

The Reachability Problem for Computation Models

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Plan

Plan

- basic notions

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- basic notions
- **guided tour** through computation models

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- **guided tour** through computation models
- **hard** examples for **simple models**

Plan

- basic notions
- **guided tour** through computation models
- **hard** examples for **simple models**
- open problems and message

Computation model

Computation model

Turing machine = automaton with infinite tape

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finite automaton

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Turing machine = automaton with infinite tape

finite automaton

pushdown automaton

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Turing machine = automaton with infinite tape

finite automaton

pushdown automaton

automaton with counters

Computation model

Turing machine = automaton with infinite tape

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automaton with counters

automaton with **some structure**

Reachability problem

Reachability problem

Given: a **model**, two its configurations **s** and **t**

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Question: is there a run from **s** to **t**?

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Question: is there a run from **s** to **t**?

Why this problem?

Reachability problem

Given: a **model**, two its configurations **s** and **t**

Question: is there a run from **s** to **t**?

Why this problem?

Central one for a computation model

Halting problem for TM

Halting problem for TM

undecidable

Halting problem for TM

undecidable

the same as **reachability problem**

Halting problem for TM

undecidable

the same as **reachability problem**

what for other models?

Two-counter automaton

Two-counter automaton

Theorem

The **reachability problem** for **two-counter automaton** is **undecidable**.

Two-counter automaton

Theorem Minsky machine

The reachability problem for two-counter automaton is undecidable.

Two-counter automaton

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Two-counter automaton

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configuration = state + two nonnegative counters

Two-counter automaton

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configuration = state + two nonnegative counters

transition: increments / decrements counters

Two-counter automaton

Theorem

The reachability problem for two-counter automaton is undecidable.

configuration = state + two nonnegative counters

transition: increments / decrements counters

zero-tests possible

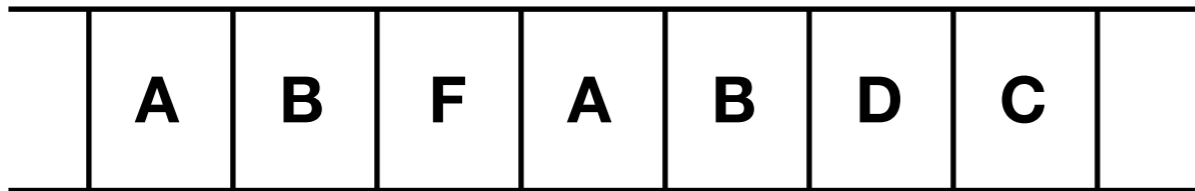
Proof

Proof

infinite tape = two pushdowns

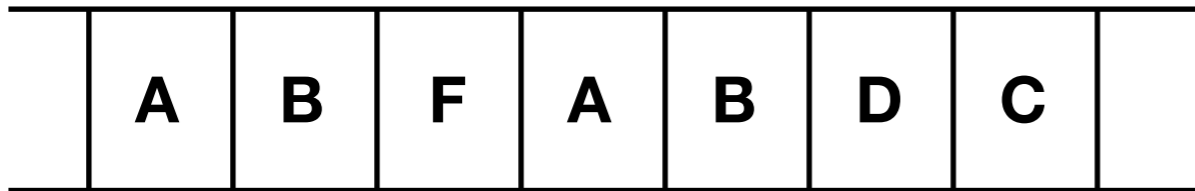
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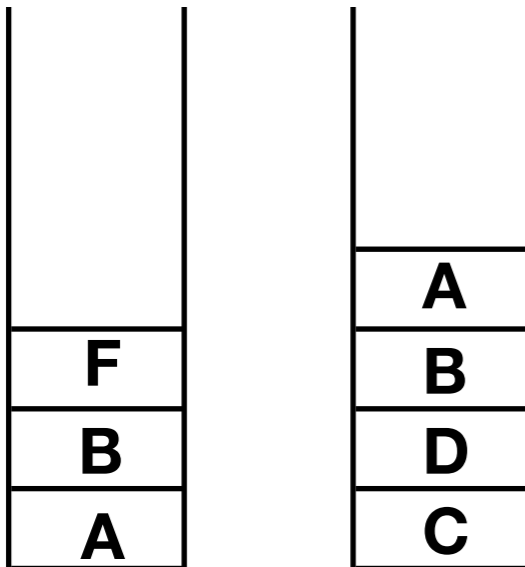
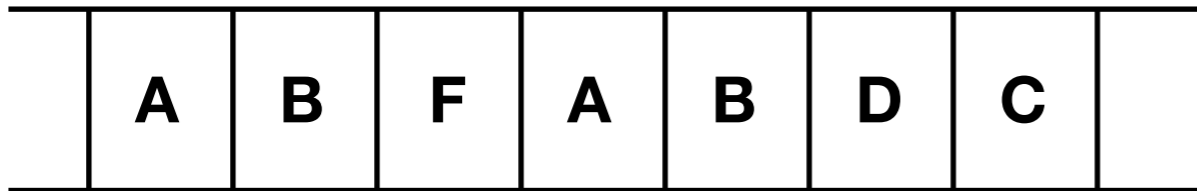
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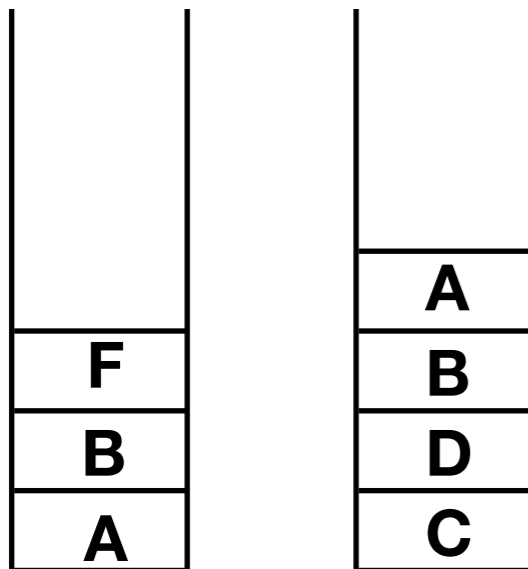
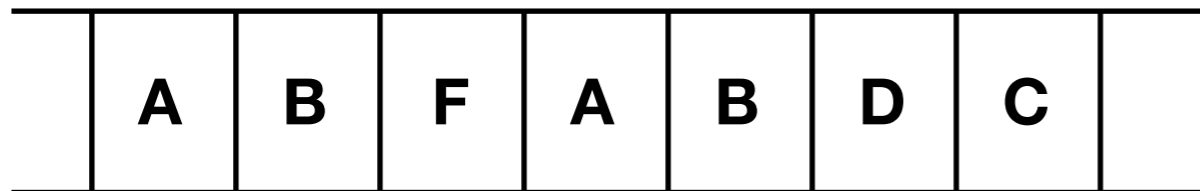
Proof

infinite tape = two pushdowns



Proof

infinite tape = two pushdowns



reachability problem
for
automaton with two
pushdowns
is
undecidable

Proof continuation

Proof continuation

pushdown can be simulated by **two counters**

Proof continuation

pushdown can be simulated by **two counters**

2
2
1
2

Proof continuation

pushdown can be simulated by **two counters**

2
2
1
2

$\langle 2122 \rangle$ in ternary = 71

Proof continuation

pushdown can be simulated by **two counters**

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$\langle 21221 \rangle$ in ternary = $3 \cdot 71 + 1$

Proof continuation

pushdown can be simulated by **two counters**

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$\langle 2122 \rangle$ in ternary = 71

(71,0)

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2
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$\langle 2122 \rangle$ in ternary = 71

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(-1,+1) zero-test(x)

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2
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2

$\langle 21221 \rangle$ in ternary = $3 \cdot 71 + 1$

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$\langle 2122 \rangle$ in ternary = 71

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2
2
1
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$\langle 21221 \rangle$ in ternary = $3 \cdot 71 + 1$

(3 · 71,0)

Proof continuation

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the auxiliary counter can be the same

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The **reachability problem** for
automaton with **three counters** is **undecidable**

Proof continuation

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(x, y, z)

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The reachability problem for automaton with three counters is undecidable

(x, y, z) encoded as

Proof continuation

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The reachability problem for automaton with three counters is undecidable

(x, y, z) encoded as $(2^x \cdot 3^y \cdot 5^z, 0)$

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(x, y, z) encoded as $(2^x \cdot 3^y \cdot 5^z, 0)$

The reachability problem for automaton with two counters is undecidable

Hardness

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Theorem

Turing machine with space M can be simulated by:

- three-counter automaton with counters up to $\exp(M)$
- two-counter automaton with counters up to $2\text{-exp}(M)$

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Theorem

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- **three**-counter automaton with counters up to $\exp(M)$
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Reachability for three-counter automaton with counters bounded by 2-exp with ExpSpace-complete

How to simplify?

How to simplify?

Counters **without** zero-tests

How to simplify?

Counters **without** zero-tests

Just **one zero-tested** counter

How to simplify?

Counters **without** zero-tests

Just **one zero-tested** counter

Just **one pushdown**

How to simplify?

Counters **without** zero-tests

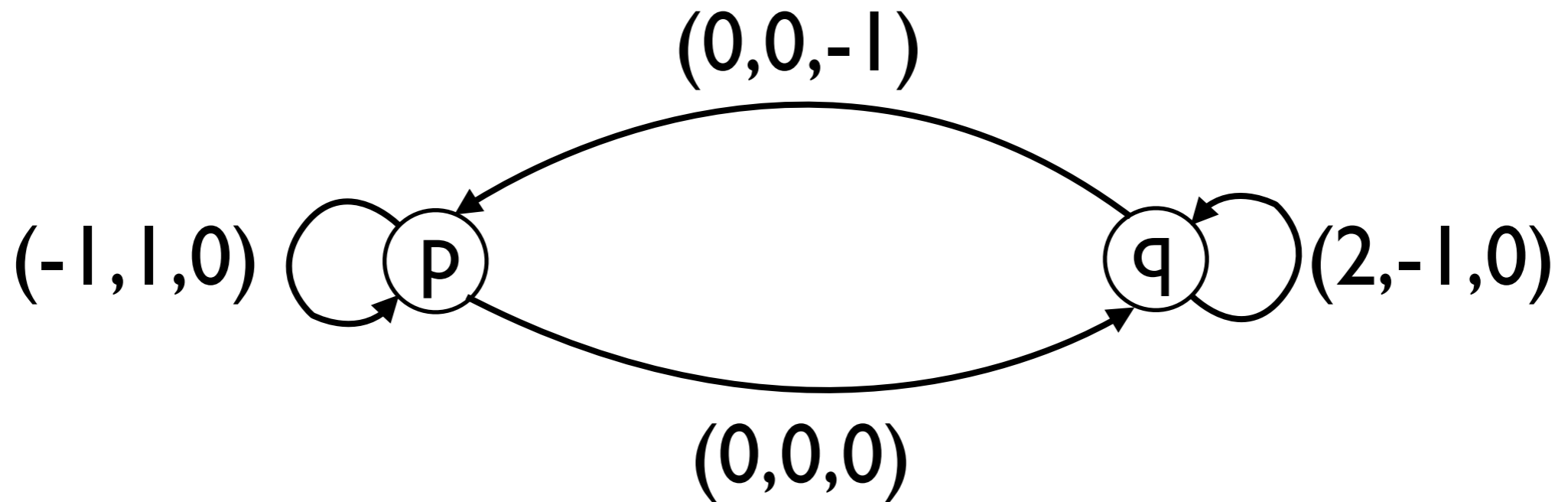
Just **one zero-tested** counter

Just **one pushdown**

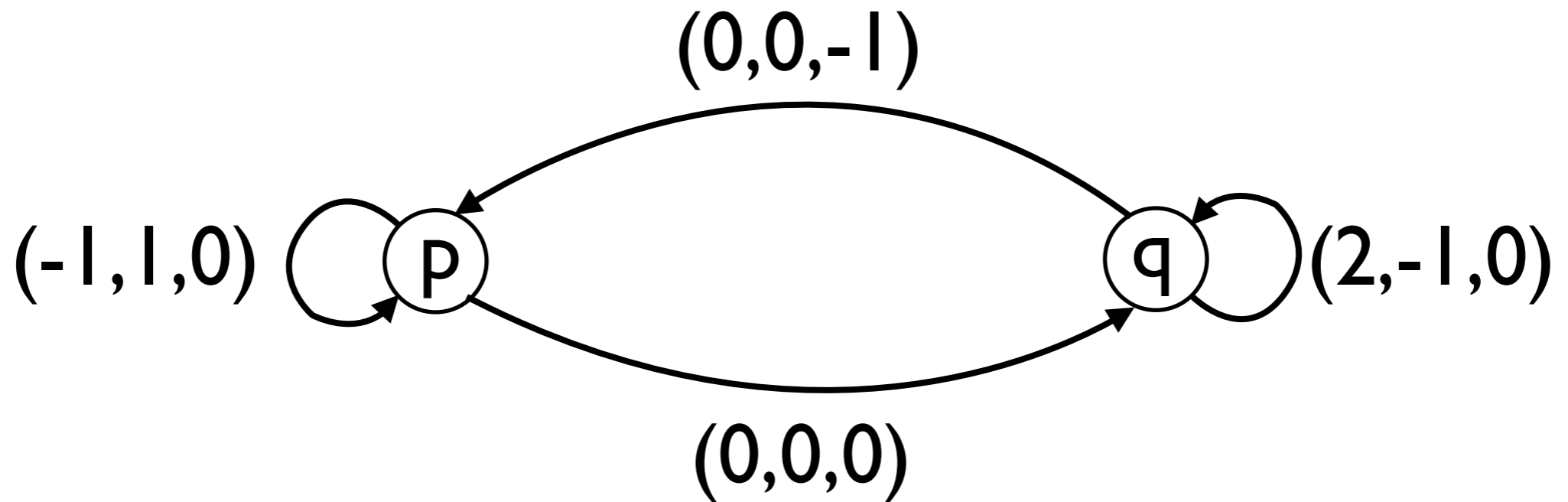
Other

Vector Addition Systems with States (VASS)

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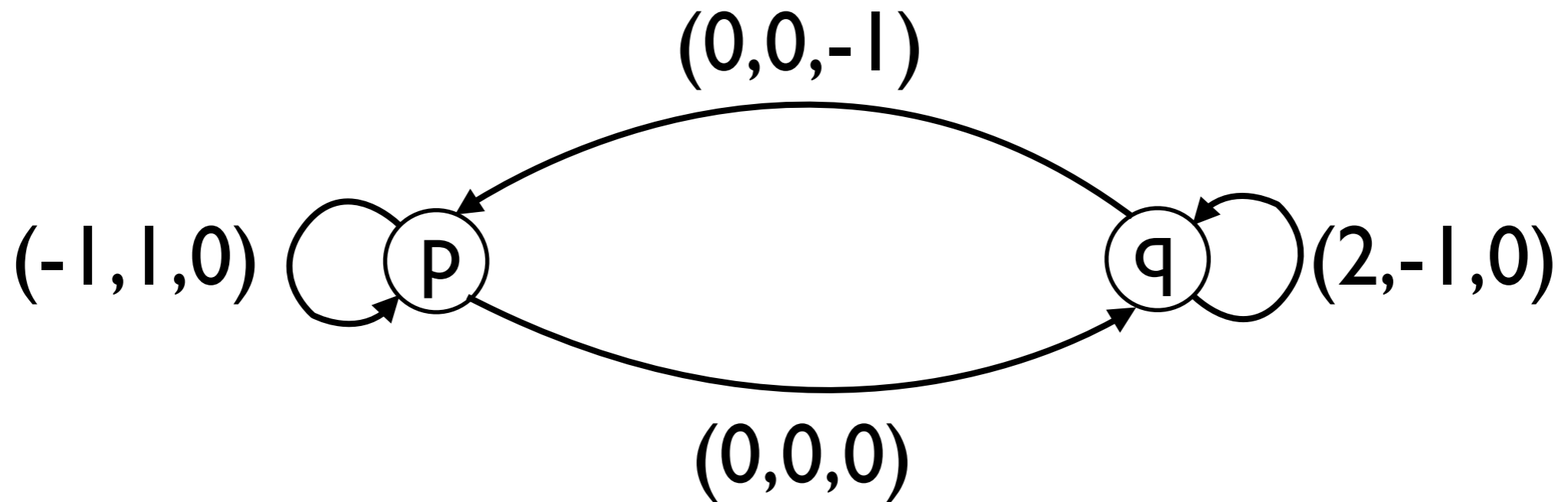


Vector Addition Systems with States (VASS)



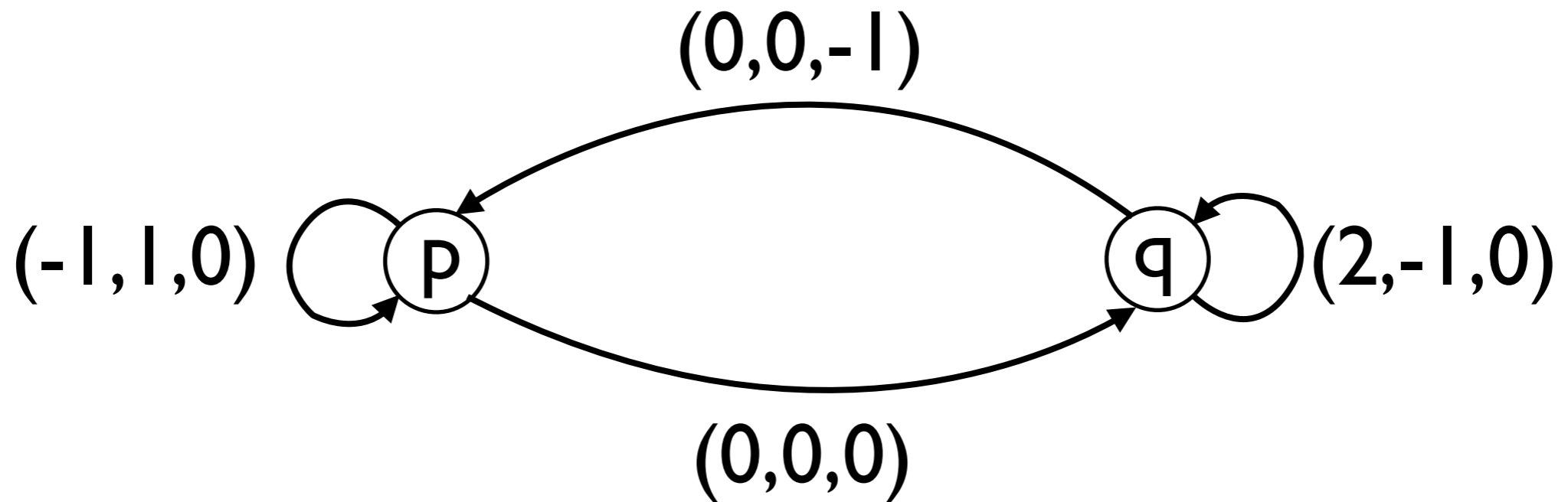
$p(2, 0, 7)$

Vector Addition Systems with States (VASS)



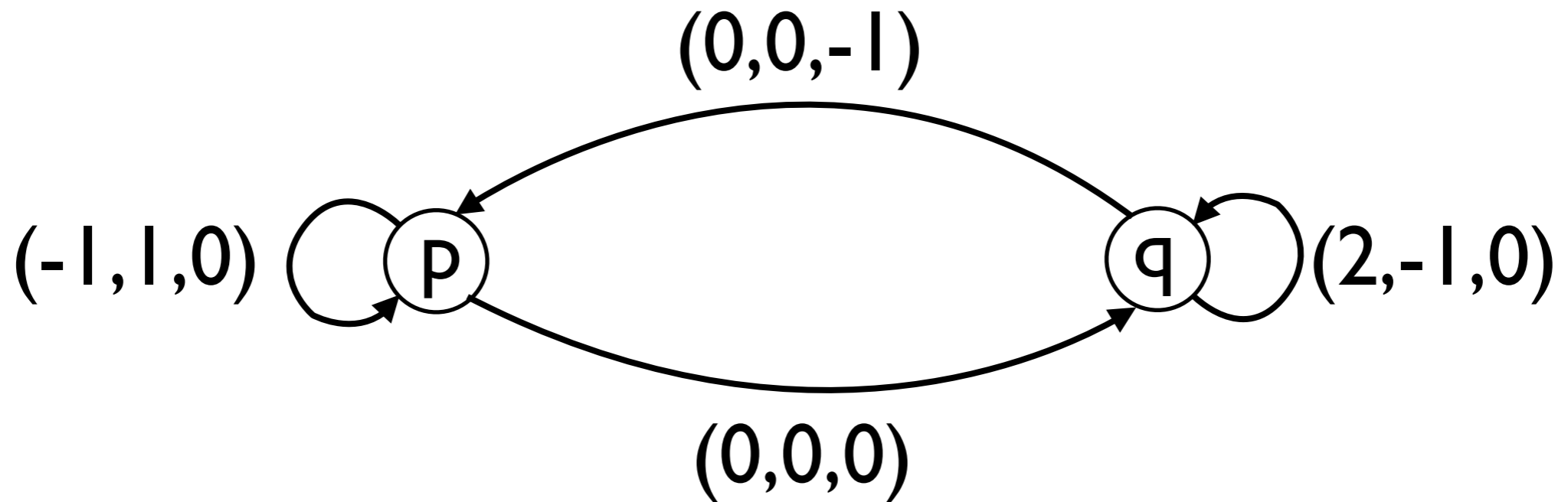
$$p(2, 0, 7) \longrightarrow p(1, 1, 7)$$

