



Probabilistic Model Checking and Strategy Synthesis

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Gethin Norman, Hongyang Qu, Aistis Simaitis, Taolue Chen, ...

Overview

- Probabilistic model checking & PRISM
 - example: Bluetooth
- Verification vs. strategy synthesis
 - Markov decision processes (MDPs)
 - example: robot controller
- Multi-objective probabilistic model checking
 - examples: team-formation/power management/...
- Model checking stochastic games
 - example: energy management

Motivation

- Verifying probabilistic systems...

- **unreliable** or **unpredictable** behaviour

- failures of physical components
- message loss in wireless communication
- unreliable sensors/actuators



- **randomisation** in algorithms/protocols

- random back-off in communication protocols
- random routing to reduce flooding or provide anonymity



- We need to verify **quantitative** system properties

- “the probability of the airbag failing to deploy within 0.02 seconds of being triggered is at most 0.001”
- not just correctness: reliability, timeliness, performance, ...

Probabilistic model checking

- Various types of probabilistic models supported

PRISM models

- discrete-time Markov chains (DTMCs)
- continuous-time Markov chains (CTMCs)
- Markov decision processes (MDPs)
- probabilistic automata (PAs)
- probabilistic timed automata (PTAs)
- stochastic multi-player games (SMGs)

Probabilistic model checking

- Various types of probabilistic models supported
- Wide range of quantitative properties, expressible in temporal logics (probabilities, timing, costs, rewards, ...)

Example PRISM properties

- PCTL (reachability) → • $P_{\leq 0.1} [F \textit{ fail}]$ – “the probability of a failure is at most 0.1”
- CSL → • $S_{>0.999} [\textit{ up}]$ – “the long-run probability of availability is >0.999 ”
- costs & rewards → • $R_{\{\textit{time}\}<100} [F \textit{ done}]$ – “the expected termination time is at most 100 seconds”
- probabilistic LTL → • $P_{\geq 0.75} [(G \neg \textit{ hazard}) \wedge (GF \textit{ goal})]$ – “the probability of avoiding the hazard visiting the goal infinitely often is ≥ 0.75 ”

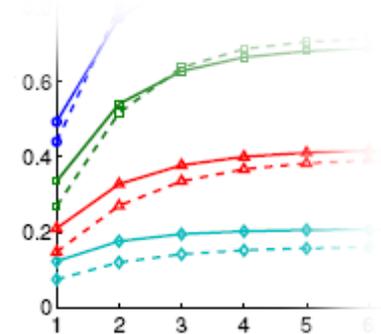
Probabilistic model checking

- Various types of probabilistic models supported
- Wide range of quantitative properties, expressible in temporal logics (probabilities, timing, costs, rewards, ...)
- Often focus on numerical results (probabilities etc.)
 - analyse trends, look for system flaws, anomalies

• $P_{\leq 0.1} [F \text{ fail}]$ – “the probability of a failure occurring is at most 0.1”

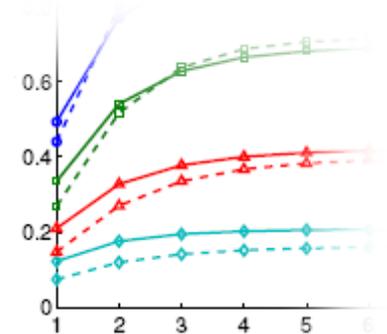


• $P_{=?} [F \text{ fail}]$ – “what is the probability of a failure occurring?”



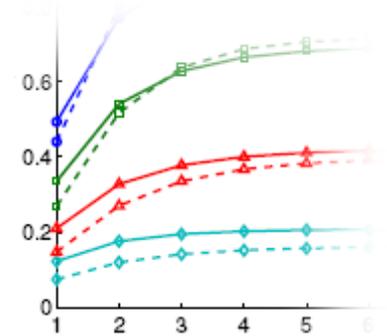
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- Provides "exact" numerical results
 - compared to, for example, simulation



Probabilistic model checking

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 - compared to, for example, simulation
- Combines numerical & exhaustive analysis
 - especially useful for nondeterministic models

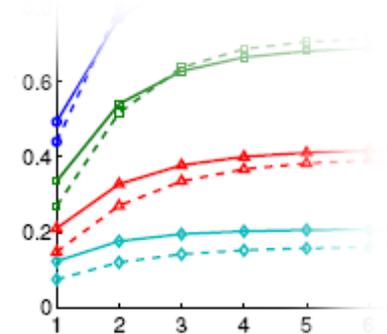


• $P_{=?} [F \text{ fail } \{trigger\} \{max\}]$

• $P_{max=?} [F \text{ fail }]$

Probabilistic model checking

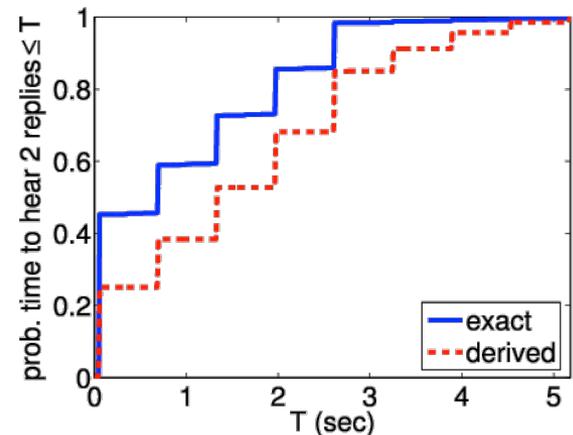
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 - analyse trends, look for system flaws, anomalies
- Provides "exact" numerical results
 - compared to, for example, simulation
- Combines numerical & exhaustive analysis
 - especially useful for nondeterministic models
- Flexible, fully automated & widely applicable
 - network/communication protocols, security, robotics & planning, power management, nanotechnology, biology...



Case study: Bluetooth

- Device discovery between pair of Bluetooth devices
 - performance essential for this phase
- Complex discovery process
 - two asynchronous 28-bit clocks
 - pseudo-random hopping between 32 frequencies
 - random waiting scheme to avoid collisions
 - 17,179,869,184 initial configurations (too many to sample effectively)
- Probabilistic model checking (PRISM)
 - e.g. “worst-case expected discovery time is at most 5.17s”
 - e.g. “probability discovery time exceeds 6s is always < 0.001 ”
 - shows weaknesses in simplistic analysis

$$\text{freq} = [\text{CLK}_{16-12} + k + (\text{CLK}_{4-2,0} - \text{CLK}_{16-12}) \bmod 16] \bmod 32$$

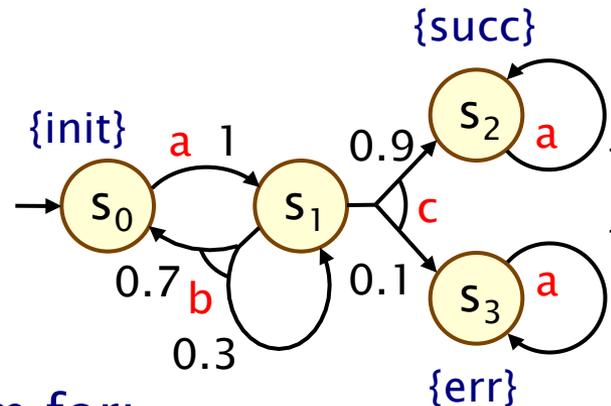


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Markov decision processes (MDPs)

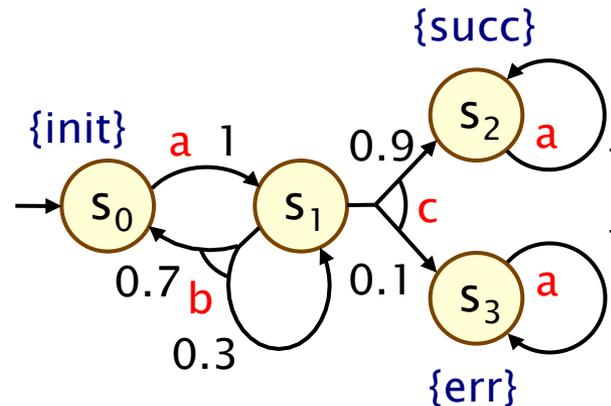
- Markov decision processes (MDPs)
 - model **nondeterministic** as well as **probabilistic** behaviour
 - widely used also in planning, optimal control, ...
 - nondeterministic choice between probability distributions



