

Reachability
in Vector Addition Systems
by Examples

Wojciech Czerwiński

CONCUR 2022

Plan

Plan

- **basic notions**

Plan

- basic notions
- short history

Plan

- basic notions
- short history
- motivation

Plan

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- big reachability sets

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- only long **paths**

Plan

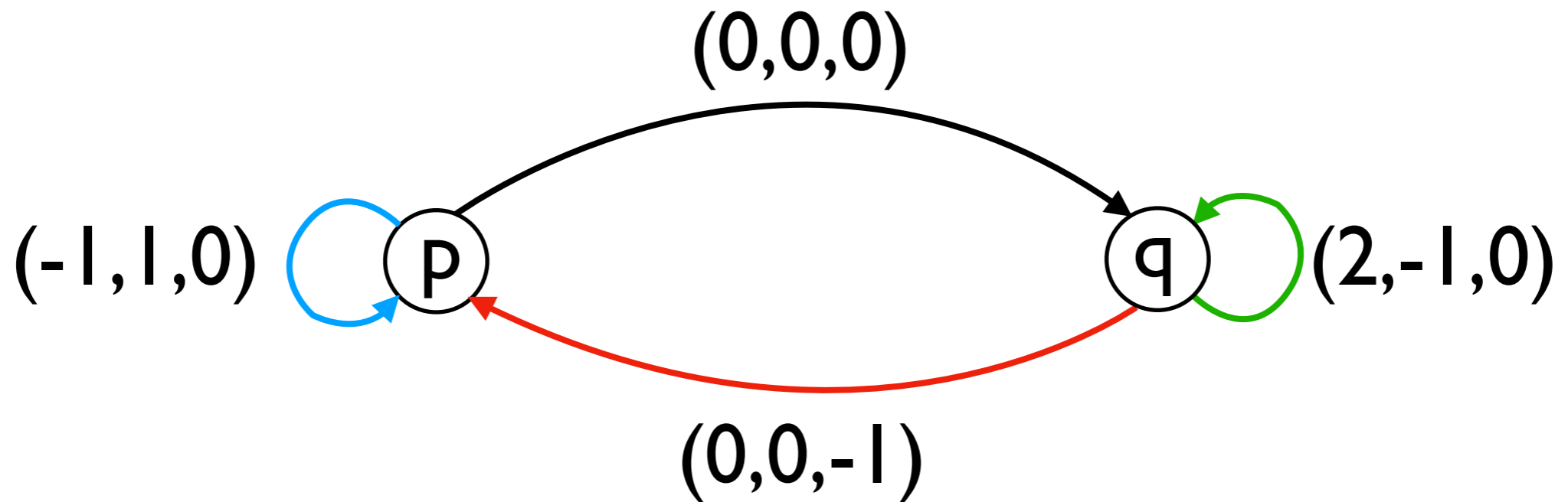
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- telescopic equations

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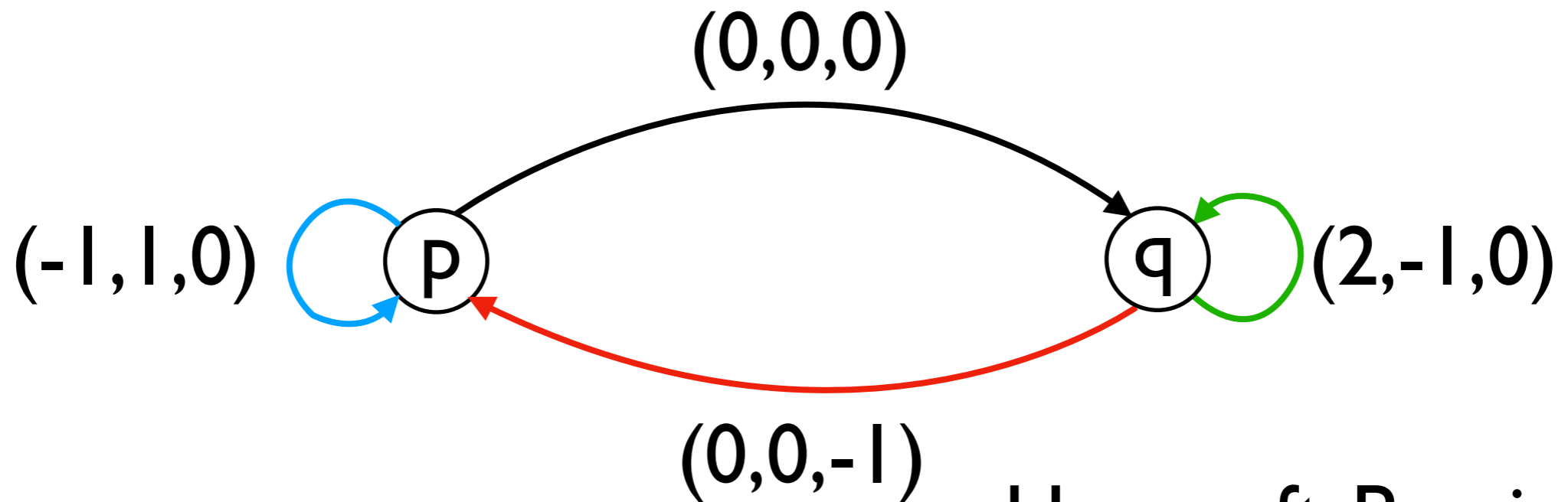
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 - telescopic equations
 - controlling-counter

Vector Addition Systems with States

Vector Addition Systems with States

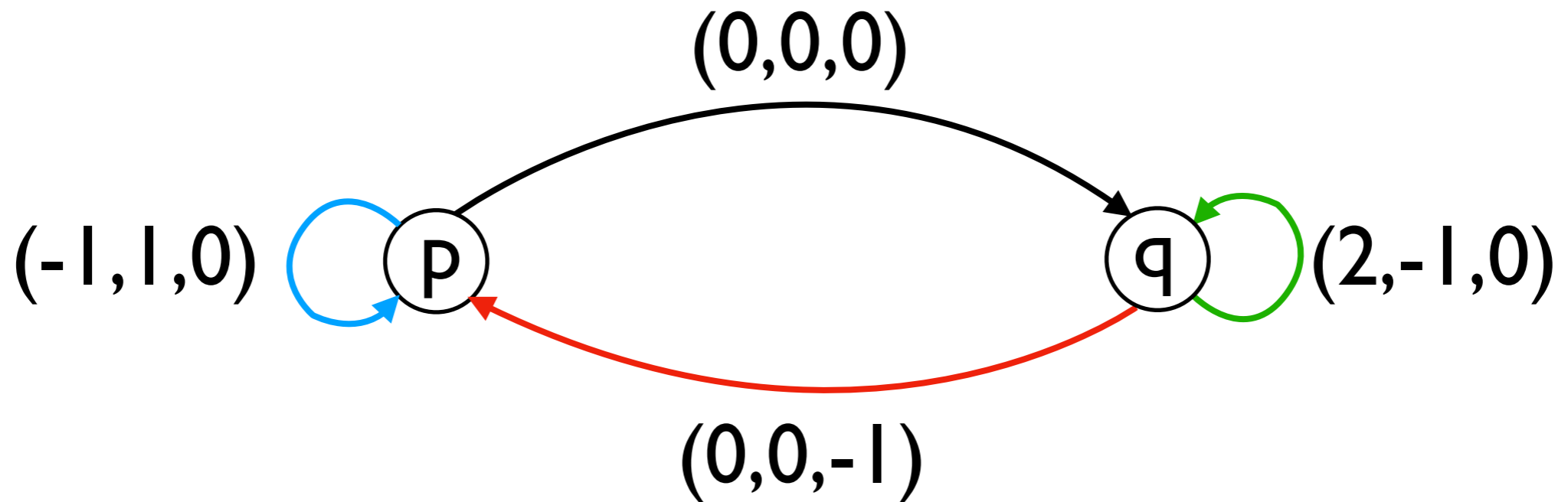


Vector Addition Systems with States

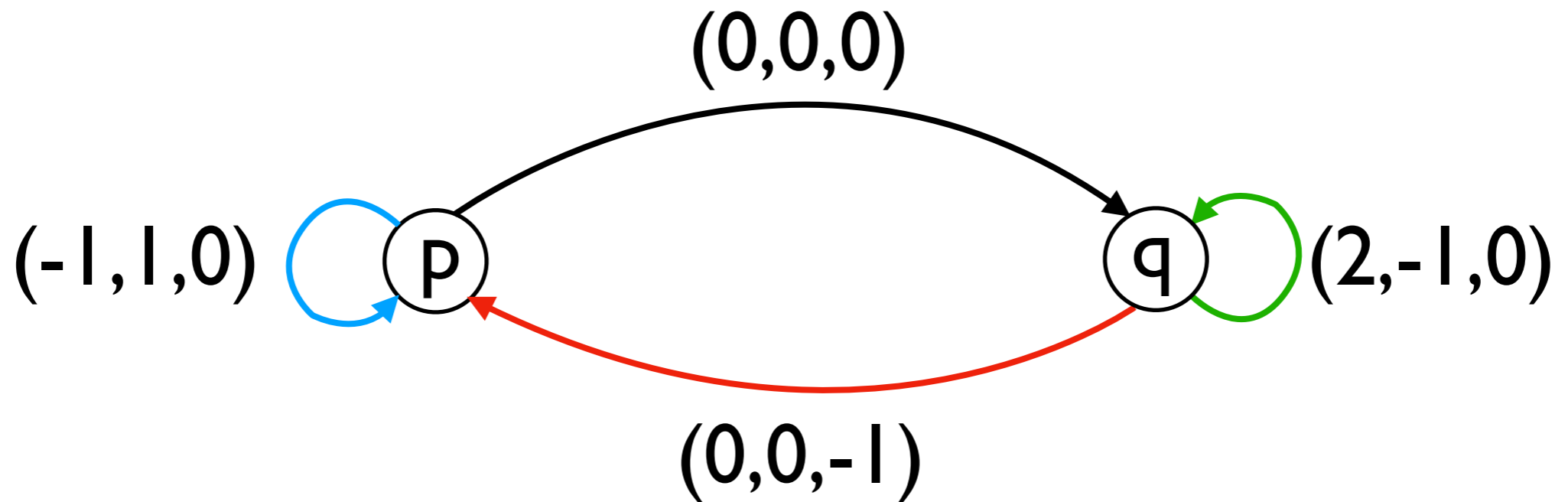


Hopcroft-Pansiot '78

Vector Addition Systems with States

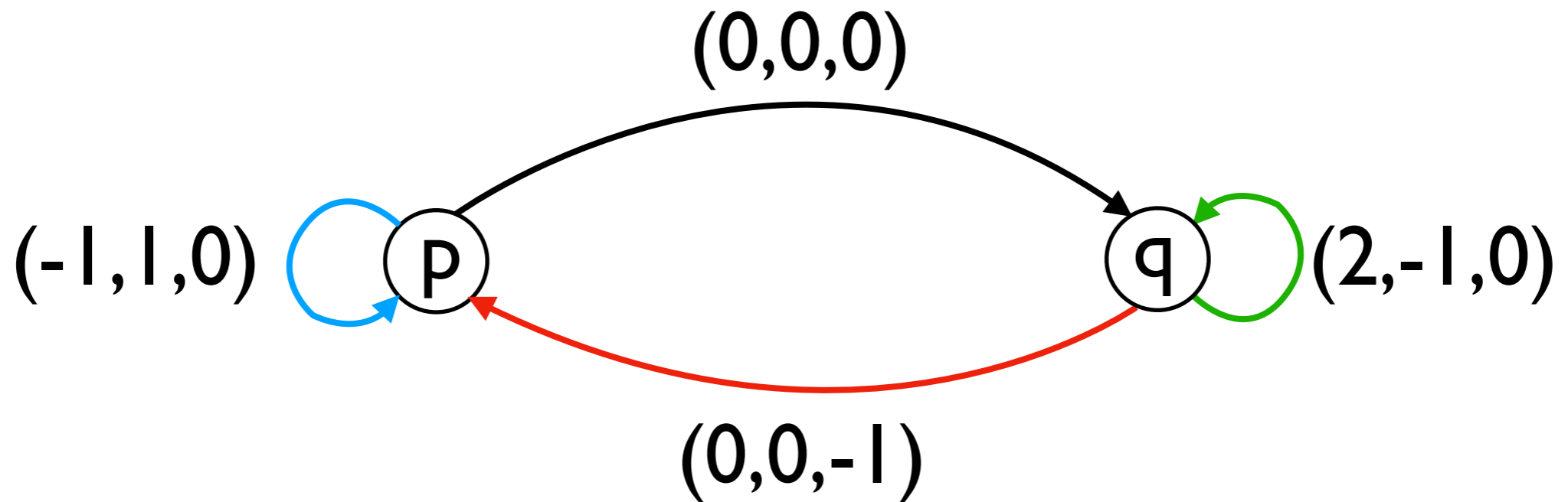


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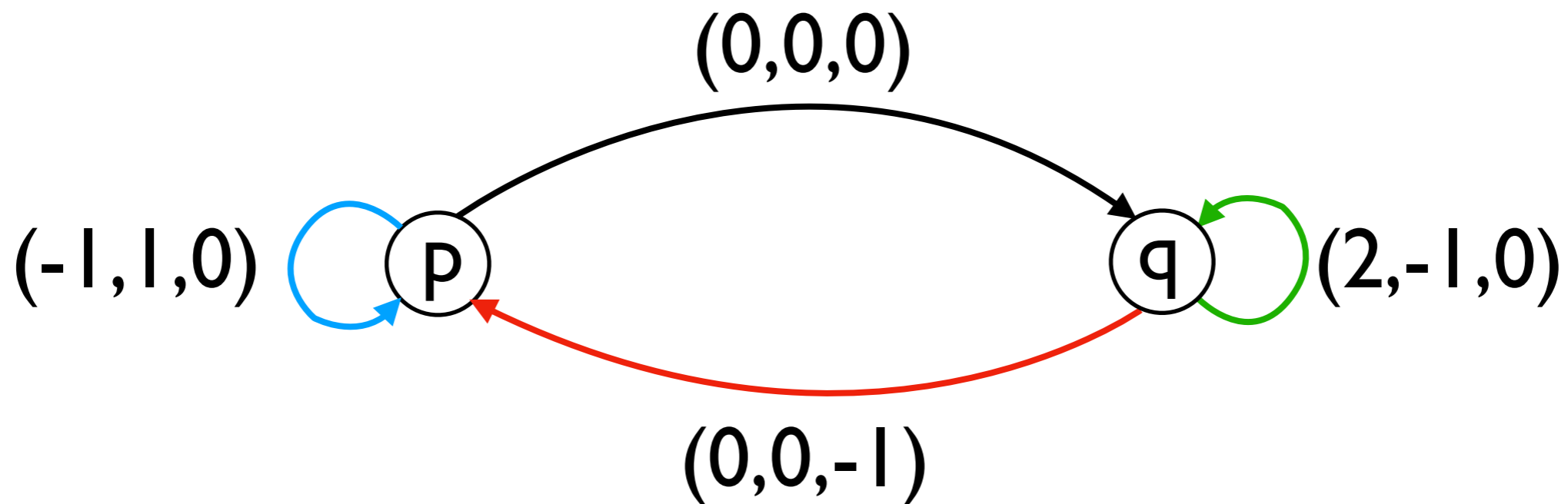
$p(2, 0, 7)$

Vector Addition Systems with States



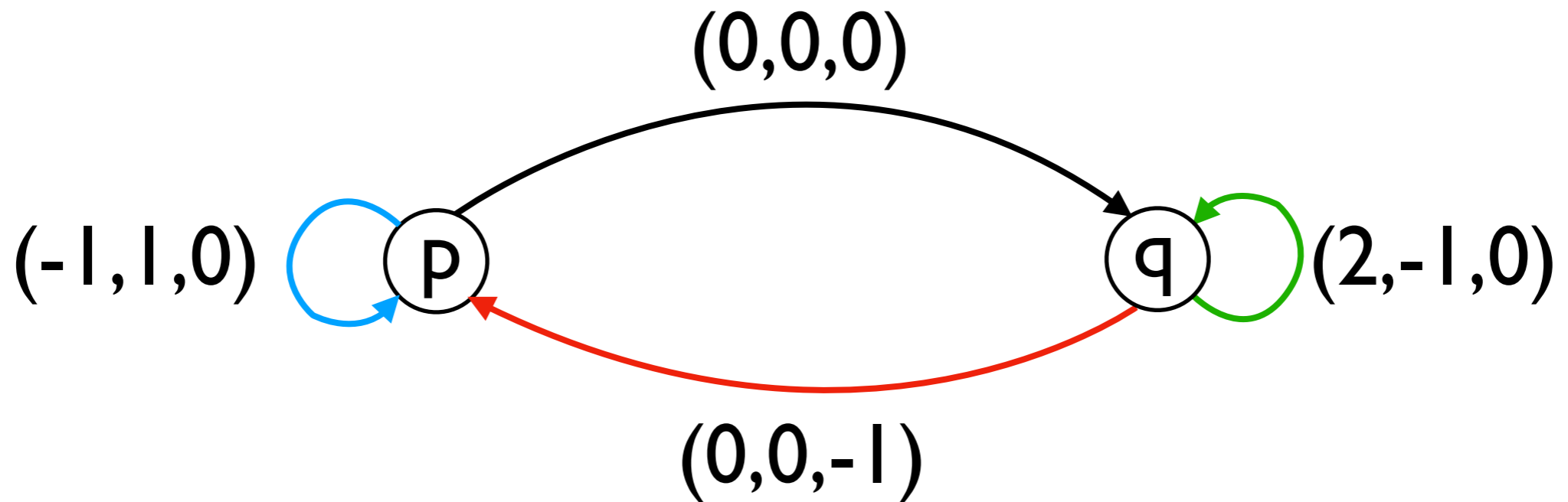
$$p(2, 0, 7) \longrightarrow p(1, 1, 7)$$

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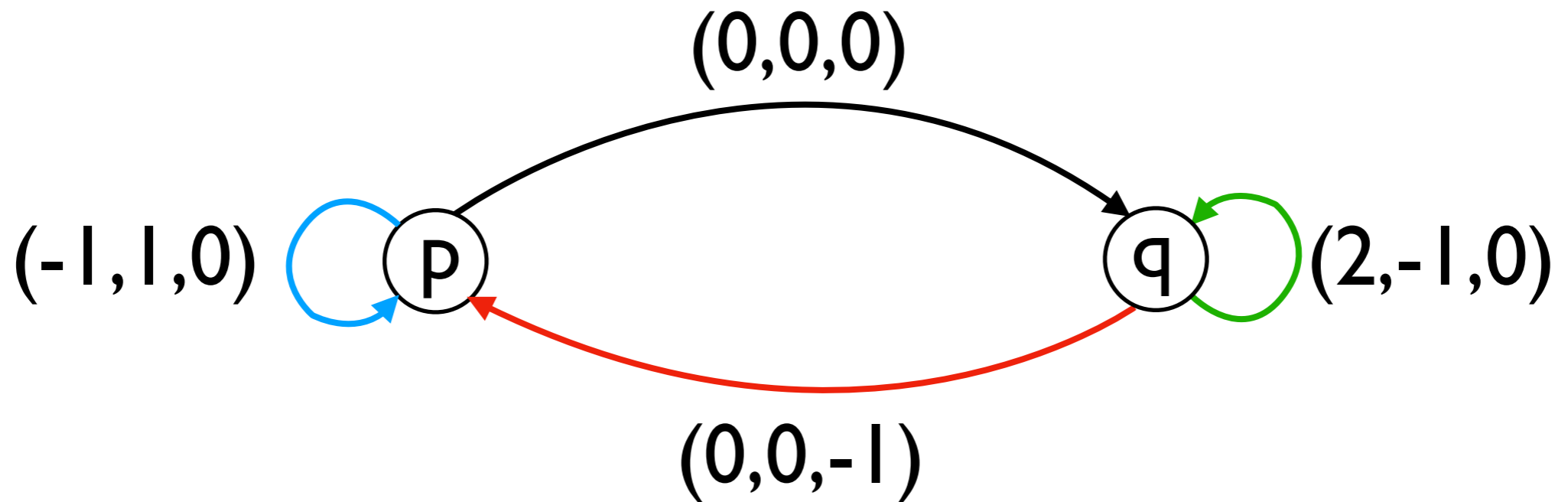
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Vector Addition Systems with States



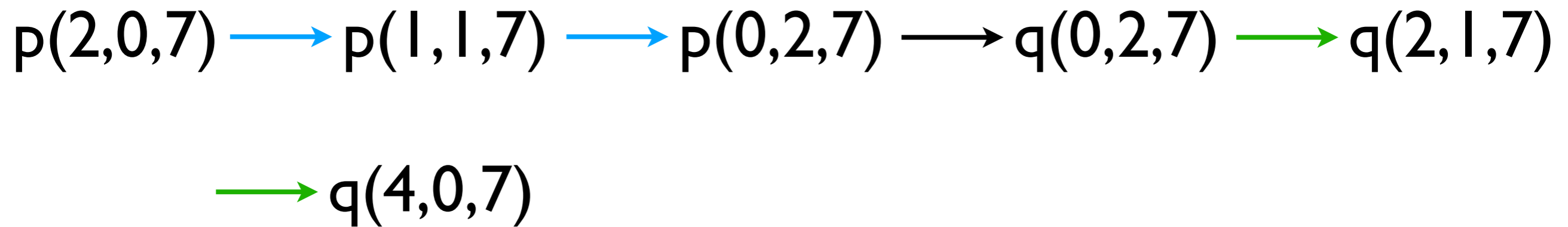
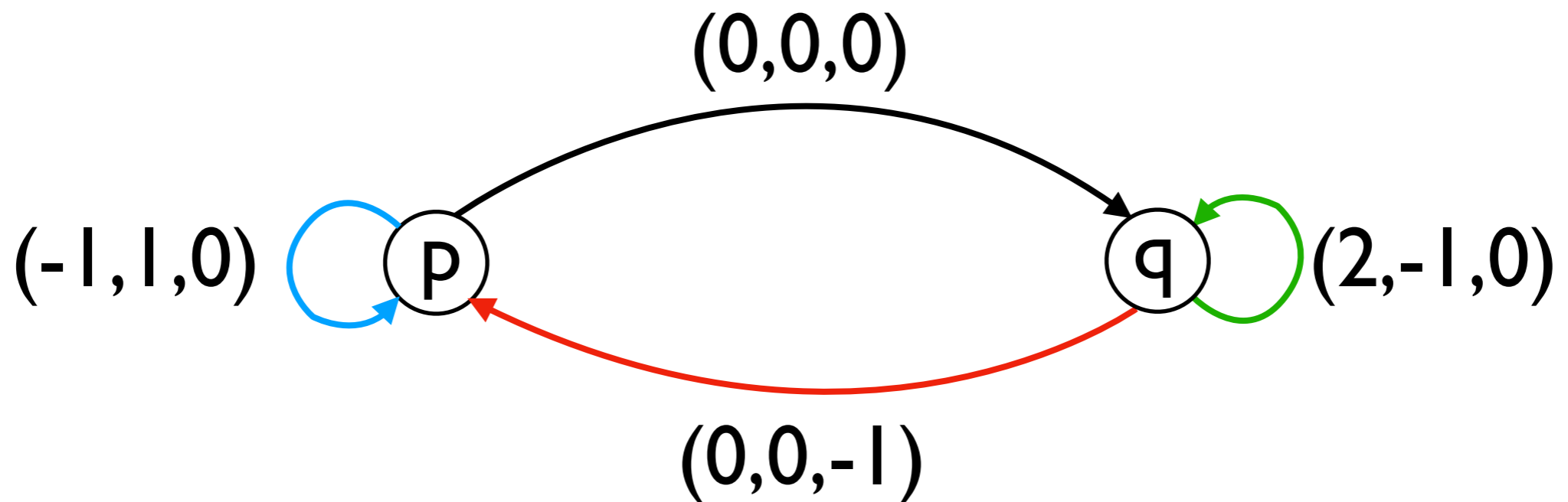
$p(2,0,7) \longrightarrow p(1,1,7) \longrightarrow p(0,2,7) \longrightarrow q(0,2,7)$

Vector Addition Systems with States

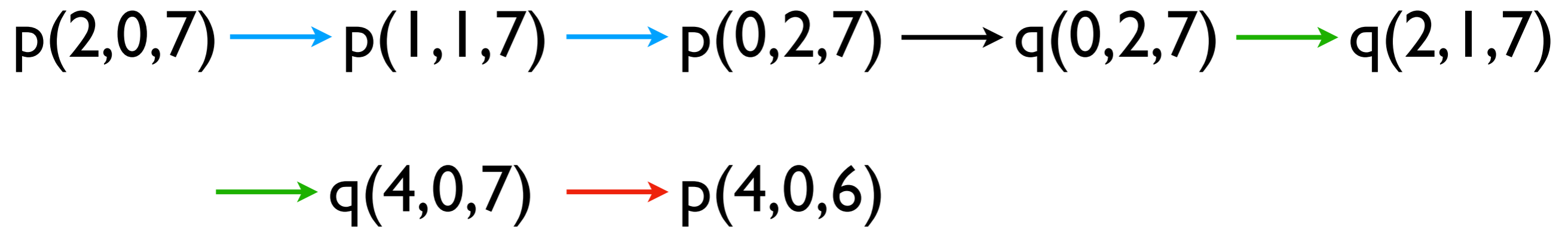
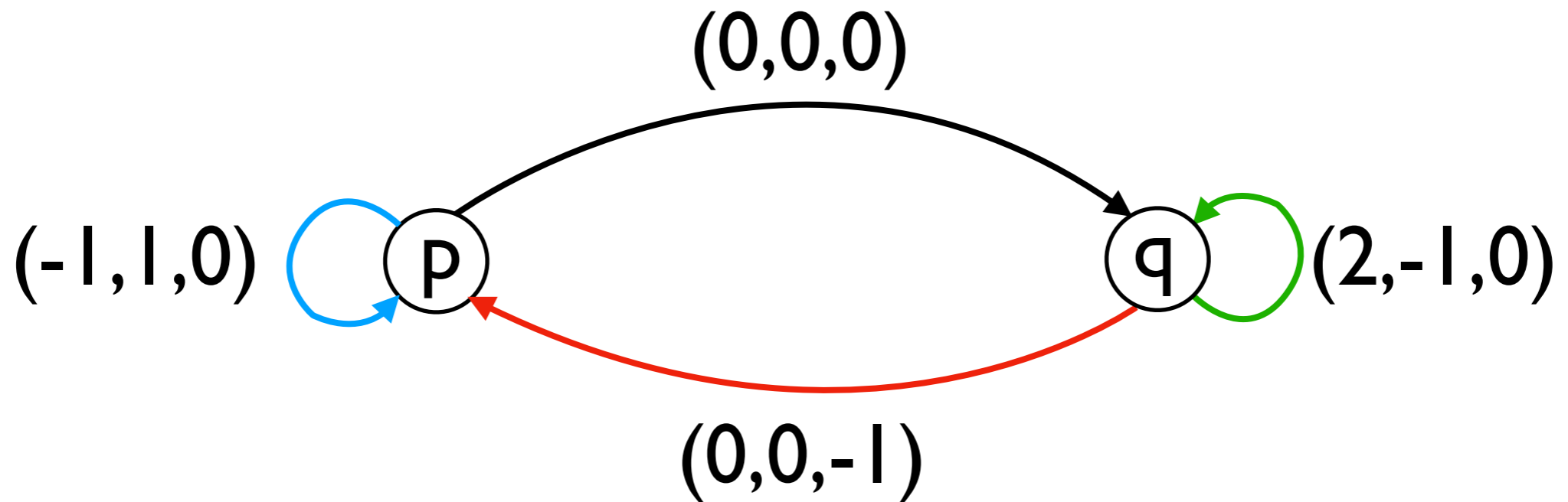


$p(2, 0, 7) \xrightarrow{\text{blue}} p(1, 1, 7) \xrightarrow{\text{blue}} p(0, 2, 7) \xrightarrow{\text{black}} q(0, 2, 7) \xrightarrow{\text{green}} q(2, 1, 7)$

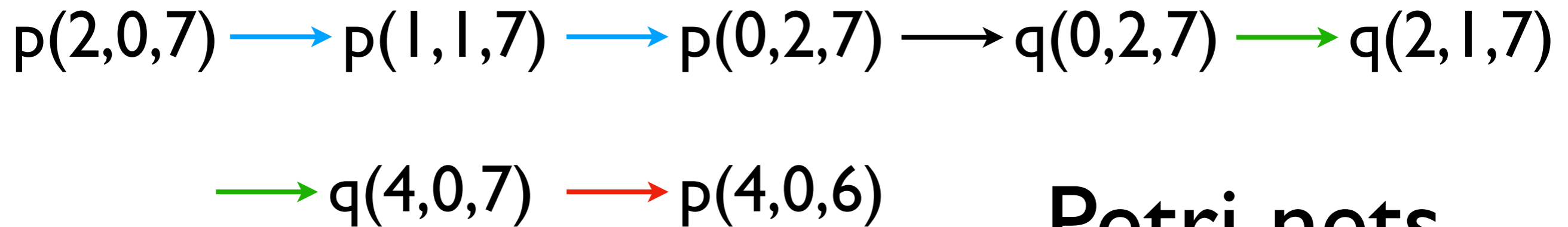
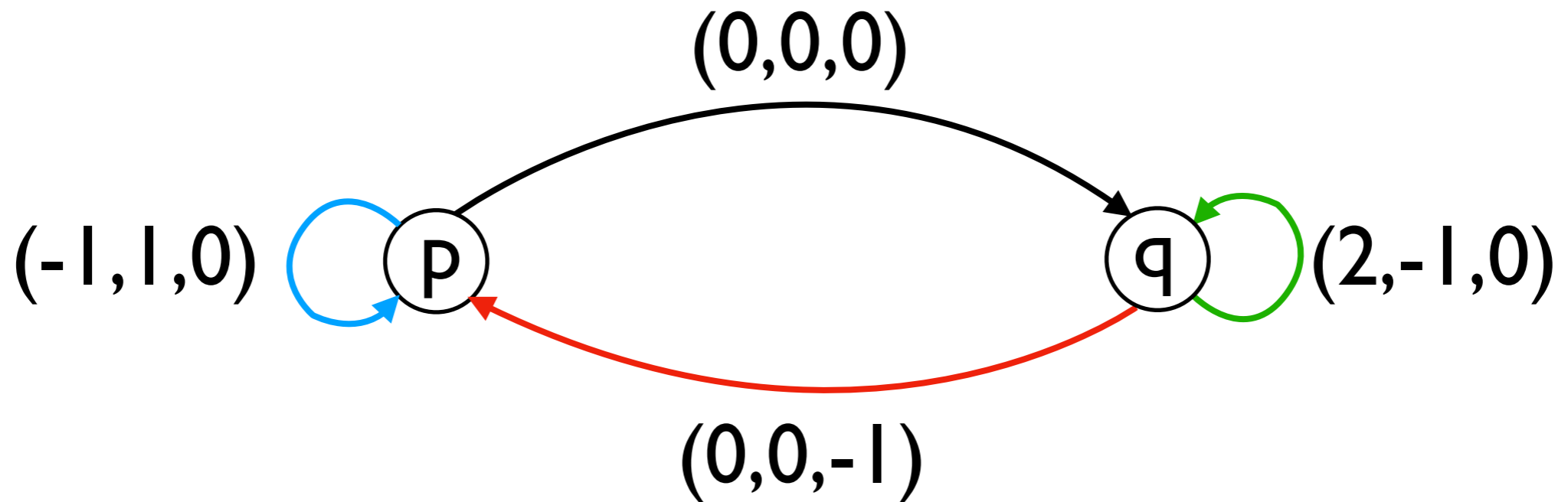
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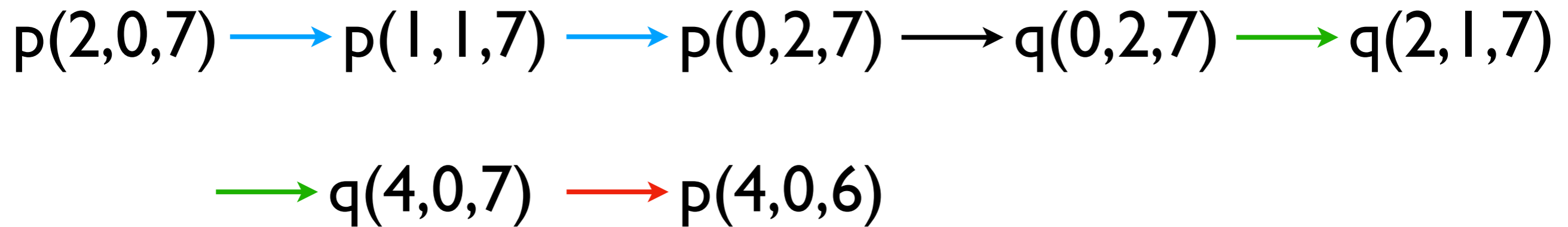
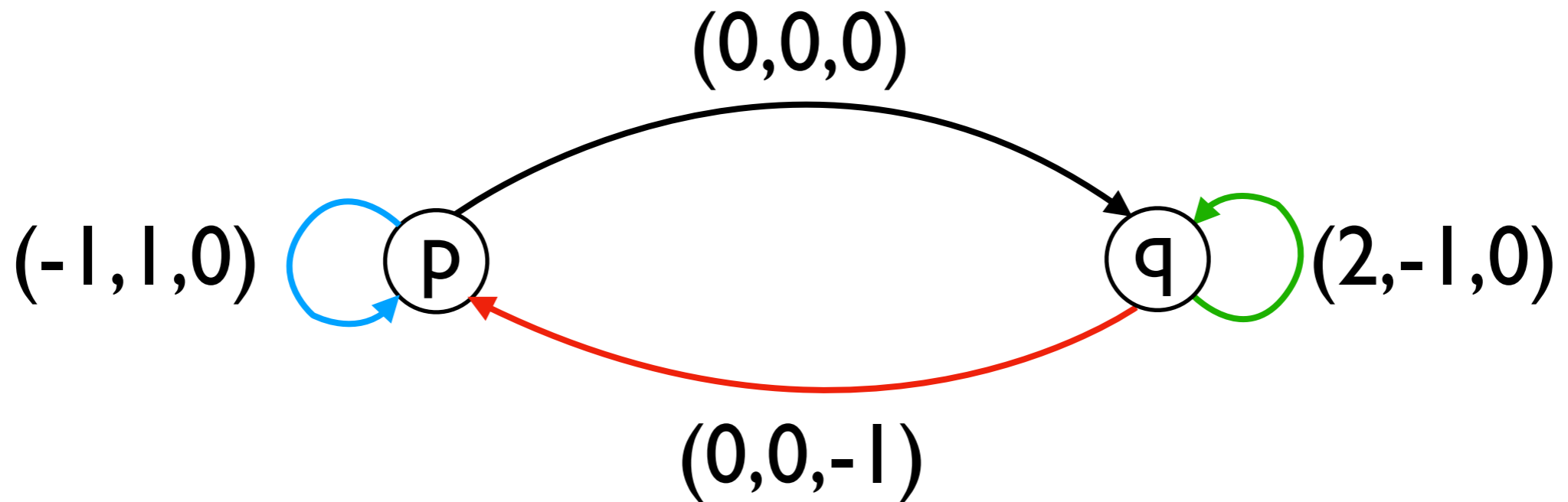


