

# Coloured Petri Nets

Modelling and Validation of Concurrent Systems

## Chapter 4: Formal Definition of CP-nets

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### Syntax

$$\text{CPN} = (P, T, A, \Sigma, V, C, G, E, I)$$

### Semantics

$$\sum_{\substack{MS \\ (t,b) \in Y}}^{++} E(p,t) \langle b \rangle \leq M(p) \text{ for all } p \in P$$



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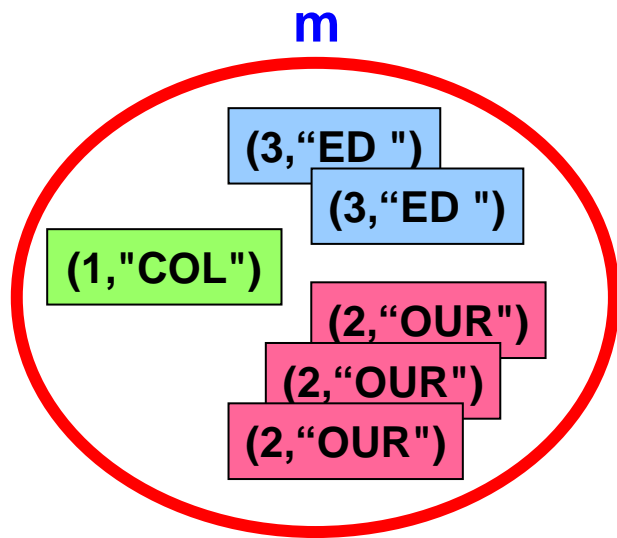
# Why do we need a formal definition?

- The **formal definition** is **unambiguous**.
- It provides a more **precise** and **complete** description than an **informal explanation**.
- Users who are satisfied with the informal explanation can **skip** the **formal definition**.
- Only few **programmers** know the formal definition of the **programming language** they are using.
- We define:
  - **Multi-sets**.
  - **Syntax** of Coloured Petri Nets.
  - **Semantics** of Coloured Petri Nets.



# Multi-set

- Similar to a **set** but with **multiple occurrences** of **elements**.



Elements in multi-set

Non-negative integers

Function  $\text{NOxDATA} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ :

$$m(s) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } s = (1, \text{"COL"}) \\ 3 & \text{if } s = (2, \text{"OUR"}) \\ 2 & \text{if } s = (3, \text{"ED "}) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

**Sum:**  $m = 1'(1, \text{"COL"}) ++ 3'(2, \text{"OUR"}) ++ 2'(3, \text{"ED "})$

Number of appearances  
(coefficient)

Elements  
(from NOxDATA)



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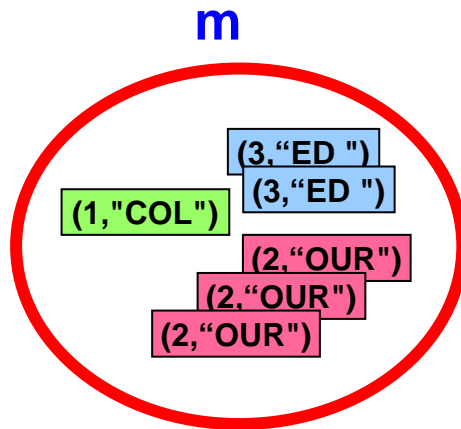
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# Formal definition of multi-sets

- Let  $S = \{s_1, s_2, s_3, \dots\}$  be a non-empty set.
- A multi-set over  $S$  is a function  $m : S \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  mapping each element  $s \in S$  into a non-negative integer  $m(s) \in \mathbb{N}$  called the number of appearances (or coefficient) of  $s$  in  $m$ .
- A multi-set  $m$  is also written as a sum:
$$\sum_{s \in S}^{++} m(s)'s = m(s_1)'s_1 ++ m(s_2)'s_2 ++ m(s_3)'s_3 ++ m(s_4)'s_4 ++ \dots$$
- Notation:
  - $S_{MS}$  is the set of all multi-sets over  $S$ .
  - $\emptyset_{MS}$  is the empty multi-set (polymorphic).



# Membership of multi-set



- (1, "COL"), (2, "OUR") and (3, "ED ") are **members** of the multi-set **m**.
- (4, "PET") and (17, "CPN") are **not** members.

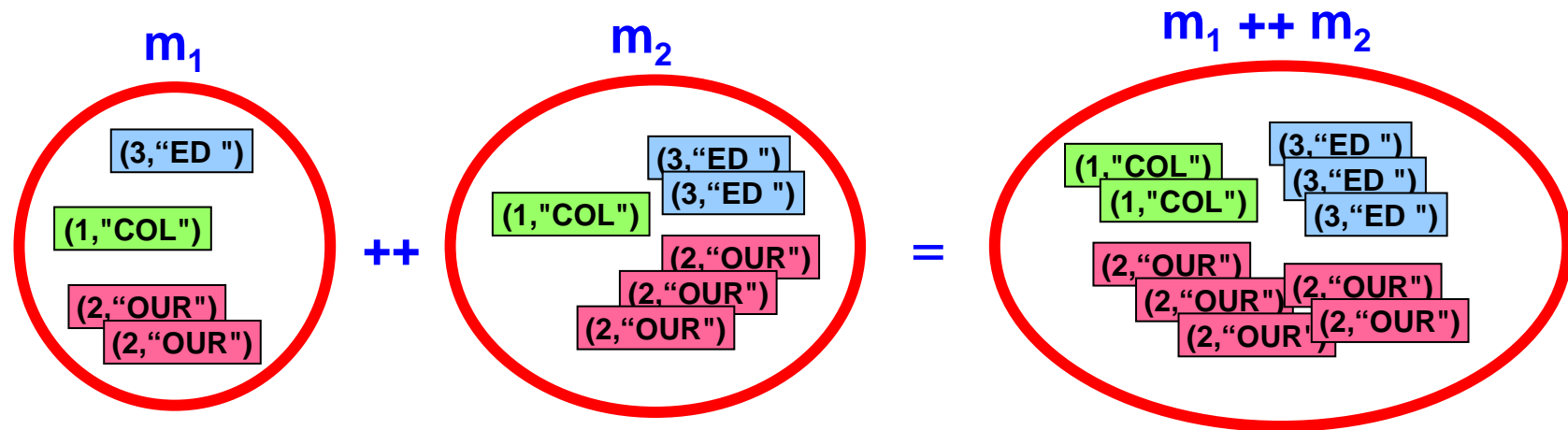
$$\forall s \in S: s \in m \Leftrightarrow m(s) > 0.$$

