

Modeling and Verification of Probabilistic Systems

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Overview

- 1 Introduction
- 2 PCTL Syntax
- 3 PCTL Semantics
- 4 PCTL Model Checking
- 5 Complexity
- 6 Summary

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Summary of previous lecture

Reachability probabilities

Can be obtained as a unique solution of a linear equation system.

Reachability probabilities are pivotal

The probability of satisfying an ω -regular property P in a Markov chain \mathcal{D} = reachability probability of accepting BSCCs in the product of \mathcal{D} with a DRA for P .

Aim of this lecture

Introduce probabilistic CTL. Provide a polynomial-time model-checking algorithm for verifying a finite Markov chain against a PCTL formula.

Set up of this lecture

1. [Syntax](#) and [formal semantics](#) of probabilistic CTL.
2. [Model checking algorithm](#) for probabilistic CTL on Markov chains.
3. [Time complexity](#) analysis.

Probabilistic Computation Tree Logic

- ▶ PCTL is a language for formally specifying properties over DTMCs.
- ▶ It is a branching-time temporal logic (based on CTL).
- ▶ Formula interpretation is Boolean, i.e., a formula is satisfied or not.
- ▶ The main operator is $\mathbb{P}_J(\varphi)$
 - ▶ where φ constrains the paths and J is a threshold on the probability.
 - ▶ it is the probabilistic counterpart of \exists and \forall path-quantifiers in CTL.

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DTMCs

Discrete-time Markov chain

A **DTMC** \mathcal{D} is a tuple $(S, \mathbf{P}, \iota_{\text{init}}, AP, L)$ with:

- ▶ S is a countable nonempty set of **states**
- ▶ $\mathbf{P} : S \times S \rightarrow [0, 1]$, **transition probability function** s.t. $\sum_{s'} \mathbf{P}(s, s') = 1$
- ▶ $\iota_{\text{init}} : S \rightarrow [0, 1]$, the **initial distribution** with $\sum_{s \in S} \iota_{\text{init}}(s) = 1$
- ▶ AP is a set of **atomic propositions**.
- ▶ $L : S \rightarrow 2^{AP}$, the **labeling function**, assigning to state s , the set $L(s)$ of atomic propositions that are valid in s .

Initial states

- ▶ $\iota_{\text{init}}(s)$ is the probability that DTMC \mathcal{D} starts in state s
- ▶ the set $\{s \in S \mid \iota_{\text{init}}(s) > 0\}$ are the possible **initial states**.

PCTL syntax

[Hansson & Jonsson, 1994]

Probabilistic Computation Tree Logic: Syntax

PCTL consists of state- and path-formulas.

- ▶ PCTL *state formulas* over the set AP obey the grammar:

$$\Phi ::= \text{true} \mid a \mid \Phi_1 \wedge \Phi_2 \mid \neg\Phi \mid \mathbb{P}_J(\varphi)$$

where $a \in AP$, φ is a path formula and $J \subseteq [0, 1]$, $J \neq \emptyset$ is a non-empty interval.

- ▶ PCTL *path formulae* are formed according to the following grammar:

$$\varphi ::= \bigcirc\Phi \mid \Phi_1 \cup \Phi_2 \mid \Phi_1 U^{\leq n} \Phi_2$$

where Φ , Φ_1 , and Φ_2 are state formulae and $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Abbreviate $\mathbb{P}_{[0,0.5]}(\varphi)$ by $\mathbb{P}_{\leq 0.5}(\varphi)$ and $\mathbb{P}_{[0,1]}(\varphi)$ by $\mathbb{P}_{>0}(\varphi)$.

