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Decisiveness for countable MDPs and insights for NPLCSs and POMDPs

Patricia Bouyer

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Joint work with Nathalie Bertrand (Inria, France), Thomas Brihaye (UMONS, Belgium),
Paulin Fournier and Pierre Vandenhove (UMONS, Belgium)

Work partly supported by ANR projects MAVeriQ and BisoUS

Back to 2006/2007...

- ▶ Time, probabilities and games join force!
 - My first steps in probabilistic systems
- ▶ Trips to Dresden and Oxford

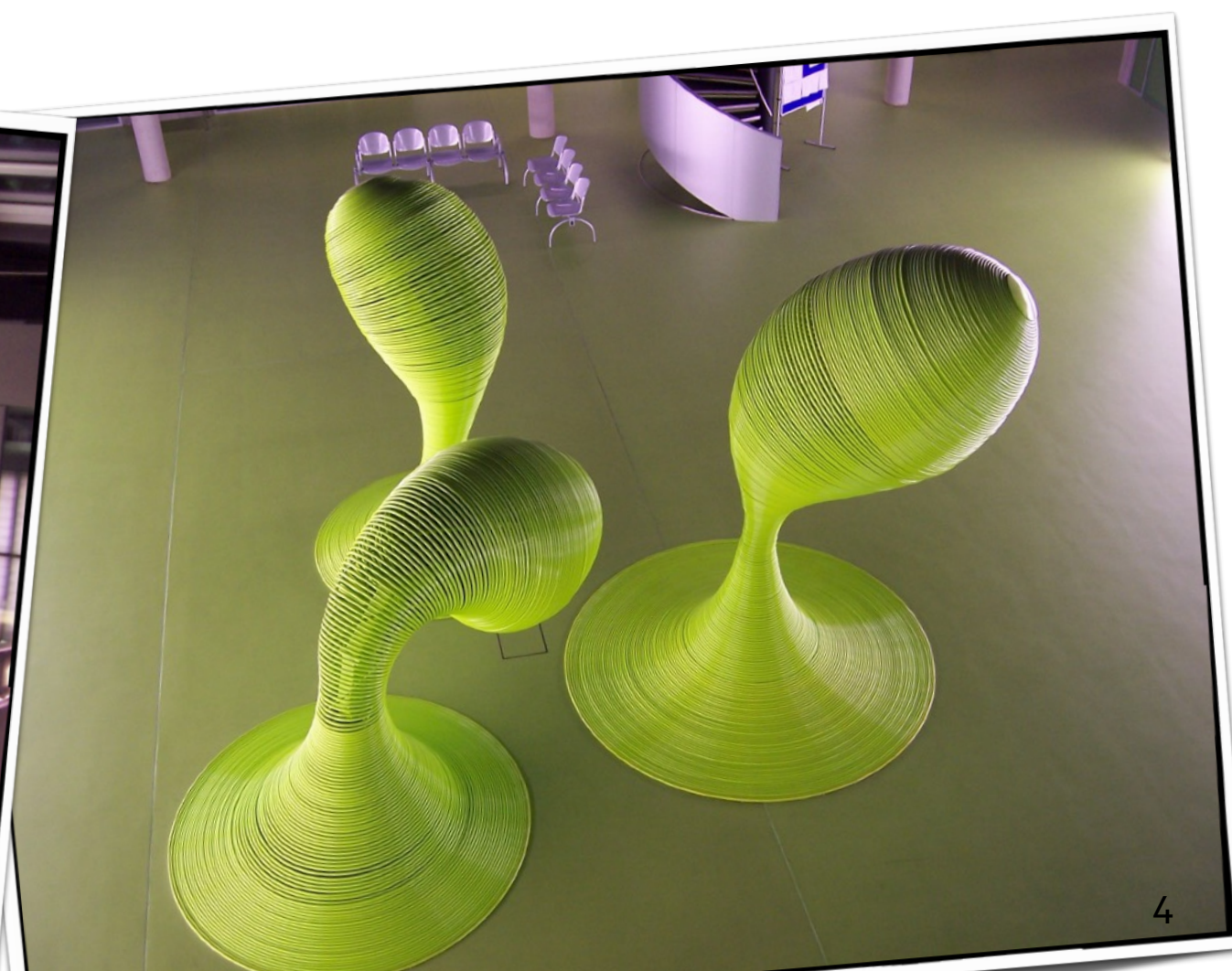
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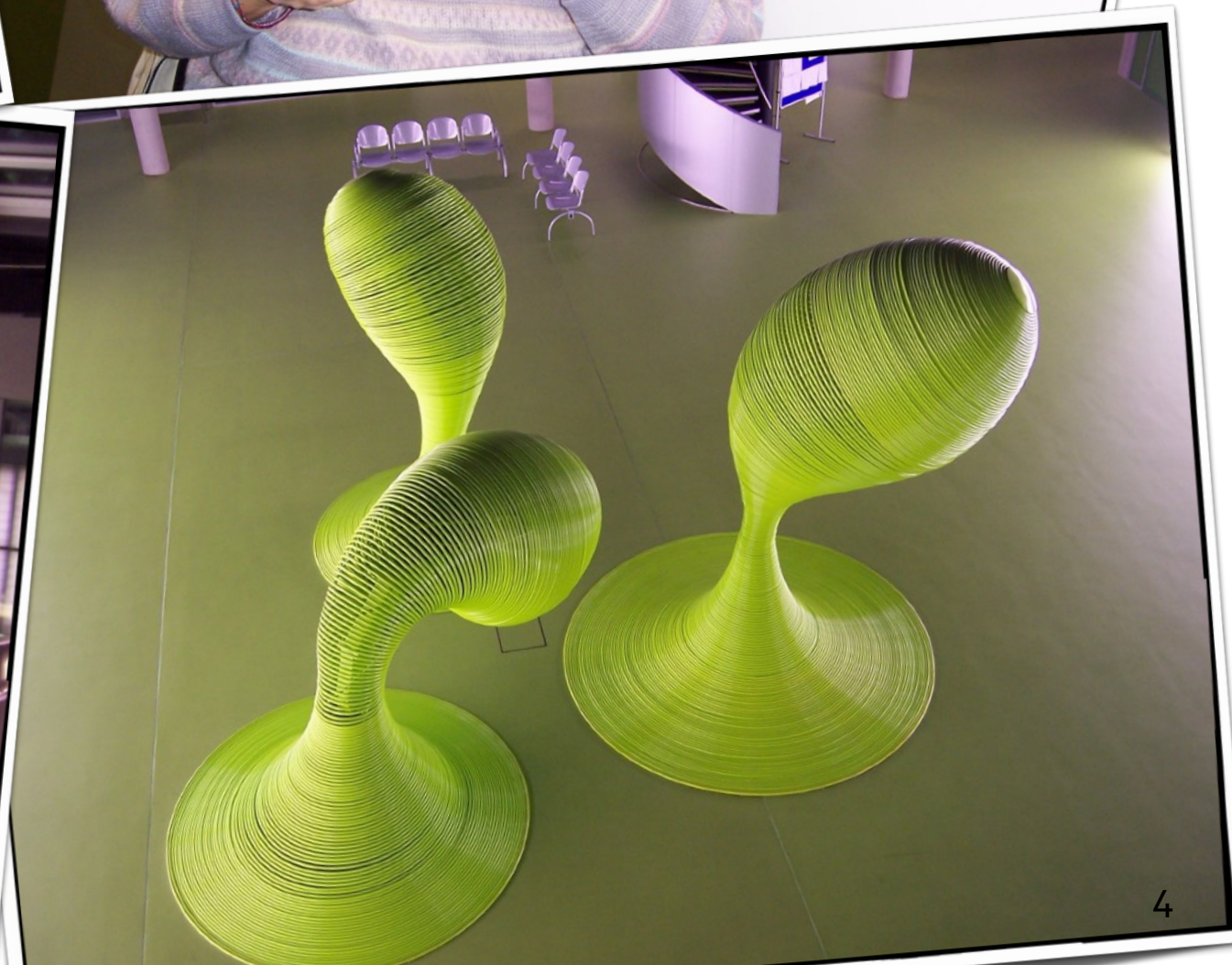
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Timed
Topology Mazur Banach
games
Stochastic
Automata









Almost-Sure Model Checking of Infinite Paths in One-Clock Timed Automata

Christel Baier¹ Nathalie Bertrand² Patricia Bouyer^{3,*} Thomas Brihaye⁴ Marcus Größer¹
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³ *LSV, CNRS & ENS Cachan, France*
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thomas.brihaye@umh.ac.be

Probabilistic and Topological Semantics for Timed Automata

Christel Baier¹, Nathalie Bertrand^{1,*}, Patricia Bouyer^{2,3,**},
Thomas Brihaye², and Marcus Größer¹
¹ *Technische Universität Dresden, Germany*
² *LSV - CNRS & ENS Cachan, France*
³ *Oxford University, England*

When Are Timed Automata Determinizable?

Christel Baier¹, Nathalie Bertrand², Patricia Bouyer³, and Thomas Brihaye⁴
¹ *Technische Universität Dresden, Germany*
² *INRIA Rennes Bretagne Atlantique, France*
³ *LSV, CNRS & ENS Cachan, France*
⁴ *Université de Mons, Belgium*

STOCHASTIC TIMED AUTOMATA

NATHALIE BERTRAND^a, PATRICIA BOUYER^b, THOMAS BRIHAYE^c, QUENTIN MENET^d,
CHRISTEL BAIER^e, MARCUS GRÖSSER^f, AND MARCIN JURDZIŃSKI^g

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^{e,f} *TU Dresden, Germany*
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Decisiveness

A successful concept for Markov chains

Markov chains

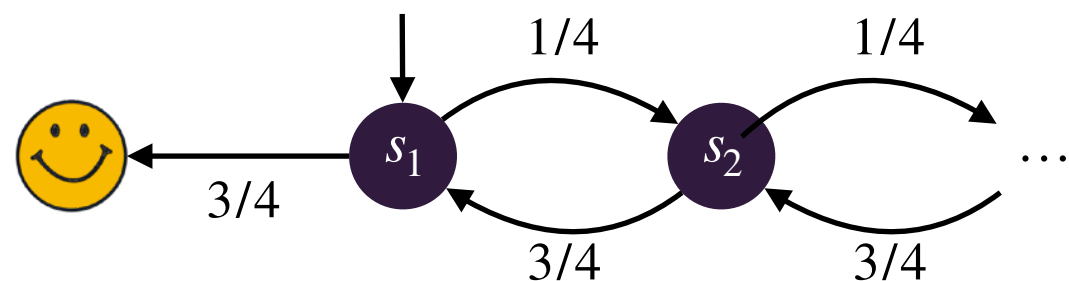
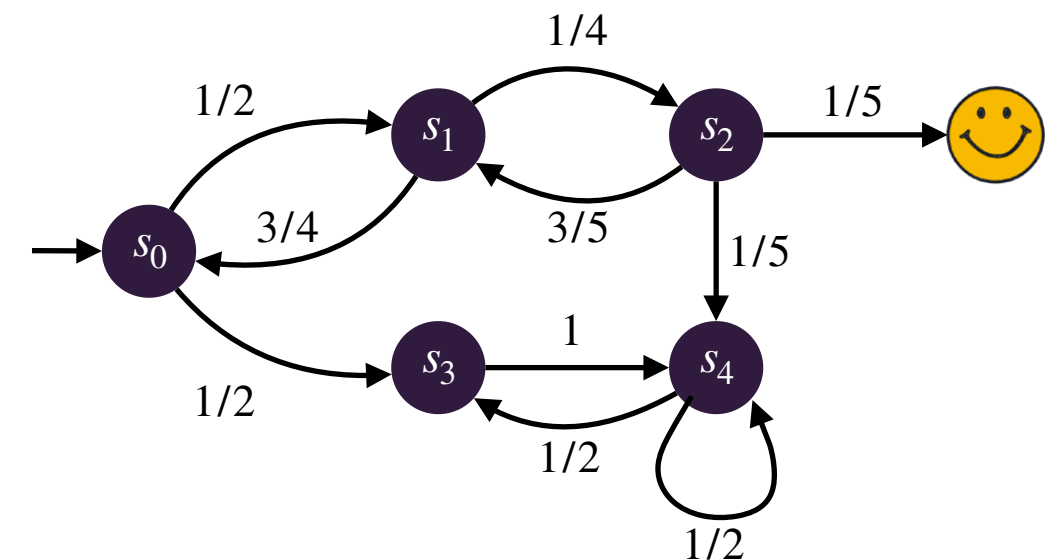
(Discrete-time) Markov chains

$\mathcal{C} = (S, s_0, \delta)$ with S at most denumerable, $s_0 \in S$ and $\delta : S \rightarrow \text{Dist}(S)$

Markov chains

(Discrete-time) Markov chains

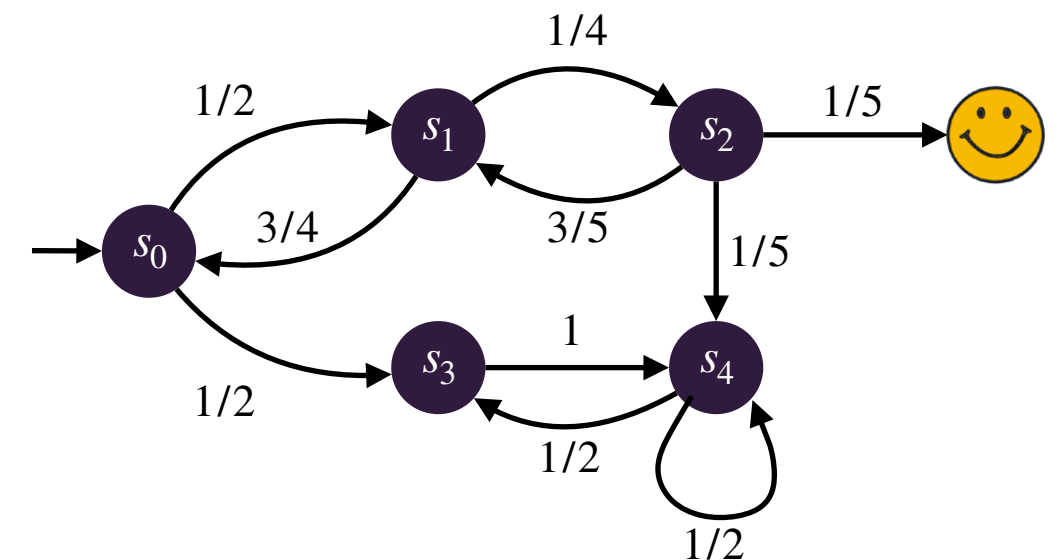
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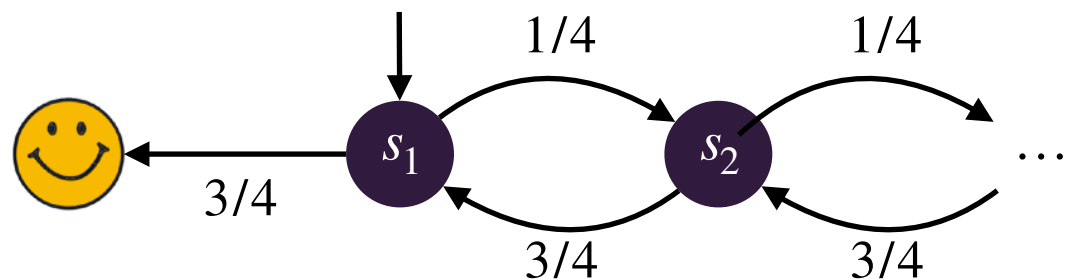
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Compute $\mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{C}, s_0}(\mathbf{F} \text{ smiley face})$



Decisiveness

$$\text{☹️} = \{s \in S \mid s \not\models \exists \mathbf{F} \text{☺️}\}$$

Decisiveness

A DTMC $\mathcal{C}$ is **decisive** from s w.r.t. ☺️ if $\mathbb{P}_s(\mathbf{F} \text{☺️} \vee \mathbf{F} \text{☹️}) = 1$

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- ▶ Examples of decisive Markov chains: finite Markov chains, probabilistic lossy channel systems, probabilistic VASS, noisy Turing machines, ...

