

# Probabilistic relations for modelling epistemic and aleatoric uncertainty

## Its semantics and automated reasoning with theorem proving

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# Outline

Background and motivations

Complexity of probabilistic reasoning and our approach

Basic definitions: *ureal*, Iverson brackets, and distributions

Probabilistic Relations: syntax and semantics

Examples

Conclusion



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## Why probability in robotics?

Uncertainties in autonomous robots:

- ▶ Unpredictable environment,
- ▶ Sensor: limits and noise,
- ▶ Actuator: control noise, mechanical failure,
- ▶ Model (abstraction of real world) error, and
- ▶ Control algorithmic approximations.

**Probabilism:** widely used in society and science to model uncertainty

*“A theory that certainty is impossible especially in the sciences and that probability suffices to govern belief and action.”*  
— (Merriam-Webster dictionary)

# Probabilistic models (PMs)

Ubiquitous: distributed systems, machine learning, artificial intelligence, robotics and autonomous systems, quantum computation etc.

Major impact on **machine intelligence**

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## Example (Intelligence)

Intersection without a signal, an autonomous vehicle slows down and coordinates its actions with others by gathering their probabilistic information.

## Motivation: why semantics for PMs or probabilistic programs (PPs)?

- ① Challenges to analyse PMs, subject to the size and complexity
- ② Errors are easily introduced in the development stage from PMs to PPs
- ③ PPs are very difficult to be tested thoroughly

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For non-probabilistic programs,

*“Program testing can be used to show the presence of bugs, . . .”*

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For non-probabilistic programs,

*“Program testing can be used to show the presence of bugs, . . .”*

— Edsger W. Dijkstra

For probabilistic programs,

*“regular testing can't even establish that presence”*

— Annabelle McIver and Carroll Morgan

## Motivation: why semantics for PMs or probabilistic programs (PPs)?

③ PPs are very difficult to be tested thoroughly

Challenges to **debug** a probabilistic program (**locate** and **correct** errors in the source code),

**Example (Quantitative errors)**

Quantitative information are the result of statistical analysis of many **executions**

## Motivation: why semantics for PMs or probabilistic programs (PPs)?

- ① Challenges to analyse PMs, subject to the size and complexity
- ② Errors are easily introduced in the development stage from PMs to PPs
- ③ PPs are very difficult to be tested thoroughly

Needs: unambiguous and rigorous mathematical **semantics**, and **analysed** on a computer

## Motivation: Probabilistic semantics for RoboChart

**RoboChart**: reactive systems, CSP (**nondeterminism**, **communication**, and **concurrency**) with **discrete-time** (tock-CSP) semantics.

**RoboSim**: **refinement** of RoboChart to simulation level

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**What we have now**: Probabilistic semantics in

- ▶ Probabilistic designs [WCF<sup>+</sup>19, YFW21]: **nondeterministic** probabilistic sequential programming, finite states

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- ▶ Probabilistic designs [WCF<sup>+</sup>19, YFW21]: **nondeterministic** probabilistic sequential programming, finite states
- ▶ PRISM [YCF<sup>+</sup>22]: DTMC and MDP
  - **time** in Markov chains are different from that in RoboChart;
  - DTMC and MDP in PRISM: **closed-world** (no subject to inputs)
  - No concept of refinement and equivalence
  - State space explosion problem

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Our first thought

**What on literatures:** probabilistic process algebras

- ▶ Probabilistic extensions: PTS, CCS, CSP, ACP
- ▶ Markov models: concurrent, interactive, Markovian process algebra (PEPA)
- ▶ Probabilistic I/O automata, Probabilistic and time extension of automata

**No practical tool support or not support theorem proving**



# Our pathways to the goal

## Our goal

Probabilistic semantics for RoboChart supporting discrete time + nondeterminism + refinement + communication + concurrency + **theorem proving**

Pathways: a probabilistic programming language (PPL)

- ▶ **A sequential PPL supporting discrete distributions with theorem proving**
  - Discrete time
  - + Nondeterminism
  - + Refinement
  - + Continuous distributions
- ▶ A concurrent PPL with communication
- ▶ ...

## Our contributions

- ▶ An imperative sequential PPL supporting **discrete distributions**
- ▶ A probabilistic semantic framework: **probabilistic relations**
- ▶ Model both **epistemic** (subjective **Bayesian**) and **aleatoric** uncertainties
  - Epistemic the lack of knowledge of information and reducible
  - Aleatoric the natural randomness of physical processes and irreducible
- ▶ Support **theorem proving** with a set of algebraic laws for simplification and verification
- ▶ Six verified probabilistic examples

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## Flip a coin - How important it is? How difficult to reason about?

A fair die (Knuth and Yao<sup>1</sup>), any discrete distribution (McIver and Morgan<sup>2</sup>)

### Example (Flip a coin till heads)

**while** (outcome **is** tails) { outcome = flip a coin }

- ▶ What's its semantics?
- ▶ What's the probabilistic distribution?
- ▶ Does this loop terminate?
- ▶ On average, how many flips are needed?

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<sup>1</sup>Knuth, D., Yao, A.: The complexity of nonuniform random number generation.

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**while** (outcome **is** tails) { outcome = flip a coin }

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- ▶ On average, how many flips are needed?  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (1/2)^n * n = 2$ , Positive AST

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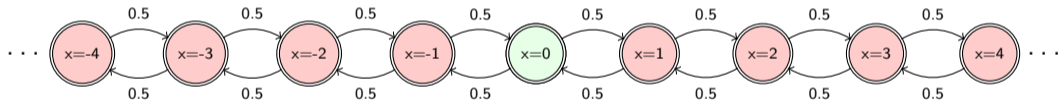
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# (Symmetric) simple random walker

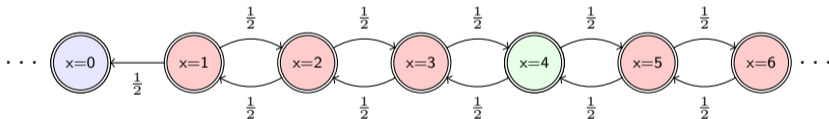
Start from the origin  $x = 0$ , will the robot always return to it (recurrent) infinitely often?



Symmetric random walk

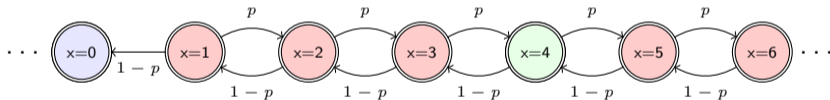
# (Symmetric) simple random walker

Start from any position  $x$ , will the robot terminate at 0?  
On average, how many steps?