- Nondeterminism for:
 - **concurrency/scheduling**: interleavings of parallel components
 - **abstraction**, or under-specification, of unknown behaviour
 - **adversarial** behaviour of the environment, or **control**

Strategies

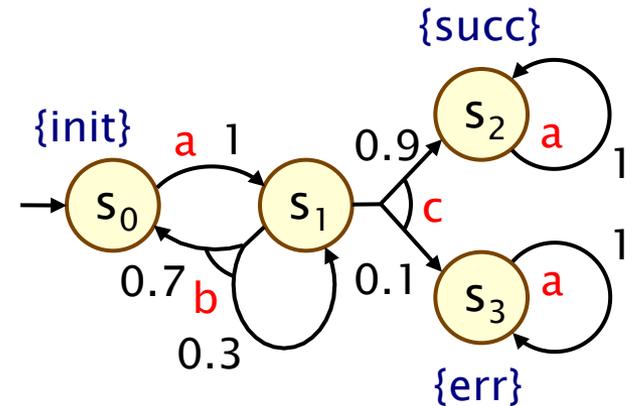
- A **strategy** (or “policy” or “adversary”)
 - is a resolution of nondeterminism, based on history
 - is (formally) a mapping σ from finite paths to distributions
 - induces an (infinite-state) discrete-time Markov chain



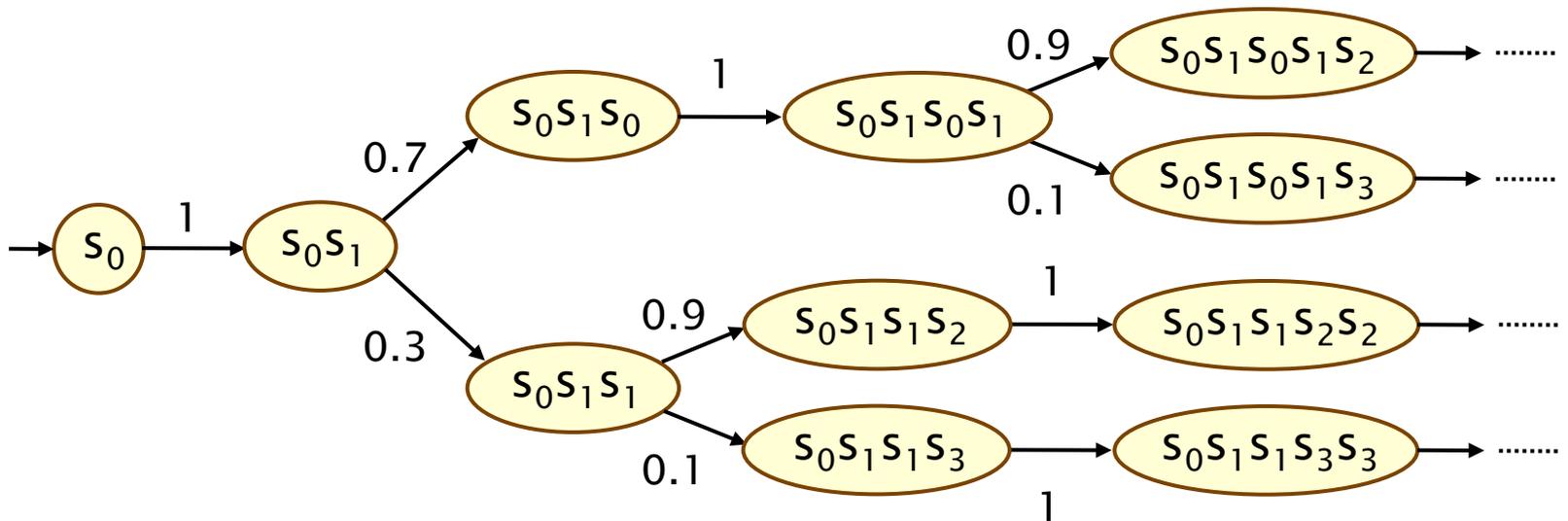
- Classes of strategies:
 - **randomisation**: deterministic or randomised
 - **memory**: memoryless, finite-memory, or infinite-memory

Example strategy

- Strategy σ which picks **b** then **c** in s_1
 - σ is finite-memory and deterministic



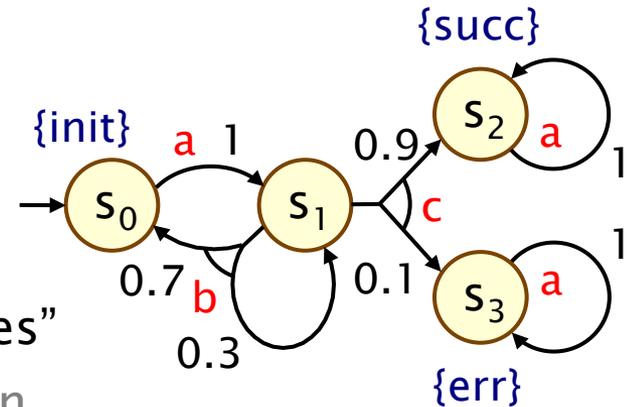
- Fragment of induced Markov chain:



Verification vs. Strategy synthesis

1. Verification

- quantify over all possible strategies (i.e. best/worst-case)
- $P_{\leq 0.01} [F \text{ err}]$: “the probability of an error occurring is ≤ 0.01 for all strategies”
- applications: randomised communication protocols, randomised distributed algorithms, security, ...



2. Strategy synthesis

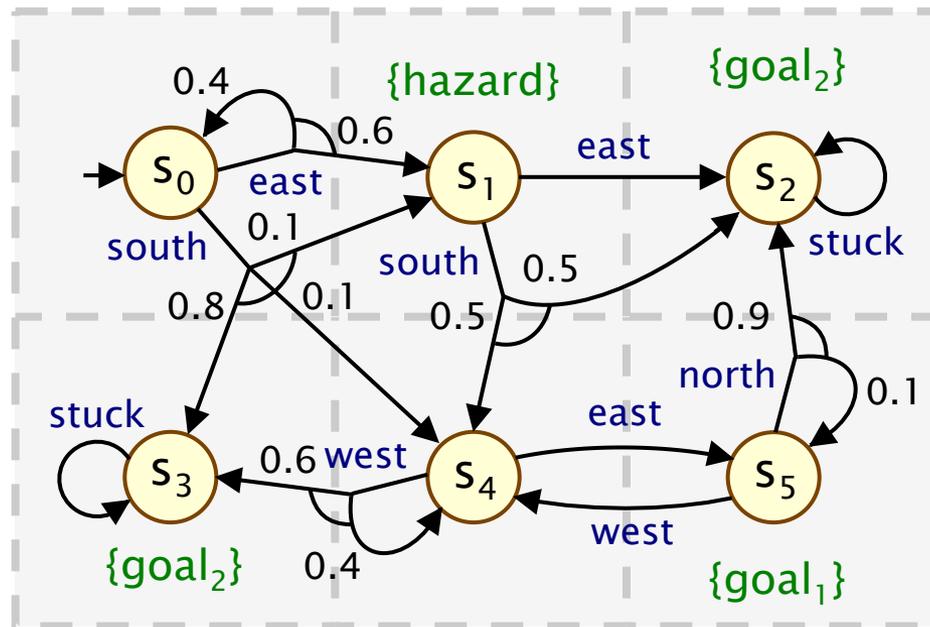
- generation of "correct-by-construction" controllers
- $P_{\leq 0.01} [F \text{ err}]$: "does **there exist** a strategy for which the probability of an error occurring is ≤ 0.01 ?"
- applications: robotics, power management, security, ...

