

CS 181u Applied Logic

# Lecture 16

Reasoning About Knowledge

# Example: Muddy Children

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There are  $N$  children playing outside.

Some number  $k$  of the children have gotten mud on their foreheads.

Teacher says the following:

- 0. 'At least one of you has mud on their forehead. '
- 1. "Does any of you know that you have mud on your own forehead?"
- 2. "Does any of you know that you have mud on your own forehead?"
- 3. ...

Assume that the children are perceptive, intelligent, truthful, and that they all answer in unison.

What will happen?

## Example: Muddy Children

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**Theorem:** For the first  $(k - 1)$  questions, all children will answer “no”, and on the  $k$ -th question, all children with muddy foreheads will answer “yes”.

**Proof.**

Excercise: Can be proved by induction on  $k$ .

# Example: Muddy Children

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## Weirdness:

Assume  $k > 1$ .

Let  $p$  = “at least one child has a muddy forehead”.

Then, initially, all children already know  $p$ .

## Question:

If the teacher had not said “at least one of you has a muddy forehead”, but then still asked:

- 1. “Does any of you know that you have mud on your own forehead?”
- 2. “Does any of you know that you have mud on your own forehead?”
- 3. ...

could the children still have deduced who has a muddy forehead?

In other words, did the teacher give the children any new information?

# Example: Muddy Children

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**Theorem:** If the teacher does not announce  $p$ , then no children can ever conclude that their own foreheads are muddy.

**Proof:** Induction on  $q$ , the number of questions.

**Claim:** no matter how many children have a muddy forehead, all the children answer “No” to the teacher’s first  $q$  questions.

**Base case,  $q = 1$ :** all the children answer “No” to the first question, since a child cannot tell apart a situation where they have mud on their forehead from one that is identical in all respects except that they do not have a muddy forehead.

**Induction:** By IH, children answer “No” to first  $q$  questions.

Upon the  $(q + 1)$ th question, child  $i$  still cannot tell apart a situation where they have mud on their forehead from one that is identical in all respects except that they do not have a muddy forehead, since by the IH, the children will answer “No” to the first  $q$  questions whether or not child  $i$  has a muddy forehead.

Thus, again, they do not know whether their own forehead is muddy.

# Example: Muddy Children

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**Theorem:** If the teacher does not announce  $p$ , then no children can ever conclude that their own foreheads are muddy.

**Weirdness:** By announcing something that the children already know,  $p$ , the teacher somehow provided some information. What is that information?

all children know  $p$  AND all children know that all children know  $p$

# Example: Aces and Eights

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- A simple game that involves some sophisticated reasoning about knowledge.
- Deck consisting of just four aces and four eights.
- Three players.
- Six cards are dealt out, two to each player.
- The remaining two cards are left face down.
- Without looking at the cards, each of the players raises them up to his or her forehead, so that the other two players can see them but they cannot.
- All of the players take turns trying to determine which cards they're holding.
- If a player does not know which cards they are holding, the player must say so.

# Example: Aces and Eights

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Scenario 1:

Alice goes first, holds two aces.

Bob, goes second, holds two eights.

Both Alice and Bob say that they cannot determine what cards they are holding.

What cards are you holding?

(Hint: consider what would have happened if you held two aces or two eights.)



# Example: Aces and Eights

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Scenario 2:

You go first.

Alice goes second, holds two eights.

Bob, goes third, holds an ace and an eight.

No one is able to determine what they hold at their first turn.

What cards are you holding?

(Hint: consider what would have happened if you held two aces or two eights.)

# Example: Aces and Eights

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Scenario 3:

Alice goes first, holds two eights.

You go second.

Bob, goes third, holds an ace and an eight.

No one is able to determine what they hold at their first turn.

Alice cannot determine her cards at her second turn.

What cards are you holding?

# Explicit Model Representation

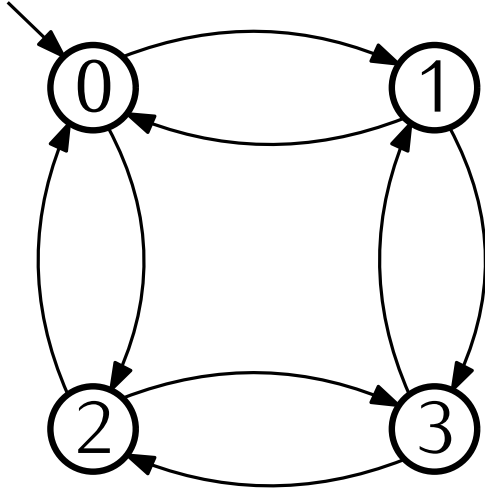
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The transition system  $\mathcal{M}$  is specified by literally listing out all of the pieces.

# Explicit Model Representation

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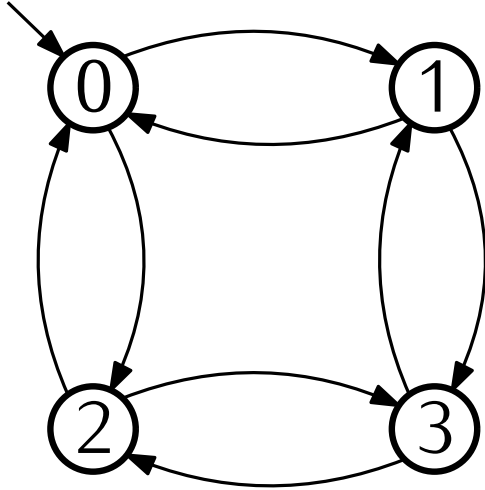
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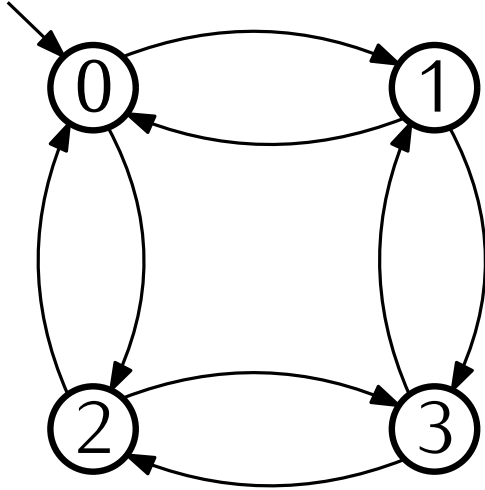


States:  $S = \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$

# Explicit Model Representation

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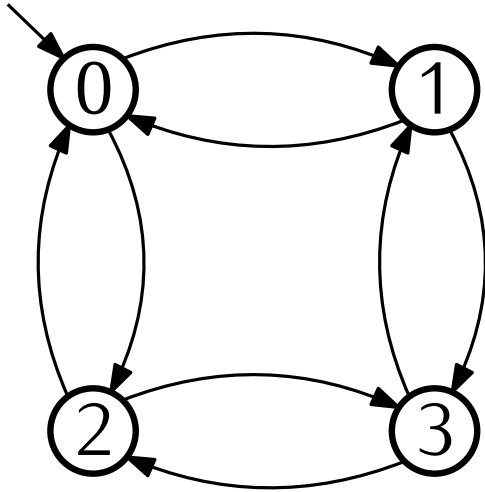
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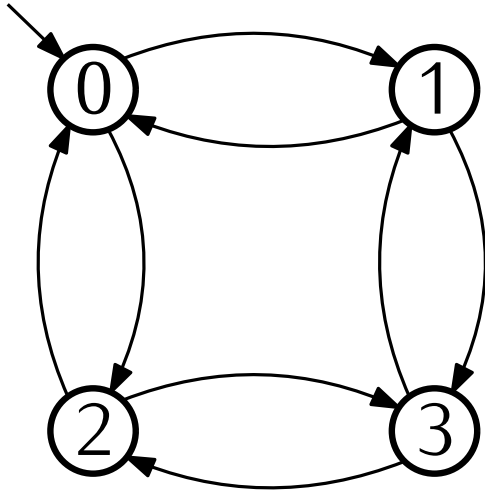
Transitions:

$$R = \left\{ \begin{array}{cccc} (0, 1) & (0, 2) & (1, 3) & (2, 3) \\ (1, 0) & (2, 0) & (3, 1) & (3, 2) \end{array} \right\}$$