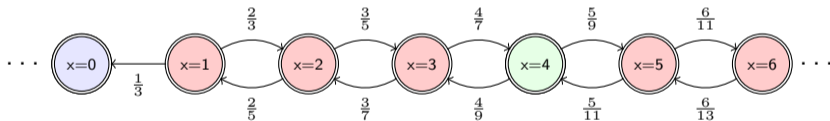
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The fair-in-the-limit random walk from McIver et al. [MMKK17]

## Probabilistic models - hardness on termination analysis

Termination of non-probabilistic programs

- ▶ Absolute termination vs. non-termination (divergence)

Termination of probabilistic programs

- ▶ Almost-sure termination (AST) vs. non AST
- ▶ **Positive** AST vs. **null** AST
- ▶ Termination becomes an **arithmetic** problem

# Probabilistic models - hardness on termination analysis

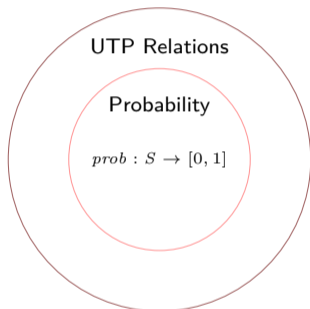
## Arithmetic (coin flip)

- ▶ Summation of sequences, (geometric) series:  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (1/2)^n * n = 2$
- ▶ Convergence: ratio test  $f(n) \hat{=} (1/2)^n * n$
- ▶ Solve an equation

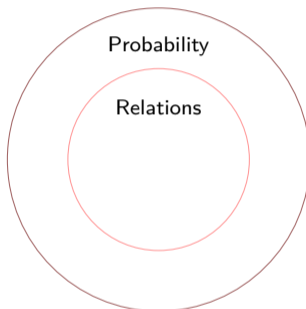
$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f(n+1) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f(n) + f(0) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f(n)$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f(n+1) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (1/2)^{(n+1)} * n + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (1/2)^{(n+1)} = \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f(n) \right) / 2 + 1$$

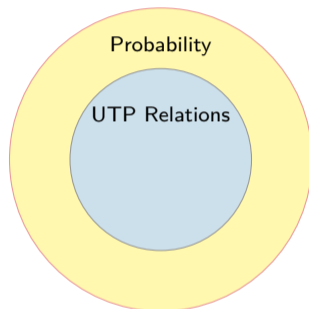
# Probabilistic relations



Probabilistic designs  
 $(S \rightarrow [0, 1]) \times (S \rightarrow [0, 1]) \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$



Hehner's PPP<sup>1</sup>



Our Probabilistic Relations  
 $S \times S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

<sup>1</sup>Eric Hehner, Probabilistic predicative programming (PPP), MPC 2004.

## Probabilistic relations

- ▶ Formalise Hehner's syntax and semantics
- ▶ Iverson bracket notation  $\llbracket P \rrbracket$ 
  - Separate UTP relations and distributions to simplify reasoning
- ▶ Bridge semantic gap for loops in Hehner's work
  - Enrich semantics domain to superdistributions and subdistributions
  - Unit interval and its pointwise function as complete lattices
- ▶ Mechanised in Isabelle/UTP: 60 definitions + 390 lemmas and theorems
- ▶ Six examples: 65 definitions + 170 lemmas and theorems



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## Unit real interval: ureal

## ureal and conversion

$$\mathit{ureal} \hat{=} \{0 \dots 1\}$$

$$\bar{u} \hat{=} (u :: \mathbb{R})$$

$$\underline{r} \hat{=} \min(\max(0, r), 1)$$

$$u_1 + u_2 \hat{=} \underline{\min(1, \bar{u}_1 + \bar{u}_2)}$$

$$u_1 - u_2 \hat{=} \underline{\max(0, \bar{u}_1 - \bar{u}_2)}$$

$$u_1 * u_2 \hat{=} \underline{\bar{u}_1 * \bar{u}_2}$$

## Theorem: ureal

$$u_1 < u_2 \Rightarrow \bar{u}_1 < \bar{u}_2$$

$$\underline{\bar{u}} = u$$

$$(r \geq 0 \wedge r \leq 1) \Rightarrow \underline{\bar{r}} = r$$

## Complete lattice

$$(\mathit{ureal}, \leq, <, 0, 1, \min, \max, \sqcap, \sqcup)$$

## Unit real interval: ureal functions

## Function type

$$[S]urexpr \hat{=} S \rightarrow ureal$$

## constants

$$\dot{0} \hat{=} \lambda s \bullet 0 \quad \dot{1} \hat{=} \lambda s \bullet 1$$

$$\ddot{0} \hat{=} \lambda s \bullet 0 \quad \ddot{1} \hat{=} \lambda s \bullet 1$$

## Pointwise functions

$$f - g \hat{=} (\lambda x \bullet f(x) - g(x))$$

$$f + g \hat{=} (\lambda x \bullet f(x) + g(x))$$

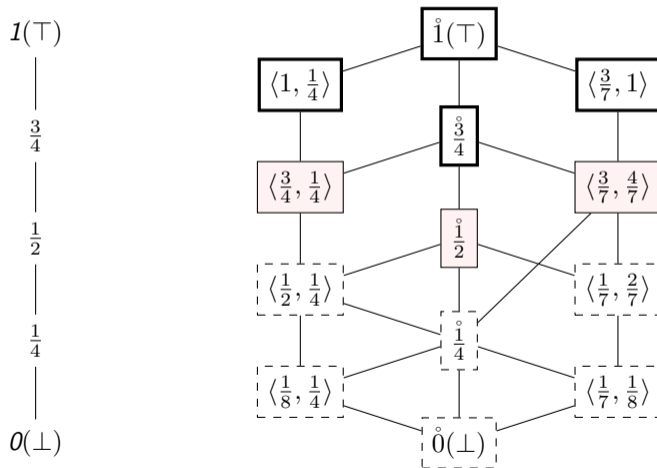
$$f \leq g \hat{=} (\forall x \bullet f(x) \leq g(x))$$

$$f < g \hat{=} (\forall x \bullet f(x) < g(x))$$

## Complete lattice

$$([S]urexpr, \leq, <, \dot{0}, \dot{1}, \sqcap, \sqcup, \prod, \bigsqcup)$$

## Unit real interval: complete lattice



# Iverson brackets

## Iverson bracket

$$\llbracket P \rrbracket : [S]_{pred} \rightarrow (S \rightarrow \mathbb{R})$$

$$\llbracket P \rrbracket \hat{=} (\text{if } P \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } 0)_e$$

## Iverson brackets

## Theorems

$$\llbracket \text{false} \rrbracket = \dot{0} \quad \llbracket \text{true} \rrbracket = \dot{1} \quad Q \sqsubseteq P \Rightarrow \llbracket P \rrbracket \leq \llbracket Q \rrbracket \quad \llbracket \neg P \rrbracket = (1 - \llbracket P \rrbracket)_e$$

$$\llbracket P \wedge Q \rrbracket = (\llbracket P \rrbracket * \llbracket Q \rrbracket)_e \quad \llbracket P \vee Q \rrbracket = (\llbracket P \rrbracket + \llbracket Q \rrbracket - \llbracket P \rrbracket * \llbracket Q \rrbracket)_e$$

$$\llbracket \lambda s \bullet s \in A \cap B \rrbracket = (\llbracket \lambda s \bullet s \in A \rrbracket * \llbracket \lambda s \bullet s \in B \rrbracket)_e$$

$$(\llbracket \lambda s \bullet s \in A \rrbracket + \llbracket \lambda s \bullet s \in B \rrbracket)_e = (\llbracket \lambda s \bullet s \in A \cap B \rrbracket + \llbracket \lambda s \bullet s \in A \cup B \rrbracket)_e$$

$$(\max(x, y))_e = (x * \llbracket x > y \rrbracket + y * \llbracket x \leq y \rrbracket)_e \quad (\min(x, y))_e = \dots$$

$$\sum_{P(k)} f(k) = \sum_k (f * \llbracket P \rrbracket)_e(k)$$

# Type Abbreviation and conversions

## Types

$$[V, S] \text{expr} \hat{=} S \rightarrow V$$

$$[S] \text{rexpr} \hat{=} [\mathbb{R}, S] \text{expr}$$

$$[S_1, S_2] \text{rvfun} \hat{=} [\mathbb{R}, S_1 \times S_2] \text{expr}$$

$$[S] \text{rvhfun} \hat{=} [S, S] \text{rvfun}$$

$$[S] \text{urexpr} \hat{=} [\text{ureal}, S] \text{expr}$$

$$[S_1, S_2] \text{prfun} \hat{=} [\text{ureal}, S_1 \times S_2] \text{urexpr}$$

$$[S] \text{prhfun} \hat{=} [S, S] \text{prfun}$$

## Conversion

$$P : [S_1, S_2] \text{prfun}$$

$$f : [S_1, S_2] \text{rvfun}$$

$$\overline{P} \hat{=} \text{rvfun\_of\_prfun}(P)$$

$$\underline{f} \hat{=} \text{prfun\_of\_rvfun}(f)$$

# Distribution functions

## Probability and distribution functions

$$p \hat{=} \forall s \bullet (p)_e(s) \quad is\_prob(p) \hat{=} \underline{p \geq 0 \wedge p \leq 1}$$

$$is\_dist(p) \hat{=} is\_prob(p) \wedge \sum_{\infty} s \bullet p(s) = 1$$

$$is\_subdist(p) \hat{=} is\_prob(p) \wedge \sum_{\infty} s \bullet p(s) > 0 \wedge \sum_{\infty} s \bullet p(s) \leq 1$$

