

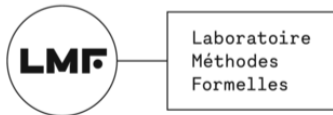
# Discrete and Continuous Models for Concurrent Systems

## 2. Concurrent Semantics of Petri Nets

Uli Fahrenberg

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ISIMM, April 2026

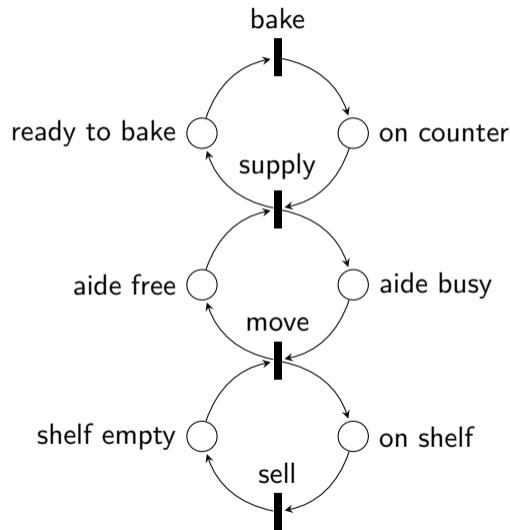


- ① Petri Nets
- ② Higher-Dimensional Automata
- ③ Concurrent Semantics of Petri Nets
- ④ Languages of Higher-Dimensional Automata

# Petri Nets

A **Petri net**  $(S, T, F)$ :

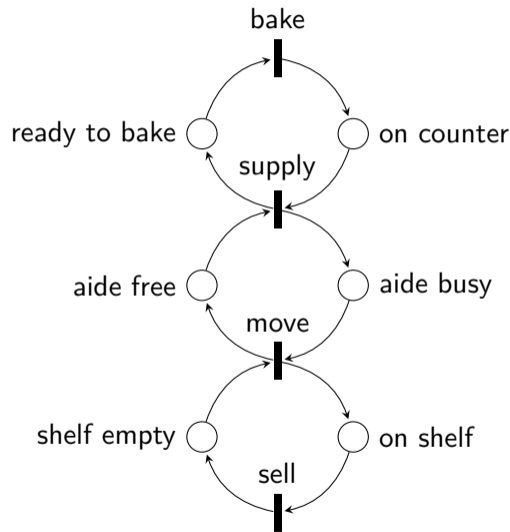
- $S$  set of **places**
- $T$  set of **transitions**,  $S \cap T = \emptyset$
- $F \subseteq S \times T \cup T \times S$  **flow** relation
- very useful for modeling distributed or concurrent systems
- invented in 1962; ubiquitous in modeling



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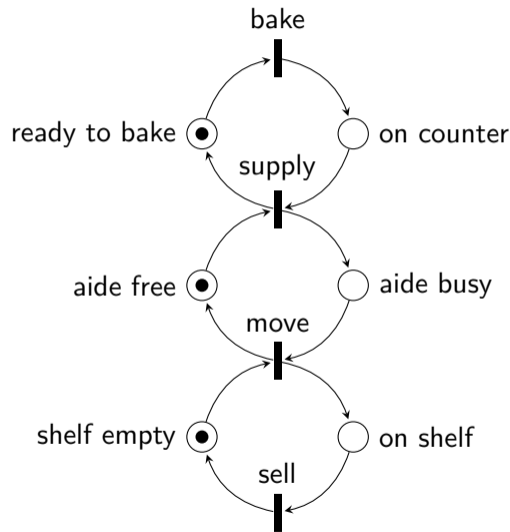
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- **marking**:  $S \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ :  
 number of **tokens** per place
- **preset** of  $t$ :  $\bullet t = F(s, t)$
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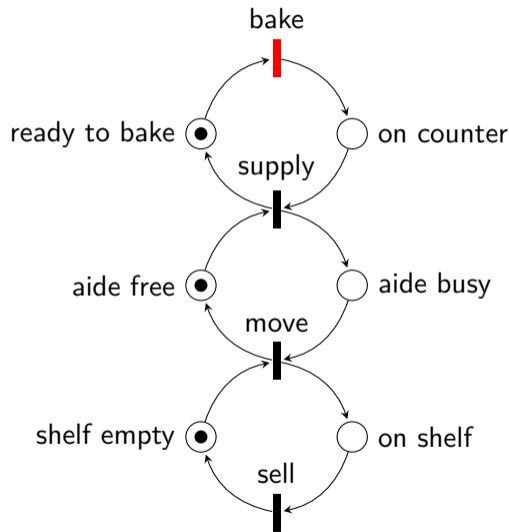