Vector Addition Systems with States (VASS)



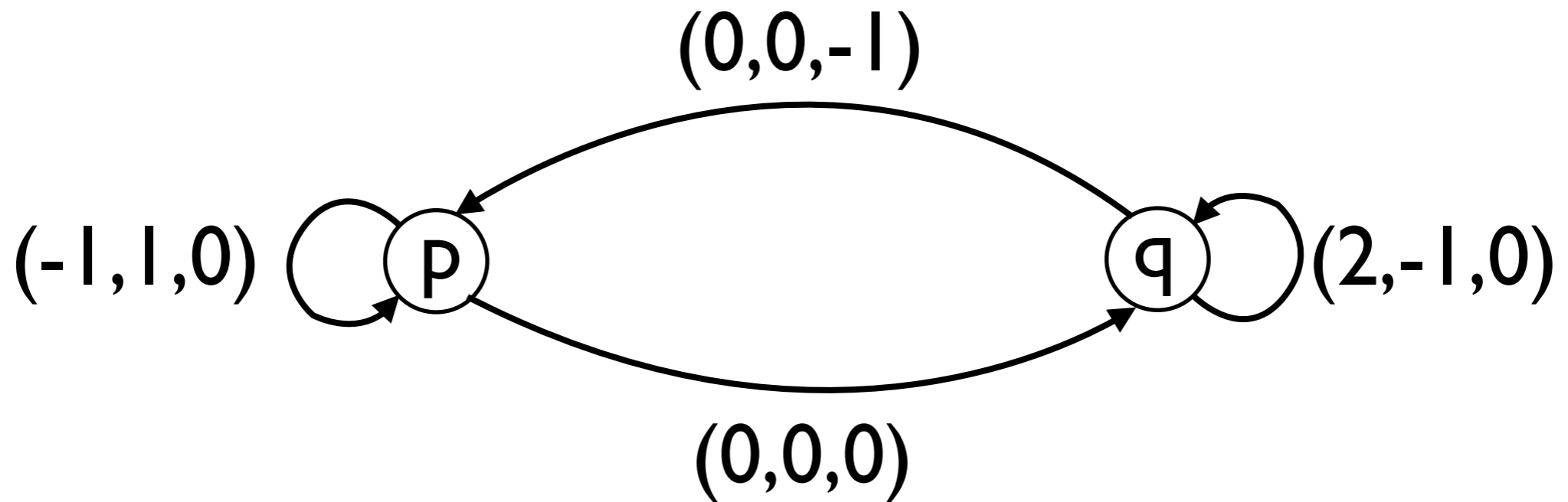
$$p(2, 0, 7) \longrightarrow p(1, 1, 7) \longrightarrow p(0, 2, 7)$$

Vector Addition Systems with States (VASS)



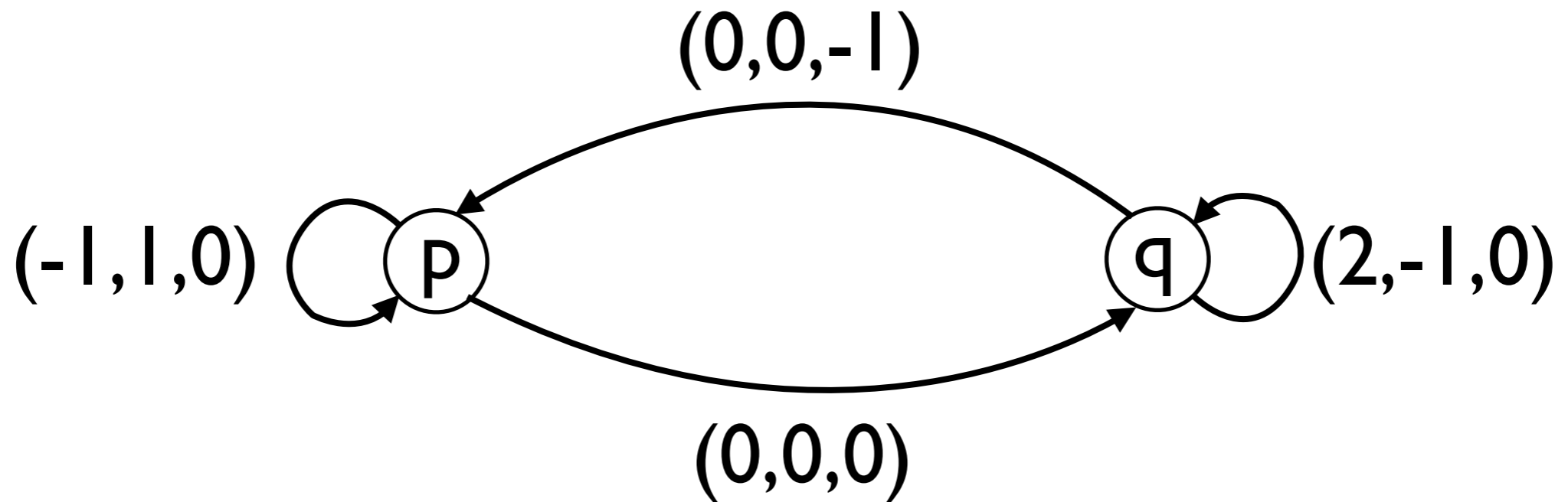
$p(2,0,7) \longrightarrow p(1,1,7) \longrightarrow p(0,2,7) \longrightarrow q(0,2,7)$

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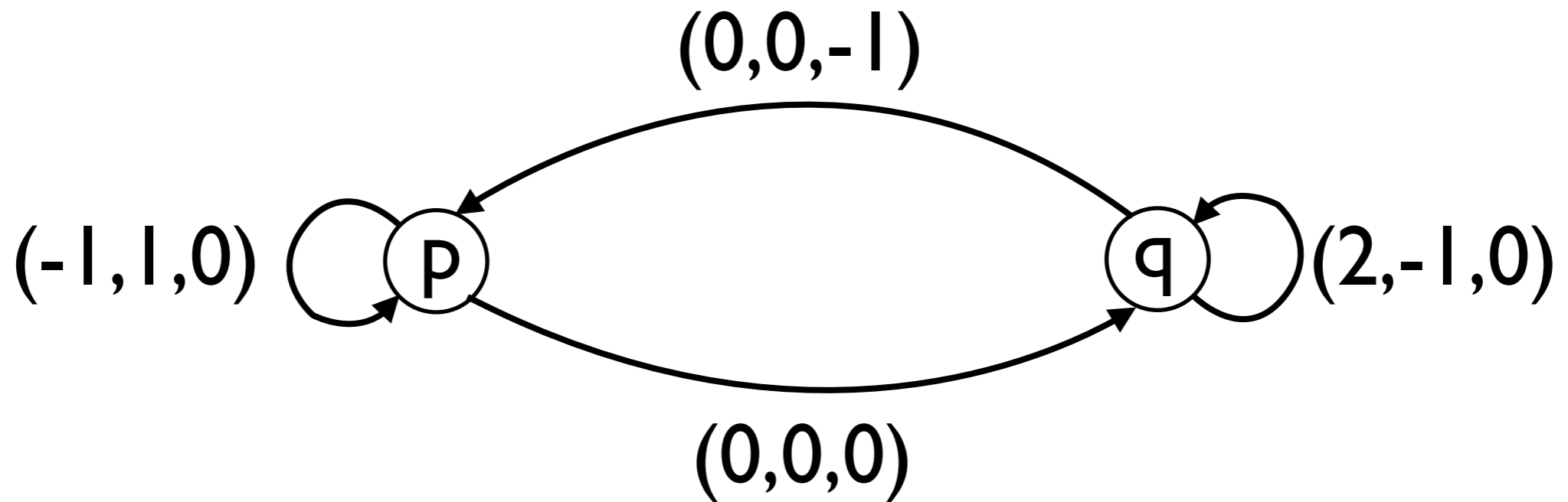
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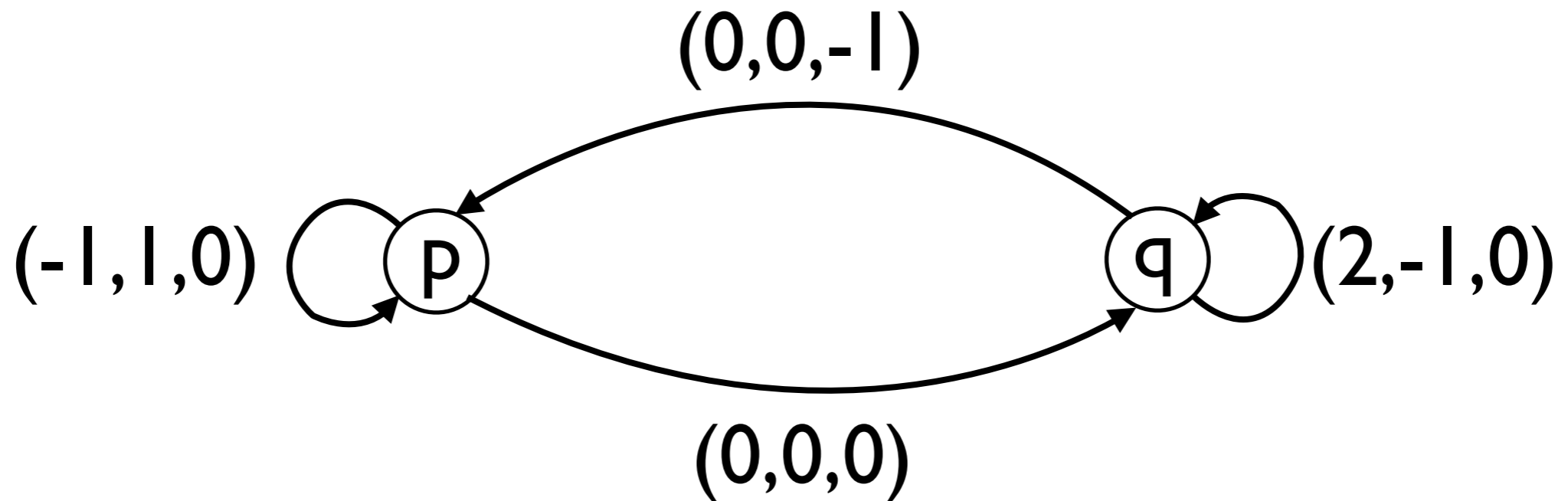
$p(2, 0, 7) \longrightarrow p(1, 1, 7) \longrightarrow p(0, 2, 7) \longrightarrow q(0, 2, 7) \longrightarrow q(2, 1, 7)$
 $\longrightarrow q(4, 0, 7)$

Vector Addition Systems with States (VASS)



$p(2, 0, 7) \longrightarrow p(1, 1, 7) \longrightarrow p(0, 2, 7) \longrightarrow q(0, 2, 7) \longrightarrow q(2, 1, 7)$
 $\longrightarrow q(4, 0, 7) \longrightarrow p(4, 0, 6)$

Vector Addition Systems with States (VASS)



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 $\longrightarrow q(4,0,7) \longrightarrow p(4,0,6)$

Petri nets

Short history of reachability

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Lipton '76: **ExpSpace**-hardness

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Mayr '81: **decidability** of reachability

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Cz., Lasota, Lazic, Leroux, Mazowiecki `19:
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Leroux & Cz., Orlikowski`21: **Ackermann**-hardness

Functions F_k

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$$F_1(n) = 2n$$

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$$F_{k+1}(n) = F_k \circ \dots \circ F_k(1)$$

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$$\text{Ack}(n) = F_n(n)$$

Special cases of VASS

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dimension 2: **NL**-complete

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dim 3: **NP**-hard, in **Tower**

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Special cases of VASS

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dim 8: **Tower**-hard

Special cases of VASS

dimension 2: **NL**-complete

dim 3: **NP**-hard, in **Tower**

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many striking open problems!

One zero-test

One zero-test

one zero-tested counter: NL-complete

One zero-test

one zero-tested counter: NL-complete

VASS + one zero-tested counter: decidable

One zero-test

one zero-tested counter: NL-complete

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Klaus Reinhardt 2008

One zero-test

one zero-tested counter: NL-complete

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in fact nested zero-tests

One pushdown

One pushdown

pushdown automaton: in **PTime**

One pushdown

pushdown automaton: in **PTime**

CYK algorithm for context-free grammars

One pushdown

pushdown automaton: in **PTime**

CYK algorithm for context-free grammars

VASS with pushdown: **open**

One pushdown

pushdown automaton: in **PTime**

CYK algorithm for context-free grammars

VASS with pushdown: **open**

one counter with pushdown: **open**

Other

Other

automaton with \mathbb{Z} -counters: NP-complete

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automaton with \mathbb{Z} -counters: NP-complete

more exotic combinations

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automaton with \mathbb{Z} -counters: NP-complete

more exotic combinations

reachability for very simple models is hard

might be decidable for all simplifications

Hard examples

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big reachability sets for VASS, I-PVASS

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finite, up to **Ackermann** size

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does **not** prove **Ackermann**-hardness

Hard examples

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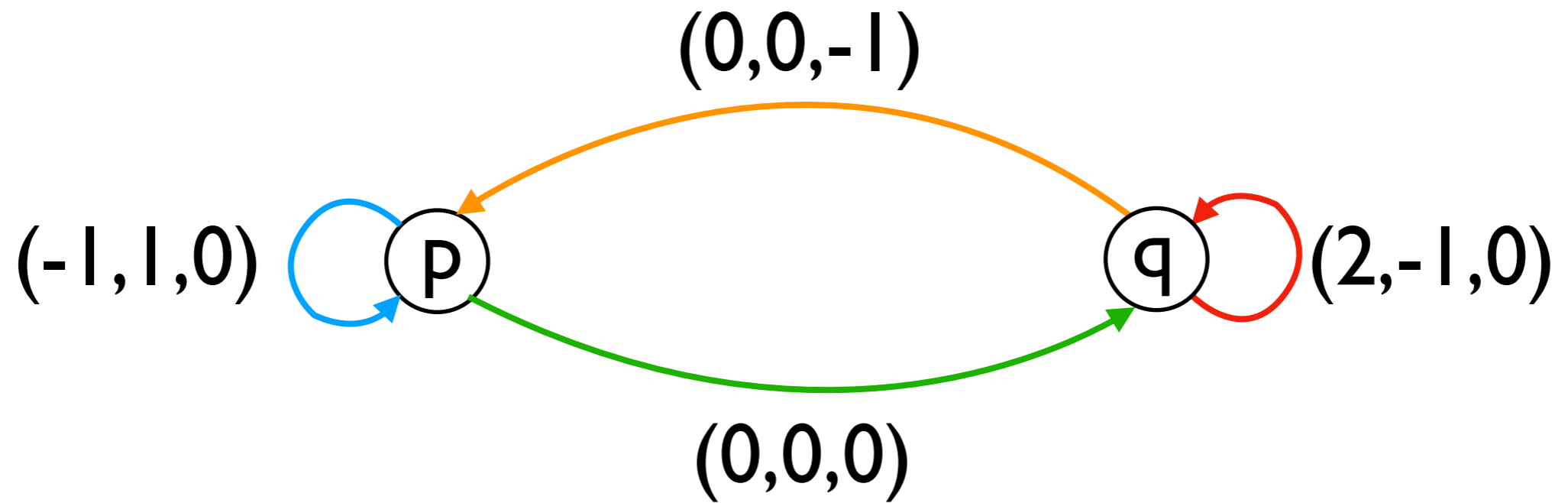
finite, up to **Ackermann** size

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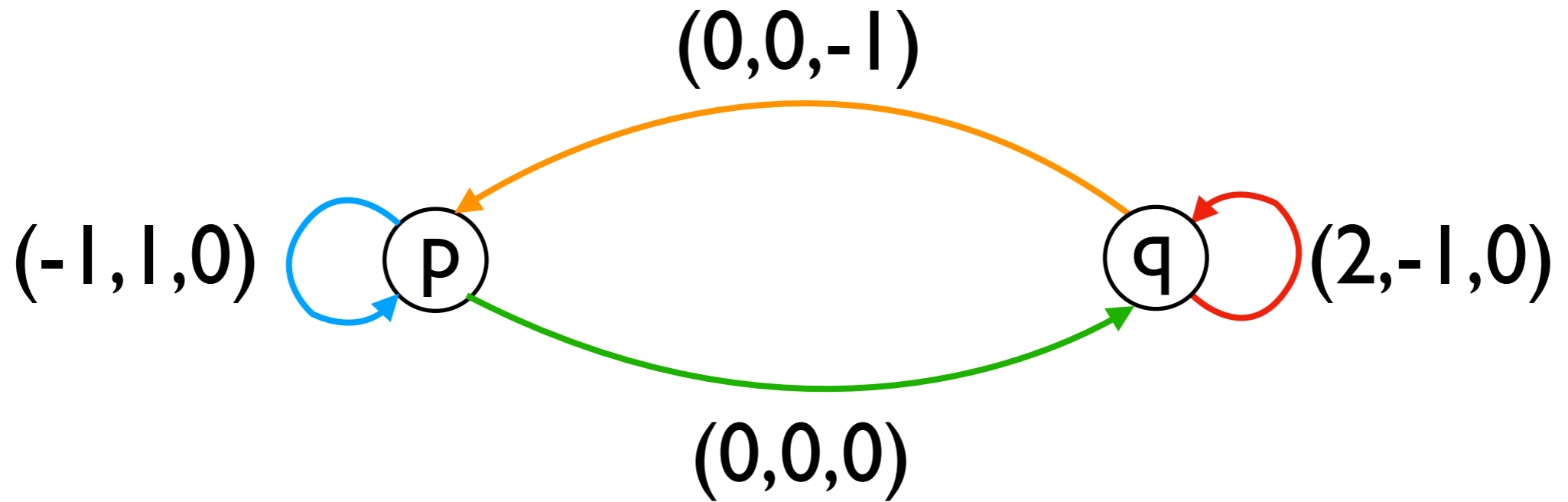
provide **intuition** for hardness

3-dim. VASS (3-VASS)

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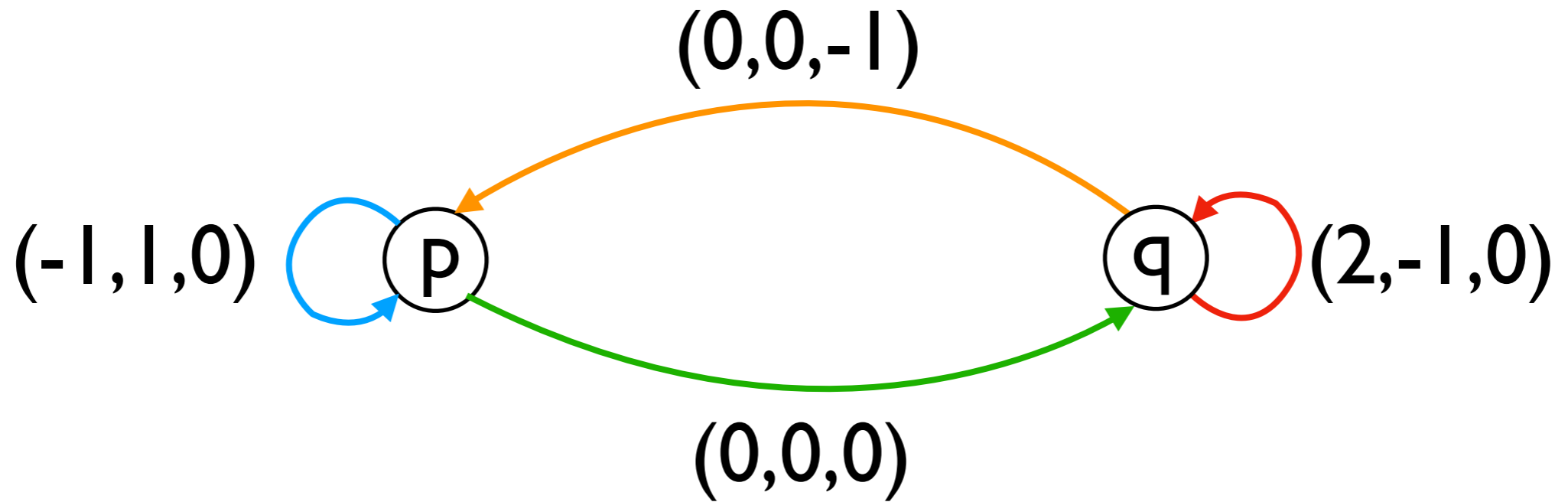


3-dim. VASS (3-VASS)



