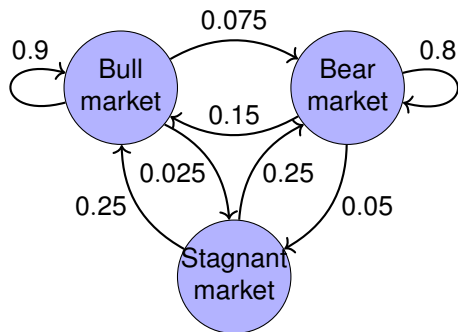


# Linear Dynamical Systems

## Reachability

Amaury Pouly

# Examples: while loop, Markov chain



State:  $X = (p_{bull}, p_{bear}, p_{stag}) \in [0, 1]^3$

Transitions:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0.9 & 0.15 & 0.25 \\ 0.075 & 0.8 & 0.25 \\ 0.025 & 0.05 & 0.5 \end{bmatrix}$$

→ Linear dynamical system

$$X_{n+1} = AX_n$$

## Linear loop

$p_{bull} := 0$

$p_{bear} := 1$

$p_{stag} := 0$

while  $p_{bull} \leq 1/2$  do

$$\begin{bmatrix} p_{bull} \\ p_{bear} \\ p_{stag} \end{bmatrix} := A \begin{bmatrix} p_{bull} \\ p_{bear} \\ p_{stag} \end{bmatrix}$$

The loop terminates if and only if the probability of a bull market is  $> 1/2$ .

# Termination Linear Loops

Does this loop terminate?

## Linear Loop

$x := 2^{-10}, y := 1$

until  $\phi(x)$  do

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} := \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 7 & 1/4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

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## Reachability problem

Given

- ▶ initial point:  $x_0 \in \mathbb{Q}^d$ ,
- ▶ transition matrix:  $A \in \mathbb{Q}^{d \times d}$ ,
- ▶ target set:  $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$

decide if  $\exists n \in \mathbb{N}. A^n x_0 \in \mathcal{S}$ .

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Does this loop terminate?

## Linear Loop

$x := 2^{-10}, y := 1$

until  $x = 42$  and  $y = 36$  do

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} := \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 7 & 1 \\ 4 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

↪

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Natural choices for  $\mathcal{S}$ :

▶ point:

$$\exists n \in \mathbb{N} A^n x_0 = y$$

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- ▶ affine subspace:

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## Reachability problem

Given

- ▶ initial point:  $x_0 \in \mathbb{Q}^d$ ,
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- ▶ target set:  $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$

decide if  $\exists n \in \mathbb{N}. A^n x_0 \in S$ .

Natural choices for  $S$ :

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- ▶ (semi-)algebraic sets

$$\exists n \in \mathbb{N} p(A^n x_0) \geq 0$$



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until  $x^2 y \geq 1$  or  $x = y$  do

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$$\exists n \in \mathbb{N} p(A^n x_0) \geq 0$$

▶ boolean combinations

▶ replace  $x_0$  by an initial set  $\mathcal{X}$

$$\exists x_0 \in \mathcal{X} \exists n \in \mathbb{N} A^n x_0 \in \mathcal{S}$$

$$\forall x_0 \in \mathcal{X} \exists n \in \mathbb{N} A^n x_0 \in \mathcal{S}$$

# What is decidable about linear loops?

**Problem:** given  $x_0$ ,  $A$  and  $S$ , decide if  $\exists n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $A^n x_0 \in S$ .

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Why do we need the dimension to be small?



## Linear Loop

```
 $x := x_0$   
until  $3x_1 - 7x_2 + 4x_3 = 0$  do  
 $x := Ax$ 
```

# From loops to recurrent sequences

## Linear Loop

$x := x_0$   
until  $y^T x = 0$  do  $x := Ax$



## Half-space reachability

Given  $x, y \in \mathbb{Q}^d$ ,  $A \in \mathbb{Q}^{d \times d}$ ,  
decide if  $\exists n \in \mathbb{N}. y^T A^n x_0 = 0$ .

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Consider the **sequence**  $u_n = y^T A^n x$ .

## Lemma

*There exists  $a_0, \dots, a_{d-1} \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that*

$$u_{n+d} = a_{d-1}u_{n+d-1} + \dots + a_0u_n, \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

In other words,  $(u_n)_n$  is a **linear recurrent sequence (LRS)**.

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- ▶ Fibonacci:  $F_{n+2} = F_{n+1} + F_n$
- ▶ Pell numbers:  $P_{n+2} = 2P_{n+1} + P_n$
- ▶ very common in combinatorics

# From loops to recurrent sequences

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In other words,  $(u_n)_n$  is a **linear recurrent sequence (LRS)**. Conversely,

## Lemma

*For any LRS  $(u_n)_n$ , there exists  $x_0, y$  and  $A$  such that  $u_n = y^T A^n x_0$ .*

# Skolem and positivity problems

Linear recurrent sequence (LRS) of order  $d$ :

$$u_{n+d} = a_{d-1}u_{n+d-1} + \cdots + a_0u_n, \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

**Remark:** entirely determined by  $u_0, \dots, u_{d-1}$  and  $a_0, \dots, a_{d-1}$

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Given a LRS  $(u_n)_n$ , decide if  $u_n = 0$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

This problem has been open for 70 years!

