

# Symbolic semantics for multiparty interactions in the link-calculus



Linda Brodo  
(University of Sassari, Italy)

joint work with  
**Carlos Olarte**  
(Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil)

# Setting

Modelling concurrent communicating systems

Process calculi approach

Symbolic semantics

(some basic knowledge of CCS assumed,  
some details omitted)

# Roadmap

- [A brief introduction to the link-calculus](#)
- Symbolic link chains
- Definition of the symbolic semantics
- Definition of the symbolic bisimulation
- Conclusion and future work

# Interaction

An **interaction** is an action by which  
(communicating) processes  
can influence each other

# The starting point: Milner's CCS interaction

$a.P \mid \bar{a}.Q$

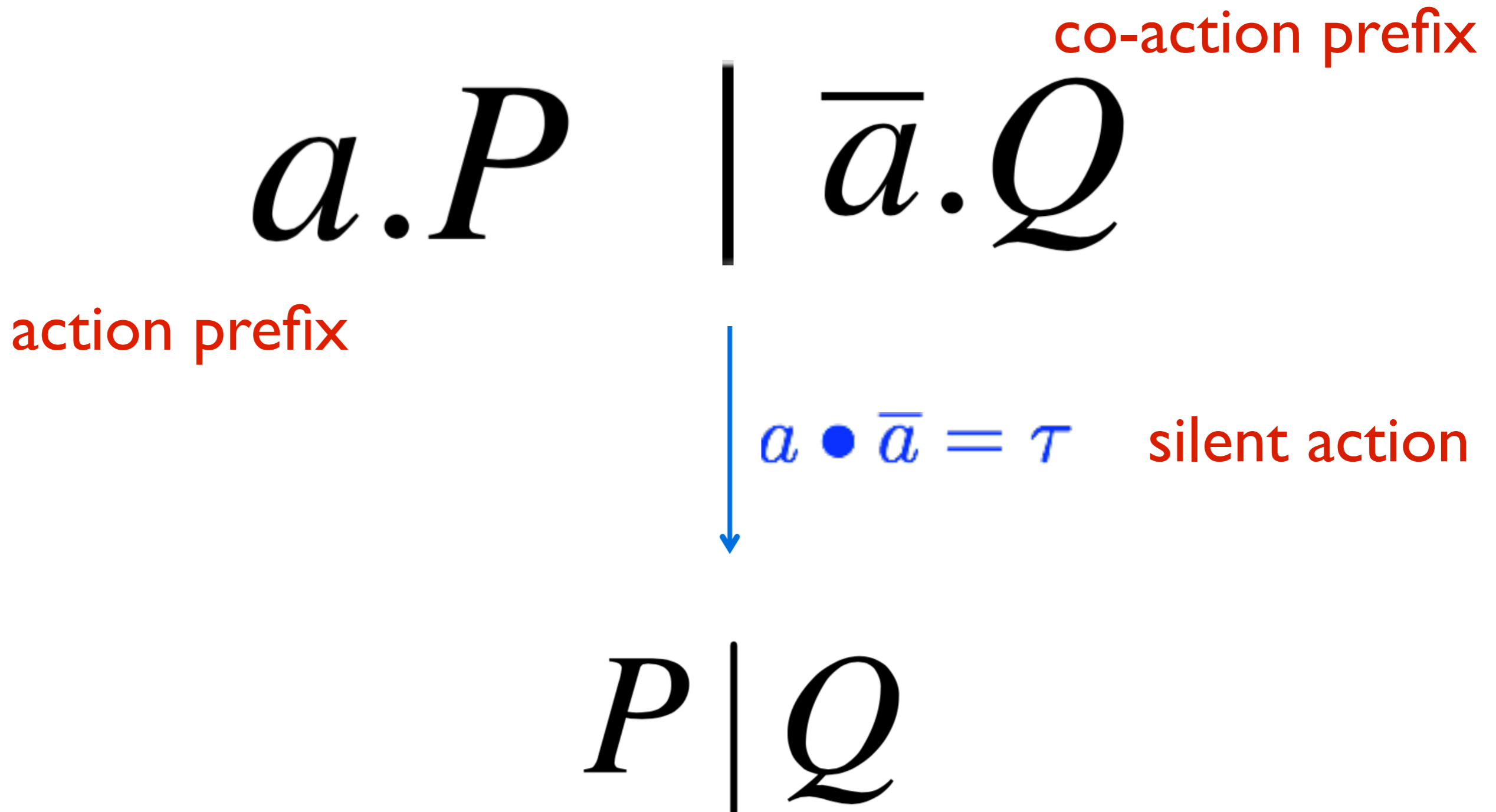
action prefix

co-action prefix

silent action

$P \mid Q$

# The starting point: Milner's CCS interaction



# Would you...?

...model piano playing using dyadic interaction



Open multiparty interactions are like playing piano  
(either bad or good, it does not matter)

# Any better abstraction?

Internet

Biology

Social networks

...

I/O is the basic form of interaction  
but “one size won’t fit all”

(it is possibly misleading to think otherwise:  
not all interactions are mutual/reciprocal)



# Kid's puzzle

Mutual (binary) interaction



# Multiparty interaction

An interaction is **multiparty** when it involves two or more processes





# Open interaction

An interaction is **open** when the number of involved processes is not fixed



# Our aim

Extend

in a smooth and coherent way  
the theory of dyadic interaction  
to deal with  
open multiparty interactions

# Process algebra ops

$0$	nil
$\mu.P$	action prefix
$P + Q$	sum
$P   Q$	parallel
$(\nu a)P$	restriction
$!P$	replication
$X$	process variable
$\text{rec } X.P$	recursive process
$P[\phi]$	renaming

# Linked interaction

We regard an interaction as a **chain of links**  
(still a kid's puzzle after all)



# Process algebra ops

$0$	nil	
$\mu.P$	action prefix	
$P + Q$	sum	We take as action
$P   Q$	parallel	the <b>offering of a link</b>
$(\nu a)P$	restriction	
$!P$	replication	
$X$	process variable	
rec $X.P$	recursive process	
$P[\phi]$	renaming	

# Notation

$a$  interaction over  $a$

$\tau$  silent interaction

$\square$  any interaction (only in labels)

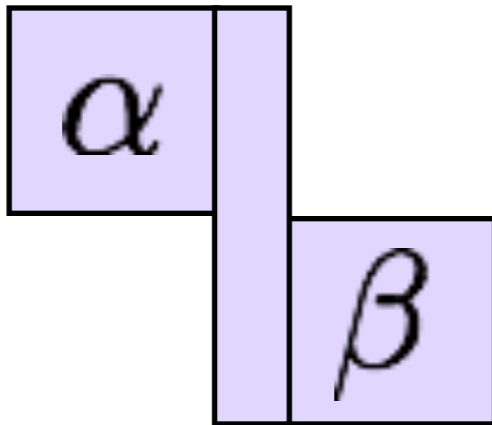


# Link

$\alpha \setminus \beta$  From  $\alpha$  to  $\beta$

Valid:

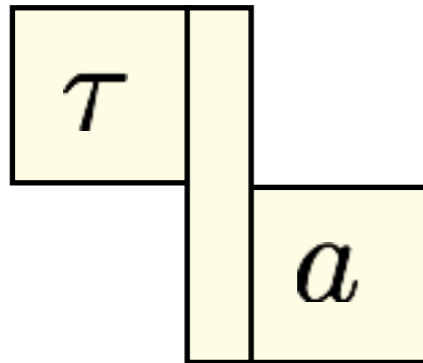
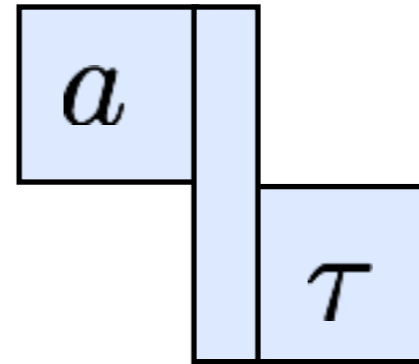
$$\alpha = \beta = \square \text{ or } \alpha, \beta \neq \square$$



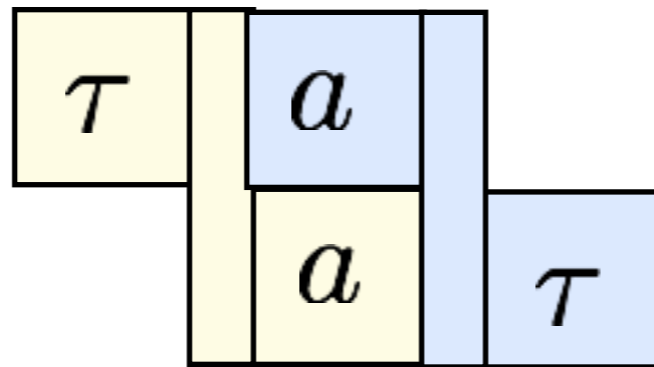
Virtual if  $\square \setminus \square$

Solid (otherwise)

# Examples: CCS-like

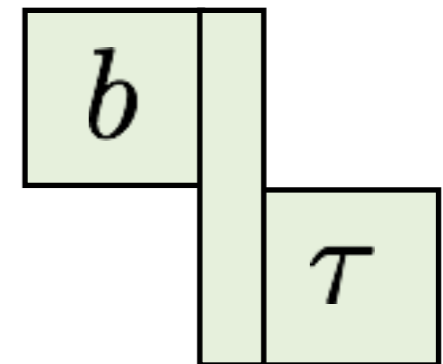
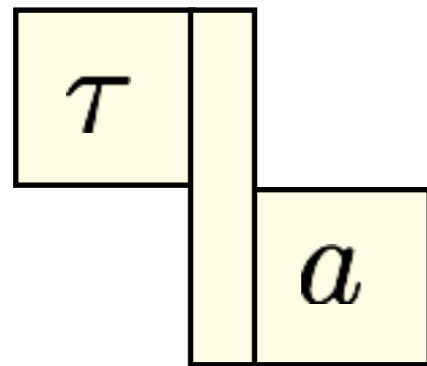
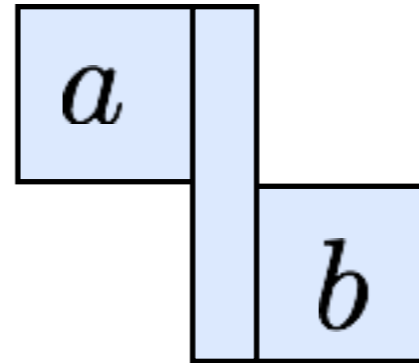


