

Probabilistic Model Checking

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Part 5 – Continuous–Time Markov Chains

Overview

- Exponential distributions
- Continuous-time Markov chains (CTMCs)
 - definition, paths, probabilities, steady-state, transient, ...
- Properties of CTMCs: The logic CSL
 - syntax, semantics, equivalences, ...
- CSL model checking
 - algorithm, examples, ...
- Costs and rewards

Exponential distribution

- **Continuous random variable X** is exponential with parameter $\lambda > 0$ if the density function is given by

$$f_X(t) = \begin{cases} \lambda \cdot e^{-\lambda \cdot t} & \text{if } t > 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- **Cumulative distribution function (P[X ≤ t]) of X:**

$$F_X(t) = \int_0^t \lambda \cdot e^{-\lambda \cdot x} dx = [-e^{-\lambda \cdot x}]_0^t = 1 - e^{-\lambda \cdot t}$$

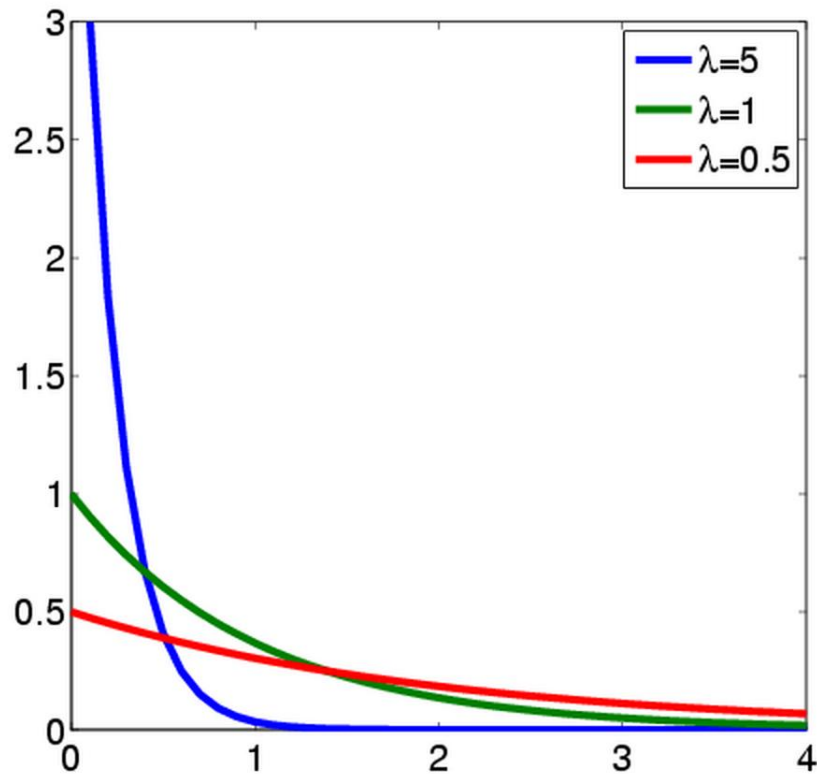
– $P[X > t] = e^{-\lambda \cdot t}$

– expectation $E[X] = \int_0^{\infty} x \cdot \lambda \cdot e^{-\lambda \cdot x} dx = \frac{1}{\lambda}$

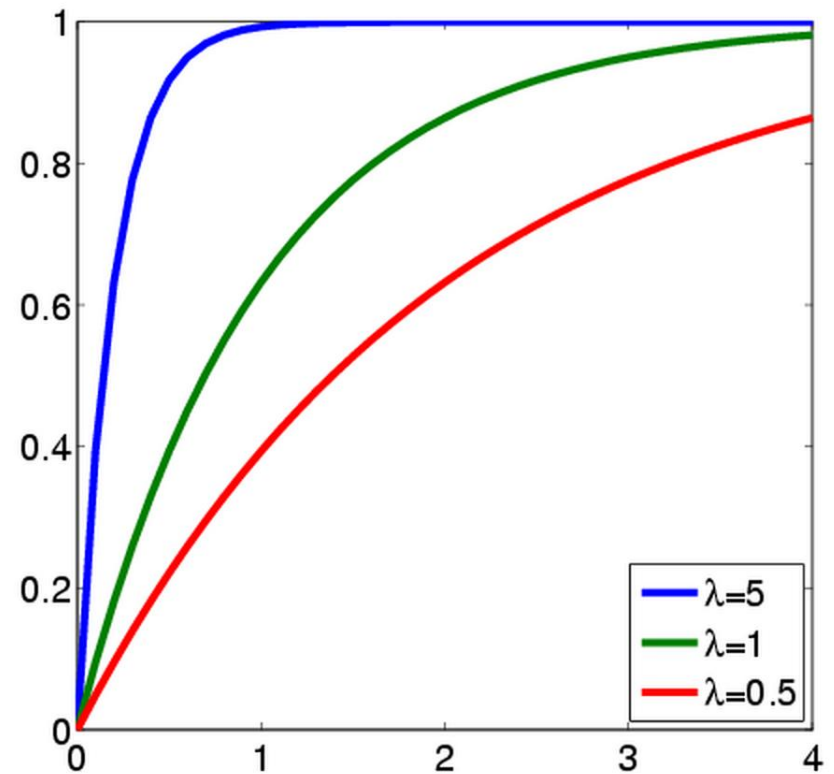
– variance $\text{Var}[X] = \frac{1}{\lambda^2}$

Exponential distribution – Examples

Probability distribution function



Cumulative distribution function



- The more λ increases, the faster the c.d.f. approaches 1

Exponential distribution

- Adequate for modelling many real-life phenomena
 - failure rates
 - inter-arrival times
 - continuous process to change state
- Can approximate general distributions arbitrarily closely
- **Maximal entropy** if just the mean is known
 - i.e. best approximation when only mean is known

Exponential distribution – Memoryless

- **Memoryless** property: $P[X > t_1 + t_2 \mid X > t_1] = P[X > t_2]$
- Exponential distribution is the **only** continuous distribution which is memoryless
- $$\begin{aligned} P[X > t_1 + t_2 \mid X > t_1] &= P[X > t_1 + t_2 \wedge X > t_1] / P[X > t_1] \\ &= P[X > t_1 + t_2] / P[X > t_1] \\ &= e^{-\lambda \cdot (t_1 + t_2)} / e^{-\lambda \cdot t_1} \\ &= (e^{-\lambda \cdot t_1} \cdot e^{-\lambda \cdot t_2}) / e^{-\lambda \cdot t_1} \\ &= e^{-\lambda \cdot t_2} \\ &= P[X > t_2] \end{aligned}$$

recall $P[X > t] = e^{-\lambda \cdot t}$

Exponential distribution – Properties

- **Minimum** of two independent exponential distributions is an exponential distribution (parameter is sum)

$$P[\min(X_1, X_2) \leq t] = 1 - P[\min(X_1, X_2) > t]$$

$$= 1 - P[X_1 > t \wedge X_2 > t]$$

$$= 1 - P[X_1 > t] \cdot P[X_2 > t]$$

$$= 1 - e^{-\lambda_1 \cdot t} \cdot e^{-\lambda_2 \cdot t}$$

$$= 1 - e^{-(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2) \cdot t}$$

$$= 1 - P[Y > t] = P[Y \leq t]$$

– recall $P[X > t] = e^{-\lambda \cdot t}$

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Continuous-time Markov chains

- Continuous-time Markov chains (CTMCs)
 - labelled transition systems augmented with rates
 - discrete states
 - **continuous** time-steps
 - delays **exponentially distributed**
- Suited to modelling:
 - reliability models
 - control systems
 - queueing networks
 - biological pathways
 - chemical reactions
 - ...

