

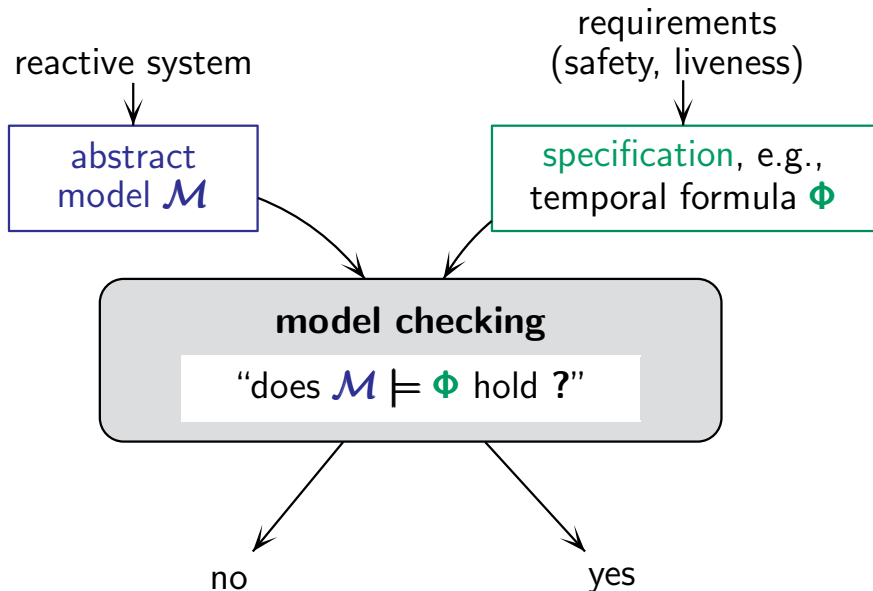
# On Model Checking Techniques for Randomized Distributed Systems

Christel Baier  
Technische Universität Dresden

joint work with Nathalie Bertrand  
Frank Ciesinski  
Marcus Größer

- randomized algorithms [RABIN 1960]  
breaking symmetry, fingerprints, input sampling, ...
- stochastic control theory [BELLMAN 1957]  
operations research
- performance modeling [MARKOV, ERLANG, KOLM., ~ 1900]  
emphasis on steady-state and transient measures
- biological systems, resilient systems, security protocols  
⋮

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breaking symmetry, fingerprints, input sampling, ...  
models: discrete-time Markov chains  
Markov decision processes
- stochastic control theory [BELLMAN 1957]  
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⋮



probabilistic  
reactive system

quantitative  
requirements

probabilistic  
model  $\mathcal{M}$

specification, e.g.,  
temporal formula  $\Phi$

probabilistic model checking

“does  $\mathcal{M} \models \Phi$  hold ?”

probability for “bad behaviors” is  $< 10^{-6}$   
probability for “good behaviors” is 1  
expected costs for ....

probabilistic  
reactive system

quantitative  
requirements

Markov decision  
process  $\mathcal{M}$

linear temporal formula  $\Phi$   
(path event)

**probabilistic model checking**

quantitative analysis of  $\mathcal{M}$  against  $\Phi$

probability for “bad behaviors” is  $< 10^{-6}$   
probability for “good behaviors” is **1**

- Markov decision processes (MDP) and quantitative analysis against path events
- partial order reduction for MDP
- partially-observable MDP
- conclusions

operational model with **nondeterminism** and **probabilism**



# Markov decision process (MDP)

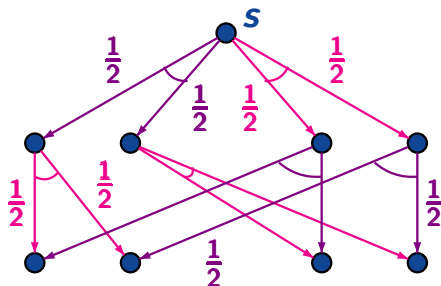
MDP-01

operational model with **nondeterminism** and **probabilism**

- modeling randomized distributed systems by **interleaving**

process 1  
tosses a  
coin

process 2  
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# Markov decision process (MDP)

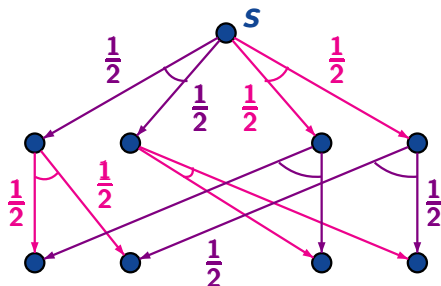
MDP-01

operational model with **nondeterminism** and **probabilism**

- modeling randomized distributed systems by **interleaving**
- nondeterminism useful for **abstraction**, **underspec.**, modeling interactions with an **unknown environment**

process 1  
tosses a  
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$$\mathcal{M} = (\mathcal{S}, \mathit{Act}, P, \dots)$$

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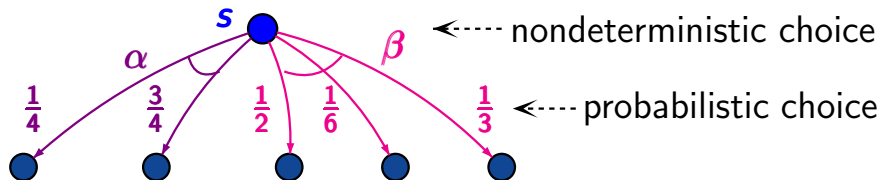
- finite state space  $\mathcal{S}$

$$\mathcal{M} = (\mathcal{S}, \mathit{Act}, P, \dots)$$

- finite state space  $\mathcal{S}$
- $\mathit{Act}$  finite set of actions
- $P : \mathcal{S} \times \mathit{Act} \times \mathcal{S} \rightarrow [0, 1]$

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# Markov decision process (MDP)

MDP-02-R

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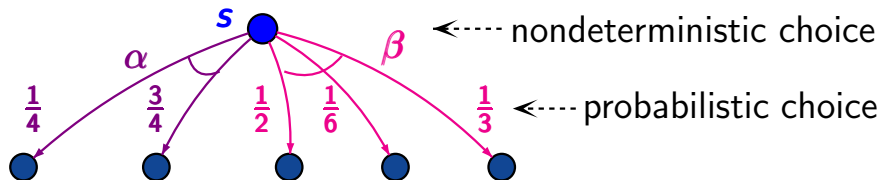
$\mathcal{Act}(s)$  = set of actions that are enabled in state  $s$

- finite state space  $\mathcal{S}$
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- $P : \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{Act} \times \mathcal{S} \rightarrow [0, 1]$  s.t.

$$\forall s \in \mathcal{S} \quad \forall \alpha \in \mathcal{Act}. \quad \sum_{s' \in \mathcal{S}} P(s, \alpha, s') \in \{0, 1\}$$

$$\alpha \notin \mathcal{Act}(s)$$

$$\alpha \in \mathcal{Act}(s)$$



$$\mathcal{M} = (\mathcal{S}, \mathit{Act}, P, s_0, \mathit{AP}, L, \mathit{rew}, \dots)$$

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$$\alpha \in \mathit{Act}(s)$$

- $s_0$  initial state
- $\mathit{AP}$  set of atomic propositions
- labeling  $L : \mathcal{S} \rightarrow 2^{\mathit{AP}}$
- reward function  $\mathit{rew} : \mathcal{S} \times \mathit{Act} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$



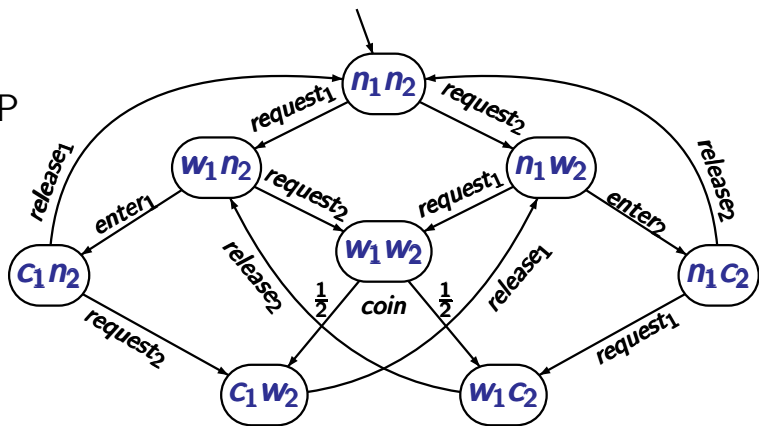
- 2 concurrent processes  $\mathcal{P}_1, \mathcal{P}_2$  with 3 phases:
  - $n_i$  noncritical actions of process  $\mathcal{P}_i$
  - $w_i$  waiting phase of process  $\mathcal{P}_i$
  - $c_i$  critical section of process  $\mathcal{P}_i$
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- competition of both processes are waiting
- resolved by a randomized arbiter who tosses a coin

# Randomized mutual exclusion protocol

- interleaving of the request operations
- competition if both processes are waiting
- randomized arbiter tosses a coin if both are waiting

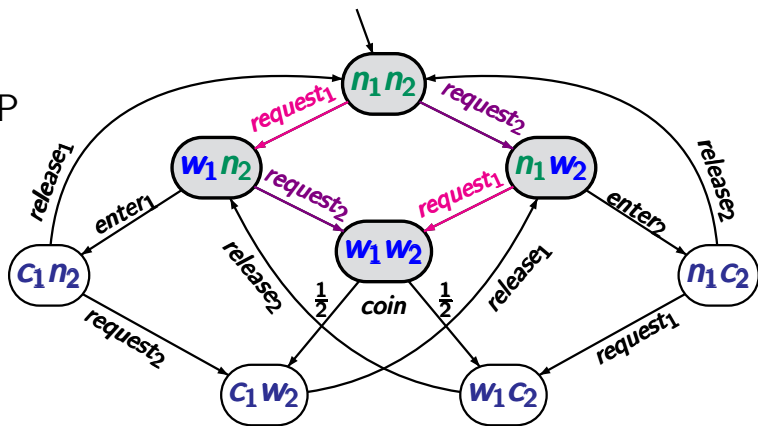
MDP



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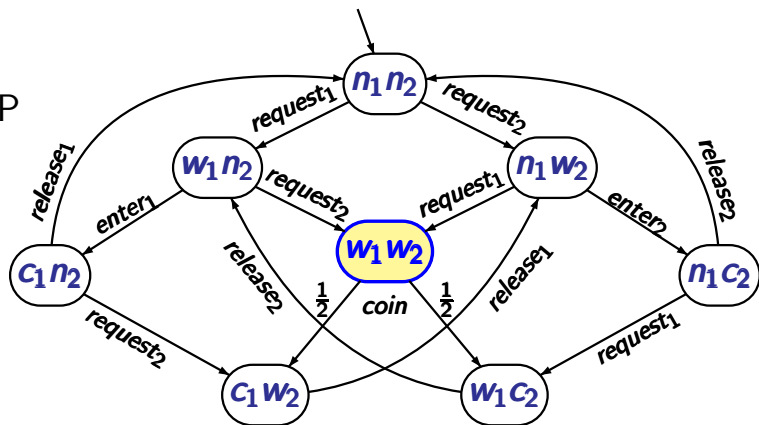
MDP



