



# Probabilistic model checking with PRISM: an overview

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EQINOCS, Paris, January 2014

# What is probabilistic model checking?

- Probabilistic model checking...
  - is a **formal verification** technique for modelling and analysing systems that exhibit **probabilistic** behaviour
- Formal verification...
  - is the application of rigorous, mathematics-based techniques to establish the correctness of computerised systems

# Why formal verification?

- Errors in computerised systems can be costly...



**Pentium chip (1994)**  
Bug found in FPU.  
Intel (eventually) offers  
to replace faulty chips.  
Estimated loss: \$475m



**Infusion pumps  
(2010)**  
Patients die because  
of incorrect dosage.  
Cause: software  
malfunction.  
79 recalls.

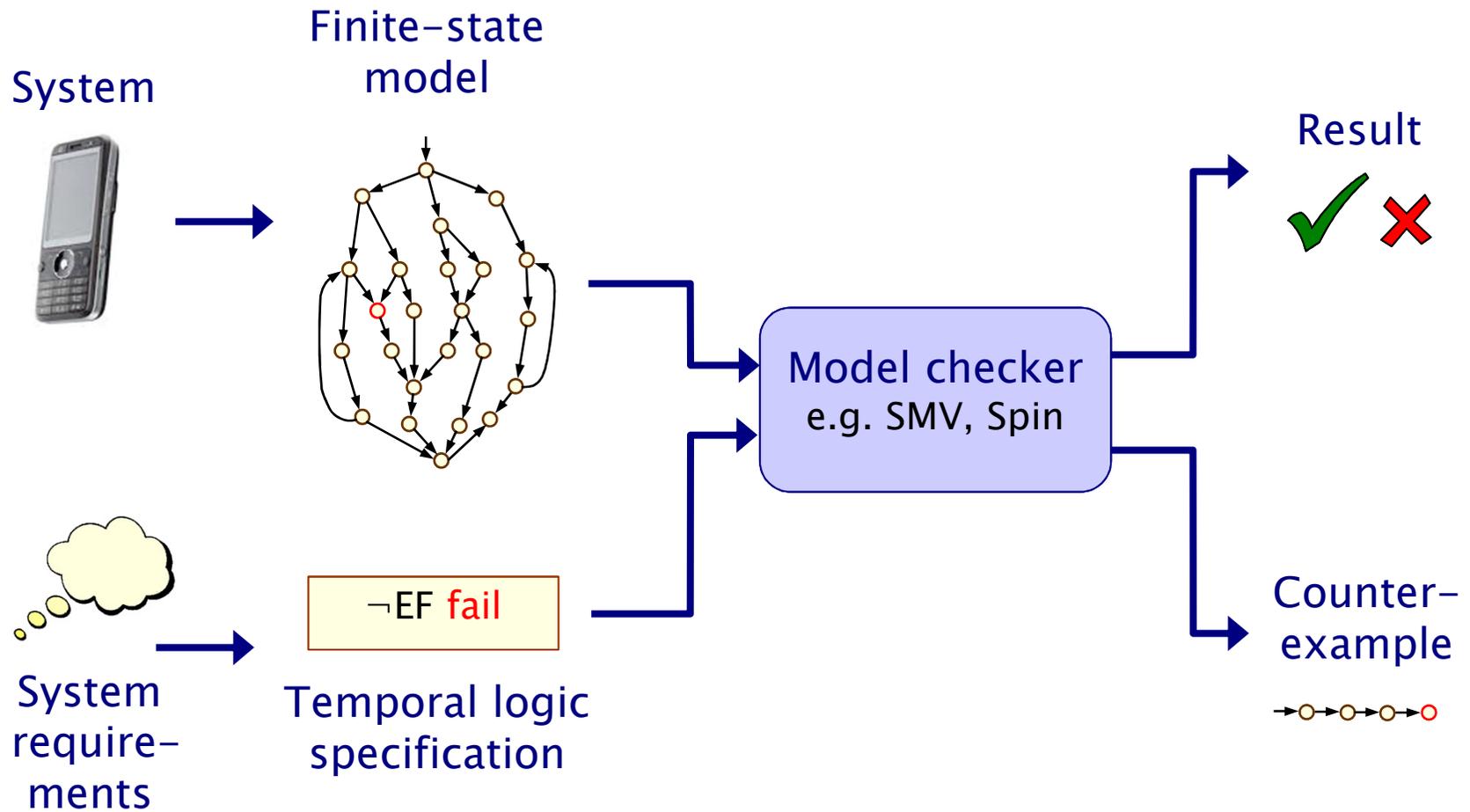


**Toyota Prius (2010)**  
Software “glitch”  
found in anti-lock  
braking system.  
185,000 cars recalled.

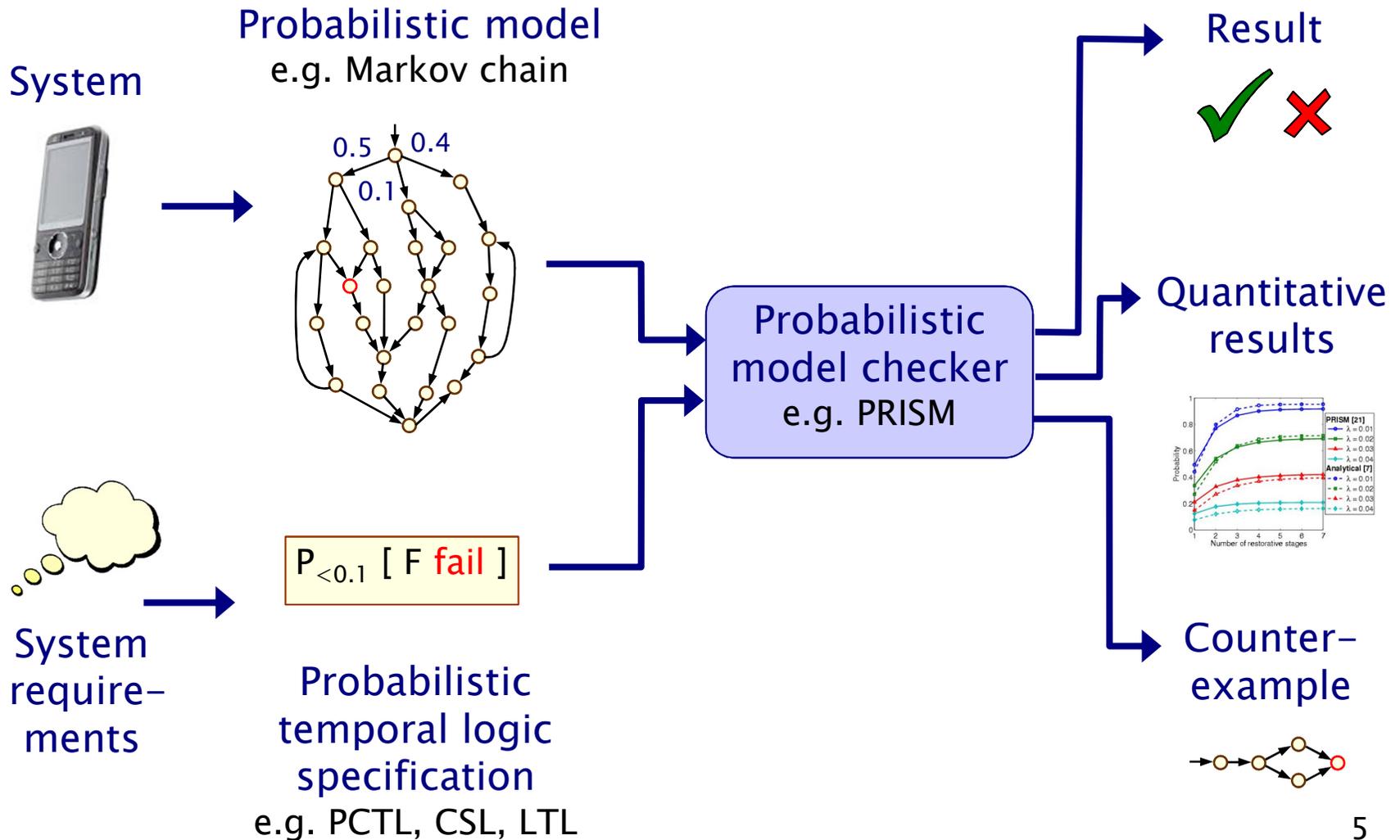
- **Why verify?**
  - “Testing can only show the presence of errors,  
not their absence.” [Edsger Dijkstra]



# Model checking



# Probabilistic model checking



# Why probability?

- Some systems are inherently probabilistic...
- **Randomisation**, e.g. in distributed coordination algorithms
  - as a symmetry breaker, in gossip routing to reduce flooding
- **Examples: real-world protocols featuring randomisation:**
  - Randomised back-off schemes
    - CSMA protocol, 802.11 Wireless LAN
  - Random choice of waiting time
    - IEEE1394 Firewire (root contention), Bluetooth (device discovery)
  - Random choice over a set of possible addresses
    - IPv4 Zeroconf dynamic configuration (link-local addressing)
  - Randomised algorithms for anonymity, contract signing, ...

