

Randomness for Free

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LSV, ENS Cachan & CNRS

joint work with Krishnendu Chatterjee,
Hugo Gimbert, Tom Henzinger

Stochastic games on graphs

- Games for synthesis
 - Reactive system synthesis = finding a winning strategy in a game
- Game played on a graph
 - Infinite number of rounds
 - Player's moves determine successor state
 - Outcome = infinite path in the graph

When is randomness more powerful ?

When is randomness for free ?

Stochastic games on graphs

- Games for synthesis
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When is randomness more powerful ... in game structures ?

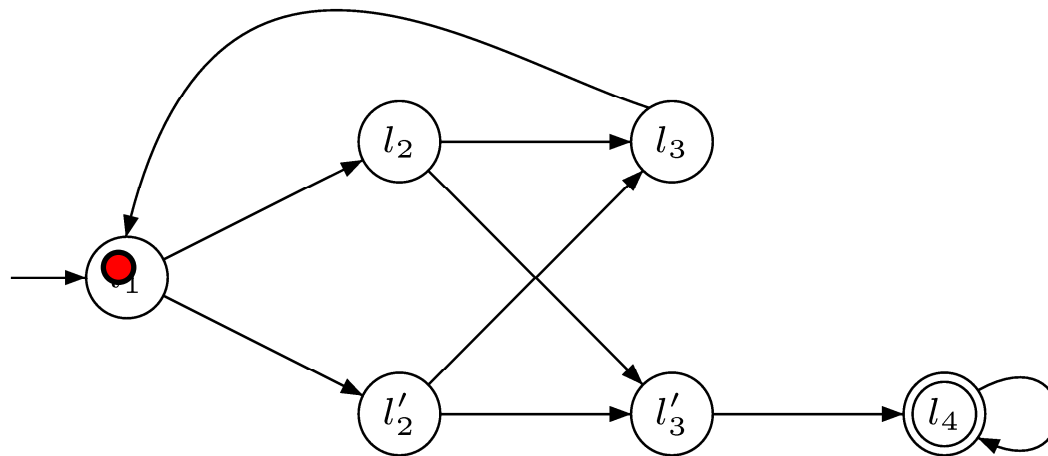
When is randomness for free ? ... in strategies ?

Stochastic games on graphs

- Classification according to **Information** & **Interaction**

Interaction: how players' moves are combined.

Information: what is visible to the players.



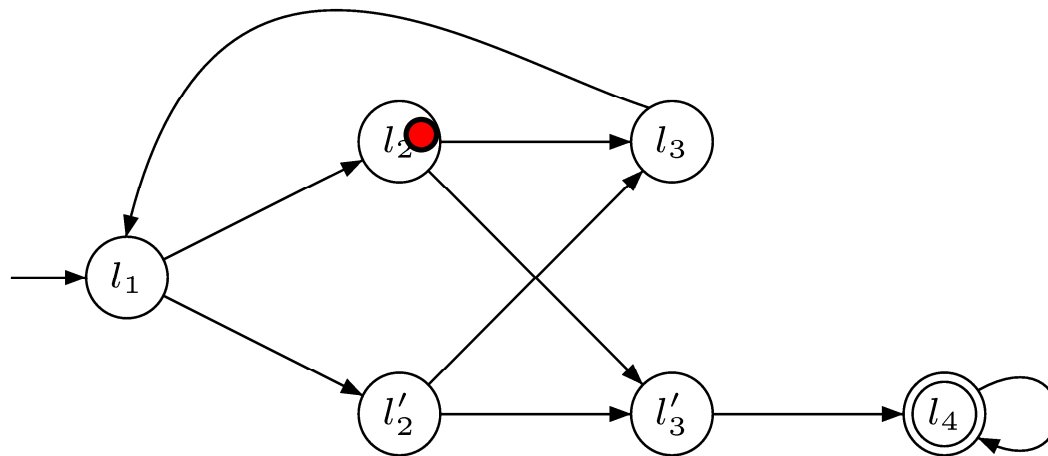
Round 1

Stochastic games on graphs

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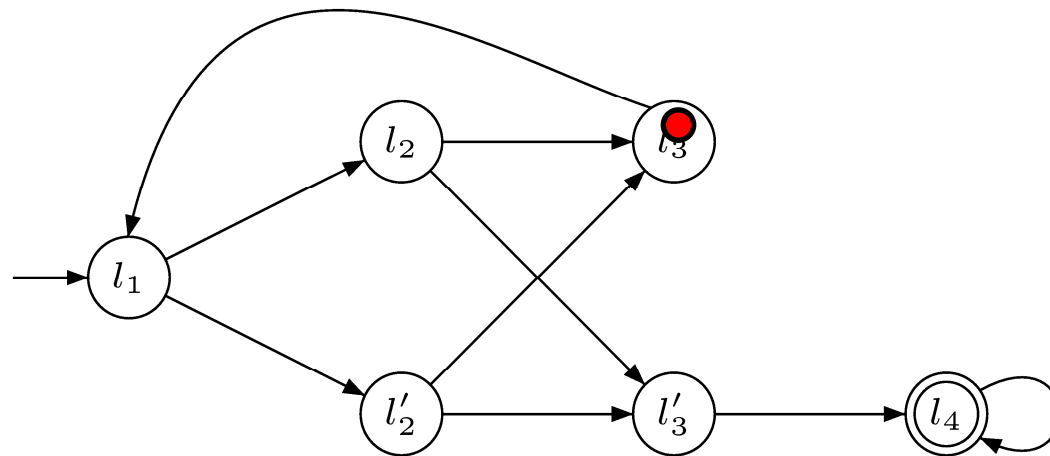
Round 2

Stochastic games on graphs

- Classification according to **Information** & **Interaction**

Interaction: how players' moves are combined.

Information: what is visible to the players.



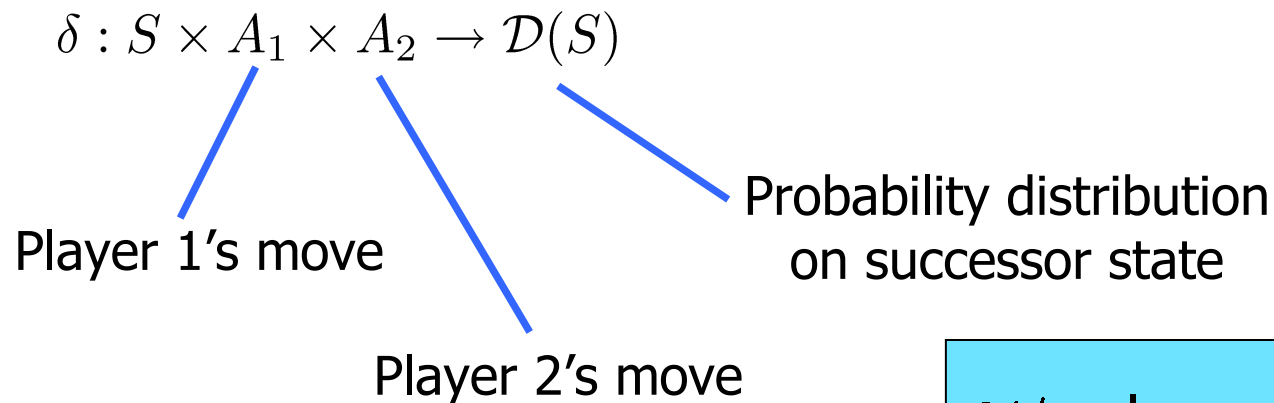
Round 3

Mode of interaction

- Classification according to **Information** & **Interaction**

Interaction

General case: concurrent & stochastic



2^{1/2}-player games

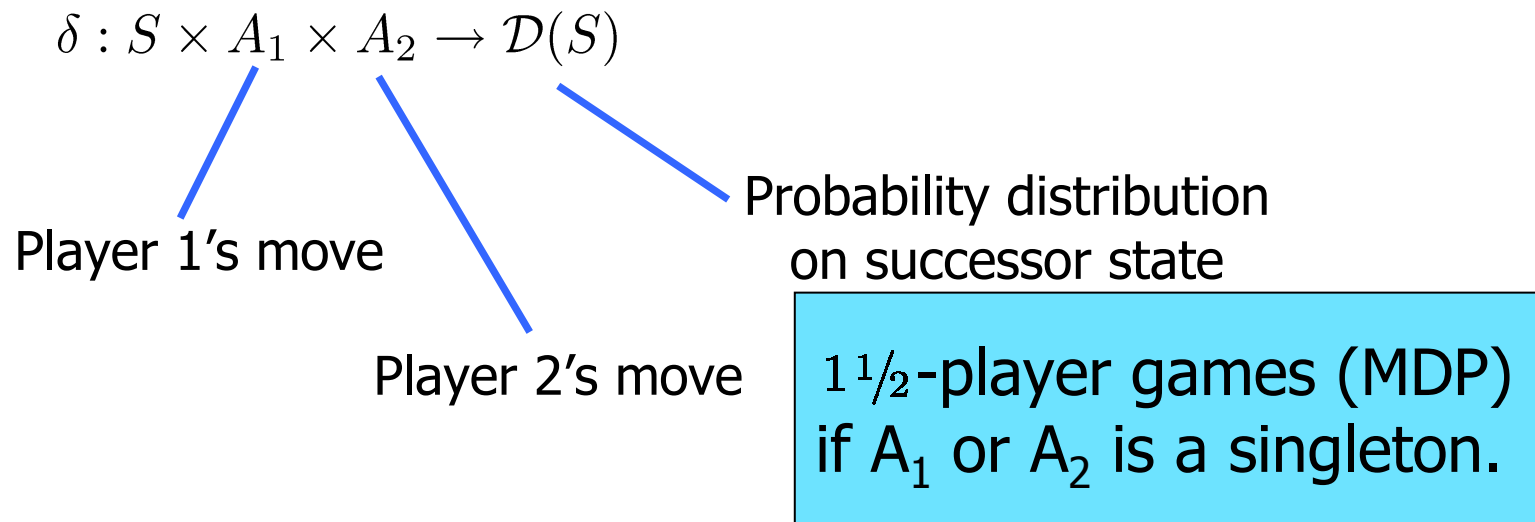
Players choose their moves **simultaneously and independently**

Mode of interaction

- Classification according to **Information** & **Interaction**

Interaction

General case: concurrent & stochastic



Players choose their moves **simultaneously and independently**

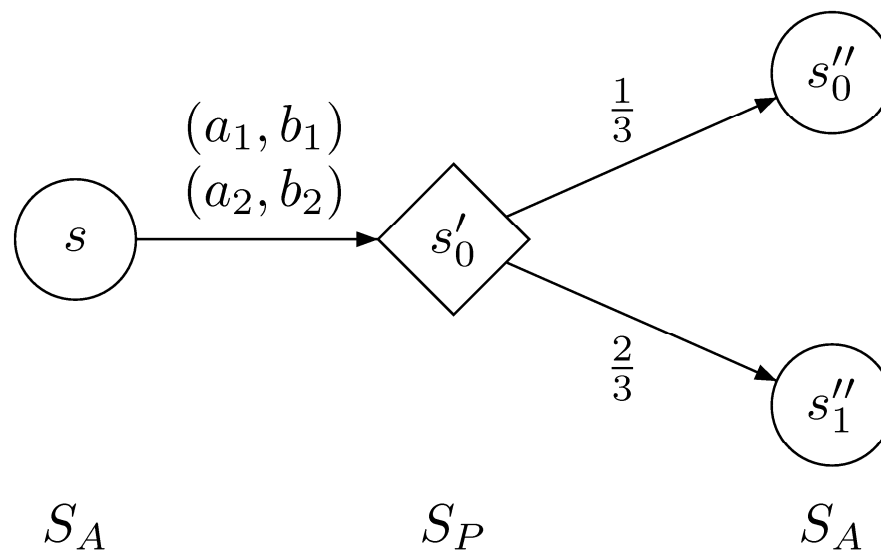
Mode of interaction

Interaction

General case: concurrent & stochastic

$$\delta : S \times A_1 \times A_2 \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(S) \quad \longrightarrow \quad \delta : \begin{cases} S_A \times A_1 \times A_2 \rightarrow S_P \\ S_P \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(S_A) \end{cases}$$

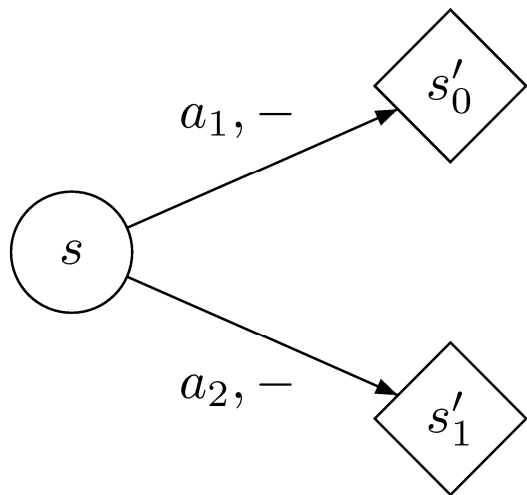
Separation of concurrency & probabilities



