

# Concurrency Theory

## Lecture 3: Bisimilarity and All That

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# Towards Bisimilarity

$p \equiv q$  if, for all  $a \in \text{Act}$ ,

1. for all  $p'$  with  $p \xrightarrow{a} p'$ , there is a  $q'$  with  $q \xrightarrow{a} q'$  and  $p' \equiv q'$ ;
2. for all  $q'$  with  $q \xrightarrow{a} q'$ , there is a  $p'$  with  $p \xrightarrow{a} p'$  and  $p' \equiv q'$ .

**Problematic:** no deadlock  no *base case*

**Definition 16 (Bisimulation, Bisimilarity)** A process relation  $\mathcal{R} \subseteq \text{Pr} \times \text{Pr}$  is called a *(strong) bisimulation* if, for all  $p, q \in \text{Pr}$ ,  $p \mathcal{R} q$  implies

1. for all  $p'$  with  $p \xrightarrow{a} p'$ , there is a  $q'$  with  $q \xrightarrow{a} q'$  and  $p' \mathcal{R} q'$ , and
2. for all  $q'$  with  $q \xrightarrow{a} q'$ , there is a  $p'$  with  $p \xrightarrow{a} p'$  and  $p' \mathcal{R} q'$

for all  $a \in \text{Act}$ . We call  $p$  and  $q$  *bisimilar*, denoted  $p \simeq q$ , if there is a bisimulation  $\mathcal{R}$  such that  $p \mathcal{R} q$ .  $\simeq$  is called *bisimilarity*.

# An Inductive Approach to Process Equivalence in Reverse

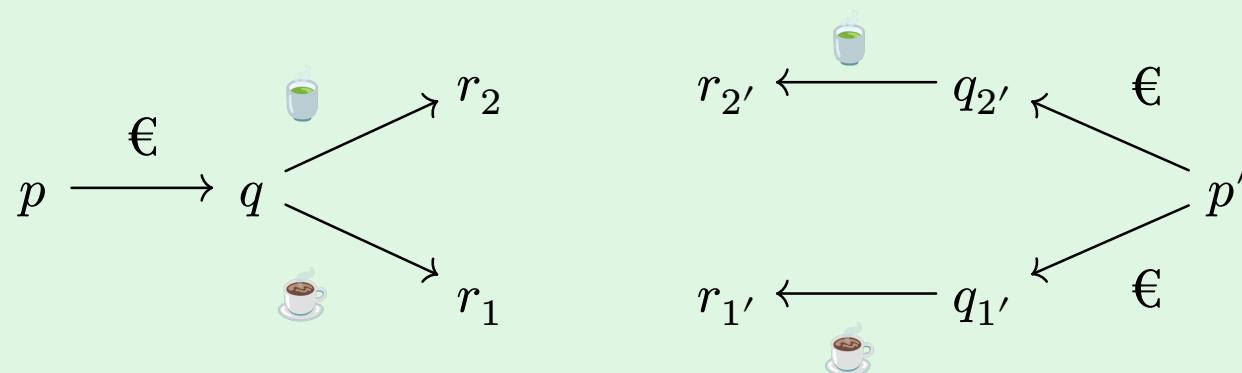
Compute  $\simeq_0, \simeq_1, \dots$  and define  $\simeq_\omega := \bigcap_{i \geq 0} \simeq_i$

for you, tj24

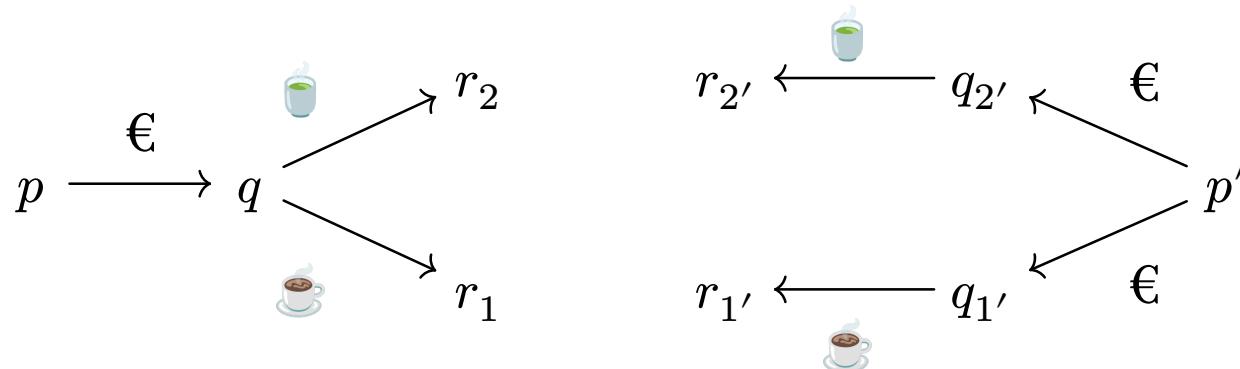
1. set  $\simeq_0 = \mathcal{U}$
2.  $p \simeq_{n+1} q$  for  $n \geq 0$  if for all  $a \in \text{Act}$ :