## Theorems

$$is\_prob(\llbracket p \rrbracket) \quad is\_dist(p) \Rightarrow is\_subdist(p) \quad is\_prob(\overline{P}) \quad is\_prob(i - \overline{P})$$

$$\underline{(\overline{P})} = P \quad \text{if } P : [S_1, S_2]prfun \quad is\_prob(p) \Rightarrow \overline{(\underline{p})} = p \quad \overline{(\llbracket p \rrbracket)} = \llbracket p \rrbracket$$



# Distribution functions

## Probability and distribution functions over final states

$$\tilde{p} \hat{=} \lambda s s' \bullet p(s, s') \quad \text{is\_final\_prob}(p) \hat{=} \text{is\_prob}(\tilde{p})$$

$$\text{is\_final\_dist}(p) \hat{=} \text{is\_dist}(\tilde{p}) \quad \text{is\_final\_subdist}(p) \hat{=} \text{is\_subdist}(\tilde{p})$$

$$\text{summable\_on\_final}(p) \hat{=} (\forall s \bullet \text{summable}(\tilde{p}(s), \mathbb{U}))$$

$$\text{summable\_on\_final2}(p, q) \hat{=} (\forall s \bullet \text{summable}(\lambda s' \bullet p(s, s') * q(s, s'), \mathbb{U}))$$

$$\text{final\_reachable}(p) \hat{=} (\forall s \bullet \exists s' \bullet p(s, s') > 0)$$

$$\text{final\_reachable2}(p, q) \hat{=} (\forall s \bullet \exists s' \bullet p(s, s') > 0 \wedge q(s, s') > 0)$$

# Distribution functions

## Final distributions and subdistributions

$$is\_final\_dist(p) \Rightarrow \left( \begin{array}{l} is\_prob(p) \wedge (\forall s \bullet \sum_{\infty} s' \bullet p(s, s') = 1) \wedge \\ summable\_on\_final(p) \wedge final\_reachable(p) \end{array} \right)$$

$$is\_final\_subdist(p) \Rightarrow \left( \begin{array}{l} is\_prob(p) \wedge (\forall s \bullet \sum_{\infty} s' \bullet p(s, s') > 0) \wedge \\ (\forall s \bullet \sum_{\infty} s' \bullet p(s, s') \leq 1) \\ summable\_on\_final(p) \wedge final\_reachable(p) \end{array} \right)$$

# Normalisation

## Normalisation

$$\mathcal{N}(p) \hat{=} (p / (\Sigma_{\infty} s : S \bullet p(s)))_e$$

$$\mathcal{N}_f(p) \hat{=} (p / (\Sigma_{\infty} v_0 : S_2 \bullet p[v_0/\mathbf{v}']))_e$$

$$\mathcal{N}_{\alpha}(x, p) \hat{=} (p / (\Sigma_{\infty} x_0 : T_x \bullet p[x_0/x']))_e \text{ Alphabetised}$$

$$\mathcal{U}(x, A) \hat{=} \mathcal{N}_{\alpha} \left( x, \left[ \bigsqcup v \in A \bullet x := v \right] \right) \text{ Uniform distributions}$$

## Normalisation is final distribution

$$is\_nonneg(p) \wedge final\_reachable(p) \wedge summable\_on\_final(p) \Rightarrow is\_final\_dist(\mathcal{N}_f(p))$$

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# Syntax and semantics

$\Pi_p \hat{=} \llbracket \Pi \rrbracket$	(skip)
$(x :=_p e) \hat{=} \llbracket x := e \rrbracket$	(assignment)
$(P \oplus_r Q) \hat{=} \frac{(\bar{r} * \bar{P} + (\dot{1} - \bar{r}) * \bar{Q})_e}{e}$	(probabilistic choice)
$(\text{if}_c b \text{ then } P \text{ else } Q) \hat{=} \frac{(\text{if } b \text{ then } \bar{P} \text{ else } \bar{Q})_e}{e}$	(conditional choice)
$P ; Q \hat{=} \frac{(\sum_{\infty} v_0 \bullet \bar{P}[v_0/\mathbf{v}'] * \bar{Q}[v_0/\mathbf{v}])_e}{e}$	(sequential composition)
$R \parallel T \hat{=} \frac{\mathcal{N}_f(R * T)_e}{e}$	(parallel composition)
$\mathcal{F}_P^b(X) \hat{=} \mathcal{F}(b, P, X) \hat{=} \text{if}_c b \text{ then } (P ; X) \text{ else } \Pi_p$	(loop characterisation function)
$\text{while}_p b \text{ do } P \text{ od} \hat{=} \mu_p X \bullet \mathcal{F}_P^b(X)$	(while loop by least fixed point)
$\text{while}_p^\top b \text{ do } P \text{ od} \hat{=} \nu_p X \bullet \mathcal{F}_P^b(X)$	(while loop by strongest fixed point)

## Subjective Bayesian

Sequential composition: conditional probability (for actions)

Parallel composition: joint probability (for new knowledge)

$$\text{posterior} = \frac{\text{prior} * \text{likelihood}}{\text{evidence}} \quad \text{or} \quad P(A | B) = \frac{P(A)P(B | A)}{P(B)}$$

Programs

$$(\text{prior}; \text{action}) \parallel (\text{likelihood})$$

# Top, bottom, skip, and assignment

## Top and bottom

$$\begin{array}{lll}
 \top = \dot{1} & \perp = \dot{0} & \underline{\dot{1}} = \dot{1} \\
 \underline{\dot{0}} = \dot{0} & \overline{\dot{1}} = \dot{1} & \overline{\dot{0}} = \dot{0} \\
 P \leq \dot{1} & P \geq \dot{0} & P * \dot{1} = P \\
 p * \dot{0} = \dot{0} & p * \dot{1} = p & P * \dot{0} = \dot{0}
 \end{array}$$

## Skip and assignment

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \Pi_p = (x :=_p x) \\
 is\_final\_dist(\overline{\Pi_p}) \\
 \overline{(\llbracket \Pi \rrbracket)} = \llbracket \Pi \rrbracket \\
 is\_final\_dist(\overline{x :=_p e})
 \end{array}$$

