

# 6.036/6.862: Introduction to Machine Learning

**Lecture:** starts Tuesdays 9:35am (Boston time zone)

**Course website:** [introml.odl.mit.edu](http://introml.odl.mit.edu)

**Who's talking?** Prof. Tamara Broderick



[vote.mit.edu](http://vote.mit.edu)

**Questions?** [discourse.odl.mit.edu](http://discourse.odl.mit.edu) ("Lecture 9" category)

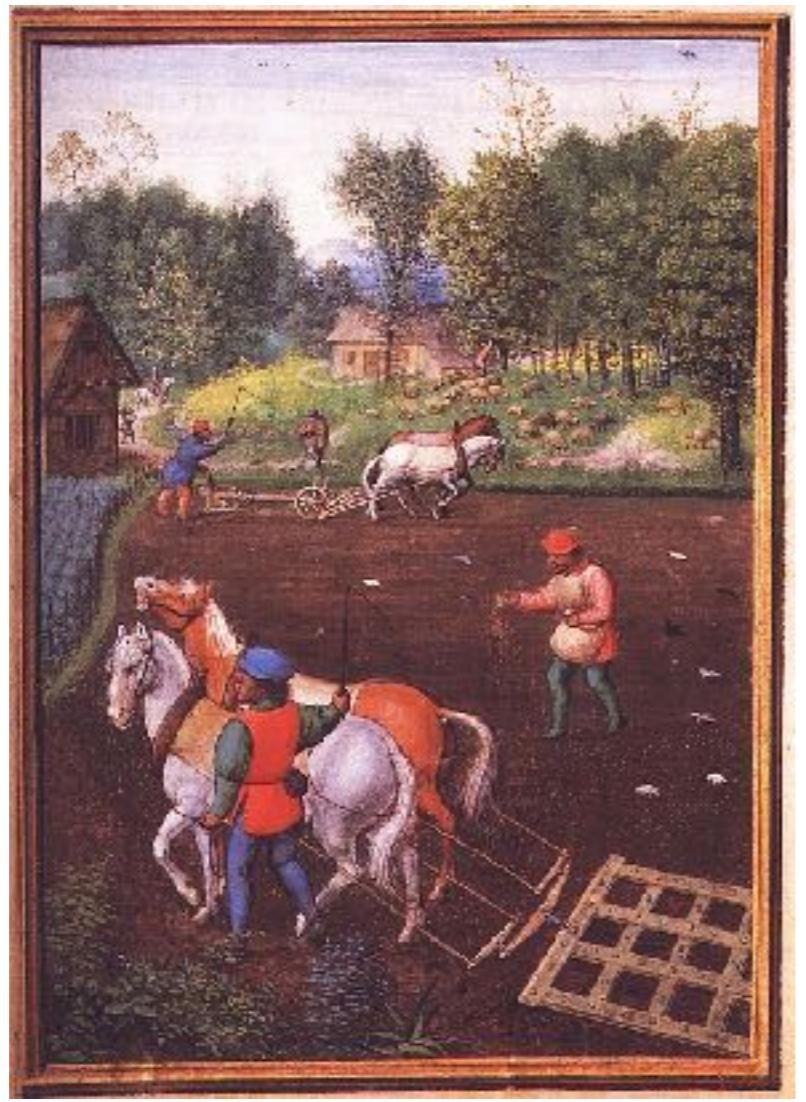
**Materials:** Will all be available at course website

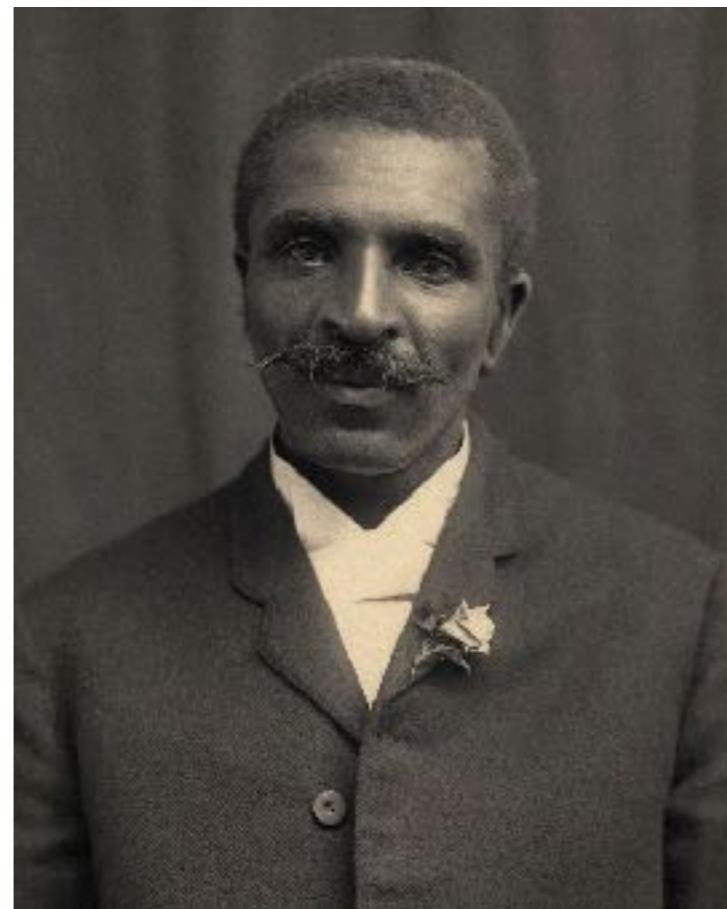
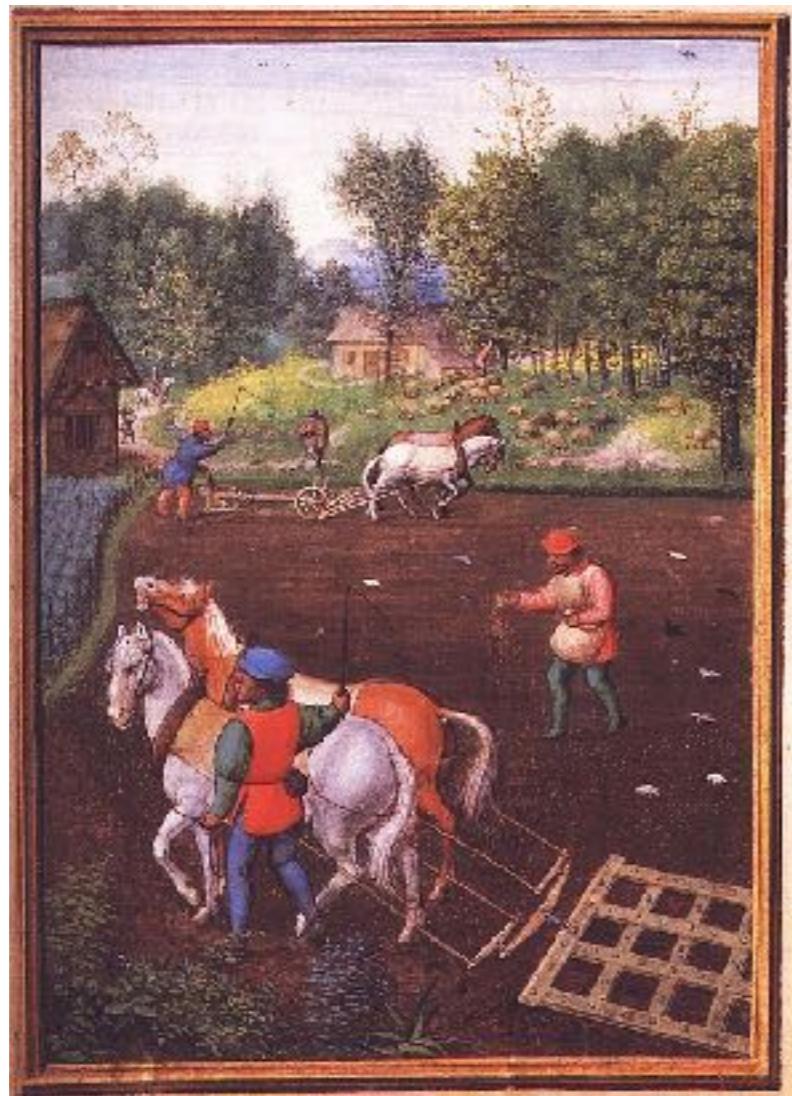
## Last Time(s)

- I. Regression,  
classification
- II. Decisions incur loss but  
don't have broader  
effect

## Today's Plan

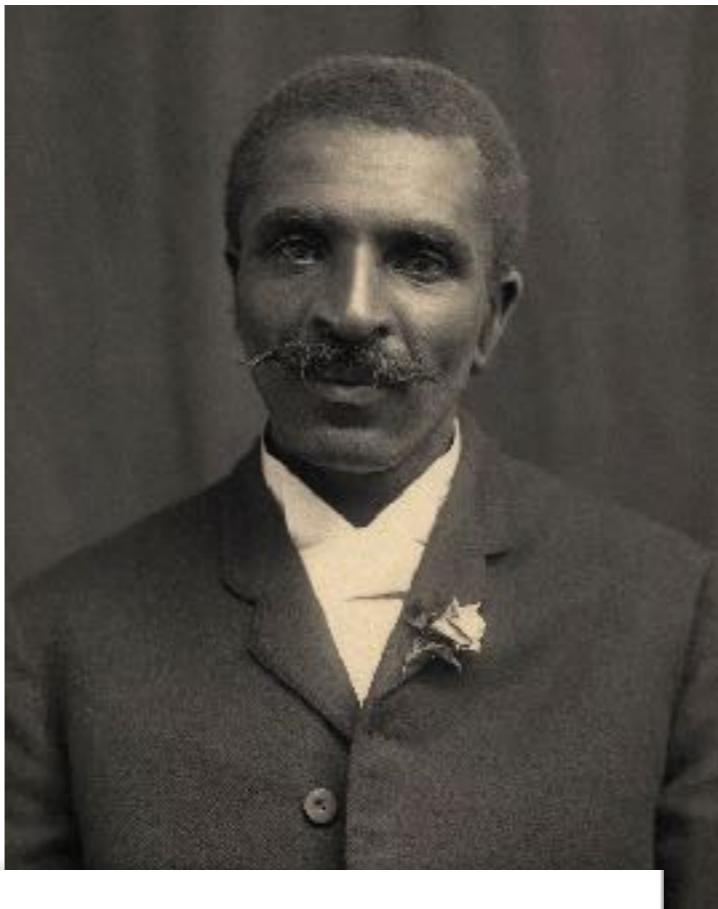
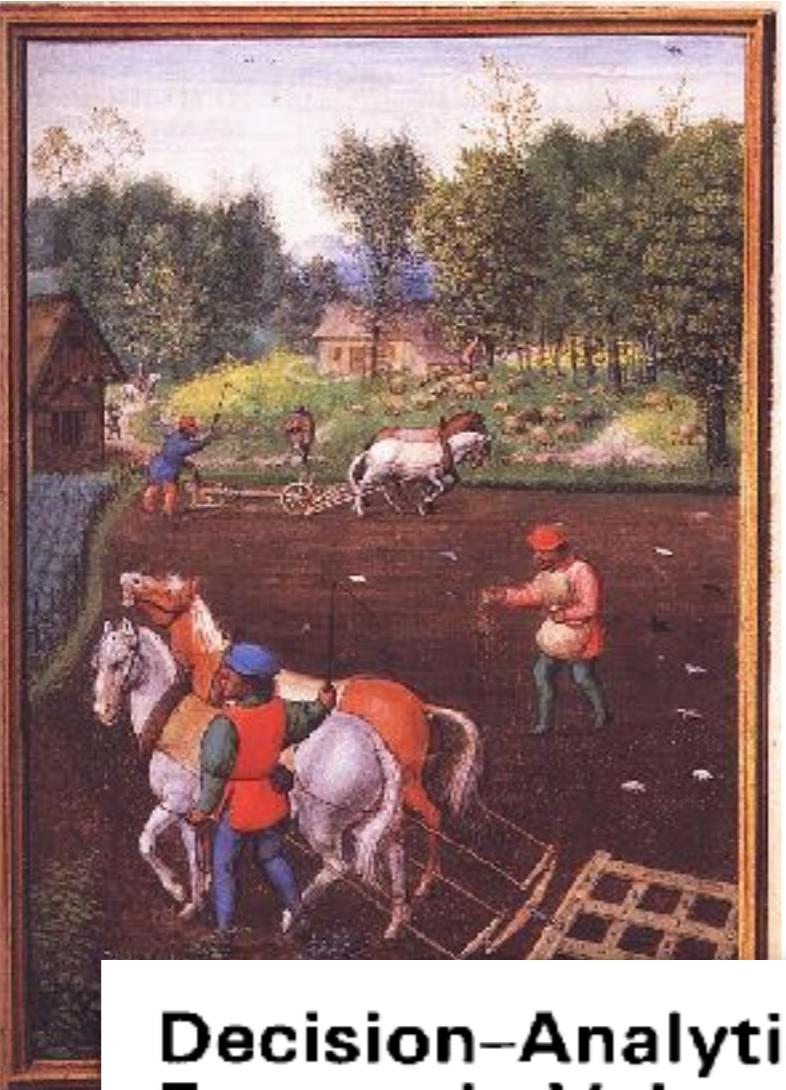
- I. Decisions change the  
state of the world
- II. State machines
- III. Markov decision  
processes (MDPs)





[ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sowing#/media/File:Simon\\_Bening\\_-\\_September.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sowing#/media/File:Simon_Bening_-_September.jpg) ]

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## **Decision-Analytic Assessment of the Economic Value of Weather Forecasts: The Fallowing/Planting Problem**

RICHARD W. KATZ

*National Center for Atmospheric Research, U.S.A.*

and

BARBARA G. BROWN\* and ALLAN H. MURPHY

*Oregon State University, U.S.A.*

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[ Katz, Brown, Murphy 1987 ]

# State Machine

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plant, fallow



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Example



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plant, fallow



Example

$s_0 = \text{rich}$

# State Machine

- $\mathcal{S}$  = set of possible states
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- $f : \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$  : transition function

plant, fallow

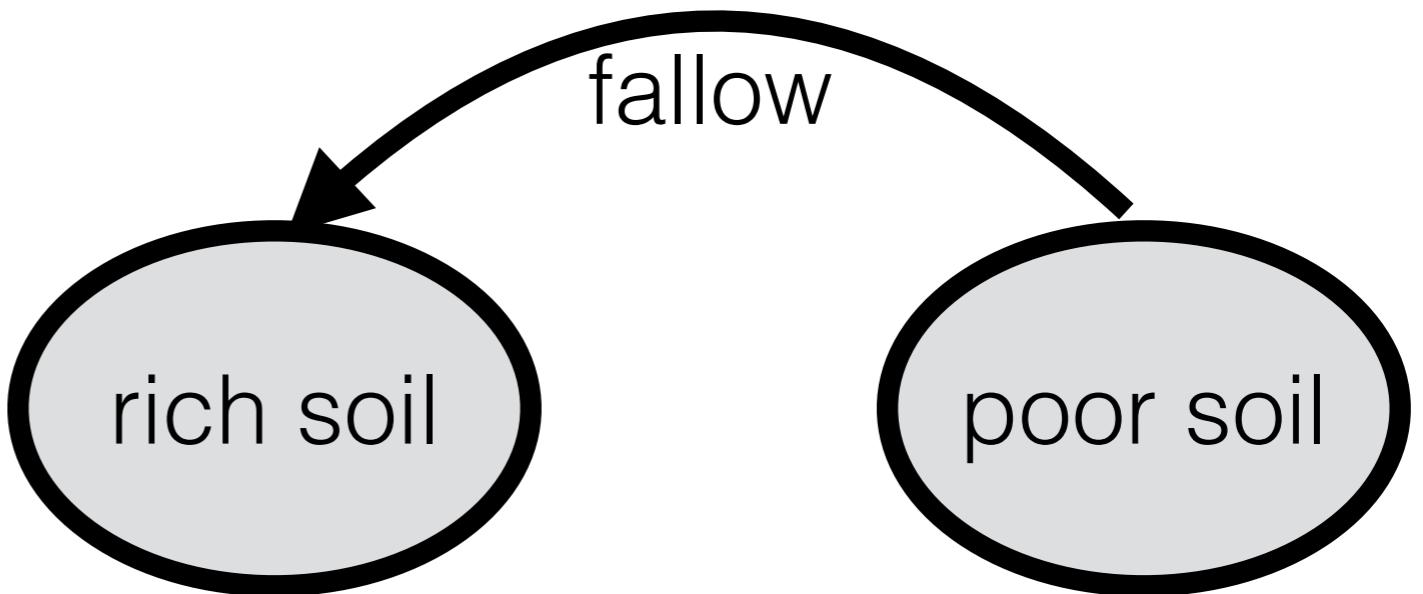


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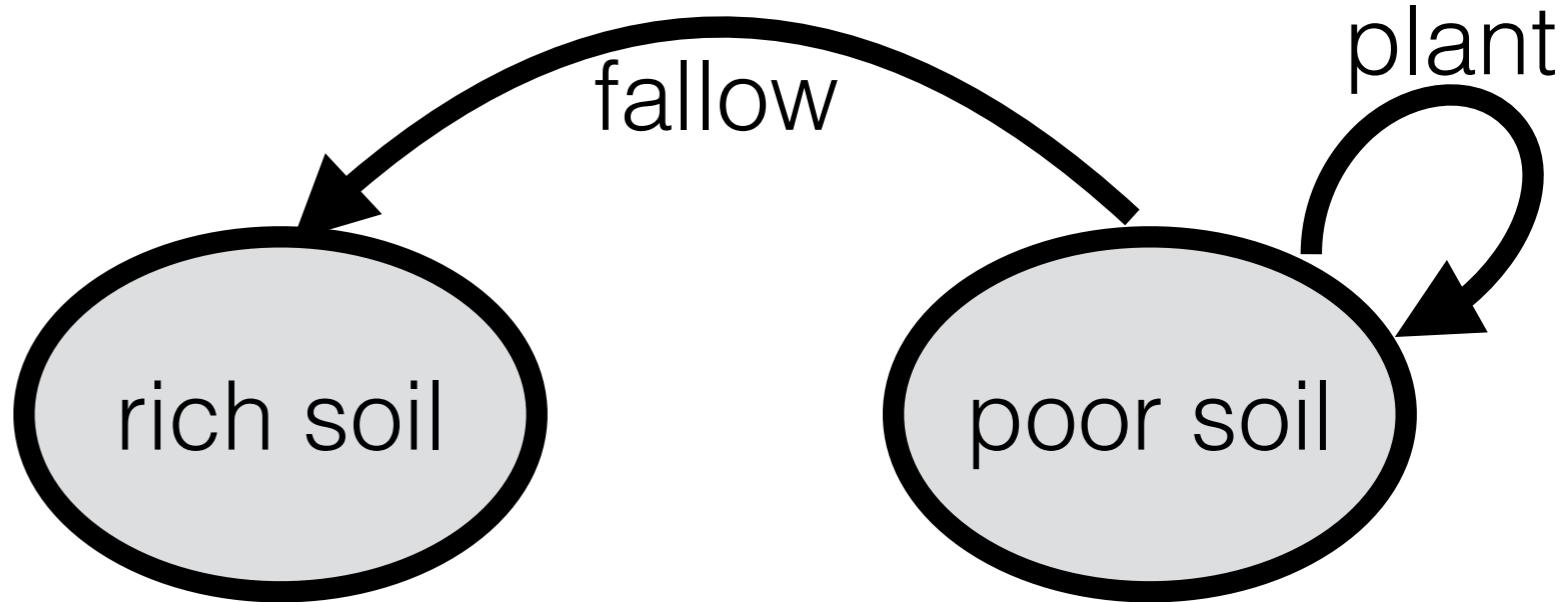


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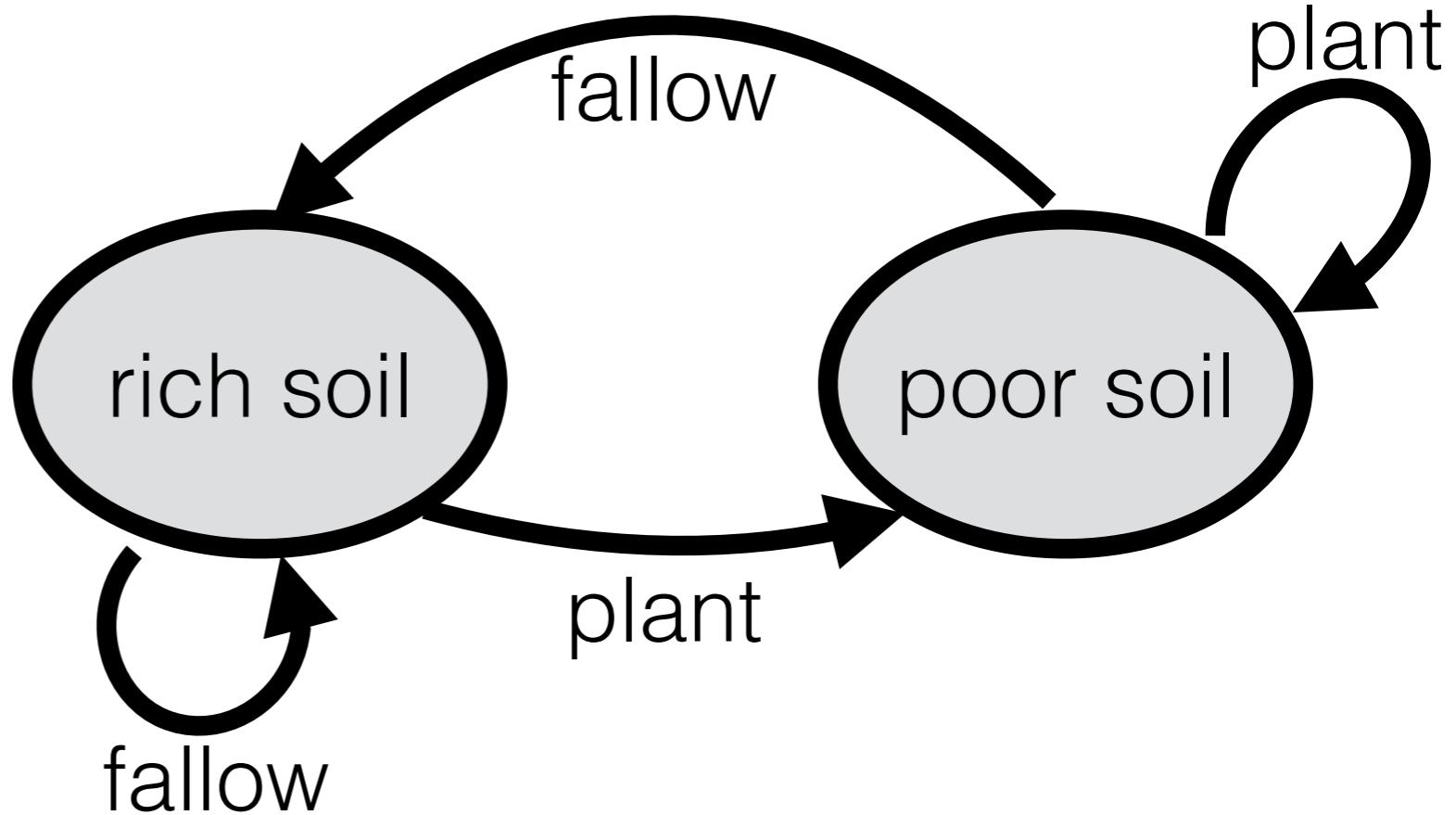


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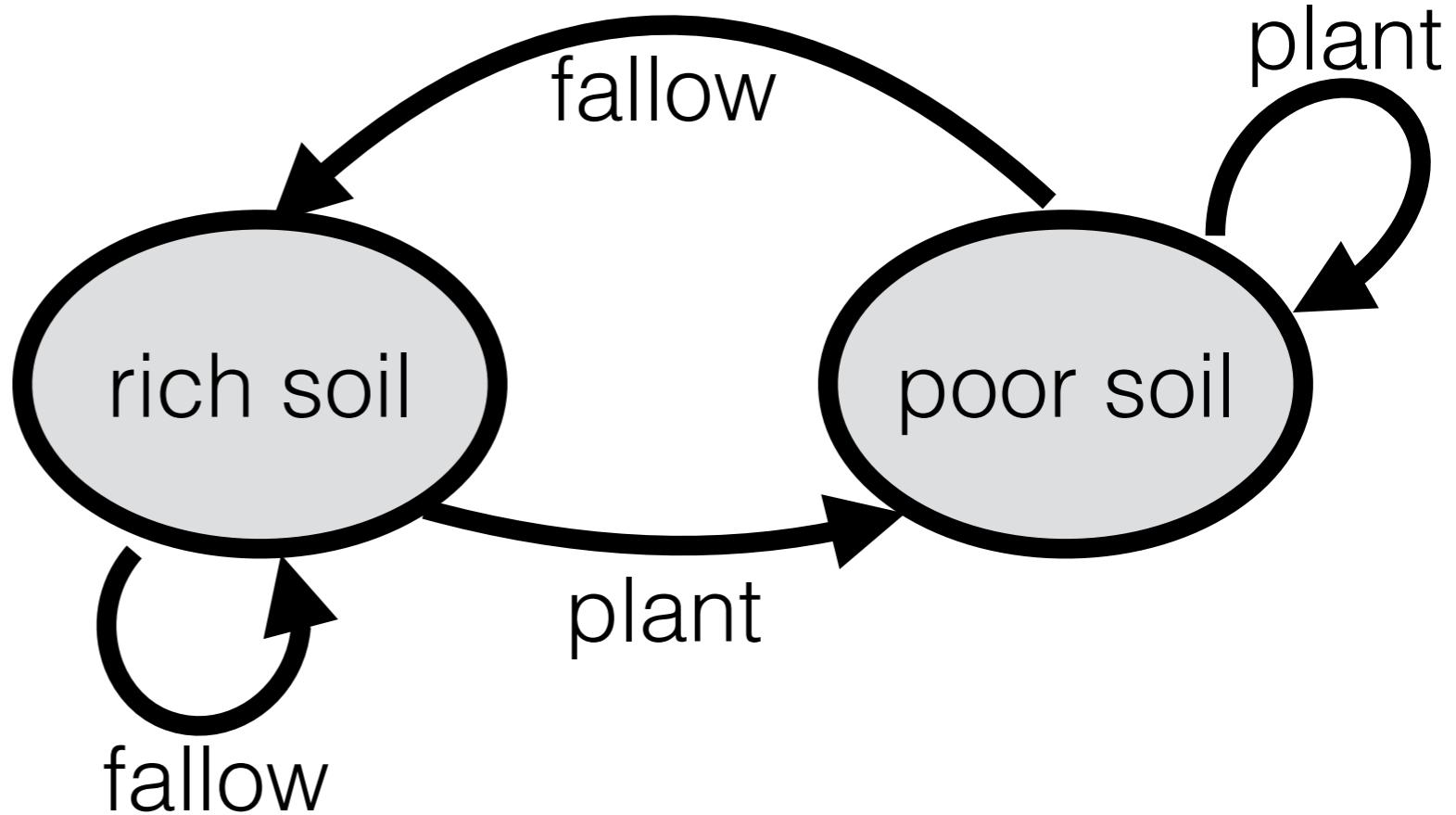


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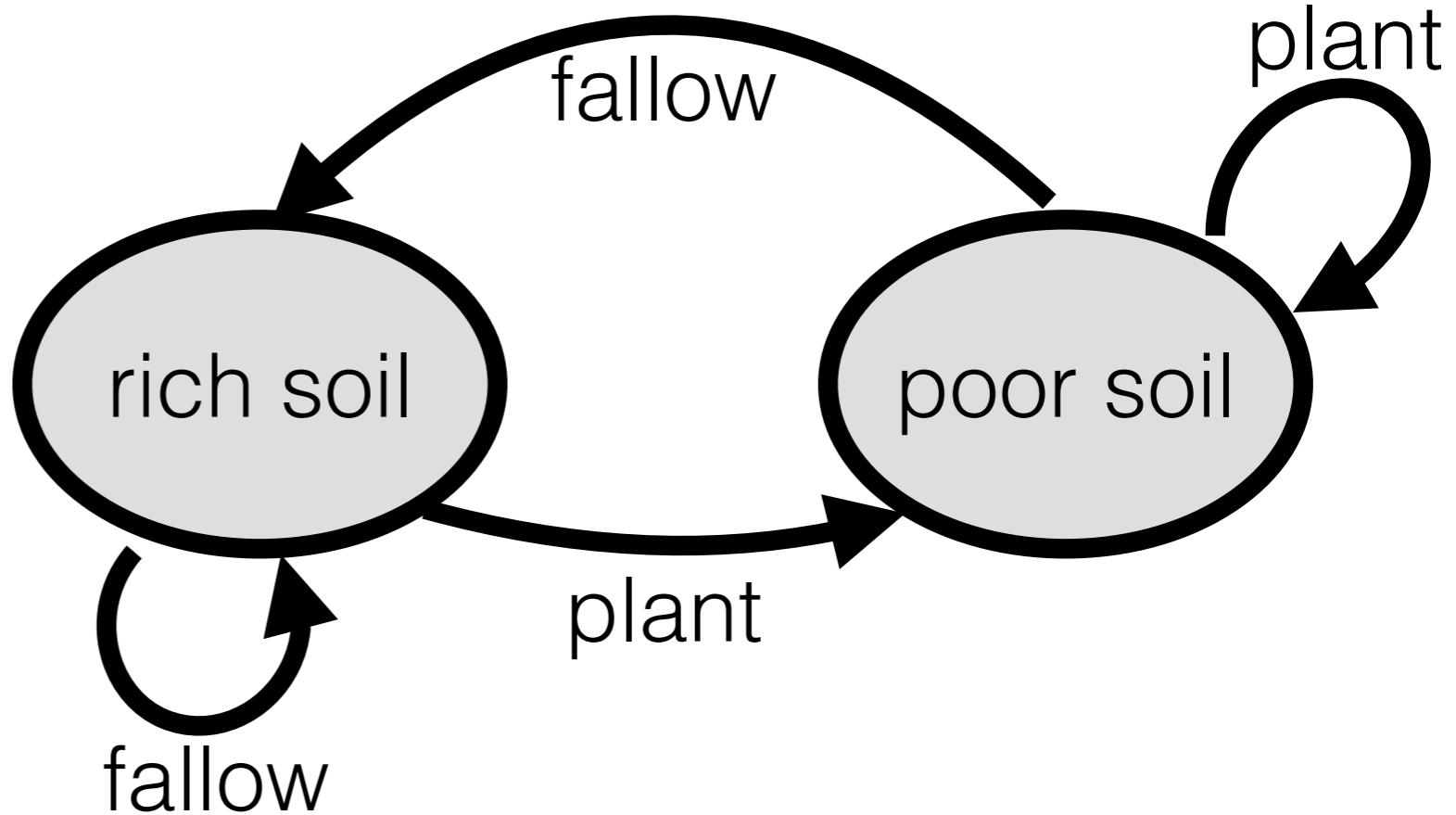
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$$s_1 = f(s_0, \text{plant}) =$$

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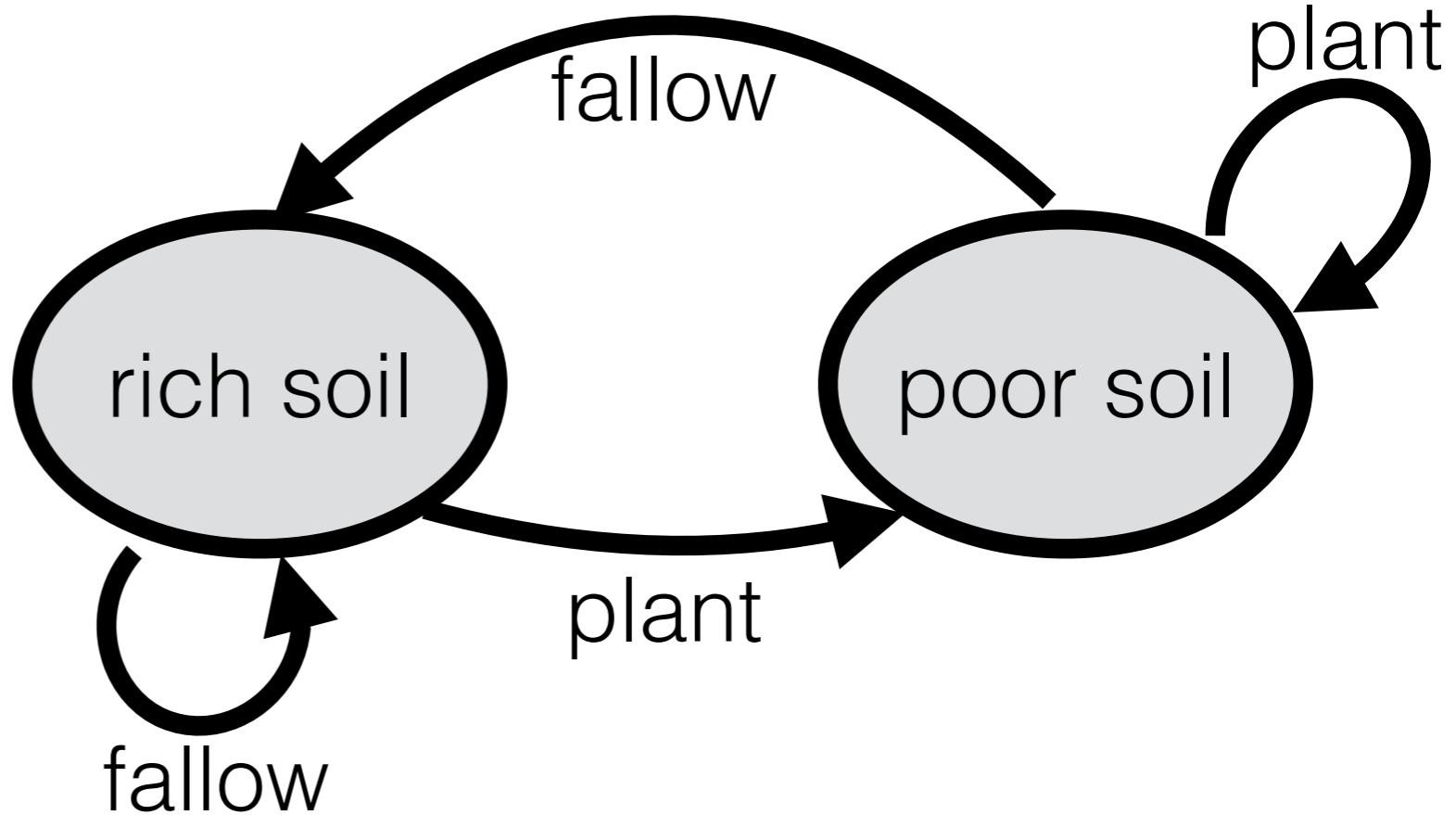
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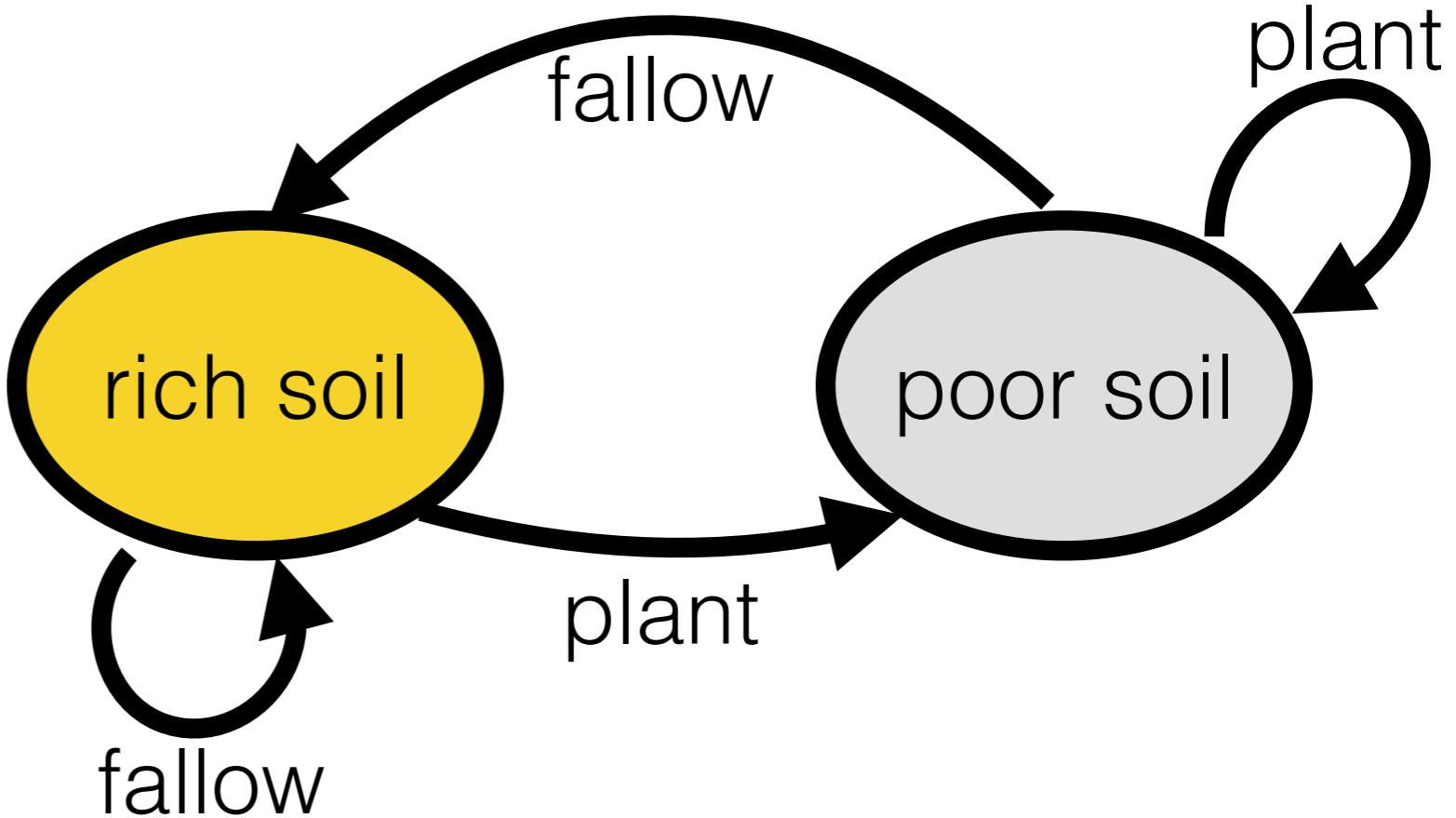
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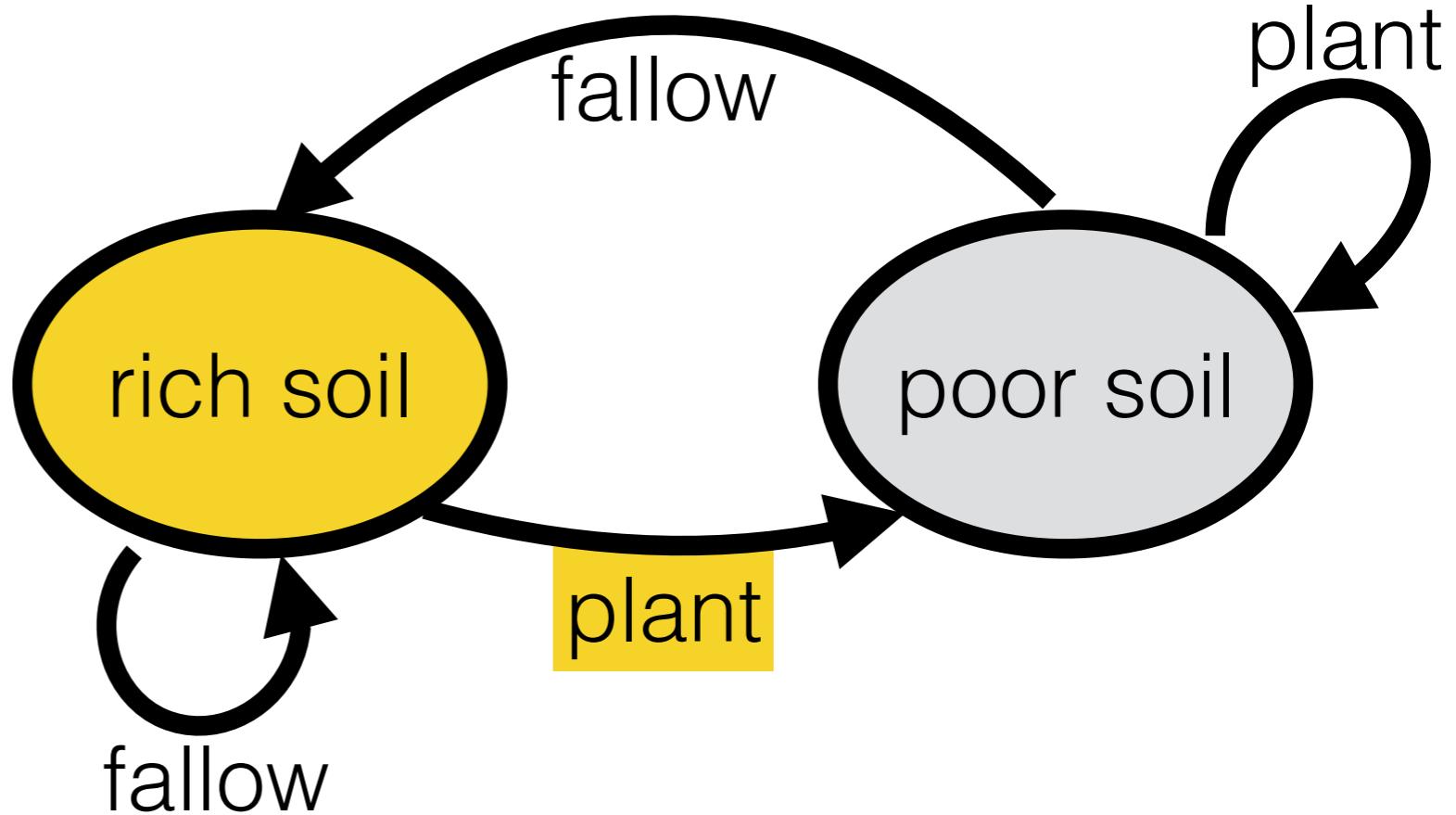
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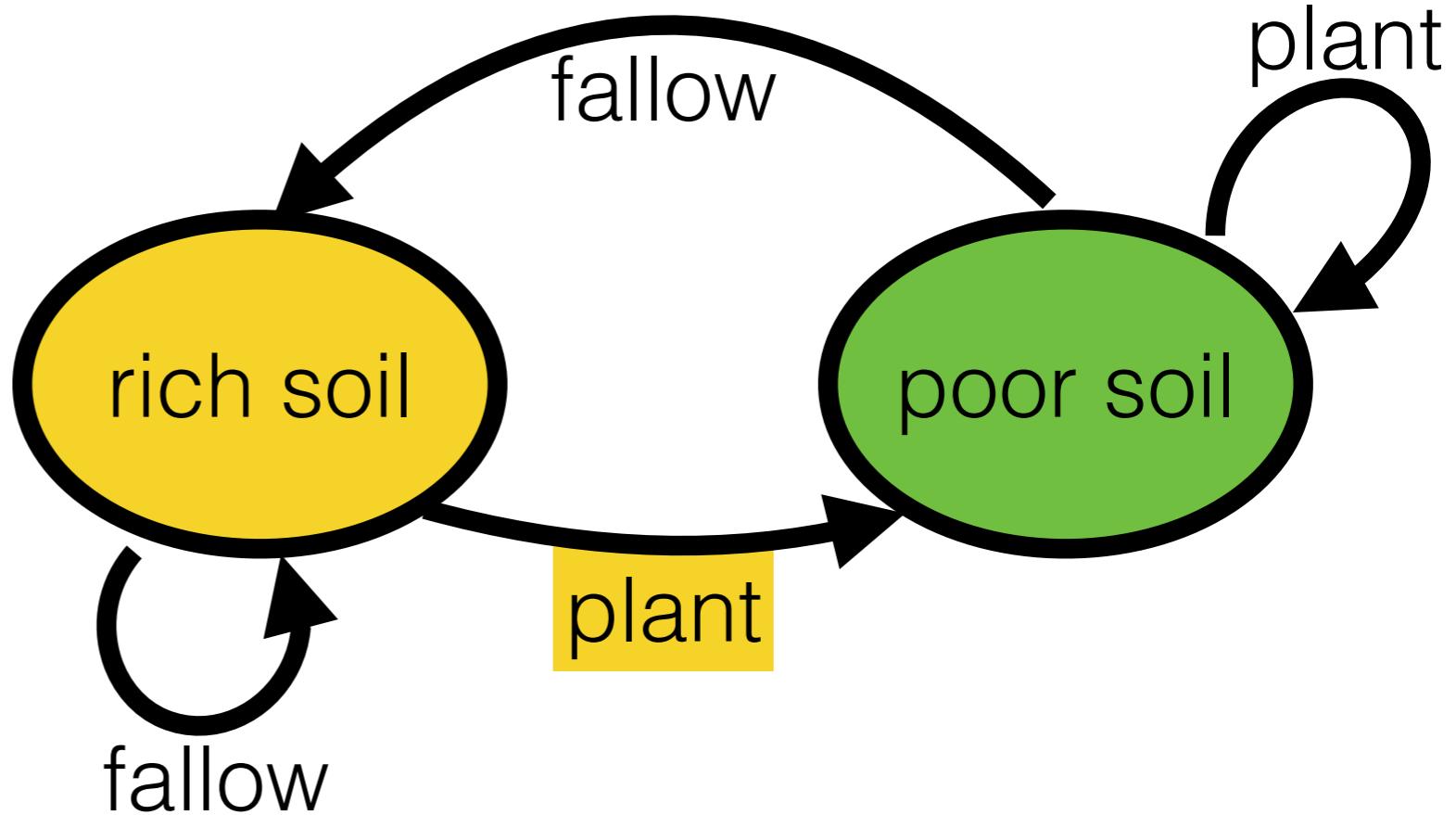
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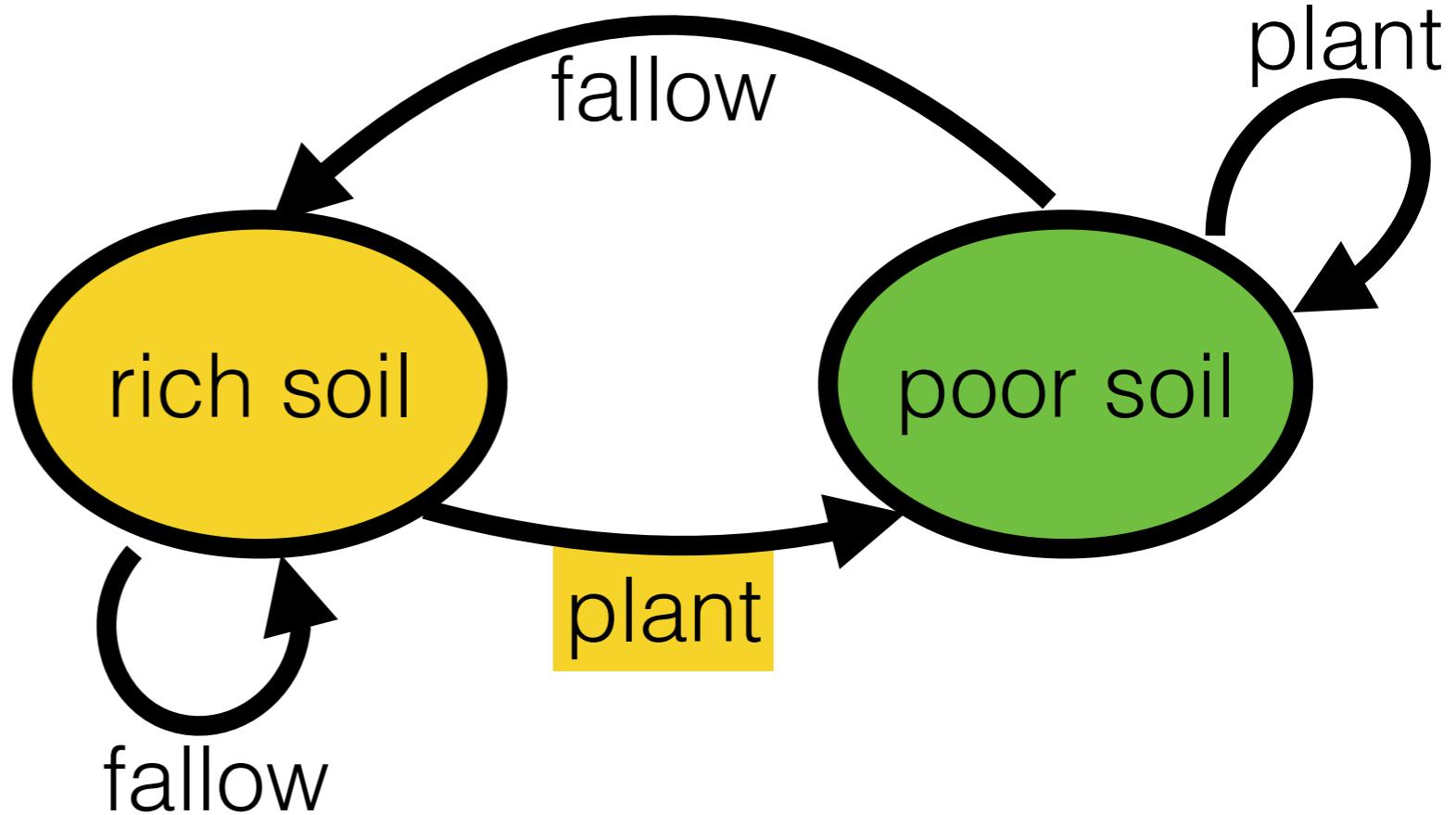
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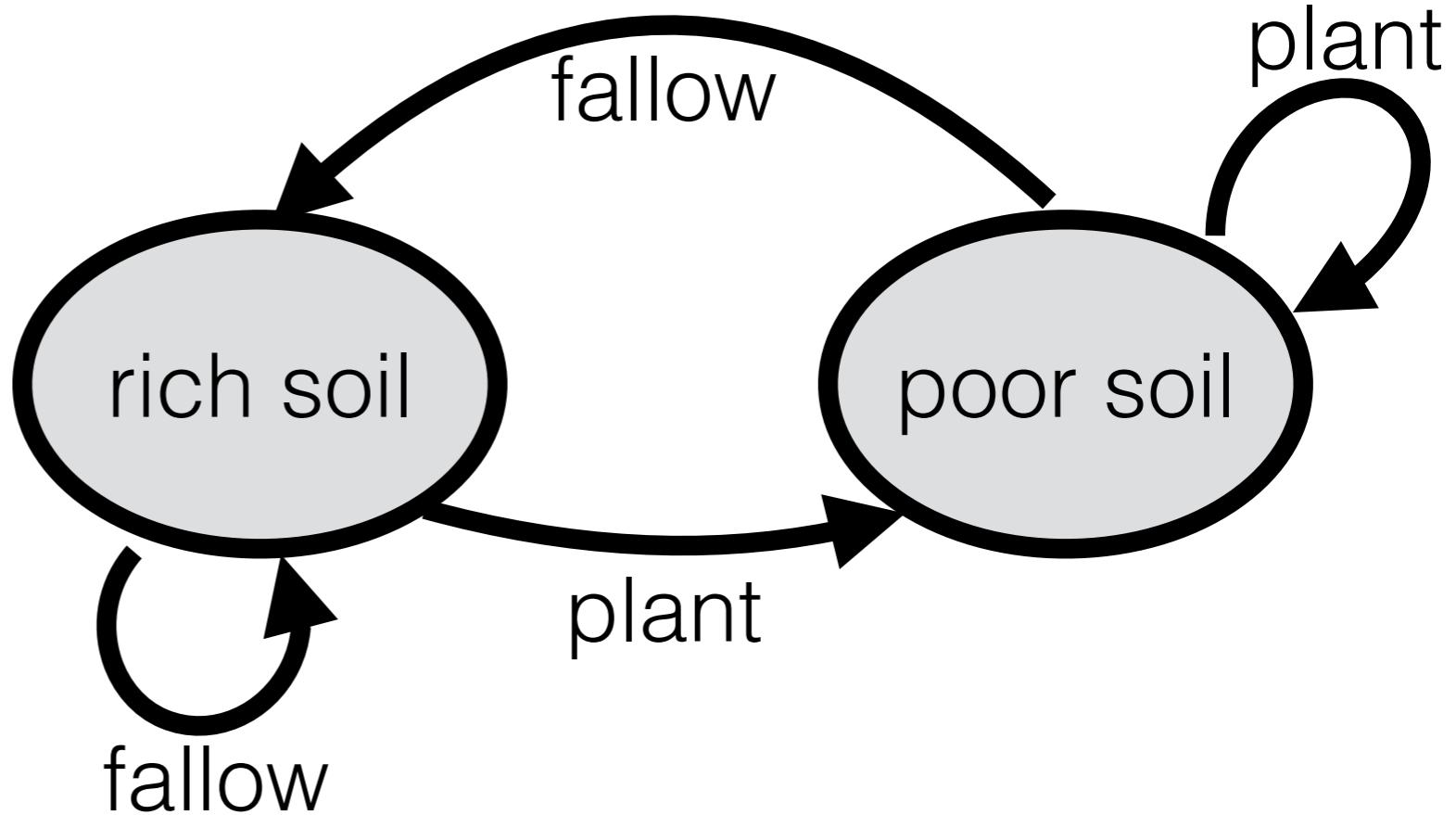
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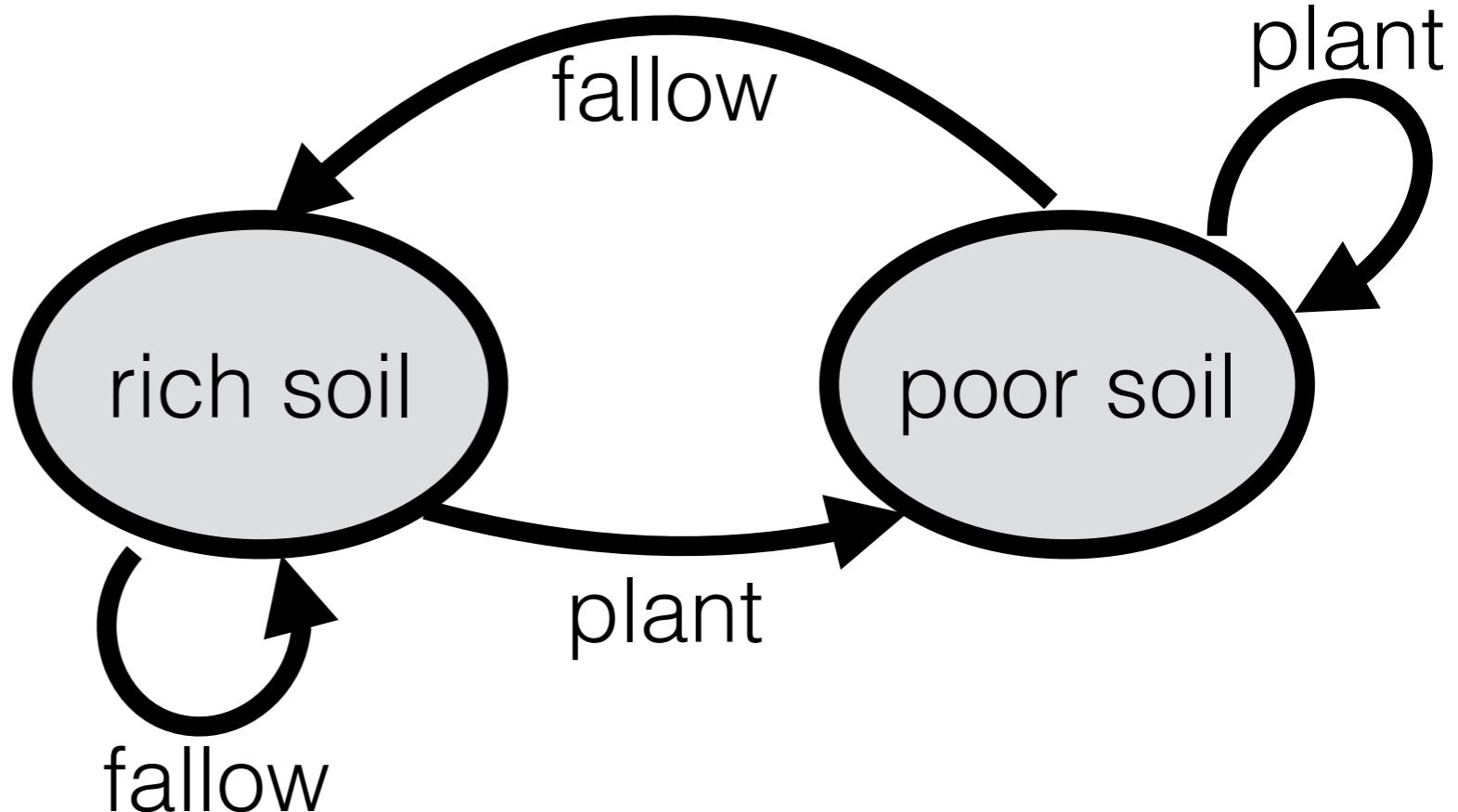
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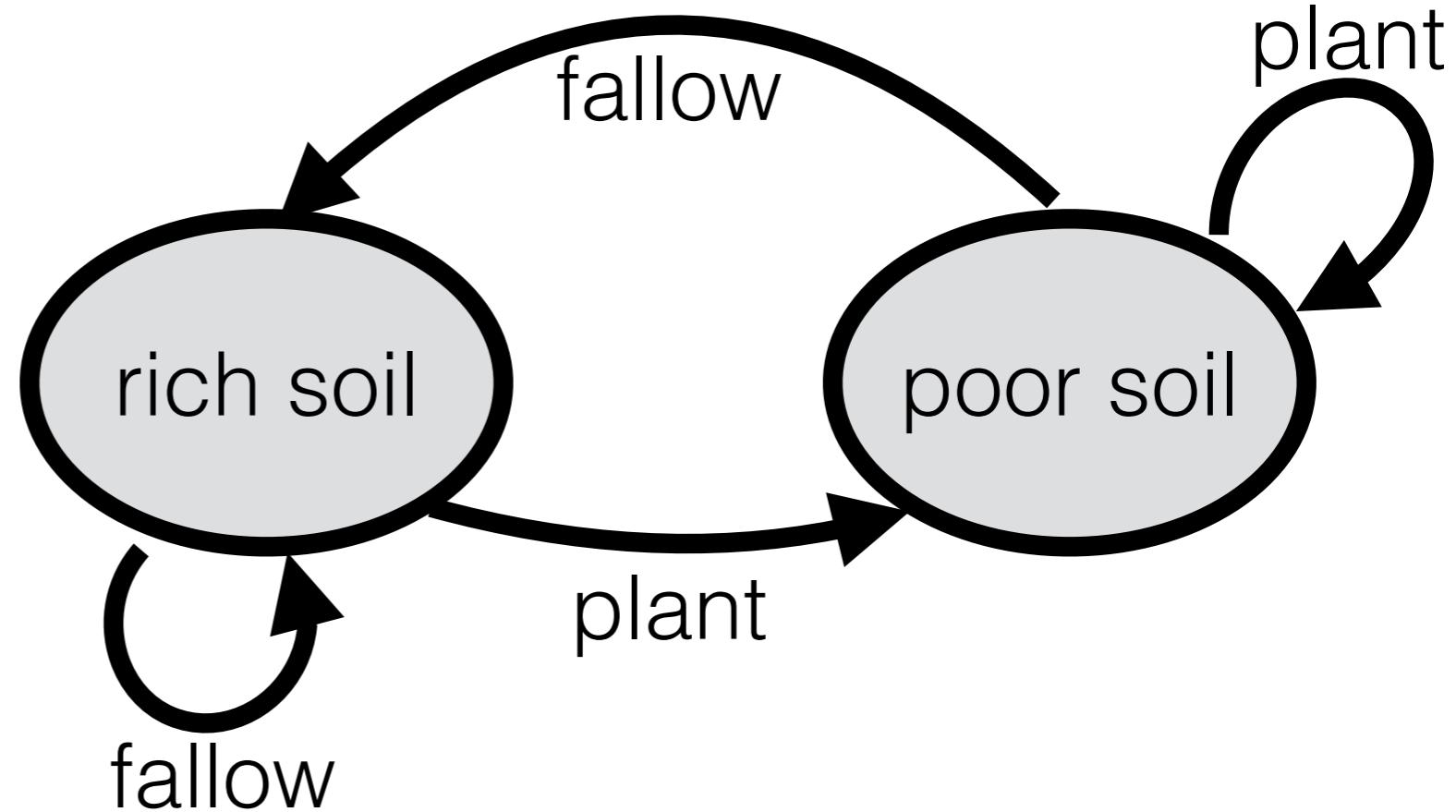
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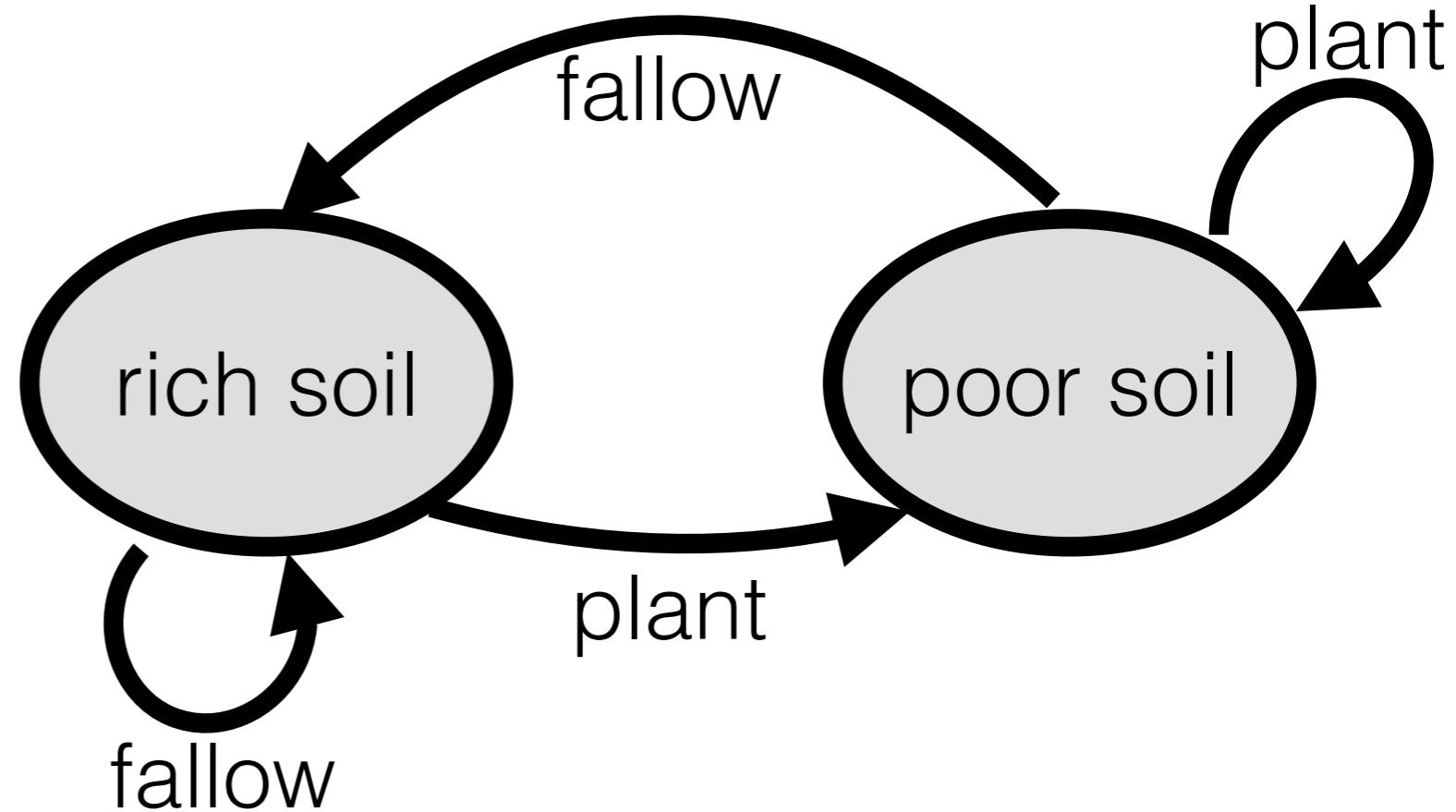
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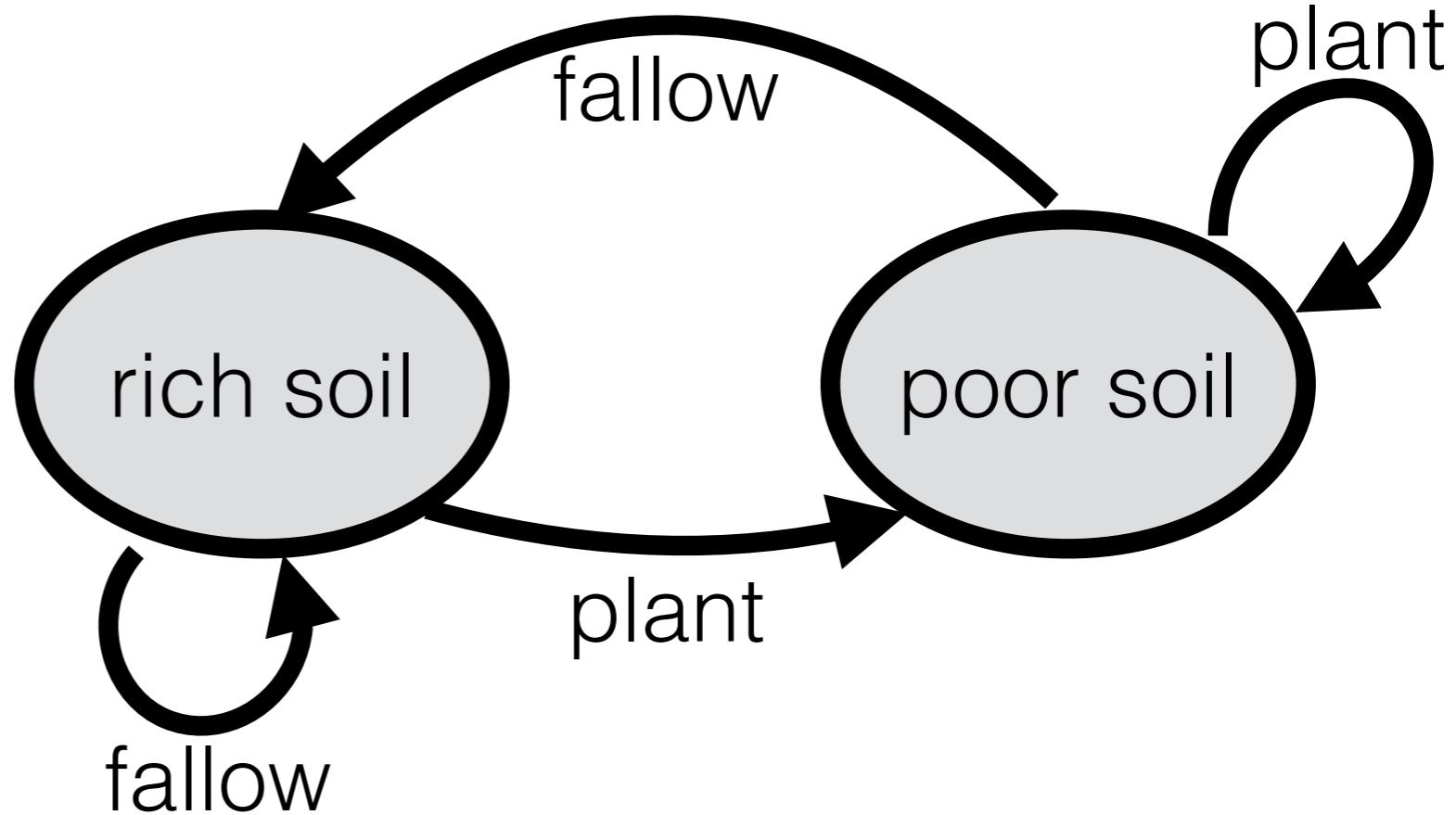
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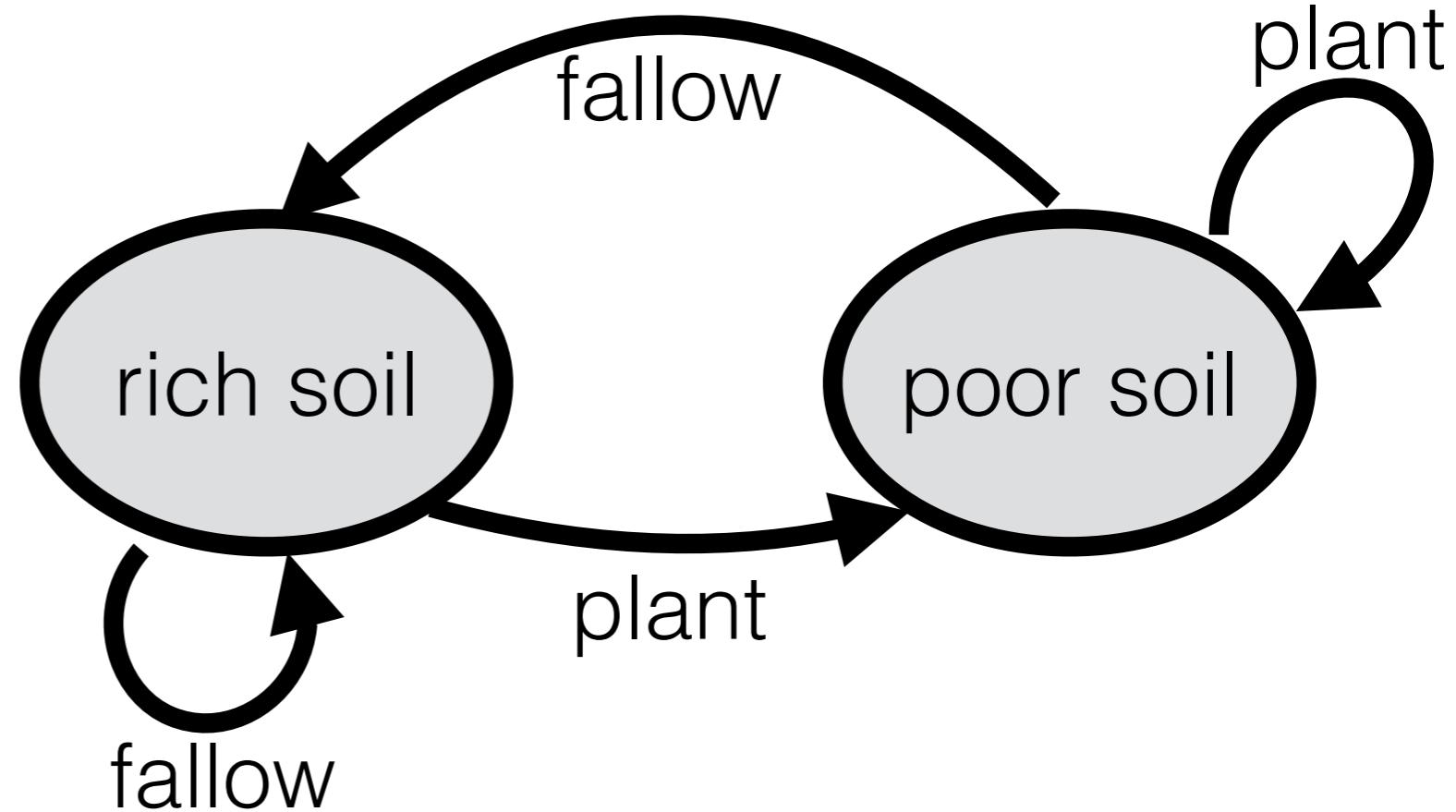
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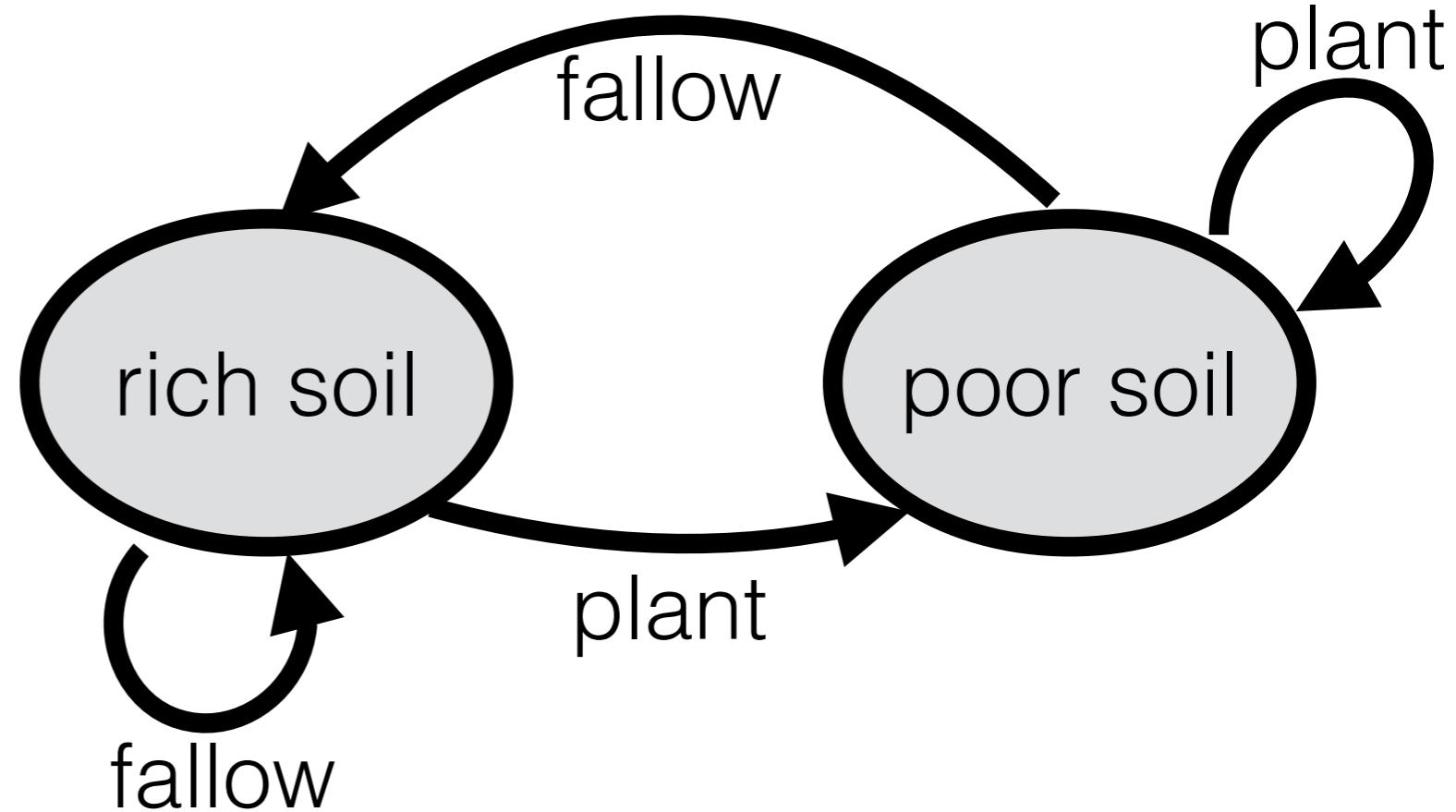


## Example

$s_0 = \text{rich}$   
 $s_1 = f(s_0, \text{plant}) = \text{poor};$   
 $y_1 = g(s_1) = \text{poor}$

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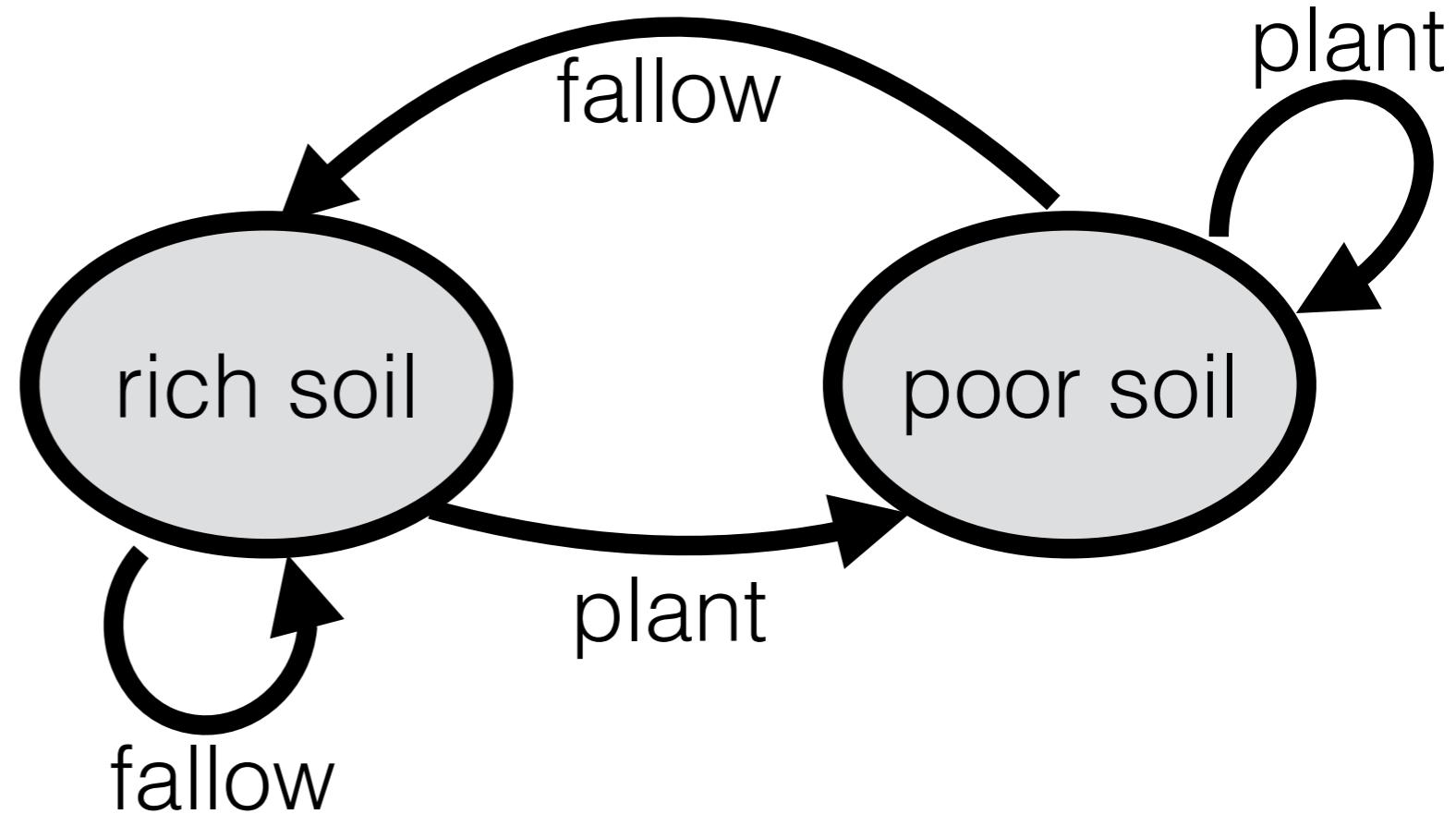


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 $s_1 = f(s_0, \text{plant}) = \text{poor};$   
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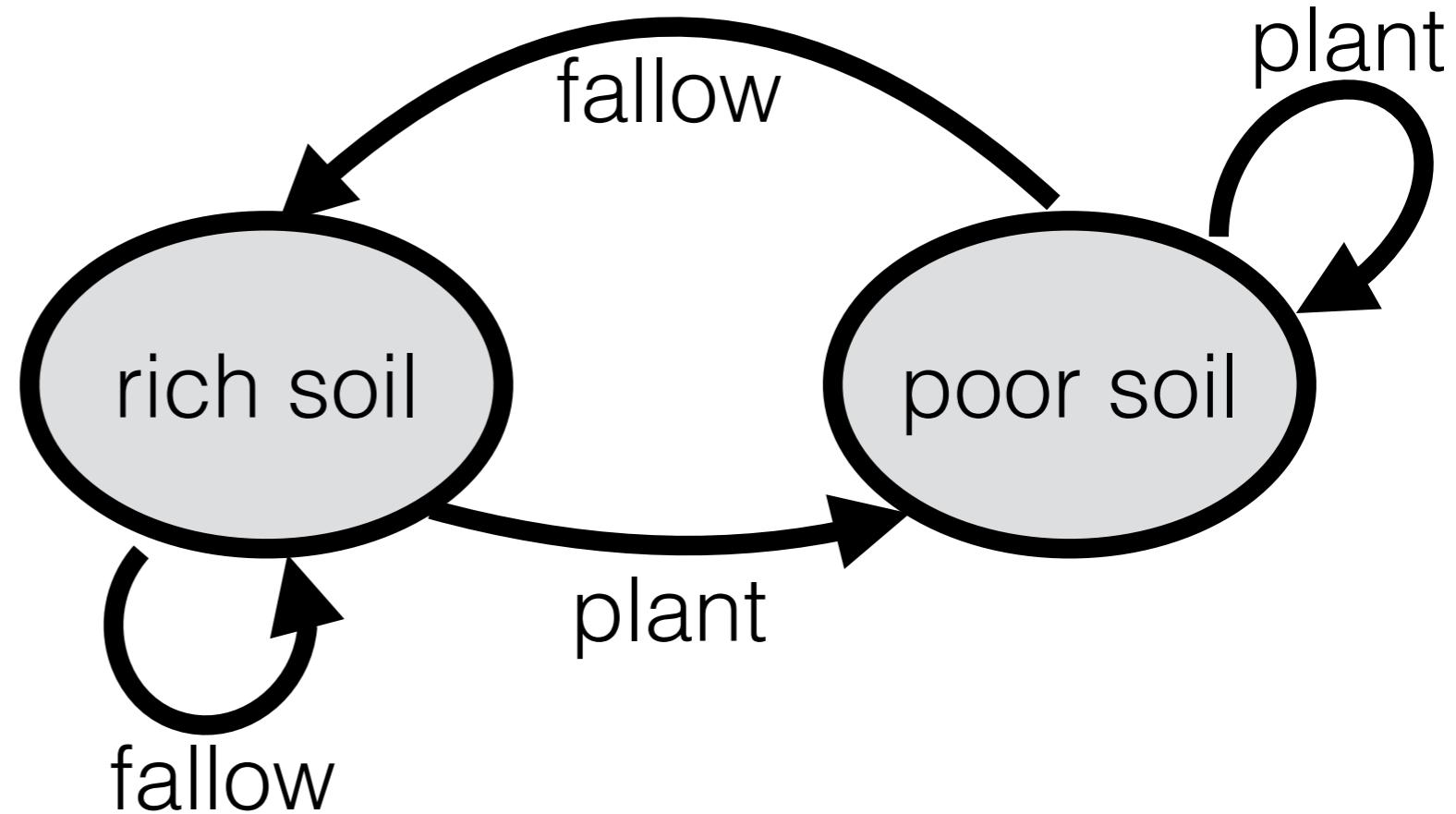