- a. for all  $p'$  with  $p \xrightarrow{a} p'$ , there is a  $q'$  with  $q \xrightarrow{a} q'$  and  $p' \simeq_n q'$ ;
- b. for all  $q'$  with  $q \xrightarrow{a} q'$ , there is a  $p'$  with  $p \xrightarrow{a} p'$  and  $p' \simeq_n q'$ .

## Example.



# An Inductive Approach to Process Equivalence in Reverse



$$\simeq_0 = \{(p, p), (p, \cancel{q}), (p, \cancel{r_1}), (p, \cancel{r_2}), (p, p'), \dots, (q, q), (q, \cancel{q_1}), (q, \cancel{q_2}), \dots\}$$

$$\simeq_1 = \{(p, p), (\cancel{p}, p'), (\cancel{p'}, p), (p', p'), (q, q), (q_1, q_1), (q_2, q_2), \dots, (r_1, r_1), (r_1, r_2), \dots\}$$

$$\simeq_2 = \{(p, p), (p', p'), (q, q), (q_1, q_1), (q_2, q_2), \dots\} = \simeq_\omega$$

$$p \not\simeq_\omega p'$$

# Bisimilarity and Two Examples

**Definition 16 (Bisimulation, Bisimilarity)** A process relation  $\mathcal{R} \subseteq \text{Pr} \times \text{Pr}$  is called a *(strong) bisimulation* if, for all  $p, q \in \text{Pr}$ ,  $p \mathcal{R} q$  implies

1. for all  $p'$  with  $p \xrightarrow{a} p'$ , there is a  $q'$  with  $q \xrightarrow{a} q'$  and  $p' \mathcal{R} q'$ , and
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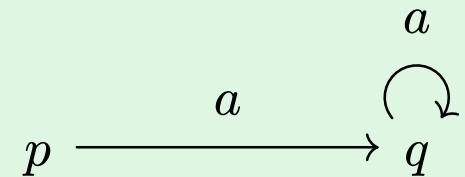
for all  $a \in \text{Act}$ . We call  $p$  and  $q$  *bisimilar*, denoted  $p \simeq q$ , if there is a bisimulation  $\mathcal{R}$  such that  $p \mathcal{R} q$ .  $\simeq$  is called *bisimilarity*.

## Consequences

1. bisimilarity  $\simeq$  is the union of all bisimulations
2. showing that  $p \simeq q$  holds reduces to finding a bisimulation  $\mathcal{R}$  such that  $p \mathcal{R} q$
3. conversely,  $p \not\simeq q$  can be shown by excluding the existence of any such bisimulation  $\mathcal{R}$

