

# Rich Behavioral Models: Illustration on Journey Planning

Mickael Randour

F.R.S.-FNRS & UMONS – Université de Mons, Belgium

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# The talk in one slide

## Strategy synthesis for Markov Decision Processes (MDPs)

Finding **good** controllers for systems interacting with a *stochastic* environment.

- Good? Performance evaluated through *payoff functions*.
- Usual problem is to optimize the *expected performance* or the *probability of achieving a given performance level*.
- Not sufficient for many practical applications.
  - ▷ Several extensions, more expressive but also more complex...

## Aim of this survey talk

Give a flavor of classical questions and extensions (*rich behavioral models*), illustrated on the stochastic shortest path (*SSP*).

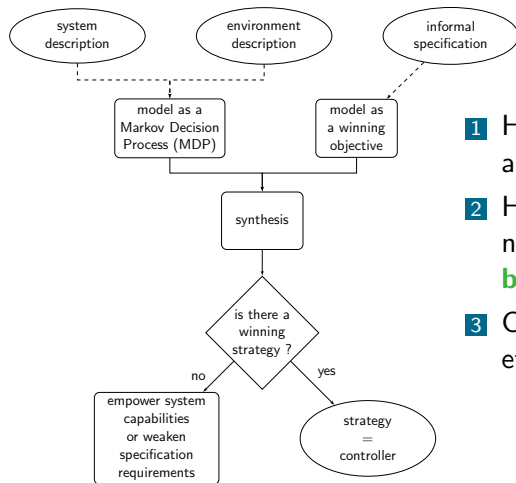
- 1 Context, MDPs, strategies
- 2 Classical stochastic shortest path problems
- 3 Good expectation under acceptable worst-case
- 4 Percentile queries in multi-dimensional MDPs
- 5 Conclusion

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# Multi-criteria quantitative synthesis

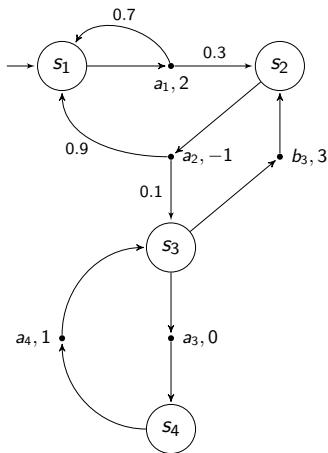
- Verification and synthesis:
  - ▷ a reactive **system** to *control*,
  - ▷ an *interacting environment*,
  - ▷ a **specification** to *enforce*.
- Model of the (discrete) interaction?
  - ▷ Antagonistic environment: 2-player game on graph.
  - ▷ **Stochastic environment: MDP.**
- **Quantitative** specifications. Examples:
  - ▷ Reach a state  $s$  before  $x$  time units  $\rightsquigarrow$  shortest path.
  - ▷ Minimize the average response-time  $\rightsquigarrow$  mean-payoff.
- Focus on **multi-criteria quantitative models**
  - ▷ to reason about *trade-offs* and *interplays*.

# Strategy (policy) synthesis for MDPs



- 1 How complex is it to **decide** if a winning strategy exists?
- 2 How complex such a **strategy** needs to be? **Simpler is better.**
- 3 Can we **synthesize** one efficiently?

# Markov decision processes



- MDP  $D = (S, s_{\text{init}}, A, \delta, w)$ .
  - ▷ Finite sets of states  $S$  and actions  $A$ ,
  - ▷ probabilistic transition  $\delta: S \times A \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(S)$ ,
  - ▷ weight function  $w: A \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ .
- **Run** (or play):  $\rho = s_1 a_1 \dots a_{n-1} s_n \dots$  such that  $\delta(s_i, a_i, s_{i+1}) > 0$  for all  $i \geq 1$ .
  - ▷ Set of runs  $\mathcal{R}(D)$ .
  - ▷ Set of histories (finite runs)  $\mathcal{H}(D)$ .
- **Strategy**  $\sigma: \mathcal{H}(D) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(A)$ .
  - ▷  $\forall h$  ending in  $s$ ,  $\text{Supp}(\sigma(h)) \in A(s)$ .

# Markov decision processes

Sample *pure memoryless* strategy  $\sigma$ .

Sample run  $\rho = s_1 a_1 s_2 a_2 s_1 a_1 s_2 a_2 (s_3 a_3 s_4 a_4)^\omega$ .

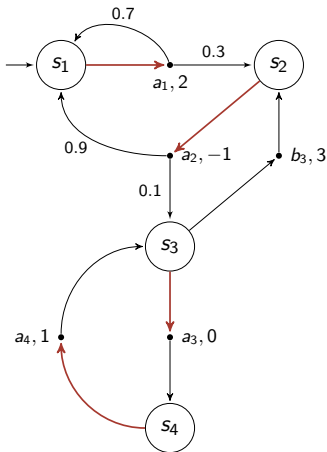
Other possible run  $\rho' = s_1 a_1 s_2 a_2 (s_3 a_3 s_4 a_4)^\omega$ .

- Strategies may use

- ▷ finite or infinite **memory**,
- ▷ **randomness**.

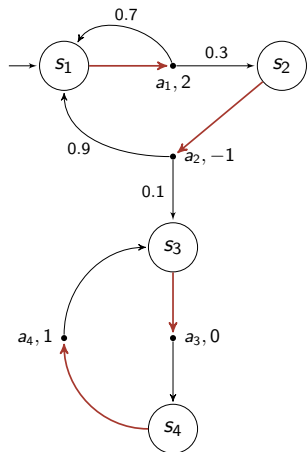
- **Payoff functions** map runs to numerical values:

- ▷ truncated sum up to  $T = \{s_3\}$ :  
 $TS^T(\rho) = 2, TS^T(\rho') = 1,$
- ▷ mean-payoff:  $\underline{MP}(\rho) = \underline{MP}(\rho') = 1/2,$
- ▷ many more.