Two dual problems; same underlying computation:

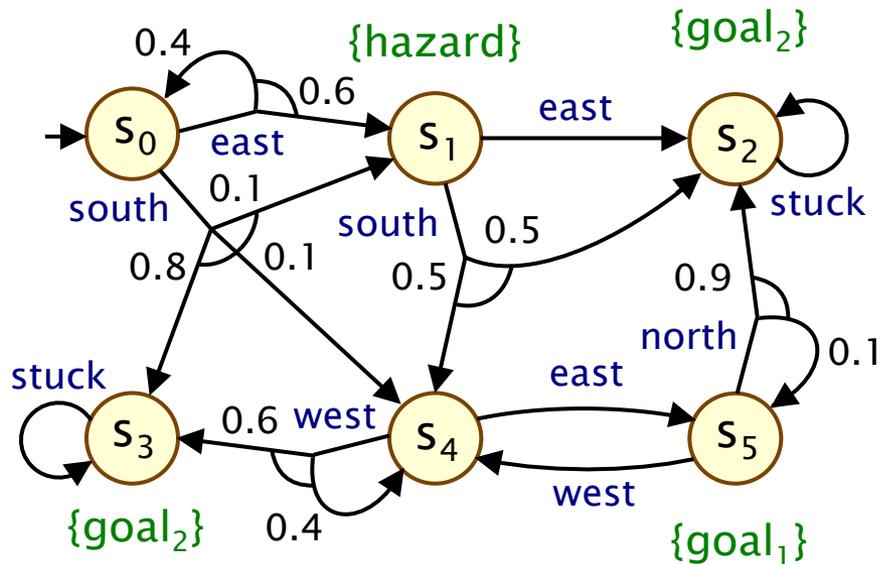
- compute optimal (**minimum** or **maximum**) values

Running example

- Example MDP
 - robot moving through terrain divided in to 3 x 2 grid



Example – Reachability



Verify: $P_{\leq 0.6} [F goal_1]$

or

Synthesise for: $P_{\geq 0.4} [F goal_1]$

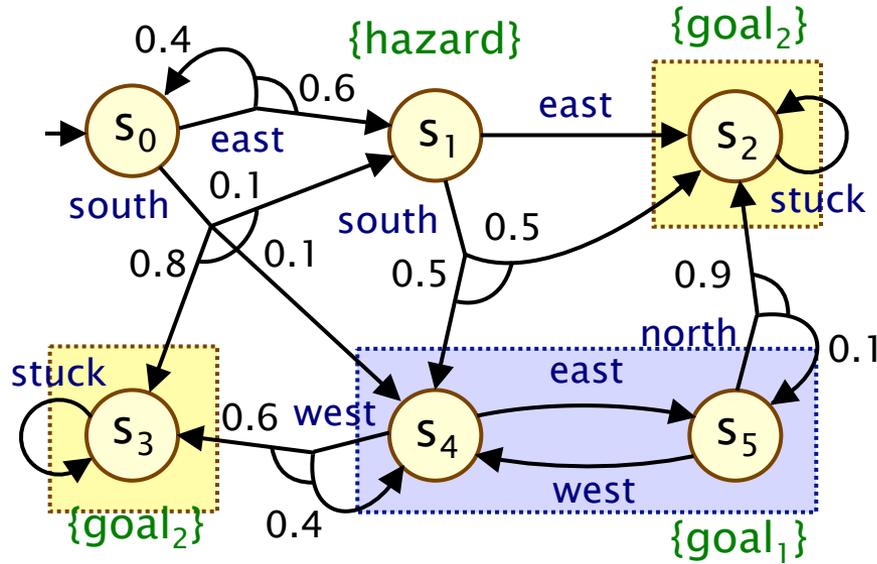
↓

Compute: $P_{max=?} [F goal_1]$

Optimal strategies:
memoryless and deterministic

Computation: graph analysis
& linear programming problem

Example – Reachability



Verify: $P_{\leq 0.6} [F \text{ goal}_1]$

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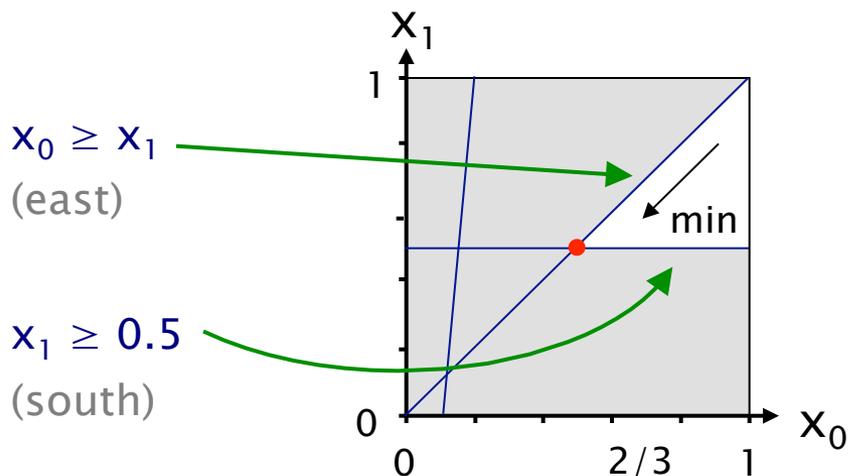
Synthesise for: $P_{\geq 0.4} [F \text{ goal}_1]$

↓

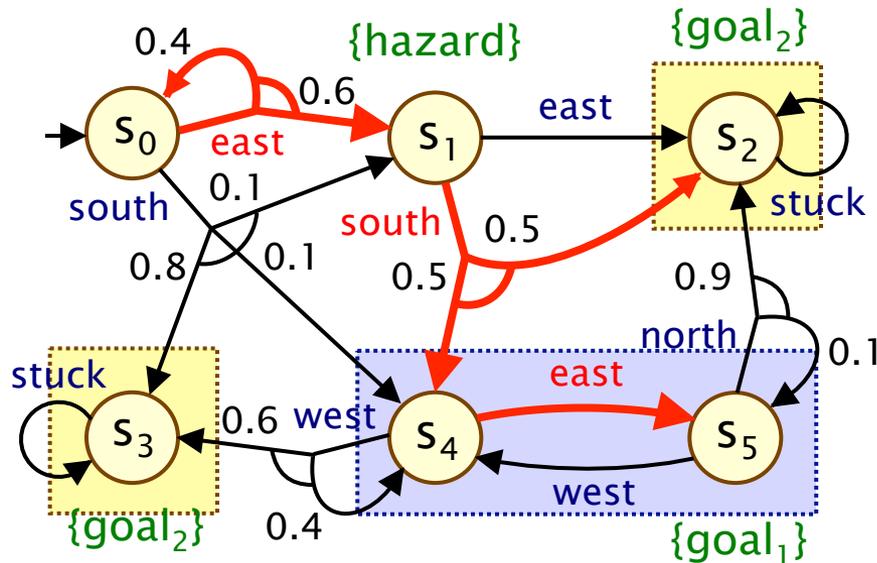
Compute: $P_{\max=?} [F \text{ goal}_1] = 0.5$

Optimal strategies:
memoryless and deterministic

Computation: graph analysis
& linear programming problem



Example – Reachability



Optimal strategy:

s_0 : east
 s_1 : south
 s_2 : -
 s_3 : -
 s_4 : east
 s_5 : -

Verify: $P_{\leq 0.6} [F goal_1]$

or

Synthesise for: $P_{\geq 0.4} [F goal_1]$

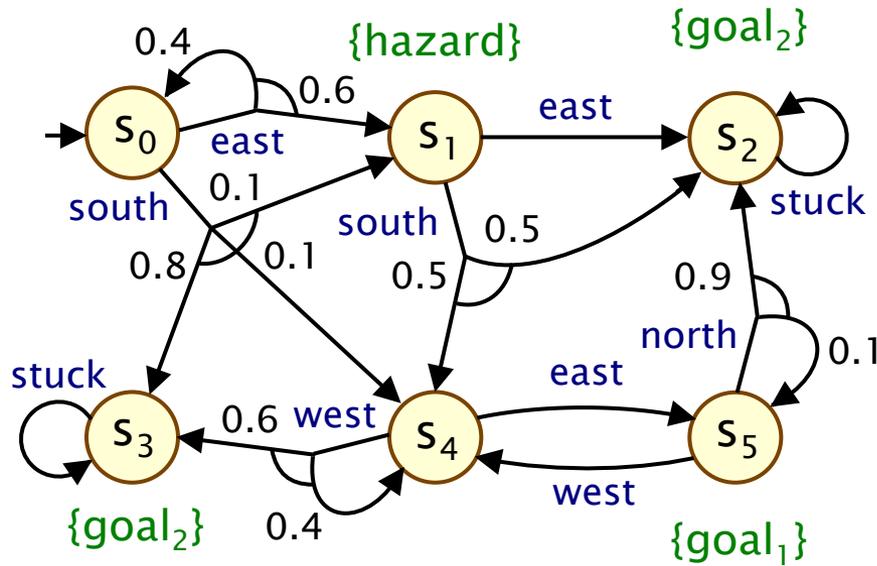
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Compute: $P_{max=?} [F goal_1] = 0.5$

