
PETRI NETS

A Petri net is a tuple $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{E}, \mathbf{D}^-, \mathbf{D}^+, \mathbf{x}_{init})$ where:

- \mathcal{P} set of **places**, drawn as circles
- \mathcal{E} set of **transitions** drawn as rectangles
- $\mathbf{D}^- : \mathcal{P} \times \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ input arc cardinalities
- $\mathbf{D}^+ : \mathcal{P} \times \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ output arc cardinalities
- $\mathbf{x}_{init} \in \mathbb{N}^{|\mathcal{P}|}$ initial state, or marking

with $\mathcal{P} \cap \mathcal{E} = \emptyset$

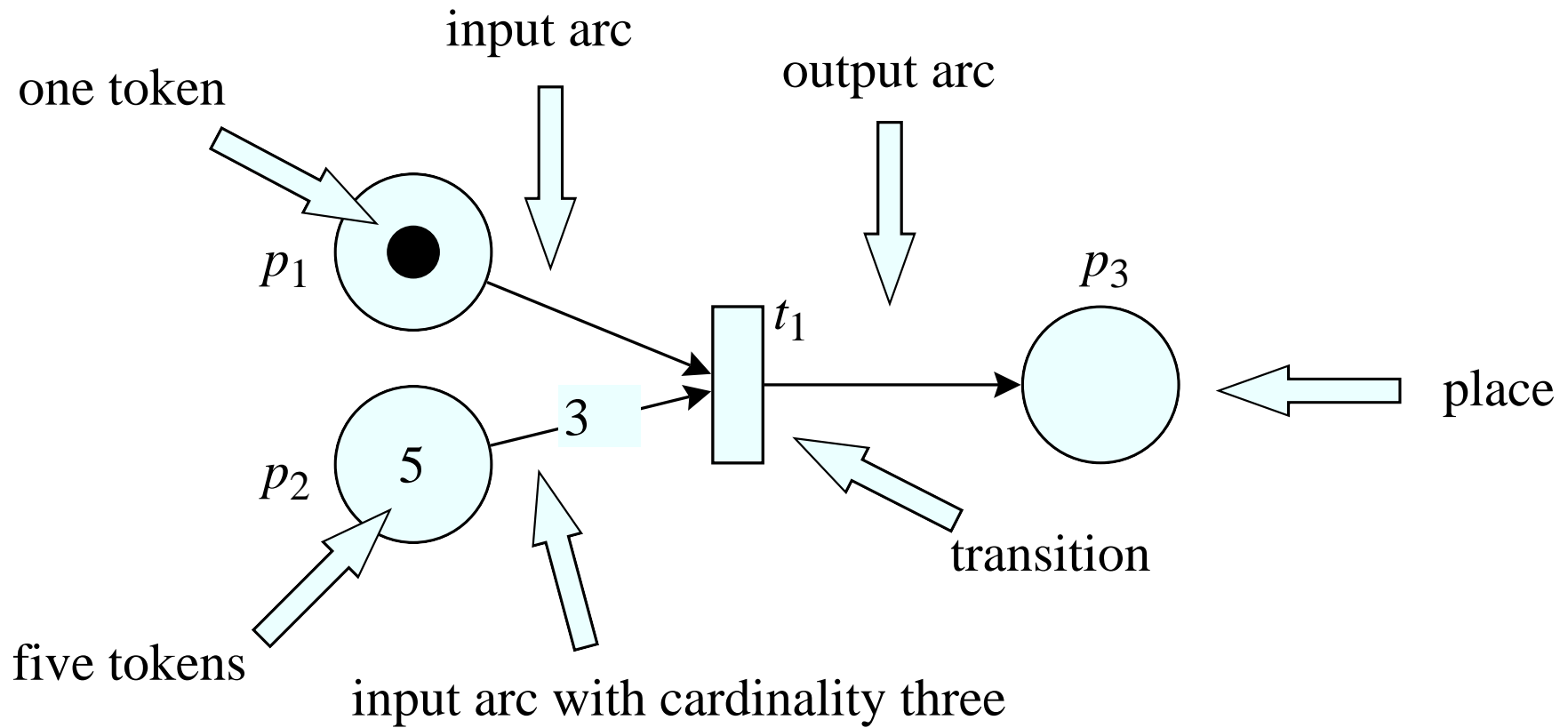
Condition for transition α to be **enabled** in state $\mathbf{i} \in \mathbb{N}^{|\mathcal{P}|}$: $\alpha \in \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{i}) \Leftrightarrow \forall p \in \mathcal{P}, \mathbf{D}_{p,\alpha}^- \leq \mathbf{i}_p$

A transition α enabled in state \mathbf{i} can **fire**: $\mathbf{i} \xrightarrow{\alpha} \mathbf{j} \Leftrightarrow \forall p \in \mathcal{P}, \mathbf{j}_p = \mathbf{i}_p - \mathbf{D}_{p,\alpha}^- + \mathbf{D}_{p,\alpha}^+$

Thus, the **next-state function** \mathcal{N} satisfies $\mathbf{j} \in \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{i}) \Leftrightarrow \exists \alpha \in \mathcal{E}, \mathbf{i} \xrightarrow{\alpha} \mathbf{j}$

The **state space**, or **reachability set**, \mathcal{X}_{reach} is defined as usual

Graphical representation of a Petri net



Enabling rule

$e \in \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{i})$ iff each input arc contains at least as many tokens as the cardinality of the input arc:

$$\forall p \in \mathcal{P}, \mathbf{D}_{p,e}^- \leq \mathbf{i}_p \quad \text{or, in vector form} \quad \mathbf{D}_{\bullet,e}^- \leq \mathbf{i}$$

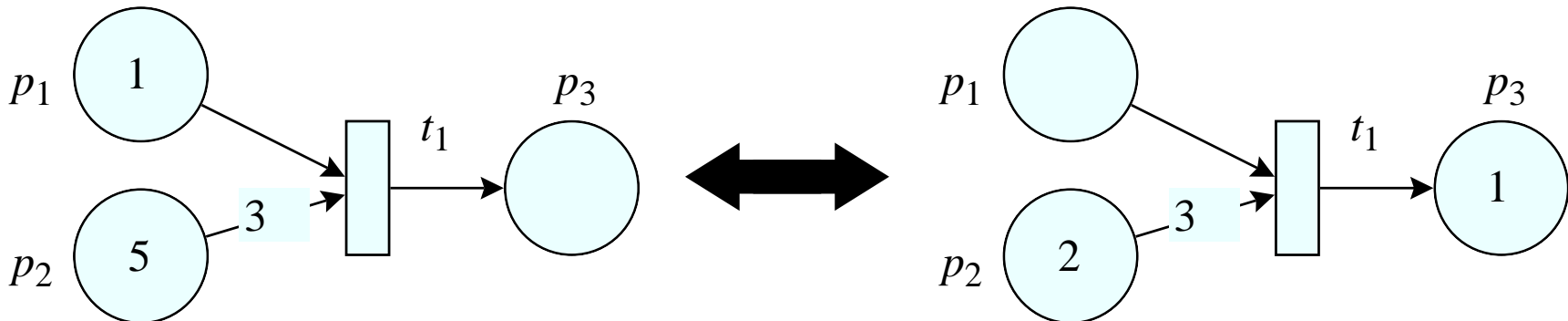
Firing rule

If $\mathbf{i} \xrightarrow{e} \mathbf{j}$, we obtain \mathbf{j} by removing tokens from input places and adding tokens to output places:

$$\forall p \in \mathcal{P}, \mathbf{j}_p = \mathbf{i}_p - \mathbf{D}_{p,e}^- + \mathbf{D}_{p,e}^+ \quad \text{or, in vector form} \quad \mathbf{j} = \mathbf{i} - \mathbf{D}_{\bullet,e}^- + \mathbf{D}_{\bullet,e}^+ = \mathbf{i} + \mathbf{D}_{\bullet,e}$$

where $\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{D}^+ - \mathbf{D}^-$ is the **incidence matrix**

