

# An Introduction to Probabilistic Model Checking

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# Overview

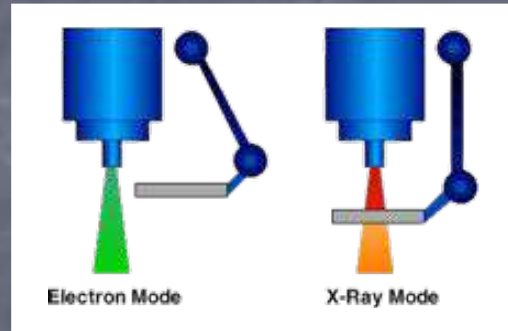
- Motivation
- Reachability analysis on deterministic models
- Reachability analysis on non-deterministic models
- LTL
- The process of probabilistic model checking
- Quick and partial overview of the state of the art

# Why verification?

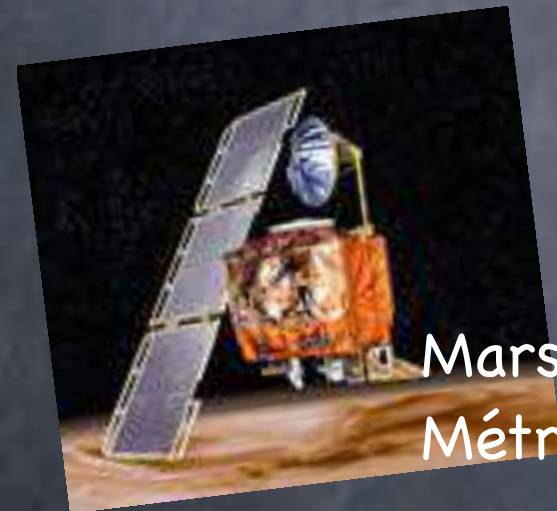


Pentium:  
FDIV

Ariane 5:  
64 bits fp  
vs 16 bits int

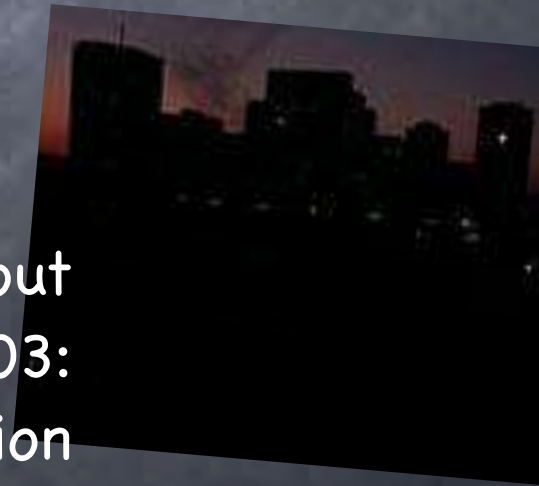


Therac-25:  
Race condition



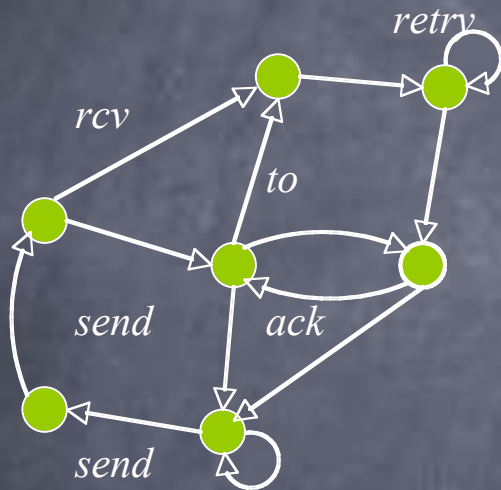
Mars Climate Orbiter:  
Métrico vs Imperial

Northeast blackout  
in 2003:  
Race condition



Heartbleed:  
Integridad/Confidencialidad

# Model Checking



Properties  
are either true or  
false

$$\models G ( \text{send(msg)} \Rightarrow F \text{rcv(msg)} )$$

Non-deterministic  
behavior

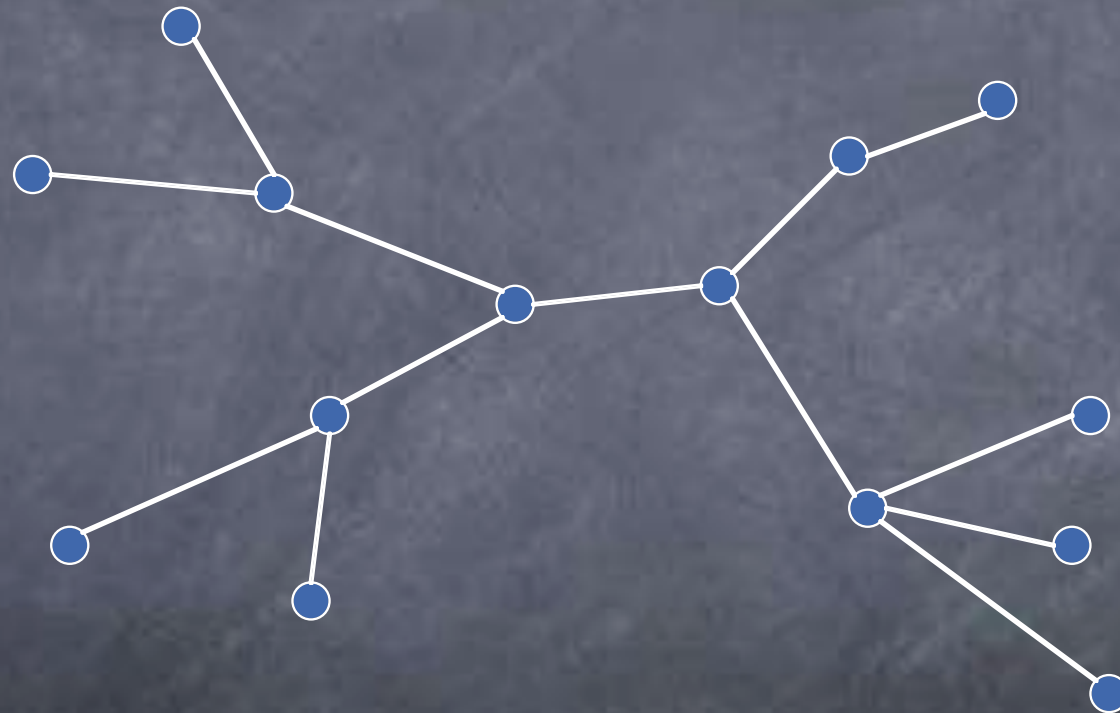


# Limitations of this approach

- Many algorithms proposed (**better**) solutions using **randomization**.
- E.g.
  - Leader election protocol in IEEE 1394 "Firewire"
  - Binary exponential backoff on IEEE 802.3 "Ethernet"

