Modeling and Verification of Probabilistic Systems

Joost-Pieter Katoen

Lehrstuhl für Informatik 2 Software Modeling and Verification Group

http://moves.rwth-aachen.de/teaching/ws-1516/movep15/

November 18, 2015

Overview

Nondeterminism

- 2 Markov Decision Processes
- Probabilities in MDPs

4 Policies

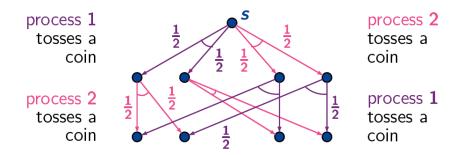


Randomness and concurrency

Markov chains are not appropriate for modeling randomized distributed systems, since they cannot adequately model the interleaving behavior of the concurrent processes.

Randomness and concurrency

Markov chains are not appropriate for modeling randomized distributed systems, since they cannot adequately model the interleaving behavior of the concurrent processes.



The use of nondeterminism

The use of nondeterminism

- Concurrency scheduling of parallel components
 - in randomised distributed algorithms, several components run partly autonomously and interact asynchronously

The use of nondeterminism

- Concurrency scheduling of parallel components
 - in randomised distributed algorithms, several components run partly autonomously and interact asynchronously
- Abstraction
 - partition state space of a DTMC in similar (but not bisimilar) states
 - replace probabilistic branching by a nondeterministic choice

The use of nondeterminism

- Concurrency scheduling of parallel components
 - in randomised distributed algorithms, several components run partly autonomously and interact asynchronously

Abstraction

- partition state space of a DTMC in similar (but not bisimilar) states
- replace probabilistic branching by a nondeterministic choice

Unknown environments

- interaction with unknown environment
- example: security in which the environment is an unknown adversary

The use of nondeterminism

- Concurrency scheduling of parallel components
 - in randomised distributed algorithms, several components run partly autonomously and interact asynchronously
- Abstraction
 - partition state space of a DTMC in similar (but not bisimilar) states
 - replace probabilistic branching by a nondeterministic choice

Unknown environments

- interaction with unknown environment
- example: security in which the environment is an unknown adversary

Beware

Nondeterminism is not the same as a uniform distribution!

Overview

1 Nondeterminism

- 2 Markov Decision Processes
- Probabilities in MDPs

4 Policies



Markov decision processes

▶ In MDPs, both nondeterministic and probabilistic choices coexist.

Markov decision processes

- In MDPs, both nondeterministic and probabilistic choices coexist.
- MDPs are transition systems in which in any state a nondeterministic choice between probability distributions exists.

Markov decision processes

- In MDPs, both nondeterministic and probabilistic choices coexist.
- MDPs are transition systems in which in any state a nondeterministic choice between probability distributions exists.
- Once a probability distribution has been chosen nondeterministically, the next state is selected probabilistically—as in DTMCs.

Markov decision processes

- In MDPs, both nondeterministic and probabilistic choices coexist.
- MDPs are transition systems in which in any state a nondeterministic choice between probability distributions exists.
- Once a probability distribution has been chosen nondeterministically, the next state is selected probabilistically—as in DTMCs.
- Any MC is thus an MDP in which in any state the probability distribution is uniquely determined.

Markov decision processes

- In MDPs, both nondeterministic and probabilistic choices coexist.
- MDPs are transition systems in which in any state a nondeterministic choice between probability distributions exists.
- Once a probability distribution has been chosen nondeterministically, the next state is selected probabilistically—as in DTMCs.
- Any MC is thus an MDP in which in any state the probability distribution is uniquely determined.

Randomized distributed algorithms are typically appropriately modeled by MDPs, as probabilities affect just a small part of the algorithm and nondeterminism is used to model concurrency between processes by means of interleaving.

Markov decision process

An MDP \mathcal{M} is a tuple (S, Act, P, ι_{init} , AP, L) where

• S is a countable set of states with initial distribution $\iota_{\text{init}}:S
ightarrow$ [0, 1]

Markov decision process

An MDP \mathcal{M} is a tuple (*S*, *Act*, **P**, ι_{init} , *AP*, *L*) where

- ▶ S is a countable set of states with initial distribution $\iota_{\mathrm{init}}:S
 ightarrow [0,1]$
- Act is a finite set of actions

Markov decision process

An MDP \mathcal{M} is a tuple (*S*, *Act*, **P**, ι_{init} , *AP*, *L*) where

- S is a countable set of states with initial distribution $\iota_{\mathrm{init}}:S
 ightarrow$ [0, 1]
- Act is a finite set of actions
- ▶ $\mathbf{P}: S \times Act \times S \rightarrow [0, 1]$, transition probability function

Markov decision process

An MDP \mathcal{M} is a tuple (S, Act, P, ι_{init} , AP, L) where

- S is a countable set of states with initial distribution $\iota_{\mathrm{init}}:S
 ightarrow$ [0, 1]
- Act is a finite set of actions
- ▶ $\mathbf{P}: S \times Act \times S \rightarrow [0, 1]$, transition probability function such that:

for all
$$s \in S$$
 and $lpha \in Act : \sum_{s' \in S} \mathsf{P}(s, lpha, s') \in \set{0, 1}$

Markov decision process

An MDP \mathcal{M} is a tuple (S, Act, P, ι_{init} , AP, L) where

- S is a countable set of states with initial distribution $\iota_{\mathrm{init}}:S
 ightarrow$ [0,1]
- Act is a finite set of actions
- ▶ $\mathbf{P}: S \times Act \times S \rightarrow [0, 1]$, transition probability function such that:

for all
$$s \in S$$
 and $lpha \in Act : \sum_{s' \in S} \mathsf{P}(s, lpha, s') \in \set{0, 1}$

• AP is a set of atomic propositions and labeling $L: S \to 2^{AP}$.