# Markov chains



Once strategy  $\sigma$  fixed, fully stochastic process:

$\rightsquigarrow$  **Markov chain (MC)**  $M$ .

State space = product of the MDP and the memory of  $\sigma$ .

- Event  $\mathcal{E} \subseteq \mathcal{R}(M)$ 
  - ▷ probability  $\mathbb{P}_M(\mathcal{E})$
- Measurable  $f: \mathcal{R}(M) \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$ ,
  - ▷ expected value  $\mathbb{E}_M(f)$

## Aim of this survey

Compare different types of quantitative specifications for MDPs

- ▷ w.r.t. the complexity of the decision problem,
- ▷ w.r.t. the complexity of winning strategies.

Recent extensions share a common philosophy: framework for the synthesis of strategies with *richer performance guarantees*.

- ▷ Our work deals with many different payoff functions.

Focus on the **shortest path problem** in this talk.

- ▷ Not the most involved technically, natural applications.
- ↪ Useful to understand the **practical interest** of each variant.

Joint work with R. Berthon, V. Bruyère, E. Filiot, J.-F. Raskin, O. Sankur [BFRR17, RRS17, RRS15, BCH<sup>+</sup>16, Ran16, BRR17].

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# Stochastic shortest path

## Shortest path problem for *weighted graphs*

Given state  $s \in S$  and target set  $T \subseteq S$ , find a path from  $s$  to a state  $t \in T$  that minimizes the sum of weights along edges.

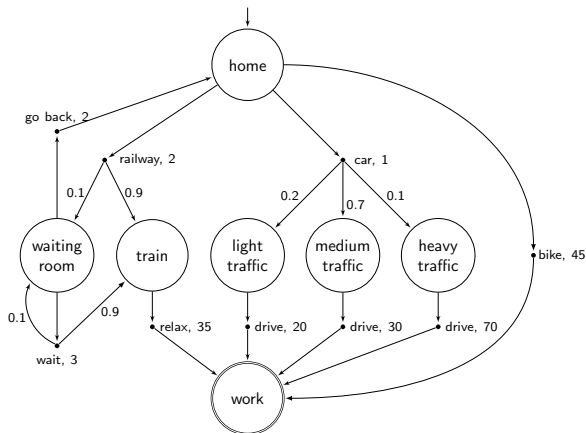
- ▶ PTIME algorithms (Dijkstra, Bellman-Ford, etc) [CGR96].

We focus on MDPs with **strictly positive weights** for the SSP.

- ▶ **Truncated sum** payoff function for  $\rho = s_1 a_1 s_2 a_2 \dots$  and target set  $T$ :

$$\text{TS}^T(\rho) = \begin{cases} \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} w(a_j) & \text{if } s_n \text{ first visit of } T, \\ \infty & \text{if } T \text{ is never reached.} \end{cases}$$

# Planning a journey in an uncertain environment



Each action takes **time**, target = work.

- ▶ What kind of **strategies** are we looking for when the environment is stochastic?

# SSP-E: minimizing the expected length to target

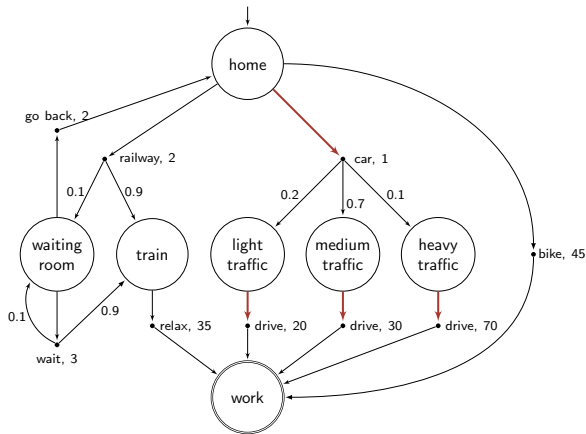
## SSP-E problem

Given MDP  $D = (S, s_{\text{init}}, A, \delta, w)$ , target set  $T$  and threshold  $\ell \in \mathbb{Q}$ , decide if there exists  $\sigma$  such that  $\mathbb{E}_D^\sigma(\text{TS}^T) \leq \ell$ .

## Theorem [BT91]

The SSP-E problem can be decided in **polynomial time**. Optimal **pure memoryless** strategies always exist and can be constructed in polynomial time.

## SSP-E: illustration



- ▷ Pure memoryless strategies suffice.
- ▷ Taking the **car** is optimal:  $\mathbb{E}_D^\sigma(\text{TS}^T) = 33$ .

## SSP-E: PTIME algorithm

### 1 Graph analysis (linear time):

- ▷  $s$  not connected to  $T \Rightarrow \infty$  and remove,
- ▷  $s \in T \Rightarrow 0$ .

### 2 Linear programming (LP, polynomial time).

For each  $s \in S \setminus T$ , one variable  $x_s$ ,

$$\max \sum_{s \in S \setminus T} x_s$$

under the constraints

$$x_s \leq w(a) + \sum_{s' \in S \setminus T} \delta(s, a, s') \cdot x_{s'} \quad \text{for all } s \in S \setminus T, \text{ for all } a \in A(s).$$



# SSP-E: PTIME algorithm

## 1 Graph analysis (linear time):

- ▷  $s$  not connected to  $T \Rightarrow \infty$  and remove,
- ▷  $s \in T \Rightarrow 0$ .

## 2 Linear programming (LP, polynomial time).

Optimal solution  $\mathbf{v}$ :

↪  $\mathbf{v}_s$  = expectation from  $s$  to  $T$  under an optimal strategy.