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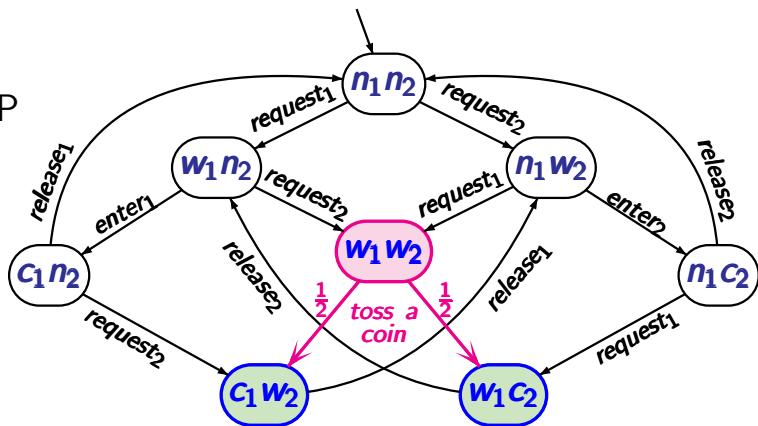
MDP



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MDP

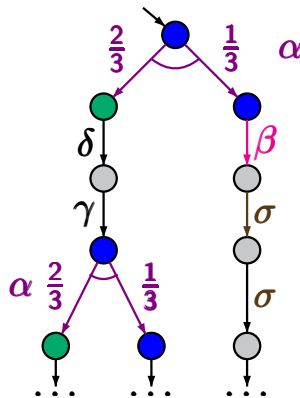
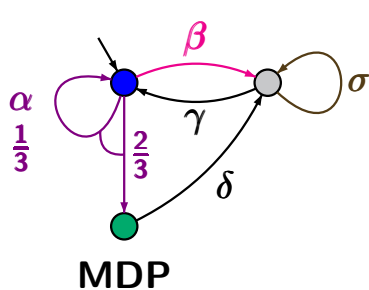


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yields a notion of probability measure  $\Pr^D$   
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typical task: given a measurable path event  $E$ ,

- \* check whether  $E$  holds almost surely, i.e.,

$$\Pr^D(E) = 1 \text{ for all schedulers } D$$

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yields a notion of probability measure  $\Pr^D$   
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typical task: given a measurable path event  $E$ ,

- \* check whether  $E$  holds almost surely
- \* compute the worst-case probability for  $E$ , i.e.,

$$\sup_D \Pr^D(E) \quad \text{or} \quad \inf_D \Pr^D(E)$$

- given: MDP  $\mathcal{M} = (\mathcal{S}, \text{Act}, P, \dots)$  with initial state  $s_0$   
 $\omega$ -regular path event  $E$ ,  
e.g., given by an LTL formula
- task: compute  $\Pr_{\max}^{\mathcal{M}}(s_0, E) = \sup_D \Pr^D(s_0, E)$

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method: compute  $x_s = \Pr_{\max}^{\mathcal{M}}(s, E)$  for all  $s \in \mathcal{S}$   
via graph analysis and linear program

[Vardi/Wolper'86]

[Courcoubetis/Yannakakis'88]

[Bianco/de Alfaro'95]

[Baier/Kwiatkowska'98]

probabilistic  
system

“bad behaviors”

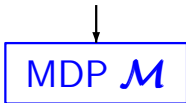
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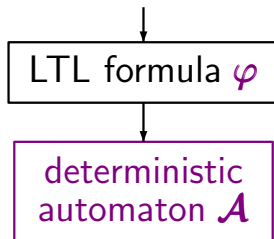
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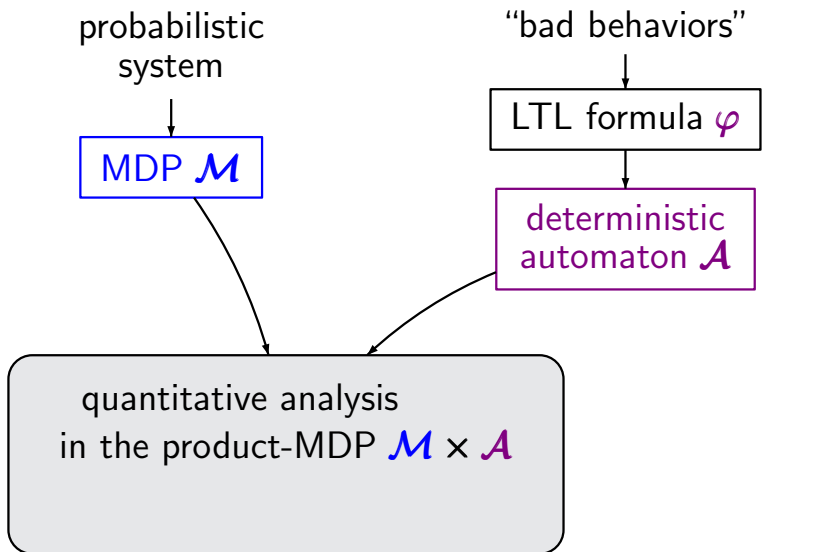


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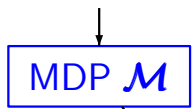
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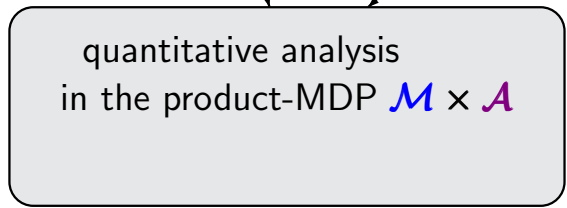
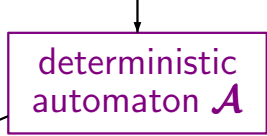
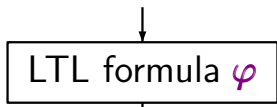


$$\Pr_{\max}^{\mathcal{M}}(s, \varphi) = \Pr_{\max}^{\mathcal{M} \times \mathcal{A}}(\langle s, \text{init}_s \rangle, \text{acceptance cond. of } \mathcal{A})$$

probabilistic system



“bad behaviors”



maximal probability for reaching an accepting end component



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probabilistic  
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MDP  $\mathcal{M}$

“bad behaviors”

LTL formula  $\varphi$

deterministic  
automaton  $\mathcal{A}$

probabilistic reachability analysis  
in the product-MDP  $\mathcal{M} \times \mathcal{A}$

linear program

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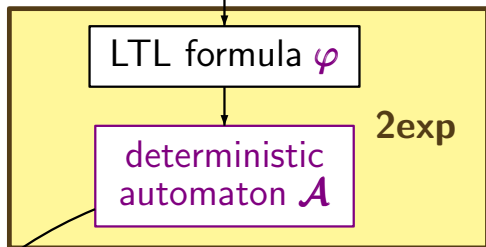
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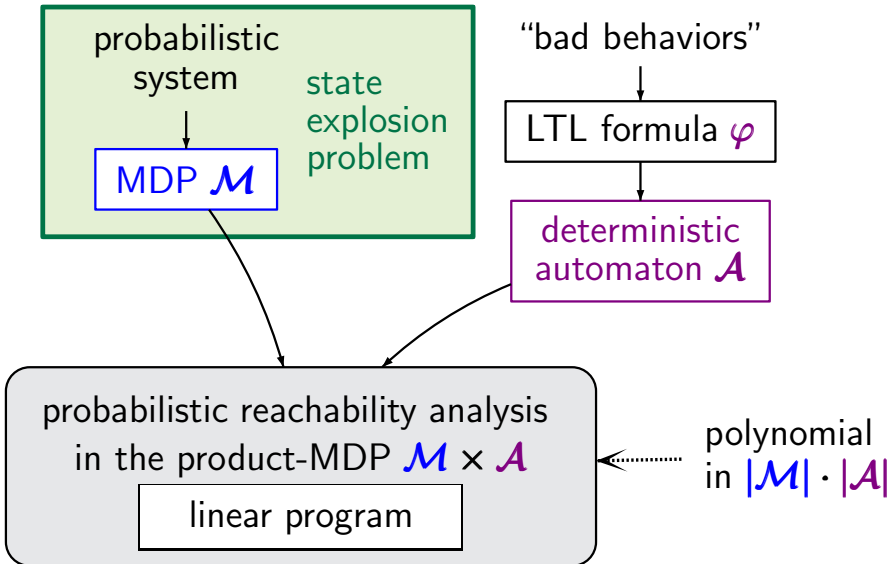


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- **symbolic model checking** with variants of BDDs
  - e.g., in **PRISM** [Kwiatkowska/Norman/Parker]
  - ProbVerus** [Hartonas-Garmhausen, Campos, Clarke]
- **state aggregation** with bisimulation
  - e.g., in **MRMC** [Katoen et al]
- **abstraction-refinement**
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randomized distributed algorithms,  
communication and multimedia protocols,  
power management, security, ...

