

# Computational Models for Embedded Systems

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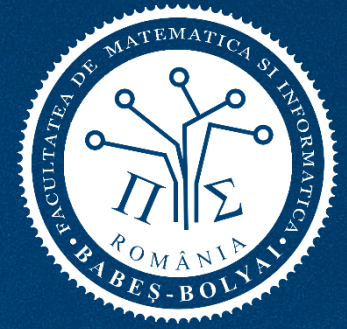
Cluj-Napoca

2025-2026



Lecture 10a: Petri Nets (1)





# Software Systems Verification and Validation

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"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."

(Benjamin Franklin)

# Outline

- PetriNets
- Why Petri nets?
- Petri nets – definition
- Transitions
- Reachability set
- Firing Vector, Incidence Matrix
- I/O Petri nets
- Compositions of Petri Nets
- Modeling Templates

- Next lecture: Petri Nets (cont.)
- Questions

# PetriNets

- Introduced in 1962 by Carl Adam Petri in his PhD thesis:  
**“Communication with Automata”**
- Different “Types” of Petri nets known
  - Condition/event nets
  - Place/transition nets
  - Predicate/transition nets
  - Hierarchical Petri nets,
  - ...

# Why Petri Nets?

- Models based on finite state machines are inherently focused on the state of a system and the **observable input-output behavior**.
- They are **not well suited to studying the interaction of concurrently active parts** of a system and the combined behavior of distributed parallel systems.



# Why Petri Nets?

- To address issues of concurrency, synchronization and communication, we need to generalize state machines into a model of communicating, concurrent state machines.
- A first necessary step into that direction is to study the phenomenon of concurrency isolated from the internal complexities of the subparts of a system.
- Why? Mainly because Concurrency itself is an important source of complexity that can be rapidly overwhelming.  
→ Petri Nets.

# What is Petri Nets?

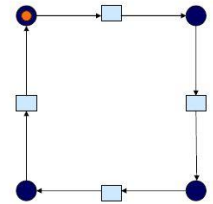
- 2 principal abstractions that render them so suitable for the study of concurrency:
  - They are concentrating of the act of communication, and are not concerned with the data being communicated. The mean of communication is a token which does not contain any data.
  - All details of behavior are omitted if they do not contribute to the consumption and emission of tokens.

# PetriNets

## ◦ Used for Modelling, Analysis, Verification of Distributed Systems

Example 1: The four seasons

- (other) application areas:
  - automation engineering
  - business processes
- Focus on modeling causal dependencies;
- no global synchronization assumed (message passing only).
- **PNs describe explicitly and graphically:**
  - sequencing/causality
    - conflict/non-deterministic choice
    - concurrency
- **Basic PN model**
  - Asynchronous model (partial ordering)
  - Main drawback: no hierarchy





# Petri net Definition

- A Petri net is a six-tuple  $N=(P,T,A, w, \vec{x}_0)$ , where
  - $P$  is a finite set of places
  - $T$  is finite set of transitions
  - $A$  is a set of arcs,  $A \subseteq (P \times T) \cup (T \times P)$
  - $w$  is a weight function,  $w: A \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$
  - $\vec{x}_0$  is an initial marking vector,  $x_0 \in \mathbb{N}^{|P|}$
- The set  $I(t) = \{p \in P \mid (p, t) \in A\}$  is the set of input places of transition  $t$ .
- The set  $O(t) = \{p \in P \mid (t, p) \in A\}$  is the set of output places of transition  $t$ .
- A transition  $t$  is enabled in state  $\vec{x}$  if

$$x(p) \geq w(p, t), \forall p \in I(t)$$

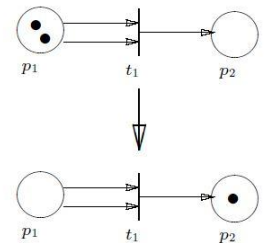
# Petri net transition Definition

- Let  $N=(P,T,A, w, \vec{x}_0)$ , be a petri net with  $P = \{p_0, ..., p_{n-1}\}$  and  $x = [x(p_0), ..., x(p_{n-1})]$  be a marking for the  $n$  places. The transition function is defined as follows:  $G:(N^n \times T) \rightarrow N^n$

$$G(\vec{x}, t) = \begin{cases} \vec{x}' & \text{if } x(p) \geq w(p, t) \forall p \in I(t) \\ \vec{x} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

with  $\vec{x}' = [x'(p_0), ..., x'(p_{n-1})]$   
 $x'(p_i) = x(p_i) - w(p_i, t) + w(t, p_i)$  for  $0 \leq i < n$

Firing of a Transition



- if the number of token in  $p$  is greater or equal to the sum of the transitions exiting the place, then take the transition
- otherwise nothing changes !