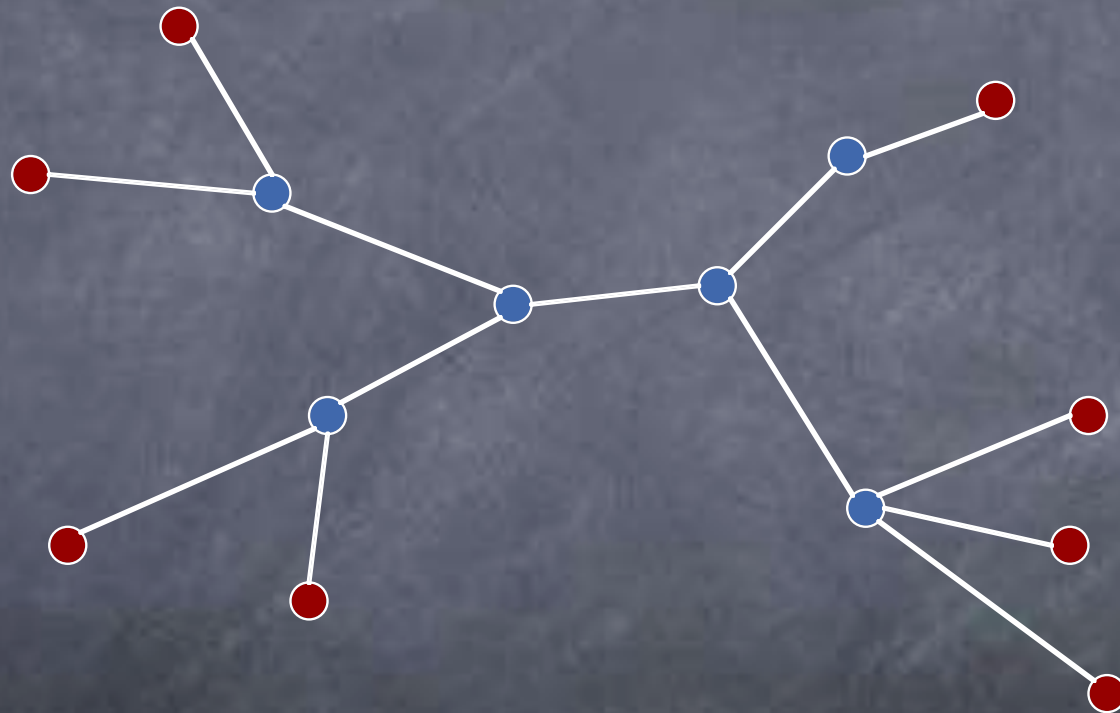
# Limitations of this approach

E.g.: IEEE 1394 Leader election protocol



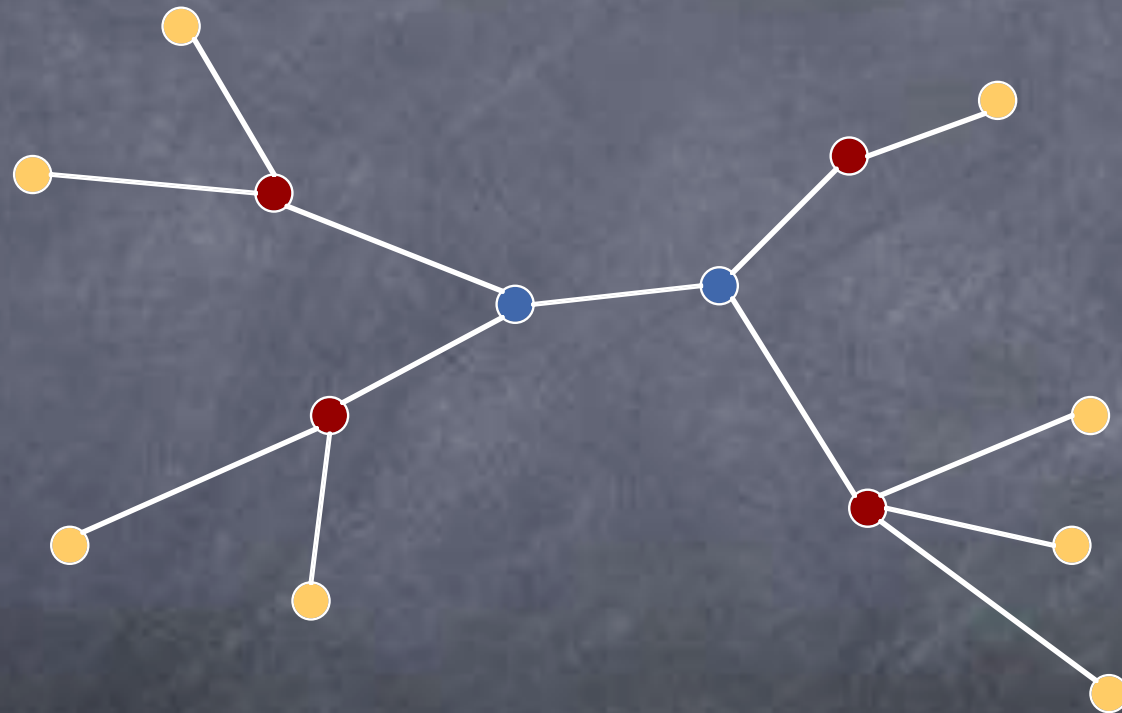
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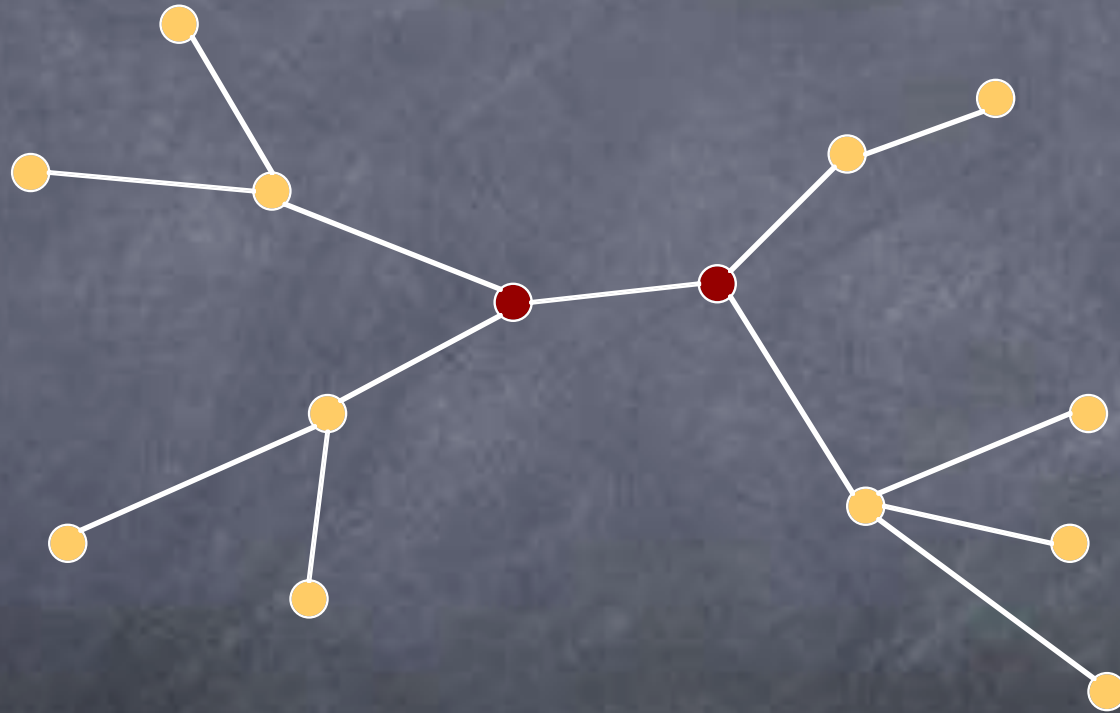
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# Limitations of this approach

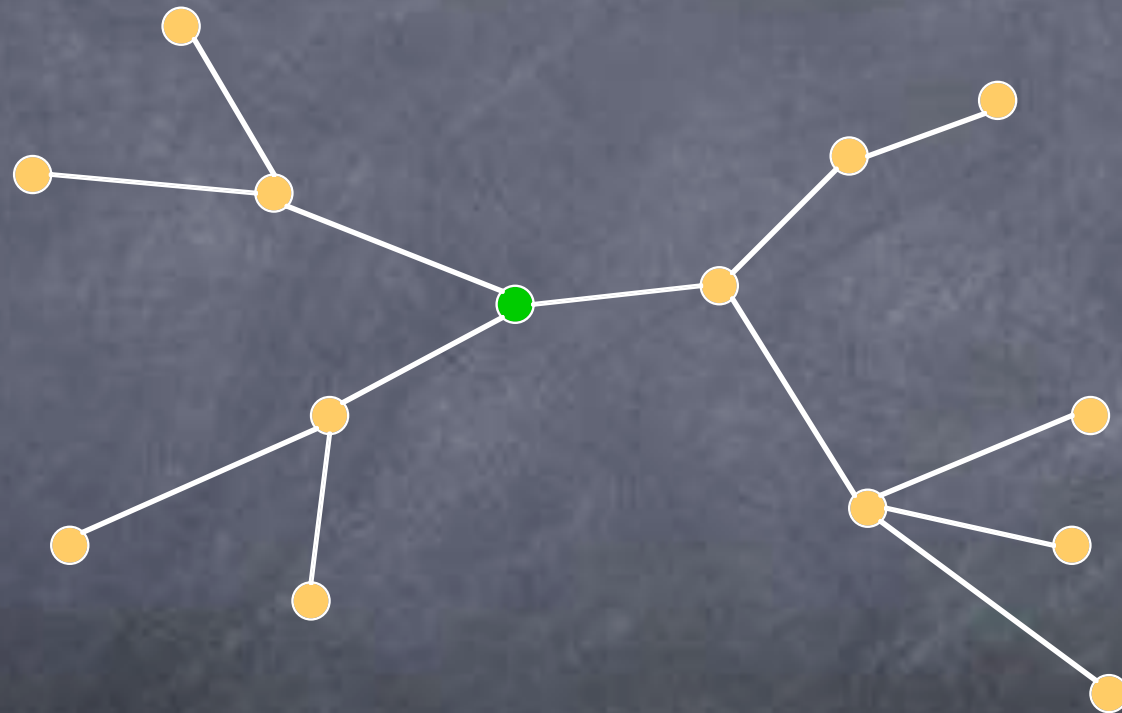
E.g.: IEEE 1394 Leader election protocol



Root contention!

# Limitations of this approach

E.g.: IEEE 1394 Leader election protocol



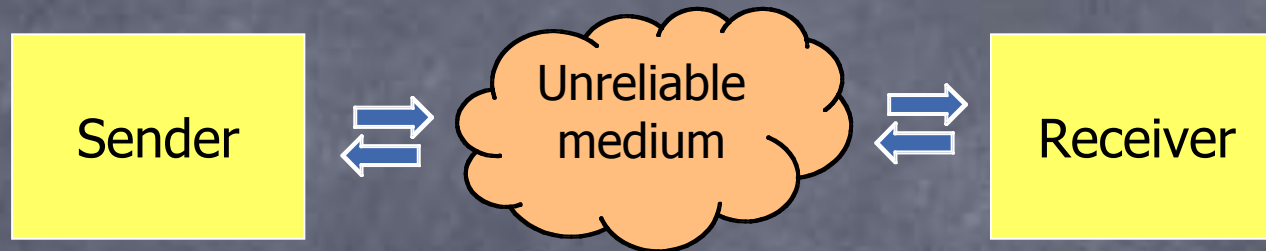
It is solved by "flipping coins"

# Limitations of this approach

- Many times, correction **cannot** be established in a usual **bivalued (modal) logic**.
- Nevertheless, the validity of a property **can be quantified** through a probability value.
- E.g.
  - Bounded Retransmission Protocol en Philips RC6
  - Binary Exponential Backoff Algorithm en IEEE 802.3 "Ethernet"

# Limitations of this approach

Suppose that a file is transmitted using the ABP or a sliding window protocol



✓  $G ( \text{send(msg)} \Rightarrow F \text{rcv(msg)} )$

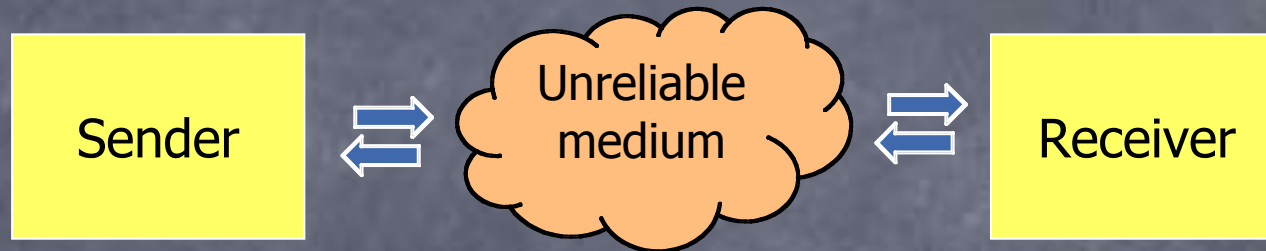
but this is under the assumption that an infinite number of retrials is allowed





# Limitations of this approach

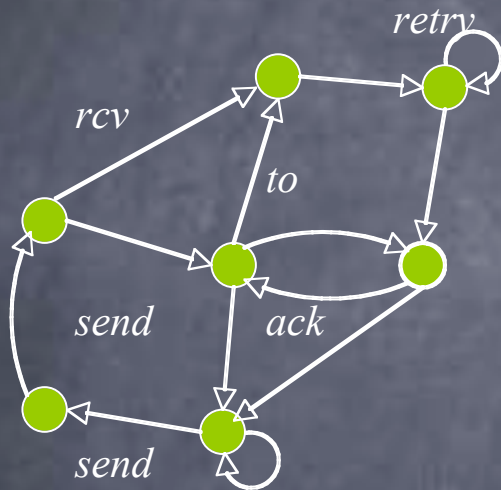
Suppose that a file is transmitted using the ABP or a sliding window protocol



~~X~~  $G ( \text{send}(\text{msg}) \Rightarrow F \text{rcv}(\text{msg}) )$

What if only a bounded number of retransmissions is allowed? (e.g. BRP)

# Limitations of this approach

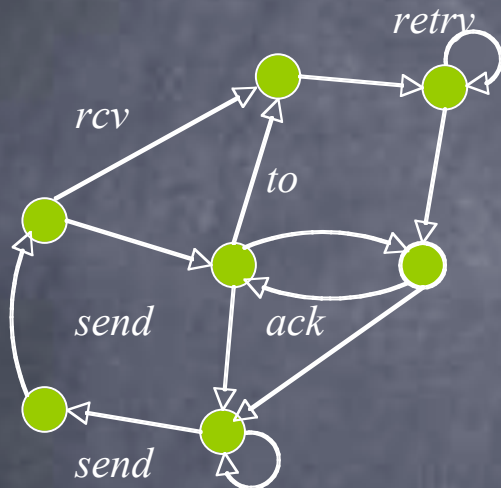


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Non-  
deterministic behavior