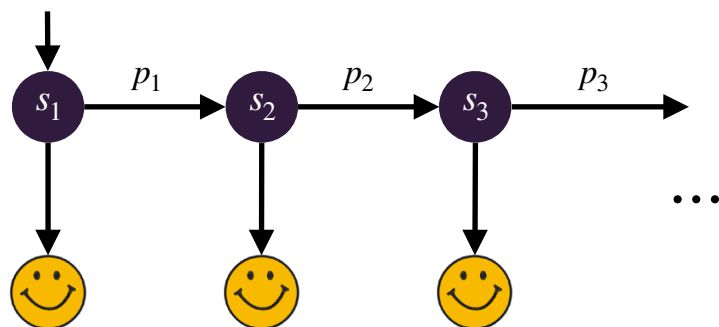
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- ▶ Example/counterexample:



$$\bullet \quad \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{G} \neg \text{☺️}) = \prod_{i \geq 1} p_i$$

- Decisive iff this product equals 0

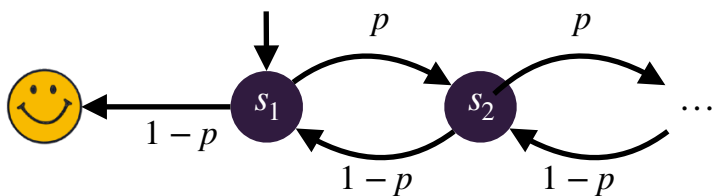
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- ▶ Examples of decisive Markov chains: finite Markov chains, probabilistic lossy channel systems, probabilistic VASS, noisy Turing machines, ...
- ▶ Example/counterexample:



- Recurrent random walk ($p \leq 1/2$): decisive
- Transient random walk ($p > 1/2$): not decisive

Approximation scheme

- ▶ Aim: compute probability of **F** 😊
- ▶ 😞 = $\{s \in S \mid s \not\models \exists \mathbf{F} \text{ 😊}\}$

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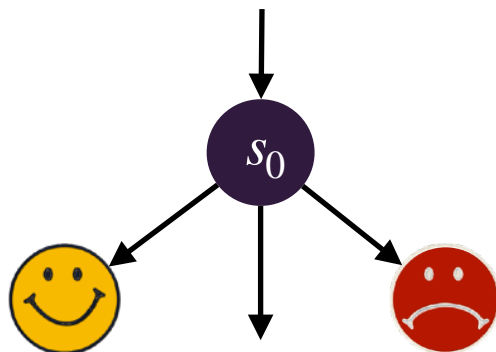
Given $\varepsilon > 0$, for every n , compute:

$$\begin{cases} p_n^{\text{yes}} &= \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{F}_{\leq n} \text{ 😊}) \\ p_n^{\text{no}} &= \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{F}_{\leq n} \text{ 😞}) \end{cases}$$

until $p_n^{\text{yes}} + p_n^{\text{no}} \geq 1 - \varepsilon$

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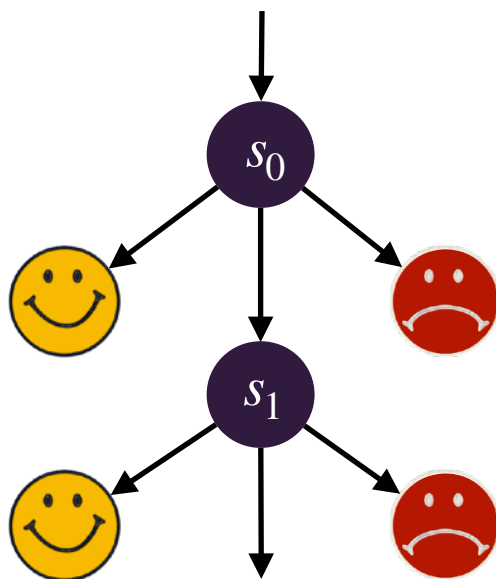
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$$p_1^{\text{yes}} \leq \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{F} \text{ 😊}) \leq 1 - p_1^{\text{no}}$$

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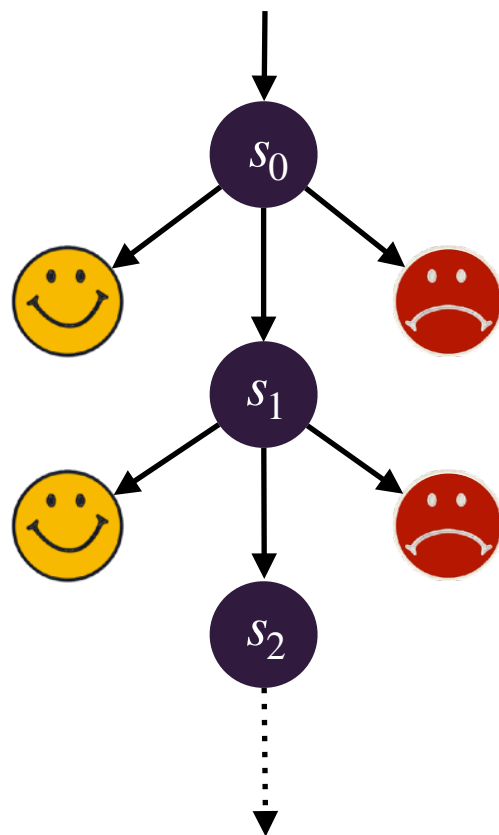
$\wedge$

$\vee$

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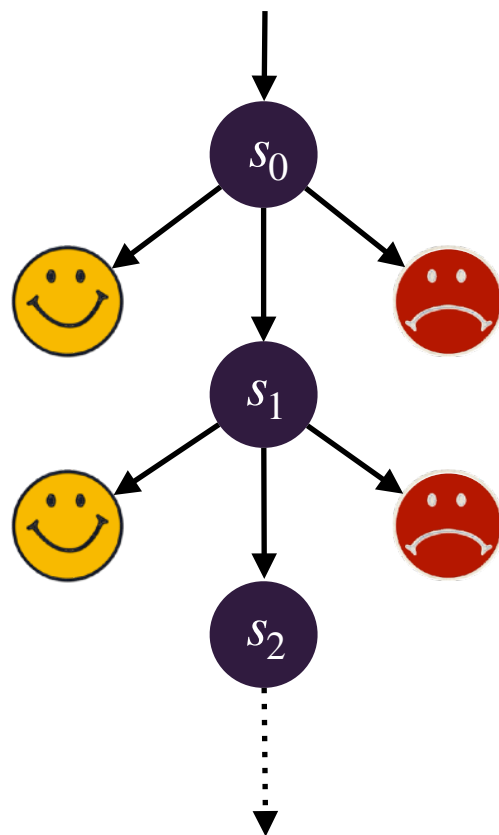
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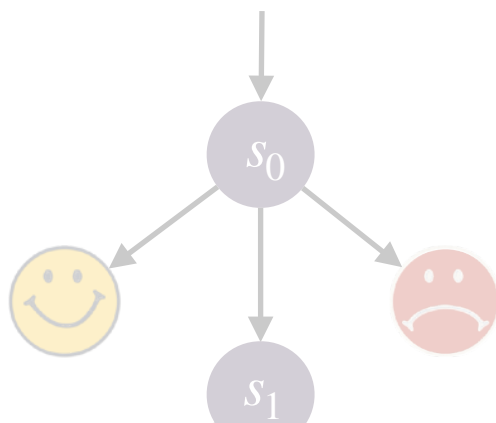
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At the limit: $\mathbb{P}(\mathbf{F} \text{ 😊}) \qquad \qquad \qquad 1 - \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{F} \text{ 😞})$

Approximation scheme

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The approximation scheme converges
iff
 $\mathcal{C}$ is decisive from s_0 w.r.t. 😊

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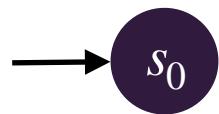
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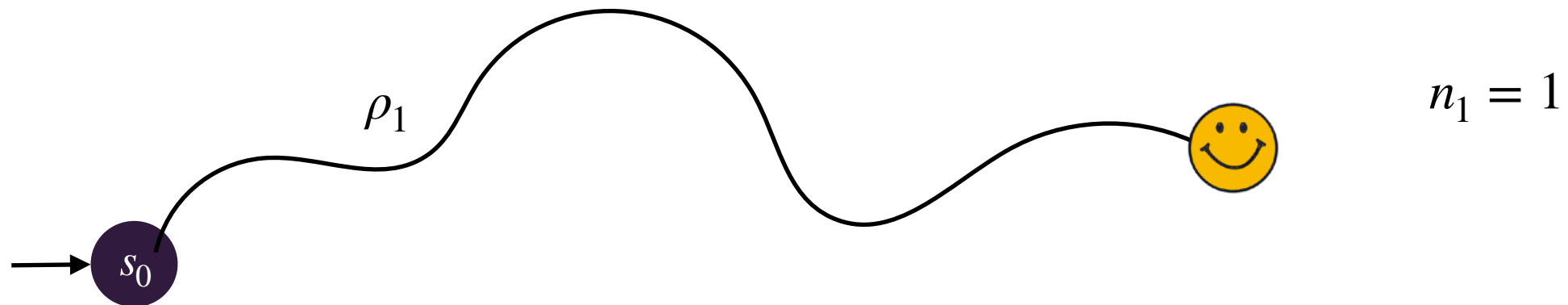
Statistical model-checking

Sample N paths



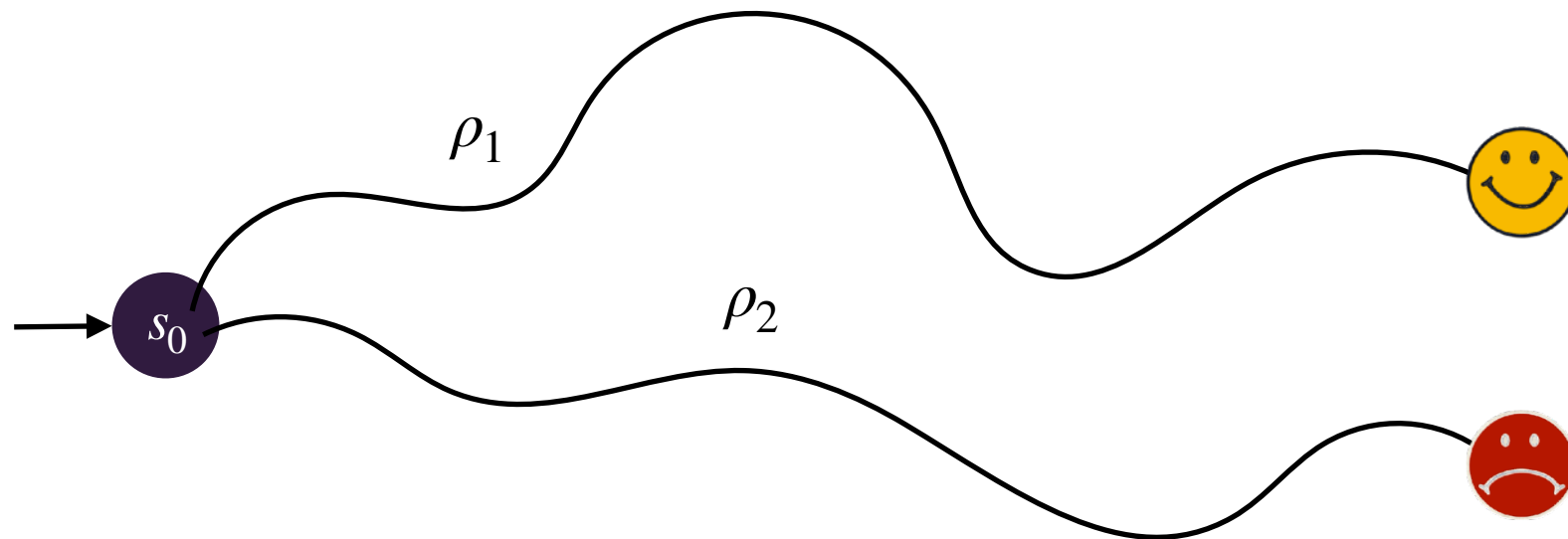
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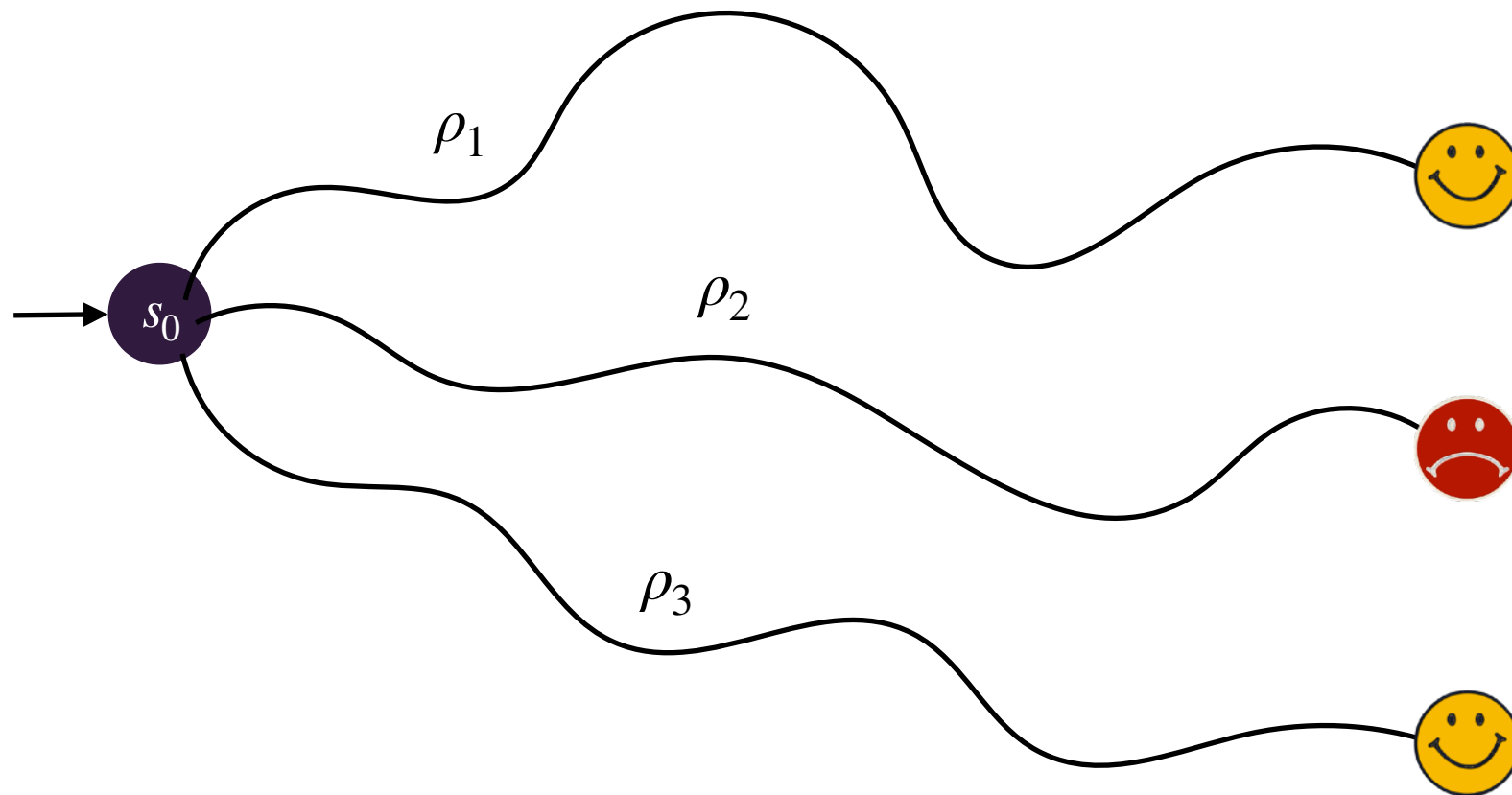


$$n_1 = 1$$

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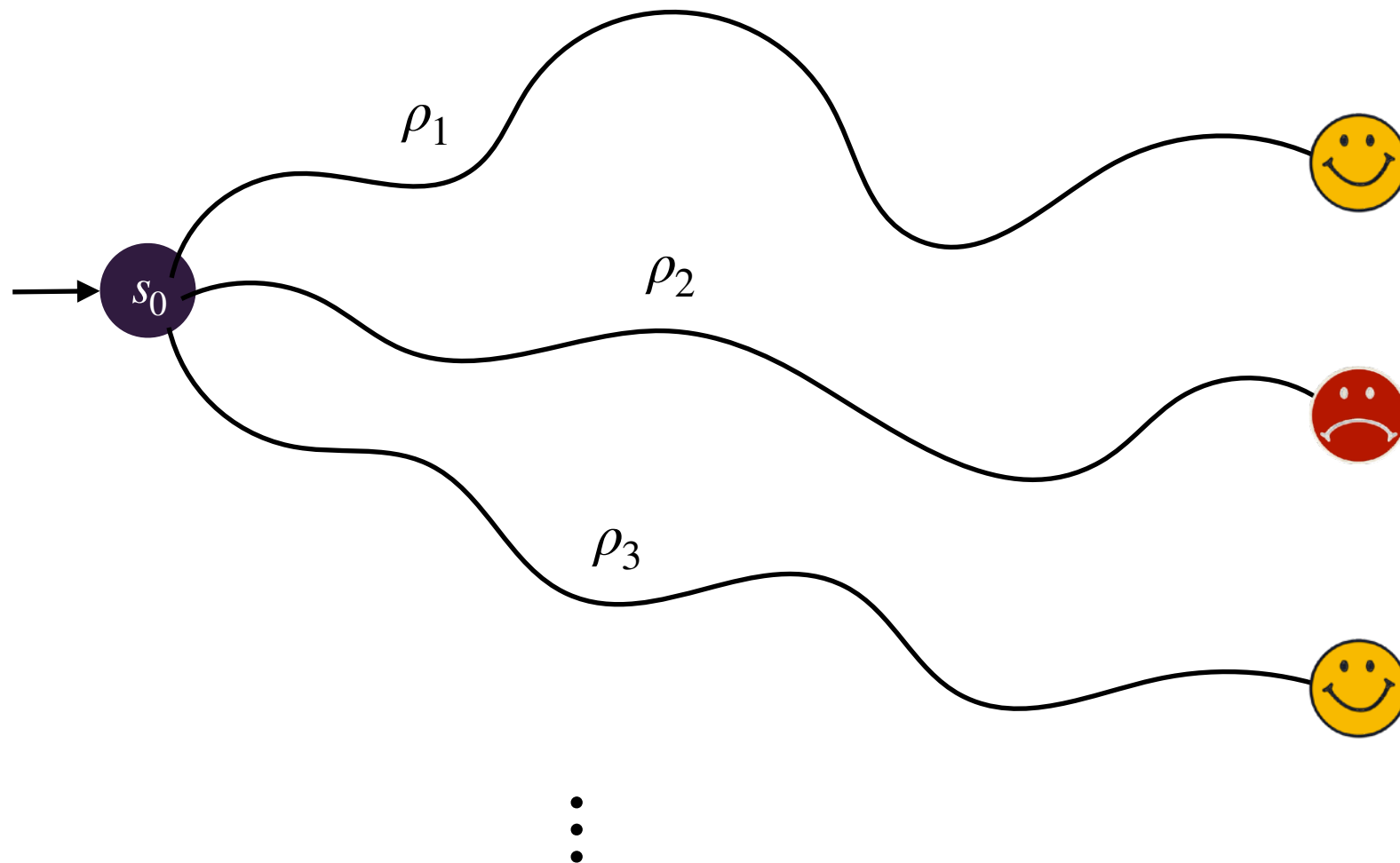
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Statistical model-checking

