

# On the Total Variation Distance of SMCs

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FoSSaCS '15

# Outline

- Motivations
- Semi-Markov Chains (SMCs)
- Trace Distance vs Model Checking of SMCs
- Approximation Algorithm for Trace Distance
- Concluding Remarks

# Motivations

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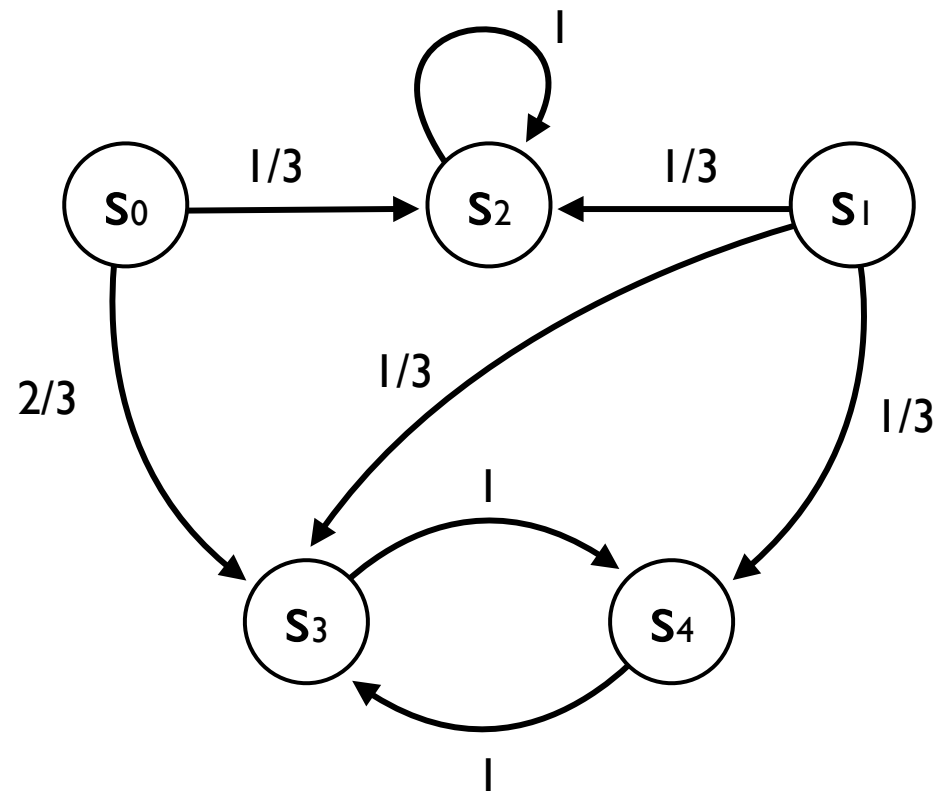
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- ***Quantitative Linear-time properties***  
tests over execution runs (no internal access!)

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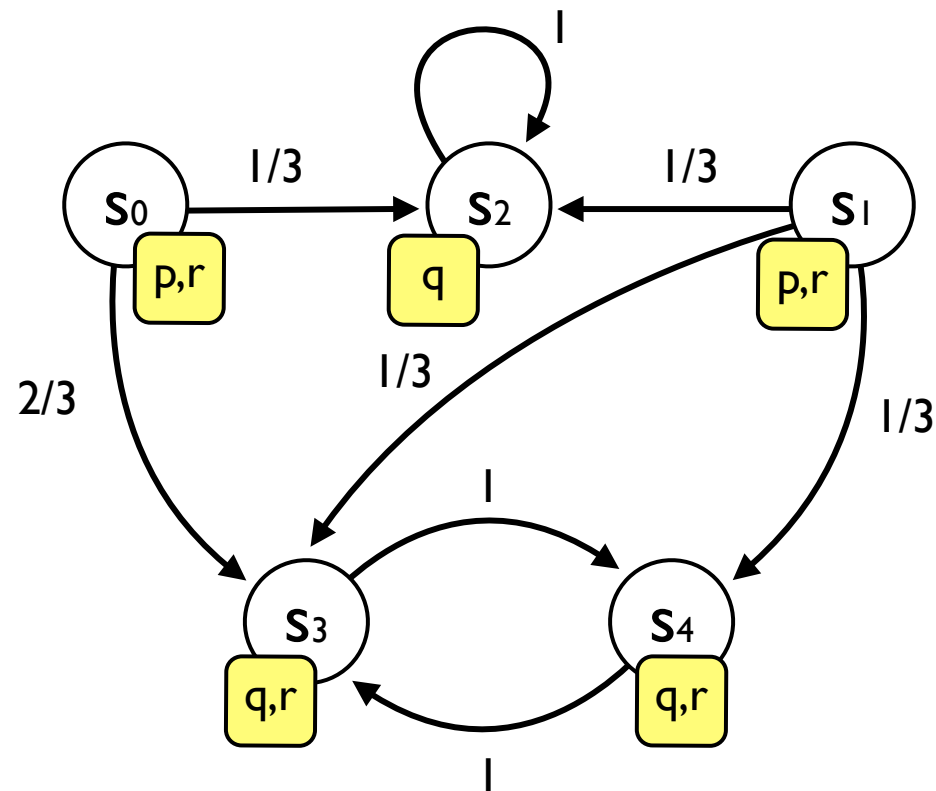
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  - **Models** - probabilistic, timed, weighted, ect.
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- Example: systems biology, machine learning, artificial intelligence, security, ect.



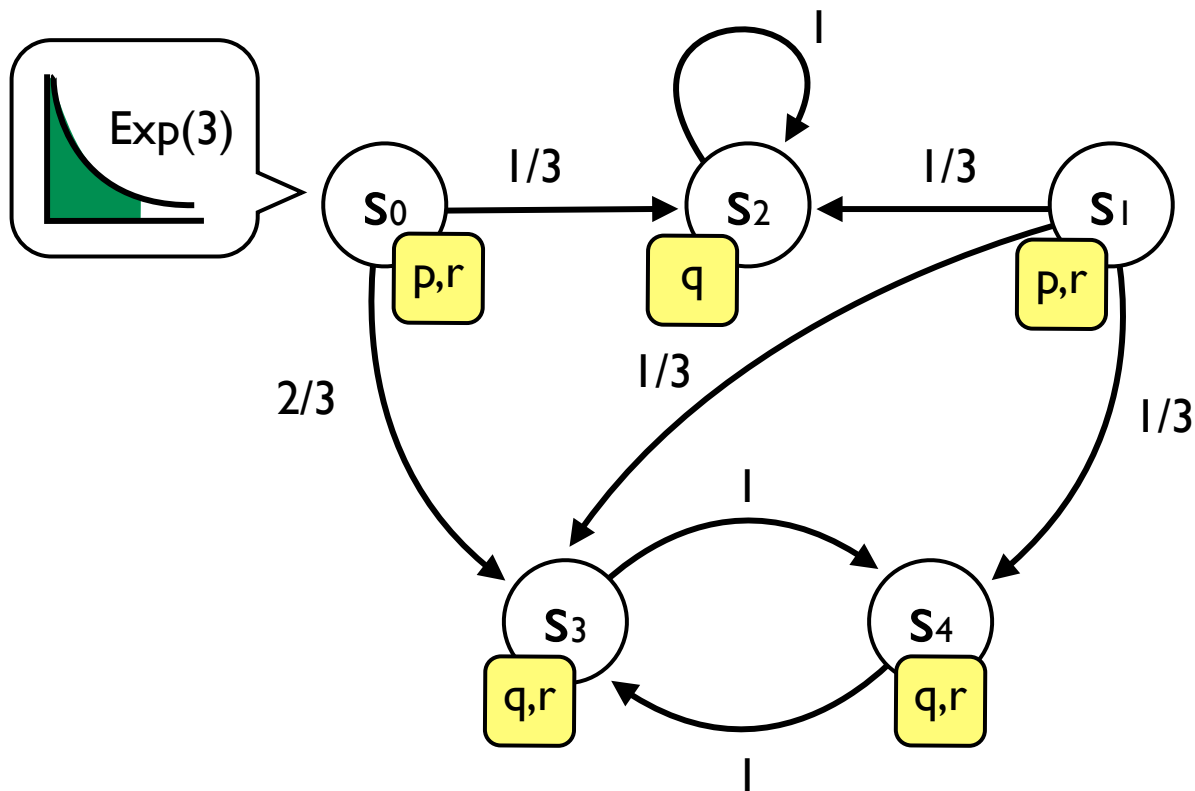
# semi-Markov Chains



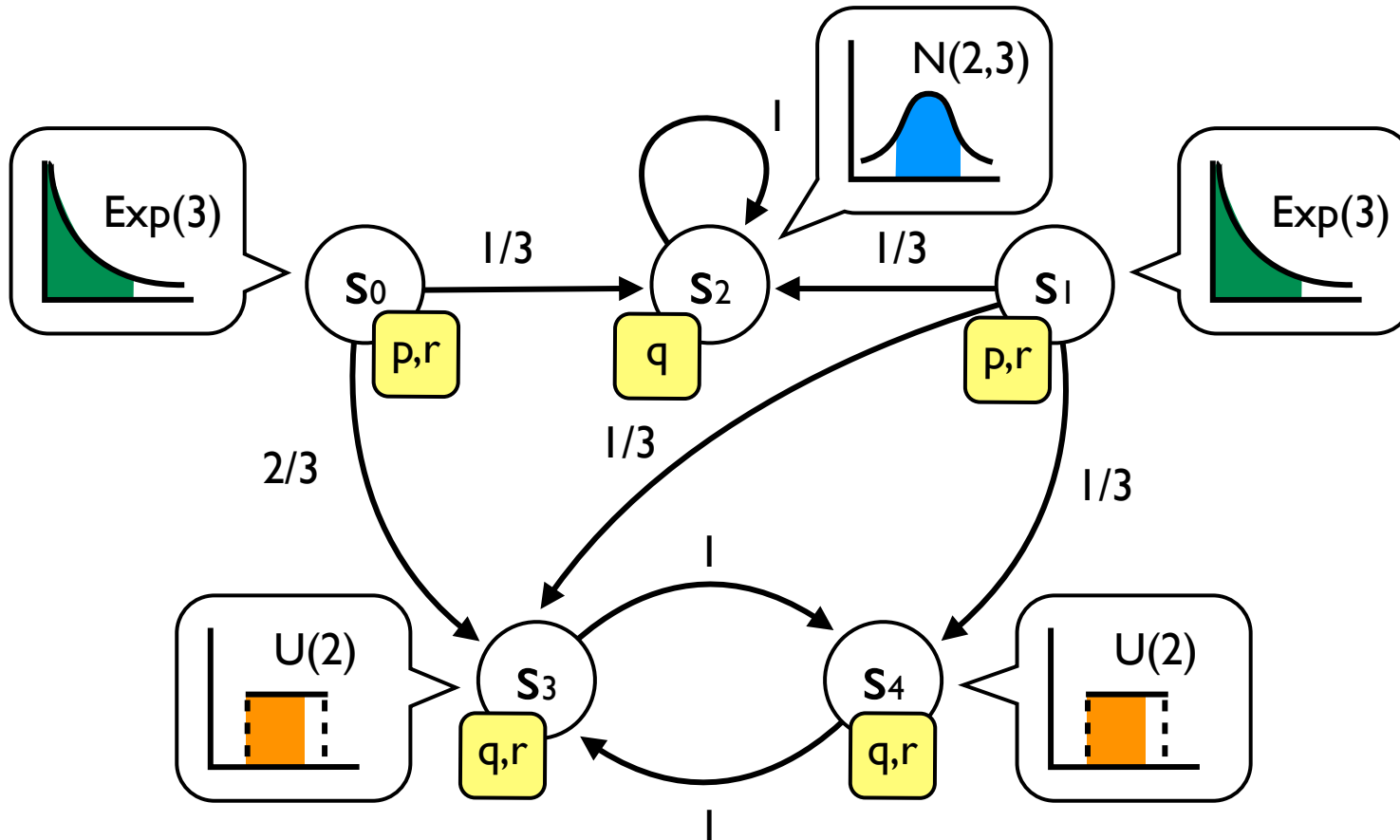
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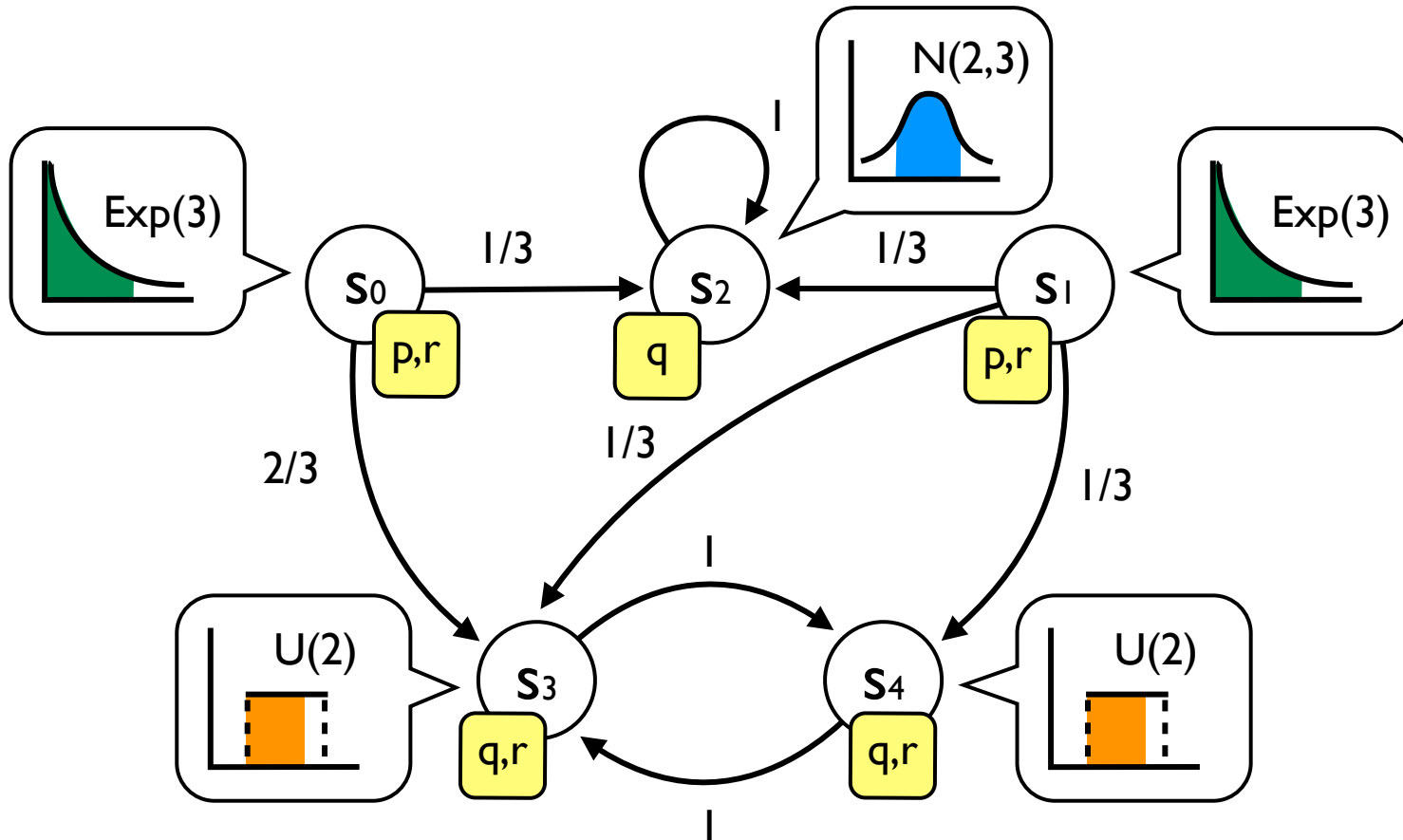
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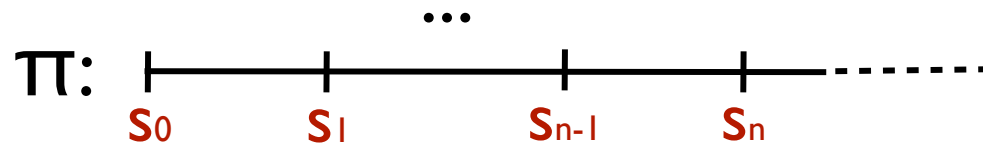


