

From Iteration to System Failure

Characterizing the FITness of Periodic Weakly-Hard Systems

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*MPI-SWS (Germany), #TU Delft (Netherlands)

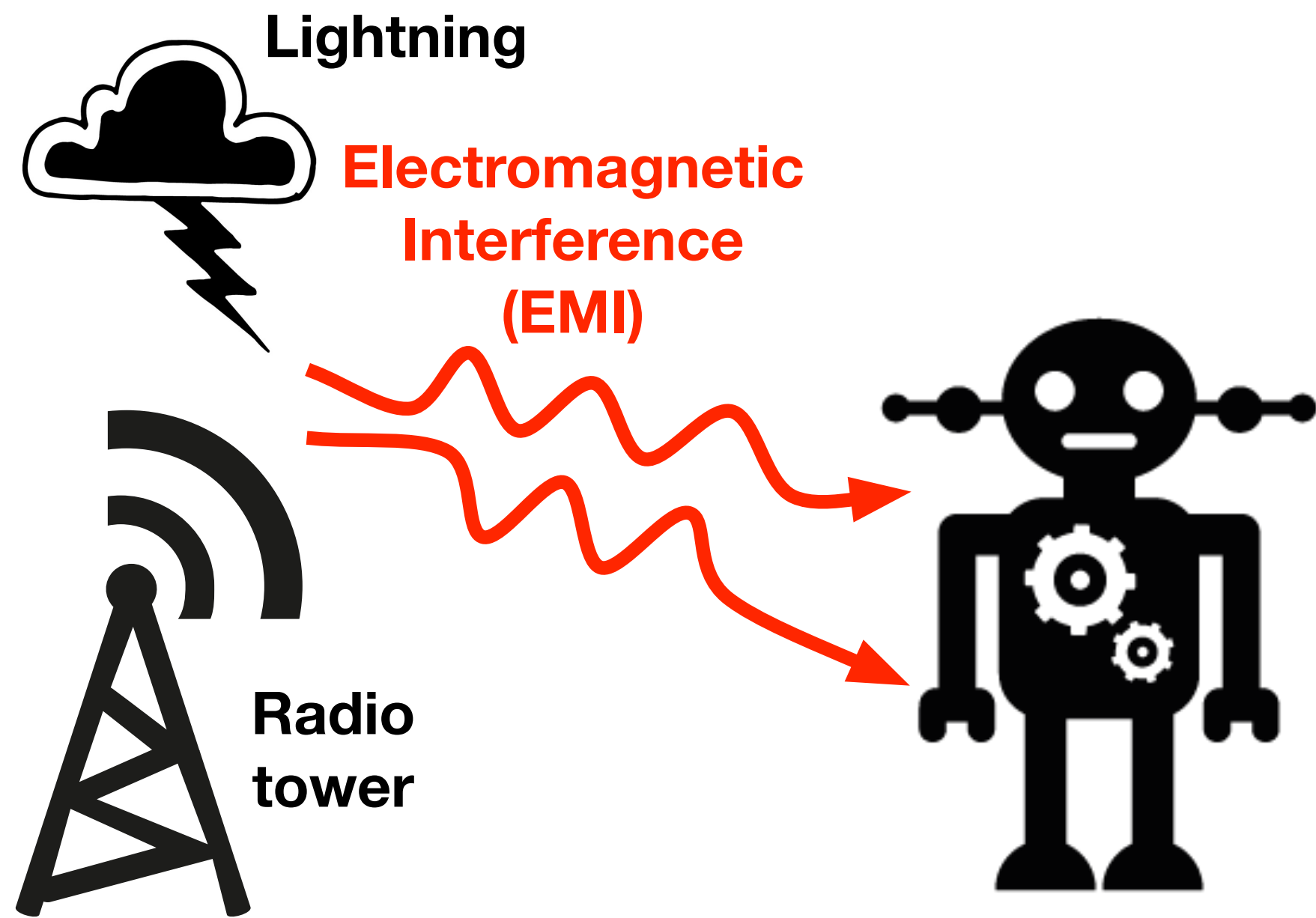


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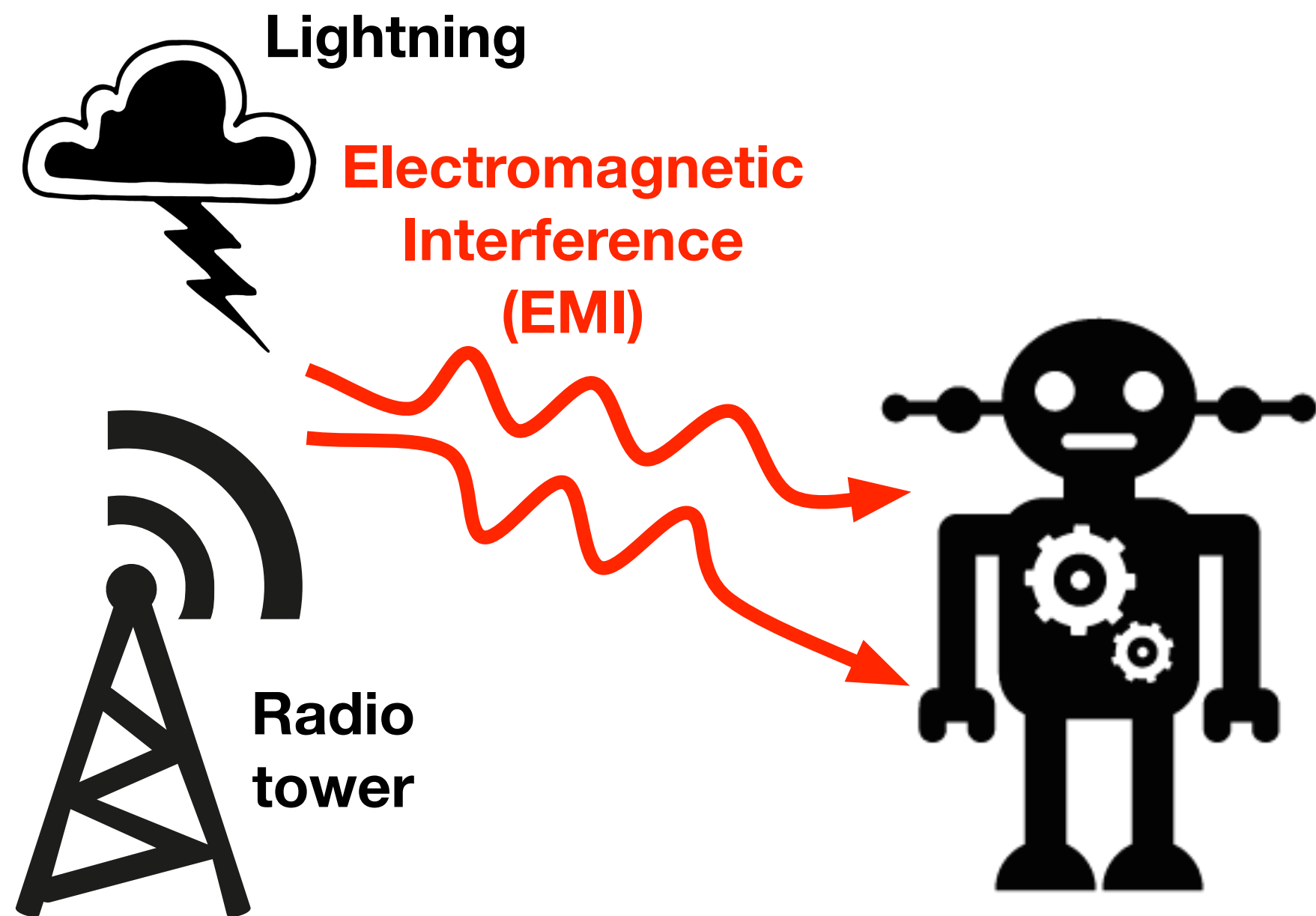
Quantitative Reliability Analysis is Essential for Safety-Critical CPS

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Zero risk of failures can never be achieved

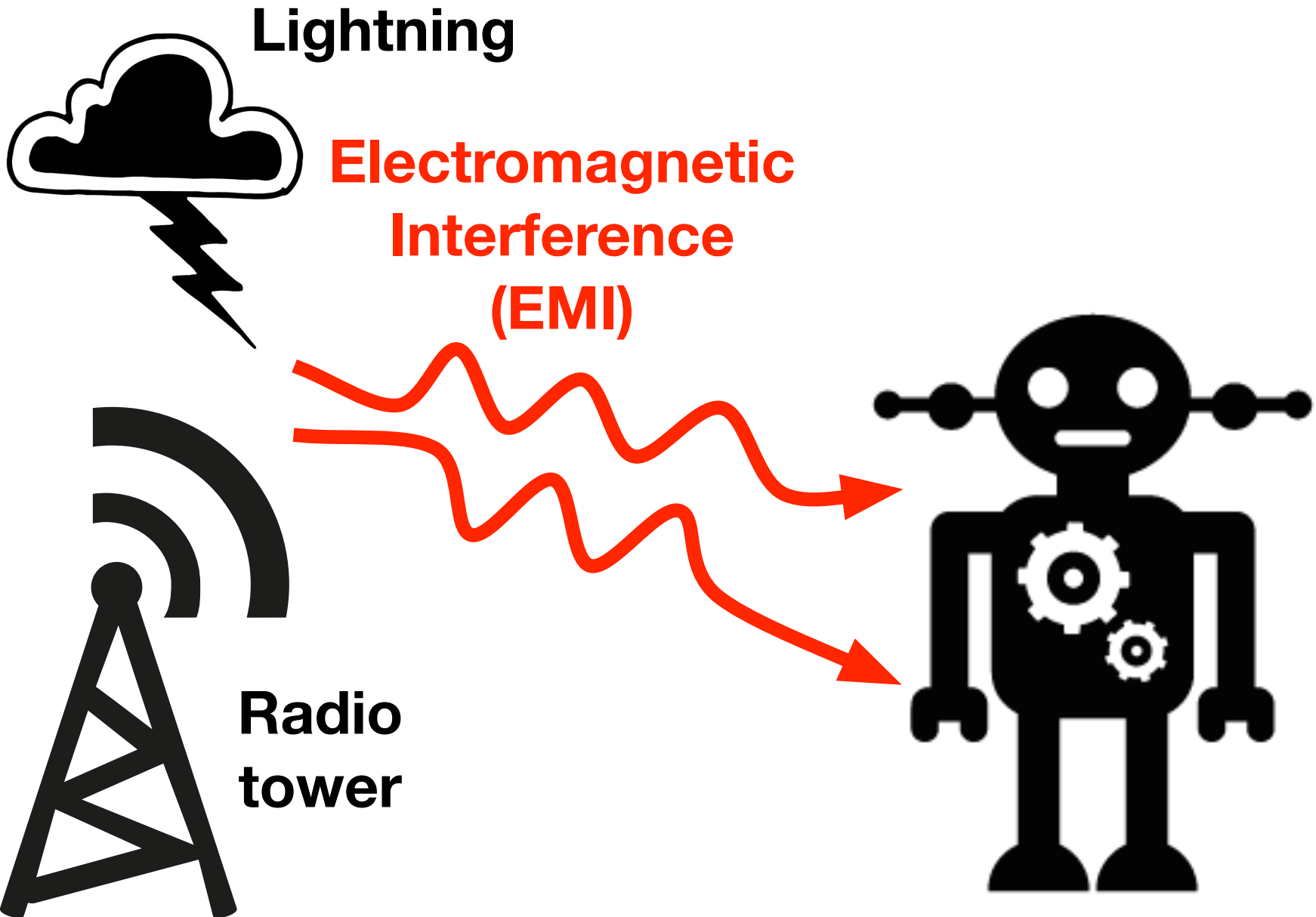
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Safety certification objective:
Ensure **“negligible”** failure rates

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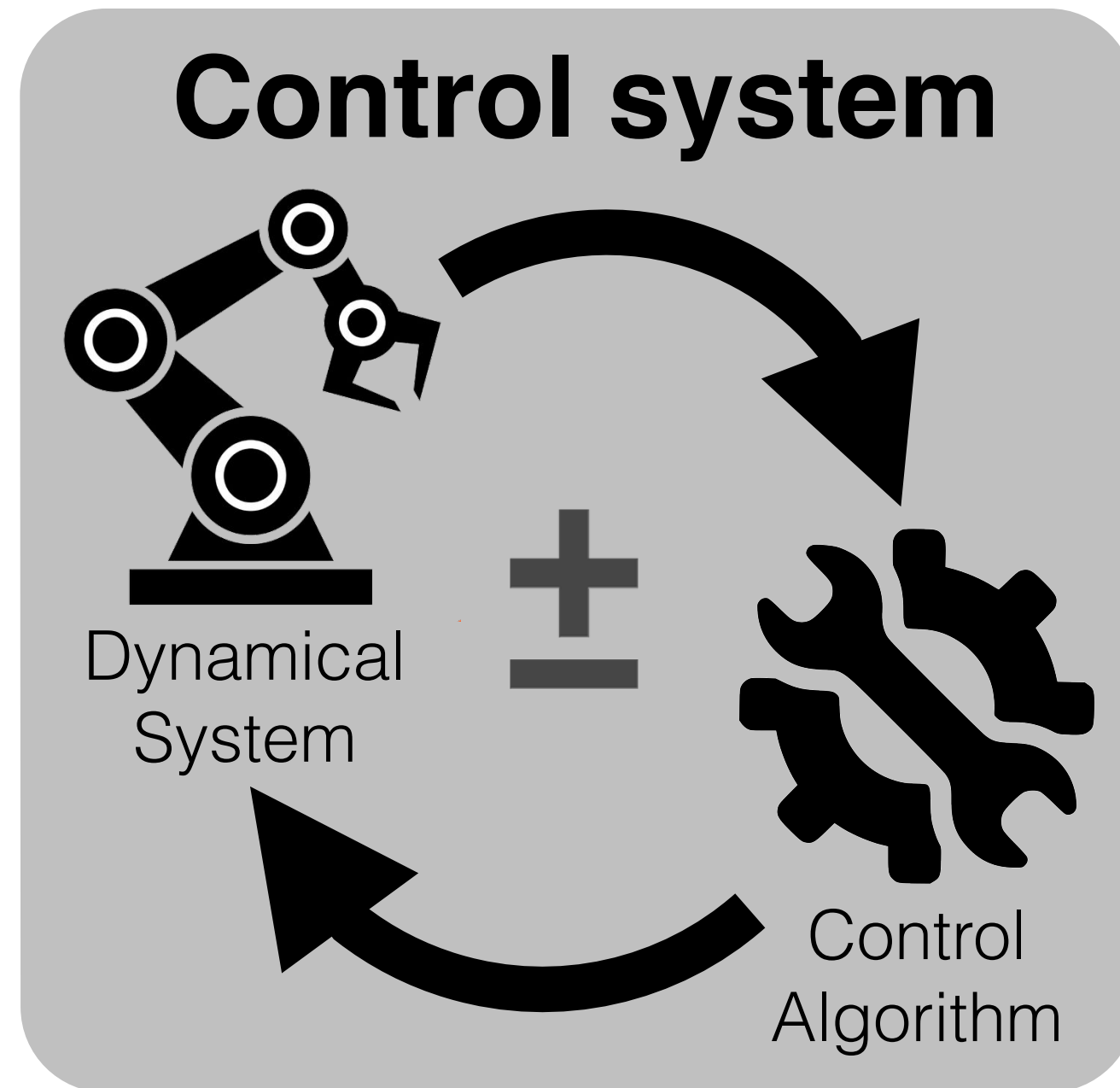
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E.g., for critical subsystems:
 $Pr[\text{failure / hour}] < 10^{-9}$

ARP4761 and the Safety Assessment Process for Civil Airborne Systems

How to Analyse the Reliability of **Temporally Robust Systems**?

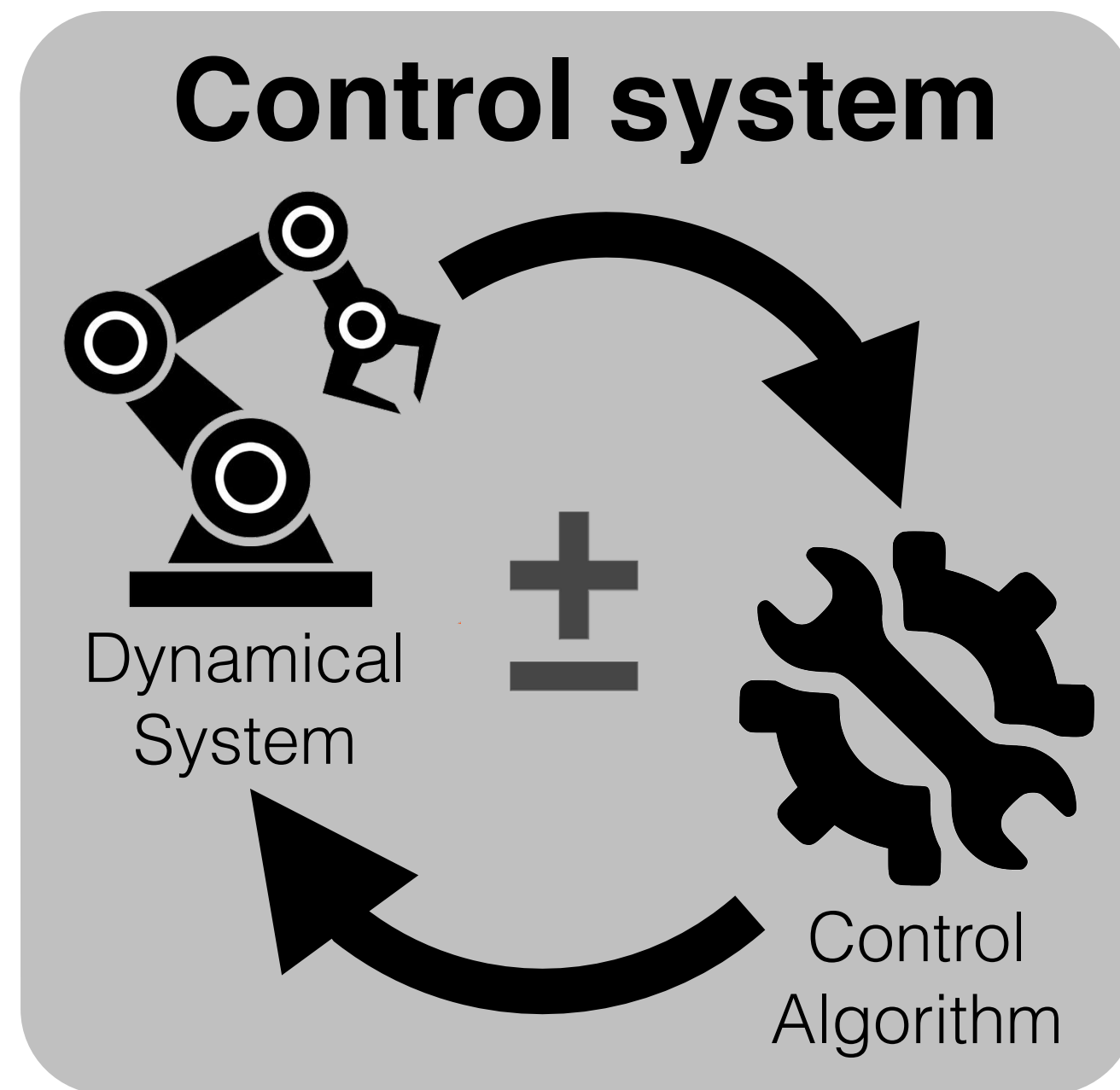
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Motivating example

- **Frequency:** 100 Hz (10 ms time period)
- **Stability requirement:** 3 out of 4 iterations execute on time