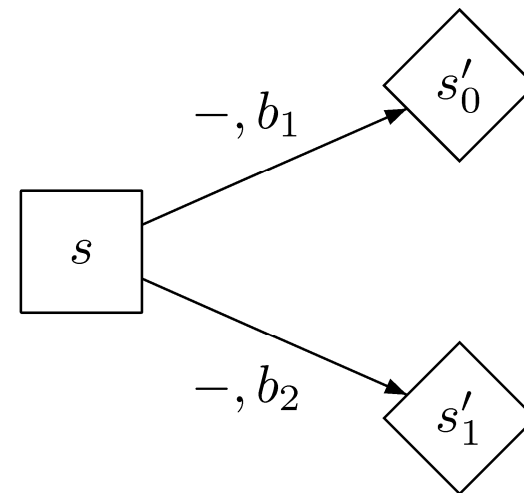
Mode of interaction

Interaction

Special case: turn-based



Player 1 state



Player 2 state

In each state, **one** player's move determines successor

Knowledge

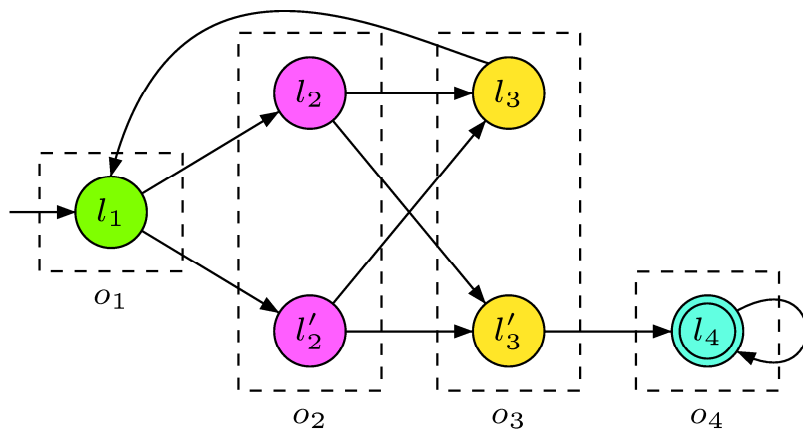
- Classification according to **Information** & **Interaction**

Information

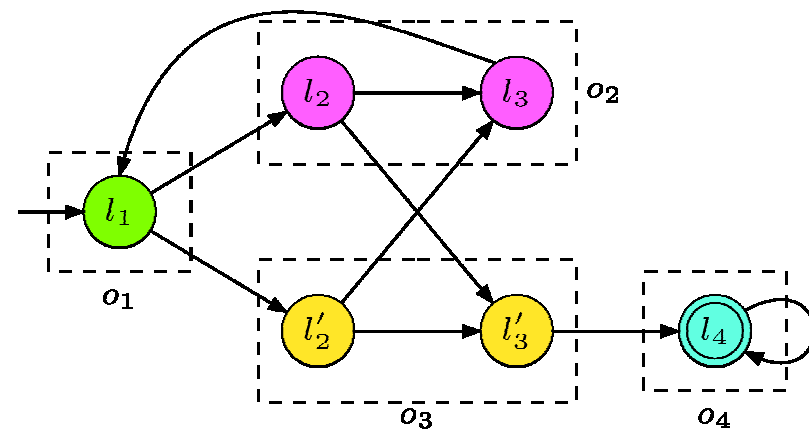
General case: partial observation

Two partitions $\mathcal{O}_1 \subseteq 2^S$ and $\mathcal{O}_2 \subseteq 2^S$

In state l , player i sees $\text{obs}_i(l)$ such that $l \in \text{obs}_i(l)$



Player 1's view



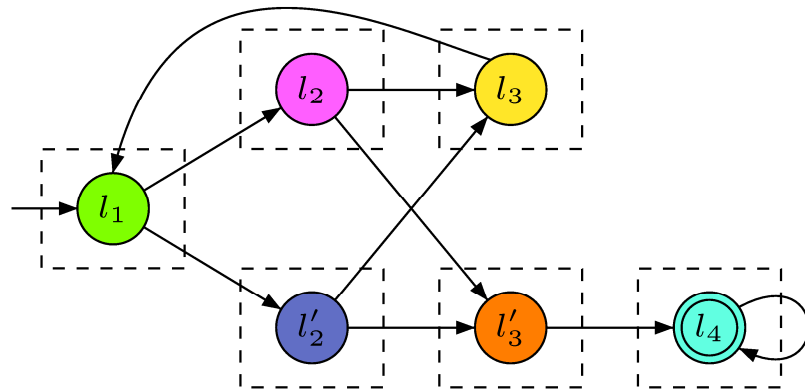
Player 2's view

Knowledge

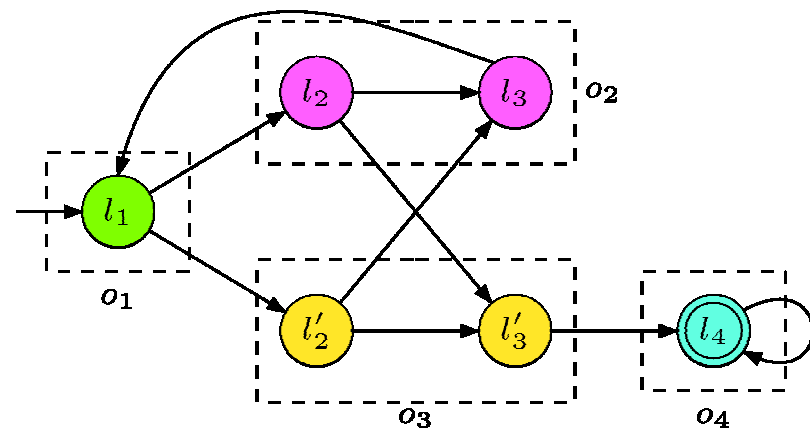
Information

Special case 1: one-sided complete observation

$$\mathcal{O}_1 = \{\{l\} \mid l \in S\} \quad \text{or} \quad \mathcal{O}_2 = \{\{l\} \mid l \in S\}$$



Player 1's view



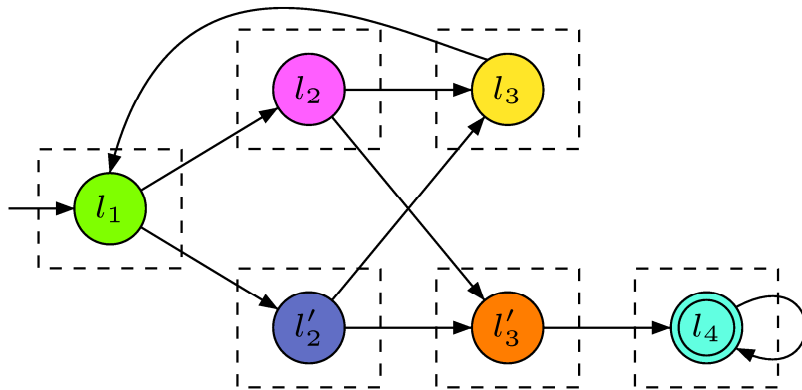
Player 2's view

Knowledge

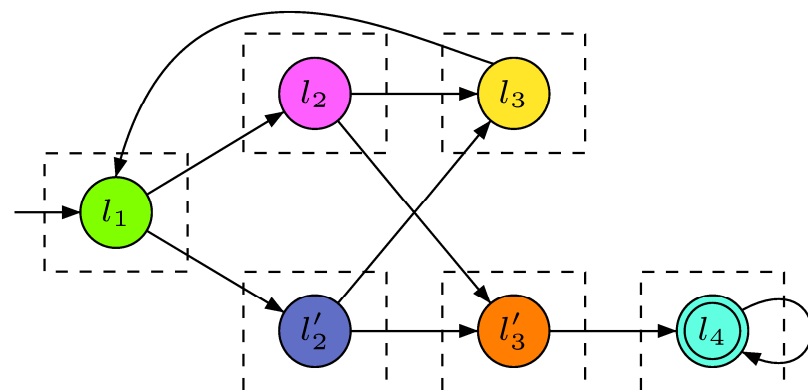
Information

Special case 2: complete observation

$$\mathcal{O}_1 = \{\{l\} \mid l \in S\} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{O}_2 = \{\{l\} \mid l \in S\}$$



Player 1's view

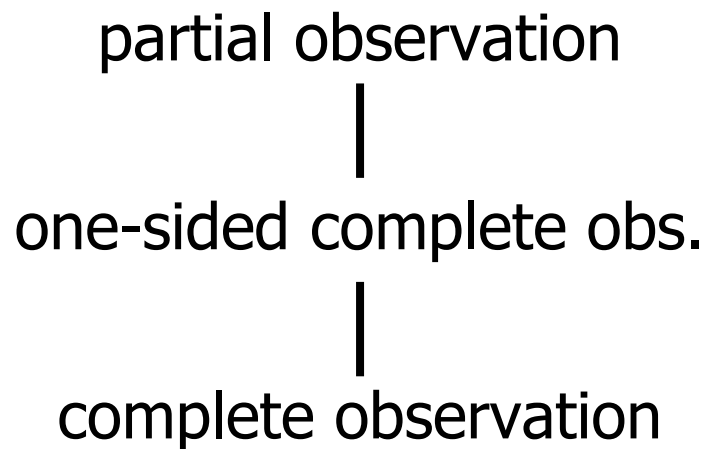


Player 2's view

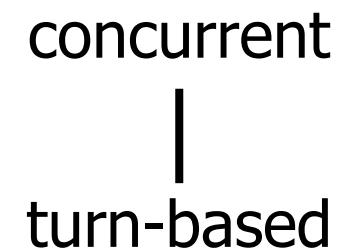
Classification

- Classification according to **Information** & **Interaction**

Information



Interaction



2^{1/2}-player games

Classification

- Classification according to **Information** & **Interaction**

Information

partial observation

=

one-sided complete obs. **POMDP**

|

complete observation

MDP

Interaction

concurrent

=

turn-based

$1\frac{1}{2}$ -player games

Markov Decision
Process

Strategies

A strategy for Player i is a function $\sigma_i : S^+ \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(A_i)$ that maps histories to probability distribution over actions.

Strategies are **observation-based**:

$$\forall \rho, \rho' \in S^+ : \text{if } \text{obs}_i(\rho) = \text{obs}_i(\rho'), \text{ then } \sigma_i(\rho) = \sigma_i(\rho')$$

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Special case: **pure** strategies $\sigma_i : S^+ \rightarrow A_i$

Objectives

An objective is a measurable set of infinite sequences of states:

$$\varphi \subseteq S^\omega$$

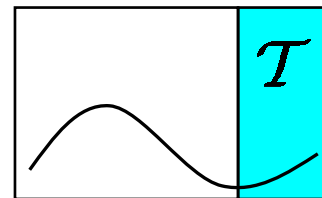
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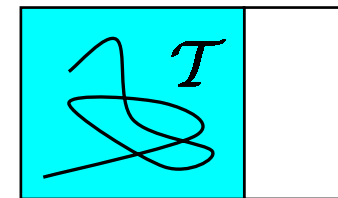
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Examples:

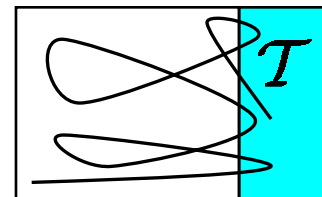
- Reachability, safety
- Büchi, coBüchi
- Parity
- Borel



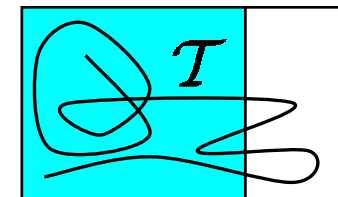
Reachability



Safety



Büchi



coBüchi

Value

Probability of finite prefix of a play:

$$P(s_0 \dots s_n \mid s_0) = \prod_{i=1}^n p(s_i, s_{i+1})$$

$$p(s_i, s_{i+1}) = \sum_{a \in A_1, b \in A_2} \delta(s_i, \sigma_1(s_0 \dots s_i)(a), \sigma_2(s_0 \dots s_i)(b))(s_{i+1})$$

induces a unique probability measure on measurable sets of plays:

$$Pr_{s_0}^{\sigma_1, \sigma_2}(\cdot)$$

and a value function for Player 1:

$$\llbracket 1 \rrbracket_{val}^G(\varphi)(s) = \sup_{\sigma_1 \in \Sigma_1} \inf_{\sigma_2 \in \Sigma_2} Pr_s^{\sigma_1, \sigma_2}(\varphi).$$

Value

Probability of finite prefix of a play:

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induces a unique probability measure on measurable set of plays:

and a value for $\langle\langle 1 \rangle\rangle_{val}^G(\varphi)(s)$ and existence of optimal strategies.

$$\langle\langle 1 \rangle\rangle_{val}^G(\varphi)(s) = \sup_{\sigma_1 \in \Sigma_1} \inf_{\sigma_2 \in \Sigma_2} Pr_s^{\sigma_1, \sigma_2}(\varphi).$$

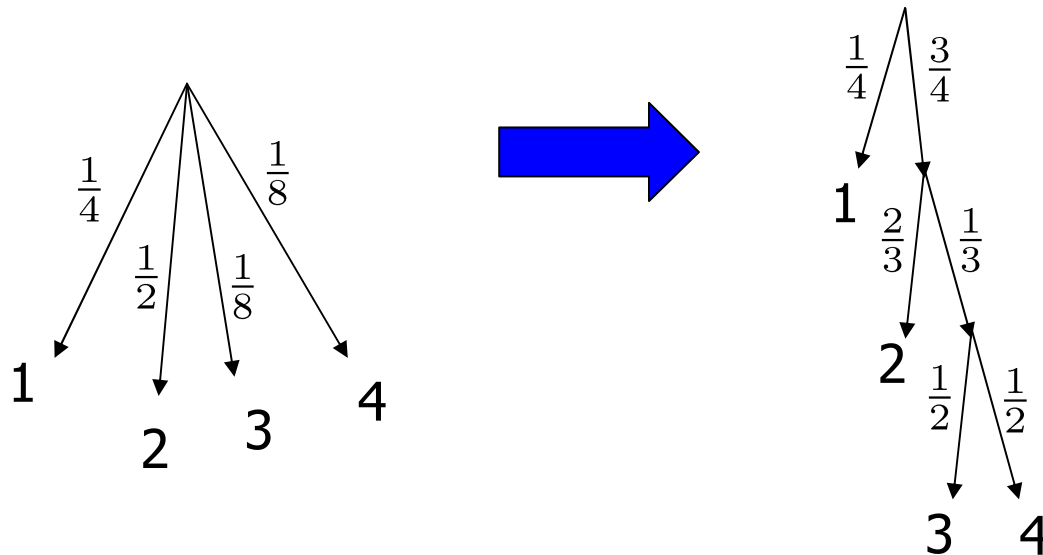
Outline

- Randomness in game structure
 - for free with complete-observation, concurrent
 - for free with one-sided, turn-based
- Randomness in strategies
 - for free in (PO)MDP
- Corollary: undecidability results

Preliminary

Rational probabilities  Probabilities $\frac{1}{2}$ only

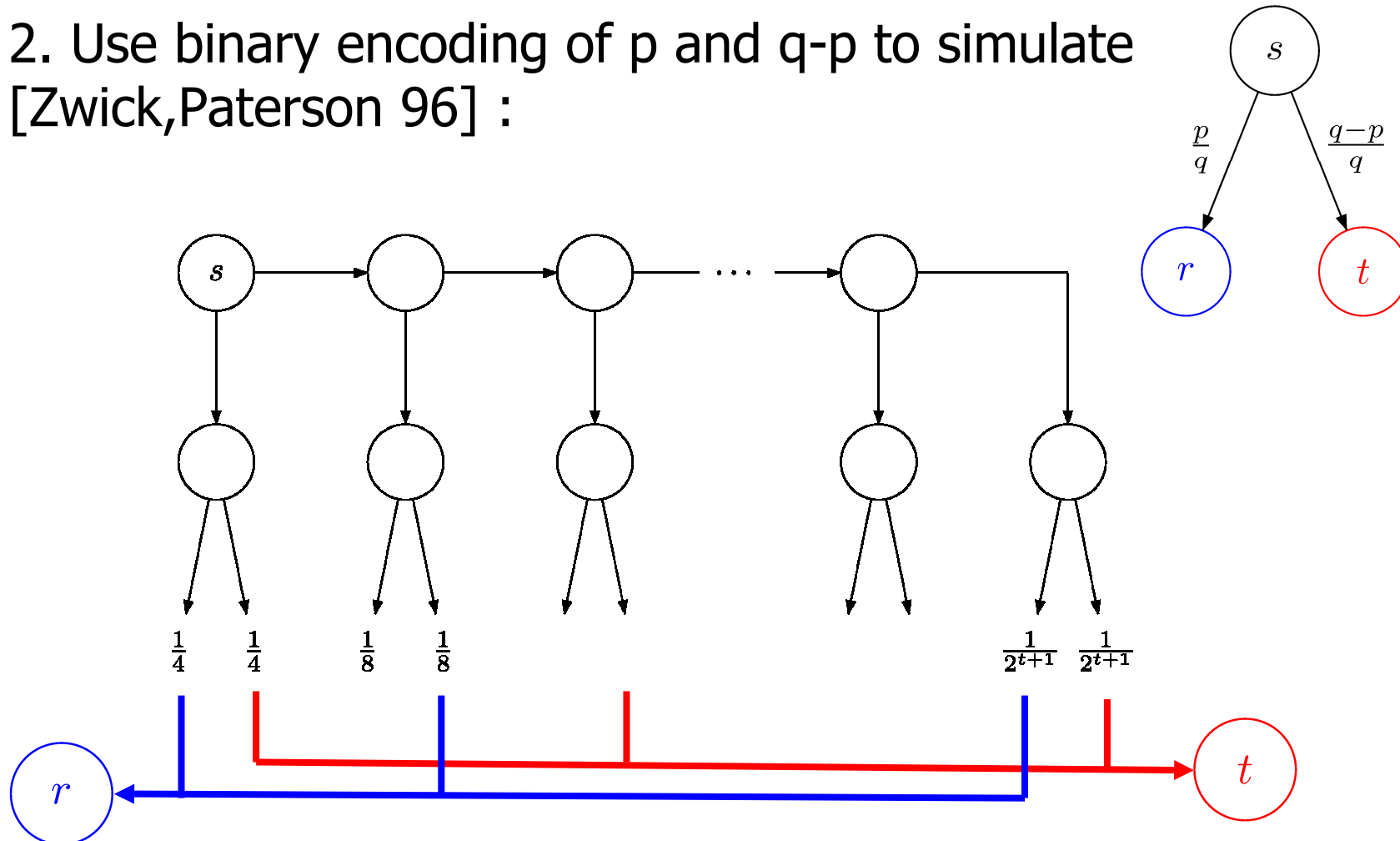
1. Make all states have two successors



Preliminary

Rational probabilities  Probabilities $\frac{1}{2}$ only

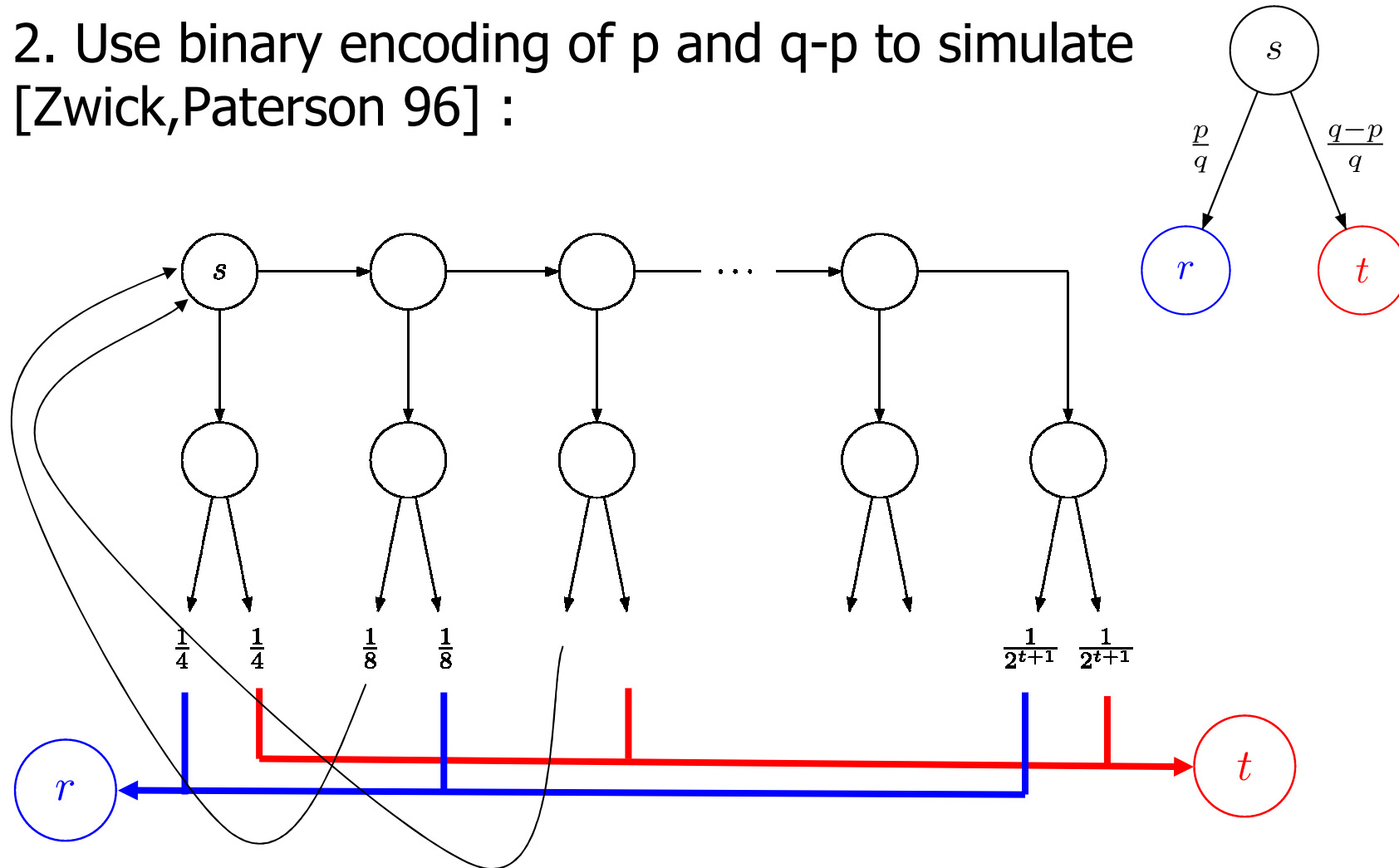
2. Use binary encoding of p and $q-p$ to simulate [Zwick, Paterson 96] :



Preliminary

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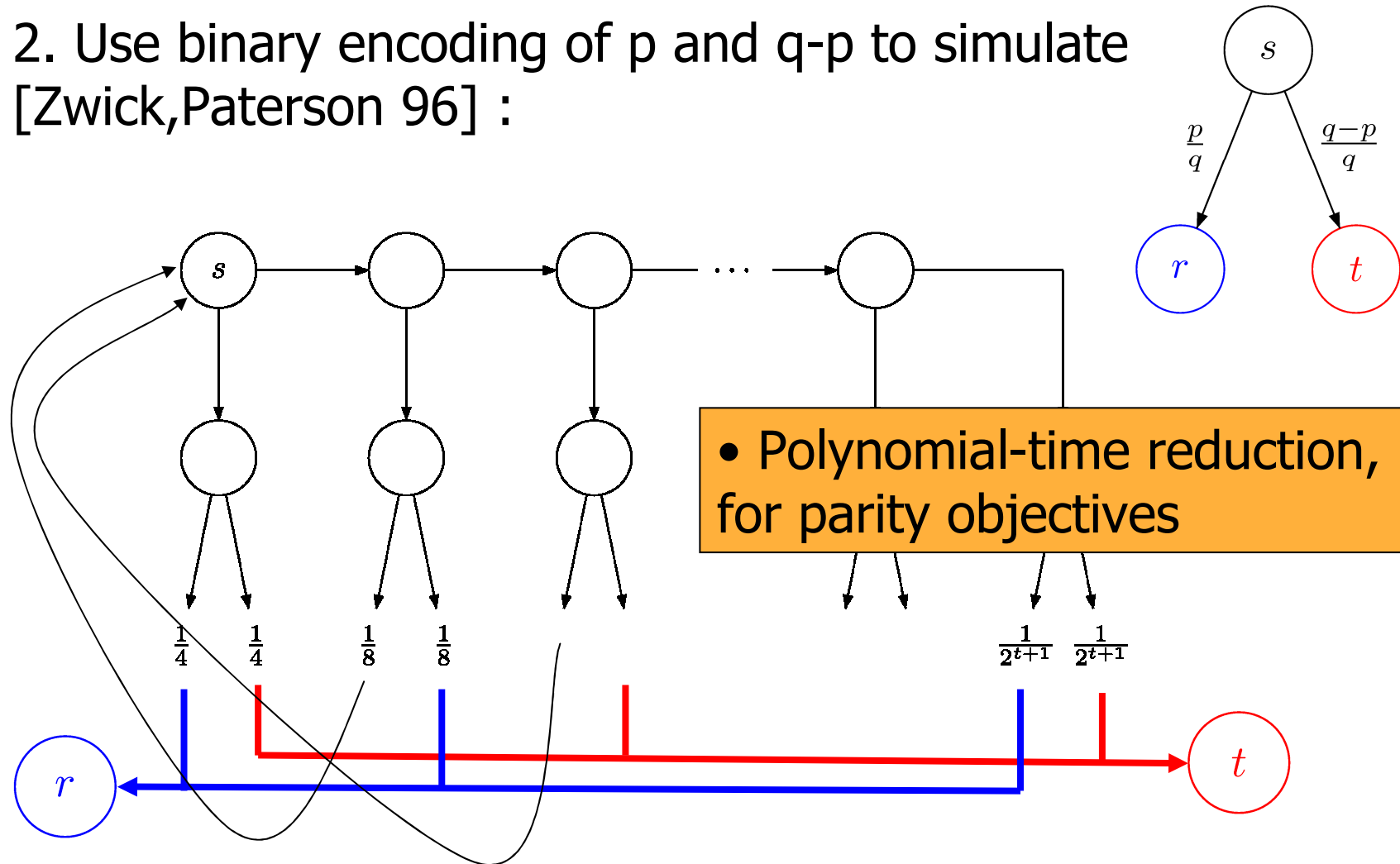
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Classification

