

UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.

Formal Methods & Tools.

## A linear process algebraic format for probabilistic systems with data

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*Joint work with Joost-Pieter Katoen,  
Jaco van de Pol, and Mariëlle Stoelinga*

# Contents

- 1 Introduction
- 2 A process algebra with data and probability: prCRL
- 3 Linear probabilistic process equations
- 4 Linearisation: from prCRL to LPPE
- 5 Case study: a leader election protocol
- 6 Conclusions and Future Work

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# Probabilistic Model Checking

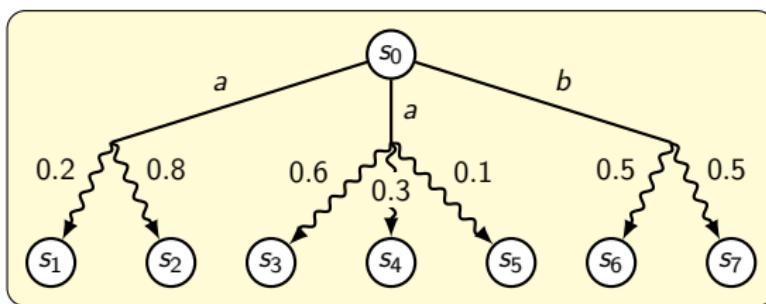
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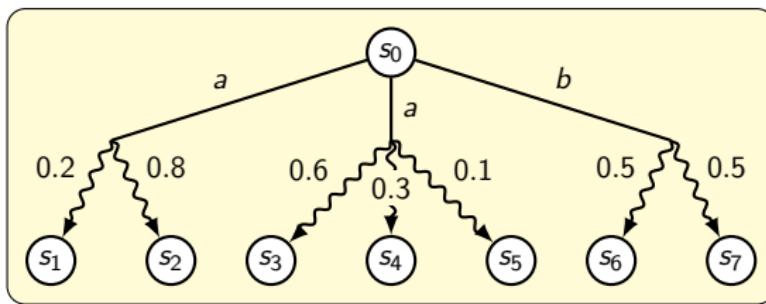


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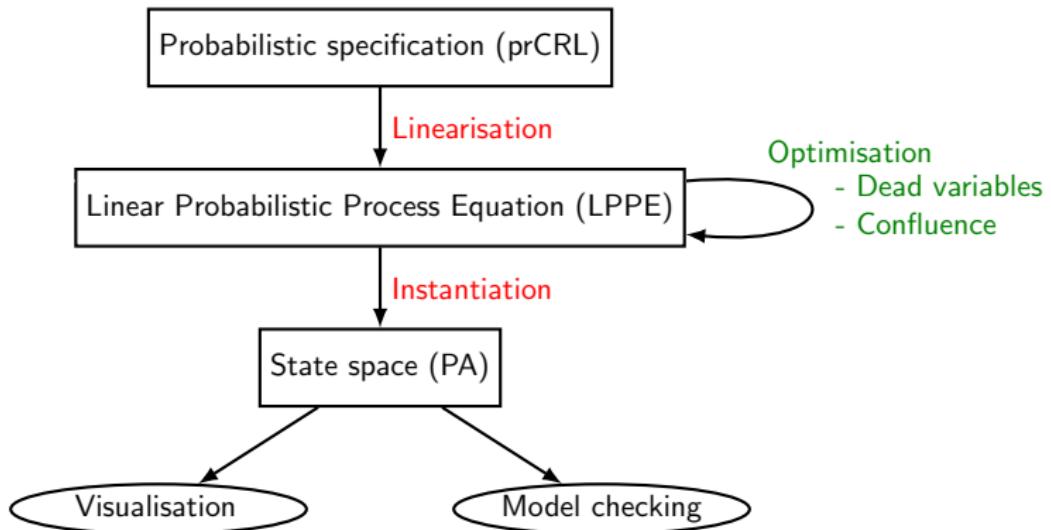