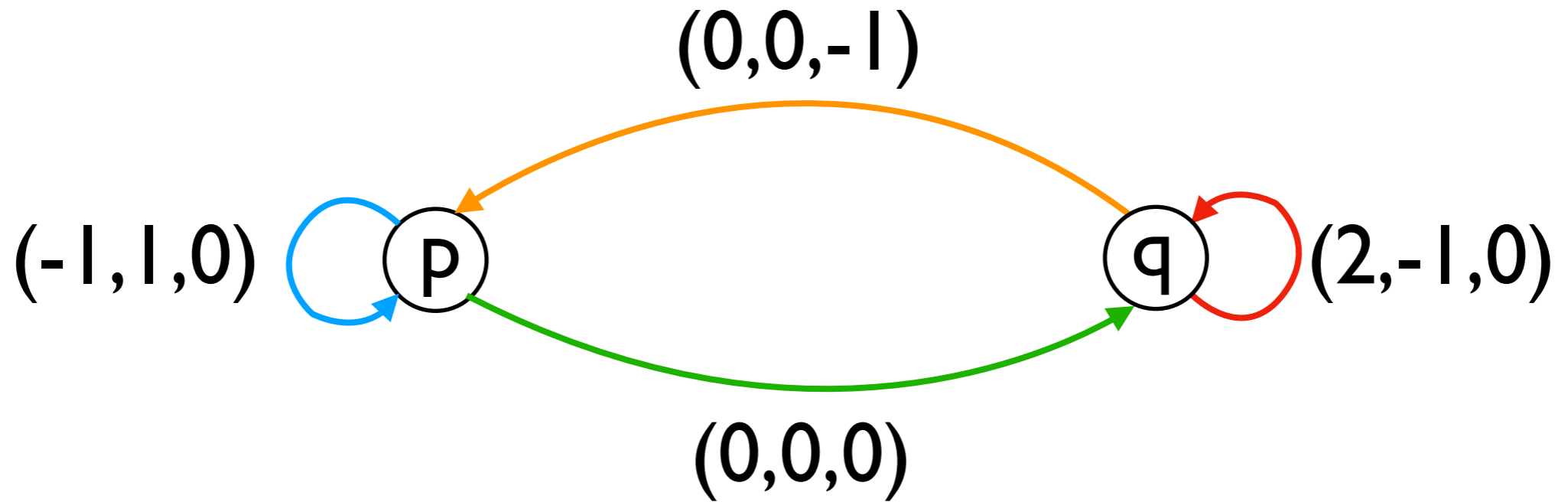
$p(k, 0, n)$

3-dim. VASS (3-VASS)



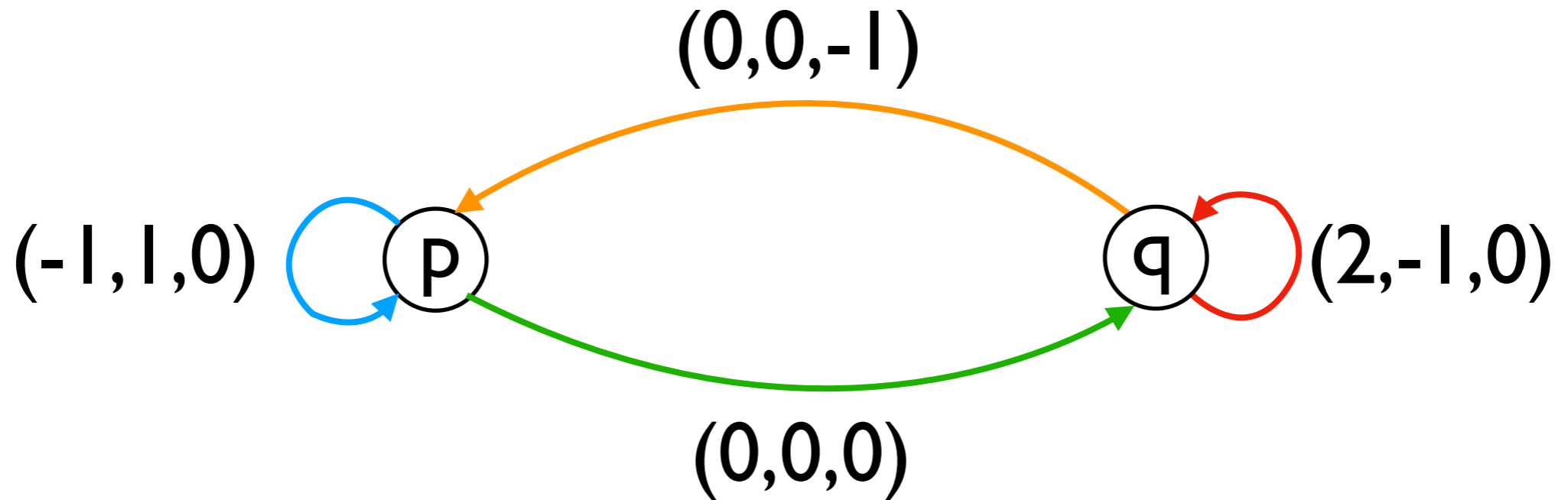
$$p(k, 0, n) \longrightarrow p(0, k, n)$$

3-dim. VASS (3-VASS)



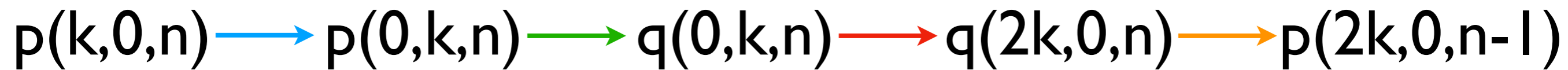
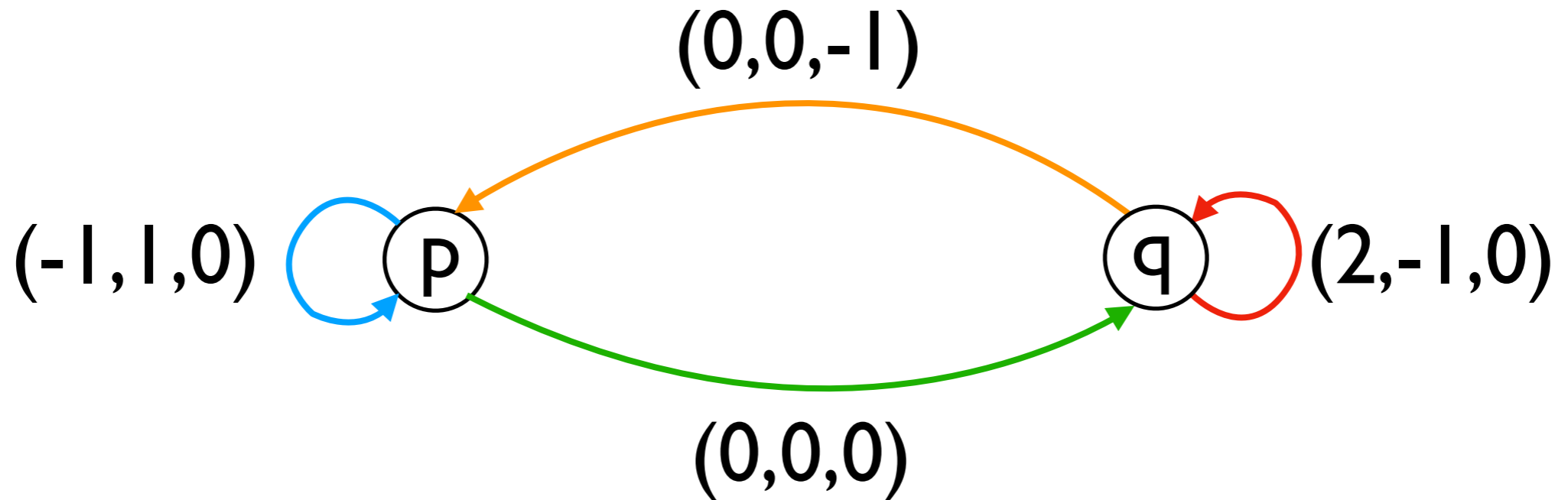
$$p(k, 0, n) \xrightarrow{\text{blue}} p(0, k, n) \xrightarrow{\text{green}} q(0, k, n)$$

3-dim. VASS (3-VASS)

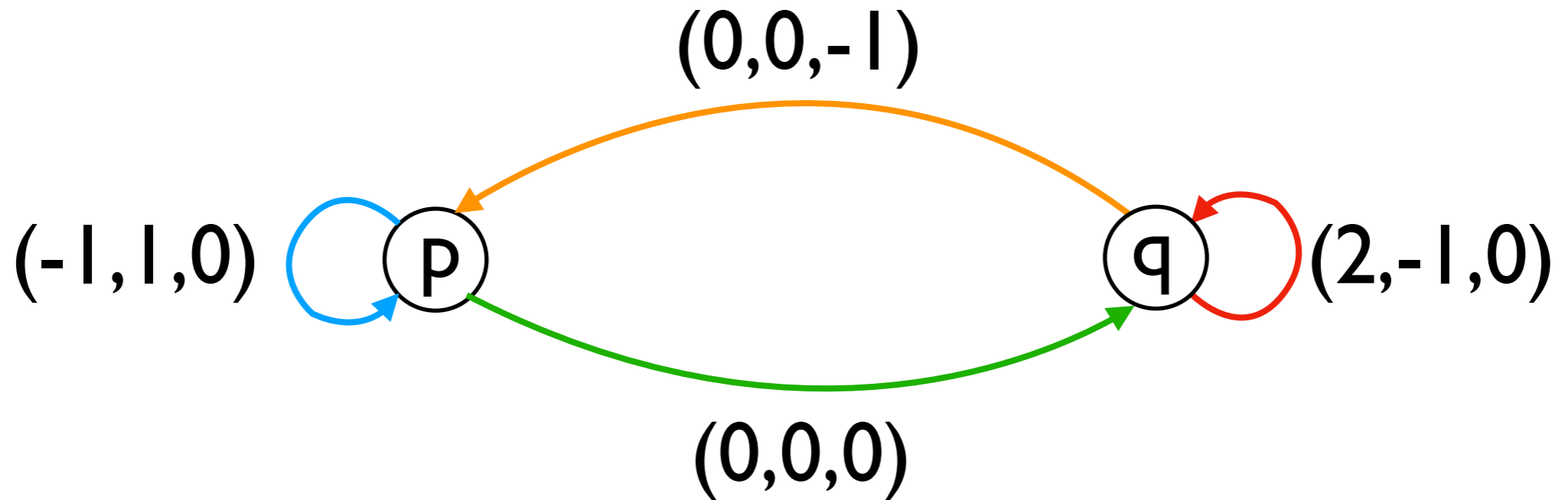


$$p(k, 0, n) \xrightarrow{\text{blue}} p(0, k, n) \xrightarrow{\text{green}} q(0, k, n) \xrightarrow{\text{red}} q(2k, 0, n)$$

3-dim. VASS (3-VASS)



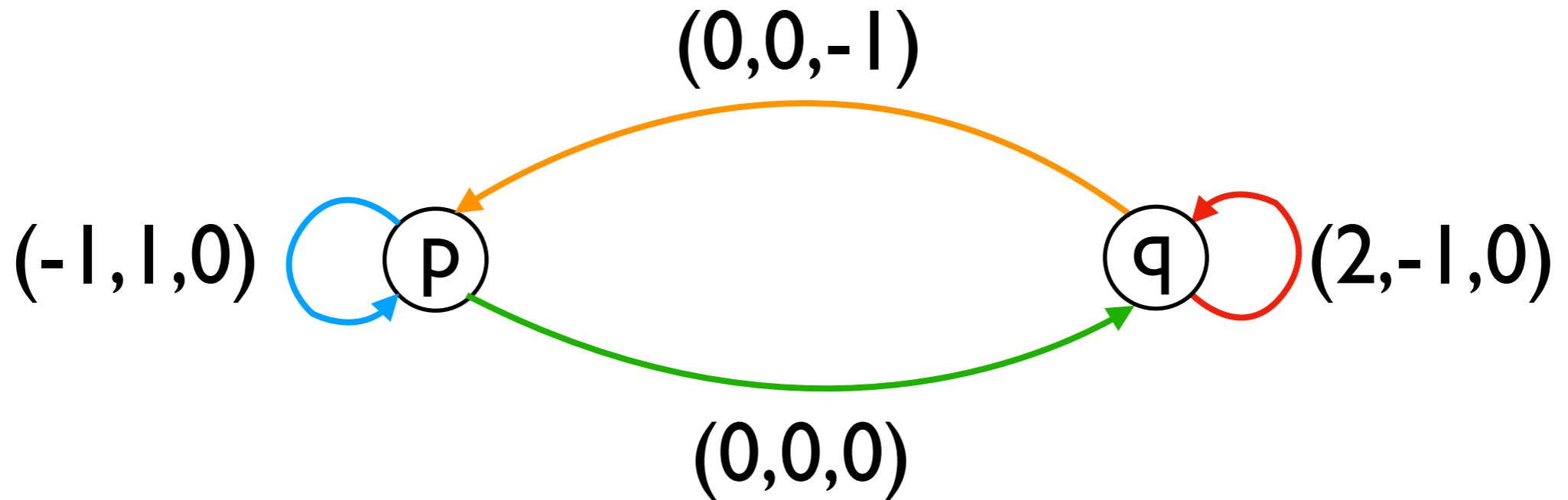
3-dim. VASS (3-VASS)



$p(k, 0, n) \xrightarrow{\text{blue}} p(0, k, n) \xrightarrow{\text{green}} q(0, k, n) \xrightarrow{\text{red}} q(2k, 0, n) \xrightarrow{\text{orange}} p(2k, 0, n-1)$

$p(1, 0, n)$

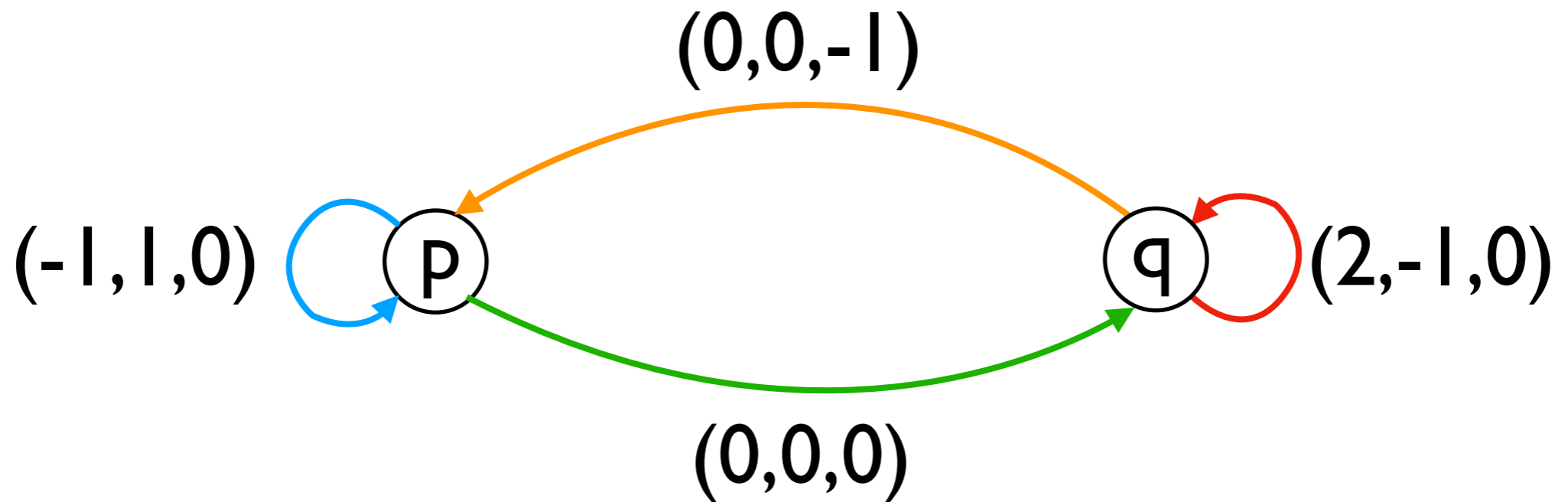
3-dim. VASS (3-VASS)



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$$p(1, 0, n) \longrightarrow p(2, 0, n-1)$$

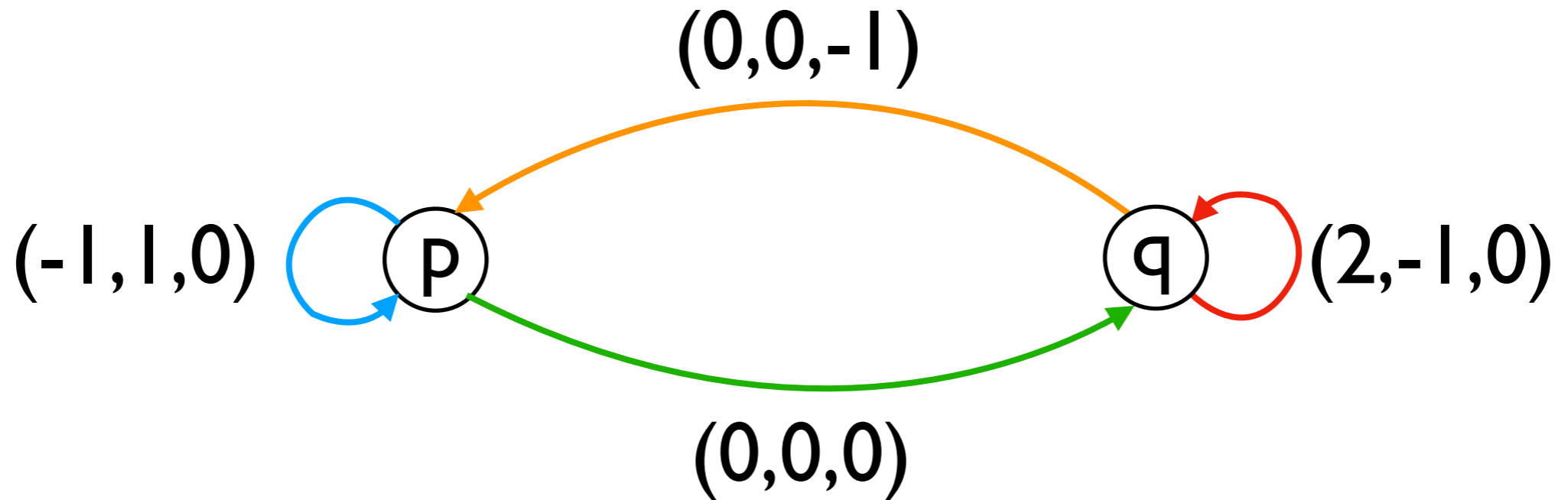
3-dim. VASS (3-VASS)



$p(k, 0, n) \xrightarrow{\text{blue}} p(0, k, n) \xrightarrow{\text{green}} q(0, k, n) \xrightarrow{\text{red}} q(2k, 0, n) \xrightarrow{\text{orange}} p(2k, 0, n-1)$

$p(1, 0, n) \longrightarrow p(2, 0, n-1) \dots$

3-dim. VASS (3-VASS)

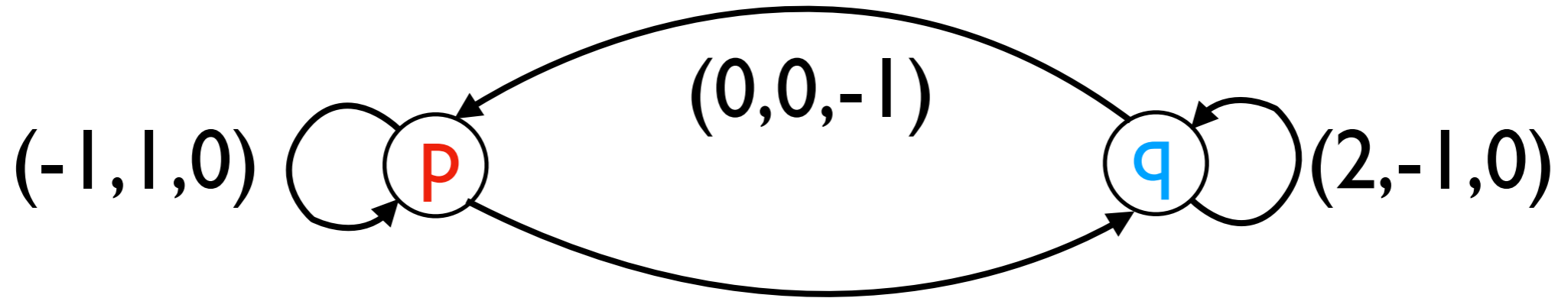


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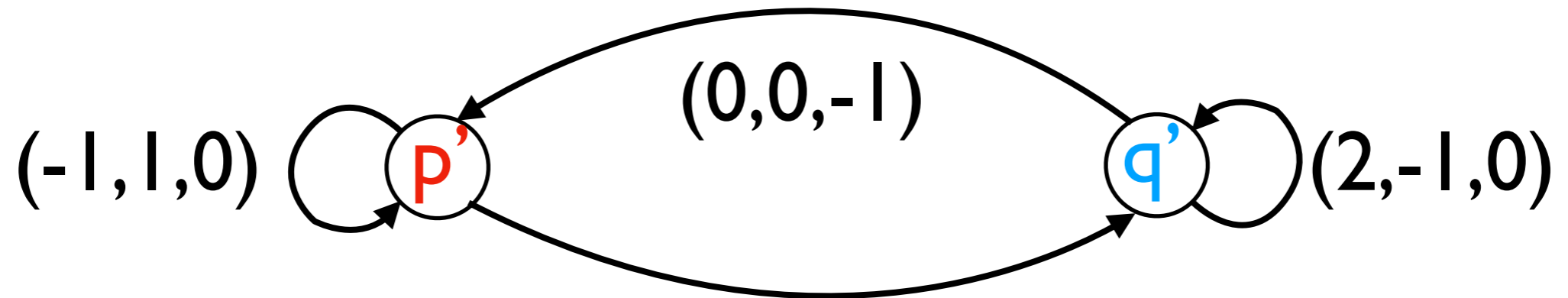
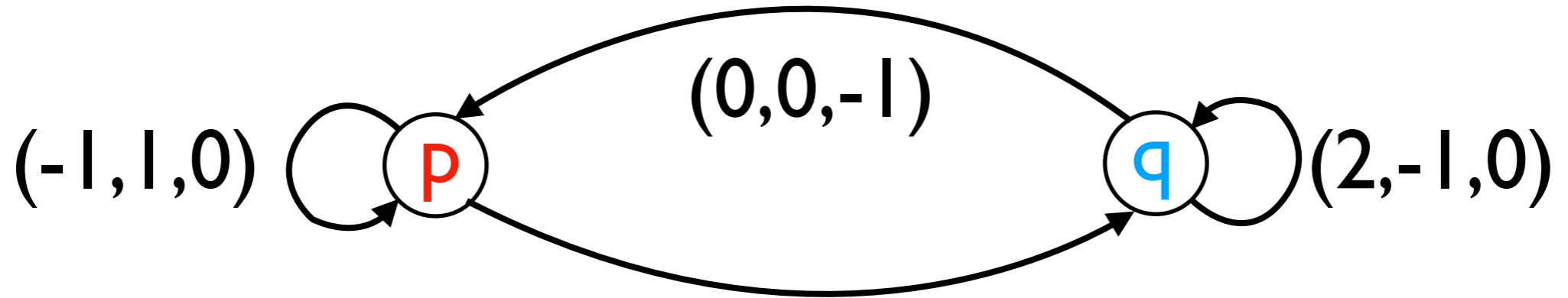
$$p(1, 0, n) \longrightarrow p(2, 0, n-1) \dots \longrightarrow p(2^n, 0, 0)$$