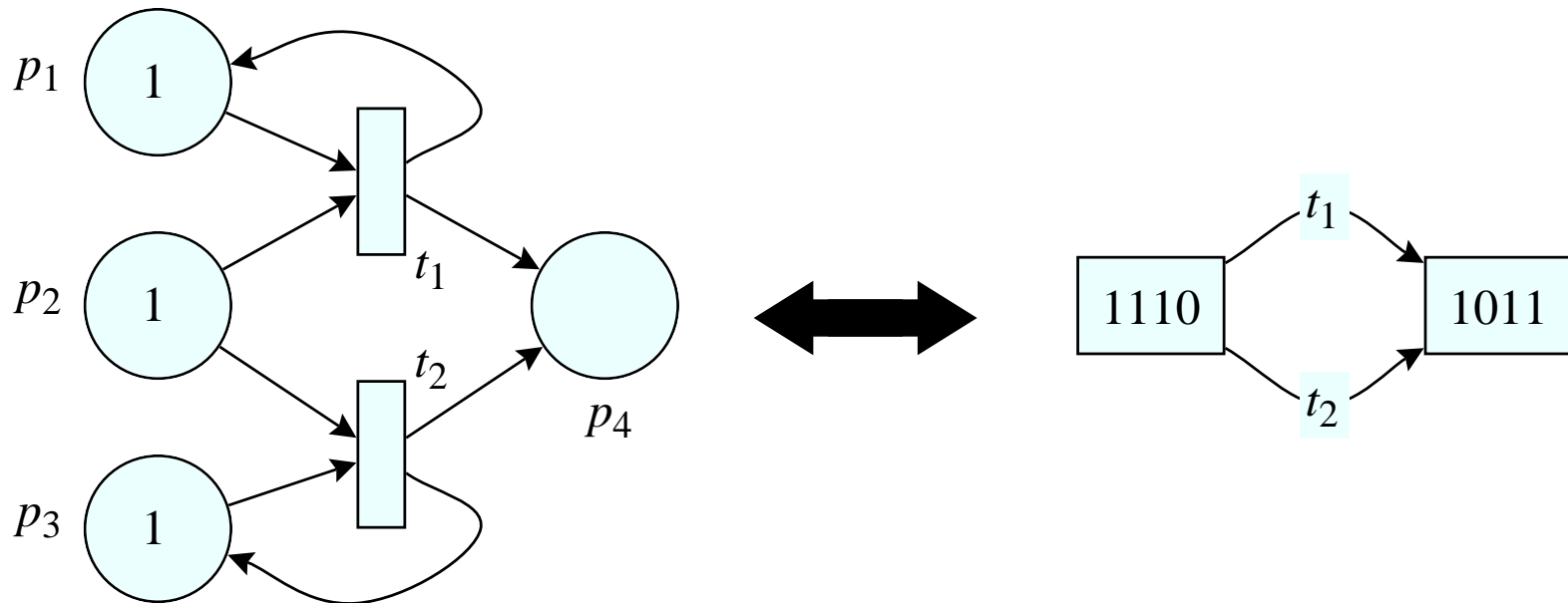
For example, if t_1 fires:

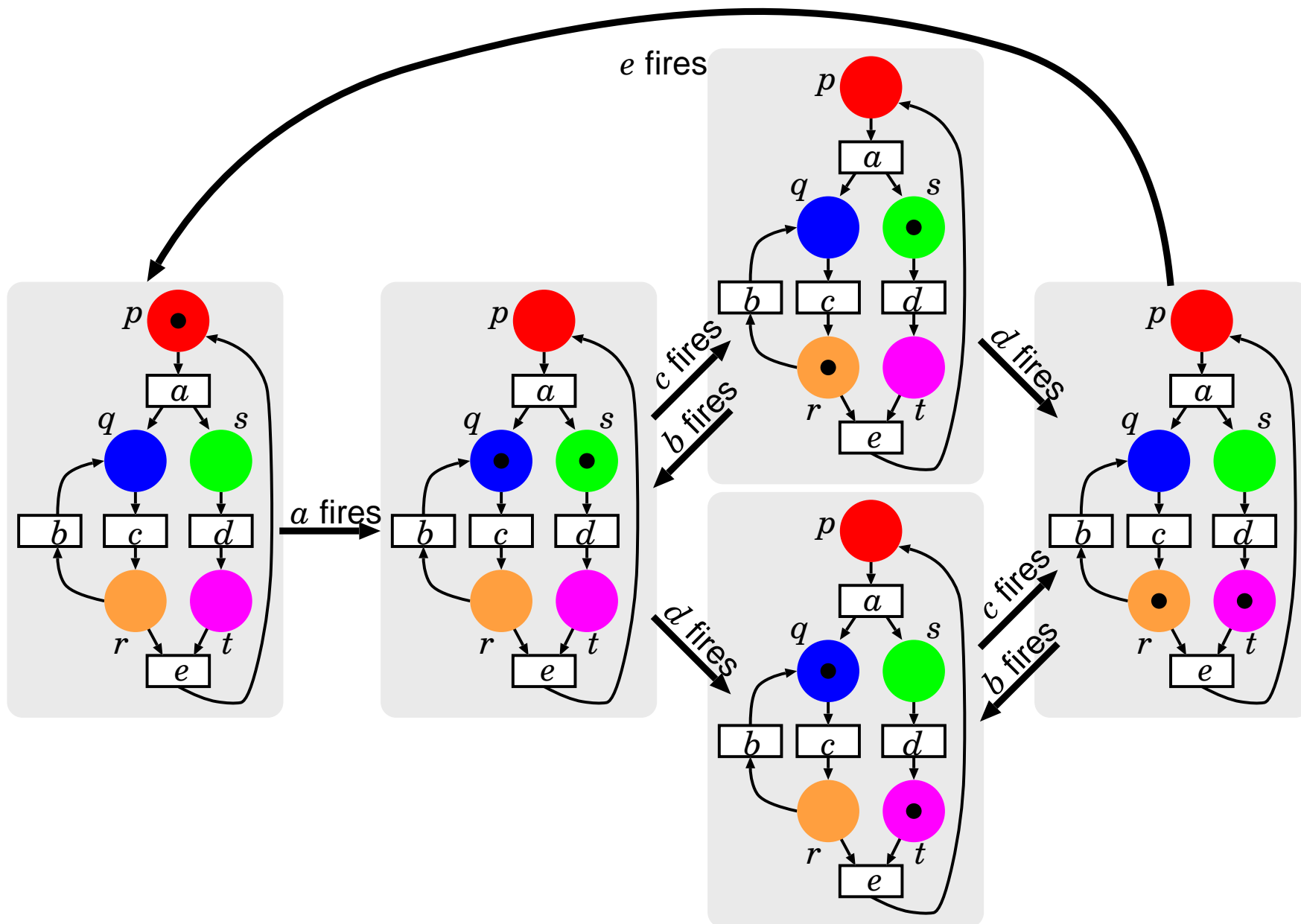


- \mathcal{X}_{reach} is the **reachability set**: $\mathcal{X}_{reach} = \{\mathbf{i} : \exists \sigma \in \mathcal{E}^*, \mathbf{x}_{init} \xrightarrow{\sigma} \mathbf{i}\}$
- $(\mathcal{X}_{reach}, \mathcal{A})$ is the **reachability graph**: $\mathcal{A} = \{(\mathbf{i} \xrightarrow{\alpha} \mathbf{j}) : \exists \mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j} \in \mathcal{X}_{reach} \wedge \exists \alpha \in \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{i}) \wedge \mathbf{i} \xrightarrow{\alpha} \mathbf{j}\}$

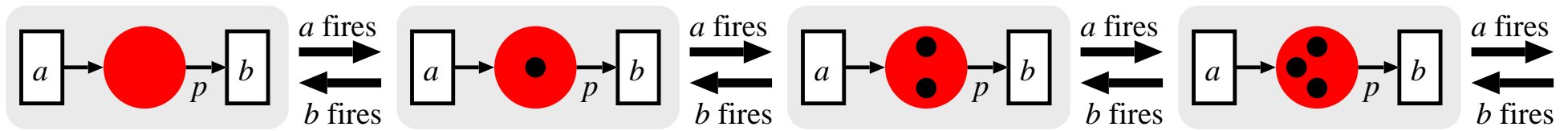
If the PN is not **simple**, there can be multiple arcs between the same pair of nodes:

$$(\mathbf{i} \xrightarrow{\alpha} \mathbf{j}) \in \mathcal{A} \wedge (\mathbf{i} \xrightarrow{\beta} \mathbf{j}) \in \mathcal{A} \wedge \alpha \neq \beta$$



