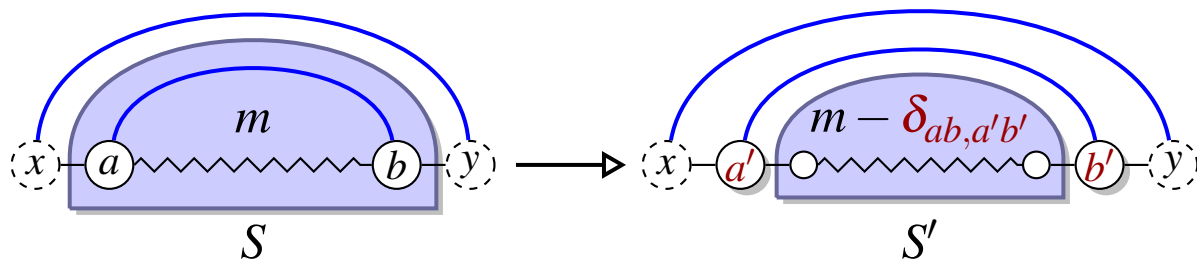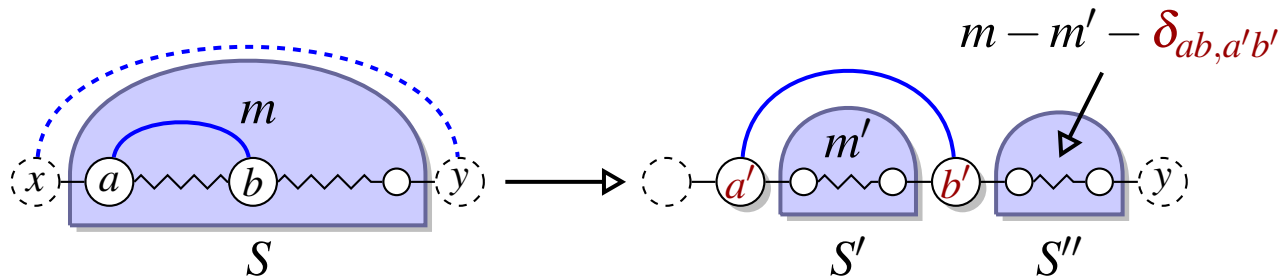**Case 1:** First position is unpaired.

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

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