To Reach or not to Reach? Efficient Algorithms for Total-Payoff Games

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Game theory for synthesis

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  - 2 antagonistic players: controller and environment
  - objective: reachability, repeated reachability, LTL…

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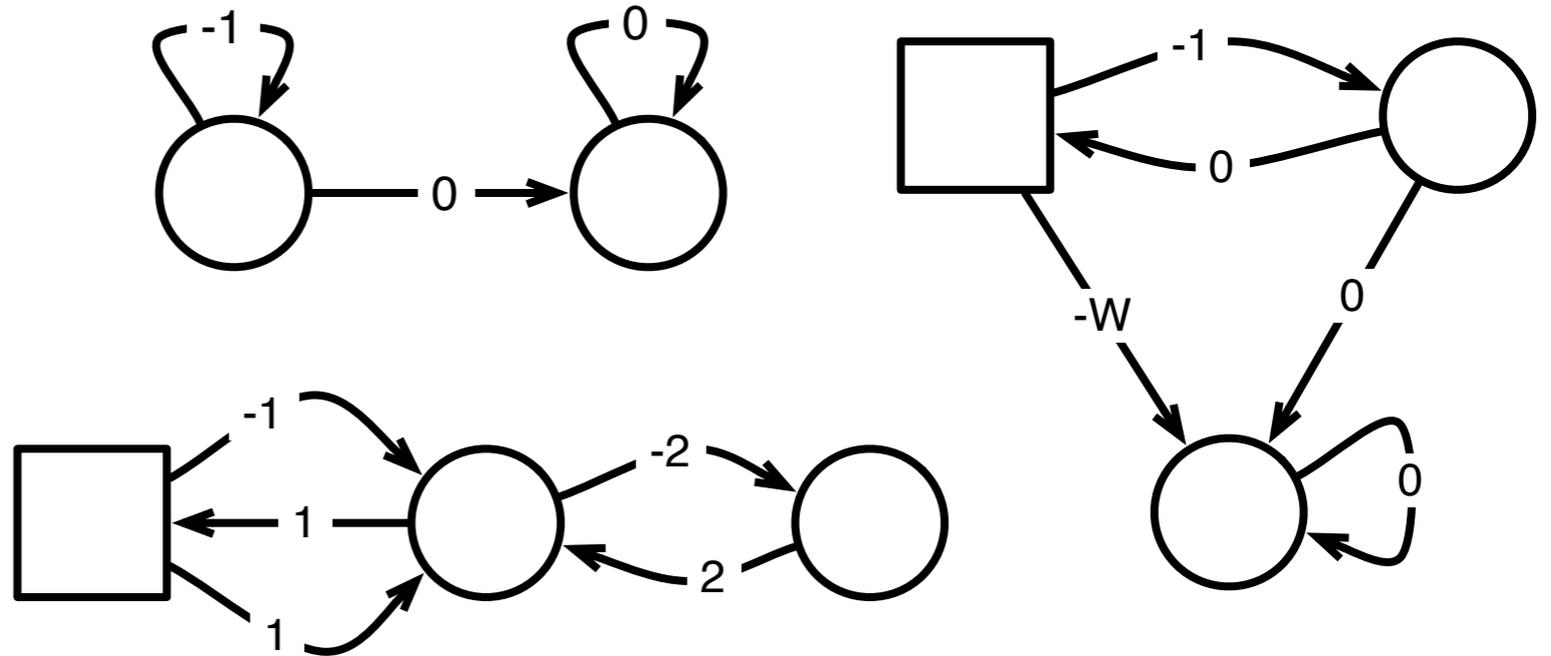
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- Interested with energy consumption, reliability, lifetime…
  Quantitative synthesis with games on weighted graphs

Games on weighted graphs

$$(V, E, w)$$

$$V = V_{\min} \uplus V_{\max}$$

$$w : E \longrightarrow \mathbf{Z}$$

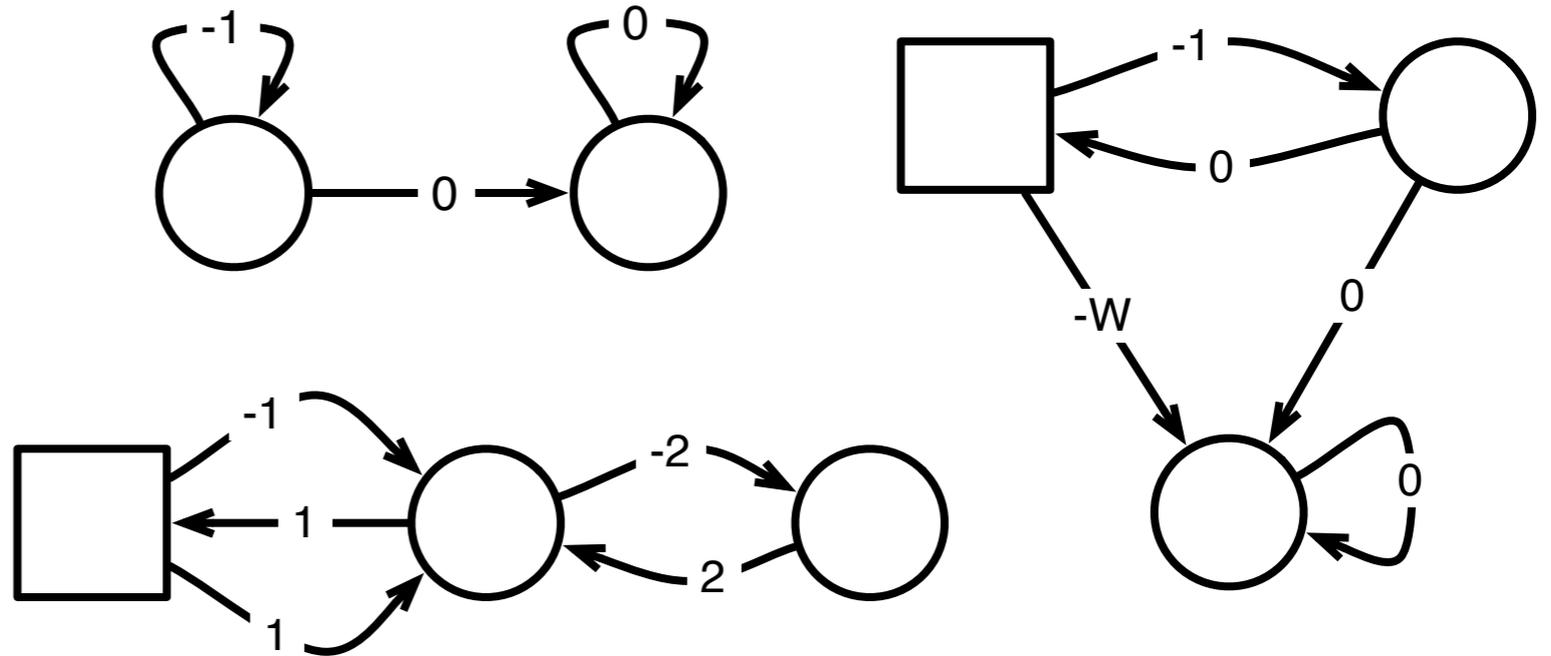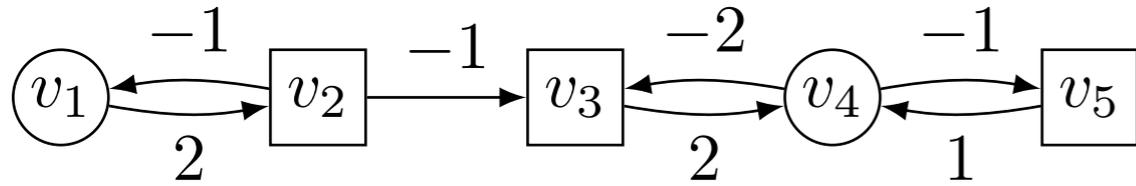# Games on weighted graphs

$$(V, E, w)$$

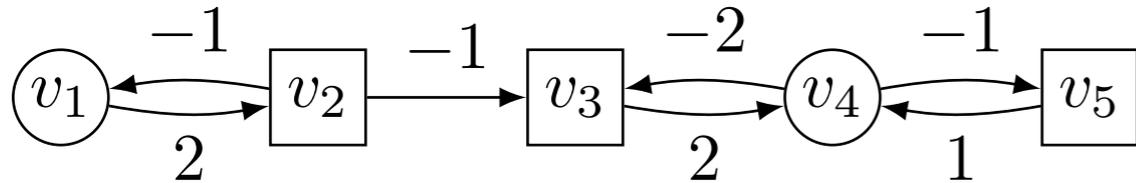$$V = V_{\min} \uplus V_{\max}$$

$$w : E \to \mathbf{Z}$$

- Quantitative objective of the controller: maximising his payoff, accumulated along the computation of the system

    - Mean-payoff: *good in average.*

        Abundantly studied, NP∩co-NP, pseudo-polynomial time algorithm by Zwick & Paterson…

