

Computational Models for Embedded Systems

Vescan Andreea, PHD, Assoc. Prof.

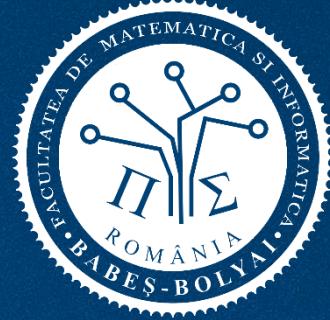


Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science
Babeş-Bolyai University

Cluj-Napoca
2025-2026



Lecture 10a: Petri Nets (1)



Software Systems Verification and Validation

“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?

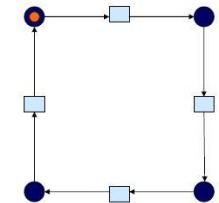
- 2 principal abstractions that render them so suitable for the study of concurrency:
 - They are concentrating of the act of communication, and are not concerned with the data being communicated. The mean of communication is a token which does not contain any data.
 - All details of behavior are omitted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

PetriNets

- o Used for Modelling, Analysis, Verification of Distributed Systems

- (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

Example 1: The four seasons



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, $A \subseteq (P \times T) \cup (T \times P)$
 - \underline{W} is a weight function, $w:A \rightarrow N$
 - \vec{x}_0 is an initial marking vector, $x_0 \in N^{|P|}$
- 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
$$x(p) \geq w(p,t), \forall p \in I(t)$$

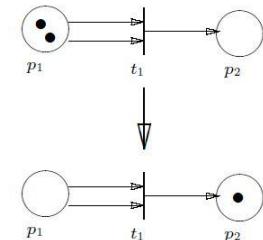
Petri net transition Definition

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

Firing of a Transition

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

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

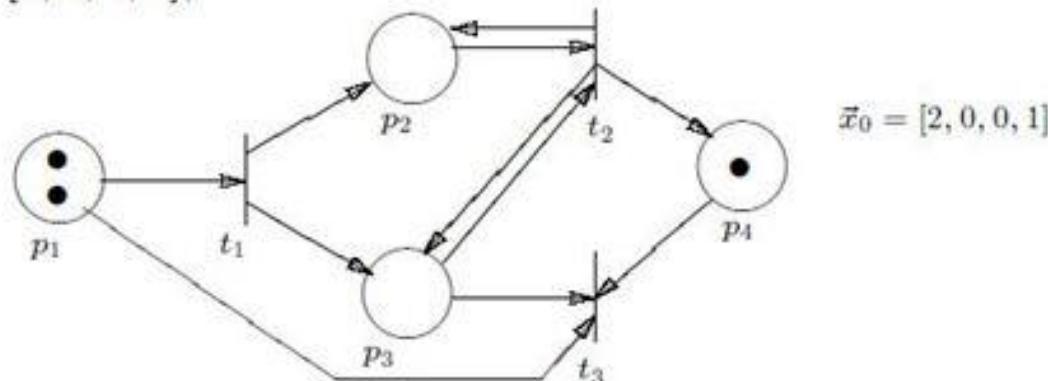


- if the number of token in p is greater or equal to the sum of the transitions exiting the place, then take the transition
- otherwise nothing changes !

Petri net Dynamics (1)

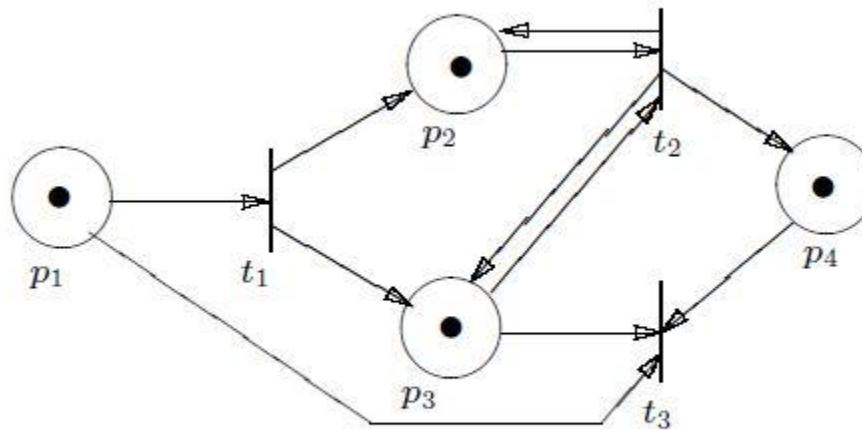
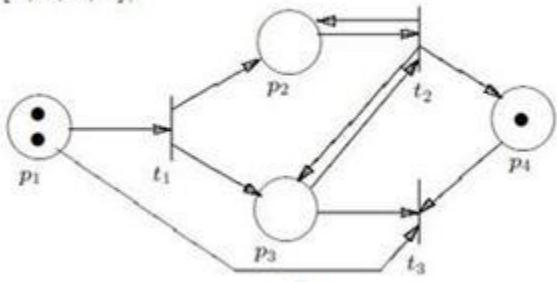
Petri net $N = (P, T, A, w, \vec{x}_0)$ with