- Classification according to **Information** & **Interaction**

Information

Interaction

partial observation

|

one-sided complete obs.

|

complete observation

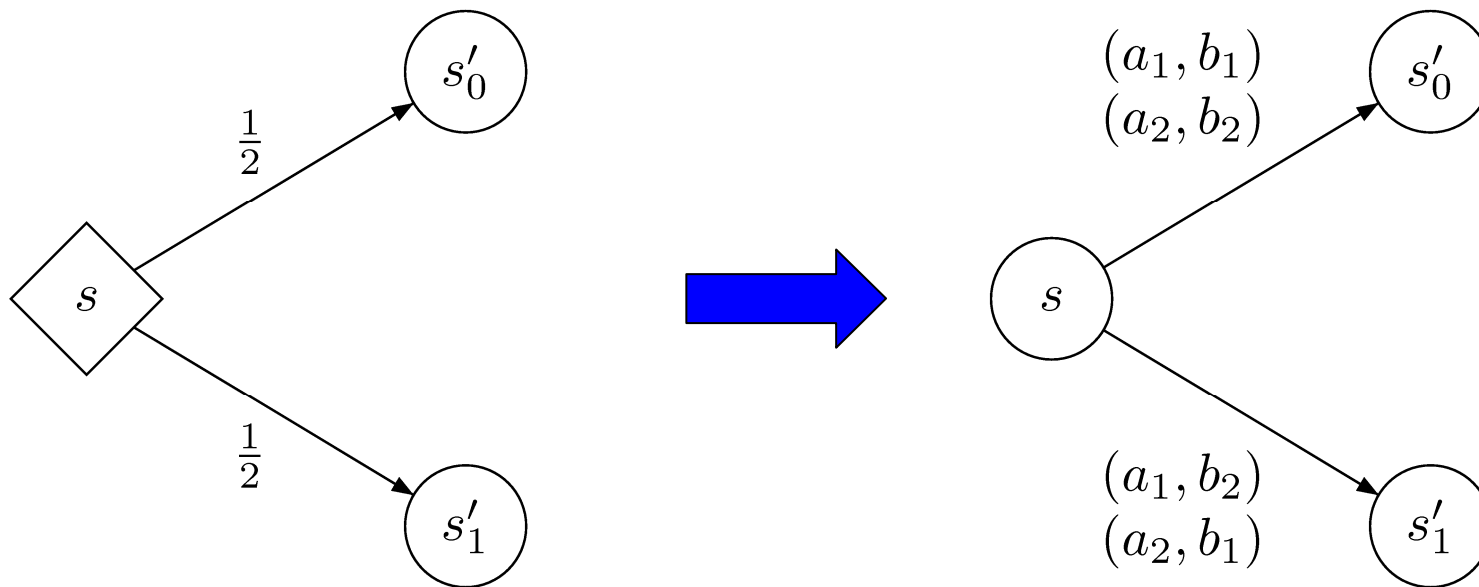
concurrent

|

turn-based

Reduction

Simulate probabilistic state with concurrent state



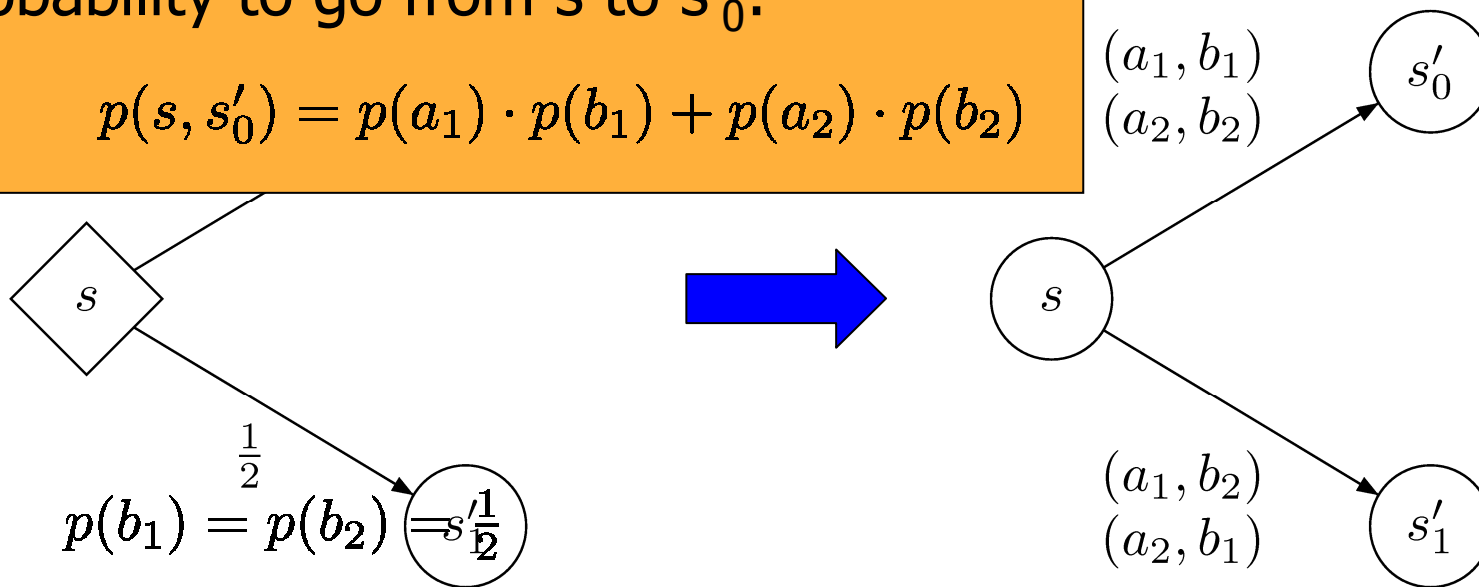
	a_1	a_2
b_1	s'_0	s'_1
b_2	s'_1	s'_0

Reduction

Simulate probabilistic state with concurrent state

Probability to go from s to s'_0 :

$$p(s, s'_0) = p(a_1) \cdot p(b_1) + p(a_2) \cdot p(b_2)$$



	a_1	a_2
b_1	s'_0	s'_1
b_2	s'_1	s'_0

Reduction

Simulate probabilistic state with concurrent state

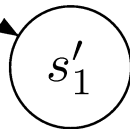
Probability to go from s to s'_0 :

$$p(s, s'_0) = p(a_1) \cdot p(b_1) + p(a_2) \cdot p(b_2)$$

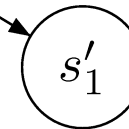
If $p(a_1) = p(a_2) = \frac{1}{2}$, then

$$p(s, s'_0) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot p(b_1) + \frac{1}{2} \cdot p(b_2) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot (p(b_1) + p(b_2)) = \frac{1}{2}$$

$\frac{1}{2}$



(a_1, b_2)
 (a_2, b_1)



	a_1	a_2
b_1	s'_0	s'_1
b_2	s'_1	s'_0

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Simulate probabilistic state with concurrent state

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s'_0

s'_1

b_1	s'_0	s'_1
b_2	s'_1	s'_0

Reduction

Simulate probabilistic state with concurrent state

Probability to go

$$p(s, s'_0) =$$

Each player can unilaterally decide to simulate the original game.

If $p(a_1) = p(a_2) = \frac{1}{2}$, then

$$p(s, s'_0) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot p(b_1) + \frac{1}{2} \cdot p(b_2) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot (p(b_1) + p(b_2)) = \frac{1}{2}$$

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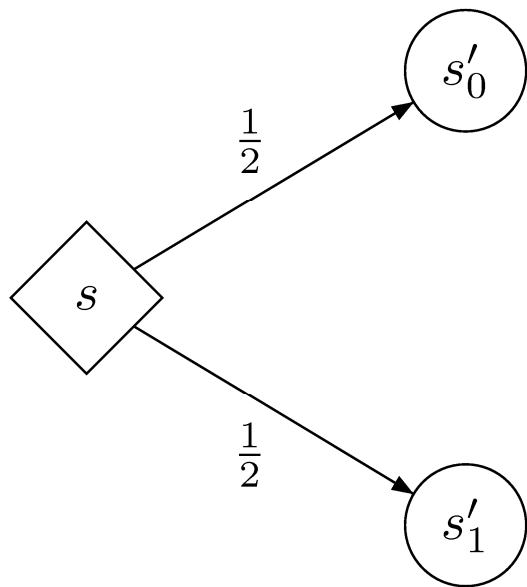
$$p(s, s'_0) = p(a_1) \cdot \frac{1}{2} + p(a_2) \cdot \frac{1}{2} = (p(a_1) + p(a_2)) \cdot \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2}$$

s'_1

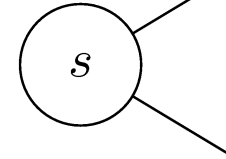
b_1	s'_0	s'_1
b_2	s'_1	s'_0

Reduction

Simulate probabilistic state with concurrent state



Player 1 can obtain at least the value $v(s)$ by playing all actions uniformly at random: $v'(s) \geq v(s)$



Player 2 can force the value to be at most $v(s)$ by playing all actions uniformly at random: $v'(s) \leq v(s)$

	a_1	a_2
b_1	s'_0	s'_1
b_2	s'_1	s'_0

Reduction

For {complete, one-sided, partial} observation, given a game with rational probabilities $\langle G, \varphi \rangle$

we can construct a concurrent game with deterministic transition function $\langle \bar{G}, \bar{\varphi} \rangle$

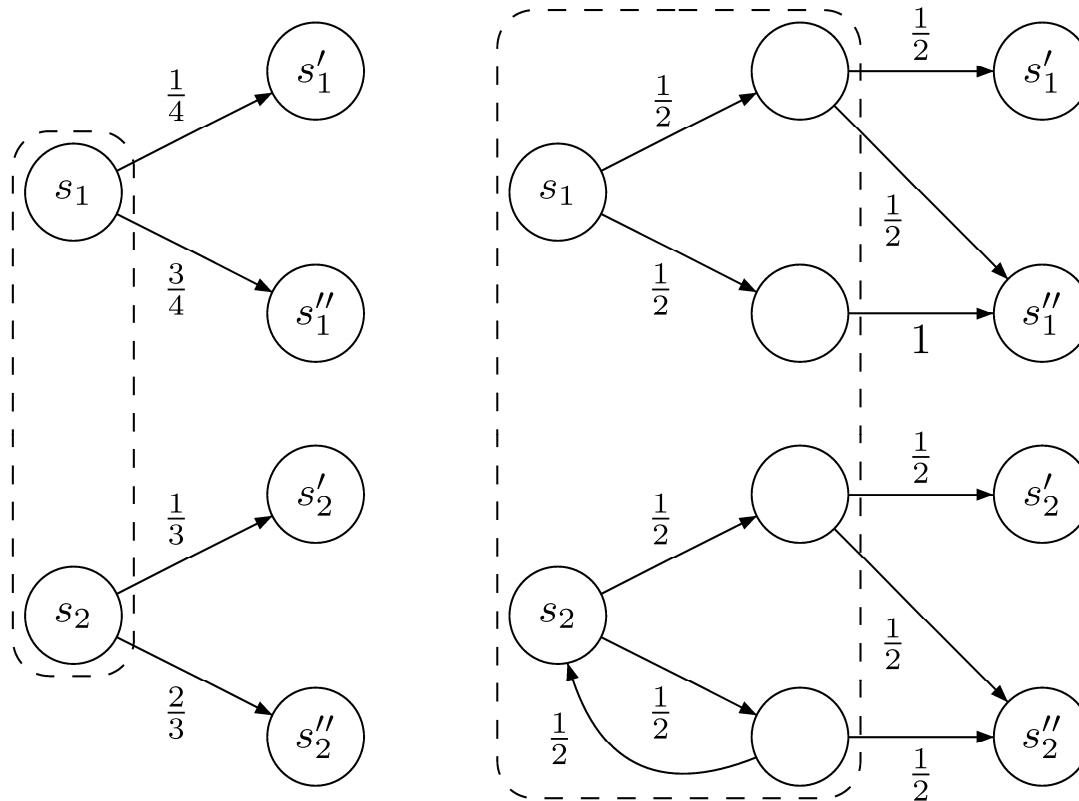
such that:

$$\langle\langle 1 \rangle\rangle_{val}^G(\varphi)(s) = \langle\langle 1 \rangle\rangle_{val}^{\bar{G}}(\bar{\varphi})(s).$$

and existence of optimal observation-based strategies is preserved.