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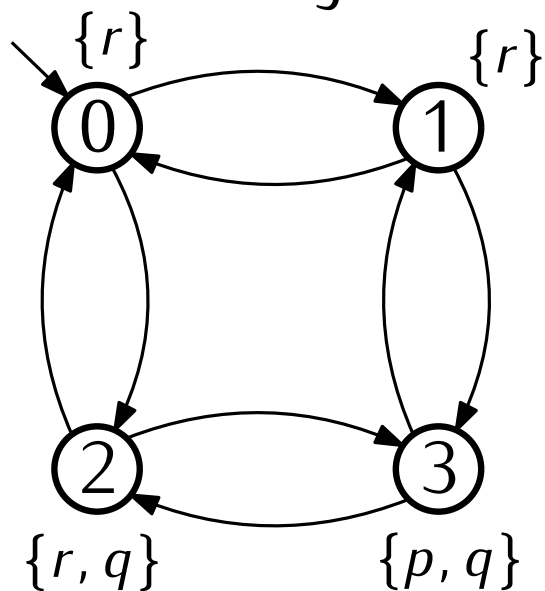
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Atomic Propositions:  $AP = \{p, q, r\}$

Labelling Function  $\mathcal{L} : S \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(AP)$

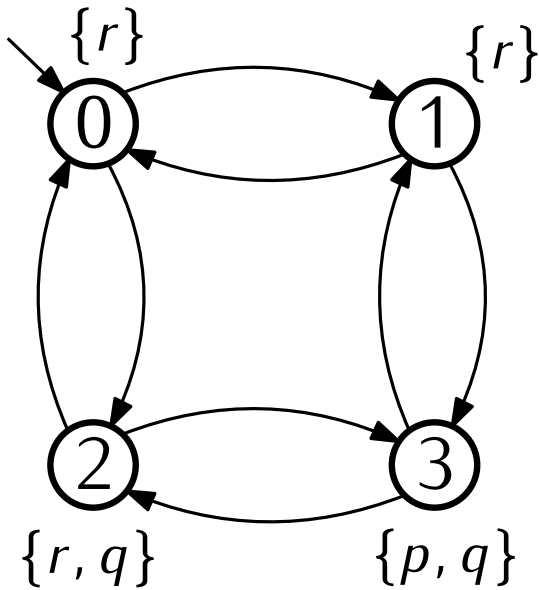
$$\mathcal{L}(0) = \{r\} \qquad \mathcal{L}(2) = \{r, q\}$$

$$\mathcal{L}(1) = \{r\} \qquad \mathcal{L}(3) = \{p, q\}$$

# Symbolic Model Representation

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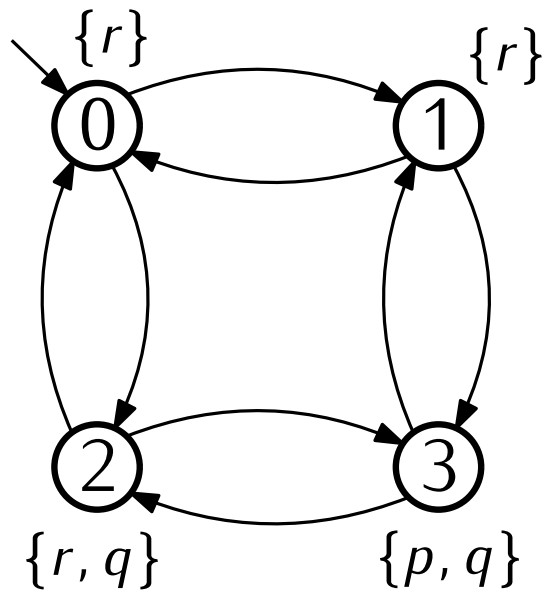
Represent  $\mathcal{M}$  using Booelan logic.



# Symbolic Model Representation

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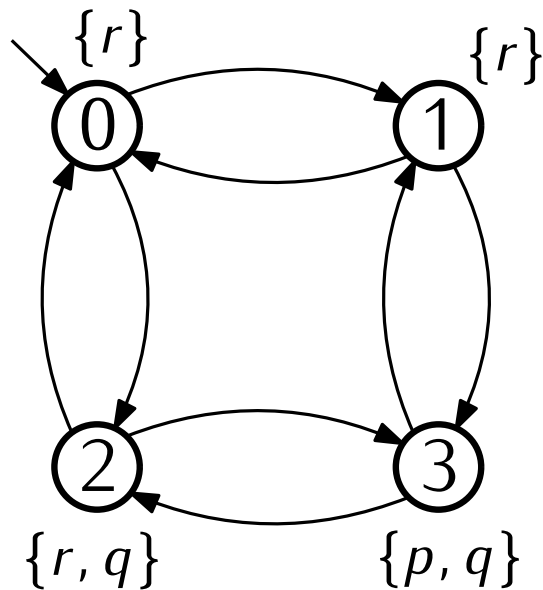


States

States		
0		
1		
2		
3		

# Symbolic Model Representation

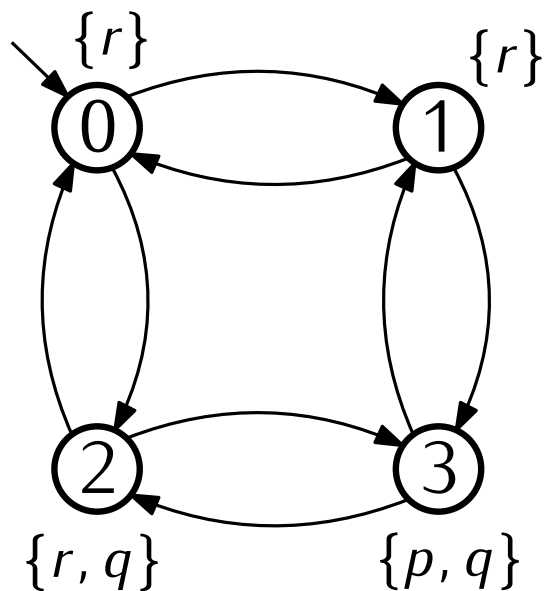
Represent  $\mathcal{M}$  using Booelan logic.



