

# Concurrency Theory, 30 Aug 2019

## Language theory of Petri Nets

Given a regular language  $L$  over  $\Sigma^*$  is

there an unlabelled net (i.e.  $T = \Sigma$ ) with  $L(N) = L$

Synthesis problem [Elementary Net Systems  
- no self loops]

Given TS =  $(S, \rightarrow, s_{in})$  over  $\Sigma$

is there an ENS  $((P, T, F), M_{in})$

with  $T = \Sigma$  s.t. TS isomorphic to  $\text{Reach}(M_{in})$ ?

Given  $T = \Sigma$

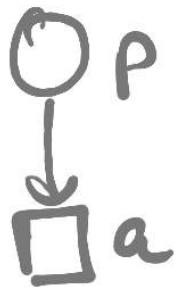
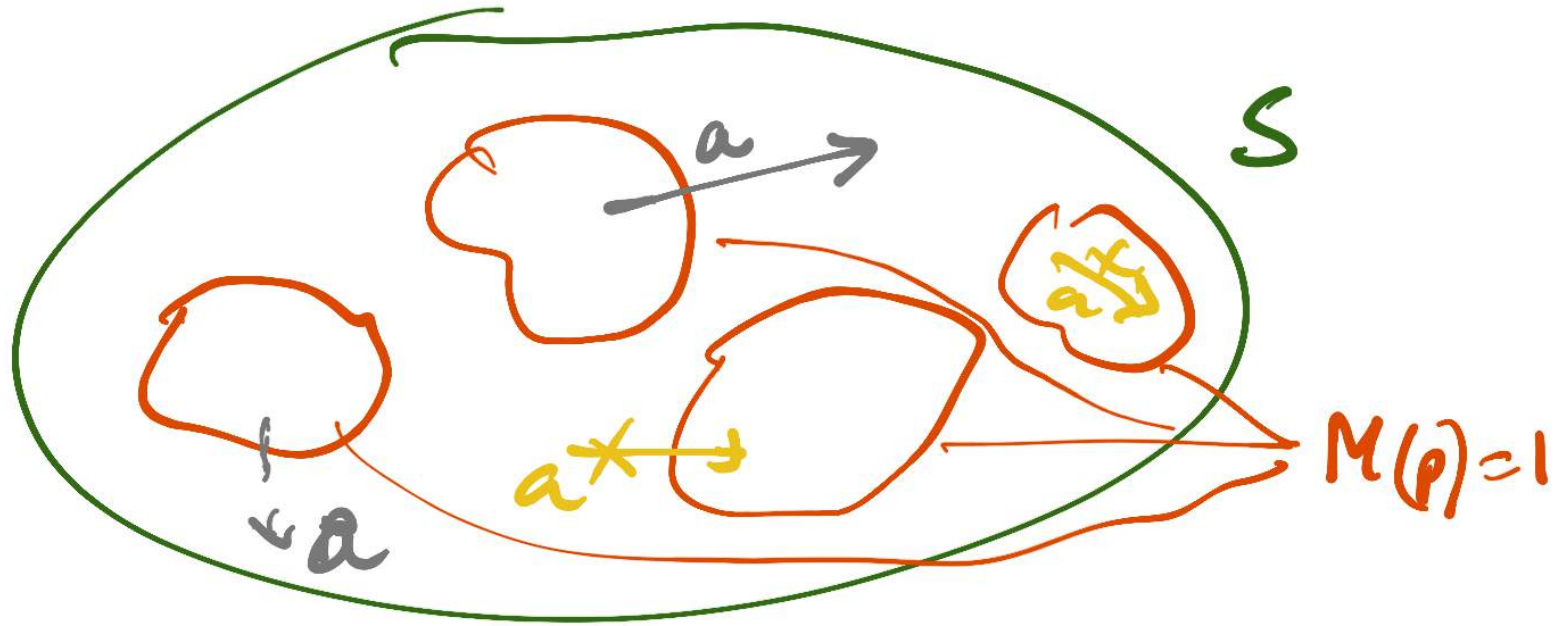
Identify  $P$  &  $F$

$p \in P$  is marked at some  $M$  & not marked at other

$p \leftrightarrow S_p \subseteq S$ , those states (markings) where  $p$  is marked

$|S| = n$  — potentially  $2^n - 1$  places  
(exclude place never marked)

When is a subset a valid candidate?