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- **compute** by transforming markings:  

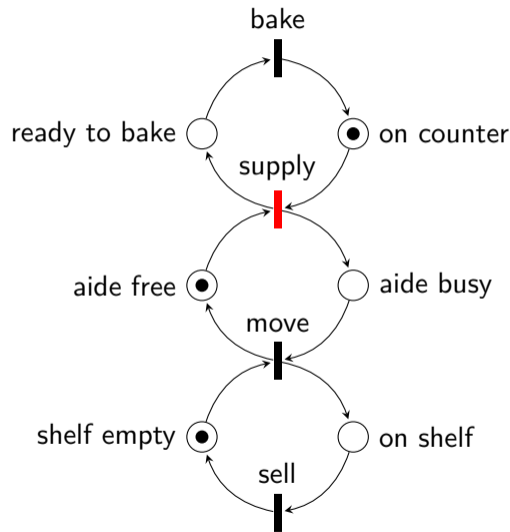
$$m' = m - \bullet t + t \bullet$$
- **only** if  $\bullet t \leq m$



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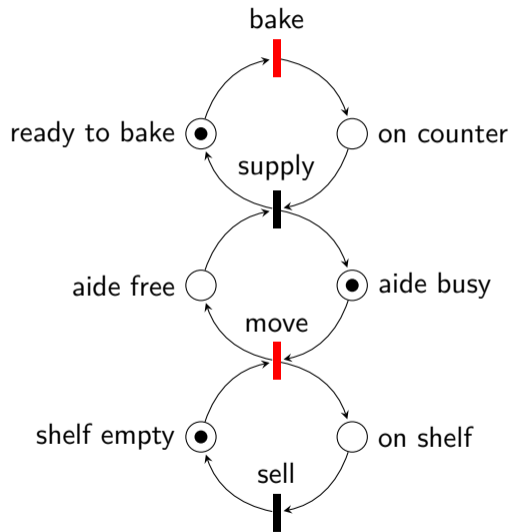


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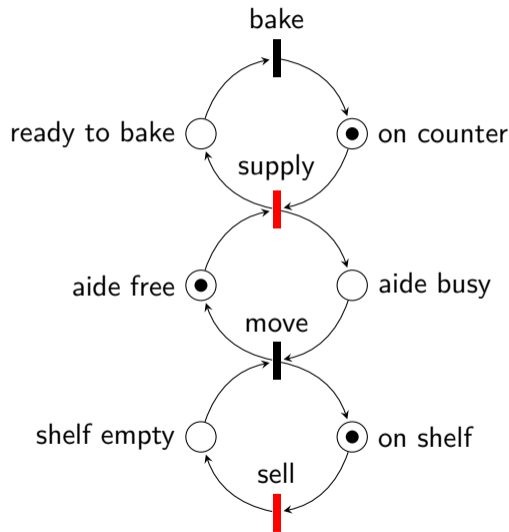
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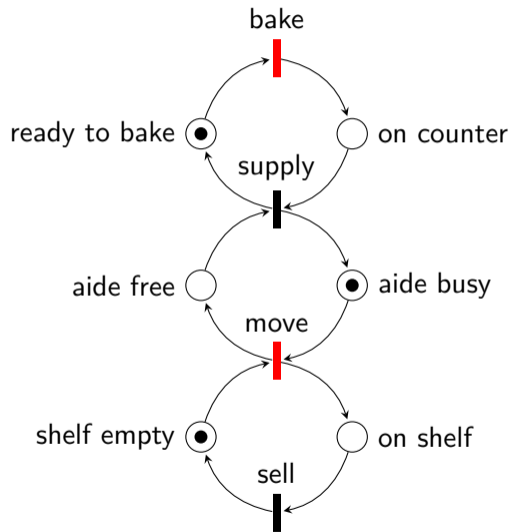


