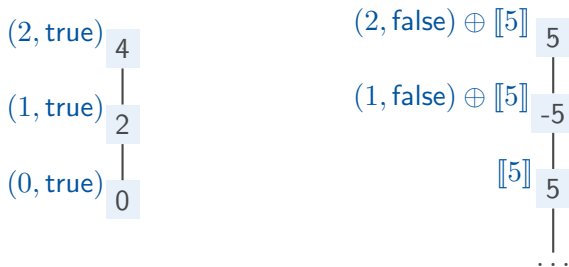
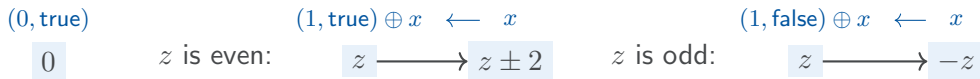
Combining Complexity and Safety

Are all runs terminating or safe? Choose **product semiring** $\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{N}^\infty} \times \mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{B}}$ and



Combining Complexity and Safety

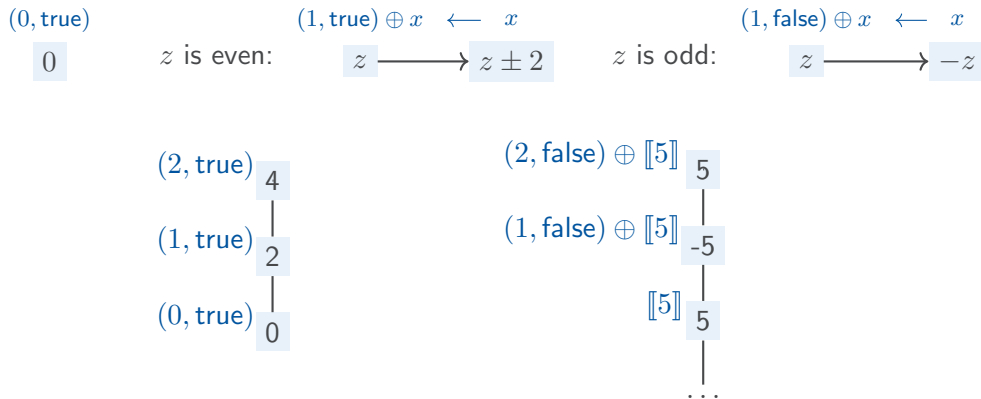
Are all runs terminating or safe? Choose **product semiring** $\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{N}^\infty} \times \mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{B}}$ and



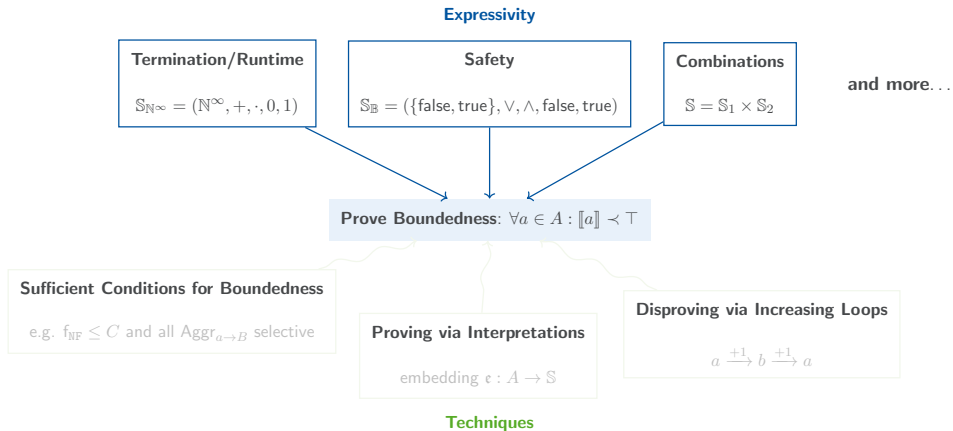
Is $\llbracket z \rrbracket < (\infty, \text{true})$ for all $z \in \mathbb{Z}$?