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e.g.,  $\underbrace{x := x + y}_{\text{action } \alpha} \parallel \underbrace{z := z + 3}_{\text{action } \beta}$

has the same effect as  $\alpha; \beta$  or  $\beta; \alpha$

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DFS-based on-the-fly generation of a reduced system for each expanded state  $s$

- choose an appropriate subset  $Ample(s)$  of  $Act(s)$
- expand only the  $\alpha$ -successors of  $s$  for  $\alpha \in Ample(s)$  (but ignore the actions in  $Act(s) \setminus Ample(s)$ )

# Partial order reduction

POR-02A

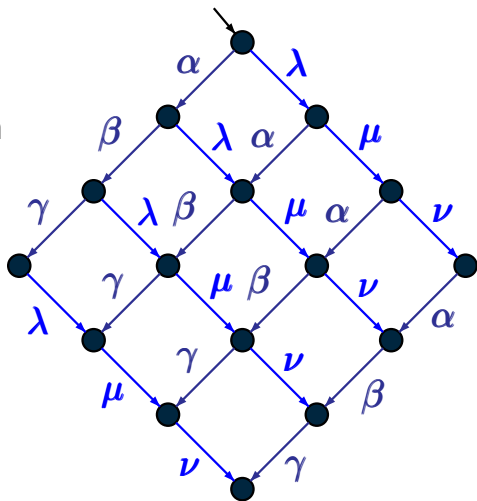
concurrent execution  
of processes  $\mathcal{P}_1, \mathcal{P}_2$

- no communication
- no competition

transition system  
for  $\mathcal{P}_1 \parallel \mathcal{P}_2$  where

$$\mathcal{P}_1 = \alpha; \beta; \gamma$$

$$\mathcal{P}_2 = \lambda; \mu; \nu$$



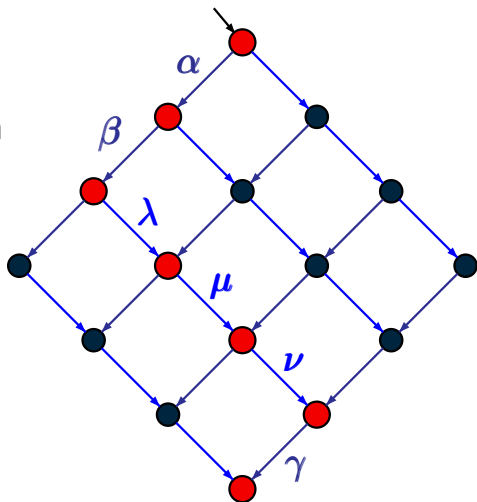
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idea: explore just **1** path as representative for all paths

given: processes  $\mathcal{P}_i$  of a parallel system  $\mathcal{P}_1 \parallel \dots \parallel \mathcal{P}_n$   
with transition system  $\mathcal{T} = (\mathcal{S}, \text{Act}, \rightarrow, \dots)$

task: on-the-fly generation of a sub-system  $\mathcal{T}_r$  s.t.

(A1) stutter condition           ...

(A2) dependency condition   ...

(A3) cycle condition           ...



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Each path  $\pi$  in  $\mathcal{T}$  is represented by an “equivalent”  
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$\mathcal{T}$  and  $\mathcal{T}_r$  satisfy the same stutter-invariant events,  
e.g., next-free LTL formulas

given: processes  $\mathcal{P}_i$  of a probabilistic system  $\mathcal{P}_1 \parallel \dots \parallel \mathcal{P}_n$   
with MDP-semantics  $\mathcal{M} = (\mathcal{S}, \text{Act}, \mathcal{P}, \dots)$

task: on-the-fly generation of a sub-MDP  $\mathcal{M}_r$  s.t.

$\mathcal{M}_r$  and  $\mathcal{M}$  have the same **extremal probabilities**  
for stutter-invariant events

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task: on-the-fly generation of a sub-MDP  $\mathcal{M}_r$  s.t.

For all schedulers  $D$  for  $\mathcal{M}$  there is a scheduler  $D_r$  for  $\mathcal{M}_r$  s.t. for all measurable, stutter-invariant events  $E$ :

$$\Pr_{\mathcal{M}}^D(E) = \Pr_{\mathcal{M}_r}^{D_r}(E)$$



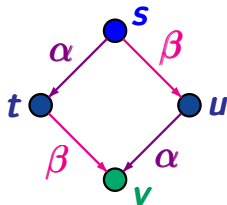
$\mathcal{M}_r$  and  $\mathcal{M}$  have the same **extremal probabilities**  
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Actions  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are called independent in a transition system  $\mathcal{T}$  iff:

whenever  $s \xrightarrow{\alpha} t$  and  $s \xrightarrow{\beta} u$  then

- (1)  $\alpha$  is enabled in  $u$
- (2)  $\beta$  is enabled in  $t$
- (3) if  $u \xrightarrow{\alpha} v$  and  $t \xrightarrow{\beta} w$  then  $v = w$



Let  $\mathcal{M} = (\mathcal{S}, \mathit{Act}, P, \dots)$  be a MDP and  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathit{Act}$ .

$\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are independent in  $\mathcal{M}$  if for each state  $s$   
s.t.  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathit{Act}(s)$ :

- (1) if  $P(s, \alpha, t) > 0$  then  $\beta \in \mathit{Act}(t)$
- (2) if  $P(s, \beta, u) > 0$  then  $\alpha \in \mathit{Act}(u)$
- (3) ...

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- (2) if  $P(s, \beta, u) > 0$  then  $\alpha \in \text{Act}(u)$
- (3) for all states  $w$ :

$$P(s, \alpha\beta, w) = P(s, \beta\alpha, w)$$

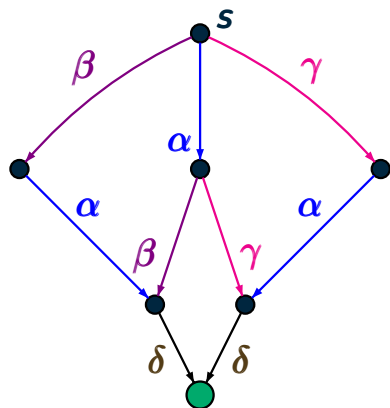
$$\sum_{t \in \mathcal{S}} P(s, \alpha, t) \cdot P(t, \beta, w)$$

$$\sum_{u \in \mathcal{S}} P(s, \beta, u) \cdot P(u, \alpha, w)$$



# Example: ample set method

POR-08

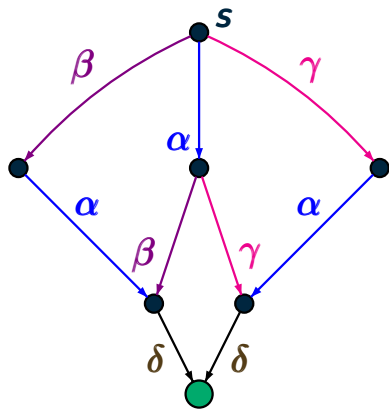


original system  $\mathcal{T}$

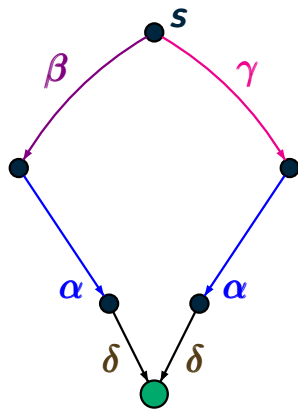
$\alpha$  independent from  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$

# Example: ample set method

POR-08



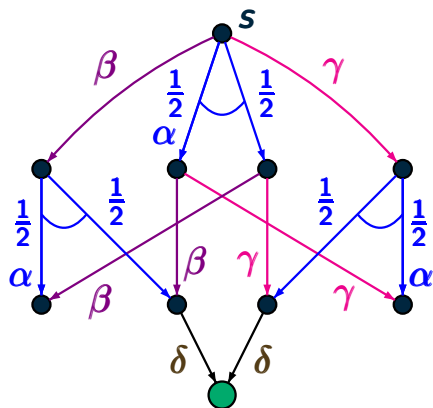
original system  $\mathcal{T}$



reduced system  $\mathcal{T}_r$   
(A1)-(A3) are fulfilled

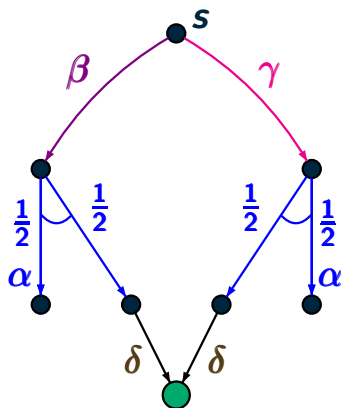
$\alpha$  independent from  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$

# Example: ample set method fails for MDP



original MDP  $\mathcal{M}$

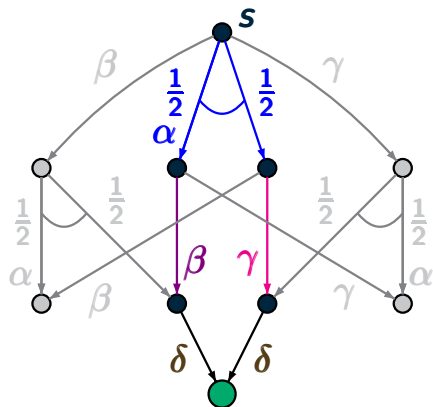
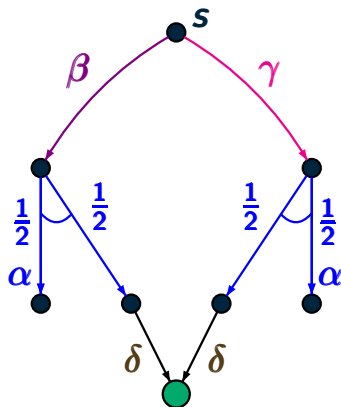
$\alpha$  independent from  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$



reduced MDP  $\mathcal{M}_r$   
(A1)-(A3) are fulfilled

# Example: ample set method fails for MDP

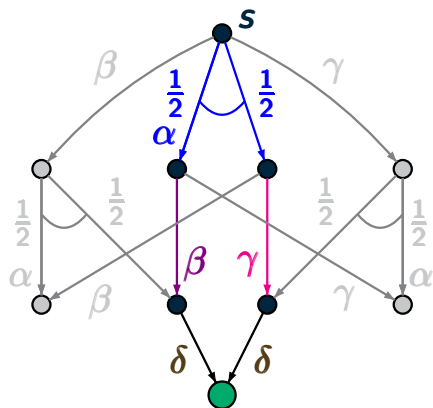
POR-08

original MDP  $\mathcal{M}$ reduced MDP  $\mathcal{M}_r$ 

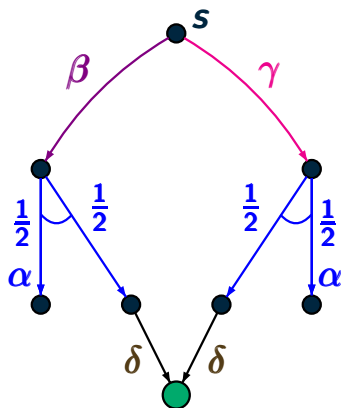
$$\Pr_{\max}^{\mathcal{M}}(s, \diamond \text{green}) = 1$$

