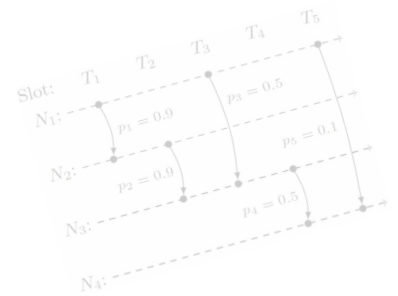
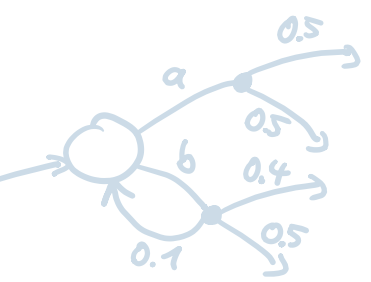
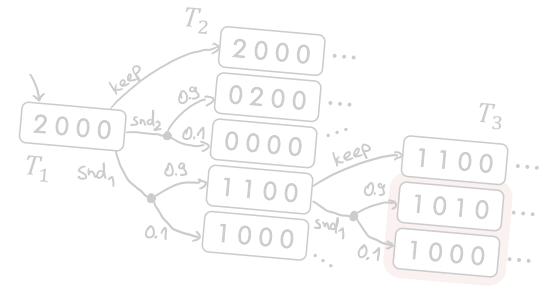


# On Schedulers and Information in Distributed and Non-Markovian Probabilistic Systems



$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E}_{l,o}^{ml} &< \mathcal{E}_{l,t,o}^{ml} < \mathcal{E}_{l,v,o}^{ml} < \mathcal{E}_{l,o}^{hist} \\ \mathcal{E}_{l,e}^{ml} &< \mathcal{E}_{l,t,e}^{ml} < \mathcal{E}_{l,v,e}^{ml} > \mathcal{E}_{l,t,o}^{hist} \\ \mathcal{E}_{l,e}^{hist} &\approx \mathcal{E}_{l,t,e}^{hist} \approx \mathcal{E}_{l,v,e}^{hist} > \mathcal{E}_{l,v,o}^{hist} \end{aligned}$$



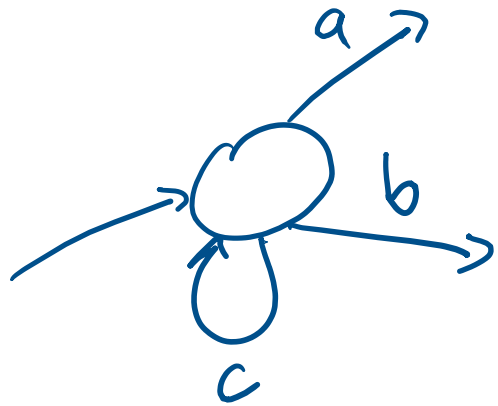
**Arnd Hartmanns**

*University of Twente, Enschede, The Netherlands*

based on joint work with Pedro R. D'Argenio, Juan A. Fraire, Marcus Gerhold, Holger Hermanns, Jan Krčál, Fernando Raverta, Sean Sedwards, and others

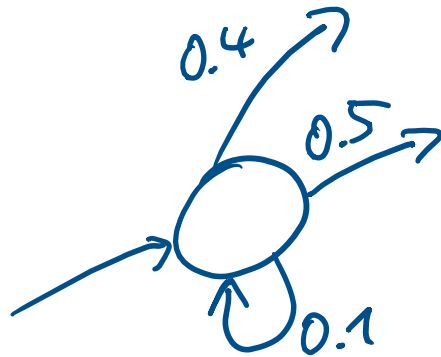
# Probabilistic Systems

Nondeterminism and randomness:



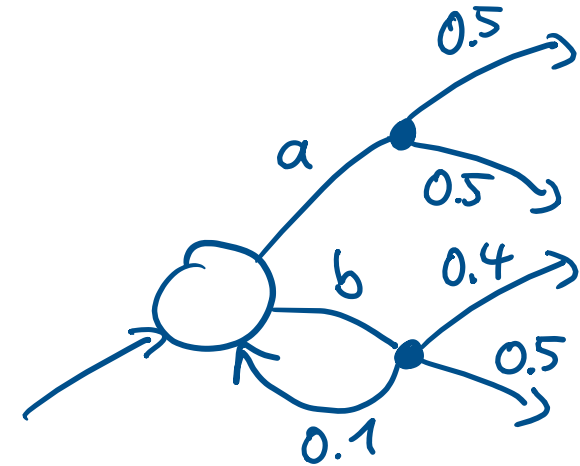
*LTS or similar*

+



*DTMC*

=



*Markov decision process*

**MDP**

Properties of interest:

$S(\text{power usage})$

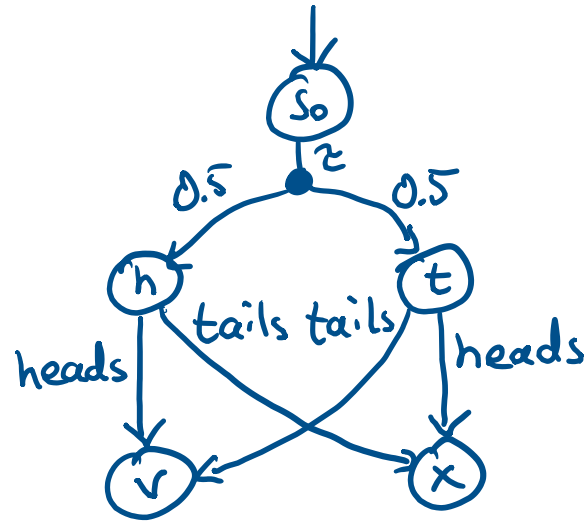
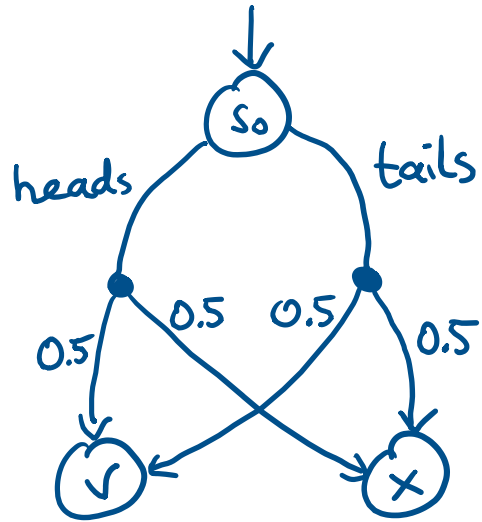
$\mathbb{P}(\diamond \text{ crash})$