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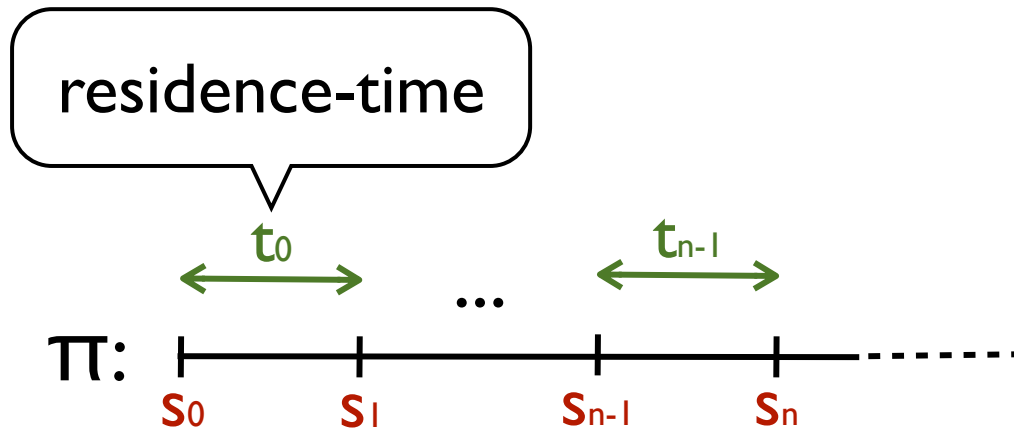


Given an initial state, SMCs can be interpreted as “machines” that emit timed traces of states with a certain probability

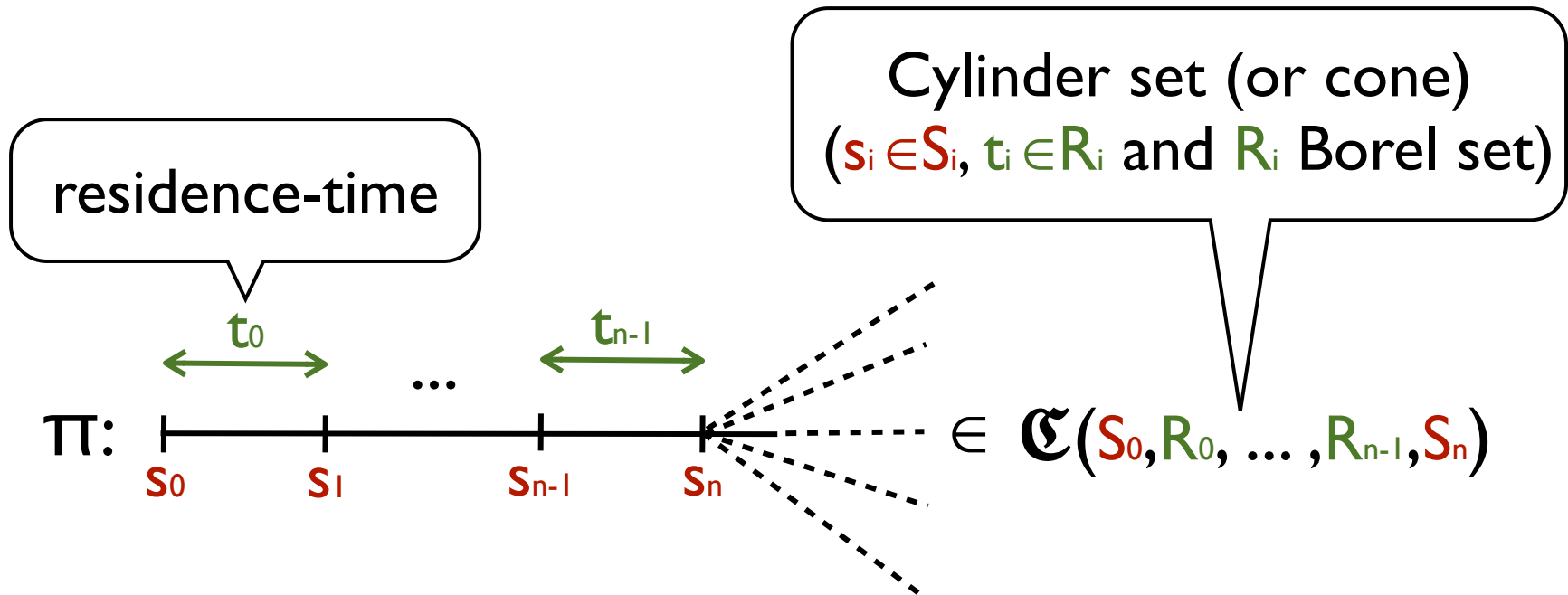
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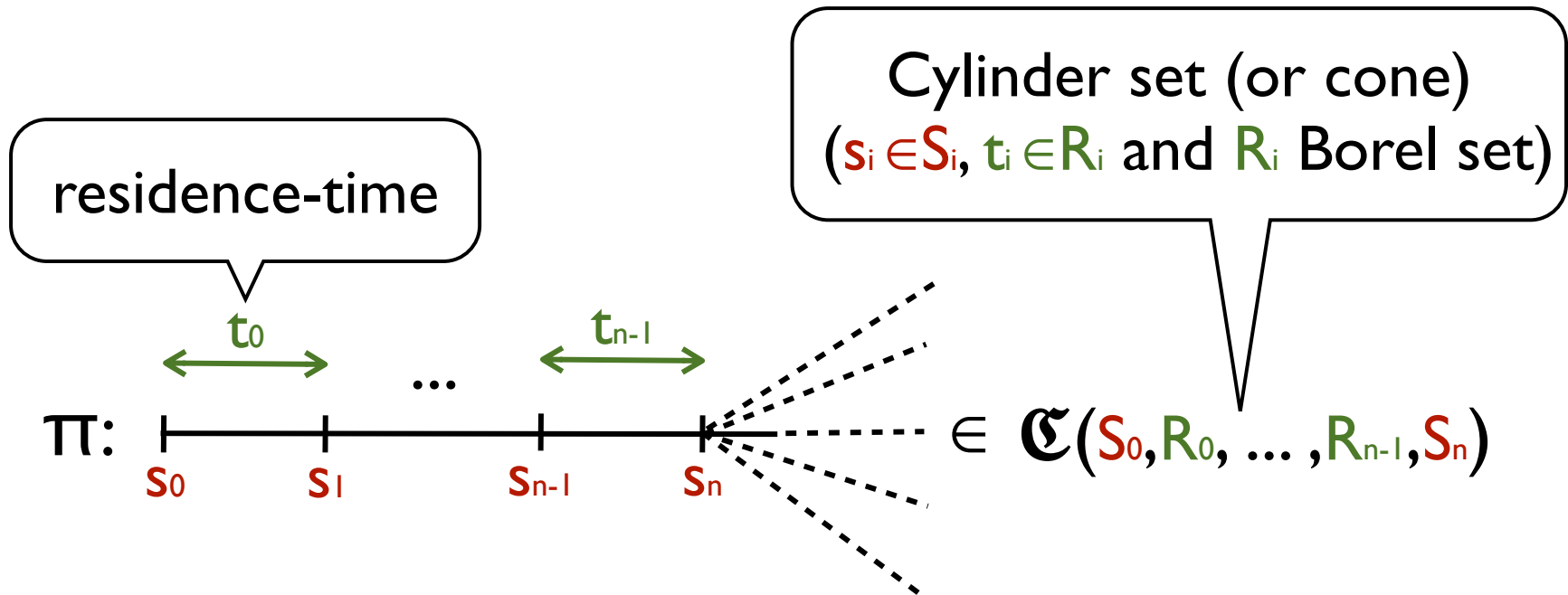


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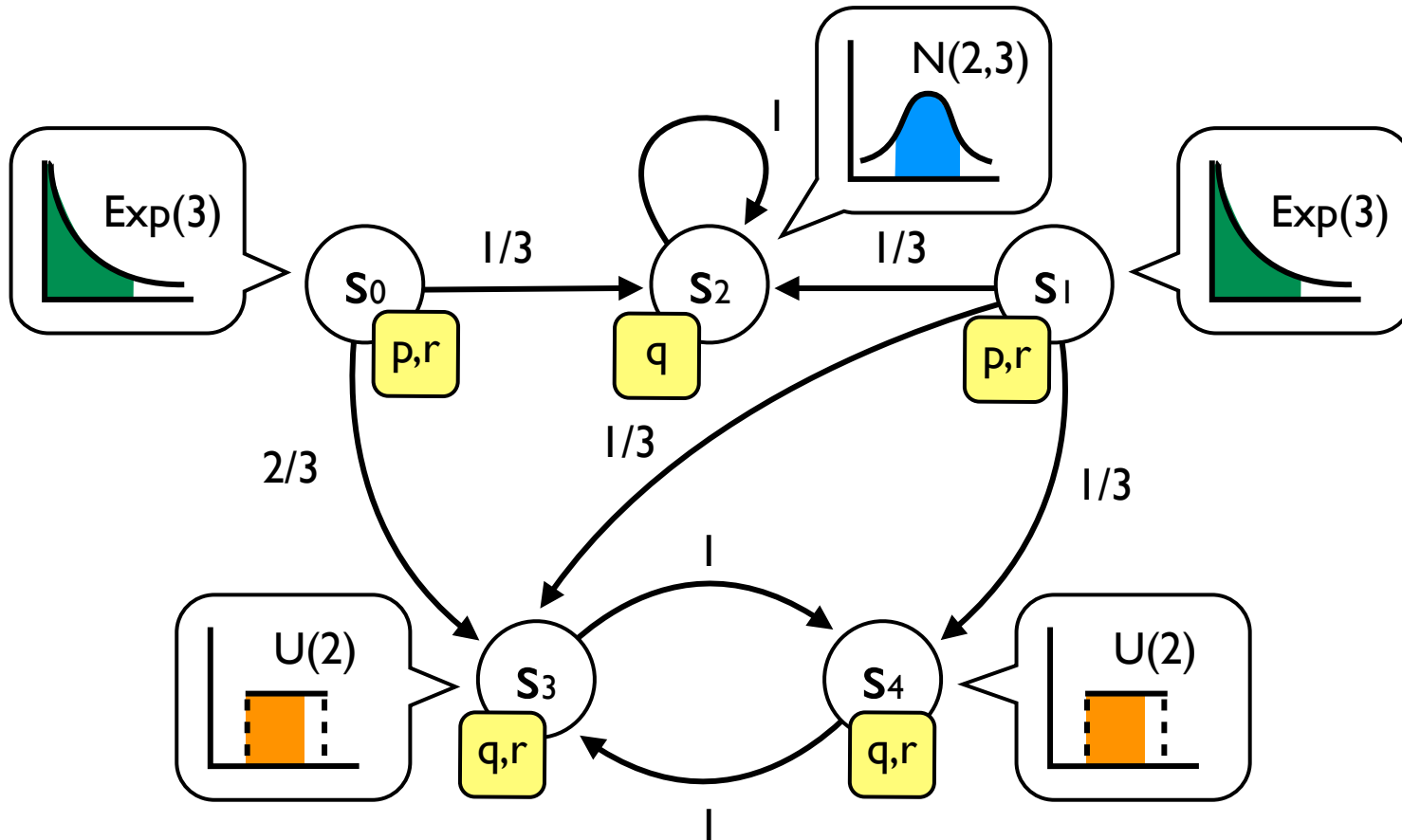


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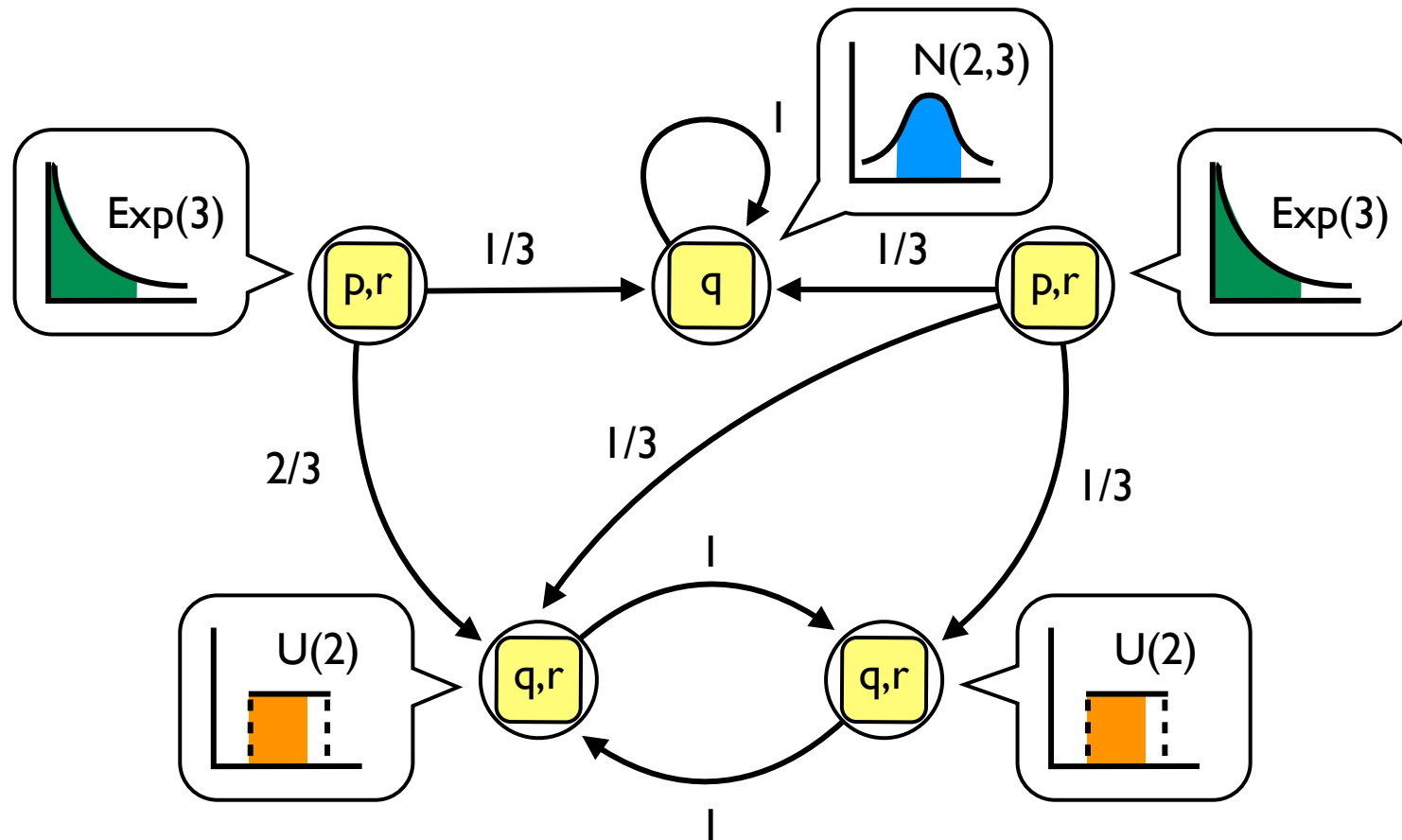