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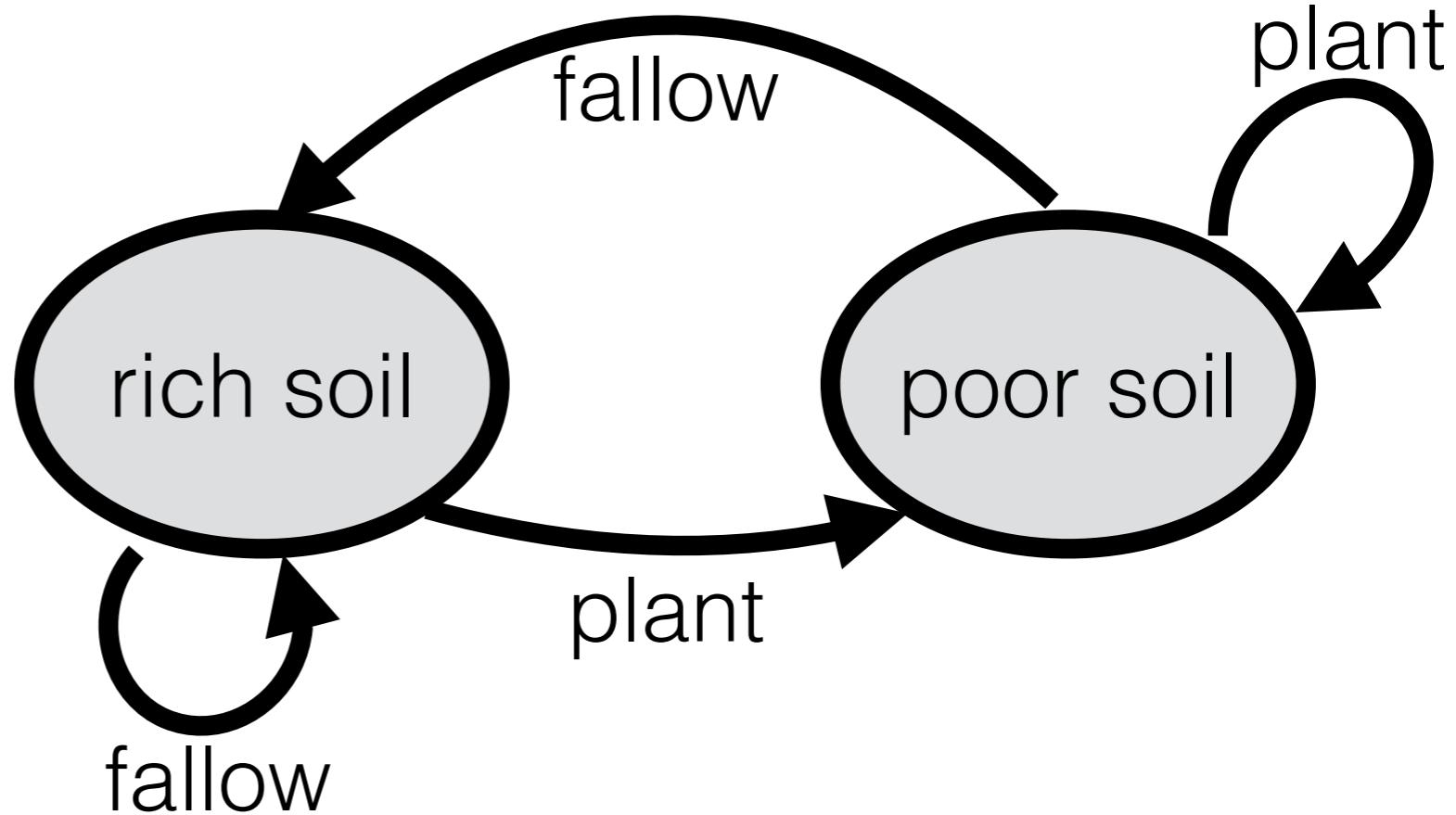


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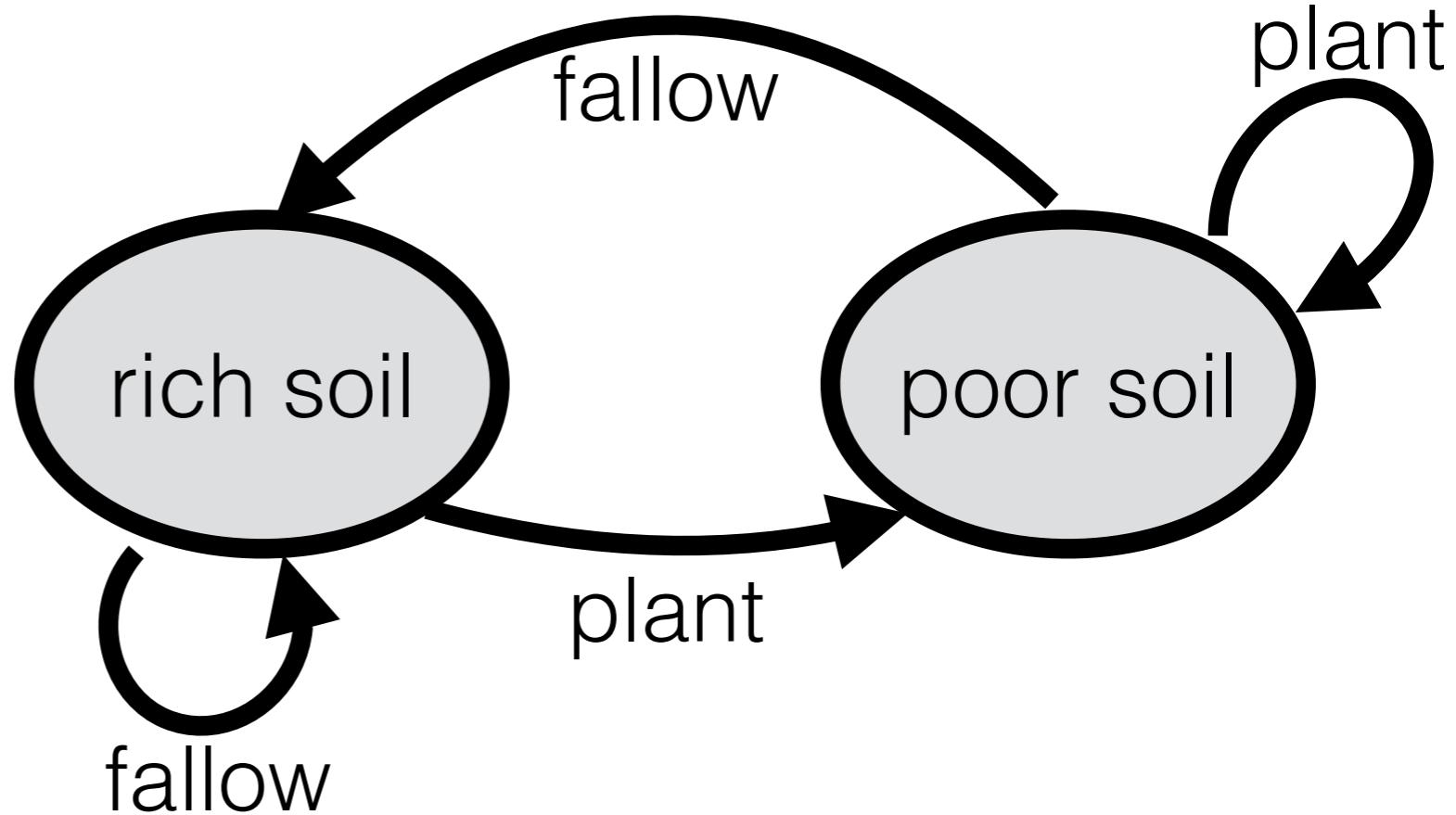


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# State Machine

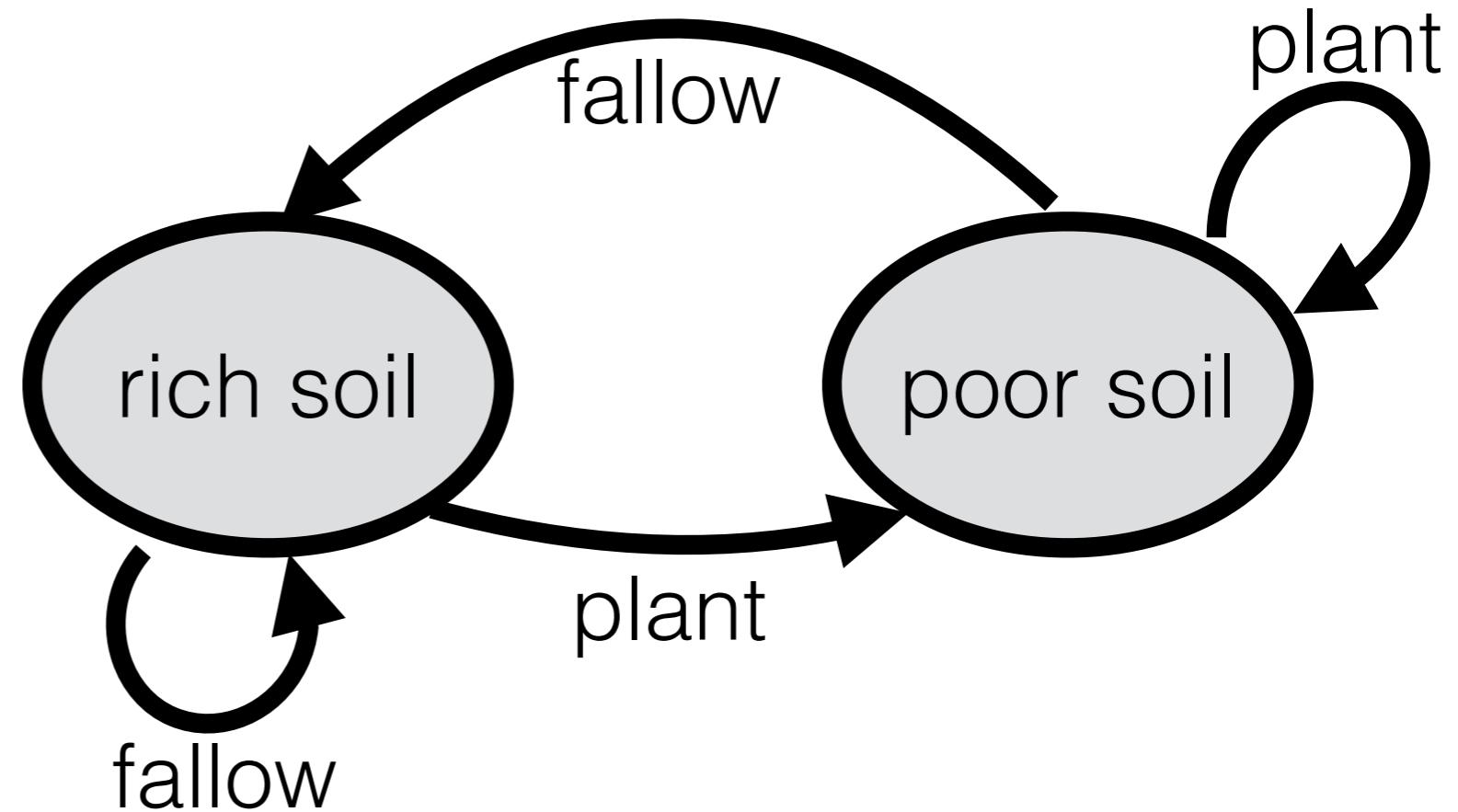
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## Example

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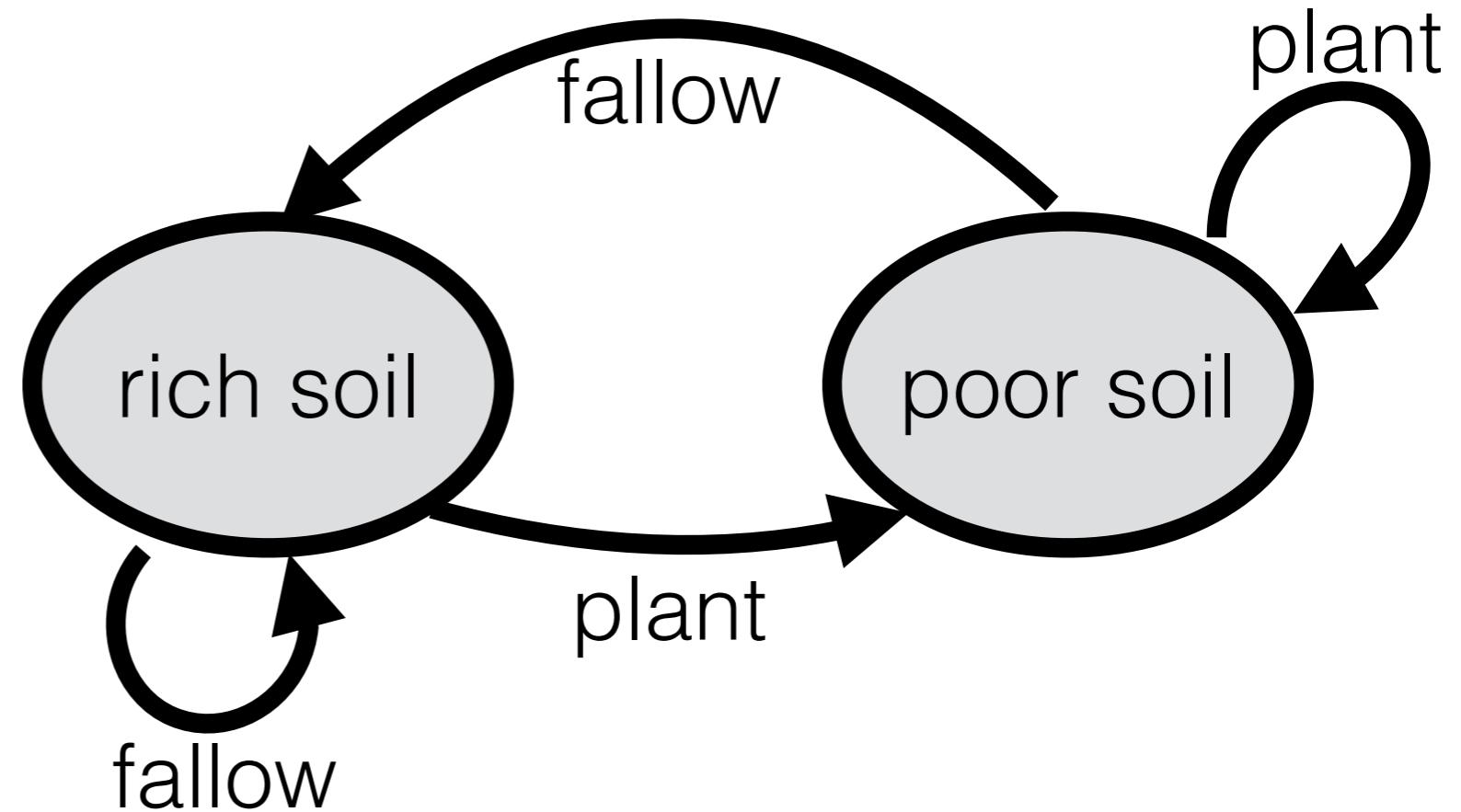
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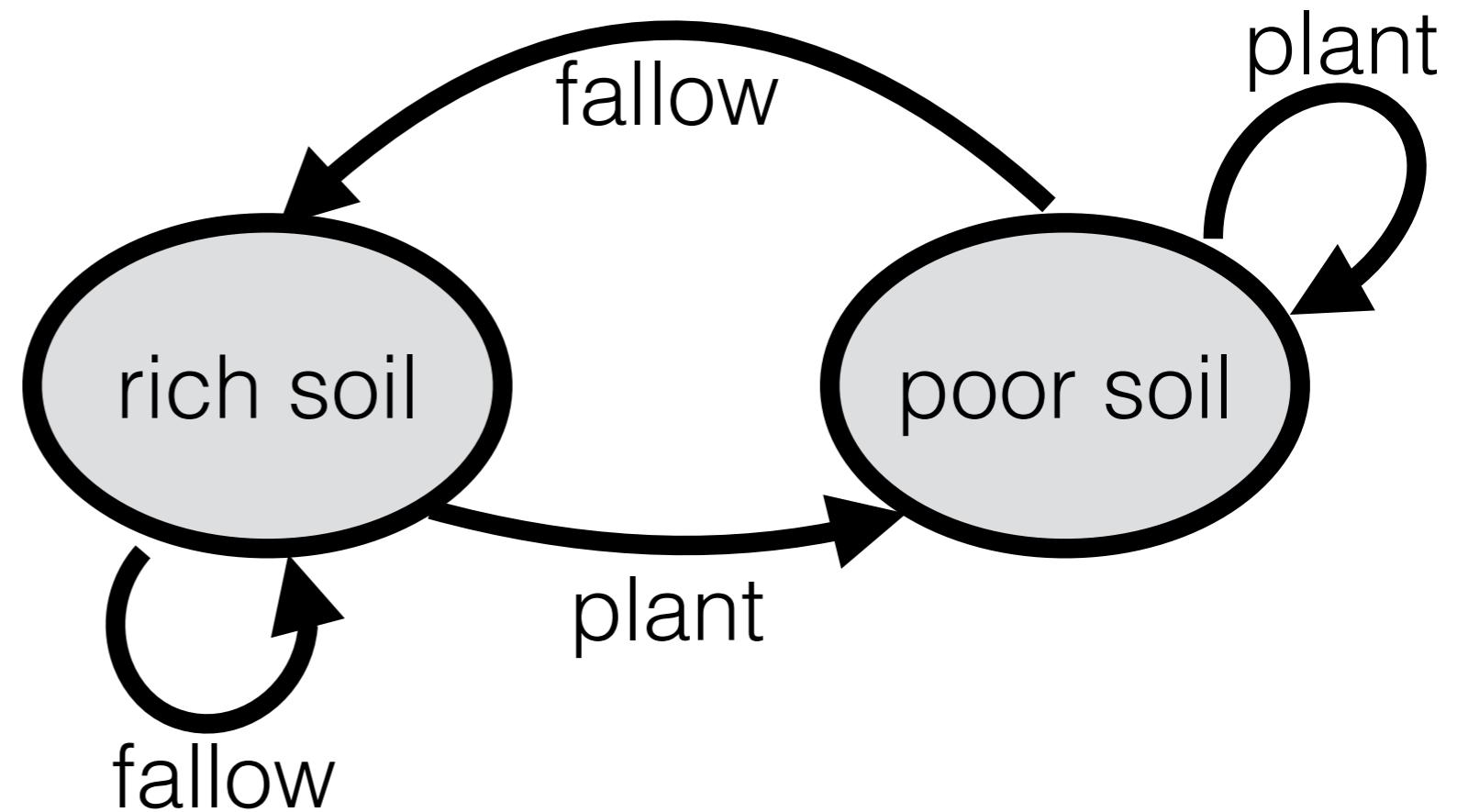
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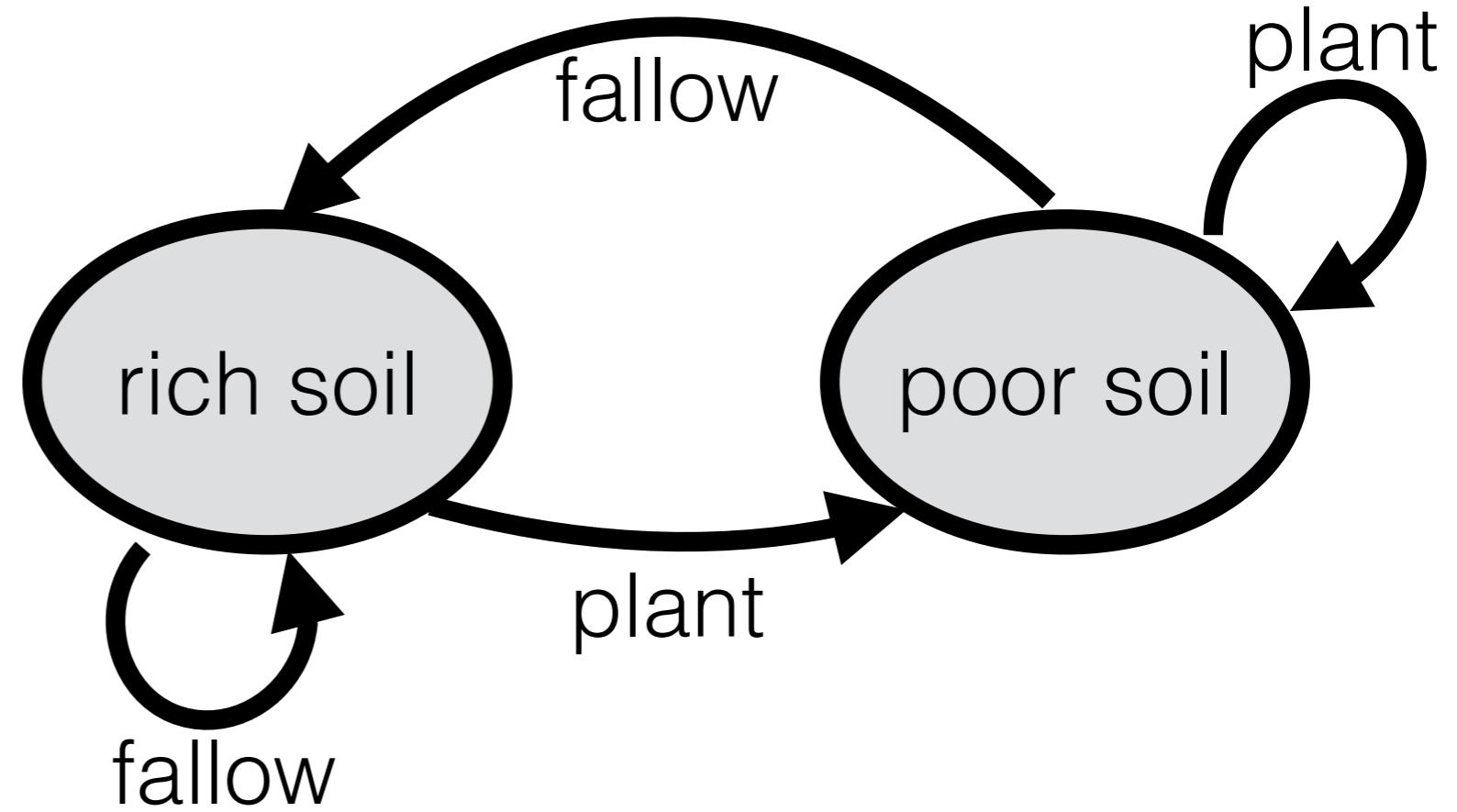
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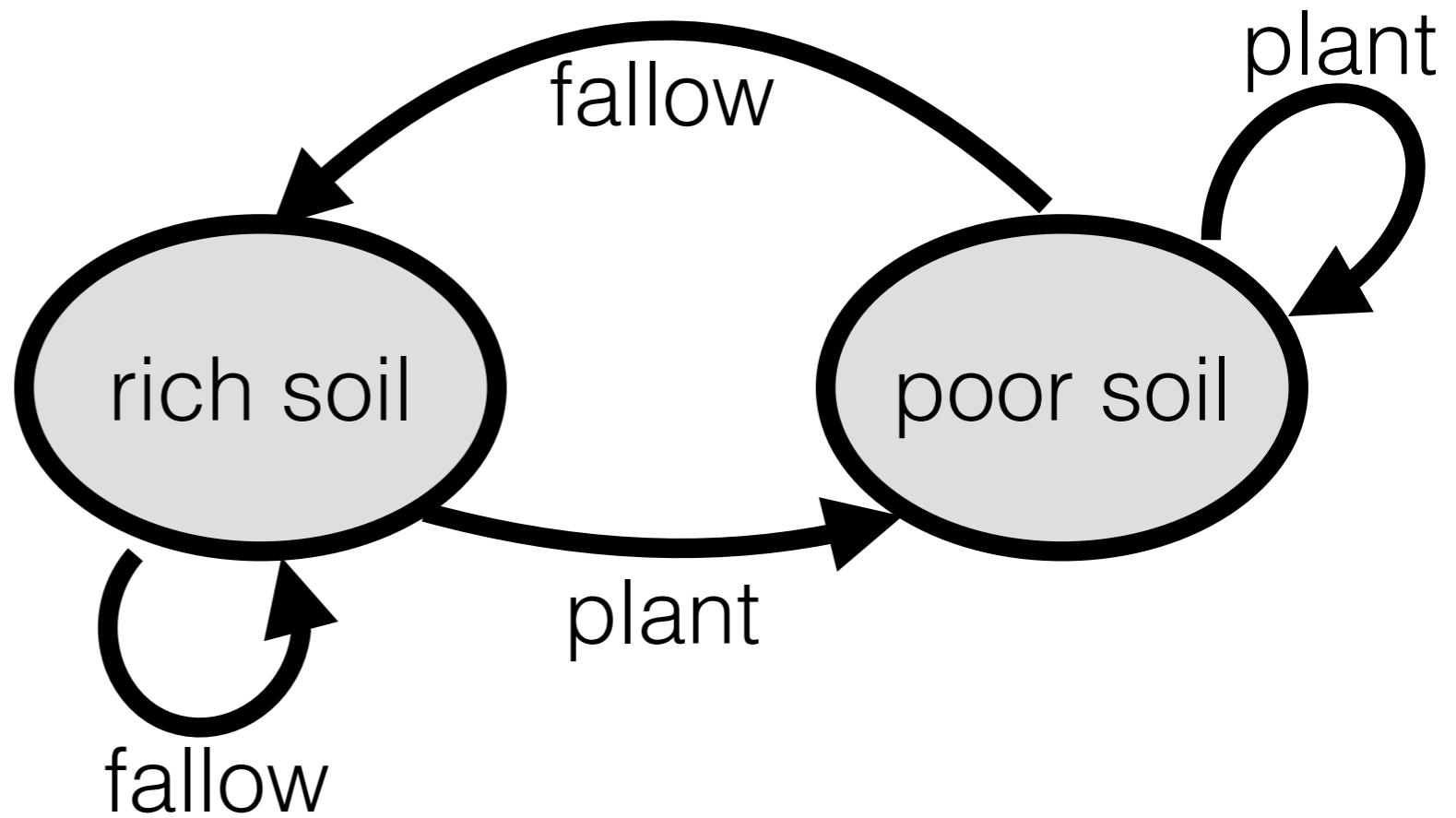
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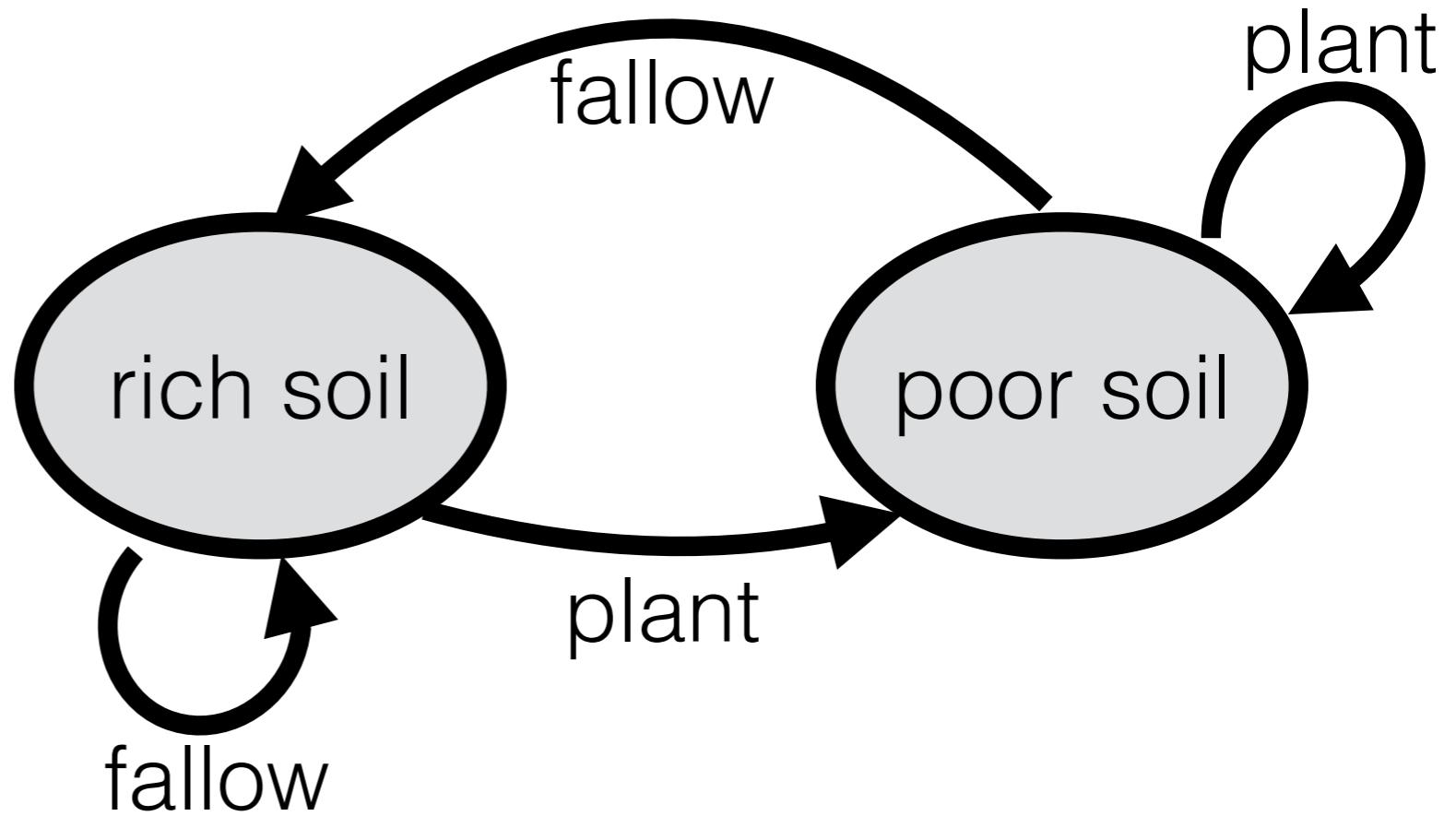
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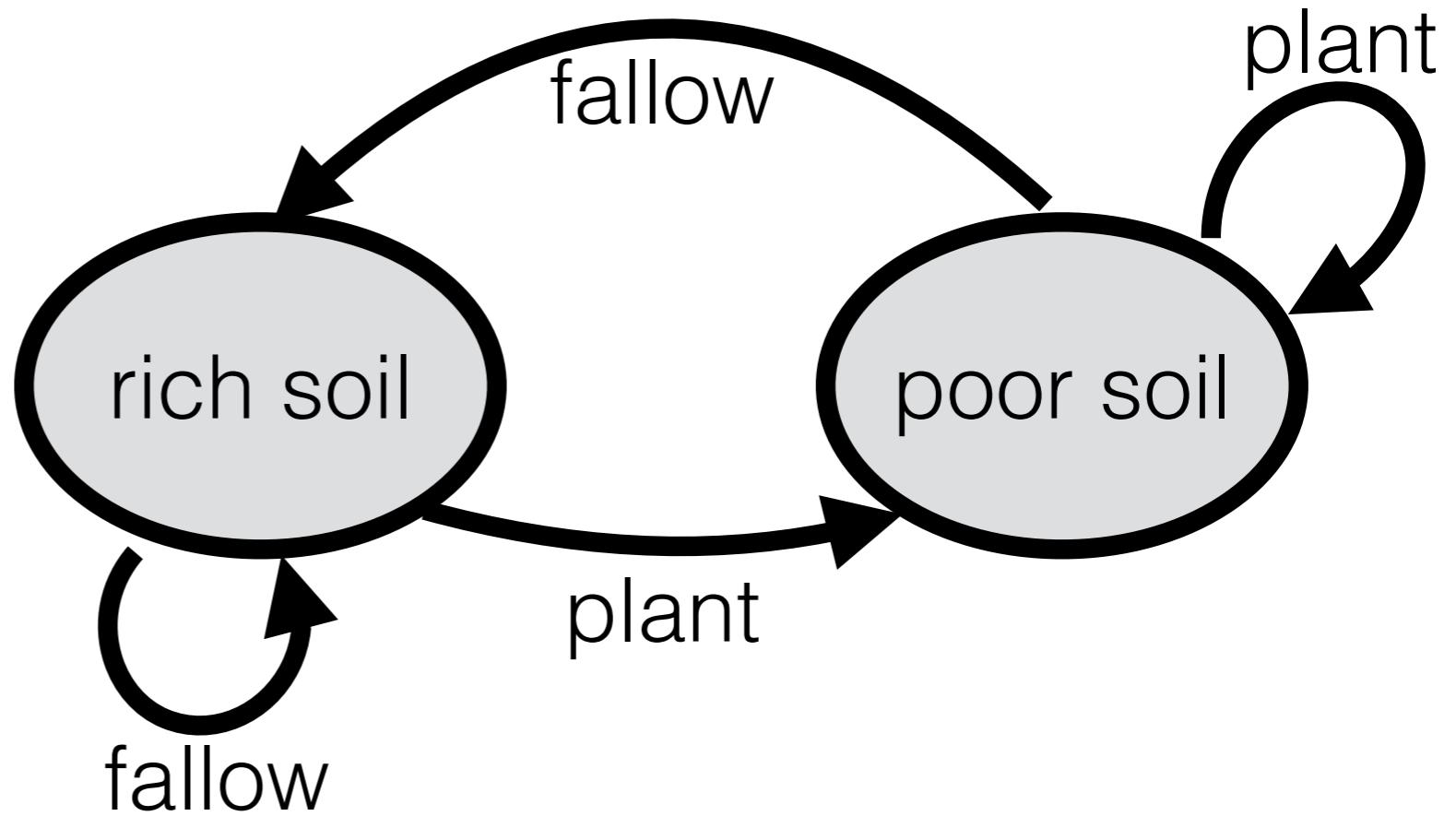
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- $R$   
reward function



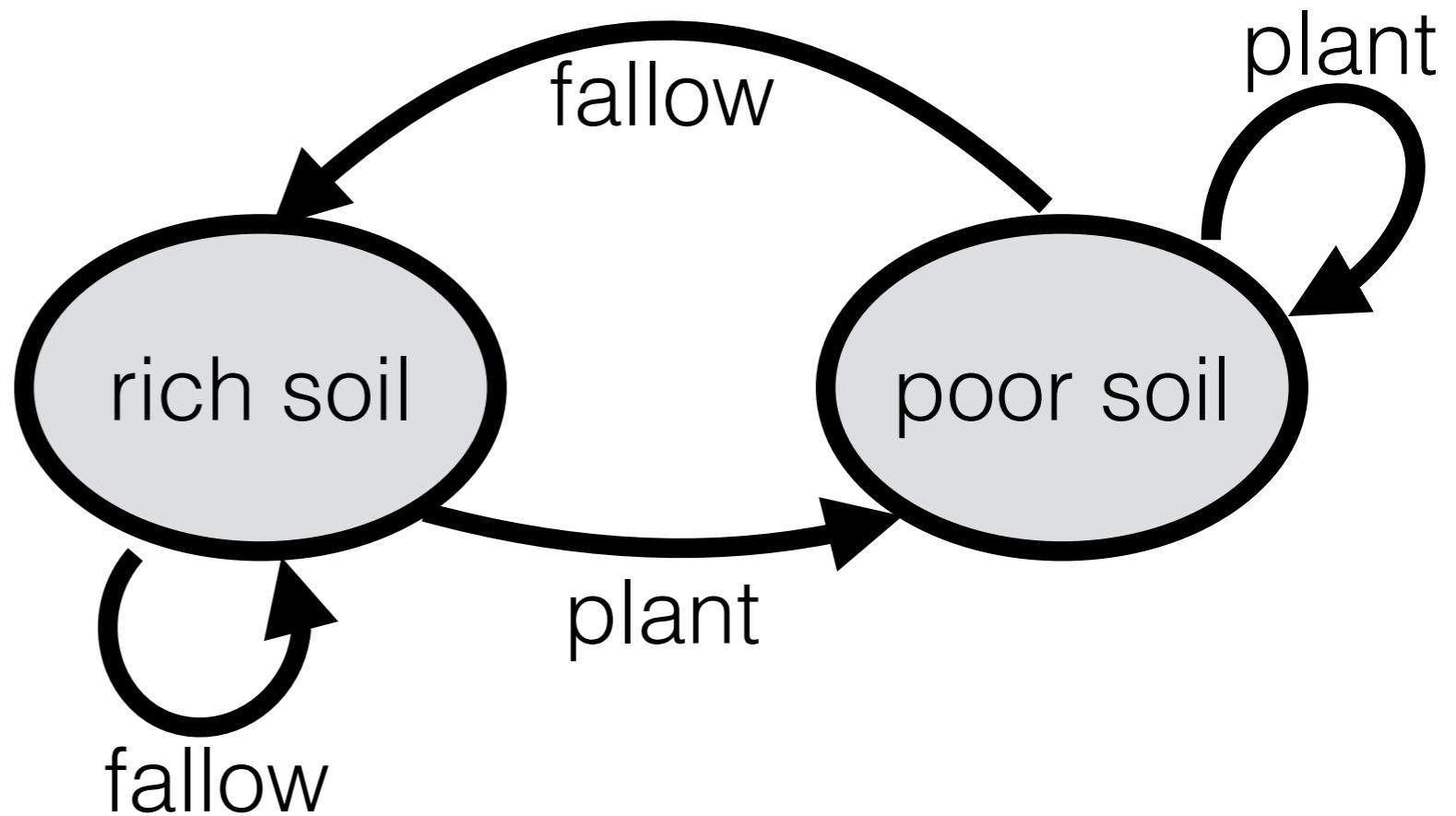
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- $R$   
reward function
  - e.g. # bushels in harvest



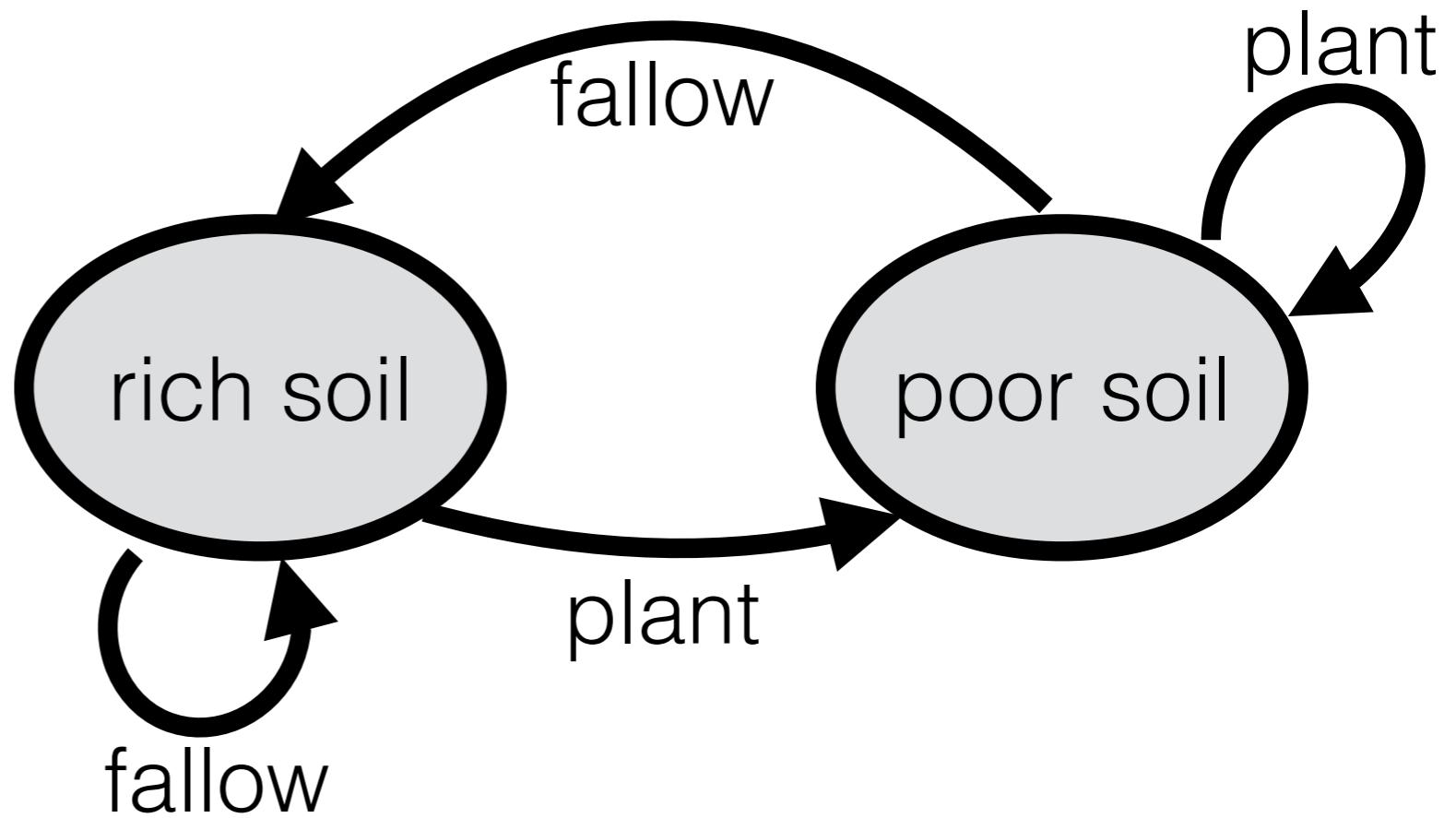
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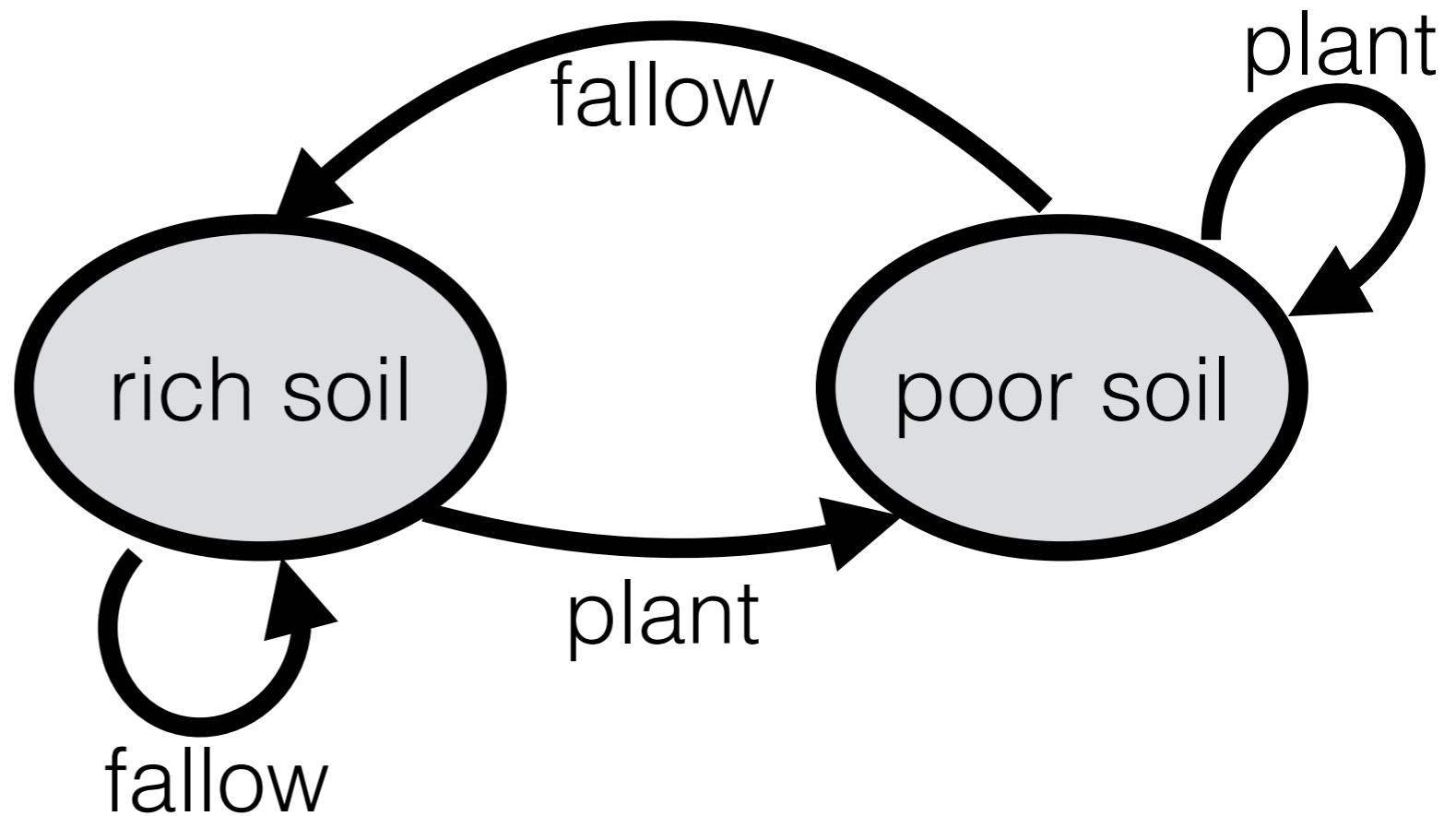
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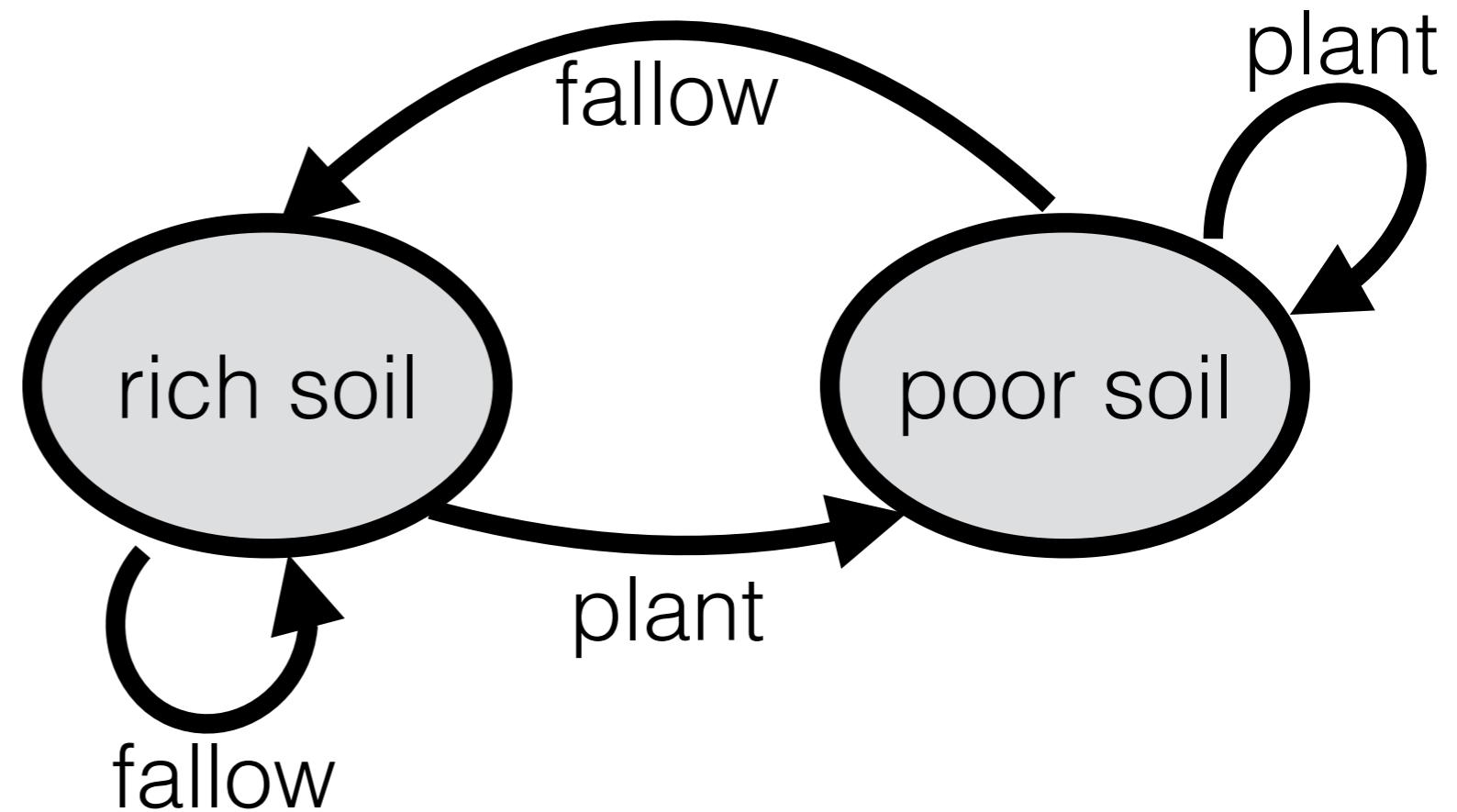
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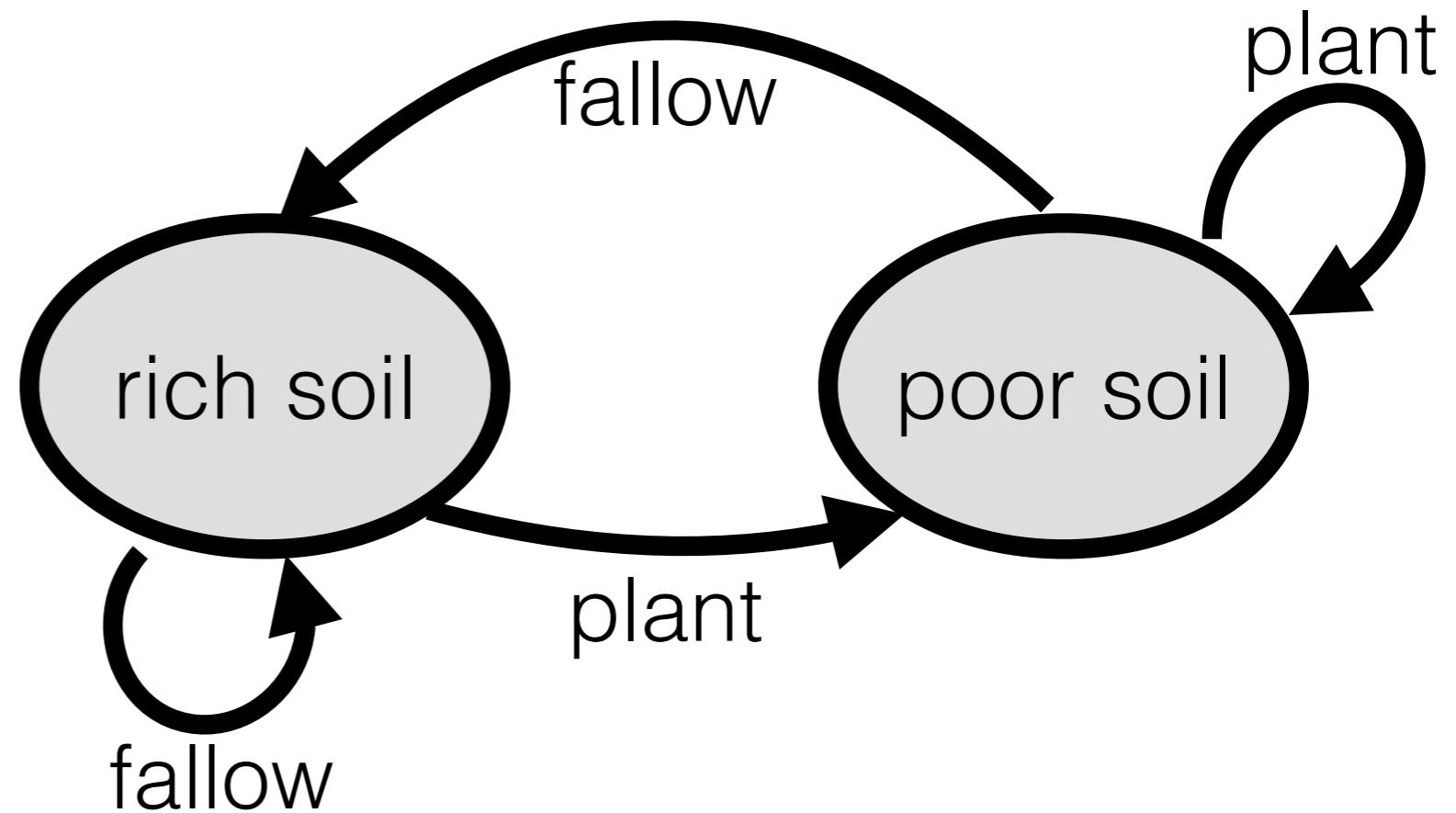
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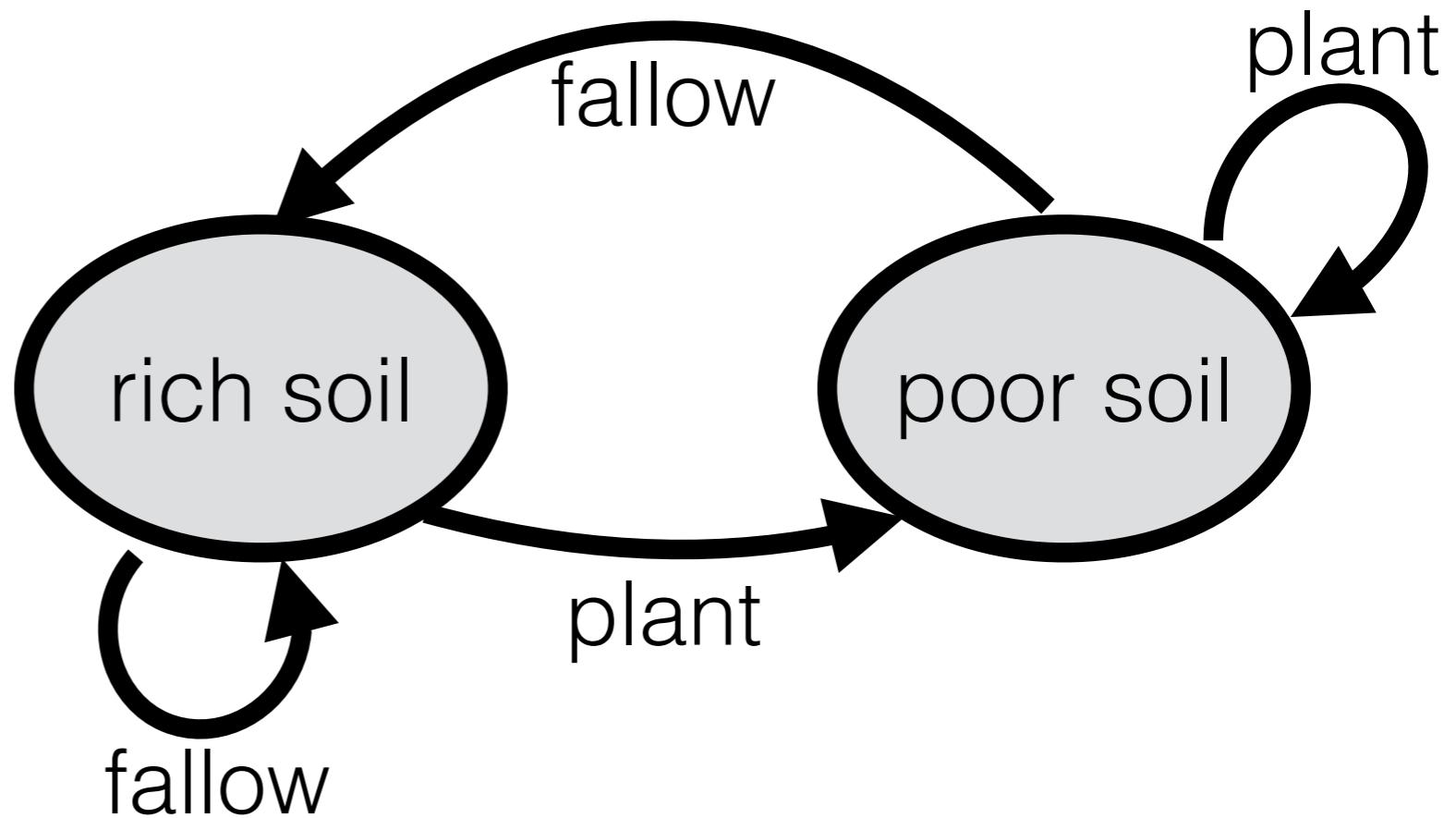


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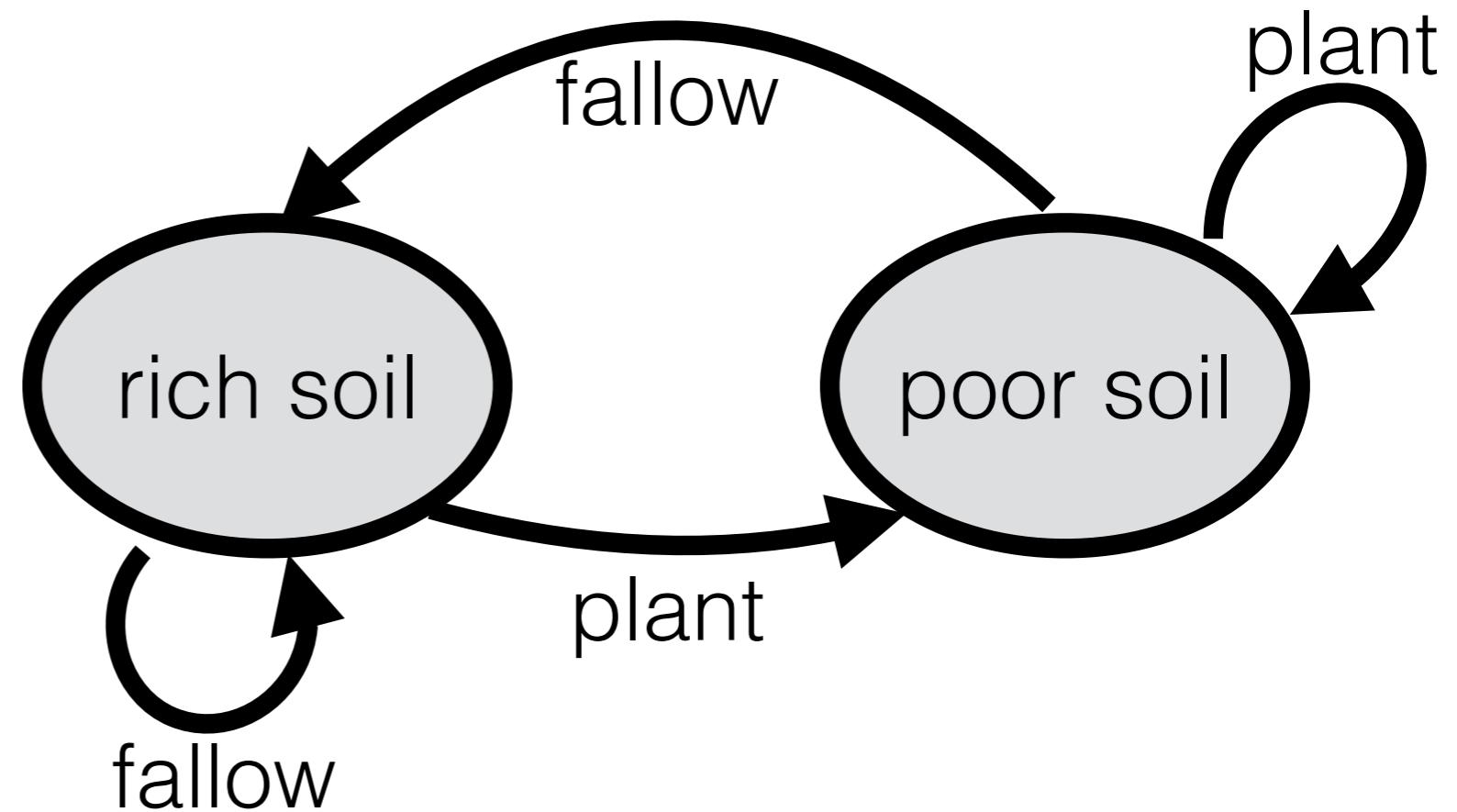
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• e.g.  $R(\text{rich}, \text{plant}) = 100$  bushels;  $R(\text{poor}, \text{plant}) = 10$  bushels