$\mathbb{E}(\text{time until message transmitted})$

$\mathbb{P}(\diamond^{time \leq T} \text{ crash})$

# Schedulers

Coin throw:  $\mathbb{P}(\diamond \checkmark) = ?$       *Scheduler*: resolves all nondeterminism



$\mathcal{S}: S \rightarrow A$  = memoryless  
deterministic

$\mathcal{S}: (S \times A)^* \times S \rightarrow \text{Dist}(A)$   
= history-dependent  
randomised

$\mathbb{P}(\diamond G)$ : memoryless deterministic suffices

$\mathbb{P}(\diamond^{time \leq T} G)$ : need remaining time to bound  $T$

multi-objective: need randomised schedulers

find smallest  
class sufficient  
for property

# 1 schedulers and information in distributed probabilistic systems

# Uncertain Delay-Tolerant Networks

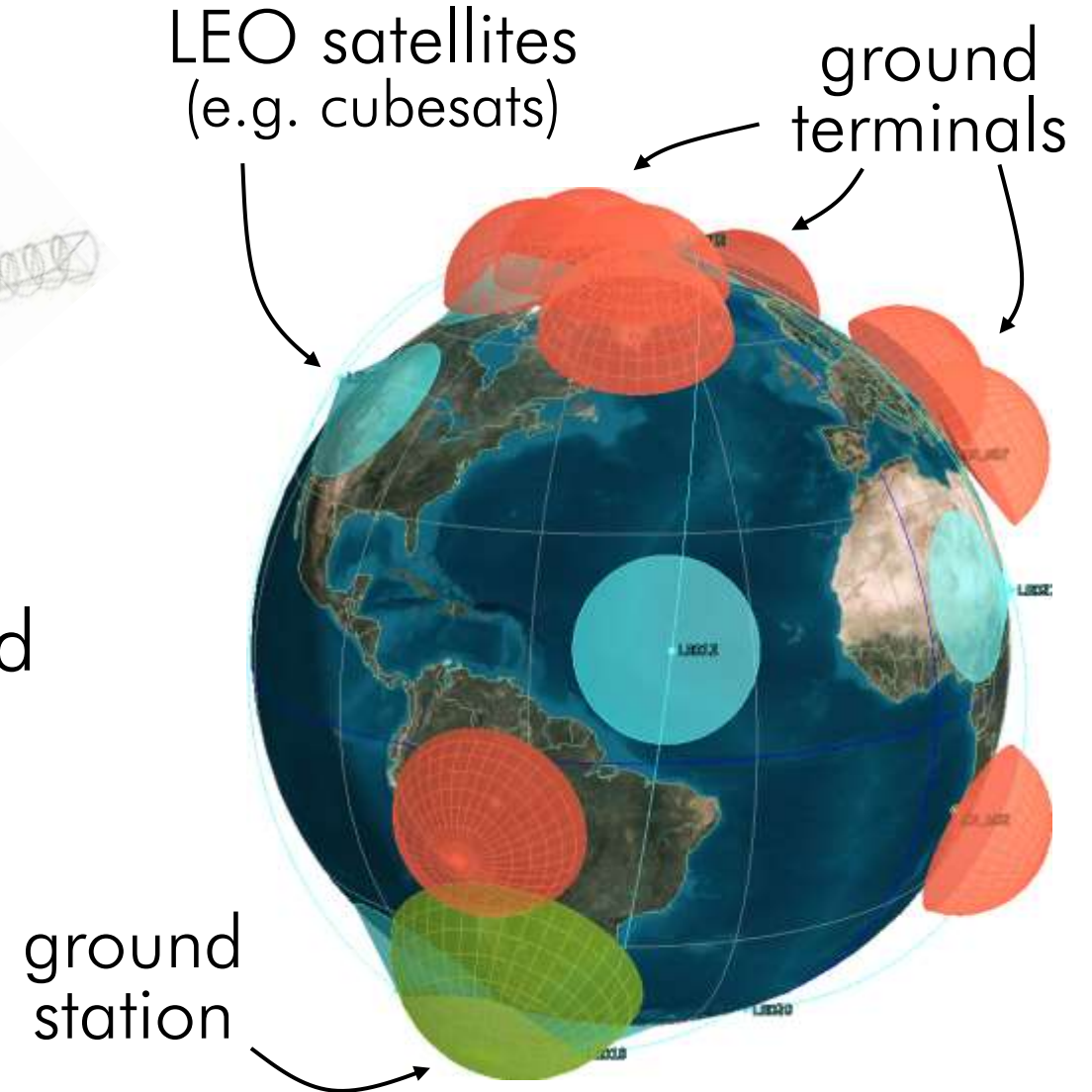
Store-and-carry-forward communication

→ data exchange in contact windows

Contacts known, resources limited,  
uncertain transmissions:

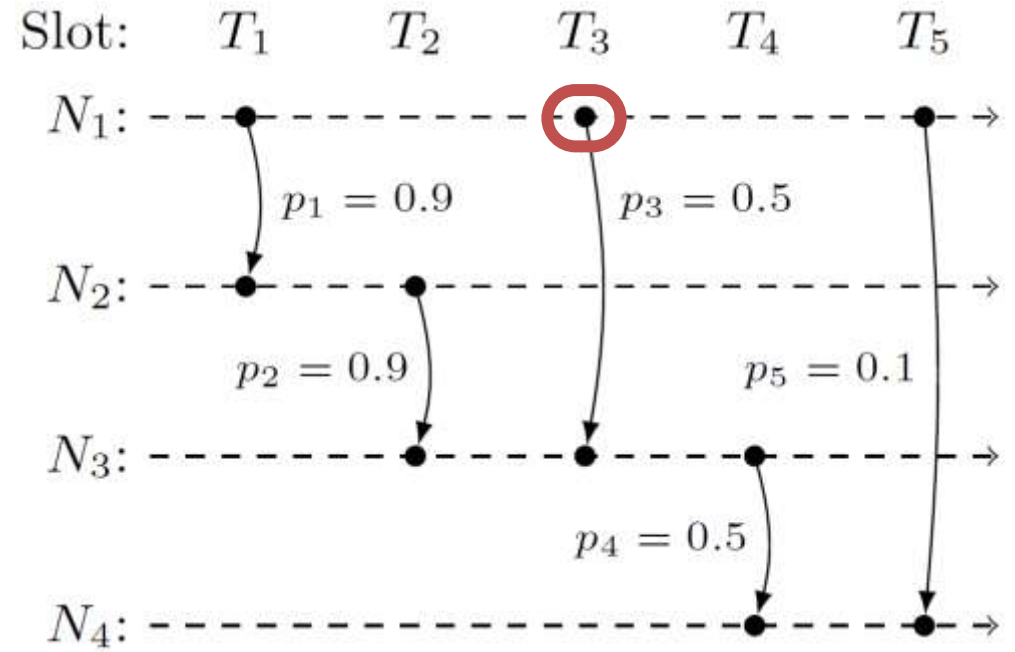
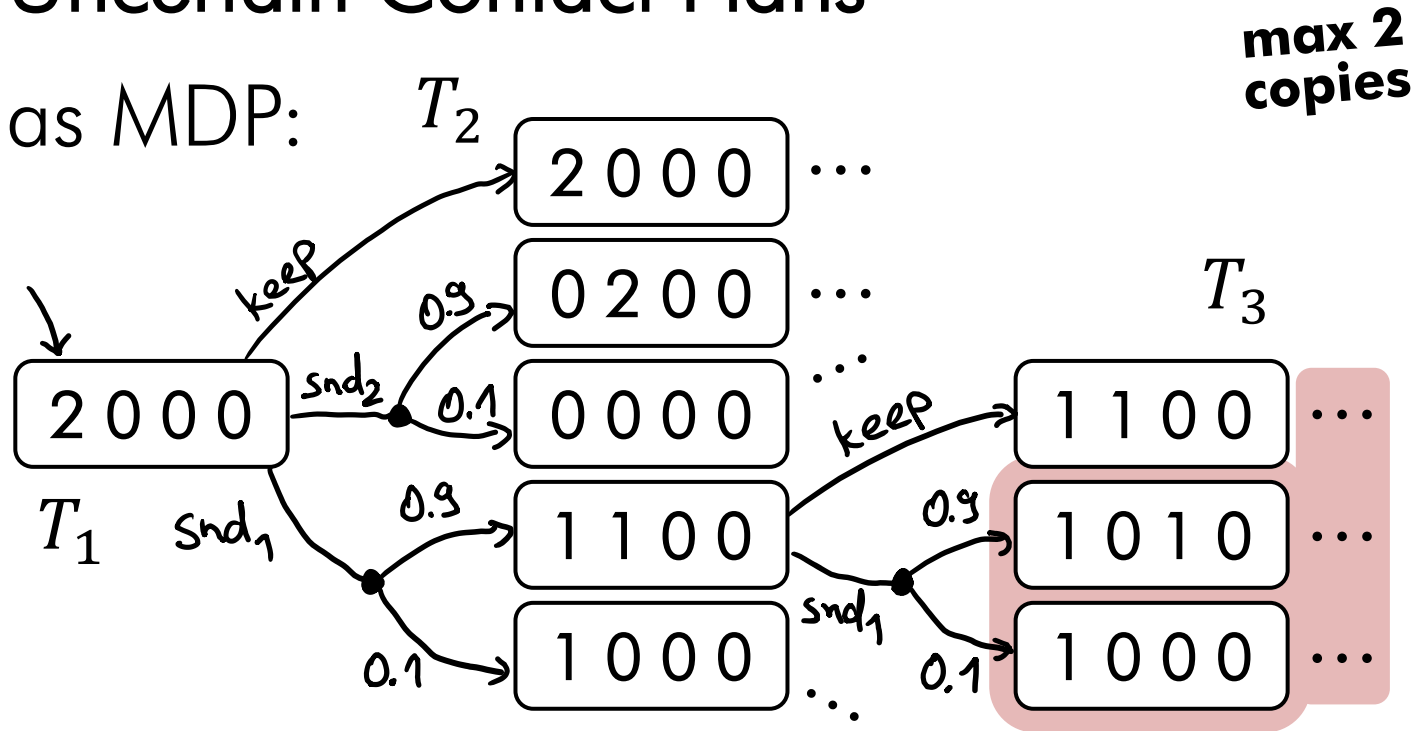
allow  $k$  copies of message  
throughout entire network

→ find route maximising end-to-end  
successful delivery probability



# Uncertain Contact Plans

as MDP:



Best choice for  $N_1$  in  $T_3$  ( $\mathcal{S}:\mathcal{S} \rightarrow A$ ):

send remaining copy to  $N_3$   
 only if  $N_3$  did not get copy # 1

**global information**

⚡  $N_1$  cannot know this! 

# Distributed Schedulers

Known problem in probabilistic model checking,  
different from partial information (POMDP): multiple agents/views

PMC

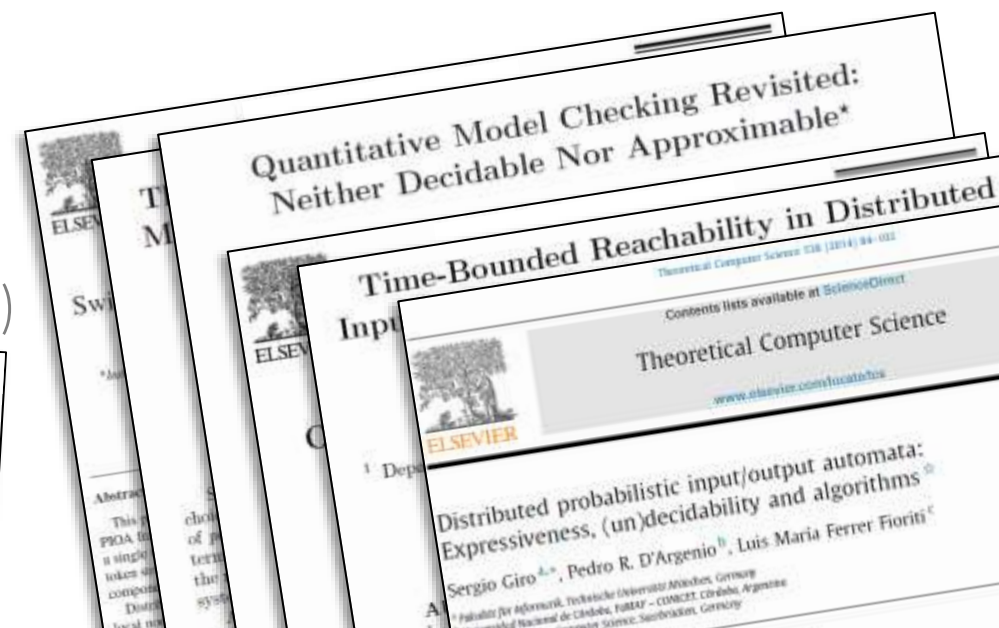
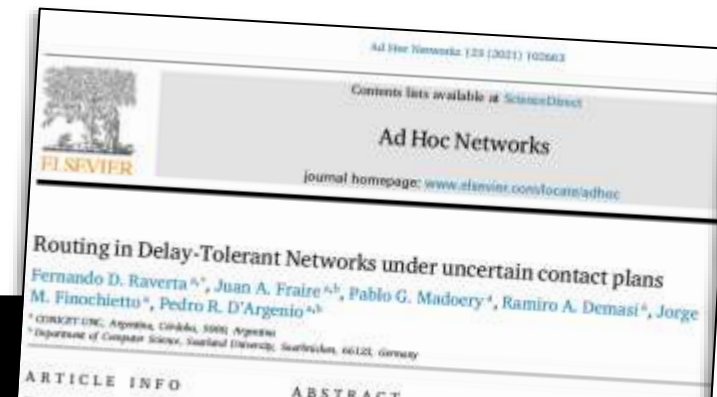
Results from the 2000s: undecidable or NP-hard, no usable tools