Membership  
of multi-set

Comparison of  
integers



# Addition of multi-sets



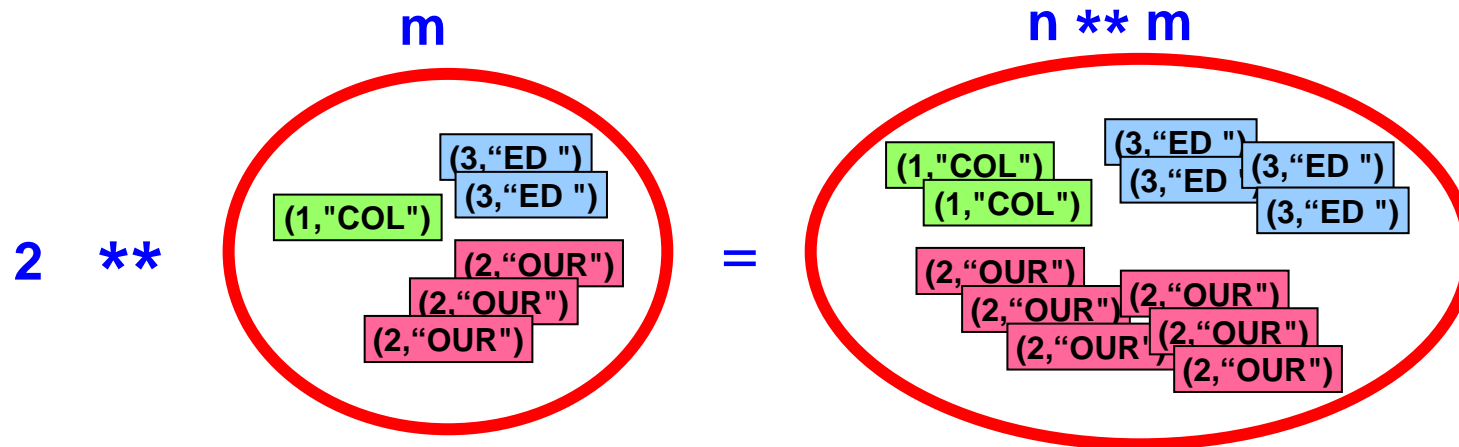
$$\forall s \in S: (m_1 ++ m_2)(s) = m_1(s) + m_2(s).$$

Addition  
of multi-sets

Addition  
of integers



# Scalar multiplication of multi-sets



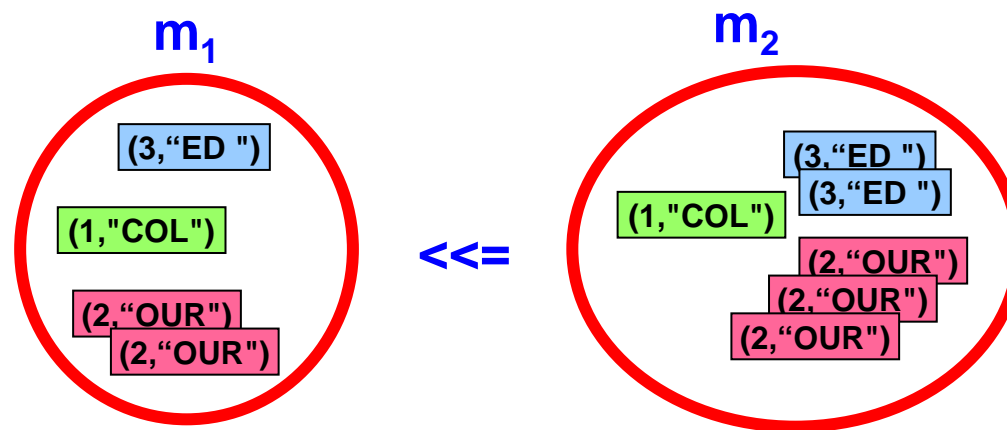
$$\forall s \in S: (n ** m)(s) = n * m(s).$$