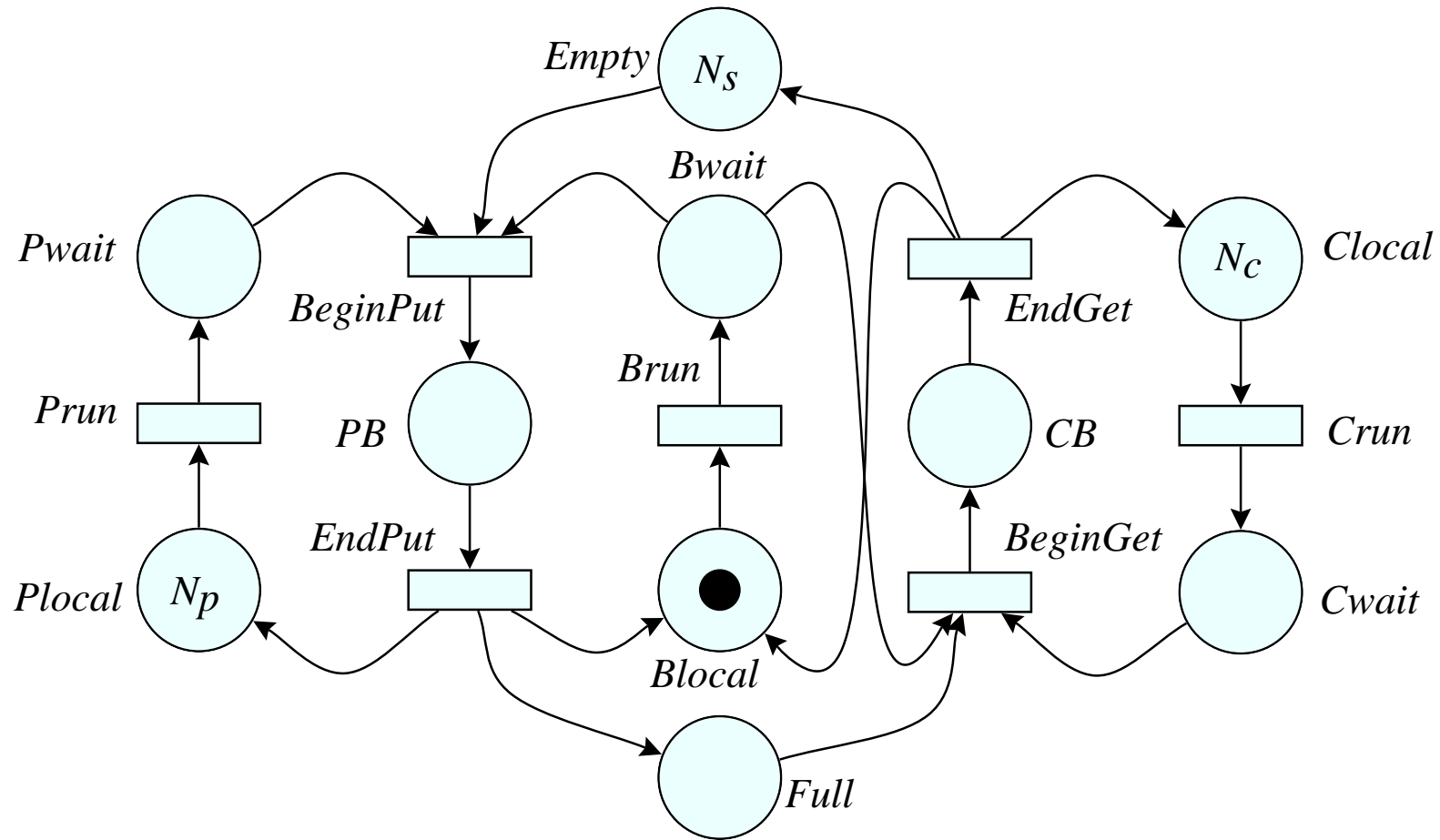


If the initial state is $\mathbf{x}_{init} = (N, 0, 0, 0, 0)$, \mathcal{X}_{reach} contains $\frac{(N+1)(N+2)(2N+3)}{6}$ states



\mathcal{X}_{reach} contains an infinite number of states regardless of the initial state $\mathbf{x}_{init} = (N)$

Example of Petri net



Events $Prun$, $Crun$, and $Brun$ can be changed into a more detailed subnet if more information is available about the actual production, consumption, and buffering processes

By eliminating place $Empty$, we model a system with an infinite number of slots: producers are never blocked because no empty slot is available, but consumers are still blocked if no slot is full

The producer-consumer Petri net exhibits:

- **Splitting and synchronization (fork and join)**

BeginPut can fire only when there is (at least) one token in *Pwait*, *Bwait*, and *Empty*
When *EndPut* fires, the token in *PB* “splits” back into three tokens

- **Parallelism (concurrent activities)**

Prun and *Brun* are independently enabled by tokens in *Plocal* and *Blocal*, respectively

- **Contention (conflicting activities)**

When both *BeginPut* and *BeginGet* are enabled, the firing of one disables the other

- **Sequentialization (causality)**

The firing of *EndPut* enables *Brun*, the two activities happen in sequence

- **Mutual exclusion**

There can never be a token in *PB* and *CB* at the same time

- **Confusion**

Prun and *BeginGet* are not in conflict

But the firing of *Prun* may enable *BeginPut*, which is in conflict with *BeginGet*

Given a particular Petri net with a particular initial state \mathbf{x}_{init} , we can ask:

- **Reachability:** Is state \mathbf{i} reachable from \mathbf{x}_{init} ?

$$\mathbf{i} \in \mathcal{X}_{reach}$$

Coverability: Given \mathbf{i} , is there a $\mathbf{j} \in \mathcal{X}_{reach}$ with at least as many tokens as \mathbf{i} in each place?

$$\exists \mathbf{j} \in \mathcal{X}_{reach}, \mathbf{j} \geq \mathbf{i}$$

E.g., search for “bad” states

- we don't want a token in *PB* and a token in *CB*
- **Boundedness:** Given a place p , is the number of tokens in p always bounded by b ?

$$\forall \mathbf{i} \in \mathcal{X}_{reach}, \mathbf{i}_p \leq b$$

An unbounded net may reveal an error either in the system or in the model

- all places are bounded
- if we remove *Empty*, the system has an infinite number of slots, *Full* is unbounded

- **Liveness:** Given an event e , can it be eventually fired from any reachable state?

$$\forall \mathbf{i} \in \mathcal{X}_{reach}, \exists \sigma \in \mathcal{E}^*, \exists \mathbf{j} \in \mathcal{X}_{reach}, \mathbf{i} \xrightarrow{\sigma} \mathbf{j} \wedge e \in \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{j})$$

A non-live event might indicate a deadlock or livelock

- all the events are live

- **Reversibility:** Can the initial state \mathbf{x}_{init} be reached from any reachable state?

$$\forall \mathbf{i} \in \mathcal{X}_{reach}, \exists \sigma \in \mathcal{E}^*, \mathbf{i} \xrightarrow{\sigma} \mathbf{x}_{init}$$

A non reversible net might indicate multistable behavior or the inability to reset the system

- the Petri net is reversible for any initial state where N_p , N_s , and N_c are positive

- **Persistence:** Once event e is enabled, can it be disabled only by its own firing?

$$\forall \mathbf{i} \in \mathcal{X}_{reach}, \forall f \in \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{i}), e \neq f, e \in \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{i}) \wedge \mathbf{i} \xrightarrow{f} \mathbf{j} \Rightarrow e \in \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{j})$$

