

# The Theory of Traces for Systems with Probability, Nondeterminism, and Termination



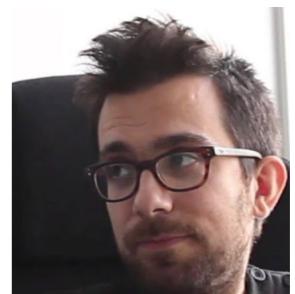
Valeria Vignudelli



Ana Sokolova



Joint work with



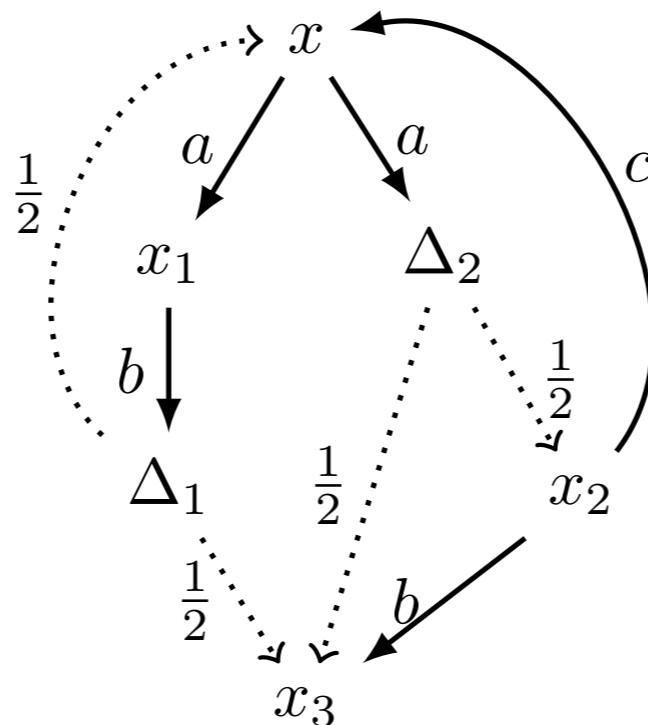
Filippo Bonchi



# Probabilistic Nondeterministic Labeled Transition Systems

$$t: X \rightarrow (\mathcal{PDX})^A$$

Trace Semantics  
for these systems  
is usually defined  
by means of  
Schedulers and  
resolutions

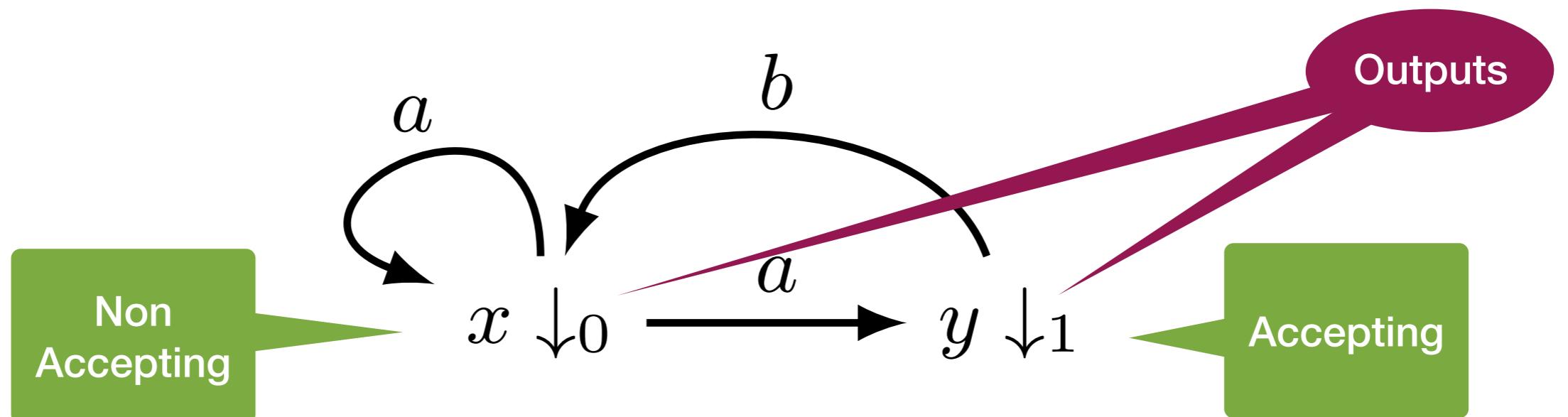


We take a totally  
different view:  
our semantics is  
based on  
automata theory,  
algebra and  
coalgebra

WARNING: In this talk, we will present our theory in its simplest possible form,  
throwing away all category theory

# Nondeterministic Automata

$$\langle o, t \rangle : X \rightarrow 2 \times (\mathcal{P}X)^A$$

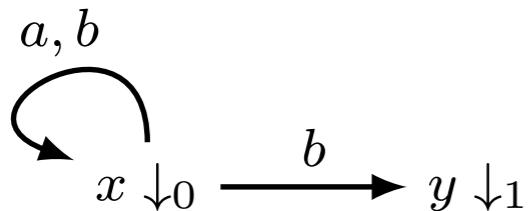


$$X = \{x, y\} \quad A = \{a, b\}$$

# Language Semantics

NFA = LTS + output

$$X \rightarrow 2 \times (\mathcal{P}X)^A$$

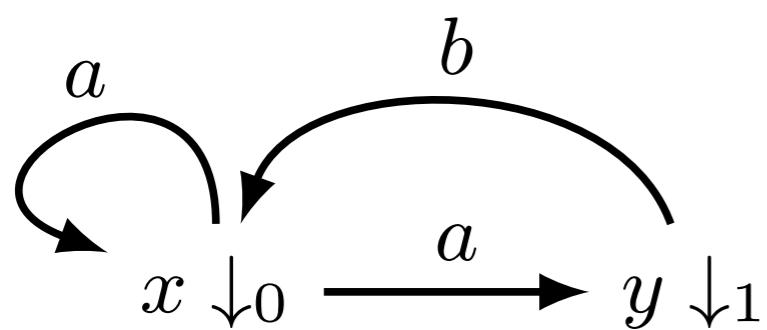


$$[\![\cdot]\!]: X \rightarrow 2^{A^*}$$

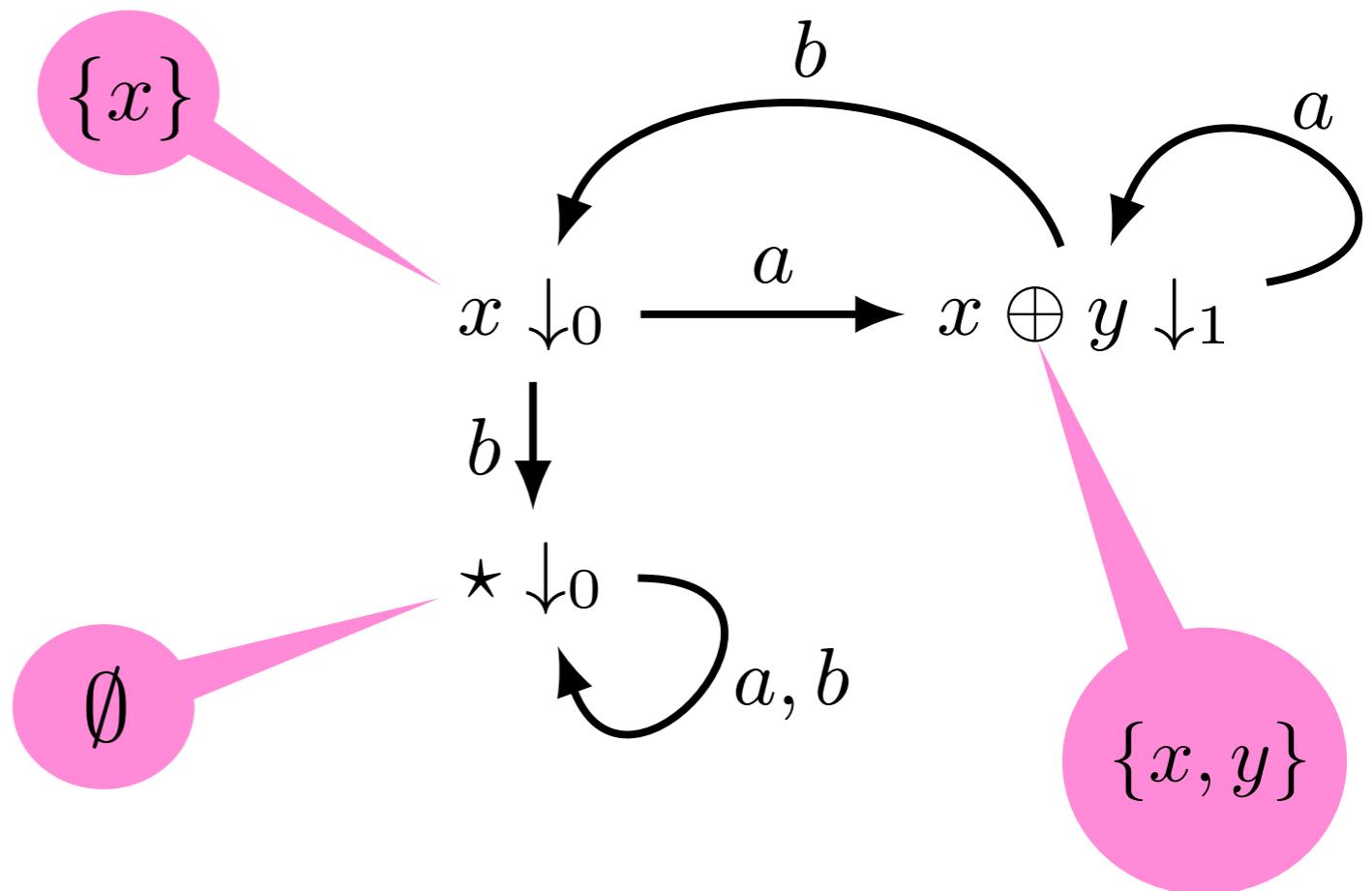
$$[\![x]\!] = (a \cup b)^* b = \{w \in \{a, b\}^* \mid w \text{ ends with a } b\}$$