# Bisimilarity and Two Examples

**Example.**

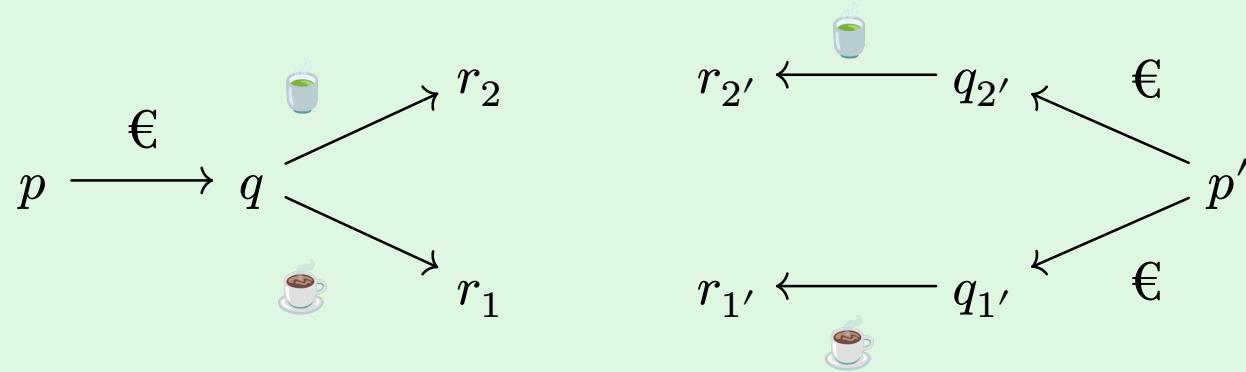


$p \simeq q$  by  $\mathcal{R} = \{(p, q), (q, q)\}$ , but  $\mathcal{R}' = \{(p, q), (q, p)\}$  is not a bisimulation. ■

**Recall:**  $p \leftrightarrow q$ .

# Bisimilarity and Two Examples

## Example.



Towards a contradiction, suppose  $p \simeq p'$ . Then there is a bisimulation  $\mathcal{R}$  with  $p \mathcal{R} p'$ . As  $\mathcal{R}$  is a bisimulation,  $q \mathcal{R} q_1'$  since  $p' \xrightarrow{\epsilon} q_1'$  and  $p \xrightarrow{\epsilon} q$ . But  $q \mathcal{R} q_1'$  cannot hold since  $q \xrightarrow{\epsilon} r_2$  whereas  $q_1' \not\xrightarrow{\epsilon}$ . ■

**Recall:**  $p \equiv_{\text{tr}} p'$  and  $p \equiv_{\text{ctr}} p'$ .

# Dissecting Bisimilarity

**Definition 16 (Bisimulation, Bisimilarity)** A process relation  $\mathcal{R} \subseteq \mathbf{Pr} \times \mathbf{Pr}$  is called a *(strong) bisimulation* if, for all  $p, q \in \mathbf{Pr}$ ,  $p \mathcal{R} q$  implies

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for all  $a \in \mathbf{Act}$ . We call  $p$  and  $q$  *bisimilar*, denoted  $p \simeq q$ , if there is a bisimulation  $\mathcal{R}$  such that  $p \mathcal{R} q$ .  $\simeq$  is called *bisimilarity*.

Proofs of bisimilarity are

- *local* checks performed on states separately
- *non-hierarchical* no fixed temporal order
- require no **base case** this is **not** induction

It is, in fact, an example of **coinduction**

(We had already seen what happens if we read Definition 16 inductively.)

# Dissecting Bisimilarity

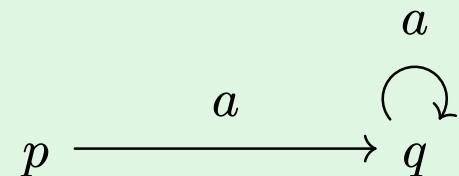
**Theorem 17**  $\simeq$  is a process equivalence that is itself a bisimulation.

*Proof:* We have to show that  $\simeq$  is (1) an equivalence and (2) a bisimulation.

to be continued... ■

Not every bisimulation is an equivalence:

**Example.**



$p \simeq q$  by  $\mathcal{R} = \{(p, q), (q, q)\}$  which is **neither** reflexive **nor** symmetric.

# Dissecting Bisimilarity

**Theorem 17**  $\simeq$  is a process equivalence that is itself a bisimulation.

*Proof:* We have to show that  $\simeq$  is (1) an equivalence and (2) a bisimulation.

**Reflexivity**  $\text{id} : \mathbf{Pr} \rightarrow \mathbf{Pr}$  is, in fact, a bisimulation. For  $p \text{id} q$  (i.e.,  $\text{id}(p) = q$ ), we get  $p \xrightarrow{a} p'$  iff  $q = \text{id}(p) = p \xrightarrow{a} p' = \text{id}(p') = q'$ . The same holds for steps from  $\text{id}(p)$ .

**Symmetry** If  $\mathcal{R}$  is a bisimulation, then  $\mathcal{R}^{-1} := \{(q, p) \mid p \mathcal{R} q\}$  is a bisimulation.