Vector Addition Systems with States



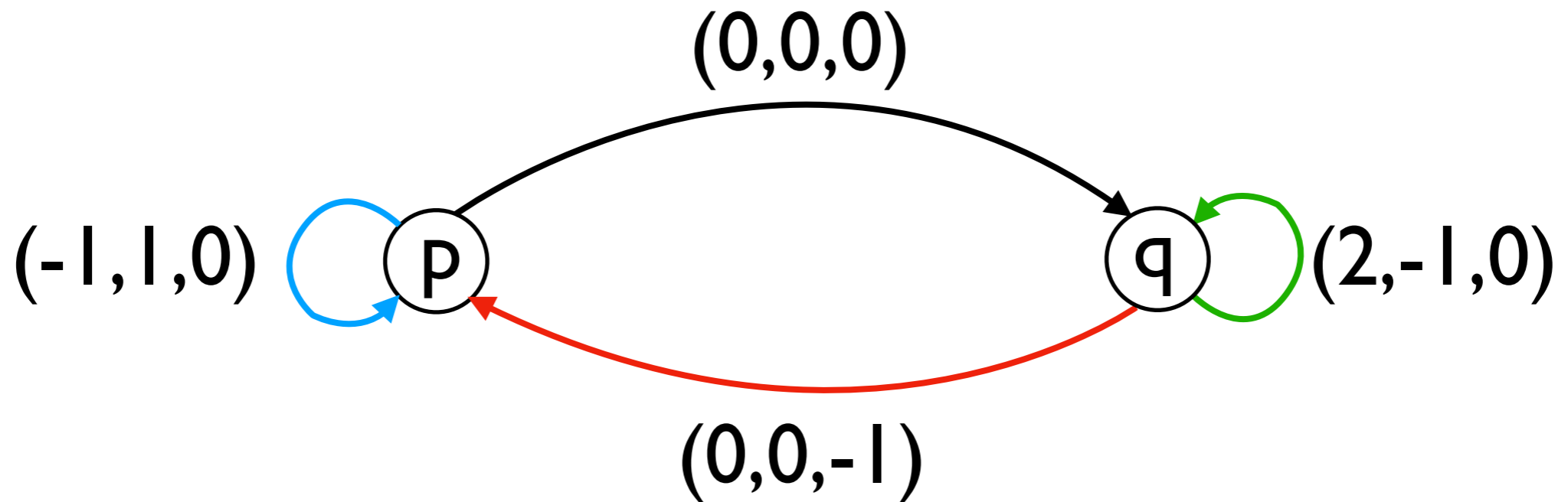
Petri nets

Vector Addition Systems with States

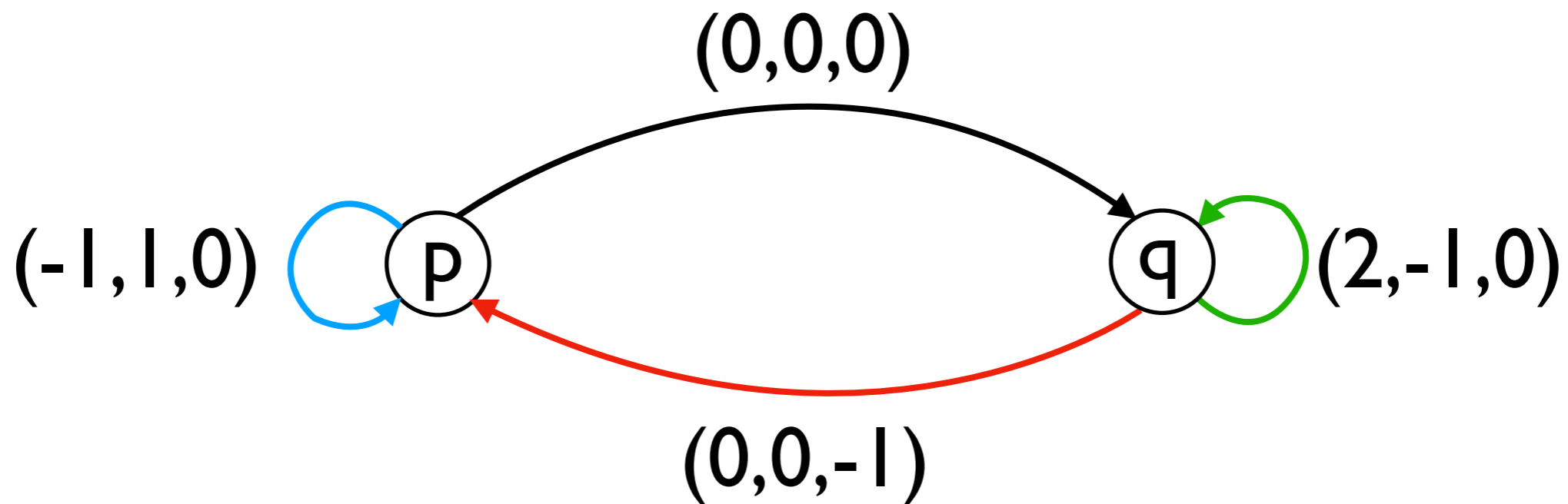


Vector Addition Systems with States

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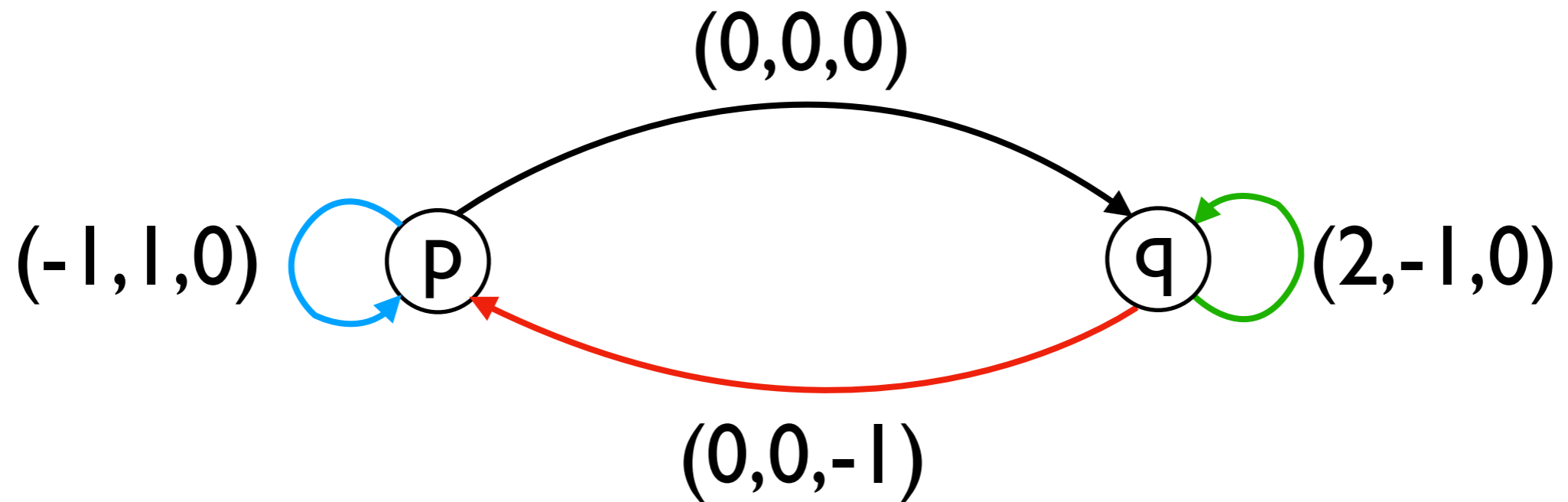


Vector Addition Systems with States



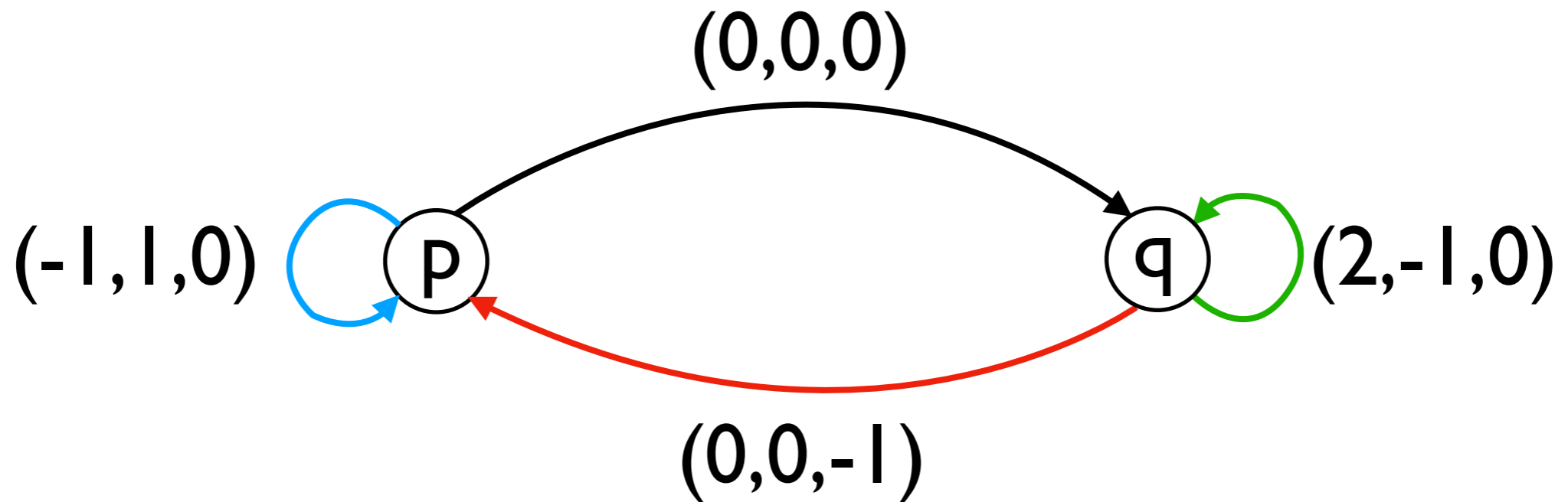
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Vector Addition Systems with States



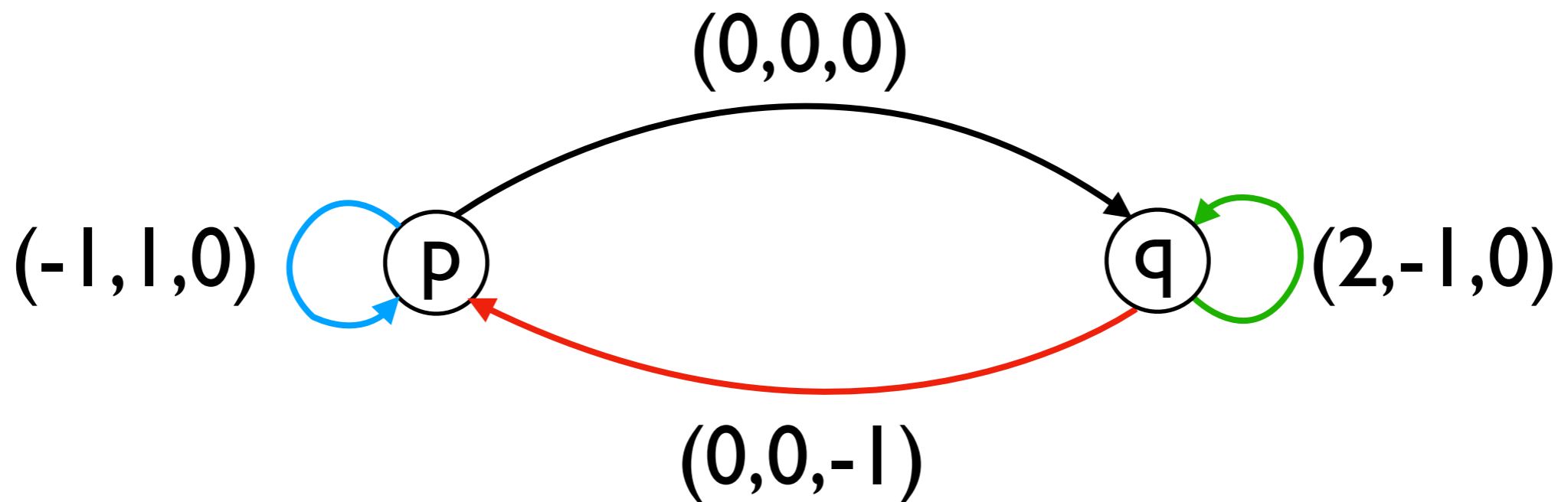
$$p(k, 0, n) \longrightarrow p(0, k, n)$$

Vector Addition Systems with States



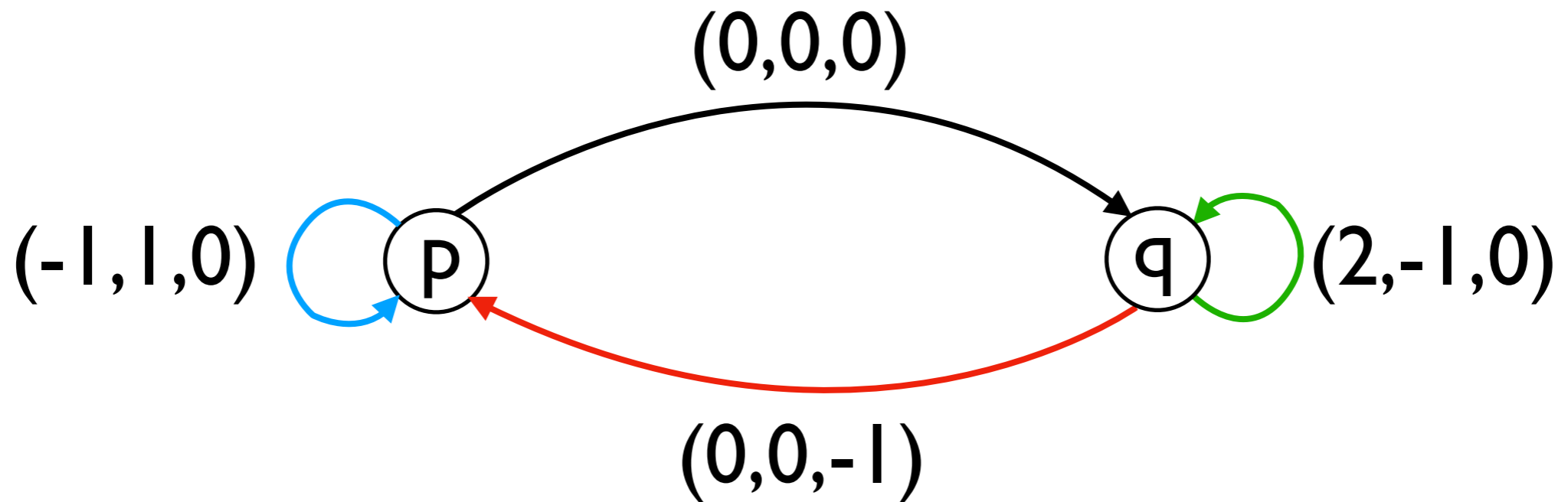
$$p(k, 0, n) \xrightarrow{\text{blue}} p(0, k, n) \xrightarrow{\text{black}} q(0, k, n)$$

Vector Addition Systems with States



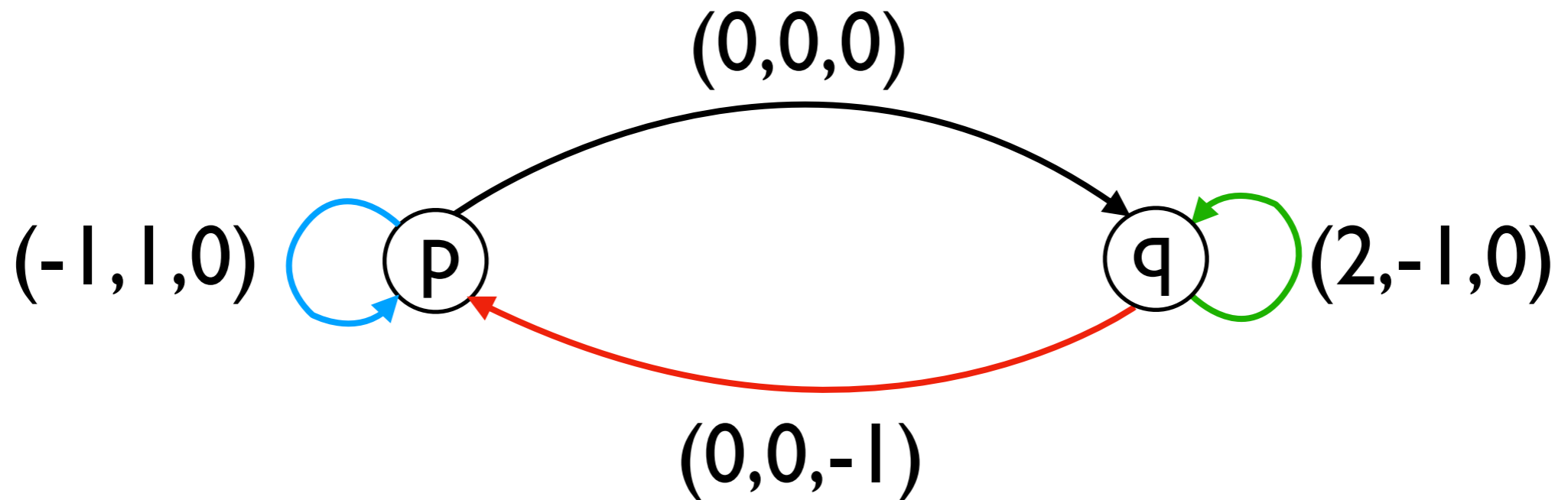
$$p(k, 0, n) \xrightarrow{\text{blue}} p(0, k, n) \xrightarrow{\text{black}} q(0, k, n) \xrightarrow{\text{green}} q(2k, 0, n)$$

Vector Addition Systems with States



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

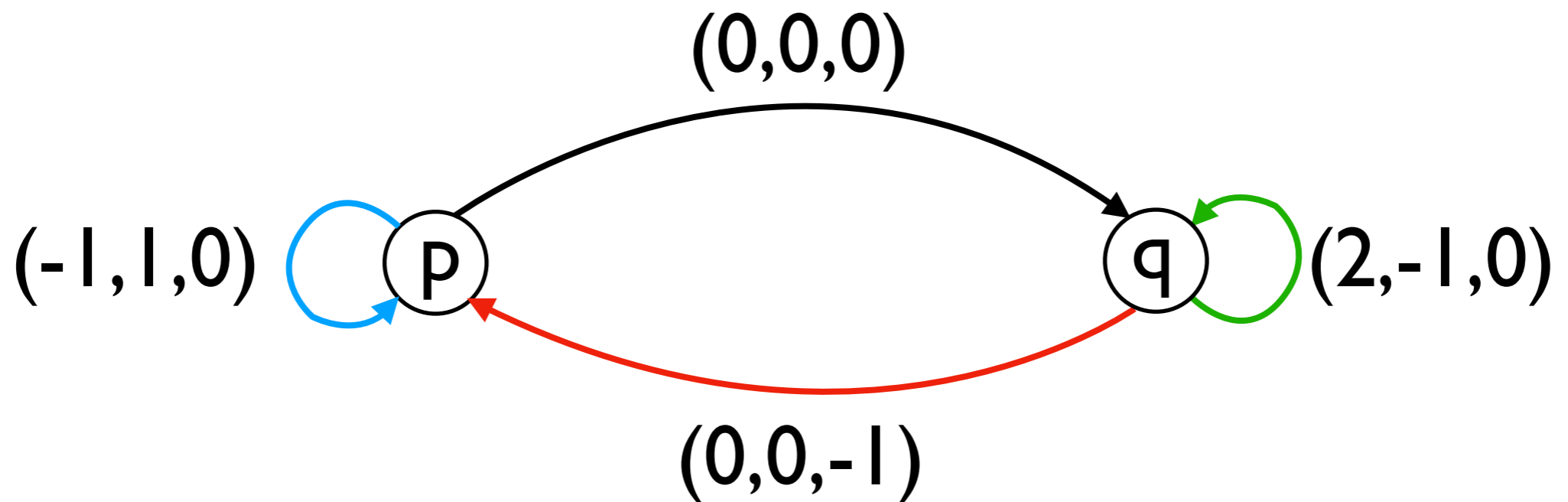
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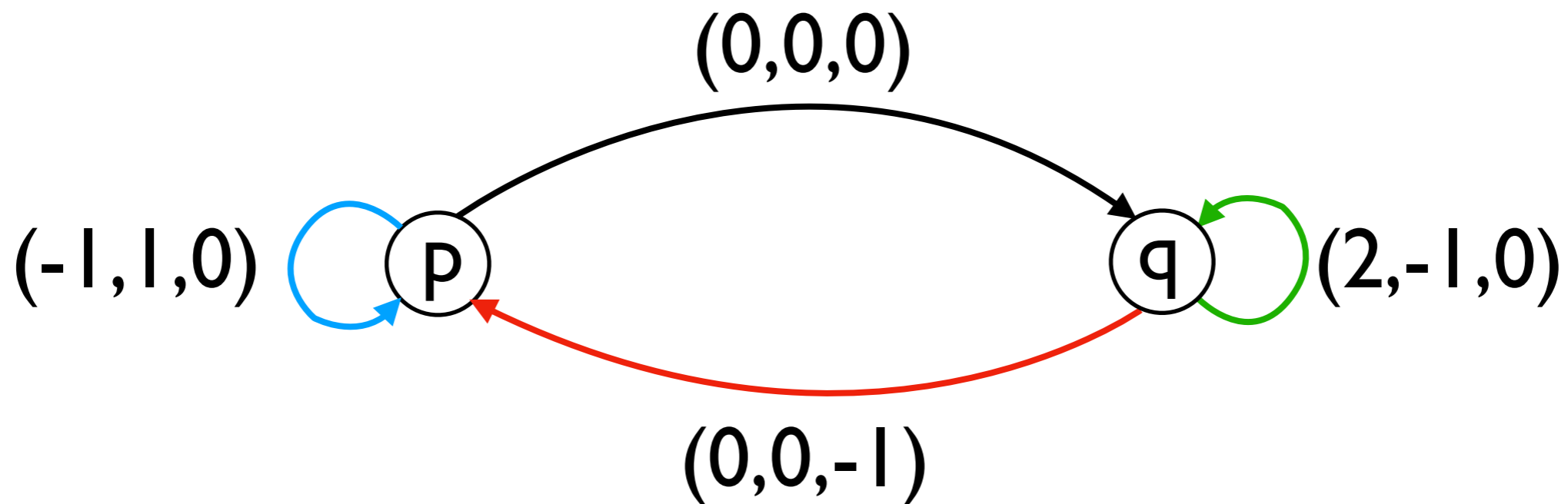
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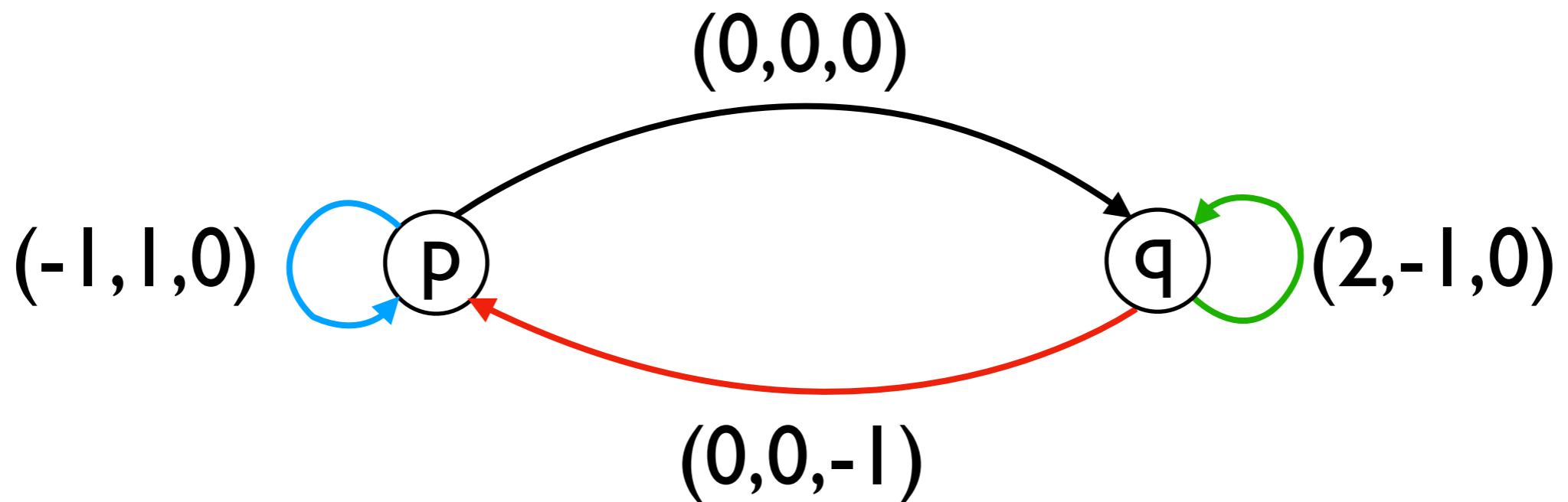
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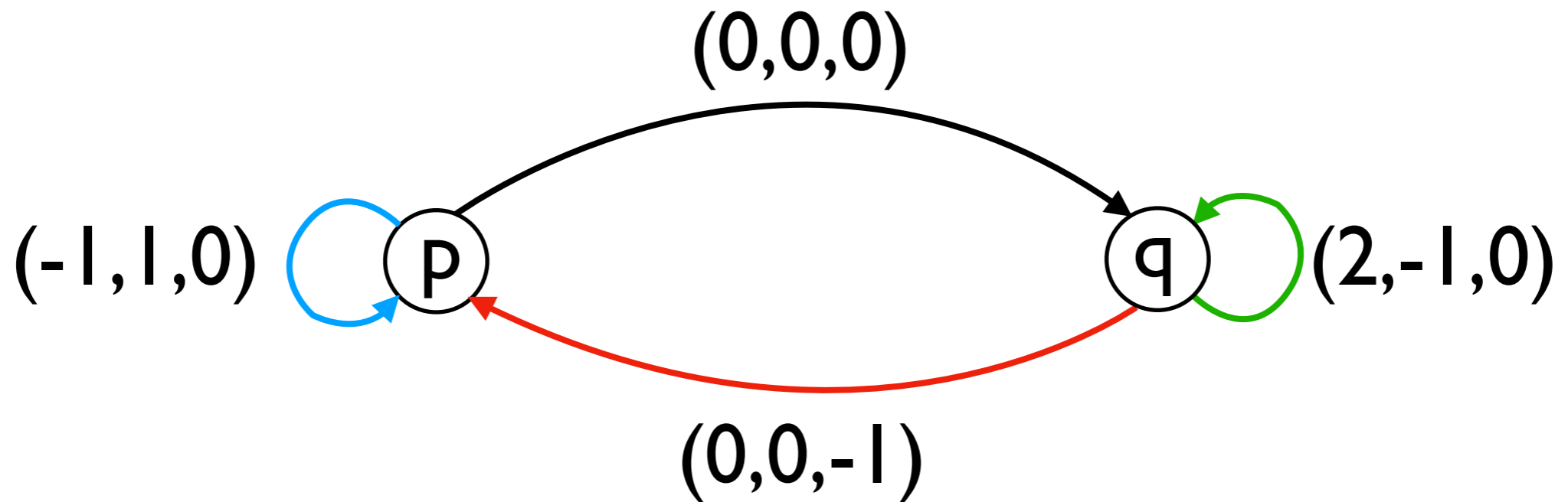


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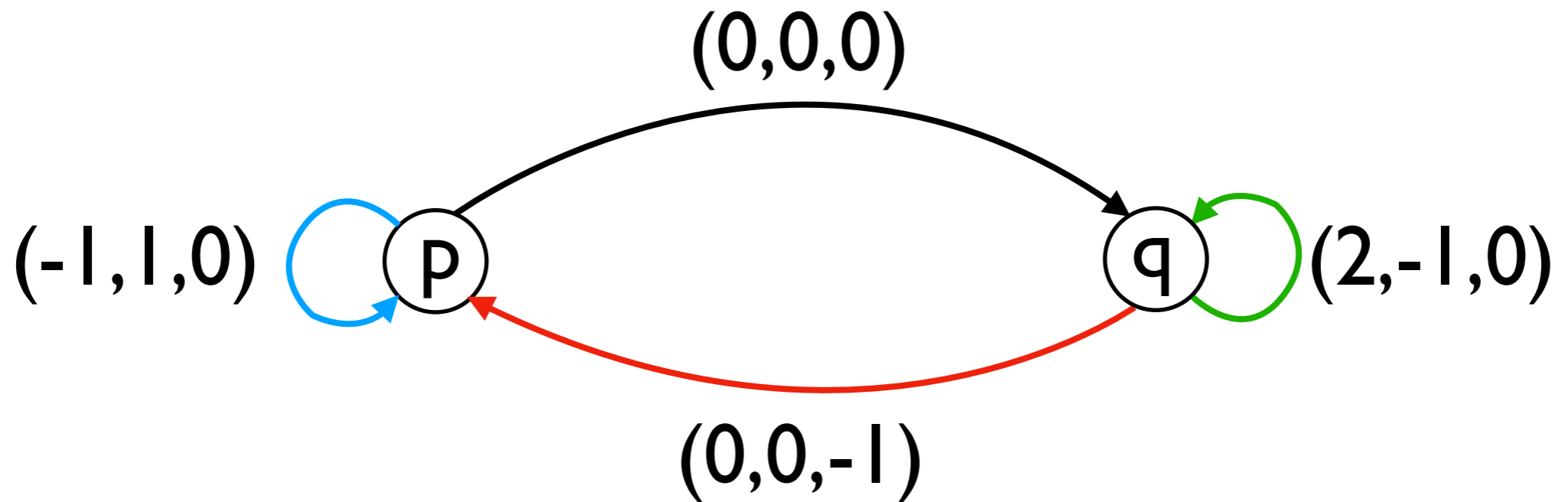
$$p(1, 0, n) \xrightarrow{\text{black}} p(2, 0, n-1) \dots \xrightarrow{\text{black}} p(2^n, 0, 0)$$

Vector Addition Systems with States

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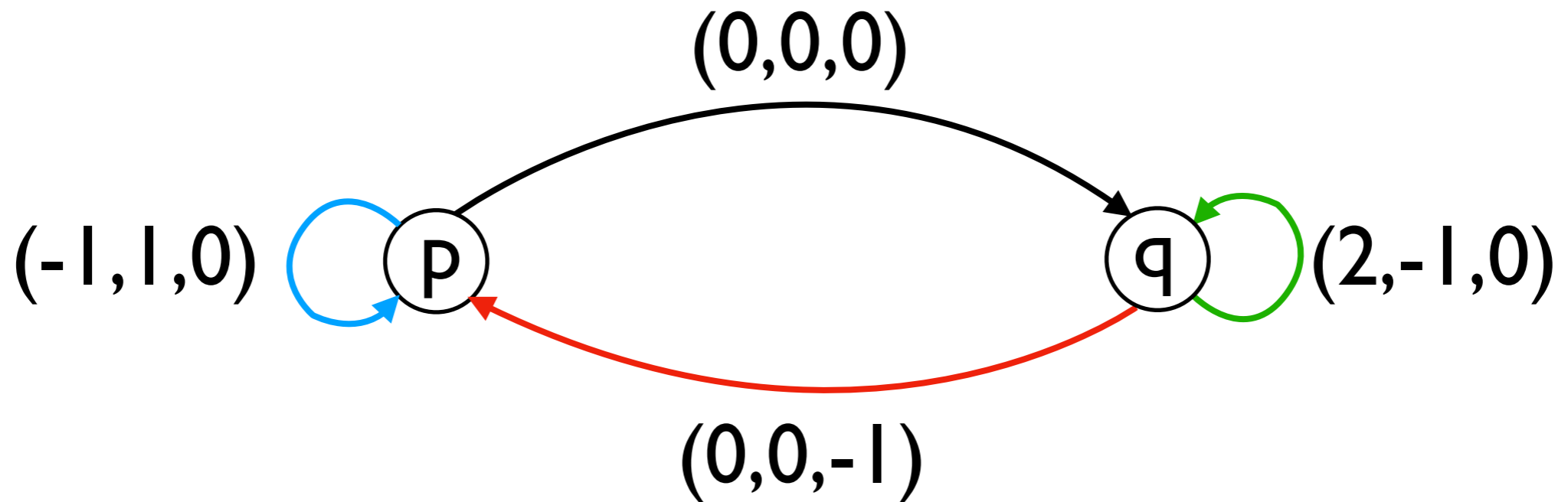