# Examples: CCS-like



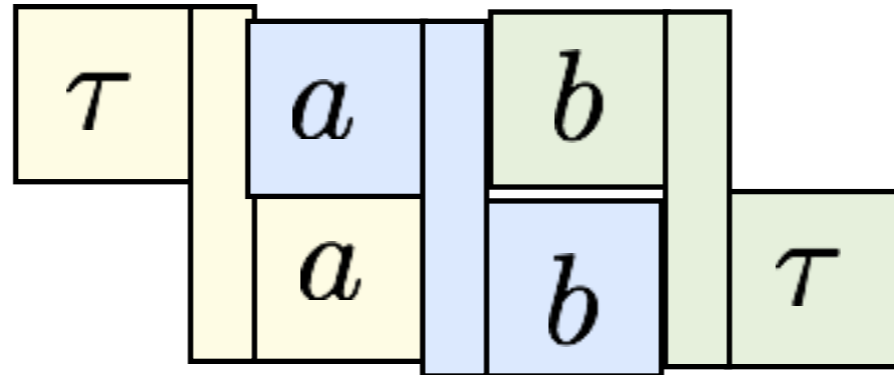
# Examples: three party

Swiss-bank box



# Examples: three party

Swiss-bank box



# Link chain

$$\alpha_1 \setminus \beta_1 \quad \alpha_2 \setminus \beta_2 \quad \dots \quad \alpha_n \setminus \beta_n$$

such that:

$$\beta_i, \alpha_{i+1} \notin \{\tau, \square\} \text{ implies } \beta_i = \alpha_{i+1}$$

$$\beta_i = \tau \text{ iff } \alpha_{i+1} = \tau$$

$$\forall i. \alpha_i, \beta_i \in \{\tau, \square\} \text{ implies } \forall i. \alpha_i = \beta_i = \tau$$

# Link chain: terminology

$$\alpha_1 \setminus \beta_1 \quad \alpha_2 \setminus \beta_2 \quad \dots \quad \alpha_n \setminus \beta_n$$

**Solid:**

if all its links are so

**Simple:**

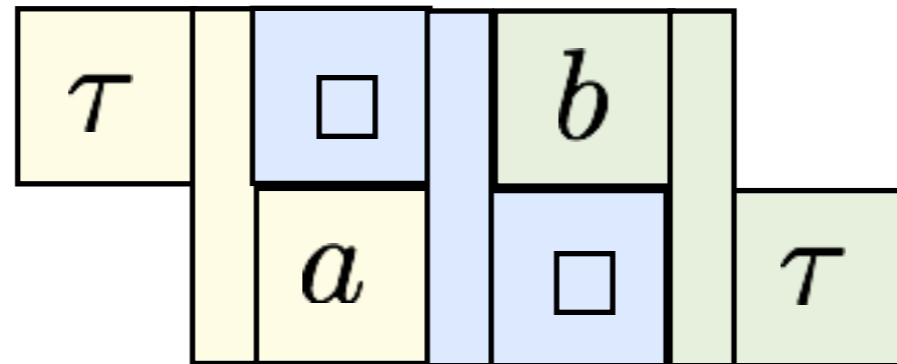
if it contains exactly one solid link

$s \bowtie \ell$  :

$s$  is simple and  $\ell$  is the only solid link in  $s$

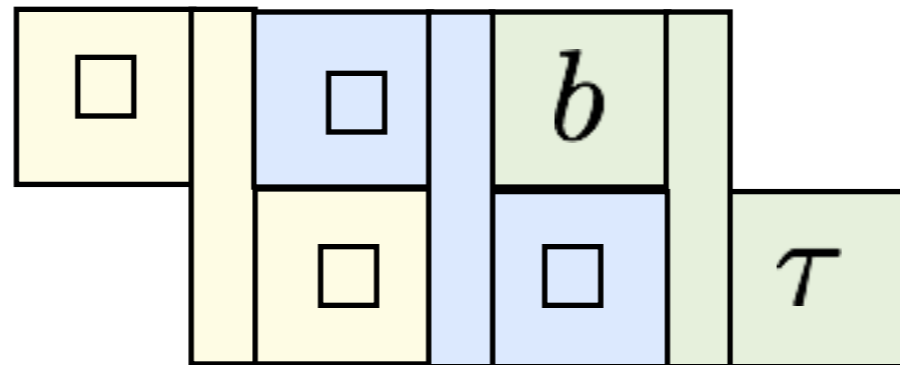
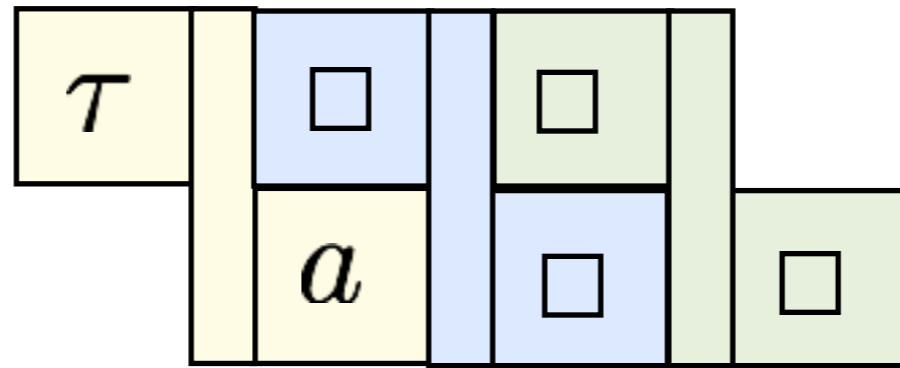
# Examples: non solid

Virtual links  $\square \setminus \square$   
can be read as missing pieces of the puzzle

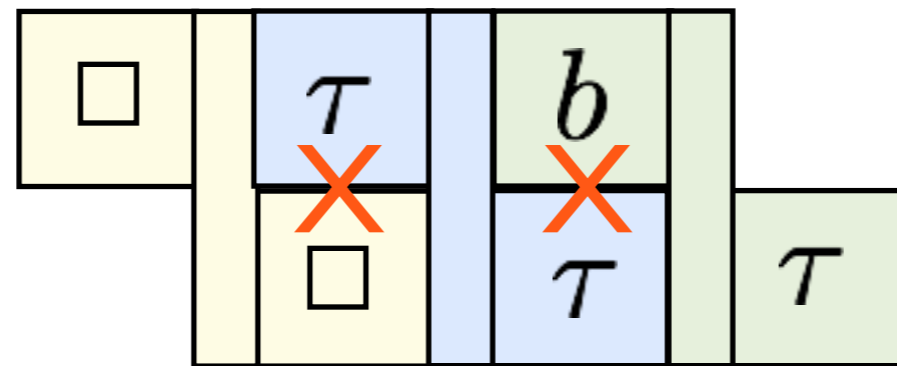
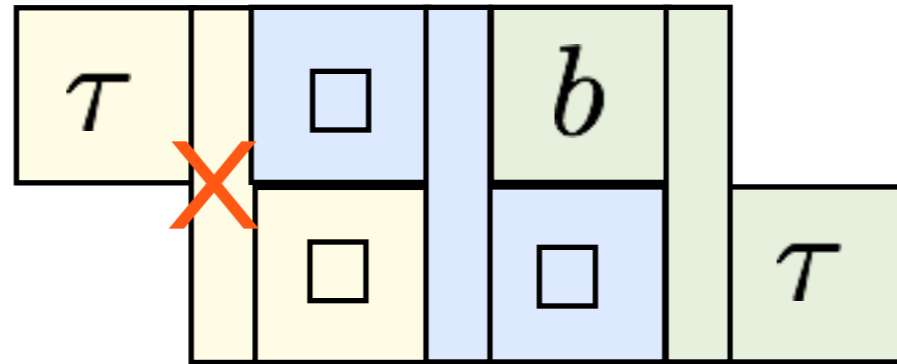




# Examples: simple



# Counter-examples



# (Relevant) SOS rules

$$\frac{s \blacktriangleleft \ell}{l.P \xrightarrow{s} P} \text{ (Act)}$$

equivalence relation

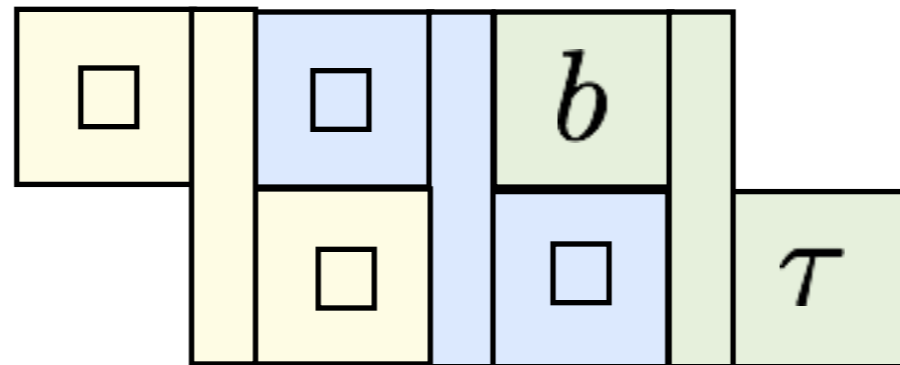
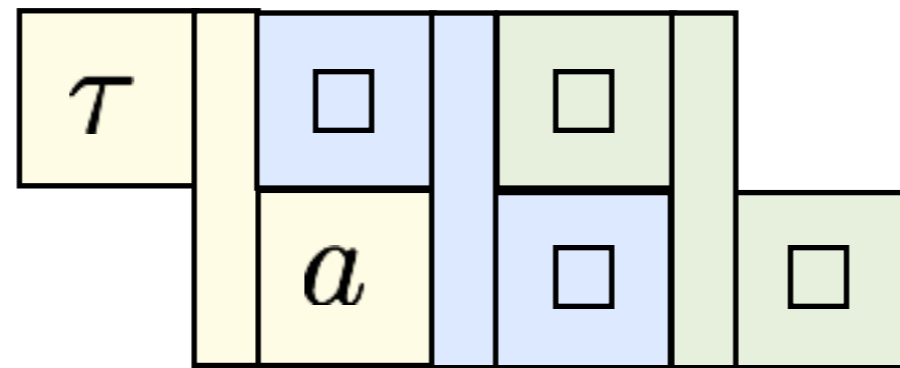
$$s^{\square} \backslash_{\square} \blacktriangleleft s$$

