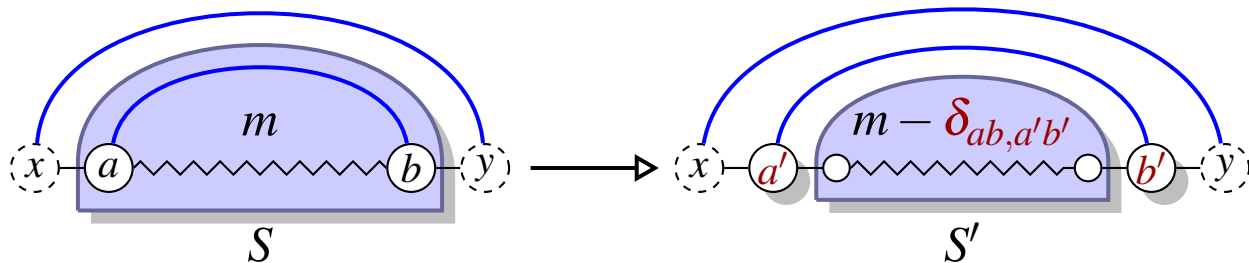
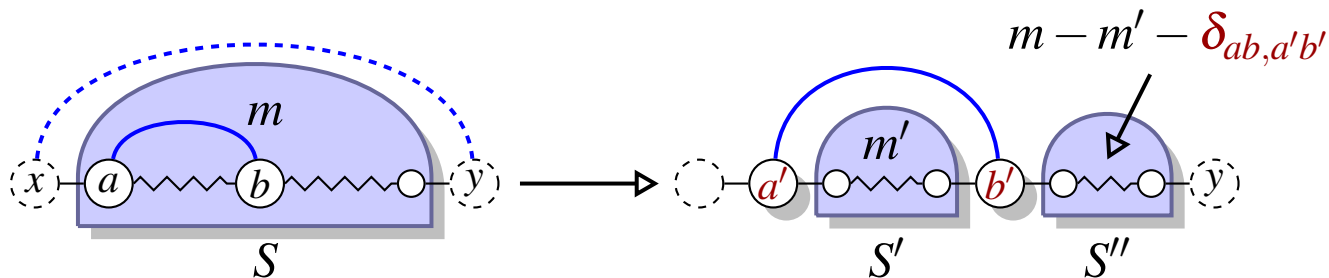


Case 1: First position is unpaired.



Case 2: Extremities are paired, nested within a consecutive base-pair, forming a stacking base-pair.



Case 3: First position is paired to some position, but not involved in a stacking pair.