# Why probability?

- Some systems are inherently probabilistic...
- **Randomisation**, e.g. in distributed coordination algorithms
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- To model **uncertainty and performance**
  - to quantify rate of failures, express Quality of Service
- **Examples:**
  - computer networks, embedded systems
  - power management policies
  - nano-scale circuitry: reliability through defect-tolerance

# Why probability?

- Some systems are inherently probabilistic...
- **Randomisation**, e.g. in distributed coordination algorithms
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- To model **uncertainty and performance**
  - to quantify rate of failures, express Quality of Service
- To model **biological processes**
  - reactions occurring between large numbers of molecules are naturally modelled in a stochastic fashion

# Verifying probabilistic systems

- We are not just interested in correctness
- We want to be able to quantify:
  - security, privacy, trust, anonymity, fairness
  - safety, reliability, performance, dependability
  - resource usage, e.g. battery life
  - and much more...
- **Quantitative**, as well as qualitative requirements:
  - how reliable is my car's Bluetooth network?
  - how efficient is my phone's power management policy?
  - is my bank's web-service secure?
  - what is the expected long-run percentage of protein X?

# Probabilistic models

	Fully probabilistic	Nondeterministic
Discrete time	Discrete-time Markov chains (DTMCs)	Markov decision processes (MDPs)
		Simple stochastic games (SMGs)
Continuous time	Continuous-time Markov chains (CTMCs)	Probabilistic timed automata (PTAs)
		Interactive Markov chains (IMCs)

# Probabilistic models

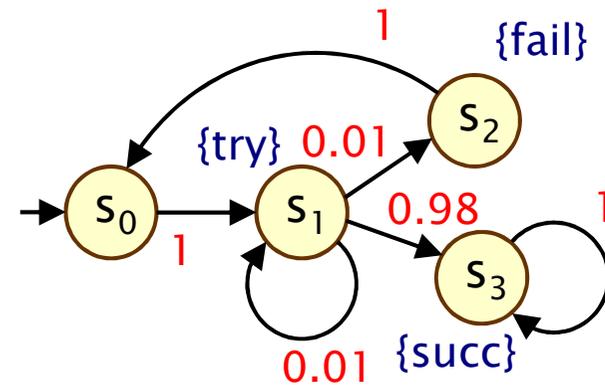
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# Overview

- Introduction
- Model checking for discrete-time Markov chains (DTMCs)
  - DTMCs: definition, paths & probability spaces
  - PCTL model checking
  - Costs and rewards
  - Case studies: Bluetooth, (CTMC) DNA computing
- PRISM: overview
  - Functionality, GUI, etc
- PRISM: recent developments
  - e.g. multi-objective, parametric, etc
- Summary

# Discrete-time Markov chains

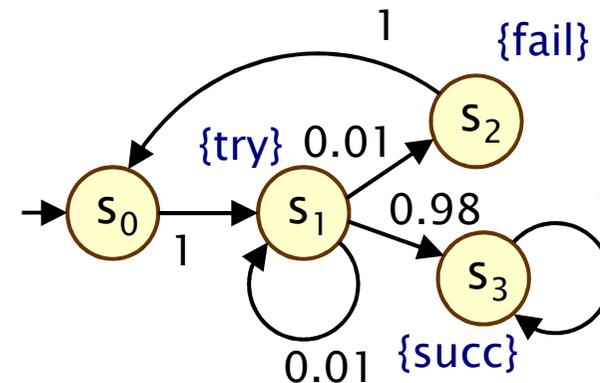
- Discrete-time Markov chains (DTMCs)
  - state-transition systems augmented with probabilities
- States
  - **discrete set of states** representing possible configurations of the system being modelled
- Transitions
  - transitions between states occur in **discrete time-steps**
- Probabilities
  - probability of making transitions between states is given by **discrete probability distributions**



# Discrete-time Markov chains

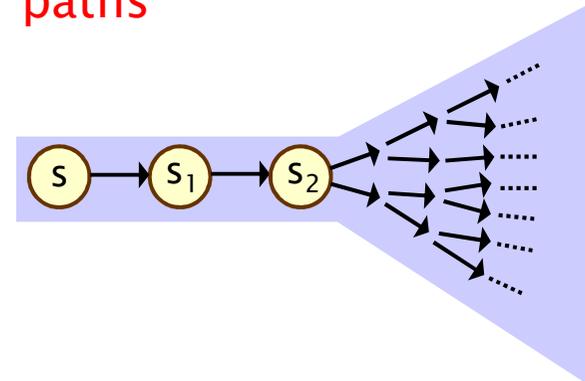
- Formally, a DTMC  $D$  is a tuple  $(S, s_{\text{init}}, P, L)$  where:
  - $S$  is a finite set of states (“state space”)
  - $s_{\text{init}} \in S$  is the initial state
  - $P : S \times S \rightarrow [0,1]$  is the **transition probability matrix** where  $\sum_{s' \in S} P(s, s') = 1$  for all  $s \in S$
  - $L : S \rightarrow 2^{AP}$  is function labelling states with atomic propositions

- Note: no deadlock states
  - i.e. every state has at least one outgoing transition
  - can add self loops to represent final/terminating states



# Paths and probabilities

- A (finite or infinite) path through a DTMC
  - is a sequence of states  $s_0s_1s_2s_3\dots$  such that  $P(s_i, s_{i+1}) > 0 \forall i$
  - represents an **execution** (i.e. one possible behaviour) of the system which the DTMC is modelling
- To reason (quantitatively) about this system
  - need to define a **probability space over paths**
- Intuitively:
  - sample space:  $\text{Path}(s)$  = set of all infinite paths from a state  $s$
  - events: sets of infinite paths from  $s$
  - basic events: **cylinder sets** (or “cones”)
  - cylinder set  $C(\omega)$ , for a finite path  $\omega$   
= set of **infinite paths with the common finite prefix  $\omega$**
  - for example:  $C(ss_1s_2)$