Probabilistic Computation Tree Logic

- ▶ PCTL *state formulas* over the set AP obey the grammar:

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- ▶ PCTL *path formulae* are formed according to the following grammar:

$$\varphi ::= \bigcirc\Phi \mid \Phi_1 \cup \Phi_2 \mid \Phi_1 U^{\leq n} \Phi_2 \quad \text{where } n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

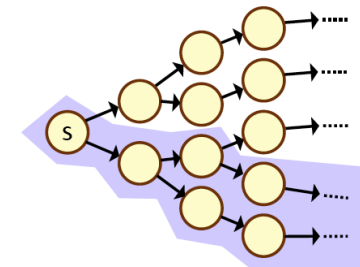
Intuitive semantics

- ▶ $s_0 s_1 s_2 \dots \models \Phi U^{\leq n} \Psi$ if Φ holds until Ψ holds within n steps.
- ▶ $s \models \mathbb{P}_J(\varphi)$ if probability that paths starting in s fulfill φ lies in J .

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Semantics of \mathbb{P} -operator



- ▶ $s \models \mathbb{P}_J(\varphi)$ if:
 - ▶ the probability of all paths starting in s fulfilling φ lies in J .
- ▶ Example: $s \models \mathbb{P}_{>\frac{1}{2}}(\diamond a)$ if
 - ▶ the probability to reach an a -labeled state from s exceeds $\frac{1}{2}$.
- ▶ Formally:
 - ▶ $s \models \mathbb{P}_J(\varphi)$ if and only if $Pr_s\{\pi \in Paths(s) \mid \pi \models \varphi\} \in J$.

Derived operators

$$\diamond \Phi = \text{true} \text{ U } \Phi$$

$$\diamond^{\leq n} \Phi = \text{true} \text{ U}^{\leq n} \Phi$$

$$\mathbb{P}_{\leq p}(\Box \Phi) = \mathbb{P}_{> 1-p}(\diamond \neg \Phi)$$

$$\mathbb{P}_{(p,q)}(\Box^{\leq n} \Phi) = \mathbb{P}_{[1-q, 1-p]}(\diamond^{\leq n} \neg \Phi)$$

Example properties

- ▶ Transient probabilities to be in *goal* state at the fourth epoch:

$$\mathbb{P}_{\geq 0.92}(\diamond^{=4} \text{goal})$$

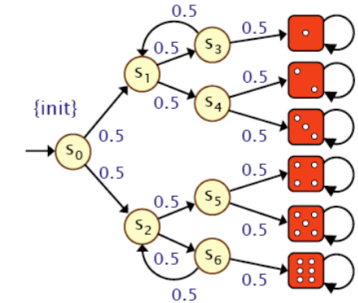
- ▶ With probability ≥ 0.92 , a goal state is reached legally:

$$\mathbb{P}_{\geq 0.92}(\neg \text{illegal} \text{ U } \text{goal})$$

- ▶ ... in maximally 137 steps: $\mathbb{P}_{\geq 0.92}(\neg \text{illegal} \text{ U}^{\leq 137} \text{goal})$
- ▶ ... once there, remain there almost surely for the next 31 steps:

$$\mathbb{P}_{\geq 0.92}(\neg \text{illegal} \text{ U}^{\leq 137} \mathbb{P}_{=1}(\Box^{[0,31]} \text{goal}))$$

Correctness of Knuth's die



Correctness of Knuth's die

$$\mathbb{P}_{=\frac{1}{6}}(\diamond 1) \wedge \mathbb{P}_{=\frac{1}{6}}(\diamond 2) \wedge \mathbb{P}_{=\frac{1}{6}}(\diamond 3) \wedge \mathbb{P}_{=\frac{1}{6}}(\diamond 4) \wedge \mathbb{P}_{=\frac{1}{6}}(\diamond 5) \wedge \mathbb{P}_{=\frac{1}{6}}(\diamond 6)$$

PCTL semantics (1)

Notation

$\mathcal{D}, s \models \Phi$ iff state-formula Φ holds in state s of (possibly infinite) DTMC \mathcal{D} . As \mathcal{D} is known from the context we simply write $s \models \Phi$.