Optimal pure memoryless strategy  $\sigma^{\mathbf{v}}$ :

$$\sigma^{\mathbf{v}}(s) = \arg \min_{a \in A(s)} \left[ w(a) + \sum_{s' \in S \setminus T} \delta(s, a, s') \cdot \mathbf{v}_{s'} \right].$$

↪ **Playing optimally = locally optimizing present + future.**

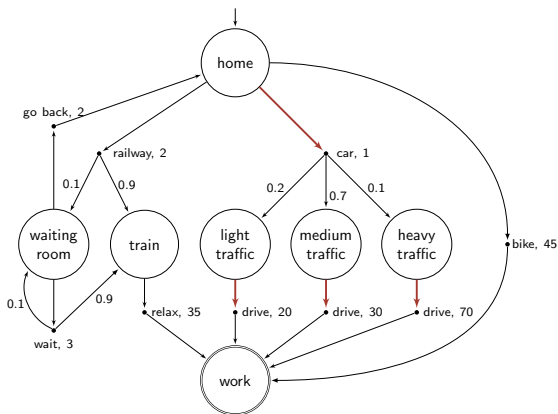
## SSP-E: PTIME algorithm

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  - ▷  $s \in T \Rightarrow 0$ .
- 2 **Linear programming (LP)**, polynomial time).

In practice, **value and strategy iteration** algorithms often used:

- ▷ best performance in most cases but **exponential** in the worst-case,
- ▷ fixed point algorithms, successive solution improvements [BT91, dA99, HM14].

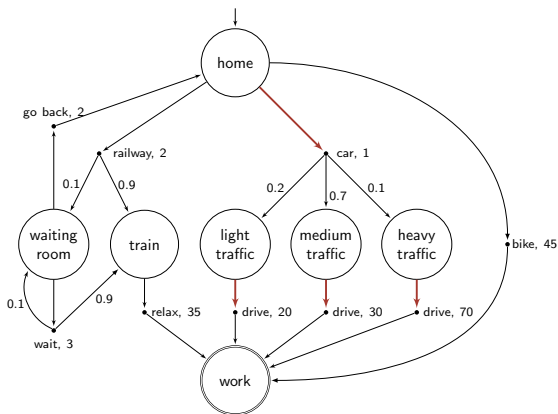
## Traveling without taking too many risks



Minimizing the *expected time* to destination makes sense **if** we travel often and it is not a problem to be late.

With car, in 10% of the cases, the journey takes 71 minutes.

# Traveling without taking too many risks



**Most bosses will not be happy if we are late too often...**

~> what if we are risk-averse and want to avoid that?

## SSP-P: forcing short paths with high probability

### SSP-P problem

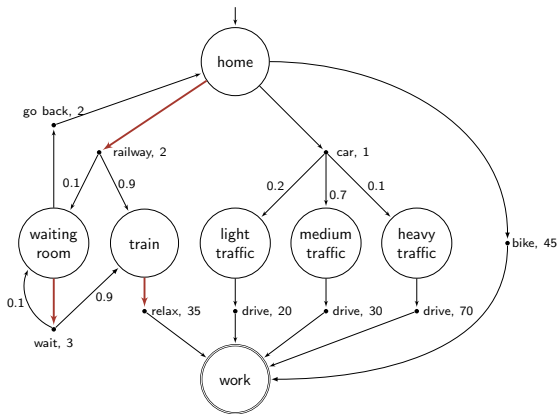
Given MDP  $D = (S, s_{\text{init}}, A, \delta, w)$ , target set  $T$ , threshold  $\ell \in \mathbb{N}$ , and probability threshold  $\alpha \in [0, 1] \cap \mathbb{Q}$ , decide if there exists a strategy  $\sigma$  such that  $\mathbb{P}_D^\sigma[\{\rho \in \mathcal{R}_{s_{\text{init}}}(D) \mid \text{TS}^T(\rho) \leq \ell\}] \geq \alpha$ .

### Theorem

The SSP-P problem can be decided in **pseudo-polynomial time**, and it is **PSPACE-hard**. Optimal **pure strategies with pseudo-polynomial memory** always exist and can be constructed in pseudo-polynomial time.

See [HK15] for hardness and for example [RRS17] for algorithm.

## SSP-P: illustration



**Specification:** reach work within 40 minutes with 0.95 probability

**Sample strategy:** take the **train**  $\rightsquigarrow \mathbb{P}_D^\sigma [\text{TS}^{\text{work}} \leq 40] = 0.99$

**Bad choices:** car (0.9) and bike (0.0)

## SSP-P: pseudo-PTIME algorithm (1/2)

Key idea: pseudo-PTIME reduction to the **stochastic reachability problem (SR)**

### SR problem

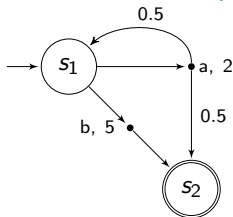
Given unweighted MDP  $D = (S, s_{\text{init}}, A, \delta)$ , target set  $T$  and probability threshold  $\alpha \in [0, 1] \cap \mathbb{Q}$ , decide if there exists a strategy  $\sigma$  such that  $\mathbb{P}_D^\sigma[\diamond T] \geq \alpha$ .

### Theorem

The SR problem can be decided in **polynomial time**. Optimal **pure memoryless strategies** always exist and can be constructed in polynomial time.

- ▶ Linear programming (similar to SSP-E).

