



2023 CHINASOFT
中国软件大会



概率程序的代数程序分析

王迪

北京大学

wangdi95@pku.edu.cn

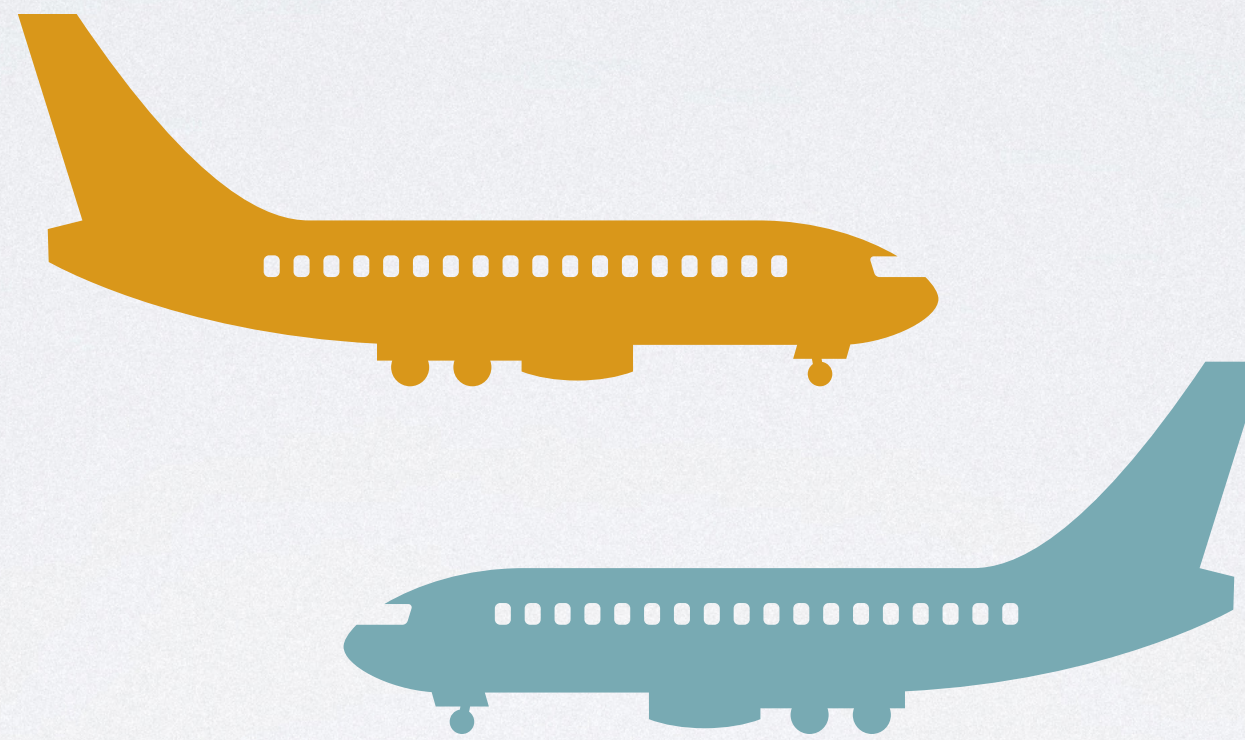
2023年12月2日

与 Jan Hoffmann 和 Thomas Reps 的合作工作

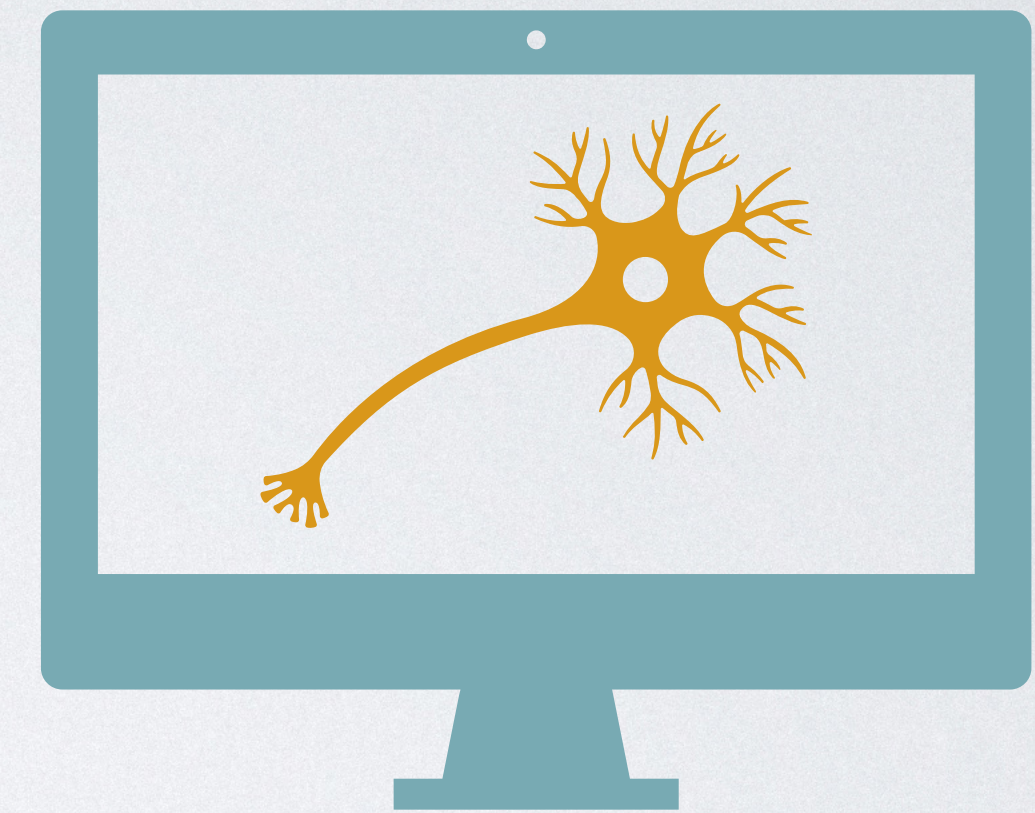
Probabilistic Systems are Becoming Pervasive



Randomized Algorithms
(improve efficiency)



Cyber-Physical Systems
(model uncertainty)



Artificial Intelligence
(describe statistical models)

Probabilistic Programs



Draw random **data** from distributions



Change **control-flow** at random



Probabilistic Programs

- True randomness
- A distribution on execution paths
- Probabilistic nondeterminism

```
if  
| prob(1/3) → choice := 1  
| prob(1/3) → choice := 2  
| prob(1/3) → choice := 3  
fi
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```
choice : $\epsilon_p$  (1 @ 1/3 | 2 @ 1/3 | 3 @ 1/3)
```




Demonic Programs

- Dijkstra's **Guarded Command Language** (GCL)
- A set of execution paths
- Demonic nondeterminism

```
if
| true → prize := 1
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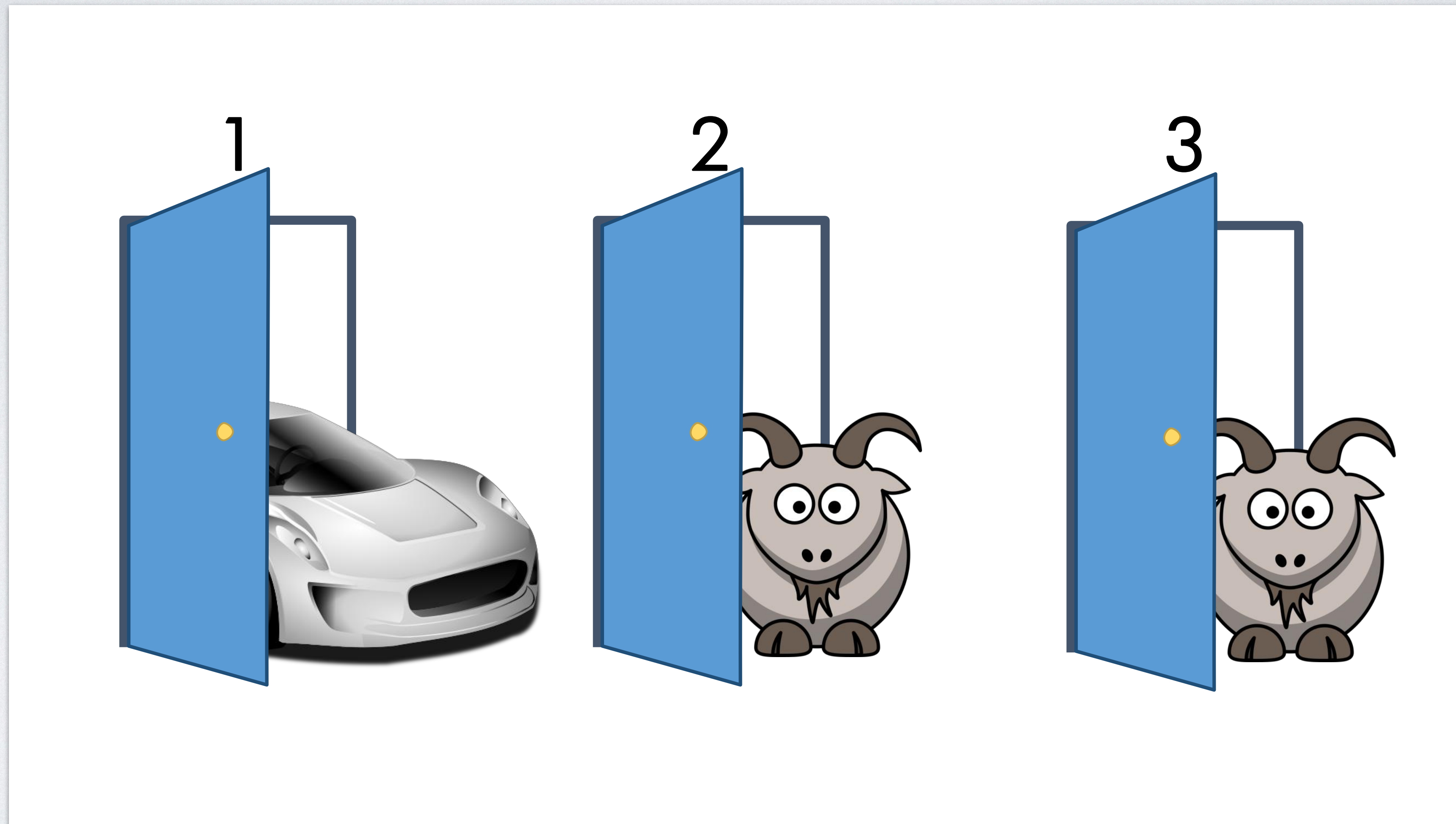

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```
if  
| true → prize := 1  
| true → prize := 2  
| true → prize := 3  
fi
```

```
prize : $\in_d$  {1, 2, 3}
```