    - Total-payoff: *good in total.* Refinement of mean-payoff

    - Discounted-payoff…

Total-payoff games

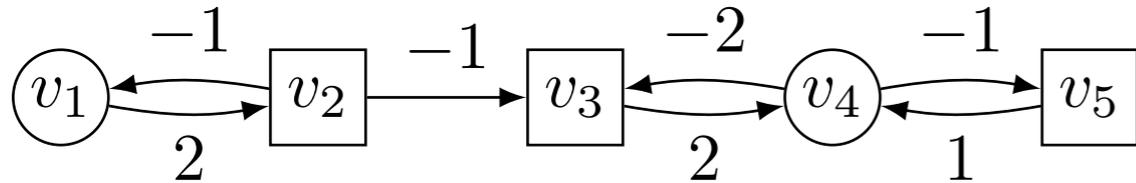# Total-payoff games

$$\pi = v_1 v_2 v_3 \; v_4 v_5 \; v_4 v_3 \; (v_4 v_5)^\omega$$

- Play: $\pi = v_0 v_1 v_2 \cdots$

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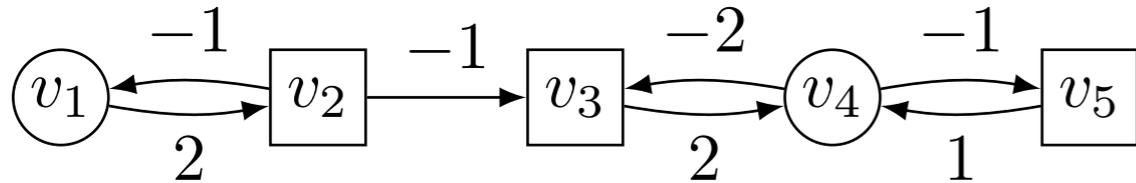$$\pi = v_1 v_2 v_3 \ v_4 v_5 \ v_4 v_3 \ (v_4 v_5)^{\omega}$$

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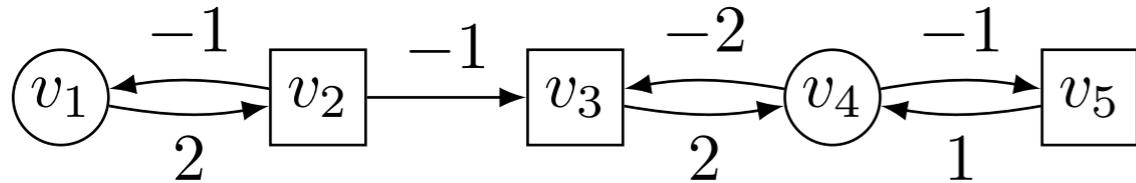
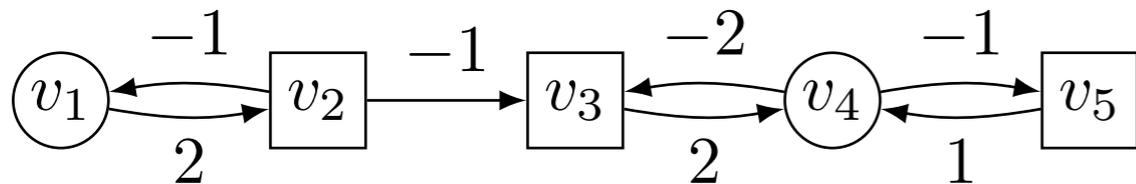- Play: $\pi = v_0 v_1 v_2 \cdots$

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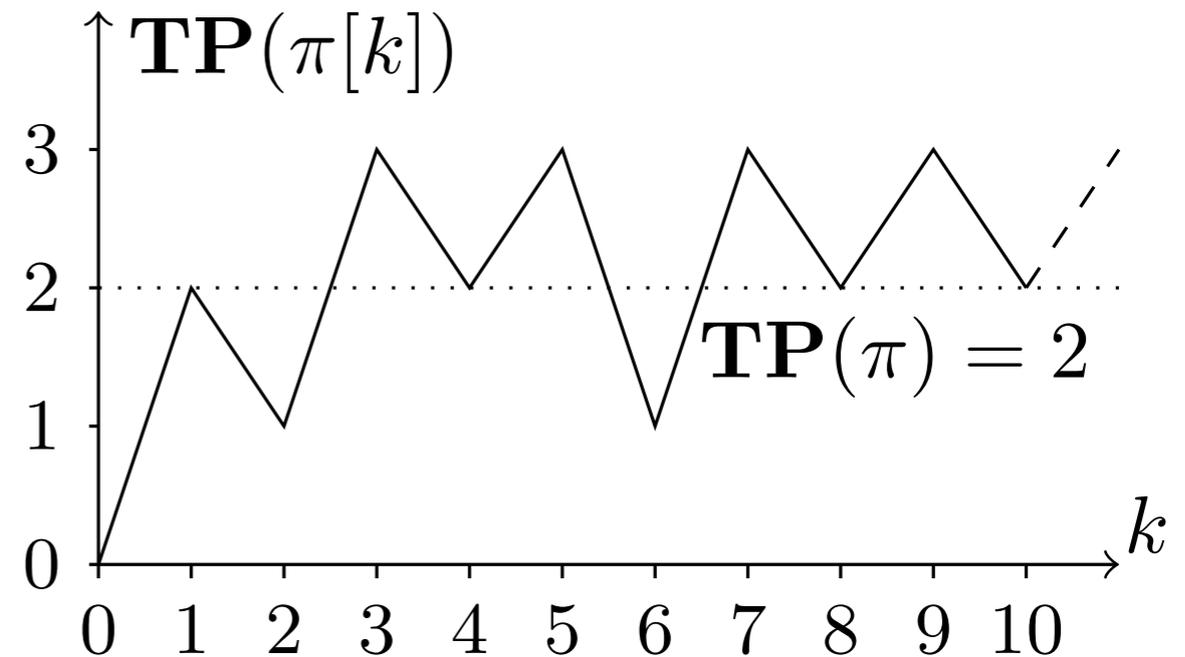- Accumulated cost: $\mathbf{TP}(\pi[k]) = \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} w(v_i, v_{i+1})$

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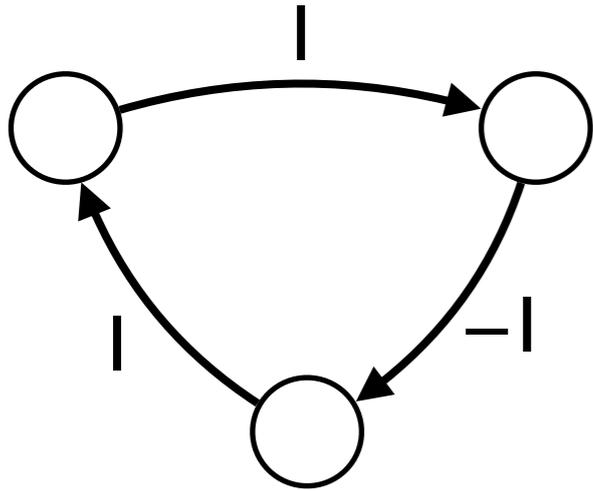- Total-payoff: $\mathbf{TP}(\pi) = \liminf_{k \to \infty} \mathbf{TP}(\pi[k])$

Total-payoff games

Known results:

- Gimbert & Zielonka 2004: optimal memoryless strategies always exist for both players
- Gawlitza & Seidl 2009: UP∩co-UP, best known algorithm runs in exponential time (policy iteration)
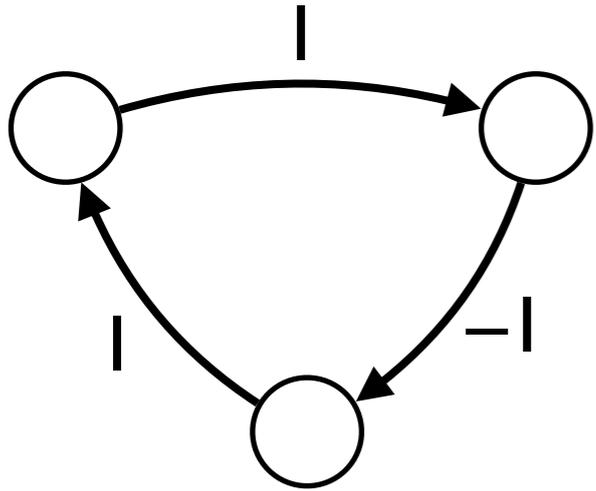- No value iteration scheme known to work…

Our contribution:

- First pseudo-polynomial time algorithm for total-payoff games + heuristics
- Requires the study of a variant with reachability
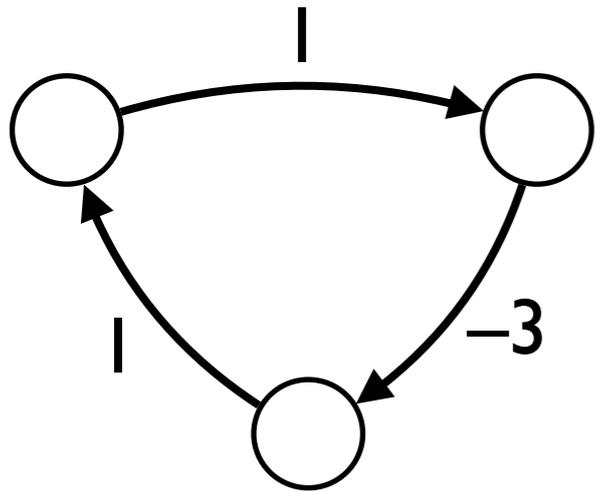
Mean-payoff vs Total-payoff

