

### **DISCRETE EVENT DYNAMIC SYSTEMS**

# **PETRI NETS**

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## **Petri Nets**

Basic Notions Comparison with Automata Analysis Problems and Techniques Control of Petri Nets



## DEFINITION OF PETRI NET

**Def.:** A Petri net (PN) graph or structure is a weighted bipartite graph (*P*,*T*,*A*,*w*), where:  $P=\{p_1, p_2, ..., p_n\}$  is the finite set of *places*  $T=\{t_1, t_2, ..., t_m\}$  is the finite set of *transitions*  $A \subseteq (P \times T) \cup (T \times P)$  is the set of arcs from places to

transitions  $(p_i, t_i)$  and transitions to places  $(t_j, p_i)$ 

 $w: A \rightarrow \{1, 2, 3, ...\}$  is the weight function on the arcs

Also useful:

Set of input places to  $t_j \in T$  $I(t_j) = \{p_i \in P : (p_i, t_j) \in A\}$ 

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Set of output places from  $t_j \in T$  $O(t_j) = \{p_i \in P : (t_j, p_i) \in A\}$ 



#### EXAMPLE OF PETRI NET



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

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

$$A = \{(p_1, t_1), (p_2, t_2), (p_2, t_3), (p_3, t_3), (t_1, p_2), (t_1, p_3), (t_2, p_1), (t_3, p_3), (t_3, p_4)\}$$
  
All weights are = 1



**Def.:** A marked Petri net is a five-tuple (*P*,*T*,*A*,*w*,**x**), where (*P*,*T*,*A*,*w*) is a Petri net graph and **x** is a marking of the set of places *P*;  $\mathbf{x} = [x(p_1), x(p_2), ..., x(p_n)] \in \mathbb{N}^n$  is the row vector associated with *x*.

**Def. (PN dynamics):** The state transition function,  $f : \mathbb{N}^n \times T \to \mathbb{N}^n$  of Petri net (*P*,*T*,*A*,*w*,**x**), is defined for transition  $t_j \in T$ 

iff

$$x(p_i) \ge w(p_i, t_j), \forall p_i \in I(t_j).$$
 - Enabled t

If  $f(\mathbf{x},t_j)$  is defined, the new state is  $\mathbf{x}' = f(\mathbf{x},t_j)$  where  $x'(p_i) = x(p_i) - w(p_i,t_j) + w(t_j,p_i), i = 1,...,n$ .





 $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ 

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 $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ 





 $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ 





 $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ 

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 $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ 

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**REACHABLE STATES AND STATE EQUATIONS** 

#### **Def. (Extended State Transition Function):**

 $f: \mathbf{N}^{n} \times T^{*} \to \mathbf{N}^{n}$  $f(\mathbf{x}, \varepsilon) \coloneqq \mathbf{x}$  $f(\mathbf{x}, st) \coloneqq f(f(\mathbf{x}, s), t), \ t \in T, s \in T^{*}$ 

**Def. (Reachable states):** the set of *reachable states* of PN (*P*,*T*,*A*,*w*,**x**) is  $R[(P,T,A,w,\mathbf{x})] := \{\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{N}^n : \exists s \in T^*(f(\mathbf{x},s) = \mathbf{y})\}$ 



#### **REACHABLE STATES AND STATE EQUATIONS**

**State Equation** 





#### INCIDENCE MATRIX A





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**Def. (Labeled Petri net):** A *labeled Petri net N* is an eight-tuple  $N = (P, T, A, w, E, l, \mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{X}_m)$ 

where

(P,T,A,w) is a PN graph

E is the event set for transition labeling

 $l: T \rightarrow E$  is the transition labeling function

 $\mathbf{x}_0 \in \mathbf{N}^n$  is the initial state

 $\mathbf{X}_m \subseteq \mathbf{N}^n$  is the set of *marked states* 

## **Def. (Languages generated and marked):**

 $L(N) \coloneqq \{l(s) \in E^* : s \in T^* \text{ and } f(\mathbf{x}_0, s) \text{ is defined}\}$  $L_m(N) \coloneqq \{l(s) \in L(N) : s \in T^* \text{ and } f(\mathbf{x}_0, s) \in \mathbf{X}_m\}$ 