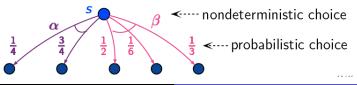
Markov decision process

An MDP \mathcal{M} is a tuple (S, Act, P, ι_{init} , AP, L) where

- S is a countable set of states with initial distribution $\iota_{\mathrm{init}}:S
 ightarrow$ [0,1]
- Act is a finite set of actions
- ▶ $\mathbf{P}: S \times Act \times S \rightarrow [0, 1]$, transition probability function such that:

for all
$$s \in S$$
 and $lpha \in Act : \sum_{s' \in S} \mathsf{P}(s, lpha, s') \in \set{0, 1}$

• AP is a set of atomic propositions and labeling $L: S \to 2^{AP}$.



Markov decision process

An MDP \mathcal{M} is a tuple (*S*, *Act*, **P**, ι_{init} , *AP*, *L*) where

- ▶ S, ι_{init} : S → [0, 1], AP and L are as before, i.e., as for DTMCs, and
- Act is a finite set of actions

▶ $\mathbf{P}: S \times Act \times S \rightarrow [0, 1]$, transition probability function such that:

for all
$$s \in S$$
 and $\alpha \in Act : \sum_{s' \in S} \mathsf{P}(s, \alpha, s') \in \{0, 1\}$

Markov decision process

An MDP \mathcal{M} is a tuple (*S*, *Act*, **P**, ι_{init} , *AP*, *L*) where

- ▶ *S*, ι_{init} : *S* → [0, 1], *AP* and *L* are as before, i.e., as for DTMCs, and
- Act is a finite set of actions
- ▶ $\mathbf{P}: S \times Act \times S \rightarrow [0, 1]$, transition probability function such that:

for all
$$s \in S$$
 and $\alpha \in Act : \sum_{s' \in S} \mathsf{P}(s, \alpha, s') \in \set{0, 1}$

Enabled actions

Let $Act(s) = \{ \alpha \in Act \mid \exists s' \in S. \mathbf{P}(s, \alpha, s') > 0 \}$ be the set of enabled actions in state s.

Markov decision process

An MDP \mathcal{M} is a tuple (*S*, *Act*, **P**, ι_{init} , *AP*, *L*) where

- ▶ *S*, ι_{init} : *S* → [0, 1], *AP* and *L* are as before, i.e., as for DTMCs, and
- Act is a finite set of actions
- ▶ $\mathbf{P}: S \times Act \times S \rightarrow [0, 1]$, transition probability function such that:

for all
$$s \in S$$
 and $\alpha \in Act : \sum_{s' \in S} \mathsf{P}(s, \alpha, s') \in \set{0, 1}$

Enabled actions

Let $Act(s) = \{ \alpha \in Act \mid \exists s' \in S. \mathbf{P}(s, \alpha, s') > 0 \}$ be the set of enabled actions in state s. We require $Act(s) \neq \emptyset$ for any state s.

Markov decision process

An MDP \mathcal{M} is a tuple (*S*, *Act*, **P**, ι_{init} , *AP*, *L*) where

- ▶ *S*, $\iota_{\text{init}} : S \rightarrow [0, 1]$, *AP* and *L* are as before, i.e., as for DTMCs, and
- Act is a finite set of actions
- ▶ $P: S \times Act \times S \rightarrow [0, 1]$, transition probability function such that:

for all
$$s \in S$$
 and $\alpha \in Act : \sum_{s' \in S} \mathsf{P}(s, \alpha, s') \in \{0, 1\}$

Markov decision process

An MDP \mathcal{M} is a tuple (*S*, *Act*, **P**, ι_{init} , *AP*, *L*) where

- S, $\iota_{init}: S \rightarrow [0, 1]$, AP and L are as before, i.e., as for DTMCs, and
- Act is a finite set of actions
- ▶ $P: S \times Act \times S \rightarrow [0, 1]$, transition probability function such that:

for all
$$s \in S$$
 and $\alpha \in Act : \sum_{s' \in S} \mathsf{P}(s, \alpha, s') \in \{0, 1\}$

If |Act(s)| = 1 for any state *s*, then the nondeterministic choice in any state is over a singleton set.

Markov decision process

An MDP \mathcal{M} is a tuple (*S*, *Act*, **P**, ι_{init} , *AP*, *L*) where

- S, $\iota_{init}: S \rightarrow [0, 1]$, AP and L are as before, i.e., as for DTMCs, and
- Act is a finite set of actions
- ▶ $P: S \times Act \times S \rightarrow [0, 1]$, transition probability function such that:

for all
$$s \in S$$
 and $\alpha \in Act : \sum_{s' \in S} \mathsf{P}(s, \alpha, s') \in \{0, 1\}$

If |Act(s)| = 1 for any state *s*, then the nondeterministic choice in any state is over a singleton set. In this case, M is a DTMC.

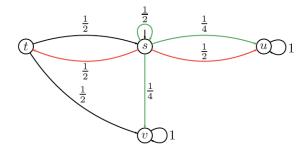
Markov decision process

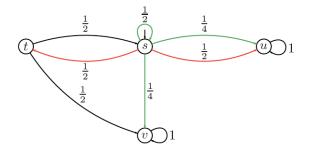
An MDP \mathcal{M} is a tuple (*S*, *Act*, **P**, ι_{init} , *AP*, *L*) where

- ▶ *S*, $\iota_{init} : S \rightarrow [0, 1]$, *AP* and *L* are as before, i.e., as for DTMCs, and
- Act is a finite set of actions
- ▶ $P: S \times Act \times S \rightarrow [0, 1]$, transition probability function such that:

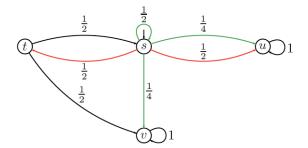
for all
$$s \in S$$
 and $\alpha \in Act : \sum_{s' \in S} \mathsf{P}(s, \alpha, s') \in \{0, 1\}$

If |Act(s)| = 1 for any state *s*, then the nondeterministic choice in any state is over a singleton set. In this case, \mathcal{M} is a DTMC. Vice versa, a DTMC is an MDP such that |Act(s)| = 1 for all *s*.