Continuous-time Markov chains

- Formally, a CTMC C is a tuple $(S, s_{\text{init}}, R, L)$ where:
 - S is a finite set of states (“state space”)
 - $s_{\text{init}} \in S$ is the initial state
 - $R : S \times S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ is the **transition rate matrix**
 - $L : S \rightarrow 2^{\text{AP}}$ is a labelling with atomic propositions
- Transition rate matrix assigns rates to each pair of states
 - used as a parameter to the **exponential distribution**
 - transition between s and s' when $R(s, s') > 0$
 - probability triggered before t time units $1 - e^{-R(s, s') \cdot t}$

Continuous-time Markov chains

- What happens when there exists multiple s' with $R(s,s') > 0$?
 - first transition triggered determines the next state
 - called the **race condition**
- Time spent in a state before a transition:
 - **minimum** of exponential distributions
 - exponential with parameter given by summation:

$$E(s) = \sum_{s' \in S} R(s, s')$$

- $E(s)$ is the exit rate of state s
- state **absorbing** if $E(s)=0$ (no outgoing transitions)
- probability of leaving a state s within $[0,t]$ equals $1 - e^{-E(s) \cdot t}$

Embedded DTMC

- Can determine the probability of each transition occurring
 - **independent** of the time at which it occurs
- Embedded DTMC: $\text{emb}(C) = (S, s_{\text{init}}, \mathbf{P}^{\text{emb}(C)}, L)$
 - state space, initial state and labelling as the CTMC
 - for any $s, s' \in S$

$$\mathbf{P}^{\text{emb}(C)}(s, s') = \begin{cases} R(s, s') / E(s) & \text{if } E(s) > 0 \\ 1 & \text{if } E(s) = 0 \text{ and } s = s' \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- **Alternative characterisation of the behaviour:**
 - remain in s for delay exponentially distributed with rate $E(s)$
 - probability next state is s' is given by $\mathbf{P}^{\text{emb}(C)}(s, s')$

Continuous-time Markov chains

- Infinitesimal generator matrix

$$Q(s, s') = \begin{cases} R(s, s') & s \neq s' \\ -\sum_{s \neq s'} R(s, s') & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- Alternative definition: a CTMC is:

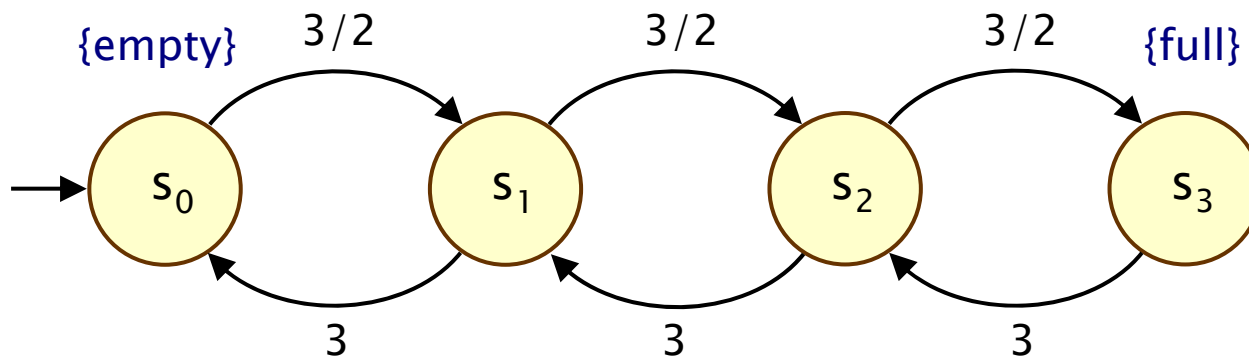
- a family of random variables $\{ X(t) \mid t \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \}$
- $X(t)$ are observations made at time instant t
- i.e. $X(t)$ is the state of the system at time instant t
- which satisfies...

- **Memoryless** (Markov property)

$$P[X(t_k)=s_k \mid X(t_{k-1})=s_{k-1}, \dots, X(t_0)=s_0] = P[X(t_k)=s_k \mid X(t_{k-1})=s_{k-1}]$$

Simple CTMC example

- Modelling a queue of jobs
 - initially the queue is empty
 - jobs **arrive** with rate $3/2$
 - jobs are **served** with rate 3
 - maximum size of the queue is 3

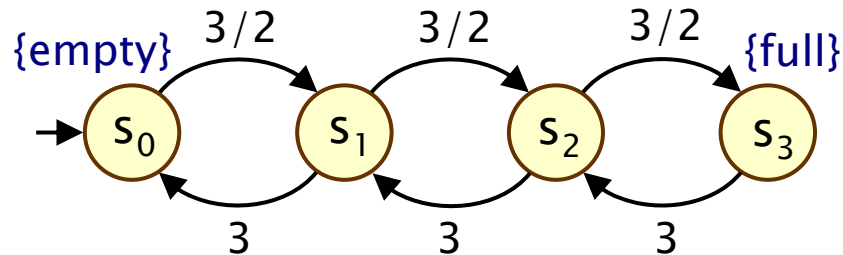


Simple CTMC example

$$C = (S, s_{\text{init}}, R, L)$$

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

$$s_{\text{init}} = s_0$$



$$AP = \{\text{empty}, \text{full}\}$$

$$L(s_0) = \{\text{empty}\} \quad L(s_1) = L(s_2) = \emptyset \quad \text{and} \quad L(s_3) = \{\text{full}\}$$

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3/2 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 3/2 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 & 3/2 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad P^{\text{emb}(C)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2/3 & 0 & 1/3 & 0 \\ 0 & 2/3 & 0 & 1/3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad Q = \begin{bmatrix} -3/2 & 3/2 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & -9/2 & 3/2 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & -9/2 & 3/2 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$$

transition
rate matrix

embedded
DTMC

infinitesimal
generator matrix

Paths of a CTMC

- **Infinite path** ω is a sequence $s_0 t_0 s_1 t_1 s_2 t_2 \dots$ such that
 - $R(s_i, s_{i+1}) > 0$ and $t_i \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ for all $i \in \mathbb{N}$
 - amount of time spent in the j th state: $\text{time}(\omega, j) = t_j$
 - state occupied at time t : $\omega @ t = s_j$
where j smallest index such that $\sum_{i \leq j} t_i \geq t$
- **Finite path** is a sequence $s_0 t_0 s_1 t_1 s_2 t_2 \dots t_{k-1} s_k$ such that
 - $R(s_i, s_{i+1}) > 0$ and $t_i \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ for all $i < k$
 - s_k is **absorbing** ($R(s, s') = 0$ for all $s' \in S$)
 - amount of time spent in the i th state only defined for $j \leq k$:
 $\text{time}(\omega, j) = t_j$ if $j < k$ and $\text{time}(\omega, j) = \infty$ if $j = k$
 - state occupied at time t : if $t \leq \sum_{i \leq k} t_i$ then $\omega @ t$ as above
otherwise $t > \sum_{i \leq k} t_i$ then $\omega @ t = s_k$

Probability space

- **Sample space:** Path(s) (set of all paths from a state s)
- **Events:** sets of infinite paths
- **Basic events:** sets of paths with common finite prefix
 - probability of a single finite path is **zero**
 - include **time intervals** in cylinders
- **Cylinder** is a sequence $s_0, I_0, s_1, I_1, \dots, I_{n-1}, s_n$
 - $s_0, s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n$ sequence of states where $R(s_i, s_{i+1}) > 0$ for $i < n$
 - $I_0, I_1, I_2, \dots, I_{n-1}$ sequence of nonempty intervals of $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$
- $C(s_0, I_0, s_1, I_1, \dots, I_{n-1}, s_n)$ set of (**infinite and finite paths**):
 - $\omega(i) = s_i$ for all $i \leq n$ and $\text{time}(\omega, i) \in I_i$ for all $i < n$

Probability space

- Define measure over cylinders by induction

- $\Pr_s(C(s))=1$

- $\Pr_s(C(s, I, s_1, I_1, \dots, I_{n-1}, s_n, I', s'))$ equals

$$\Pr_s(C(s, I, s_1, I_1, \dots, I_{n-1}, s_n)) \cdot P^{\text{emb}(C)}(s_n, s') \cdot \left(e^{-E(s_n) \cdot \inf I'} - e^{-E(s_n) \cdot \sup I'} \right)$$

probability transition
from s_n to s' (defined
using embedded DTMC)