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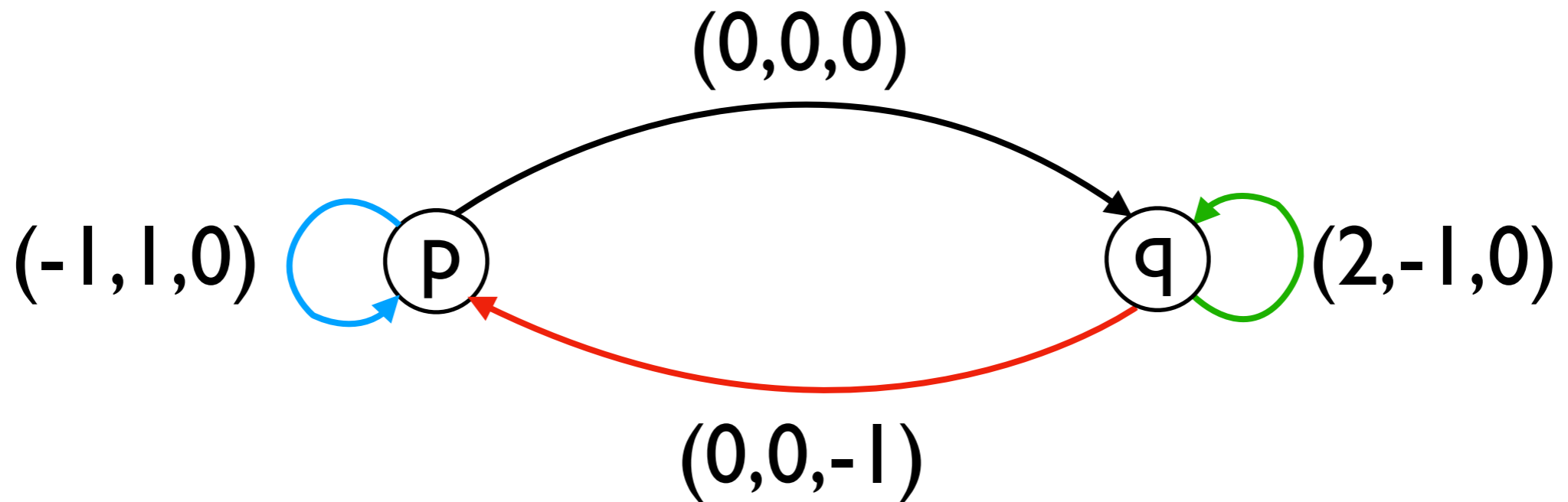
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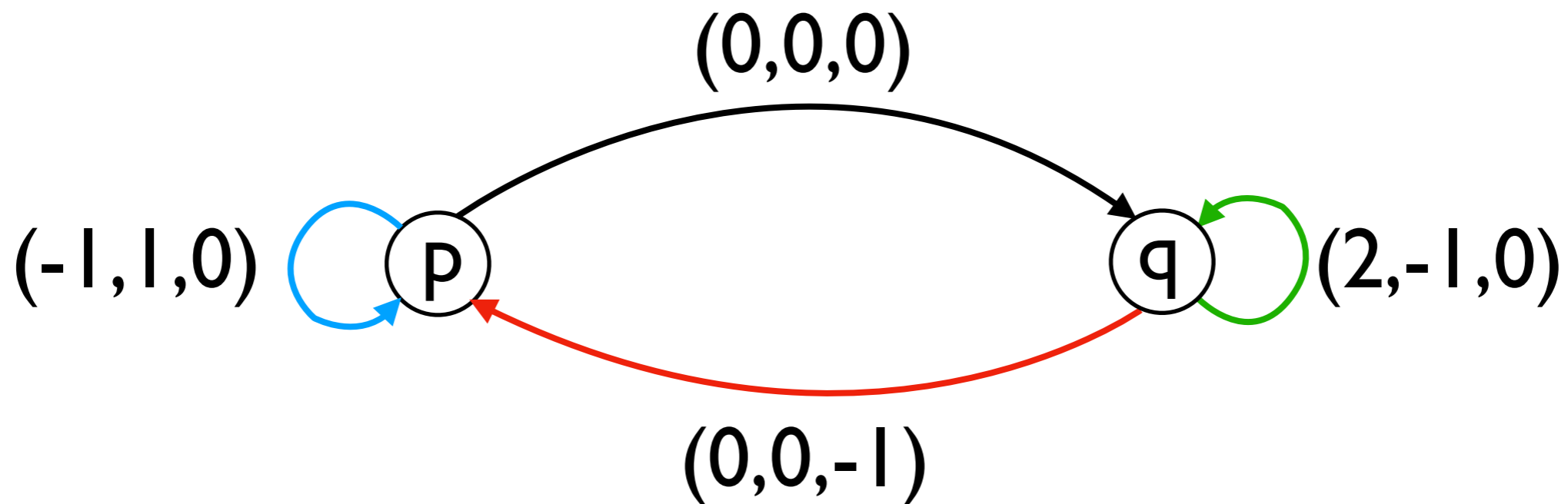
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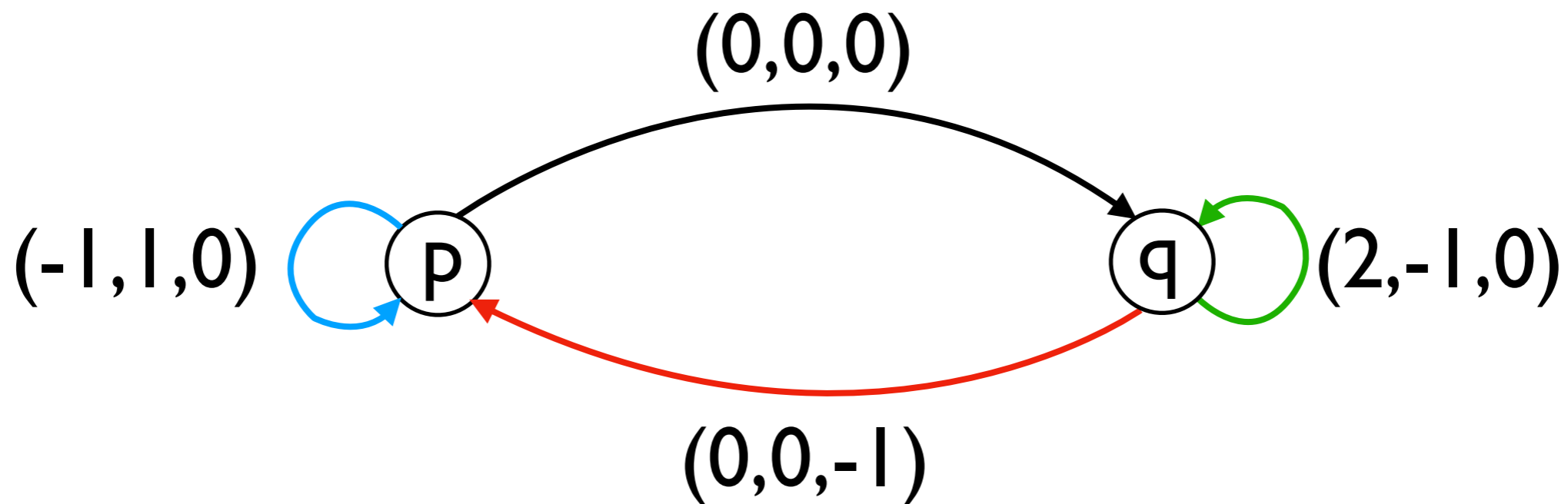
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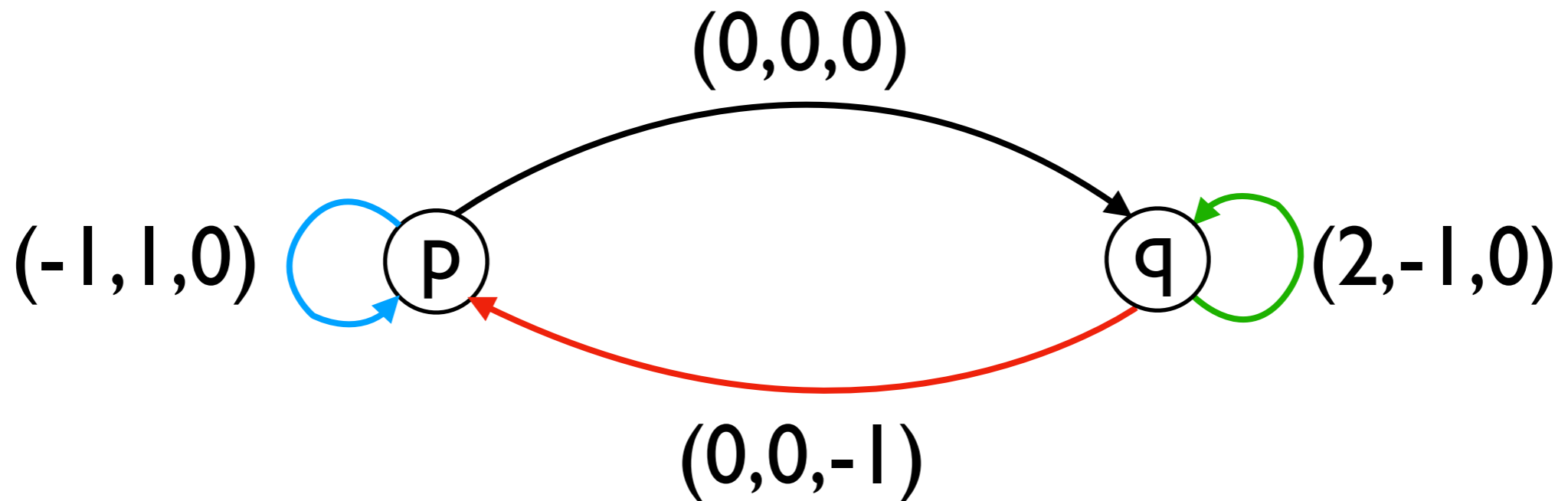
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Vector Addition Systems with States



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finite **exponential** reachability set

Reachability problem

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

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coverability problem

Short history

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Lipton '76: **ExpSpace**-hardness of coverability

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doubly-exponential length paths



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Conjecture: reachability in ExpSpace

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Cz., Lasota, Lazic, Leroux, Mazowiecki `19:
Tower-hardness

Short history

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Leroux & Cz., Orlikowski `21: **Ackermann**-hardness

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$$F_1(n) = 2n$$

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

Ackermann-hardness

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Theorem

The **Reachability Problem** for $(2k+4)$ -VASSes is Γ_k -hard.

Ackermann-hardness

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Ackermann-hardness

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Jerome Leroux

Cz., Łukasz Orlikowski: $6k$

Ackermann-hardness

Theorem

The **Reachability Problem** for $(2k+4)$ -VASSes is Γ_k -hard.

↑
Jerome Leroux

Cz., Łukasz Orlikowski: $6k$

open: is $k+C$ enough?

Everything solved?

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reachability for 3-VASSes

Everything solved?

reachability for 3-VASSes

(Tower? PSpace?)

Everything solved?

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reachability for **fixed** VASSes

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reachability for VASS **extensions**

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reachability for **fixed** VASSes

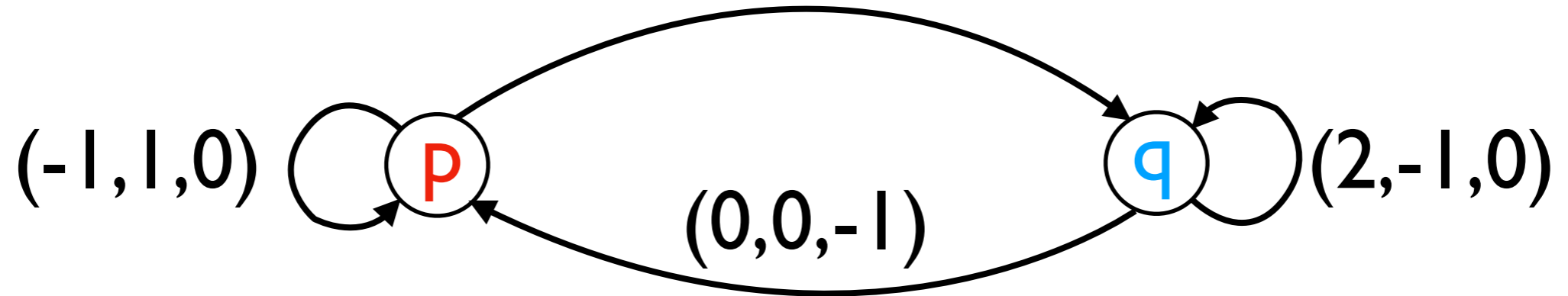
(Ackermann? PSpace?)

reachability for VASS **extensions**

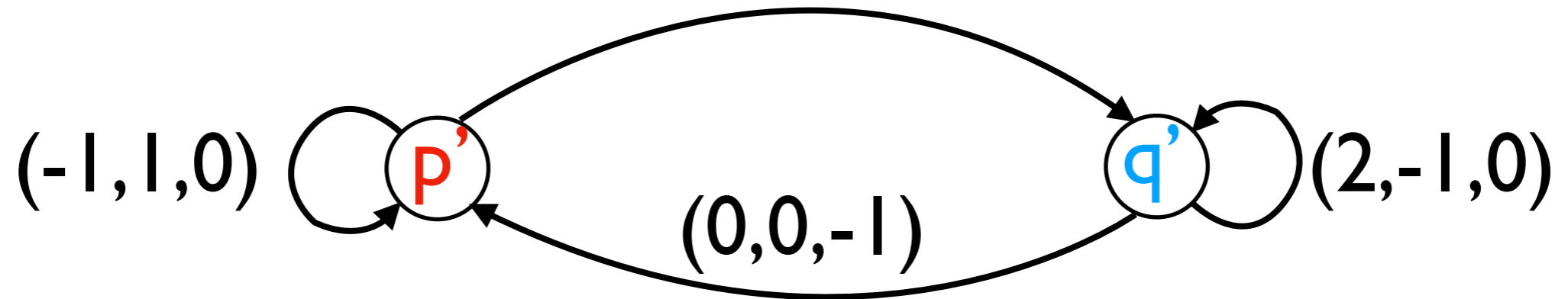
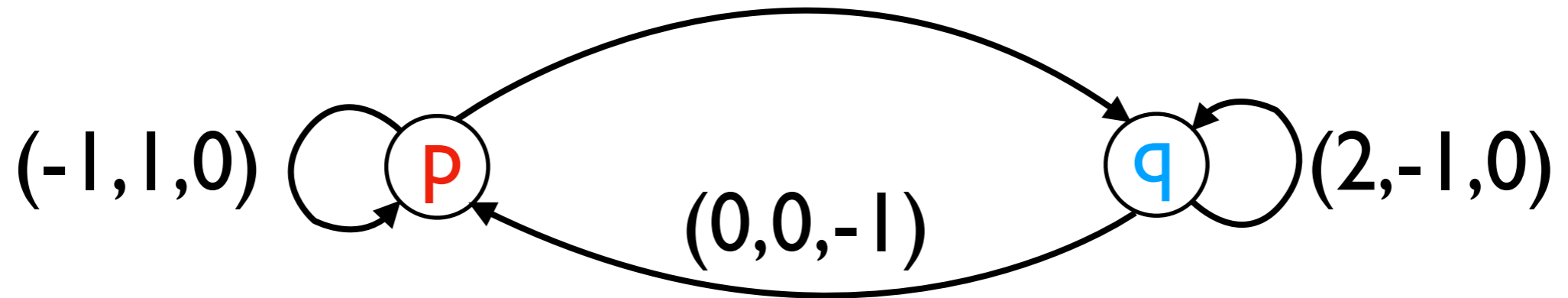
(decidable?)

Hard examples

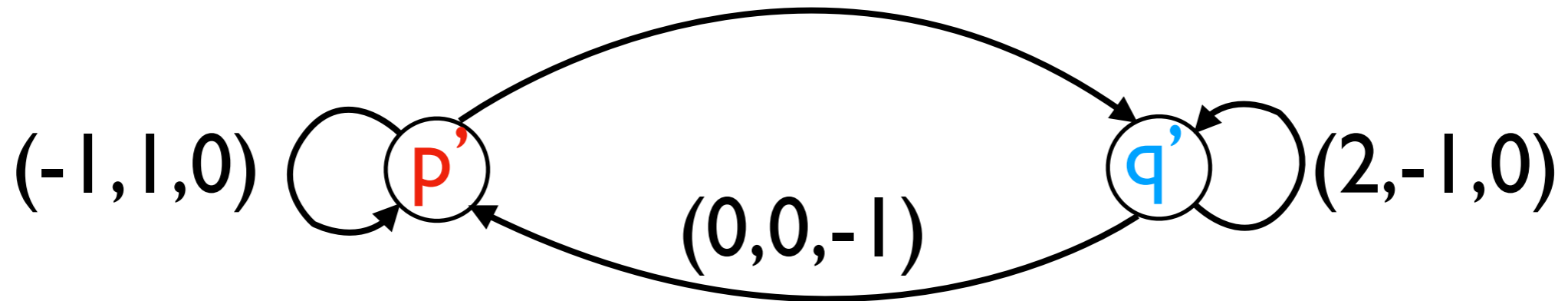
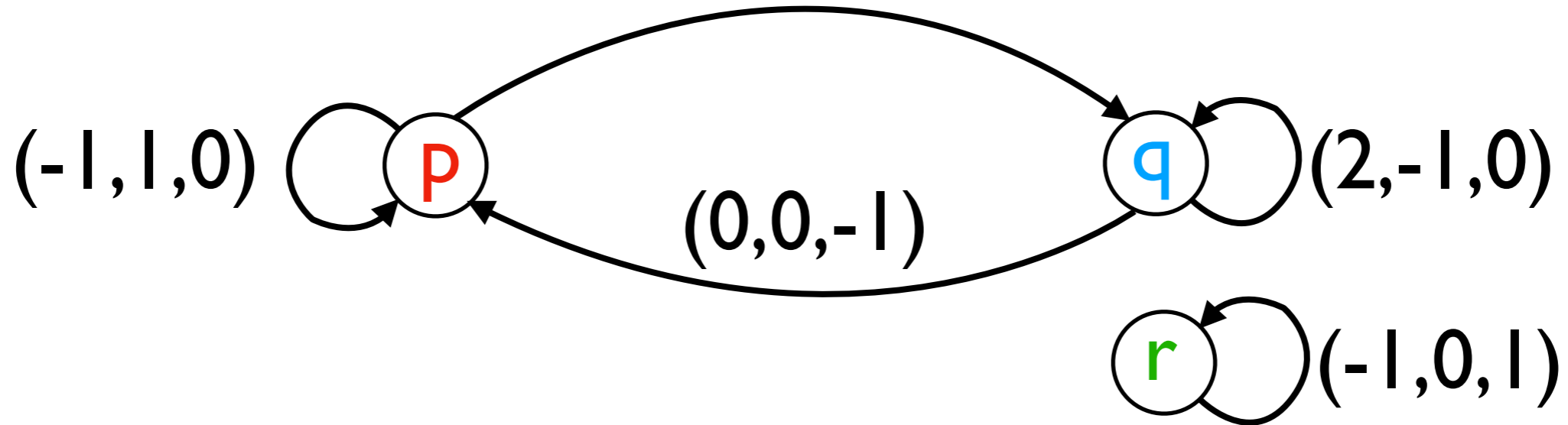
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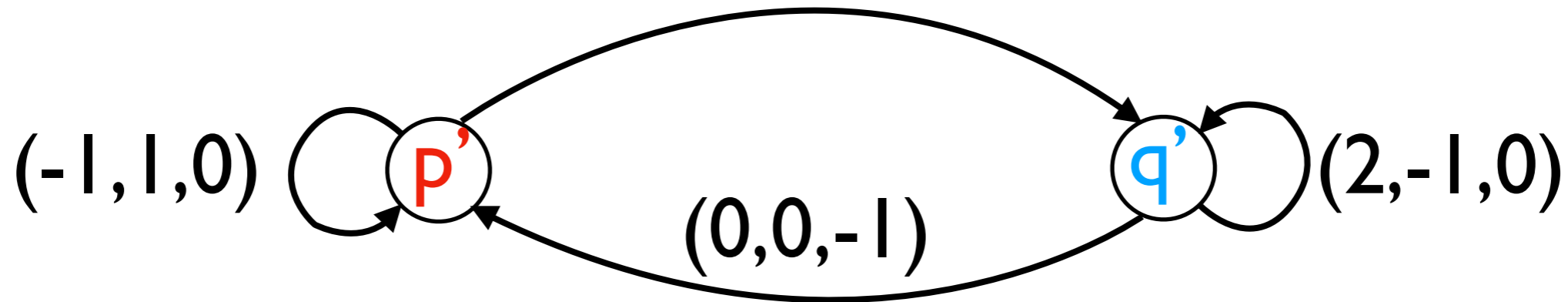
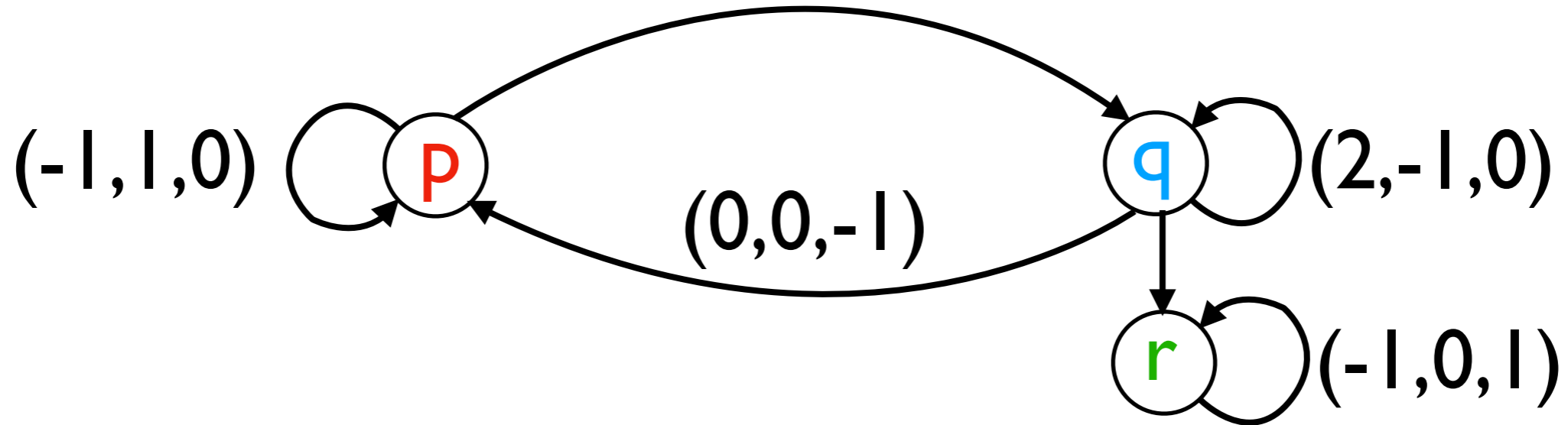
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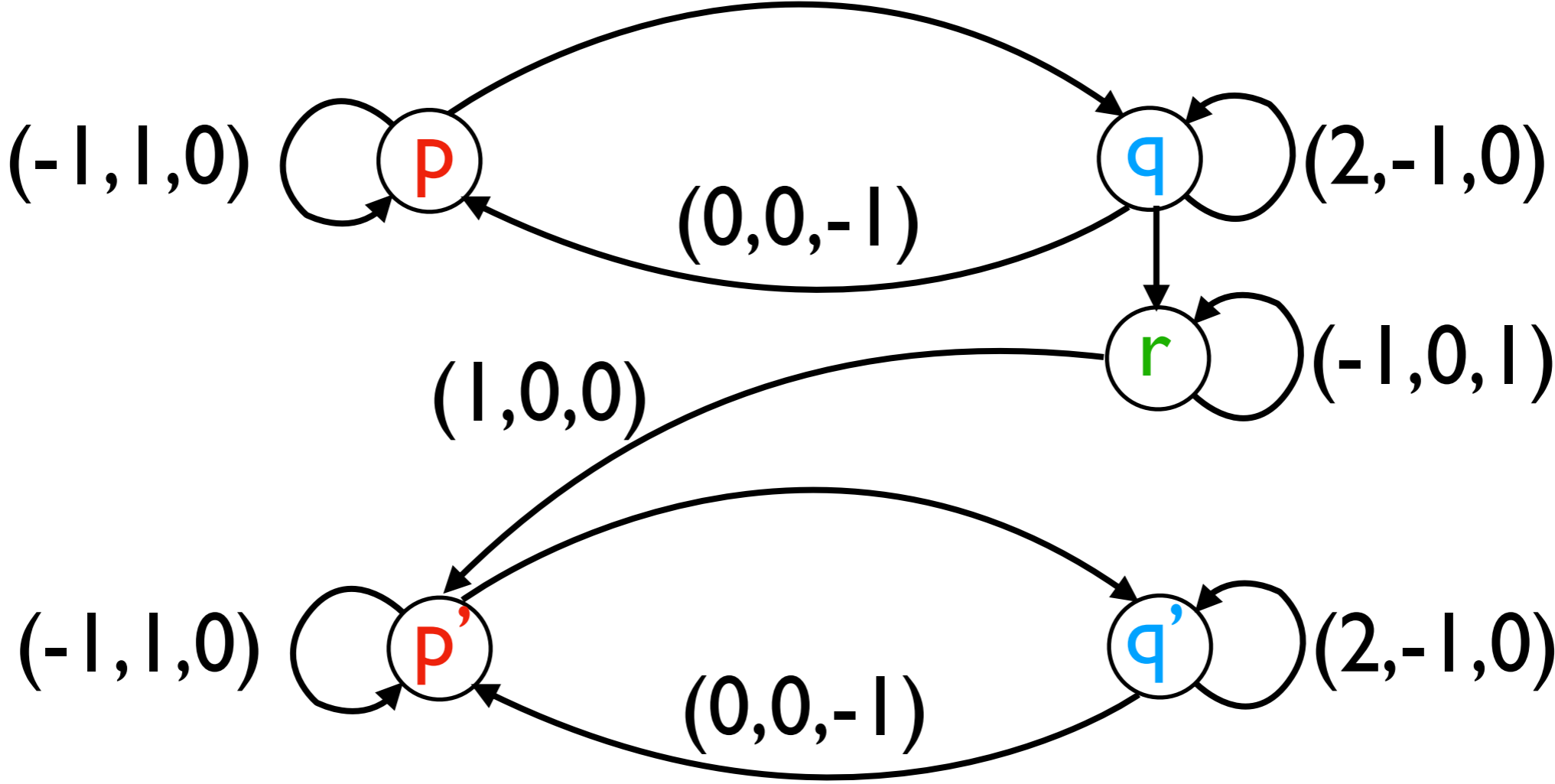
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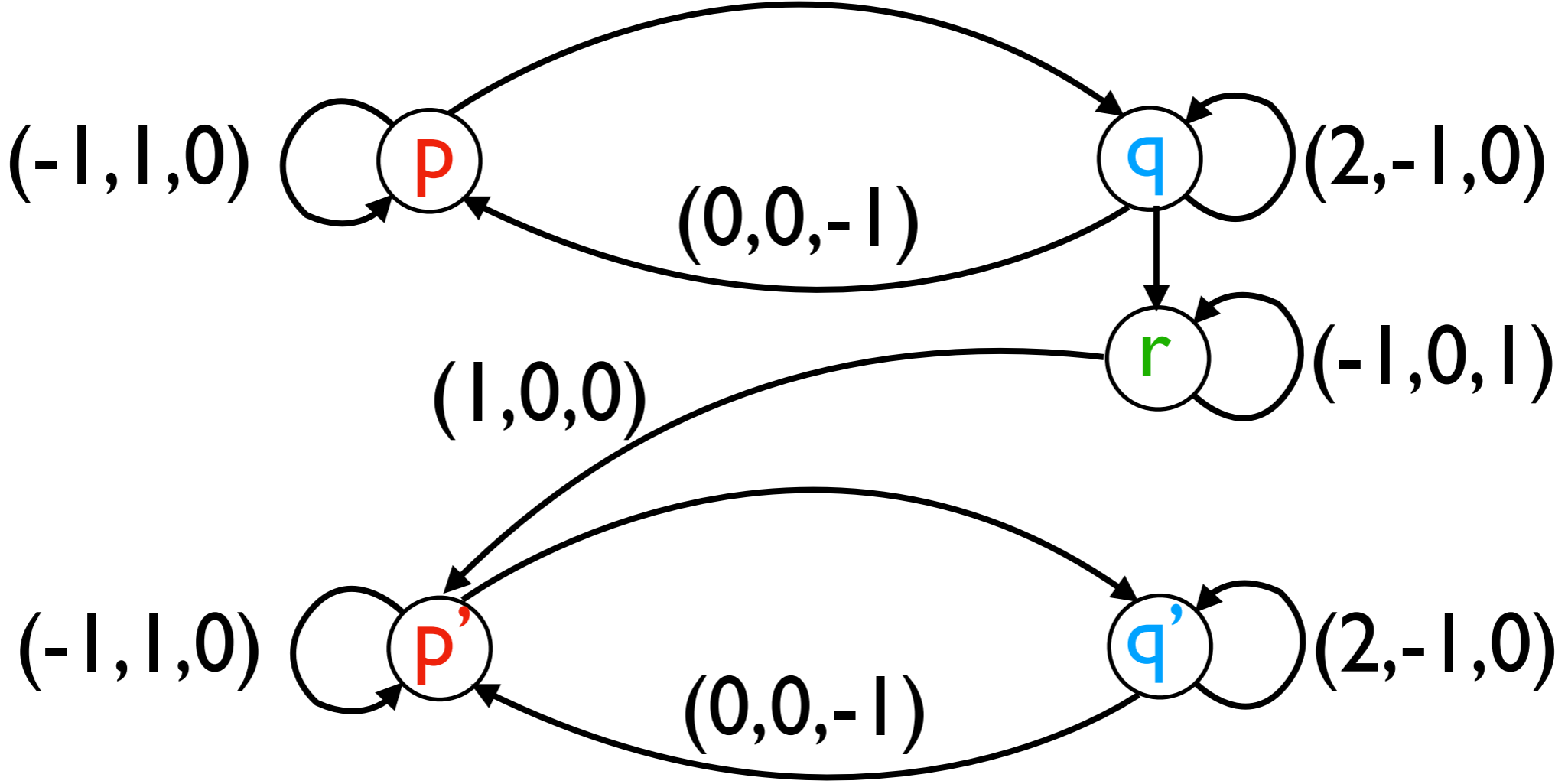
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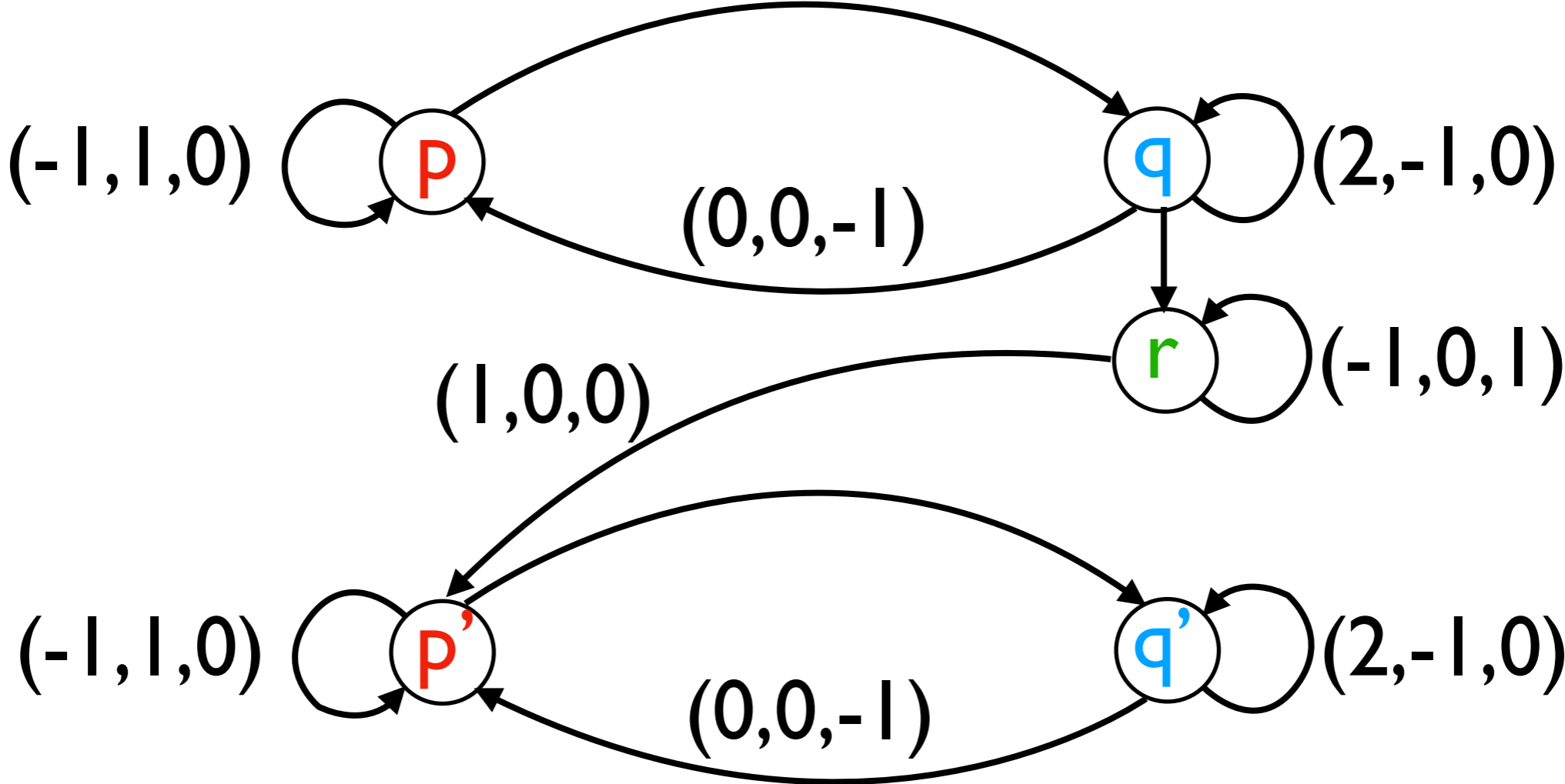