# Petri net Dynamics (1)

Petri net  $N = (P, T, A, w, \vec{x}_0)$  with

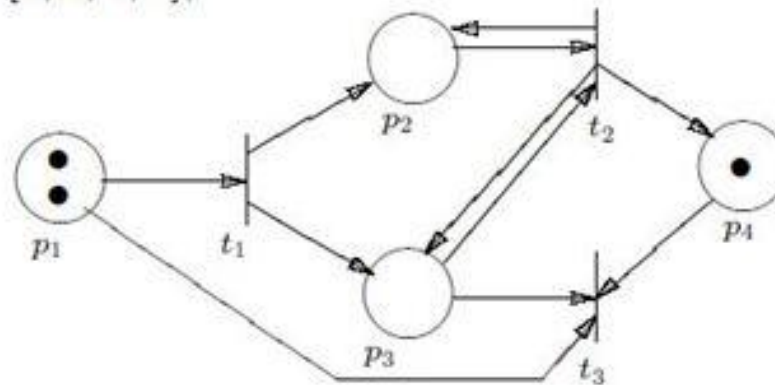
$$P = \{p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4\}$$

$$T = \{t_1, t_2, t_3\}$$

$$A = \{(p_1, t_1), (p_1, t_3), (p_2, t_2), (p_3, t_2), (p_3, t_3), (p_4, t_3), \\ (t_1, p_2), (t_1, p_3), (t_2, p_2), (t_2, p_3), (t_2, p_4)\}$$

$$w(a) = 1 \quad \forall a \in A$$

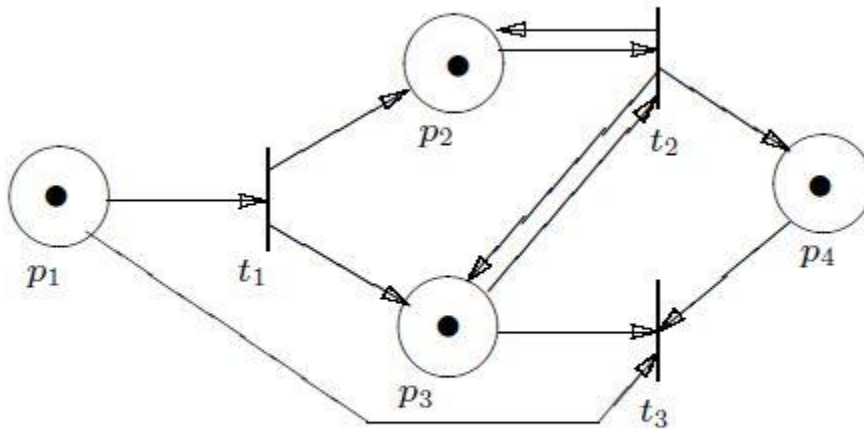
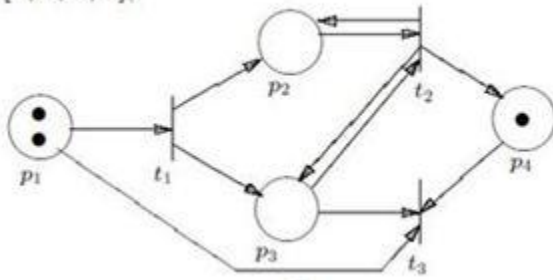
$$\vec{x}_0 = [2, 0, 0, 1],$$



$$\vec{x}_0 = [2, 0, 0, 1]$$

# Petri net Dynamics (2)

$$\vec{x}_0 = [2, 0, 0, 1],$$

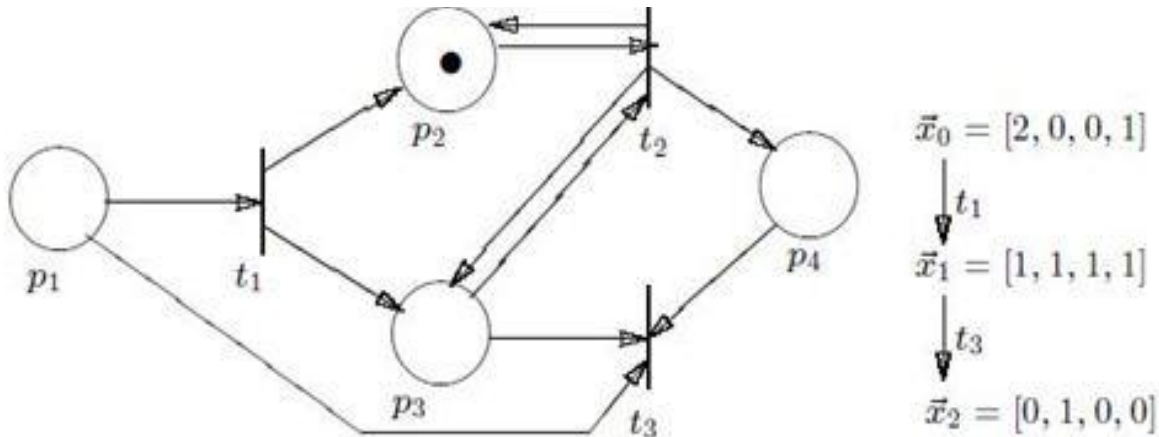
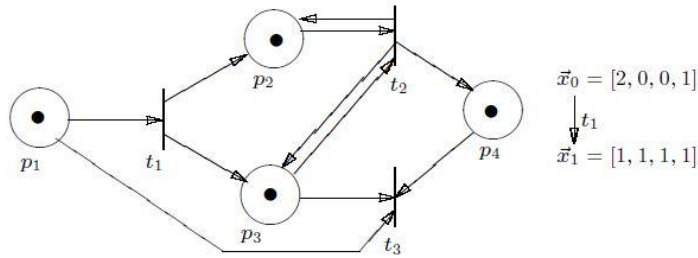


