

# Probabilistic (Bi)simulation (A Tutorial)

Yuxin Deng

*Shanghai Jiao Tong University*

<http://basics.sjtu.edu.cn/~yuxin/>

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## Outline

1. Probabilistic bisimulation
2. Justifying the lifting of relations
  - (a) Justification by **Kantorovich metric**
  - (b) Justification by **network flow**
3. \***Metric** characterisation of probabilistic bisimulation
4. \***Algorithmic** characterisation of probabilistic bisimulation
5. **Logical** characterisation of probabilistic bisimulation
6. Probabilistic simulations and testing preorders

\* to be omitted

# Probabilistic bisimulation

## Probability distributions

- A (discrete) probability distribution over a countable set  $S$  is a function  $\Delta : S \rightarrow [0, 1]$  s.t.  $\sum_{s \in S} \Delta(s) = 1$
- The support of  $\Delta$ :  $[\Delta] := \{s \in S \mid \Delta(s) > 0\}$
- $\mathcal{D}(S)$ : the set of all distributions over  $S$
- $\bar{s}$ : the point distribution  $\bar{s}(s) = 1$
- Given distributions  $\Delta_1, \dots, \Delta_n$ , we form their linear combination  $\sum_{i \in 1..n} p_i \cdot \Delta_i$ , where  $\forall i : p_i > 0$  and  $\sum_{i \in 1..n} p_i = 1$ .

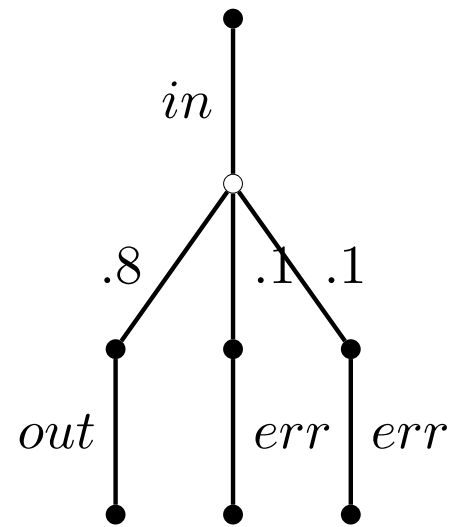
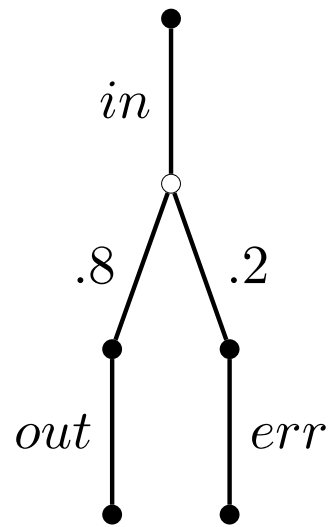
## Probabilistic labelled transition systems

**Def.** A *probabilistic labelled transition system* (pLTS) is a triple  $\langle S, Act, \rightarrow \rangle$ , where

1.  $S$  is a set of states
2.  $Act$  is a set of actions
3.  $\rightarrow \subseteq S \times Act \times \mathcal{D}(S)$ .

We usually write  $s \xrightarrow{\alpha} \Delta$  in place of  $(s, \alpha, \Delta) \in \rightarrow$ . An LTS may be viewed as a degenerate pLTS that only uses point distributions.

## Example



## Lifting relations

**Def.** Let  $\mathcal{R} \subseteq S \times T$  be a relation between sets  $S$  and  $T$ . Then  $\mathcal{R}^\dagger \subseteq \mathcal{D}(S) \times \mathcal{D}(T)$  is the smallest relation that satisfies:

1.  $s \mathcal{R} t$  implies  $\bar{s} \mathcal{R}^\dagger \bar{t}$
2.  $\Delta_i \mathcal{R}^\dagger \Theta_i$  implies  $(\sum_{i \in I} p_i \cdot \Delta_i) \mathcal{R}^\dagger (\sum_{i \in I} p_i \cdot \Theta_i)$  for any  $p_i \in [0, 1]$  with  $\sum_{i \in I} p_i = 1$ .

More discussion about the lifting operation later.

## Bisimulation

**Def.** A binary relation  $\mathcal{R} \subseteq S \times S$  is a **simulation** if whenever  $s \mathcal{R} t$ :

- if  $s \xrightarrow{a} \Delta$ , there exists some  $\Theta$  such that  $t \xrightarrow{a} \Theta$  and  $\Delta \mathcal{R}^\dagger \Theta$ .

The relation  $\mathcal{R}$  is a **bisimulation** if both  $\mathcal{R}$  and  $\mathcal{R}^{-1}$  are simulations.

**Bisimilarity**, written  $\sim$ , is the union of all bisimulations.



# Justifying the lifting of relations

## Alternative ways of lifting (1/2)

**Prop.**  $\Delta \mathcal{R}^\dagger \Theta$  if and only if

1.  $\Delta = \sum_{i \in I} p_i \cdot \overline{s_i}$ , where  $I$  is a countable index set and  $\sum_{i \in I} p_i = 1$
2. For each  $i \in I$  there is a state  $t_i$  such that  $s_i \mathcal{R} t_i$
3.  $\Theta = \sum_{i \in I} p_i \cdot \overline{t_i}$ .

## Alternative ways of lifting (2/2)

**Prop.**

1. Let  $\Delta, \Theta$  be distributions over  $S$  and  $\mathcal{R}$  be an equivalence relation.

Then

$$\Delta \mathcal{R}^\dagger \Theta \quad \text{iff} \quad \forall C \in S/\mathcal{R} : \Delta(C) = \Theta(C)$$

where  $\Delta(C) = \sum_{s \in C} \Delta(s)$ .