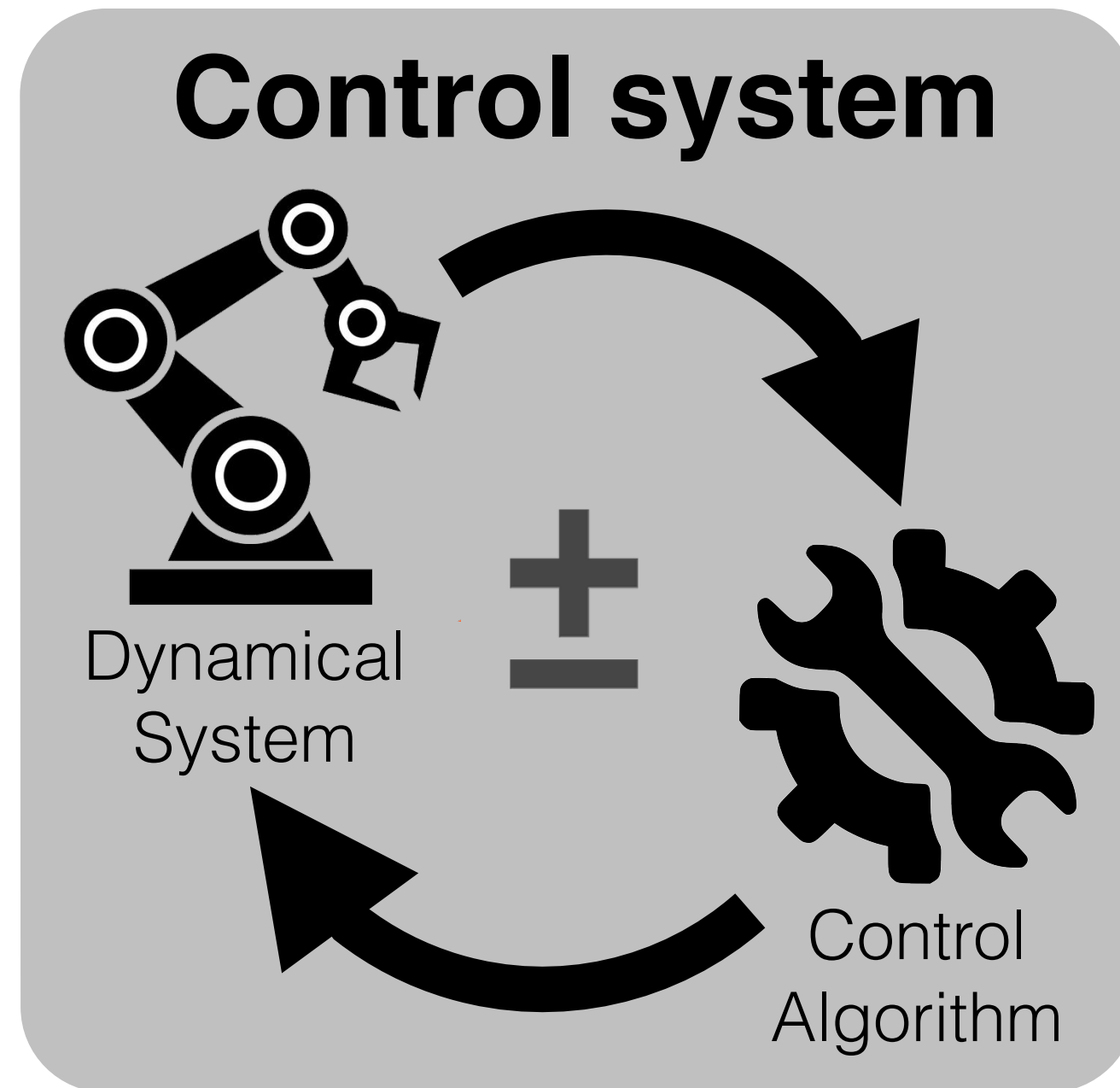
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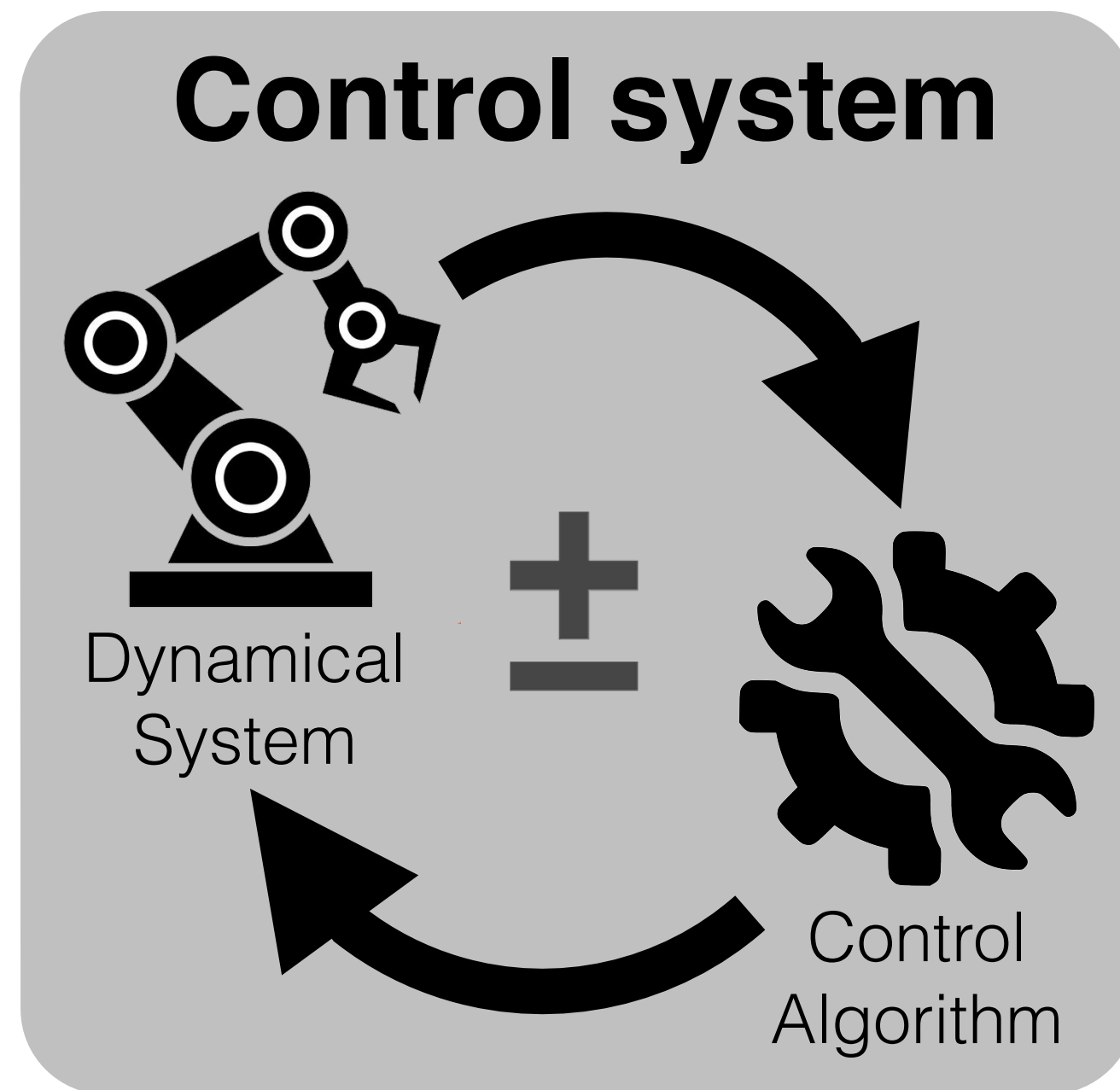
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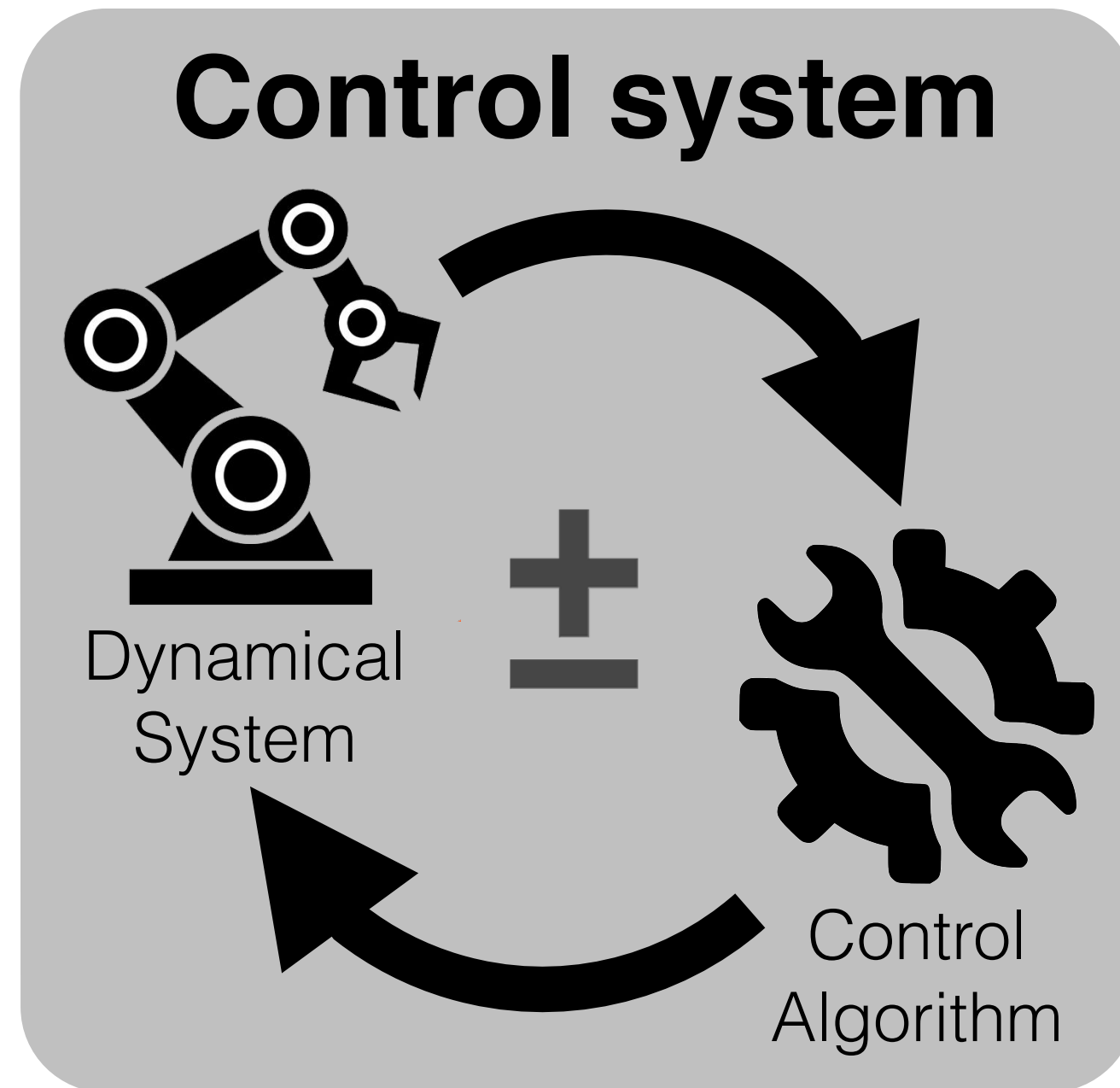
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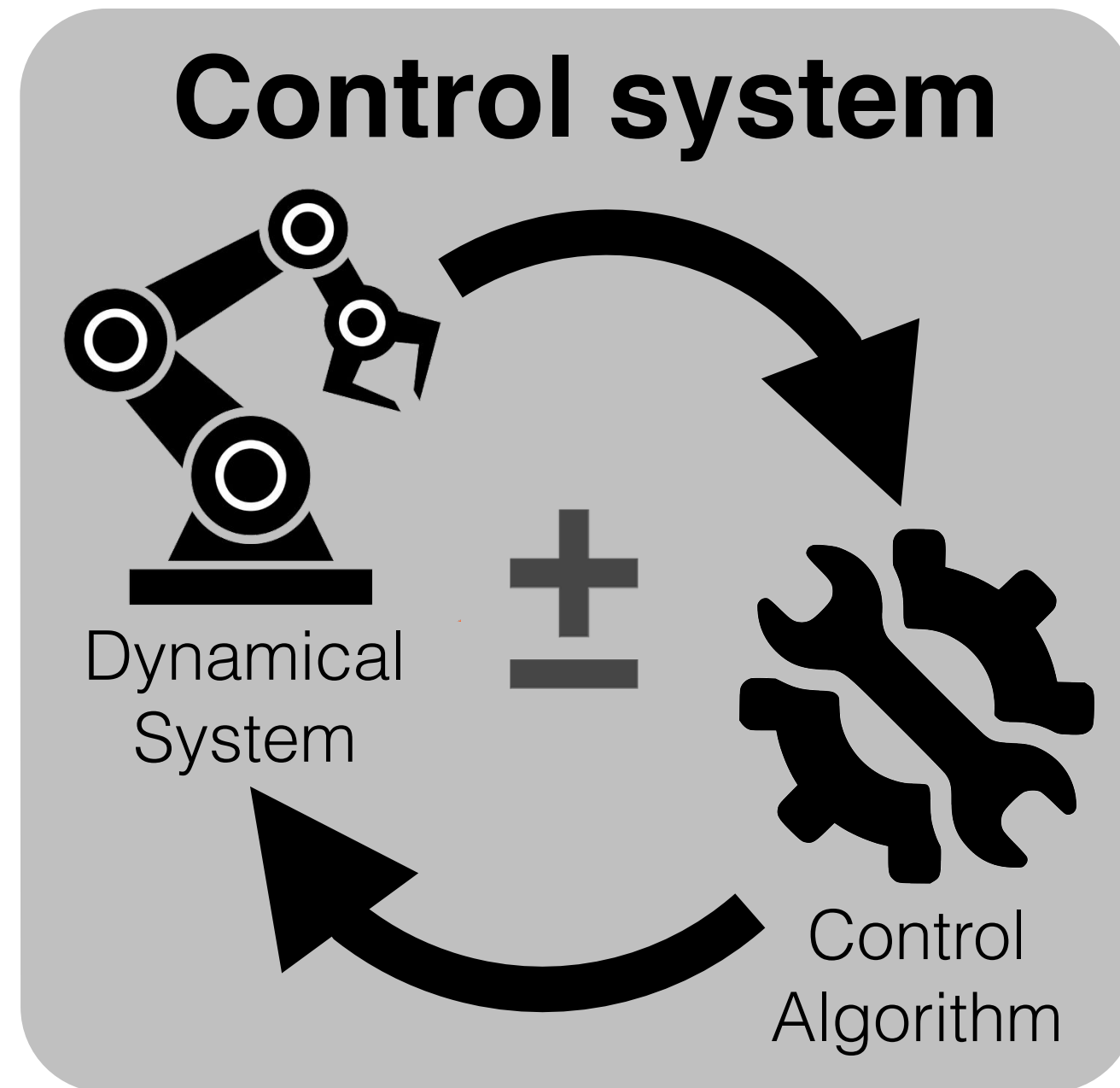
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Not trivial anymore!

This work

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Objectives

Generic

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Proposed Techniques

PMC (**P**robabilistic **M**odel **C**hecking)

- Exact, very generic, but slow

Mart (uses martingale theory)

- Exact, less generic, but slightly faster

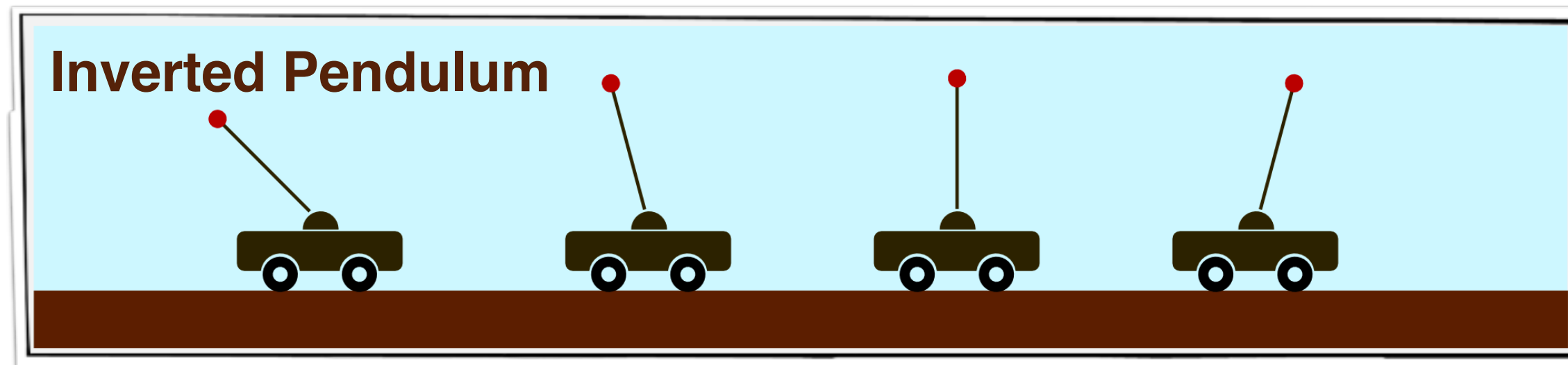
SAP (**S**ound **A**pproximation)

- Not exact, least generic, but highly scalable

Background & System Model

Asymptotic Properties

Asymptotic Properties



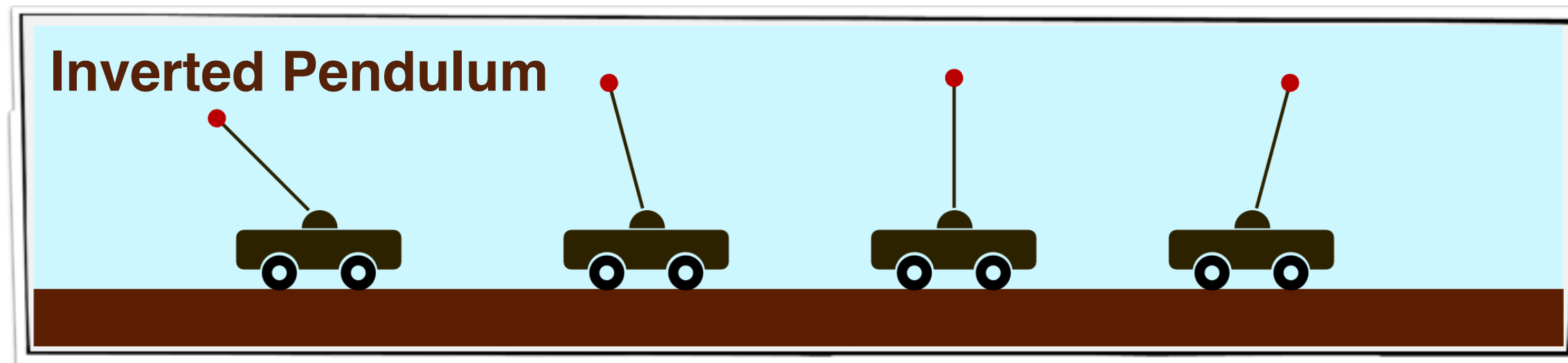
Specification: Mass 0.5 kg, length 0.20 m, period 10 ms

Design: Current iteration is skipped \rightarrow Use previous iteration parameters

Asymptotically stable with **at least 76.51% successful iterations***

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Doesn't specify if the system can handle a burst of skipped iterations

\rightarrow What if the first 50 iterations are skipped? No feedback for 0.5 second

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Weakly-Hard* Constraints



Concretize asymptotic properties using finite window sizes

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Weakly-Hard* Constraints

Concretize asymptotic properties using finite window sizes

If each iteration is labeled either as a **S**uccess or a **F**ailure

→ (m, k) constraint: At least m out of every k consecutive iterations must be **S**uccessful

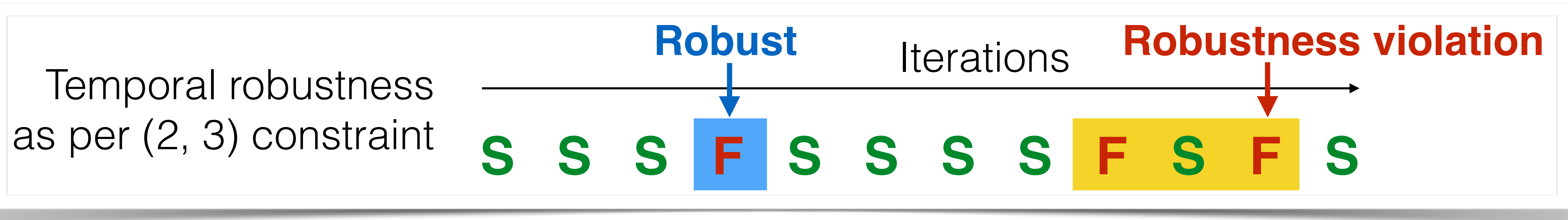
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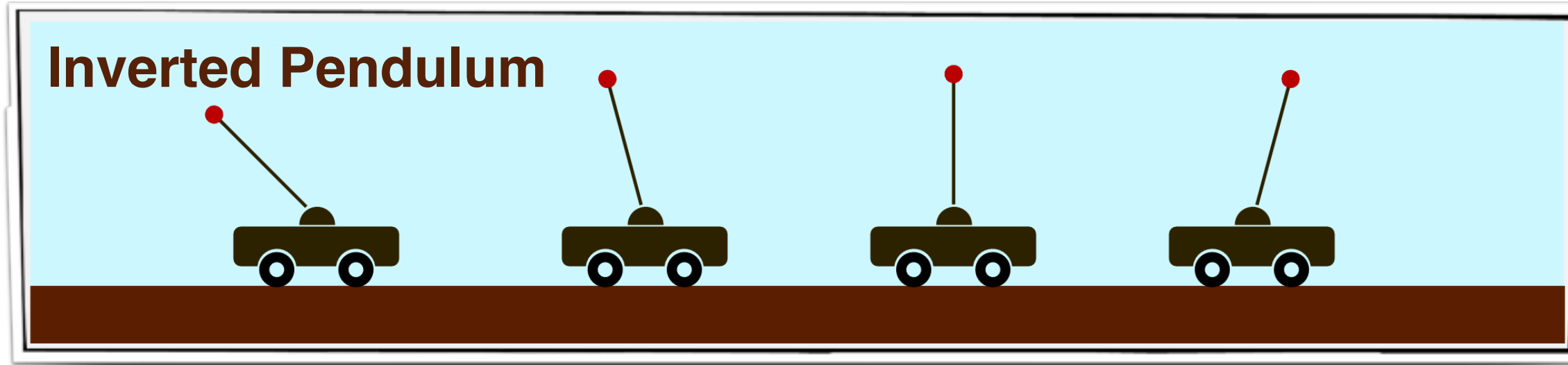
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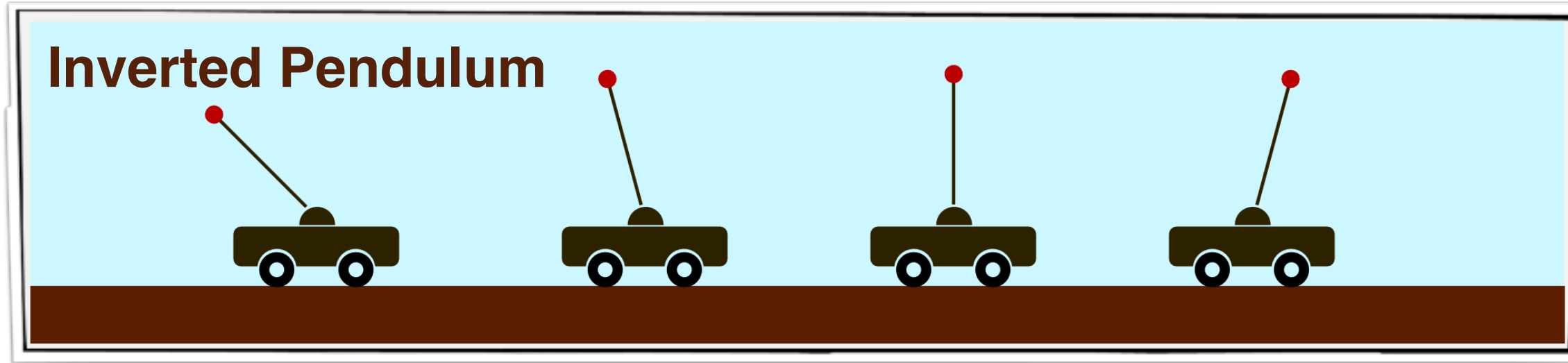
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Temporal Robustness Criteria



Asymptotically stable with **at least 76.51% successful iterations*** \mapsto (766, 1000)