$$\vec{x}_0 = [2, 0, 0, 1]$$

$$\downarrow t_1$$
$$\vec{x}_1 = [1, 1, 1, 1]$$



# Petri net Dynamics (3)



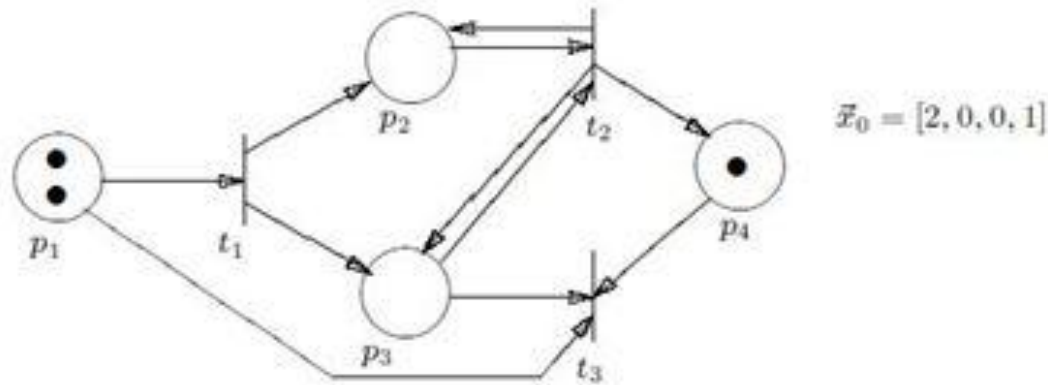
# The Reachability Set

- For a Petri net  $N=(P,T,A, w, \vec{x}_0)$  and a given state  $\vec{x}$  a state  $\vec{y}$  is immediately reachable from  $\vec{x}$  if there exists a transition  $t \in T$  such that  $G(\vec{x}, t) = \vec{y}$
- The reachability set  $R(\vec{x})$  is the smallest set of states defined by:

- 1  $\vec{x} \in R(\vec{x})$
- 2 If  $\vec{y} \in R(\vec{x})$  and  $z = G(\vec{y}, t)$  for some  $t \in T$ , then  $\vec{z} \in R(\vec{x})$ .

- More intuitively, the reachability set of a state includes all the states that can eventually be reached by repeatedly firing transitions.

# The Reachability Set



$$R(\vec{x}_0) = R_1 \cup R_2 \cup R_3 \cup R_4$$

$$R_1 = \{\vec{x}_0\}$$

$$R_2 = \{\vec{y} \mid \vec{y} = [1, 1, 1, n], n \geq 1\}$$

$$R_3 = \{\vec{y} \mid \vec{y} = [0, 2, 2, n], n \geq 1\}$$

$$R_4 = \{\vec{y} \mid \vec{y} = [0, 1, 0, n], n \geq 0\}$$

# Firing Vector, Incidence Matrix

Let  $N = (P, T, A, w, \vec{x}_0)$  be a petri net with  $P = p_1, \dots, p_n$  and  $T = t_1, \dots, t_m$ .

A **firing vector**  $\vec{u} = [0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0]$  is a vector of length  $m$  where entry  $j$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq m$  corresponds to transition  $t_j$ . All entries of the vector are 0 but one, where it has a value of 1. If entry  $j$  is 1, transition  $t_j$  fires.