💡 L-RUCoP: local-information model checking algorithm  
specific to the uncertain DTN setting, approximates (Raverta et al., 2021)

💡 LSS: SMC with lightweight scheduler  
sampling among distributed schedulers

(D'Argenio, Fraire, H.,  
NFM 2020)





# Distributed Schedulers

Why give up? Simplify the problem!

Results from the 2000s: undecidable or NP-hard, no usable tools

💡 Good-for-distributed-scheduling models  
(no interference between components)

💡 LSS: SMC with lightweight scheduler  
sampling among distributed schedulers

(D'Argenio, Fraire, H.,  
NFM 2020)

## Sampling Distributed Schedulers for Resilient Space Communication

Pedro R. D'Argenio<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Juan A. Fraire<sup>1,2,3</sup>, and Arnd Hartmanns<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> CONICET, Córdoba, Argentina

<sup>2</sup> Saarland University, Saarbrücken, Germany

<sup>3</sup> Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Córdoba, Argentina

<sup>4</sup> Universität

Quantitative Model Checking Revisited:  
Neither Decidable Nor Approximable\*

Time-Bounded Reachability in Distributed  
Input/Output Automata

Theoretical Computer Science  
www.elsevier.com/locate/tcs

Distributed probabilistic input/output automata:  
Expressiveness, (un)decidability and algorithms

Sergio Giro<sup>a,\*</sup>, Pedro R. D'Argenio<sup>b</sup>, Luis María Ferrer Fioriti<sup>c</sup>



# Distributed Schedulers

Why give up? Simplify the problem!

Results from the 2000s: undecidable or NP-hard, no usable tools

! engineers don't want the history-dependent belief-estimating randomised schedulers anyway!