$E = \{a, b\}$
$l(t_1) = a, l(t_2) = b, l(t_3) = a$
$\mathbf{x}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$
$\mathbf{X}_m = \{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & k & 1 \end{bmatrix}, k > 0 \}$

#### Generated string: $\varepsilon$ in L





$E = \{a, b\}$
$l(t_1) = a, l(t_2) = b, l(t_3) = a$
$\mathbf{x}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$
$\mathbf{X}_m = \{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & k & 1 \end{bmatrix} k > 0 \}$

#### Generated string: a in L





$E = \{a, b\}$
$l(t_1) = a, l(t_2) = b, l(t_3) = a$
$\mathbf{x}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$
$\mathbf{X}_m = \{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & k & 1 \end{bmatrix} k > 0 \}$

#### Generated string: ab in L





$E = \{a, b\}$
$l(t_1) = a, l(t_2) = b, l(t_3) = a$
$\mathbf{x}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$
$\mathbf{X}_m = \{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & k & 1 \end{bmatrix} k > 0 \}$

#### Generated string: aba in L





$E = \{a, b\}$
$l(t_1) = a, l(t_2) = b, l(t_3) = a$
$\mathbf{x}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$
$\mathbf{X}_m = \{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & k & 1 \end{bmatrix} k > 0 \}$

Generated string: abaa in L and  $L_m$   $L_m(N) = \{(ab)^n a^2, n \ge 0\}$  $L(N) = \{a, aa, ab, (ab)^n, (ab)^n a, (ab)^n a^2, n \ge 0\}$ 



## COMPARISON WITH AUTOMATA

- In PNs, the state information is distributed among a set of places which capture key conditions governing the system
- An automaton can always be represented as a PN, but not all PNs can be represented as *finite-state* automata (if the reachability set is finite, the PN can be represented as a FSA) – therefore the language expressive power is greater for PNs than for automata
- PNs have increased modularity for model-building
- All questions such as "is state *x* reachable?" are *decidable* for automata, but many of them are not for PNs



COMPARISON WITH AUTOMATA

$$PNL = \left\{ K \subseteq E^* : \exists N = (P, T, A, w, E, l, \mathbf{X}_0, \mathbf{X}_m) [L_m(N) = K] \right\}$$

Petri Net Languages (PNL) include Regular Languages (Reg) Therefore the expressive power of PNs to describe DEDS behaviors is greater than that of FSA.





### ANALYSIS PROBLEMS

**Def. (Boundedness):** Place  $p_i \in P$  in PN N with initial state  $\mathbf{x}_0$  is said to be *k*-bounded, or *k*-safe, if  $x(p_i) \leq k$  for all states  $\mathbf{x} \in R(N)$ , i.e., for all reachable states.

**Def. (State Coverability):** Given a PN N with initial state  $\mathbf{x}_0$ , state  $\mathbf{y}$  is said to be *coverable*, if there exists  $\mathbf{x} \in R(N)$  such that  $x(p_i) \ge y(p_i)$  for all i=1,...,n.

**Def. (Conservation):** A PN N with initial state  $\mathbf{x}_0$  is said to be conservative with respect to  $\gamma = [\gamma_1, \gamma_2, ..., \gamma_n] \ \gamma \in N^n$  if

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \gamma_i x(p_i) = \text{constant}$$

for all reachable states.

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#### ANALYSIS PROBLEMS

**Def. (Liveness):** A PN N with initial state  $\mathbf{x}_0$  is said to be *live* if there always exists some sample path such that any transition can eventually fire from any state reached from  $\mathbf{x}_0$ .

**Liveness levels -** a transition in a PN may be:

- *Dead or L0-live*, if the transition can never fire from this state
- *L1-live*, if there is some firing sequence from  $\mathbf{x}_0$  such that the transition can fire at least once
- *L2-live*, if the transition can fire at least *k* times for some given positive integer *k*
- *L3-live*, if there exists some infinite firing sequence in which the transition appears infinitely often
- *L4-live*, if the transition is L1-live for every possible state reached from  $\mathbf{x}_0$





If a Petri Net is bounded, state safety and blocking properties can determined algorithmically – we just have to build an equivalent FSA.