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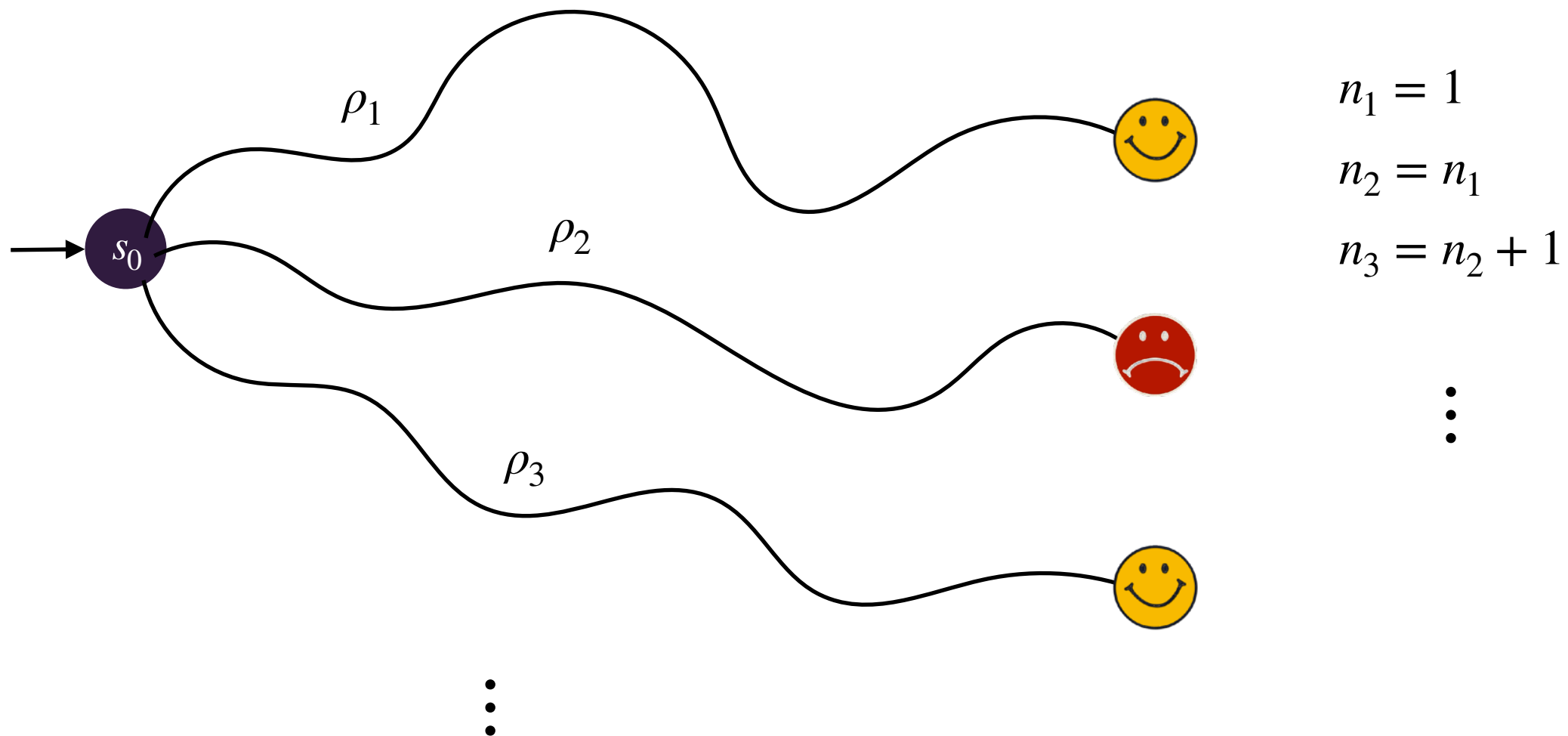
$$n_2 = n_1$$

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$\vdots$

Statistical model-checking

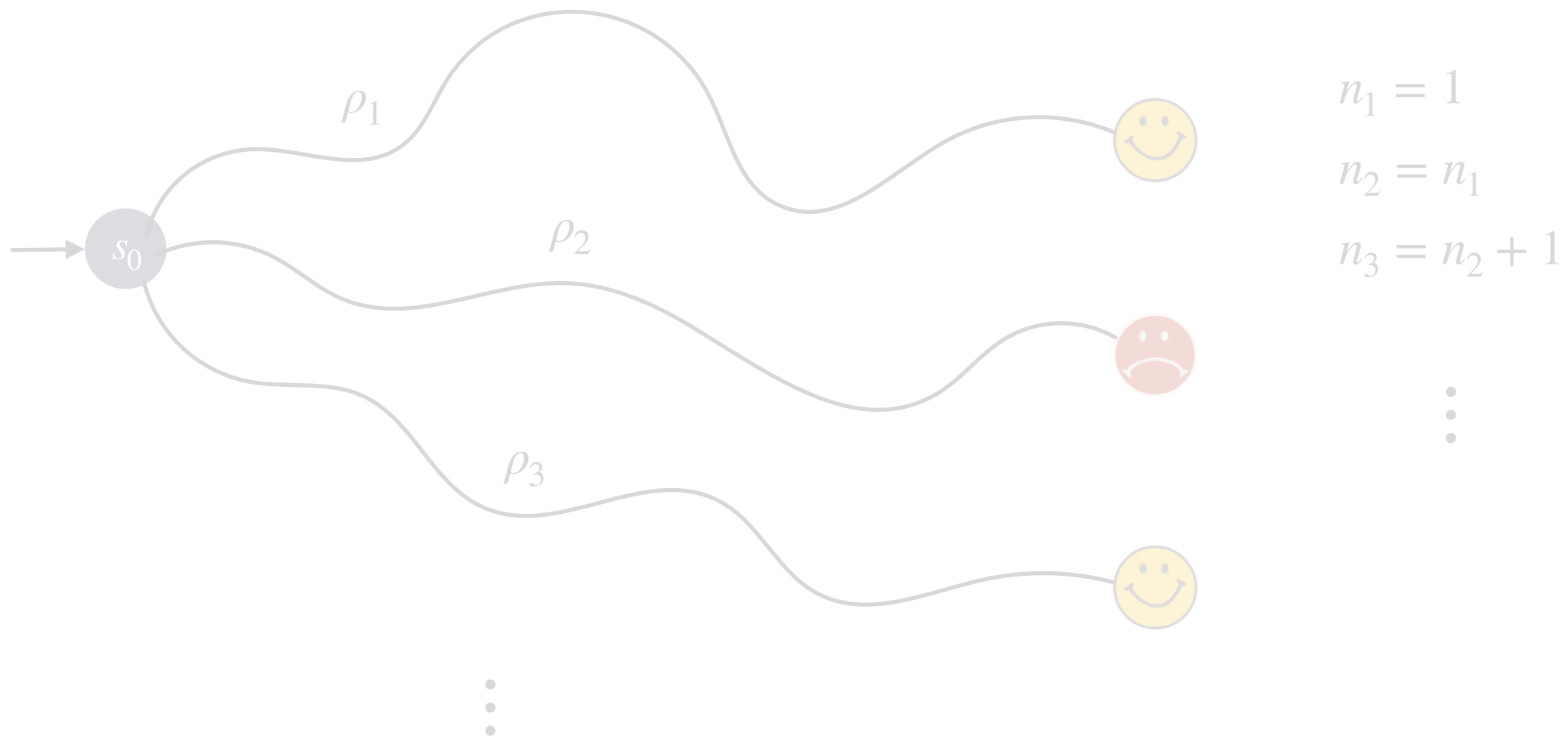
Sample N paths



Return $\frac{n_N}{N}$ + some confidence interval
(in the best case)

Statistical model-checking

Sample N paths



Return $\frac{n_N}{N} + \text{some confidence interval}$
(in the best case)

Statistical model-checking

Sample N paths

Termination

(To our knowledge, never expressed like this)

A sampled path starting at s_0 almost-surely hits 😊 or 😞
iff

$\mathcal{C}$ is decisive from s_0 w.r.t. 😊

$$n_1 = 1$$

$$n_2 = n_1$$

Return $\frac{n_N}{N}$ + some confidence interval
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Where do we stand?

- ▶ Decisiveness = crucial concept for Markov chains
 - ensures termination of approximation algorithms
 - ensures feasibility of sampling in algorithms based on SMC

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➔ We will focus on MDPs



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Markov decision processes

What can we do for them?

Markov decision processes

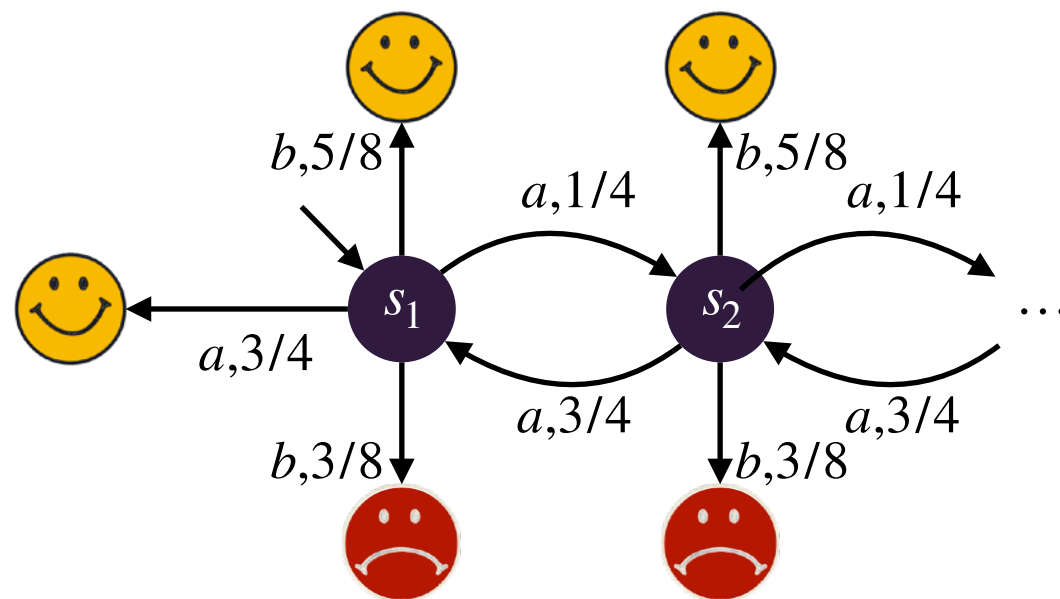
Markov decision processes (MDPs)

$\mathcal{M} = (S, s_0, \text{Act}, P)$ with S at most denumerable, $s_0 \in S$ and
 $P : S \times \text{Act} \times S \rightarrow [0,1]$ s.t. for each $s \in S$ and $a \in \text{Act}$,
 $P(s, a, \bullet) \in \text{Dist}(S)$

Markov decision processes

Markov decision processes (MDPs)

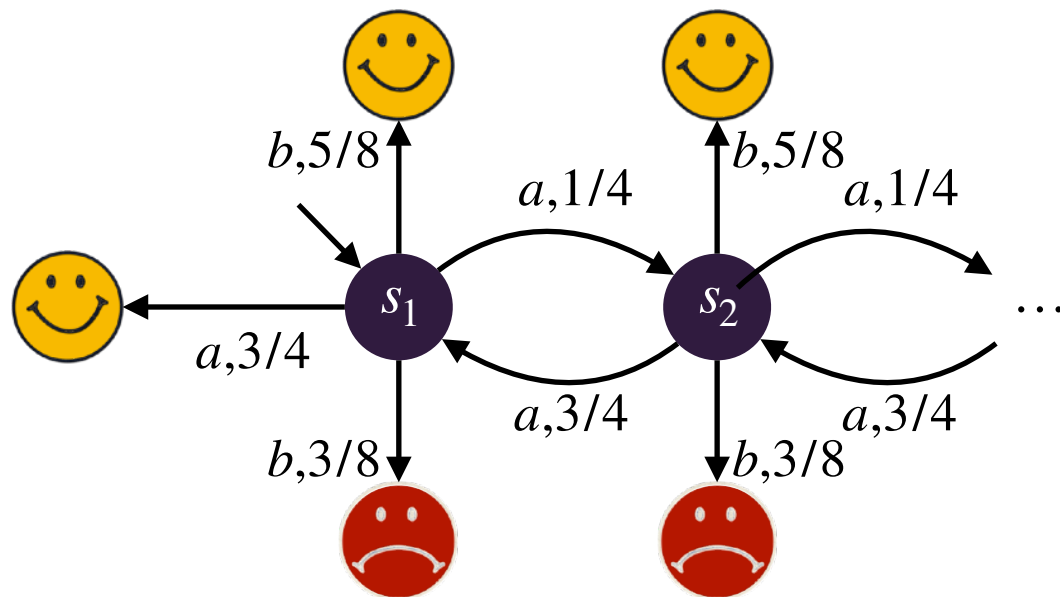
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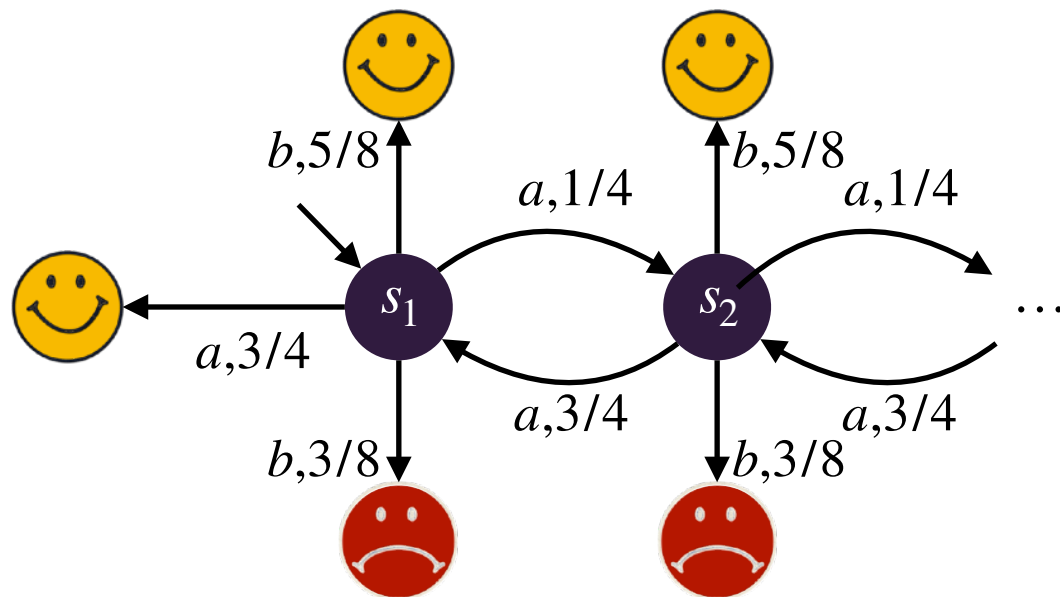


- Requires a scheduler: $\sigma : \text{Hist} \rightarrow \text{Dist}(\text{Act})$
- $\mathcal{M}$ under σ is a Markov chain (written $\mathcal{M}^\sigma$)

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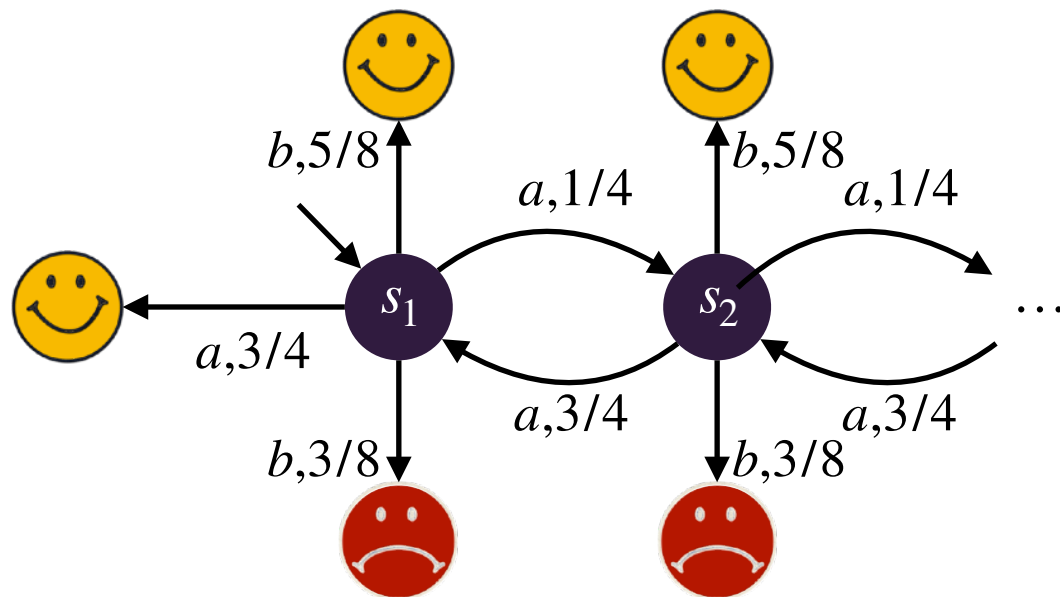
Compute $\mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{M}, s_0}^{\text{opt}}(\mathbf{F} \text{ smiley})$
=
 $\text{opt}_{\sigma} \text{ scheduler } \mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{M}^{\sigma}, s_0}(\mathbf{F} \text{ smiley})$

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Focus on
reachability
properties

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Some remarks

- ▶ The values can be characterized via fixpoints, but no general stopping criterion. The values are not known to be computable in general.
- ▶ Remarks: inf and sup are very different (in terms of (existence and nature of) optimal schedulers for example).
 - Optimal positional schedulers exist for inf
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→ We call $\text{Approx}_{\text{unfold}}^{\text{opt}}$ the approximation scheme which extends in a natural way the approximation scheme for Markov chains

Several « natural » decisiveness concepts for MDPs

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opt-Decisiveness

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An MDP $\mathcal{M}$ is **opt-decisive** from s w.r.t. 😊 if $\mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{M},s}^{\text{opt}}(\mathbf{F} \text{😊} \vee \mathbf{F} \text{☹}^{\text{opt}}) = 1$

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σ -Decisiveness

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Several « natural » decisiveness concepts for MDPs

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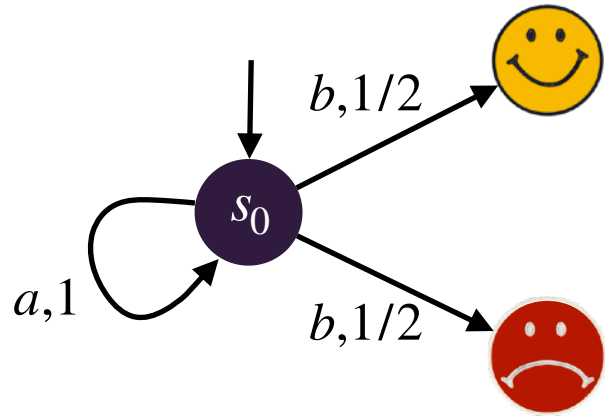
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univ-Decisiveness