Example: Monty Hall





Example: Monty Hall

```
prize : $\in$ d {1,2,3};  
choice : $\in$ p (1 @ 1/3 | 2 @ 1/3 | 3 @ 1/3);  
host : $\in$ d {1,2,3} \ {prize,choice};  
if switch then  
    choice : $\in$ d {1,2,3} \ {choice,host}  
fi
```


Example: Monty Hall

- McIver and Morgan's **probabilistic Guarded Command Language** (pGCL)

- Combine two forms of nondeterminism:
 - Probabilistic
 - Demonic

```
prize : $\epsilon_d$  {1,2,3};  
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if switch then  
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```

$\mathbb{P}(\textit{choice} = \textit{prize}) = ?$



Example: Monty Hall

- McIver and Morgan's **probabilistic Guarded Command Language** (pGCL)

- Combine two forms of nondeterminism:

- Probabilistic
- Demonic

- “Demons” minimize the probability

```
prize : $\in_d$  {1,2,3};  
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$\mathbb{P}(\textit{choice} = \textit{prize}) = ?$



Example: Failure Modeling

```
fail := FALSE;  
c : $\in_d$  {0,1,2};  
while not(fail) and c > 0 do  
  fail : $\in_p$  (TRUE @ 0.1 | FALSE @ 0.9 );  
  c := c - 1  
od
```




Example: Failure Modeling

- An example of **probabilistic modeling checking**

- Send c messages, each with a failure probability 0.1

```
fail := FALSE;  
c : $\in_d$  {0,1,2};  
while not(fail) and c > 0 do  
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od
```




Example: Failure Modeling

- An example of **probabilistic modeling checking**
- Send c messages, each with a failure probability 0.1
- What is the probability of success?

```
fail := FALSE;  
c :=d {0,1,2};  
while not(fail) and c > 0 do  
  fail :=p (TRUE @ 0.1 | FALSE @ 0.9 );  
  c := c - 1  
od
```

$\mathbb{P}(\text{fail} = \text{FALSE}) = ?$



Example: Abstraction

```
fail := FALSE;  
[c=0] : $\in_d$  {TRUE, FALSE};  
while not(fail) and not([c=0]) do  
    fail : $\in_p$  (TRUE @ 0.1 | FALSE @ 0.9 );  
    [c=0] : $\in_a$  {TRUE, FALSE}  
od;
```




Example: Abstraction

◎ Program analysis introduces **abstraction**

◎ **Predicate Abstraction**

◎ $[c=0]$ is a Boolean variable

```
fail := FALSE;  
 $[c=0] : \in_d \{TRUE, FALSE\};$   
while not(fail) and not( $[c=0]$ ) do  
    fail :  $\in_p$  (TRUE @ 0.1 | FALSE @ 0.9 );  
     $[c=0] : \in_a \{TRUE, FALSE\}$   
od;
```




Example: Abstraction

● Program analysis introduces **abstraction**

● **Predicate Abstraction**

● $[c=0]$ is a Boolean variable

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Example: Abstraction

- Program analysis introduces **abstraction**

- Predicate Abstraction**

- $[c=0]$ is a Boolean variable

- Abstraction nondeterminism**

- Maximize \longrightarrow Upper bound

- Minimize \longrightarrow Lower bound

```
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How to automate such **quantitative** reasoning
about probabilistic programs?



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Examples

What is the probability that an assertion holds?



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What is the probability that an assertion holds?

What is the expected value of an expression?



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Examples

What is the probability that an assertion holds?

What is the expected value of an expression?

What is the expected time complexity of a program?



Challenge I: How to support multiple confluence operations?

... $\vdash \epsilon_p$...

... $\vdash \epsilon_d$...

... $\vdash \epsilon_a$...



Semantic Algebras

- **Kleene Algebras**: A **compositional** and **flexible** framework for program semantics

Program Construct

Algebraic Representation

A program S

An interpretation \mathcal{S} of S into the algebra

Branching between A and B

$A \oplus B$

Sequencing of A and B

$A \otimes B$

Iteration (i.e., loop) of A

A^*

“abort”, “skip”

0, 1



Do Kleene Algebras Suffice?



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```
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$([\mathbf{true}] \otimes x := 1)$

$\oplus ([\mathbf{true}] \otimes x := 2)$

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 \end{aligned}$$

Probabilities sum up to 2!



Our Approach: Markov Algebras

- Key observation: Probabilistic programs have **multiple confluence operations**

$$\langle M, \sqsubseteq, \otimes, \phi \oplus, \sqcap, \underline{0}, \underline{1} \rangle$$

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Program denotations
form a CPO

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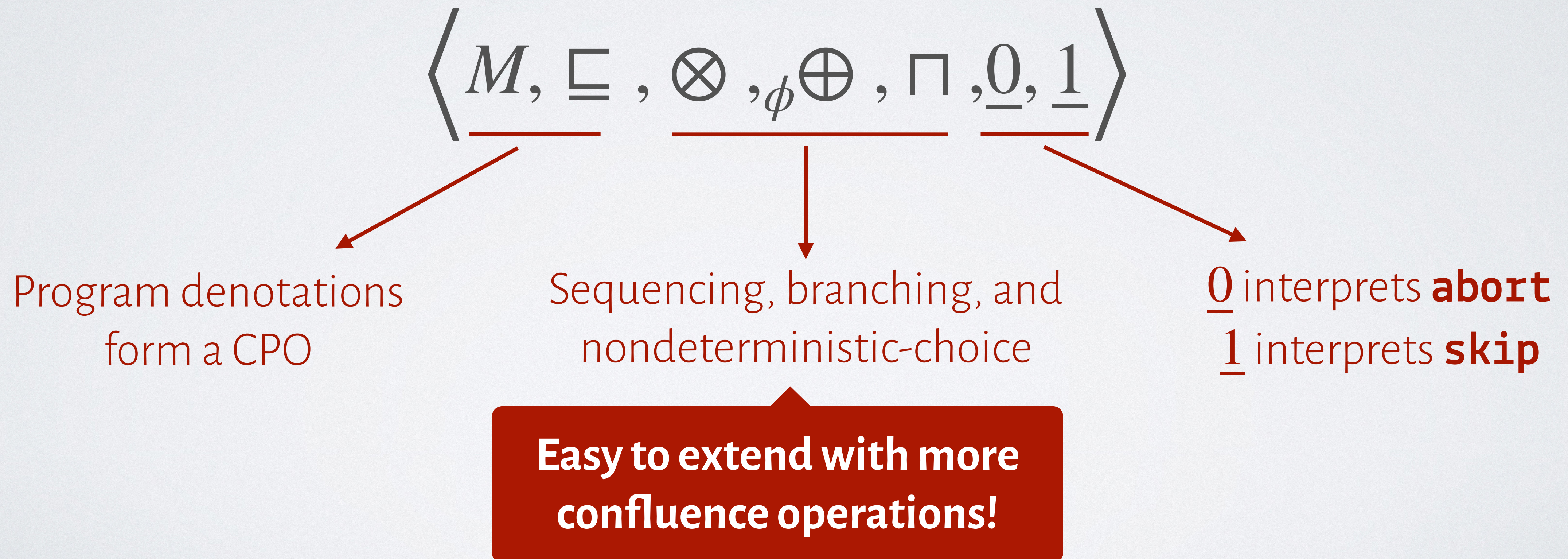
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**Easy to extend with more
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$$\begin{aligned} (a \otimes b) \otimes c &= a \otimes (b \otimes c) \\ a \otimes \underline{1} &= \underline{1} \otimes a = a \\ a_{\phi} \oplus b &= b_{\bar{\phi}} \oplus a \\ a \sqcap a &= a \\ &\dots \end{aligned}$$



Markov Algebras Suffice!



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```
while x>0 do
  x : $\in$ p (x+1 @ 1/2 | x-1 @ 1/2)
od
```




Markov Algebras Suffice!

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Recursive Program Scheme



Challenge II: How to carry out quantitative analyses efficiently?

```
while prob(2/3) do  
  x := x + 1  
od
```




Iterative Program Analysis

```
while prob(2/3) do  
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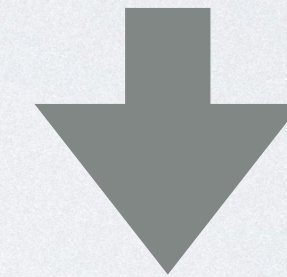
- Markov algebra for computing $\mathbb{E}[\Delta x]$
- Sequencing: $r \otimes t \triangleq r + t$
- Branching: $r_p \oplus t \triangleq p * r + (1 - p) * t$

Iterative Program Analysis

```

while prob(2/3) do
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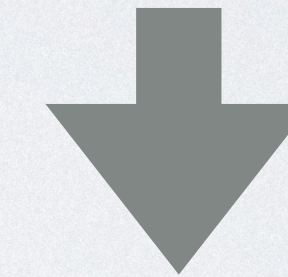
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$$\begin{aligned} \kappa^{(0)} &= 0 \\ \kappa^{(1)} &= 2/3 * (1 + \kappa^{(0)}) + 1/3 * 0 = 2/3 \\ \kappa^{(2)} &= 2/3 * (1 + \kappa^{(1)}) + 1/3 * 0 = 10/9 \\ &\dots \\ \kappa^{(\infty)} &= 2 \end{aligned}$$

Iterative Program Analysis

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while prob(2/3) do
  x := x + 1
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$$\kappa^{(0)} = 0$$

$$\kappa^{(1)} = 2/3 * (1 + \kappa^{(0)}) + 1/3 * 0 = 2/3$$

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...

$$\kappa^{(\infty)} = 2$$

Need ∞ iterations to converge!