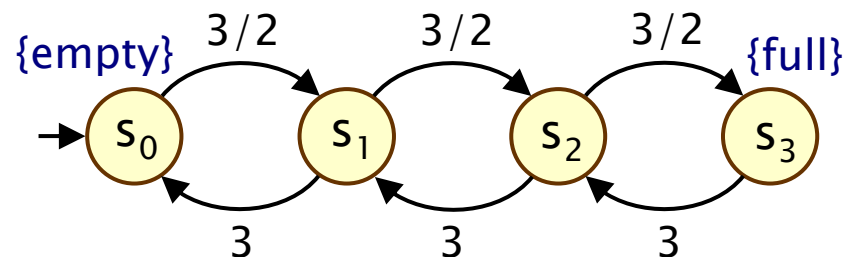
probability time spent in state s_n
is within the interval I'

Probability space

- Probability space $(\text{Path}(s), \Sigma_{\text{Path}(s)}, \text{Pr}_s)$
- Sample space $\Omega = \text{Path}(s)$ (infinite and finite paths)
- Event set $\Sigma_{\text{Path}(s)}$
 - least σ -algebra on $\text{Path}(s)$ containing all cylinders starting in s
- Probability measure Pr_s
 - Pr_s extends **uniquely** from probability defined over cylinders
- See [BHHK03] for further details

Probability space – Example

- Cylinder $C(s_0, [0, 2], s_1)$
- $\Pr(C(s_0, [0, 2], s_1)) = \Pr(C(s_0)) \cdot \mathbf{P}^{\text{emb}(C)}(s_0, s_1) \cdot (e^{-E(s_0) \cdot 0} - e^{-E(s_0) \cdot 2})$
 $= 1 \cdot 1 \cdot (e^{-3/2 \cdot 0} - e^{-3/2 \cdot 2})$
 $= 1 - e^{-3}$
 ≈ 0.95021
- Probability of leaving the initial state s_0 and moving to state s_1 within the first 2 time units of operation



Transient and steady-state behaviour

- Transient behaviour

- state of the model at a particular **time instant**
- $\underline{\pi}_{s,t}^C(s')$ is probability of, having started in state s , being in state s' at time t
- $\underline{\pi}_{s,t}^C(s') = \Pr_s\{ \omega \in \text{Path}^C(s) \mid \omega@t=s' \}$

- Steady-state behaviour

- state of the model in the **long-run**
- $\underline{\pi}_s^C(s')$ is probability of, having started in state s , being in state s' in the long run
- $\underline{\pi}_s^C(s') = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \underline{\pi}_{s,t}^C(s')$
- the percentage of time, in long run, spent in each state

Computing transient probabilities

- Π_t – matrix of transient probabilities
 - $\Pi_t(s, s') = \underline{\pi}_{s,t}(s')$
- Π_t solution of the differential equation: $\Pi_t' = \Pi_t \cdot Q$
 - Q infinitesimal generator matrix
- Can be expressed as a **matrix exponential** and therefore evaluated as a **power series**

$$\Pi_t = e^{Q \cdot t} = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} (Q \cdot t)^i / i!$$

- computation potentially **unstable**
- probabilities instead computed using the **uniformised DTMC**

Uniformisation

- Uniformised DTMC $\text{unif}(C) = (S, s_{\text{init}}, \mathbf{P}^{\text{unif}(C)}, L)$ of $C = (S, s_{\text{init}}, R, L)$
 - set of states, initial state and labelling the same as C
 - $\mathbf{P}^{\text{unif}(C)} = \mathbf{I} + \mathbf{Q}/q$
 - $q \geq \max\{E(s) \mid s \in S\}$ is the **uniformisation rate**
- Each time step (epoch) of uniformised DTMC corresponds to **one exponentially distributed delay with rate q**
 - if $E(s) = q$ transitions the same as embedded DTMC (residence time has the same distribution as one epoch)
 - if $E(s) < q$ add self loop with probability $1 - E(s)/q$ (residence time longer than $1/q$ so one epoch may not be ‘long enough’)

Uniformisation

- Using the uniformised DTMC the transient probabilities can be expressed by:

$$\begin{aligned}\Pi_t &= e^{Q \cdot t} = e^{q \cdot (P^{\text{unif}(C)} - I) \cdot t} = e^{(q \cdot t) \cdot P^{\text{unif}(C)}} \cdot e^{-q \cdot t} \\ &= e^{-q \cdot t} \cdot \left(\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{(q \cdot t)^i}{i!} \cdot \left(P^{\text{unif}(C)} \right)^i \right) \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \left(e^{-q \cdot t} \cdot \frac{(q \cdot t)^i}{i!} \right) \cdot \left(P^{\text{unif}(C)} \right)^i \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \gamma_{q \cdot t, i} \cdot \left(P^{\text{unif}(C)} \right)^i\end{aligned}$$

i th Poisson probability
with parameter $q \cdot t$

$P^{\text{unif}(C)}$ stochastic (all entries in $[0, 1]$ & rows sum to 1), therefore computations with P more numerically stable than Q .

Uniformisation

$$\Pi_t = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} Y_{q \cdot t, i} \cdot \left(\mathbf{P}^{\text{unif}(C)} \right)^i$$

- $(\mathbf{P}^{\text{unif}(C)})^i$ is probability of jumping between each pair of states **in i steps**
- $Y_{q \cdot t, i}$ is the **i th Poisson probability** with parameter $q \cdot t$
 - the probability of i steps occurring in time t , given each has delay exponentially distributed with rate q
- Can **truncate** the summation using the techniques of Fox and Glynn [FG88], which allow **efficient computation** of the Poisson probabilities

Uniformisation

- Computing $\underline{\pi}_{s,t}$ for a fixed state s and time t
 - can be computed **efficiently** using **matrix-vector operations**
 - pre-multiply the matrix Π_t by the initial distribution
 - in this $\underline{\pi}_{s,0}$ where $\underline{\pi}_{s,0}(s')$ equals 1 if $s=s'$ and 0 otherwise

$$\begin{aligned}\underline{\pi}_{s,t} &= \underline{\pi}_{s,0} \cdot \Pi_t = \underline{\pi}_{s,0} \cdot \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} Y_{q,t,i} \cdot \left(\mathbf{P}^{\text{unif}(C)} \right)^i \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} Y_{q,t,i} \cdot \underline{\pi}_{s,0} \cdot \left(\mathbf{P}^{\text{unif}(C)} \right)^i\end{aligned}$$

- compute iteratively to avoid the computation of matrix powers

$$\left(\underline{\pi}_{s,t} \cdot \mathbf{P}^{\text{unif}(C)} \right)^{i+1} = \left(\underline{\pi}_{s,t} \cdot \mathbf{P}^{\text{unif}(C)} \right)^i \cdot \mathbf{P}^{\text{unif}(C)}$$

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CSL

- Temporal logic for describing properties of CTMCs
 - CSL = Continuous Stochastic Logic [ASSB00,BHHK03]
 - extension of (non-probabilistic) temporal logic CTL
- Key additions:
 - probabilistic operator P (like PCTL)
 - steady state operator S
- Example: $\text{down} \rightarrow P_{>0.75} [\neg\text{fail } U^{\leq[1,2]} \text{up}]$
 - when a shutdown occurs, the probability of a system recovery being completed between 1 and 2 hours without further failure is greater than 0.75
- Example: $S_{<0.1}[\text{insufficient_routers}]$
 - in the long run, the chance that an inadequate number of routers are operational is less than 0.1

CSL syntax

- CSL syntax:

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

- $\psi ::= X\phi \mid \phi U^I \phi$

“next”

“time bounded until”

in the “long run” ϕ is true with probability $\sim p$

ψ is true with probability $\sim p$

(path formulas)

- where a is an atomic proposition, I interval of $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ and $p \in [0,1]$, $\sim \in \{<, >, \leq, \geq\}$

- A CSL formula is always a state formula

- path formulas only occur inside the P operator

CSL semantics for CTMCs

- CSL formulas interpreted over states of a CTMC
 - $s \models \phi$ denotes ϕ is “true in state s ” or “satisfied in state s ”
- Semantics of state formulas:
 - for a state s of the CTMC (S, s_{init}, R, L) :

