

**PMAF: AN ALGEBRAIC FRAMEWORK FOR  
STATIC ANALYSIS OF PROBABILISTIC PROGRAMS**

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<sup>1</sup> Carnegie Mellon University

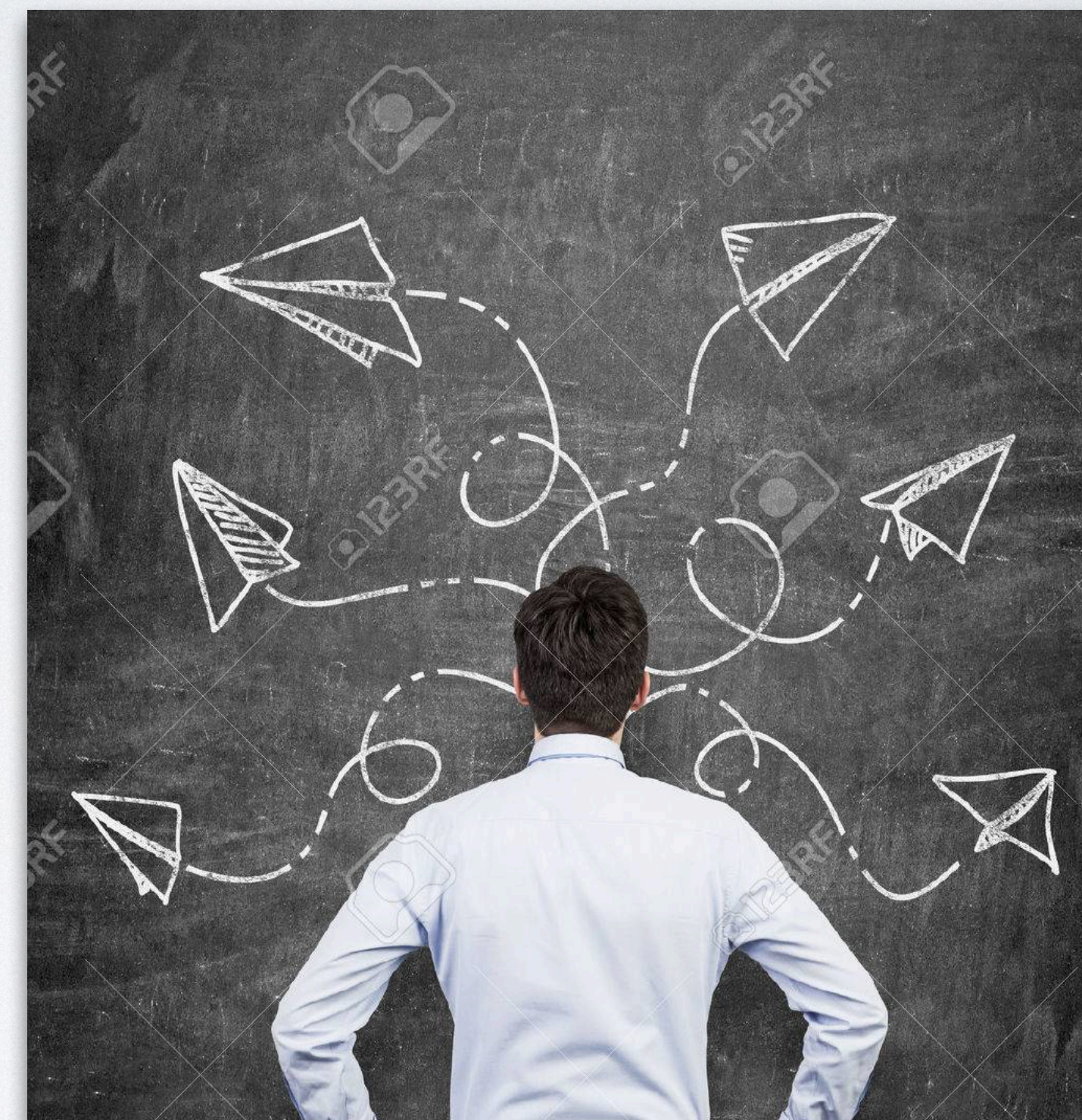
<sup>2</sup> University of Wisconsin; GrammaTech, Inc.



# PROBABILISTIC PROGRAMS



Draw random **data** from distributions



Condition **control-flow** at random



# PROBABILISTIC PROGRAMS

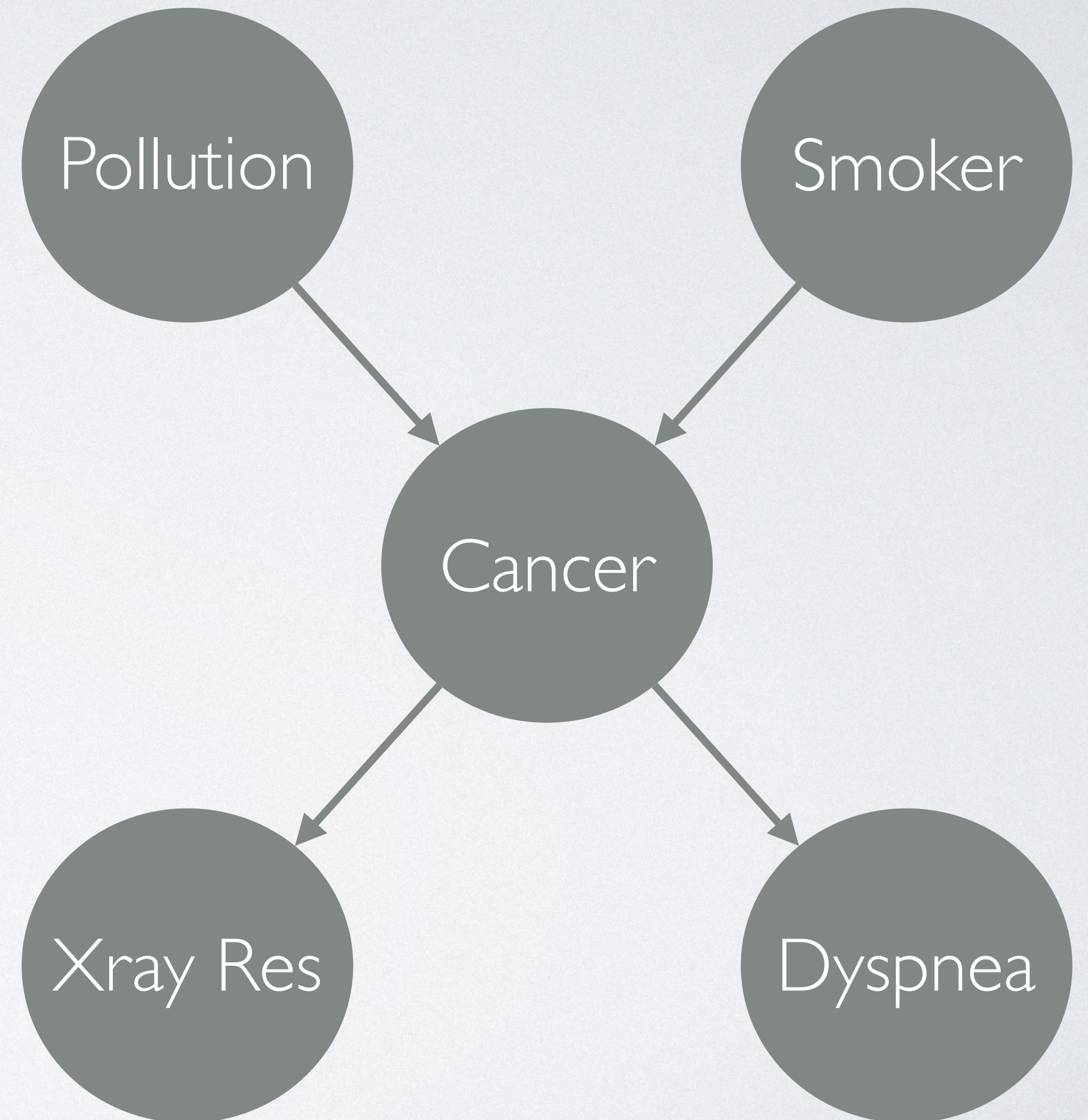
- ◆ True randomness
- ◆ Distributions on executions

```
b1 ~ Bernoulli(0.5);
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# BAYESIAN NETWORKS

- ◆ Conditional distributions
- ◆ Query about the posterior

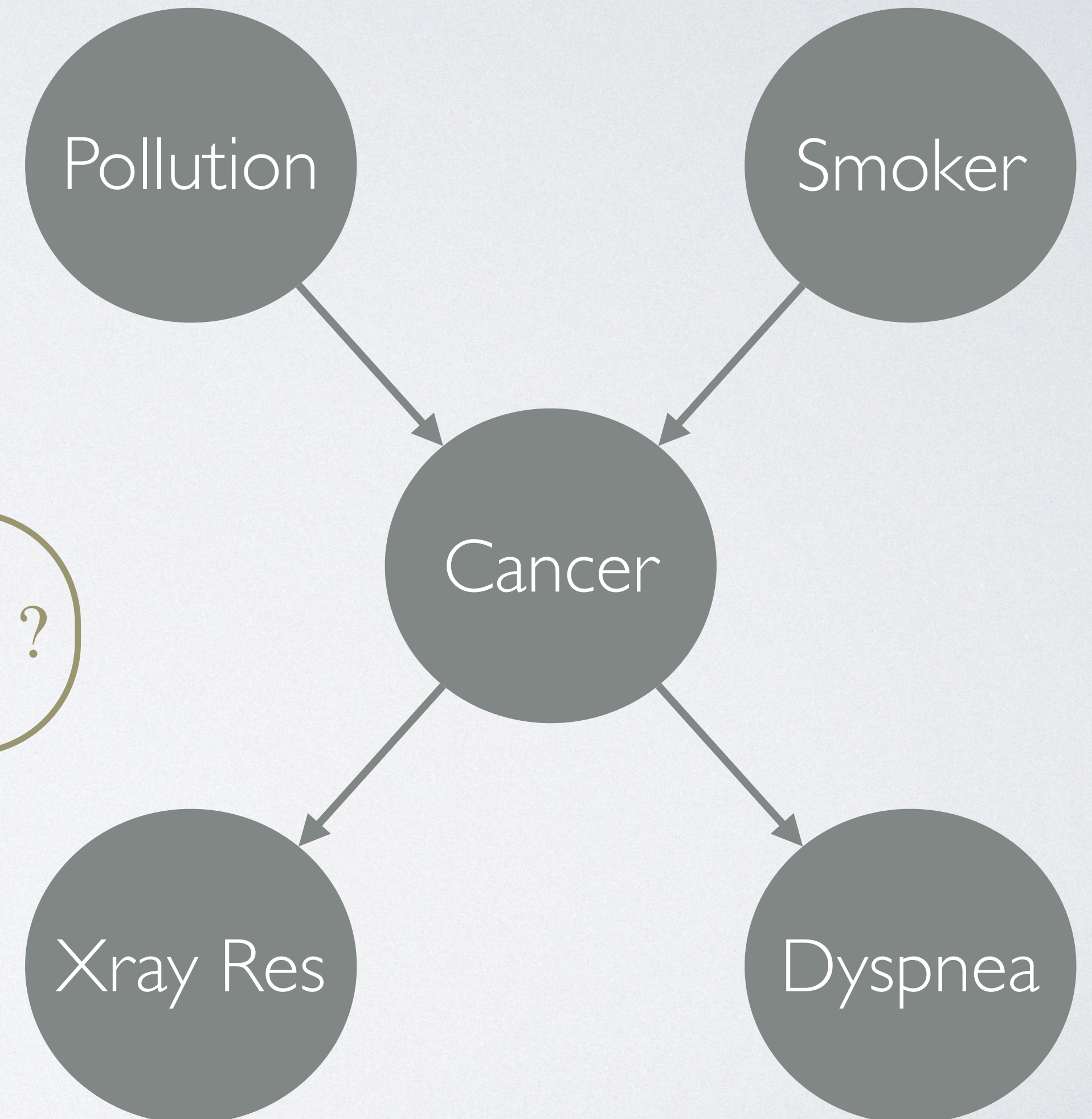




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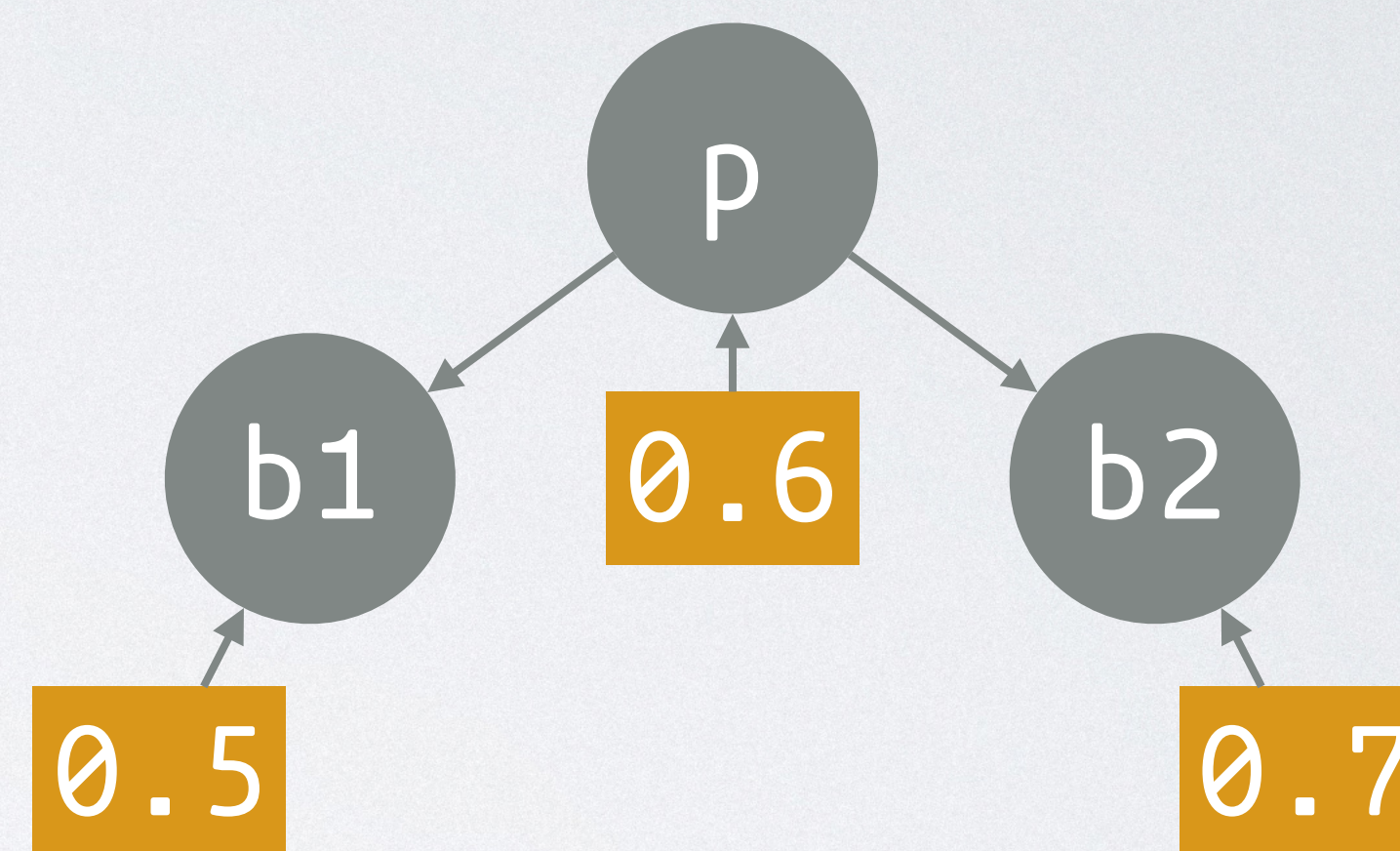
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**Prob**[Cancer | Smoker  $\wedge$  Xray Res] = ?





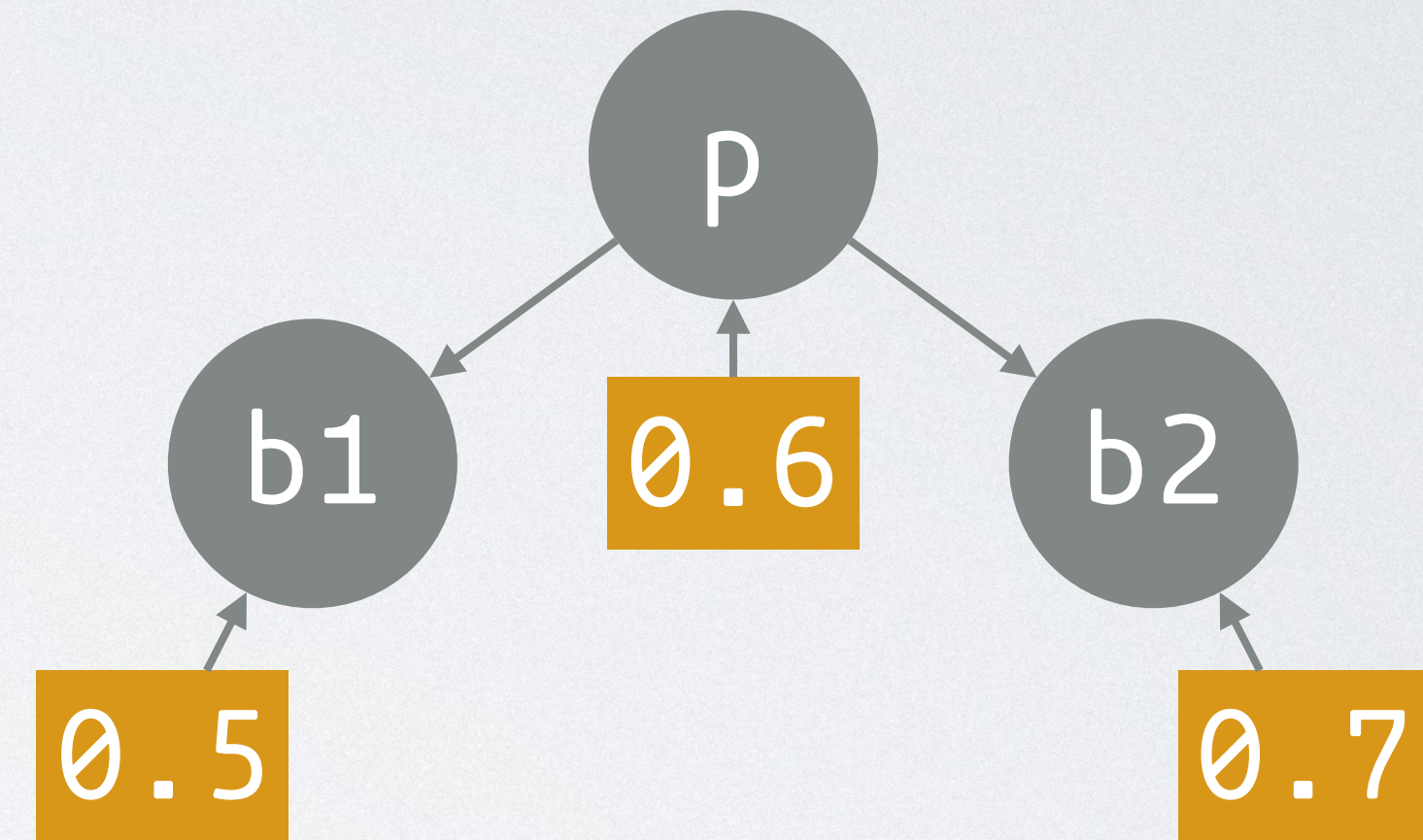
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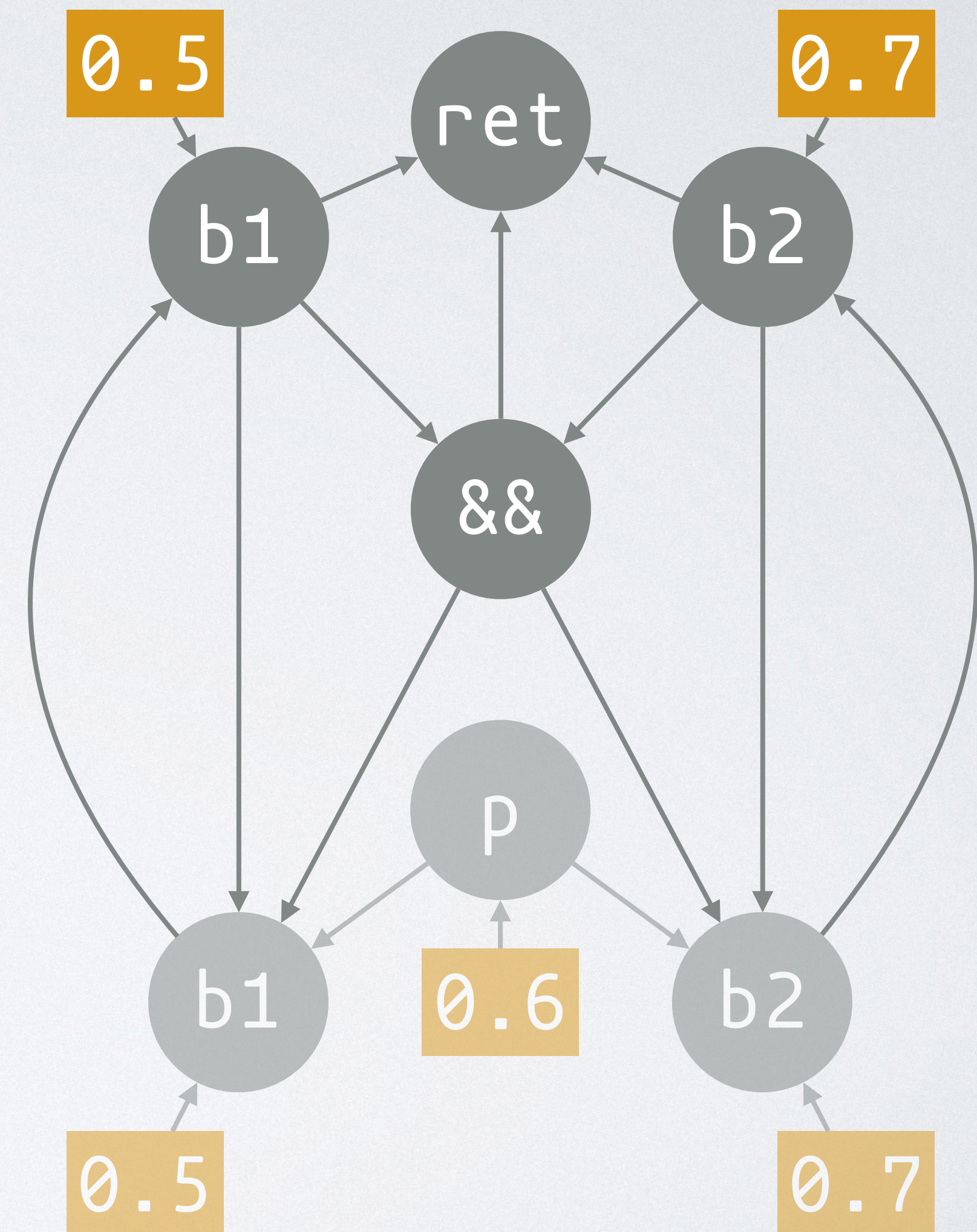
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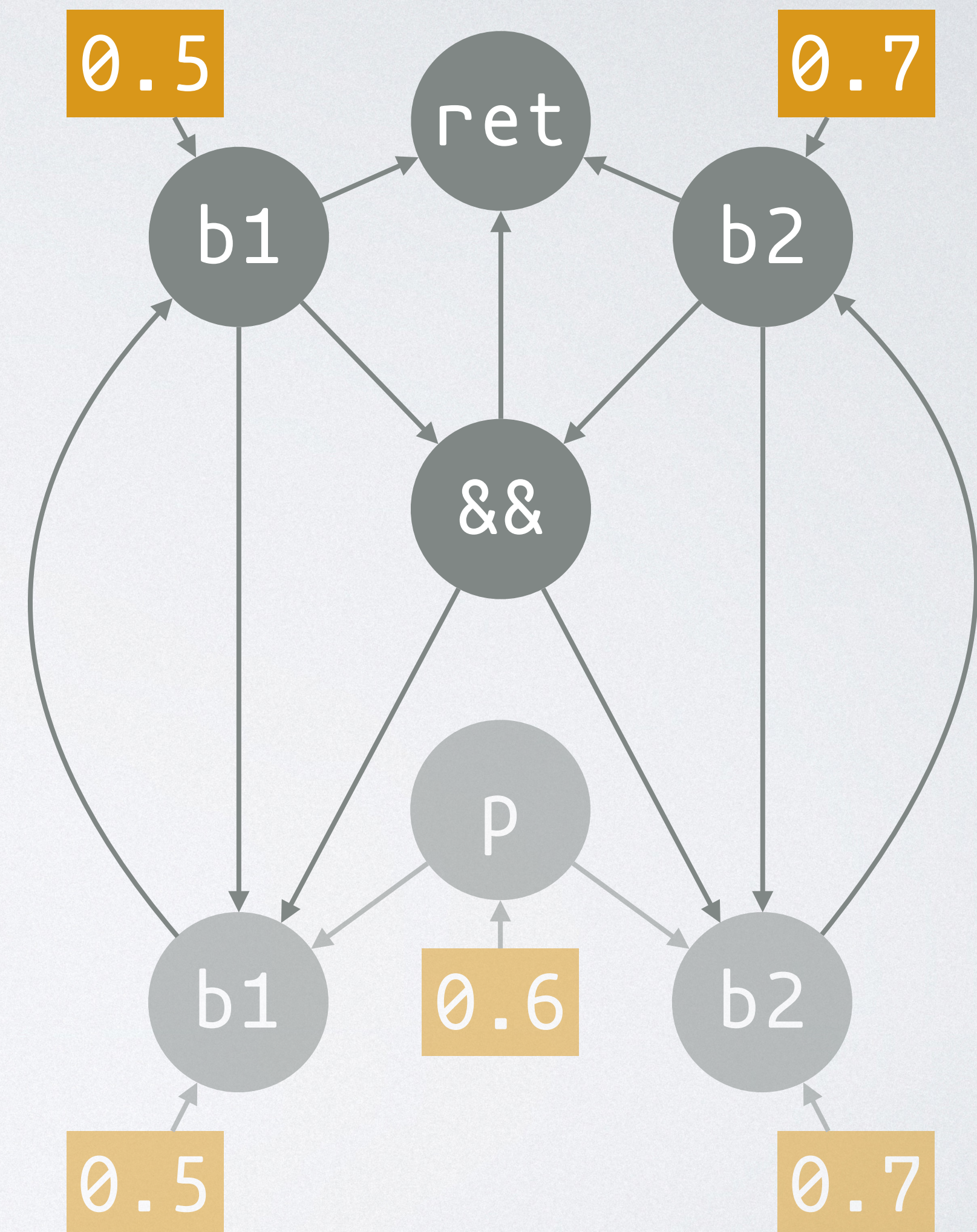




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- ◆ **Query:** probability that **b1** and **b2** are both **false**?