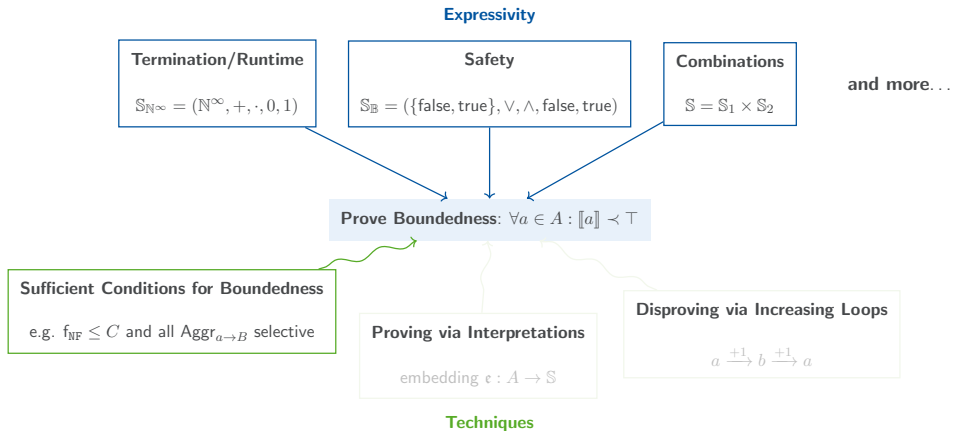
Combining Complexity and Safety

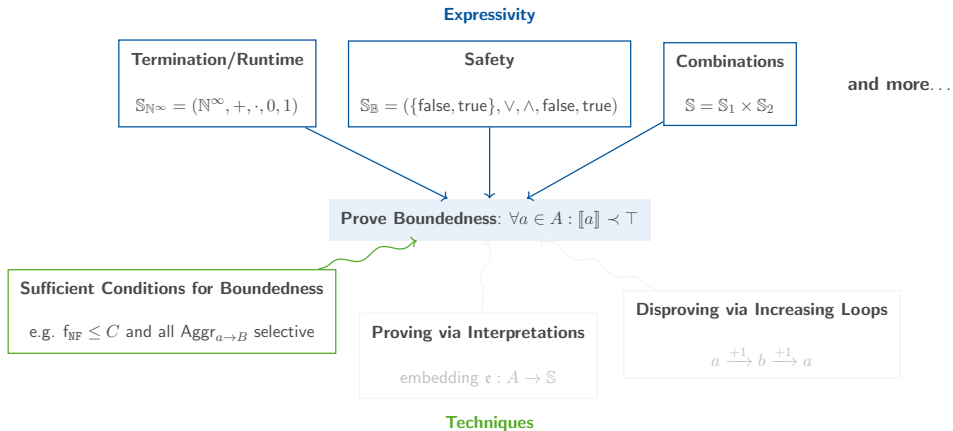
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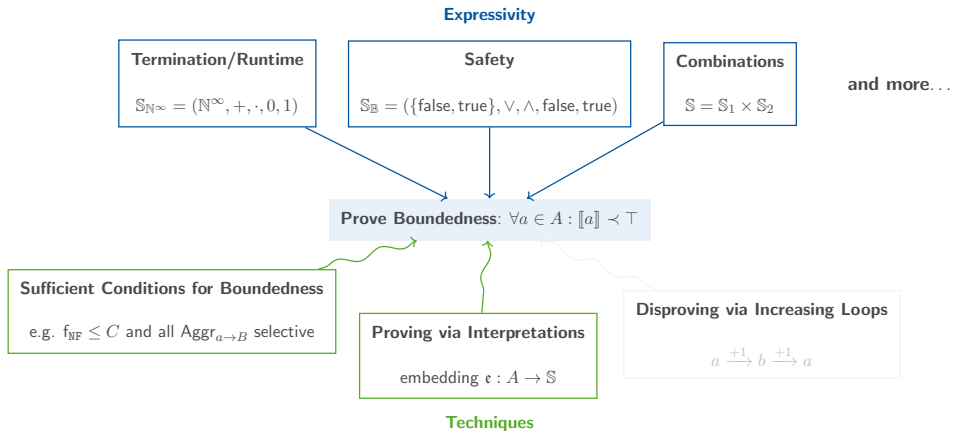


Is $\llbracket z \rrbracket < (\infty, \text{true})$ for all $z \in \mathbb{Z}$? Yes!