**Transitivity** Let  $\mathcal{R}_1, \mathcal{R}_2$  be bisimulations. We subsequently show that  $\mathcal{R}_1 \circ \mathcal{R}_2 := \{(x, z) \mid \exists y. x \mathcal{R}_1 y \wedge y \mathcal{R}_2 z\}$  is a bisimulation. For  $p \mathcal{R}_1 \circ \mathcal{R}_2 q$  and  $p \xrightarrow{a} p'$ ,

1. there is an  $r$  such that  $x \mathcal{R}_1 r$  and  $r \mathcal{R}_2 q$ ; by definition of  $\mathcal{R}_1 \circ \mathcal{R}_2$
2. there is an  $r'$  such that  $r \xrightarrow{a} r'$  and  $p' \mathcal{R}_1 r'$  since  $\mathcal{R}_1$  is a bisimulation
3. there is a  $q'$  such that  $q \xrightarrow{a} q'$  and  $r' \mathcal{R}_2 q'$  since  $\mathcal{R}_2$  is a bisimulation
4. hence, by taking that  $q'$ , we get  $p' \mathcal{R}_1 \circ \mathcal{R}_2 q'$  by definition of  $\mathcal{R}_1 \circ \mathcal{R}_2$

Since bisimulations are union-closed (by Lemma 18, cf. next slide) and  $\simeq$  is the union of all bisimulations,  $\simeq$  is itself a bisimulation. ■

# Disecting Bisimilarity

**Lemma 18** Bisimulations are closed under set unions: If  $\{\mathcal{R}_i\}_i$  is a (at most countable) family of bisimulations, then  $\bigcup_i \mathcal{R}_i$  is a bisimulation.

Towards a special case, take two bisimulations  $\mathcal{R}_1$  and  $\mathcal{R}_2$  and consider  $\mathcal{R}_1 \cup \mathcal{R}_2$ :

Take  $p \mathcal{R}_1 \cup \mathcal{R}_2 q$  and consider  $p \xrightarrow{a} p'$ .

1. if  $p \mathcal{R}_1 q$ , then there is a  $q'$  such that  $q \xrightarrow{a} q'$  and  $p' \mathcal{R}_1 q'$   $\mathcal{R}_1$  is a bisimulation
2. if  $p \mathcal{R}_2 q$ , then there is a  $q'$  such that  $q \xrightarrow{a} q'$  and  $p' \mathcal{R}_2 q'$   $\mathcal{R}_2$  is a bisimulation

In both cases, there is a  $q'$  such that  $q \xrightarrow{a} q'$  and  $p \mathcal{R}_1 \cup \mathcal{R}_2 q$ . Same for  $q \xrightarrow{a} q'$ .

*Proof:* If each  $\mathcal{R}_i$  is a bisimulation, then  $\mathcal{R} = \bigcup_i \mathcal{R}_i$  is a bisimulation. For each pair  $p \mathcal{R} q$ , there is a  $\mathcal{R}_i$  such that  $p \mathcal{R}_i q$ .

1. if  $p \xrightarrow{a} p'$ , there is a  $q'$  such that  $q \xrightarrow{a} q'$  and  $p' \mathcal{R}_i q'$   $\mathcal{R}_i$  is a bisimulation
2. if  $q \xrightarrow{a} q'$ , there is a  $p'$  such that  $p \xrightarrow{a} p'$  and  $p' \mathcal{R}_i q'$   $\mathcal{R}_i$  is a bisimulation

In each case  $p' \mathcal{R}_i q'$  and, thus,  $p' \mathcal{R} q'$ . ■

## Yet Another Characterization of $\simeq$

**Theorem 19**  $\simeq$  is the largest bisimulation, i.e., the largest process relation  $\simeq$  such that  $p \simeq q$  implies for all  $a \in \text{Act}$ :

1. for all  $p'$  with  $p \xrightarrow{a} p'$ , there is a  $q'$  with  $q \xrightarrow{a} q'$  and  $p' \simeq q'$ , and
2. for all  $q'$  with  $q \xrightarrow{a} q'$ , there is a  $p'$  with  $p \xrightarrow{a} p'$  and  $p' \simeq q'$ .

*Proof:* By Theorem 17,  $\simeq$  is a bisimulation. It remains to be shown that it is the **unique** largest one.