Satisfaction relation for state formulas

The satisfaction relation \models is defined for PCTL state formulas by:

$$\begin{aligned} s \models a & \quad \text{iff } a \in L(s) \\ s \models \neg \Phi & \quad \text{iff not } (s \models \Phi) \\ s \models \Phi \wedge \Psi & \quad \text{iff } (s \models \Phi) \text{ and } (s \models \Psi) \\ s \models \mathbb{P}_J(\varphi) & \quad \text{iff } Pr(s \models \varphi) \in J \end{aligned}$$

where $Pr(s \models \varphi) = Pr_s\{\pi \in Paths(s) \mid \pi \models \varphi\}$

PCTL semantics (2)

Satisfaction relation for path formulas

Let $\pi = s_0 s_1 s_2 \dots$ be an infinite path in (possibly infinite) DTMC \mathcal{D} . Recall that $\pi[i] = s_i$ denotes the $(i+1)$ -st state along π .

The satisfaction relation \models is defined for state formulas by:

$$\begin{aligned} \pi \models \bigcirc \Phi & \quad \text{iff } s_1 \models \Phi \\ \pi \models \Phi \cup \Psi & \quad \text{iff } \exists k \geq 0. (\pi[k] \models \Psi \text{ and } \forall 0 \leq i < k. \pi[i] \models \Phi) \\ \pi \models \Phi \cup^{\leq n} \Psi & \quad \text{iff } \exists k \geq 0. (k \leq n \text{ and } \pi[k] \models \Psi \text{ and} \\ & \quad \forall 0 \leq i < k. \pi[i] \models \Phi) \end{aligned}$$

Measurability

PCTL measurability

For PCTL path formula φ and state s of DTMC \mathcal{D} , $\{\pi \in \text{Paths}(s) \mid \pi \models \varphi\}$ is measurable.

Proof (sketch):

Three cases:

1. $\bigcirc \Phi$:
 - ▶ cylinder sets constructed from paths of length one.
2. $\Phi \cup^{\leq n} \Psi$:
 - ▶ (finite number of) cylinder sets from paths of length at most n .
3. $\Phi \cup \Psi$:
 - ▶ countable union of paths satisfying $\Phi \cup^{\leq n} \Psi$ for all $n \geq 0$.

Examples

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PCTL model checking

PCTL model checking problem

Input: a finite DTMC $\mathcal{D} = (S, \mathbf{P}, l_{\text{init}}, AP, L)$, state $s \in S$, and PCTL state formula Φ

Output: yes, if $s \models \Phi$; no, otherwise.

Basic algorithm

In order to check whether $s \models \Phi$ do:

1. Compute the **satisfaction set** $Sat(\Phi) = \{s \in S \mid s \models \Phi\}$.
2. This is done **recursively** by a bottom-up traversal of Φ 's parse tree.
 - ▶ The nodes of the parse tree represent the subformulae of Φ .
 - ▶ For each node, i.e., for each subformula Ψ of Φ , determine $Sat(\Psi)$.
 - ▶ Determine $Sat(\Psi)$ as function of the satisfaction sets of its children:
e.g., $Sat(\Psi_1 \wedge \Psi_2) = Sat(\Psi_1) \cap Sat(\Psi_2)$ and $Sat(\neg\Psi) = S \setminus Sat(\Psi)$.
3. Check whether state s belongs to $Sat(\Phi)$.

Example

Core model-checking algorithm

Propositional formulas

$Sat(\cdot)$ is defined by structural induction as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} Sat(\text{true}) &= S \\ Sat(a) &= \{s \in S \mid a \in L(s)\}, \text{ for any } a \in AP \\ Sat(\Phi \wedge \Psi) &= Sat(\Phi) \cap Sat(\Psi) \\ Sat(\neg\Phi) &= S \setminus Sat(\Phi). \end{aligned}$$

Probabilistic operator \mathbb{P}

In order to determine whether $s \in Sat(\mathbb{P}_J(\varphi))$, the probability $Pr(s \models \varphi)$ for the event specified by φ needs to be established. Then

$$Sat(\mathbb{P}_J(\varphi)) = \{s \in S \mid Pr(s \models \varphi) \in J\}.$$

Let us consider the computation of $Pr(s \models \varphi)$ for all possible φ .

