

# Petri Nets

## Computational Models for Complex Systems

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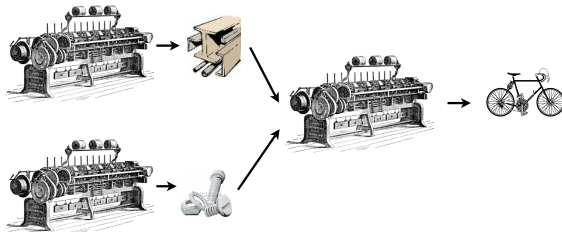
Laurea Magistrale in Informatica

A.Y. 2018/2019

# Introduction

- Petri nets have been proposed to model **concurrent systems**, with applications mainly in **manufactury** and **concurrent programming**
- Recent applications are in the context of **business processes**
  - ▶ Have a look at Roberto Bruni's course:  
<http://didawiki.di.unipi.it/doku.php/magistraleinformaticaeconomia/mpb/start>
- Many books have been written on Petri nets. One of the most famous is
  - ▶ **Wolfgang Reisig, "Petri Nets. An Introduction". Springer-Verlag.**
- This lesson is based on the **tutorial** by G. Geeraerts available here:  
<http://di.ulb.ac.be/verif/ggeeraer/Tutorial-Perti-Nets-Geeraerts.pdf>

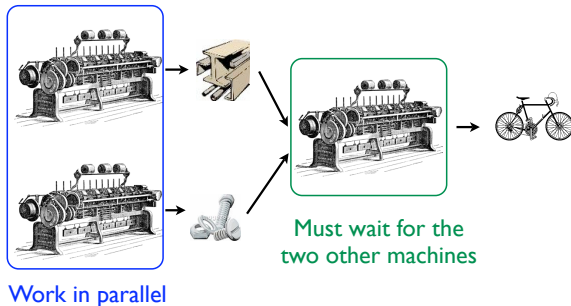
## Introduction Concurrency



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# Introduction

## Introduction Concurrency

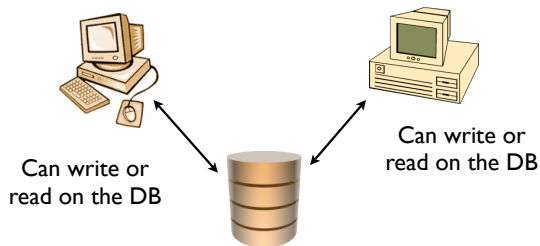


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## Introduction Concurrency



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## Ingredients

A Petri net is made up of...

Places



= some type of resource

Transitions



consume and produce resources

Tokens

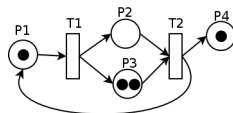


= one unity of a certain resource

Tokens 'live' in the places

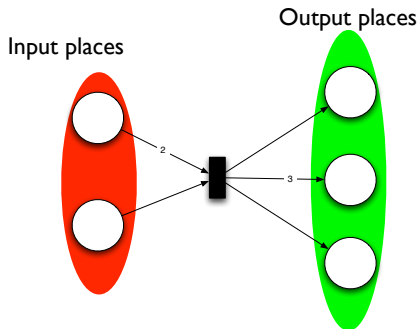
Places and Transitions are edges of a **bipartite graph** (the Petri net)

Tokens are inside places



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## Transitions



A Petri net transition  
corresponds exactly to a  
MultiSet Rewriting rule  
(or a chemical reaction)

MSR:

$$a^2b \mapsto cd^3e$$

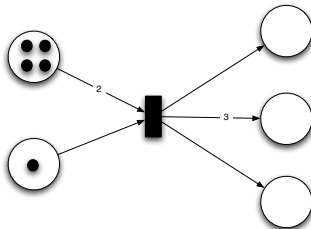
Chem:



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## Firing a transition

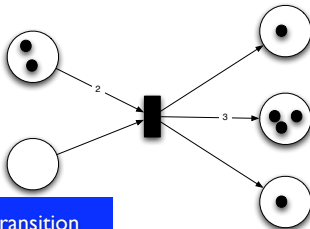
Transitions **consume** tokens from the **input** places and produce tokens in the **output** places



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## Firing a transition

Transitions **consume** tokens from the **input** places and produce tokens in the **output** places



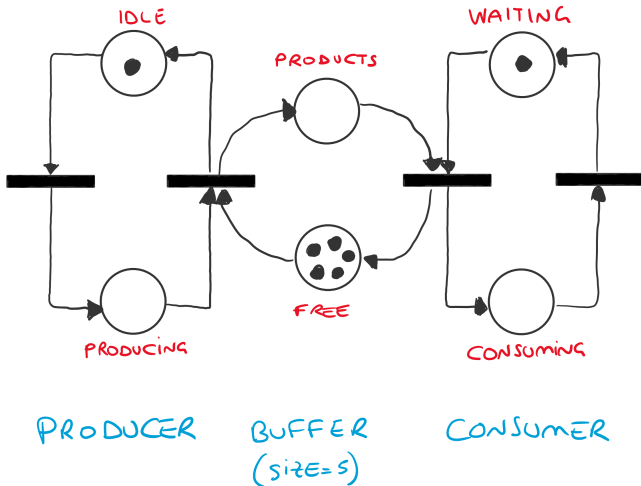
Now, the transition cannot be fired anymore

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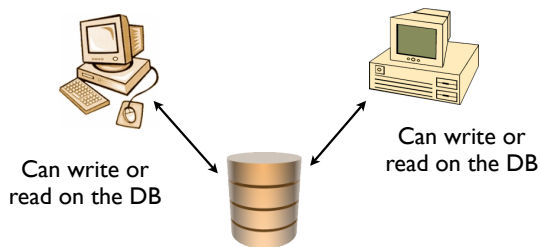
# Petri nets

Example: producer/consumer with bounded buffer

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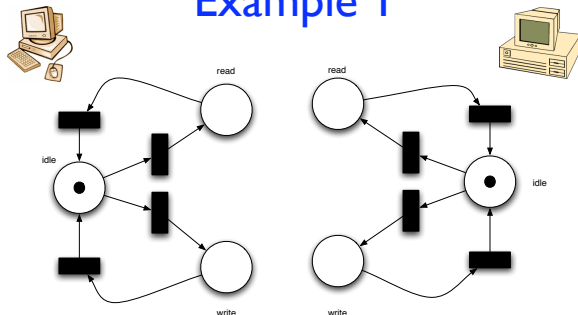
## Example I



The two machines cannot write at the same time

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## Example 1



The **token** tells us the **state** of the process

With MSR rules:

$idle_1 \mapsto read_1$   
 $idle_1 \mapsto write_1$   
 $read_1 \mapsto idle_1$   
 $write_1 \mapsto idle_1$   
 $idle_2 \mapsto read_2$   
 $idle_2 \mapsto write_2$   
 $read_2 \mapsto idle_2$   
 $write_2 \mapsto idle_2$

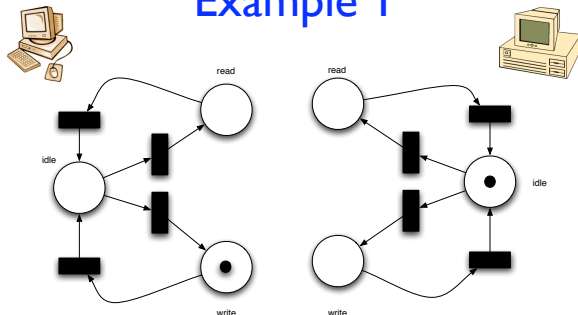
state (multiset):

$idle_1 \ idle_2$

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## Example 1



The **token** tells us the **state** of the process

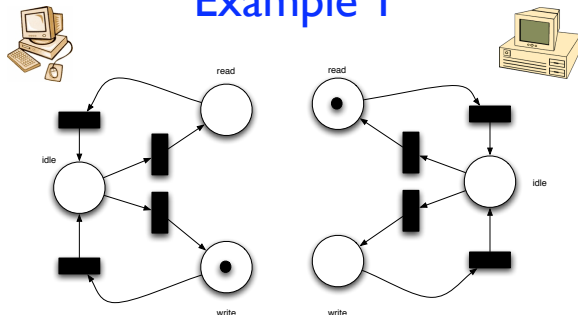
With MSR rules:

$idle_1 \mapsto read_1$   
 $idle_1 \mapsto write_1$   
 $read_1 \mapsto idle_1$   
 $write_1 \mapsto idle_1$   
 $idle_2 \mapsto read_2$   
 $idle_2 \mapsto write_2$   
 $read_2 \mapsto idle_2$   
 $write_2 \mapsto idle_2$

state (multiset):