Non-iterative Program Analysis

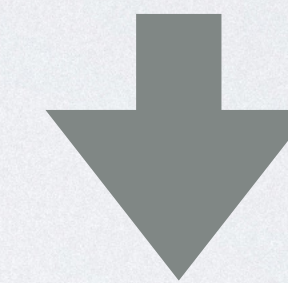
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Non-iterative Program Analysis

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while prob(2/3) do  
  x := x + 1  
od
```

$$\mu S . ((x := x+1) \otimes S)_{[2/3]} \oplus \text{skip}$$


Equivalent to solve:

$$s = 2/3 * (1 + s) + 1/3 * 0,$$

Analytical solution:

$$s = 2$$

No need for iteration!

- Markov algebra for computing $\mathbb{E}[\Delta x]$
- Sequencing: $r \otimes t \triangleq r + t$
- Branching: $r_p \oplus t \triangleq p * r + (1 - p) * t$



Beyond Loops

```
proc X begin
  if prob(1/3) then
    skip
  else
    call X;
    call X
  fi
end
```




Beyond Loops

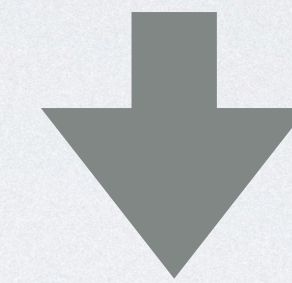
$$X = \mathbf{skip}_{1/3} \oplus (X \otimes X)$$

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Computing $\mathbb{P}[\text{terminate}]$

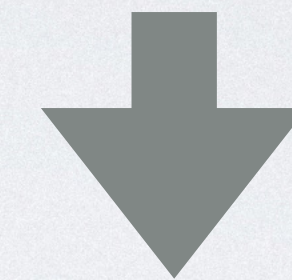
$$p = 1/3 * 1 + 2/3 * (p * p)$$

Beyond Loops

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```

$$X = \text{skip}_{1/3} \oplus (X \otimes X)$$