Scalar  
multiplication  
of multi-set

Multiplication  
of integers



# Comparison of multi-sets



$$m_1 \leq m_2 \Leftrightarrow \forall s \in S: m_1(s) \leq m_2(s).$$

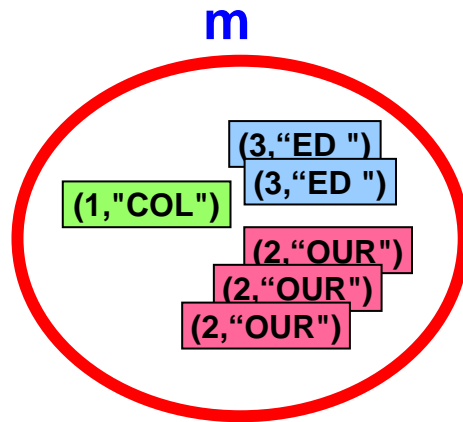
Smaller than or equal  
for multi-sets

Smaller than or equal  
for integers





# Size of multi-set



- This multi-set contains **six** elements.

$$|m| = \sum_{s \in S} m(s).$$

Size of multi-set

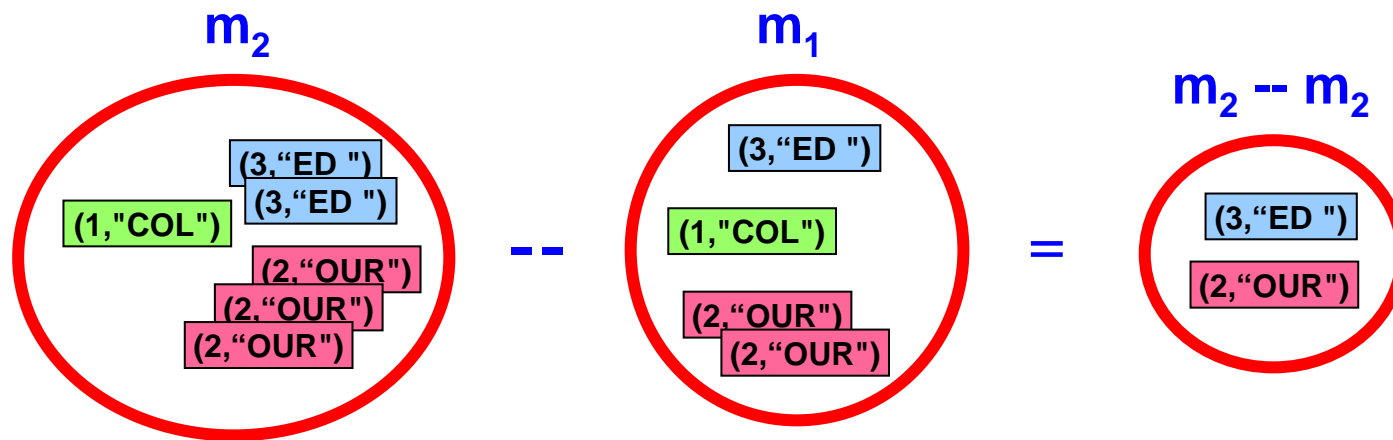
Summation of integers

When  $|m| = \infty$  we say that  $m$  is **infinite**.



# Subtraction of multi-sets

- When  $m_1 \leq m_2$  we also define subtraction:



$$\forall s \in S: (m_2 -- m_1)(s) = m_2(s) - m_1(s).$$

Subtraction  
of multi-sets

Subtraction  
of integers



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# Formal definition of Coloured Petri Nets

A Coloured Petri Net is a **nine-tuple**  $CPN = (P, T, A, \Sigma, V, C, G, E, I)$ .

- P set of places.
  - T set of transitions.
  - A set of arcs.
  - $\Sigma$  set of colour sets.
  - V set of variables.
  - C colour set function (assigns colour sets to places).
  - G guard function (assigns guards to transitions).
  - E arc expression function (assigns arc expressions to arcs).
  - I initialisation function (assigns initial markings to places).
- Net structure**
- Types and variables**
- Net inscriptions**



# Places and transitions

- A **finite** set of **places**  $P$ .

$P = \{ \text{PacketsToSend}, A, B, \text{DataReceived}, \text{NextRec}, C, D, \text{NextSend} \}.$

- A **finite** set of **transitions**  $T$ .
- We demand that  $P \cap T = \emptyset$ .

A node is either a  
place or a transition  
– it cannot be both

$T = \{ \text{SendPacket}, \text{TransmitPacket}, \text{ReceivePacket}, \text{TransmitAck}, \text{ReceiveAck} \}.$



# Arcs

- A set of **directed arcs**  $A$ .
- We demand that  $A \subseteq P \times T \cup T \times P$ .

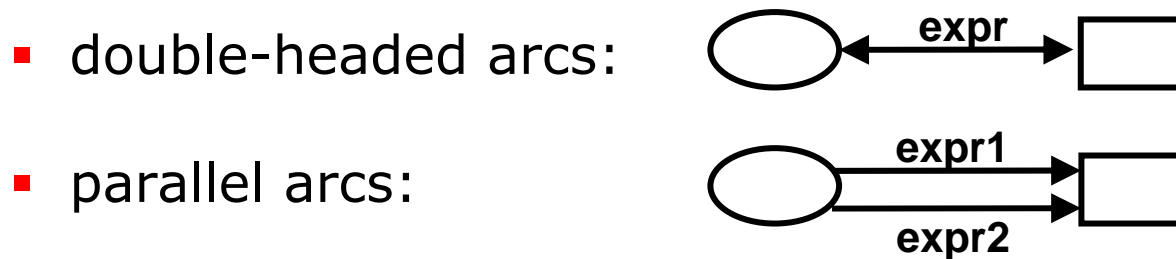
Each arc starts in a place and ends in a transition – or it starts in a transition and ends in a place

