

# Topology and Property-Specific Verification and Synthesis (V&S) of *Parameterized Distributed Protocols (PDP)*

Ali Ebneenasir  
[aebneenas@mtu.edu](mailto:aebneenas@mtu.edu)

Department of Computer Science  
College of Computing  
Michigan Technological University  
Houghton MI 49931

<http://asd.cs.mtu.edu/>

# Modeling Parameterized Distributed Protocols (PDP)

Dijkstra's token passing:

$\pi_2$ : Template process 2

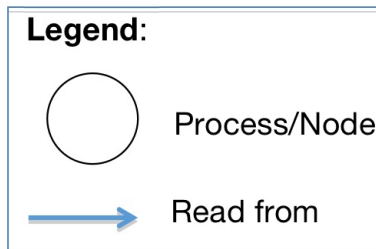
Action<sub>0</sub>:  $x_0 = x_{N-1}$   $\rightarrow x_0 := x_{N-1} + 1$

- Process  $P_i$  has a variable  $x_i \in \mathbb{Z}_N = \{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}$
- $N$  denotes the total number of processes
- Addition and subtraction are done in modulo  $N$

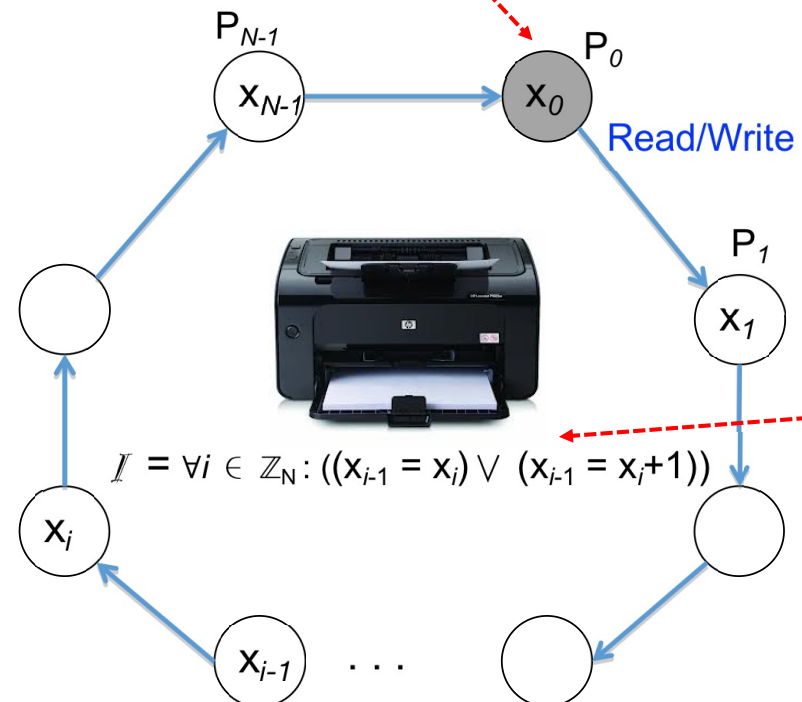
self-disabling actions

$\pi_1$ : Template process 1

Action<sub>i</sub>:  $x_i \neq x_{i-1}$   $\rightarrow x_i := x_{i-1}$



Family 2: just one process



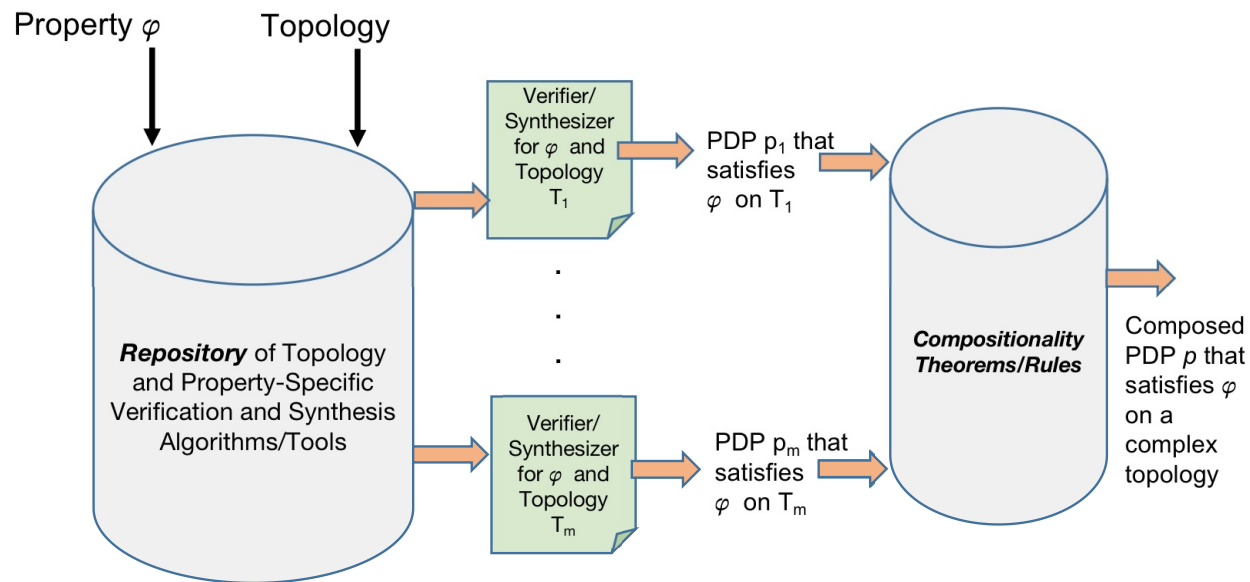
Family 1:  $N-1$  symmetric processes

# Significance of PDPs

From System on Chip, to multithreaded programs and large scale network protocols.

# Vision: Topology and Property-Specific Verification and Synthesis (V&S) of PDP

- Solve V&S for a set of **elementary topologies** and determine necessary and/or sufficient conditions for their **property-preserving composition**.
  - Elementary topologies such as ring, chain, tree





# Start With Self-Stabilizing Uni-directional Rings

- **Topology** = Uni-directional Ring (Uni-Ring)
  - Uni-directional topologies are important in wireless (mobile) networks
    - Some communication links may become uni-directional due to RF range constraints
  - Uni-directional ring (uni-ring) is a simple but useful model of computation
    - Information flows only in one direction.
  - Results can be useful for any topology that contains (uni-)rings
- **Property** = Self-stabilization (which entails livelock-freedom, deadlock-freedom)
  - Important applications in networks, multi-agent systems and socioeconomics

# Related Work

- Verification of temporal logic properties for parameterized protocols is undecidable. [Apt and Kozen 1986]
- Verification problem remains undecidable even for uni-rings. [Suzuki 1988]
- What if we make the model stronger and focus on a specific property?
  - self-disabling, constant-space and deterministic processes
  - property: self-stabilization of symmetric uni-rings
  - conjunctive invariants
- Decidability of the V&S problems?

[Apt and Kozen 1986] K. R. Apt and D. C. Kozen. **Limits for automatic verification of finite-state concurrent systems**. Inf. Process. Lett. 22, 6 (1986), pp. 307–309.

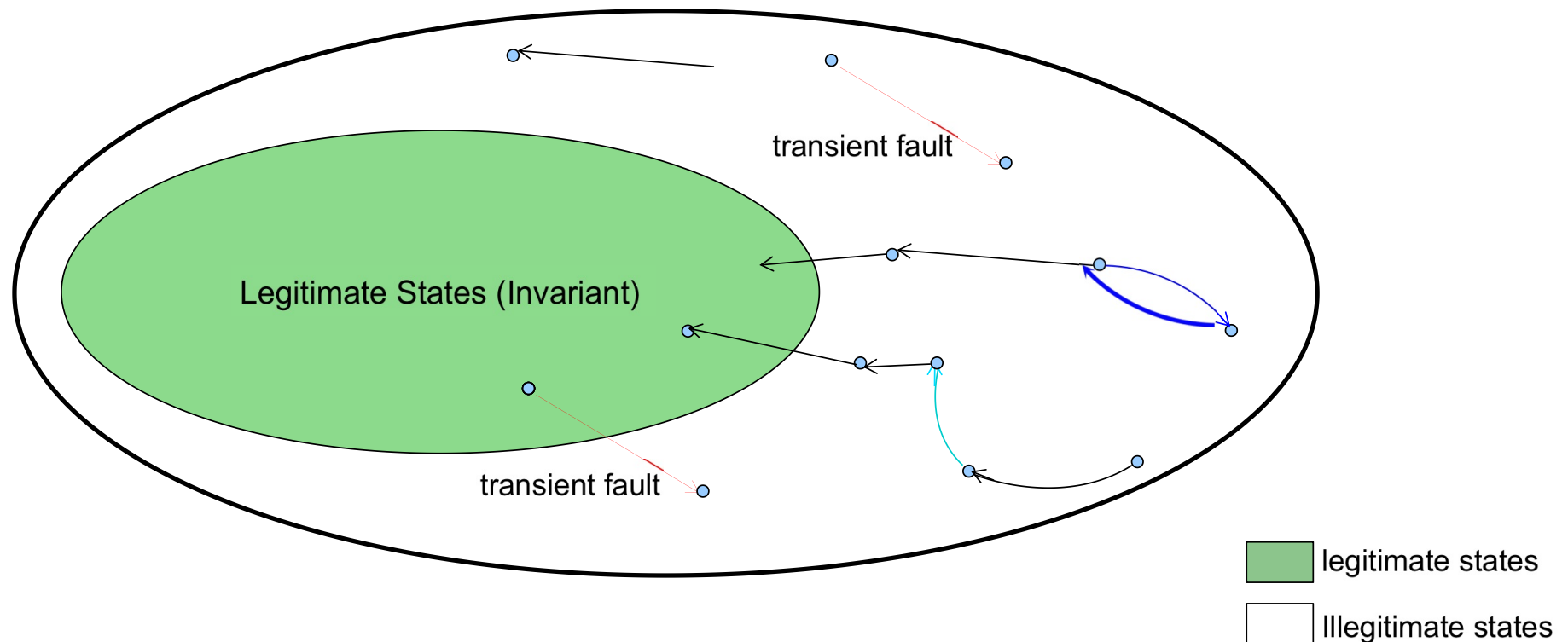
[Suzuki 1988] I. Suzuki. 1988. Proving properties of a ring of finite-state machines. Inform. Process. Lett. 28, 4 (Jul. 1988), 213–214.

V&S of Parameterized **Self-Stabilizing** Symmetric  
**Uni-Directional Rings** with  
Constant-Space Processes

# Self-Stabilization (SS)

“The ability of a **distributed system** to resume its **legal behavior** in a finite number of steps regardless of its initial configuration/state” [Dijkstra'74, Arora and Gouda'93]

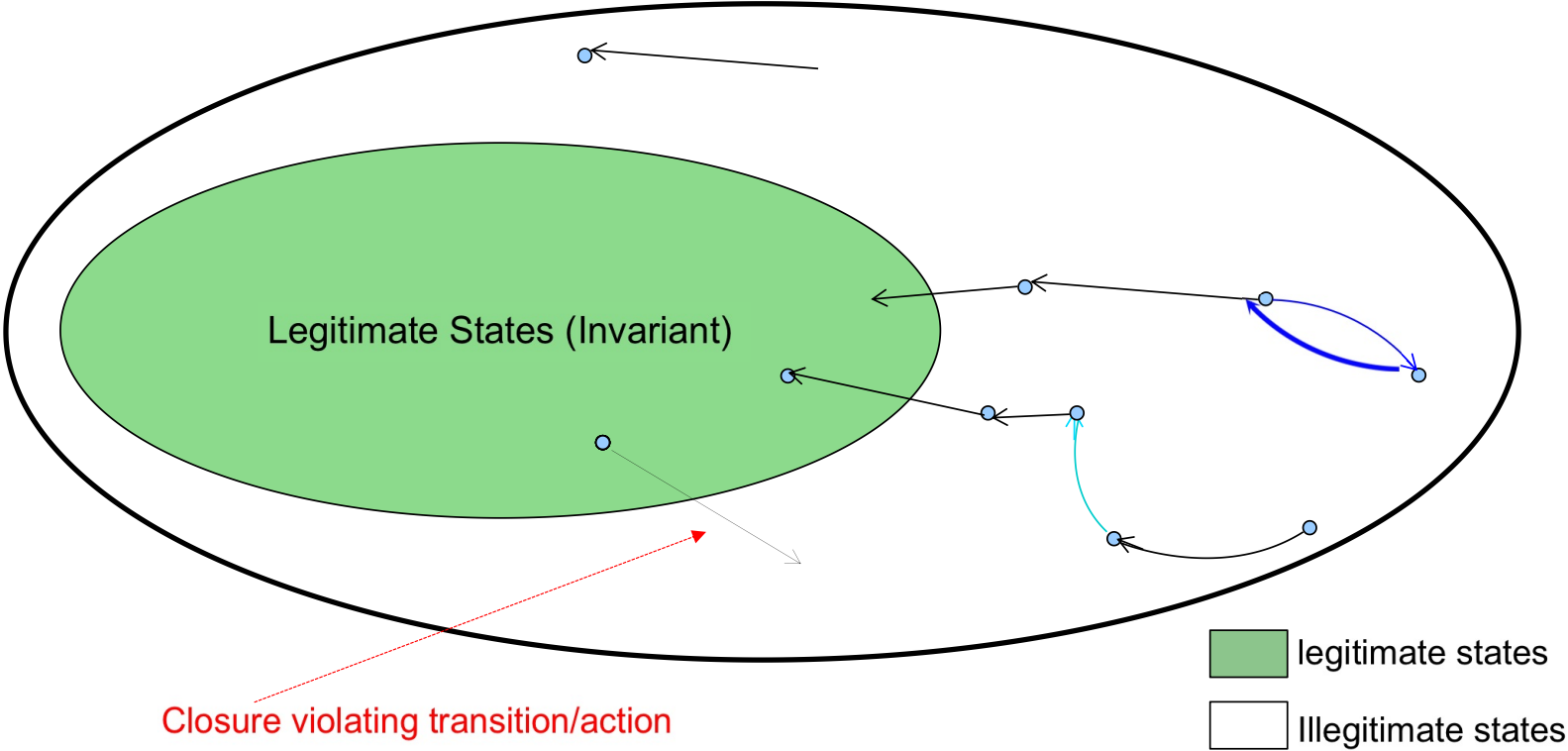
Self-stabilization = closure + convergence