3-VASS

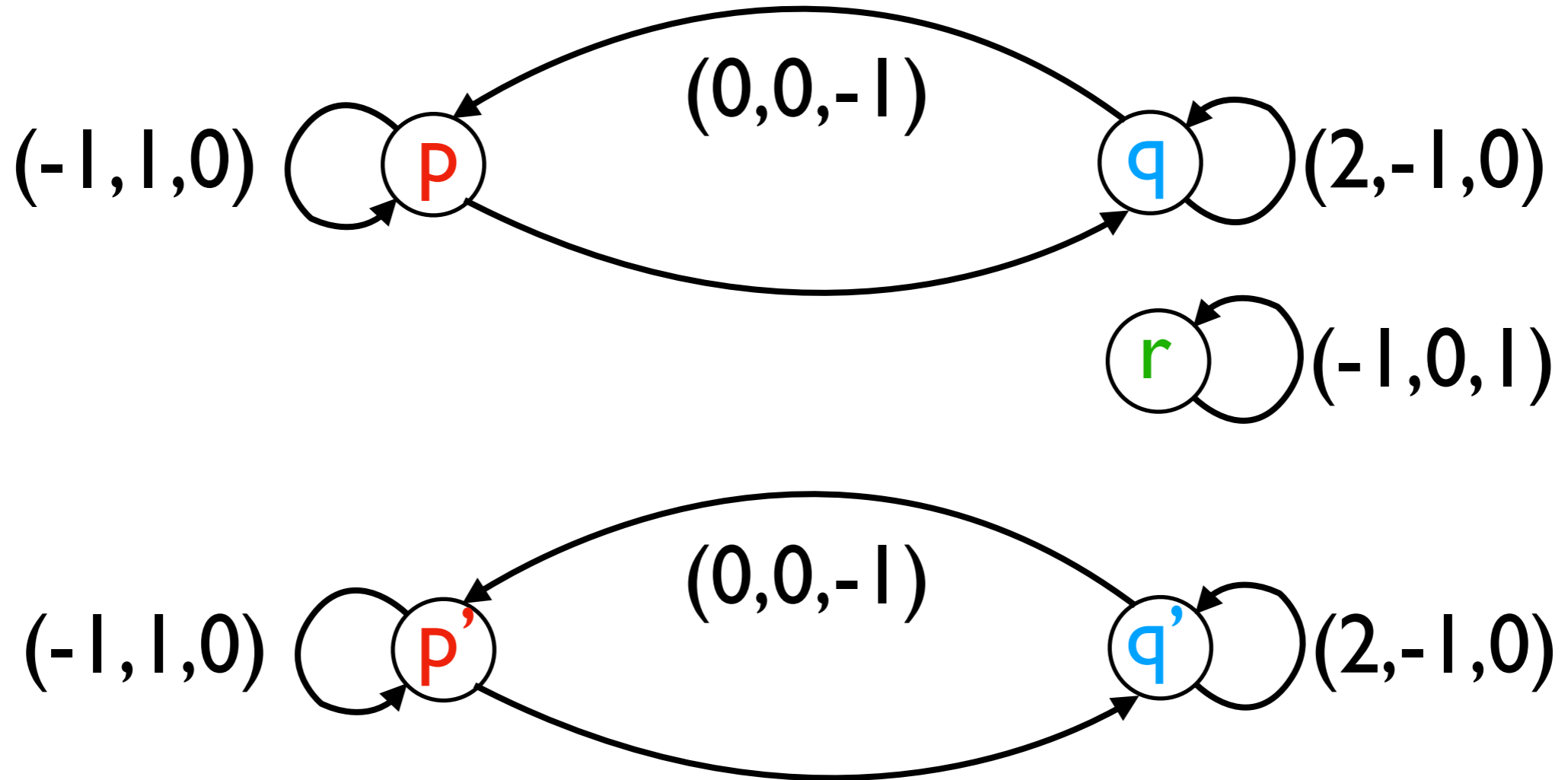
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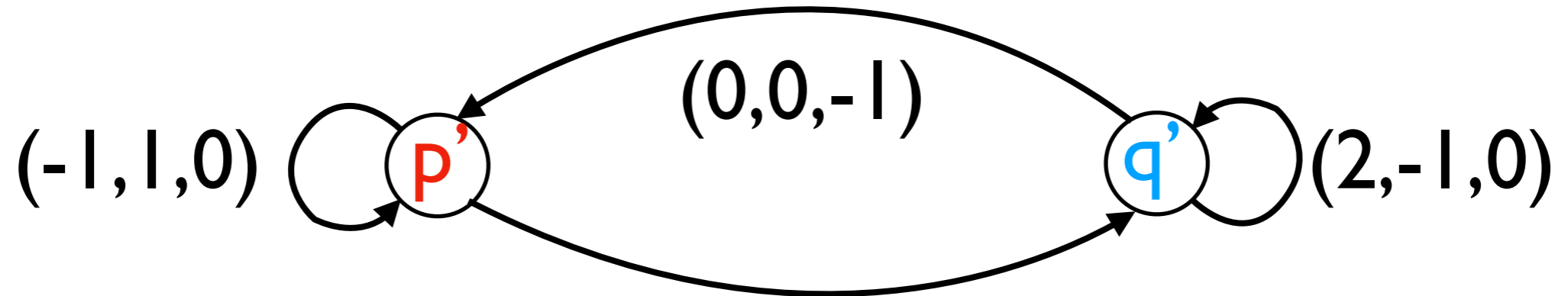
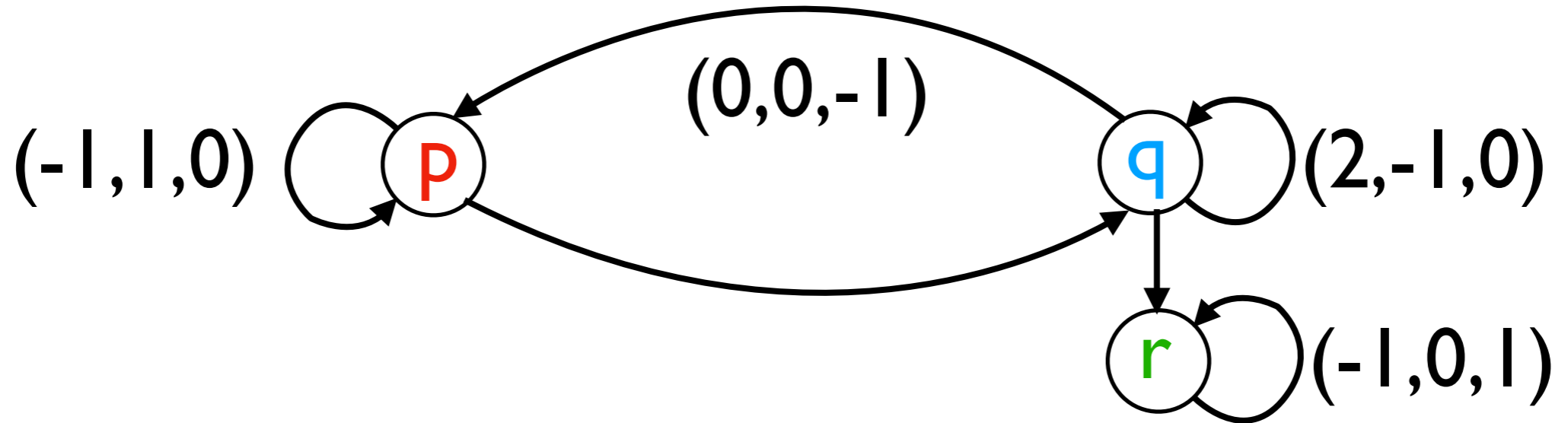
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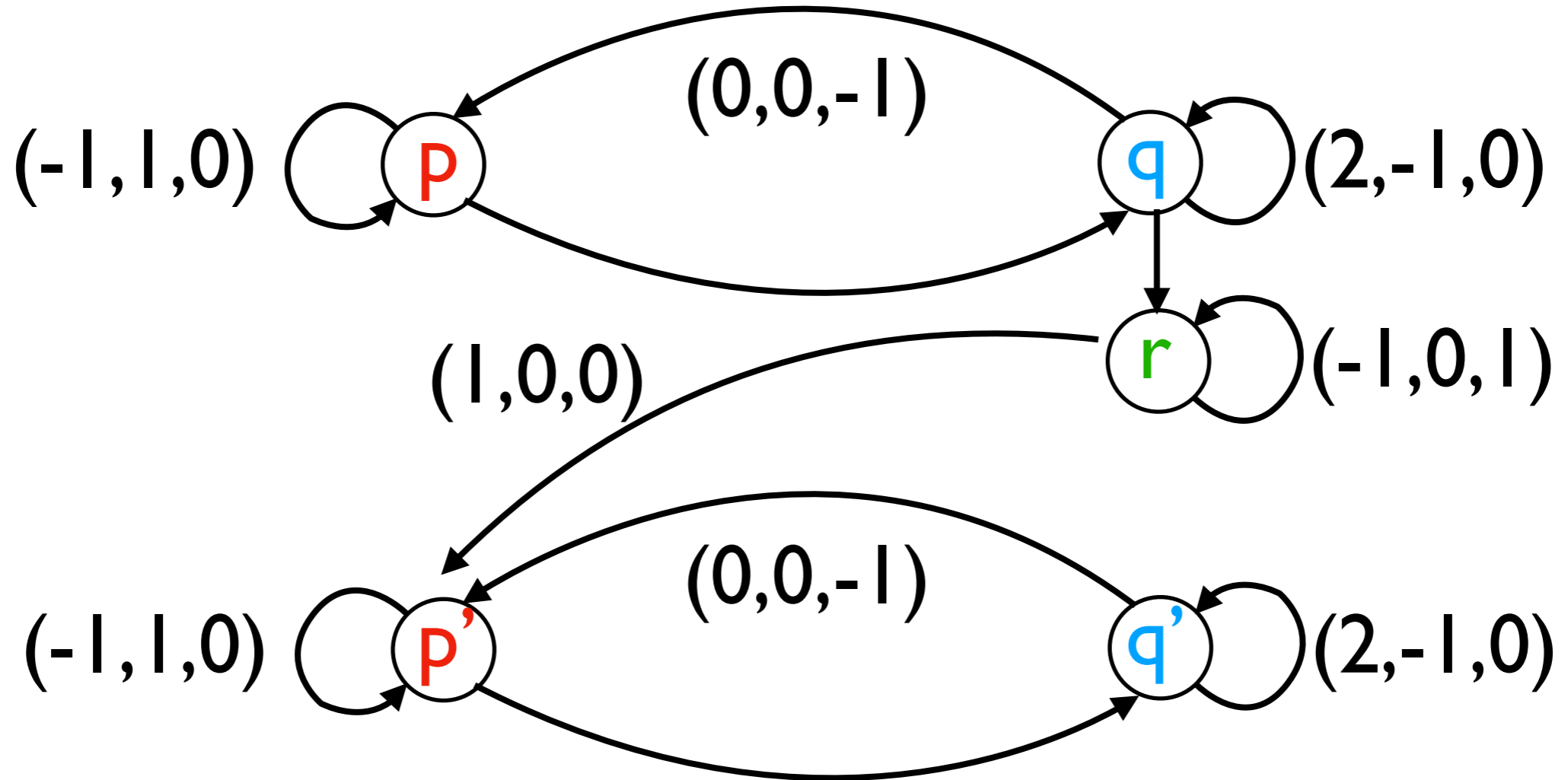
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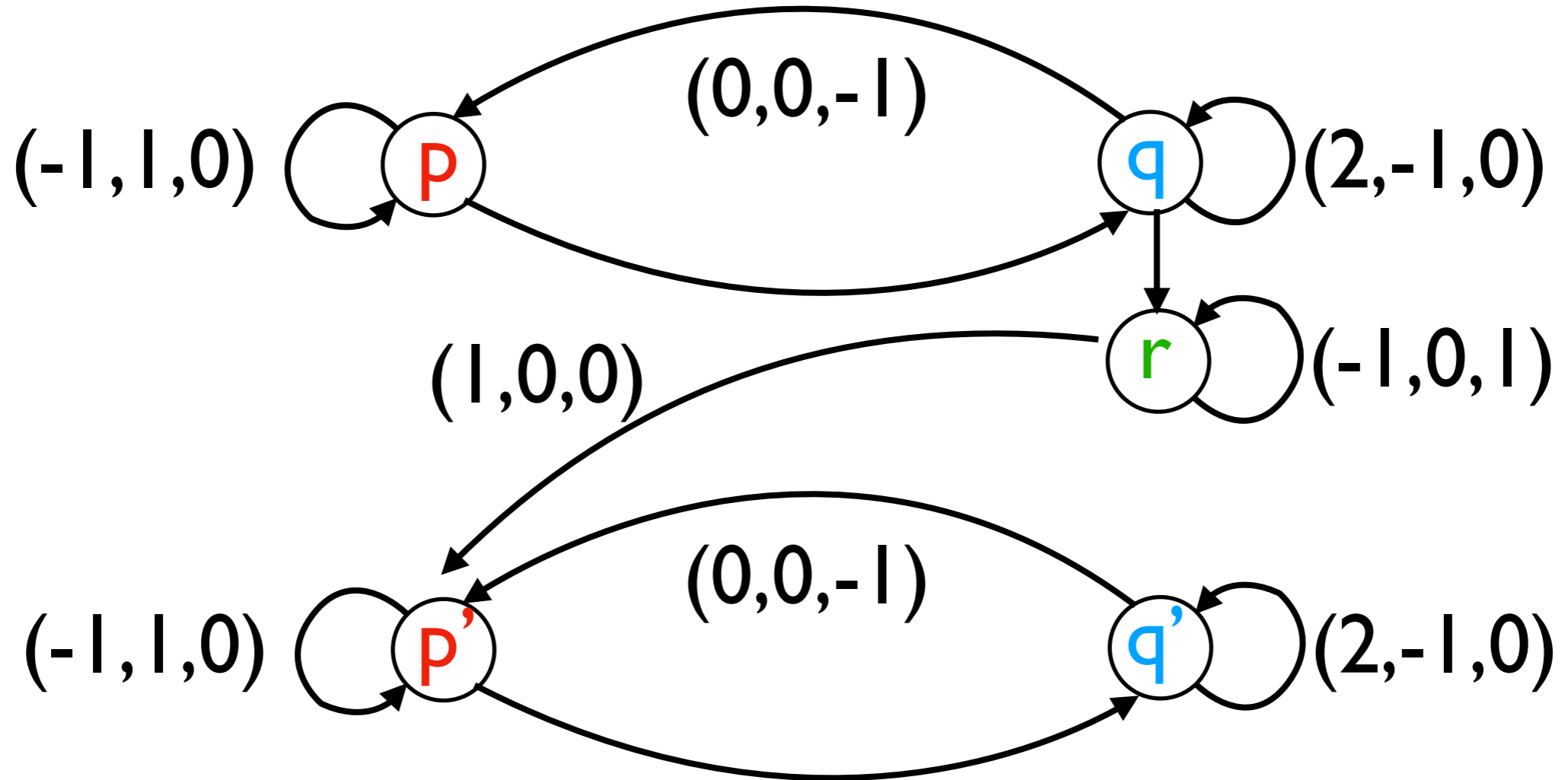
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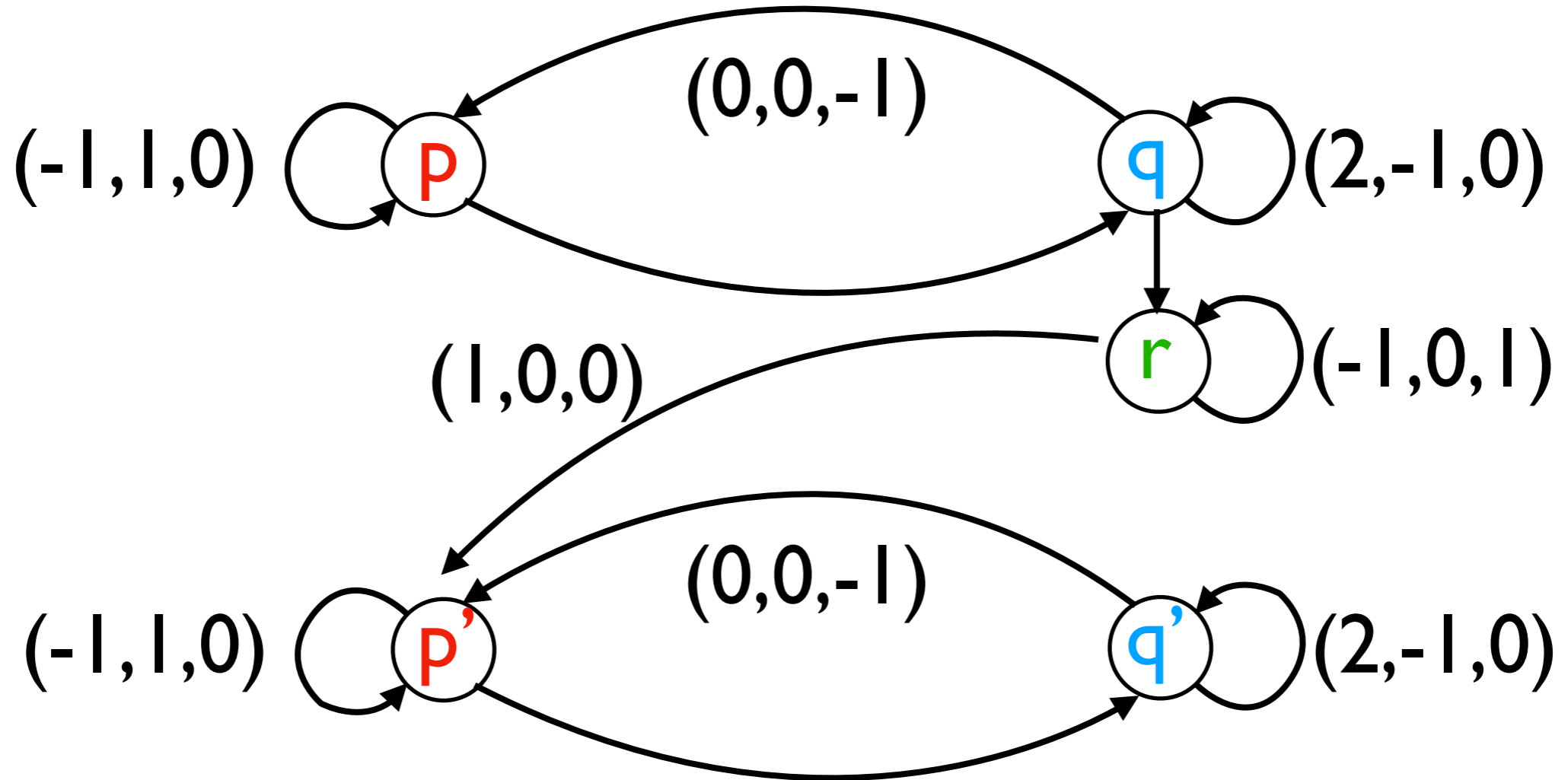