Then, consistently, all  $\xrightarrow{a}$  arrows start in  $S_p$  & end outside

Symmetrically for incoming, non crossing

$R_p \in S$  is a potential "plane" if it is consistent wrt crossing pattern of transitions

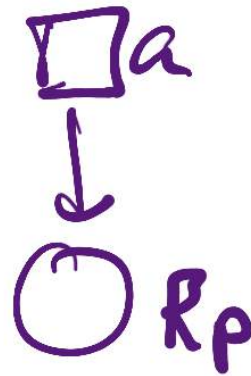
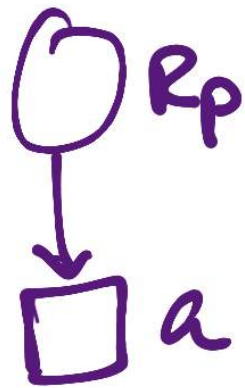
$\forall a$ , Every edge  $\xrightarrow{a}$  does one of the following

(1) Starts in  $R_p$ , ends outside

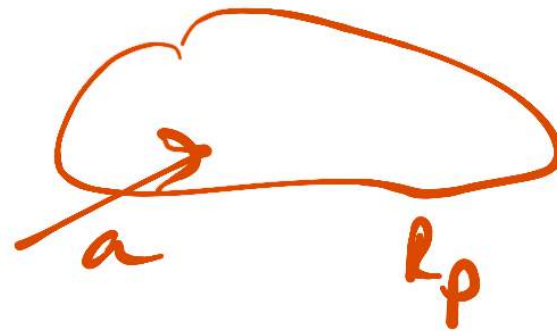
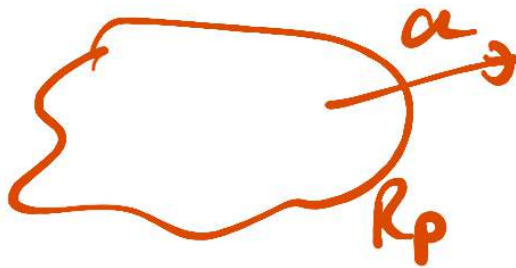
(2) Starts outside  $R_p$ , ends inside

(3) Does not cross an  $R_p$  boundary.

A valid candidate  $R_p$  is called a  
"region"



Derive  
P, F



① If  $s \neq s'$  in  $S$ , the "marking" differ  
 $\exists R_p$  s.t.  $s \in R_p, s' \notin R_p$  or vice versa

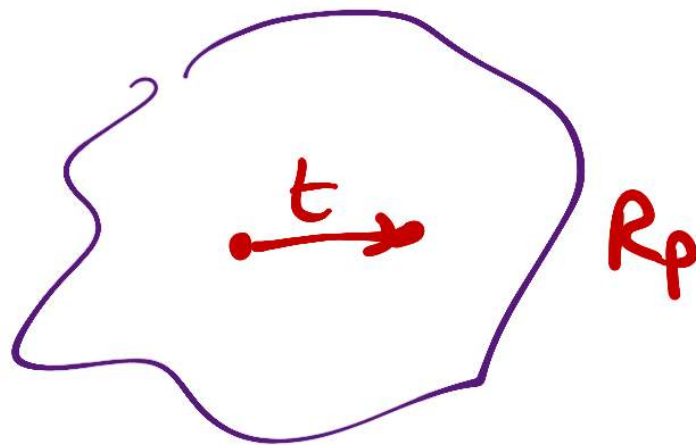
State-State Separate

② Whenever  $s \xrightarrow{a}$

$\exists R_p \in \cdot a$  s.t.  $s \notin R_p$

State Event Separation

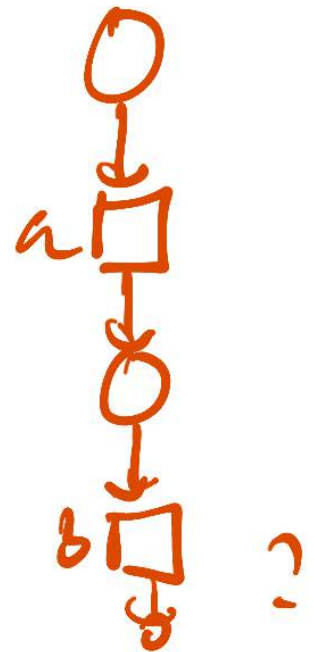
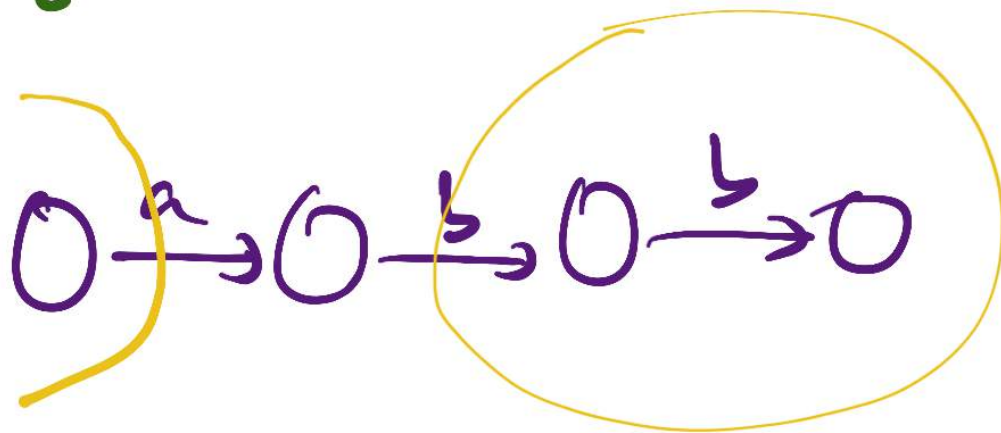
If we allow self loops