Mean-payoff value = $1/3$ **> 0** $\Rightarrow$ Total-payoff value **= $+\infty$**
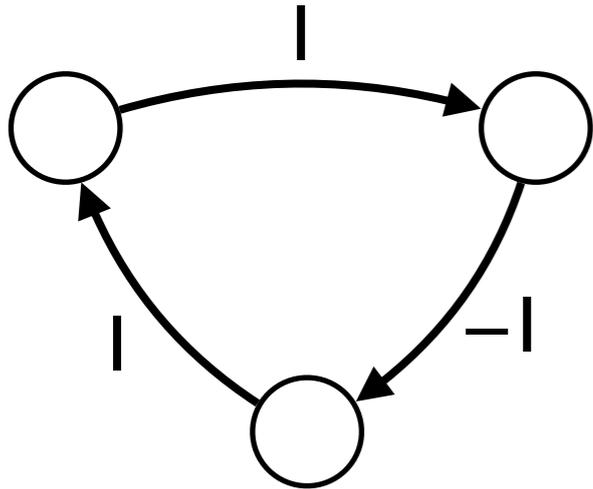
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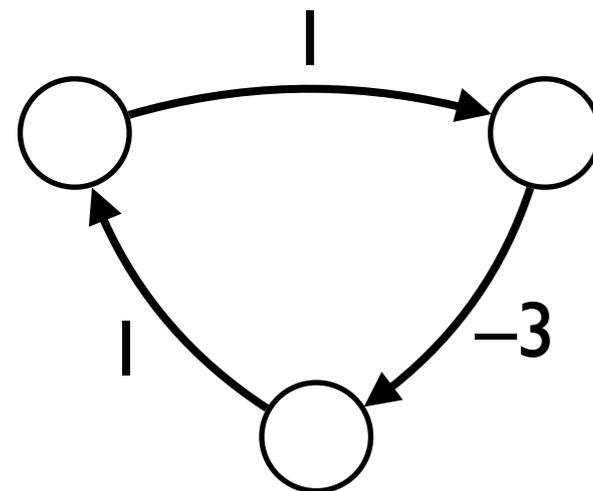Mean-payoff value = $1/3 > 0$ $\Rightarrow$ Total-payoff value $= +\infty$

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Mean-payoff value $= 0$ $\Rightarrow$ Total-payoff value finite

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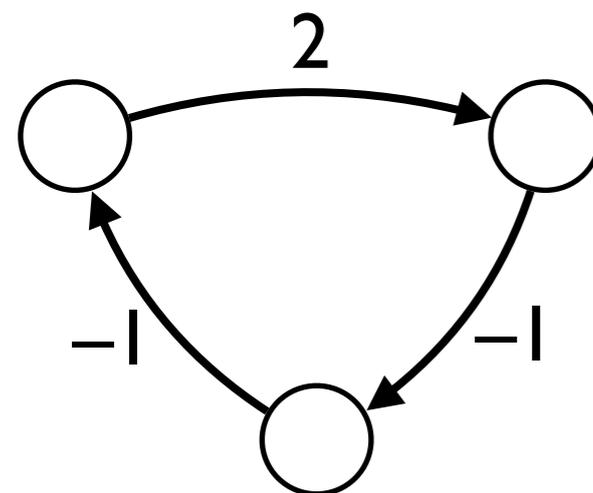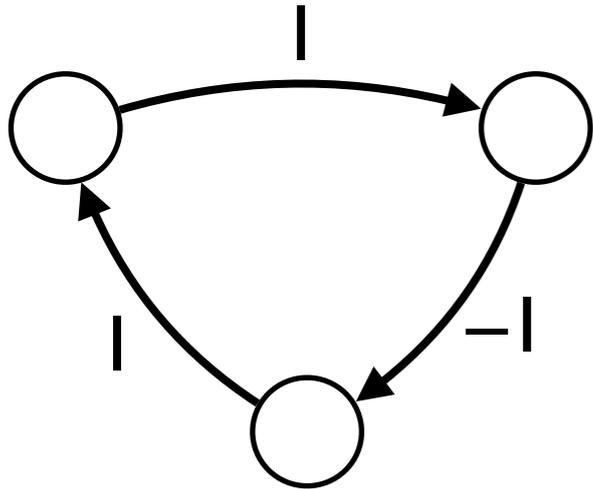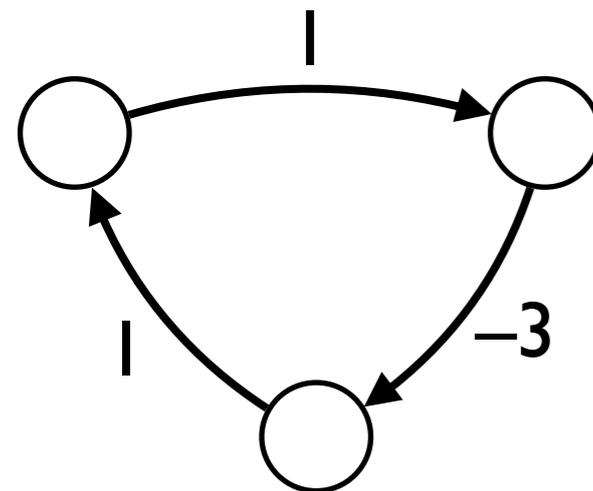Mean-payoff value = $-1/3 < 0$ $\Rightarrow$ Total-payoff value $= -\infty$

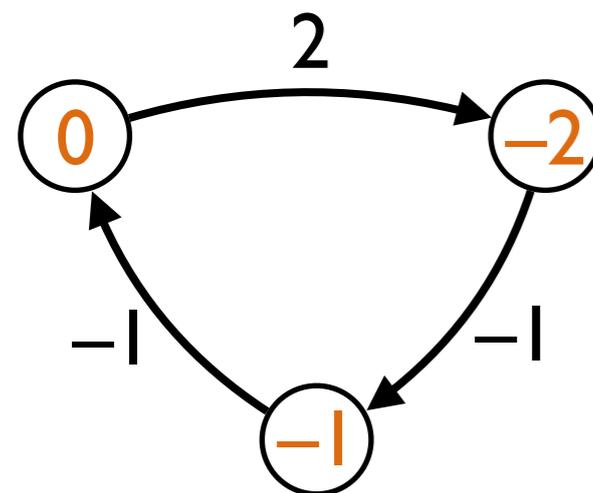Mean-payoff value $= 0$ $\Rightarrow$ Total-payoff value finite

Our result in a nutshell

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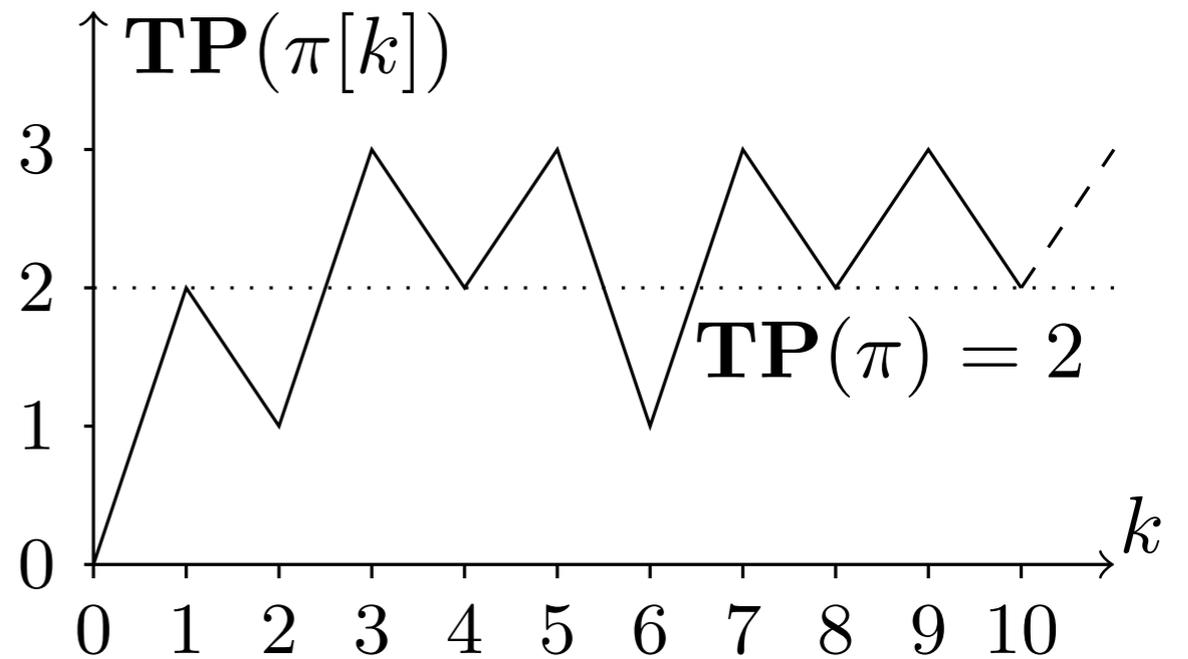- Too easy for him! Let the Maximiser have the right to veto, for a limited number *K* of times... Here *K*=3 suffices.

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Maximiser

Minimiser

STOP!

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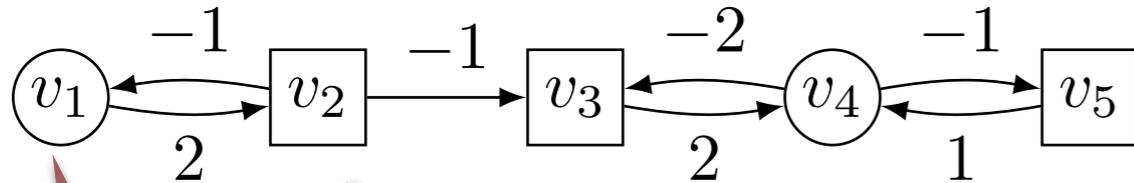- Too easy for him! Let the Maximiser have the right to veto, for a limited number *K* of times… Here *K*=3 suffices.

- Is there always a good value of *K* so that both games are equivalent?