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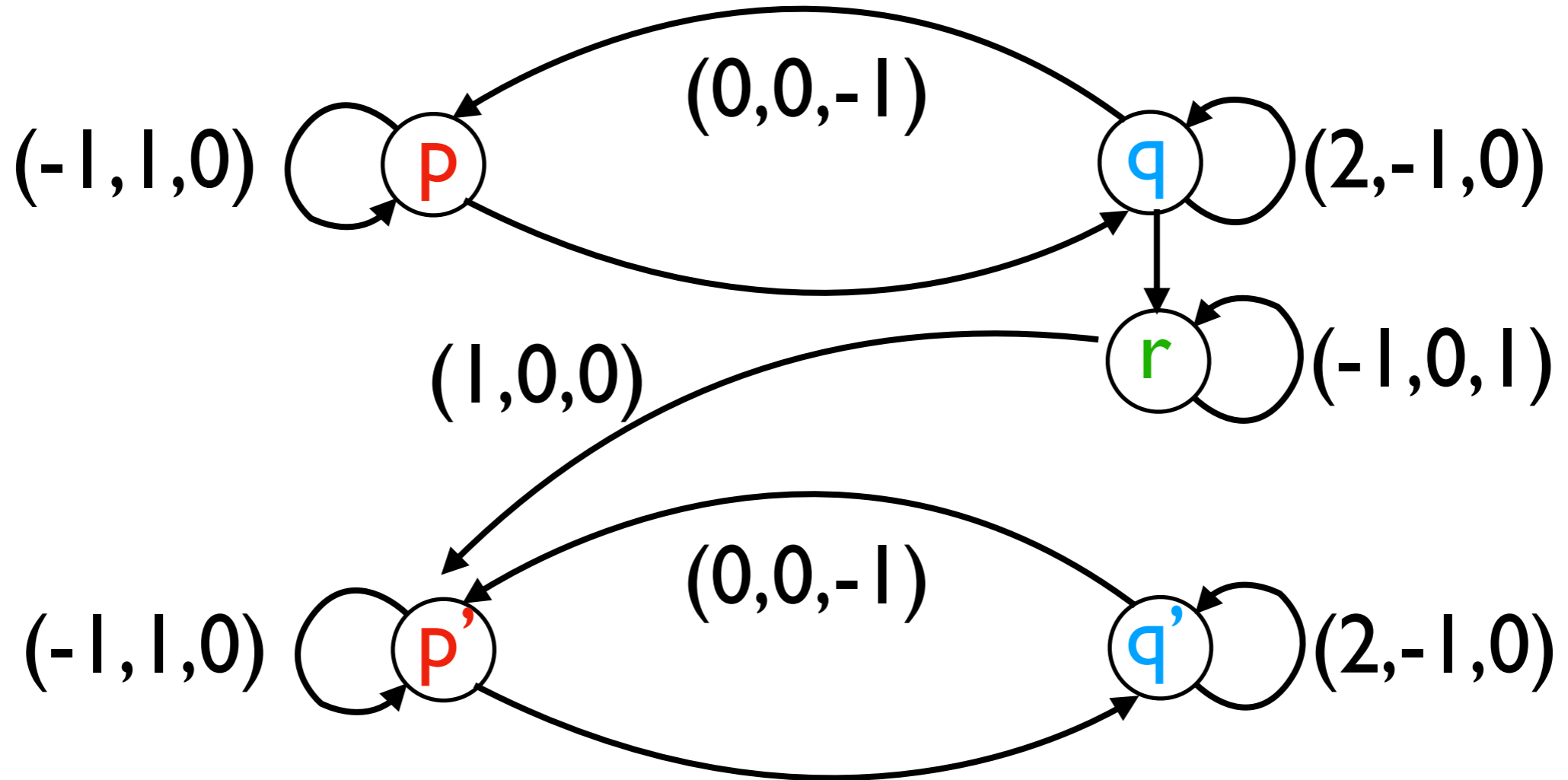
$p(1, 0, n)$

3-VASS



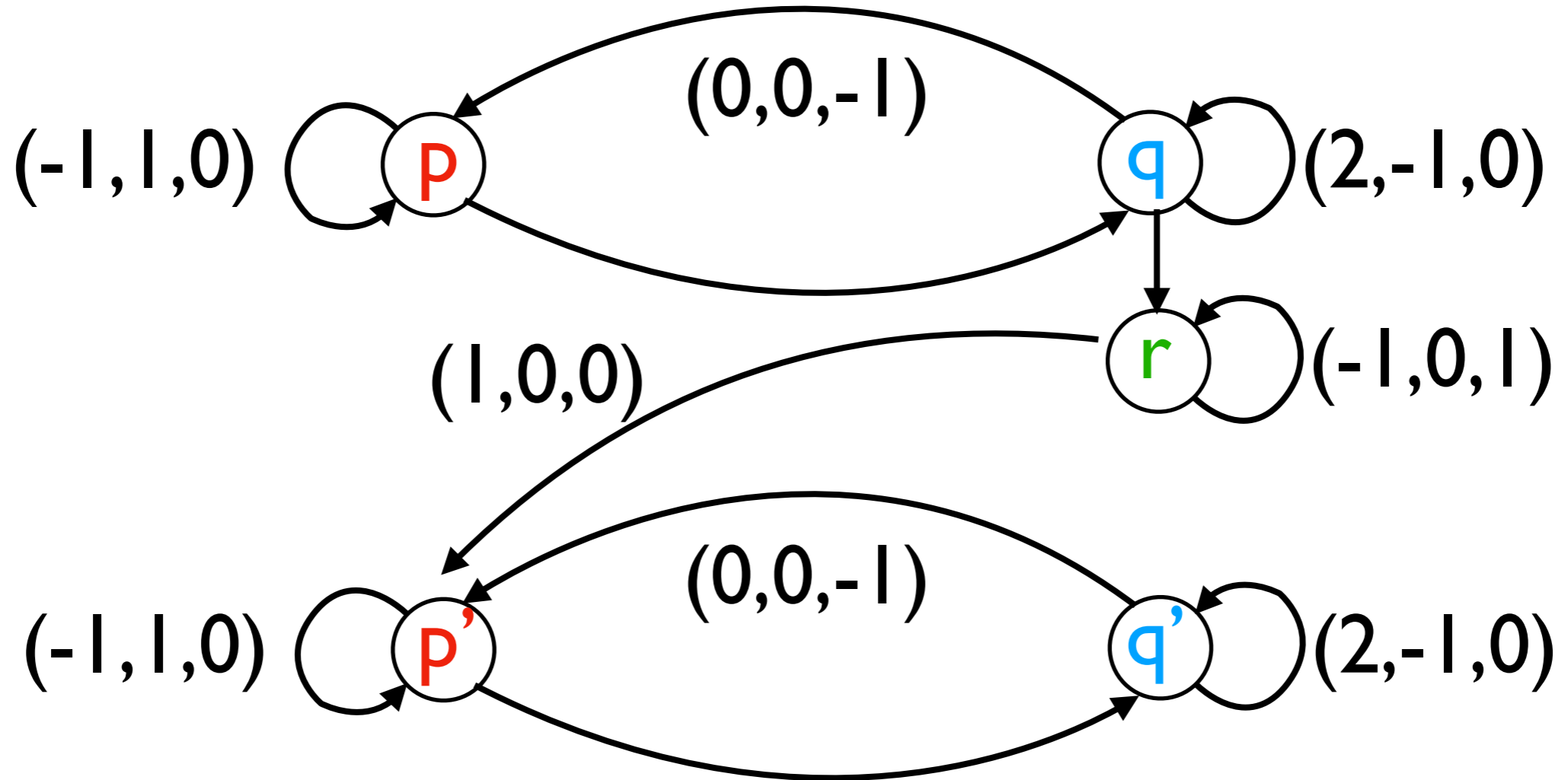
$$p(1, 0, n) \longrightarrow q(2^n, 0, 0)$$

3-VASS



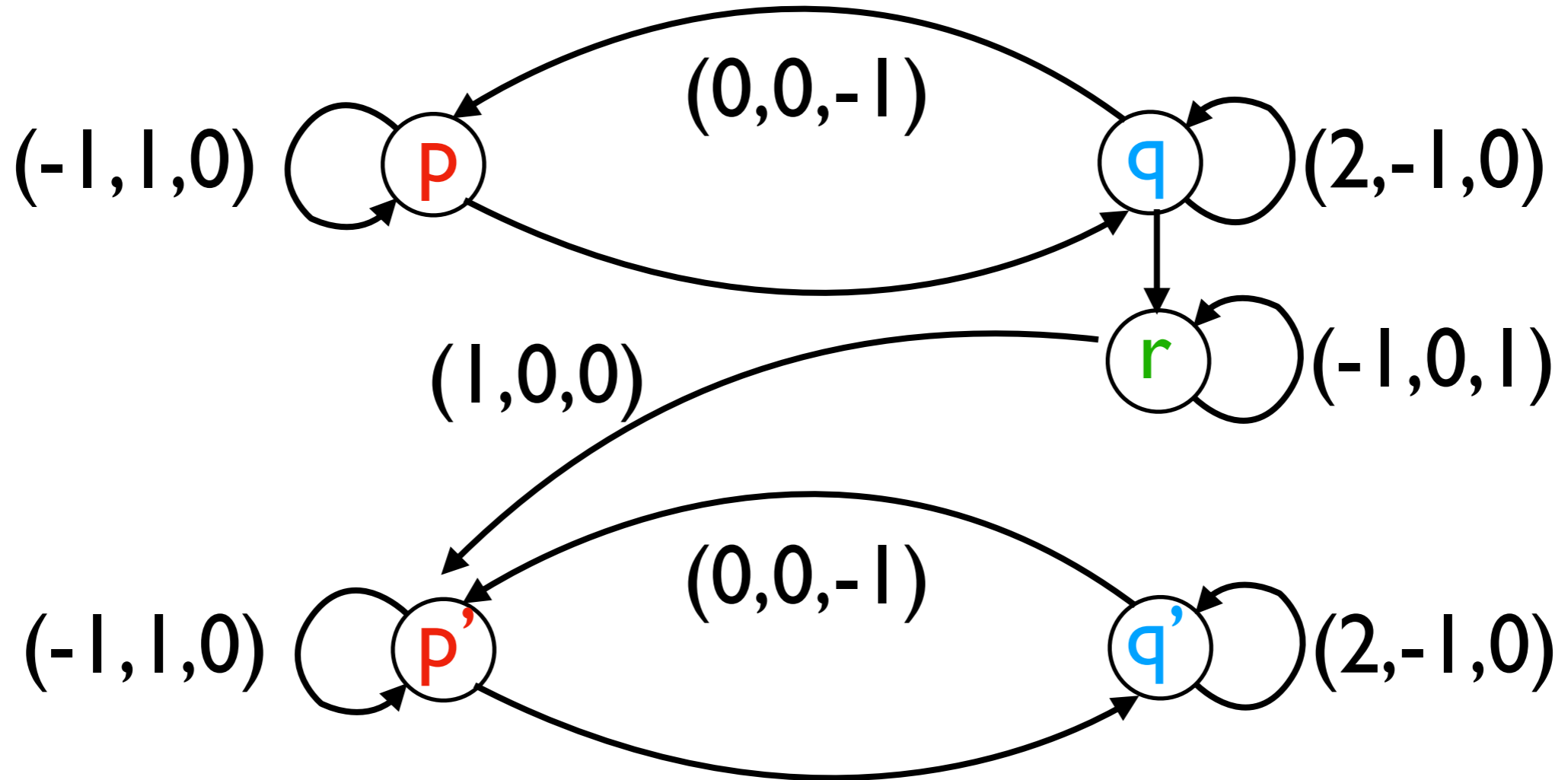
$$p(1, 0, n) \longrightarrow q(2^n, 0, 0) \longrightarrow r(2^n, 0, 0)$$

3-VASS



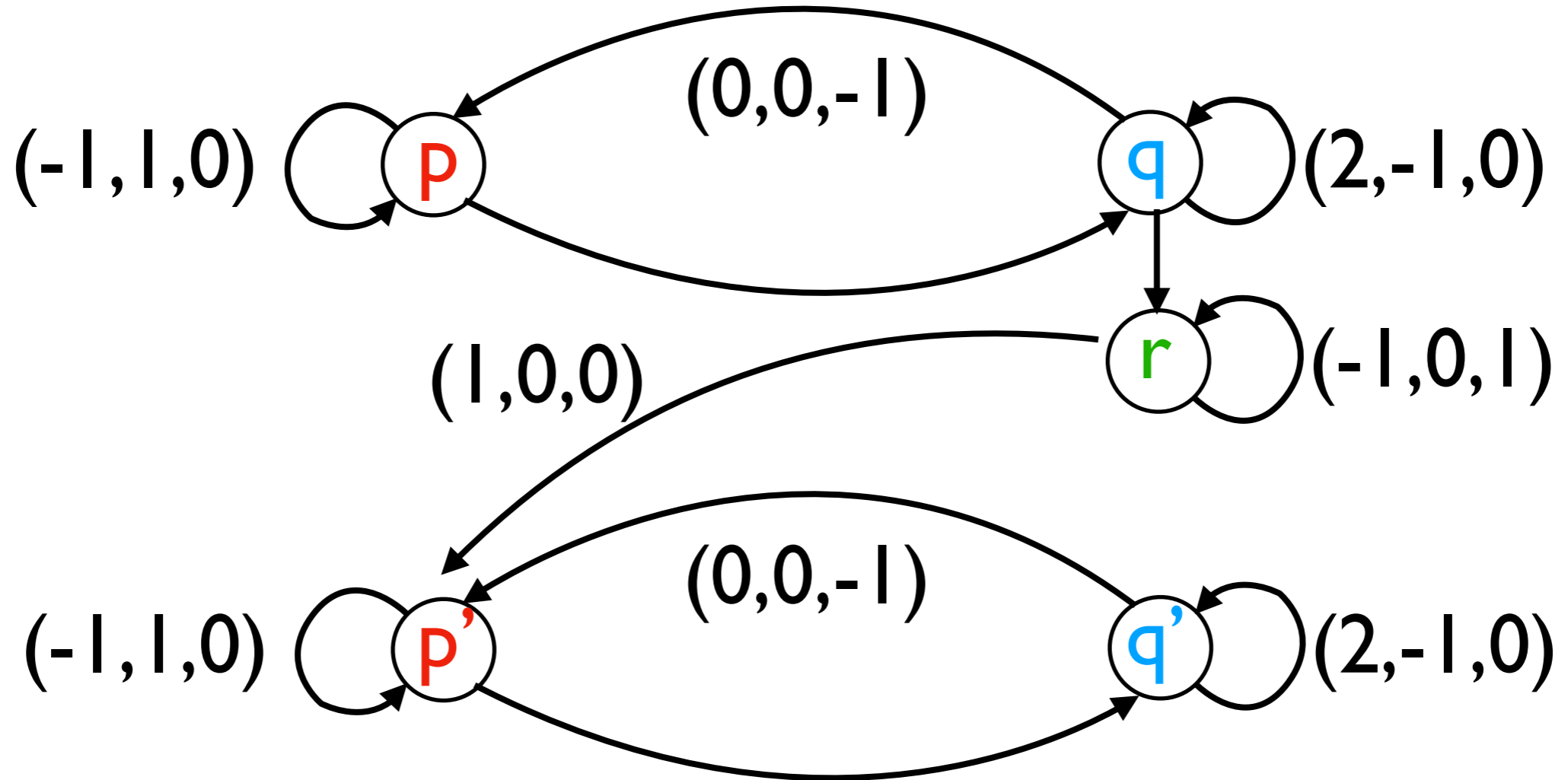
$$p(1, 0, n) \longrightarrow q(2^n, 0, 0) \longrightarrow r(2^n, 0, 0) \longrightarrow r(0, 0, 2^n)$$

3-VASS



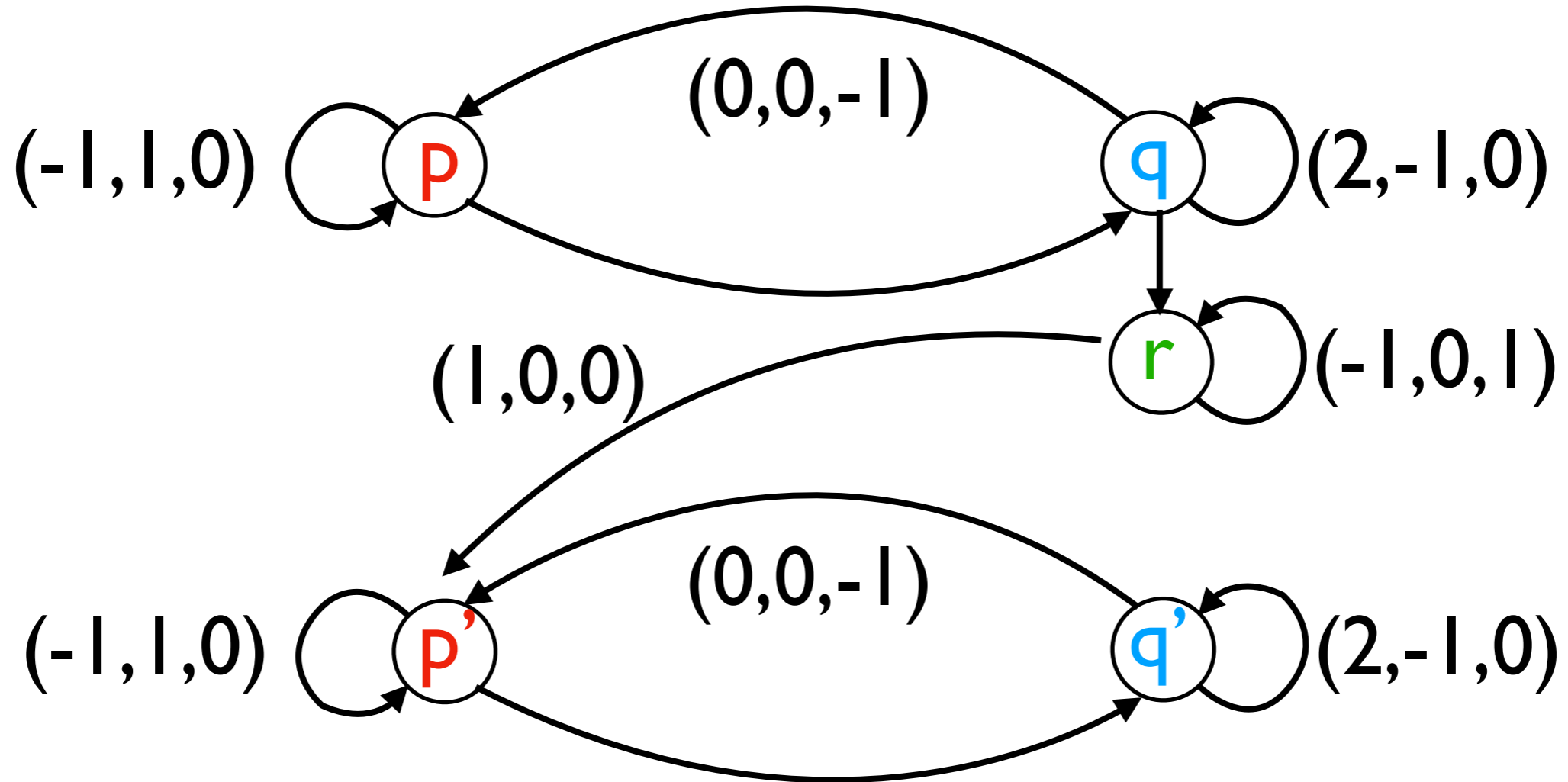
$$\begin{aligned}
 &P(1, 0, n) \longrightarrow Q(2^n, 0, 0) \longrightarrow R(2^n, 0, 0) \longrightarrow R(0, 0, 2^n) \\
 &\quad \longrightarrow P'(1, 0, 2^n)
 \end{aligned}$$

3-VASS



$$\begin{aligned}
 &P(1, 0, n) \longrightarrow Q(2^n, 0, 0) \longrightarrow R(2^n, 0, 0) \longrightarrow R(0, 0, 2^n) \\
 &\longrightarrow P'(1, 0, 2^n) \longrightarrow P'(2^{2^n}, 0, 0)
 \end{aligned}$$