2. Let  $\Delta$  and  $\Theta$  be distributions over  $S$  and  $T$ , respectively. Then

$\Delta \mathcal{R}^\dagger \Theta$  iff there exists a **weight function**  $w : S \times T \rightarrow [0, 1]$  such that

(a)  $\forall s \in S : \sum_{t \in T} w(s, t) = \Delta(s)$

(b)  $\forall t \in T : \sum_{s \in S} w(s, t) = \Theta(t)$

(c)  $\forall (s, t) \in S \times T : w(s, t) > 0 \Rightarrow s \mathcal{R} t$ .

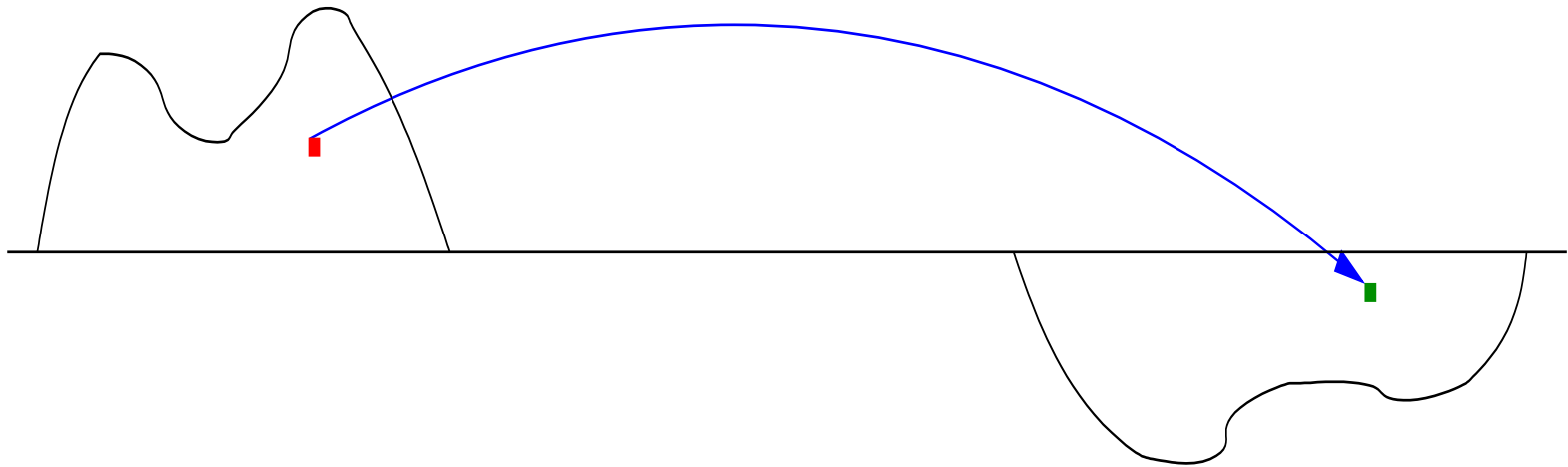
## Relating the lifting operation with Kantorovich metric

The Kantorovich metric was motivated by the transportation problem.

## The transportation problem

The original transportation problem (formulated by the French mathematician Gaspard Monge in 1781):

*What's an optimal way of shovelling a pile of sand into a hole of the same volume?*



## Kantorovich metric

**Def.** Let  $(S, m)$  be a separable metric space. For any two Borel probability measures  $\Delta$  and  $\Theta$  on  $S$ , the *Kantorovich distance* between  $\Delta$  and  $\Theta$  is defined by

$$\hat{m}(\Delta, \Theta) = \sup \left\{ \left| \int f d\Delta - \int f d\Theta \right| : \|f\| \leq 1 \right\}.$$

where  $\|\cdot\|$  is the *Lipschitz semi-norm* defined by  $\|f\| = \sup_{x \neq y} \frac{|f(x) - f(y)|}{m(x, y)}$  for a function  $f : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with  $\mathbb{R}$  being the set of all real numbers.

## Kantorovich-Rubinstein Theorem

Write  $M(\Delta, \Theta)$  for the set of all Borel probability measures on the product space  $S \times S$  with marginal measures  $\Delta$  and  $\Theta$ , i.e. if  $\Gamma \in M(\Delta, \Theta)$  then  $\int_{y \in S} d\Gamma(x, y) = d\Delta(x)$  and  $\int_{x \in S} d\Gamma(x, y) = d\Theta(y)$  hold.

**Thm.** If  $(S, m)$  is a separable metric space then for any two distributions  $\Delta, \Theta \in \mathcal{D}(S)$  we have

$$\hat{m}(\Delta, \Theta) = \inf \left\{ \int m(x, y) d\Gamma(x, y) : \Gamma \in M(\Delta, \Theta) \right\}.$$

## Interpretation of Kantorovich metric

Intuitively, a probability measure  $\Gamma \in M(\Delta, \Theta)$  can be understood as a *transportation* from one unit mass distribution  $\Delta$  to another unit mass distribution  $\Theta$ . If the distance  $m(x, y)$  represents the cost of moving one unit of mass from location  $x$  to location  $y$  then  $\hat{m}(\Delta, \Theta)$  gives the optimal total cost of transporting the mass of  $\Delta$  to  $\Theta$ .