# Determinisation for Nondeterministic Automata

$$\langle o, t \rangle: X \rightarrow 2 \times (\mathcal{P}X)^A \quad \xrightarrow{\text{green arrow}} \quad \langle o^\sharp, t^\sharp \rangle: \mathcal{P}X \rightarrow 2 \times (\mathcal{P}X)^A$$

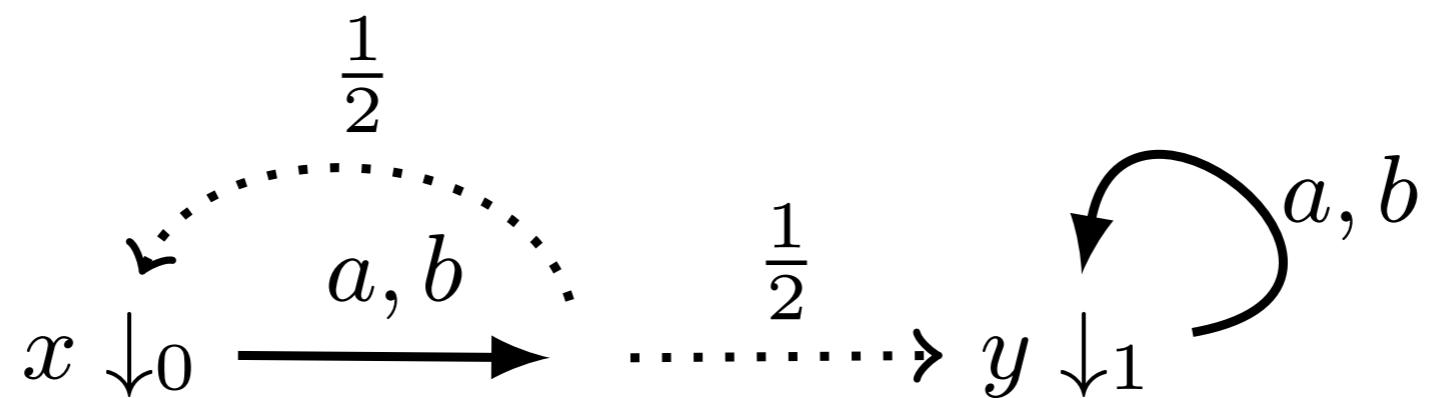


$\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket: \mathcal{P}X \rightarrow 2^{A^*}$

$$\llbracket S \rrbracket(\varepsilon) = o^\sharp(S)$$
$$\llbracket S \rrbracket(aw) = \llbracket t^\sharp(S)(a) \rrbracket(w)$$


# Probabilistic Automata

$$\langle o, t \rangle : X \rightarrow [0, 1] \times (\mathcal{D}X)^A$$

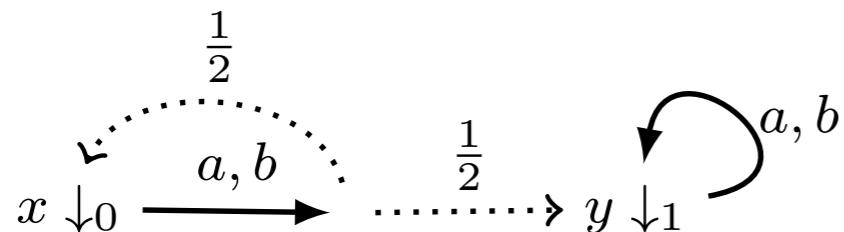


$$X = \{x, y\} \quad A = \{a, b\}$$

# Probabilistic Language Semantics

Rabin PA = PTS + output

$$X \rightarrow [0, 1] \times (\mathcal{D}X)^A$$

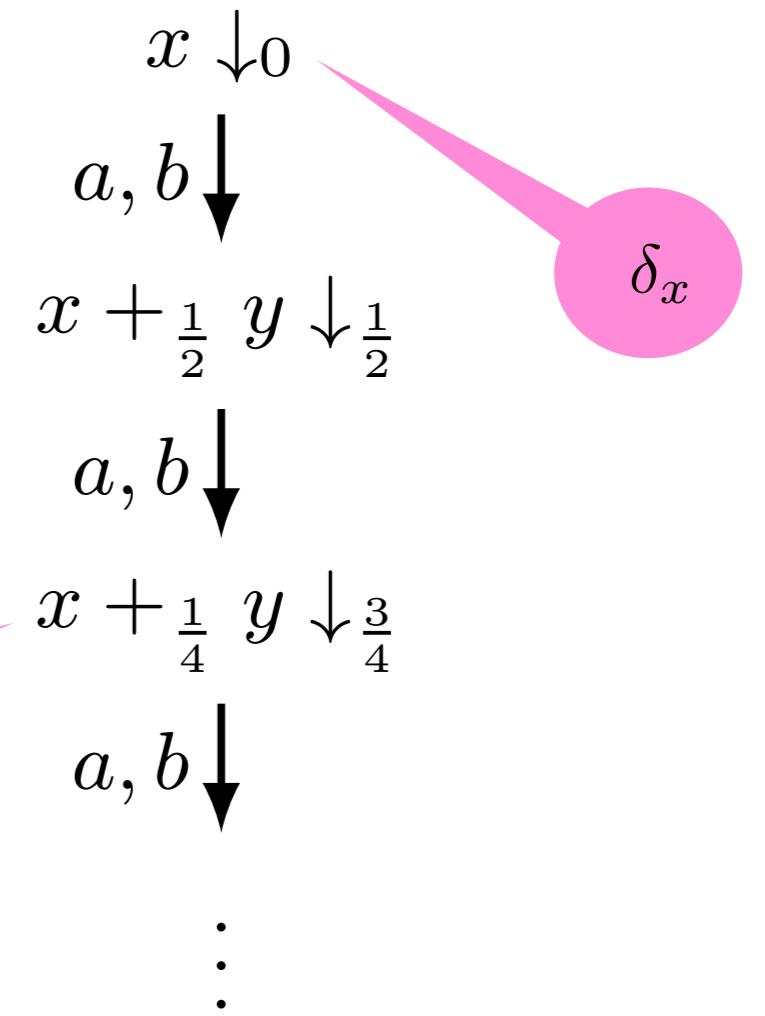
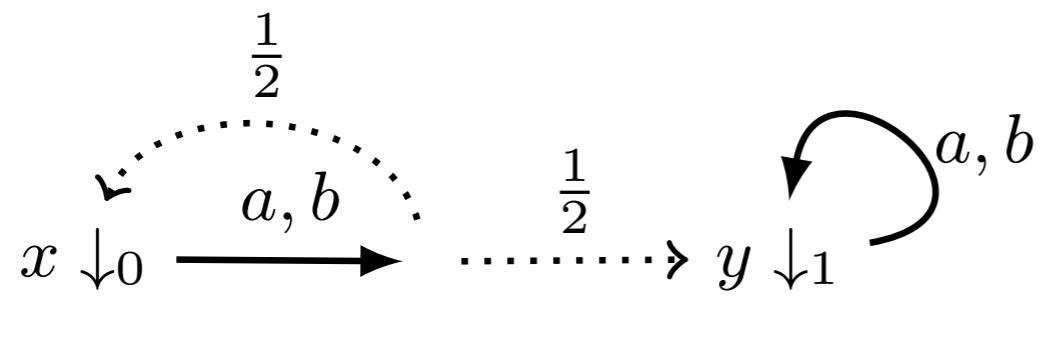


$$\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket: X \rightarrow [0, 1]^{A^*}$$

$$\llbracket x \rrbracket = (a \mapsto \frac{1}{2}, aa \mapsto \frac{3}{4}, \dots)$$

# Determinisation for Probabilistic Automata

$$\langle o, t \rangle : X \rightarrow [0, 1] \times (\mathcal{D}X)^A \quad \xrightarrow{\hspace{1cm}} \quad \langle o^\sharp, t^\sharp \rangle : \mathcal{D}X \rightarrow [0, 1] \times (\mathcal{D}X)^A$$