## SSP-P: pseudo-PTIME algorithm (2/2)

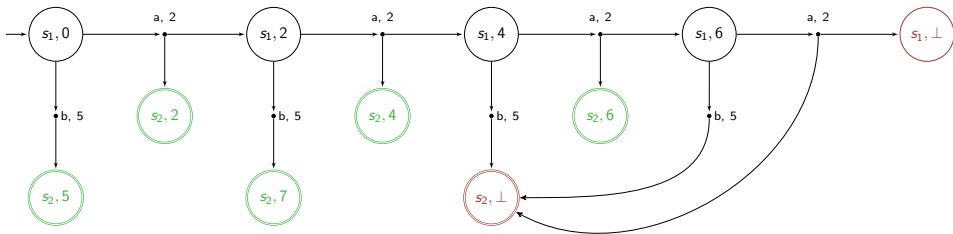
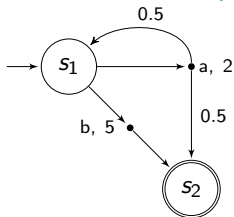


Sketch of the reduction:

- 1 Start from  $D$ ,  $T = \{s_2\}$ , and  $\ell = 7$ .
- 2 Build  $D_\ell$  by unfolding  $D$ , tracking the current sum *up to the threshold*  $\ell$ , and integrating it in the states of the expanded MDP.



## SSP-P: pseudo-PTIME algorithm (2/2)



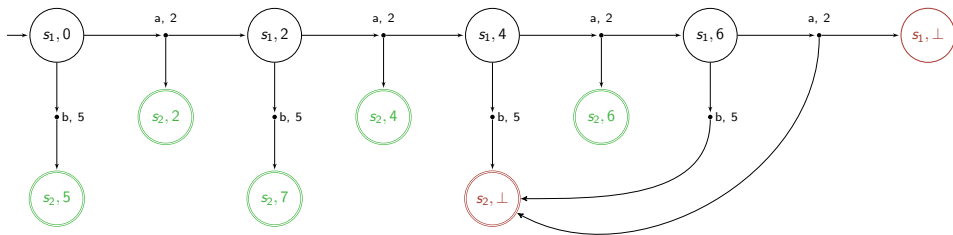
## SSP-P: pseudo-PTIME algorithm (2/2)

- 3 Relation between runs of  $D$  and  $D_\ell$ :

$$TS^T(\rho) \leq \ell \Leftrightarrow \rho' \models \diamond T', T' = T \times \{0, 1, \dots, \ell\}.$$

- 4 Solve the SR problem on  $D_\ell$ .

- ▷ Memoryless strategy in  $D_\ell \rightsquigarrow$  pseudo-polynomial memory in  $D$  in general.



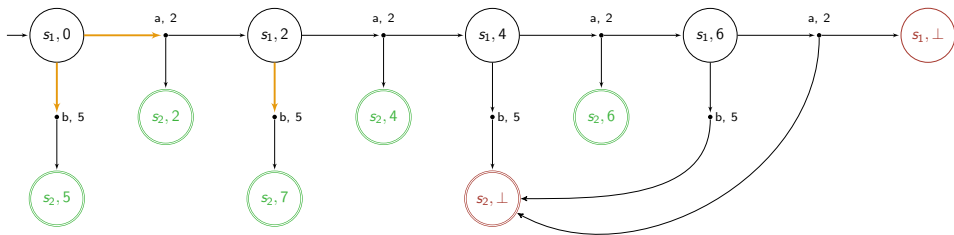
## SSP-P: pseudo-PTIME algorithm (2/2)

If we just want to minimize the risk of exceeding  $\ell = 7$ ,

- ▷ an obvious possibility is to play  $b$  directly,
- ▷ playing  $a$  only once is also acceptable.

For the SSP-P problem, **both strategies are equivalent.**

~ We need richer models to discriminate them!

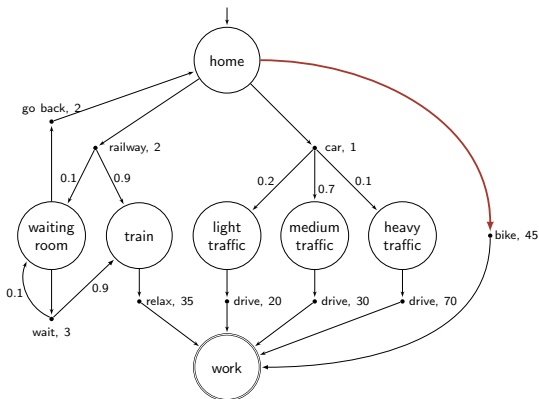


## Related work (non-exhaustive)

- SSP-P problem with relaxed hypotheses [Oht04, SO13].
- SSP-E problem with relaxed hypotheses [BBD<sup>+</sup>18].
- *Quantile queries* [UB13]: minimizing the value  $\ell$  of an SSP-P problem for some fixed  $\alpha$ . Extended to *cost problems* [HK15, HKL17].
- SSP-E problem in **multi-dimensional** MDPs [FKN<sup>+</sup>11].

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## SP-G: strict worst-case guarantees

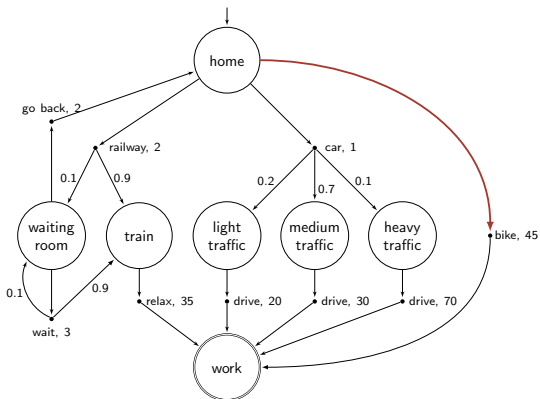


**Specification:** *guarantee* that work is reached within 60 minutes (to avoid missing an important meeting).

**Sample strategy:** take the **bike**  $\rightsquigarrow \forall \rho \in \text{Out}_D^\sigma: \text{TS}^{\text{work}}(\rho) \leq 60$ .