We need

*simple*

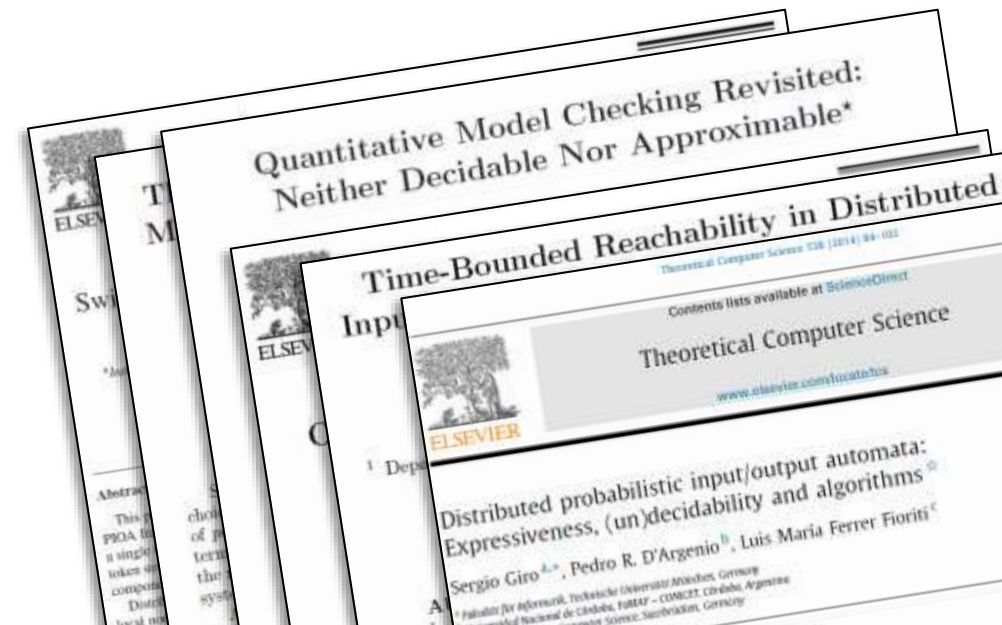
*compact*

*understandable*

*implementable*

*explainable*

*schedulers!*

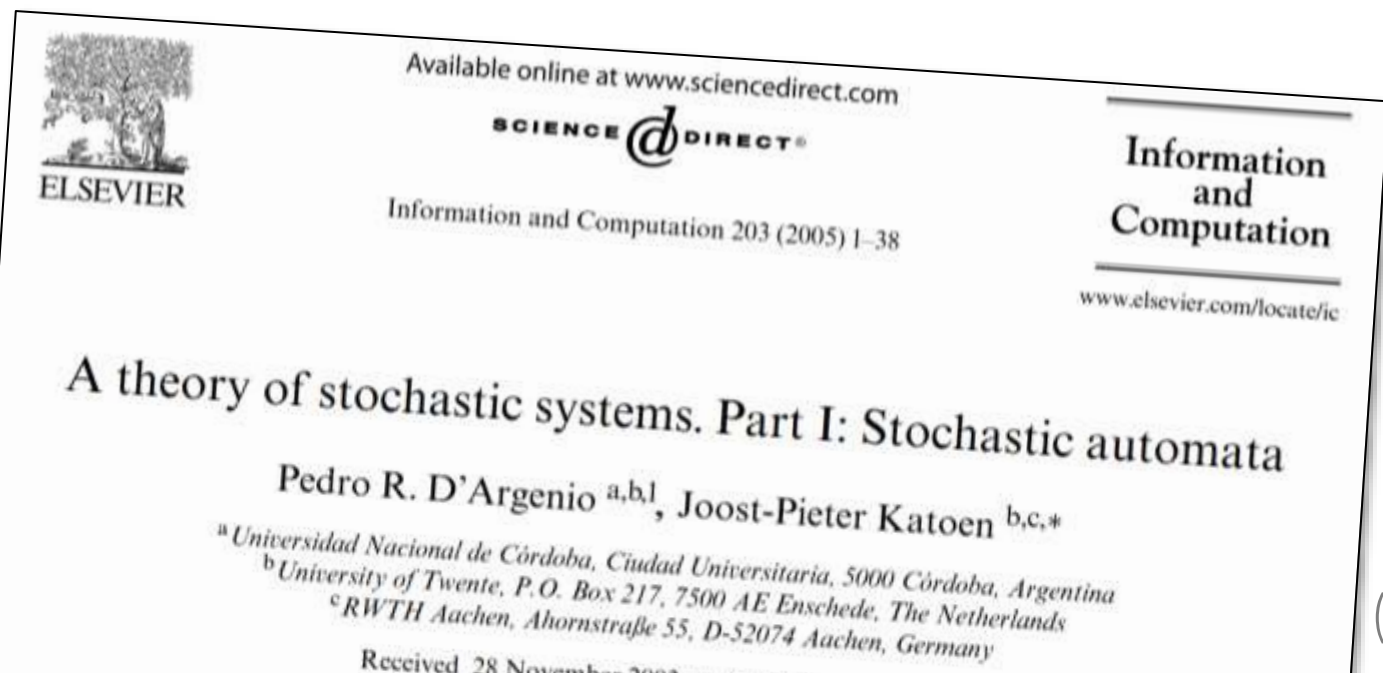
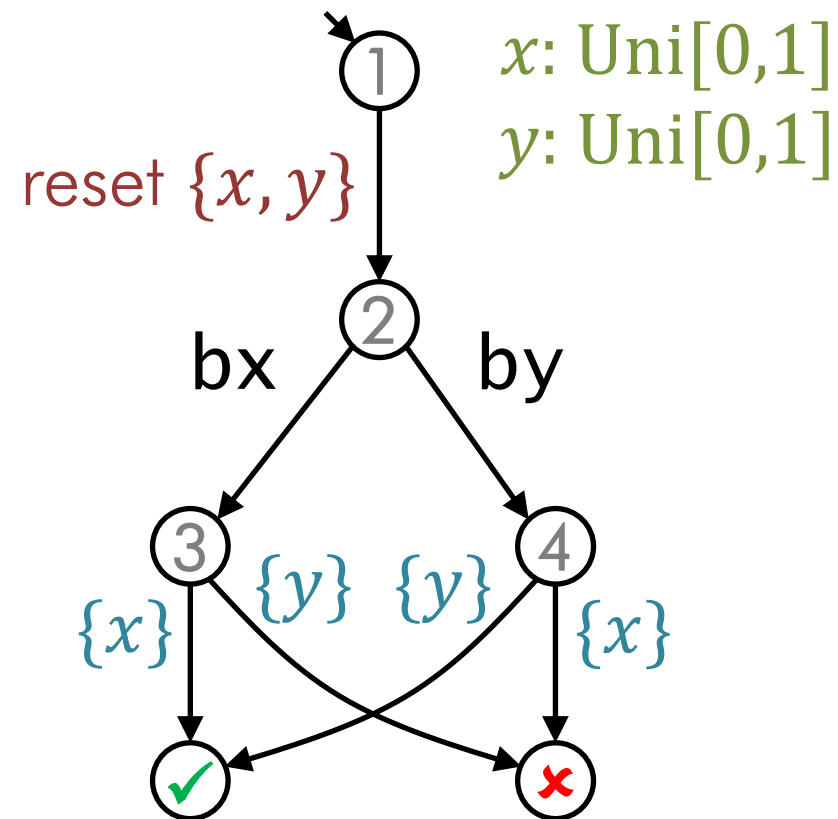


# 2 schedulers and information in non-Markovian probabilistic systems

# Stochastic Automata

LTS extended with stochastic clocks  
that can be reset, and enable  
edge guards on expiry

**symbolic model:  
need semantics**



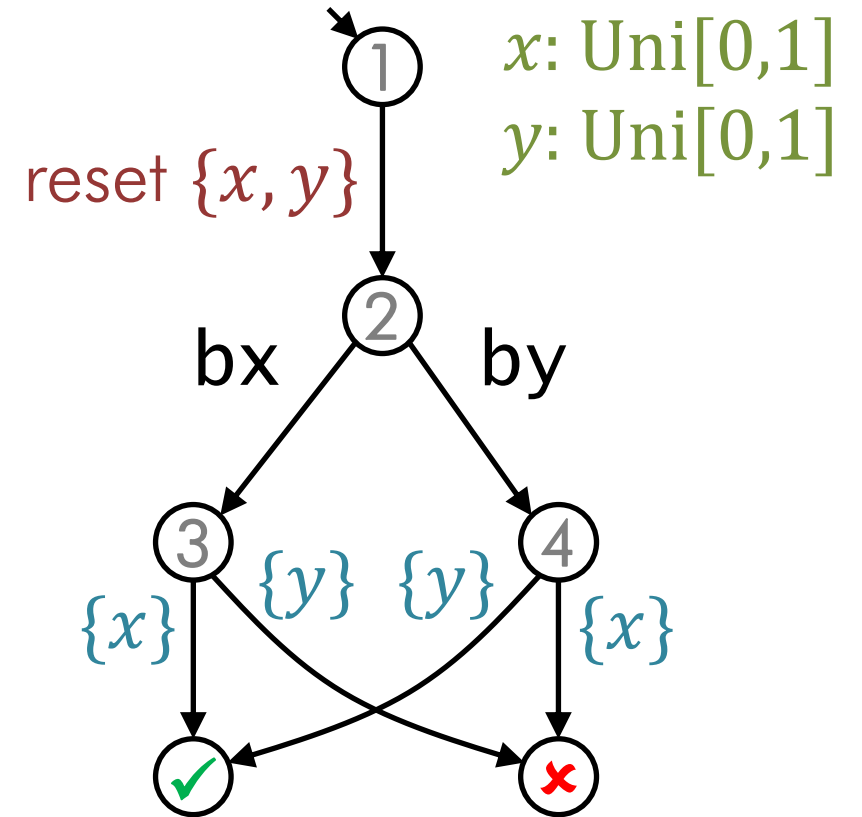
(D'Argenio & Katoen, 2005)