If events are persistent, timing does not affect certain logical properties

- *BeginPut* and *BeginGet* disable each other, all other events are persistent

- **Synchronic distance:** What is the maximum difference of the number of times e and f can fire in a firing sequence starting in any reachable state?

$$\mathit{synch_dist}_{e,f} = \max_{\sigma \in \mathcal{E}^*} \{0, |\sigma|_e - |\sigma|_f : \exists \mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j} \in \mathcal{X}_{reach}, \mathbf{i} \xrightarrow{\sigma} \mathbf{j}\}$$

($|\sigma|_e$ is the number of occurrences of e in σ)

A finite synchronic distance implies that the events are “somewhat synchronized”

$$\begin{aligned} \circ \quad \mathit{synch_dist}_{Prun, BeginPut} &= N_p & \mathit{synch_dist}_{Prun, Brun} &= +\infty \\ \mathit{synch_dist}_{Prun, Crun} &= N_p + N_s & \mathit{synch_dist}_{BeginPut, EndPut} &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

- **Fairness:** What is the maximum number of times e can fire without f firing in between?

$$\mathit{fairness}_{e,f} = \max_{\sigma \in \mathcal{E}^*} \{|\sigma|_e : \exists \mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j} \in \mathcal{X}_{reach}, \mathbf{i} \xrightarrow{\sigma} \mathbf{j} \wedge |\sigma|_f = 0\}$$

An infinite value might indicate the possibility of starvation

$$\begin{aligned} \circ \quad \mathit{fairness}_{Prun, BeginPut} &= N_p & \mathit{fairness}_{Prun, Brun} &= N_p + 1 \\ \mathit{fairness}_{Prun, Crun} &= N_p + N_s + N_c & \mathit{fairness}_{BeginPut, EndPut} &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

- **Structural Boundedness:** Given a place p , is p bounded for each finite initial state?

$$\forall \mathbf{x}_{init} \in \mathbb{N}^{|\mathcal{P}|}, \exists b \in \mathbb{N}, \forall \mathbf{i} \in \mathcal{X}_{reach}, \mathbf{i}_p \leq b$$

- **Conservativeness:** Is there a vector \mathbf{x} of non-negative weights such that the weighted sum of tokens in the places is constant?

$$\exists \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{N}^{|\mathcal{P}|}, \mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}, \exists c \in \mathbb{N}, \forall \mathbf{i} \in \mathcal{X}_{reach}, \sum_{p \in \mathcal{P}} \mathbf{x}_p \mathbf{i}_p = c = \sum_{p \in \mathcal{P}} \mathbf{x}_p \mathbf{x}_{init_p}$$

(the value of c is a behavioral property, the value of \mathbf{x} is a structural property)

A place p is **structurally bounded** if $\mathbf{x}_p > 0$

$$\circ \mathbf{i}_{P_{local}} + \mathbf{i}_{P_{wait}} + \mathbf{i}_{PB} = N_p \quad \mathbf{i}_{Empty} + \mathbf{i}_{Full} + \mathbf{i}_{PB} + \mathbf{i}_{CB} = N_s$$

- **Repetitiveness:** Is there an initial state \mathbf{x}_{init} with an infinite firing sequence σ fireable in it?

$$\exists \mathbf{x}_{init} \in \mathbb{N}^{|\mathcal{P}|}, \exists \sigma \in \mathcal{E}^\omega, \mathbf{x}_{init} \xrightarrow{\sigma}$$

If an infinite sequence is fireable, then at least a subset of events is “self supporting” (they generate, as a whole, at least as many tokens as they consume)

- **(Partial) Consistency:** Is there a vector \mathbf{y} of (non-negative) positive firing counts, such that the firing of any sequence σ where event e appears \mathbf{y}_e times returns to the same state?

$$\exists \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{N}^{|\mathcal{E}|}, \mathbf{y} \neq \mathbf{0}, \forall \mathbf{i} \in \mathbb{N}^{|\mathcal{P}|}, \forall \sigma \in \mathcal{E}^*, (\forall e \in \mathcal{E}, |\sigma|_e = \mathbf{y}_e \Rightarrow (\mathbf{i} \xrightarrow{\sigma} \Rightarrow \mathbf{i} \xrightarrow{\sigma} \mathbf{i}))$$

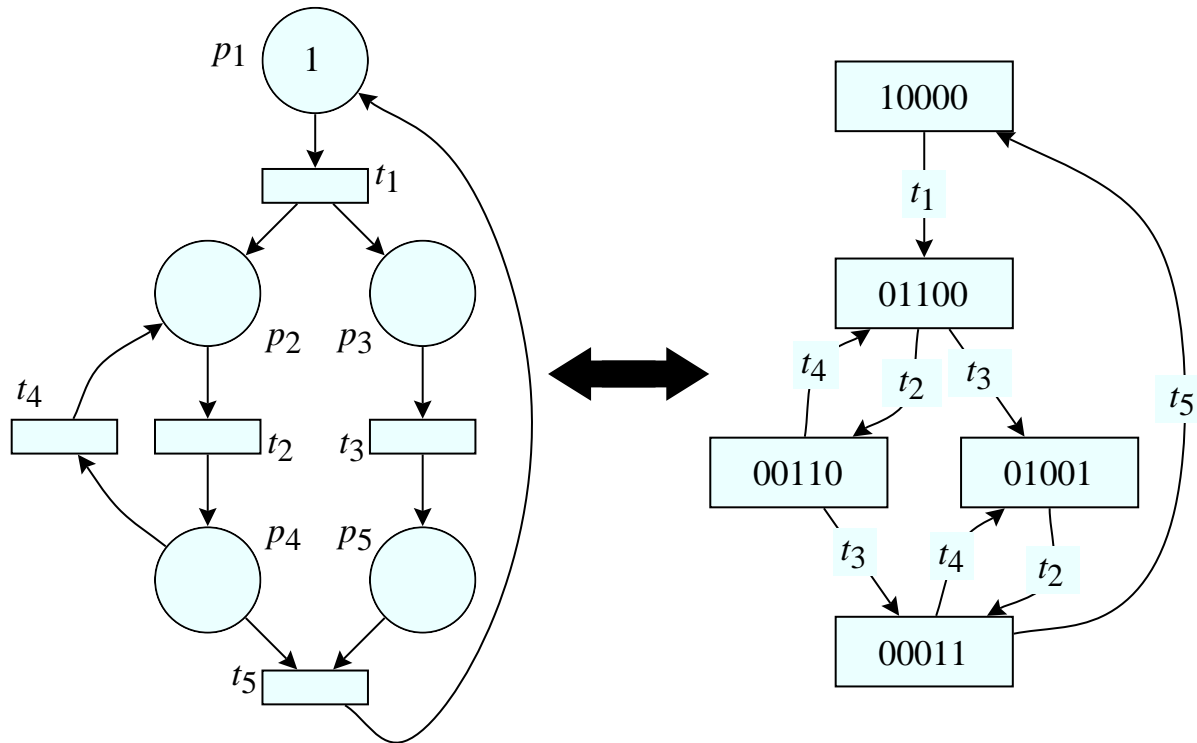
$$\begin{array}{cccc} \circ & \mathbf{y}_{Prun} = 1 & \mathbf{y}_{BeginPut} = 1 & \mathbf{y}_{EndPut} = 1 & \mathbf{y}_{Brun} = 2 \\ & \mathbf{y}_{Crun} = 1 & \mathbf{y}_{BeginGet} = 1 & \mathbf{y}_{EndGet} = 1 & \end{array}$$

To answer questions about Petri net properties, two main methods exist:

- **Coverability tree and reachability graph**
 - Reachability: compute the set of reachable states
 - Coverbaility: if the set is infinite, compute a finite overapproximation of the reachable states
 - Studies behavioral properties
 - **Usually expensive: the reachability set \mathcal{X}_{reach} grows combinatorially**
- **Incidence matrix**
 - Computes relations among places and events, enforced by the structure (arcs) of the Petri net
 - Studies structural properties
 - **Usually fast: the incidence matrix \mathbf{D} has size $|\mathcal{P}| \times |\mathcal{E}|$**