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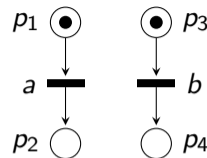
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**Petri net**  $(S, T, F)$ : places  $S$ ; transitions  $T$ ;  
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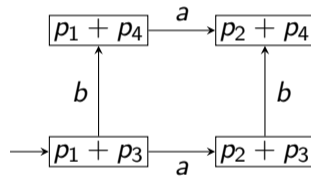
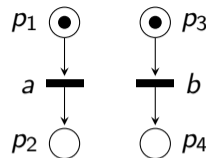


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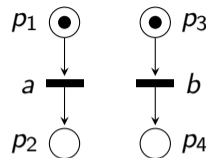
**Interleaved semantics (reachability graph)**  $(V, E)$ :

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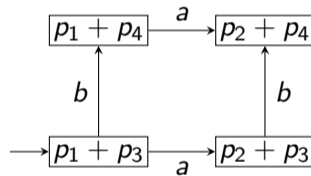
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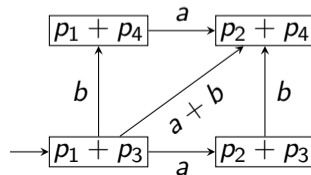
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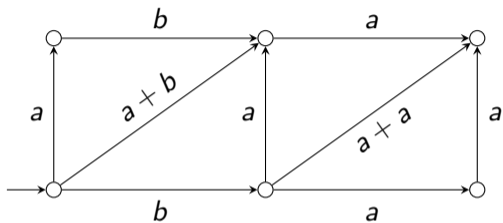
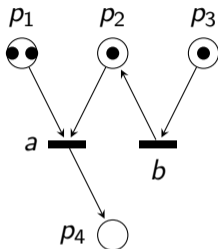


**Concurrent step reachability graph**  $(V, E')$ :

- $V = \mathbb{N}^S$
- $E' \subseteq V \times \mathbb{N}^T \times V$ : multisets of transitions
- $E' = \{(m, U, m') \mid \bullet U \leq m, m' = m - \bullet U + U \bullet\}$

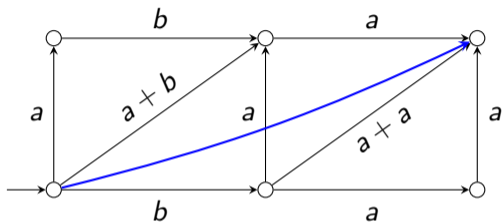
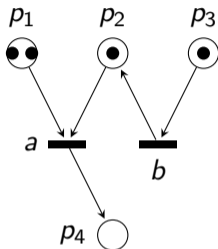


## Another Example



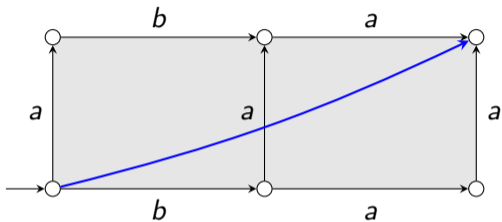
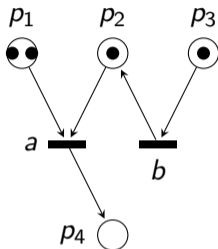
- after firing  $b$ ,  $a$  is **auto-concurrent**

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- semantics misses some behaviour?
  - start  $a$  – start  $b$  – finish  $b$  – start another  $a$  – etc.