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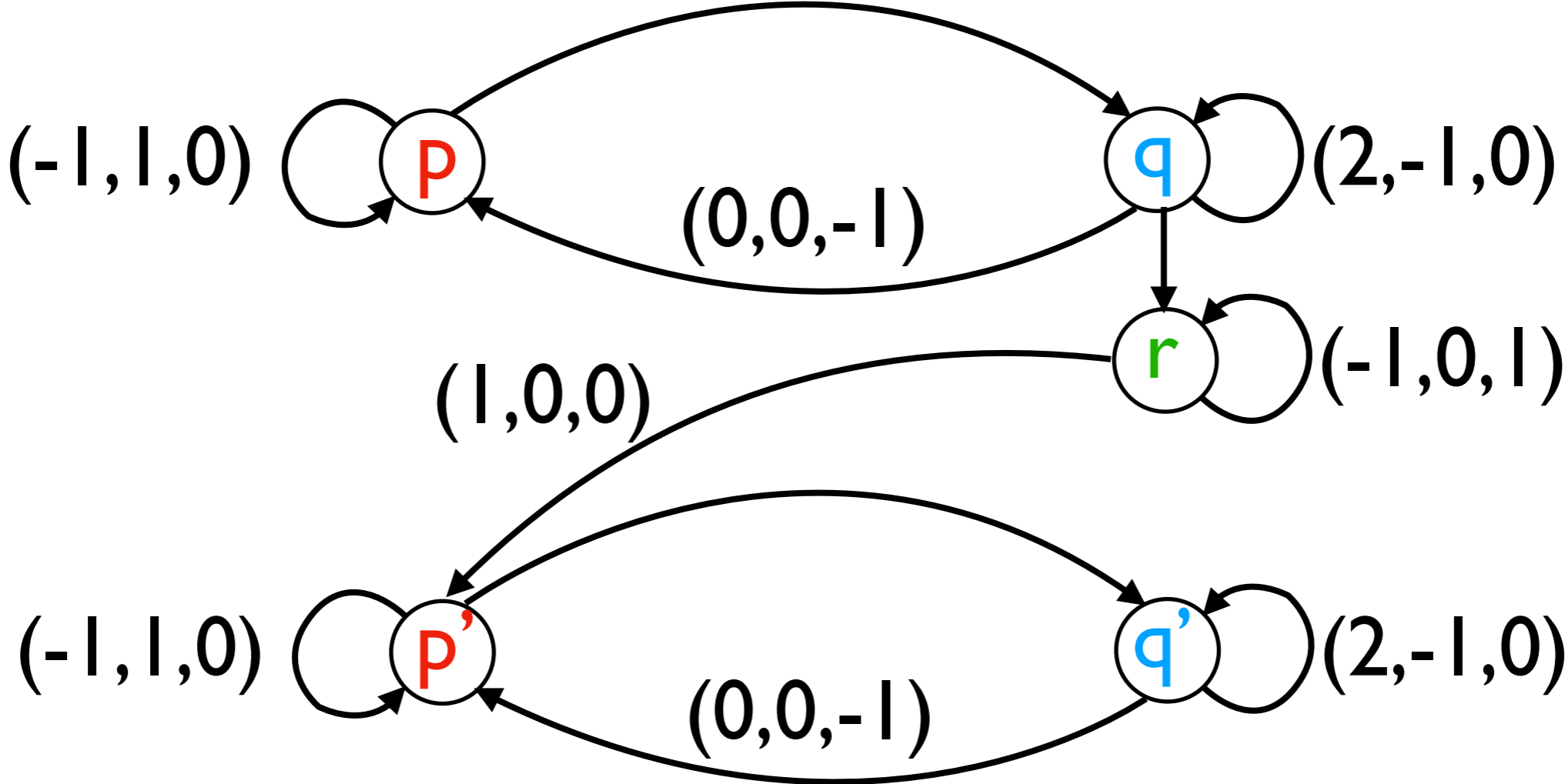
$p(1,0,n)$

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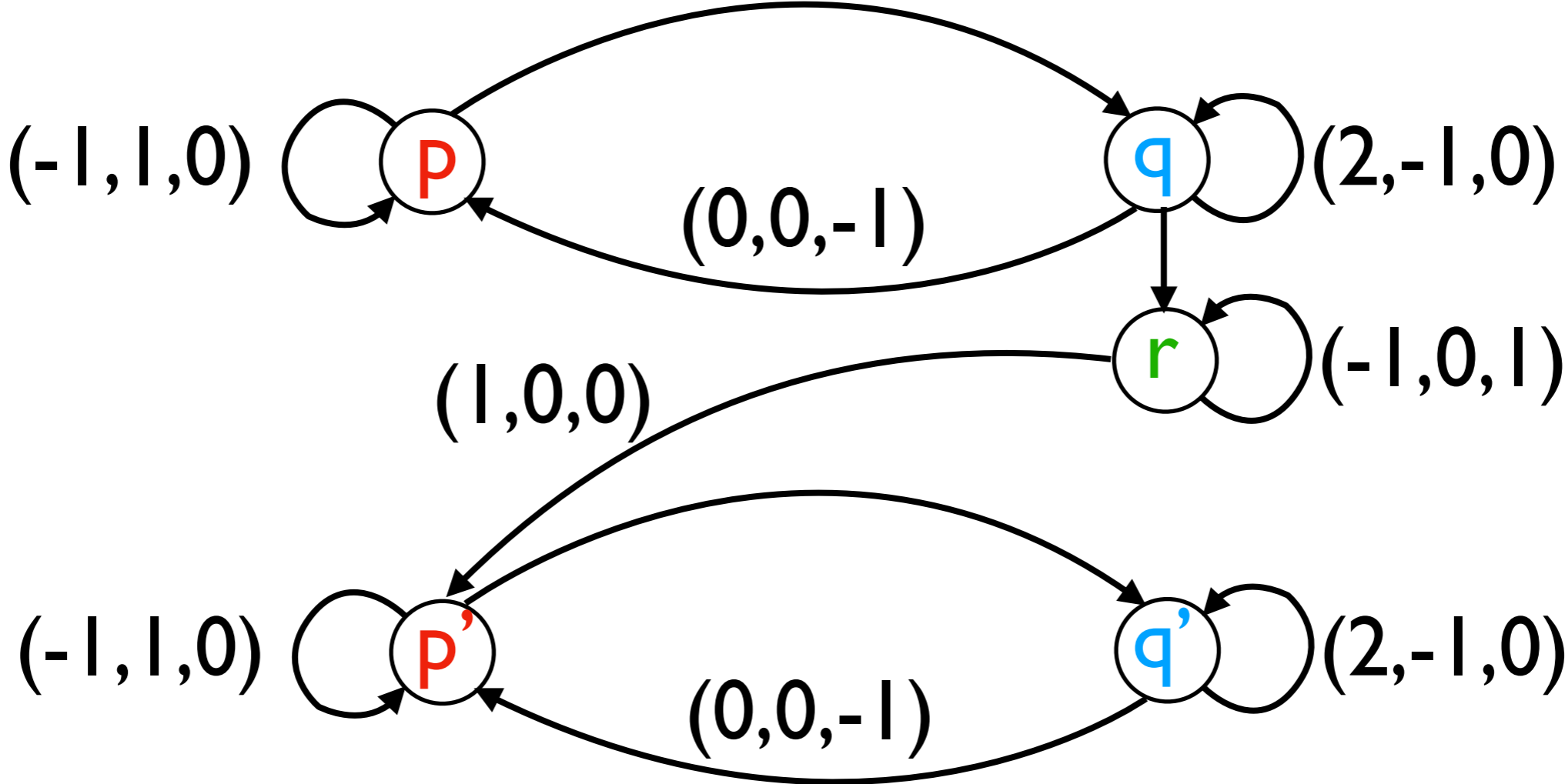
$p(1, 0, n) \longrightarrow q(2^n, 0, 0)$

Hard examples



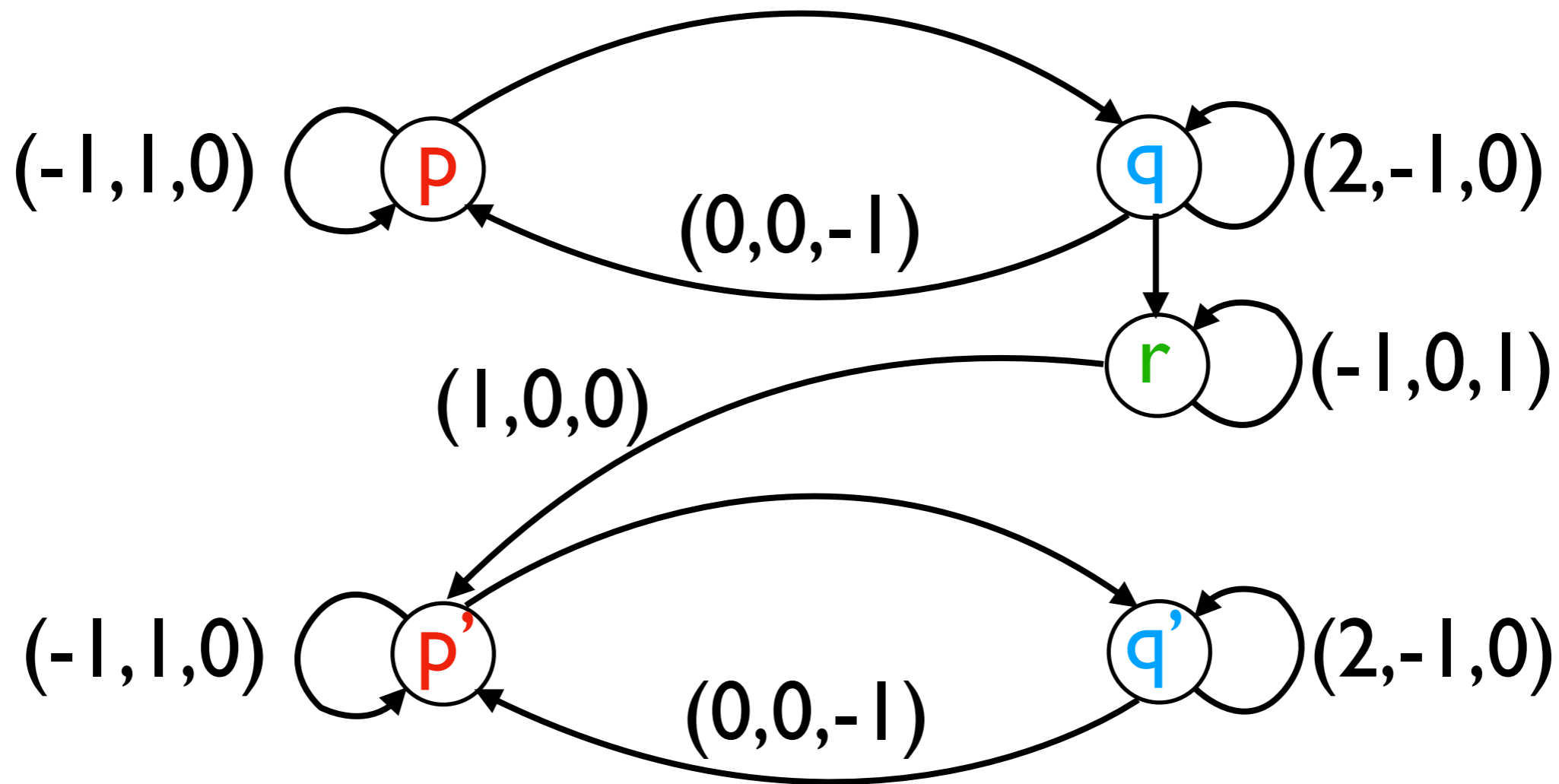
$$p(1, 0, n) \longrightarrow q(2^n, 0, 0) \longrightarrow r(2^n, 0, 0)$$

Hard examples



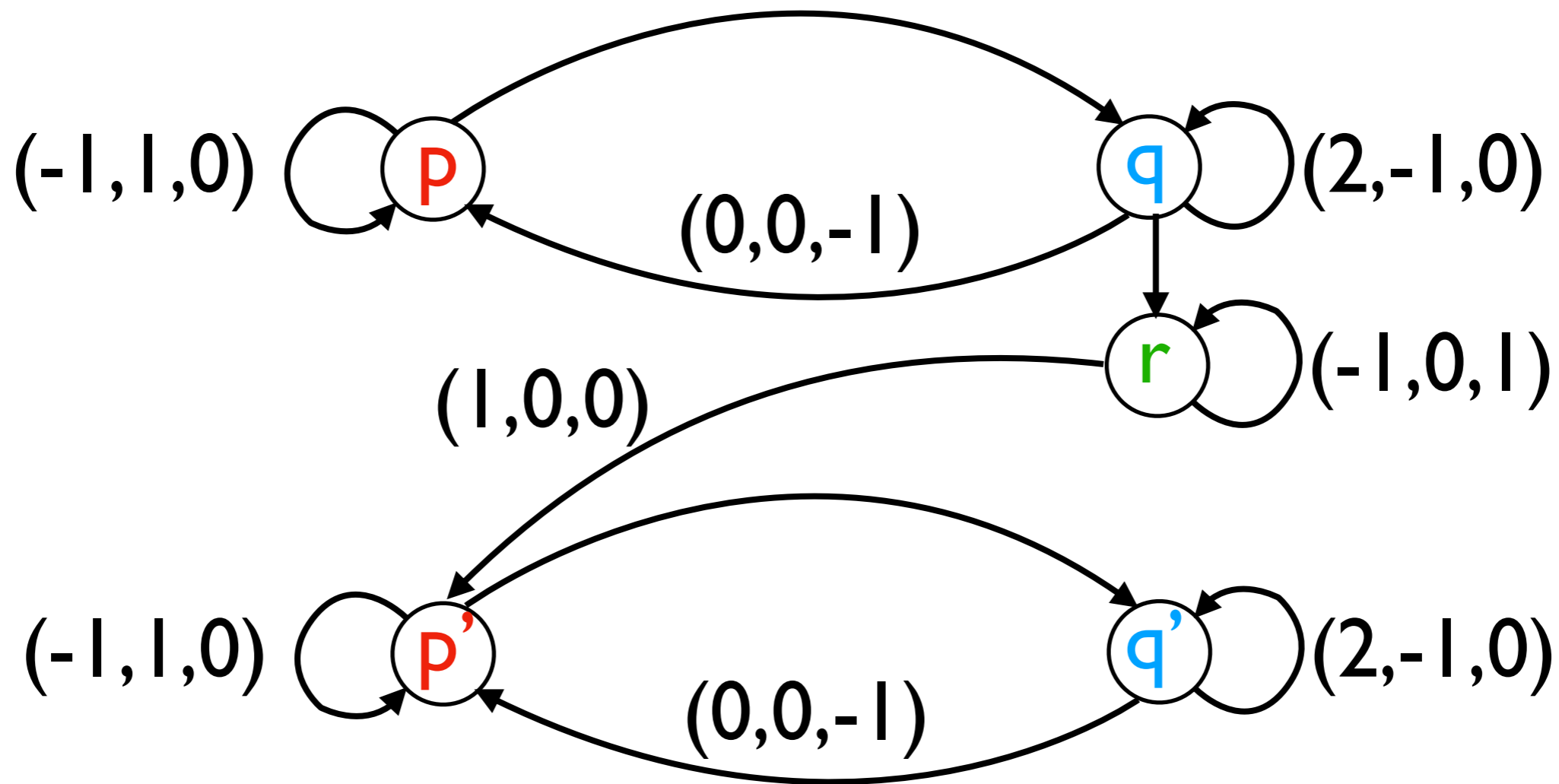
$$p(1, 0, n) \longrightarrow q(2^n, 0, 0) \longrightarrow r(2^n, 0, 0) \longrightarrow r(0, 0, 2^n)$$

Hard examples



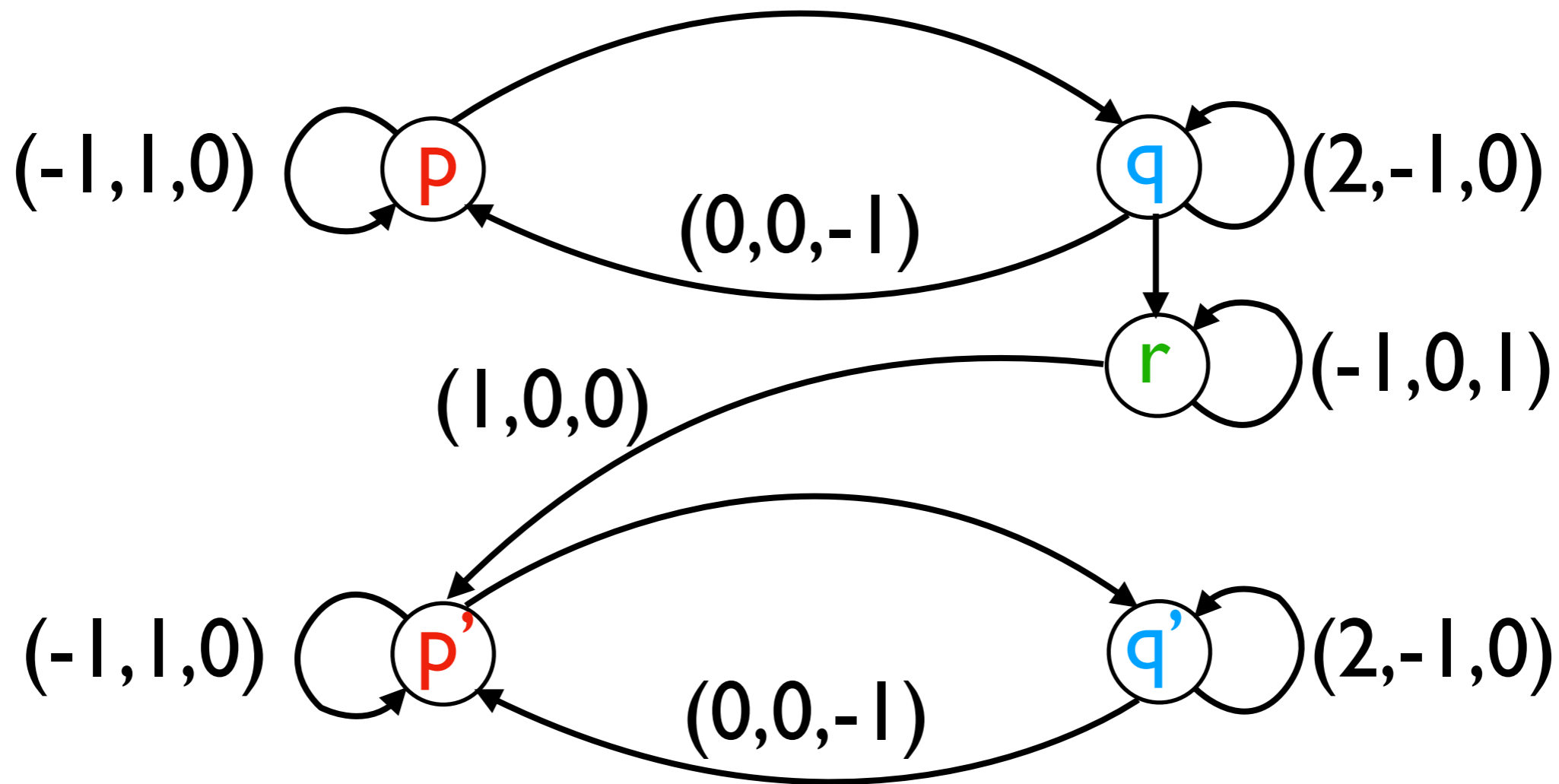
$$\begin{aligned}
 & p(1, 0, n) \longrightarrow q(2^n, 0, 0) \longrightarrow r(2^n, 0, 0) \longrightarrow r(0, 0, 2^n) \\
 & \longrightarrow p'(1, 0, 2^n)
 \end{aligned}$$

Hard examples



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

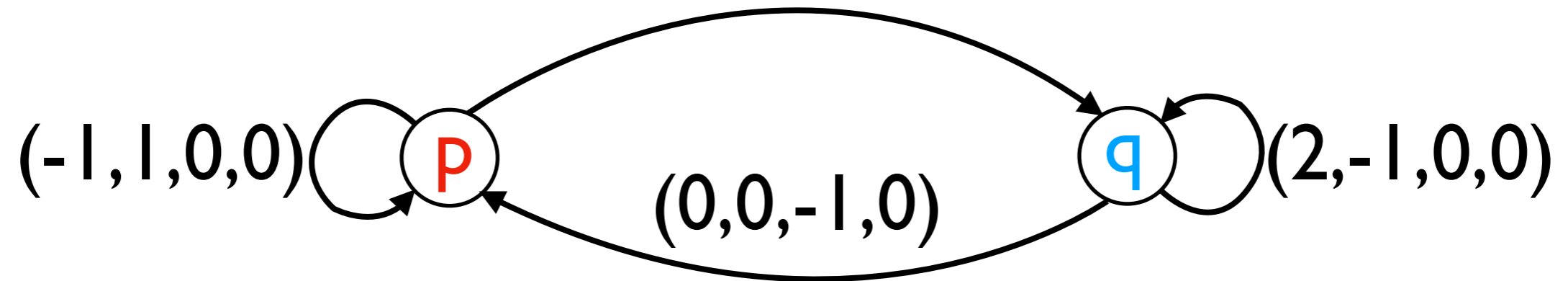


$$\begin{aligned}
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 & \longrightarrow p'(1,0,2^n) \longrightarrow p'(2^{2^n},0,0)
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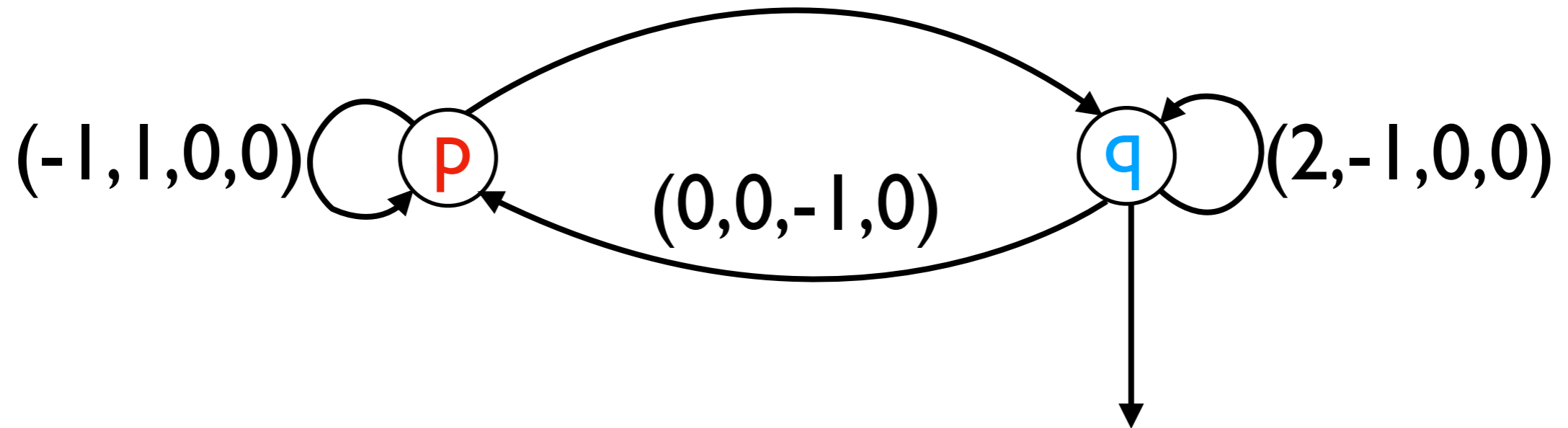
finite **doubly-exponential** reachability set

Hard examples

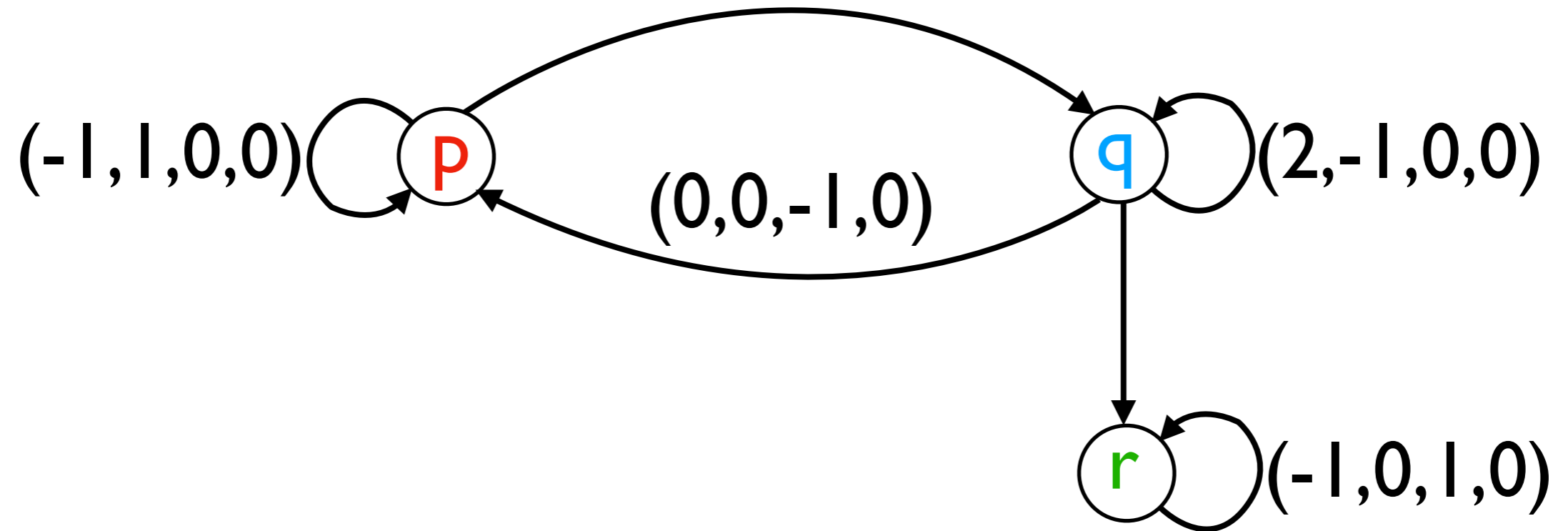
Hard examples



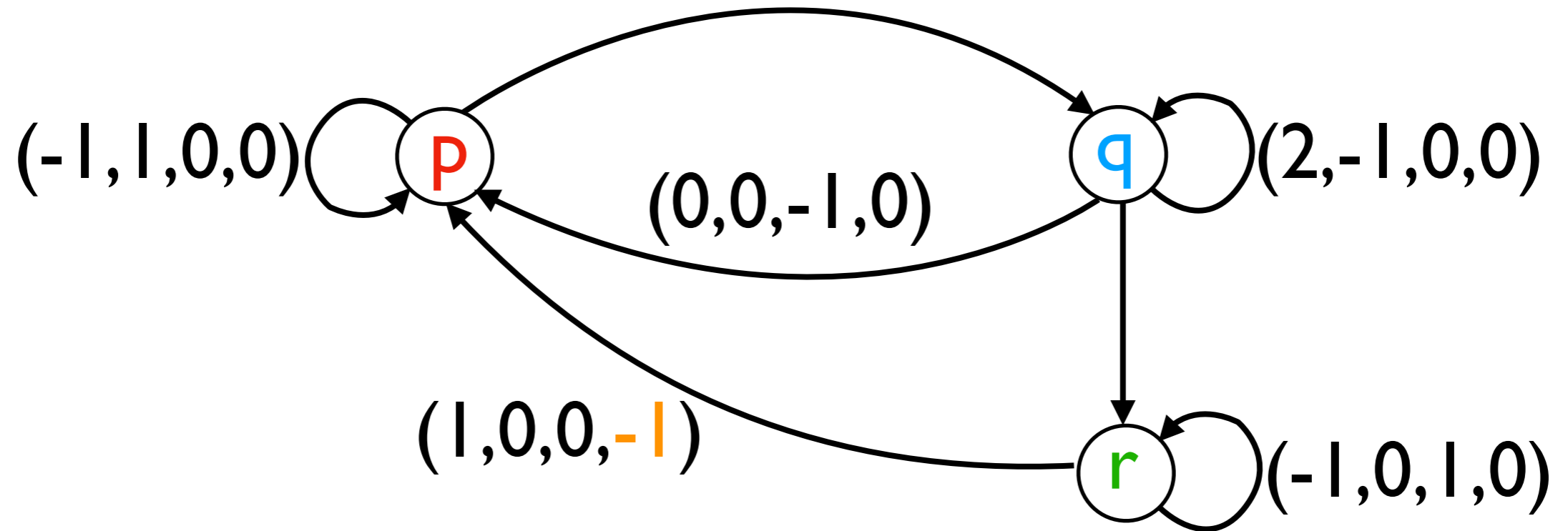
Hard examples



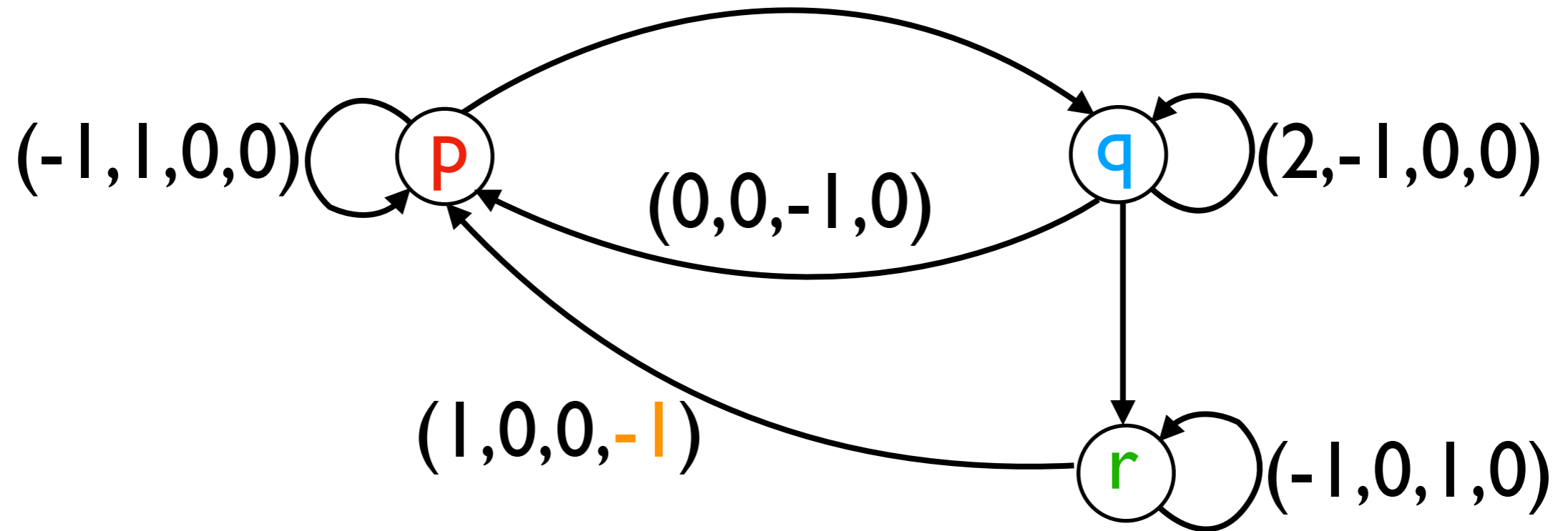
Hard examples



Hard examples

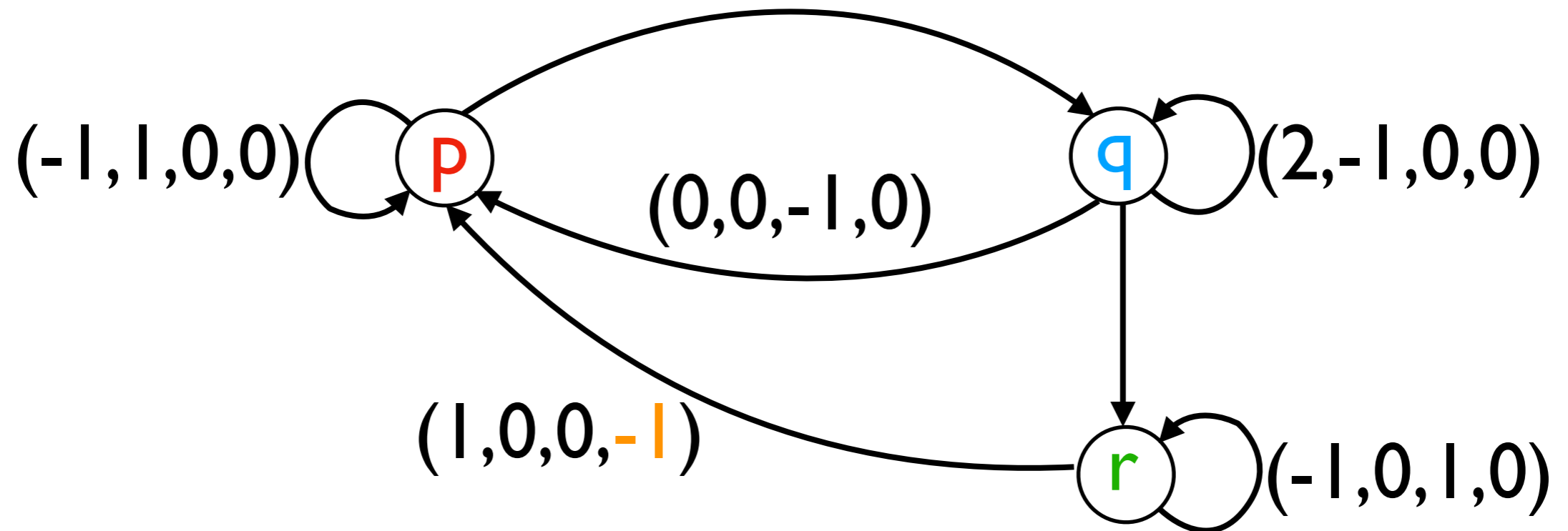


Hard examples



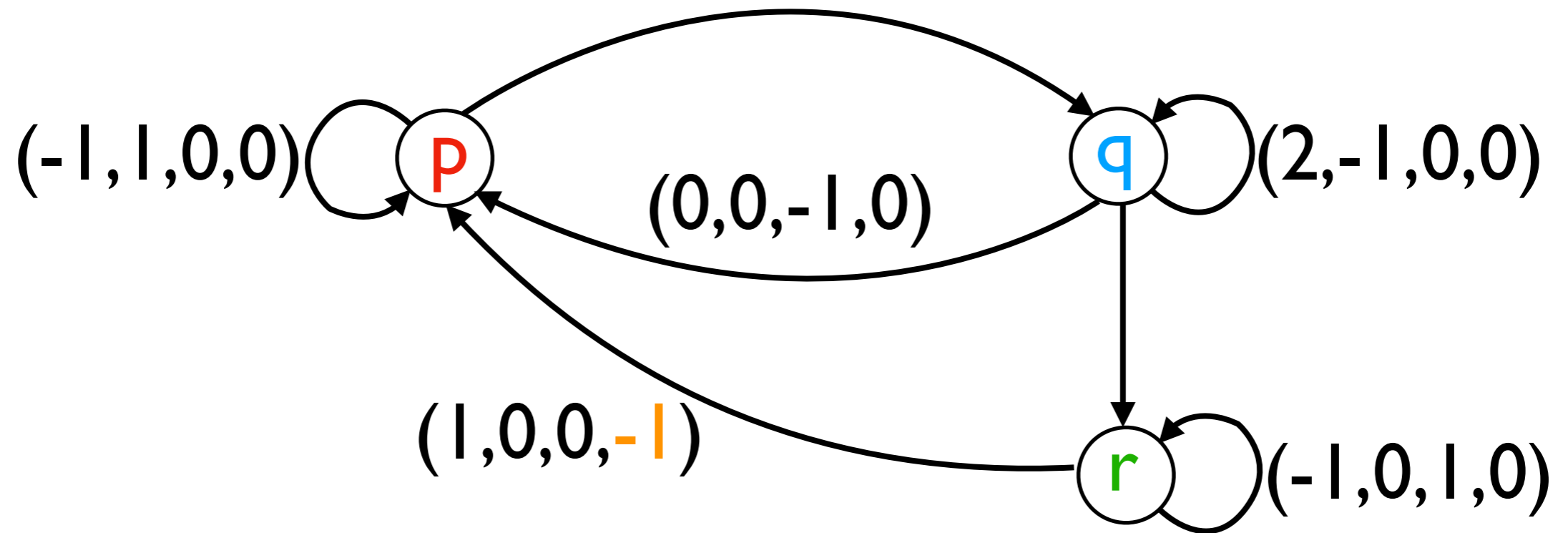
$p(1, 0, 1, n)$

Hard examples



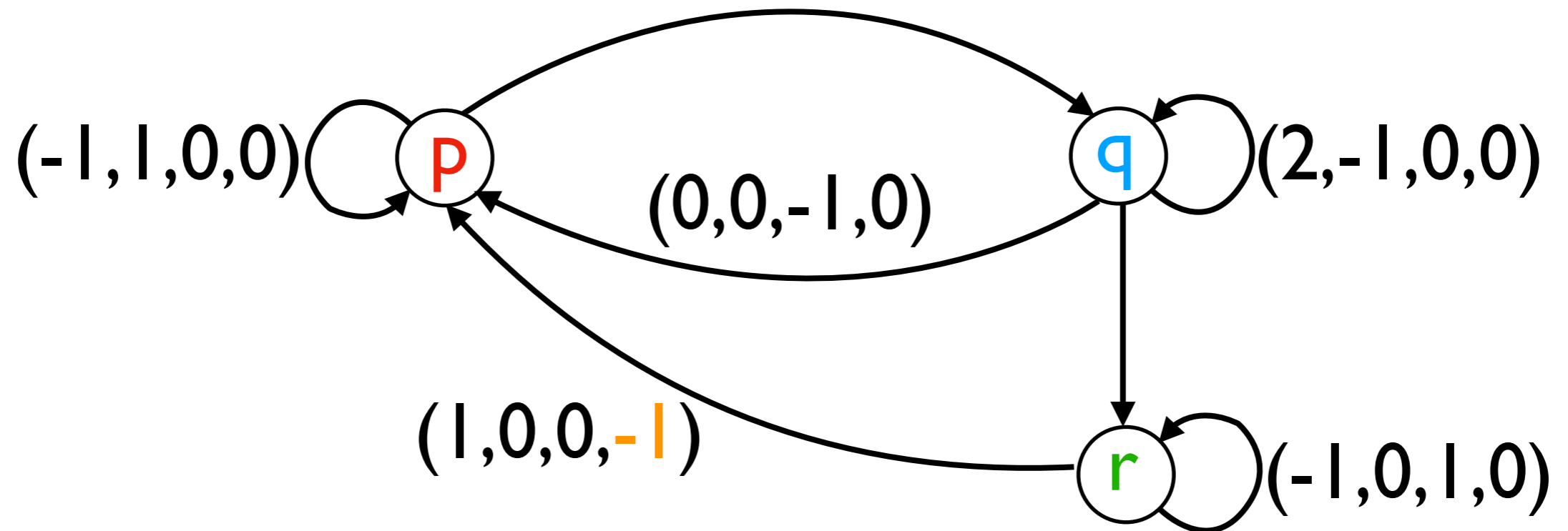
$$p(1, 0, 1, n) \longrightarrow p(1, 0, 2^l, n-1)$$

