

# **Nature Motivated Approaches to Computer Science – II.**

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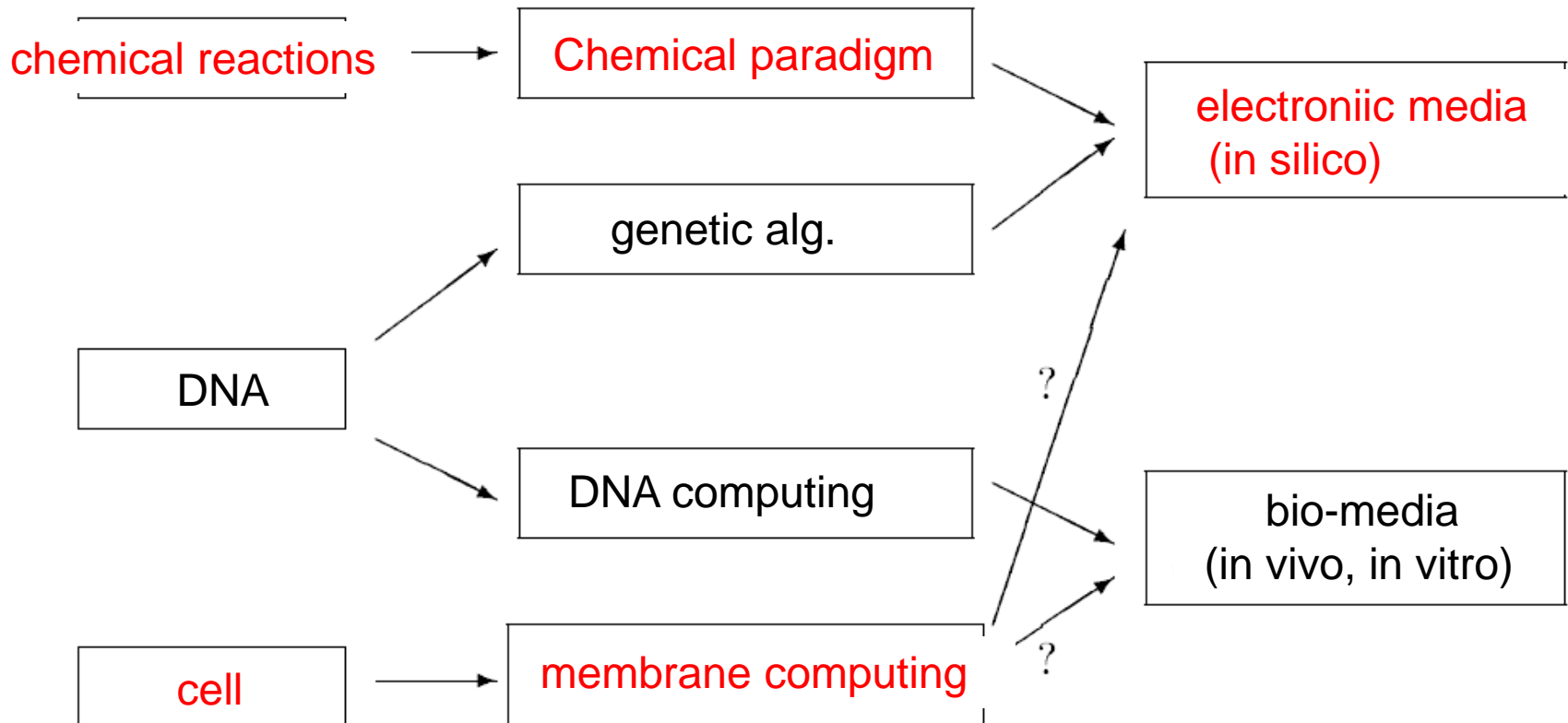
Potsdam, July 2017

# Abstract models

Real world

Theoretical models

Implementation



# Last week - The chemical model

- Symbolic **chemical solution** with abstract **molecules**, and rules describing **reactions** between them
  - Molecules represent **data**, reactions represent **operations**
  - **Brownian motion**, as execution model
- **Multisets** of symbols/objects + multiset **rewriting rules**

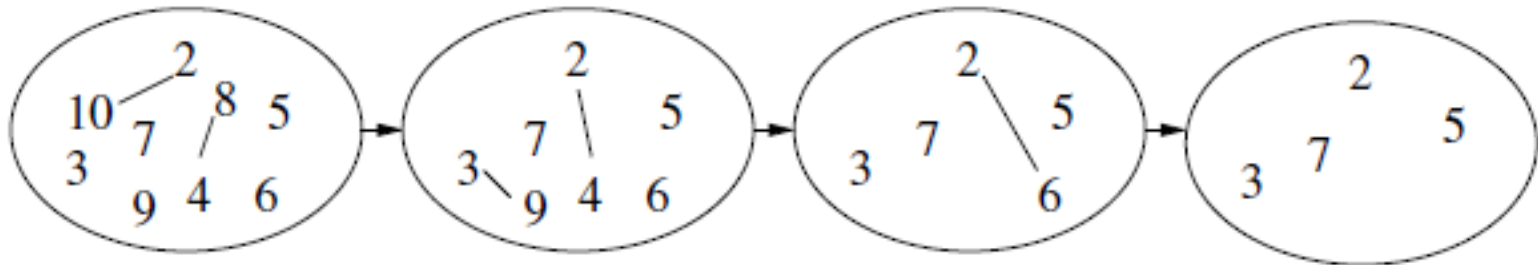
# The chemical model/paradigm

- **Multisets** of symbols/objects + multiset **rewriting rules**

<i>Abstract machine</i>	<i>Chemistry</i>
Data	Molecule
Multiset	Solution
Parallelism/nondeterminism	Brownian motion
Computation	Reaction