$\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket : \mathcal{D}X \rightarrow [0, 1]^{A^*}$   
 $\llbracket \Delta \rrbracket(\varepsilon) = o^\sharp(\Delta)$   
 $\llbracket \Delta \rrbracket(aw) = \llbracket t^\sharp(\Delta)(a) \rrbracket(w)$

$x \mapsto \frac{1}{4}$   
 $y \mapsto \frac{3}{4}$

# Toward a GSOS semantics

In the determinisation of **nondeterministic** automata we use terms built of the following syntax

$$s, t ::= \star, s \oplus t, x \in X$$

to represent states in  $\mathcal{P}X$

---

In the determinisation of **probabilistic** automata we use terms built of the following syntax

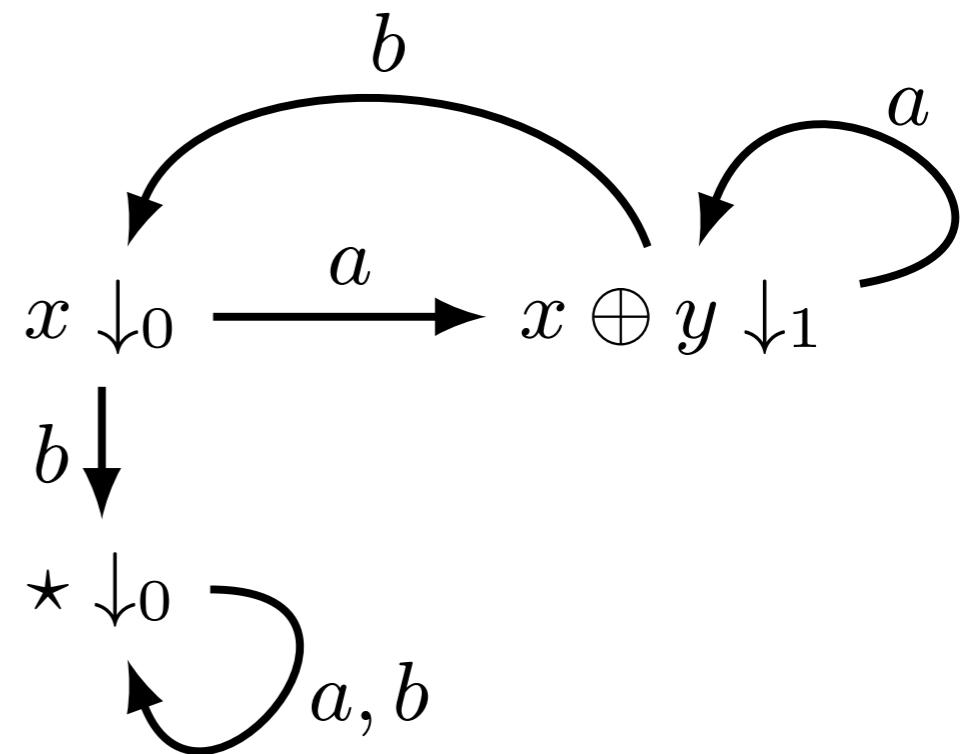
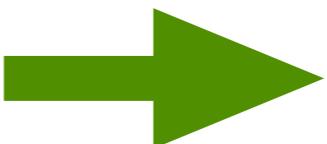
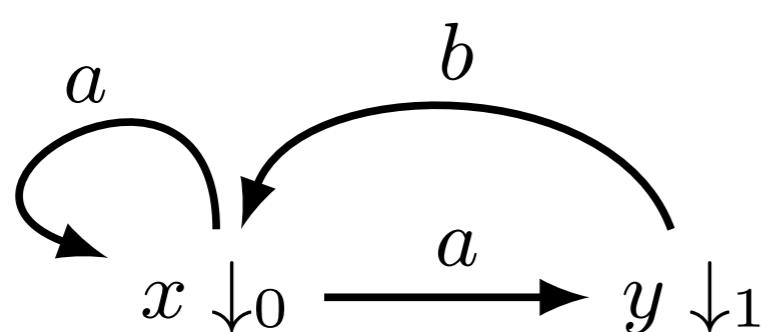
$$s, t ::= s +_p t, x \in X \quad \text{for all } p \in [0, 1]$$

to represent elements of  $\mathcal{D}X$

# GSOS Semantics for Nondeterministic Automata

$$\frac{-}{\star \xrightarrow{a} \star} \quad \frac{s \xrightarrow{a} s' \quad t \xrightarrow{a} t'}{s \oplus t \xrightarrow{a} s' \oplus t'}$$

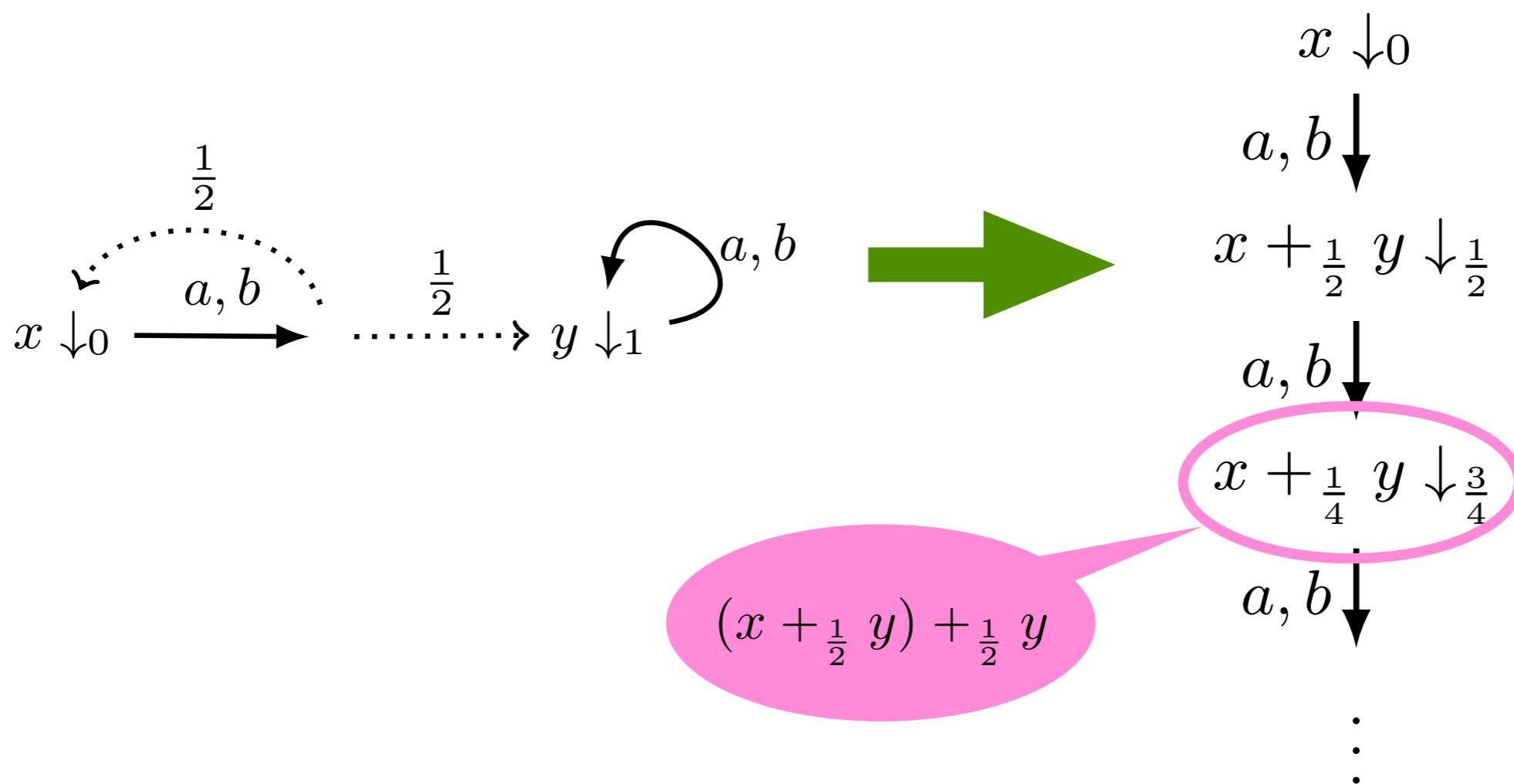
$$\frac{-}{\star \downarrow_0} \quad \frac{s \downarrow_{b_1} \quad t \downarrow_{b_2}}{s \oplus t \downarrow_{b_1 \sqcup b_2}}$$



# GSOS Semantics for Probabilistic Automata

$$\frac{s \xrightarrow{a} s' \quad t \xrightarrow{a} t'}{s +_p t \xrightarrow{a} s' +_p t'}$$

$$\frac{s \downarrow_{q_1} \quad t \downarrow_{q_2}}{s +_p t \downarrow_{p \cdot q_1 + (1-p) \cdot q_2}}$$



# The Algebraic Theory of Semilattices with Bottom

$s, t ::= \star, s \oplus t, x \in X$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} (x \oplus y) \oplus z & \stackrel{(A)}{=} & x \oplus (y \oplus z) \\ x \oplus y & \stackrel{(C)}{=} & y \oplus x \\ x \oplus x & \stackrel{(I)}{=} & x \\ x \oplus \star & \stackrel{(B)}{=} & x \end{array}$$