Hard examples



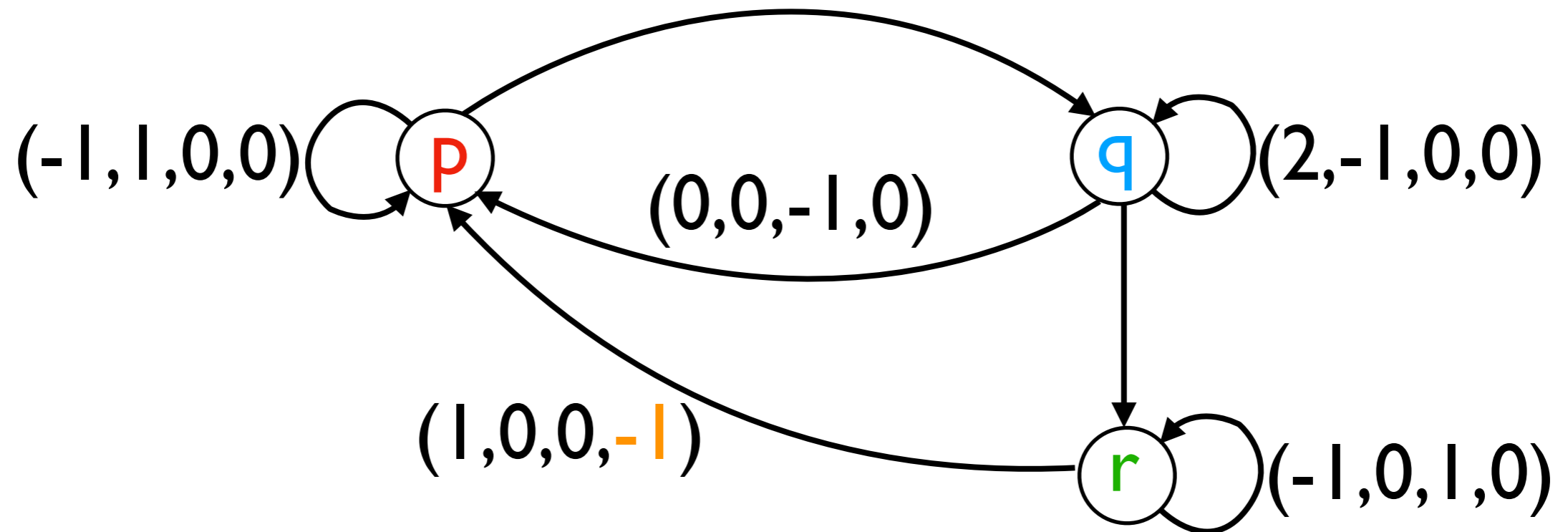
$$p(1, 0, 1, n) \longrightarrow p(1, 0, 2^l, n-1) \dots$$

Hard examples



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

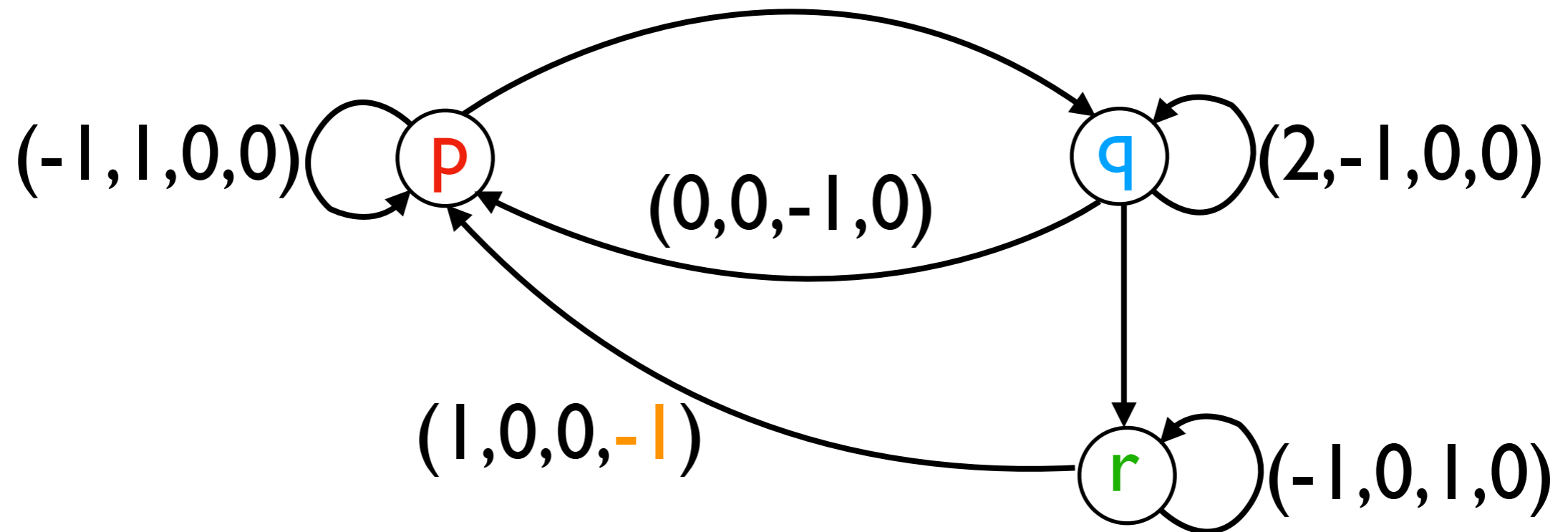
Hard examples



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

finite **tower-size** reachability set

Hard examples



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

finite **tower-size** reachability set

finite **F_d -size** reachability set

Enforcing

Enforcing

\mathbb{F}_d -hardness implies no \mathbb{F}_d -short run

Enforcing

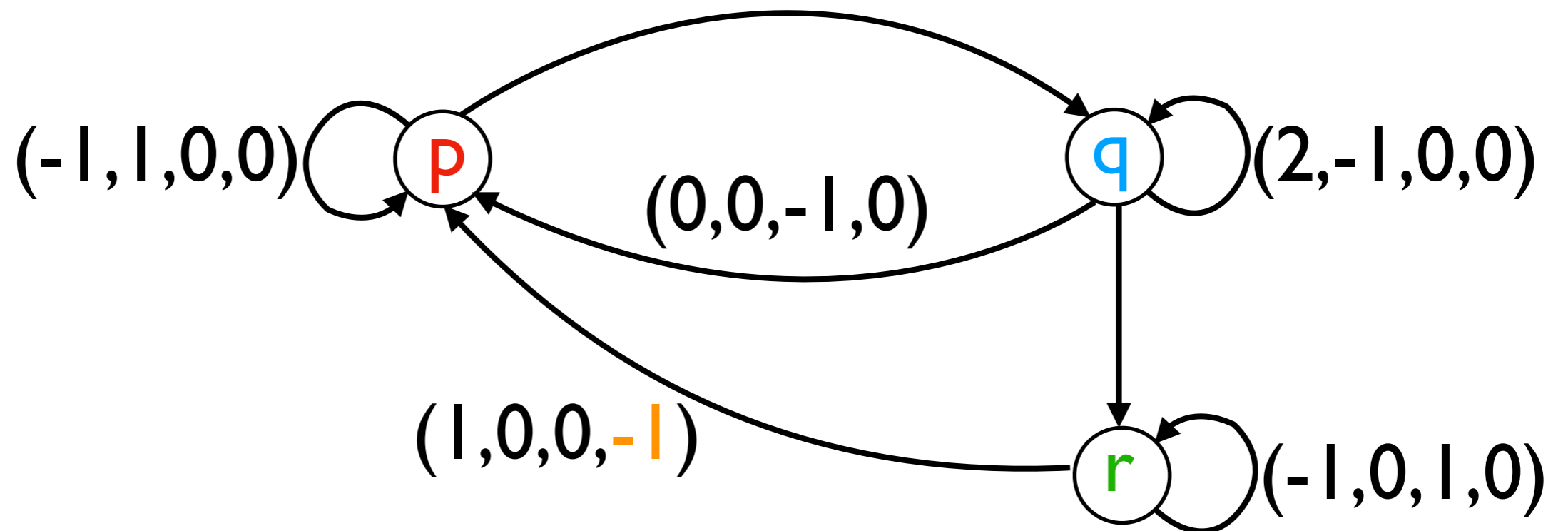
\mathbb{F}_d -hardness implies no \mathbb{F}_d -short run

Presented examples not sufficient

Enforcing

\mathbb{F}_d -hardness implies no \mathbb{F}_d -short run

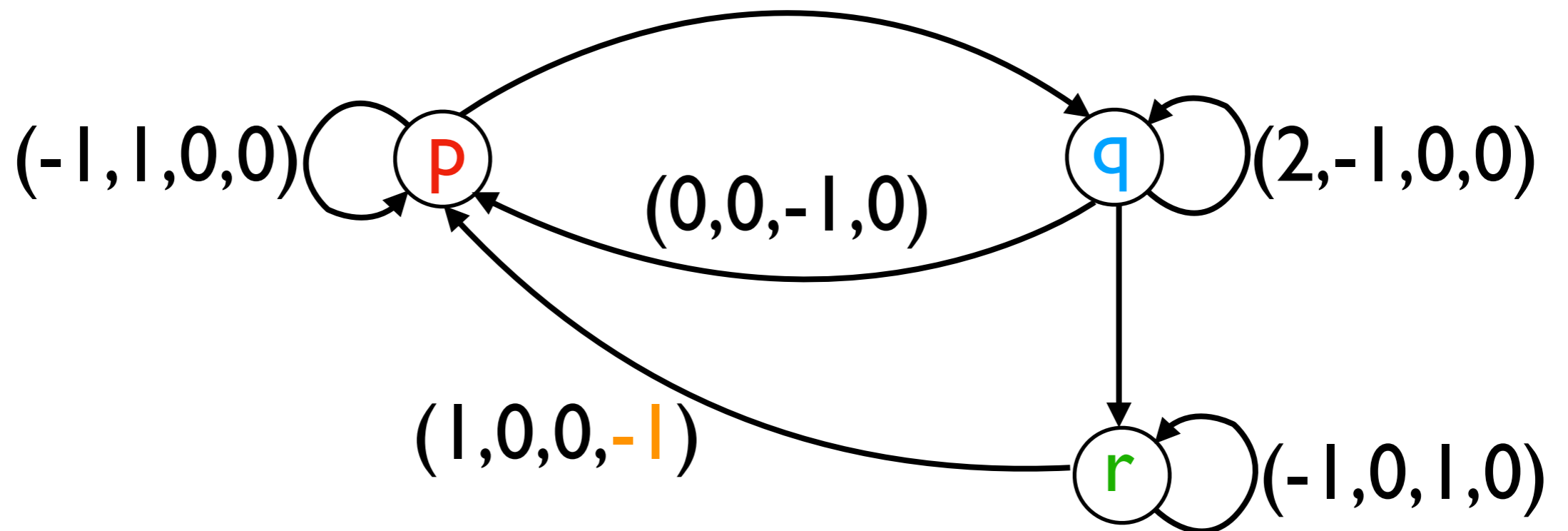
Presented examples not sufficient



Enforcing

\mathbb{F}_d -hardness implies no \mathbb{F}_d -short run

Presented examples not sufficient

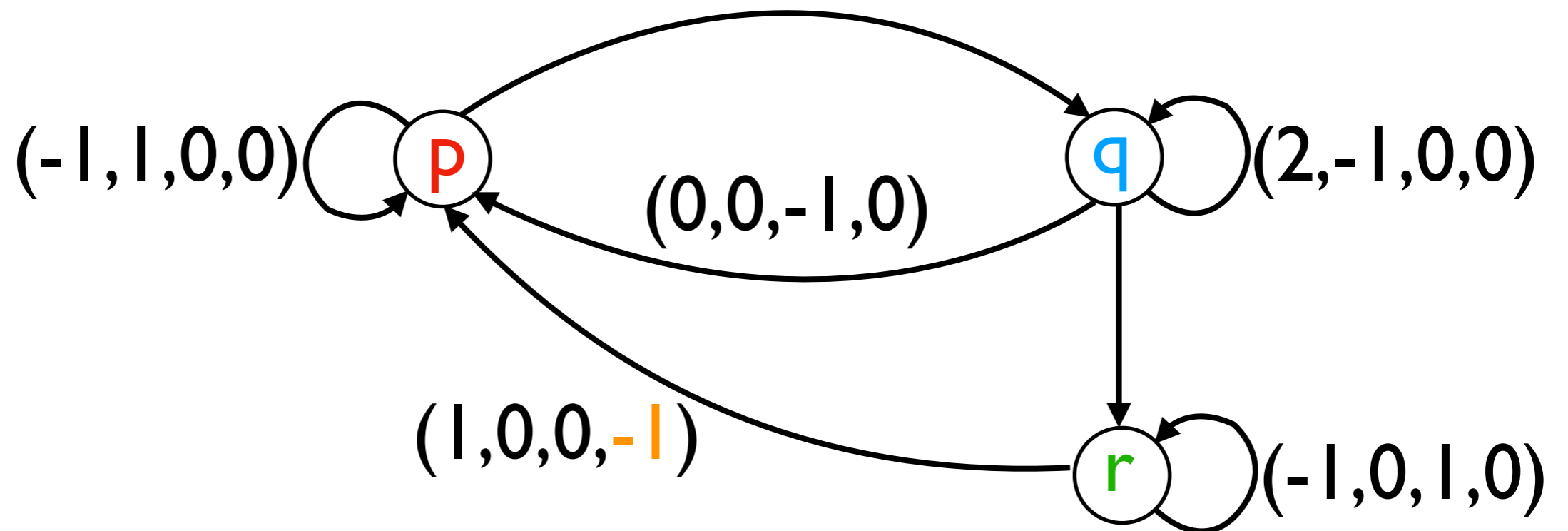


$p(1, 0, 1, n)$

Enforcing

\mathbb{F}_d -hardness implies no \mathbb{F}_d -short run

Presented examples not sufficient

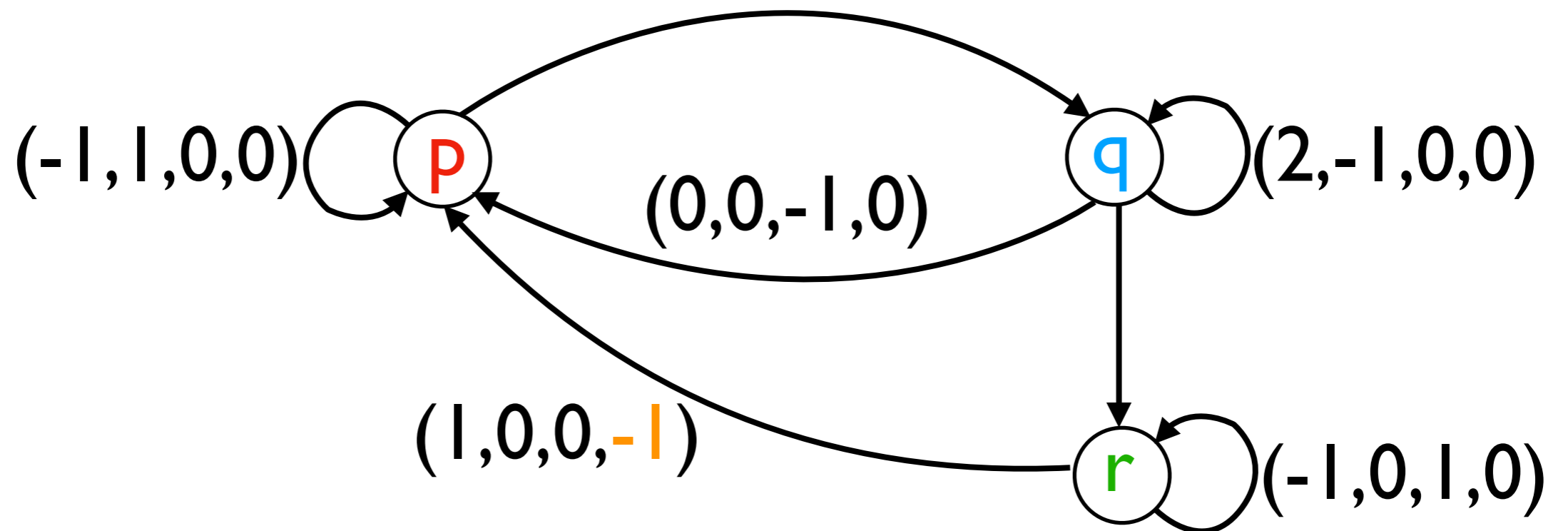


$$p(1, 0, 1, n) \longrightarrow p(1, 0, 2^l, n-1)$$

Enforcing

\mathbb{F}_d -hardness implies no \mathbb{F}_d -short run

Presented examples not sufficient

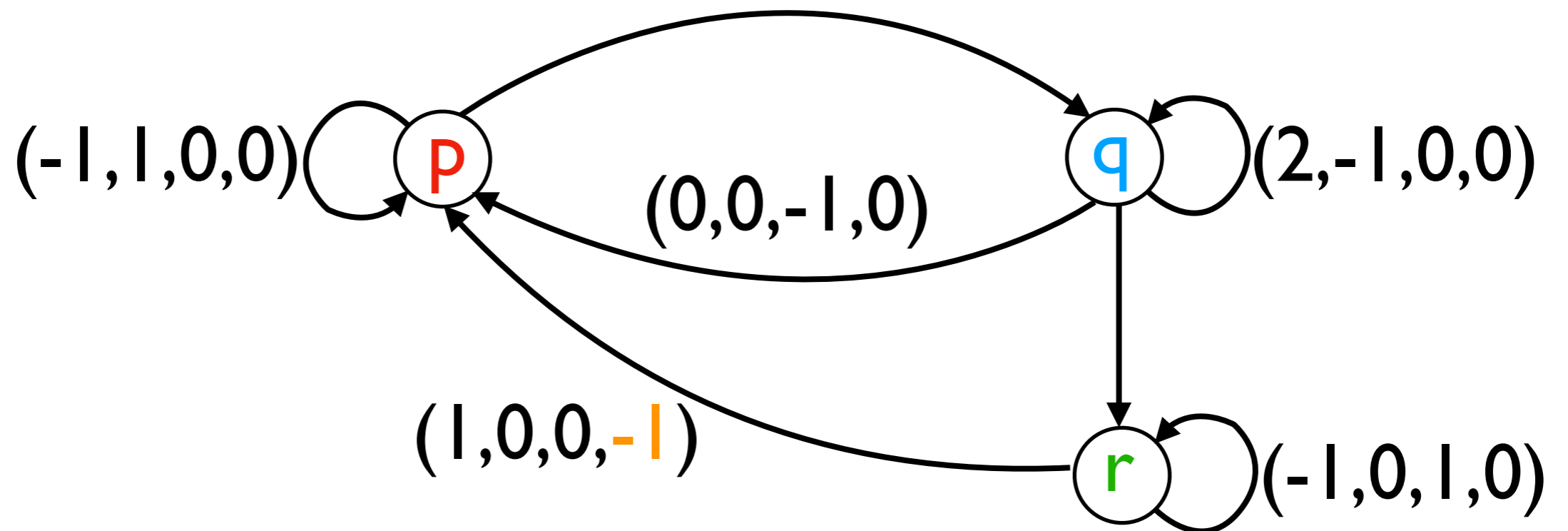


$$p(1, 0, 1, n) \longrightarrow p(1, 0, 2^l, n-1) \dots$$

Enforcing

\mathbb{F}_d -hardness implies no \mathbb{F}_d -short run

Presented examples not sufficient

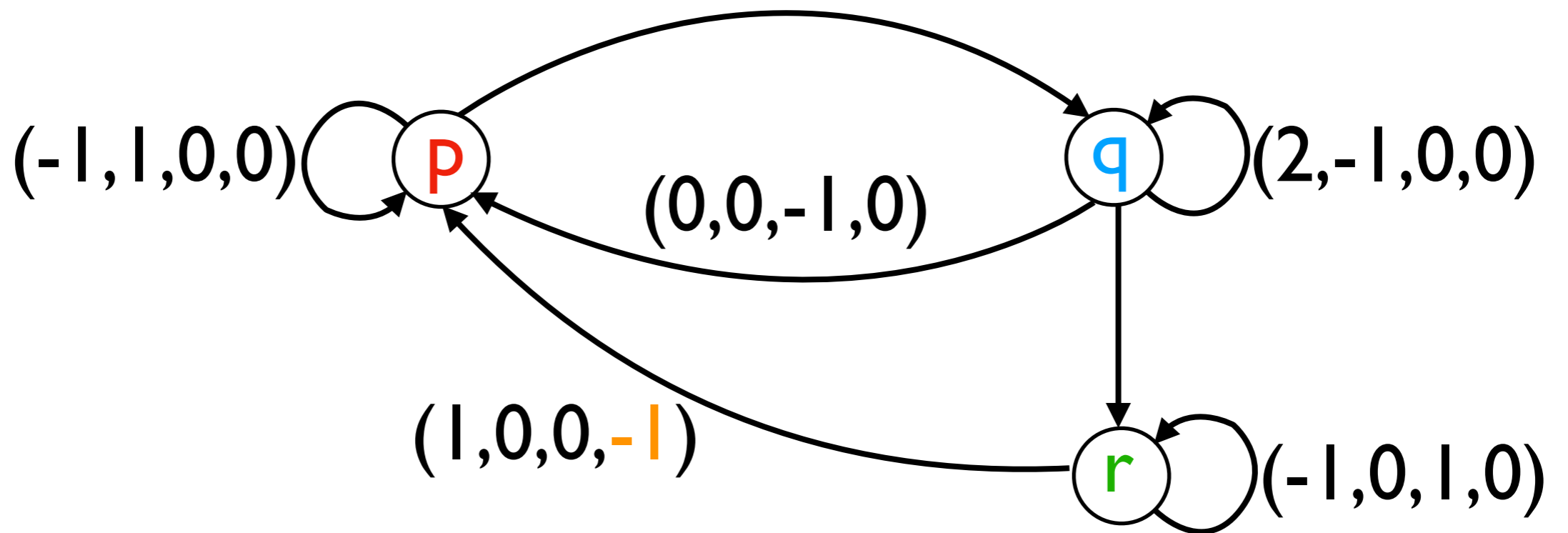


$p(1, 0, 1, n) \longrightarrow p(1, 0, 2^l, n-1) \dots \longrightarrow p(1, 0, \text{Tower}(n), 0)$

Enforcing

\mathbb{F}_d -hardness implies no \mathbb{F}_d -short run

Presented examples not sufficient



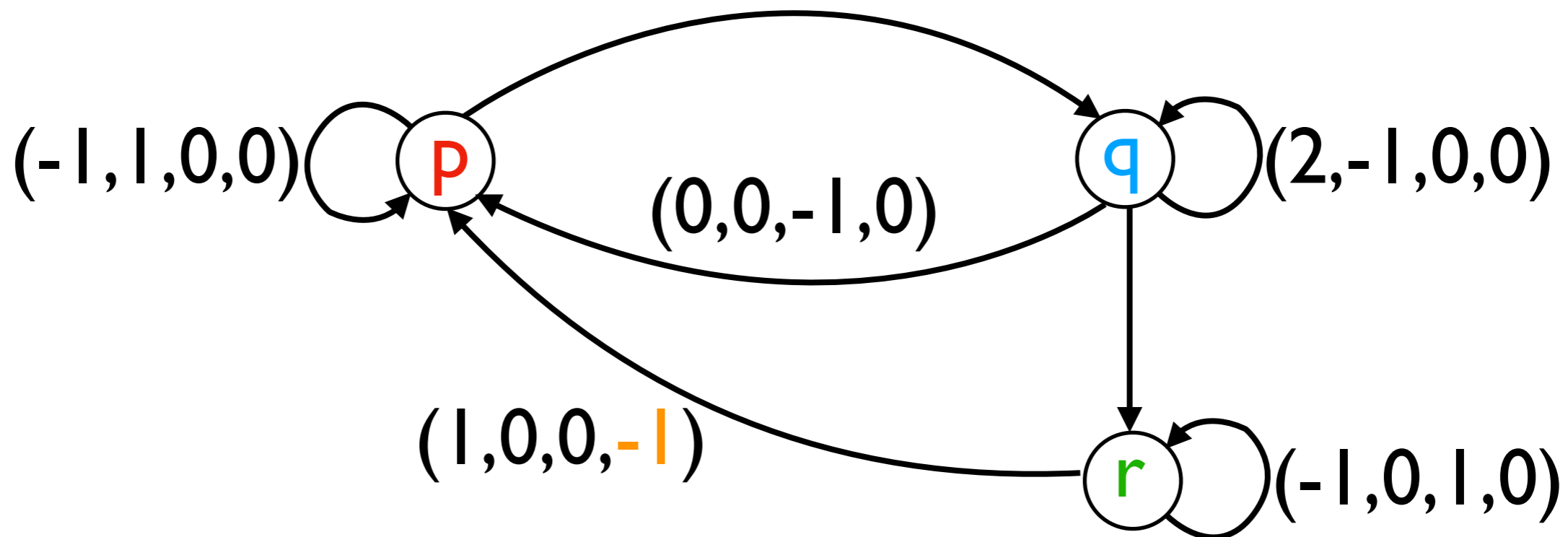
$p(1, 0, 1, n) \longrightarrow p(1, 0, 2^1, n-1) \dots \longrightarrow p(1, 0, \text{Tower}(n), 0)$

Need enforcing **techniques!**

Enforcing

\mathbb{F}_d -hardness implies no \mathbb{F}_d -short run

Presented examples not sufficient



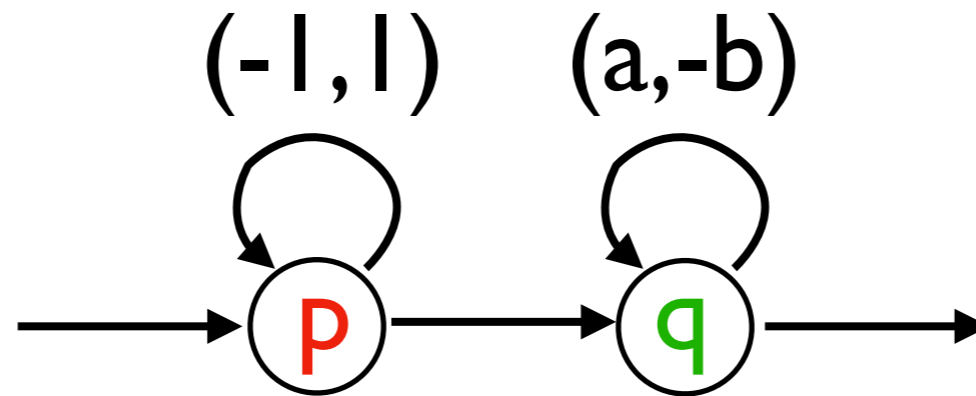
$$p(1, 0, 1, n) \longrightarrow p(1, 0, 2^l, n-1) \dots \longrightarrow p(1, 0, \text{Tower}(n), 0)$$

Need enforcing **techniques!**

Consider **small** dimensions!