The reduction is in polynomial time for complete-observation games.

Partial information

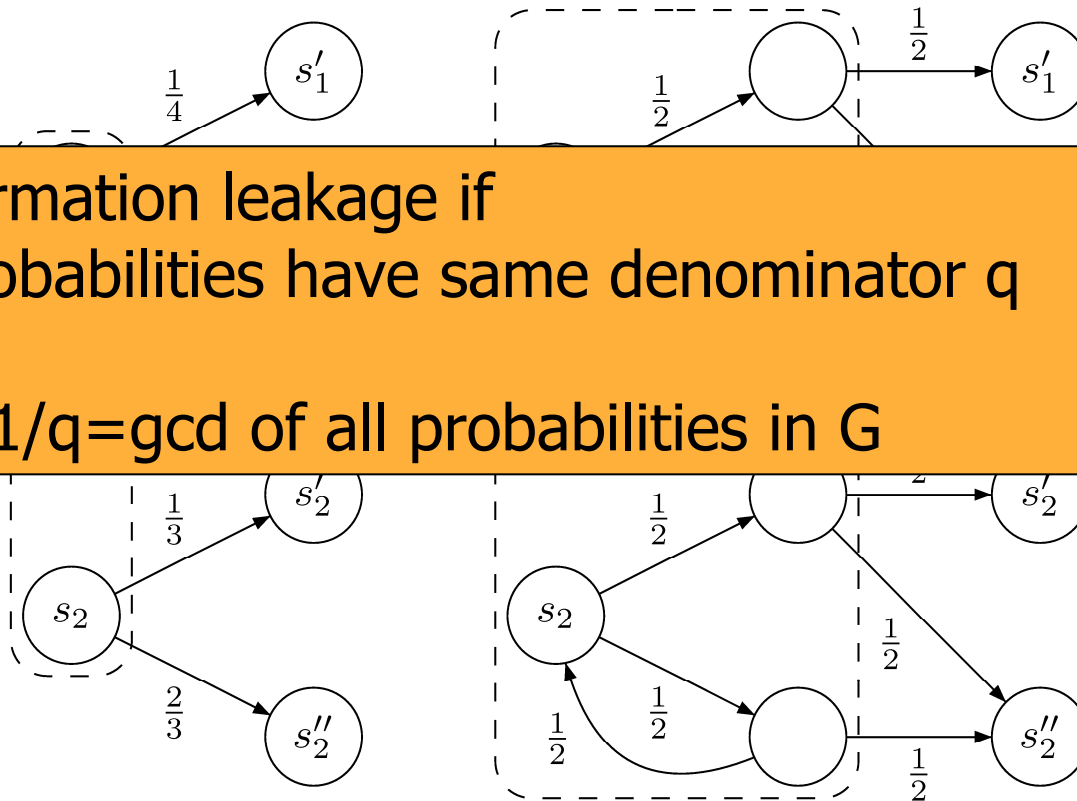


Information leak from the back edges...

Partial information

No information leakage if
all probabilities have same denominator q

→ use $1/q = \text{gcd}$ of all probabilities in G

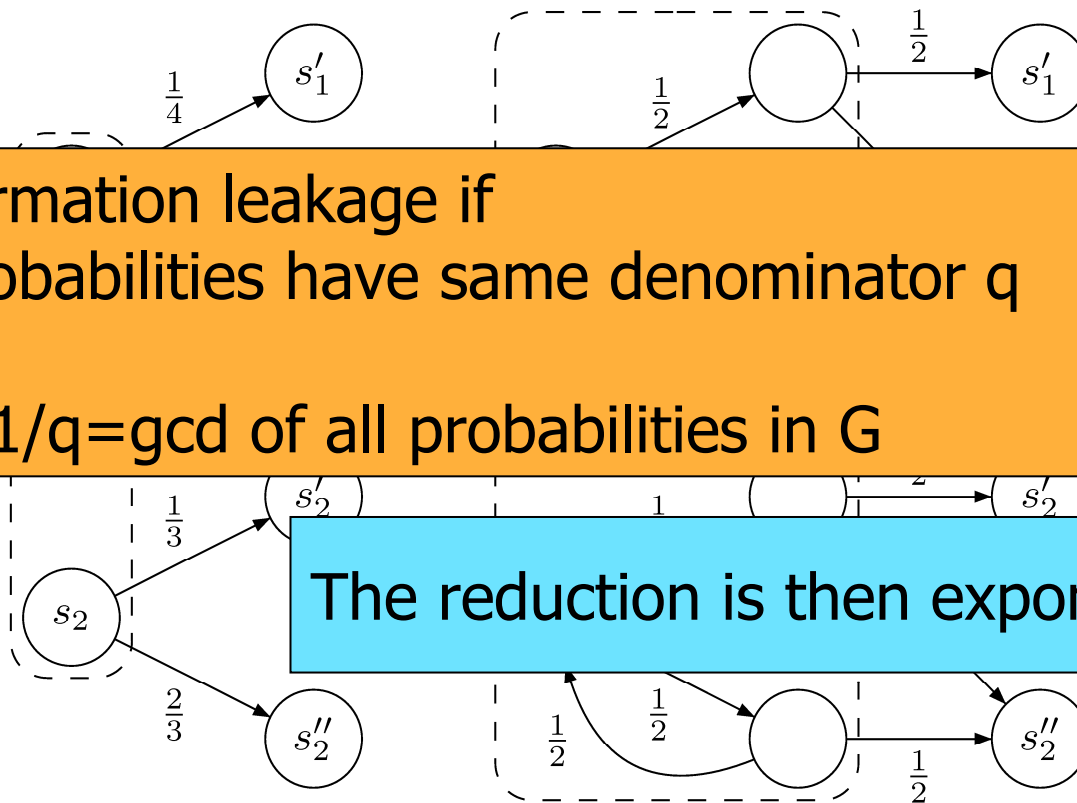


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Partial information

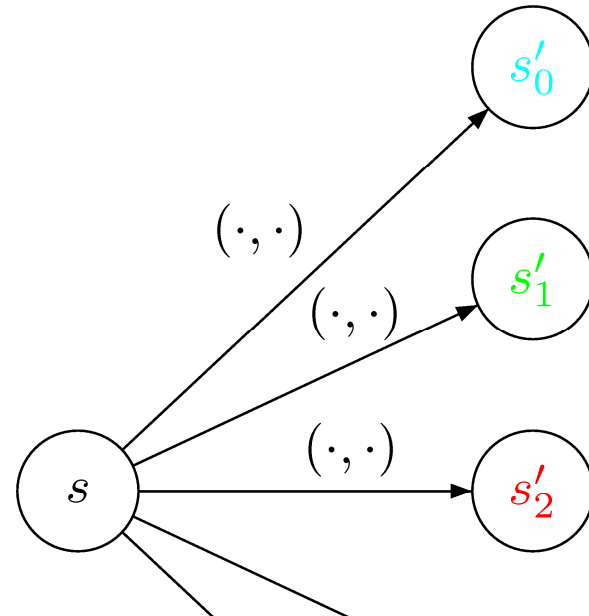
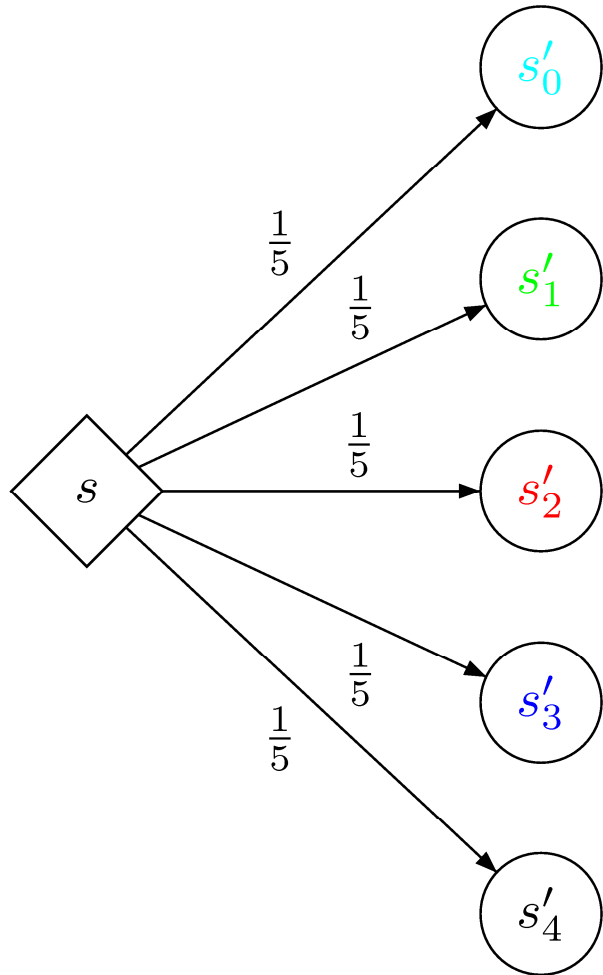
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Information leak from the back edges...

Example



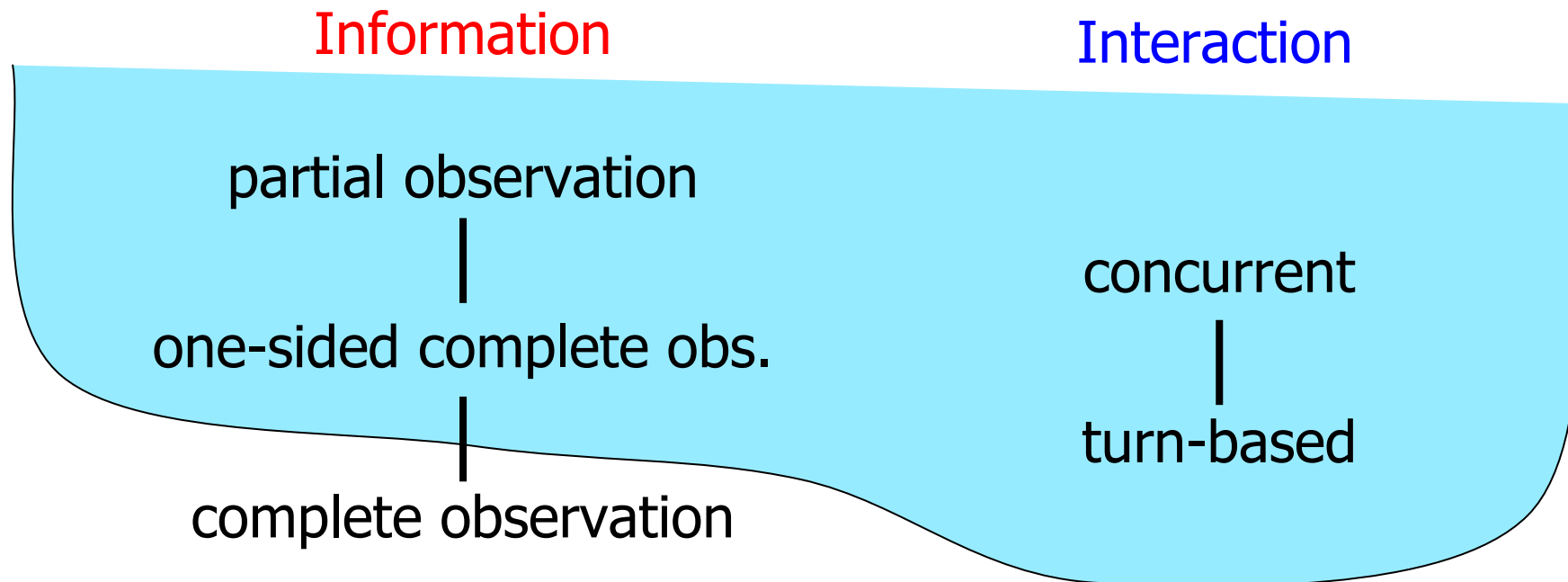
s	a_1	a_2	a_3	a_4	a_5
b_1	s'_0	s'_1	s'_2	s'_3	s'_4
b_2	s'_1	s'_2	s'_3	s'_4	s'_0
b_3	s'_2	s'_3	s'_4	s'_0	s'_1
b_4	s'_3	s'_4	s'_0	s'_1	s'_2
b_5	s'_4	s'_0	s'_1	s'_2	s'_3