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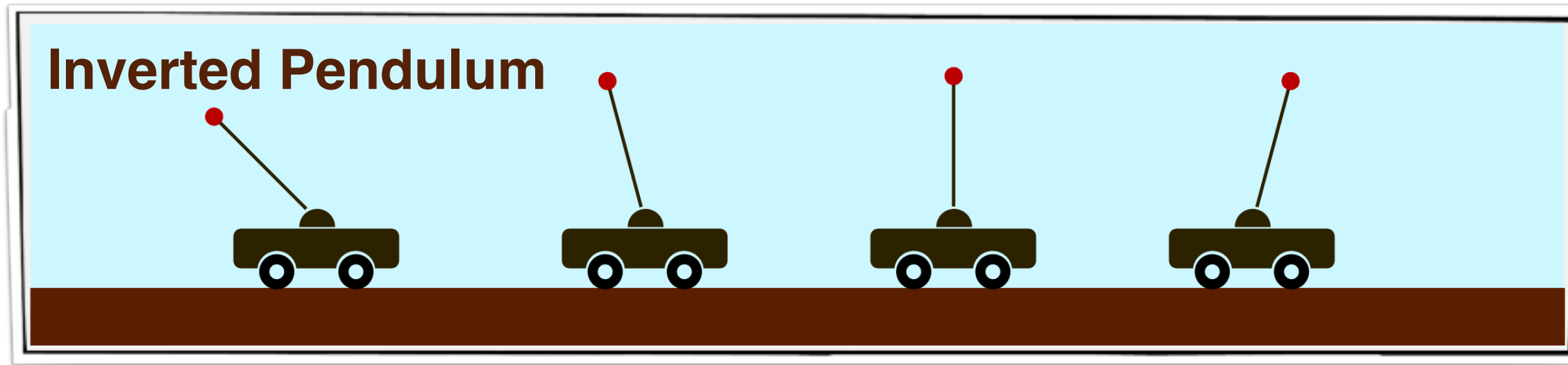


Asymptotically stable with **at least 76.51% successful iterations*** \longleftarrow (766, 1000)

Short-range “liveness” constraints \longleftarrow (1, 5)

- The inverted pendulum can tolerate a small burst of skipped iterations

Temporal Robustness Criteria



Robustness Criteria

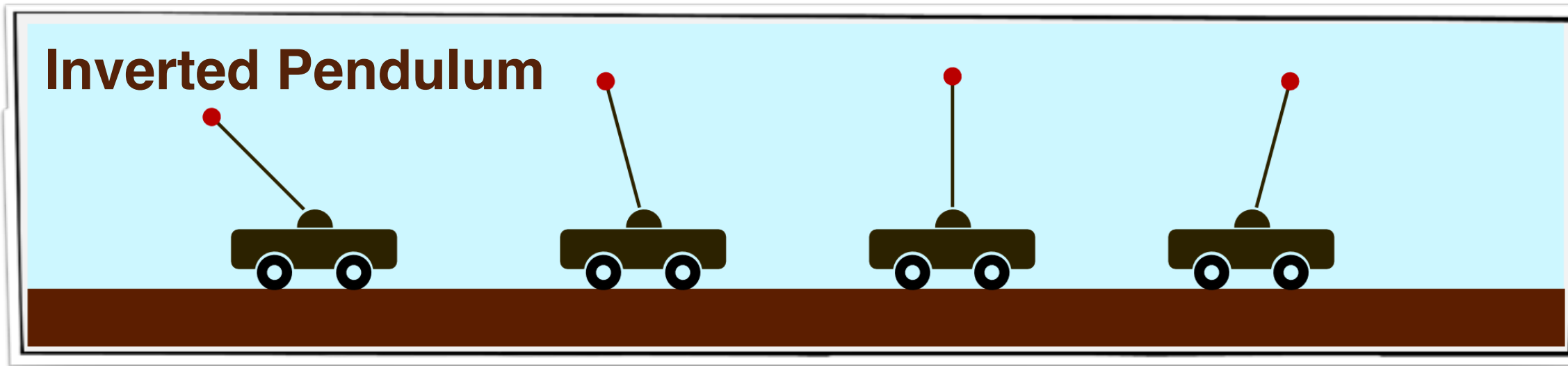
Combination of two weakly-hard constraints

Asymptotically stable with **at least 76.51% successful iterations*** → (766, 1000)

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Temporal Robustness Criteria



Robustness Criteria

Combination of two weakly-hard constraints

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Short-range “liveness” constraints $\rightarrow (1, 5)$

→ The inverted pendulum can tolerate a small burst of skipped iterations

Combination of different weakly-hard constraints

- (m, k) = Each k consecutive iterations, at least m successes needed
- $\langle m, k \rangle$ = Each k consecutive iterations, at least m consecutive successes needed
- $\overline{\langle m \rangle}$ = m consecutive failures should never happen

Problem Statement

Given periodic system **S**, time period **T**, iteration failure probability **P_F**, and the **temporal robustness criteria ...**

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Lower-bound the **Mean Time To Failure (MTTF)** of S

$$\begin{aligned} \text{MTTF} &= \text{Expected time to 1}^{\text{st}} \text{ temporal robustness violation} \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(nT \times \text{Pr}[1^{\text{st}} \text{ violation in the } n^{\text{th}} \text{ iteration}] \right) \end{aligned}$$

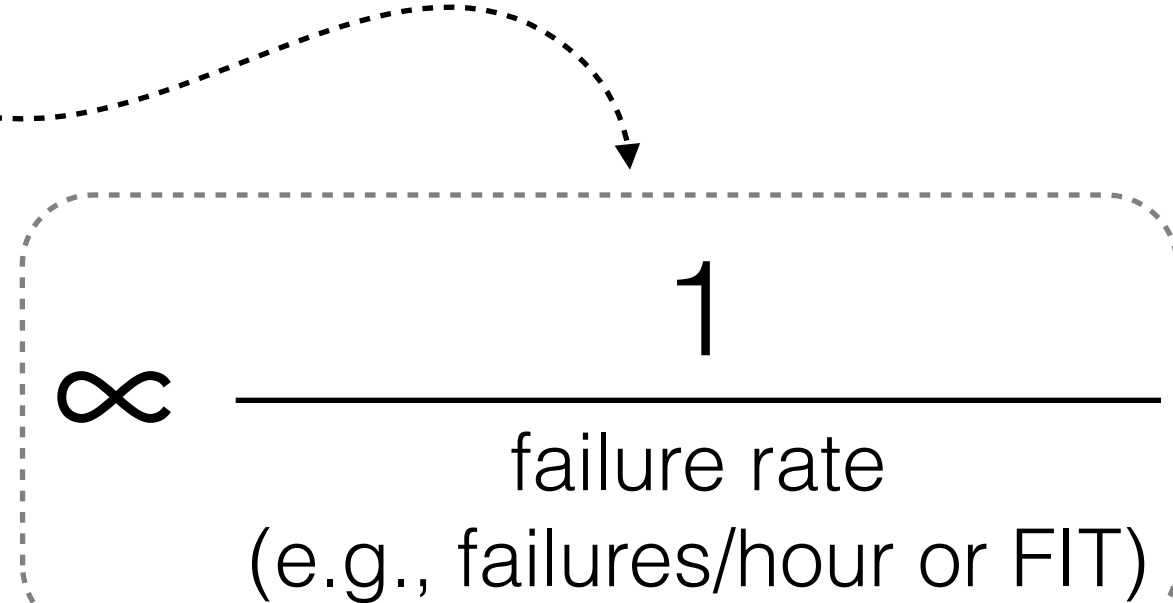
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$$\infty \frac{1}{\text{failure rate (e.g., failures/hour or FIT)}}$$

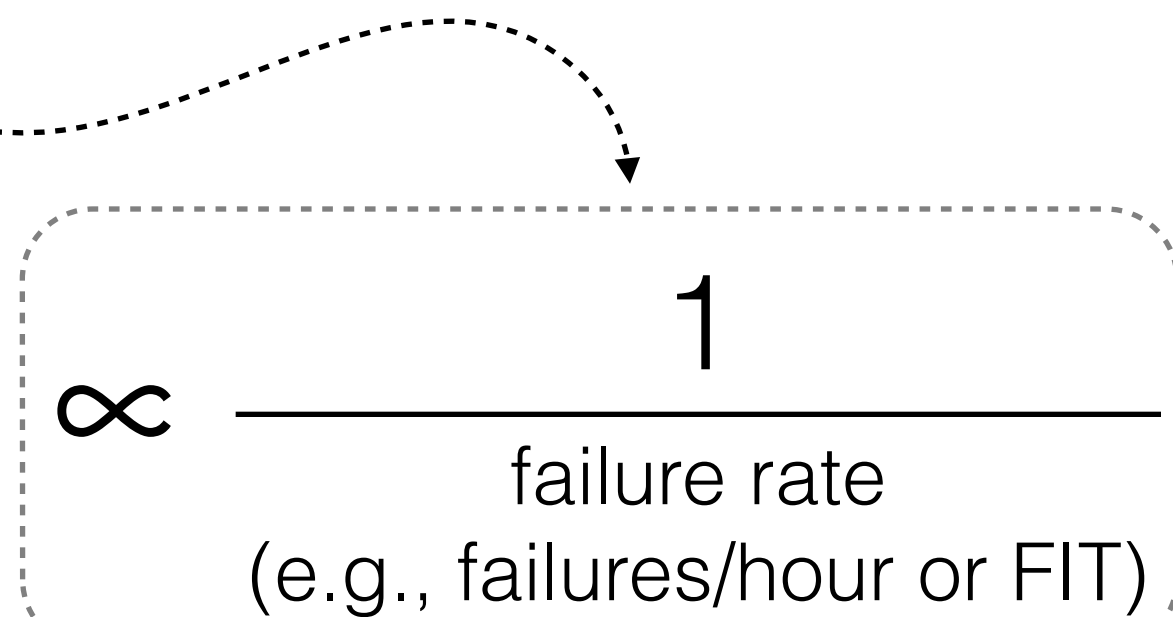
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Assumption: **P_F** is independently and identically distributed (IID)^{1, 2}

¹ Broster et al. "Timing Analysis of Real-Time Communication Under Electromagnetic Interference." Real Time Systems Journal (2005)

² Gujarati et al. "Quantifying the Resiliency of Fail-Operational Real-Time Networked Control Systems." ECRTS, Barcelona (2018)

Probabilistic **M**odel **C**hecking (**PMC**)

Exact, very generic, but slow

MTTF Estimation using PMC

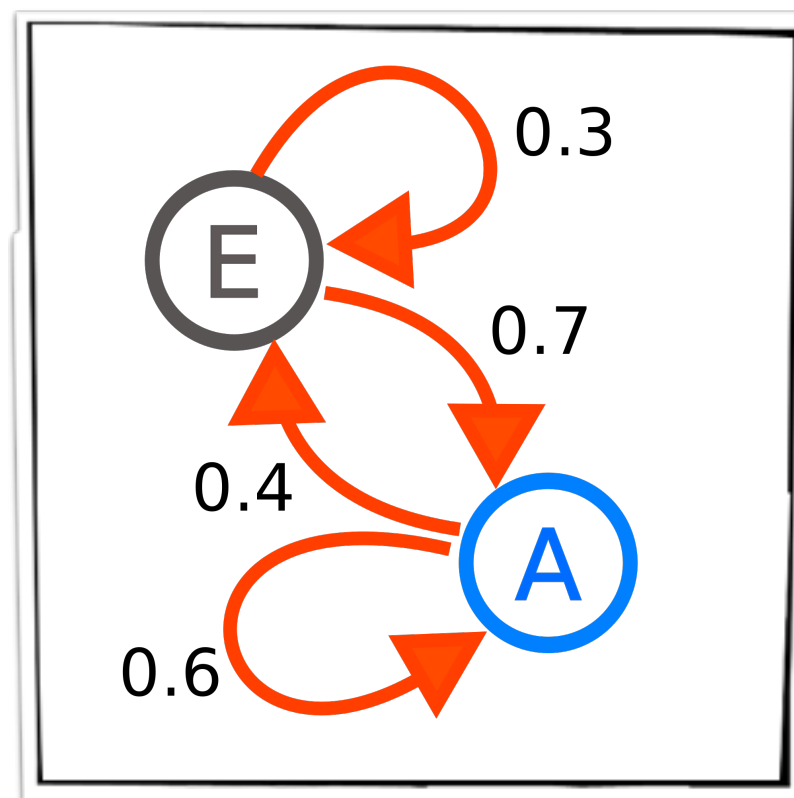


Formal verification technique to model and analyze systems that exhibit **probabilistic** behaviours

MTTF Estimation using PMC

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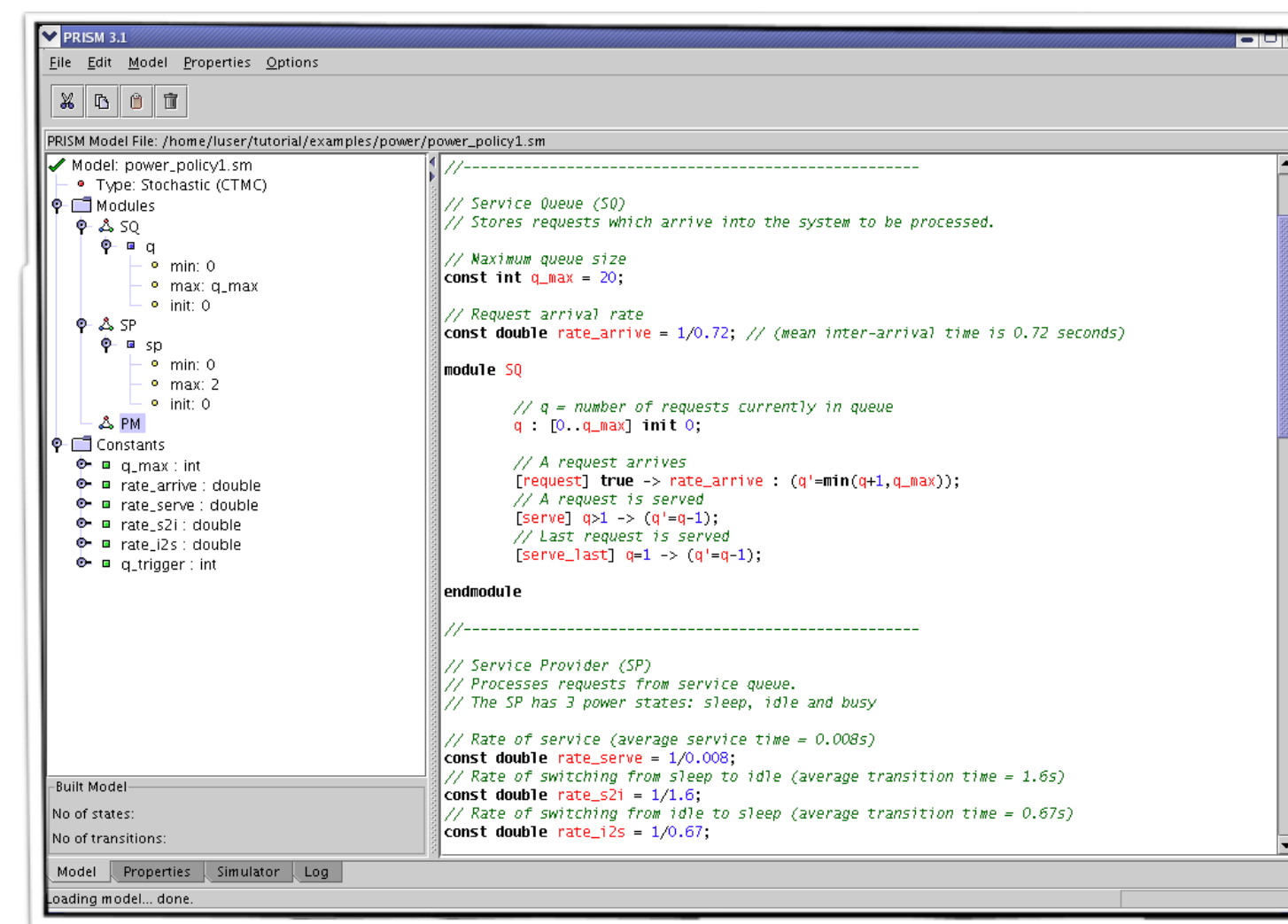
System as a probabilistic model



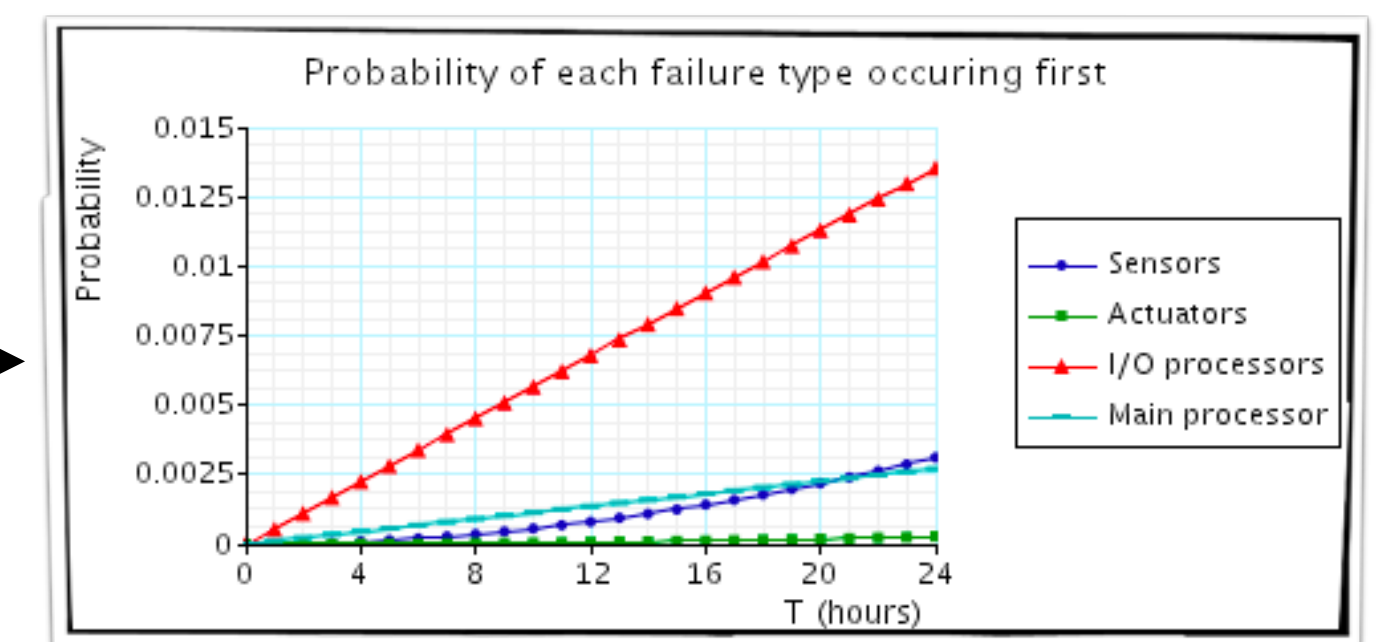
Safety properties as temporal logical specifications

$R=?$ [**F** safe=false]