States	binary	
	$x$	$y$
0	0	0
1	0	1
2	1	0
3	1	1

# Symbolic Model Representation

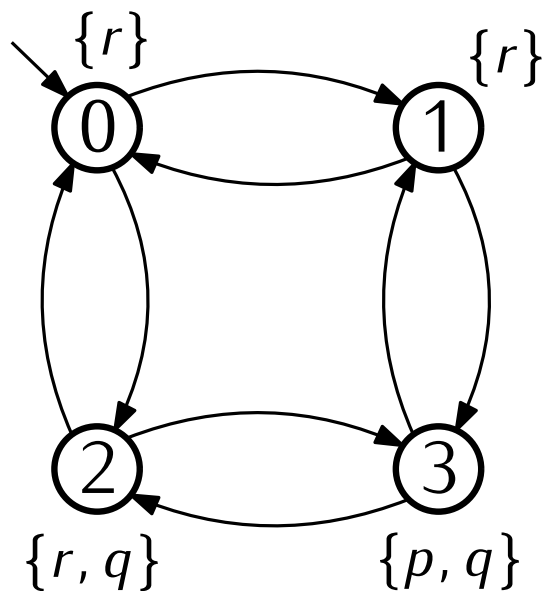
Represent  $\mathcal{M}$  using Booelan logic.



States	binary		truth values	
	$x$	$y$	$x$	$y$
0	0	0	$F$	$F$
1	0	1	$F$	$T$
2	1	0	$T$	$F$
3	1	1	$T$	$T$

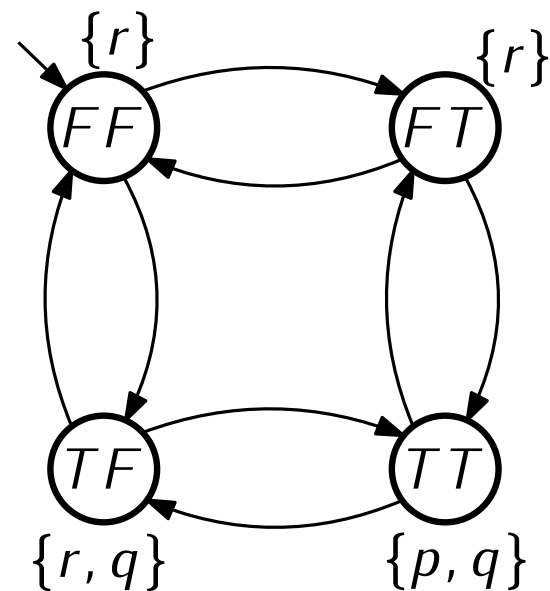
# Symbolic Model Representation

Represent  $\mathcal{M}$  using Booelan logic.



Boolean state  
variables

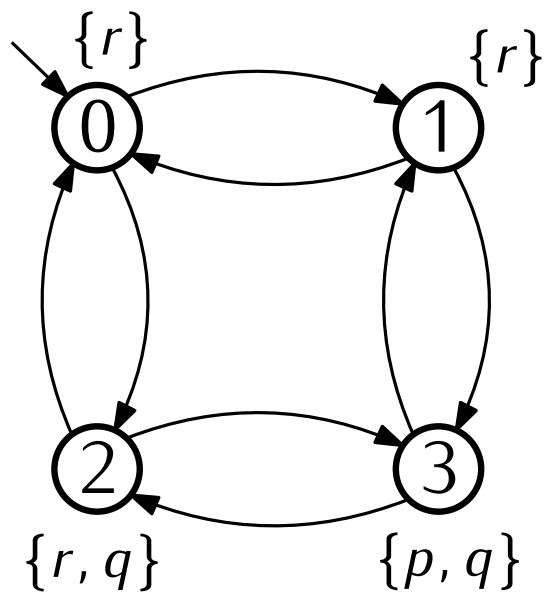
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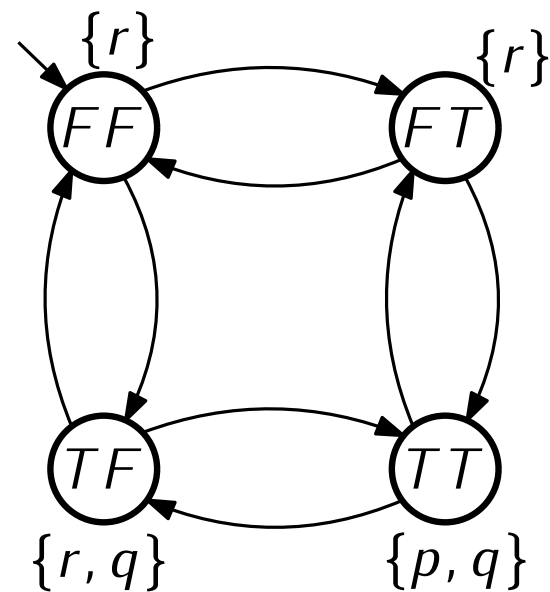
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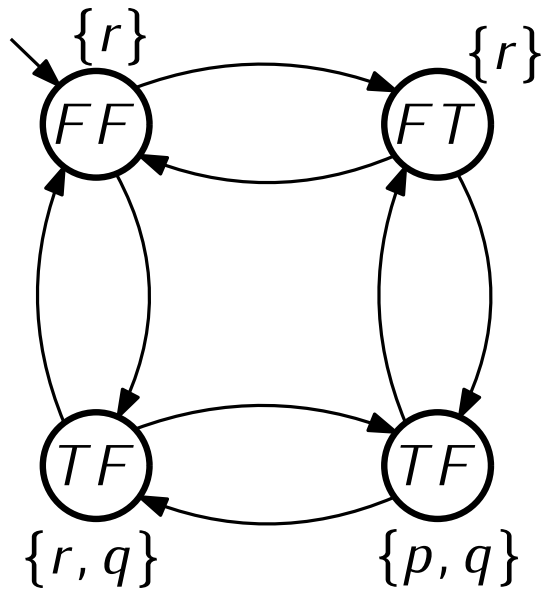
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States	binary		truth values		Boolean formula
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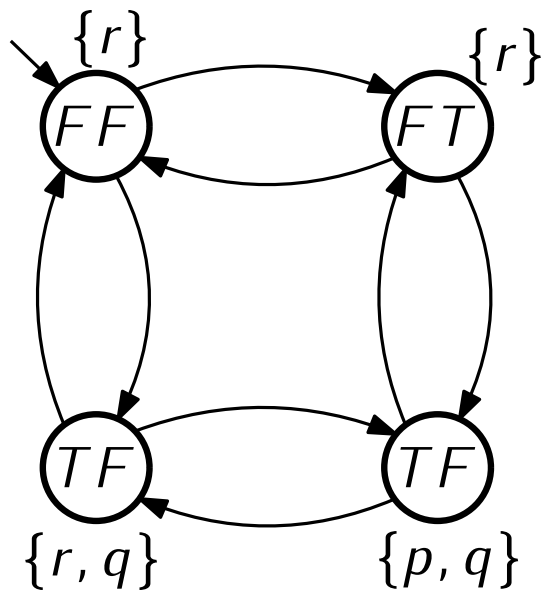


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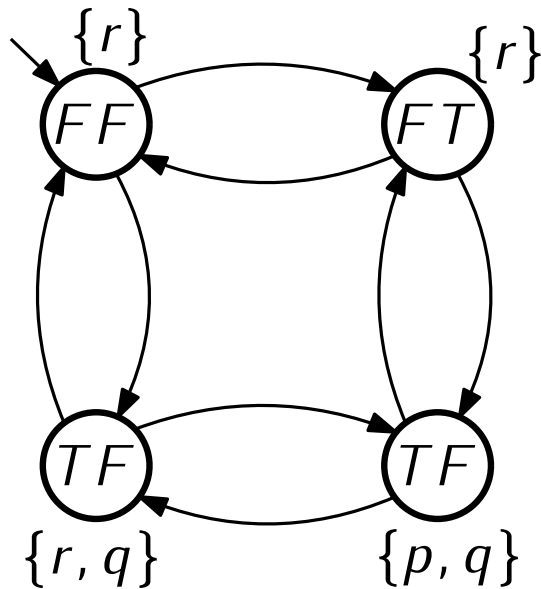