 $\diamond$  “eventually”

# Example: ample set method fails for MDP



original MDP  $\mathcal{M}$



reduced MDP  $\mathcal{M}_r$

$$\Pr_{\max}^{\mathcal{M}}(s, \diamond \text{green}) = 1 > \frac{1}{2} = \Pr_{\max}^{\mathcal{M}_r}(s, \diamond \text{green})$$

extend Peled's conditions (A1)-(A3) for the ample-sets

- (A1) stutter condition ...
- (A2) dependency condition ...
- (A3) cycle condition ...
- (A4) probabilistic condition

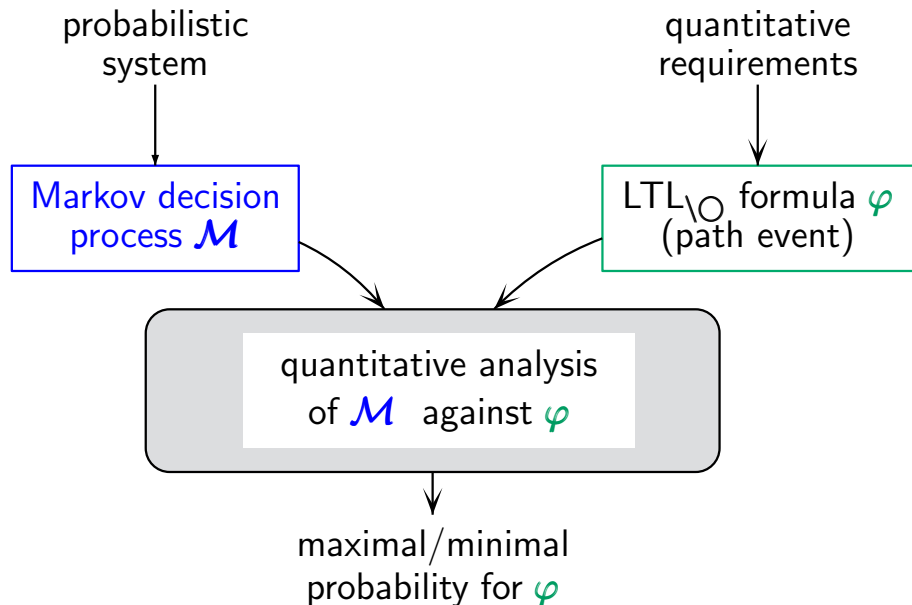
If there is a path  $s \xrightarrow{\beta_1} \xrightarrow{\beta_2} \dots \xrightarrow{\beta_n} \xrightarrow{\alpha}$  in  $\mathcal{M}$  s.t.  
 $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_n, \alpha \notin \mathbf{Ample}(s)$  and  $\alpha$  is probabilistic  
then  $|\mathbf{Ample}(s)| = 1$ .

extend Peled's conditions (A1)-(A3) for the ample-sets

- (A1) stutter condition ...
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 $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_n, \alpha \notin \mathbf{Ample}(s)$  and  $\alpha$  is probabilistic  
then  $|\mathbf{Ample}(s)| = 1$ .

If (A1)-(A4) hold then  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{M}_r$  have the same  
extremal probabilities for all stutter-invariant properties.





modeling language

$\mathcal{P}_1 \parallel \dots \parallel \mathcal{P}_n$

partial order reduction

reduced  
MDP  $\mathcal{M}_r$

quantitative  
requirements

LTL<sub>\O</sub> formula  $\varphi$   
(path event)

quantitative analysis  
of  $\mathcal{M}_r$  against  $\varphi$

maximal/minimal  
probability for  $\varphi$

modeling language

$\mathcal{P}_1 \parallel \dots \parallel \mathcal{P}_n$

partial order reduction

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LTL<sub>\(\circ\)</sub> formula  $\varphi$   
(path event)

quantitative analysis  
of  $\mathcal{M}_r$  against  $\varphi$

maximal/minimal  
probability for  $\varphi$

worst-case  
analysis

- Markov decision processes (MDP) and quantitative analysis against path events
- partial order reduction for MDP
- partially-observable MDP
- conclusions



# Monty-Hall problem

POMDP-01



**3** doors  
initially closed

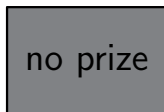
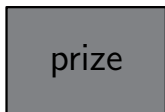
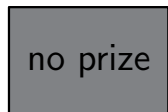
candidate



show  
master

# Monty-Hall problem

POMDP-01



**3** doors  
initially closed

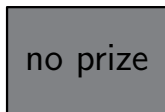
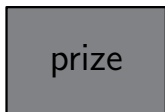
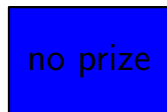
candidate



show  
master

# Monty-Hall problem

POMDP-01



**3** doors  
initially closed

candidate

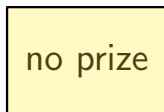
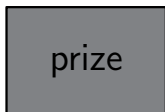
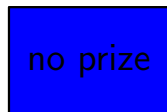


show  
master

1. candidate chooses one of the doors

# Monty-Hall problem

POMDP-01



**3** doors  
initially closed

candidate

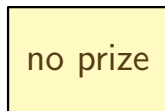
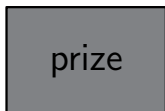
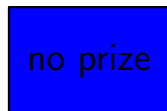


show  
master

1. candidate chooses one of the doors
2. show master opens a non-chosen, non-winning door

# Monty-Hall problem

POMDP-01



3 doors  
initially closed

candidate



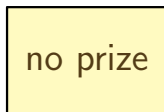
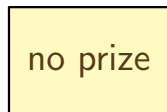
show  
master

1. candidate chooses one of the doors
2. show master opens a non-chosen, non-winning door
3. candidate has the choice:
  - keep the choice or
  - switch to the other (still closed) door



# Monty-Hall problem

POMDP-01



3 doors  
initially closed

candidate

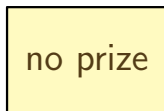
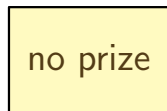


show  
master

1. candidate chooses one of the doors
2. show master opens a non-chosen, non-winning door
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  - keep the choice or
  - switch to the other (still closed) door
4. show master opens all doors

# Monty-Hall problem

POMDP-01



3 doors  
initially closed

candidate



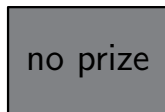
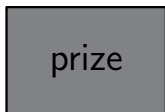
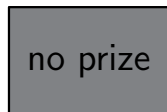
show  
master

optimal strategy for the candidate:

initial choice of the door: arbitrary  
revision of the initial choice (switch)

probability for getting the prize:  $\frac{2}{3}$





**3** doors  
initially closed

candidate's actions

1. choose one door
3. keep or switch ?



show master's actions

2. opens a non-chosen, non-winning door
4. opens all doors

# MDP for the Monty-Hall problem

POMDP-02

no prize

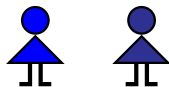
prize

no prize

3 doors  
initially closed

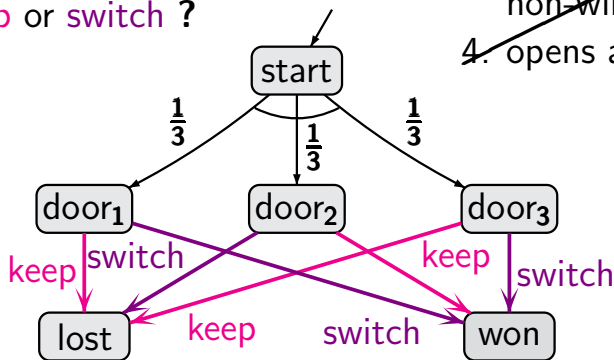
candidate's actions

1. choose one door
3. **keep** or **switch** ?



~~show master's actions~~

- ~~2. opens a non-chosen, non-winning door~~
- ~~4. opens all doors~~



# MDP for the Monty-Hall problem

POMDP-02

no prize

prize

no prize

3 doors  
initially closed

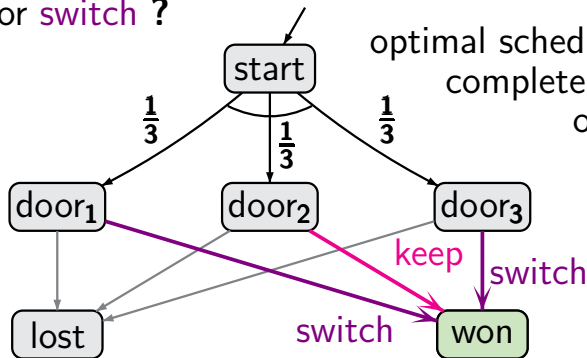
candidate's actions

1. choose one door
3. **keep** or **switch** ?

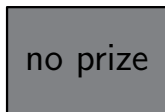
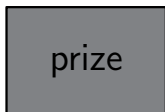
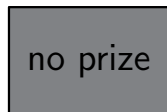


$$\Pr_{\max}(\text{start}, \diamond \text{won}) = 1$$

optimal scheduler requires  
complete information  
on the states



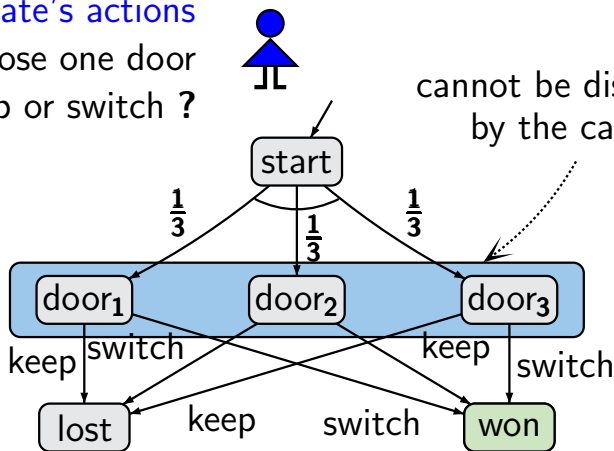
# MDP for the Monty-Hall problem



3 doors  
initially closed

candidate's actions

1. choose one door
3. keep or switch ?