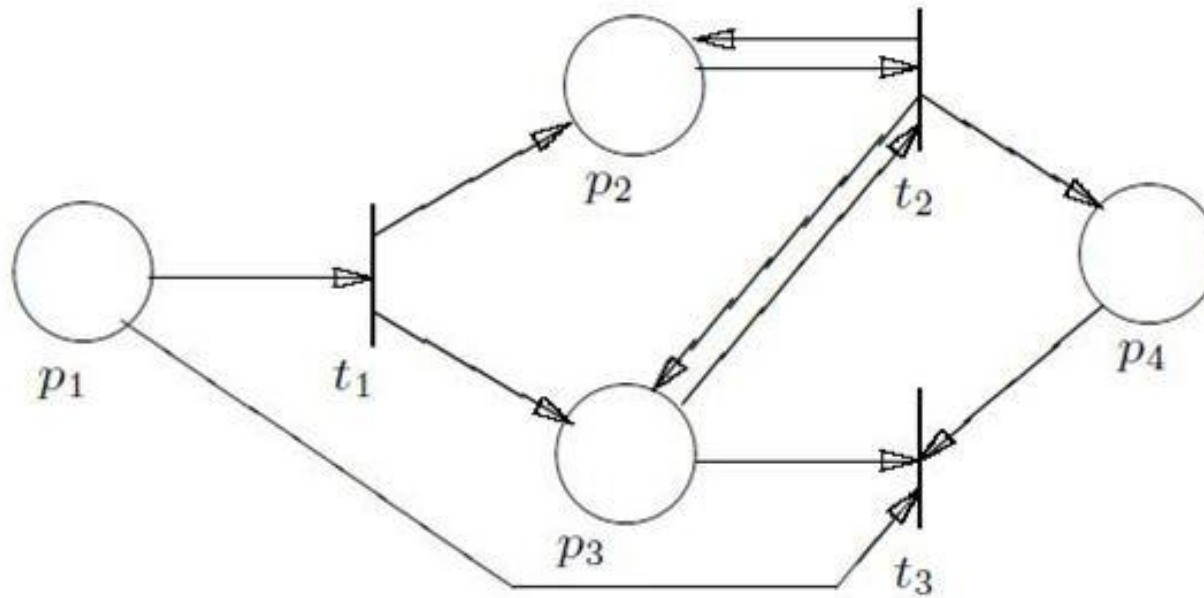
The **incidence matrix**  $A$  is an  $m \times n$  matrix whose  $(j, i)$  entry is:

$$a_{j,i} = w(t_j, p_i) - w(p_i, t_j)$$

- $a_{j,i}$  contains the information about the net effect of firing transition  $t_j$  from place  $p_i$ .
- A state equation can be written as:  
$$\vec{x}' = \vec{x} + \vec{u}A$$

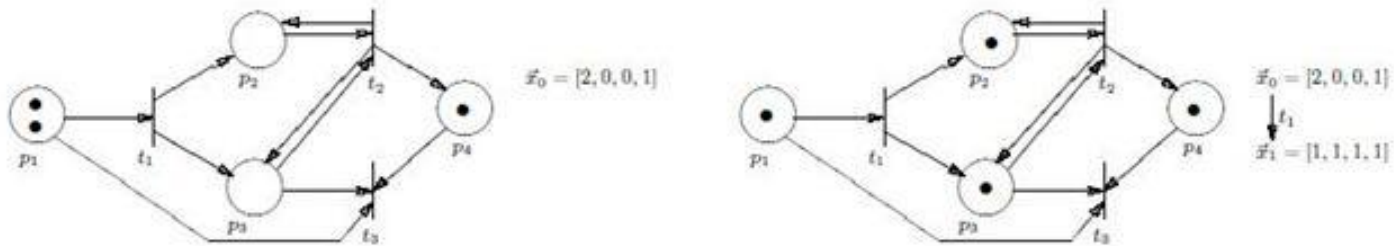


# Building the incidence matrix



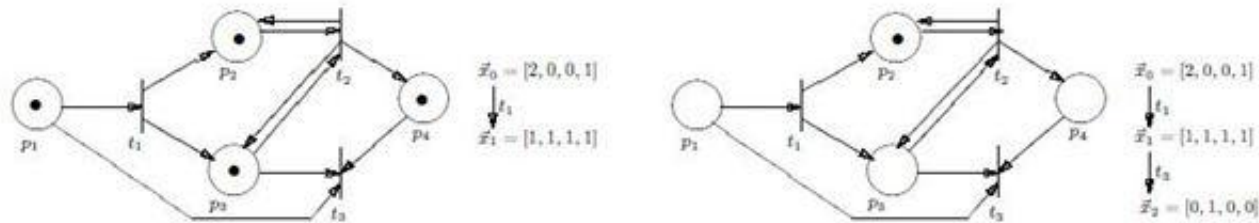
$$\mathcal{A} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix},$$

# Petri nets - evaluation



$$\begin{aligned}
 \vec{x}_1 &= \vec{x}_0 + \vec{u}_1 \mathcal{A} \\
 &= [2, 0, 0, 1] + [1, 0, 0] \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \\
 &= [2, 0, 0, 1] + [-1 + 0 + 0, 1 + 0 + 0, 1 + 0 + 0, 0 + 0 + 0] \\
 &= [2, 0, 0, 1] + [-1, 1, 1, 0] = [1, 1, 1, 1]
 \end{aligned}$$

# Petri nets - evaluation



$$\begin{aligned}
 \vec{x}_2 &= \vec{x}_1 + \vec{u}_2 \mathcal{A} \\
 &= [1, 1, 1, 1] + [0, 0, 1] \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \\
 &= [1, 1, 1, 1] + [-1, 0, -1, -1] = [0, 1, 0, 0]
 \end{aligned}$$

