

## Regular Sensing

Shaul Almagor<sup>1</sup>   Denis Kuperberg<sup>2</sup>  
Orna Kupferman<sup>1</sup>   Yaron Velner<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel.

<sup>2</sup>IRIT/Onera, Toulouse

FSTTCS 2015+Submitted Work

## Sensing - Motivation

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

## Sensing - Motivation

- A system has  $l$  bits of information, resp.
- Consider a regular  $I/O$  space  $2^l \times 2^o$  corresponding to  $\mathcal{T}$ .
- Adding to each state a sensor.
- The complexity of  $\mathcal{T}$  is the number of sensors.

## Sensing - Motivation

- Consider an alphabet  $2^I \times 2^O$  for some finite sets  $I$  and  $O$  of input and outputs, respectively.
- Consider a regular  $I/O$  specification over  $2^I \times 2^O$ , and a corresponding transducer  $\mathcal{T}$ .
- Reading the truth value of each signal in  $I$  requires activating a sensor.
- The complexity of  $\mathcal{T}$  can be measured by the expected number of sensors  $\mathcal{T}$  uses.

## Sensing - Motivation

- Consider an alphabet  $2^I \times 2^O$  for some finite sets  $I$  and  $O$  of inputs and outputs, respectively.
- Consider a regular  $I/O$  specification over  $2^I \times 2^O$ , and a corresponding transducer  $\mathcal{T}$ .
- Reading the truth value of each signal in  $I$  requires activating some sensor.
- The complexity of  $\mathcal{T}$  can be measured by the **expected** number of sensors  $\mathcal{T}$  uses.

## Related Work

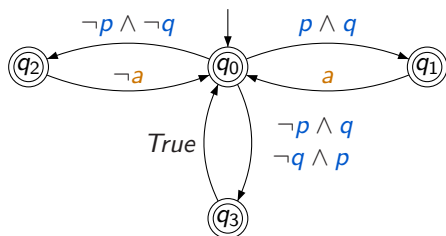
- Mean-payoff Games with Incomplete Information [P. Hunter, G. A. Pérez, and J.F. Raskin, 2013].
- Minimum attention controller synthesis for  $\omega$ -regular objectives [K. Chatterjee and R. Majumdar, 2011].
- Controller synthesis with budget constraints [K. Chatterjee, R. Majumdar, and T. A. Henzinger, 2008].
- Synthesis with Incomplete Information [O. Kupferman and M.Y. Vardi, 97].

## Example (1)

Let  $I = \{p, q\}$  and  $O = \{a\}$ . Consider the specification:

## Example (1)

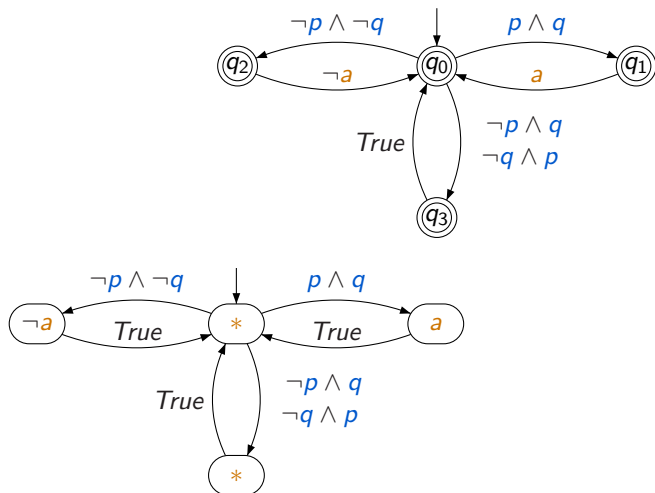
Let  $I = \{p, q\}$  and  $O = \{a\}$ . Consider the specification:





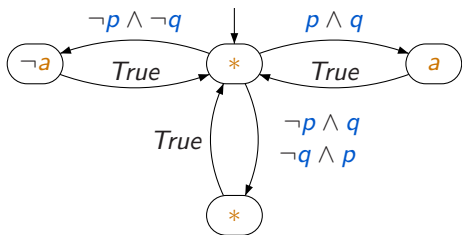
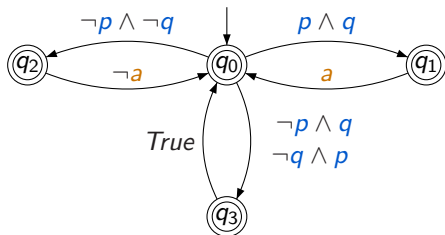
## Example (1)