Probabilistic model checker, e.g., PRISM



Quantitative results

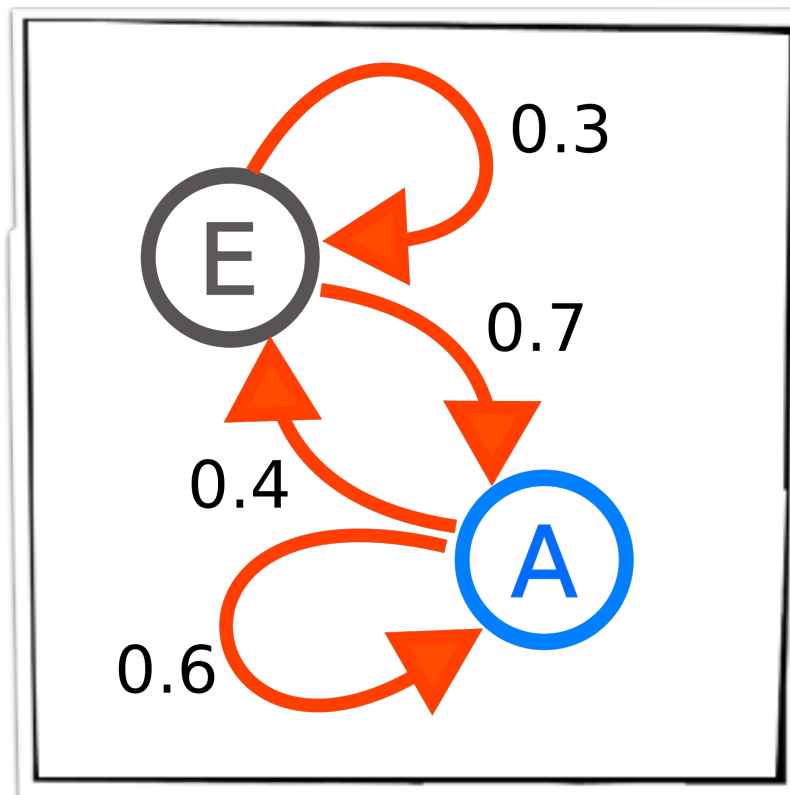


MTTF Estimation using PMC



Periodic system **S** with iteration failure probabilities **P_F**

System as a probabilistic model



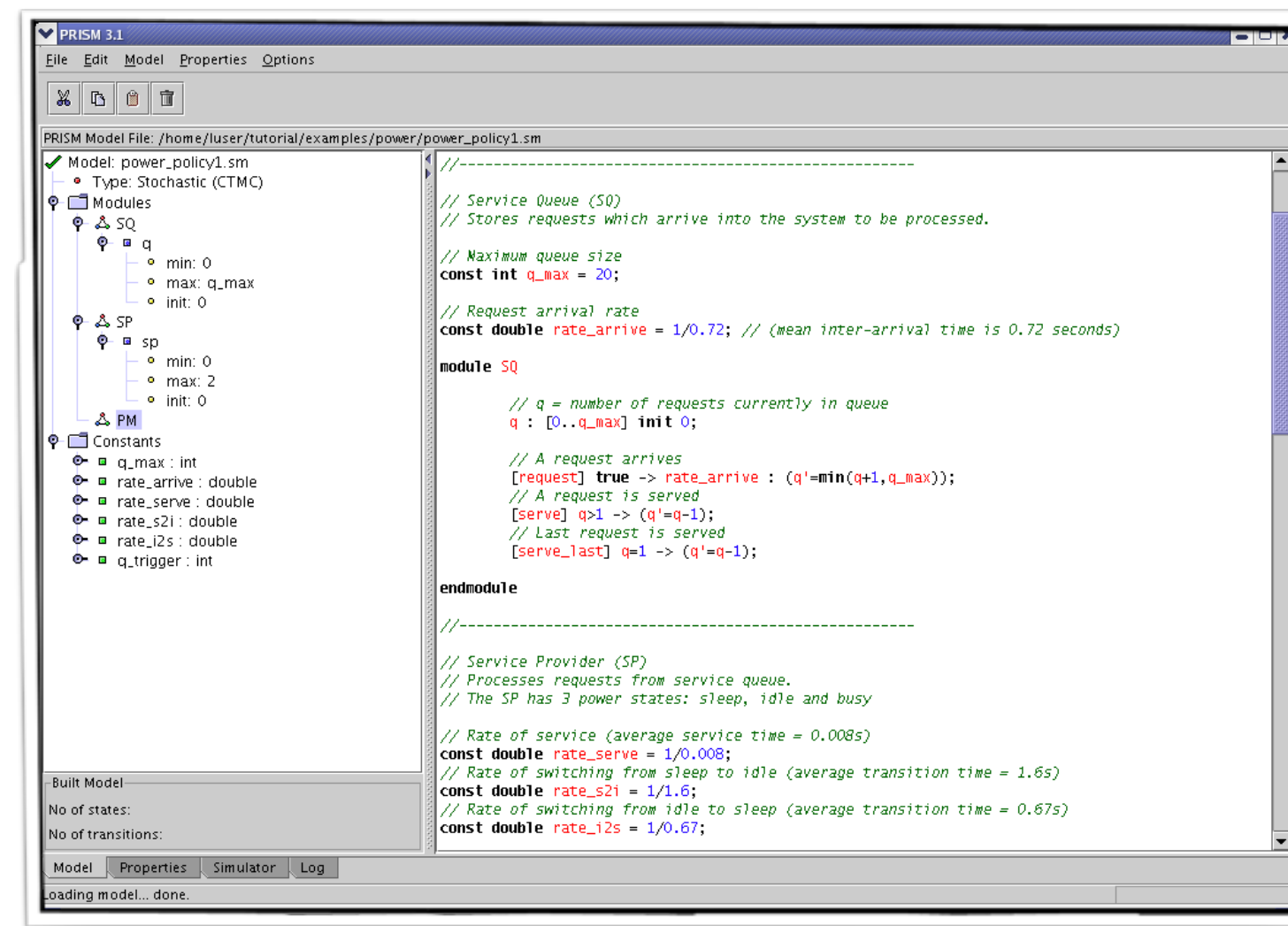
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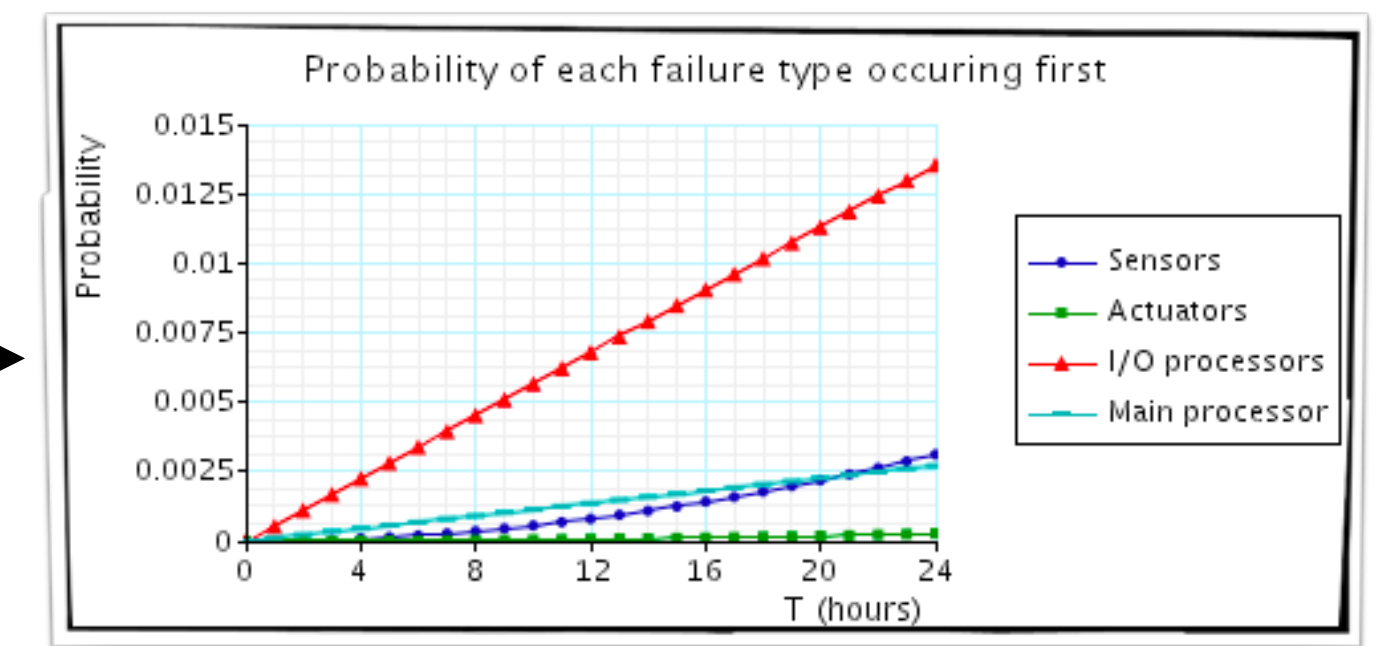
Violation of temporal robustness

Formal verification technique to model and analyze systems that exhibit **probabilistic** behaviours

Probabilistic model checker, e.g., PRISM



Quantitative results



MTTF estimation using PRISM

Modeling Weakly-Hard Constraints

Key idea

Weakly-hard constraints depend on a **finite-sized history**

- E.g., (m, k) constraint depends on the k latest iterations
- Connect all possible execution histories via transition probabilities P_F and $1 - P_F$

Modeling Weakly-Hard Constraints

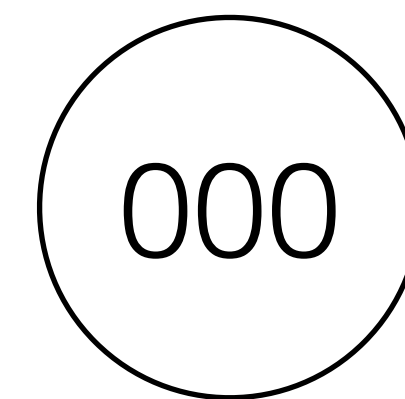
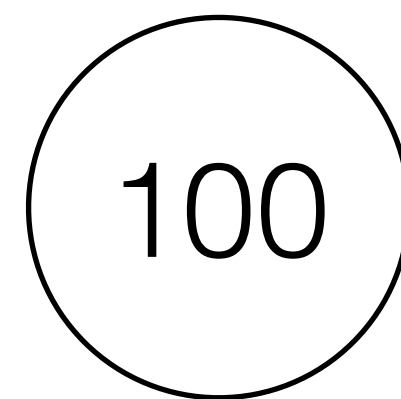
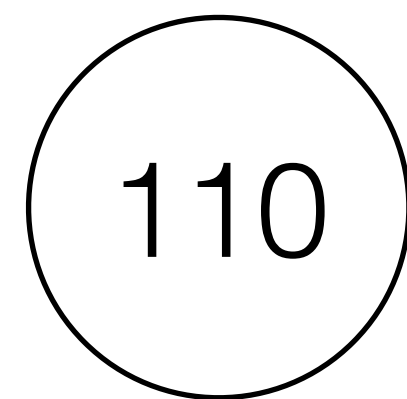
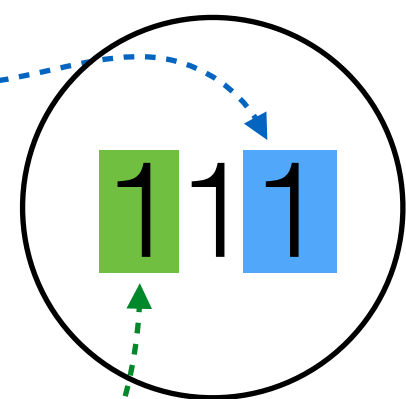
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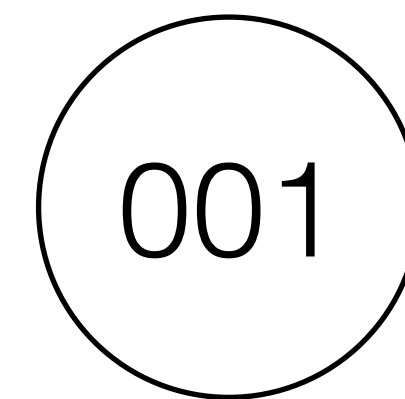
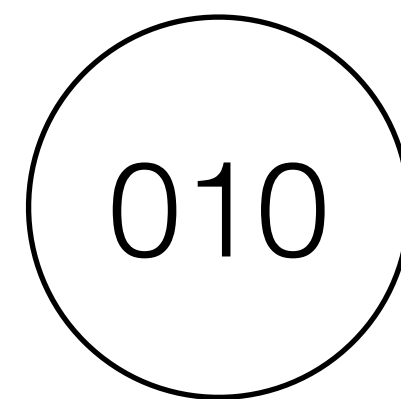
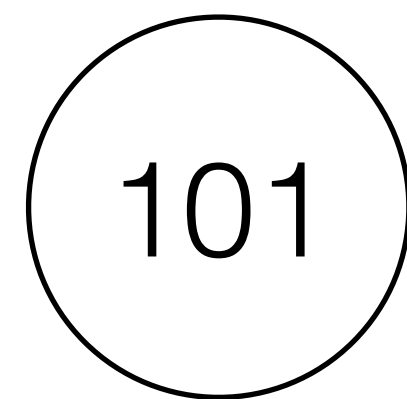
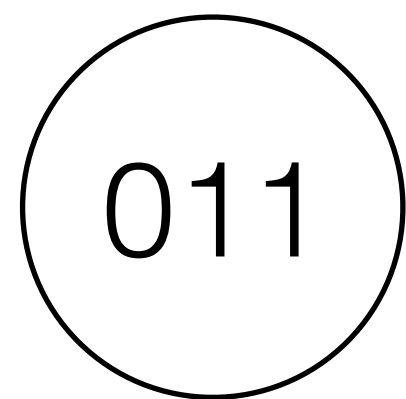
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Rightmost value denotes the latest iteration

Eight execution histories possible



0 = Failed iteration and 1 = Successful iteration



Leftmost value denotes the oldest iteration

Example:
 $(2, 3)$ constraints

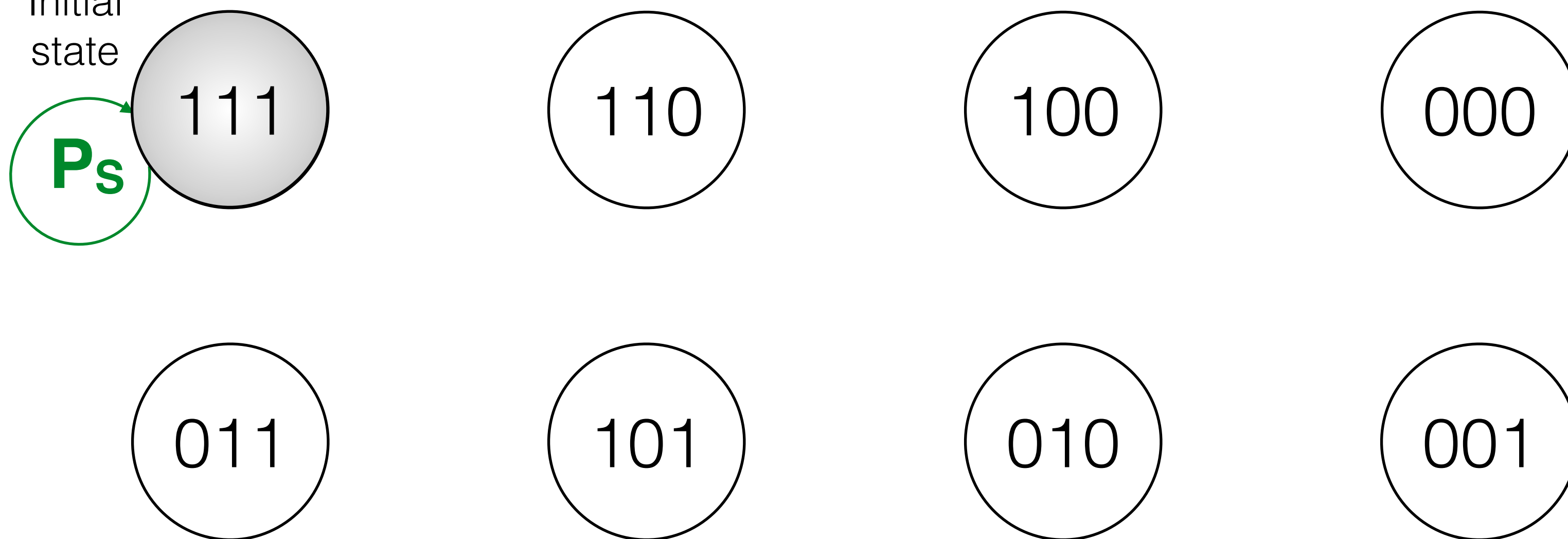
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Initial state