3-VASS

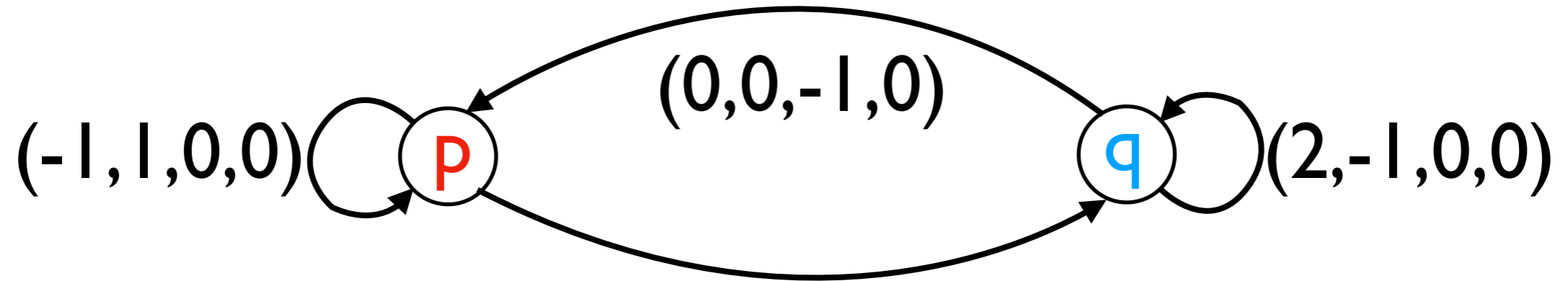


$$\begin{aligned}
 p(1, 0, n) &\longrightarrow q(2^n, 0, 0) \longrightarrow r(2^n, 0, 0) \longrightarrow r(0, 0, 2^n) \\
 &\longrightarrow p'(1, 0, 2^n) \longrightarrow p'(2^{2^n}, 0, 0)
 \end{aligned}$$

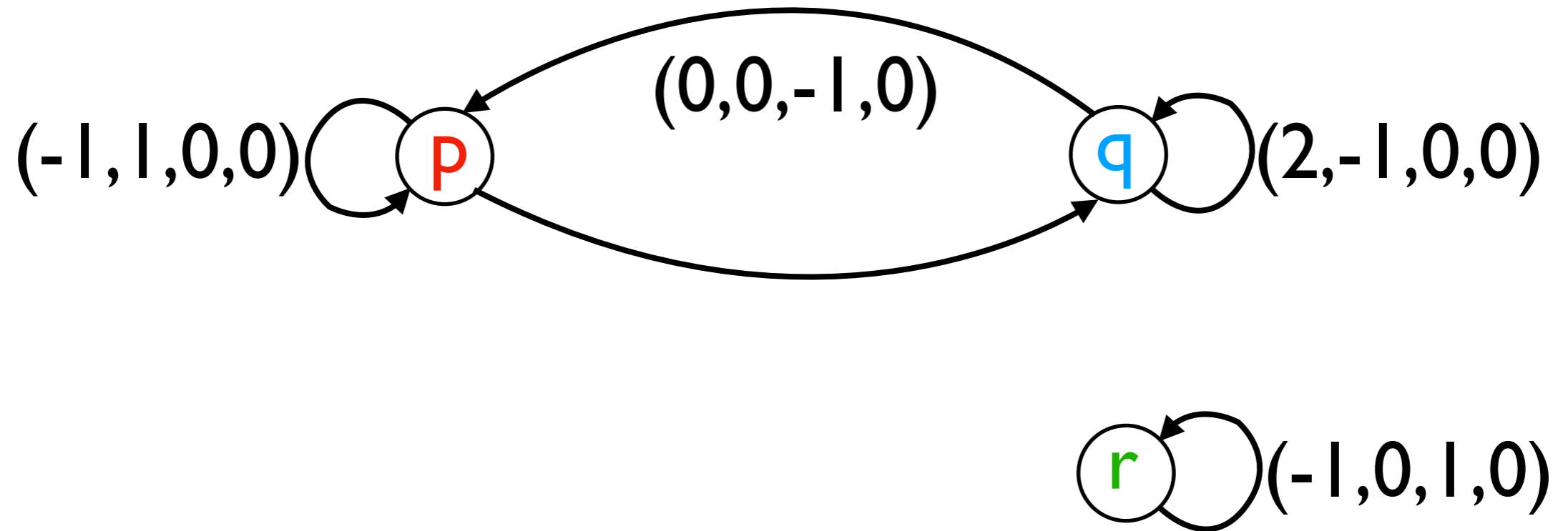
finite **doubly-exponential** reachability set

VASS

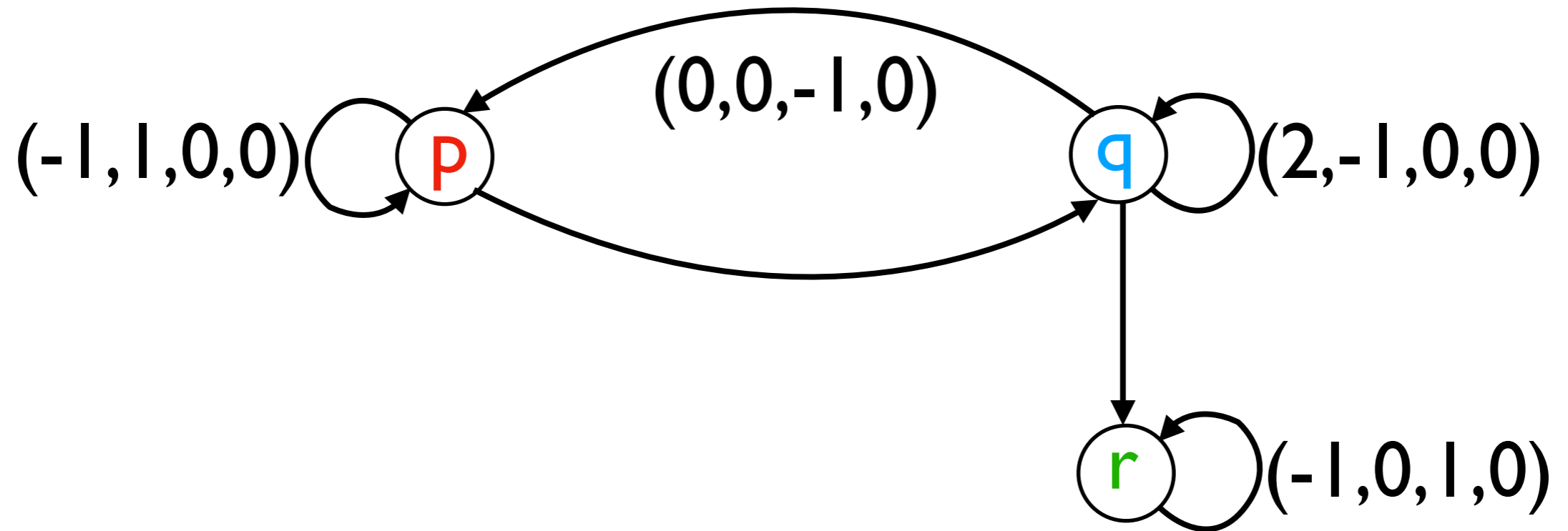
VASS



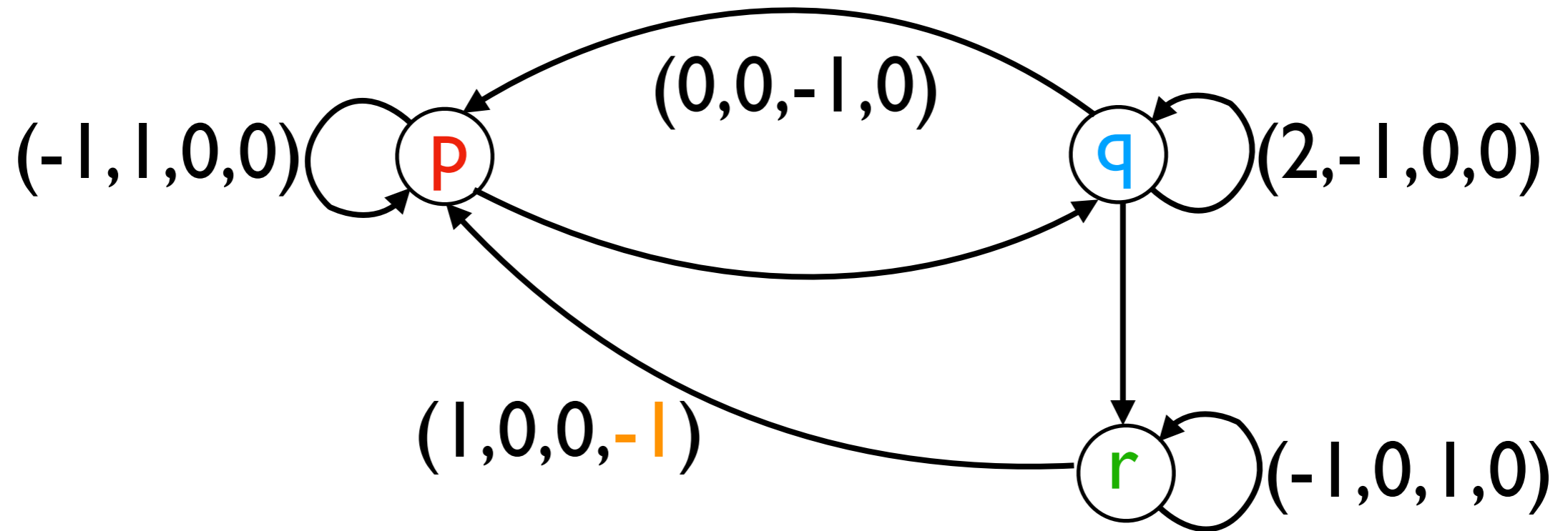
VASS



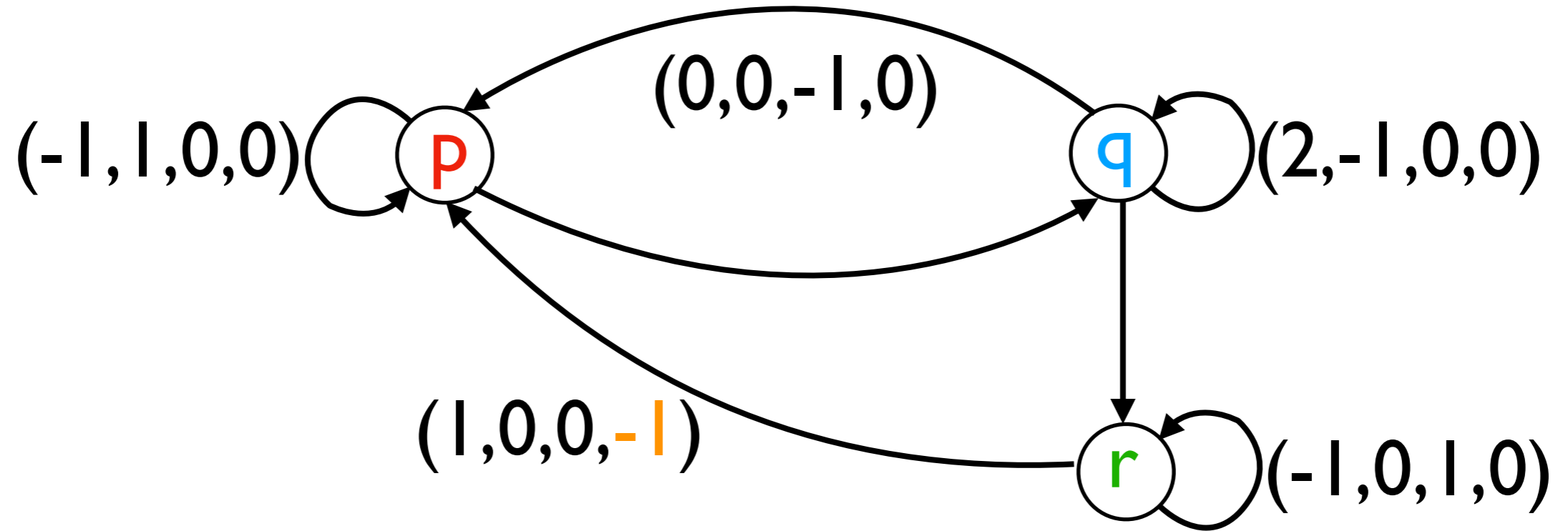
VASS



VASS

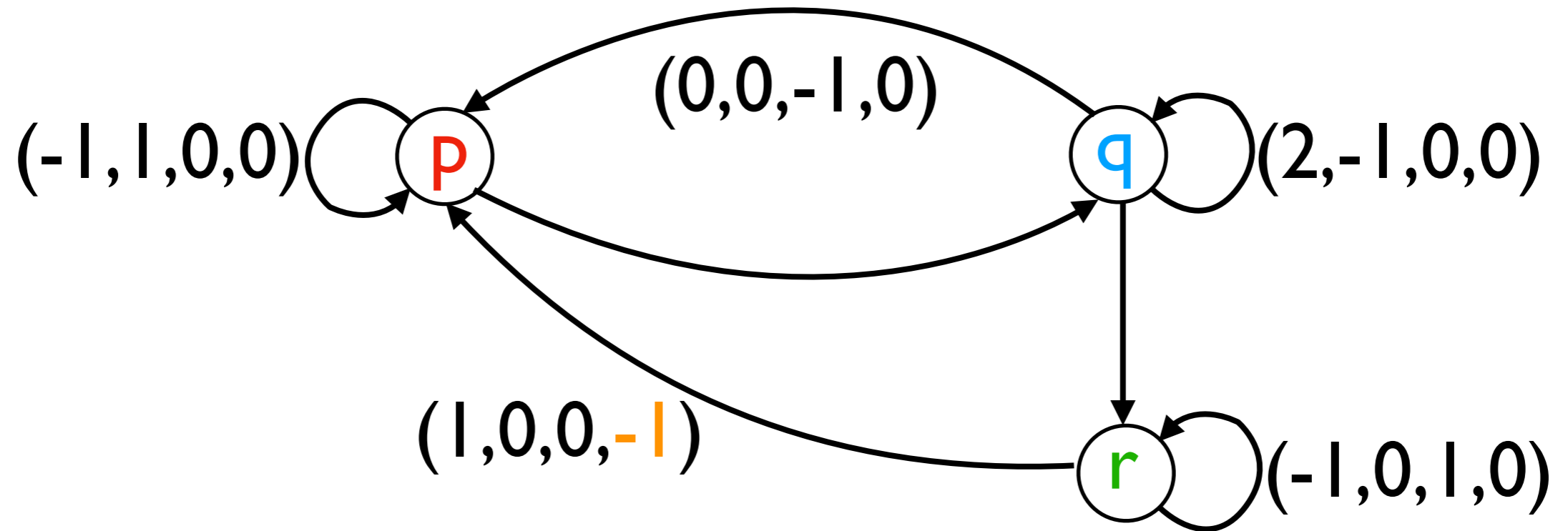


VASS



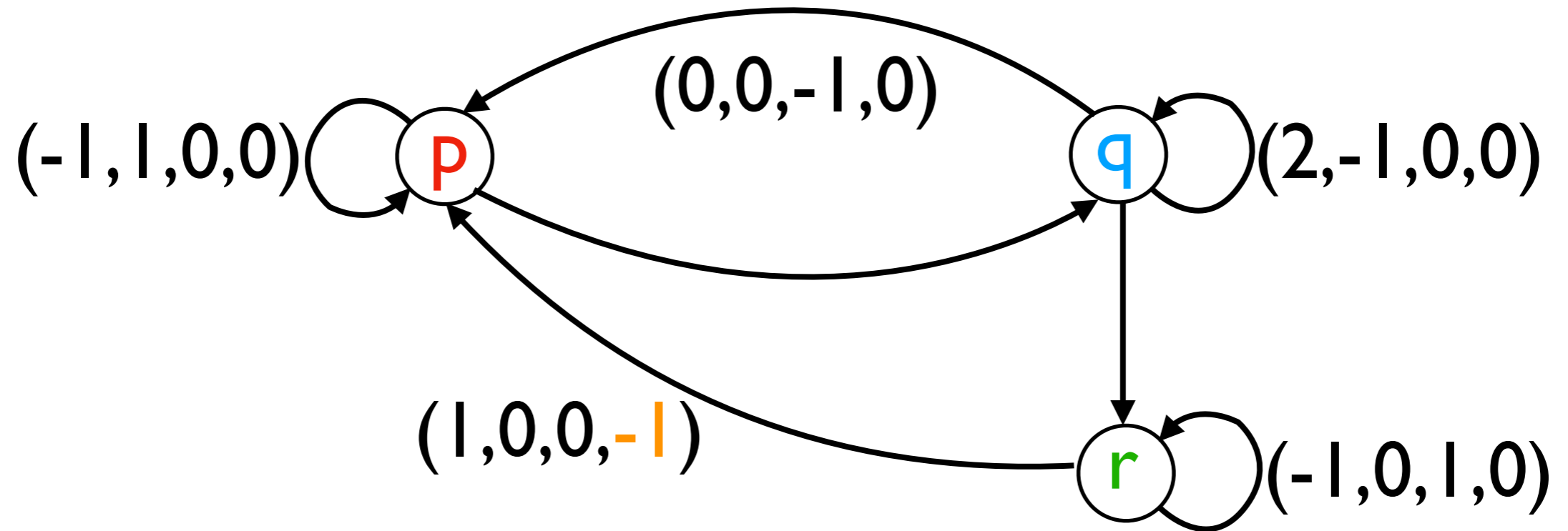
$p(1, 0, 1, n)$

VASS



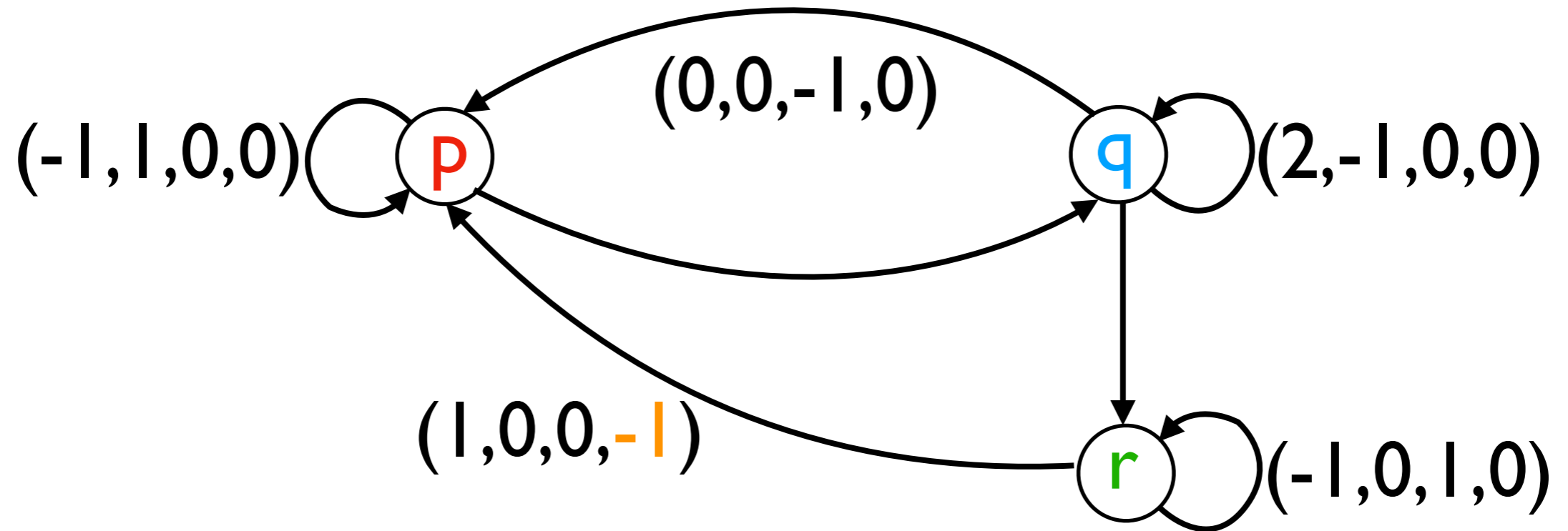
$$p(1, 0, 1, n) \longrightarrow p(1, 0, 2^l, n-1)$$

VASS



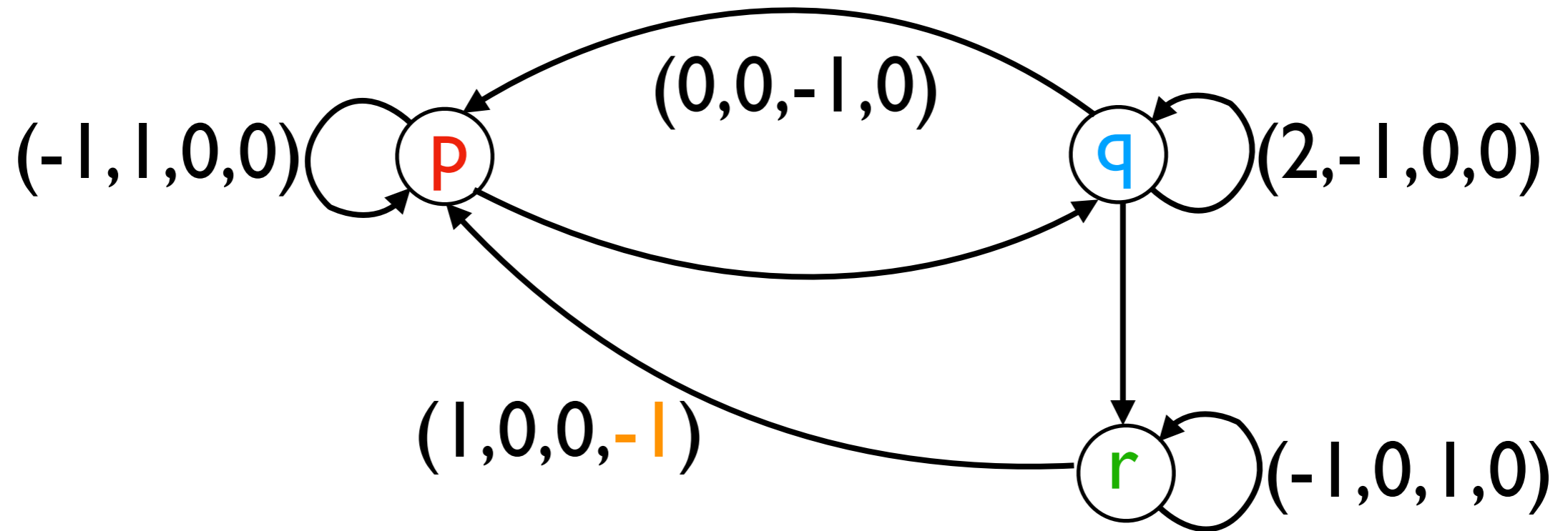
$$p(1, 0, 1, n) \longrightarrow p(1, 0, 2^l, n-1) \dots$$