# Probabilistic choice

## Probabilistic choice

$$is\_final\_dist(\overline{P}) \wedge is\_final\_dist(\overline{Q}) \Rightarrow is\_final\_dist(\overline{P \oplus_r Q})$$

$$(P \oplus_0 Q) = Q \quad (P \oplus_1 Q) = P$$

$$(P \oplus_r Q) = (Q \oplus_{1-r} P) \quad (P \oplus_r Q) = \underline{\bar{r} * \overline{P} + (1 - \bar{r}) * \overline{Q}}$$

$$r^\uparrow \hat{=} \lambda(s, s') \bullet r(s)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{l} \underline{(1 - w_1) * (1 - w_2) = (1 - r_2)} \\ \wedge \underline{w_1 = r_1 * r_2} \end{array} \right) \Rightarrow (P \oplus_{w_1^\uparrow} (Q \oplus_{w_2^\uparrow} R)) = ((P \oplus_{r_1^\uparrow} Q) \oplus_{r_2^\uparrow} R)$$



## Conditional choice

### Conditional choice

$$is\_final\_dist(\overline{P}) \wedge is\_final\_dist(\overline{Q}) \Rightarrow is\_final\_dist(\overline{\mathbf{if}_c b \text{ then } P \text{ else } Q})$$

$$(\mathbf{if}_c b \text{ then } P \text{ else } P) = P$$

$$(\mathbf{if}_c b \text{ then } P \text{ else } Q) = (P \oplus_{\llbracket b \rrbracket} Q)$$

$$(P_1 \leq P_2 \wedge Q_1 \leq Q_2) \Rightarrow (\mathbf{if}_c b \text{ then } P_1 \text{ else } Q_1) \leq (\mathbf{if}_c b \text{ then } P_2 \text{ else } Q_2)$$

## Sequential composition

### Sequential composition

$$is\_final\_dist(\overline{P}) \wedge is\_final\_dist(\overline{Q}) \Rightarrow is\_final\_dist(\overline{P; Q})$$

$$\mathring{0}; P = \mathring{0} \quad P; \mathring{0} = \mathring{0} \quad \Pi_p; P = P \quad P; \Pi_p = P$$

$$is\_final\_dist(\overline{P}) \Rightarrow P; \mathring{1} = \mathring{1} \quad (P_1 \leq P_2 \wedge Q_1 \leq Q_2) \Rightarrow (P_1; Q_1) \leq (P_2; Q_2)$$

$$is\_final\_subdist(\overline{P}) \wedge \dots \wedge (\overline{Q}) \wedge \dots \wedge (\overline{R}) \Rightarrow (P; (Q; R) = (P; Q); R)$$

$$is\_final\_subdist(\overline{P}) \Rightarrow$$

$$\left( P; (\mathbf{if}_c b \mathbf{then} Q \mathbf{else} R) = \underline{\left( \overline{(P; (\llbracket b \rrbracket * Q))} + \overline{(P; (\llbracket \neg b \rrbracket * R))} \right)}_e \right)$$

# Sequential composition

## Sequential composition

$$\llbracket p \rrbracket ; \llbracket q \rrbracket = \frac{(\sum_{\infty} v_0 \bullet \llbracket p[v_0/\mathbf{v}'] \wedge q[v_0/\mathbf{v}] \rrbracket)}{e}$$

$$c_1 \neq c_2 \Rightarrow \llbracket x' = c_1 \rrbracket ; \llbracket x = c_2 \rrbracket = \dot{0}$$

$$\llbracket x = c_0 \wedge x := c_1 \rrbracket ; \llbracket x = c_1 \rrbracket = \llbracket x = c_0 \rrbracket$$

$$\llbracket x = c_0 \wedge x := c_1 \rrbracket ; \llbracket x = c_1 \wedge x := c_2 \rrbracket = \llbracket x = c_0 \wedge x' = c_2 \rrbracket$$

# Uniform distribution

## Uniform distribution

$$\mathcal{U}(x, \emptyset) = \dot{0}$$

$$\text{finite}(A) \Rightarrow \text{is\_prob}(\mathcal{U}(x, A))$$

$$\text{finite}(A) \wedge A \neq \emptyset \Rightarrow \text{is\_final\_dist}(\mathcal{U}(x, A))$$

$$\text{finite}(A) \wedge A \neq \emptyset \Rightarrow (\forall v \in A \bullet \mathcal{U}(x, A); \llbracket x = v \rrbracket = (1 / \text{card}(A))_e)$$

$$\text{finite}(A) \wedge A \neq \emptyset \Rightarrow \left( \mathcal{U}(x, A) = \left[ \bigcup_{v \in A} v \bullet x := v \right] / \text{card}(A) \right)$$

$$\text{finite}(A) \wedge A \neq \emptyset \Rightarrow \left( \underline{\mathcal{U}(x, A)}; P = \underline{(\sum_{\infty} v \in A \bullet \bar{P}[v/x])} / \text{card}(A) \right)$$

# Parallel composition

## Parallel composition

$$is\_nonneg(p * q) \Rightarrow is\_prob(\mathcal{N}_f(p * q)_e)$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{l} is\_final\_prob(p) \wedge is\_final\_prob(q) \wedge \\ (summable\_on\_final(p) \vee summable\_on\_final(q)) \\ \wedge final\_reachable2(p, q) \end{array} \right) \Rightarrow is\_final\_dist(p \parallel q)$$

$$( is\_nonneg(p) \wedge is\_nonneg(q) \wedge \neg final\_reachable2(p, q) ) \Rightarrow p \parallel q = \dot{0}$$

$$\dot{0} \parallel p = \dot{0} \quad p \parallel \dot{0} = \dot{0} \quad p \parallel q = q \parallel p$$

$$c \neq 0 \wedge is\_final\_dist(p) \Rightarrow (\lambda s \bullet c) \parallel p = \underline{p}$$

$$c \neq 0 \wedge is\_final\_dist(p) \Rightarrow p \parallel (\lambda s \bullet c) = \underline{p}$$

## Parallel composition

### Parallel composition

$$\left( \begin{array}{l} is\_nonneg(p) \wedge is\_nonneg(q) \wedge is\_nonneg(r) \wedge \\ summable\_on\_final2(p, q) \wedge summable\_on\_final2(q, r) \wedge \\ final\_reachable2(p, q) \wedge final\_reachable2(q, r) \end{array} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow (p \parallel q) \parallel r = p \parallel (q \parallel r)$$

$$summable\_on\_final(\overline{Q}) \Rightarrow (\overline{P} \parallel \overline{Q}) \parallel \overline{R} = \overline{P} \parallel (\overline{Q} \parallel \overline{R})$$

$$finite(A) \wedge A \neq \emptyset \Rightarrow$$

$$\mathcal{U}(x, A) \parallel p = \frac{((\sum_{\infty} v \in A \bullet \llbracket x := v \rrbracket * p[v/x']) / (\sum_{\infty} v \in A \bullet p[v/x']))}{e}$$

# Semantic gap for loops in Hehner's PPP

## Semantic gap for loops

1. PPP: semantics for basic constructs like sequential composition, probabilistic and conditional choice
2. ???
3. ???
4. ???
5. PPP: find a fixed point

# Semantic gap for loops in Hehner's PPP

## Our approach

1. PPP: semantics for basic constructs like sequential composition, probabilistic and conditional choice
2. **Scott-Continuity**
3. ???
4. ???
5. PPP: find a fixed point



# Semantic gap for loops in Hehner's PPP

## Our approach

1. PPP: semantics for basic constructs like sequential composition, probabilistic and conditional choice
2. **Scott-Continuity**
3. **Kleene fixed point theorem**
4. ???
5. PPP: find a fixed point

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## Our approach

1. PPP: semantics for basic constructs like sequential composition, probabilistic and conditional choice
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# Semantic gap for loops in Hehner's PPP