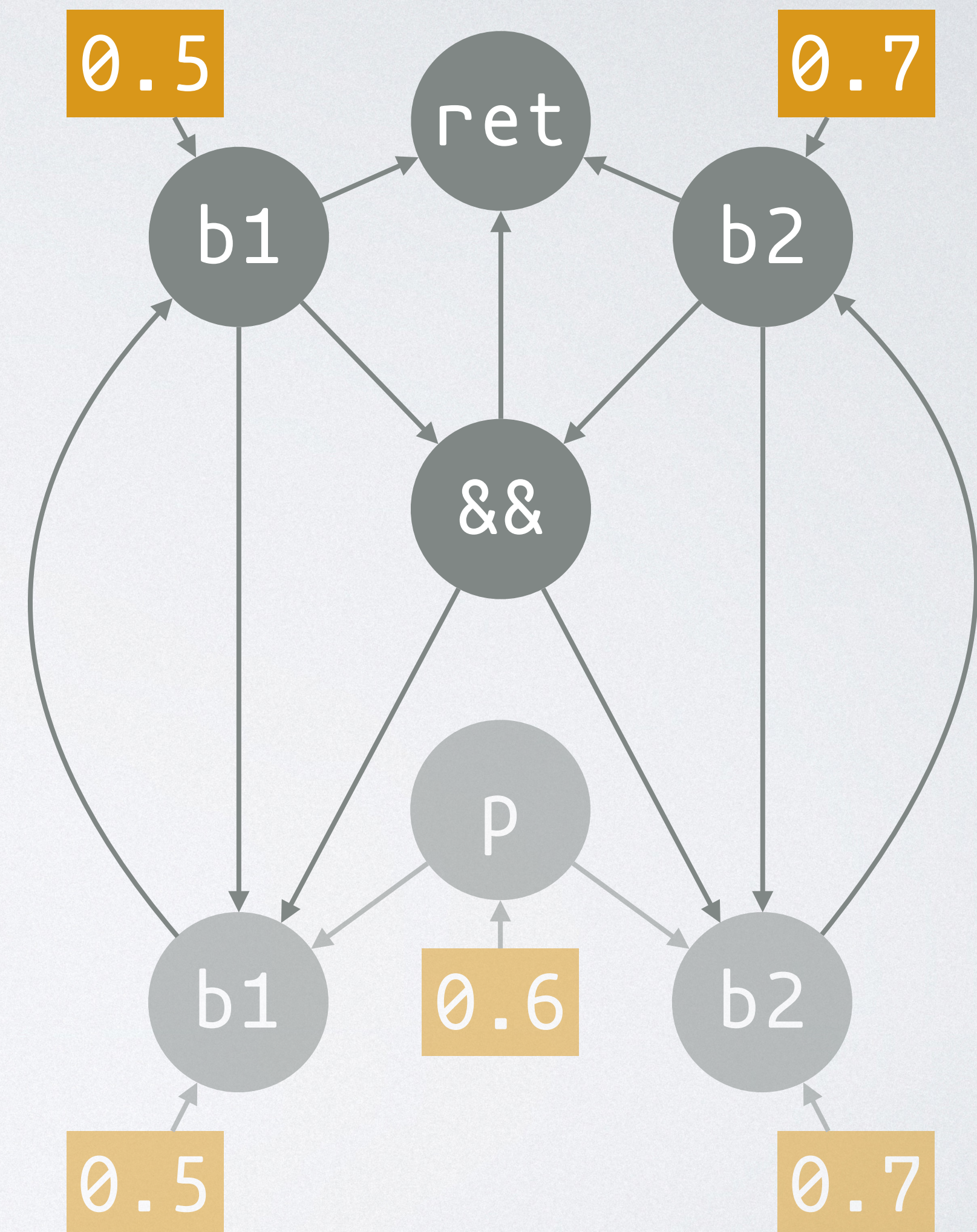




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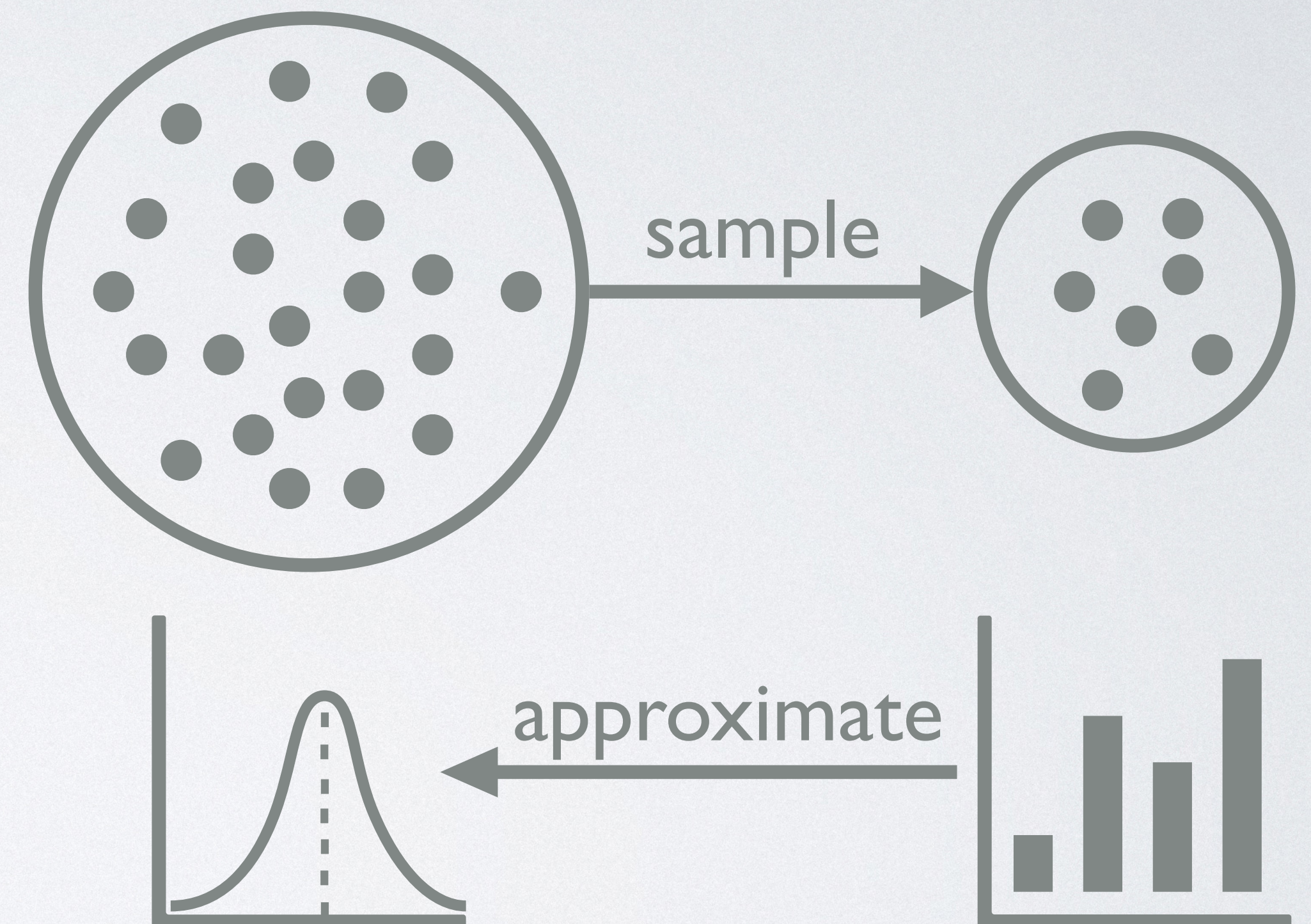
◆ Query: expected termination time?





# SAMPLING-BASED TECHNIQUES

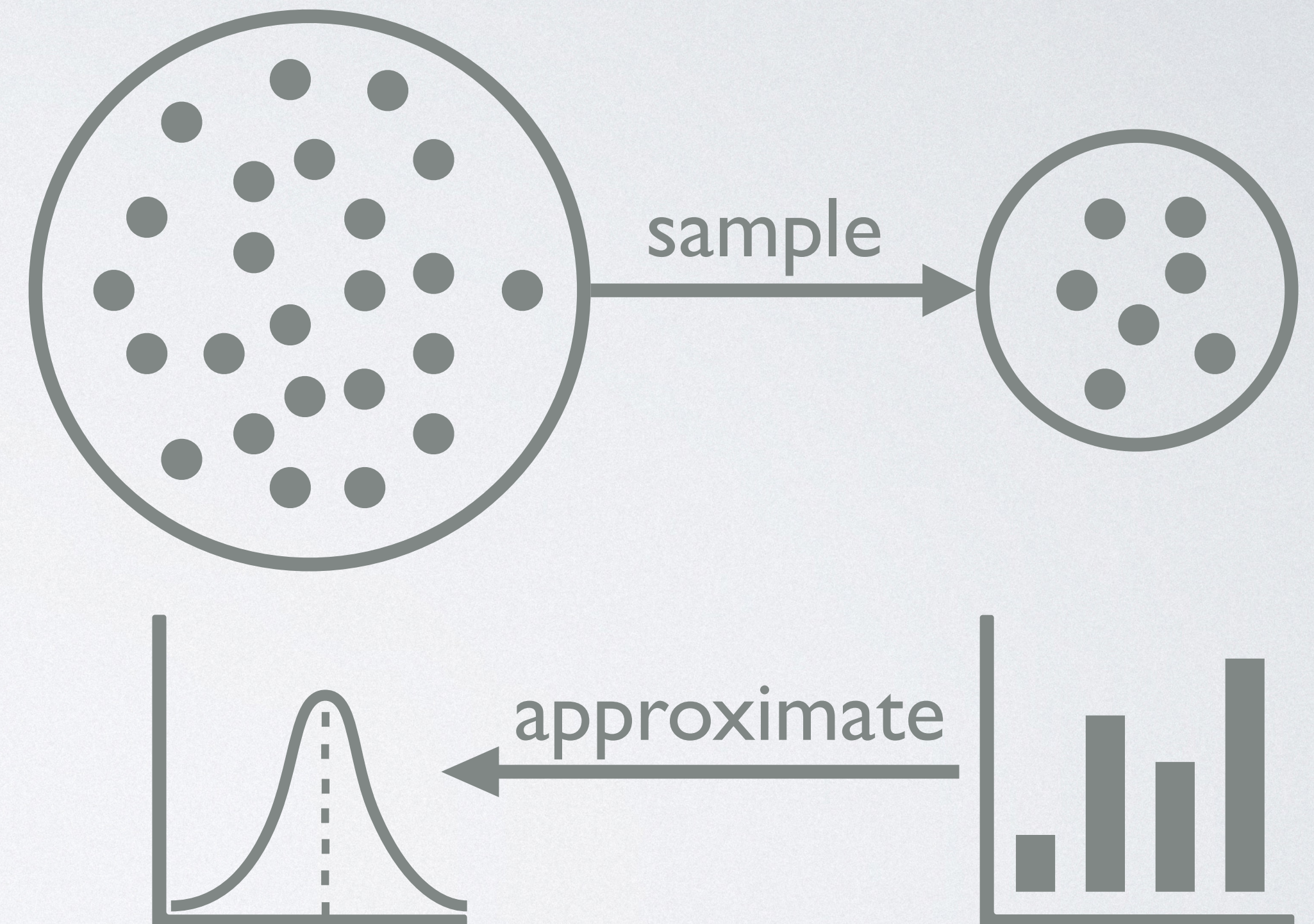
- ◆ Simulation & frequency count
- ◆ Flexible & universal
- ◆ Potentially unsound & inefficient





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What about **static analysis**?



# ABSTRACT INTERPRETATION

- ◆ Cousot et al. proposed **Probabilistic Abstract Interpretation**<sup>1</sup>
- ◆ **Sound**, flexible, and universal

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- ◆ **Sound**, flexible, and universal
- ◆ Their concrete semantics resolves probabilities *prior to* nondeterminism
- ◆ Sometimes desirable to resolve nondeterminism *prior to* probabilities

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# COUSOT ET AL.'S SEMANTICS

\* denotes nondeterministic choice

`tick(q)` increases  $T$  by  $q$

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$$\mathbb{E}[T] \in \frac{1}{4} \cdot \{1\} + \frac{1}{4} \cdot \{2\} + \frac{1}{4} \cdot \{1,2\} + \frac{1}{4} \cdot \{1,2\} = \{1.25, 1.5, 1.75\}$$



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Identical!

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while our semantics yields  $\mathbb{E}[T] = 1.5$



# CONTRIBUTIONS

- ◆ A denotational semantics with nondeterminism resolved first
- ◆ An **algebraic framework** for **interprocedural dataflow analysis** of **first-order probabilistic programs**



Recursion  
Unstructured control-flow  
Divergence  
Nondeterminism  
...