**Bad choices:** train ( $wc = \infty$ ) and car ( $wc = 71$ ).

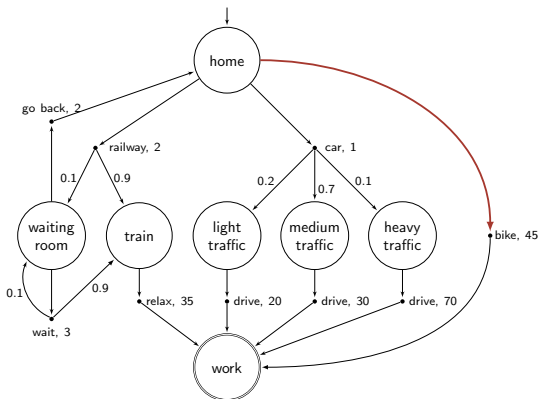
## SP-G: strict worst-case guarantees



Winning **surely (worst-case)**  $\neq$  **almost-surely (proba. 1)**.

- ▶ Train ensures reaching work with probability one, but does not prevent runs where work is never reached.

## SP-G: strict worst-case guarantees



Worst-case analysis  $\rightsquigarrow$  **two-player game** against an antagonistic adversary.

- ▶ Forget about probabilities and give the choice of transitions to the adversary.



## SP-G: shortest path game problem

### SP-G problem

Given MDP  $D = (S, s_{\text{init}}, A, \delta, w)$ , target set  $T$  and threshold  $\ell \in \mathbb{N}$ , decide if there exists a strategy  $\sigma$  such that for all  $\rho \in \text{Out}_D^\sigma$ , we have that  $\text{TS}^T(\rho) \leq \ell$ .

### Theorem [KBB<sup>+</sup>08]

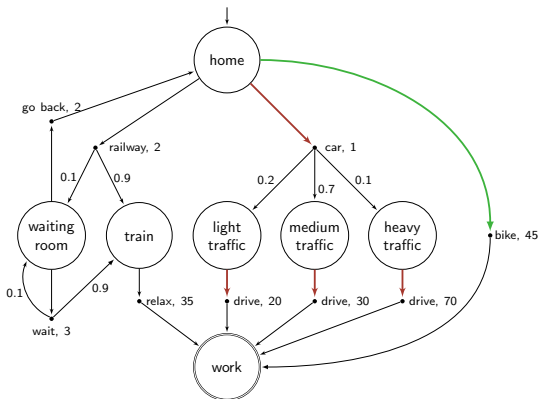
The SP-G problem can be decided in **polynomial time**. Optimal **pure memoryless** strategies always exist and can be constructed in polynomial time.

- ▷ Dynamic programming.

## Related work (non-exhaustive)

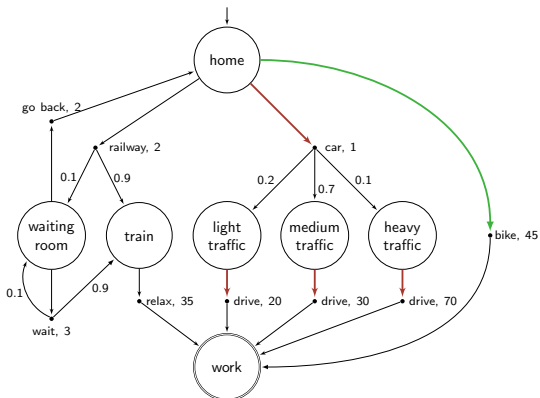
- Pseudo-PTIME for arbitrary weights [BGHM17, FGR15].
- Arbitrary weights + multiple dimensions  $\rightsquigarrow$  undecidable (by adapting the proof of [CDRR15] for total-payoff).

# SSP-WE = SP-G $\cap$ SSP-E - illustration



- SSP-E: **car**  $\rightsquigarrow$   $\mathbb{E} = 33$  but **wc** = 71 > 60
- SP-G: **bike**  $\rightsquigarrow$  **wc** = 45 < 60 but  $\mathbb{E} = 45 \gg \gg 33$

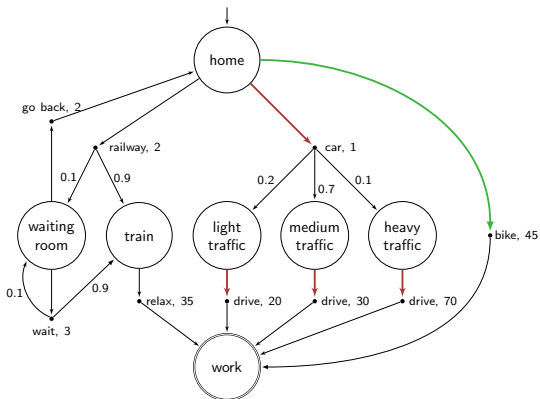
# SSP-WE = SP-G $\cap$ SSP-E - illustration



Can we do better?

- ▶ **Beyond worst-case synthesis** [BFRR17]: minimize the expected time under the worst-case constraint.

# SSP-WE = SP-G $\cap$ SSP-E - illustration



**Sample strategy:** try train up to 3 delays then switch to bike.

$\rightsquigarrow wc = 58 < 60$  and  $\mathbb{E} \approx 37.34 \ll 45$

$\rightsquigarrow$  pure *finite-memory* strategy

# SSP-WE: beyond worst-case synthesis

## SSP-WE problem

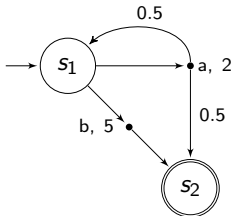
Given MDP  $D = (S, s_{\text{init}}, A, \delta, w)$ , target set  $T$ , and thresholds  $\ell_1 \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\ell_2 \in \mathbb{Q}$ , decide if there exists a strategy  $\sigma$  such that:

- 1  $\forall \rho \in \text{Out}_D^\sigma: \text{TS}^T(\rho) \leq \ell_1,$
- 2  $\mathbb{E}_D^\sigma(\text{TS}^T) \leq \ell_2.$

## Theorem [BFRR17]

The SSP-WE problem can be decided in **pseudo-polynomial time** and is **NP-hard**. **Pure pseudo-polynomial-memory** strategies are always sufficient and in general necessary, and satisfying strategies can be constructed in pseudo-polynomial time.