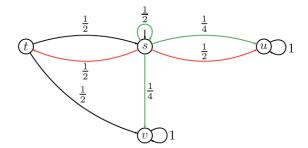
▶ Initial distribution: $\iota_{init}(s) = 1$ and $\iota_{init}(t) = \iota_{init}(u) = \iota_{init}(u) = 0$



- Initial distribution: $\iota_{\text{init}}(s) = 1$ and $\iota_{\text{init}}(t) = \iota_{\text{init}}(u) = \iota_{\text{init}}(u) = 0$
- Set of enabled actions in state s is $Act(s) = \{ \alpha, \beta \}$ where

•
$$\mathbf{P}(s, \alpha, s) = \frac{1}{2}$$
, $\mathbf{P}(s, \alpha, t) = 0$ and $\mathbf{P}(s, \alpha, u) = \mathbf{P}(s, \alpha, v) = \frac{1}{4}$
• $\mathbf{P}(s, \beta, s) = \mathbf{P}(s, \beta, v) = 0$, and $\mathbf{P}(s, \beta, t) = \mathbf{P}(s, \beta, u) = \frac{1}{2}$

An example MDP



• Initial distribution: $\iota_{\text{init}}(s) = 1$ and $\iota_{\text{init}}(t) = \iota_{\text{init}}(u) = \iota_{\text{init}}(u) = 0$

• Set of enabled actions in state s is $Act(s) = \{ \alpha, \beta \}$ where

•
$$\mathbf{P}(s, \alpha, s) = \frac{1}{2}$$
, $\mathbf{P}(s, \alpha, t) = 0$ and $\mathbf{P}(s, \alpha, u) = \mathbf{P}(s, \alpha, v) = \frac{1}{4}$
• $\mathbf{P}(s, \beta, s) = \mathbf{P}(s, \beta, v) = 0$, and $\mathbf{P}(s, \beta, t) = \mathbf{P}(s, \beta, u) = \frac{1}{2}$

• $Act(t) = \{ \alpha \}$ with $P(t, \alpha, s) = P(t, \alpha, u) = \frac{1}{2}$ and 0 otherwise

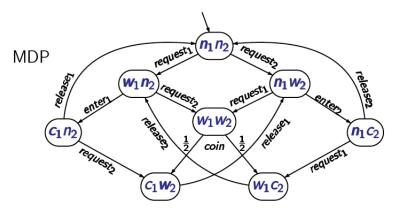
Markov Decision Processes

Example: randomized mutual exclusion

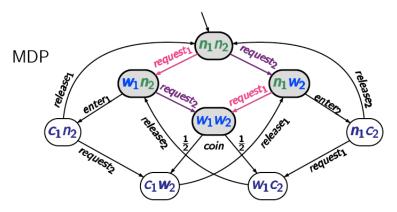
Example: randomized mutual exclusion

- 2 concurrent processes \mathcal{P}_1 , \mathcal{P}_2 with 3 phases:
 - n_i noncritical actions of process \mathcal{P}_i
 - w_i waiting phase of process \mathcal{P}_i
 - c_i critical section of process \mathcal{P}_i
- competition of both processes are waiting
- resolved by a randomized arbiter who tosses a coin

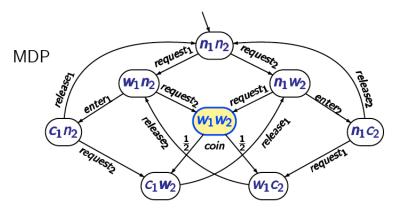
- interleaving of the request operations
- competition if both processes are waiting
- randomized arbiter tosses a coin if both are waiting



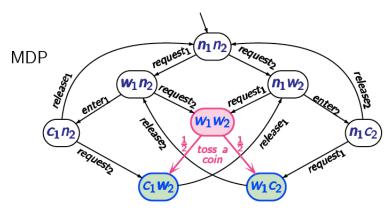
- interleaving of the request operations
- competition if both processes are waiting
- randomized arbiter tosses a coin if both are waiting



- interleaving of the request operations
- competition if both processes are waiting
- randomized arbiter tosses a coin if both are waiting



- interleaving of the request operations
- competition if both processes are waiting
- randomized arbiter tosses a coin if both are waiting



Intuitive operational MDP behavior

1. A stochastic experiment according to ι_{init} yields starting state s_0 with probability $\iota_{init}(s_0) > 0$.

- 1. A stochastic experiment according to ι_{init} yields starting state s_0 with probability $\iota_{init}(s_0) > 0$.
- 2. On entering state s, a non-deterministic choice among Act(s) determines the next action $\alpha \in Act(s)$, say.

- 1. A stochastic experiment according to ι_{init} yields starting state s_0 with probability $\iota_{init}(s_0) > 0$.
- 2. On entering state s, a non-deterministic choice among Act(s) determines the next action $\alpha \in Act(s)$, say.
- 3. The next state *t* is randomly chosen with probability $P(s, \alpha, t)$.

- 1. A stochastic experiment according to ι_{init} yields starting state s_0 with probability $\iota_{init}(s_0) > 0$.
- 2. On entering state s, a non-deterministic choice among Act(s) determines the next action $\alpha \in Act(s)$, say.
- 3. The next state *t* is randomly chosen with probability $P(s, \alpha, t)$.
- 4. If t is the unique α -successor of s, then almost surely t is the successor after selecting α , i.e., $\mathbf{P}(s, \alpha, t) = 1$.

- 1. A stochastic experiment according to ι_{init} yields starting state s_0 with probability $\iota_{init}(s_0) > 0$.
- 2. On entering state s, a non-deterministic choice among Act(s) determines the next action $\alpha \in Act(s)$, say.
- 3. The next state *t* is randomly chosen with probability $P(s, \alpha, t)$.
- If t is the unique α-successor of s, then almost surely t is the successor after selecting α, i.e., P(s, α, t) = 1.
- 5. Continue with step 2.

Overview

1 Nondeterminism

2 Markov Decision Processes

Probabilities in MDPs

4 Policies

5 Summary

Paths in an MDP

State graph

The *state graph* of MDP \mathcal{M} is a digraph G = (V, E) with V are the states of \mathcal{M} , and $(s, s') \in E$ iff $\mathbf{P}(s, \alpha, s') > 0$ for some $\alpha \in Act$.