# Limitations of this approach



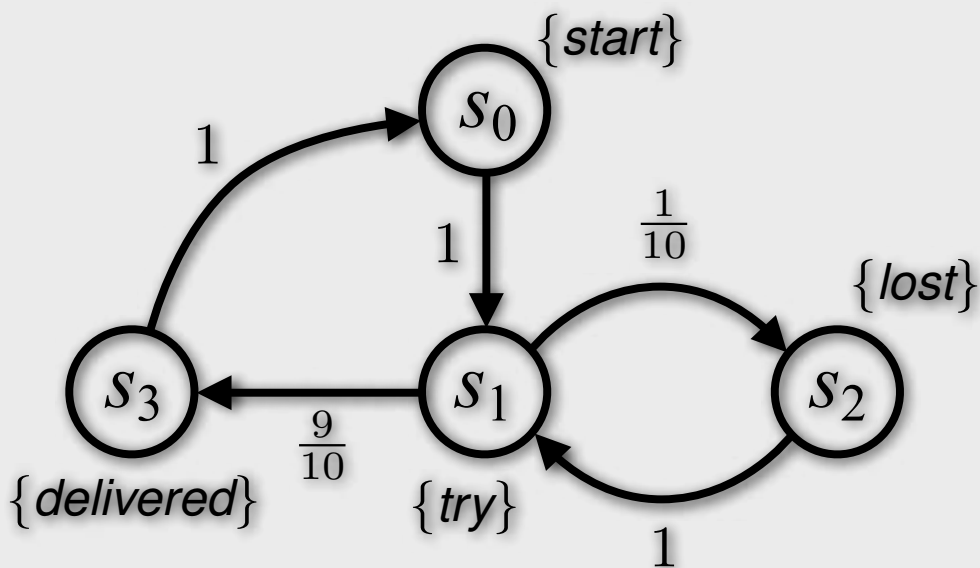
The truth value should be probabilistically quantified

$$\models G ( \text{send(msg)} \Rightarrow F \text{rcv(msg)} )$$

Non-deterministic behavior

Probabilistic behavior should also be considered

# Fully probabilistic systems (Markov Chain)



$$S = \{s_0, s_1, s_2, s_3\}$$

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{10} & \frac{9}{10} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$(S, \mathbf{P}, s_0, L)$$

set of states with initial state  $s_0$

$$\mathbf{P} : S \times S \rightarrow [0, 1]$$

is the probabilistic transition function, s.t.  $\forall s \in S, \sum_{s' \in S} \mathbf{P}(s, s') = 1$ , and

$L : S \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(AP)$  labelling function, where  $AP$  is the set of atomic propositions.

$$L(s_0) = \{start\}$$

$$L(s_1) = \{try\}$$

$$L(s_2) = \{lost\}$$

$$L(s_3) = \{delivered\}$$



# Probability of a property

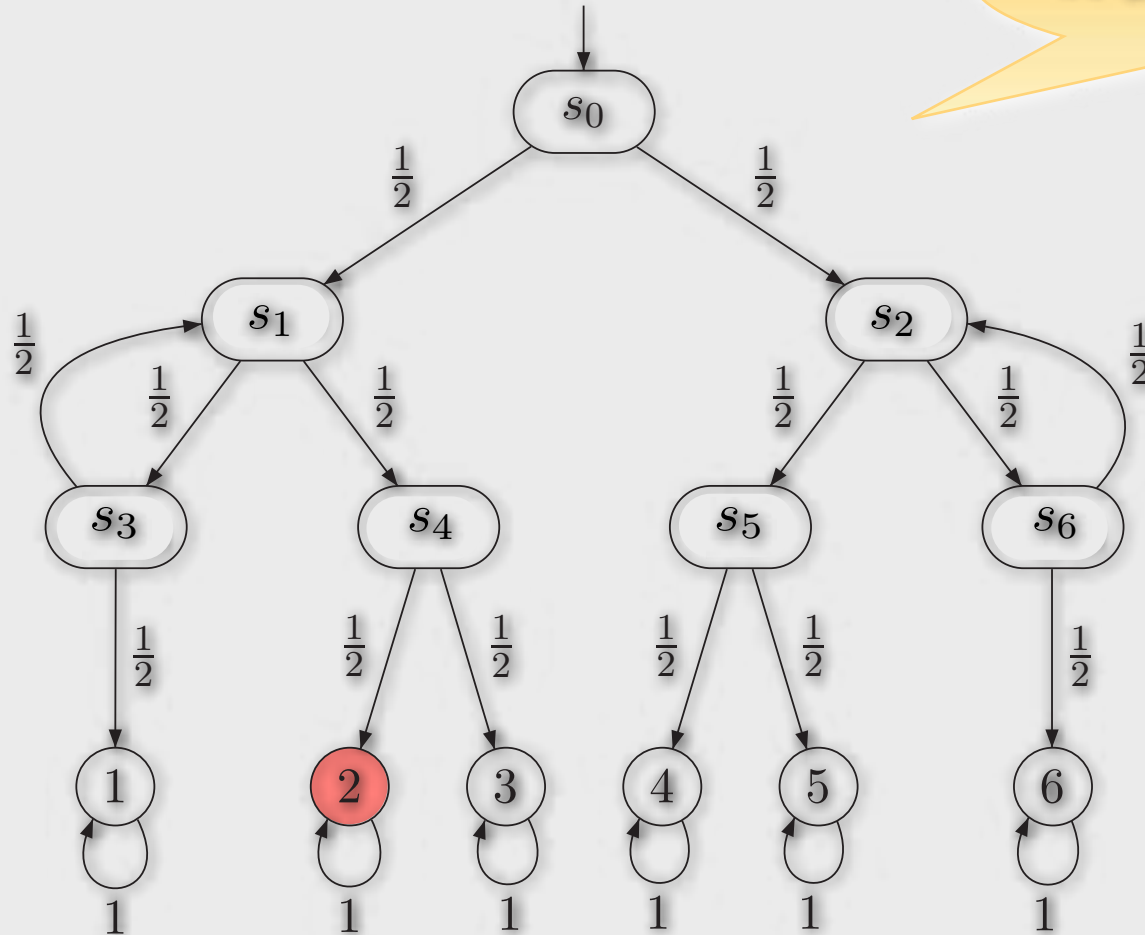
- Models contain probabilistic information (e.g. a decision made by tossing a coin, the probability of losing a message).
- The validity of a temporal formula (e.g. LTL) is quantified with a probability value in  $[0,1]$  (instead of a boolean).



$$\begin{aligned}\text{Prob}(F \bullet) &= \\ &= 0.5 * 0.4 + 0.5 * 0.2 + 0.5 * 0.7 \\ &= 0.65\end{aligned}$$