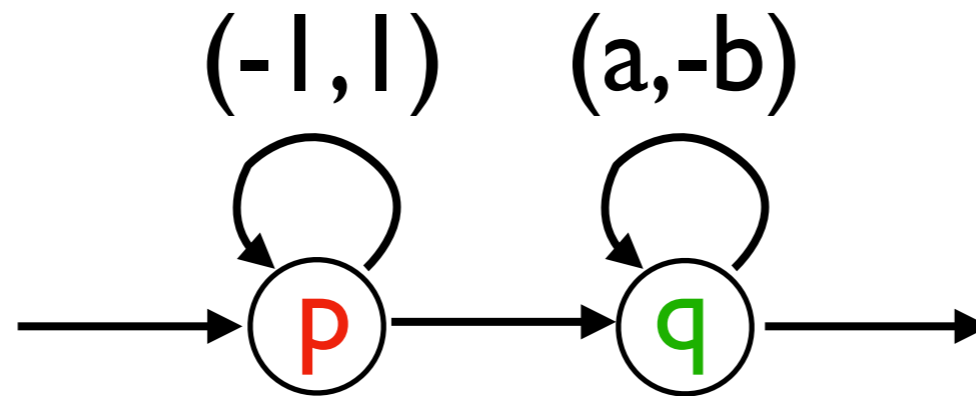
Telescopic equations

Telescopic equations

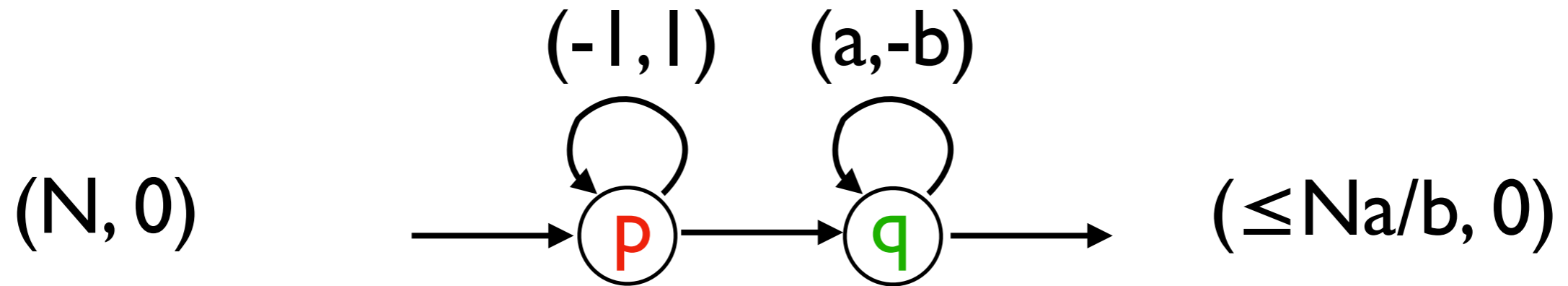


Telescopic equations

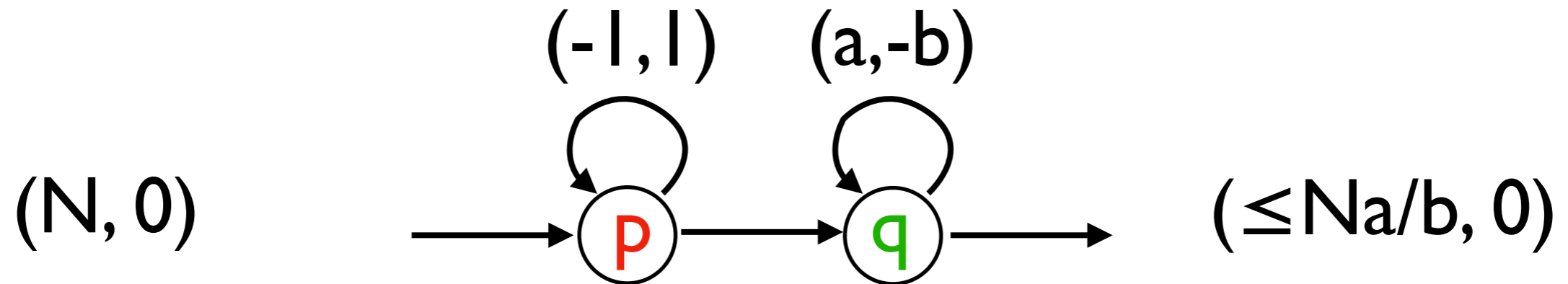
$(N, 0)$



Telescopic equations

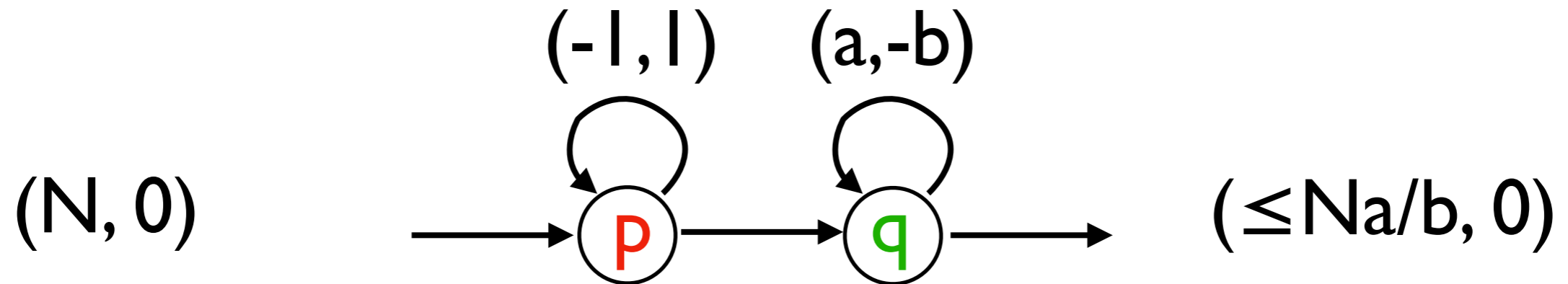


Telescopic equations

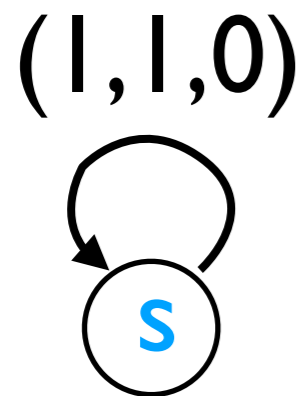


$$k/k-1 \cdot k-1/k-2 \cdot \dots \cdot 3/2 \cdot 2/1 = k/1$$

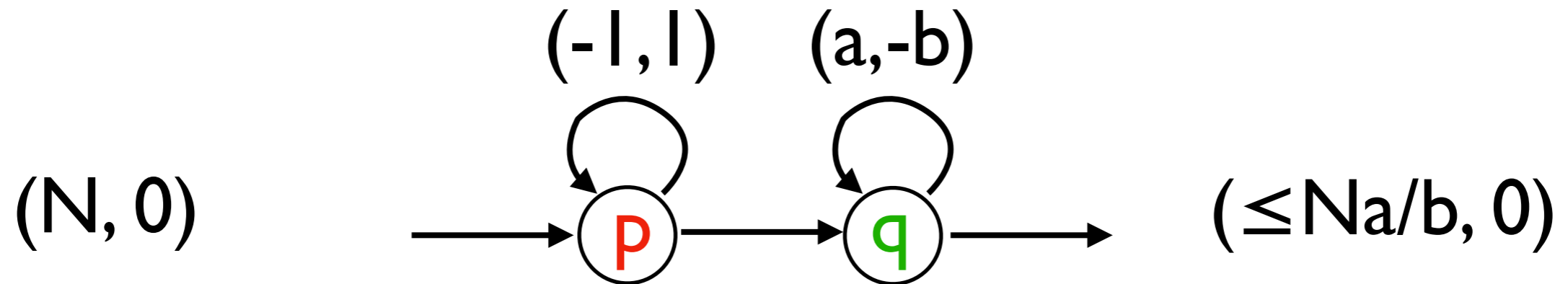
Telescopic equations



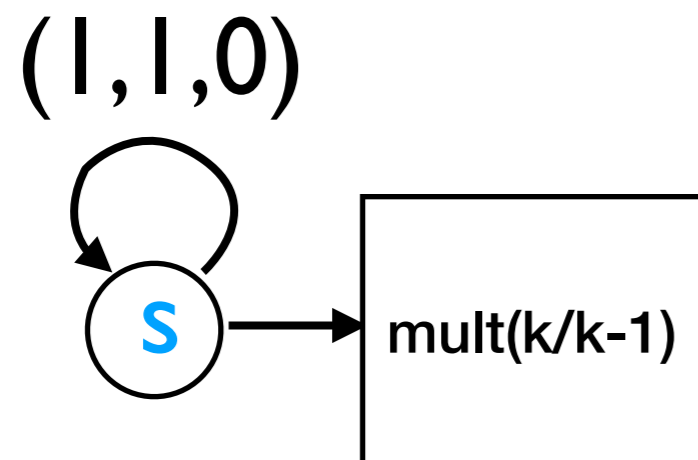
$$k/k-1 \cdot k-1/k-2 \cdot \dots \cdot 3/2 \cdot 2/1 = k/1$$



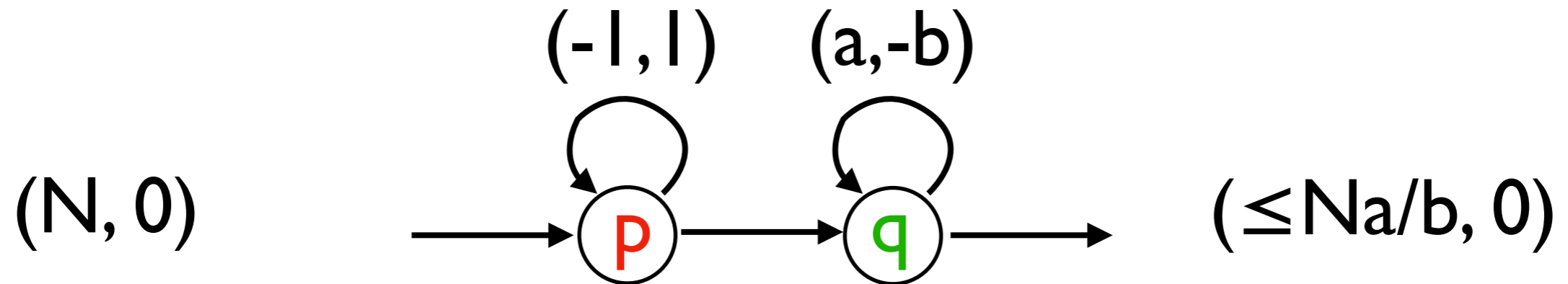
Telescopic equations



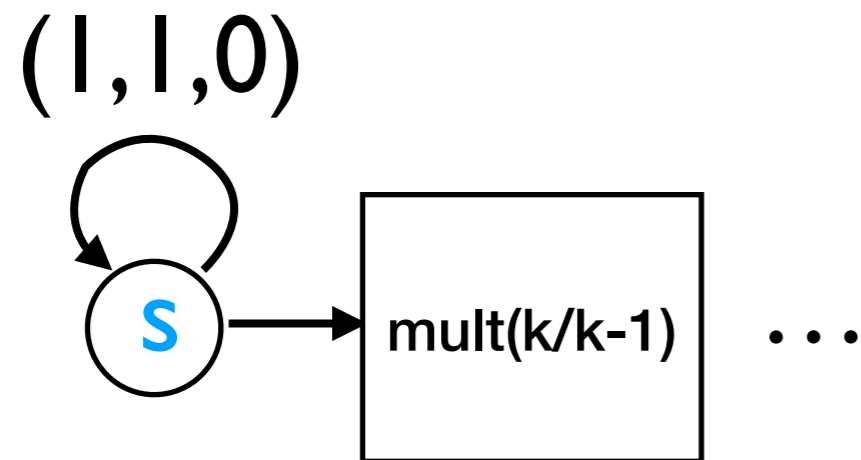
$$k/k-1 \cdot k-1/k-2 \cdot \dots \cdot 3/2 \cdot 2/1 = k/1$$



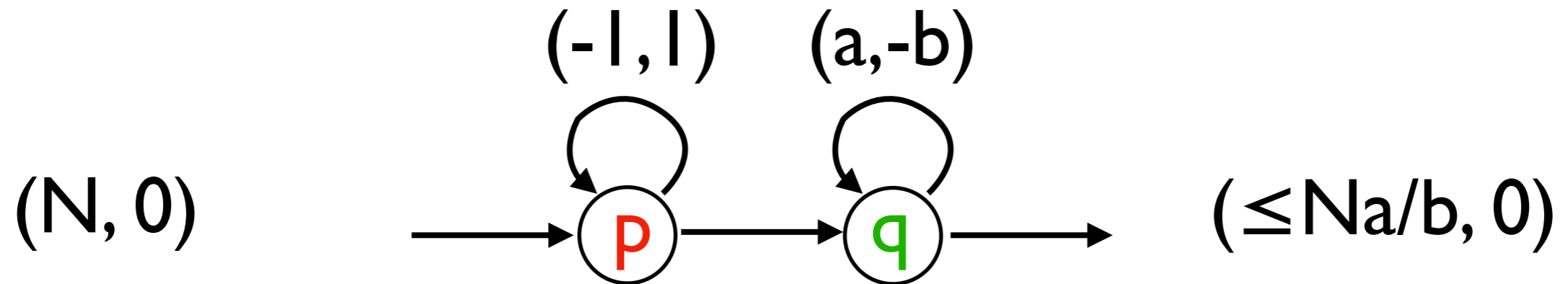
Telescopic equations



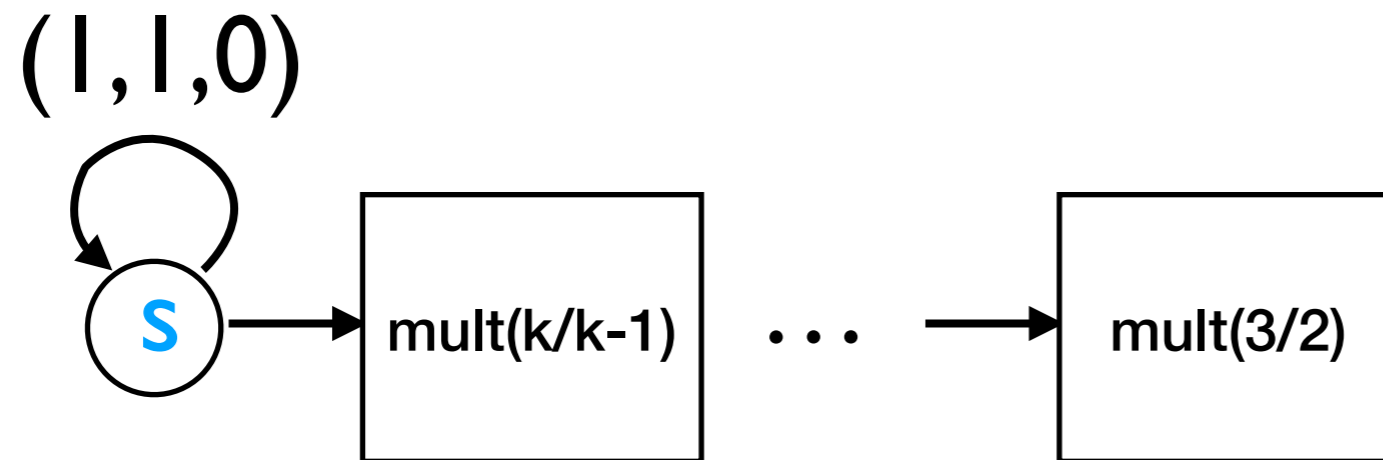
$$k/k-1 \cdot k-1/k-2 \cdot \dots \cdot 3/2 \cdot 2/1 = k/1$$



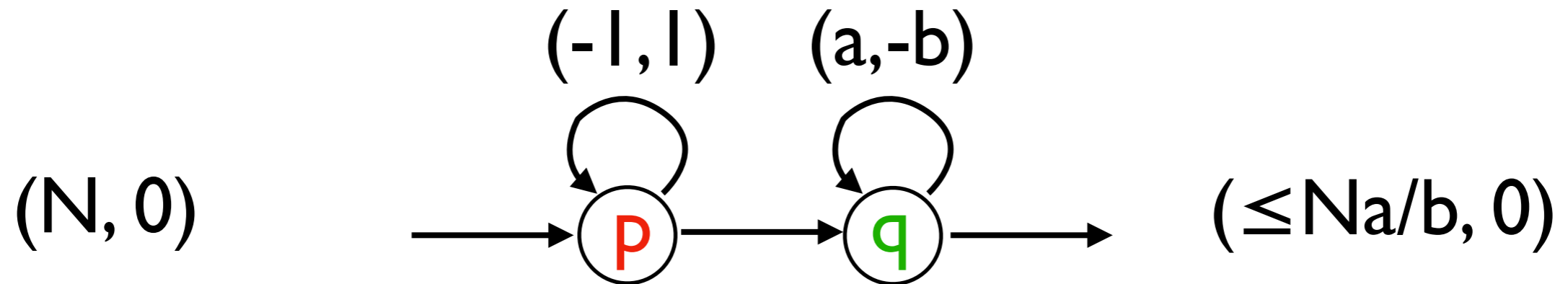
Telescopic equations



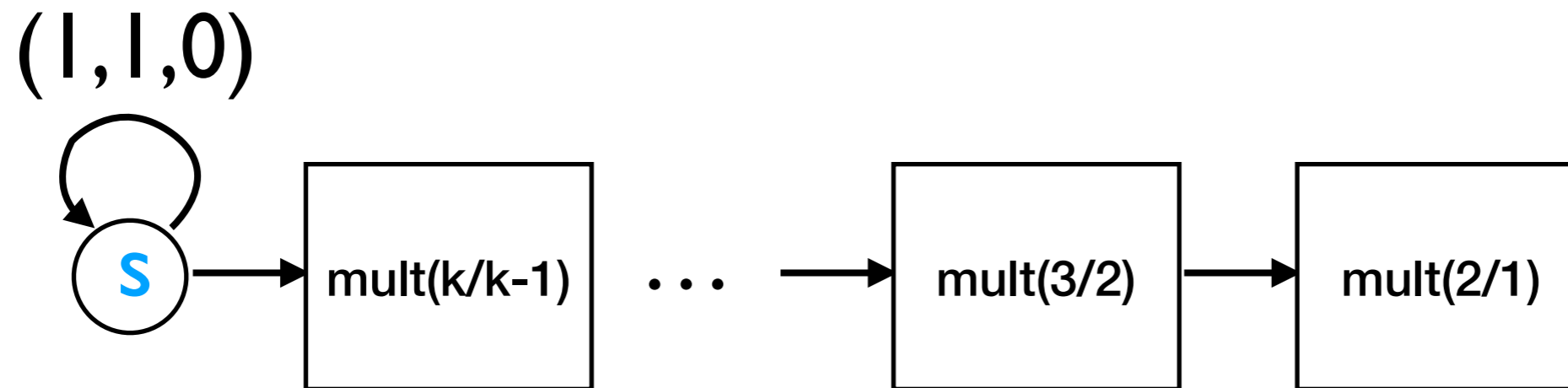
$$k/k-1 \cdot k-1/k-2 \cdot \dots \cdot 3/2 \cdot 2/1 = k/1$$



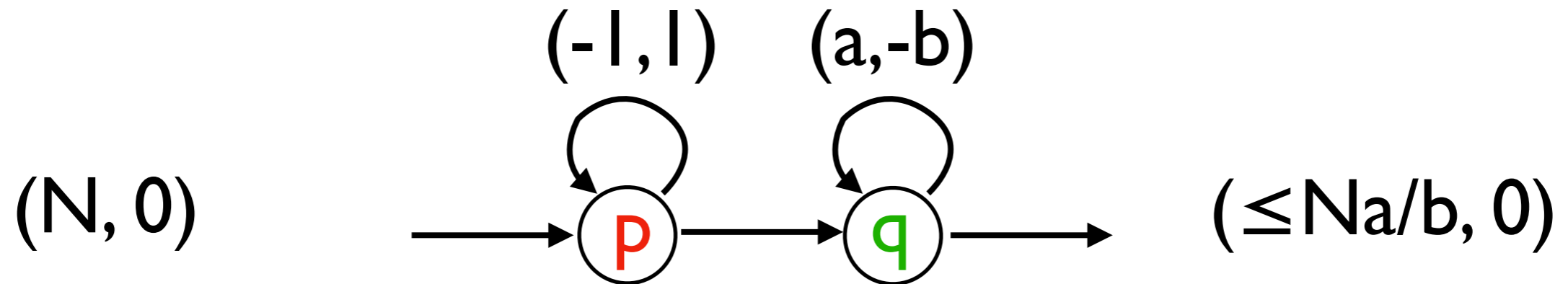
Telescopic equations



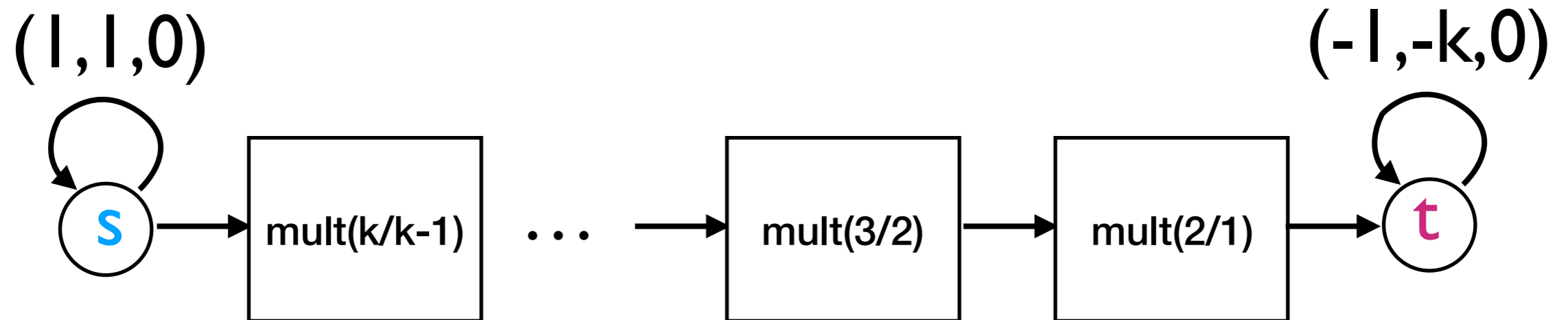
$$k/k-1 \cdot k-1/k-2 \cdot \dots \cdot 3/2 \cdot 2/1 = k/1$$



Telescopic equations



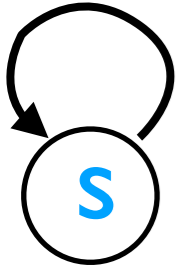
$$k/k-1 \cdot k-1/k-2 \cdot \dots \cdot 3/2 \cdot 2/1 = k/1$$



