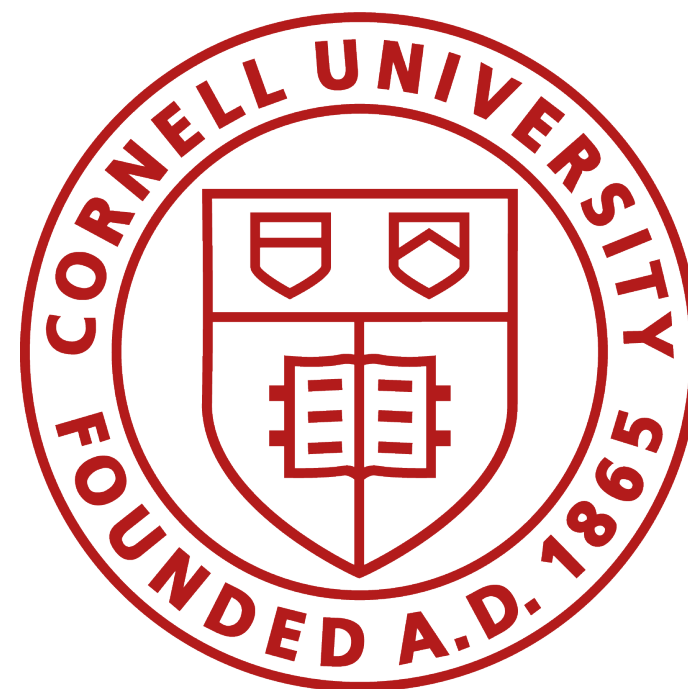


Outcome Logic

A foundational framework for **concurrent** and **probabilistic**
program analysis

Alexandra Silva

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*Tale as
old as time*



*Tale as
old as time*

Programs



*Tale as
old as time*

Programs



Formal
Methods

*Tale as
old as time*

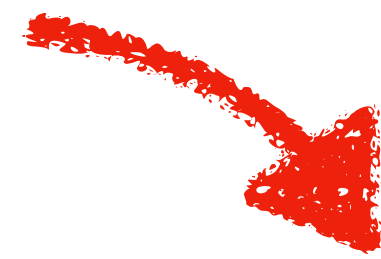
Programs



Logics

Program Logics

If P holds before
running C ...

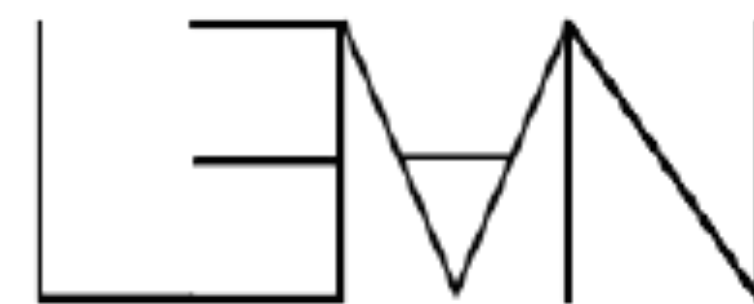
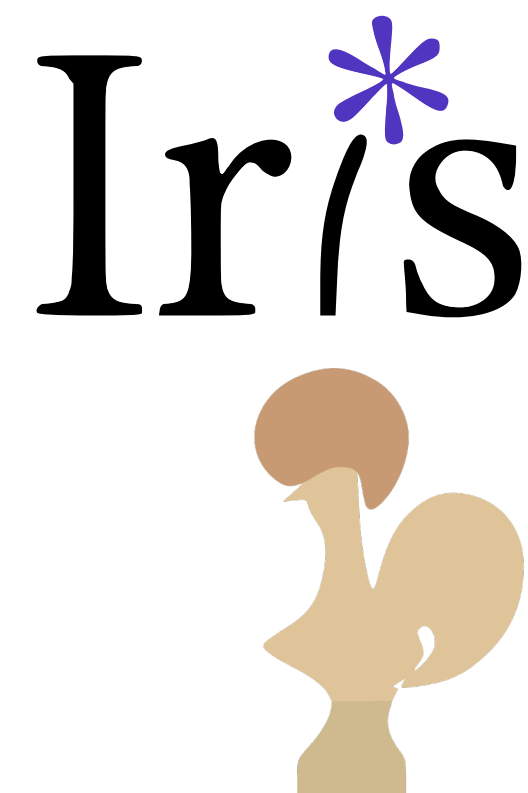


$\{P\} C \{Q\}$



...then Q holds after
running C

Basis of analysis and verification tools



Probabilistic Concurrent Programs

Probabilistic Concurrent Programs

What?

Probabilistic Concurrent Programs

What?