Consider two largest bisimulations  $\simeq_1$  and  $\simeq_2$ . Since bisimulations are union-closed (by Lemma 18),  $\simeq_1 \cup \simeq_2$  is a bisimulation as well, implying that  $\simeq_1 = \simeq_1 \cup \simeq_2$  and  $\simeq_2 = \simeq_1 \cup \simeq_2$  to not contradict the assumption that  $\simeq_1$  and  $\simeq_2$  were chosen to be largest. Thus,  $\simeq$  is the *unique* largest bisimulation. ■

# Bisimilarity is an Example for Branching-Time

## Theorem 20

$$\leftrightarrow \quad \overset{(1)}{\subsetneq} \quad \simeq \quad \overset{(2)}{\subsetneq} \quad \equiv_{\text{ctr}} \quad \subsetneq \quad \equiv_{\text{tr}}$$

*Proof:*

(1) Let  $f : \mathsf{Pr} \rightarrow \mathsf{Pr}$  be an isomorphism. We show,  $f$  is a bisimulation.

For  $p \mathrel{f} q$  (i.e.,  $f(p) = q$ ),

$p \xrightarrow{a} p'$  iff  $f(p) \xrightarrow{a} f(p')$  since  $f$  is an isomorphism

iff  $\exists q'. q \xrightarrow{a} q'$  by  $f(p) = q$  take  $q' = f(p')$

We have  $p' \mathrel{f} q'$  since  $f(p') = q'$ . The second direction is analogous.

Towards  $\leftrightarrow \neq \simeq$ ,  $\simeq$  is insensitive to branch duplicates.



# Bisimilarity is an Example for Branching-Time

## Theorem 20

$$\leftrightarrow \quad \overset{(1)}{\subsetneq} \quad \simeq \quad \overset{(2)}{\subsetneq} \quad \equiv_{\text{ctr}} \quad \subsetneq \quad \equiv_{\text{tr}}$$

*Proof:*

- (2) Let  $p, q \in \mathbf{Pr}$  such that  $p \simeq q$ . We need to show that  $p \equiv_{\text{ctr}} q$ , meaning  $\text{ctraces}(p) = \text{ctraces}(q)$ . It is sufficient to show that  $\text{ctraces}(p) \subseteq \text{ctraces}(q)$  since the other direction follows by symmetry (process equivalences are symmetric).

Let  $\sigma \in \text{ctraces}(p)$  with  $\sigma = a_1 a_2 \dots a_n$ . Then there are states  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n$  such that  $p \xrightarrow{a_1} p_1 \xrightarrow{a_2} \dots \xrightarrow{a_n} p_n$  and  $p_n$  is a deadlock.

Since  $p \simeq q$ , there are  $q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n$  such that  $q \xrightarrow{a_1} q_1 \xrightarrow{a_2} \dots \xrightarrow{a_n} q_n$  such that  $p_i \simeq q_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ). In particular,  $q_n$  is a deadlock. Thus,  $a_1 a_2 \dots a_n = \sigma \in \text{ctraces}(q)$ .

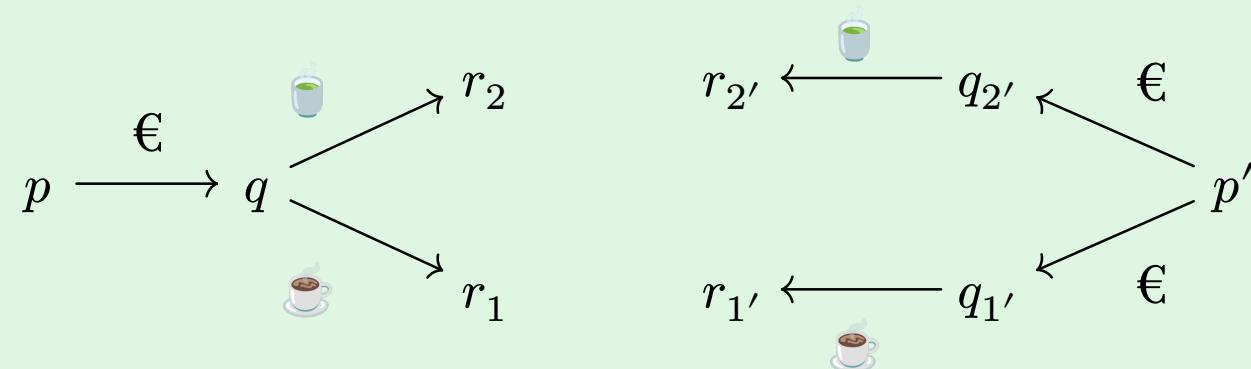


# Counterexample for $\simeq = \equiv_{\text{ctr}}$

## Theorem 20

$$\leftrightarrow \quad \overset{(1)}{\subsetneq} \quad \simeq \quad \overset{(2)}{\subsetneq} \quad \equiv_{\text{ctr}} \quad \subsetneq \quad \equiv_{\text{tr}}$$