# Gamma example – Primes

$primes(N) = \Gamma((R, A))(\{2 \dots N\})$  where  
 $R(x, y) = multiple(x, y)$   
 $A(x, y) = \{y\}$



# Properties of chemical programs

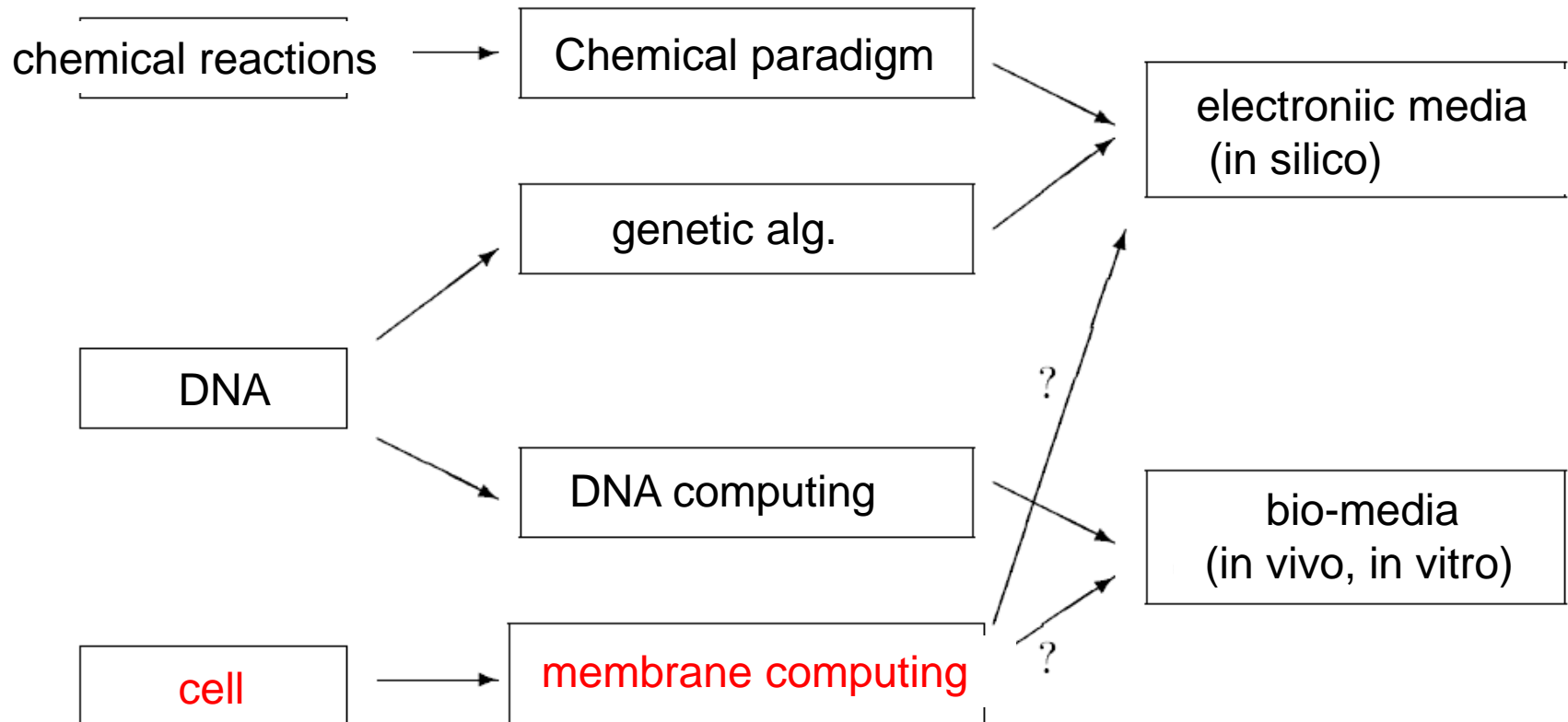
- **Multiset** of abstract molecules in a
- **solution**, with
- **reactions** (operations):  
    reaction **condition** + reaction **result**.
- **Sub-solutions**: „sub-regions” with their own reaction rules (priority, sequentiality).
- Program execution **ends**, if there are no applicable reactions.

→ Natural, free from the forced sequentiality of the physical computer architecture