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- after firing  $b$ ,  $a$  is **auto-concurrent**
- semantics misses some behavior?
  - start  $a$  – start  $b$  – finish  $b$  – start another  $a$  – etc.
- enter **higher-dimensional automata**
  - replace multi-transitions by **squares**

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# Higher-Dimensional Automata

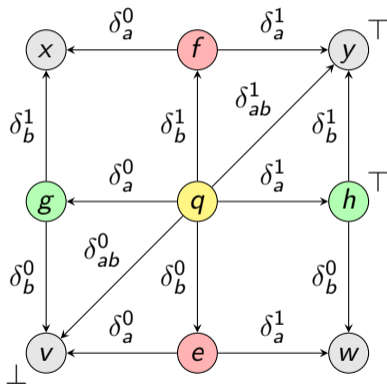
A **conclist** is a finite, totally ordered,  $\Sigma$ -labeled set. (a list of labeled events)

A **precubical set**  $X$  consists of:

- A set of cells  $X$  (cubes)
- Every cell  $x \in X$  has a conclist  $\text{ev}(x)$  (list of events active in  $x$ )
- We write  $X[U] = \{x \in X \mid \text{ev}(x) = U\}$  for a conclist  $U$  (cells of type  $U$ )
- For every conclist  $U$  and  $A \subseteq U$  there are:
  - upper face map  $\delta_A^1 : X[U] \rightarrow X[U \setminus A]$  (terminating events  $A$ )
  - lower face map  $\delta_A^0 : X[U] \rightarrow X[U \setminus A]$  (“unstarting” events  $A$ )
- **Precube identities:**  $\delta_A^\mu \delta_B^\nu = \delta_B^\nu \delta_A^\mu$  for  $A \cap B = \emptyset$  and  $\mu, \nu \in \{0, 1\}$

A **higher dimensional automaton (HDA)** is a precubical set  $X$  with **initial cells**  $\perp \subseteq X$  and **accepting cells**  $\top \subseteq X$  (not necessarily vertices)

# Example



$$X[\emptyset] = \{v, w, x, y\}$$

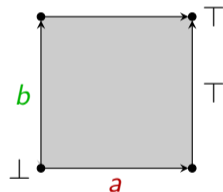
$$X[a] = \{e, f\}$$

$$X[b] = \{g, h\}$$

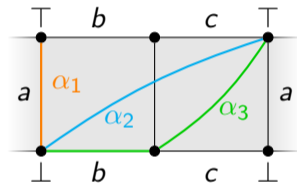
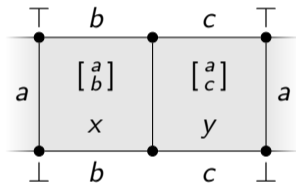
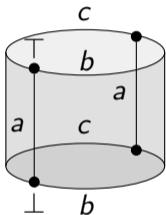
$$X\left[\begin{smallmatrix} a \\ b \end{smallmatrix}\right] = \{q\}$$

$$\perp_X = \{v\}$$

$$\top_X = \{h, y\}$$

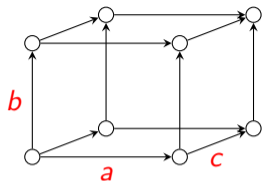


# Another One

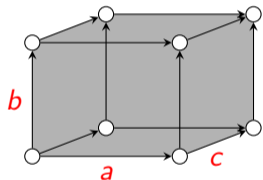


$$a \parallel (bc)^*$$

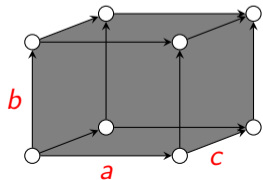
# More Examples



no concurrency



two out of three



full concurrency

# Higher-Dimensional Automata & Concurrency Theory

HDA as a model for **concurrency**:

- points: **states**
- edges: **transitions**
- squares, cubes etc.: **independency** relations / **concurrently** executing events
- **two**-dimensional automata  $\cong$  asynchronous transition systems
- Introduced in 1990
- Generalize all main models of concurrency proposed in the literature
- (event structures; Petri nets; communicating automata; etc.)