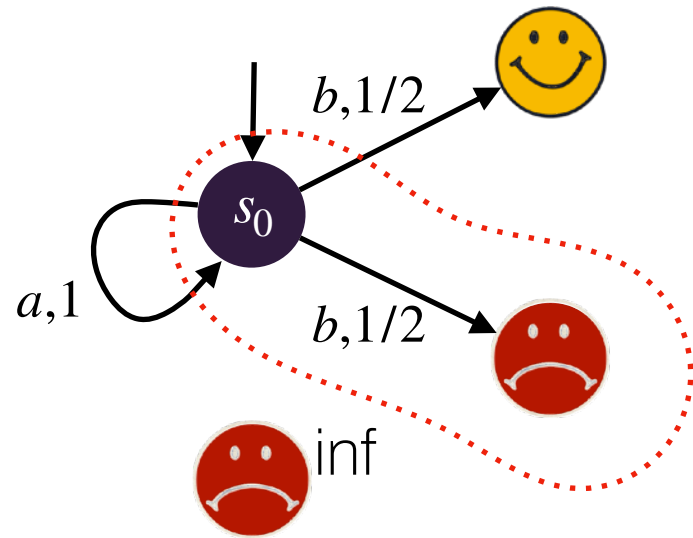
An MDP $\mathcal{M}$ is **univ-decisive** from s w.r.t. smile if it is σ -decisive for every scheduler pp σ

pure
positional

A small example

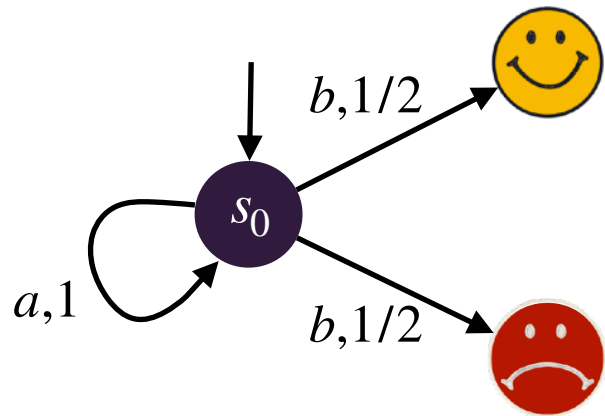


A small example



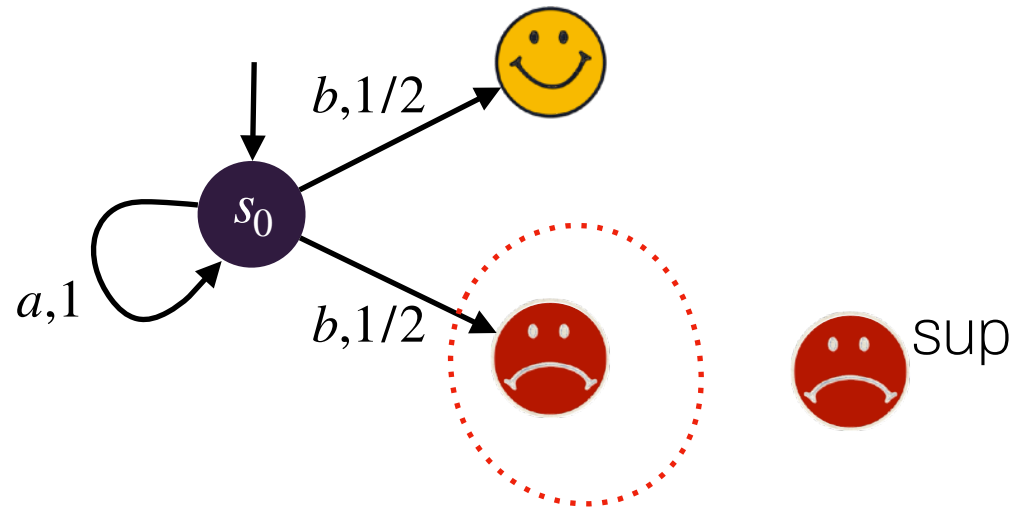
- It is inf-decisive

A small example



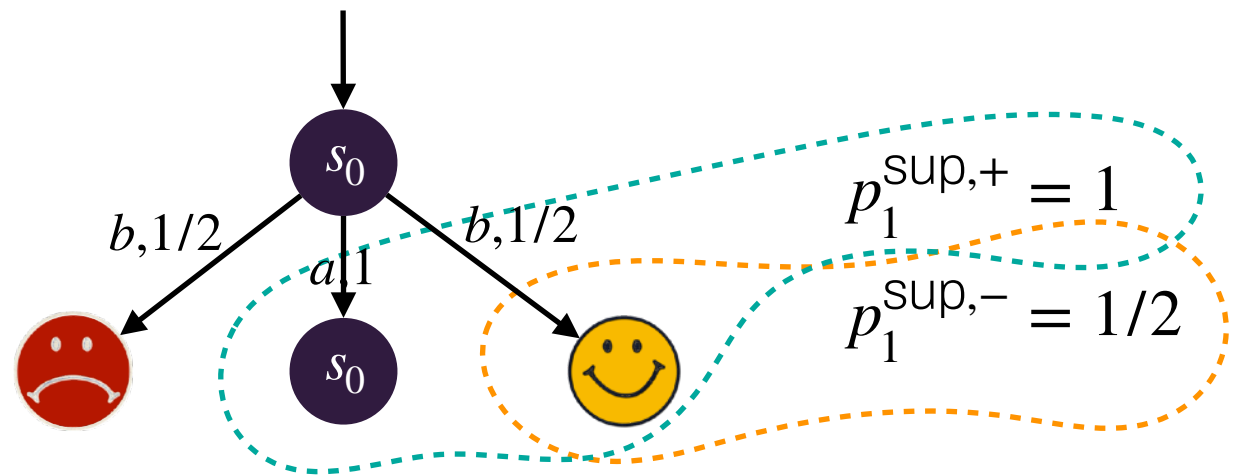
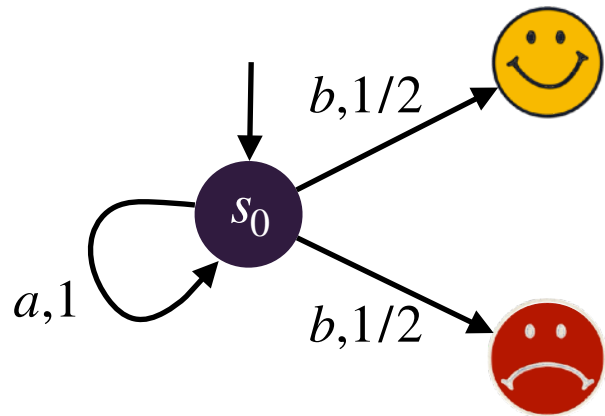
- ▶ It is inf-decisive
- ▶ It is univ-decisive

A small example



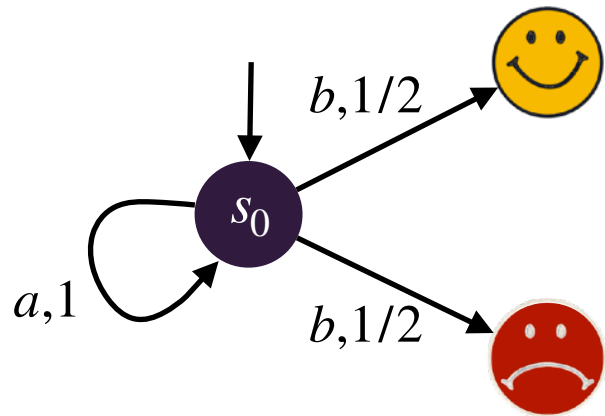
- ▶ It is inf-decisive
- ▶ It is univ-decisive
- ▶ It is **not** sup-decisive

A small example

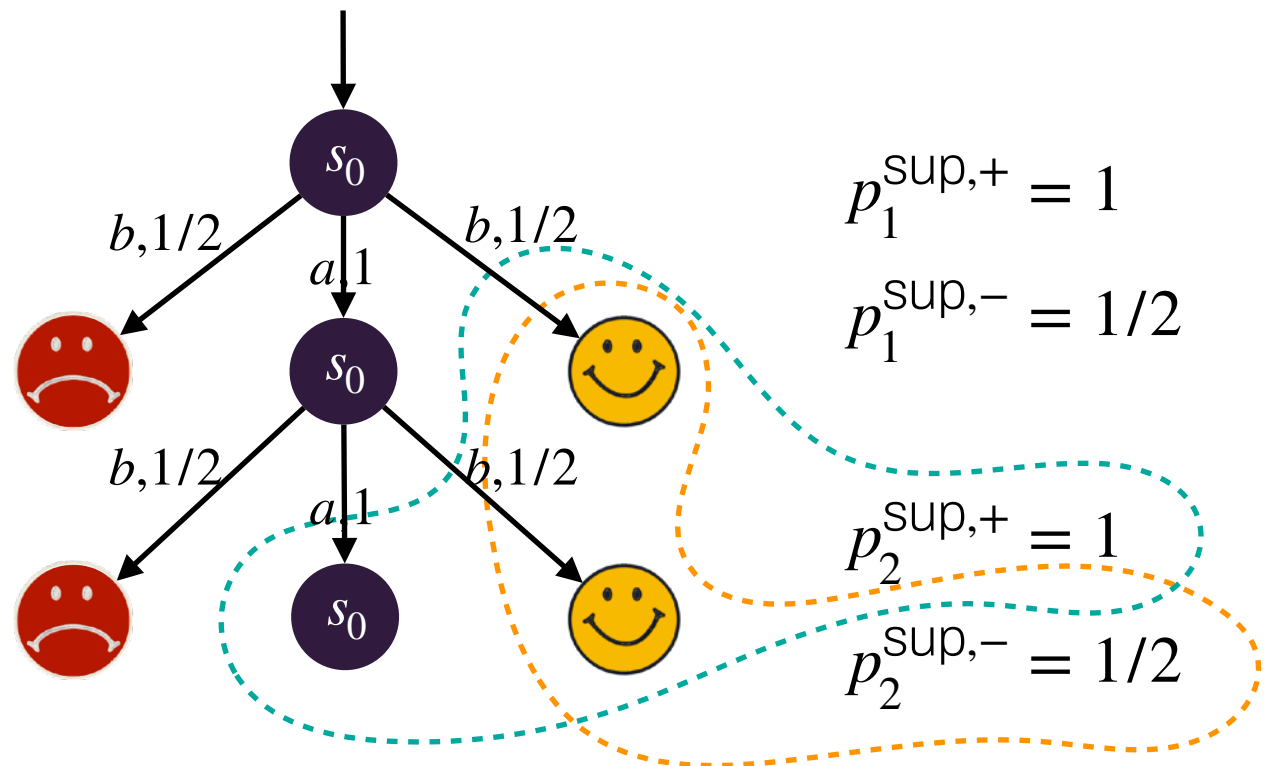


- ▶ It is inf-decisive
- ▶ It is univ-decisive
- ▶ It is **not** sup-decisive

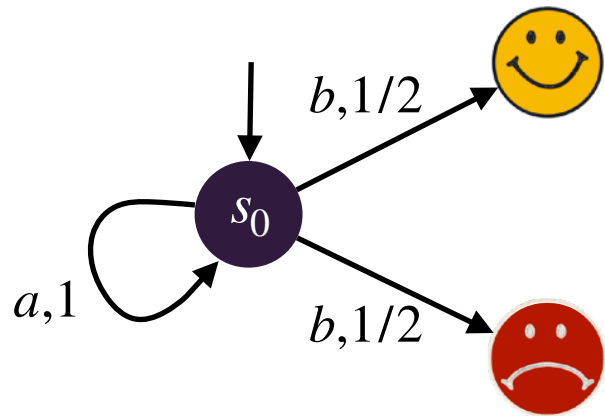
A small example



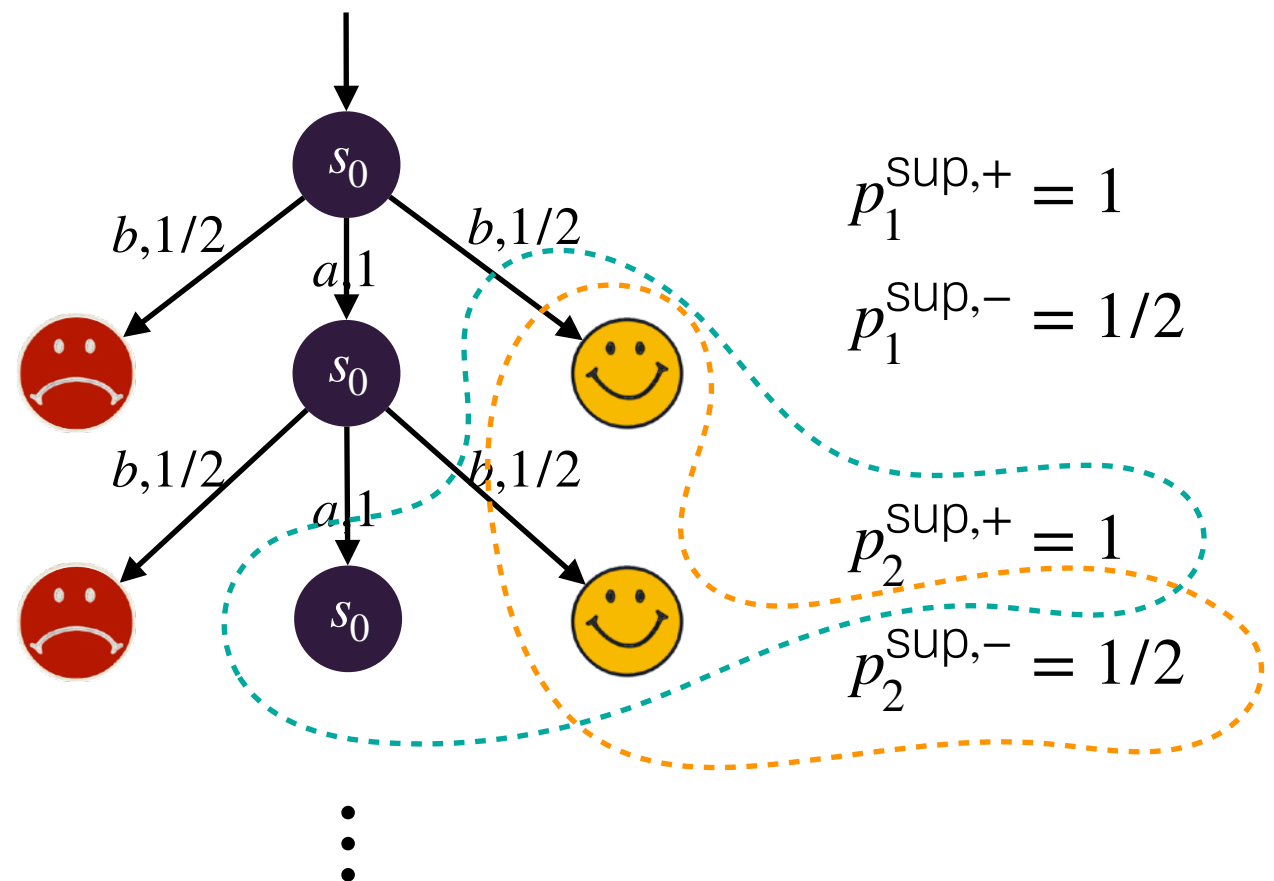
- It is inf-decisive
- It is univ-decisive
- It is **not** sup-decisive



A small example

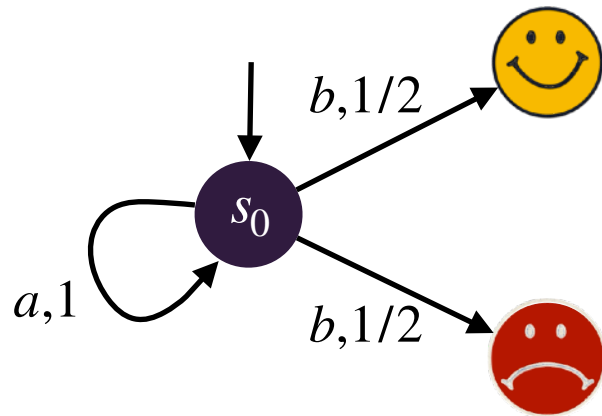


- It is inf-decisive
- It is univ-decisive
- It is **not** sup-decisive

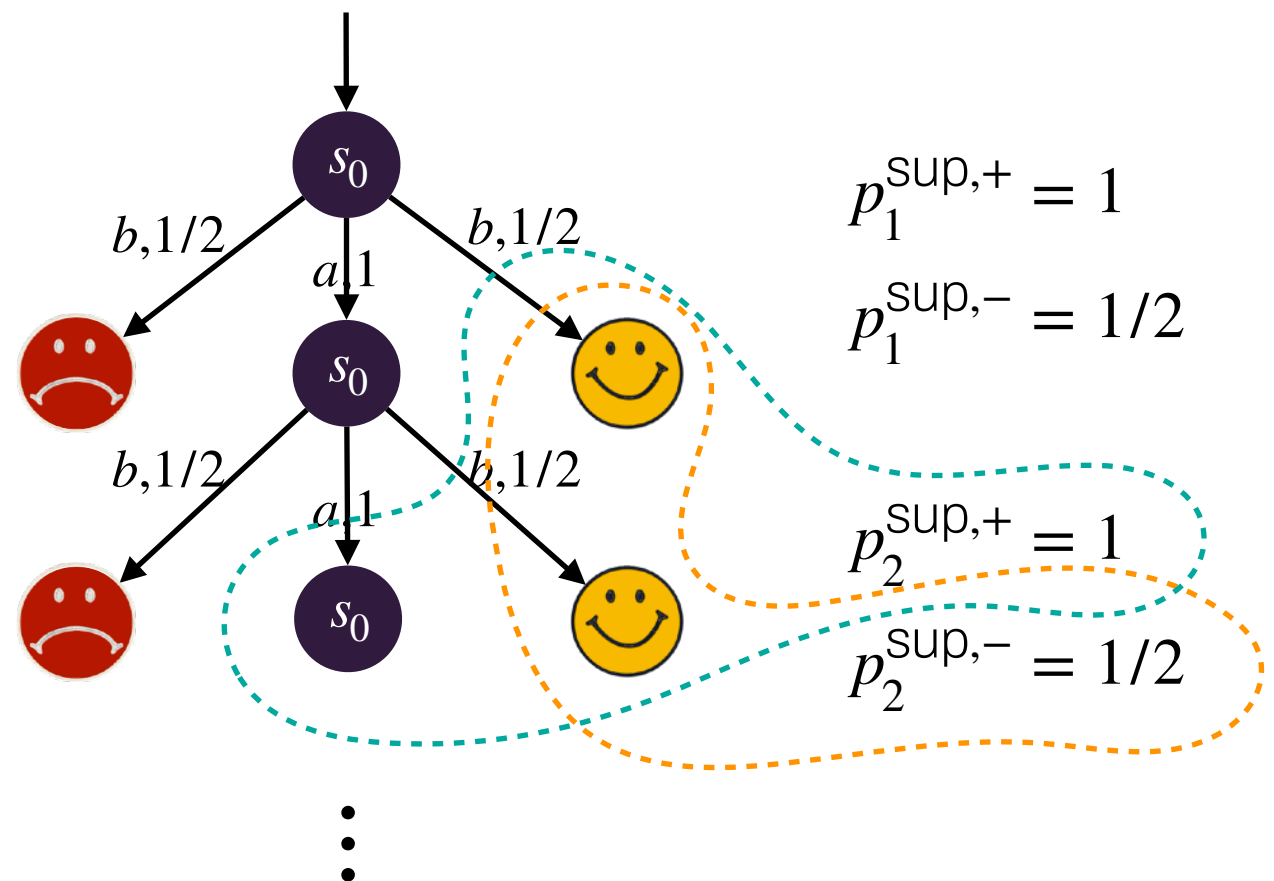


The two sequences $(p_n^{\text{sup},-})_n$ and $(p_n^{\text{sup},+})_n$ are not adjacent