$$\square \backslash_{\square} s \blacktriangleleft s$$

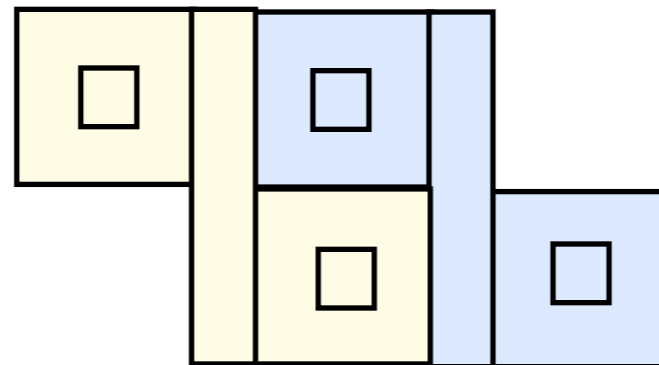
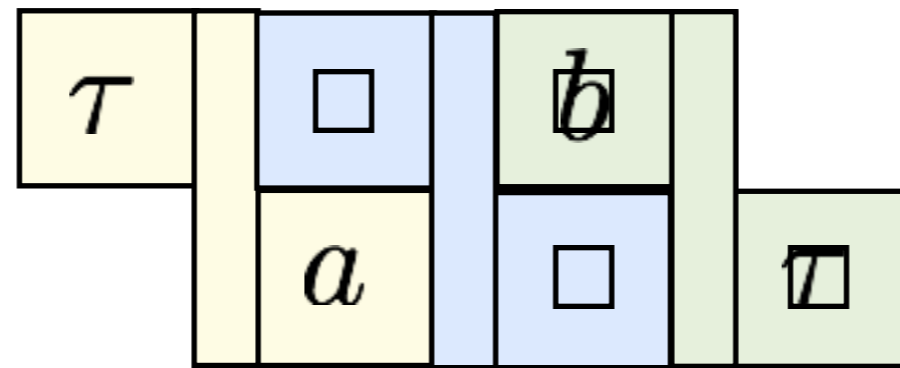
$$s_1^{\square} \backslash_{\square} \square \backslash_{\square} s_2 \blacktriangleleft s_1^{\square} \backslash_{\square} s_2$$

$$s_1^{\alpha} \backslash_a \square \backslash_{\square} \beta s_2 \blacktriangleleft s_1^{\alpha} \backslash_a \beta s_2$$

# Examples: merge



# Examples: merge



# Merge

(All the ops we show are strict)

$$\alpha \setminus_{\beta} \alpha_1 \setminus_{\beta_1} \alpha_2 \cdots \setminus_{\alpha_{n-1}} \beta_{n-1} \setminus_{\alpha_n} \bullet \alpha' \setminus_{\beta'} \alpha'_1 \setminus_{\beta'_1} \alpha'_2 \cdots \setminus_{\alpha'_{n-1}} \beta_{n-1} \setminus_{\alpha'_n}$$

$$\alpha \setminus_{\beta} \bullet \alpha' \setminus_{\beta'} \triangleq \begin{cases} (\alpha \bullet \alpha') \setminus_{(\beta \bullet \beta')} & \text{if } \alpha \bullet \alpha', \beta \bullet \beta' \neq \perp \\ \perp & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\alpha \bullet \beta \triangleq \begin{cases} \alpha & \text{if } \beta = \square \\ \beta & \text{if } \alpha = \square \end{cases}$$

The definition extends to chains element-wise  
(the result is undefined if the outcome is not valid)

# Restriction

matched action

$$(\nu a)(\alpha_1 \setminus \beta_1 \ \alpha_2 \setminus \beta_2 \ \dots \ \alpha_n \setminus \beta_n)$$

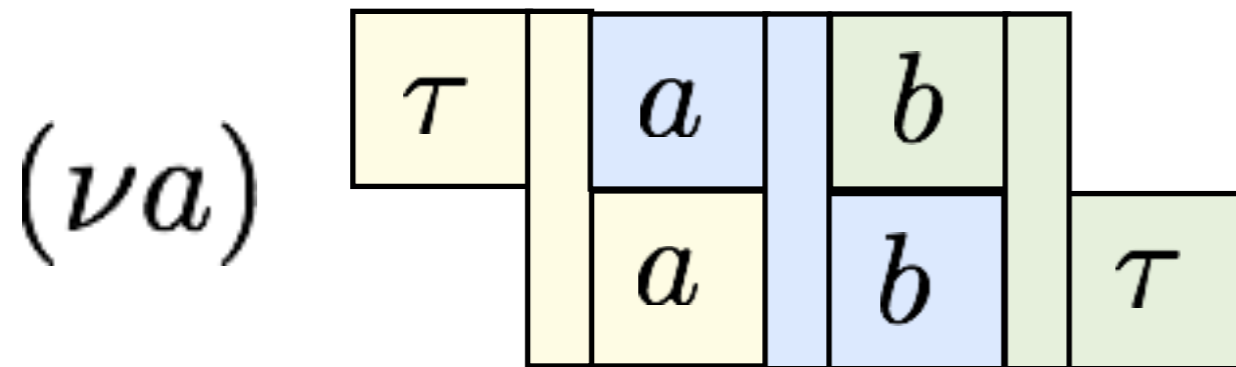
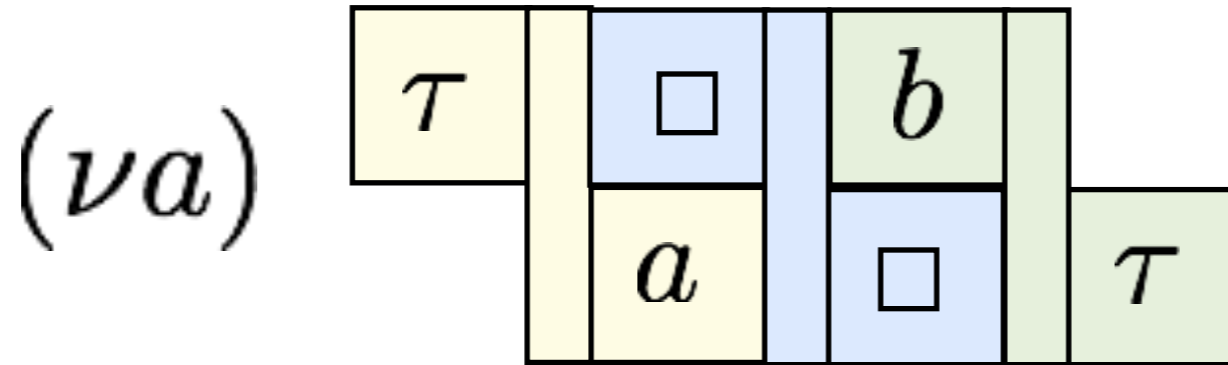
1.  $a \neq \alpha_1, \beta_n$ , and
2. for any  $i \in [1, n - 1]$ , either  $\beta_i = \alpha_{i+1} = a$  or  $\beta_i, \alpha_{i+1} \neq a$ .

restriction

$$(\nu a)(\alpha_1 \setminus \beta_1 \ \alpha_2 \setminus \beta_2 \ \dots \ \alpha_n \setminus \beta_n) \triangleq ((\nu a)\alpha) \setminus ((\nu a)\beta)$$

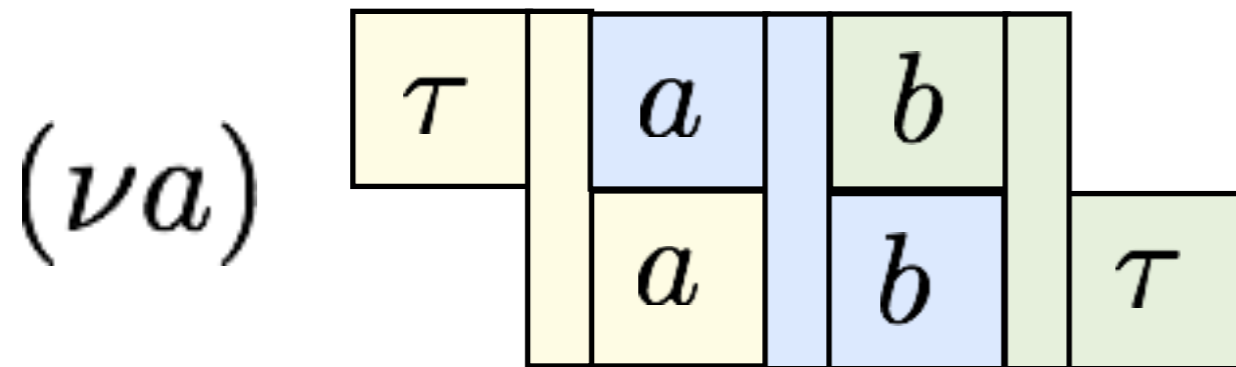
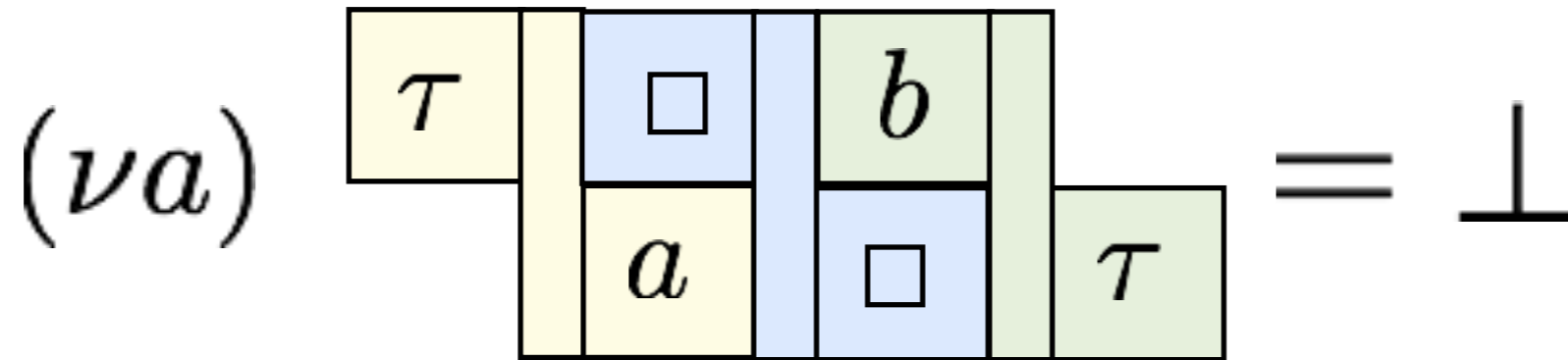
$$(\nu a)\alpha \triangleq \begin{cases} \tau & \text{if } \alpha = a \\ \alpha & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# Examples: restriction