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



Petri net Dynamics (2)

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

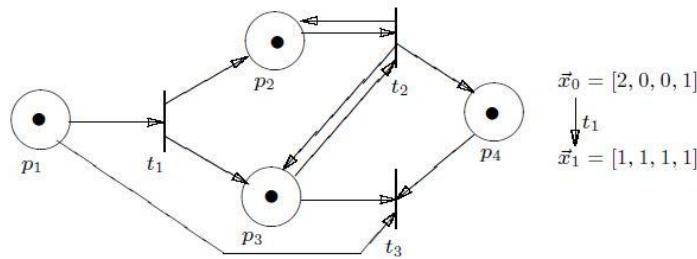


$$\vec{x}_0 = [2, 0, 0, 1]$$

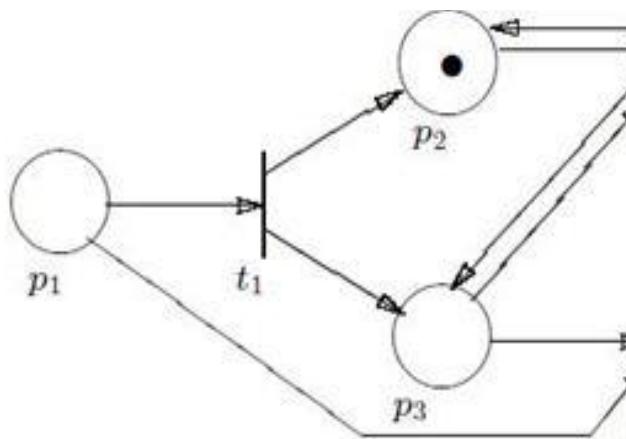
$\downarrow t_1$

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

Petri net Dynamics (3)



$$\vec{x}_0 = [2, 0, 0, 1]$$
$$\vec{x}_1 = [1, 1, 1, 1]$$



$$\vec{x}_0 = [2, 0, 0, 1]$$
$$\vec{x}_1 = [1, 1, 1, 1]$$
$$\vec{x}_2 = [0, 1, 0, 0]$$

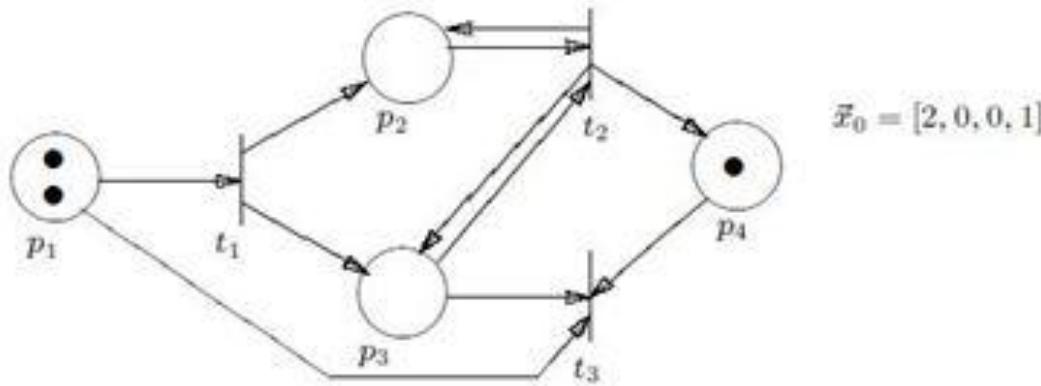
The Reachability Set

- For a Petri net $\vec{N} = (P, T, A, w, \vec{x}_0)$ 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:

- ❶ $\vec{x} \in R(\vec{x})$
- ❷ 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 $T = t_1, \dots, t_m$.