The set of terms quotiented by these axioms is isomorphic to  $\mathcal{P}X$

**this theory is a presentation for the powerset monad**

# The Algebraic Theory of Convex Algebras

$$s, t ::= s +_p t, \quad x \in X \quad \text{for all } p \in [0, 1]$$

$$\begin{aligned} (x +_q y) +_p z &\stackrel{(A_p)}{=} x +_{pq} (y +_{\frac{p(1-q)}{1-pq}} z) \\ x +_p y &\stackrel{(C_p)}{=} y +_{1-p} x \\ x +_p x &\stackrel{(I_p)}{=} x \end{aligned}$$

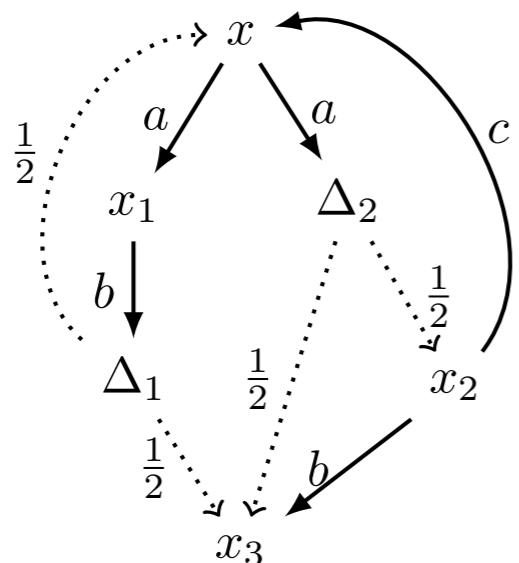
The set of terms quotiented by these axioms is isomorphic to  $\mathcal{D}X$

**this theory is a presentation for the distribution monad**

# Probabilistic Nondeterministic Language Semantics ?

NPA

$$X \rightarrow ? \times (\mathcal{PDX})^A$$



$$\llbracket x \rrbracket = ???$$

$$\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket: X \rightarrow ?^{A^*}$$

# Algebraic Theory for Subsets of Distributions ?

For our approach it is convenient to have a theory presenting subsets of distributions

Monads can be composed by means of distributive laws, but, unfortunately, there exists no distributive law amongst powerset and distributions (Daniele Varacca Ph.D thesis)

Other general approach to compose monads/algebraic theories fail

Our first step is to decompose the powerset monad...

# Three Algebraic Theories

## Nondeterminism



$$\begin{aligned}(x \oplus y) \oplus z &\stackrel{(A)}{=} x \oplus (y \oplus z) \\ x \oplus y &\stackrel{(C)}{=} y \oplus x \\ x \oplus x &\stackrel{(I)}{=} x\end{aligned}$$

Monad:  $\mathcal{P}_{ne}$

Algebras: **Semilattices**

## Probability $+_p$

$$\begin{aligned}(x +_q y) +_p z &\stackrel{(A_p)}{=} x +_{pq} (y +_{\frac{p(1-q)}{1-pq}} z) \\ x +_p y &\stackrel{(C_p)}{=} y +_{1-p} x \\ x +_p x &\stackrel{(I_p)}{=} x\end{aligned}$$

Monad:  $\mathcal{D}$

Algebras: **Convex Algebras**

## Termination $\star$

no axioms

Monad:  $\cdot + 1$

Algebras: **Pointed Sets**

# The Algebraic Theory of Convex Semilattices

$\oplus$      $+_p$

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 (x \oplus y) \oplus z & \stackrel{(A)}{=} & x \oplus (y \oplus z) \\
 x \oplus y & \stackrel{(C)}{=} & y \oplus x \\
 x \oplus x & \stackrel{(I)}{=} & x
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{rcl}
 (x +_q y) +_p z & \stackrel{(A_p)}{=} & x +_{pq} (y +_{\frac{p(1-q)}{1-pq}} z) \\
 x +_p y & \stackrel{(C_p)}{=} & y +_{1-p} x \\
 x +_p x & \stackrel{(I_p)}{=} & x
 \end{array}$$

$$(x \oplus y) +_p z \stackrel{(D)}{=} (x +_p z) \oplus (y +_p z)$$

Monad  $C$ : non-empty convex subsets of distributions

One proof is more semantic: the strategy is rather standard but the full proof is tough

convexity comes from the following derived law

$$s \oplus t \stackrel{(C)}{=} s \oplus t \oplus s +_p t$$

One proof is more syntactic: based on normal form and a unique base theorem. Hope to be generalised by more abstract categorical machinery

# Adding Termination

$\oplus$      $+_p$      $\star$

$$(x \oplus y) \oplus z \stackrel{(A)}{=} x \oplus (y \oplus z)$$

$$x \oplus y \stackrel{(C)}{=} y \oplus x$$

$$x \oplus x \stackrel{(I)}{=} x$$

$$(x +_q y) +_p z \stackrel{(A_p)}{=} x +_{pq} (y +_{\frac{p(1-q)}{1-pq}} z)$$

$$x +_p y \stackrel{(C_p)}{=} y +_{1-p} x$$

$$x +_p x \stackrel{(I_p)}{=} x$$

$$(x \oplus y) +_p z \stackrel{(D)}{=} (x +_p z) \oplus (y +_p z)$$

**The Algebraic Theory of Pointed Convex Semilattices**

$$x \oplus \star \stackrel{(B)}{=} x$$

**The Algebraic Theory of  
Convex Semilattices with Bottom**

$$x \oplus \star \stackrel{(T)}{=} \star$$

**The Algebraic Theory of  
Convex Semilattices with Top**

These three algebras are those freely generated by the singleton set 1

They give rise to three different semantics: may, must, and may-must

$$\mathbb{M}_{\mathcal{I}} = (\mathcal{I}, \text{min-max}, +_p^{\mathcal{I}}, [0, 0])$$

$$\mathcal{I} = \{[x, y] \mid x, y \in [0, 1] \text{ and } x \leq y\}$$

$$\text{min-max}([x_1, y_1], [x_2, y_2]) = [\min(x_1, x_2), \max(y_1, y_2)]$$

$$[x_1, y_1] +_p^{\mathcal{I}} [x_2, y_2] = [x_1 +_p x_2, y_1 +_p y_2]$$

## The Theory of Pointed Convex Semilattices

$$\text{Max} = ([0, 1], \max, +_p, 0)$$

**The Algebraic Theory of  
Convex Semilattices with bottom**

$$\text{Min} = ([0, 1], \min, +_p, 0)$$

**The Algebraic Theory of  
Convex Semilattices with Top**

# Syntax and Transitions

For the three semantics, we use the same syntax

$$s, t ::= \star, s \oplus t, s +_p t, x \in X \quad \text{for all } p \in [0, 1]$$

and transitions

$$\frac{-}{\star \xrightarrow{a} \star}$$

$$\frac{s \xrightarrow{a} s' \quad t \xrightarrow{a} t'}{s \oplus t \xrightarrow{a} s' \oplus t'}$$

$$\frac{s \xrightarrow{a} s' \quad t \xrightarrow{a} t'}{s +_p t \xrightarrow{a} s' +_p t'}$$

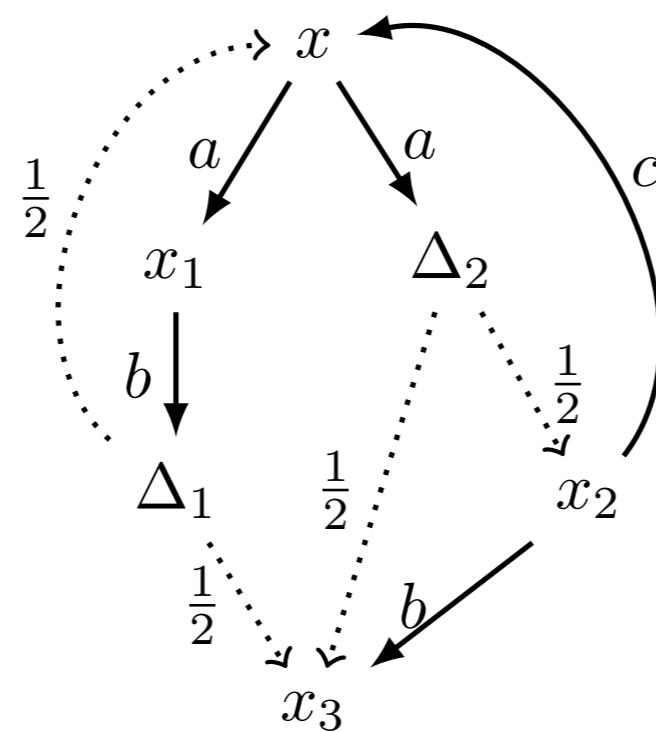
but different output functions...