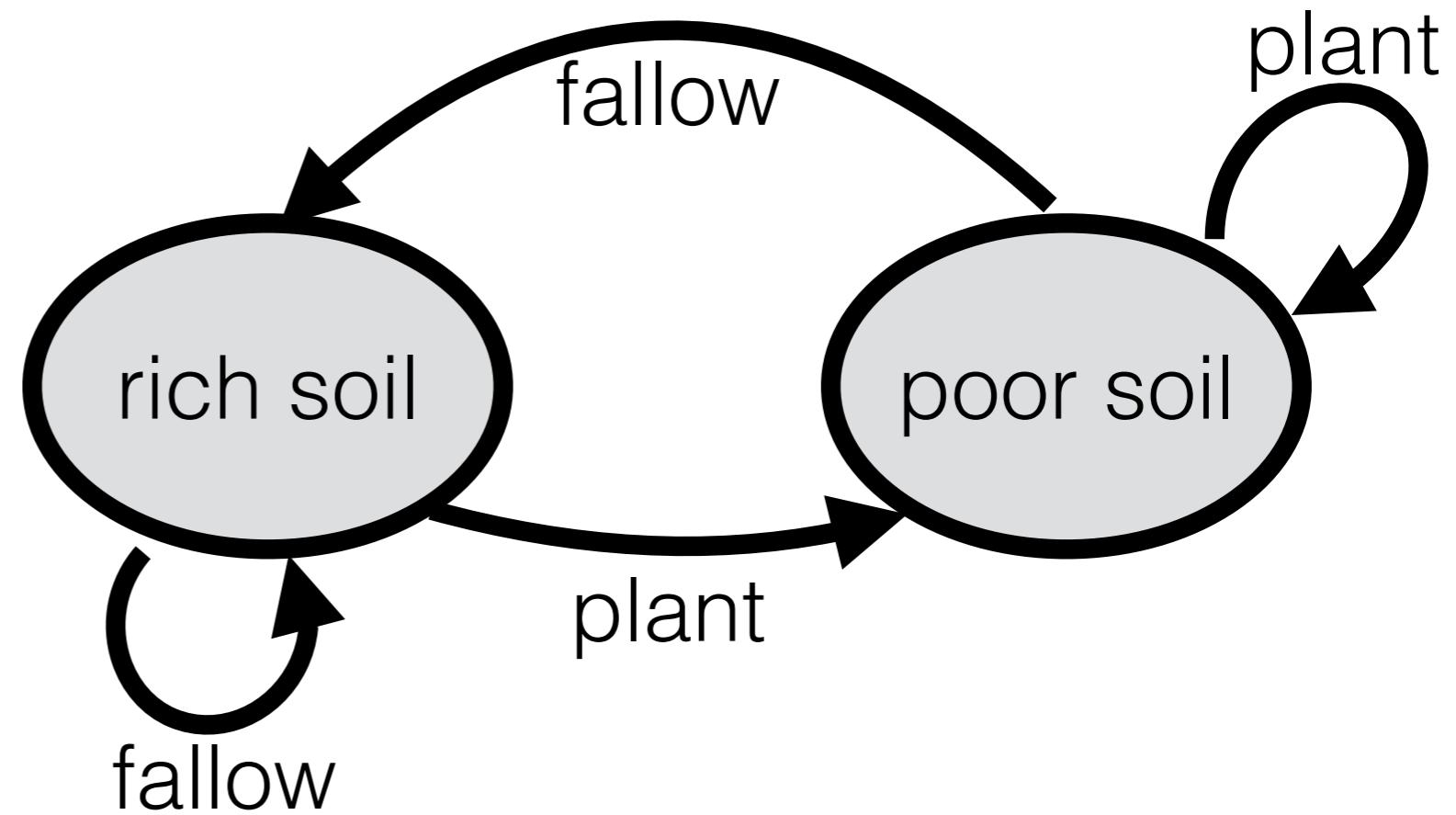


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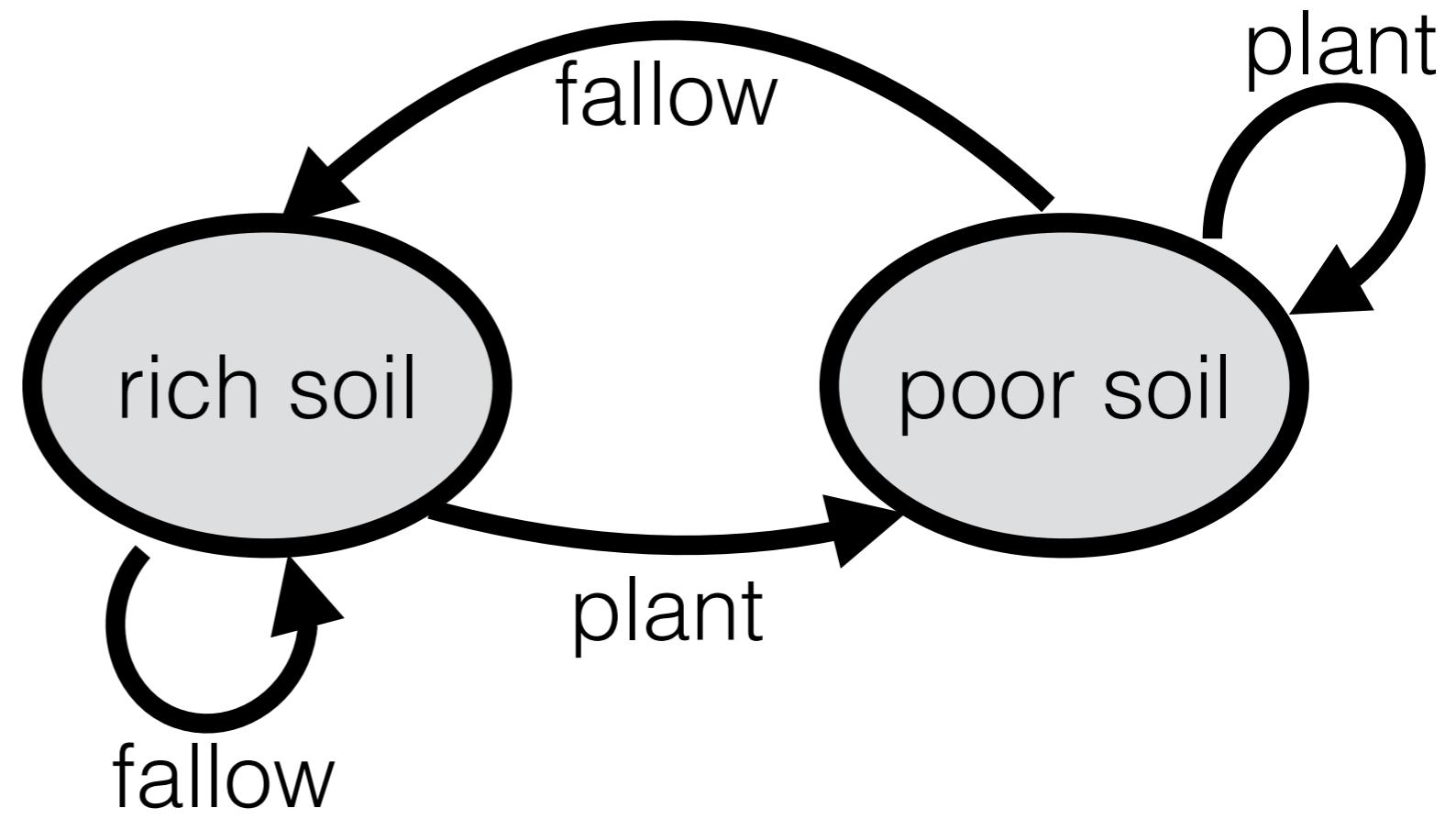
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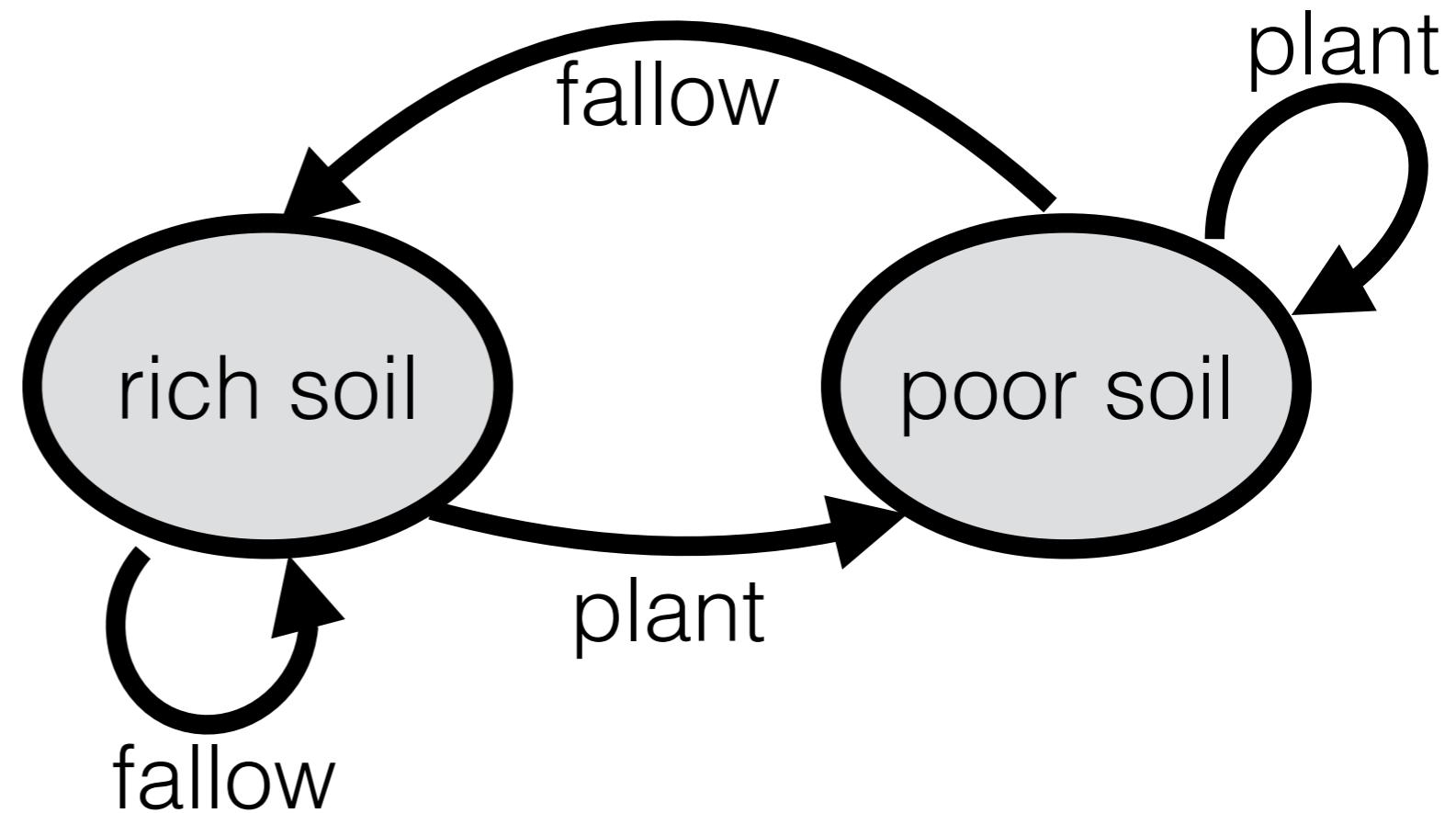
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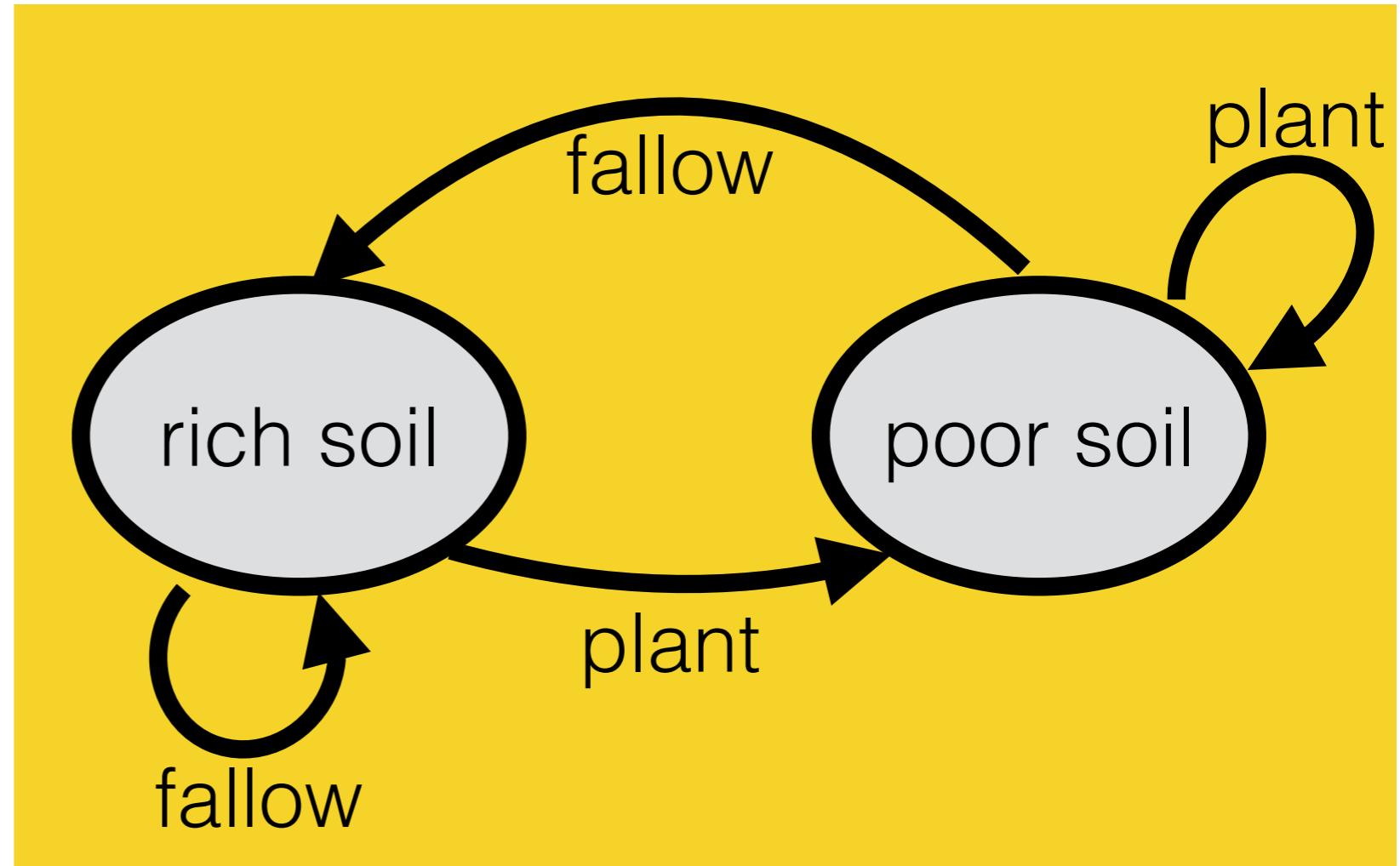
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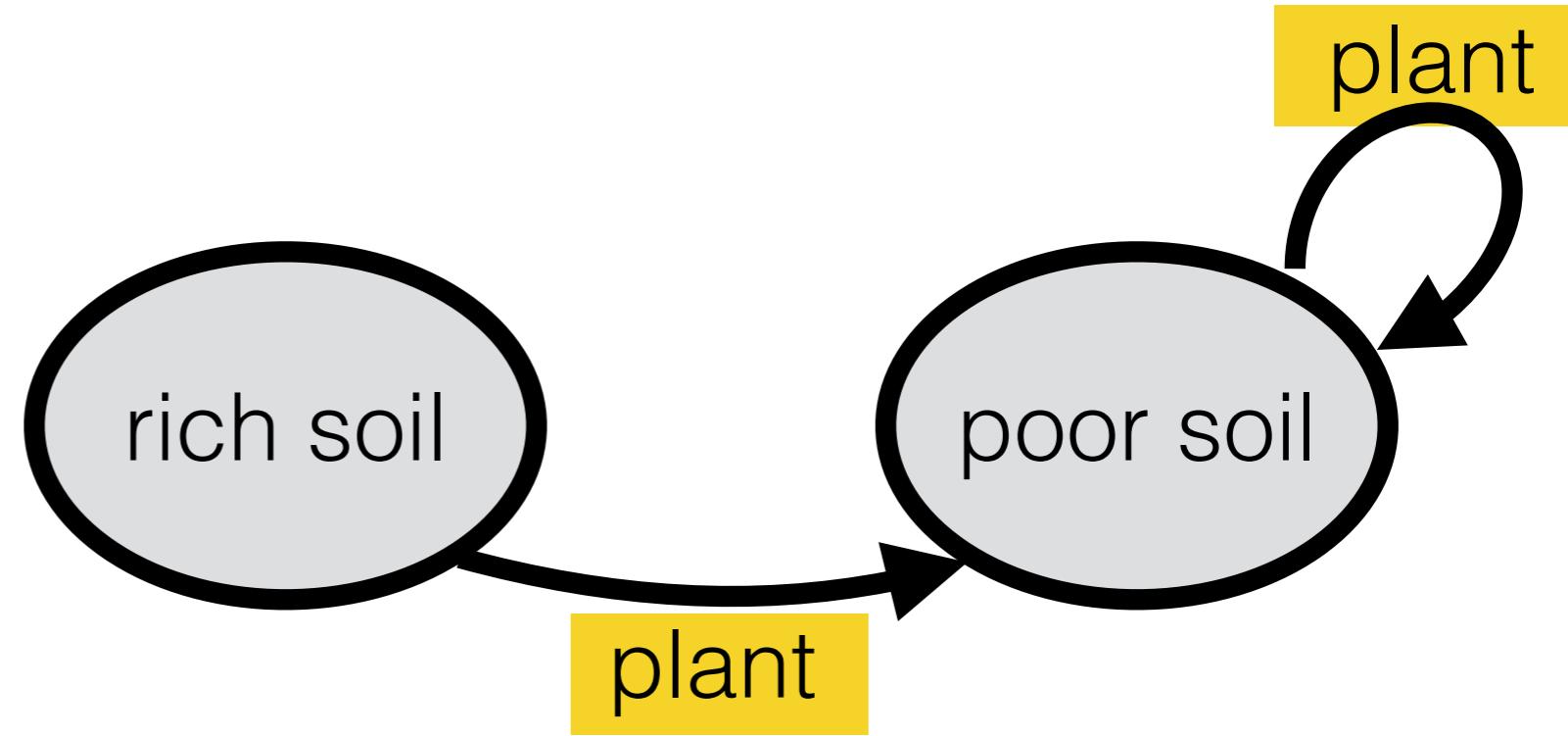
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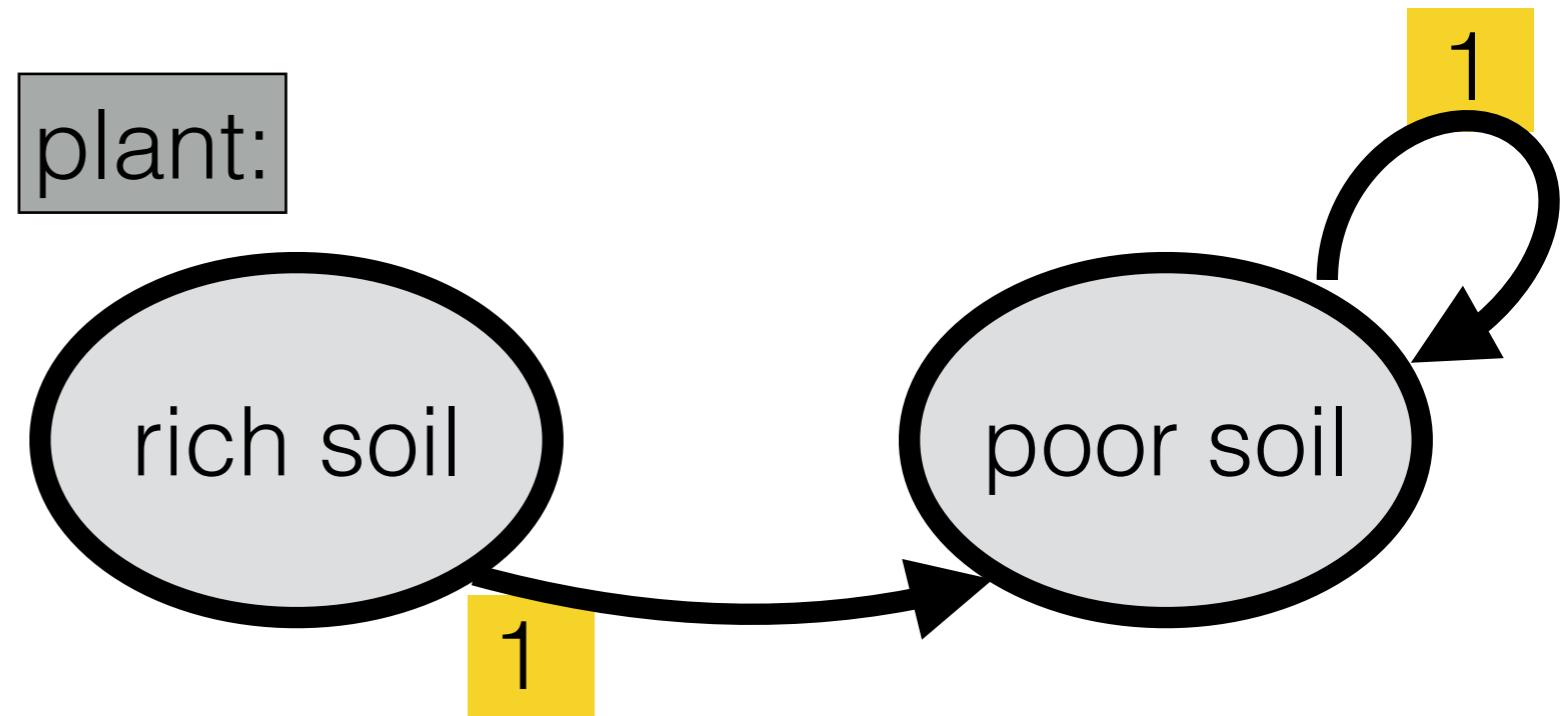
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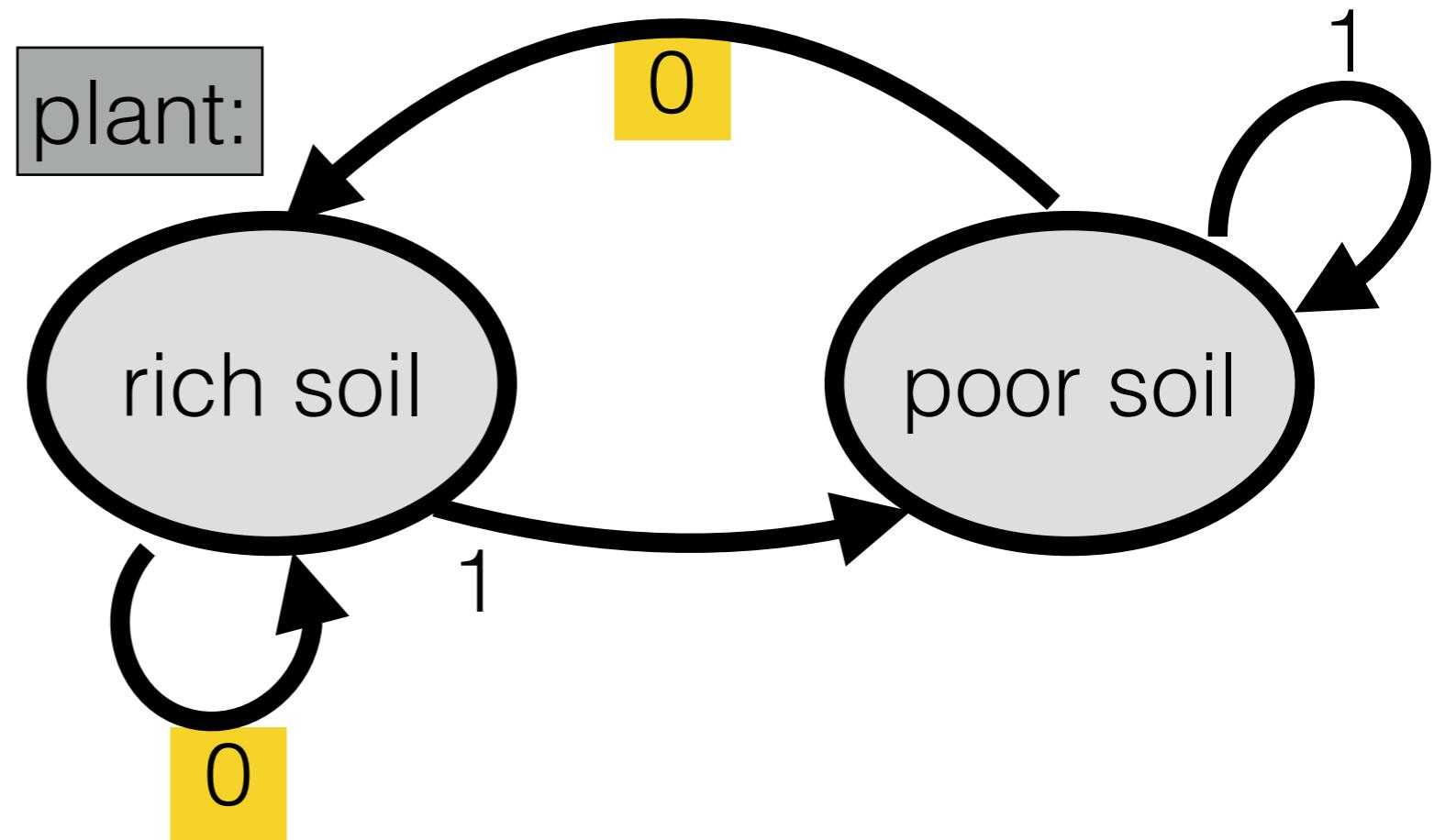
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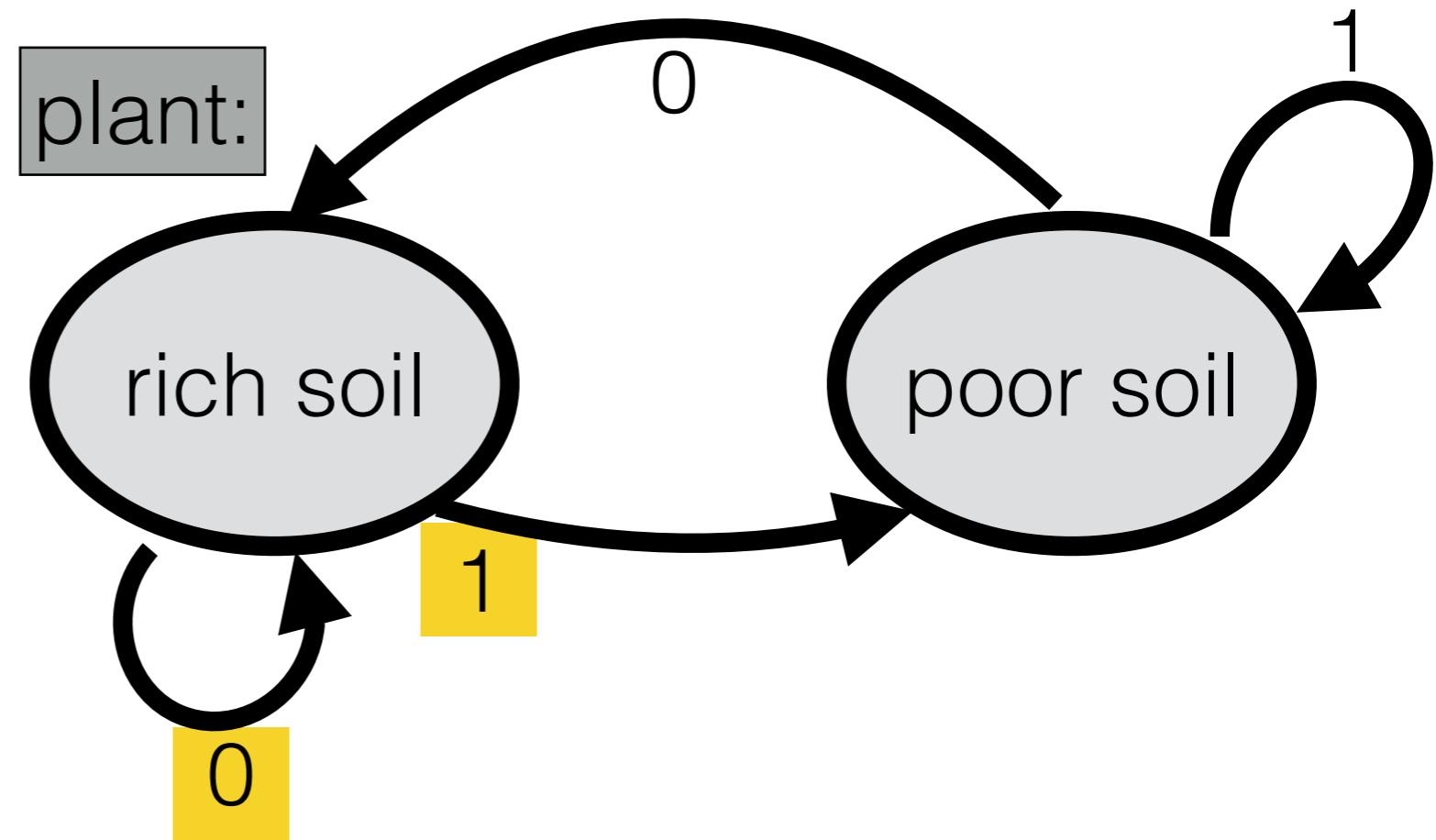
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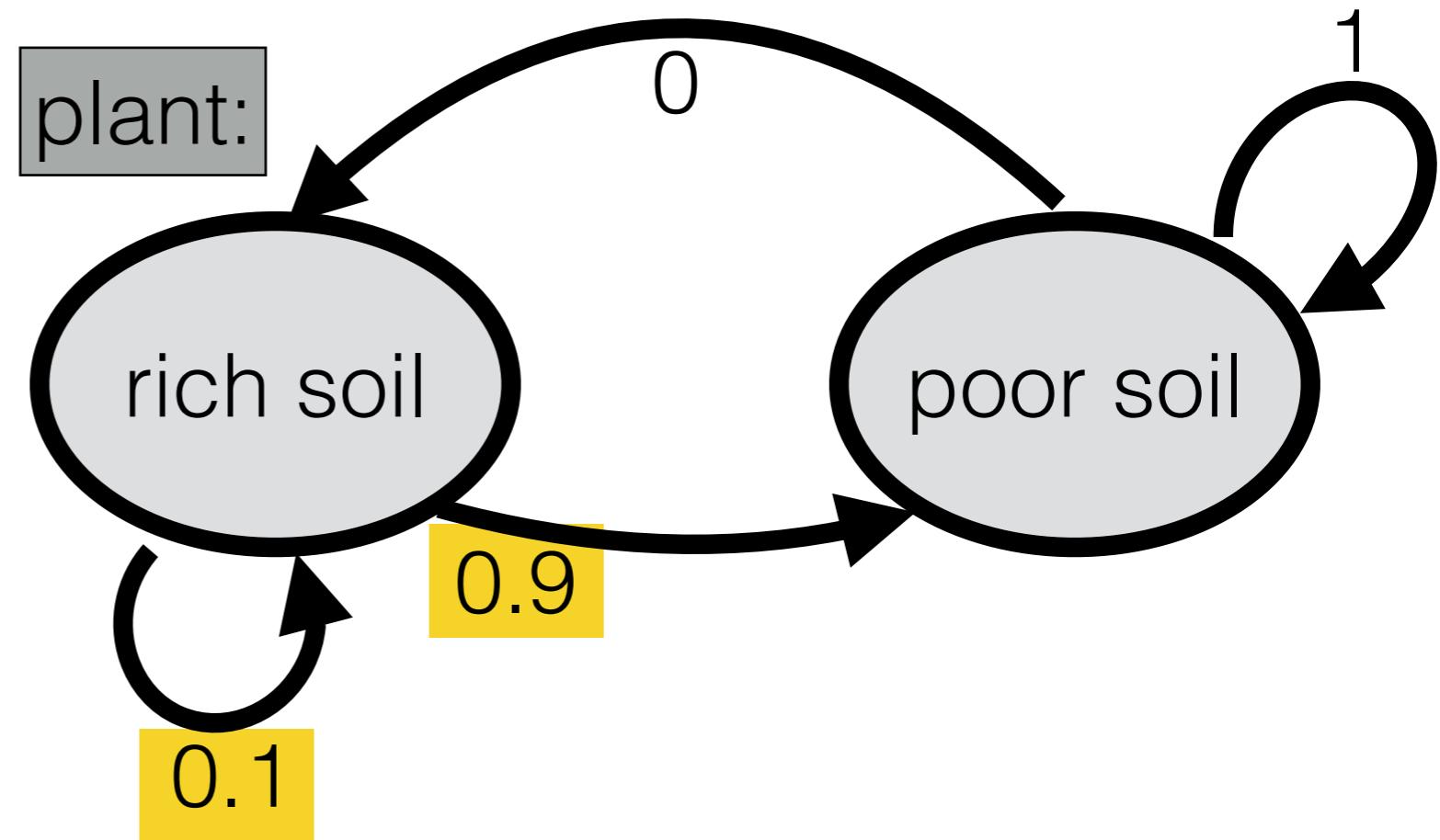
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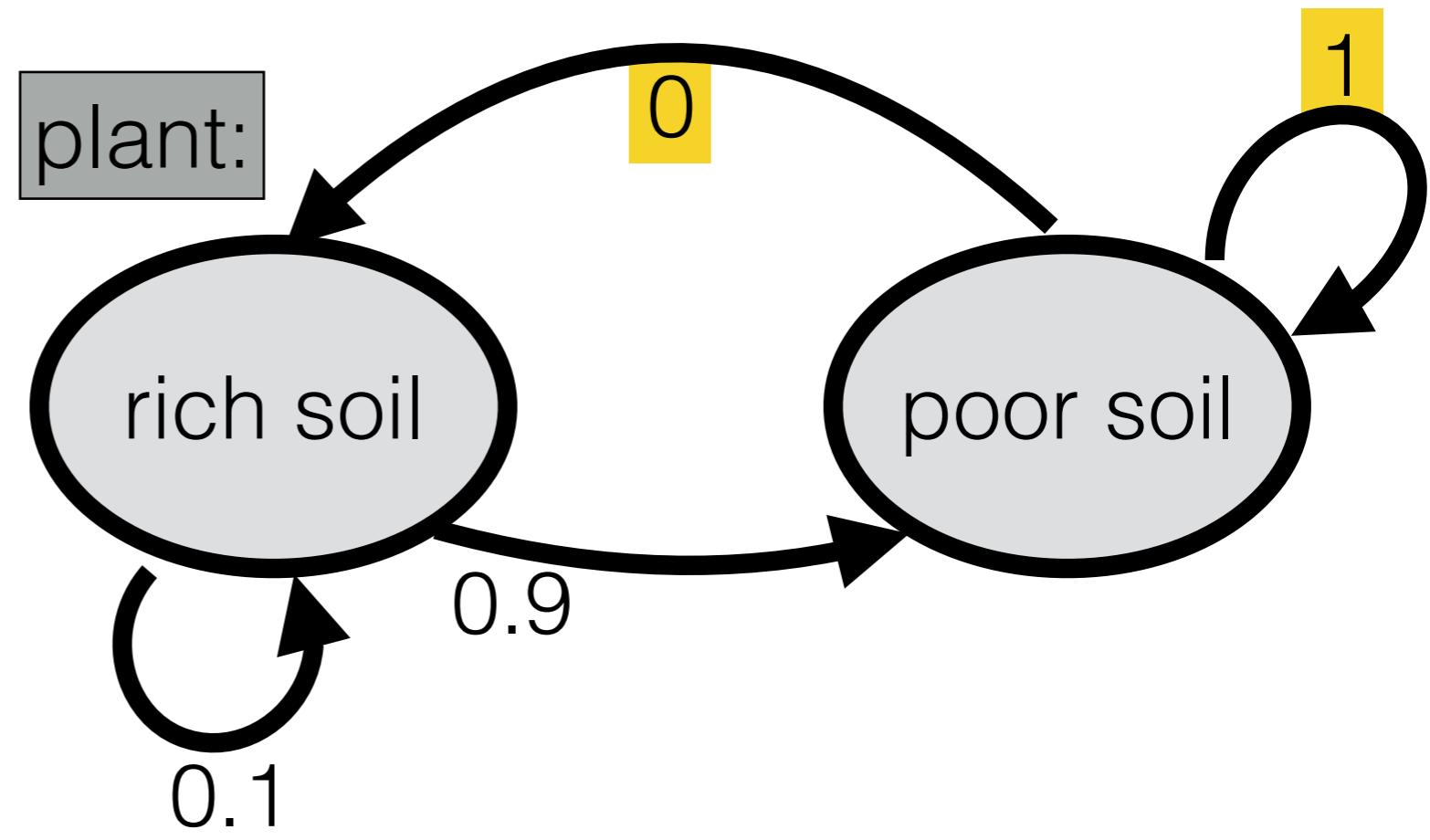
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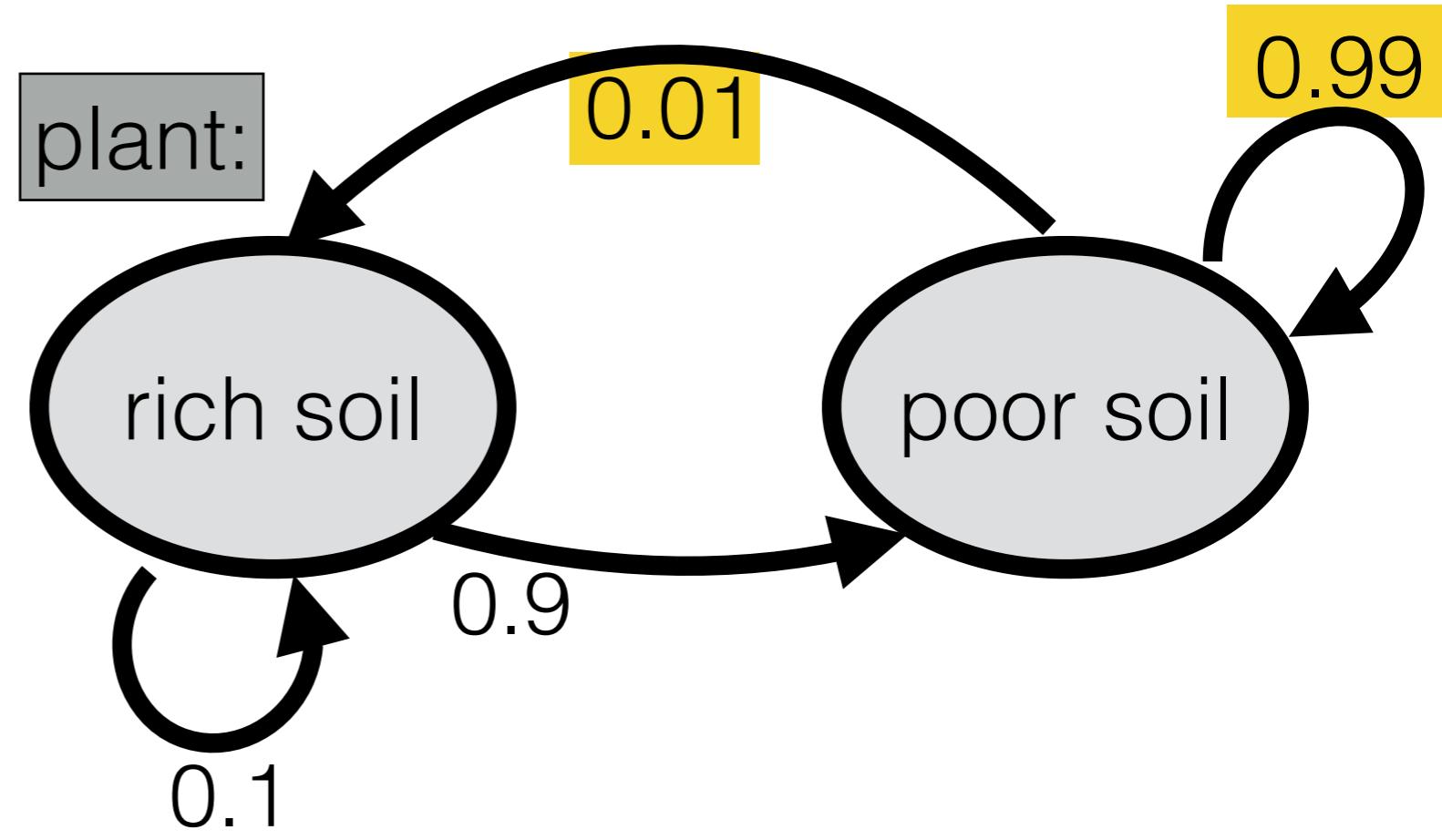
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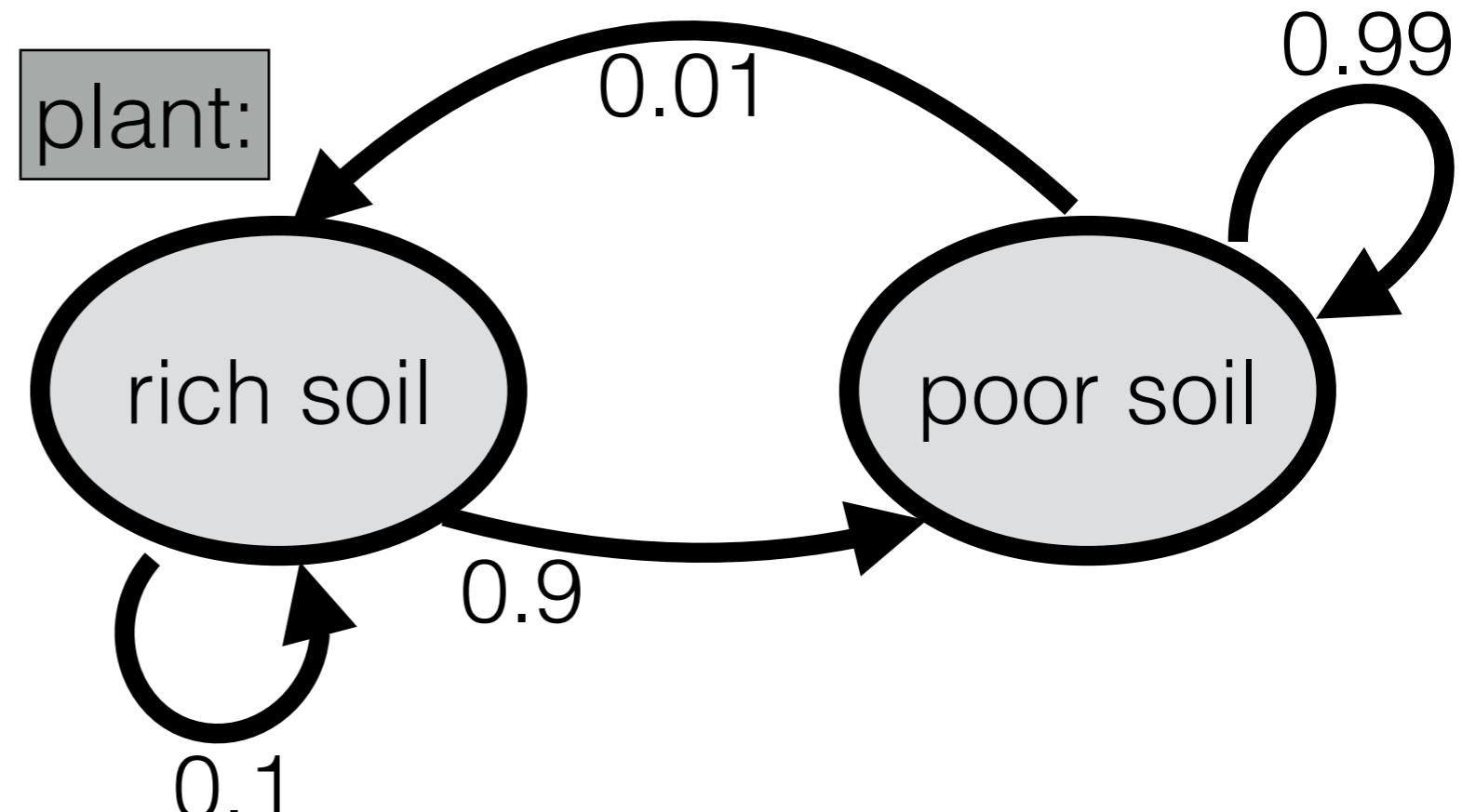
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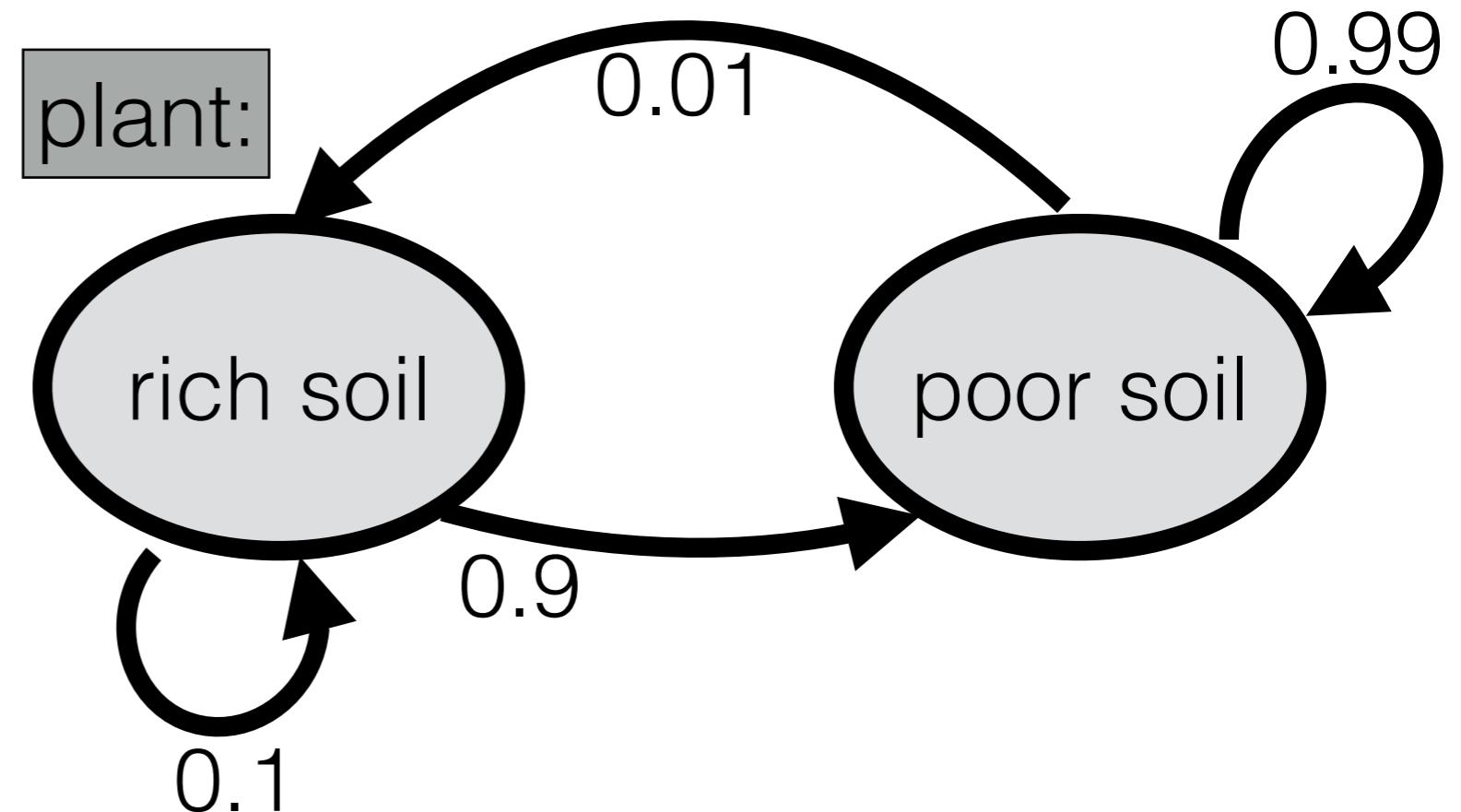
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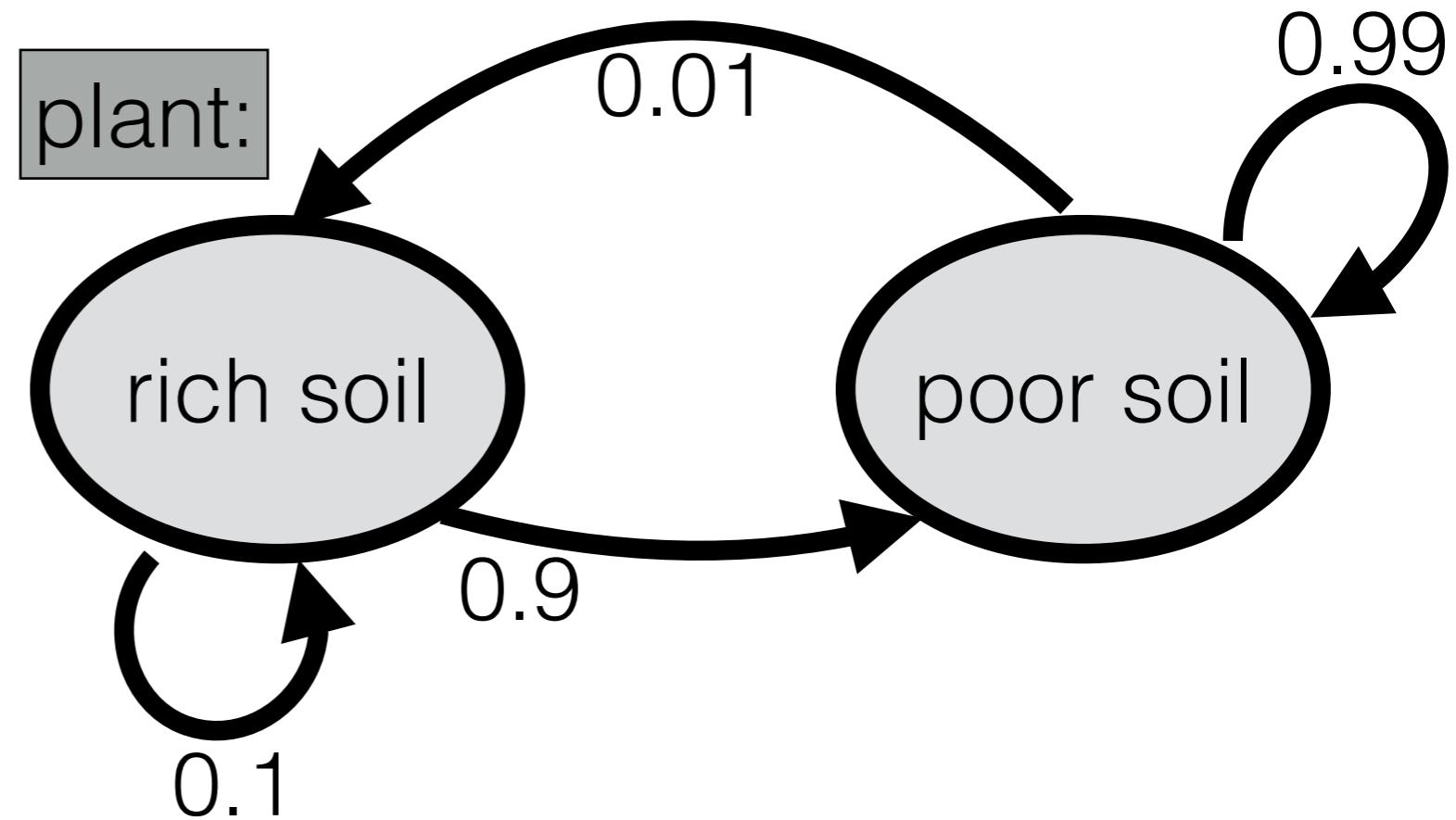


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- Transition matrix for "plant" action:

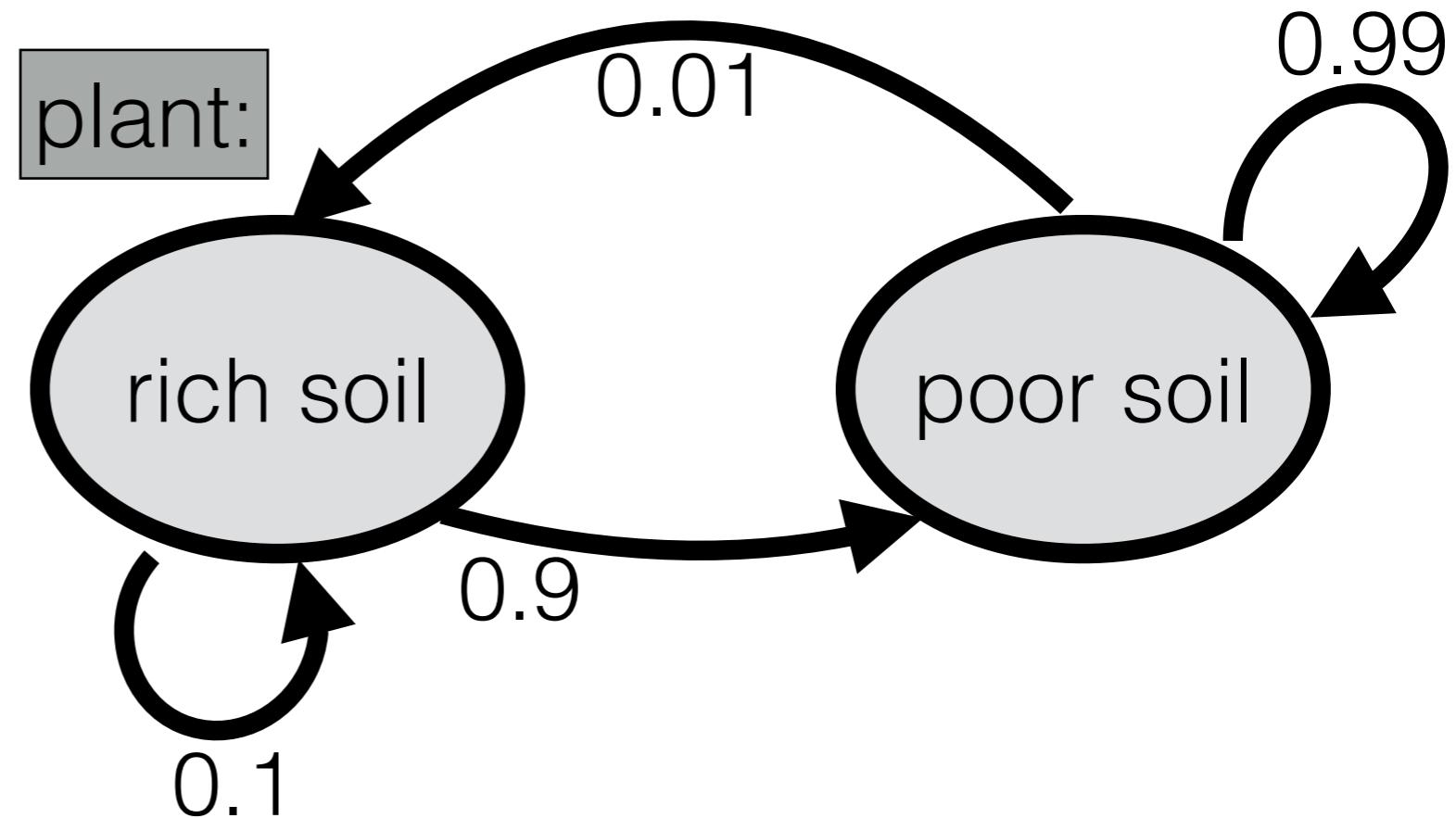
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- Transition matrix for “plant” action:

$$\begin{matrix} & \text{rich} & \text{poor} \\ \text{rich} & [ & ] \\ \text{poor} & & \end{matrix}$$

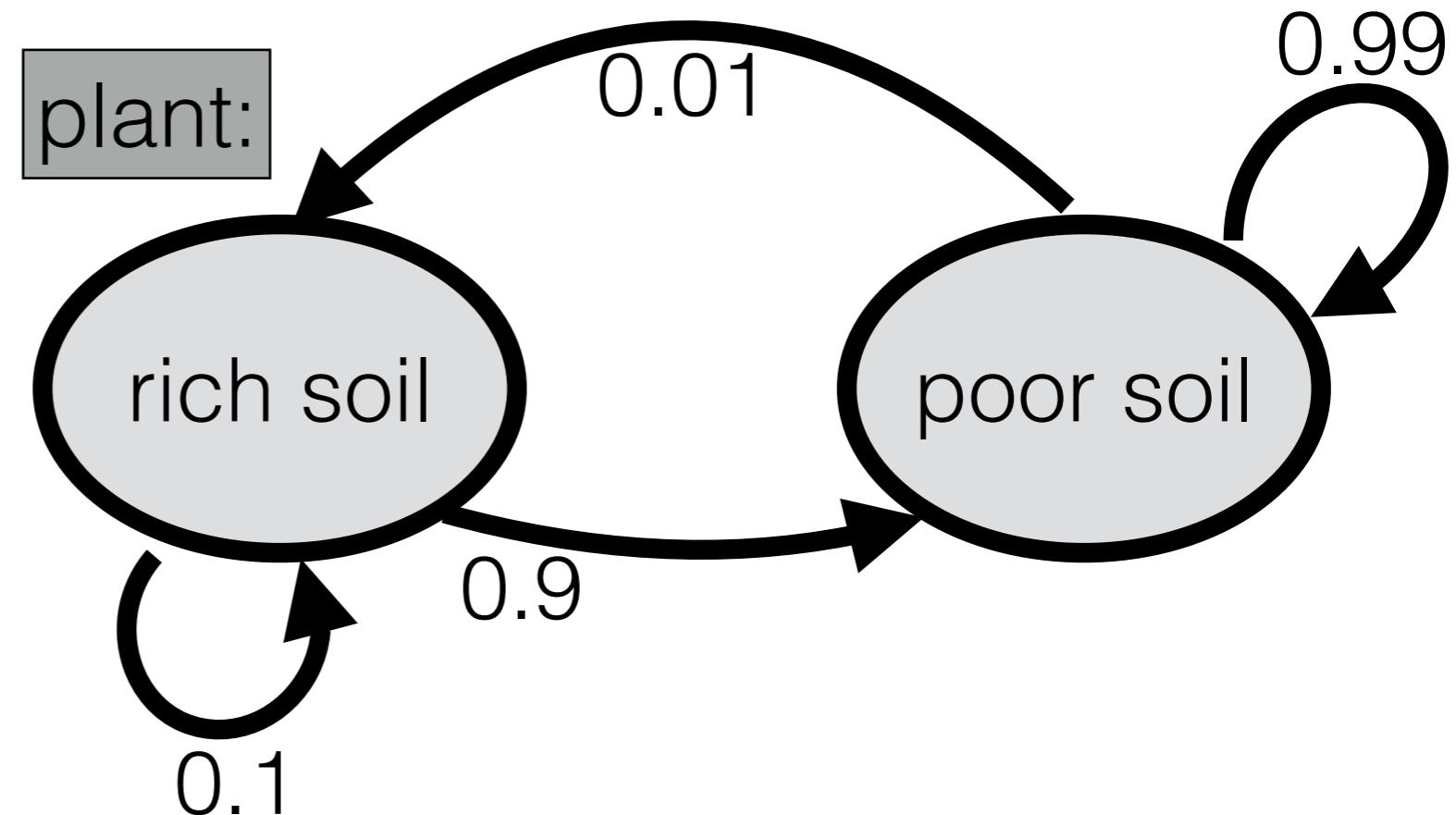
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- Transition matrix for “plant” action:

Start state rich poor  
rich [  
poor ]

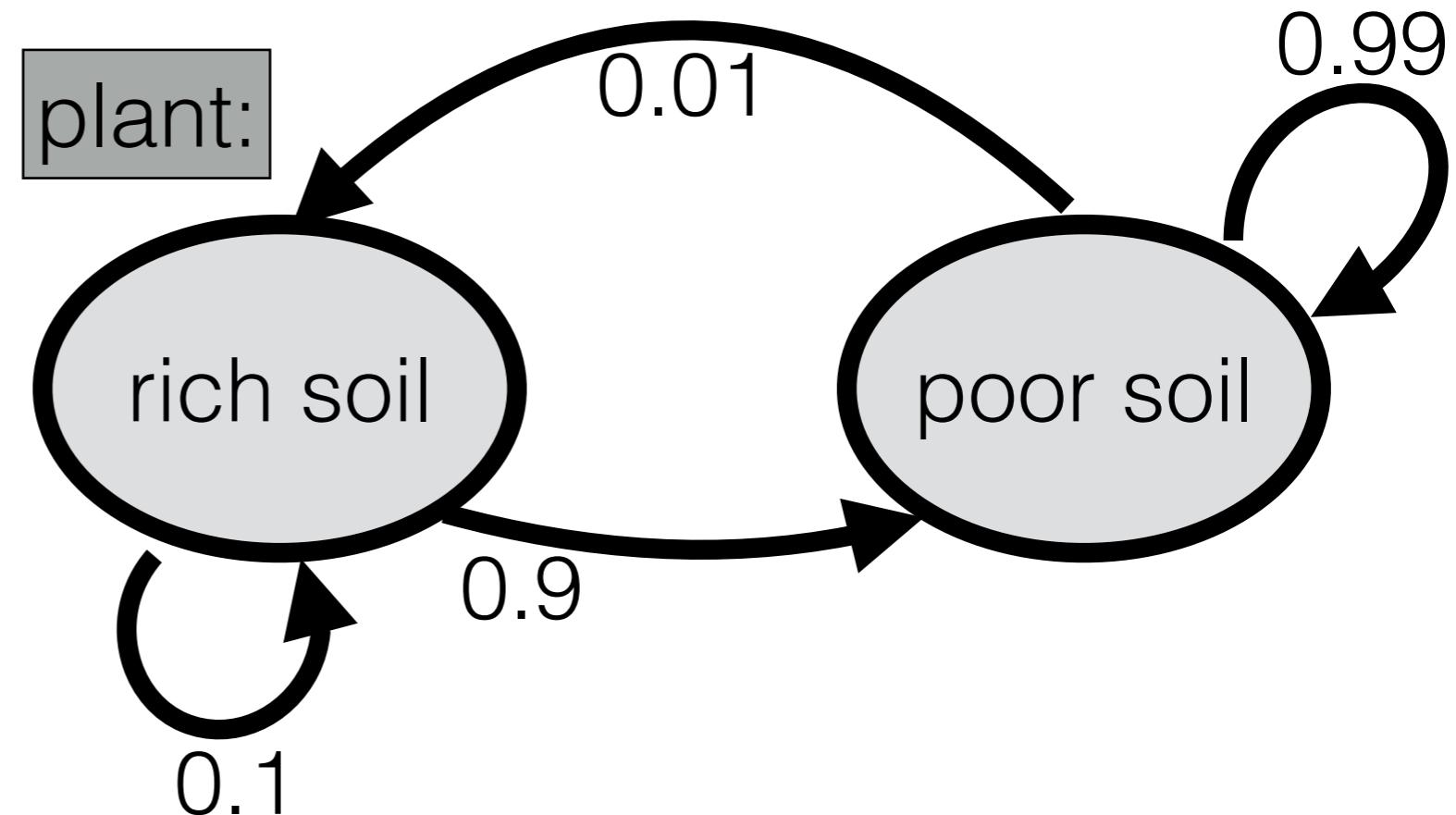
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• Transition matrix for “plant” action:

	<i>end state</i>	
<i>start state</i>	rich	poor
rich		
poor		

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- Transition matrix for “plant” action:

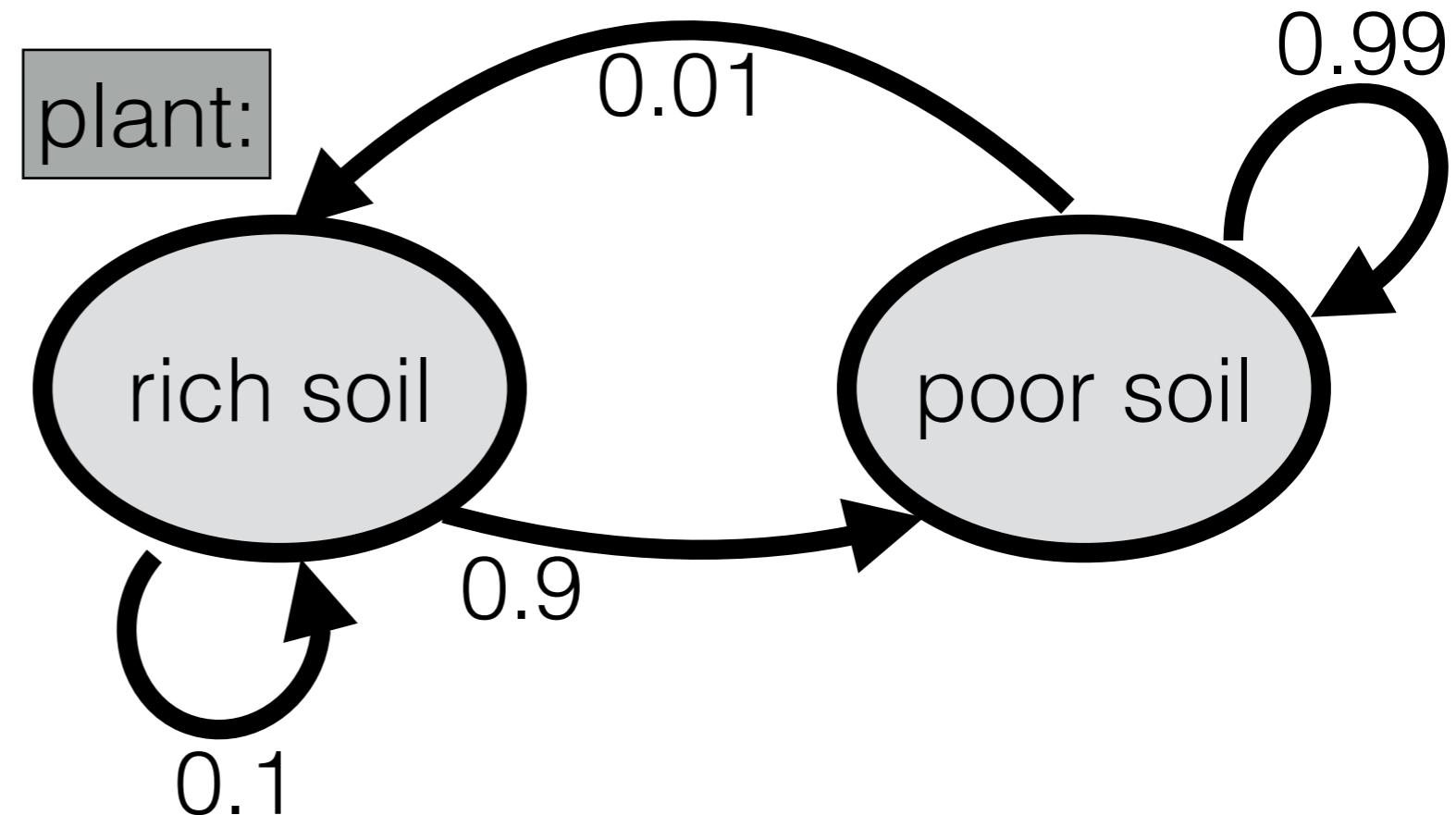
*end state*

rich	poor

*Start state*

rich	poor

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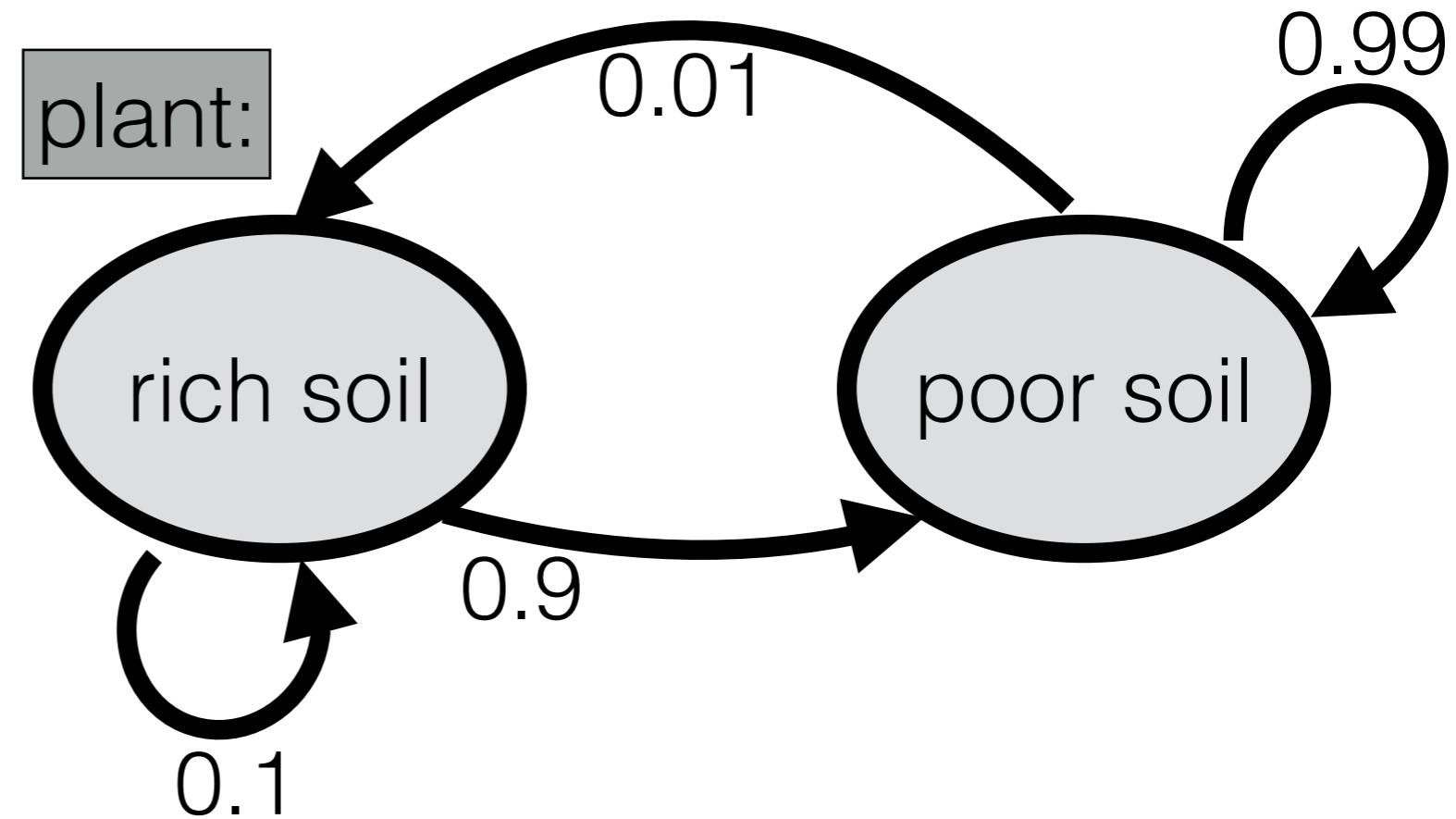


- Transition matrix for “plant” action:

*end state*

Start state	rich	poor
rich	0.9	0.1
poor	0.01	0.99

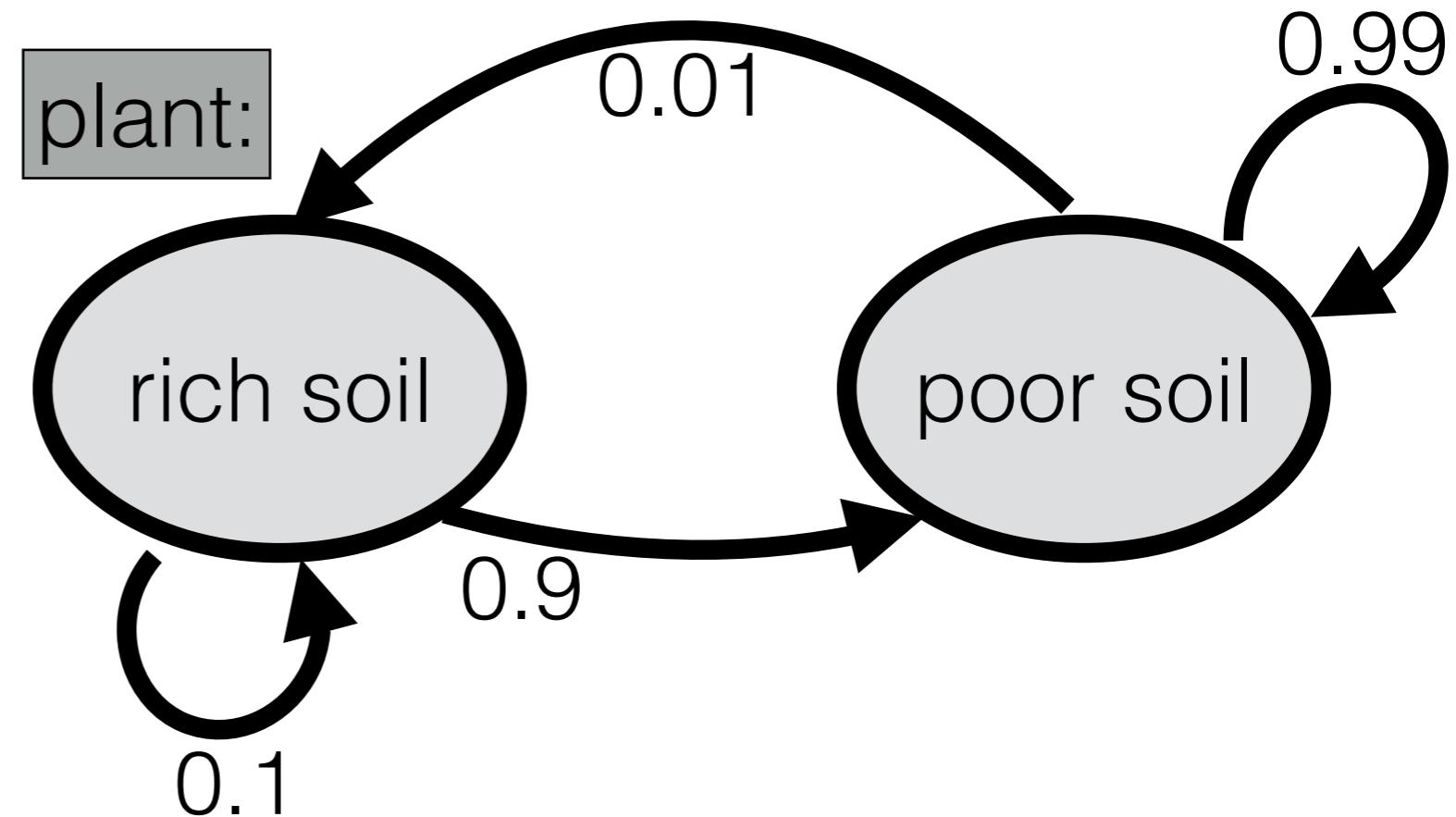
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- Transition matrix for “plant” action:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & & \text{end state} & \\
 & & & \text{rich} & \text{poor} \\
 \text{start state} & \xrightarrow{\text{rich}} & \left[ \begin{array}{cc} 0.1 & 0.9 \end{array} \right] & & \\
 \text{rich} & & & & \\
 \text{poor} & & & &
 \end{array}$$

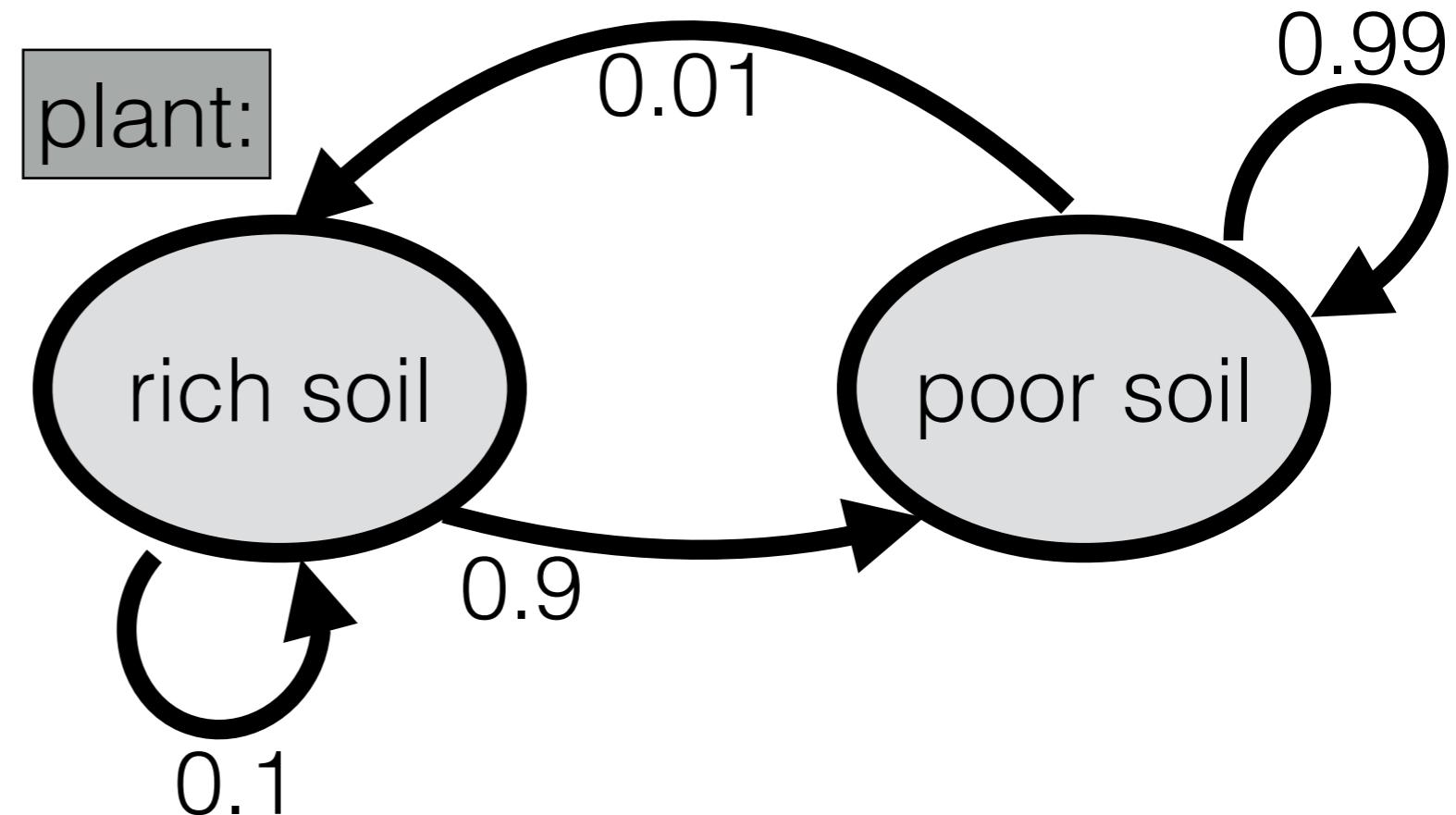
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- Transition matrix for “plant” action:

		end state	
		rich	poor
Start state	rich	0.1	0.9
	poor	0.01	0.99

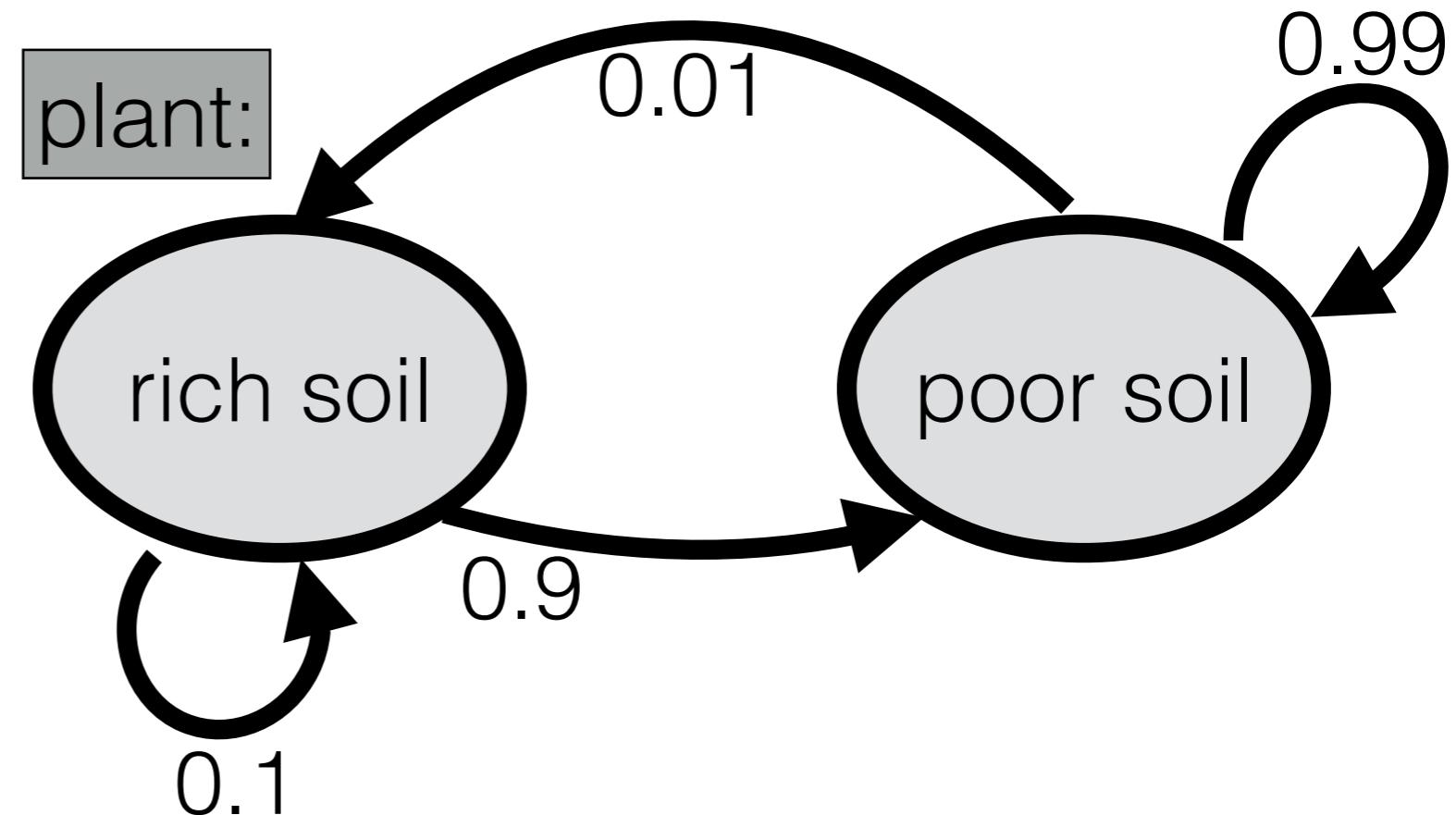
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- Transition matrix for "plant" action:

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		rich	poor
Start state	rich	0.1	0.9
	poor	0.01	0.99

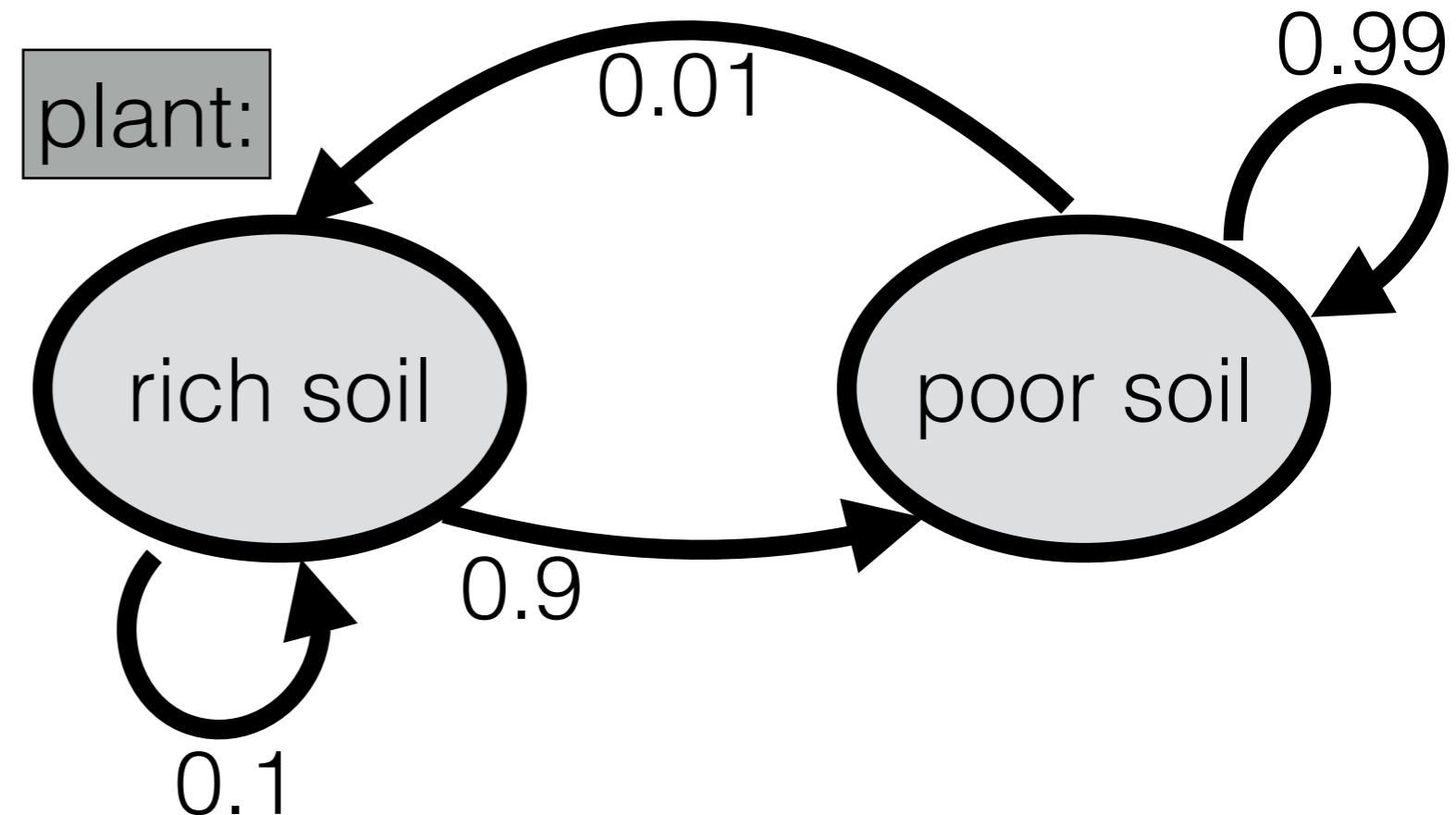
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- Transition matrix for “plant” action:

		<i>end state</i>	
		rich	poor
<i>Start State</i>	rich	0.1	0.9
	poor	0.01	0.99

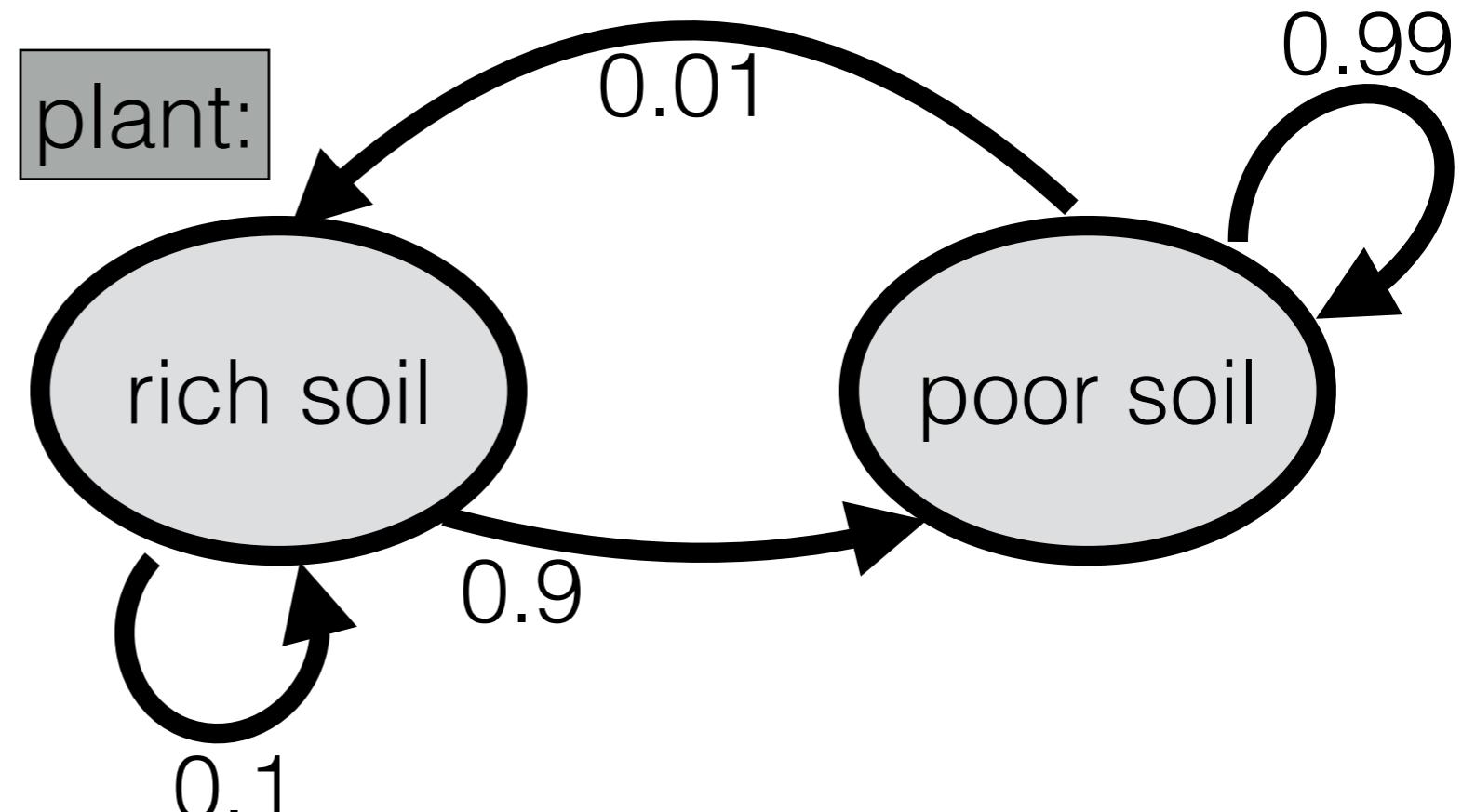
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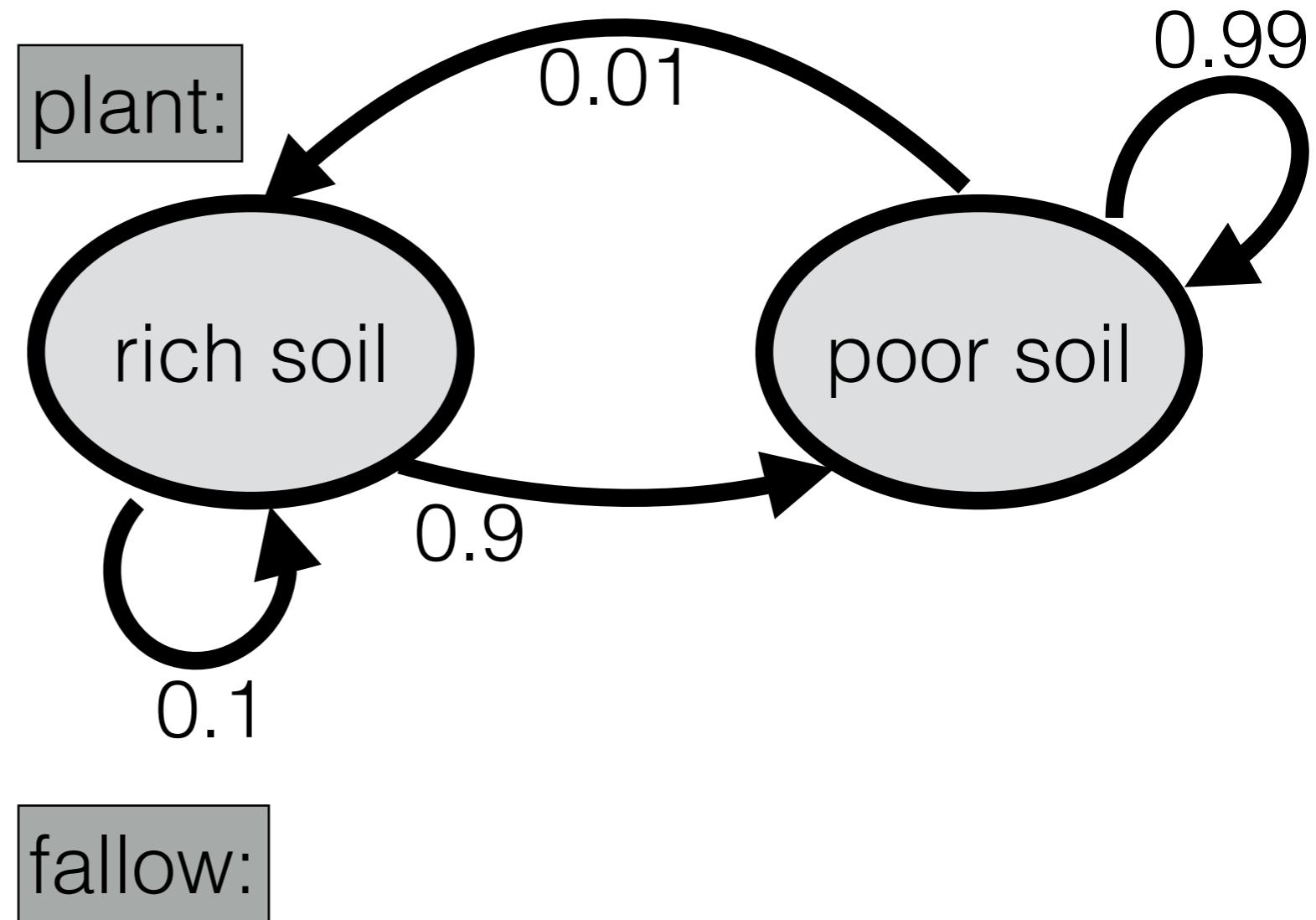
- Transition matrix for “plant” action:

		end state	
		rich	poor
Start state	rich	0.1	0.9
	poor	0.01	0.99

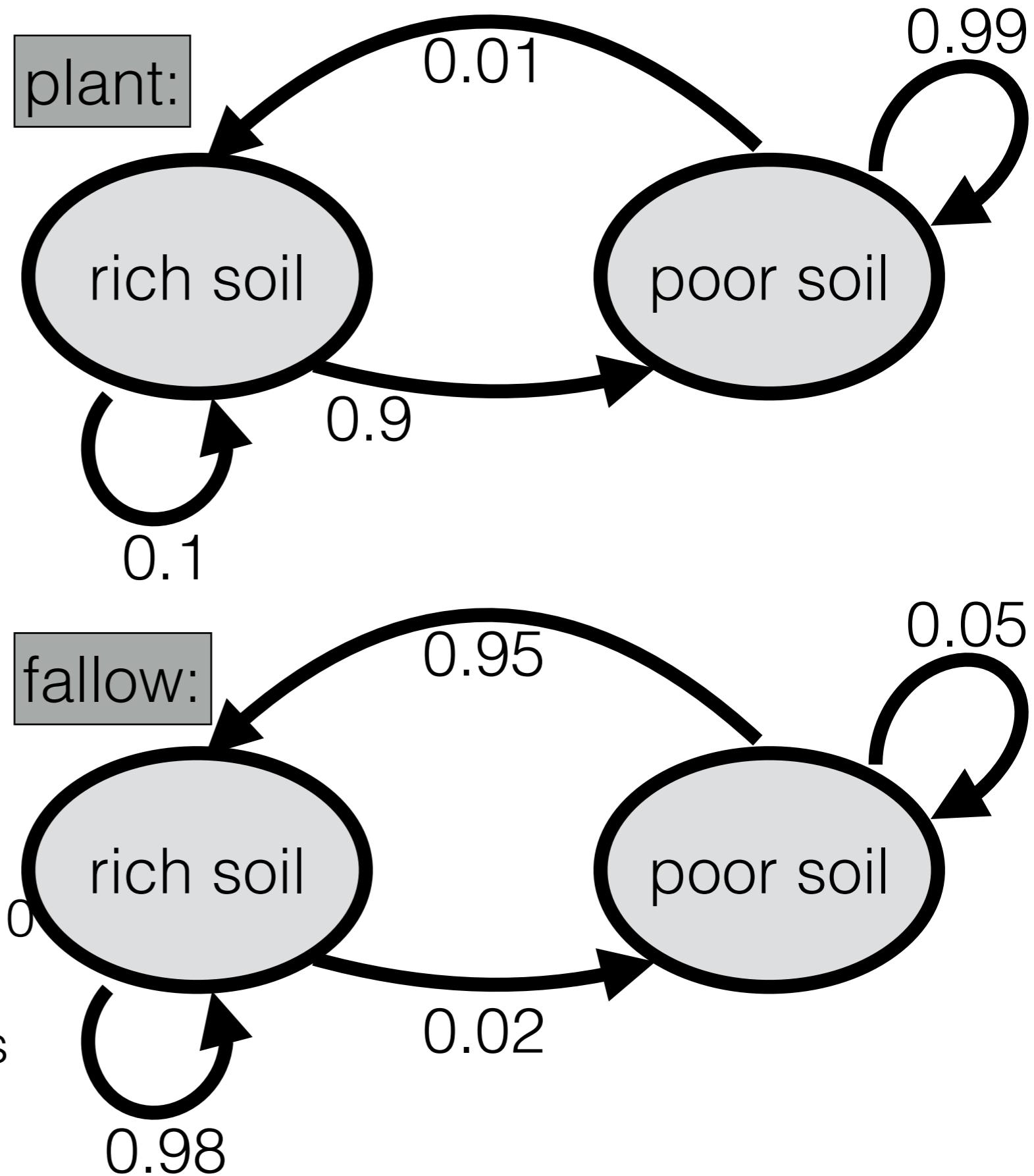
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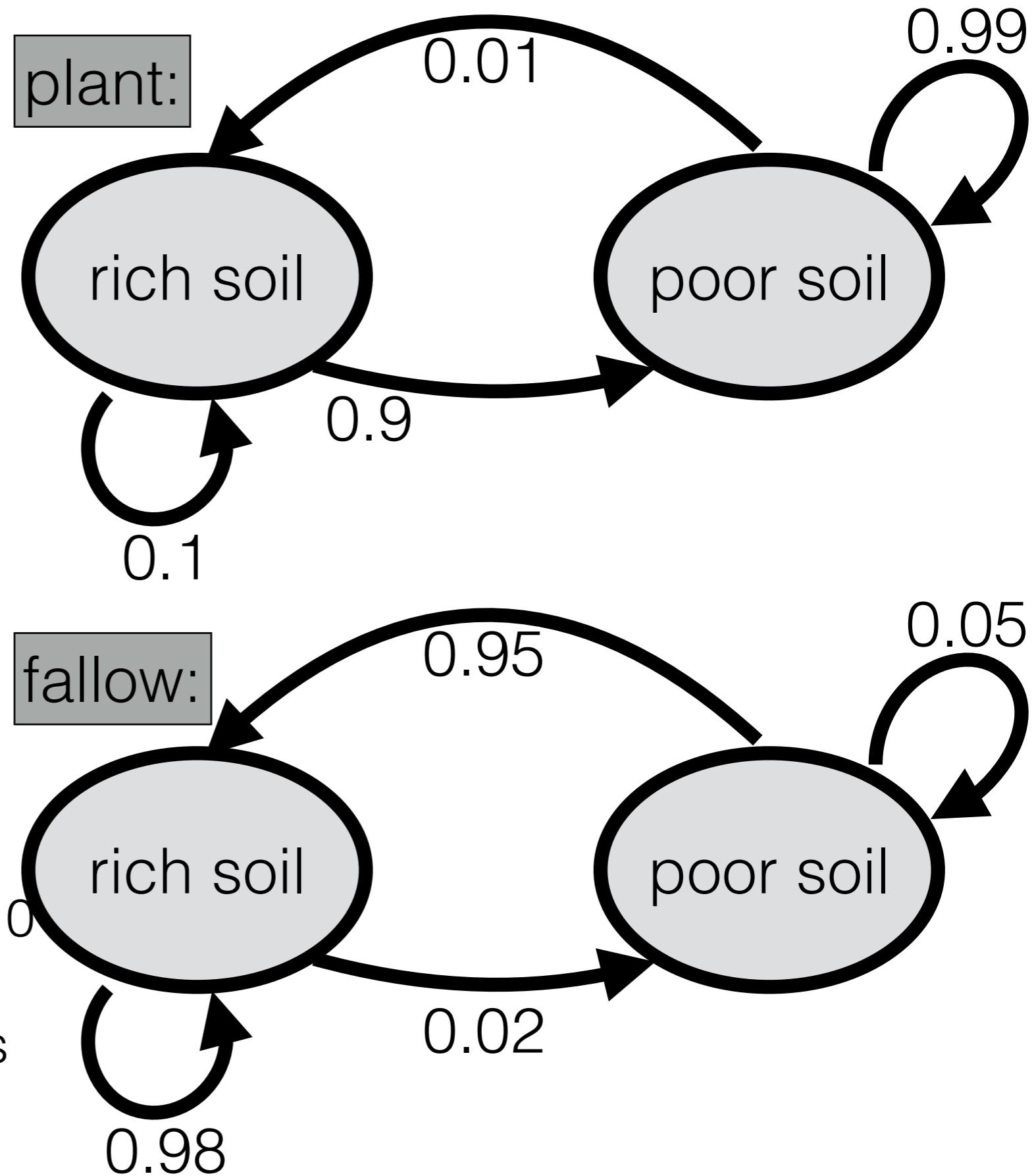
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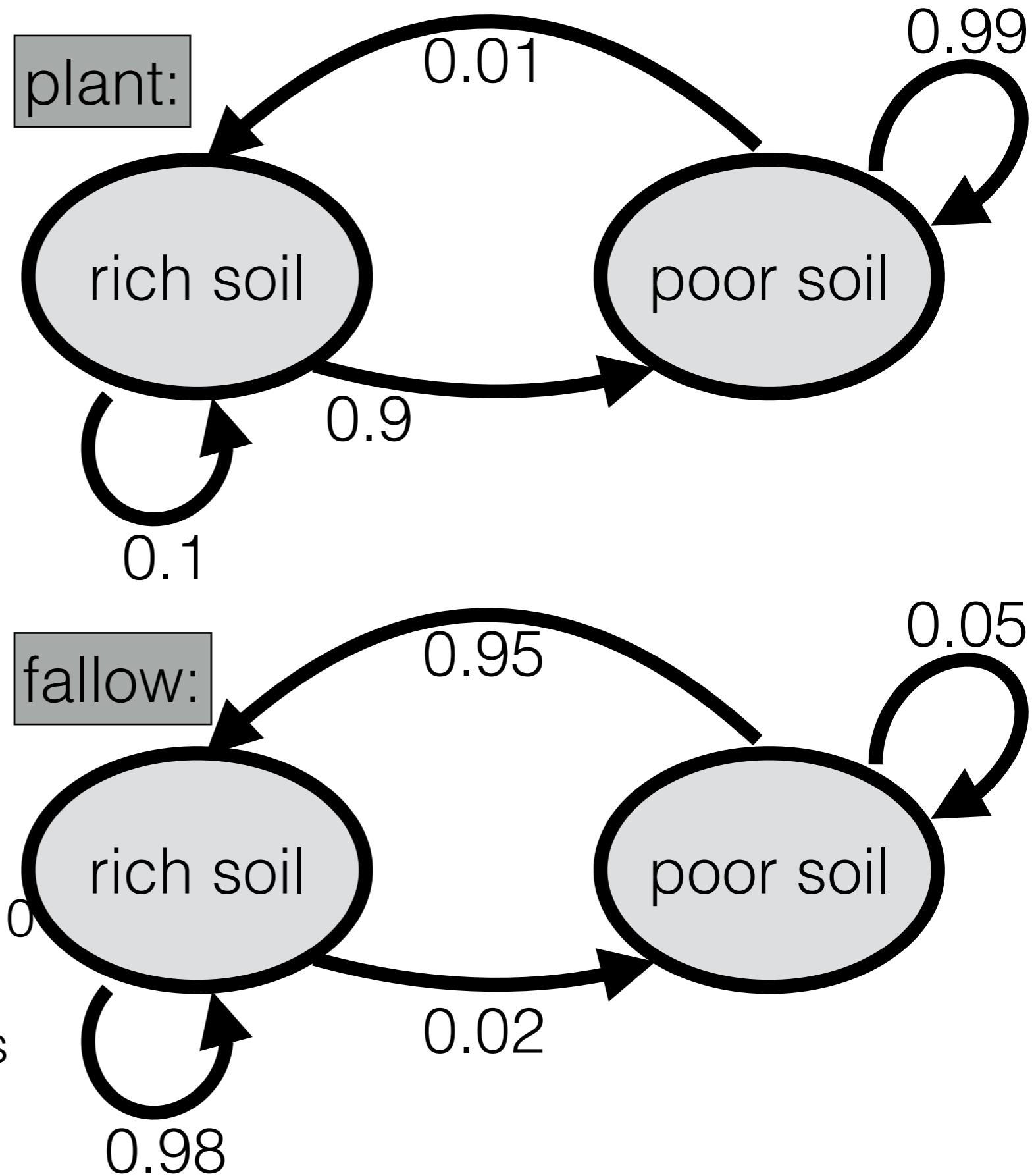
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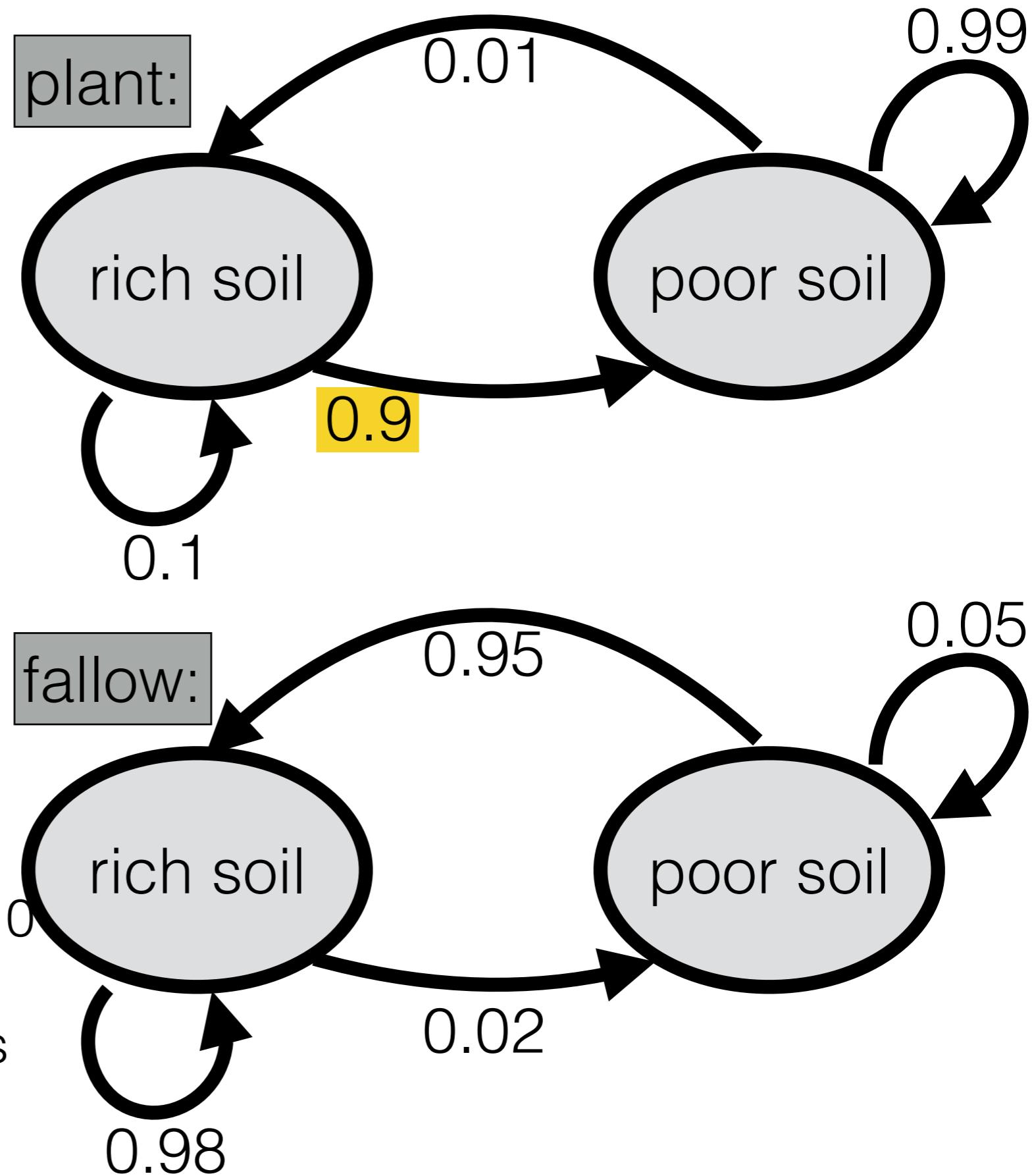
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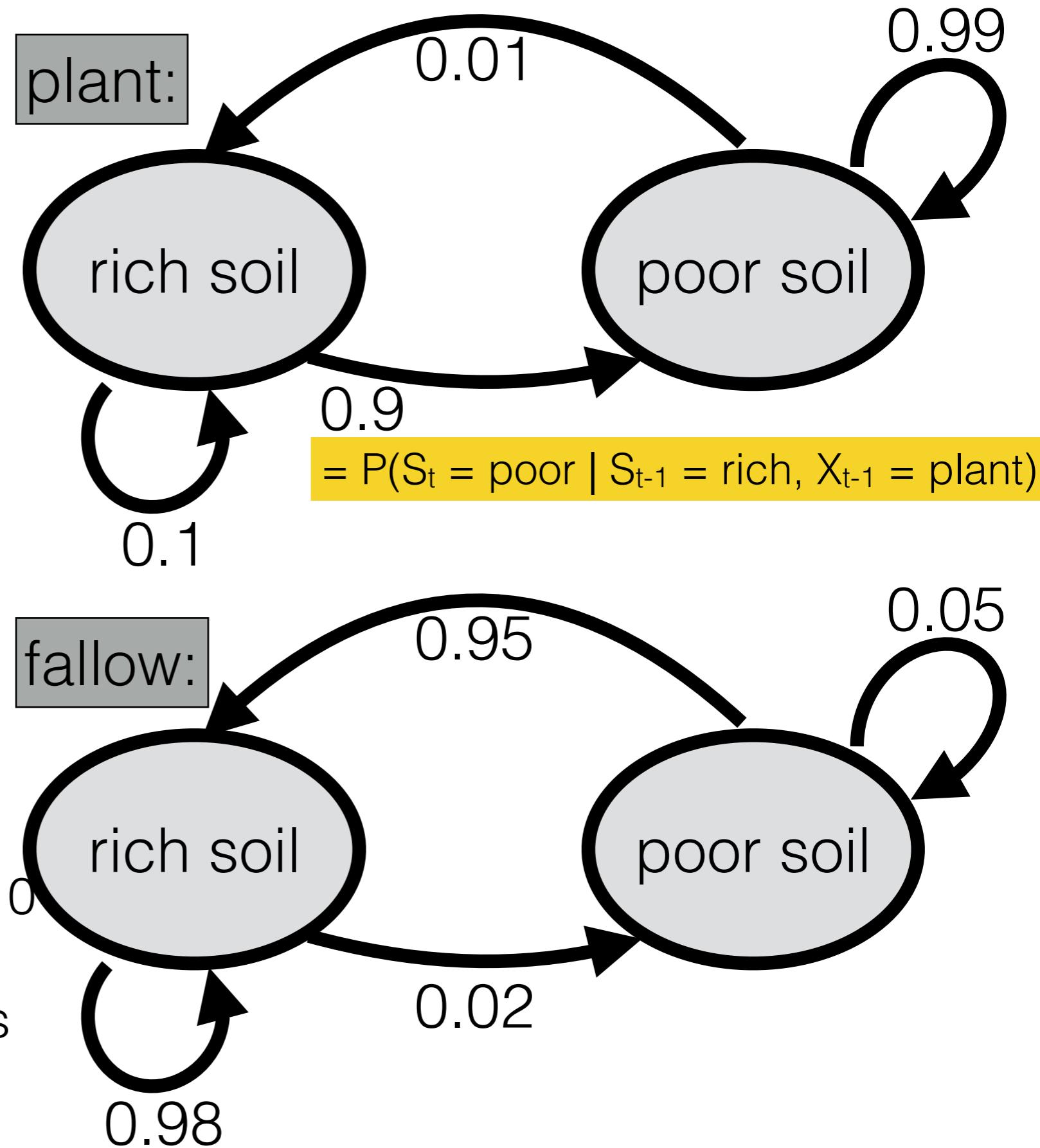
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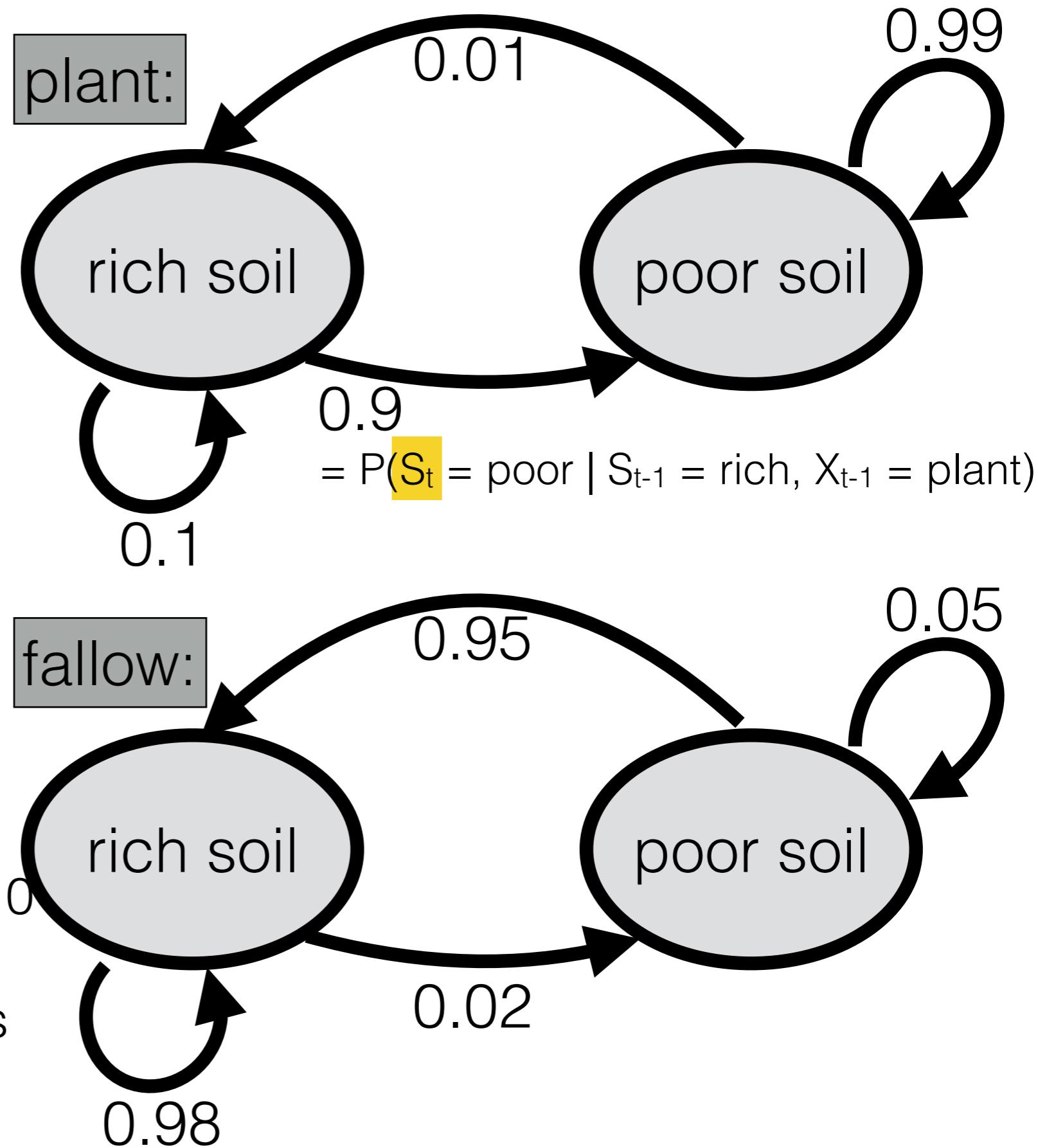
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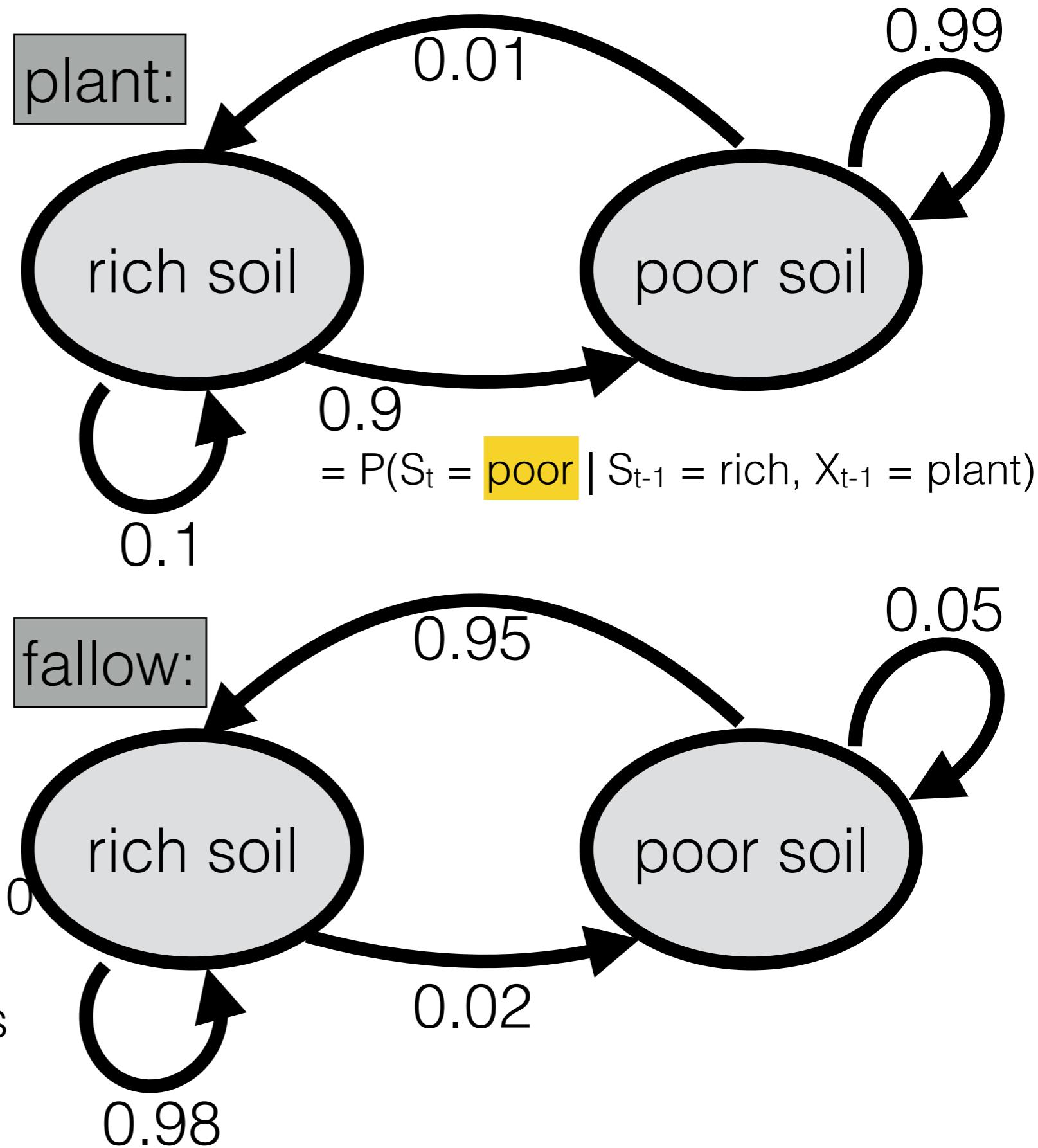
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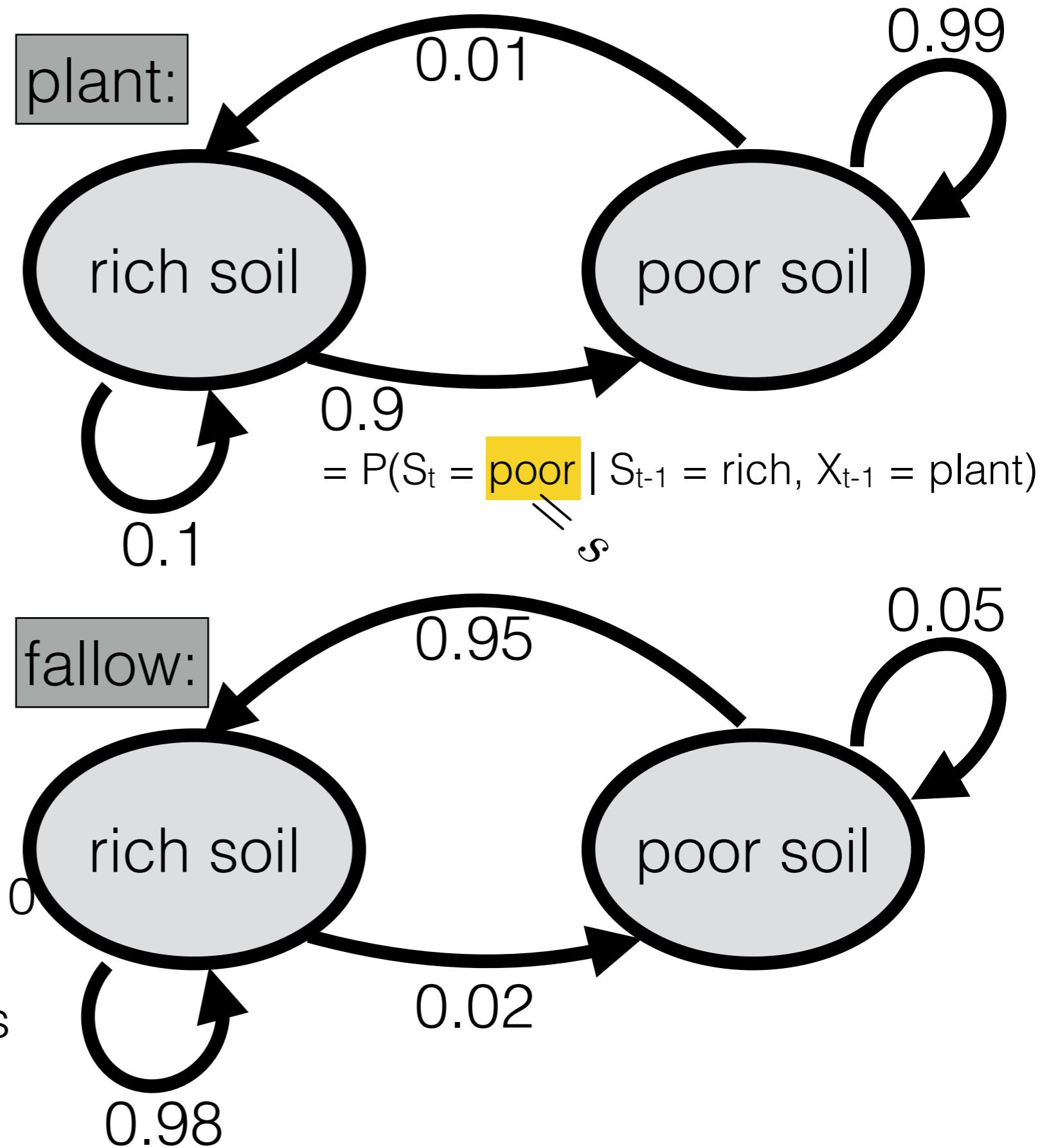
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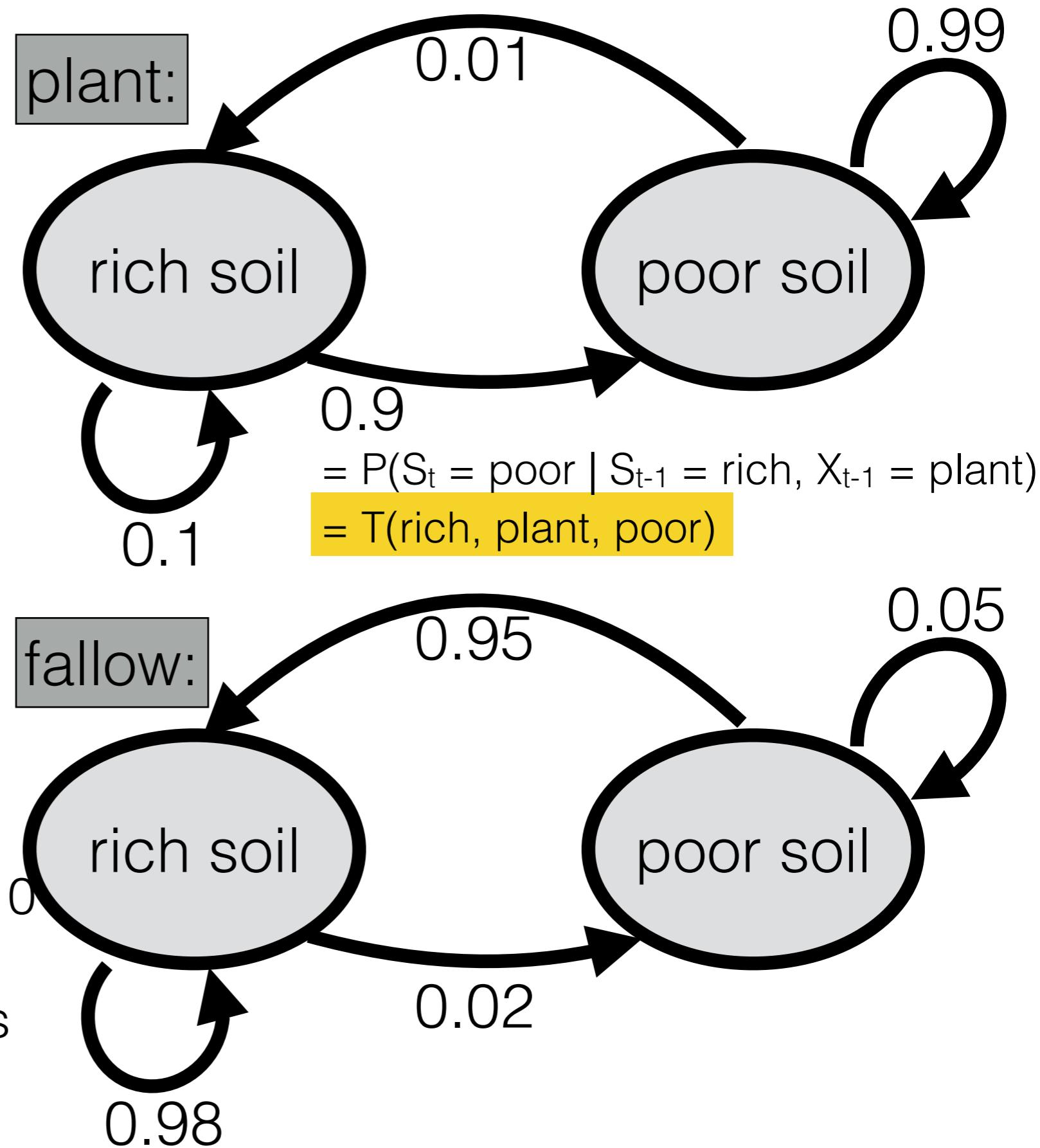
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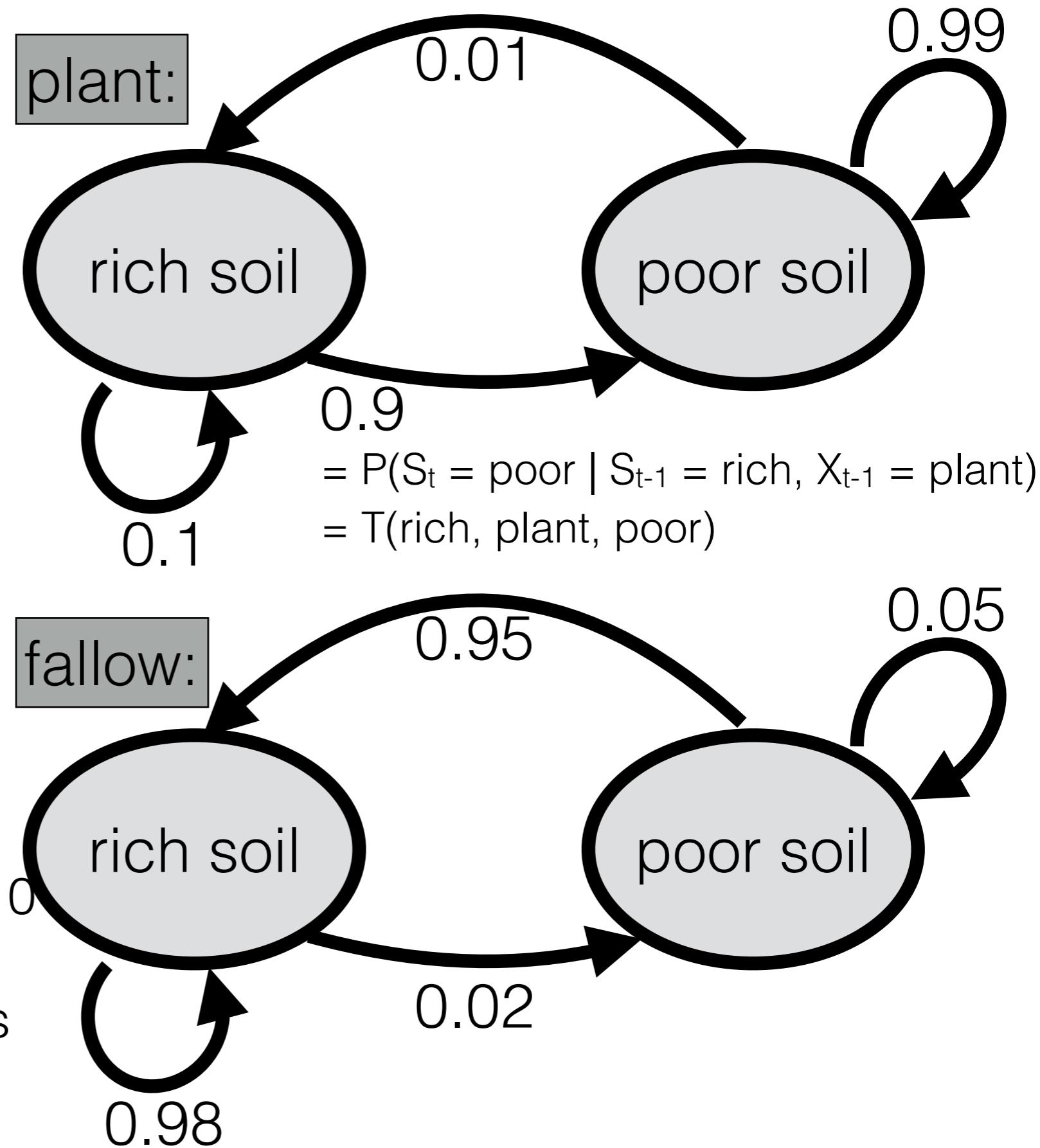
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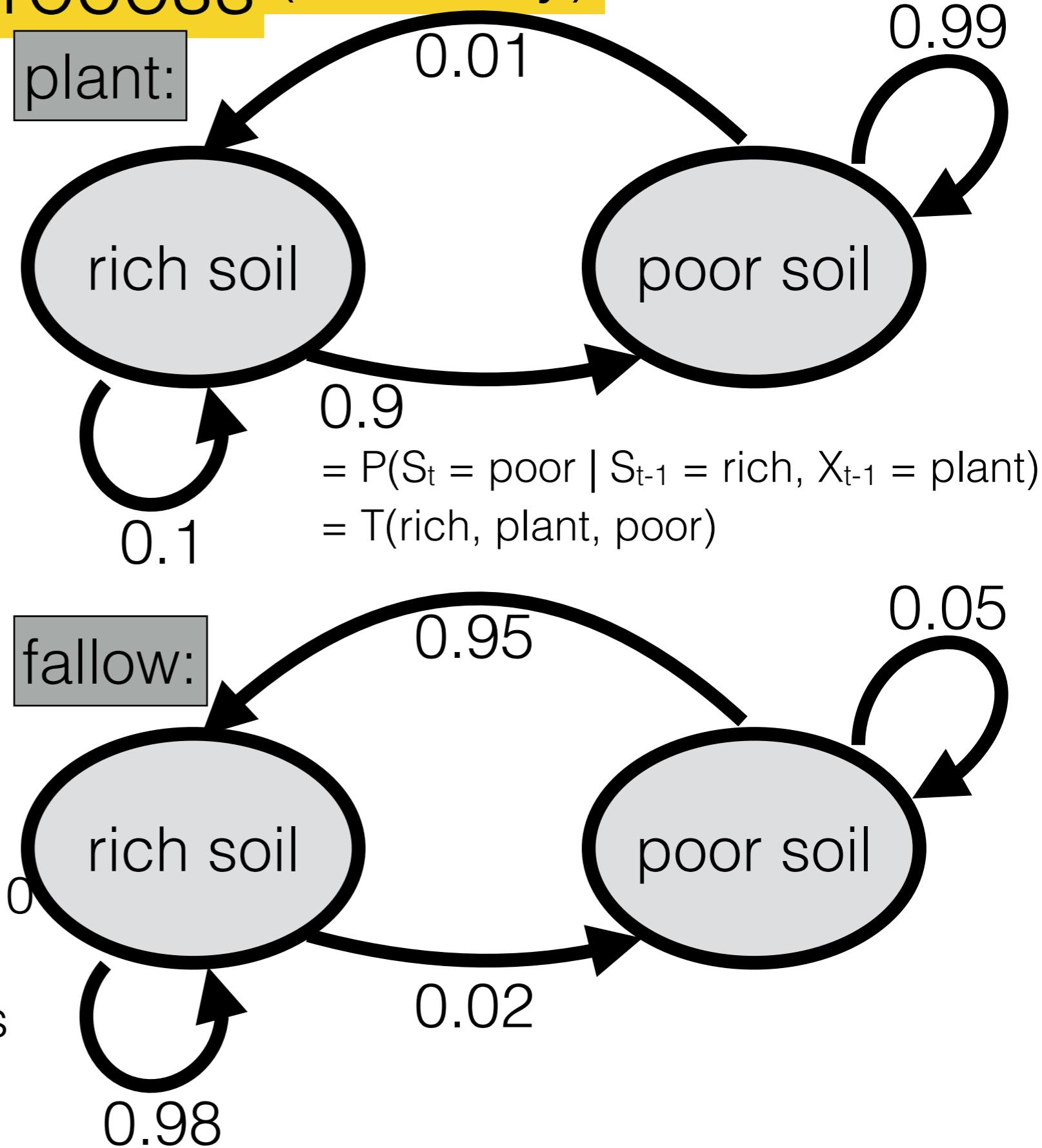


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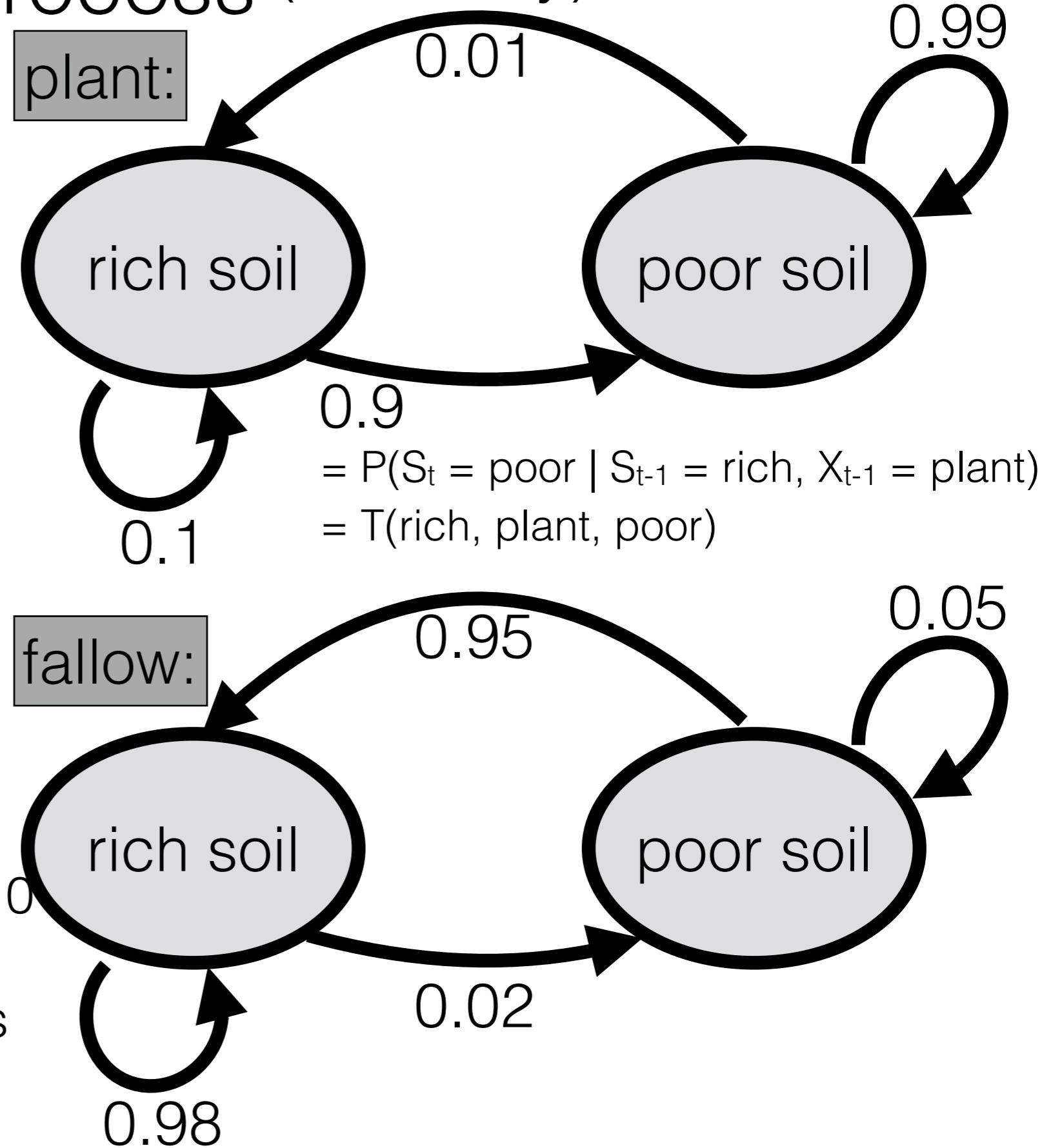
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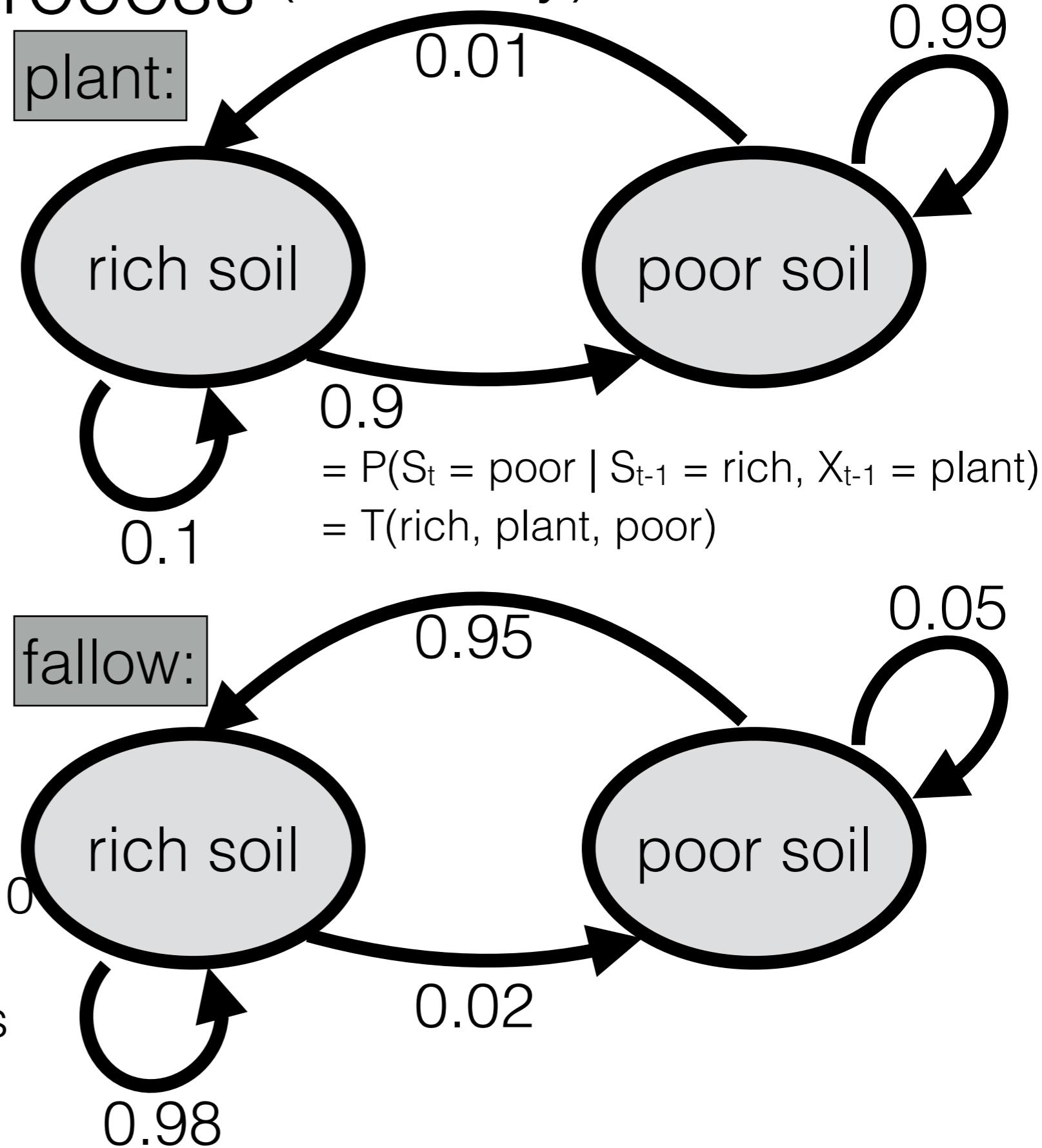
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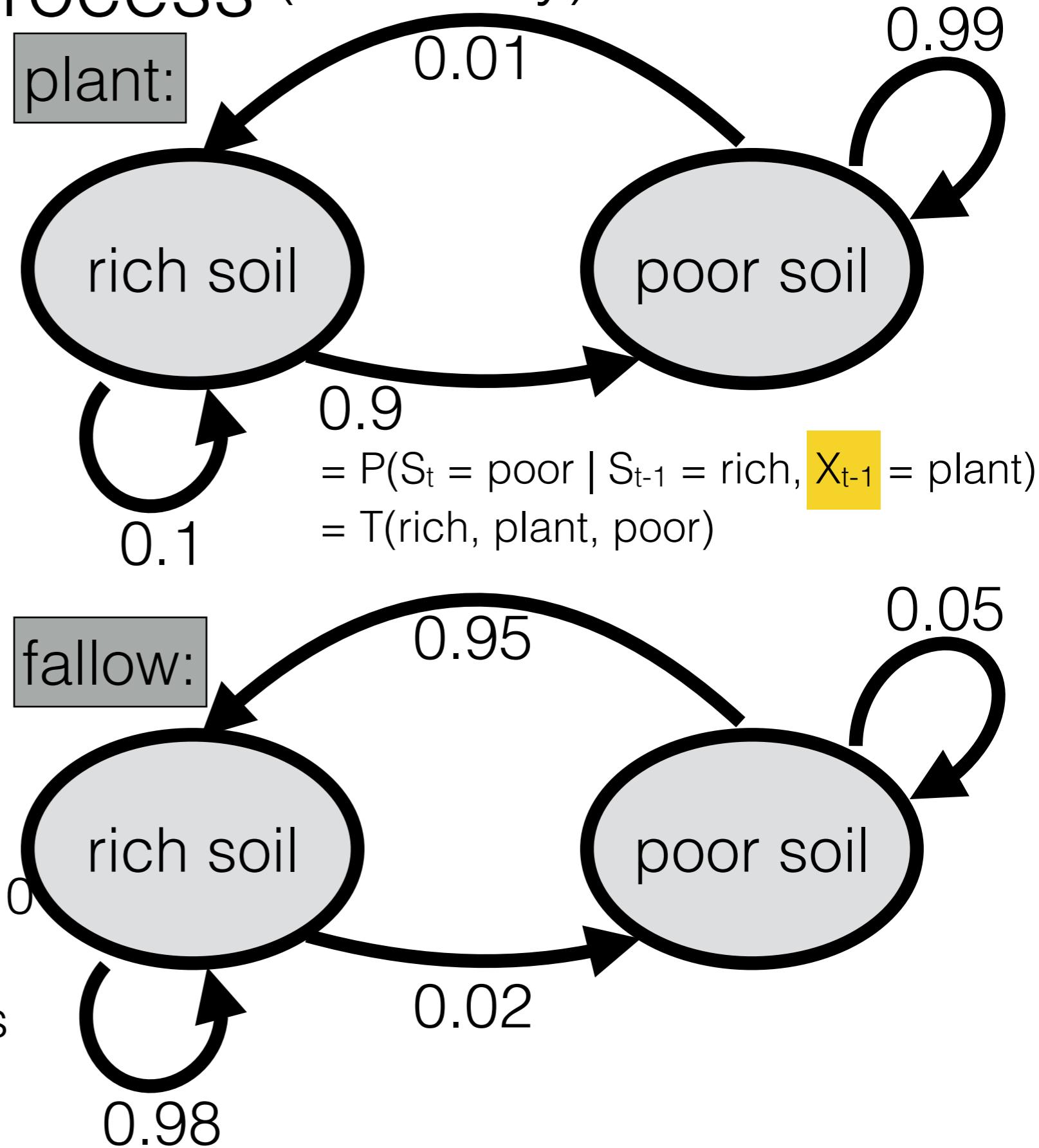
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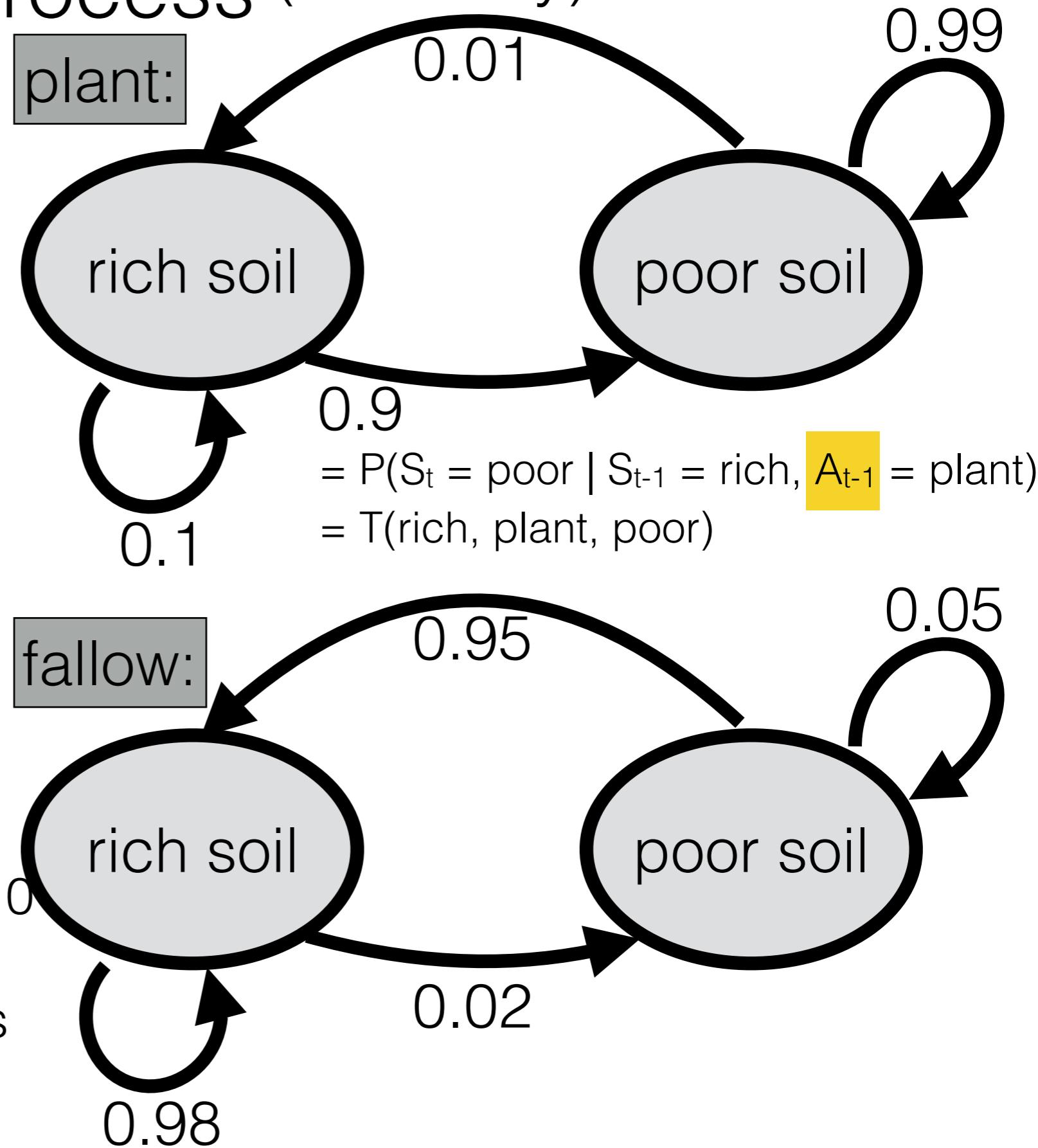
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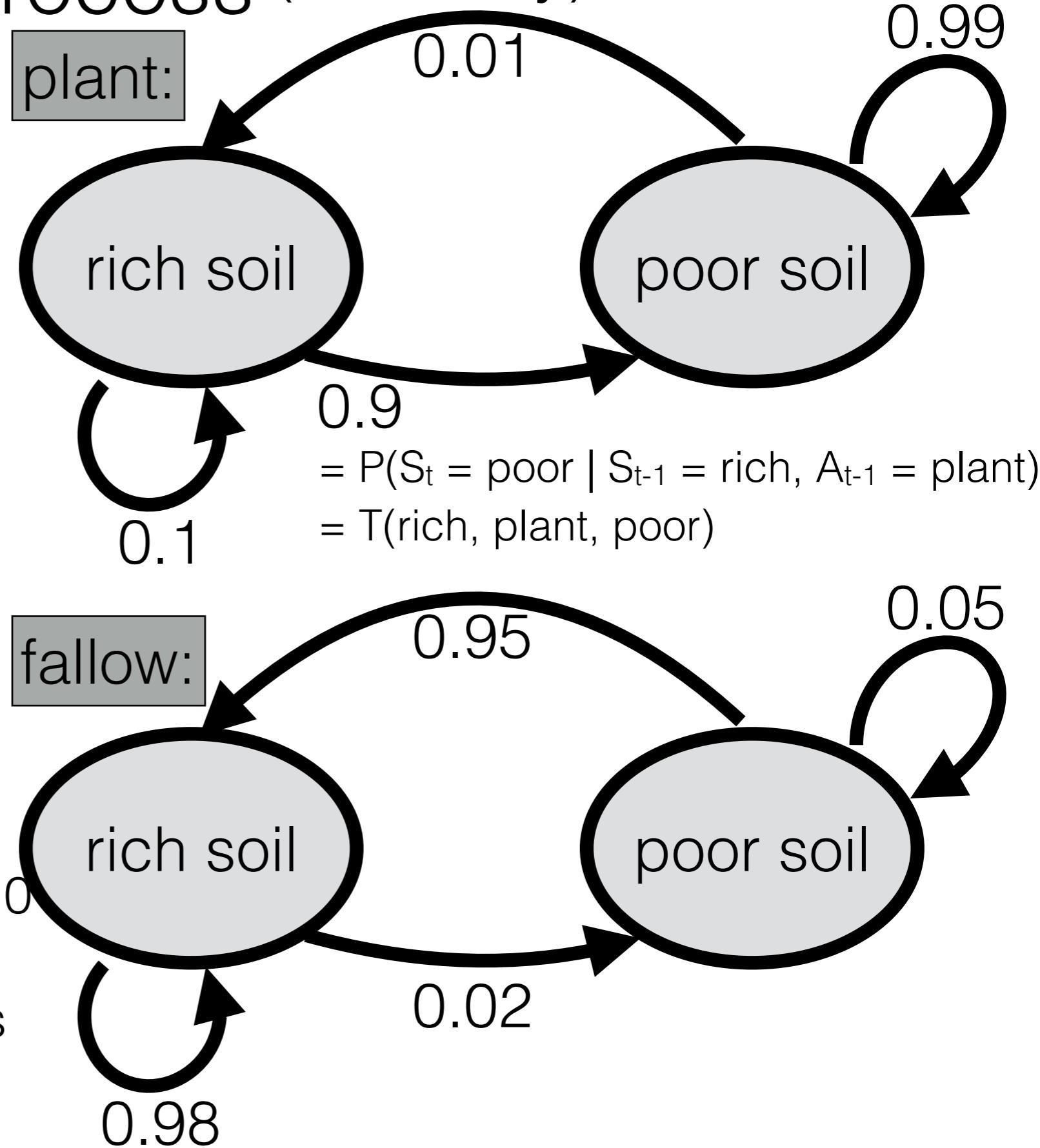
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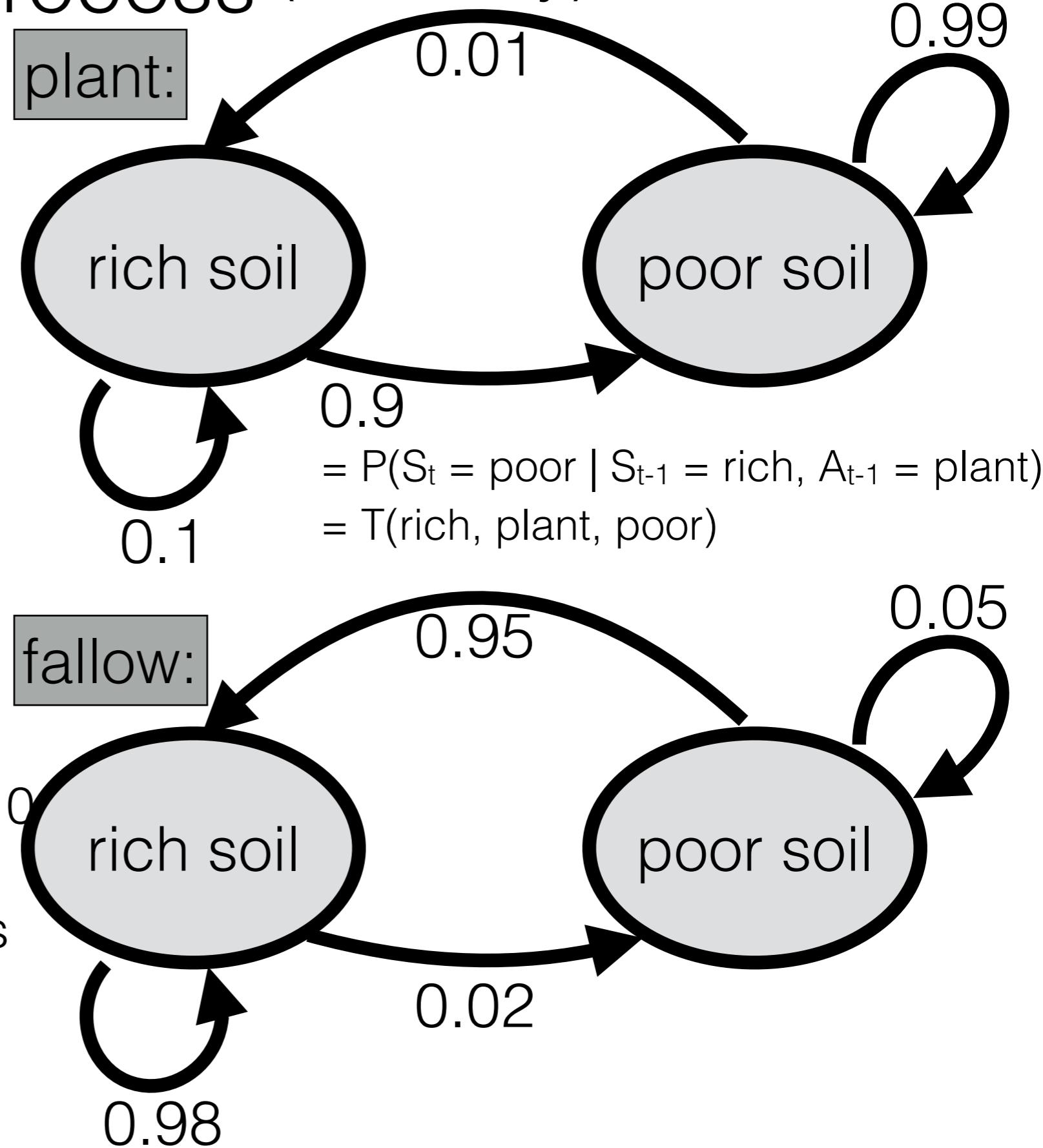
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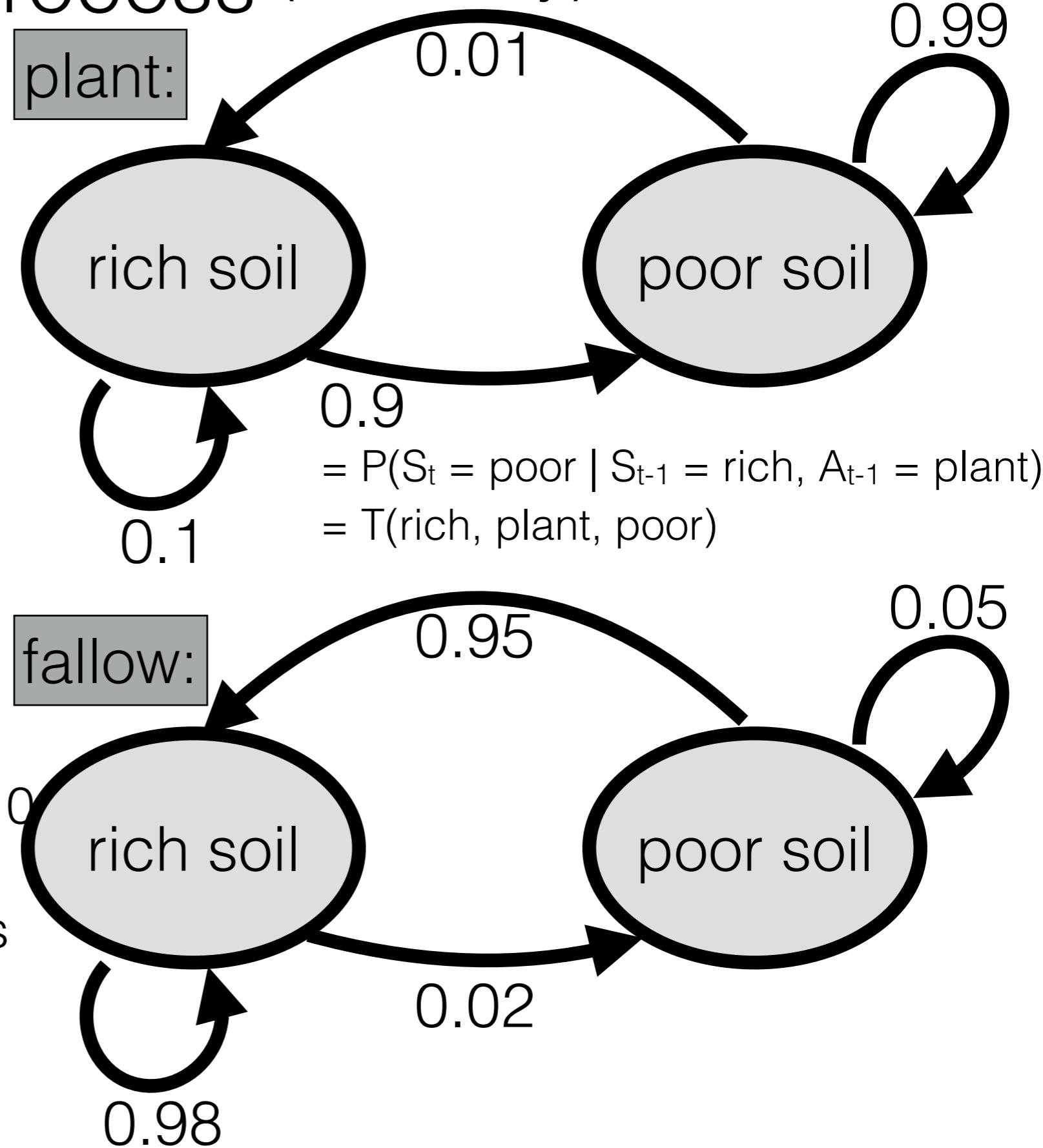
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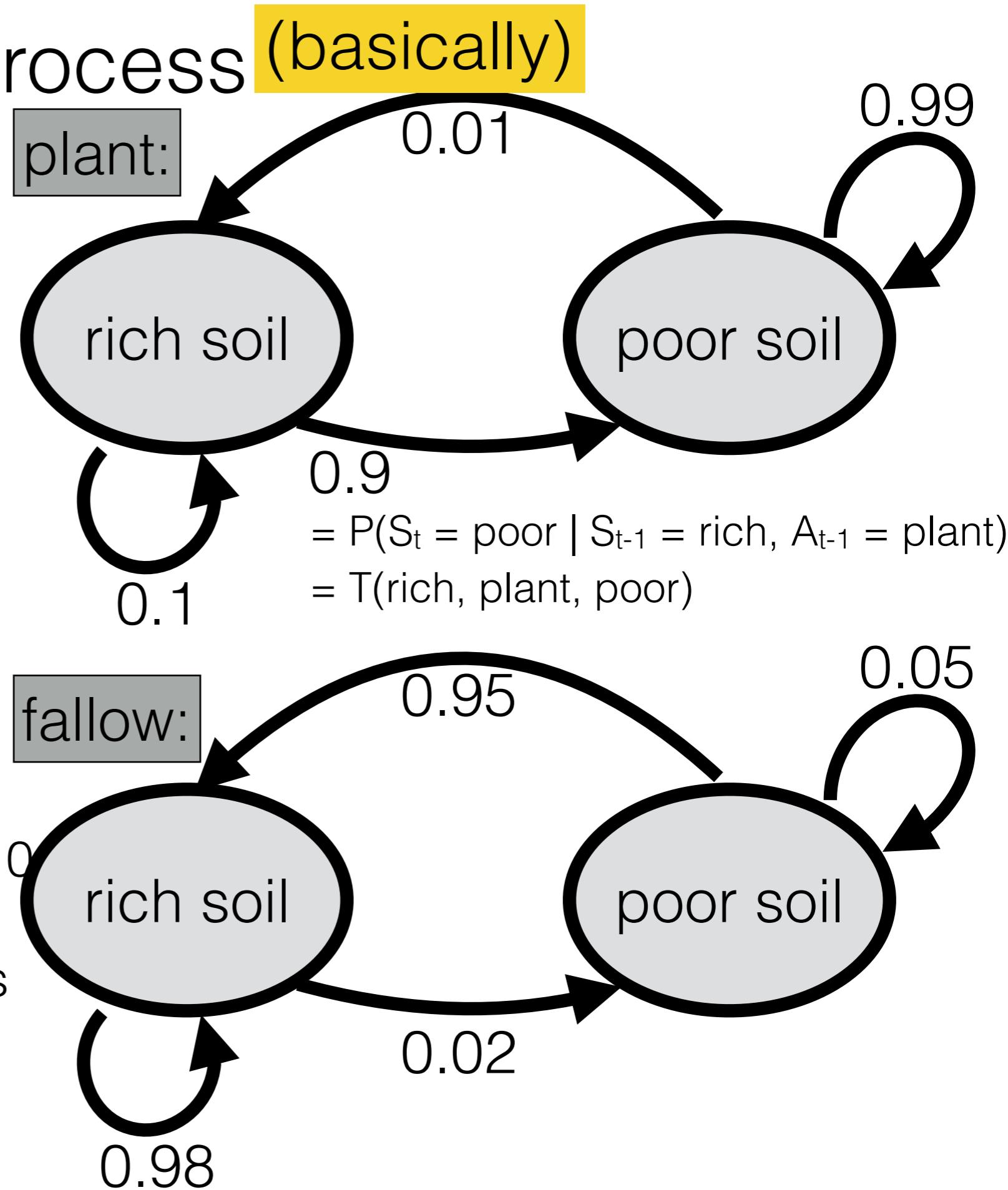
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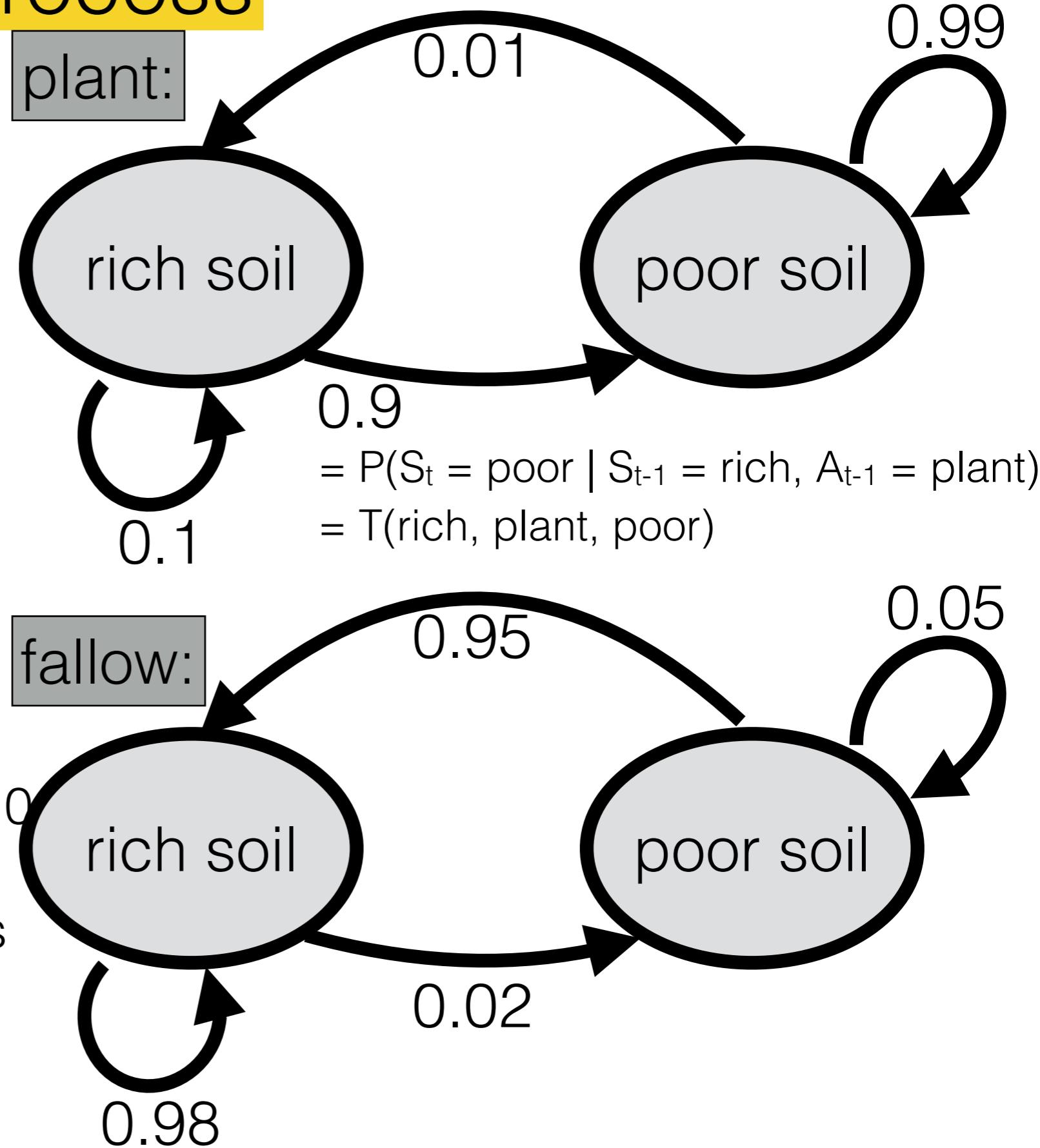
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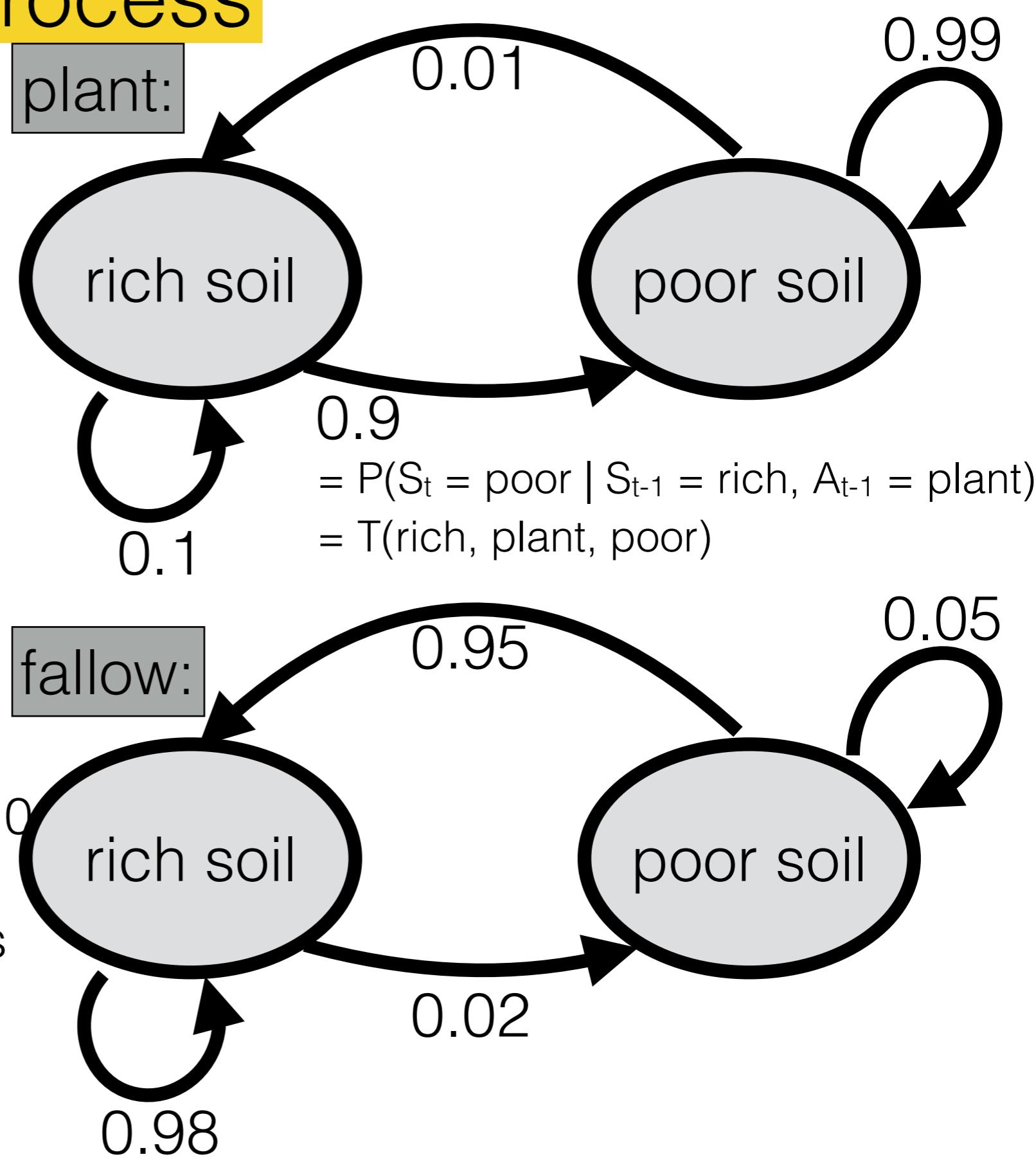
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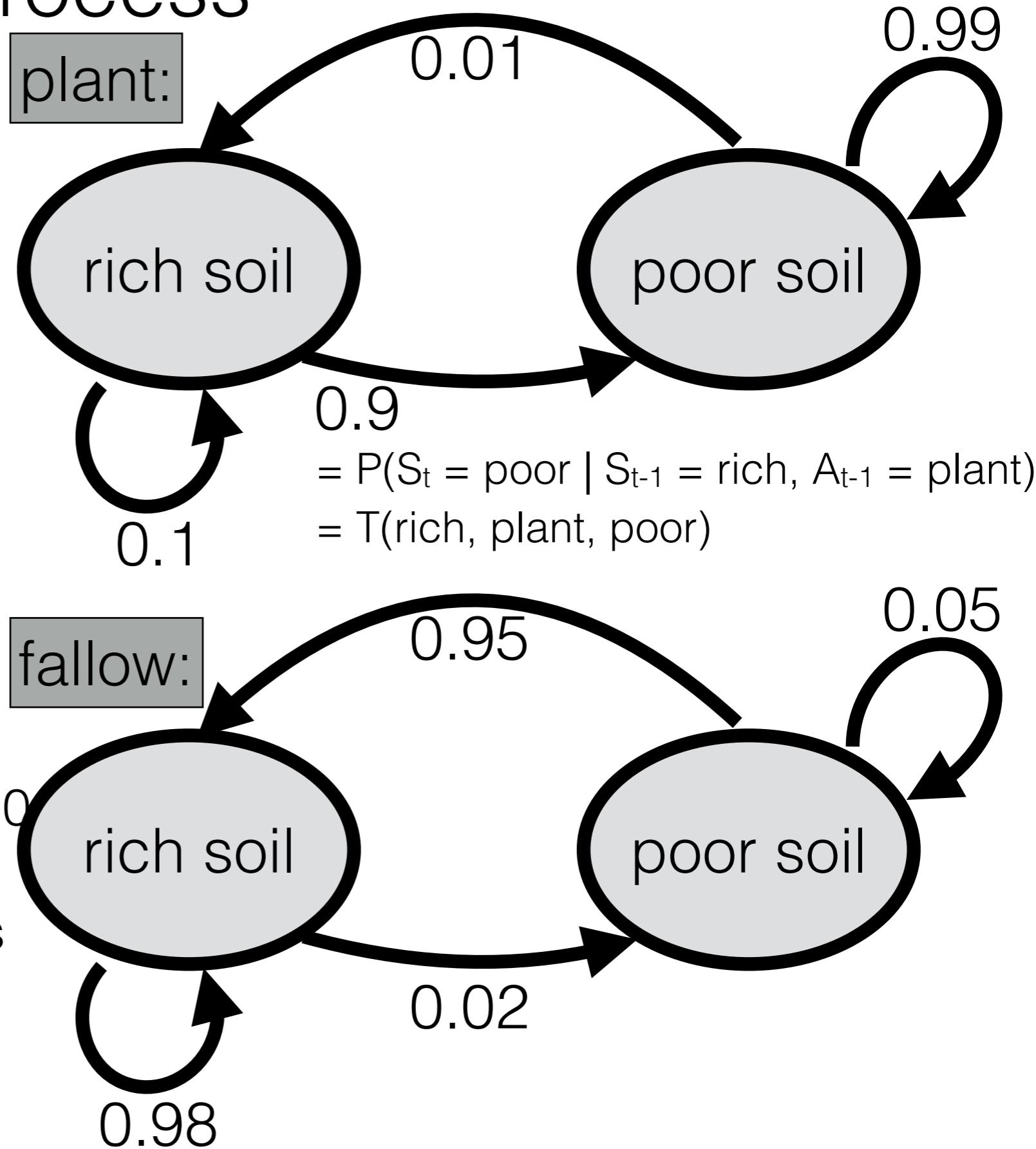
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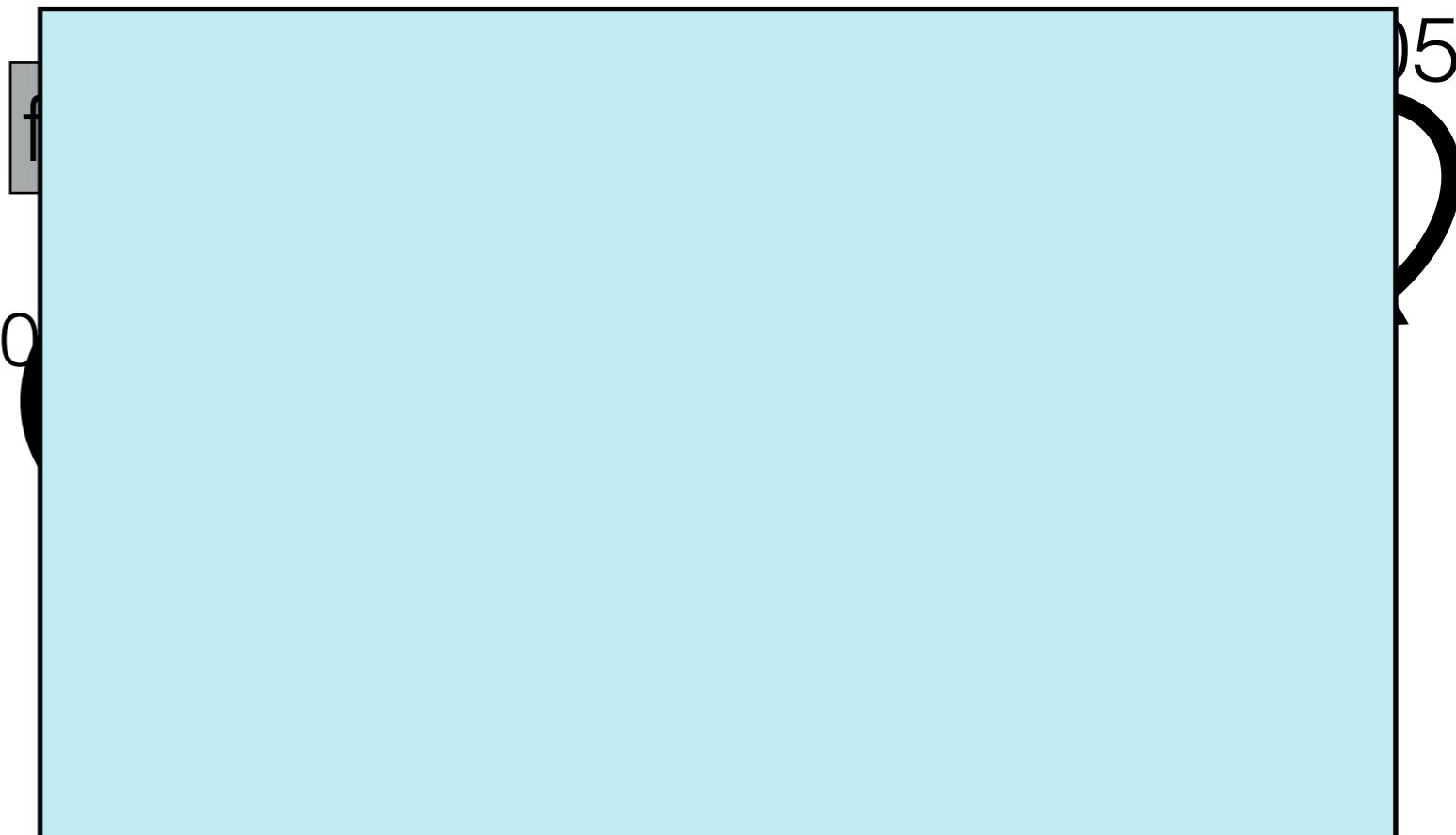
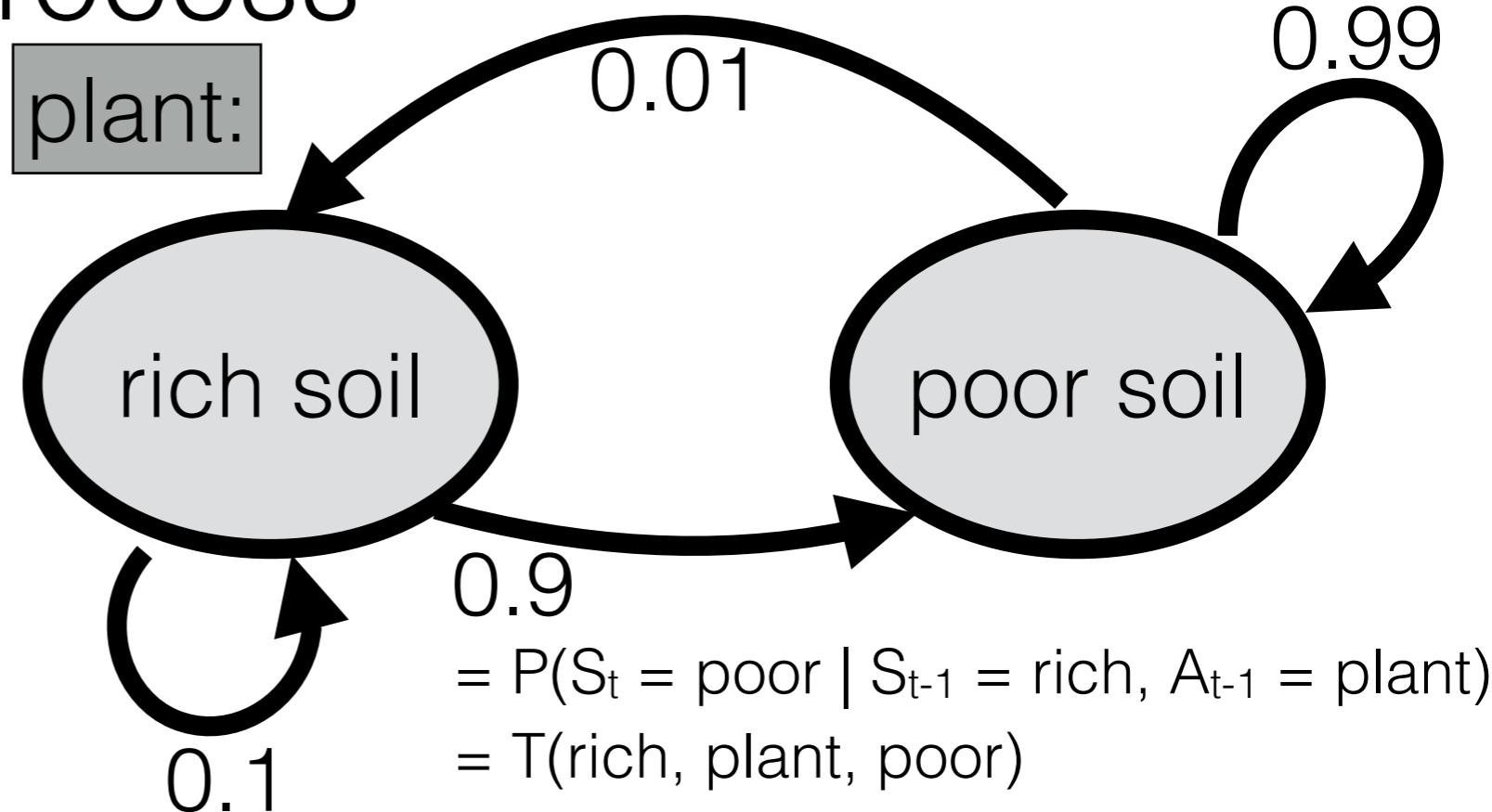
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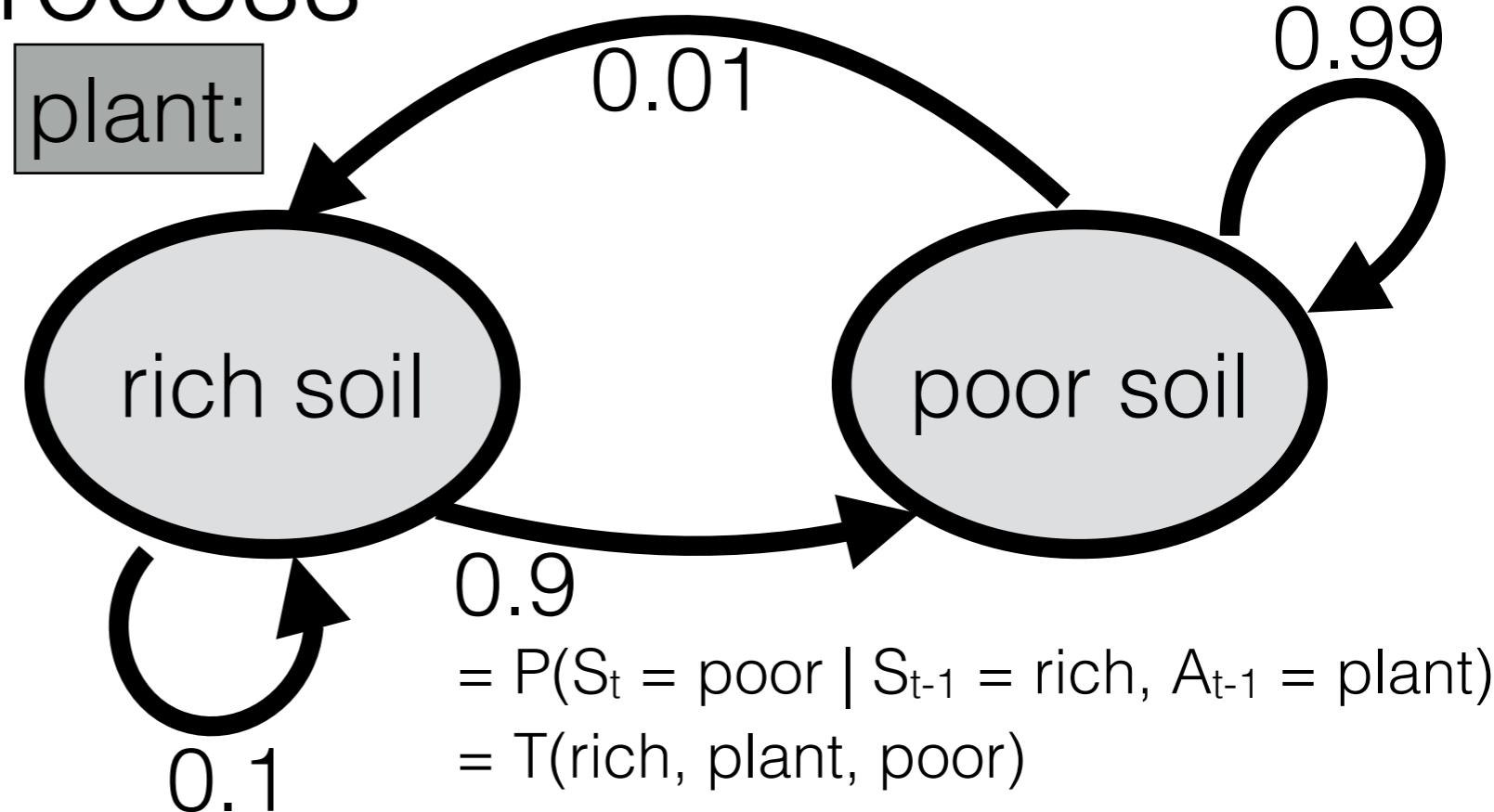
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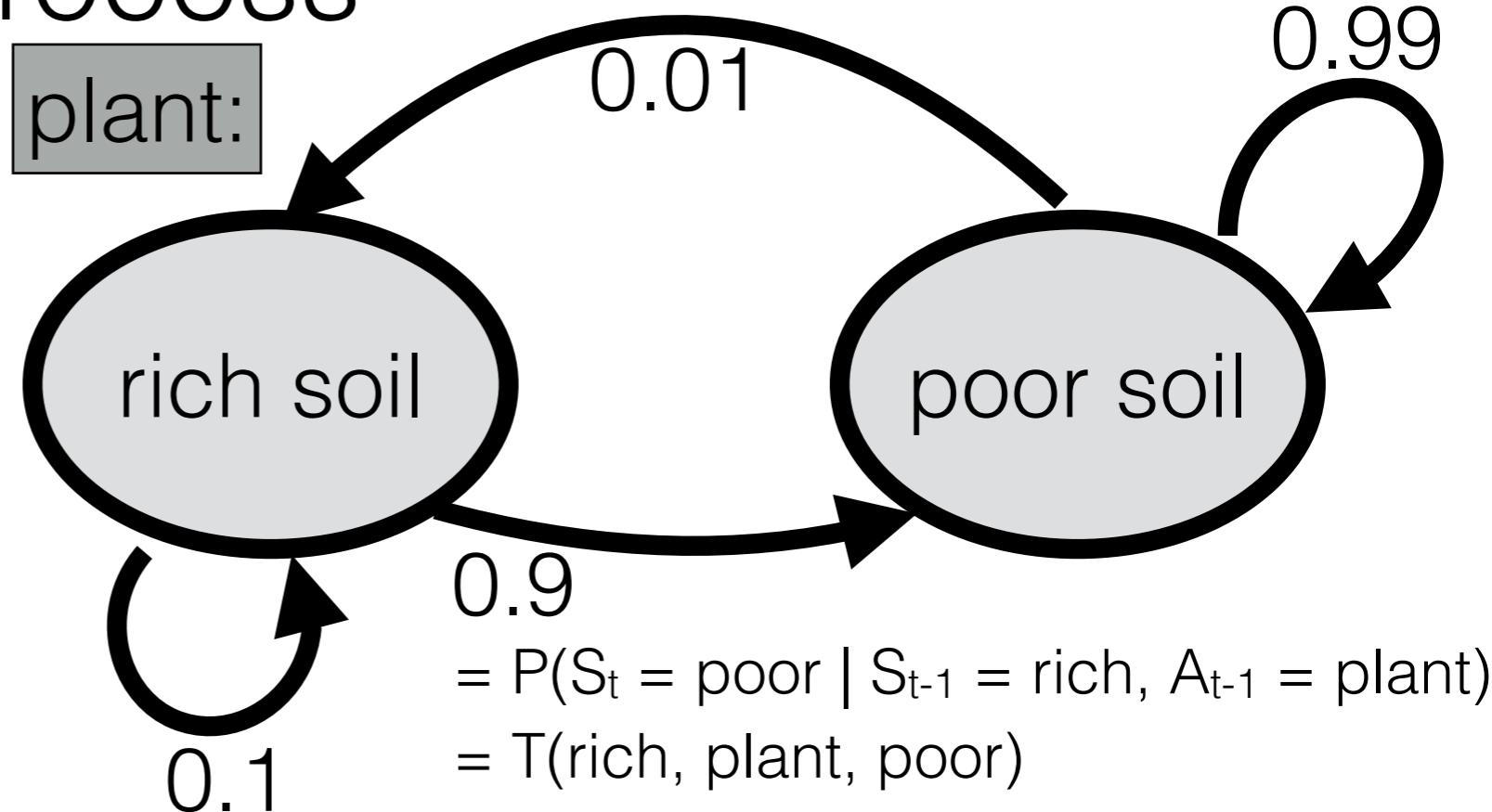
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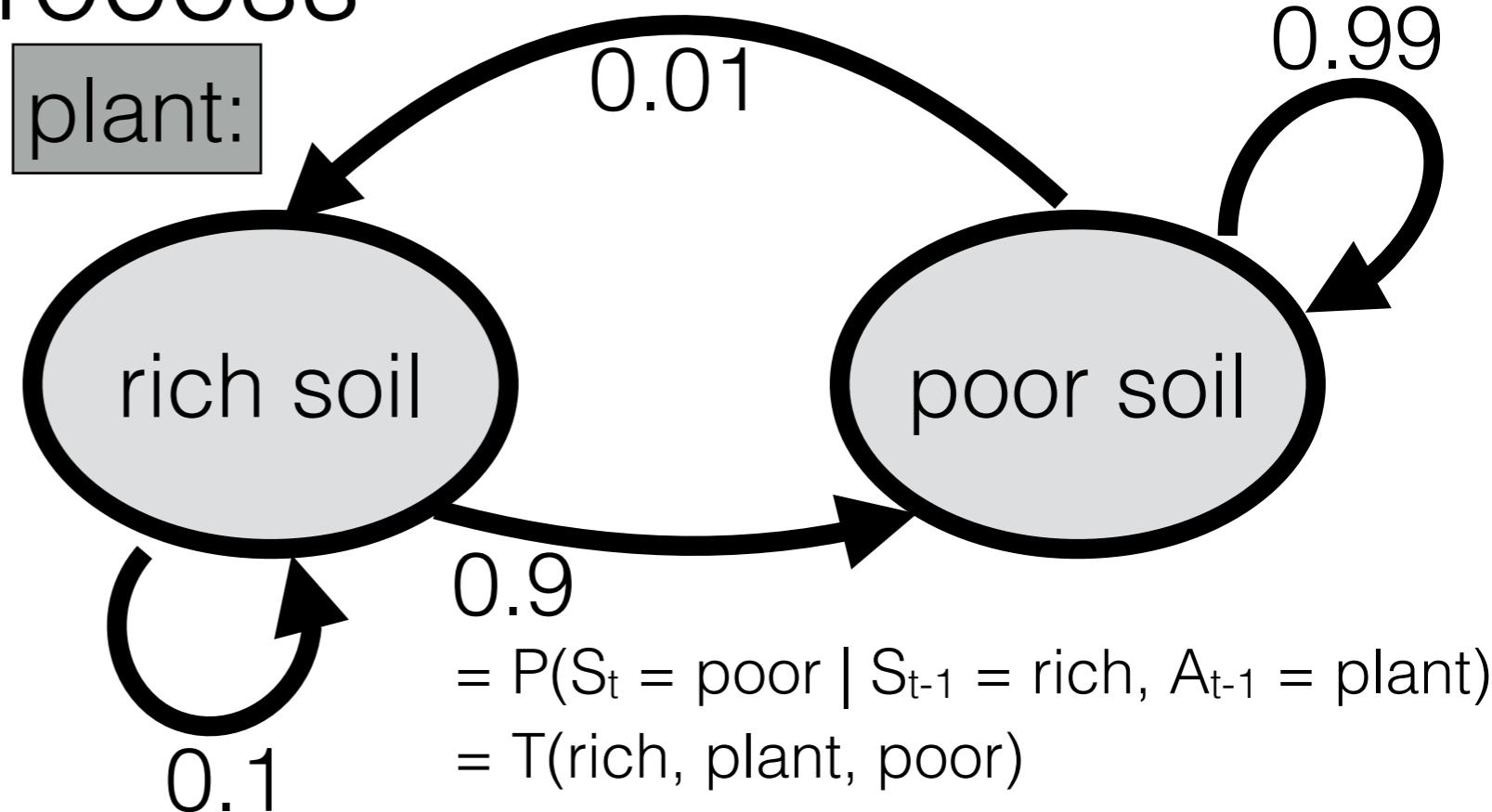
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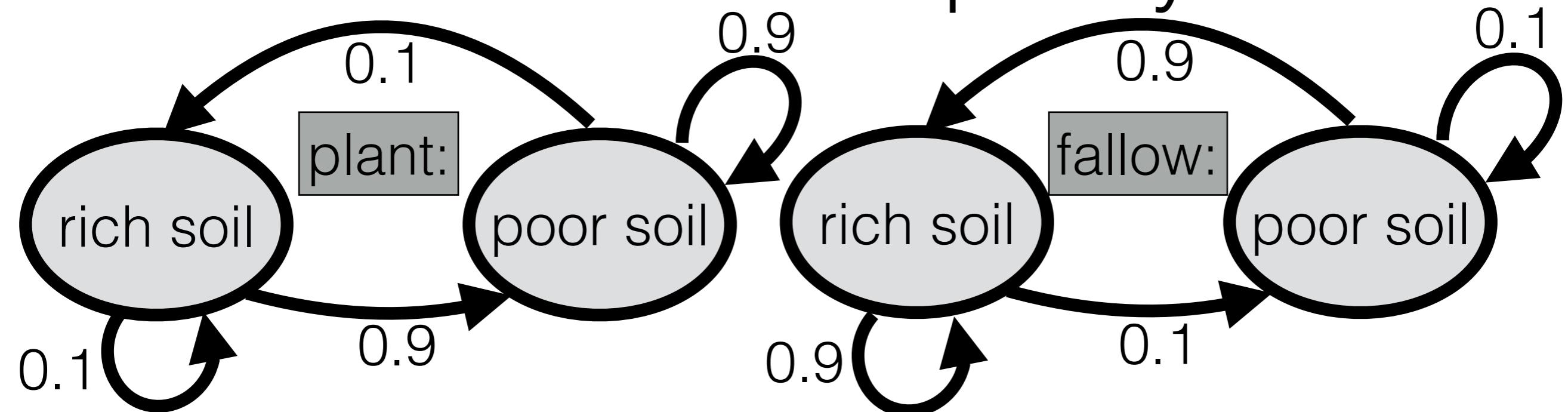
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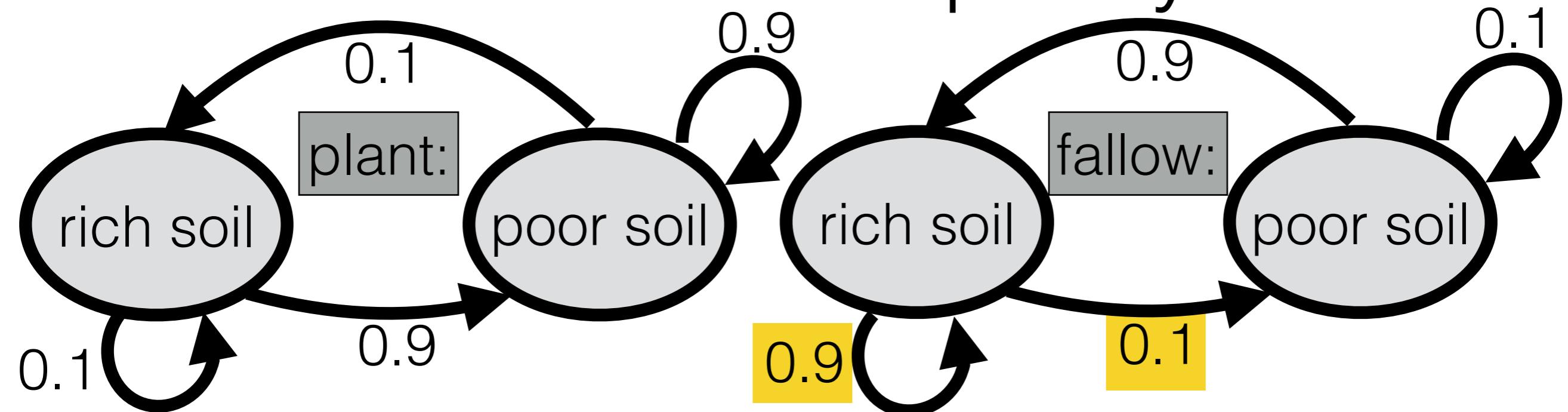
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- Question 2: what's the best policy?