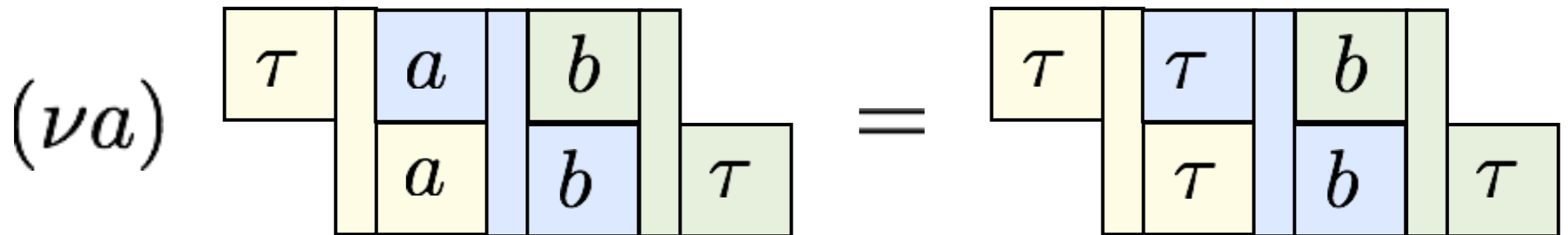
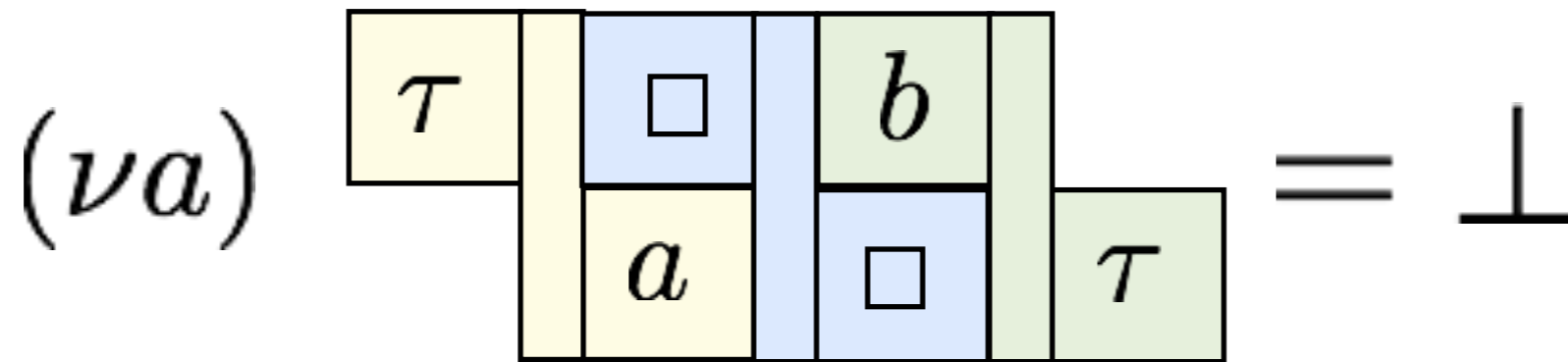




# Examples: restriction



# Examples: restriction



# (Relevant) SOS rules

$$\frac{s \blacktriangleleft \ell}{l.P \xrightarrow{s} P} \text{ (Act)}$$

equivalence relation

$$s^{\square} \backslash_{\square} \blacktriangleleft s$$

$$\square \backslash_{\square} s \blacktriangleleft s$$

$$s_1^{\square} \backslash_{\square} \square \backslash_{\square} s_2 \blacktriangleleft s_1^{\square} \backslash_{\square} s_2$$

$$s_1^{\alpha} \backslash_a \square \backslash_{\square} \beta s_2 \blacktriangleleft s_1^{\alpha} \backslash_a \beta s_2$$

# (Relevant) SOS rules

$$\frac{s \blacktriangleright \ell}{\ell.P \xrightarrow{s} P} \text{ (Act)}$$

$$\frac{P \xrightarrow{s} P'}{(\nu a)P \xrightarrow{(\nu a)s} (\nu a)P'} \text{ (Res)}$$

$$\frac{P \xrightarrow{s} P'}{P|Q \xrightarrow{s} P'|Q} \text{ (Lpar)}$$

$$\frac{P \xrightarrow{s} P' \quad Q \xrightarrow{s'} Q'}{P|Q \xrightarrow{s \bullet s'} P'|Q'} \text{ (Com)}$$

(look as ordinary CCS rules)

# Example I

$$P = \tau \backslash_a \cdot P_1 \mid (\nu b)Q \quad \text{and} \quad Q = b \backslash_\tau \cdot P_2 \mid a \backslash_b$$

---


$$b \backslash_\tau \cdot P_2 \xrightarrow{\square \backslash \square \backslash b \backslash \tau} P_2$$

---


$$a \backslash_b \cdot \mathbf{0} \xrightarrow{\square \backslash a \backslash \square \backslash b \backslash \square} \mathbf{0}$$

---


$$Q \xrightarrow{\square \backslash a \backslash \square \backslash b \backslash \tau} P_2 \mid \mathbf{0}$$

---


$$\tau \backslash_a \cdot P_1 \xrightarrow{\tau \backslash a \backslash \square \backslash \square \backslash \square} P_1$$

---


$$(\nu b)Q \xrightarrow{\square \backslash a \backslash \tau \backslash \tau} (\nu b)(P_2 \mid \mathbf{0})$$

---


$$P \xrightarrow{\tau \backslash a \backslash \tau \backslash \tau} P_1 \mid (\nu b)(P_2 \mid \mathbf{0})$$

# Bisimulation

The process algebra of linked interactions is a straightforward extension of CCS.

It includes CCS as a sub-calculus.

Finer (bisimilarity over the) LTS wrt CCS:  
three kinds of meaningful observables

$$\tau \setminus a$$

$$\tau \setminus a \square \square \setminus \square b \setminus \tau$$

$$b \setminus \tau$$

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$$\tau \backslash a \quad \tau \backslash a \square \square \backslash b \backslash \tau \quad b \backslash \tau$$
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# White tie

$$\frac{s \blacktriangleleft s'}{s \triangleleft s'}$$

$$s_1^\alpha \setminus_{\tau} \setminus_{\beta} s_2 \triangleleft s_1^\alpha \setminus_{\beta} s_2$$

To be used in the network bisimulation  
(the bisimulation of the link-calculus)

# Bisimulation, definition

A network bisimulation  $\mathbf{R}$  is a binary relation over CNA processes such that, if  $P \mathbf{R} Q$  then

- if  $P \xrightarrow{s} P'$ , then  $\exists s', Q'$  such that  $s' \bowtie s$ ,  $Q \xrightarrow{s'} Q'$ , and  $P' \mathbf{R} Q'$ ;
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$$\tau \setminus_a \cdot b \setminus_\tau + b \setminus_\tau \cdot \tau \setminus_a$$

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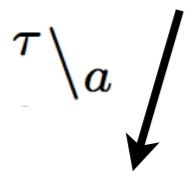
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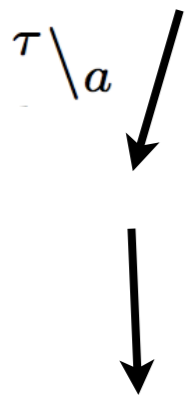
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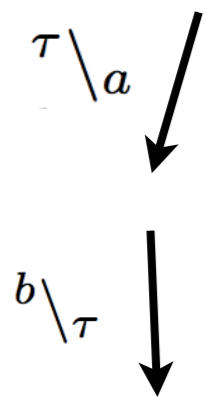
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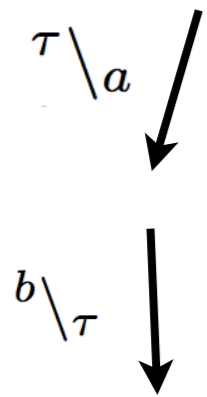
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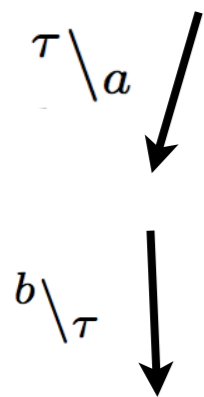


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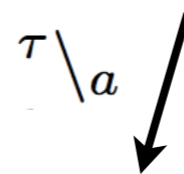
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$$\tau \setminus_a | b \setminus_\tau$$

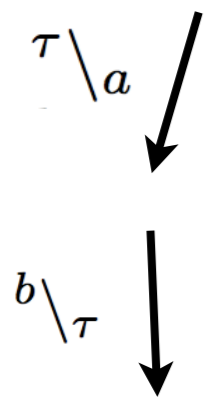


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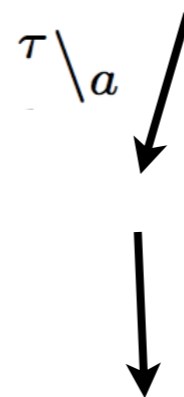
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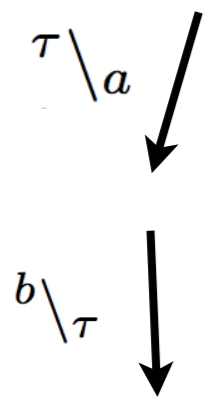


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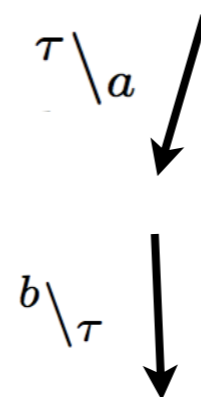
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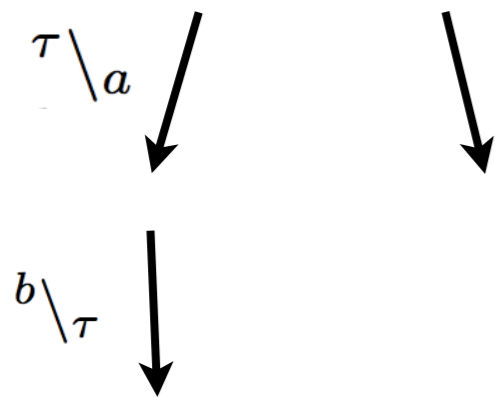


# Bisimulation, definition

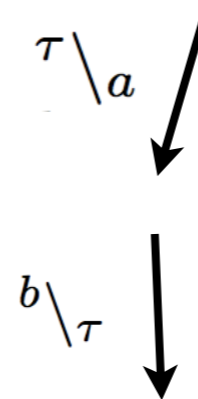
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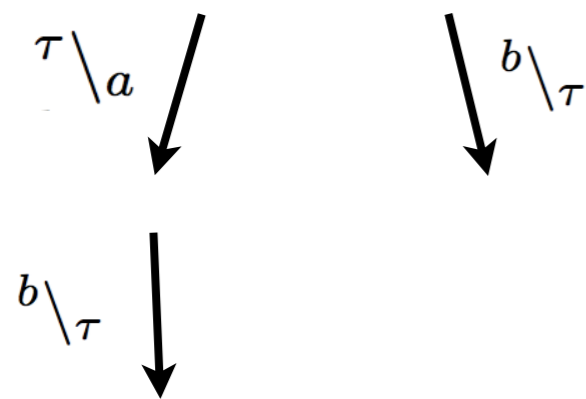