It is possible to identify dead transitions by checking for coverability.

There are many other analysis problems (e.g., finding Tinvariants, P-invariants, persistence)

Boundedness has to do with *stability* (the number of required resources does not explode.)



## ANALYSIS PROBLEMS The Coverability Tree

*Root node*: first node of the tree, corresponding to the initial state of a given marked PN.

*Terminal node*: any node from which no transition can fire. *Duplicate node*: node identical to a node already in the tree. *Node dominance*: let **x** and **y** be two states, i.e., nodes in the coverability tree. We say that "**x** dominates **y**", denoted by  $\mathbf{x} >_d \mathbf{y}$ , if the following two conditions hold:

(a)  $x(p_i) \ge y(p_i)$ , for all i=1,...,n

(b)  $x(p_i) > y(p_i)$ , for at least some i=1,...,n

Symbol  $\omega$ : may be thought of as "infinity" in representing the *marking* of an unbounded place. It is used when a node dominance relationship is identified in the coverability tree. In particular, if  $\mathbf{x} >_d \mathbf{y}$ , then for all *i* such that  $x(p_i) > y(p_i)$ , the value of  $x(p_i)$  is replaced by  $\omega$ . Note that  $\omega + k = \omega$ .

Ex.:  $[1 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0] >_{d} [1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0] \Rightarrow [1 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0]$  is replaced by  $[1 \ 0 \ \omega \ 0]$ .



## ANALYSIS PROBLEMS The Coverability Tree Algorithm

# **Step 1:** Initialize $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}_0$ (initial state) **Step 2:** For each new node $\mathbf{x}$ evaluate the transition function $f(\mathbf{x}, t_j)$ for all $t_i \in T$ :

**Step 2.1:** If  $f(\mathbf{x}, t_j)$  is undefined for all  $t_j \in T$  (i.e., no transition is enabled at state  $\mathbf{x}$ ), then  $\mathbf{x}$  is a *terminal node*.

**Step 2.2:** If  $f(\mathbf{x}, t_j)$  is defined for some  $t_j \in T$ , create a new node  $\mathbf{x}' = f(\mathbf{x}, t_j)$ . Then:

**Step 2.2.1:** If  $x(p_i) = \omega$  for some  $p_i$ , set  $x'(p_i) = \omega$ .

**Step 2.2.2:** If there exists a node **y** in the path from the root node  $\mathbf{x}_0$  (included) to **x**' such that  $\mathbf{x}' >_d \mathbf{y}$ , set  $\mathbf{x}'(\mathbf{p}_i) = \omega$  for all  $\mathbf{p}_i$  such that  $\mathbf{x}'(\mathbf{p}_i) > \mathbf{y}(\mathbf{p}_i)$ .

**Step 2.2.3:** Otherwise, set  $\mathbf{x}'(p_i) = f(\mathbf{x}, t_j)$ .

**Step 3:** If all new nodes are either *terminal* or *duplicate nodes*, stop. Otherwise go back to Step 2.





## ANALYSIS PROBLEMS The Coverability Tree

## $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$





## ANALYSIS PROBLEMS The Coverability Tree



$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ \downarrow t_1 \\ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$







## ANALYSIS PROBLEMS

#### Applications and Limitations of the the Coverability Tree

- The coverability tree is always finite.
- A PN is **bounded** iff the symbol  $\omega$  never appears in the coverability tree.

If  $\omega$  does not appear, the state space of the PN is finite.

- **Coverability** can be determined using the coverability tree.
- **Conservation** is checked by solving *r* equations of the form

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \gamma_i x(p_i) = C$$

with n+1 unknowns (the *n* weights plus *C*), where *r* is the number of nodes of the coverability tree. If  $\omega$  appears in the coverability tree for some place, the corresponding  $\gamma$  must be zero.

- **Reachability** of a specific state can not be checked, when the  $\omega$  symbol appears in the coverability tree, because it may represent different integer values.
- **Liveness** of transitions can not, in the general case, be determined by this technique as well

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**State Equation** For the extended version of the transition function



Number of times transition t2 fires in the sequence



A necessary condition for state  $\mathbf{x}$  to be reachable from initial state  $\mathbf{x}_0$  is for the equation

firing count vector  $\mathbf{V}\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{X} - \mathbf{X}_0$ 

to have a solution  $\mathbf{v}$  where all the entries of  $\mathbf{v}$  are non-negative integers.