Non-linear!



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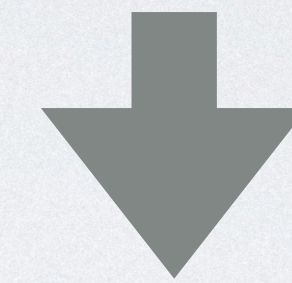
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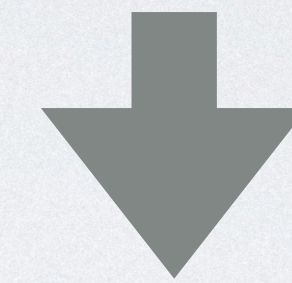
Newton's method

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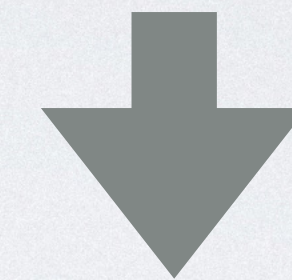
$$f(x) = 1/3 * 1 + 2/3 * (x * x)$$

Beyond Loops

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proc X begin
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$$X = \text{skip}_{1/3} \oplus (X \otimes X)$$

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Computing $\mathbb{P}[\text{terminate}]$

$$p = 1/3 * 1 + 2/3 * (p * p)$$

Newton's method

$$f(x) = 1/3 * 1 + 2/3 * (x * x)$$

$$\Delta^{(i)} = (f(p^{(i)}) - p^{(i)}) + f'(p^{(i)}) * \Delta^{(i)}$$

$$p^{(i+1)} \leftarrow p^{(i)} + \Delta^{(i)}$$

Beyond Loops

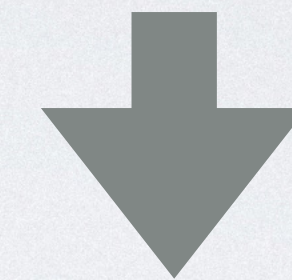
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$$p = 1/3 * 1 + 2/3 * (p * p)$$

Newton's method

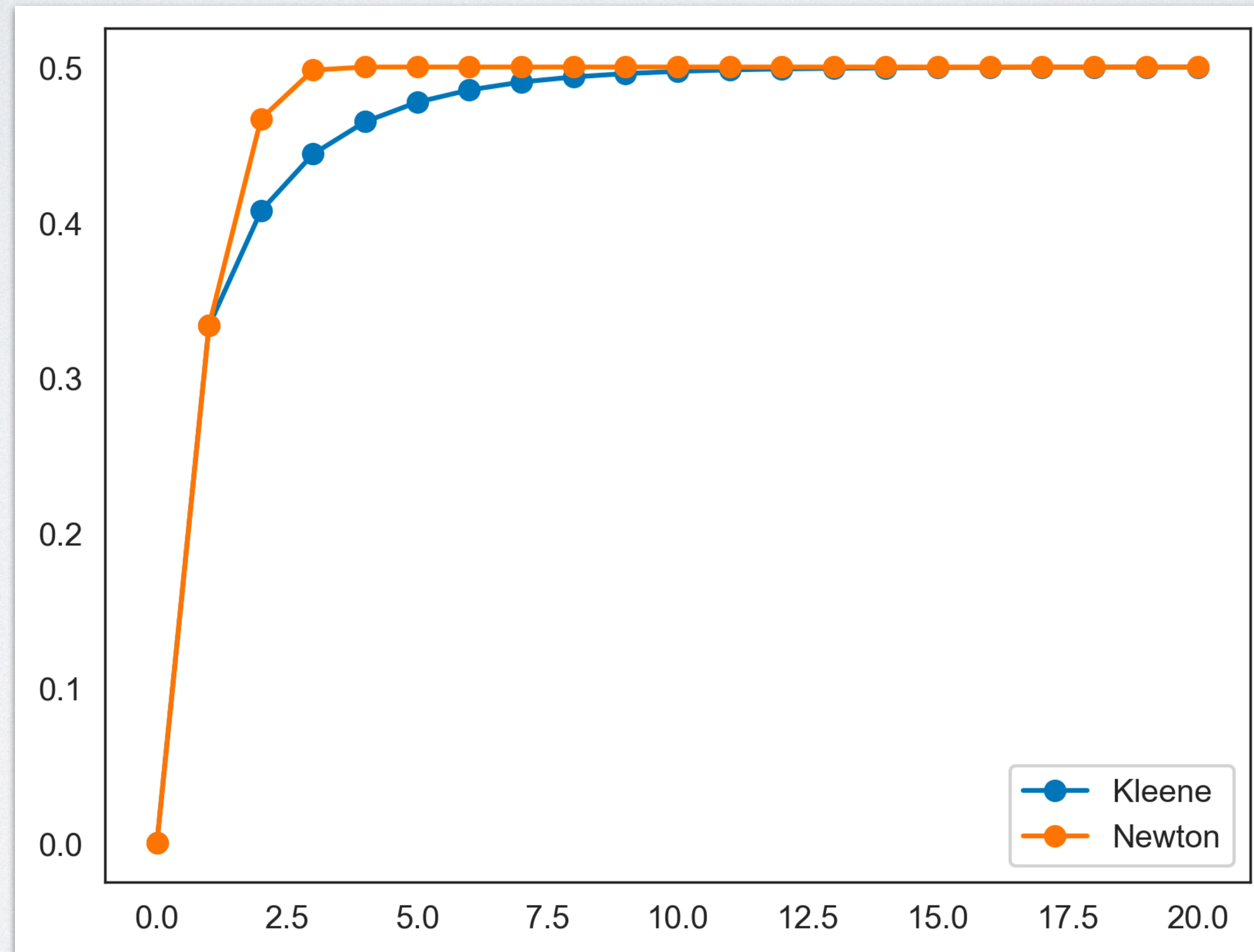
$$f(x) = 1/3 * 1 + 2/3 * (x * x)$$

Linear!