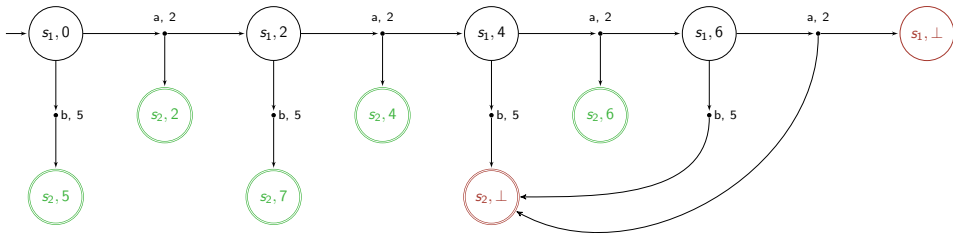
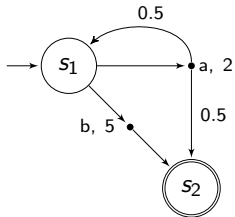
## SSP-WE: pseudo-PTIME algorithm



Consider SSP-WE problem for  $\ell_1 = 7$  (wc),  $\ell_2 = 4.8$  ( $\mathbb{E}$ ).

- ▶ Reduction to the SSP-E problem on a pseudo-polynomial-size expanded MDP.
- 1** Build unfolding as for SSP-P problem w.r.t. worst-case threshold  $\ell_1$ .

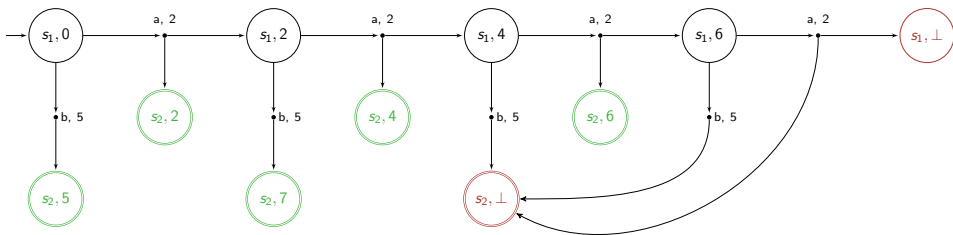
# SSP-WE: pseudo-PTIME algorithm





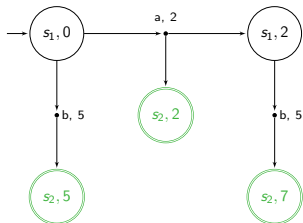
## SSP-WE: pseudo-PTIME algorithm

- 2 Compute  $R$ , the attractor of  $T' = T \times \{0, 1, \dots, \ell_1\}$ .
- 3 Restrict MDP to  $D' = D_{\ell_1} \downarrow R$ , the safe part w.r.t. SP-G.



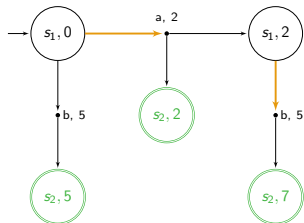
## SSP-WE: pseudo-PTIME algorithm

- 2 Compute  $R$ , the attractor of  $T' = T \times \{0, 1, \dots, \ell_1\}$ .
- 3 Restrict MDP to  $D' = D_{\ell_1} \downarrow R$ , the safe part w.r.t. SP-G.



## SSP-WE: pseudo-PTIME algorithm

- 4 Compute **memoryless optimal strategy**  $\sigma$  in  $D'$  for SSP-E.
- 5 Answer is YES iff  $\mathbb{E}_{D'}^{\sigma}(\text{TS}^{T'}) \leq l_2$ .



Here,  
 $\mathbb{E}_{D'}^{\sigma}(\text{TS}^{T'}) = 9/2$ .

## SSP-WE: wrap-up

SSP	complexity	strategy
SSP-E	PTIME	pure memoryless
SSP-P	pseudo-PTIME / PSPACE-h.	pure pseudo-poly.
SSP-G	PTIME	pure memoryless
SSP-WE	pseudo-PTIME / NP-h.	pure pseudo-poly.

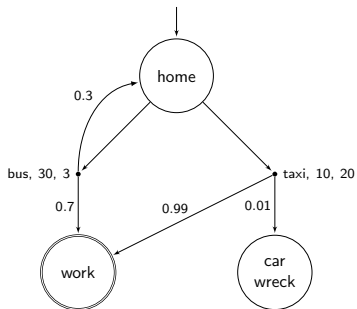
- ▶ NP-hardness  $\Rightarrow$  inherently harder than SSP-E and SSP-G.

## Related work (non-exhaustive)

- BWC synthesis problems for mean-payoff [BFRR17] and parity [BRR17] belong to  $NP \cap coNP$ . Much more involved technically.
  - ⇒ Additional modeling power for free w.r.t. worst-case problems.
- Multi-dimensional extension for mean-payoff [CR15].
- Integration of BWC concepts in UPPAAL [DJL<sup>+</sup>14].
- Optimizing the expected mean-payoff under energy constraints [BKN16] or Boolean constraints [AKV16].
- Recent extensions to POMDPs [CNP<sup>+</sup>17, KPR18, CENR18].
  - ▷ *Stay tuned for the amazing Guillermo Alberto Pérez!*
- Conditional value-at-risk [KM18].