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## Limitations of previous approaches:

- Susceptible to the state space explosion problem
- Restricted treatment of data

# Overview of our approach



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# A process algebra with data and probability: prCRL

Specification language prCRL:

- Based on  $\mu$ CRL (so **data**), with additional **probabilistic choice**
- Semantics defined in terms of **probabilistic automata**
- Minimal set of operators to facilitate **formal manipulation**
- **Syntactic sugar** easily definable

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The grammar of prCRL process terms

Process terms in prCRL are obtained by the following grammar:

$$p ::= Y(\vec{t}) \mid c \Rightarrow p \mid p + p \mid \sum_{x:D} p \mid a(\vec{t}) \sum_{x:D} f : p$$

Process equations and processes

A **process equation** is something of the form  $X(\vec{g} : \vec{G}) = p$ .

# An example specification

## Sending an arbitrary natural number

$$\begin{aligned} X(\text{active} : \text{Bool}) = \\ \text{not(active)} \Rightarrow \text{ping} \cdot \sum_{b:\text{Bool}} X(b) \\ + \text{active} \quad \Rightarrow \tau \sum_{n:\mathbb{N}^{>0}} \frac{1}{2^n} : \left( \text{send}(n) \cdot X(\text{false}) \right) \end{aligned}$$

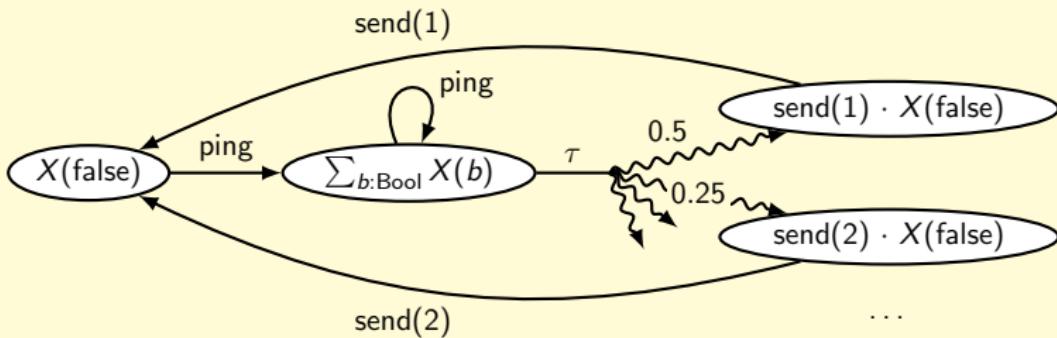
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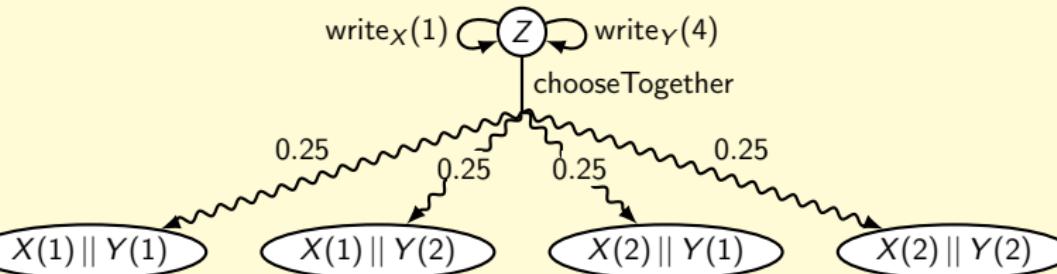
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# A linear format for prCRL: the LPPE

LPPEs are a subset of prCRL specifications:

$$\begin{aligned} X(\vec{g} : \vec{G}) &= \sum_{\vec{d}_1 : \vec{D}_1} c_1 \Rightarrow a_1(b_1) \sum_{\vec{e}_1 : \vec{E}_1} f_1 : X(\vec{n}_1) \\ &\quad \dots \\ &+ \sum_{\vec{d}_k : \vec{D}_k} c_k \Rightarrow a_k(b_k) \sum_{\vec{e}_k : \vec{E}_k} f_k : X(\vec{n}_k) \end{aligned}$$