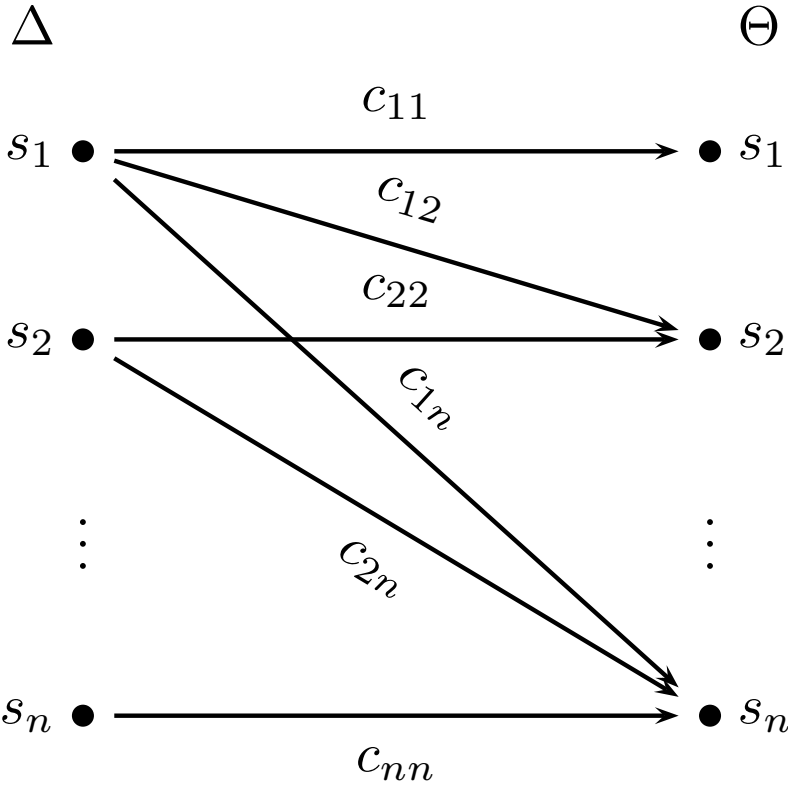
## Discrete transportation problem

For two discrete distributions  $\Delta$  and  $\Theta$  with finite supports  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  and  $\{y_1, \dots, y_l\}$ , respectively, minimizing the total cost of a discretized version of the transportation problem reduces to the following linear programming problem:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^l \Gamma(x_i, y_j) m(x_i, y_j) \\ & \text{subject to} && \bullet \forall 1 \leq i \leq n : \sum_{j=1}^l \Gamma(x_i, y_j) = \Delta(x_i) \\ & && \bullet \forall 1 \leq j \leq l : \sum_{i=1}^n \Gamma(x_i, y_j) = \Theta(y_j) \\ & && \bullet \forall 1 \leq i \leq n, 1 \leq j \leq l : \Gamma(x_i, y_j) \geq 0. \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

i.e.  $\hat{m}(\Delta, \Theta)$  is the minimum value of problem (1).

# Discrete transportation problem



$c_{ij}$  stands for  $m(s_i, s_j)$ , for all  $i, j$

## Lifting relations vs. lifting metrics

**Prop.** Let  $R$  be a binary relation and  $m$  a pseudometric on a state space  $S$  satisfying

$$s R t \quad \text{iff} \quad m(s, t) = 0$$

for any  $s, t \in S$ . Then it holds that

$$\Delta R^\dagger \Theta \quad \text{iff} \quad \hat{m}(\Delta, \Theta) = 0$$

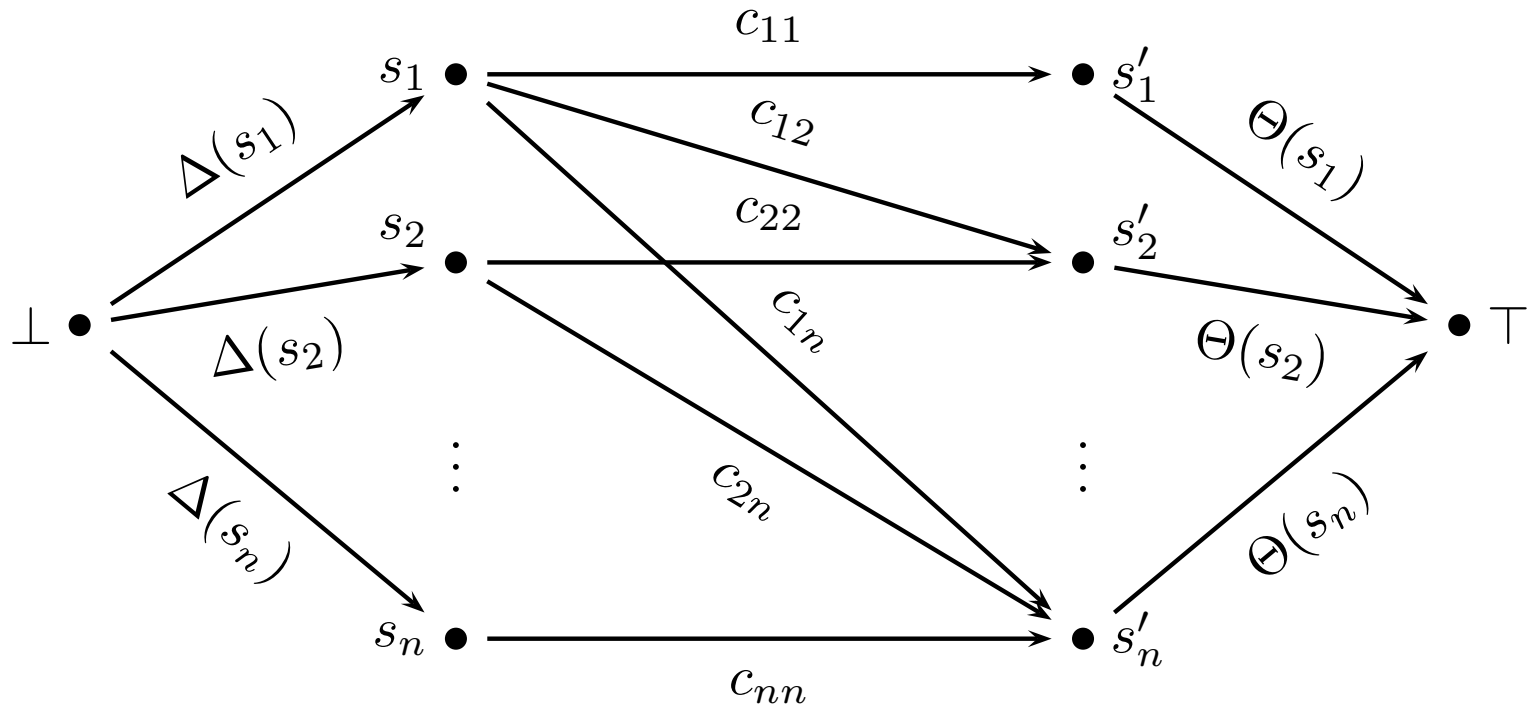
for any distributions  $\Delta, \Theta \in \mathcal{D}(S)$ .