$P[s](\mathfrak{C}(S_0, R_0, \dots, R_{n-1}, S_n)) =$  “probability that, *starting from*  $s$ ,  
 the SMC emits a timed path  
 with prefix in  $S_0 \times R_0 \times \dots \times R_{n-1} \times S_n$ ”

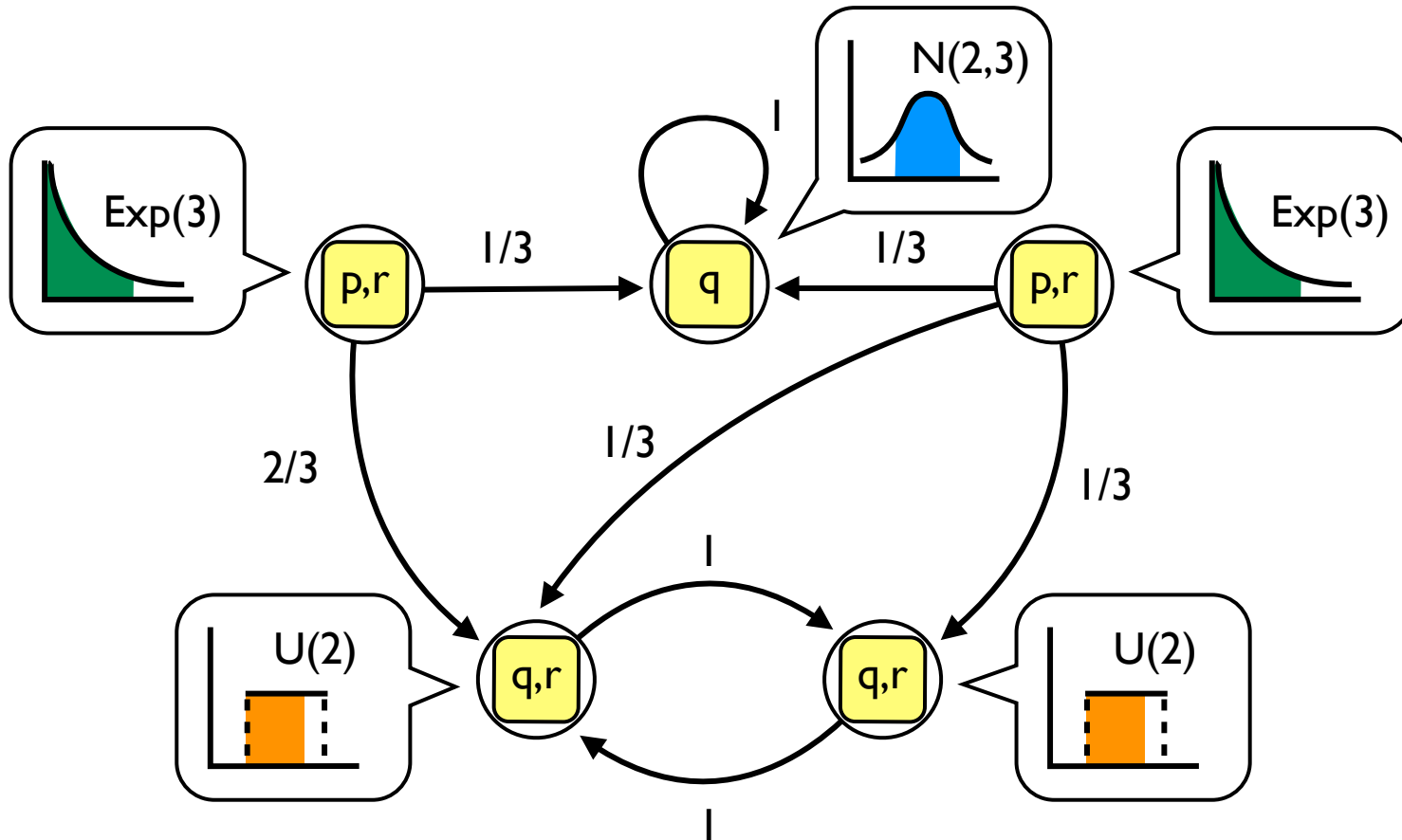
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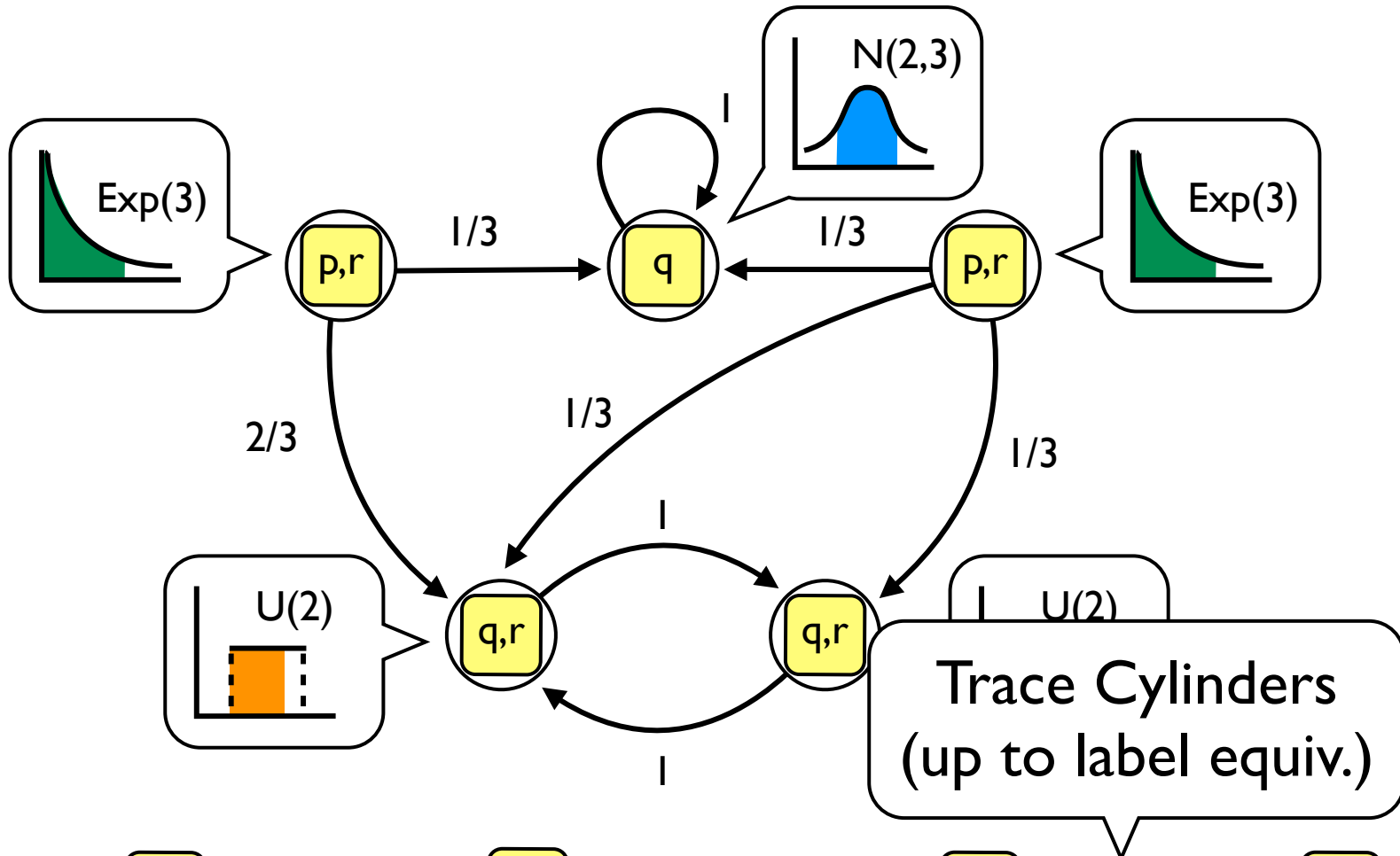


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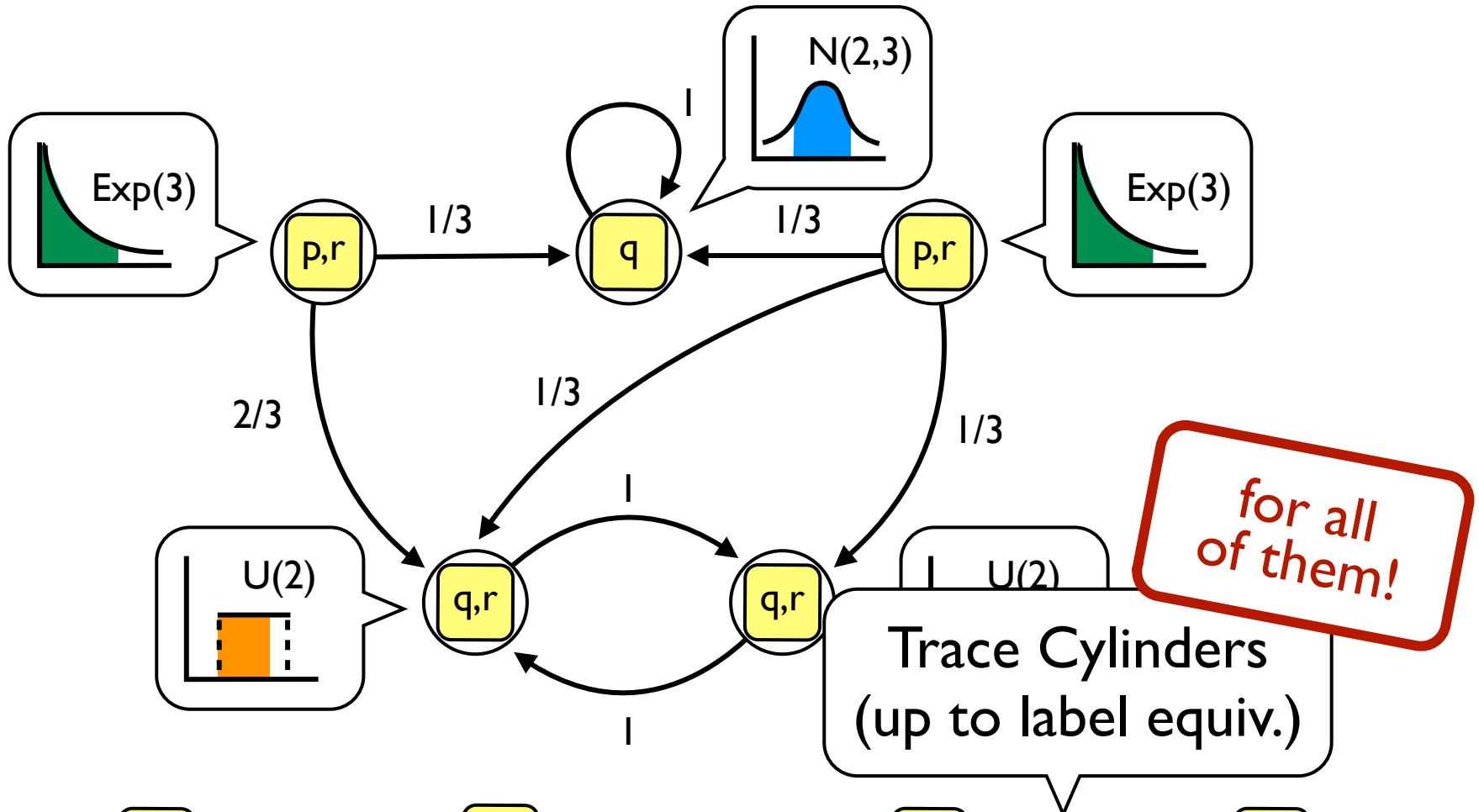
$$P[s_0](\mathcal{C}(\boxed{L_0}, R_0, \dots, R_{n-1}, \boxed{L_n})) = P[s_1](\mathcal{C}(\boxed{L_0}, R_0, \dots, R_{n-1}, \boxed{L_n}))$$