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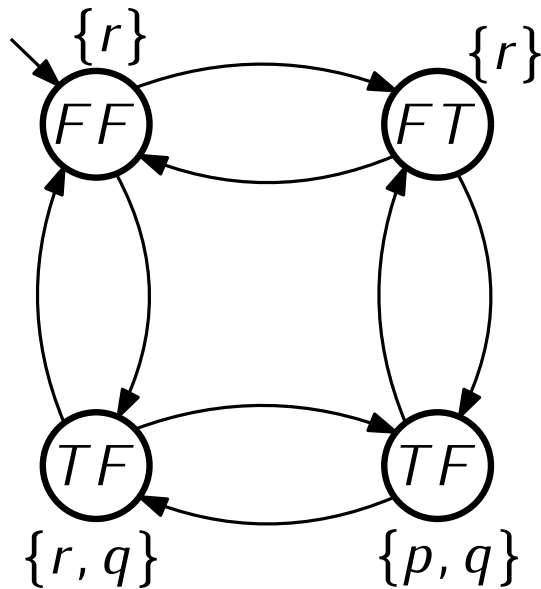
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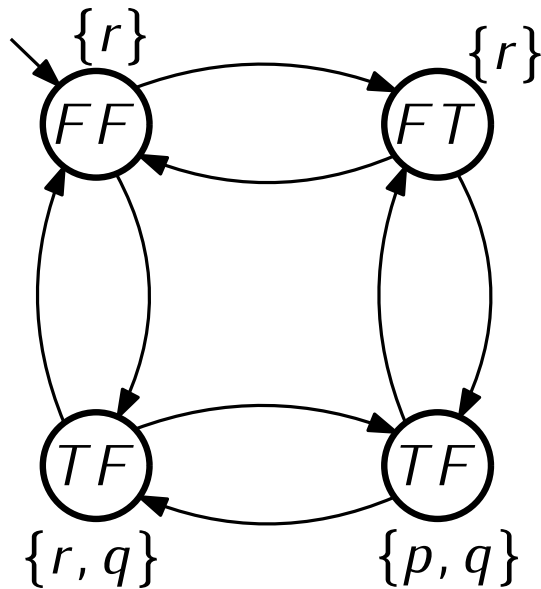
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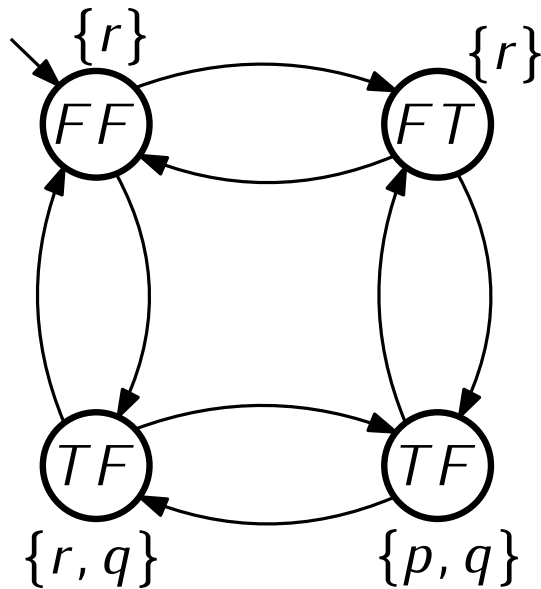
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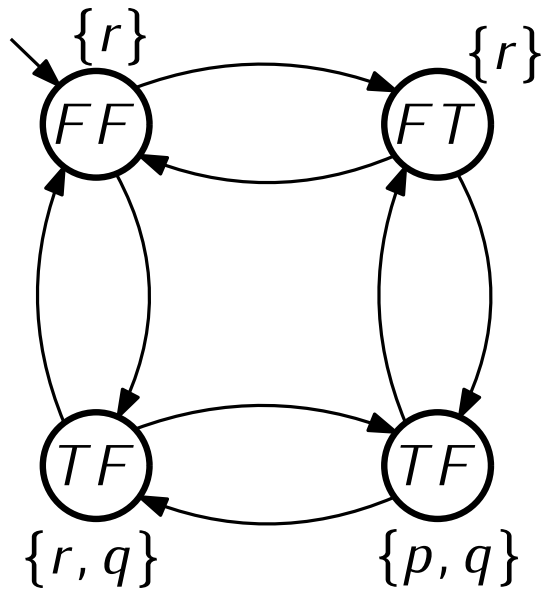
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$$p \equiv x \wedge y$$

$$q \equiv x$$

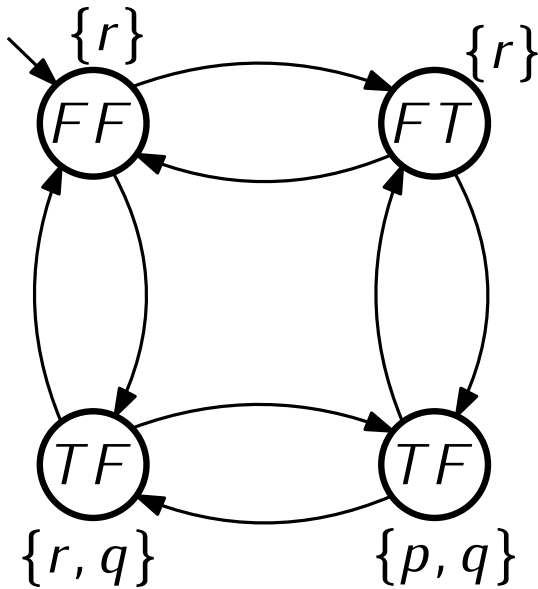
$$r \equiv \neg(x \wedge y) \equiv \neg p$$

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# Symbolic Model Representation

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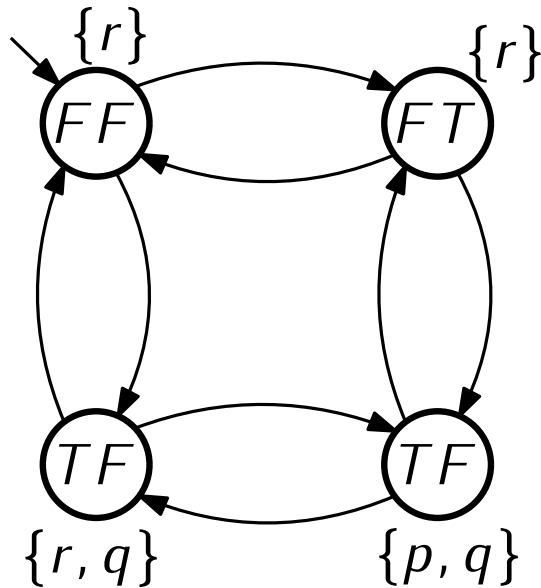
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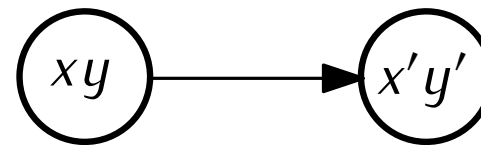
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Represent  $\mathcal{M}$  using Boolean logic.