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Given a LRS  $(u_n)_n$ , decide if  $u_n \geq 0$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Harder than Skolem



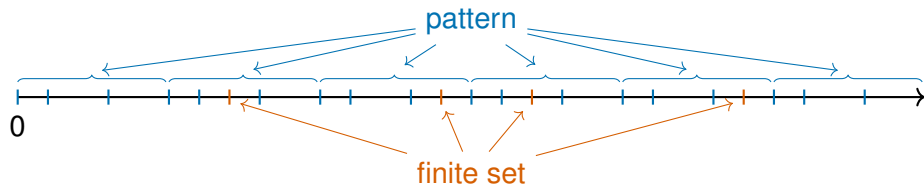
# Skolem-Mahler-Lech theorem

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Theorem (Skolem, Mahler, and Lech, 1933, 1953, 1957)

*The set  $\{n \in \mathbb{N} : u_n = 0\}$  is a union of finitely arithmetic progression and a finite set.*



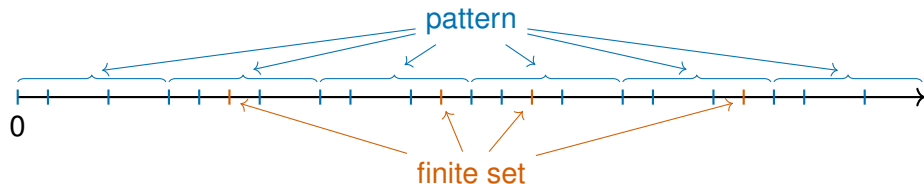
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The **regular pattern** is computable. Nothing is known about the **finite set**: the proof is nonconstructive and uses  $p$ -adic analysis.

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How can we show hardness without proving undecidability?

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For any  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , the (homogeneous Diophantine approximation) type

$$L(x) = \inf \left\{ c \in \mathbb{R} : \left| x - \frac{n}{m} \right| < \frac{c}{m^2} \text{ for some } n, m \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}.$$

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Intuitively, if  $L(x) > 0$  then  $x$  is badly approximable by rationals. **Almost nothing known for any concrete  $x$  except that  $L(x) \in [0, 1/\sqrt{5}]$ .**

Theorem (Ouaknine and Worrell, 2013)

*If Skolem is decidable at order 5 then one can approximate  $L(x)$  with arbitrary precision for a large class of numbers  $x$ .*

## Positivity Problem

Given a LRS  $(u_n)_n$ , decide if  $u_n \geq 0$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .



# Positivity and eventual positivity

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## Theorem (Ouaknine and Worrell, 2014)

*The ultimate positivity problem is decidable for **simple\*** LRS. It is at least as hard as deciding  $\exists \mathbb{R}$ .*

---

\*The associated characteristic polynomial has no repeated roots.

# First-order queries on orbits

**First-order orbit query (FOOQ):** fully quantified first-order sentence whose atomic propositions are of the form

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**Theorem (Almagor, Ouaknine and Worrell, 2021)**

*Given  $A$  and  $\Phi(n)$  a FOOQ, it is decidable whether  $\exists n \in \mathbb{N}. \Phi(n)$  in dimension  $\leq 3$ .*



# MSO model-checking

Given  $x \in \mathbb{Q}^d$  and  $A \in \mathbb{Q}^{n \times n}$  and  $\mathcal{T}_1, \dots, \mathcal{T}_k \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$  semialgebraic sets.

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$$w_n = (A^n x \in \mathcal{T}_1, \dots, A^n x \in \mathcal{T}_k).$$

Intuition:  $w_n$  records to which sets  $A^n x$  belongs to at each step  $n$ .

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**Examples:**  $P_i(n)$  means  $A^n x \in \mathcal{T}_i$

- ▶  $\mathcal{T}_i$  is reachable:  $\exists n. P_i(n)$
- ▶ whenever  $\mathcal{T}_i$  is visited  $\mathcal{T}_j$  is visited some point later:

$$\forall n : P_i(n) \Rightarrow (\exists m > n : P_j(m))$$

# MSO model-checking

Given  $x \in \mathbb{Q}^d$  and  $A \in \mathbb{Q}^{n \times n}$  and  $\mathcal{T}_1, \dots, \mathcal{T}_k \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$  semialgebraic sets.  
Let  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}^k$  and define  $w \in \Sigma^{\mathbb{N}}$  by