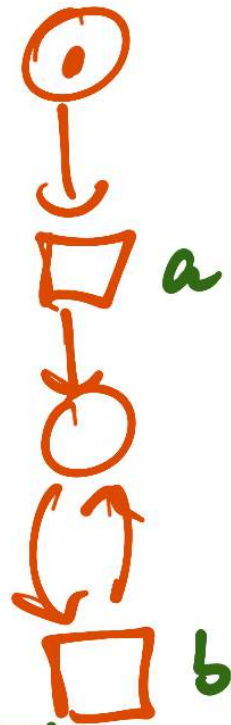
Thm TS is isomorphic to Reach (Min) iff  
we can find regions to satisfy  
state-state & state-transition separations

Regular languages  $\rightarrow$  Unlabelled Nets

$L = \{a, ab, abb\}$



1-safe



$ab^k$

2-safe



$\Rightarrow ab^2$

Allow  $k$ -safe nets,  $ab^2$  is implementable.

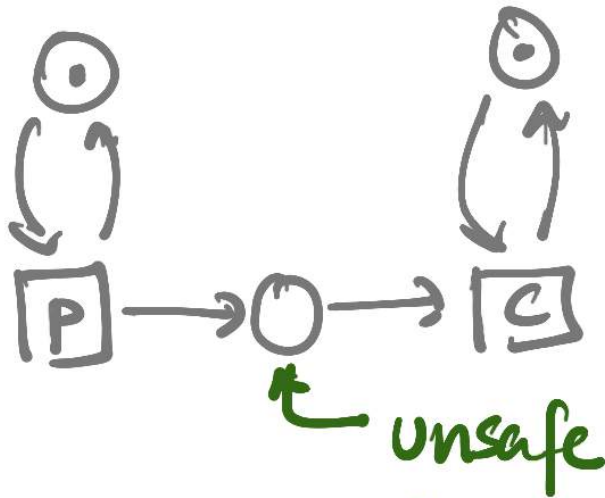
$abbaa$  is not implementable.



$w$  is solvable if  $L = \text{Prefixes}(w)$  can be implemented as an unlabelled safe net

No known algorithmic characterization

Outside safe nets



$L(N) = \{w \mid \text{Every prefix of } w \text{ has at least as many } p \text{ as } c\}$

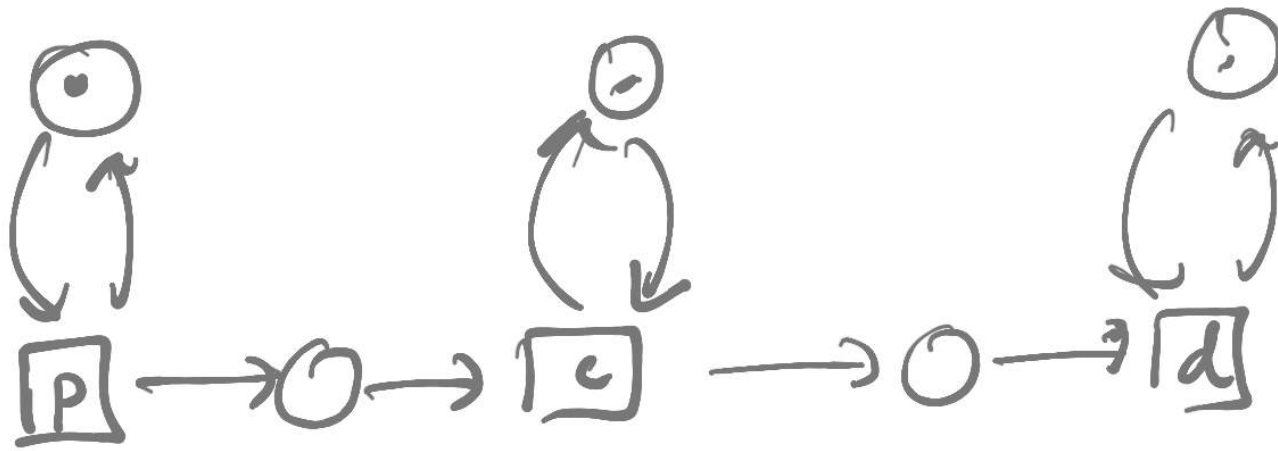
$\{w \mid \forall v \leq w, \#_p(v) \geq \#_c(v)\}$

