Petri nets: Process modeling

Rushikesh K Joshi CSE IIT Bombay

Basic Petri-net Elements

- Places
 - Represent states
- Transitions
 - Represent actions
- Token
 - Current State
- Arrows
 - Flow elements





Elementary Petri-Nets at most one token per place

Transitions

- Enabled if all its preplaces has a token
- All post places are empty
 - No token in them



Transitions

- Enabled transition **fires**, and it moves the token(s) downstream
- Into all post places



Places

- A token may enable one or more transitions
- It gets consumed by firing one of the enabled transitions



Firing Sequence = sequence of transition firings (not markings)



- Following firing sequences are possible (considering one transition firing at a time)
 - t1 --> t3
 - t2 --> t4 -->t5
 - t2 --> t5 -->t4

State Space = set of all possible markings and the transitions through them

t1

t1

{P1}

{P2,P3,P4}

{P1,P2,P3,P4}

{P3}

{P2}



The same Petri-net for different purposes with different initial markings



In Multi-join, multiple tokens get collected one after the other ({P2} as initial)

Reachability Graph = state space given initial marking



Reachability Graph for initial marking as {P1,P2,P3}



Infinitely enabled net



A Problem: Rules of one masters program

- It's 2 semester program
- At most 10 courses
- Minimum 8 courses
- Per semester max 5 courses
- One R&D project can be taken as one course
- One masters project can be taken in place of 3 courses.
- MTP 1 in sem 1: counted as 3 courses, MTP 2 in sem 2: counted as 2 courses
- 1 seminar in 1st sem is must
- Backlogs of sem1 can be taken in sem2
- If any backlogs remain, one more semester is granted

Simplified Version of the Problem

- 5 courses
- 2 semester
- 2 courses per semester: total exactly 4 courses
- A course cannot be taken twice
- Make your net to represent this system
- Try to reduce the no. of transitions
- Model with: One transition representing one course

Vending machine Problem

- Insert Rs. 25: currency Rs. 5, Rs. 10 coins accepted e.g. 5+5+5+5+5, 10+5+10 etc. (design as small a machine as possible)
- Choose the drink
- Pick it up
- The machine is ready for the next task
- Time out of 1 minute, the machine returns all the coins inserted and resets to initial state
- Invalid coin is rejected, and all the coins are returned, the machine resets with a spoken message of invalid coin.

Workflow Nets

Workflow Nets

- Unique source place
- Unique sink place
- Connected
- Unique initial marking, unique terminal marking
- Well-formed every transition is reachable, every marking is reachable, every marking terminates

Workflow Patterns: SEQUENCE



Sequence

Workflow Patterns: XOR



Workflow Patterns: 2/3 Choice



2/3 split-join



Workflow Patterns: Iteration

which one is correct? Which one is incorrect?



Workflow Patterns: Multi-merge



Tokens can arrive both ways, and they are all sent down

Split/Join

• Parallel split



• Synchronization (parallel merge/AND join)



Split/Join

• Parallel split



• Synchronization (parallel merge/AND join)



Roles as tokens in places



Types of activities

- Automatic Activity
 - Computer can execute it fully
 - (when enabled, it is executed automatically such as by an algorithm, script task etc.)
- User Activity
 - A human being executes it
 - (though enable, it is done manually)
- Message Activity
 - An external message triggers the task instance
 - (though enabled, it requires a message to trigger it)
- Time Triggered Activity
 - Task needs to be trigged at a particular time, or after a certain period of timeout
 - (though enabled, time has to trigger it)





Problem

- Re-engineer the above net to reflect the process that we are actually following
- Make sure all traces that we actually take are in
- Also make sure the traces that we donot take are not in
- i.e. the aim is to get the exact model that is necessary and sufficient to represent the present process.

Classical Petri Nets

- A place can contain 0 or more tokens (more than 1)
 - The state then needs to mention the count of tokens held in places
 - e.g. {1 p1, 2 p3, 4 p4}
 - This state is different from {2 P1, 2 P3, 4 p4}

Places with multiple tokens



Build a state space

Initial marking: {P1}