# CONTRIBUTIONS

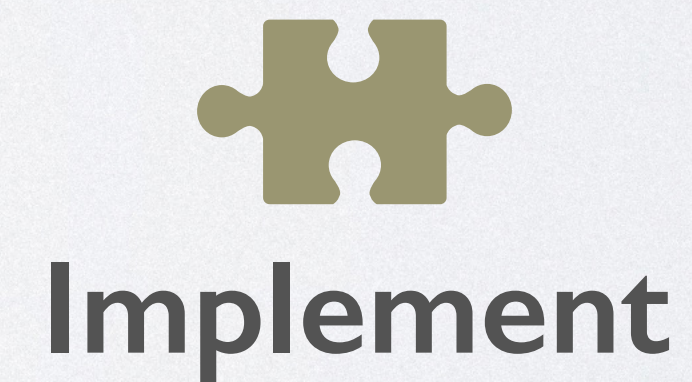
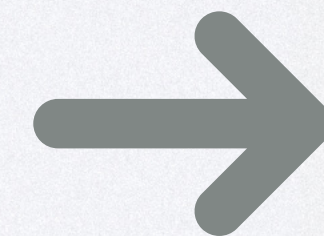
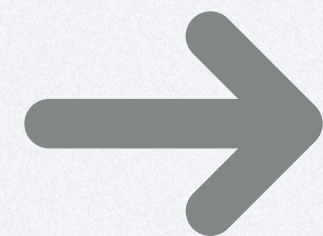
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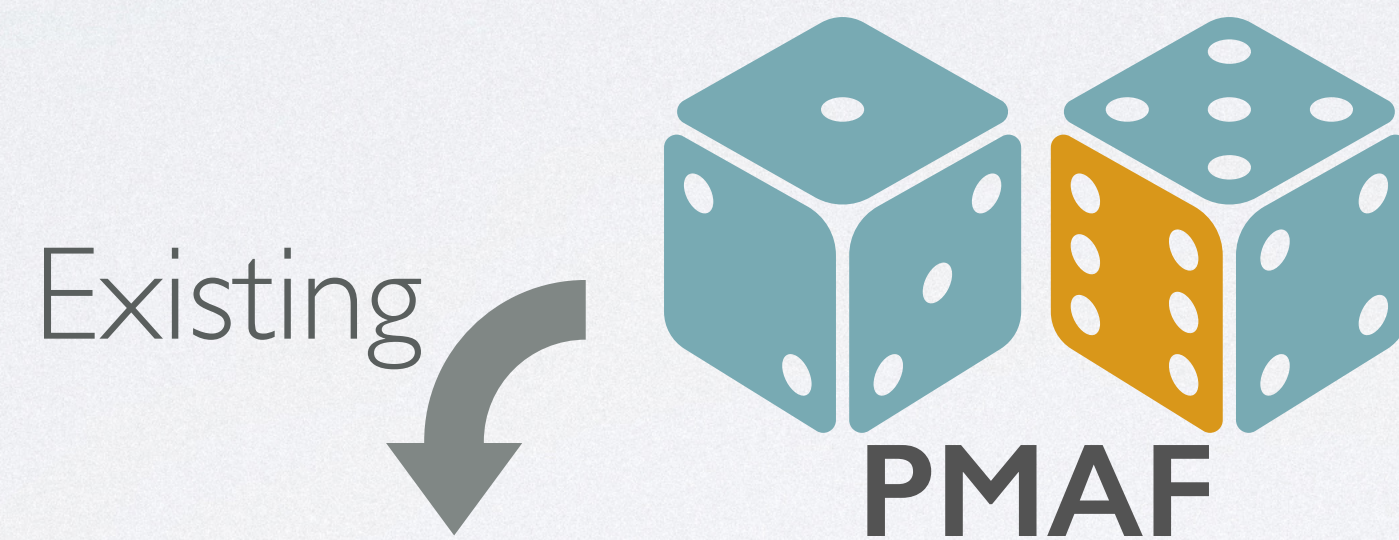
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- ◆ Markov Decision Problem



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- ◆ Bayesian Inference
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- ◆ **Expectation-Invariant Analysis**



# EXAMPLE ANALYSES

- ◆ Our **framework** can be instantiated to **prove**:
- ◆ the probability that **b1** and **b2** are both **false** at the end of the program = 0.15
- ◆ the expected termination time (ticks) = 5/6

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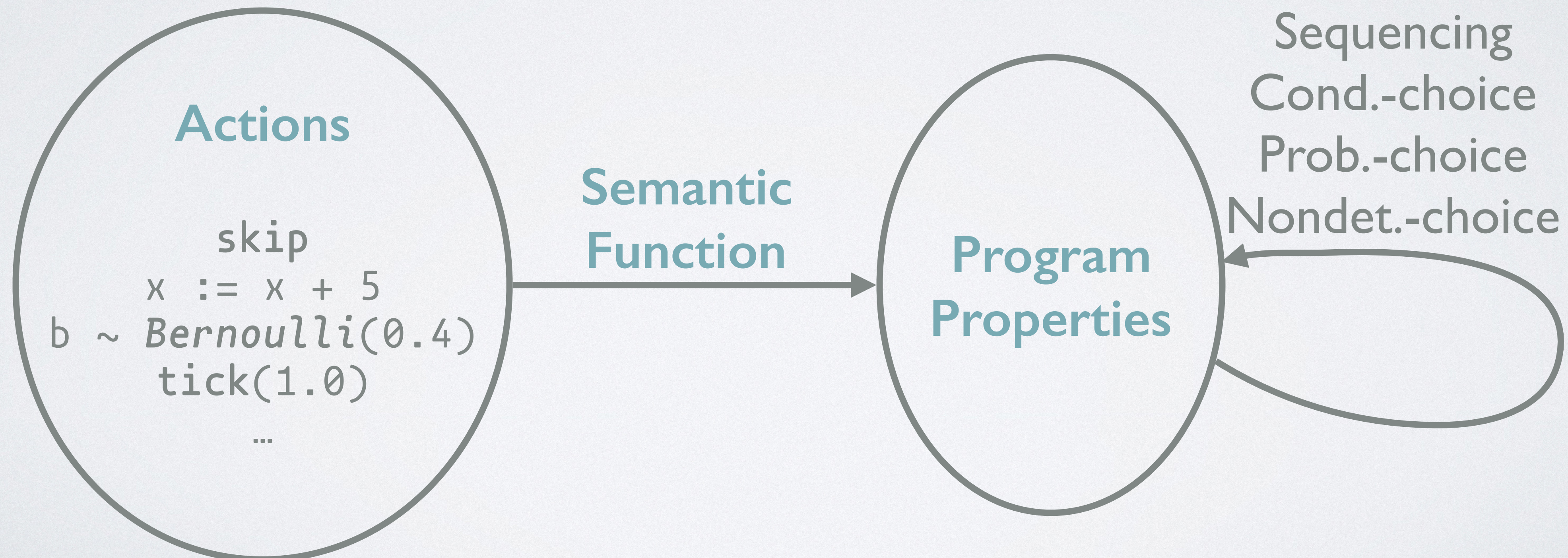
# OVERVIEW

- ☑ Motivation
- ☐ The Algebraic Framework
- ☐ Hyper-Graph Analysis
- ☐ Evaluation



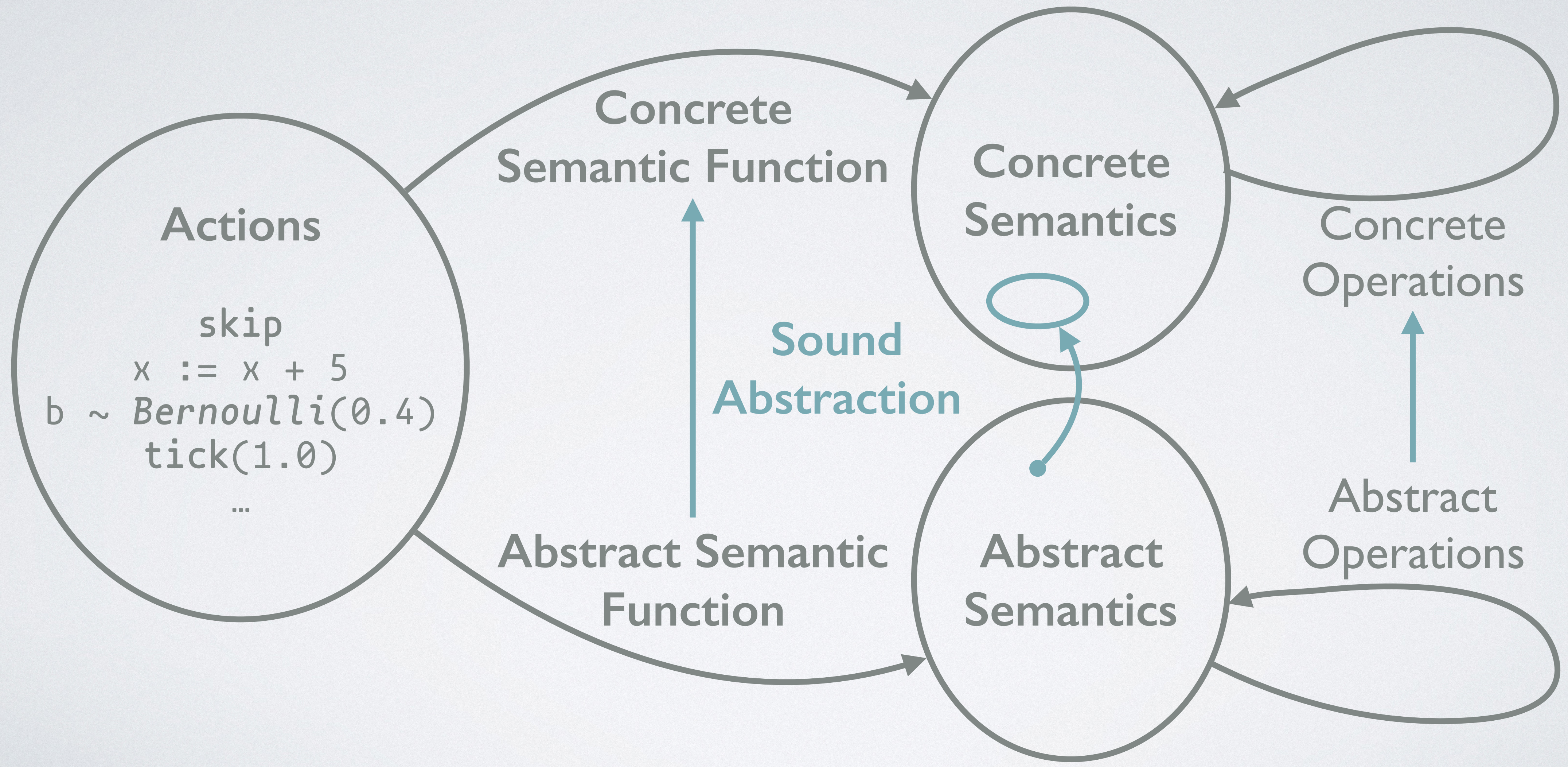
# THE ALGEBRAIC FRAMEWORK

Any static analysis method performs reasoning in some space of **program properties** and **property operations**





# THE ALGEBRAIC FRAMEWORK





# THE ALGEBRAIC FRAMEWORK

- ◆ Characterize program properties and property operations by **algebraic laws**



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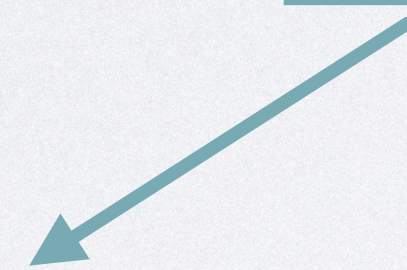