# What's the value of a policy?

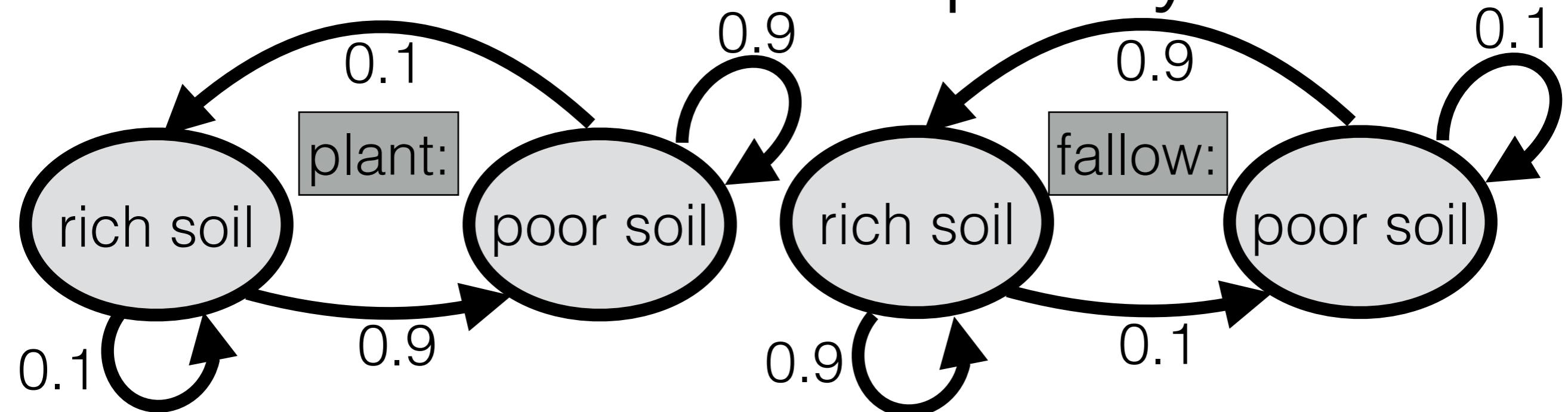
# What's the value of a policy?



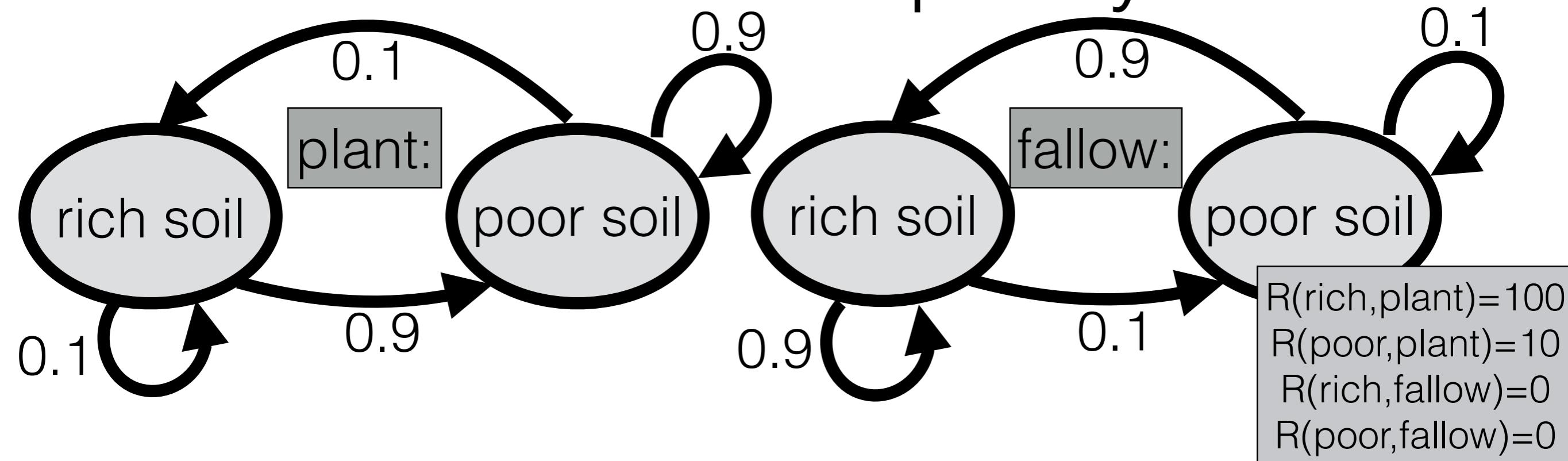
# What's the value of a policy?



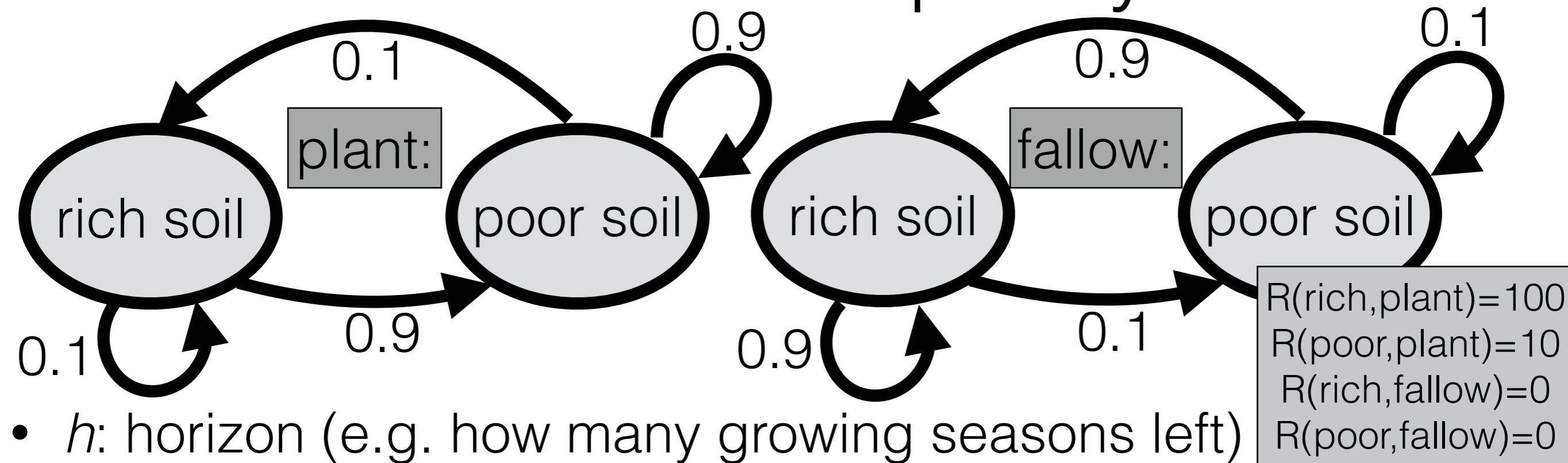
# What's the value of a policy?



# What's the value of a policy?

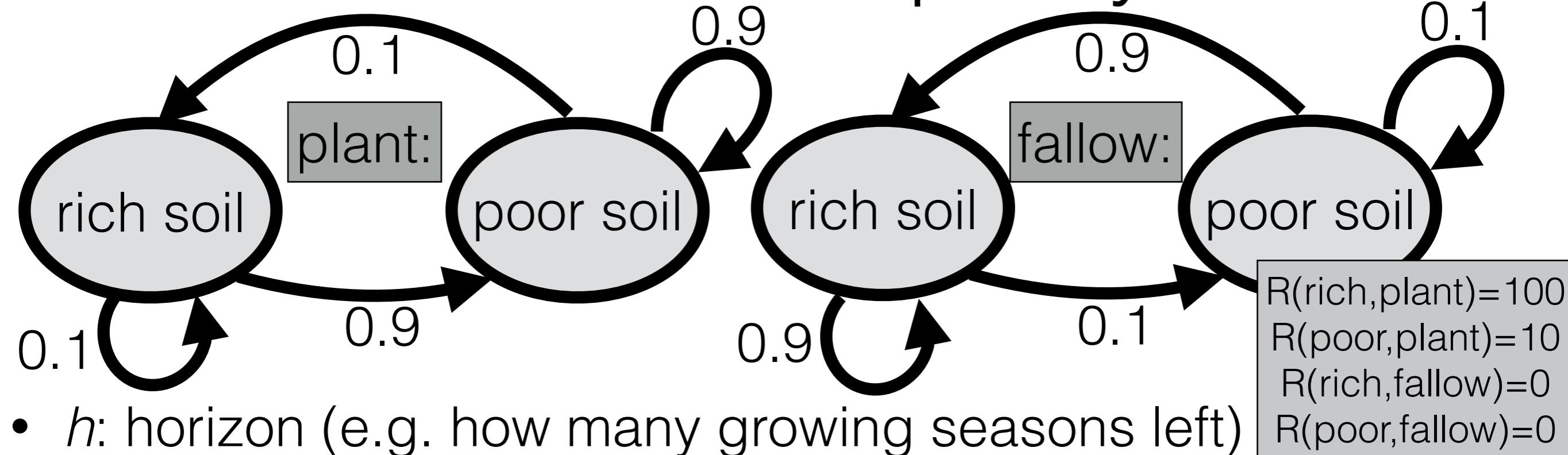


# What's the value of a policy?



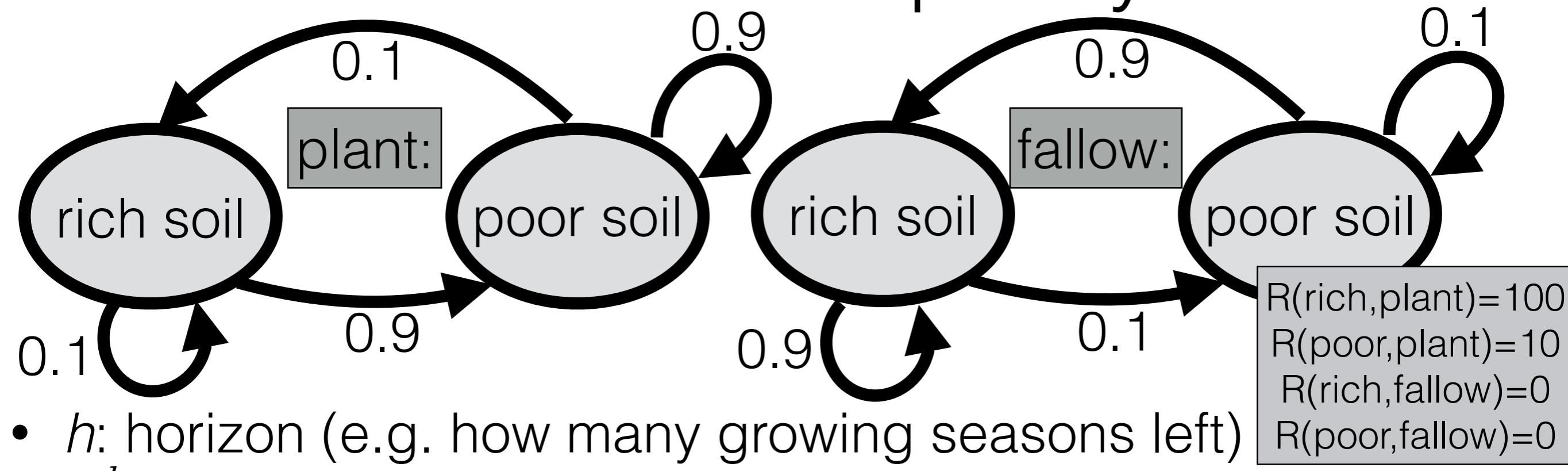
- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)

# What's the value of a policy?



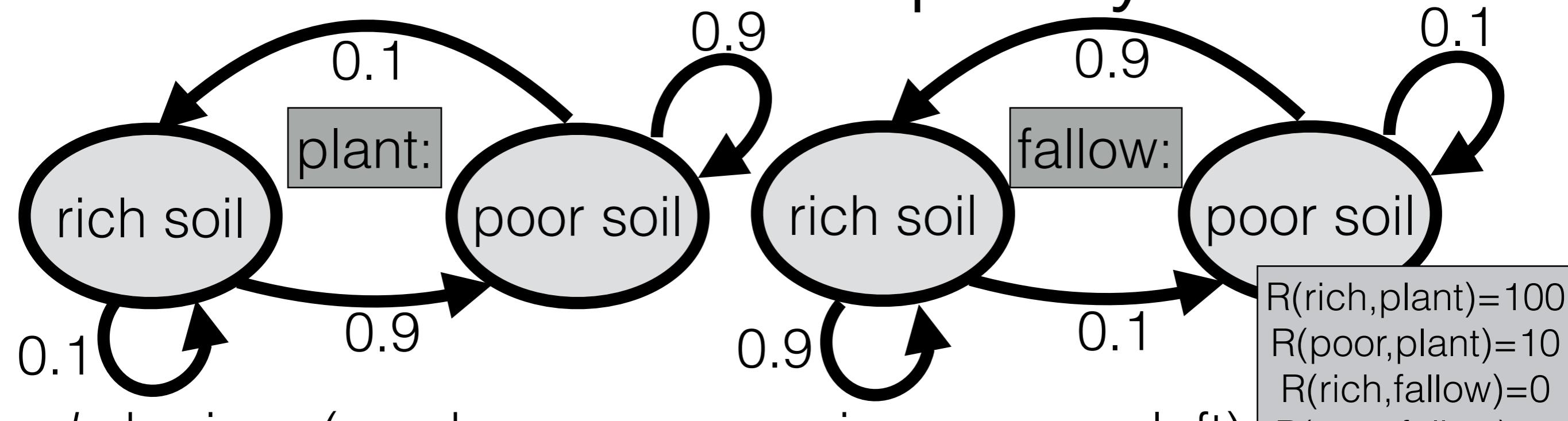
I'm renting a field for  $h$  growing seasons. Then it will be destroyed to make a strip mall.

# What's the value of a policy?



- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)
- $V_{\pi}^h(s)$ : value (expected reward) with policy  $\pi$  starting at  $s$

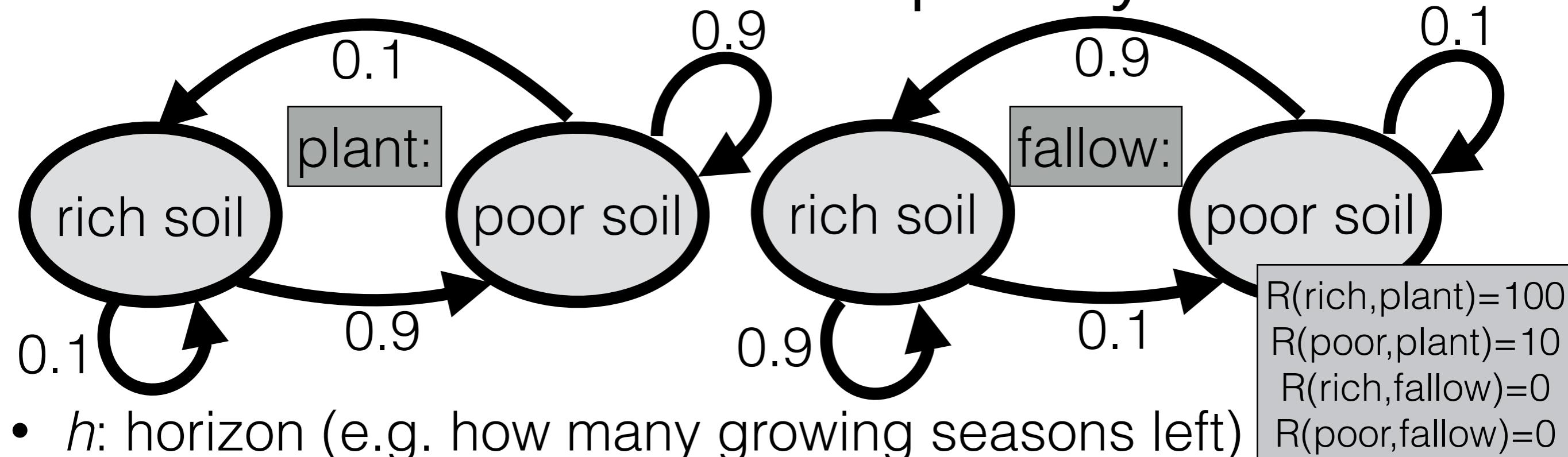
# What's the value of a policy?



- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)
- $V_\pi^h(s)$ : value (expected reward) with policy  $\pi$  starting at  $s$

Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$  : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

# What's the value of a policy?

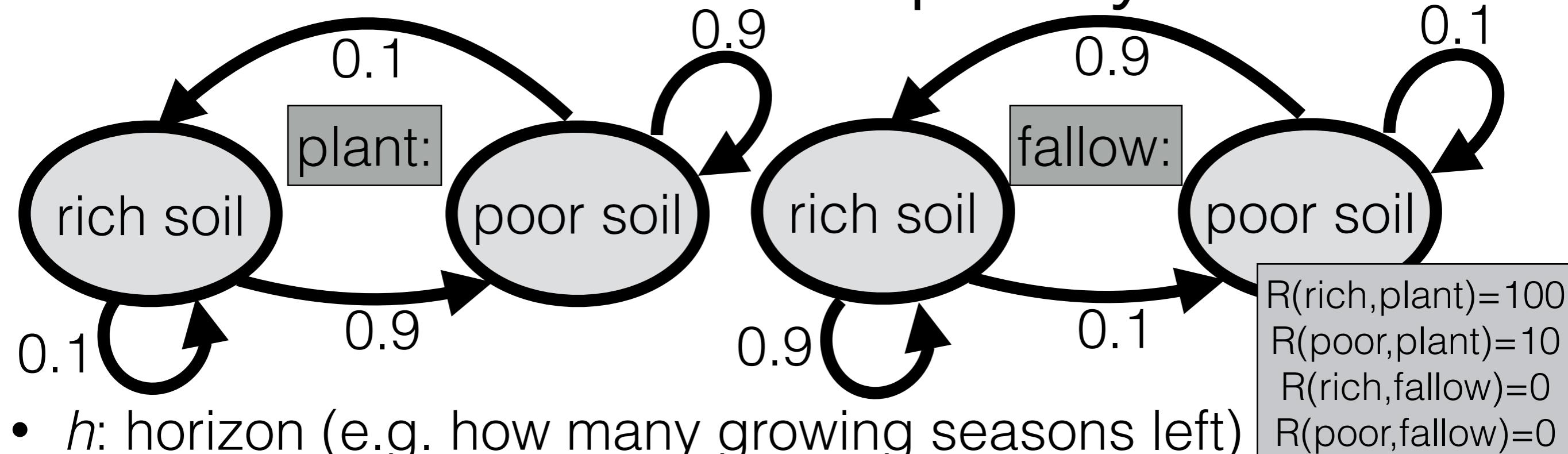


- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)
- $V_\pi^h(s)$ : value (expected reward) with policy  $\pi$  starting at  $s$

Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$  : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

$$V_\pi^0(s) = 0$$

# What's the value of a policy?

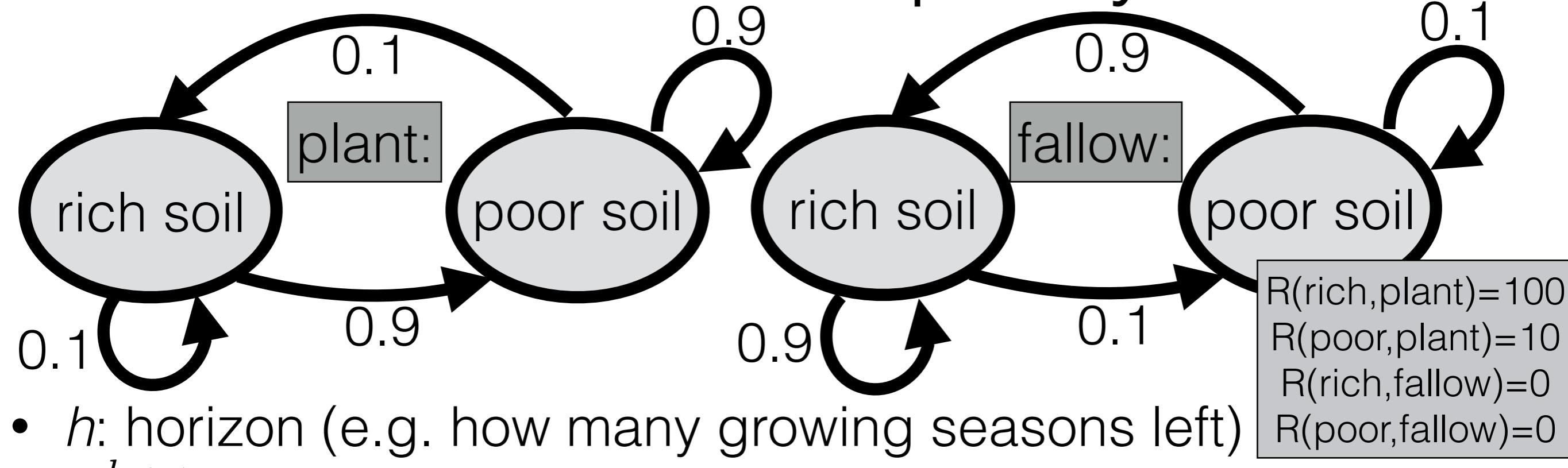


- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)
- $V_\pi^h(s)$ : value (expected reward) with policy  $\pi$  starting at  $s$

Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$  : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

$$V_\pi^0(s) = 0; V_\pi^1(s) = R(s, \pi(s))$$

# What's the value of a policy?



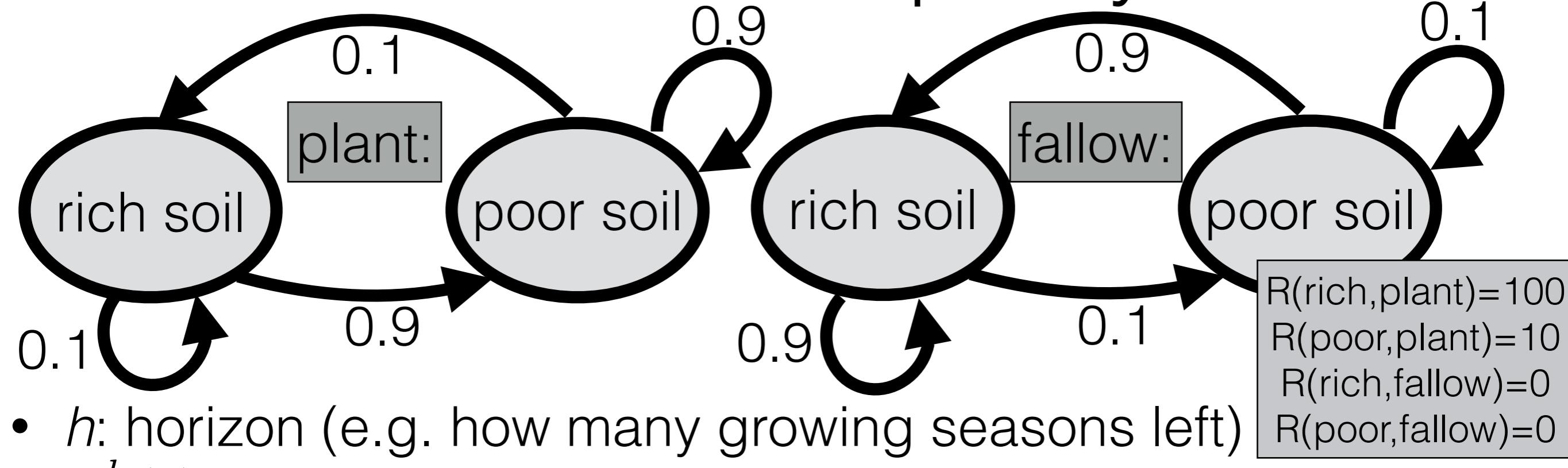
- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)
- $V_\pi^h(s)$ : value (expected reward) with policy  $\pi$  starting at  $s$

Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$  : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

$$V_\pi^0(s) = 0; V_\pi^1(s) = R(s, \pi(s))$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) =$$

# What's the value of a policy?



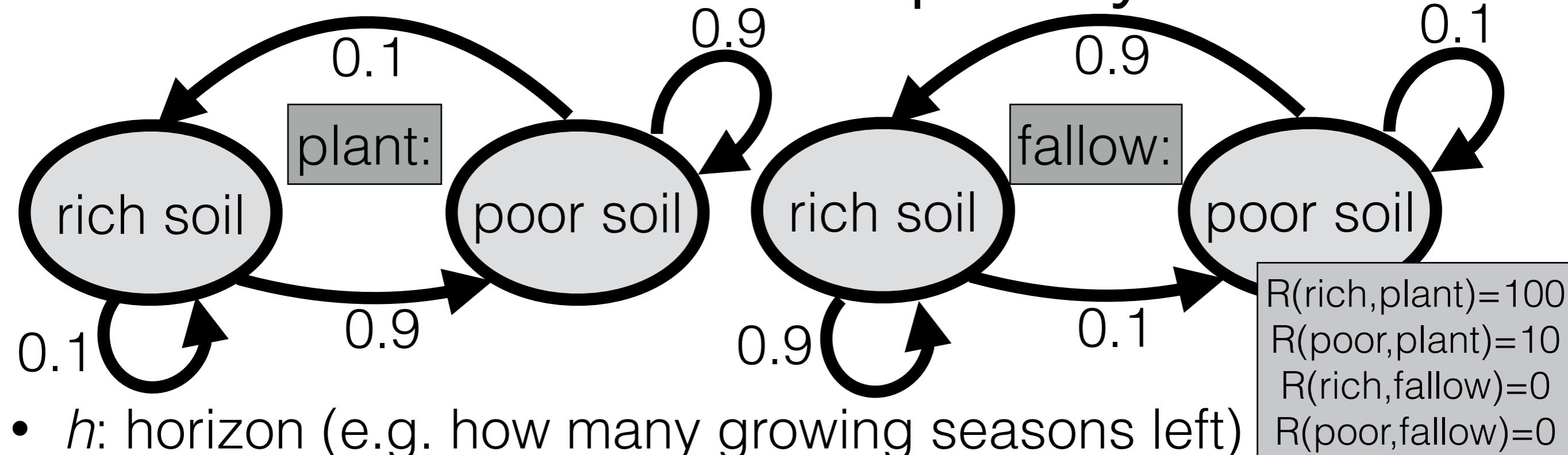
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Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$ : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

$$V_\pi^0(s) = 0; V_\pi^1(s) = R(s, \pi(s))$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) = R(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich})) =$$

# What's the value of a policy?



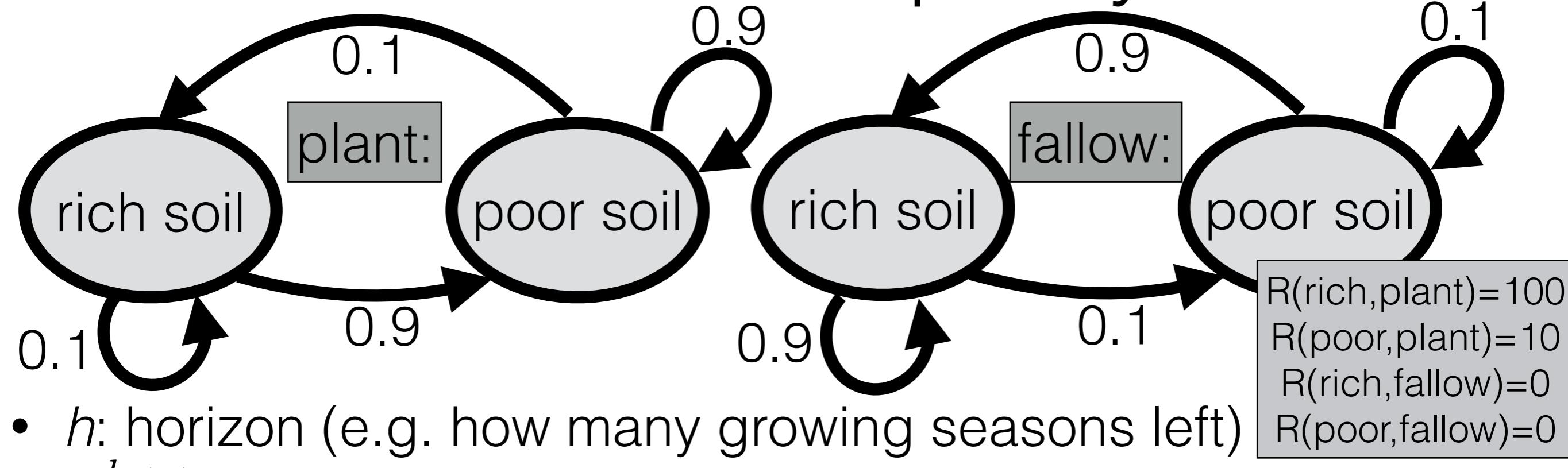
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Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$  : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

$$V_\pi^0(s) = 0; V_\pi^1(s) = R(s, \pi(s))$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) = R(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich})) = 100$$

# What's the value of a policy?



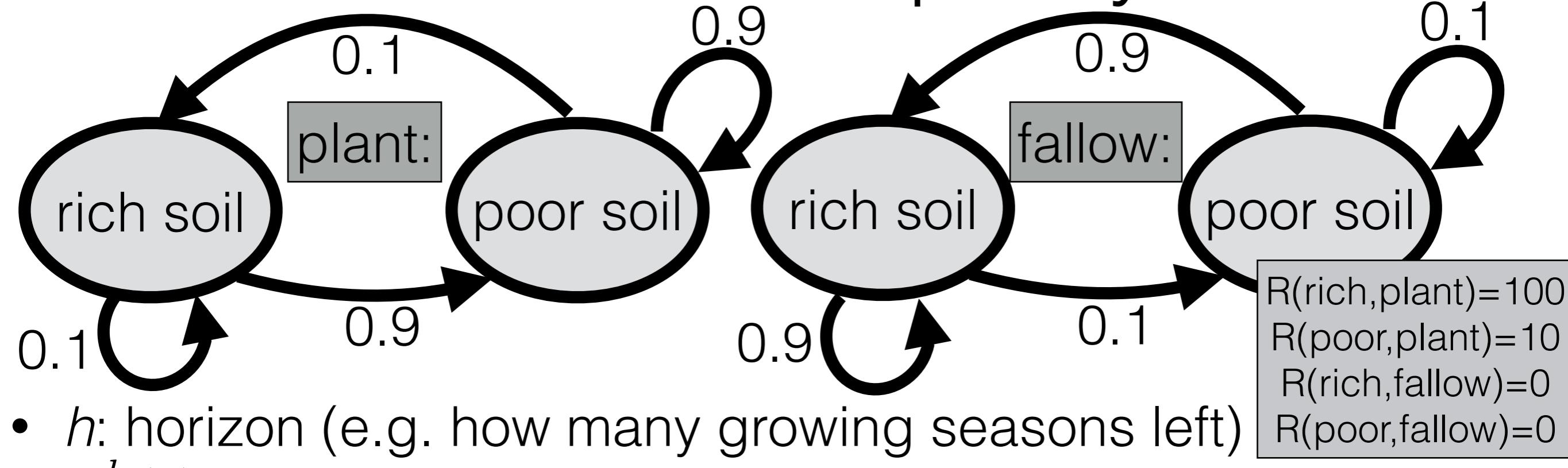
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Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$  : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

$$V_\pi^0(s) = 0; V_\pi^1(s) = R(s, \pi(s))$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) = 100$$

# What's the value of a policy?



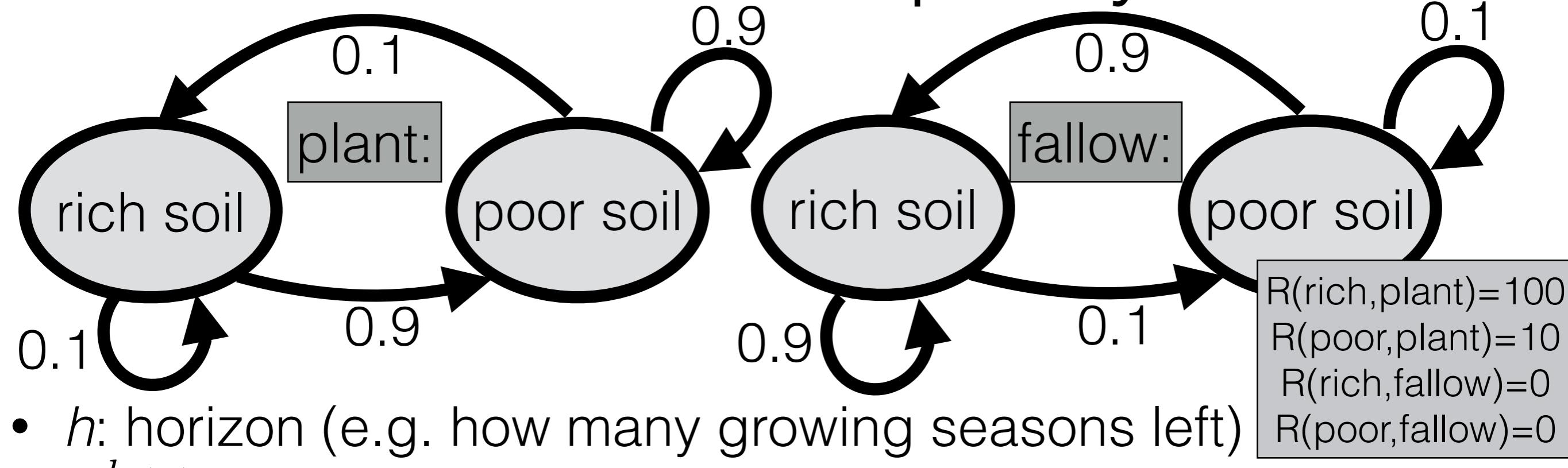
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Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$  : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

$$V_\pi^0(s) = 0; V_\pi^1(s) = R(s, \pi(s))$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) =$$

# What's the value of a policy?



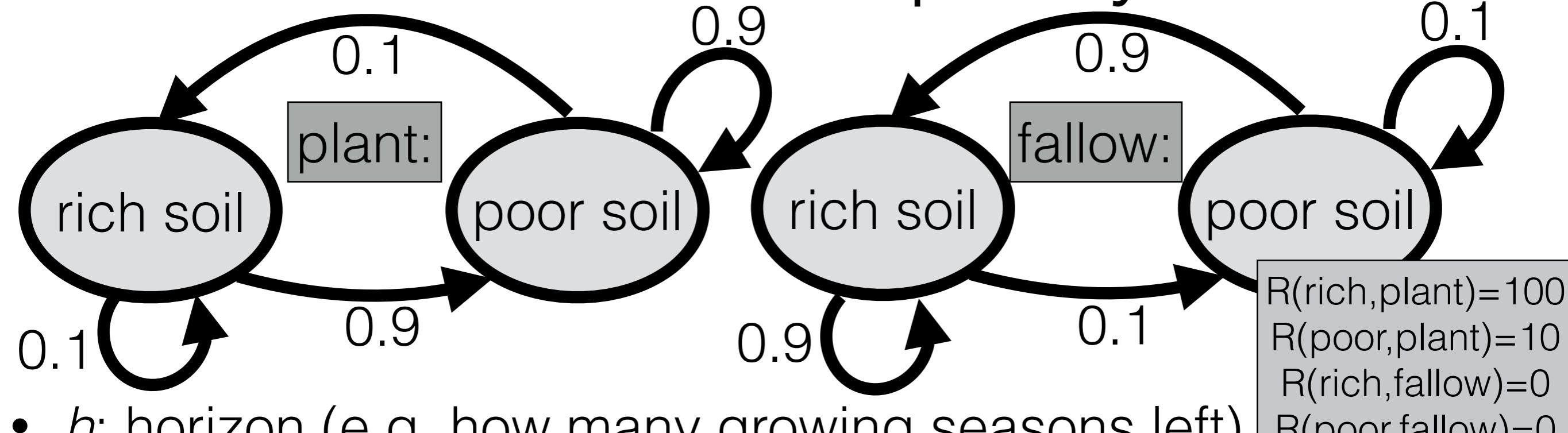
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Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$  : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

$$V_\pi^0(s) = 0; V_\pi^1(s) = R(s, \pi(s))$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) = 10$$

# What's the value of a policy?



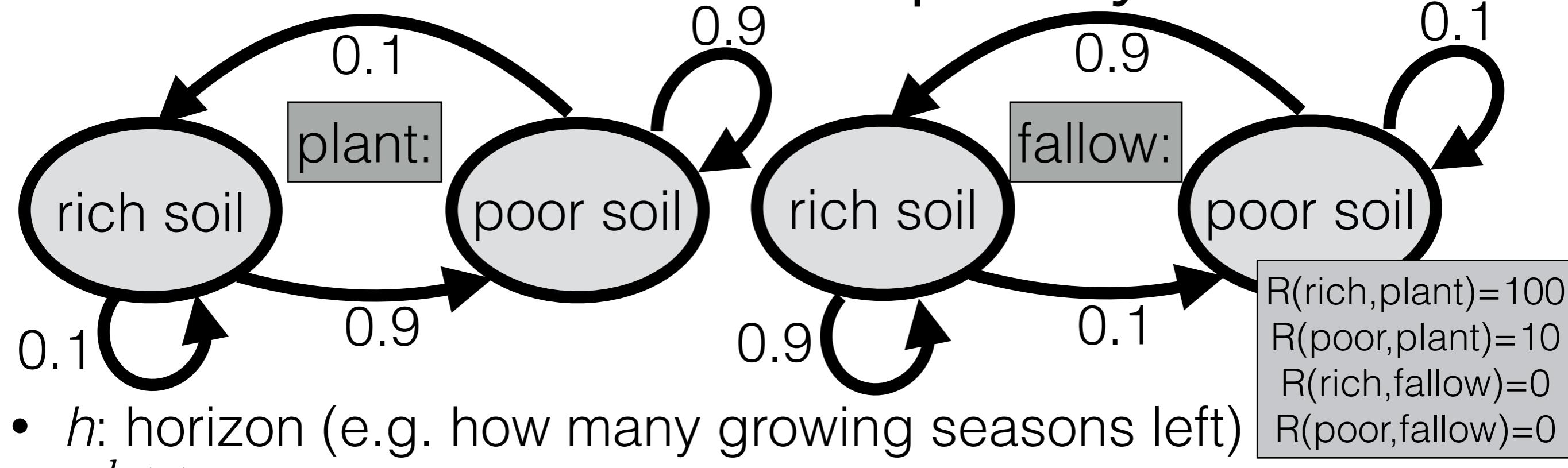
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$$V_\pi^0(s) = 0; V_\pi^1(s) = R(s, \pi(s))$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) = 10; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{poor}) = 0$$

# What's the value of a policy?



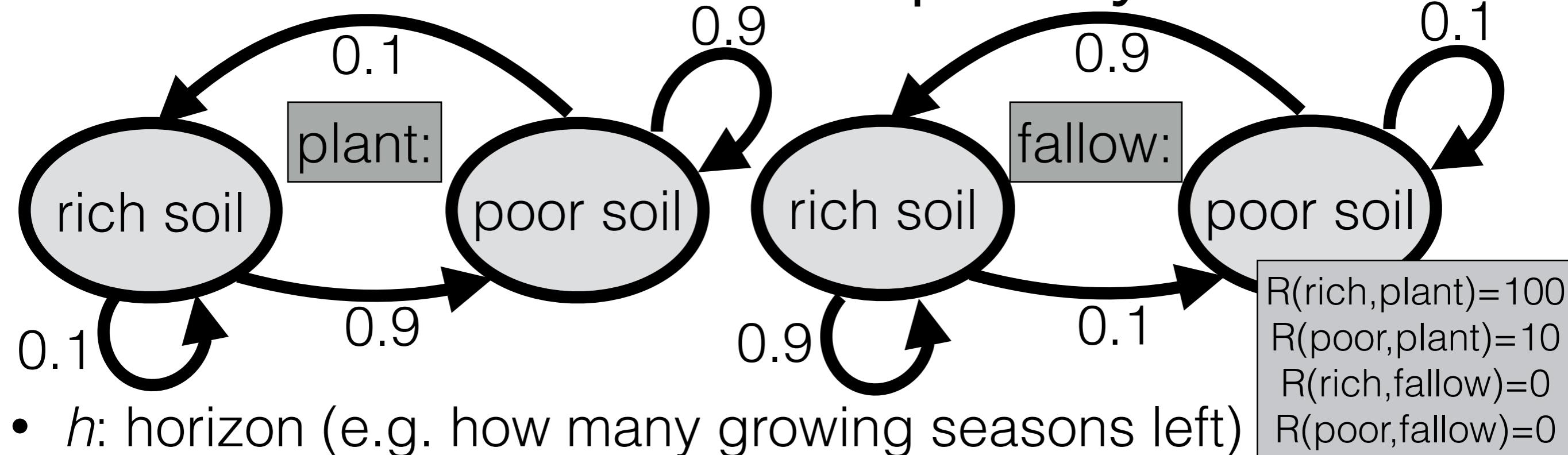
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$$V_\pi^0(s) = 0; V_\pi^1(s) = R(s, \pi(s))$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) = 10; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{poor}) = 0$$

# What's the value of a policy?



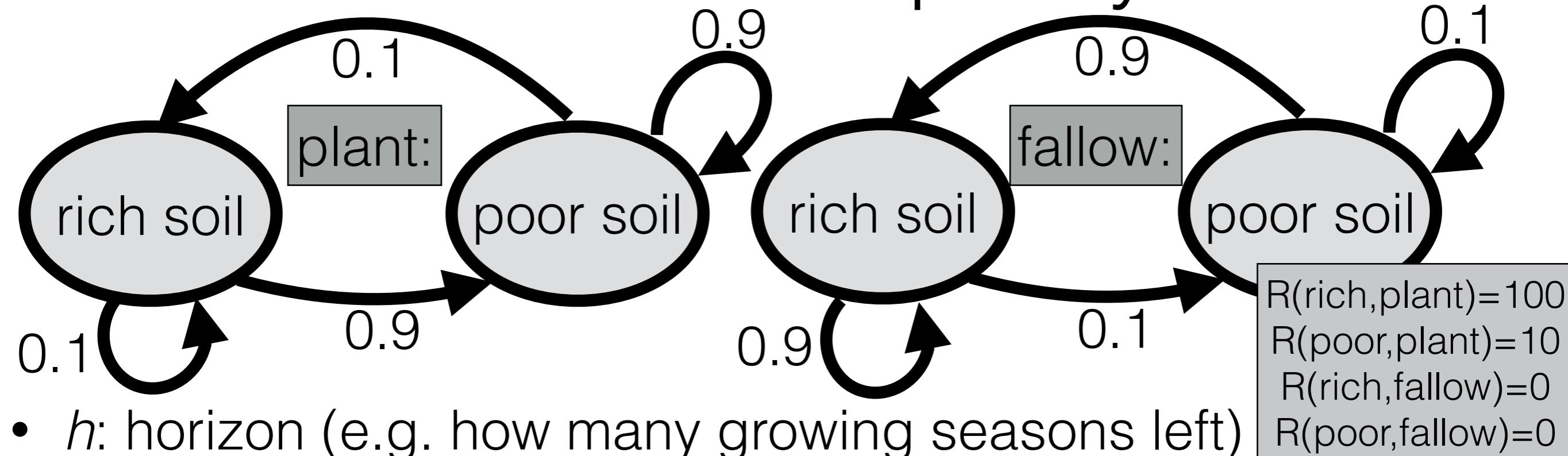
- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)
- $V_\pi^h(s)$ : value (expected reward) with policy  $\pi$  starting at  $s$

Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$  : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

$$V_\pi^0(s) = 0; V_\pi^h(s) = R(s, \pi(s)) + \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \cdot V_\pi^{h-1}(s')$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) = 10; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{poor}) = 0$$

# What's the value of a policy?



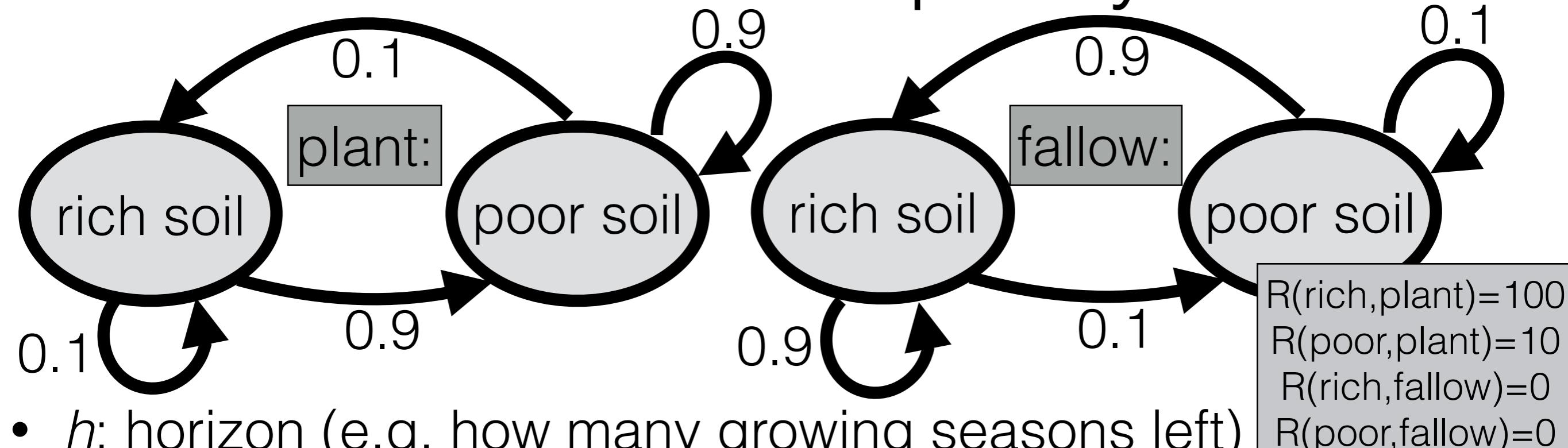
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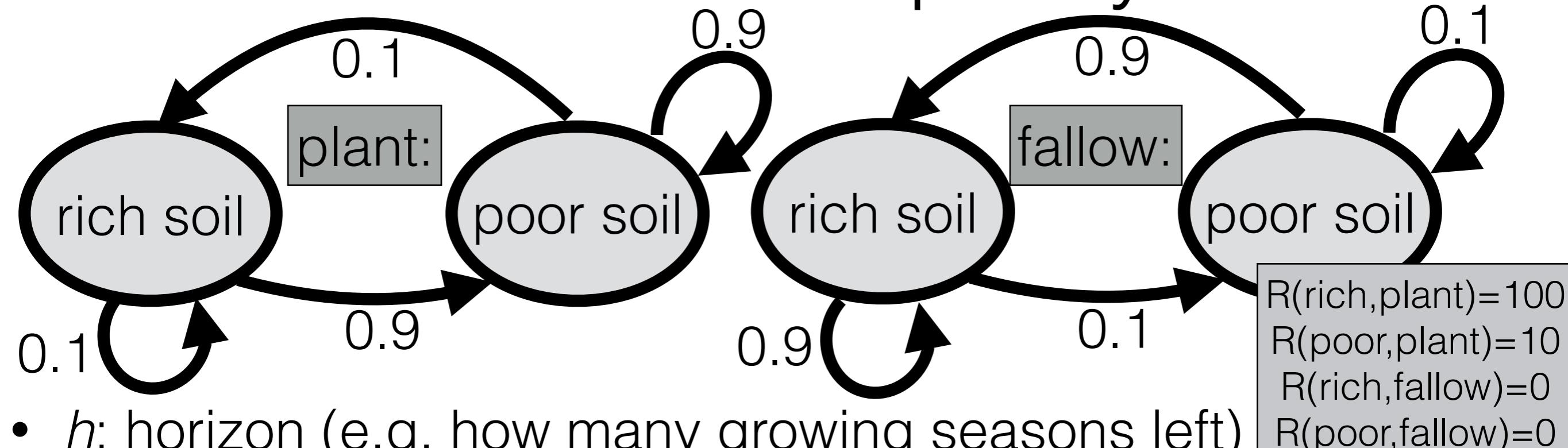
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$$V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) = 10; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{poor}) = 0$$

# What's the value of a policy?



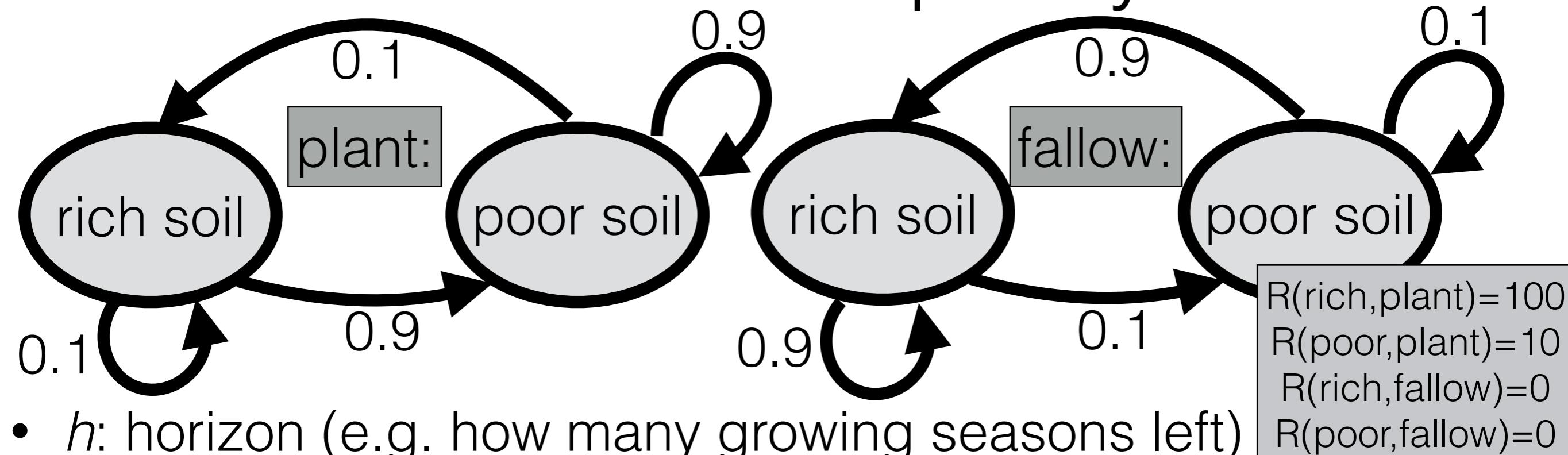
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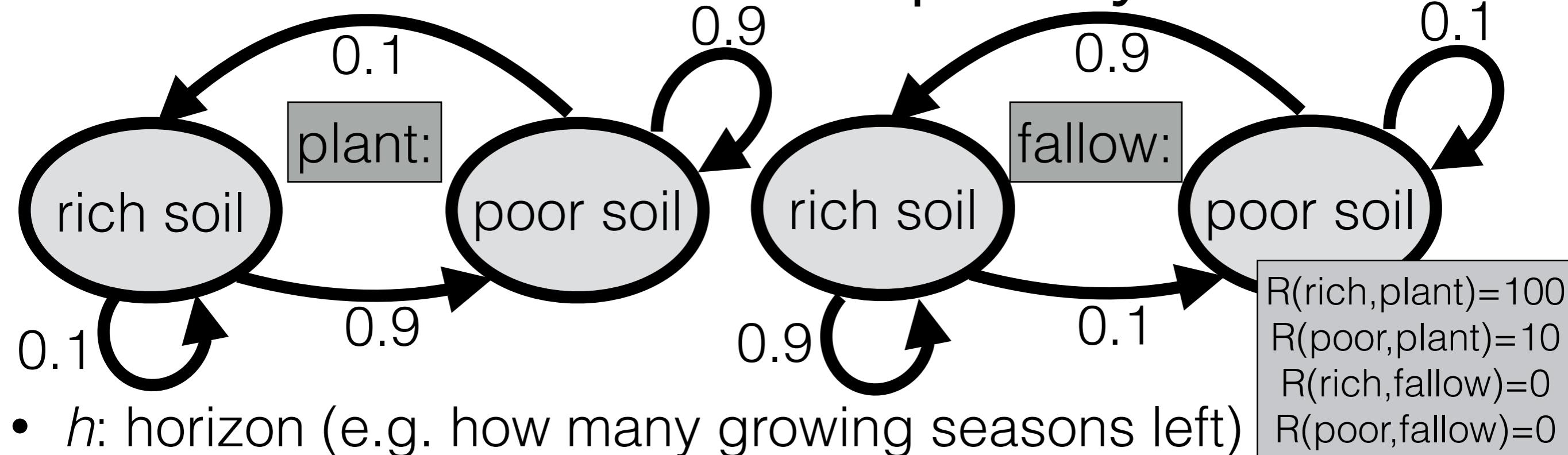
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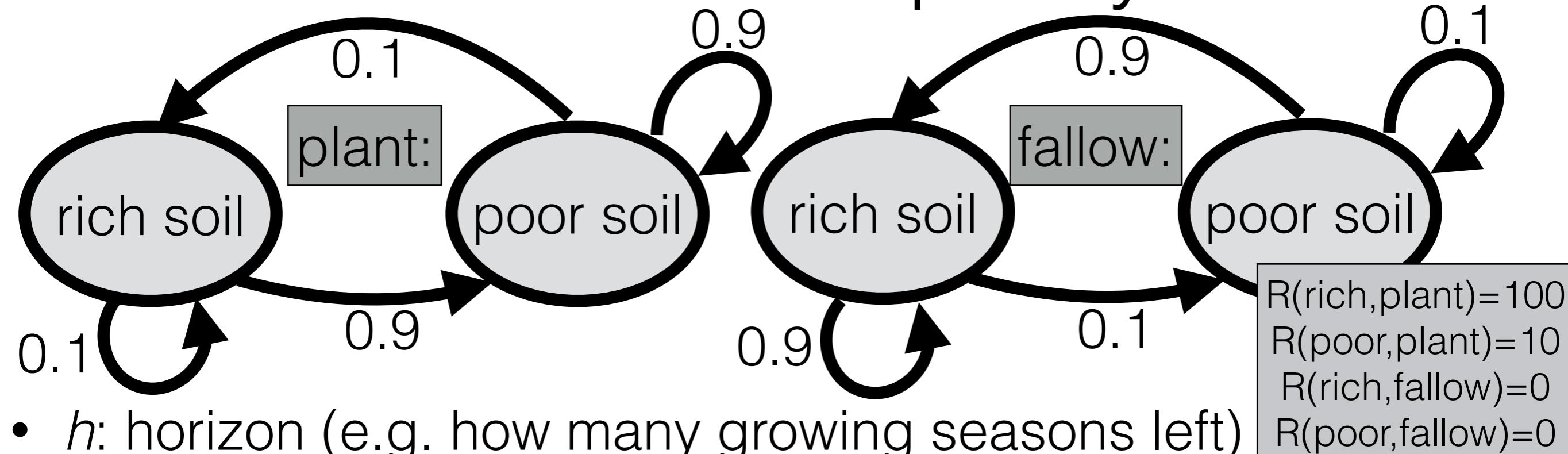
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$$V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) = 10; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{poor}) = 0$$

# What's the value of a policy?



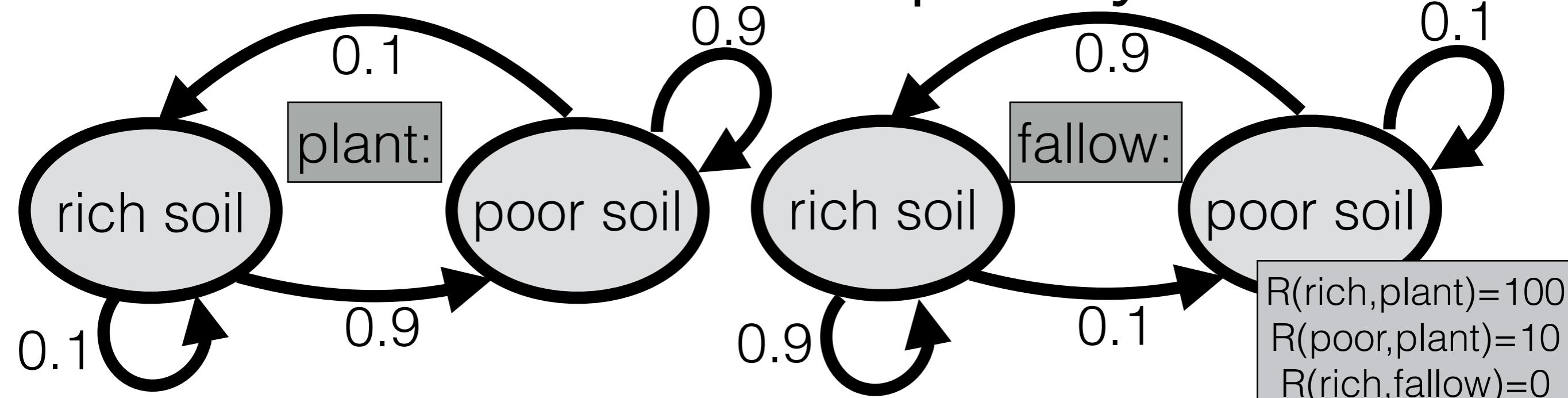
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# What's the value of a policy?