# Stochastic Automata

Semantics: infinite-state "MDP"<sup>PTTS</sup>  
 with **continuous** distributions  
 but **finite** nondeterminism

$v(x), v(y)$      $e(x), e(y)$   
 $\rightarrow \langle 1, \overbrace{\langle 0,0 \rangle}, \overbrace{\langle 0,0 \rangle} \rangle$   
 $\rightarrow \langle 2, \langle 0,0 \rangle, \langle 0.2, 0.8 \rangle \rangle$   
**choice**  
 $\rightarrow \langle 3, \langle 0,0 \rangle, \langle 0.2, 0.8 \rangle \rangle$   
 $\rightarrow \langle 3, \langle 0.2, 0.2 \rangle, \langle 0.2, 0.8 \rangle \rangle$   
 $\rightarrow \langle \checkmark, \langle 0.2, 0.2 \rangle, \langle 0.2, 0.8 \rangle \rangle$

$\text{Uni}[0,1]^2$



$\rightarrow$  residual lifetimes semantics  
 that turns STA into PTTS

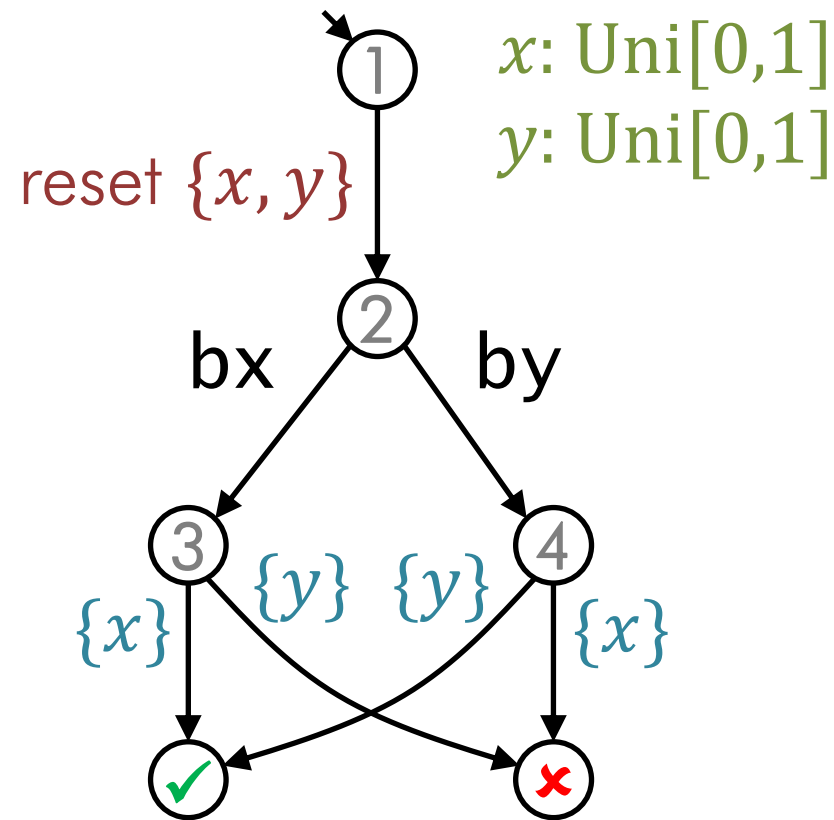
admits prophetic schedulers



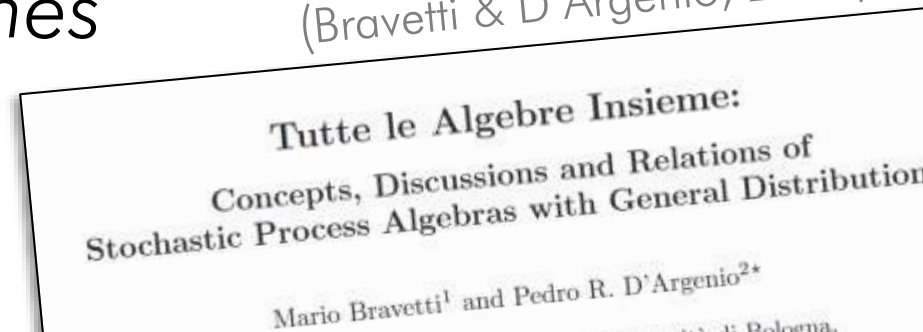
# Fixing the Semantics

On every delay and jump, resample unexpired clocks conditioned on elapsed time

- $v(x), v(y)$   $e(x), e(y)$
- $\rightarrow \langle 1, \overbrace{\langle 0,0 \rangle}, \overbrace{\langle 0,0 \rangle} \rangle$
- $\rightarrow \langle 2, \langle 0,0 \rangle, \langle 0.2,0.8 \rangle \rangle$  Uni[0,1]<sup>2</sup>
- choice**  $\rightarrow \langle 3, \langle 0,0 \rangle, \langle 0.6,0.4 \rangle \rangle$  resample  $x, y$
- $\rightarrow \langle 3, \langle 0.4,0.6 \rangle, \langle 0.9,0.4 \rangle \rangle$  resample  $x$
- $\rightarrow \langle x, \langle 0.2,0.2 \rangle, \langle 0.2,0.8 \rangle \rangle$   $\rightarrow$  spent lifetimes semantics