A small example



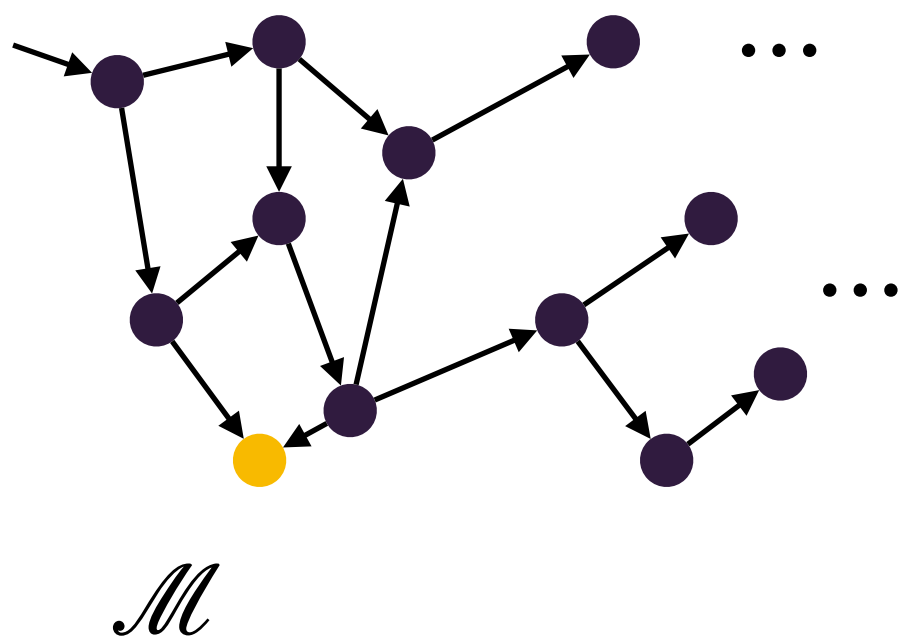
- It is inf-decisive
- It is univ-decisive
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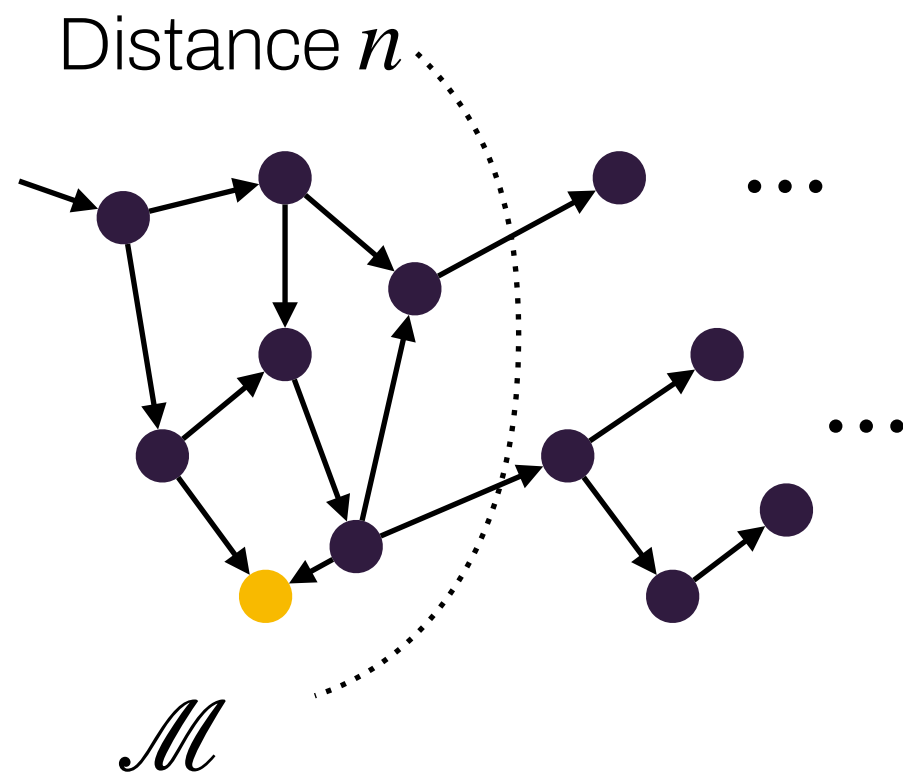
The two sequences $(p_n^{\text{sup},-})_n$ and $(p_n^{\text{sup},+})_n$ are not adjacent

$\text{Approx}_{\text{unfold}}^{\text{sup}}$ is not converging, even for finite MDPs!

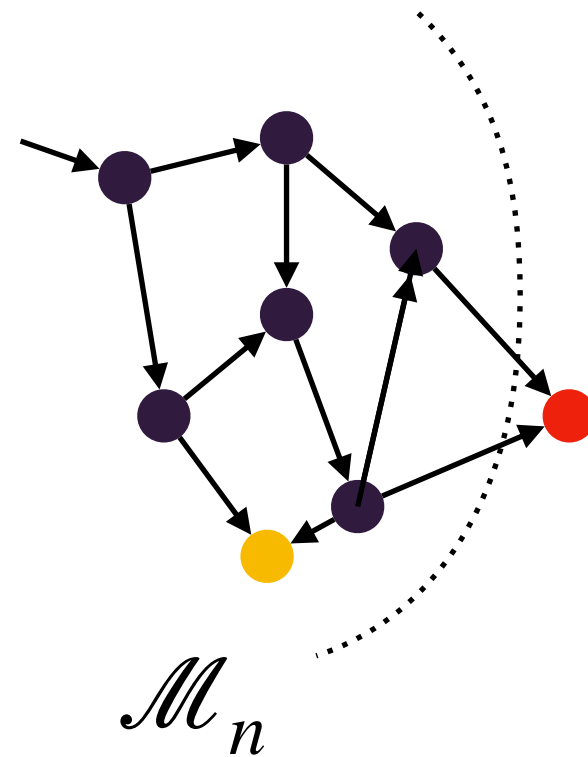
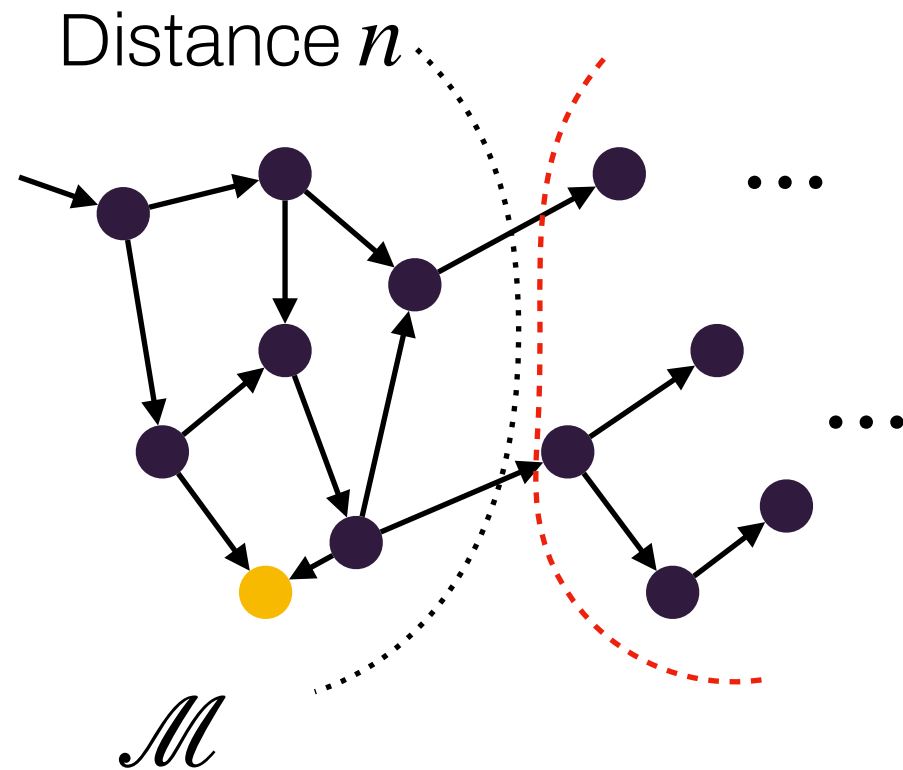
The sliced MDPs