*write1 idle2*

## Example 1



The **token** tells us the **state** of the process

With MSR rules:

$idle_1 \mapsto read_1$

$idle_1 \mapsto write_1$

$read_1 \mapsto idle_1$

$write_1 \mapsto idle_1$

$idle_2 \mapsto read_2$

$idle_2 \mapsto write_2$

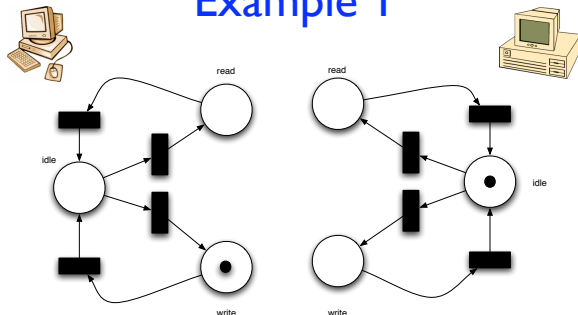
$read_2 \mapsto idle_2$

$write_2 \mapsto idle_2$

state (multiset):

$write_1$   $read_2$

## Example 1



The **token** tells us the **state** of the process

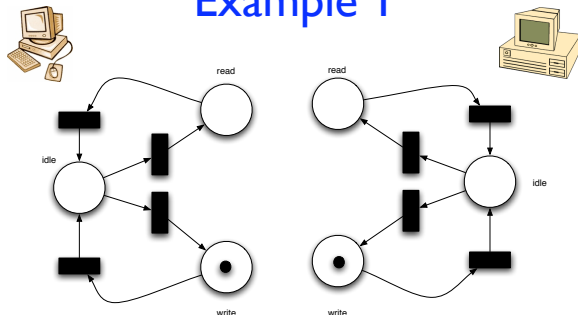
With MSR rules:

$idle_1 \mapsto read_1$   
 $idle_1 \mapsto write_1$   
 $read_1 \mapsto idle_1$   
 $write_1 \mapsto idle_1$   
 $idle_2 \mapsto read_2$   
 $idle_2 \mapsto write_2$   
 $read_2 \mapsto idle_2$   
 $write_2 \mapsto idle_2$

state (multiset):

*write1* *idle2*

## Example 1



The **token** tells us the **state** of the process

With MSR rules:

$idle_1 \mapsto read_1$

$idle_1 \mapsto write_1$

$read_1 \mapsto idle_1$

$write_1 \mapsto idle_1$

$idle_2 \mapsto read_2$

$idle_2 \mapsto write_2$

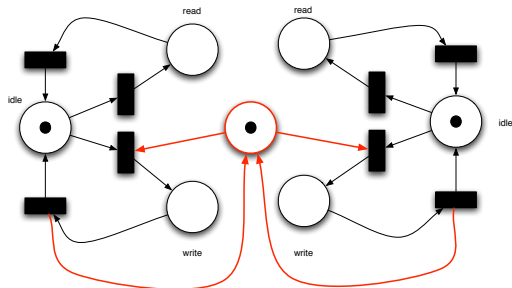
$read_2 \mapsto idle_2$

$write_2 \mapsto idle_2$

state (multiset):

$write_1$   $write_2$  !!!

## Example 1



Add a **lock** to ensure **mutual exclusion**

With MSR rules:

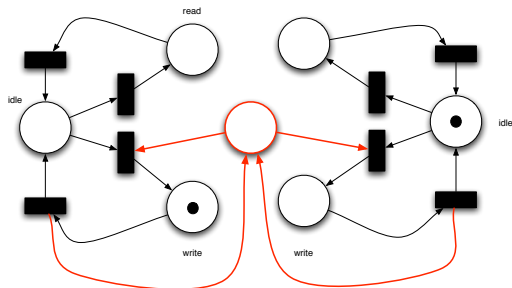
$idle_1 \mapsto read_1$   
 $idle_1 \text{ } M \mapsto write_1$   
 $read_1 \mapsto idle_1$   
 $write_1 \mapsto idle_1 \text{ } M$   
 $idle_2 \mapsto read_2$   
 $idle_2 \text{ } M \mapsto write_2$   
 $read_2 \mapsto idle_2$   
 $write_2 \mapsto idle_2 \text{ } M$

state (multiset):

$idle_1 \text{ } idle_2 \text{ } M$

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## Example I



With MSR rules:

$idle_1 \mapsto read_1$   
 $idle_1 \text{ } M \mapsto write_1$   
 $read_1 \mapsto idle_1$   
 $write_1 \mapsto idle_1 \text{ } M$   
 $idle_2 \mapsto read_2$   
 $idle_2 \text{ } M \mapsto write_2$   
 $read_2 \mapsto idle_2$   
 $write_2 \mapsto idle_2 \text{ } M$

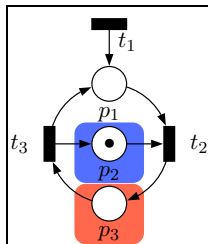
state (multiset):

*write*<sub>1</sub> *idle*<sub>2</sub>

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## Example 2

```
mutex M ;  
  
Process P {  
  repeat {  
    take M ;  
    critical ;  
    release M ;  
  }  
}
```



$t_1$  represents the start of a new (concurrent) instance of process P

$p_1$ : processes

$p_2$ : free mutex

$p_3$ : critical session

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## Formal definition

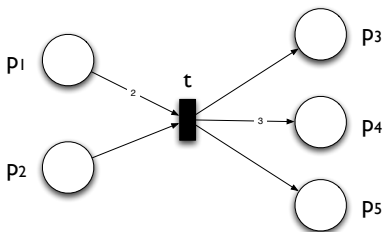
- A Petri net is a tuple  $\langle P, T \rangle$  where:
  - $P$  is the (finite) set of places
  - $T$  is the (finite) set of transitions. Each transition  $t$  is a tuple  $\langle I, O \rangle$  where:
    - $I$  is a function s.t.  $t$  consumes  $I(p)$  tokens in each place  $p$
    - $O$  is a function s.t.  $t$  produces  $O(p)$  tokens in each place  $p$

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## Example

$I(p_1)=2$   $I(p_2)=1$   $I(p_3)=0$   $I(p_4)=0$   $I(p_5)=0$   
 $O(p_1)=0$   $O(p_2)=0$   $O(p_3)=1$   $O(p_4)=3$   $O(p_5)=1$



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## Markings

- The distribution of the tokens in the places is formalised by the notion of **marking**, which can be seen:
  - either as a **function**  $m$ , s.t.  $m(p)$  is the **number of tokens** in place  $p$
  - or as a **vector**  $m = \langle m_1, m_2, \dots, m_n \rangle$  where  $m_i$  is the **number of tokens** in place  $p_i$

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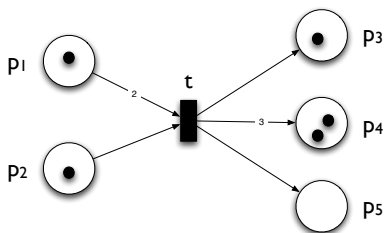
# Dynamics of Petri nets (semantics)

## Example

$$m = \langle 1, 1, 1, 2, 0 \rangle$$

$$m = \langle p_1, p_2, p_3, 2p_4 \rangle$$

$$m(p_1)=1, m(p_2)=1, m(p_3)=1, m(p_4)=2, m(p_5)=0$$



Markings are multisets!