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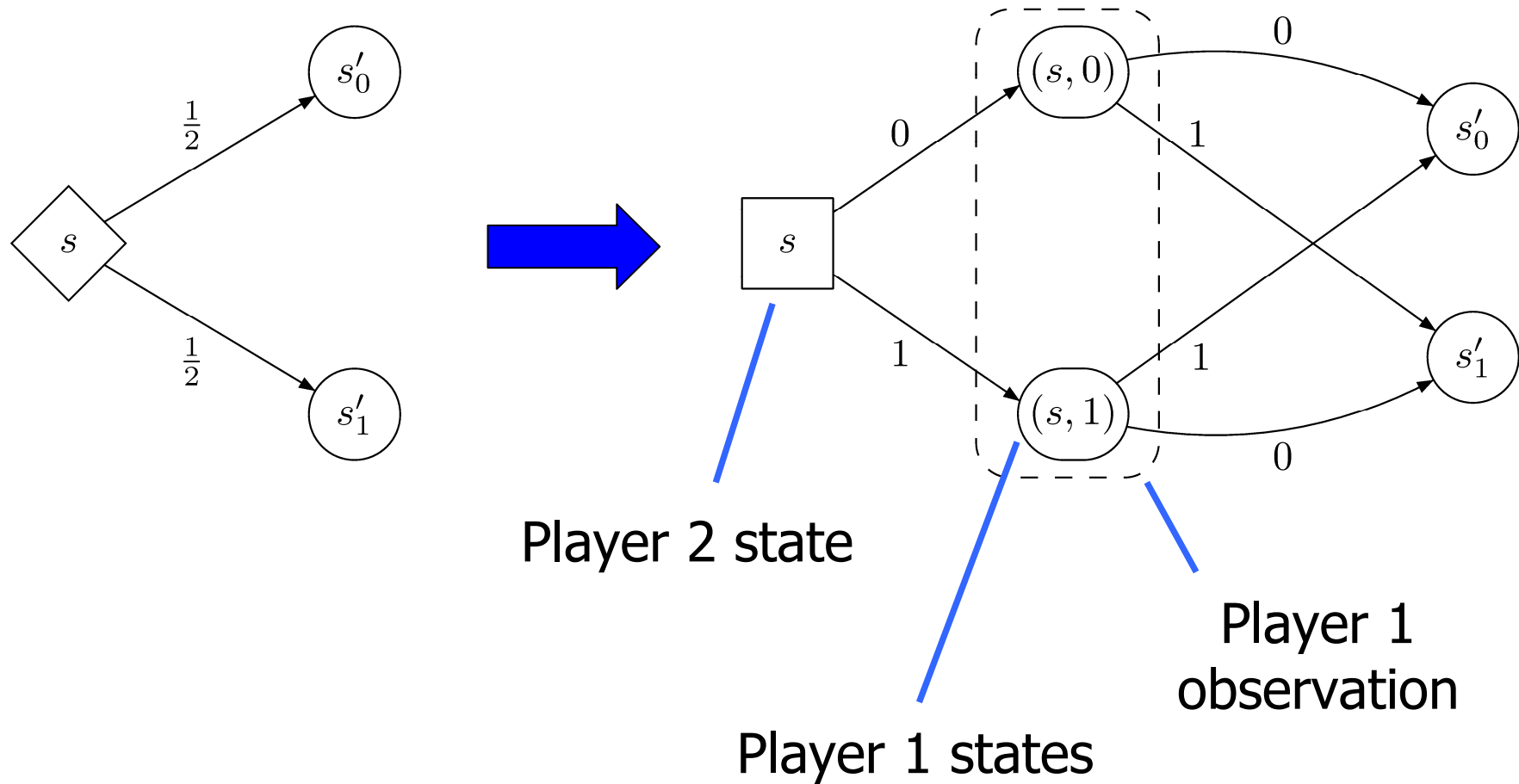
Overview

- Classification according to **Information** & **Interaction**



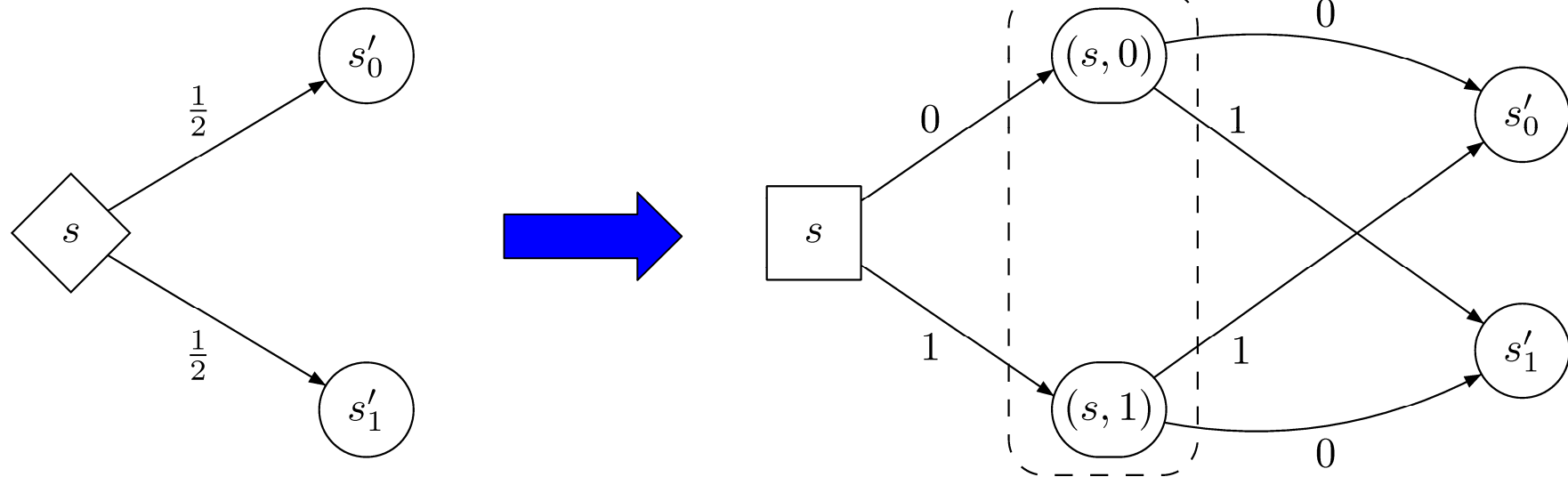
Reduction

Simulate probabilistic state with imperfect information
turn-based states



Reduction

Simulate probabilistic state with imperfect information
turn-based states



Each player can unilaterally decide to simulate the probabilistic state by playing uniformly at random:

Player 2 chooses states $(s, 0), (s, 1)$ uniformly at random

Player 1 chooses actions 0, 1 uniformly at random

Reduction

Games with rational probabilities can be reduced to turn-based-games with deterministic transitions and (at least) one-sided complete observation.

Values and existence of optimal strategies are preserved.

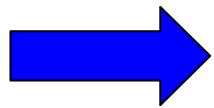
Randomness for free

In transition function (this talk):

	2 ^{1/2} -player			1 ^{1/2} -player	
	complete	one-sided	partial	MDP	POMDP
turn-based		free	free		
concurrent	free	free	free	(NA)	(NA)

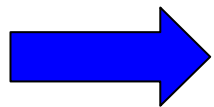
When randomness is not for free

- Complete-information turn-based ($2^{1/2}$) games
 - in deterministic games, value is either 0 or 1 [Martin98]
 - MDPs with reachability objective can have values in $[0,1]$



Randomness is not for free.

- $1^{1/2}$ -player games (MDP & POMDP)
 - in deterministic partial info $1^{1/2}$ -player games, value is either 0 or 1 [see later]
 - MDPs have value in $[0,1]$



Randomness is not for free.

Randomness for free

In transition function (this talk):

	2 ^{1/2} -player			1 ^{1/2} -player	
	complete	one-sided	partial	MDP	POMDP
turn-based	not	free	free	not	not
concurrent	free	free	free	(NA)	(NA)

Randomness for free

In transition function (this talk):

	2 ^{1/2} -player			1 ^{1/2} -player	
	complete	one-sided	partial	MDP	POMDP
turn-based	not	free	free	not	not
concurrent	free	free	free	(NA)	(NA)

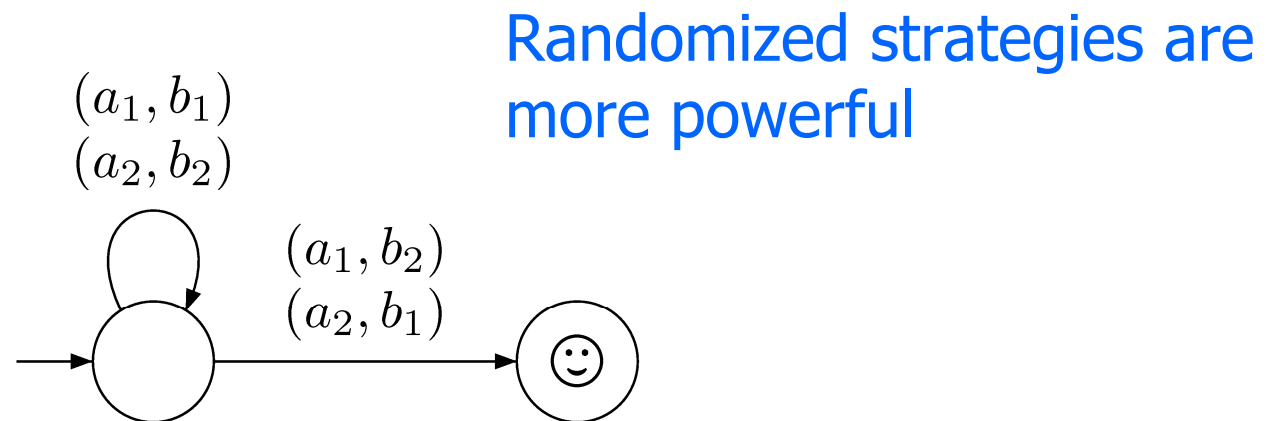
In strategies (Everett'57, Martin'98, CDHR'07):

	2 ^{1/2} -player			1 ^{1/2} -player	
	complete	one-sided	partial	MDP	POMDP
turn-based	$\epsilon > 0$	not	not	$\epsilon \geq 0$?
concurrent	not	not	not	(NA)	(NA)

Randomness in strategies

Example

- concurrent, complete observation
- reachability

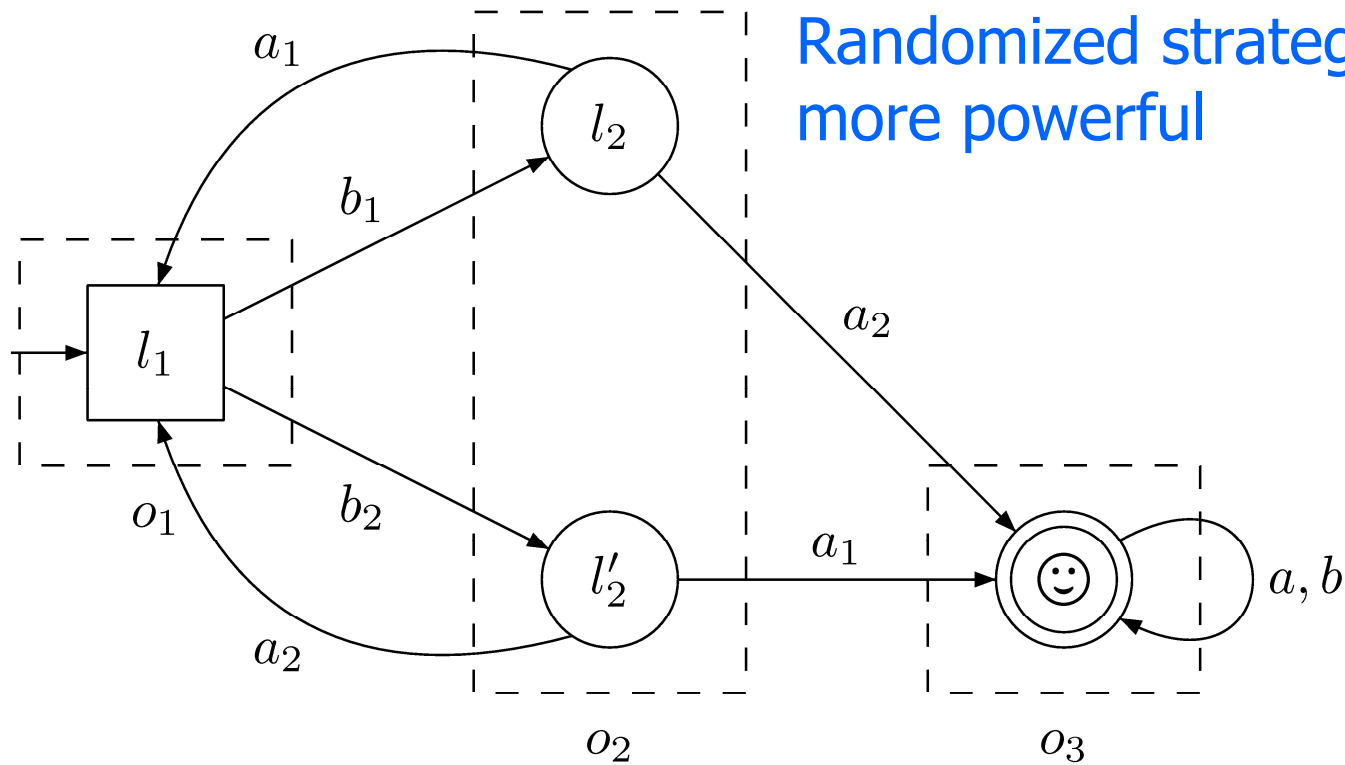


Reminder: randomized strategy for Player i : $\sigma_i : S^+ \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(A_i)$
pure strategy for Player i : $\sigma_i : S^+ \rightarrow A_i$