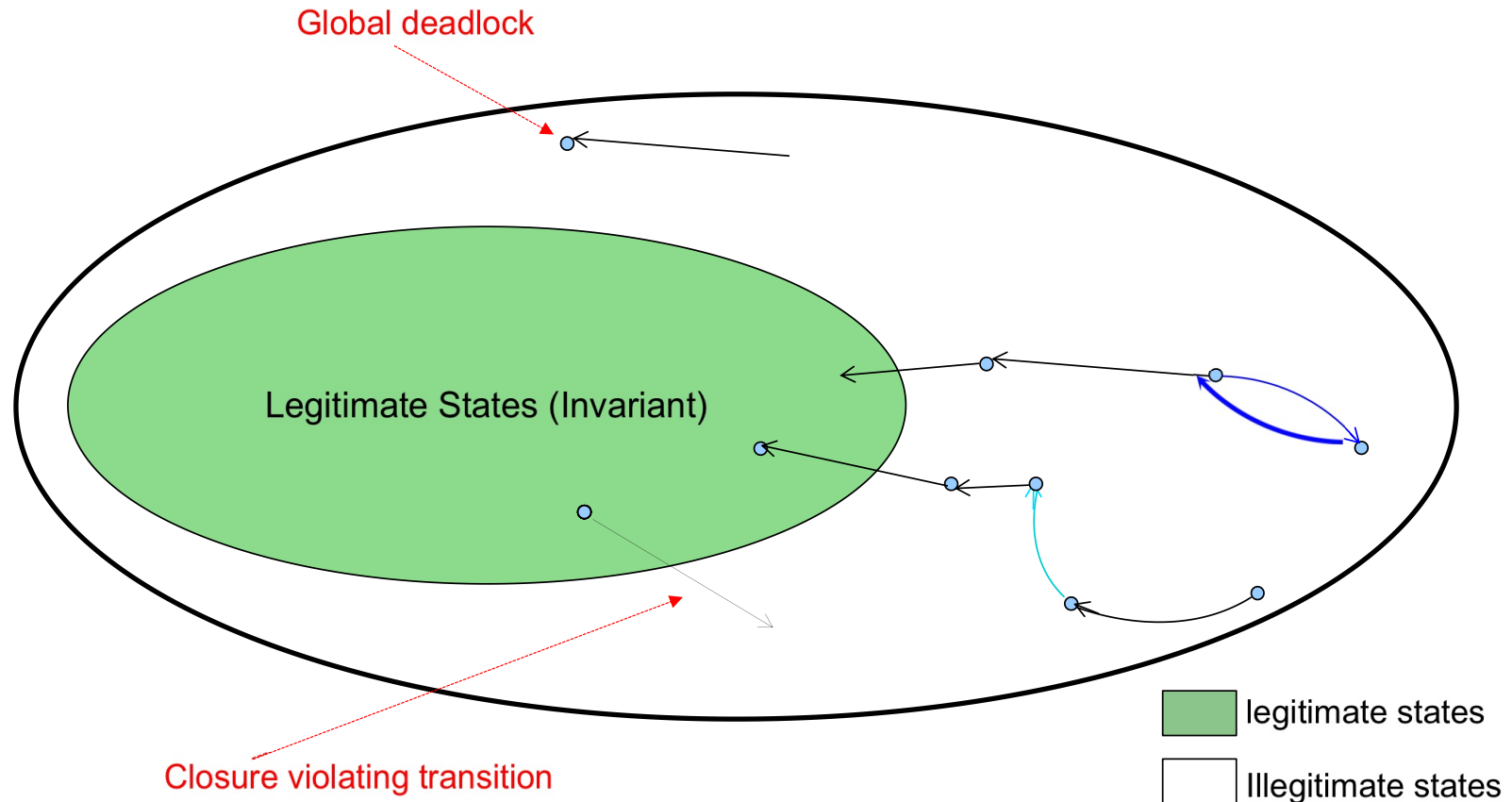
[1] E. W. Dijkstra, **Self-stabilizing systems in spite of distributed control**. *Communications of the ACM*, vol. 17, no. 11, pp. 643-644, 1974

[2] A. Arora and M. Gouda, **Closure and Convergence: A foundation of fault-tolerant computing**. *IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering*, vol 19, no. 11, pp. 1015-1027, 1993.

# Design Complexity: Closure and Convergence



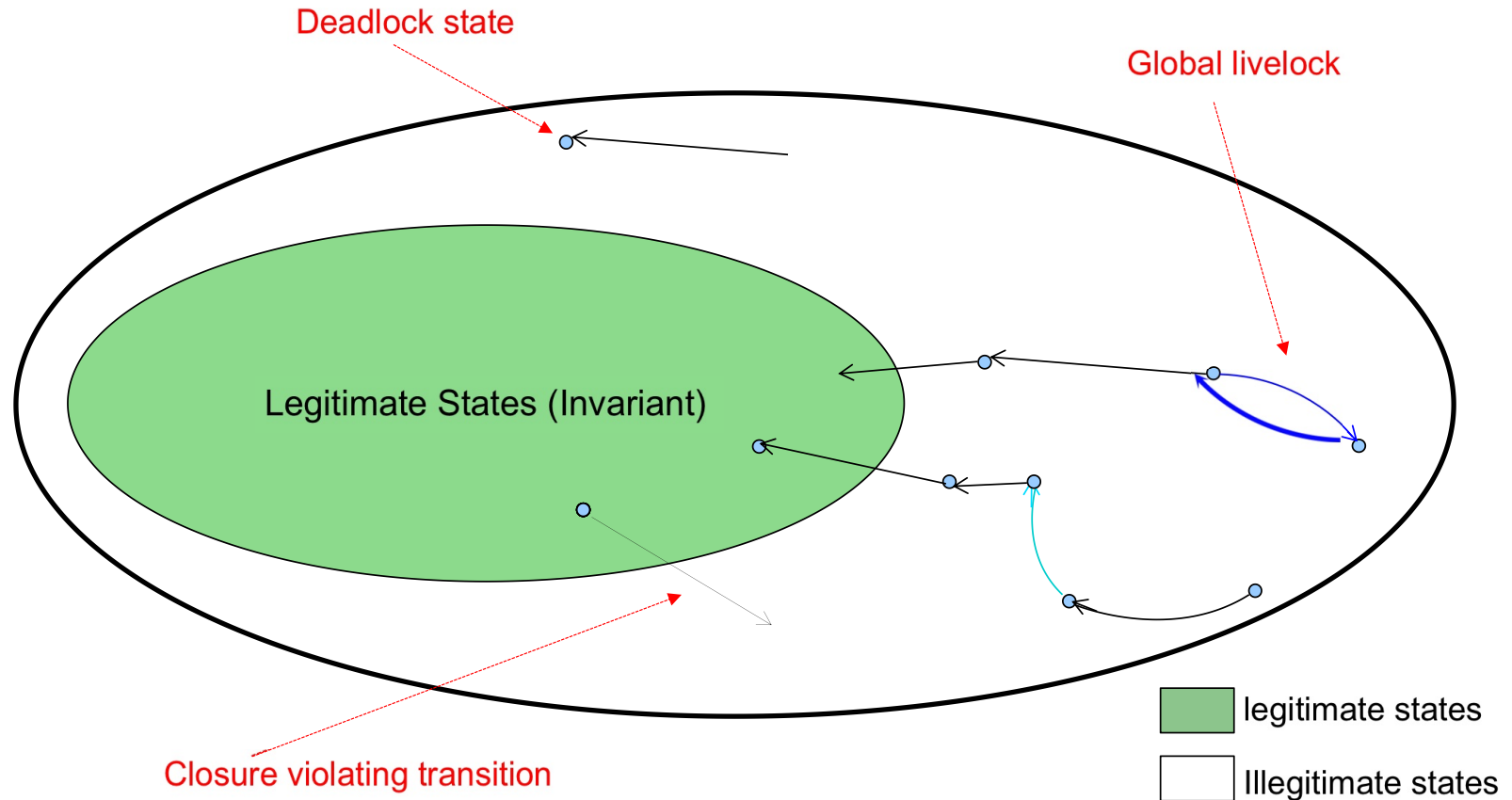
# Design Complexity: Closure and Convergence



Verifying deadlock-freedom is decidable in rings. [Farahat & Ebnenasir, ICDCS'12]

Aly Farahat and Ali Ebnenasir, **Local Reasoning for Global Convergence in Parameterized Rings**, In Proceedings of the 32nd International Conference on Distributed Computing Systems (ICDCS), pages 496-505, 2012.

# Design Complexity: Closure and Convergence



**Verifying deadlock-freedom is decidable in rings.** [Farahat & Ebnenasir, ICDCS'12]

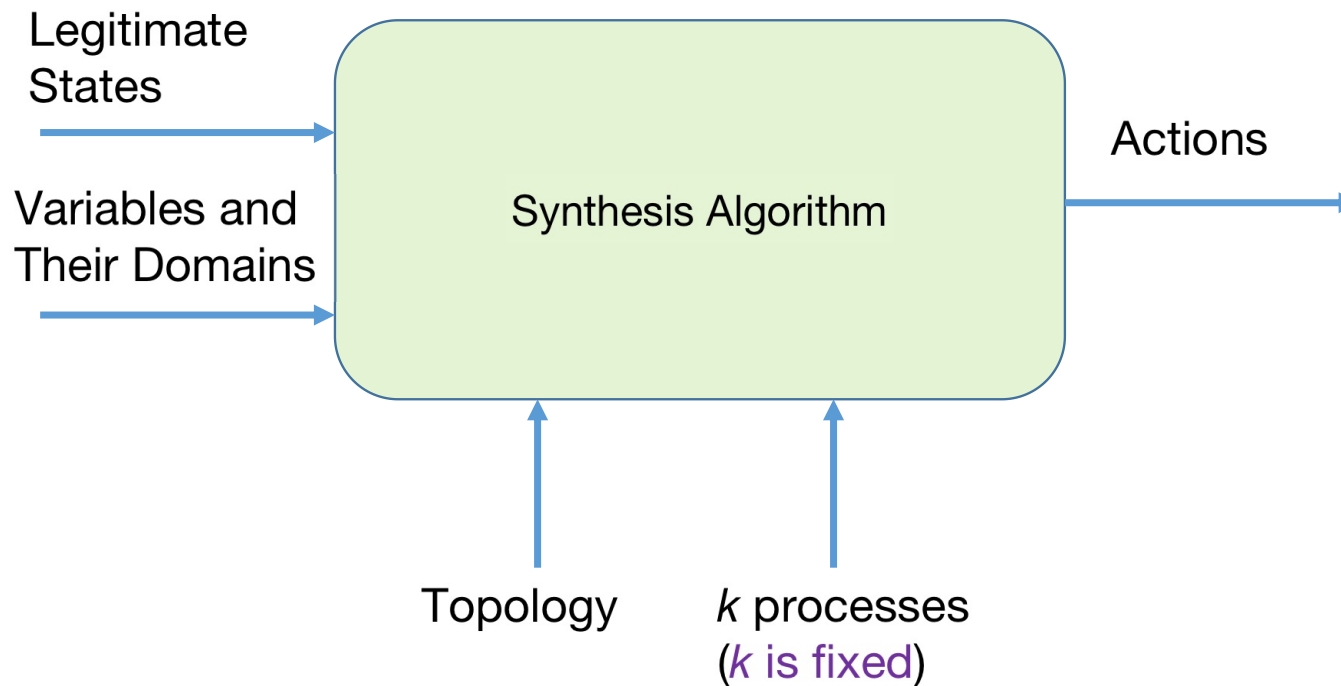
Aly Farahat and Ali Ebnenasir, **Local Reasoning for Global Convergence in Parameterized Rings**, In Proceedings of the 32nd International Conference on Distributed Computing Systems (ICDCS), pages 496-505, 2012.

# Challenges of Verification and Synthesis of SS

- To design self-stabilization, three intertwined problems must be solved:
  - Closure
  - Deadlock Freedom
  - Livelock Freedom



# Our Previous Work on Synthesis



**Protocon**: A Framework for Verification and Synthesis (V&S) of Self-Stabilization

<http://asd.cs.mtu.edu/projects/protocon/>

# Example: Coloring on Trees

// L = number of levels in the tree.

**constant** L := 3;

**variable** x[ (2<sup>L</sup>-1) ] < 3;

**process** Root [i < 1] {

**read**: x[1]; **read**: x[2];

**write**: x[0];

**(future & silent)** ( x[0] != x[1] && x[0] != x[2] ); }

**process** internalProcess[ j < (2<sup>L</sup>-1)-2 ] {

**let** i := j + 1; **let** parent\_idx := (i-1)/2;

**let** left\_idx := 2\*(i+1)-1; **let** right\_idx := 2\*(i+1);

**read**: x[parent\_idx]; **read**: x[left\_idx];

**read**: x[right\_idx];

**write**: x[i];

**(future & silent)**

    ( x[parent\_idx] != x[i] && x[i] != x[left\_idx] && x[i] != x[right\_idx] );

**synthesized action**: ( x[i]==x[parent\_idx] --> x[i]:=x[i]+1; ); }

**process** Leaf [j < (2<sup>L</sup>-1)]{

**let** i := j + (2<sup>L</sup>-1)-1;

**let** parent\_idx := (i-1)/2;

**read**: x[parent\_idx];

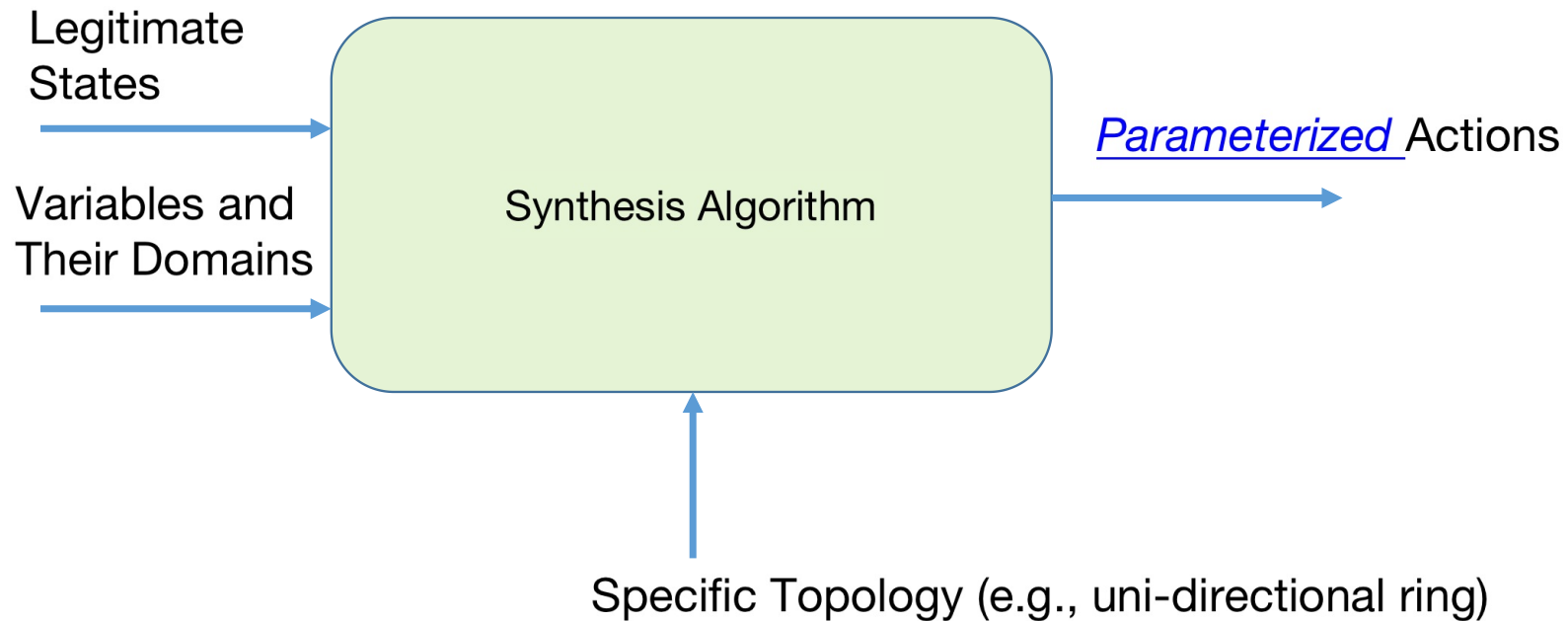
**write**: x[i];