$y := 0 ; \left(x_2 := \text{flip}(1/2) ; x_1 := y ; z := \text{xor}(x_1, x_2) \mid y := 1 \right)$

Probabilistic Concurrent Programs

What?

$y := 0 ; \left(x_2 := \text{flip}(1/2) ; x_1 := y ; z := \text{xor}(x_1, x_2) \mid y := 1 \right)$

Is z a good source of randomness?

Probabilistic Concurrent Programs

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$y := 0 ; \left(x_2 := \text{flip}(1/2) ; x_1 := y ; z := \text{xor}(x_1, x_2) \mid y := 1 \right)$

Is z a good source of randomness?

$\{ T \} \vdash \{ z \sim \text{Ber}(1/2) \}$

Probabilistic Concurrent Programs

Probabilistic Concurrent Programs

$$\{ T \} C \{ z \sim \text{Ber}(1/2) \}$$

How do we design a program logic to derive this triple?

**Where do these programs
appear?**

Long Tradition: Randomised Distributed Algorithms

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Long Tradition: Randomised Distributed Algorithms

**Where do these programs
appear?**

Less Long but Hot: AI and ML applications

Good Target for Formal Methods

Program behaviour very subtle

**Good Target for Formal
Methods**

Program behaviour very subtle

Good Target for Formal Methods

Automated Reasoning Essential

Good Target for Program Logics

Complexity demands Scalability

**Good Target for Program
Logics**

Complexity demands Scalability

Good Target for Program Logics

Compositional Reasoning

Challenges

$y := 0 ; (\textcolor{violet}{x_2 := \text{flip}(1/2)} ; x_1 := y ; z := \text{xor}(x_1, x_2) \mid y := 1)$

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$y := 0 \ ; \ (\textcolor{violet}{x_2 := \text{flip}(1/2)} \ ; \ x_1 := y \ ; \ z := \text{xor}(x_1, x_2) \ \textcolor{brown}{|} \ y := 1 \)$

Semantics is a probability distribution

Challenges

$y := 0 \ ; \ (\textcolor{violet}{x_2 := \text{flip}(1/2)} \ ; \ x_1 := y \ ; \ z := \text{xor}(x_1, x_2) \textcolor{brown}{;} y := 1 \)$

Semantics is a probability distribution

Breaks compositionally of semantics

Challenges

$y := 0 \ ; \ (\ \boxed{x_2 := \text{flip}(1/2)} \ ; \ x_1 := y \ ; \ z := \text{xor}(x_1, x_2) \ \boxed{ } \ y := 1 \)$

Semantics is a probability distribution

Breaks compositionally of semantics

Minor changes cause strange effects!

Challenges

$y := 0 \ ; \ (\ x_1 := y \ ; \ x_2 := \text{flip}(1/2) \ ; \ z := \text{xor}(x_1, x_2) \ \mid \ y := 1 \)$

Challenges

High-quality randomness



```
y := 0 ; ( x1 := y ; x2 := flip(1/2) ; z := xor(x1, x2) | y := 1 )
```

Challenges

Low-quality randomness



High-quality randomness



$y := 0 ; \left(x_1 := y ; x_2 := \text{flip}(1/2) ; z := \text{xor}(x_1, x_2) \mid y := 1 \right)$

Challenges

Low-quality randomness



High-quality randomness



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High-quality randomness

Challenges

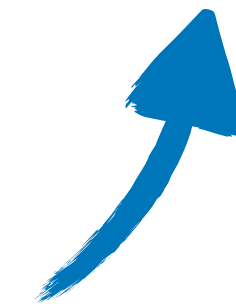
Low-quality randomness



High-quality randomness



$y := 0 ; \left(x_1 := y ; x_2 := \text{flip}(1/2) ; z := \text{xor}(x_1, x_2) \mid y := 1 \right)$



High-quality randomness

$\{ T \} C \{ z \sim \text{Ber}(1/2) \}$ **valid!**

Challenges

$y := 0 \ ; \ (\ x_2 := \text{flip}(1/2) \ ; \ x_1 := y \ ; \ z := \text{xor}(x_1, x_2) \ \mid \ y := 1 \)$

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Challenges

Low-quality randomness!!