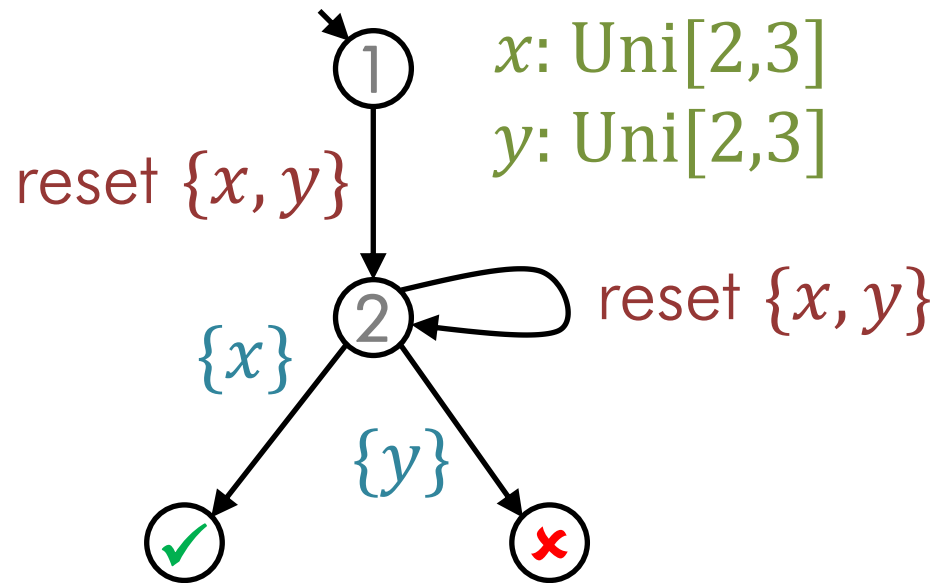



(Bravetti & D'Argenio, 2004)



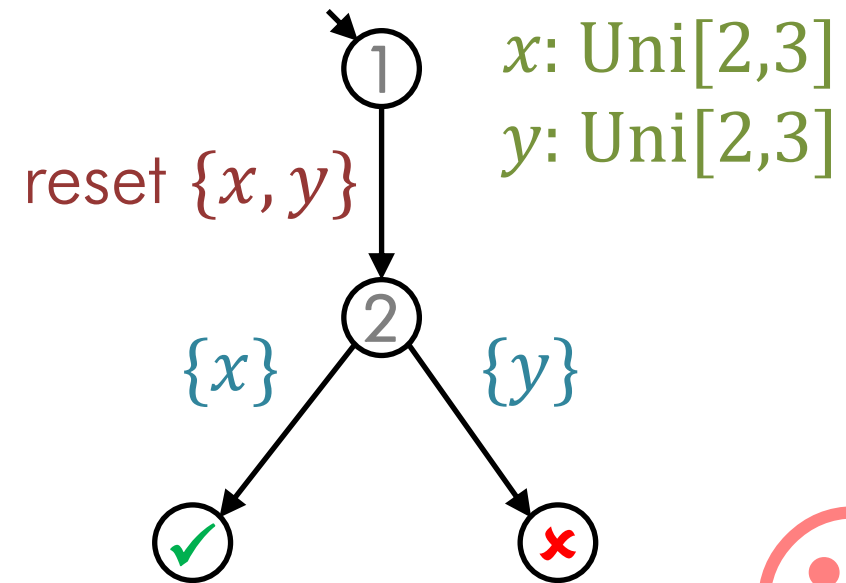
# Fixing the Semantics... not.



Spent lifetimes still admits prophetic scheduling:



(pick loop until  $x < y$ ) 

Spent lifetimes *also* admits divine scheduling:

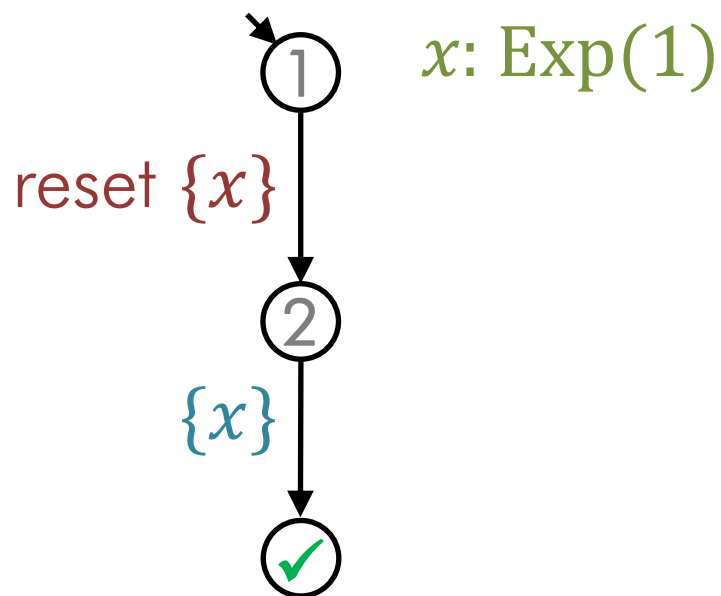


(delay  $1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \dots$  until  $x < y$ )   




# Fixing the Semantics... not.

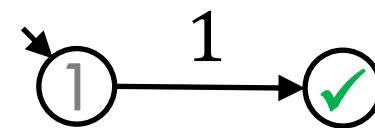
...and divine scheduling is even worse:



Expected: Reach  $\checkmark$  after 1 time unit on average

Actually: Reach  $\checkmark$  with min. probability zero (always delay for  $\frac{v(x)}{2}$  in 2)

as a CTMC:



(H., Hermanns, Krčál, Semantics, Logics, and Calculi, 2016)