## Our approach

1. PPP: semantics for basic constructs like sequential composition, probabilistic and conditional choice
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4. **Unique fixed point theorem**
5. PPP: find a fixed point

Only for probabilistic programs  $P$  whose possible final states are always finite

## Semantics of loops

### Knaster–Tarski fixed-point theorem

- ▶ Provided  $(X, \leq)$  is a complete lattice and  $F : X \rightarrow X$  is monotonic,
- ▶ then the set of fixed points of  $F$  also forms a complete lattice.
- ▶ The LFP is the **infimum** of the pre-fixed points, and the GFP is the **supremum** of the post-fixed points.

$$\mu F \hat{=} \bigsqcap \{u : X \mid F(u) \leq u\}$$

$$\nu F \hat{=} \bigsqcup \{u : X \mid u \leq F(u)\}$$

# While loops

## While loops

$is\_final\_dist(\overline{P}) \Rightarrow \mathbf{while}_p b \mathbf{do} P \mathbf{od} = \mathcal{F}_P^b(\mathbf{while}_p b \mathbf{do} P \mathbf{od})$

$\mathbf{while}_p \mathbf{false} \mathbf{do} P \mathbf{od} = \Pi_p$

$\mathbf{while}_p \mathbf{true} \mathbf{do} P \mathbf{od} = \dot{0}$

$is\_final\_dist(\overline{P}) \Rightarrow \mathbf{while}_p^\top b \mathbf{do} P \mathbf{od} = \mathcal{F}_P^b(\mathbf{while}_p^\top b \mathbf{do} P \mathbf{od})$

$\mathbf{while}_p^\top \mathbf{false} \mathbf{do} P \mathbf{od} = \Pi_p$

$is\_final\_dist(\overline{P}) \Rightarrow \mathbf{while}_p^\top \mathbf{true} \mathbf{do} P \mathbf{od} = \dot{1}$

# Continuity and Kleene fixed-point theorem

## Scott continuity

- ▶ Suppose  $(X, \leq)$  and  $(X', \leq')$  are complete lattices,
- ▶ A function  $F : X \rightarrow X'$  is **Scott-continuous** or **continuous** if, for every non-empty chain  $S \subseteq X$ ,
  - $F(\bigsqcup_X S) = \bigsqcup_{X'} F(S)$
- ▶  $F(S) \hat{=} \{d \in S \bullet F(d)\}$ : the relational image of  $S$  under  $F$  or the range of  $F$  domain restricted to  $S$ .

# Continuity and Kleene fixed-point theorem

## Kleene fixed-point theorem

- ▶ Provided  $(X, \leq)$  is a complete lattice, and  $F : X \rightarrow X$  is continuous,
- ▶ then  $F$  has a least fixed point  $\mu F$  and a greatest fixed point  $\nu F$ ,

$$\mu F = \bigsqcup_{n \geq 0} F^n(\perp)$$

$$\nu F = \bigsqcap_{n \geq 0} F^n(\top)$$

- ▶ Here we use  $\bigsqcup_{n \geq 0} F^n(\perp)$  to denote  $\bigsqcup \{n : \mathbb{N} \bullet F^n(\perp)\}$

## Continuity and Kleene fixed-point theorem: loop iterations

### Loop iteration and iteration difference

$$\mathcal{I}(n, b, P, X) \hat{=} \left( \mathbf{if} \ n = 0 \ \mathbf{then} \ X \ \mathbf{else} \ \mathcal{F}_P^b(\mathcal{I}(n - 1, b, P, X)) \right)$$

$$\mathcal{F}_0(b, P, X) \hat{=} \mathbf{if}_c \ b \ \mathbf{then} \ (P ; X) \ \mathbf{else} \ \mathring{0}$$

$$\mathcal{ID}(n, b, P, X) \hat{=} (\mathbf{if} \ n = 0 \ \mathbf{then} \ X \ \mathbf{else} \ \mathcal{F}_0(b, P, \mathcal{ID}(n - 1, b, P, X)))$$

### Increasing and decreasing chains

$$is\_final\_dist(\overline{P}) \Rightarrow incseq(\lambda n \bullet \mathcal{I}(n, b, P, \mathring{0}))$$

$$is\_final\_dist(\overline{P}) \Rightarrow decseq(\lambda n \bullet \mathcal{I}(n, b, P, \mathring{1}))$$



# Continuity of loop iteration functions

Finite possible final states

$$finite\_final(P) \hat{=} \forall s \bullet finite \{s' : S \mid P(s, s') > 0\}$$

Continuity of loop iteration functions

$$(is\_final\_dist(\bar{P}) \wedge finite\_final(P)) \\ \Rightarrow \left( \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{F}_P^b(\bigsqcup n \bullet \mathcal{I}(n, b, P, \dot{0})) = (\bigsqcup n \bullet \mathcal{I}(n, b, P, \dot{0})) \\ \mathcal{F}_P^b(\prod n \bullet \mathcal{I}(n, b, P, \dot{1})) = (\prod n \bullet \mathcal{I}(n, b, P, \dot{1})) \end{array} \right)$$

# Kleene fixed-point theorem of probabilistic loops

## Semantics of probabilistic loops by iterations

$$\begin{aligned} & (is\_final\_dist(\overline{P}) \wedge finite\_final(P)) \\ \Rightarrow & \left( \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{while}_p b \mathbf{do} P \mathbf{od} = (\bigsqcup n \bullet \mathcal{I}(n, b, P, \overset{\circ}{0})) \\ \mathbf{while}_p^\top b \mathbf{do} P \mathbf{od} = (\bigsqcap n \bullet \mathcal{I}(n, b, P, \overset{\circ}{1})) \end{array} \right) \end{aligned}$$

# Unique fixed-point theorem: motivation example

Flip a fair coin till heads

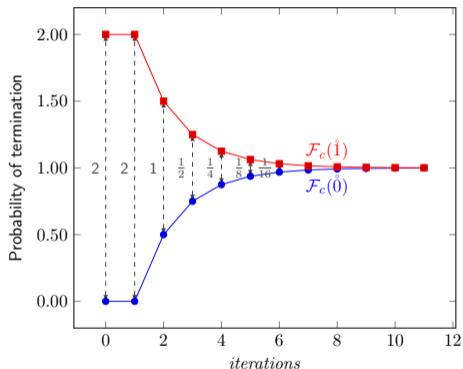
$T_{\text{coin}} ::= hd \mid tl$

**alphabet**  $cstate = c :: T_{\text{coin}}$

$cflip \hat{=} c :=_p hd \oplus_{1/2} c :=_p tl$

$flip \hat{=} \mathbf{while}_p c = tl \mathbf{do} cflip \mathbf{od}$

$\mathcal{F}_c \hat{=} \mathcal{F}_{cflip}^{c=tl}(X)$



# Unique fixed-point theorem

## Unique fixed-point theorem

$$\left( \begin{array}{l} is\_final\_dist(\overline{P}) \wedge \\ finite\_final(P) \wedge \\ \left( \forall s \bullet \left( \lambda n \bullet \overline{\mathcal{ID}(n, b, P, \mathbb{1})}(s) \right) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0 \right) \wedge \\ \mathcal{F}_P^b(fp) = fp \end{array} \right) \\ \Rightarrow (\mathbf{while}_p \ b \ \mathbf{do} \ P \ \mathbf{od} = fp) \wedge (\mathbf{while}_p^\top \ b \ \mathbf{do} \ P \ \mathbf{od} = fp)$$