Transitions:

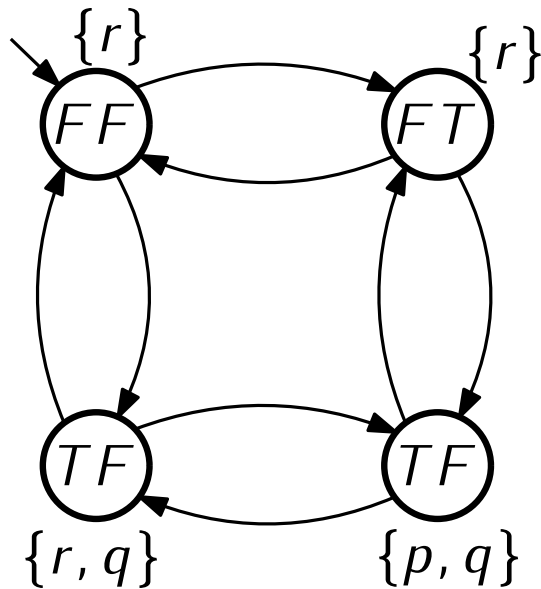
Let the “next” state variables be  $V' = \{x', y'\}$





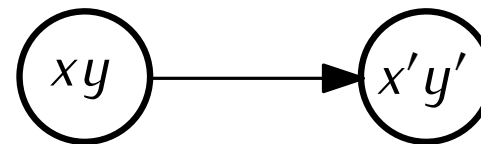
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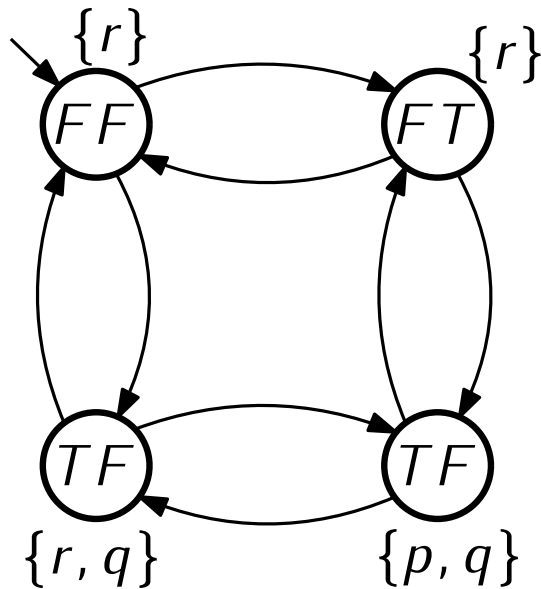
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$$R \equiv (x' = x \wedge y' = \neg y) \vee (x' = \neg x \wedge y' = y)$$

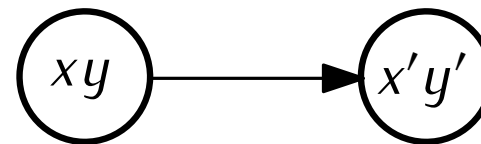
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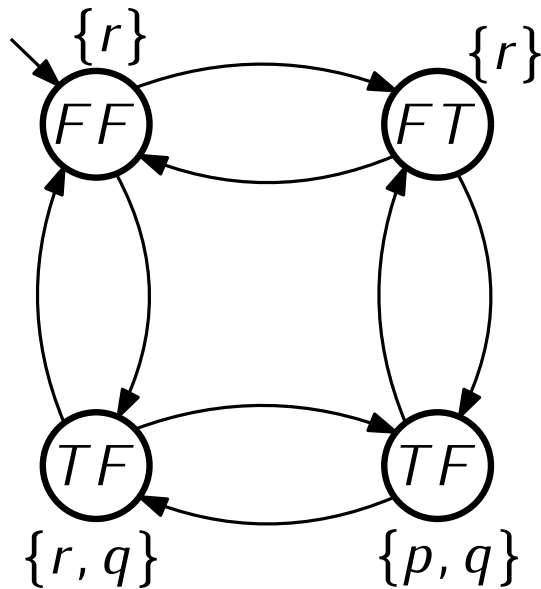


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“we can get from one state to the next by keeping one variable the same and negating the other”

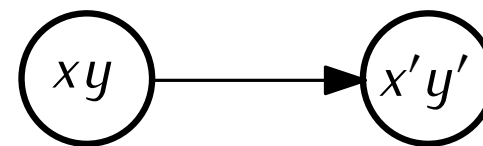
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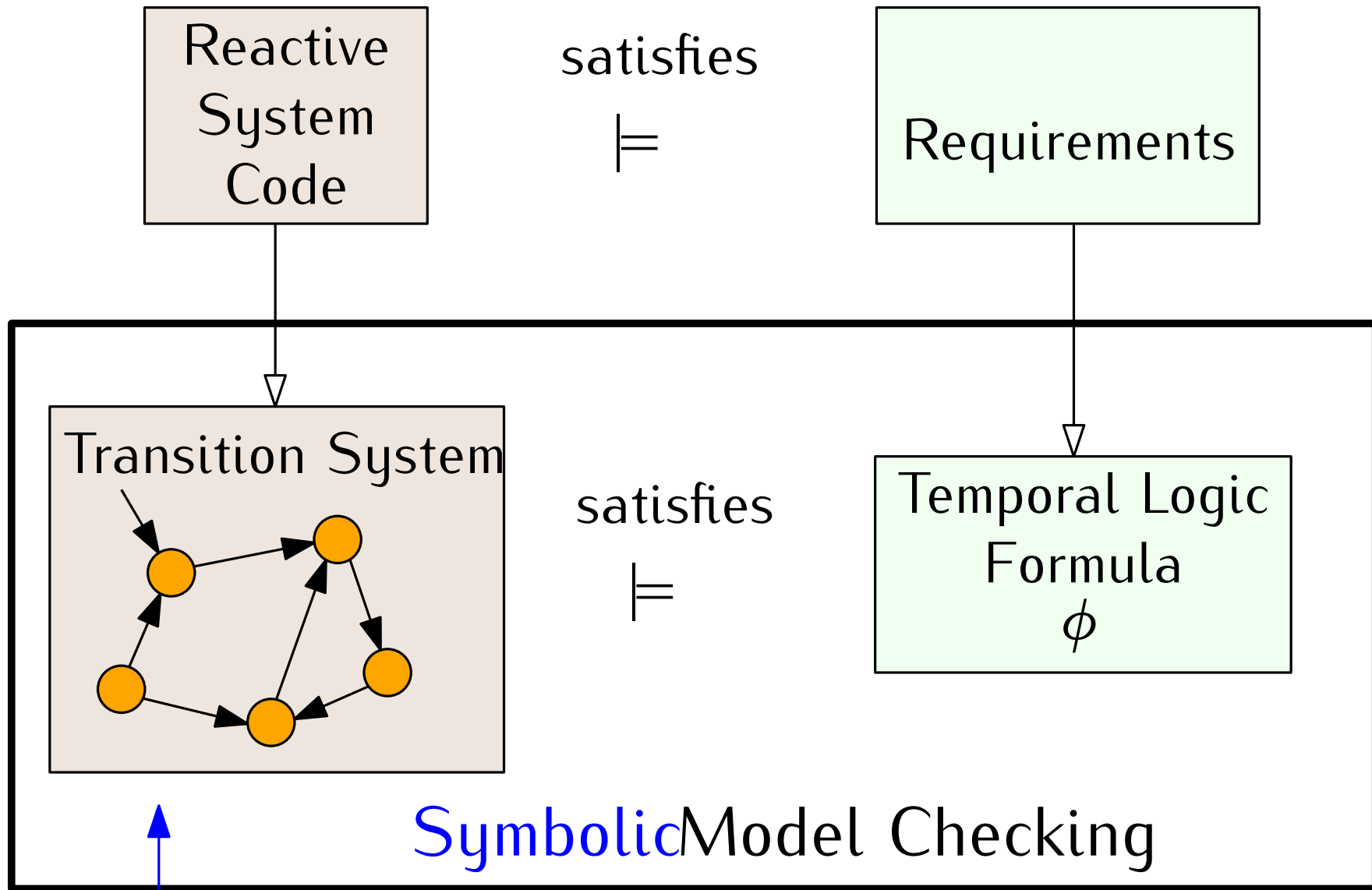
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Explicit transitions	(0, 1)	(2, 3)	(1, 3)	(0, 2)
	(1, 0)	(3, 2)	(3, 1)	(2, 0)