**synthesized action**:

( x[i]==x[parent\_idx] -->

    x[i]:=x[i]+1; ); }

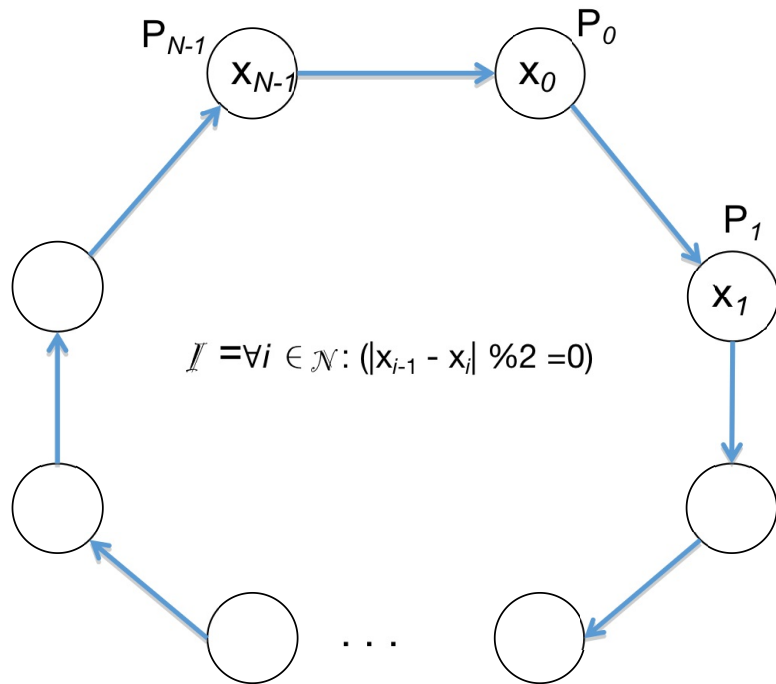
# Synthesis of Self-Stabilizing PDP



# Example: Parity Protocol

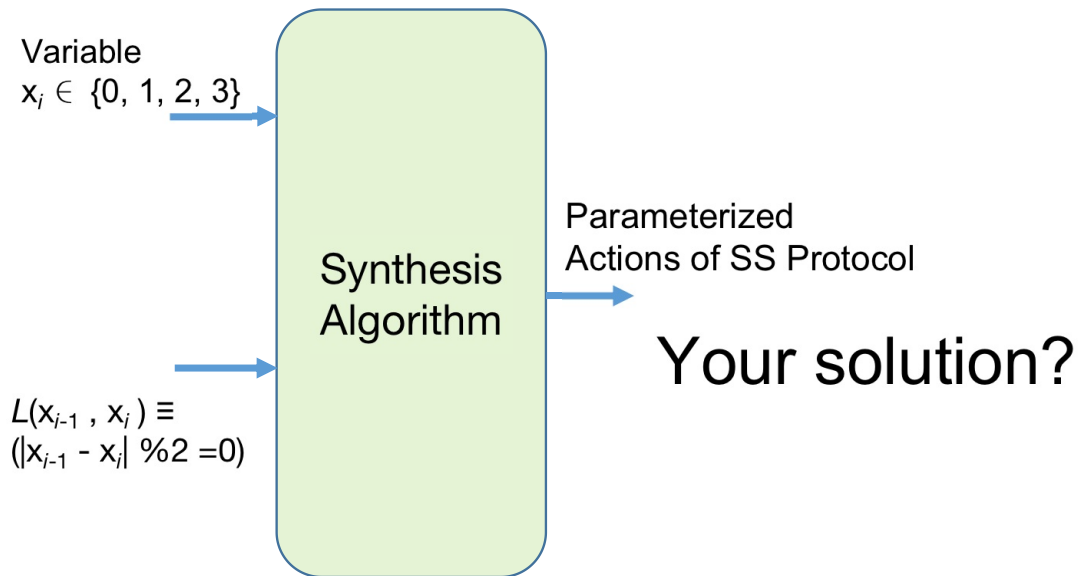
Starting from any state, the symmetric uni-ring reaches states where all processes agree on a common odd/even parity.

$I = \forall i \in \mathcal{N} : L(x_{i-1}, x_i)$  where  $L(x_{i-1}, x_i) \equiv (|x_{i-1} - x_i| \% 2 = 0)$  and  $x_i \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$



You might be tempted to say

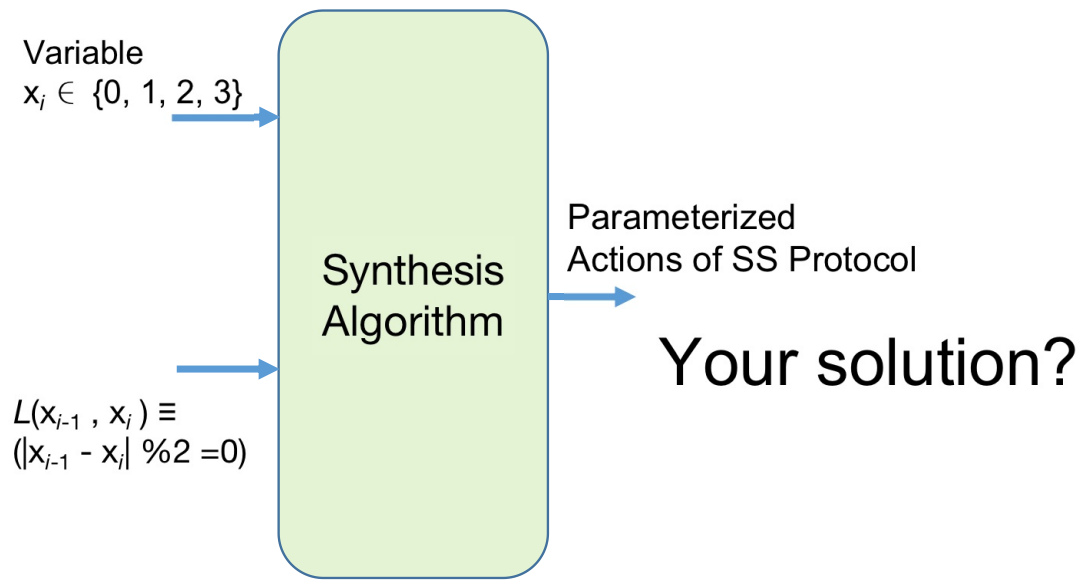
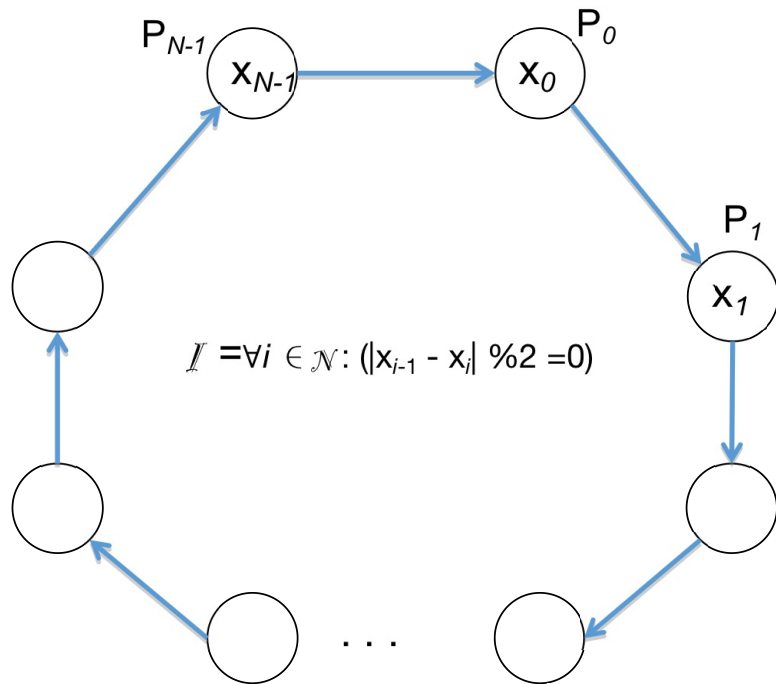
$(|x_{i-1} - x_i| \bmod 2) \neq 0 \rightarrow \text{do something;}$



# Example: Parity Protocol

Starting from any state, the symmetric uni-ring reaches states where all processes agree on a common odd/even parity.

$$I = \forall i \in \mathcal{N} : L(x_{i-1}, x_i) \text{ where } L(x_{i-1}, x_i) \equiv (|x_{i-1} - x_i| \% 2 = 0) \text{ and } x_i \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$$



You might be tempted to say

$$(|x_{i-1} - x_i| \bmod 2) \neq 0 \rightarrow x_i := x_{i-1} \oplus_4 2$$

- Is it deadlock-free for all ring sizes outside  $I$ ?
- Is it livelock-free for all ring sizes outside  $I$ ?

# Livelock in a Ring Size Four

- $(|x_{i-1} - x_i| \bmod 2) \neq 0 \rightarrow x_i := x_{i-1} \oplus_4 2$

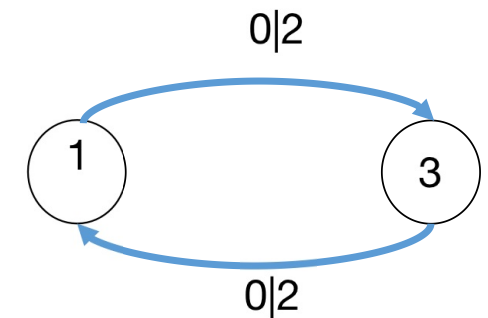
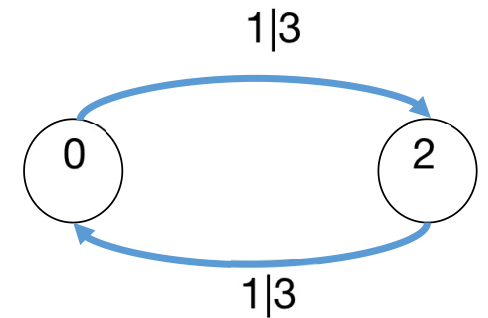
- Initial state of livelock:  $\langle 2, 0, 3, 1 \rangle$
- Interleaving:  $P_0, P_2, P_1, P_3, P_0, P_2, P_1, P_3$

$\langle 2, 0, 3, 1 \rangle,$

$\langle 3, 0, 3, 1 \rangle,$

$\langle 3, 0, 2, 1 \rangle,$

$\langle 3, 1, 2, 1 \rangle, \langle 3, 1, 2, 0 \rangle, \langle 2, 1, 2, 0 \rangle, \langle 2, 1, 3, 0 \rangle, \langle 2, 0, 3, 0 \rangle$



# Undecidability of Verifying Livelock-Freedom

- **Theorem:** [SSS'13, ACM TOCL'19] **Verification of livelock-freedom** of PDPs with constant-space, self-disabling and deterministic processes on symmetric uni-ring is undecidable.
- Observation: States are repeated in a livelock
  - i.e., Sequences of actions taken in each segment of the ring must set the stage for the execution of another sequence of actions, and this goes forever.

# Proposed Approach: Local Characterization of Global Failures

Characterize global failures (e.g., livelock) in local state space of the template process in a topology-specific fashion.

*Absence of local characterizations may imply correctness of PDP*

- *Methodology:* Search for local characterization of global failures in local state space of template processes.