$A = \{ (\text{PacketsToSend}, \text{SendPacket}), (\text{SendPacket}, \text{PacketsToSend}),$   
 $(\text{SendPacket}, A), (A, \text{TransmitPacket}), (\text{TransmitPacket}, B),$   
 $(B, \text{ReceivePacket}), (\text{NextRec}, \text{ReceivePacket}), (\text{ReceivePacket}, \text{NextRec}),$   
 $(\text{DataReceived}, \text{ReceivePacket}), (\text{ReceivePacket}, \text{DataReceived}),$   
 $(\text{ReceivePacket}, C), (C, \text{TransmitAck}), (\text{TransmitAck}, D), (D, \text{ReceiveAck}),$   
 $(\text{ReceiveAck}, \text{NextSend}), (\text{NextSend}, \text{ReceiveAck}),$   
 $(\text{NextSend}, \text{SendPacket}), (\text{SendPacket}, \text{NextSend}) \}.$

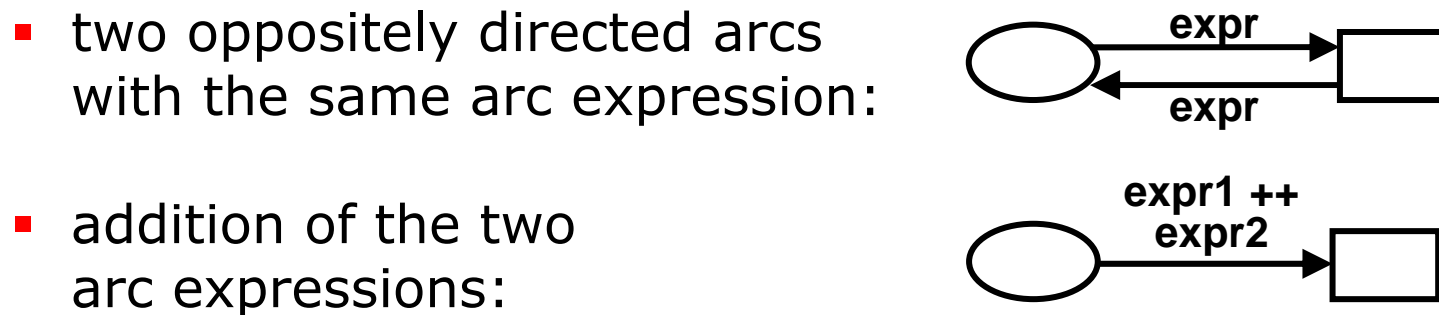


# Arcs

- In the **formal definition** we do not have:



- **CPN Tools** allow these and consider them to be **short-hands** for:



# Colour sets and variables

- A **finite** set of **non-empty** colour sets  $\Sigma$ .

$$\Sigma = \{ \text{NO}, \text{DATA}, \text{NOxDATA}, \text{BOOL} \}.$$

- A **finite** set of **typed** variables  $V$ .

We demand that  $\text{Type}[v] \in \Sigma$  for all  $v \in V$ .

Type of variable must  
be one of those that is  
defined in  $\Sigma$

$$V = \{ n : \text{NO}, k : \text{NO}, d : \text{DATA}, \text{data} : \text{DATA}, \text{success} : \text{BOOL} \}.$$



# Colour sets for places

- A colour set function  $C : P \rightarrow \Sigma$ .

Assigns a colour set to each place.

$$C(p) = \begin{cases} \text{NO} & \text{if } p \in \{ \text{NextSend}, \text{NextRec}, C, D \} \\ \text{DATA} & \text{if } p = \text{DataReceived} \\ \text{NOxDATA} & \text{if } p \in \{ \text{PacketsToSend}, A, B \} \end{cases}$$





# Guard expressions

- A guard function  $G : T \rightarrow \text{EXPR}_V$ .

All variables must belong to  $V$

Assigns a guard to each transition.

We demand that  $\text{Type}[G(t)] = \text{Bool}$  for all  $t \in T$ .

$G(t) = \text{true}$  for all  $t \in T$ .

The guard expression must evaluate to a boolean

- In the formal definition we demand all transitions to have a guard.
- CPN Tools consider a missing guard to be a short-hand for the guard expression true which always evaluates to true.
- Hence we have omitted all guards in the protocol example.



# Guard expressions

- CPN Tools consider a **list** of **Boolean** expressions:

$[\text{expr}_1, \text{expr}_2, \dots, \text{expr}_n]$

to be a **short-hand** for:

$\text{expr}_1 \wedge \text{expr}_2 \wedge \dots \wedge \text{expr}_n$

- We **recommend** to write all guards as a **list** even if they only have a single **Boolean expression**:

$[\text{expr}]$

- In this way it is **easy** to distinguish **guards** from **other kinds** of **net inscriptions**.



# Arc expressions

- An arc expression function  $E : A \rightarrow \text{EXPR}_V$

All variables must belong to  $V$

Assigns an arc expression to each arc.

We demand that  $\text{Type}[E(a)] = C(p)_{MS}$  for all  $a \in A$ , where  $p$  is the place connected to the arc  $a$ .