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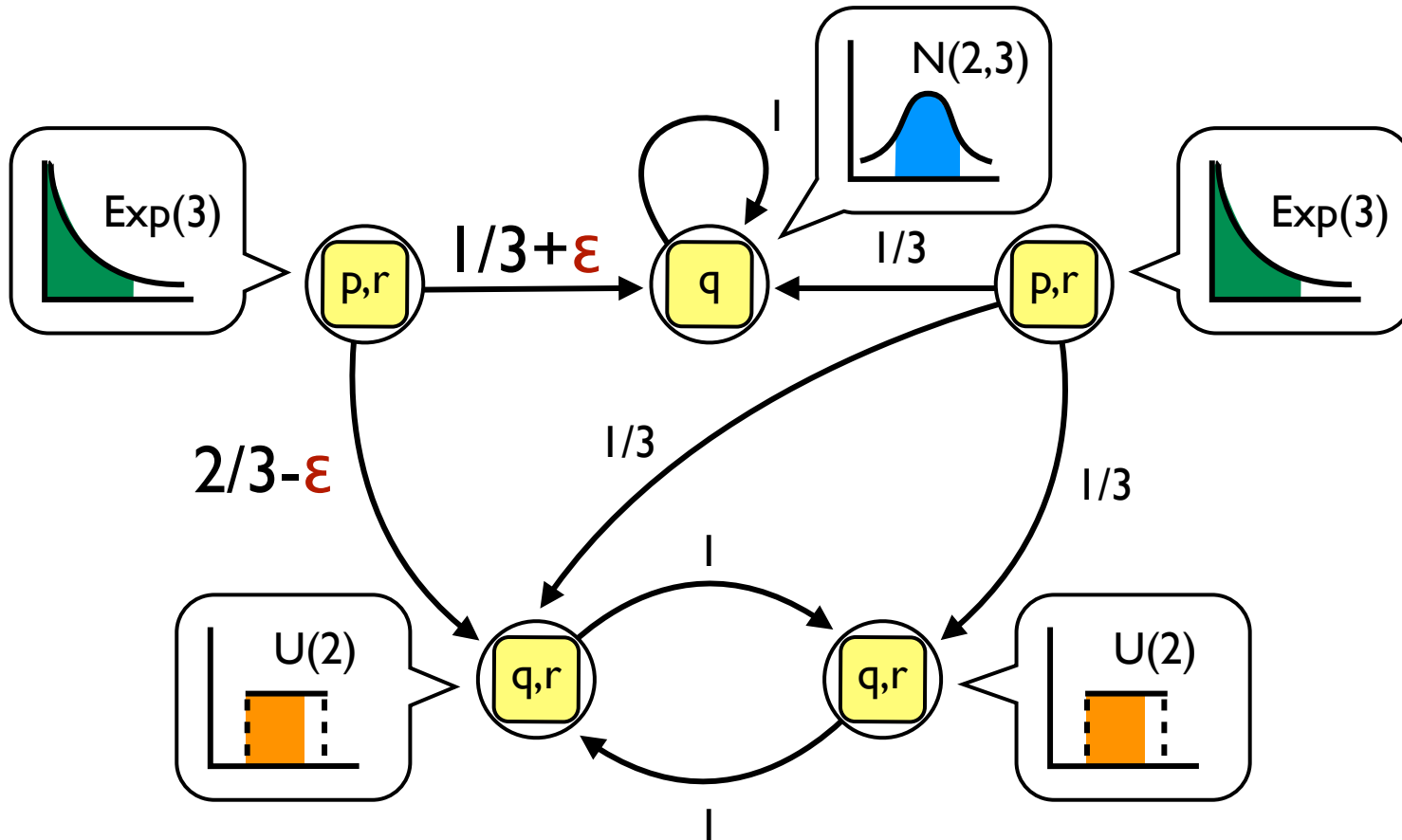
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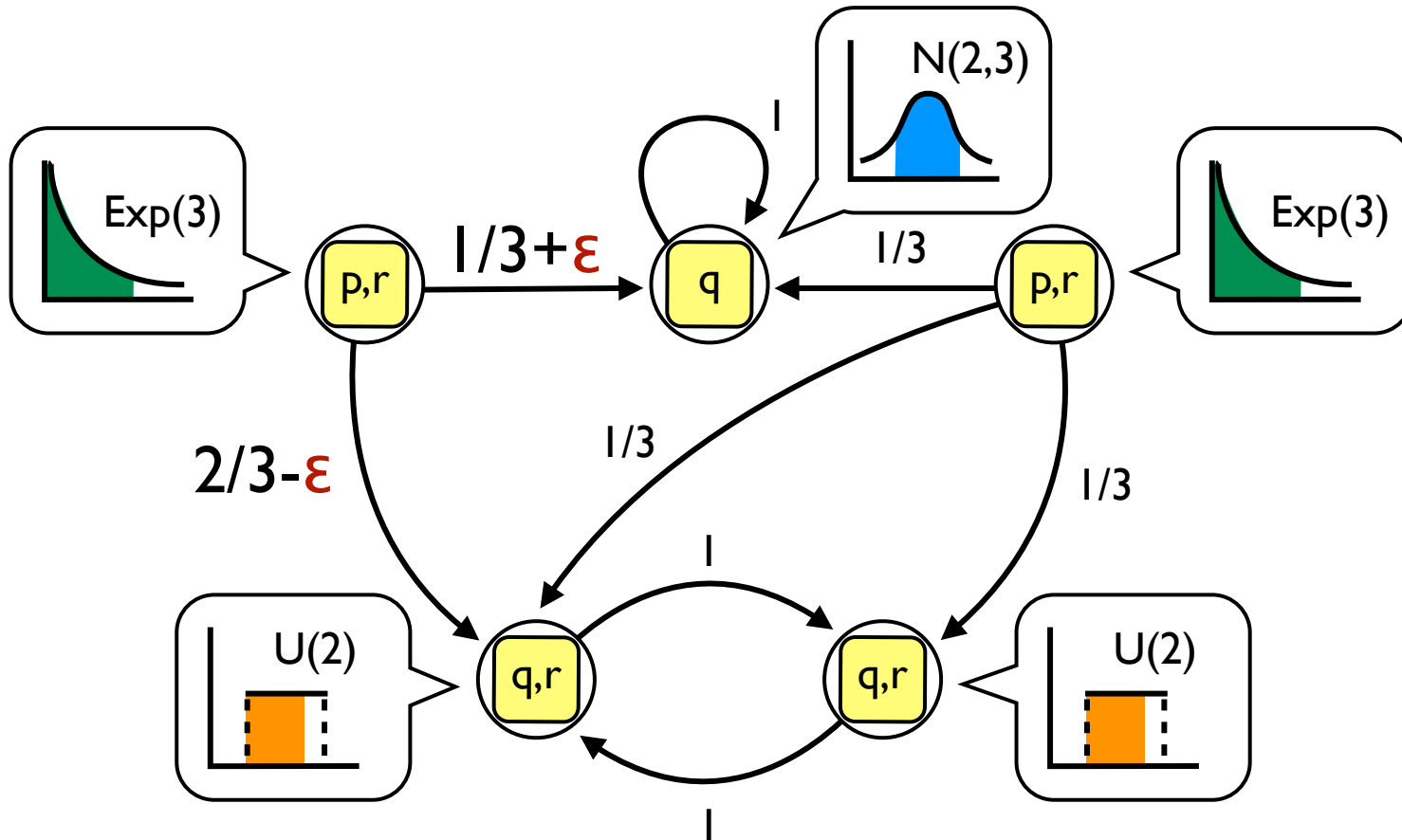


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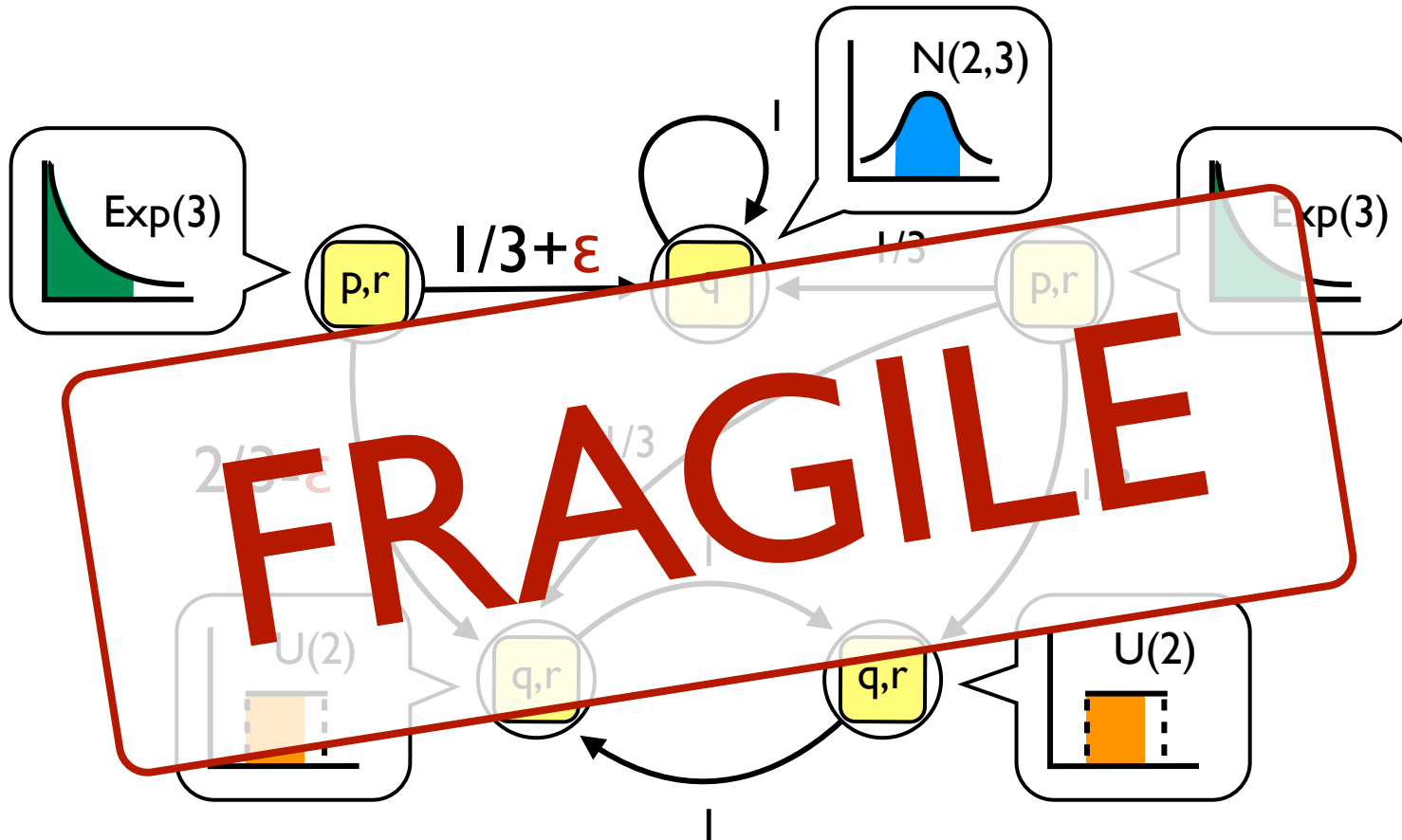
# Prob. Trace Equivalence



$$P_{[s_0]}(\mathcal{C}(\boxed{p,r}, \mathbb{R}, \boxed{q})) = 1/3 + \epsilon \neq 1/3 = P_{[s_1]}(\mathcal{C}(\boxed{p,r}, \mathbb{R}, \boxed{q}))$$



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# Trace Pseudometric

$$d(s, s') = \sup_{E \in \sigma(\mathcal{J})} |P[s](E) - P[s'](E)|$$

$\sigma$ -algebra generated by  
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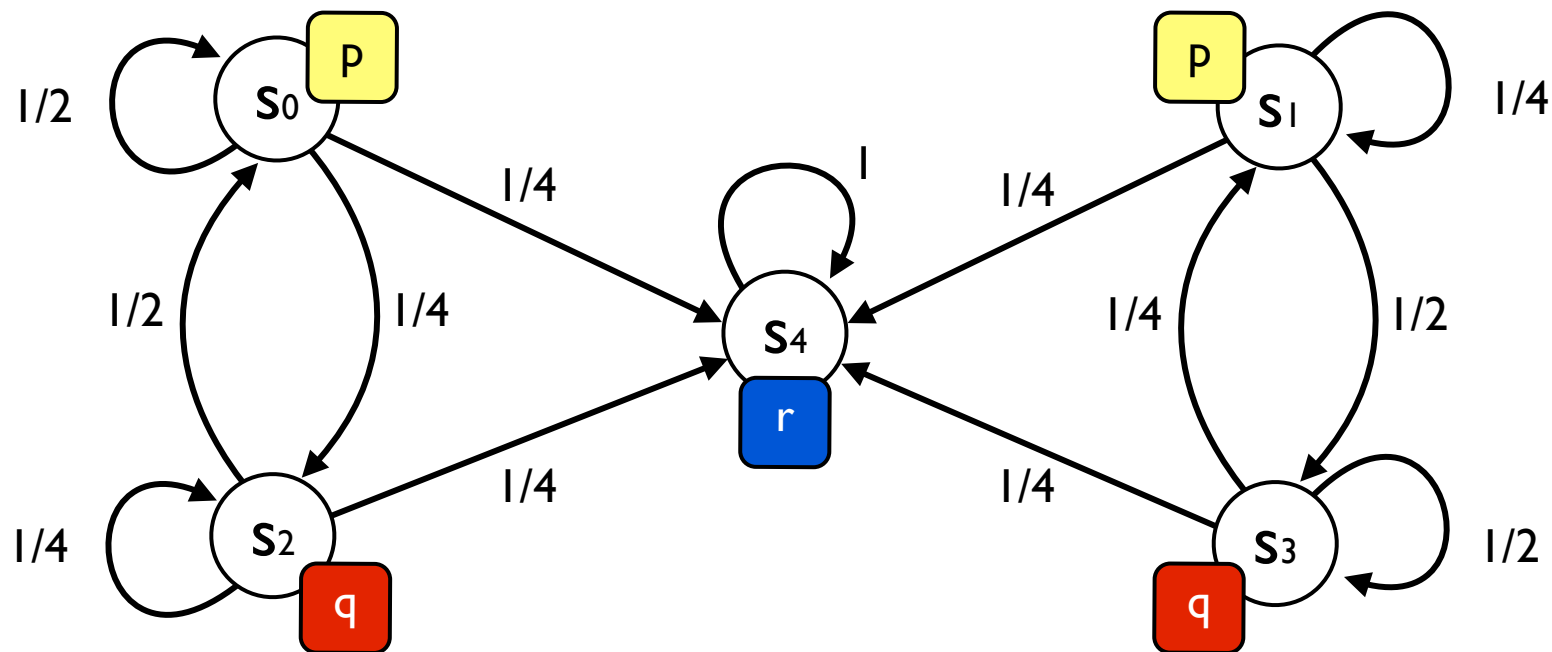
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**It's a Behavioral Distance!**

$$d(s, s') = 0 \quad \text{iff} \quad s \approx_{\top} s'$$

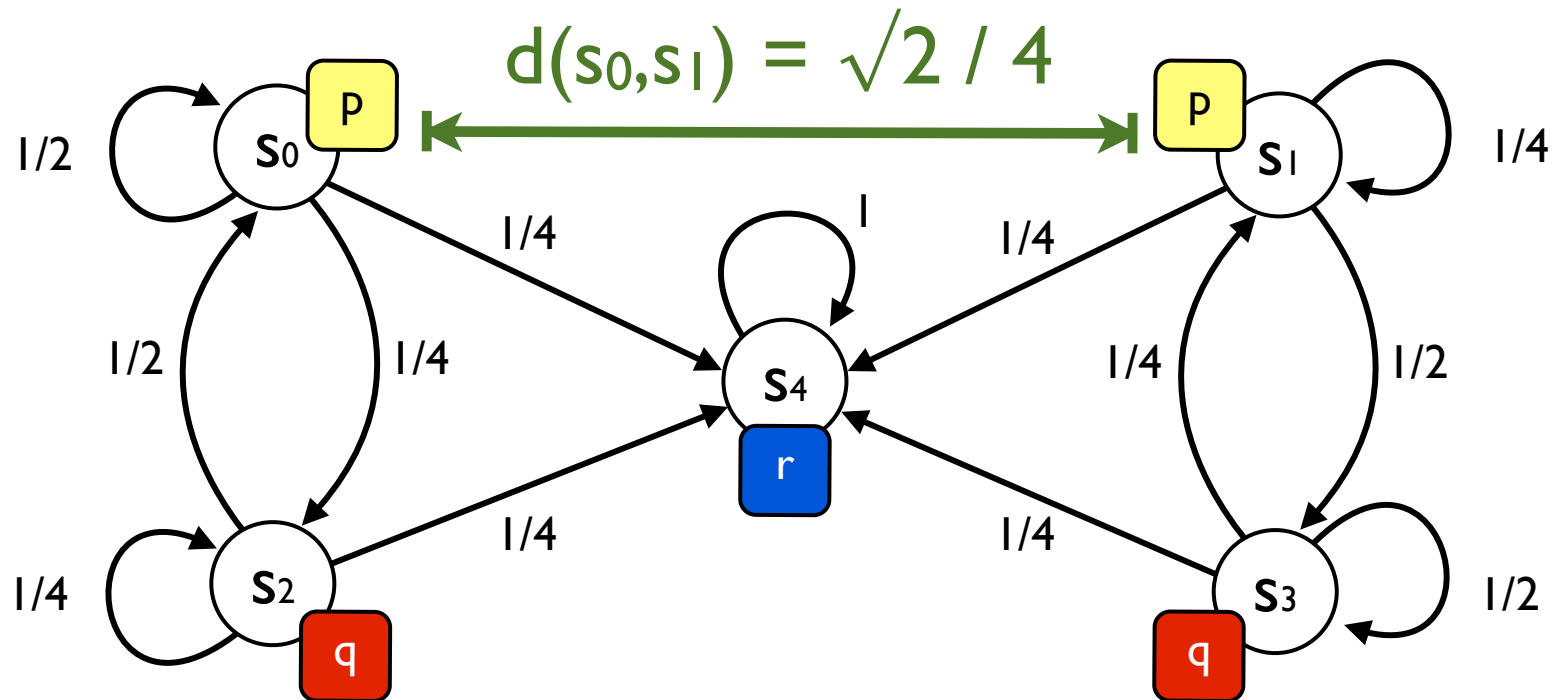
# A tiny yet tricky example

(from Chen-Kiefer LICS'14)