# Example without outputs

$$x \xrightarrow{a} x_1 \oplus (x_3 + \tfrac{1}{2} x_2)$$

$$x_1 \xrightarrow{b} x + \tfrac{1}{2} x_3$$

$$x_2 \xrightarrow{b} x_3 \quad x_2 \xrightarrow{c} x$$



$$x \xrightarrow{b,c} \star$$

$$x_1 \xrightarrow{a,c} \star$$

$$x_2 \xrightarrow{a} \star$$

$$x_3 \xrightarrow{a,b,c} \star$$

$$x \xrightarrow{a} x_1 \oplus (x_3 + \tfrac{1}{2} x_2) \xrightarrow{b} (x + \tfrac{1}{2} x_3) \oplus (\star + \tfrac{1}{2} x_3)$$

# Outputs for May

We take as algebra of outputs

$$\text{Max} = ([0, 1], \max, +_p, 0)$$

that gives rise to the following three rules

$$\frac{-}{\star \downarrow 0} \quad \frac{s \downarrow_{q_1} \quad t \downarrow_{q_2}}{s \oplus t \downarrow_{\max(q_1, q_2)}} \quad \frac{s \downarrow_{q_1} \quad t \downarrow_{q_2}}{s +_p t \downarrow_{q_1 +_p q_2}}$$

# Outputs for Must

We take as algebra of outputs

$$\mathbb{M}\text{in} = ([0, 1], \min, +_p, 0)$$

that gives rise to the following three rules

$$\frac{-}{\star \downarrow 0} \quad \frac{s \downarrow_{q_1} \quad t \downarrow_{q_2}}{s \oplus t \downarrow_{\min(q_1, q_2)}} \quad \frac{s \downarrow_{q_1} \quad t \downarrow_{q_2}}{s +_p t \downarrow_{q_1 +_p q_2}}$$

# Outputs for May-Must

We take as algebra of outputs

$$\mathbb{M}_{\mathcal{I}} = (\mathcal{I}, \text{min-max}, +_p^{\mathcal{I}}, [0, 0])$$

that gives rise to the following three rules

$$\frac{-}{\star \downarrow_{[0,0]}}$$

$$\frac{s \downarrow_I \quad t \downarrow_J}{s \oplus t \downarrow_{\text{min-max}(I, J)}}$$

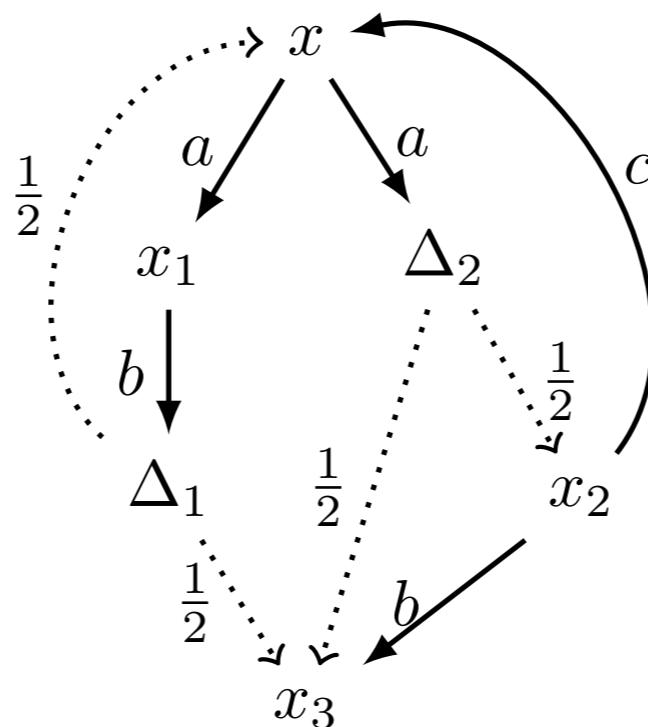
$$\frac{s \downarrow_I \quad t \downarrow_J}{s +_p t \downarrow_{I +_p^{\mathcal{I}} J}}$$

# Example with outputs

$$x \xrightarrow{a} x_1 \oplus (x_3 + \frac{1}{2} x_2)$$

$$x_1 \xrightarrow{b} x + \frac{1}{2} x_3$$

$$x_2 \xrightarrow{b} x_3 \quad x_2 \xrightarrow{c} x$$



$$\begin{aligned} x &\xrightarrow{b,c} \star \\ x_1 &\xrightarrow{a,c} \star \\ x_2 &\xrightarrow{a} \star \\ x_3 &\xrightarrow{a,b,c} \star \end{aligned}$$

All states output 1

$$x \downarrow_1 \quad x_1 \downarrow_1 \quad x_2 \downarrow_1 \quad x_3 \downarrow_1$$

**May**  $x \downarrow_1 \xrightarrow{a} x_1 \oplus (x_3 + \frac{1}{2} x_2) \downarrow_1 \xrightarrow{b} (x + \frac{1}{2} x_3) \oplus (\star + \frac{1}{2} x_3) \downarrow_1$

**Must**  $x \downarrow_1 \xrightarrow{a} x_1 \oplus (x_3 + \frac{1}{2} x_2) \downarrow_1 \xrightarrow{b} (x + \frac{1}{2} x_3) \oplus (\star + \frac{1}{2} x_3) \downarrow_{\frac{1}{2}}$

# Conclusions

**Traces carry a convex semilattice**

**The three trace semantics are convex semilattice homomorphisms**

**Trace equivalences are congruence w.r.t. convex semilattice operations**

**Coinduction up-to these operation is sound**

---

**Both probabilistic and convex bisimilarity  
implies the three trace equivalences**

---

**The equivalences are "backward compatible" with standard trace equivalences  
for non deterministic and probabilistic systems**

---

**The may-equivalence coincides with one in  
Bernardo, De Nicola, Loreti TCS 2014**

# Thank You



# Part II

## More Semantics for Probability and Nondeterminism via Coalgebra



# Probabilistic Nondeterministic LTS

Can be given different semantics:

1. Bisimilarity
2. Convex bisimilarity
3. Distribution bisimilarity
4. Trace semantics

strong  
bisimilarity

probabilistic/  
combined  
bisimilarity

belief-state  
bisimilarity

[Bonchi, Silva, S. CONCUR'17]

trace and  
testing theory

[Bonchi, S., Vignudelli LICS'19]

# Behavioural Equivalences

LTS

$$X \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}X)^A$$

Two states are equivalent iff they admit the same traces (words).

trace  
equivalence

An equivalence relation  $R \subseteq X \times X$  is a bisimulation of the LTS  $X \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}X)^A$  iff whenever  $(x, y) \in R$  for all  $a \in A$

$$x \xrightarrow{a} x' \quad \Rightarrow \quad \exists y'. y \xrightarrow{a} y' \wedge (x', y') \in R.$$

Bisimilarity, denoted by  $\sim$ , is the largest bisimulation.

bisimilarity

# Behavioural Equivalences

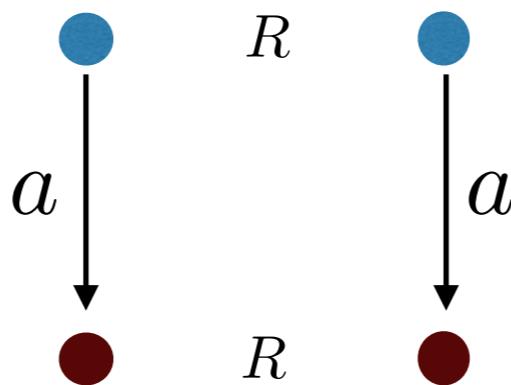
LTS

$X \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}X)^A$

Two states are equivalent iff they admit the same traces (words).

trace  
equivalence

bisimulation



largest  
bisimulation

bisimilarity

# Probabilistic Nondeterministic LTS

Can be given different semantics:

1. Bisimilarity
2. Convex bisimilarity
3. Distribution bisimilarity
4. Trace semantics

strong  
bisimilarity

probabilistic/  
combined  
bisimilarity

belief-state  
bisimilarity

[Bonchi, Silva, S. CONCUR'17]

trace and  
testing theory

[Bonchi, S., Vignudelli LICS'19]

# Bisimilarity

An equivalence relation  $R$  on the PA  $c: X \rightarrow (\mathcal{PDX})^A$  is a **bisimulation** iff whenever  $(s, t) \in R$  for all  $a \in A$  and  $\mu \in \mathcal{D}X$