Optimal strategies:
memoryless and deterministic

Computation: graph analysis
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Example – Costs/rewards



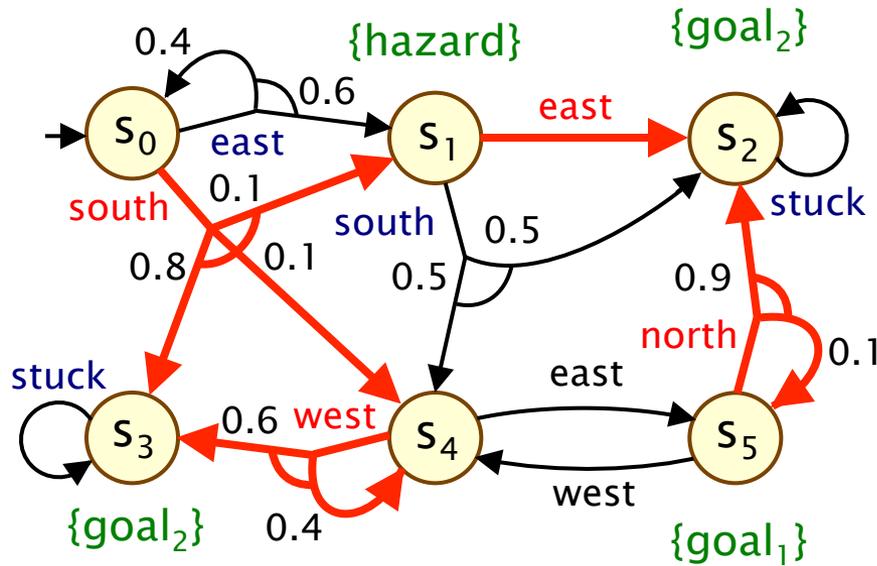
$R_{\min=?} [F \text{goal}_2]$

"what is the minimum expected number of moves needed to reach goal_2 ?"

Optimal strategies:
memoryless and deterministic

Computation: graph analysis
& linear programming problem

Example – Costs/rewards



$$R_{\min=?} [F \text{ goal}_2] = 19/15$$

"what is the minimum expected number of moves needed to reach $goal_2$?"

Optimal strategies:
memoryless and deterministic

Computation: graph analysis
& linear programming problem

Optimal strategy:

s_0 : south

s_1 : east

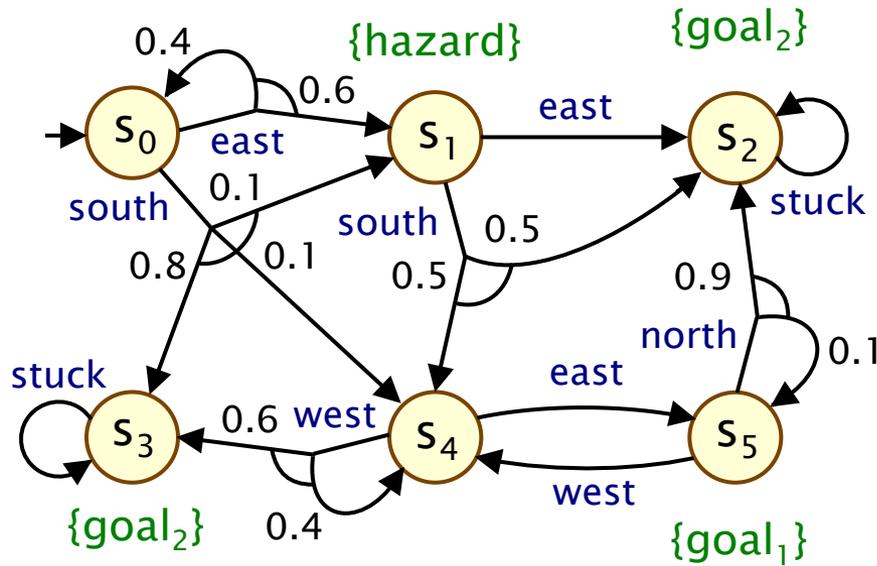
s_2 : -

s_3 : -

s_4 : west

s_5 : north

Example – LTL



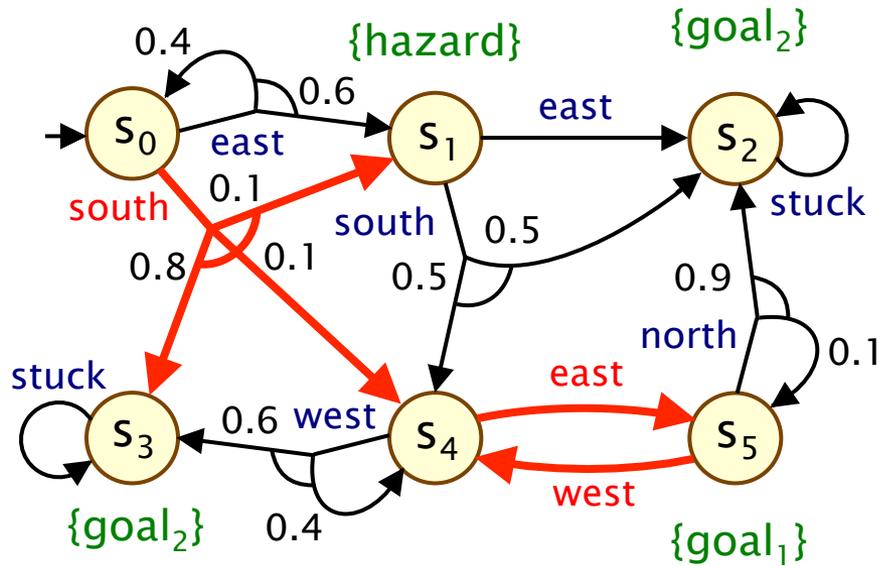
$$P_{\max=?} [(G \neg \text{hazard}) \wedge (GF \text{goal}_1)]$$

"what is the maximum probability of avoiding **hazard** and visiting **goal₁** infinitely often?"

Optimal strategies:
finite-memory and deterministic

Computation:
construct product of MDP and a deterministic ω -automaton;
then probabilistic reachability

Example – LTL



Optimal strategy:

- s_0 : south
- s_1 : -
- s_2 : -
- s_3 : -
- s_4 : east
- s_5 : west

$$P_{\max=?} [(G \neg \text{hazard}) \wedge (GF \text{goal}_1)]$$

"what is the maximum probability of avoiding **hazard** and visiting **goal₁** infinitely often?" = **0.1**

Optimal strategies:
finite-memory and deterministic

Computation:
construct product of MDP and a deterministic ω -automaton;
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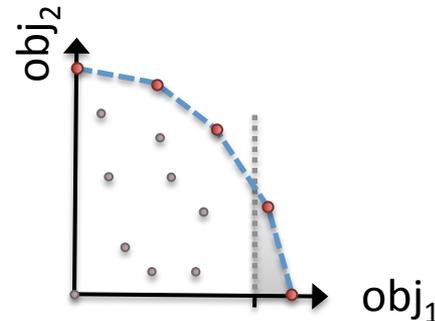
In this instance, memoryless
(not usually)

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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:** $\text{multi}(P_{>0.95} [F \textit{ send }], R^{\textit{time}}_{>10} [C])$
 - e.g. “is there a strategy such that the probability of message transmission is > 0.95 and expected battery life > 10 hrs?”
- **Numerical queries:** $\text{multi}(P_{\textit{max}=?} [F \textit{ send }], R^{\textit{time}}_{>10} [C])$
 - e.g. “maximum probability of message transmission, assuming expected battery life-time is > 10 hrs?”
- **Pareto queries:**
 - $\text{multi}(P_{\textit{max}=?} [F \textit{ send }], R^{\textit{time}}_{\textit{max}=?} [C])$
 - e.g. “Pareto curve for maximising probability of transmission and expected battery life-time”