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**Concurrent** semantics as HDA:

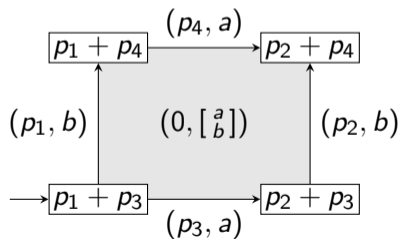
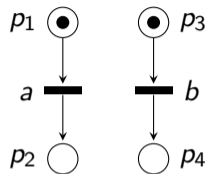
$\square = \square(T)$ ,  $X = \mathbb{N}^S \times \square$ ,  $\text{ev}(m, \tau) = \tau$

- for  $x = (m, \tau) \in X[\tau]$  with  $\tau = (t_1, \dots, t_n)$ :

$$\delta_{t_i}^0(x) = (m + \bullet t_i, (t_1, \dots, t_{i-1}, t_{i+1}, \dots, t_n))$$

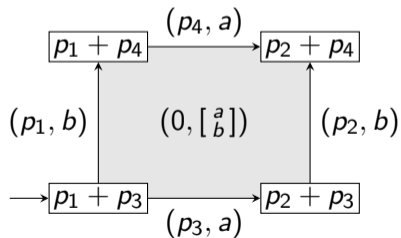
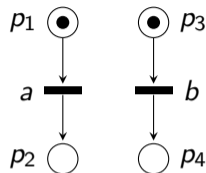
$$\delta_{t_i}^1(x) = (m + t_i \bullet, (t_1, \dots, t_{i-1}, t_{i+1}, \dots, t_n))$$

- initial marking  $\implies$  initial cell; take reachable part
- (no accepting cells)

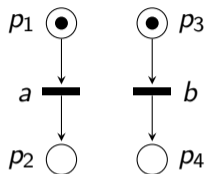


# Event Order

- trouble with symmetry:  
have a cell  $(0, [\frac{a}{b}])$ , but also  $(0, [\frac{b}{a}])$  (not shown)
- solution: fix an arbitrary order  $\preceq$  on  $T$
- and use  $\square = \left\{ \left[ \begin{array}{c} t_1 \\ \vdots \\ t_n \end{array} \right] \mid \forall i = 1, \dots, n-1 : t_i \preceq t_{i+1} \right\}$   
instead of  $\square(T)$
- order  $\preceq$  may be chosen (and re-chosen) at will
- here: lexicographic  $a \prec b \prec \dots$



## Example, Complete

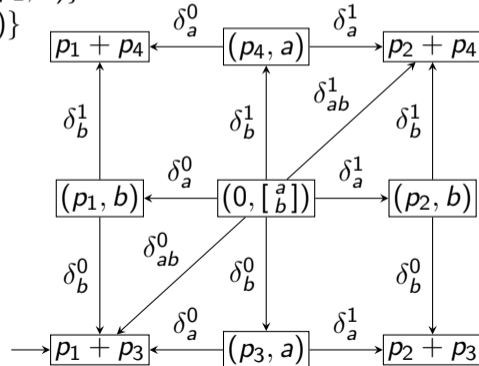
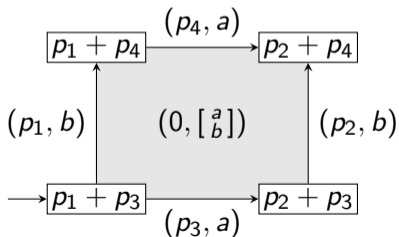


$$X[\emptyset] = \{p_1 + p_3, p_2 + p_3, p_1 + p_4, p_2 + p_4\}$$

$$X[a] = \{(p_3, a), (p_4, a)\}$$

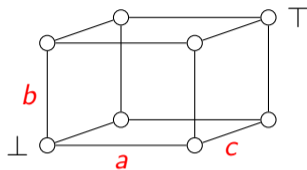
$$X[b] = \{(p_1, b), (p_2, b)\}$$

$$X\left[\begin{smallmatrix} a \\ b \end{smallmatrix}\right] = \{(0, \begin{smallmatrix} a \\ b \end{smallmatrix})\}$$

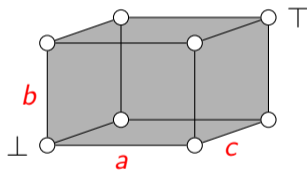


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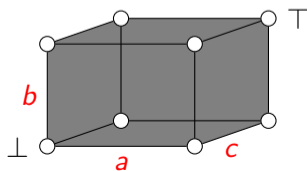
# Languages of HDAs: Examples



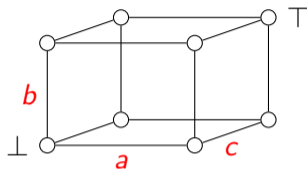
$$L_1 = \{abc, acb, bac, bca, cab, cba\}$$