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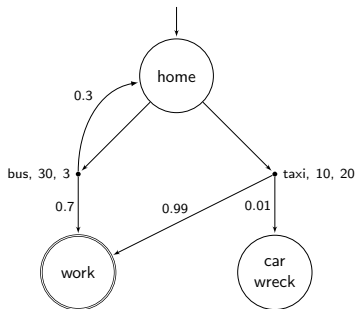
## Multiple objectives $\implies$ trade-offs



Two-dimensional weights on actions: *time* and *cost*.

Often necessary to consider **trade-offs**: e.g., between the probability to reach work in due time and the risks of an expensive journey.

## Multiple objectives $\implies$ trade-offs



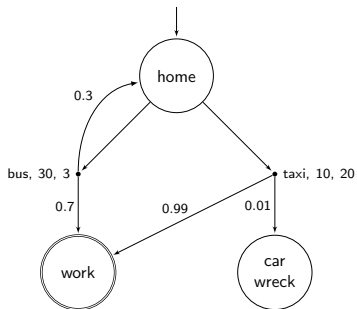
SSP-P problem considers a **single percentile constraint**.

- **C1**: 80% of runs reach work in at most 40 minutes.
  - ▷ Taxi  $\rightsquigarrow \leq 10$  minutes with probability  $0.99 > 0.8$ .
- **C2**: 50% of them cost at most 10\$ to reach work.
  - ▷ Bus  $\rightsquigarrow \geq 70\%$  of the runs reach work for 3\$.

Taxi  $\not\models$  C2, bus  $\not\models$  C1. What if we want  $C1 \wedge C2$ ?



## Multiple objectives $\implies$ trade-offs

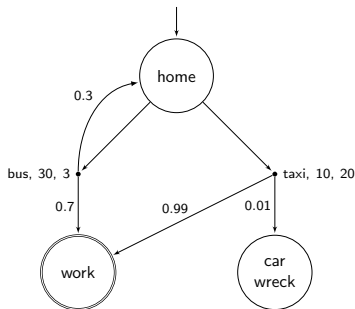


- **C1:** 80% of runs reach work in at most 40 minutes.
- **C2:** 50% of them cost at most 10\$ to reach work.

Study of **multi-constraint percentile queries** [RRS17].

- ▷ Sample strategy: bus once, then taxi. Requires *memory*.
- ▷ Another strategy: bus with probability  $3/5$ , taxi with probability  $2/5$ . Requires *randomness*.

## Multiple objectives $\implies$ trade-offs



- **C1:** 80% of runs reach work in at most 40 minutes.
- **C2:** 50% of them cost at most 10\$ to reach work.

Study of **multi-constraint percentile queries** [RRS17].

In general, *both memory and randomness* are required.

≠ Previous problems.

## SSP-PQ: multi-constraint percentile queries (1/2)

### SSP-PQ problem

Given  $d$ -dimensional MDP  $D = (S, s_{\text{init}}, A, \delta, w)$ , and  $q \in \mathbb{N}$  percentile constraints described by target sets  $T_i \subseteq S$ , dimensions  $k_i \in \{1, \dots, d\}$ , value thresholds  $\ell_i \in \mathbb{N}$  and probability thresholds  $\alpha_i \in [0, 1] \cap \mathbb{Q}$ , where  $i \in \{1, \dots, q\}$ , decide if there exists a strategy  $\sigma$  such that query  $\mathcal{Q}$  holds, with

$$\mathcal{Q} := \bigwedge_{i=1}^q \mathbb{P}_D^\sigma [\text{TS}_{k_i}^{T_i} \leq \ell_i] \geq \alpha_i,$$

where  $\text{TS}_{k_i}^{T_i}$  denotes the truncated sum on dimension  $k_i$  and w.r.t. target set  $T_i$ .

**Very general framework:** multiple constraints related to  $\neq$  dimensions, and  $\neq$  target sets  $\implies$  great flexibility in modeling.

## SSP-PQ: multi-constraint percentile queries (2/2)

### Theorem [RRS17]

The SSP-PQ problem can be decided in

- **exponential time** in general,
- **pseudo-polynomial time** for single-dimension single-target multi-constraint queries.

It is **PSPACE-hard** even for single-constraint queries. **Randomized exponential-memory** strategies are always sufficient and in general necessary, and satisfying strategies can be constructed in exponential time.

- ▷ Unfolding + multiple reachability problem [EKVY08, RRS17].
- ▷ PSPACE-hardness already true for SSP-P [HK15].
- ↪ SSP-PQ = wide extension for **basically no price in complexity**.

## SSP-PQ: wrap-up

SSP	complexity	strategy
SSP-E	PTIME	pure memoryless
SSP-P	pseudo-PTIME / PSPACE-h.	pure pseudo-poly.
SSP-G	PTIME	pure memoryless
SSP-WE	pseudo-PTIME / NP-h.	pure pseudo-poly.
SSP-PQ	EXPTIME (p.-PTIME) / PSPACE-h.	randomized exponential

- ▶ SSP-PQ is undecidable for arbitrary weights in multi-dimensional MDPs, even with a unique target set [RRS17].
- ▶ Clever unfolding technique in [HJKQ18].

## Percentile queries: overview (1/2)

### ■ Wide range of payoff functions

- ▷ multiple reachability,
- ▷ inf, sup, lim inf, lim sup,
- ▷ mean-payoff ( $\overline{\text{MP}}$ ,  $\underline{\text{MP}}$ ),
- ▷ shortest path (SP),
- ▷ discounted sum (DS).

### ■ Several variants:

- ▷ multi-dim. multi-constraint,
- ▷ single-dim. multi-constraint,
- ▷ single-constraint.

### ■ For each one:

- ▷ algorithms,
- ▷ lower bounds,
- ▷ memory requirements.

↪ **Complete picture** for this new framework.