# Graph-Theoretic Representations

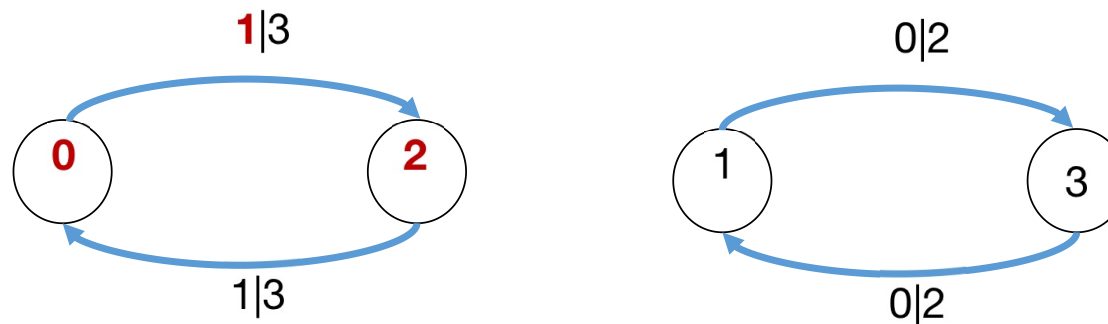
- Facilitate reasoning in the local state space of the template process; i.e., local reasoning for global correctness.
- Parameterized Actions → Action Graph
- State predicates → Locality Graph

# Actions as Action Graphs

# Action Graph

- Actions of a protocol can be represented as a *labeled directed multi-graph* in the local state space of the template process
- *Vertices*: values in the domain of  $x_i \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$
- *Arcs*: each arc  $(a, b, c)$  represents a local update of  $x_i$  to  $c$  if  $x_{i-1}=a$  and  $x_i = b$ 
  - E.g.,  $(0, 1, 2)$  means if  $x_{i-1}=0$  and  $x_i = 1$  then update  $x_i$  to 2

$$(|x_{i-1} - x_i| \bmod 2) \neq 0 \rightarrow x_i := x_{i-1} \oplus_4 2$$

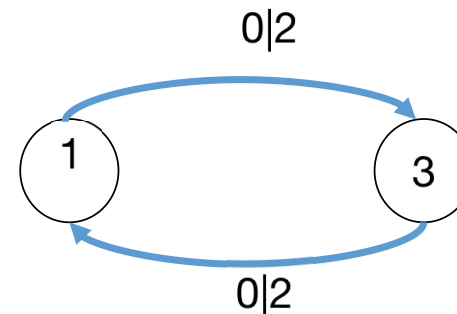
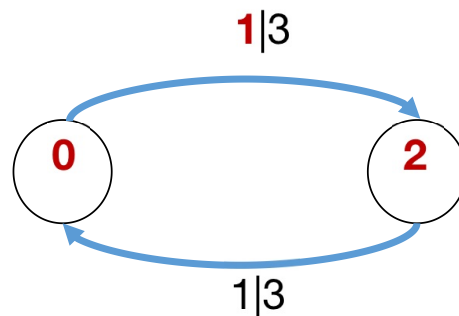


# Action Graph

- Actions of a protocol can be represented as a *labeled directed multi-graph* in the local state space of the template process
- *Vertices*: values in the domain of  $x_i \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$
- *Arcs*: each arc  $(a, b, c)$  represents a local update of  $x_i$  to  $c$  if  $x_{i-1}=a$  and  $x_i = b$ 
  - E.g.,  $(0, 1, 2)$  means if  $x_{i-1}=0$  and  $x_i = 1$  then update  $x_i$  to 2

$$(|x_{i-1} - x_i| \bmod 2) \neq 0 \rightarrow x_i := x_{i-1} \oplus_4 2$$

$(0, 1, 2)$



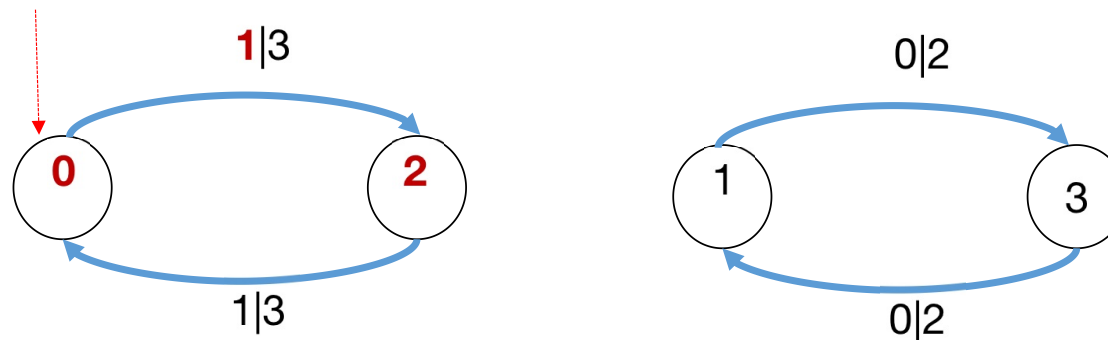
# Action Graph

- Actions of a protocol can be represented as a *labeled directed multi-graph* in the local state space of the template process
- *Vertices*: values in the domain of  $x_i \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$
- *Arcs*: each arc  $(a, b, c)$  represents a local update of  $x_i$  to  $c$  if  $x_{i-1}=a$  and  $x_i = b$ 
  - E.g.,  $(0, 1, 2)$  means if  $x_{i-1}=0$  and  $x_i = 1$  then update  $x_i$  to 2

$$(|x_{i-1} - x_i| \bmod 2) \neq 0 \rightarrow x_i := x_{i-1} \oplus_4 2$$

$(0, 1, 2)$

$x_{i-1}$

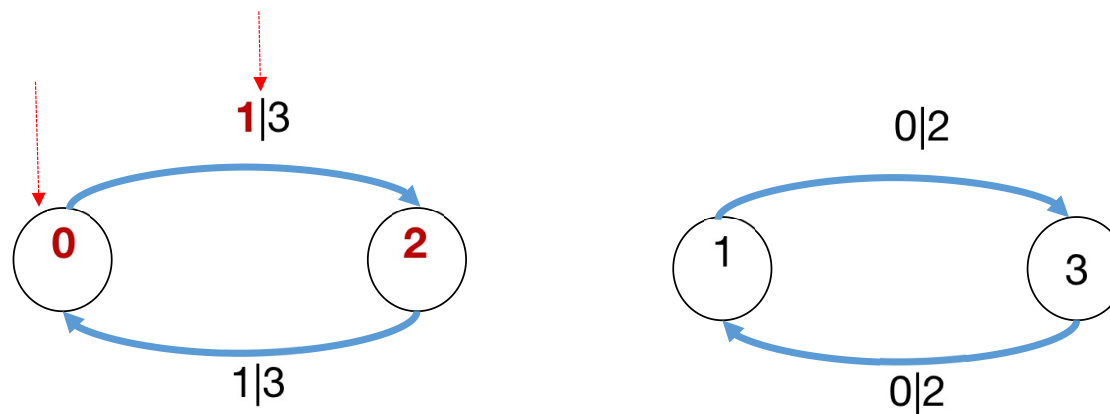


# Action Graph

- Actions of a protocol can be represented as a *labeled directed multi-graph* in the local state space of the template process
- *Vertices*: values in the domain of  $x_i \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$
- *Arcs*: each arc  $(a, b, c)$  represents a local update of  $x_i$  to  $c$  if  $x_{i-1}=a$  and  $x_i = b$ 
  - E.g.,  $(0, 1, 2)$  means if  $x_{i-1}=0$  and  $x_i = 1$  then update  $x_i$  to 2

$$(|x_{i-1} - x_i| \bmod 2) \neq 0 \rightarrow x_i := x_{i-1} \oplus_4 2$$

$(0, 1, 2)$   
 $x_{i-1} \quad x_i$

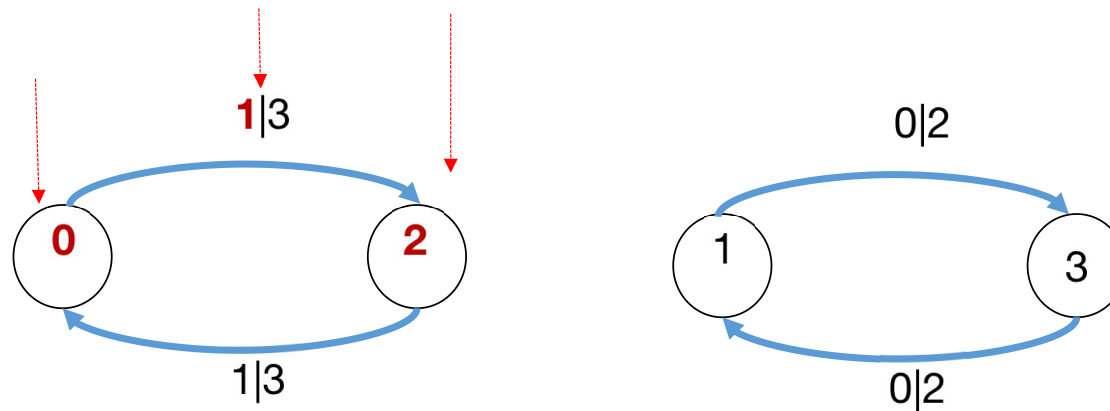


# Action Graph

- Actions of a protocol can be represented as a *labeled directed multi-graph* in the local state space of the template process
- *Vertices*: values in the domain of  $x_i \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$
- *Arcs*: each arc  $(a, b, c)$  represents a local update of  $x_i$  to  $c$  if  $x_{i-1}=a$  and  $x_i = b$ 
  - E.g.,  $(0, 1, 2)$  means if  $x_{i-1}=0$  and  $x_i = 1$  then update  $x_i$  to 2

$$(|x_{i-1} - x_i| \bmod 2) \neq 0 \rightarrow x_i := x_{i-1} \oplus_4 2$$

$(0, 1, 2)$   
 $x_{i-1} \quad x_i \quad \text{set } x_i \text{ to}$



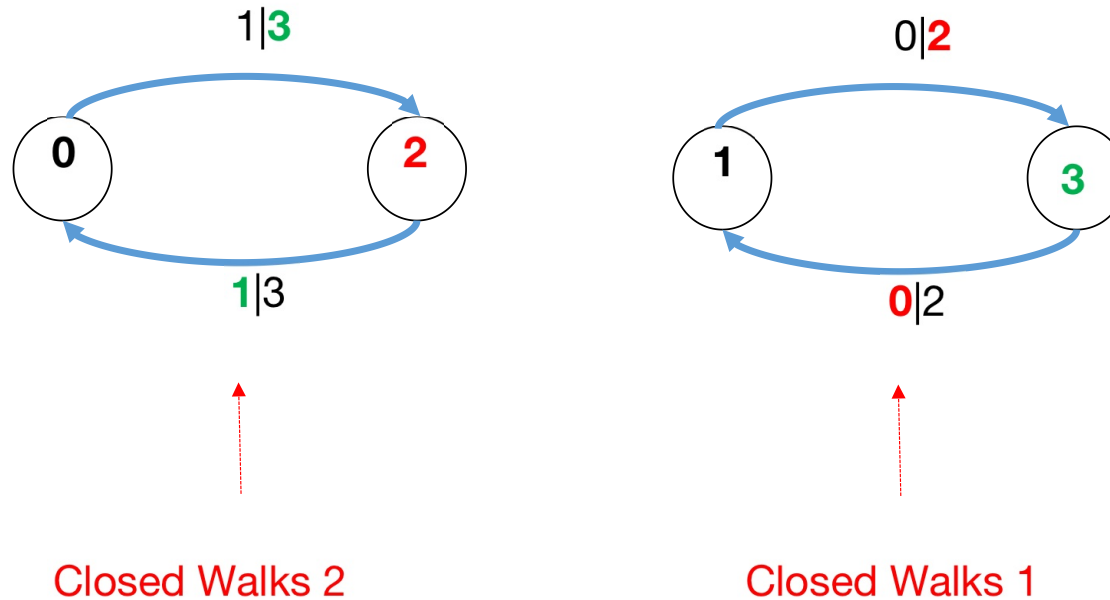
# Propagations as Closed Walks



# Closed Walks in Action Graph

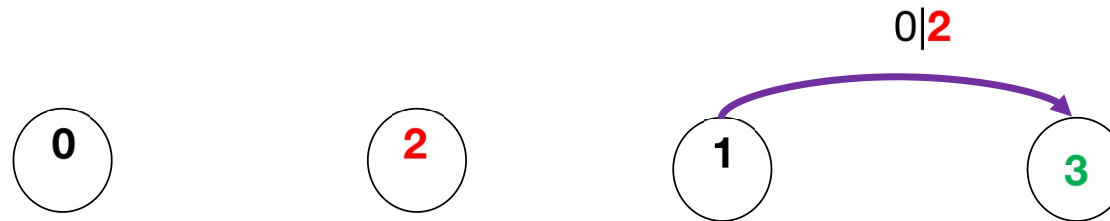
- **Closed walk/Propagation:** sequence of consecutive actions

$$A_0 : (|x_{i-1} - x_i| \bmod 2) \neq 0 \rightarrow x_i := x_{i-1} \oplus_4 2$$



# Enabling Closed Walks

- A closed walk **enabling** another



Closed walk 1: (1, 2, 3),

Closed walk 2:

# Enabling Closed Walks

- A closed walk **enabling** another

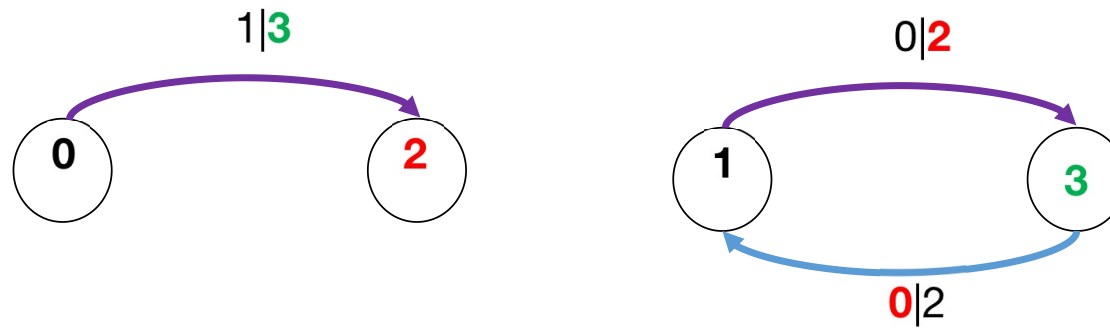


Closed walk 1: (1, 2, 3),

Closed walk 2: (0, 3, 2),

# Enabling Closed Walks

- A closed walk **enabling** another

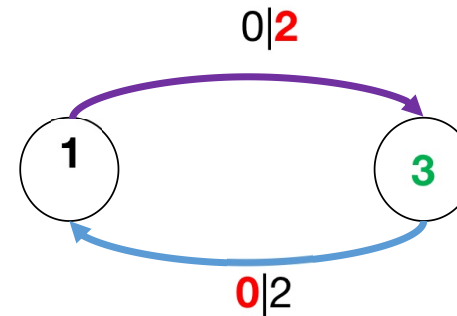
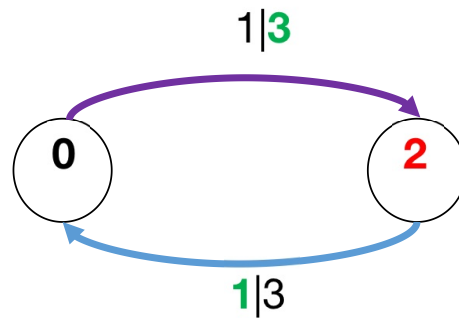


Closed walk 1: (1, 2, 3), (3, 0, 1)