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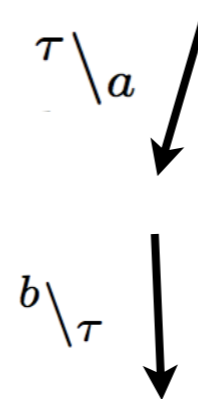
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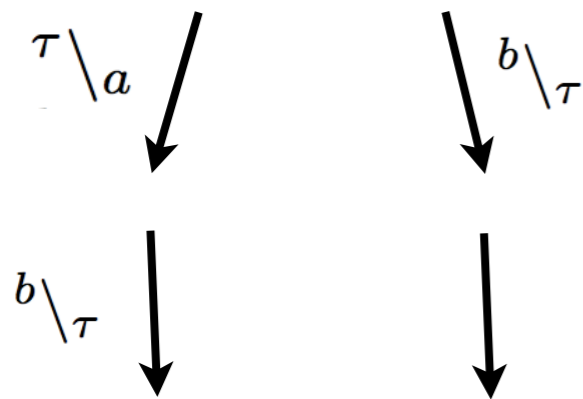


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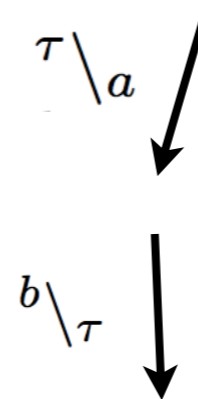
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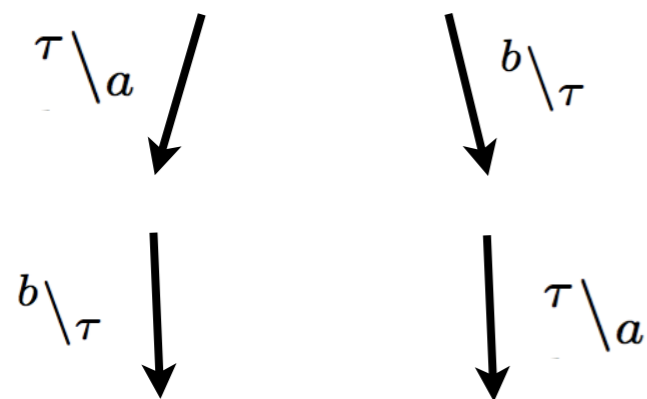


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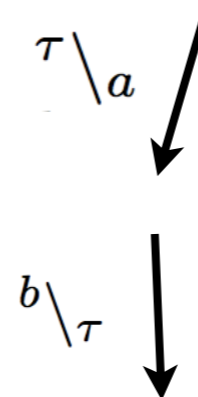
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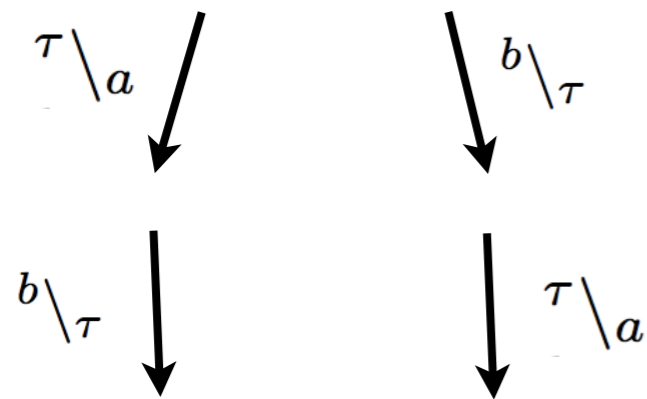


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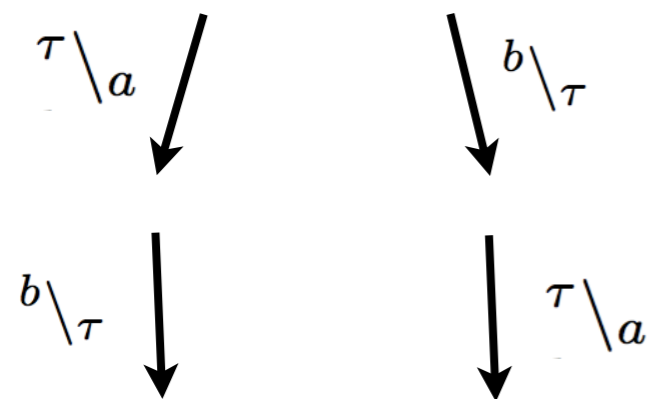


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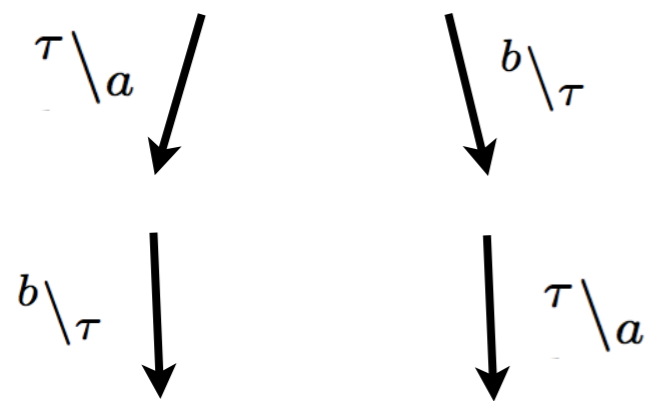


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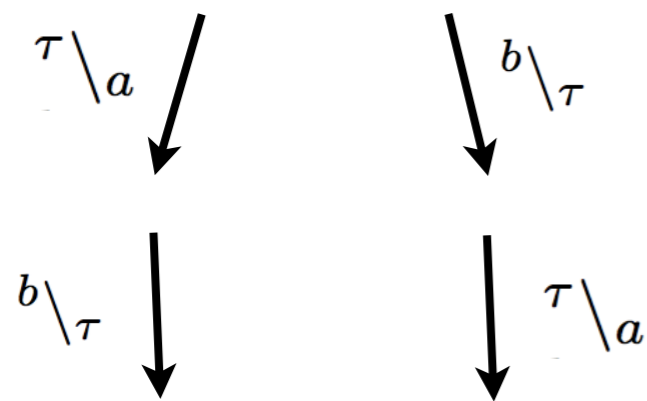


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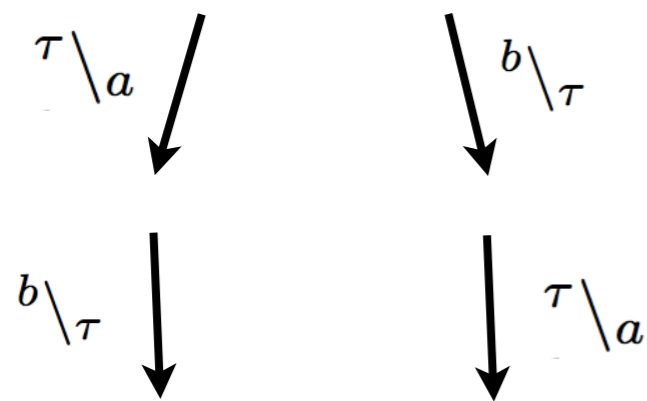


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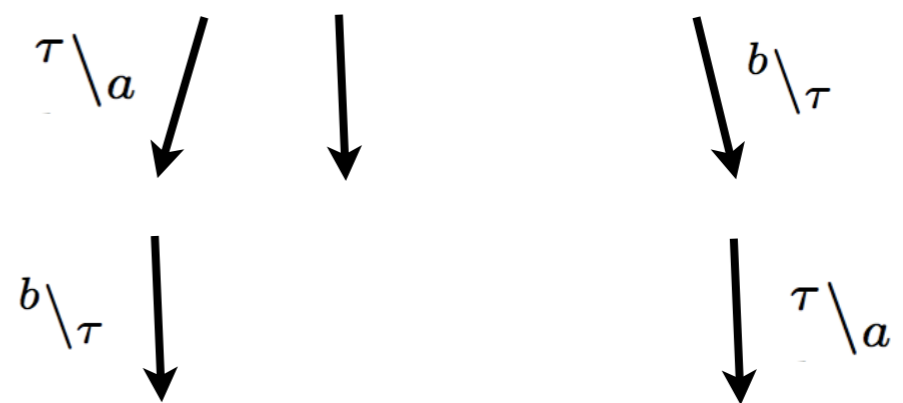
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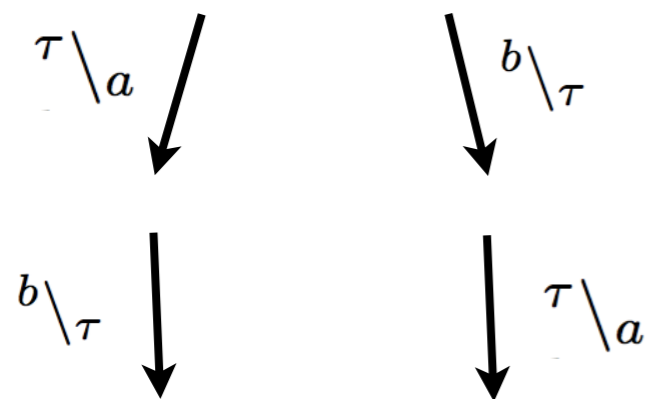


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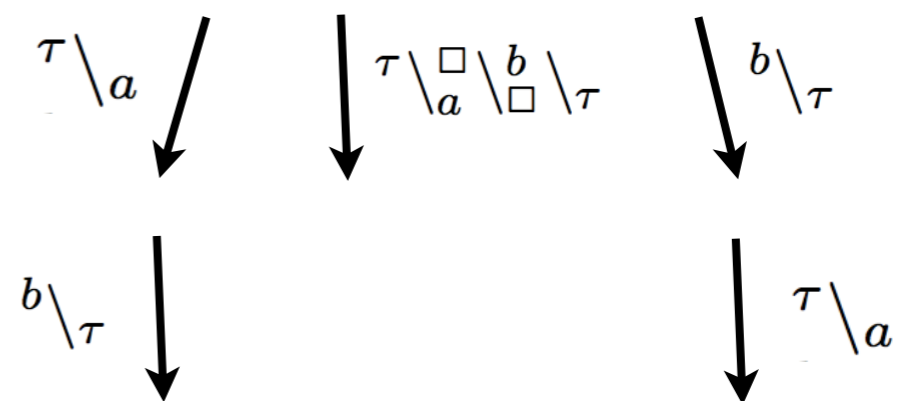
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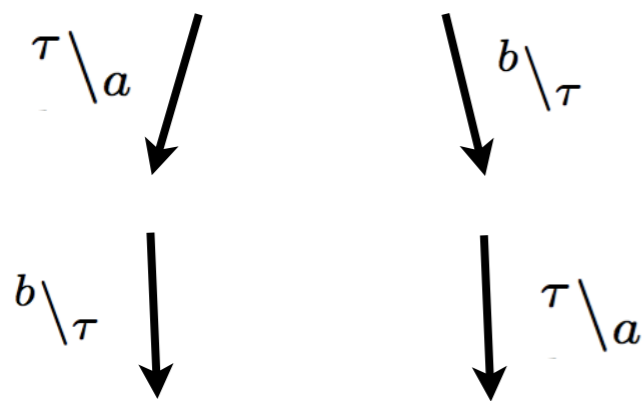