### Example.



$p \not\simeq p'$  but  $p \equiv_{\text{ctr}} p'$

## What about $\simeq_\omega$ ?

**Definition 16 (Bisimulation, Bisimilarity)** A process relation  $\mathcal{R} \subseteq \text{Pr} \times \text{Pr}$  is called a (strong) *bisimulation* if, for all  $p, q \in \text{Pr}$ ,  $p \mathcal{R} q$  implies

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for all  $a \in \text{Act}$ . We call  $p$  and  $q$  *bisimilar*, denoted  $p \simeq q$ , if there is a bisimulation  $\mathcal{R}$  such that  $p \mathcal{R} q$ .  $\simeq$  is called *bisimilarity*.

$$\simeq_\omega := \bigcap_{i \geq 0} \simeq_i$$

1. set  $\simeq_0 = \mathcal{U}$
2.  $p \simeq_{n+1} q$  for  $n \geq 0$  if for all  $a \in \text{Act}$ :
  - a. for all  $p'$  with  $p \xrightarrow{a} p'$ , there is a  $q'$  with  $q \xrightarrow{a} q'$  and  $p' \simeq_n q'$ ;
  - b. for all  $q'$  with  $q \xrightarrow{a} q'$ , there is a  $p'$  with  $p \xrightarrow{a} p'$  and  $p' \simeq_n q'$ .

Do the two views on process equivalence,  $\simeq$  and  $\simeq_\omega$ , coincide?

# What about $\simeq_\omega$ ?

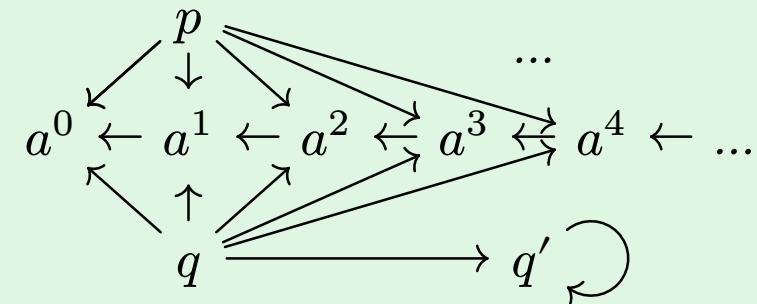
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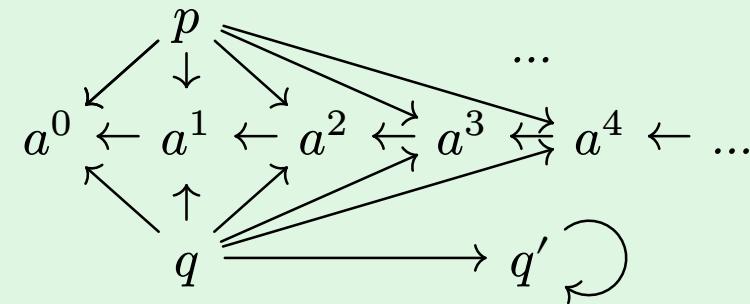
## Example.



😴 We're going to show that  $p \simeq_\omega q$  but  $p \not\simeq q$  😴

# What about $\simeq_\omega$ ?

Example.



**Claim:** For each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we get  $p \simeq_n q$ .

$p \simeq_\omega q$  follows (why?)

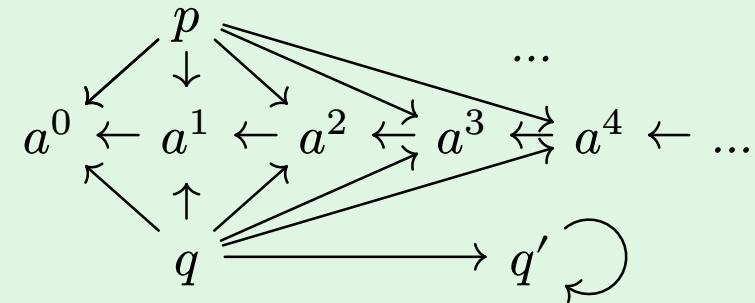
1.  $n = 0$ ,  $p \simeq_n q$  since  $\simeq_0 = \text{Pr} \times \text{Pr}$  is the universal process equivalence.
2.  $n \rightarrow n + 1$ ,

- if  $q \rightarrow q'$ ,  $p$  answers by  $p \rightarrow a^n$ ;
- if  $q \rightarrow a^k$ , answer by  $p \rightarrow a^k$ , and vice versa.