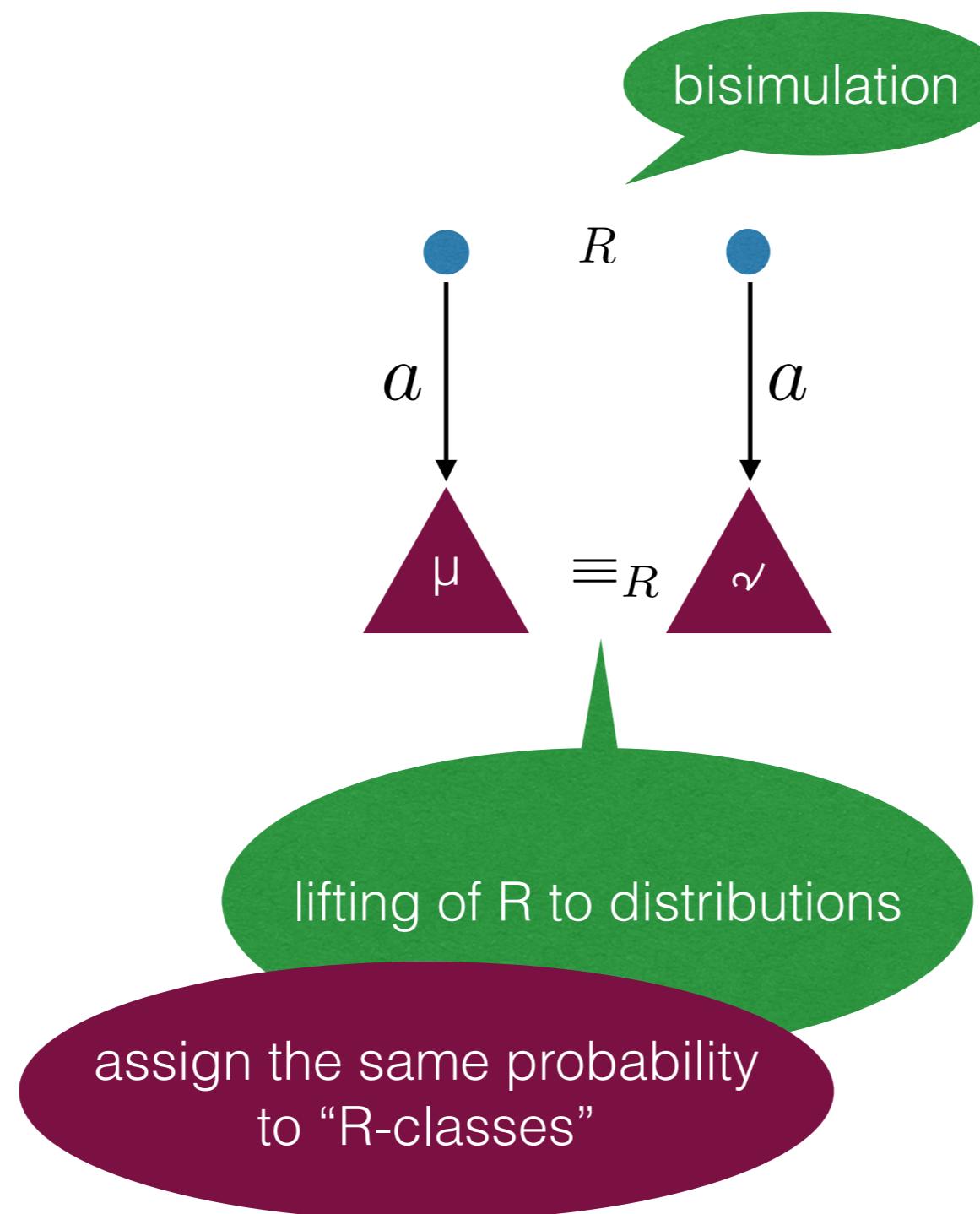
$$s \xrightarrow{a} \mu \implies \exists \nu \in \mathcal{D}X. t \xrightarrow{a} \nu \wedge \mu \equiv_R \nu$$

where  $\mu \equiv_R \nu$  iff  $\mu[C] = \nu[C]$  for all  $R$ -equivalence classes  $C$ , with  $\mu[C] = \sum_{x \in C} \mu(x)$ .

**Bisimilarity** on  $c: X \rightarrow (\mathcal{PDX})^A$ , denoted by  $\sim$ , is the largest bisimulation.

# Bisimilarity

~ largest bisimulation



# Convex bisimilarity

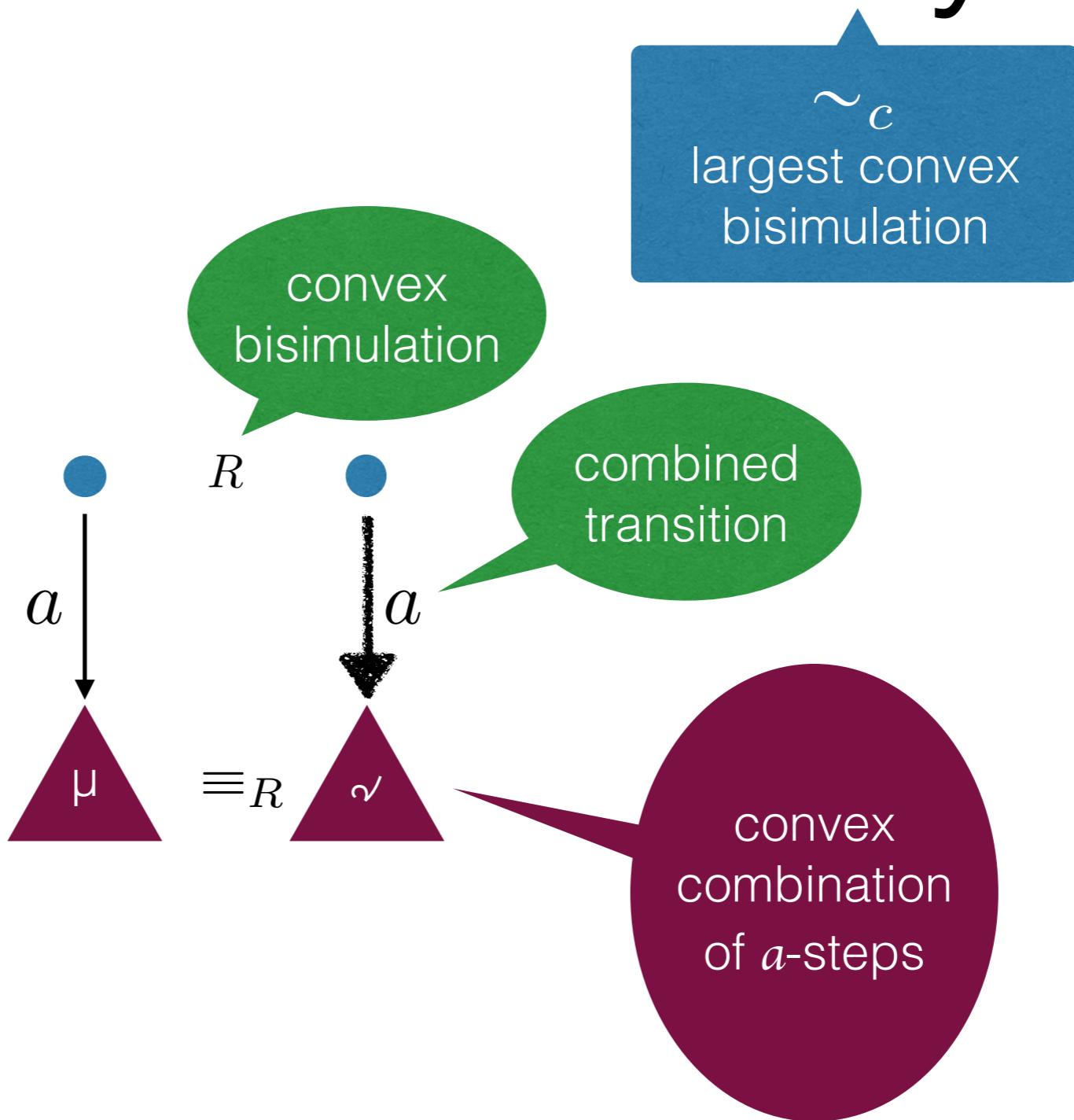
An equivalence relation  $R \subseteq X \times X$  is a convex bisimulation of the PA  $c: X \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}D X)^A$  iff whenever  $(x, y) \in R$ , for all  $a \in A$  and  $\mu \in \mathcal{D}X$

$$x \xrightarrow{a} \mu \quad \Rightarrow \quad \exists \nu. \mu \equiv_R \nu \wedge \nu = \sum_{i=1}^n p_i \nu_i \wedge y \xrightarrow{a} \nu_i.$$

convex  
combination

Convex bisimilarity on  $c: X \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}D X)^A$ , denoted by  $\sim_c$ , is the largest bisimulation.