Arc expression must evaluate to a multi-set of tokens belonging to the colour set of the connected place

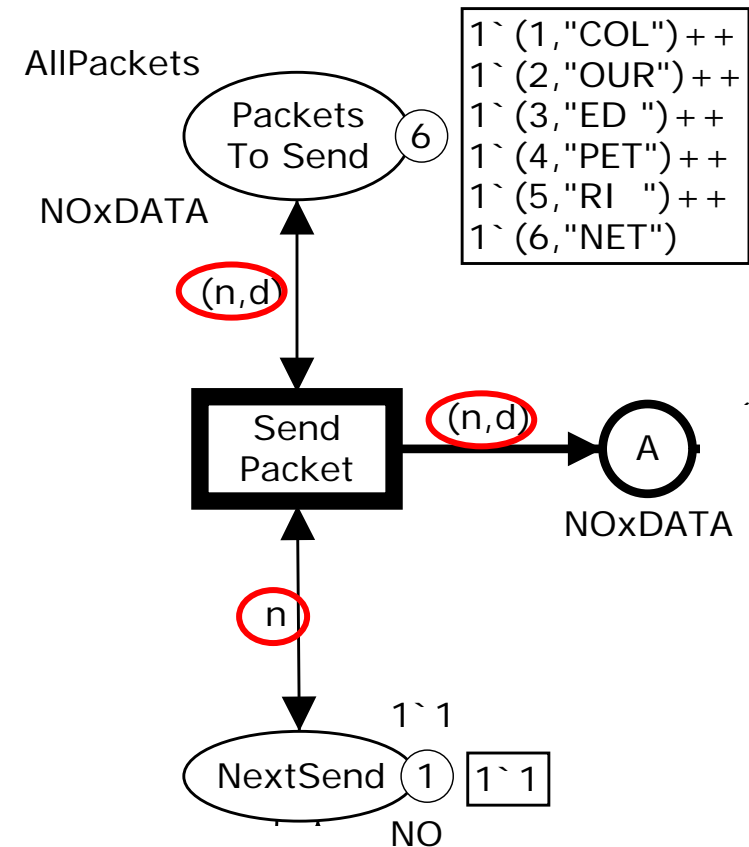


$$E(a) = \begin{cases} 1 \cdot (n, d) & \text{if } a \in \{ (\text{PacketsToSend}, \text{SendPacket}), \dots \} \\ 1 \cdot n & \text{if } a \in \{ (C, \text{TransmitAck}), (D, \text{ReceiveAck}) \dots \} \\ 1 \cdot \text{data} & \text{if } a = (\text{DataReceived}, \text{ReceivePacket}) \} \\ \dots \end{cases}$$



# Arc expressions

- In the **formal definition** we demand **all** arc expressions to evaluate to **multi-sets**.
- **CPN Tools** consider an arc expression **expr** which evaluates to a single value to be a **short-hand** for  $1 \text{`} \text{expr}$ .
- Hence we can write **n** and **(n,d)** instead of  $1 \text{`} n$  and  $1 \text{`} (n,d)$ .



# Initialisation expressions

- An **initialisation function**  $I : P \rightarrow \text{EXPR}_{\emptyset}$ .

Assigns an **initial marking** to each **place**.

We demand that

Initialisation expression is not allowed to contain any variables

- $\text{Type}[I(p)] = C(p)_{\text{MS}}$  for all  $p \in P$ .

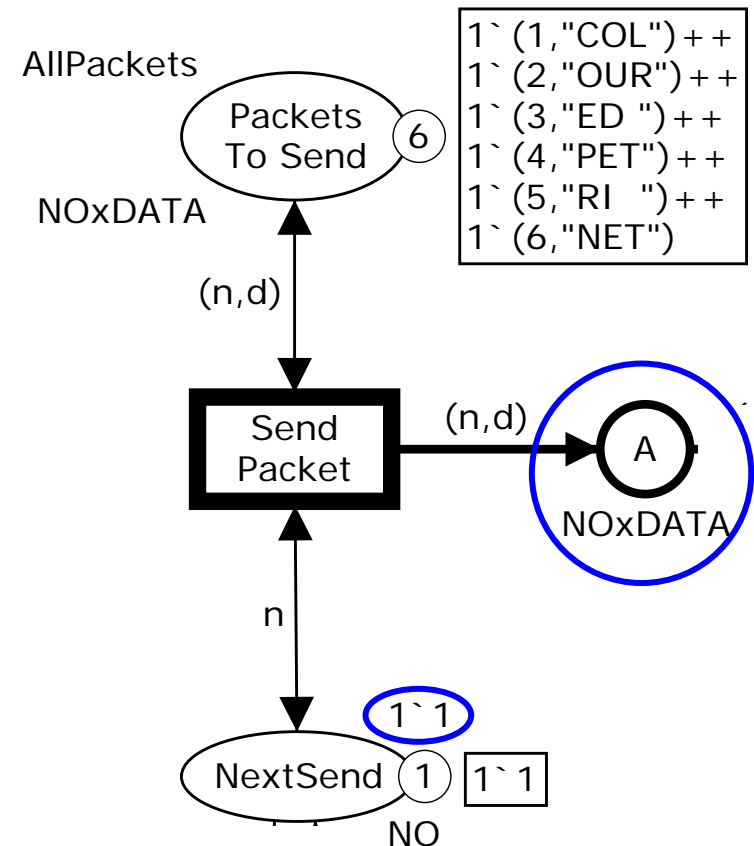
Initialisation expression must evaluate to a multi-set of tokens belonging to the colour set of the place

$$I(p) = \begin{cases} \text{AllPackets} & \text{if } p = \text{PacketsToSend} \\ 1 \cdot 1 & \text{if } p \in \{ \text{NextSend}, \text{NextRec} \} \\ 1 \cdot "" & \text{if } p = \{ \text{DataReceived} \} \\ \emptyset_{\text{MS}} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



# Initialisation expressions

- In the **formal definition** we demand **all** places to have an **initialisation expression** and that these evaluate to **multi-sets**.
- **CPN Tools** consider a **missing initialisation expression** to be a **short-hand** for  $\emptyset_{MS}$ .
- Hence we are allowed to **omit** the initialisation expression for **place A**.
- **CPN Tools** consider an initialisation expression **expr** which evaluates to a single value to be a **short-hand** for **1`expr**.
- Hence we could have written **1** instead of **1`1**.