If the state space is bounded, we can build the **reachability graph**

If $\mathbf{x}_{init} = (N, 0, 0, 0, 0)$, the total number of states is $(N + 1)(N + 2)(2N + 3)/6$

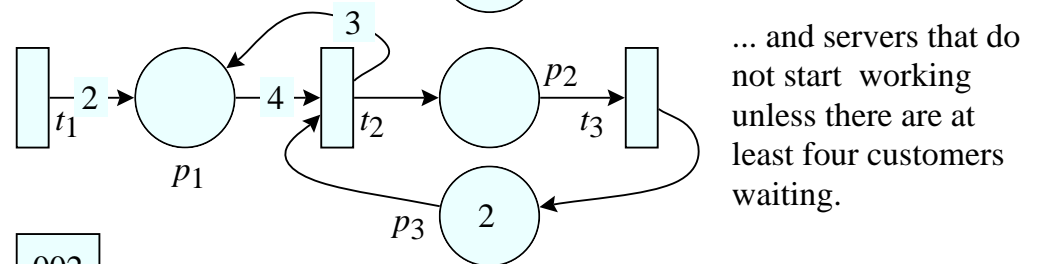
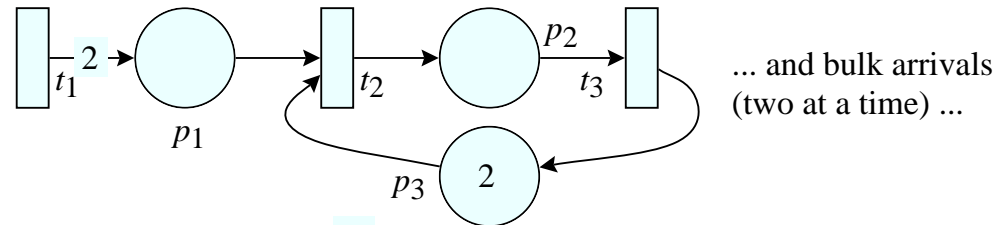
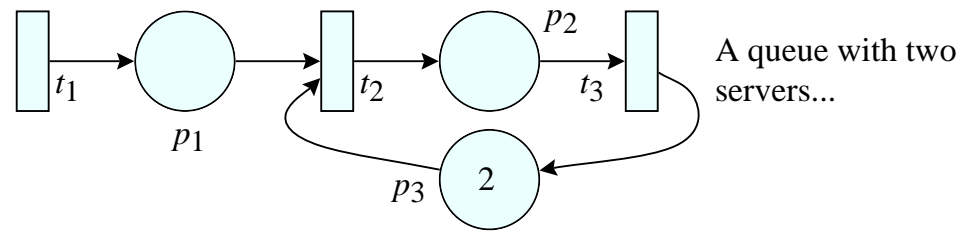


If the state space may be unbounded, we can generate the **coverability tree** or the **coverability graph**

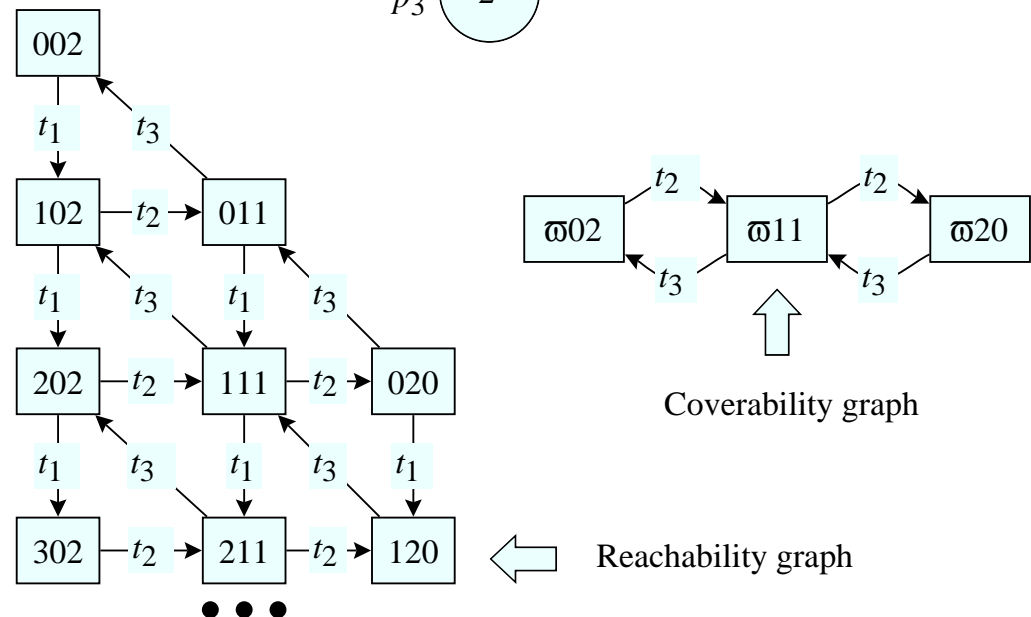
We write $\mathbf{i}_p = \omega$ to mean that the number of tokens in place p may grow without bounds:

- $\mathbf{D}_{p,e}^- < \omega$: an input arc from p is always satisfied
- $\omega + \mathbf{D}_{p,e} = \omega$: after the firing of an event e , the number of tokens in p remains unbounded

Coverability graph with an infinite reachability set



The reachability graph is not completely described by the coverability graph



\mathbf{i} is reachable from \mathbf{x}_{init} iff there is a sequence $\sigma \in \mathcal{E}^*$ such that $\mathbf{x}_{init} \xrightarrow{\sigma} \mathbf{i}$

If σ consist of a single event e , the **net effect** on \mathbf{x}_{init} when firing σ is $\boldsymbol{\delta} = \mathbf{D}_{\bullet,e} = \mathbf{D} \cdot \mathbf{1}(e)$ where $\mathbf{1}(e)$ is the column vector of size $|\mathcal{E}|$ having a 1 in position e and 0 elsewhere:

$$\mathbf{i} = \mathbf{x}_{init} + \boldsymbol{\delta} = \mathbf{x}_{init} + \mathbf{D} \cdot \mathbf{1}(e)$$

In general, the net effect of firing the sequence σ is $\boldsymbol{\delta} = \mathbf{D} \cdot (|\sigma|_1, \dots, |\sigma|_{|\mathcal{E}|})^T$:

$$\mathbf{i} = \mathbf{x}_{init} + \boldsymbol{\delta} = \mathbf{x}_{init} + \mathbf{D} \cdot (|\sigma|_1, |\sigma|_2, \dots, |\sigma|_{|\mathcal{E}|})^T$$

where $(|\sigma|_1, |\sigma|_2, \dots, |\sigma|_{|\mathcal{E}|})$ is the **firing count vector** corresponding to the firing sequence σ

A **necessary condition** for \mathbf{i} to be reachable is then that the equation

$$\boldsymbol{\delta} = \mathbf{D} \cdot \mathbf{y}$$

has a non-negative integer solution $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{N}^{|\mathcal{E}|}$

The condition is **not sufficient**: we have no way to ensure that σ can be fired starting from \mathbf{x}_{init} (\mathbf{y} does not even tell us the order in which the $|\sigma|$ events should be fired)

A non-negative, non-zero integer solution $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{N}^{|\mathcal{E}|}$ to

$$\mathbf{D} \cdot \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0}$$

is called a **t-semiflow** (or t-invariant)

Any sequence σ satisfying $\forall e \in \mathcal{E}, |\sigma|_e = \mathbf{y}_e$, if fireable, will not change the state:

$$\forall \mathbf{i} \in \mathbb{N}^{|\mathcal{P}|}, \forall \sigma \in \mathcal{E}^*, (\forall e \in \mathcal{E}, |\sigma|_e = \mathbf{y}_e \Rightarrow (\mathbf{i} \xrightarrow{\sigma} \Rightarrow \mathbf{i} \xrightarrow{\sigma} \mathbf{i}))$$

If \mathbf{y} exists, the net is **consistent**: for a large enough \mathbf{x}_{init} , there are infinite firing sequences