The next-step operator

Recall that: $s \models \mathbb{P}_J(\bigcirc \Phi)$ if and only if $Pr(s \models \bigcirc \Phi) \in J$.

Lemma

$$Pr(s \models \bigcirc \Phi) = \sum_{s' \in Sat(\Phi)} \mathbf{P}(s, s').$$

Algorithm

Considering the above equation for all states simultaneously yields:

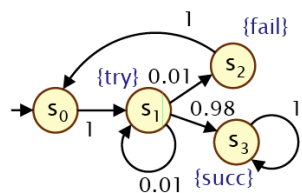
$$(Pr(s \models \bigcirc \Phi))_{s \in S} = \mathbf{P} \cdot \mathbf{b}_\Phi$$

with \mathbf{b}_Φ the characteristic vector of $Sat(\Phi)$, i.e., $b_\Phi(s) = 1$ iff $s \in Sat(\Phi)$.

Checking the next-step operator reduces to a single matrix-vector multiplication.

Example

Consider DTMC:



and PCTL-formula:

$$\mathbb{P}_{\geq 0.9}(\bigcirc(\neg \text{try} \vee \text{succ}))$$

1. $Sat(\neg \text{try} \vee \text{succ}) = (S \setminus Sat(\text{try})) \cup Sat(\text{succ}) = \{s_0, s_2, s_3\}$
2. We know: $(Pr(s \models \bigcirc \Phi))_{s \in S} = \mathbf{P} \cdot \mathbf{b}_\Phi$ where $\Phi = \neg \text{try} \vee \text{succ}$
3. Applying that to this example yields:

$$(Pr(s \models \bigcirc \Phi))_{s \in S} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.01 & 0.01 & 0.98 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0.99 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

4. Thus: $Sat(\mathbb{P}_{\geq 0.9}(\bigcirc(\neg \text{try} \vee \text{succ}))) = \{s_1, s_2, s_3\}$.

Bounded until (1)

Recall that: $s \models \mathbb{P}_J(\Phi U^{\leq n} \Psi)$ if and only if $Pr(s \models \Phi U^{\leq n} \Psi) \in J$.

Lemma

Let $S_{=1} = Sat(\Psi)$, $S_{=0} = S \setminus (Sat(\Phi) \cup Sat(\Psi))$, and $S_{\neq} = S \setminus (S_{=0} \cup S_{=1})$. Then:

$$Pr(s \models \Phi U^{\leq n} \Psi) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } s \in S_{=1} \\ 0 & \text{if } s \in S_{=0} \\ 0 & \text{if } s \in S_{\neq} \wedge n=0 \\ \sum_{s' \in S} \mathbf{P}(s, s') \cdot Pr(s' \models \Phi U^{\leq n-1} \Psi) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Bounded until (2)

Let $S_{=1} = Sat(\Psi)$, $S_{=0} = S \setminus (Sat(\Phi) \cup Sat(\Psi))$, and $S_{\neq} = S \setminus (S_{=0} \cup S_{=1})$. Then:

$$Pr(s \models \Phi U^{\leq n} \Psi) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } s \in S_{=1} \\ 0 & \text{if } s \in S_{=0} \\ 0 & \text{if } s \in S_{\neq} \wedge n=0 \\ \sum_{s' \in S} \mathbf{P}(s, s') \cdot Pr(s' \models \Phi U^{\leq n-1} \Psi) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Algorithm

1. Let $\mathbf{P}_{\Phi, \Psi}$ be the probability matrix of $\mathcal{D}[S_{=0} \cup S_{=1}]$.
2. Then $(Pr(s \models \Phi U^{\leq 0} \Psi))_{s \in S} = \mathbf{b}_\Psi$
3. And $(Pr(s \models \Phi U^{\leq i+1} \Psi))_{s \in S} = \mathbf{P}_{\Phi, \Psi} \cdot (Pr(s \models \Phi U^{\leq i} \Psi))_{s \in S}$.
4. This requires n matrix-vector multiplications in total.