$\{w \mid \#_a(w) = \#_b(w)\}$  is not regular

$L(N)$  is also context free

Palindromes are not Petri net languages

↳ Combinatorial argument on no. of required materials

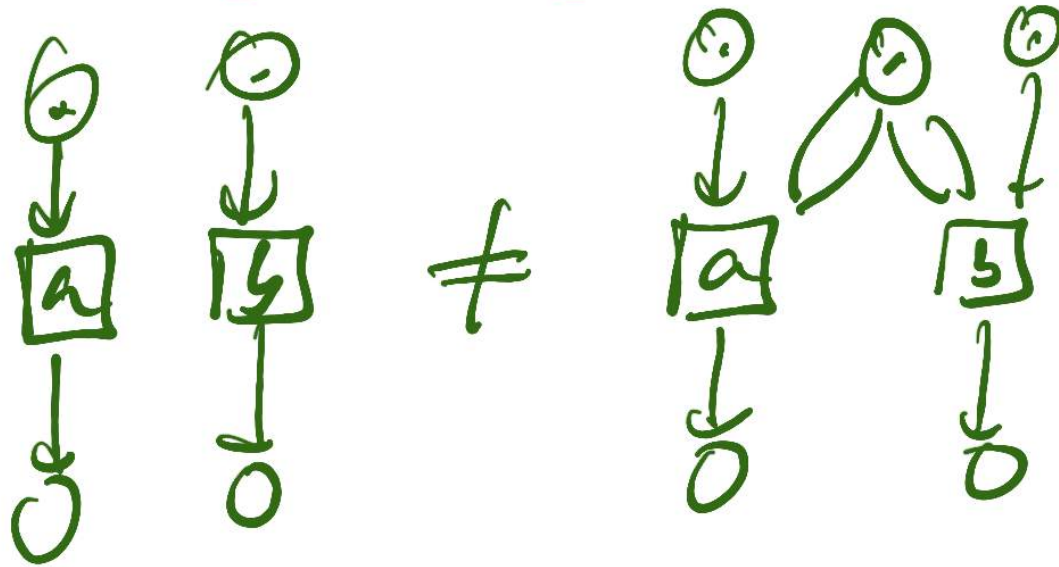


$$\#_p(w) \leq \#_c(w) \leq \#_d(w)$$

Context Sensitive



What is a good language theory for Petri nets?



Mazurkiewicz  $\sim 1977$

$(\Sigma, \mathcal{I})$   $\mathcal{I}$  is an independence relation

$\mathcal{I} \subseteq \Sigma \times \Sigma$

- Symmetric

- Irreflexive

Simplest interesting case

$(\{a, b, c\}, \{(a, b), (b, a)\})$

Some words

$\left. \begin{array}{l} abc \\ acb \\ bac \\ bca \\ cab \\ cba \end{array} \right\} \text{ Are these the same computation?}$

No  
cb vs bc

?  $ab \equiv ba$ , so Yes

[  $\{abc, bac\}$ ,  
 $\{acb\}$ ,  
 $\{cab, cba\}$  ]  
 $\{bca\}$  ]

same

Formally  $w_1 \sim w_2$  (1 step equal)

if  $w_1 = uabv$  and  $aIb$

$w_2 = ubav$

$a\underline{ab}b \sim \underline{a}bab \sim baab \sim baba \sim bbaa$

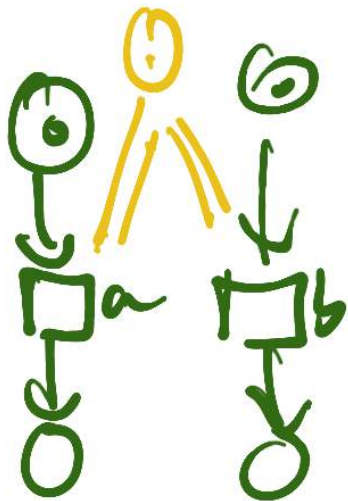
$w_1 \sim w_2$  if there is sequence  $u_1, \dots, u_n$  s.t