$(A, \rightarrow, \mathbb{S}, f_{\text{NF}}, \text{Aggr})$ is bounded $:\Leftrightarrow$ for all $a \in A$: $\llbracket a \rrbracket \prec \top$

Proving via Interpretations

$(A, \rightarrow, \mathbb{S}, f_{\text{NF}}, \text{Aggr})$ is bounded $:\Leftrightarrow$ for all $a \in A$: $\llbracket a \rrbracket \prec \top$

- Interpretation method via **embedding** $\epsilon : A \rightarrow \mathbb{S} \setminus \{\top\}$
(sound, for ω -continuous semirings complete)

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} 0 & 1 + \frac{2}{3} \cdot x + \frac{1}{3} \cdot y & \longleftarrow [x, y] \\ 0 & n+1 & \longrightarrow [n, n+2] \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} 0 & 1 + \frac{2}{3} \cdot x + \frac{1}{3} \cdot y & \longleftarrow [\mathfrak{e}(n), \mathfrak{e}(n+2)] \\ 0 & n+1 & \longrightarrow [n, n+2] \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} 0 & 1 + \frac{2}{3} \cdot x + \frac{1}{3} \cdot y & \longleftarrow [3n, 3n+6] \\ 0 & n+1 & \longrightarrow [n, n+2] \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} 0 & 1 + \frac{2}{3} \cdot 3n + \frac{1}{3} \cdot (3n + 6) & \leftarrow [3n, 3n + 6] \\ 0 & n + 1 & \longrightarrow [n, n + 2] \end{array}$$

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Random Walk: Choose $\mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{R}^\infty} = (\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^\infty, +, \cdot, 0, 1)$ and

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 0 & 1 + 2n + n + 2 & \longleftarrow [3n, 3n + 6] \\ \boxed{0} & \boxed{n + 1} & \longrightarrow \boxed{[n, n + 2]} \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} 0 & & 3n+3 \xleftarrow{\quad} [3n, 3n+6] \\ 0 & & n+1 \xrightarrow{\quad} [n, n+2] \end{array}$$

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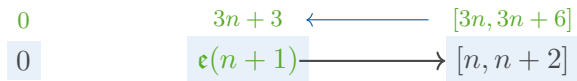
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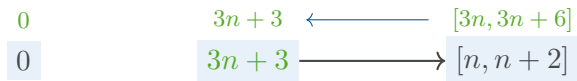
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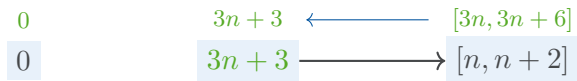
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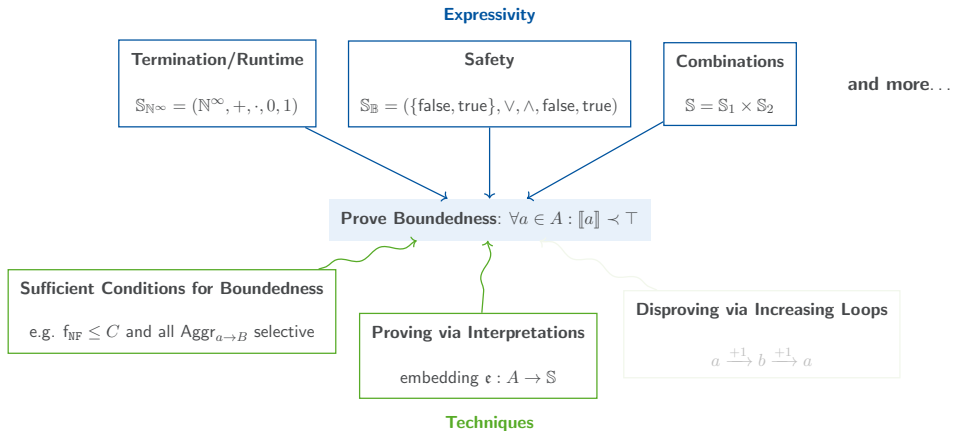
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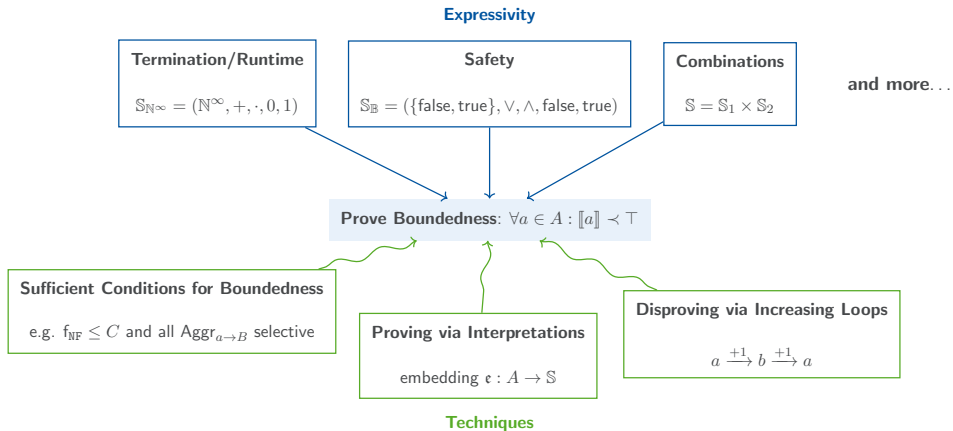


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Is the expected runtime finite? Yes, $\llbracket n \rrbracket \leq 3 \cdot n \prec \infty$!