# Probability of a property

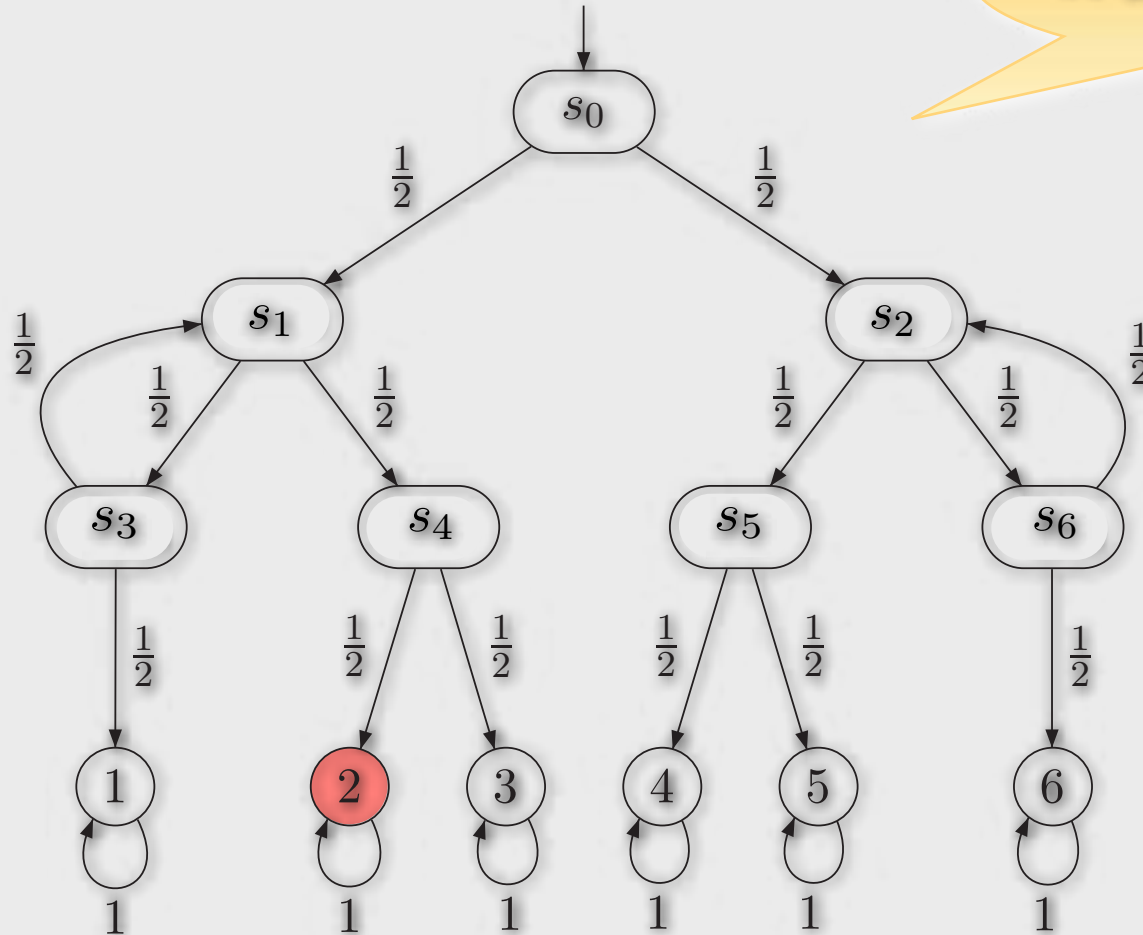
A dice with a coin



$\text{? } P(F 2) \text{ ?}$

# Probability of a property

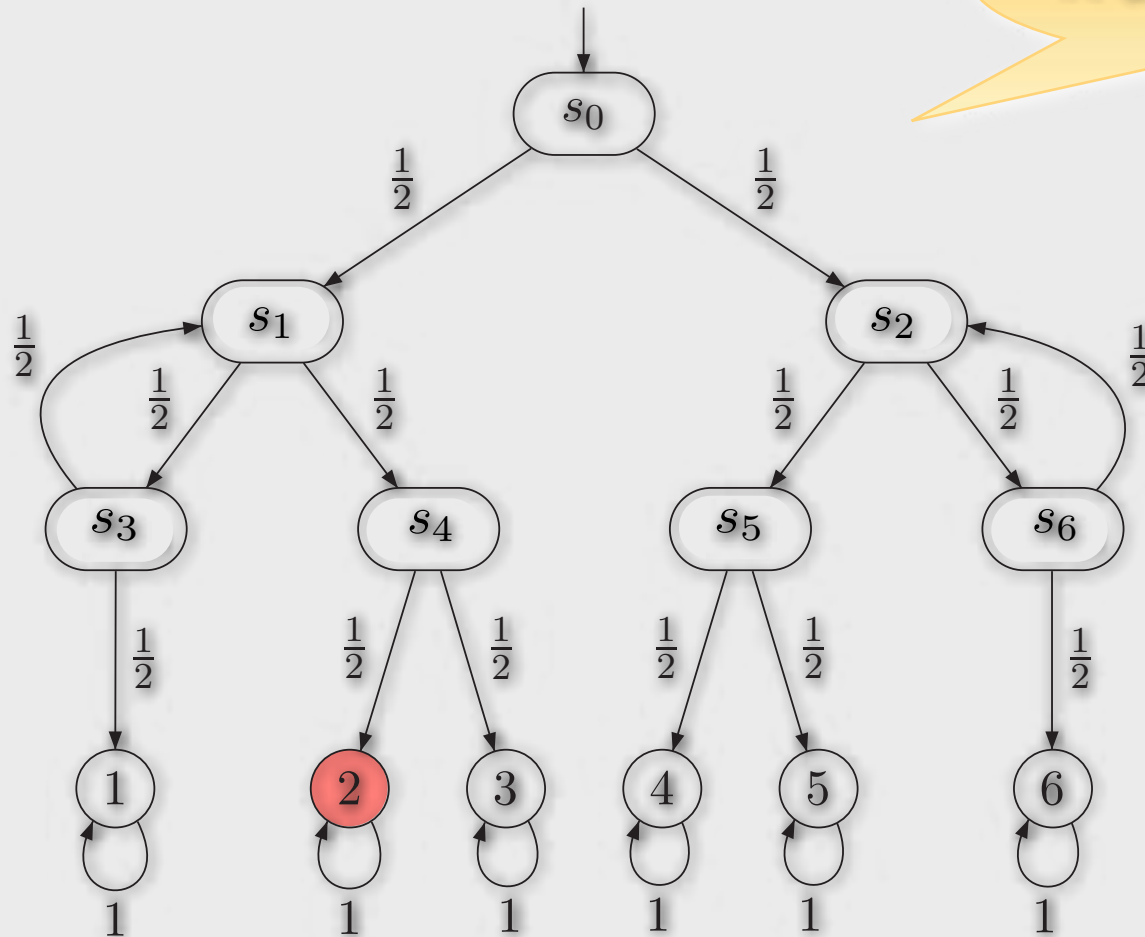
A dice with a coin



$$\underbrace{P(s_0 s_1 s_4 2)} + P(s_0 s_1 s_3 s_1 s_4 2) + P(s_0 s_1 s_3 s_1 s_3 s_1 s_4 2) + P(s_0 s_1 s_3 s_1 s_3 s_1 s_3 s_1 s_4 2) + \dots$$
$$\mathbf{P}(s_0, s_1) \cdot \mathbf{P}(s_1, s_4) \cdot \mathbf{P}(s_4, 2)$$

# Probability of a property

A dice with a coin

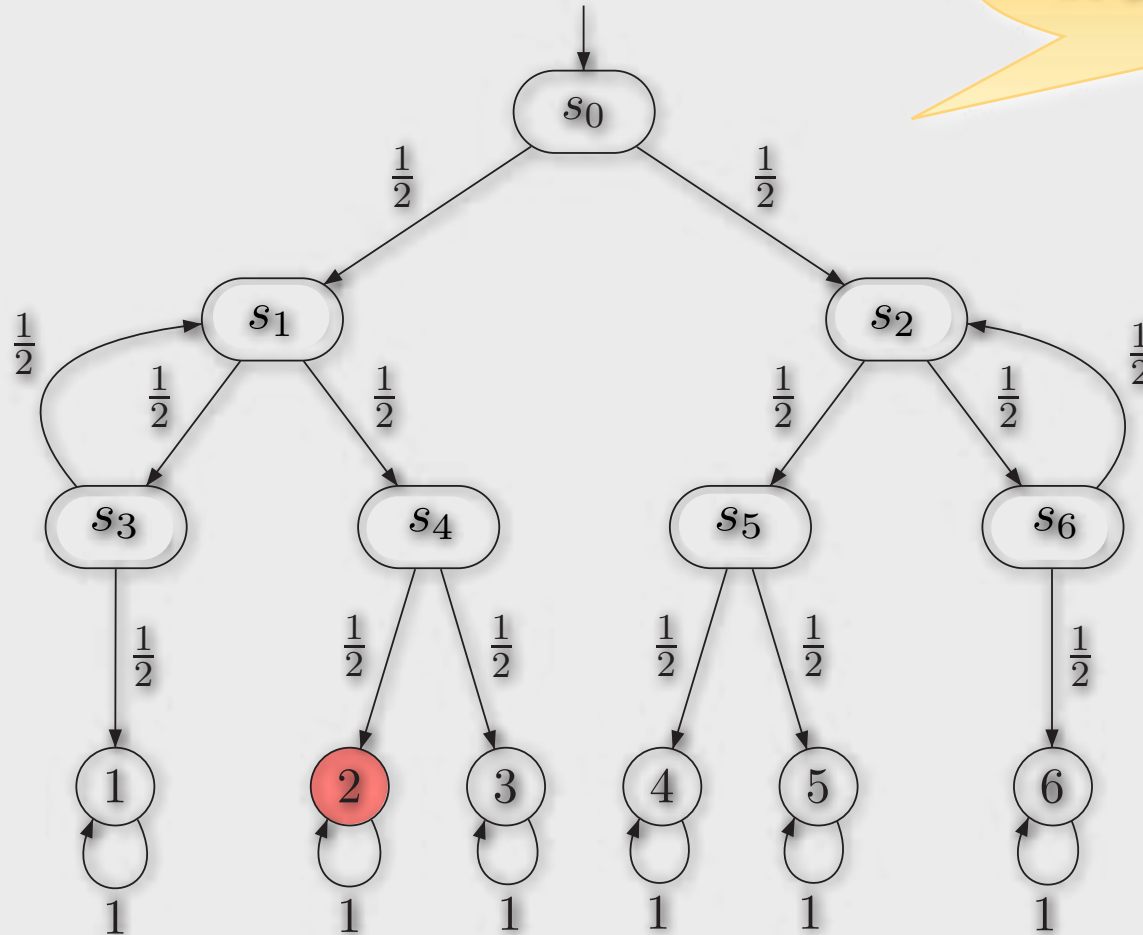


$$\underbrace{P(s_0 s_1 s_4 2)}_{\frac{1}{8}} + \underbrace{P(s_0 s_1 s_3 s_1 s_4 2)}_{\frac{1}{32}} + \underbrace{P(s_0 s_1 s_3 s_1 s_3 s_1 s_4 2)}_{\frac{1}{128}} + \underbrace{P(s_0 s_1 s_3 s_1 s_3 s_1 s_3 s_1 s_4 2)}_{\frac{1}{512}} + \dots$$



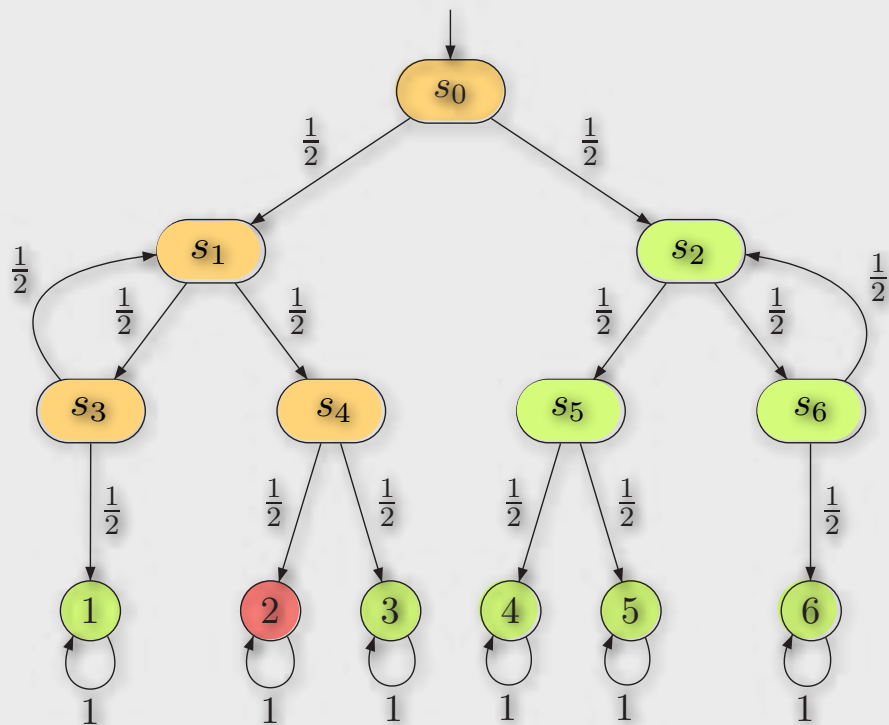
# Probability of a property

A dice with a coin



$$P_{s_0}(\mathbf{F} 2) = \sum_{n>0} \mathbf{P}(s_0 s_1 (s_3 s_1)^n s_4 2) = \sum_{n>0} \frac{1}{2^{2n+1}} = \frac{1}{6}$$

# Probabilistic Model Checking in fully probabilistic models



$$P_{s_2}(\text{F } 2) = P_{s_5}(\text{F } 2) = P_{s_6}(\text{F } 2) = 0$$

$$P_1(\text{F } 2) = P_3(\text{F } 2) = P_4(\text{F } 2) = 0$$

$$P_5(\text{F } 2) = P_6(\text{F } 2) = 0$$

$$P_2(\text{F } 2) = 1$$

$$P_{s_0}(\text{F } 2) = \frac{1}{2} P_{s_1}(\text{F } 2) + \frac{1}{2} P_{s_2}(\text{F } 2)$$

$$P_{s_1}(\text{F } 2) = \frac{1}{2} P_{s_3}(\text{F } 2) + \frac{1}{2} P_{s_4}(\text{F } 2)$$

$$P_{s_3}(\text{F } 2) = \frac{1}{2} P_{s_1}(\text{F } 2) + \frac{1}{2} P_1(\text{F } 2)$$

$$P_{s_4}(\text{F } 2) = \frac{1}{2} P_2(\text{F } 2) + \frac{1}{2} P_3(\text{F } 2)$$

Using DFS, we  
can calculate whether **2**  
is reachable with  
probability **0**

# Probabilistic Model Checking in fully probabilistic models

$B$  is the set of  
goal states

In general:

$$x_s = \sum_{t \in S} \mathbf{P}(s, t) \cdot x_t$$

if  $s \in Pr^{>0}(B) \setminus B$

$$x_s = 1$$

if  $s \in B$

$$x_s = 0$$

if  $s \notin Pr^{>0}(B)$

It is solved with  
standard numeric techniques  
(Jacobi, Gauss-Seidel)

The set of states  
that reach  $B$  with some  
probability

# The need of non-determinism

## • Parallel composition / Distributed components

- probabilities within a single component are easy to estimate,
- relative probabilities of events located geographically distant depend on a highly unpredictable global state.