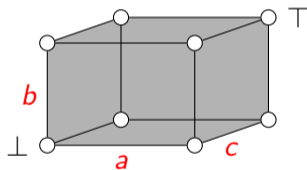
$$L_3 = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}, \dots \right\}$$



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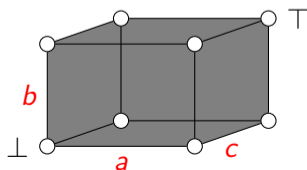


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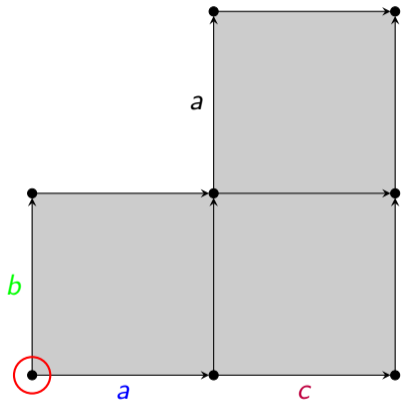
$$L_2 = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \rightarrow c \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} a \\ c \rightarrow b \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} b \\ a \rightarrow c \end{bmatrix}, \right. \\ \left. \begin{bmatrix} b \\ c \rightarrow a \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} c \\ a \rightarrow b \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} c \\ b \rightarrow a \end{bmatrix} \right\} \cup L_1 \cup \dots$$

sets of pomsets



$$L_3 = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} \right\} \cup L_2$$

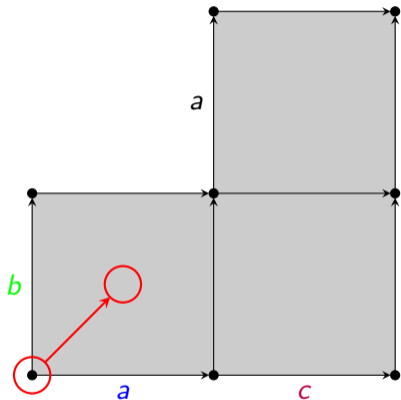
# Event Ipomset of a Path



## Lifetimes of events



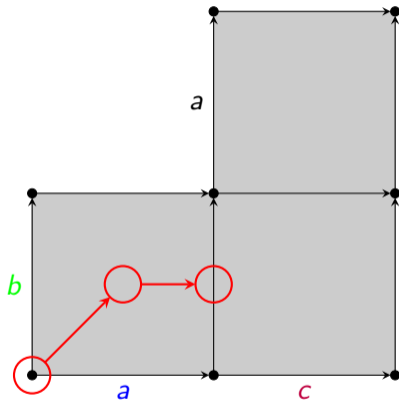
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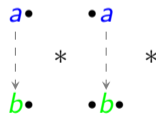
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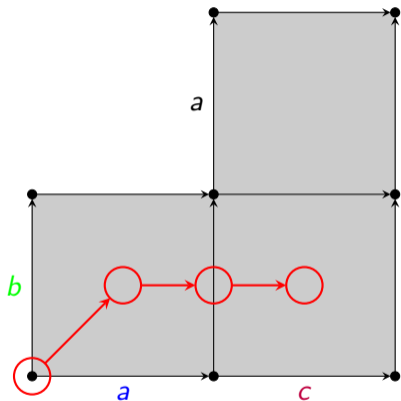
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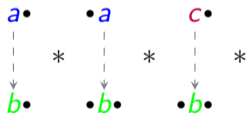
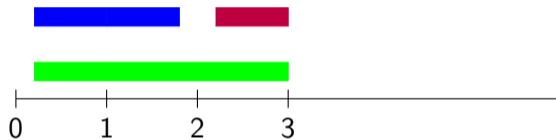
## Lifetimes of events