State graph

The *state graph* of MDP \mathcal{M} is a digraph G = (V, E) with V are the states of \mathcal{M} , and $(s, s') \in E$ iff $\mathbf{P}(s, \alpha, s') > 0$ for some $\alpha \in Act$.

Paths

An infinite *path* in an MDP $\mathcal{M} = (S, Act, \mathbf{P}, \iota_{\text{init}}, AP, L)$ is an infinite sequence $s_0 \alpha_1 s_1 \alpha_2 s_2 \alpha_3 \ldots \in (S \times Act)^{\omega}$, written as

$$\pi = s_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} s_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} s_2 \xrightarrow{\alpha_3} \ldots$$

such that $\mathbf{P}(s_i, \alpha_{i+1}, s_{i+1}) > 0$ for all $i \ge 0$.

State graph

The *state graph* of MDP \mathcal{M} is a digraph G = (V, E) with V are the states of \mathcal{M} , and $(s, s') \in E$ iff $\mathbf{P}(s, \alpha, s') > 0$ for some $\alpha \in Act$.

Paths

An infinite *path* in an MDP $\mathcal{M} = (S, Act, \mathbf{P}, \iota_{\text{init}}, AP, L)$ is an infinite sequence $s_0 \alpha_1 s_1 \alpha_2 s_2 \alpha_3 \ldots \in (S \times Act)^{\omega}$, written as

$$\pi = s_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} s_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} s_2 \xrightarrow{\alpha_3} \ldots,$$

such that $P(s_i, \alpha_{i+1}, s_{i+1}) > 0$ for all $i \ge 0$. Any finite prefix of π that ends in a state is a *finite path*.

State graph

The *state graph* of MDP \mathcal{M} is a digraph G = (V, E) with V are the states of \mathcal{M} , and $(s, s') \in E$ iff $\mathbf{P}(s, \alpha, s') > 0$ for some $\alpha \in Act$.

Paths

An infinite *path* in an MDP $\mathcal{M} = (S, Act, \mathbf{P}, \iota_{\text{init}}, AP, L)$ is an infinite sequence $s_0 \alpha_1 s_1 \alpha_2 s_2 \alpha_3 \ldots \in (S \times Act)^{\omega}$, written as

$$\pi = s_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} s_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} s_2 \xrightarrow{\alpha_3} \ldots$$

such that $P(s_i, \alpha_{i+1}, s_{i+1}) > 0$ for all $i \ge 0$. Any finite prefix of π that ends in a state is a *finite path*.

Let $Paths(\mathcal{M})$ denote the set of paths in \mathcal{M} , and $Paths^*(\mathcal{M})$ the set of finite prefixes thereof.

State graph

The *state graph* of MDP \mathcal{M} is a digraph G = (V, E) with V are the states of \mathcal{M} , and $(s, s') \in E$ iff $\mathbf{P}(s, \alpha, s') > 0$ for some $\alpha \in Act$.

Paths

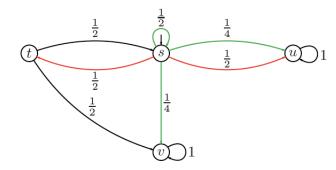
An infinite *path* in an MDP $\mathcal{M} = (S, Act, \mathbf{P}, \iota_{\text{init}}, AP, L)$ is an infinite sequence $s_0 \alpha_1 s_1 \alpha_2 s_2 \alpha_3 \ldots \in (S \times Act)^{\omega}$, written as

$$\pi = s_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} s_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} s_2 \xrightarrow{\alpha_3} \ldots$$

such that $P(s_i, \alpha_{i+1}, s_{i+1}) > 0$ for all $i \ge 0$. Any finite prefix of π that ends in a state is a *finite path*.

Let $Paths(\mathcal{M})$ denote the set of paths in \mathcal{M} , and $Paths^*(\mathcal{M})$ the set of finite prefixes thereof.

Paths in MDPs



$$s \xrightarrow{\alpha} s \xrightarrow{\alpha} s \xrightarrow{\beta} t \xrightarrow{\alpha} s \xrightarrow{\beta} u \dots$$

$$s \xrightarrow{\beta} t \xrightarrow{\alpha} s \xrightarrow{\beta} t \xrightarrow{\alpha} s \dots$$

For DTMCs, a set of infinite paths is equipped with a σ-algebra and a probability measure that reflects the intuitive notion of probabilities for paths.

- For DTMCs, a set of infinite paths is equipped with a σ-algebra and a probability measure that reflects the intuitive notion of probabilities for paths.
- Due to the presence of nondeterminism, MDPs are not augmented with a unique probability measure.

- For DTMCs, a set of infinite paths is equipped with a σ-algebra and a probability measure that reflects the intuitive notion of probabilities for paths.
- Due to the presence of nondeterminism, MDPs are not augmented with a unique probability measure.
- Example: suppose we have two coins: a fair one, and a biased one, say $\frac{1}{6}$ for heads and $\frac{5}{6}$ for tails.

- For DTMCs, a set of infinite paths is equipped with a σ-algebra and a probability measure that reflects the intuitive notion of probabilities for paths.
- Due to the presence of nondeterminism, MDPs are not augmented with a unique probability measure.
- Example: suppose we have two coins: a fair one, and a biased one, say ¹/₆ for heads and ⁵/₆ for tails. We select nondeterministically one of the coins, and are interested in the probability of obtaining tails.

¹Also called scheduler, strategy or adversary.

- For DTMCs, a set of infinite paths is equipped with a σ-algebra and a probability measure that reflects the intuitive notion of probabilities for paths.
- Due to the presence of nondeterminism, MDPs are not augmented with a unique probability measure.
- ► Example: suppose we have two coins: a fair one, and a biased one, say ¹/₆ for heads and ⁵/₆ for tails. We select nondeterministically one of the coins, and are interested in the probability of obtaining tails. This, however, is not specified!

¹Also called scheduler, strategy or adversary.