## • Underspecification

- some probabilities are unknown at early stage of modeling.

## • Abstraction

- models are abstract representations of the system under study.

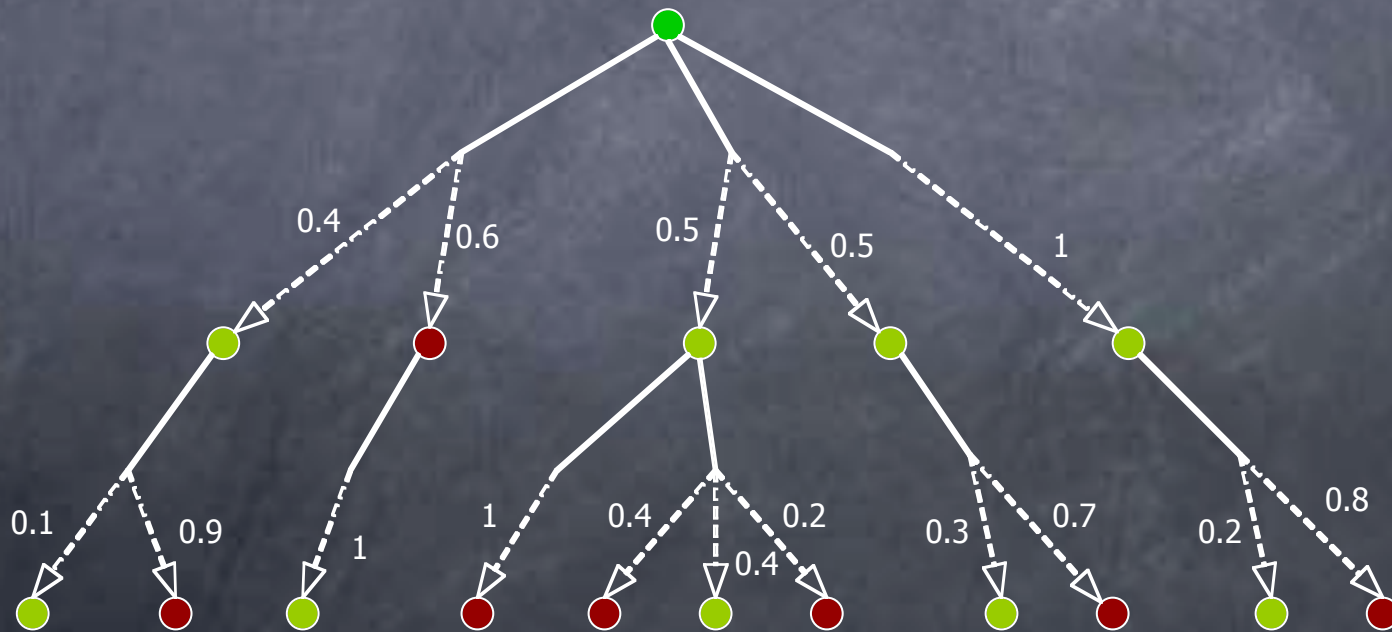
## • Control synthesis

- intentional underspecification to synthesize optimal decisions.



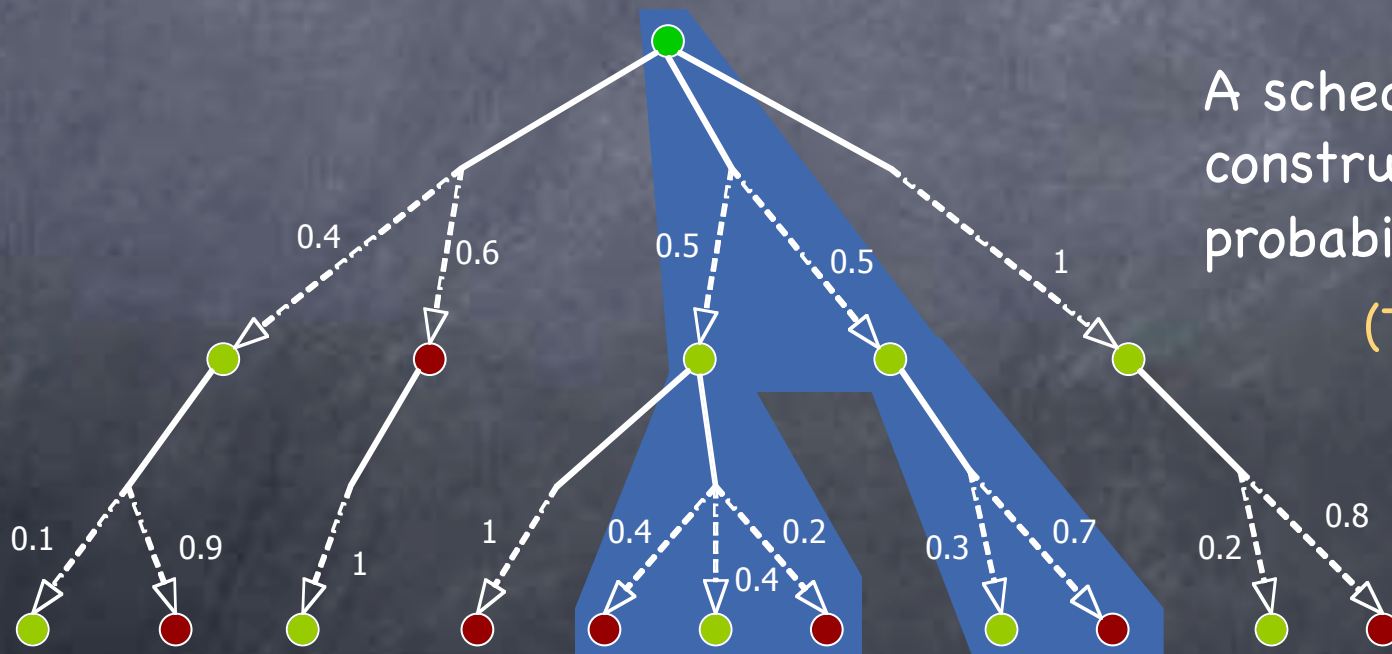
# Probability of a property

- To calculate probabilities in this setting, non-determinism has to be resolved.
- **Schedulers** are functions that select the next transition according to the past execution.



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A scheduler constructs a fully probabilistic tree

(There are also randomized variants)

# Probability of a property

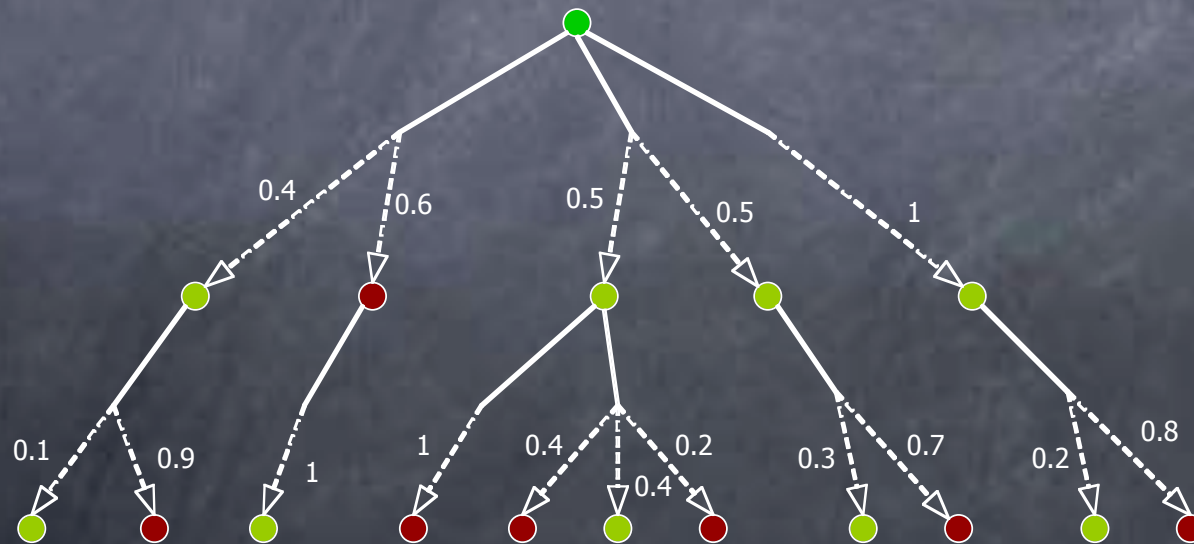
An LTL formula has associated two values:

- The **maximum** probability under **all** schedulers

$$P_{\max}(F \bullet) = 0.96$$

- The **minimum** probability under **all** schedulers

$$P_{\min}(F \bullet) = 0.65$$



# Probability of a property

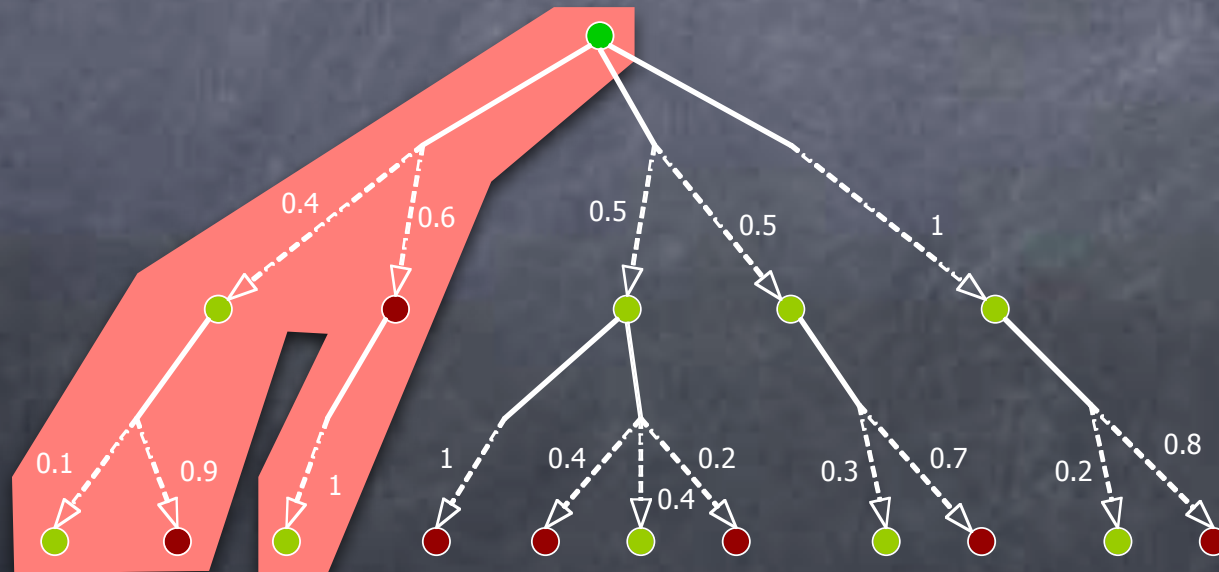
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# Probability of a property