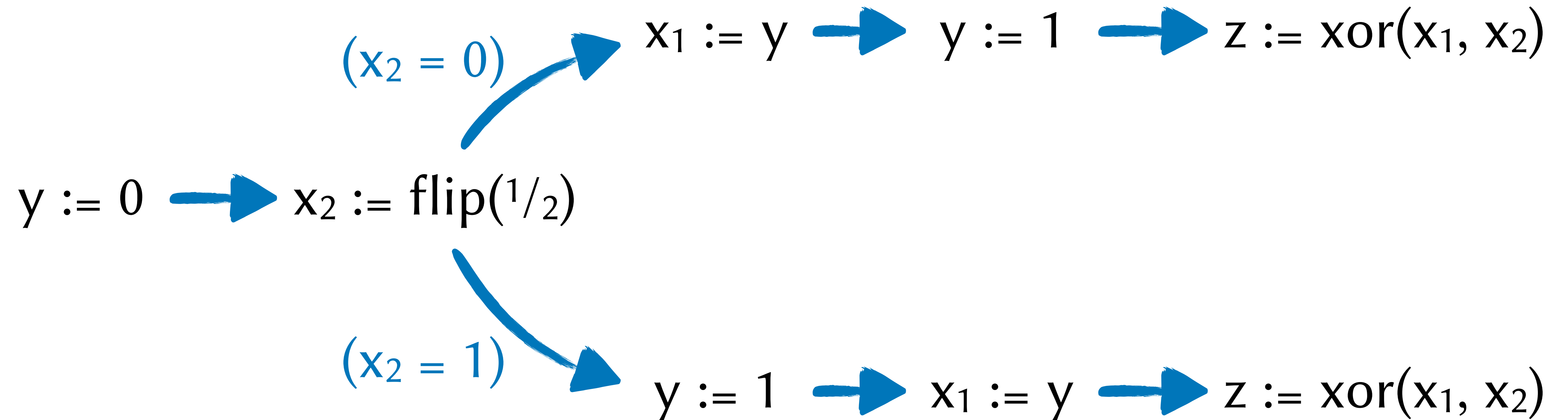


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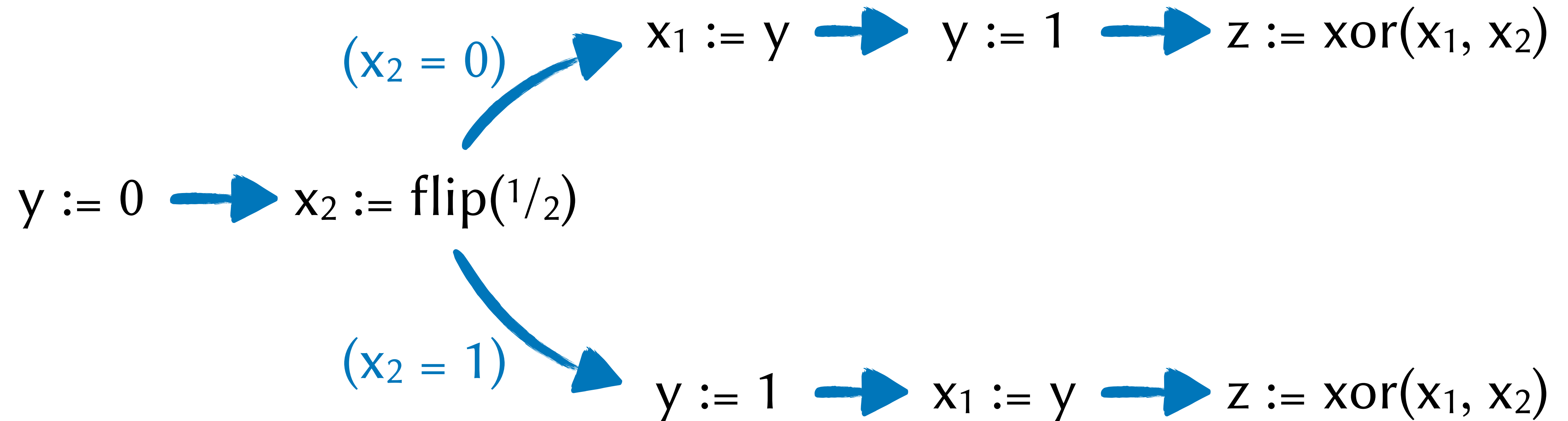
$\{ T \} C \{ z \sim \text{Ber}(1/2) \}$

Not valid!

Challenges



Challenges



Scheduler can force $z=0$

Desiderata

- Compositional Program Semantics
- Intuitive Proof Rules (handling mix of effects!)
- Unbounded Loops

Our work

A first step: Demonic Outcome Logic (POPL'25, on Thursday!)