- $s \models a \iff a \in L(s)$
- $s \models \phi_1 \wedge \phi_2 \iff s \models \phi_1 \text{ and } s \models \phi_2$
- $s \models \neg \phi \iff s \models \phi \text{ is false}$
- $s \models P_{\sim p} [\psi] \iff \text{Prob}(s, \psi) \sim p$
- $s \models S_{\sim p} [\phi] \iff \sum_{s' \models \phi} \underline{\pi}_s(s') \sim p$

Probability of, starting in state s , satisfying the path formula ψ

Probability of, starting in state s , being in state s' in the long run

CSL semantics for CTMCs

- $\text{Prob}(s, \psi)$ is the probability, starting in state s , of satisfying the path formula ψ

- $\text{Prob}(s, \psi) = \Pr_s \{ \omega \in \text{Path}_s \mid \omega \models \psi \}$

if $\omega(0)$ is absorbing
 $\omega(1)$ not defined

- Semantics of path formulas:

- for a path ω of the CTMC:

- $\omega \models X \phi \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \omega(1)$ is defined and $\omega(1) \models \phi$

- $\omega \models \phi_1 U^I \phi_2 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \exists t \in I. (\omega@t \models \phi_2 \wedge \forall t' < t. \omega@t' \models \phi_1)$

there exists a time instant in the **interval I** where ϕ_2 is true and ϕ_1 is true at all preceding time instants

CSL derived operators

- (As for PCTL) can derive basic logical equivalences:
 - $\text{false} \equiv \neg \text{true}$ (false)
 - $\phi_1 \vee \phi_2 \equiv \neg(\neg\phi_1 \wedge \neg\phi_2)$ (disjunction)
 - $\phi_1 \rightarrow \phi_2 \equiv \neg\phi_1 \vee \phi_2$ (implication)
- The “**eventually**” operator (path formula)
 - $F \phi \equiv \text{true} U \phi$ (F = “future”) (F = “future”)
 - sometimes written as $\diamond \phi$ (“diamond”) (“diamond”)
 - “ **ϕ is eventually true**”
 - timed version: $F^I \phi \equiv \text{true} U^I \phi$
 - “ **ϕ becomes true in the interval I**”

More on CSL

- Negation and probabilities

- $\neg P_{>p} [\phi_1 U^I \phi_2] \equiv P_{\leq p} [\phi_1 U^I \phi_2]$

- $\neg S_{>p} [\phi] \equiv S_{\leq p} [\phi]$

- The “always” operator (path formula)

- $G \phi \equiv \neg(F \neg\phi) \equiv \neg(\text{true} U \neg\phi)$ (G = “globally”)

- sometimes written as $\Box \phi$ (“box”)

- “ ϕ is always true”

- bounded version: $G^I \phi \equiv \neg(F^I \neg\phi)$

- “ ϕ holds throughout the interval I”

- strictly speaking, $G \phi$ cannot be derived from the CSL syntax in this way since there is no negation of path formulas

- but, as for PCTL, we can derive $P_{\sim p} [G \phi]$ directly...

Derivation of $P_{\sim p} [G \phi]$

- $s \models P_{>p} [G \phi] \Leftrightarrow \text{Prob}(s, G \phi) > p$
 - $\Leftrightarrow \text{Prob}(s, \neg(F \neg\phi)) > p$
 - $\Leftrightarrow 1 - \text{Prob}(s, F \neg\phi) > p$
 - $\Leftrightarrow \text{Prob}(s, F \neg\phi) < 1 - p$
 - $\Leftrightarrow s \models P_{<1-p} [F \neg\phi]$

- Other equivalences:

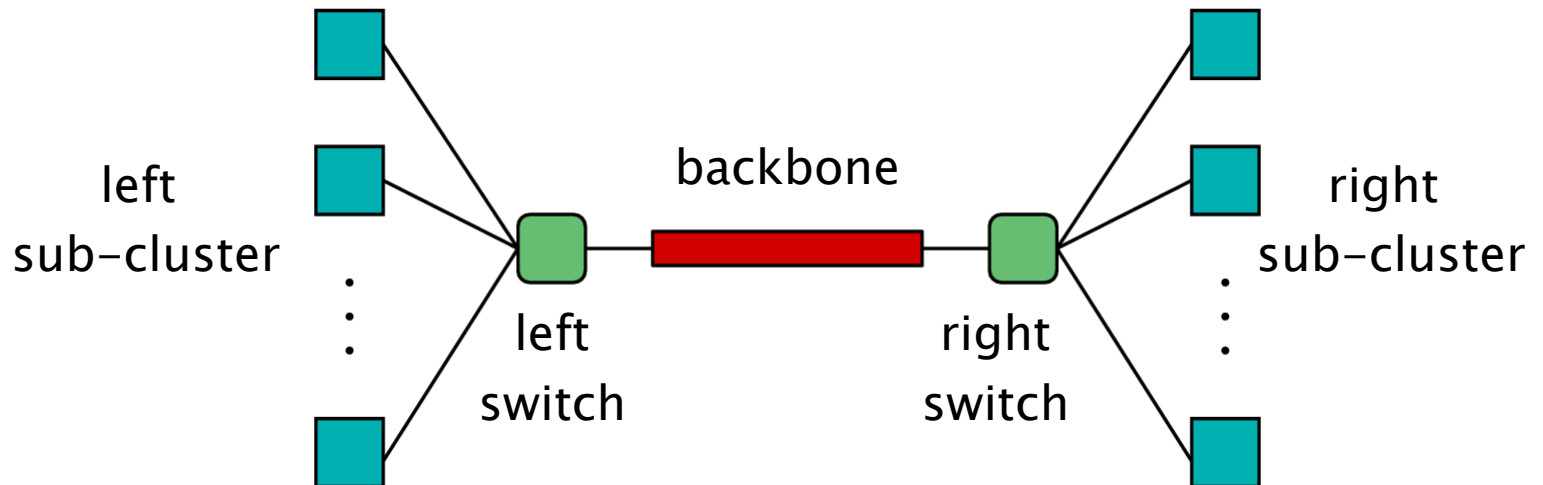
$$\begin{aligned} - P_{\geq p} [G \phi] &\equiv P_{\leq 1-p} [F \neg\phi] \\ - P_{<p} [G \phi] &\equiv P_{>1-p} [F \neg\phi] \\ - P_{>p} [G^! \phi] &\equiv P_{<1-p} [F^! \neg\phi] \end{aligned}$$

Quantitative properties

- Consider CSL formulae $P_{\sim p} [\psi]$ and $S_{\sim p} [\phi]$
 - if the probability is unknown, how to choose the bound p ?
- When the outermost operator of a CSL formula is P or S
 - allow bounds of the form $P_{=?} [\psi]$ and $S_{=?} [\phi]$
 - what is the probability that path formula ψ is true?
 - what is the long-run probability that ϕ holds?
- Model checking is no harder: compute the values anyway
- As we have seen, useful for spotting patterns and trends

CSL example – Workstation cluster

- Case study: Cluster of workstations [HHK00]
 - two sub-clusters (N workstations in each cluster)
 - star topology with a central switch
 - components can break down, single repair unit
 - **minimum QoS**: at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the workstations operational and connected via switches
 - **premium QoS**: all workstations operational and connected via switches



CSL example – Workstation cluster

- $P_{=?}[true U^{[0,t]} \neg minimum]$
 - the chance that the QoS drops below minimum within t hours
- $\neg minimum \rightarrow P_{<0.1}[F^{[0,t]} \neg minimum]$
 - when facing insufficient QoS, the probability of facing the same problem after t hours is less than 0.1
- $S_{=?}[minimum]$
 - the probability in the long run of having minimum QoS
- $minimum \rightarrow P_{>0.8}[minimum U^{[0,t]} premium]$
 - the probability of going from minimum to premium QoS within t hours without violating minimum QoS is at least 0.8
- $P_{=?}[\neg minimum U^{[t,\infty)} minimum]$
 - the chance it takes more than t time units to recover from insufficient QoS