- For DTMCs, a set of infinite paths is equipped with a σ-algebra and a probability measure that reflects the intuitive notion of probabilities for paths.
- Due to the presence of nondeterminism, MDPs are not augmented with a unique probability measure.
- Example: suppose we have two coins: a fair one, and a biased one, say ¹/₆ for heads and ⁵/₆ for tails. We select nondeterministically one of the coins, and are interested in the probability of obtaining tails. This, however, is not specified! This also applies if we select one of the two coins repeatedly.

¹Also called scheduler, strategy or adversary.

- For DTMCs, a set of infinite paths is equipped with a σ-algebra and a probability measure that reflects the intuitive notion of probabilities for paths.
- Due to the presence of nondeterminism, MDPs are not augmented with a unique probability measure.
- Example: suppose we have two coins: a fair one, and a biased one, say ¹/₆ for heads and ⁵/₆ for tails. We select nondeterministically one of the coins, and are interested in the probability of obtaining tails. This, however, is not specified! This also applies if we select one of the two coins repeatedly.
- Reasoning about probabilities of sets of paths of an MDP relies on the resolution of nondeterminism.

¹Also called scheduler, strategy or adversary.

- For DTMCs, a set of infinite paths is equipped with a σ-algebra and a probability measure that reflects the intuitive notion of probabilities for paths.
- Due to the presence of nondeterminism, MDPs are not augmented with a unique probability measure.
- Example: suppose we have two coins: a fair one, and a biased one, say ¹/₆ for heads and ⁵/₆ for tails. We select nondeterministically one of the coins, and are interested in the probability of obtaining tails. This, however, is not specified! This also applies if we select one of the two coins repeatedly.
- Reasoning about probabilities of sets of paths of an MDP relies on the resolution of nondeterminism. This resolution is performed by a policy.¹

¹Also called scheduler, strategy or adversary.

- For DTMCs, a set of infinite paths is equipped with a σ-algebra and a probability measure that reflects the intuitive notion of probabilities for paths.
- Due to the presence of nondeterminism, MDPs are not augmented with a unique probability measure.
- Example: suppose we have two coins: a fair one, and a biased one, say ¹/₆ for heads and ⁵/₆ for tails. We select nondeterministically one of the coins, and are interested in the probability of obtaining tails. This, however, is not specified! This also applies if we select one of the two coins repeatedly.
- ► Reasoning about probabilities of sets of paths of an MDP relies on the resolution of nondeterminism. This resolution is performed by a policy.¹ A policy chooses in any state s one of the actions α ∈ Act(s).

Overview

- 1 Nondeterminism
- 2 Markov Decision Processes
- Probabilities in MDPs
- 4 Policies



Policy

Policy

Let $\mathcal{M} = (S, Act, \mathbf{P}, \iota_{init}, AP, L)$ be an MDP. A *policy* for \mathcal{M} is a function $\mathfrak{S} : S^+ \to Act$

Policy

Let $\mathcal{M} = (S, Act, \mathbf{P}, \iota_{\text{init}}, AP, L)$ be an MDP. A *policy* for \mathcal{M} is a function $\mathfrak{S} : S^+ \to Act$ such that $\mathfrak{S}(s_0 s_1 \dots s_n) \in Act(s_n)$ for all $s_0 s_1 \dots s_n \in S^+$.

Policy

Let $\mathcal{M} = (S, Act, \mathbf{P}, \iota_{init}, AP, L)$ be an MDP. A *policy* for \mathcal{M} is a function $\mathfrak{S} : S^+ \to Act$ such that $\mathfrak{S}(s_0 s_1 \dots s_n) \in Act(s_n)$ for all $s_0 s_1 \dots s_n \in S^+$. The path

$$\pi = s_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} s_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} s_2 \xrightarrow{\alpha_3} \dots$$

is called a \mathfrak{S} -path if $\alpha_i = \mathfrak{S}(s_0 \dots s_{i-1})$ for all i > 0.

Policy

Let $\mathcal{M} = (S, Act, \mathbf{P}, \iota_{init}, AP, L)$ be an MDP. A *policy* for \mathcal{M} is a function $\mathfrak{S} : S^+ \to Act$ such that $\mathfrak{S}(s_0 s_1 \dots s_n) \in Act(s_n)$ for all $s_0 s_1 \dots s_n \in S^+$. The path

$$\pi = s_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} s_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} s_2 \xrightarrow{\alpha_3} \dots$$

is called a
$$\mathfrak{S}$$
-path if $\alpha_i = \mathfrak{S}(s_0 \dots s_{i-1})$ for all $i > 0$.

For any scheduler, the actions are omitted from the history $s_0 s_1 \dots s_n$.

Policy

Let $\mathcal{M} = (S, Act, \mathbf{P}, \iota_{init}, AP, L)$ be an MDP. A *policy* for \mathcal{M} is a function $\mathfrak{S} : S^+ \to Act$ such that $\mathfrak{S}(s_0 s_1 \dots s_n) \in Act(s_n)$ for all $s_0 s_1 \dots s_n \in S^+$. The path

$$\pi = s_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} s_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} s_2 \xrightarrow{\alpha_3} \dots$$

is called a
$$\mathfrak{S}$$
-path if $\alpha_i = \mathfrak{S}(s_0 \dots s_{i-1})$ for all $i > 0$.

For any scheduler, the actions are omitted from the *history* $s_0 s_1 \dots s_n$. This is not a restriction as for any sequence $s_0 s_1 \dots s_n$ the relevant actions α_i are given by $\alpha_{i+1} = \mathfrak{S}(s_0 s_1 \dots s_i)$.