Let  $I = \{p, q\}$  and  $O = \{a\}$ . Consider the specification:



## Example (1)

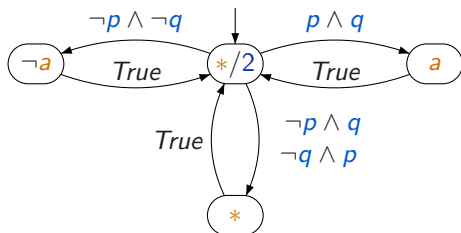
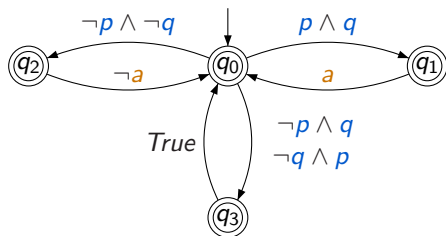
Let  $I = \{p, q\}$  and  $O = \{a\}$ . Consider the specification:



- Initial state senses  $\{p, q\}$ .

## Example (1)

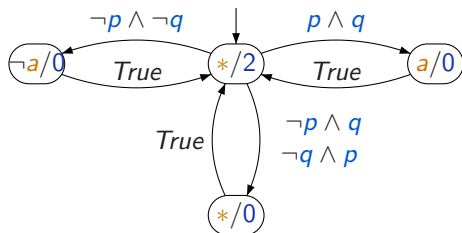
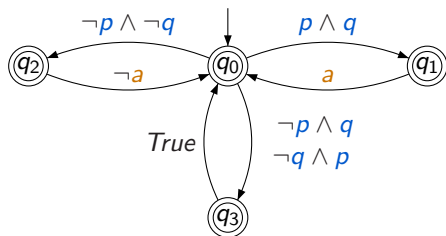
Let  $I = \{p, q\}$  and  $O = \{a\}$ . Consider the specification:



- Initial state senses  $\{p, q\}$ .
- Has sensing cost 2.

## Example (1)

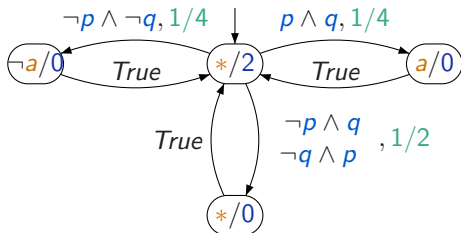
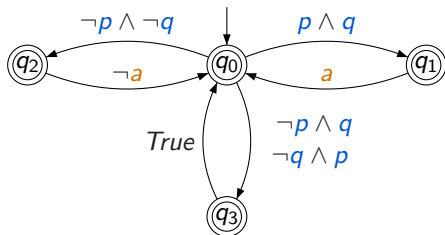
Let  $I = \{p, q\}$  and  $O = \{a\}$ . Consider the specification:



- Initial state senses  $\{p, q\}$ .
- Has sensing cost 2.
- Other states sense  $\emptyset$ .

## Example (1)

Let  $I = \{p, q\}$  and  $O = \{a\}$ . Consider the specification:



- Initial state senses  $\{p, q\}$ .
- Has sensing cost 2.
- Other states sense  $\emptyset$ .
- Sensing cost of  $\mathcal{T}$  is 1.

## Sensing - Definition

- Consider an  $I/O$ -transducer  $\mathcal{T}$ .

## Sensing - Definition

- Consider an  $I/O$ -transducer  $\mathcal{T}$ .
- A state  $q$  of  $\mathcal{T}$  is said to **sense** a signal  $p \in I$  if there exists  $i \subseteq I$  such that  $\delta(q, i) \neq \delta(q, i \cup \{p\})$ .

## Sensing - Definition

- Consider an  $I/O$ -transducer  $\mathcal{T}$ .
- A state  $q$  of  $\mathcal{T}$  is said to **sense** a signal  $p \in I$  if there exists  $i \subseteq I$  such that  $\delta(q, i) \neq \delta(q, i \cup \{p\})$ .
- The **sensing cost** of a state  $q$  is  $\text{sensed}(q) = |\{p : q \text{ senses } p\}|$ .