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Advantages of using LPPEs instead of prCRL specifications:

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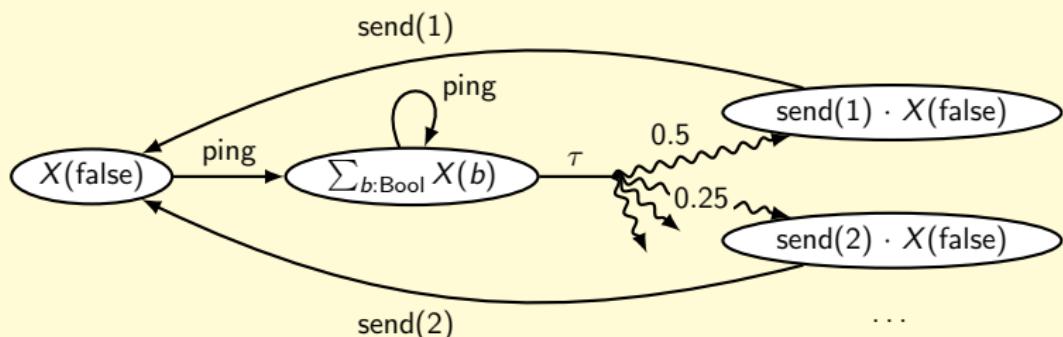
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## Theorem

*Every specification (without unguarded recursion) can be linearised to an LPPE, preserving strong probabilistic bisimulation.*

# Linear Probabilistic Process Equations – an example



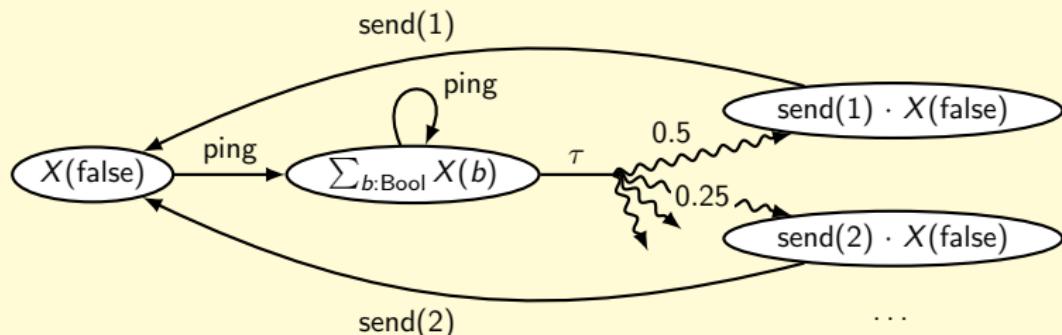
## Specification in prCRL

$X(\text{active} : \text{Bool}) =$

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## Specification in LPPE

$$X(pc : \{1..3\}, n : \mathbb{N}^{\geq 0}) =$$

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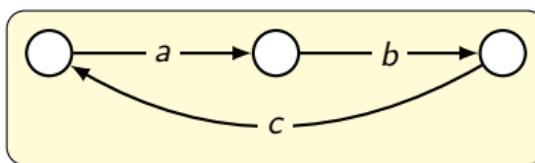
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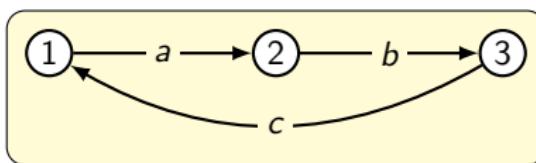


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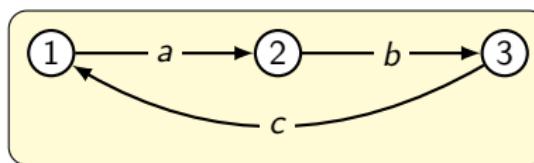