# Unique fixed-point theorem

## Unique fixed-point theorem

$$\left( \begin{array}{l} is\_final\_dist(\overline{P}) \wedge \\ finite\_final(P) \wedge \\ \left( \forall s \bullet \left( \lambda n \bullet \overline{\mathcal{ID}(n, b, P, \mathbb{1})}(s) \right) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0 \right) \wedge \\ \mathcal{F}_P^b(fp) = fp \end{array} \right) \\ \Rightarrow (\mathbf{while}_p \ b \ \mathbf{do} \ P \ \mathbf{od} = fp) \wedge (\mathbf{while}_p^\top \ b \ \mathbf{do} \ P \ \mathbf{od} = fp)$$

Finding the semantics of a probabilistic loop is merely to prove the four assumptions:

- ▶ Hehner: the first and fourth assumptions

# Semantic gap for loops in Hehner's PPP is filled

Semantic gap for loops: our approach

1. PPP: semantics for basic constructs like sequential composition, probabilistic and conditional choice
2. **Scott-Continuity**
3. **Kleene fixed point theorem**
4. **Unique fixed point theorem**
5. PPP: find a fixed point

Only for probabilistic programs  $P$  whose possible final states are always finite

# Outline

Background and motivations

Complexity of probabilistic reasoning and our approach

Basic definitions: *ureal*, Iverson brackets, and distributions

Probabilistic Relations: syntax and semantics

Examples

Conclusion



## Doctor Who's Tardis Attack

*Two robots, the Cyberman  $C$  and the Dalek  $D$ , attack Doctor Who's Tardis once a day between them.*

*$C$  has a probability of  $1/2$  of a successful attack, while  $D$  has a probability of  $3/10$  of a successful attack.*

*$C$  attacks more often than  $D$ , with a probability of  $3/5$  on a particular day (and so  $D$  attacks with a probability of  $2/5$  on that day).*

*What is the probability that there is a successful attack today?*



# Doctor Who's Tardis Attack

DWTA

$$\textit{Attacker} ::= C \mid D \quad \textit{Status} ::= S \mid F$$

**alphabet**  $dwtastate = a :: \textit{Attacker} \quad s :: \textit{Status}$

$$dwtat \hat{=} \left( (a :=_p C); \left( s :=_p S \oplus_{1/2} s :=_p F \right) \right) \oplus_{3/5} \left( (a :=_p D); \left( s :=_p S \oplus_{3/10} s :=_p F \right) \right)$$

# Doctor Who's Tardis Attack

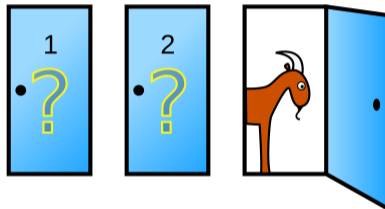
DWTA

$$dwta = \left( \begin{array}{l} 3/10 * \llbracket a' = C \wedge s' = S \rrbracket + \\ 3/10 * \llbracket a' = C \wedge s' = F \rrbracket + \\ 6/50 * \llbracket a' = D \wedge s' = S \rrbracket + \\ 14/50 * \llbracket a' = D \wedge s' = F \rrbracket \end{array} \right)_e$$

$$\overline{dwta}; \llbracket s = S \rrbracket = (21/50)_e$$

# Monty hall problem

From wikipedia:



A game, three doors, one car and two goats, the host knows which door has the car, the contestant is offered to choose a door (let's say door 1), then the host opens door 3, the contestant has an opportunity to change the door. **Should the contestant switch to door 2?**

# Monty hall problem

## Modelling

**alphabet**  $mhstate = p :: \mathbb{N} \quad c :: \mathbb{N} \quad m :: \mathbb{N}$

$$init \hat{=} \mathcal{U}(p, \{0..2\}); \mathcal{U}(c, \{0..2\})$$

$$mc \hat{=} \left( (m :=_p (c + 1) \bmod 3) \oplus_{1/2} (m :=_p (c + 2) \bmod 3) \right)$$

$$mha \hat{=} \left( \mathbf{if}_c c = p \mathbf{then} mc \mathbf{else} m := 3 - c - p \right)$$

$$mha\_nc \hat{=} init; mha; \Pi_p$$

$$mha\_c \hat{=} init; mha; c := 3 - c - m$$

# Monty hall problem

Win probability

$$\overline{mha\_nc}; \llbracket c = p \rrbracket = (1/3)_e$$

$$\overline{mha\_c}; \llbracket c = p \rrbracket = (2/3)_e$$

So the contestant should switch because of the higher probability (2/3 vs. 1/3) to win.

## Forgetful Monty problem

*Suppose now that Monty forgets which door has the prize behind it. He just opens either of the doors not chosen by the contestant.*

*If the prize is revealed ( $m' = p'$ ), then obviously the contestant switches their choice to that door. So the contestant will surely win.*

*However, if the prize is not revealed ( $m' \neq p'$ ), should the contestant switch?*

New fact learned

# Forgetful Monty problem

## Modelling

**alphabet**  $mhstate = p :: \mathbb{N} \quad c :: \mathbb{N} \quad m :: \mathbb{N}$

$init \hat{=} \mathcal{U}(p, \{0..2\}); \mathcal{U}(c, \{0..2\})$

$mc \hat{=} \left( (m :=_p (c + 1) \bmod 3) \oplus_{1/2} (m :=_p (c + 2) \bmod 3) \right)$

$forgetful\_monty \hat{=} init ; mc$

$learn\_fact \hat{=} forgetful\_monty \parallel \underline{\underline{[m' \neq p']}}$

# Forgetful Monty problem

Win probability

$$\overline{\text{learn\_fact}} = \frac{\left( \llbracket p' \in \{0..2\} \rrbracket * \llbracket c' \in \{0..2\} \rrbracket * \llbracket m' \neq p' \rrbracket * \right. \\ \left. (\llbracket m' = (c' + 1) \% 3 \rrbracket + \llbracket m' = (c' + 2) \% 3 \rrbracket) / 12 \right)_e}{\overline{\text{learn\_fact}}; \llbracket c = p \rrbracket = (1/2)_e}$$

So it doesn't matter whether the contestant switches or not.



## Robot localisation

*A circular room has two doors and a wall. A robot is equipped with a noisy door sensor which maps position to *door* or *wall*.*

*Doors are at position 0 and 2, and position 1 is a blank wall.*

*Define a predicate  $door(p) \hat{=} p = 0 \vee p = 2$  and introduce a program variable  $bel \in \{0..2\}$  to denote the position of the robot that we believe.*

*When the reading of the door sensor is *door*, it has four times more likely to be right than wrong.*

*We are interested in questions like **how many measurements** and moves are necessary to get a confident estimation of the robot's location?*

# Robot localisation

## Modelling

**alphabet**  $state = bel :: \mathbb{N}$

$door(p) \hat{=} p = 0 \vee p = 2$

$scale\_door \hat{=} (3 * \llbracket door(bel') \rrbracket + 1)_e$

$scale\_wall \hat{=} (3 * \llbracket \neg door(bel') \rrbracket + 1)_e$

$init \hat{=} \mathcal{U}(bel, \{0 .. 2\})$

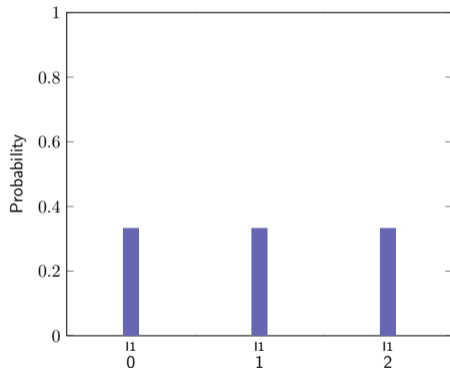
$move\_right \hat{=} (bel := (bel + 1) \bmod 3)$