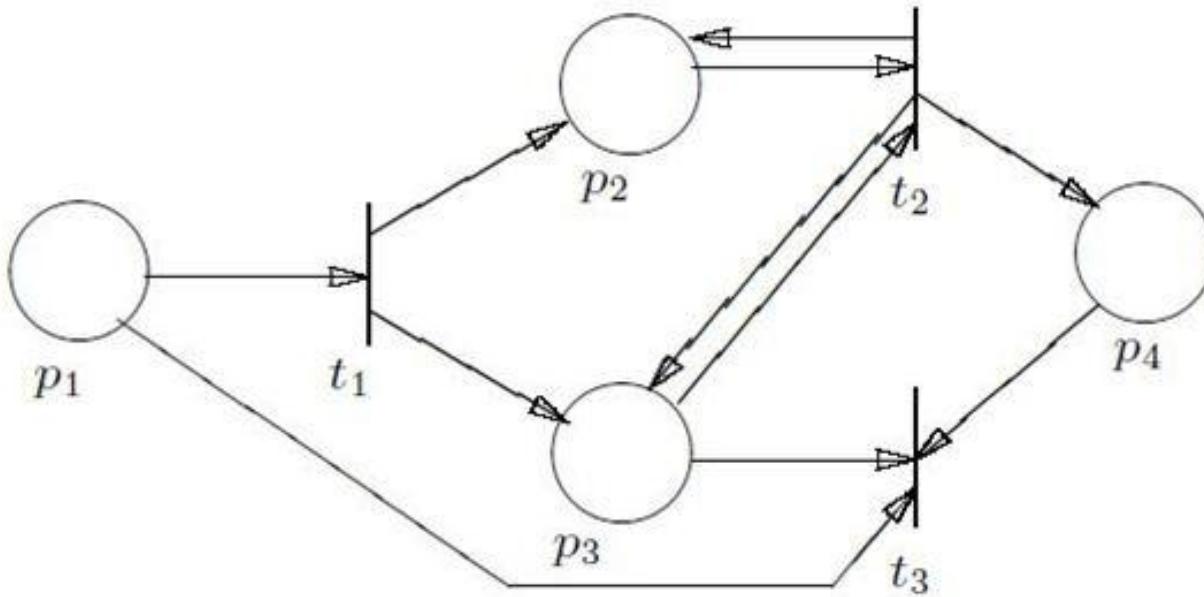
A **firing vector** $\vec{u} = [0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0]$ is a vector of length m where entry $j, 1 \leq j \leq m$ corresponds to transition t_j . All entries of the vector are 0 but one, where it has a value of 1. If entry j is 1, transition t_j fires.

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

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

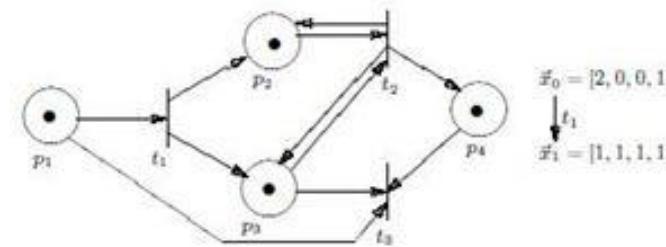
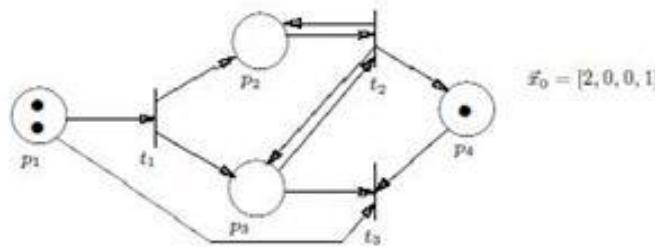
- $a_{j,i}$ contains the information about the net effect of firing transition t_j from place p_i .
- A state equation can be written as:
$$\dot{x} = x + u\mathcal{A}$$