# MDP for the Monty-Hall problem

no prize

prize

no prize

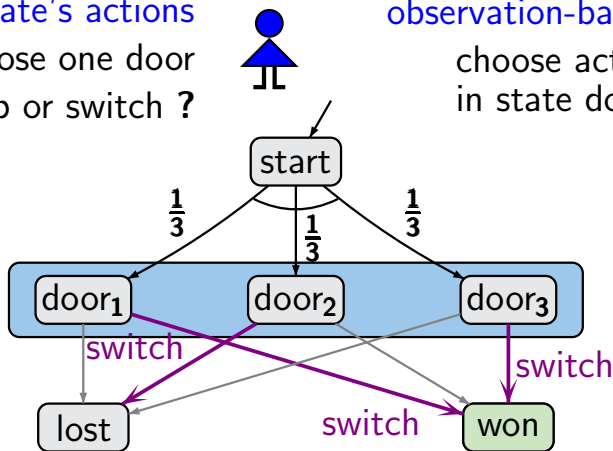
3 doors  
initially closed

candidate's actions

1. choose one door
2. observe
3. keep or switch ?

observation-based strategy:

choose action **switch**  
in state door<sub>i</sub>;





# MDP for the Monty-Hall problem

POMDP-02

no prize

prize

no prize

3 doors  
initially closed

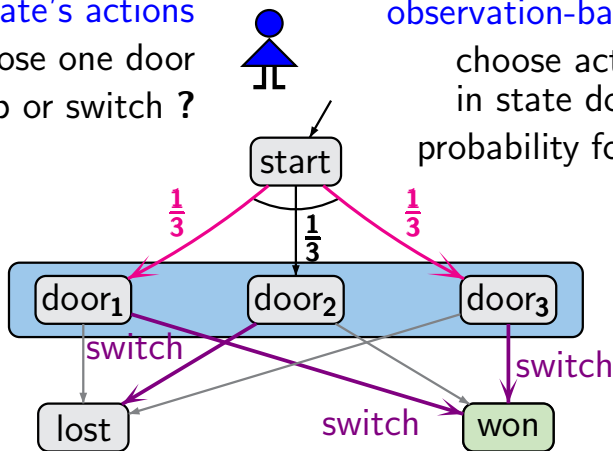
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A partially-observable MDP (POMDP for short) is an MDP  $\mathcal{M} = (\mathcal{S}, \text{Act}, \mathcal{P}, \dots)$  together with an equivalence relation  $\sim$  on  $\mathcal{S}$

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if  $s_1 \sim s_2$  then  $s_1, s_2$  cannot be distinguished from outside (or by the scheduler)

**observables:** equivalence classes of states

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observables: equivalence classes of states

observation-based scheduler:

scheduler  $D : \mathcal{S}^* \rightarrow \text{Act}$  such that for all  $\pi_1, \pi_2 \in \mathcal{S}^*$ :

$$D(\pi_1) = D(\pi_2) \text{ if } \text{obs}(\pi_1) = \text{obs}(\pi_2)$$

where  $\text{obs}(s_0 s_1 \dots s_n) = [s_0] [s_1] \dots [s_n]$

extreme cases of an POMDP:

- $s_1 \sim s_2$  iff  $s_1 = s_2$
- $s_1 \sim s_2$  for all  $s_1, s_2$

extreme cases of an POMDP:

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note that for **totally non-observable** POMDP:

observation-based scheduler  $\cong$  function  $D : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{Act}$   $\cong$  infinite word over  $\text{Act}$

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note that for totally non-observable POMDP:

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undecidability results for PFA carry over to POMDP

maximum probabilistic reachability problem  $\cong$  non-emptiness problem for PFA

“does  $\Pr_{\max}^{obs}(\diamond F) > p$  hold ?”



- The model checking problem for POMDP and **quantitative properties** is undecidable, e.g., probabilistic reachability properties.

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[Paz'71], [Madani/Hanks/Condon'99], [Giro/d'Argenio'07]

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- The model checking problem for POMDP and several **qualitative properties** is undecidable, e.g.,

repeated reachability with positive probability

“does  $\Pr_{\max}^{obs}(\Box\Diamond F) > 0$  hold ?”

$\Box\Diamond \hat{=} \text{“infinitely often”}$

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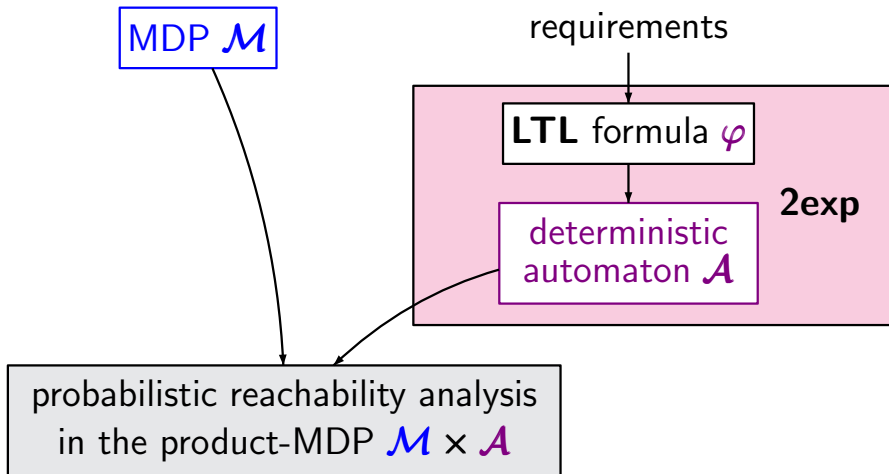
Many interesting verification problems for distributed probabilistic multi-agent systems are undecidable.

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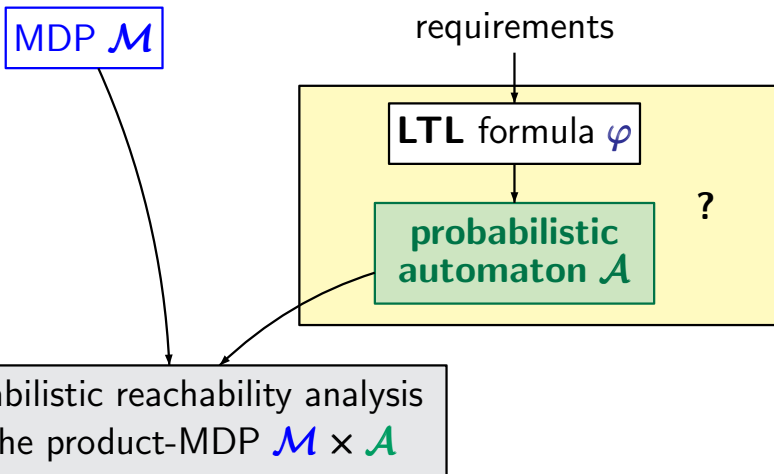
“does  $\Pr_{\max}^{obs}(\Box\Diamond F) > 0$  hold ?”

... already holds for totally non-observable POMDP  
probabilistic Büchi automata



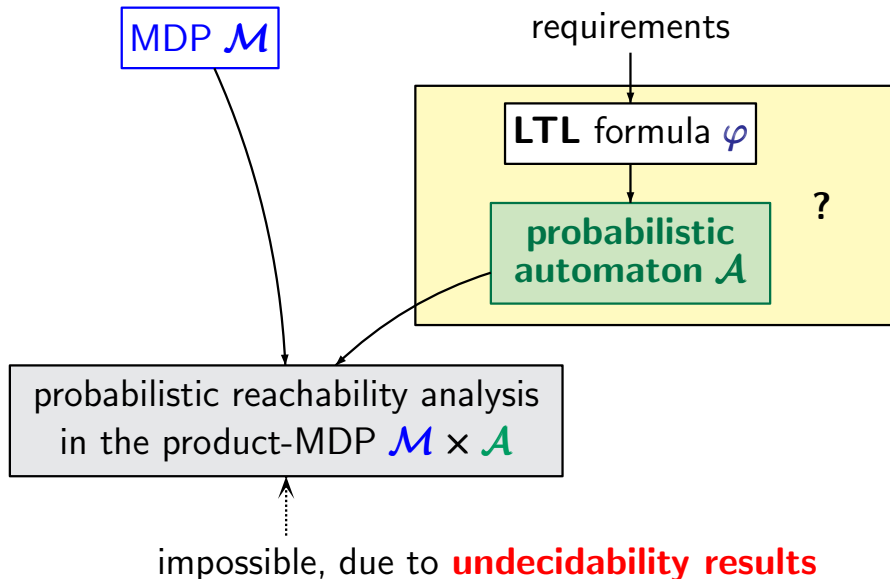
# PA rather than DA ?

POMDP-50



# PA rather than DA ?

POMDP-50







The model checking problem for POMDP and several **qualitative properties** is decidable, e.g.,

- invariance with positive probability

“does  $\Pr_{\max}^{obs}(\Box F) > 0$  hold ?”

- almost-sure reachability

“does  $\Pr_{\max}^{obs}(\Diamond F) = 1$  hold ?”

- almost-sure repeated reachability

“does  $\Pr_{\max}^{obs}(\Box \Diamond F) = 1$  hold ?”