## Network

**Def.** A **network** is a tuple  $\mathcal{N} = (N, E, \perp, \top, c)$  where

- $(N, E)$  is a finite directed graph (i.e.  $N$  is a set of nodes and  $E \subseteq N \times N$  is a set of edges)
- $\perp$  and  $\top$  are the **source** and **sink** nodes respectively
- $c$  is a **capability function** that assigns to each edge  $(v, w) \in E$  a non-negative number  $c(v, w)$ .

## Example



$$c_{ij} = 1 \text{ for all } i, j$$

## Flow function

**Def.** A **flow function**  $f$  for  $\mathcal{N}$  is a function that assigns to each edge  $e$  a real number  $f(e)$  such that

- $0 \leq f(e) \leq c(e)$  for all edges  $e$ .
- For each node  $v \in N \setminus \{\perp, \top\}$ ,

$$\sum_{e \in in(v)} f(e) = \sum_{e \in out(v)} f(e)$$

where  $in(v)$  is the set of incoming edges to node  $v$ ;  
 $out(v)$  the set of outgoing edges from node  $v$ .

## Maximum flow

**Def.** The **flow**  $F(f)$  of  $f$  is given by

$$F(f) = \sum_{e \in \text{out}(\perp)} f(e) - \sum_{e \in \text{in}(\perp)} f(e).$$

The **maximum flow** in  $\mathcal{N}$  is the supremum (maximum) over the flows  $F(f)$ , where  $f$  is a flow function in  $\mathcal{N}$ .

## The network $\mathcal{N}(\Delta, \Theta, \mathcal{R})$

**Def.** Let  $S' = \{s' \mid s \in S\}$  and  $\perp, \top$  are two new states with  $\perp, \top \notin S \cup S'$ . For any  $\Delta, \Theta \in \mathcal{D}(S)$  and  $\mathcal{R} \subseteq S \times S$ , we construct the following network  $\mathcal{N}(\Delta, \Theta, \mathcal{R}) = (N, E, \perp, \top, c)$ .

- $N = S \cup S' \cup \{\perp, \top\}$ .
- $E = \{(s, t') \mid (s, t) \in \mathcal{R}\} \cup \{(\perp, s) \mid s \in S\} \cup \{(s', \top) \mid s \in S\}$ .
- $c$  is defined by  $c(\perp, s) = \Delta(s)$ ,  $c(t', \top) = \Theta(t)$  and  $c(s, t') = 1$  for all  $s, t \in S$ .



## Relating the Lifting operation with network flow

**Lem.** [Baier et al., 2000] The following statements are equivalent.

1. There exists a weight function  $w$  for  $(\Delta, \Theta)$  with respect to  $\mathcal{R}$ .
2. The maximum flow in  $\mathcal{N}(\Delta, \Theta, \mathcal{R})$  is 1.

**Cor.**  $\Delta \mathcal{R}^\dagger \Theta$  iff the maximum flow in  $\mathcal{N}(\Delta, \Theta, \mathcal{R})$  is 1.

# Metric characterisation of bisimulation

# Algorithmic characterisation of bisimulation

# Logical characterisation of bisimulation

## Adequacy and expressivity

Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be a logic. The set of formulae that state  $s$  satisfies is denoted by  $\mathcal{L}(s)$ . Then  $s =^{\mathcal{L}} t$  iff  $\mathcal{L}(s) = \mathcal{L}(t)$ .

- The logic  $\mathcal{L}$  is **adequate** w.r.t.  $\sim$  on a pLTS if for any states  $s$  and  $t$ ,

$$s =^{\mathcal{L}} t \text{ iff } s \sim t.$$

- The logic  $\mathcal{L}$  is **expressive** w.r.t.  $\sim$  on a pLTS if for each state  $s$  there exists a **characteristic formula**  $\varphi_s \in \mathcal{L}$  such that, for any states  $s$  and  $t$ ,

$$t \models \varphi_s \text{ iff } s \sim t.$$

## An adequate logic

$$\varphi := \top \mid \varphi_1 \wedge \varphi_2 \mid \langle a \rangle \psi \mid \neg \varphi$$

$$\psi := \bigoplus_{i \in I} p_i \cdot \varphi_i$$

- $s \models \top$  for all  $s \in S$ .
- $s \models \varphi_1 \wedge \varphi_2$  if  $s \models \varphi_i$  for  $i = 1, 2$ .
- $s \models \langle a \rangle \psi$  if for some  $\Delta \in \mathcal{D}(S)$ ,  $s \xrightarrow{a} \Delta$  and  $\Delta \models \psi$ .
- $s \models \neg \varphi$  if it is not the case that  $s \models \varphi$ .
- $\Delta \models \bigoplus_{i \in I} p_i \cdot \varphi_i$  if there are  $\Delta_i \in \mathcal{D}(S)$ , for all  $i \in I$ ,  $t \in [\Delta_i]$ , with  $t \models \varphi_i$ , such that  $\Delta = \sum_{i \in I} p_i \cdot \Delta_i$ .