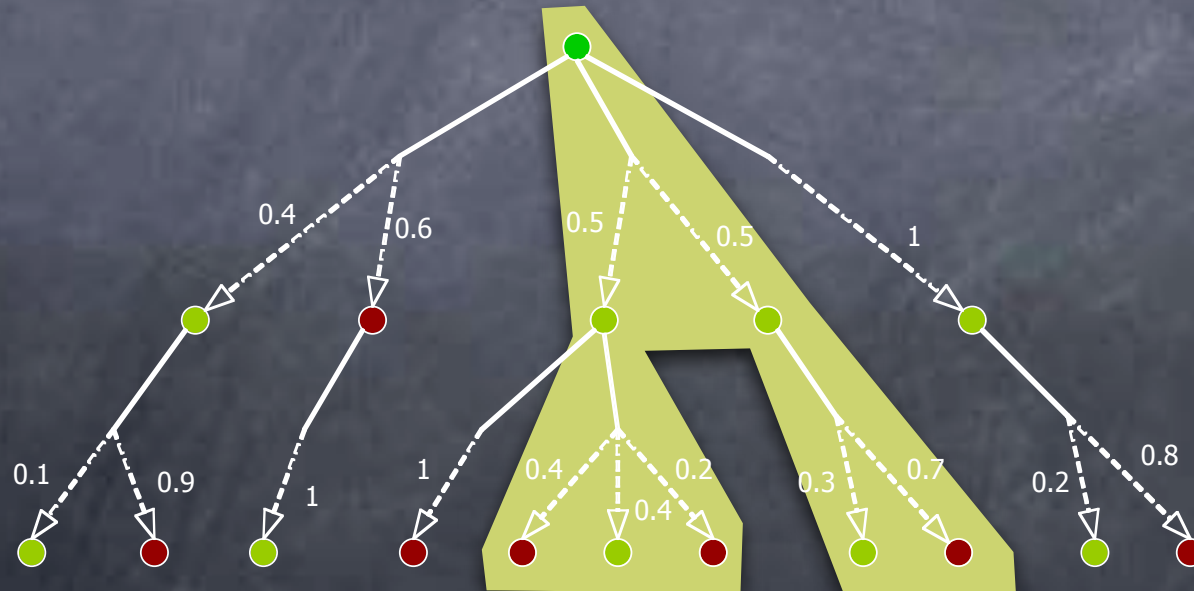
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# Probability of

Randomized and deterministic schedulers are equally expressive for max/min prob. of reach. properties

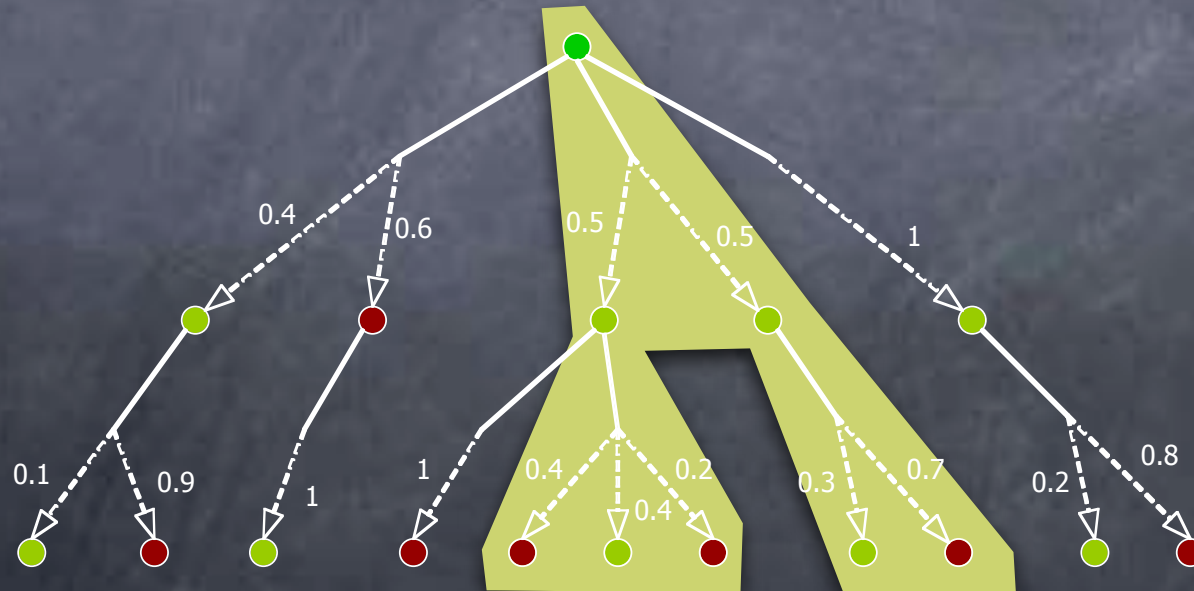
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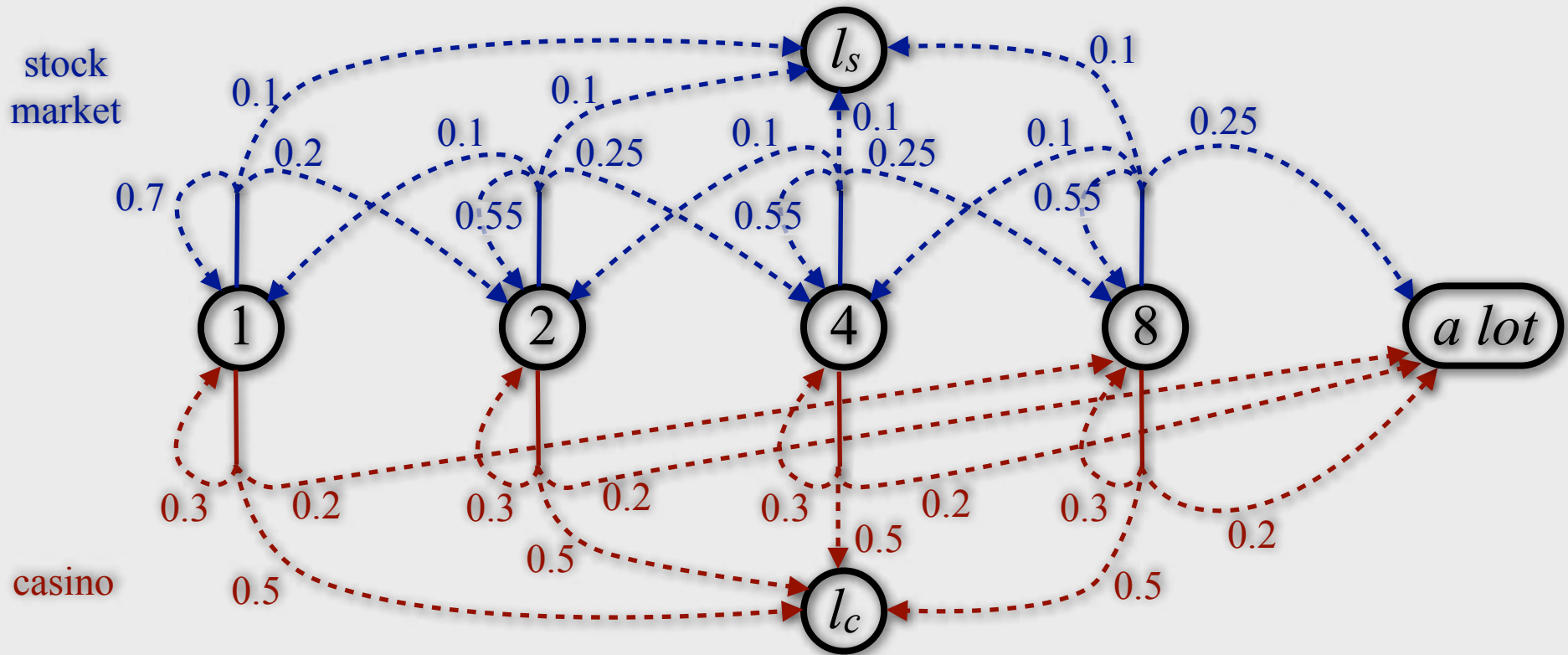
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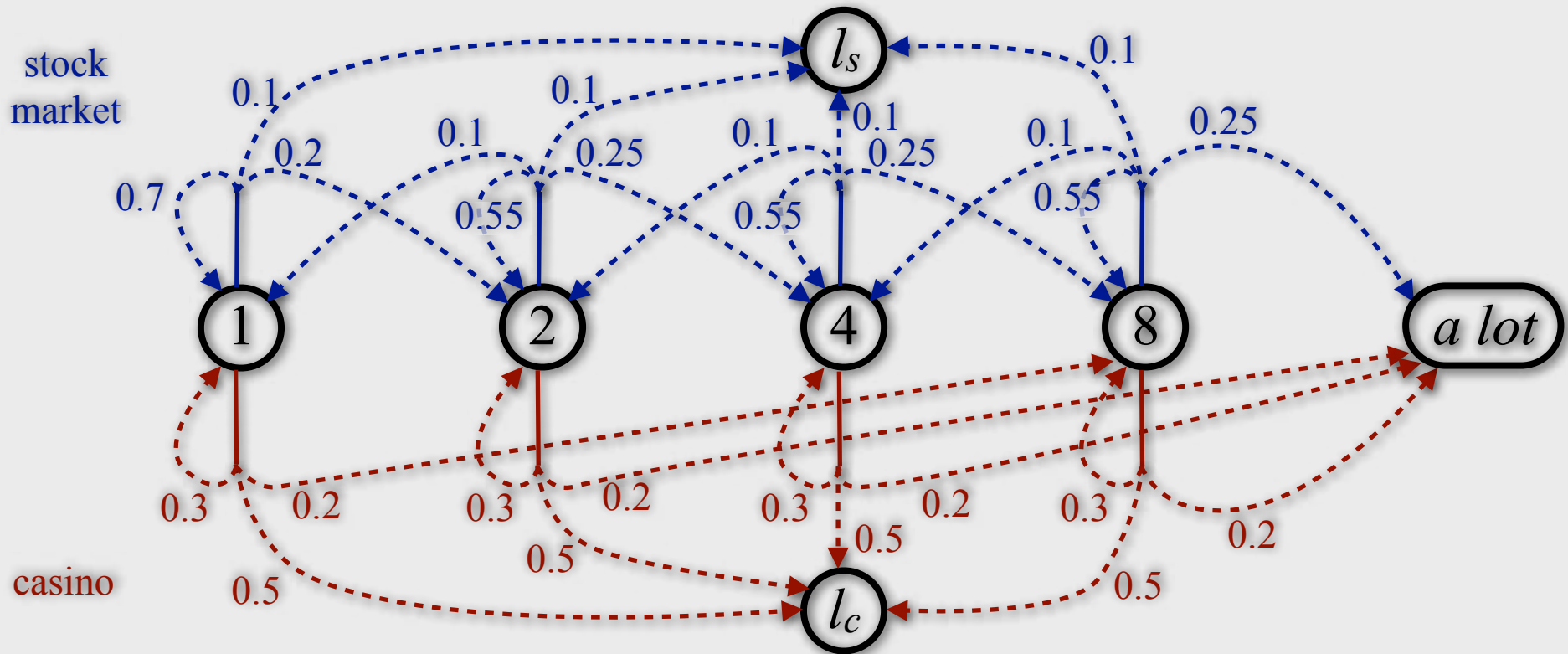
# Markov decision processes



$$(S, \{\mathbf{P}_a\}_{a \in A}, s_0, L)$$

The structure is as before, only that we have a **family of matrices**, one for each possible decision