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## Firing a transition

- A transition  $t = \langle I, O \rangle$  can be **fired** from  $m$  **iff** for any place  $p$ :

$$m(p) \geq I(p)$$

- The firing **transforms** the marking  $m$  into a marking  $m'$  s.t. for any place  $p$ :

$$m'(p) = m(p) - I(p) + O(p)$$

- **Notation:**  $m \rightarrow m'$
- **Notation:**  $\text{Post}(m) = \{m' \mid m \rightarrow m'\}$

$\text{Post}(m)$  is the set of markings that can be obtained by firing transitions from  $m$

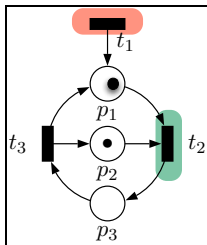
- $\text{Post}$  corresponds to the **transition relation** in Transition Systems terminology

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# Dynamics of Petri nets (semantics)

## Example

$\text{Post}(\langle 1, 1, 0 \rangle) =$   
 $\{ \langle 2, 1, 0 \rangle, \langle 0, 0, 1 \rangle \}$

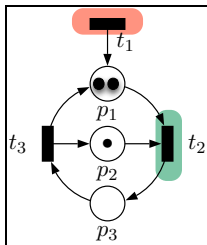


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# Dynamics of Petri nets (semantics)

## Example

$$\text{Post}(\langle 1, 1, 0 \rangle) = \\ \{ \langle 2, 1, 0 \rangle, \langle 0, 0, 1 \rangle \}$$

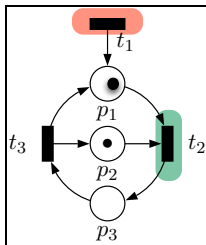


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# Dynamics of Petri nets (semantics)

## Example

$$\text{Post}(\langle 1, 1, 0 \rangle) = \\ \{ \langle 2, 1, 0 \rangle, \langle 0, 0, 1 \rangle \}$$

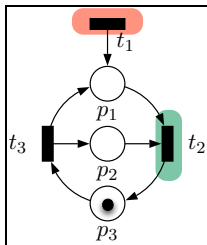


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# Dynamics of Petri nets (semantics)

## Example

$\text{Post}(\langle 1, 1, 0 \rangle) =$   
 $\{ \langle 2, 1, 0 \rangle, \langle 0, 0, 1 \rangle \}$



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## Initial marking Reachable markings

- All PN are equipped with an initial marking  $m_0$
- If two markings  $m$  and  $m'$  are s.t.:

$$m \rightarrow m_1 \rightarrow m_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow m'$$

Then  $m'$  is reachable from  $m$

- Let  $N$  be a PN with initial marking  $m_0$ :

$$\text{Reach}(N) = \{m \text{ reachable from } m_0\}$$

is the set of reachable markings of  $N$ .

Analogous to initial state and reachable states in Transition Systems terminology

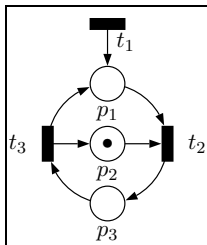
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# Dynamics of Petri nets (semantics)

## Example

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Reach}(\mathcal{N}) = & \{ \langle i, 1, 0 \rangle \mid i \in \mathbb{N} \} \\ & \cup \\ & \{ \langle i, 0, 1 \rangle \mid i \in \mathbb{N} \} \end{aligned}$$

This set allows us to prove that the mutual exclusion is indeed  
**enforced**



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## Ordering on markings

- Markings can be compared thanks to  $\preceq$ :

$m \preceq m'$  iff for any place  $p$ :  $m(p) \leq m'(p)$

$m \prec m'$  iff  $m \preceq m'$  and  $m \neq m'$

- Examples:

- $\langle 1, 0, 0 \rangle \prec \langle 1, 1, 0 \rangle \preceq \langle 1, 1, 0 \rangle \preceq \langle 5, 7, 2 \rangle$
- $\langle 1, 0, 0 \rangle$  is not comparable to  $\langle 0, 1, 0 \rangle$

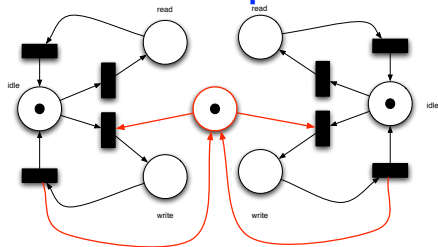
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## Questions on PN

- **Meaningful questions** about PN include:
  - **Boundedness**: is the number of **reachable markings bounded** ?
  - **Place boundedness**: is there a **bound** on the **maximal number** of tokens that can be created in a given **place** ?
  - **Semi-liveness**: is there a **reachable marking** from which a given **transition** can **fire** ?
  - **Coverability**

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## Example



Bounded PN

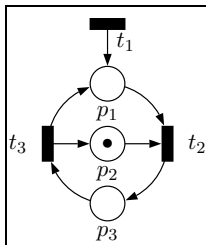
All the places are bounded

All the transitions are semi-live

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## Example

- Unbounded PN
- $p_2$  and  $p_3$  are bounded
- $p_1$  is unbounded
- All the transitions are semi-live



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## Reachability graph

- **Idea:** build a **node** for each **reachable marking** and add an **edge** from  $m$  to  $m'$  if some transition transforms  $m$  into  $m'$
- **remark:** now, if we meet the **same marking** twice, we **do not create** a new node, but re-use the previously created node.

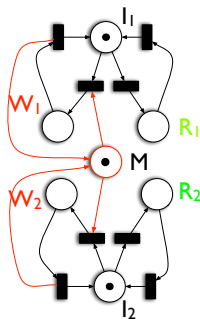
It is a **Transition System**

- Exactly the same Transition System that would be obtained from the MultiSet Rewriting representation of the Petri net

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# Reachability graph

## Reachability graph



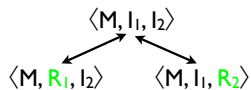
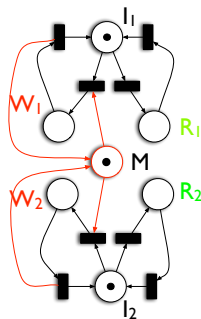
$\langle M, I_1, I_2 \rangle$

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# Reachability graph

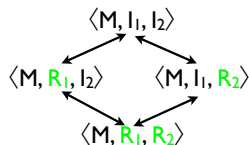
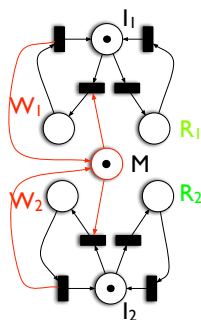
## Reachability graph



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# Reachability graph

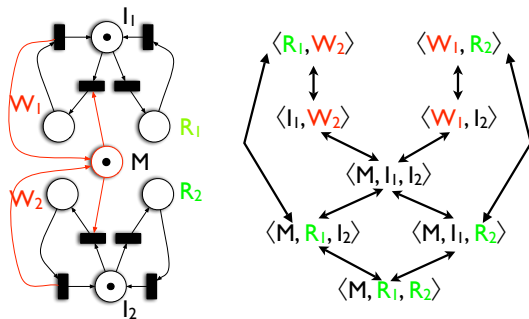
## Reachability graph



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# Reachability graph

## Reachability graph

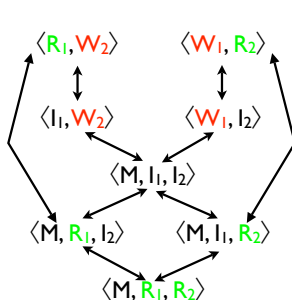


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# Reachability graph

## Reachability graph

The reachability graph allows us to prove that the mutual exclusion is indeed enforced



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## Reachability graph

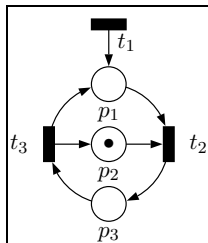
- The reachability graph of a PN contains all the necessary information to decide:
  - boundedness
  - place boundedness
  - semi-liveness
  - ...

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## Reachability graph

- Unfortunately...

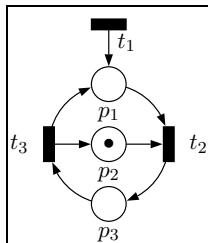
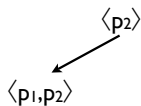
$\langle p_2 \rangle$



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## Reachability graph

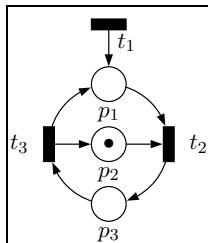
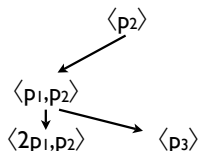
- Unfortunately...



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## Reachability graph

- Unfortunately...

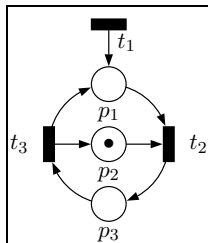
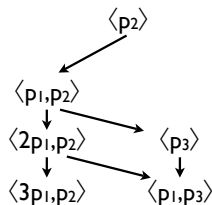


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## Reachability graph

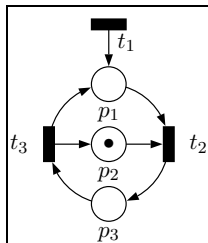
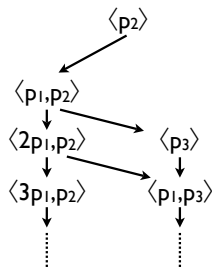
- Unfortunately...



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## Reachability graph

- Unfortunately...