Telescopic equations

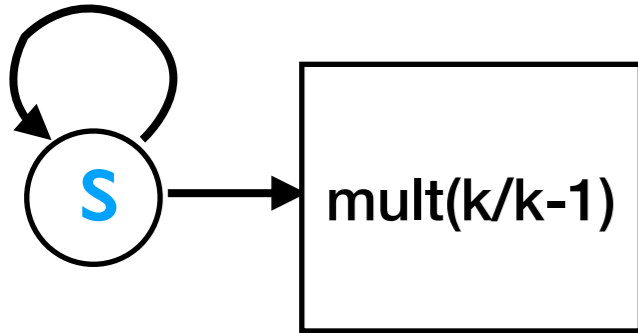
Telescopic equations

$(1, 1, 0)$

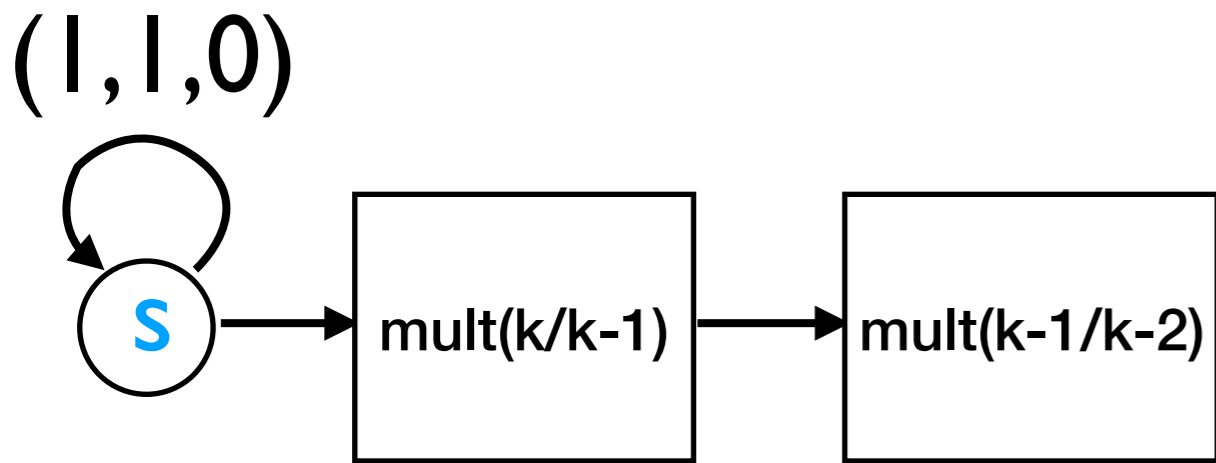


Telescopic equations

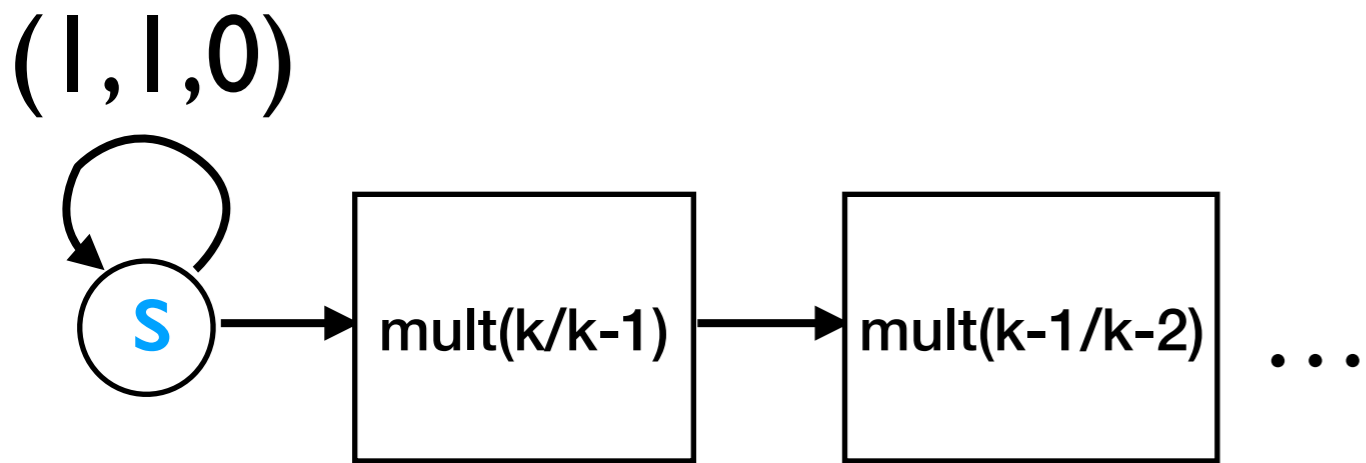
$(1, 1, 0)$



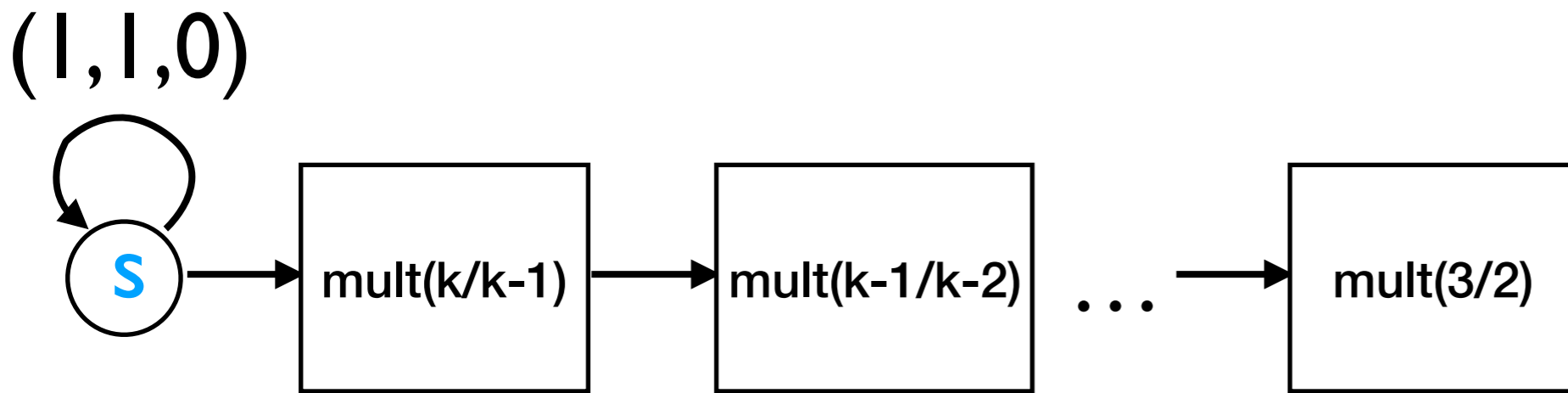
Telescopic equations



Telescopic equations

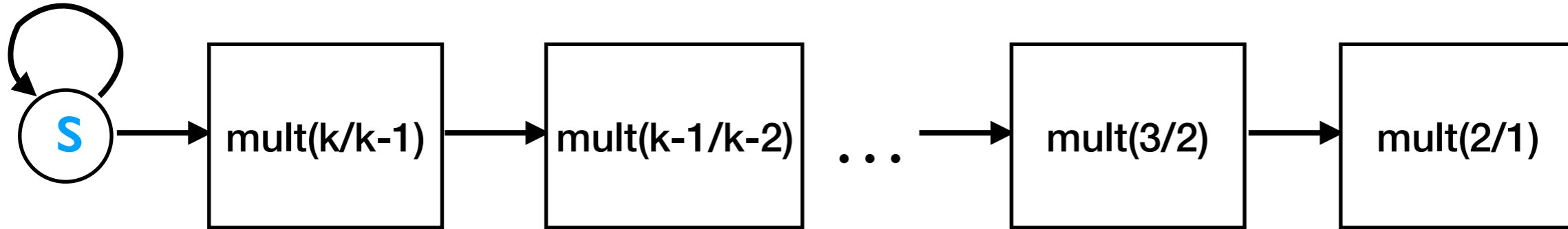


Telescopic equations



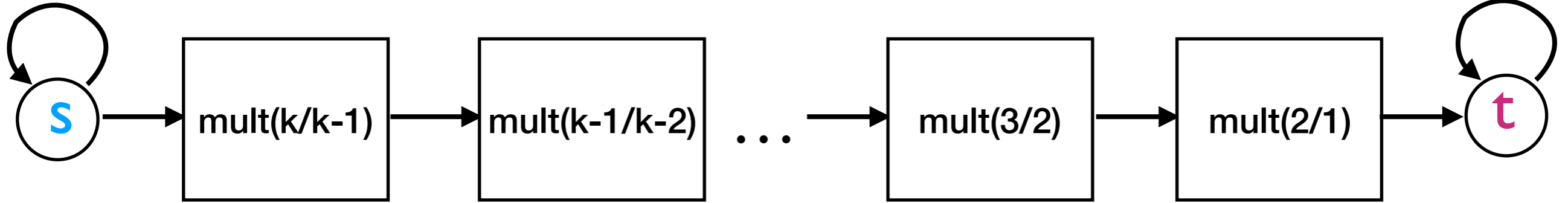
Telescopic equations

$(1, 1, 0)$

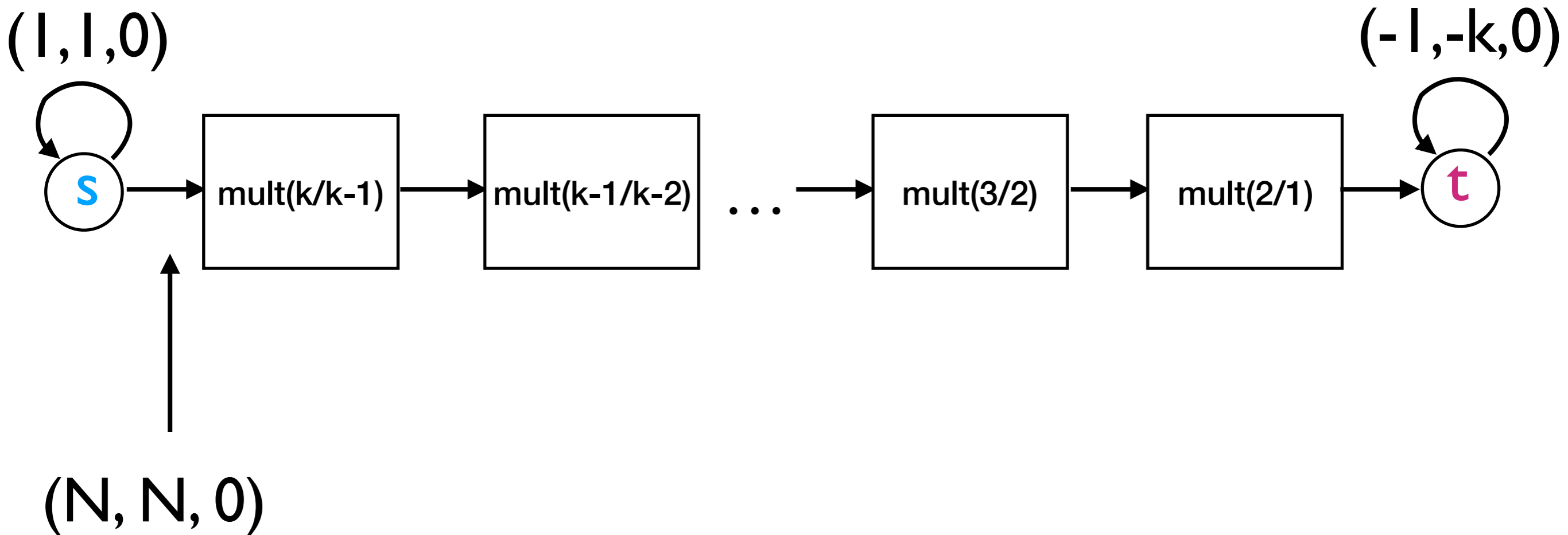


Telescopic equations

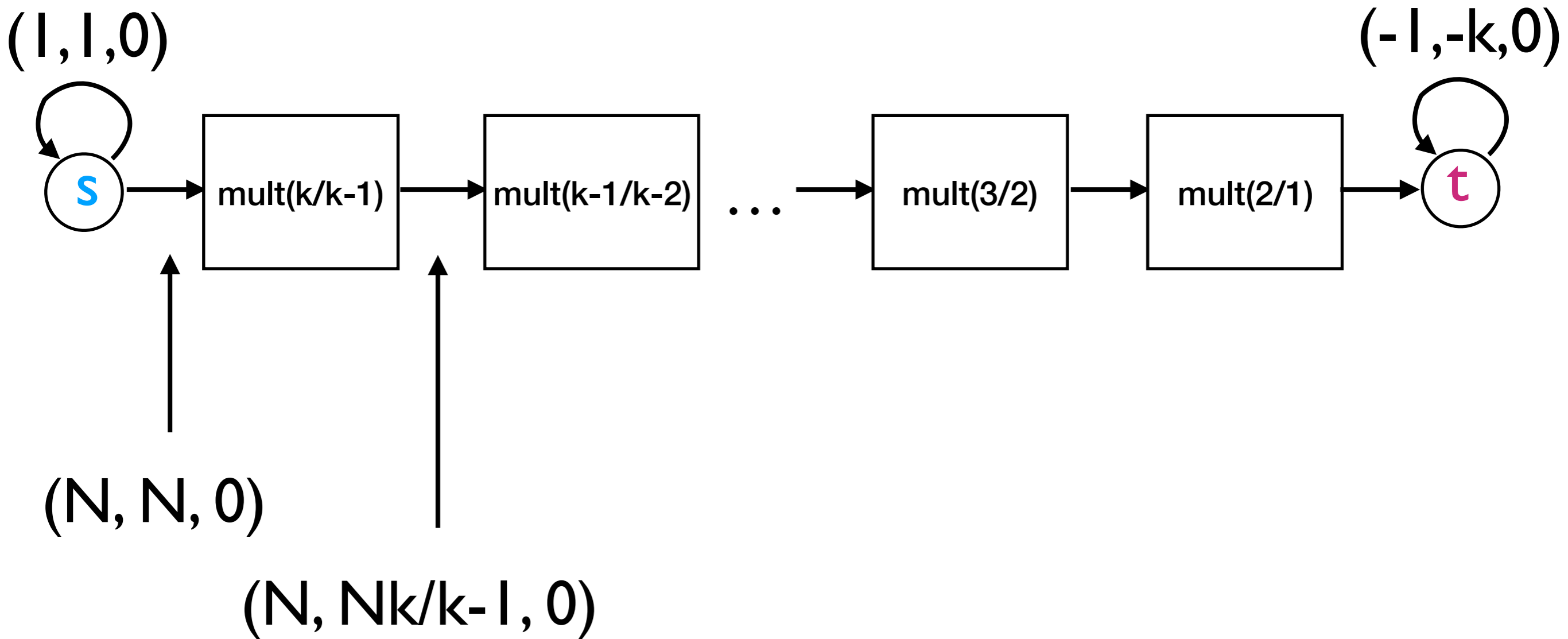
$(1, 1, 0)$



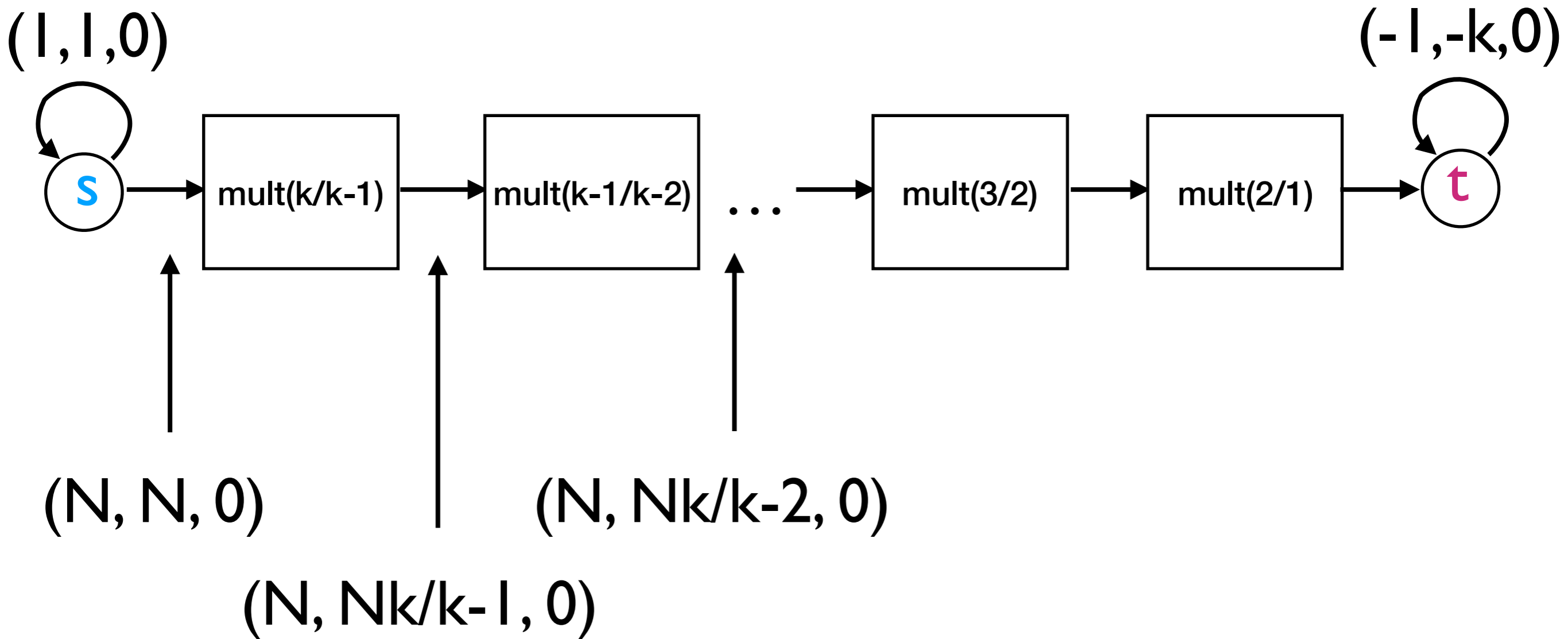
Telescopic equations



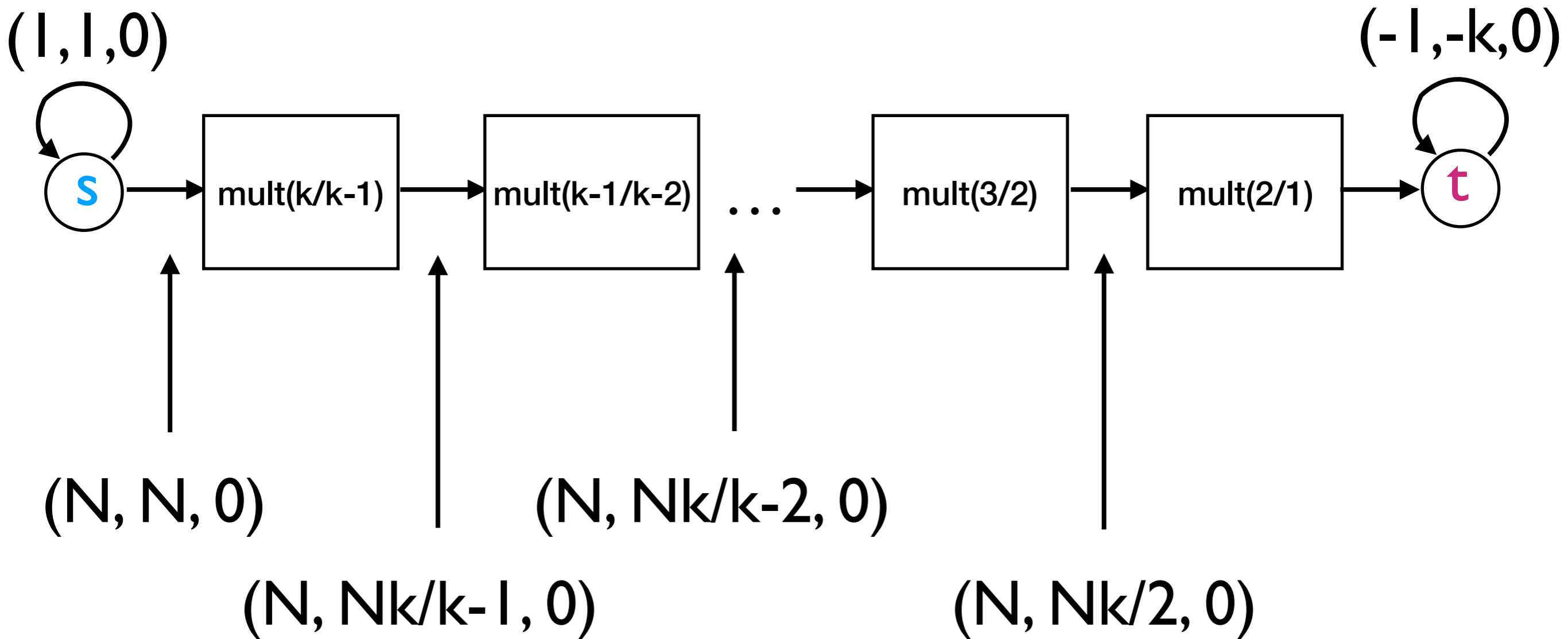
Telescopic equations



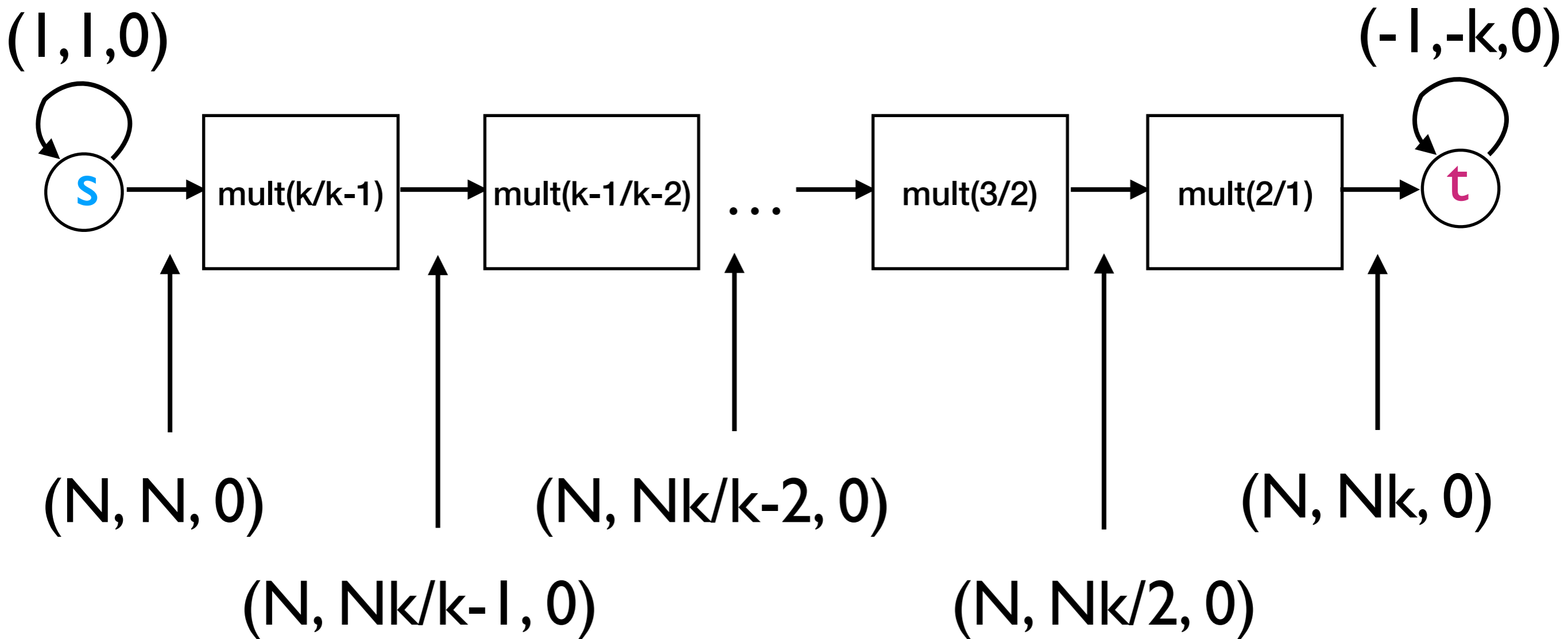
Telescopic equations



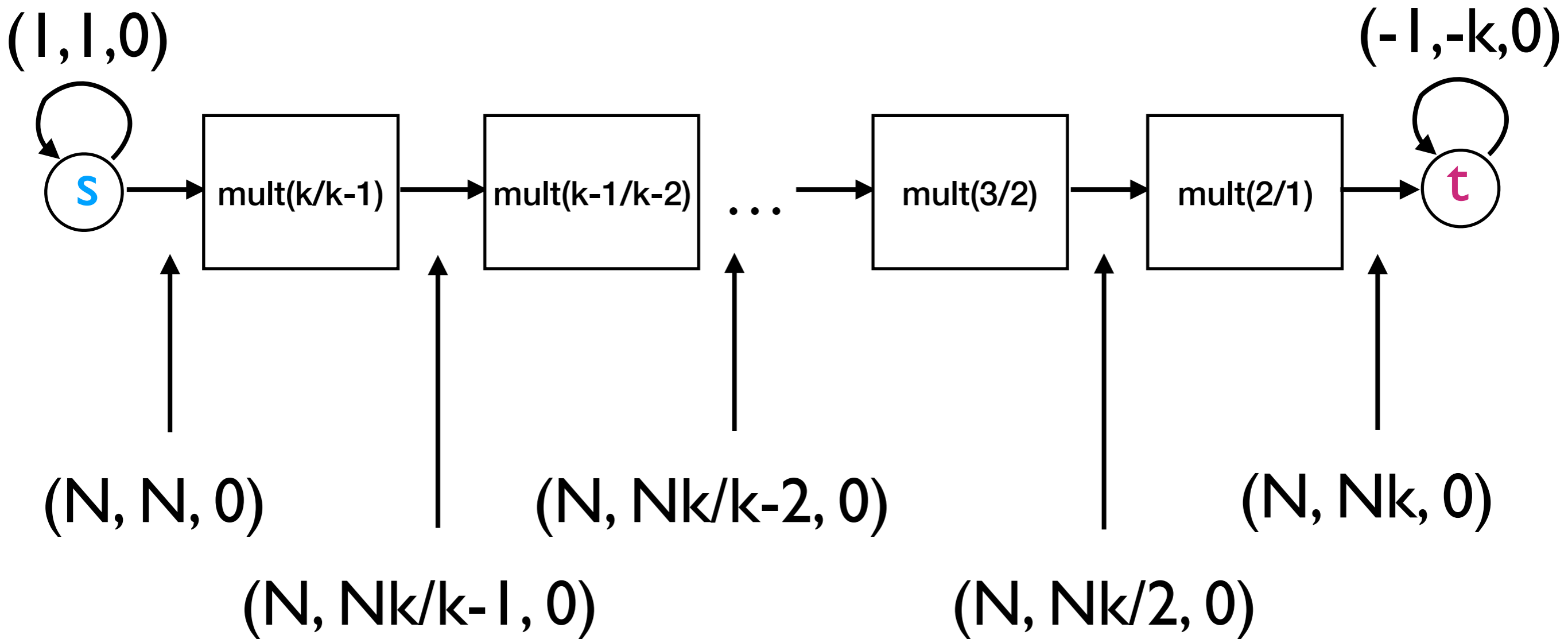
Telescopic equations



Telescopic equations

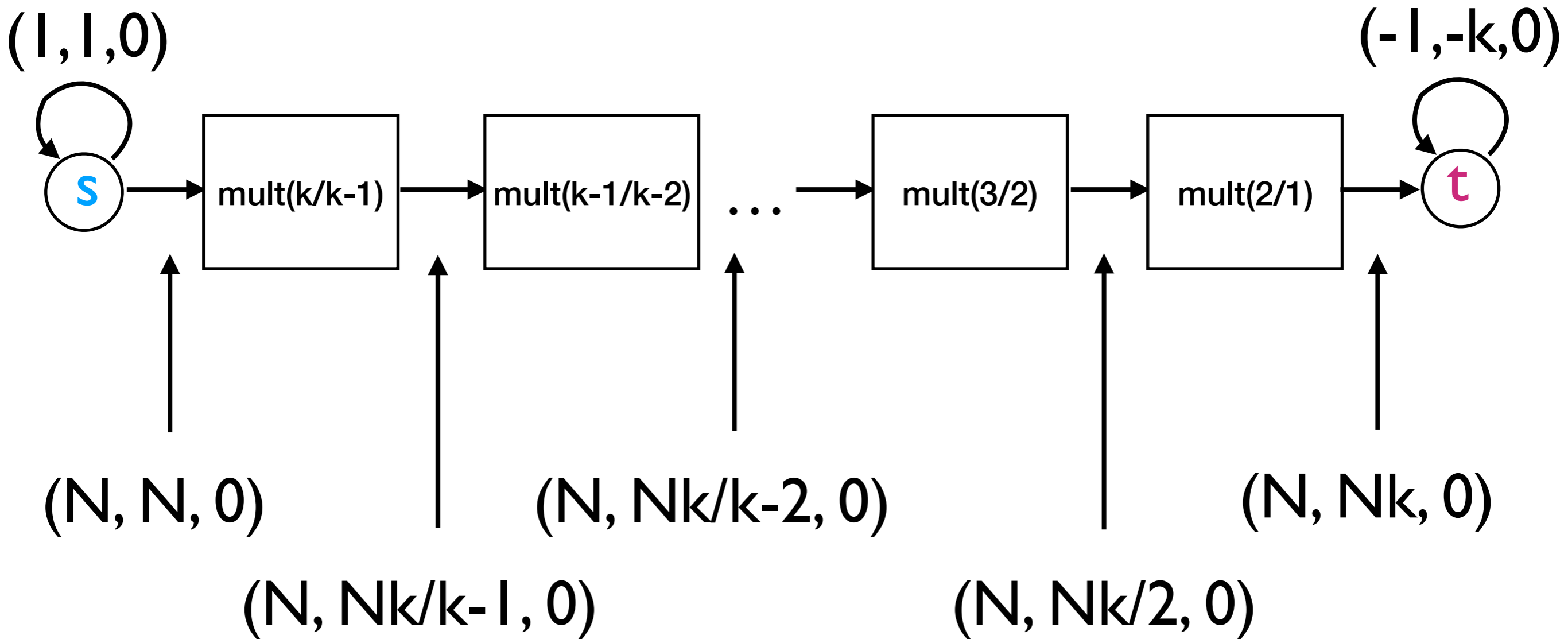


Telescopic equations



Nk divisible by $\text{LCM}(2, \dots, k-1)$

Telescopic equations



Nk divisible by $\text{LCM}(2, \dots, k-1)$

N is exponential

Telescopic equations

Telescopic equations

2-exp run in a 4-VASS

Telescopic equations

2-exp run in a 4-VASS

tower run in Tower-hardness paper

Telescopic equations

2-exp run in a 4-VASS

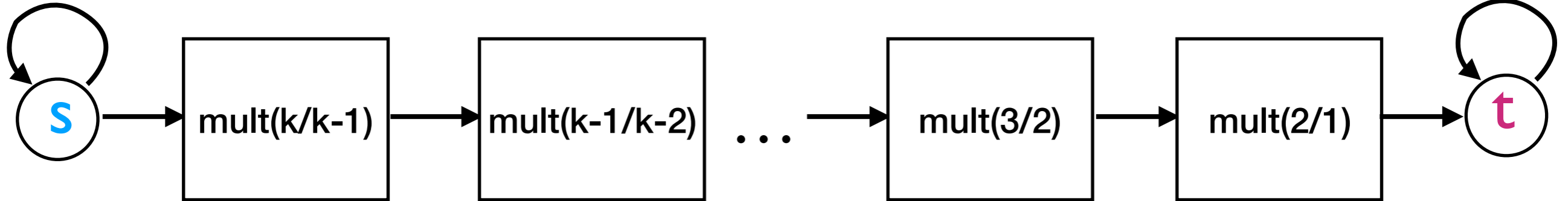
tower run in Tower-hardness paper

together with **multiplication triples**

Counter programs

Counter programs

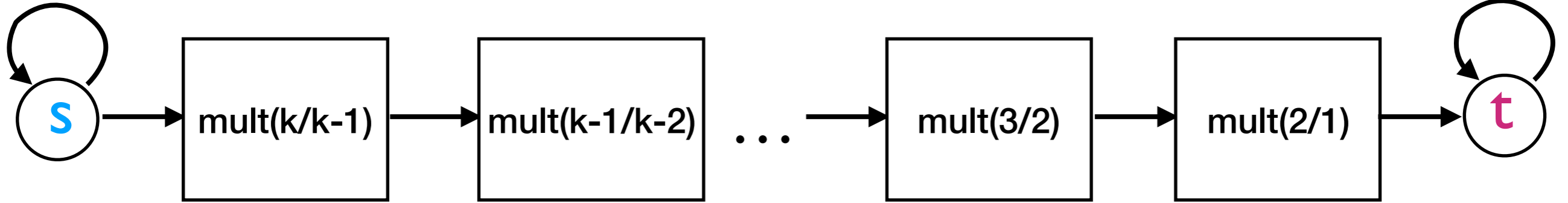
$(1, 1, 0)$



$(-1, -k, 0)$

Counter programs

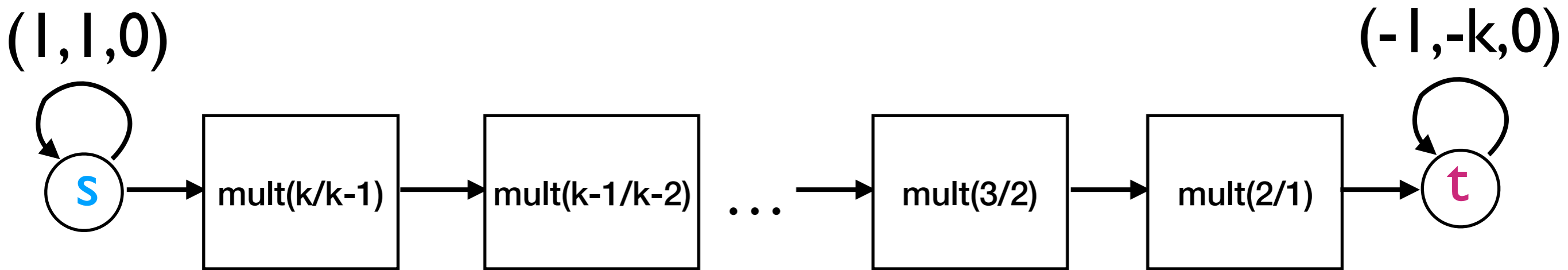
$(1, 1, 0)$



$(-1, -k, 0)$

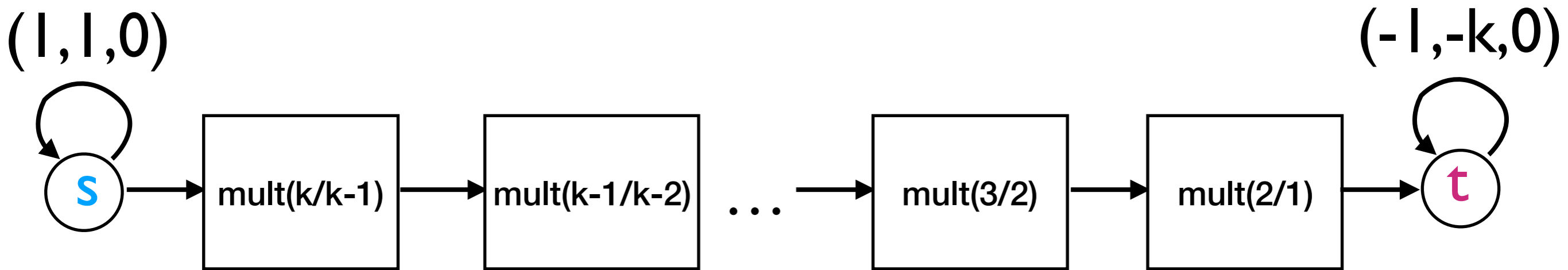
loop

Counter programs



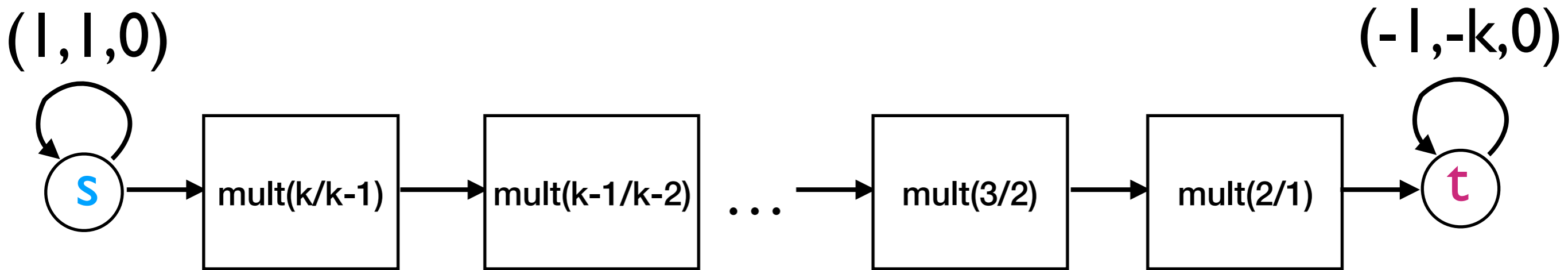
loop $x += 1$ $y += 1$

Counter programs



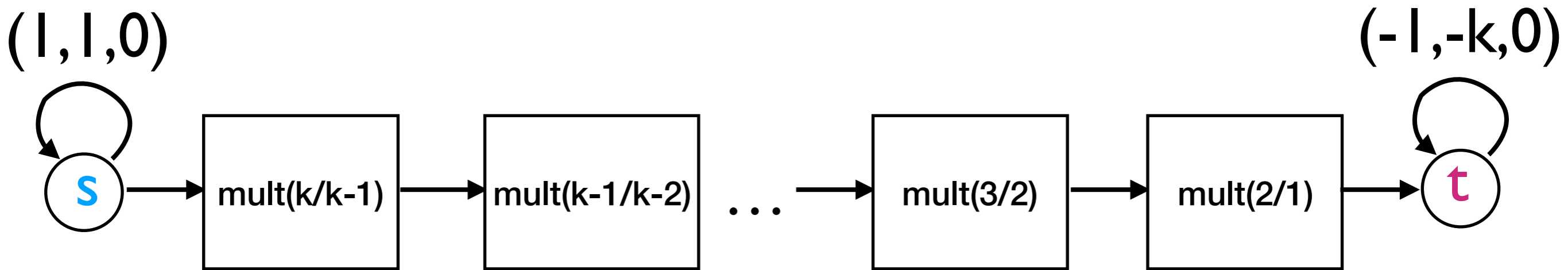
loop $x += 1$ $y += 1$
for $i = k$ downto 2 do