## Sensing - Definition

- Consider an  $I/O$ -transducer  $\mathcal{T}$ .
- A state  $q$  of  $\mathcal{T}$  is said to **sense** a signal  $p \in I$  if there exists  $i \subseteq I$  such that  $\delta(q, i) \neq \delta(q, i \cup \{p\})$ .
- The **sensing cost** of a state  $q$  is  $\text{sensed}(q) = |\{p : q \text{ senses } p\}|$ .
- The sensing cost of a word  $\pi \in (2^I)^\omega$  is the average sensing cost along the run of  $\mathcal{T}$  on  $\pi$ .

## Sensing - Definition

- Consider an  $I/O$ -transducer  $\mathcal{T}$ .
- A state  $q$  of  $\mathcal{T}$  is said to **sense** a signal  $p \in I$  if there exists  $i \subseteq I$  such that  $\delta(q, i) \neq \delta(q, i \cup \{p\})$ .
- The **sensing cost** of a state  $q$  is  $\text{sensed}(q) = |\{p : q \text{ senses } p\}|$ .
- The sensing cost of a word  $\pi \in (2^I)^\omega$  is the average sensing cost along the run of  $\mathcal{T}$  on  $\pi$ .
- The **sensing cost** of  $\mathcal{T}$  is the **expected** average cost on a uniformly-random word.

# Problem Formulation

- We are given a specification-automaton  $\mathcal{A}$  over alphabet  $2^I \times 2^O$ .

# Problem Formulation

- We are given a specification-automaton  $\mathcal{A}$  over alphabet  $2^I \times 2^O$ .
- Output an  $I/O$ -transducer  $\mathcal{T}$  that realizes  $\mathcal{A}$ , with **minimal sensing**.

## Example (2)

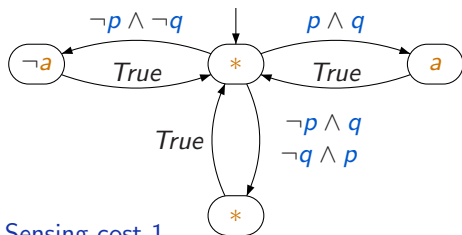
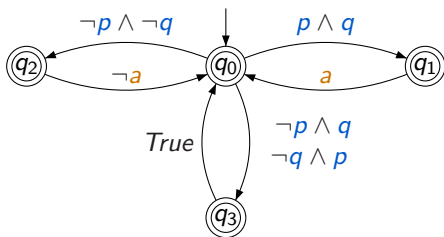
- It is well known that a DFA specification is realizable iff there is an “embodied” strategy.

## Example (2)

- It is well known that a DFA specification is realizable iff there is an “embodied” strategy.
- However, a **minimal-sensing** transducer does not always correspond to an embodied strategy.

## Example (2)

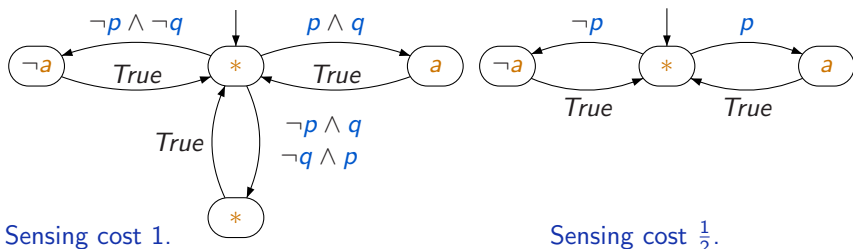
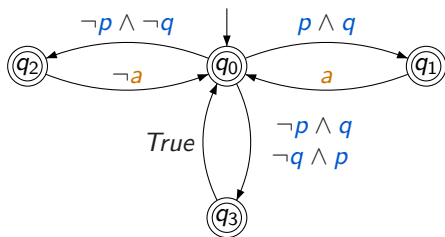
Let  $I = \{p, q\}$  and  $O = \{a\}$ . Consider the specification:



Sensing cost 1.