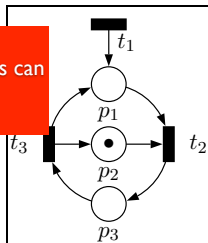
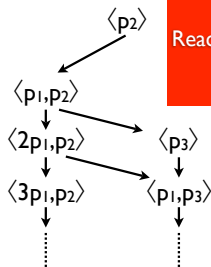


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## Reachability graph

- Unfortunately...

Reachability graphs can be infinite



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# Infinite, but decidable!

The **reachability graph** of a Petri net (aka the Transition System of a MultiSet Rewriting system) can be **infinite**

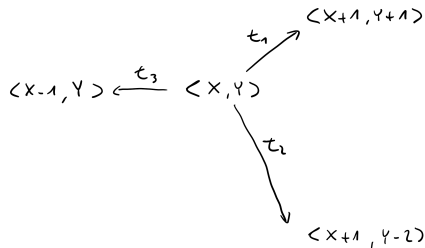
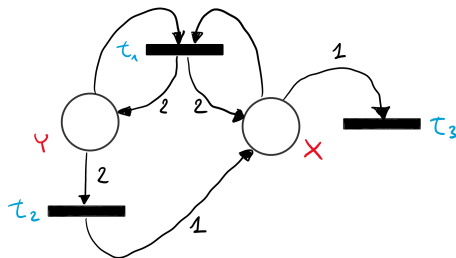
**But**, the reachability property (i.e. is a given state/marking reachable?) is **DECIDABLE**

- Its computation has been proven to require **EXPONENTIAL** time

The reason for decidability is that the reachability graph has a **regular structure!**

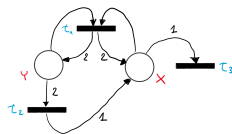
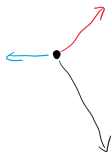
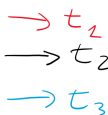
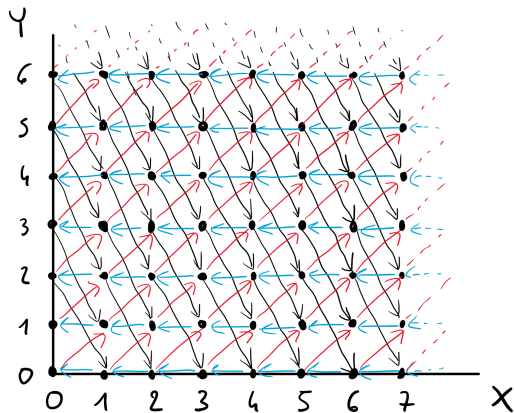
# Infinite, but decidable!

For example:



# Infinite, but decidable!

The reachability graph, plotted on the cartesian plane:



Infinite, but **very regular!**

# Decidable, but exponential!

Reachability of a marking  $M$  is decidable, but exponential...

**SOLUTION 1:** consider **overapproximations** of the set of reachable states

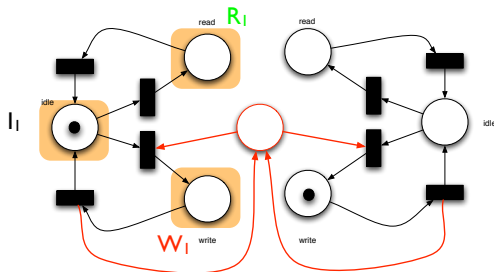
- ① based on Place Invariants
- ② based on Karp and Miller tree

If  $M$  **does not belong** to the overapproximation it is **not reachable** (this is a sufficient condition: if  $M$  belongs, nothing can be said...)

**SOLUTION 2:** consider **coverability** instead of reachability (weaker than reachability, but meaningful in the context of Petri Nets and easy to compute)

# Place Invariants

## Place Invariants



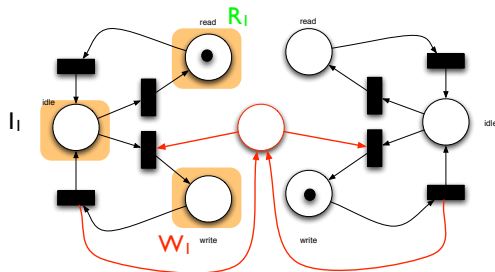
The idea is to identify groups of places whose overall number tokens is (more or less) constant

54



# Place Invariants

## Place Invariants

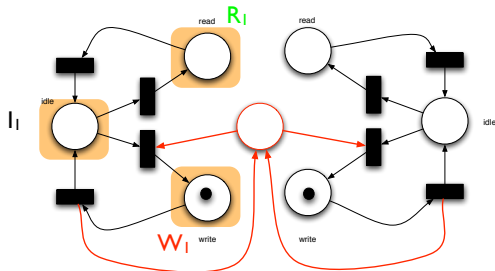


$$m(R_1) + m(W_1) + m(I_1) = 1$$

55

# Place Invariants

## Place Invariants

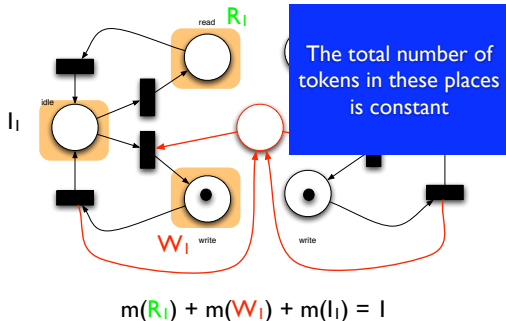


$$m(R_I) + m(W_I) + m(I_I) = 1$$

56

# Place Invariants

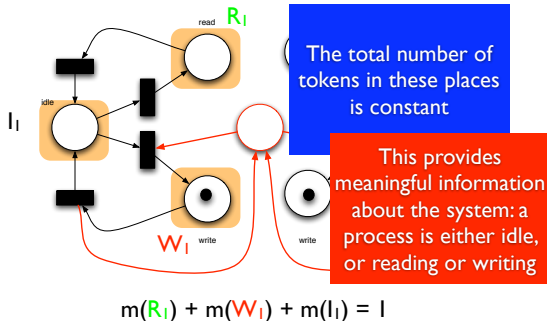
## Place Invariants



56

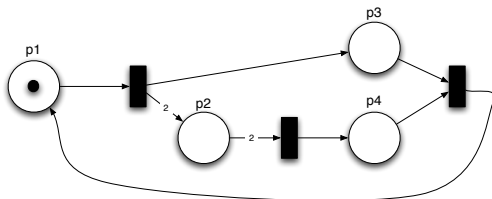
# Place Invariants

## Place Invariants



56

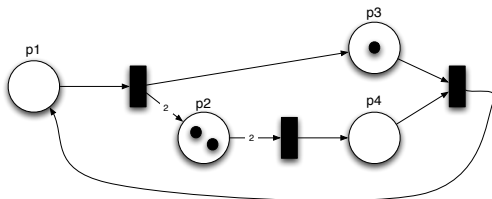
## Place Invariants



$$m(p_1) + m(p_2) + m(p_3) + m(p_4) = 1$$

57

## Place Invariants

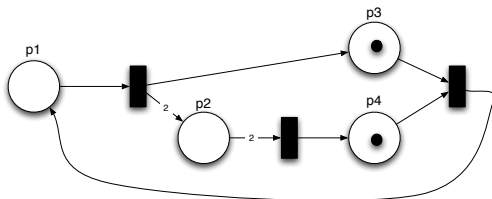


$$m(p_1) + m(p_2) + m(p_3) + m(p_4) = 3$$

58

# Place Invariants

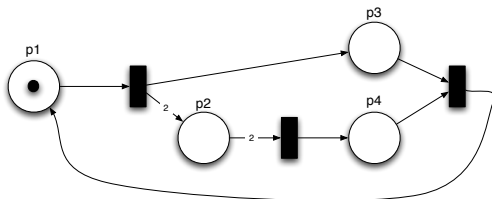
## Place Invariants



$$m(p_1) + m(p_2) + m(p_3) + m(p_4) = 2$$

59

## Place Invariants

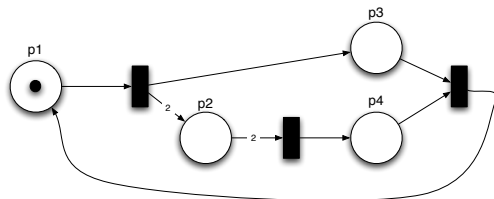


$$m(p_1) + m(p_2) + m(p_3) + m(p_4) = 1$$

60



## Place Invariants



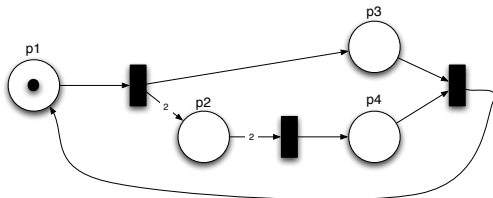
The total number of  
tokens in these places  
is **not constant**