Multi-objective model checking

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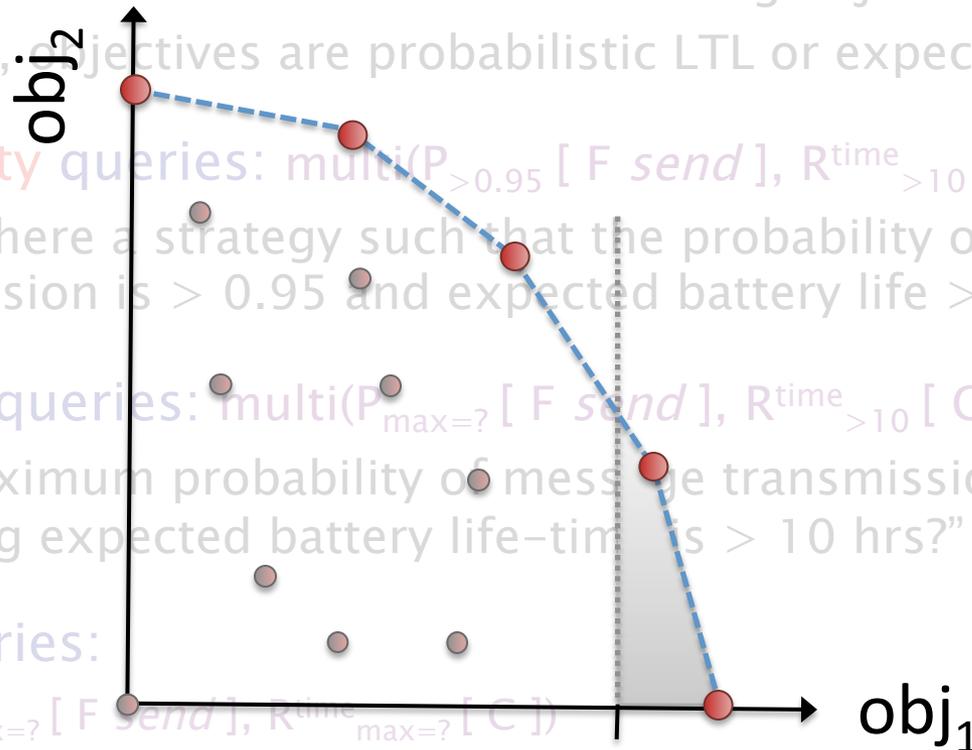
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- e.g. “maximum probability of message transmission, assuming expected battery life-time is > 10 hrs?”

- **Pareto queries:**

- $\text{multi}(P_{\text{max=?}} [F \text{ send }], R^{\text{time}}_{\text{max=?}} [C])$

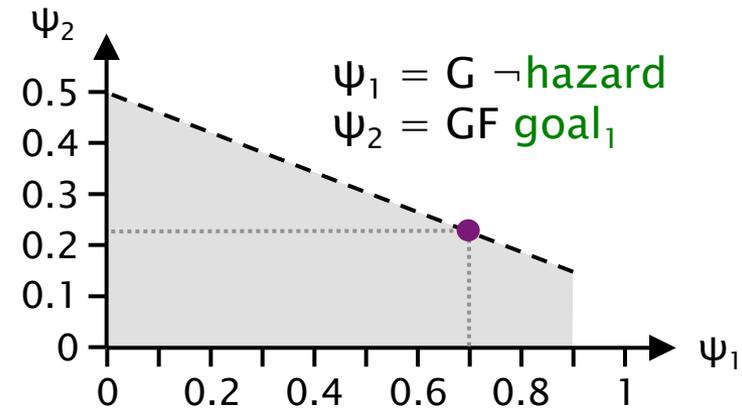
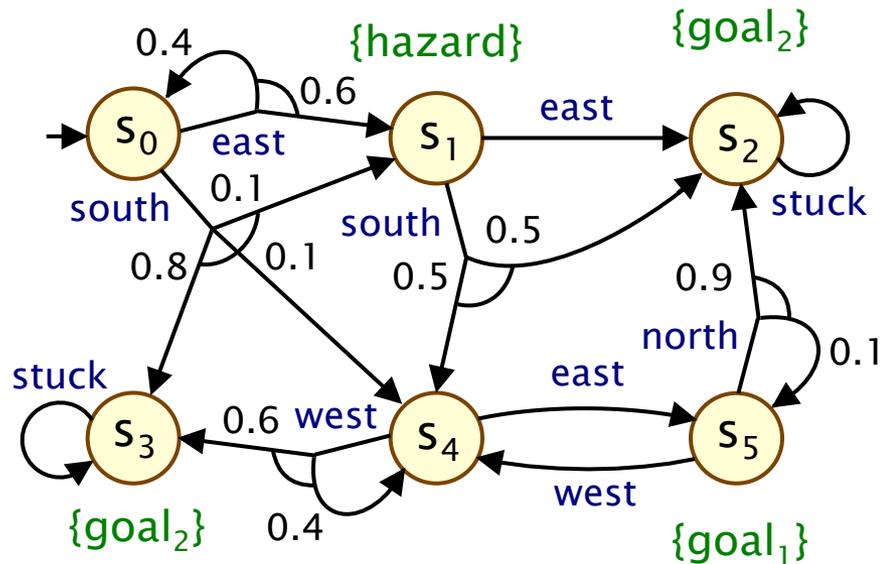
- e.g. “Pareto curve for maximising probability of transmission and expected battery life-time”



Multi-objective model checking

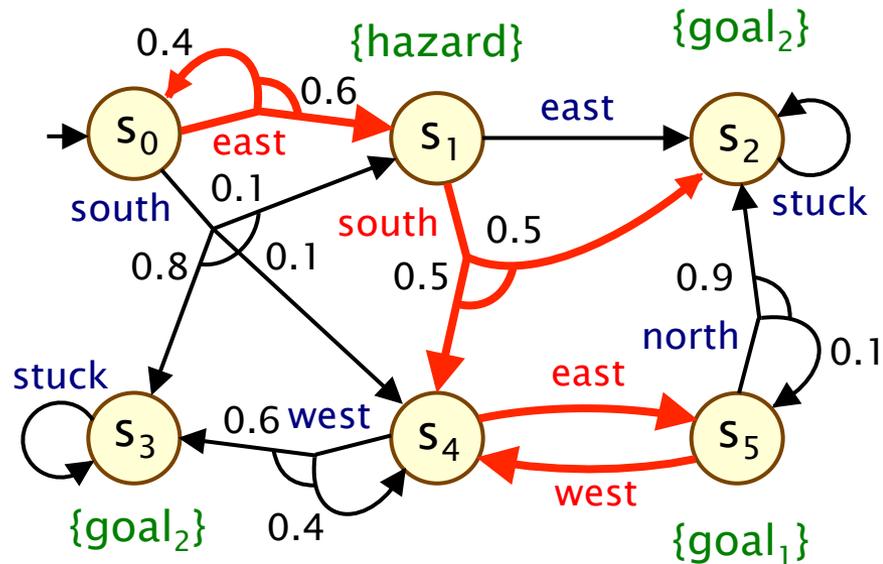
- Optimal strategies for multiple objectives
 - may be **randomised**
 - and **finite-memory** (when using LTL formulae)
- Multi-objective probabilistic model checking
 - reduces to linear programming, on an MDP-automata product [TACAS'07,TACAS'11]
 - can be approximated using iterative numerical methods, via approximation of the Pareto curve [ATVA'12]
- Extensions [ATVA'12]
 - arbitrary Boolean combinations of objectives
 - e.g. $\psi_1 \Rightarrow \psi_2$ (all strategies satisfying ψ_1 also satisfy ψ_2)
 - time-bounded (finite-horizon) properties

Example – Multi-objective



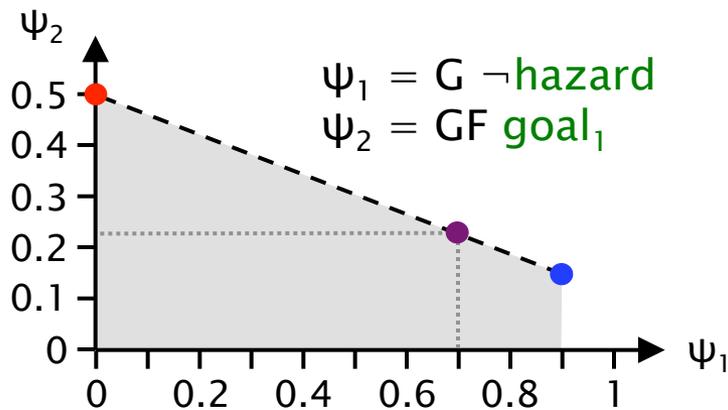
- Achievability query
 - $P_{\geq 0.7} [G \neg \text{hazard}] \wedge P_{\geq 0.2} [GF \text{ goal}_1]$? **True (achievable)**
- Numerical query
 - $P_{\max=?} [GF \text{ goal}_1]$ such that $P_{\geq 0.7} [G \neg \text{hazard}]$? **~ 0.2278**
- Pareto query
 - for $P_{\max=?} [G \neg \text{hazard}] \wedge P_{\max=?} [GF \text{ goal}_1]$?