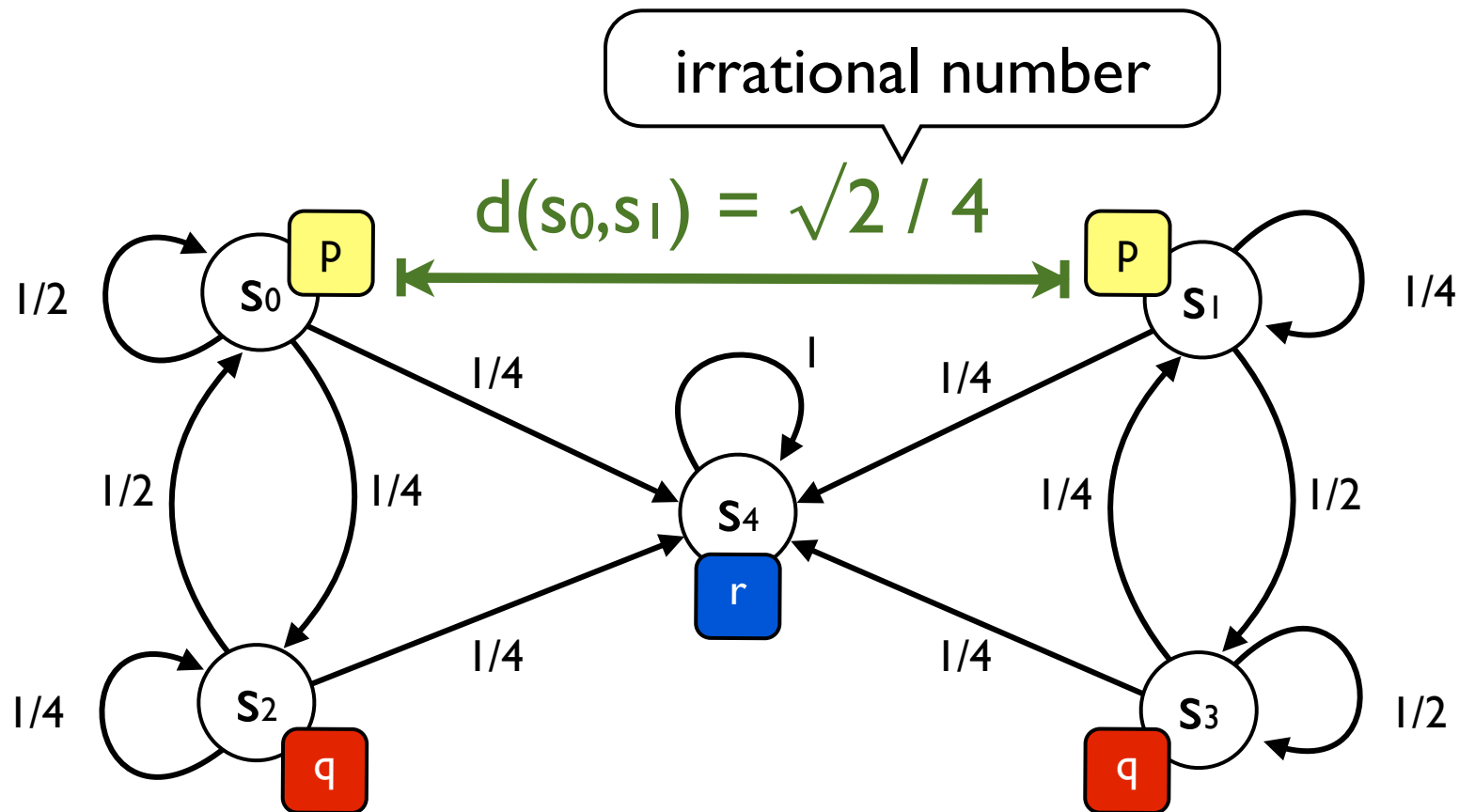
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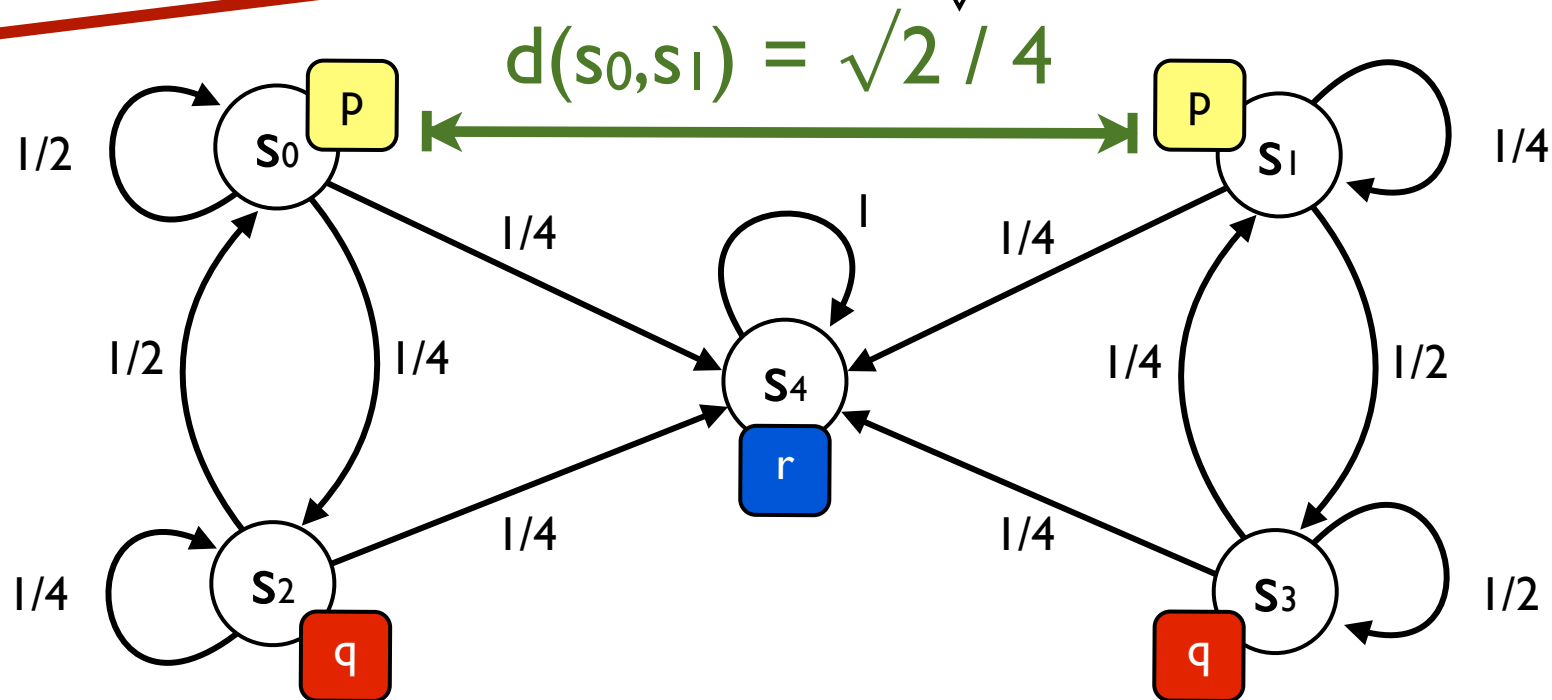


# A tiny yet tricky example

(from Chen-Kiefer LICS'14)

maximizing event  
is not  $\omega$ -regular!

irrational number



# It's a Total Variation!

(a.k.a. supremum norm)

Given  $\mu, \nu: \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  measures on  $(X, \Sigma)$

## Total Variation Distance

$$\|\mu - \nu\| = \sup_{E \in \Sigma} |\mu(E) - \nu(E)|$$

The largest possible difference that  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  assign to the same event

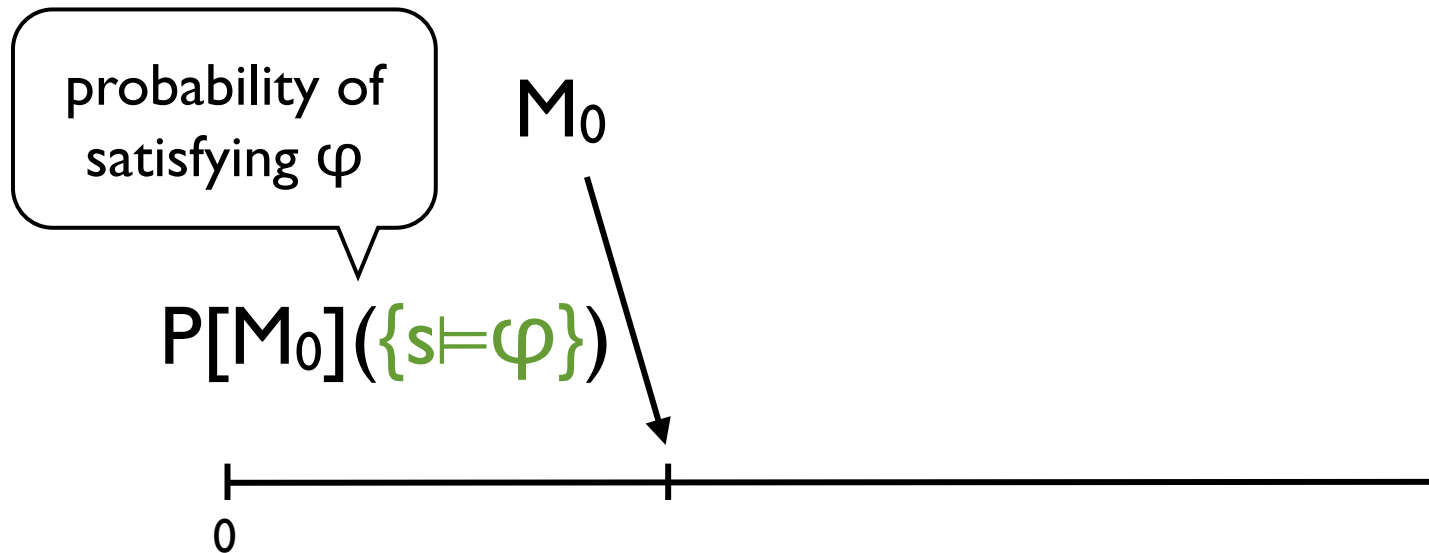


**Distance = Approx. Error**

Distance <sup>?</sup> = Approx. Error

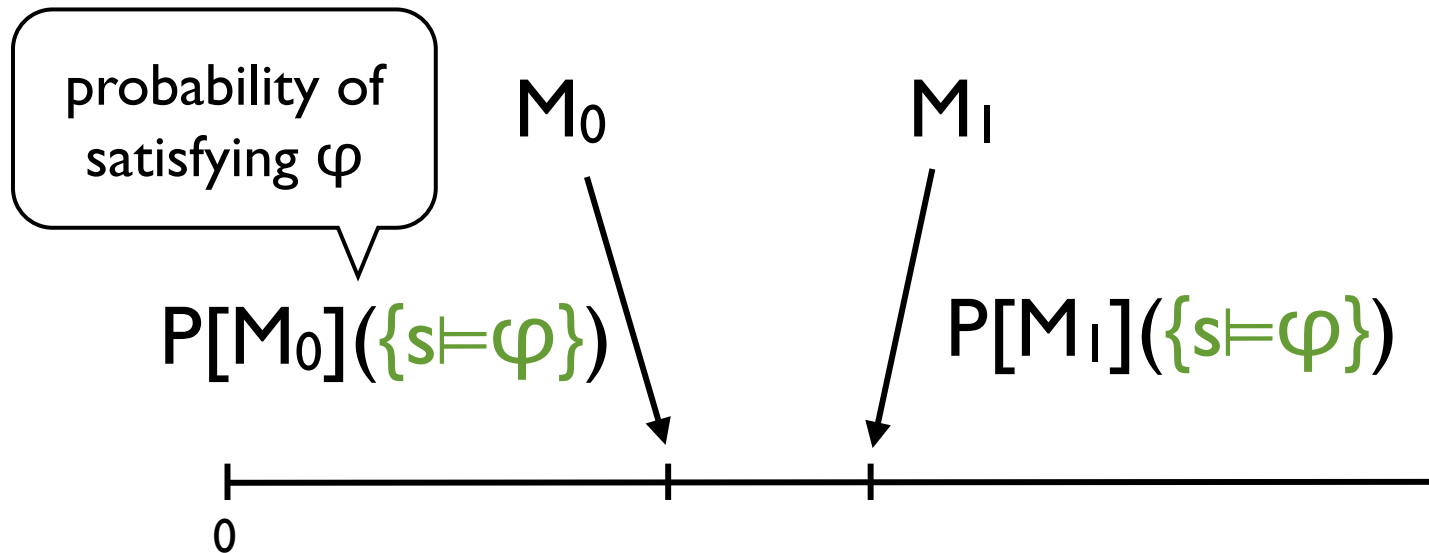
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**Application:** Probabilistic Model Checking