- ✓ ^{restricted} Compositional Program Semantics Convex powerset
- ✓ Intuitive Proof Rules (handling mix of effects!)
- ✓ Unbounded Loops Non-determinism

Our work

A second step: Probabilistic Concurrent Outcome Logic (submitted)

- ✓ Compositional Program Semantics *New structure!*
- ✓ Intuitive Proof Rules (handling mix of effects!)
- ✗ Unbounded Loops

Our work

A third step: Denotational Semantics for Probabilistic and Concurrent Programs (submitted)

- ✓ Compositional Program Semantics *New structure!*
- ✗ Intuitive Proof Rules (handling mix of effects!)
- ✓ Unbounded Loops *Domain theory developed*

Soon... :-)

- ✓ Compositional Program Semantics
- ✓ Intuitive Proof Rules (handling mix of effects!)
- ✓ Unbounded Loops

Many threads to bring together

**Concurrent
Separation Logics**

Ir/*s

**Probabilistic
Separation Logics**

PSL (POPL'20)
Bluebell (POPL'25)
Lilac (PLDI'23)

Many threads to bring together

Many threads to bring together

CSL: Separation makes compositional reasoning possible!

$$\frac{\langle P_1 \rangle \ C_1 \ \langle Q_1 \rangle \qquad \langle P_2 \rangle \ C_2 \ \langle Q_2 \rangle}{\langle P_1 * P_2 \rangle \ C_1 \parallel C_2 \ \langle Q_1 * Q_2 \rangle}$$

Many threads to bring together

PSL: Separation = probabilistic independence!

$$\langle \llbracket x \mapsto - \rrbracket \rangle x \approx \mathbf{Ber} \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) \quad \langle x \sim \mathbf{Ber} \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) \rangle$$

$$\langle \llbracket y \mapsto - \rrbracket \rangle y \approx \mathbf{Ber} \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) \quad \langle y \sim \mathbf{Ber} \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) \rangle$$

pPAR

$$\langle \llbracket x \mapsto - \rrbracket * \llbracket y \mapsto - \rrbracket \rangle x \approx \mathbf{Ber} \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) \parallel y \approx \mathbf{Ber} \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) \quad \langle x \sim \mathbf{Ber} \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) * y \sim \mathbf{Ber} \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) \rangle$$

Many threads to bring together

CSL: Shared State requires invariants

$$\frac{I \vdash \langle \varphi_1 \rangle C_1 \langle \psi_1 \rangle \quad I \vdash \langle \varphi_2 \rangle C_2 \langle \psi_2 \rangle}{I \vdash \langle \varphi_1 * \varphi_2 \rangle C_1 \parallel C_2 \langle \psi_1 * \psi_2 \rangle} \text{PAR}$$

$$z := 1 \text{ ; } (x \approx \mathbf{Ber} \left(\frac{z}{2} \right) \parallel y \approx \mathbf{Ber} \left(\frac{z}{2} \right))$$

Many threads to bring together

Many threads to bring together

Randomised Shared state breaks PAR invariants

Many threads to bring together

Randomised Shared state breaks PAR invariants

$$z \approx \mathbf{Ber} \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) \circ (x := z \parallel y := 1 - z)$$

Many threads to bring together

Randomised Shared state breaks PAR invariants

$$z \approx \mathbf{Ber} \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) \circ (x := z \parallel y := 1 - z)$$

x and y are conditionally independent on z .

Many threads to bring together

Randomised Shared state breaks PAR invariants

$$z \approx \mathbf{Ber} \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) \circ (x := z \parallel y := 1 - z)$$

x and y are conditionally independent on z .

Conditioning = breaking down **outcomes** of sampling operation

$$z \sim \mathbf{Ber}(1/2) \text{ expands to } \bigoplus_{Z \sim \mathbf{Ber}(1/2)} z \mapsto Z$$