Building the incidence matrix



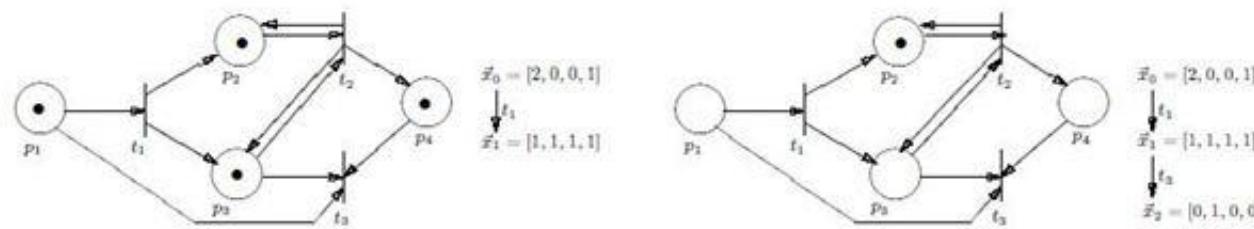
$$\mathcal{A} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix},$$

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



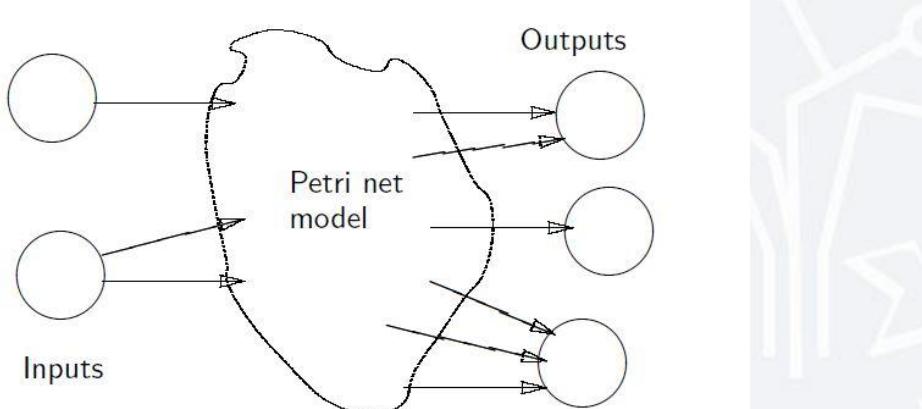
$$\begin{aligned}\vec{x}_2 &= \vec{x}_1 + \vec{u}_2 \mathcal{A} \\ &= [1, 1, 1, 1] + [0, 0, 1] \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= [1, 1, 1, 1] + [-1, 0, -1, -1] = [0, 1, 0, 0]\end{aligned}$$

I/O in Petri nets

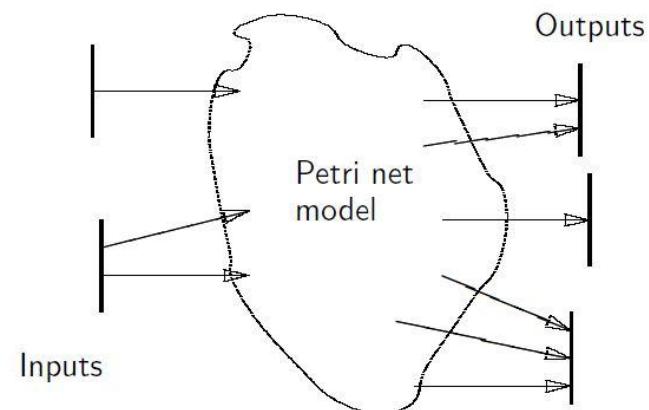
- So far, we have not considered input/outputs of petri nets.
- Many modeling tasks can be achieved with isolated nets without interfaces.
- It is however sometimes very useful to be able to model explicitly inputs and outputs.