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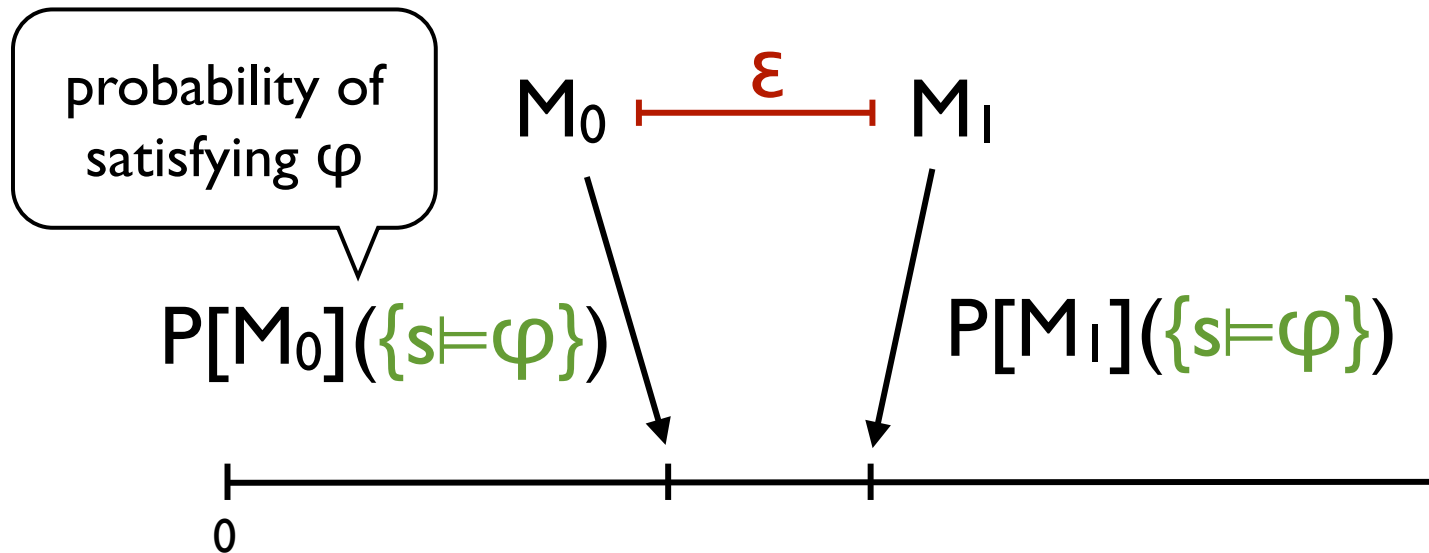
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$$|P[M_0](\{s \models \varphi\}) - P[M_1](\{s \models \varphi\})|$$

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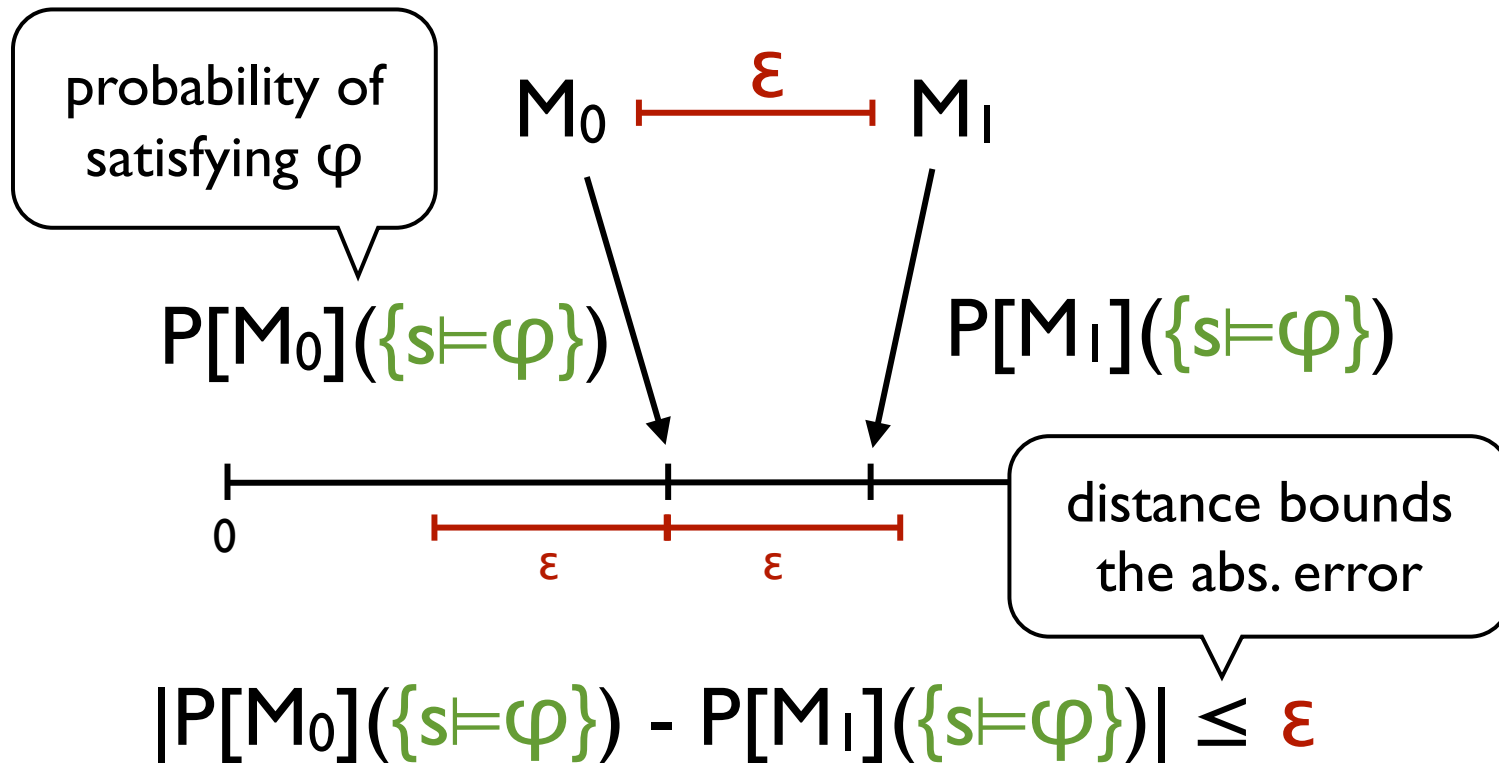
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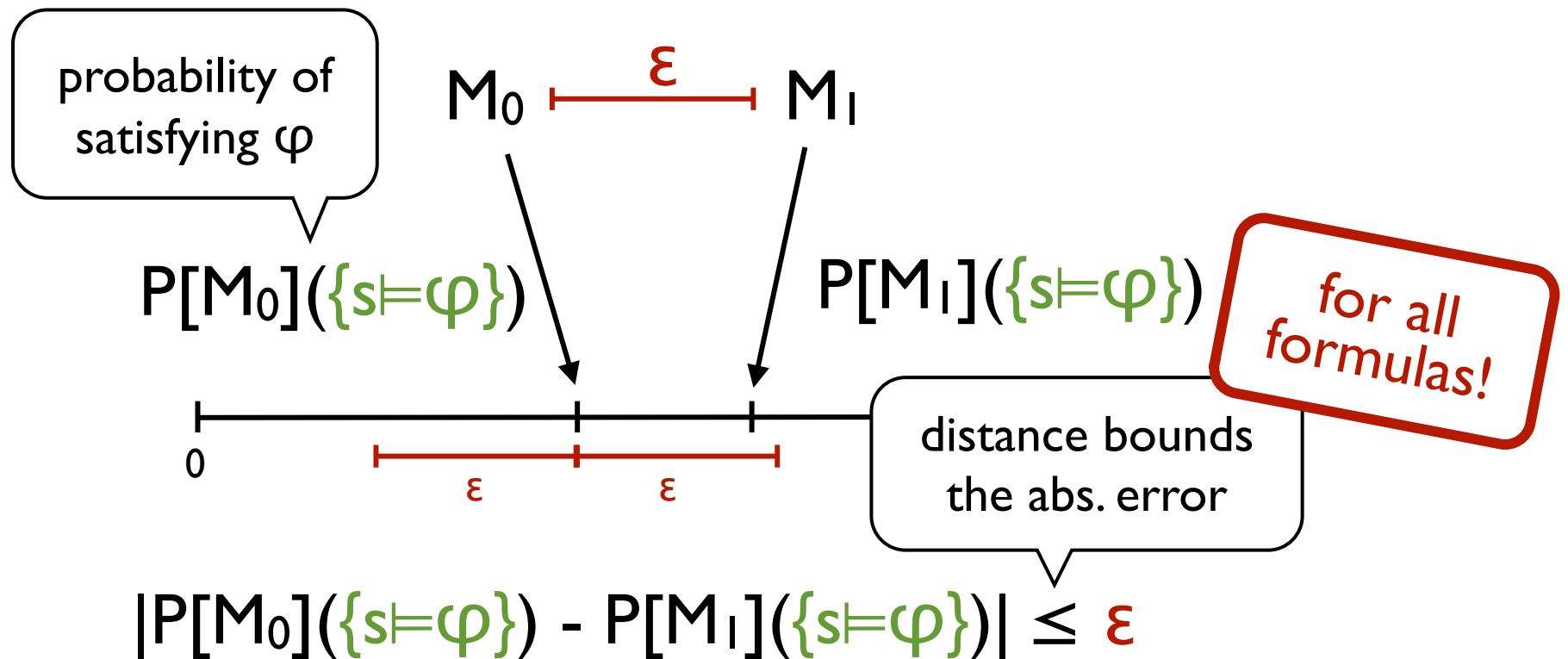
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## **Application:** Probabilistic Model Checking



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# Trace Distance vs. Model Checking

(i.e., does it provide a good approximation error?)



# Probabilistic Model Checking

i.e., measuring the likelihood that  
a property is satisfied by the probabilistic model

SMC  $\models$  Linear Real-time Spec.

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represented as  
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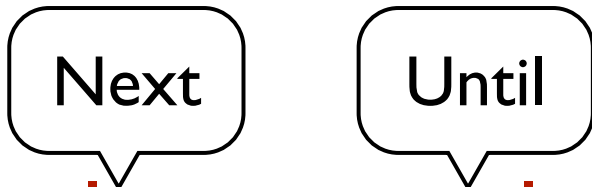
SMC  $\models$  **Linear Real-time** Spec.

represented as  
Metric Temporal Logic  
formulas

... or languages  
recognized  
by Timed Automata

# Metric Temporal Logic

$$\varphi ::= p \mid \perp \mid \varphi \rightarrow \varphi \mid X^I \varphi \mid \varphi U^I \varphi$$



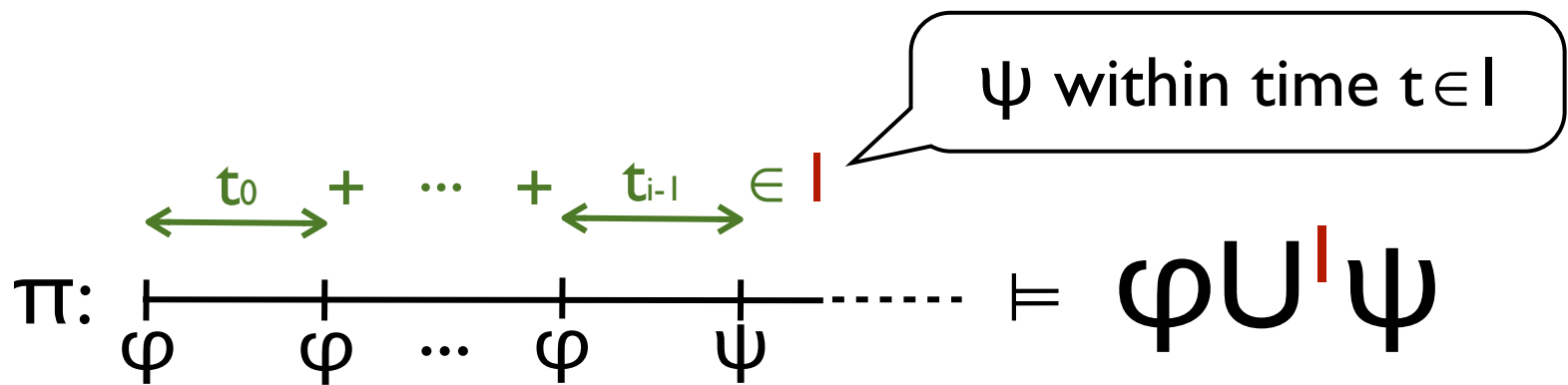
(\*)  $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  closed interval with *rational* endpoints

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Next Until

(\*)  $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  closed interval with *rational* endpoints



# MTL distance

(max error w.r.t. MTL properties)

set of timed paths  
that satisfy  $\varphi$

$$\text{MTL}(s, s') = \sup_{\varphi \in \text{MTL}} |P[s](\{\pi \models \varphi\}) - P[s'](\{\pi \models \varphi\})|$$

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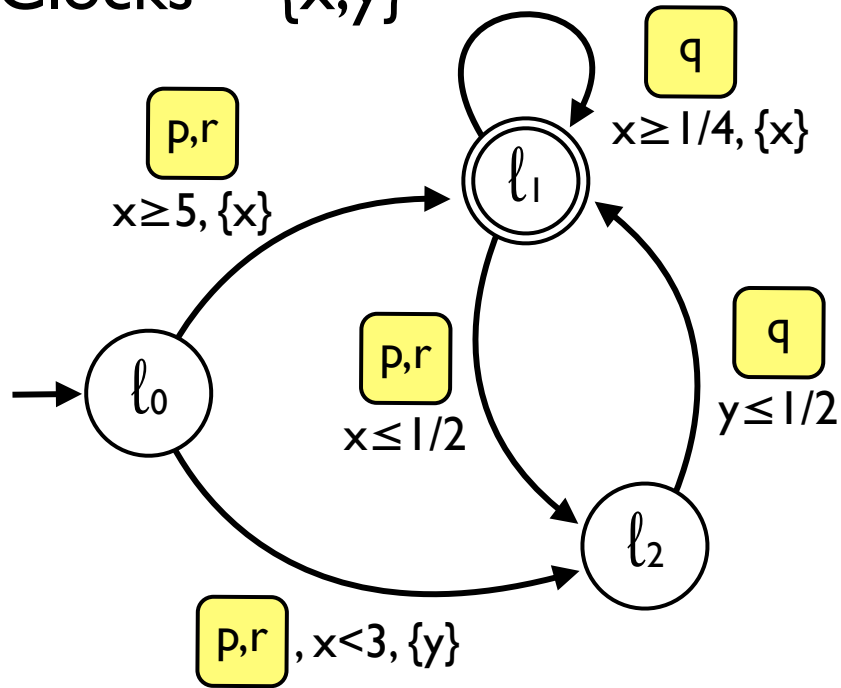
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# (Muller) Timed Automata

without invariants

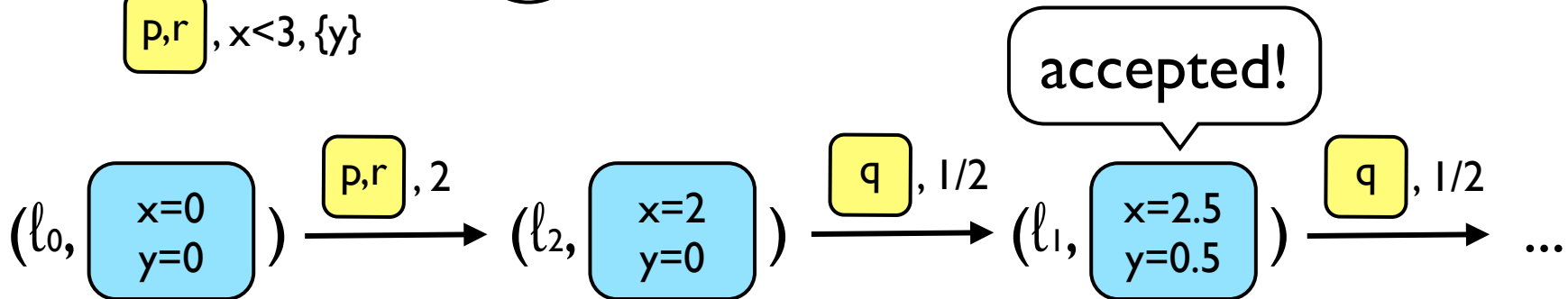
Clocks = {x,y}



**Clock Guards**

$$g := x \bowtie q \mid g \wedge g$$

for  $\bowtie \in \{<, \leq, >, \geq\}$ ,  $q \in \mathbb{Q}$



# TA distance

(max error w.r.t. timed regular properties)

set of timed paths  
accepted by  $\mathcal{A}$

$$\text{TA}(s, s') = \sup_{\mathcal{A} \in \text{TA}} |P[s](\{\pi \in L(\mathcal{A})\}) - P[s'](\{\pi \in L(\mathcal{A})\})|$$

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# The theorem behind...