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The corresponding LPPE:

$$\begin{aligned} Y(pc: \{1, 2, 3\}) &= \\ pc = 1 &\Rightarrow a \cdot Y(2) \\ + pc = 2 &\Rightarrow b \cdot Y(3) \\ + pc = 3 &\Rightarrow c \cdot Y(1) \end{aligned}$$

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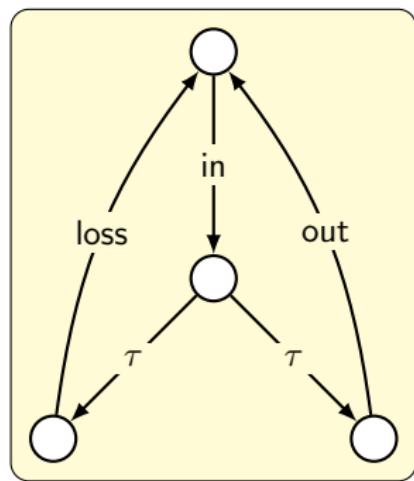
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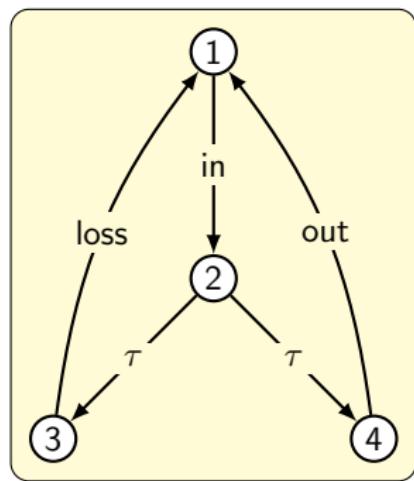


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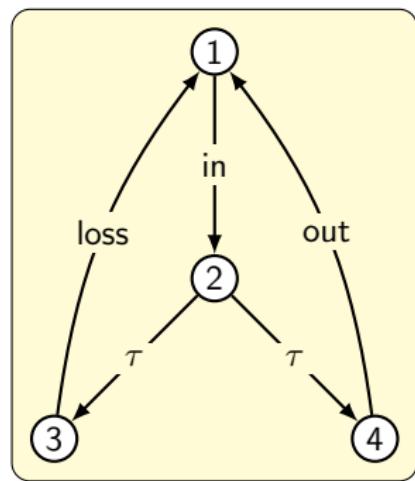


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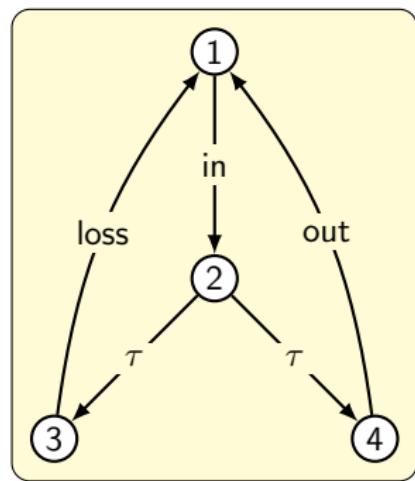
$$\begin{aligned} Y(pc: \{1, 2, 3, 4\}, x: D) = & \\ & \sum_{d:D} pc = 1 \Rightarrow \text{in}(d) \cdot Y(2, d) \\ & + pc = 2 \Rightarrow \tau \cdot Y(3, x) \\ & + pc = 2 \Rightarrow \tau \cdot Y(4, x) \\ & + pc = 3 \Rightarrow \text{loss} \cdot Y(1, x) \\ & + pc = 4 \Rightarrow \text{out}(x) \cdot Y(1, x) \end{aligned}$$

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Initial process:  $Y(1, d_1)$ .