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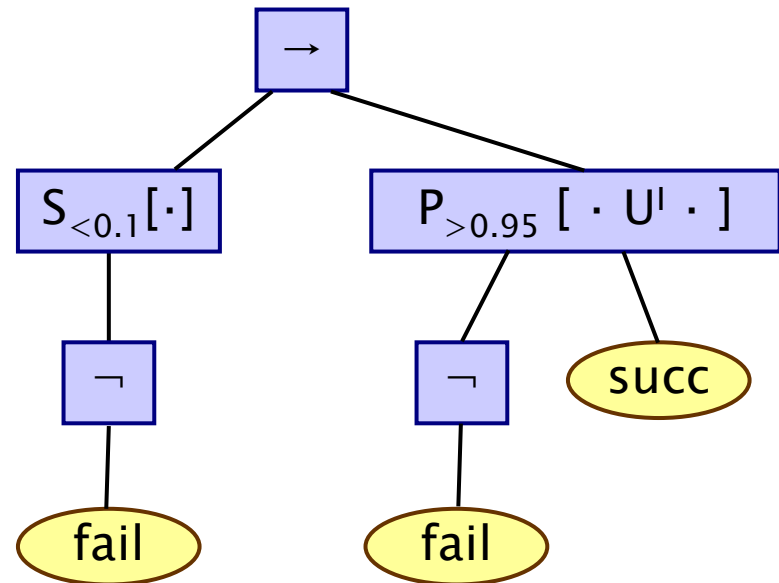
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CSL model checking for CTMCs

- Algorithm for CSL model checking [BHHK03]
 - inputs: CTMC $C=(S,s_{init},R,L)$, CSL formula ϕ
 - output: $Sat(\phi) = \{ s \in S \mid s \models \phi \}$, the set of states satisfying ϕ
- What does it mean for a CTMC C to satisfy a formula ϕ ?
 - check that $s \models \phi$ **for all** states $s \in S$, i.e. $Sat(\phi) = S$
 - know if $s_{init} \models \phi$, i.e. if $s_{init} \in Sat(\phi)$
- Sometimes, focus on quantitative results
 - e.g. compute result of $P=?$ [true $U^{[0,13.5]}$ minimum]
 - e.g. compute result of $P=?$ [true $U^{[0,t]}$ minimum] for $0 \leq t \leq 100$

CSL model checking for CTMCs

- Basic algorithm proceeds by induction on parse tree of ϕ
 - example: $\phi = S_{<0.1}[\neg \text{fail}] \rightarrow P_{>0.95}[\neg \text{fail} \cup^! \text{succ}]$



- For the non-probabilistic operators:

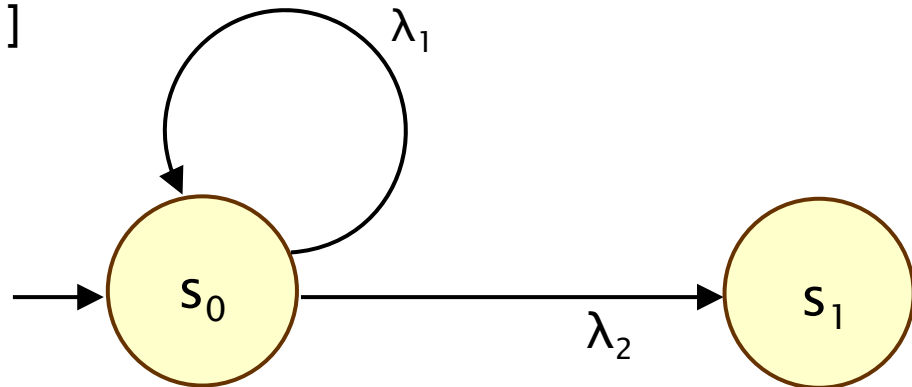
- $\text{Sat}(\text{true}) = S$
- $\text{Sat}(a) = \{ s \in S \mid a \in L(s) \}$
- $\text{Sat}(\neg \phi) = S \setminus \text{Sat}(\phi)$
- $\text{Sat}(\phi_1 \wedge \phi_2) = \text{Sat}(\phi_1) \cap \text{Sat}(\phi_2)$

Untimed properties

- Untimed properties can be verified on the **embedded DTMC**
 - properties of the form: $P_{\sim p} [X \phi]$ or $P_{\sim p} [\phi_1 U^{[0, \infty)} \phi_2]$
 - use algorithms for checking PCTL against DTMCs
- Certain **qualitative time-bounded until formulae** can also be verified on the **embedded DTMC**
 - for any (non-empty) interval I
$$s \models P_{\sim 0} [\phi_1 U^I \phi_2]$$
 if and only if $s \models P_{\sim 0} [\phi_1 U^{[0, \infty)} \phi_2]$
 - can use pre-computation algorithm Prob0

Untimed properties

- $s \models P_{\sim 1} [\phi_1 U^{[0, \infty)} \phi_2]$ does **not** imply $s \models P_{\sim 1} [\phi_1 U^I \phi_2]$
- Consider the following example
 - with **probability 1** eventually reach state s_1
 $s_0 \models P_{\geq 1} [\phi_1 U^{[0, \infty)} \phi_2]$
 - probability of remaining in state s_0 until time-bound t is **greater than zero** for any t
 - $s_0 \models \neg P_{\geq 1} [\phi_1 U^{[0, t]} \phi_2]$



Model checking – Time-bounded until

- Compute $\text{Prob}(s, \phi_1 U^I \phi_2)$ for all states where I is an arbitrary interval of the non-negative real numbers
 - $\text{Prob}(s, \phi_1 U^I \phi_2) = \text{Prob}(s, \phi_1 U^{\text{cl}(I)} \phi_2)$
where $\text{cl}(I)$ closure of the interval I
 - $\text{Prob}(s, \phi_1 U^{[0, \infty)} \phi_2) = \text{Prob}^{\text{emb}(C)}(s, \phi_1 U \phi_2)$
where $\text{emb}(C)$ is the **embedded DTMC**
- Therefore, remains to consider the cases when
 - $I = [0, t]$ for some $t \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$
 - $I = [t, t']$ for some $t, t' \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ such that $t \leq t'$
 - $I = [t, \infty)$ for some $t \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$

Model checking – $P_{\sim p}[\phi_1 U^{[0,t]} \phi_2]$

- Computing the probabilities reduces to determining the least solution of the following set of **integral equations**:

- $\text{Prob}(s, \phi_1 U^{[0,t]} \phi_2)$ equals

- 1 if $s \in \text{Sat}(\phi_2)$,
- 0 if $s \in \text{Sat}(\neg \phi_1 \wedge \neg \phi_2)$
- and otherwise equals

probability in state s' of satisfying until before $t-x$ time units elapse

$$\int_0^t \left(P^{\text{emb}(C)}(s, s') \cdot E(s) \cdot e^{-E(s) \cdot x} \right) \cdot \text{Prob}(s', \phi_1 U^{[0,t-x]} \phi_2) dx$$

integrate over x between 0 and t

probability of moving from s to s' at time x

Model checking – $P_{\sim p}[\phi_1 U^{[0,t]} \phi_2]$

- Construct CTMC $C[\phi_2][\neg\phi_1 \wedge \neg\phi_2]$
 - where for CTMC $C=(S,s_{init},R,L)$, let $C[\theta]=(S,s_{init},R[\theta],L)$ where $R[\theta](s,s')=R(s,s')$ if $s \notin \text{Sat}(\theta)$ and 0 otherwise
- Make all ϕ_2 states absorbing
 - in such a state $\phi_1 U^{[0,x]} \phi_2$ holds with **probability 1**
- Make all $\neg\phi_1 \wedge \neg\phi_2$ states absorbing
 - in such a state $\phi_1 U^{[0,x]} \phi_2$ holds with **probability 0**
- Problem then reduces to calculating **transient probabilities** of the CTMC $C[\phi_2][\neg\phi_1 \wedge \neg\phi_2]$:

$$\text{Prob}(s, \phi_1 U^{[0,t]} \phi_2) = \sum_{s' \in \text{Sat}(\phi_2)} \pi_{s,t}^{C[\phi_2][\neg\phi_1 \wedge \neg\phi_2]}(s')$$

transient probability: starting in state the probability of being in state s' at time t