Min-cost reachability games

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Maximiser

Minimiser

v_1 -1 v_2 0 v_3 0

0

$-W$

- Target set of states *T*

Min-cost reachability games

- **Target** set of states *T*

- **Minimiser** wants to reach:
  - if target is not reached, payoff $+\infty$,
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- Value of the game:

$$\inf_{\sigma_{\min}} \sup_{\sigma_{\max}} \; T\text{-MCR}(v, \sigma_{\min}, \sigma_{\max}) = \sup_{\sigma_{\max}} \inf_{\sigma_{\min}} \; T\text{-MCR}(v, \sigma_{\min}, \sigma_{\max})$$

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- Example: value of v_1 and v_2 is $-W\ldots$ and Minimiser needs memory to ensure it!

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- General case? Not known…
    - ➡ Our contribution: pseudo-polynomial time and as hard as solving mean-payoff games

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  - ➡ Maximiser: memoryless optimal strategy
  - ➡ Minimiser: finite memory suffices, and may be required

Value iteration on an example

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Maximiser

Minimiser

$$v_1 \xrightarrow{-1} v_2 \xrightarrow{0} v_3 \circlearrowright 0$$

$$v_2 \xrightarrow{0} v_1$$

$$-W$$

$+\infty$	$+\infty$	0

Value iteration on an example

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$v_1 \xleftarrow{0} v_2$

$-W$

$v_3 \circlearrowright 0$

what may both players
achieve in 1 step

$+\infty$	$+\infty$	0
$+\infty$	0	0
-1	0	0

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$v_2 \xrightarrow{0} v_1$

$-W$

0 (self-loop on v_3)

what may both players achieve in 1 step

$+\infty$	$+\infty$	0
$+\infty$	0	0
-1	0	0
-1	-1	0
-2	-1	0
...	...	...
$-W$	$-W$	0

Value iteration on an example

Maximiser

Minimiser

$$-1$$

$$v_1 \qquad v_2 \qquad 0 \qquad v_3 \qquad 0$$

$$0$$

$$-W$$

what may both players achieve in 1 step

$+\infty$	$+\infty$	0
$+\infty$	0	0
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...	...	...
$-W$	$-W$	0
$-W$	$-W$	0

stabilisation is proved always to happen in pseudo-polynomial time and the result is the value

Value iteration on an example

Maximiser

Minimiser

$$-1 \quad v_1 \rightleftarrows v_2 \quad 0 \rightarrow v_3 \quad 0$$

-1 (top edge), 0 (bottom edge from v_2 to v_1), $-W$ (bottom edge from v_1 to v_3)

what may both players achieve in 1 step

$+\infty$	$+\infty$	0
$+\infty$	0	0
-1	0	0
-1	-1	0
-2	-1	0
...	...	...
$-W$	$-W$	0
$-W$	$-W$	0

Strategy of Minimiser

stabilisation is proved always to happen in pseudo-polynomial time and the result is the value

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From total-payoff to MCR games

- For all *K*, unfold *K* times the arena, allowing Minimiser to ask to go to target t

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From total-payoff to MCR games

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Proposition: For $K = O(|V| \, W)$, if values of G are not $+\infty$, then they are equal to the values of the MCR game G_K.

Key argument: the value of an MCR game is necessarily in interval $[-(|V|-1) \, W+1, |V| \, W]$

➡ Pseudo-polynomial time algorithm: build G_K and compute its values

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- Stop early inner and outer loops…

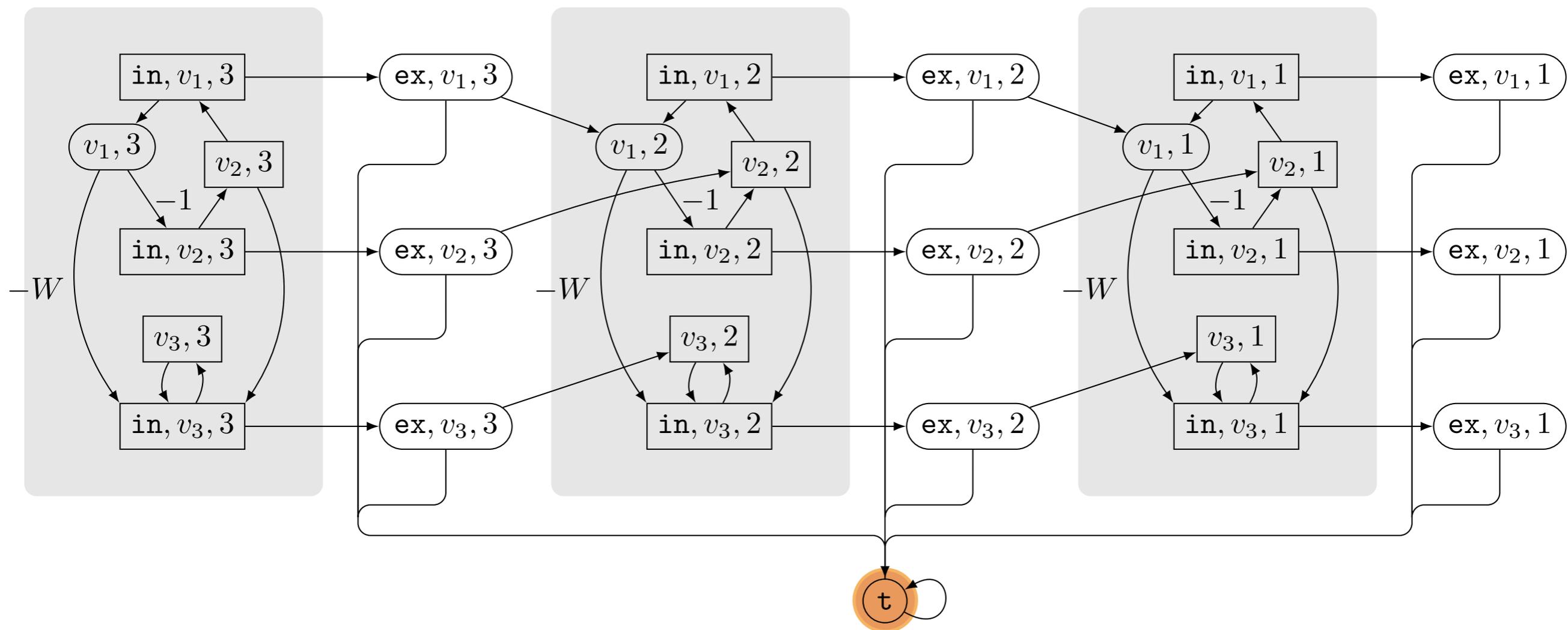1 **foreach** $v \in V$ **do** $\mathsf{Y}(v) := -\infty$
2 **repeat**
3   **foreach** $v \in V$ **do** $\mathsf{Y}_{pre}(v) := \mathsf{Y}(v)$; $\mathsf{Y}(v) := \max(0, \mathsf{Y}(v))$; $\mathsf{X}(v) := +\infty$
4   **repeat**
5        $\mathsf{X}_{pre} := \mathsf{X}$
6   **foreach** $v \in V_{\mathsf{Max}}$ **do** $\mathsf{X}(v) := \max_{v' \in E(v)} \left[\omega(v, v') + \min(\mathsf{X}_{pre}(v'), \mathsf{Y}(v')) \right]$
7   **foreach** $v \in V_{\mathsf{Min}}$ **do** $\mathsf{X}(v) := \min_{v' \in E(v)} \left[\omega(v, v') + \min(\mathsf{X}_{pre}(v'), \mathsf{Y}(v')) \right]$
8   **foreach** $v \in V$ such that $\mathsf{X}(v) < -(|V|-1)W$ **do** $\mathsf{X}(v) := -\infty$
9   **until** $\mathsf{X} = \mathsf{X}_{pre}$
10    $\mathsf{Y} := \mathsf{X}$
11   **foreach** $v \in V$ such that $\mathsf{Y}(v) > (|V|-1)W$ **do** $\mathsf{Y}(v) := +\infty$
12 **until** $\mathsf{Y} = \mathsf{Y}_{pre}$
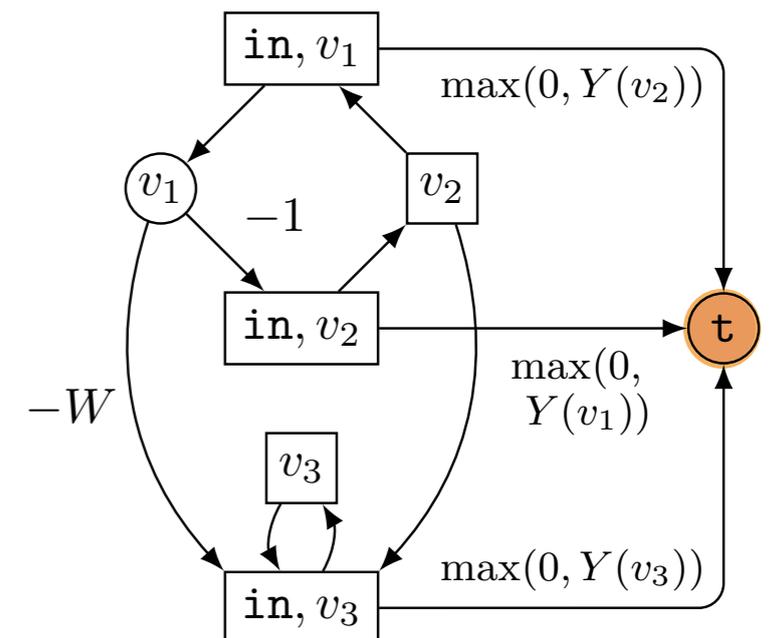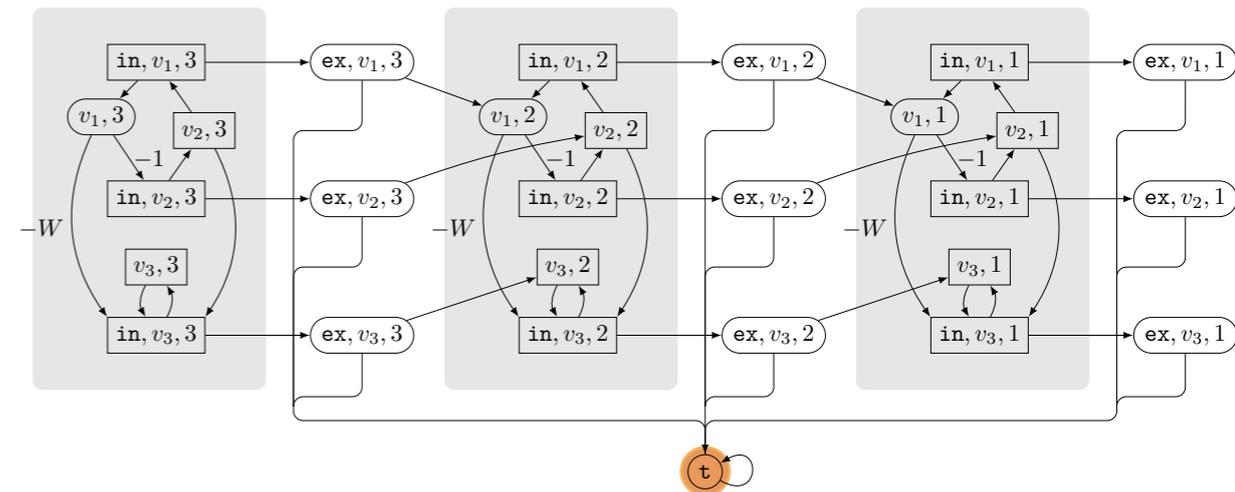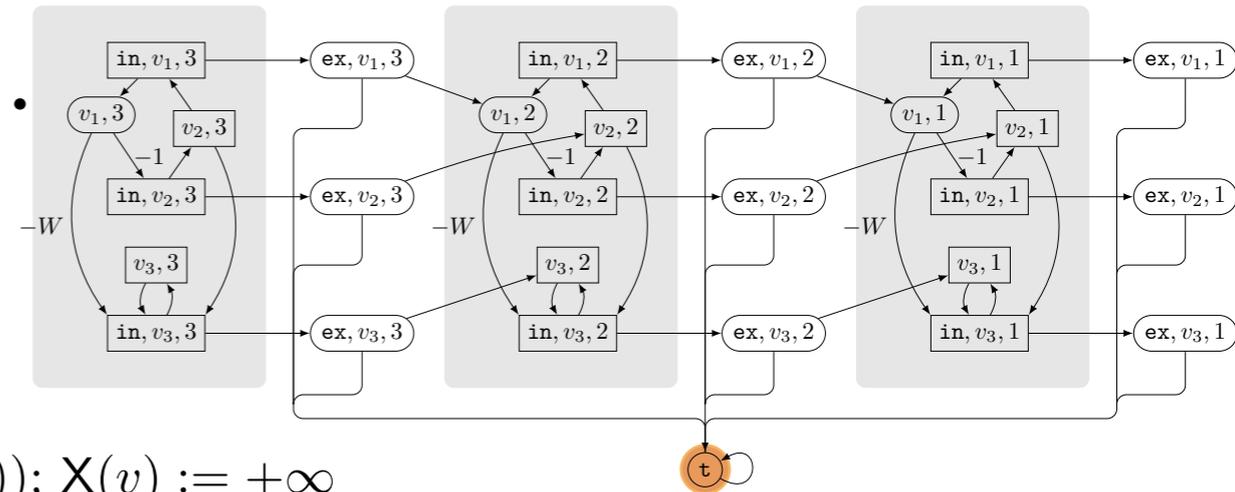13 **return** Y