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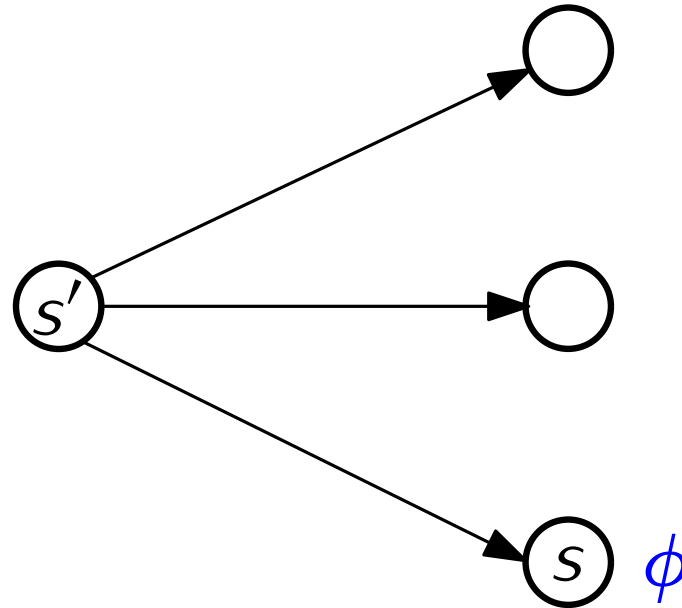
Represent  $\mathcal{M}$  using Boolean logic.

Check  $\mathcal{M} \models \phi$  by logic manipulations.

# The Algorithm for $EX \phi$

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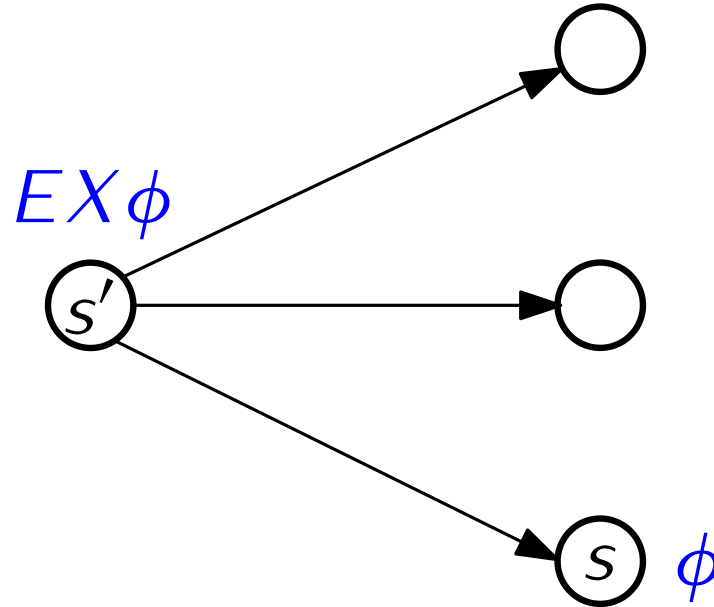
After labelling all states  $s$  that satisfy  $\phi$ , label and state  $s'$  with  $EX\phi$  if there is a transition from  $s'$  to  $s$ .



# The Algorithm for $EX \phi$

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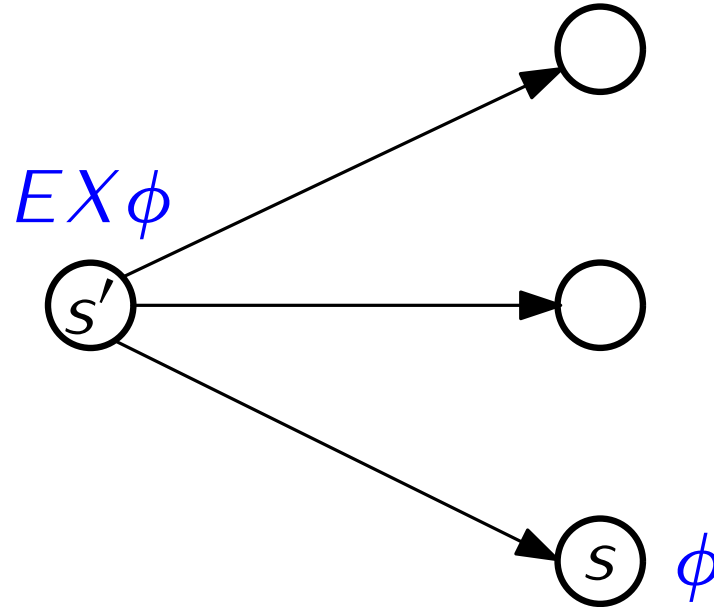
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# The Algorithm for $EX \phi$

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After labelling all states  $s$  that satisfy  $\phi$ , label and state  $s'$  with  $EX\phi$  if there is a transition from  $s'$  to  $s$ .



Call this process  $SAT_{EX}(\phi)$

# Symbolic Model Checking

---

How to compute  $EX \phi$  symbolically.



# Symbolic Model Checking

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$$EX \phi \equiv \exists V' \ R \wedge \phi[V' / V]$$

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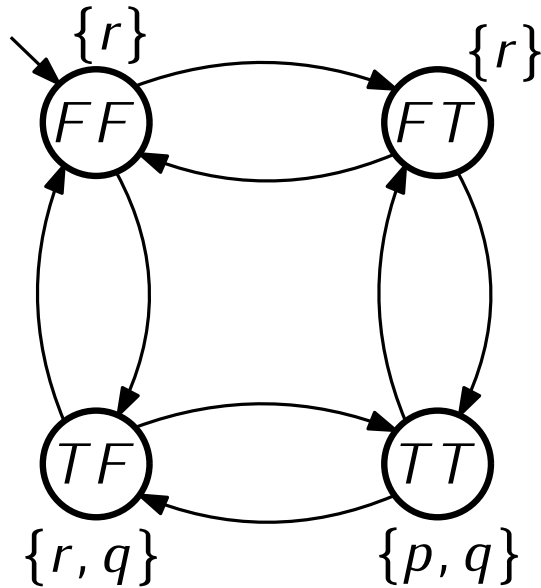
there is some  
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$\phi$  holds when variables  
are updated with the  
new state variables

# Symbolic Model Checking

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Initial State:  $\neg x \wedge \neg y$

Atomic Propositions:  $AP = \{p, q, r\}$

Labelling Function  $\mathcal{L} : AP \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(x, y)$