## Example (2)

Let  $I = \{p, q\}$  and  $O = \{a\}$ . Consider the specification:





## Example (2)

- It is well known that a DFA specification is realizable iff there is an “embodied” strategy.
- However, a minimal-sensing transducer does not always correspond to an embodied strategy.
- For infinite words, the **minimal sensing** might not be attained.  
For example:  $\text{GF}(a \iff Xb)$

# Lower Bound

## Theorem

Given a DFA specification  $\mathcal{A}$  and a threshold  $v$ , deciding whether  $\text{scost}(\mathcal{A}) \leq v$  is EXPTIME-hard.

This lower bound carries to safety properties on infinite words, and hence to all acceptance conditions.

## Lower Bound

### Theorem

Given a DFA specification  $\mathcal{A}$  and a threshold  $v$ , deciding whether  $\text{scost}(\mathcal{A}) \leq v$  is EXPTIME-hard.

This lower bound carries to safety properties on infinite words, and hence to all acceptance conditions.

We show a reduction from the problem of deciding the emptiness of the intersection of DFTs (EXPTIME-complete).

## Lower Bound

### Theorem

Given a DFA specification  $\mathcal{A}$  and a threshold  $v$ , deciding whether  $\text{scost}(\mathcal{A}) \leq v$  is EXPTIME-hard.

This lower bound carries to safety properties on infinite words, and hence to all acceptance conditions.

We show a reduction from the problem of deciding the emptiness of the intersection of DFTs (EXPTIME-complete).

We demonstrate the idea with DFAs.

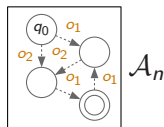
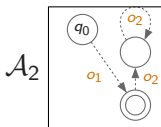
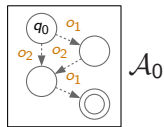
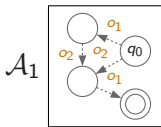
## Lower Bound - Proof

Consider DFAs  $\mathcal{A}_0, \dots, \mathcal{A}_n$ . We construct a specification:

## Lower Bound - Proof

Consider DFAs  $\mathcal{A}_0, \dots, \mathcal{A}_n$ . We construct a specification:

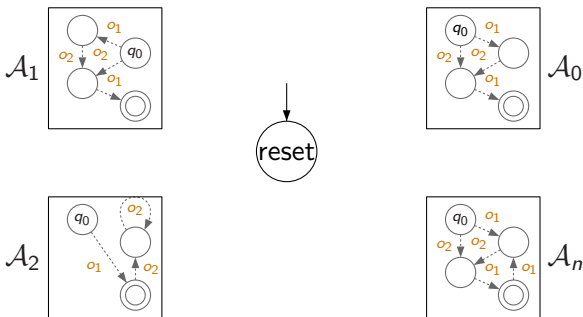
- The DFAs' alphabet are **outputs**.
- 
- 
- 
- 



## Lower Bound - Proof

Consider DFAs  $\mathcal{A}_0, \dots, \mathcal{A}_n$ . We construct a specification:

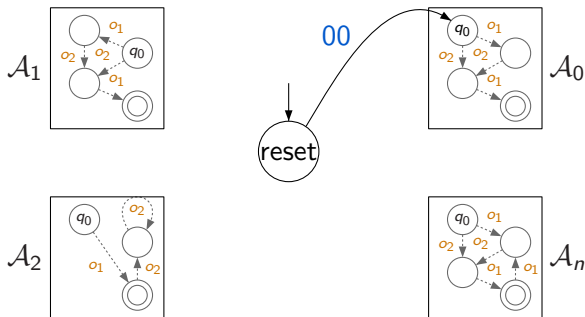
- The DFAs' alphabet are **outputs**.
- In *reset*, the **input** determines which DFA we choose.
- 
- 
- 



## Lower Bound - Proof

Consider DFAs  $\mathcal{A}_0, \dots, \mathcal{A}_n$ . We construct a specification:

- The DFAs' alphabet are **outputs**.
- In *reset*, the **input** determines which DFA we choose.
- 
- 
- 

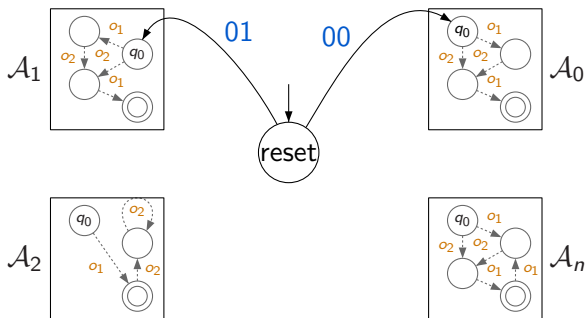




## Lower Bound - Proof

Consider DFAs  $\mathcal{A}_0, \dots, \mathcal{A}_n$ . We construct a specification:

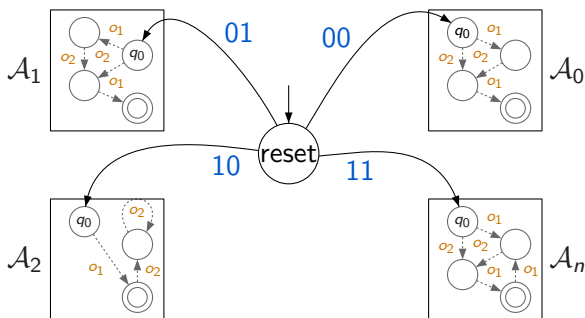
- The DFAs' alphabet are **outputs**.
- In *reset*, the **input** determines which DFA we choose.
- 
- 
- 



## Lower Bound - Proof

Consider DFAs  $\mathcal{A}_0, \dots, \mathcal{A}_n$ . We construct a specification:

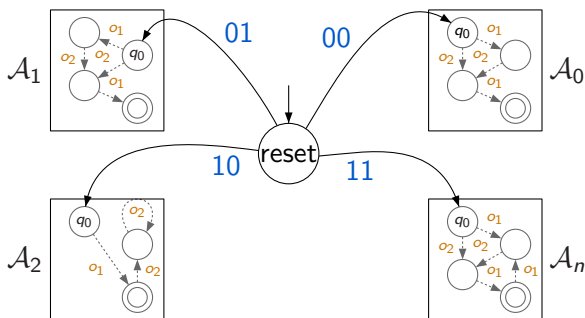
- The DFAs' alphabet are **outputs**.
- In *reset*, the **input** determines which DFA we choose.
- 
- 
- 



## Lower Bound - Proof

Consider DFAs  $\mathcal{A}_0, \dots, \mathcal{A}_n$ . We construct a specification:

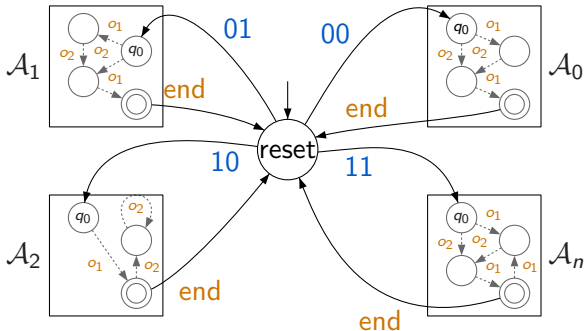
- The DFAs' alphabet are **outputs**.
- In *reset*, the **input** determines which DFA we choose.
- We force sensing of one bit in the DFAs.
- 
- 



## Lower Bound - Proof

Consider DFAs  $\mathcal{A}_0, \dots, \mathcal{A}_n$ . We construct a specification:

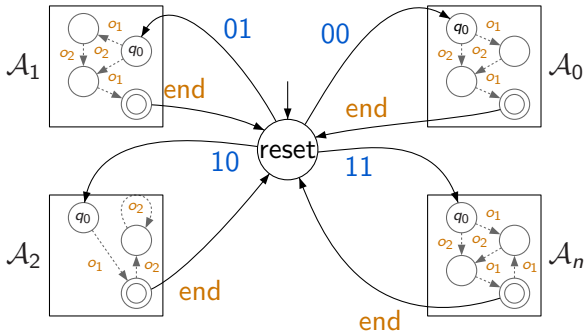
- The DFAs' alphabet are **outputs**.
- In *reset*, the **input** determines which DFA we choose.
- We force sensing of one bit in the DFAs.
- The output **end** signifies that the word is finished.
- 



## Lower Bound - Proof

Consider DFAs  $\mathcal{A}_0, \dots, \mathcal{A}_n$ . We construct a specification:

- The DFAs' alphabet are **outputs**.
- In *reset*, the **input** determines which DFA we choose.
- We force sensing of one bit in the DFAs.
- The output **end** signifies that the word is finished.
- A transducer can ignore inputs in *reset* iff  $\bigcap_i L(\mathcal{A}_i) \neq \emptyset$ .