# Robot localisation

Belief

*init*

$$= \left( \begin{array}{c} 1/3 * \llbracket bel' = 0 \rrbracket + \\ 1/3 * \llbracket bel' = 1 \rrbracket + \\ 1/3 * \llbracket bel' = 2 \rrbracket \end{array} \right)$$

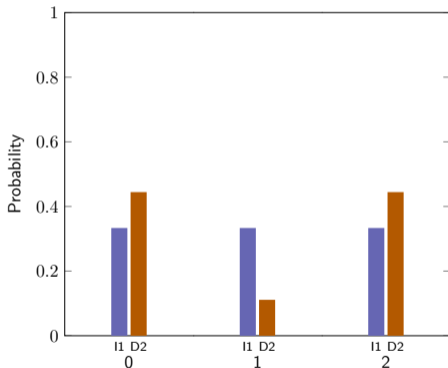


# Robot localisation

Belief

$init \parallel scale\_door$

$$= \left( \begin{array}{l} 4/9 * \llbracket bel' = 0 \rrbracket + \\ 1/9 * \llbracket bel' = 1 \rrbracket + \\ 4/9 * \llbracket bel' = 2 \rrbracket \end{array} \right)$$

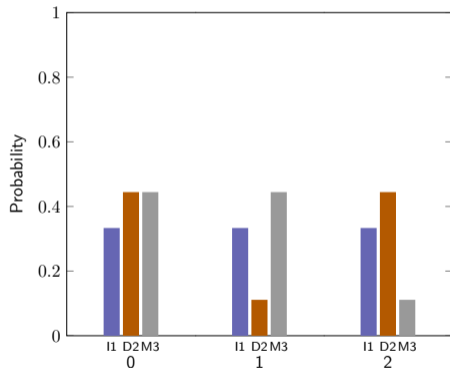


# Robot localisation

Belief

$(init \parallel scale\_door); move\_right$

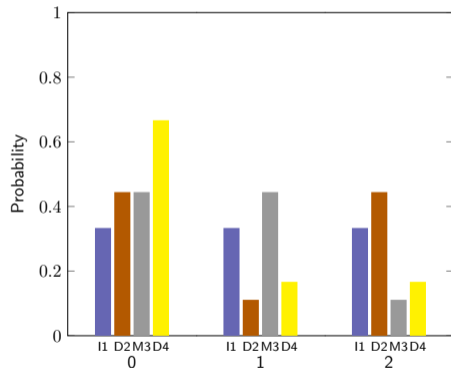
$$= \left( \begin{array}{l} 4/9 * \llbracket bel' = 0 \rrbracket + \\ 4/9 * \llbracket bel' = 1 \rrbracket + \\ 1/9 * \llbracket bel' = 2 \rrbracket \end{array} \right)$$



# Robot localisation

Belief

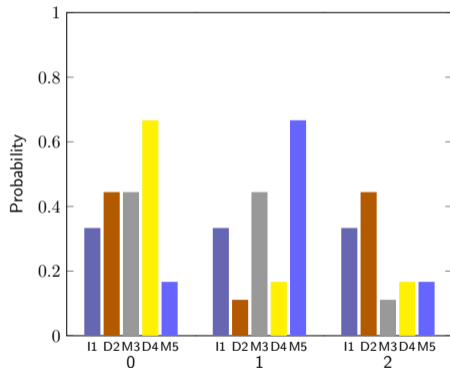
$$\begin{aligned}
 & \textit{init} \parallel \textit{scale\_door} \\
 & \quad ; \textit{move\_right} \\
 & \quad \parallel \textit{scale\_door} \\
 & = \left( \begin{array}{l} 2/3 * \llbracket \textit{bel}' = 0 \rrbracket + \\ 1/6 * \llbracket \textit{bel}' = 1 \rrbracket + \\ 1/6 * \llbracket \textit{bel}' = 2 \rrbracket \end{array} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$



# Robot localisation

Belief

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \textit{init} \parallel \textit{scale\_door} \\
 & \quad ; \textit{move\_right} \\
 & \quad \parallel \textit{scale\_door} \\
 & \quad \quad ; \textit{move\_right} \\
 & = \left( \begin{array}{l} 1/6 * \llbracket \textit{bel}' = 0 \rrbracket + \\ 2/3 * \llbracket \textit{bel}' = 1 \rrbracket + \\ 1/6 * \llbracket \textit{bel}' = 2 \rrbracket \end{array} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$



# Robot localisation

Belief

*init* || *scale\_door*

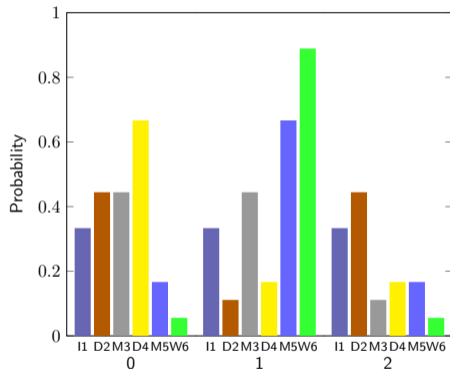
; *move\_right*

|| *scale\_door*

; *move\_right*

|| *scale\_wall*

$$= \left( \begin{array}{l} 1/18 * \llbracket bel' = 0 \rrbracket + \\ 8/9 * \llbracket bel' = 1 \rrbracket + \\ 1/18 * \llbracket bel' = 2 \rrbracket \end{array} \right)$$





# COVID diagnosis

Consider people use a **COVID test** to diagnose if they may or may not have contracted COVID. The test result is binary and could be **positive** or **negative**. The test, however, is **imperfect**. It doesn't not always give a correct result. We are interested in several questions.

*How likely a randomly selected person has covid if the first test result is positive?*

*Is it necessary to have the second test to reassure the result?*

*How much can the second test contribute to the diagnosis?*

# COVID diagnosis

## Modelling

$CovidTest ::= Pos \mid Neg$     **alphabet**  $cdstate = c :: bool$      $ct :: CovidTest$

$Init \hat{=} \mathbf{if}_p p_1 \mathbf{then} c := True \mathbf{else} c := False$

$TestAction \hat{=} \mathbf{if}_c c \mathbf{then} (ct :=_p Pos \oplus_{p_2} ct :=_p Neg) \mathbf{else} (ct :=_p Pos \oplus_{p_3} ct :=_p Neg)$

$FirstTestPos \hat{=} (Init ; TestAction) \parallel [ct' = Pos]$

$SecondTestPos \hat{=} (FirstTestPos ; TestAction) \parallel [ct' = Pos]$

The **prior** probability of a randomly selected patient having COVID is  $p_1$ .

The **sensitivity** (true positive) of the test is  $p_2$ , and

The **specificity** (true negative) is  $1 - p_3$ .

# COVID diagnosis

## Results

$$FirstTestPos = \left( \left( \frac{[[c']] * [[ct' = Pos]] * p_1 * p_2 + [[\neg c']] * [[ct' = Pos]] * (1 - p_1) * p_3}{p_1 * p_2 + (1 - p_1) * p_3} \right) \right)_e$$

$$SecondTestPos = \left( \left( \frac{[[c']] * [[ct' = Pos]] * p_1 * p_2^2 + [[\neg c']] * [[ct' = Pos]] * (1 - p_1) * p_3^2}{p_1 * p_2^2 + (1 - p_1) * p_3^2} \right) \right)_e$$

Provided  $p_1 = 0.002$ ,  $p_2 = 0.89$ , and  $p_3 = 0.05$ , the probability of the patient having COVID is  
**3.4%** (given one positive test) and  
**38.84%** (given two positive tests).