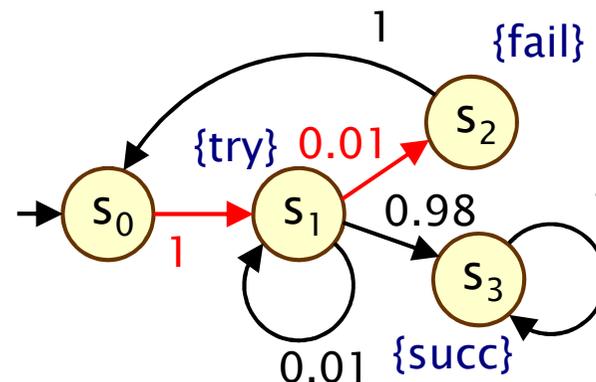
# Probability space over paths

- Sample space  $\Omega = \text{Path}(s)$   
set of infinite paths with initial state  $s$
- Event set  $\Sigma_{\text{Path}(s)}$ 
  - the **cylinder set**  $C(\omega) = \{ \omega' \in \text{Path}(s) \mid \omega \text{ is prefix of } \omega' \}$
  - $\Sigma_{\text{Path}(s)}$  is the **least  $\sigma$ -algebra** on  $\text{Path}(s)$  containing  $C(\omega)$  for all finite paths  $\omega$  starting in  $s$
- Probability measure  $\text{Pr}_s$ 
  - define probability  $\mathbf{P}_s(\omega)$  for finite path  $\omega = ss_1 \dots s_n$  as:
    - $\mathbf{P}_s(\omega) = 1$  if  $\omega$  has length one (i.e.  $\omega = s$ )
    - $\mathbf{P}_s(\omega) = \mathbf{P}(s, s_1) \cdot \dots \cdot \mathbf{P}(s_{n-1}, s_n)$  otherwise
    - define  $\text{Pr}_s(C(\omega)) = \mathbf{P}_s(\omega)$  for all finite paths  $\omega$
  - $\text{Pr}_s$  extends **uniquely** to a probability measure  $\text{Pr}_s: \Sigma_{\text{Path}(s)} \rightarrow [0, 1]$
- See [\[KSK76\]](#) for further details

# Probability space – Example

- Paths where sending fails the first time

- $\omega = s_0s_1s_2$
- $C(\omega) =$  all paths starting  $s_0s_1s_2\dots$
- $P_{s_0}(\omega) = P(s_0,s_1) \cdot P(s_1,s_2)$   
 $= 1 \cdot 0.01 = 0.01$
- $\Pr_{s_0}(C(\omega)) = P_{s_0}(\omega) = 0.01$



- Paths which are eventually successful and with no failures

- $C(s_0s_1s_3) \cup C(s_0s_1s_1s_3) \cup C(s_0s_1s_1s_1s_3) \cup \dots$
- $\Pr_{s_0}( C(s_0s_1s_3) \cup C(s_0s_1s_1s_3) \cup C(s_0s_1s_1s_1s_3) \cup \dots )$   
 $= P_{s_0}(s_0s_1s_3) + P_{s_0}(s_0s_1s_1s_3) + P_{s_0}(s_0s_1s_1s_1s_3) + \dots$   
 $= 1 \cdot 0.98 + 1 \cdot 0.01 \cdot 0.98 + 1 \cdot 0.01 \cdot 0.01 \cdot 0.98 + \dots$   
 $= 0.9898989898\dots$   
 $= 98/99$

# PCTL

- Temporal logic for describing properties of DTMCs
  - PCTL = Probabilistic Computation Tree Logic [HJ94]
  - essentially the same as the logic pCTL of [ASB+95]
- Extension of (non-probabilistic) temporal logic CTL
  - key addition is **probabilistic operator P**
  - quantitative extension of CTL's A and E operators
- Example
  - send  $\rightarrow P_{\geq 0.95} [ \text{true } U^{\leq 10} \text{ deliver } ]$
  - “if a message is sent, then the probability of it being delivered within 10 steps is at least 0.95”

# PCTL syntax

- PCTL syntax:

–  $\phi ::= \text{true} \mid a \mid \phi \wedge \phi \mid \neg\phi \mid P_{\sim p} [\psi]$  (state formulas)

–  $\psi ::= X\phi \mid \phi U^{\leq k} \phi \mid \phi U \phi$  (path formulas)

“next”

“bounded until”

“until”

$\psi$  is true with probability  $\sim p$

- define  $F\phi \equiv \text{true} U \phi$  (eventually),  $G\phi \equiv \neg(F\neg\phi)$  (globally)
- where  $a$  is an atomic proposition, used to identify states of interest,  $p \in [0,1]$  is a probability,  $\sim \in \{<, >, \leq, \geq\}$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{N}$

- A PCTL formula is always a state formula

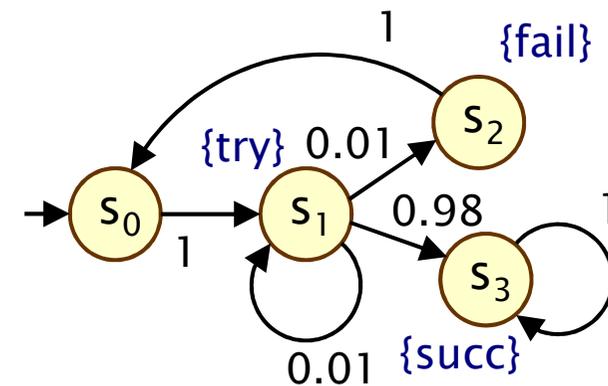
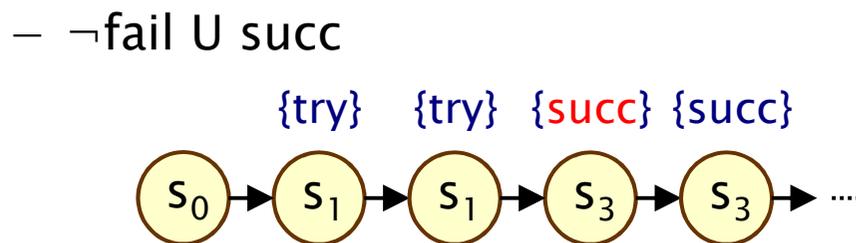
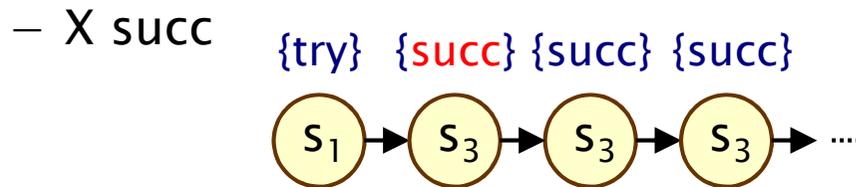
- path formulas only occur inside the P operator



# PCTL semantics for DTMCs

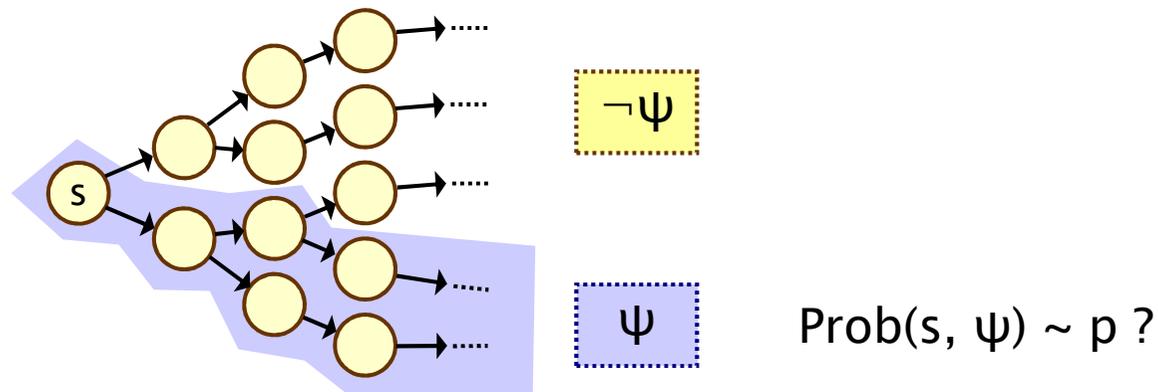
- Semantics of path formulas:
  - for a path  $\omega = s_0s_1s_2\dots$  in the DTMC:
    - $\omega \models X \phi \iff s_1 \models \phi$
    - $\omega \models \phi_1 U^{\leq k} \phi_2 \iff \exists i \leq k$  such that  $s_i \models \phi_2$  and  $\forall j < i, s_j \models \phi_1$
    - $\omega \models \phi_1 U \phi_2 \iff \exists k \geq 0$  such that  $\omega \models \phi_1 U^{\leq k} \phi_2$

- Some examples of satisfying paths:



# PCTL semantics for DTMCs

- Semantics of the probabilistic operator  $P$ 
  - informal definition:  $s \models P_{\sim p} [\psi]$  means that “the probability, from state  $s$ , that  $\psi$  is true for an outgoing path satisfies  $\sim p$ ”
  - example:  $s \models P_{<0.25} [X \text{ fail}] \Leftrightarrow$  “the probability of atomic proposition fail being true in the next state of outgoing paths from  $s$  is less than 0.25”
  - formally:  $s \models P_{\sim p} [\psi] \Leftrightarrow \text{Prob}(s, \psi) \sim p$
  - where:  $\text{Prob}(s, \psi) = \Pr_s \{ \omega \in \text{Path}(s) \mid \omega \models \psi \}$
  - (sets of paths satisfying  $\psi$  are always measurable [Var85])

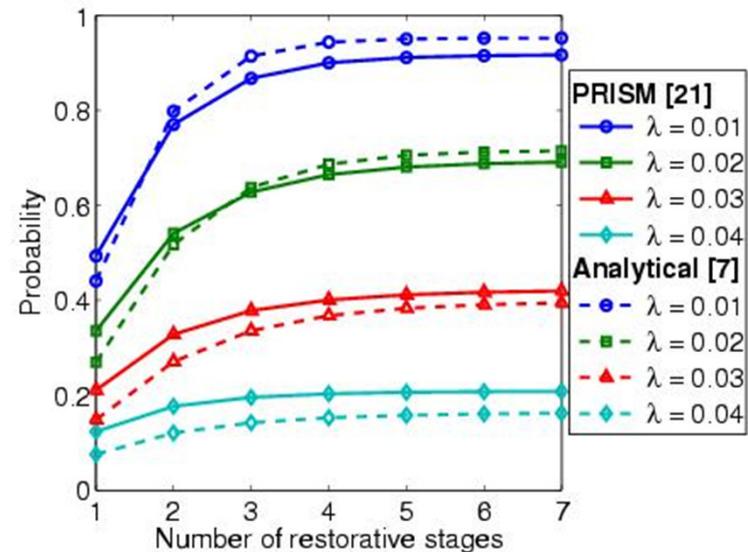


# Quantitative properties

- Consider a PCTL formula  $P_{\sim p} [\psi]$ 
  - if the probability is **unknown**, how to choose the bound  $p$ ?
- When the outermost operator of a PTCL formula is  $P$ 
  - we allow the form  $P_{=?} [\psi]$
  - “**what is the probability that path formula  $\psi$  is true?**”
- Model checking is no harder: compute the values anyway
- Useful to spot patterns, trends

- **Example**

- $P_{=?} [F \text{ err}/\text{total} > 0.1]$
- “what is the probability that 10% of the NAND gate outputs are erroneous?”



# PCTL model checking for DTMCs

- Algorithm for PCTL model checking [CY88,HJ94,CY95]
  - inputs: DTMC  $D=(S,s_{init},P,L)$ , PCTL formula  $\phi$
  - output:  $Sat(\phi) = \{ s \in S \mid s \models \phi \}$  = set of states satisfying  $\phi$
- What does it mean for a DTMC  $D$  to satisfy a formula  $\phi$ ?
  - sometimes, want to check that  $s \models \phi \quad \forall s \in S$ , i.e.  $Sat(\phi) = S$
  - sometimes, just want to know if  $s_{init} \models \phi$ , i.e. if  $s_{init} \in Sat(\phi)$
- Sometimes, focus on **quantitative** results
  - e.g. compute result of  $P=? [ F \text{ error} ]$
  - e.g. compute result of  $P=? [ F^{\leq k} \text{ error} ]$  for  $0 \leq k \leq 100$

# PCTL model checking for DTMCs

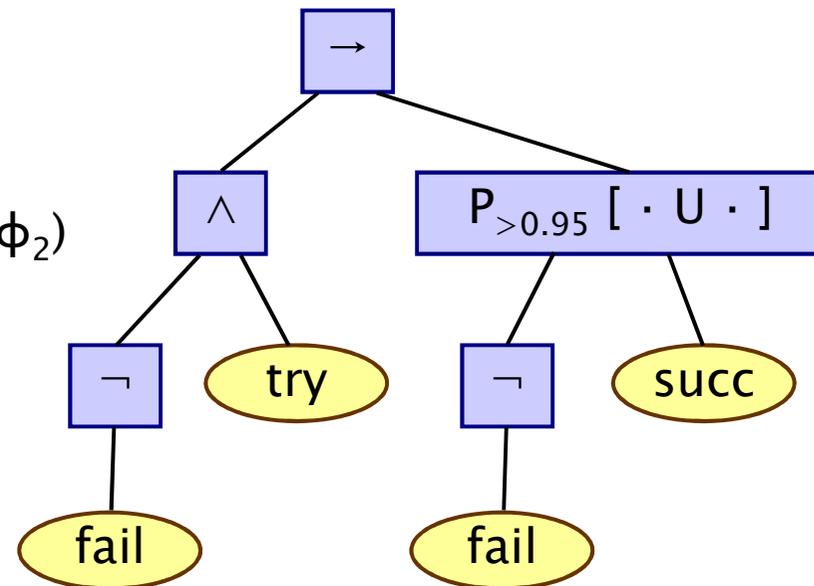
- Basic algorithm proceeds by induction on parse tree of  $\phi$ 
  - example:  $\phi = (\neg\text{fail} \wedge \text{try}) \rightarrow P_{>0.95} [ \neg\text{fail} \text{ U } \text{succ} ]$

- For the non-probabilistic operators:

- $\text{Sat}(\text{true}) = S$
- $\text{Sat}(a) = \{ s \in S \mid a \in L(s) \}$
- $\text{Sat}(\neg\phi) = S \setminus \text{Sat}(\phi)$
- $\text{Sat}(\phi_1 \wedge \phi_2) = \text{Sat}(\phi_1) \cap \text{Sat}(\phi_2)$

- For the  $P_{\sim p} [ \psi ]$  operator

- need to compute the probabilities  $\text{Prob}(s, \psi)$  for all states  $s \in S$
- focus here on “until” case:  $\psi = \phi_1 \text{ U } \phi_2$



# PCTL until for DTMCs

- Computation of probabilities  $\text{Prob}(s, \phi_1 \cup \phi_2)$  for all  $s \in S$
- First, identify all states where the **probability** is **1** or **0**
  - $S^{\text{yes}} = \text{Sat}(P_{\geq 1} [\phi_1 \cup \phi_2])$
  - $S^{\text{no}} = \text{Sat}(P_{\leq 0} [\phi_1 \cup \phi_2])$
- Then solve linear equation system for remaining states
- We refer to the first phase as “**precomputation**”
  - two algorithms: Prob0 (for  $S^{\text{no}}$ ) and Prob1 (for  $S^{\text{yes}}$ )
  - algorithms work on underlying graph (probabilities irrelevant)
- Important for several reasons
  - reduces the set of states for which probabilities must be computed numerically (which is more expensive)
  - gives **exact results** for the states in  $S^{\text{yes}}$  and  $S^{\text{no}}$  (no round-off)
  - for  $P_{\sim p}[\cdot]$  where  $p$  is 0 or 1, no further computation required