# Questions about CPN syntax

- A. Can a node be both a place and a transition?
- B. Can we have an infinite number of places?
- C. Can we have an arc from a place to another place?
- D. Can a transition have two guards?
- E. Can a guard evaluate to an integer?
- F. Can an arc expression evaluate to a multi-set of booleans?
- G. Can we have a variable in an initial marking expression?
- H. Can an arc expression always evaluate to empty?

Find those where the answer is YES?



# Markings

- A **marking** is a function **M** mapping each place  $p$  into a multi-set of tokens  $M(p) \in C(p)_{MS}$ .

↑ All token values must belong to the colour set of the place

- The **initial marking**  $M_0$  is defined by  $M_0(p) = I(p) \langle \rangle$  for all  $p \in P$ .

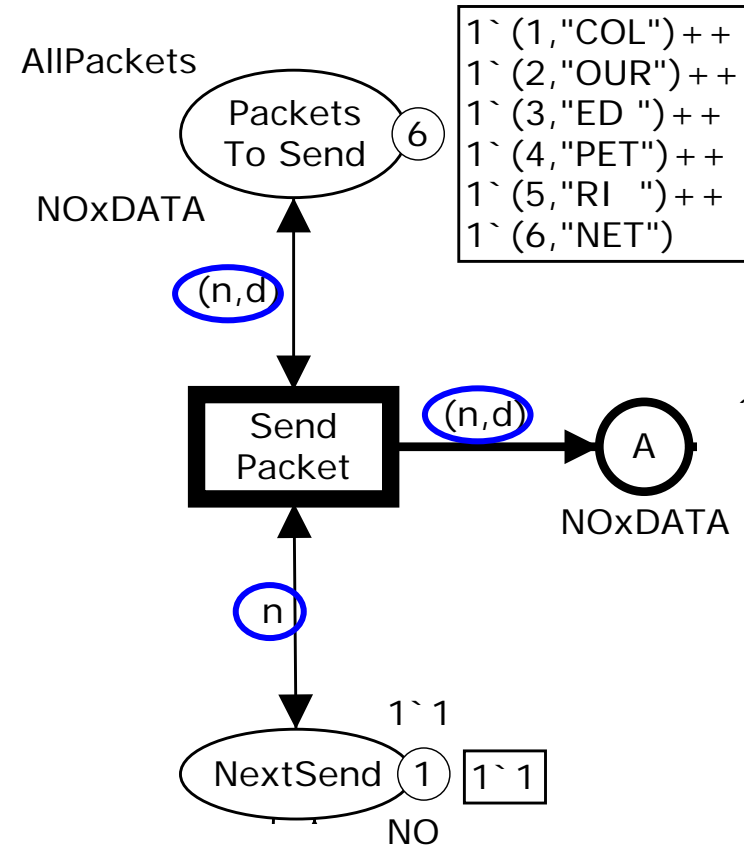
↑ Initialisation expression has no variables.  
Hence it is evaluated in the empty binding





# Variables of a transition

- The **variables** of a **transition** are those that **appear** in the **guard** or in an **arc expression** of an arc connected to the transition.
- The set of variables is denoted  $\text{Var}(t) \subseteq V$ .
- $\text{Var}(\text{SendPacket}) = \{n, d\}$ .



# Bindings and binding elements

- A **binding** of a transition  $t$  is a function  $b$  mapping each variable  $v \in \text{Var}(t)$  into a value  $b(v) \in \text{Type}[v]$ .
- Bindings are written in brackets:  $\langle n=1, d=\text{"COL"} \rangle$ .
- The set of **all** bindings for a transition  $t$  is denoted  $B(t)$ .

