# Trace Inclusion for One-Counter Nets Revisited 

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## One-Counter Automata

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## OCN and Related Models



## Trace Inclusion for One-Counter Automata

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- reduction works in logspace and preserves determinisim


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## Loops in the synchronous product



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- $L_{0}$ is a loop with effect $(3,1)$.


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## Example: Witnesses for $p_{0} 0 \nsubseteq p_{0}^{\prime} 5$



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## Characterizing Witnesses

## Idea

Stepwise rewrite witnesses to "better" ones such that
1 the loop-structure is the same.
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4 the length is minimal.

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4 the length is minimal.
$\rightsquigarrow$ unique normal form for each witness

## Characterizing Witnesses

Theorem
If $p m \nsubseteq p^{\prime} m^{\prime}$ then there is a short witness, or one of forms


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## Solving DOCN $\nsubseteq D O C N$ in NL

- guess short components of a witness $\pi=\pi_{0} L_{0}^{L_{0}} \pi_{1} L_{1}^{L_{1}} \pi_{2}$
- compute and memorize their effects
- check existence of coefficients $I_{0}, I_{1} \in \mathbb{N}$ such that both $m+\Delta(\pi) \geq 0$ and $m^{\prime}+\Delta^{\prime}(\pi)=-1$


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## $N F A \subseteq O C N$

## Reduction to Trace Universality of OCN <br> NFA $\subseteq \mathrm{OCN}$ <br> $$
\Sigma^{*} \subseteq \mathrm{OCN}
$$

## OCN Universality: Decidability

## Intuition: witnessing non-Universality in a NFA



$$
\left(\begin{array}{l}
\top \\
\perp \\
\perp
\end{array}\right) \xrightarrow{a}\left(\begin{array}{c}
\perp \\
T \\
\top
\end{array}\right) \xrightarrow{b}\left(\begin{array}{c}
\top \\
\perp \\
\perp
\end{array}\right) \xrightarrow{?} *\left(\begin{array}{c}
\perp \\
\perp \\
\perp
\end{array}\right)
$$

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Combined traces of sets of configurations are representable by maximal elements.

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## Fast-Growing Functions $F_{n}: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$

$$
F_{0}(x)=x+1 \quad F_{k+1}(x)=F_{k}^{x+1}(x) \quad F_{\omega}(x)=F_{x}(x)
$$

The Fast-Growing Hierarchy at level $k$ is the class $\mathfrak{F}_{k}$ that contains all constants and is closed under substitution, sum, projections, limited recursion and applications of functions $F_{n}$ for $n \leq k$.

■ $\mathfrak{F}_{k} \approx \operatorname{NSPACE}\left(F_{k}(1)\right)$, for $k \geq 2$.
■ A function is called Ackermannian if it is in $\mathfrak{F}_{\omega} \backslash \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \mathfrak{F}_{k}$.

## Theorem

## OCN Trace Universality is Ackermannian

in $\mathfrak{F}_{\omega}$ :
naive search for witness as above...
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not in $\bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \mathfrak{F}_{k}$ :
by reduction from the (Ackermannian) control-state reachability problem for lossy counter systems.

## OCN Universality: Hardness

## Example



$$
\left(\begin{array}{c}
0 \\
\perp \\
\perp
\end{array}\right) \xrightarrow{a}\left(\begin{array}{c}
\perp \\
1 \\
1
\end{array}\right) \xrightarrow{a}\left(\begin{array}{l}
\perp \\
\perp \\
\perp
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\perp \\
1
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$$

State $C$ is an obstacle for letter a:
If $w \in$ Act $^{*}$ leads to vector with $v(C) \neq \perp$, then no continuation of wa can be a witness!

## Witnesses for non-Universality of length $F_{3}(0)$


start in $\left\{A 0, F_{3} 1\right\}$

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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
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| $D O C N$ | NL | NL | $?$ |
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| OCN | PSPACE | undecidable | undecidable |
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