12

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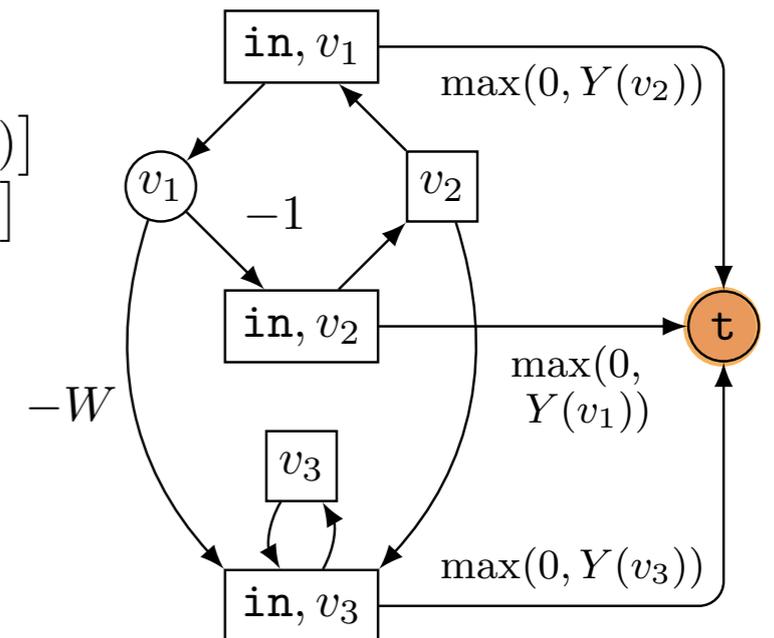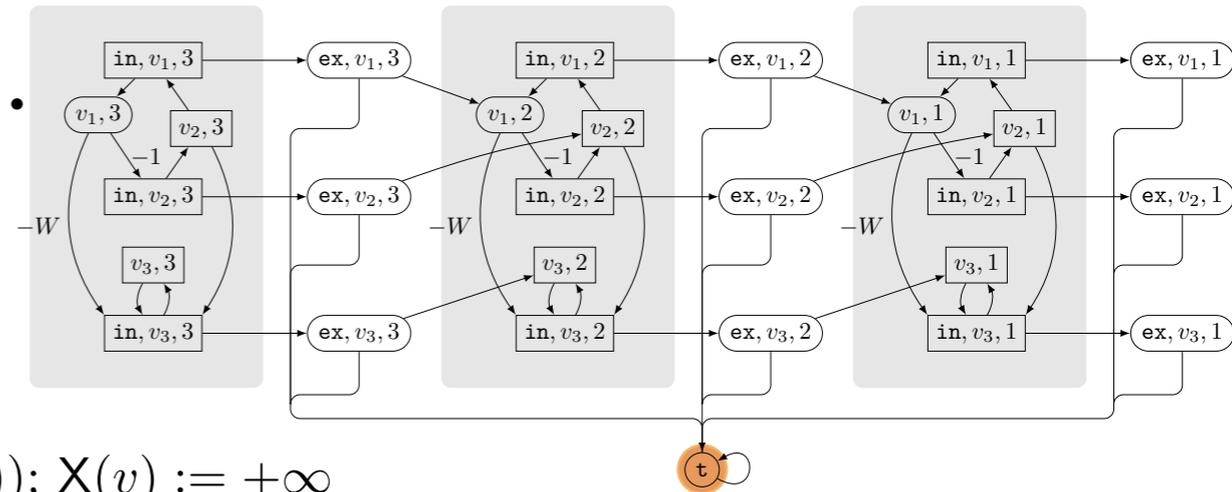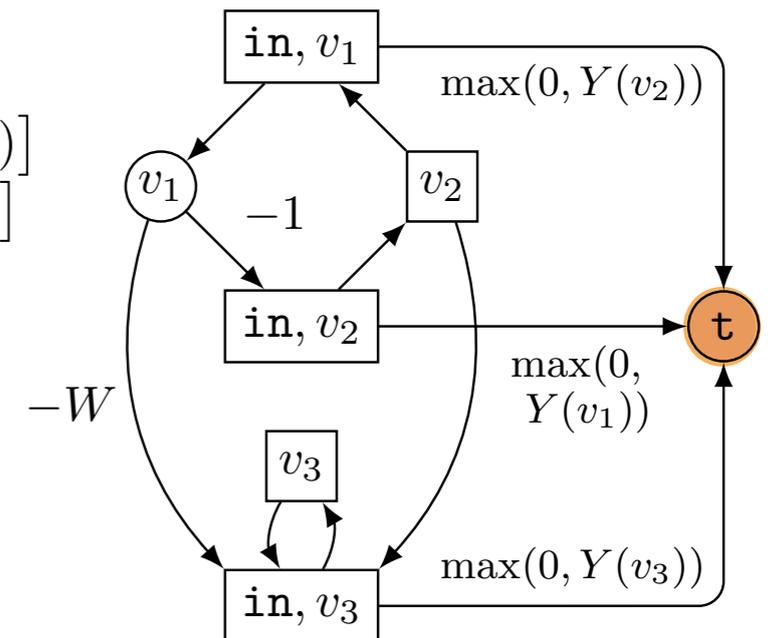
> Requires very few memory (no need to construct G_K)
>
> ➡ Pseudo-polynomial time: $O(|V|^4 \, |E| \, W^2)$