Closed walk 2: (0, 3, 2),

# Enabling Closed Walks

- A closed walk **enabling** another

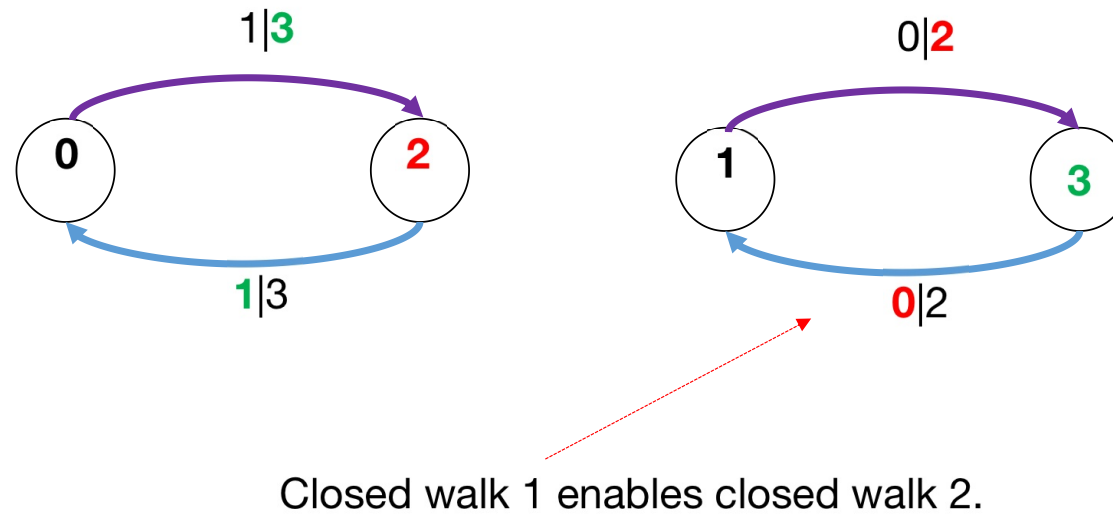


Closed walk 1: (1, **2**, **3**), (3, **0**, **1**)

Closed walk 2: (0, **3**, **2**), (2, **1**, **0**)

# Enabling Closed Walks

- A closed walk **enabling** another

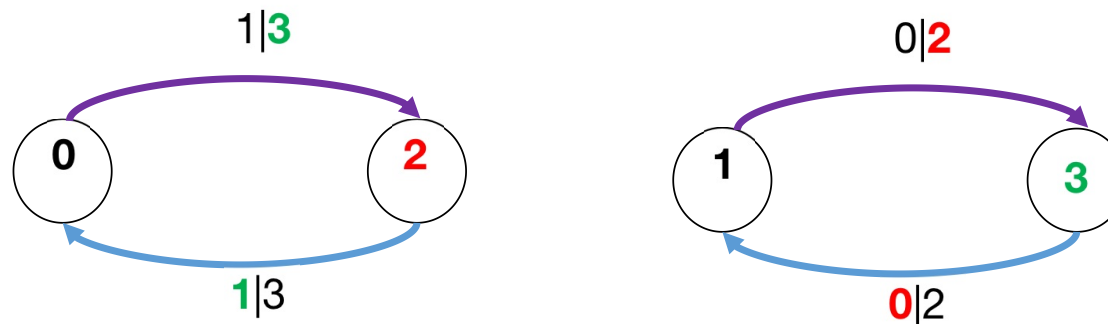


Closed walk 1: (1, **2**, **3**), (3, **0**, **1**)

Closed walk 2: (0, **3**, **2**), (2, **1**, **0**)

# Enabling Closed Walks

- A closed walk **enabling** another



A closed walk of length  $n$  **enables** another closed walk of length  $n$   
*iff*

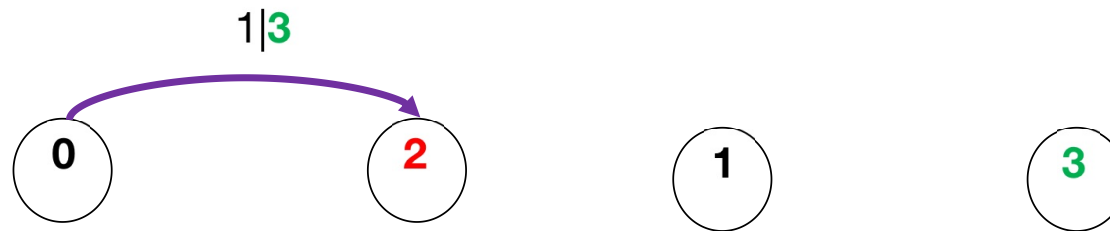
$j$ -th action of the first walk enables the  $j$ -th action of  
the second walk, for  $1 \leq j \leq n$

Closed walk 1: (1, **2**, **3**), (3, **0**, **1**)

Closed walk 2: (0, **3**, **2**), (2, **1**, **0**)

# Circularly Enabling Closed Walks

- Closed walk 2 also enables closed walk 1.



Closed walk 1:

Closed walk 2: (0, 3, 2),



# Circularly Enabling Closed Walks

- Closed walk 2 also enables closed walk 1.

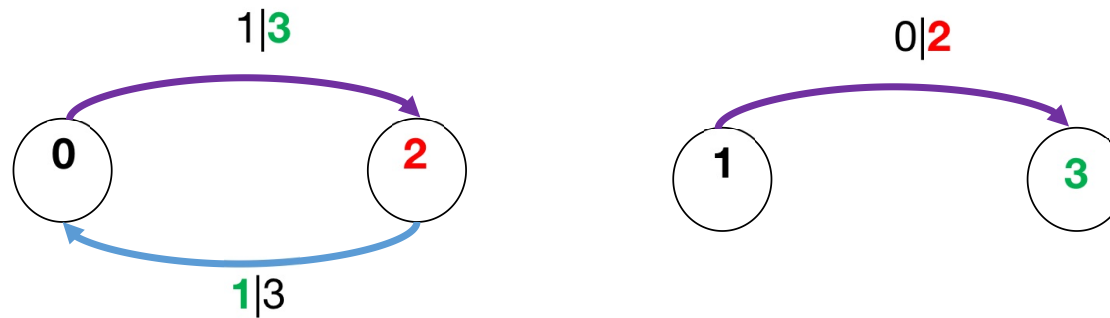


Closed walk 1: (1, **2**, **3**),

Closed walk 2: (0, **3**, **2**),

# Circularly Enabling Closed Walks

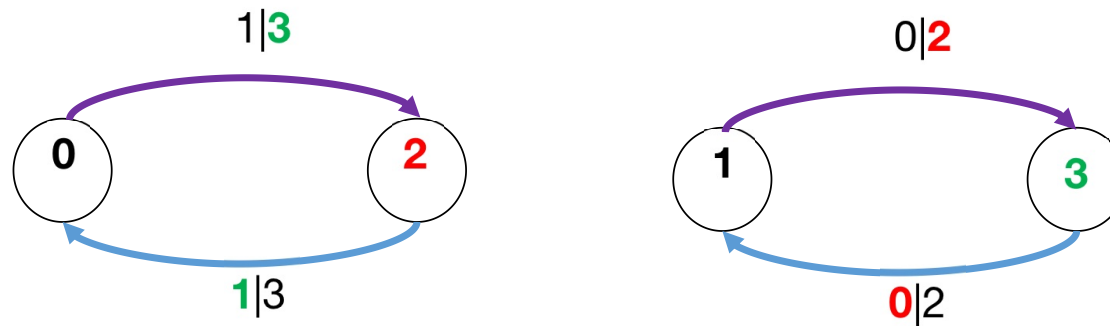
- Closed walk 2 also enables closed walk 1.



Closed walk 1: (1, 2, 3),  
Closed walk 2: (0, 3, 2), (2, 1, 0)

# Circularly Enabling Closed Walks

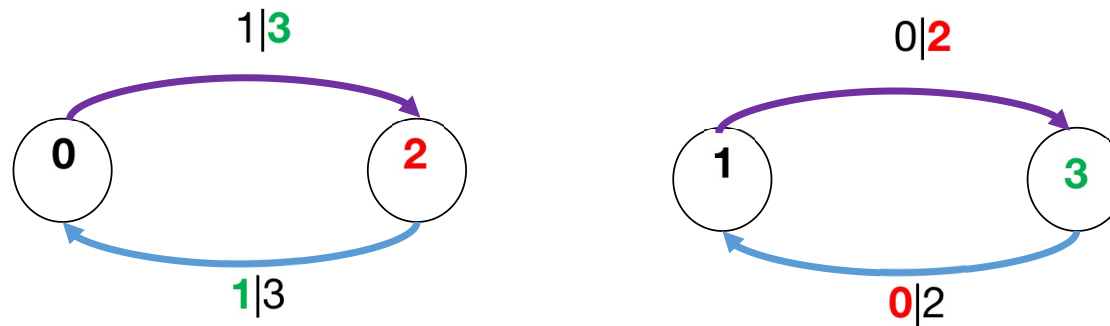
- Closed walk 2 also enables closed walk 1.



Closed walk 1: (1, 2, 3), (3, 0, 1)

Closed walk 2: (0, 3, 2), (2, 1, 0)

# Circularly Enabling Closed Walks



2 circularly enabling closed walks, each of length 2.

Closed walk 1: (1, **2**, **3**), (3, **0**, **1**)

Closed walk 2: (0, **3**, **2**), (2, **1**, **0**)

- A set of updates in a segment of the ring enables another set of updates and vice versa.

- Intuitively, we are observing same states being repeated.

# Local Characterization of Global Livelocks

- **Theorem:** [SSS'13, ACM TOCL'19]

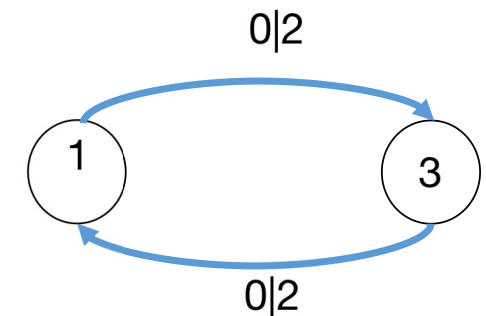
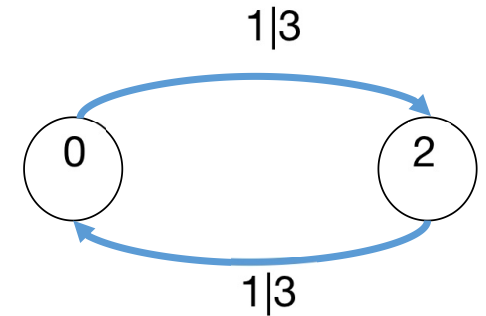
A unidirectional ring of symmetric processes has a livelock for a ring size  $(m \times n)$

*if and only if*

There are  $m$  closed walks, each of length  $n$ , in the action graph that enable each other circularly

# Semi-Algorithm for Livelock Detection and Construction

- $A_0 : (|x_{i-1} - x_i| \bmod 2) \neq 0 \rightarrow x_i := x_{i-1} \oplus_4 2$
- Closed walk 1: (1, **2**, 3), (3, **0**, 1)
- Closed walk 2: (0, **3**, 2), (2, **1**, 0)
  - **m=n=2; ring size is 4.**
- Initial state of livelock:  $\langle \mathbf{2}, \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{3}, \mathbf{1} \rangle$
- Interleaving:  $P_0, P_2, P_1, P_3, P_0, P_2, P_1, P_3$



$\langle \mathbf{2}, \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{3}, \mathbf{1} \rangle,$   
 $\langle 3, 0, 3, 1 \rangle,$   
 $\langle 3, 0, 2, 1 \rangle,$   
 $\langle 3, 1, 2, 1 \rangle, \langle 3, 1, 2, 0 \rangle, \langle 2, 1, 2, 0 \rangle, \langle 2, 1, 3, 0 \rangle, \langle 2, 0, 3, 0 \rangle$

A dashed purple arrow points from the right side of the text above to the first state  $\langle \mathbf{2}, \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{3}, \mathbf{1} \rangle$ .

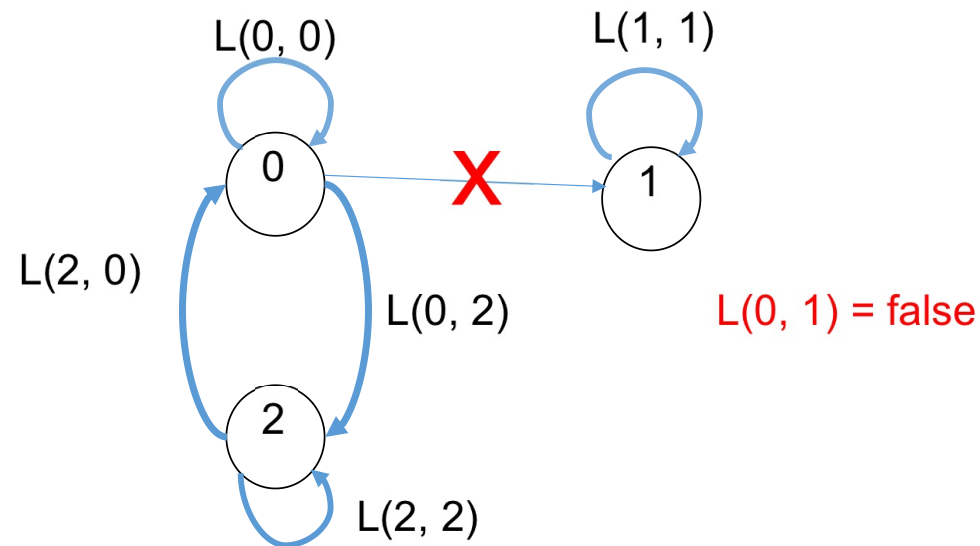
# State Predicates as Locality Graphs

# Locality Graph of Parity Protocol

- *Vertices*: values in domain of  $x_i$
- *Arcs*: there is an arc from vertex  $a$  to  $b$  iff  $L(a, b)$  holds.