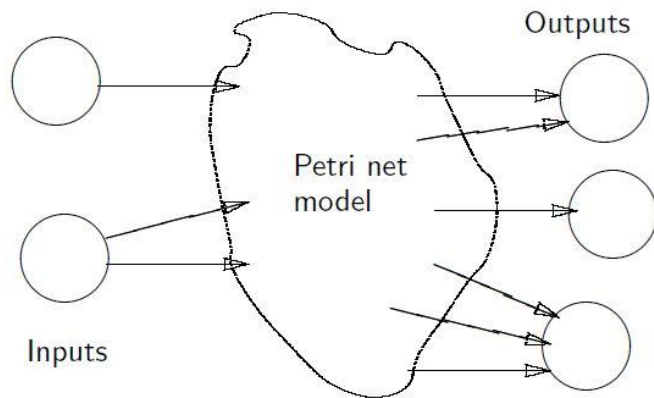
# I/O in Petri nets

- So far, we have not considered input/outputs of petri nets.
- Many modeling tasks can be achieved with isolated nets without interfaces.
- It is however sometimes very useful to be able to model explicitly inputs and outputs.

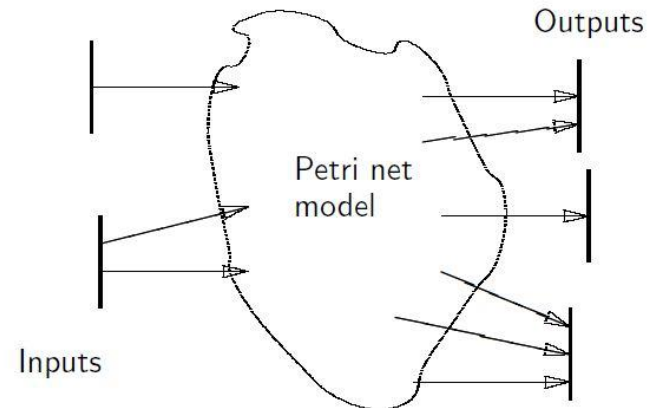


# I/O in Petri nets

## I/O MODELED AS PLACES

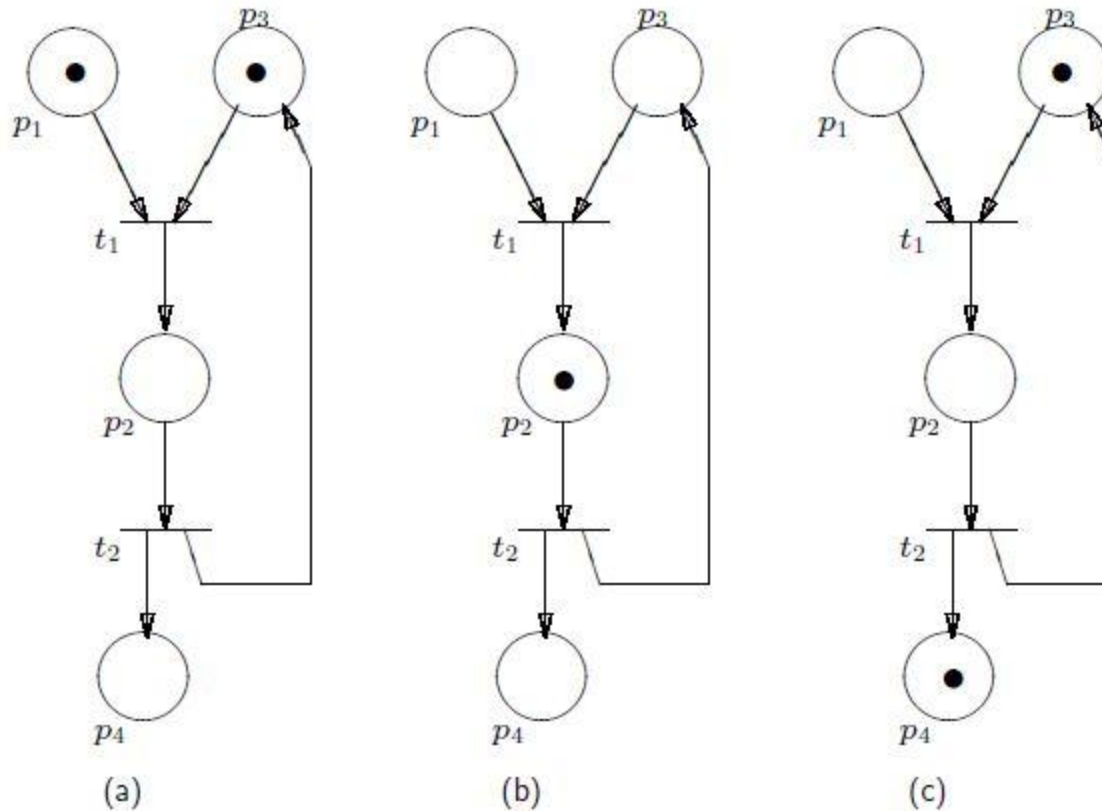


## I/O MODELED AS TRANSITIONS



Both methods are equivalent (you can always model one by the other)  
We'll use the "places" representation, because it seems slightly more intuitive

