

# Reasoning about Probabilistic Programs using Coalgebra

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Main paper, by Różowski and Silva, 2023 [1]: reason about **simple** probabilistic programs, **generically**

Second paper, by Rutten, 2000 [2]: 'generically'

# Context

A *language* is a function  $A^* \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$ .

$\epsilon$	a	aa	aaa	...
<b>false</b>	<b>true</b>	<b>true</b>	<b>true</b>	...

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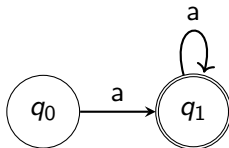
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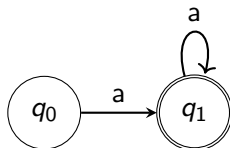
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A language is *regular* if recognised by either:

Regular Expression (RE):  $a ; (a^*)$

$\updownarrow$  Kleene's Theorem

Deterministic Finite Automaton (DFA):





## Context (2)

Is  $a ; a^*$  the same as  $a^* ; a$ ?

We want a reasoning system, i.e. an equivalence relation  $\equiv$  with:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \xRightarrow{\text{soundness}} & \\ e \equiv f & & \llbracket e \rrbracket = \llbracket f \rrbracket \\ & \xleftarrow{\text{completeness}} & \end{array}$$

See e.g. Salomaa [3].

# Probabilistic Languages

A *probabilistic language* is a function  $A^* \rightarrow [0, 1]$ .

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0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{8}$	...

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'Probabilistic' Regular Expression (PRE)?

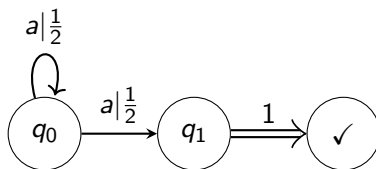
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Generative Probabilistic Transition System (GPTS):



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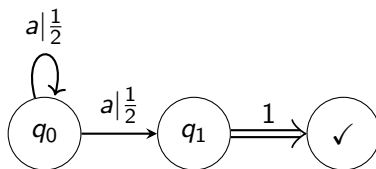
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'Probabilistic' Regular Expression (PRE)?

↕ Probabilistic Kleene's Theorem?

Generative Probabilistic Transition System (GPTS):



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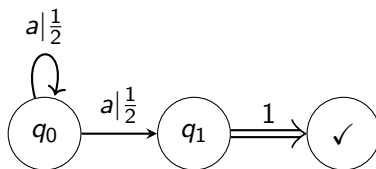
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## Probabilistic Regular Expression (PRE)

$\updownarrow$  Probabilistic Kleene's Theorem

Generative Probabilistic Transition System (GPTS):



# Soundness and Completeness

Do we have a reasoning system?

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \xRightarrow{\text{soundness}} & \\ e \equiv f & & \llbracket e \rrbracket = \llbracket f \rrbracket \\ & \xleftarrow{\text{completeness}} & \end{array}$$

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# Structure

1. Coalgebra
2. Probabilistic Regular Expressions
3. Language equivalence
4. Soundness
5. Completeness

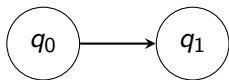
# Coalgebras

An  $F$ -coalgebra is a function  $S \xrightarrow{\beta} F(S)$ .

Intuition:  $S$  is a set of states,  $\beta$  encodes transitions.

# Coalgebras

Deterministic:

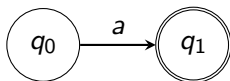


$$S \xrightarrow{\beta} S$$

$$\beta(q_0) = q_1$$

# Coalgebras

DFA:



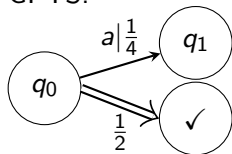
$$S \xrightarrow{\beta} \mathbb{B} \times (A \Rightarrow S)$$

$$\beta(q_0) = (\mathbf{false}, a \mapsto q_1)$$

$$\beta(q_1) = (\mathbf{true}, - \mapsto q_1)$$

# Coalgebras

GPTS:



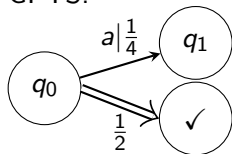
$$S \xrightarrow{\beta} ((1 + A \times S) \Rightarrow [0, 1])$$

$$\beta(q_0)(a, q_1) = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$\beta(q_0)(\checkmark) = \frac{1}{2}$$

# Coalgebras

GPTS:



$$S \xrightarrow{\beta} \mathcal{D}(1 + A \times S)$$

$$\beta(q_0)(a, q_1) = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$\beta(q_0)(\checkmark) = \frac{1}{2}$$

where  $\mathcal{D}X$  is the set of maps  $f : X \rightarrow [0, 1]$  with  $\sum_{x \in X} f(x) \leq 1$ .