PCOL: probabilistic concurrent outcome logic

Key Ingredients in the Logic

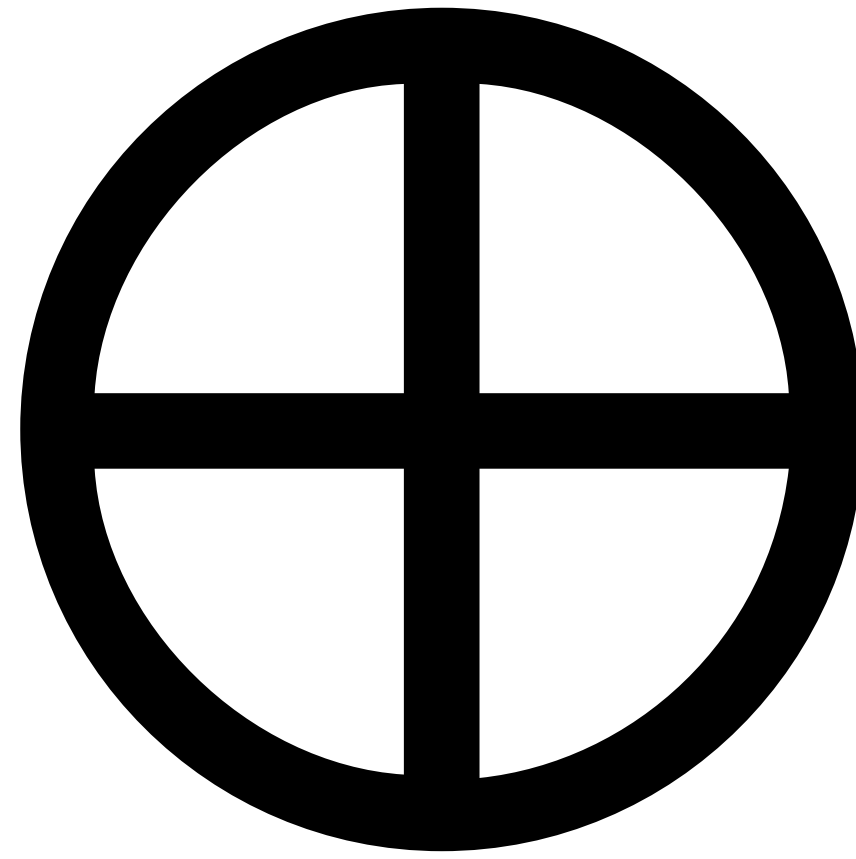
$$\bigoplus \quad z \mapsto Z \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi \star \psi$$

$Z \sim \text{Ber}(1/2)$

The devil is in the details aka semantics!