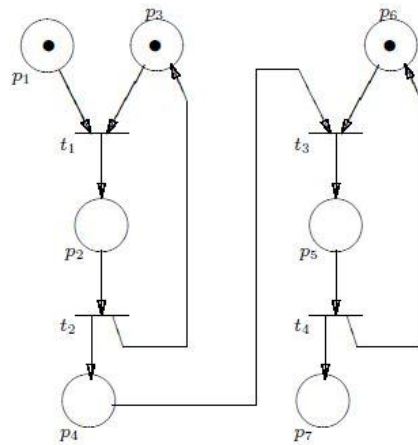
# A Server Modeled as Petri Net



Customers arrive at input  $p_1$  and depart at output  $p_4$ .

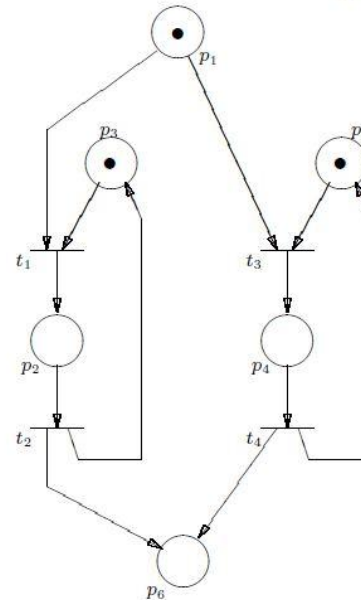
# Compositions of Petri Nets

Sequential Composition of two Servers



Customers arrive at input  $p_1$  and depart at output  $p_7$ .

Parallel Composition of two Servers



Customers arrive at input  $p_1$  and depart at output  $p_6$ .

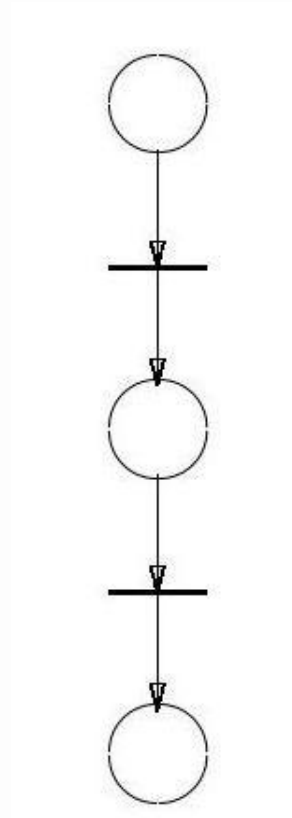
# Modeling Templates

- Goal: illustrate Petri Nets
- We'll look at several practical templates for standard modeling tasks
  - Sequence and Concurrency
  - Fork and Join
  - Conflict (e.g. for Mutual Exclusion)
  - Producer/Consumer