Model checking – $P_{\sim p}[\phi_1 U^{[0,t]} \phi_2]$

- Can now adapt **uniformisation** to computing the vector of probabilities $\underline{\text{Prob}}(\phi_1 U^{[0,t]} \phi_2)$
 - recall Π_t is matrix of transient probabilities $\Pi_t(s, s') = \underline{\pi}_{s,t}(s')$
 - computed via uniformisation: $\Pi_t = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} Y_{q \cdot t, i} \cdot \left(P^{\text{unif}(C)} \right)^i$
- Combining with: $\text{Prob}(s, \phi_1 U^{[0,t]} \phi_2) = \sum_{s' \in \text{Sat}(\phi_2)} \underline{\pi}_{s,t}^{C[\phi_2][\neg\phi_1 \wedge \neg\phi_2]}(s')$

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{\text{Prob}}(\phi_1 U^{[0,t]} \phi_2) &= \Pi_t^{C[\phi_2][\neg\phi_1 \wedge \neg\phi_2]} \cdot \underline{\phi_2} \\ &= \left(\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} Y_{q \cdot t, i} \cdot \left(P^{\text{unif}(C[\phi_2][\neg\phi_1 \wedge \neg\phi_2])} \right)^i \right) \cdot \underline{\phi_2} \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \left(Y_{q \cdot t, i} \cdot \left(P^{\text{unif}(C[\phi_2][\neg\phi_1 \wedge \neg\phi_2])} \right)^i \cdot \underline{\phi_2} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Model checking – $P_{\sim p}[\phi_1 U^{[0,t]} \phi_2]$

- Have shown that we can calculate the probabilities as:

$$\underline{\text{Pr ob}}(\phi_1 U^{[0,t]} \phi_2) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \left(\gamma_{q,t,i} \cdot \left(\mathbf{P}^{\text{unif}(C[\phi_2][\neg\phi_1 \wedge \neg\phi_2])} \right)^i \cdot \underline{\phi_2} \right)$$

- Infinite summation can be **truncated** using the techniques of Fox and Glynn [FG88]
- Can compute **iteratively** to avoid matrix powers:

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\mathbf{P}^{\text{unif}(C)} \right)^0 \cdot \underline{\phi_2} &= \underline{\phi_2} \\ \left(\mathbf{P}^{\text{unif}(C)} \right)^{i+1} \cdot \underline{\phi_2} &= \mathbf{P}^{\text{unif}(C)} \cdot \left(\left(\mathbf{P}^{\text{unif}(C)} \right)^i \cdot \underline{\phi_2} \right) \end{aligned}$$

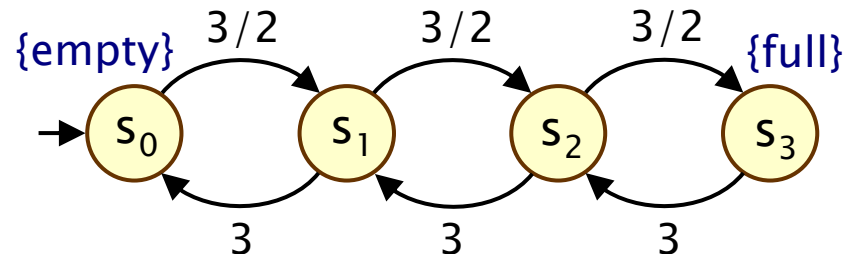
$P_{\sim p}[\phi_1 \ U^{[0,t]} \ \phi_2]$ – Example

- $P_{>0.65}[\text{true } U^{[0,7.5]} \text{ full}]$
 - “probability of the queue becoming full within 7.5 time units”
- State s_3 satisfies full and no states satisfy $\neg\text{true}$
 - in $C[\text{full}][\neg\text{true} \wedge \neg\text{full}]$ only state s_3 made absorbing

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2/3 & 1/3 & 0 & 0 \\ 2/3 & 0 & 1/3 & 0 \\ 0 & 2/3 & 0 & 1/3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

matrix of $\text{unif}(C[\text{full}][\neg\text{true} \wedge \neg\text{full}])$
with uniformisation rate
 $\max_{s \in S} E(s) = 4.5$

s_3 made absorbing



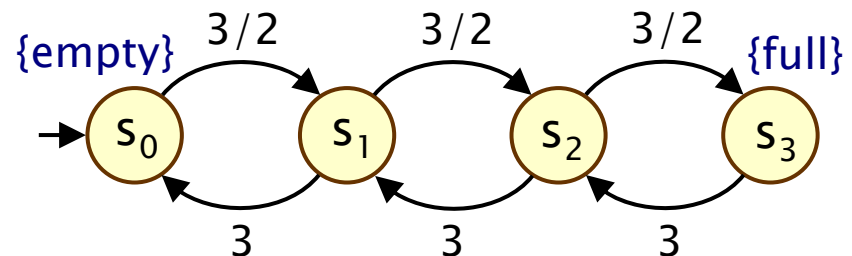
$P_{\sim p}[\phi_1 \ U^{[0,t]} \ \phi_2]$ – Example

- Computing the summation of matrix–vector multiplications

$$\underline{\text{Prob}}(\phi_1 \ U^{[0,t]} \ \phi_2) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \left(\gamma_{q,t,i} \cdot \left(\mathbf{P}^{\text{unif}(C[\phi_2][\neg\phi_1 \wedge \neg\phi_2])} \right)^i \cdot \underline{\phi_2} \right)$$

– yields $\underline{\text{Prob}}(\text{true} \ U^{[0,7.5]} \ \text{full}) \approx (0.6482, 0.6823, 0.7811, 1)$

- $P_{>0.65}[\text{true} \ U^{[0,7.5]} \ \text{full}]$ satisfied in states s_1 , s_2 and s_3



Model checking – $P_{\sim p}[\phi_1 U^{[t,t']} \phi_2]$

- In this case the computation can be split into two parts:
- Probability of remaining in ϕ_1 states until time t
 - can be computed as **transient probabilities** on the CTMC where are **states satisfying $\neg\phi_1$** have been made **absorbing**
- Probability of reaching a ϕ_2 state, while remaining in states satisfying ϕ_1 , within the time interval $[0, t'-t]$
 - i.e. computing **Prob**($\phi_1 U^{[0,t'-t]} \phi_2$)

$$\text{Prob}(s, \phi_1 U^{[0,t]} \phi_2) = \sum_{s' \in \text{Sat}(\phi_1)} \pi_{s,t}^{C[-\phi_1]}(s') \cdot \text{Prob}(s', \phi_1 U^{[0,t'-t]} \phi_2)$$

sum over states
satisfying ϕ_1

Probability of reaching state
 s' at **time t** and satisfying
 ϕ_1 up until this point

probability
 $\phi_1 U^{[0,t'-t]} \phi_2$
holds in s'

Model checking – $P_{\sim p}[\phi_1 U^{[t,t']} \phi_2]$

- Letting $\text{Prob}_{\phi_1}(s, \phi_1 U^{[0,t]} \phi_2) = \text{Prob}(s, \phi_1 U^{[0,t]} \phi_2)$ if $s \in \text{Sat}(\phi_1)$ and 0 otherwise, from the previous slide we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{\text{Prob}}(\phi_1 U^{[t,t']} \phi_2) &= \prod_t^{C[-\phi_1]} \cdot \underline{\text{Prob}}_{\phi_1}(\phi_1 U^{[0,t'-t]} \phi_2) \\ &= \left(\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} Y_{q,t,i} \cdot \left(P^{\text{unif}(C[-\phi_1])} \right)^i \right) \cdot \underline{\text{Prob}}_{\phi_1}(\phi_1 U^{[0,t'-t]} \phi_2) \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \left(Y_{q,t,i} \cdot \left(P^{\text{unif}(C[-\phi_1])} \right)^i \cdot \underline{\text{Prob}}_{\phi_1}(\phi_1 U^{[0,t'-t]} \phi_2) \right) \end{aligned}$$

- summation can be truncated using Fox and Glynn [FG88]
- can compute iteratively (only scalar and matrix–vector operations)