- Stop early inner and outer loops...


```
1  foreach v ∈ V do Y(v) := −∞
2  repeat
3      foreach v ∈ V do Y_pre(v) := Y(v); Y(v) := max(0, Y(v)); X(v) := +∞
4      repeat
5          X_pre := X
6          foreach v ∈ V_Max do X(v) := max_{v'∈E(v)} [ω(v, v') + min(X_pre(v'), Y(v'))]
7          foreach v ∈ V_Min do X(v) := min_{v'∈E(v)} [ω(v, v') + min(X_pre(v'), Y(v'))]
8          foreach v ∈ V such that X(v) < −(|V|−1)W do X(v) := −∞
9      until X = X_pre
10     Y := X
11     foreach v ∈ V such that Y(v) > (|V|−1)W do Y(v) := +∞
12 until Y = Y_pre
13 return Y
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On an example

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- Requires n outer loops to converge

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- As a total-payoff game, values of v_1 and v_2 are 0, value of v_3 is W…

- Each inner loop computes all the values (needs $O(nW)$ steps)

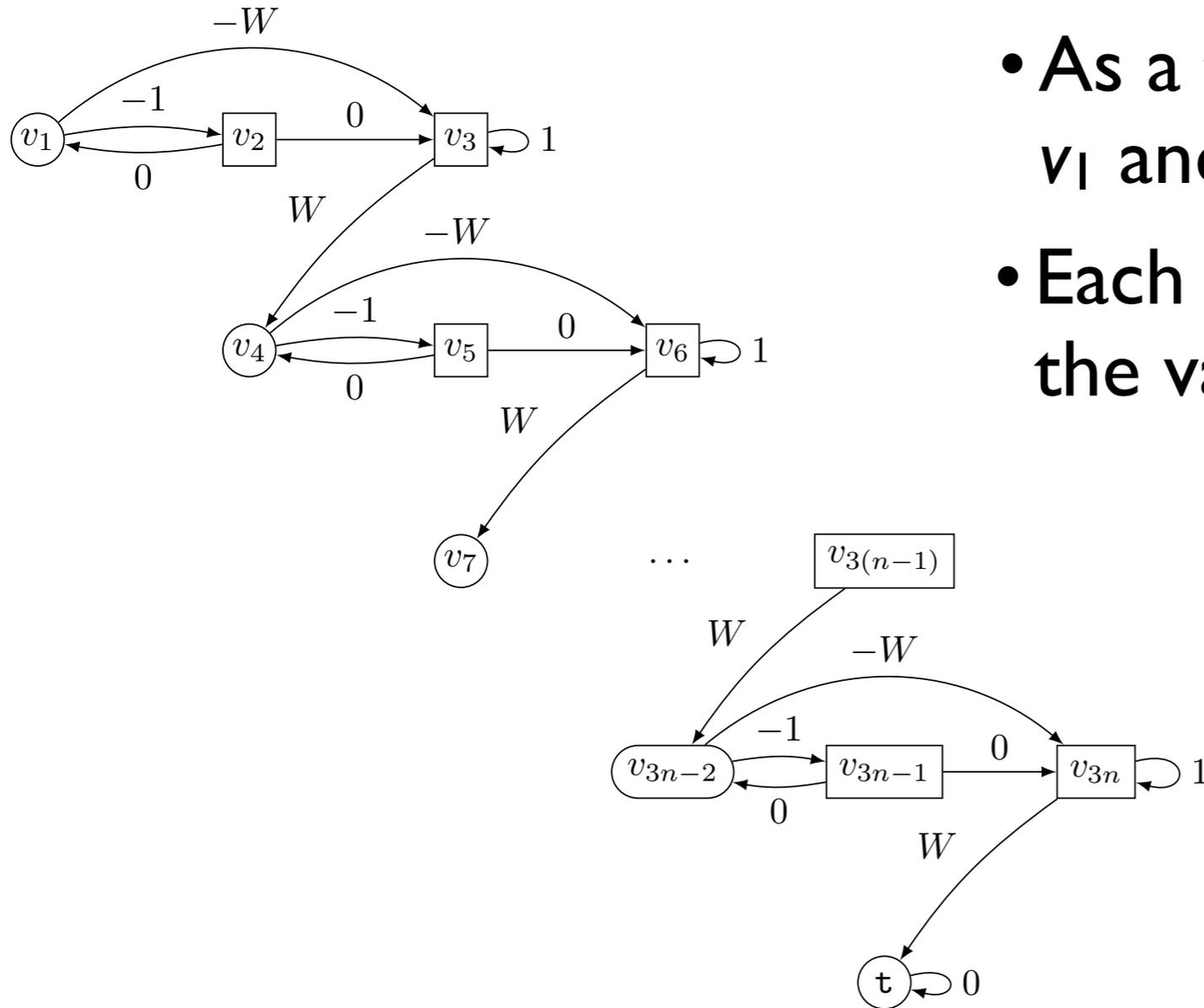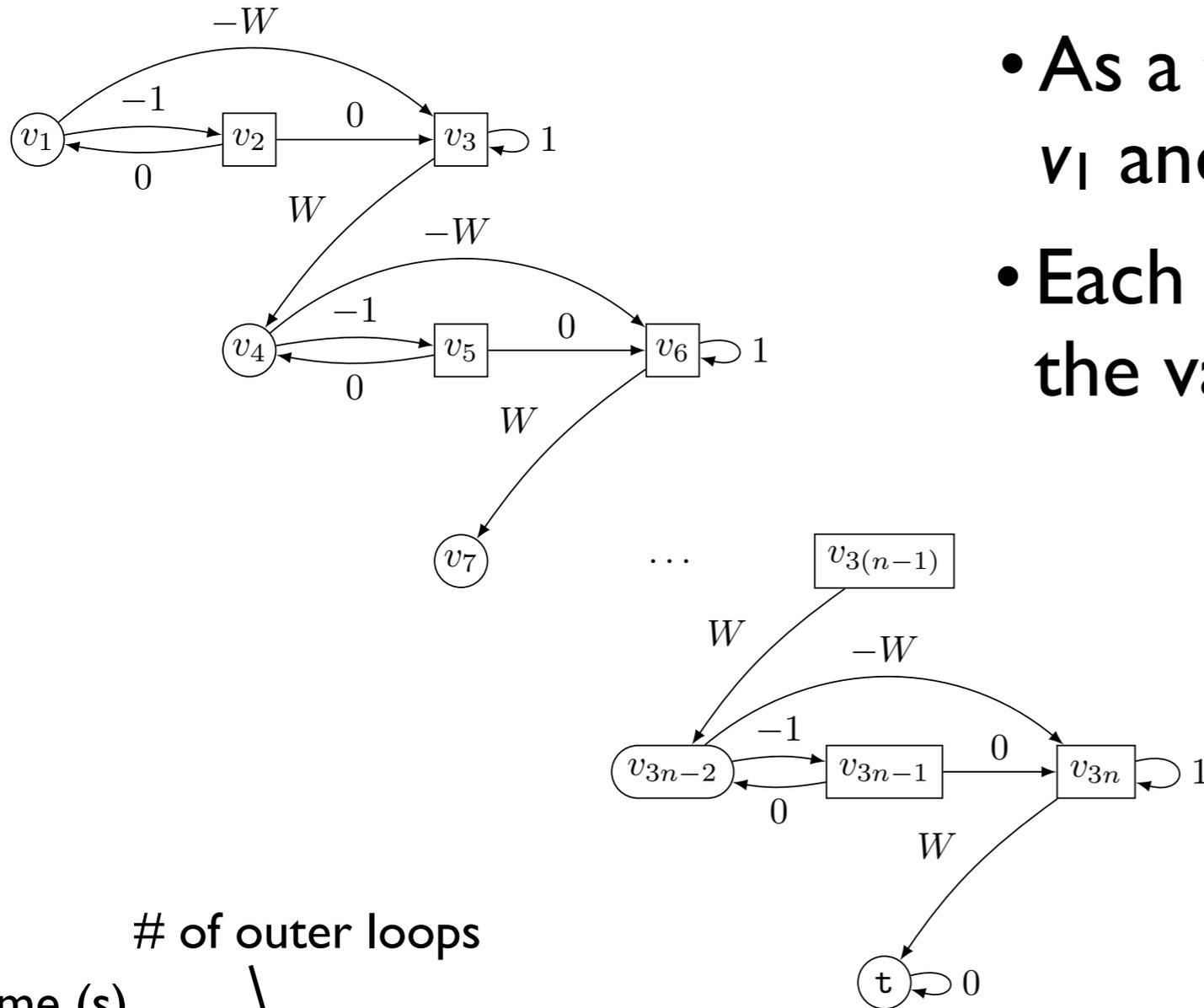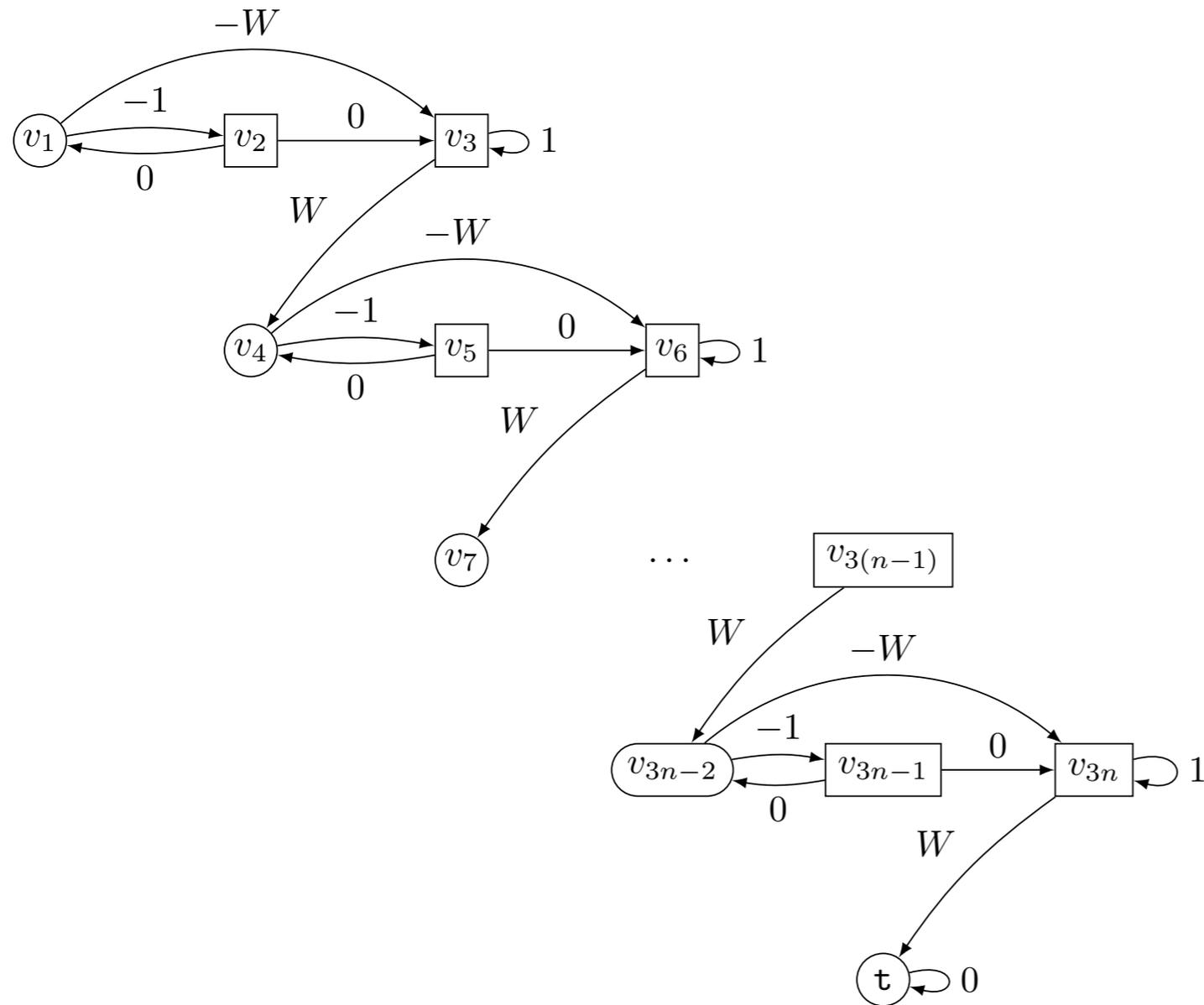 - After 1 outer loop, only the values of the last component are correct…

  - Requires n outer loops to converge

time (s)

of outer loops

total # of inner loops

$W\backslash n$	100	200	300	400	500
50	0.52 / 151 / 12603	1.90 / 251 / 22703	3.84 / 351 / 32803	6.05 / 451 / 42903	9.83 / 551 / 53003