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$$\exists O \subseteq \mathbb{N} : \boxed{\text{formula to define odd numbers}} \wedge \forall x : x \in O \Rightarrow P_i(x)$$

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**Theorem** (Karimov, Lefauchaux, Ouaknine, Purser, Varonka, Whiteland, Worrell)

*This is decidable if all  $\mathcal{T}_i$  either have intrinsic dimension 1 or are included in a subspace of dimension 3.*

**Examples:**  $P_i(n)$  means  $A^n x \in \mathcal{T}_i$

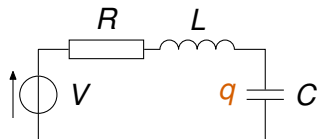
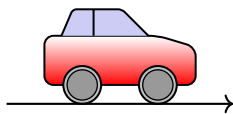
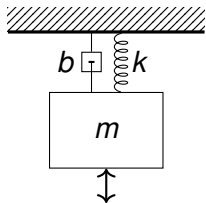
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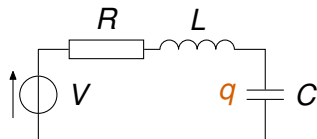
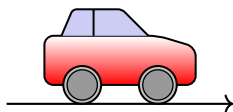
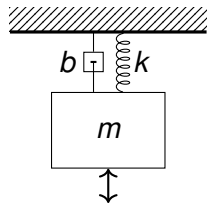
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# Continuous linear dynamical systems



# Continuous linear dynamical systems



Linear differential equation:

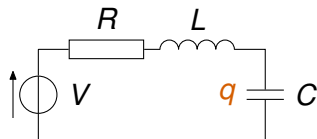
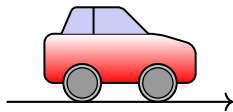
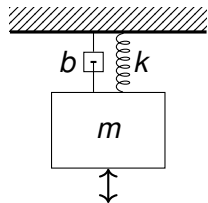
$$x'(t) = Ax(t) \quad x(0) = x_0$$

Example:

$$x'(t) = 7x(t)$$

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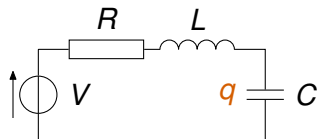
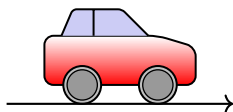
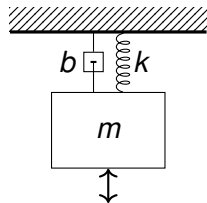
$$x'(t) = 7x(t) \quad \begin{cases} x_1'(t) = x_2(t) \\ x_2'(t) = -x_1(t) \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}' = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\leadsto x(t) = e^{7t}$$

$$\leadsto \begin{cases} x_1(t) = \sin(t) \\ x_2(t) = \cos(t) \end{cases}$$



# Continuous linear dynamical systems



Linear differential equation:

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General solution form:

$$x(t) = e^{At} x_0$$

$$\text{where } e^M = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{M^n}{n!}$$

# Continuous reachability

## Continuous Skolem problem

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Continuous positivity is inter-reducible with continuous Skolem.

The decidability of all these problems is also open!

# A link with number theory

Some reachability questions look like this :

$$\exists t \in \mathbb{R}. 42t^7 = 56 \wedge e^{3t} - e^t = 9$$

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- ▶  $P(t) = 0$  so  $t$  is algebraic (by definition)
- ▶ Lindemann–Weierstrass:  $e^t$  transcendental (unless  $t = 0$ )
- ▶ hence  $Q(e^t) \neq 0$  (except maybe if  $t = 0$ )

# Exponential polynomial

In general,

$$x^T e^{At} y = \sum_{i=1}^d P_i(t) e^{\lambda_i t}$$

where  $P_i$  polynomial,  $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{C}$  eigenvalues of  $A$ .

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*If Schanuel's conjecture is true, then, for each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , the first-order theory of the structure  $(\mathbb{R}, 0, 1, <, +, \cdot, \exp, \cos \upharpoonright_{[0,k]}, \sin \upharpoonright_{[0,k]})$  is decidable.*

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If  $z_1, \dots, z_n$  that are **linearly independent** over  $\mathbb{Q}$ , then at least  $n$  numbers among  $z_1, \dots, z_n, e^{z_1}, \dots, e^{z_n}$  are **algebraically independent**.

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### Summary:

- ▶ Schanuel implies that  $\pi, e, \pi + e, e\pi, \dots$  are transcendental.
- ▶  $\pi$  and  $e$  are known to be transcendental
- ▶  $\pi + e$  is **not known** to be transcendental

# Continuous reachability

**Bounded continuous Skolem problem:** given  $x, y$  and  $A$ , decide if

- ▶ **unbounded:**  $\exists t \in [0, 1]$  such that  $x^T e^{At} y = 0$ .
- ▶ **bounded:**  $\exists t \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $x^T e^{At} y = 0$ .