$I = \forall i \in \mathbb{Z}_N : L(x_{i-1}, x_i)$  where  $L(x_{i-1}, x_i) \equiv (|x_{i-1} - x_i| \% 2 = 0)$

$x_i \in \mathbb{Z}_3 = \{0, 1, 2\}$ ; i.e., constant-space processes



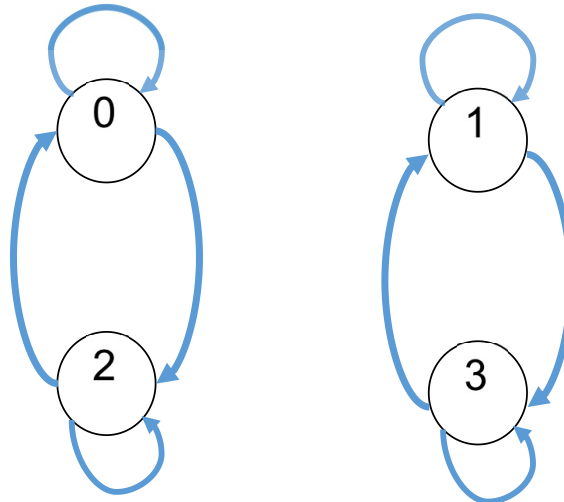


# Locality Graph of Parity Protocol

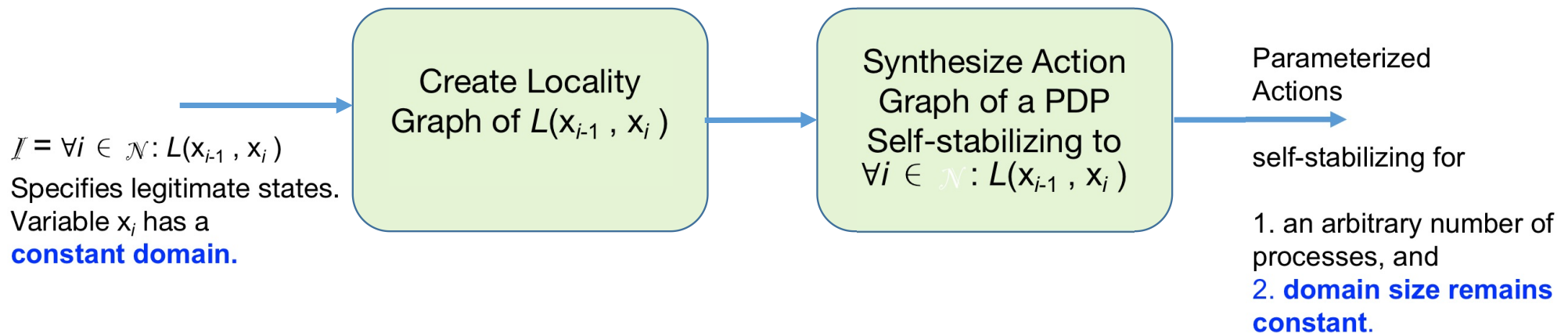
- *Vertices*: values in domain of  $x_i$
- *Arcs*: there is an arc from vertex  $a$  to  $b$  iff  $L(a, b)$  holds.

$$I = \forall i \in \mathbb{Z}^+ : L(x_{i-1}, x_i) \text{ where } L(x_{i-1}, x_i) \equiv (|x_{i-1} - x_i| \% 2 = 0)$$

$$x_i \in \mathbb{Z}_4 = \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$$



# Synthesis of SS on Uni-Ring



# Decidability of Synthesis

- **Theorem:** [IEEE TSE 2019]

Synthesizing SS PDPs on symmetric uni-rings is decidable for deterministic, *constant-space* and self-disabling processes.

- **Theorem:** (necessary and sufficient condition) [IEEE TSE 2019]

There is a PDP  $p$  that self-stabilizes to  $\mathcal{I} = \forall i \in \mathcal{N}: L(x_{i-1}, x_i)$

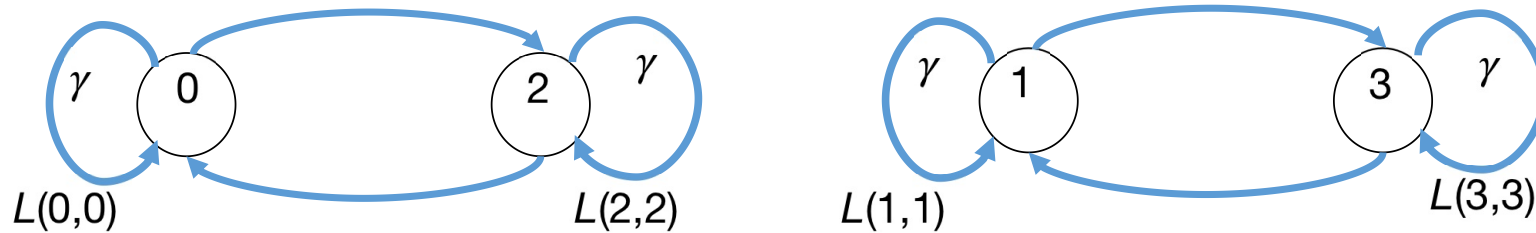
if and only if

There is some value  $\gamma$  in the domain of  $x_i$  such that  $L(\gamma, \gamma)$  holds (i.e., self-loops), and the action graph of  $p$  is a directed spanning tree rooted at  $\gamma$ .

# Synthesis Algorithm

- **Step 1:** Create the locality graph of

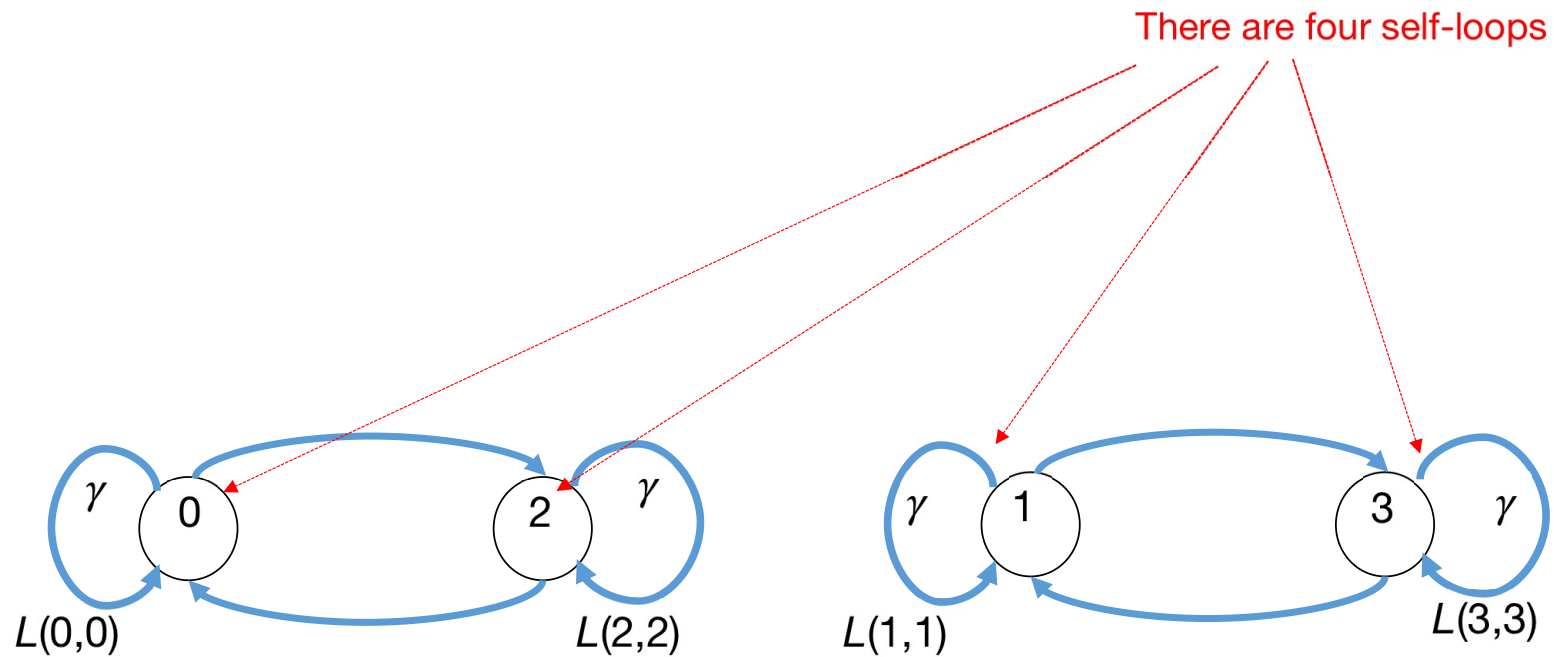
$$L(x_{i-1}, x_i) = ((|x_{i-1} - x_i| \bmod 2) = 0), \text{ where } x_i \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$$



# Synthesis Algorithm

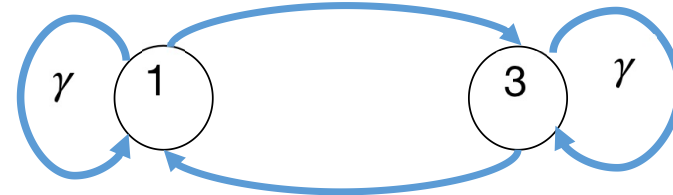
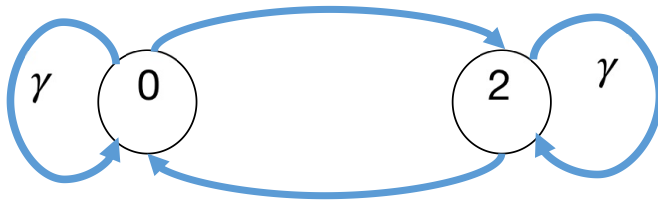
- **Step 1:** Create the locality graph of

$$L(x_{i-1}, x_i) = ((|x_{i-1} - x_i| \bmod 2) = 0), \text{ where } x_i \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$$



# Synthesis Algorithm

- **Step 2:** Induce subgraph  $L'$  using arcs that participate in some cycle
  - E.g., in the case of parity, all arcs participate in some cycle; hence kept



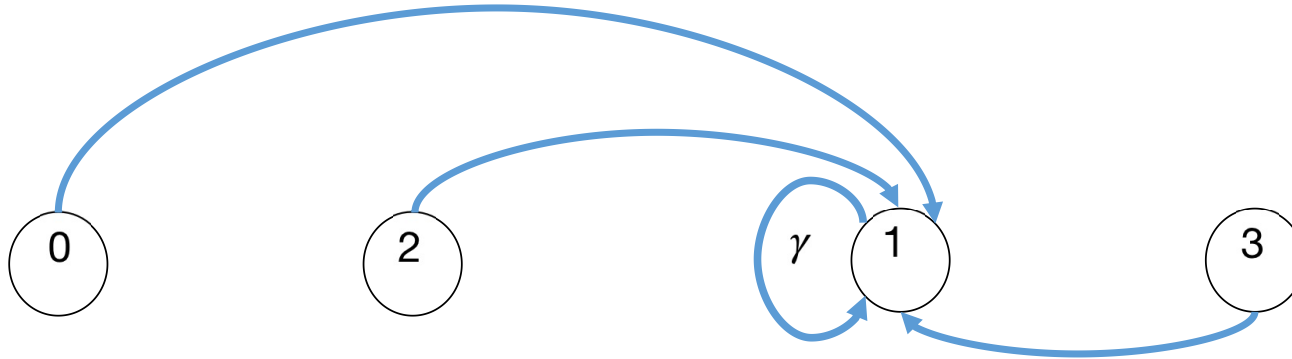
# Synthesis Algorithm

- **Step 3:** arbitrarily pick a node  $\gamma$  and form a spanning tree with  $\gamma$  as its root
  - Backward reachability from root



# Synthesis Algorithm

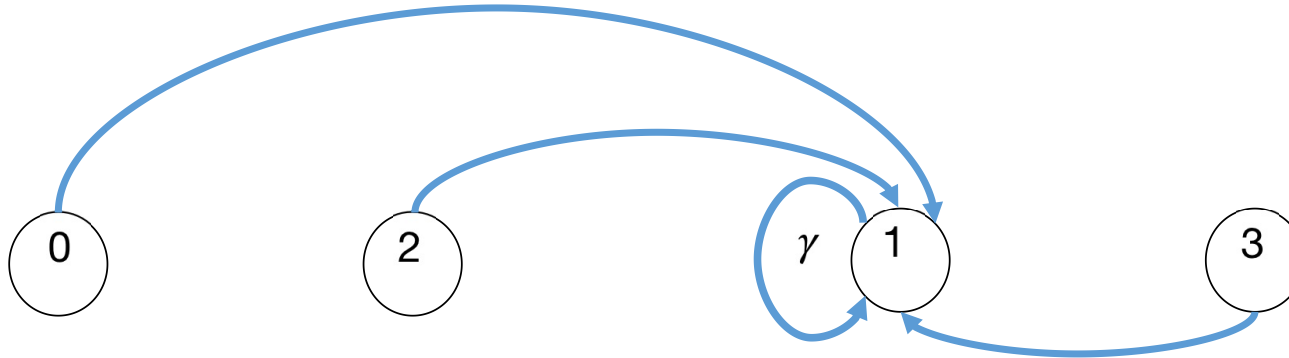
- **Step 4**: add arcs from unreachable nodes to  $\gamma$





# Synthesis Algorithm

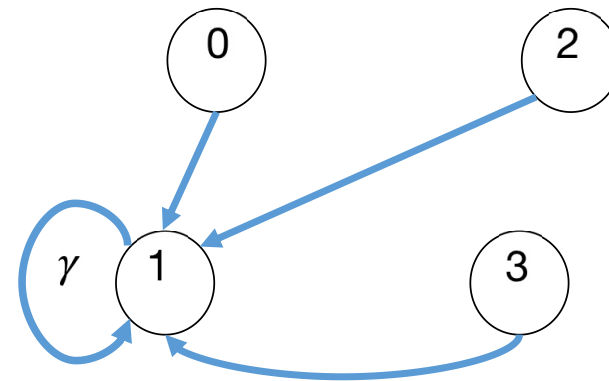
- **Step 4**: add arcs from unreachable nodes to  $\gamma$



Intuitively, this spanning tree captures how “local updates” should be performed to ensure “global stabilization”.