For  $\mu, \nu: \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  finite measures on  $(X, \Sigma)$   
and  $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \Sigma$  field such that  $\sigma(\mathcal{F}) = \Sigma$

## Representation Theorem

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$$\|\mu - \nu\| = \sup_{E \in \mathcal{F}} |\mu(E) - \nu(E)|$$

$\mathcal{F}$  is much simpler than  $\Sigma$ , nevertheless  
it suffices to attain the supremum!

# A Series of Characterizations

$$\text{MTL}(s,s') = \text{MTL}^{\neg U}(s,s')$$

$$\text{TA}(s,s') = \text{DTA}(s,s') = \text{I-DTA}(s,s') = \text{I-RDTA}(s,s')$$

# A Series of Characterizations

max error w.r.t.  $\varphi \in \text{MTL}$   
without Until

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Chan-Kiefer LICS'14  
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NP-hardness [Lyngsø-Pedersen JCSS'02]

easy to adapt  
to MCs...

*Approximating the trace distance  
up to any  $\epsilon > 0$  whose size is polynomial  
in the size of the Interval MC is NP-hard.*

generalizes  
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Decidability  
still an open  
problem!

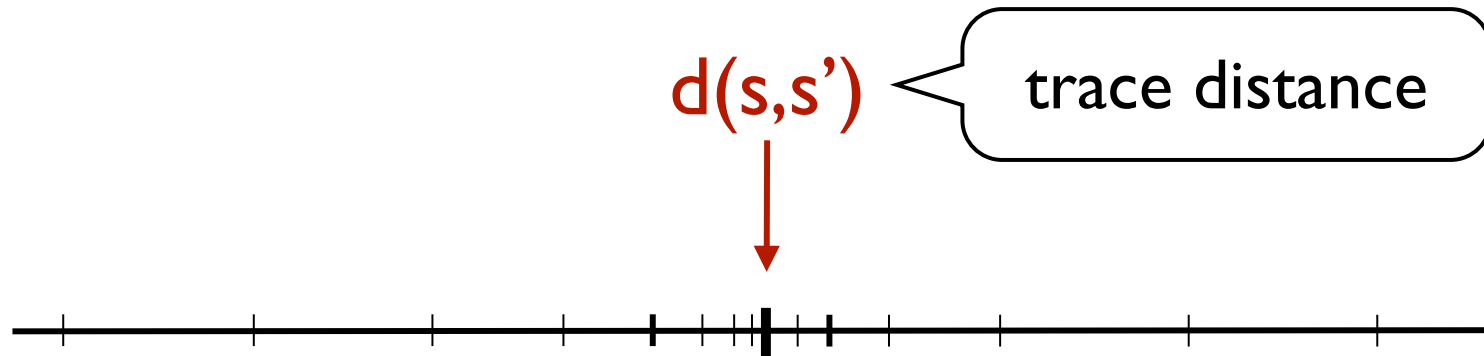
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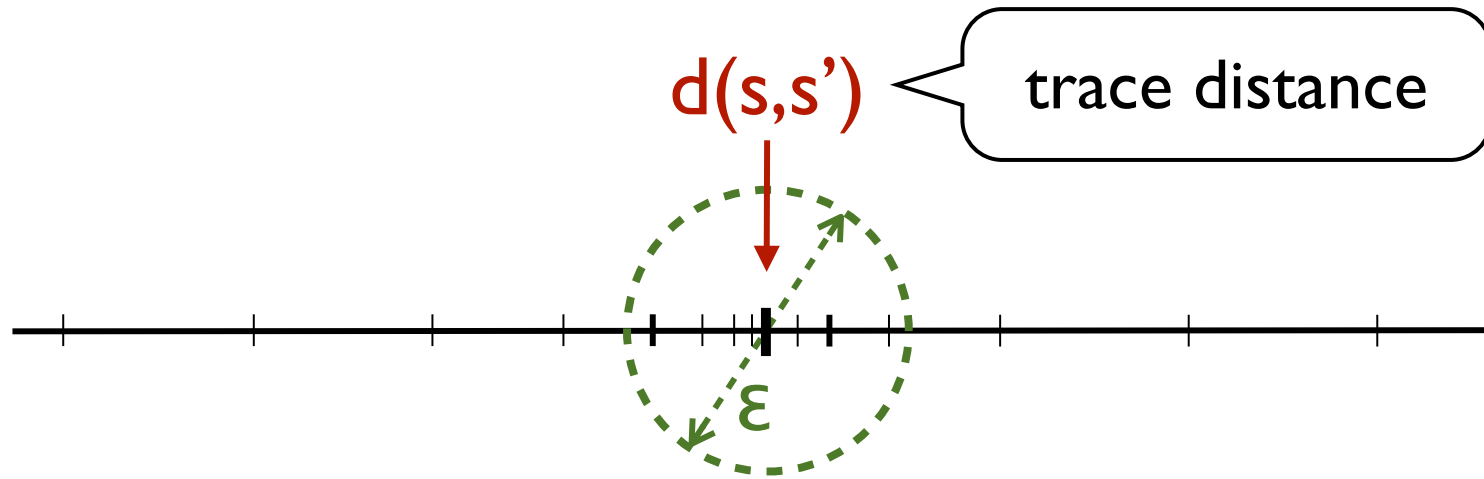
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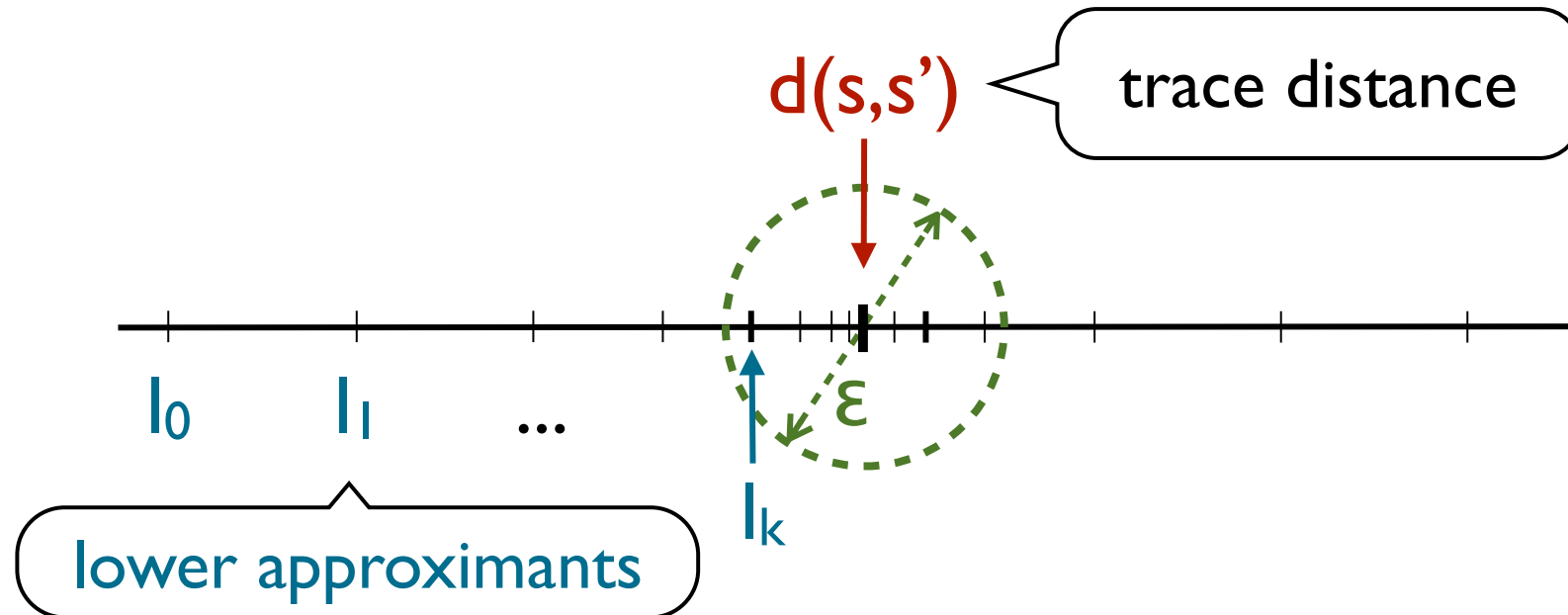




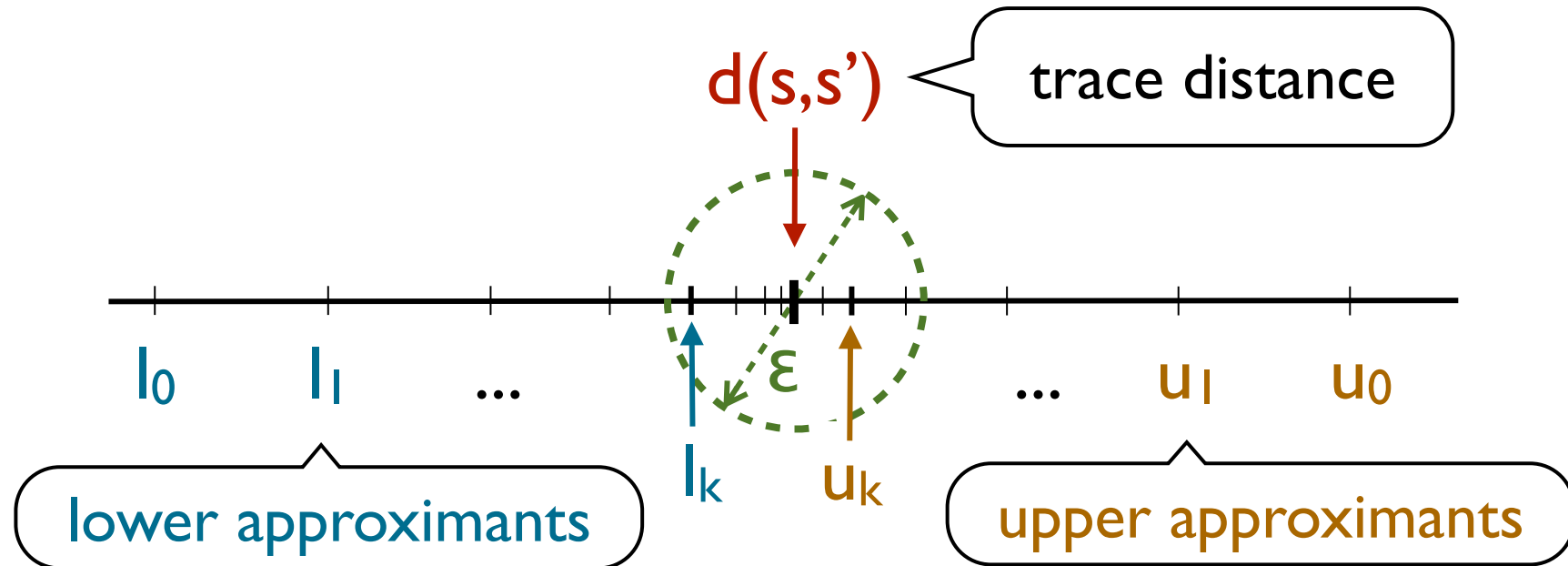
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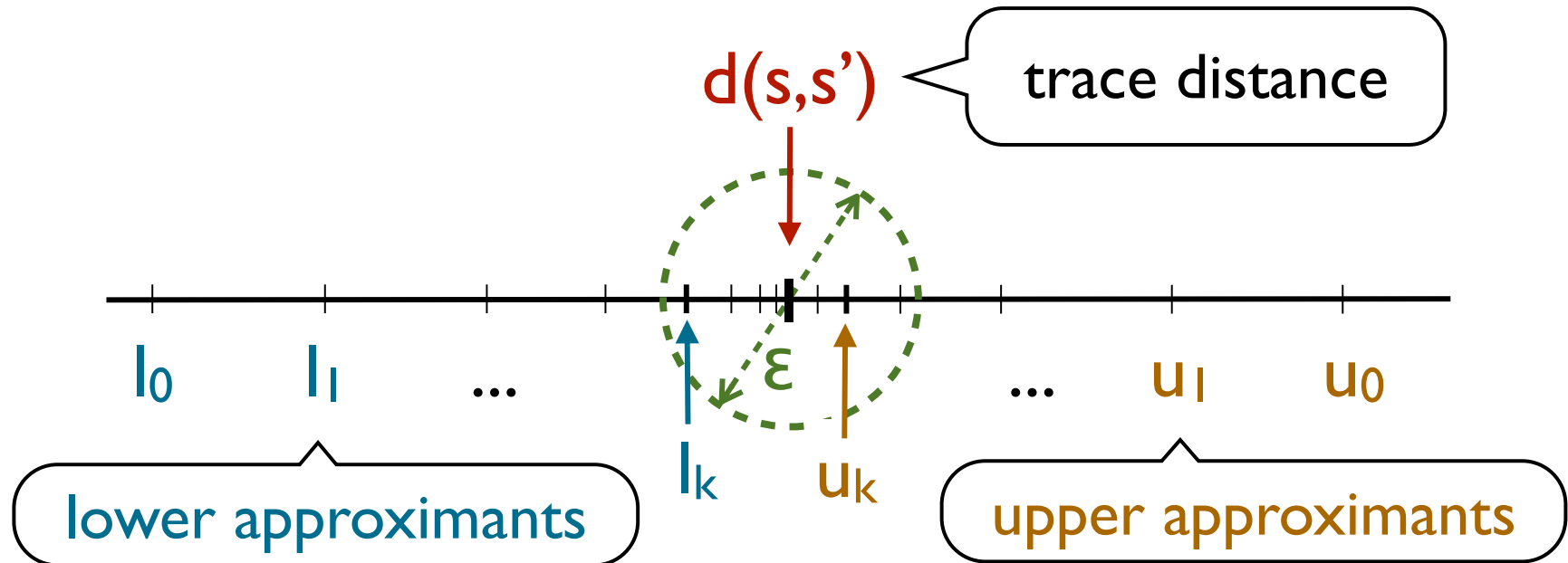
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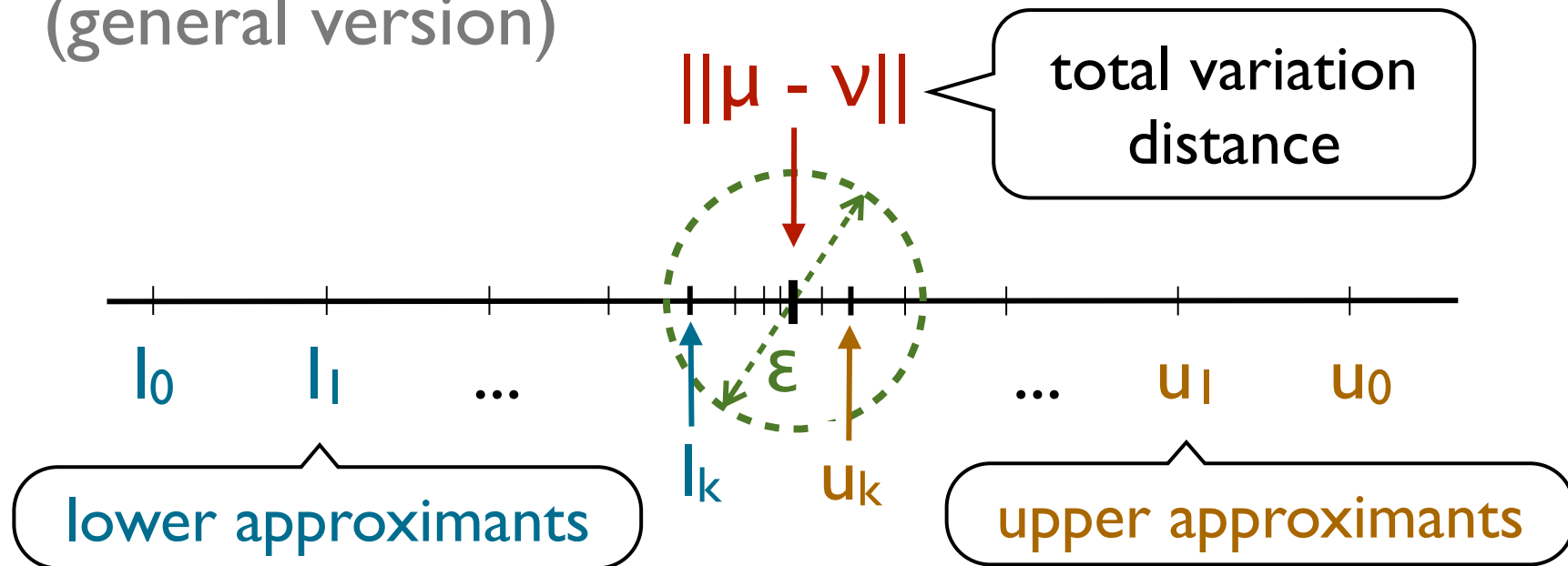
# Approximation Algorithm