## Upper Bound - Questions

- Given a parity automaton  $\mathcal{A}$  over alphabet  $2^I \times 2^O$ , can we compute its infimum sensing cost?

## Upper Bound - Questions

- Given a parity automaton  $\mathcal{A}$  over alphabet  $2^I \times 2^O$ , can we compute its infimum sensing cost?
- Can we also output a transducer that attains/approximates this value?

## Upper Bound - Questions

- Given a parity automaton  $\mathcal{A}$  over alphabet  $2^I \times 2^O$ , can we compute its infimum sensing cost?
- Can we also output a transducer that attains/approximates this value?
- Do *finite* transducers suffice for an approximation?



## From Sensing to Parity-MDPs

- Traditional synthesis from a parity automaton is solved by translating it to a parity game, and looking for a winning strategy.

# From Sensing to Parity-MDPs

- Traditional synthesis from a parity automaton is solved by translating it to a parity game, and looking for a winning strategy.
- We reduce our problem to a variant of parity games combined with an MDP.

## From Sensing to Parity-MDPs

Given a parity automaton  $\mathcal{A}$  over alphabet  $2^I \times 2^O$ :

1. Construct a universal parity automaton  $\mathcal{A}'$  where each state record the current state of  $\mathcal{A}$  and which inputs are sensed. Then, given concrete inputs, universally choose an successor that agrees with the concrete inputs on the sensed inputs.

## From Sensing to Parity-MDPs

Given a parity automaton  $\mathcal{A}$  over alphabet  $2^I \times 2^O$ :

1. Construct a universal parity automaton  $\mathcal{A}'$  where each state record the current state of  $\mathcal{A}$  and which inputs are sensed. Then, given concrete inputs, universally choose an successor that agrees with the concrete inputs on the sensed inputs.
2. Determinize  $\mathcal{A}'$  to a parity automaton  $\mathcal{D}$ .

## From Sensing to Parity-MDPs

Given a parity automaton  $\mathcal{A}$  over alphabet  $2^I \times 2^O$ :

1. Construct a universal parity automaton  $\mathcal{A}'$  where each state record the current state of  $\mathcal{A}$  and which inputs are sensed. Then, given concrete inputs, universally choose an successor that agrees with the concrete inputs on the sensed inputs.
2. Determinize  $\mathcal{A}'$  to a parity automaton  $\mathcal{D}$ .
3. Construct from  $\mathcal{D}$  a parity game  $\mathcal{G}$ , and assign a cost to each state according to the number of sensed inputs.

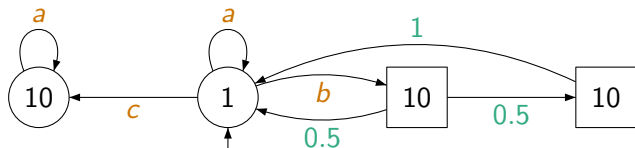
## From Sensing to Parity-MDPs

Given a parity automaton  $\mathcal{A}$  over alphabet  $2^I \times 2^O$ :

1. Construct a universal parity automaton  $\mathcal{A}'$  where each state record the current state of  $\mathcal{A}$  and which inputs are sensed. Then, given concrete inputs, universally choose an successor that agrees with the concrete inputs on the sensed inputs.
2. Determinize  $\mathcal{A}'$  to a parity automaton  $\mathcal{D}$ .
3. Construct from  $\mathcal{D}$  a parity game  $\mathcal{G}$ , and assign a cost to each state according to the number of sensed inputs.
4. A winning strategy in  $\mathcal{G}$  realizes the specification, and its expected mean-payoff against a stochastic environment is its sensing cost.

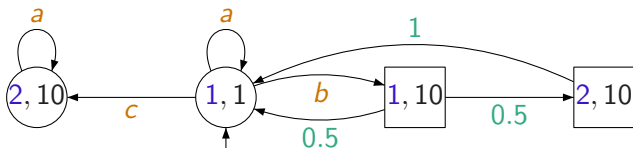
# Parity MDPs

- A parity MDP is an MDP...