Counter programs



```
loop  x += 1  y += 1
for i=k downto 2 do
  loop
```

Counter programs

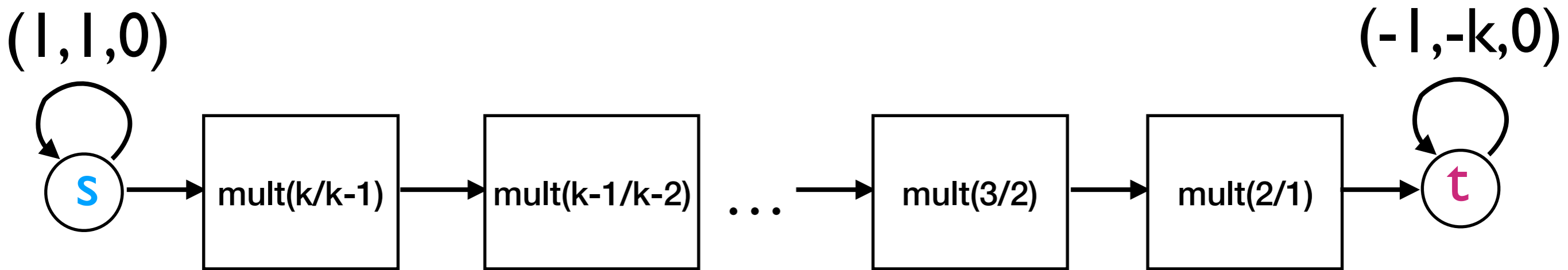


loop $x += 1$ $y += 1$

for $i = k$ downto 2 do

loop $y -= 1$ $z += 1$

Counter programs



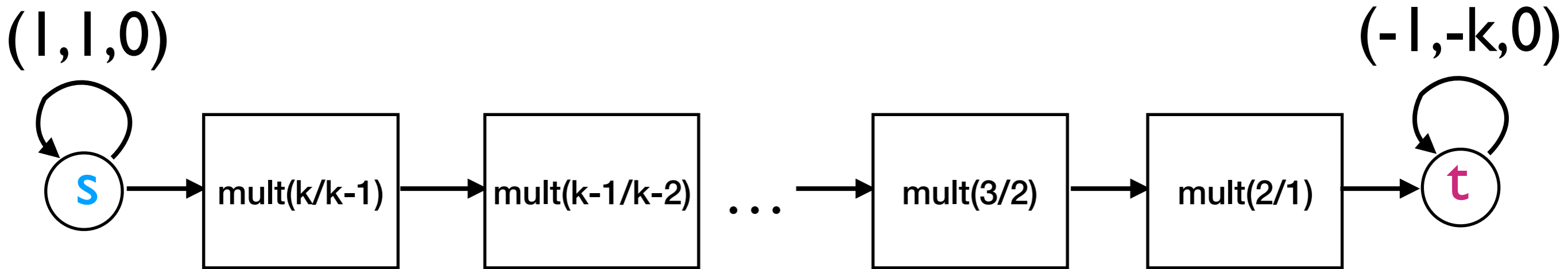
loop $x += 1$ $y += 1$

for $i = k$ downto 2 do

loop $y -= 1$ $z += 1$

loop

Counter programs



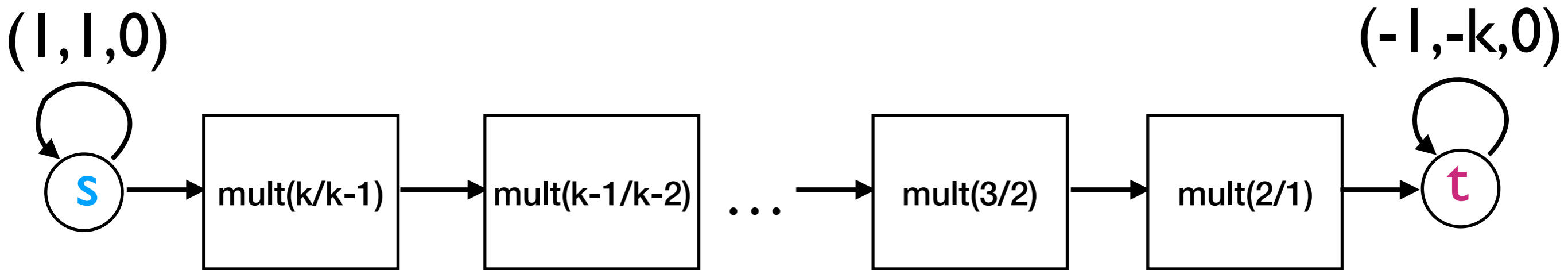
loop $x += 1$ $y += 1$

for $i = k$ downto 2 do

loop $y -= 1$ $z += 1$

loop $y += i$ $z -= (i - 1)$

Counter programs



loop $x += 1$ $y += 1$

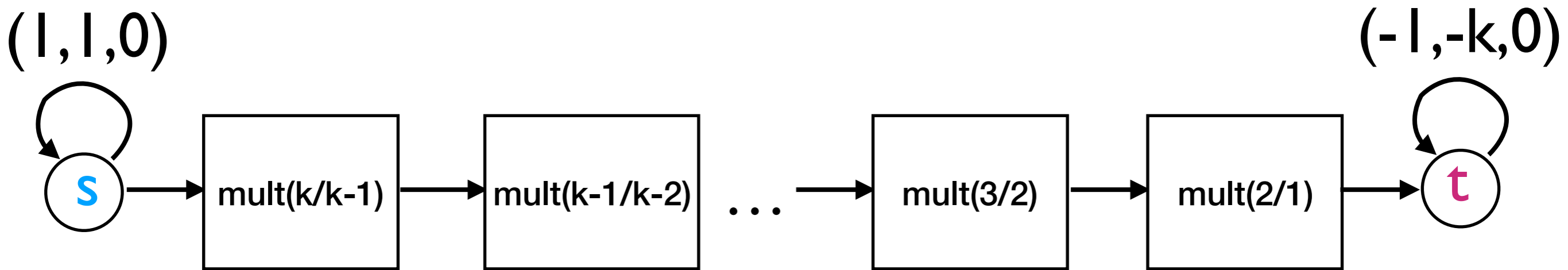
for $i = k$ downto 2 do

loop $y -= 1$ $z += 1$

loop $y += i$ $z -= (i - 1)$

loop

Counter programs



loop $x += 1$ $y += 1$

for $i = k$ downto 2 do

loop $y -= 1$ $z += 1$

loop $y += i$ $z -= (i - 1)$

loop $x -= 1$ $y -= k$

Controlling counter

Controlling counter

Goal: zero-test x three times

Controlling counter

Goal: zero-test x three times



Controlling counter

Goal: zero-test x three times

→ c1

Controlling counter

Goal: zero-test x three times



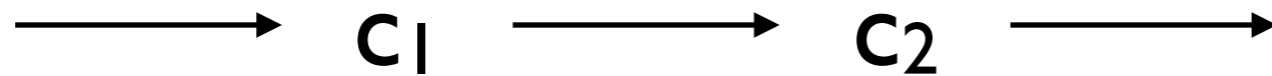
Controlling counter

Goal: zero-test x three times



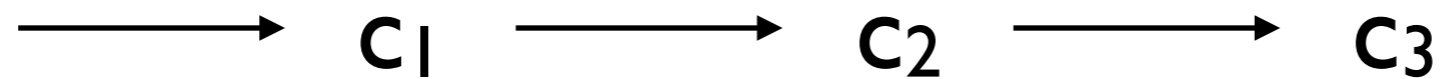
Controlling counter

Goal: zero-test x three times



Controlling counter

Goal: zero-test x three times



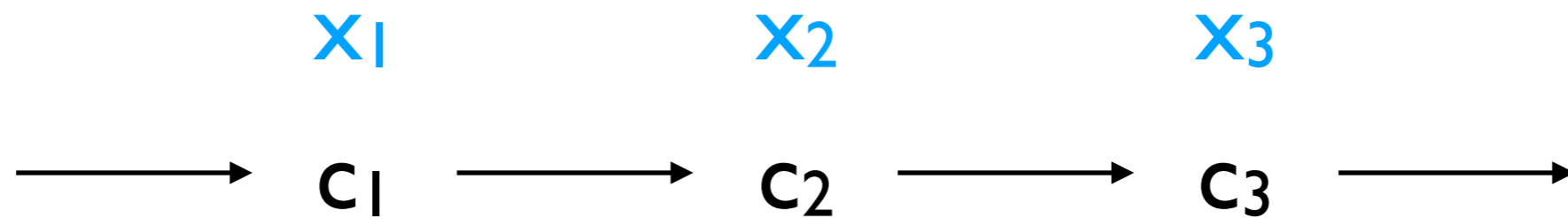
Controlling counter

Goal: zero-test x three times



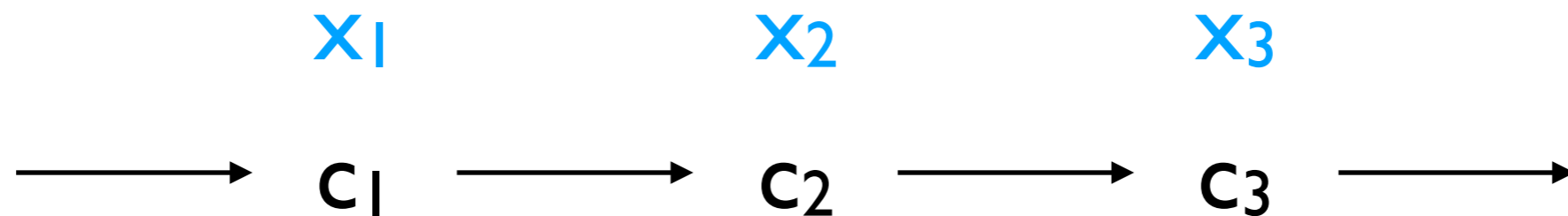
Controlling counter

Goal: zero-test x three times



Controlling counter

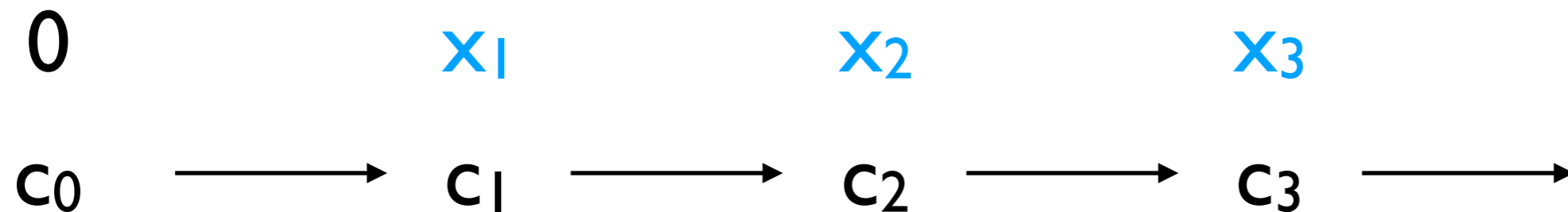
Goal: zero-test x three times



Enough to check if $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 0$

Controlling counter

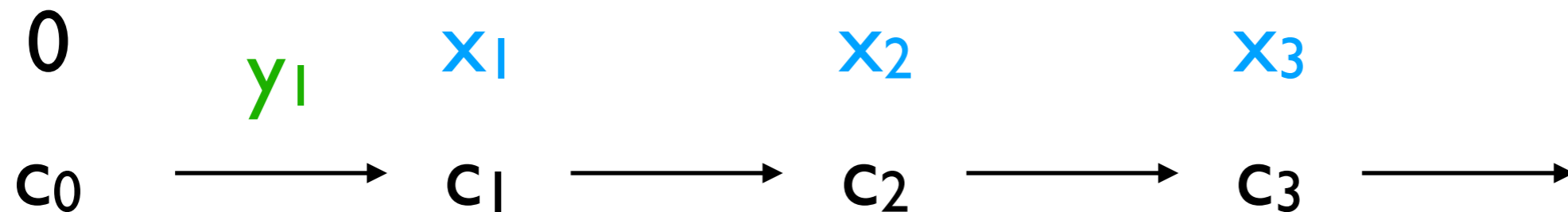
Goal: zero-test x three times



Enough to check if $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 0$

Controlling counter

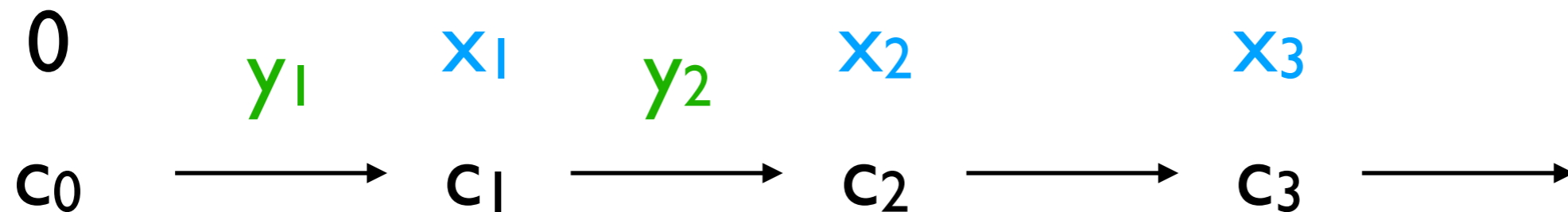
Goal: zero-test x three times



Enough to check if $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 0$

Controlling counter

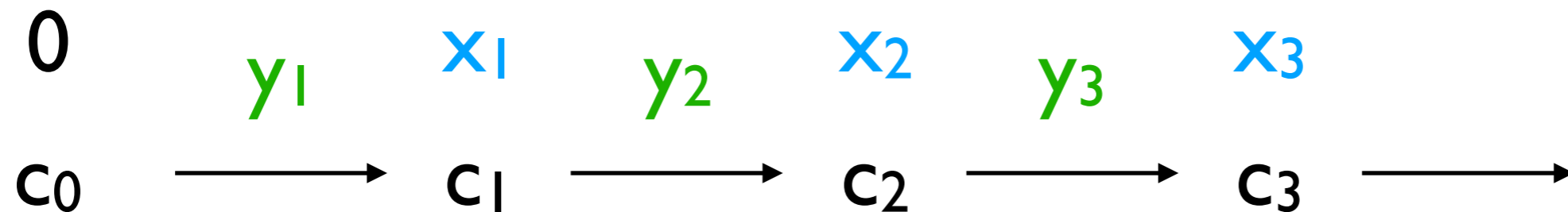
Goal: zero-test x three times



Enough to check if $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 0$

Controlling counter

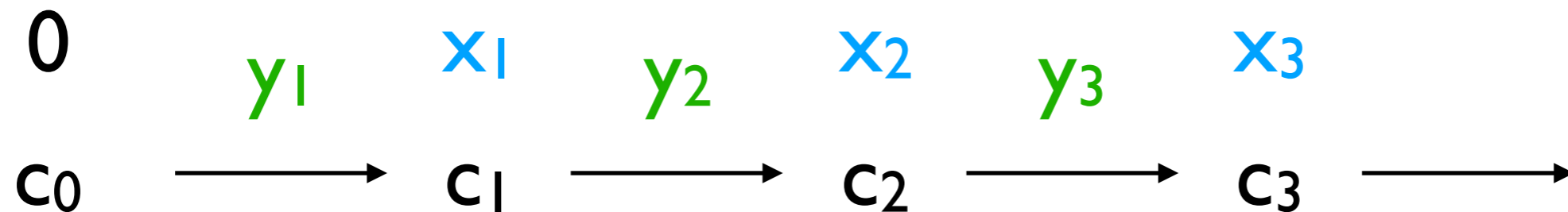
Goal: zero-test x three times



Enough to check if $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 0$

Controlling counter

Goal: zero-test x three times

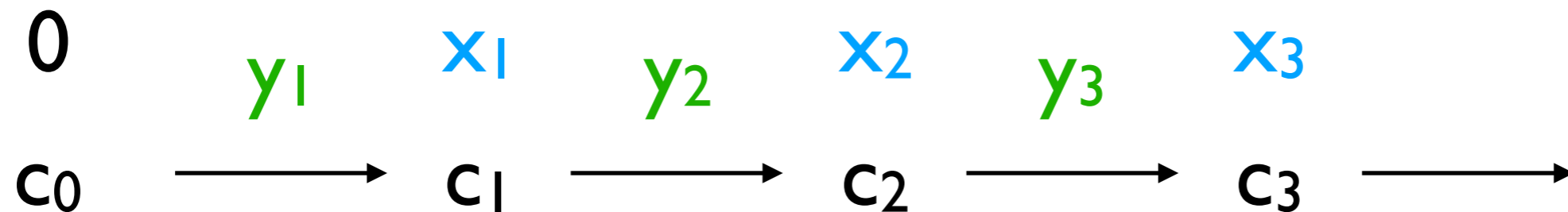


Enough to check if $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 0$

$$x_1 = y_1$$

Controlling counter

Goal: zero-test x three times



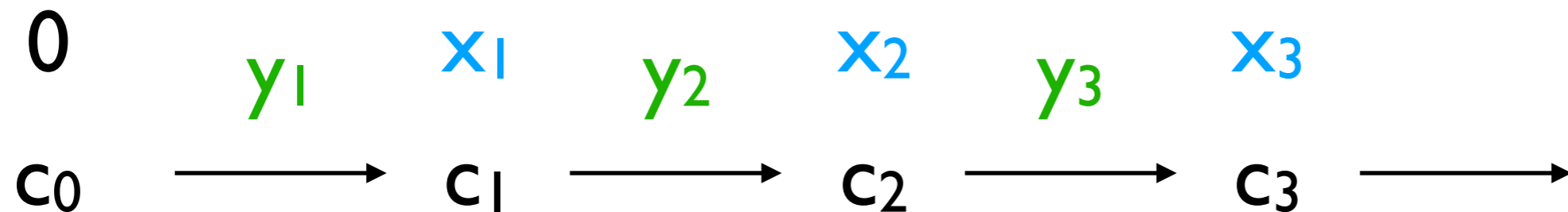
Enough to check if $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 0$

$$x_1 = y_1$$

$$x_2 = y_1 + y_2$$

Controlling counter

Goal: zero-test x three times



Enough to check if $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 0$

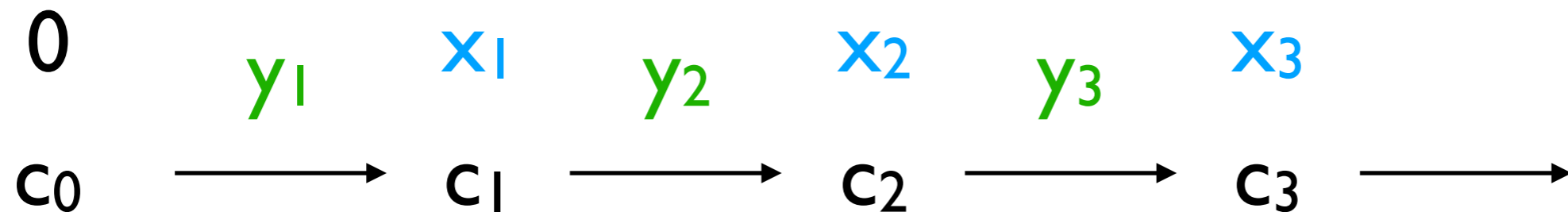
$$x_1 = y_1$$

$$x_2 = y_1 + y_2$$

$$x_3 = y_1 + y_2 + y_3$$

Controlling counter

Goal: zero-test x three times



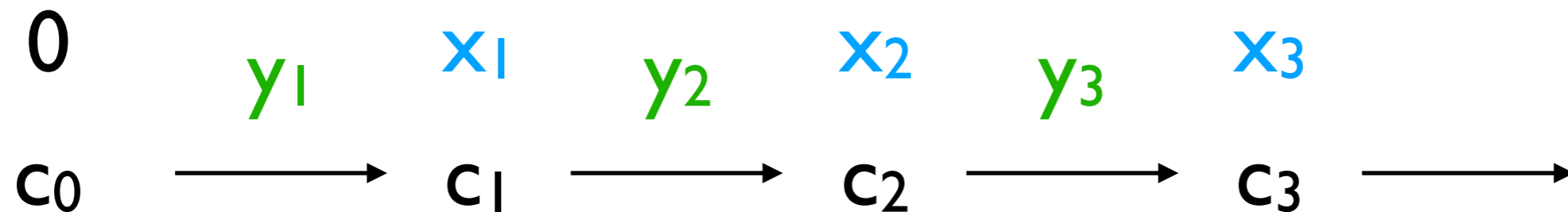
Enough to check if $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 0$

$$x_1 = y_1 \quad x_2 = y_1 + y_2 \quad x_3 = y_1 + y_2 + y_3$$

Enough to check if $3y_1 + 2y_2 + y_3 = 0$

Controlling counter

Goal: zero-test x three times



Enough to check if $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 0$

$$x_1 = y_1 \quad x_2 = y_1 + y_2 \quad x_3 = y_1 + y_2 + y_3$$

Enough to check if $3y_1 + 2y_2 + y_3 = 0$

New counter c counts $3y_1 + 2y_2 + y_3$

Controlling counter

Controlling counter

Many testing places for many counters

Controlling counter

Many testing places for many counters

One controlling counter **c**

Controlling counter

Many testing places for many counters

One controlling counter **c**

Counter **c** counts sum of all zero-tested counters

Controlling counter

Many testing places for many counters

One controlling counter c

Counter c counts sum of all zero-tested counters

If x waits for k zero-tests
then $\text{inc}(x)$ implies $c += k$

Controlling counter

Controlling counter

```
for i=1 to k do
```

Controlling counter

```
for i=1 to k do
```

```
  loop
```


Controlling counter

```
for i=1 to k do
```

```
  loop  x-=1 y+=2
```

Controlling counter

```
for i=1 to k do
```

```
    loop    x-=1 y+=2
```

```
    loop
```

Controlling counter

for $i=1$ to k do

loop $x-=1$ $y+=2$

loop $x+=1$ $y-=1$

Controlling counter

for $i=1$ to k do

(1, 0)

loop $x-=1$ $y+=2$

loop $x+=1$ $y-=1$

Controlling counter

for $i=1$ to k do

$(1, 0)$ \longrightarrow

loop $x-=1$ $y+=2$

loop $x+=1$ $y-=1$

Controlling counter

for $i=1$ to k do

$(1, 0)$ \longrightarrow loop $x-=1$ $y+=2$ \longrightarrow
 loop $x+=1$ $y-=1$

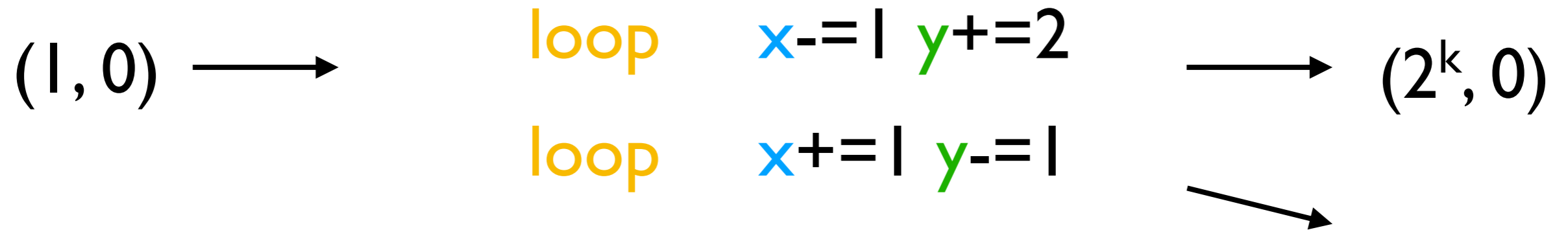
Controlling counter

for $i=1$ to k do

$(1, 0)$ \longrightarrow loop $x -= 1$ $y += 2$ \longrightarrow $(2^k, 0)$
 loop $x += 1$ $y -= 1$

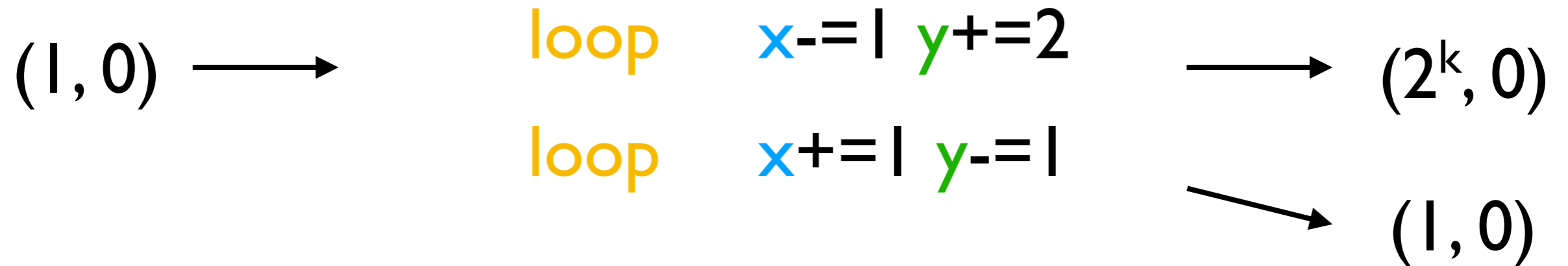
Controlling counter

for $i=1$ to k do



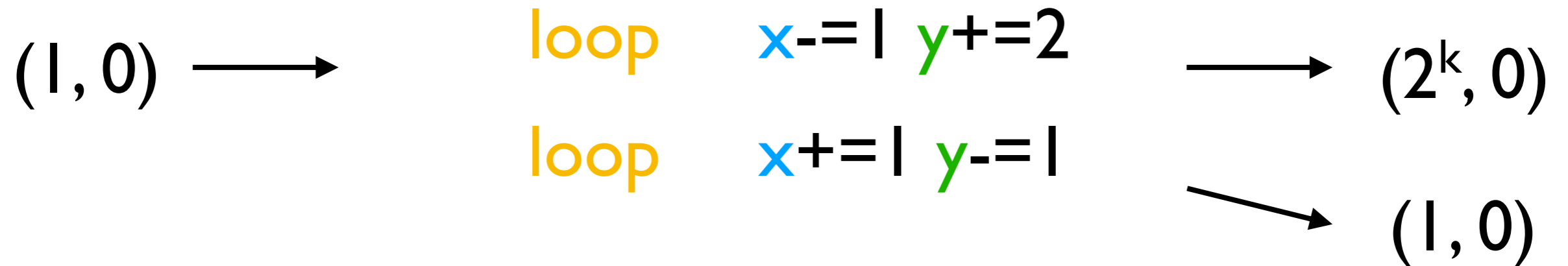
Controlling counter

for $i=1$ to k do



Controlling counter

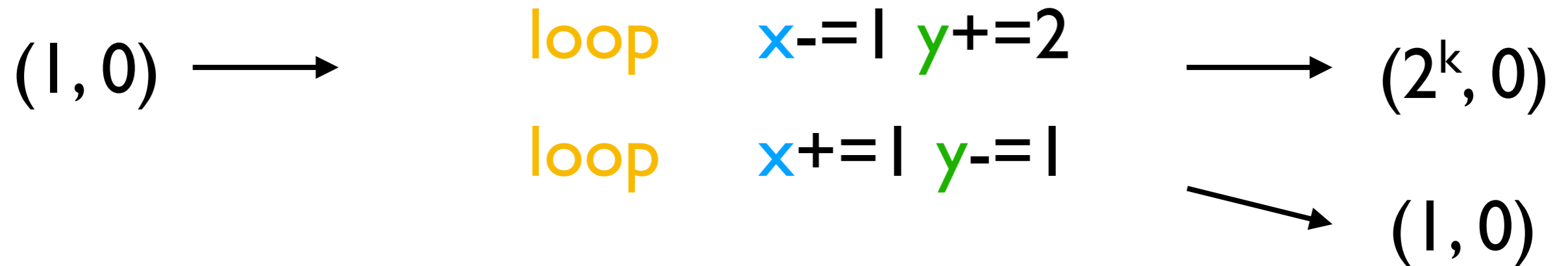
for $i=1$ to k do



for $i=k$ downto 1 do

Controlling counter

for $i=1$ to k do

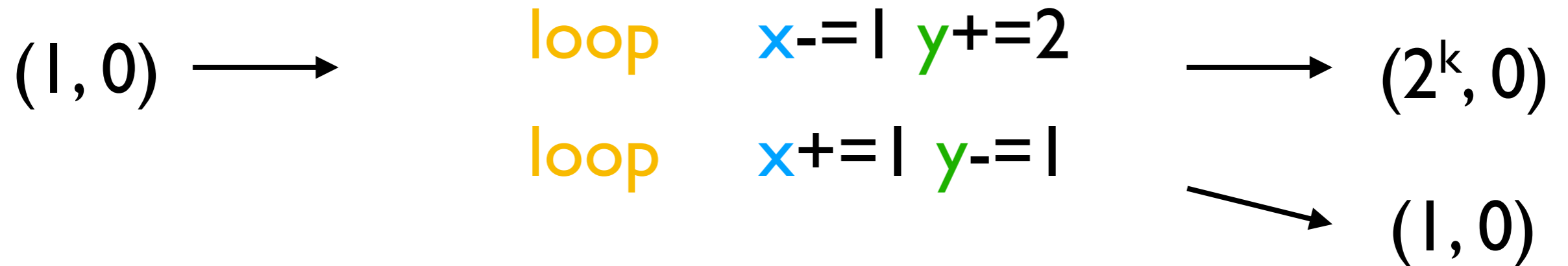


for $i=k$ downto 1 do

loop

Controlling counter

for $i=1$ to k do

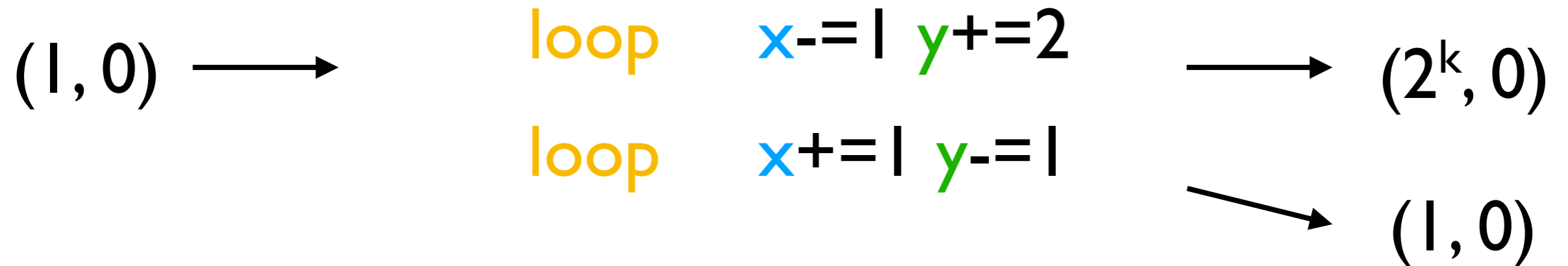


for $i=k$ downto 1 do

loop $x-=1$ $y+=2$

Controlling counter

for $i=1$ to k do



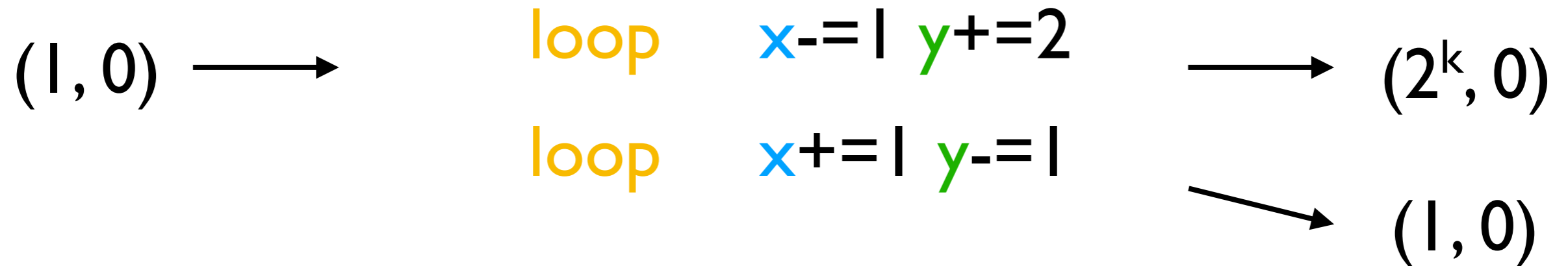
for $i=k$ downto 1 do

loop $x-=1$ $y+=2$

loop

Controlling counter

for $i=1$ to k do



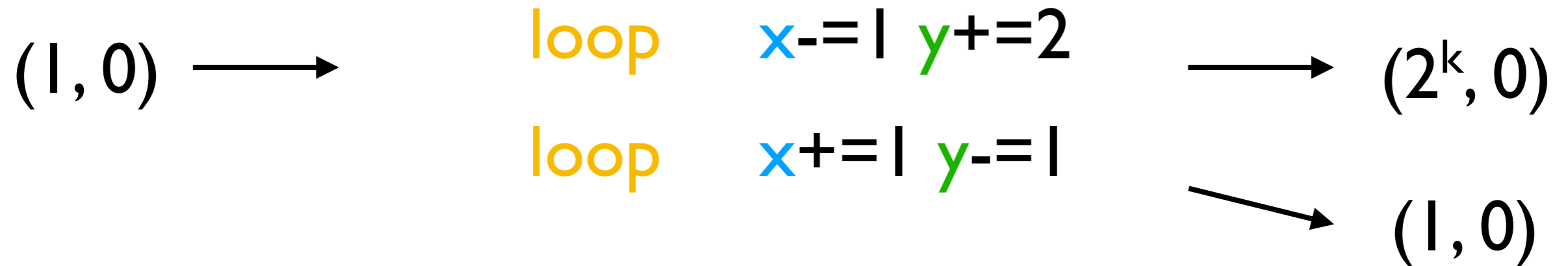
for $i=k$ downto 1 do

loop $x-=1$ $y+=2$

loop $x+=1$ $y-=1$

Controlling counter

for $i=1$ to k do



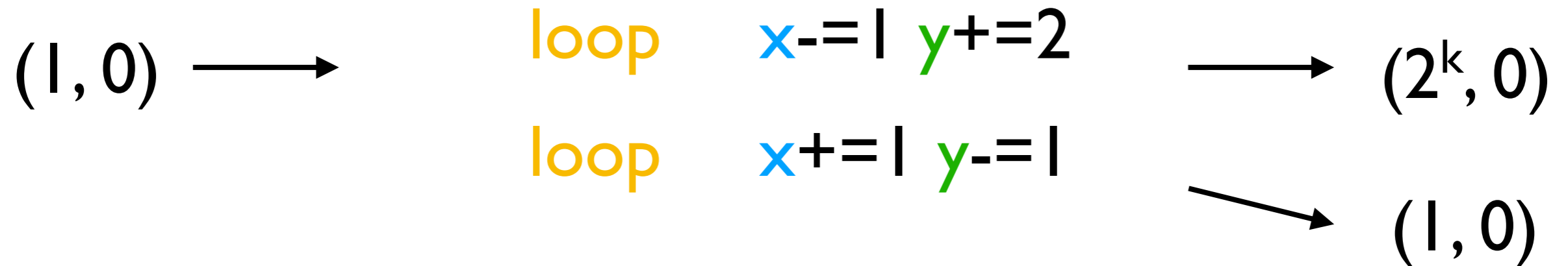
for $i=k$ downto 1 do

loop $x-=1$ $y+=2$ $c+=i$

loop $x+=1$ $y-=1$

Controlling counter

for $i=1$ to k do

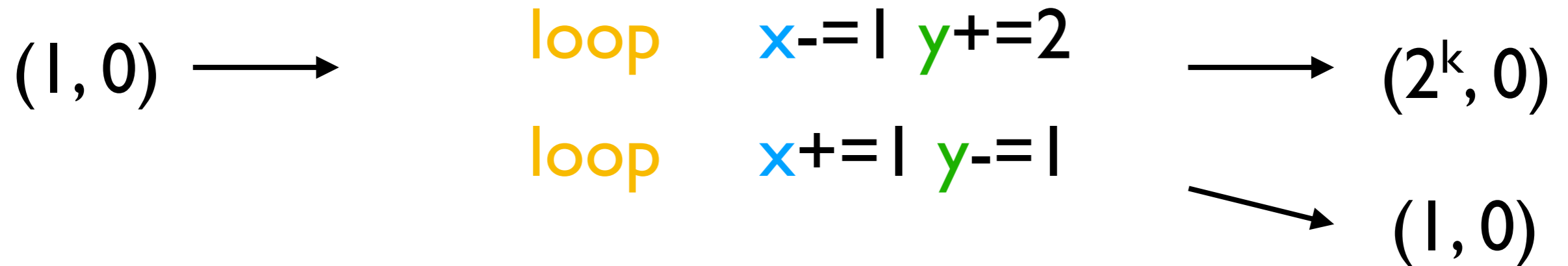


for $i=k$ downto 1 do

loop	$x -= 1$	$y += 2$	$c += i$
loop	$x += 1$	$y -= 1$	$c -= 1$

Controlling counter

for $i=1$ to k do

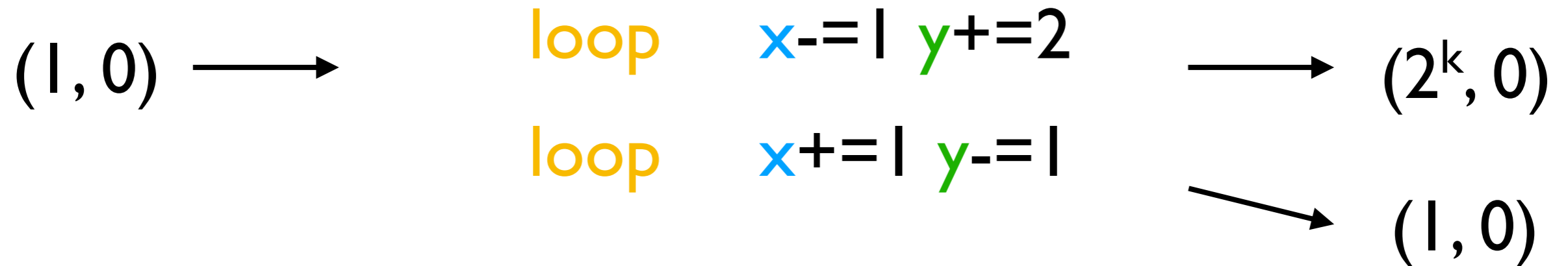


for $i=k$ downto 1 do



Controlling counter

for $i=1$ to k do

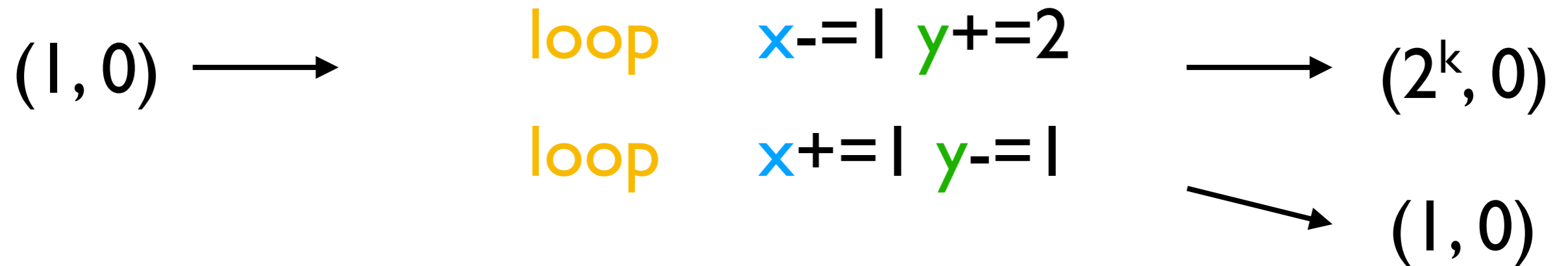


for $i=k$ downto 1 do

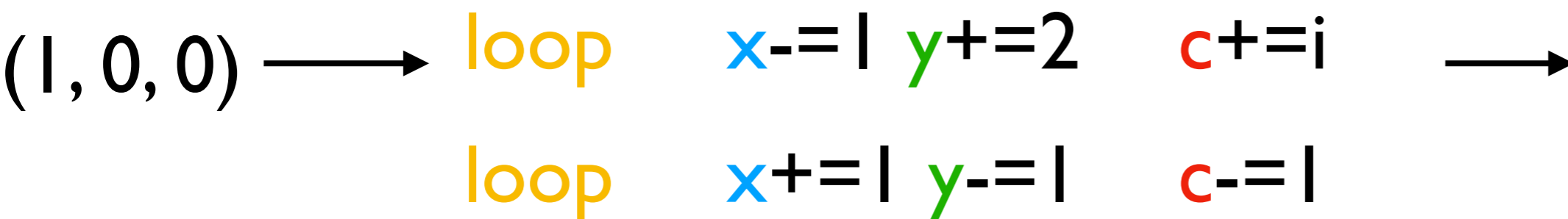


Controlling counter

for $i=1$ to k do

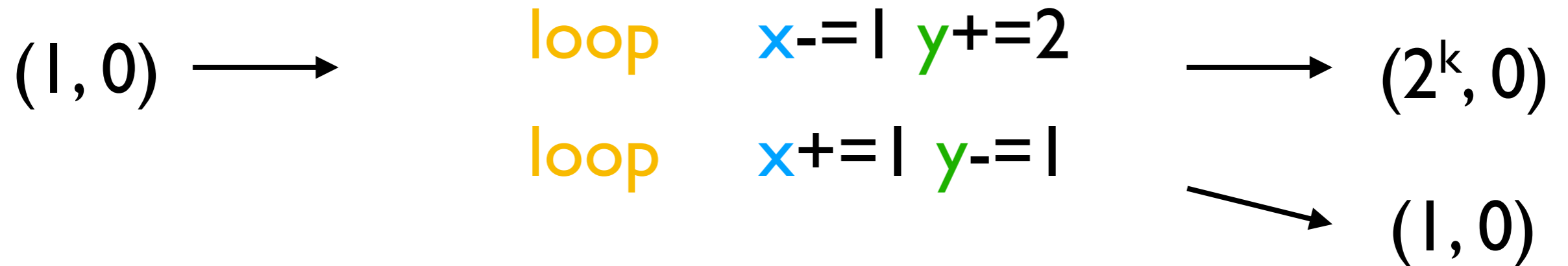


for $i=k$ downto 1 do

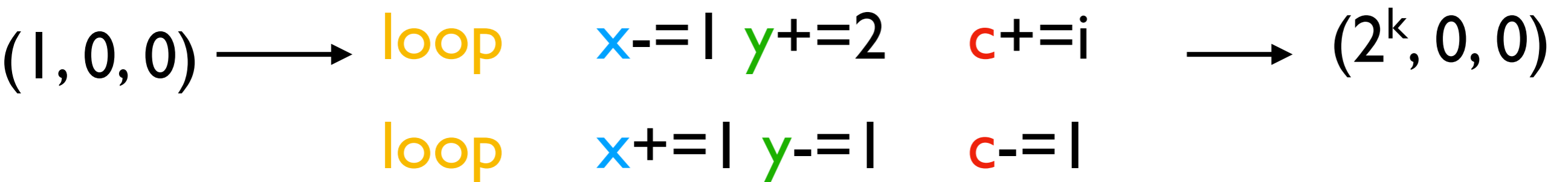


Controlling counter

for $i=1$ to k do

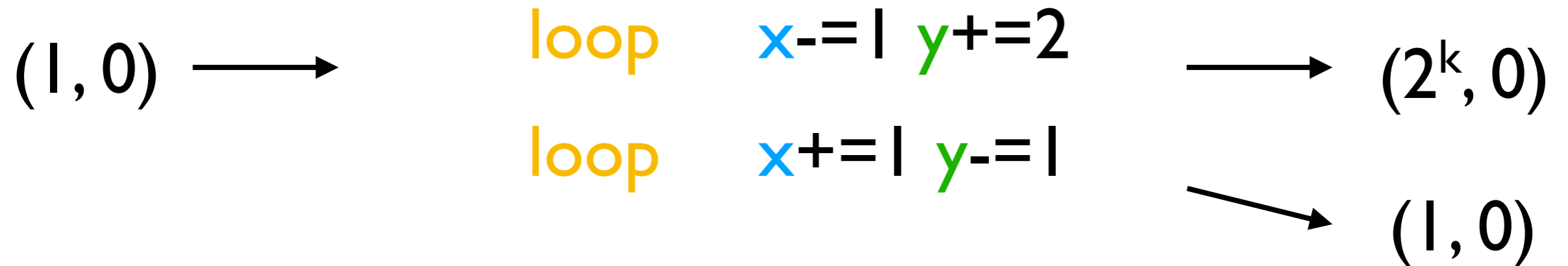


for $i=k$ downto 1 do

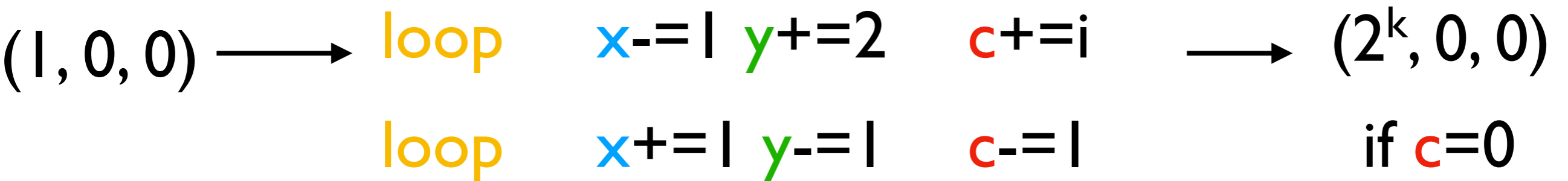


Controlling counter

for $i=1$ to k do



for $i=k$ downto 1 do



Controlling counter

Controlling counter

used in our **Ackermann**-hardness

Controlling counter

used in our **Ackermann**-hardness

many **small** dimension results

Controlling counter

used in our **Ackermann**-hardness

many **small** dimension results

incomparable with **multiplication triples**

Message

Message

many open problems

Message

many open problems

look at **small** dimensions

Message

many open problems

look at small dimensions

hardness \approx big reachability set + enforcing

Message

many open problems

look at **small** dimensions

hardness \approx **big reachability set** + **enforcing**

Thank you!