$$\langle M, \sqsubseteq, \otimes, \varphi^\diamond, \oplus, \cup, \perp, \underline{1} \rangle$$



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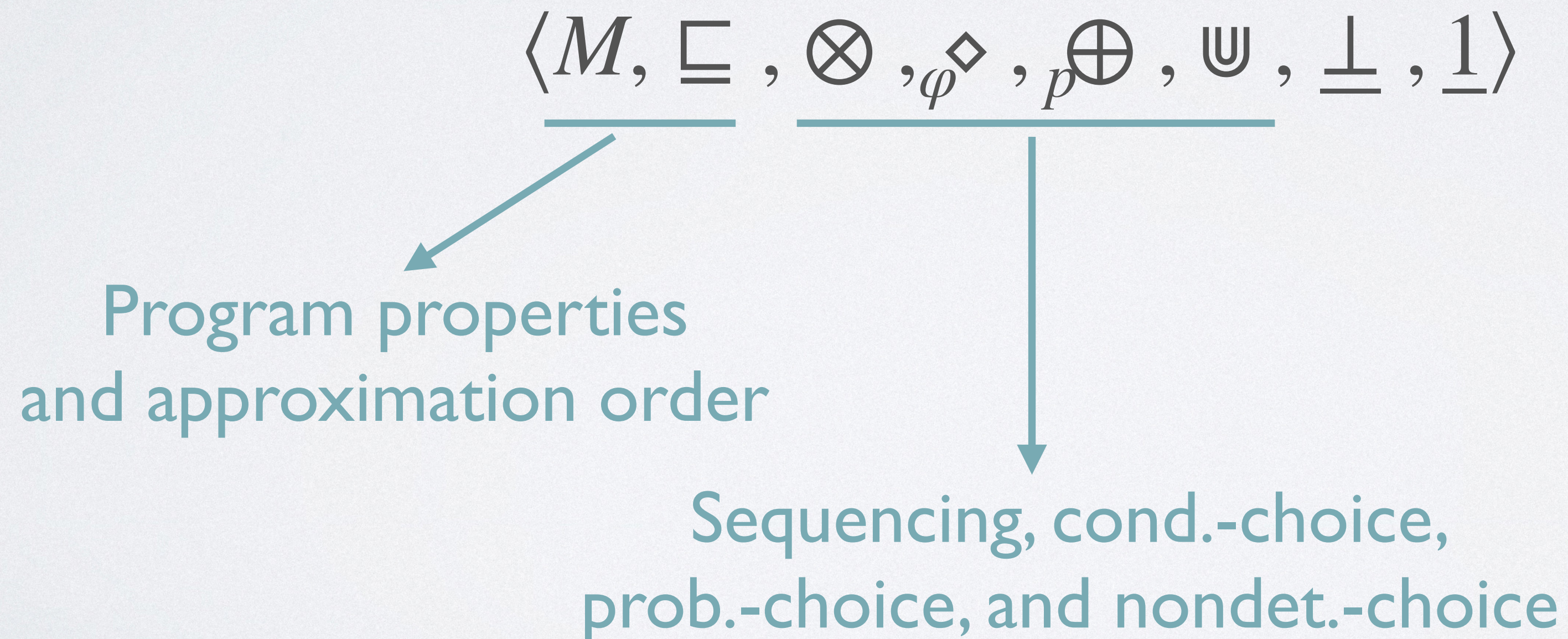


Program properties  
and approximation order



# THE ALGEBRAIC FRAMEWORK

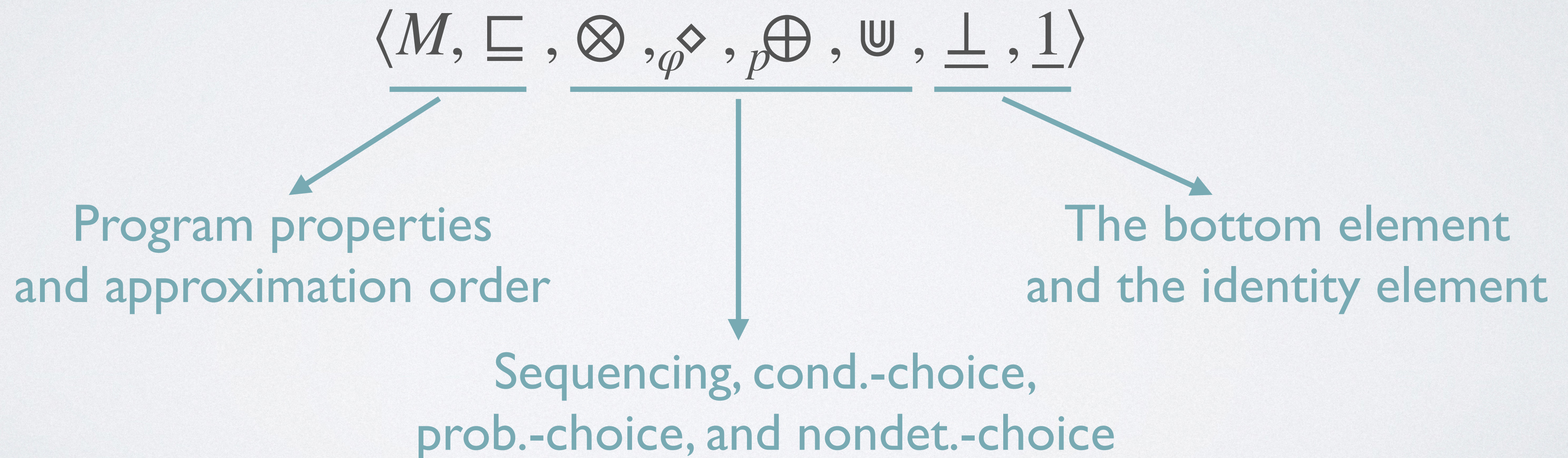
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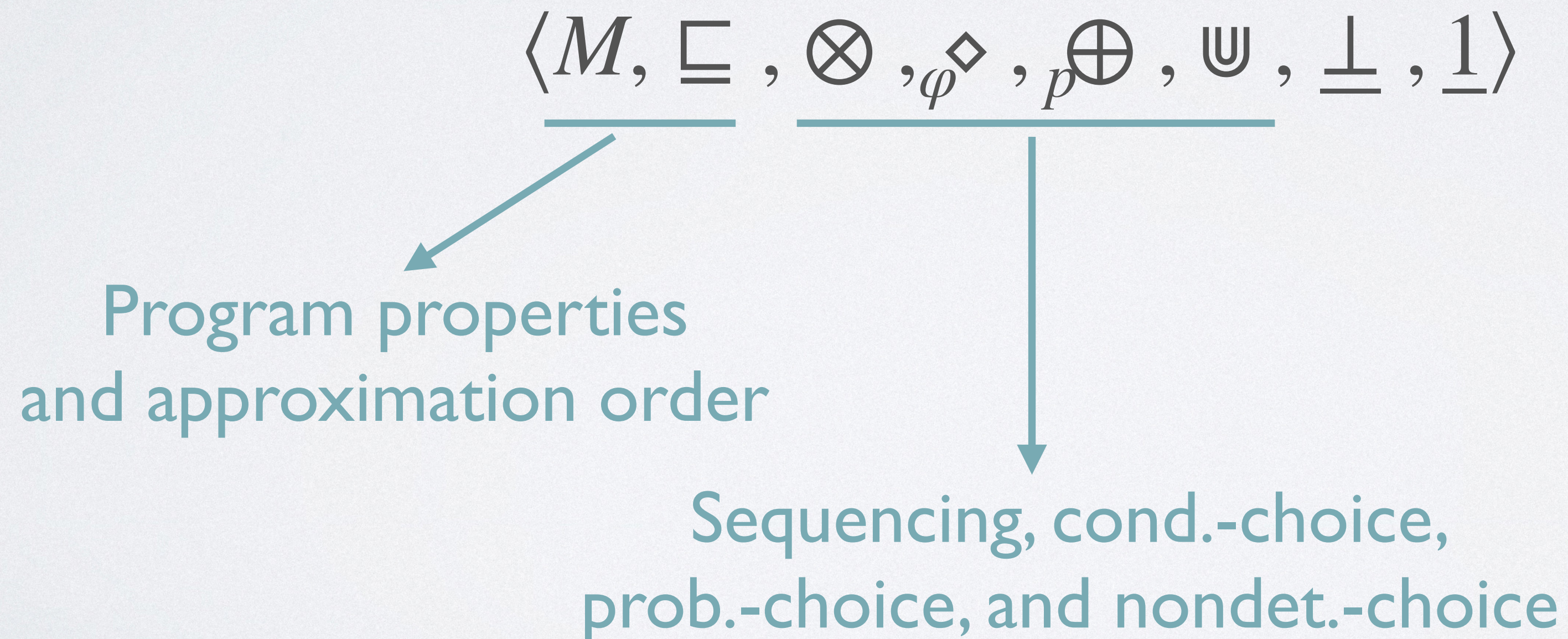
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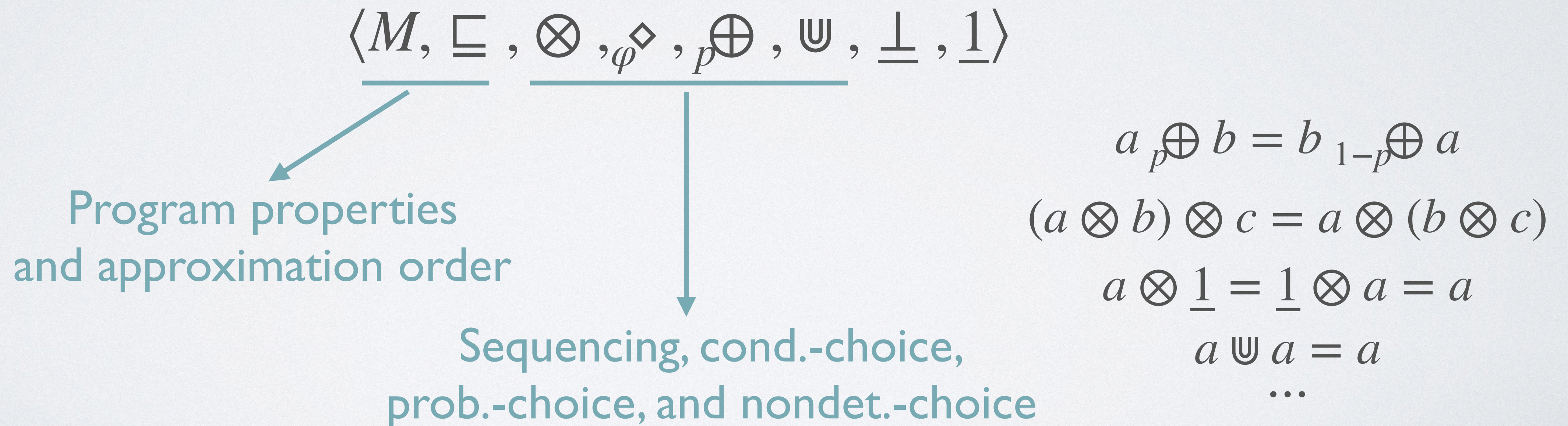
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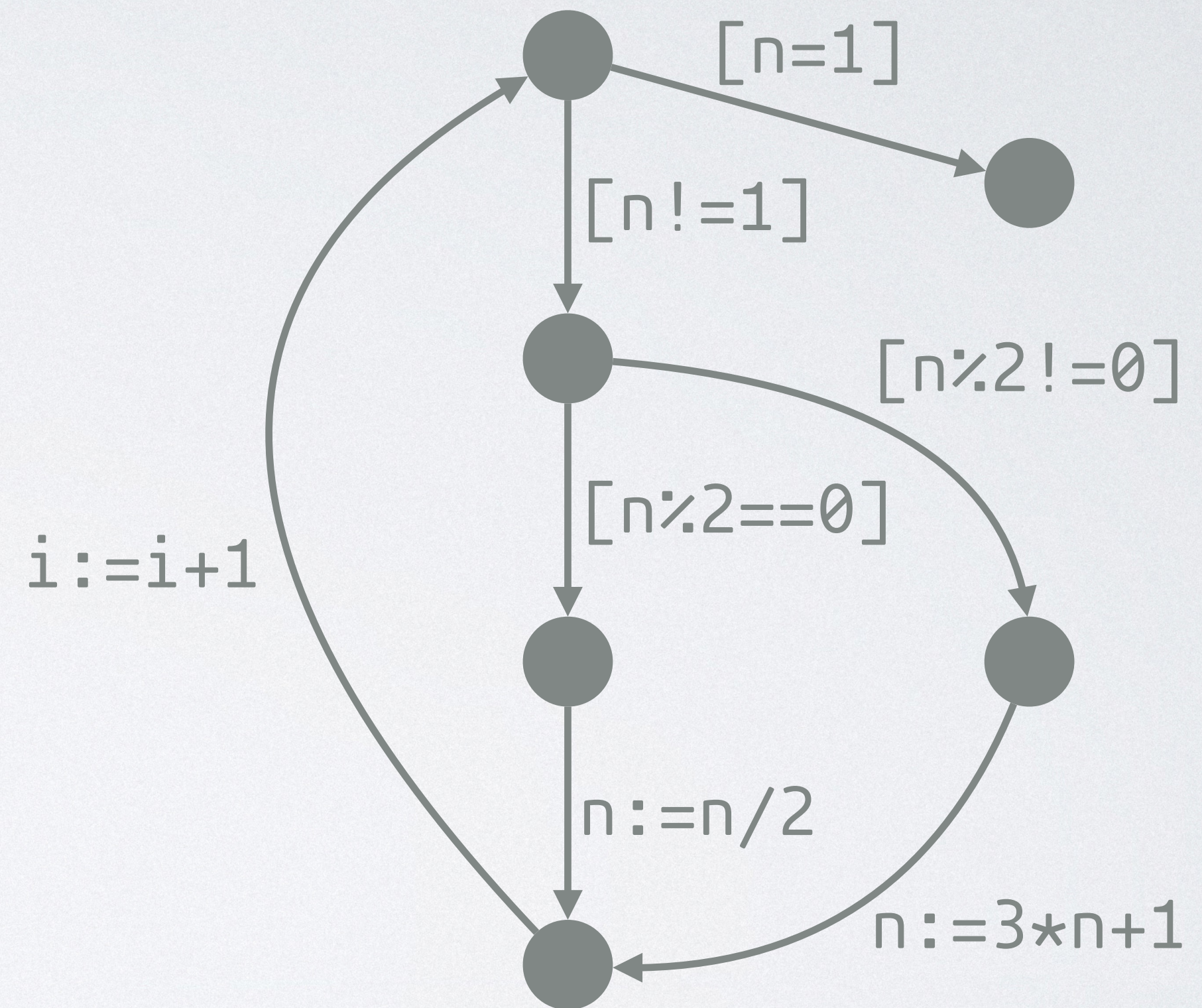
# OVERVIEW

- Motivation
- The Algebraic Framework
- Hyper-Graph Analysis
- Evaluation



# PROGRAM SEMANTICS

- ◆ Control-flow graphs
- ◆ Reason about **paths**
- ◆ Paths are **independent**





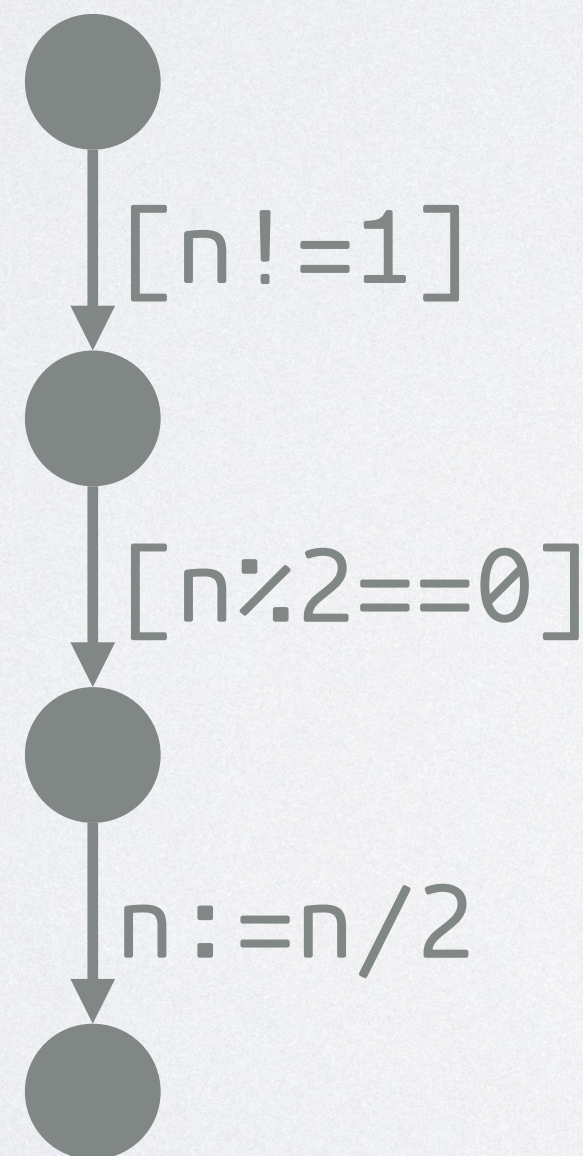
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- ◆ Reason about **distributions over paths**
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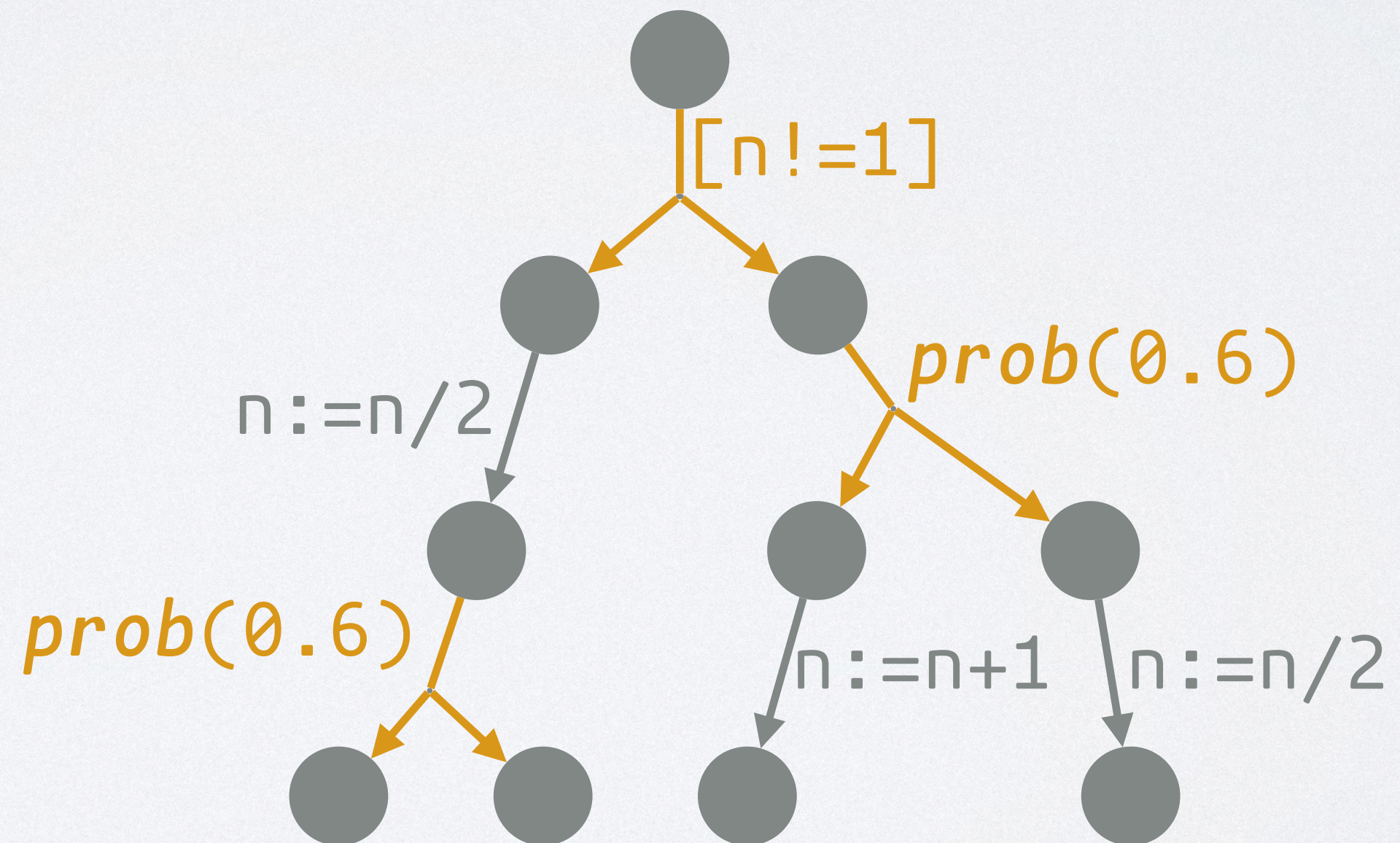
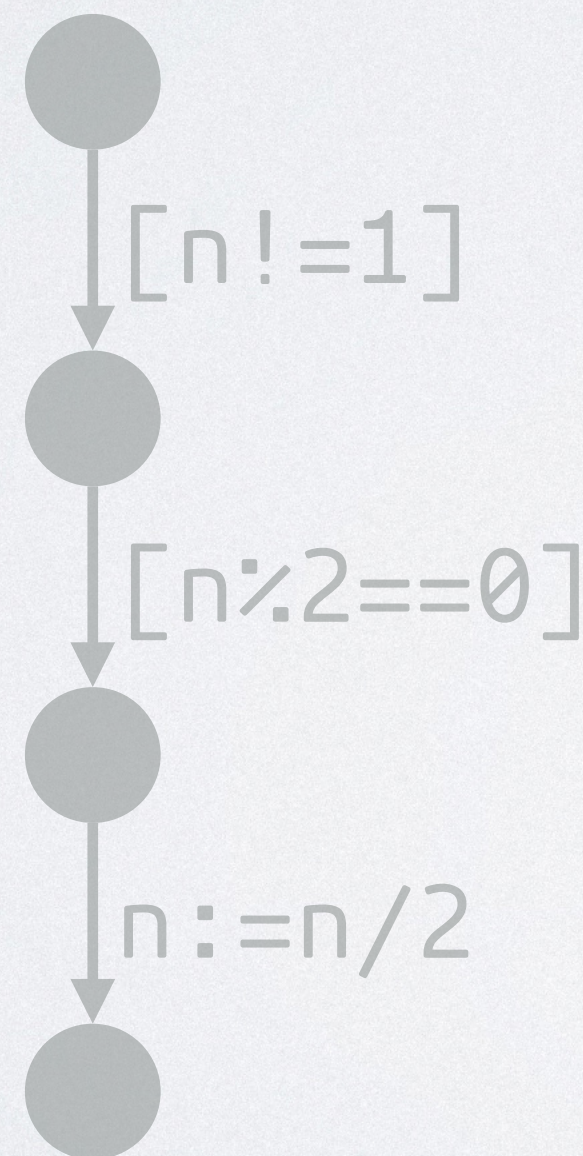
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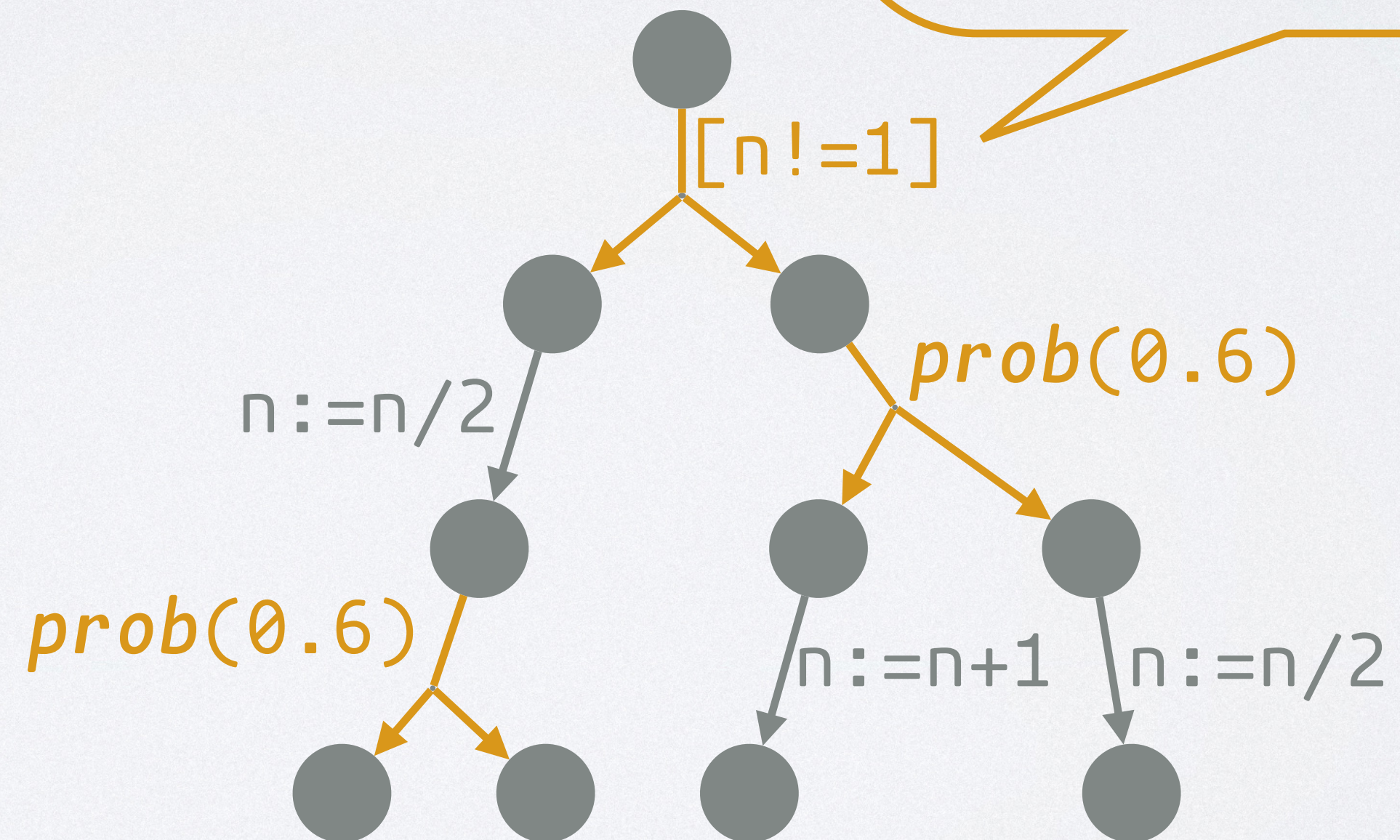
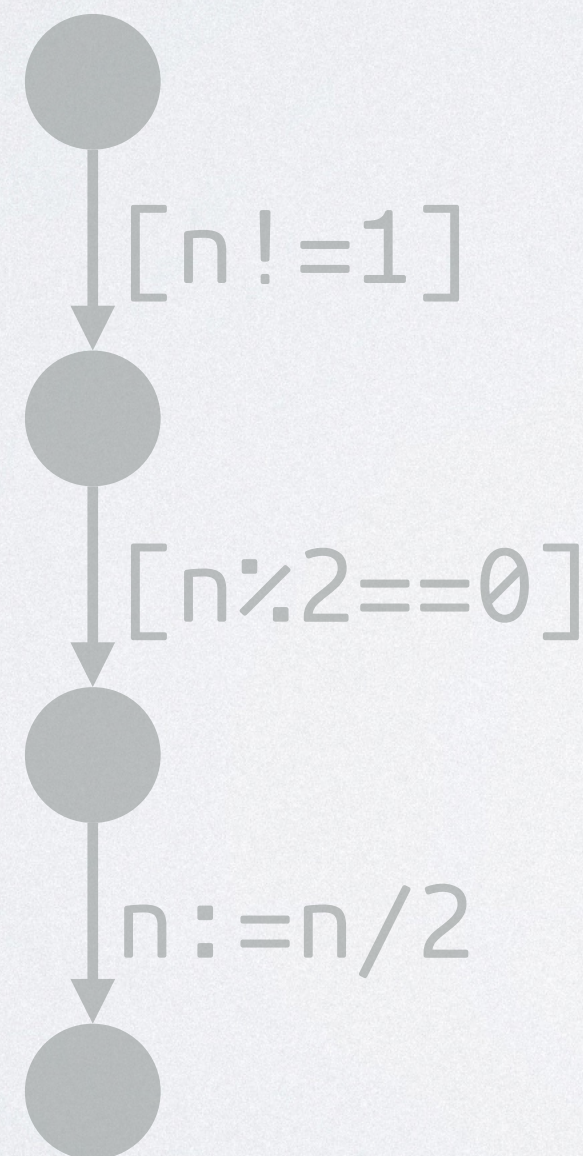




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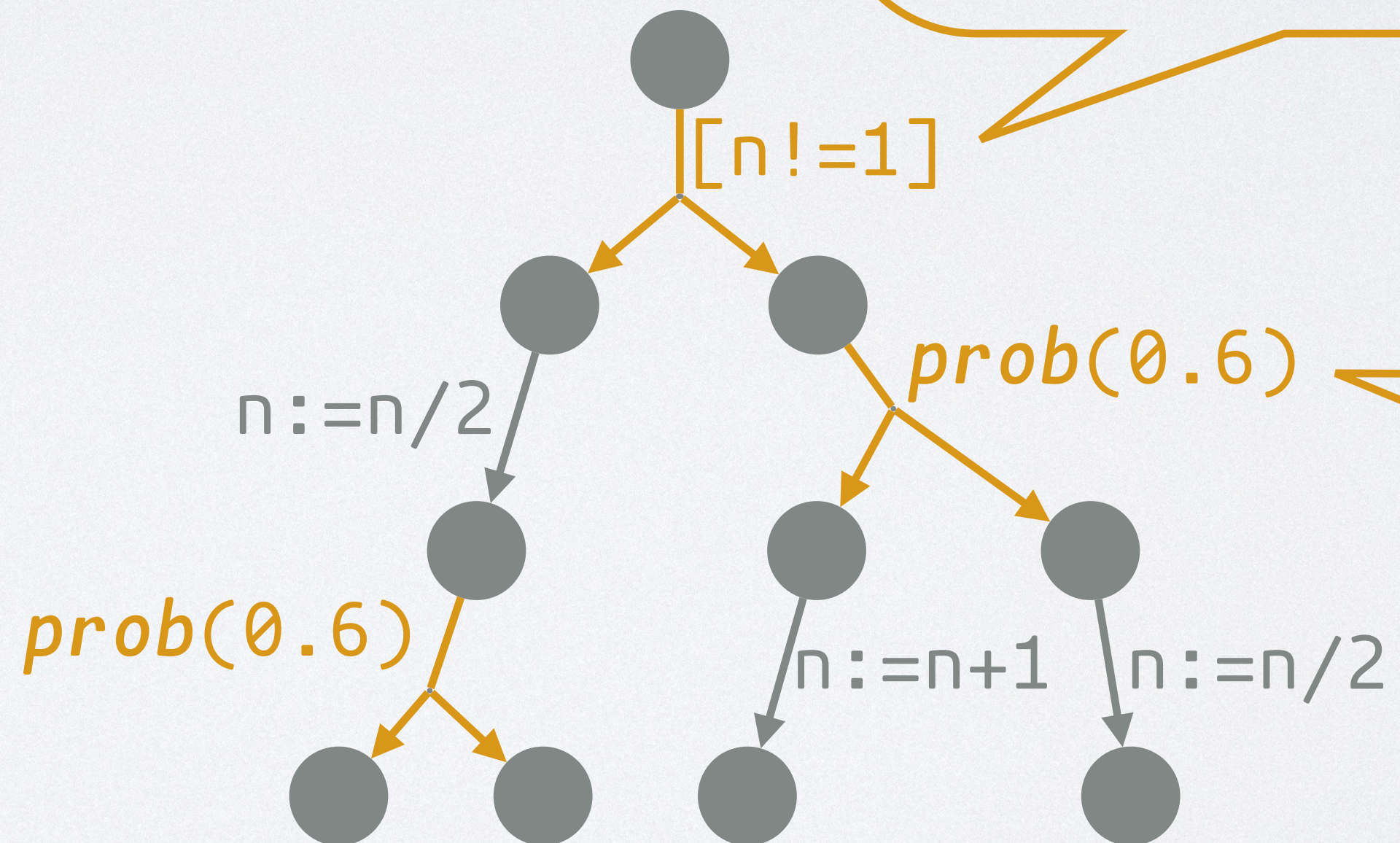
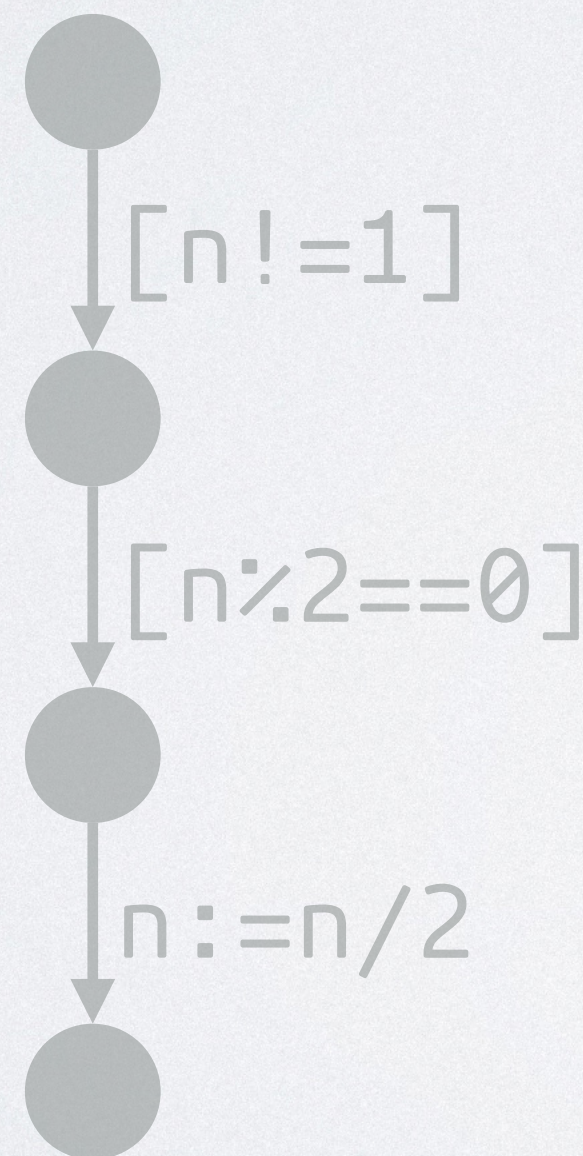