The existence of a non-negative integer solution  $\mathbf{v}$  does **not** guarantee that the entries in  $\mathbf{v}$  can be mapped to an actual feasible ordering of transition firings.





$$\mathbf{vA} = \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0 \quad (*)$$

#### Particular cases:

if (\*) has no solution OR

 has a solution with negative v elements OR
 has a solution with non-integer v elements
 Then x is not reachable from x<sub>0</sub>

if (\*) has a solution v with non-negative elements
 Then there may exist a transition sequence leading
 from x₀ to x, but that is not guaranteed.

#### Multiple solutions of (\*) are possible

Whenever there may exist a solution, at least the number of alternatives to be checked is significantly reduced.

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**Conservation** can be checked by solving

$$\mathbf{A}\boldsymbol{\gamma}^{\mathsf{T}} = 0 \quad (^{**})$$

**NOTE**: compare with the coverability tree technique. **There**  $x_0$  **matters**! Here, all possible  $x_0$  are implicitly checked. If there exists a single one that violates conservation, there is no solution for (\*\*).

 More powerful results can be obtained based on this technique for sub-classes of PNs, such as marked graphs.



## PETRI NET Sub-Classes



Petri net sub-classes, with smaller modeling capability, but larger decision power:

• **State Machines**: Each transition must have exactly *one* input place and *one* output place

$$(\forall_{t_j \in T}, |I(t_j)| = 1 \land |O(t_j)| = 1).$$

• **Marked Graphs**: Each place is the input of exactly *one* transition and the output of exactly *one* transition

 $(\forall_{p_i \in P}, |I(p_i)| = 1 \land |O(p_i)| = 1).$ 

• Free-Choice PNs: la a place is input of *more than one* transition (potential conflict), then it is the *single* input place of each of those transitions

$$\forall_{t_j \in T} \forall_{p_i \in I(t_j)}, \text{ ou } I(t_j) = \{p_i\} \text{ or } O(p_i) = \{t_j\}.$$



**Place Invariants** correspond to sets of places whose weighted token count remains constant for all possible markings, i.e., every integer vector which satisfies

 $\mathbf{A}\boldsymbol{\gamma}^{\mathrm{T}} = \mathbf{0}$ 





**Transition Invariants** correspond to sets of *transition* firings that cause the marking of a net to cycle, i.e.,  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x_0}$ after some N firings

 $v\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{0}$ 





## CONTROL OF PETRI NETS

- $S(s) \begin{bmatrix} S \\ S(s) \end{bmatrix} s$
- $L_r \subseteq L(S/G) \subseteq L_a$
- If we wish to restrict the behavior of G, but not more than necessary:

 $L(S/G) = L_a^{\uparrow C} \qquad \text{largest sublanguage of} \\ L_a \text{ which is controllable}$ 

• If we wish to restrict the behavior of G as much as possible:

 $L(S/G) = L_{\mathcal{V}}^{\downarrow C} \longrightarrow \begin{array}{c} \text{smallest superlanguage of} \\ L_r \text{ which is controllable} \end{array}$ 

• Regular languages are closed under most supervisor synthesis operations, i.e., if  $L_a$  and  $L_r$  are regular, so will be .  $L_a^{\uparrow C}$  and  $L_r^{\downarrow C}$ 



## CONTROL OF PETRI NETS

- If  $L_m(G)$  is not regular (e.g., G is an unbounded PN) but  $L_{am}$  is regular and controllable, S can be realized by a finite-state deterministic automaton (FSA).
- If  $L_m(G)$  is regular but  $L_{am}$  is controllable but not regular, S can not be realized by an FSA, but one may be able to realize it by a PN – see next example





## CONTROL OF PETRI NETS An Example

#### **Dining Philosophers revisited**



5 philosophers / no deadlock

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## CONTROL OF PETRI NETS

• If both  $L_m(G)$  and  $L_{am}$  are not regular, but we wish them to be PN languages, several problems may occur, including non-closure under the  $\uparrow C$  and  $\downarrow C$  operations – solvable using *inhibitor* arcs (at the expense of reduced analysis capabilities).