$$\Delta^{(i)} = (f(p^{(i)}) - p^{(i)}) + f'(p^{(i)}) * \Delta^{(i)}$$

$$p^{(i+1)} \leftarrow p^{(i)} + \Delta^{(i)}$$

Newton's Method Converges Faster



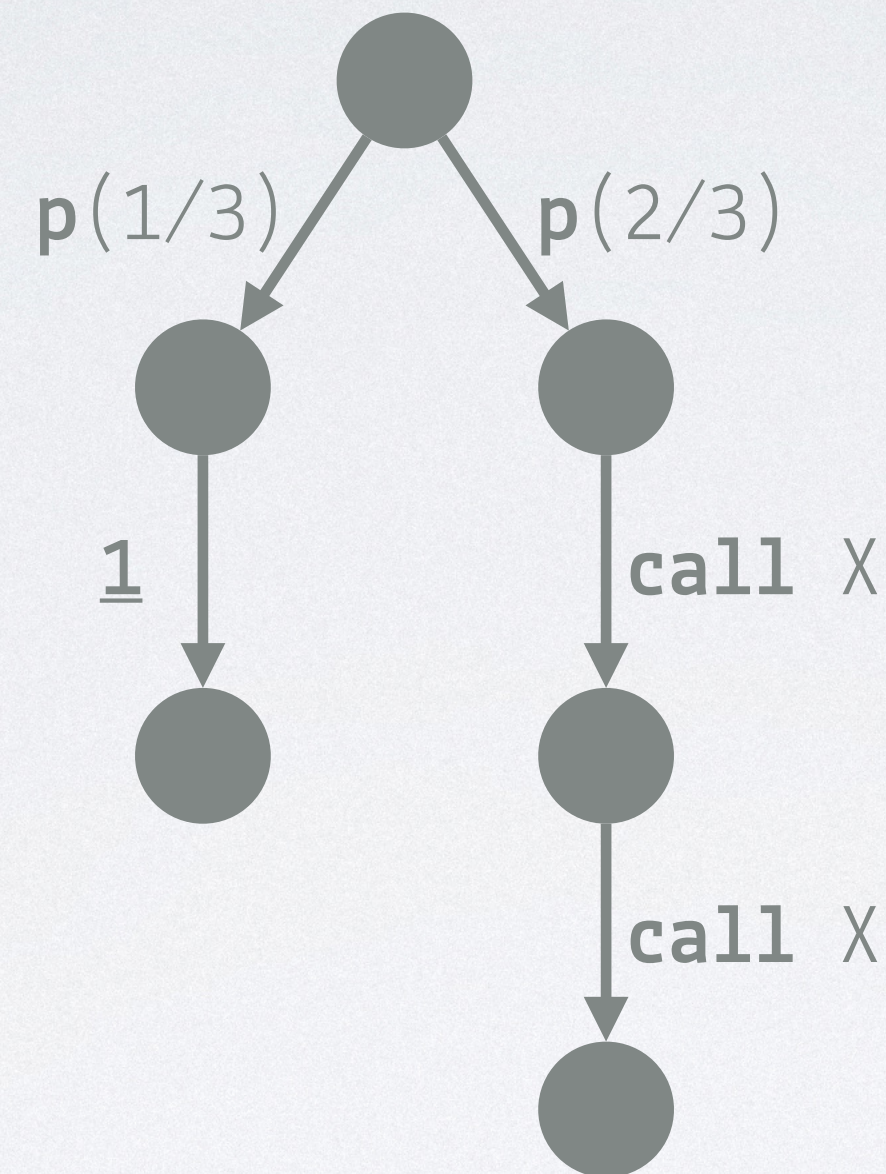


Newtonian Program Analysis (NPA)

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proc X begin
  if prob(1/3) then
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  else
    call X;
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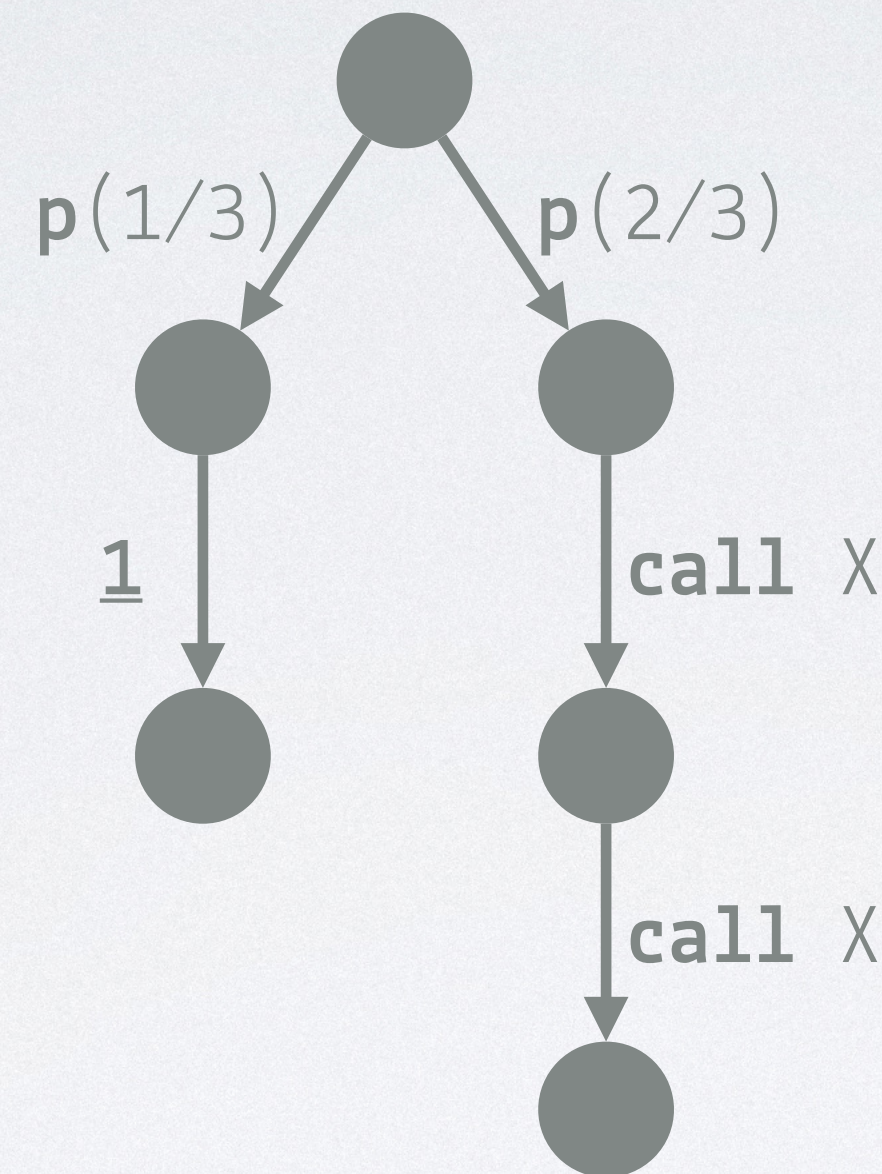


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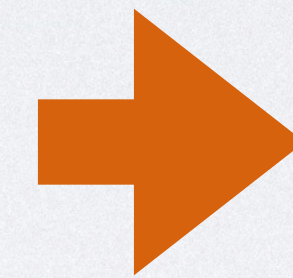
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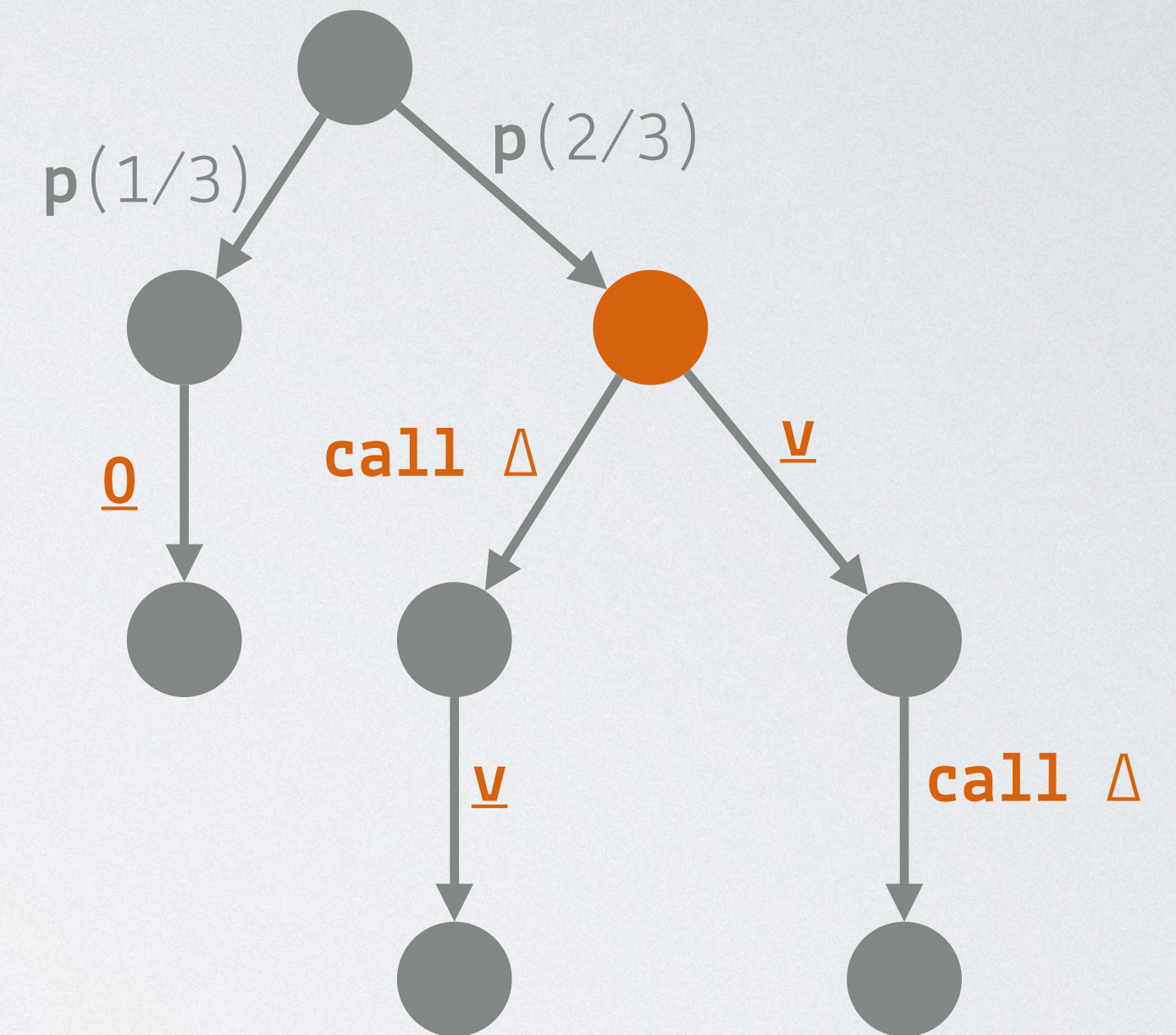
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Differentiate



When $X = \underline{v}$

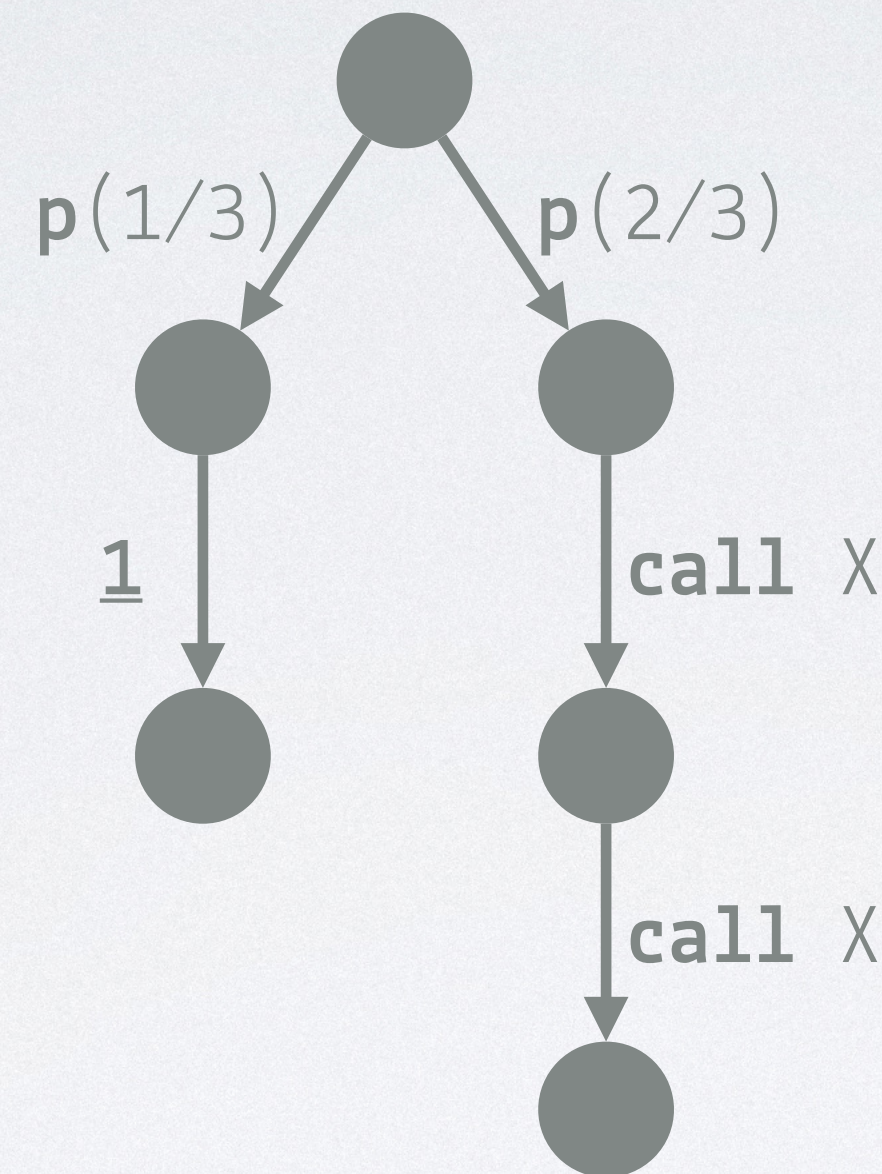


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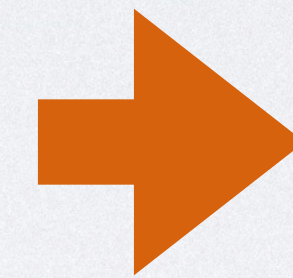
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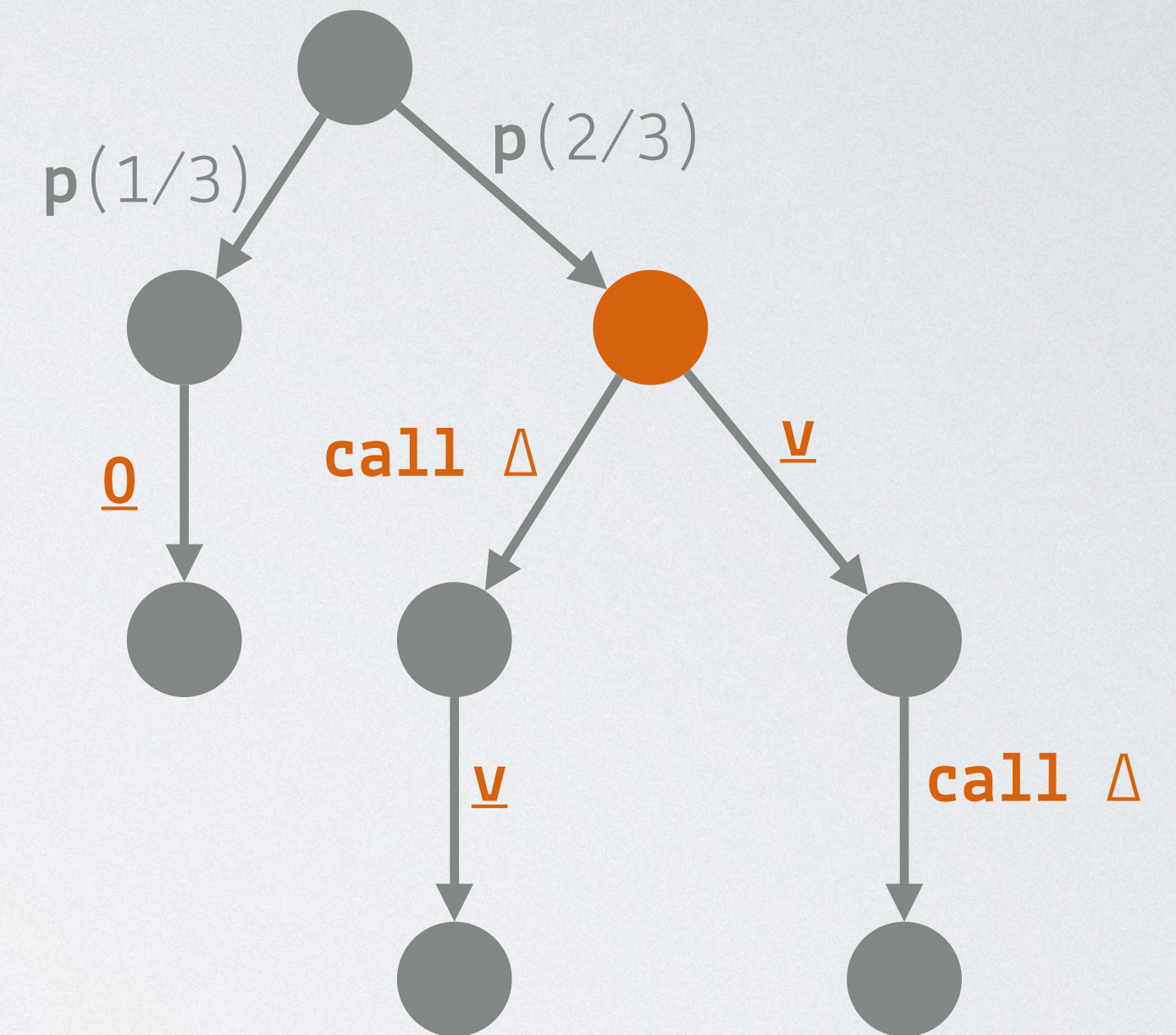
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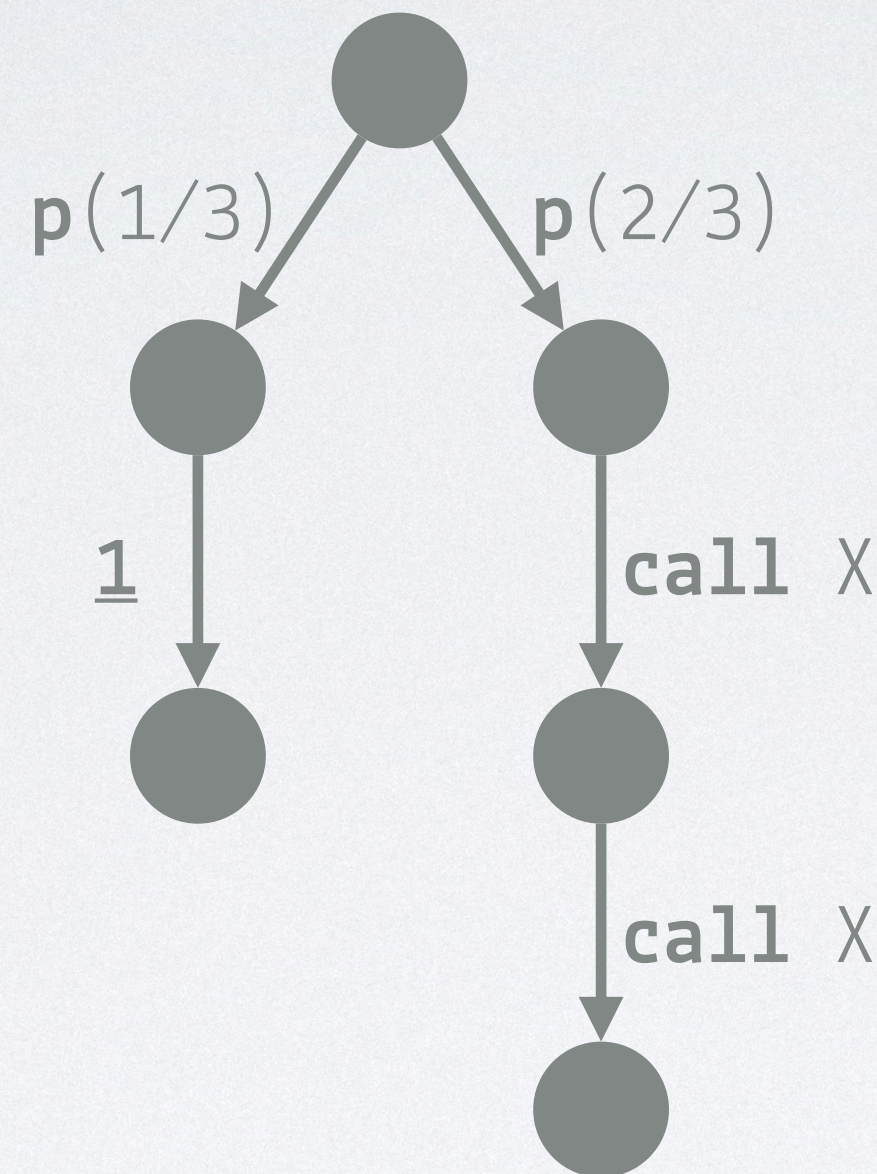