## Flip a coin till heads - Parametric model and verification

## Modelling - parametric

$$Tcoin ::= hd \mid tl$$

$$\mathbf{alphabet} \ cstate = c :: Tcoin$$

$$cflip \hat{=} c :=_p hd \oplus_{1/2} c :=_p tl$$

$$flip \hat{=} \mathbf{while}_p \ c = tl \ \mathbf{do} \ cflip \ \mathbf{od}$$

$$pflip(p) \hat{=} \mathbf{while}_p \ c = tl \ \mathbf{do} \ c :=_p hd \oplus_p c :=_p tl \ \mathbf{od}$$

$$\mathbf{alphabet} \ cstate\_t = t :: \mathbb{N} \quad c :: Tcoin$$

$$pflip\_t(p) \hat{=} \mathbf{while}_p \ c = tl \ \mathbf{do} \ (c :=_p hd \oplus_p c :=_p tl) ; t :=_p t + 1 \ \mathbf{od}$$

# Flip a coin till heads - Parametric model and verification

## Semantics

$$\text{flip} = \llbracket c' = hd \rrbracket \quad p \neq 0 \Rightarrow p\text{flip}(p) = \llbracket c' = hd \rrbracket$$

$$p \neq 0 \Rightarrow p\text{flip}_t(p) = \left( \frac{\llbracket c = hd \rrbracket * \llbracket c' = hd \rrbracket * \llbracket t' = t \rrbracket + \llbracket c = tl \rrbracket * \llbracket c' = hd \rrbracket * \llbracket t' \geq t + 1 \rrbracket * (1 - \bar{p})^{t'-t-1} * \bar{p}}{\quad} \right)_e$$

## Termination and expected run time

$$p \neq 0 \Rightarrow \overline{p\text{flip}_t(p)}; \llbracket c = hd \rrbracket = (1)_e$$

$$p \neq 0 \Rightarrow \overline{\text{flip}_t_p(p)}; t = (\llbracket c = hd \rrbracket * t + \llbracket c = tl \rrbracket * (t + 1/\bar{p}))_e$$

# Throw a pair of dice

## Modelling

$$Tdice ::= \{1..6\}$$

**alphabet**  $dstate\_t = t :: \mathbb{N}$       $d_1 :: Tdice$       $d_2 :: Tdice$

$$dice\_t \hat{=} \mathbf{while}_p d_1 \neq d_2 \mathbf{do} \underline{\mathcal{U}(d_1, Tdice)}; \underline{\mathcal{U}(d_2, Tdice)}; t :=_p t + 1 \mathbf{od}$$

# Throw a pair of dice

## Semantics, termination, and expected run time

$$dice\_t = \left( \begin{array}{l} \llbracket d_1 = d_2 \rrbracket * \llbracket t' = t \wedge d'_1 = d_1 \wedge d'_2 = d_2 \rrbracket + \\ \llbracket d_1 \neq d_2 \rrbracket * \llbracket d'_1 = d'_2 \rrbracket * \llbracket t' \geq t + 1 \rrbracket * (5/6)^{t'-t-1} * (1/36) \end{array} \right)_e$$

$$\overline{dice\_t}; \llbracket d_1 = d_2 \rrbracket = (1)_e$$

$$\overline{dice\_t}; t = (\llbracket d_1 = d_2 \rrbracket * t + \llbracket d_1 \neq d_2 \rrbracket * (t + 6))_e$$

# Outline

Background and motivations

Complexity of probabilistic reasoning and our approach

Basic definitions: *ureal*, Iverson brackets, and distributions

Probabilistic Relations: syntax and semantics

Examples

Conclusion





## Conclusion

- ▶ Probabilistic relations (PR): A PPL and also a probabilistic semantics framework
- ▶ Syntax and semantics of PR
- ▶ A collection of algebraic laws for each construct of PR
- ▶ Particularly, semantics for probabilistic loops using iterations
- ▶ Probabilistic examples: two contain loops
- ▶ Mechanisation of the PPL, theorems, and examples in Isabelle/UTP

## Future work

### ► Discrete time

- Time primitives of **RoboChart**: clock, reset, since, deadline, wait etc.
- Semantics to (PRISM) DTMCs, **equivalence** to simplify models (tractable for model checking)
  - Make time in DTMCs explicitly
  - Combine more commands into fewer (i.e. simultaneous assignments)

## Future work

- ▶ Discrete time
- ▶ Nondeterminism
  - Parametrised models
    - $P \sqcap Q \implies (PQ(b) \hat{=} \mathbf{if}_c b \mathbf{ then } P \mathbf{ else } Q)$ : **boolean parameter**
    - $\mathbf{while}_p b \mathbf{ do } P \sqcap Q \mathbf{ od} \implies (PQ\mathit{While}(bf : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{B}) \hat{=} \mathbf{while}_p b \mathbf{ do } PQ(bf(t)) \mathbf{ od})$
    - Functions ( $bf$  whose domain is the iteration index) as parameters
  - Schedule or policy becomes the full or partial instantiation of models by their parameters
  - The complexity of nondeterministic models is the same as the deterministic models
  - Semantics to (PRISM) **MDPs**, equivalence and parametric (tractable for model checking)

## Future work

- ▶ Discrete time
- ▶ Nondeterminism
- ▶ Refinement and abstraction
  1. From nondeterministic models to deterministic models,
  2. Superdistributions to distributions,
  3. Discrete distributions into uniform distributions such as random number generators
  4. Data refinement: abstract types (such as int) into concrete types (int32, int64 etc.)

**Correctness-by-Construction**

**Abstraction** to simplify PRISM DTMCs and MDPs

## Future work

- ▶ Discrete time
- ▶ Nondeterminism
- ▶ Refinement and abstraction
- ▶ Probabilistic programs that have infinite possible final states in the loop body
  - Cousot's constructive version of the Knaster–Tarski fixed-point theorem<sup>1</sup>
  - Weaken **continuity** into **monotonicity**
  - Treat the least fixed point as the **stationary limit** of **transfinite** iteration sequences

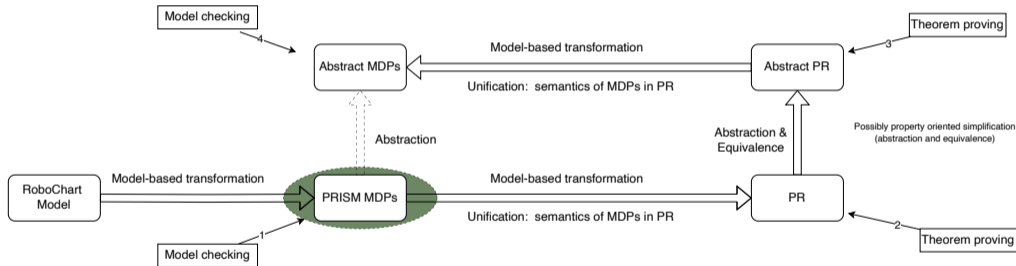
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<sup>1</sup>P. Cousot, R. Cousot, Constructive versions of Tarski's fixed point theorems, Pacific Journal of Mathematics 81 (1) (1979) 43–57.

## Future work

- ▶ Discrete time
- ▶ Nondeterminism
- ▶ Refinement and abstraction
- ▶ Probabilistic programs that have infinite possible final states in the loop body
- ▶ Continuous distributions: measure theory





# An potential application



*Thank you!*

<https://robostar.cs.york.ac.uk/>



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