# Parity MDPs

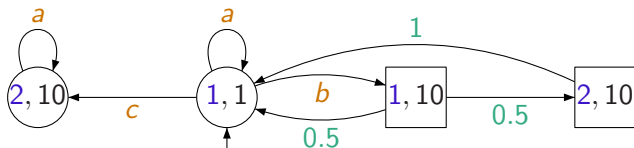
- A **parity MDP** is an MDP... equipped with a **parity winning condition**.





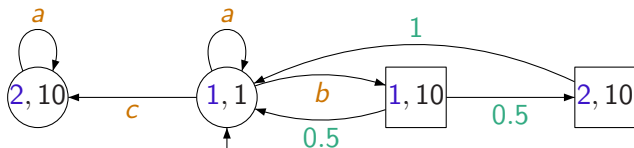
## Parity MDPs

- A **parity MDP** is an MDP... equipped with a **parity winning condition**.
- The value of a **sure-winning** Player 1 strategy is the **expected cost** against the **stochastic environment**.



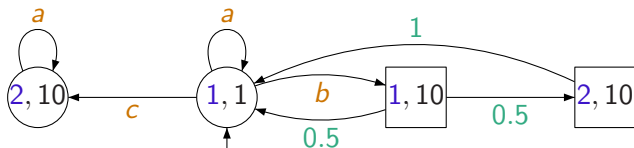
## Parity MDPs

- A **parity MDP** is an MDP... equipped with a **parity winning condition**.
- The value of a **sure-winning** Player 1 strategy is the **expected cost** against the **stochastic** environment.
- Thus, Player 1 needs to **surely win** against an **adversarial** environment, while **minimizing** the **expected cost**.



## Parity MDPs

- A **parity MDP** is an MDP... equipped with a **parity winning condition**.
- The value of a **sure-winning** Player 1 strategy is the **expected cost** against the **stochastic** environment.
- Thus, Player 1 needs to **surely win** against an **adversarial** environment, while **minimizing** the **expected cost**.
- Optimal strategy may not exist:



## Solving Parity MDPs

- A *Good End Component* (GEC) in  $\mathcal{G}$  is an end component whose maximal **parity rank** is even.

## Solving Parity MDPs

- A *Good End Component* (GEC) in  $\mathcal{G}$  is an end component whose maximal **parity rank** is even.
- Easy: every **winning** strategy reaches a GEC w.p. 1.

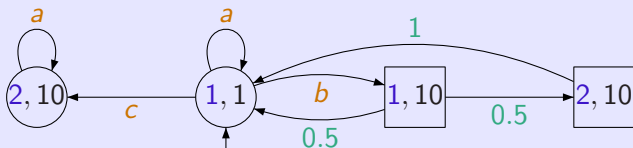
## Solving Parity MDPs

- A *Good End Component* (GEC) in  $\mathcal{G}$  is an end component whose maximal **parity rank** is even.
- Easy: every **winning** strategy reaches a GEC w.p. 1.
- We show that within a GEC, we can approximate the optimal **mean-payoff** with an infinite-memory strategy.

## Solving Parity MDPs

- A *Good End Component* (GEC) in  $\mathcal{G}$  is an end component whose maximal **parity rank** is even.
- Easy: every **winning** strategy reaches a GEC w.p. 1.
- We show that within a GEC, we can approximate the optimal **mean-payoff** with an infinite-memory strategy.

Proof Idea:

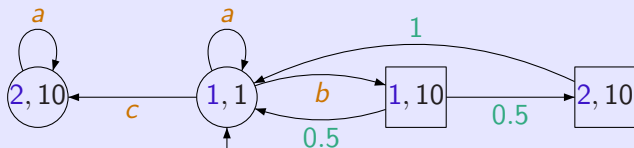


## Solving Parity MDPs

- A *Good End Component* (GEC) in  $\mathcal{G}$  is an end component whose maximal **parity rank** is even.
- Easy: every **winning** strategy reaches a GEC w.p. 1.
- We show that within a GEC, we can approximate the optimal **mean-payoff** with an infinite-memory strategy.