- persistence with positive probability

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algorithms use a certain **powerset construction**

- Markov decision processes (MDP) and quantitative analysis against path events
- partial order reduction for MDP
- partially-observable MDP
- **conclusions**



- worst/best-case analysis of MDP solvable by
  - \* numerical methods for solving linear programs
  - \* known techniques for non-probabilistic systems



graph algorithms, LTL-2-AUT translators, ...  
techniques to combat the state explosion problem  
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graph algorithms, LTL-2-AUT translators, ...  
techniques to combat the state explosion problem  
(such as partial order reduction)

but: strongly simplified definition of **schedulers**



assumption **“full knowledge of the history”** is  
inadequate, e.g., for agents of **distributed systems**

- worst/best-case analysis of MDP solvable by
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proof via **probabilistic language acceptors (PFA/PBA)**

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  - few decidability results for qualitative properties
  - undecidability for quantitative properties and, e.g., repeated reachability with positive probability
- **probabilistic Büchi automata** interesting in their own ...

$$\mathcal{P} = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, \mu, F)$$

- $Q$  finite state space
- $\Sigma$  alphabet
- $\delta : Q \times \Sigma \times Q \rightarrow [0, 1]$  s.t. for all  $q \in Q, a \in \Sigma$ :  
$$\sum_{p \in Q} \delta(q, a, p) \in \{0, 1\}$$
- initial distribution  $\mu$
- set of final states  $F \subseteq Q$

# Probabilistic Büchi automaton (PBA)

PBA-01

$$\mathcal{P} = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, \mu, F)$$



POMDP where  $\Sigma = Act$   
and  $\sim \hat{=} Q \times Q$

- $Q$  finite state space
- $\Sigma$  alphabet
- $\delta : Q \times \Sigma \times Q \rightarrow [0, 1]$  s.t. for all  $q \in Q, a \in \Sigma$ :  
$$\sum_{p \in Q} \delta(q, a, p) \in \{0, 1\}$$
- initial distribution  $\mu$
- set of final states  $F \subseteq Q$

# Probabilistic Büchi automaton (PBA)

PBA-01

$$\mathcal{P} = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, \mu, F)$$



POMDP where  $\Sigma = Act$   
and  $\sim \hat{=} Q \times Q$

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For each infinite word  $x \in \Sigma^\omega$ :

$\Pr(x)$  = probability for the accepting runs for  $x$



accepting run: visits  $F$  infinitely often

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probability measure in the infinite Markov chain  
induced by  $x$  viewed as a scheduler

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three types of accepted language:

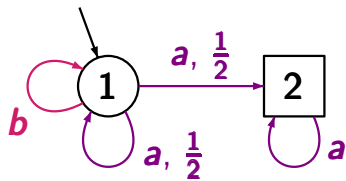
$$\mathcal{L}^{>0}(\mathcal{P}) = \{x \in \Sigma^\omega : \Pr(x) > 0\} \quad \text{probable semantics}$$

$$\mathcal{L}^{=1}(\mathcal{P}) = \{x \in \Sigma^\omega : \Pr(x) = 1\} \quad \text{almost-sure sem.}$$

$$\mathcal{L}^{>\lambda}(\mathcal{P}) = \{x \in \Sigma^\omega : \Pr(x) > \lambda\} \quad \text{threshold semantics} \\ \text{where } 0 < \lambda < 1$$

# Example for PBA

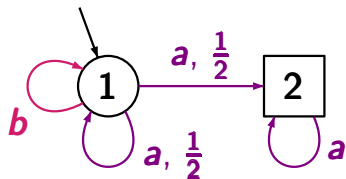
PBA-5





# Example for PBA

PBA-5

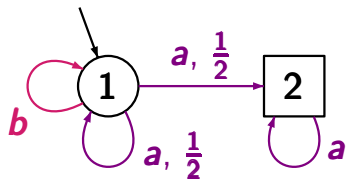


accepted language:

$$\mathcal{L}^{>0}(\mathcal{P}) = (a + b)^* a^\omega$$

# Example for PBA

PBA-5



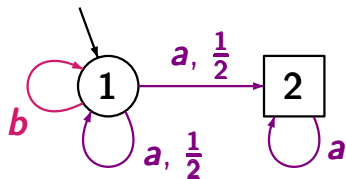
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# Example for PBA

PBA-5



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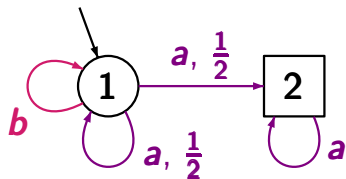
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Thus:  $\text{PBA}^{>0}$  are strictly more expressive than  $\text{DBA}$

# Example for PBA

PBA-5



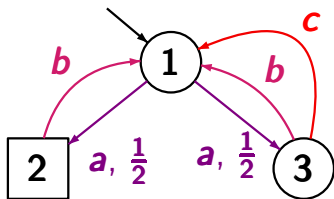
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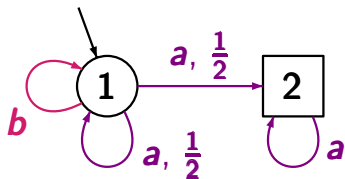
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# Example for PBA

PBA-5



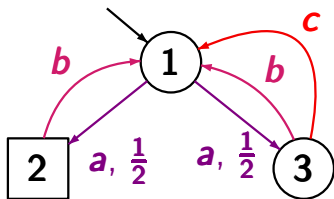
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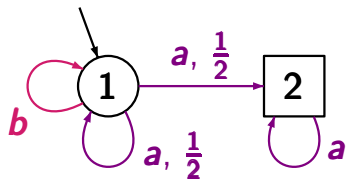
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**NBA** accepts  $((ac)^* ab)^\omega$

# Example for PBA

PBA-5

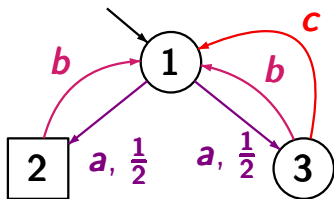


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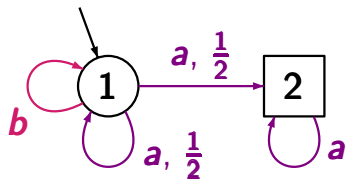
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# Example for PBA

PBA-5

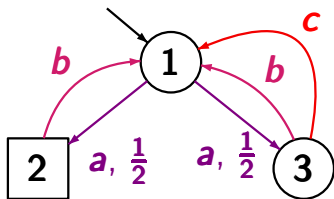


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from NBA to PBA:

**NBA**  $\xrightarrow{\text{Courcoubetis/ Yannakakis}}$  **NBA** deterministic in limit  $\cong$  **PBA**<sup>>0</sup>

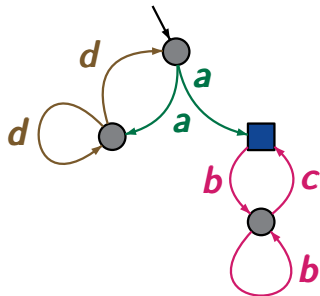
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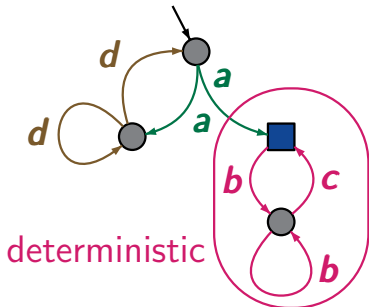
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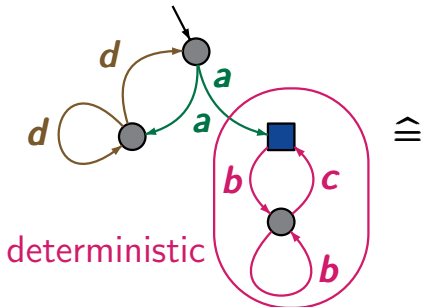
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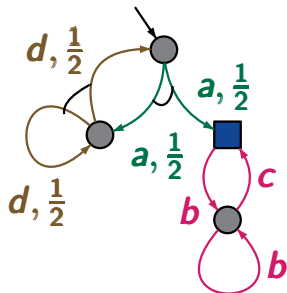
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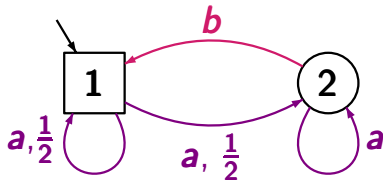


$\cong$



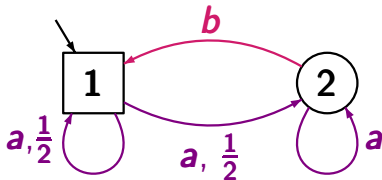
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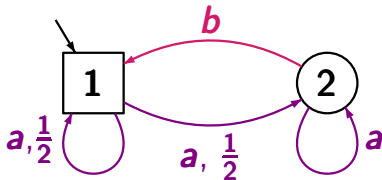


accepted language (probable semantics):

$$\mathcal{L}^{>0}(\mathcal{P}) = \left\{ a^{k_1} b a^{k_2} b a^{k_3} b \dots \mid \dots \right\}$$

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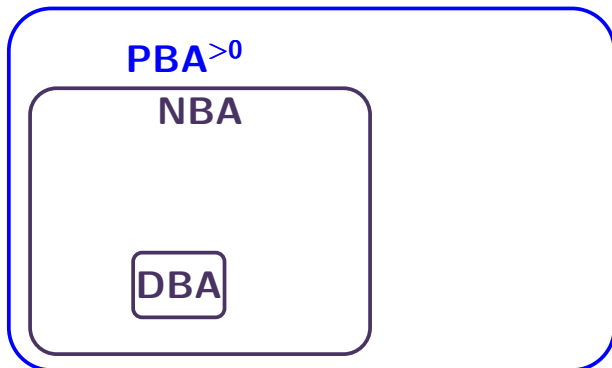
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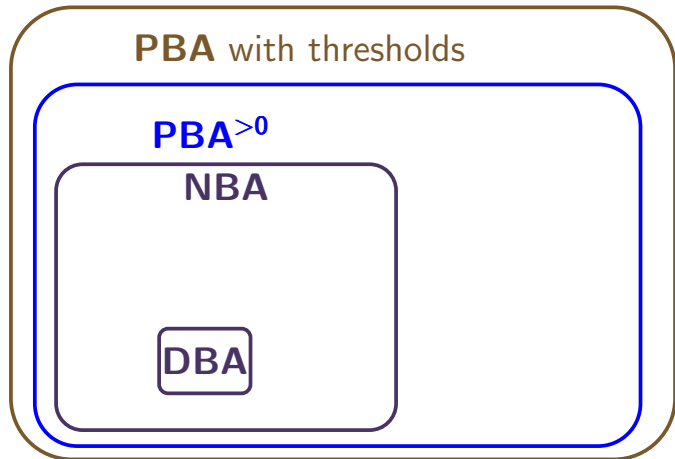
$$\mathcal{L}^{>0}(\mathcal{P}) = \left\{ a^{k_1} b a^{k_2} b a^{k_3} b \dots \mid \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left( 1 - \left( \frac{1}{2} \right)^{k_i} \right) > 0 \right\}$$