# PCTL until – Linear equations

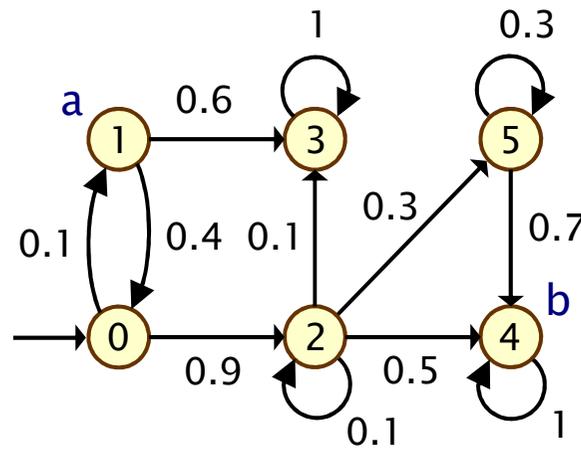
- Probabilities  $\text{Prob}(s, \phi_1 \cup \phi_2)$  can now be obtained as the unique solution of the following set of **linear equations**:

$$\text{Prob}(s, \phi_1 \cup \phi_2) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } s \in S^{\text{yes}} \\ 0 & \text{if } s \in S^{\text{no}} \\ \sum_{s' \in S} P(s, s') \cdot \text{Prob}(s', \phi_1 \cup \phi_2) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- can be reduced to a system in  $|S^?|$  unknowns instead of  $|S|$  where  $S^? = S \setminus (S^{\text{yes}} \cup S^{\text{no}})$
- This can be solved with (a variety of) standard techniques
  - direct methods, e.g. Gaussian elimination
  - iterative methods, e.g. Jacobi, Gauss–Seidel, ... (preferred in practice due to scalability)

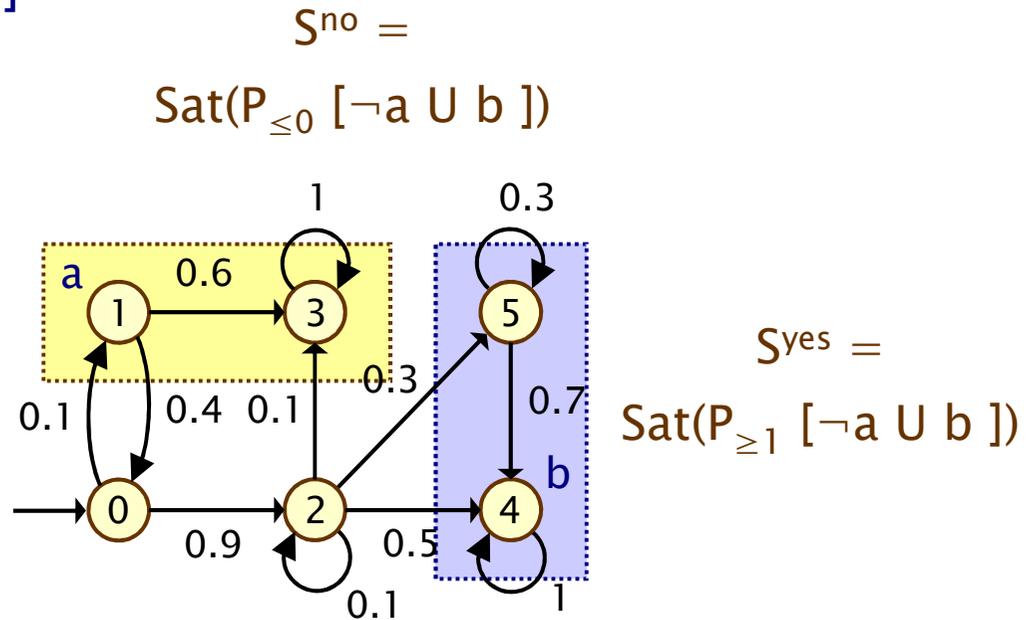
# PCTL until – Example

- Example:  $P_{>0.8} [\neg a \text{ U } b]$



# PCTL until – Example

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# PCTL until – Example

- Example:  $P_{>0.8} [\neg a \text{ U } b]$

- Let  $x_s = \text{Prob}(s, \neg a \text{ U } b)$

- Solve:

$$x_4 = x_5 = 1$$

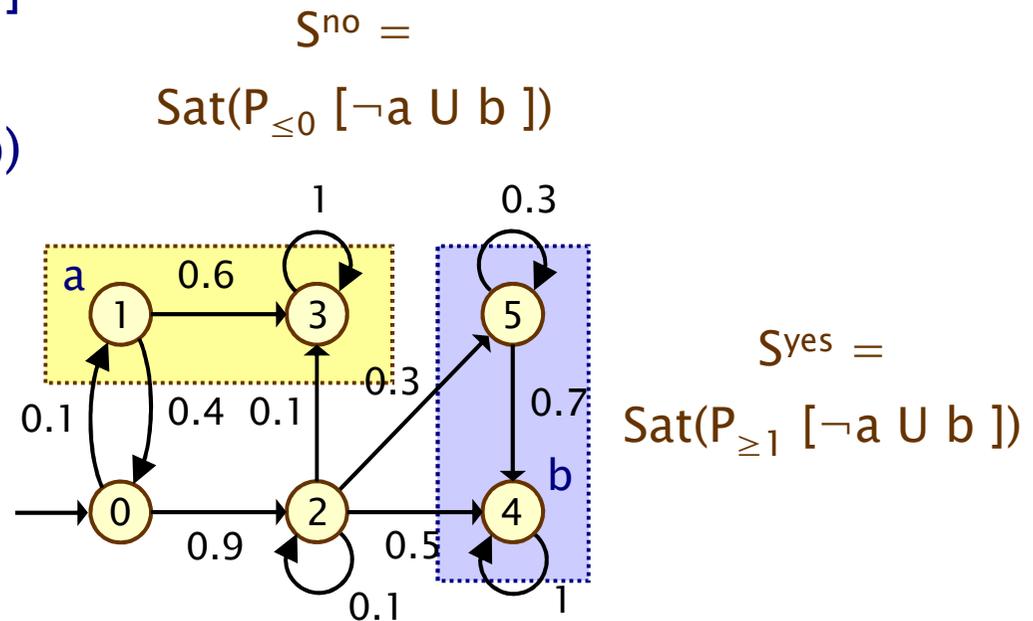
$$x_1 = x_3 = 0$$

$$x_0 = 0.1x_1 + 0.9x_2 = 0.8$$

$$x_2 = 0.1x_2 + 0.1x_3 + 0.3x_5 + 0.5x_4 = 8/9$$

$$\text{Prob}(\neg a \text{ U } b) = \underline{x} = [0.8, 0, 8/9, 0, 1, 1]$$

$$\text{Sat}(P_{>0.8} [\neg a \text{ U } b]) = \{s_2, s_4, s_5\}$$



# PCTL model checking – Summary

- Computation of set  $\text{Sat}(\Phi)$  for DTMC  $D$  and PCTL formula  $\Phi$ 
  - recursive descent of parse tree
  - combination of graph algorithms, numerical computation
- Probabilistic operator  $P$ :
  - $X \Phi$  : one matrix–vector multiplication,  $O(|S|^2)$
  - $\Phi_1 U^{\leq k} \Phi_2$  :  $k$  matrix–vector multiplications,  $O(k|S|^2)$
  - $\Phi_1 U \Phi_2$  : linear equation system, at most  $|S|$  variables,  $O(|S|^3)$
- Complexity:
  - linear in  $|\Phi|$  and polynomial in  $|S|$

# Limitations of PCTL

- PCTL, although useful in practice, has limited expressivity
  - essentially: probability of reaching states in  $X$ , passing only through states in  $Y$  (and within  $k$  time-steps)
- More expressive logics can be used, for example:
  - LTL [Pnu77] – (non-probabilistic) linear-time temporal logic
  - PCTL\* [ASB+95,BdA95] – which subsumes both PCTL and LTL
  - both allow path operators to be combined
  - (in PCTL,  $P_{\sim p} [\dots]$  always contains a single temporal operator)
  - supported by PRISM
  - (not covered in this lecture)
- Another direction: extend DTMCs with costs and rewards...