Model checking – $P_{\sim p}[\phi_1 U^{[t, \infty)} \phi_2]$

- Similar to the case for $\phi_1 U^{[t, t']} \phi_2$ except second part is now **unbounded**, and hence the embedded DTMC can be used
- Probability of remaining in ϕ_1 states until time t
- Probability of reaching a ϕ_2 state, while remaining in states satisfying ϕ_1
 - i.e. computing **Prob**($\phi_1 U^{[0, \infty)} \phi_2$)

$$\text{Prob}(s, \phi_1 U^{[0, t]} \phi_2) = \sum_{s' \in \text{Sat}(\phi_1)} \pi_{s, t}^{C[-\phi_1]}(s') \cdot \text{Prob}^{\text{emb}(C)}(s', \phi_1 U \phi_2)$$

sum over states
satisfying ϕ_1

Probability of reaching
state s' at time t and
satisfying ϕ_1 up until this
point

probability
 $\phi_1 U^{[0, \infty)} \phi_2$
holds in s'

Model checking – $P_{\sim p}[\phi_1 U^{[t,\infty)} \phi_2]$

- Letting $\text{Prob}_{\phi_1}(s, \phi_1 U^{[0,\infty)} \phi_2) = \text{Prob}(s, \phi_1 U^{[0,\infty)} \phi_2)$ if $s \in \text{Sat}(\phi_1)$ and 0 otherwise, from the previous slide we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{\text{Prob}}(\phi_1 U^{[t,\infty)} \phi_2) &= \prod_t^{C[\neg\phi_1]} \cdot \underline{\text{Prob}}_{\phi_1}^{\text{emb}(C)}(\phi_1 U^{[0,\infty)} \phi_2) \\ &= \left(\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \gamma_{q,t,i} \cdot \left(P^{\text{unif}(C[\neg\phi_1])} \right)^i \right) \cdot \underline{\text{Prob}}_{\phi_1}^{\text{emb}(C)}(\phi_1 U^{[0,\infty)} \phi_2) \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \left(\gamma_{q,t,i} \cdot \left(P^{\text{unif}(C[\neg\phi_1])} \right)^i \cdot \underline{\text{Prob}}_{\phi_1}^{\text{emb}(C)}(\phi_1 U^{[0,\infty)} \phi_2) \right) \end{aligned}$$

- summation can be truncated using Fox and Glynn [FG88]
- can compute iteratively (only scalar and matrix–vector operations)

Model Checking – $S_{\sim p}[\phi]$

- A state s satisfies the formula $S_{\sim p}[\phi]$ if $\sum_{s' \models \phi} \underline{\pi}^C(s') \sim p$
 - $\underline{\pi}^C(s')$ is probability, having started in state s , of being in state s' in the long run
- First, consider the simple case when C is **irreducible**
 - C is irreducible (strongly connected) if there exists **a finite path from each state to every other state**
 - the steady-state probabilities are **independent of the starting state**: denote the steady state probabilities by $\underline{\pi}^C(s')$
 - these probabilities can be computed as the **unique solution of the linear equation system**:

$$\underline{\pi}^C \cdot Q = \underline{0} \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{s \in S} \underline{\pi}^C(s) = 1$$

Q is the infinitesimal generator matrix of C

Model Checking – $S_{\sim p}[\phi]$

- Equation system can be solved by any standard approach
 - Direct methods, such as Gaussian elimination
 - Iterative methods, such as Jacobi and Gauss–Seidel
- The satisfaction of the CSL formula
 - same for all states (steady state independent of starting state)
 - computed by summing steady state probabilities for all states satisfying ϕ

Model Checking – $S_{\sim p}[\phi]$

- We now suppose that C is **reducible**
- First perform graph analysis to find set $\text{bscc}(C)$ of **bottom strongly connected components** (BSCCs)
 - strongly connected components that cannot be left
- Treating each individual $B \in \text{bscc}(C)$ as an **irreducible CTMC** compute the steady state probabilities $\underline{\pi}^B$
 - employ the methods described above
- Calculate the probability of reaching each individual BSCC
 - can be computed in the **embedded DTMC**
 - if a_B is an atomic proposition true only in the states of B , this probability is given by $\text{Prob}^{\text{emb}(C)}(s, F a_B)$

Model Checking – $S_{\sim p}[\phi]$

- For any states s and s' the steady state probability $\underline{\pi}_s^C(s')$ can then be computed as:

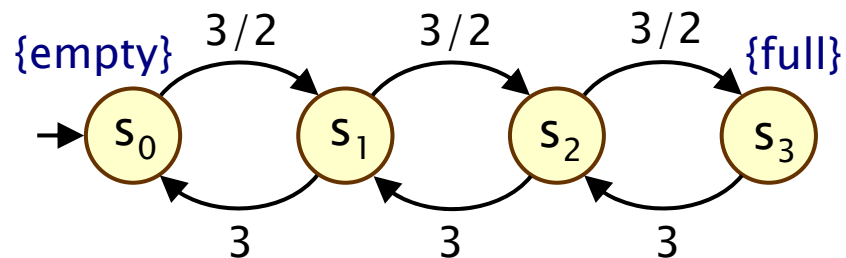
$$\underline{\pi}_s^C(s') = \begin{cases} \text{Prob}^{\text{emb}(C)}(s, F a_B) \cdot \underline{\pi}^B(s') & \text{if } s' \in B \text{ for some } B \in \text{bscc}(C) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- The total work required to compute $\underline{\pi}_s^C(s')$ for all s and s'
 - solve **two linear equation systems** for each BSCC B
 - one to obtain the vector $\underline{\text{Prob}}^{\text{emb}(C)}(F a_B)$
 - the other to compute the steady state probabilities $\underline{\pi}^B$
 - computation of the BSCCs requires only **analysis of the underlying graph structure** and can be performed using classical algorithms based on depth-first search

$S_{\sim p}[\phi]$ – Example

- $S_{<0.1}[\text{full}]$
- CTMC is irreducible (comprises of a single BSCC)
 - steady state probabilities independent of starting state
 - can be computed by solving $\underline{\pi} \cdot Q = 0$ and $\sum \underline{\pi}(s) = 1$

$$Q = \begin{bmatrix} -3/2 & 3/2 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & -9/2 & 3/2 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & -9/2 & 3/2 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$$



$S_{\sim p}[\phi]$ – Example

$$-3/2 \cdot \underline{\pi}(s_0) + 3 \cdot \underline{\pi}(s_1) = 0$$

$$3/2 \cdot \underline{\pi}(s_0) - 9/2 \cdot \underline{\pi}(s_1) + 3 \cdot \underline{\pi}(s_2) = 0$$

$$3/2 \cdot \underline{\pi}(s_1) - 9/2 \cdot \underline{\pi}(s_2) + 3 \cdot \underline{\pi}(s_3) = 0$$

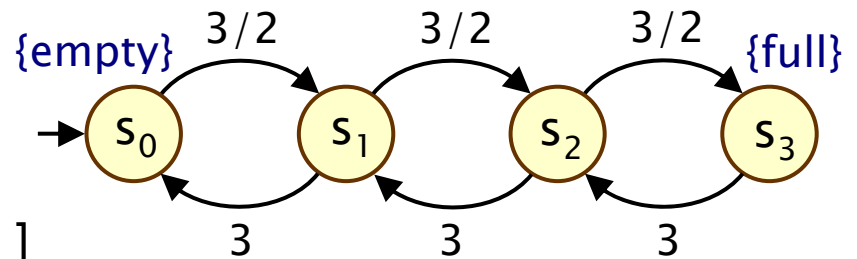
$$3/2 \cdot \underline{\pi}(s_2) - 3 \cdot \underline{\pi}(s_3) = 0$$

$$\underline{\pi}(s_0) + \underline{\pi}(s_1) + \underline{\pi}(s_2) + \underline{\pi}(s_3) = 1$$

– solution: $\underline{\pi} = (8/15, 4/15, 2/15, 1/15)$

– $\sum_{s' \models \text{full}} \underline{\pi}(s') = 1/15 < 0.1$

– so all states satisfy $S_{<0.1}[\text{full}]$



Overview

- Exponential distributions
- Continuous-time Markov chains (CTMCs)
 - definition, paths, probabilities, steady-state, transient, ...
- Properties of CTMCs: The logic CSL
 - syntax, semantics, equivalences, ...
- CSL model checking
 - algorithm, examples, ...
- Costs and rewards