$a^n \simeq_n q'$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .  
exploit reflexivity of  $\simeq_n$

# What about $\simeq_\omega$ ?

Example.



**Claim:** For each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $a^n \simeq_n q'$

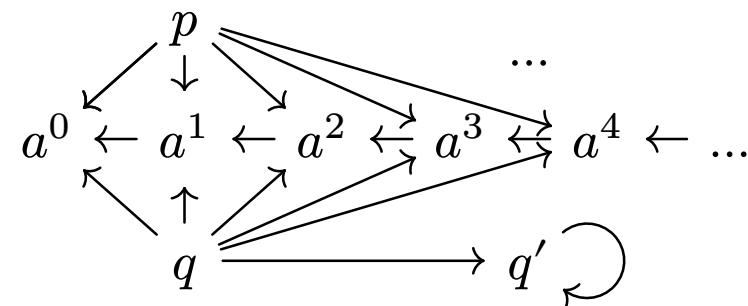
1.  $n = 0$ , ✓
2.  $n \rightarrow n + 1$ ,  $a^{n+1}$  still has  $n + 1$  steps to go until it deadlocks in  $a^0$ .

**Another Fact:** For each  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $a^m \simeq_n q'$  if  $m \geq n$ .

**Definition 16 (Bisimulation, Bisimilarity)** A process relation  $\mathcal{R} \subseteq \mathbf{Pr} \times \mathbf{Pr}$  is called a *(strong) bisimulation* if, for all  $p, q \in \mathbf{Pr}$ ,  $p \mathcal{R} q$  implies

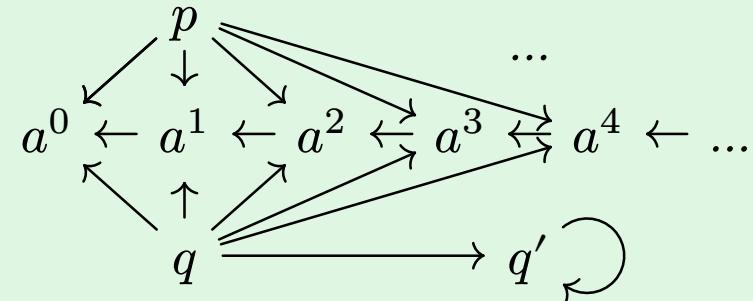
1. for all  $p'$  with  $p \xrightarrow{a} p'$ , there is a  $q'$  with  $q \xrightarrow{a} q'$  and  $p' \mathcal{R} q'$ , and
2. for all  $q'$  with  $q \xrightarrow{a} q'$ , there is a  $p'$  with  $p \xrightarrow{a} p'$  and  $p' \mathcal{R} q'$

for all  $a \in \mathbf{Act}$ . We call  $p$  and  $q$  *bisimilar*, denoted  $p \simeq q$ , if there is a bisimulation  $\mathcal{R}$  such that  $p \mathcal{R} q$ .  $\simeq$  is called *bisimilarity*.



# Towards $p \not\simeq q$

## Example.



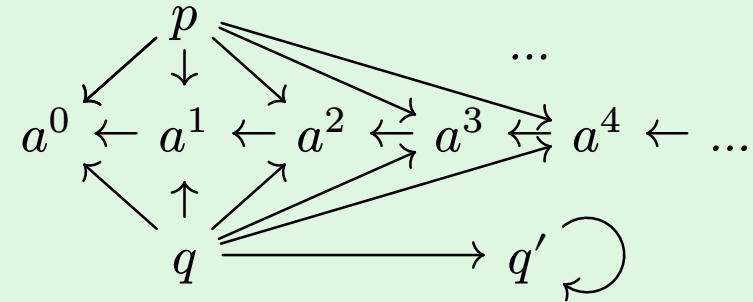
Assume, there is a bisimulation  $\mathcal{R}$  such that  $p \mathcal{R} q$ . Then for  $q \rightarrow q'$ , there is some  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , so that  $p \rightarrow a^m$  and  $a^m \mathcal{R} q'$ .