- If both  $L_m(G)$  and  $L_{am}$  are regular, using PN models may lead to more compact representations than FSA.
- If specifications are made in terms of forbidden states, rather than admissible languages, several results exist for supervisor synthesis, mostly based on linear-algebraic techniques.





Building PN Supervisor for a PN Model from Linear Predicates on the State Vectors

(Moody, Antsaklis, 1998)

**Specification**: restrict the reachable states  $\mathbf{x}_p$  of a PN model, such that

 $\mathbf{L}\mathbf{x}_{p} \leq \mathbf{b}, \ \mathbf{L}_{[n_{c} \times n]}, \mathbf{b}_{[n_{c}]}$   $n_{c} \text{ is the number of constraints}$ 

The inequality can be seen as the logical conjunction of  $n_c$  separate inequalities

The plant (e.g., robotic task, communication system) is modeled by a PN with incidence matrix  $\mathbf{D}_p = \mathbf{A}_p$ 

The *controller net* is a PN with incidence matrix  $D_c$  made up of the plant transitions and a separate set of places

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enforces the constraint  $\mathbf{L}\mathbf{x}_{p} \leq \mathbf{b}$  when included in the closed loop system



(Moody, Antsaklis, 1998)

#### **THEOREM – Invariant-Based Controller Synthesis**

if  $\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{L}\mathbf{x}_{p_0} \ge 0$ 

then a PN controller with incidence matrix  $\mathbf{D}_c = \mathbf{A}_c^T$  and initial state  $\mathbf{x}_{c_0}$ 

$$\mathbf{D}_c = -\mathbf{L}\mathbf{D}_p$$

$$\mathbf{x}_{c_0} = \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{L}\mathbf{x}_{p_0}$$

enforces the constraint  $\mathbf{L}\mathbf{x}_{p} \leq \mathbf{b}$  when included in the closed loop

system with incidence matrix  $\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{A}^T$  and state  $\mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{X}_p \\ \mathbf{X}_c \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{X}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{X}_{p_0} \\ \mathbf{X}_{c_0} \end{bmatrix}$ 

assuming that the transitions with input arcs from  $\mathbf{D}_c$  are controllable. If the inequality  $\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{L}\mathbf{x}_{p_0} \ge 0$  is not true, the constraints can not be enforced, since the initial conditions of the plant lie outside the range defined by the constraints.

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Example



spec.: 
$$\mathbf{x}_{2} \le 2$$
  $\mathbf{L} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{2}$   
 $\mathbf{D}_{p} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{x}_{p_{0}} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$   
 $\mathbf{D}_{c} = -\mathbf{L}\mathbf{D}_{p} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$   
 $\mathbf{x}_{c_{0}} = \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{L}\mathbf{x}_{p_{0}} = 2$ 



#### Limitations

Specification: alternance of events moveto and takeshot (with a being the first event to occur) required

This controlled PN satisfies the specification, but the PN controller could not be synthesized using the Invariant-Based Controller method (the controller places form their own invariant, separate from the plant PN places – controller is not maximally permissive)





## **EVENT-BASED FSA SUPERVISION**

Building an FSA Supervisor for a FSA Model from Language Specifications (Ramadge, Wonham, 1989)

**Specification**: alternance of events moveto and takeshot (with moveto being the first event to occur) required





## **EVENT-BASED FSA SUPERVISION**

Building an FSA Supervisor for a FSA Model from Language Specifications



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## FURTHER READINGS

- J. Peterson, *Petri Net Theory and the Modeling of Systems*, Prentice-Hall, 1981 - more on modeling, languages, decidability and complexity issues
- N. Viswanadham, Y. Narahari, *Performance Modeling of Automated Manufacturing Systems*, Prentice-Hall, 1992 - *more on modeling of manufacturing systems*
- J. O. Moody, P. J. Antsaklis, *Supervisory Control of Discrete Event Systems Using Petri Nets*, Kluwer Academic Publ., 1998 *more on control of PNs*