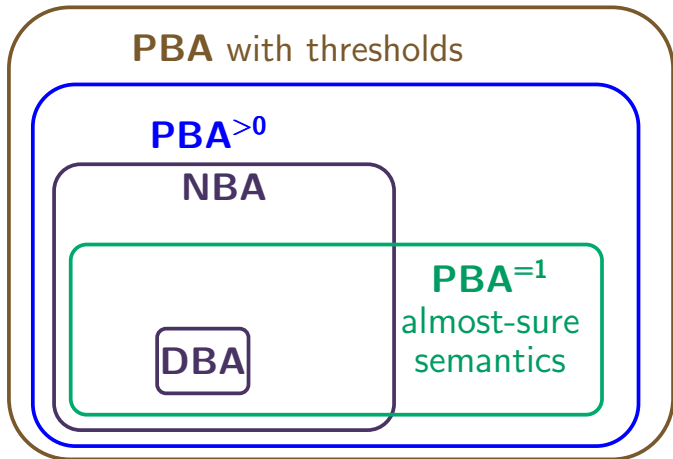


$PBA > 0$

DBA







PBA with thresholds

PBA  $> 0$

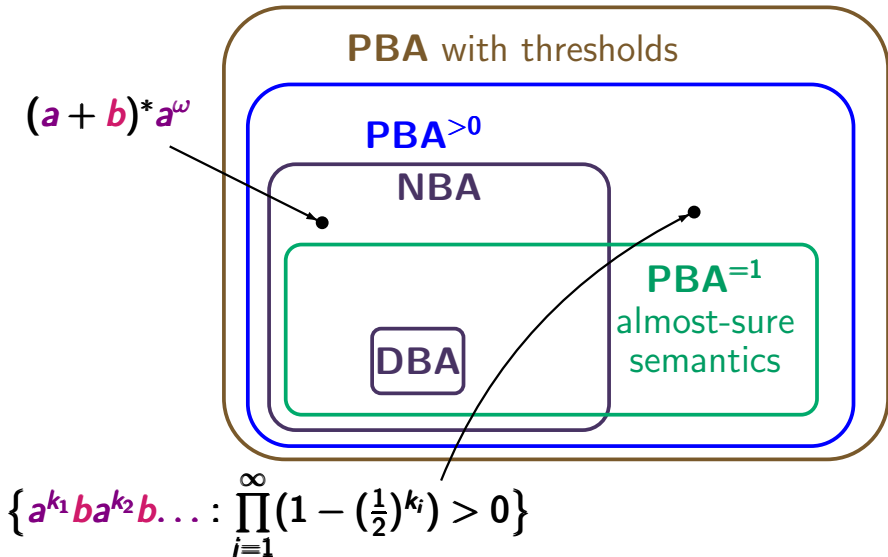
NBA

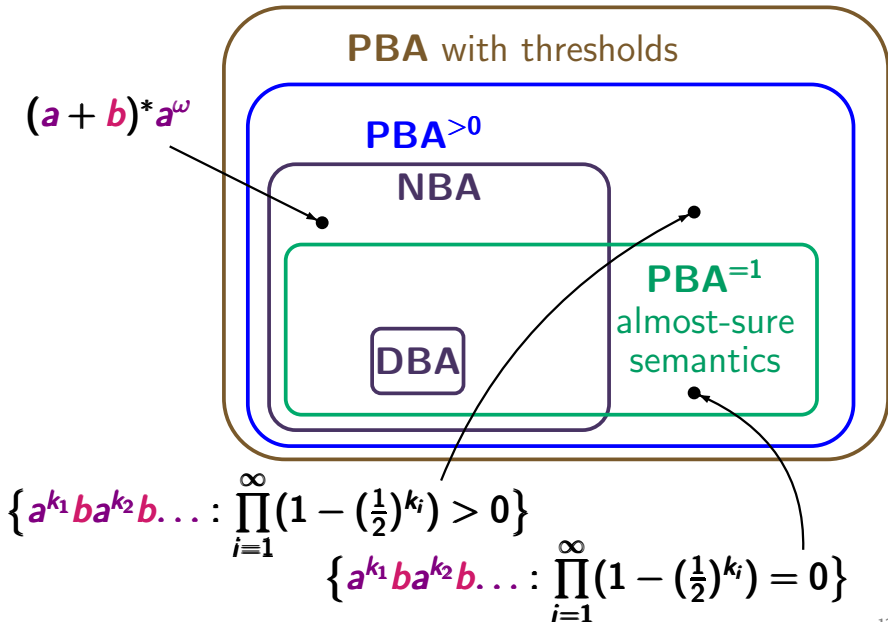
PBA = 1  
almost-sure  
semantics

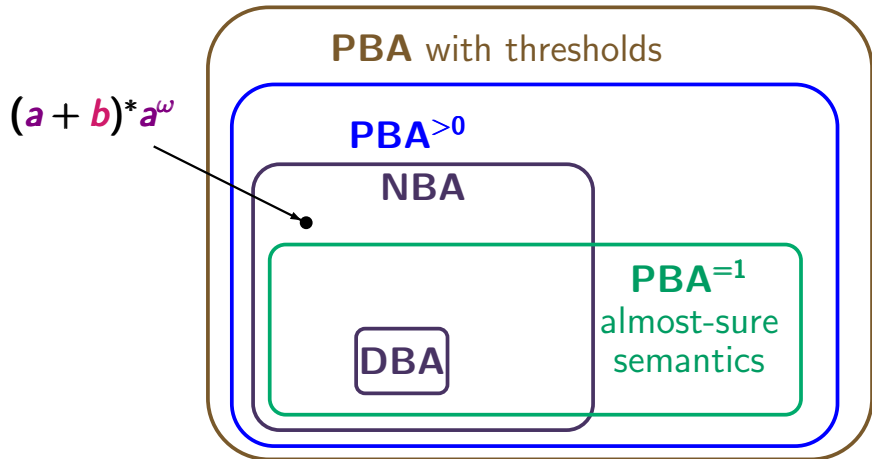
DBA

$(a + b)^* a^\omega$









emptiness problem: undecidable for **PBA<sup>>0</sup>**  
decidable for **PBA<sup>=1</sup>**



The model checking problem for POMDP and several qualitative properties is decidable:

- almost-sure reachability  
“does  $\Pr_{\max}^{obs}(\diamond F) = 1$  hold ?”
- invariance with positive probability  
“does  $\Pr_{\max}^{obs}(\square F) > 0$  hold ?”
- almost-sure repeated reachability  
“does  $\Pr_{\max}^{obs}(\square \diamond F) = 1$  hold ?”
- persistence with positive probability  
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algorithms use a certain **powerset construction**

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algorithms use a certain **powerset construction**

The almost-sure repeated reachability problem

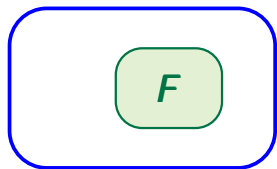
“does  $\Pr_{\max}^{obs}(\Box\Diamond F) = 1$  hold ?”

is polynomially reducible to the almost-sure reachability problem “does  $\Pr_{\max}^{obs}(\Diamond F) = 1$  hold ?”

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POMDP  $\mathcal{M}$

objective:

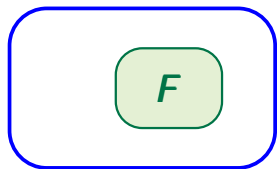
repeated reachability  $\Box\Diamond F$

# Almost-sure reachability/repeated reachability

The almost-sure repeated reachability problem

“does  $\Pr_{\max}^{obs}(\Box\Diamond F) = 1$  hold ?”

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POMDP  $\mathcal{M}$

objective:

repeated reachability  $\Box\Diamond F$



POMDP  $\mathcal{M}'$

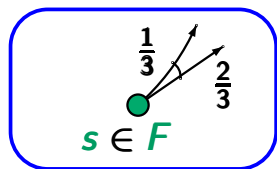
objective:

reachability  $\Diamond f$

The almost-sure repeated reachability problem

“does  $\Pr_{\max}^{obs}(\Box \Diamond F) = 1$  hold ?”

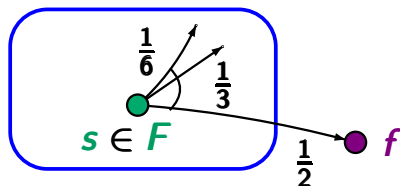
is polynomially reducible to the almost-sure reachability problem “does  $\Pr_{\max}^{obs}(\Diamond f) = 1$  hold ?”



POMDP  $\mathcal{M}$

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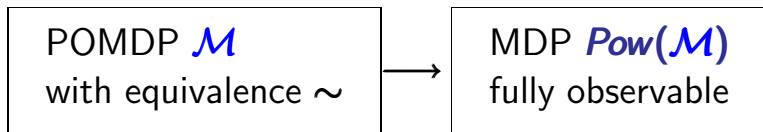
reachability  $\Diamond f$

powerset construction for almost-sure reachability

“does  $\Pr_{\max}^{obs}(\Diamond F) = 1$  hold ?”

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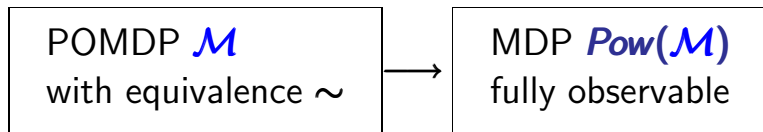
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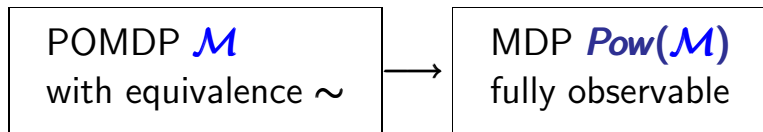
“does  $\Pr_{\max}^{obs}(\diamond F) = 1$  hold ?”