Example – Multi-objective

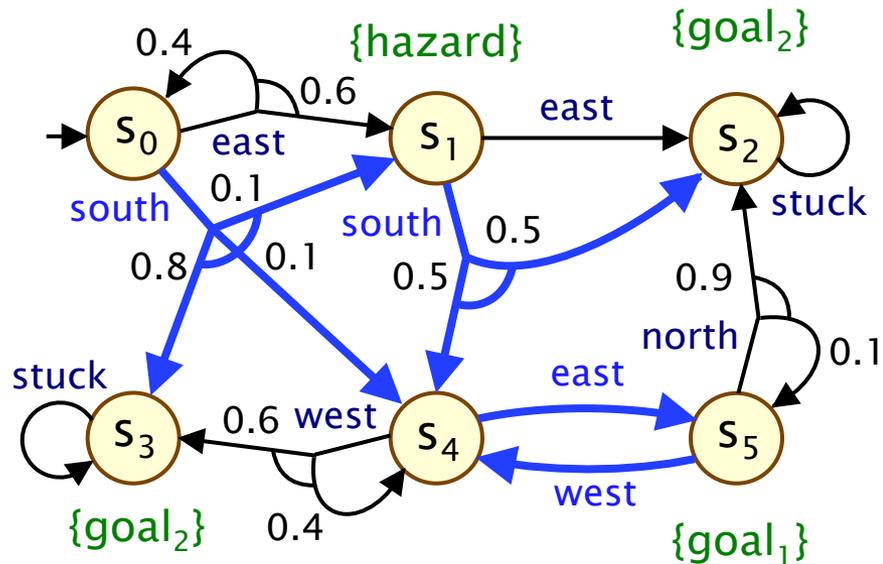


Strategy 1
(deterministic)

- S_0 : east
- S_1 : south
- S_2 : -
- S_3 : -
- S_4 : east
- S_5 : west



Example – Multi-objective



Strategy 2
(deterministic)

s_0 : south

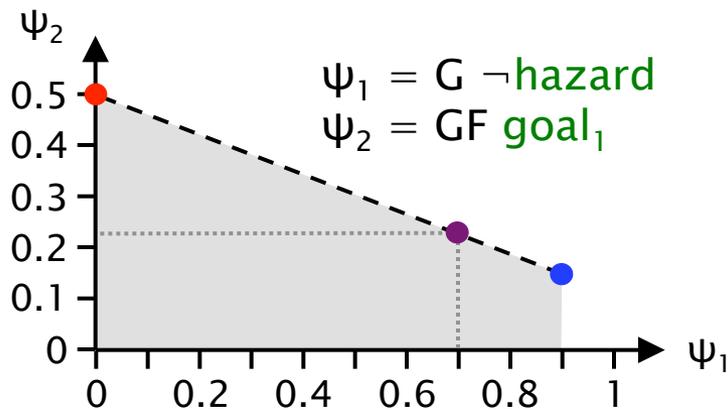
s_1 : south

s_2 : -

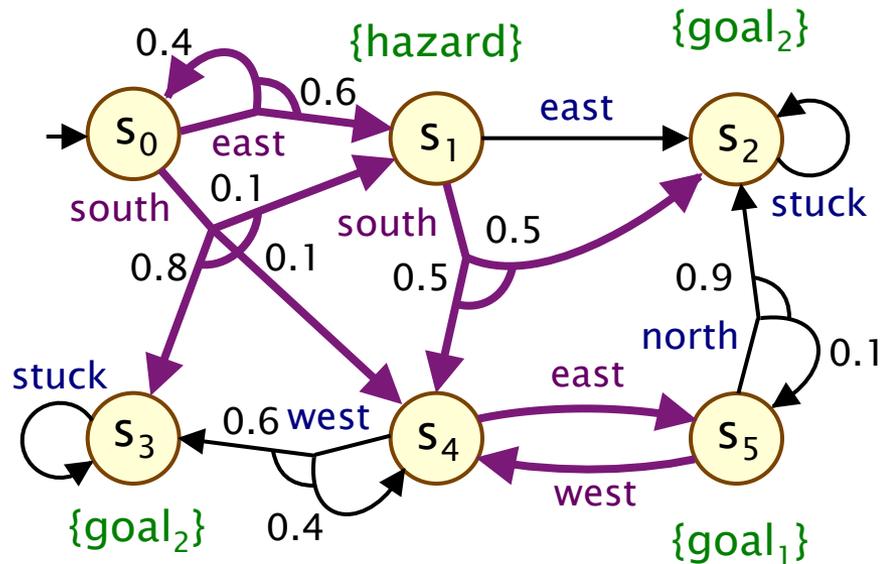
s_3 : -

s_4 : east

s_5 : west



Example – Multi-objective



Optimal strategy:
(randomised)

s_0 : 0.3226 : east
 0.6774 : south

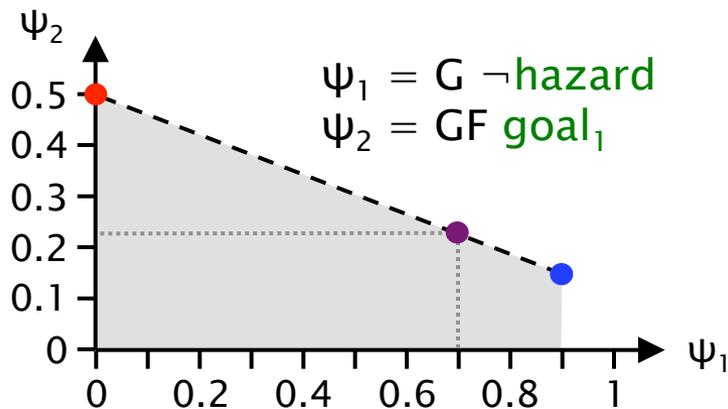
s_1 : 1.0 : south

s_2 : -

s_3 : -

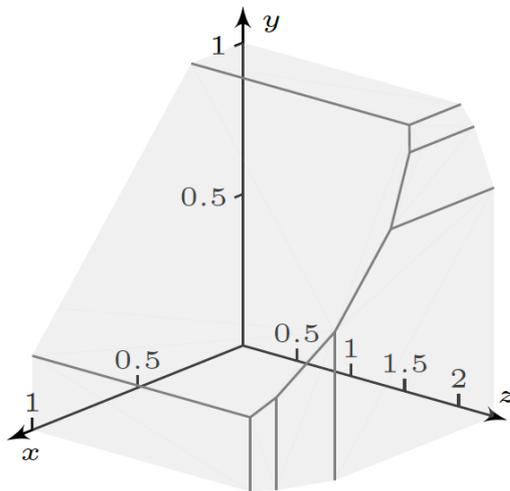
s_4 : 1.0 : east

s_5 : 1.0 : west



Multi-objective: Applications

Synthesis of team formation strategies
[CLIMA'11, ATVA'12]



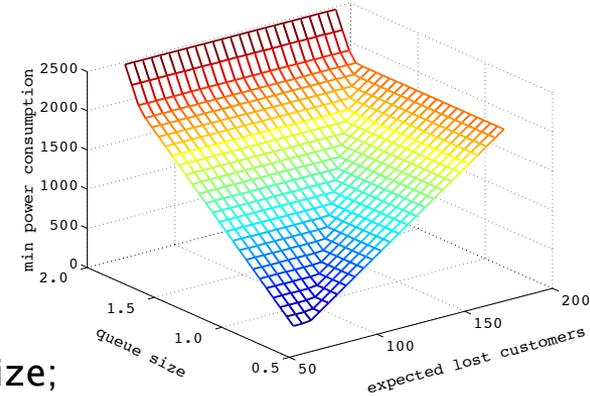
Pareto curve:

x="probability of completing task 1";
y="probability of completing task 2";
z="expected size of successful team"

Synthesis of dynamic power management controllers [TACAS'11]

"minimise energy consumption, subject to constraints on:

- (i) expected job queue size;
- (ii) expected number of lost jobs

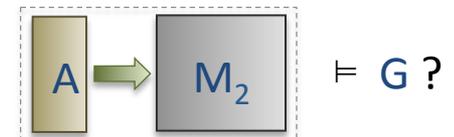
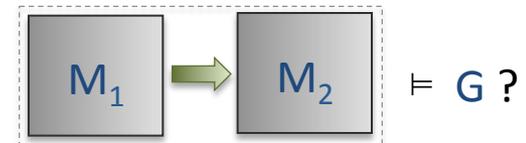


Probabilistic assume-guarantee framework
[TACAS'10, TACAS'11, Info&Comp'13]

Assume-guarantee query:
"does component M_2 satisfy guarantee G , provided that assumption A always holds?"

reduces to...