Disproving via Increasing Loops

$(A, \rightarrow, \mathbb{S}, f_{\text{NF}}, \text{Aggr})$ is unbounded $:\Leftrightarrow$ there exists an $a \in A$: $\llbracket a \rrbracket = \top$

- Show unboundedness via induced **weight polynomial** $\mathcal{P}_a(X)$ of loops $a \rightarrow^* a$

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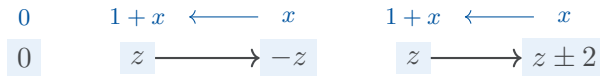


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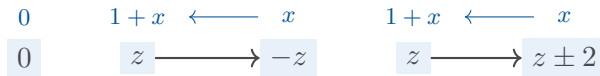
5

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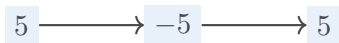
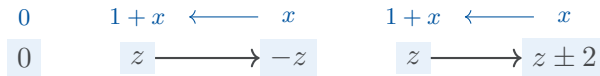


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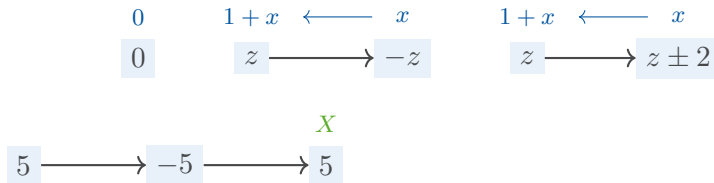


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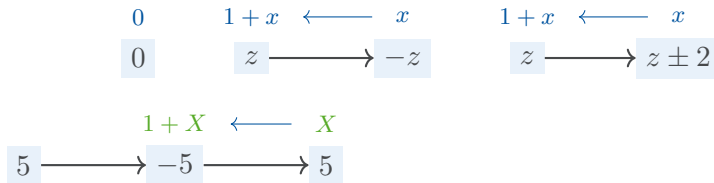


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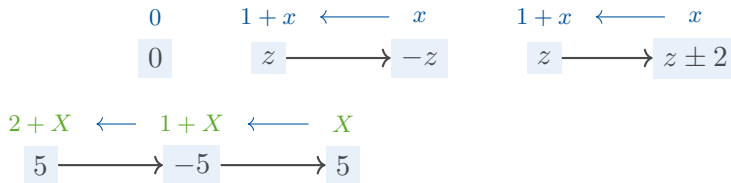


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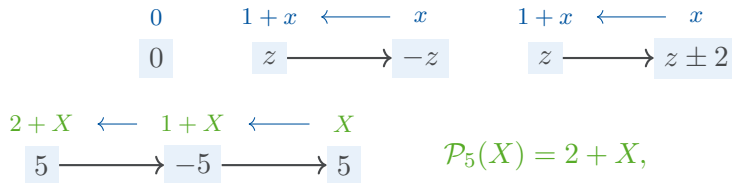


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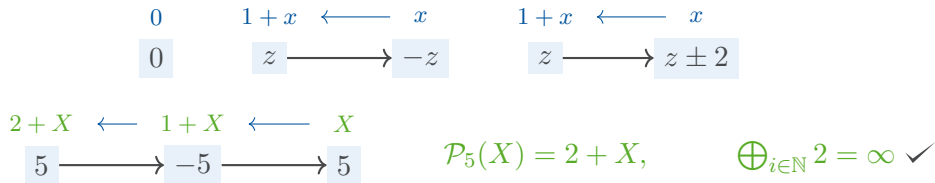


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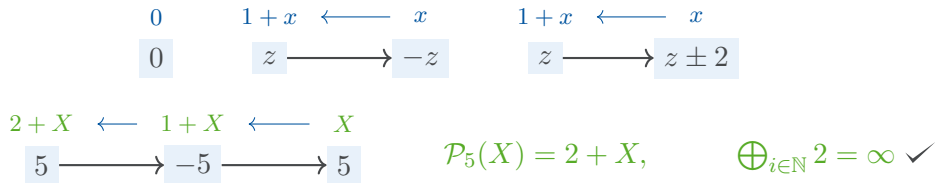


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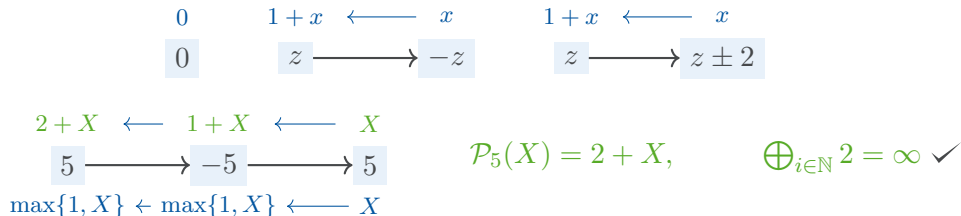
Are all reductions terminating? No!