I/O in Petri nets

I/O MODELED AS PLACES

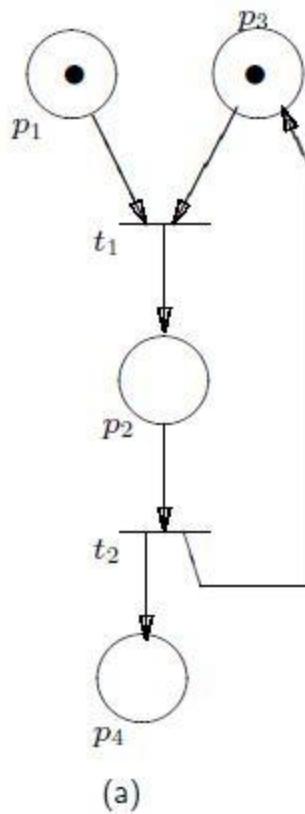


I/O MODELED AS TRANSITIONS

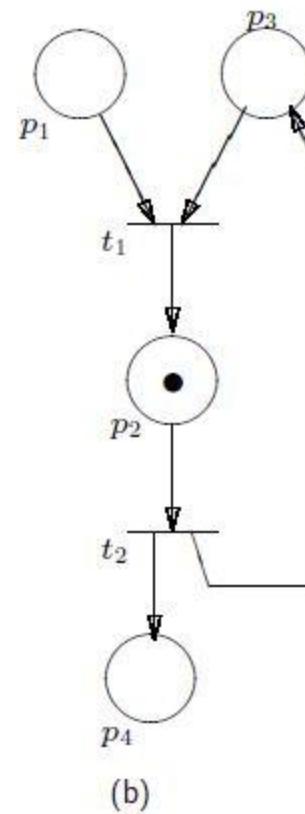


Both methods are equivalent (you can always model one by the other)
We'll use the "places" representation, because it seems slightly more intuitive

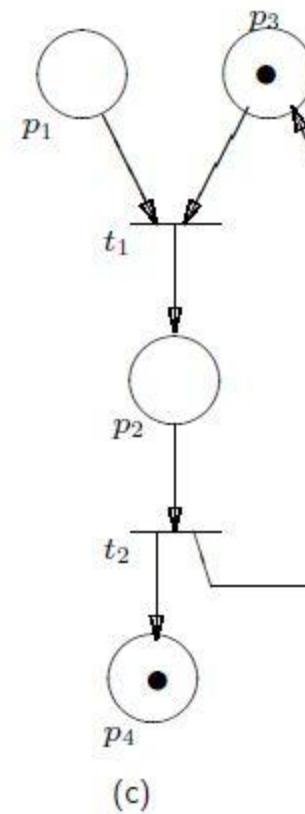
A Server Modeled as Petri Net



(a)



(b)

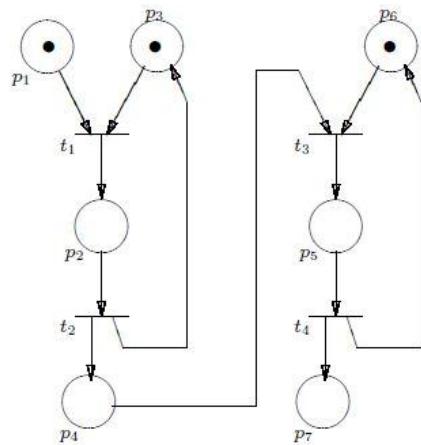


(c)

Customers arrive at input p_1 and depart at output p_4 .

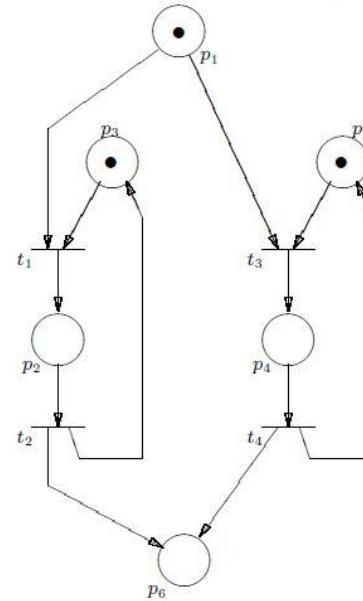
Compositions of Petri Nets

Sequential Composition of two Servers



Customers arrive at input p_1 and depart at output p_7 .

Parallel Composition of two Servers



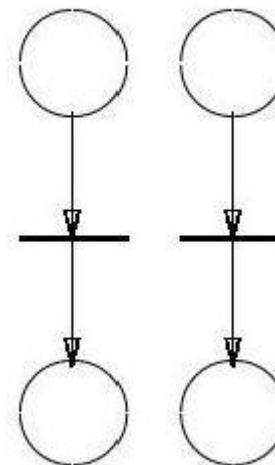
Customers arrive at input p_1 and depart at output p_6 .