**Thm.**  $s \sim t$  iff  $s =^{\mathcal{L}} t$ .

## Probabilistic modal $\mu$ -calculus (1/2)

Let  $Var$  be a set of variables. We define a set  $\mathcal{L}_\mu$  of modal formulae in positive normal form:

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi &:= \langle a \rangle \varphi \mid [a] \varphi \mid \bigwedge_{i \in I} \varphi_i \mid \bigvee_{i \in I} \varphi_i \mid X \mid \mu X. \varphi \mid \nu X. \varphi \\ \psi &:= \bigoplus_{i \in I} p_i \cdot \varphi_i\end{aligned}$$

where  $a \in Act$ ,  $I$  is an **finite** index set and  $\sum_{i \in I} p_i = 1$ . Let  $\bigwedge_{i \in \emptyset} \varphi_i = \top$  and  $\bigvee_{i \in \emptyset} \varphi_i = \perp$ .

## Probabilistic modal $\mu$ -calculus (2/2)

Let  $Env = \{ \rho \mid \rho : Var \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(S) \}$

$\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket : \mathcal{L}_\mu \rightarrow Env \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(S)$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \llbracket \top \rrbracket_\rho &= S \\
 \llbracket \perp \rrbracket_\rho &= \emptyset \\
 \llbracket \bigwedge_{i \in I} \varphi_i \rrbracket_\rho &= \bigcap_{i \in I} \llbracket \varphi_i \rrbracket_\rho \\
 \llbracket \bigvee_{i \in I} \varphi_i \rrbracket_\rho &= \bigcup_{i \in I} \llbracket \varphi_i \rrbracket_\rho \\
 \llbracket \langle a \rangle \psi \rrbracket_\rho &= \{ s \in S \mid \exists \Delta : s \xrightarrow{a} \Delta \wedge \Delta \in \llbracket \psi \rrbracket_\rho \} \\
 \llbracket [a] \varphi \rrbracket_\rho &= \{ s \in S \mid \forall \Delta : s \xrightarrow{a} \Delta \Rightarrow \Delta \in \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket_\rho \} \\
 \llbracket X \rrbracket_\rho &= \rho(X) \\
 \llbracket \mu X. \varphi \rrbracket_\rho &= \bigcap \{ V \subseteq S \mid \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket_{\rho[X \mapsto V]} \subseteq V \} \\
 \llbracket \nu X. \varphi \rrbracket_\rho &= \bigcup \{ V \subseteq S \mid \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket_{\rho[X \mapsto V]} \supseteq V \} \\
 \llbracket \bigoplus_{i \in I} p_i \cdot \varphi_i \rrbracket_\rho &= \{ \Delta \in \mathcal{D}(S) \mid \Delta = \bigoplus_{i \in I} p_i \cdot \Delta_i \wedge \forall i \in I, \forall t \in \Delta_i : t \in \llbracket \varphi_i \rrbracket_\rho \}
 \end{aligned}$$



## Equation system of formulae

Let  $E$  be a closed equation systems of formulae.

$$\begin{array}{lcl} E : X_1 & = & \varphi_1 \\ & \vdots & \\ X_n & = & \varphi_n \end{array}$$

$E$  viewed as a function  $E : Var \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_\mu$  defined by  $E(X_i) = \varphi_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$  and  $E(Y) = Y$  for other variables  $Y \in Var$ .

**Def.** An environment  $\rho$  is a **solution** of  $E$  if  $\forall i : \llbracket X_i \rrbracket_\rho = \llbracket \varphi_i \rrbracket_\rho$ .

## Existence of solutions

1. The set  $Env$  with the partial order  $\leq$  given by

$$\rho \leq \rho' \text{ iff } \forall X \in Var : \rho(X) \subseteq \rho'(X)$$

forms a complete lattice.

2. The equation functional  $\mathcal{E} : Env \rightarrow Env$  given by

$$\mathcal{E} := \lambda\rho.\lambda X. \llbracket E(X) \rrbracket_\rho$$

is monotonic.

3. The Knaster-Tarski fixpoint theorem guarantees existence of solutions, and the largest solution

$$\rho_E := \bigsqcup \{ \rho \mid \rho \leq \mathcal{E}(\rho) \}$$

## Characteristic equation system

**Def.** Given a finite state pLTS, its characteristic equation system consists of one equation for each state  $s_1, \dots, s_n \in S$ .

$$\begin{aligned} E : X_{s_1} &= \varphi_{s_1} \\ &\vdots \\ X_{s_n} &= \varphi_{s_n} \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\varphi_s := \left( \bigwedge_{s \xrightarrow{a} \Delta} \langle a \rangle X_\Delta \right) \wedge \left( \bigwedge_{a \in Act} [a] \bigvee_{s \xrightarrow{a} \Delta} X_\Delta \right)$$

with  $X_\Delta := \bigoplus_{s \in [\Delta]} \Delta(s) \cdot X_s$ .

**Thm.** If  $E$  is a characteristic equation system then  $s \sim t$  iff  $t \in \rho_E(X_s)$ .

## Characteristic formulae

- Rule 1:  $E \rightarrow F$
- Rule 2:  $E \rightarrow G$
- Rule 3:  $E \rightarrow H$  if  $X_n \notin fv(\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_n)$