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n may be a random value

random control-flow

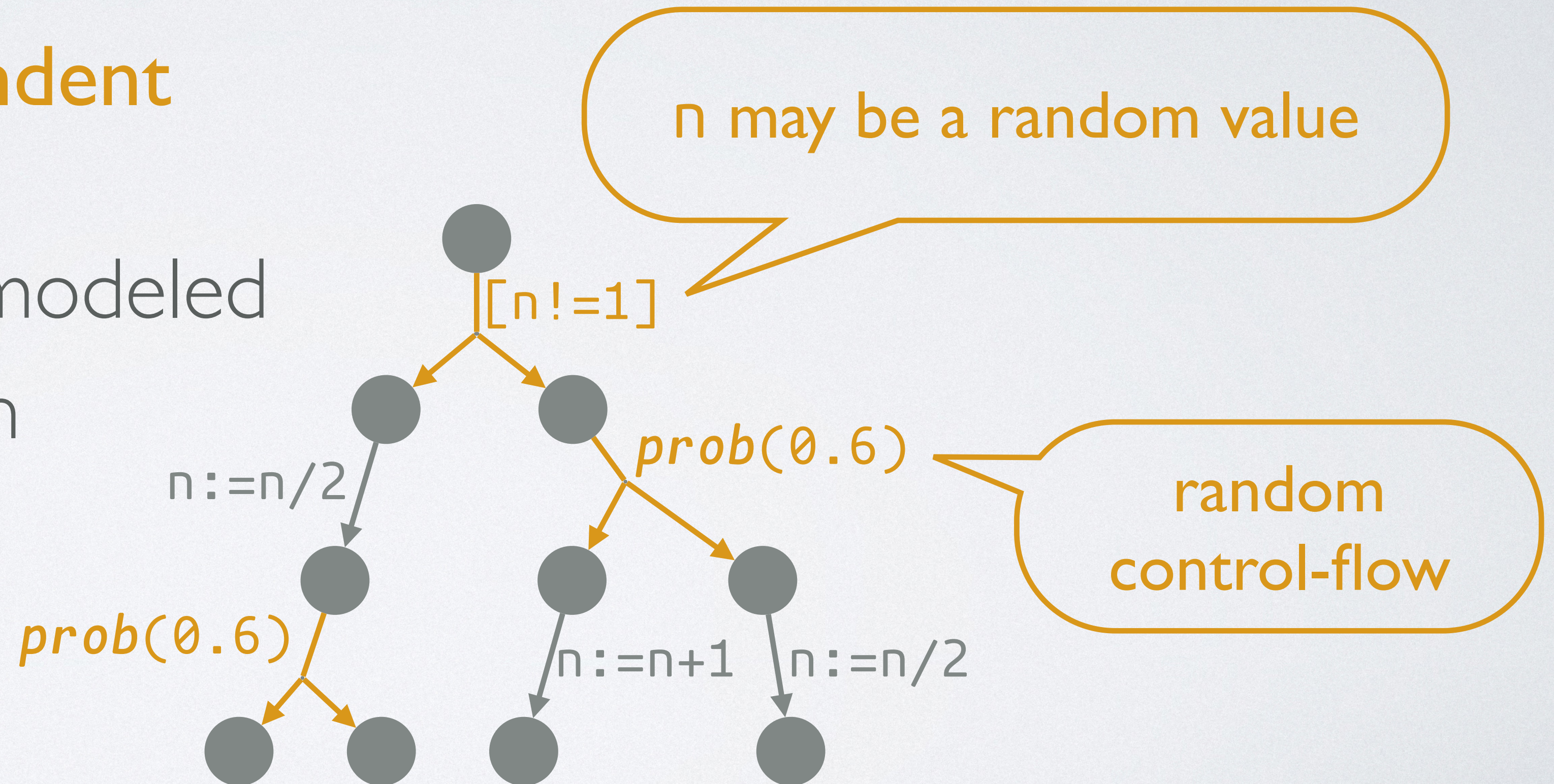


# PROGRAM SEMANTICS

Reason about **distributions over paths**

Paths are **not independent**

**Nondeterminism** is modeled by **collections** of such distributions





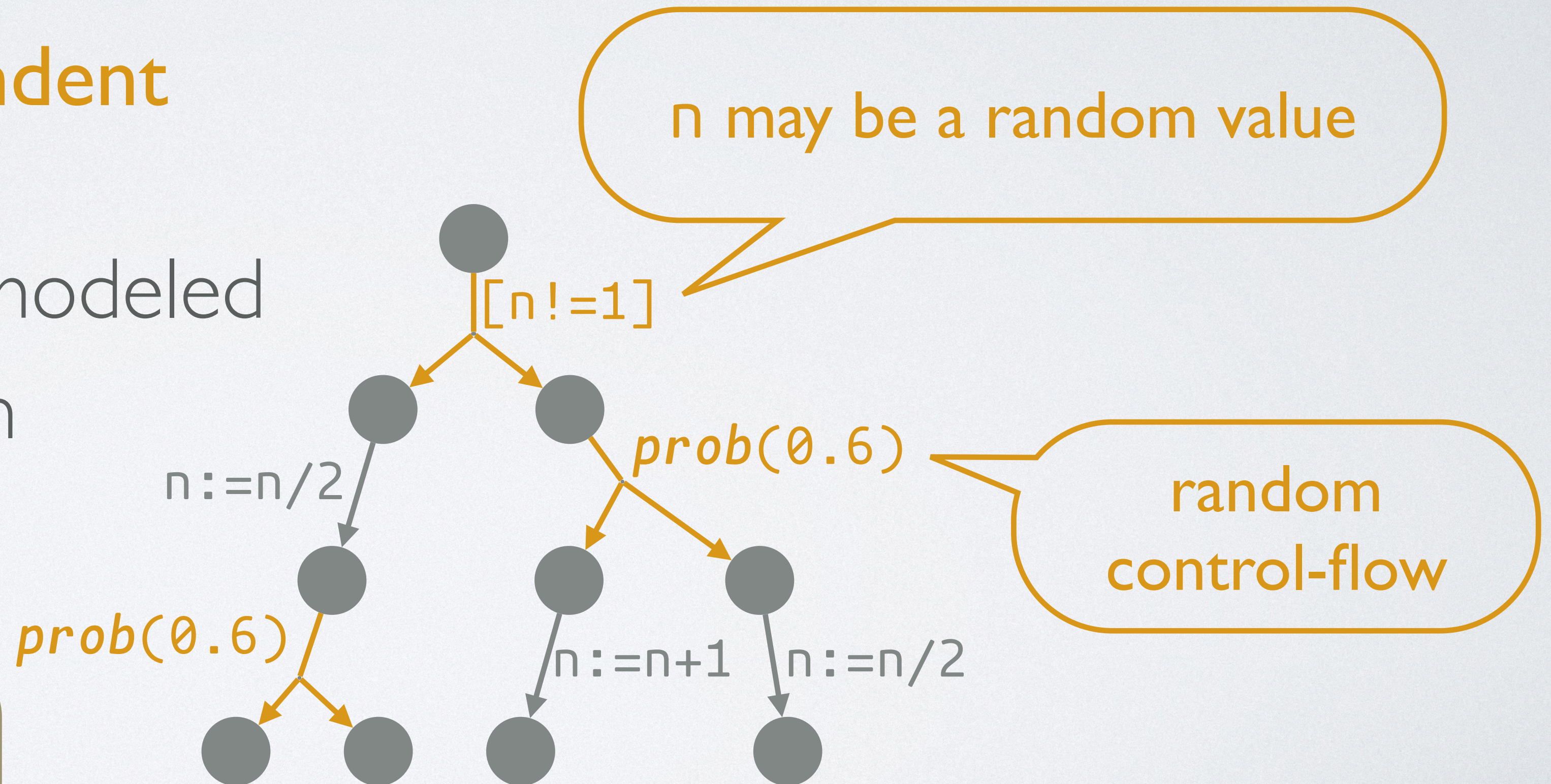
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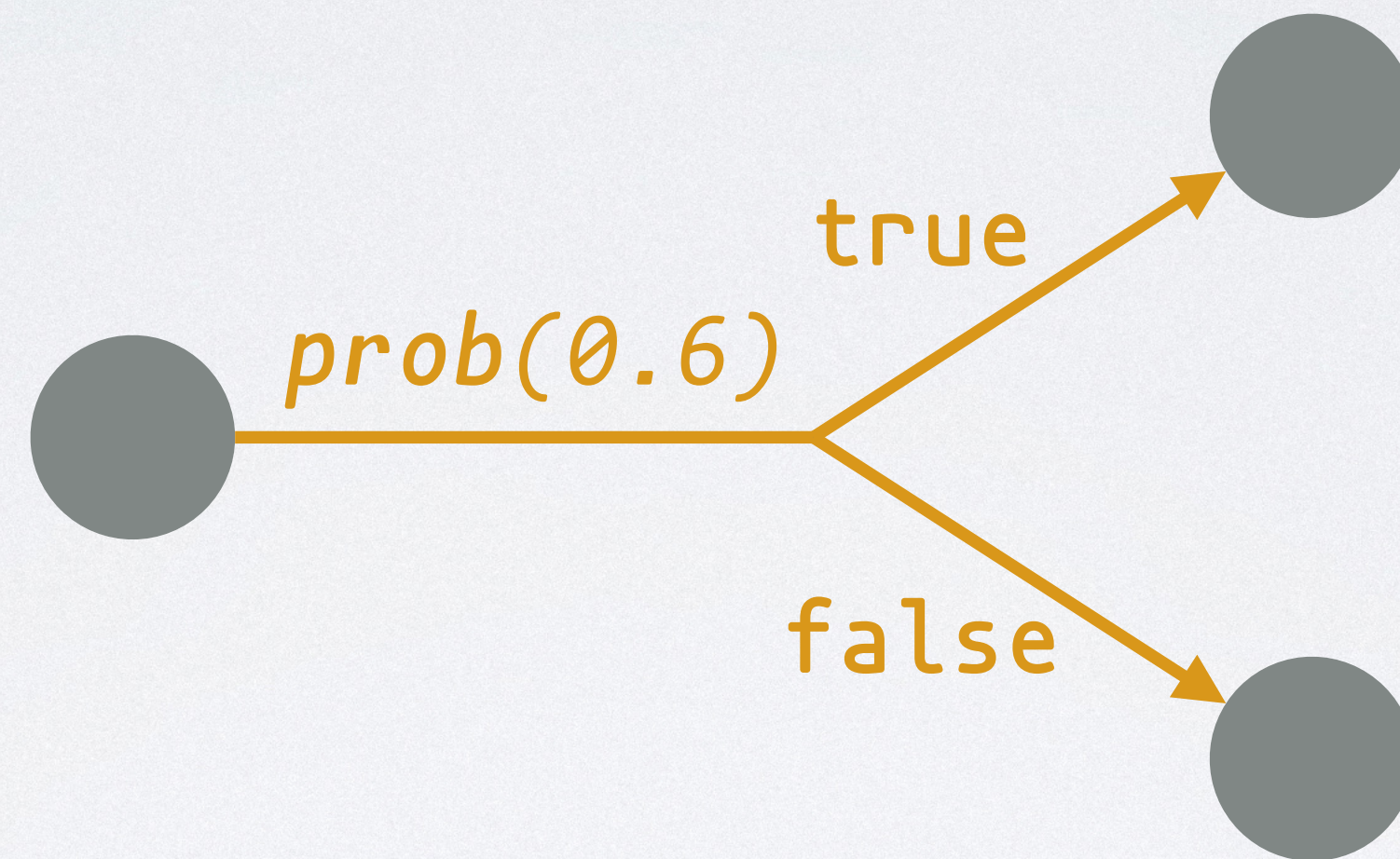
**Nondeterminism** is modeled by **collections** of such distributions

Resolve nondeterminism first!





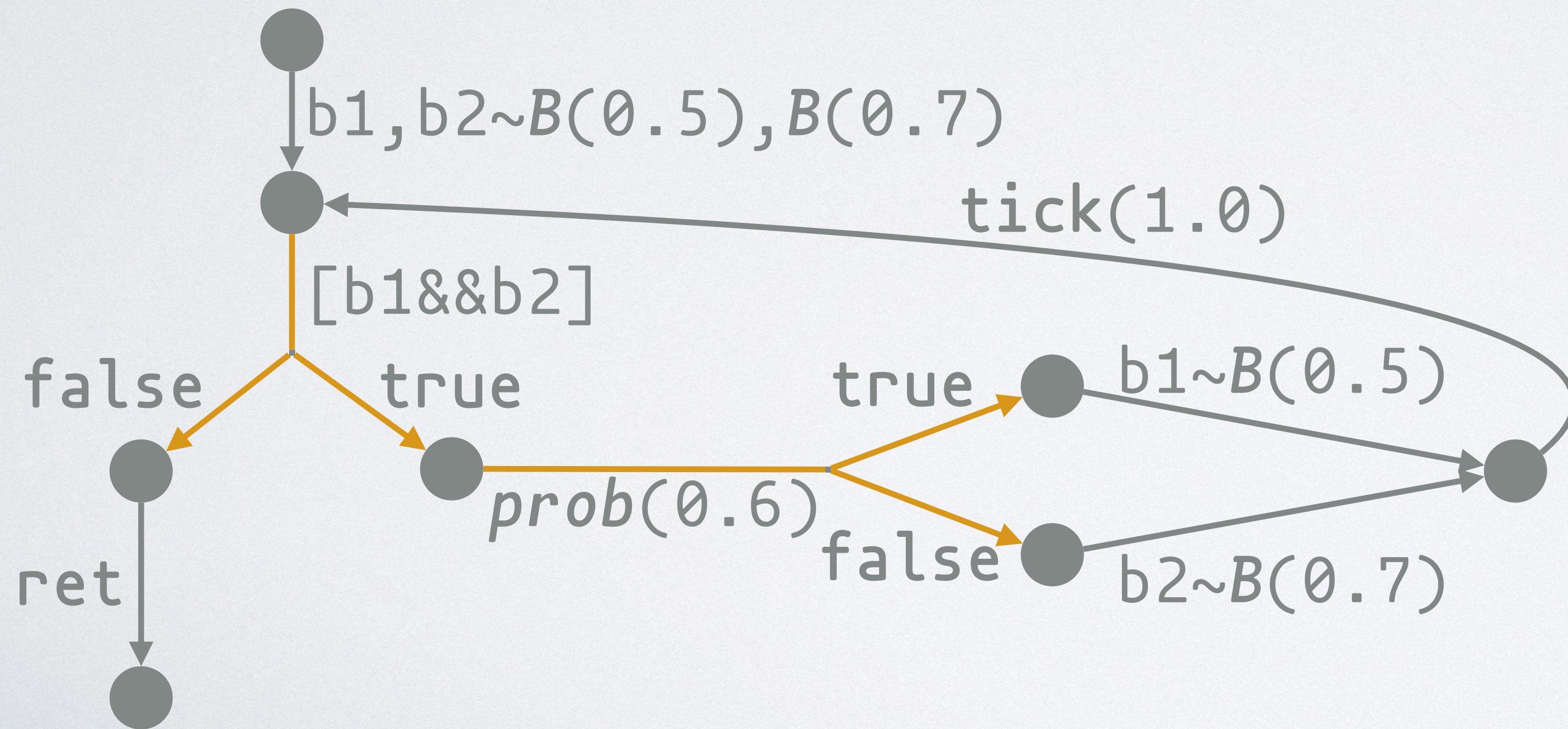
# PROGRAM SEMANTICS





# PROGRAM SEMANTICS

- Control-flow **hyper**-graphs
- Branching are **hyper**-edges



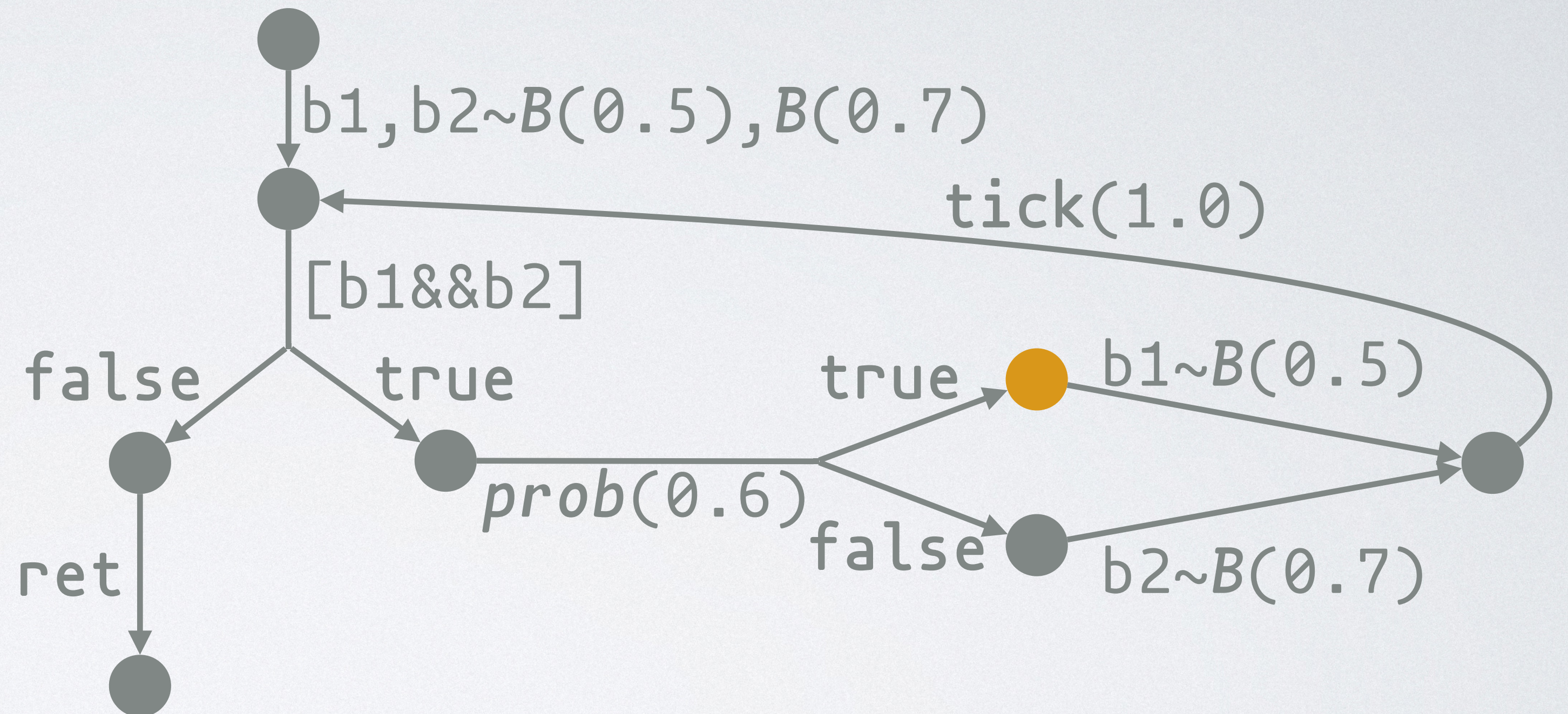
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# HYPER-GRAPH ANALYSIS

## ◆ Forward assertions

- ◆ The semantics of a node is a summary of computation that **continues from** the node

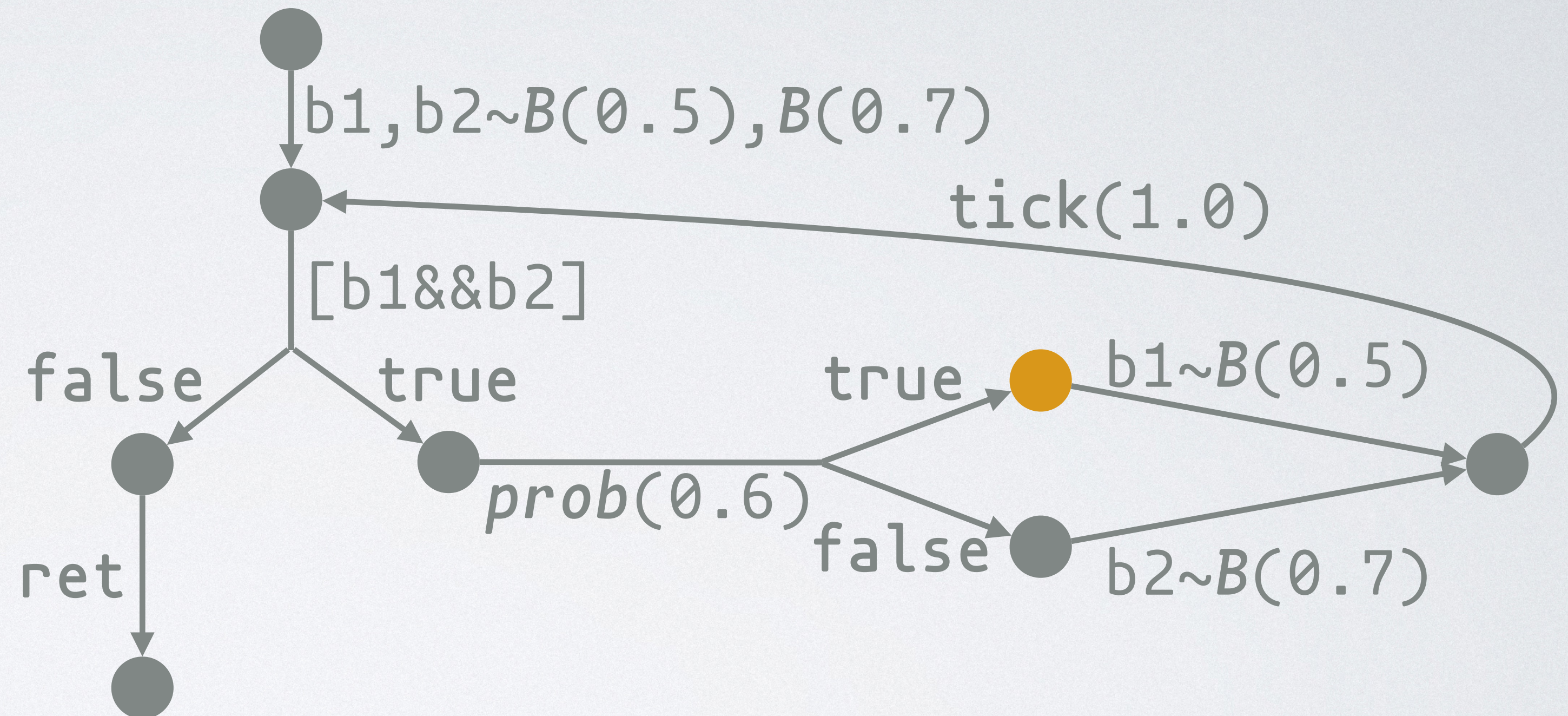




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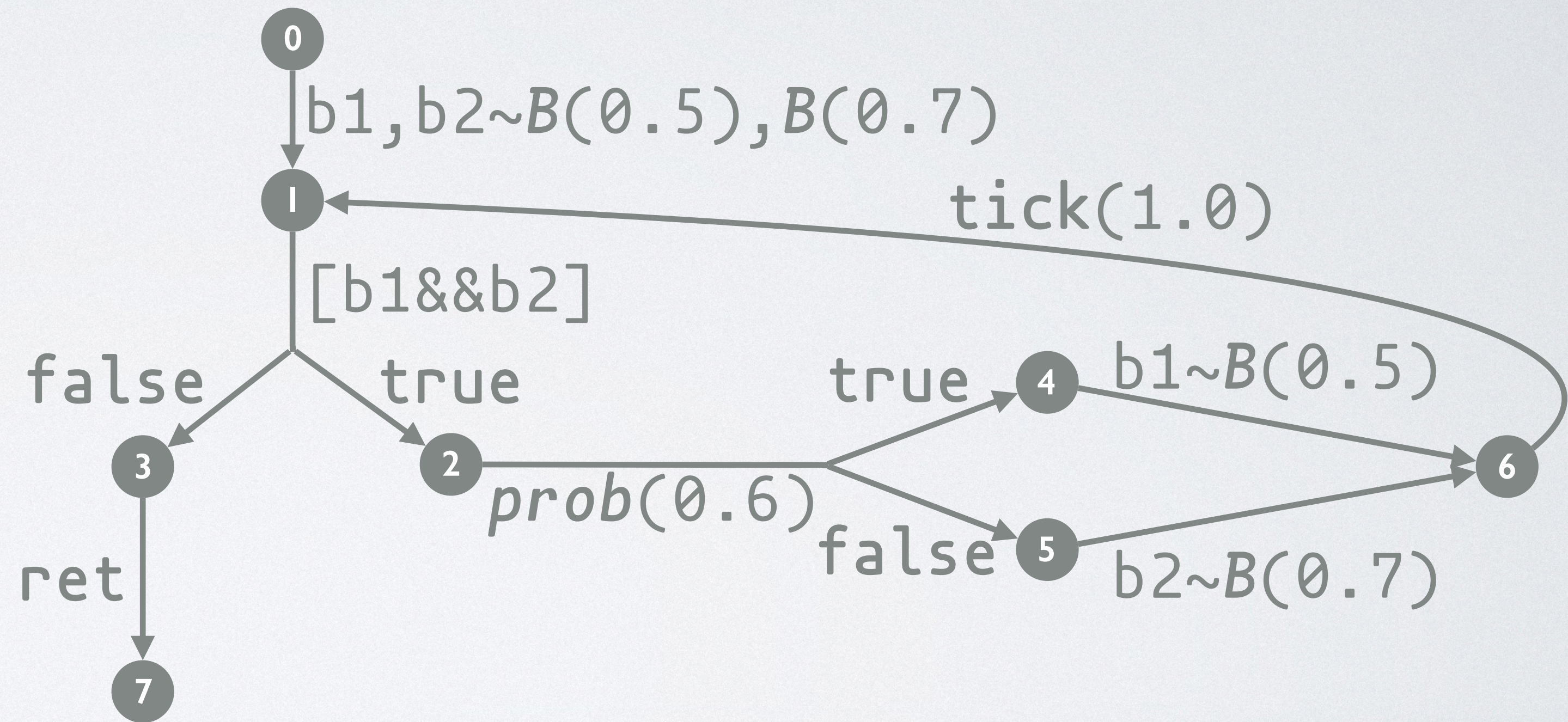
E.g. the semantics of the **node** is

$$\lambda(b1, b2). \text{ if } b2 \text{ then } \frac{1}{7}[b1' = T, b2' = F] + \frac{6}{7}[b1' = F, b2' = T]$$
$$\text{ else } \frac{1}{2}[b1' = T, b2' = F] + \frac{1}{2}[b1' = F, b2' = F]$$



# HYPER-GRAPH ANALYSIS

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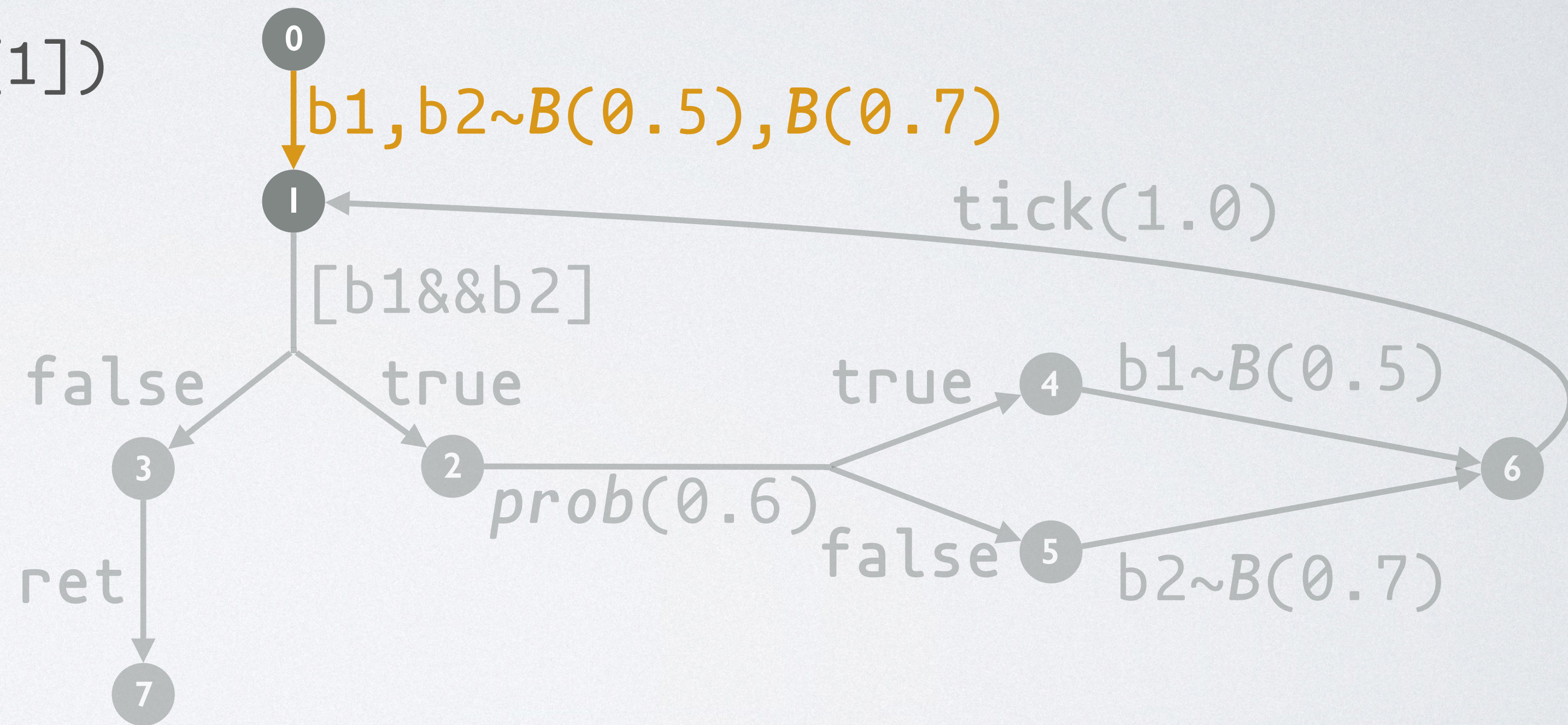