### Proof Idea:

1. Play  $a$  for a long time.



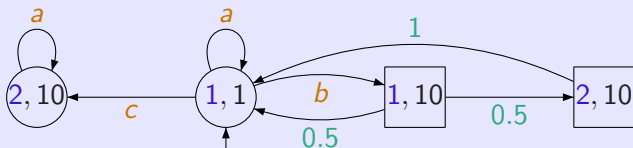


## Solving Parity MDPs

- A *Good End Component* (GEC) in  $\mathcal{G}$  is an end component whose maximal **parity rank** is even.
- Easy: every **winning** strategy reaches a GEC w.p. 1.
- We show that within a GEC, we can approximate the optimal **mean-payoff** with an infinite-memory strategy.

### Proof Idea:

1. Play  $a$  for a long time.
2. Play  $b$  for a while, try to reach  $2, 10$ .

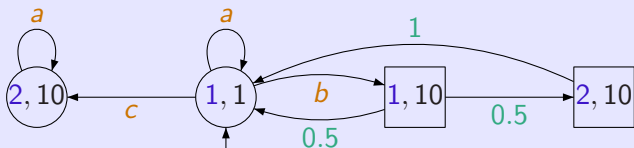


## Solving Parity MDPs

- A *Good End Component* (GEC) in  $\mathcal{G}$  is an end component whose maximal **parity rank** is even.
- Easy: every **winning** strategy reaches a GEC w.p. 1.
- We show that within a GEC, we can approximate the optimal **mean-payoff** with an infinite-memory strategy.

### Proof Idea:

1. Play  $a$  for a long time.
2. Play  $b$  for a while, try to reach  $2, 10$ .
3. If  $2, 10$  reached, goto 1 with a longer counter.

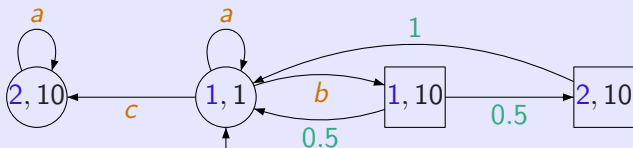


## Solving Parity MDPs

- A *Good End Component* (GEC) in  $\mathcal{G}$  is an end component whose maximal **parity rank** is even.
- Easy: every **winning** strategy reaches a GEC w.p. 1.
- We show that within a GEC, we can approximate the optimal **mean-payoff** with an infinite-memory strategy.

### Proof Idea:

1. Play *a* for a long time.
2. Play *b* for a while, try to reach 2, 10.
3. If 2, 10 reached, goto 1 with a longer counter.
4. Otherwise, play *c* ("give up").



## Summary of Results

- We show how to compute the value of Parity-MDPs in  $NP \cap coNP$ .

## Summary of Results

- We show how to compute the value of Parity-MDPs in  $NP \cap coNP$ .
- Can also find an approximating infinite-memory strategy.

## Summary of Results

- We show how to compute the value of **Parity-MDPs** in  $NP \cap coNP$ .
- Can also find an approximating infinite-memory strategy.
- We show how to compute the value of **Parity-MDPs** under *finite-memory* strategies in  $NP \cap coNP$ .

## Summary of Results

- We show how to compute the value of **Parity-MDPs** in  $NP \cap coNP$ .
- Can also find an approximating infinite-memory strategy.
- We show how to compute the value of **Parity-MDPs** under *finite-memory* strategies in  $NP \cap coNP$ .
- Can also find an approximating finite-memory strategy for the latter.

## Summary of Results

- We show how to compute the value of **Parity-MDPs** in  $NP \cap coNP$ .
- Can also find an approximating infinite-memory strategy.
- We show how to compute the value of **Parity-MDPs** under *finite-memory* strategies in  $NP \cap coNP$ .
- Can also find an approximating finite-memory strategy for the latter.
- Enables us to find a **minimally-sensing** transducer (or an approximating one) in EXPTIME, matching the lower bound.



## Summary of Results

- We show how to compute the value of **Parity-MDPs** in  $NP \cap coNP$ .
- Can also find an approximating infinite-memory strategy.
- We show how to compute the value of **Parity-MDPs** under *finite-memory* strategies in  $NP \cap coNP$ .
- Can also find an approximating finite-memory strategy for the latter.
- Enables us to find a **minimally-sensing** transducer (or an approximating one) in EXPTIME, matching the lower bound.
- **Parity MDPs** are a useful tool in modeling combinations of quantitative and Boolean properties.

Thank you!

Th███k y███u!