# Convex bisimilarity



# Distribution bisimilarity

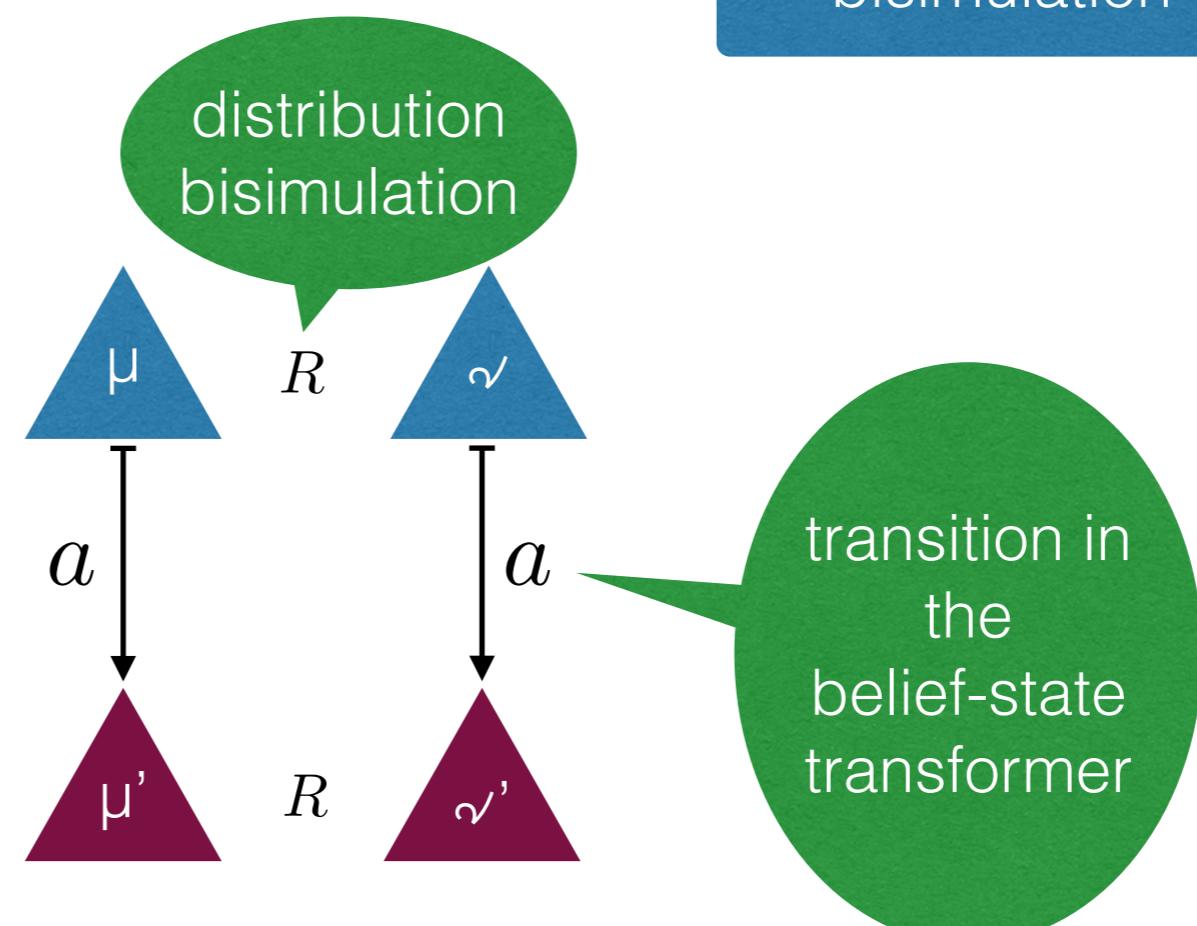
An equivalence relation  $R$  on the carrier of the belief-state transformer  $c: \mathcal{D}X \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}\mathcal{D}X)^A$  is a distribution bisimulation iff whenever  $(\mu, \nu) \in R$  for all  $a \in A$

$$\mu \xrightarrow{a} \mu' \implies \exists \nu' \in \mathcal{D}X. \nu \xrightarrow{a} \nu' \wedge (\mu', \nu') \in R.$$

Distribution bisimilarity on  $c: \mathcal{D}X \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}\mathcal{D}X)^A$ , denoted by  $\sim_d$ , is the largest distribution bisimulation.

# Distribution bisimilarity

$\sim_d$   
is LTS bisimilarity on  
the belief-state  
transformer

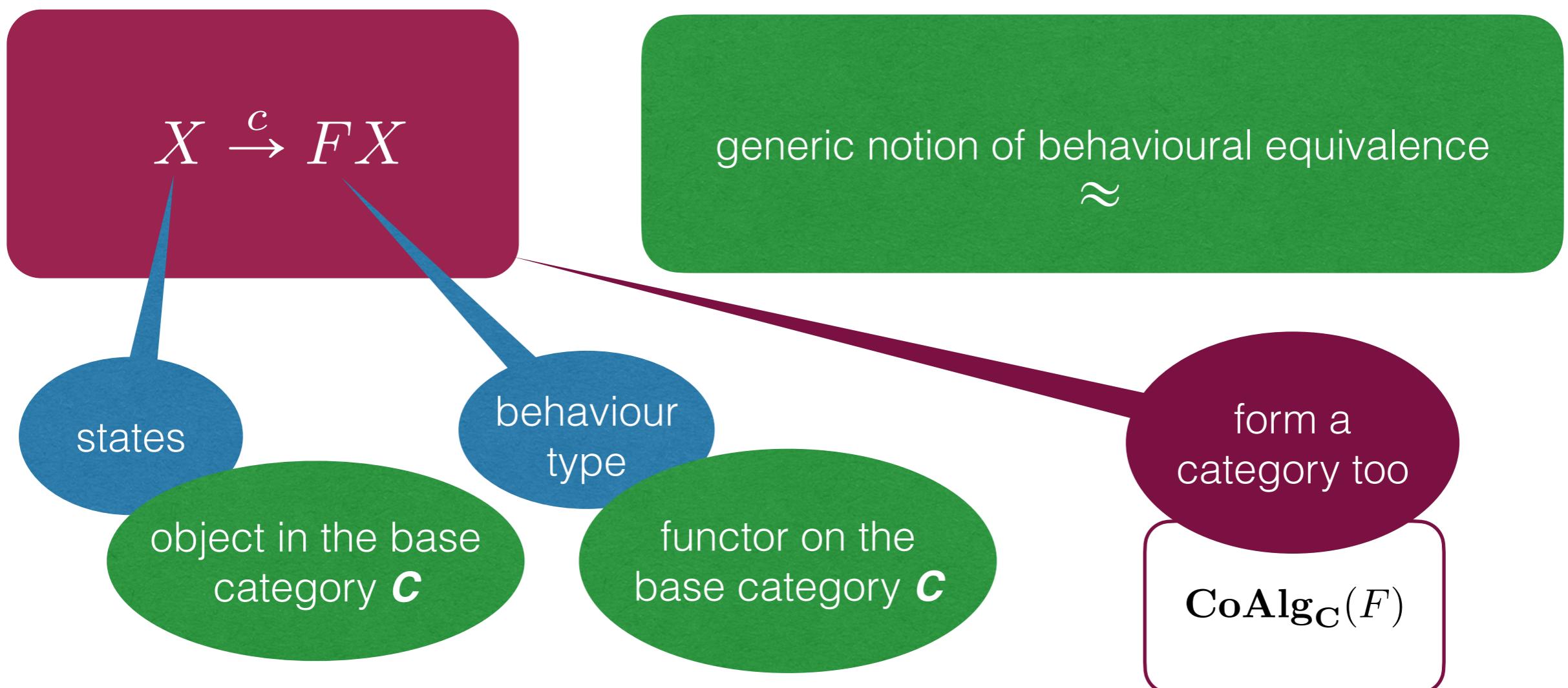


$\sim_d$   
largest distribution  
bisimulation



# Coalgebras

Uniform framework for dynamic transition systems, based on category theory.





# The category of $F$ -coalgebras

$\text{CoAlg}_C(F)$

Objects = coalgebras

$$X \xrightarrow{c} FX$$

Arrows = coalgebra homomorphisms

$$h: X \rightarrow Y$$

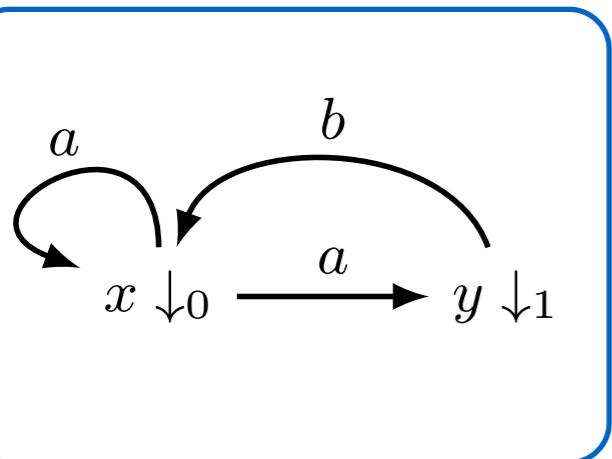
$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{h} & Y \\ {}^{c_X}\downarrow & & \downarrow {}^{c_Y} \\ FX & \xrightarrow{Fh} & FY \end{array}$$

Two states  $x, y \in X$  are behaviourally equivalent, notation  $x \approx y$  iff there exists a coalgebra homomorphism  $h: X \rightarrow Y$  from  $c: X \rightarrow FX$  to some coalgebra  $d: Y \rightarrow FY$  such that  $h(x) = h(y)$ .