**Theorem (Chonev, Ouaknine and Worrell, 2016)**

*The bounded continuous Skolem Problem is decidable **subject to Schanuel's conjecture**.*

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*The bounded continuous Skolem Problem is decidable **subject to Schanuel's conjecture**.*

**Theorem (Chonev, Ouaknine and Worrell, 2016)**

*If the (unbounded) continuous Skolem Problem is decidable then the Diophantine-approximation types of all real algebraic numbers is computable.*

**In other words:** it requires new mathematics...

## Linear loop with if

$x := 2^{-10}$

$y := 1$

while  $y \geq x$  do

  if  $y \geq 2x$  then

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} := \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

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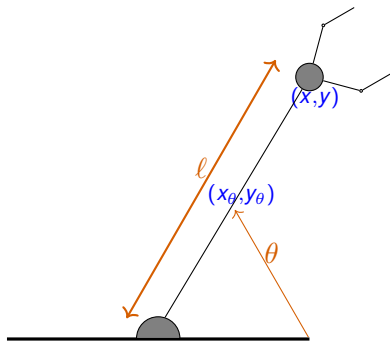
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- ▶ Overapproximate behaviours
- ▶ Nondeterminic

# Example: 2D robot



State:  $\vec{u} = (x_\theta, y_\theta, x, y)$

Discretized actions:

- ▶ rotate arm by  $\psi$
- ▶ change arm length by  $\delta$

~ Linear transformations

Rotate arm by  $\psi$ :

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \leftarrow \begin{pmatrix} \cos \psi & -\sin \psi \\ \sin \psi & \cos \psi \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_\theta \\ y_\theta \end{pmatrix} \leftarrow \begin{pmatrix} \cos \psi & -\sin \psi \\ \sin \psi & \cos \psi \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_\theta \\ y_\theta \end{pmatrix}$$

Change arm length by  $\delta$ :

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \leftarrow \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} + \delta \begin{pmatrix} x_\theta \\ y_\theta \end{pmatrix}$$

# Matrix problems

Input:  $A, C \in \mathbb{Q}^{d \times d}$  matrices

Output:  $\exists n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $A^n = C$  ?

Example:  $\exists n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

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Output:  $\exists n_1, \dots, n_k \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\prod_{i=1}^k A_i^{n_i} = C$  ?

Example:  $\exists n, m, p \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^n \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^m \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^p = \begin{bmatrix} 81 & 260 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} ?$$



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Output:  $\exists n_1, \dots, n_k \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\prod_{i=1}^k A_i^{n_i} = C$  ?

✓ Decidable if  $A_i$  commute

✗ Undecidable in general

Example:  $\exists n, m, p \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^n \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^m \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^p = \begin{bmatrix} 81 & 260 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} ?$$

# Matrix problems

Input:  $A, C \in \mathbb{Q}^{d \times d}$  matrices

Output:  $\exists n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $A^n = C$  ?

✓ Decidable (PTIME)

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Input:  $A_1, \dots, A_k, C \in \mathbb{Q}^{d \times d}$  matrices

Output:  $C \in \langle \text{semigroup generated by } A_1, \dots, A_k \rangle$  ?

Semigroup:  $\langle A_1, \dots, A_k \rangle =$  all finite products of  $A_1, \dots, A_k$

Examples:

$$A_1 A_3 A_2 \quad A_1 A_2 A_1 A_2 \quad A_3^8 A_2 A_1^3 A_3^{42}$$

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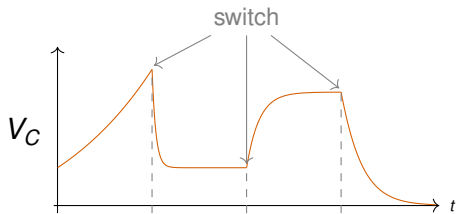
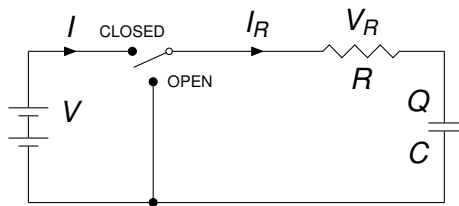
# Discrete reachability problems

Every nontrivial extension of simple linear loops seems to lead to undecidable problems.