100	1.00 / 201 / 30103	3.48 / 301 / 50203	8.64 / 401 / 70303	13.53 / 501 / 90403	22.64 / 601 / 110503
150	1.89 / 251 / 52603	6.02 / 351 / 82703	12.88 / 451 / 112803	22.13 / 551 / 142903	34.16 / 651 / 173003
200	2.96 / 301 / 80103	9.62 / 401 / 120203	18.33 / 501 / 160303	30.42 / 601 / 200403	45.64 / 701 / 240503
250	3.92 / 351 / 112603	13.28 / 451 / 162703	25.18 / 551 / 212803	46.23 / 651 / 262903	71.51 / 751 / 313003

Heuristics: compute as little as possible!

- In the outer loop, compute SCC by SCC

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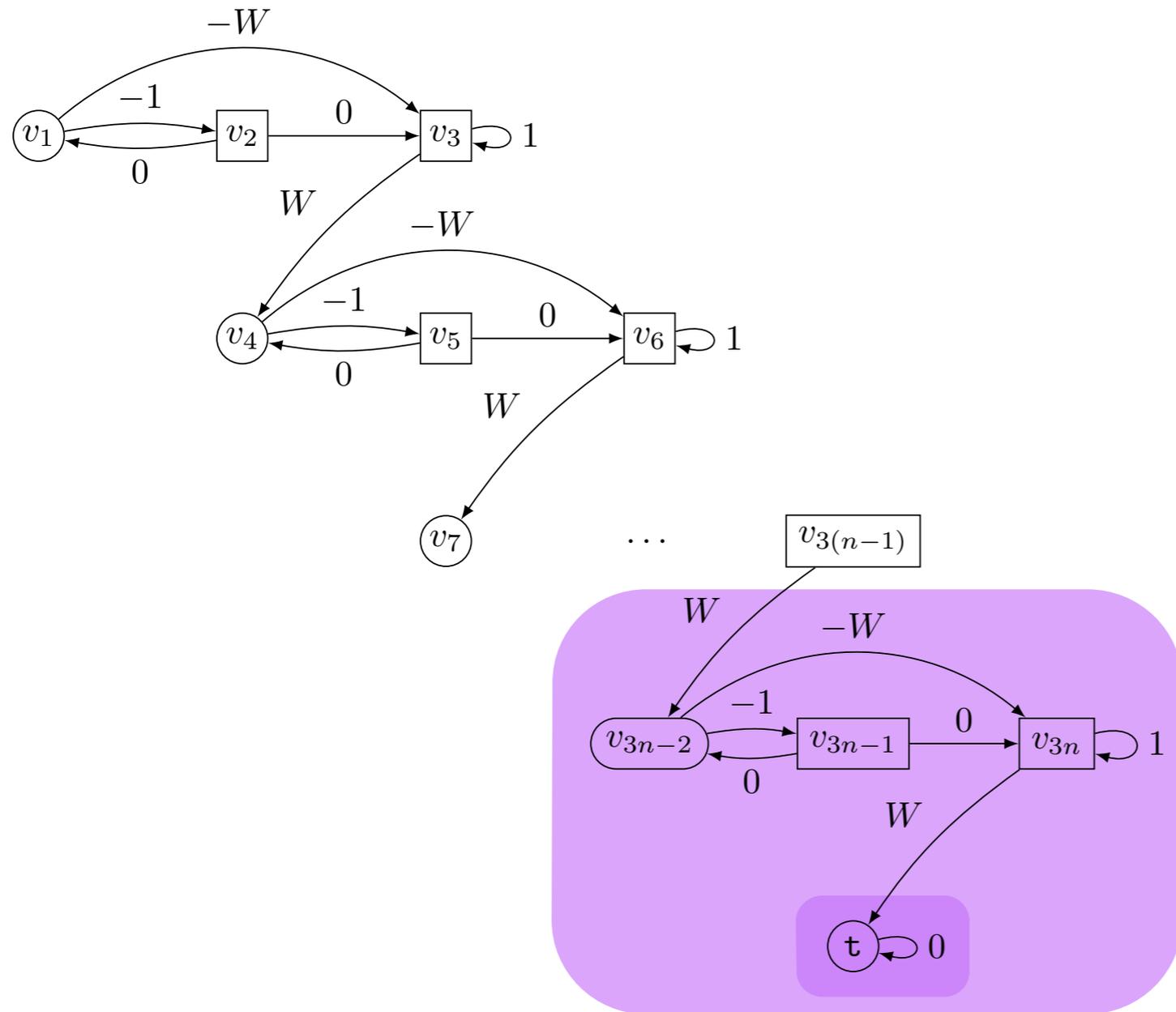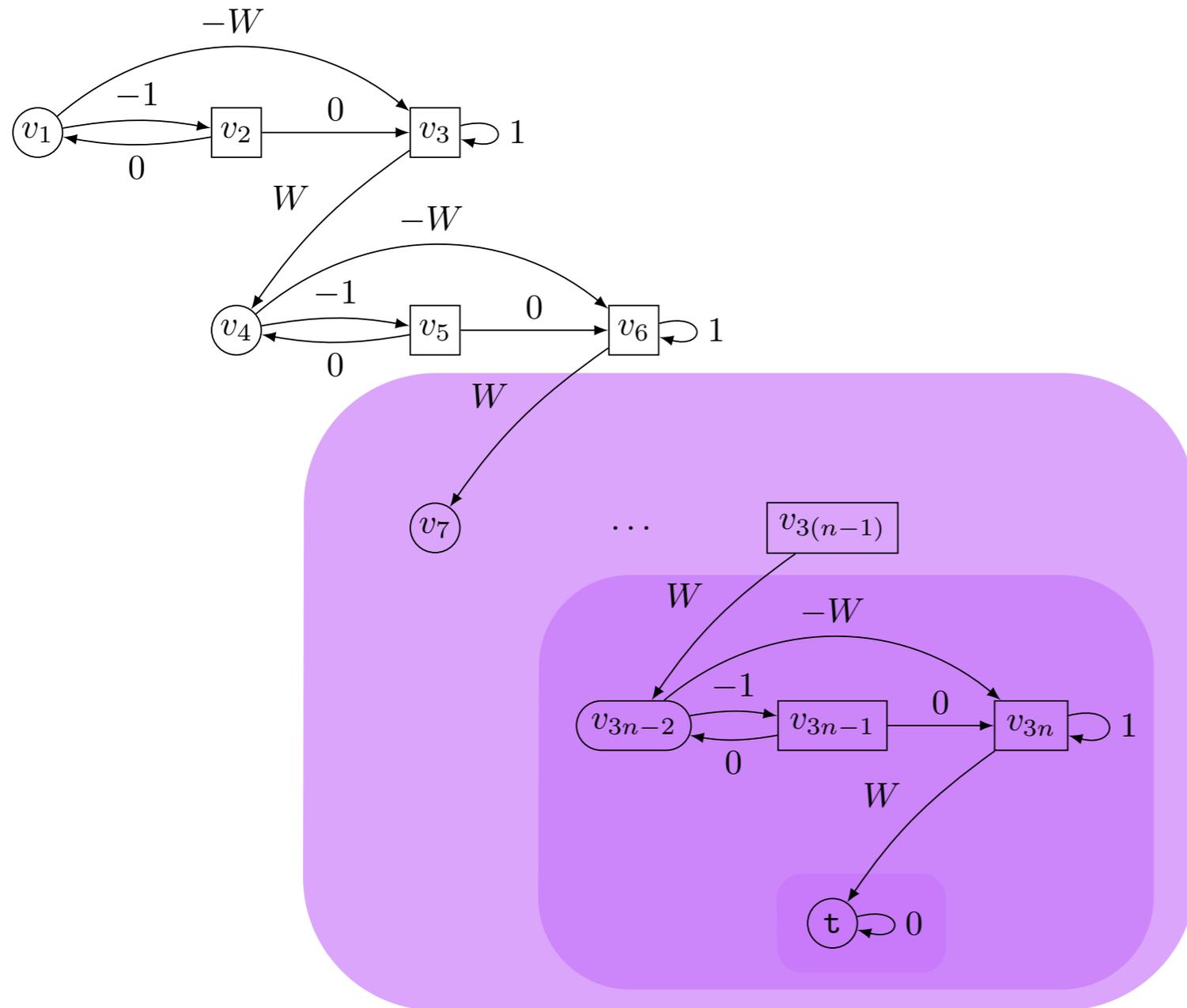# Heuristics: compute as little as possible!

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- For each inner loop, we solve an MCR game: optimal memoryless strategies, so value is weight of a simple path…

$+\infty$	$+\infty$	0
$+\infty$	0	0
-1	0	0
-1	-1	0
-2	-1	0
-2	-2	0
-3	-2	0
-3	-3	0
…	…	…
$-W$	$-W$	0
$-W$	$-W$	0

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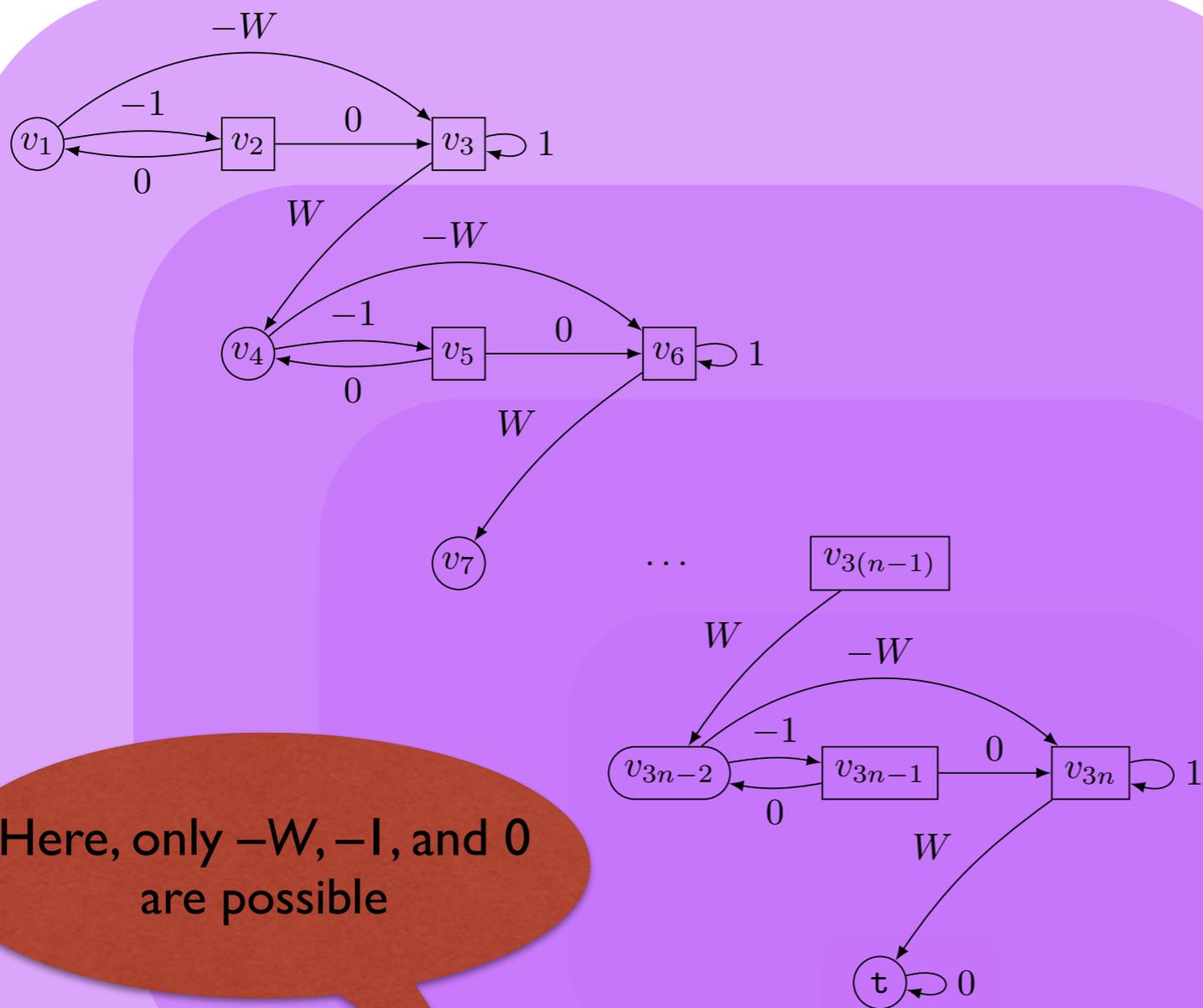|		
$+\infty$	$+\infty$	0
$+\infty$	0	0
-1	0	0
-1	-1	0
-2	-1	0
-2	-2	0
-3	-2	0
-3	-3	0
$\dots$	$\dots$	$\dots$
$-W$	$-W$	0
$-W$	$-W$	0

Heuristics: compute as little as possible!

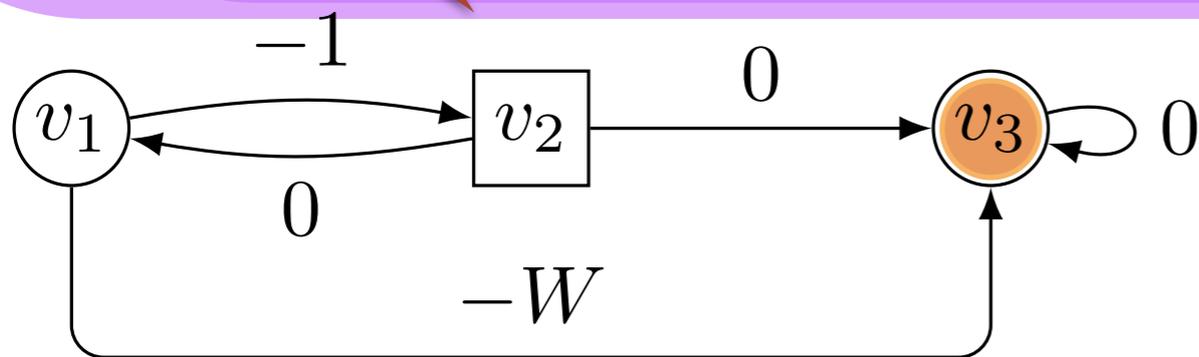Here, only $-W, -1$, and 0 are possible