# Coalgebra Homomorphism

A coalgebra *homomorphism* from  $\beta : S \rightarrow FS$  to  $\gamma : R \rightarrow FR$  is a map  $f : S \rightarrow R$  such that the square commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S & \xrightarrow{f} & R \\ \beta \downarrow & & \downarrow \gamma \\ FS & \xrightarrow{Ff} & FR \end{array}$$

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Intuition:  $f$  preserves ‘transition structure’.





# Probabilistic Regular Expressions (PRE)

For an alphabet  $A$ , and  $p \in [0, 1]$ , define

$$e, f \in \text{Exp} ::= 0 \mid 1 \mid a \in A \mid e \oplus_p f \mid e ; f \mid e^{[p]}$$

$$a \oplus_{\frac{1}{3}} b$$

$$a ; a^{[\frac{1}{2}]}$$

# Progress

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \xRightarrow{\text{soundness}} & \\ e \equiv f & & \llbracket e \rrbracket = \llbracket f \rrbracket \\ & \xleftarrow{\text{completeness}} & \end{array}$$

# Operational Semantics of PREs

Defining  $\llbracket - \rrbracket : \text{Exp} \rightarrow (A^* \Rightarrow [0, 1])$  directly is hard.

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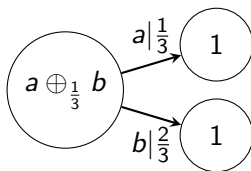
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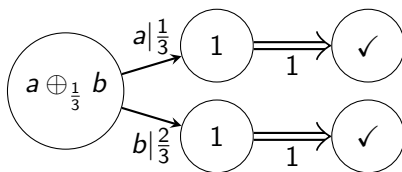
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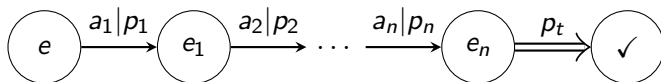
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# Operational gives Denotational

Recall:  $\llbracket e \rrbracket$  assigns a probability to each word  $a_1 a_2 \dots a_n$ .





# Semantics via Final Coalgebra

A coalgebra  $\omega : \Omega \rightarrow F\Omega$  is *final* if for any coalgebra  $\beta : S \rightarrow FS$  there is a unique homomorphism  $\dagger\beta : S \rightarrow \Omega$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S & \xrightarrow{\dagger\beta} & \Omega \\ \beta \downarrow & & \downarrow \omega \\ FS & \xrightarrow{F(\dagger\beta)} & F\Omega \end{array}$$

# Semantics via Final Coalgebra

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S & \overset{\dagger\beta}{\dashrightarrow} & \Omega \\ \beta \downarrow & & \\ FS & & \end{array}$$

# Semantics via Final Coalgebra

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S & \xrightarrow{\llbracket - \rrbracket} & A^* \Rightarrow \mathbb{B} \\ \beta \downarrow & & \\ \mathbb{B} \times (A \Rightarrow S) & & \end{array}$$

# Semantics via Final Coalgebra

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Exp} & \xrightarrow{\llbracket - \rrbracket?} & A^* \Rightarrow [0, 1] \\ \partial \downarrow & & \\ \mathcal{D}(1 + A \times \text{Exp}) & & \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Exp} & \xrightarrow{\quad \text{[ ]} \quad} & A^* \Rightarrow [0, 1] \\ \downarrow \partial & & \\ \mathcal{D}(1 + A \times \text{Exp}) & & \end{array}$$

$A^* \Rightarrow [0, 1]$  is **not** the final coalgebra for functor  $\mathcal{D}(1 + A \times (-))$ .

Reason: GPTS is nondeterministic.

Solution: determinisation [4].