- at least one producer, one consumer, one buffer, and one slot

The incidence matrix \mathbf{D} can give information about place properties as well

Place p is **structurally bounded** if $\exists \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{N}^{|\mathcal{P}|}$, $\mathbf{x}_p > 0$, $\mathbf{x}^T \cdot \mathbf{D} \leq \mathbf{0}$

Proof:

$$\forall \mathbf{i} \in \mathcal{X}_{reach}, \exists \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{N}^{|\mathcal{E}|}, \mathbf{i} = \mathbf{x}_{init} + \mathbf{D} \cdot \mathbf{y}$$

(\mathbf{y} is the firing count vector required to reach \mathbf{i} from \mathbf{x}_{init})

Then

$$\mathbf{x}^T \cdot \mathbf{i} = \mathbf{x}^T \cdot \mathbf{x}_{init} + \underbrace{\mathbf{x}^T \cdot \mathbf{D}}_{\leq \mathbf{0}} \cdot \mathbf{y}$$

which implies

$$\mathbf{x}^T \cdot \mathbf{i} \leq \mathbf{x}^T \cdot \mathbf{x}_{init}$$

and

$$\mathbf{i}_p \leq (\mathbf{x}^T \cdot \mathbf{x}_{init}) / \mathbf{x}_p$$

A non-negative, non-zero integer solution $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{N}^{|\mathcal{P}|}$ to

$$\mathbf{x}^T \cdot \mathbf{D} = \mathbf{0}$$

is called a **p-semiflow** (or **p-invariant**)

If there exists a p-semiflow \mathbf{x} such that $\mathbf{x}_p \neq 0$, then place p is bounded regardless of the initial state

If \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{x}' are p-semiflows, any nonzero integer linear combination $c \cdot \mathbf{x} + c' \cdot \mathbf{x}'$ is a p-semiflow

Let the **support** of a p-semiflow \mathbf{x} be $Supp(\mathbf{x}) = \{p \in \mathcal{P} : \mathbf{x}_p > 0\}$, then a \mathbf{x} is **minimal** if

- it has **minimal support**, i.e., no other p-semiflow \mathbf{x}' exists with $Supp(\mathbf{x}') \subset Supp(\mathbf{x})$ and
- it is **scaled back**, i.e., there is no integer $c > 1$ such that \mathbf{x}/c is a p-semiflow

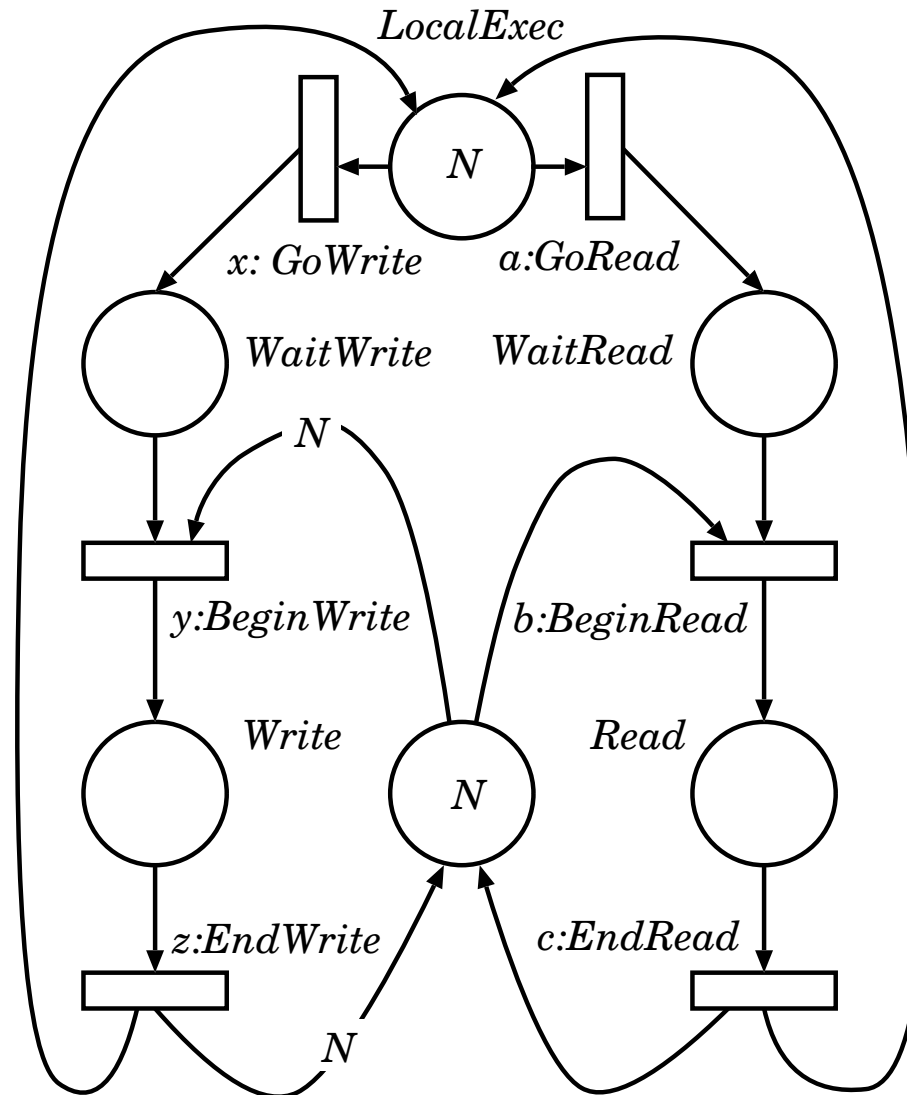
As the set of p-semiflows is infinite, we seek the **generator set** containing only the minimal p-semiflows

Methods to compute the generator set have been extensively studied

In the worst case, the generator set contains an exponential number of p-semiflows

Petri nets cannot perform **zero testing** on an unbounded place

Consider the mutual exclusion problem among N processes (readers or writers)



Petri nets cannot model this system if the number N of processes is unbounded [Agerwala]

The proof uses the idea of **Petri net languages** and is a type of **pumping lemma**

- six actions: *GoRead*, *BeginRead*, and *EndRead*, *GoWrite*, *BeginWrite*, *EndWrite*
- associate the symbols $\{a, b, c, x, y, z\}$ to these six actions
- if multiple events are used to model the same action, label all of them with the same symbol
- any other event has an empty label

There is a firing sequence σ containing the infinite subsequence $bcyzbbccyz \cdots b^i c^i yz \cdots$

Consider $(s^{[1]}, s^{[2]}, \dots, s^{[i]}, \dots)$, where $s^{[i]}$ is the state reached after firing $bcyzbbccyz \cdots b^i$

We can prove by induction on the number of places, i.e., on the size of the state vector, that there are $i < j$ such that $(s^{[1]}, s^{[2]}, \dots, s^{[i]}, \dots, s^{[j]}, \dots)$ satisfies $s^{[i]} \leq s^{[j]}$