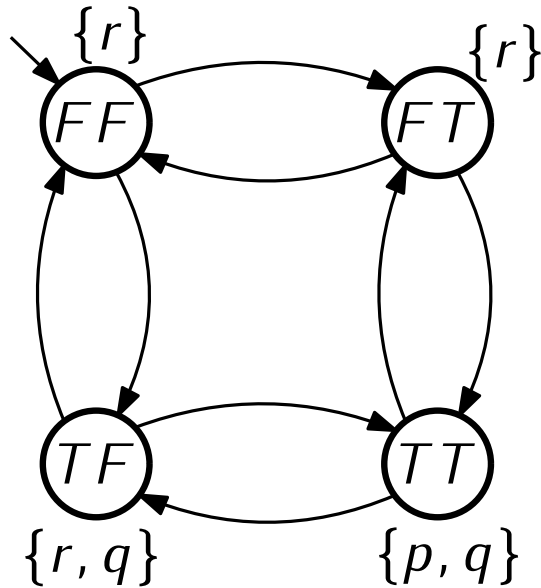
$p \equiv x \wedge y$        $q \equiv x$        $r \equiv \neg(x \wedge y)$

Transition Relation:

$R \equiv (x' = x \wedge y' = \neg y) \vee (x' = \neg x \wedge y' = y)$

# Symbolic Model Checking

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Labelling Function  $\mathcal{L} : AP \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(x, y)$

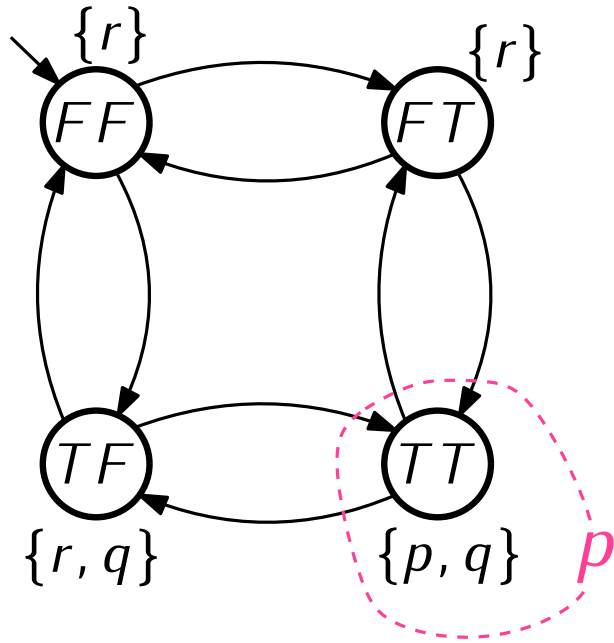
$p \equiv x \wedge y$        $q \equiv x$        $r \equiv \neg(x \wedge y)$

Transition Relation:

$R \equiv (x' = x \wedge y' = \neg y) \vee (x' = \neg x \wedge y' = y)$

Let's compute  $EX\ p$

# Symbolic Model Checking



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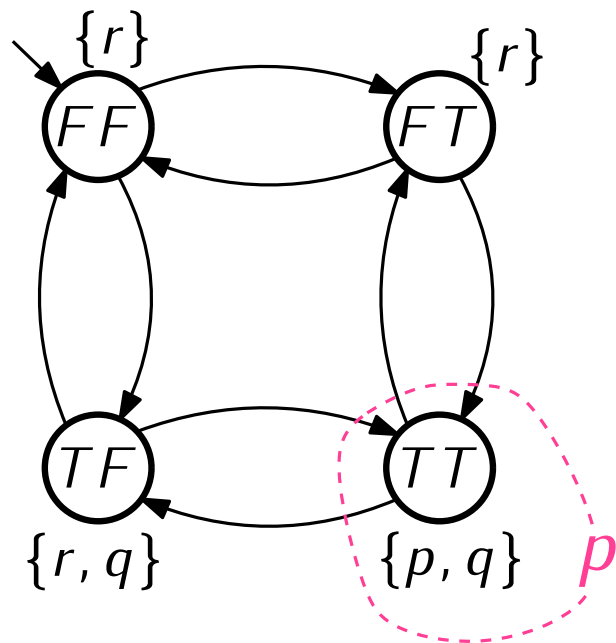
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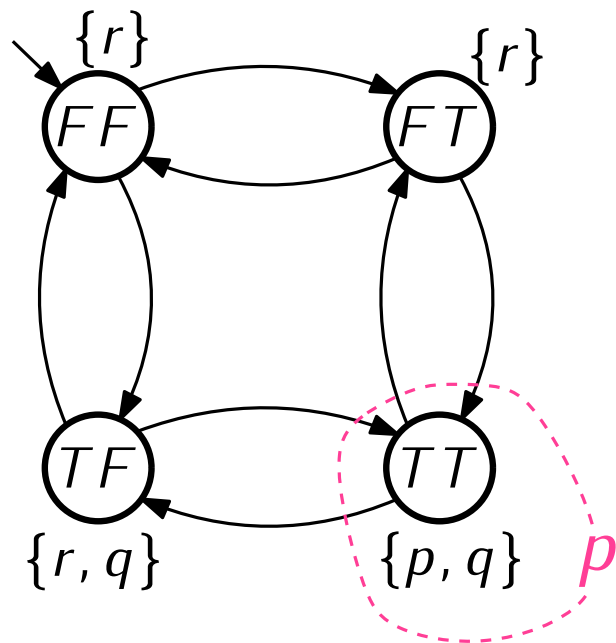
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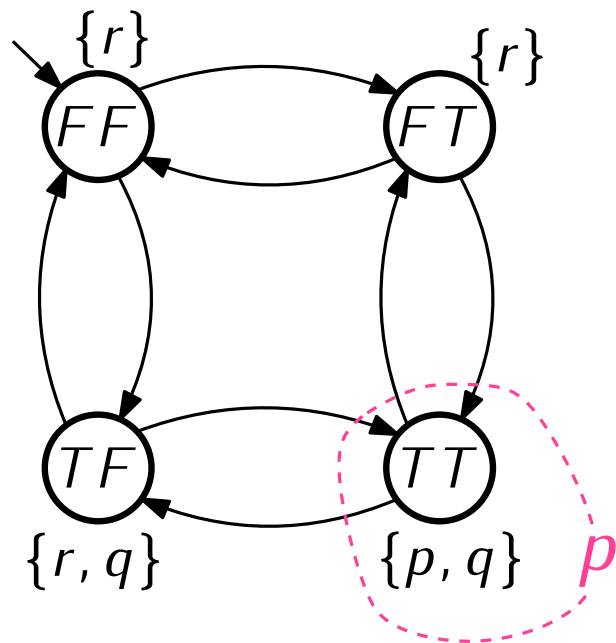
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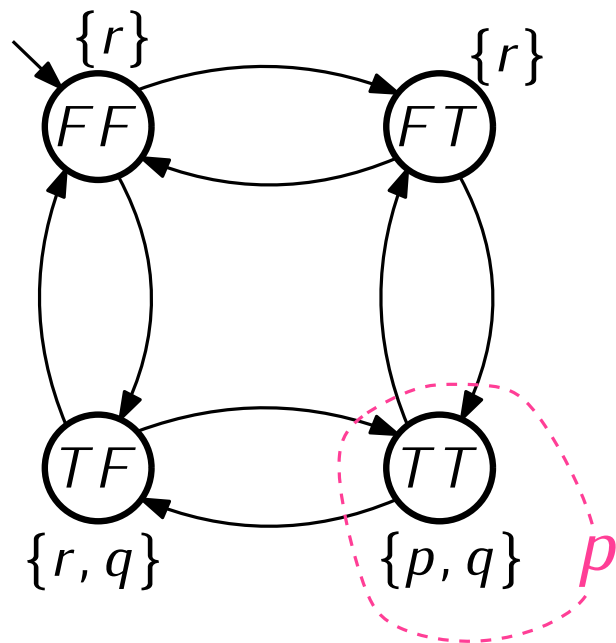
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...some Boolean simplifications ...