**Claim:** For all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $a^n \not\simeq q'$ .

1.  $n = 0$ ,  $a^n \not\simeq$  whereas  $q' \rightarrow q'$ .
2.  $n \rightarrow n + 1$ ,  $a^{n+1} \rightarrow a^n$ . Thus,  $a^{n+1} \simeq q'$  if and only if  $a^n \simeq q'$ . By induction hypothesis,  $a^n \not\simeq q'$ . In conclusion,  $a^{n+1} \not\simeq q'$ .

# What is Wrong with $\simeq_\omega$ ?

## Example.



1.  $p$  is
  - acyclic,
  - infinite-state,
  - infinitely branching, and
  - **not** even image-finite
2.  $q$  is cyclic, ..., and **not** even image-finite

# What is Wrong with $\simeq_\omega$ ?

**Theorem 21**  $\simeq$  and  $\simeq_\omega$  coincide on *image-finite* LTSs.

*Proof:* We prove both directions separately. Consider all processes and, in fact, the underlying LTS to be *image-finite*.

$\simeq \subseteq \simeq_\omega$  For each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we show that  $p \simeq q$  implies  $p \simeq_n q$ .

**$n = 0$**  Since  $\simeq_n = \simeq_0 = \text{Pr} \times \text{Pr}$ ,  $p \simeq_n q$  holds trivially.

**Hypothesis** For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $p \simeq q$  implies  $p \simeq_n q$ .

**$n \rightarrow n + 1$**  If  $p \simeq q$  holds, we show that  $p \simeq_{n+1} q$ . For each  $a \in \text{Act}$

1. if  $p \xrightarrow{a} p'$ , there is a  $q'$  with  $q \xrightarrow{a} q'$  and  $p' \simeq q'$ . By induction hypothesis,  $p' \simeq q'$  implies  $p' \simeq_n q'$ .

2. if  $q \xrightarrow{a} q'$ , there is a  $p'$  with  $p \xrightarrow{a} p'$  and  $p' \simeq q'$ . By induction hypothesis,  $p' \simeq q'$  implies  $p' \simeq_n q'$ .

Thus, every step of  $p$  ( $q$ , resp.) can be answered such that their successors are related by  $\simeq_n$ , proving that  $p \simeq_{n+1} q$  holds.

# What is Wrong with $\simeq_\omega$ ?

$\simeq_\omega \subseteq \simeq$  We show that  $\mathcal{R} = \{(p, q) \mid p \simeq_\omega q\}$  is a bisimulation. Consider a pair  $(p, q) \in \mathcal{R}$ .

- Suppose,  $p \xrightarrow{a} p'$ .
- For all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,
  - as  $p \simeq_{n+1} q$ , there is some  $q_n$  such that  $q \xrightarrow{a} q_n$  and  $p' \simeq_n q_n$ ;
- Since  $q$  is image-finite, the set  $Q = \left\{ q' \mid q \xrightarrow{a} q' \right\}$  is finite;
  - thus, there must be one  $q' \in Q$  such that  $p' \simeq_n q'$  for each  $n \in \mathbb{N} \Rightarrow p' \simeq_\omega q'$

■

# What is Right with $\simeq_\omega$ ?

$$\simeq_\omega := \bigcap_{i \geq 0} \simeq_i$$

1. set  $\simeq_0 = \mathcal{U}$
2.  $p \simeq_{n+1} q$  for  $n \geq 0$  if for all  $a \in \text{Act}$ :

- a. for all  $p'$  with  $p \xrightarrow{a} p'$ , there is a  $q'$  with  $q \xrightarrow{a} q'$  and  $p' \simeq_n q'$ ;
- b. for all  $q'$  with  $q \xrightarrow{a} q'$ , there is a  $p'$  with  $p \xrightarrow{a} p'$  and  $p' \simeq_n q'$ .

**Theorem 21**  $\simeq$  and  $\simeq_\omega$  coincide on *image-finite* LTSs.

1. Finite LTSs are image-finite. recall
2. How hard is it to compute  $\simeq$  on finite LTSs  $(\mathcal{P}, \text{Act}, \rightarrow)$ ? i.e.,  $\simeq_\omega$ 
  - compute  $\simeq_0 = \mathcal{U}$   $\mathcal{O}(|\mathcal{P}|^2)$
  - iteratively remove all pairs from  $\simeq_i$  contradicting bisimulations  $\rightsquigarrow \simeq_{i+1}$   $\mathcal{O}(|\mathcal{P}|^3)$
  - stop when nothing changes after at most  $|\mathcal{P}|^2$  removals

Compare with  $\equiv_{\text{tr}}$  (PSPACE-complete)