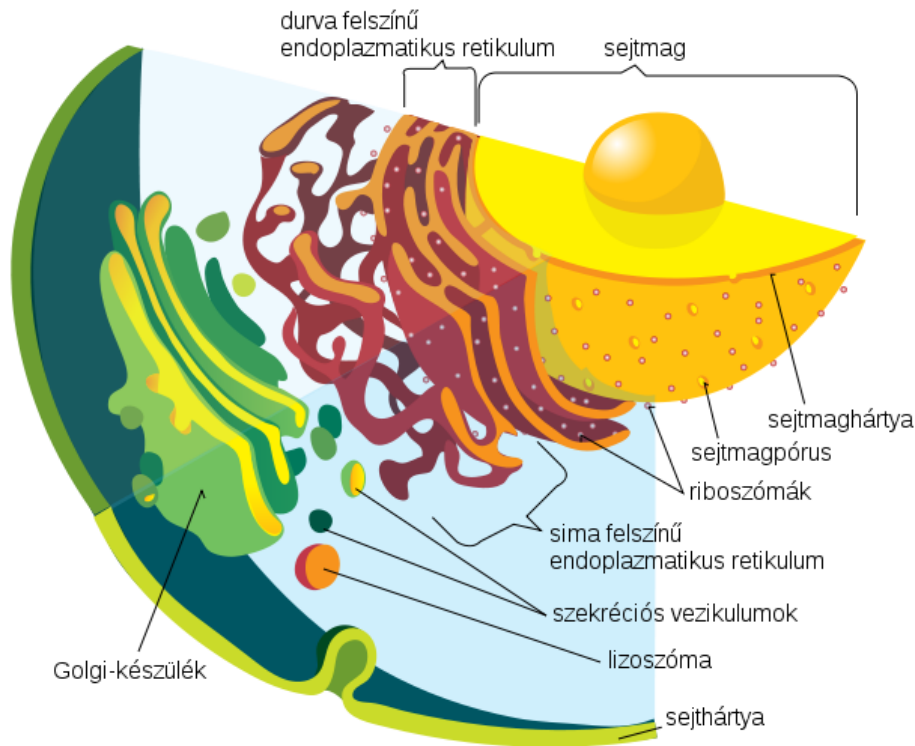
Real world

Theoretical models

Implementation



# Membrane systems – The biochemical motivation

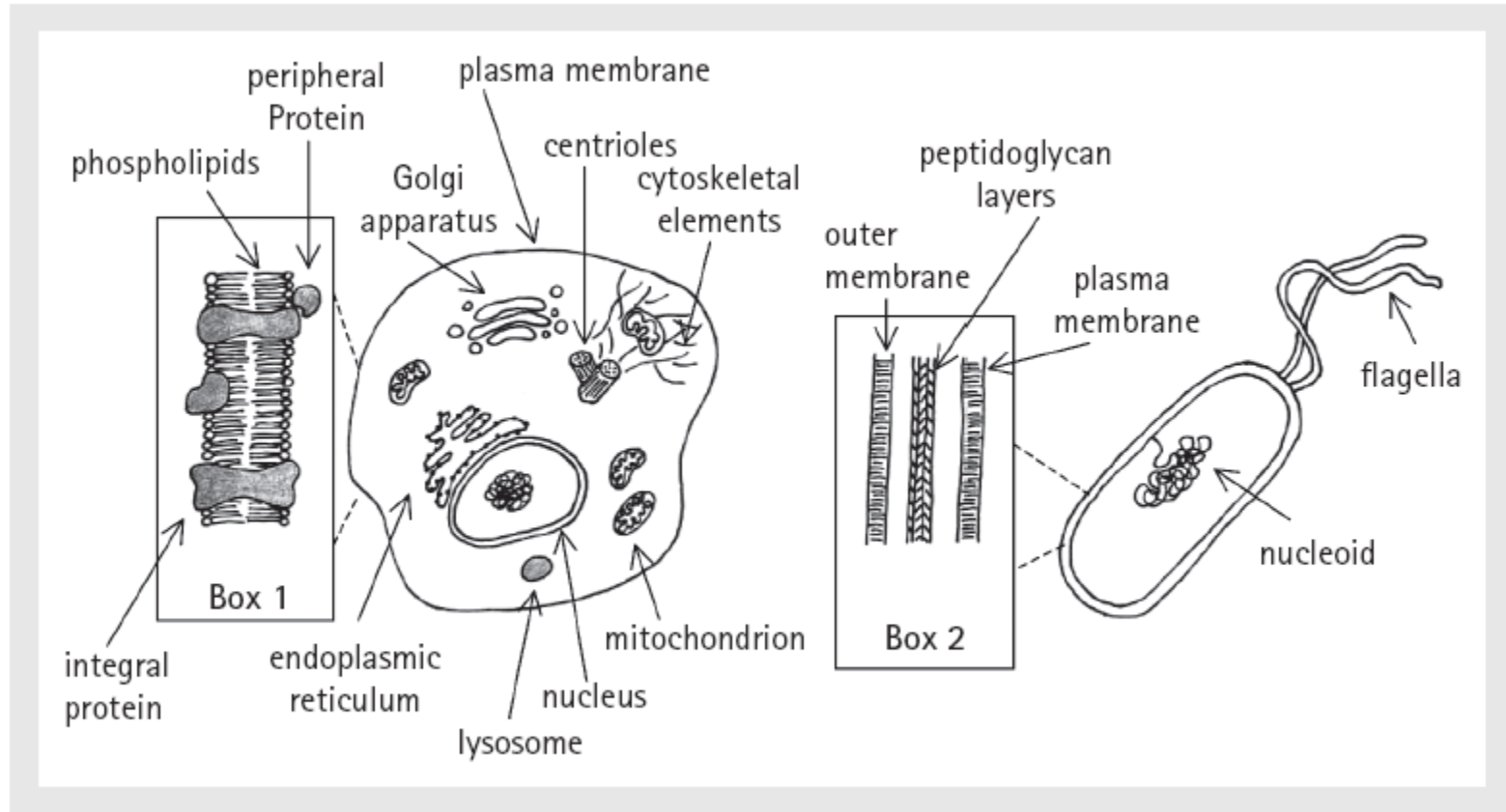


## Cells contain regions

- Regions are enclosed by membranes
- Different regions have different biochemical processes inside
- Membranes also regulate traffic between the regions