Bounded until (3)

Algorithm

1. Let $\mathbf{P}_{\Phi, \Psi}$ be the probability matrix of $\mathcal{D}[S_{=0} \cup S_{=1}]$.
2. Then $(Pr(s \models \Phi U^{\leq 0} \Psi))_{s \in S} = \mathbf{b}_\Psi$
3. And $(Pr(s \models \Phi U^{\leq i+1} \Psi))_{s \in S} = \mathbf{P}_{\Phi, \Psi} \cdot (Pr(s \models \Phi U^{\leq i} \Psi))_{s \in S}$.
4. This requires n matrix-vector multiplications in total.

Remarks

1. In terms of matrix powers: $(Pr(s \models \Phi U^{\leq n} \Psi))_{s \in S} = \mathbf{P}_{\Phi, \Psi}^n \cdot \mathbf{b}_\Psi$.
 - ▶ Computing $\mathbf{P}_{\Phi, \Psi}^n$ in $\log_2 n$ steps is inefficient due to fill-in.
 - ▶ That is to say, $\mathbf{P}_{\Phi, \Psi}^n$ is much less sparse than $\mathbf{P}_{\Phi, \Psi}$.
2. $\mathbf{P}_{\Phi, \Psi}^n \cdot \mathbf{b}_\Psi = (Pr(s \models \bigcirc^{\leq n} \Psi))_{s \in S_{\neq}}$ in $\mathcal{D}[S_{=0} \cup S_{=1}]$.
 - ▶ Where $\bigcirc^0 \Psi = \Psi$ and $\bigcirc^{i+1} \Psi = \bigcirc(\bigcirc^i \Psi)$.
 - ▶ This thus amounts to a transient analysis in DTMC $\mathcal{D}[S_{=0} \cup S_{=1}]$.

Optimization

The above procedure used:

- ▶ $S_{=1} = \text{Sat}(\Psi)$, and
- ▶ $S_{=0} = S \setminus (\text{Sat}(\Phi) \cup \text{Sat}(\Psi)) = \text{Sat}(\neg\Phi \wedge \neg\Psi)$, and
- ▶ perform the matrix-vector multiplications on the remaining states

This can be optimized (in practice) by enlarging $S_{=0}$ and $S_{=1}$:

- ▶ $S_{=1} = \text{Sat}(\mathbb{P}_{=1}(\Phi \cup \Psi))$, obtained by a graph analysis
- ▶ $S_{=0} = \text{Sat}(\mathbb{P}_{=0}(\Phi \cup \Psi))$, obtained by a graph analysis too, and
- ▶ perform the matrix-vector multiplications on the remaining states.

Until

Recall that: $s \models \mathbb{P}_J(\Phi \cup \Psi)$ if and only if $Pr(s \models \Phi \cup \Psi) \in J$.

Algorithm

1. Determine $S_{=1} = \text{Sat}(\mathbb{P}_{=1}(\Phi \cup \Psi))$ by a graph analysis.
2. Determine $S_{=0} = \text{Sat}(\mathbb{P}_{=0}(\Phi \cup \Psi))$ by a graph analysis.
3. Then solve a linear equation system over all remaining states.

Importance of pre-computation using graph analysis

1. Ensures **unique** solution to linear equation system.
2. **Reduces** the number of variables in the linear equation system.
3. Gives **exact** results for the states in $S_{=1}$ and $S_{=0}$ (i.e., no round-off).
4. For **qualitative** properties, no further computation is needed.