# Examples

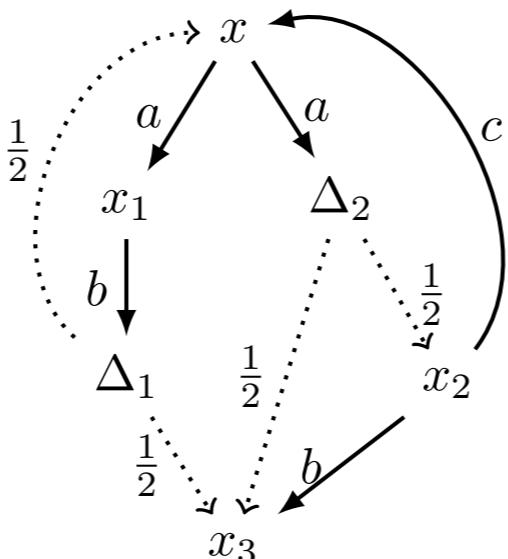
NFA

$$X \rightarrow 2 \times (\mathcal{P}X)^A$$



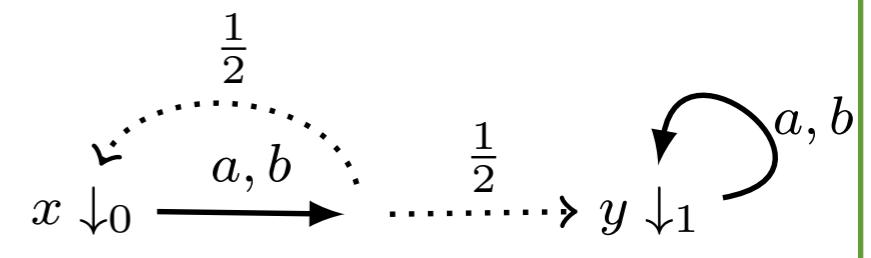
PNLTS

$$X \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}\mathcal{D}X)^A$$



Rabin PA

$$\mathcal{D}X \rightarrow [0, 1] \times (\mathcal{D}X)^A$$

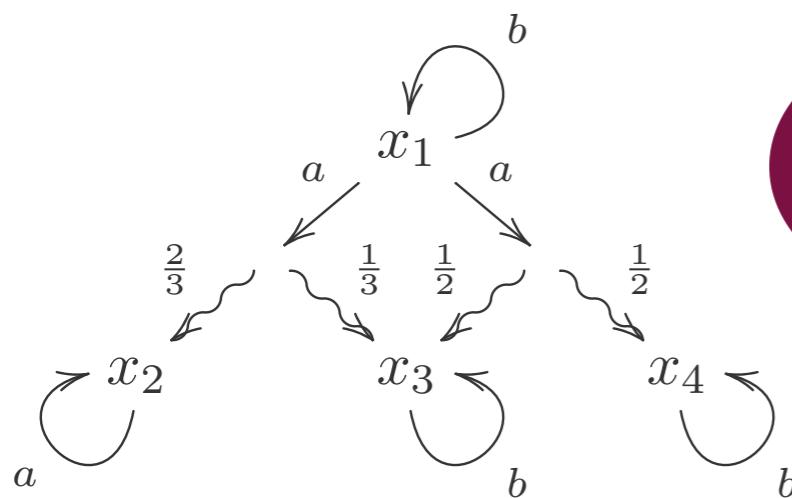


all on  
Sets



# PA coalgebraically

$X \rightarrow (\mathcal{P} \mathcal{D} X)^A$

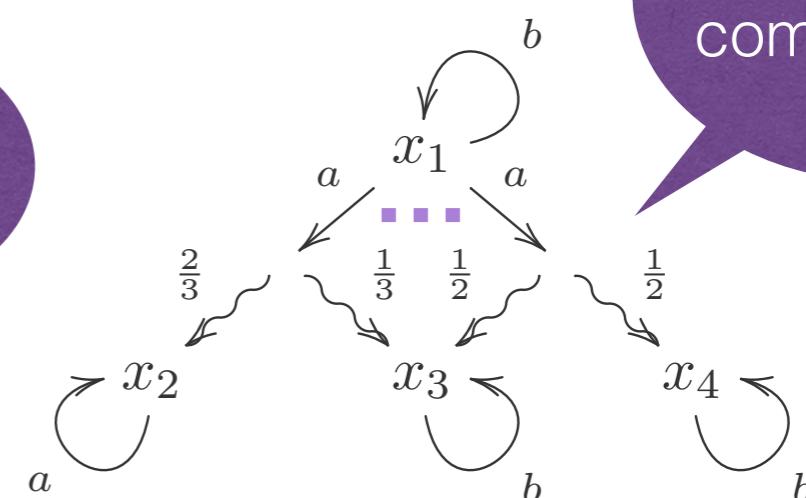


on  
Sets

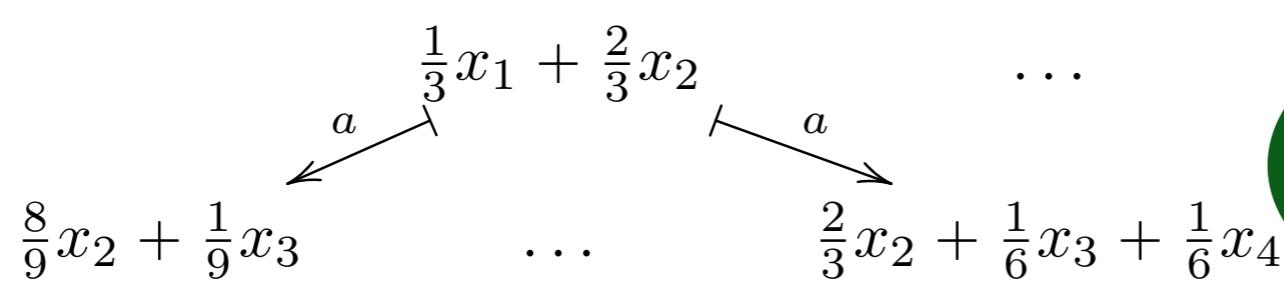
$\sim = \approx$

$X \rightarrow (\mathcal{C} X)^A$

and all convex  
combinations



$X \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}_c X + 1)^A$



on  
convex  
algebras

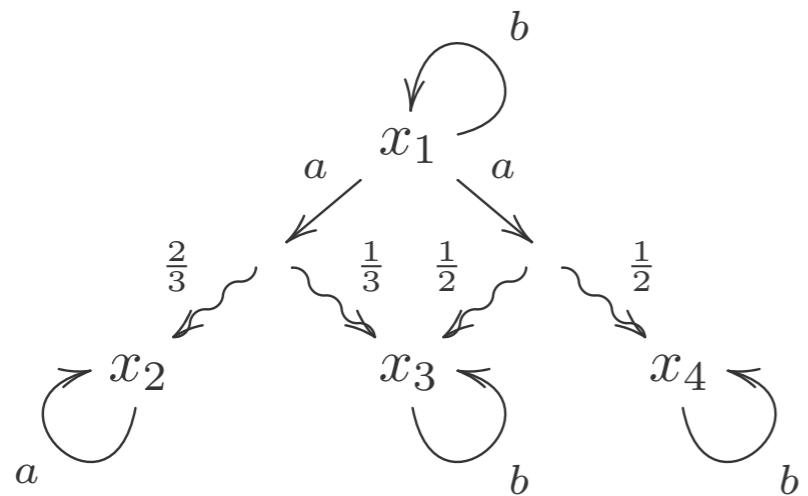
$\mathcal{EM}(\mathcal{D})$

$\sim_d = \approx$

# Determinisations

PA

$$X \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}D X)^A$$



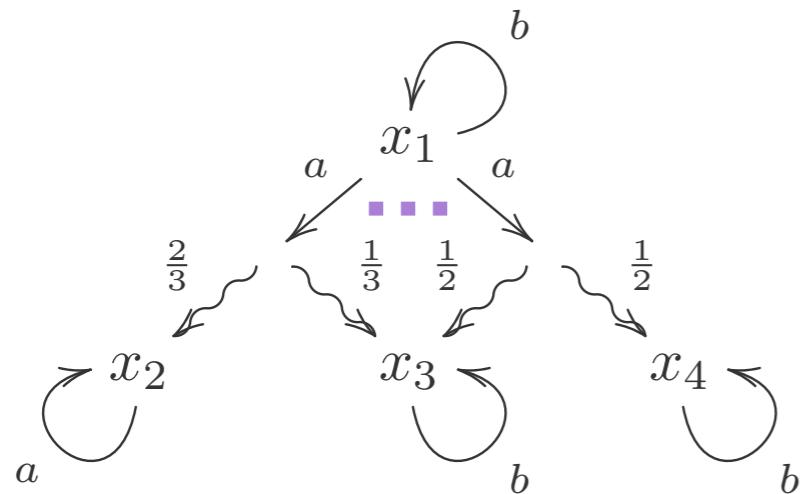
belief-state  
transformer

LTS on a  
convex  
algebra

$$\begin{array}{c} \frac{1}{3}x_1 + \frac{2}{3}x_2 \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ \frac{2}{3}x_2 + \frac{1}{6}x_3 + \frac{1}{6}x_4 & \dots & \frac{8}{9}x_2 + \frac{1}{9}x_3 \end{array}$$

# Determinisations

$X \rightarrow (\mathcal{C}X)^A$



Theory of traces  
for probability,  
nondeterminism, and  
termination  
...

Thank You !

$$( \frac{2}{3}x_2 + \frac{1}{3}x_3 ) \oplus ( \frac{1}{2}x_3 + \frac{1}{2}x_4 )$$

LTS on a  
convex  
semilattice

Thank You,  
Helmut !