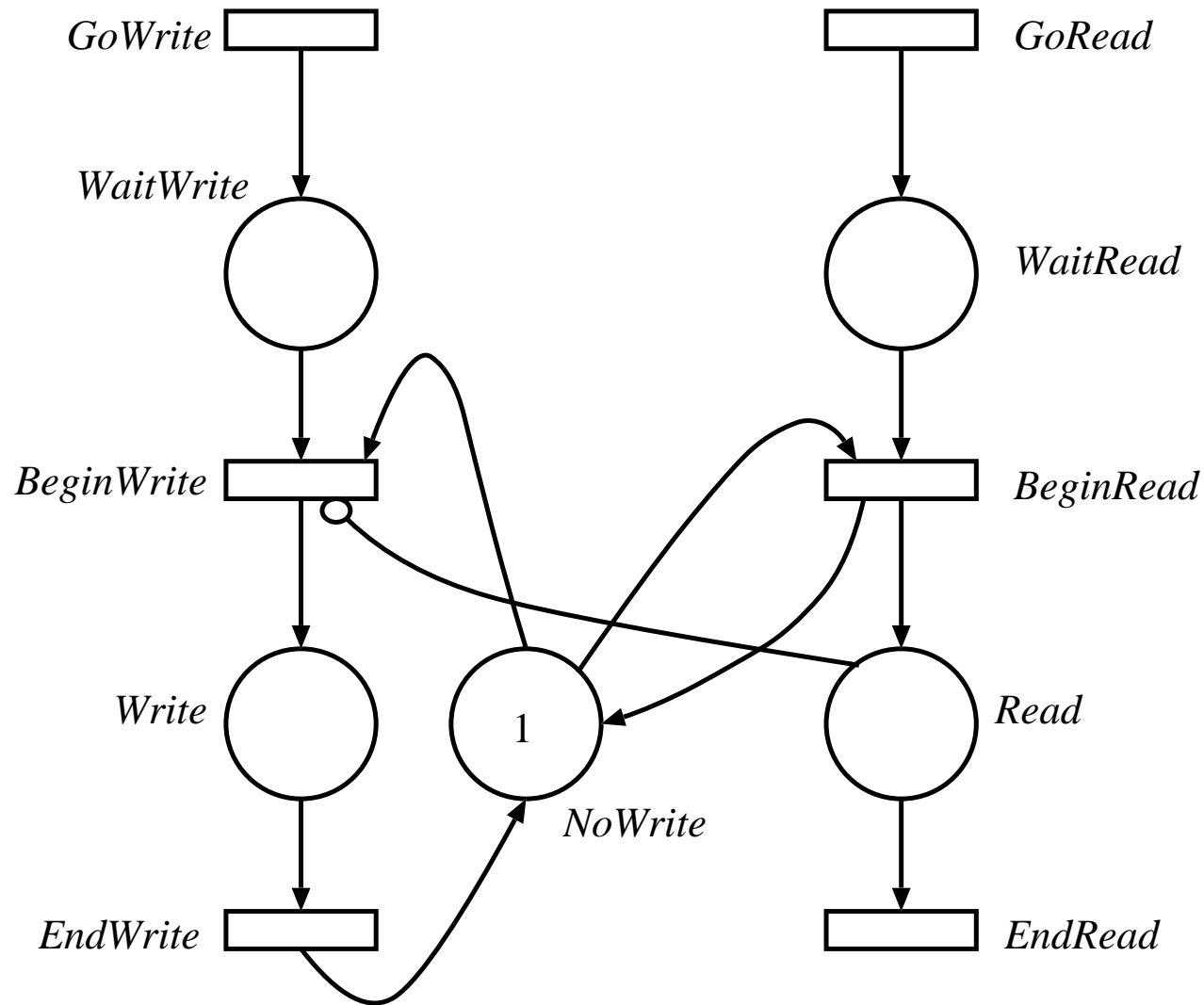
Thus, we can reach $s^{[j]}$ by firing $bcyzbbccyz \cdots b^j$, then fire $c^i yz$ in $s^{[j]}$, because of **monotonicity**:

$$s^{[i]} \xrightarrow{c^i yz} \wedge s^{[i]} \leq s^{[j]} \Rightarrow s^{[j]} \xrightarrow{c^i yz}$$

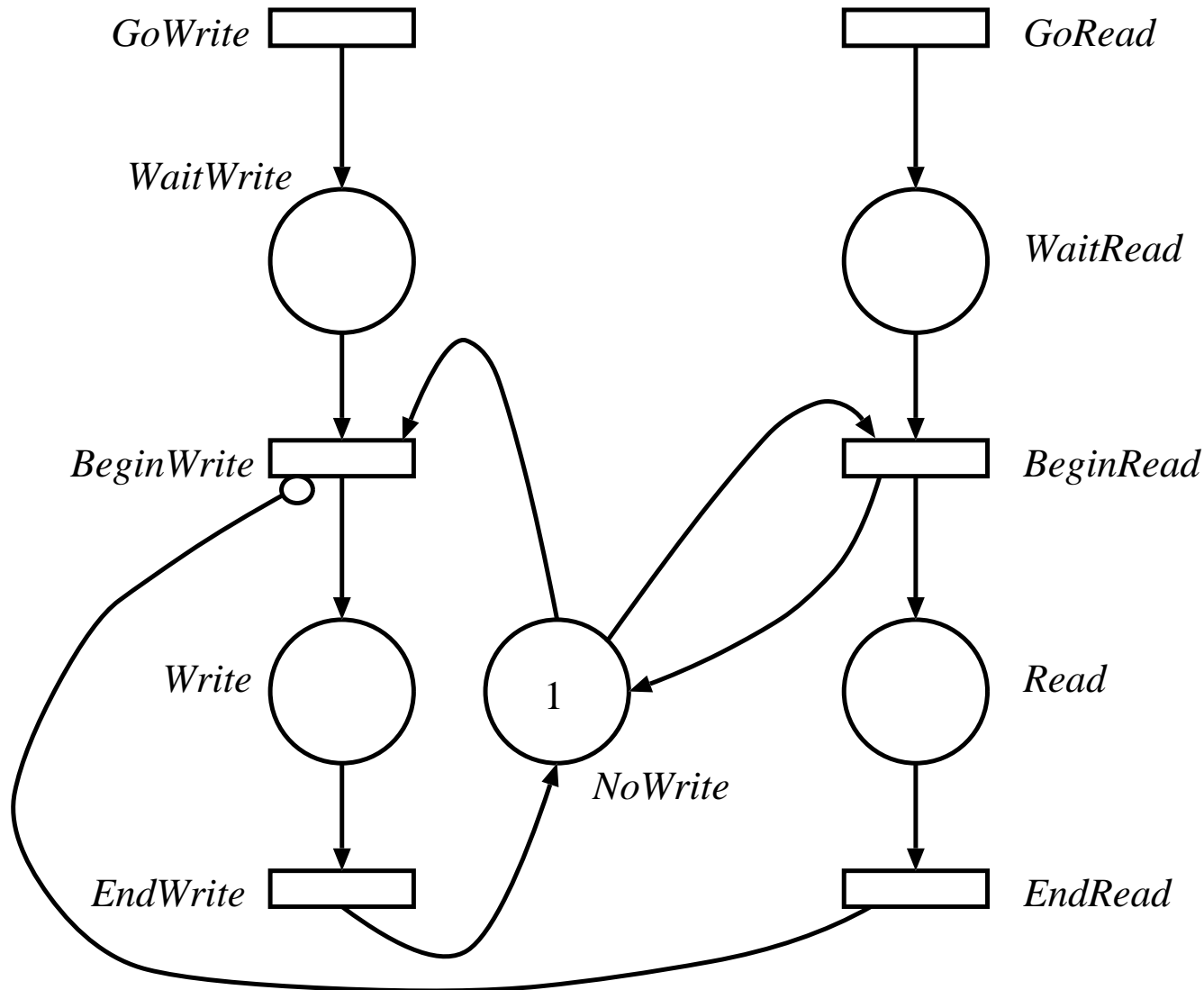
But this means that we allow a writer in the critical section while $j - i > 0$ readers are still in it

Solution: extend the modeling power of Petri nets by adding new constructs

- **Inhibitor arc**: disable an event if a place is **not** empty (opposite logic to that of an input arc)