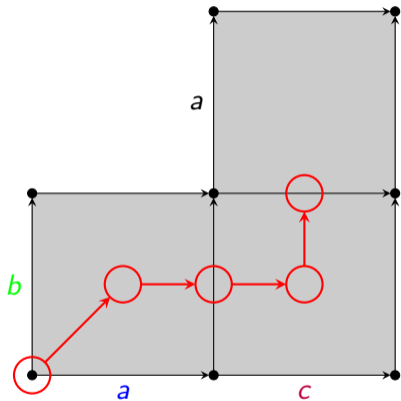
# Event Ipomset of a Path



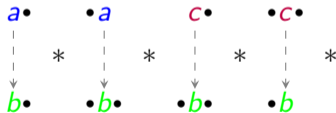
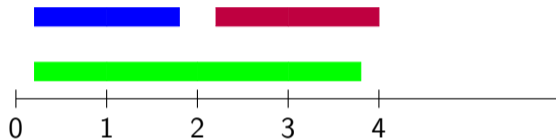
## Lifetimes of events



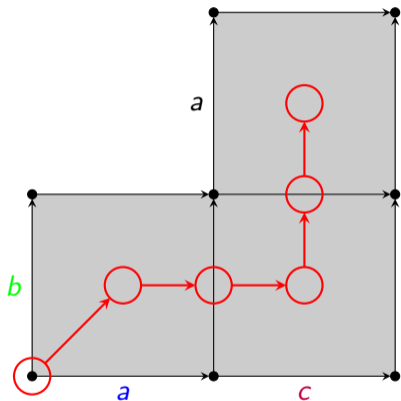
# Event Ipomset of a Path



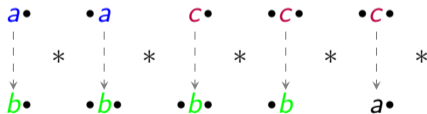
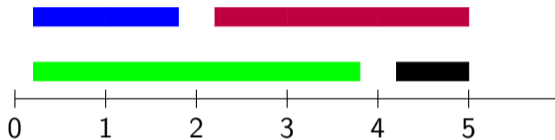
## Lifetimes of events



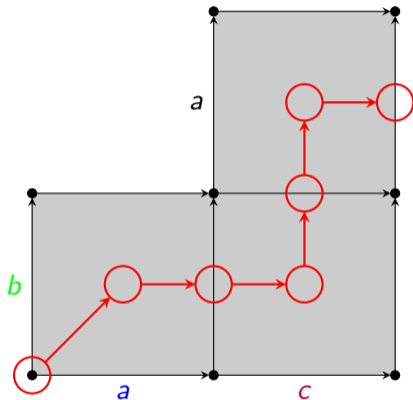
# Event Ipomset of a Path



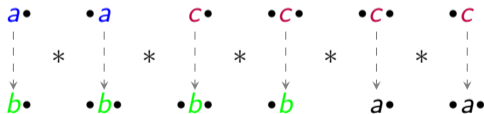
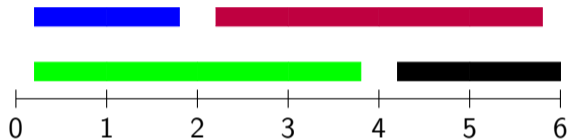
## Lifetimes of events



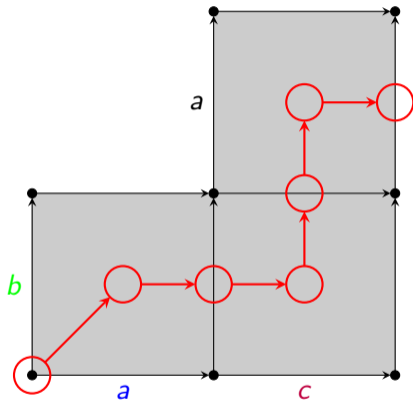
# Event Ipomset of a Path



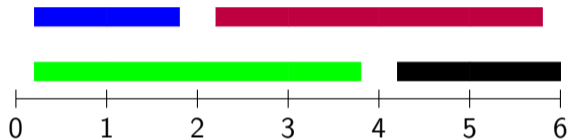
## Lifetimes of events



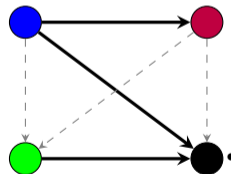
# Event Ipomset of a Path



## Lifetimes of events



## Event ipomset



(not series-parallel!)

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