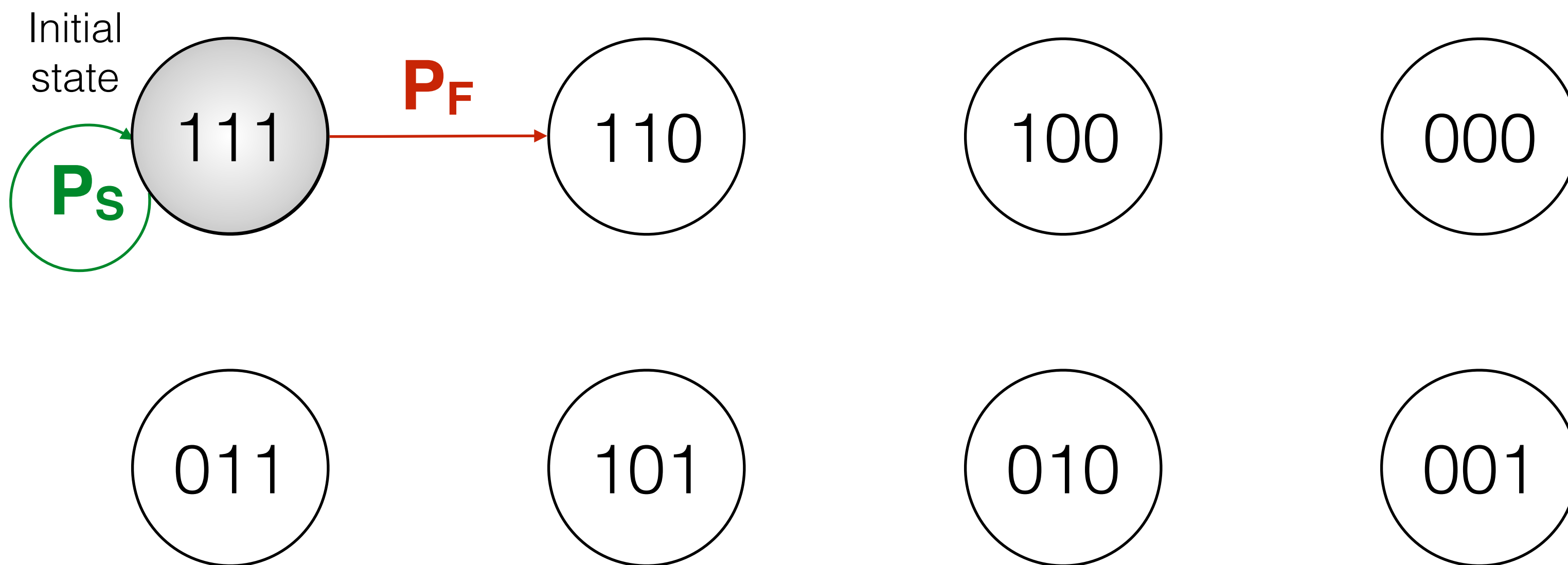
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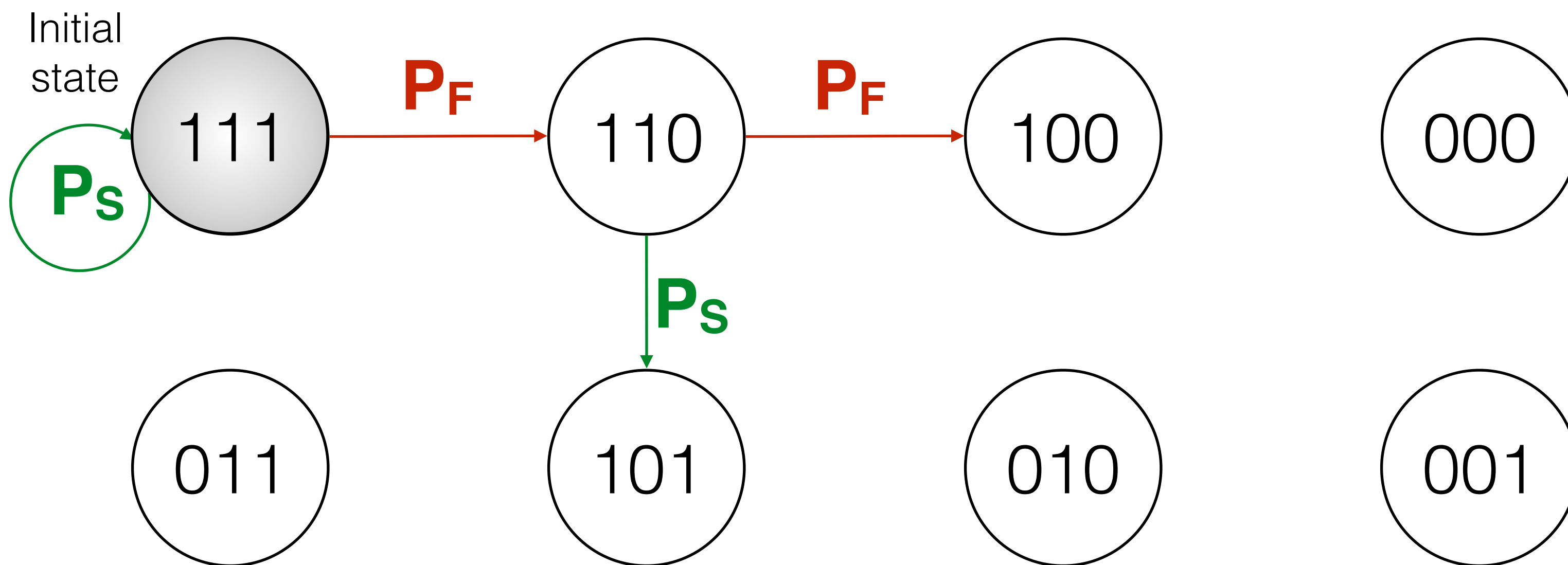
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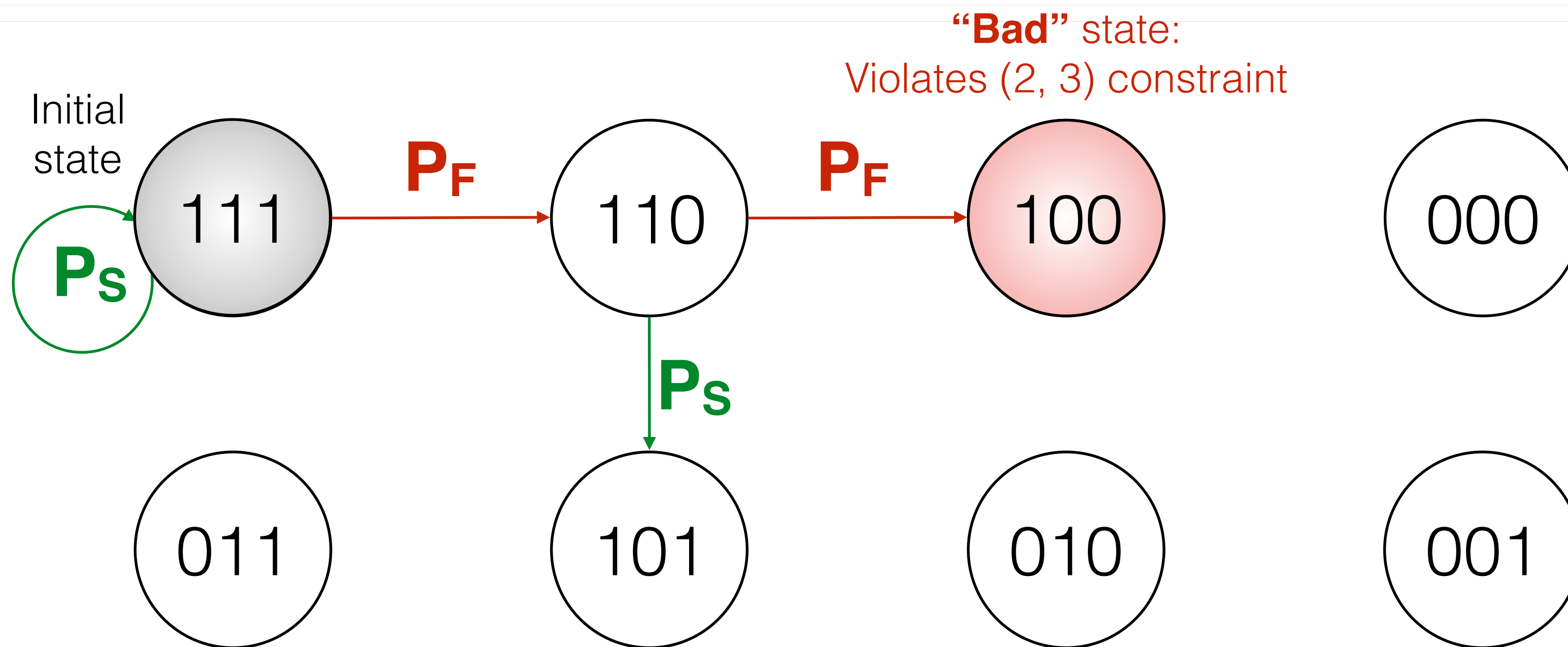
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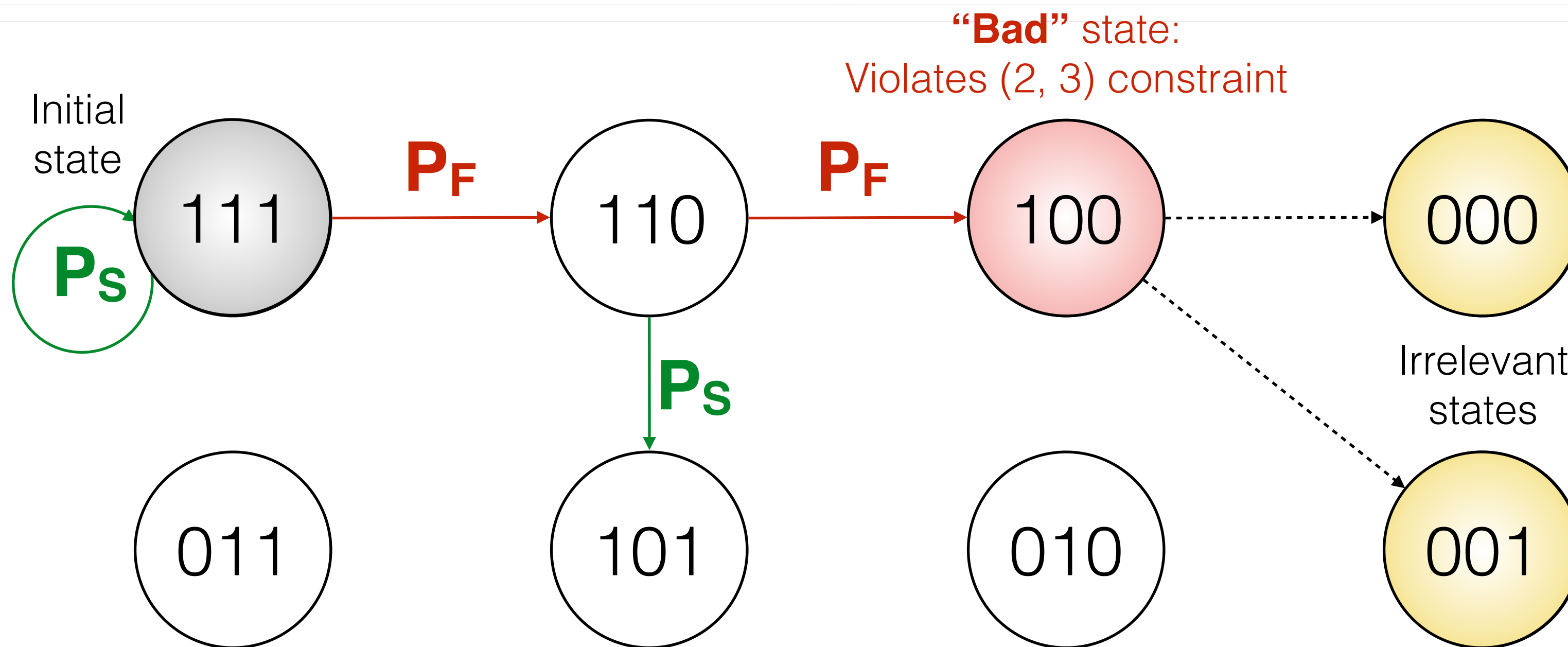
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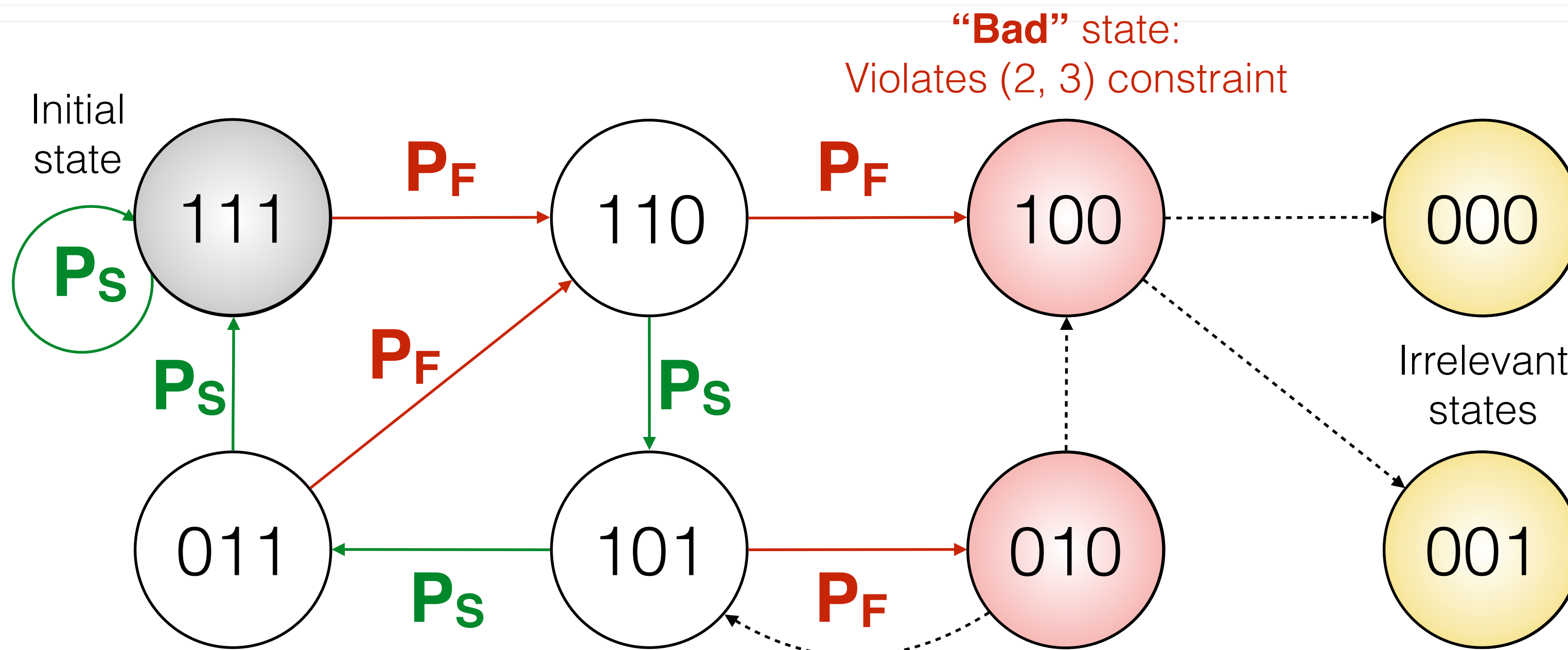
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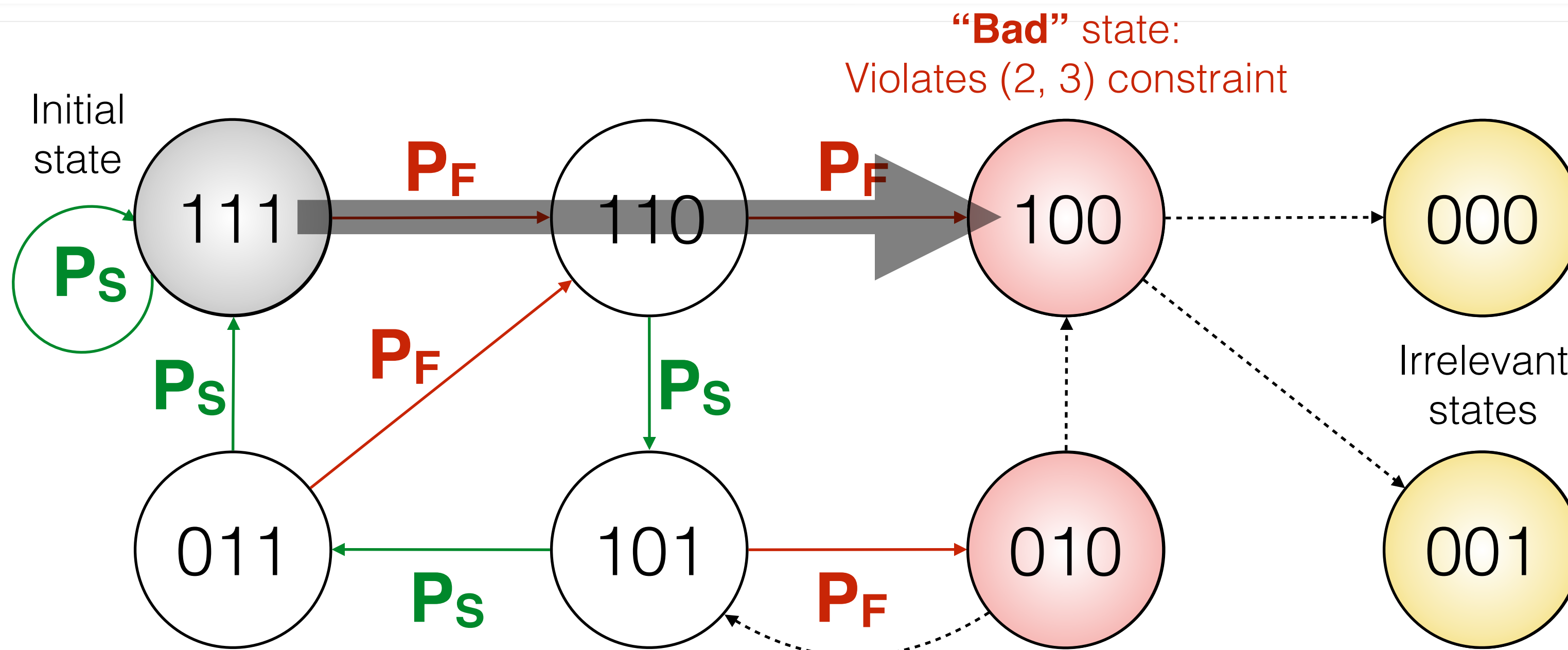
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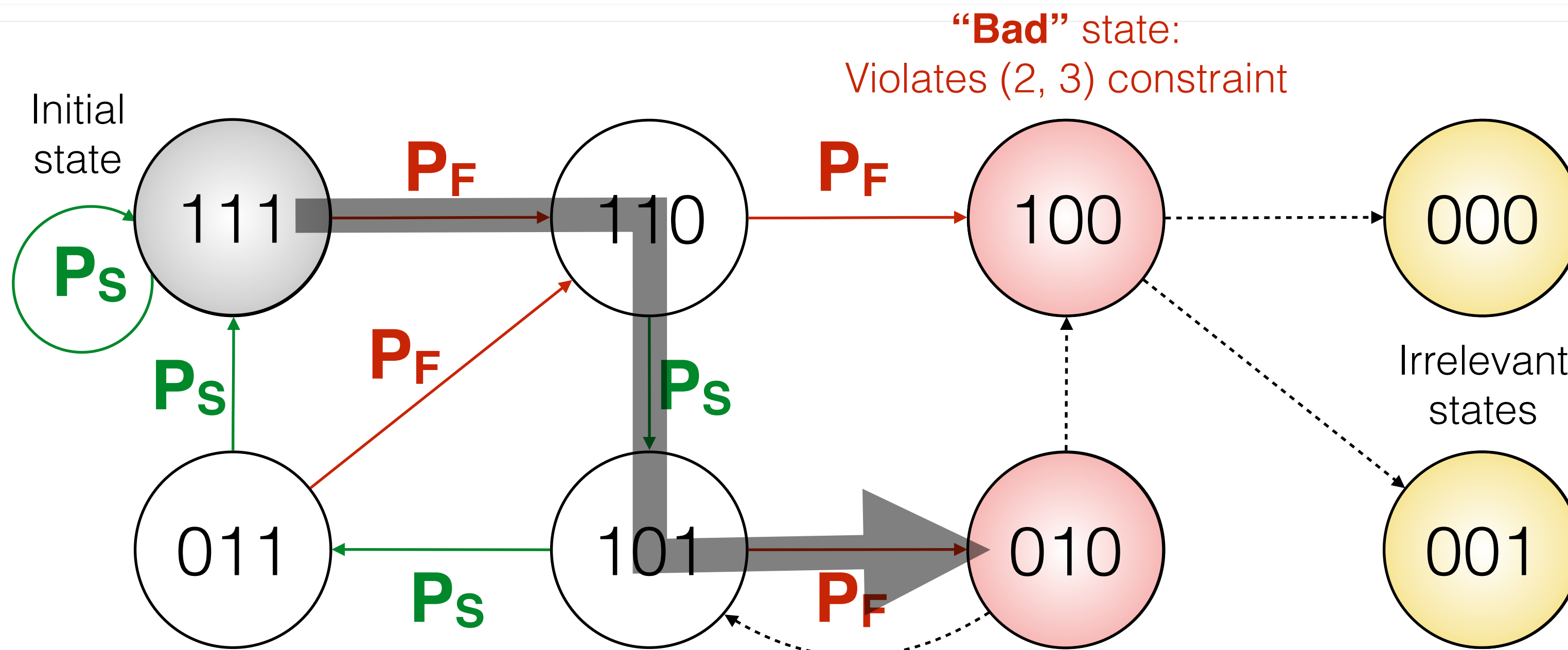
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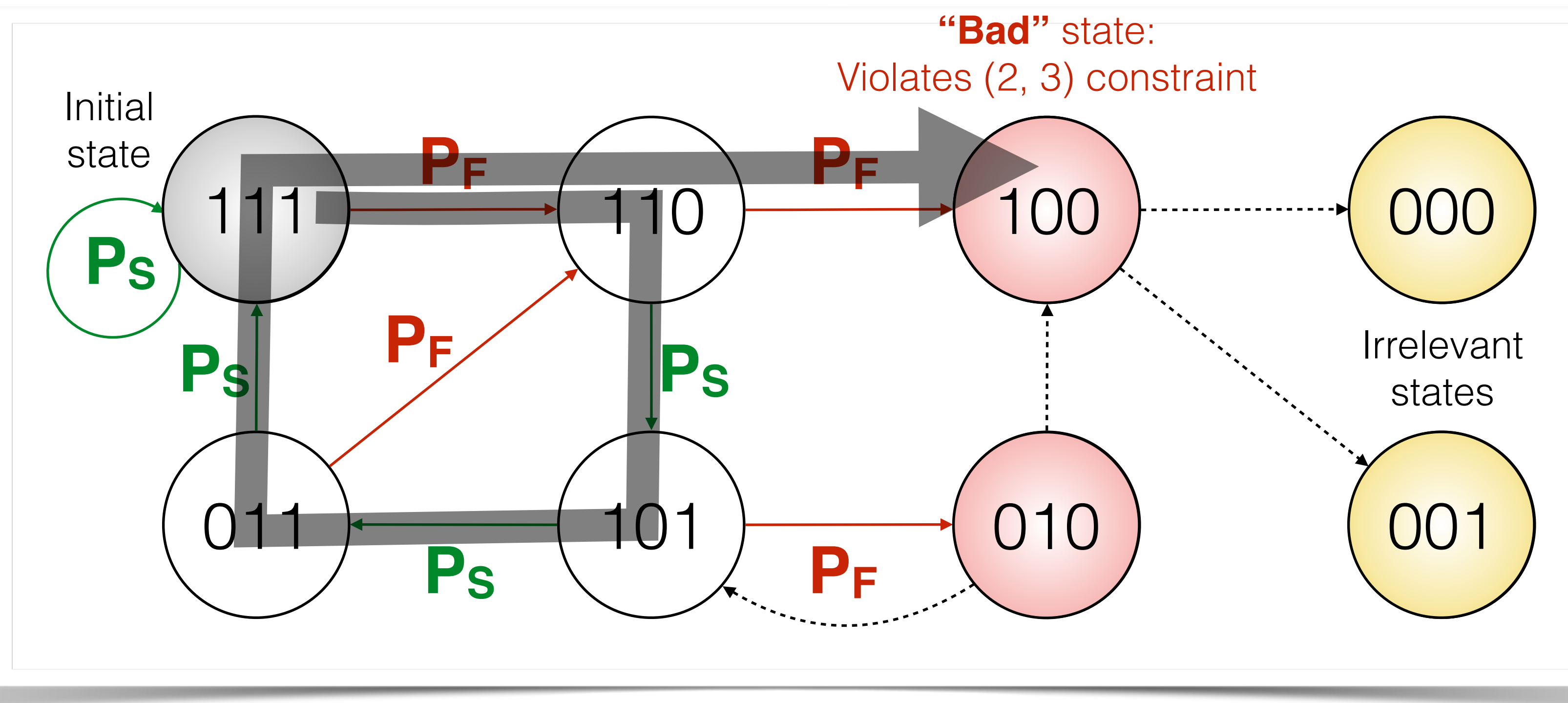
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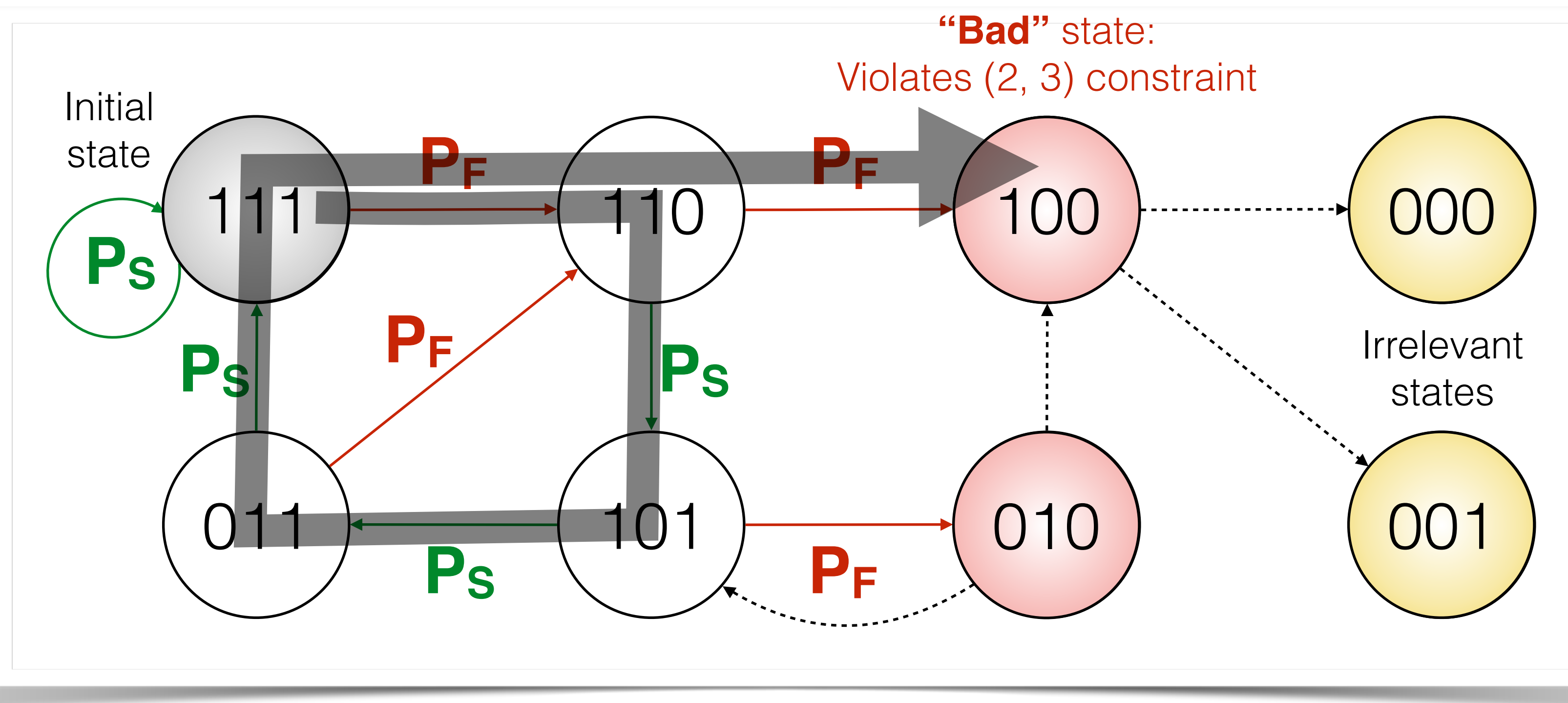
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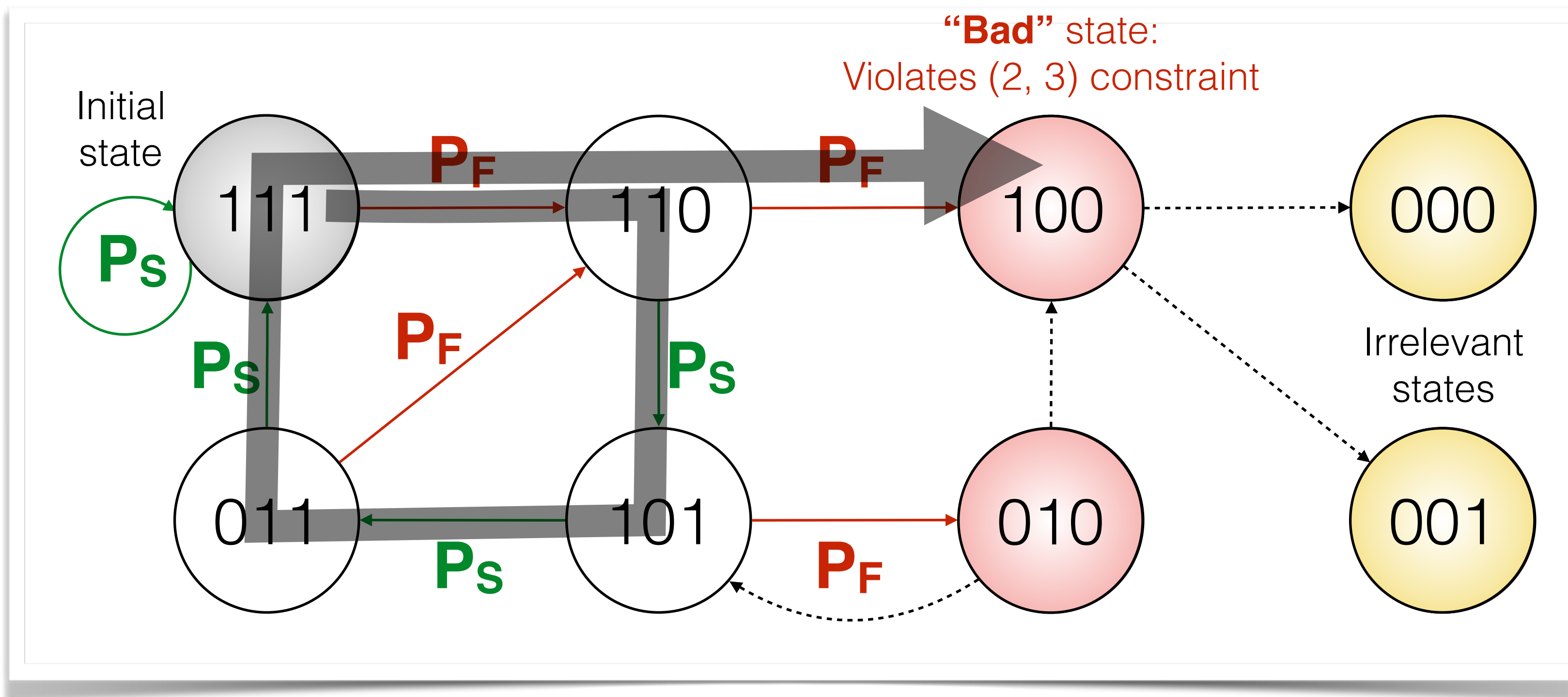
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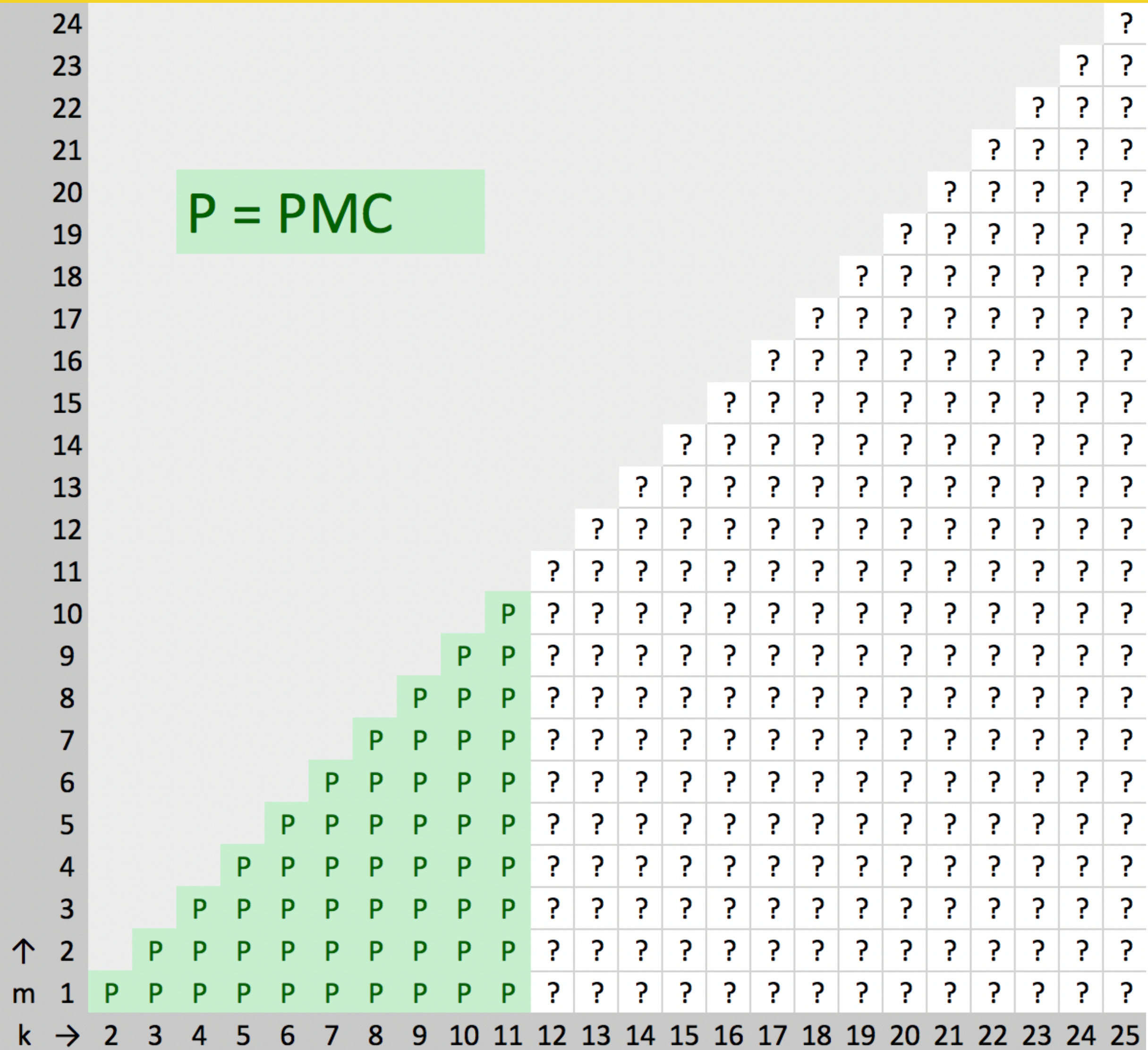
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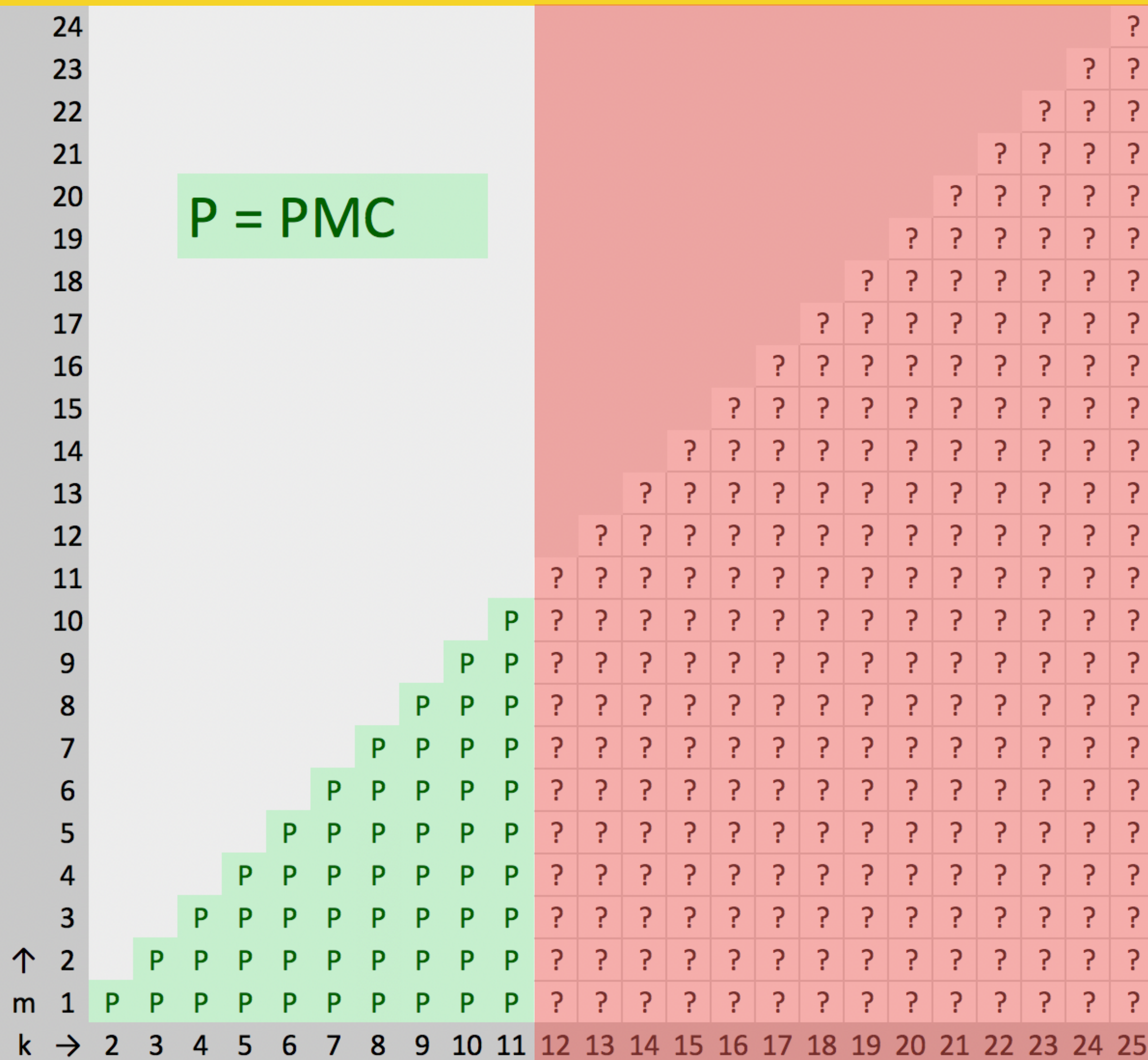
PRISM