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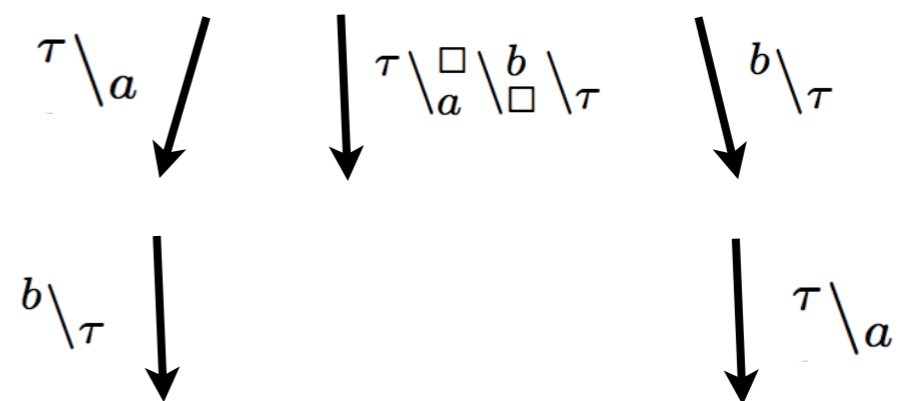
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it is a congruence

# Some references

- Chiara Bodei, Linda Brodo, Roberto Bruni: Open Multiparty Interaction. Workshop on Algebraic Development Techniques 2012: 1-23.
- Chiara Bodei, Linda Brodo, Roberto Bruni, Davide Chiarugi: A Flat Process Calculus for Nested Membrane Interactions. Sci. Ann. Comp. Sci. 24(1): 91-136 (2014).
- Chiara Bodei, Linda Brodo, Roberto Bruni: A Formal Approach to Open Multiparty Interactions. Submitted to Theoretical Computer Science.



# Roadmap

- A brief introduction to the link-calculus
- **Symbolic link chains**
- Definition of the symbolic semantics
- Definition of the symbolic bisimulation
- Conclusion and future work

# Example 2

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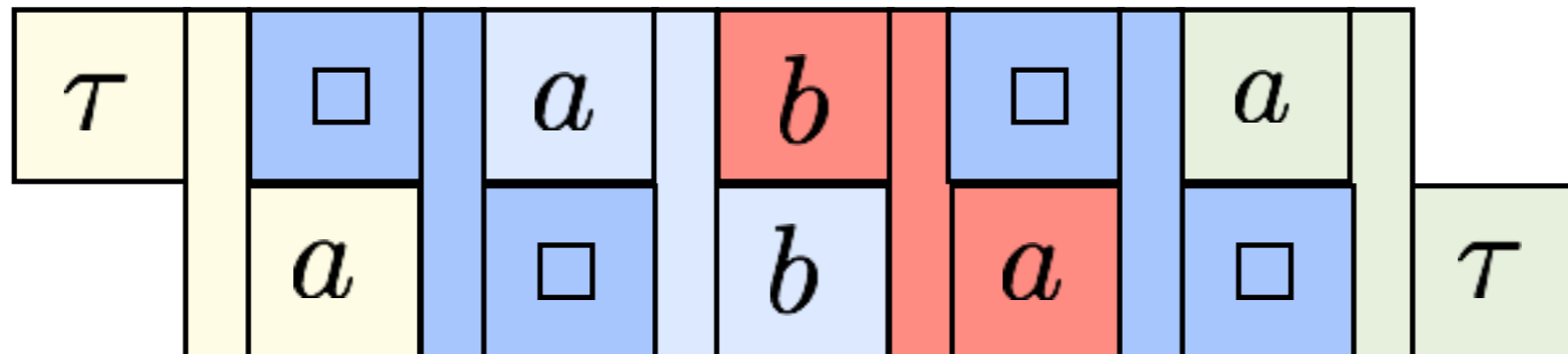
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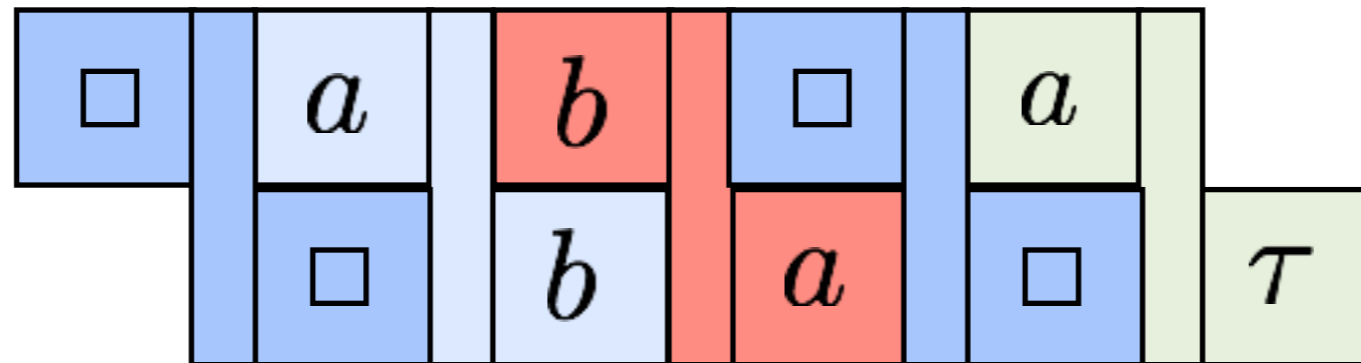
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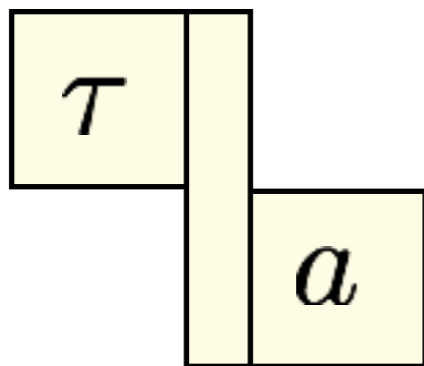
link chain

symbolic  
configuration

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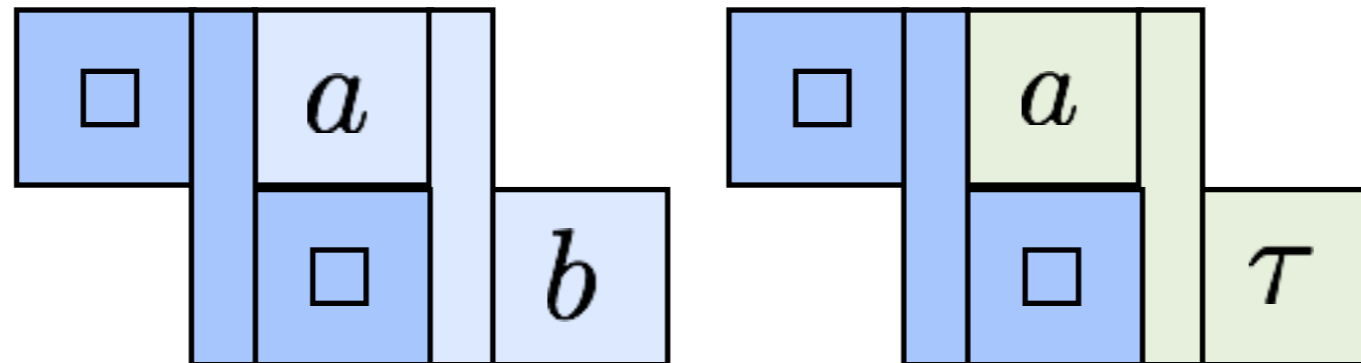
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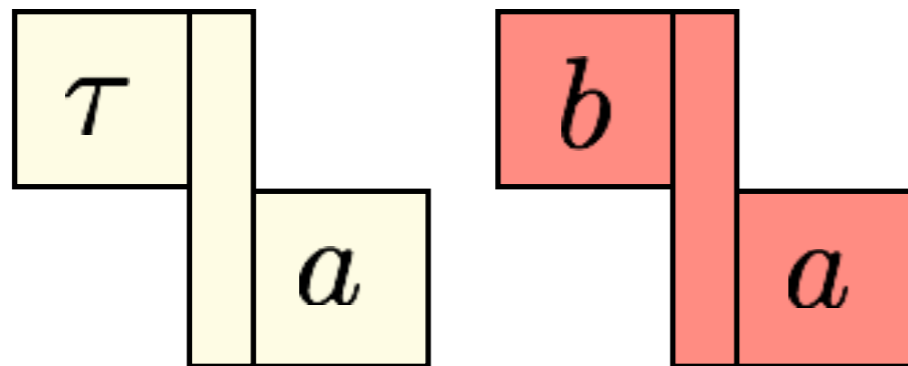
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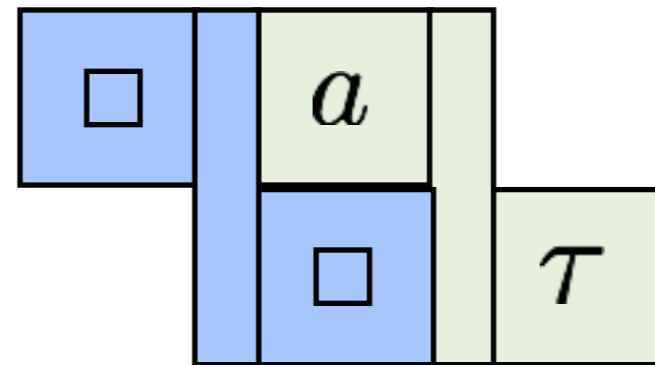
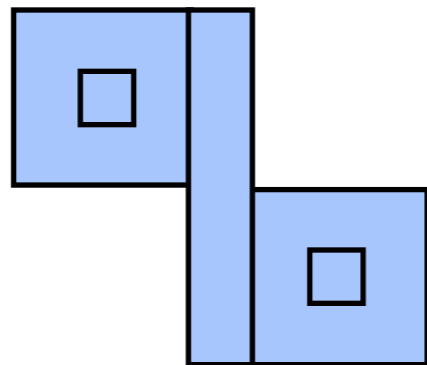