Costs and rewards

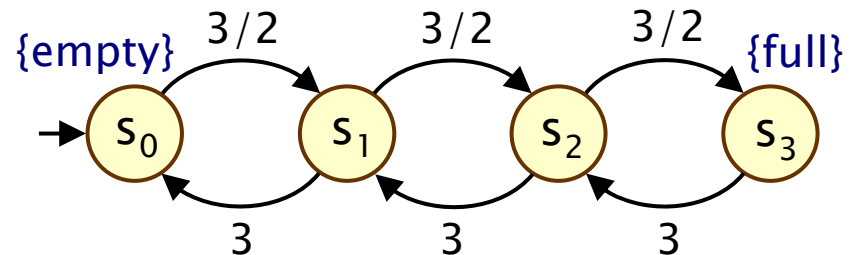
- We augment CTMCs with rewards
 - real-valued quantities assigned to states and/or transitions
 - these can have a wide range of possible interpretations
 - allows a wide range of quantitative measures of the system
 - basic notion: expected value of rewards
 - formal property specifications in an extension of CSL
- For a CTMC $(S, s_{\text{init}}, R, L)$, a reward structure is a pair (ρ, ι)
 - $\rho : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ is a vector of **state rewards**
 - $\iota : S \times S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ is a matrix of **transition rewards**
 - **continuous time: reward $t \cdot \rho(s)$** acquired if the CTMC remains in state s for $t \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ time units

Reward structures – Example

- Example: “number of requests served”

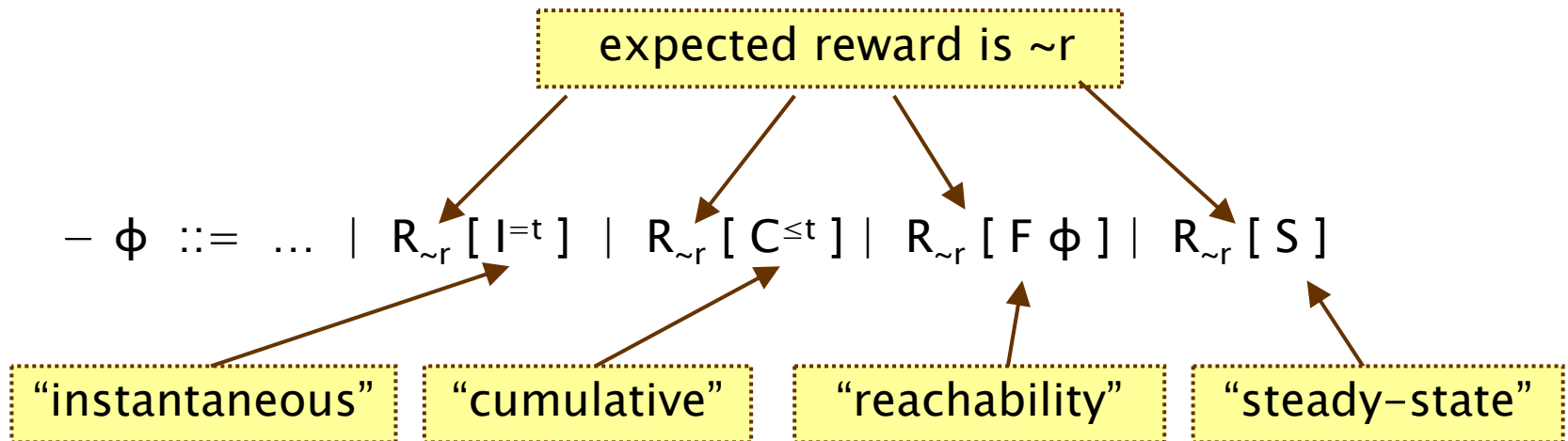
$$\rho = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \iota = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Example: “size of message queue”
 - $\rho(s_i)=i$ and $\iota(s_i,s_j)=0$ for all states s_i and s_j



CSL and rewards

- Extend CSL to incorporate reward-based properties
 - add R operator similar to the one in PCTL



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

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

Types of reward formulas

- **Instantaneous:** $R_{\sim r} [I^t]$
 - the expected value of the reward at time-instant t is $\sim r$
 - “the expected queue size after 6.7 seconds is at most 2”
- **Cumulative:** $R_{\sim r} [C^{\leq t}]$
 - the expected reward cumulated up to time-instant t is $\sim r$
 - “the expected requests served within the first 4.5 seconds of operation is less than 10”
- **Reachability:** $R_{\sim r} [F \phi]$
 - the expected reward cumulated before reaching ϕ is $\sim r$
 - “the expected requests served before the queue becomes full”
- **Steady-state** $R_{\sim r} [S]$
 - the long-run average expected reward is $\sim r$
 - “expected long-run queue size is at least 1.2”

Reward formula semantics

- Formal semantics of the four reward operators:

$$\begin{array}{lll} - s \models R_{\sim r} [I^t] & \Leftrightarrow & \text{Exp}(s, X_{I^t}) \sim r \\ - s \models R_{\sim r} [C^{\leq t}] & \Leftrightarrow & \text{Exp}(s, X_{C^{\leq t}}) \sim r \\ - s \models R_{\sim r} [F \Phi] & \Leftrightarrow & \text{Exp}(s, X_{F\Phi}) \sim r \\ - s \models R_{\sim r} [S] & \Leftrightarrow & \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} (1/t \cdot \text{Exp}(s, X_{C^{\leq t}})) \sim r \end{array}$$

- 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

Reward formula semantics

- Definition of random variables:

– path $\omega = s_0 t_0 s_1 t_1 s_2 \dots$

state of ω at

time spent in state s_{j_t} before t time units have elapsed

$$X_{I=k}(\omega) = \underline{\rho}(\omega @ t)$$

time spent in state s_i

$$X_{C \leq t}(\omega) = \sum_{i=0}^{j_t-1} (t_i \cdot \underline{\rho}(s_i) + \iota(s_i, s_{i+1})) + \left(t - \sum_{i=0}^{j_t-1} t_i \right) \cdot \underline{\rho}(s_{j_t})$$

$$X_{F\phi}(\omega) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } s_0 \in \text{Sat}(\phi) \\ \infty & \text{if } s_i \notin \text{Sat}(\phi) \text{ for all } i \geq 0 \\ \sum_{i=0}^{k_\phi-1} t_i \cdot \underline{\rho}(s_i) + \iota(s_i, s_{i+1}) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

– where $j_t = \min\{ j \mid \sum_{i \leq j} t_i \geq t \}$ and $k_\phi = \min\{ i \mid s_i \models \phi \}$

Model checking reward formulas

- **Instantaneous:** $R_{\sim r} [I^t]$
 - reduces to transient analysis (state of the CTMC at time t)
 - use **uniformisation**
- **Cumulative:** $R_{\sim r} [C^{\leq t}]$
 - extends approach for time-bounded until [KNP06]
 - based on **uniformisation**
- **Reachability:** $R_{\sim r} [F \phi]$
 - can be computed on the embedded DTMC
 - reduces to solving a **system of linear equation**
- **Steady-state:** $R_{\sim r} [S]$
 - similar to steady state formulae $S_{\sim r} [\phi]$
 - **graph based analysis** (compute BSCCs)
 - **solve systems of linear equations** (compute steady state probabilities of each BSCC)

Model checking complexity

- For model checking of a CTMC complexity:
 - **linear in $|\Phi|$** and **polynomial in $|S|$**
 - linear in $q \cdot t_{\max}$ (t_{\max} is maximum finite bound in intervals)
- $P_{\sim p}[\Phi_1 U^{[0, \infty)} \Phi_2]$, $S_{\sim p}[\Phi]$, $R_{\sim r}[F \Phi]$ and $R_{\sim r}[S]$
 - require solution of linear equation system of size $|S|$
 - can be solved with Gaussian elimination: **cubic** in $|S|$
 - precomputation algorithms (max $|S|$ steps)
- $P_{\sim p}[\Phi_1 U^I \Phi_2]$, $R_{\sim r}[C^{\leq t}]$ and $R_{\sim r}[I^=t]$
 - at most two iterative sequences of matrix–vector product
 - operation is **quadratic** in the size of the matrix, i.e. $|S|$
 - total number of iterations bounded by Fox and Glynn
 - the bound is **linear** in the size of $q \cdot t$ (q **uniformisation rate**)

Summing up...

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- Costs and rewards