Each variable must be bound to a value in its type

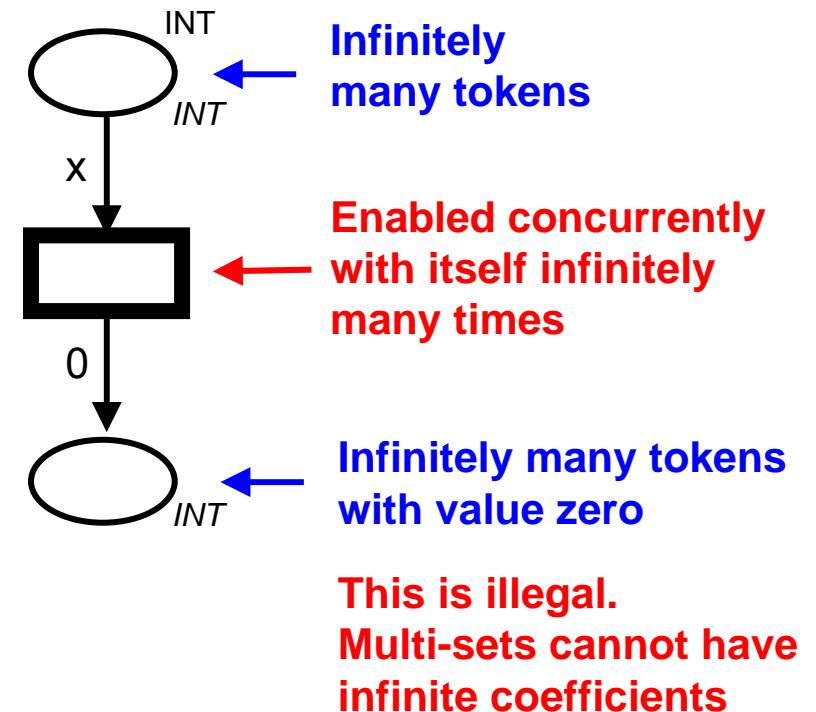
Transition      Binding for  $t$

- A **binding element** is a pair  $(t, b)$  such that  $t$  is a transition and  $b \in B(t)$ .
- The set of **all** binding elements of a transition  $t$  is denoted  $BE(t)$ .
- The set of **all** binding elements in CPN is denoted  $BE$ .



# Steps

- A **step**  $Y \in BE_{MS}$  is a **non-empty** and **finite** multi-set of binding elements.
- Why forbid **empty steps**?
  - We would have steps with **no effect**.
  - It would be **impossible** to reach a **dead marking**, i.e., a marking without enabled steps.
- Why forbid **infinite steps**?
  - We would be able to produce markings which are **not multi-sets**.



# Evaluation of guards and arc expressions

- The rules for enabling and occurrence are based on **evaluation** of **guards** and **arc expressions**.

$G(t) \langle b \rangle$

**Evaluation of the guard expression  
for  $t$  in the binding  $b$**

$E(a) \langle b \rangle$

**Evaluation of the arc expression  
for  $a$  in the binding  $b$**

$E(p, t) \langle b \rangle$

**Evaluation of the arc expression on  
the arc from  $p$  to  $t$  in the binding  $b$ .  
If no such arc exists  $E(p, t) = \emptyset_{MS}$**

$E(t, p) \langle b \rangle$

**Evaluation of the arc expression on  
the arc from  $t$  to  $p$  in the binding  $b$ .  
If no such arc exists  $E(t, p) = \emptyset_{MS}$**



# Enabling of single binding element

- A **binding element**  $(t,b) \in BE$  is **enabled** in a **marking**  $M$  if and only if the following two properties are satisfied:

- $G(t) \langle b \rangle = \text{true}$ .

**Guard must evaluate to true**

- $E(p,t) \langle b \rangle \leq M(p)$  for all  $p \in P$ .

**The tokens demanded by the input arc expressions must be present in the marking  $M$**

**Smaller than or equal  
for multi-sets**



# Occurrence of single binding element

- When the binding element  $(t,b) \in BE$  is enabled in a marking  $M$ , it may occur leading to a new marking  $M'$  defined by:

- $M'(p) = (M(p) \text{ -- } E(p,t) \langle b \rangle) \text{ ++ } E(t,p) \langle b \rangle$  for all  $p \in P$ .

↑  
New  
marking

↑  
Old  
marking

↑  
Tokens  
consumed by  
input arcs

↑  
Tokens  
produced by  
output arcs



# Enabling of step

- A **step**  $Y \subseteq BE_{MS}$  is **enabled** in a **marking**  $M$  if and only if the following two properties are satisfied:

- $G(t) \langle b \rangle = \text{true}$  for all  $(t, b) \in Y$ . **All guards must evaluate to true**

- $\sum_{MS}^{++}_{(t,b) \in Y} E(p, t) \langle b \rangle \leq M(p)$  for all  $p \in P$ .

Summation over  
a multi-set  $Y$

Smaller than or equal  
for multi-sets

**The tokens demanded by the  
input arc expressions must be  
present in the marking  $M$**



# Occurrence of step

- When the **step**  $Y \subseteq BE_{MS}$  is **enabled** in a **marking**  $M$ , it may **occur** leading to a **new marking**  $M'$  defined by:

$$M'(p) = (M(p) \text{ -- } \sum_{(t,b) \in Y}^{++} E(p,t) \langle b \rangle) \text{ ++ } \sum_{(t,b) \in Y}^{++} E(t,p) \langle b \rangle \text{ for all } p \in P.$$

↑  
New  
marking

↑  
Old  
marking

↑  
Tokens  
consumed by  
input arcs

↑  
Tokens  
produced by  
output arcs





# Notation for occurrence and enabling

$$M_1 \xrightarrow{Y} M_2$$

Step Y occurs in marking  $M_1$   
leading to marking  $M_2$

$$M_1 \longrightarrow M_2$$

Marking  $M_2$  can be reached from marking  $M_1$   
(by the occurrence of an unknown step)

$$M_1 \xrightarrow{Y}$$

Step Y is enabled in marking  $M_1$   
(leading to an unknown marking)



# Finite occurrence sequence

$$M_1 \xrightarrow{Y_1} M_2 \xrightarrow{Y_2} M_3 \dots\dots M_n \xrightarrow{Y_n} M_{n+1}$$

- Length  $n \geq 0$ .
- All markings in the sequence are **reachable** from  $M_1$ .
- An arbitrary marking is **reachable** from itself by the **trivial occurrence sequence** of **length 0**.