Policy

Let $\mathcal{M} = (S, Act, \mathbf{P}, \iota_{init}, AP, L)$ be an MDP. A *policy* for \mathcal{M} is a function $\mathfrak{S} : S^+ \to Act$ such that $\mathfrak{S}(s_0 s_1 \dots s_n) \in Act(s_n)$ for all $s_0 s_1 \dots s_n \in S^+$. The path

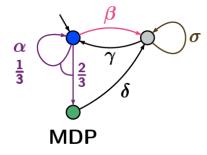
$$\pi = s_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} s_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} s_2 \xrightarrow{\alpha_3} \dots$$

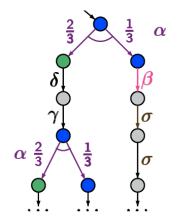
is called a
$$\mathfrak{S}$$
-path if $\alpha_i = \mathfrak{S}(s_0 \dots s_{i-1})$ for all $i > 0$.

For any scheduler, the actions are omitted from the *history* $s_0 s_1 \dots s_n$. This is not a restriction as for any sequence $s_0 s_1 \dots s_n$ the relevant actions α_i are given by $\alpha_{i+1} = \mathfrak{S}(s_0 s_1 \dots s_i)$. Hence, the scheduled action sequence can be constructed from prefixes of the path at hand.

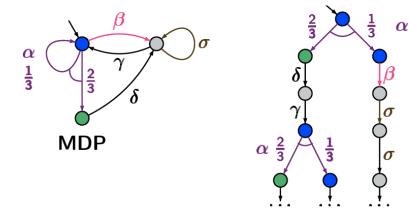
Induced Markov chain

Induced Markov chain



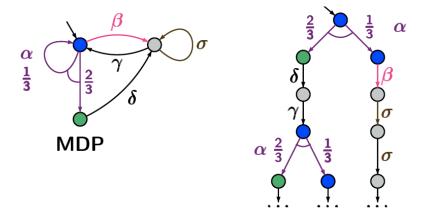


Induced Markov chain



Each policy induces an infinite DTMC.

Induced Markov chain



Each policy induces an infinite DTMC. States are finite prefixes of paths in the MDP.

Joost-Pieter Katoen

Induced DTMC of an MDP by a policy

Induced DTMC of an MDP by a policy

DTMC of an MDP induced by a policy

Induced DTMC of an MDP by a policy

DTMC of an MDP induced by a policy

Let $\mathcal{M} = (S, Act, \mathbf{P}, \iota_{init}, AP, L)$ be an MDP and \mathfrak{S} a policy on \mathcal{M} . The DTMC induced by \mathfrak{S} , denoted $\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}$, is given by

$$\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}} = (S^+, \mathbf{P}_{\mathfrak{S}}, \iota_{\text{init}}, AP, L')$$

Induced DTMC of an MDP by a policy

DTMC of an MDP induced by a policy

Let $\mathcal{M} = (S, Act, \mathbf{P}, \iota_{init}, AP, L)$ be an MDP and \mathfrak{S} a policy on \mathcal{M} . The DTMC induced by \mathfrak{S} , denoted $\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}$, is given by

$$\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}} \;=\; \left(S^{+}, \mathbf{P}_{\mathfrak{S}}, \iota_{\mathrm{init}}, \mathit{AP}, \mathit{L}'
ight)$$

where for $\sigma = s_0 s_1 \dots s_n$: $\mathbf{P}_{\mathfrak{S}}(\sigma, \sigma s_{n+1}) = \mathbf{P}(s_n, \mathfrak{S}(\sigma), s_{n+1})$

Induced DTMC of an MDP by a policy

DTMC of an MDP induced by a policy

Let $\mathcal{M} = (S, Act, \mathbf{P}, \iota_{init}, AP, L)$ be an MDP and \mathfrak{S} a policy on \mathcal{M} . The DTMC induced by \mathfrak{S} , denoted $\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}$, is given by

$$\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}} = (S^+, \mathbf{P}_{\mathfrak{S}}, \iota_{\text{init}}, AP, L')$$

where for $\sigma = s_0 s_1 \dots s_n$: $\mathbf{P}_{\mathfrak{S}}(\sigma, \sigma s_{n+1}) = \mathbf{P}(s_n, \mathfrak{S}(\sigma), s_{n+1})$ and $L'(\sigma) = L(s_n)$.

Induced DTMC of an MDP by a policy

DTMC of an MDP induced by a policy

Let $\mathcal{M} = (S, Act, \mathbf{P}, \iota_{init}, AP, L)$ be an MDP and \mathfrak{S} a policy on \mathcal{M} . The DTMC induced by \mathfrak{S} , denoted $\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}$, is given by

$$\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}} = (S^+, \mathbf{P}_{\mathfrak{S}}, \iota_{\text{init}}, AP, L')$$

where for $\sigma = s_0 s_1 \dots s_n$: $\mathbf{P}_{\mathfrak{S}}(\sigma, \sigma s_{n+1}) = \mathbf{P}(s_n, \mathfrak{S}(\sigma), s_{n+1})$ and $L'(\sigma) = L(s_n)$.

 $\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}$ is infinite, even if the MDP \mathcal{M} is finite.

Induced DTMC of an MDP by a policy

DTMC of an MDP induced by a policy

Let $\mathcal{M} = (S, Act, \mathbf{P}, \iota_{init}, AP, L)$ be an MDP and \mathfrak{S} a policy on \mathcal{M} . The DTMC induced by \mathfrak{S} , denoted $\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}$, is given by

$$\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}} = (S^+, \mathbf{P}_{\mathfrak{S}}, \iota_{\text{init}}, AP, L')$$

where for $\sigma = s_0 s_1 \dots s_n$: $\mathbf{P}_{\mathfrak{S}}(\sigma, \sigma s_{n+1}) = \mathbf{P}(s_n, \mathfrak{S}(\sigma), s_{n+1})$ and $L'(\sigma) = L(s_n)$.

 $\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}$ is infinite, even if the MDP \mathcal{M} is finite. Intuitively, state $s_0 s_1 \dots s_n$ of DTMC $\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}$ represents the configuration where the MDP \mathcal{M} is in state s_n and $s_0 s_1 \dots s_{n-1}$ stands for the history.