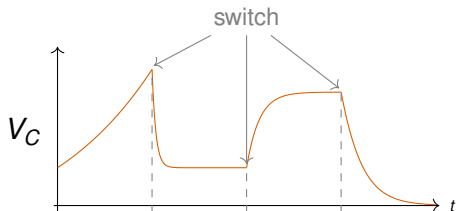
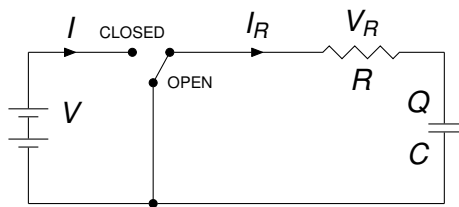
# Discrete reachability problems

Every nontrivial extension of simple linear loops seems to lead to undecidable problems. **What about the continuous setting?**

# RC circuit



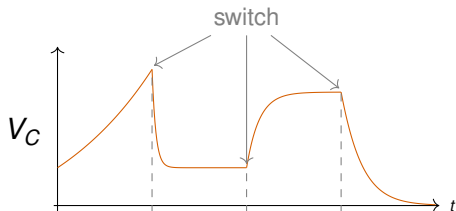
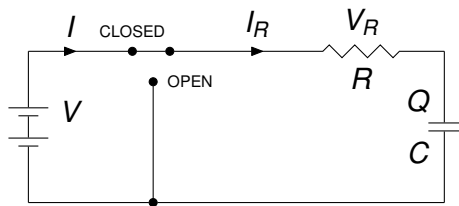
# RC circuit



OPEN

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{i} &= 0 \\ \dot{I}_R &= -\frac{1}{RC} I_R \\ \dot{V}_R &= -\frac{1}{C} I_R \\ \dot{Q} &= I_R \\ \dot{V}_C &= \frac{1}{C} I_R \end{aligned}$$

# RC circuit



OPEN

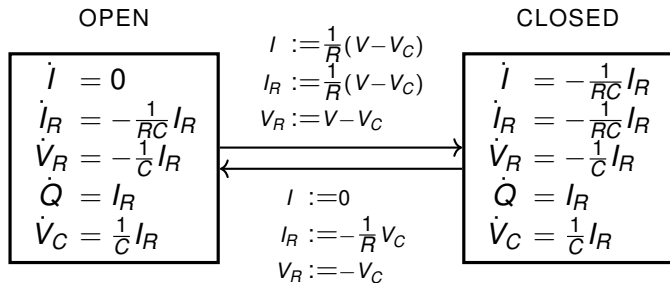
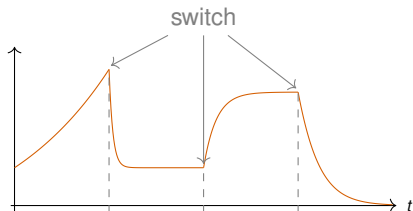
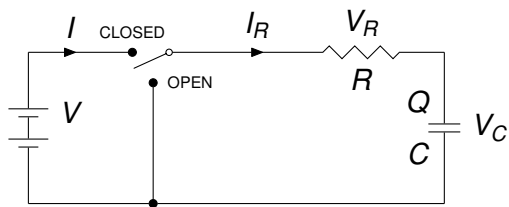
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CLOSED

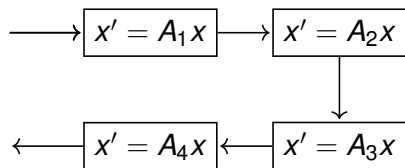
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# RC circuit

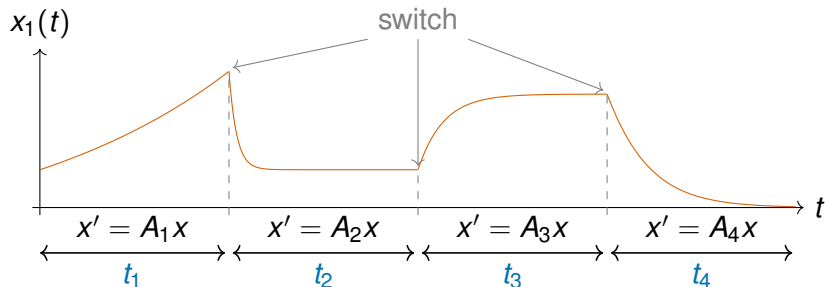


# Switching systems

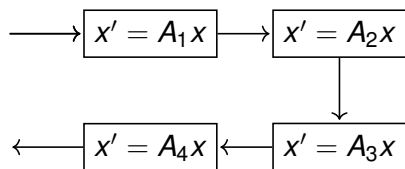


Restricted hybrid system:

- ▶ linear dynamics
- ▶ no guards (nondeterministic)
- ▶ no discrete updates

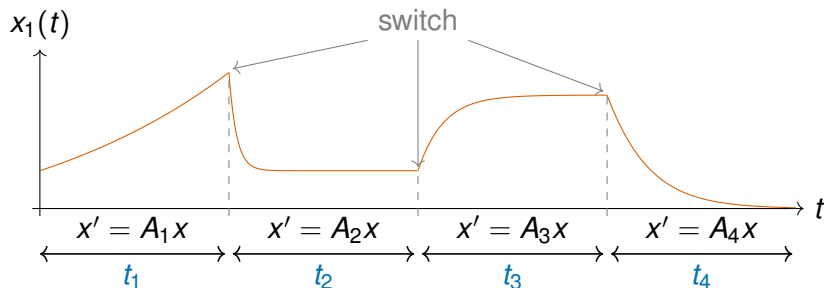


# Switching systems



Restricted hybrid system:

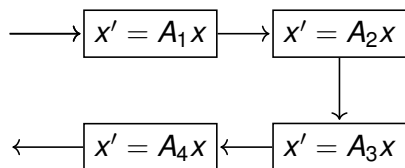
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- ▶ no guards (nondeterministic)
- ▶ no discrete updates



Dynamics:

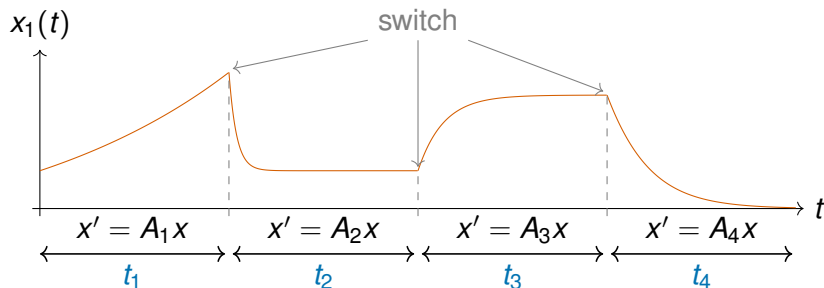
$$e^{A_4 t_4} e^{A_3 t_3} e^{A_2 t_2} e^{A_1 t_1}$$

# Switching systems



Restricted hybrid system:

- ▶ linear dynamics
- ▶ no guards (nondeterministic)
- ▶ no discrete updates



Problem:

$$e^{A_4 t_4} e^{A_3 t_3} e^{A_2 t_2} e^{A_1 t_1} = C \quad ?$$

What we control:  $t_1, t_2, t_3, t_4 \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$

## Related work in the continuous case

**Input:**  $A, C \in \mathbb{Q}^{d \times d}$  matrices

**Output:**  $\exists t \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $e^{At} = C$  ?

**Example:**  $\exists t \in \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$\exp\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} t\right) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 100 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad ?$$

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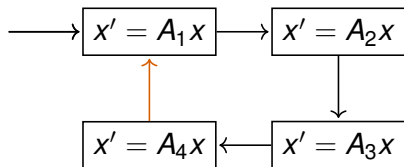
× Unknown

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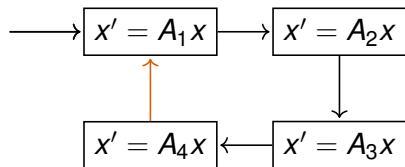


# Switching system

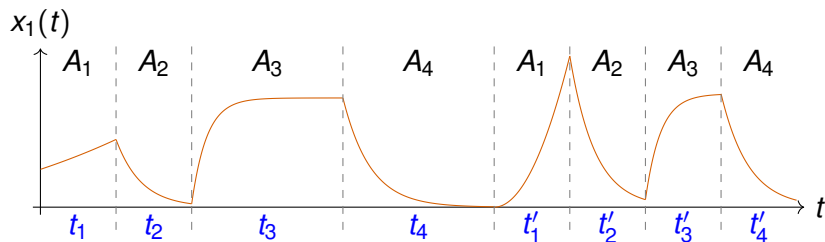


What about a loop ?

# Switching system



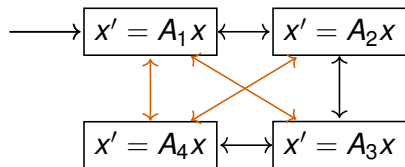
What about a loop ?



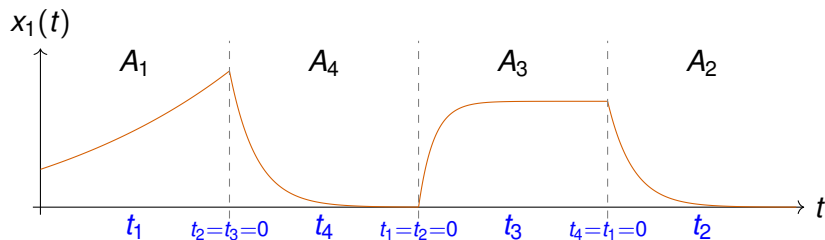
Dynamics:

$$e^{A_4 t'_4} e^{A_3 t'_3} e^{A_2 t'_2} e^{A_1 t'_1} e^{A_4 t_4} e^{A_3 t_3} e^{A_2 t_2} e^{A_1 t_1}$$