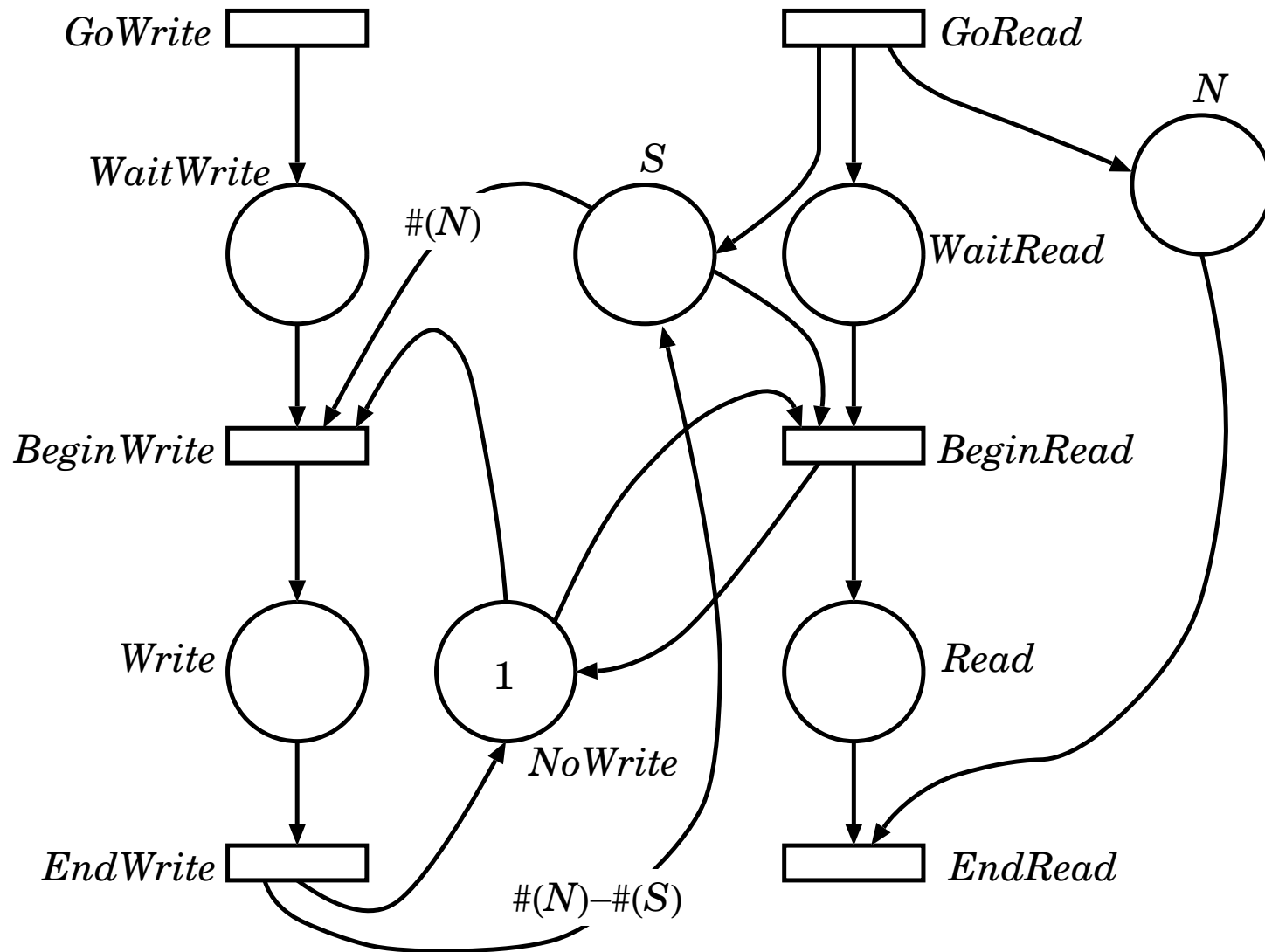
- **Priority:** disable an event if another enabled event has priority over it and is enabled



Often defined as a mapping $prio : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$
 We prefer a partial order relation $\succ \subseteq \mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{E}$

α has priority over β if $prio(\alpha) > prio(\beta)$
 α has priority over β if $\alpha \succ \beta$

- Self-modifying nets: the cardinality of input and output arcs is a function of the state



We can also call them **Petri nets with marking-dependent arc cardinalities**

Any one of these extensions is enough to achieve full Turing-equivalence

- $\succ \subset \mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{E}$ a pre-selection priority (partial order) relation
 if $f \succ e$, event e is disabled whenever event f is enabled
- $\mathbf{D}^\circ : \mathcal{P} \times \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$ inhibitor arc cardinalities
 event e is disabled in state $\mathbf{i} \in \mathbb{N}^{|\mathcal{P}|}$ if $\mathbf{D}_{p,e}^\circ \leq \mathbf{i}_p$
- $G : \mathcal{E} \times \mathbb{N}^{|\mathcal{P}|} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ event guards
 event e is disabled in state $\mathbf{i} \in \mathbb{N}^{|\mathcal{P}|}$ if $G_e(\mathbf{i}) = 0$

Self-modifying nets may achieve Turing-equivalence, depending on the restrictions on arc cardinalities

A **self-modifying** Petri net **with inhibitor arcs** is a tuple $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{E}, \mathbf{D}^-, \mathbf{D}^+, \mathbf{D}^\circ, \mathbf{i}^{init})$ where:

- \mathcal{P} and \mathcal{E} places and transitions
- $\mathbf{D}^-, \mathbf{D}^+ : \mathcal{P} \times \mathcal{E} \times \mathbb{N}^{|\mathcal{P}|} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ marking-dependent input, output arc cardinalities
- $\mathbf{D}^\circ : \mathcal{P} \times \mathcal{E} \times \mathbb{N}^{|\mathcal{P}|} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$ marking-dependent inhibitor arc cardinalities
- $\mathbf{i}^{init} : \mathbb{N}^{|\mathcal{P}|}$ initial marking

Transition α is **enabled** in marking $\mathbf{i} \in \mathbb{N}^{|\mathcal{P}|}$ iff

$$\forall p \in \mathcal{P}, \mathbf{D}_{p,\alpha}^-(\mathbf{i}) \leq i_p \wedge \mathbf{D}_{p,\alpha}^\circ(\mathbf{i}) > i_p$$

If α is enabled in \mathbf{i} , it can *fire* and lead to marking \mathbf{j}

$$\forall p \in \mathcal{P}, j_p = i_p - \mathbf{D}_{p,\alpha}^-(\mathbf{i}) + \mathbf{D}_{p,\alpha}^+(\mathbf{i})$$

The effect of α is deterministic, so we can write $\mathbf{i} \xrightarrow{\alpha} \mathbf{j}$ or use the general notation $\mathbf{j} \in \mathcal{N}_\alpha(\mathbf{i})$

$$\widehat{\mathcal{X}} \equiv \mathbb{N}^{|\mathcal{P}|}$$

$$\mathcal{X}_{init} \equiv \{\mathbf{i}^{init}\}$$

$$\mathcal{N} \equiv \bigcup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{E}} \mathcal{N}_\alpha$$

A **self-modifying** Petri net **with inhibitor arcs, guards, and priorities** is a tuple

$$(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{E}, \mathbf{D}^-, \mathbf{D}^+, \mathbf{D}^\circ, G, \succ, \mathbf{x}_{init})$$

- \mathcal{P} and \mathcal{E} places and events
- $\mathbf{D}^-, \mathbf{D}^+ : \mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{P} \times \mathbb{N}^{|\mathcal{P}|} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ state-dependent input, output arc cardinalities
- $\mathbf{D}^\circ : \mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{P} \times \mathbb{N}^{|\mathcal{P}|} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$ state-dependent inhibitor arc cardinalities
- $G : \mathcal{E} \times \mathbb{N}^{|\mathcal{P}|} \rightarrow \{\text{true}, \text{false}\}$ state-dependent guards
- $\succ \subset \mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{E}$ acyclic (preselection) priority relation
- $\mathbf{x}_{init} : \mathbb{N}^{|\mathcal{P}|}$ initial state

Event α is enabled in a state $\mathbf{i} \in \mathbb{N}^{|\mathcal{P}|}$, written $\alpha \in \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{i})$, iff

$$\forall p \in \mathcal{P}, \mathbf{D}_{\alpha,p}^-(\mathbf{i}) \leq i_p \wedge \mathbf{D}_{\alpha,p}^\circ(\mathbf{i}) > i_p \wedge G_\alpha(\mathbf{i}) \wedge \forall \beta \in \mathcal{E}, \beta \succ \alpha \Rightarrow \beta \notin \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{i})$$

If $\mathbf{i} \xrightarrow{\alpha} \mathbf{j}$, the new state \mathbf{j} satisfies $\forall p \in \mathcal{P}, j_p = i_p - \mathbf{D}_{\alpha,p}^-(\mathbf{i}) + \mathbf{D}_{\alpha,p}^+(\mathbf{i})$ (deterministic effect)