# Markov decision processes

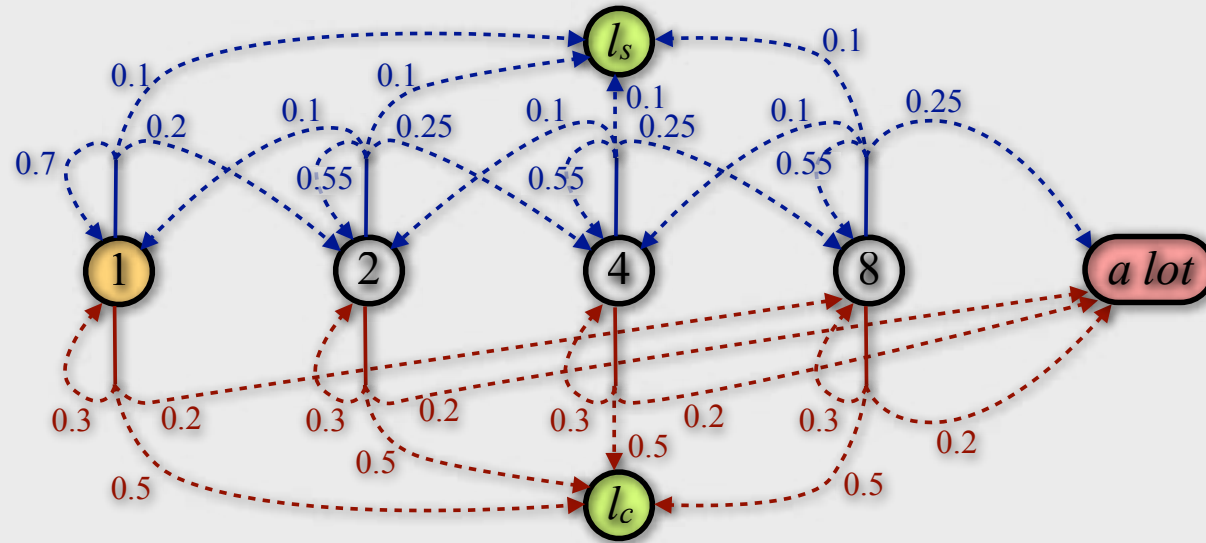


What is the maximum probability of obtaining the desired amount of money?



# Model checking

## Markov decision processes



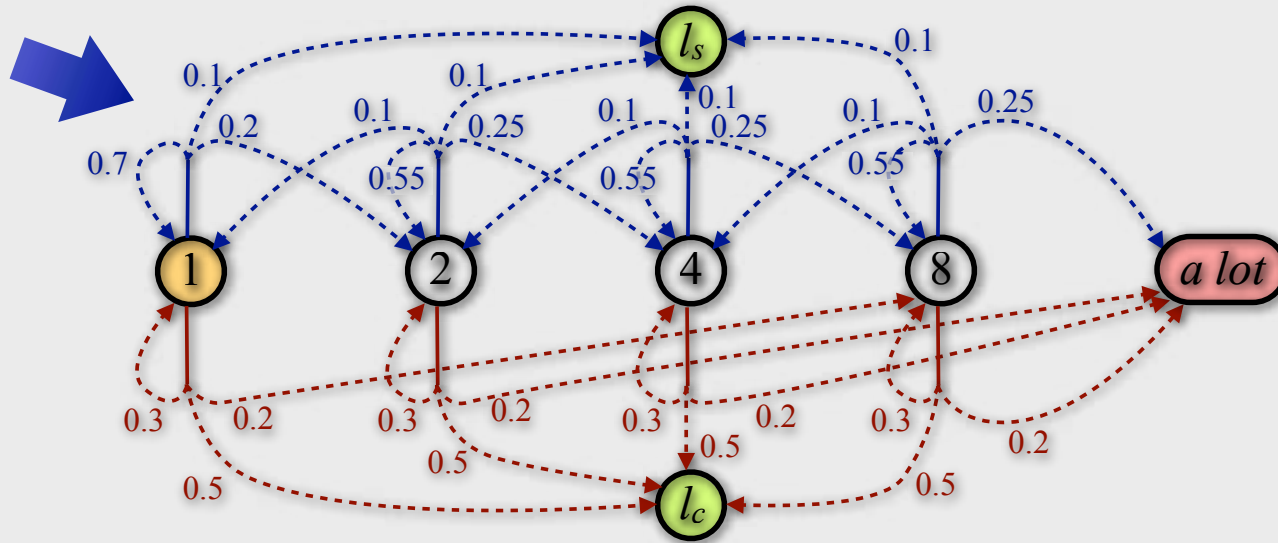
$P_s^+$  is a shorthand for  $P_s^{max}(F al)$

$$P_{l_s}^+ = P_{l_c}^+ = 0$$

$$P_{al}^+ = 1$$

# Model checking

## Markov decision processes



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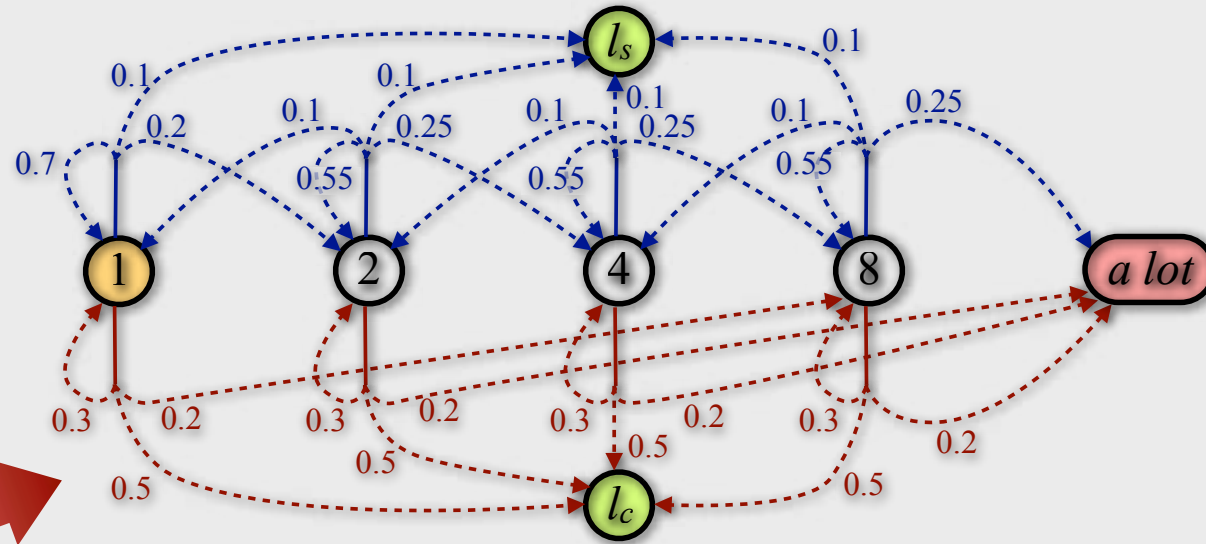
$$P_{l_s}^+ = P_{l_c}^+ = 0$$

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$$P_1^+ = 0.7P_1^+ + 0.2P_2^+ + 0.1P_{l_s}^+$$

# Model checking

## Markov decision processes



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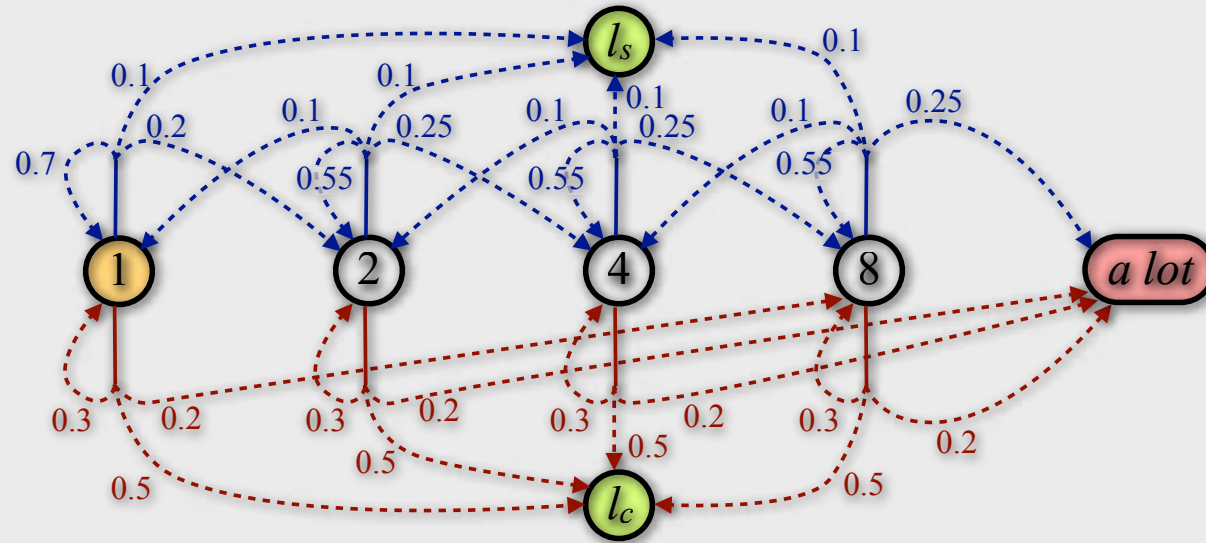
$$P_{l_s}^+ = P_{l_c}^+ = 0$$

$$P_{al}^+ = 1$$

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# Model checking

## Markov decision processes



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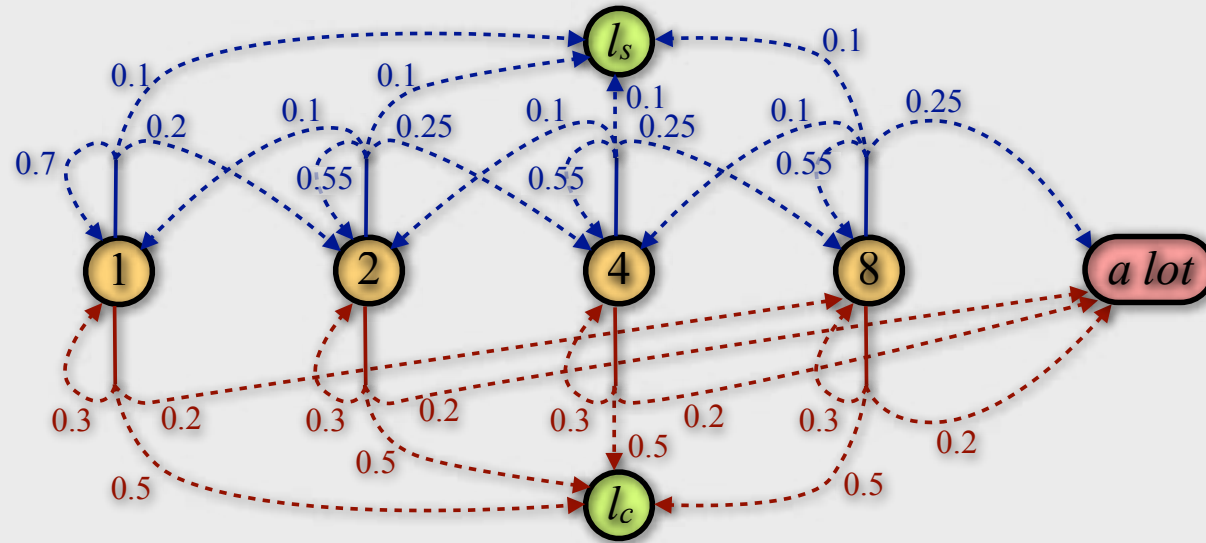
$$P_{al}^+ = 1$$