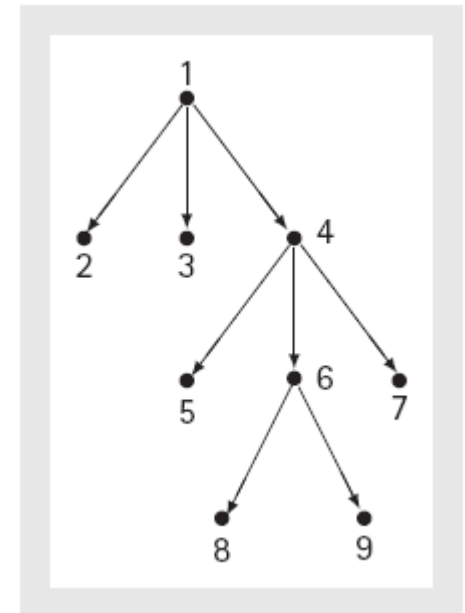
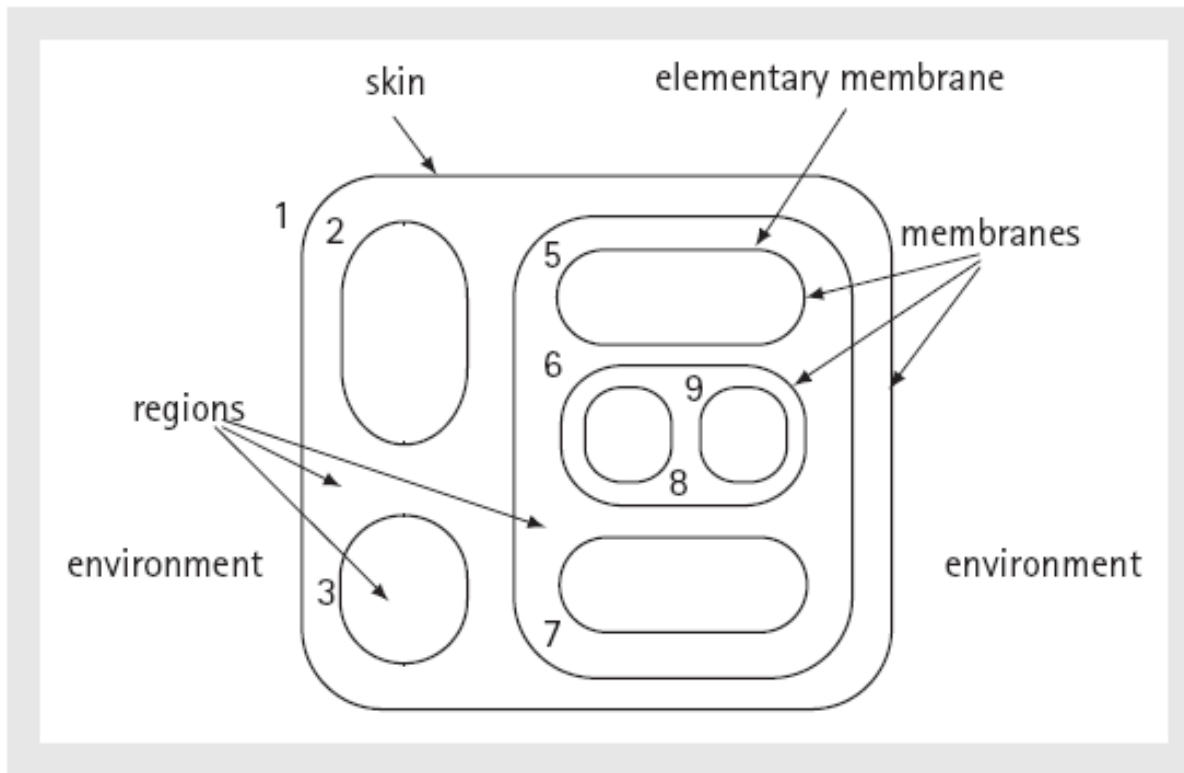


# Membrane systems



# Membrane systems, a membrane structure

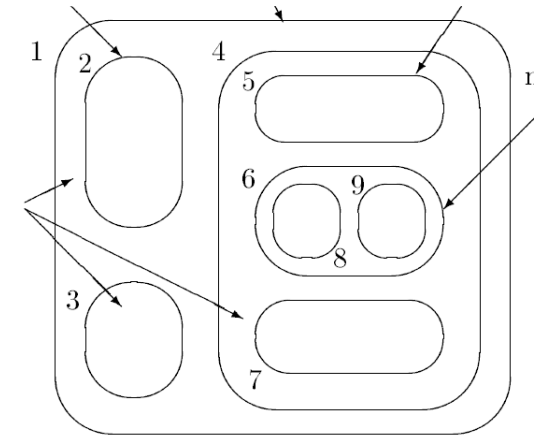
A hierarchical arrangement of regions where multisets of objects evolve according to given evolutionary rules