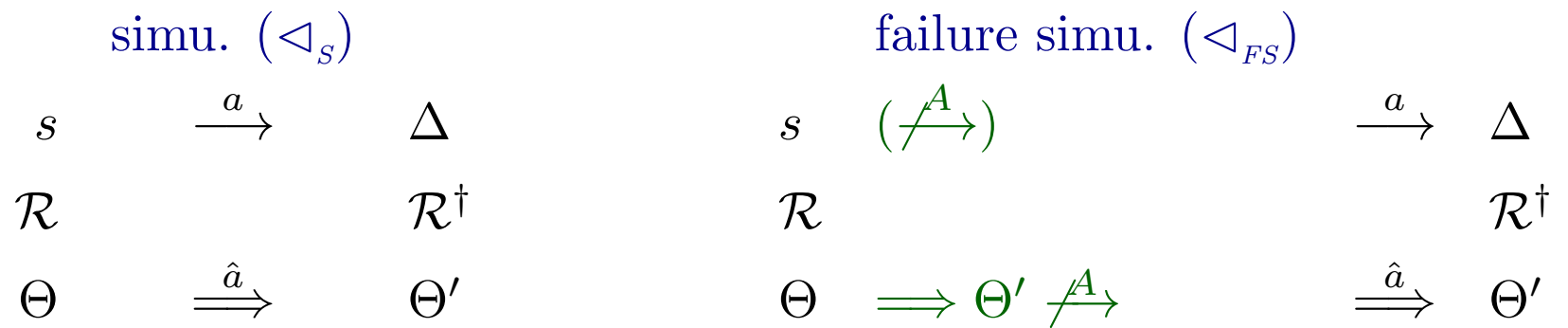
$$\begin{array}{cccc}
 E : X_1 & = & \varphi_1 & F : X_1 & = & \varphi_1 & G : X_1 & = & \varphi_1[\varphi_n/X_n] & H : X_1 = \varphi_1 \\
 & & \vdots & & & \vdots & & & \vdots & & \vdots \\
 X_{n-1} & = & \varphi_{n-1} & X_{n-1} & = & \varphi_{n-1} & X_{n-1} & = & \varphi_{n-1}[\varphi_n/X_n] & X_{n-1} = \varphi_{n-1} \\
 X_n & = & \varphi_n & X_n & = & \nu X_n \cdot \varphi_n & X_n & = & \varphi_n & & 
 \end{array}$$

Figure 1: Transformation rules

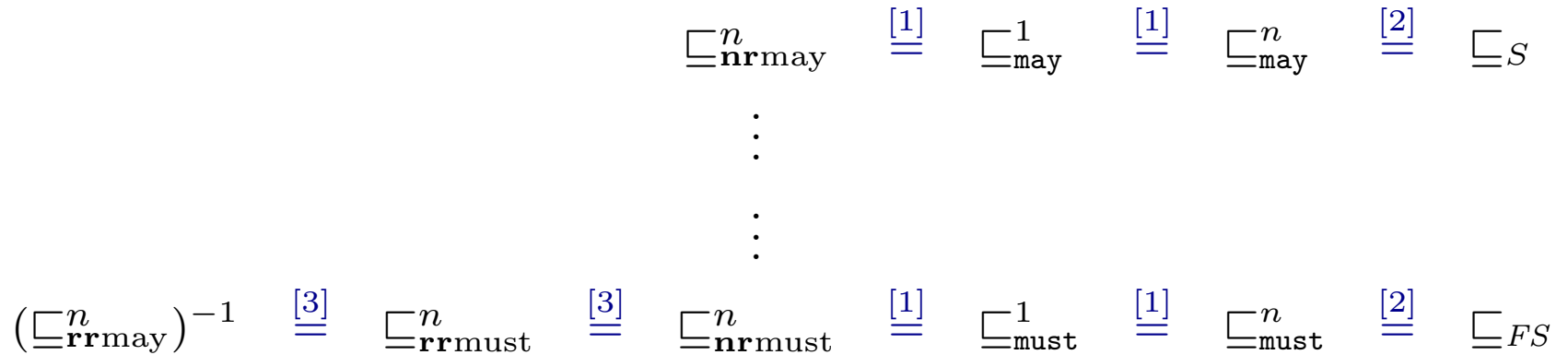
**Thm.** Given a characteristic equation system  $E$ , there is a characteristic formula  $\varphi_s$  such that  $\rho_E(X_s) = \llbracket \varphi_s \rrbracket$  for any state  $s$ .

# Probabilistic simulations

## Simulations



## Overview of results for finitary processes



The symbol = between two relations means that they coincide, while a vertical dotted line between two relations denotes that the relation below is finer than the relation above if divergence is absent.

[1]: [ESOP'07];      [2]: [LICS'07, CONCUR'09];      [3]: [QAPL'11] (for convergent processes)

## A general testing scenario

Assume

- a set of processes  $Proc$ ,
- a set of tests  $\mathcal{T}$ ,
- a set of outcomes  $\mathcal{O}$ , results of applying a test to a process
- a function  $\mathcal{A} : \mathcal{T} \times Proc \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_{fin}^+(\mathcal{O})$ , to apply a test to a process
- $\mathcal{O}$  is endowed with a partial order, with  $o_1 \leq o_2$  meaning  $o_2$  is a better outcome than  $o_1$ .



## Testing preorders

Comparing subsets of  $\mathcal{O}$  with the **Hoare** or **Smyth** preorders.

**Def.** For  $O_1, O_2 \in \mathcal{P}_{fin}^+(\mathcal{O})$

$$O_1 \leq_{\text{Ho}} O_2 \quad \text{if} \quad \forall o_1 \in O_1 \exists o_2 \in O_2 : o_1 \leq o_2$$

$$O_1 \leq_{\text{Sm}} O_2 \quad \text{if} \quad \forall o_2 \in O_2 \exists o_1 \in O_1 : o_1 \leq o_2.$$

For  $P, Q \in \mathcal{Proc}$

$$P \sqsubseteq_{\text{may}} Q \quad \text{if} \quad \mathcal{A}(T, P) \leq_{\text{Ho}} \mathcal{A}(T, Q) \quad \text{for every test } T$$

$$P \sqsubseteq_{\text{must}} Q \quad \text{if} \quad \mathcal{A}(T, P) \leq_{\text{Sm}} \mathcal{A}(T, Q) \quad \text{for every test } T.$$