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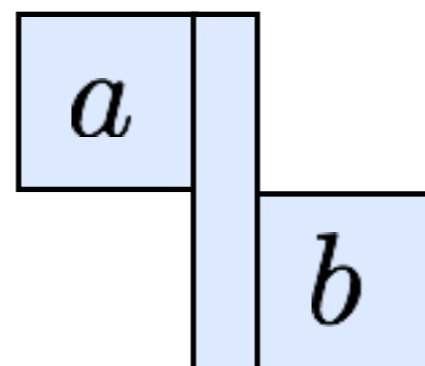
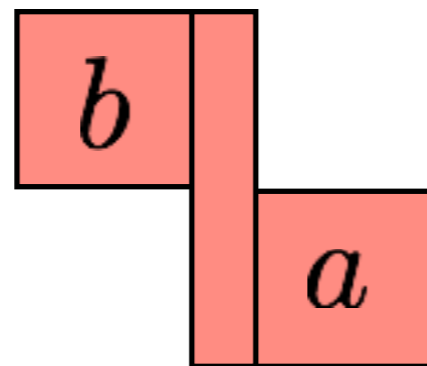
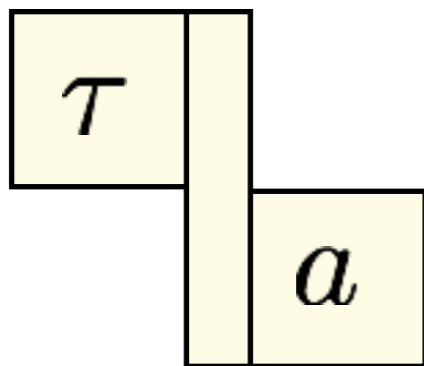


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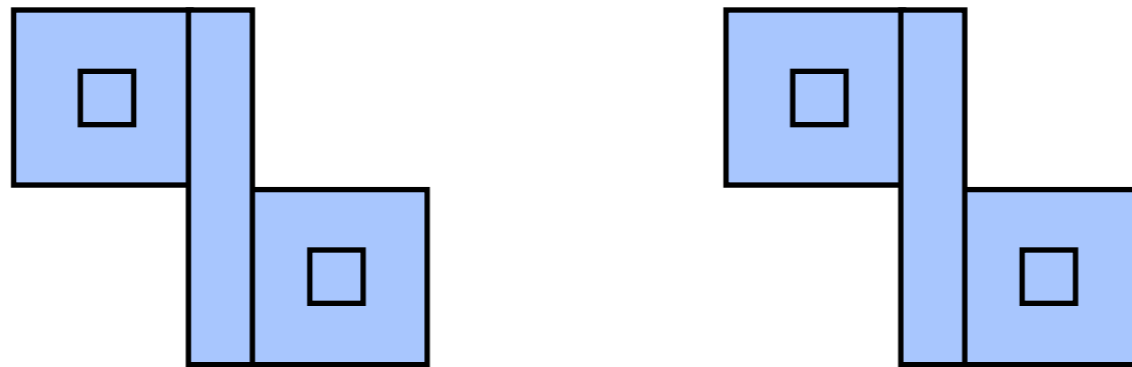


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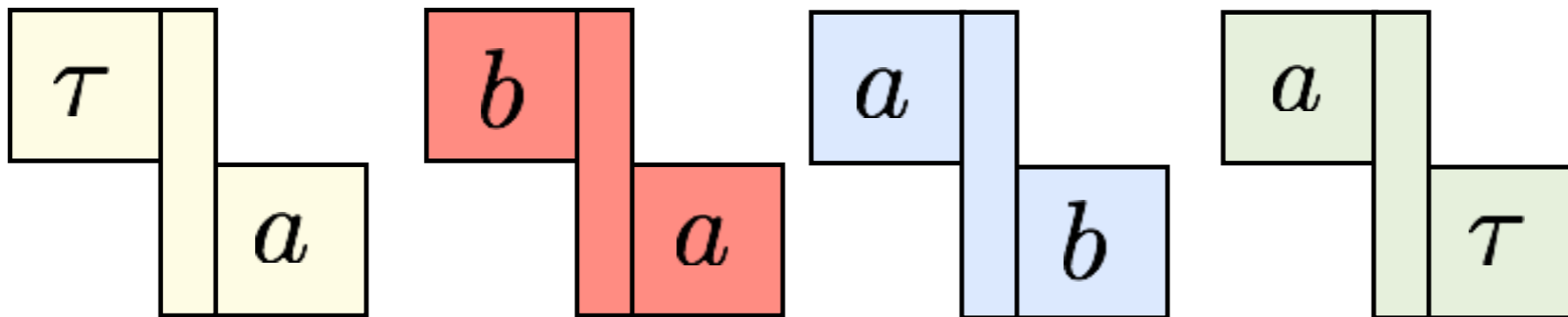


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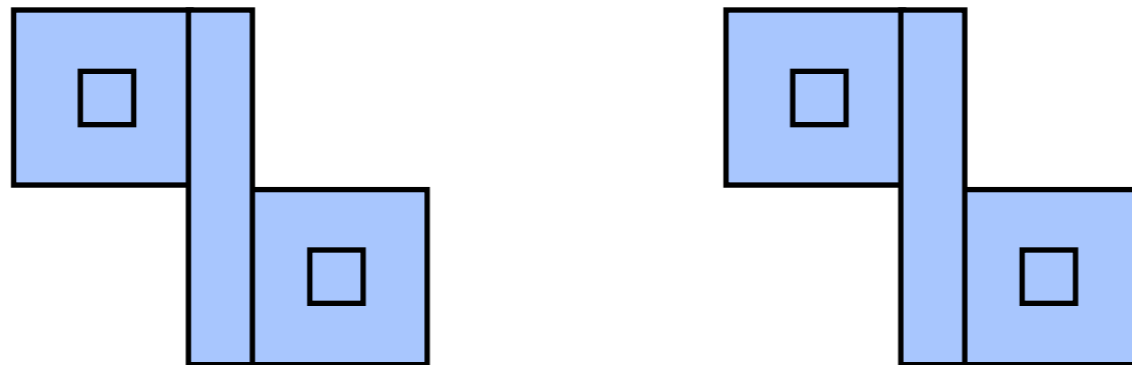


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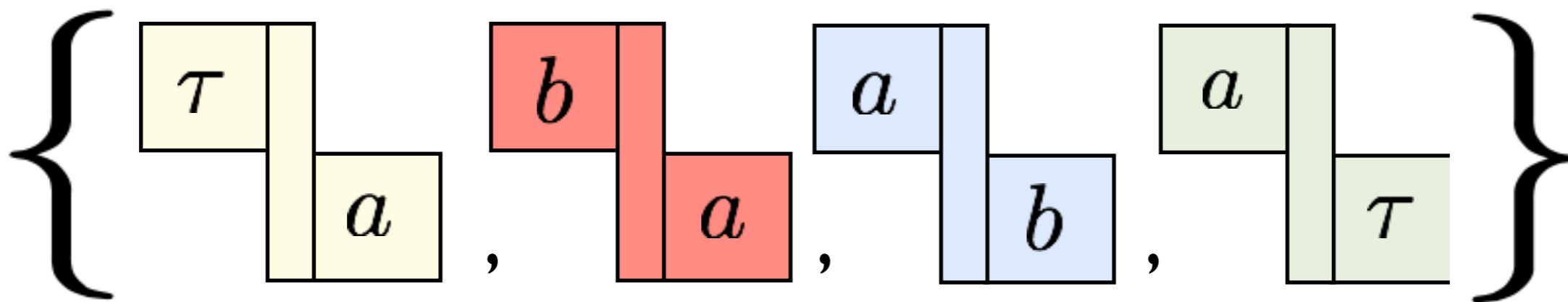


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# Symbolic configurations



link chain



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# Symbolic Configurations

*Let  $L$  be a multiset of solid links. We define the (symbolic) configuration  $\langle L \rangle$  as the set*

$$\langle L \rangle = \{s \in VC \mid \text{there exists } s_i \bowtie l_i \text{ for all } l_i \in L \text{ s.t. } s = s_1 \bullet s_2 \bullet \cdots \bullet s_n\}$$

*We say that  $\langle L \rangle$  is a valid configuration if the set above is not empty.*

$$L = \{a \setminus b, \tau \setminus a, \tau \setminus b\}$$

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**Proposition 1 (Valid Configurations).** *Let  $L$  be a non-empty multiset of solid links. Then,  $\langle L \rangle$  is valid iff  $\tau$  appears at most once in  $L$  as input and at most once as output.*

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# Restriction acting on configurations

Let  $\gamma$  be a configuration and  $a \in C$ . We define the configuration

$$(\nu a)\gamma = \{s \in VC \mid \text{there exists } s' \in \gamma \text{ and } s = (\nu a)s'\}$$

We say that  $(\nu a)\gamma$  is valid if the set above is not empty.

$$L = \{^a \setminus a\} \quad \text{not valid} \quad (\nu a)\langle L \rangle$$

$$L = \{\tau \setminus a, ^a \setminus \tau, ^a \setminus b\} \quad \text{configurations} \quad (\nu a)\langle L \rangle$$

$$L = \{\tau \setminus a, ^b \setminus \tau, ^a \setminus c\} \quad \text{this is valid} \quad (\nu a)\langle L \rangle$$

because of

$$\tau \setminus a \setminus \square \setminus b \setminus \tau$$

$$\setminus a \setminus c \setminus \square \setminus \tau$$



# Properties of restricted valid configurations

*Let  $\gamma = (\nu \mathbf{x}) \langle L \rangle$  be a valid configuration and*

*$a \in \text{fn}(\gamma)$ .  $(\nu a)\gamma$  is valid iff the three conditions below hold:*

- 1. Matched:**  *$a$  occurs the same number of times as input and as output in  $\gamma$ .*
- 2. Extremes:** *there exist two links  $\alpha \setminus \beta, \alpha' \setminus \beta'$  in  $\gamma$  where  $\alpha, \beta' \neq a$ .*
- 3. Synchronizations:** *if both  $\tau \setminus a$  and  $a \setminus \tau$  occur in  $L$ , then either  $\text{names}(L) = \{a, \tau\}$  or there exist two links  $a \setminus \beta, \beta' \setminus a$  in  $L$  s.t.  $\beta, \beta' \notin \{a, \tau\}$ .*