Does PMC **Scale** with k ?

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Does PMC **Scale** with k ?



PMC times out after 1 hour for each $k > 11$

Optimizing for the **Common Case** $k - m \ll k$

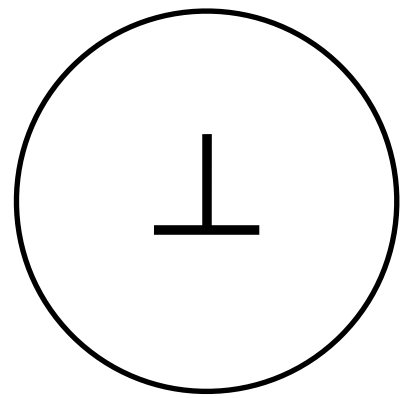
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Example: (2, 3) constraint

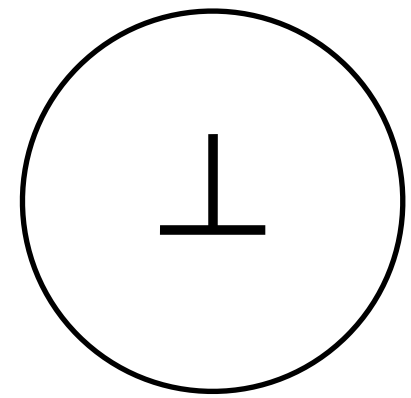


Execution
history 111

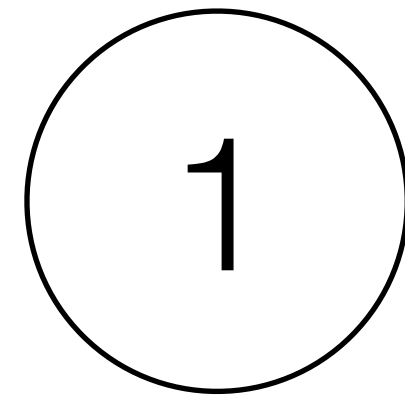
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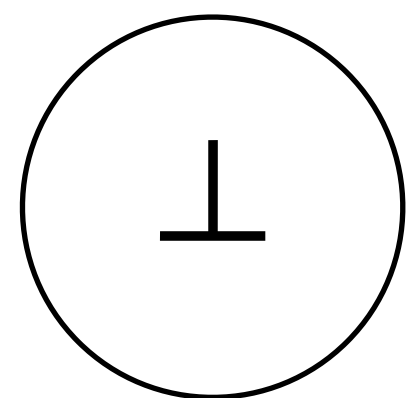


Execution
history 011

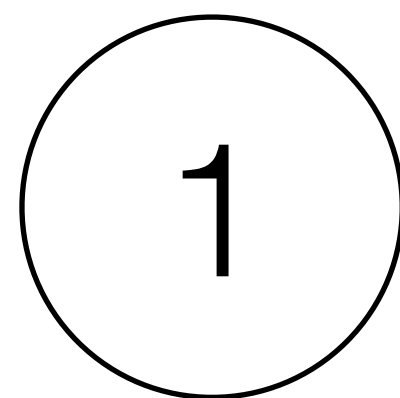
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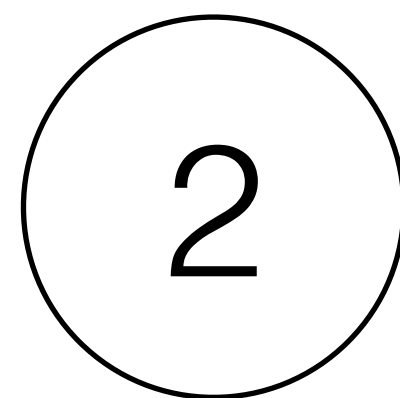
Example: (2, 3) constraint



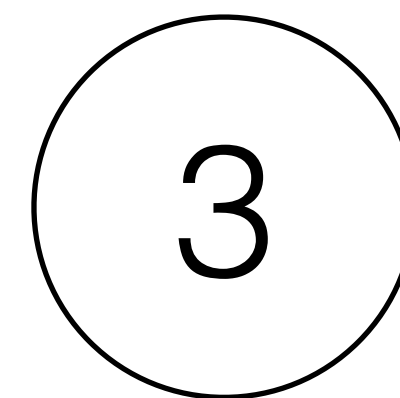
Execution
history 111



Execution
history 011



Execution
history 101

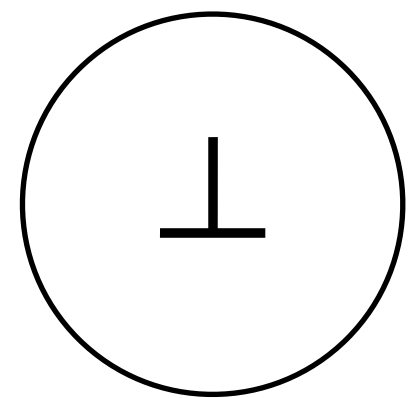


Execution
history 110

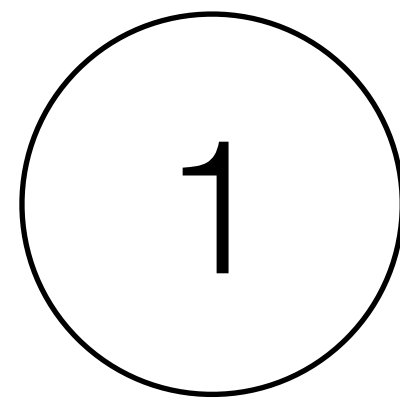
Optimizing for the **Common Case** $k - m \ll k$

Store **positions of all failed iterations**, instead of the entire history

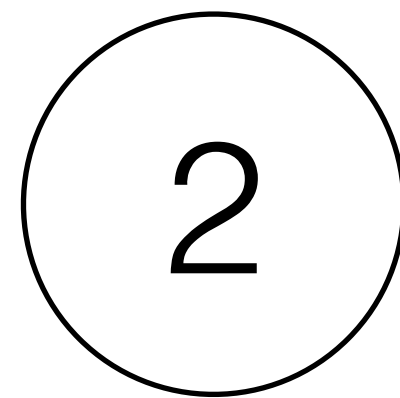
Example: (2, 3) constraint



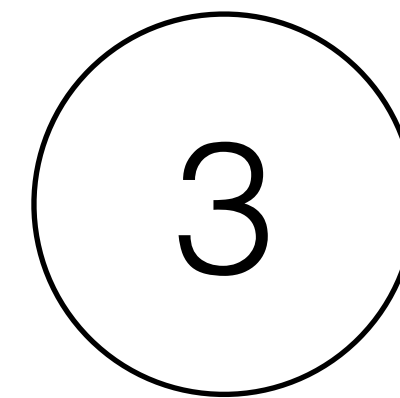
Execution
history 111



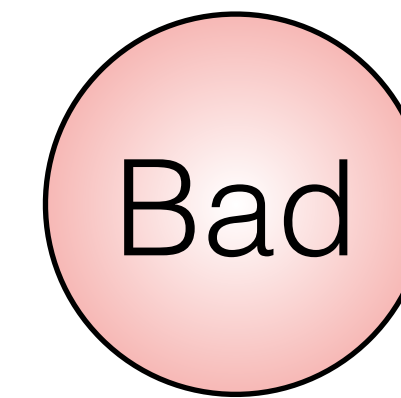
Execution
history 011



Execution
history 101



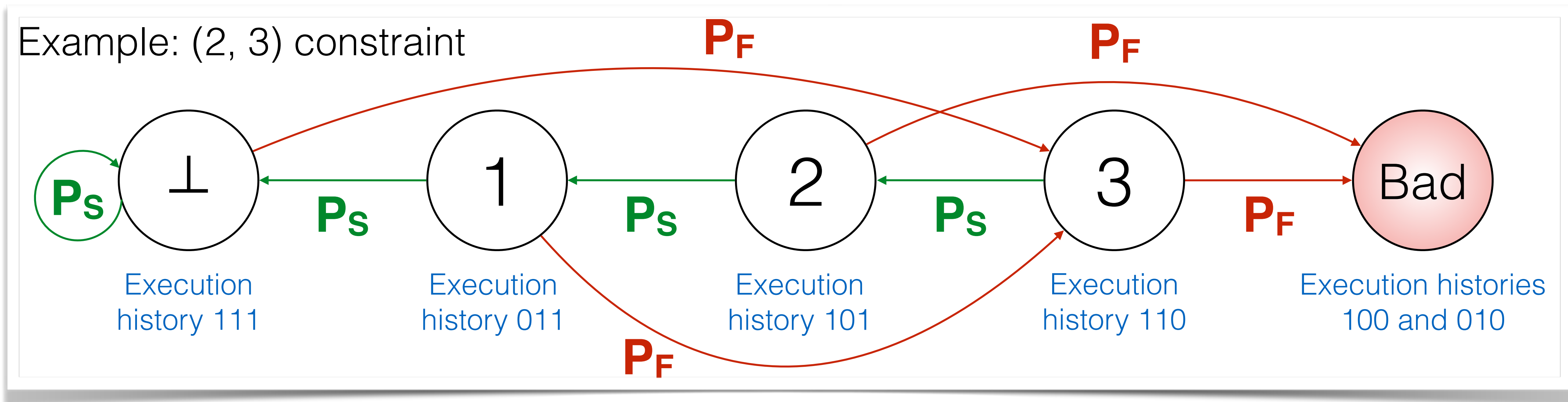
Execution
history 110



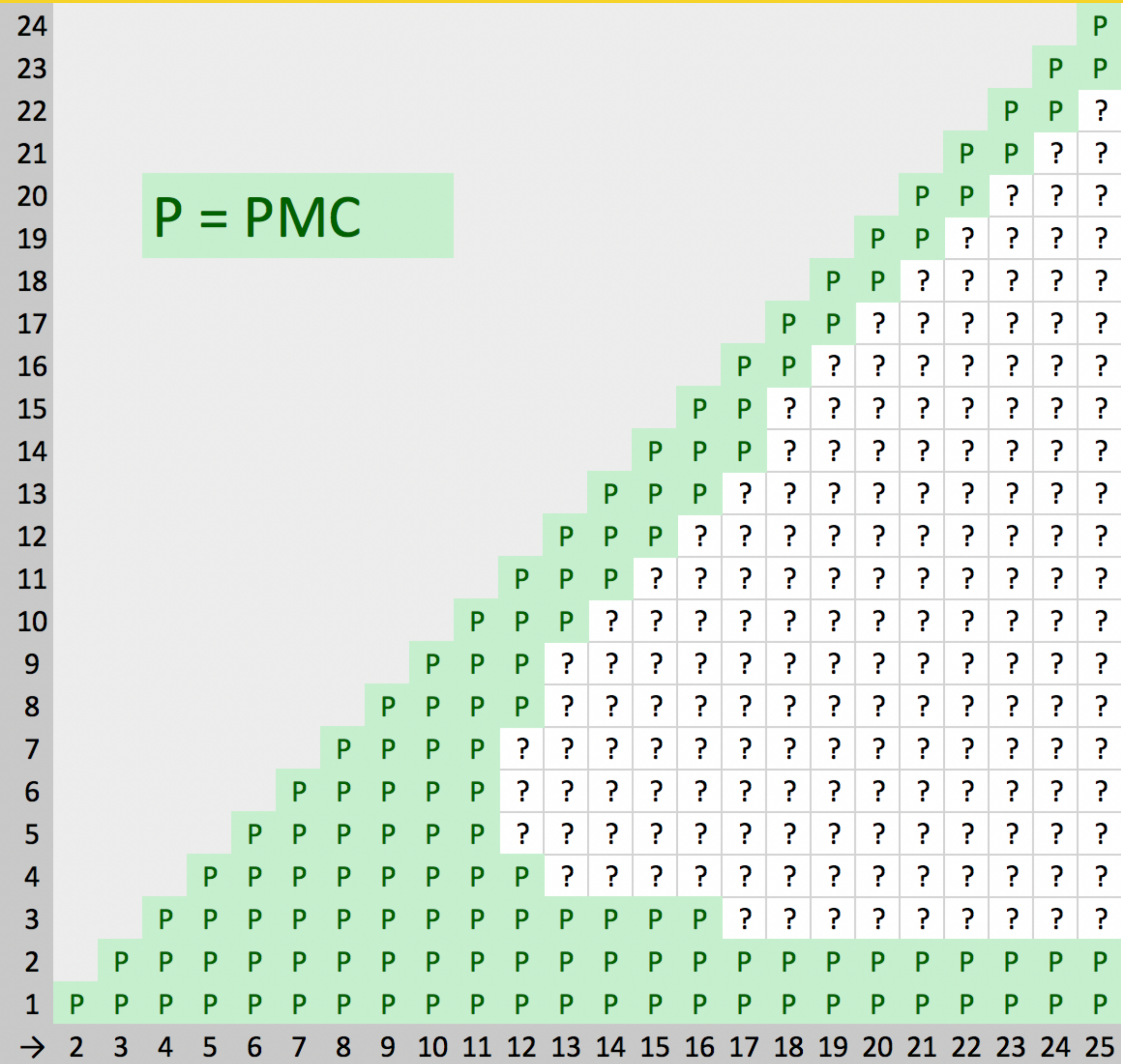
Execution histories
100 and 010

Optimizing for the **Common Case** $k - m \ll k$

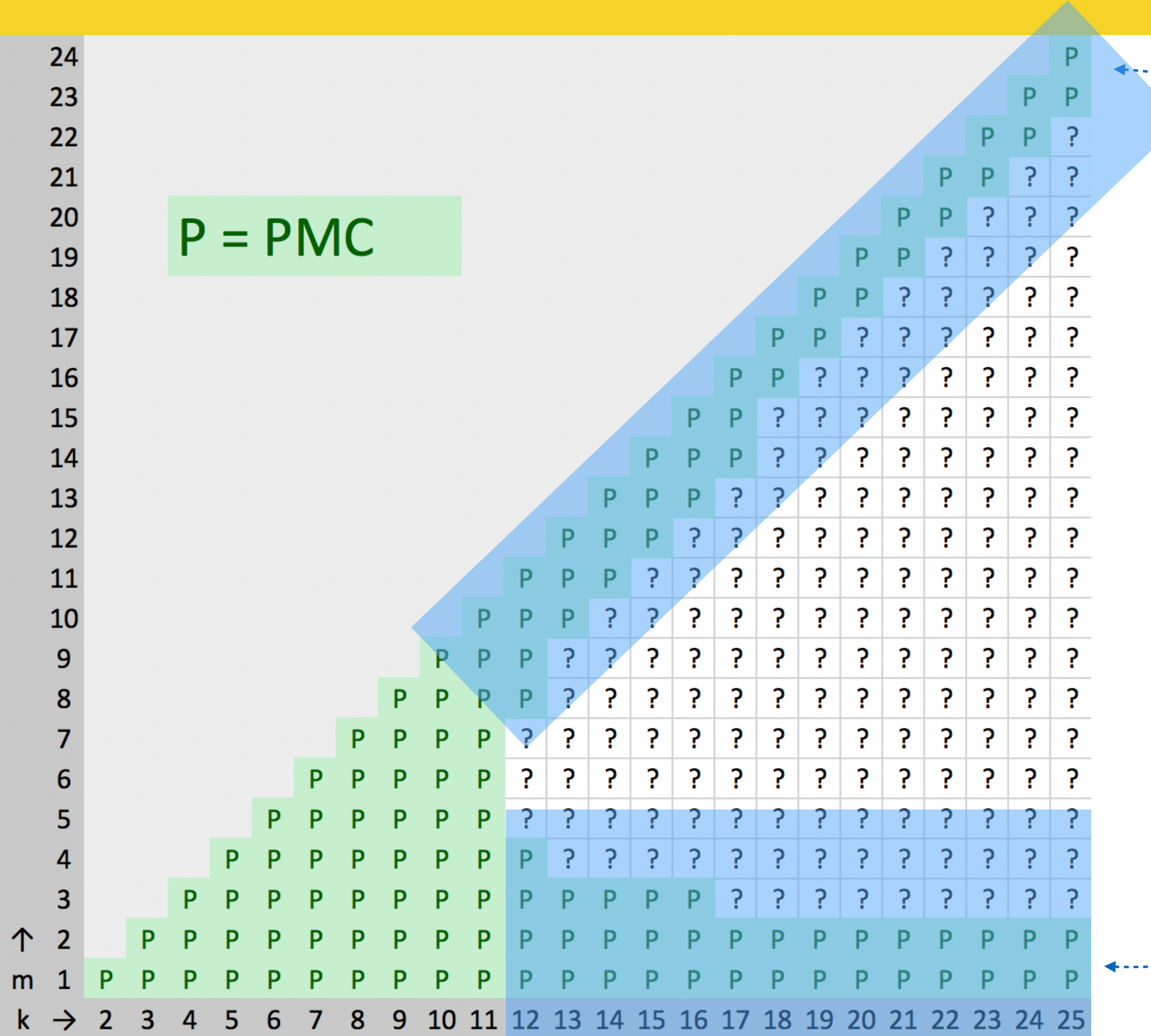
Store **positions of all failed iterations**, instead of the entire history



Does the Optimized PMC **Scale** with k ?