Induced DTMC of an MDP by a policy

DTMC of an MDP induced by a policy

Let $\mathcal{M} = (S, Act, \mathbf{P}, \iota_{init}, AP, L)$ be an MDP and \mathfrak{S} a policy on \mathcal{M} . The DTMC induced by \mathfrak{S} , denoted $\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}$, is given by

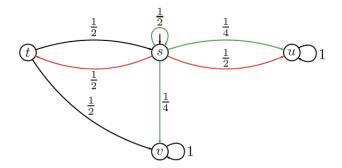
$$\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}} = (S^+, \mathbf{P}_{\mathfrak{S}}, \iota_{\text{init}}, AP, L')$$

where for $\sigma = s_0 s_1 \dots s_n$: $\mathbf{P}_{\mathfrak{S}}(\sigma, \sigma s_{n+1}) = \mathbf{P}(s_n, \mathfrak{S}(\sigma), s_{n+1})$ and $L'(\sigma) = L(s_n)$.

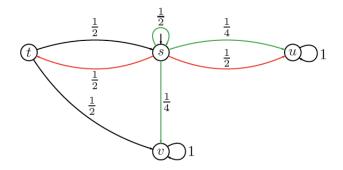
 $\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}$ is infinite, even if the MDP \mathcal{M} is finite. Intuitively, state $s_0 s_1 \dots s_n$ of DTMC $\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}$ represents the configuration where the MDP \mathcal{M} is in state s_n and $s_0 s_1 \dots s_{n-1}$ stands for the history. Since policy \mathfrak{S} might select different actions for finite paths that end in the same state s, a policy as defined above is also referred to as *history-dependent*.

Example MDP

Example MDP



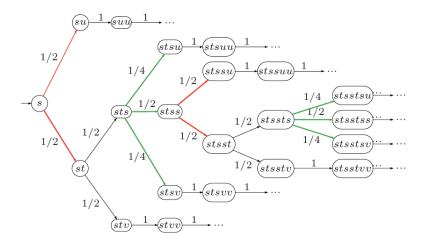
Example MDP



Consider a policy that alternates between selecting red and green, starting with red.

Example induced DTMC

Example induced DTMC



Induced DTMC for a policy that alternates between selecting red and green.

Joost-Pieter Katoen

Modeling and Verification of Probabilistic Systems

There is a one-to-one correspondence between the \mathfrak{S} -paths of the MDP \mathcal{M} and the paths in the Markov chain $\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}$.

There is a one-to-one correspondence between the \mathfrak{S} -paths of the MDP \mathcal{M} and the paths in the Markov chain $\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}$.

For \mathfrak{S} -path $\pi = s_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} s_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} \ldots$, the corresponding path in DTMC $\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}$ is:

 $\pi^{\mathfrak{S}} = \widehat{\pi}_0 \widehat{\pi}_1 \widehat{\pi}_2 \ldots$ where $\widehat{\pi}_n = s_0 s_1 \ldots s_n$.

There is a one-to-one correspondence between the \mathfrak{S} -paths of the MDP \mathcal{M} and the paths in the Markov chain $\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}$.

For \mathfrak{S} -path $\pi = s_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} s_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} \ldots$, the corresponding path in DTMC $\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}$ is:

$$\pi^{\mathfrak{S}} = \widehat{\pi}_0 \, \widehat{\pi}_1 \, \widehat{\pi}_2 \, \dots \, \text{where} \, \widehat{\pi}_n = s_0 \, s_1 \dots s_n$$

Vice versa, for a path $\hat{\pi}_0 \hat{\pi}_1 \hat{\pi}_2 \dots$ in the DTMC $\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}$, $\hat{\pi}_0 = s_0$ for some state s_0 such that $\iota_{\text{init}}(s_0) > 0$ and, for each n > 0, $\hat{\pi}_n = \hat{\pi}_{n-1} s_n$ for some state s_n in the MDP \mathcal{M} such that $\mathbf{P}(s_{n-1}, \mathfrak{S}(\hat{\pi}_{n-1}), s_n) > 0$.

There is a one-to-one correspondence between the \mathfrak{S} -paths of the MDP \mathcal{M} and the paths in the Markov chain $\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}$.

For \mathfrak{S} -path $\pi = s_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} s_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} \ldots$, the corresponding path in DTMC $\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}$ is:

$$\pi^{\mathfrak{S}} = \widehat{\pi}_0 \, \widehat{\pi}_1 \, \widehat{\pi}_2 \, \dots \, \text{where} \, \widehat{\pi}_n = s_0 \, s_1 \dots s_n$$

Vice versa, for a path $\hat{\pi}_0 \hat{\pi}_1 \hat{\pi}_2 \dots$ in the DTMC $\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}$, $\hat{\pi}_0 = s_0$ for some state s_0 such that $\iota_{\text{init}}(s_0) > 0$ and, for each n > 0, $\hat{\pi}_n = \hat{\pi}_{n-1} s_n$ for some state s_n in the MDP \mathcal{M} such that $\mathbf{P}(s_{n-1}, \mathfrak{S}(\hat{\pi}_{n-1}), s_n) > 0$. Hence:

$$s_0 \xrightarrow{\mathfrak{S}(\widehat{\pi}_0)} s_1 \xrightarrow{\mathfrak{S}(\widehat{\pi}_1)} s_2 \xrightarrow{\mathfrak{S}(\widehat{\pi}_2)} \dots$$

is a \mathfrak{S} -path in \mathcal{M} .

Probability measure on MDP

Probability measure on MDP

Let $Pr_{\mathfrak{S}}^{\mathcal{M}}$, or simply $Pr^{\mathfrak{S}}$, denote the probability measure $Pr^{\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}}$ associated with the DTMC $\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}$.

Probability measure on MDP

Let $Pr_{\mathfrak{S}}^{\mathcal{M}}$, or simply $Pr^{\mathfrak{S}}$, denote the probability measure $Pr^{\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}}$ associated with the DTMC $\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}$.

This measure is the basis for associating probabilities with events in the MDP $\mathcal{M}.$

Probability measure on MDP

Let $Pr_{\mathfrak{S}}^{\mathcal{M}}$, or simply $Pr^{\mathfrak{S}}$, denote the probability measure $Pr^{\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}}$ associated with the DTMC $\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}$.