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

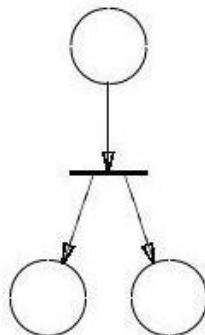
- Sequence
- Concurrency



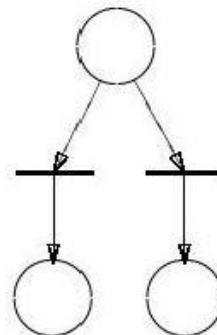
Fork and Join

- Fork

doubles the control flow,
resulting in two parallel threads

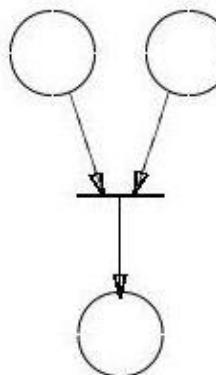


Fork

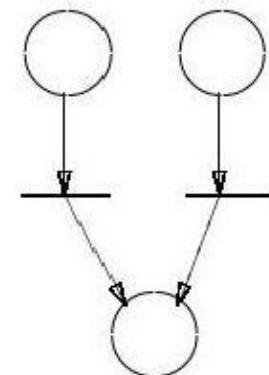


- Join

merges two control flows into one

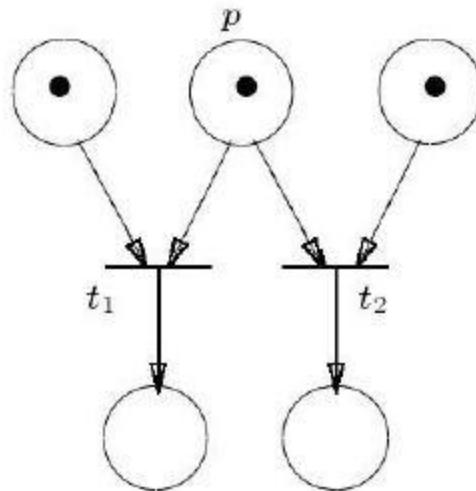


Join



Conflict

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



Conflict Mutual Exclusion

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

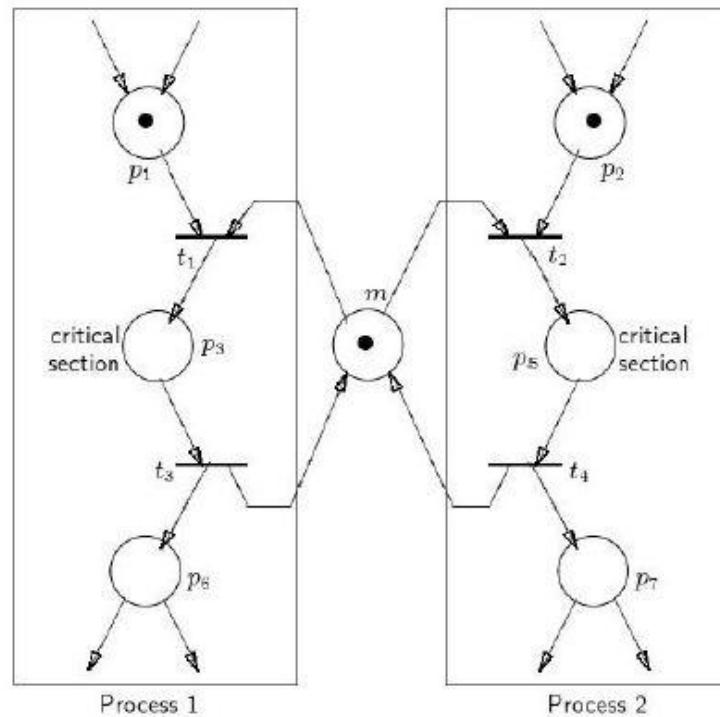
Process A

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

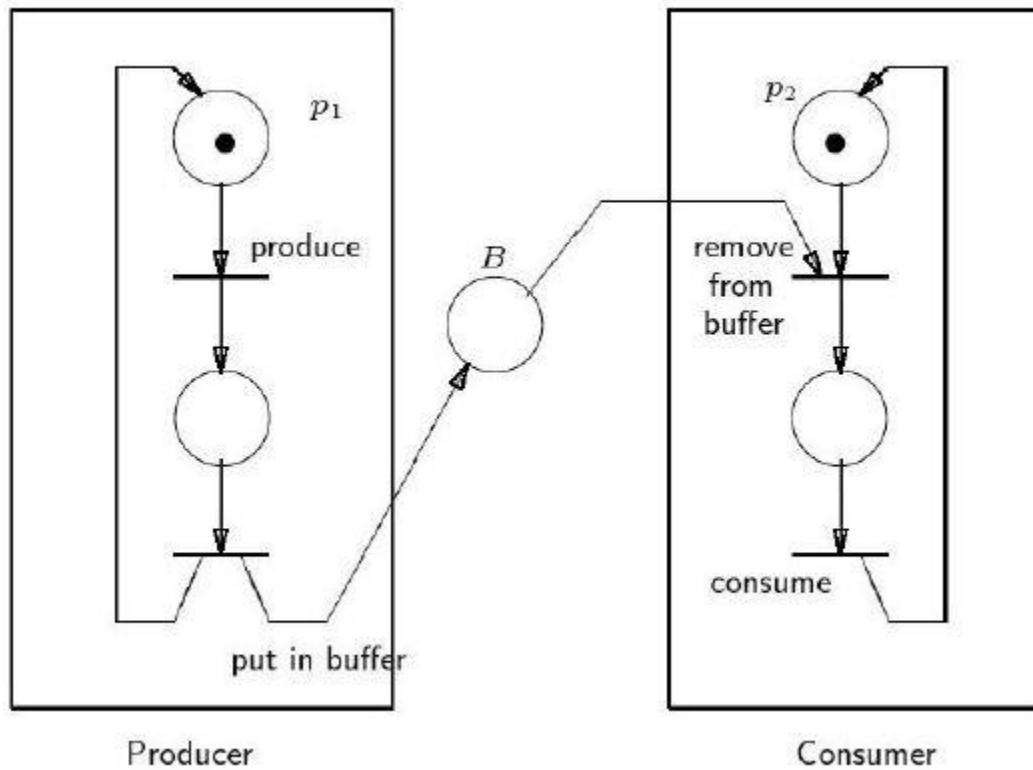
Process B

```
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 == 1
```

```
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
- **Design of Embedded Systems: Models, Validation and Synthesis**, Alberto Sangiovanni-Vincentelli