# Costs and rewards

- We augment DTMCs with rewards (or, conversely, costs)
  - real-valued quantities assigned to states and/or transitions
  - these can have a wide range of possible interpretations
- Some examples:
  - elapsed time, power consumption, size of message queue, number of messages successfully delivered, net profit, ...
- Costs? or rewards?
  - mathematically, no distinction between rewards and costs
  - when interpreted, we assume that it is desirable to minimise costs and to maximise rewards
  - we will consistently use the terminology “rewards” regardless

# Reward-based properties

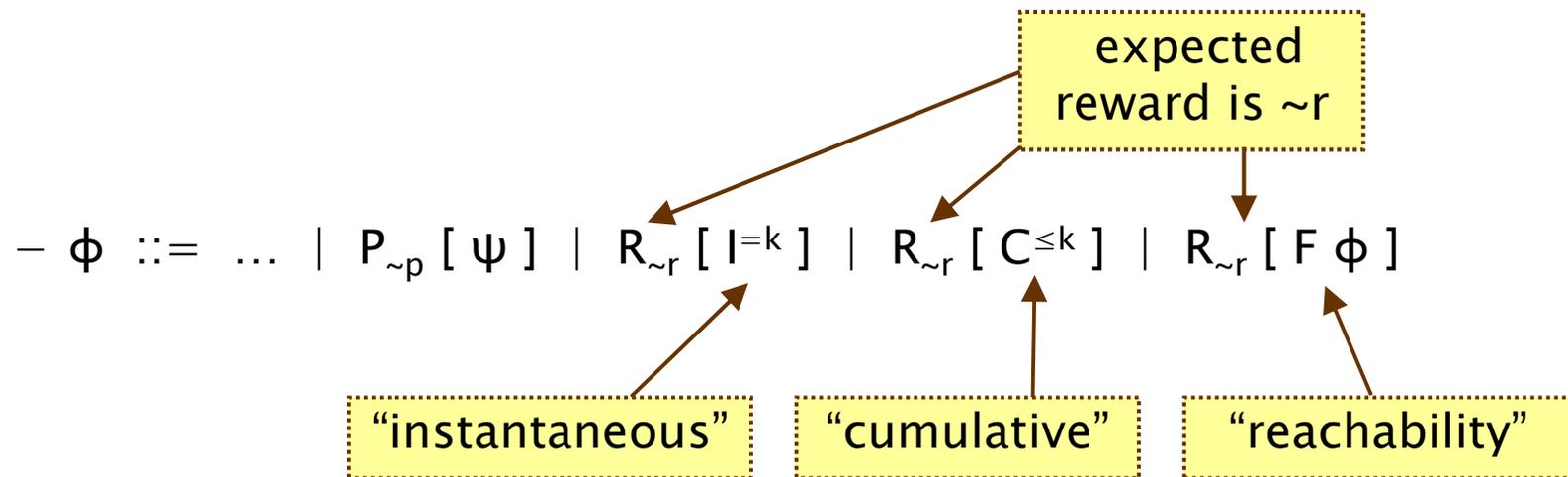
- Properties of DTMCs augmented with rewards
  - allow a wide range of quantitative measures of the system
  - basic notion: expected value of rewards
  - formal property specifications will be in an extension of PCTL
- More precisely, we use two distinct classes of property...
- **Instantaneous** properties
  - the expected value of the reward at some time point
- **Cumulative** properties
  - the expected cumulated reward over some period

# DTMC reward structures

- For a DTMC  $(S, s_{init}, P, L)$ , a reward structure is a pair  $(\underline{\rho}, \underline{\iota})$ 
  - $\underline{\rho} : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  is the **state reward function** (vector)
  - $\underline{\iota} : S \times S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  is the **transition reward function** (matrix)
- Example (for use with instantaneous properties)
  - “size of message queue”:  $\underline{\rho}$  maps each state to the number of jobs in the queue in that state,  $\underline{\iota}$  is not used
- Examples (for use with cumulative properties)
  - “**time-steps**”:  $\underline{\rho}$  returns 1 for all states and  $\underline{\iota}$  is zero (equivalently,  $\underline{\rho}$  is zero and  $\underline{\iota}$  returns 1 for all transitions)
  - “**number of messages lost**”:  $\underline{\rho}$  is zero and  $\underline{\iota}$  maps transitions corresponding to a message loss to 1
  - “**power consumption**”:  $\underline{\rho}$  is defined as the per-time-step energy consumption in each state and  $\underline{\iota}$  as the energy cost of each transition

# PCTL and rewards

- Extend PCTL to incorporate reward-based properties
  - add an R operator, which is similar to the existing P operator



– where  $r \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ ,  $\sim \in \{<, >, \leq, \geq\}$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{N}$

- $R_{\sim r} [\cdot]$  means “the **expected value** of  $\cdot$  satisfies  $\sim r$ ”

# Reward formula semantics

- Formal semantics of the three reward operators
  - based on random variables over (infinite) paths
- Recall:
  - $s \models P_{\sim p} [\psi] \Leftrightarrow \Pr_s \{ \omega \in \text{Path}(s) \mid \omega \models \psi \} \sim p$
- For a state  $s$  in the DTMC (see [KNP07a] for full definition):
  - $s \models R_{\sim r} [I^=k] \Leftrightarrow \text{Exp}(s, X_{I^=k}) \sim r$
  - $s \models R_{\sim r} [C^{\leq k}] \Leftrightarrow \text{Exp}(s, X_{C^{\leq k}}) \sim r$
  - $s \models R_{\sim r} [F\Phi] \Leftrightarrow \text{Exp}(s, X_{F\Phi}) \sim r$

where:  $\text{Exp}(s, X)$  denotes the **expectation** of the **random variable**  $X : \text{Path}(s) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  with respect to the **probability measure**  $\Pr_s$

# Model checking reward properties

- Instantaneous:  $R_{\sim r} [ I^k ]$
- Cumulative:  $R_{\sim r} [ C^{\leq k} ]$ 
  - variant of the method for computing bounded until probabilities
  - solution of **recursive equations**
- Reachability:  $R_{\sim r} [ F \phi ]$ 
  - similar to computing until probabilities
  - precomputation phase (identify infinite reward states)
  - then reduces to solving a **system of linear equation**
- For more details, see e.g. [\[KNP07a\]](#)
  - complexity not increased wrt classical PCTL

# PCTL model checking summary...

- Introduced probabilistic model checking for DTMCs
  - discrete time and probability only
  - PCTL model checking via linear equation solving
  - LTL also supported, via automata-theoretic methods
- Continuous-time Markov chains (CTMCs)
  - discrete states, continuous time
  - temporal logic CSL
  - model checking via uniformisation, a **discretisation** of the CTMC
- Markov decision processes (MDPs)
  - add **nondeterminism** to DTMCs
  - PCTL, LTL and PCTL\* supported
  - model checking via **linear programming**

# PRISM

- **PRISM: Probabilistic symbolic model checker**
  - developed at Birmingham/Oxford University, since 1999
  - free, open source software (GPL), runs on all major OSs
- **Construction/analysis of probabilistic models...**
  - discrete-time Markov chains, continuous-time Markov chains, Markov decision processes, probabilistic timed automata, stochastic multi-player games, ...
- **Simple but flexible high-level modelling language**
  - based on guarded commands; see later...
- **Many import/export options, tool connections**
  - in: (Bio)PEPA, stochastic  $\pi$ -calculus, DSD, SBML, Petri nets, ...
  - out: Matlab, MRMC, INFAMY, PARAM, ...



# PRISM...

- **Model checking for various temporal logics...**
  - PCTL, CSL, LTL, PCTL\*, rPATL, CTL, ...
  - quantitative extensions, costs/rewards, ...
- **Various efficient model checking engines and techniques**
  - symbolic methods (binary decision diagrams and extensions)
  - explicit-state methods (sparse matrices, etc.)
  - statistical model checking (simulation-based approximations)
  - and more: symmetry reduction, quantitative abstraction refinement, fast adaptive uniformisation, ...
- **Graphical user interface**
  - editors, simulator, experiments, graph plotting
- **See: <http://www.prismmodelchecker.org/>**
  - downloads, tutorials, case studies, papers, ...



# PRISM GUI: Editing a model

The screenshot displays the PRISM 4.1 GUI. The main window title is "PRISM 4.1". The menu bar includes "File", "Edit", "Model", "Properties", "Simulator", "Log", and "Options". The toolbar contains icons for navigation and saving. The PRISM Model File is "/Users/dxp/prism-www/tutorial/examples/power/power\_policy1.sm".