VASS



$$p(1, 0, 1, n) \longrightarrow p(1, 0, 2^l, n-1) \dots \longrightarrow p(1, 0, \text{Tower}(n), 0)$$

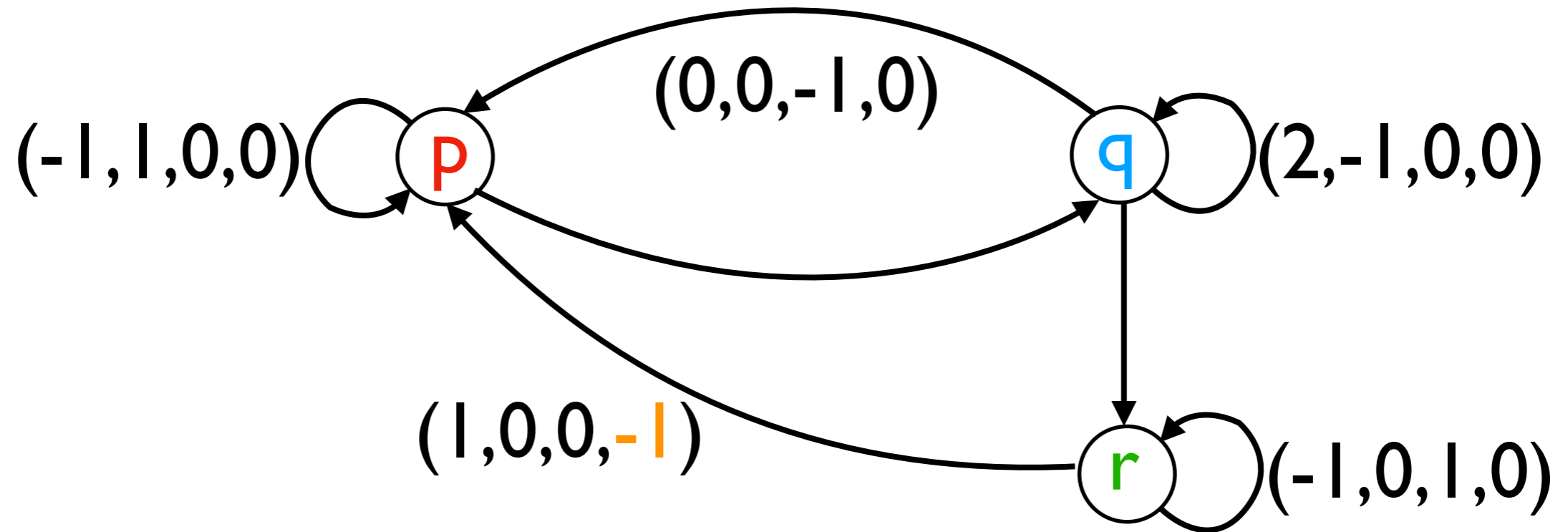
VASS



$$p(1, 0, 1, n) \longrightarrow p(1, 0, 2^l, n-1) \dots \longrightarrow p(1, 0, \text{Tower}(n), 0)$$

finite **tower-size** reachability set

VASS



$$p(1, 0, 1, n) \longrightarrow p(1, 0, 2^l, n-1) \dots \longrightarrow p(1, 0, \text{Tower}(n), 0)$$