$$+ m(p_3) + m(p_4) = 1$$

60

# Place Invariants

## Place Invariants



The total number of tokens in these places is **not constant**

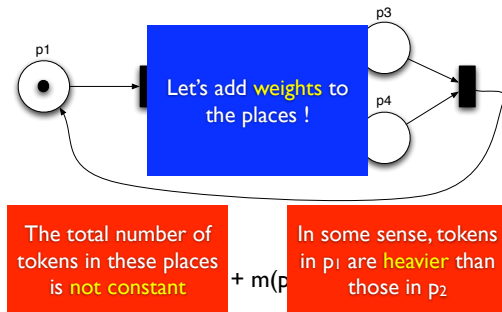
+  $m(p$

In some sense, tokens in  $p_1$  are **heavier** than those in  $p_2$

60

# Place Invariants

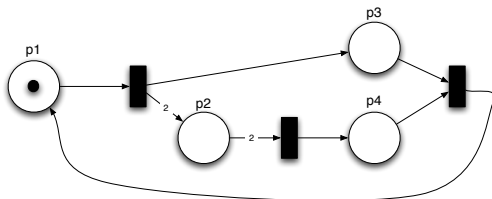
## Place Invariants



60

©G. Geeraerts

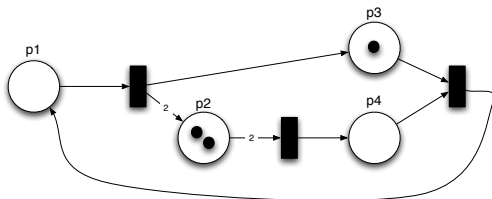
## Place Invariants



$$3 m(p_1) + m(p_2) + m(p_3) + 2 m(p_4) = 3$$

61

## Place Invariants

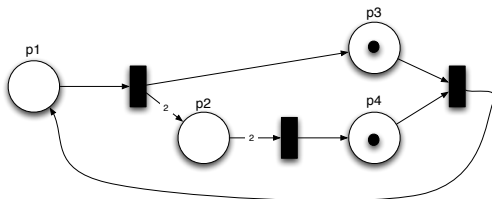


$$3 m(p_1) + m(p_2) + m(p_3) + 2 m(p_4) = 3$$

62

# Place Invariants

## Place Invariants



$$3 m(p_1) + m(p_2) + m(p_3) + 2 m(p_4) = 3$$

63

## Place invariant: Definition

- **Definition:** a **place-invariant** (or p-semiflow) is a vector  $i$  of natural numbers s.t. for any **reachable marking**  $m$ :

$$\sum_{p \in P} i(p) \times m(p) = \sum_{p \in P} i(p) \times m_0(p)$$

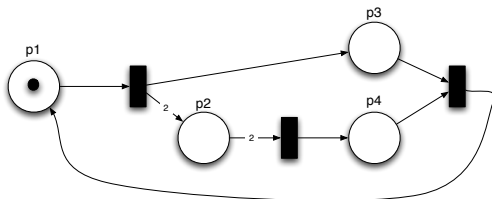
**remark:** there exists a trivial invariant  $i = \langle 0, 0, \dots, 0 \rangle$

Corresponds to the notion of **mass conservation** in (bio)chemistry

“Matter can never be created, nor destroyed...”

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## Example: other invariants



$$m(p_1) + m(p_3) = 1$$

$$2 m(p_1) + m(p_2) + 2 m(p_4) = 2$$

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## Invariants as over-approximations

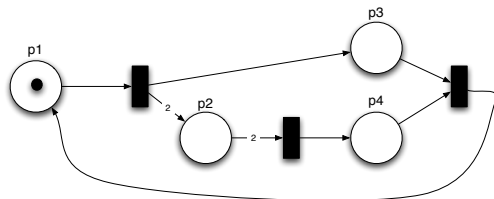
- A place-invariant expresses a **constraint** on the **reachable markings**.
- If  $m$  is **reachable** and  $i$  is an **invariant**, **then**:

$$\sum_{p \in P} i(p) \times m(p) = \sum_{p \in P} i(p) \times m_0(p)$$

- The **reverse** is **not true** !

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## Example



$m(p_1) + m(p_3) = 1$   
is an **invariant**  
but  $\langle 1, 25, 0, 234 \rangle$  is **not reachable**

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## Invariants as over-approximations

- **Theorem:** For any Petri net  $N$ :

$$\text{Reach}(N)$$
$$\subseteq$$
$$\{m \mid m \text{ respects some invariant of } N\}$$

So, every marking that does not respect the invariant is **not reachable!**

We do not need to explore the reachability graph!

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## Place invariant and boundedness

- **Theorem:** If there exists a place invariant  $i$  and a place  $p$  s.t.  $i(p) > 0$  then  $p$  is bounded.
- **Remark:** the reverse is not true.
  - One can find a bounded net that doesn't have a place invariant  $i$  with  $i(p) > 0$  for each place.

69

## Place invariant

- **Question:** how do we **compute** them ?

70

## Matrix characterisation

- The **negative effect** (consumption) of all the transitions on all the places can be **summarised** in one matrix:

$$W^- = \begin{pmatrix} I_1(p_1) & I_2(p_1) & \cdots & I_k(p_1) \\ I_1(p_2) & I_2(p_2) & \cdots & I_k(p_2) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ I_1(p_n) & I_2(p_n) & \cdots & I_k(p_n) \end{pmatrix}$$

neg. eff. on  $p_1$   
neg. eff. on  $p_2$

where, for any  $i$ :  $t_i = \langle I_i, O_i \rangle$

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## Matrix characterisation

- The same can be done with the **positive effects**:

$$W^+ = \begin{pmatrix} O_1(p_1) & O_2(p_1) & \cdots & O_k(p_1) \\ O_1(p_2) & O_2(p_2) & \cdots & O_k(p_2) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ O_1(p_n) & O_2(p_n) & \cdots & O_k(p_n) \end{pmatrix} \begin{array}{l} \text{pos. eff. on } p_1 \\ \text{pos. eff. on } p_2 \\ \\ \end{array}$$

where, for any  $i$ :  $t_i = \langle l_i, O_i \rangle$

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## Incidence Matrix

- The **global effect** of every transition can be summarised as a single matrix:

$$W = W^+ - W^-$$

$W$  is called the **incidence matrix** of the net

73

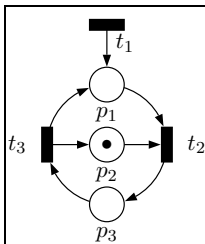


# Matrix representation of Petri nets

## Example

$$W^+ = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad W^- = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$W = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$



If you think the Petri net as a graph, the incidence matrix is a standard representation...

... more or less, since rows and columns should be defined for all graph nodes (6x6 matrix, in the example)...

... but a Petri net is a bipartite graph

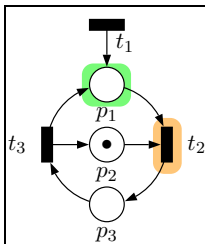
74

# Matrix representation of Petri nets

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74

## Computing place invariants

- **Intuitively**, if  $i$  is a place invariant it should assign **weights** to the places such that the **positive** and **negative** effects of every transition are **balanced**
- Thus, for any transition  $t = \langle I, O \rangle$  we should have:

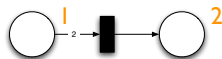
$$\sum_{p \in P} I(p) \times i(p) = \sum_{p \in P} O(p) \times i(p)$$

75

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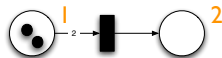


75

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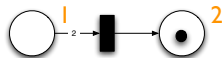


75

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75

## Computing place invariants

$$\sum_{p \in P} I(p) \times i(p) = \sum_{p \in P} O(p) \times i(p)$$

means

$$\sum_{p \in P} (O(p) - I(p)) \times i(p) = 0$$

76

## Computing place invariants

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means

$$\sum_{p \in P} (O(p) - I(p)) \times i(p) = 0$$

$$t = \langle I, O \rangle$$

$$W = \begin{pmatrix} \cdots & O(p_1) - I(p_1) & \cdots \\ \cdots & O(p_2) - I(p_2) & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \cdots & O(p_n) - I(p_n) & \cdots \end{pmatrix}$$

76



## Computing place invariants

$$\sum_{p \in P} (\textcolor{green}{O}(p) - \textcolor{red}{I}(p)) \times i(p) = 0$$

is thus the **scalar product** of  $i$  and the **column** of  $W$  that corresponds to **transition  $t$**