# Merging valid configurations

*Let  $(\nu a_1, \dots, a_n)\langle L \rangle$  and  $(\nu b_1, \dots, b_m)\langle L' \rangle$  be two valid configurations. By alpha conversion, we assume that the names  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  (resp.  $b_1, \dots, b_m$ ) do not occur in  $L'$  (resp.  $L$ ). We define*

$$(\nu a_1, \dots, a_n)\langle L \rangle \bullet (\nu b_1, \dots, b_m)\langle L' \rangle = (\nu a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, b_m)\langle L \uplus L' \rangle$$

*where  $\uplus$  denotes multiset union.*

# Roadmap

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# Symbolic semantics rules

$$\frac{}{\ell.P \xRightarrow{\langle\{\ell\}\rangle} P} Act_s$$

$$\frac{P \xRightarrow{\gamma} P'}{(\nu a)P \xRightarrow{(\nu a)\gamma} (\nu a)P'} Res_s$$

$$\frac{P \xRightarrow{\gamma} P' \quad Q \xRightarrow{\gamma'} Q'}{P | Q \xRightarrow{\gamma \bullet \gamma'} P' | Q'} Com_s$$

$$\frac{P \xRightarrow{\gamma} P'}{P + Q \xRightarrow{\gamma} P'} Lsum_s$$

$$\frac{P \xRightarrow{\gamma} P'}{P | Q \xRightarrow{\gamma} P' | Q} Lpar_s$$

$$\frac{P \xRightarrow{\gamma} P' \quad A \triangleq P}{A \xRightarrow{\gamma} P'} Ide_s$$

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$$\frac{}{l.P \xrightarrow{\langle\{l\}\rangle} P} Act_s$$

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# Soundness and Completeness

*Let  $P$  be a process and assume that  $P \xRightarrow{\gamma} P'$ . Then,*  
*for all  $s \in \gamma$ ,  $P \xrightarrow{s} P'$ .*

*Let  $P$  be a process and assume that  $P \xrightarrow{s} P'$ . Then, there*  
*exists  $\gamma$  s.t.  $P \xRightarrow{\gamma} P'$  and  $s \in \gamma$ .*

where  $\gamma$  is a symbolic configuration, possibly restricted.

# introducing the extraction operator $ext(s)$

$$s = \tau \backslash a \backslash c \backslash b \backslash \tau$$



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$$s' = (\nu a)(\nu b) \tau \backslash a \backslash c \backslash b \backslash \tau = \tau \backslash \tau \backslash c \backslash \tau \backslash \tau$$

# introducing the extraction operator $ext(s)$

$$s = \tau \backslash a \backslash c \backslash b \backslash \tau$$

$$s' = (\nu a)(\nu b) \tau \backslash a \backslash c \backslash b \backslash \tau = \tau \backslash \tau \backslash c \backslash \tau \backslash \tau$$

$$ext(s') = (\nu x) \langle \tau \backslash x, x \backslash c, c \backslash x, x \backslash \tau \rangle$$

# Completeness, refined

*Let  $P$  be a process and assume that  $P \xrightarrow{s} P'$ . Then, there*

*exists  $\gamma \subseteq \text{ext}(s)$  s.t.  $P \xRightarrow{\gamma} P'$ .*

**ext(...)** is a super set ...

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$$w' = b \setminus_{\tau} \setminus_d \setminus_{\tau} \setminus_b \in \text{ext}(w) \quad w' \notin \psi$$

# Roadmap

- A brief introduction to the link-calculus
- Symbolic link chains
- Definition of the symbolic semantics
- Definition of the symbolic bisimulation
- Conclusion and future work

# Bisimulation

recall

*A network bisimulation  $\mathbf{R}$  is a binary relation over link processes such that, if  $P \mathbf{R} Q$  then:*

- if  $P \xrightarrow{s} P'$  then  $\exists s', Q'$  such that  $s \bowtie s'$ ,  $Q \xrightarrow{s'} Q'$  and  $P' \mathbf{R} Q'$*
- and viceversa*

*We let  $\sim_n$  denote the largest network bisimulation and we say that  $P$  is network bisimilar to  $Q$  if  $P \sim_n Q$ .*

then, we introduce

*Let  $\bowtie$  be the least symmetric relation on valid configurations s.t.  $\gamma \bowtie \gamma'$*

*iff for all  $s \in \gamma$  there exists  $s' \in \gamma'$  s.t.  $s' \bowtie s$ .*

# Symbolic bisimulation

*A symbolic network bisimulation  $\mathbf{R}$  is a binary relation over link processes such that, if  $P\mathbf{R}Q$  then:*

- If  $P \xRightarrow{\gamma} P'$ , then, there exists  $\gamma' \bowtie \gamma$  s.t.  $Q \xRightarrow{\gamma'} Q'$  and  $P'\mathbf{R}Q'$ .*
- If  $Q \xRightarrow{\gamma} Q'$ , then, there exists  $\gamma' \bowtie \gamma$  s.t.  $P \xRightarrow{\gamma'} P'$  and  $Q'\mathbf{R}P'$ .*

*We let  $\sim_s$  be the largest symbolic network bisimulation and we say that  $P$  and  $Q$  are bisimilar if  $P \sim_s Q$ .*

# Symbolic bisimulation 2

we introduce the concept of capability...

given  $\gamma = (\nu \mathbf{x}) \langle L \rangle$

we say that  $[a \cdot b] \in \text{cap}(\gamma)$

if  $a \setminus_b \in L$

or it is possible to create a link chain as the following

$a \setminus_{x_1} \setminus_{x_2} \dots \setminus_{x_{n-1}} \setminus_{x_n} \setminus_b$  where  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in \mathbf{x}$ .



# Symbolic bisimulation 3

*Let  $s \in \gamma$ . For all solid link  $a \setminus b$ ,  $a \setminus b$  appears in  $s$   
iff  $[a \cdot b] \in \text{cap}(\gamma)$*

*Moreover, let  $\gamma, \gamma'$  be valid configurations.*

*Then,  $\gamma \bowtie \gamma'$  iff  $\text{cap}(\gamma) = \text{cap}(\gamma')$*

Therefore, checking  $\gamma \bowtie \gamma'$  can be done in polynomial time

# Symbolic bisimulation, last

*Let  $P$  and  $Q$  be processes. Then,  $P \sim_n Q$  iff  $P \sim_s Q$ .*

*$\sim_s$  is a congruence.*



# The tool

- We have implemented the symbolic semantics in Maude (<http://maude.cs.illinois.edu>)
- it is available at <http://subsell.logic.at/links>

# Conclusions

A symbolic semantics and bisimulation for  
an open and multiparty interaction  
process calculus

An efficient procedures to check the  
validity of a symbolic  
configuration

Our semantics is adequate wrt the  
operational semantics

# Future work

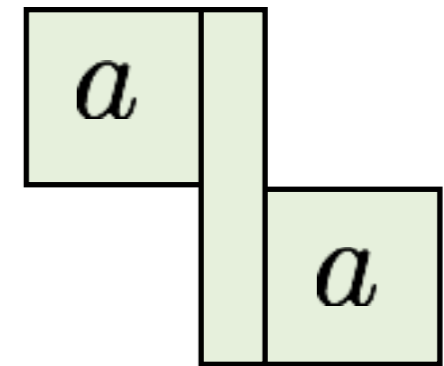
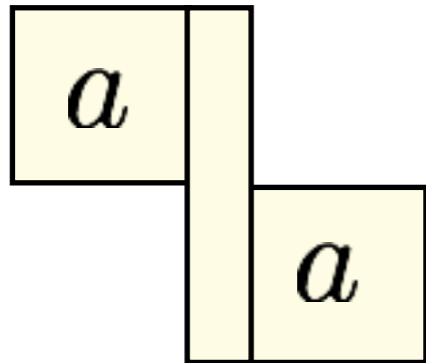
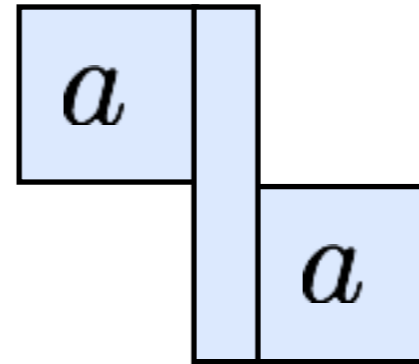
- Implementing a procedure to check (symbolic) bisimulation in the link-calculus.
- Use the extraction procedure ( $\text{ext}(s)$ ), that over approximates the semantics, as basis for abstract debugging and analysis of link-calculus specifications
- Symbolic semantics for the link-calculus with data





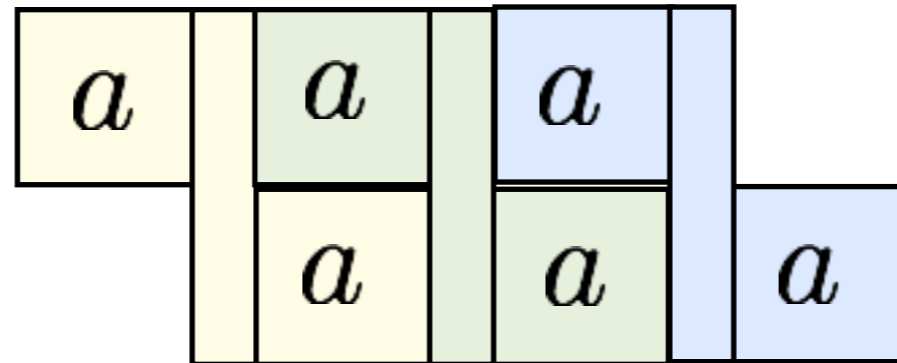
**Thanks for the attention!**

# Examples: CSP





# Examples: CSP



# The dining philosophers

$$\begin{aligned} \mathit{Phil}_i &\triangleq \tau \backslash_{\mathit{think}_i} . \mathit{Phil}_i + {}^{up_i} \backslash_{up_{(i+1) \bmod n}} . \mathit{PhilEat}_i \\ \mathit{PhilEat}_i &\triangleq \tau \backslash_{\mathit{eat}_i} \cdot {}^{dw_i} \backslash_{dw_{(i+1) \bmod n}} . \mathit{Phil}_i \\ \mathit{Fork}_i &\triangleq \tau \backslash_{up_i} \cdot \tau \backslash_{dw_i} . \mathit{Fork}_i + {}^{up_i} \backslash_{\tau} \cdot {}^{dw_i} \backslash_{\tau} . \mathit{Fork}_i \end{aligned}$$

We do not have the deadlock problem anymore,  
we can focus on ... starvation.