finite **tower-size** reachability set

finite **F_d -size** reachability set

I-dim Pushdown VASS

l-dim Pushdown VASS

$$S \longrightarrow n X$$

1-dim Pushdown VASS

$$S \longrightarrow n X$$

$$X \longrightarrow -1 X^2 \mid 0$$

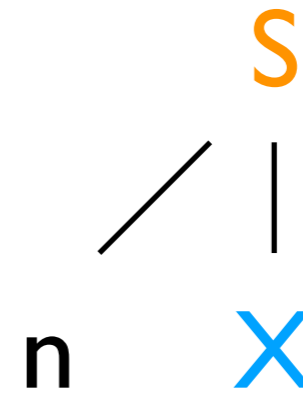
1-dim Pushdown VASS

S

$$S \longrightarrow n X$$

$$X \longrightarrow -1 X^2 \mid 0$$

1-dim Pushdown VASS



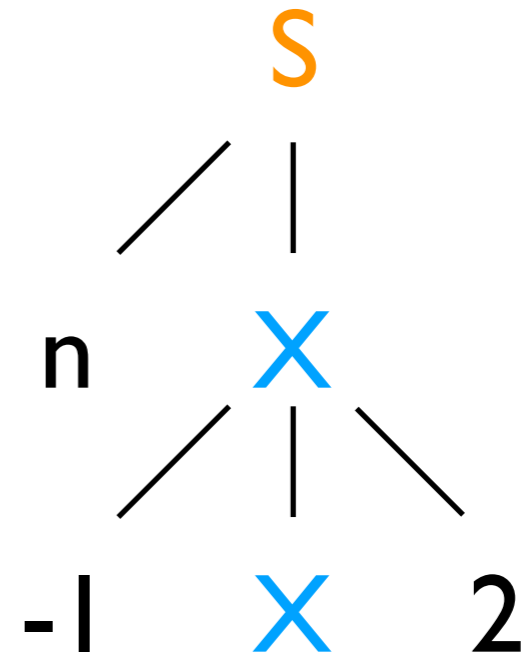
$$S \longrightarrow n X$$

$$X \longrightarrow -1 X^2 | 0$$

1-dim Pushdown VASS

$$S \longrightarrow n X$$

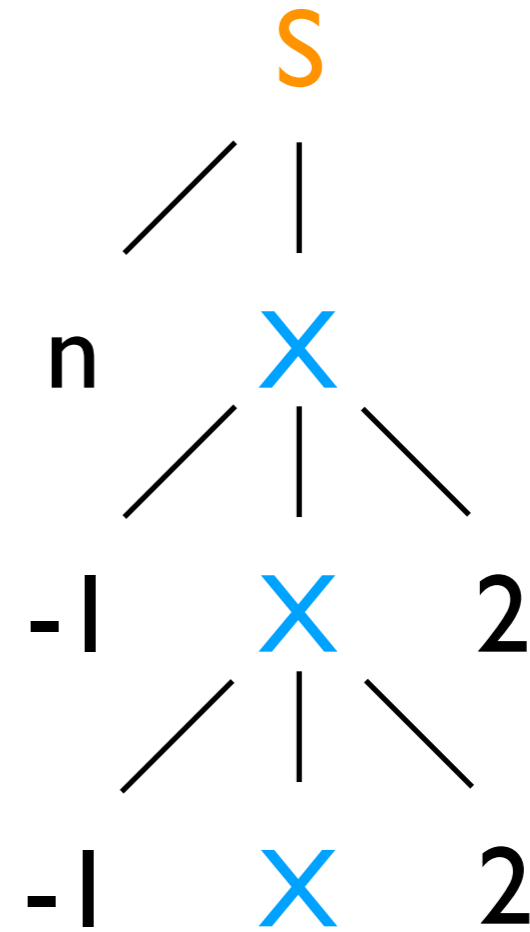
$$X \longrightarrow -1 X 2 \mid 0$$



1-dim Pushdown VASS

$S \rightarrow n X$

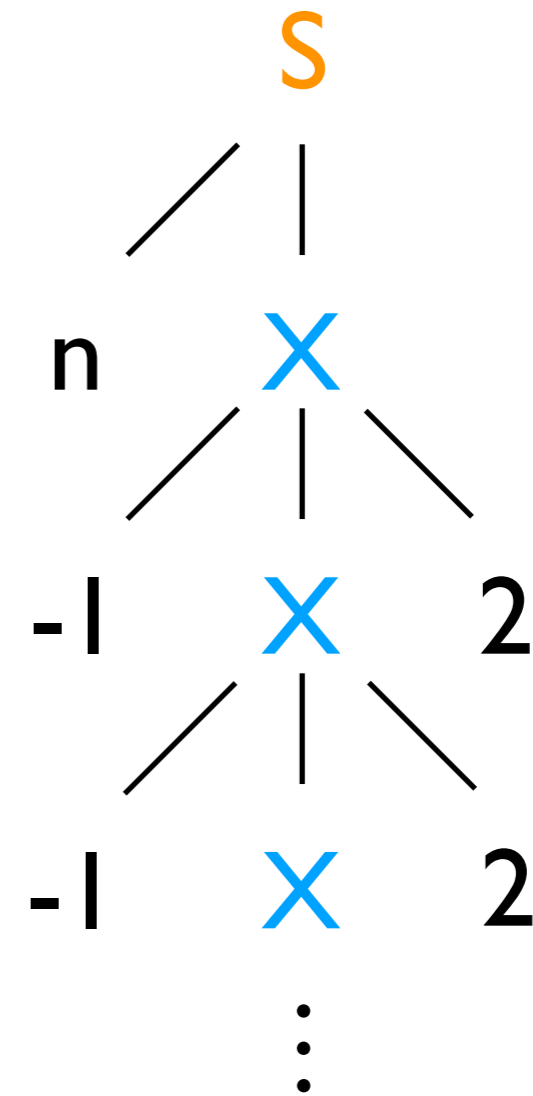
$X \rightarrow -1 X 2 | 0$



1-dim Pushdown VASS

$$S \longrightarrow n X$$

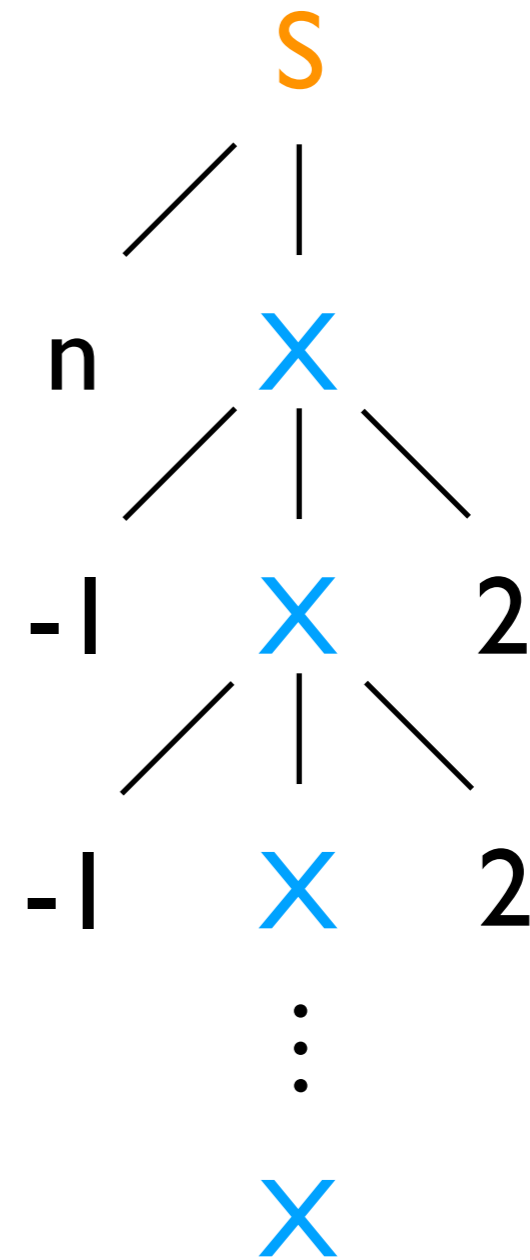
$$X \longrightarrow -1 X 2 \mid 0$$



1-dim Pushdown VASS

$$S \longrightarrow n X$$

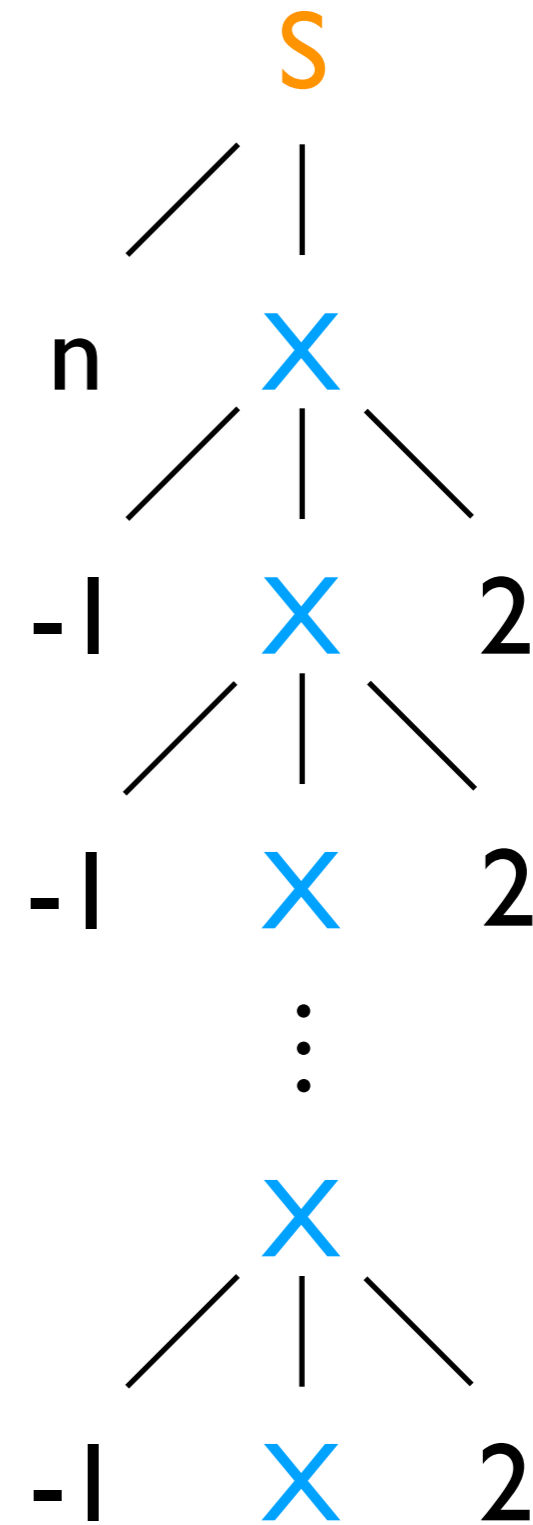
$$X \longrightarrow -1 X 2 \mid 0$$



1-dim Pushdown VASS

$$S \longrightarrow n X$$

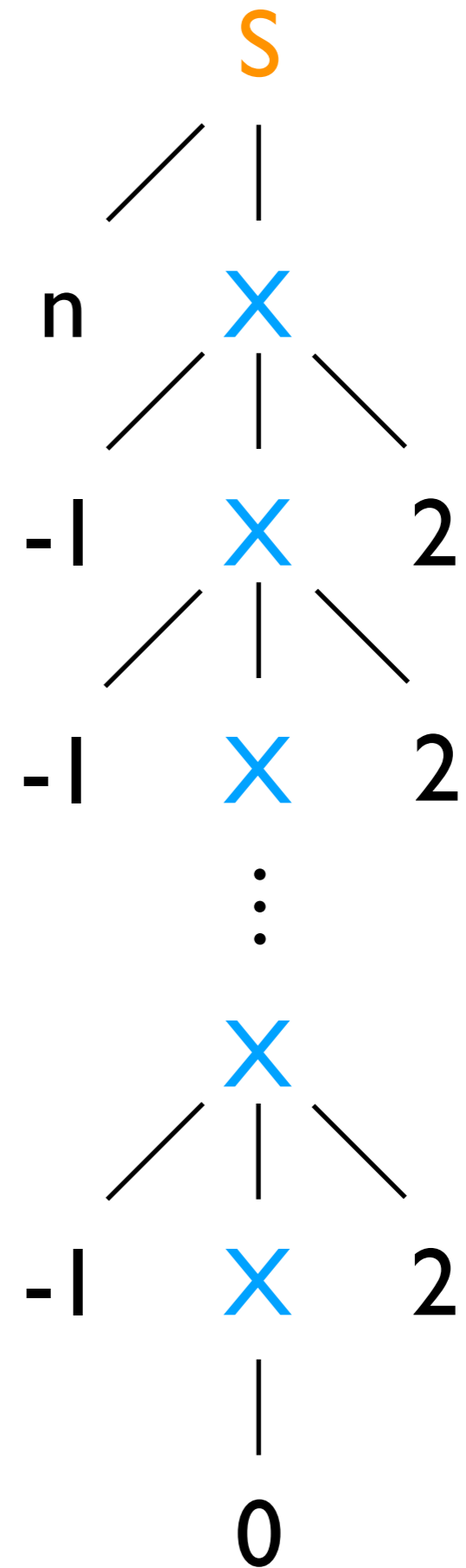
$$X \longrightarrow -1 X 2 \mid 0$$



1-dim Pushdown VASS

$S \rightarrow n X$

$X \rightarrow -1 X 2 \mid 0$

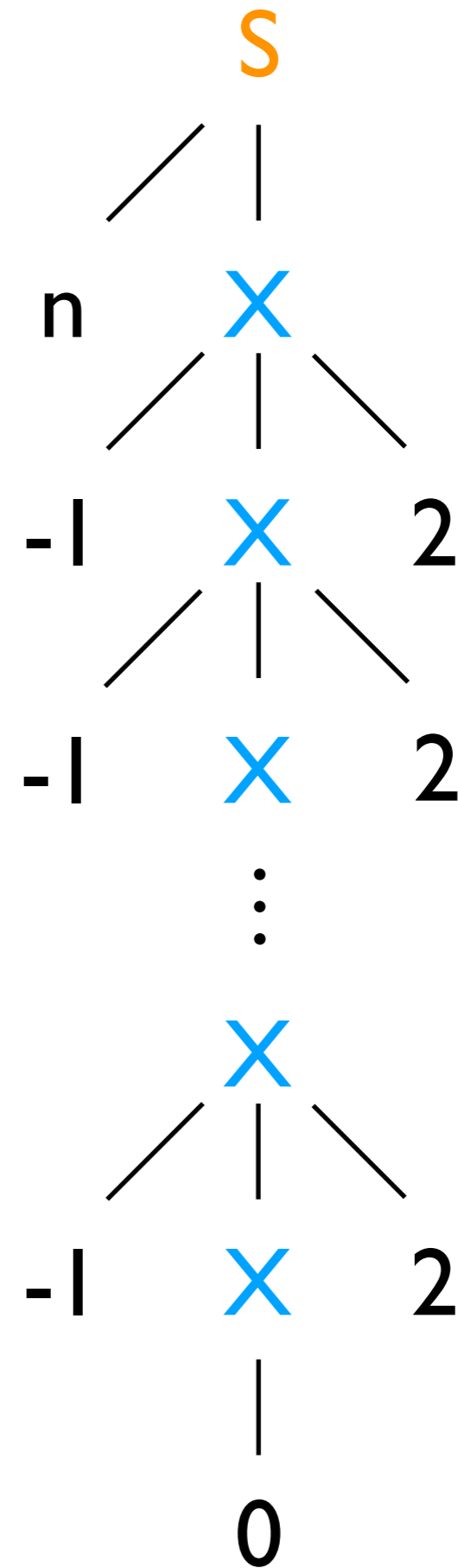


1-dim Pushdown VASS

$$S \longrightarrow n X$$

$$X \longrightarrow -1 X \ 2 \mid 0$$

$$k \xrightarrow{X} 2k$$



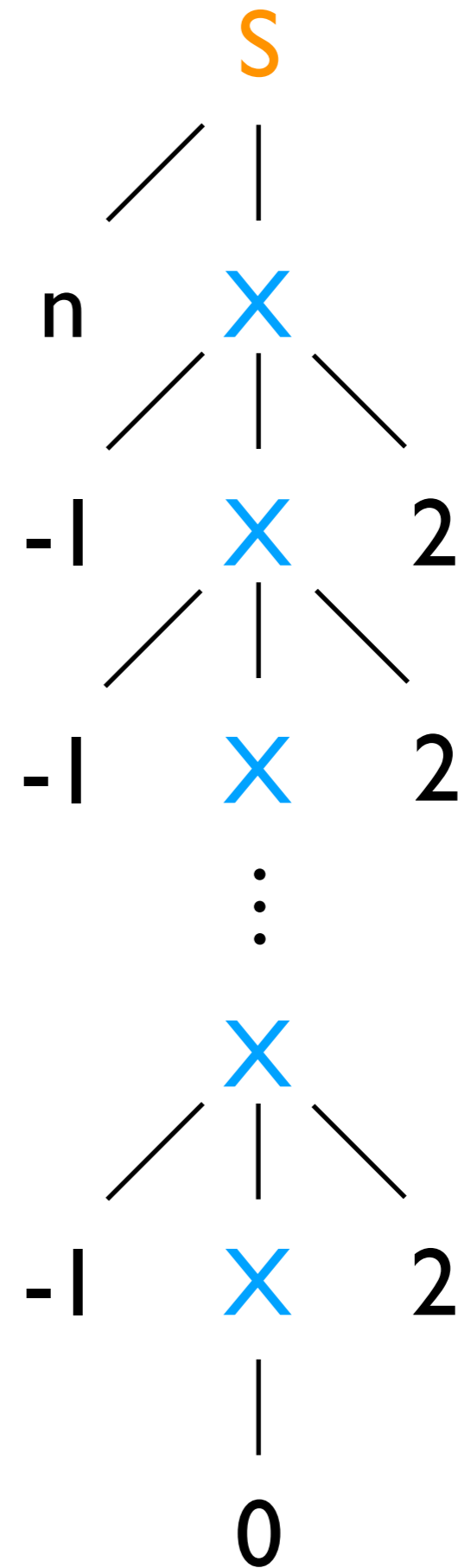
1-dim Pushdown VASS

$$S \longrightarrow n X$$

$$X \longrightarrow -1 X \ 2 \mid 0$$

$$k \xrightarrow{X} 2k$$

maximally



I - PVASS

I-PVASS

S → nY

I-PVASS

$$S \rightarrow nY$$

$$Y \rightarrow -|YX|I$$

I-PVASS

$$S \longrightarrow n Y$$

$$Y \longrightarrow -I Y X \mid I$$

$$X \longrightarrow -I X 2 \mid 0$$

I-PVASS

$$S \longrightarrow n Y$$

$$Y \longrightarrow -I Y X \mid I$$

$$X \longrightarrow -I X 2 \mid 0$$

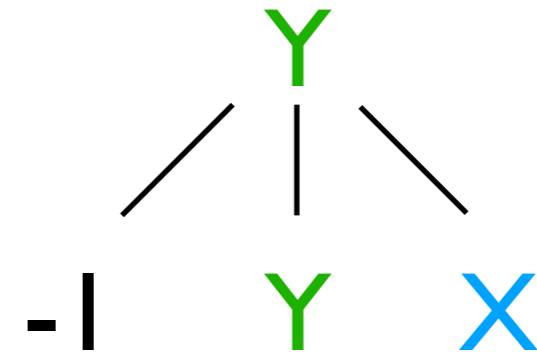
Y

I-PVASS

$$S \rightarrow nY$$

$$Y \rightarrow -1YX \mid 1$$

$$X \rightarrow -1X2 \mid 0$$

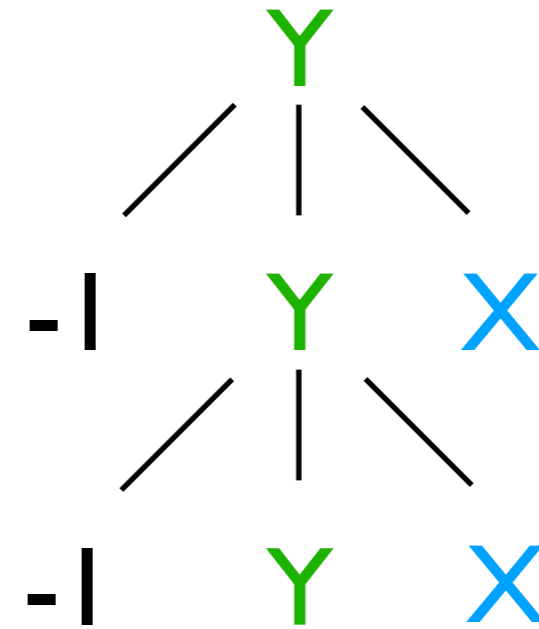


I-PVASS

$$S \rightarrow nY$$

$$Y \rightarrow -1YX \mid 1$$

$$X \rightarrow -1X2 \mid 0$$

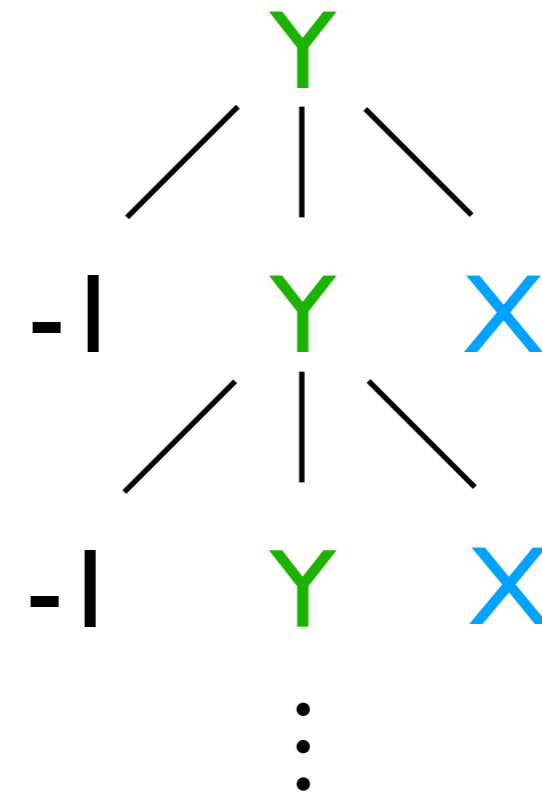


I-PVASS

$$S \rightarrow nY$$

$$Y \rightarrow -1YX \mid 1$$

$$X \rightarrow -1X2 \mid 0$$

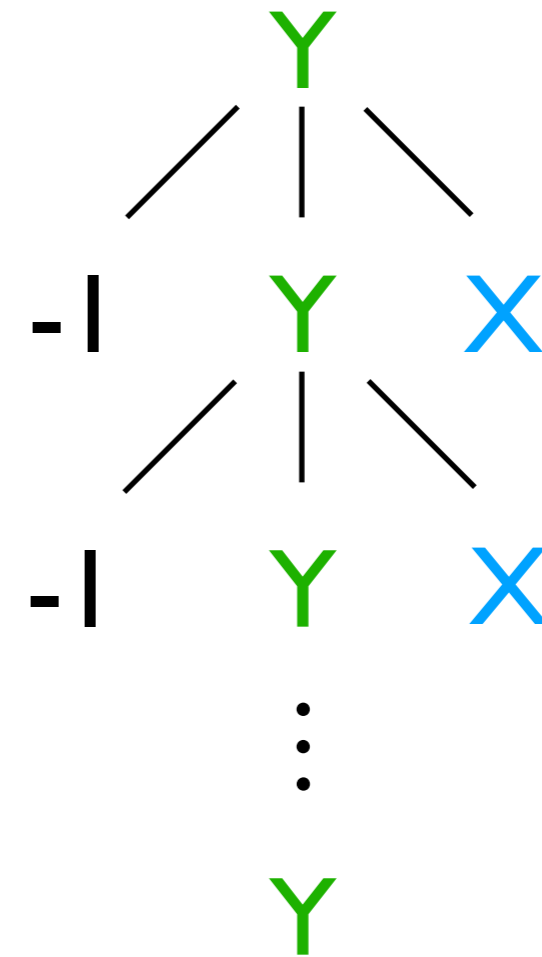


I-PVASS

$$S \rightarrow nY$$

$$Y \rightarrow -1YX \mid 1$$

$$X \rightarrow -1X2 \mid 0$$

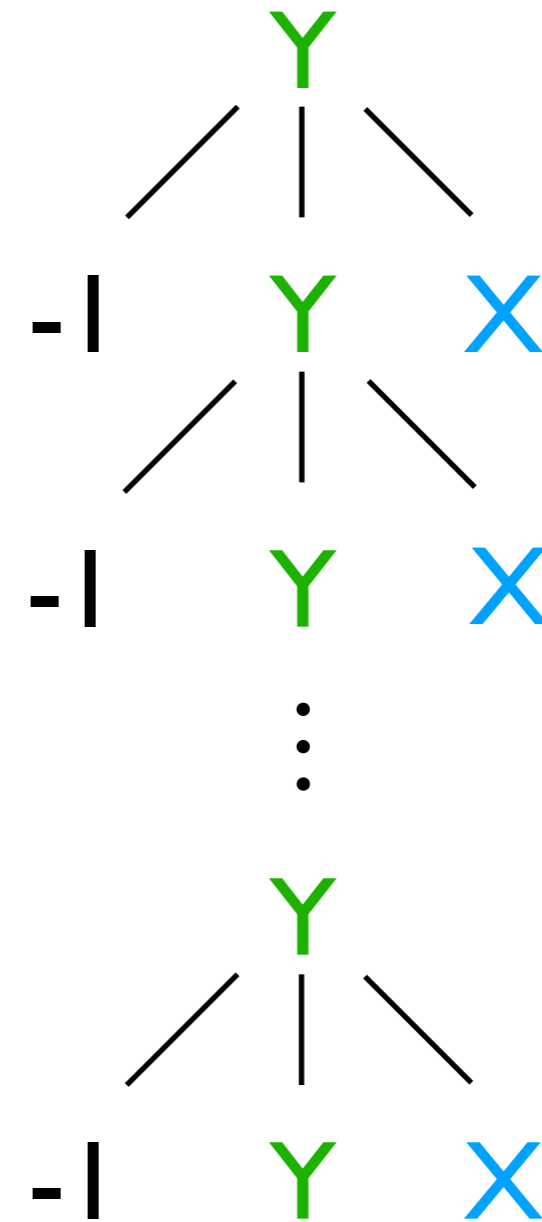


I-PVASS

$$S \rightarrow n Y$$

$$Y \rightarrow -1 Y X \mid 1$$

$$X \rightarrow -1 X 2 \mid 0$$

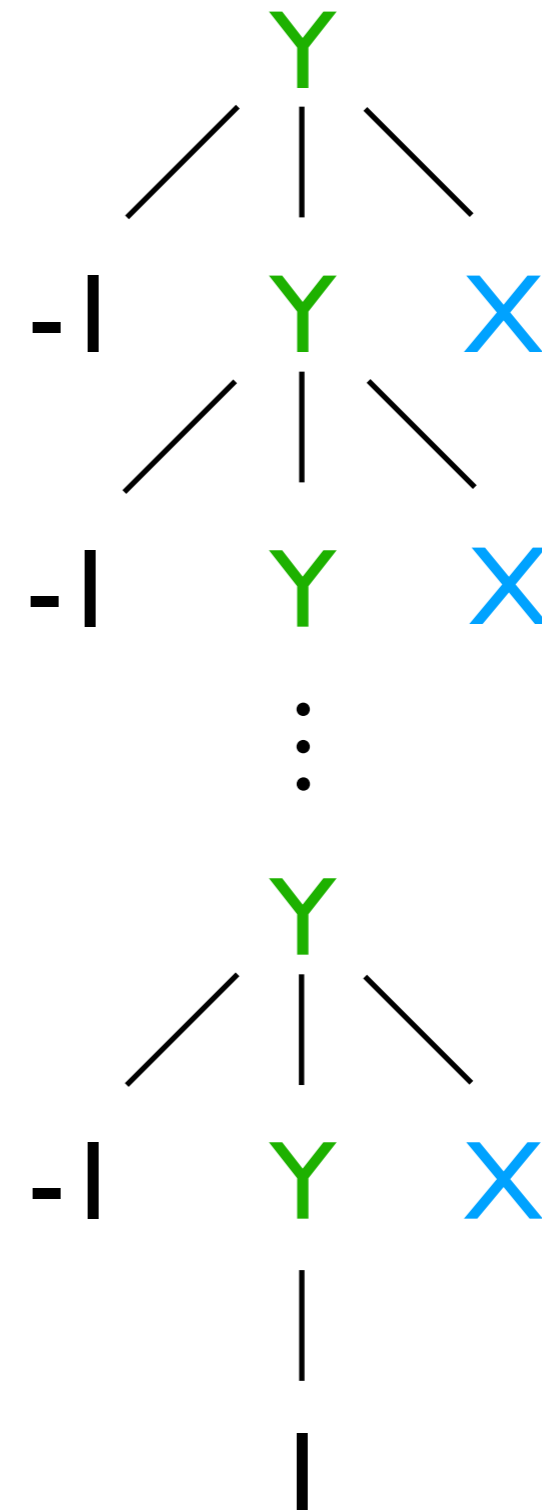


I-PVASS

$$S \rightarrow nY$$

$$Y \rightarrow -1YX \mid 1$$

$$X \rightarrow -1X2 \mid 0$$



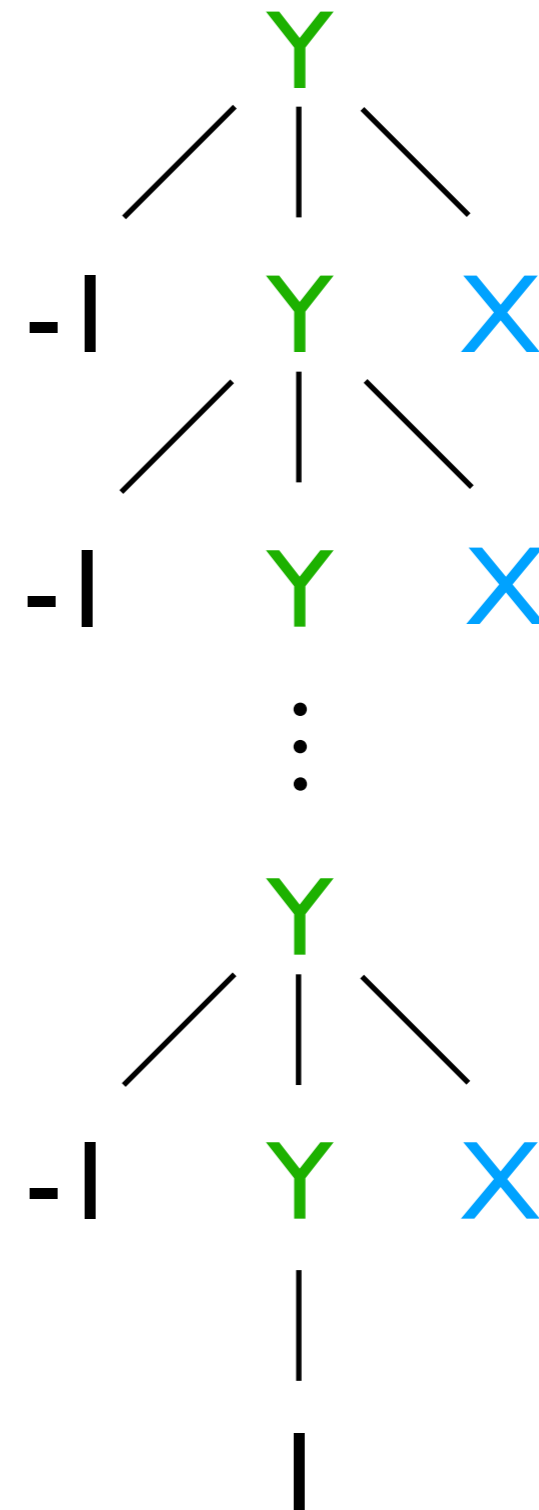
I-PVASS

$$S \longrightarrow nY$$

$$Y \longrightarrow -1YX \mid 1$$

$$X \longrightarrow -1X2 \mid 0$$

$$k \xrightarrow{X} 2k$$



I-PVASS

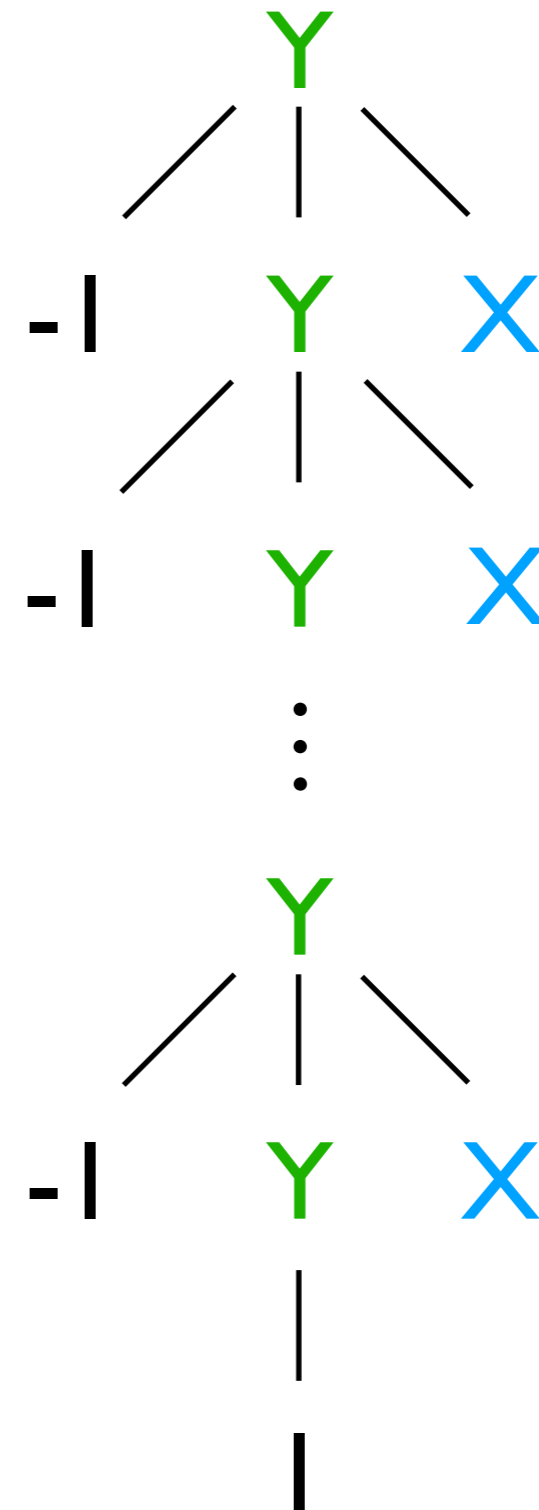
$$S \longrightarrow n Y$$

$$Y \longrightarrow -1 Y X \mid 1$$

$$X \longrightarrow -1 X 2 \mid 0$$

$$k \xrightarrow{X} 2k$$

$$k \xrightarrow{Y} 2^k$$



I-dim Pushdown VASS

l-dim Pushdown VASS

$$S \longrightarrow n Z$$

1-dim Pushdown VASS

$S \longrightarrow n Z$

$Z \longrightarrow -1 Z Y \mid 1$

1-dim Pushdown VASS

$S \longrightarrow n Z$

$Z \longrightarrow -1 Z Y \mid \mid$

$Y \longrightarrow -1 Y X \mid \mid$

1-dim Pushdown VASS

$$S \longrightarrow n Z$$

$$Z \longrightarrow -1 Z Y \mid 1$$

$$Y \longrightarrow -1 Y X \mid 1$$

$$X \longrightarrow -1 X 2 \mid 0$$

1-dim Pushdown VASS

$$S \longrightarrow n Z$$

$$Z \longrightarrow -1 Z Y \mid 1$$

$$Y \longrightarrow -1 Y X \mid 1$$

$$X \longrightarrow -1 X 2 \mid 0$$

$$k \xrightarrow{X} 2k$$

1-dim Pushdown VASS

$$S \longrightarrow n Z$$

$$Z \longrightarrow -1 Z Y \mid 1$$

$$Y \longrightarrow -1 Y X \mid 1$$

$$X \longrightarrow -1 X 2 \mid 0$$

$$k \xrightarrow{X} 2k$$

$$k \xrightarrow{Y} 2^k$$

1-dim Pushdown VASS

$$S \longrightarrow n Z$$

$$Z \longrightarrow -1 Z Y \mid 1$$

$$Y \longrightarrow -1 Y X \mid 1$$

$$X \longrightarrow -1 X 2 \mid 0$$

$$k \xrightarrow{X} 2k$$

$$k \xrightarrow{Y} 2^k$$

$$k \xrightarrow{Z} \text{Tower}(k)$$

1-dim Pushdown VASS

$$S \longrightarrow n Z$$

$$Z \longrightarrow -1 Z Y \mid 1$$

$$Y \longrightarrow -1 Y X \mid 1$$

$$X \longrightarrow -1 X 2 \mid 0$$

$$k \xrightarrow{X} 2k$$

$$k \xrightarrow{Y} 2^k$$

$$k \xrightarrow{Z} \text{Tower}(k)$$

$d+1$ nonterminals: reachability set of size $F_d(n)$

Message

Message

simple models are involved

Message

simple models are involved

fundamental but hard research

Message

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fundamental but hard research

still many open problems:

Message

simple models are involved

fundamental but hard research

still many open problems: 3-VASS

Message

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still many open problems: 3-VASS I-PVASS

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still many open problems: 3-VASS I-PVASS

Thank you!