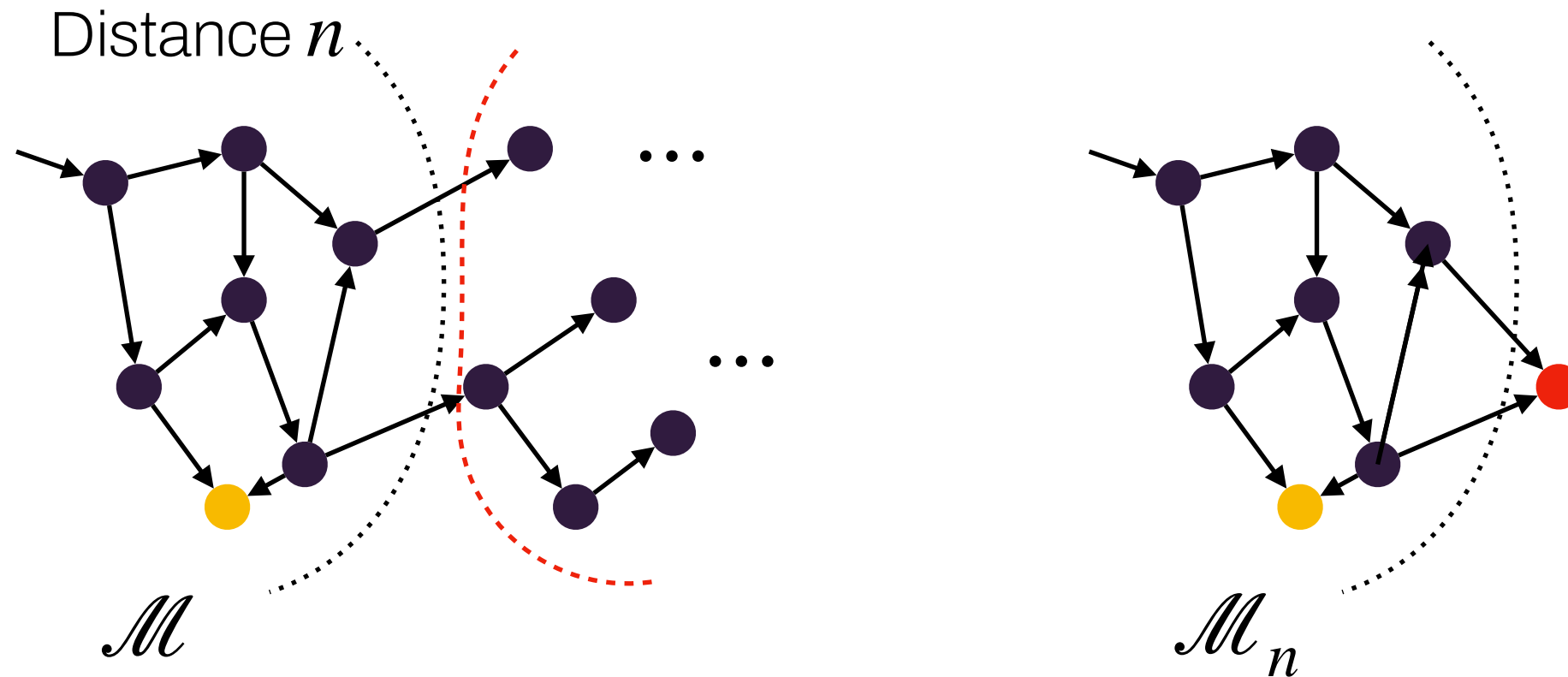
The sliced MDPs



The sliced MDPs

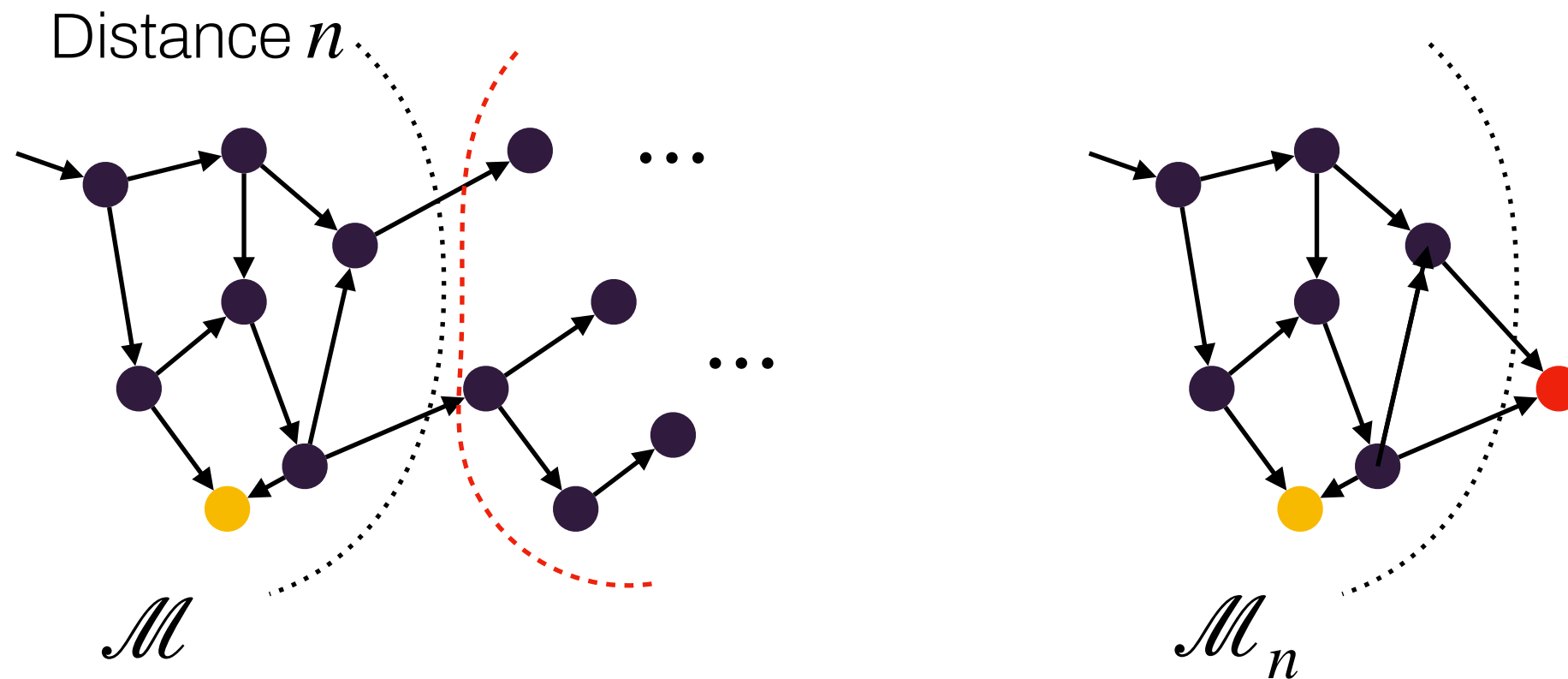


The sliced MDPs



► Scheme $\text{Approx}_{\text{sliced}}^{\text{opt}}$

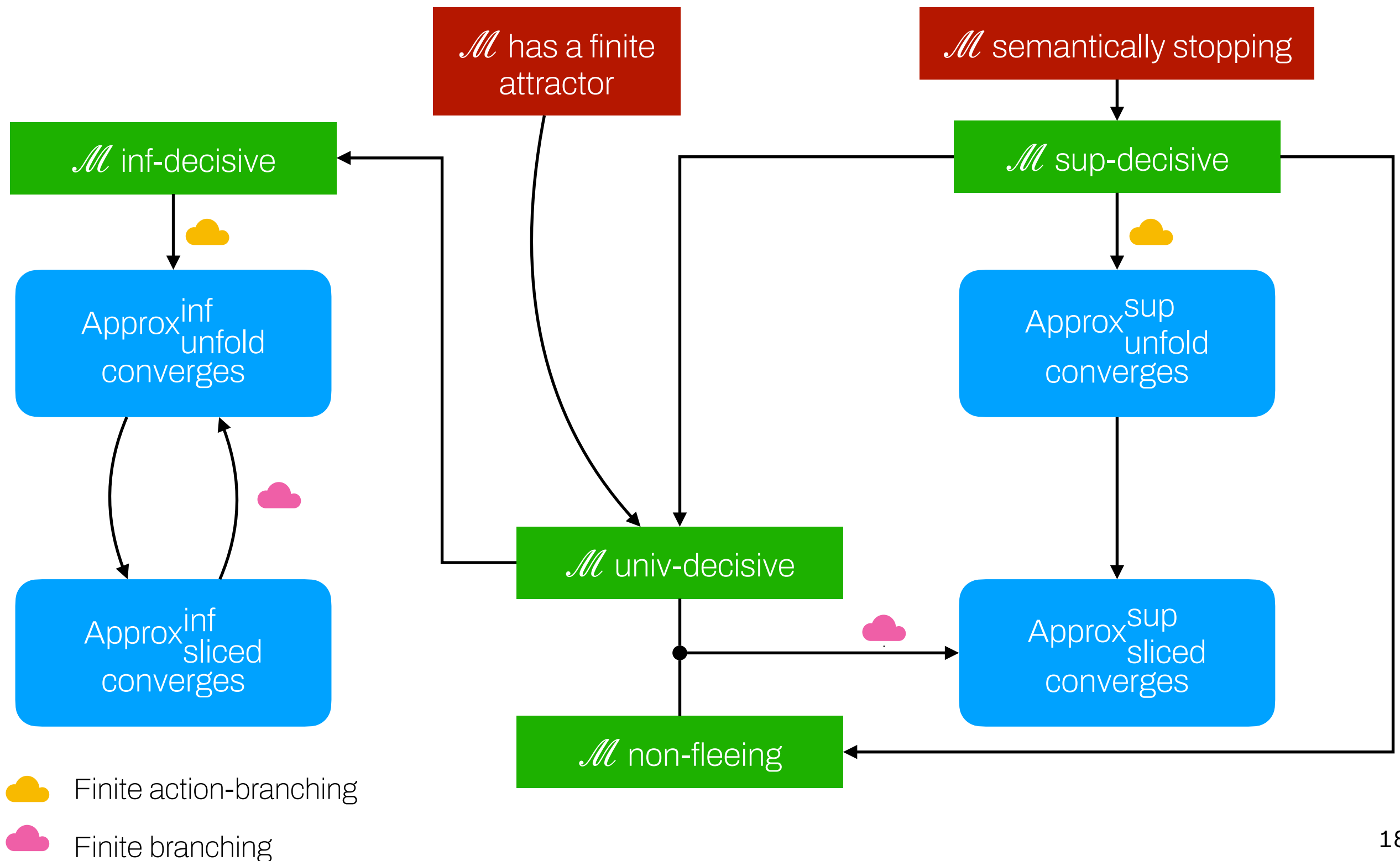
The sliced MDPs



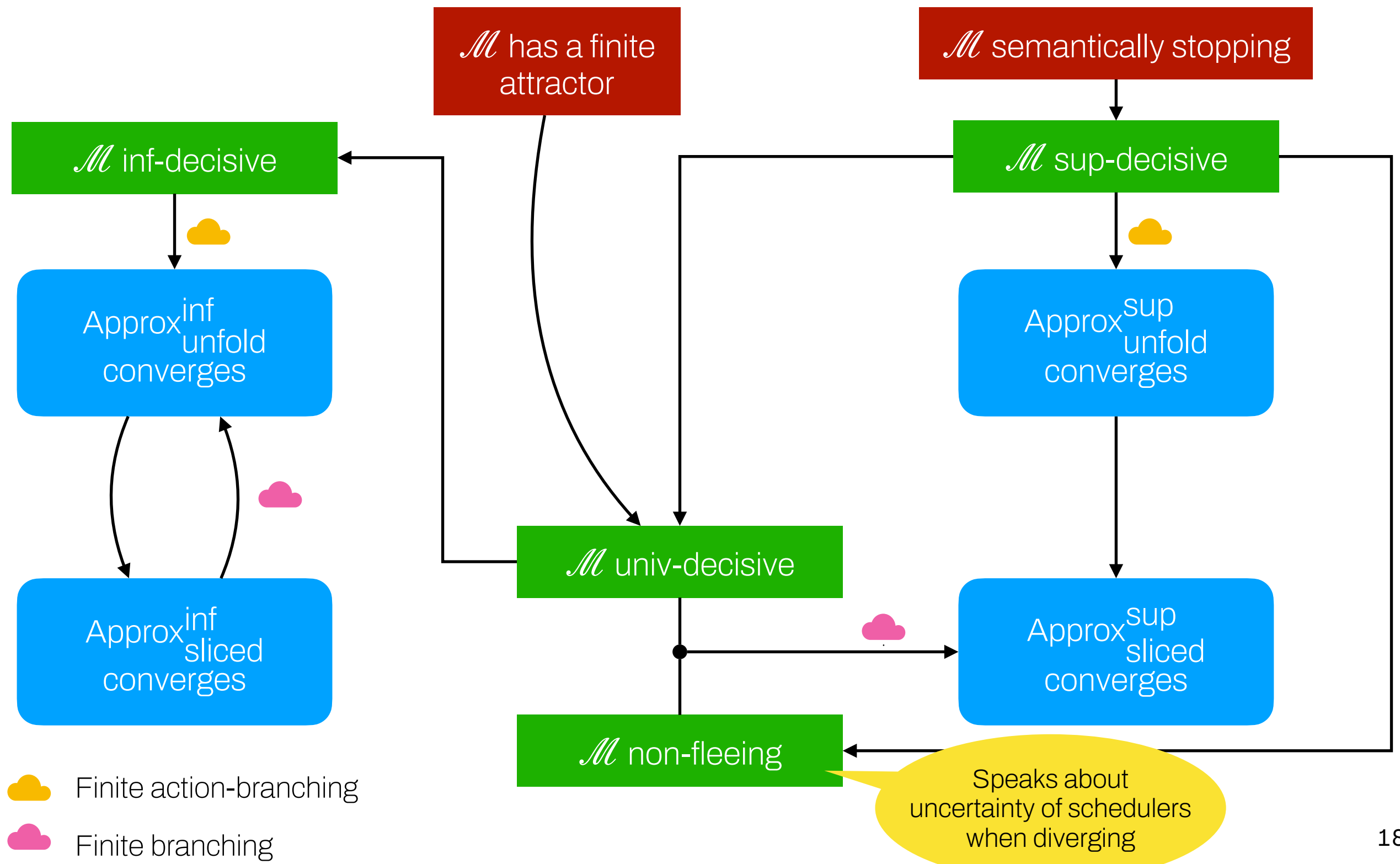
► Scheme $\text{Approx}_{\text{sliced}}^{\text{opt}}$

Converges over all finite MDPs...

Results — Summary

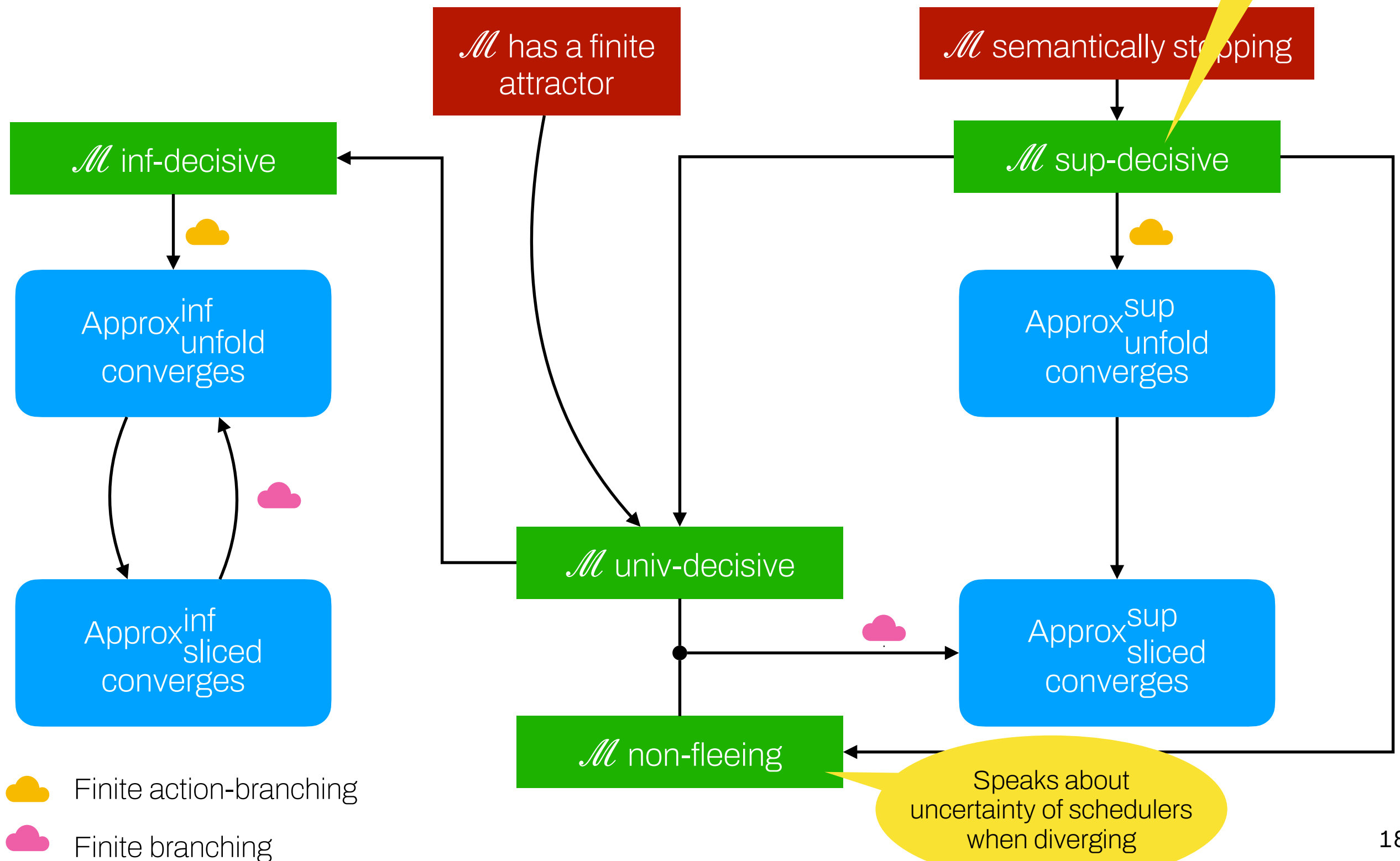


Results — Summary



Results — Summary

In finite MDPs, characterized by end-components





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Applications

Two families of models Christel has worked on

NPLCS

- ▶ NPLCS = non-deterministic and probabilistic lossy channel systems

NPLCS

Verifying nondeterministic probabilistic channel
systems against ω -regular linear-time properties

CHRISTEL BAIER

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and

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Lab. Specification & Verification, CNRS & ENS de Cachan

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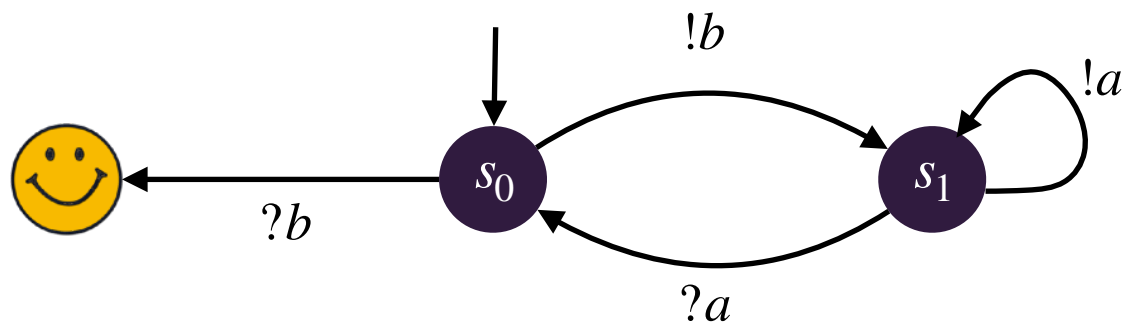
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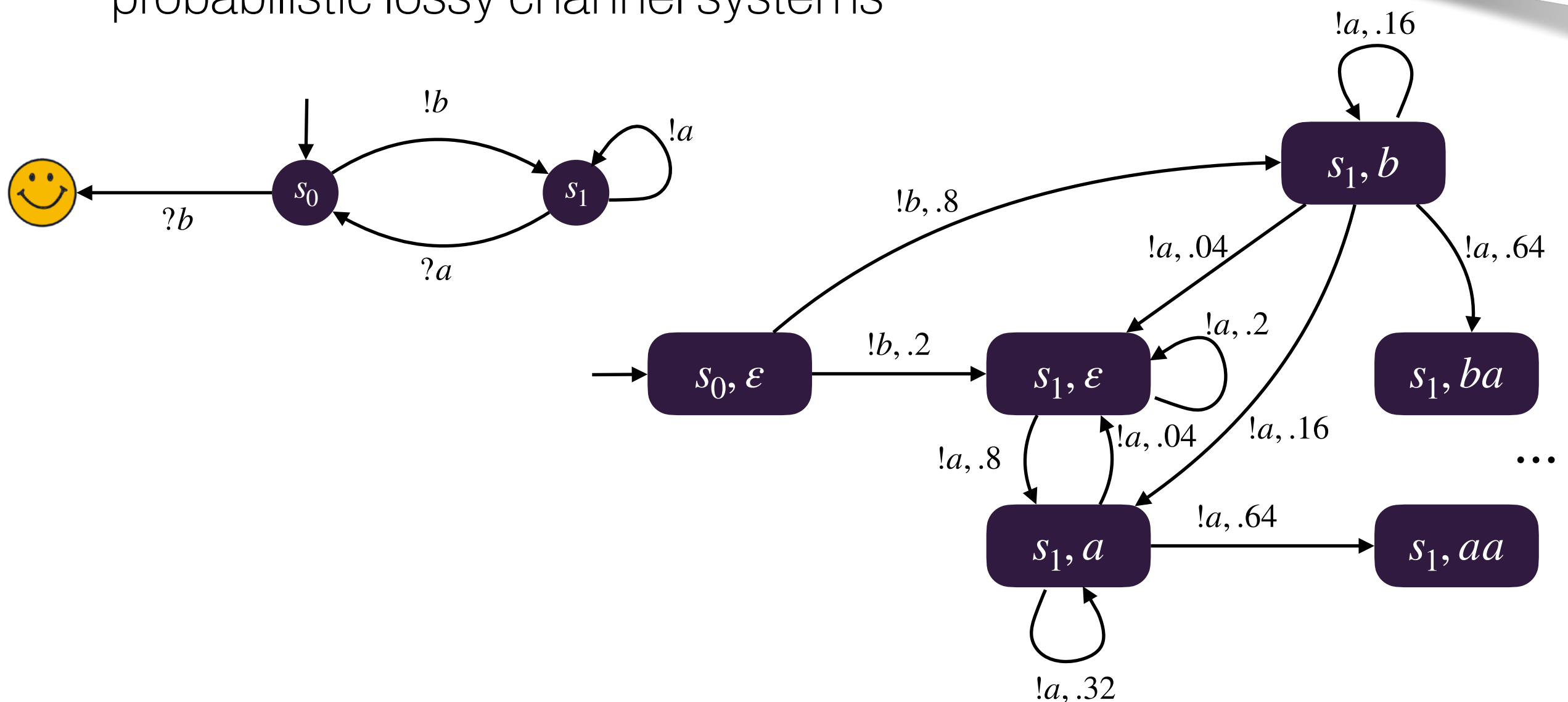
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- NPLCS = non-deterministic and probabilistic lossy channel systems



NPLCS

- ▶ The set of configurations with an empty channel is an attractor for an NPLCS [BBS07]
- ▶ Any NPLCS is univ-decisive:
 - The « inf schemes » can be applied
 - Under *nonfleeingness*, $\text{Approx}_{\text{sliced}}^{\text{sup}}$ will converge as well
- ▶ Checking $\mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{M}, s_0}^{\text{sup}} \left(\mathbf{F} \text{ 😊 } \right) = 1$ is undecidable

POMDPs

- ▶ POMDPs = partially observable MDPs

POMDPs

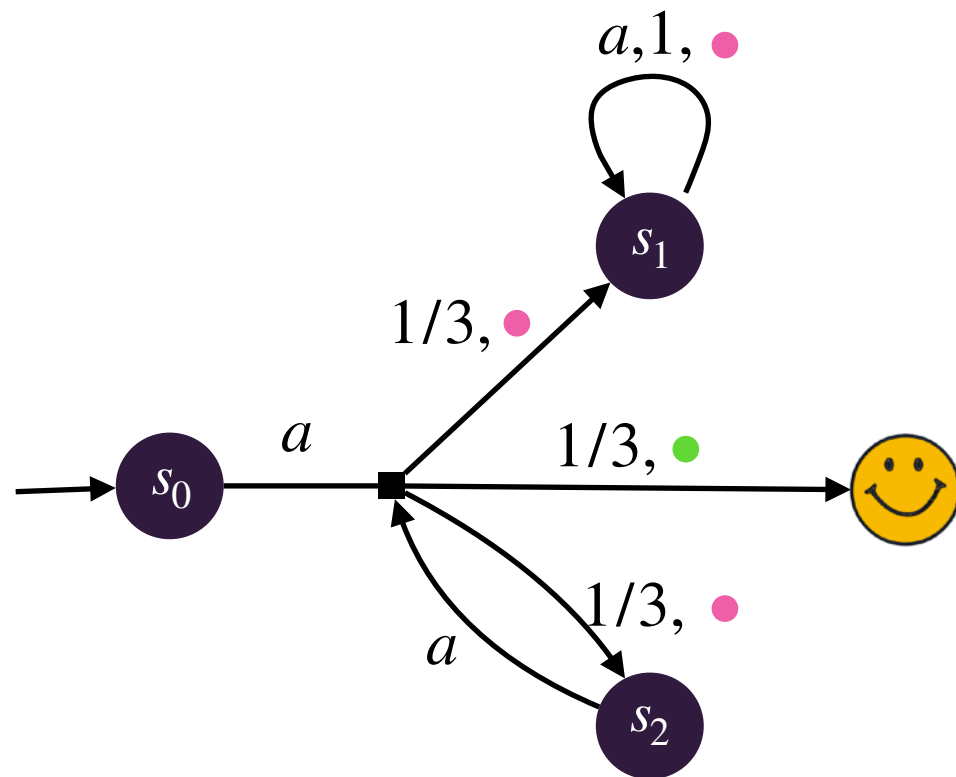
- ▶ POMDPs = partially observable MDPs

Probabilistic ω -Automata
CHRISTEL BAIER and MARCUS GRÖSSER, Technisc
NATHALIE BERTRAND, INRIA Rennes Bretagne Atlantique