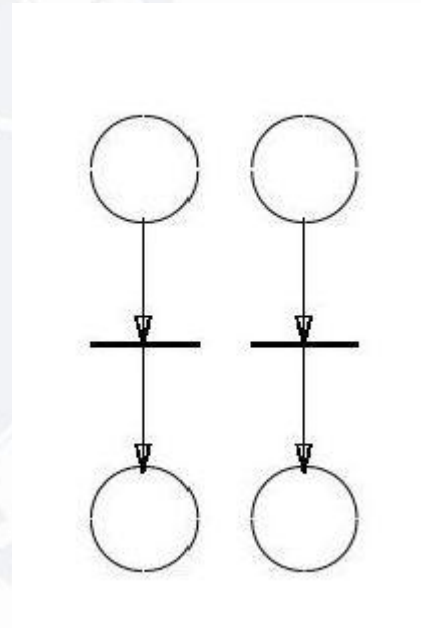


# Sequence and Concurrency

- Sequence



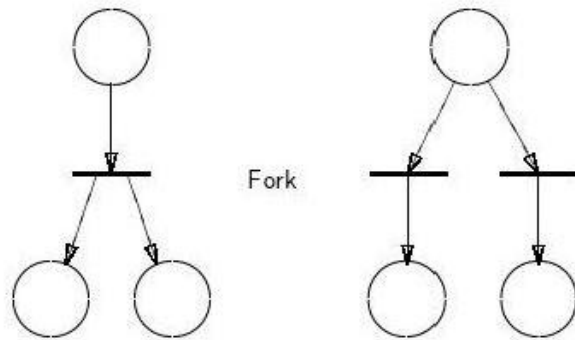
- Concurrency



# Fork and Join

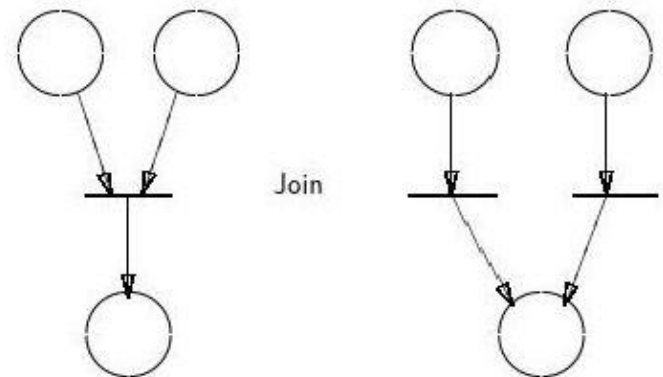
- Fork

doubles the control flow,  
resulting in two parallel threads



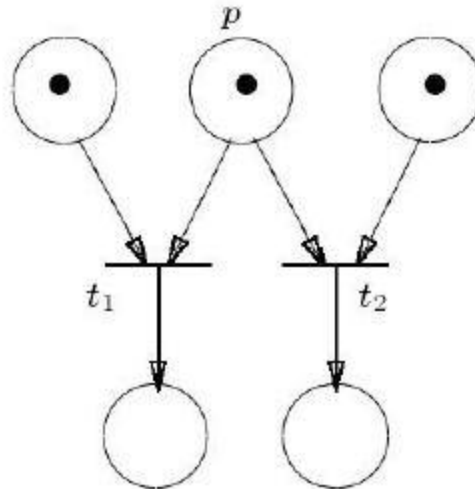
- Join

merges two control flows into one



# Conflict

- Used to model situations where two processes compete for data or resources.



# Conflict

## Mutual Exclusion

```
read(x);  
set x <- x + 1;  
write(x);
```

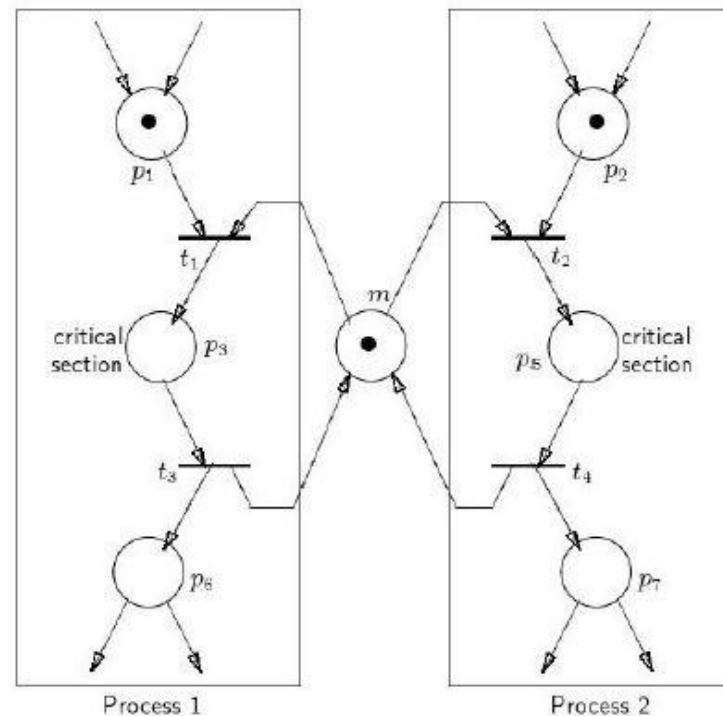
Process A

```
read(x);  
set x <- x + 1;  
write(x);
```