Every root-to-leaf path contains **at most one call!**

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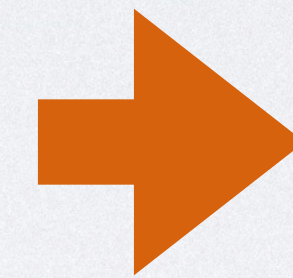
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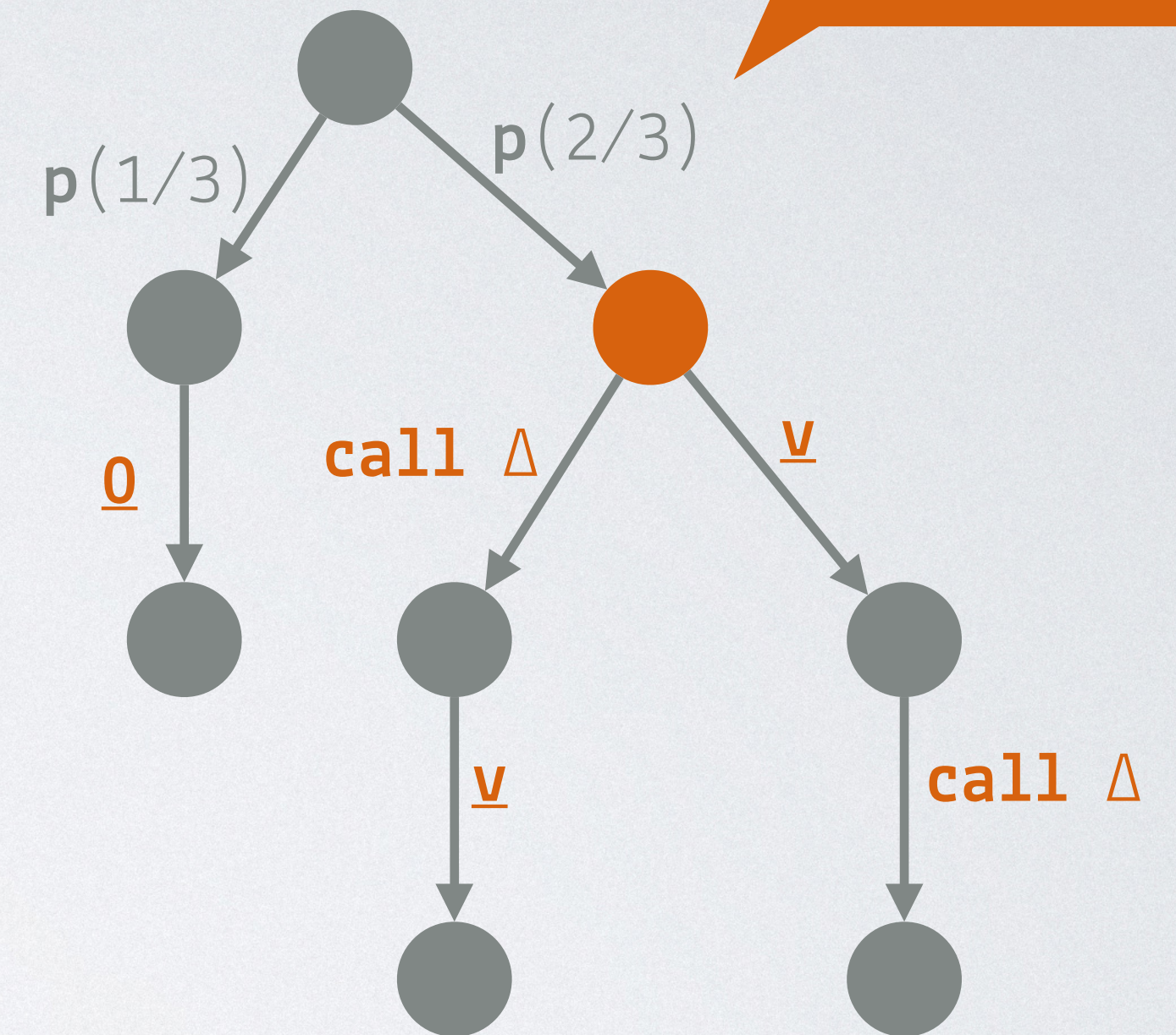
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Differentiate



When $X = \underline{v}$



Linear!

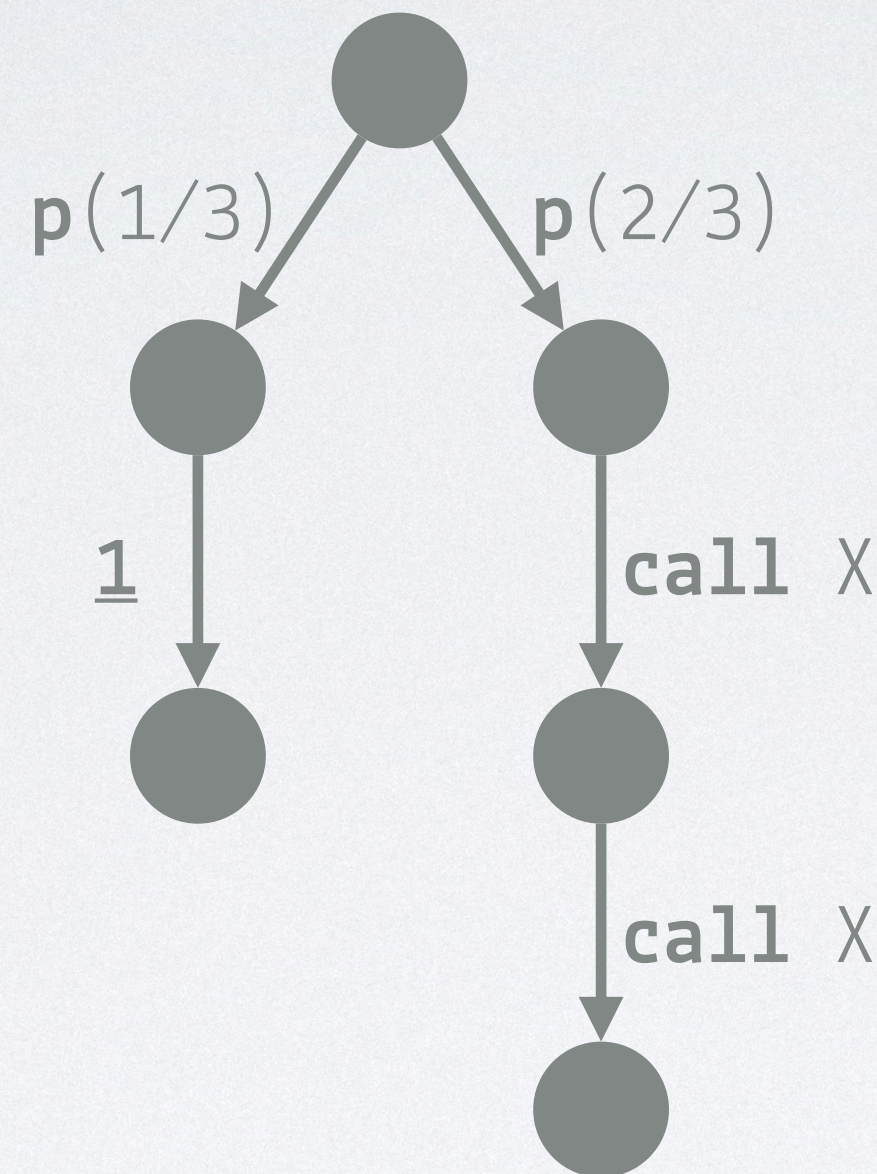
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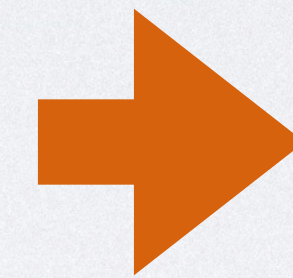
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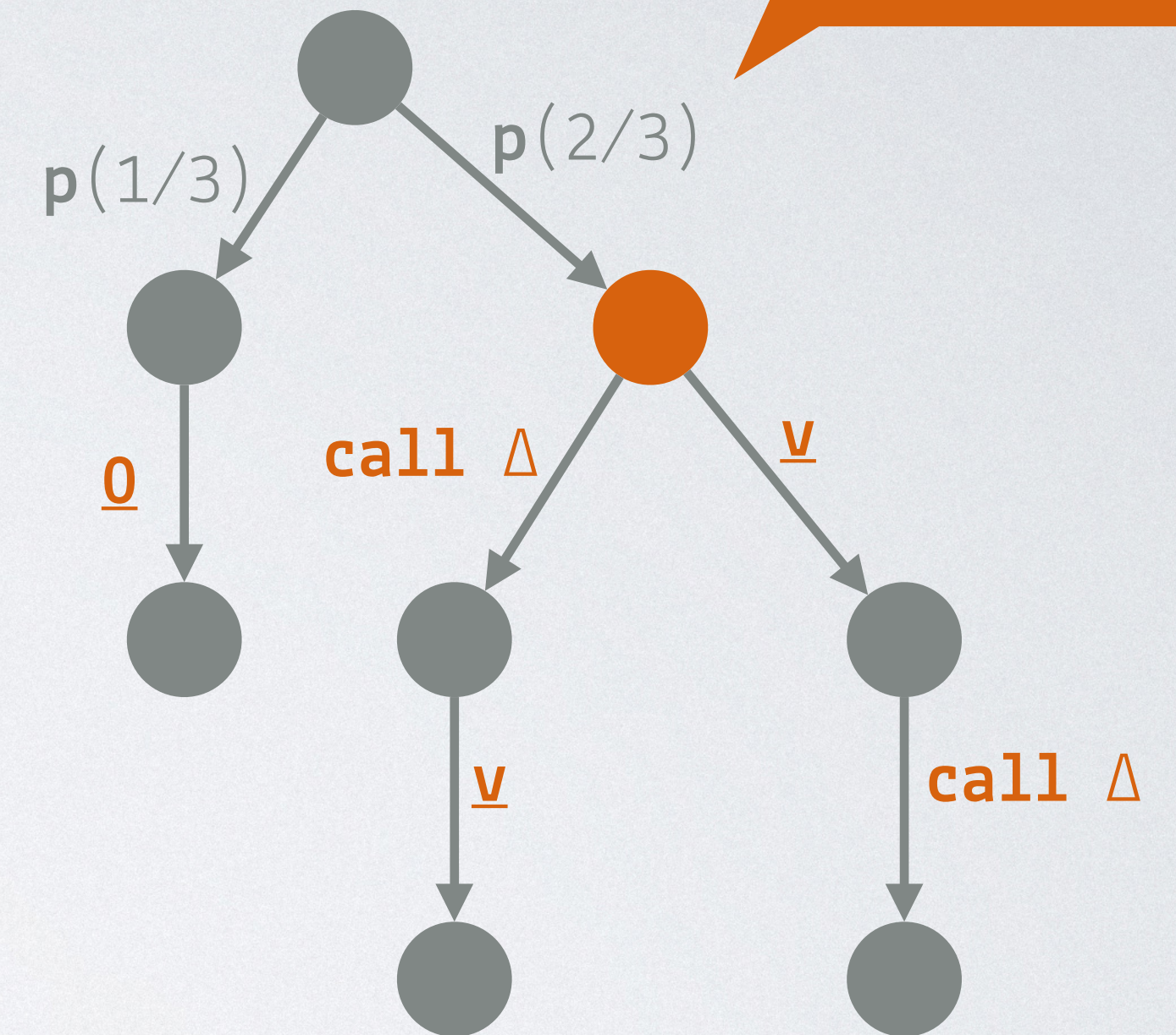
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Differentiate



When $X = \underline{v}$



Linear!

$$\frac{d(f * g)}{dx} = \frac{df}{dx} * g + f * \frac{dg}{dx}$$

Every root-to-leaf path contains **at most one call!**



Our Approach: NPA for pre-Markov Algebras

- Key idea: Apply Newton's method to **pre-Markov algebras**
- We develop a differentiation routine for **recursive program schemes**



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Support multiple confluences,