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-3	-3	0
$\ldots$	$\ldots$	$\ldots$
$-W$	$-W$	0
$-W$	$-W$	0

skip!

14

Some total-payoff games in polynomial time

- Combination of both heuristics

- If all SCC uses at most L distincts weights (that can be arbitrarily large in absolute values), algorithm with heuristics runs in polynomial time.

Some total-payoff games in polynomial time

- Combination of both heuristics

- If all SCC uses at most *L* distincts weights (that can be arbitrarily large in absolute values), algorithm with heuristics runs in polynomial time.

- Implementation as an add-on to PRISM games available at
  http://www.ulb.ac.be/di/verif/monmege/tool/TP-MCR/

		without heuristics			with heuristics		
W	n	t	k_e	k_i	t	k_e	k_i
50	100	0.52s	151	12,603	0.01s	402	1,404
50	500	9.83s	551	53,003	0.42s	2,002	7,004
200	100	2.96s	301	80,103	0.02s	402	1,404
200	500	45.64s	701	240,503	0.47s	2,002	7,004
500	1,000	536s	1,501	1,251,003	2.37s	4,002	14,004

Conclusion and future works

- First pseudo-polynomial time algorithm to solve total-payoff games, by nested fixed point computation with value iteration

- By means of a reachability variant (MCR games), interesting on their own

- Large subclasses with polynomial time complexity

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Thank you for your attention!