"is there an adversary (strategy) of M_2 satisfying A but not G ?"



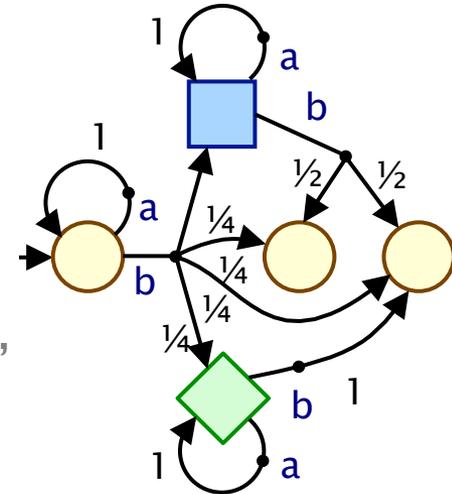
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Stochastic multi-player games (SMGs)

- Stochastic multi-player games

- players control states; choose actions
- models **competitive/collaborative** behaviour
- applications: security (system vs. attacker), controller synthesis (controller vs. environment), distributed algorithms/protocols, ...



- Property specifications: rPATL

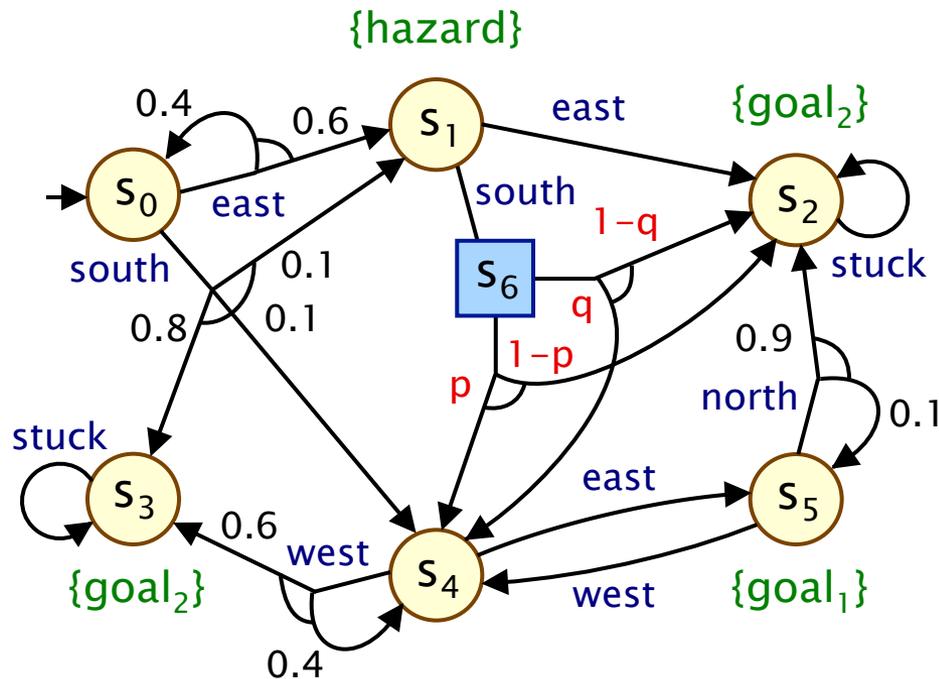
- $\langle\langle\{1,2\}\rangle\rangle P_{\geq 0.95} [F^{\leq 45} \textit{done}]$: "can nodes 1,2 collaborate so that the probability of the protocol terminating within 45 seconds is at least 0.95, whatever nodes 3,4 do?"
- formally: $\langle\langle C \rangle\rangle \psi$: **do there exist** strategies for players in C such that, **for all** strategies of other players, property ψ holds?

- Model checking [TACAS'12,FMDS'13]

- zero sum properties: analysis reduces to 2-player games
- PRISM-games: www.prismmodelchecker.org/games

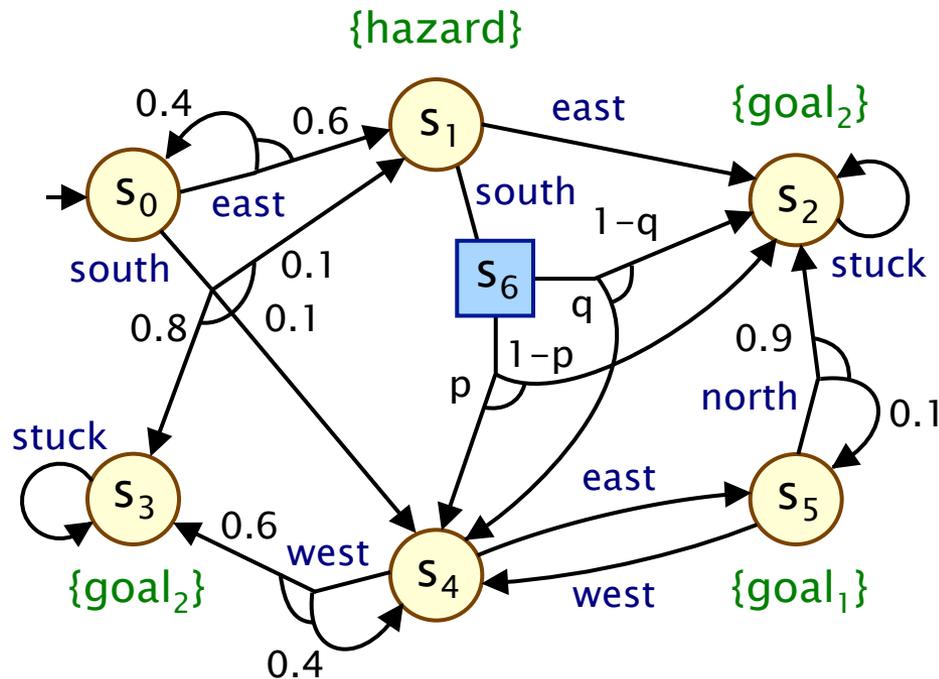
Example – Stochastic games

- Two players: 1 (robot controller), 2 (environment)
 - probability of s_1 –south $\rightarrow s_4$ is in $[p,q] = [0.5-\Delta, 0.5+\Delta]$



Example – Stochastic games

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 - probability of s_1 –south $\rightarrow s_4$ is in $[p,q] = [0.5-\Delta, 0.5+\Delta]$