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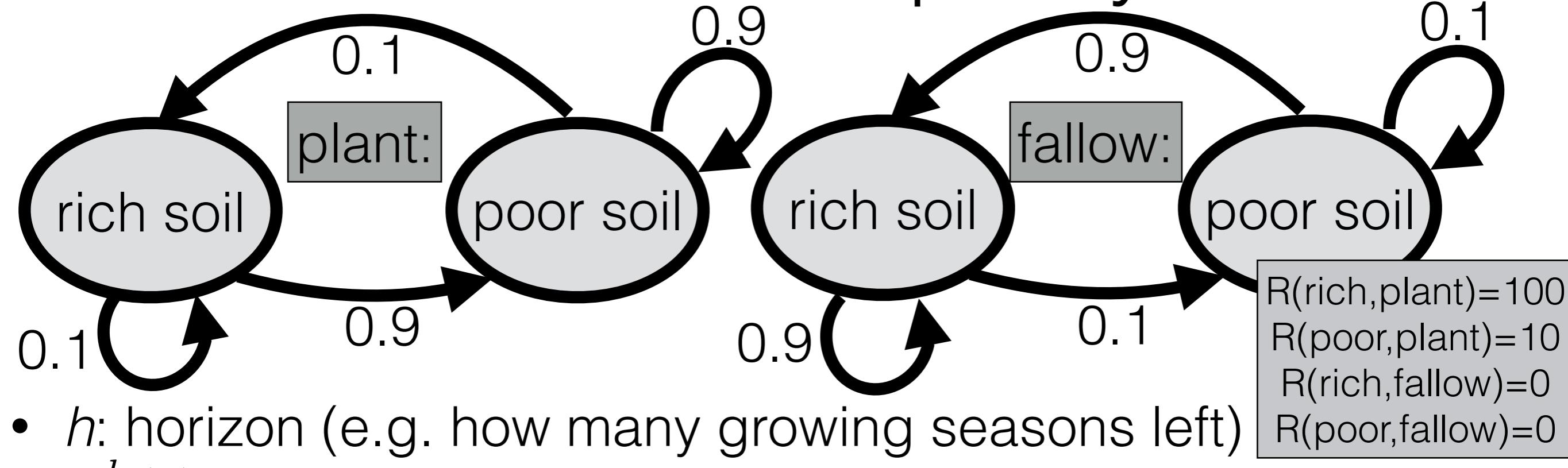
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$$V_\pi^0(s) = 0; V_\pi^h(s) = R(s, \pi(s)) + \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \cdot V_\pi^{h-1}(s')$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) = 10; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{poor}) = 0$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{rich}) =$$

# What's the value of a policy?



- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)
- $V_\pi^h(s)$ : value (expected reward) with policy  $\pi$  starting at  $s$

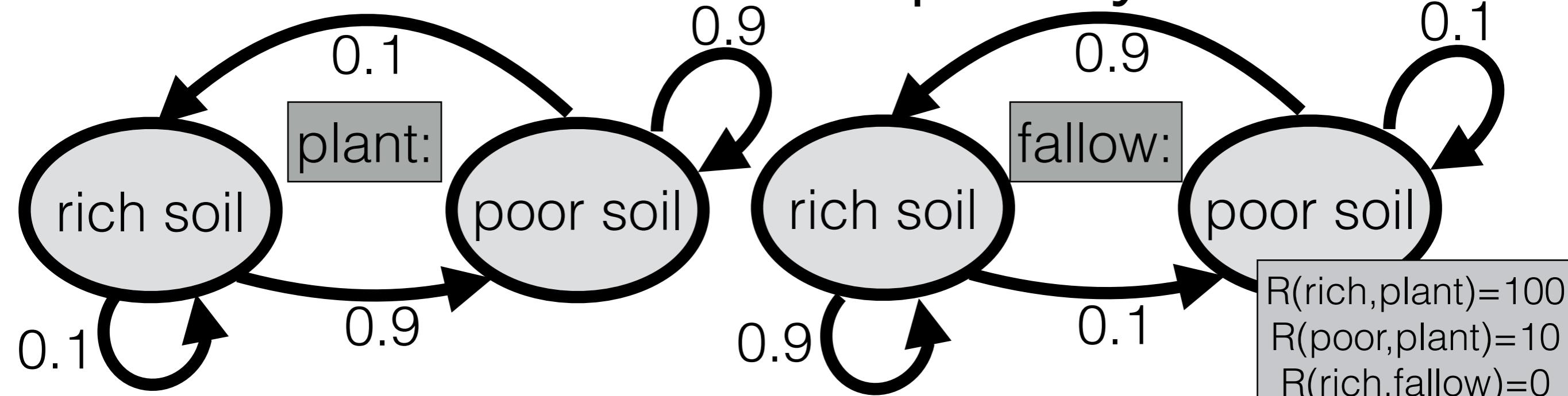
Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$ : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

$$V_\pi^0(s) = 0; V_\pi^h(s) = R(s, \pi(s)) + \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \cdot V_\pi^{h-1}(s')$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) = 10; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{poor}) = 0$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{rich}) = R(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich})) +$$

# What's the value of a policy?

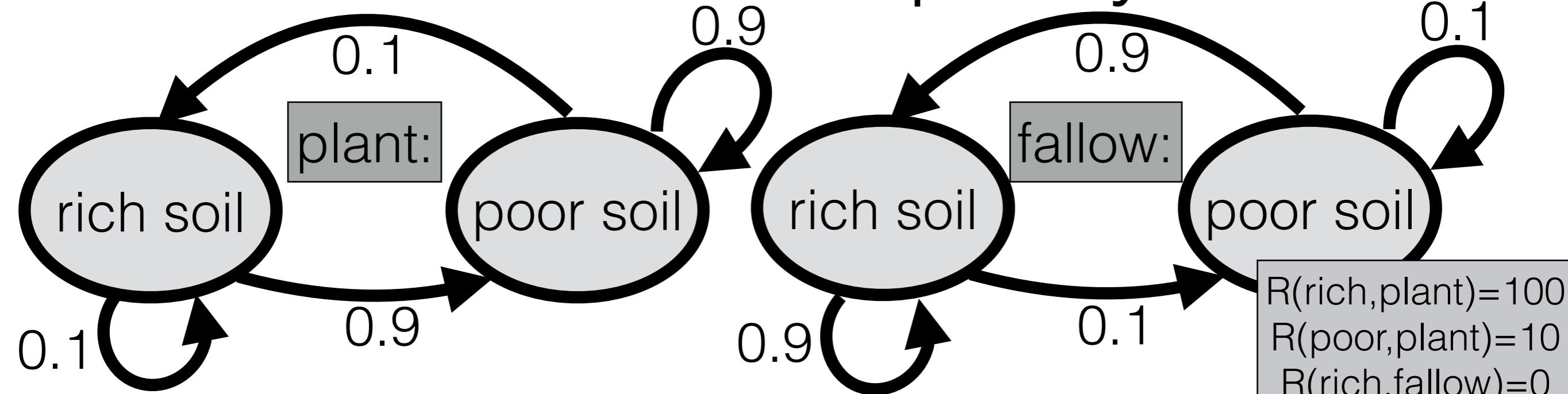


- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)
- $V_\pi^h(s)$ : value (expected reward) with policy  $\pi$  starting at  $s$

Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$  : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

$$\begin{aligned}
 V_\pi^0(s) &= 0; V_\pi^h(s) = R(s, \pi(s)) + \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \cdot V_\pi^{h-1}(s') \\
 V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) &= 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) = 10; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{poor}) = 0 \\
 V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{rich}) &= R(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich})) + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{rich})V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) \\
 &\quad + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{poor})V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor})
 \end{aligned}$$

# What's the value of a policy?

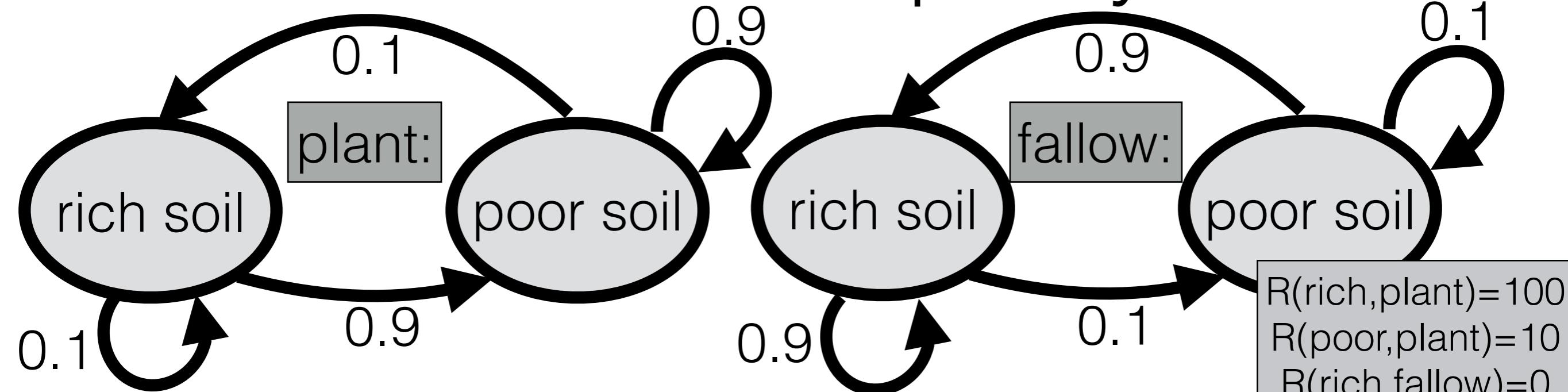


- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)
- $V_\pi^h(s)$ : value (expected reward) with policy  $\pi$  starting at  $s$

Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$ : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

$$\begin{aligned}
 V_\pi^0(s) &= 0; V_\pi^h(s) = R(s, \pi(s)) + \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \cdot V_\pi^{h-1}(s') \\
 V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) &= 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) = 10; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{poor}) = 0 \\
 V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{rich}) &= R(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich})) + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{rich}) V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) \\
 &\quad + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{poor}) V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor})
 \end{aligned}$$

# What's the value of a policy?



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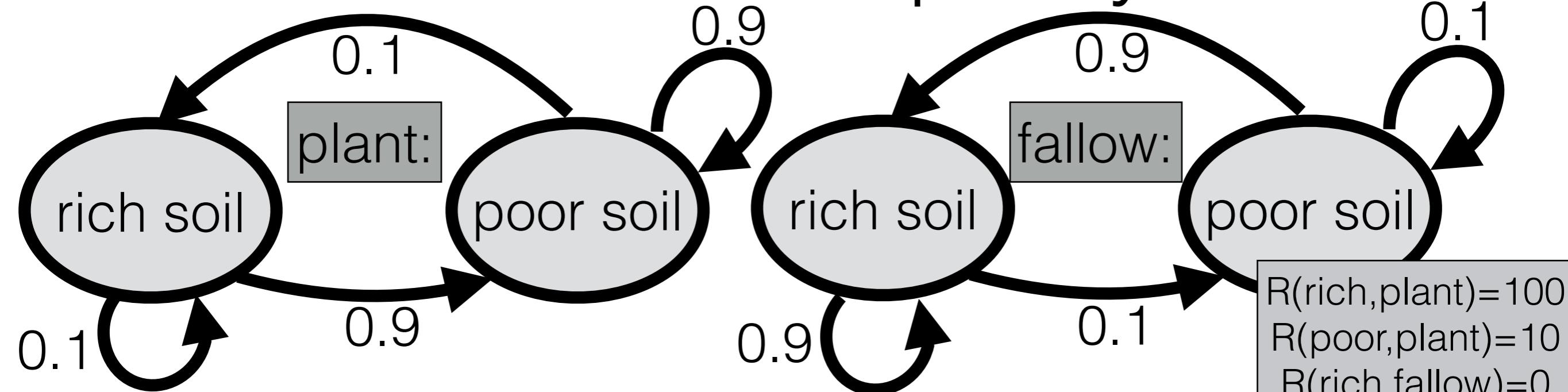
$$V_\pi^0(s) = 0; V_\pi^h(s) = R(s, \pi(s)) + \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \cdot V_\pi^{h-1}(s')$$

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$$V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{rich}) = R(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich})) + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{rich})V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich})$$

$$+ T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{poor})V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor})$$

# What's the value of a policy?



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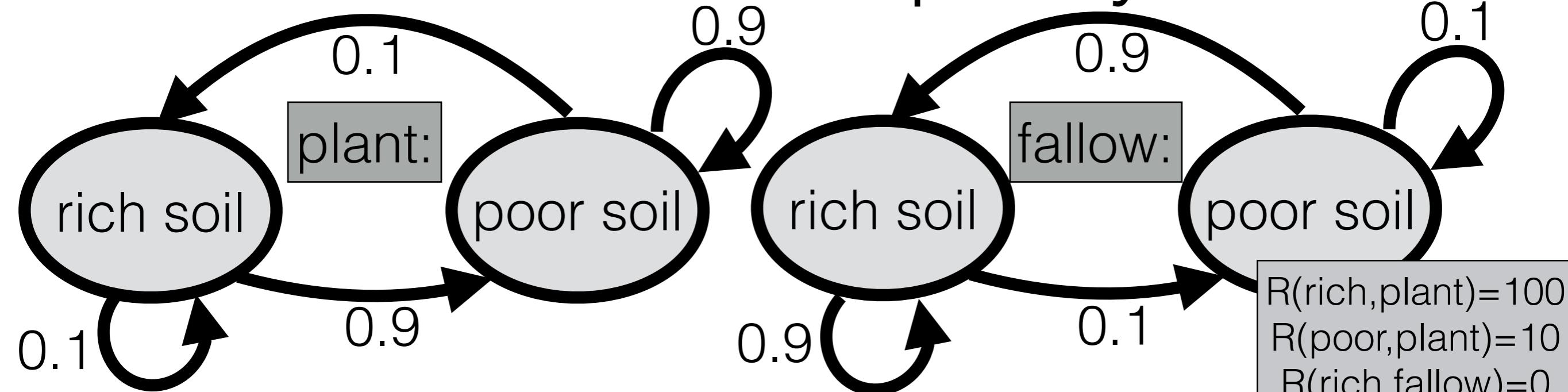
$$V_\pi^0(s) = 0; V_\pi^h(s) = R(s, \pi(s)) + \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \cdot V_\pi^{h-1}(s')$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) = 10; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{poor}) = 0$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{rich}) = R(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich})) + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{rich})V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich})$$

$$+ T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{poor})V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor})$$

# What's the value of a policy?

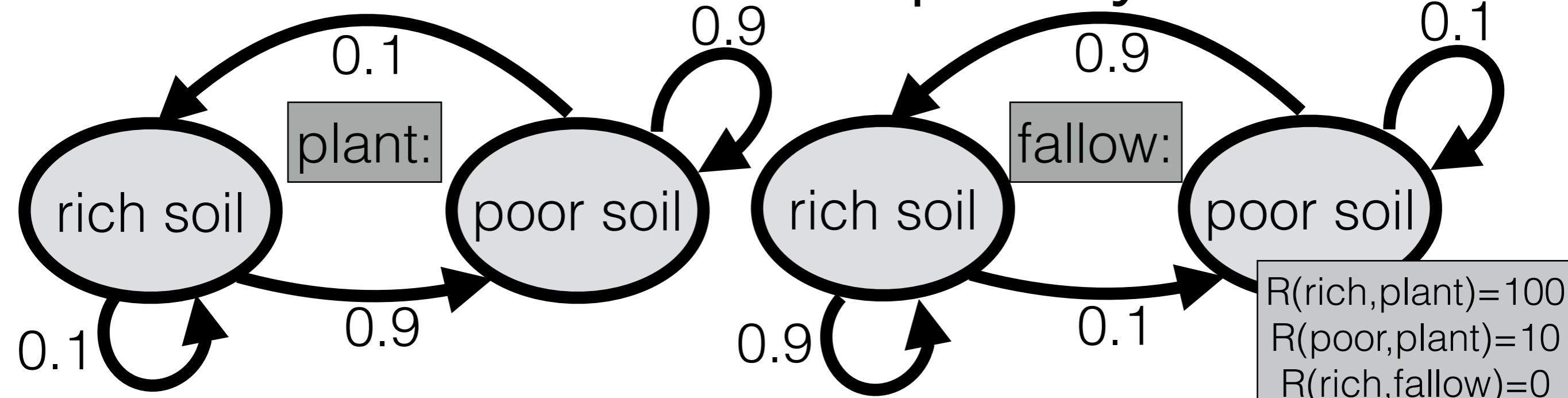


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$$\begin{aligned}
 V_\pi^0(s) &= 0; V_\pi^h(s) = R(s, \pi(s)) + \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \cdot V_\pi^{h-1}(s') \\
 V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) &= 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) = 10; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{poor}) = 0 \\
 V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{rich}) &= R(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich})) + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{rich})V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) \\
 &\quad + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{poor})V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor})
 \end{aligned}$$

# What's the value of a policy?

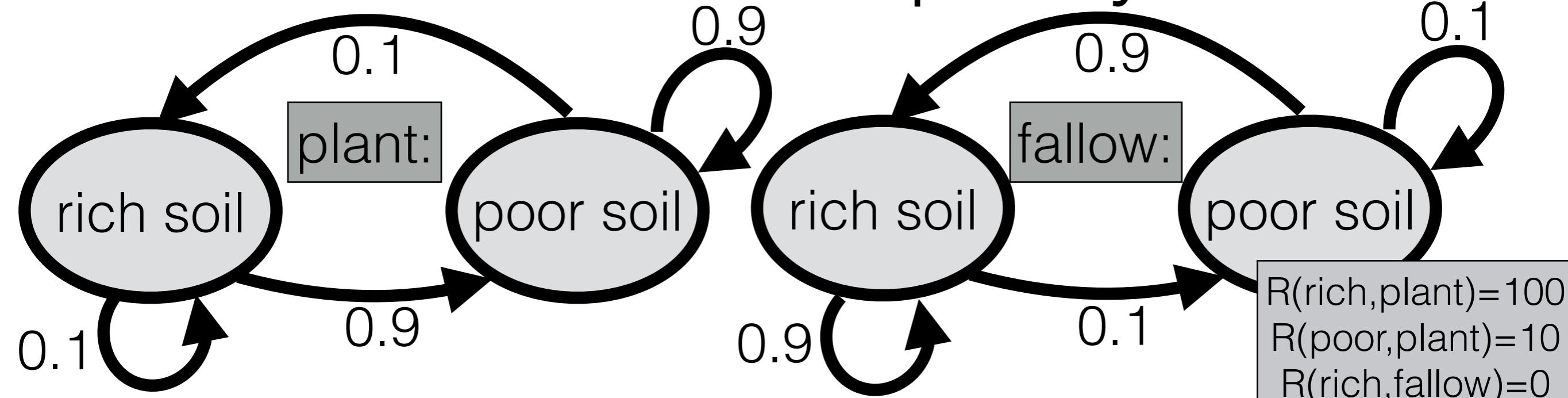


- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)
- $V_\pi^h(s)$ : value (expected reward) with policy  $\pi$  starting at  $s$

Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$  : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

$$\begin{aligned}
 V_\pi^0(s) &= 0; V_\pi^h(s) = R(s, \pi(s)) + \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \cdot V_\pi^{h-1}(s') \\
 V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) &= 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) = 10; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{poor}) = 0 \\
 V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{rich}) &= R(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich})) + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{rich})V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) \\
 &\quad + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{poor})V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor})
 \end{aligned}$$

# What's the value of a policy?

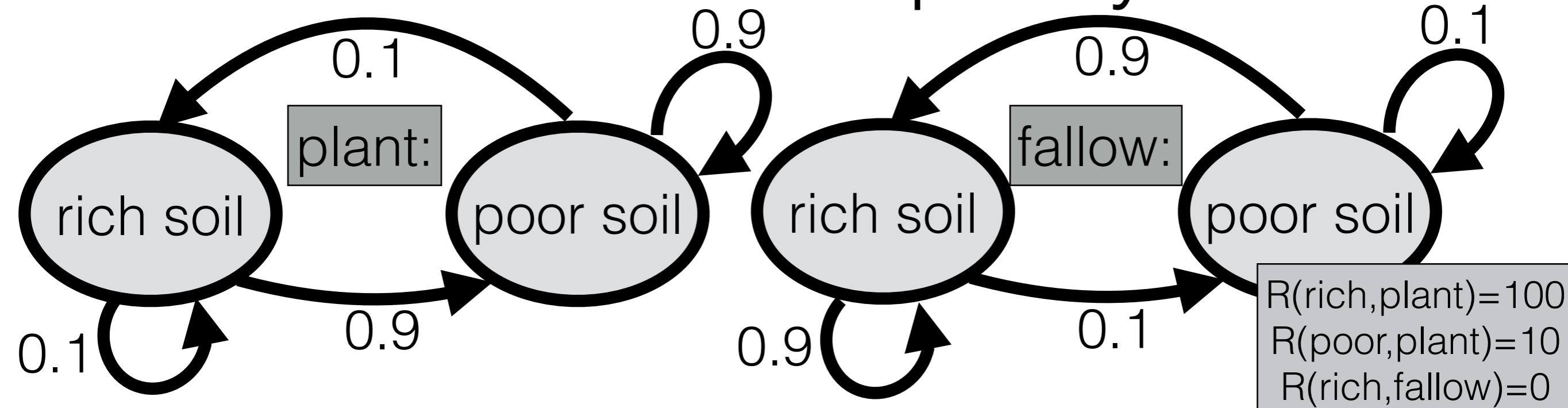


- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)
- $V_\pi^h(s)$ : value (expected reward) with policy  $\pi$  starting at  $s$

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$$\begin{aligned}
 V_\pi^0(s) &= 0; V_\pi^h(s) = R(s, \pi(s)) + \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \cdot V_\pi^{h-1}(s') \\
 V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) &= 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) = 10; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{poor}) = 0 \\
 V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{rich}) &= R(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich})) + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{rich})V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) \\
 &\quad + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{poor})V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) \\
 &= 100 + (0.1)(100) + (0.9)(10)
 \end{aligned}$$

# What's the value of a policy?

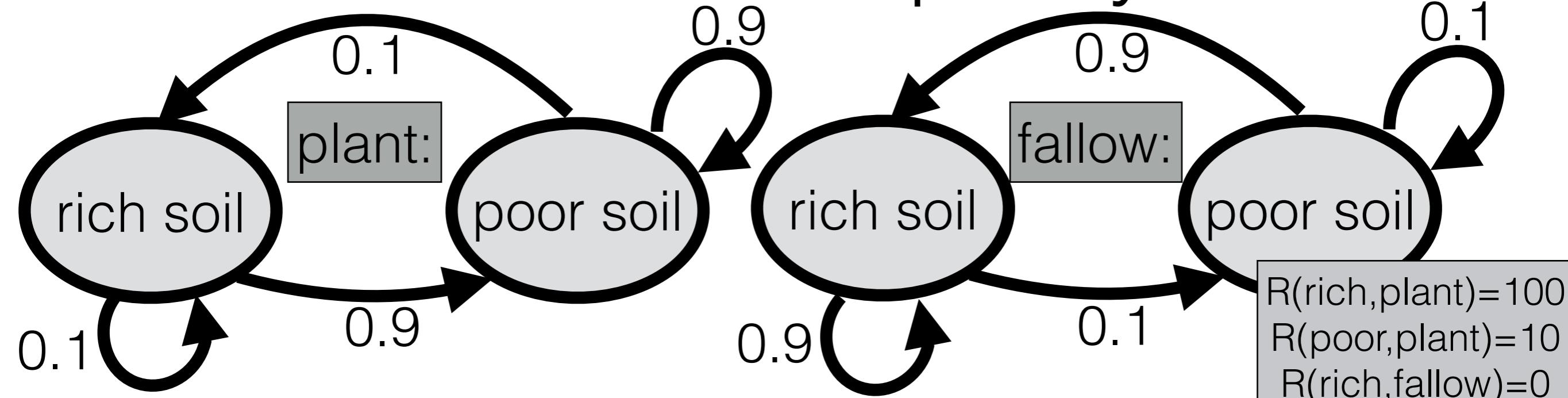


- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)
- $V_\pi^h(s)$ : value (expected reward) with policy  $\pi$  starting at  $s$

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$$\begin{aligned}
 V_\pi^0(s) &= 0; V_\pi^h(s) = R(s, \pi(s)) + \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \cdot V_\pi^{h-1}(s') \\
 V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) &= 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) = 10; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{poor}) = 0 \\
 V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{rich}) &= R(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich})) + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{rich})V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) \\
 &\quad + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{poor})V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) \\
 &= 100 + (0.1)(100) + (0.9)(10)
 \end{aligned}$$

# What's the value of a policy?

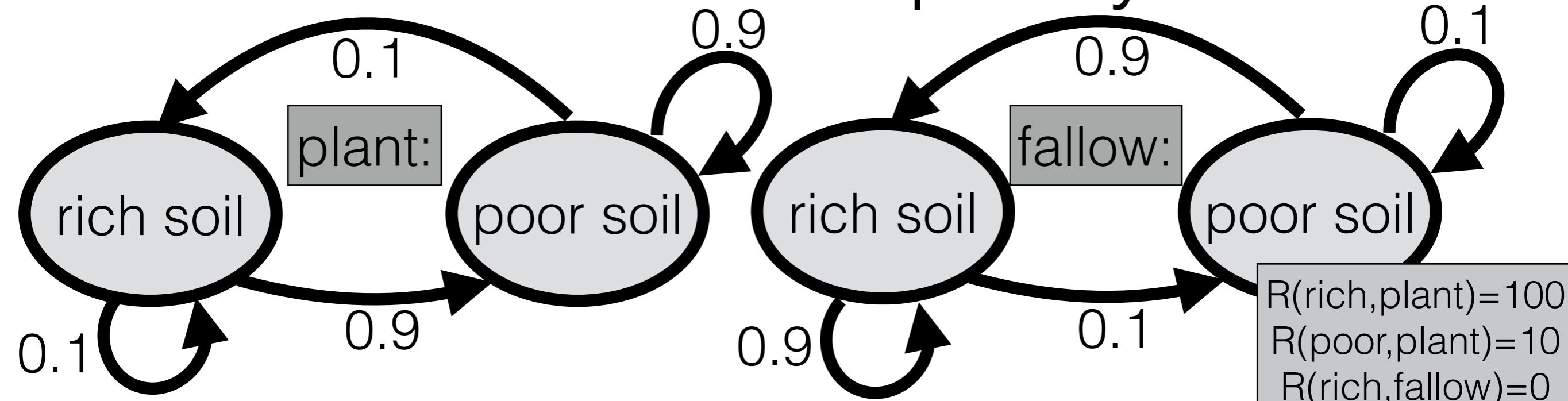


- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)
- $V_\pi^h(s)$ : value (expected reward) with policy  $\pi$  starting at  $s$

Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$  : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

$$\begin{aligned}
 V_\pi^0(s) &= 0; V_\pi^h(s) = R(s, \pi(s)) + \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \cdot V_\pi^{h-1}(s') \\
 V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) &= 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) = 10; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{poor}) = 0 \\
 V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{rich}) &= R(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich})) + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{rich}) V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) \\
 &\quad + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{poor}) V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) \\
 &= 100 + (0.1)(100) + (0.9)(10)
 \end{aligned}$$

# What's the value of a policy?

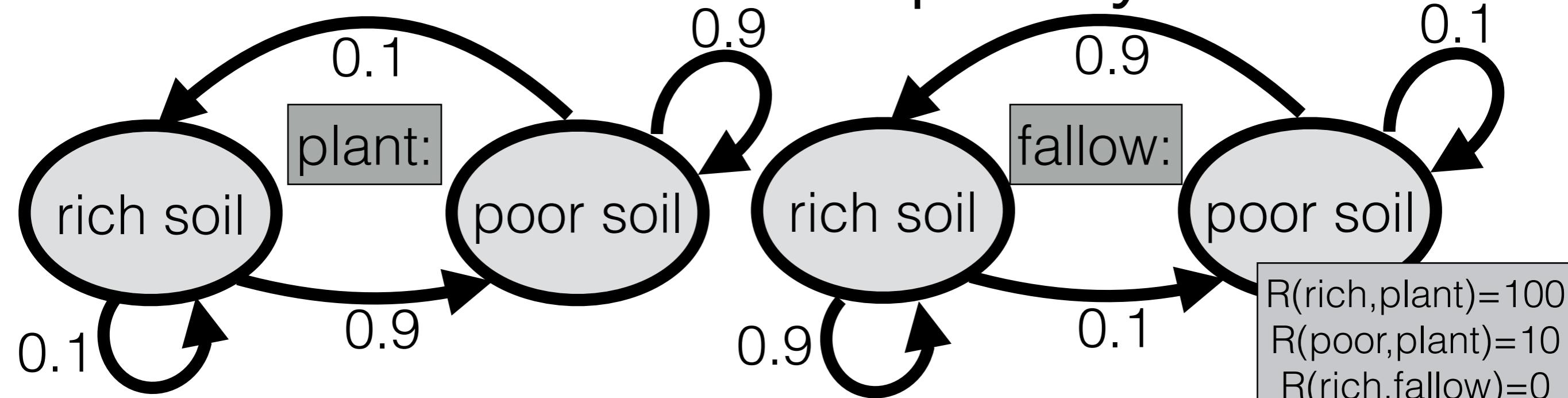


- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)
- $V_\pi^h(s)$ : value (expected reward) with policy  $\pi$  starting at  $s$

Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$ : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

$$\begin{aligned}
 V_\pi^0(s) &= 0; V_\pi^h(s) = R(s, \pi(s)) + \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \cdot V_\pi^{h-1}(s') \\
 V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) &= 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) = 10; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{poor}) = 0 \\
 V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{rich}) &= R(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich})) + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{rich}) V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) \\
 &\quad + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{poor}) V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) \\
 &= 100 + (0.1)(100) + (0.9)(10)
 \end{aligned}$$

# What's the value of a policy?

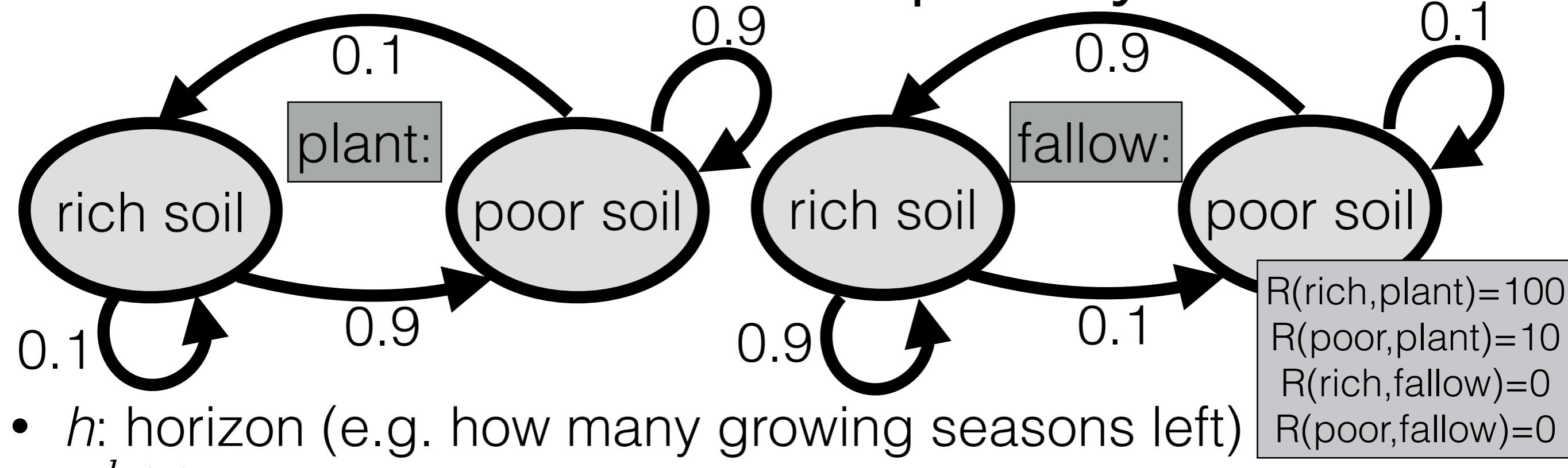


- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)
- $V_\pi^h(s)$ : value (expected reward) with policy  $\pi$  starting at  $s$

Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$ : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

$$\begin{aligned}
 V_\pi^0(s) &= 0; V_\pi^h(s) = R(s, \pi(s)) + \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \cdot V_\pi^{h-1}(s') \\
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 V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{rich}) &= R(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich})) + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{rich}) V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) \\
 &\quad + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{poor}) V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) \\
 &= 100 + (0.1)(100) + (0.9)(10)
 \end{aligned}$$

# What's the value of a policy?

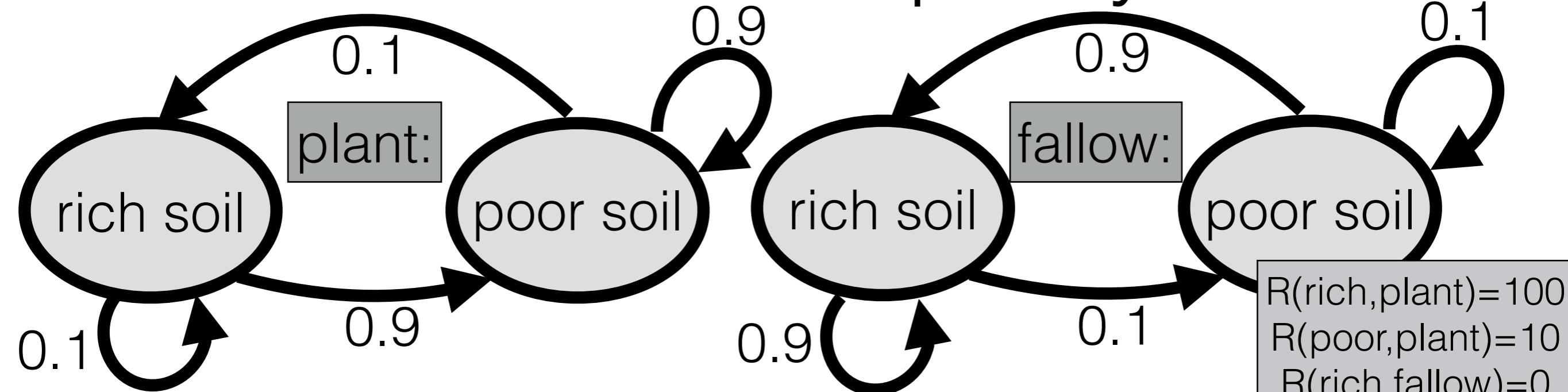


- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)
- $V_\pi^h(s)$ : value (expected reward) with policy  $\pi$  starting at  $s$

Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$ : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

$$\begin{aligned}
 V_\pi^0(s) &= 0; V_\pi^h(s) = R(s, \pi(s)) + \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \cdot V_\pi^{h-1}(s') \\
 V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) &= 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) = 10; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{poor}) = 0 \\
 V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{rich}) &= R(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich})) + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{rich}) V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) \\
 &\quad + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{poor}) V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) \\
 &= 100 + (0.1)(100) + (0.9)(10)
 \end{aligned}$$

# What's the value of a policy?

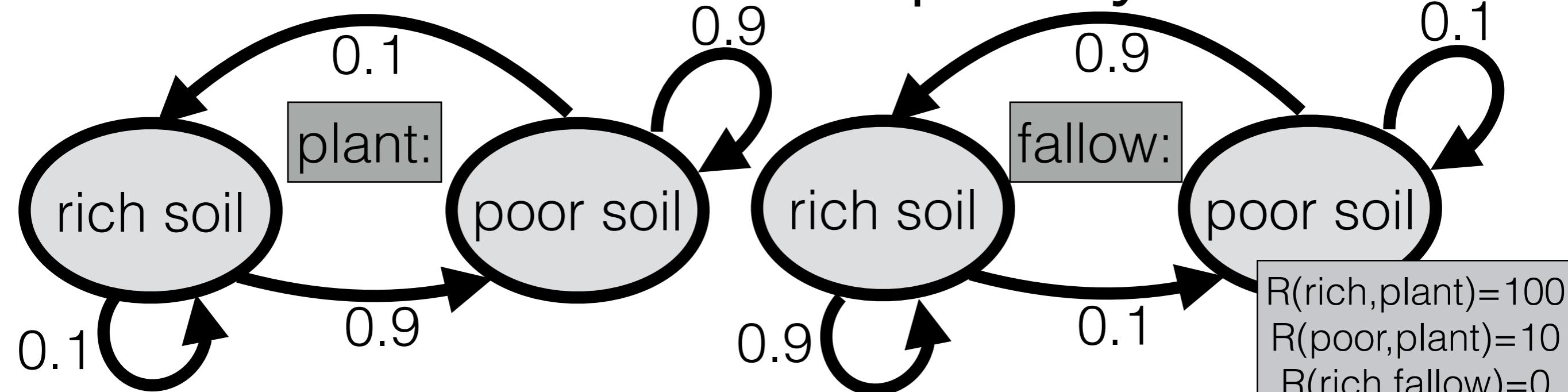


- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)
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$$\begin{aligned}
 V_\pi^0(s) &= 0; V_\pi^h(s) = R(s, \pi(s)) + \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \cdot V_\pi^{h-1}(s') \\
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 V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{rich}) &= R(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich})) + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{rich}) V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) \\
 &\quad + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{poor}) V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) \\
 &= 100 + (0.1)(100) + (0.9)(10)
 \end{aligned}$$

# What's the value of a policy?

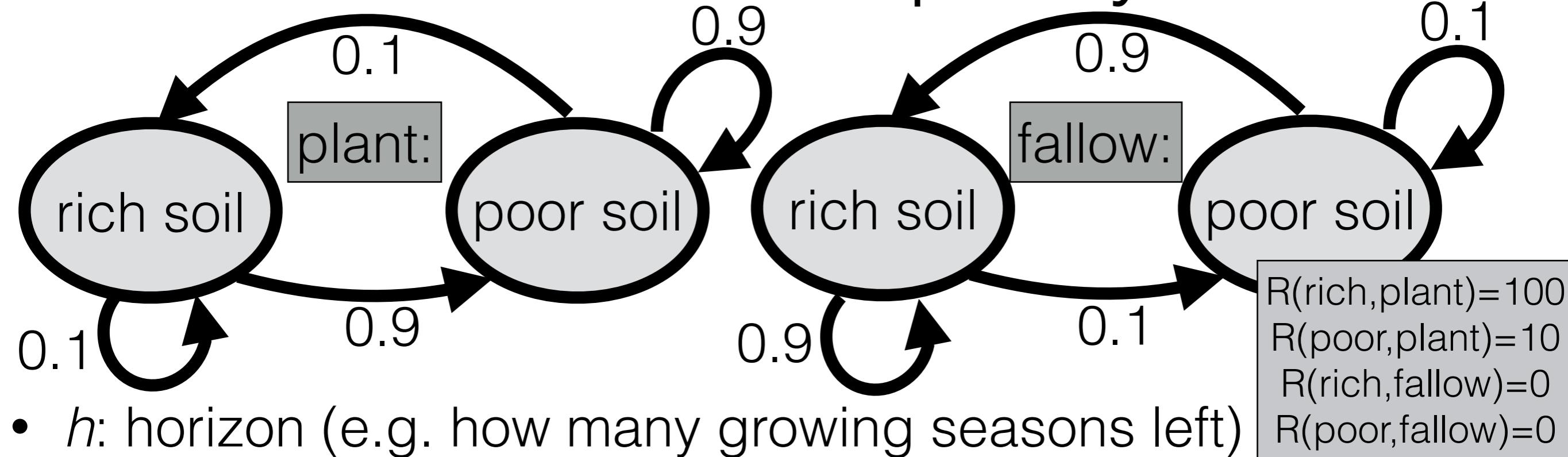


- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)
- $V_\pi^h(s)$ : value (expected reward) with policy  $\pi$  starting at  $s$

Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$  : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

$$\begin{aligned}
 V_\pi^0(s) &= 0; V_\pi^h(s) = R(s, \pi(s)) + \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \cdot V_\pi^{h-1}(s') \\
 V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) &= 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) = 10; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{poor}) = 0 \\
 V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{rich}) &= R(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich})) + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{rich}) V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) \\
 &\quad + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{poor}) V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) \\
 &= 100 + (0.1)(100) + (0.9)(10)
 \end{aligned}$$

# What's the value of a policy?

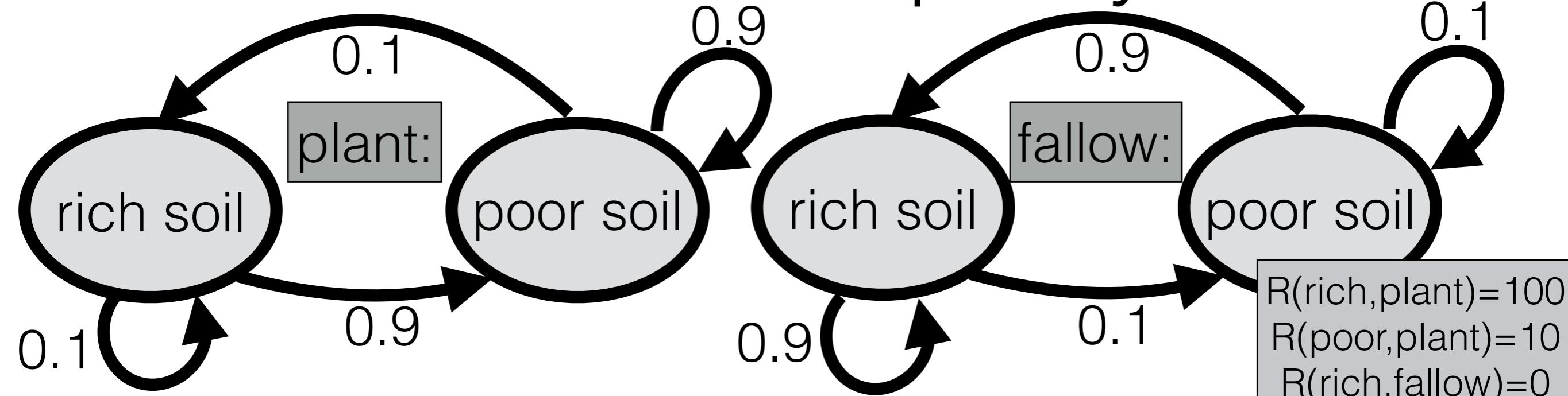


- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)
- $V_\pi^h(s)$ : value (expected reward) with policy  $\pi$  starting at  $s$

Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$ : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

$$\begin{aligned}
 V_\pi^0(s) &= 0; V_\pi^h(s) = R(s, \pi(s)) + \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \cdot V_\pi^{h-1}(s') \\
 V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) &= 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) = 10; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{poor}) = 0 \\
 V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{rich}) &= R(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich})) + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{rich})V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) \\
 &\quad + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{poor})V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) \\
 &= 100 + (0.1)(100) + (0.9)(10) \\
 &= 119
 \end{aligned}$$

# What's the value of a policy?

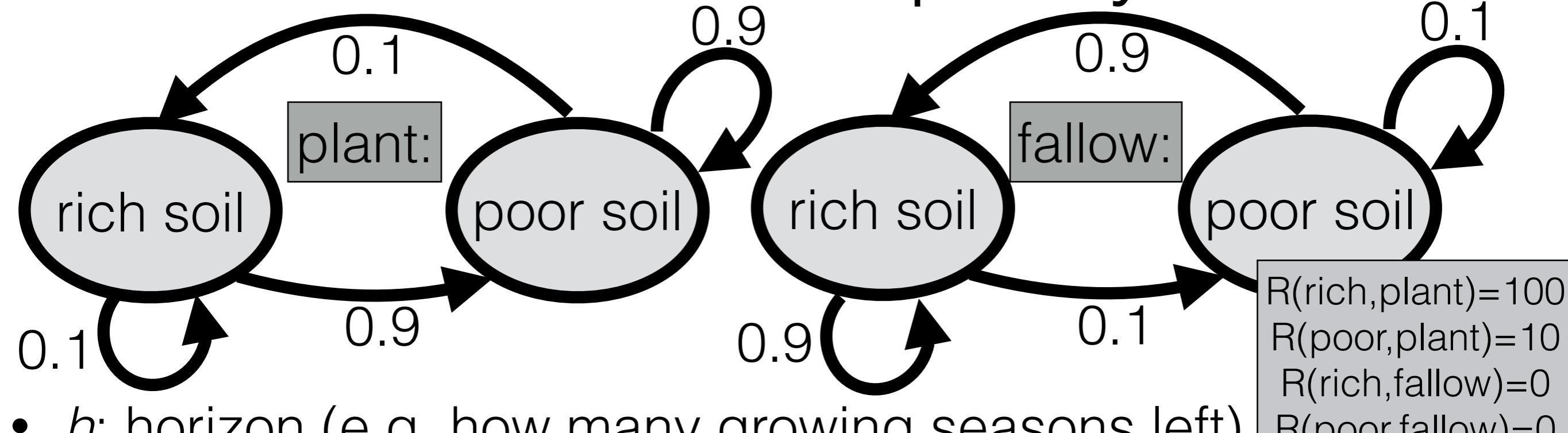


- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)
- $V_\pi^h(s)$ : value (expected reward) with policy  $\pi$  starting at  $s$

Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$  : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

$$\begin{aligned}
 V_\pi^0(s) &= 0; V_\pi^h(s) = R(s, \pi(s)) + \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \cdot V_\pi^{h-1}(s') \\
 V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) &= 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) = 10; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{poor}) = 0 \\
 V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{rich}) &= R(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich})) + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{rich})V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) \\
 &\quad + T(\text{rich}, \pi_A(\text{rich}), \text{poor})V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) \\
 &= 100 + (0.1)(100) + (0.9)(10) \\
 &= 119
 \end{aligned}$$

# What's the value of a policy?



- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)
- $V_\pi^h(s)$ : value (expected reward) with policy  $\pi$  starting at  $s$

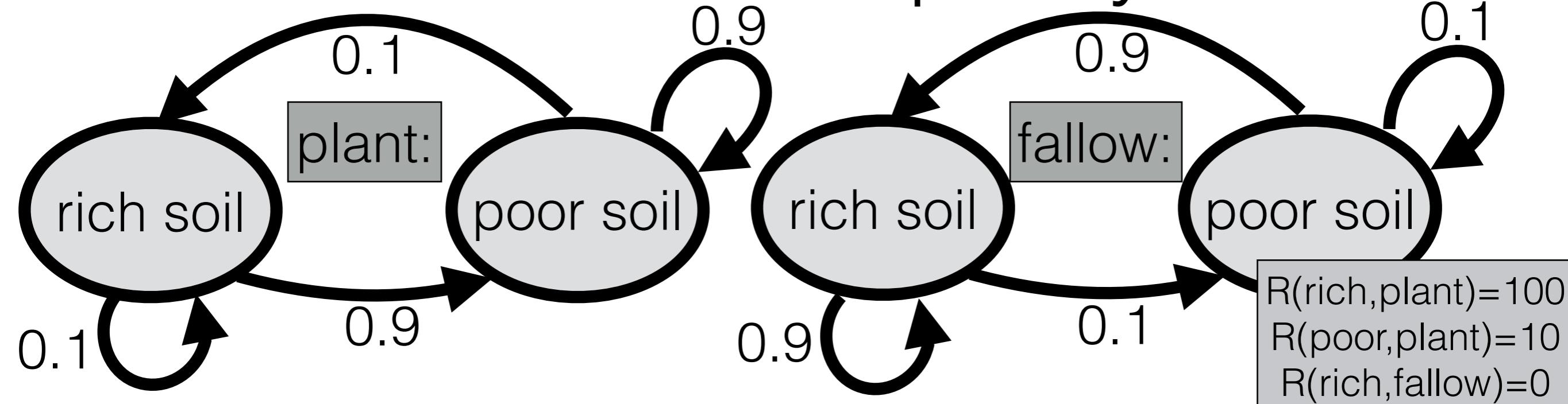
Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$ : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

$$V_\pi^0(s) = 0; V_\pi^h(s) = R(s, \pi(s)) + \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \cdot V_\pi^{h-1}(s')$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) = 10; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{poor}) = 0$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{rich}) = 119$$

# What's the value of a policy?



- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)
- $V_\pi^h(s)$ : value (expected reward) with policy  $\pi$  starting at  $s$

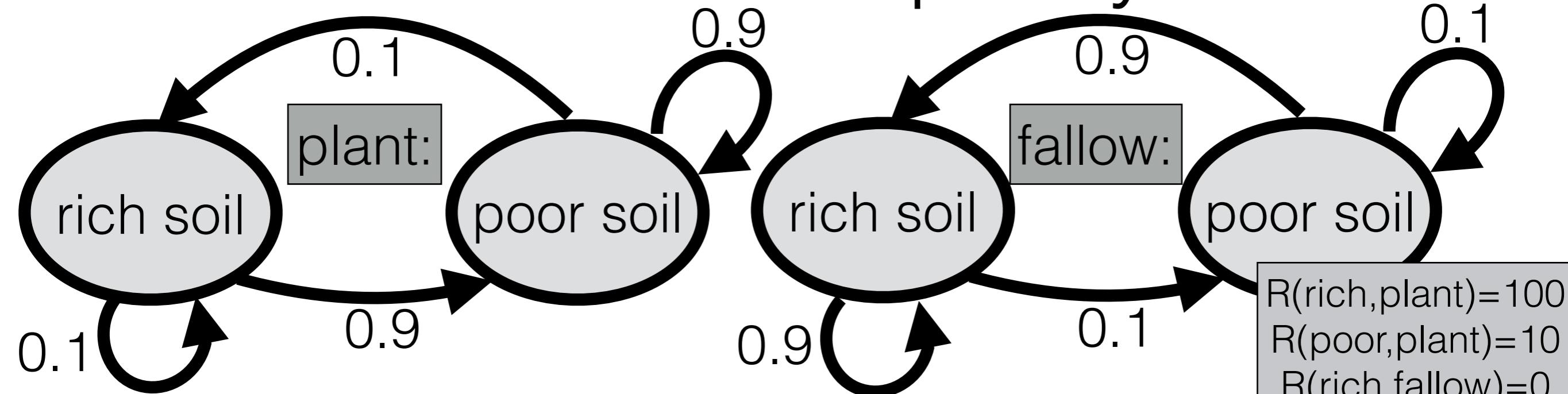
Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$ : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

$$V_\pi^0(s) = 0; V_\pi^h(s) = R(s, \pi(s)) + \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \cdot V_\pi^{h-1}(s')$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) = 10; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{poor}) = 0$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{rich}) = 119; V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{poor}) = 29; V_{\pi_B}^2(\text{rich}) = 110; V_{\pi_B}^2(\text{poor}) = 90$$

# What's the value of a policy?



- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)
- $V_\pi^h(s)$ : value (expected reward) with policy  $\pi$  starting at  $s$

Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$ : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

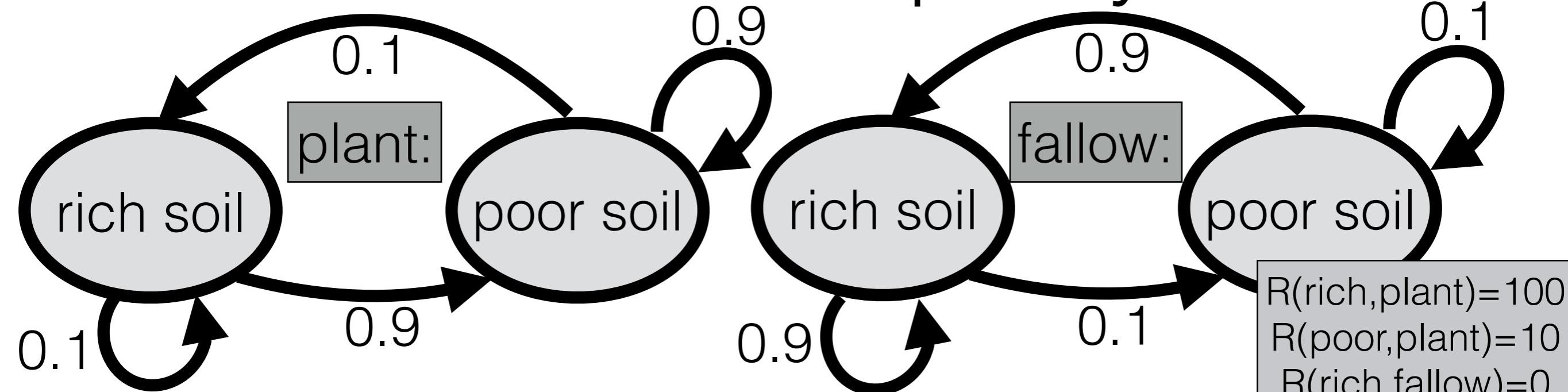
$$V_\pi^0(s) = 0; V_\pi^h(s) = R(s, \pi(s)) + \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \cdot V_\pi^{h-1}(s')$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) = 10; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{poor}) = 0$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{rich}) = 119; V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{poor}) = 29; V_{\pi_B}^2(\text{rich}) = 110; V_{\pi_B}^2(\text{poor}) = 90$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^3(\text{rich}) = 138; V_{\pi_A}^3(\text{poor}) = 48; V_{\pi_B}^3(\text{rich}) = 192; V_{\pi_B}^3(\text{poor}) = 108$$

# What's the value of a policy?



- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)
- $V_\pi^h(s)$ : value (expected reward) with policy  $\pi$  starting at  $s$

Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$ : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

$$V_\pi^0(s) = 0; V_\pi^h(s) = R(s, \pi(s)) + \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \cdot V_\pi^{h-1}(s')$$

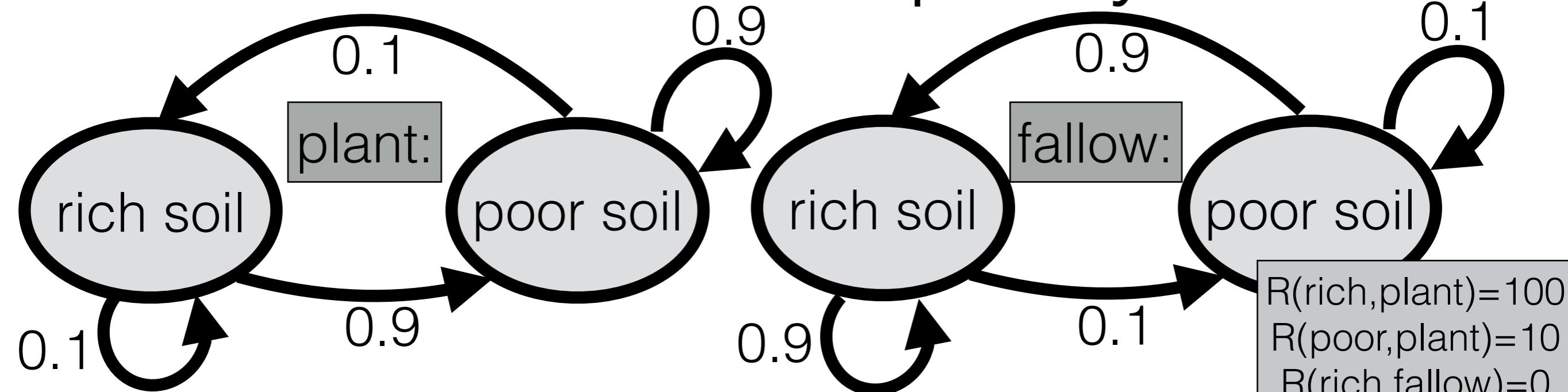
$$V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) = 10; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{poor}) = 0$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{rich}) = 119; V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{poor}) = 29; V_{\pi_B}^2(\text{rich}) = 110; V_{\pi_B}^2(\text{poor}) = 90$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^3(\text{rich}) = 138; V_{\pi_A}^3(\text{poor}) = 48; V_{\pi_B}^3(\text{rich}) = 192; V_{\pi_B}^3(\text{poor}) = 108$$

Who wins?

# What's the value of a policy?



- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)
- $V_\pi^h(s)$ : value (expected reward) with policy  $\pi$  starting at  $s$

Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$ : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

$$V_\pi^0(s) = 0; V_\pi^h(s) = R(s, \pi(s)) + \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \cdot V_\pi^{h-1}(s')$$

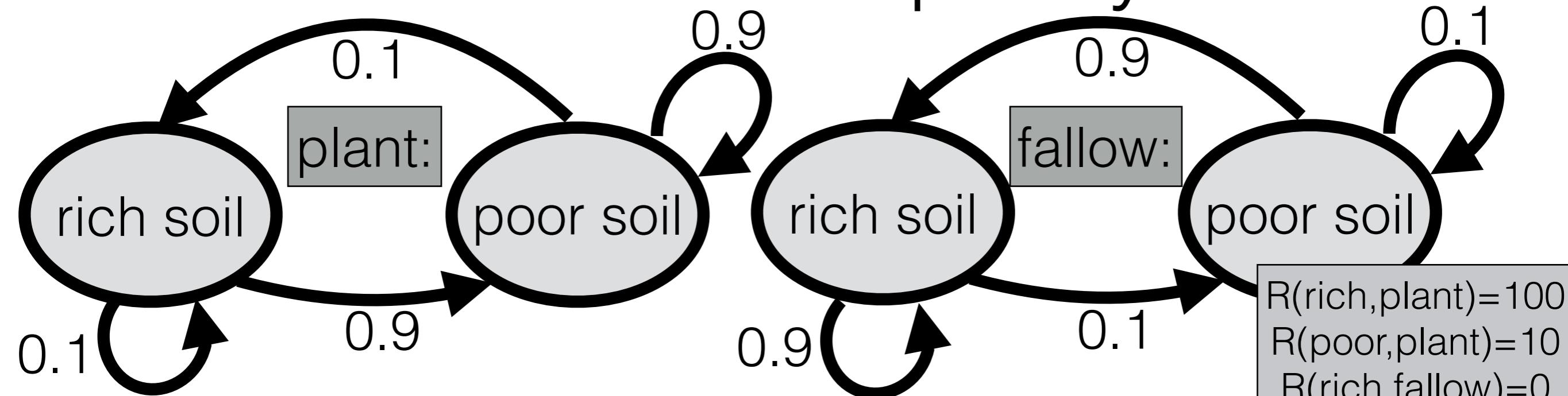
$$V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) = 10; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{poor}) = 0$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{rich}) = 119; V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{poor}) = 29; V_{\pi_B}^2(\text{rich}) = 110; V_{\pi_B}^2(\text{poor}) = 90$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^3(\text{rich}) = 138; V_{\pi_A}^3(\text{poor}) = 48; V_{\pi_B}^3(\text{rich}) = 192; V_{\pi_B}^3(\text{poor}) = 108$$

Who wins?

# What's the value of a policy?



- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)
- $V_\pi^h(s)$ : value (expected reward) with policy  $\pi$  starting at  $s$

Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$ : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

$$V_\pi^0(s) = 0; V_\pi^h(s) = R(s, \pi(s)) + \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \cdot V_\pi^{h-1}(s')$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) = 10; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{poor}) = 0$$

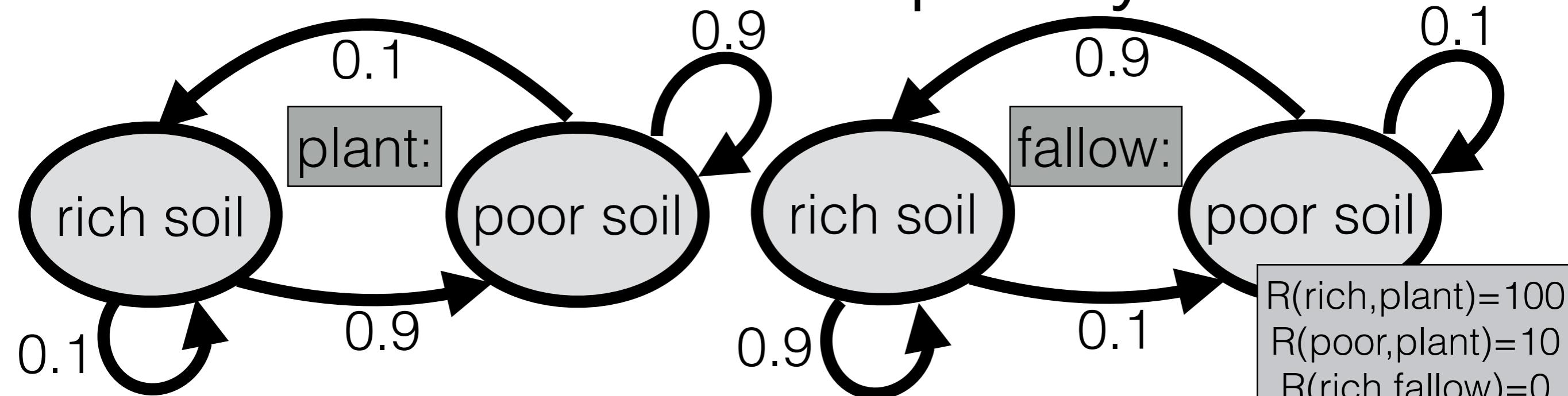
$$V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{rich}) = 119; V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{poor}) = 29; V_{\pi_B}^2(\text{rich}) = 110; V_{\pi_B}^2(\text{poor}) = 90$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^3(\text{rich}) = 138; V_{\pi_A}^3(\text{poor}) = 48; V_{\pi_B}^3(\text{rich}) = 192; V_{\pi_B}^3(\text{poor}) = 108$$

Who wins?

$h=1$

# What's the value of a policy?



- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)
- $V_\pi^h(s)$ : value (expected reward) with policy  $\pi$  starting at  $s$

Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$ : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

$$V_\pi^0(s) = 0; V_\pi^h(s) = R(s, \pi(s)) + \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \cdot V_\pi^{h-1}(s')$$

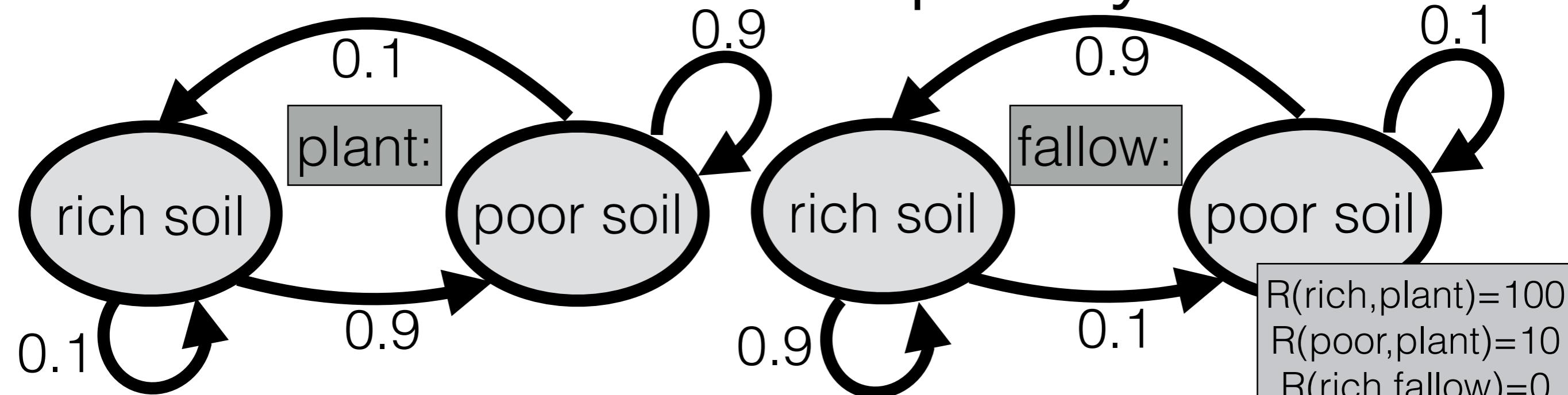
$$V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) = 10; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{poor}) = 0$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{rich}) = 119; V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{poor}) = 29; V_{\pi_B}^2(\text{rich}) = 110; V_{\pi_B}^2(\text{poor}) = 90$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^3(\text{rich}) = 138; V_{\pi_A}^3(\text{poor}) = 48; V_{\pi_B}^3(\text{rich}) = 192; V_{\pi_B}^3(\text{poor}) = 108$$

Who wins?  $\pi_A >_{h=1} \pi_B$

# What's the value of a policy?



- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)
- $V_\pi^h(s)$ : value (expected reward) with policy  $\pi$  starting at  $s$

Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$ : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

$$V_\pi^0(s) = 0; V_\pi^h(s) = R(s, \pi(s)) + \sum_{s'} T(s, \pi(s), s') \cdot V_\pi^{h-1}(s')$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_A}^1(\text{poor}) = 10; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{rich}) = 100; V_{\pi_B}^1(\text{poor}) = 0$$

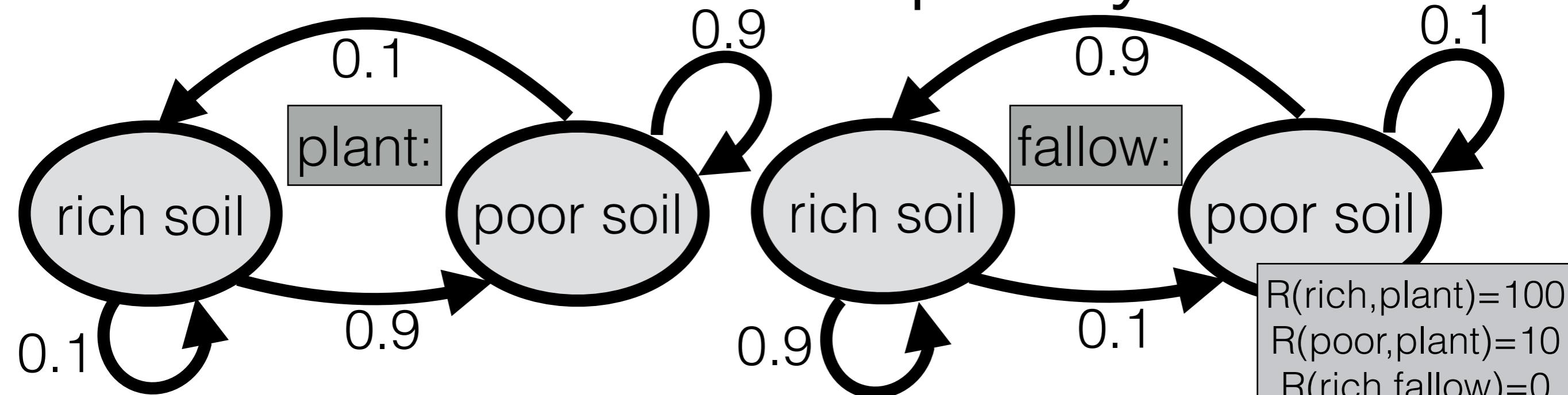
$$V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{rich}) = 119; V_{\pi_A}^2(\text{poor}) = 29; V_{\pi_B}^2(\text{rich}) = 110; V_{\pi_B}^2(\text{poor}) = 90$$

$$V_{\pi_A}^3(\text{rich}) = 138; V_{\pi_A}^3(\text{poor}) = 48; V_{\pi_B}^3(\text{rich}) = 192; V_{\pi_B}^3(\text{poor}) = 108$$

Who wins?  $\pi_A >_{h=1} \pi_B$

$h=3$

# What's the value of a policy?



- $h$ : horizon (e.g. how many growing seasons left)
- $V_\pi^h(s)$ : value (expected reward) with policy  $\pi$  starting at  $s$

Dueling farmers!  $\pi_A$ : always plant;  $\pi_B$ : plant if rich, else fallow

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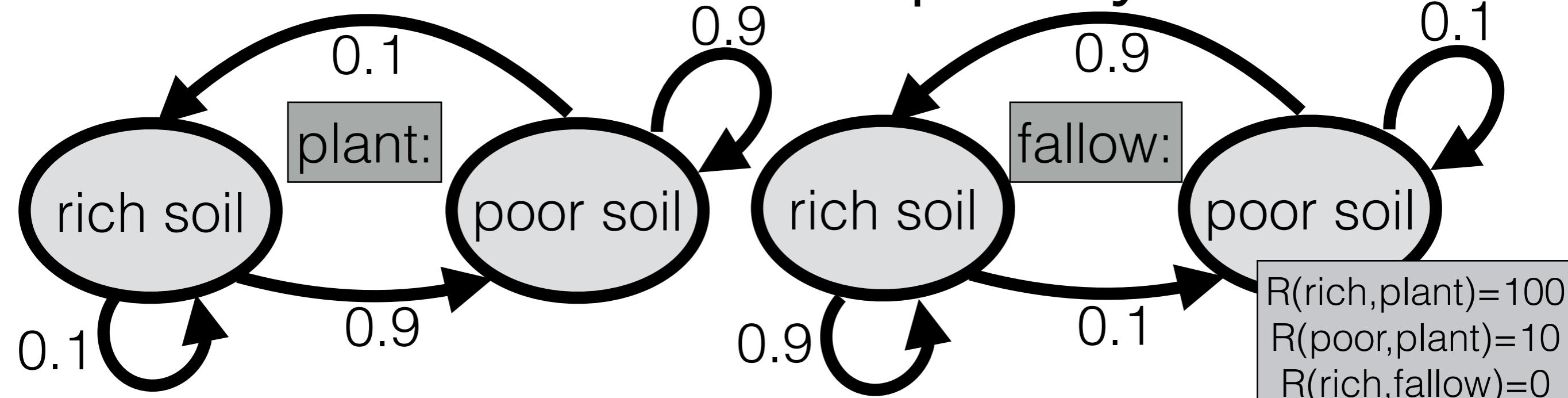
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Who wins?  $\pi_A >_{h=1} \pi_B; \pi_A <_{h=3} \pi_B$

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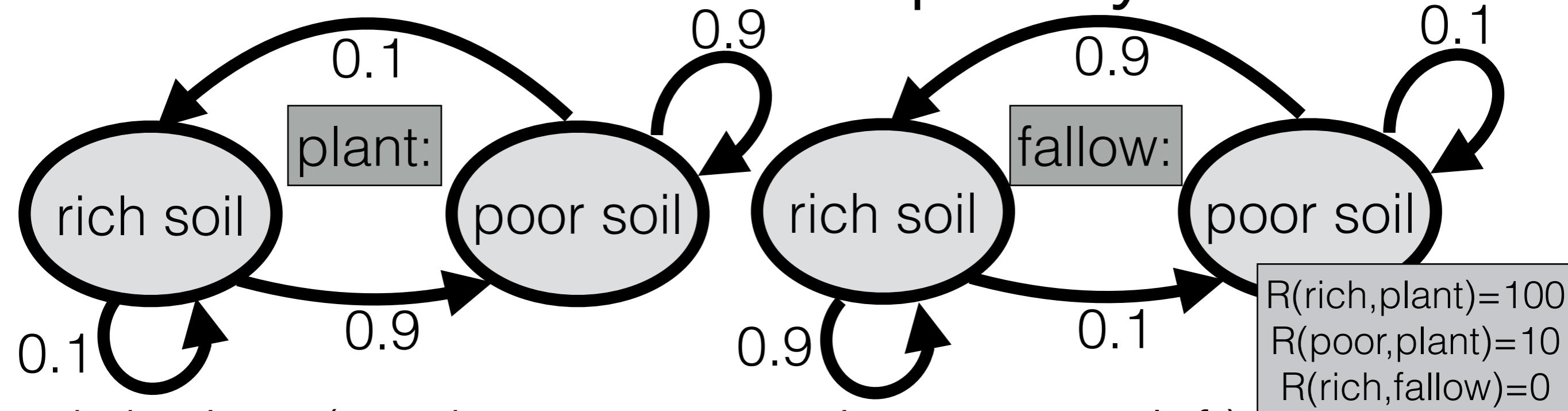
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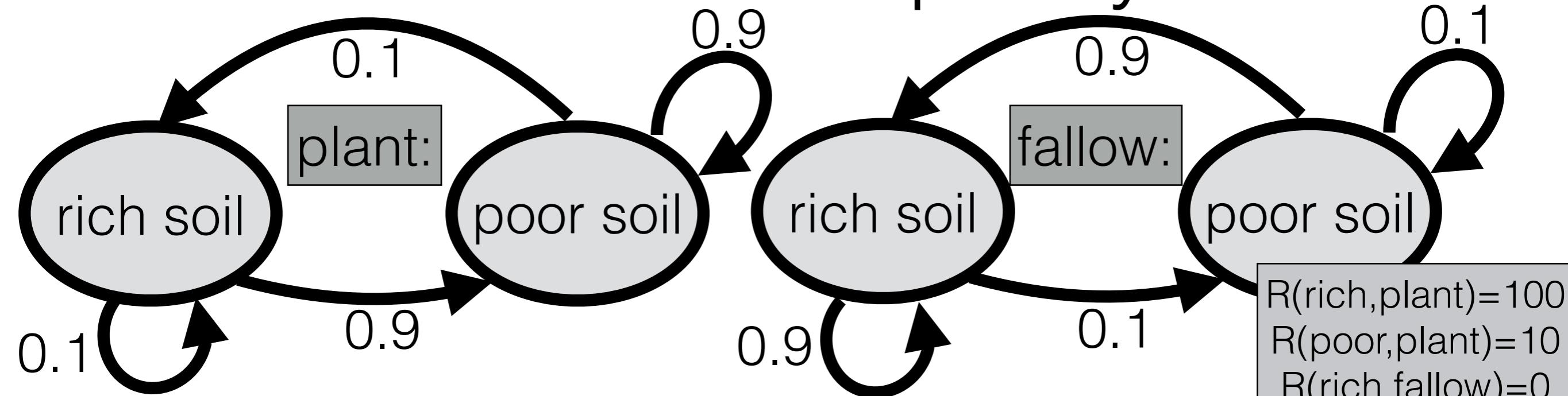
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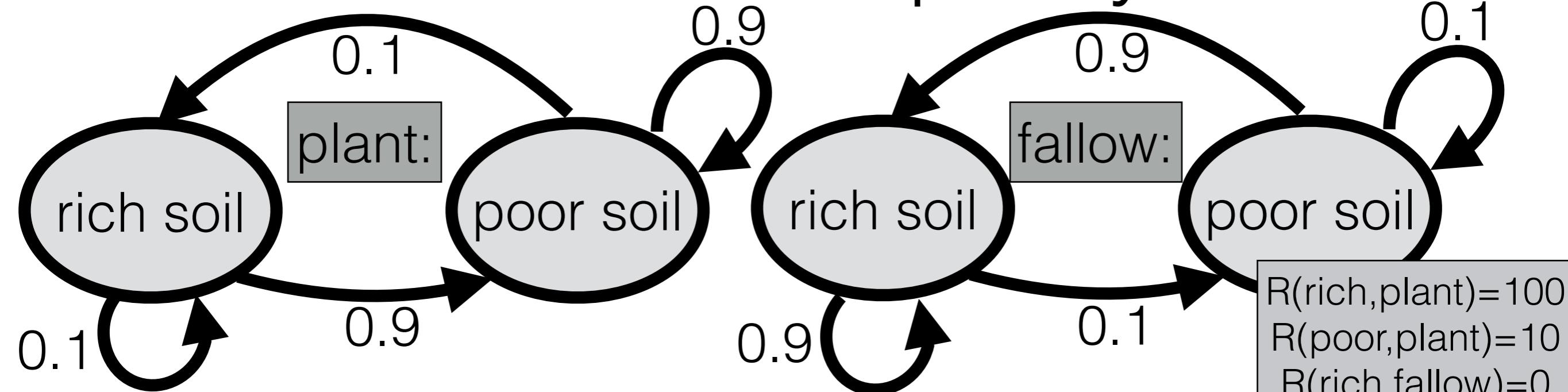
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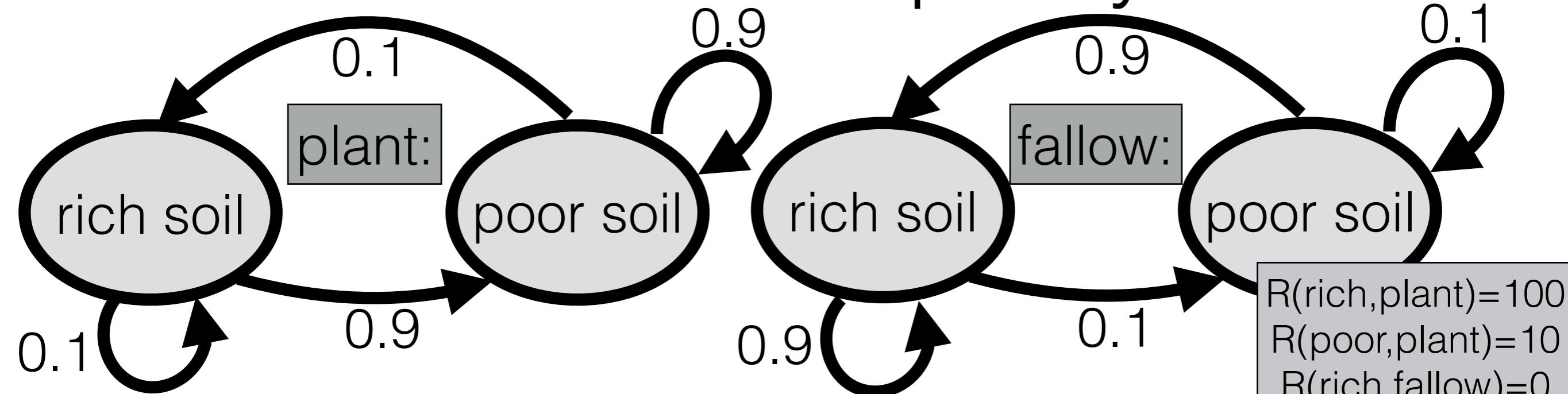
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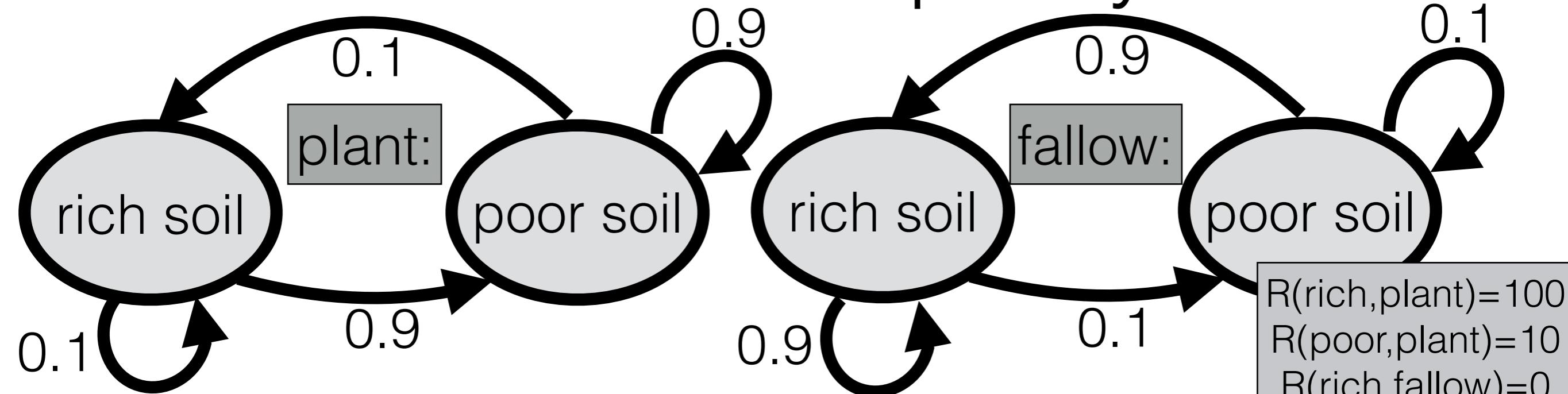
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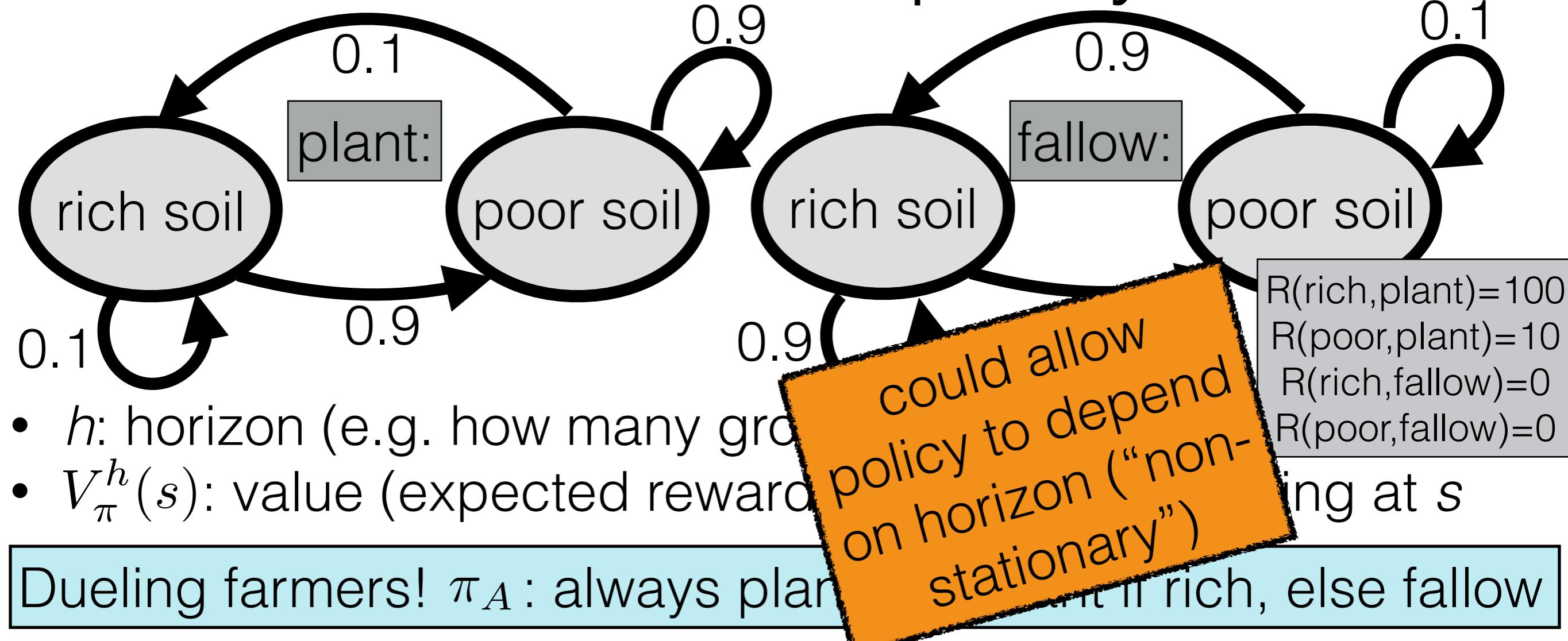
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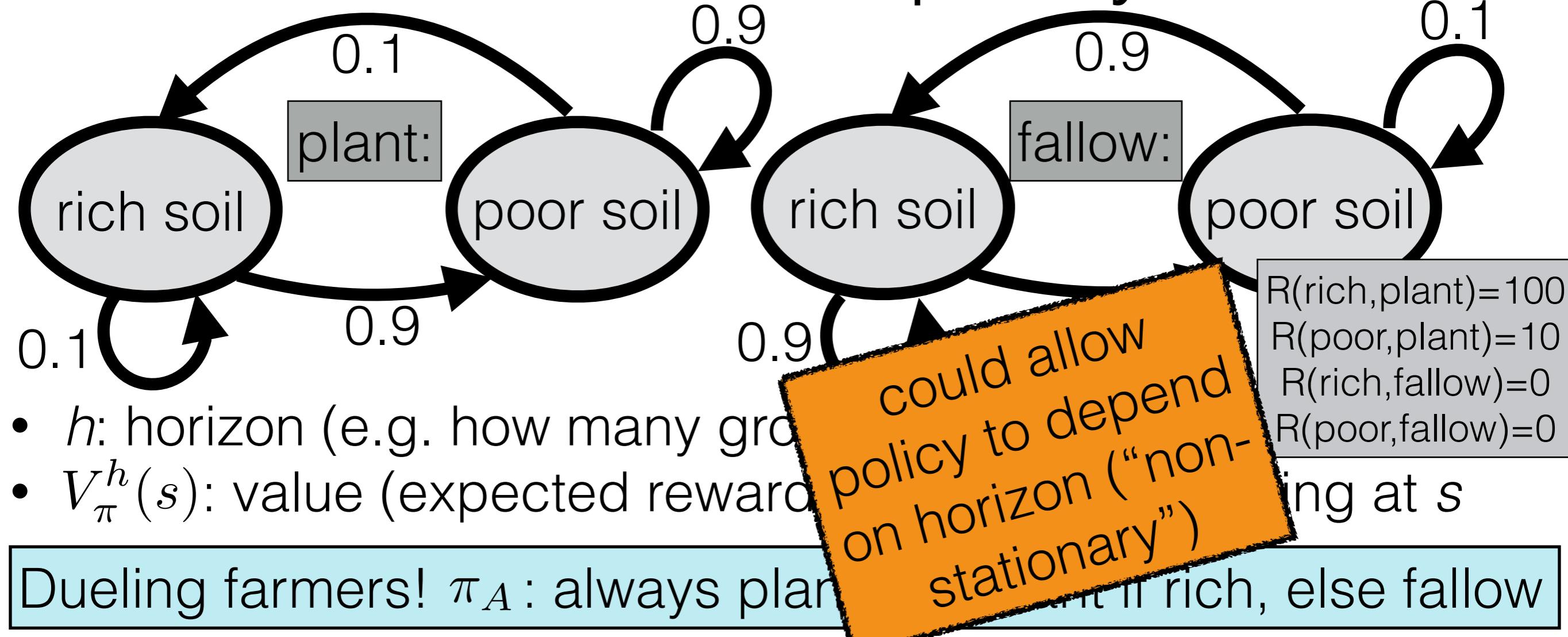
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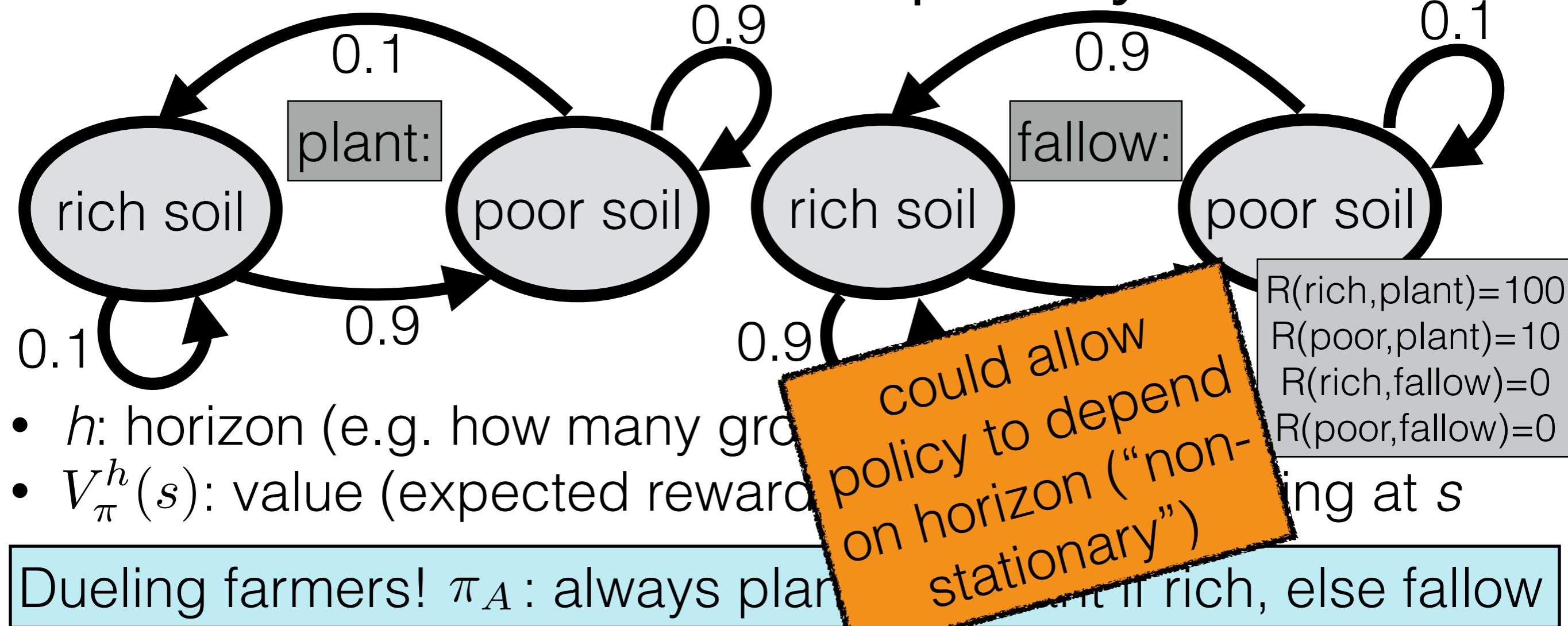
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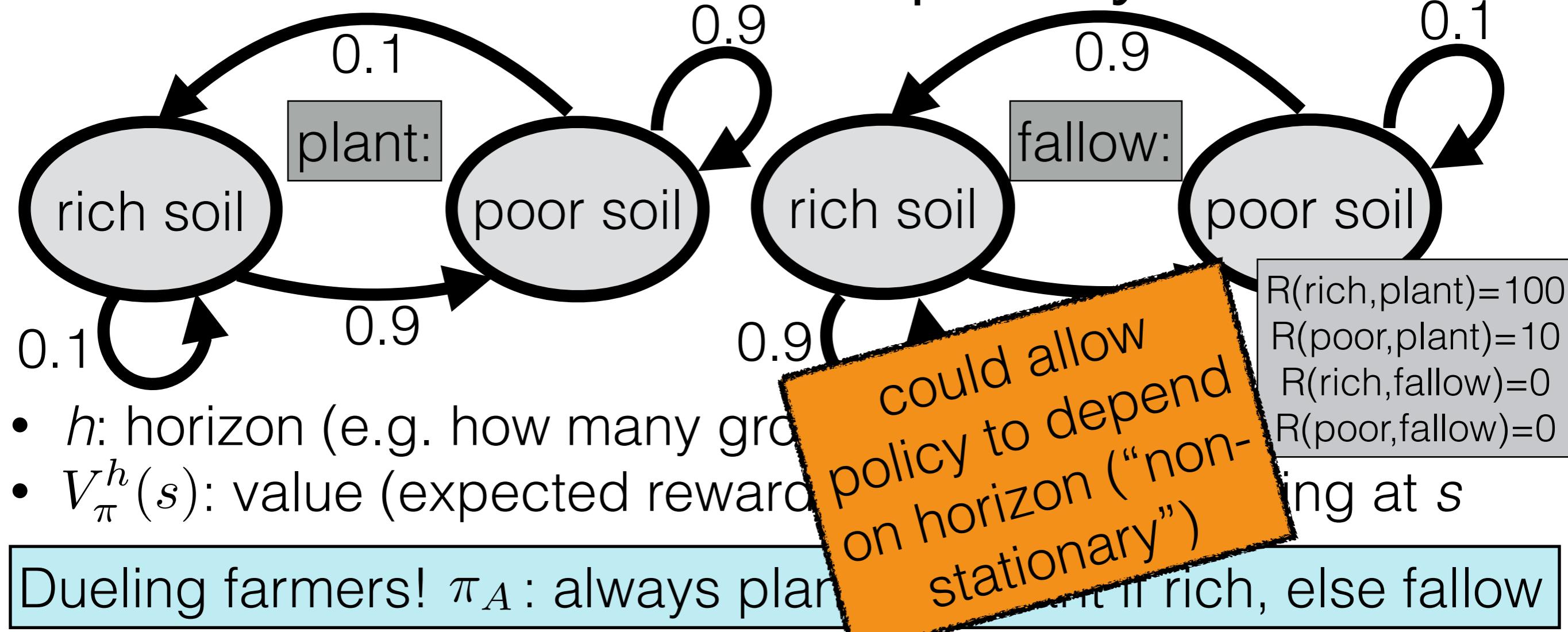
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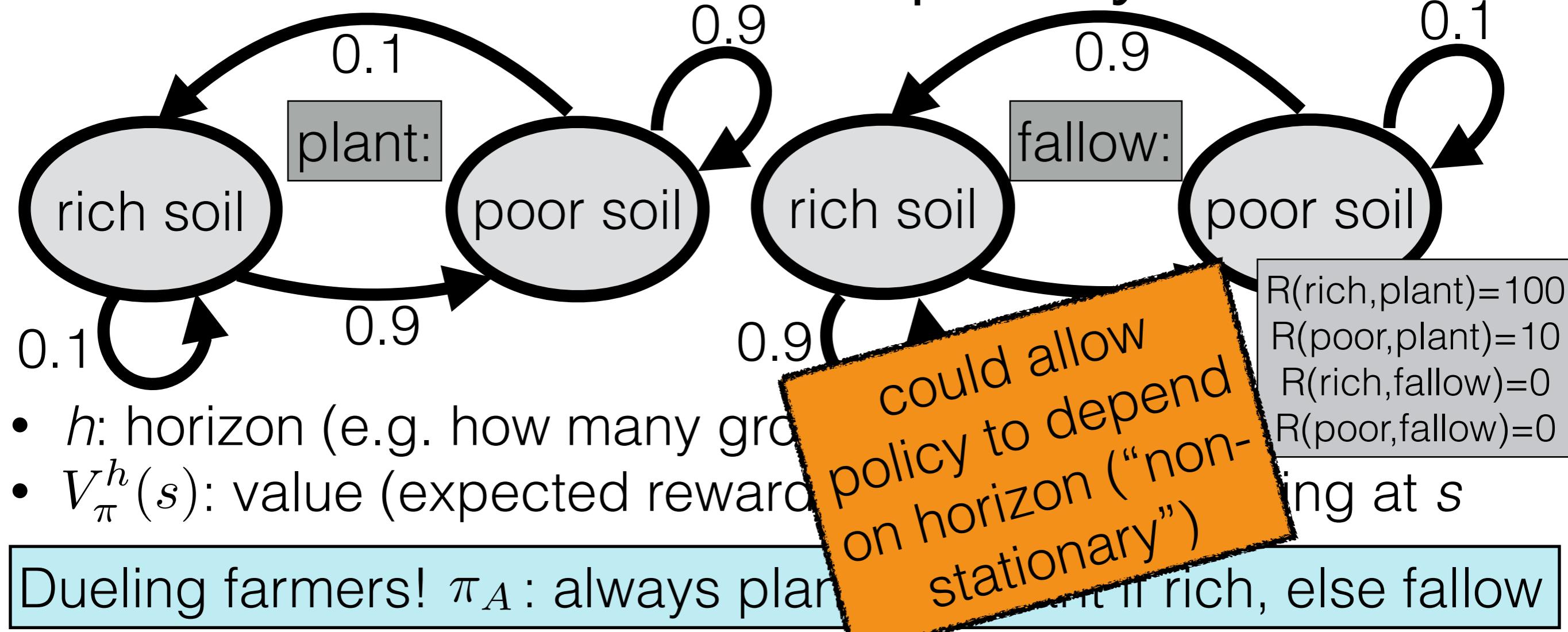
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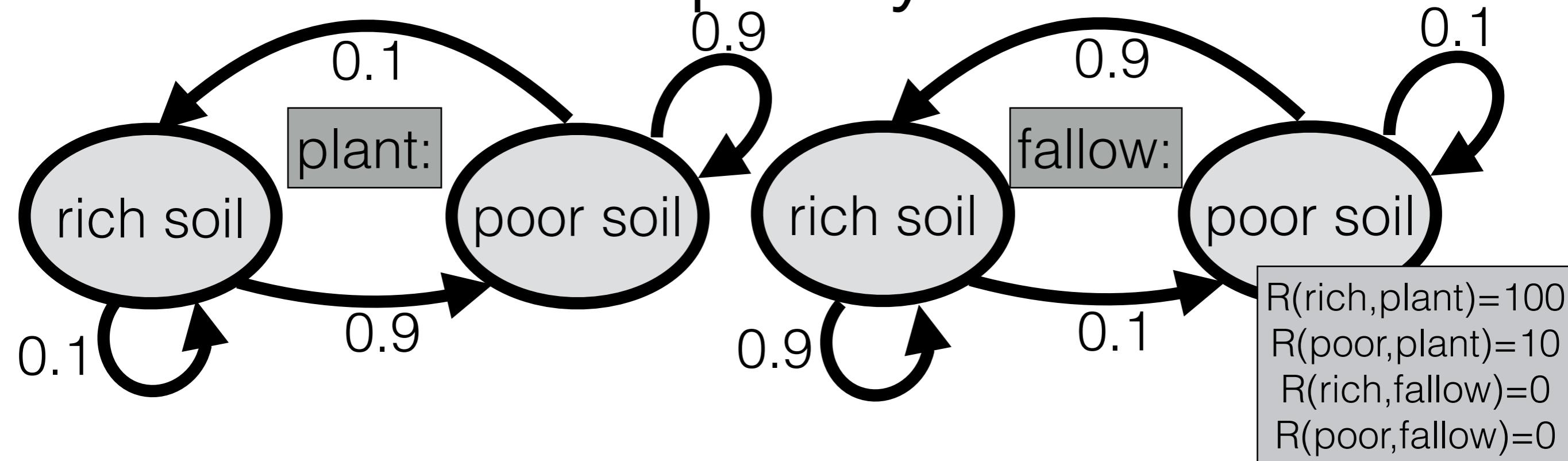
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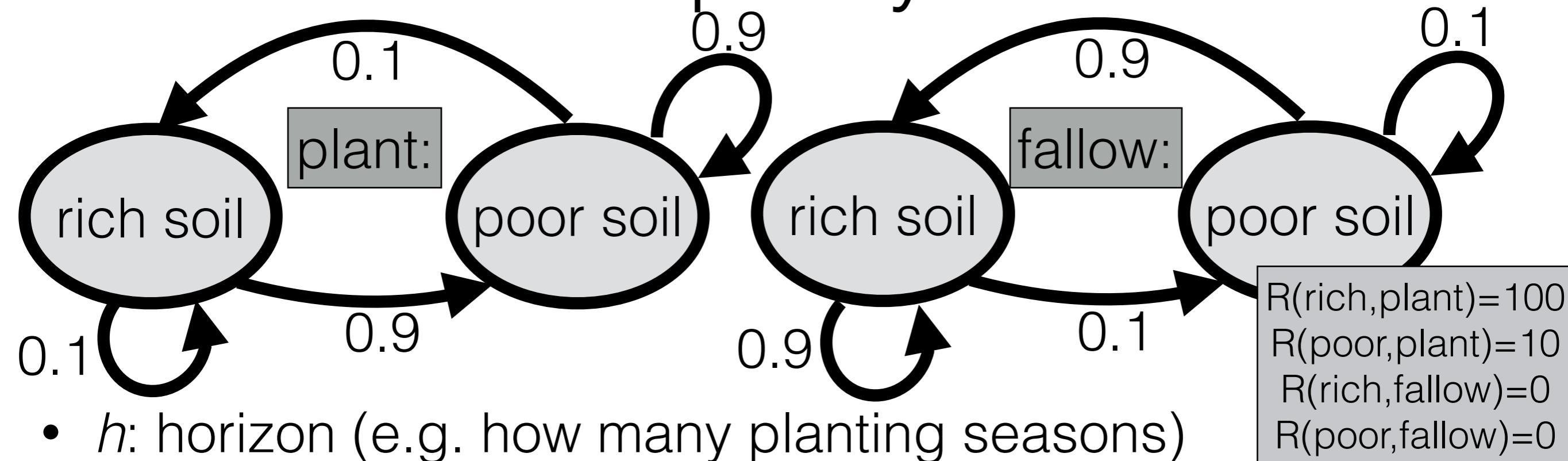
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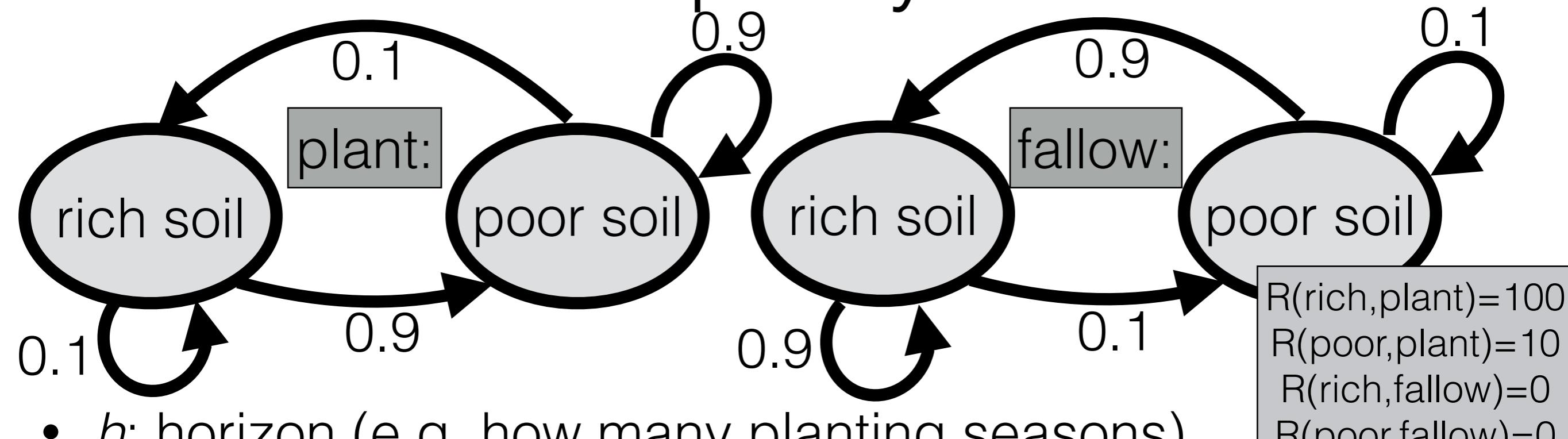