<https://inst.eecs.berkeley.edu/~ee249/fa07/>

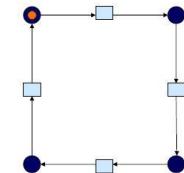
CMES – Today

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

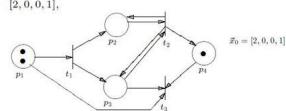


Petri nets

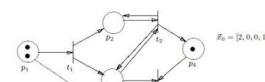
PN dynamics

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

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

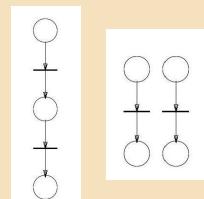


Reachability set

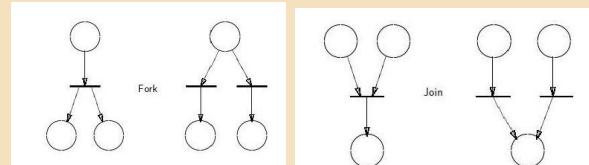


$$\begin{aligned} R(\bar{x}_0) &= R_1 \cup R_2 \cup R_3 \cup R_4 \\ R_1 &= \{\bar{x}_0\} \\ R_2 &= \{\bar{y} \mid \bar{y} = [1, 1, 1, n], n \geq 1\} \\ R_3 &= \{\bar{y} \mid \bar{y} = [0, 2, 2, n], n \geq 1\} \\ R_4 &= \{\bar{y} \mid \bar{y} = [0, 1, 0, n], n \geq 1\} \end{aligned}$$

Sequence and Concurrency



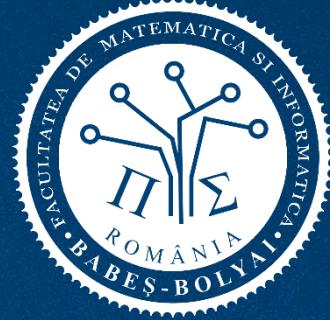
Fork and Join



Next Lecture

- Petri nets (2)
- Today





Software Systems Verification and Validation

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

(Benjamin Franklin)