Example

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Time complexity

Time complexity of PCTL model checking

For finite DTMC \mathcal{D} and PCTL state-formula ϕ , the PCTL model-checking problem can be solved in time

$$\mathcal{O}(\text{poly}(\text{size}(\mathcal{D})) \cdot n_{\max} \cdot |\phi|).$$

Proof (sketch)

1. For each node in the parse tree, a model-checking is performed; this yields a linear complexity in $|\phi|$.
2. The worst-case operator is (unbounded) until.
 - 2.1 Determining $S_{=0}$ and $S_{=1}$ can be done in linear time.
 - 2.2 Direct methods to solve linear equation systems are in $\Theta(|S_i|^3)$.
3. Strictly speaking, $U^{\leq n}$ could be more expensive for large n .
But it remains polynomial, and n is small in practice.

Time complexity

Let $|\Phi|$ be the **size** of Φ , i.e., the number of logical and temporal operators in Φ .

Time complexity of PCTL model checking

For finite DTMC \mathcal{D} and PCTL state-formula ϕ , the PCTL model-checking problem can be solved in time

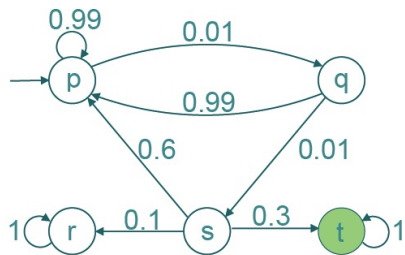
$$\mathcal{O}(\text{poly}(\text{size}(\mathcal{D})) \cdot n_{\max} \cdot |\phi|)$$

where $n_{\max} = \max\{n \mid \Psi_1 U^{\leq n} \Psi_2 \text{ occurs in } \phi\}$ with $n_{\max} = 1$ if ϕ does not contain a bounded until-operator.

Example: Lost passenger ticket

Verification results

Example



- ▶ Exact answer: $Pr(\diamond t) = \frac{3}{4}$
- ▶ Value iteration with $\varepsilon = 0,000001$ yields 0.7248
- ▶ True error: 0.0252

Value iteration

- ▶ Reachability probabilities are typically obtained iteratively:

$$\mathbf{x}^{(n+1)} = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{x}^{(n)} + \mathbf{b}$$

- ▶ Then: reachability probability $Pr(\diamond G)$ equals $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{x}^{(n)}$
- ▶ Question: when to halt this iterative process?
- ▶ Typical approach:

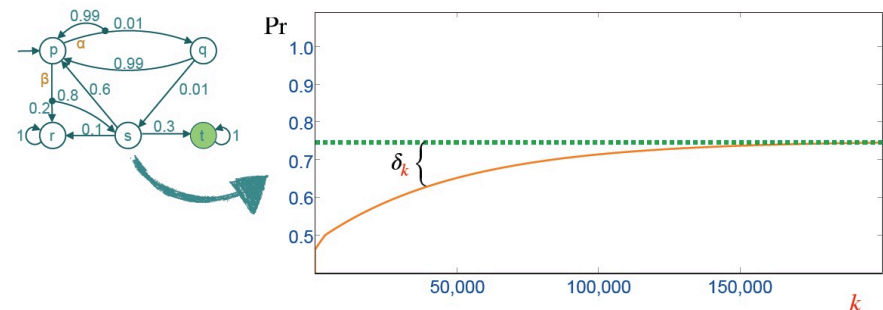
$$|\mathbf{x}^{(n+1)} - \mathbf{x}^{(n)}| \leq \varepsilon$$

for some ε , e.g., 10^{-6}

- ▶ Potential problem: **premature convergence**
That is: iterations are stopped too early
- ▶ Verification results are obtained **without** guarantees

Value iteration

Idea: approach $Pr(\diamond G)$ by computing $Pr(\diamond^{\leq k} G)$ for increasing k