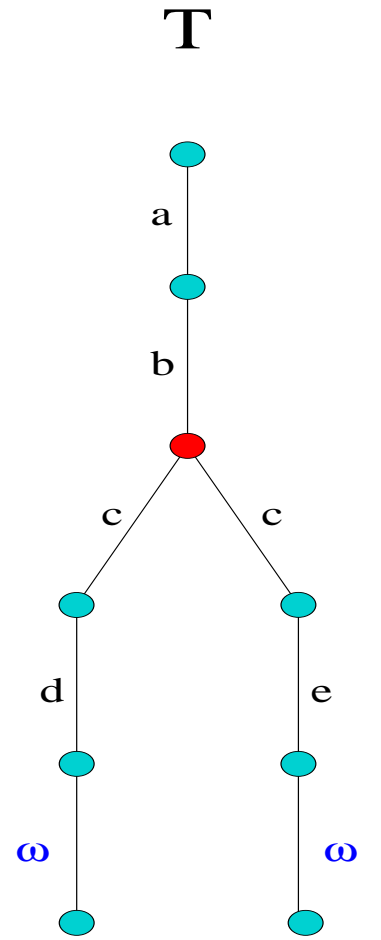
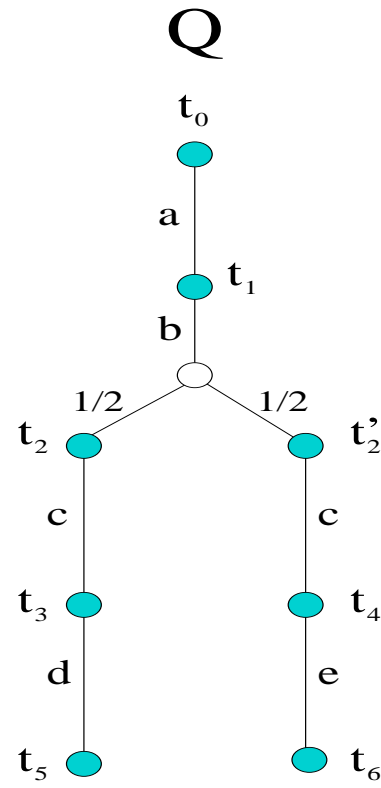
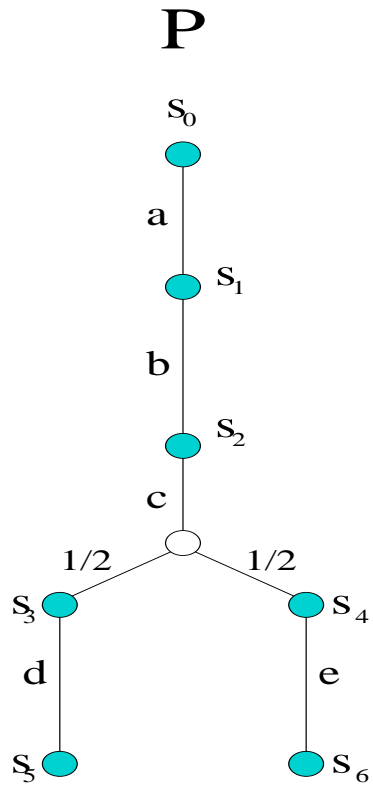
## Non-probabilistic vs. probabilistic testing

- Non-probabilistic testing:  $\mathcal{O} = \{failure, success\}$
- Probabilistic testing:  $\mathcal{O} = [0, 1]$
- Vector based testing:  $\mathcal{O} = [0, 1]^n$

**Prop.** For closed sets  $O_1, O_2 \in \mathcal{P}_{fin}^+([0, 1])$  we have

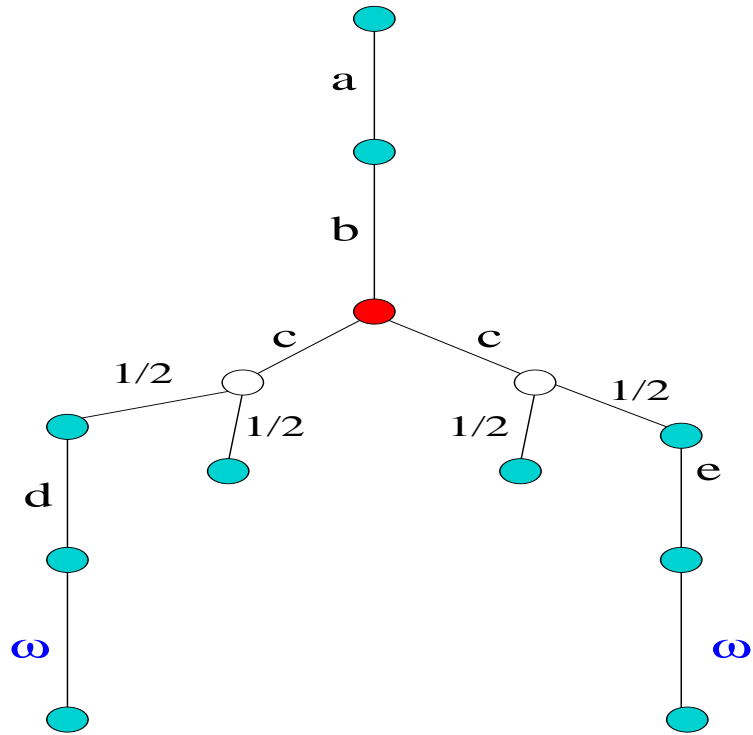
1.  $O_1 \leq_{Ho} O_2$  iff  $\max(O_1) \leq \max(O_2)$
2.  $O_1 \leq_{Sm} O_2$  iff  $\min(O_1) \leq \min(O_2)$ .