## Percentile queries: overview (2/2)

	Single-constraint	Single-dim. Multi-constraint	Multi-dim. Multi-constraint
Reachability	P [Put94]	$P(D) \cdot E(Q)$ [EKVY08], PSPACE-h	—
$f \in \mathcal{F}$	P [CH09]	P	$P(D) \cdot E(Q)$ PSPACE-h.
$\overline{MP}$	P [Put94]	P	P
$\underline{MP}$	P [Put94]	$P(D) \cdot E(Q)$	$P(D) \cdot E(Q)$
SP	$P(D) \cdot P_{ps}(Q)$ [HK15] PSPACE-h. [HK15]	$P(D) \cdot P_{ps}(Q)$ (one target) PSPACE-h. [HK15]	$P(D) \cdot E(Q)$ PSPACE-h. [HK15]
$\varepsilon$ -gap DS	$P_{ps}(D, Q, \varepsilon)$ NP-h.	$P_{ps}(D, \varepsilon) \cdot E(Q)$ NP-h.	$P_{ps}(D, \varepsilon) \cdot E(Q)$ PSPACE-h.

- ▷  $\mathcal{F} = \{\text{inf}, \text{sup}, \text{lim inf}, \text{lim sup}\}$
- ▷  $D = \text{model size}$ ,  $Q = \text{query size}$
- ▷  $P(x)$ ,  $E(x)$  and  $P_{ps}(x)$  resp. denote polynomial, exponential and pseudo-polynomial time in parameter  $x$ .

**All results without reference are established in [RRS17].**

## Percentile queries: overview (2/2)

	Single-constraint	Single-dim. Multi-constraint	Multi-dim. Multi-constraint
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$\underline{MP}$	P [Put94]	$P(D) \cdot E(Q)$	$P(D) \cdot E(Q)$
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$\varepsilon$ -gap DS	$P_{ps}(D, Q, \varepsilon)$ NP-h.	$P_{ps}(D, \varepsilon) \cdot E(Q)$ NP-h.	$P_{ps}(D, \varepsilon) \cdot E(Q)$ PSPACE-h.

In most cases, only **polynomial in the model size**.

- ▶ In practice, the query size can often be bounded while the model can be very large.



## Related work (non-exhaustive)

- Percentile + expected value for shortest path [BGMR18].
- Multi-dimensional quantiles [HKL17].

- 1 Context, MDPs, strategies
- 2 Classical stochastic shortest path problems
- 3 Good expectation under acceptable worst-case
- 4 Percentile queries in multi-dimensional MDPs
- 5 Conclusion**

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  - ▷ Actual outcomes may vary greatly.

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  - ▷ Based on **beyond worst-case synthesis** [BFRR17].

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- **SSP-WE:**  $SSP-E \cap SP-G$ .
  - ▷ Based on **beyond worst-case synthesis** [BFRR17].
- **SSP-PQ:** extends SSP-P to **multi-constraint percentile queries** [RRS17].
  - ▷ Multi-dimensional, flexible, trade-offs.
  - ▷ Complexity usually acceptable w.r.t. model size.

# Rich behavioral models: challenges

## 1 Plethora of theoretical models.

- ▷ Fundamental question: identify and understand the common core, advance toward unification.
- ▷ Can be an obstacle to adoption by practitioners.

## 2 Practical applicability.

- ▷ Efficiency must be increased (e.g., by using learning techniques).
- ▷ Tool support is key.



If you are interested...

... **consider attending MoRe 2019**, the 2nd International Workshop on Multi-objective Reasoning in Verification and Synthesis, to be held in Vancouver (LICS 2019), on June 22.

Thank you! Any question?

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## SP-G: PTIME algorithm

- 1 Cycles are bad  $\implies$  must reach target within  $n = |S|$  steps.
- 2  $\forall s \in S, \forall i, 0 \leq i \leq n$ , compute  $\mathbb{C}(s, i)$ .
  - ▷ Lowest bound on cost to  $T$  from  $s$  that we can ensure in  $i$  steps.
  - ▷ **Dynamic programming** (polynomial time).

Initialize

$$\forall s \in T, \mathbb{C}(s, 0) = 0, \quad \forall s \in S \setminus T, \mathbb{C}(s, 0) = \infty.$$

Then,  $\forall s \in S, \forall i, 1 \leq i \leq n$ ,

$$\mathbb{C}(s, i) = \min \left[ \mathbb{C}(s, i-1), \min_{a \in A(s)} \max_{s' \in \text{Supp}(\delta(s, a))} w(a) + \mathbb{C}(s', i-1) \right].$$

- 3 Winning strategy iff  $\mathbb{C}(s_{\text{init}}, n) \leq \ell$ .

## SSP-PQ: EXPTIME / pseudo-PTIME algorithm

- 1 Build an unfolded MDP  $D_\ell$  similar to SSP-P case:
  - ▷ stop unfolding when *all* dimensions reach sum  $\ell = \max_i \ell_i$ .
  
- 2 Maintain *single*-exponential size by defining an **equivalence relation** between states of  $D_\ell$ :
  - ▷  $S_\ell \subseteq S \times (\{0, \dots, \ell\} \cup \{\perp\})^d$ ,
  - ▷ pseudo-poly. if  $d = 1$ .
  
- 3 For each constraint  $i$ , compute a target set  $R_i$  in  $D_\ell$ :
  - ▷  $\rho \models \text{constraint } i \text{ in } D \iff \rho' \models \diamond R_i \text{ in } D_\ell$ .
  
- 4 Solve a **multiple reachability problem** on  $D_\ell$ .
  - ▷ Generalizes the SR problem [EKVY08, RRS17].
  - ▷ Time polynomial in  $|D_\ell|$  but exponential in  $q$ .
  - ▷ Single-dim. single target queries  $\Rightarrow$  absorbing targets  $\Rightarrow$  polynomial-time algorithm.