$w_1 = u_1 \sim u_2 \sim u_3 \sim \dots \sim u_n = w_2$

A Mazurkiewicz trace is an equivalence class wrt  $\approx \leftarrow$  wrt  $\mathbb{I}$

$$[abc]_{\mathbb{I}} = \{abc, bac\} = [bac]$$

$[w]_{\mathbb{I}} \equiv$  trace containing  $w$

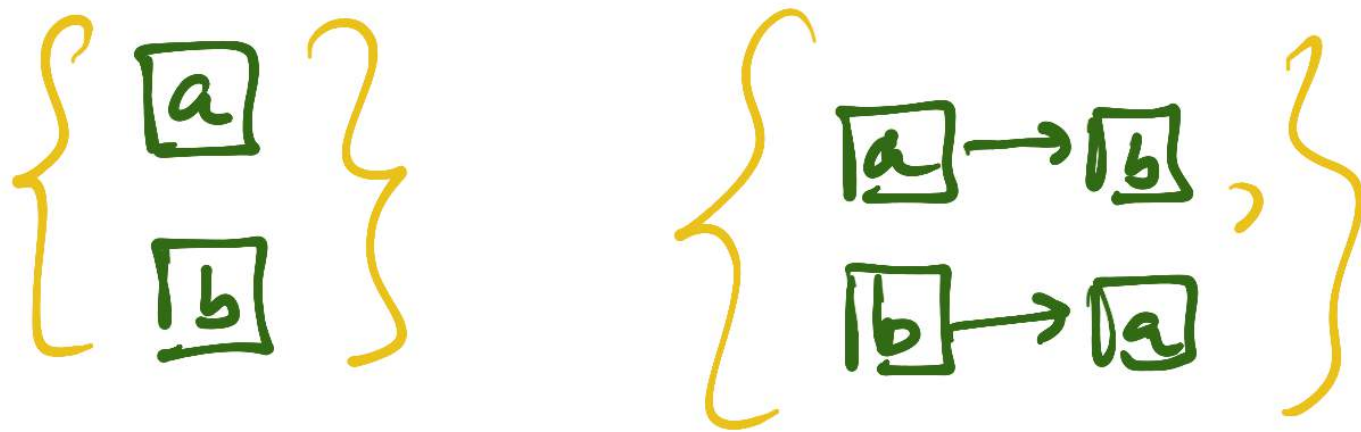


One trace  
 $[ab]$

Two traces  
 $[ab], [ba]$

Better representation for a trace

Partially ordered set

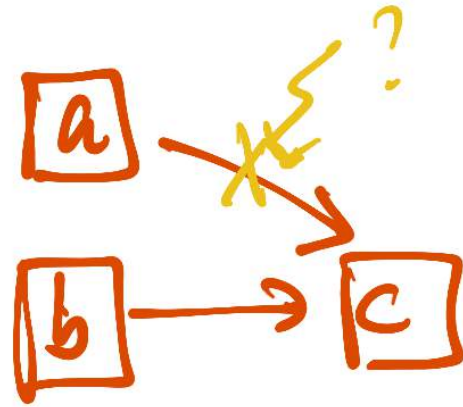


Trace  $[w]$  is the set of all linearizations  
of the underlying p.o.



$(\{a, b, c\}, \{(a, b), (b, a)\})$

abc



bcax

$W = a_0 a_1 a_2 \dots a_n$

Represent as  $(a_0, 0), (a_1, 1), \dots, (a_n, n)$

Labelled Partial Order  $(E, \leq, \lambda)$

$$\lambda: E \rightarrow \Sigma$$

$$|E| = |w|$$

$$E = \{(a, i)\}$$

$$w = aabcab$$

$$(a, 0)(a, 1)(b, 2)(c, 3)(a, 4)(b, 5)$$



$$(x, i) \rightarrow (y, j)$$
$$i < j$$
$$\neg (x I y)$$

$(E, \leq, \lambda)$  represents a valid trace  
over  $(\Sigma, I)$

if  $\forall (x, y) \in E$

$x \leq y \Rightarrow (\lambda(x), \lambda(y)) \notin I$

immediat  
<

$(\lambda(x), \lambda(y)) \notin I \Rightarrow x \leq y \text{ or } y \leq x$