- ▶ Problem: δ_k is **unknown**
- ▶ Stopping criterion: $|Pr(\diamond^{\leq k+1} G) - Pr(\diamond^{\leq k} G)| \leq \varepsilon$
- ▶ But this is independent from the aim: $\underbrace{Pr(\diamond G) - Pr(\diamond^{\leq k} G)}_{\delta_k} \leq \varepsilon$

Remedy: bound $Pr(\diamond G)$ from above too

Idea: provide bounds $l_k \leq \delta_k \leq u_k$ for $\delta_k = Pr(\diamond G) - Pr(\diamond^{\leq k} G)$

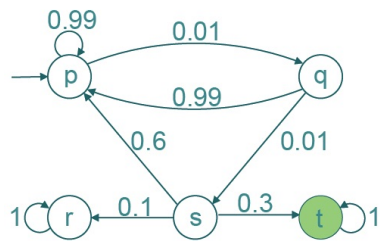
How to obtain these bounds? Towards an upper bound observe:

$$\delta_k = \underbrace{Pr(\diamond G) - Pr(\diamond^{\leq k} G)}_{\text{probability to reach } G \text{ in } > k \text{ steps}} \leq Pr(\square^{\leq k} S_?) \cdot \max_{s \in S_?} Pr_s(\diamond G)$$

Towards a lower bound observe:

$$\delta_k = \underbrace{Pr(\diamond G) - Pr(\diamond^{\leq k} G)}_{\text{probability to reach } G \text{ in } > k \text{ steps}} \geq Pr(\square^{\leq k} S_?) \cdot \min_{s \in S_?} Pr_s(\diamond G)$$

Example sound value iteration



- ▶ Exact answer: $Pr(\diamond t) = \frac{3}{4}$
- ▶ $S_? = \{s_0, s_1, s_2\}$
- ▶ We have $\mathbf{l}_3 = (0.00003, 0.003, 0.3)$
- ▶ and $\mathbf{u}_3 = (0.99996, 0.996, 0.6)$
- ▶ For all $s \in S_?$ we have $\frac{l_3(s)}{1 - u_3(s)} = \frac{3}{4}$
- ▶ Thus $l_3 = u_3 = \frac{3}{4}$
- ▶ Three iterations suffice for the exact answer

Sound value iteration

Sound value iteration theorem

For DTMC \mathcal{D} , goal states $G \subseteq S$ and $k \in \mathbb{N}$:

$$Pr(\diamond^{\leq k} G) + l_k \leq Pr(\diamond G) \leq Pr(\diamond^{\leq k} G) + u_k$$

where:

$$u_k = Pr(\square^{\leq k} S_?) \cdot \max_{s \in S_?} \frac{Pr_s(\diamond^{\leq k} G)}{1 - Pr_s(\square^{\leq k} S_?)}$$

and

$$l_k = Pr(\square^{\leq k} S_?) \cdot \min_{s \in S_?} \frac{Pr_s(\diamond^{\leq k} G)}{1 - Pr_s(\square^{\leq k} S_?)}$$

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Summary

- ▶ PCTL is a branching-time logic with key operator $\mathbb{P}_J(\varphi)$.
- ▶ Sets of paths fulfilling PCTL path-formula φ are measurable.
- ▶ PCTL model checking is performed by a recursive descent over Φ .
- ▶ The next operator amounts to a single matrix-vector multiplication.
- ▶ Bounded until $U^{\leq n}$ amounts to n matrix-vector multiplications.
- ▶ The until-operator amounts to solving a linear equation system.
- ▶ Time complexity of $\mathcal{D} \models \Phi$ is polynomial in $|\mathcal{D}|$ and linear in $|\Phi|$.
- ▶ Value iteration is sound when upper bounding $Pr(\diamond G)$
- ▶ Variations: long-run operator, conditional probabilities, expected reward until reaching a set of states.