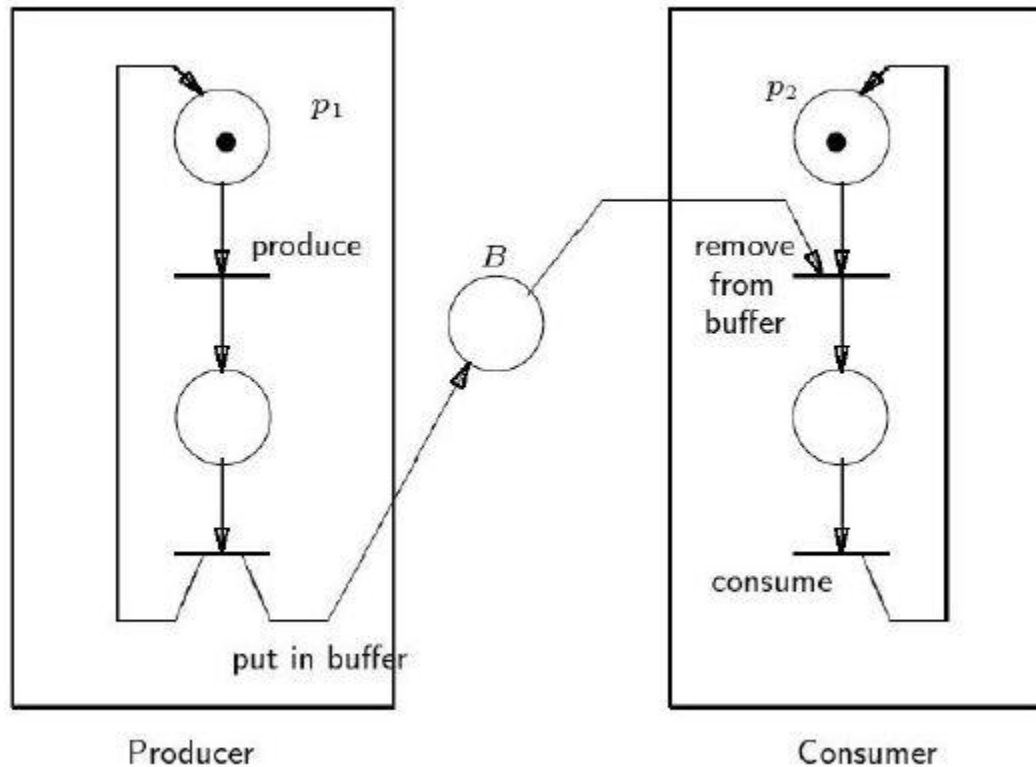
Process B

```
x <- 0;  
A.read(x);  
A.set x <- x + 1;  
A.write(x);  
B.read(x);  
B.set x <- x + 1;  
B.write(x);  
x == 2
```

```
x <- 0;  
A.read(x);  
B.read(x);  
A.set x <- x + 1;  
A.write(x);  
B.set x <- x + 1;  
B.write(x);  
x == 1
```



# Producer/Consumer





## Next lecture (today)

### PetriNets

- Analysis Methods for Petri Nets
  - Boundedness
  - Conservation
  - Liveness
  - Reachability and Coverability
  - Persistence
- A technique for addressing these questions on PN:

The Coverability Tree

# References

- **Models of Computations and Concurrency or Models of computation and their applications to Embedded systems modeling**, Lionel Morel, TUCS,  
<http://users.abo.fi/lmorel/MoCs/>
  - [http://lionel.morel.ouvaton.org/wp/?page\\_id=13](http://lionel.morel.ouvaton.org/wp/?page_id=13)
- **Design of Embedded Systems: Models, Validation and Synthesis**, Alberto Sangiovanni-Vincentelli  
<https://inst.eecs.berkeley.edu/~ee249/fa07/>

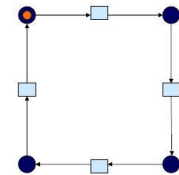
# CMES – Today

# Bring it All Together

## Petri nets

- They are concentrating of the act of communication, and are not concerned with the data being communicated. The mean of communication is a token which does not contain any data.
- All details of behavior are omitted if they do not contribute to the consumption and emission of tokens.

Example 1: The four seasons

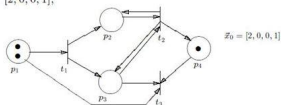


## Petri nets

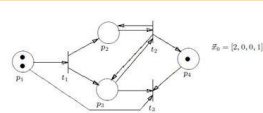
### PN dynamics

Petri net  $N = (P, T, A, w, \bar{x}_0)$  with

$$\begin{aligned} P &= \{p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4\} \\ T &= \{t_1, t_2, t_3\} \\ A &= \{(p_1, t_1), (p_1, t_2), (p_2, t_2), (p_2, t_3), (p_3, t_3), (p_3, t_1), \\ &\quad (t_1, p_2), (t_1, p_3), (t_2, p_2), (t_2, p_3), (t_3, p_4)\} \\ w(a) &= 1 \quad \forall a \in A \\ \bar{x}_0 &= [2, 0, 0, 1] \end{aligned}$$

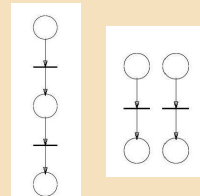


### Reachability set

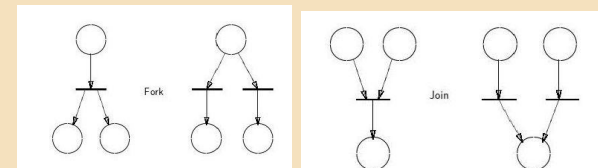


$$\begin{aligned} R(\bar{x}_0) &= R_1 \cup R_2 \cup R_3 \cup R_4 \\ R_1 &= \{\bar{x}_0\} \\ R_2 &= \{\bar{y} \mid \bar{y} = [1, 1, 1, n], n \geq 1\} \\ R_3 &= \{\bar{y} \mid \bar{y} = [0, 2, 2, n], n \geq 1\} \\ R_4 &= \{\bar{y} \mid \bar{y} = [0, 1, 0, n], n \geq 0\} \end{aligned}$$

### Sequence and Concurrency



### Fork and Join



# Next Lecture

- Petri nets (2)
- Today







# Software Systems Verification and Validation

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"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."

(Benjamin Franklin)