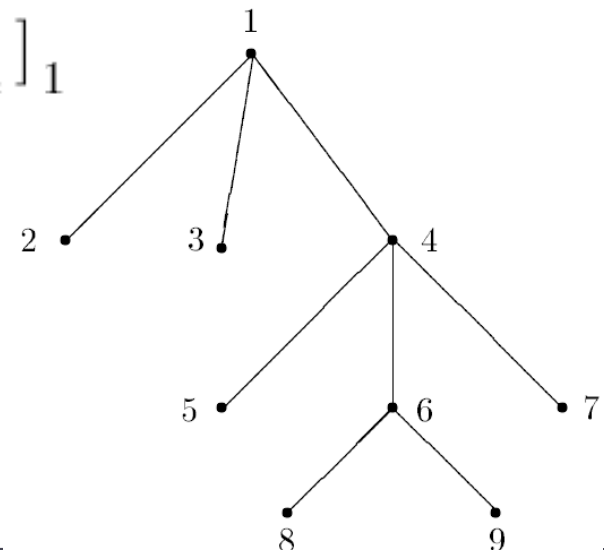
# The membrane structure

Can be described by

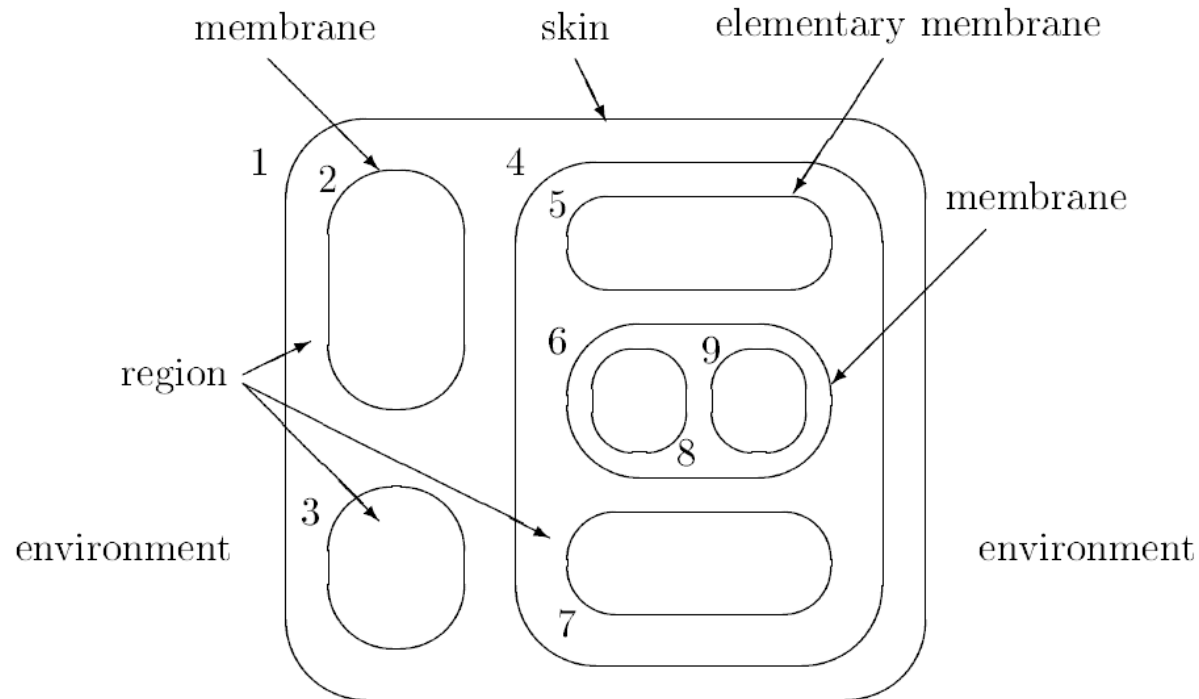
- a tree, or a
- string of parentheses



$[_1[_2 ]_2[_3 ]_3[_4[_5 ]_5[_6[_8 ]_8[_9 ]_9]_6[_7 ]_7]_4]_1$



# The membrane structure

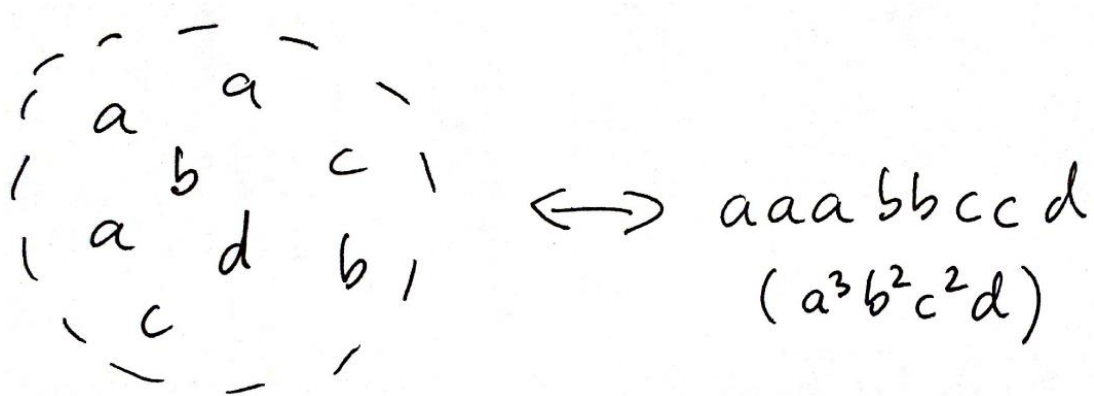


- membrane  $\leftrightarrow$  enclosed region
- outer (skin) membrane, environment
- “inside”, “outside”

# The objects

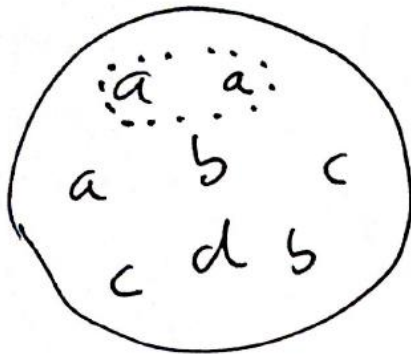
The regions (membranes) contain **multisets of objects**

- object: **symbol** from a finite alphabet
- multisets are represented by **strings** over the object alphabet



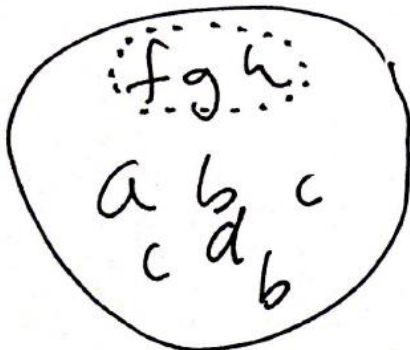
# The rules

Applying the multiset rewriting rule  $aa \rightarrow fgh$



$aaabbc cd$

$\Downarrow aa \rightarrow fgh$



$afghbb cd$

# Maximal parallel rule application

An example:

$w_i : a a a b b$

$R_i : \underset{\geq r_1}{a a} \rightarrow c c, \underset{\geq r_2}{a b} \rightarrow d d$

There are two possibilities:

1.  $\underline{a a} \underline{a b} b \Rightarrow c c d d b$

2.  $a \underline{a a b b} \rightarrow a d d d d$

---

# Membrane systems, multiset rewriting rules

$$a^2bc^3 \rightarrow ba^2c(da, out)(ca, in)$$

## The rules

- change the objects
- move the objects between neighboring regions

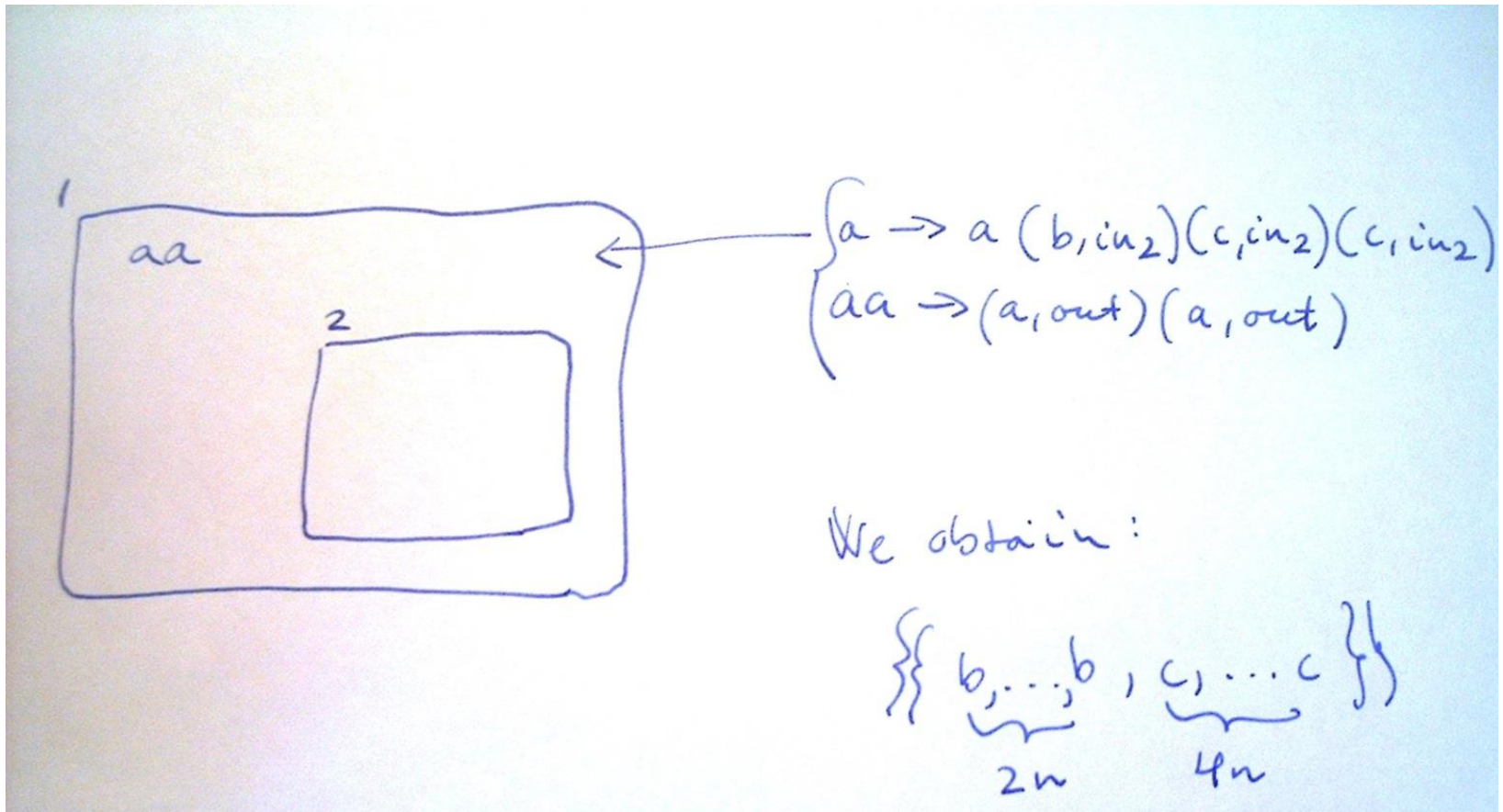
## The rules are applied

- in maximal parallel way
- In a synchronized manner

**P systems** – [Paun 2000 (1998)]



# Example



# The computation

- Start in an **initial configuration**
- A computational **step**: Apply the rules in a **maximal parallel** way in all regions
- **Repeat** the rule application step as long as possible (until a **final configuration** is reached)
- The **result** of the computation is given by the **multiplicities** of certain objects in certain regions.