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# Model checking

## Markov decision processes



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$$P_2^+ = \max ( 0.55P_2^+ + 0.25P_4^+ + 0.1P_1^+ + 0.1P_{l_s}^+, 0.3P_2^+ + 0.2P_{al}^+ + 0.5P_{l_c}^+ )$$

$$P_4^+ = \max ( 0.55P_4^+ + 0.25P_8^+ + 0.1P_2^+ + 0.1P_{l_s}^+, 0.3P_4^+ + 0.2P_{al}^+ + 0.5P_{l_c}^+ )$$

$$P_8^+ = \max ( 0.55P_8^+ + 0.25P_{al}^+ + 0.1P_4^+ + 0.1P_{l_s}^+, 0.3P_8^+ + 0.2P_{al}^+ + 0.5P_{l_c}^+ )$$

# Model checking

## Markov decision processes

$B$  is the set of  
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In general:

$$x_s = \max_{a \in A} \sum_{t \in S} \mathbf{P}_a(s, t) \cdot x_t \quad \text{if } s \in Pr^{>0}(B) \setminus B$$

$$x_s = 1 \quad \text{if } s \in B$$

$$x_s = 0 \quad \text{if } s \notin Pr^{>0}(B)$$

Linear optimization problem.  
Solved with standard numerical analysis  
techniques

The set of states  
that may reach  $B$  with some  
probability

# LTL reduced to reachability

LTL = propositional logic + temporal modalities:

- $G \varphi$  : “ $\varphi$  holds globally”
- $F \varphi$  : “Finally  $\varphi$  holds”
- $\varphi U \psi$  : “ $\varphi$  holds until  $\psi$  holds”

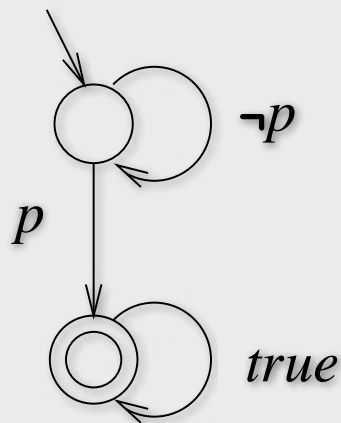
E.g.:

$$G ( \textit{send-msg} \Rightarrow F \textit{rcv-msg} )$$

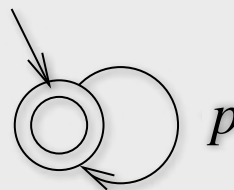
# LTL reduced to reachability

Every LTL formula can be translated to a **Büchi Automaton** that represents the accepting behaviour.

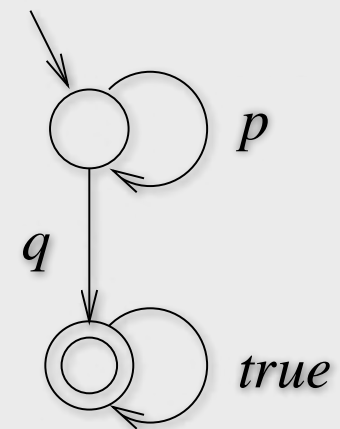
$F p$



$G p$



$p U q$



$$P_S(\phi) = ?$$

```

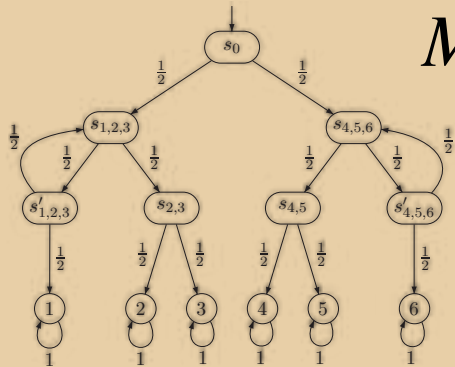
dtmc
module die
  s : [0..7] init 0;
  d : [0..6] init 0;

  [] s=0 -> 0.5 : (s'=1) + 0.5 : (s'=2);
  [] s=1 -> 0.5 : (s'=3) + 0.5 : (s'=4);
  [] s=2 -> 0.5 : (s'=5) + 0.5 : (s'=6);
  [] s=3 -> 0.5 : (s'=1) + 0.5 : (s'=7) & (d'=1);
  [] s=4 -> 0.5 : (s'=7) & (d'=2) + 0.5 : (s'=7) & (d'=3);
  [] s=5 -> 0.5 : (s'=7) & (d'=4) + 0.5 : (s'=7) & (d'=5);
  [] s=6 -> 0.5 : (s'=2) + 0.5 : (s'=7) & (d'=6);
  [] s=7 -> (s'=7);
endmodule

```

 $S$ 

$$\phi : \square \diamond crit_1 \wedge \square \diamond crit_2$$

 $A_\phi$ 

 $M_S$ 

Compose  $M_S$  with  $A_\phi$

Calculate probability of reaching accepting BSCCs in  $M_S \times A_\phi$





$$P_S(\phi) = ?$$

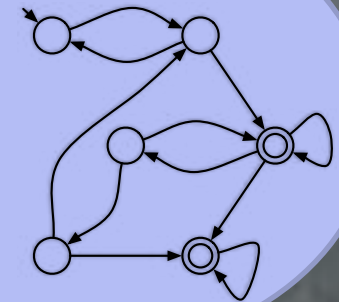
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  [] s=2 -> 0.5 : (s'=5) + 0.5 : (s'=6);
  [] s=3 -> 0.5 : (s'=1) + 0.5 : (s'=7) & (d'=1);
  [] s=4 -> 0.5 : (s'=7) & (d'=2) + 0.5 : (s'=7) & (d'=3);
  [] s=5 -> 0.5 : (s'=7) & (d'=4) + 0.5 : (s'=7) & (d'=5);
  [] s=6 -> 0.5 : (s'=2) + 0.5 : (s'=7) & (d'=6);
  [] s=7 -> (s'=7);
endmodule
  
```

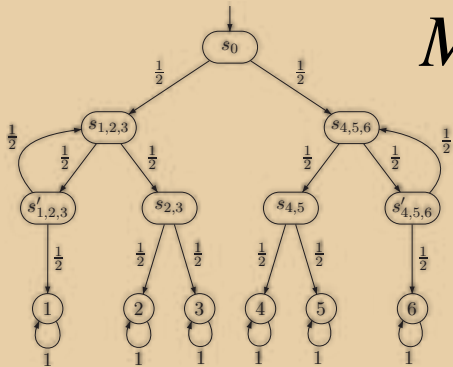
 $S$ 

$$\phi : \square \diamond crit_1 \wedge \square \diamond crit_2$$

Modelling

 $A_\phi$ 


Automatic

 $M_S$ 


Compose  $M_S$  with  $A_\phi$

Calculate probability of reaching accepting BSCCs in  $M_S \times A_\phi$



# Highlights on Fundamentals of Probabilistic Model Checking

- Vardi '85
  - **Qualitative** MC on **deterministic** and **non-deterministic** PTSs
- Courcoubetis & Yannakakis '88
  - **Quantitative** MC on **non-deterministic** PTSs using LTL and lower/upper bounds
- Hansson & Jonsson '90
  - **Quantitative** MC on **deterministic** PTSs introducing PCTL
- Bianco & de Alfaro '95
  - **Quantitative** MC on **non-deterministic** PTSs using PCTL\*
- de Alfaro, Kwiatkowska, Norman, Parker, & Segala '2000
  - **Symbolic quantitative** MC on **non-deterministic** PTSs

# Highlights on Fundamentals of Probabilistic Model Checking

- Vardi '85
  - **Qualitative** MC on **deterministic** and **non-deterministic** PTSS using **CTL**
- Courcoubetis & Yannakakis '88
  - **Quantitative** MC on **non-deterministic** PTSS using **LTL** and **interval** / **upper bounds**
- Hansson & Jonsson '90
  - **Quantitative** MC on **deterministic** PTSS introducing **PCTL**
- Bianco & de Alfaro '95
  - **Quantitative** MC on **non-deterministic** PTSS using **PCTL\***
- de Alfaro, Kwiatkowska, Norman, Parker, & Segala '2000
  - **Symbolic quantitative** MC on **non-deterministic** PTSS

1st. algorithm to  
qualitative MC MDPs

1st. algorithm for  
probabilistic MC

1st. modalities with  
probabilities

1st. "clever"  
algorithm

1st. efficient  
tool: PRISM

# ... and more

- Model Checking Rewards properties

[Andova, Hermanns & Katoen 2003]

- Model Checking CTMC & steady state properties

[Baier, Havenkort, Hermanns & Katoen 2002]

- Model Checking CTMDP

[Baier, Hermanns, Katoen & Havenkort 2004 / Baier, Hahn, Havenkort, Hermanns & Katoen 2013]

- Counterexample derivation

[Aljazzar, Hermanns & Leue, 2005 / Han & Katoen 2007 / Andrés, D'Argenio, van Rossum 2008 / Damman, Han & Katoen 2008 / Jansen 2015]



# ... and more

- Attacking the state explosion problem

- Abstraction techniques

[D'Argenio, Jeannet, Jensen, & Larsen, 2001 / Kwiatkowska, Norman, & Parker, 2006 / Wachter, Zhang, & Hermanns, 2007, 2008]

- Partial order reduction

[Baier, Ciesinski, & Größer, 2004 / D'Argenio & Niebert, 2004 / Baier, D'Argenio, & Größer, 2006 / Giro, D'Argenio, & Ferrer Fioriti, 2009]

- and much more:

- Controller synthesis and games

- Partial observation & distributed schedulers

- Statistical Model Checking



# An Introduction to Probabilistic Model Checking

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