# Determinisation

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Exp} \\ \downarrow \partial \\ \mathcal{D}(1 + A \times \text{Exp}) \\ \downarrow \\ [0, 1] \times (A \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}\text{Exp}) \end{array}$$

# Determinisation


$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Exp} & \xrightarrow{\eta_{\text{Exp}}} & \mathcal{D}\text{Exp} \\ \partial \downarrow & & \nearrow \gamma \\ \mathcal{D}(1 + A \times \text{Exp}) & & \\ \downarrow & \swarrow & \\ [0, 1] \times (A \Rightarrow \mathcal{D}\text{Exp}) & & \end{array}$$



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# Determinisation

$$\text{Exp} \xrightarrow{\eta_{\text{Exp}}} \mathcal{D}\text{Exp} \xrightarrow{\dagger\gamma} A^* \Rightarrow [0, 1]$$


The diagram shows a sequence of mappings:  $\text{Exp}$  maps to  $\mathcal{D}\text{Exp}$  via  $\eta_{\text{Exp}}$ , which then maps to  $A^*$  via  $\dagger\gamma$ . Finally,  $A^*$  is mapped to the interval  $[0, 1]$ . A curved arrow also connects  $\text{Exp}$  directly to  $A^*$ , labeled with the semantic mapping  $\llbracket - \rrbracket$ .

See [5] for a proof.

# Progress

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \xRightarrow{\text{soundness}} & \\ e \equiv f & & \llbracket e \rrbracket = \llbracket f \rrbracket \\ & \xleftarrow{\text{completeness}} & \end{array}$$

# Language Equivalence

## Probabilistic Choice

$$e \equiv e \oplus_p e$$

$$e \oplus_p f \equiv f \oplus_{1-p} e$$

...

## Sequencing

$$1; e \equiv e$$

$$e; (f; g) \equiv (e; f); g$$

...

## Distributivity

$$(e \oplus_p f); g \equiv (e; g) \oplus_p (f; g)$$

## Loops

$$e; e^{[p]} \oplus_p 1 \equiv e^{[p]}$$

...

## Fixpoint rule

$$\frac{g \equiv e; g \oplus_p f \quad E(e) = 0}{g \equiv e^{[p]}; f}$$

...

# Soundness and Completeness

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Then, soundness:

$$\begin{aligned} e &\equiv f \\ \Rightarrow [e] &= [f] \\ \Rightarrow \dagger d([e]) &= \dagger d([f]) \\ \Rightarrow \llbracket e \rrbracket &= \llbracket f \rrbracket \end{aligned}$$

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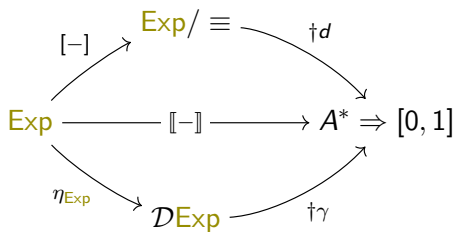
Also completeness, if  $\dagger d$  is **injective**:

$$\begin{aligned} e &\equiv f \\ &\Leftrightarrow [e] = [f] \\ &\Leftrightarrow \dagger d([e]) = \dagger d([f]) \\ &\Leftrightarrow \llbracket e \rrbracket = \llbracket f \rrbracket \end{aligned}$$



# Soundness

For soundness, remains to show two maps are equal:



# Soundness Idea

We know  $\dagger\gamma$  is the **unique** homomorphism  $\mathcal{D}\text{Exp} \rightarrow (A^* \Rightarrow [0, 1])$ .  
So if we build a coalgebra homomorphism:

$$\mathcal{D}\text{Exp} \longrightarrow \dots \longrightarrow A^* \Rightarrow [0, 1]$$

it must be equal to  $\dagger\gamma$ .

# Soundness Idea

We build such a coalgebra homomorphism:

$$\mathcal{D}\text{Exp} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}[-]_{\equiv_0}} \mathcal{D}\text{Exp}/\equiv_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha_0} \text{Exp}/\equiv_0 \xrightarrow{[-]_{\equiv}} \text{Exp}/\equiv \xrightarrow{\dagger d} A^* \Rightarrow [0, 1]$$

$\equiv_0$  is the same as  $\equiv$ , but without two axioms.