This measure is the basis for associating probabilities with events in the MDP \mathcal{M} . Let, e.g., $P \subseteq (2^{AP})^{\omega}$ be an ω -regular property.

Probability measure on MDP

Let $Pr_{\mathfrak{S}}^{\mathcal{M}}$, or simply $Pr^{\mathfrak{S}}$, denote the probability measure $Pr^{\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}}$ associated with the DTMC $\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}$.

This measure is the basis for associating probabilities with events in the MDP \mathcal{M} . Let, e.g., $P \subseteq (2^{AP})^{\omega}$ be an ω -regular property. Then $Pr^{\mathfrak{S}}(P)$ is defined as:

$$\mathsf{Pr}^{\mathfrak{S}}(\mathsf{P}) \;=\; \mathsf{Pr}^{\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}}(\mathsf{P}) \;=\; \mathsf{Pr}_{\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}}\{ \, \pi \in \mathsf{Paths}(\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}) \mid \mathit{trace}(\pi) \in \mathsf{P} \, \}.$$

Probability measure on MDP

Let $Pr_{\mathfrak{S}}^{\mathcal{M}}$, or simply $Pr^{\mathfrak{S}}$, denote the probability measure $Pr^{\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}}$ associated with the DTMC $\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}$.

This measure is the basis for associating probabilities with events in the MDP \mathcal{M} . Let, e.g., $P \subseteq (2^{AP})^{\omega}$ be an ω -regular property. Then $Pr^{\mathfrak{S}}(P)$ is defined as:

$$\mathsf{Pr}^{\mathfrak{S}}(\mathsf{P}) = \mathsf{Pr}^{\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}}(\mathsf{P}) = \mathsf{Pr}_{\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}}\{\pi \in \mathsf{Paths}(\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}) \mid \mathsf{trace}(\pi) \in \mathsf{P}\}.$$

Similarly, for fixed state s of \mathcal{M} , which is considered as the unique starting state,

$$Pr^{\mathfrak{S}}(s \models P) = Pr^{\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}}_{s} \{ \pi \in Paths(s) \mid trace(\pi) \in P \}$$

where we identify the paths in $\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{S}}$ with the corresponding \mathfrak{S} -paths in \mathcal{M} .

Positional policy

Let \mathcal{M} be an MDP with state space S. Policy \mathfrak{S} on \mathcal{M} is *positional* (or: *memoryless*) iff for each sequence $s_0 s_1 \ldots s_n$ and $t_0 t_1 \ldots t_m \in S^+$ with $s_n = t_m$:

$$\mathfrak{S}(s_0 s_1 \ldots s_n) = \mathfrak{S}(t_0 t_1 \ldots t_m).$$

Positional policy

Let \mathcal{M} be an MDP with state space S. Policy \mathfrak{S} on \mathcal{M} is *positional* (or: *memoryless*) iff for each sequence $s_0 s_1 \ldots s_n$ and $t_0 t_1 \ldots t_m \in S^+$ with $s_n = t_m$:

$$\mathfrak{S}(s_0 s_1 \ldots s_n) = \mathfrak{S}(t_0 t_1 \ldots t_m).$$

In this case, \mathfrak{S} can be viewed as a function $\mathfrak{S}: S \to Act$.

Positional policy

Let \mathcal{M} be an MDP with state space S. Policy \mathfrak{S} on \mathcal{M} is *positional* (or: *memoryless*) iff for each sequence $s_0 s_1 \ldots s_n$ and $t_0 t_1 \ldots t_m \in S^+$ with $s_n = t_m$:

$$\mathfrak{S}(s_0 s_1 \ldots s_n) = \mathfrak{S}(t_0 t_1 \ldots t_m).$$

In this case, \mathfrak{S} can be viewed as a function $\mathfrak{S}: S \to Act$.

Policy \mathfrak{S} is positional if it always selects the same action in a given state.

Positional policy

Let \mathcal{M} be an MDP with state space S. Policy \mathfrak{S} on \mathcal{M} is *positional* (or: *memoryless*) iff for each sequence $s_0 s_1 \ldots s_n$ and $t_0 t_1 \ldots t_m \in S^+$ with $s_n = t_m$:

$$\mathfrak{S}(s_0 s_1 \ldots s_n) = \mathfrak{S}(t_0 t_1 \ldots t_m).$$

In this case, \mathfrak{S} can be viewed as a function $\mathfrak{S}: S \to Act$.

Policy \mathfrak{S} is positional if it always selects the same action in a given state. This choice is independent of what has happened in the history, i.e., which path led to the current state.

Overview

- 1 Nondeterminism
- 2 Markov Decision Processes
- Probabilities in MDPs
- 4 Policies



Important points

1. An MDP is a model exhibiting non-determinism and probabilities.

- 1. An MDP is a model exhibiting non-determinism and probabilities.
- 2. Non-determinism is important for e.g., randomized distributed algorithms.

- 1. An MDP is a model exhibiting non-determinism and probabilities.
- 2. Non-determinism is important for e.g., randomized distributed algorithms.
- 3. Policies are functions that select enabled actions in states.

- 1. An MDP is a model exhibiting non-determinism and probabilities.
- 2. Non-determinism is important for e.g., randomized distributed algorithms.
- 3. Policies are functions that select enabled actions in states.
- 4. A policy on an MDP induces an infinite DTMC, even if the MDP is finite.

- 1. An MDP is a model exhibiting non-determinism and probabilities.
- 2. Non-determinism is important for e.g., randomized distributed algorithms.
- 3. Policies are functions that select enabled actions in states.
- 4. A policy on an MDP induces an infinite DTMC, even if the MDP is finite.
- 5. Probability measures on MDP paths are defined using induced DTMC paths.

- 1. An MDP is a model exhibiting non-determinism and probabilities.
- 2. Non-determinism is important for e.g., randomized distributed algorithms.
- 3. Policies are functions that select enabled actions in states.
- 4. A policy on an MDP induces an infinite DTMC, even if the MDP is finite.
- 5. Probability measures on MDP paths are defined using induced DTMC paths.
- 6. A positional policy selects in a state always the same action.