# Example

$$\begin{aligned} [ a, a [ ]_2 ]_1 &\Rightarrow^{a \rightarrow a(b, in_2)(c, in_2)(c, in_2)} [ a, a [ b, c, c, b, c, c ]_2 ]_1 \\ &\Rightarrow^{a \rightarrow a(b, in_2)(c, in_2)(c, in_2)} \dots \Rightarrow^{a \rightarrow a(b, in_2)(c, in_2)(c, in_2)} \end{aligned}$$

$$[ a, a [ \underbrace{b, \dots, b}_{2n}, \underbrace{c, \dots, c}_{4n} ]_2 ]_1 \Rightarrow^{aa \rightarrow (a, out)(a, out)} [ [ \underbrace{b, \dots, b}_{2n}, \underbrace{c, \dots, c}_{4n} ]_2 ]_1$$

A language of **multisets** - the contents of a specified region:

$$L = \{ \{ \{ \underbrace{b, \dots, b}_{2n}, \underbrace{c, \dots, c}_{4n} \} \} \mid n \geq 0 \}$$

# Some very basic results about this very basic setup...

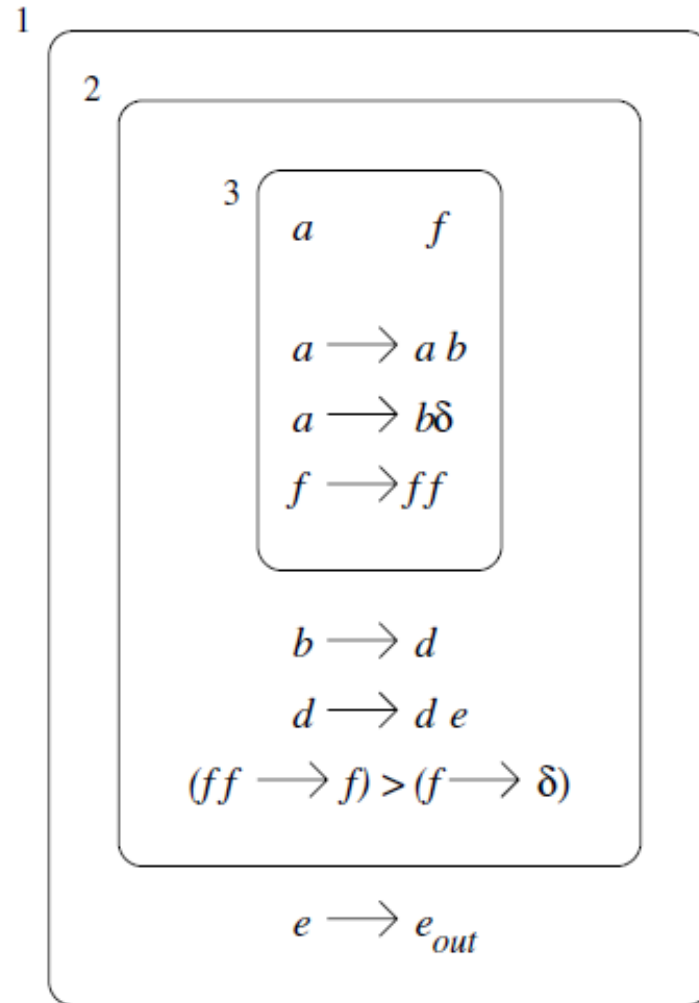
- Having **two membranes** is sufficient
- Systems with rules having **one object** on the left-hand side are **weak**: they compute the length sets of **context-free languages**
- Systems with rules having at least **two objects** on the left-hand side can compute any **recursively enumerable set** of numbers (compute “anything”)

[Paun 2002]

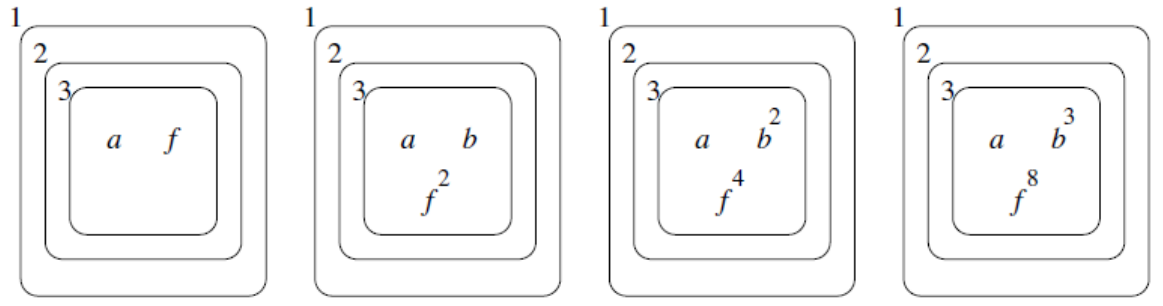
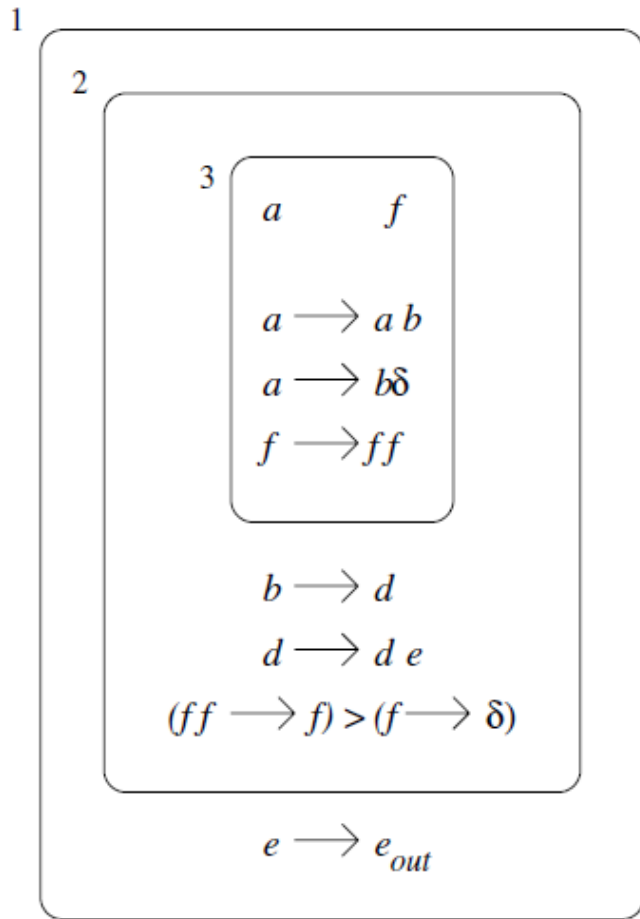
# There are many more features that can be added