# Switching system



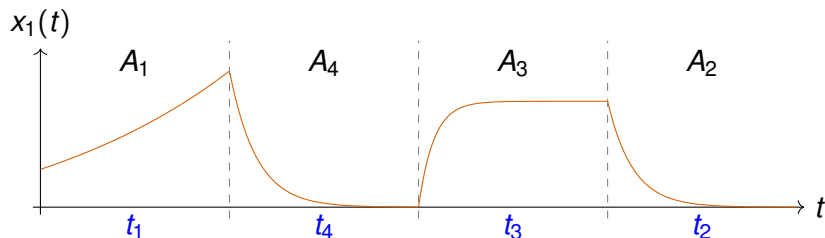
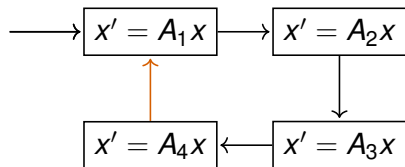
Loop  $\Leftrightarrow$  clique



Remark:

zero time dynamics ( $t_i = 0$ ) are allowed

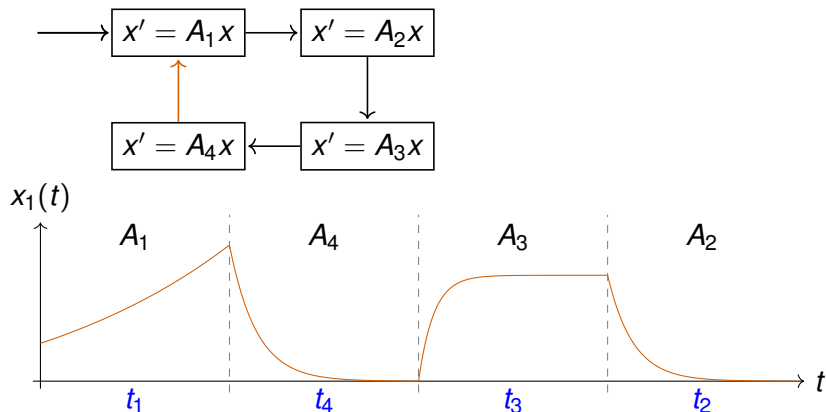
# Switching system



Dynamics:

any finite product of  $e^{A_i t}$   $\rightsquigarrow$  semigroup!

# Switching system



Problem:

$$C \in \mathcal{G} \quad ?$$

where

$$\mathcal{G} = \langle \text{semigroup generated by } e^{A_i t} \text{ for all } t \geq 0 \rangle$$

# Reachability for switching systems

Input:  $A_1, \dots, A_k, C \in \mathbb{Q}^{d \times d}$  matrices

Output:  $\exists t_1, \dots, t_k \geq 0$  such that

$$\prod_{i=1}^n e^{A_i t_i} = C \quad ?$$

Input:  $A_1, \dots, A_k, C \in \mathbb{Q}^{d \times d}$  matrices

Output:

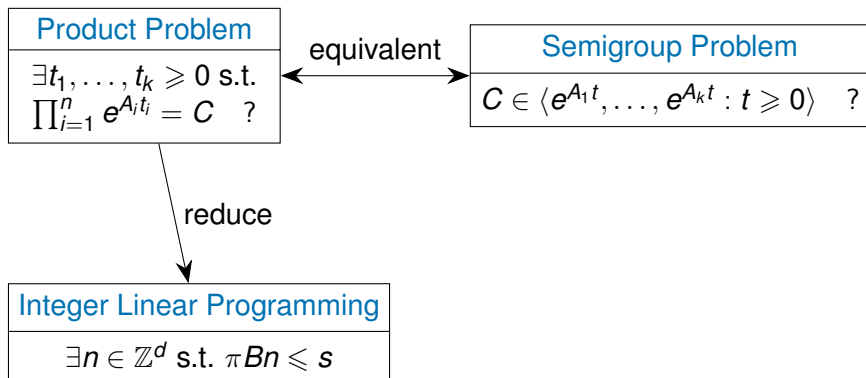
$C \in \langle \text{semigroup generated by } e^{A_1 t}, \dots, e^{A_k t} : t \geq 0 \rangle \quad ?$

## Theorem (Ouaknine, P, Sous-Pinto, Worrell)

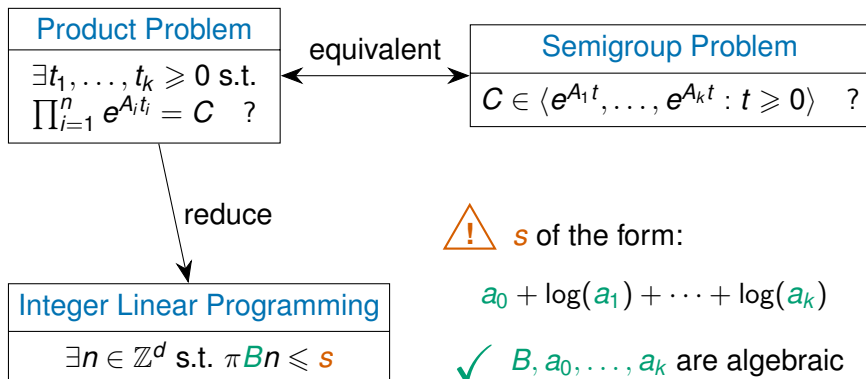
Both problems are:

- ▶ *Undecidable* in general
- ▶ *Decidable* when all the  $A_i$  commute

# Some words about the proof (commuting case)

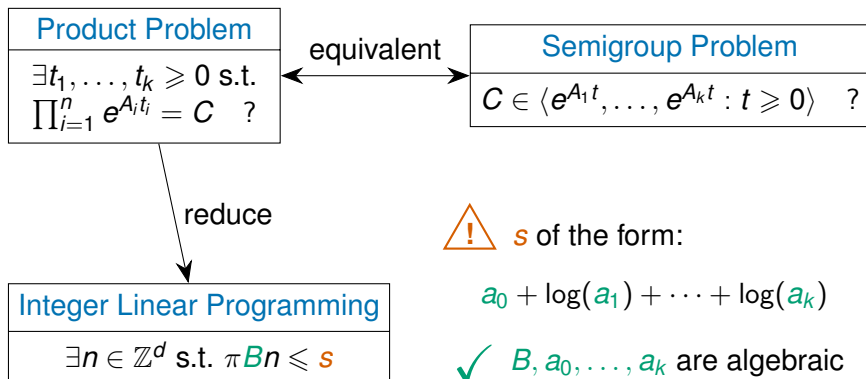


# Some words about the proof (commuting case)





# Some words about the proof (commuting case)



How did we get from reals to integers with  $\pi$  ?

$$e^{it} = \alpha \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad t \in \log(\alpha) + 2\pi\mathbb{Z}$$

# Integer Linear Programming

$$\exists n \in \mathbb{Z}^d \text{ such that } \pi Bn \leq s \quad ?$$

where  $s$  is a linear form in logarithms of algebraic numbers

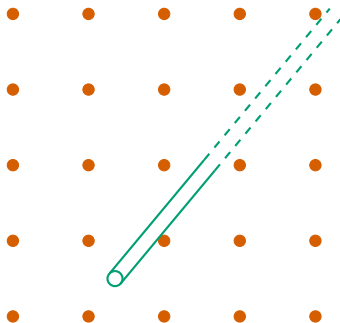
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where  $s$  is a **linear form in logarithms of algebraic numbers**

Key ingredient: **Diophantine approximations**

- ▶ Finding integer points in cones: Kronecker's theorem



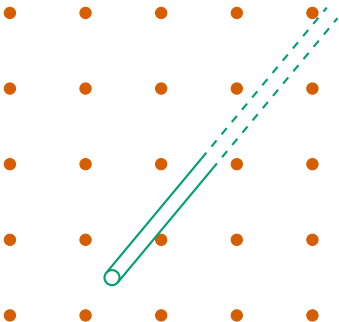
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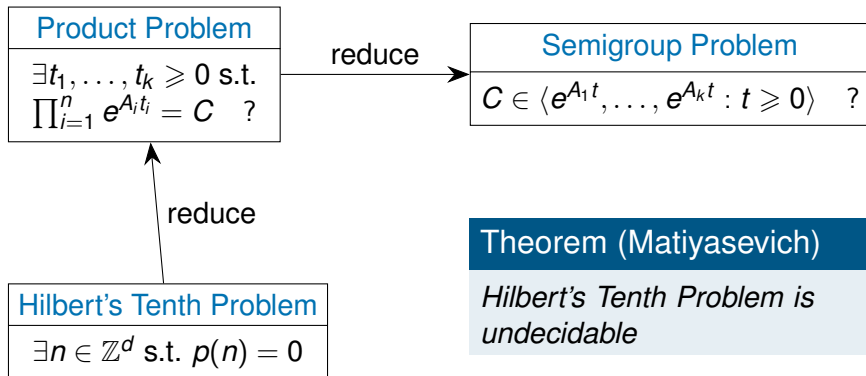
- ▶ Finding integer points in cones: Kronecker's theorem



- ▶ Compare linear forms in logs: Baker's theorem

$$\sqrt{2} + \log \sqrt{3} - 3 \log \sqrt{7} \stackrel{?}{=} 1 + \log 9 - \log \sqrt[42]{666}$$

# Some words about the proof (general case)



## Theorem (Matiyasevich)

*Hilbert's Tenth Problem is undecidable*

# Summary on reachability

Exact reachability is hard:

- ▶ Skolem/Positivity problem for linear loops (Open for 70 years)
- ▶ Every mild extension is undecidable
- ▶ Decidability requires very strong assumptions (commuting matrices)

Continuous vs discrete setting

- ▶ similar results
- ▶ different techniques
- ▶ continuous setting can leverage powerful results/conjectures