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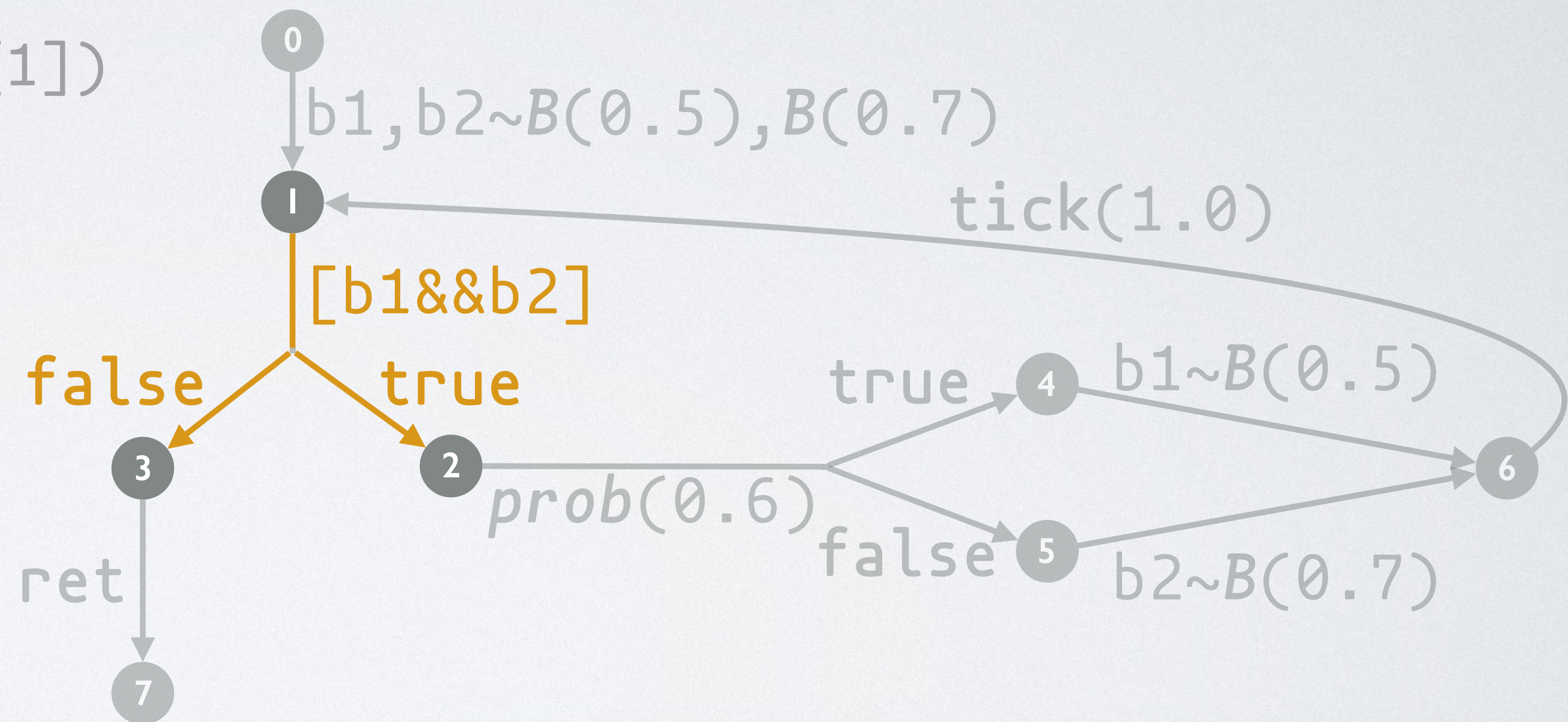


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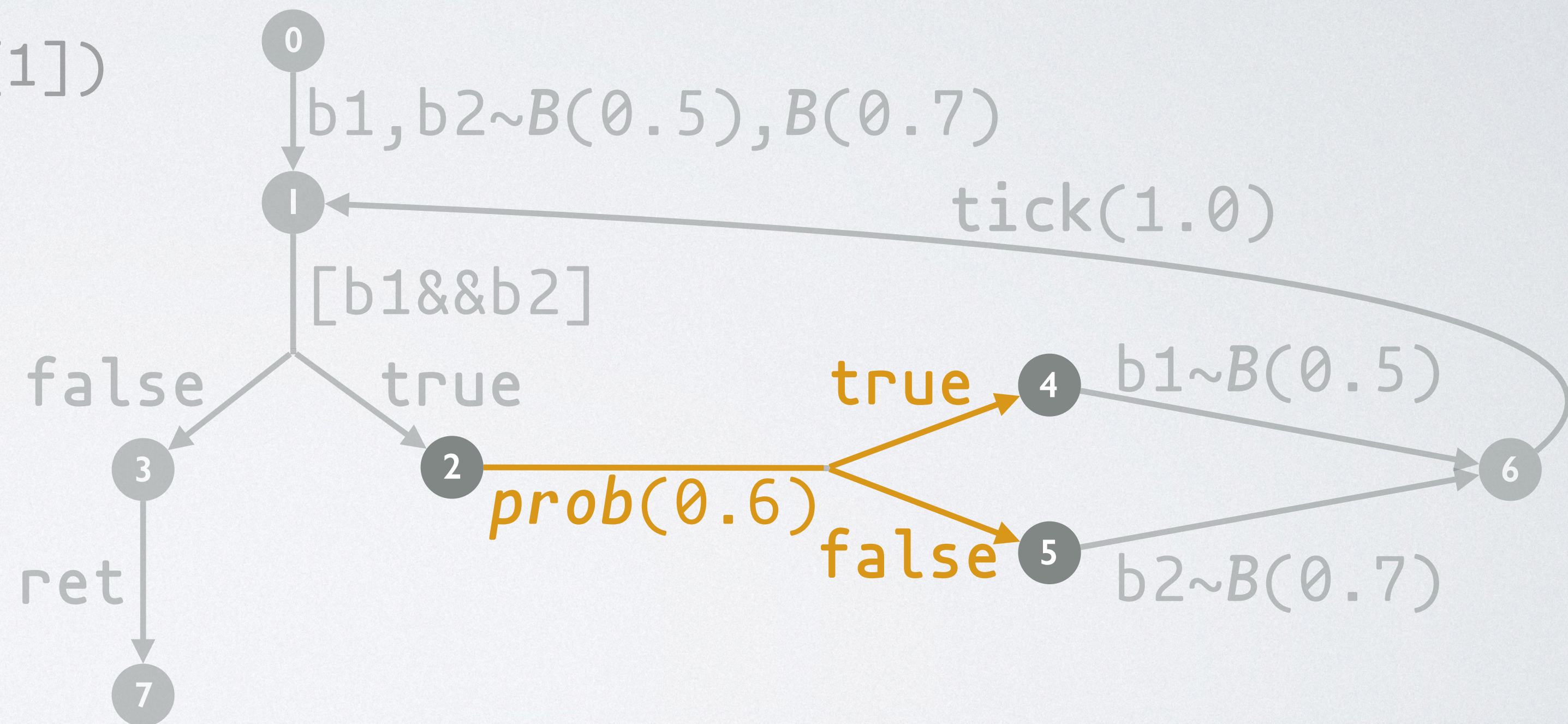
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$S[2] = \text{prob}[0.6](S[4], S[5])$





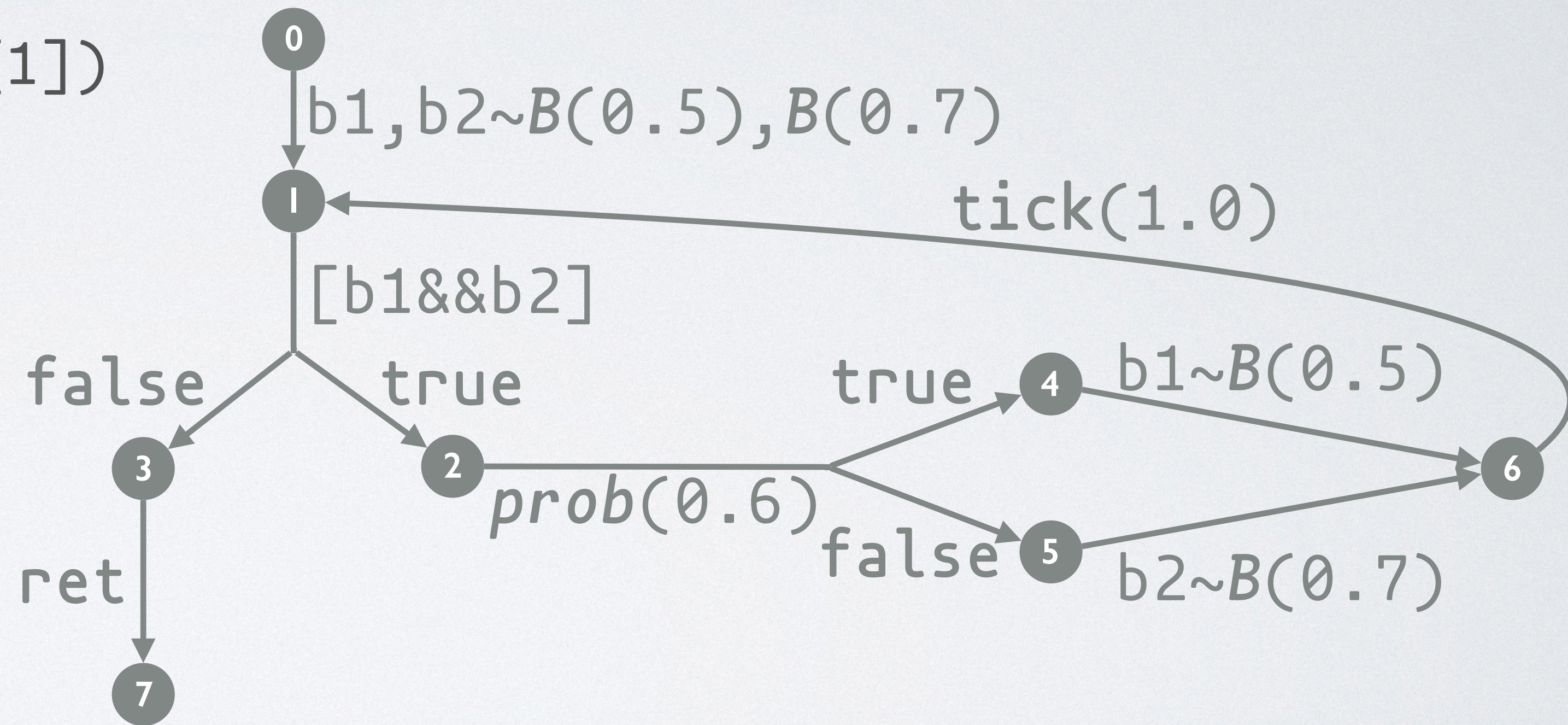
# HYPER-GRAPH ANALYSIS

◆ The hyper-graph analysis is formulated by an equation system

$S[0] = \text{seq}[b1, b2 \sim B(0.5), B(0.7)](S[1])$

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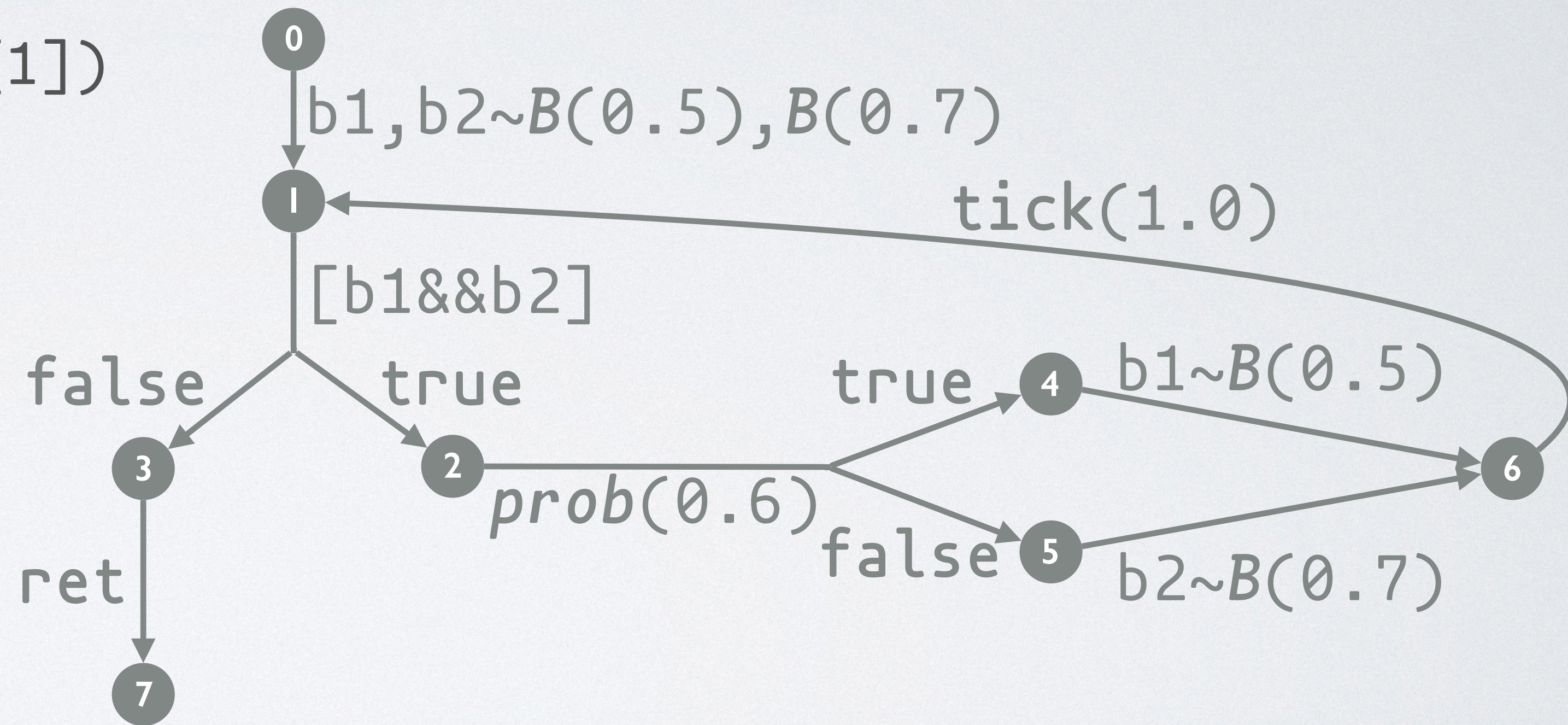
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Use the semantic algebra to interpret seq, cond, prob



# HYPER-GRAPH ANALYSIS

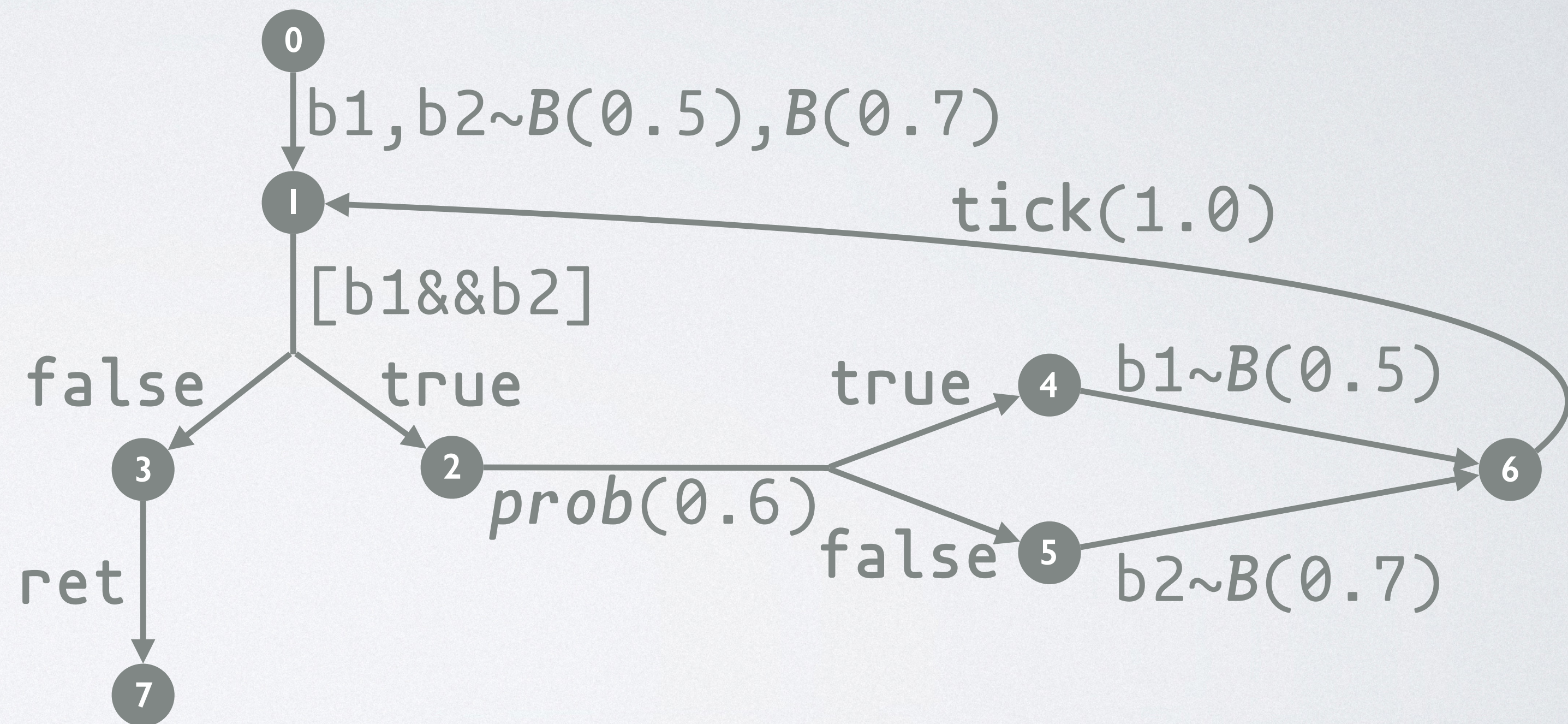
◆ The hyper-graph analysis is formulated by an equation system

$$S[0] = [b1, b2 \sim B(0.5), B(0.7)] \otimes S[1]$$

$$S[1] = S[2]_{b1 \& \& b2} \diamond S[3]$$

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Use the semantic **algebra** to interpret **seq**, **cond**, **prob**





# HYPER-GRAPH ANALYSIS

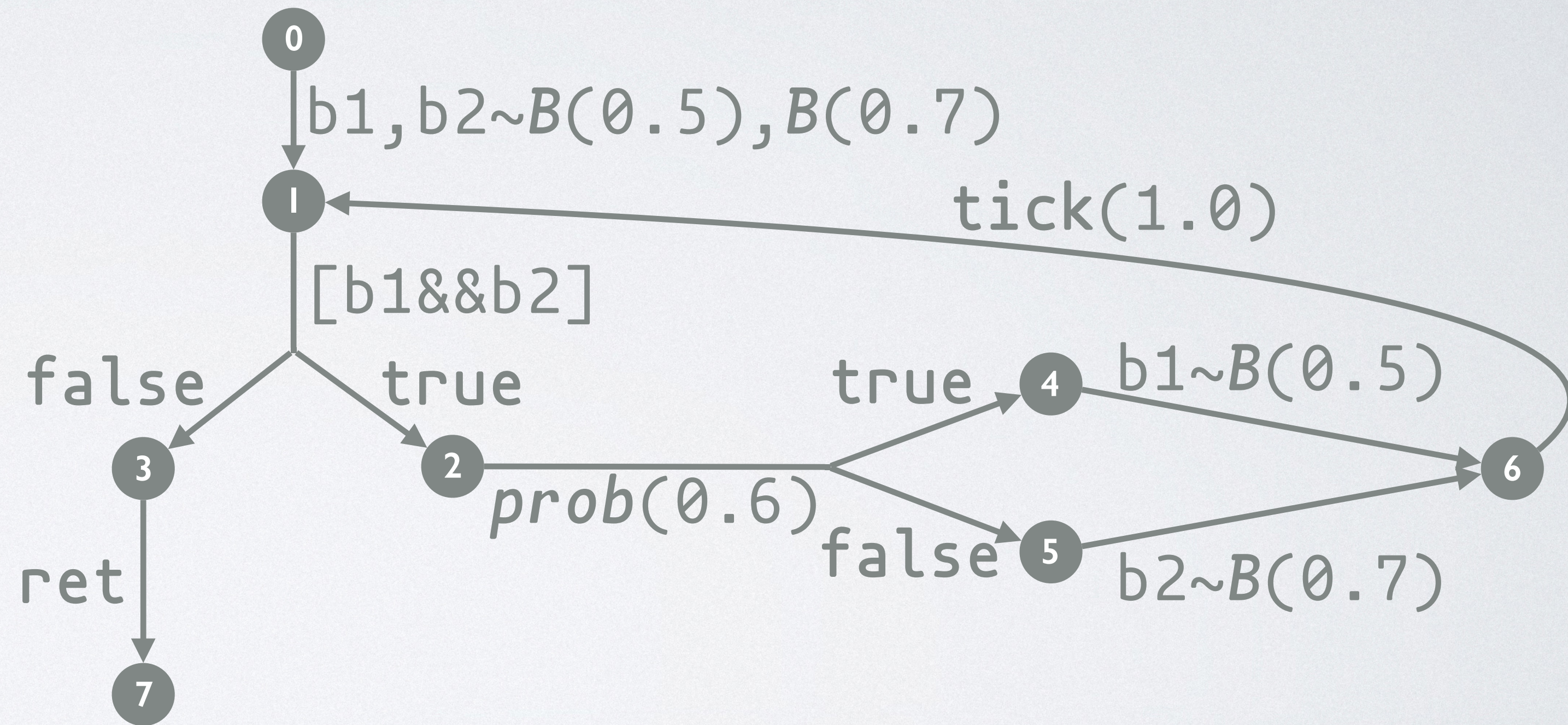
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If using **abstract** semantics,  
we obtain an equation system for  
**static analysis**





# OVERVIEW

- Motivation
- The Algebraic Framework