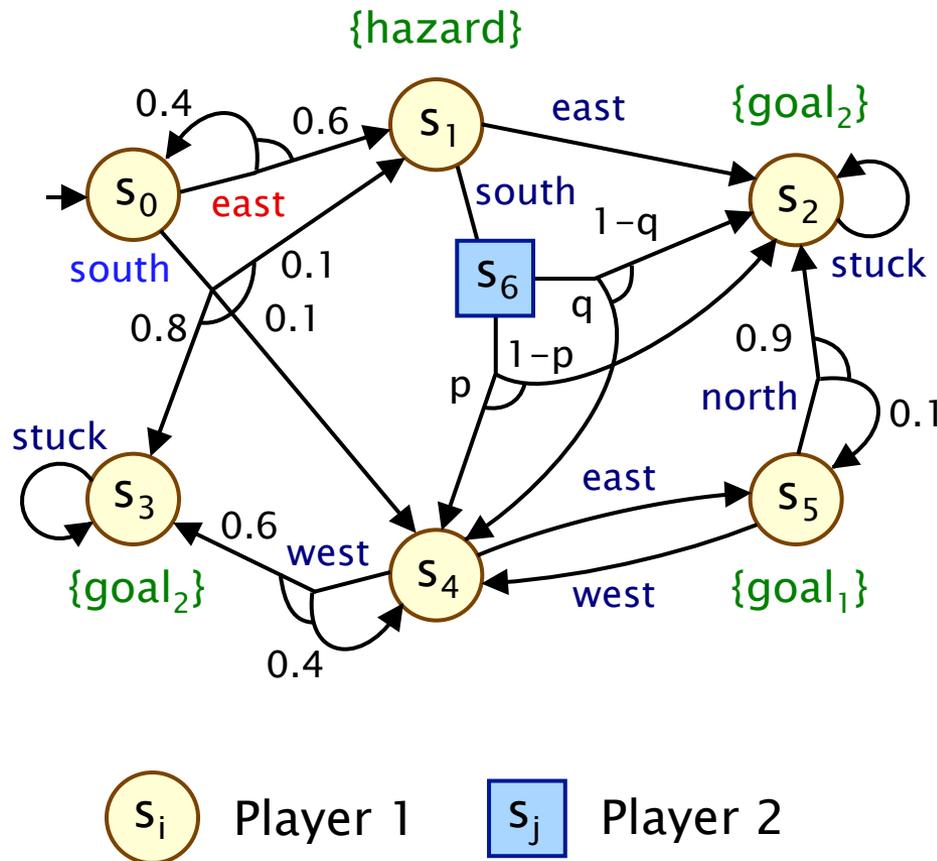
rPATL: $\langle\langle\{1\}\rangle\rangle P_{\max=?} [F \text{goal}_1]$

Optimal strategies:
memoryless and deterministic

Computation: graph analysis
& numerical approximation

Example – Stochastic games

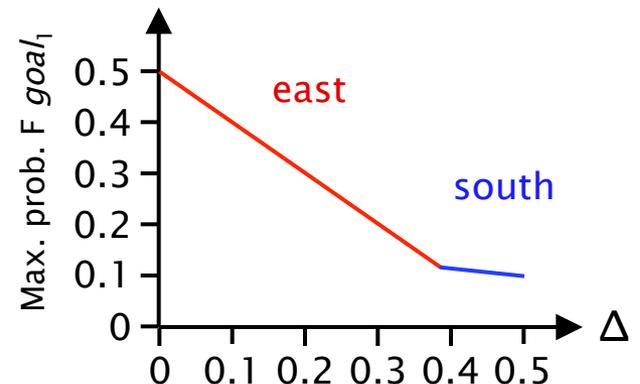
- Two players: 1 (robot controller), 2 (environment)
 - probability of s_1 –south $\rightarrow s_4$ is in $[p,q] = [0.5-\Delta, 0.5+\Delta]$



rPATL: $\langle\langle\{1\}\rangle\rangle P_{\max=?} [F \text{ goal}_1]$

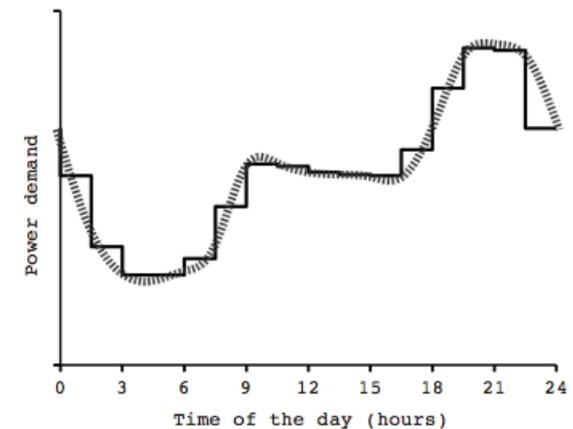
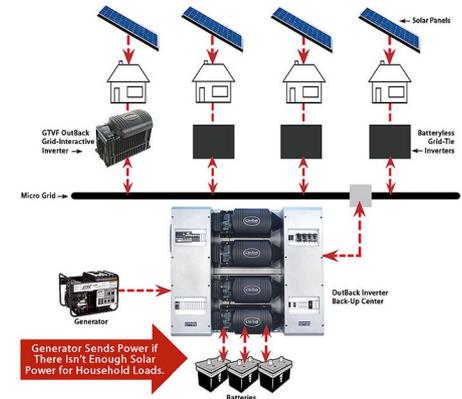
Optimal strategies:
memoryless and deterministic

Computation: graph analysis
& numerical approximation



Example: Energy management

- Energy management protocol for Microgrid
 - Microgrid: local energy management
 - randomised demand management protocol
 - random back-off when demand is high
- Original analysis [Hildmann/Saffre'11]
 - protocol increases "value" for clients
 - simulation-based, clients are honest
- Our analysis
 - stochastic multi-player game model
 - clients can cheat (and cooperate)
 - model checking: PRISM-games

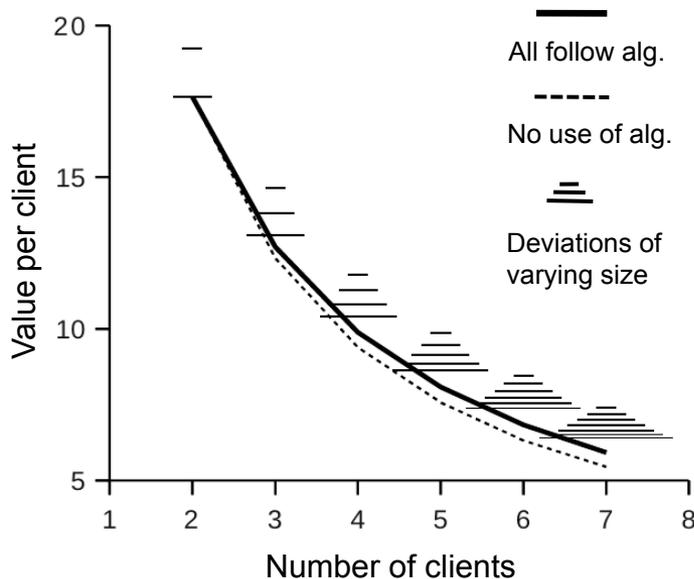


Example: Energy management

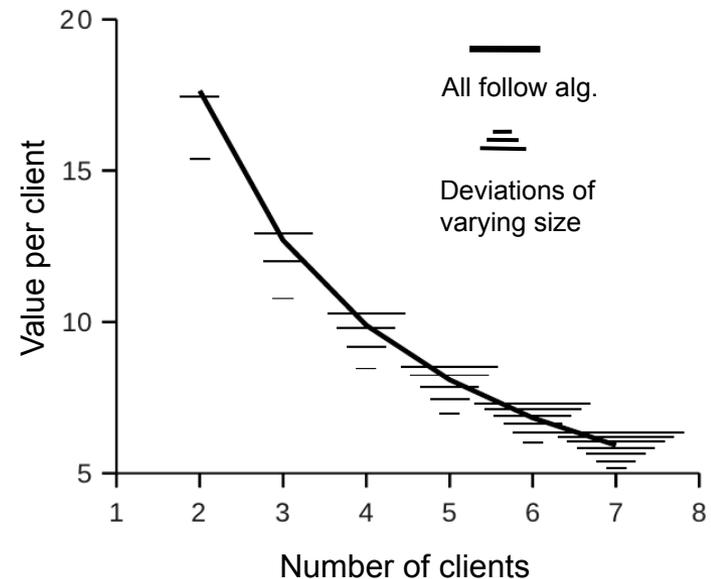
- Exposes protocol weakness
 - incentive for clients to act selfishly

- We propose a simple fix (and verify it)
 - clients can be punished

Value per client



Value per client, with fix



Conclusion

- Probabilistic model checking & PRISM
 - Markov decision processes (MDPs)
 - PCTL, probabilistic LTL, expected costs/rewards
 - verification vs. controller synthesis
- Multi-objective probabilistic model checking
 - trade-offs between conflicting objectives
 - achievability queries, numerical queries, Pareto curves
- Model checking for stochastic multi-player games
 - competitive/collaborative behaviour
 - rPATL model checking
- Challenges
 - stochastic games: multiple objectives, richer temporal logics
 - partial information/observability