# Can we quotient coalgebras?

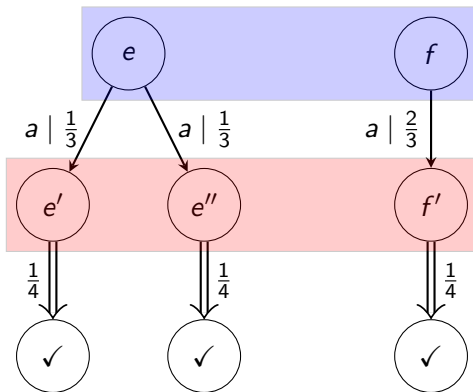
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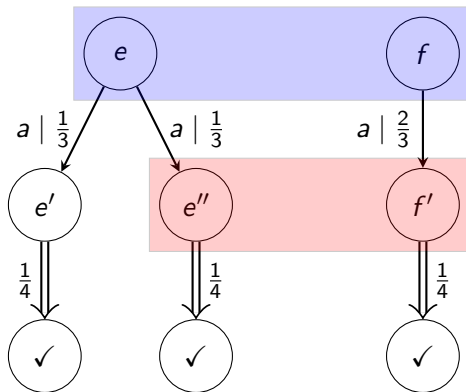
Does the quotient  $\mathbf{Exp}/\equiv_0$  have a coalgebra structure?

Yes, since  $\equiv_0$  is a **bisimulation** equivalence (Lemma 6.1 [1]).

# GPTS Bisimulation Equivalence Example



# GPTS Bisimulation Equivalence Anti-Example



## Quotienting with a Bisimulation Equivalence

Proposition 5.8 [2]: The quotient of a coalgebra with a bisimulation equivalence is a coalgebra.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S & \xrightarrow{[-]_R} & S/R \\ \beta_S \downarrow & & \\ FS & & \end{array}$$



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$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Exp} & \xrightarrow{[-]_{\equiv_0}} & \text{Exp}/_{\equiv_0} \\ \partial \downarrow & & \downarrow \beta \\ \mathcal{D}(1 + A \times \text{Exp}) & \xrightarrow{F[-]_{\equiv_0}} & \mathcal{D}(1 + A \times \text{Exp}/_{\equiv_0}) \end{array}$$

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 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \circlearrowleft [e] \end{array} \xrightarrow{a|p} \begin{array}{c} \circlearrowleft [e'] \end{array} \quad \text{iff} \quad p = \sum_{e \xrightarrow{a|q} f_{\equiv_0} e'} q$$

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$$[e] \xrightarrow{a|p} [e'] \quad \text{iff} \quad p = \sum_{e \xrightarrow{a|q} f_{\equiv_0} e'} q$$

$$[e] \xRightarrow{p} \checkmark \quad \text{iff} \quad e \xRightarrow{p} \checkmark$$

# Completeness

We want  $\dagger d : \text{Exp}/\equiv \rightarrow (A^* \Rightarrow [0, 1])$  to be injective:

$$\begin{aligned} e &\equiv f \\ \Leftrightarrow [e] &= [f] \\ \Leftrightarrow \dagger d([e]) &= \dagger d([f]) \\ \Leftrightarrow \llbracket e \rrbracket &= \llbracket f \rrbracket \end{aligned}$$

# Completeness Overview

$\text{Exp}/\equiv$  also has algebra structure  $\mathcal{D}\text{Exp}/\equiv \xrightarrow{\alpha} \text{Exp}/\equiv$ .

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We can lift functor  $[0, 1] \times (A \Rightarrow -)$  to  $\mathcal{D}$ -algebras, and restrict it to a functor  $\hat{G}$  whose coalgebras, when determined, correspond to GPTS.

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$\text{Exp}/\equiv$  is the **rational fixpoint** of  $\hat{G}$ ; here, a subcoalgebra of its final coalgebra  $\Omega_{\hat{G}}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Exp}/\equiv &\hookrightarrow \Omega_{\hat{G}} \hookrightarrow (A^* \Rightarrow [0, 1]) \\ &= \\ \text{Exp}/\equiv &\xrightarrow{\dagger^d} (A^* \Rightarrow [0, 1]) \end{aligned}$$



# Conclusion

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \xRightarrow{\text{soundness}} & \\ e \equiv f & & \llbracket e \rrbracket = \llbracket f \rrbracket \\ & \xleftarrow{\text{completeness}} & \end{array}$$

We have PREs, and a sound and complete system for reasoning about equivalence.

# References

- [1] Różowski, W. and Silva, A. (2024). A completeness theorem for probabilistic regular expressions. In *Proceedings of the 39th Annual ACM/IEEE Symposium on Logic in Computer Science, LICS '24*, New York, NY, USA. Association for Computing Machinery.
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