$\Pr_{\max}^{obs}(\diamond F) = 1$  in  $\mathcal{M}$  iff  $\Pr_{\max}(\diamond F') = 1$  in  $Pow(\mathcal{M})$

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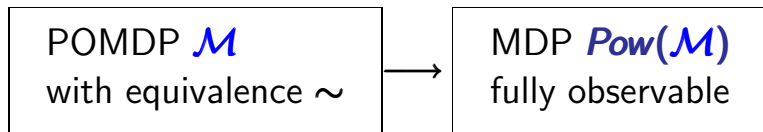
$\Pr_{\max}^{obs}(\Diamond F) = 1$  in  $\mathcal{M}$  iff  $\Pr_{\max}(\Diamond F') = 1$  in  $Pow(\mathcal{M})$

state  $s$  in  $\mathcal{M}$   $\mapsto$  states  $\langle s, R \rangle$   
where  $s \in R \subseteq [s]$

$[s]$  = equivalence class of  $s$  w.r.t.  $\sim$

powerset construction for almost-sure reachability

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fresh goal state  $f$

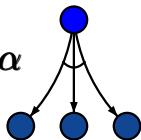
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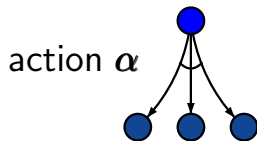
action  $\alpha$



powerset construction for almost-sure reachability

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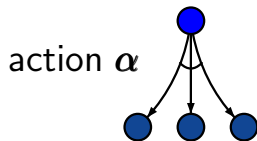


if  $Post(s, \alpha) \cap F = \emptyset$

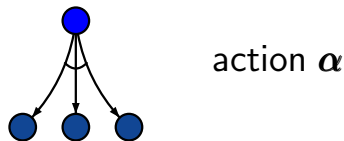
powerset construction for almost-sure reachability

“does  $\Pr_{\max}^{obs}(\Diamond F) = 1$  hold ?”

state  $s$  in  $\mathcal{M}$



state  $\langle s, R \rangle$  in  $Pow(\mathcal{M})$



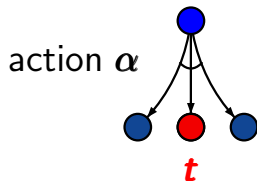
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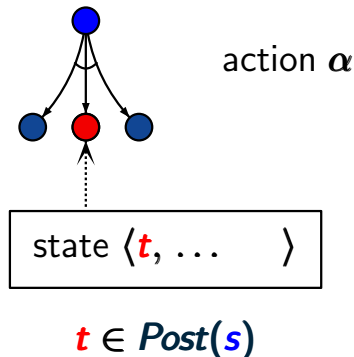
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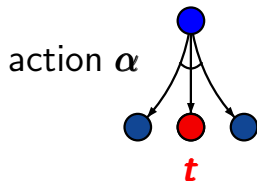
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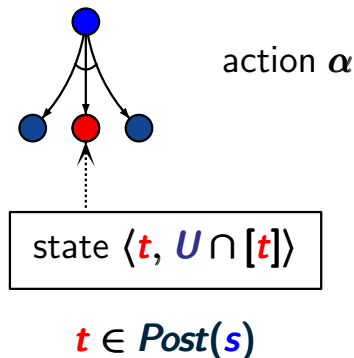
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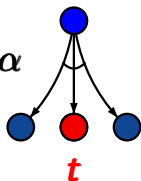


powerset construction for almost-sure reachability

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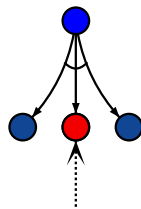
action  $\alpha$



if  $Post(s, \alpha) \cap F = \emptyset$

state  $\langle s, R \rangle$  in  $Pow(\mathcal{M})$

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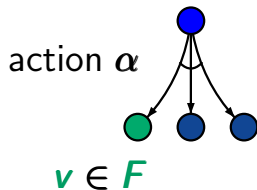
state  $\langle t, U \cap [t] \rangle$

$$P(s, \alpha, t) = P'(\langle s, R \rangle, \alpha, \langle t, U \cap [t] \rangle)$$

powerset construction for almost-sure reachability

“does  $\Pr_{\max}^{obs}(\Diamond F) = 1$  hold ?”

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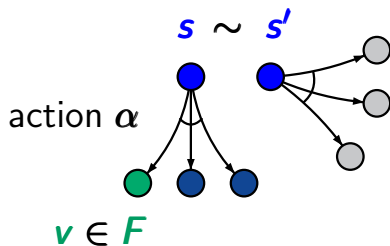
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powerset construction for almost-sure reachability

“does  $\Pr_{\max}^{obs}(\Diamond F) = 1$  hold ?”



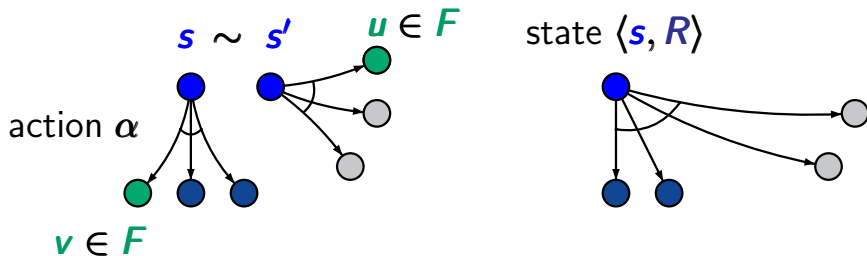
if  $Post(s, \alpha) \cap F \neq \emptyset$

where  $s', s \in R \subseteq [s]$

$U = Post(R, \alpha)$

powerset construction for almost-sure reachability

“does  $\Pr_{\max}^{obs}(\Diamond F) = 1$  hold ?”



if  $Post(s, \alpha) \cap F \neq \emptyset$

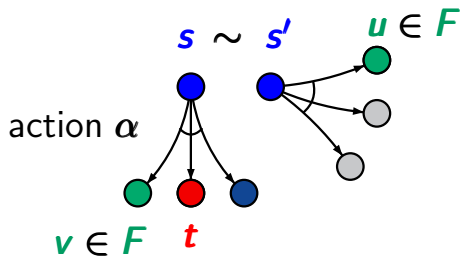
where  $s', s \in R \subseteq [s]$

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# Almost-sure reachability

powerset construction for almost-sure reachability

“does  $\Pr_{\max}^{\text{obs}}(\diamond F) = 1$  hold ?”

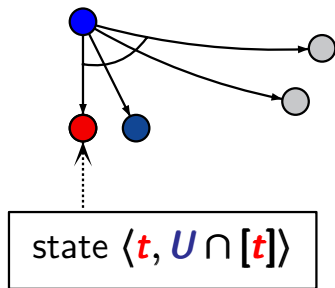


if  $\text{Post}(s, \alpha) \cap F \neq \emptyset$

where  $s', s \in R \subseteq [s]$

$U = \text{Post}(R, \alpha)$

state  $\langle s, R \rangle$

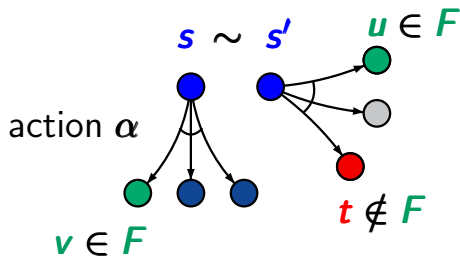


where  $t \in U \setminus F$

# Almost-sure reachability

powerset construction for almost-sure reachability

“does  $\Pr_{\max}^{\text{obs}}(\Diamond F) = 1$  hold ?”

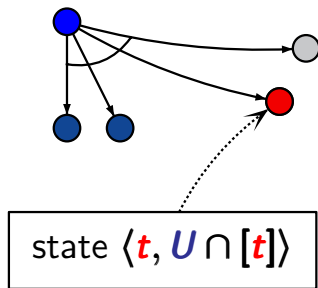


if  $\text{Post}(s, \alpha) \cap F \neq \emptyset$

where  $s', s \in R \subseteq [s]$

$U = \text{Post}(R, \alpha)$

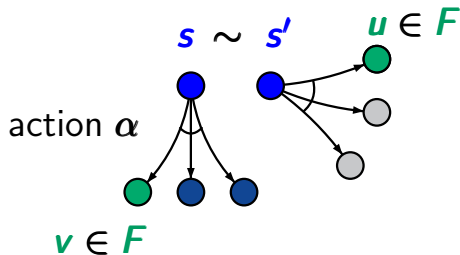
state  $\langle s, R \rangle$



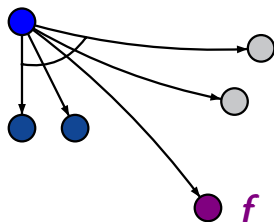
where  $t \in U \setminus F$

powerset construction for almost-sure reachability

“does  $\Pr_{\max}^{obs}(\Diamond F) = 1$  hold ?”



state  $\langle s, R \rangle$



if  $Post(s, \alpha) \cap F \neq \emptyset$

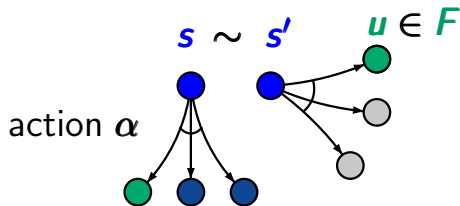
where  $s', s \in R \subseteq [s]$

$U = Post(R, \alpha)$

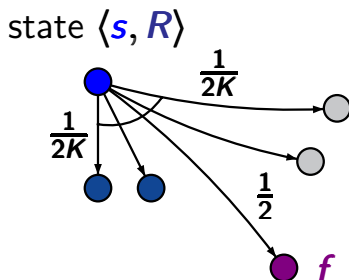
objective:  $\Diamond f$

powerset construction for almost-sure reachability

“does  $\Pr_{\max}^{obs}(\Diamond F) = 1$  hold?”



if  $Post(s, \alpha) \cap F \neq \emptyset$



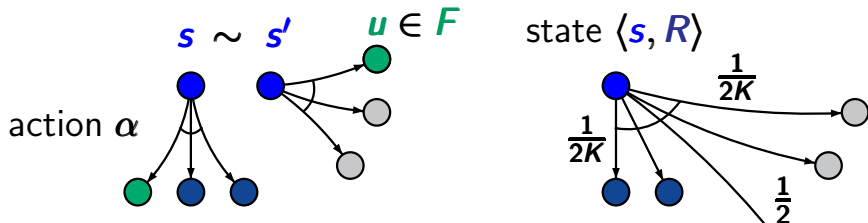
$$P'(\langle s, R \rangle, \alpha, \langle t, U \cap [t] \rangle) = \frac{1}{2K}$$

where  $K = |Post(R, \alpha) \setminus F|$



powerset construction for almost-sure reachability

“does  $\Pr_{\max}^{obs}(\diamond F) = 1$  hold ?”



$$\Pr_{\max}^{obs}(\diamond F) = 1 \quad \text{iff} \quad \Pr_{\max}(\diamond f) = 1$$

↑  
original  
POMDP  $\mathcal{M}$

↑  
fully-observable  
MDP  $Pow(\mathcal{M})$