The left-hand pane shows the model structure:

- Model: power\_policy1.sm
  - Type: CTMC
  - Modules
    - SQ
      - q
        - min: 0
        - max: q\_max
        - init: 0
      - SP
        - sp
          - min: 0
          - max: 2
          - init: 0
      - PM
    - Constants
      - q\_max : int
      - rate\_arrive : double
      - rate\_serve : double
      - rate\_s2i : double
      - rate\_i2s : double
      - q\_trigger : int

The main editor shows the following PRISM code:

```
9 //-----
10
11 // Service Queue (SQ)
12 // Stores requests which arrive into the system to be processed.
13
14 // Maximum queue size
15 const int q_max = 20;
16
17 // Request arrival rate
18 const double rate_arrive = 1/0.72; // (mean inter-arrival time is 0.72 seconds)
19
20 module SQ
21
22 // q = number of requests currently in queue
23 q : [0..q_max] init 0;
24
25 // A request arrives
26 [request] true -> rate_arrive : (q'=min(q+1,q_max));
27 // A request is served
28 [serve] q>1 -> (q'=q-1);
29 // Last request is served
30 [serve_last] q=1 -> (q'=q-1);
31
32 endmodule
33
34 //-----
35
36 // Service Provider (SP)
37 // Processes requests from service queue.
38 // The SP has 3 power states: sleep, idle and busy
39
40 // Rate of service (average service time = 0.008s)
41 const double rate_serve = 1/0.008;
42 // Rate of switching from sleep to idle (average transition time = 1.6s)
43 const double rate_s2i = 1/1.6;
44 // Rate of switching from idle to sleep (average transition time = 0.67s)
45 const double rate_i2s = 1/0.67;
46
```

The bottom status bar indicates "Building model... done."

# PRISM GUI: The Simulator

PRISM 4.1

File Edit Model Properties Simulator Log Options

Automatic exploration: Simulate (Steps: 1), Backtracking (Backtrack (Steps: 1))

Manual exploration:

Module/[action]	Rate	Update
Left	0.006	left_n'=2
Right	0.002	right_n'=0
Line	2.0E-4	line_n'=false
ToLeft	2.5E-4	toleft_n'=false
[startLeft]	10.0	left'=true, r'=true

Generate time automatically

State labels: init (X), deadlock (X), minimum (✓), premium (X)

Path:

Step	Time	Left	Right	Repair...	Line	ToLeft	ToRight	Rewards								
Action	#	Time (+)	left_n	left	right_n	right	r	line	line_n	toleft	toleft_n	toright	toright_n	perce...	"time...	["num...
	0	0	5	false	5	false	false	false	true	false	true	false	true	100	0	0
Right	1	12.0649			4									90		
ToRight	2	12.0806											false			
[startRight]	3	12.1674				true	true									1
[repairRight]	4	12.2677			5	false	false							100		0
Left	5	12.2809	4											90		
Left	6	12.3071	3											80		
Left	7	12.3446	2											70	1	
Left	8	12.3653	1											60		
Right	9	12.4059			4									50		
[startLeft]	10	12.4583		true			true									1
[repairLeft]	11	15.6657	2	false			false							60		0
[startLeft]	12	15.6834		true			true									1
[repairLeft]	13	15.7585	3	false			false							70	0	0
Right	14	15.8505			3									60		
Right	15	15.874			2									50		
Right	16	15.9084	3	false	1	false	false	false	true	false	true	false	false	40	0	7

Model Properties Simulator Log

Loading model... done.

# PRISM GUI: Model checking and graphs

The screenshot displays the PRISM 4.1 interface. The top menu bar includes File, Edit, Model, Properties, Simulator, Log, and Options. Below the menu is a toolbar with navigation icons. The main window is divided into several panes:

- Properties list:** /Users/dxp/prism-www/tutorial/examples/power/power.csl\*
- Properties:** A list of properties with checkboxes and status icons:
  - $P=? [ F [ T, T ] q = q\_max ]$
  - $S=? [ q = q\_max ]$
  - $R=? [ I = T ]$  (checked)
  - $R=? [ S ]$  (checked)
  - $R < 1.5 [ I = T ]$  (checked)
  - $R < 2 [ S ]$  (unchecked, highlighted in blue)
- Constants:** A table with columns Name, Type, and Value.

Name	Type	Value
T	int	
- Labels:** A table with columns Name and Definition.
- Experiments:** A table showing the progress and status of various verification experiments.

Property	Defined Const...	Progress	Status	Method
$R=? [ I = T ]$	T=0:1:40	41/41 (100%)	Done	Verification
$R=? [ I = T ]$	q_trigger=3:3...	246/246 (100%)	Done	Verification
$R=? [ I = T ]$	q_trigger=5,T...	41/41 (100%)	Done	Verification
$R=? [ I = T ]$	q_trigger=5,T...	41/41 (100%)	Done	Verification
$R=? [ S ]$	q_trigger=2:1...	29/29 (100%)	Done	Verification
$R=? [ S ]$	q_trigger=2:1...	49/94 (49%)	Stopped	Verification
- Graphs:** A line graph titled "Expected queue size at time T". The y-axis is "Expected reward" (0.0 to 12.5) and the x-axis is "T" (0 to 40). Six lines represent different q\_trigger values: 3 (blue), 6 (green), 9 (red), 12 (cyan), 15 (magenta), and 18 (yellow). The graph shows that as q\_trigger increases, the expected queue size also increases and exhibits more oscillatory behavior over time.

At the bottom of the window, the status bar indicates "Verifying properties... done."

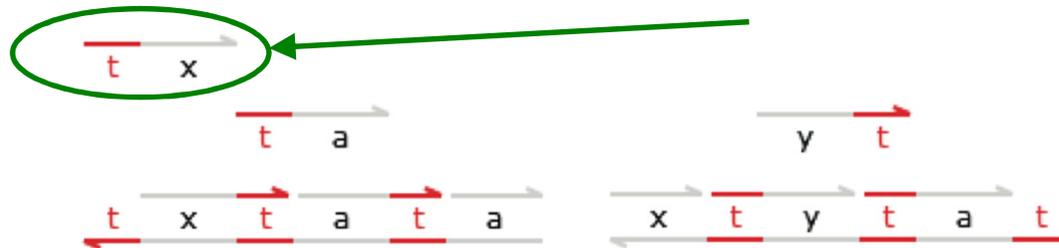
# PRISM – Case studies

- Randomised distributed algorithms
  - consensus, leader election, self-stabilisation, ...
- Randomised communication protocols
  - Bluetooth, FireWire, Zeroconf, 802.11, Zigbee, gossiping, ...
- Security protocols/systems
  - contract signing, anonymity, pin cracking, quantum crypto, ...
- Biological systems
  - cell signalling pathways, DNA computation, ...
- Planning & controller synthesis
  - robotics, dynamic power management, ...
- Performance & reliability
  - nanotechnology, cloud computing, manufacturing systems, ...
- See: [www.prismmodelchecker.org/casestudies](http://www.prismmodelchecker.org/casestudies)



# Case study: DNA programming

- DNA: easily accessible, cheap to synthesise information processing material
- DNA Strand Displacement language, induces CTMC models
  - for designing DNA circuits [Cardelli, Phillips, et al.]
  - accompanying software tool for analysis/simulation
  - now extended to include auto-generation of PRISM models
- Transducer: converts input  $\langle t^{\wedge} x \rangle$  into output  $\langle y t^{\wedge} \rangle$



- Formalising correctness: does it finish successfully?...
  - $A [ G \text{"deadlock"} \Rightarrow \text{"all\_done"} ]$
  - $E [ F \text{"all\_done"} ]$  (CTL, but probabilistic also...)