77

## Computing place invariants

$$\sum_{p \in P} (\textcolor{green}{O}(p) - \textcolor{red}{I}(p)) \times i(p) = 0$$

is thus the **scalar product** of  $i$  and the **column** of  $W$  that corresponds to **transition  $t$**

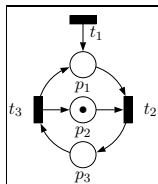
Since this must hold **for any  $t$** , we obtain:

**Theorem:** any **solution  $i$**  to the following **system of equations** is a place-invariant:

$$i \times W = 0$$

77

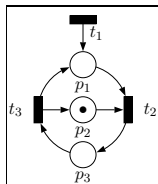
## Example



$$W = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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## Example

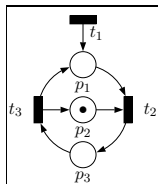


$$W = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\langle i_1, i_2, i_3 \rangle \times W = 0$$

78

## Example



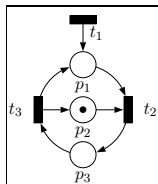
$$W = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\langle i_1, i_2, i_3 \rangle \times W = 0$$

$$\begin{cases} i_1 & = 0 \\ -i_1 - i_2 + i_3 & = 0 \\ i_1 + i_2 - i_3 & = 0 \end{cases}$$

78

## Example



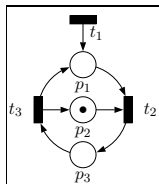
$$W = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\langle i_1, i_2, i_3 \rangle \times W = 0$$

$$\begin{cases} i_1 = 0 \\ -i_1 - i_2 + i_3 = 0 \\ i_1 + i_2 - i_3 = 0 \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} i_1 = 0 \\ -i_2 + i_3 = 0 \\ +i_2 - i_3 = 0 \end{cases}$$

78

## Example



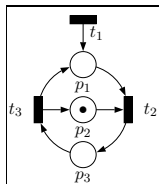
$$W = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \\ & & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Any vector of the form  
 $\langle 0, i, i \rangle$   
 is a place invariant

$$\langle i_1, i_2, i_3 \rangle \times W = 0$$

$$\begin{cases} i_1 = 0 \\ -i_1 - i_2 + i_3 = 0 \\ i_1 + i_2 - i_3 = 0 \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} i_1 = 0 \\ -i_2 + i_3 = 0 \\ +i_2 - i_3 = 0 \end{cases}$$

## Proving properties



Let us choose  $\langle 0, 1, 1 \rangle$   
as place-invariant

This means that  $p_2$  and  $p_3$  are  
bounded !

For any reachable marking  $m$ :

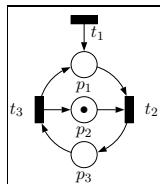
$$0 \cdot m(p_1) + 1 \cdot m(p_2) + 1 \cdot m(p_3) = 0 \cdot m_0(p_1) + 1 \cdot m_0(p_2) + 1 \cdot m_0(p_3)$$

$$m(p_2) + m(p_3) = 1$$

79



## Proving properties



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This means that  $p_2$  and  $p_3$  are  
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For any reachable marking  $m$ :

$$0 \cdot m(p_1) + 1 \cdot m(p_2) + 1 \cdot m(p_3) = 0 \cdot m_0(p_1) + 1 \cdot m_0(p_2) + 1 \cdot m_0(p_3)$$

$$m(p_2) + m(p_3) = 1$$

Hence, mutual exclusion is enforced !

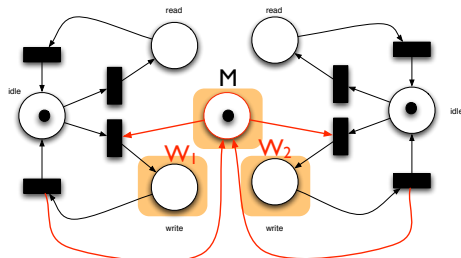
The marking

$$m = \langle p_2, p_3 \rangle$$

is not reachable

79

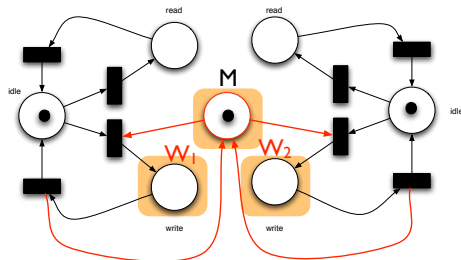
## Proving properties



$i(M) = i(W_1) = i(W_2) = 1$  and  $i(p) = 0$  otherwise  
is a **place invariant**

80

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Hence, **mutual exclusion** is enforced !

The marking

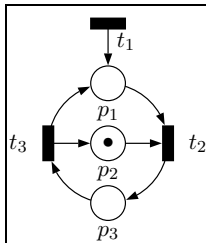
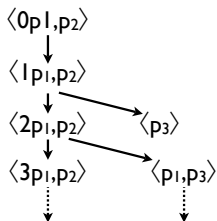
$$m = \langle W_1, W_2 \rangle$$

is **not reachable**

80

## The reachability tree revisited

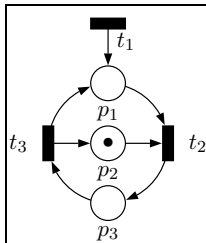
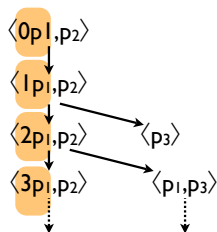
- **Reminder:** reachability trees can be **infinite**



82

## The reachability tree revisited

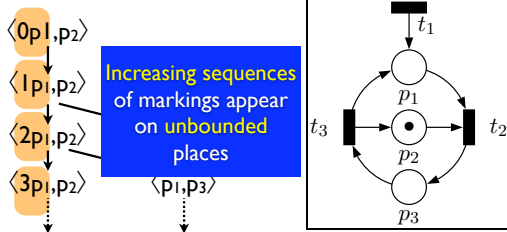
- **Reminder:** reachability trees can be **infinite**



82

## The reachability tree revisited

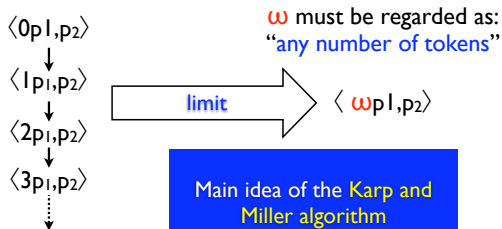
- **Reminder:** reachability trees can be **infinite**



82

## The reachability tree revisited

- Let us summarise this infinite sequence



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## Karp & Miller



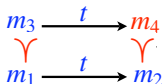
- Propose in 1969 a solution to detect **unbounded places** of a Petri net

84

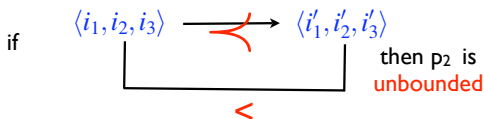


## Monotonicity

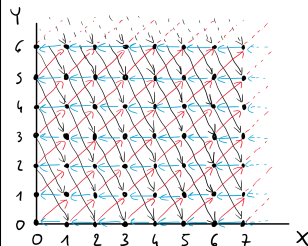
- Petri nets induce (strongly) **monotonic** transition systems:



- In particular:

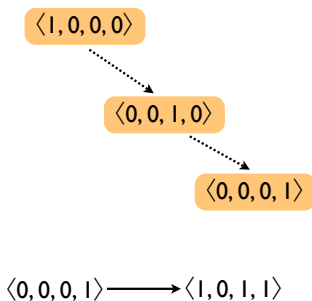


This is clearer on the cartesian plane representation:



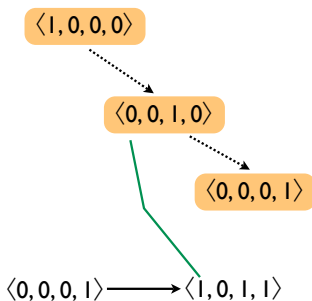
85

## Example



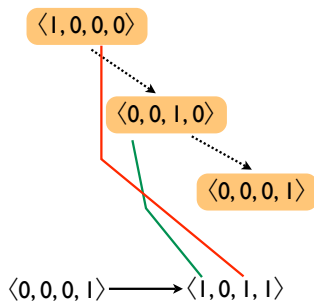
86

## Example



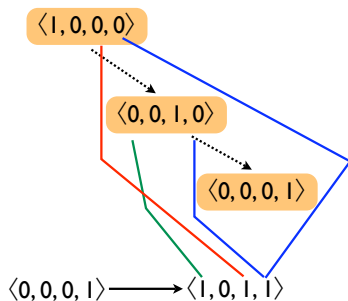
86

## Example



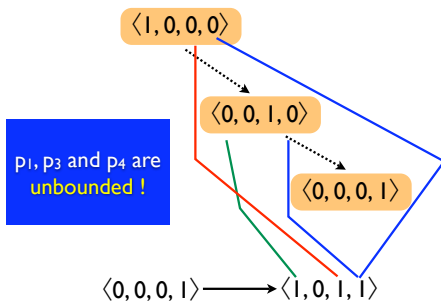
86

## Example



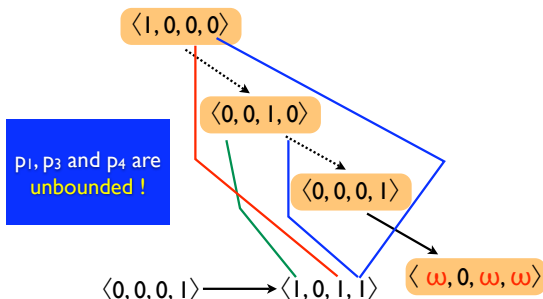
86

## Example



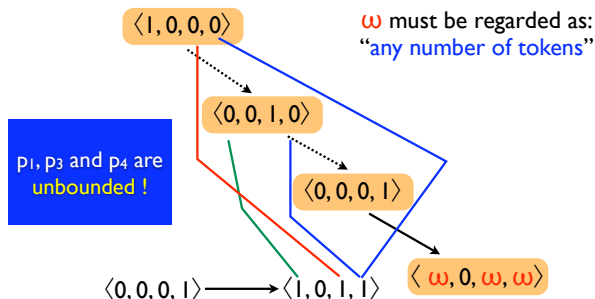
86

## Example



86

## Example



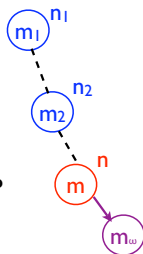
86



## Karp & Miller Acceleration

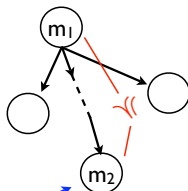
This is how we compute the successors of a node **n**:

```
foreach Successor  $m'$  of  $m$  do
   $m_\omega \leftarrow m'$ ;
  foreach ancestor  $n_i$  s.t.  $m_i \prec m'$  do
    foreach place  $p$  s.t.  $m_i(p) < m'(p)$  do
       $m_\omega(p) \leftarrow \omega$ ;
    Add  $m_\omega$  as child of  $n$ ;
```



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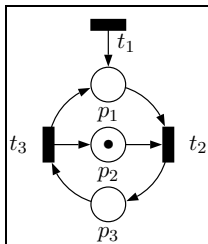
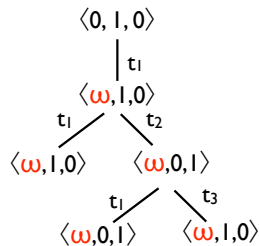
## Karp & Miller Stopping a branch



This node doesn't have to be developed

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## Example of K&M tree



$$(0, 1, 0) \xrightarrow{t_1} (1, 1, 0) \succ (0, 1, 0)$$

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## Properties

- **Theorem:** the K&M tree is **always finite**.
- **Idea of the proof:**
  - if the net is not bounded, it is because of some **infinite increasing sequence** of markings.
  - such sequences are detected in a **finite amount of time** by adding  $\omega$  in the unbounded places.

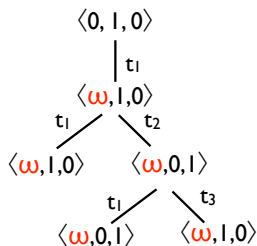
90

## Properties

- **Theorem:** a net is **bounded** iff there is **no node** containing an  $\omega$  in its **K&M tree**.
- **Theorem:** place  $p$  is **unbounded** iff there exists a **node** labeled by  $m$  in the **K&M tree** s.t.  $m(p) = \omega$ .
- **Theorem:** transition  $t$  is **semi-live** iff there exists a **node** labeled by  $m$  in the **K&M tree** s.t.  $t$  can fire in  $m$ .

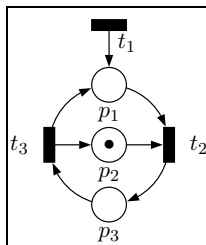
91

## Example



$t_2$  is **semi-live**

$p_2$  and  $p_3$  are **bounded**



$p_1$  is **unbounded**

The net is **unbounded**

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## Coverability set

- **Question:** what is the **relationship** between:
  - the set of **reachable markings** and
  - the set of **labels** of the nodes of the **K&M tree** ?

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## Coverability set

- **Question:** what is the **relationship** between:
  - the set of **reachable markings** and
  - the set of **labels** of the nodes of the **K&M tree** ?

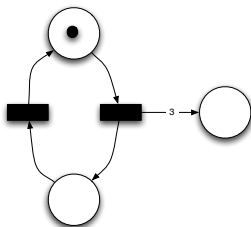
might be  
infinite

always finite

93

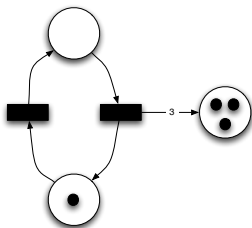


## Example



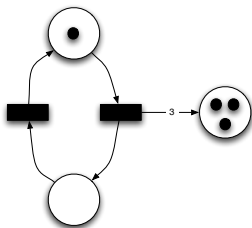
94

## Example



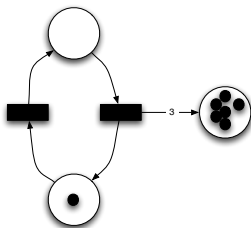
95

## Example



96

## Example



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## Example

- Set of reachable markings:

$\{ \langle 1, 0, 3.i \rangle, \langle 0, 1, 3.i \rangle \mid i \geq 0 \}$

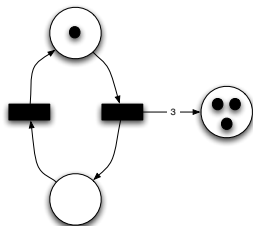
- Set of nodes of the K&M tree:

$\{ \langle 1, 0, 0 \rangle, \langle 1, 0, \omega \rangle, \langle 0, 1, \omega \rangle \}$

- This set “represents”:

$\{ \langle 1, 0, i \rangle, \langle 0, 1, i \rangle \mid i \geq 0 \}$

Clearly:    $\neq$   



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## Example

Reach

$\{ \langle 1, 0, 3i \rangle, \langle 0, 1, 3i \rangle \mid i \geq 0 \}$

vs

K&M

$\{ \langle 1, 0, i \rangle, \langle 0, 1, i \rangle \mid i \geq 0 \}$

- Clearly, the K&M set contains more markings than the set of reachable markings:

$$\text{Reach} \subseteq \text{K\&M}$$

- However, for every marking  $m$  in the K&M set, there exists a reachable marking  $m'$  s.t.:

$$m' \succcurlyeq m$$

$$\text{K\&M} = \text{Reach} + \{m \mid \text{there is } m' \text{ in Reach with } m' \succcurlyeq m\}$$

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## Downward-closure

- Let us assume that any natural number  $i$  is s.t.

$$i < \omega$$

- Let  $m$  be a marking (possibly with  $\omega$ ), then its downward-closure is the set:

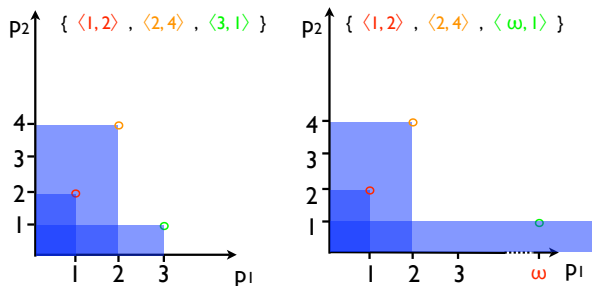
$$\downarrow m = \{m' \mid m' \preceq m\}$$

- Let  $S = \{m_1, m_2, \dots, m_k\}$  be a set of markings, then:

$$\downarrow S = \downarrow m_1 \cup \downarrow m_2 \cup \dots \cup \downarrow m_k$$

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## Examples in 2 dim.