# Synthesis Algorithm

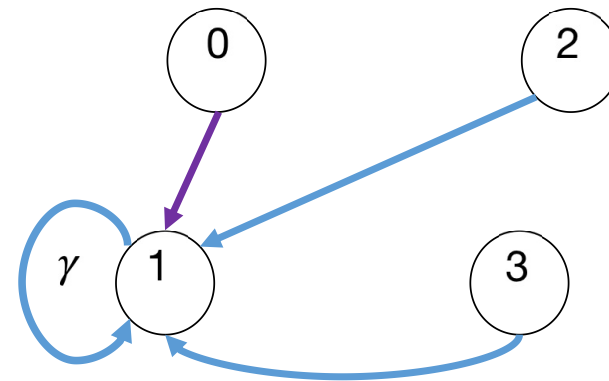
- **Step 5:** transform the spanning tree to an action graph by labeling its arcs
- *Labeling Method:*
  - For each arc  $(a, c)$ , label it with a value  $b$  iff  $L(a,b)$  is false and  $b$  is not a parent of  $a$  in the spanning tree



# Synthesis Algorithm

- **Step 5:** transform the spanning tree to an action graph by labeling its arcs
- *Labeling Method:*
  - For each arc  $(a, c)$ , label it with a value  $b$  iff  $L(a,b)$  is false and  $b$  is not a parent of  $a$  in the spanning tree

$a = 0$  and  $b = \underline{1}$  and  $c = 1 \Rightarrow (|0-1| \bmod 2) \neq 0$ , but  $b=c$ ; unacceptable

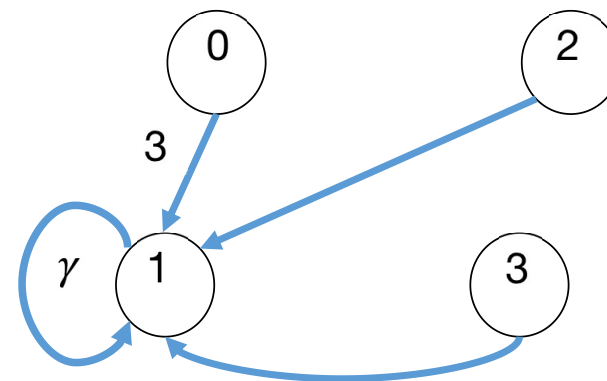


# Synthesis Algorithm

- **Step 5:** transform the spanning tree to an action graph by labeling its arcs
- *Labeling Method:*
  - For each arc  $(a, c)$ , label it with a value  $b$  iff  $L(a,b)$  is false and  $b$  is not a parent of  $a$  in the spanning tree

$a = 0$  and  $b = \underline{1}$  and  $c = 1 \Rightarrow |0-1| \bmod 2 \neq 0$ , but  $b=c$ ; unacceptable

$a = 0$  and  $b = \underline{3}$  and  $c = 1 \Rightarrow |0-3| \bmod 2 \neq 0$ ; acceptable



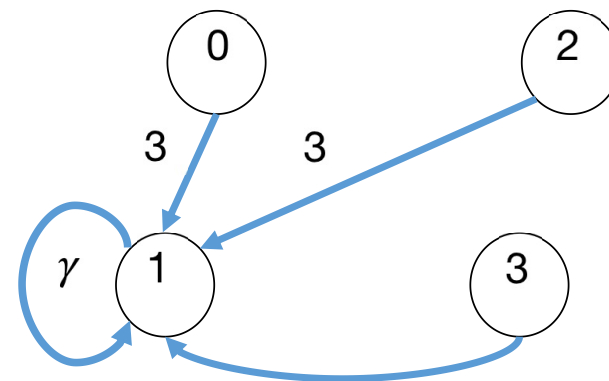
# Synthesis Algorithm

- **Step 5:** transform the spanning tree to an action graph by labeling its arcs
- *Labeling Method:*
  - For each arc  $(a, c)$ , label it with a value  $b$  iff  $L(a,b)$  is false and  $b$  is not a parent of  $a$  in the spanning tree

$a = 0$  and  $b = \underline{1}$  and  $c = 1 \Rightarrow |0-1| \bmod 2 \neq 0$ , but  $b=c$ ; unacceptable

$a = 0$  and  $b = \underline{3}$  and  $c = 1 \Rightarrow |0-3| \bmod 2 \neq 0$ ; acceptable

$a = 2$  and  $b = \underline{3}$  and  $c = 1 \Rightarrow |2-3| \bmod 2 \neq 0$ ; acceptable



# Synthesis Algorithm

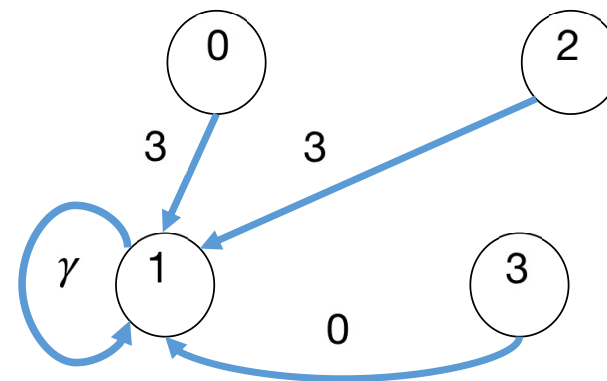
- **Step 5:** transform the spanning tree to an action graph by labeling its arcs
- *Labeling Method:*
  - For each arc  $(a, c)$ , label it with a value  $b$  iff  $L(a,b)$  is false and  $b$  is not a parent of  $a$  in the spanning tree

$a = 0$  and  $b = \underline{1}$  and  $c = 1 \Rightarrow |0-1| \bmod 2 \neq 0$ , but  $b=c$ ; unacceptable

$a = 0$  and  $b = \underline{3}$  and  $c = 1 \Rightarrow |0-3| \bmod 2 \neq 0$ ; acceptable

$a = 2$  and  $b = \underline{3}$  and  $c = 1 \Rightarrow |2-3| \bmod 2 \neq 0$ ; acceptable

$a = 3$  and  $b = \underline{0}$  and  $c = 1 \Rightarrow |3-0| \bmod 2 \neq 0$ ; acceptable



# Synthesis Algorithm

- **Step 5:** transform the spanning tree to an action graph by labeling its arcs
- *Labeling Method:*
  - For each arc  $(a, c)$ , label it with a value  $b$  iff  $L(a,b)$  is false and  $b$  is not a parent of  $a$  in the spanning tree

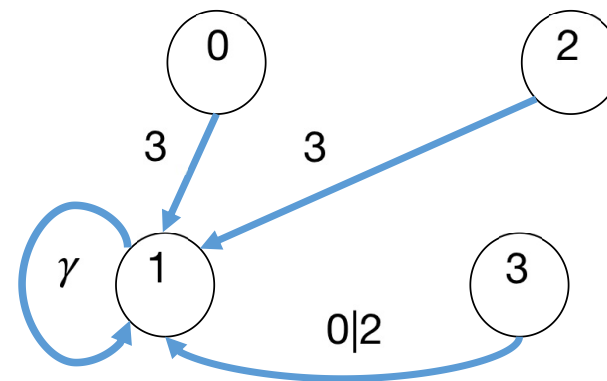
$a = 0$  and  $b = \underline{1}$  and  $c = 1 \Rightarrow |0-1| \bmod 2 \neq 0$ , but  $b=c$ ; unacceptable

$a = 0$  and  $b = \underline{3}$  and  $c = 1 \Rightarrow |0-3| \bmod 2 \neq 0$ ; acceptable

$a = 2$  and  $b = \underline{3}$  and  $c = 1 \Rightarrow |2-3| \bmod 2 \neq 0$ ; acceptable

$a = 3$  and  $b = \underline{0}$  and  $c = 1 \Rightarrow |3-0| \bmod 2 \neq 0$ ; acceptable

$a = 3$  and  $b = \underline{2}$  and  $c = 1 \Rightarrow |3-2| \bmod 2 \neq 0$ ; acceptable



# Synthesis Algorithm

- **Step 5:** transform the spanning tree to an action graph by labeling its arcs
- *Labeling Method:*
  - For each arc  $(a, c)$ , label it with a value  $b$  iff  $L(a,b)$  is false and  $b$  is not a parent of  $a$  in the spanning tree

$a = 0$  and  $b = \underline{1}$  and  $c = 1 \Rightarrow |0-1| \bmod 2 \neq 0$ , but  $b=c$ ; unacceptable

$a = 0$  and  $b = \underline{3}$  and  $c = 1 \Rightarrow |0-3| \bmod 2 \neq 0$ ; acceptable

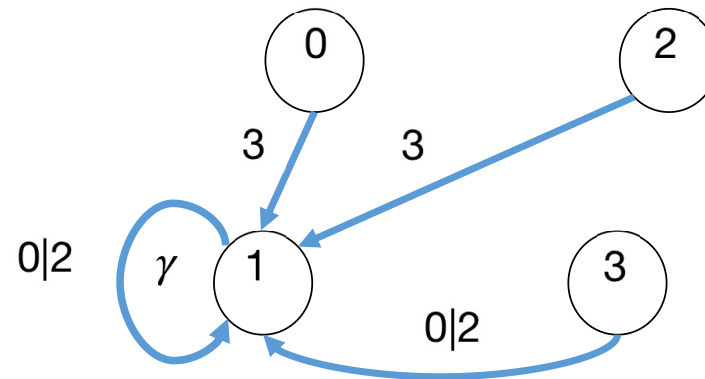
$a = 2$  and  $b = \underline{3}$  and  $c = 1 \Rightarrow |2-3| \bmod 2 \neq 0$ ; acceptable

$a = 3$  and  $b = \underline{0}$  and  $c = 1 \Rightarrow |3-0| \bmod 2 \neq 0$ ; acceptable

$a = 3$  and  $b = \underline{2}$  and  $c = 1 \Rightarrow |3-2| \bmod 2 \neq 0$ ; acceptable

$a = 1$  and  $b = \underline{0}$  and  $c = 1 \Rightarrow |1-0| \bmod 2 \neq 0$ ; acceptable

$a = 1$  and  $b = \underline{2}$  and  $c = 1 \Rightarrow |1-2| \bmod 2 \neq 0$ ; acceptable

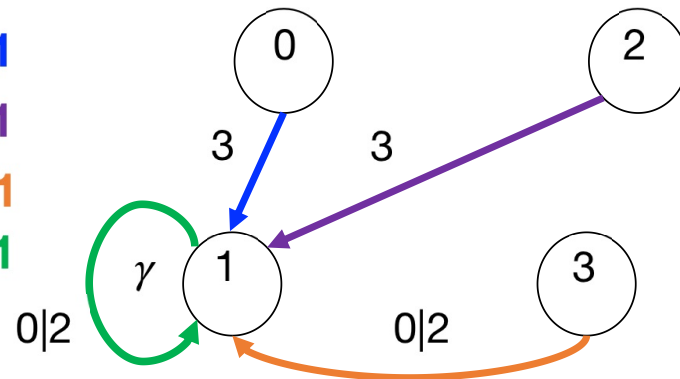




# Synthesis Algorithm

- Proof of stabilization:
  - **Deadlock-freedom** outside  $I$  :
    - Each process is enabled *iff*  $L'(x_{i-1}, x_i)$  is false
  - **Closure** of  $I$  in protocol actions:
    - no action is enabled where  $L'(x_{i-1}, x_i)$  is true
  - **Livelock-freedom** outside  $I$  :
    - The only type of closed walk includes  $(\gamma, \mathbf{b}, \gamma)$ , which does not enable itself circularly

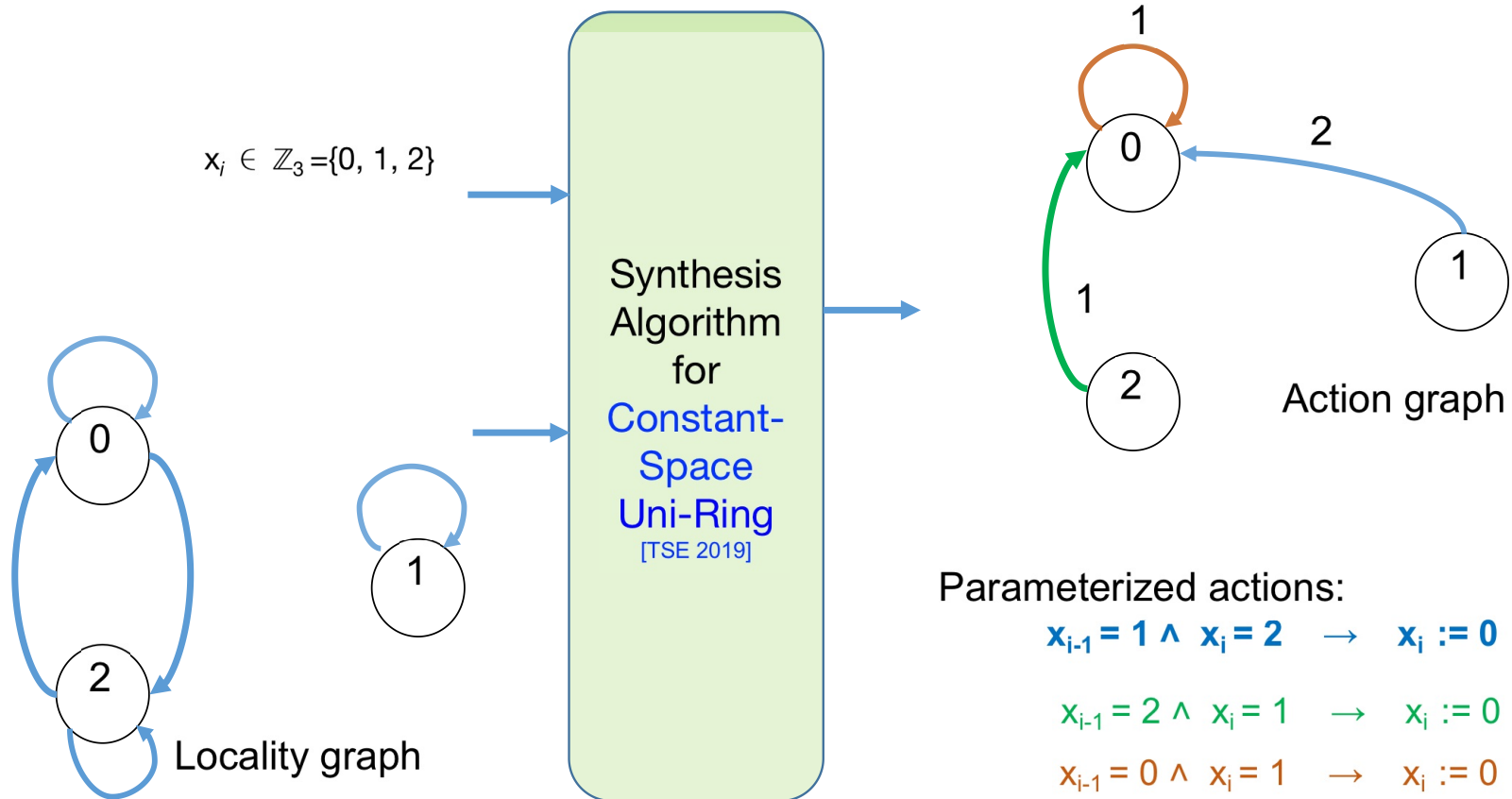
$(x_{i-1} = 0) \wedge (x_i = 3)$	$\rightarrow x_i := 1$
$(x_{i-1} = 2) \wedge (x_i = 3)$	$\rightarrow x_i := 1$
$(x_{i-1} = 3) \wedge ((x_i = 0) \vee (x_i = 2))$	$\rightarrow x_i := 1$
$(x_{i-1} = 1) \wedge ((x_i = 0) \vee (x_i = 2))$	$\rightarrow x_i := 1$



# Synthesis for Constant Space

Example: Agree on a common Parity in uni-ring

$$I = \forall i \in \mathbb{Z}^+ : L(x_{i-1}, x_i) \text{ where } L(x_{i-1}, x_i) \equiv (|x_{i-1} - x_i| \% 2 = 0) \quad x_i \in \mathbb{Z}_3 = \{0, 1, 2\}$$



# Related Work on V&S of Parameterized Protocols

- **Verification and Synthesis (V&S)** of PDP are in general undecidable problems.
  - *Pairwise synthesis*: safety properties and local liveness in symmetric systems [Attie and Emerson 1998]
  - *Abstraction methods*: create finite approximations of PDP (e.g., counter abstraction) and conduct verification [Pnueli et al. 2002]
  - *Regular model checking*: use regular languages to model PDP [Abdulla et al. 2004]
  - *Invisible invariants/ranking*: generate implicit local invariants and generalize [Fang et al. 2006]
  - *Network invariants*: prove safety by parallel compositions that are invariant to correctness [Wolper and Lovinfosse 1989]
    - *Neo* [Matthews, Bingham, Sorin 2016] expands this idea for topology-specific verification of safety properties
  - *Parameterized synthesis*: based on small model theorems (i.e., cutoff) and SMT-based bounded synthesis [Jacobs and Bloem 2012]
  - *Well-founded proof spaces*: prove safety and liveness of infinite traces by showing that traces terminate [Farzan et al. 2016]
  - *Population protocols*: anonymous processes; invariants are formed of counting constraints; mostly consider clique topology [Esparza et al. 2018]
  - *Synthesis of Threshold Automata (TA)*: complete sketches of TA using counter abstraction [Lazi et al. 2018]
    - General topology (in some cases a clique) and temporal properties.
    - *Correctness of a finite abstract model implies correctness of PDP.*
      - Mostly focus on safety properties and local liveness.
      - Few of them focus on self-stabilization.