# Linearisation: a more algorithmic approach

Consider the following prCRL specification:

$$X(d : D) = \sum_{e:D} a(d+e) \sum_{f:D} \frac{1}{|D|} : \left( c(e) \cdot c(f) \cdot X(5) + c(e+f) \cdot X(5) \right)$$

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$$X(\text{pc} : \{1, 2, 3\}, d : D, e : D, f : D) =$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{pc} = 1 \Rightarrow \sum_{e:D} a(d+e) \sum_{f:D} \frac{1}{|D|} \cdot X(2, d, e, f) \\ & + \text{pc} = 2 \Rightarrow c(e) \cdot X(3, d, e, f) \\ & + \text{pc} = 2 \Rightarrow c(e+f) \cdot X(1, 5, e, f) \\ & + \text{pc} = 3 \Rightarrow c(f) \cdot X(1, 5, e, f) \end{aligned}$$

# Linearisation

In general, we always linearise in two steps:

- ① Transform the specification to **intermediate regular form** (IRF)  
(every process is a summation of single-action terms)
- ② Merge all processes into one big process by introducing a  
**program counter**

In the first step, **global parameters** are introduced to remember the values of bound variables.

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# Case study: a leader election protocol

- Implementation in Haskell:
  - Linearisation: from prCRL to LPPE
  - Parallel composition of LPPEs, hiding, renaming, encapsulation
  - Generation of the state space of an LPPE
  - Automatic constant elimination and summand simplification
- Manual dead variable reduction

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## Case study

Leader election protocol à la Itai-Rodeh

- Two processes throw a die
  - *The process with the highest number will be leader*
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## Case study

### Leader election protocol à la Itai-Rodeh

- Two processes throw a **die**
  - *The process with the highest number will be **leader***
  - *In case of a tie: **throw again***
- More precisely:
  - ***Passive thread**: receive value of opponent*
  - ***Active thread**: roll, send, compare (or block)*

# A prCRL model of the leader election protocol

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$$\begin{aligned} P(id : \{one, two\}, val : Die, set : Bool) = \\ & set = false \Rightarrow \sum_{d:Die} \textcolor{blue}{communicate}(id, other(id), d) \cdot P(id, d, true) \\ & + set = true \Rightarrow \textcolor{red}{checkValue}(val) \cdot P(id, val, false) \end{aligned}$$

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$$A(id : \{one, two\}) =$$

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 C(id : \{\text{one}, \text{two}\}) = & P(id, 1, \text{false}) \parallel A(id) \\
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# Reductions on the leader election protocol model

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In order to obtain reductions first linearise:

$$\sum_{e21:Die} pc21 = 3 \wedge pc11 = 1 \wedge set11 \wedge val11 = e21 \Rightarrow$$
$$checkValue(val11) \sum_{(k1,k2):\{*\} \times \{*\}} multiply(1.0, 1.0) :$$
$$Z(1, id11, val11, false, 1, 4, id21, d21, e21,$$
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Before reductions:

- 18 parameters
- 14 summands
- 3763 states
- 6158 transitions

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Before reductions:

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After reductions:

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- 1693 states (-55%)
- 2438 transitions (-60%)

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## Conclusions / Results

- We developed the **process algebra prCRL**, incorporating both **data** and **probability**.
- We defined a **normal form** for prCRL, the **LPPE**; starting point for symbolic optimisations and easy state space generation.
- We provided a **linearisation algorithm** to transform prCRL specifications to LPPEs, proved it **correct**, **implemented** it, and used it to show significant reductions on a **case study**.

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## Future work

- Develop additional reduction techniques, for instance **confluence reduction**.
- Generalise **proof techniques** such as cones and foci to the probabilistic case.

# Questions

# Questions?

See also our paper:

J.-P. Katoen, J.C. van de Pol, M.I.A. Stoelinga, and M. Timmer (2010)  
*A linear process algebraic format for probabilistic systems with data.* To appear in: Proceedings of the 10th International Conference on Application of Concurrency to System Design (ACSD 2010), June 2010.