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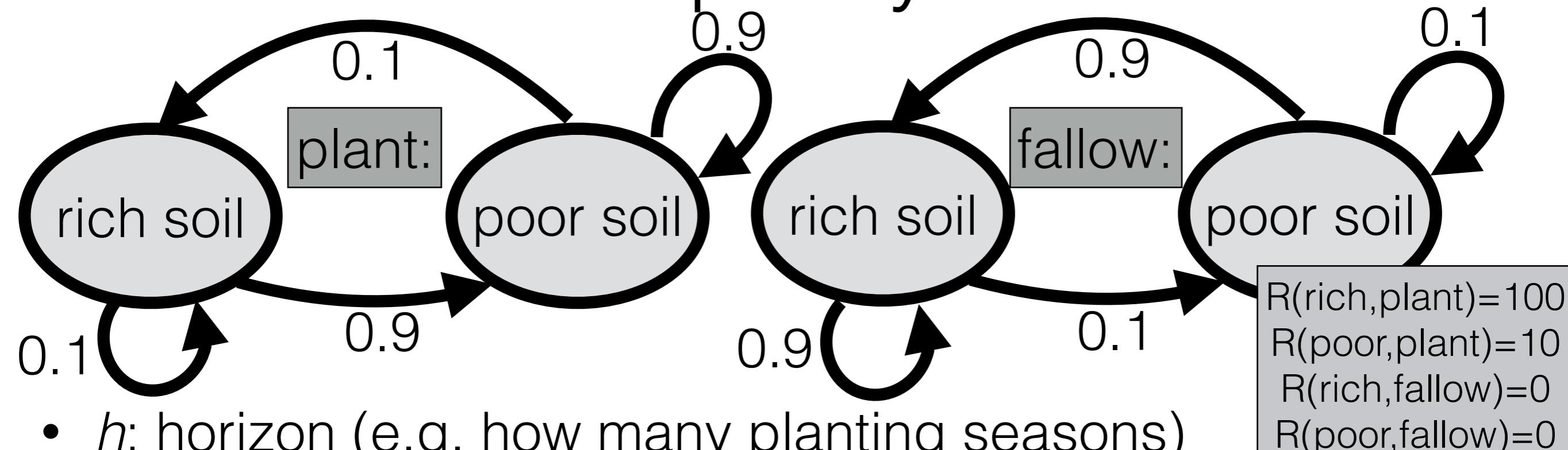
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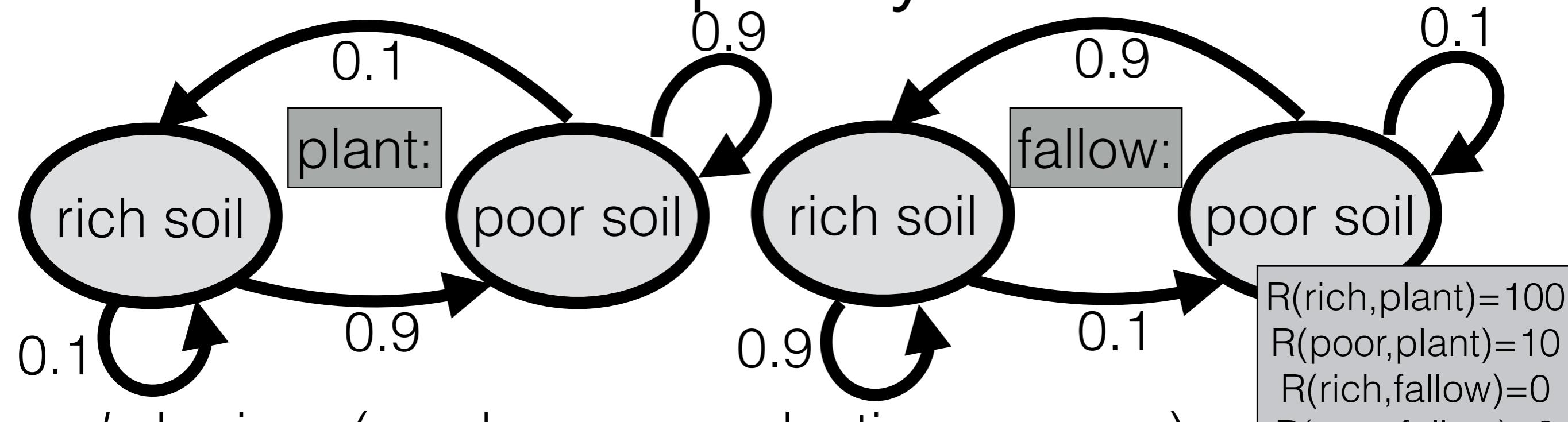
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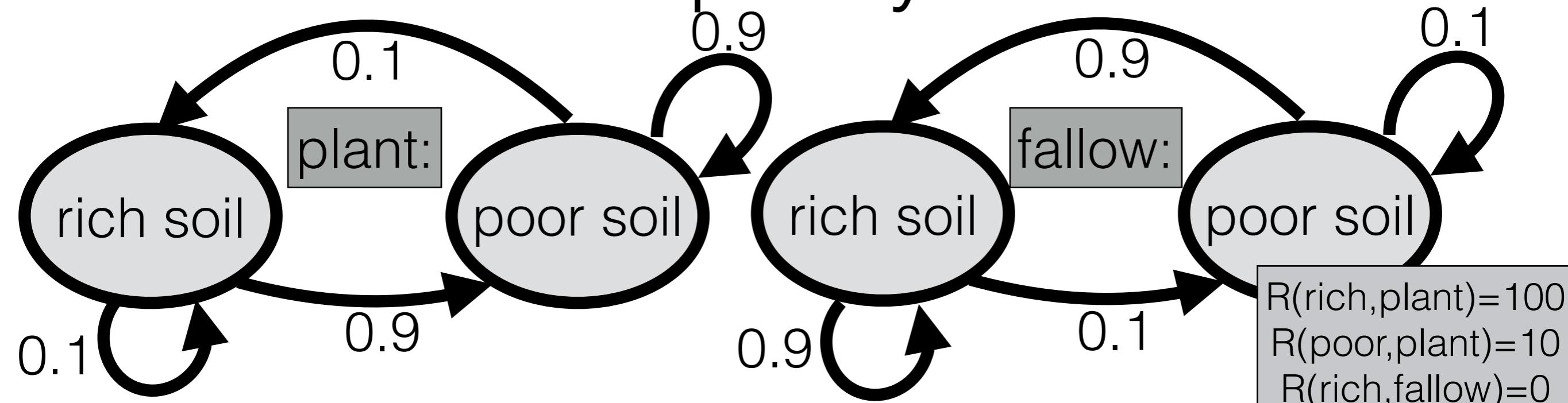
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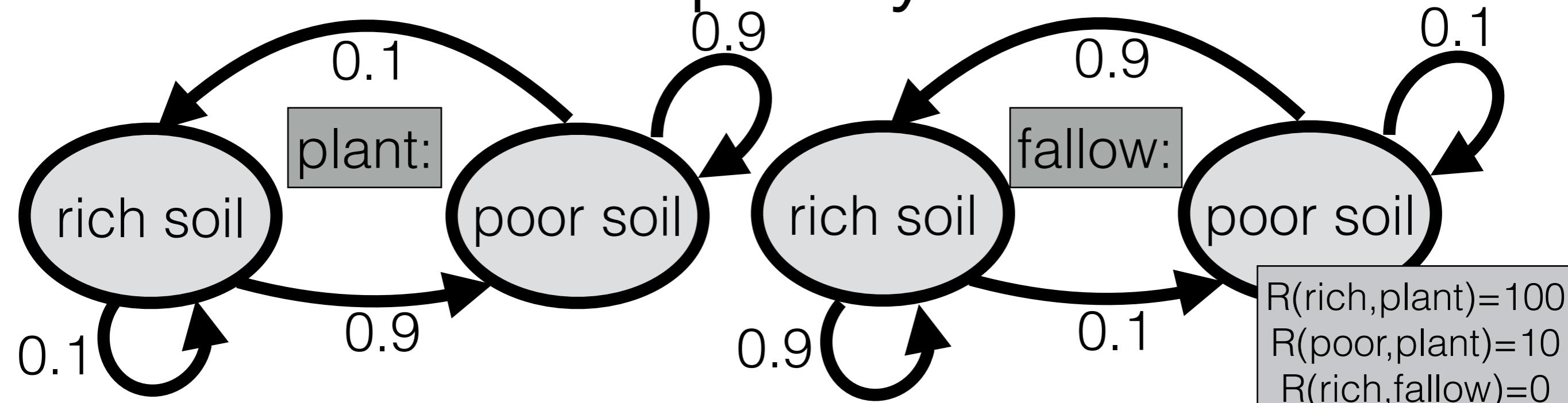
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Note: there can be more than one optimal policy

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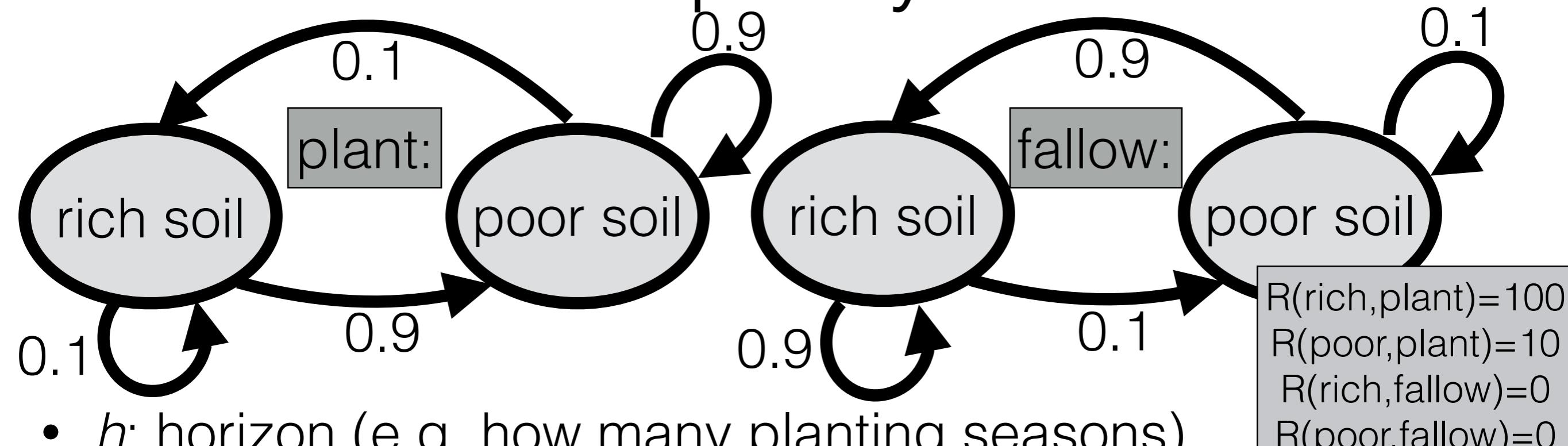
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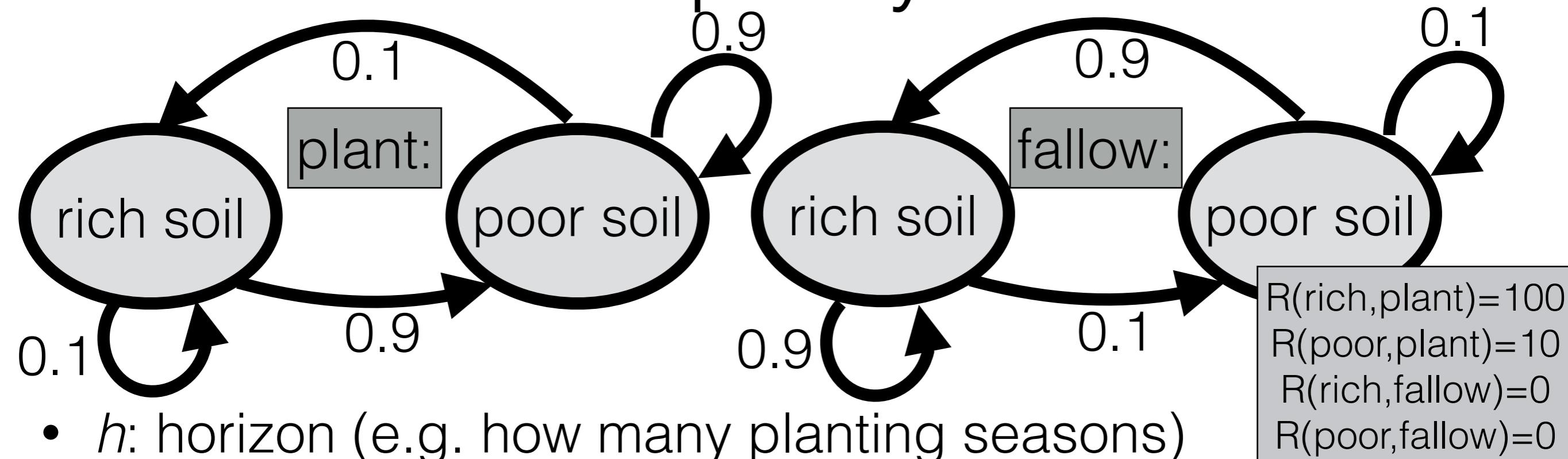
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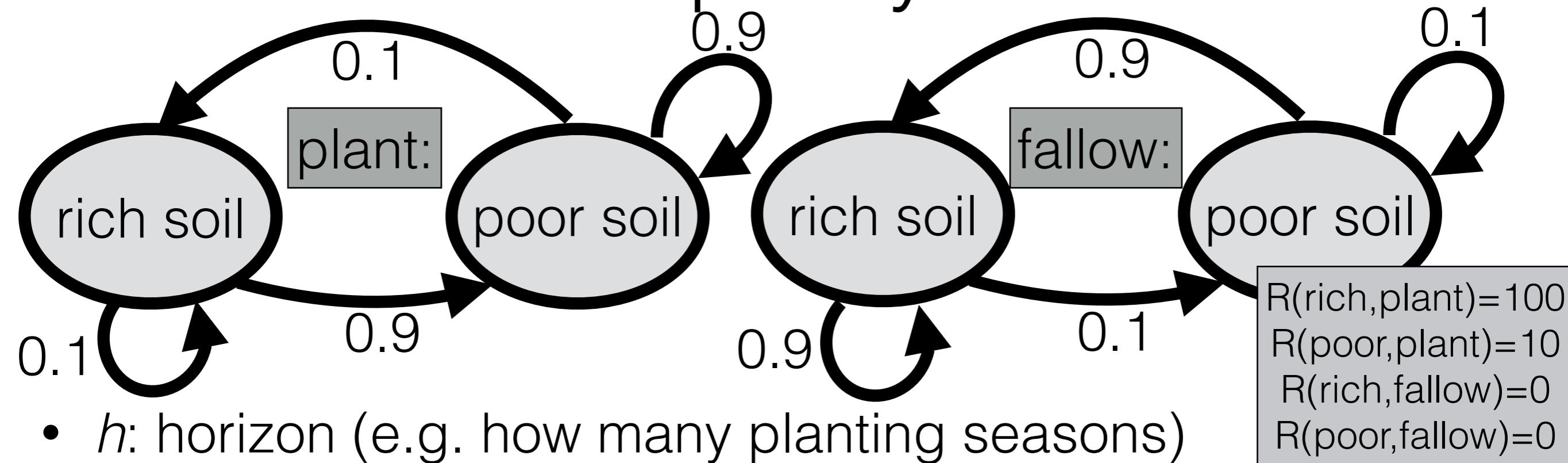
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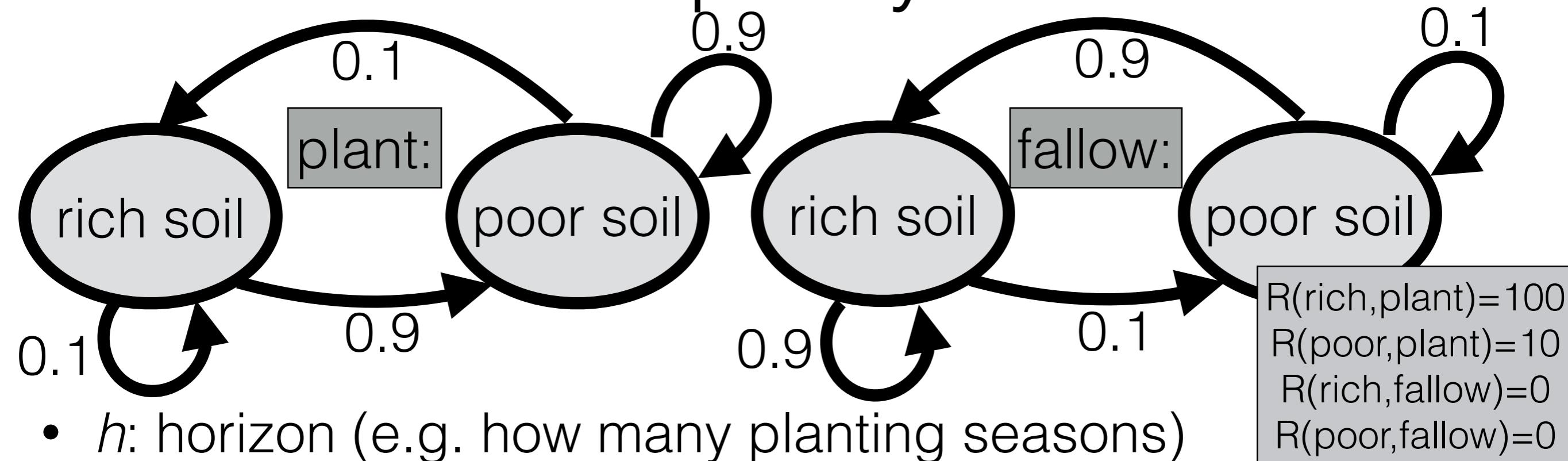
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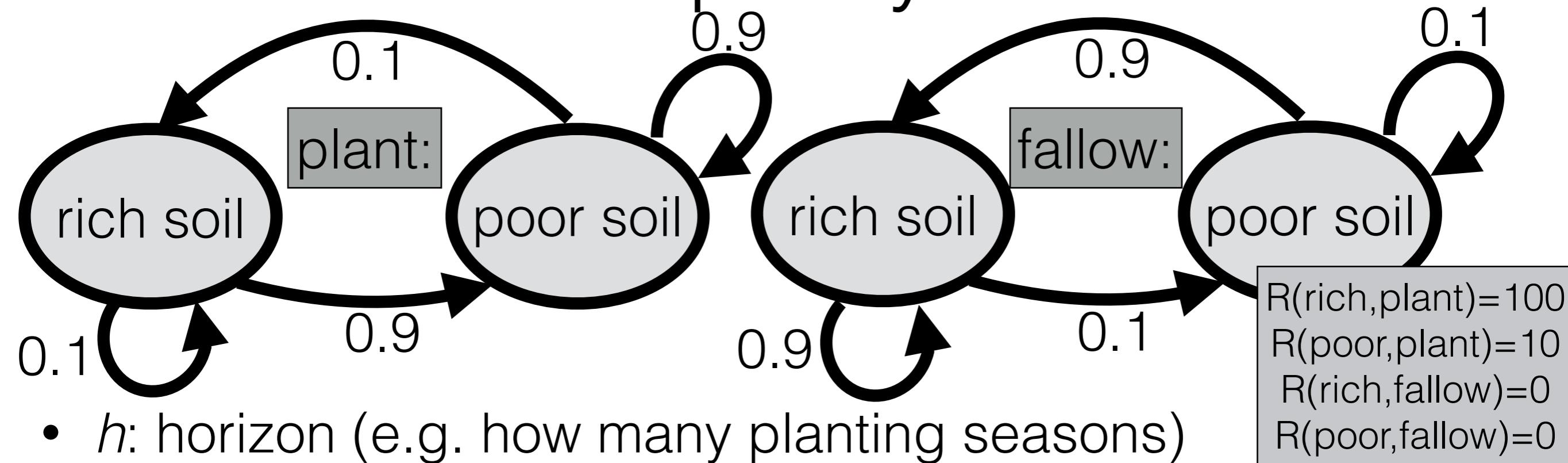


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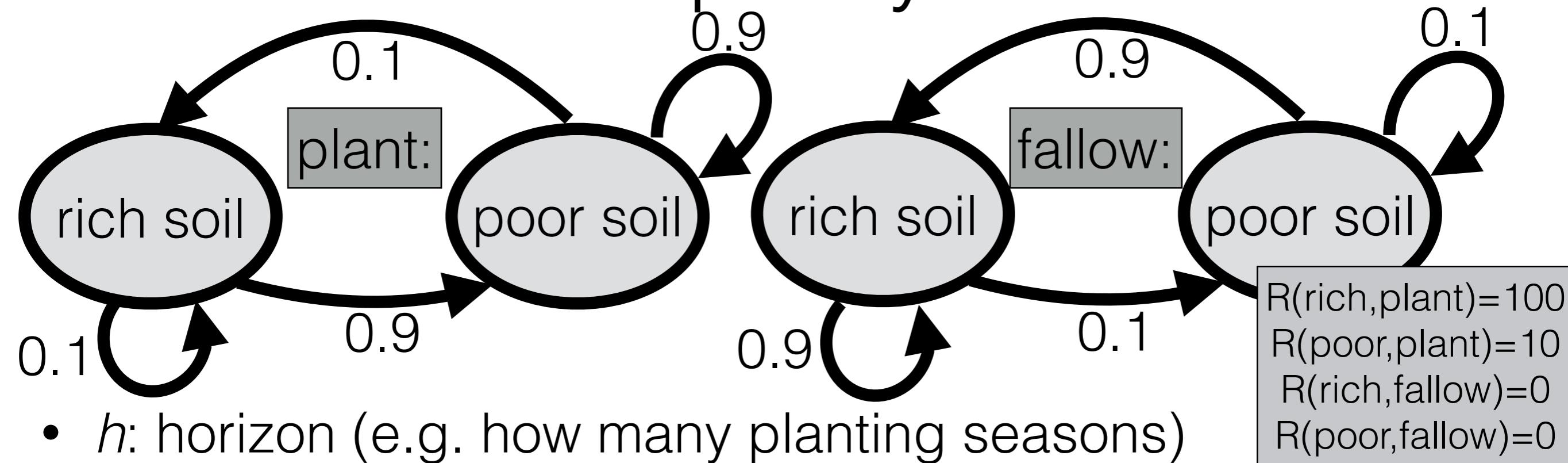


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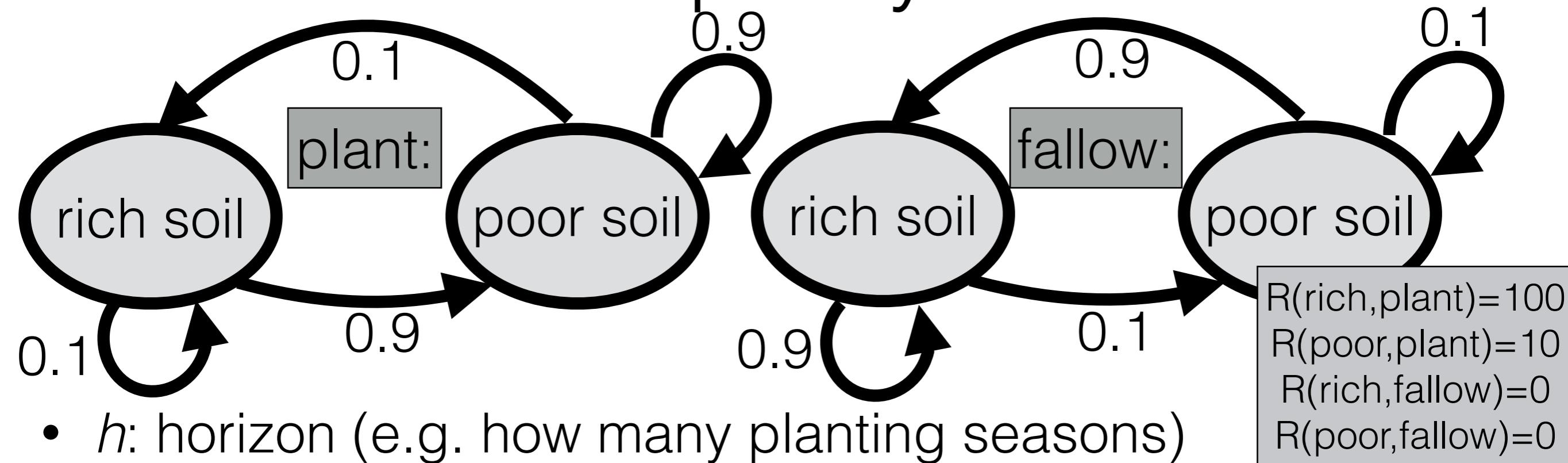
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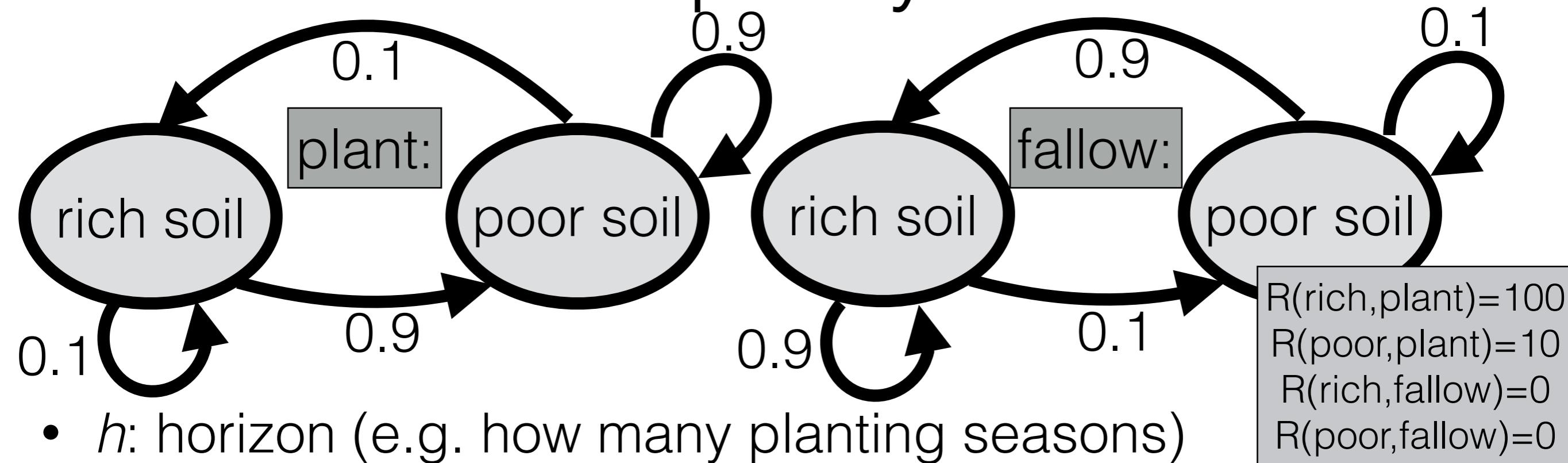
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What's best?

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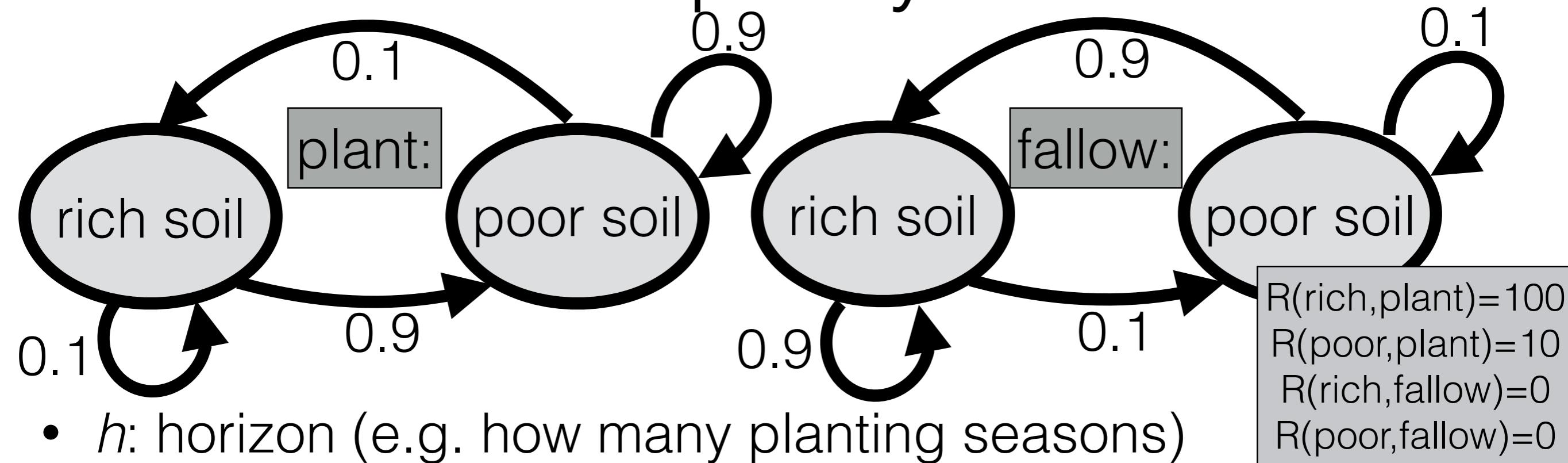
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What's best?

$\pi_1^*$

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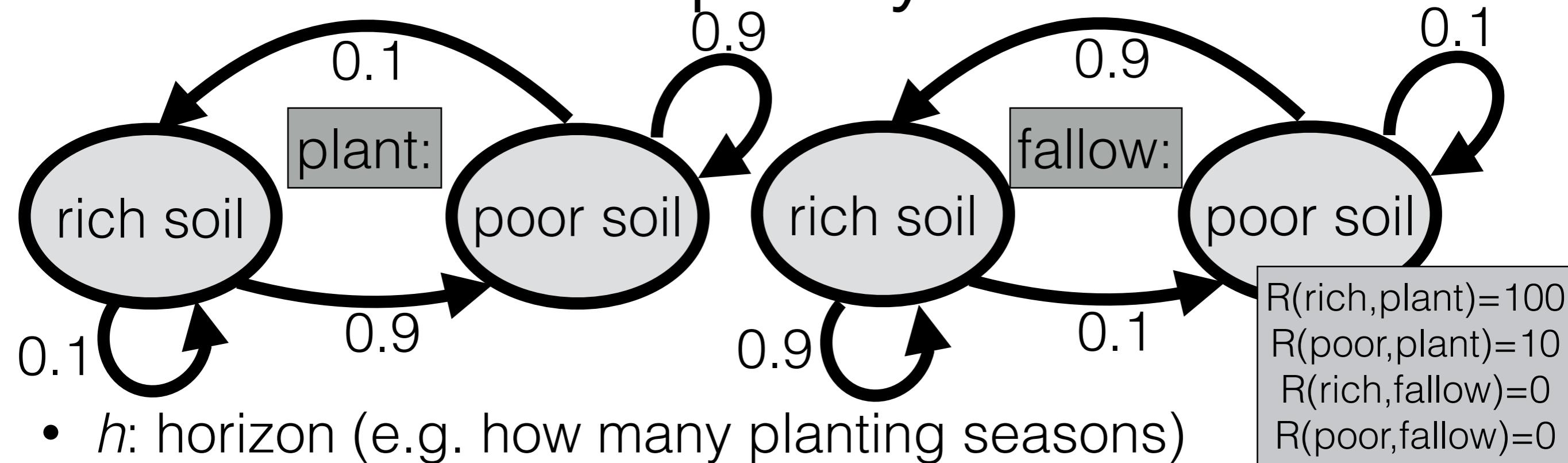
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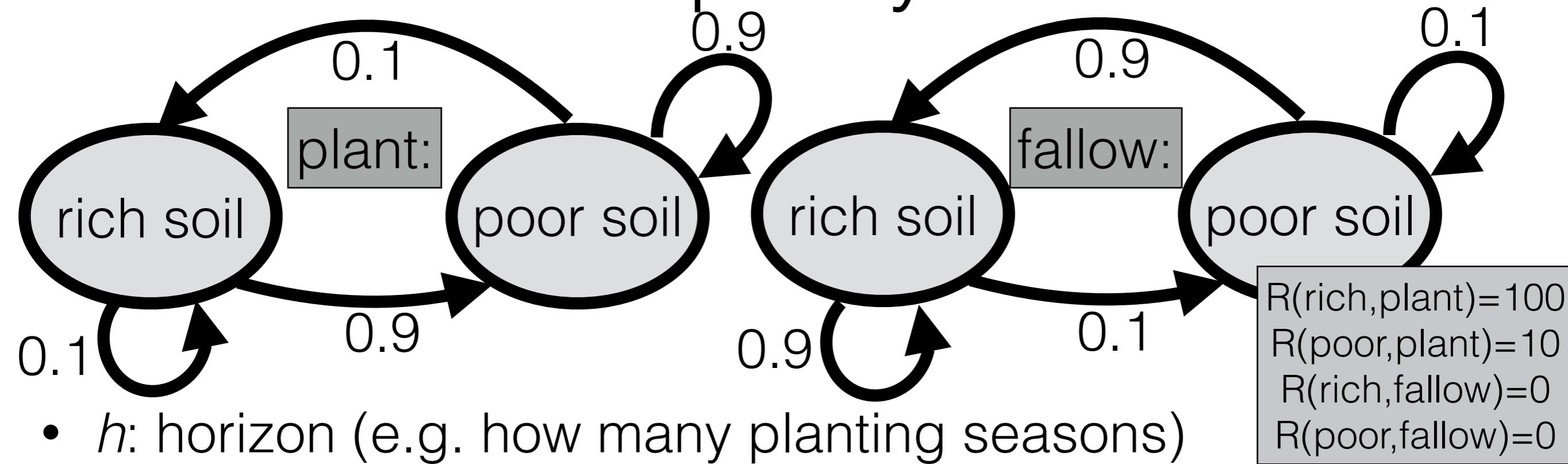
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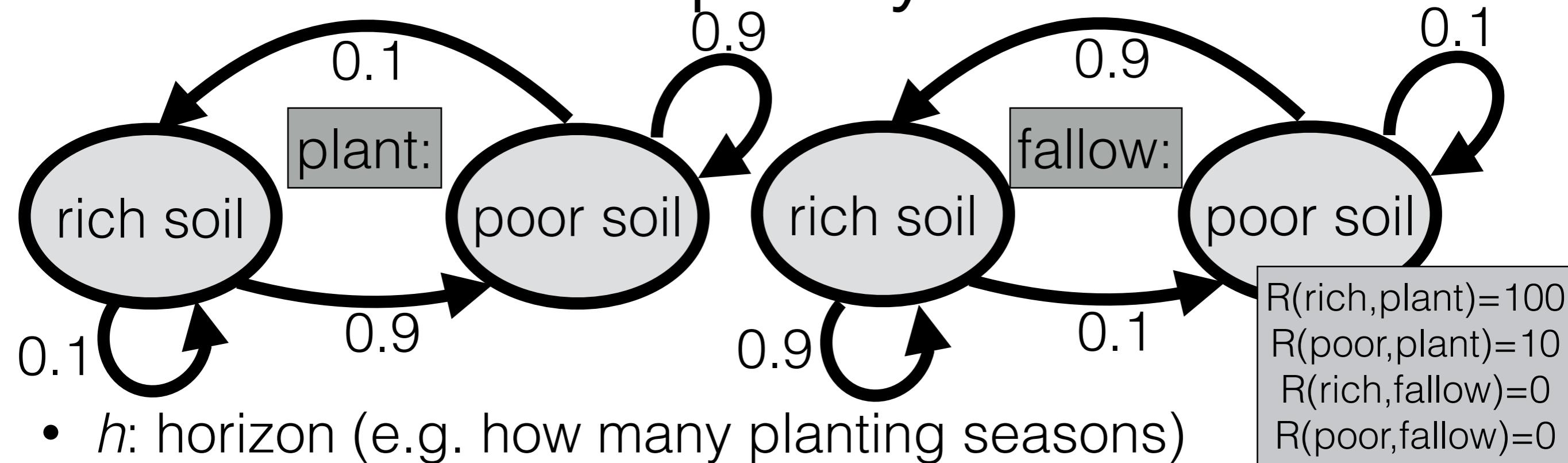


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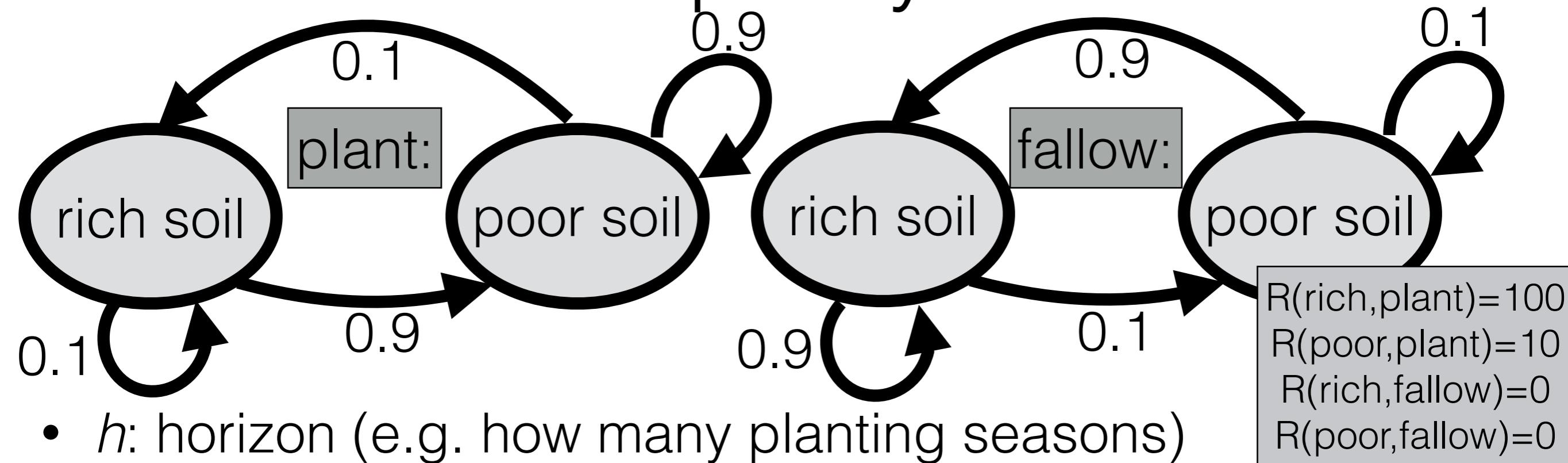


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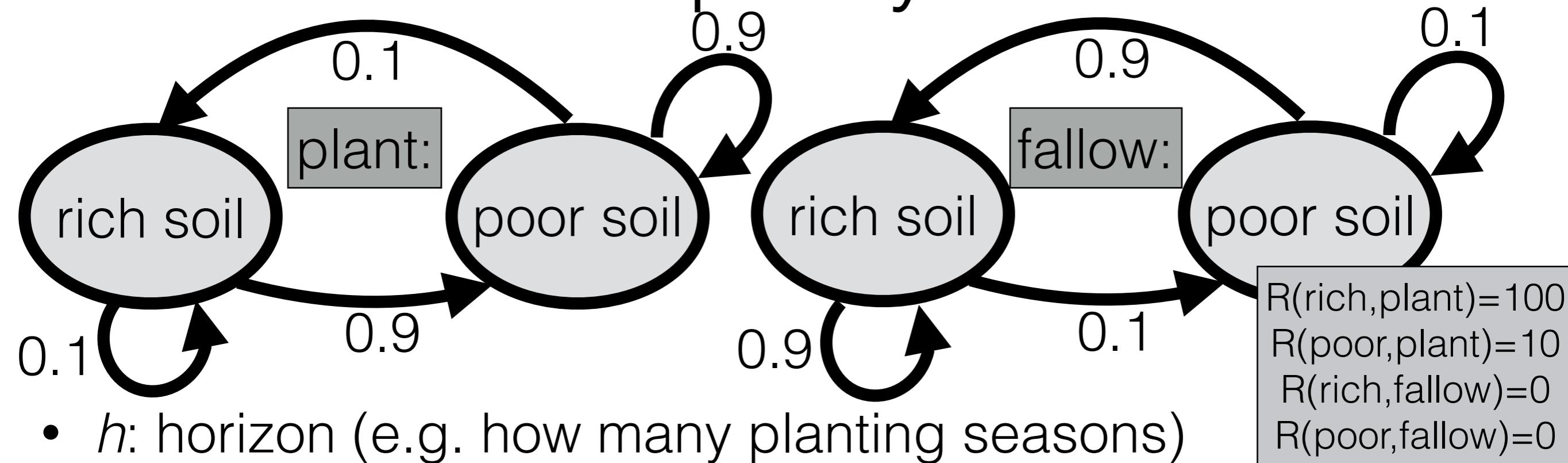
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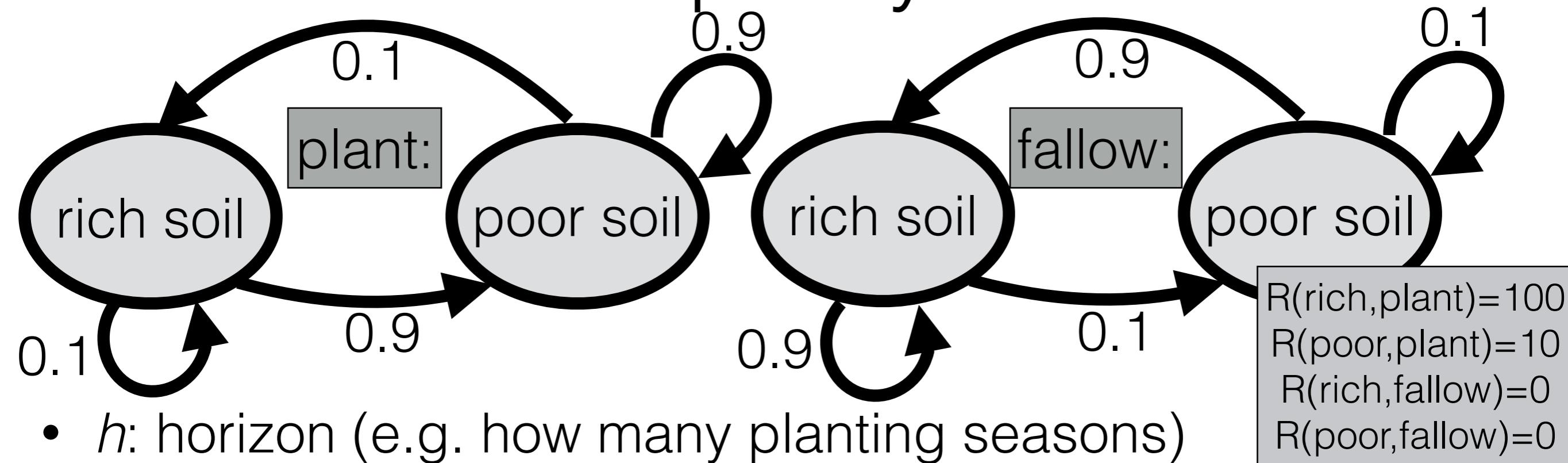


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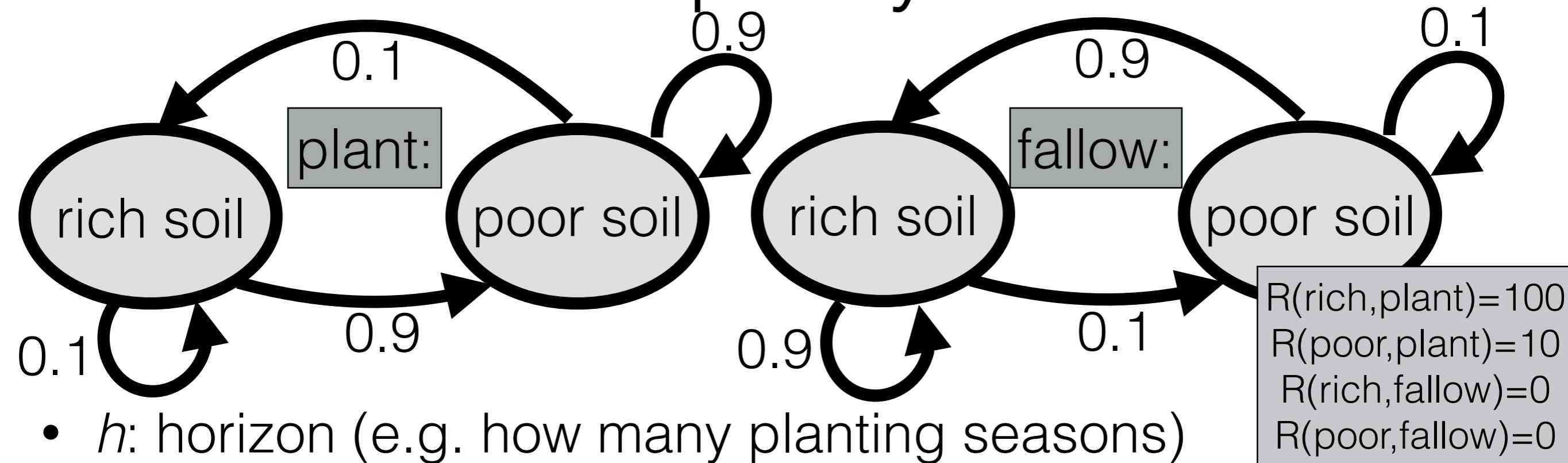


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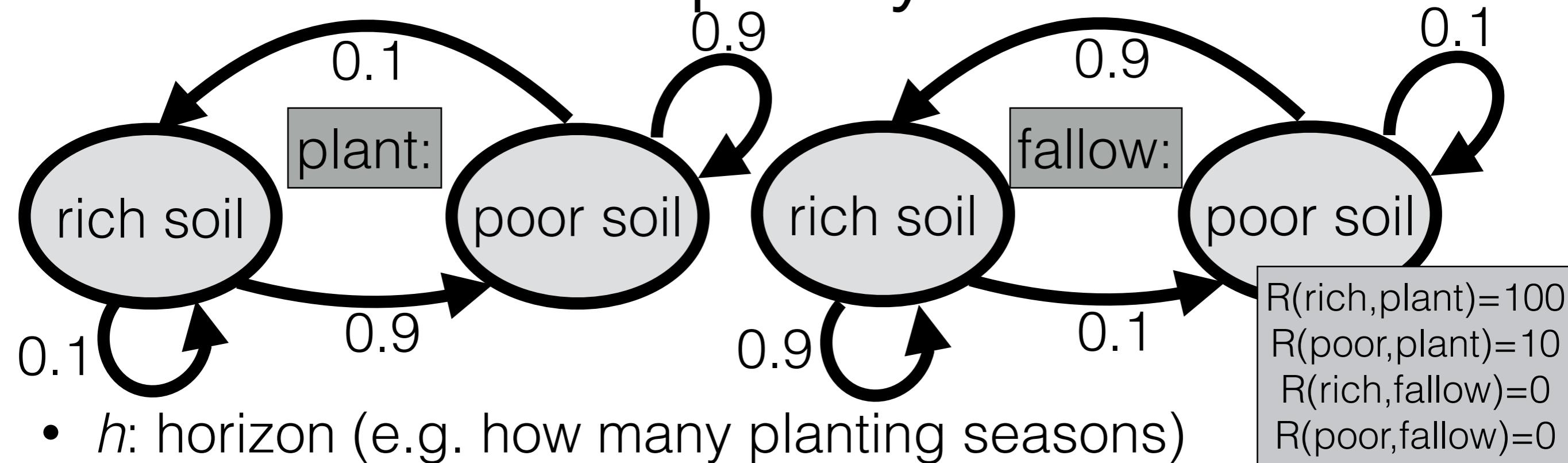
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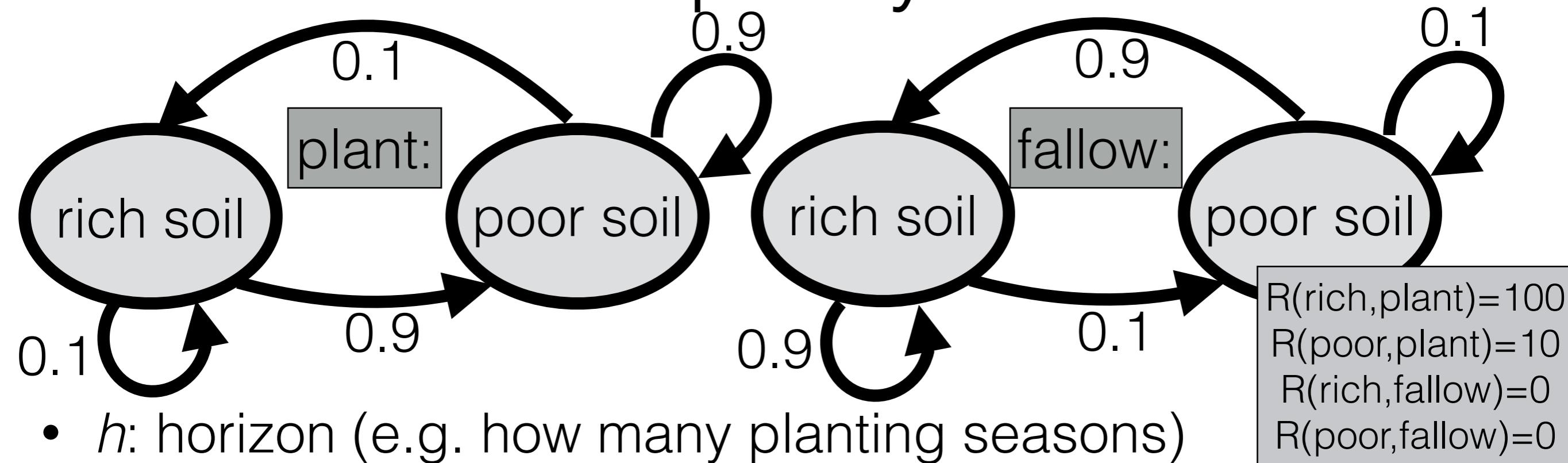
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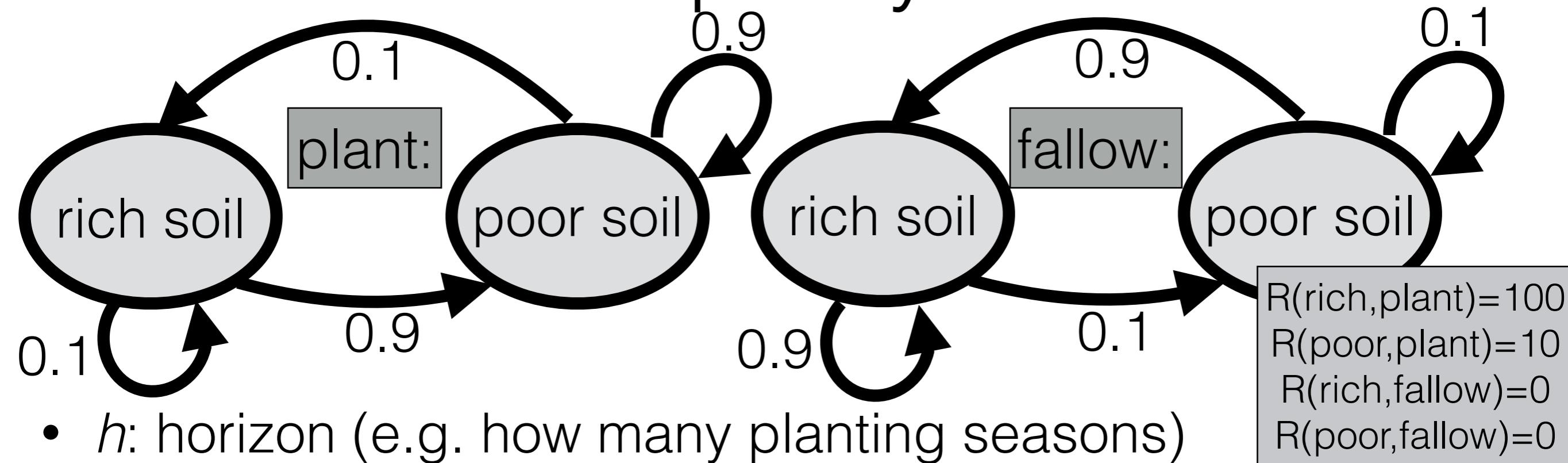
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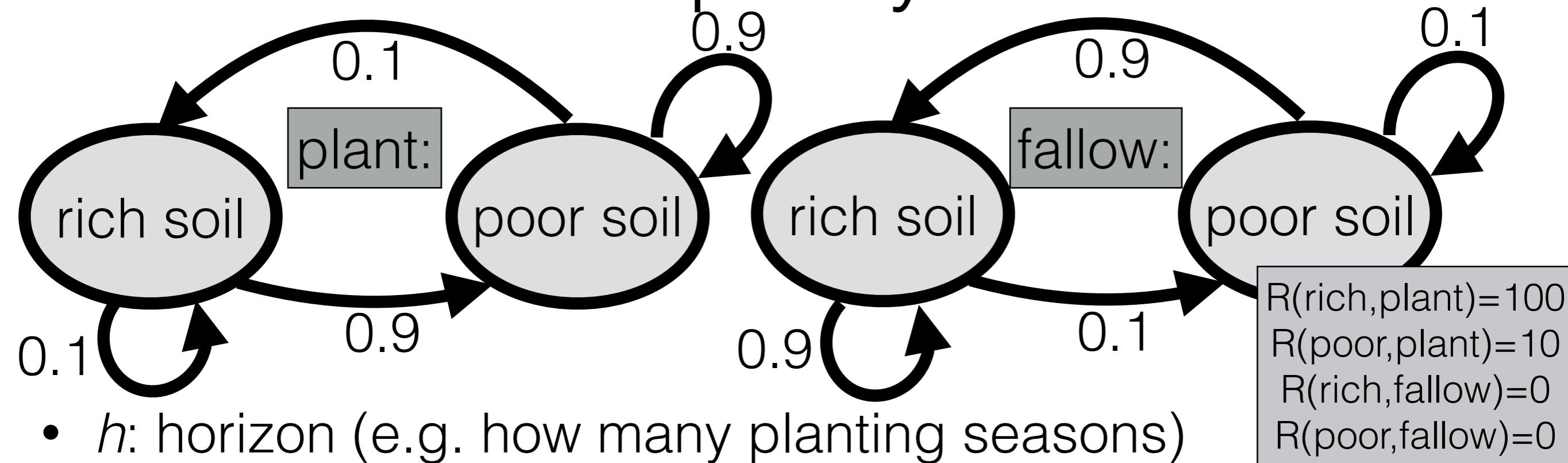
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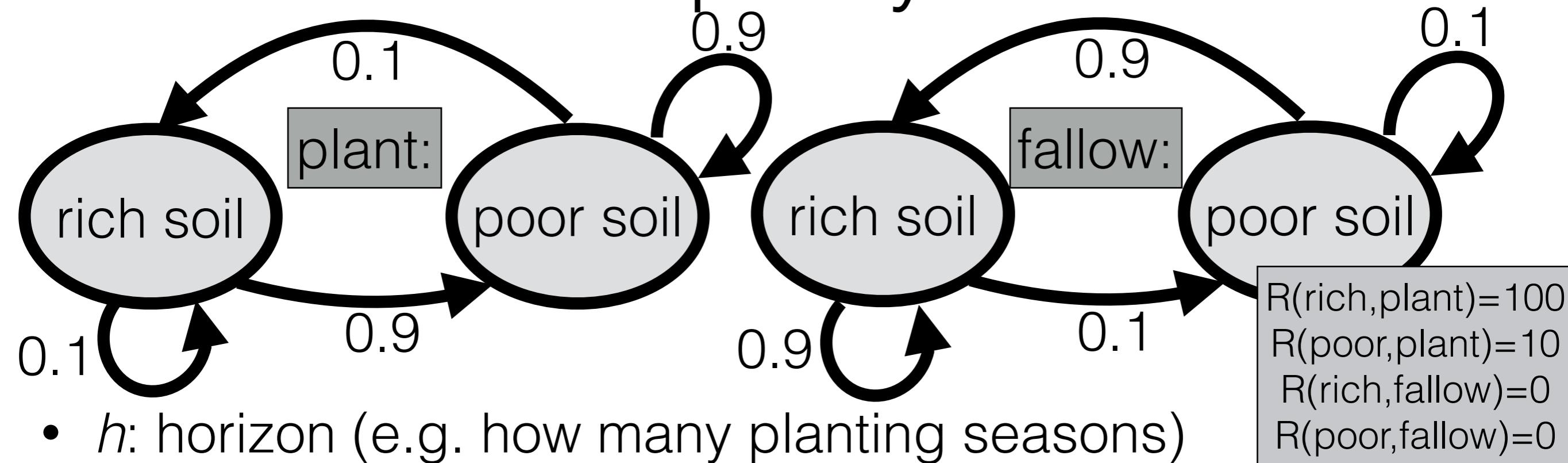
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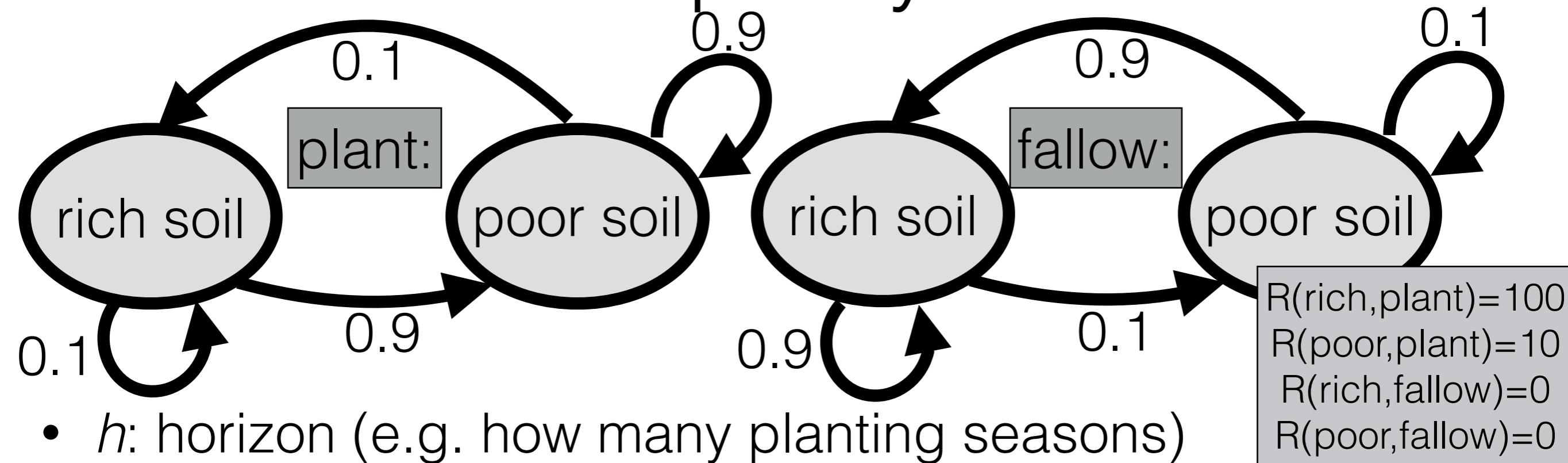
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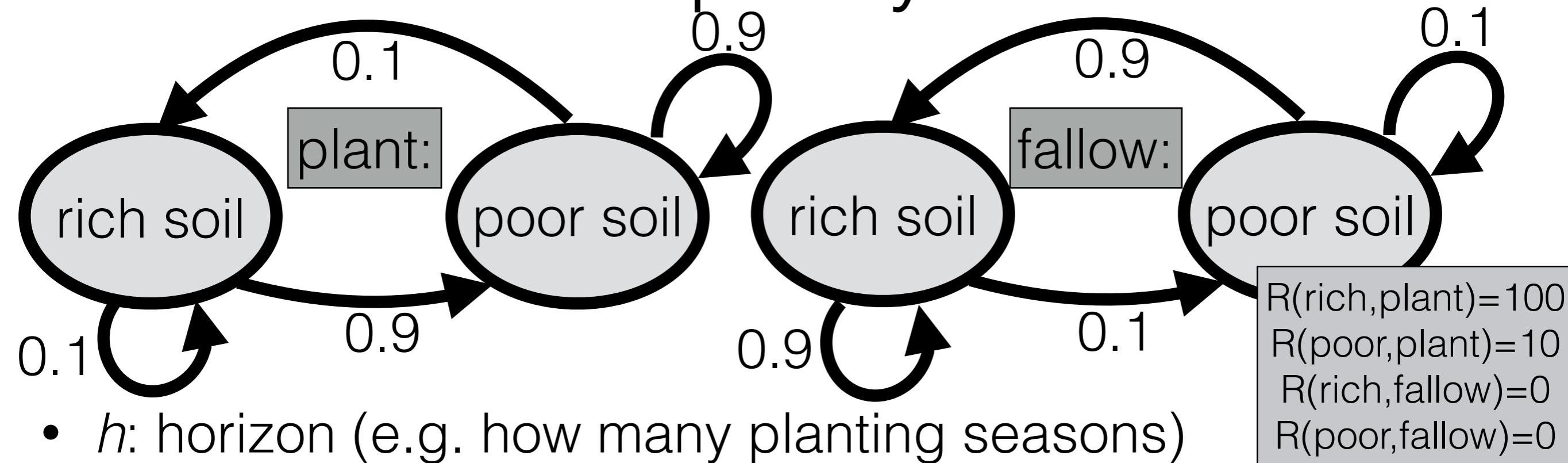
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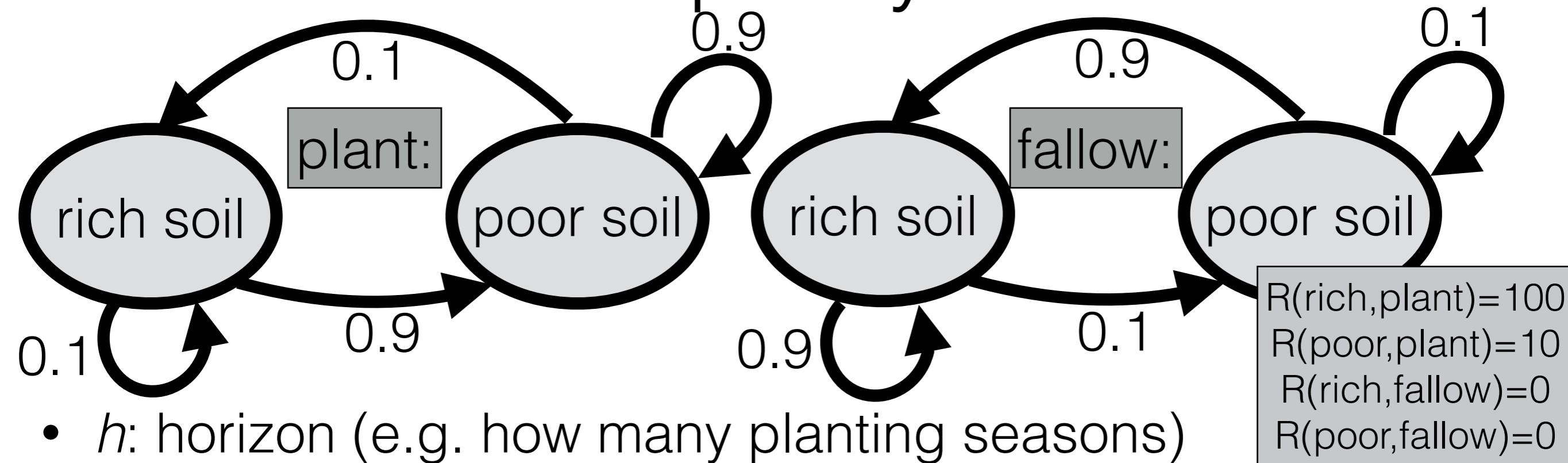
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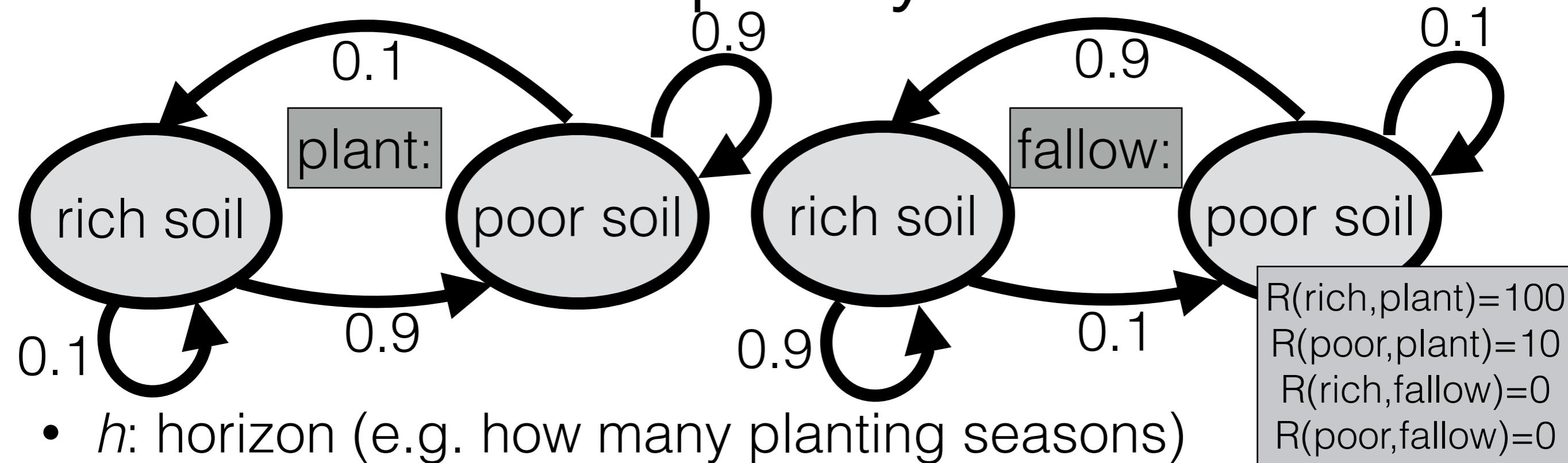
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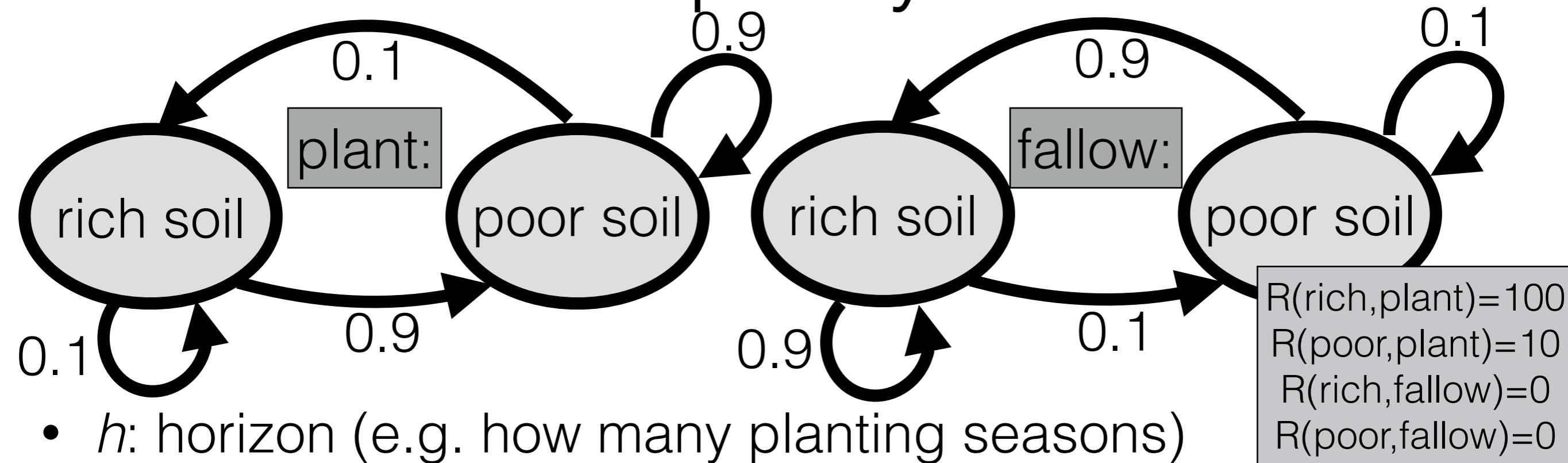
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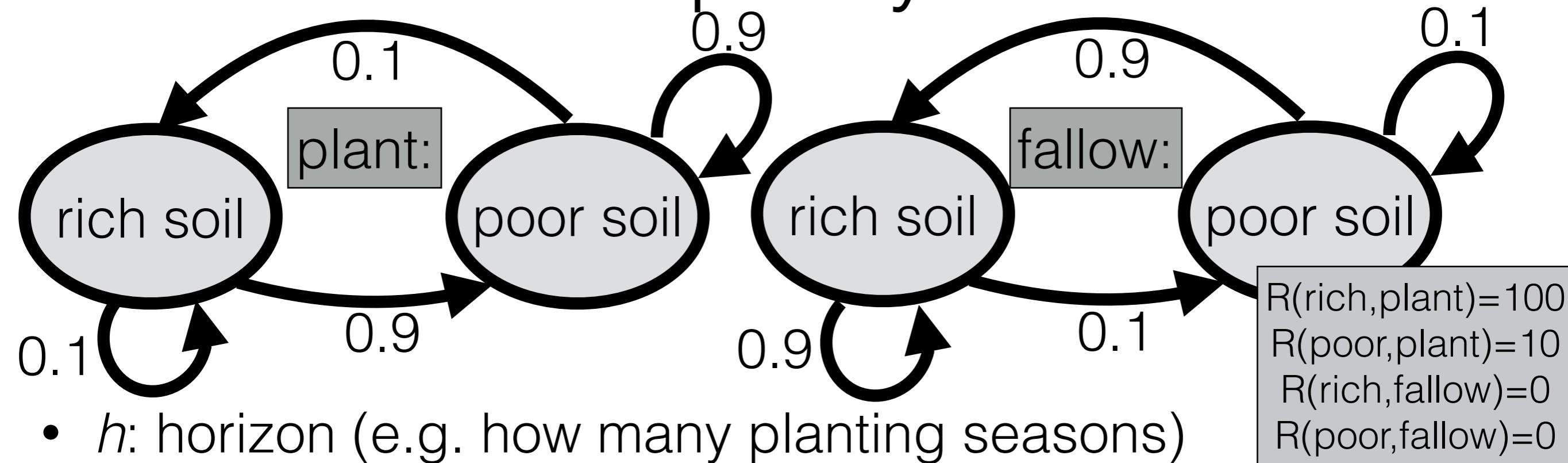
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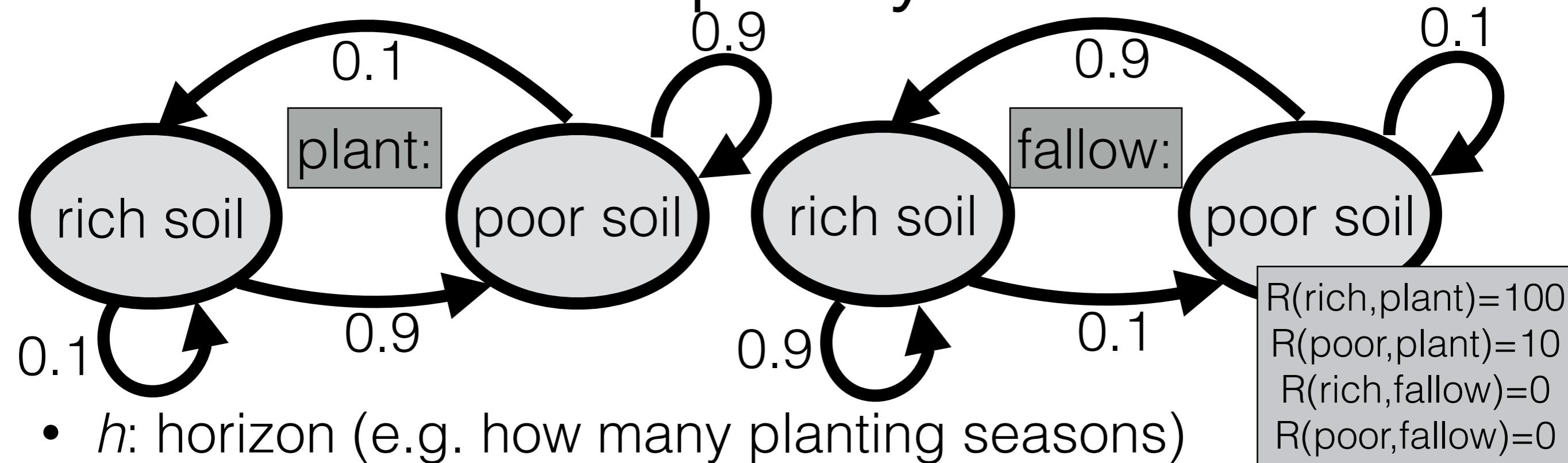
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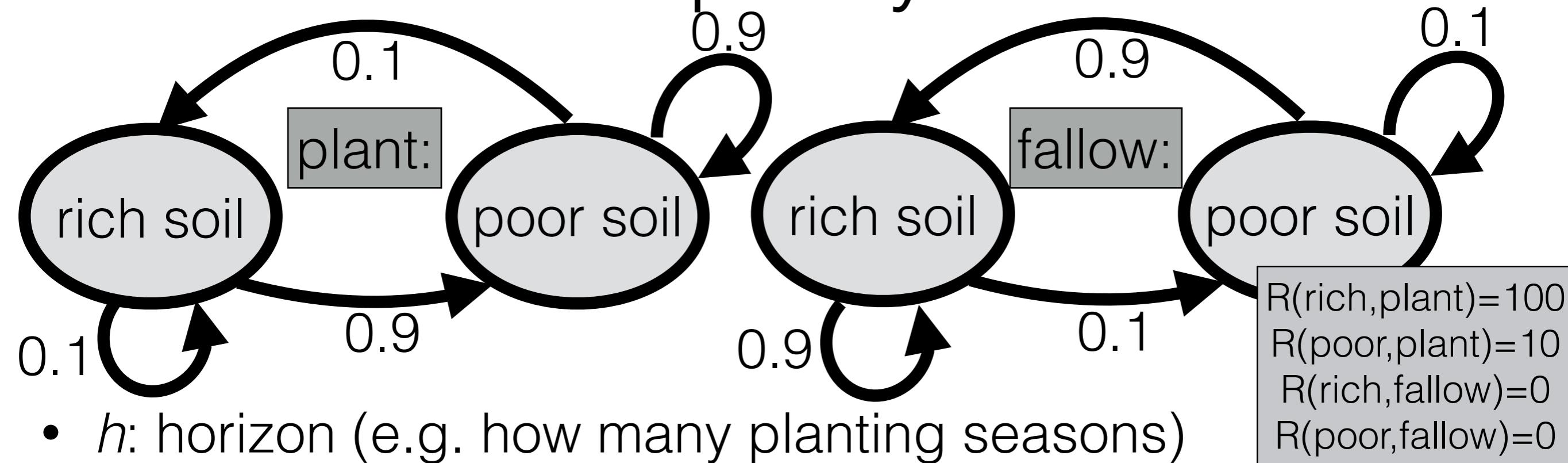
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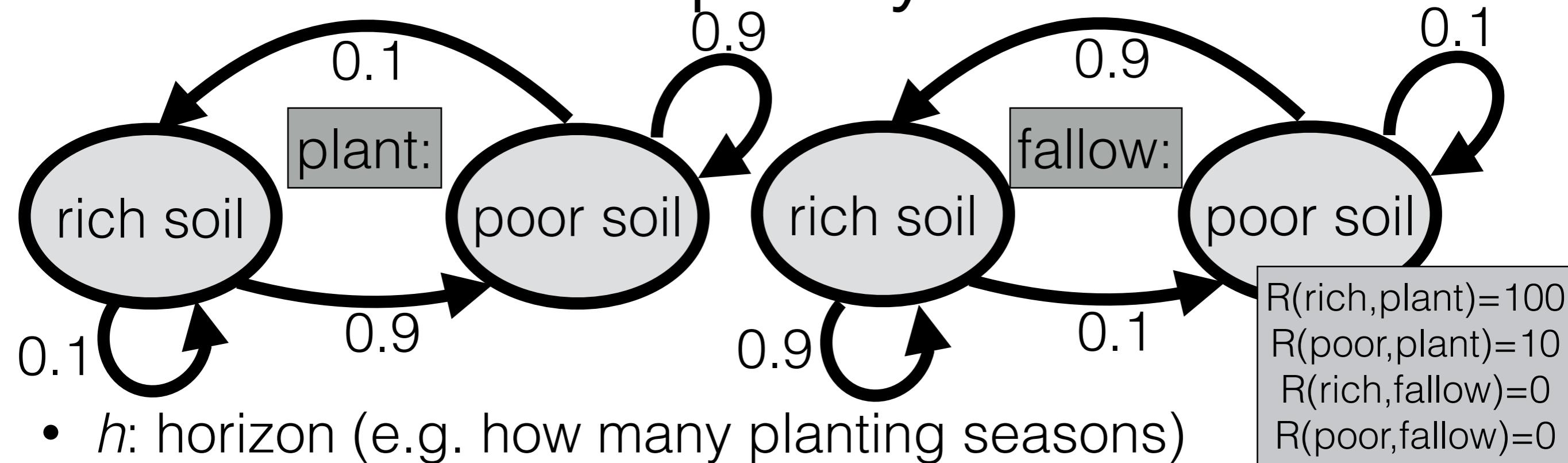
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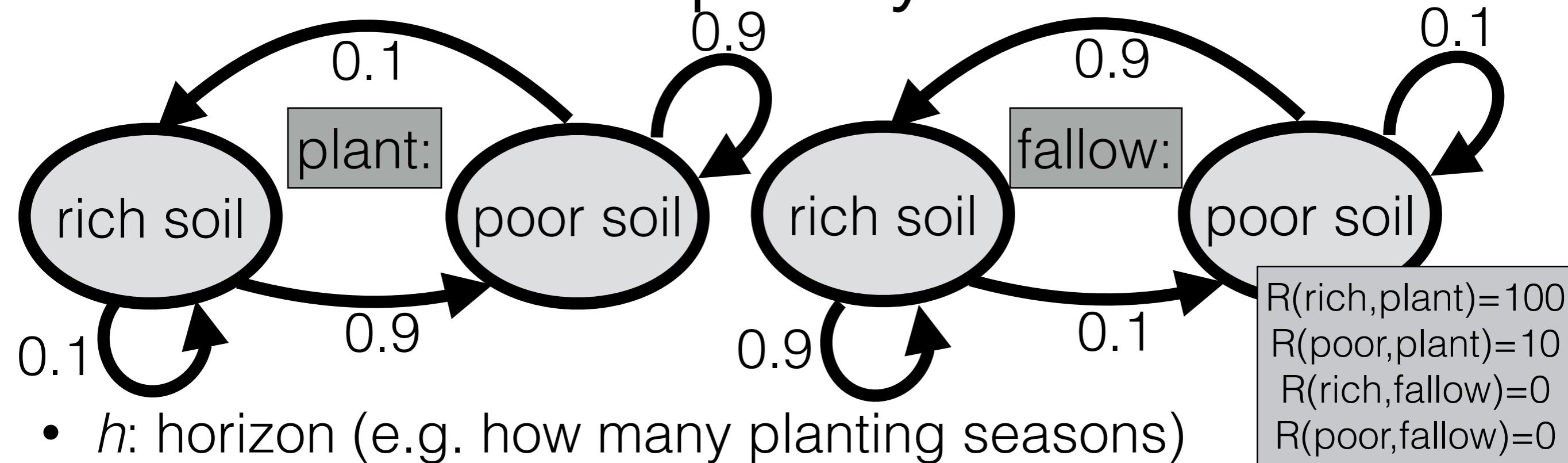
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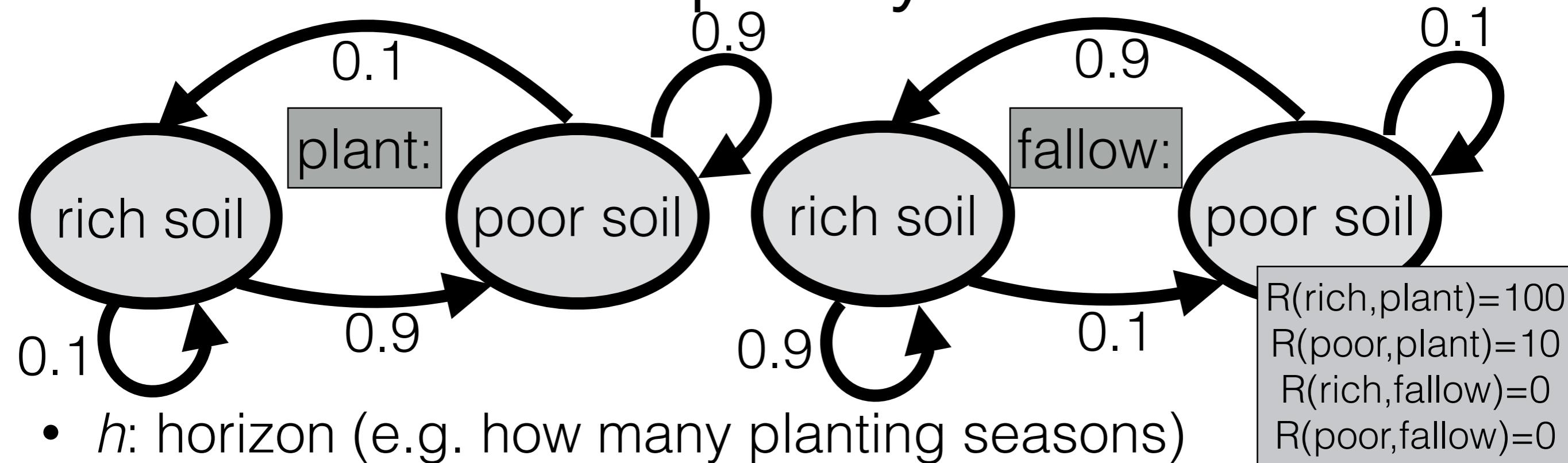
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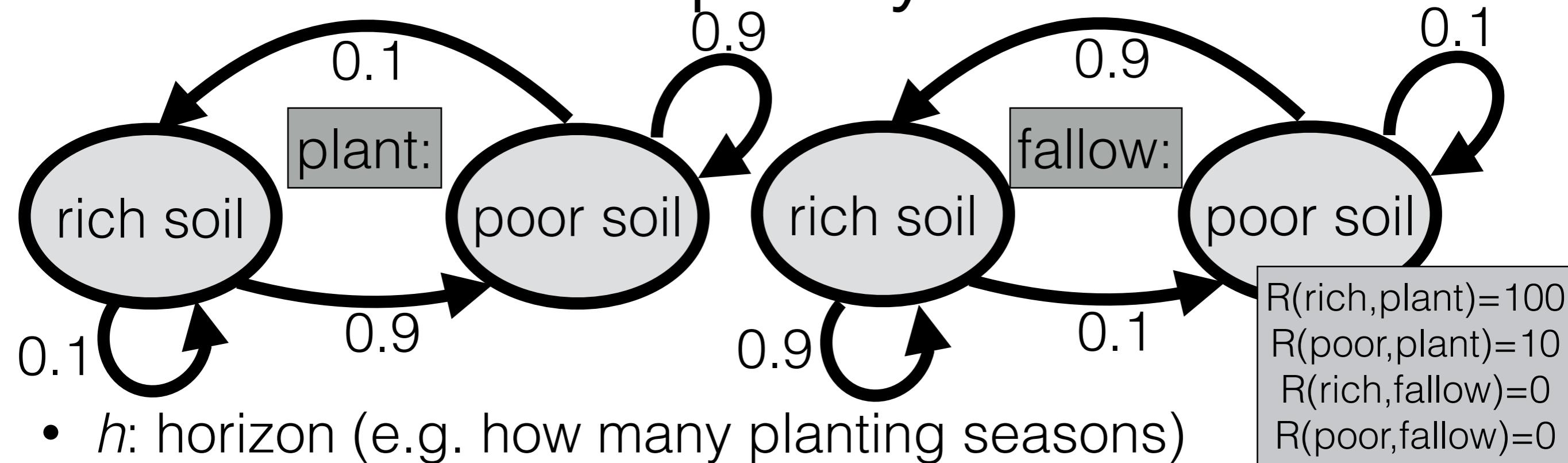
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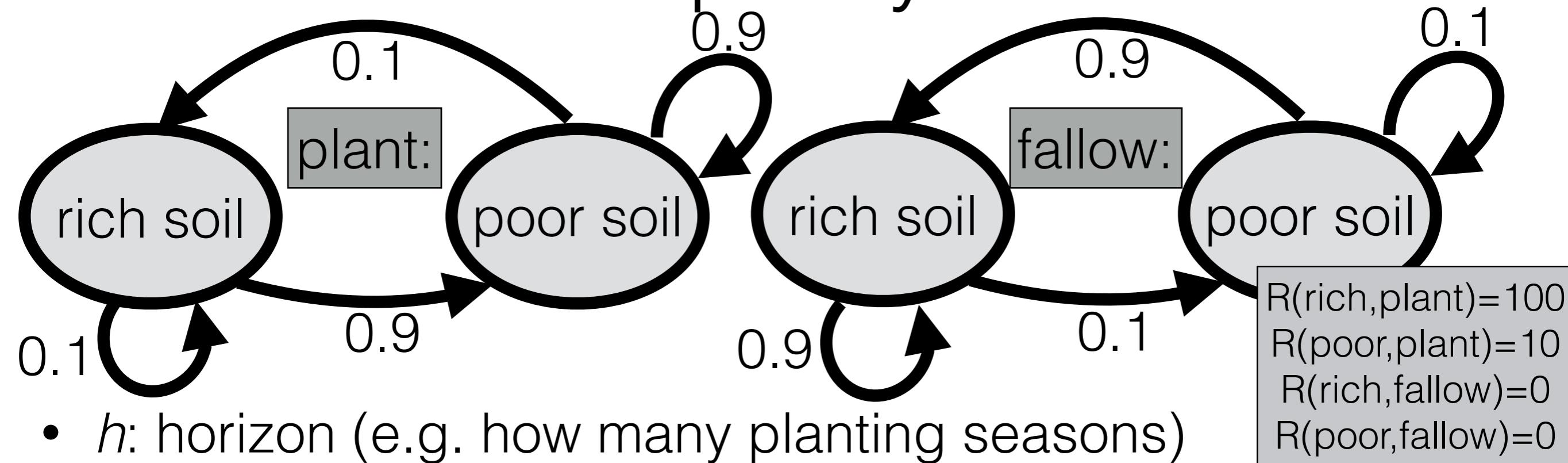
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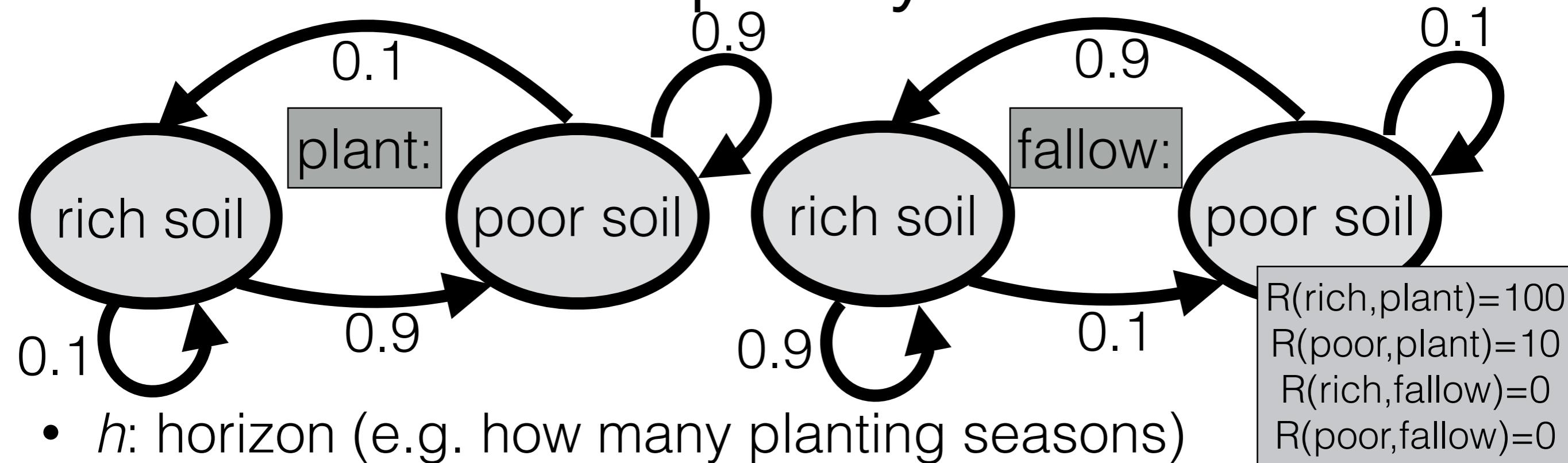
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What's best? Any  $s$ ,  $\pi_1^*(s) = \text{plant}$