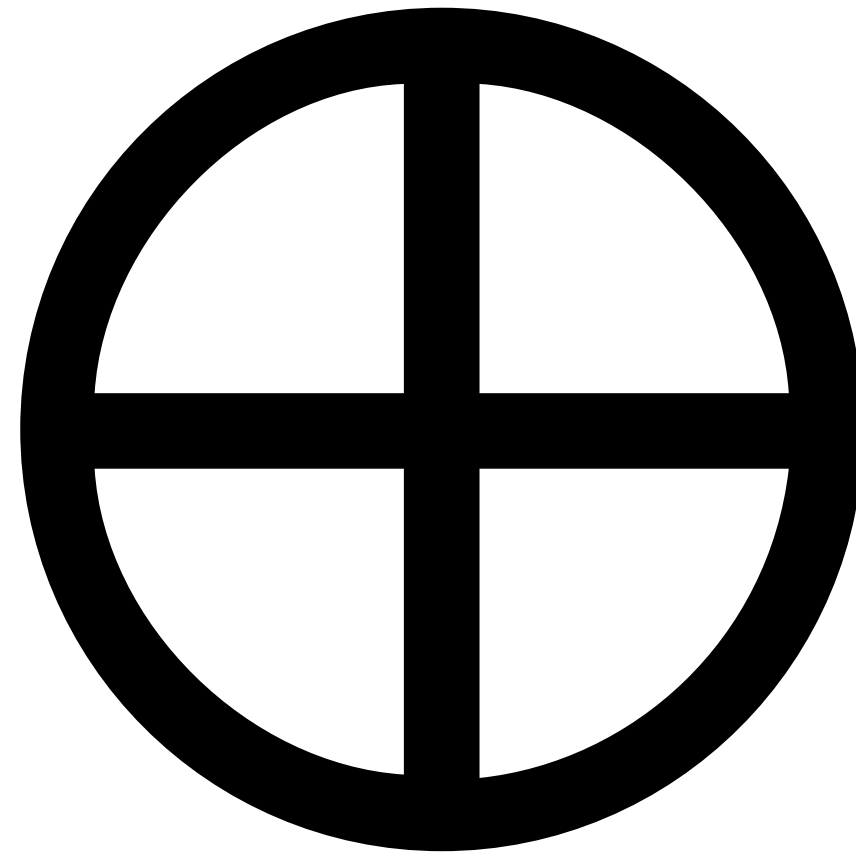


Outcomes



Originally developed in Outcome Logic to unify correctness and incorrectness

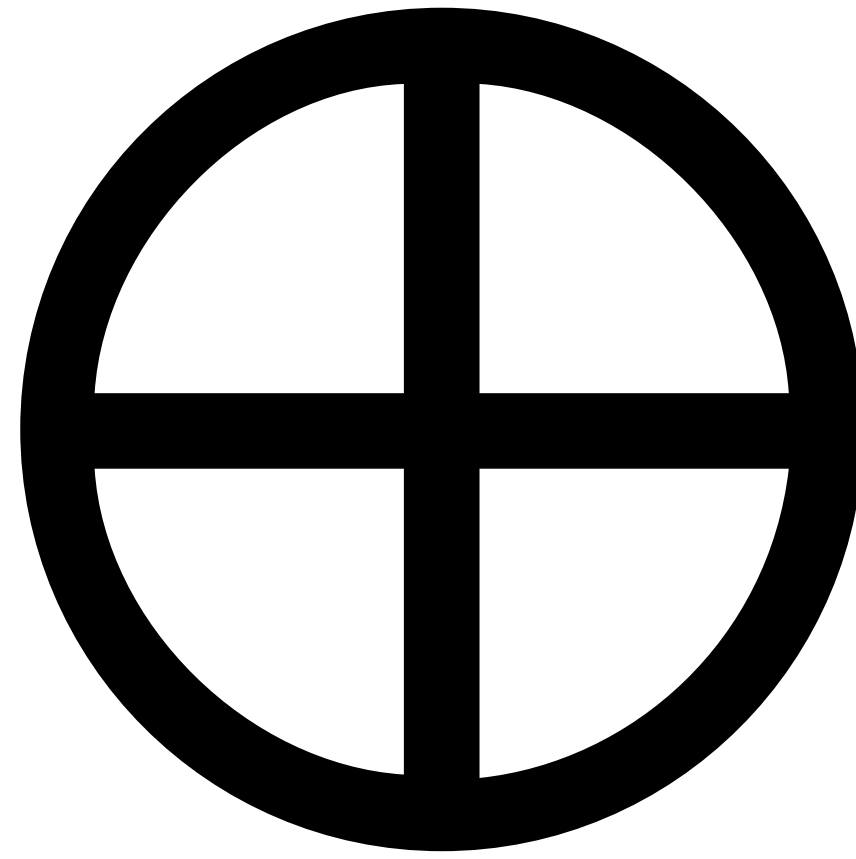
Outcomes



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Probabilistic setting: enables reasoning on **entire distribution** of program outcomes

Outcomes



Originally developed in Outcome Logic to unify correctness and incorrectness

Probabilistic setting: enables reasoning on **entire distribution** of program outcomes

Key for probabilistic concurrency: program outcomes can be effectful and composed