# V&S of Unbounded Protocols

Domain Size of Variables \ Number of Processes	Fixed	Unbounded
Fixed	Fixed-size Protocols	Unbounded Variable Protocols
Unbounded	Constant-space Parameterized Protocols	Unbounded Parameterized Protocols (FMCAD 2022)

<b>Protocol</b>	<b>Topology</b>	<b>Property</b>	<b>Verified/Synthesized</b>	<b>Unboundedness</b>
<b>Leader Election</b>	Uni-Ring	Livelock-freedom	Verified	Processes
<b>Token Passing</b>	Uni-Ring	Livelock-freedom	Verified	Processes
<b>Agreement</b>	Uni-Ring	Livelock-freedom	Verified	Processes
<b>Coloring</b>	Uni-Ring	Livelock-freedom	Verified	Processes
<b>Parity</b>	Uni-Ring	Self-Stabilization	Synthesized	Processes/Variable Domain
<b>Agreement</b>	Uni-Ring	Self-Stabilization	Synthesized	Processes/Variable Domain
<b>Sum-Not-2</b>	Uni-Ring	Self-Stabilization	Synthesized	Processes
<b>Broadcast</b>	Tree	Self-Stabilization	Synthesized	Processes
<b>Coloring</b>	Tree	Self-Stabilization	Synthesized	Processes
<b>MIS</b>	Tree	Self-Stabilization	Synthesized	Processes
<b>Min/Max</b>	Tree	Self-Stabilization	Synthesized	Processes
<b>Sum-Not-2</b>	Uni-Ring	LeadsTo	Synthesized	Processes
<b>Agreement</b>	Uni-Ring	LeadsTo	Synthesized	Processes
<b>Parity</b>	Uni-Ring	LeadsTo	Synthesized	Processes

# Open Problems

- V&S for
  - Protocols with **multiple symmetric families**
  - Property:
    - Fault tolerance (e.g., failsafe, nonmasking, masking)
      - Characterize faults in action graphs?
      - Calculate fault-span locally?
    - Security and privacy (e.g., tamper evidence, access control, anonymity, etc.)
      - Local characterization of security breaches?
      - Interplay of fault tolerance and security aspects for template processes
    - General LTL properties (e.g., LeadsTo, Dwyer's Specification patterns)

# Open Problems

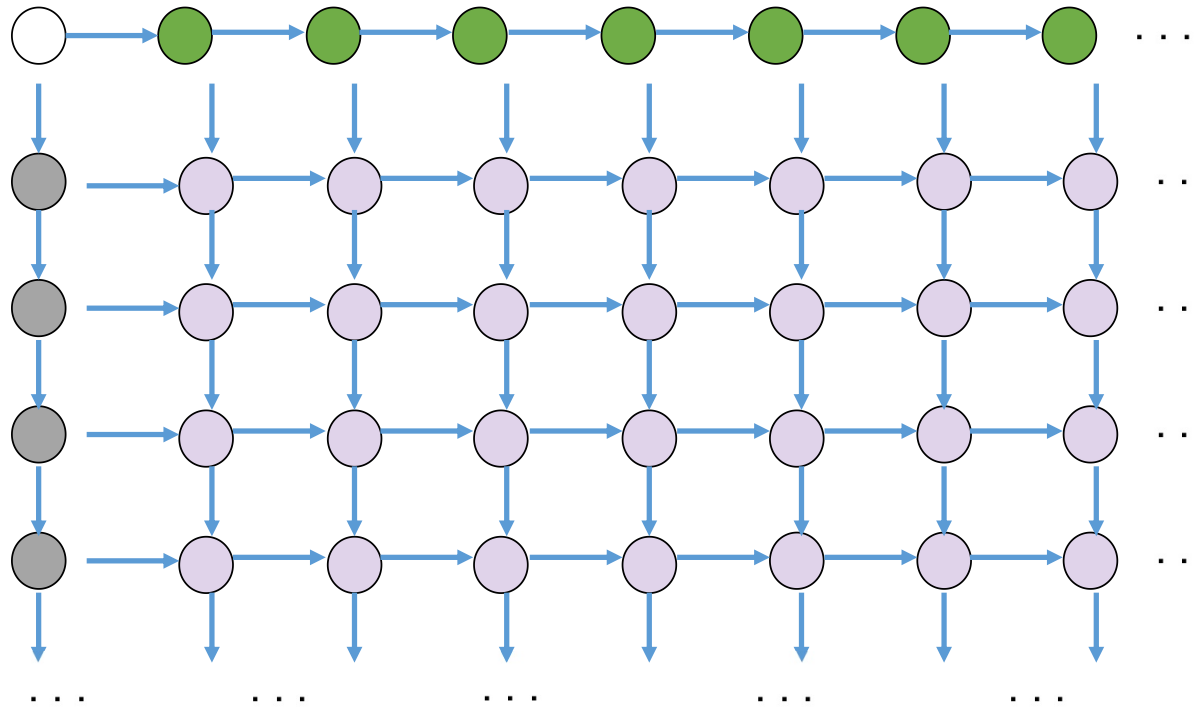
- V&S for
  - Property:
    - General temporal logic properties
      - LeadsTo (FMCAD 2019, IEEE TSE 2021)
      - Dwyer's Specification patterns?
  - Topology:
    - Mesh
    - Katz graph

# Property-Preserving Compositions

- Problem Statement
  - **Input**: Two PDPs  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  with
    - elementary topologies  $T_1$  and  $T_2$
    - invariants  $I_1$  and  $I_2$
    - assumption:  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  satisfy a global property  $\varphi$  respectively from  $I_1$  and  $I_2$  for any number of processes
  - **Output**: PDP  $P_c$  with a topology  $T_c$  and an invariant  $I_c$  such that
    - $T_c$  is a (hierarchical/sequential/parallel/superposition) composition of  $T_1$  and  $T_2$ , and
    - $P_c$  is a (synchronous/asynchronous) composition of  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  which satisfies  $\varphi$  from  $I_c$  where
      - $I_c$  is a conjunctive invariant  $I_c = (I_1 \wedge I_2)$ ;
      - $I_c$  is a disjunctive invariant  $I_c = (I_1 \vee I_2)$ ;
      - $I_c$  is a implicative invariant  $I_c = (I_1 \Rightarrow I_2)$ , or  $I_c = (I_2 \Rightarrow I_1)$ .

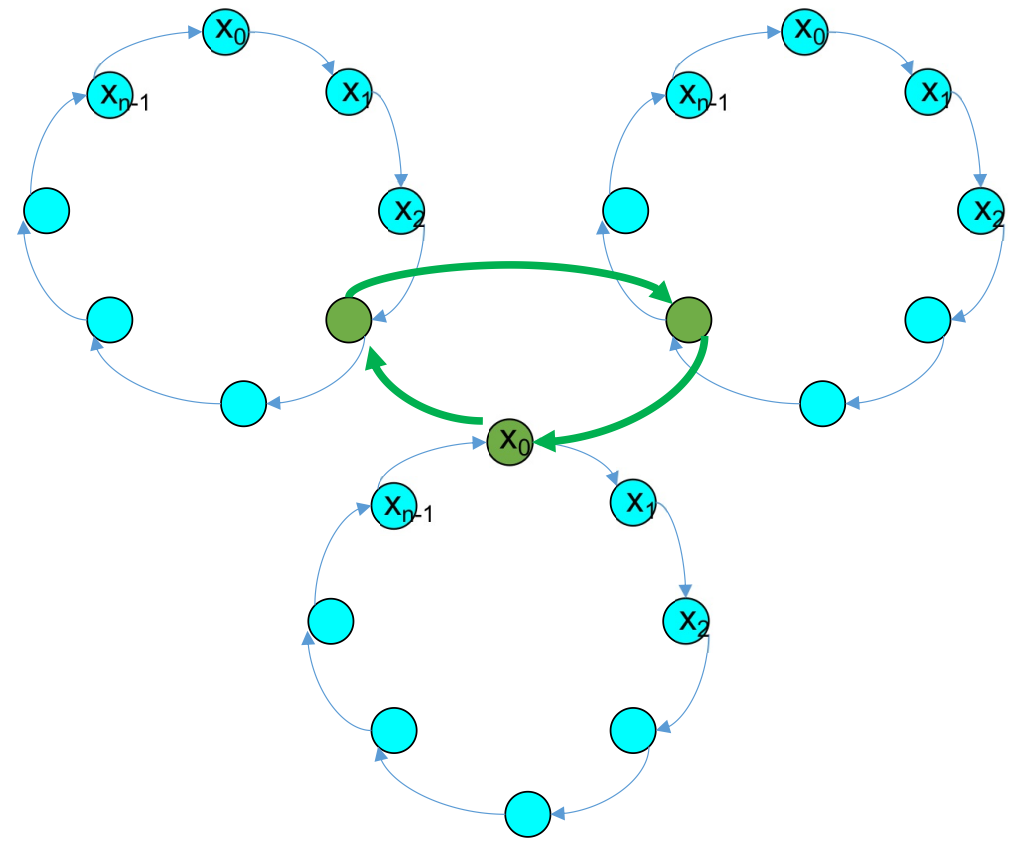


# Mesh

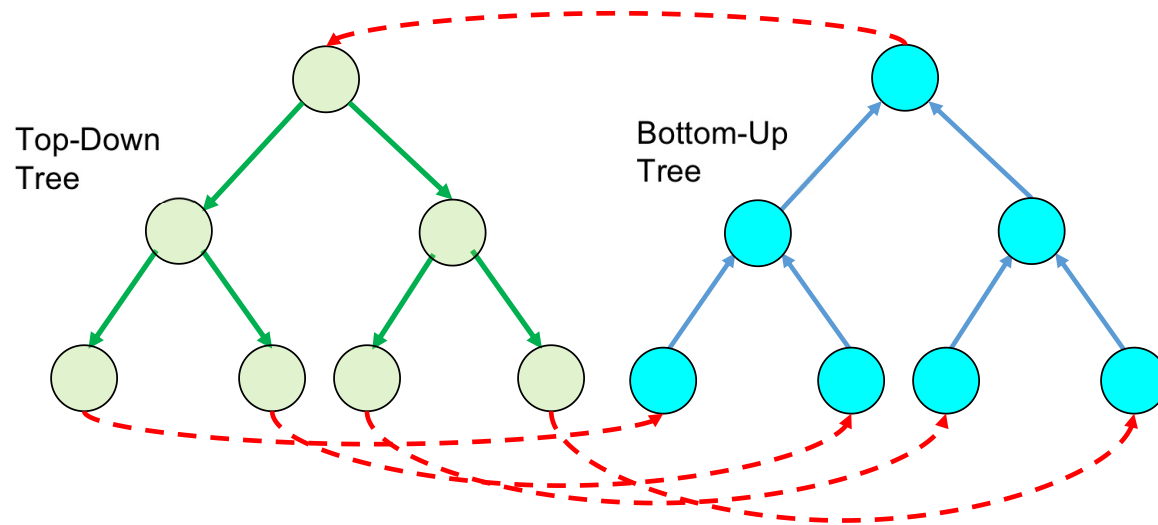


Information flow-based sufficient conditions.

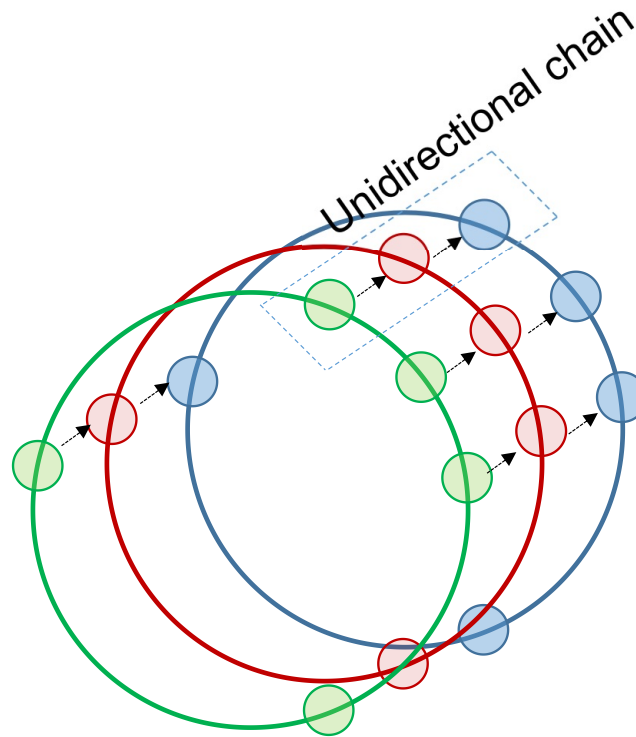
# HyperRing



# Superposed Trees



# Variable-Space Processes



**Scalable composition of resilient ring and chain  
generating a scalable tube that can grow  
in depth and diameter.**

# Acknowledgement

- Former graduate students:
  - Dr. Alex Klinkhamer
    - Google (Mountain View, CA)
  - Dr. Aly Farahat
    - Intuitive Surgical Inc. (Bay Area, CA)
  - Dr. Amer Tahat
    - Pennsylvania State University
  - Dr. Reza Hajisheykhi (co-advised)
    - Rubrik Inc.
  - Several other M.Sc. students
- NSF grants CCF-1116546 and CCF-0950678
- Michigan Tech's Research Excellence Fund