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## Properties of the K&M tree

- The set of all the markings that appear in a K&M tree is called a coverability set of the net.
  - Notation:  $\text{Cover}(N)$
- Theorem:  $\downarrow \text{Cover}(N) = \downarrow \text{Reach}(N)$
- Theorem:  $\text{Reach}(N) \subseteq \downarrow \text{Cover}(N)$
- Hence,  $\downarrow \text{Cover}(N)$  is a finite over-approximation of  $\text{Reach}(N)$

$\downarrow \text{Cover}(N)$  is another overapproximation of the set of reachable markings

If a marking is not in  $\downarrow \text{Cover}(N)$ , it is not reachable!

- again: sufficient condition!

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## Example

$\text{Reach}(N)$

$=$

$\{ \langle i, 1, 0 \rangle, \langle i, 0, 1 \rangle \mid i \geq 0 \}$

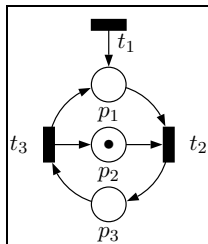
$\text{Cover}(N)$

$=$

$\downarrow \{ \langle \omega, 1, 0 \rangle, \langle \omega, 0, 1 \rangle \}$

$=$

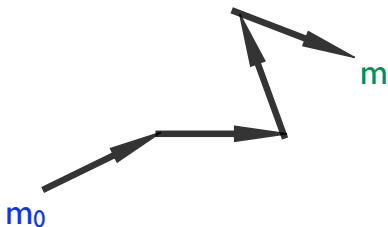
$\text{Reach}(N) \cup \{ \langle 0, 0, 0 \rangle \}$



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## Reachability: a natural question

- The **reachability problem**: given a marking  $m$  is it **reachable** from  $m_0$  ?



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## Reachability: a natural question ??

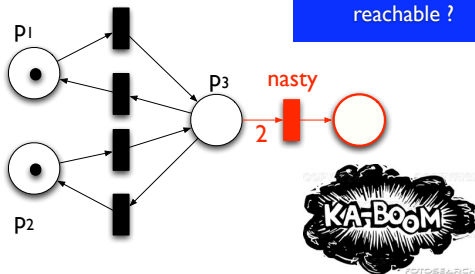
- In the case of Petri nets, asking whether a **given marking** is **reachable** does not always make sense...
- ... because Petri nets are **monotonic**

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# An alternative to reachability

## Example

Question  
is  $\langle 0, 0, 2, 0 \rangle$   
reachable ?

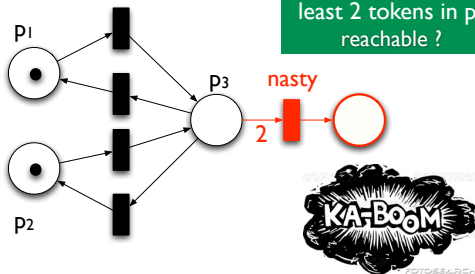


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# An alternative to reachability

## Example

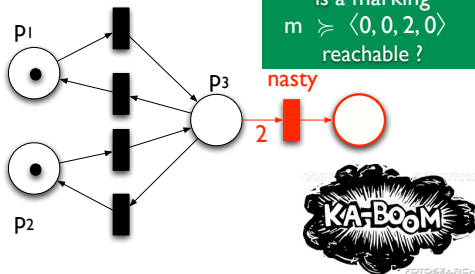


108

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# An alternative to reachability

## Example



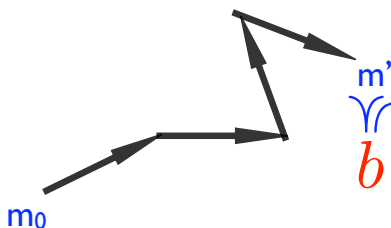
Better question  
is a marking  
 $m \succeq \langle 0, 0, 2, 0 \rangle$   
reachable?

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# The coverability problem

## The coverability problem

Does there exist a **reachable marking** which is larger than some marking  **$b$** ?



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# The coverability problem

## The coverability problem

*b*

$m_0$

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# The coverability problem

## The coverability problem



$b$

110

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# The coverability problem

## The coverability problem

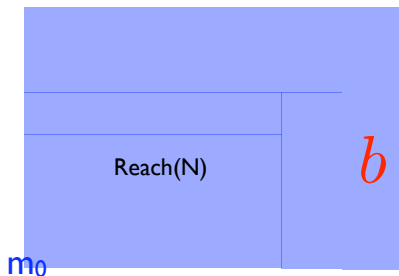


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# The coverability problem

## The coverability problem

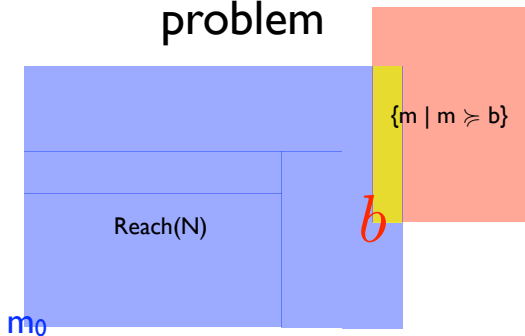


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# The coverability problem

## The coverability problem



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## The coverability problem

- Two alternative definitions:
  - Is there a reachable marking  $m$  s.t.  $m \succcurlyeq b$  ?
  - Does  $\text{Reach}(N) \cap \{m \mid m \succcurlyeq b\} \neq \emptyset$  ?

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## Coverability: a natural question (indeed)

- **Coverability** might be regarded as the **most natural reachability question** in the framework of Petri nets
- Besides, coverability is **much more easily** solved than **reachability**

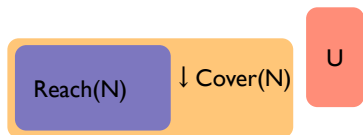
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# The coverability problem

## First idea

- Use the **coverability set** !
- **Remember**: the coverability set **over-**  
**approximates** the reachable states:

$$\text{Reach}(N) \subseteq \downarrow \text{Cover}(N)$$



The coverability set can be computed (easily) by using the Karp and Miller algorithm

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# The coverability problem

## First idea

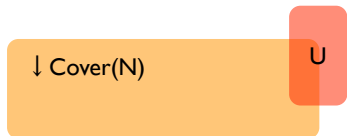


$$\begin{aligned} \downarrow \text{Cover}(N) \cap U &= \emptyset \\ \text{implies} \\ \text{Reach}(N) \cap U &= \emptyset \end{aligned}$$

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# The coverability problem

What if ?

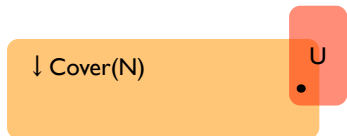


- There is  $m$  in  $\downarrow \text{Cover}(N) \cap U$
- Hence, there is  $m' \succcurlyeq m$  which is in  $\text{Reach}(N)$
- However, any  $m' \succcurlyeq m$  is also in  $U$
- Thus, there is  $m'$  both in  $\text{Reach}(N)$  and  $U$

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# The coverability problem

What if ?



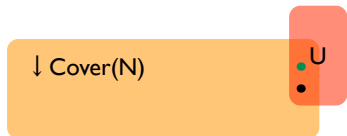
- There is  $m$  in  $\downarrow \text{Cover}(N) \cap U$
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# The coverability problem

## What if ?

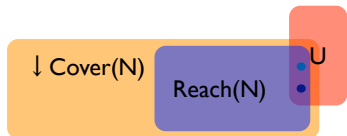


- There is  $m$  in  $\downarrow \text{Cover}(N) \cap U$
- Hence, there is  $m' \succcurlyeq m$  which is in  $\text{Reach}(N)$
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# The coverability problem

## What if ?



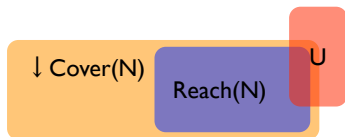
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- However, any  $m' \succcurlyeq m$  is also in  $U$
- Thus, there is  $m'$  both in  $\text{Reach}(N)$  and  $U$

NOTE:  $m' > m$  since  
 $\downarrow \text{Cover} = \downarrow \text{Reach}$

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# The coverability problem

What if ?



$$\begin{aligned} \text{Reach}(N) \cap U &= \emptyset \\ \text{implies} \\ \downarrow \text{Cover}(N) \cap U &= \emptyset \end{aligned}$$

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## Coverability set and coverability problem

- **Theorem:**  
 $\text{Reach}(N) \cap U = \emptyset$  iff  $\downarrow \text{Cover}(N) \cap U = \emptyset$

Summing up:  
In order to check whether a marking in  $U$  is reachable, we can use the Karp and Miller approach to compute the  $\downarrow \text{Cover}(N)$  set, and check whether it has a non-empty intersection with  $U$ !

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