Does the Optimized PMC Scale with k?



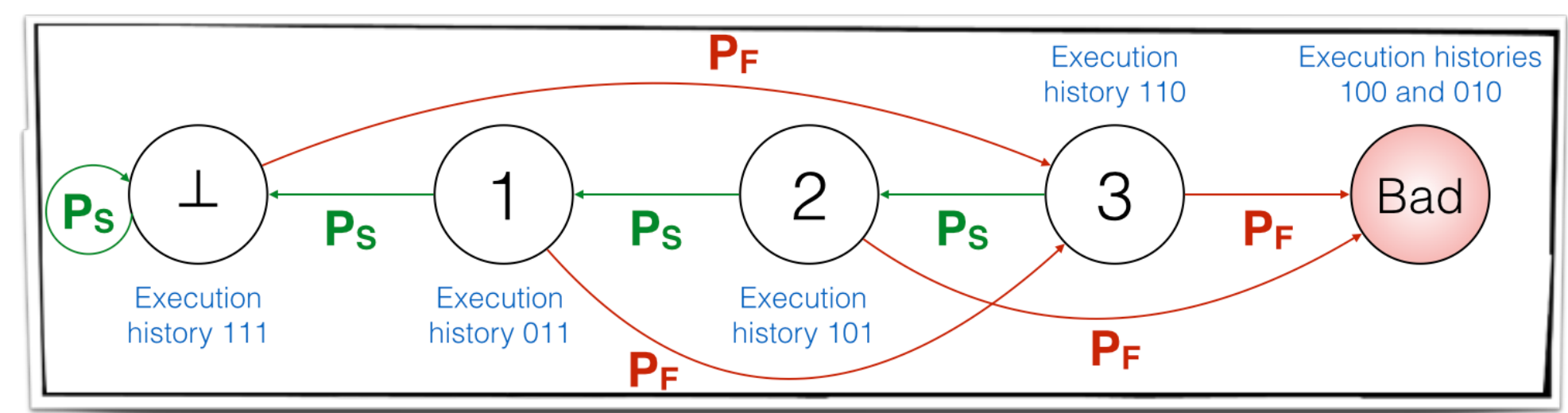
PMC scales for large k
if $m \ll k$ or $k - m \ll k$

The Martingale Approach (**Mart**)

Exact, less generic, but slightly faster

Exact Model Checking Slows Down PRISM

Markov model



System of linear equations

Model building

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 110 & 10 & 110 \\ -1 & 10 & 1090/9 & 10 \\ -1 & 0 & 100/9 & 1000/9 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} e_0 \\ e_1 \\ e_2 \\ e_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

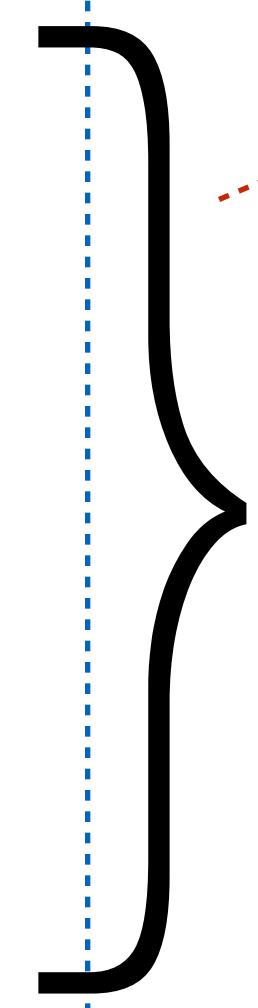
Model solving

MTTF (expected reward)

Probabilistic model checking
(PRISM under the hood)

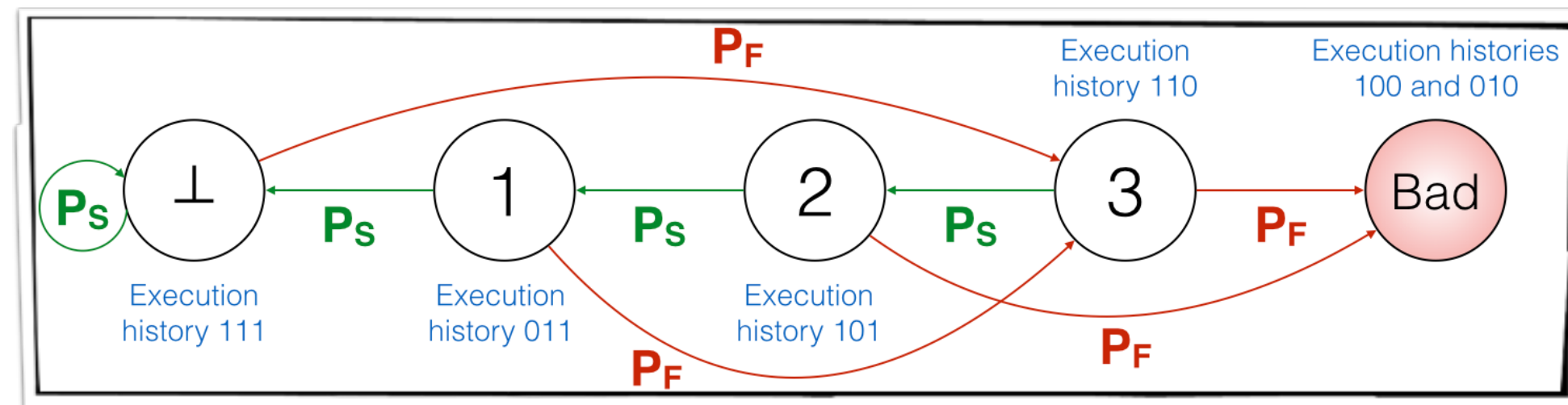
PRISM must be configured with **exact model checking** (i.e., no floating points)

For error-free computation



Exact Model Checking Slows Down PRISM

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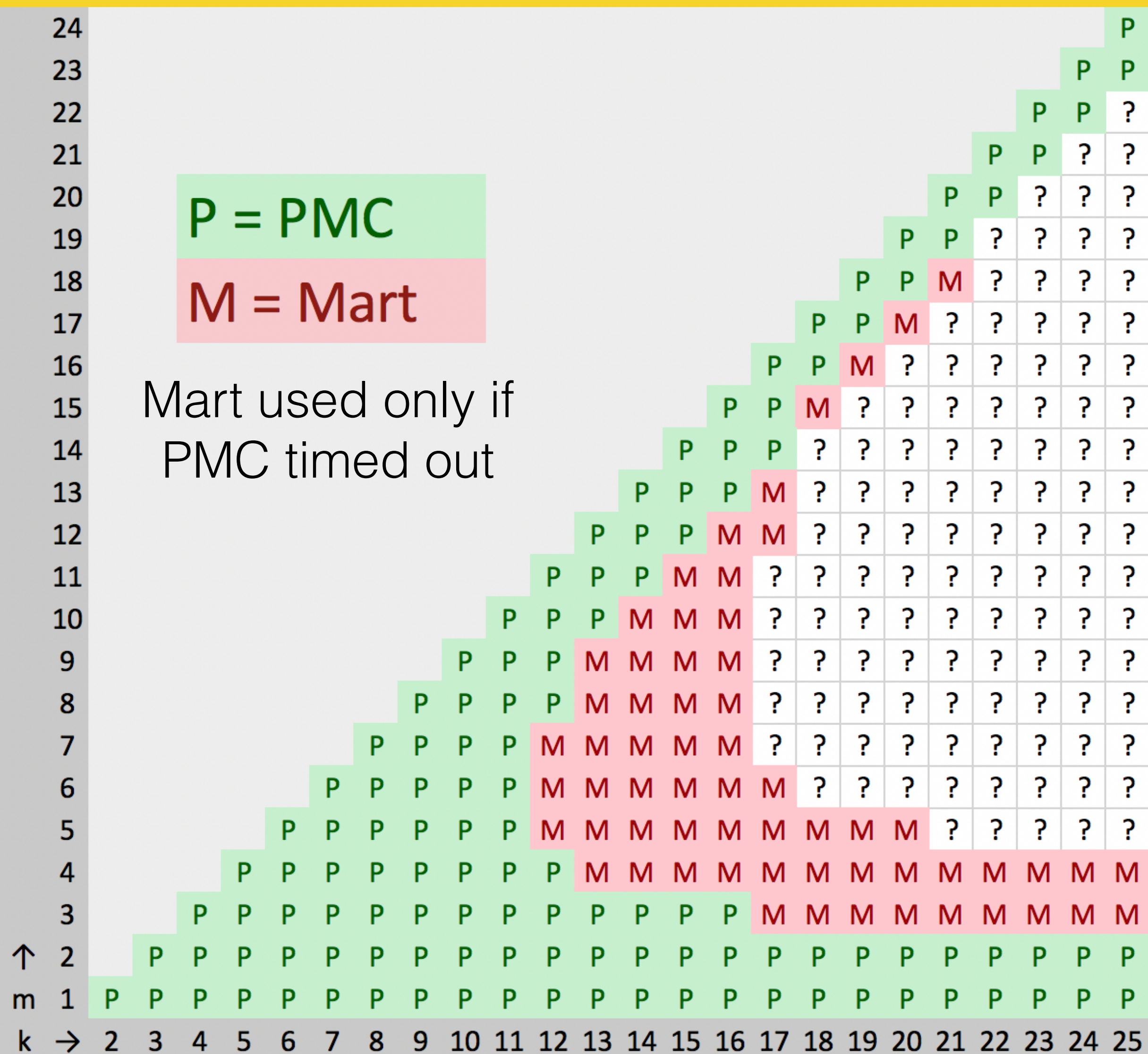
PRISM must be configured
with **exact model checking**
(i.e., no floating points)

Using **martingale theory***

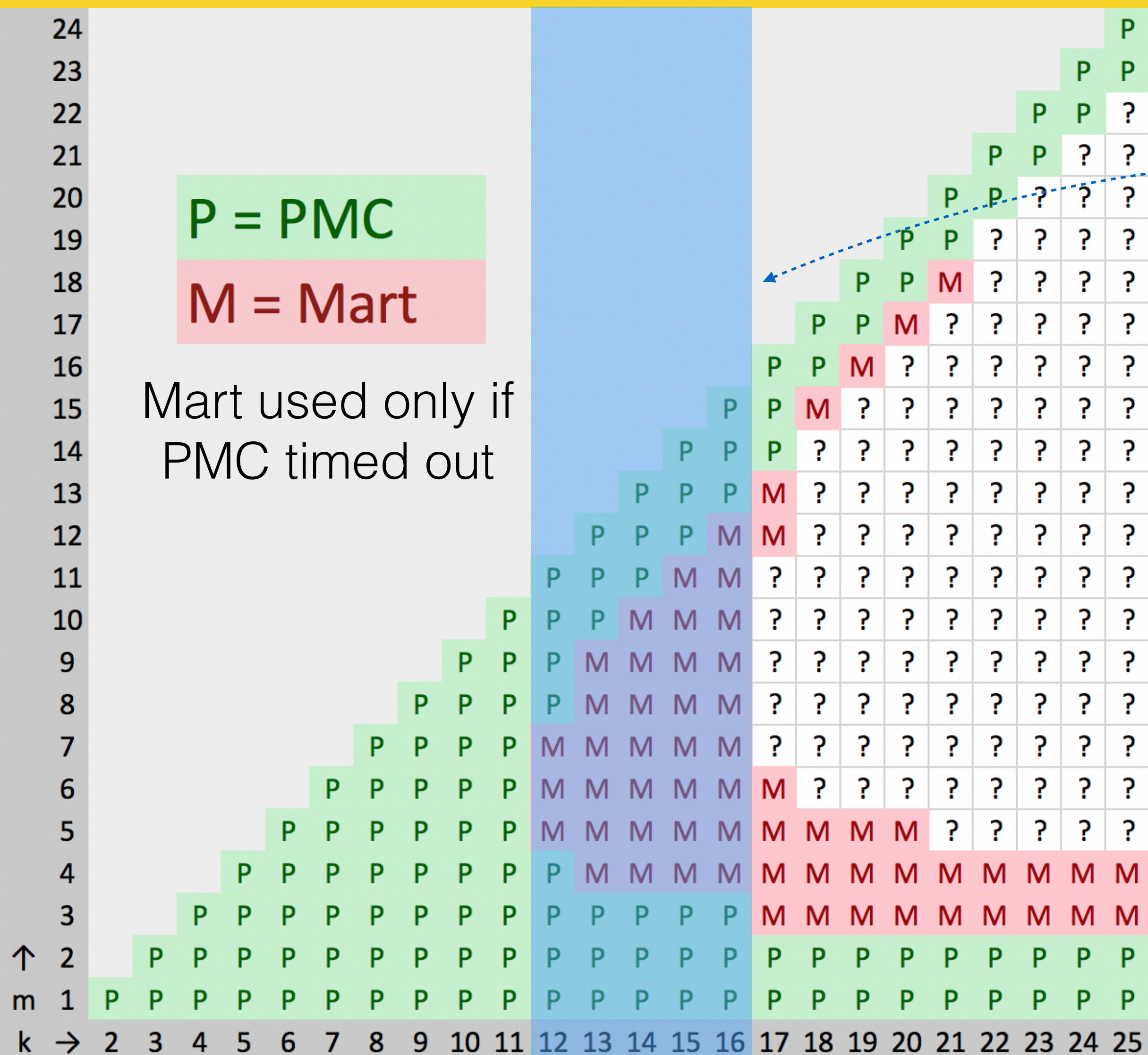
- Linear equations obtained directly
- Bypass PRISM, use highly-scalable BLAS/LAPACK libraries, with very high precision

* Li. "A Martingale Approach to the Study of Occurrence of Sequence Patterns in Repeated Experiments." The Annals of Probability 8.6 (1980):1171–1176.

Mart Scales Better than PMC

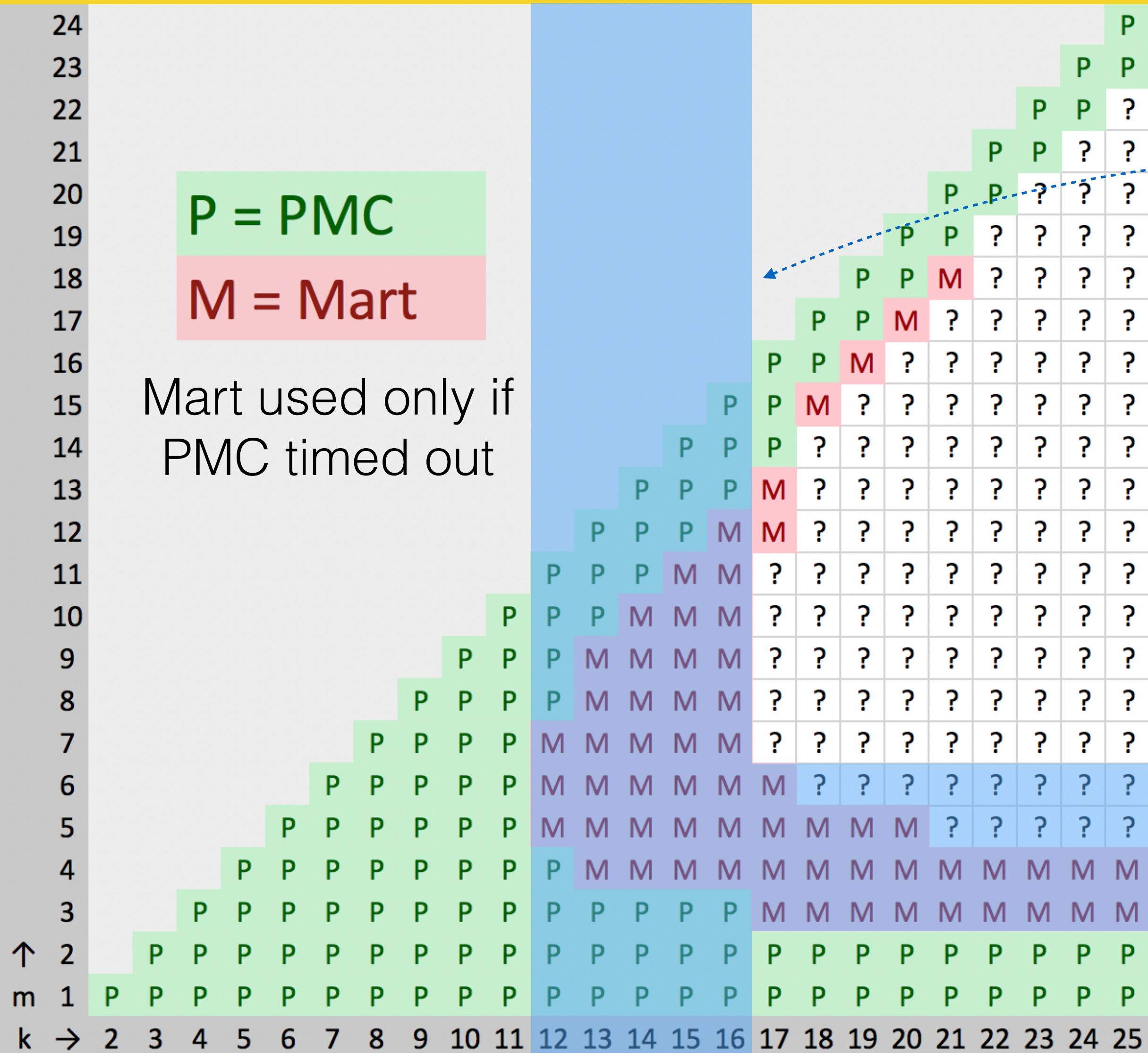


Mart Scales Better than PMC



Mart helps scale up exact MTTF estimation to **k = 16**

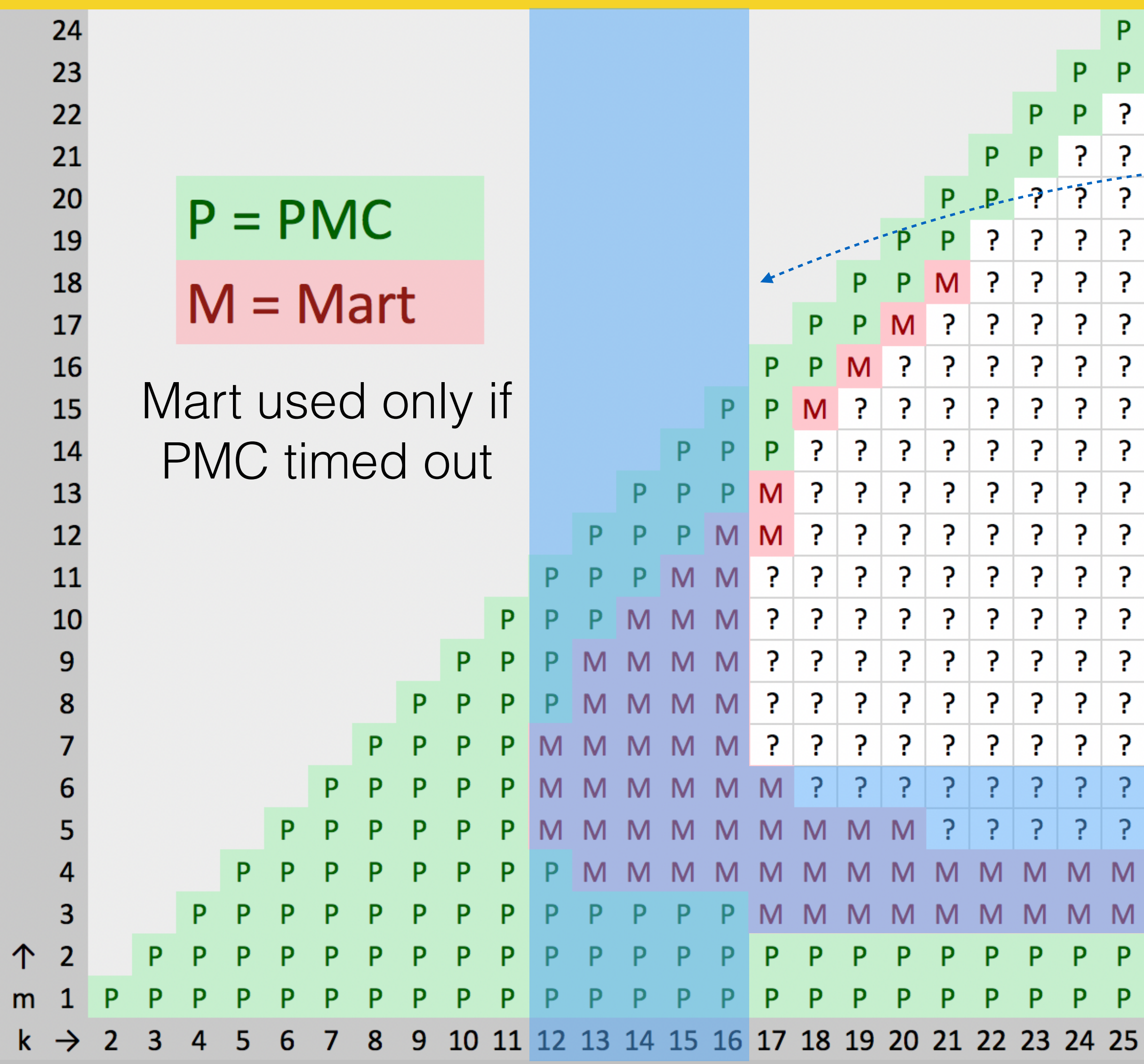
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Also, Mart implicitly benefits from small values of m