- Hyper-Graph Analysis
- Evaluation

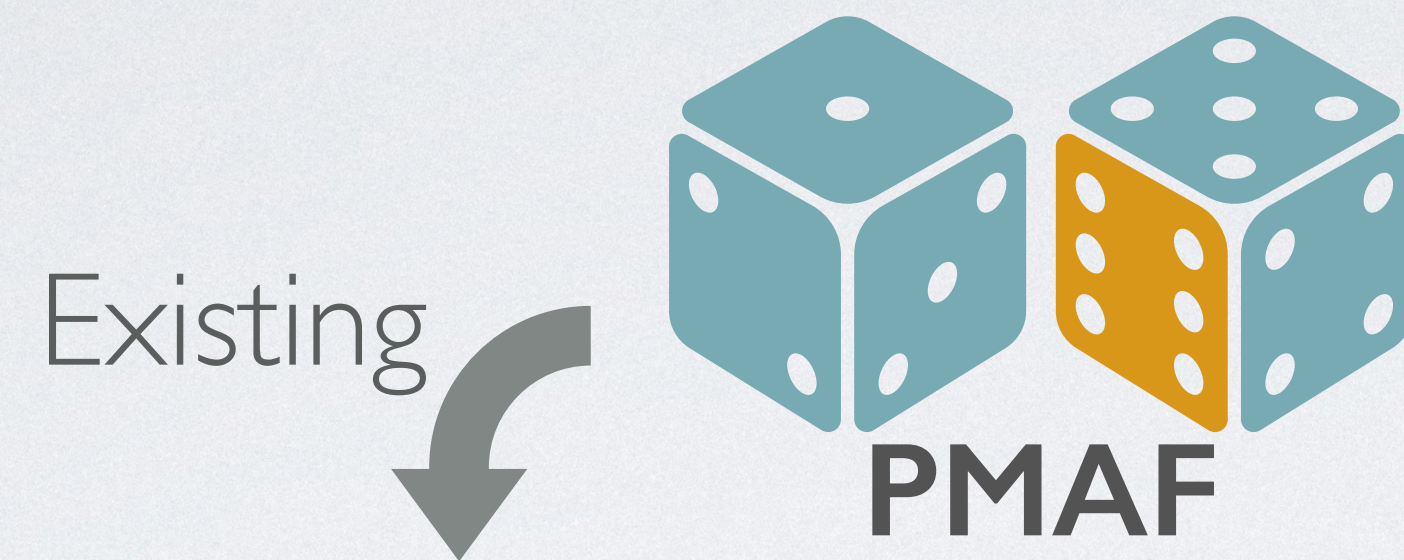


# INSTANTIATIONS





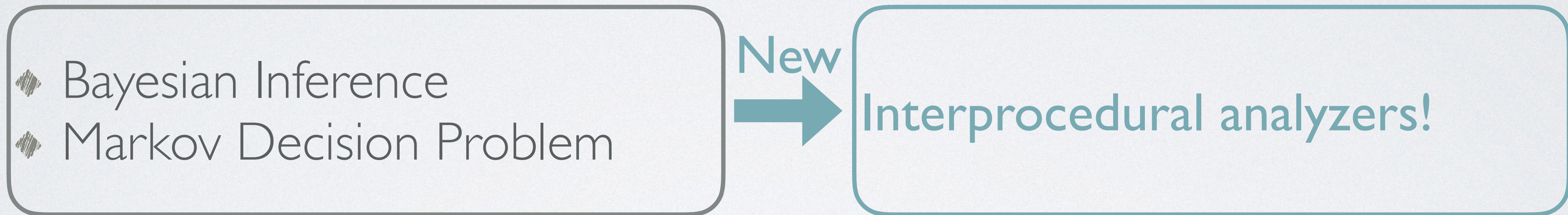
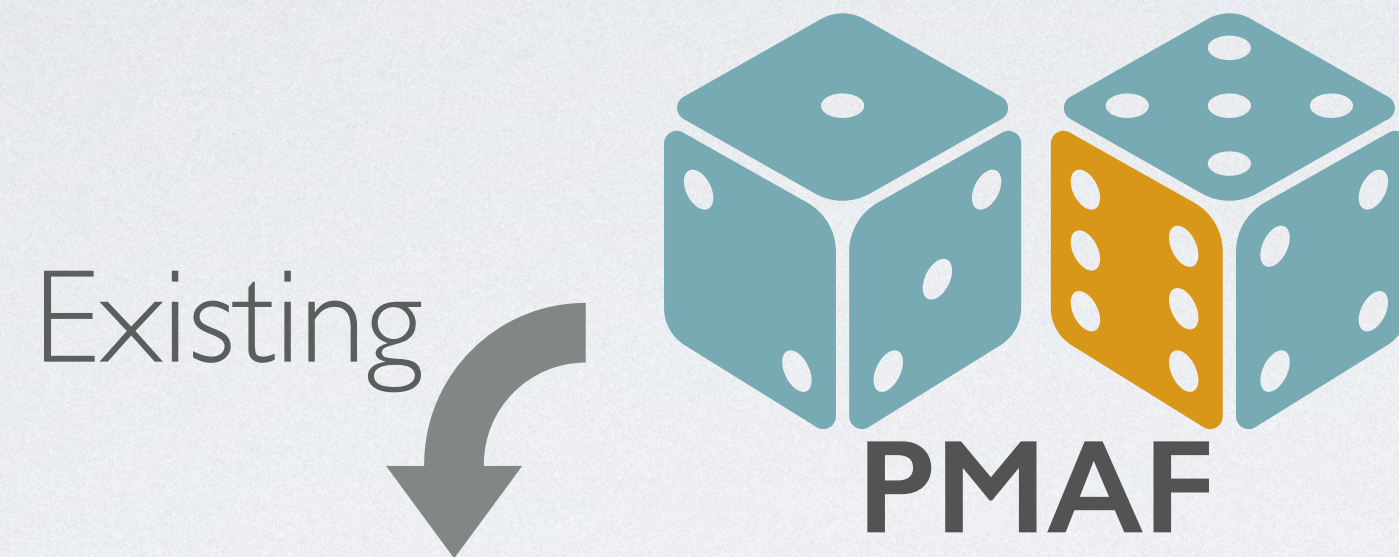
# INSTANTIATIONS



- ◆ Bayesian Inference
- ◆ Markov Decision Problem

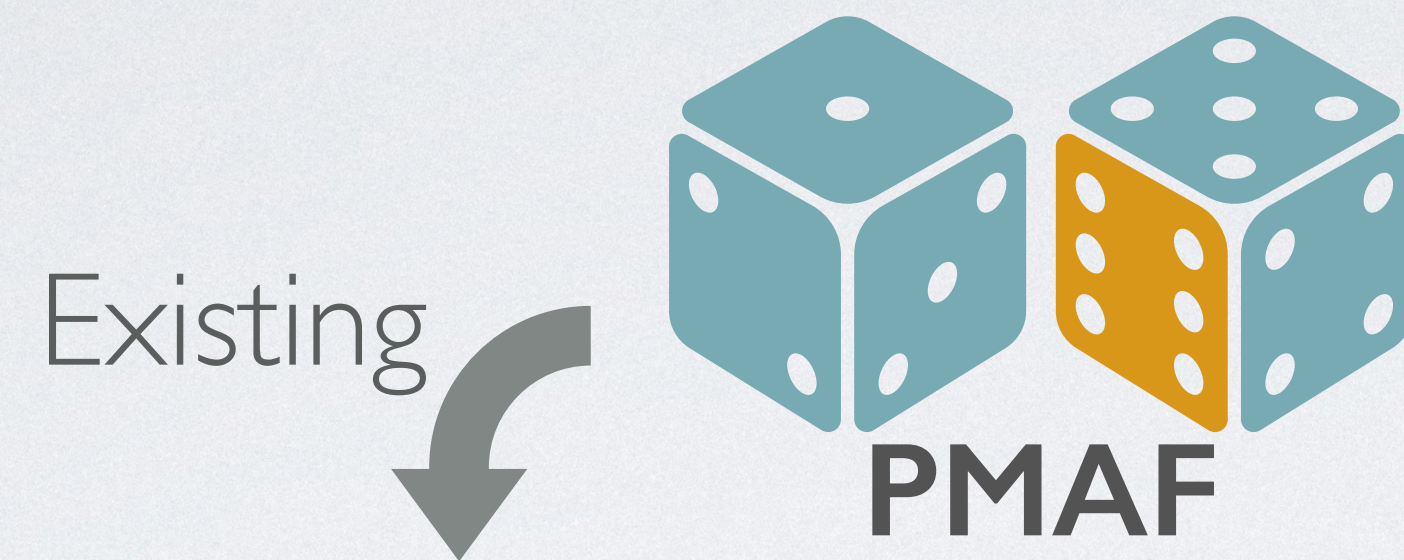


# INSTANTIATIONS





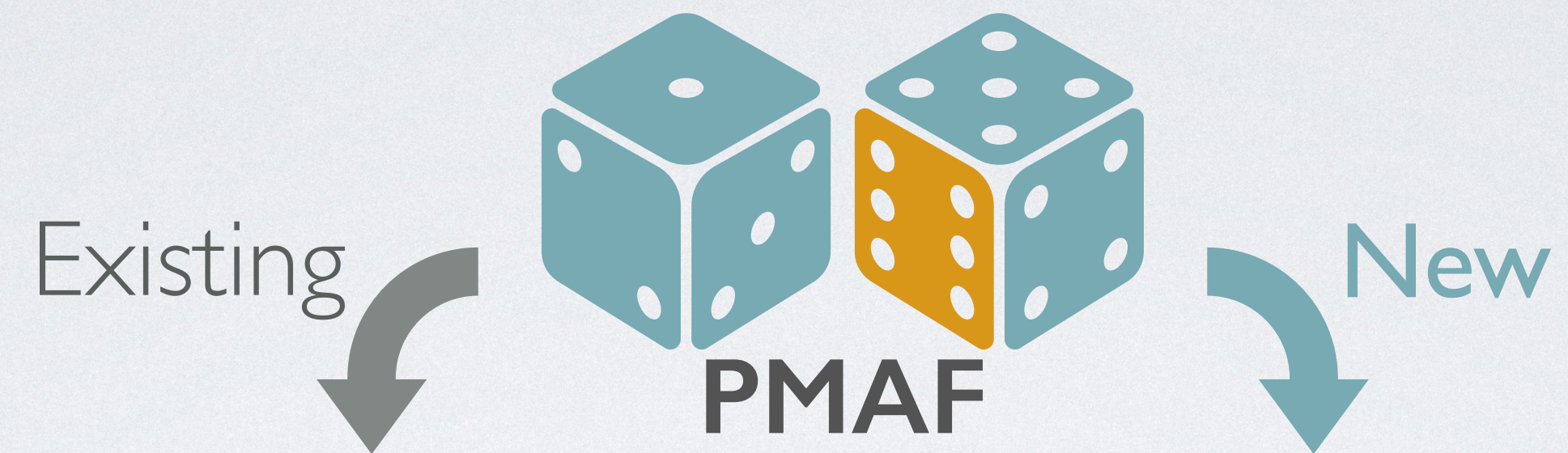
# INSTANTIATIONS



- ◆ Bayesian Inference
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# INSTANTIATIONS

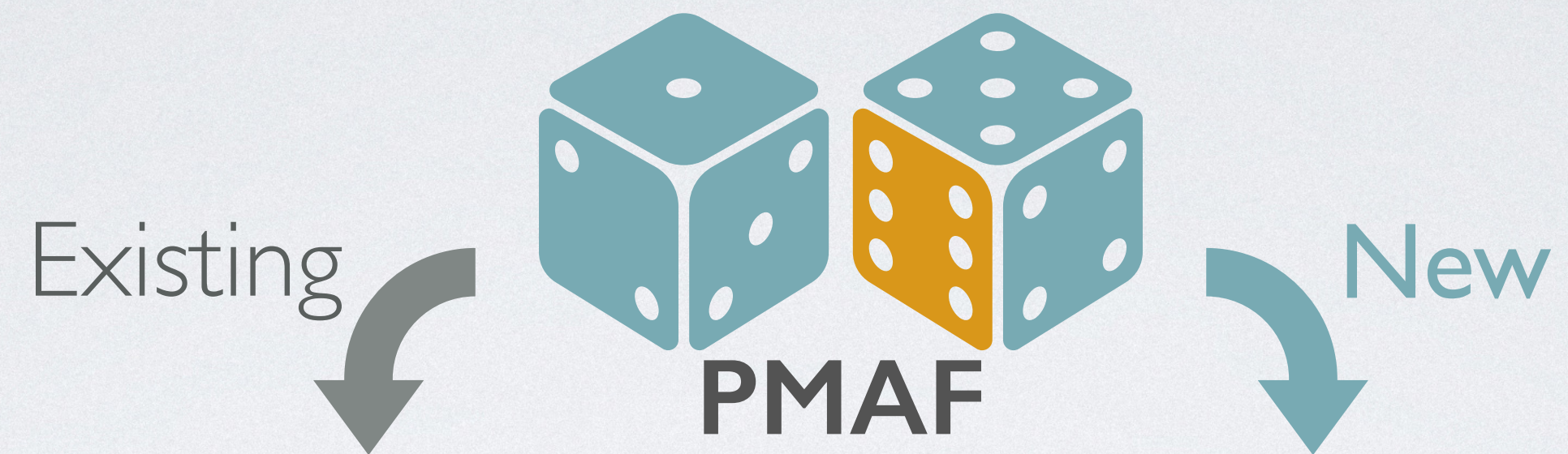


- ◆ Bayesian Inference
- ◆ Markov Decision Problem

◆ **Expectation-Invariant Analysis**



# INSTANTIATIONS



- ◆ Bayesian Inference
- ◆ Markov Decision Problem

◆ **Expectation-Invariant Analysis**

Prove invariants among **initial values** and **expected final values**



# PROBABILISTIC MODEL ANALYSES

- ◆ Benchmark collected from PReMo<sup>1</sup>
- ◆ Achieve the same precision

Bayesian Inference (Table 2)

Program	#loc	time (sec)
compare	17	2.22
dice	12	0.02
eg1	10	0.02
eg2	16	0.01
recursive	14	0.01

Markov Decision Problem (Table 2)

Program	#loc	time (sec)
binary10	184	0.03
loop	10	0.03
quicksort7	109	0.03
recursive	13	0.03
student	43	0.03

<sup>1</sup> D. Wojtczak and K. Etessami. PReMo - Probabilistic Recursive Models analyzer. Available at [groups.inf.ed.ac.uk/premo/](http://groups.inf.ed.ac.uk/premo/).