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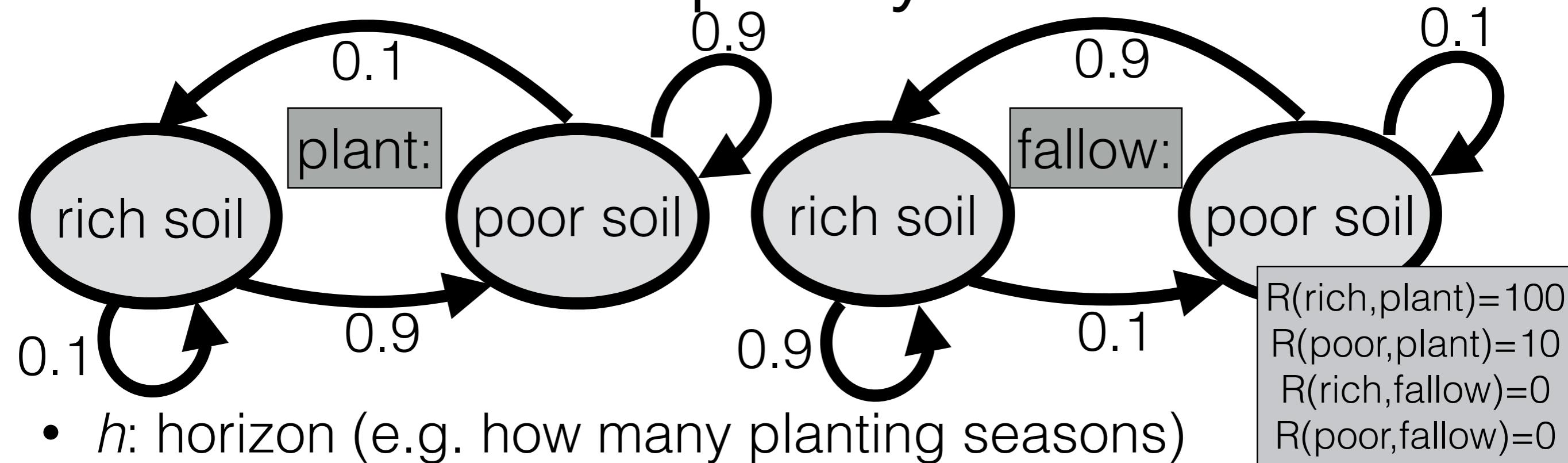
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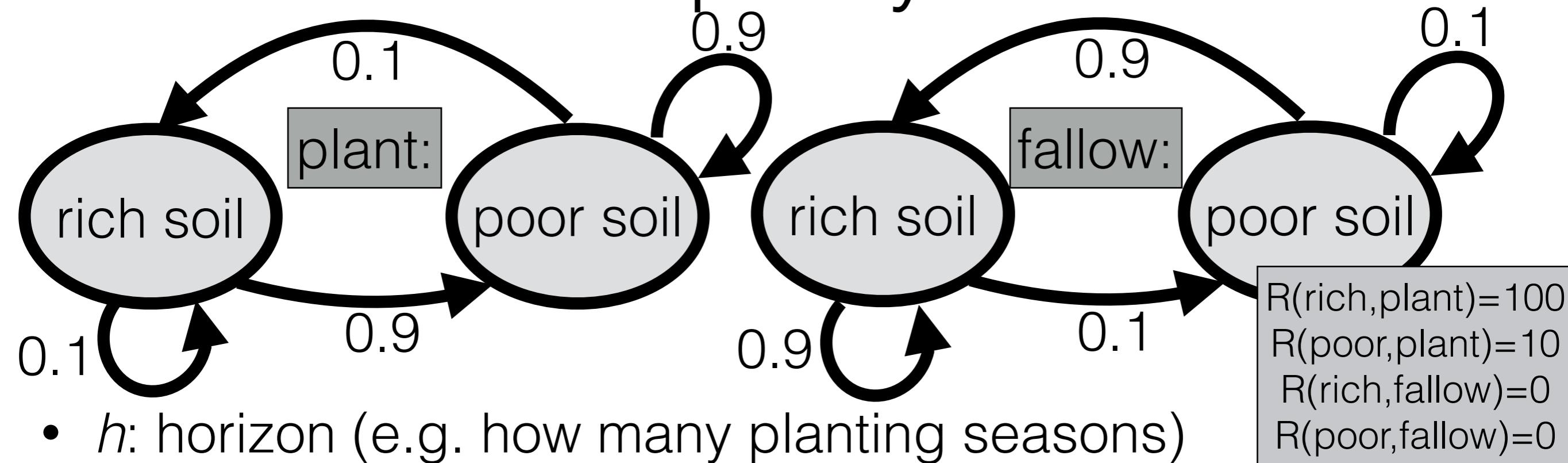
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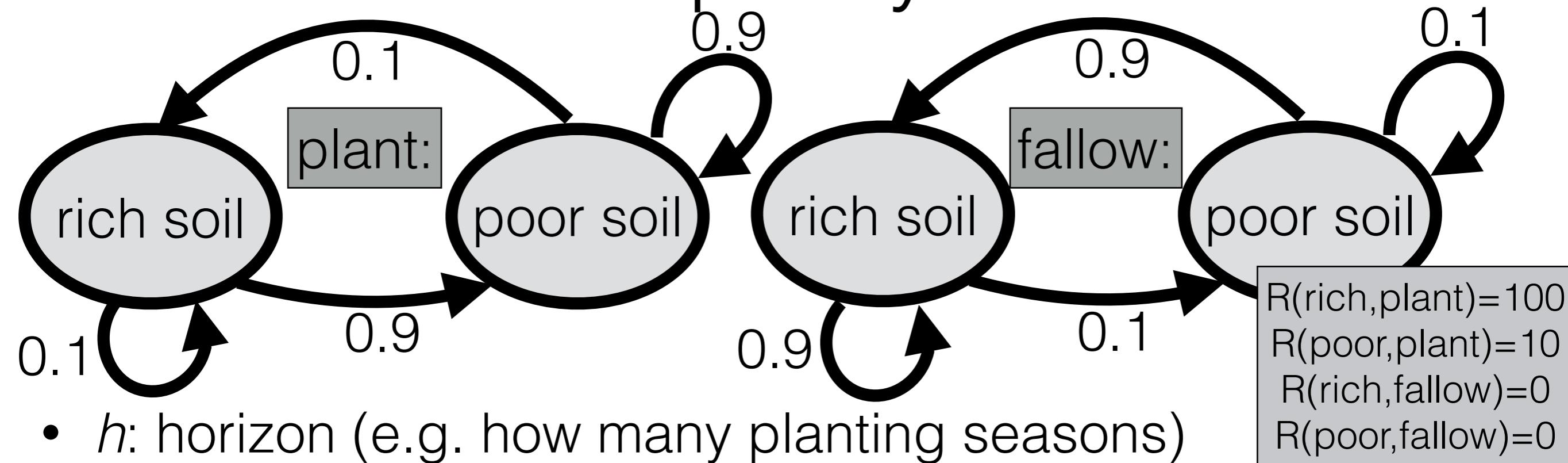
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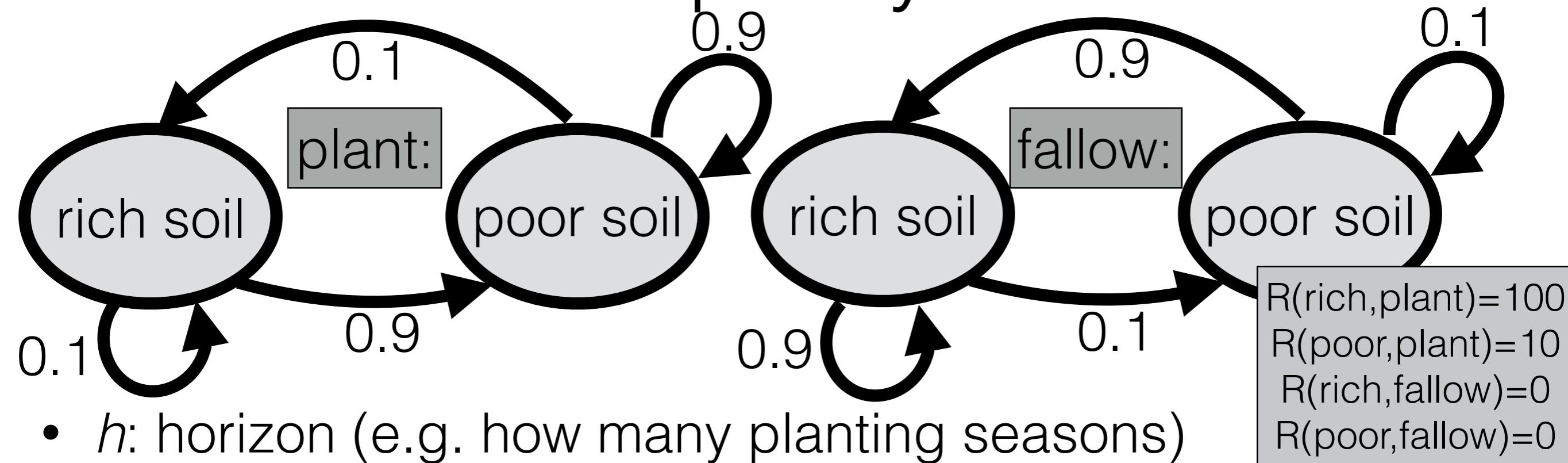
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$\pi_2^*$

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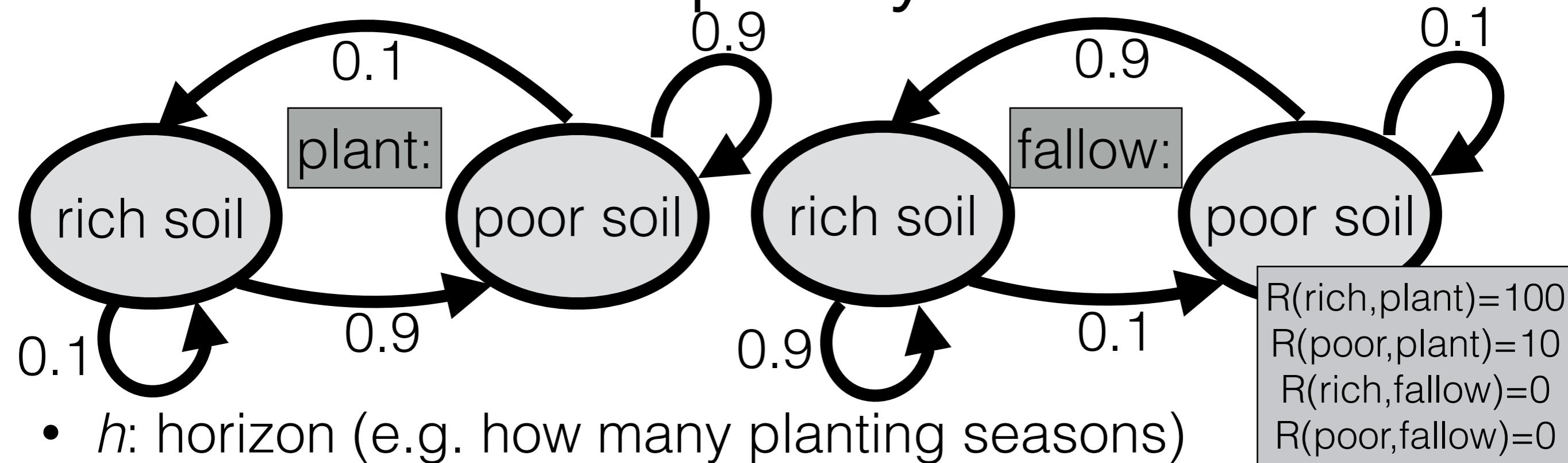
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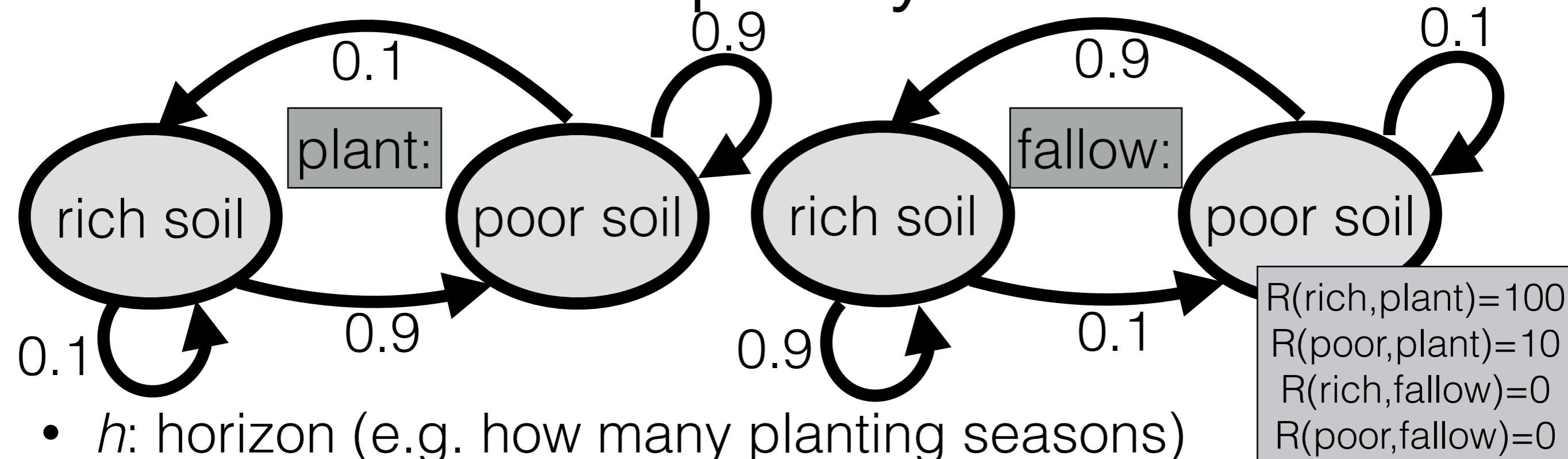
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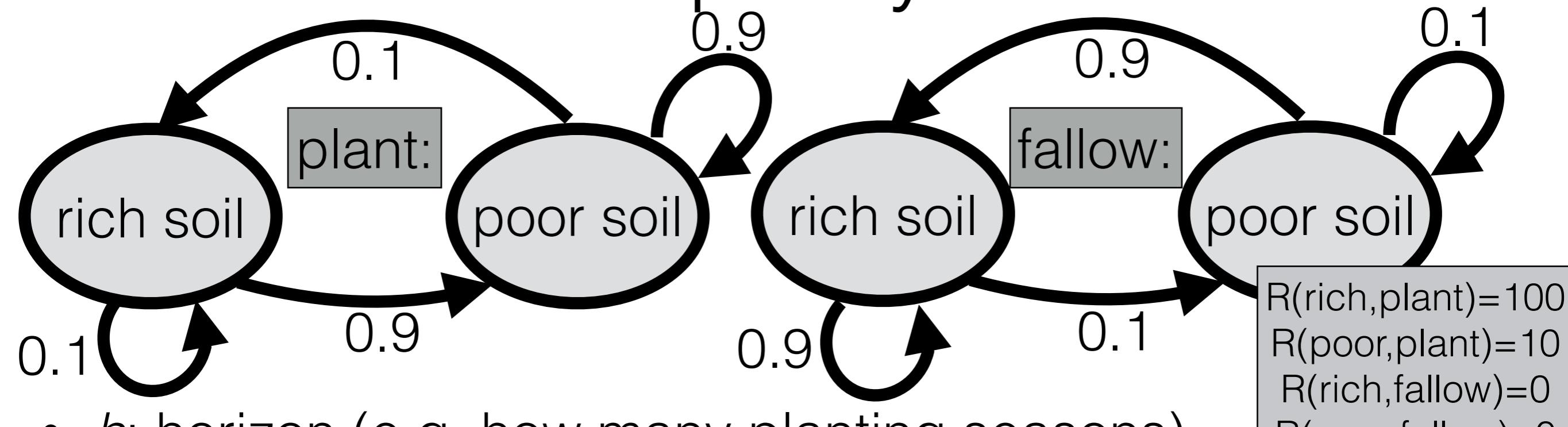
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“finite-horizon  
value iteration”

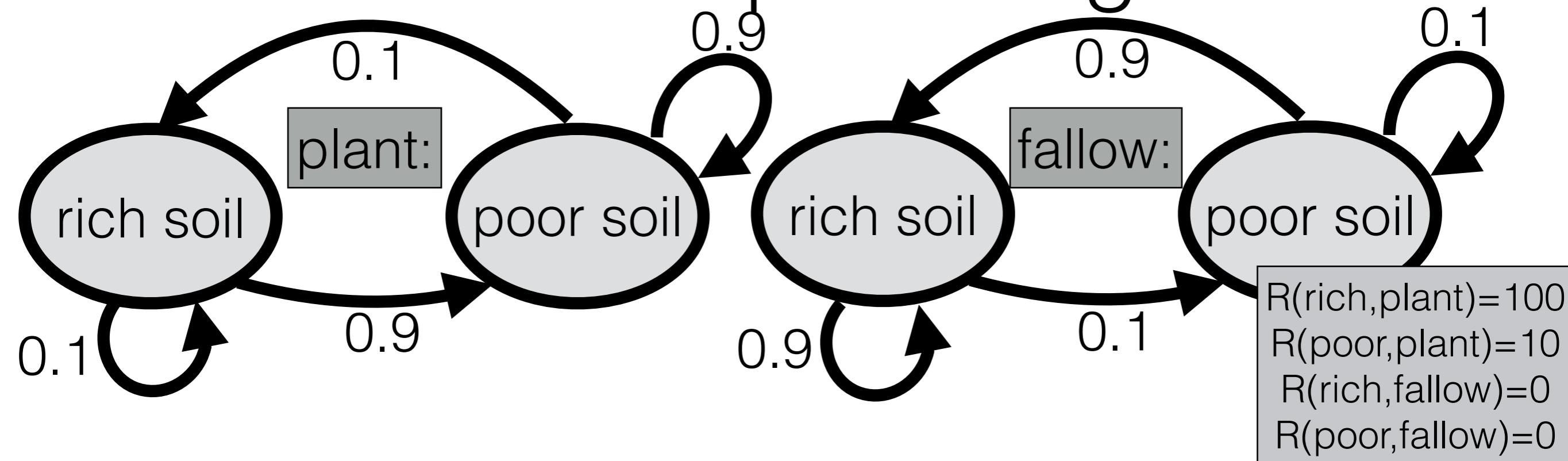
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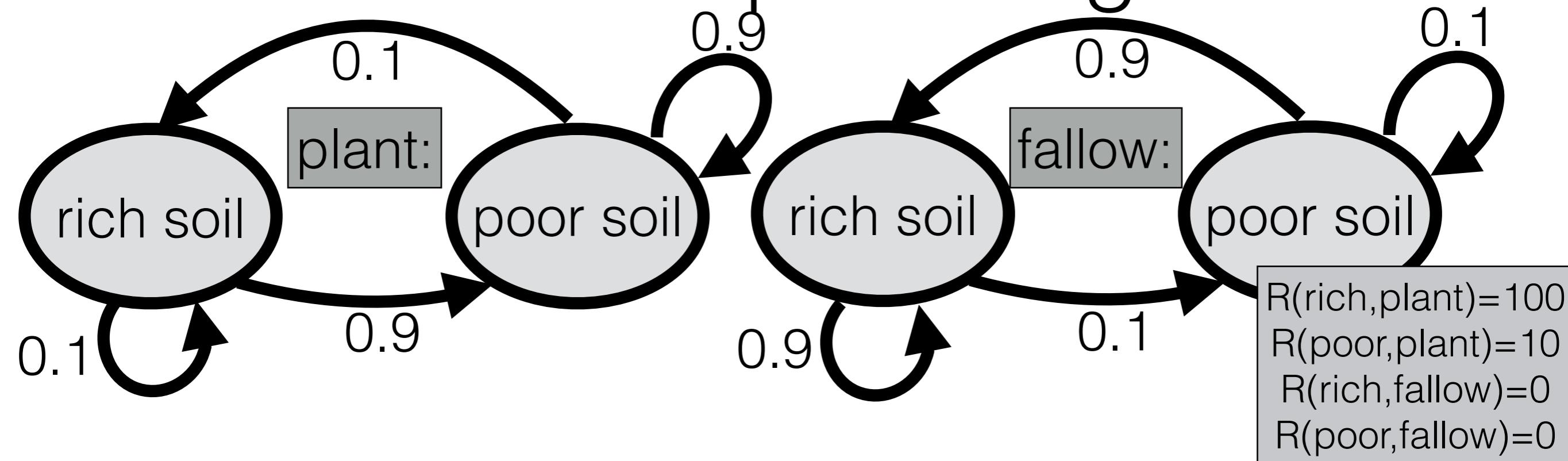
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Good news! No strip mall, and I get to keep the farm forever

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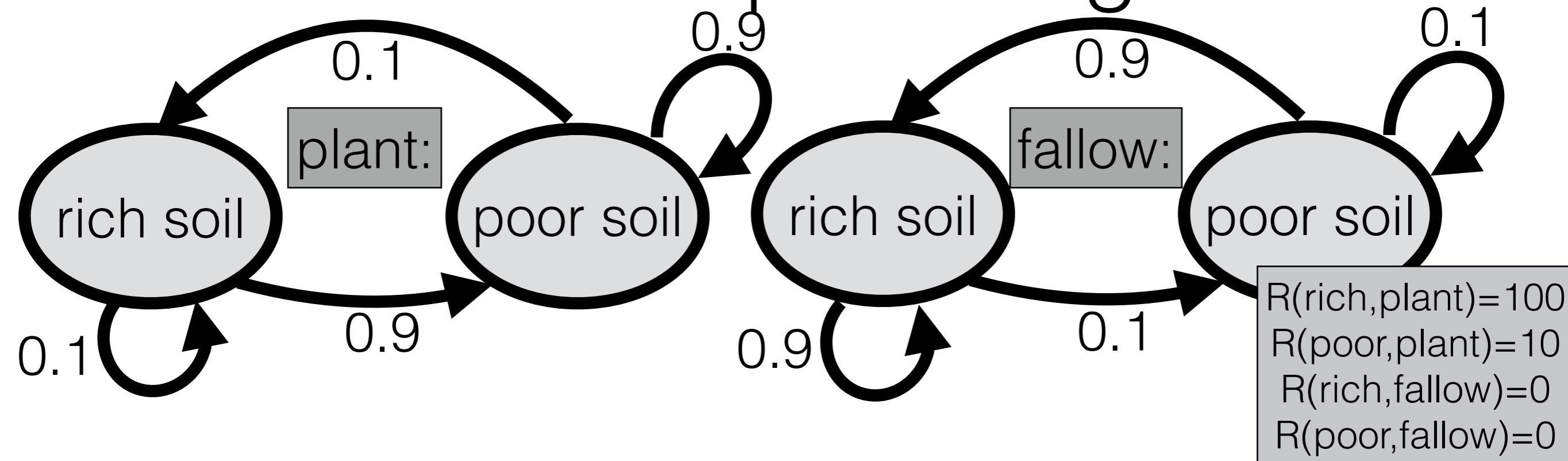


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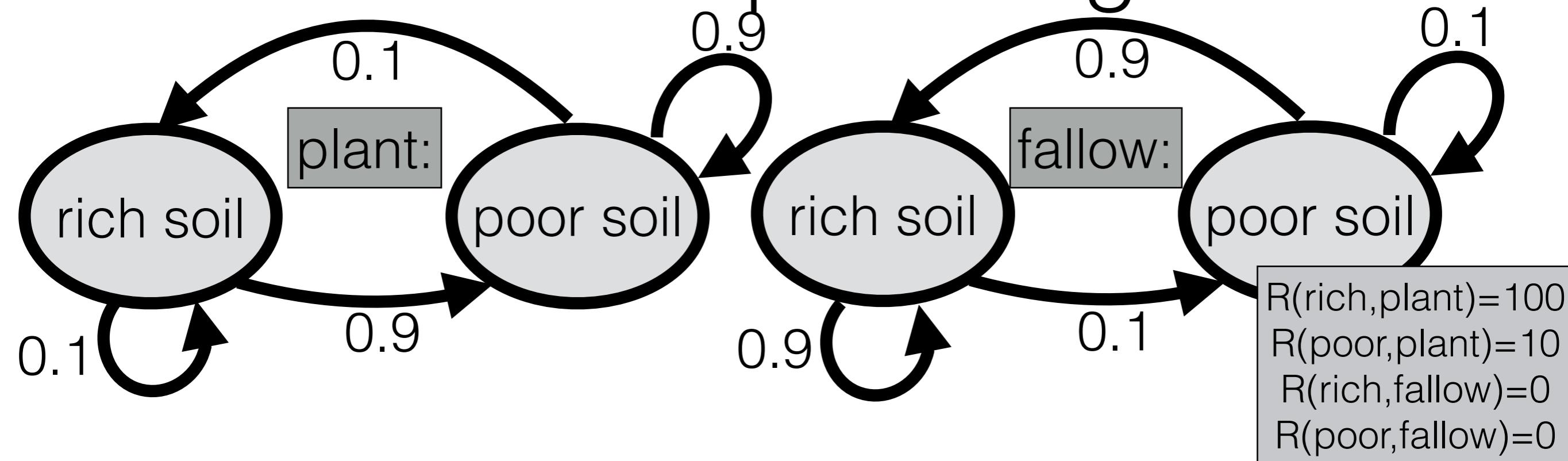
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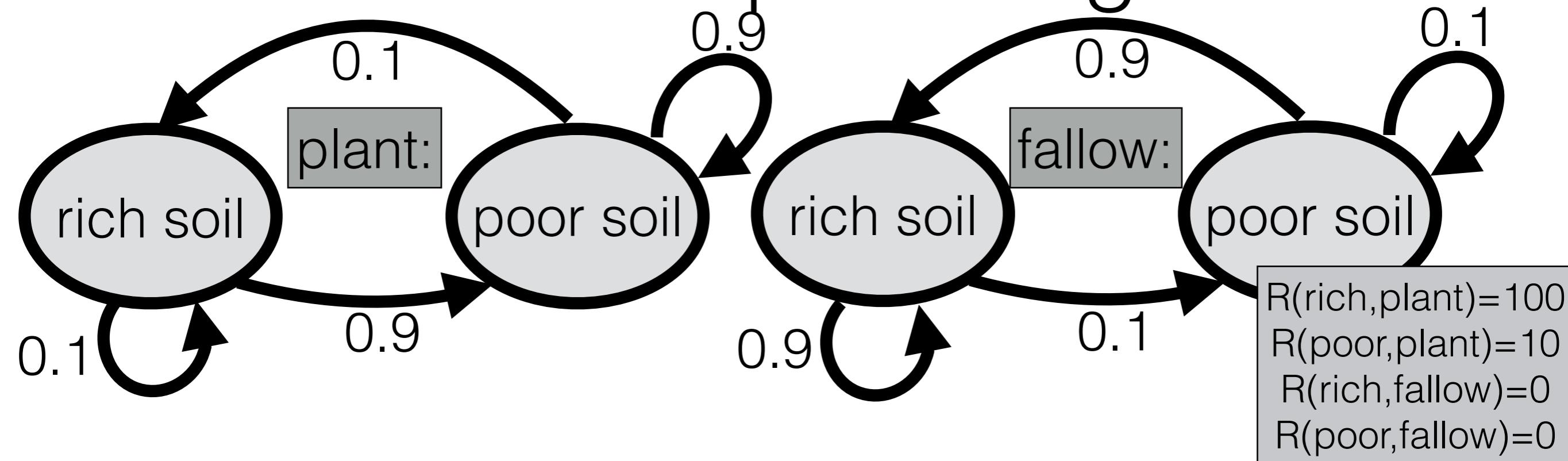
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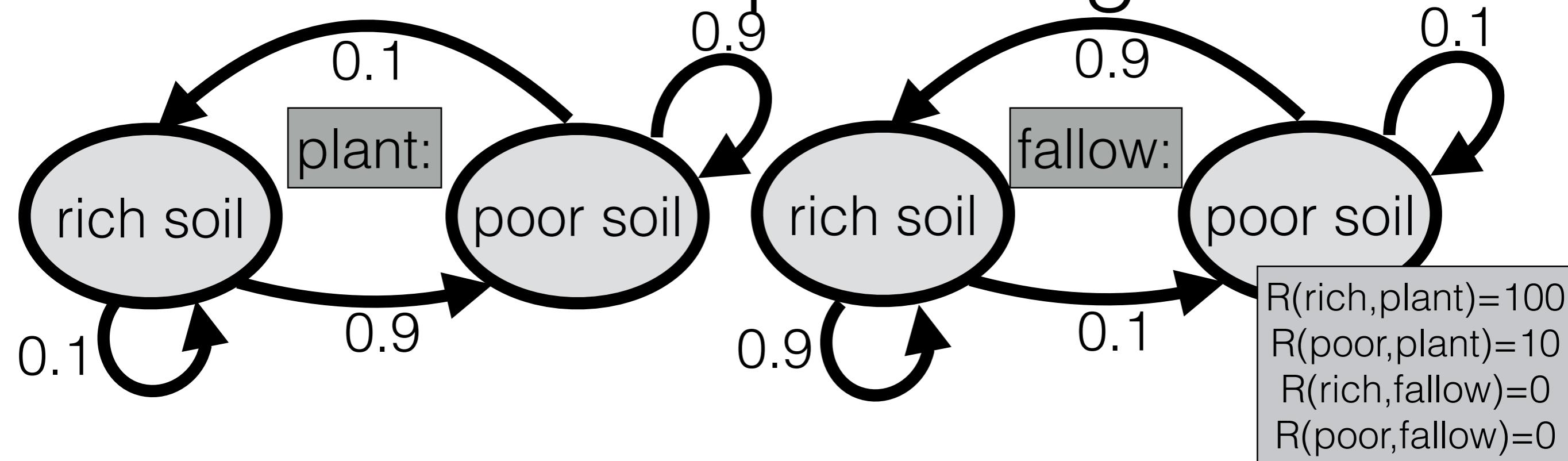
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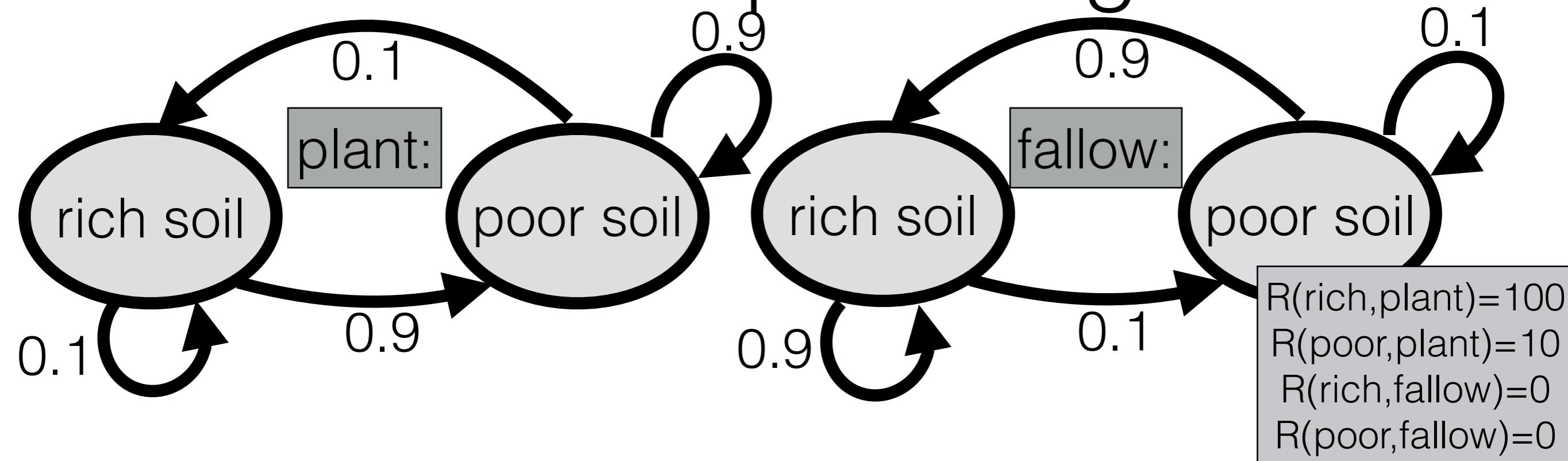
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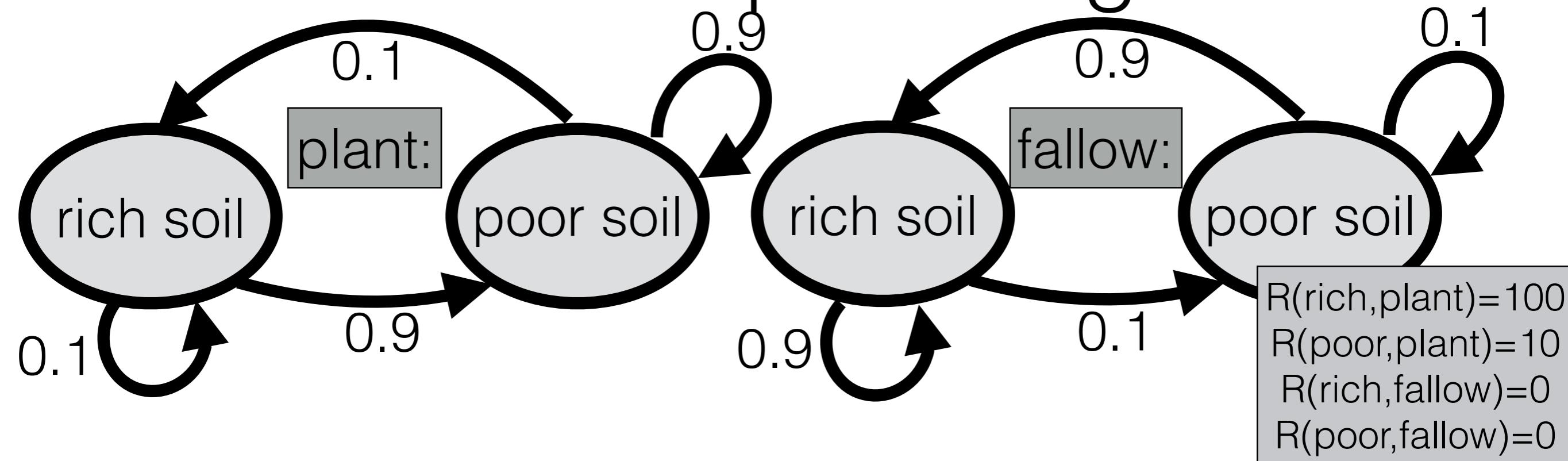
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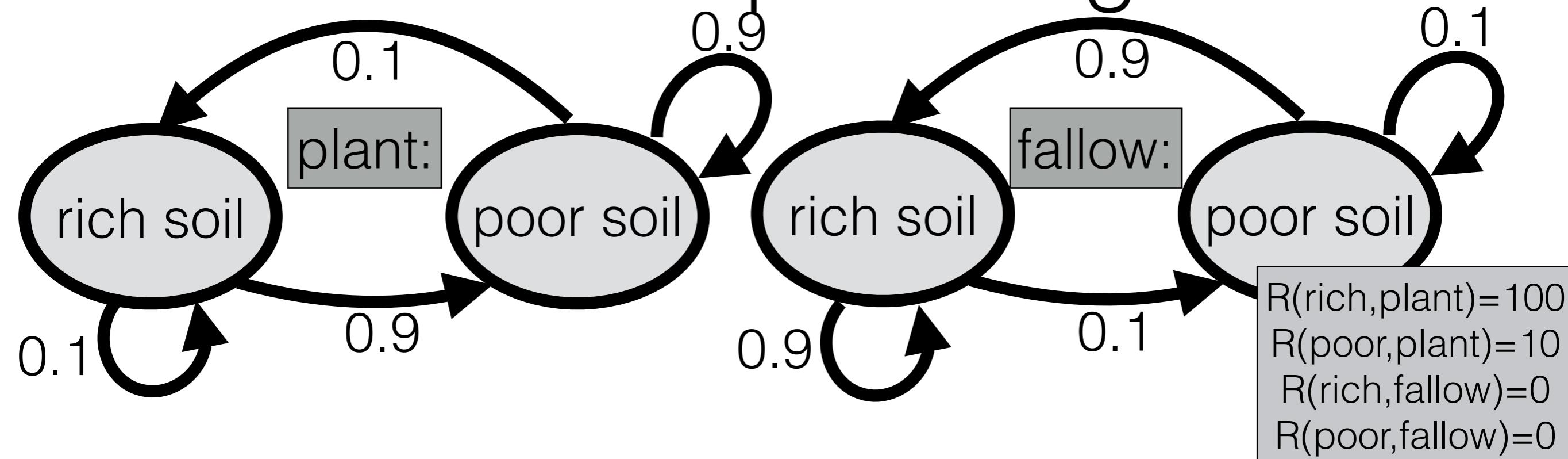
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$$V = 1 + \gamma + \gamma^2 + \dots$$

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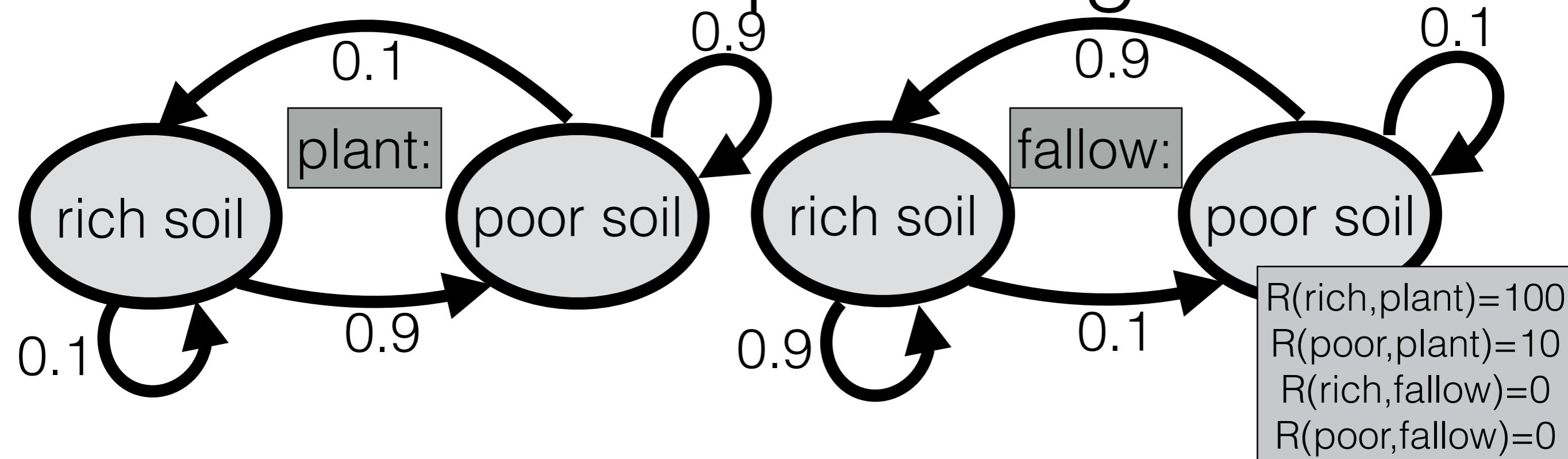
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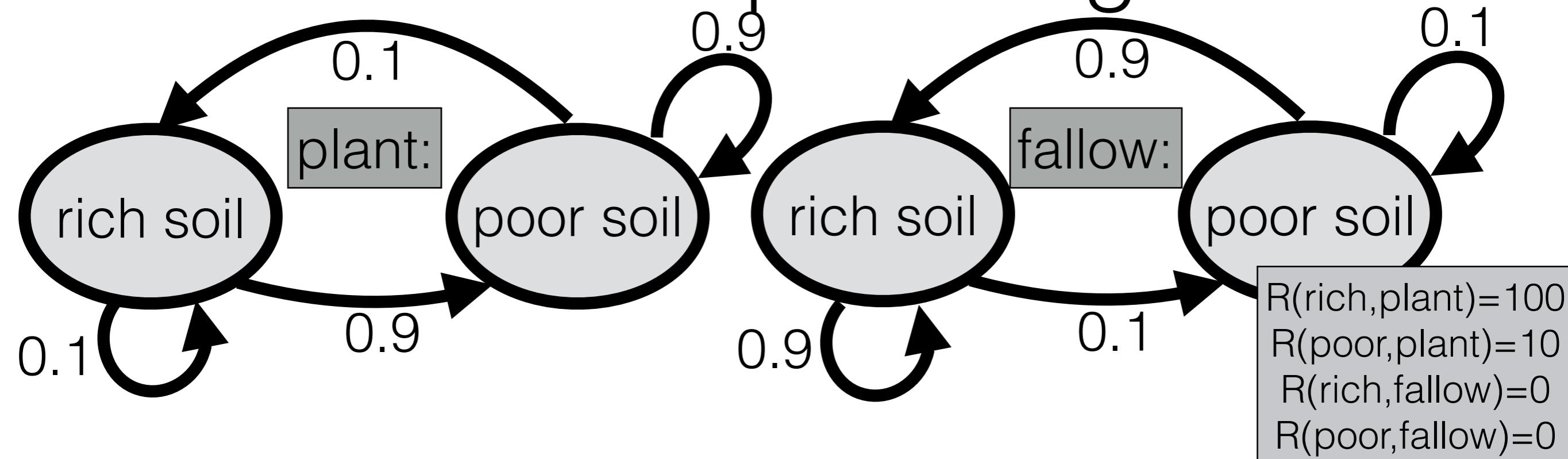
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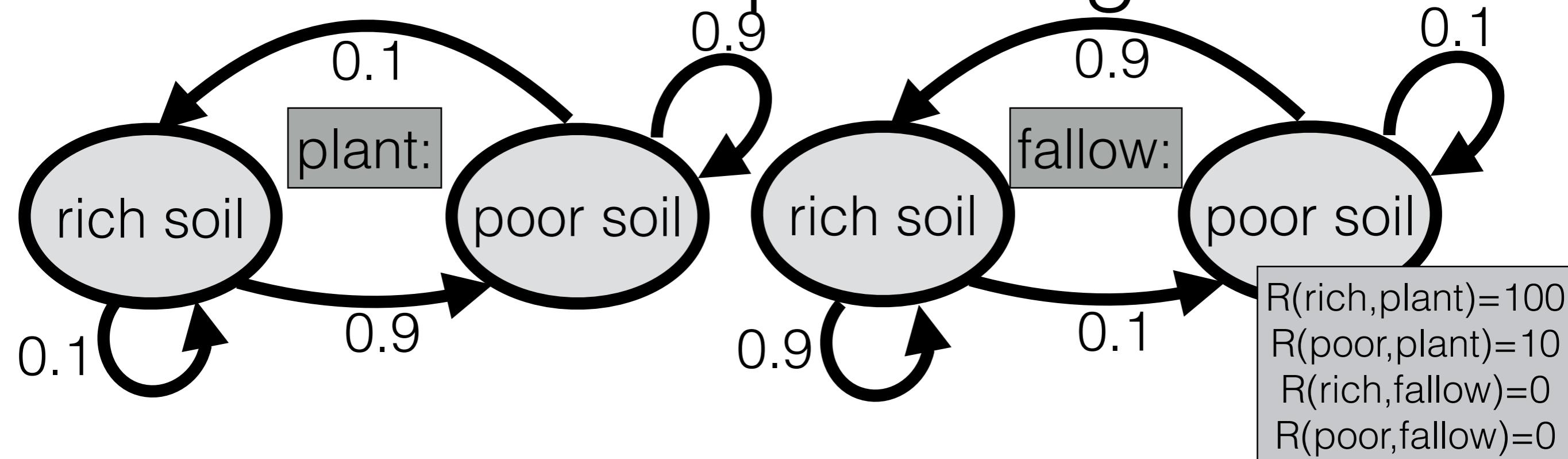
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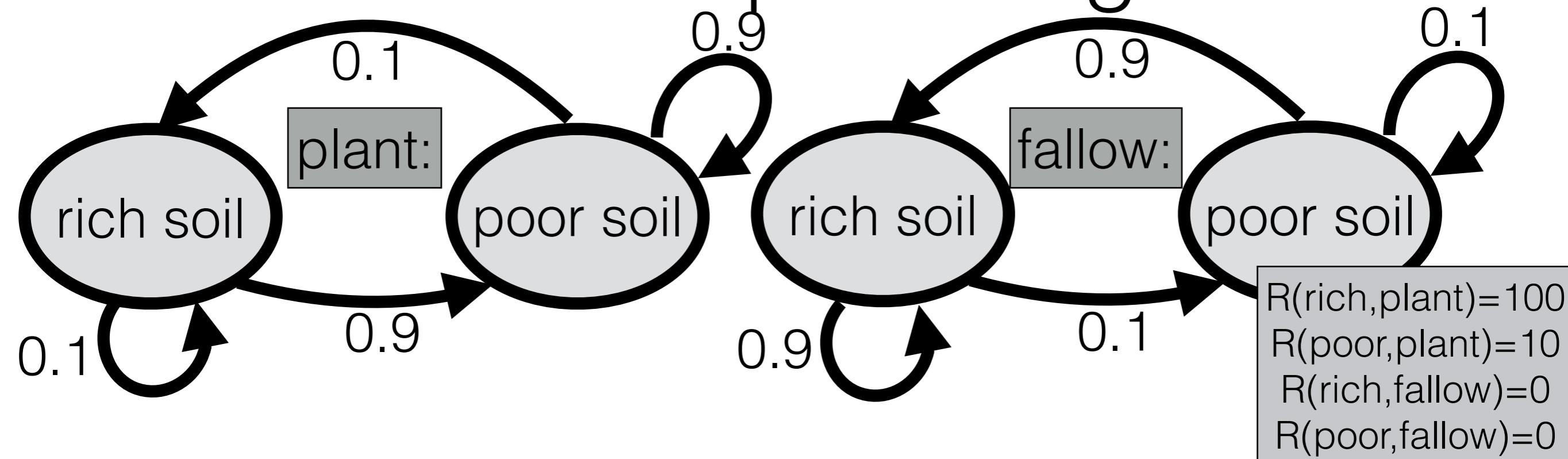
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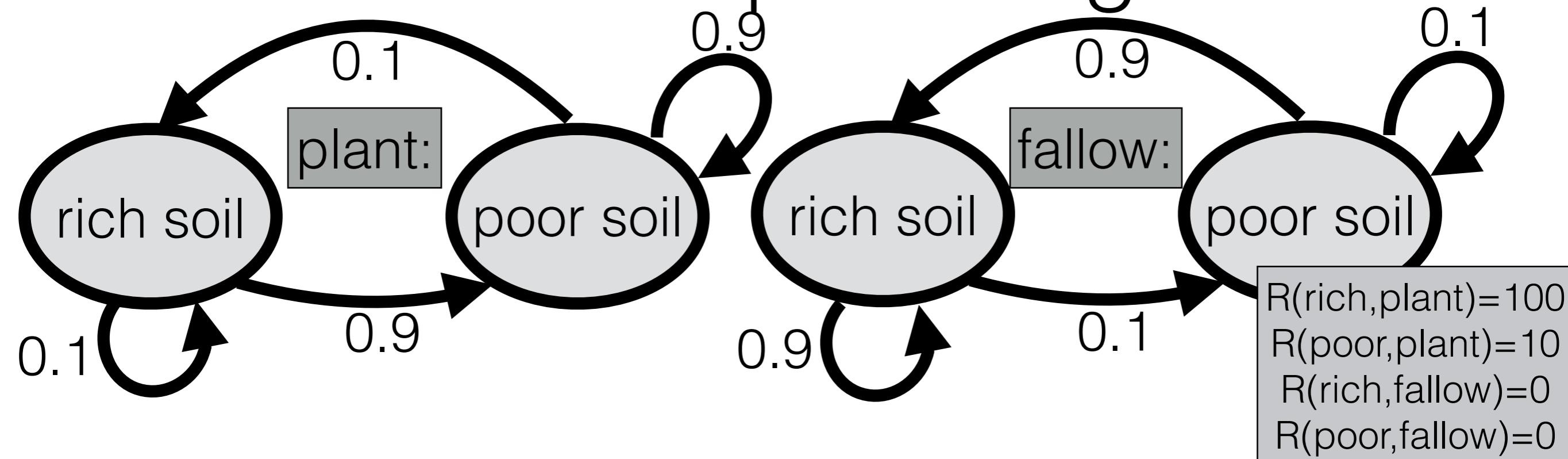
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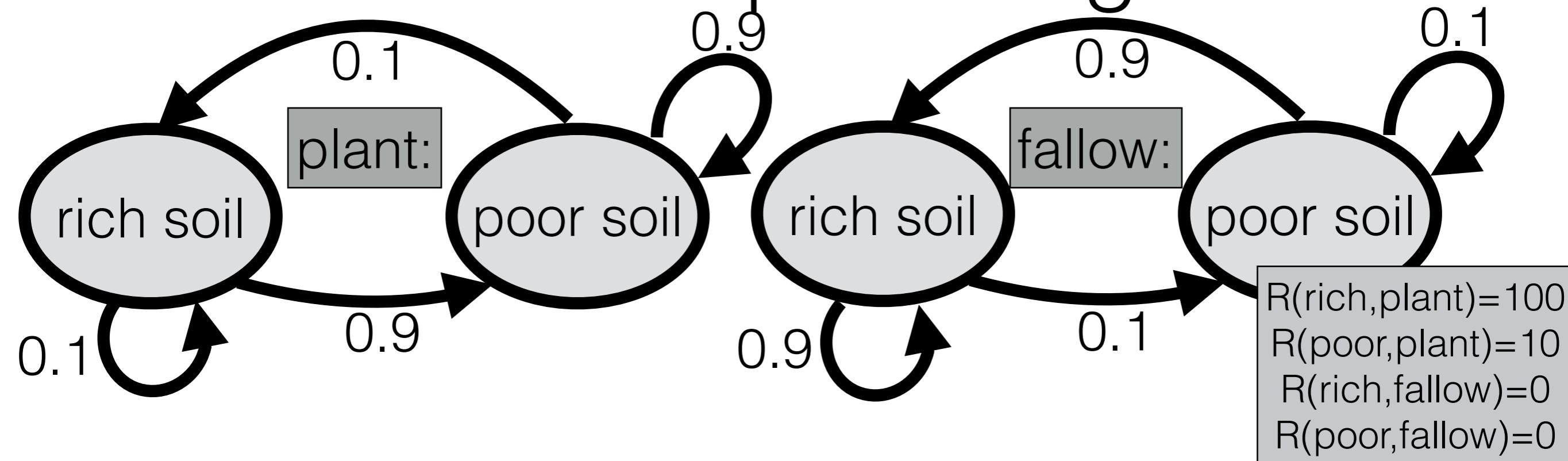
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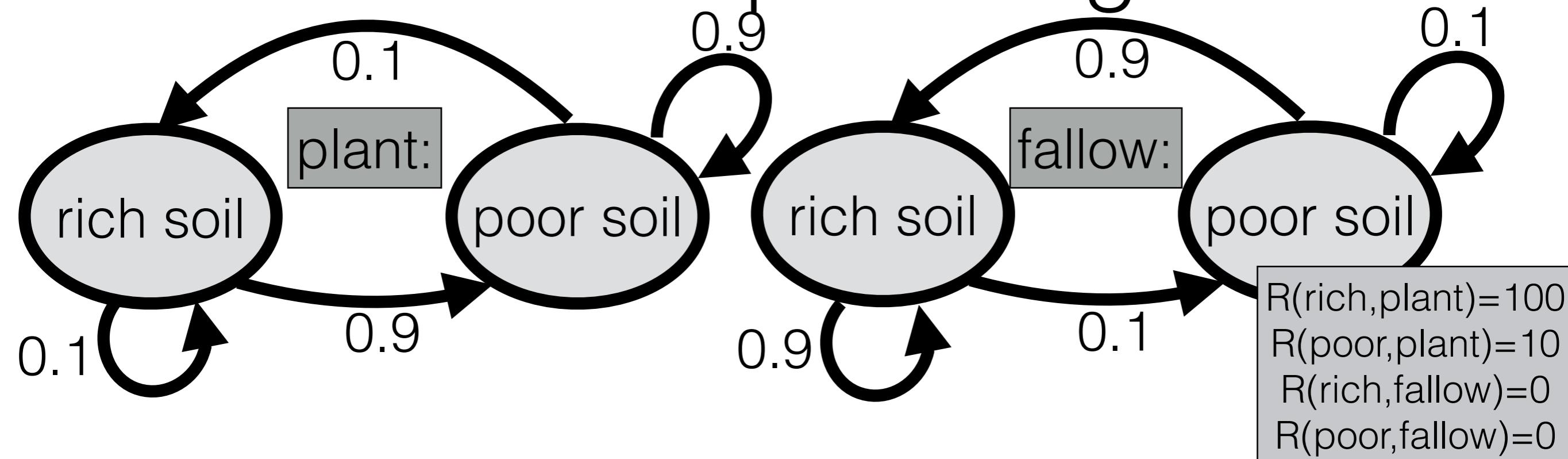
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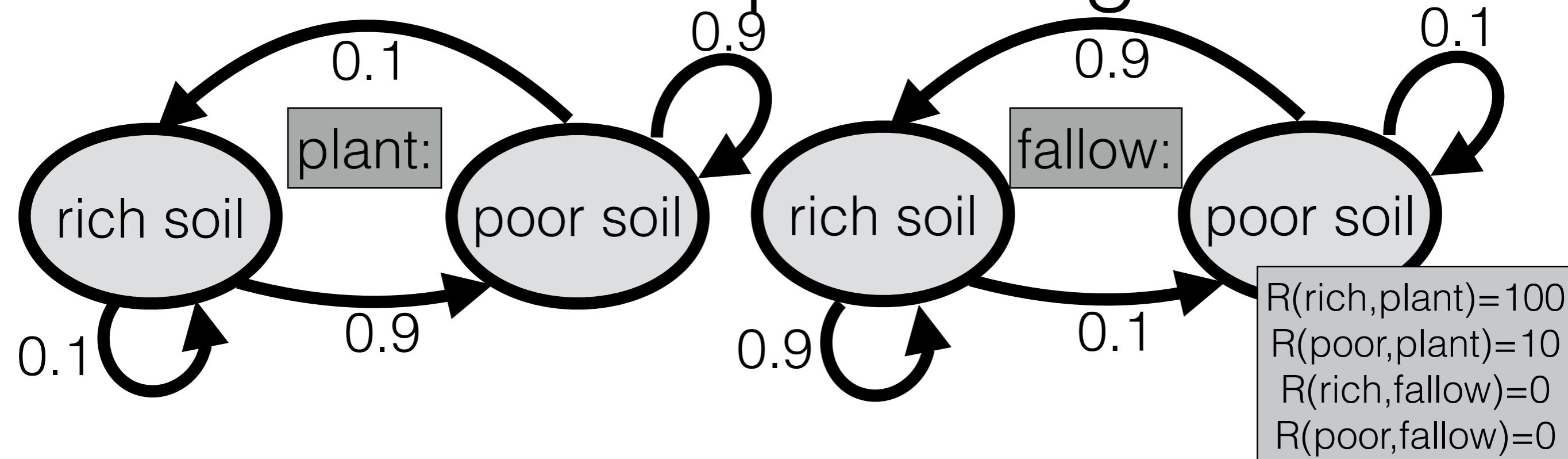


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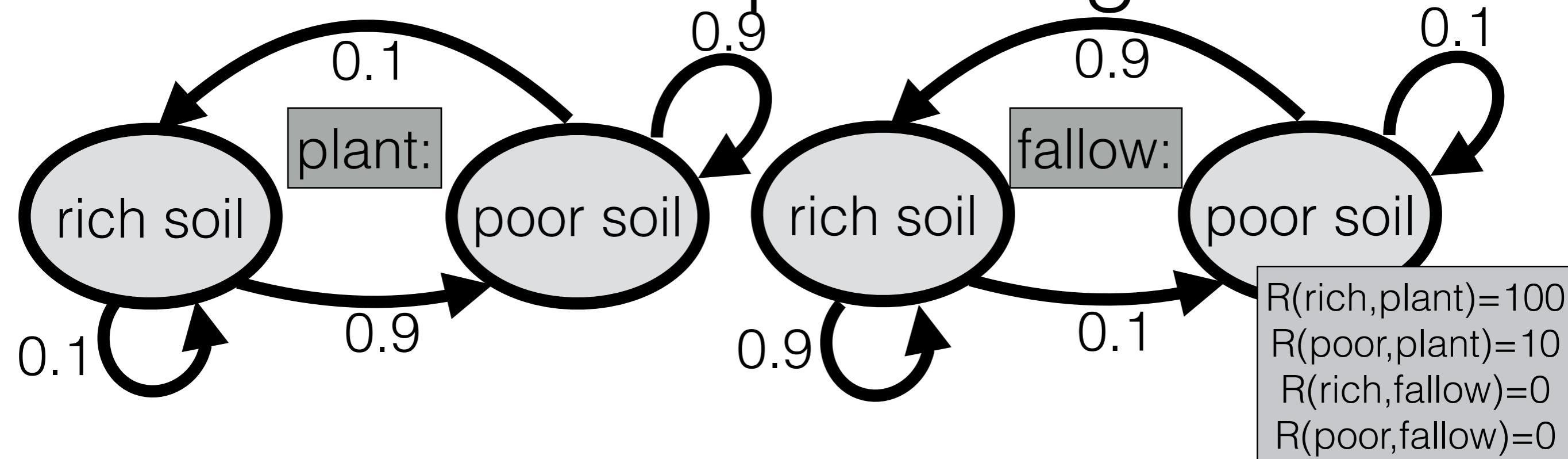


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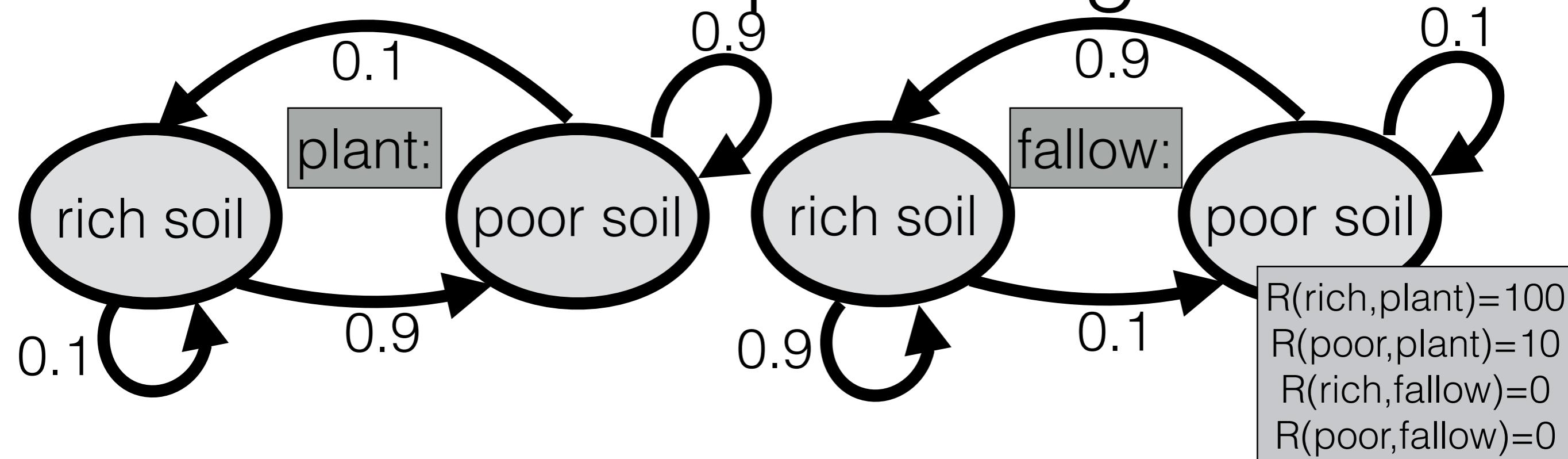


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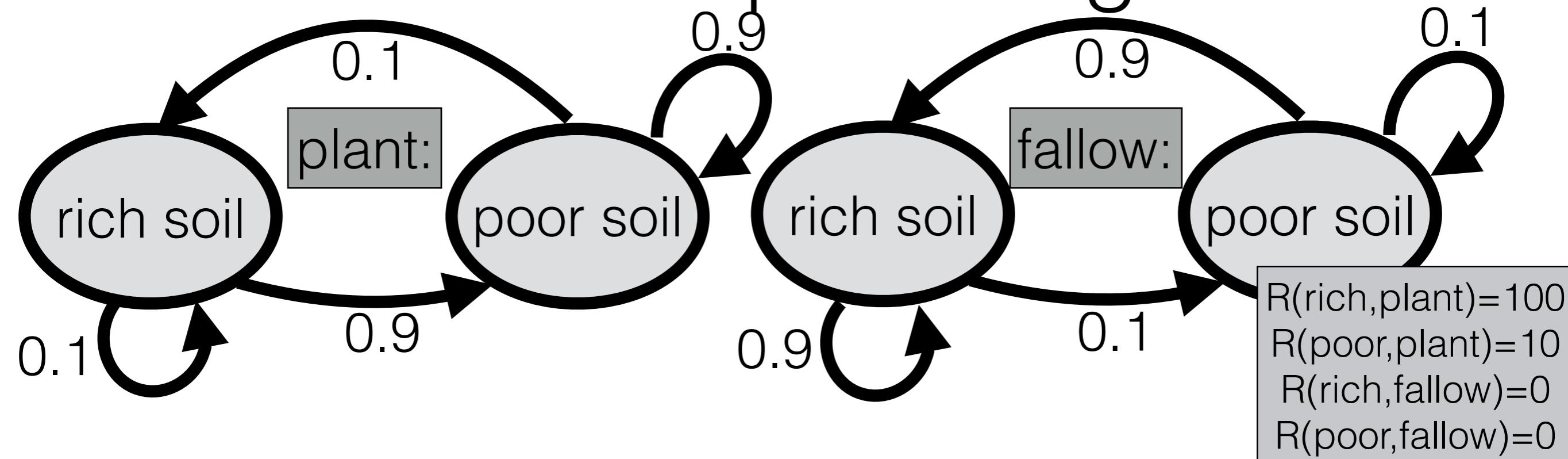
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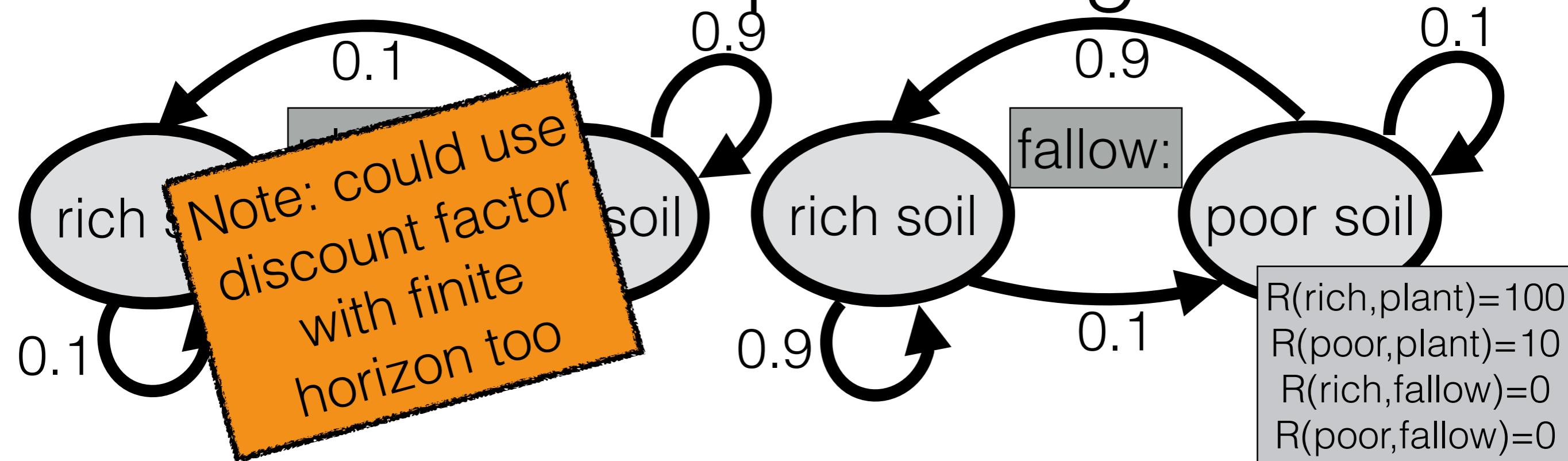
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