loops, and recursion

- We develop a differentiation routine for **recursive program schemes**



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$$\langle M, \oplus, \otimes, \phi \oplus, \sqcap, \underline{0}, \underline{1} \rangle$$

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\oplus defines a partial order and gives an additive structure

$$\langle M, \oplus, \otimes, \phi, \sqcap, \underline{0}, \underline{1} \rangle$$



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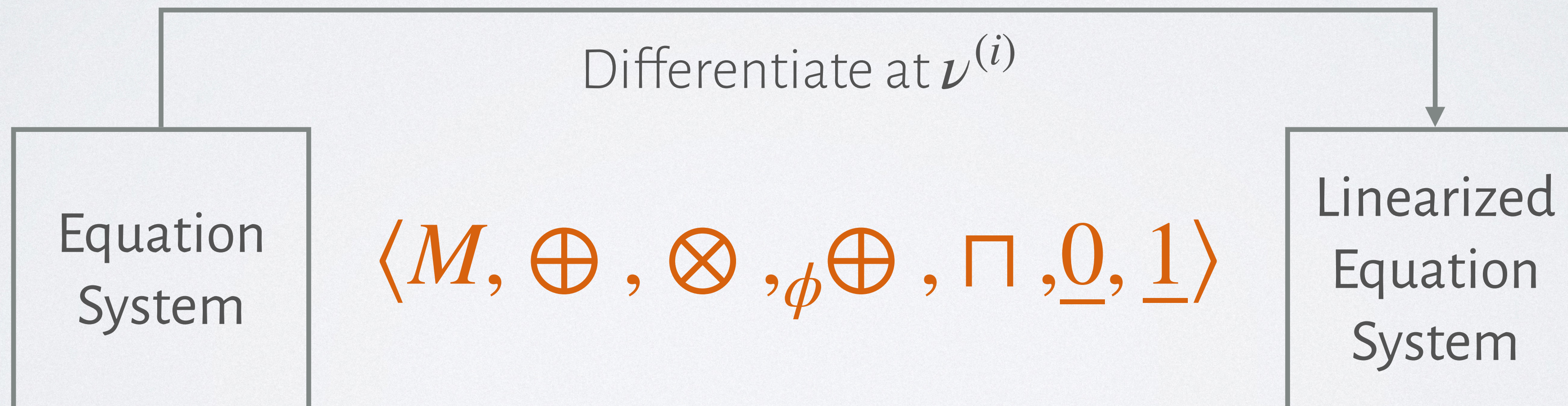
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Equation
System

$$\langle M, \oplus, \otimes, \phi \oplus, \sqcap, \underline{0}, \underline{1} \rangle$$

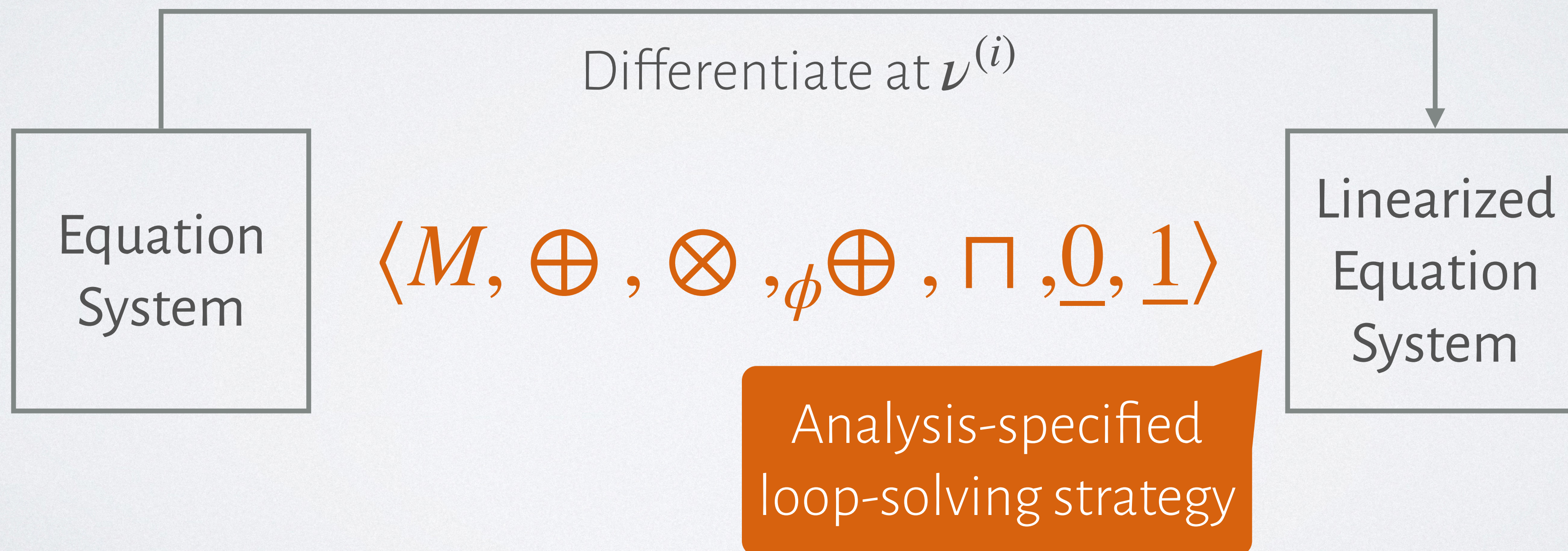
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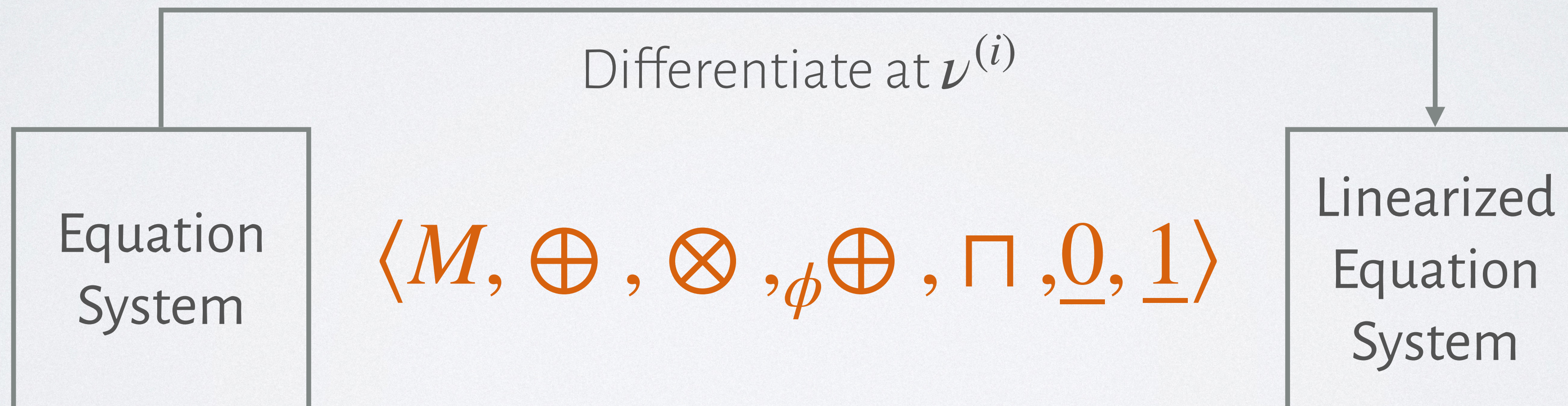
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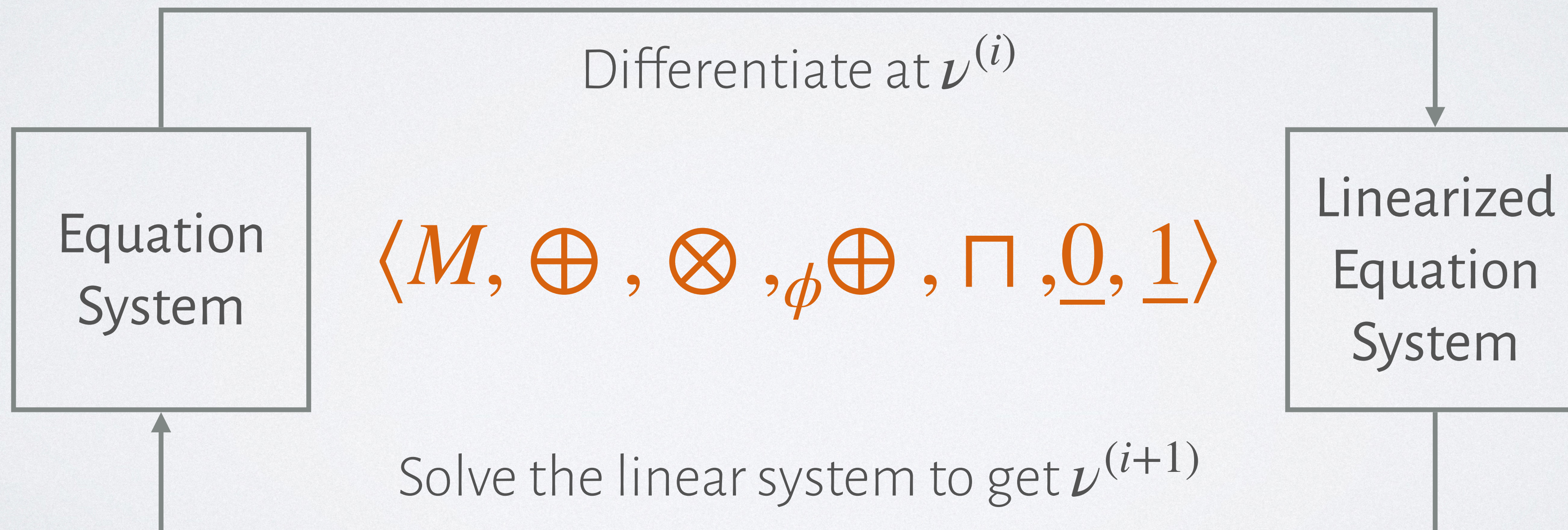
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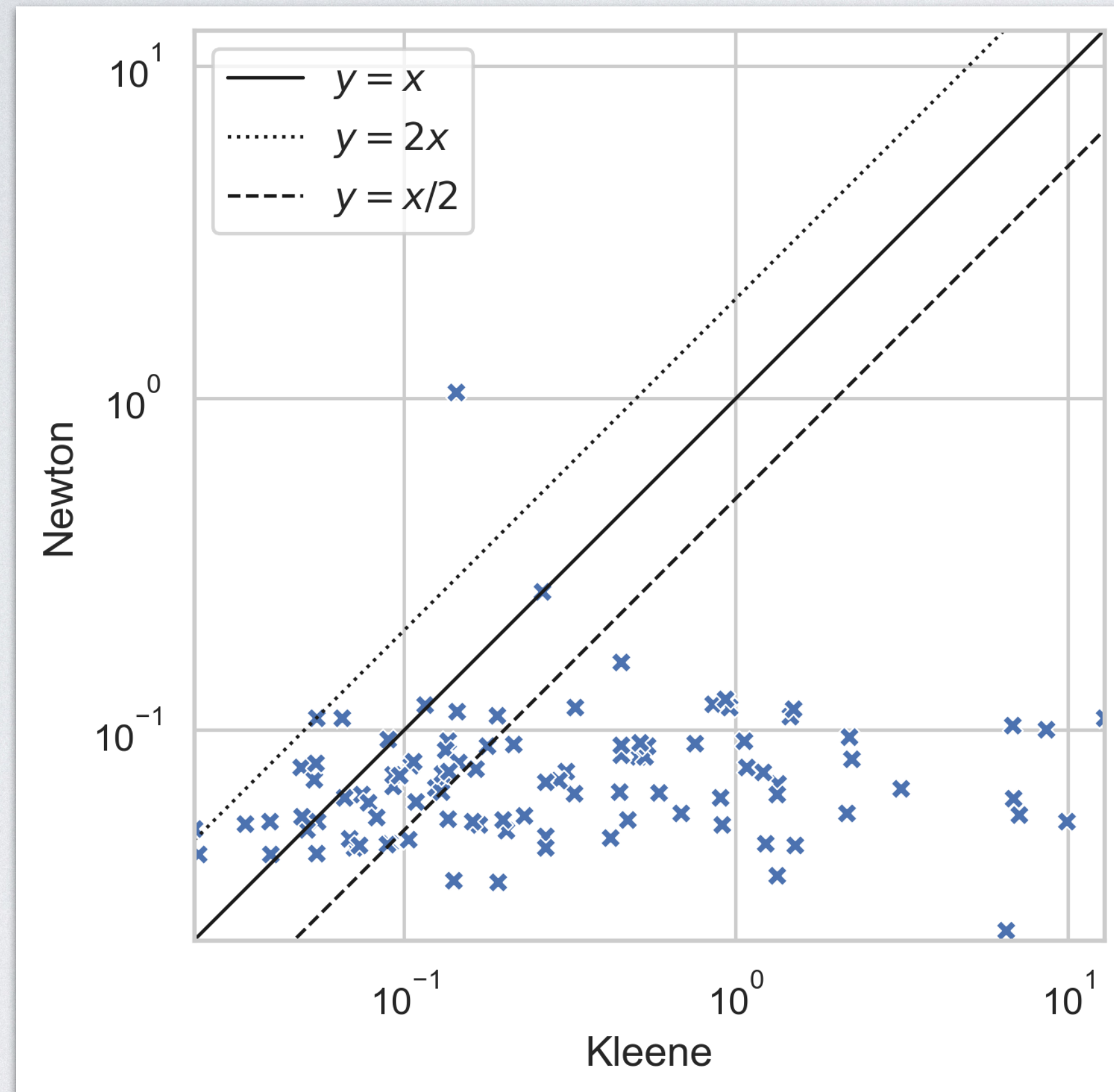


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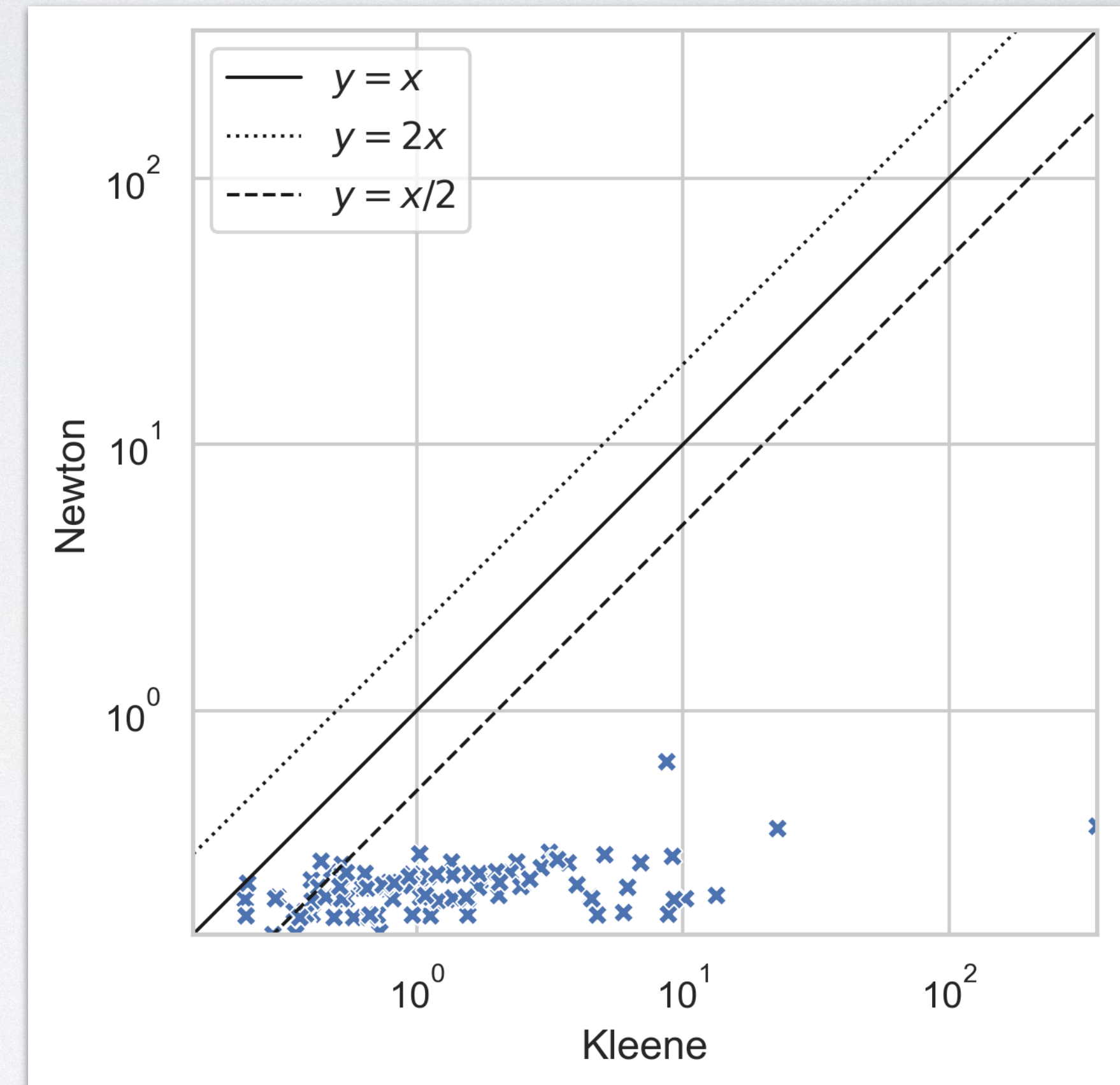
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Preliminary Evaluation



Reaching Probability



Expected Reward



Our Papers

- Di Wang, Jan Hoffmann, Thomas Reps (2018). **PMAF: An Algebraic Framework for Static Analysis of Probabilistic Programs.** In *PLDI'18*.
- Di Wang, Jan Hoffmann, Thomas Reps (2019). **A Denotational Semantics for Low-Level Probabilistic Programs with Nondeterminism.** In *MFPS'19*.
- Di Wang, Thomas Reps (2023). **Newtonian Program Analysis of Probabilistic Programs.** *Working Paper*.



Towards a **flexible** and **efficient** framework for program analysis of probabilistic programs

- ☑ **Semantics:** Markov Algebras for Multiple Kinds of Confluences
- ☑ **Algorithm:** Newton's Method for pre-Markov Algebras



Towards a **flexible** and **efficient** framework for program analysis of probabilistic programs

- ☑ **Semantics:** Markov Algebras for Multiple Kinds of Confluences
- ☑ **Algorithm:** Newton's Method for pre-Markov Algebras
- ☑ **Representation:** Construction of Recursive Program Schemes