- $l_i$  and  $u_i$  must converge to  $d(s, s')$
- For all  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $l_i$  and  $u_i$  must be *computable*.

# Approximation Algorithm

(general version)



- $l_i$  and  $u_i$  must converge to  $\|\mu - \nu\|$
- For all  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $l_i$  and  $u_i$  must be *computable*.

... from below

# ... from below

Representation Theorem

*recall that...*

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F field that generates  $\Sigma$



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$\mathcal{F}$  field that generates  $\Sigma$

We need  $\mathcal{F}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{F}_1 \subseteq \mathcal{F}_2 \subseteq \dots$  such that  $\bigcup_i \mathcal{F}_i = \mathcal{F}$

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$$l_i = \sup_{E \in \mathcal{F}_i} |\mu(E) - \nu(E)|$$

so that  $\forall i \geq 0, l_i \leq l_{i+1}$  &  $\sup_i l_i = \|\mu - \nu\|$

increasing

limiting

# Trace dist. (from below)

...seen before

Provide  $F_0 \subseteq F_1 \subseteq F_2 \subseteq \dots$  such that

$\bigcup_i F_i$  is a field for  $\sigma(\mathcal{T})$

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Provide  $F_0 \subseteq F_1 \subseteq F_2 \subseteq \dots$  such that  
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Take  $F_i$  to be the collection of finite unions of cylinders

$$\mathcal{C}(\boxed{L_0}, R_0, \dots, R_{i-1}, \boxed{L_i}) \in \mathcal{T}$$

where  $R_j \in \{[\frac{n}{2^i}, \frac{n+1}{2^i}) \mid 0 \leq n \leq i2^i\} \cup \{[i, \infty)\}$

# Trace dist. (from below)

...seen before

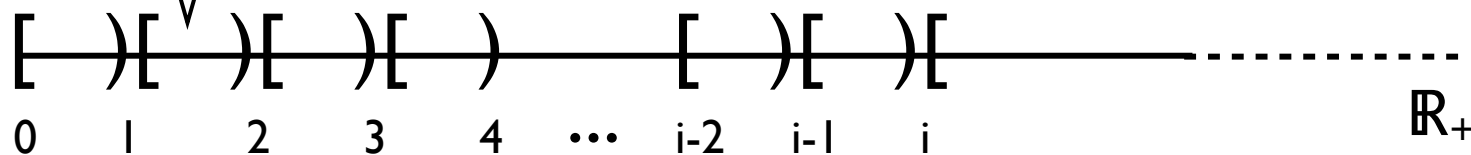
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$$\mathcal{C}(\boxed{L_0}, R_0, \dots, R_{i-1}, \boxed{L_i}) \in \mathcal{T}$$

where  $R_j \in \{[\frac{n}{2^i}, \frac{n+1}{2^i}) \mid 0 \leq n \leq i2^i\} \cup \{[i, \infty)\}$

each repartitioned in  $2^i$  [closed-open) intervals



... from above

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Coupling Characterization

it is know  
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$$\|\mu - \nu\| = \min \{w(\neq) \mid w \in \Omega(\mu, \nu)\}$$

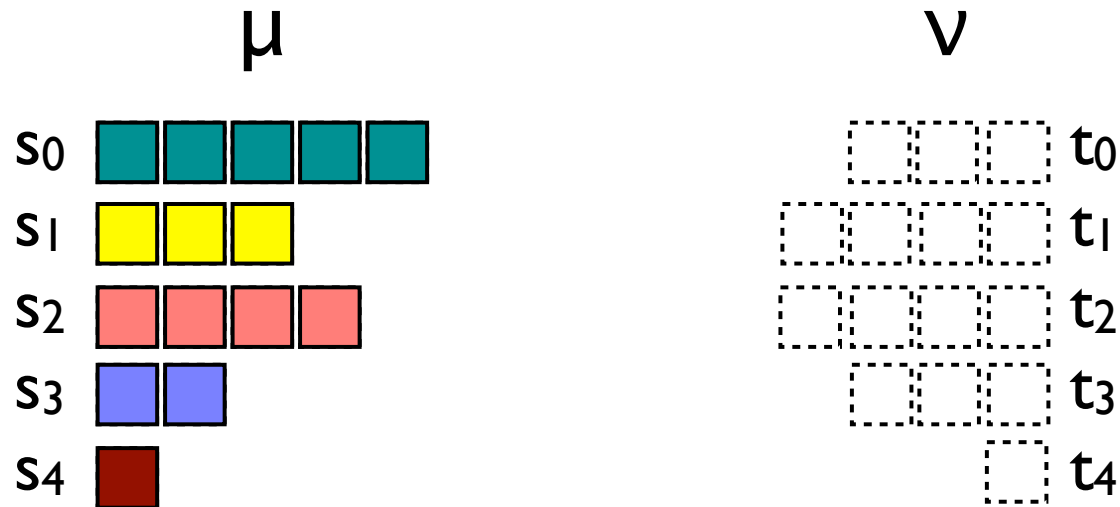
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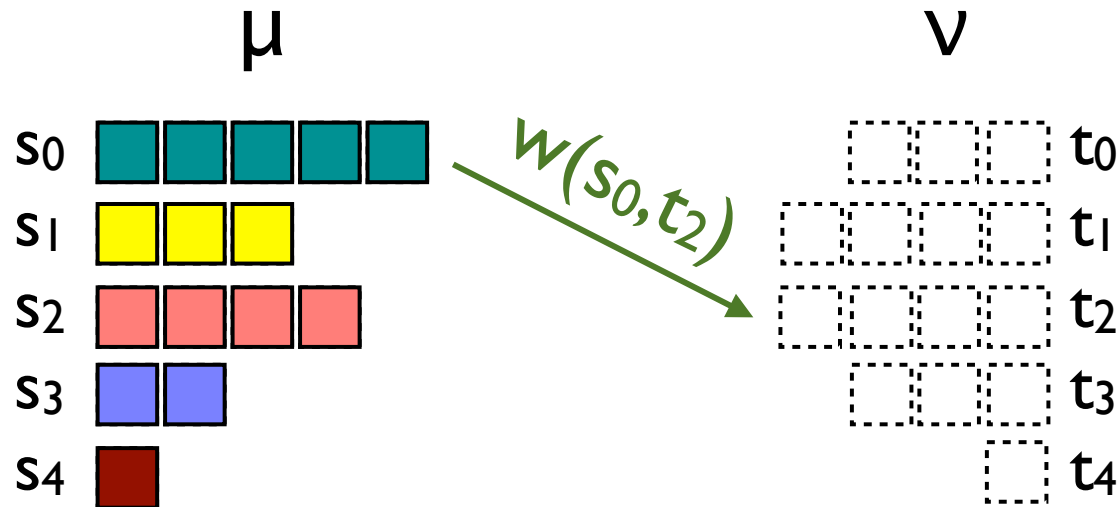
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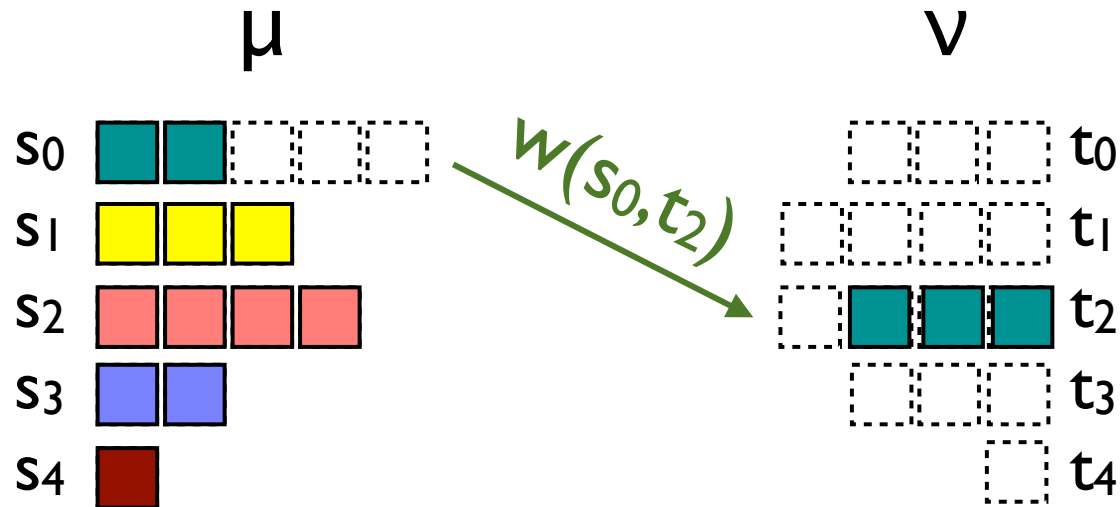
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so that  $\forall i \geq 0, u_i \geq u_{i+1}$  &  $\inf_i u_i = \|\mu - \nu\|$

decreasing

limiting

# Trace dist. (from above)

...seen before

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Take  $\Omega_i = \{P_{\mathcal{C}[s, s']} \in \Omega(P[s], P[s']) \mid \mathcal{C} \text{ of rank } 2^i\}$

where  $P_{\mathcal{C}[s, s']}$  is the probability generated by  $\mathcal{C}$



# Decidability

- A1: rational transition probabilities & residence-time distributions are computable on  $[q, q')$  with  $q, q' \in \mathbb{Q}_+$
- A2: total variation between residence-time distributions is computable

Not that  
strong!

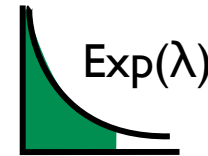
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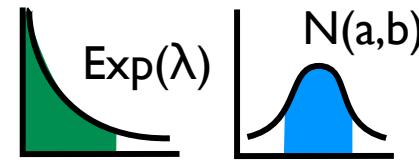
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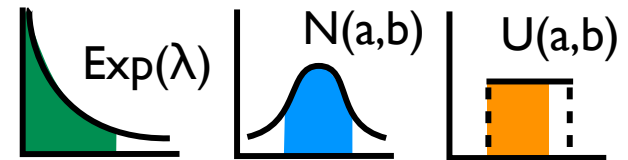
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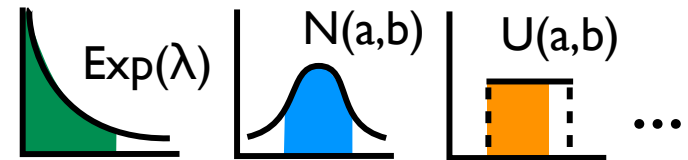
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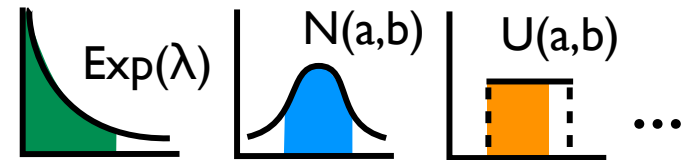
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For any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , the approximation procedure for the trace distance is decidable.

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Thank you  
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