Mart Scales Better than PMC



Mart helps scale up exact MTTF estimation to $k = 16$

Also, Mart implicitly benefits from small values of m

Scalability still a problem for the general case

Sound Approximation (SAp)

Not exact, least generic, but highly scalable

Sound Approximation (SAp) for Single (m, k) Constraint

Sound Approximation (SAp) for Single (m, k) Constraint

$$\begin{aligned} \text{MTTF} &= \text{Expected time to 1}^{\text{st}} \text{ temporal robustness violation} \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(nT \times \text{Pr}[1^{\text{st}} \text{ violation in the } n^{\text{th}} \text{ iteration}] \right) \end{aligned}$$

Sound Approximation (SAp) for Single (m, k) Constraint

MTTF = Expected time to 1st temporal robustness violation

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(nT \times \text{Pr}[1^{\text{st}} \text{ violation in the } n^{\text{th}} \text{ iteration}] \right)$$

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MTTFLB

- ① Obtain $\mathbf{f}_{LB}(\mathbf{n}) \leq \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{n})$ that can be quickly computed for large n
- ② Compute $\mathbf{f}_{LB}(\mathbf{n}_0), \mathbf{f}_{LB}(\mathbf{n}_1), \dots, \mathbf{f}_{LB}(\mathbf{n}_D)$
- ③ **Numerically integrate** over subintervals $(n_0, n_1], \dots, (n_{D-1}, n_D]$

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**Approximation
accuracy**

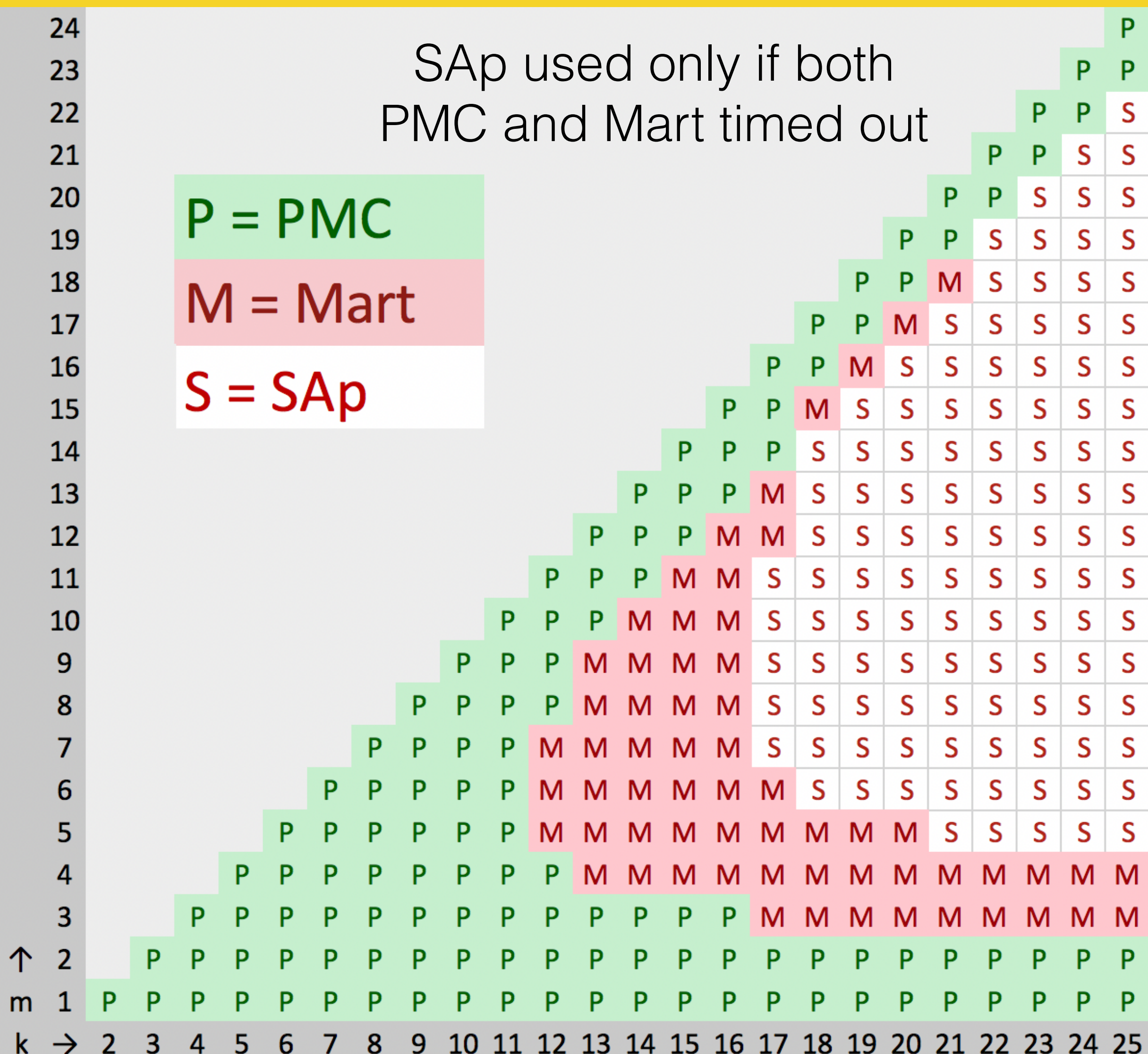
- ➔ Accuracy of $f_{LB}(n)$ (reliability modeling literature*)
- ➔ The choice of $n_0, n_1, n_2, \dots, n_D$ (heuristics based on $f_{LB}(n)$'s shape)

MTTF_{LB}

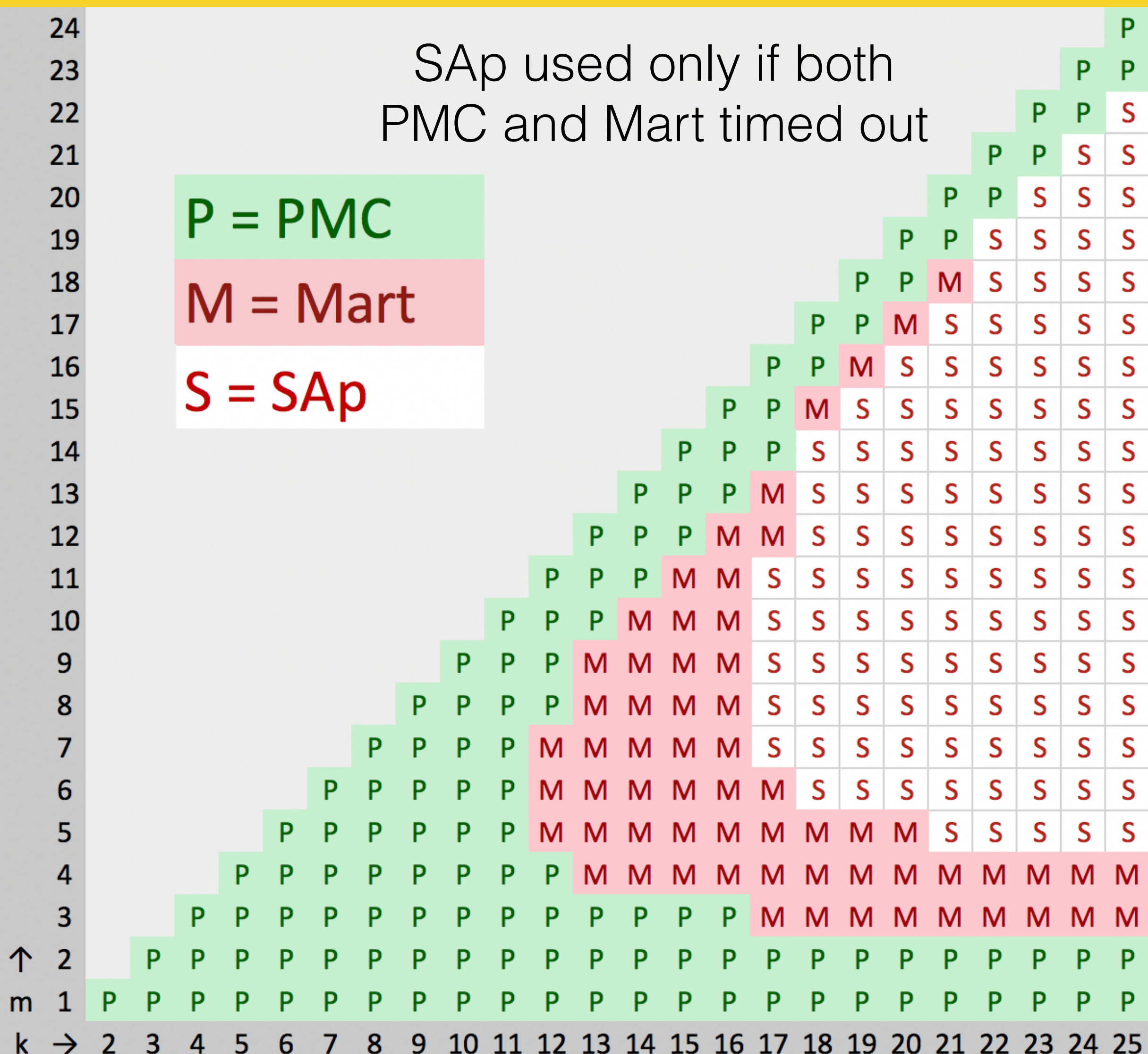
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* Sfakianakis et al.. "Reliability of a consecutive k-out-of-r-from-n: F system." IEEE Transactions on Reliability 41.3 (1992): 442-447.

SAP is Scalable to Very Large Window Sizes



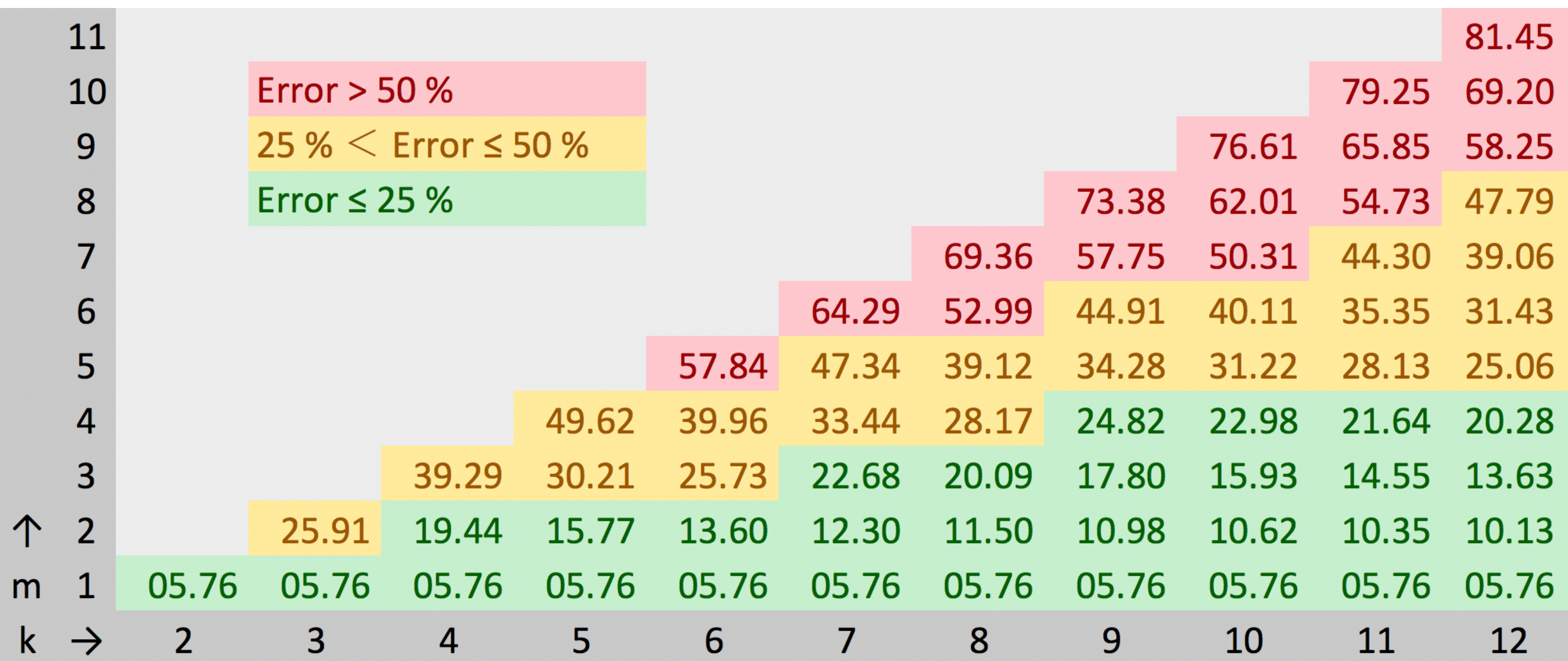
SAP is Scalable to Very Large Window Sizes



SAP comfortably scales for windows of size $k = 1000$

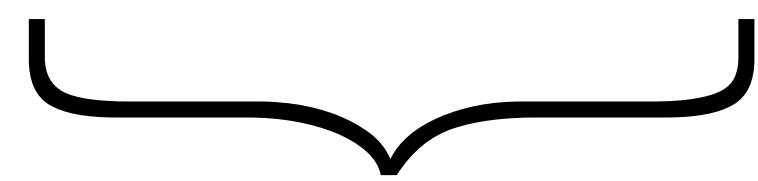
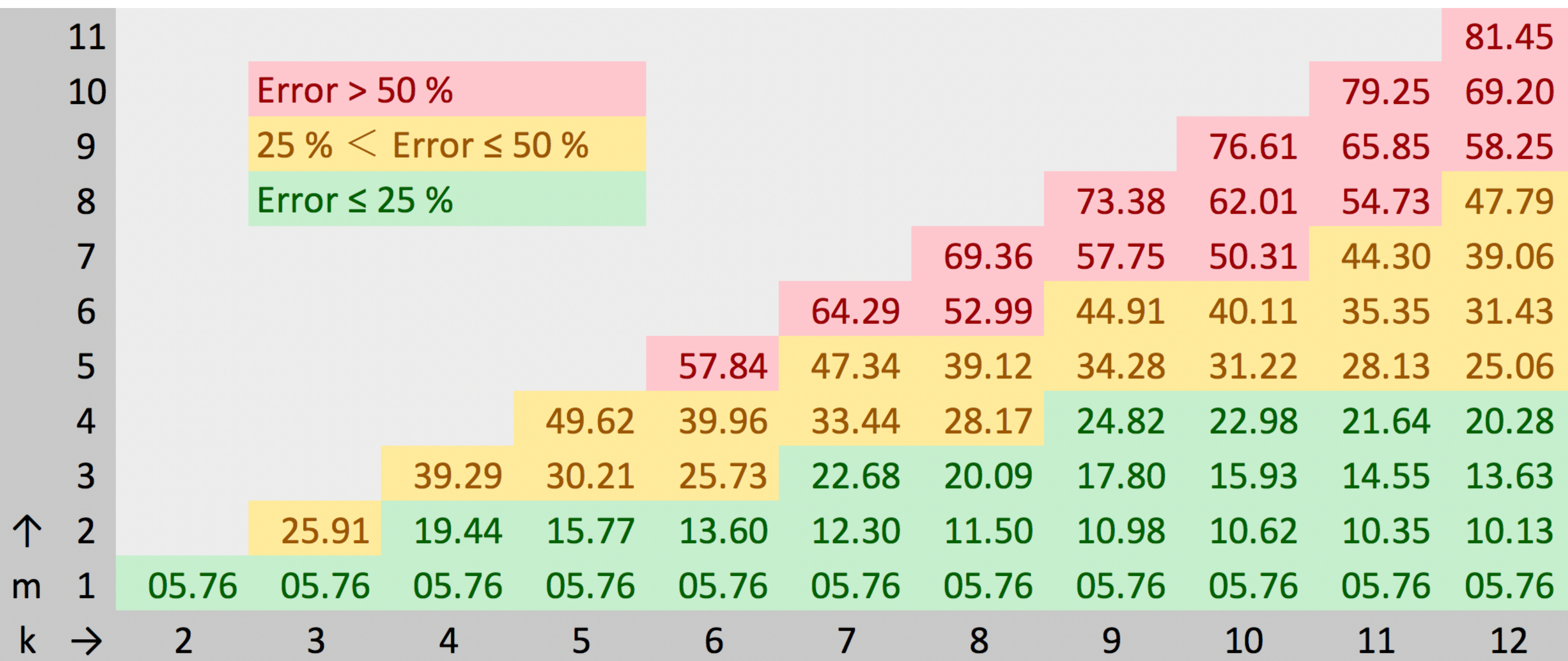
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All errors are positive (SAp is proven to under-approximate the exact MTTF)



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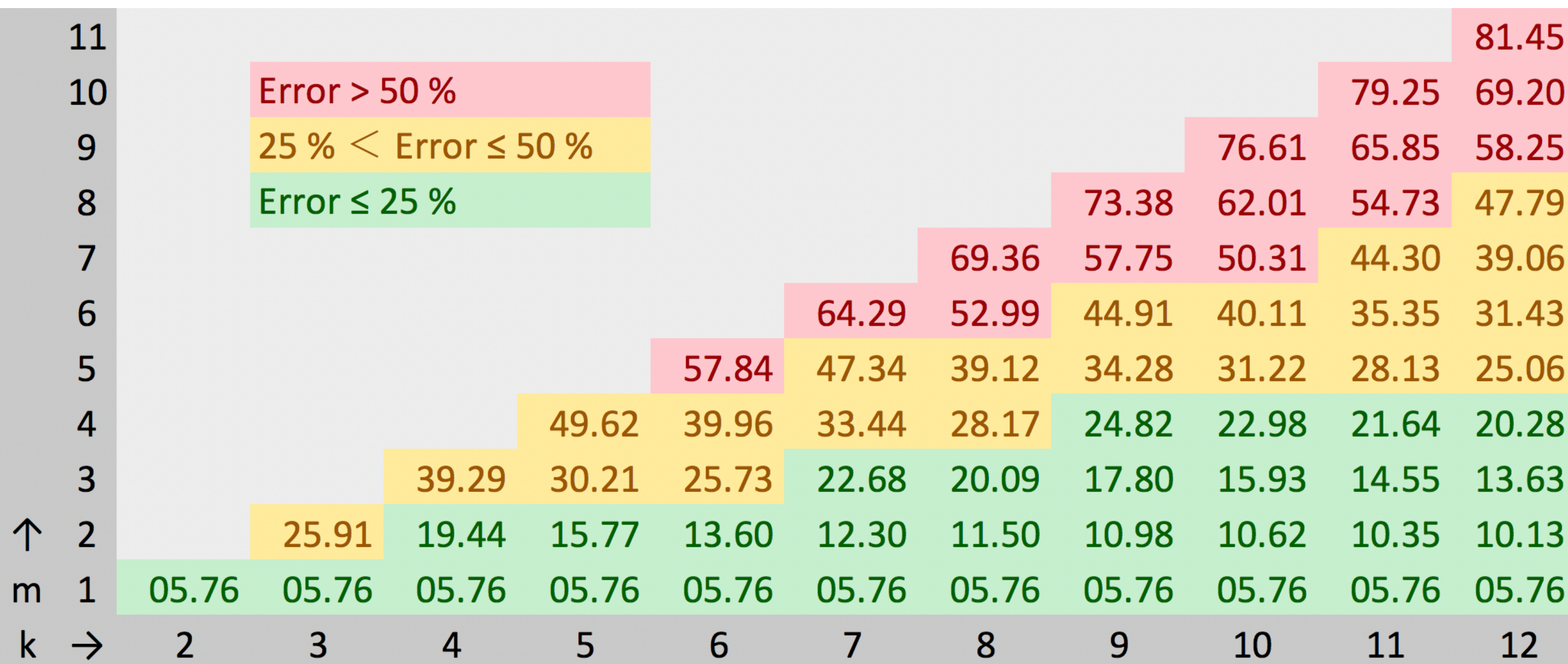


Relative errors significant even for small k

➔ Exact analysis needed when feasible

How **Accurate** is SAp?

All errors are positive (SAp is proven to under-approximate the exact MTTF)



SAp is reasonably accurate

Example: If $MTTF_{\text{exact}} = 10^9$ hours,
100% error \Rightarrow $MTTF_{\text{SAp}} = 0.5 \times 10^9$ hours

Relative errors significant even for small k

\rightarrow Exact analysis needed when feasible

Summary

Approach	Accuracy	Expressiveness	Scalability
PMC	Exact	General system, any weakly-hard constraint	Poor ($m \leq 11$)
Mart	Exact	IID systems, any weakly-hard constraint	Poor ($m \leq 16$)
SAP	Sound approx. ($\leq 100\%$)	IID systems, single (m, k) constraint	Good ($m \leq 1000$)

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More in the paper!

- PRISM code and Mart example
- PMC / Mart for $\langle m, k \rangle$ and $\overline{\langle m \rangle}$ constraints
- SAP details and soundness proofs
- More extensive evaluation of PRISM

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Future work: Make **SAP more expressive**

- Handle other / multiple weakly-hard constraints
- Beyond IID iteration failure probabilities

More in the paper!

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