# Uni-success testing

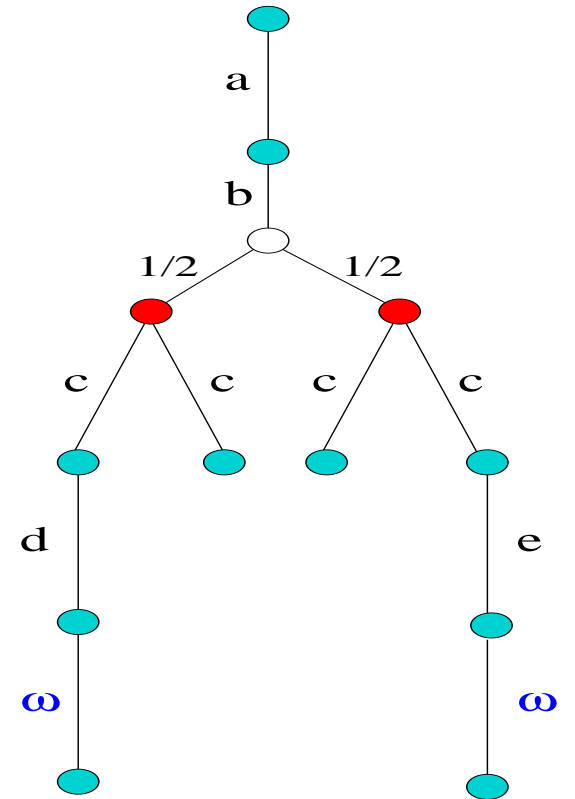


# Testing systems

**P||T**

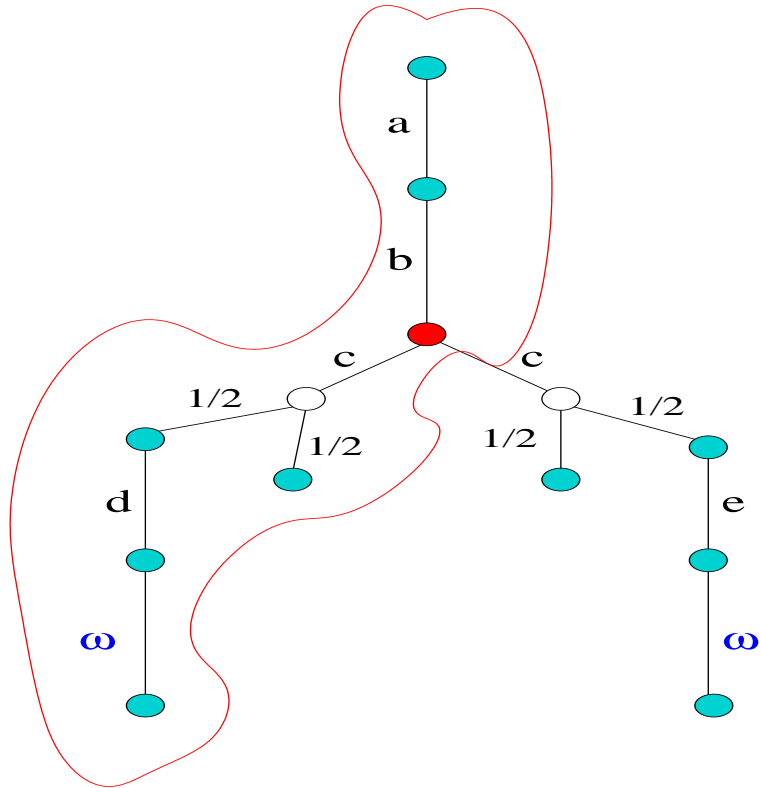


**Q||T**



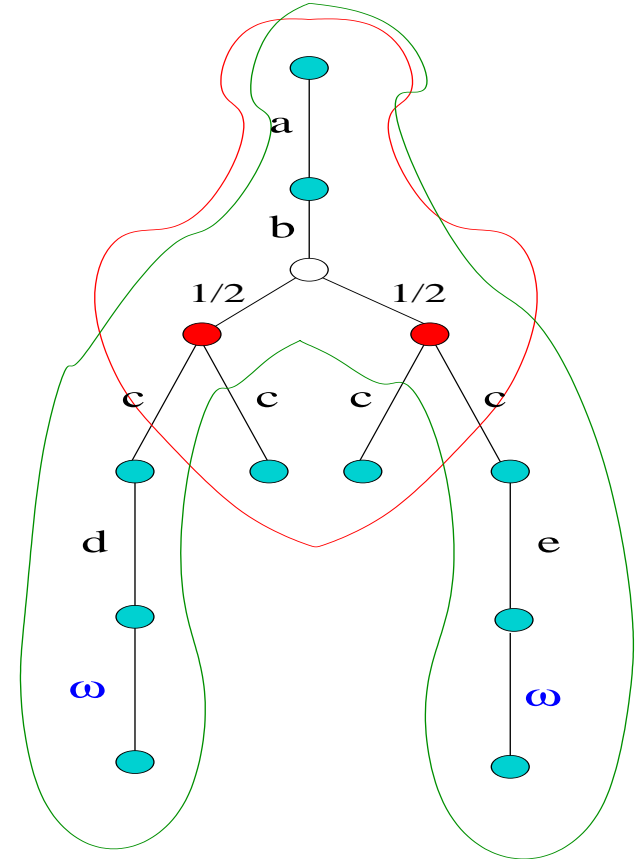
## (Static) resolutions

**P||T**



$\text{Apply}(P||T) = \{1/2\}$

**Q||T**



$\text{Apply}(T, Q) = \{0, 1/2, 1\}$

## Uni-success testing preorders

**Def.**

$$P \sqsubseteq_{\text{may}}^1 Q \quad \text{if} \quad \forall T : \max\{\mathcal{A}(T, P)\} \leq \max\{\mathcal{A}(T, Q)\}.$$

$$P \sqsubseteq_{\text{must}}^1 Q \quad \text{if} \quad \forall T : \min\{\mathcal{A}(T, P)\} \leq \min\{\mathcal{A}(T, Q)\}$$

**E.g.**  $P \sqsubseteq_{\text{may}}^1 Q$  and  $Q \sqsubseteq_{\text{must}}^1 P$

## Summary

- A notion of probabilistic bisimulation based on a lifting operation
- The lifting is closely related to the Kantorovich metric and network flow problem
- Characterising probabilistic bisimulation via metrics, decision algorithms, and modal logics
- Probabilistic simulations and testing preorders

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