# PRISM: Recent & new developments

- Major new features:
  1. **multi-objective** model checking
  2. **parametric** model checking
  3. **real-time**: probabilistic timed automata (PTAs)
  4. **games**: stochastic multi-player games (SMGs)
- Further new additions:
  - strategy (adversary) synthesis (see **ATVA'13 invited lecture**)
  - CTL model checking & counterexample generation
  - enhanced statistical model checking (approximations + confidence intervals, acceptance sampling)
  - efficient CTMC model checking (fast adaptive uniformisation) [Mateescu et al., CMSB'13]
  - benchmark suite & testing functionality [QEST'12]  
[www.prismmodelchecker.org/benchmarks/](http://www.prismmodelchecker.org/benchmarks/)

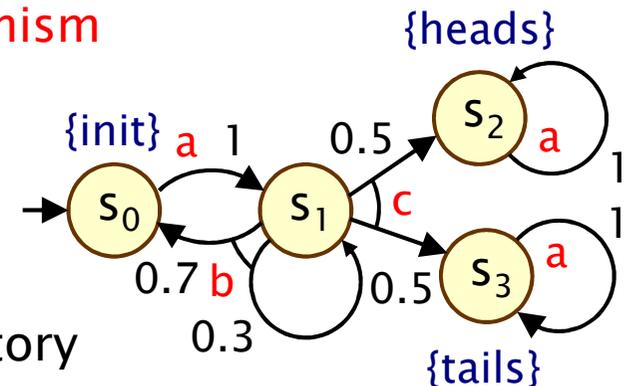
# 1. Multi-objective model checking

- **Markov decision processes (MDPs)**

- generalise DTMCs by adding **nondeterminism**
- for: control, concurrency, abstraction, ...

- **Strategies** (or "adversaries", "policies")

- resolve nondeterminism, i.e. choose an action in each state based on current history
- a strategy induces an (infinite-state) DTMC



- **Verification** (probabilistic model checking) of MDPs

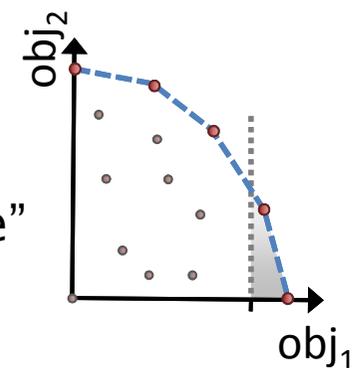
- quantify over **all** possible strategies... (i.e. best/worst-case)
- $P_{<0.01}[F \text{ err}]$ : “the probability of an error is always  $< 0.01$ ”

- **Strategy synthesis** (dual problem)

- “does there **exist** a strategy for which the probability of an error occurring is  $< 0.01$ ?”
- “how to minimise expected run-time?”

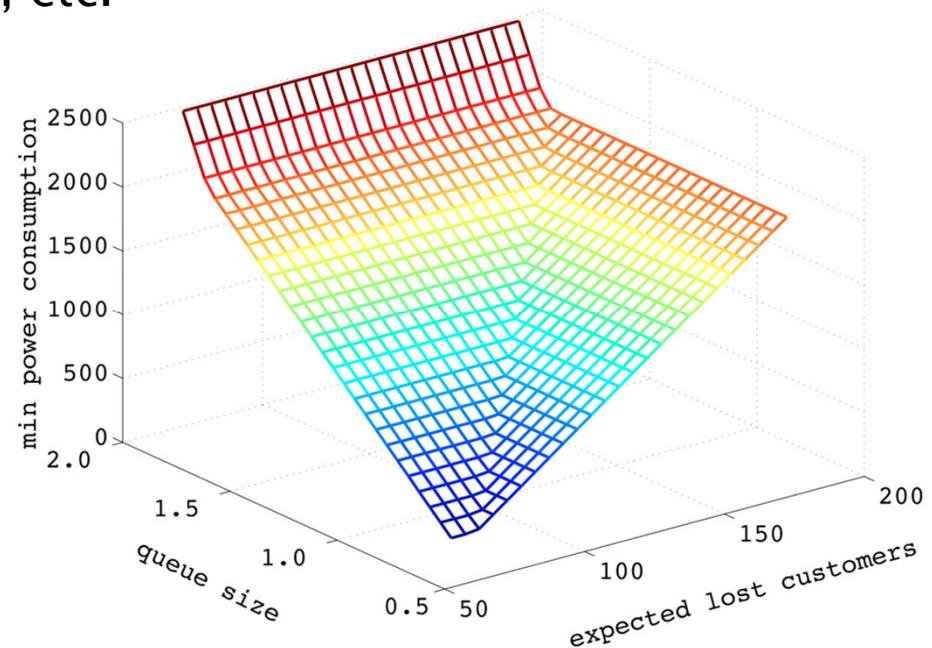
# 1. Multi-objective model checking

- **Multi-objective** probabilistic model checking
  - investigate trade-offs between conflicting objectives
  - in PRISM, objectives are probabilistic LTL or expected rewards
- **Achievability queries**
  - e.g. “**is there a strategy** such that the probability of message transmission is  $> 0.95$  **and** expected battery life  $> 10$  hrs?”
  - $\text{multi}(P_{>0.95} [ F \text{ transmit } ], R^{\text{time}}_{>10} [ C ] )$
- **Numerical queries**
  - e.g. “**maximum probability** of message transmission, assuming expected battery life-time is  $> 10$  hrs?”
  - $\text{multi}(P_{\text{max=?}} [ F \text{ transmit } ], R^{\text{time}}_{>10} [ C ] )$
- **Pareto queries**
  - e.g. “**Pareto curve** for maximising probability of transmission and expected battery life-time”
  - $\text{multi}(P_{\text{max=?}} [ F \text{ transmit } ], R^{\text{time}}_{\text{max=?}} [ C ] )$



# Case study: Dynamic power management

- Synthesis of dynamic power management schemes
  - for an IBM TravelStar VP disk drive
  - 5 different power modes: active, idle, idlep, stby, sleep
  - power manager controller bases decisions on current power mode, disk request queue, etc.
- Build controllers that
  - minimise energy consumption, subject to constraints on e.g.
  - probability that a request waits more than K steps
  - expected number of lost disk requests



- See: <http://www.prismmodelchecker.org/files/tacas11/>

# Conclusion

- Introduction to probabilistic model checking
- Overview of PRISM
- More models and logics
  - continuous-time Markov chains
  - Markov decision processes
  - probabilistic timed automata
  - stochastic multi-player games
- Related/future work
  - quantitative runtime verification [TSE'11, CACM'12]
  - statistical model checking [TACAS'04, STTT'06]
  - multi-objective stochastic games [MFCS'13, QEST'13]
  - verification of cardiac pacemakers [RTSS'12, HSCC'13]
  - probabilistic hybrid automata [CPSWeek'13 tutorial]

# References

- Tutorial papers

- M. Kwiatkowska, G. Norman and D. Parker. *Stochastic Model Checking*. In SFM'07, vol 4486 of LNCS (Tutorial Volume), pages 220–270, Springer. June 2007.
- V. Forejt, M. Kwiatkowska, G. Norman and D. Parker. *Automated Verification Techniques for Probabilistic Systems*. In SFM'11, volume 6659 of LNCS, pages 53–113, Springer. June 2011.
- G. Norman, D. Parker and J. Sproston. *Model Checking for Probabilistic Timed Automata*. Formal Methods in System Design, 43(2), pages 164–190, Springer. September 2013.
- M. Kwiatkowska, G. Norman and D. Parker. *Probabilistic Model Checking for Systems Biology*. In Symbolic Systems Biology, pages 31–59, Jones and Bartlett. May 2010.

- PRISM tool paper

- M. Kwiatkowska, G. Norman and D. Parker. *PRISM 4.0: Verification of Probabilistic Real-time Systems*. In Proc. CAV'11, volume 6806 of LNCS, pages 585–591, Springer. July 2011.

# Acknowledgements

- My group and collaborators in this work
- Project funding
  - ERC, EPSRC, Microsoft Research
  - Oxford Martin School, Institute for the Future of Computing
- See also
  - **VERIWARE** [www.veriware.org](http://www.veriware.org)
  - PRISM [www.prismmodelchecker.org](http://www.prismmodelchecker.org)