Randomness in strategies

Example

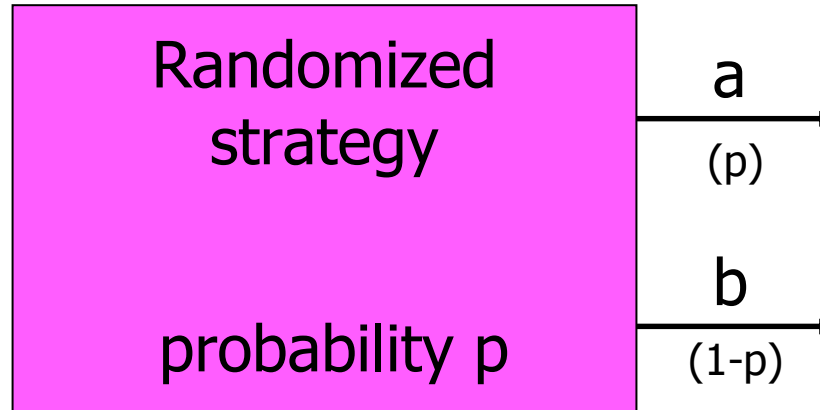
- turn-based, one-sided complete observation
- reachability



Outline

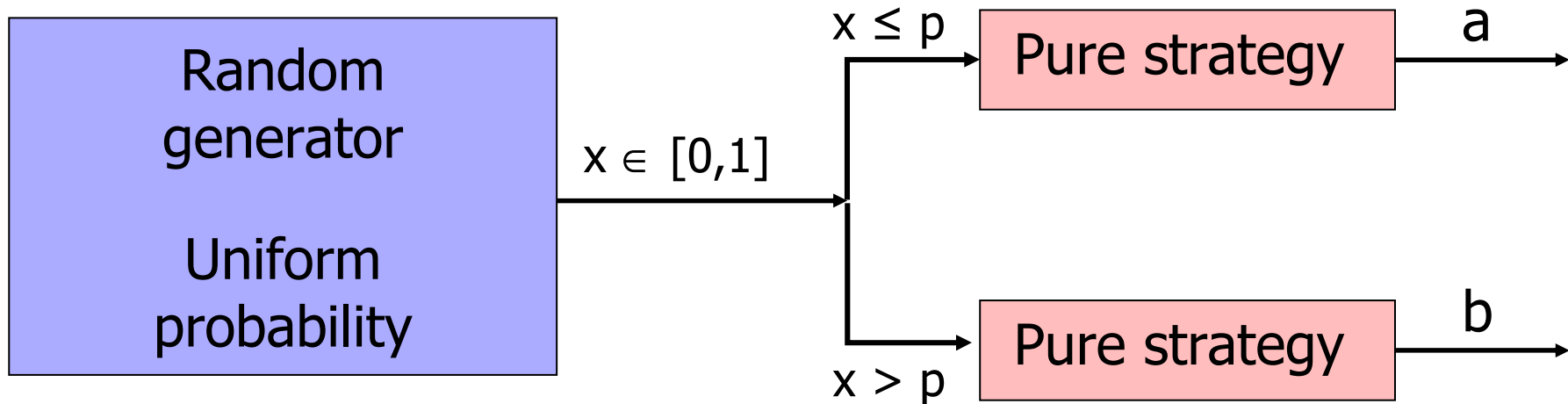
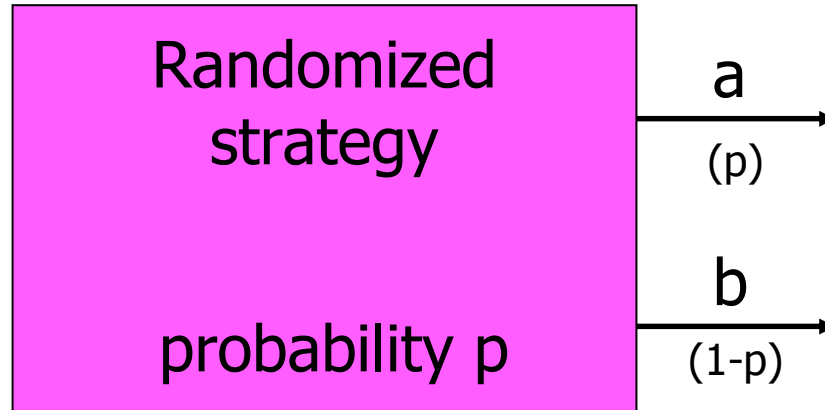
- Randomness in game structure
 - for free with complete-observation, concurrent
 - for free with one-sided, turn-based
- Randomness in strategies
 - for free in (PO)MDP
- Corollary: undecidability results

Randomness in strategies



```
RandStrategy(p)
{
  x = rand(0...1)
  if x ≤ p then out(a)
  else out(b)
}
```

Randomness in strategies



Randomness for free in strategies

$\langle G, \varphi \rangle$ 1/2-player game (POMDP), s_0 initial state.

For every randomized observation-based strategy σ , there exists a pure observation-based strategy σ_P such that:

$$\Pr^\sigma(\varphi) \leq \Pr^{\sigma_P}(\varphi)$$

Proof. (assume alphabet of size 2, and fan-out = 2)

Given σ , we show that the value $\Pr^\sigma(\varphi)$ of σ can be obtained as the average of the value of **pure** strategies σ_x :

$$\Pr^\sigma(\varphi) = \int_{\mathcal{D}} \Pr^{\sigma_x}(\varphi) d\nu$$

Randomness for free in strategies

Strategies σ_x are obtained by «de-randomization» of σ

Assume $\sigma(s_1)(a) = p$ and $\sigma(s_1)(b) = 1-p$

σ is equivalent to playing σ_0 with frequency p
and σ_1 with frequency $1-p$ where:

Randomness for free in strategies

Strategies σ_x are obtained by «de-randomization» of σ

Assume $\sigma(s_1)(a) = p$ and $\sigma(s_1)(b) = 1-p$

σ is equivalent to playing σ_0 with frequency p and σ_1 with frequency $1-p$ where:

$$\sigma_0(\rho) \begin{cases} \text{plays } a & \text{if } \rho = s \\ \text{plays like } \sigma(\rho) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

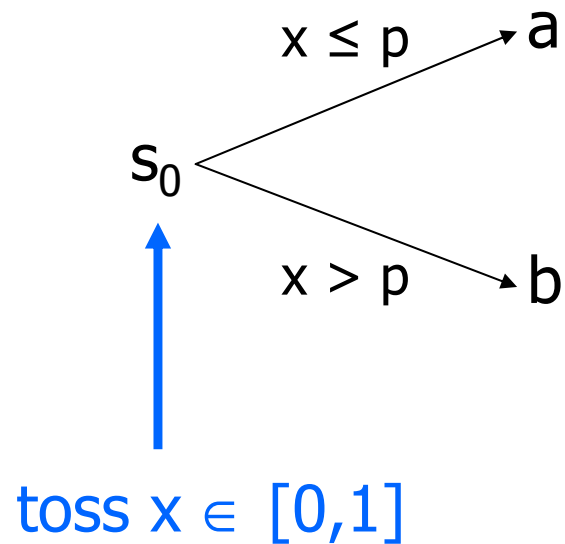
$$\sigma_1(\rho) \begin{cases} \text{plays } b & \text{if } \rho = s \\ \text{plays like } \sigma(\rho) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\Pr^\sigma(\varphi) = p \cdot \Pr^{\sigma_0}(\varphi) + (1 - p) \cdot \Pr^{\sigma_1}(\varphi)$$

Randomness for free in strategies

Equivalently, toss a coin $x \in [0,1]$,
play σ_0 if $x \leq p$, and play σ_1 if $x > p$. [$p = \sigma(s_1)(a)$]

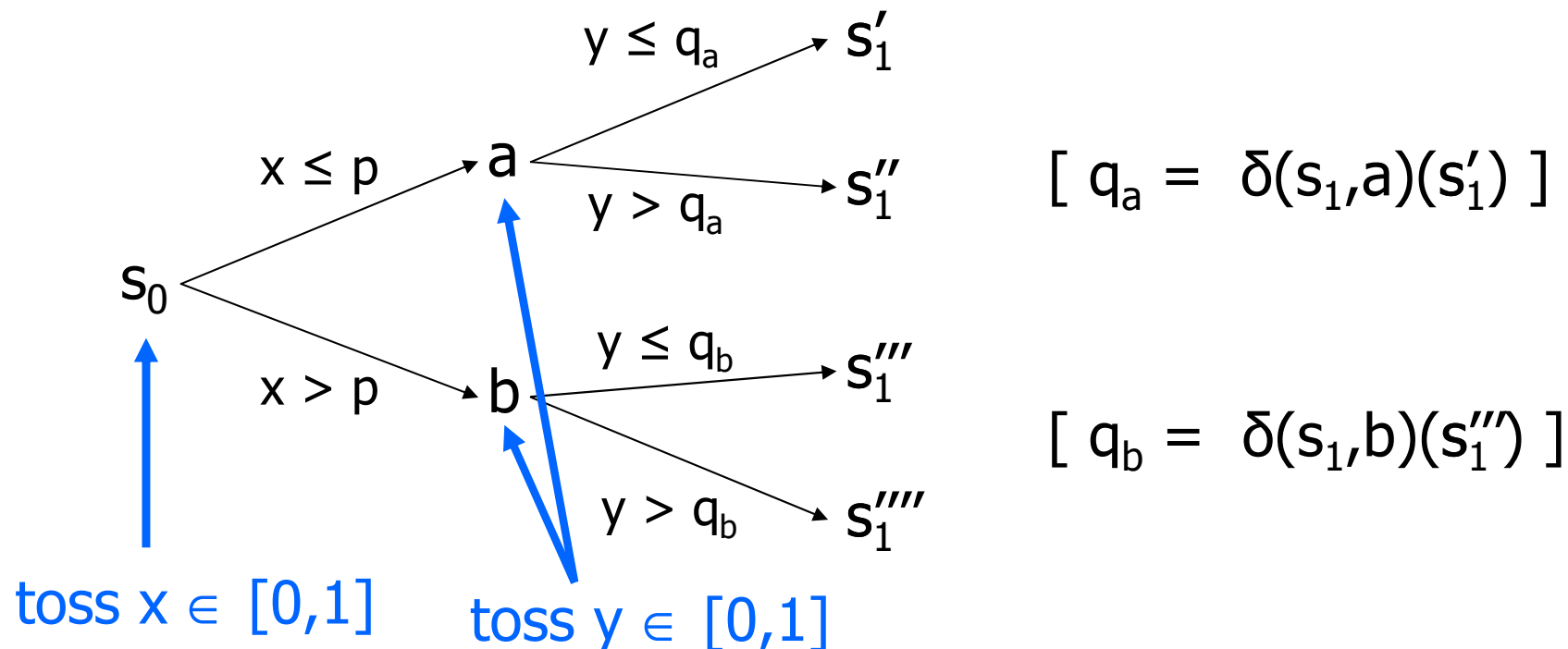
Playing σ in G can be viewed as a sequence of coin tosses:



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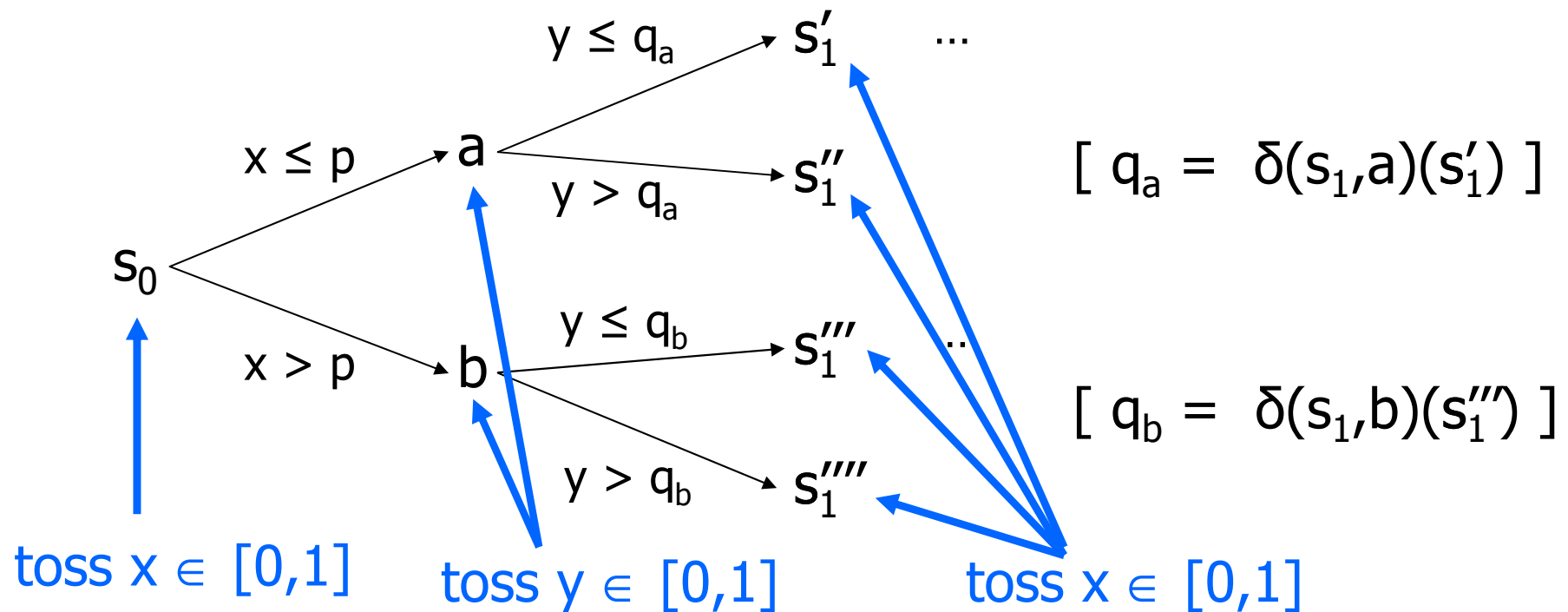
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Randomness for free in strategies

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Playing σ in G can be viewed as a sequence of coin tosses:



Randomness for free in strategies

Given an infinite sequence $x=(x_n)_{n\geq 0} \in [0,1]^\omega$, define for all s_0, s_1, \dots, s_n :

$$\sigma_x(s_0, s_1, \dots, s_n) = \begin{cases} a & \text{if } x_n \leq \sigma(s_0, s_1, \dots, s_n)(a) \\ b & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

σ_x is a **pure** and **observation-based** strategy !

σ_x plays like σ , assuming that the result of the coin tosses is the sequence x .

The value $\Pr^\sigma(\varphi)$ of σ is the « average of the outcome » of the strategies σ_x .

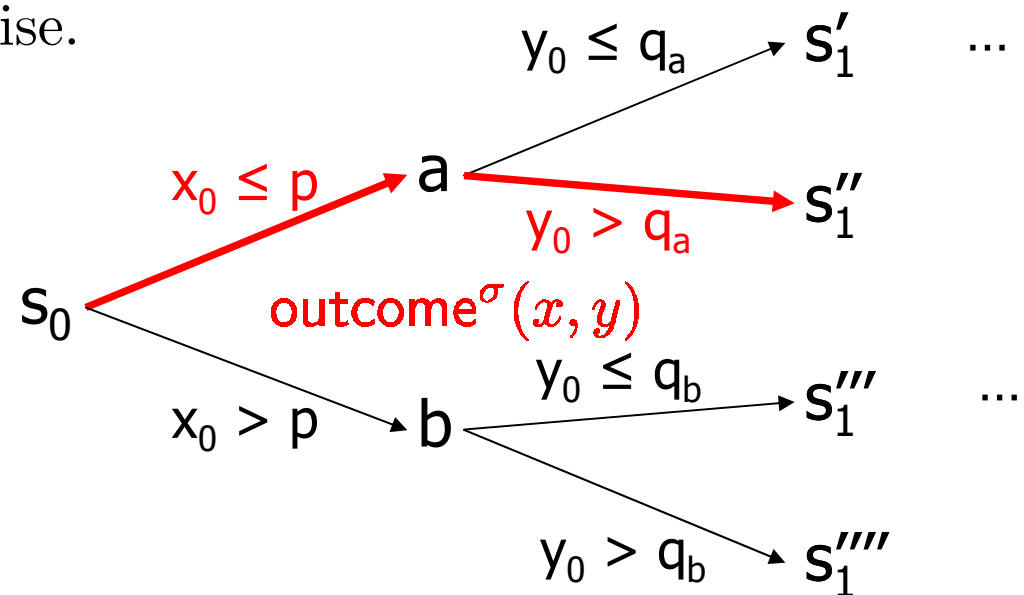
Randomness for free in strategies

Assume $x=(x_n)_{n \geq 0}$ and $y=(y_n)_{n \geq 0}$ are fixed.

Let $\text{outcome}^\sigma(x, y) = s_0 a_1 s_1 a_2 s_2 \dots$ where

$$a_{n+1} = \begin{cases} a & \text{if } x_n \leq \sigma(s_0 s_1 \dots s_n)(a), \\ b & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$$s_{n+1} = \begin{cases} L(s_n, a_{n+1}) & \text{if } y_n \leq \delta(s_n, a_{n+1})(L(s_n, a_{n+1})), \\ R(s_n, a_{n+1}) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



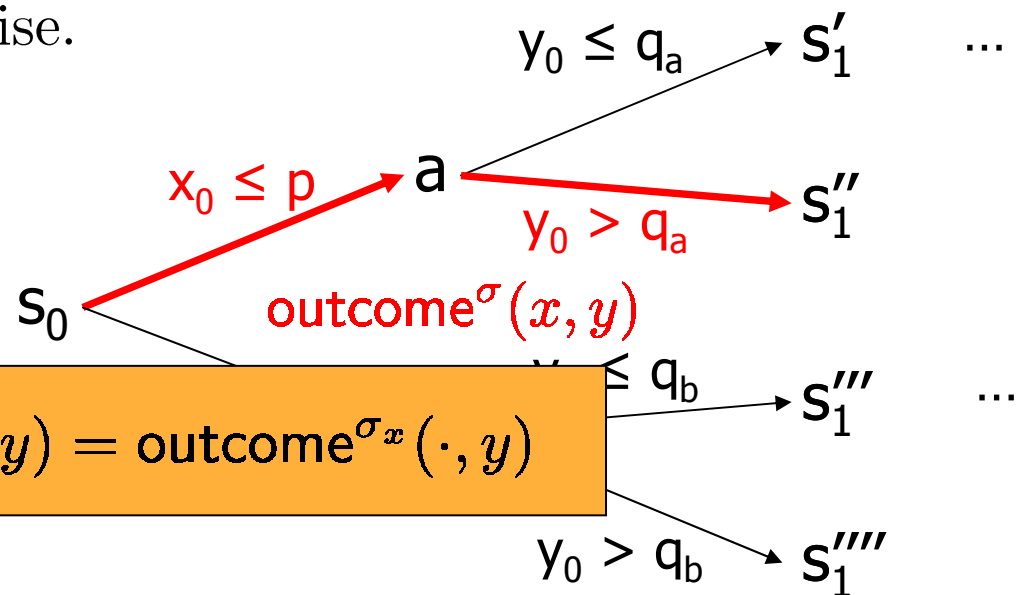
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Theorem: $\text{outcome}^\sigma(x, y) = \text{outcome}^{\sigma_x}(\cdot, y)$

Randomness for free in strategies

Assume $x=(x_n)_{n \geq 0}$ and $y=(y_n)_{n \geq 0}$ are fixed.

Let outcome $^\sigma(x, y) = s_0 a_1 s_1 a_2 s_2 \dots$ where

$$a_{n+1} = \begin{cases} a & \text{if } x_n \leq \sigma(s_0 s_1 \dots s_n)(a), \\ b & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$$s_{n+1} = \begin{cases} L(s_n, a_{n+1}) & \text{if } y_n \leq \delta(s_n, a_{n+1})(L(s_n, a_{n+1})), \\ R(s_n, a_{n+1}) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$y_0 \leq q_a \rightarrow s'_1 \dots$

Playing σ in G is equivalent to choosing (x_n) and (y_n) uniformly at random, and then producing outcome $^\sigma(x, y)$

$x_0 > p \rightarrow b \begin{cases} y_0 \leq q_b \rightarrow s''_1 \dots \\ y_0 > q_b \rightarrow s'''_1 \dots \end{cases}$

Randomness for free in strategies

Assume $x=(x_n)_{n \geq 0}$ and $y=(y_n)_{n \geq 0}$ are fixed.

Let outcome ^{σ} (x, y) = $s_0 a_1 s_1 a_2 s_2 \dots$ where

$$a_{n+1} = \begin{cases} a & \text{if } x_n \leq \sigma(s_0 s_1 \dots s_n)(a), \\ b & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$$s_{n+1} = \begin{cases} L(s_n, a_{n+1}) & \text{if } y_n \leq \delta(s_n, a_{n+1})(L(s_n, a_{n+1})), \\ R(s_n, a_{n+1}) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$y_0 \leq q_a \rightarrow s'_1 \dots$

Playing σ in G is equivalent to choosing (x_n) and (y_n) uniformly at random.

The random sequences (x_n) and (y_n) can be generated separately, and independently!

$y_0 > q_b \rightarrow s''''_1 \dots$

Proof

The value $\Pr^\sigma(\varphi)$ of σ is the « average of the outcome » of the strategies σ_x .

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr^\sigma(\varphi) &= \int_{p \in (SA)^\omega} \mathbf{1}_\varphi(p) \, d\mu^\sigma(p) \\ &= \int_{(x,y) \in [0,1]^\omega \times [0,1]^\omega} \mathbf{1}_\varphi(\text{outcome}^\sigma(x,y)) \, d(\nu \times \nu)(x,y) \\ &= \int_{x \in [0,1]^\omega} \left(\int_{y \in [0,1]^\omega} \mathbf{1}_\varphi(\text{outcome}^\sigma(x,y)) \, d\nu(y) \right) d\nu(x) \\ &= \int_{x \in [0,1]^\omega} \left(\int_{y \in [0,1]^\omega} \mathbf{1}_\varphi(\text{outcome}^{\sigma_x}(\cdot, y)) \, d\nu(y) \right) d\nu(x) \\ &= \int_{x \in [0,1]^\omega} \Pr^{\sigma_x}(\varphi) \, d\nu(x)\end{aligned}$$

Proof

The value $\Pr^\sigma(\varphi)$ of σ is the « average of the outcome » of the strategies σ_x .

$$\Pr^\sigma(\varphi) = \int_{p \in (SA)^\omega} \mathbf{1}_\varphi(p) d\mu^\sigma(p)$$

$$\Pr^\sigma(\varphi) \leq \Pr^{\sigma_x}(\varphi) \text{ for some } \sigma_x \int \mathbf{1}_\varphi(\text{outcome}^\sigma(x, y)) d(\nu \times \nu)(x, y)$$

$$= \int_{x \in [0,1]^\omega} \left(\int \mathbf{1}_\varphi(\text{outcome}^\sigma(x, u)) d\nu(u) \right) d\nu(x)$$

$$= \int_{x \in [0,1]^\omega} \Pr^{\sigma_x}(\varphi) d\nu(x)$$

$$= \int_{x \in [0,1]^\omega} \Pr^{\sigma_x}(\varphi) d\nu(x)$$

Pure and randomized strategies are equally powerful in POMDPs !

Randomness for free

In transition function:

	2 ^{1/2} -player			1 ^{1/2} -player	
	complete	one-sided	partial	MDP	POMDP
turn-based	not	free	free	not	not
concurrent	free	free	free	(NA)	(NA)

In strategies:

	2 ^{1/2} -player			1 ^{1/2} -player	
	complete	one-sided	partial	MDP	POMDP
turn-based	$\epsilon > 0$	not	not	$\epsilon \geq 0$	$\epsilon \geq 0$
concurrent	not	not	not	(NA)	(NA)

Corollary

Using [BaierBertrandGrößer'08]:

Almost-sure coBüchi (and positive Büchi) with randomized (or pure) strategies is undecidable for POMDPs.

Using randomness for free in transition functions :

Almost-sure coBüchi (and positive Büchi) is undecidable for **deterministic** turn-based one-sided complete observation games.

Thank you !



Questions ?