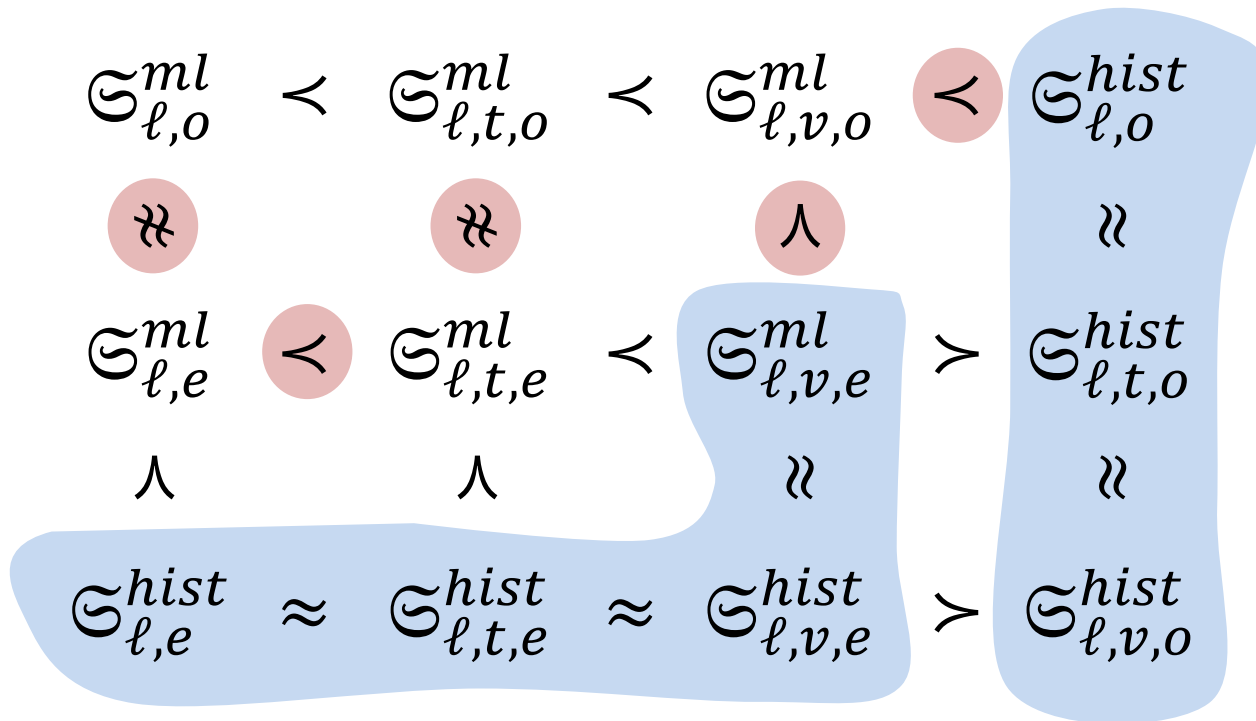
**Schedulers are no Prophets**

Arnd Hartmanns, Holger Hermanns, and Jan Krčál<sup>(✉)</sup>  
 Computer Science, Saarland University, Saarbrücken, Germany  
 {arnd,hermanns,krchal}@cs.uni-saarland.de

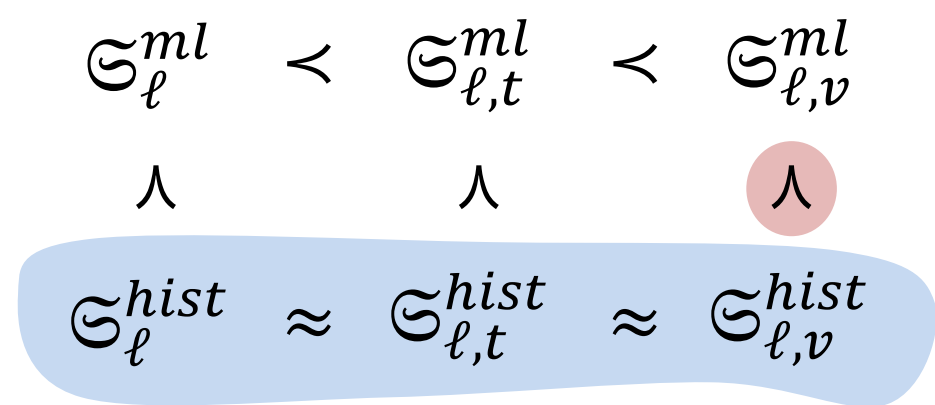
# Limiting Scheduler Power

What is a useful class of scheduler for stochastic automata?

Classic:



Non-prophetic:



(D'Argenio, Gerhold, H., Sedwards, FoSSaCS 2018)

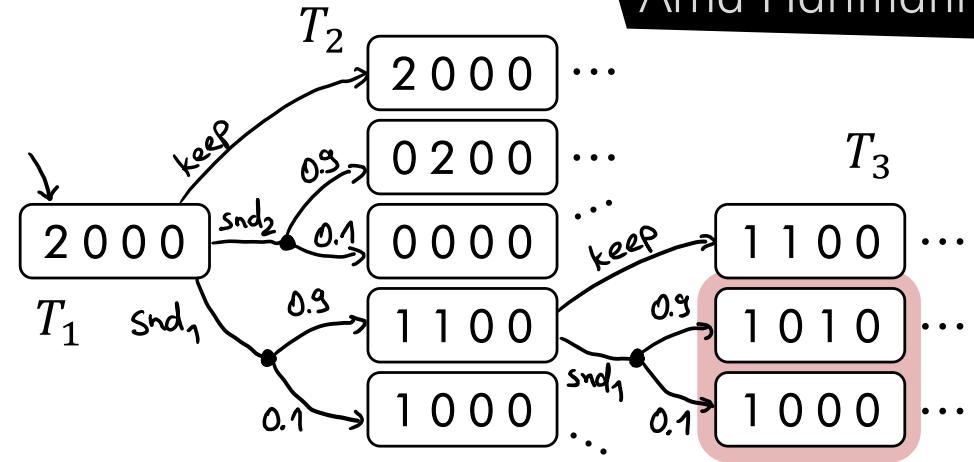
## A Hierarchy of Scheduler Classes for Stochastic Automata

Pedro R. D'Argenio<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Marcus Gerhold<sup>4</sup>, Arnd Hartmanns<sup>4</sup> and Sean Sedwards<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Córdoba, Argentina  
 dargenio@inf.unc.edu.ar

# 3 open problems

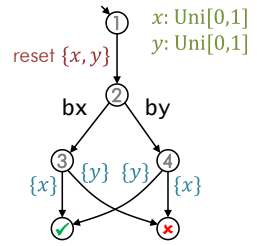
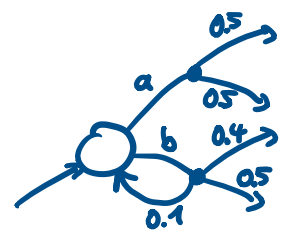
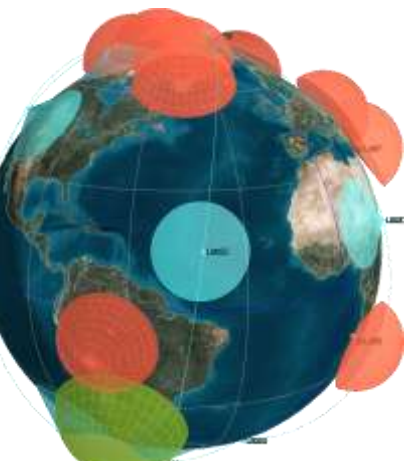
# Schedulers and Information in Distributed and Non-Markovian Probabilistic Systems



Need to find **useful** tradeoffs between

model expressiveness & scheduling power | tractability of analysis & usefulness of schedulers

in non-trivial probabilistic and stochastic timed settings



...per modelling formalism?  
 ...per application scenario?