POMDPs

Probabilistic ω -Automata
CHRISTEL BAIER and MARCUS GRÖSSER, Technische Universität Braunschweig
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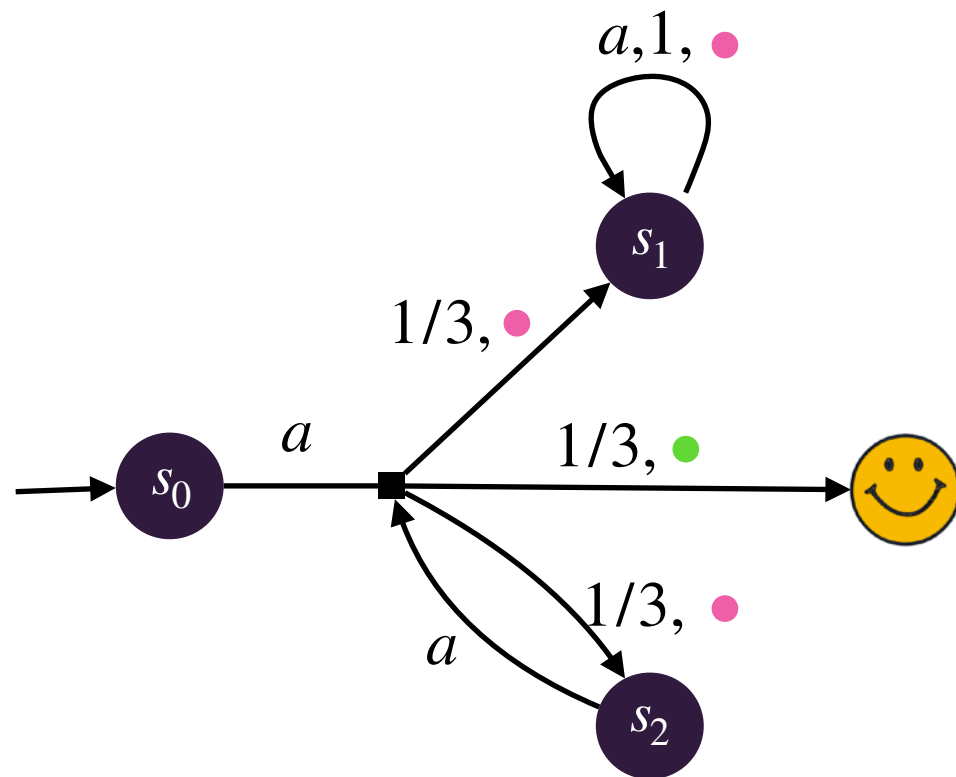
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POMDPs

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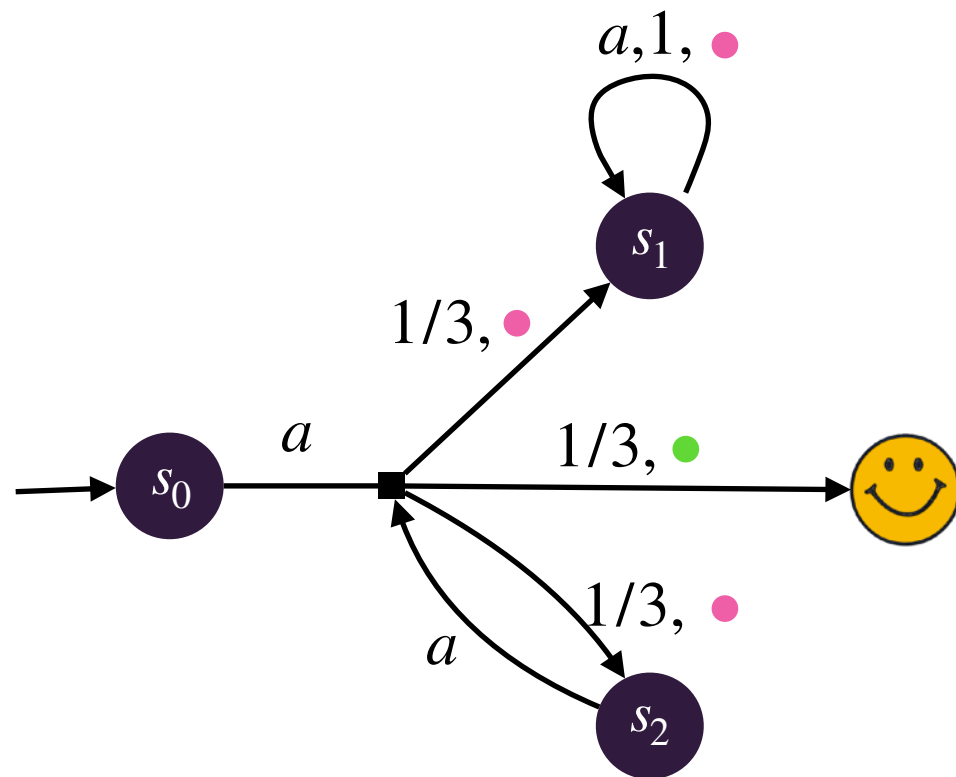


- ▶ Schedulers only depend on colors

POMDPs

Probabilistic ω -Automata
 CHRISTEL BAIER and MARCUS GRÖSSER, Technische Universität München
 NATHALIE BERTRAND, INRIA Rennes Bretagne Atlantique

- ▶ POMDPs = partially observable MDPs



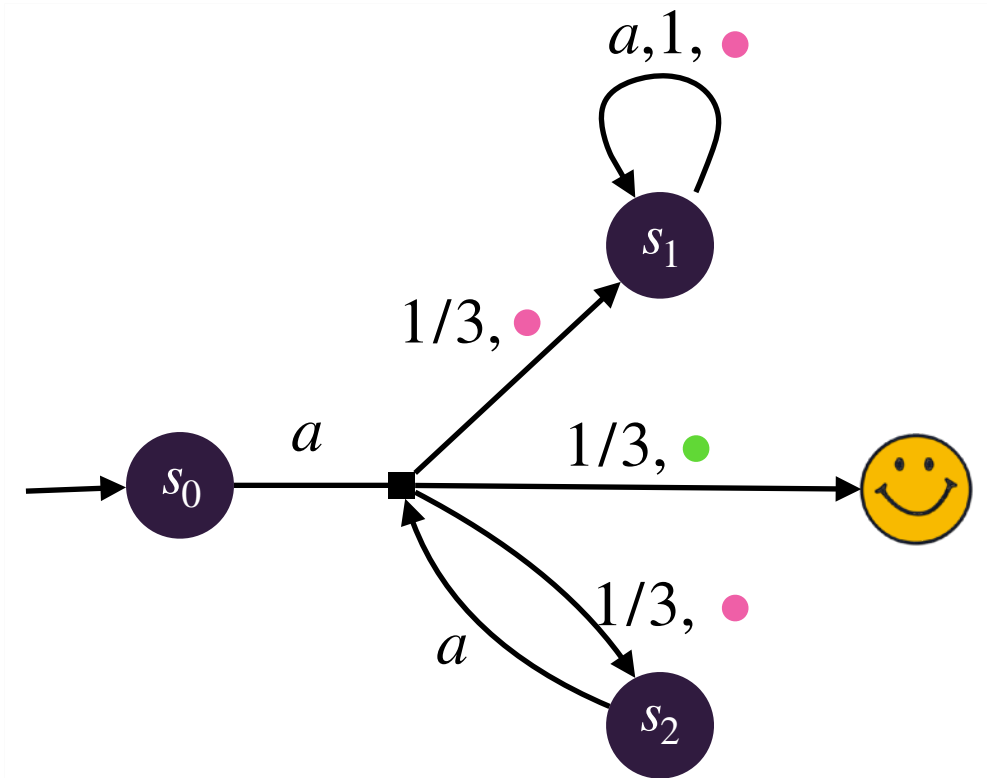
- ▶ Schedulers only depend on colors

- ▶ Checking $\mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{M}, s_0}^{\sup}(\mathbf{F} \text{ 😊 }) = 1$ is undecidable [GO10]
 There is no approximation algorithm for $\mathbb{P}^{\sup}(\text{reach})$ in POMDPs [MHCS99]
- ▶ What can we do for $\mathbb{P}^{\inf}(\text{reach})$?

[GO10] H. Gimbert, Y. Oualhadj. Probabilistic automata on finite words: Decidable and undecidable problems (ICALP'10)

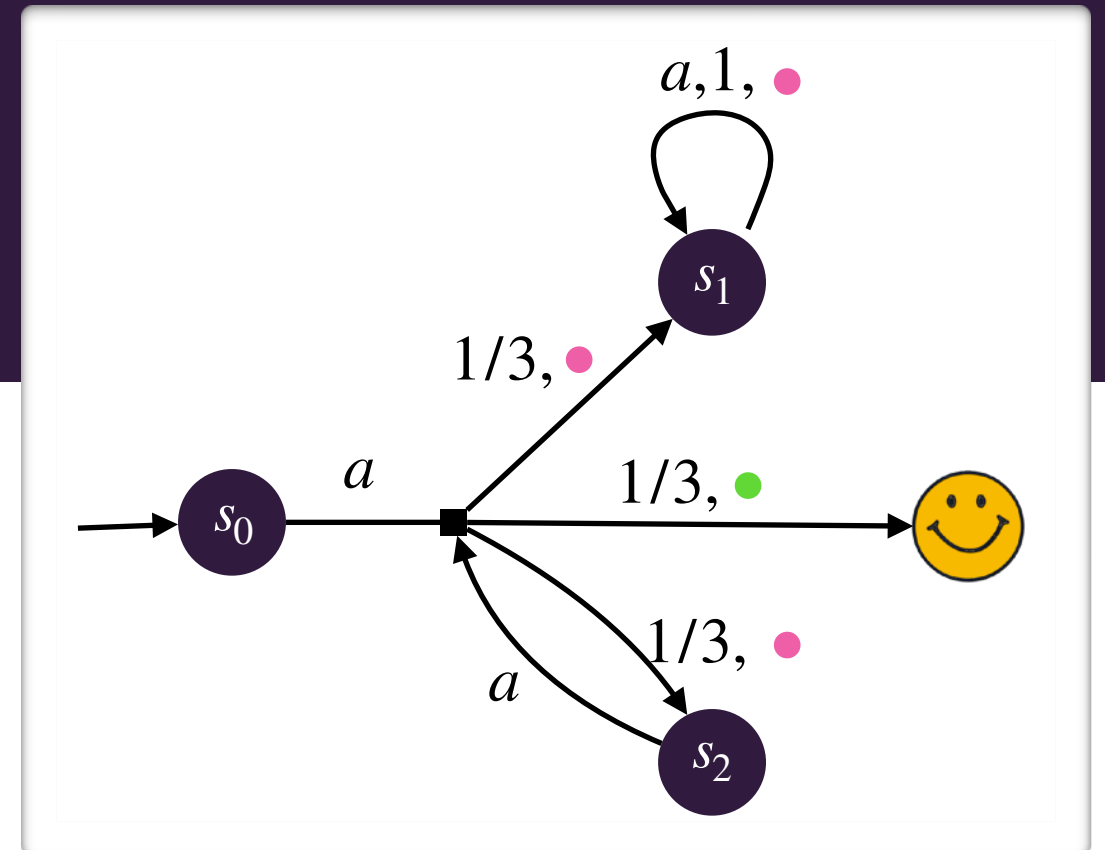
[MHC99] O. Madani, S. Hanks, A. Condon. On the undecidability of probabilistic planning and infinite-horizon partially observable Markov decision processes (1999)

POMDPs



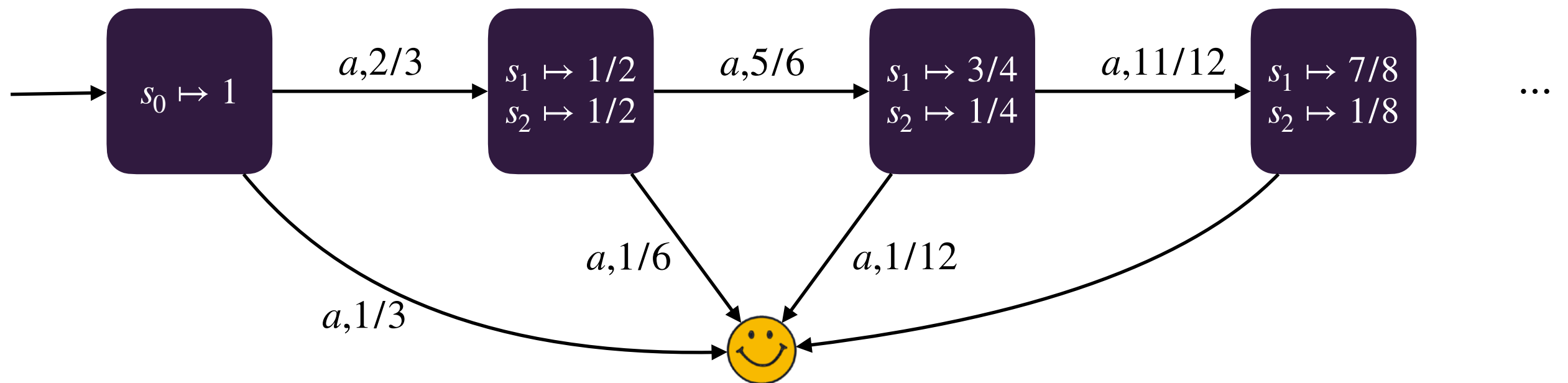
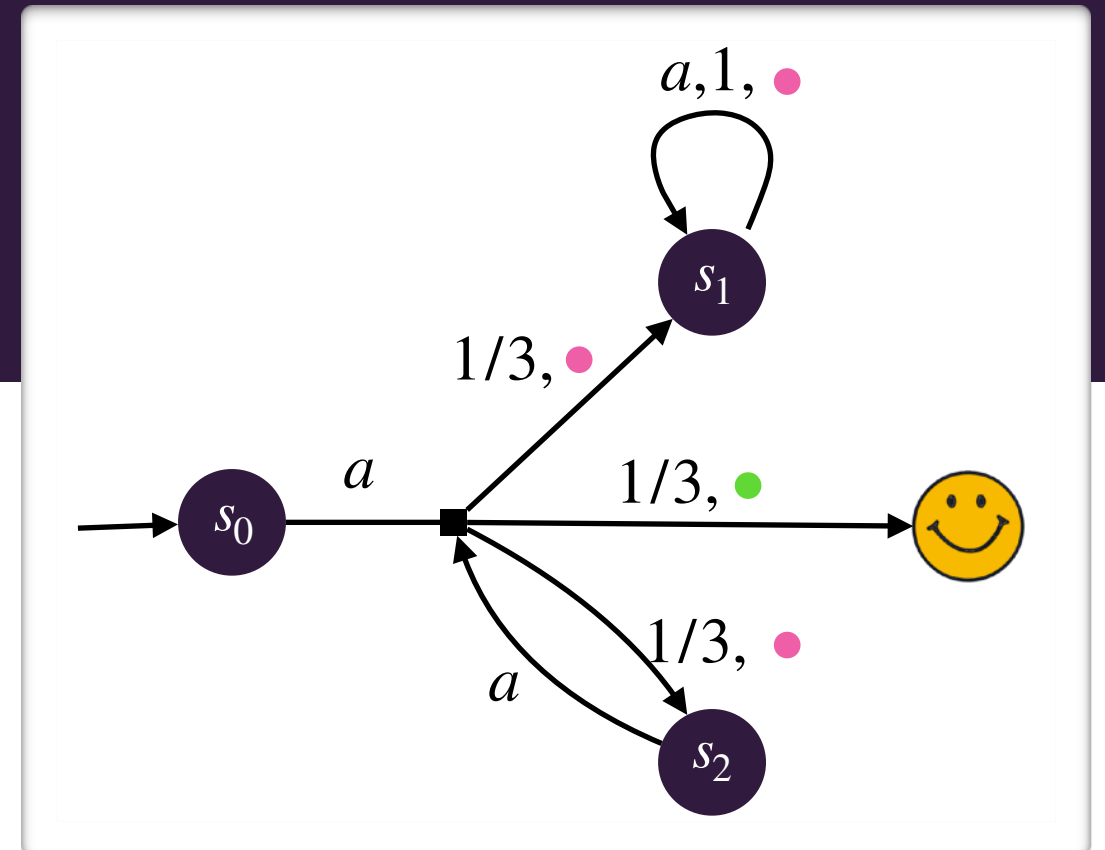
POMDPs

The belief MDP [KLC98]