Back to the devil



Probability

Markov Kernels

Convex spaces

Back to the devil



Probability

Markov Kernels

Convex spaces

Concurrency

Pomsets

Event Structures

Back to the devil



Probability

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Control Flow

Boolean Algebra

Control-Flow Graphs

Back to the devil



Probability

+

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Back to the devil



Probability

+

Concurrency

+

Control Flow

Back to the devil



Probability

+

Concurrency

+

Control Flow

**Pomset
with
Formulae**

Back to the devil



Probability

+

Concurrency

+

Control Flow

Pomset

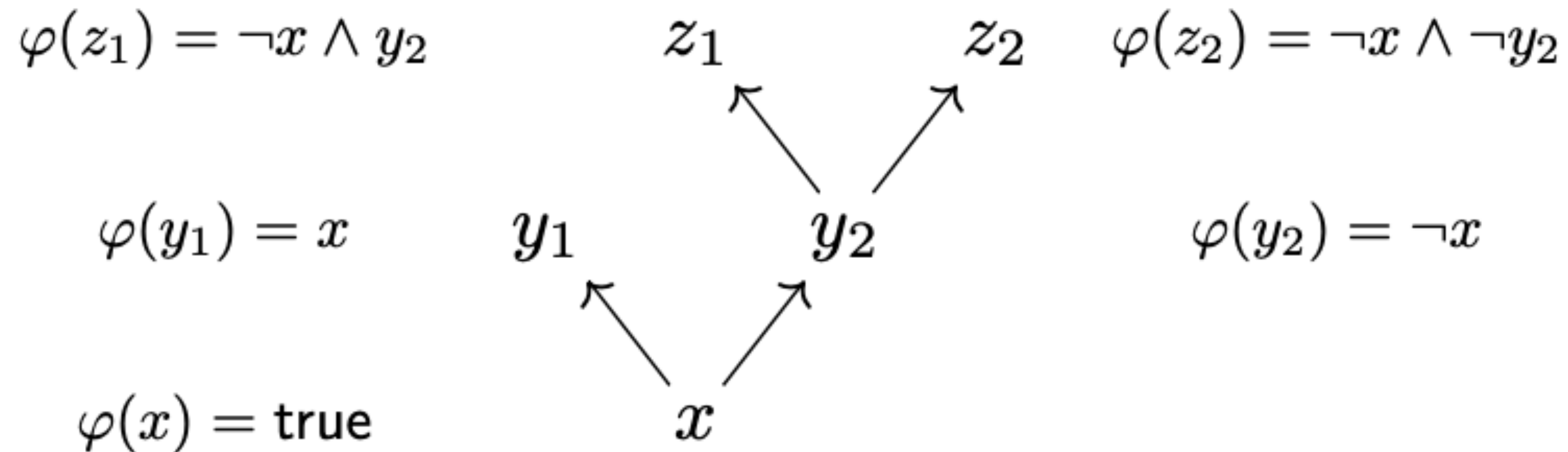
with

Formulae

Nodes abstract
probabilistic actions

Pomset with formulae

if b_1 $\{a_1\}$ **else** $\{\text{if } b_2 \{a_2\} \text{ else } \{a_3\}\}$



PCOL: probabilistic outcome logic

$$\begin{aligned} C ::= & \mathbf{skip} \\ & | C_1; C_2 \\ & | C_1 \mid C_2 \\ & | \mathbf{if} \ b \ \{C_1\} \ \mathbf{else} \ \{C_2\} \\ & | \mathbf{while} \ b \ \{C\} \\ & | a \end{aligned}$$

PCOL: probabilistic outcome logic

$$\llbracket - \rrbracket : cmd \rightarrow pom$$

$$\llbracket \mathbf{skip} \rrbracket \triangleq \langle \text{fork} \rangle$$

$$\llbracket C_1; C_2 \rrbracket \triangleq \llbracket C_1 \rrbracket \mathbin{;} \llbracket C_2 \rrbracket$$

$$\llbracket C_1 \mid C_2 \rrbracket \triangleq \llbracket C_1 \rrbracket \parallel \llbracket C_2 \rrbracket$$

$$\llbracket \mathbf{if} \ b \ \{C_1\} \ \mathbf{else} \ \{C_2\} \rrbracket \triangleq \text{guard}(b, \llbracket C_1 \rrbracket, \llbracket C_2 \rrbracket)$$

$$\llbracket \mathbf{while} \ b \ \{C\} \rrbracket \triangleq \text{lfp}(\Phi_{\langle C, b \rangle})$$

$$\llbracket a \rrbracket \triangleq \langle a \rangle$$

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New pomset
operations



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New pomset
operations



Getting this as a fixpoint is
where a lot of the work is!

PCOL: probabilistic outcome logic

$$\varphi ::= \top \mid \perp \mid \varphi \wedge \psi \mid \varphi \vee \psi \mid \bigoplus_{X \sim d(E)} \varphi \mid \varphi * \psi \mid [P]$$

PCOL: probabilistic outcome logic

$$\varphi ::= \top \mid \perp \mid \varphi \wedge \psi \mid \varphi \vee \psi \mid \bigoplus_{X \sim d(E)} \varphi \mid \varphi * \psi \mid \lceil P \rceil$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \frac{}{I \vdash \langle \varphi \rangle \text{ skip } \langle \varphi \rangle} \text{SKIP} \quad \frac{I \vdash \langle \varphi \rangle C_1 \langle \vartheta \rangle \quad I \vdash \langle \vartheta \rangle C_2 \langle \psi \rangle}{I \vdash \langle \varphi \rangle C_1 ; C_2 \langle \psi \rangle} \text{SEQ} \quad \frac{\forall 0 \leq k \leq n-1. \quad I \vdash \langle \varphi_k \rangle C \langle \varphi_{k+1} \rangle}{I \vdash \langle \varphi_0 \rangle \text{ for } n \text{ do } C \langle \varphi_n \rangle} \text{FOR} \\[10pt] \frac{\varphi \Rightarrow \lceil b \mapsto \text{true} \rceil \quad I \vdash \langle \varphi \rangle C_1 \langle \psi \rangle}{I \vdash \langle \varphi \rangle \text{ if } b \text{ then } C_1 \text{ else } C_2 \langle \psi \rangle} \text{IF1} \quad \frac{\varphi \Rightarrow \lceil b \mapsto \text{false} \rceil \quad I \vdash \langle \varphi \rangle C_2 \langle \psi \rangle}{I \vdash \langle \varphi \rangle \text{ if } b \text{ then } C_1 \text{ else } C_2 \langle \psi \rangle} \text{IF2} \\[10pt] \frac{I \vdash \langle \varphi_1 \rangle C_1 \langle \psi_1 \rangle \quad I \vdash \langle \varphi_2 \rangle C_2 \langle \psi_2 \rangle \quad \text{precise}(\psi_1, \psi_2)}{I \vdash \langle \varphi_1 * \varphi_2 \rangle C_1 \parallel C_2 \langle \psi_1 * \psi_2 \rangle} \text{PAR} \\[10pt] \frac{(\varphi * \lceil x \mapsto E \rceil) \Rightarrow \lceil e \mapsto E' \rceil}{I \vdash \langle \varphi * \lceil x \mapsto E \rceil \rangle x := e \langle \varphi * \lceil x \mapsto E' \rceil \rangle} \text{ASSIGN} \quad \frac{(\varphi * \lceil x \mapsto E \rceil) \Rightarrow \lceil e \mapsto E' \rceil}{I \vdash \langle \varphi * \lceil x \mapsto E \rceil \rangle x \approx d(e) \langle \varphi * (x \sim d(E')) \rangle} \text{SAMP} \end{array}$$