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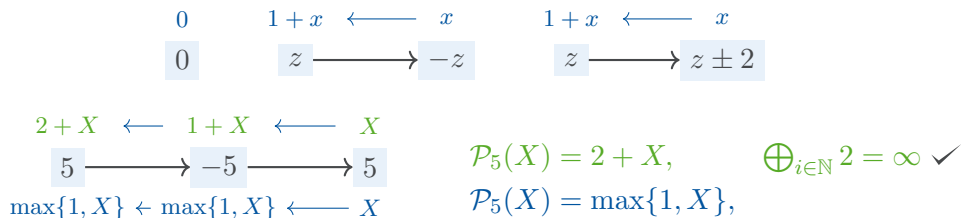
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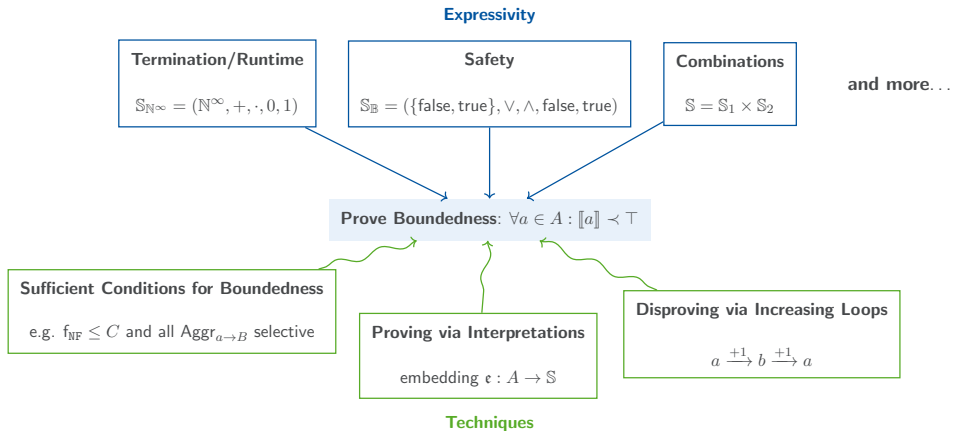
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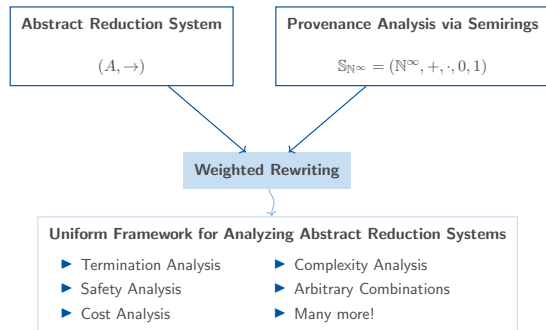
$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} 1+x \leftarrow x \\ z \longrightarrow -z \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} 1+x \leftarrow x \\ z \longrightarrow z \pm 2 \end{array} \\
 \\
 \begin{array}{c} 2+X \leftarrow 1+X \leftarrow X \\ 5 \longrightarrow -5 \longrightarrow 5 \\ \max\{1, X\} \leftarrow \max\{1, X\} \leftarrow X \end{array} & \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{P}_5(X) = 2+X, \quad \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{N}} 2 = \infty \checkmark \\ \mathcal{P}_5(X) = \max\{1, X\}, \quad \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{N}} 1 = 1 \times \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

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One Framework Fits All

- ▶ Framework to unify research questions
- ▶ Lifts techniques from one area to another
- ▶ Future Work:
 - ▶ Lift more techniques to the general setting
 - ▶ Increase expressivity further
 - ▶ Starvation Freedom
 - ▶ Automate the techniques



Emma Ahrens, Jan-Christoph Kassing, Jürgen Giesl, Joost-Pieter Katoen:
Weighted Rewriting: Semiring Semantics for Abstract Reduction Systems.