# EXPECTATION-INVARIANT ANALYSIS

- ◆ Benchmark collected from the literature<sup>1,2</sup> and also handcrafted by us
- ◆ Derive expectation invariants as least as precise as them in most case

Expectation-Invariant Analysis (Table 1)

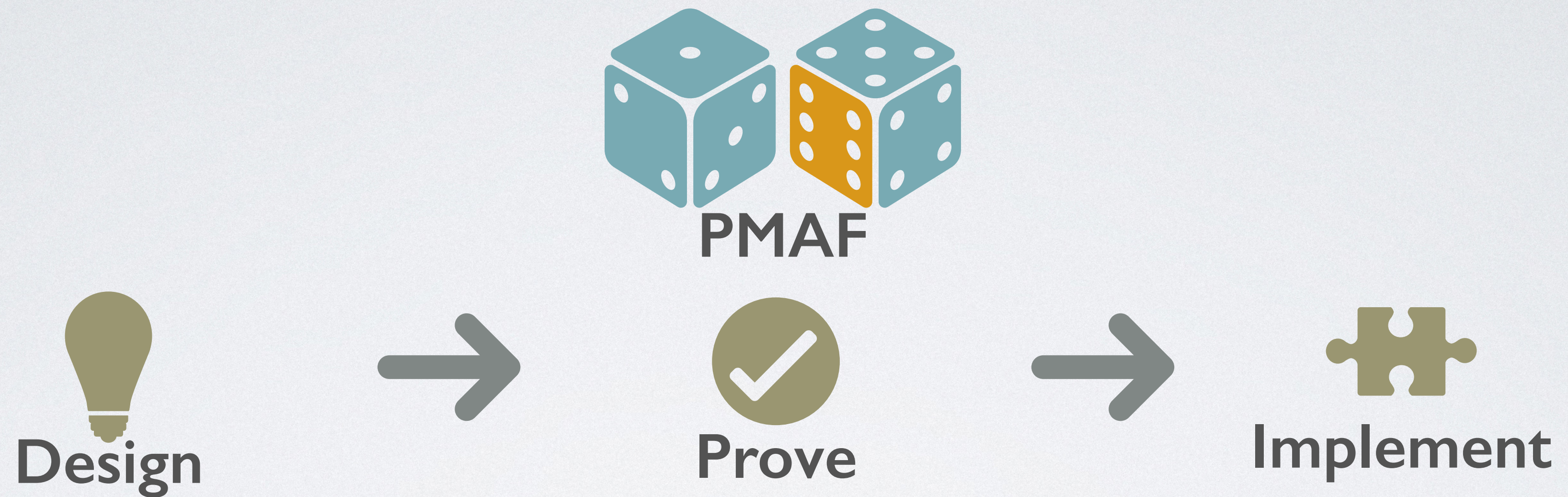
Program	#loc	time (sec)	Expectation Invariants
binom-update	14	0.06	$E[4x'-n'] = 4x-n, E[x'] \leq x + 1/4$
eg	8	0.89	$E[x'+y'] = x+y+4, E[z'] = 1/4z + 3/4$
recursive	13	0.37	$E[x'] = x+9$
mot-ex	16	0.06	$E[2x'-y'] = 2x-y, E[4x'-3c'] = 4x-3c, E[x'] \leq x + 3/4$

<sup>1</sup> A. Chakarov and S. Sankaranarayanan. Expectation Invariants for Probabilistic Loops as Fixed Points. In *SAS'14*.

<sup>2</sup> J.-P. Katoen, A. K. Mclver, L. A. Meinicke, and C. C. Morgan. Linear-Invariant Generation for Probabilistic Programs. In *SAS'10*.

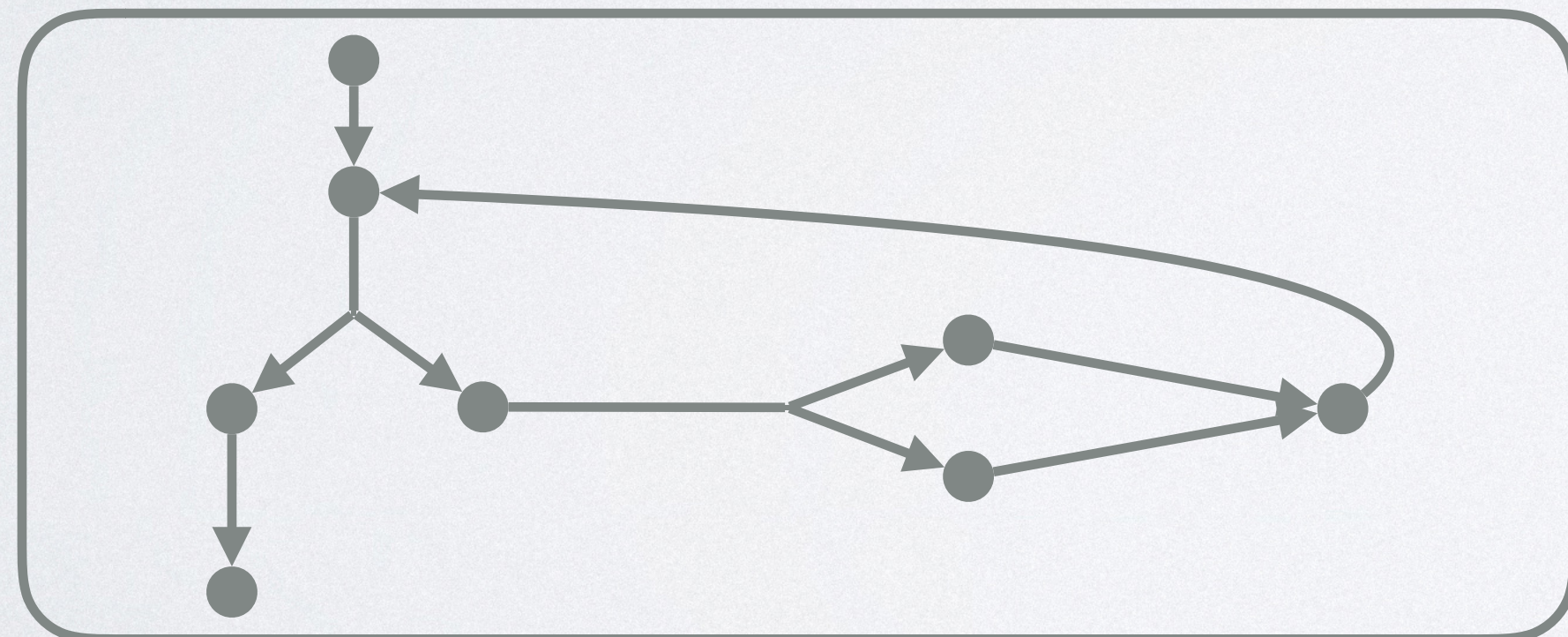
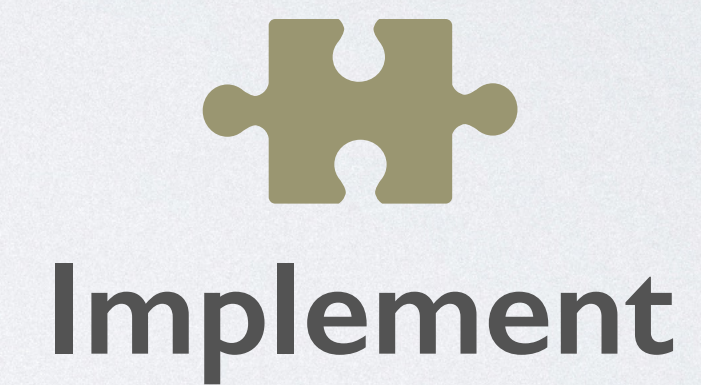
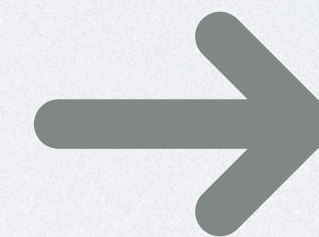
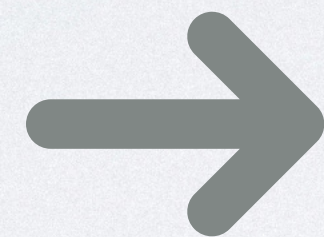
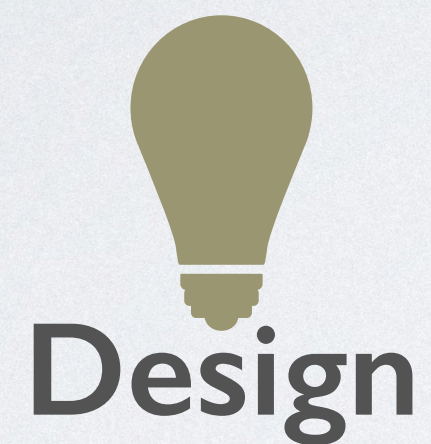


# SUMMARY





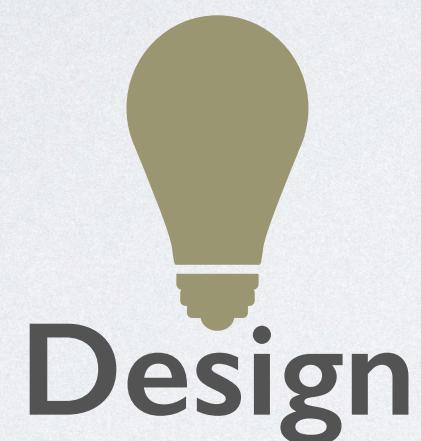
# SUMMARY



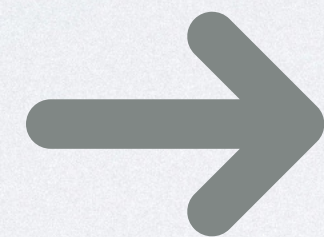
Hyper-Graph Semantics



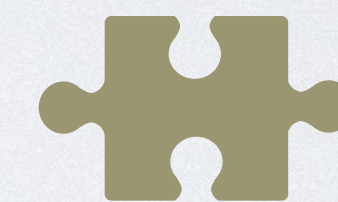
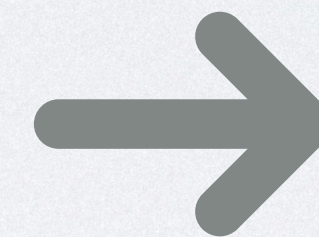
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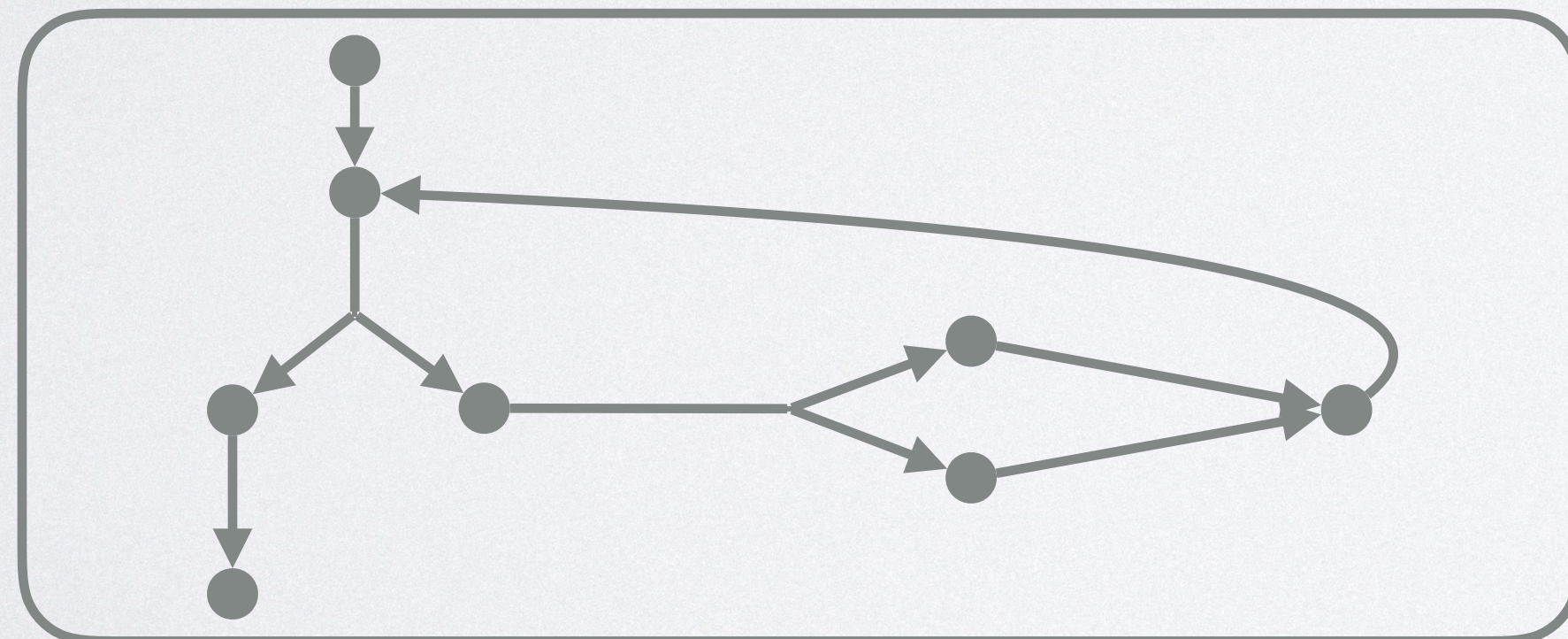
**Design**



**Prove**



**Implement**



**Hyper-Graph Semantics**

- ◆ Bayesian Inference
- ◆ Markov Decision Problem
- ◆ Expectation-Invariant Analysis

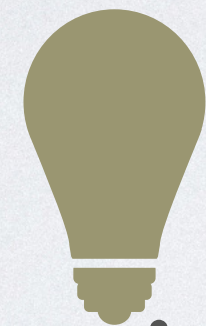
**Instantiations**



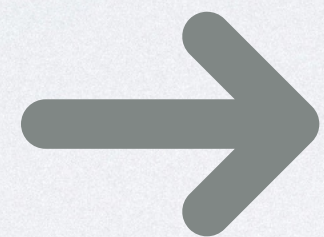
### Limitations:

- ◆ Only first-order programs
- ◆ No function pointers
- ◆ Not Galois connections

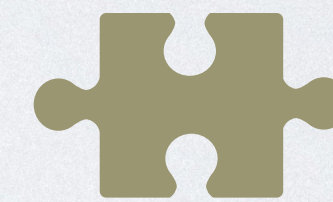
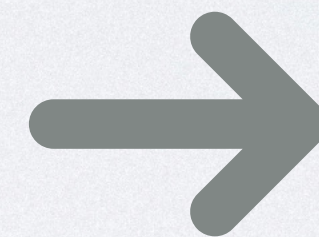
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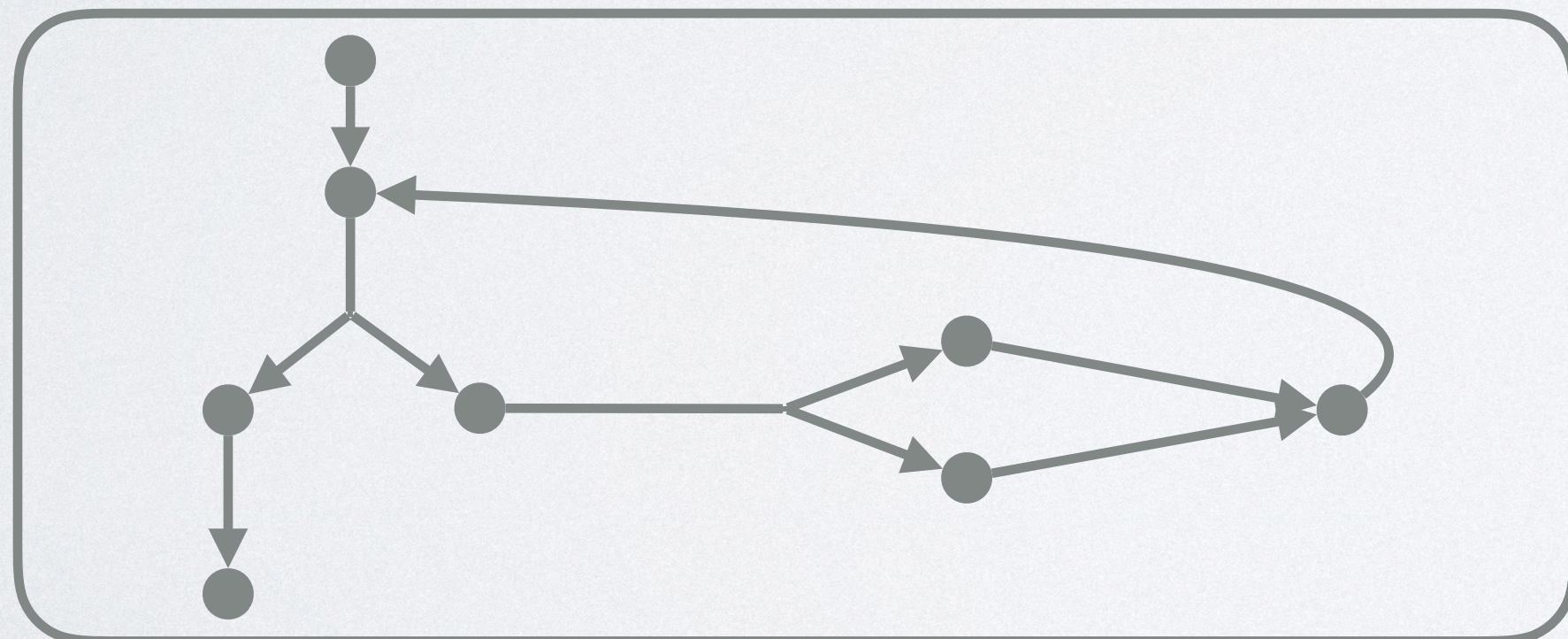
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**Hyper-Graph Semantics**

- ◆ Bayesian Inference
- ◆ Markov Decision Problem
- ◆ Expectation-Invariant Analysis

**Instantiations**



# SUMMARY

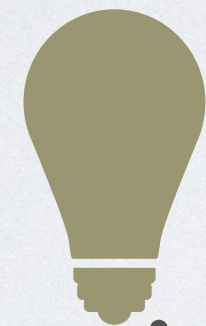


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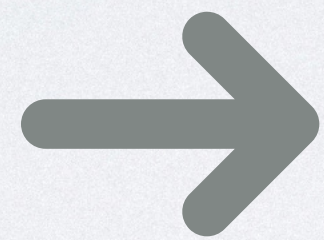
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## Future work:

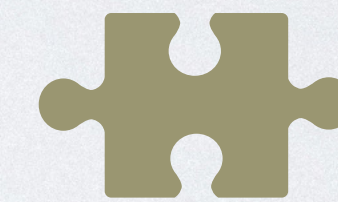
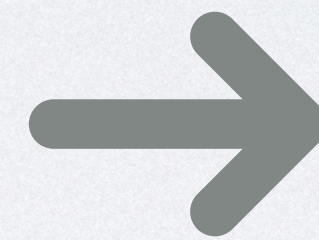
- ◆ Higher-order programs
- ◆ More efficient algorithm
- ◆ New instantiations



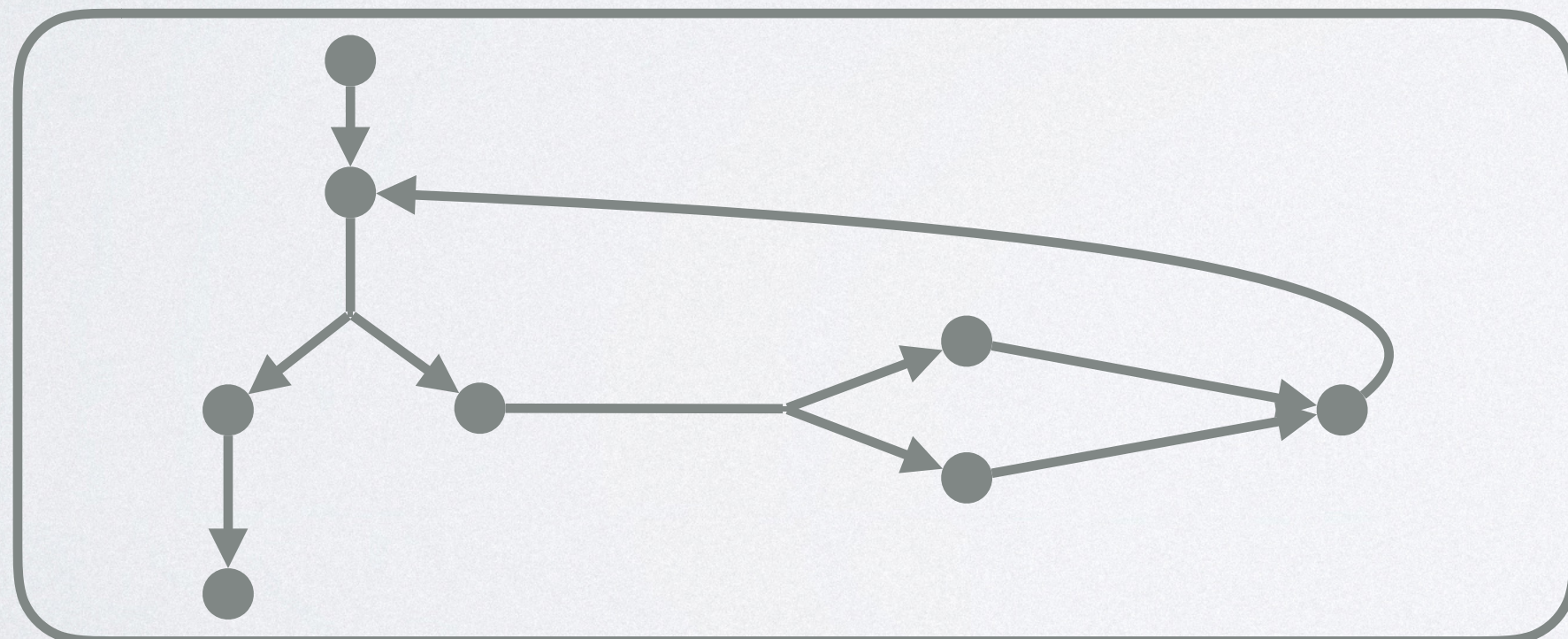
**Design**



**Prove**



**Implement**



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- ◆ Expectation-Invariant Analysis

**Instantiations**