PCOL: probabilistic outcome logic

$$\varphi ::= \top \mid \perp \mid \varphi \wedge \psi \mid \varphi \vee \psi \mid \bigoplus_{X \sim d(E)} \varphi \mid \varphi * \psi \mid \llbracket P \rrbracket$$

$$\frac{}{I \vdash \langle \llbracket x \mapsto - \rrbracket \rangle x : \approx d \langle x \sim d \rangle} \text{SAMP}$$

Back to the example

$$y := 0 \circ \left(x_1 := y \circ x_2 \approx \mathbf{Ber} \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) \circ z := \text{xor}(x_1, x_2) \parallel y := 1 \right)$$

Back to the example

$$y := 0 \circ \left(x_1 := y \circ x_2 \approx \mathbf{Ber}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \circ z := \text{xor}(x_1, x_2) \parallel y := 1 \right)$$

$$\{ \top \} \subseteq \{ z \sim \mathbf{Ber}(1/2) \}$$

Back to the example

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$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{}{\langle \lceil y \mapsto Y * (Y = 0 \vee Y = 1) * x_1 \mapsto X \rceil \rangle x_1 := y \langle \lceil x_1 \mapsto Y * y \mapsto Y * (Y = 0 \vee Y = 1) \rceil \rangle} \text{ASSIGN} \\
 \frac{}{\langle \lceil y \mapsto Y * (Y = 0 \vee Y = 1) * x_1 \mapsto X \rceil \rangle x_1 := y \langle \lceil x_1 \in \{0, 1\} \rceil * \lceil y \in \{0, 1\} \rceil \rangle} \text{CONSEQUENCE} \\
 \frac{}{\langle \lceil \text{own}(x_1) \rceil * \lceil y \in \{0, 1\} \rceil \rangle x_1 := y \langle \lceil x_1 \in \{0, 1\} \rceil * \lceil y \in \{0, 1\} \rceil \rangle} \text{EXISTS } \times 2 \\
 \frac{}{y \in \{0, 1\} \vdash \langle \lceil \text{own}(x_1) \rceil \rangle x_1 := y \langle \lceil x_1 \in \{0, 1\} \rceil \rangle} \text{ATOM}
 \end{array}$$

Value of assignment is non-det!

Back to the example

$$y := 0 \circ \left(x_1 := y \circ x_2 \approx \mathbf{Ber} \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) \circ z := \text{xor}(x_1, x_2) \parallel y := 1 \right)$$

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 \end{array}$$

Value of assignment is non-det!

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{}{\langle \lceil \text{own}(x_2) \rceil \rangle x_2 \approx \mathbf{Ber} (1/2) \langle x_2 \sim \mathbf{Ber} (1/2) \rangle} \text{SAMP} \\
 \frac{}{\langle \lceil x_1 \mapsto X \rceil * \lceil \text{own}(x_2, z) \rceil \rangle x_2 \approx \mathbf{Ber} (1/2) \langle \lceil x_1 \mapsto X \rceil * (x_2 \sim \mathbf{Ber} (1/2)) * \lceil \text{own}(z) \rceil \rangle} \text{FRAME} \\
 \frac{}{\langle \lceil x_1 \mapsto X \rceil * \lceil \text{own}(x_2, z) \rceil \rangle x_2 \approx \mathbf{Ber} (1/2) \circ z := \text{xor}(x_1, x_2) \langle z \sim \mathbf{Ber} (1/2) \rangle} \text{SEQ} \\
 \frac{}{\langle \lceil x_1 \in \{0, 1\} \rceil * \lceil \text{own}(x_2, z) \rceil \rangle x_2 \approx \mathbf{Ber} (1/2) \circ z := \text{xor}(x_1, x_2) \langle z \sim \mathbf{Ber} (1/2) \rangle} \text{EXISTS}
 \end{array}$$

Value of z is a fair coin!

Probabilistic Concurrent Programs

- *Randomized distributed systems have been studied for decades*
- *Interactions between randomization and concurrency are subtle*
- *Formal models ensure correctness*
- *Program Logics enable compositional proofs*

Probabilistic Concurrent Programs

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- *Formal models ensure correctness*
- *Program Logics enable compositional proofs*

Our work builds a **new denotational model** and **program logics** — work in progress, more on the way!

Probabilistic Concurrent Outcome Logic



Noam Zilberstein

<https://www.cs.cornell.edu/~noamz/>