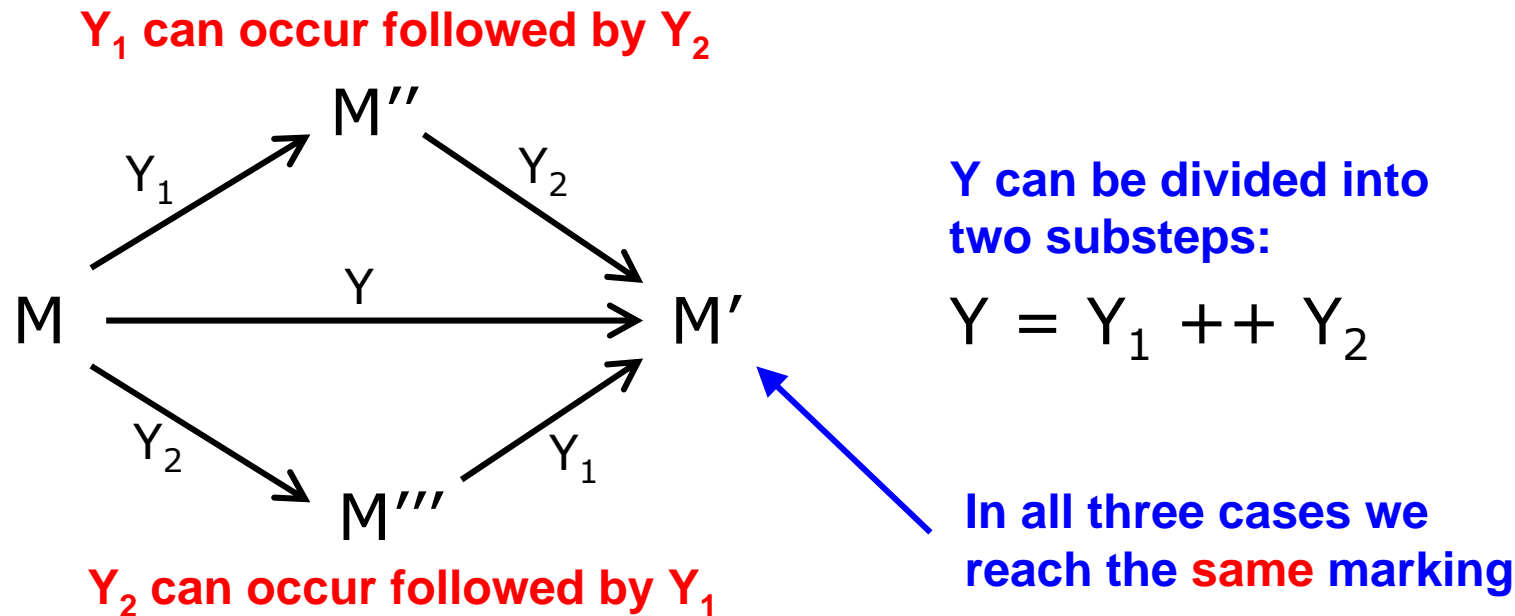
# Infinite occurrence sequence

$$M_1 \xrightarrow{Y_1} M_2 \xrightarrow{Y_2} M_3 \xrightarrow{Y_3} \dots$$

- $\mathcal{R}(M)$     **The set of markings**  
                  **reachable from M**
- $\mathcal{R}(M_0)$     **The set of**  
                  **reachable markings**



# Diamond property



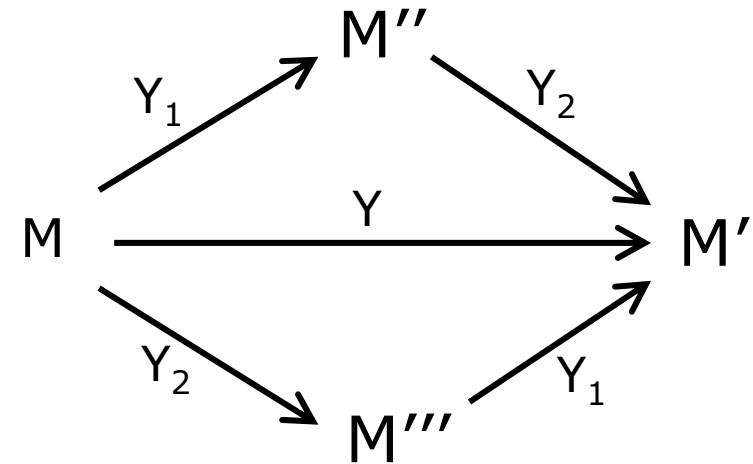
- This is called the **diamond property**.
- It can be **proved** from the definition of **enabling** and **occurrence**.
- It plays an important role in **Petri net theory**.

# Diamond property

- The **diamond property** follows from the fact that the **effect** of a **step** is **independent** of the **marking** in which it occurs.
- The **diamond property** is **not** satisfied by ordinary **programming languages**.

**$x := x+1;$   
 $x := 0;$**

**$x := 0;$   
 $x := x+1;$**



- **Repeated use** of **diamond property**:
  - When a **step** **Y** is enabled in a **marking** **M**, the binding elements of **Y** can occur **one by one** in **any order**.
  - The **order** has **no influence** on the **total effect**.

# Questions about CPN semantics

- A. Can a transition change the marking of places that are neither input nor output places?
- B. Can a transition occur concurrently with itself?
- C. Can a binding element occur concurrently with itself?
- D. Can two transitions that “reads” the value of the same token occur concurrently?
- E. Can a marking be reachable from itself?
- F. Can we have more than one initial marking?
- G. Can we have an infinite number of reachable markings?

Find those where the answer is YES?