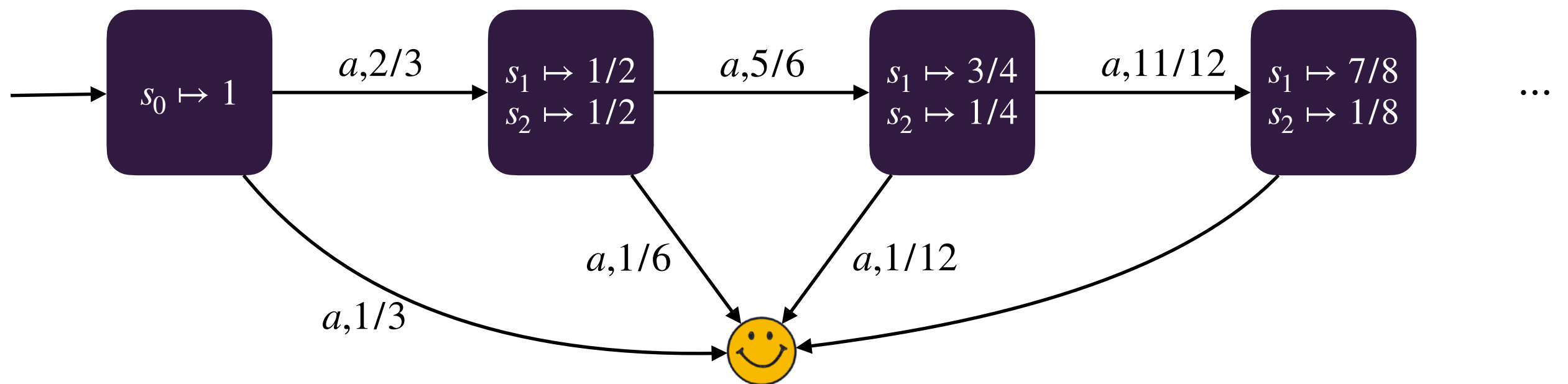
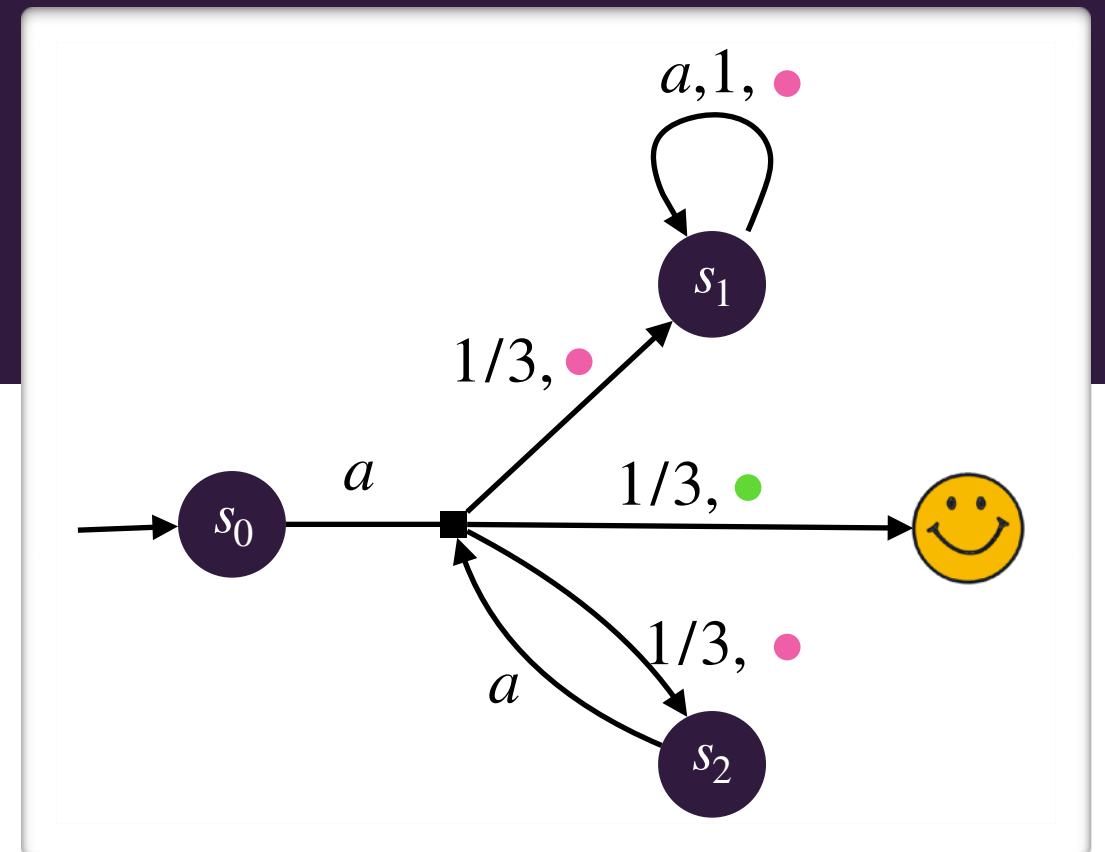
POMDPs

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POMDPs

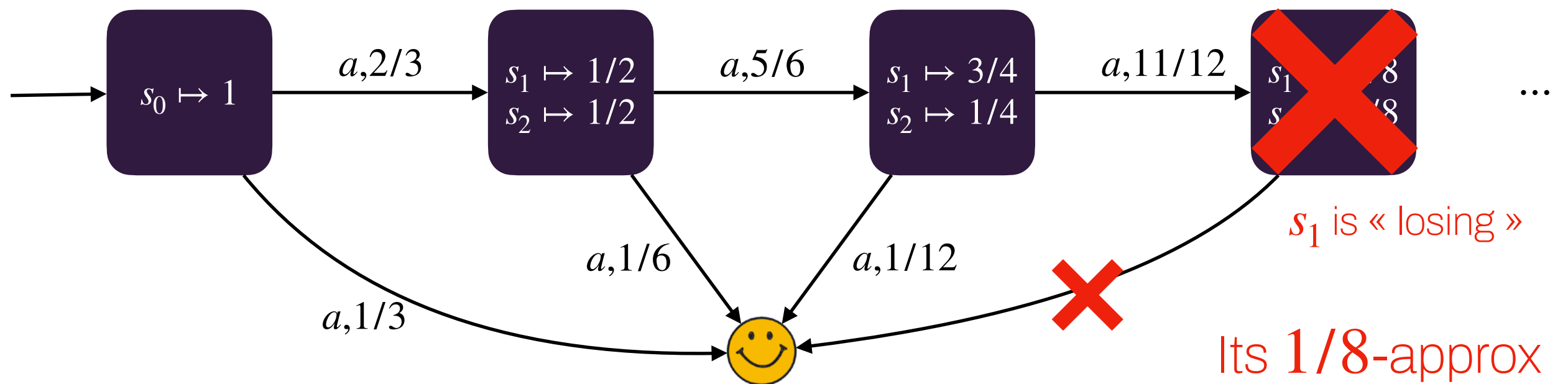
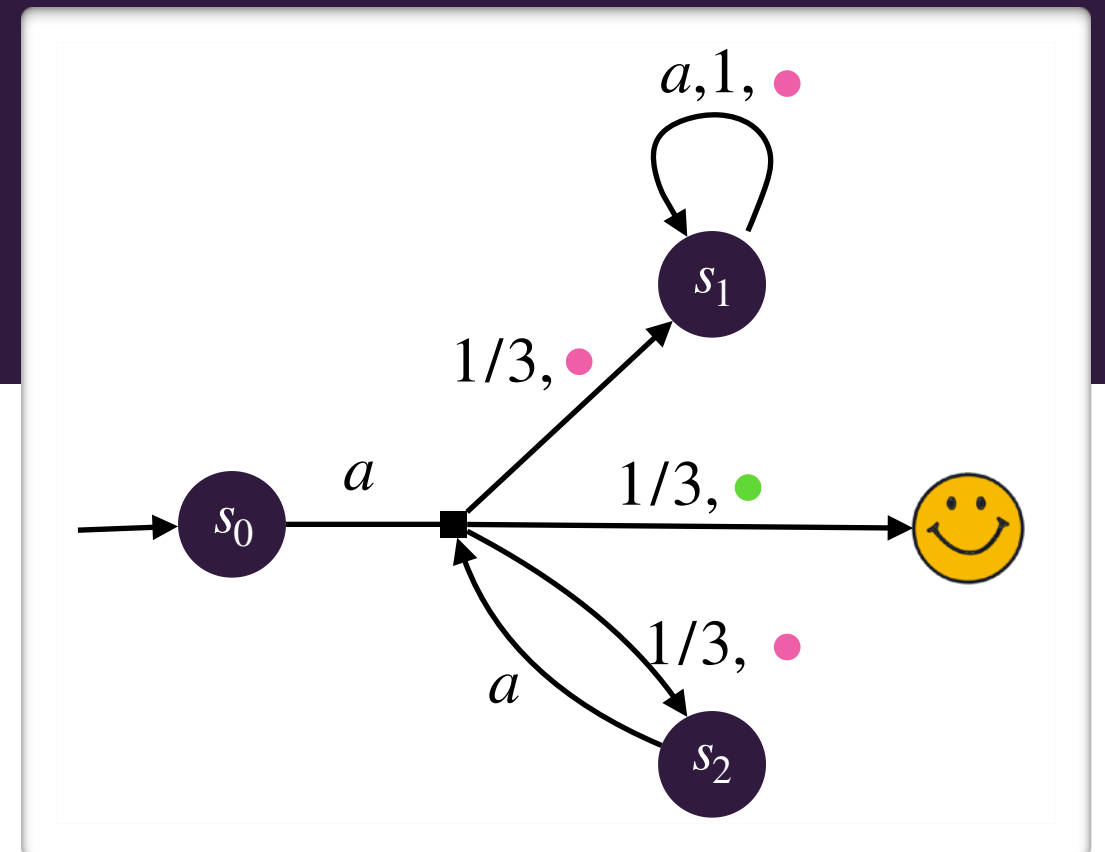
The belief MDP [KLC98]



This MDP is not inf-decisive!

POMDPs

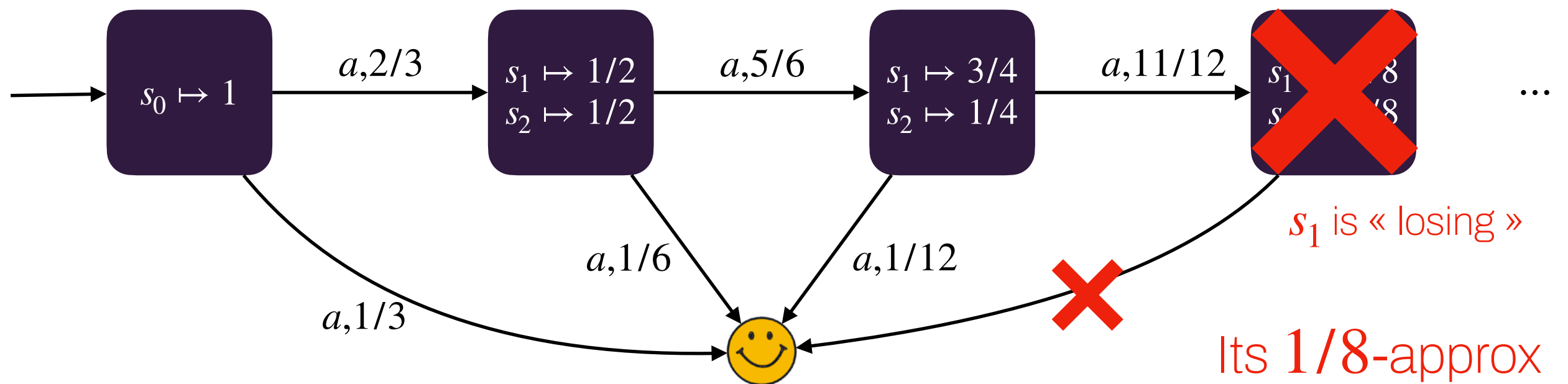
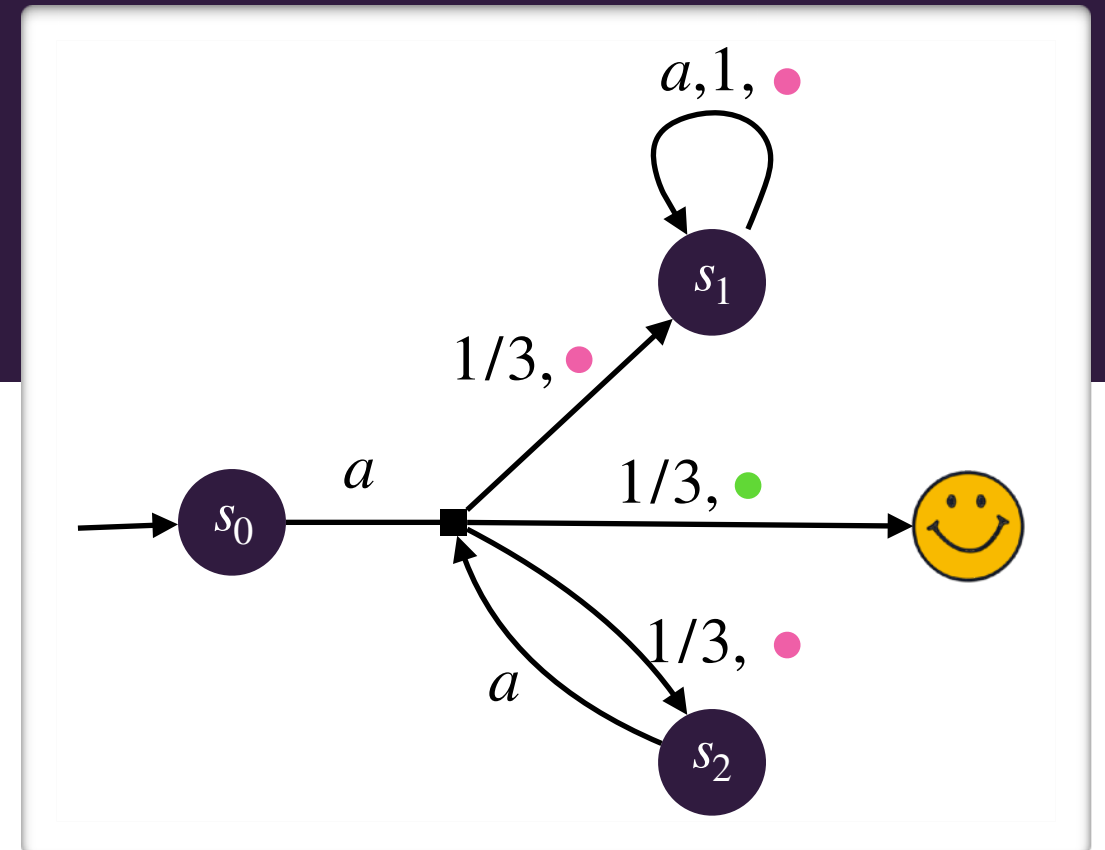
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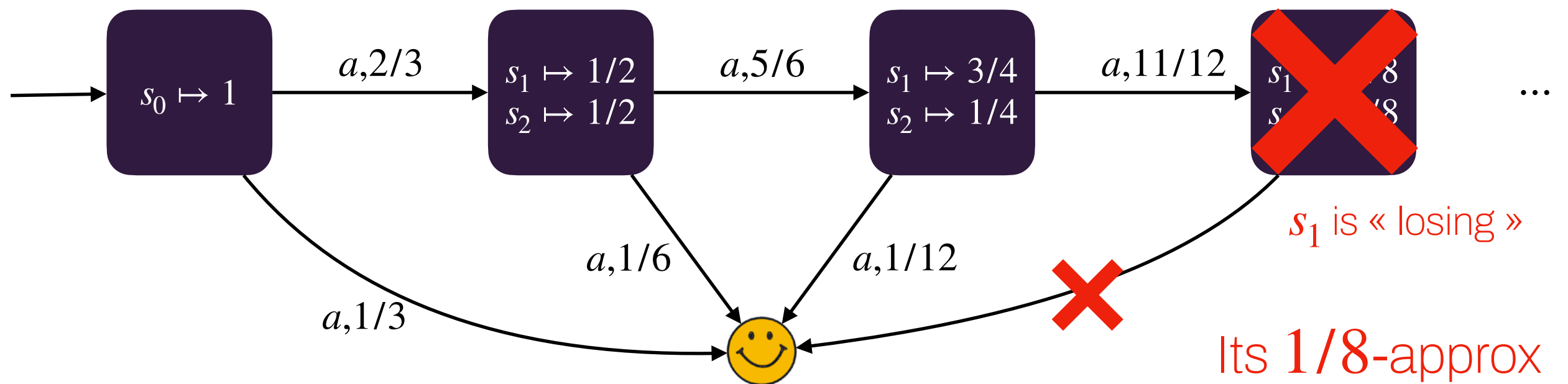
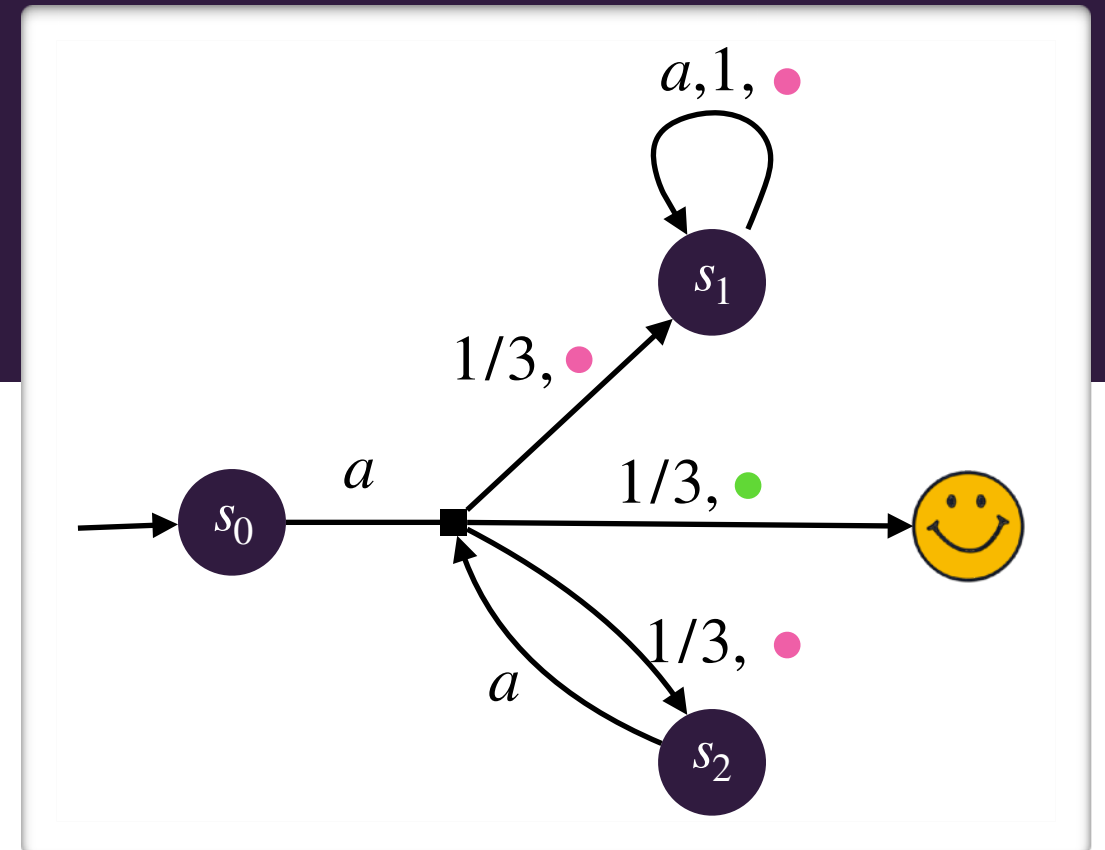
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POMDPs

The belief MDP [KLC98]



This MDP is not inf-decisive!

► The « inf schemes » can be applied

Conclusion

- ▶ Notions of decisiveness lifted to the setting of MDPs
- ▶ Inf-decisiveness very relevant: two classes of systems satisfy this property
- ▶ Sup-decisiveness less interesting, alternatives need to be worked out
- ▶ Further work: more expressive properties, more classes, refined notions for specific classes, ...