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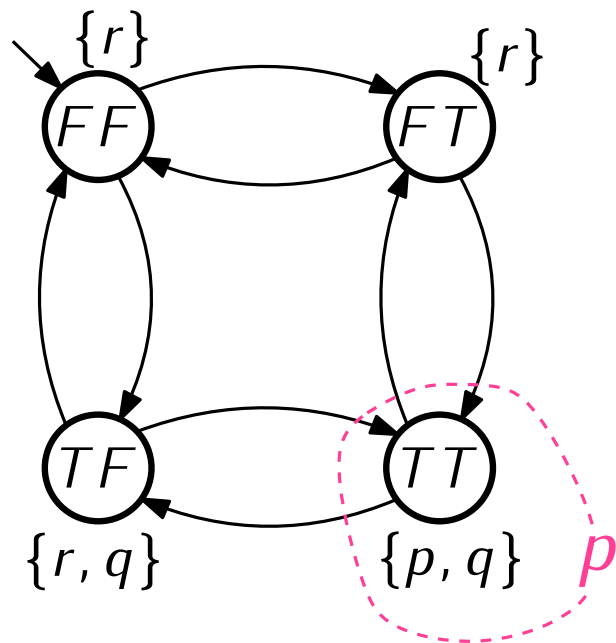
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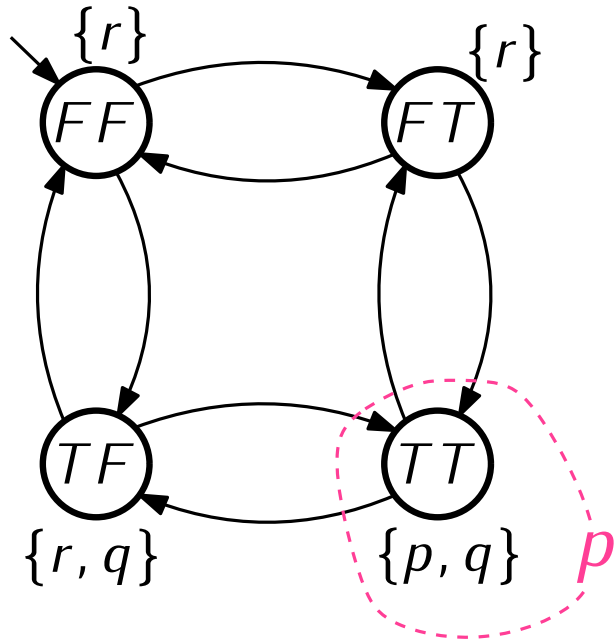
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...existential quantifier elimination ...

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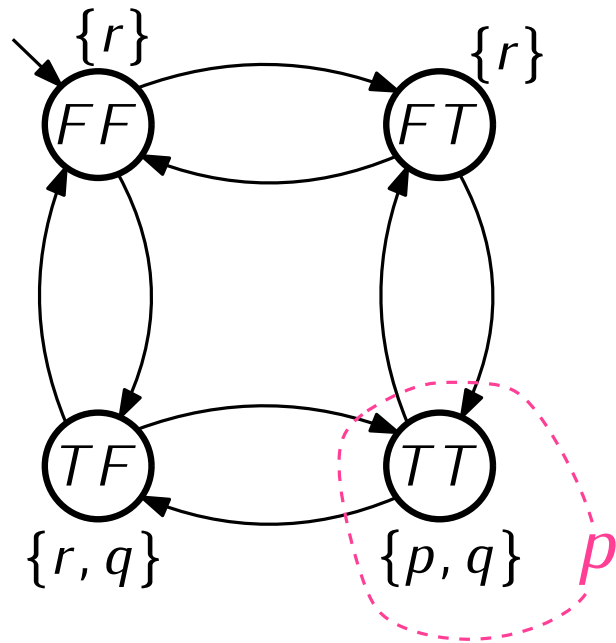
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$$EX\ p \equiv (x \wedge \neg y) \vee (\neg x \wedge y)$$

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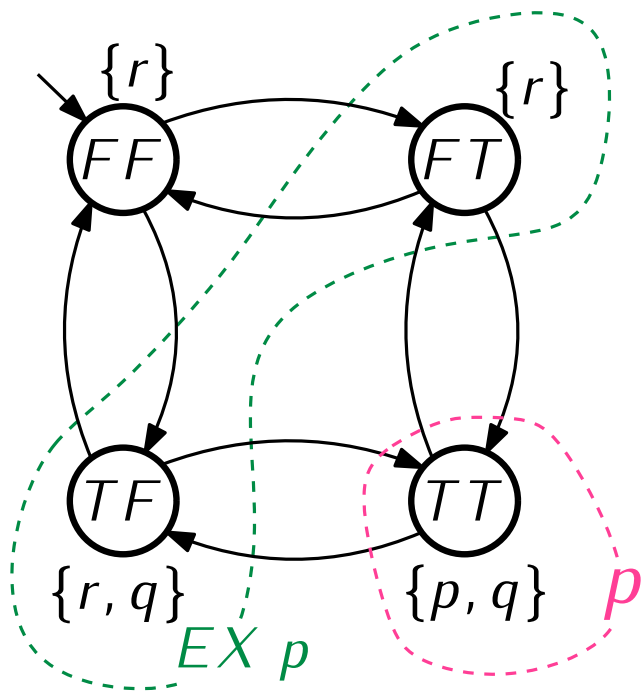
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Which states does this formula represent?

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$$EX\ p \equiv (x \wedge \neg y) \vee (\neg x \wedge y)$$

Which states does this formula represent?



# Symbolic Model Checking

---

All of the boolean operations we have described for performing symbolic model checking (conjunction, disjunction, existential variable elimination) can be accomplished by:

1. Boolean algebra
2. Using BDDs
3. Using a theorem prover

# Symb. Mod. Check. using a Theorem Prover

---

We can translate the  $EX \phi$  formula into Z3.

$$EX \phi \equiv \exists V' \ R \wedge \phi[V' / V]$$

Example:  $R \equiv (x' = x \wedge y' = \neg y) \vee (x' = \neg x \wedge y' = y)$

$$\phi \equiv p \equiv x \wedge y$$

```
(declare-const x Bool)
(declare-const y Bool)
(assert
  (exists ((x_ Bool) (y_ Bool))
    (and
      (or
        (and (= x_ x) (= y_ (not y)))
        (and (= x_ (not x)) (= y_ y)))
      (and x_ y_))))
(apply qe)
(check-sat)
```

# Symb. Mod. Check. using a Theorem Prover

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We can translate the  $EX \phi$  formula into Z3.

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$$\begin{aligned} \text{Example: } R &\equiv (x' = x \wedge y' = \neg y) \vee (x' = \neg x \wedge y' = y) \\ \phi &\equiv p \equiv x \wedge y \end{aligned}$$

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