- For example:

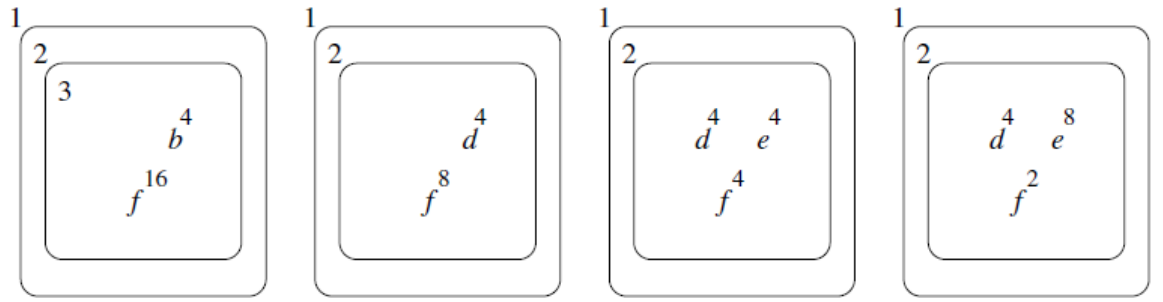
Computing/generating square numbers using **membrane division**



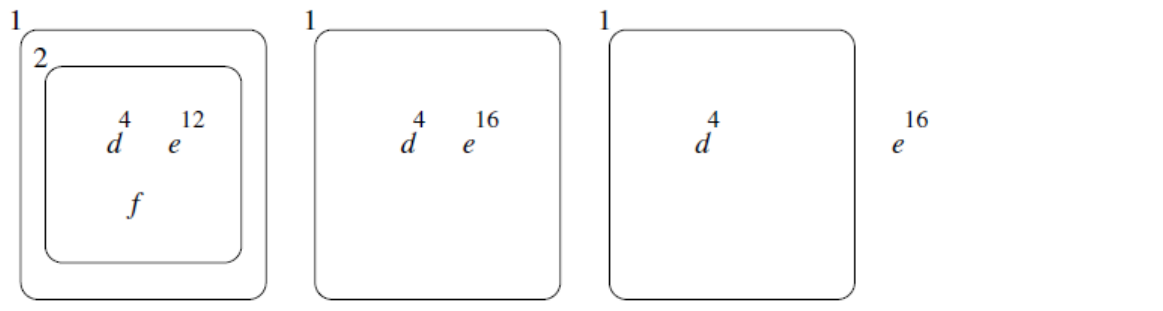
# The computation



Initial configuration      First iteration,  $n=1$       Second iteration,  $n=2$       Third iteration,  $n=3$



Fourth iteration,  $n=4$ , dissolve membrane 3      Replace  $b$  with  $d$  in parallel, halve copies of  $f$       Produce copies of  $e$       Increase  $e$ , halve  $f$



Increase  $e$ , halve  $f$        $f$  dissolves membrane 2      Send out copies of  $e$ ,



There are many interesting results, for example:

- Polynomial solutions to several NP complete problems
  - formula satisfiability
  - Hamiltonian path
  - discrete logarithm
  - ...

# Outline

Our goal: Using P systems to describe string languages – construct automata-like membrane systems

- Membrane systems (P systems) with communication rules only, accepting P systems
- P automata
  - The computational power of P automata
  - P automata over infinite alphabets



# Automata-like systems

- state **transitions**
- reading an **input**
- working with **tapes/counters**

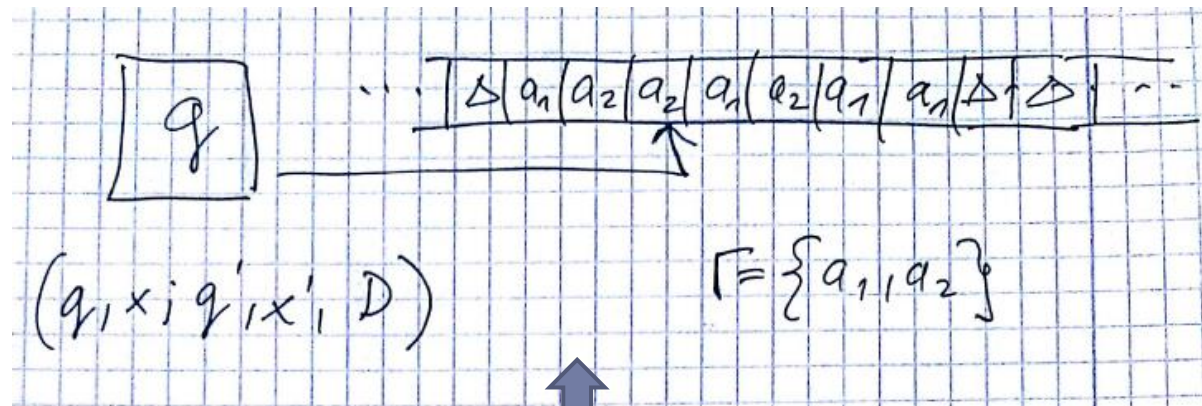
(What are counter automata and why are they interesting?)

# (What are counter automata and why are they interesting?)

1. Turing machines can compute “anything” with finite control, and a tape containing a string of symbols
  2. The tape can be simulated by two stacks
  3. A stack of symbols can be simulated by two counters storing numbers
  4. Four counters can be simulated by two counters
- Anything can be computed by counter machines (register machines)

# (What are counter automata and why are they interesting?)

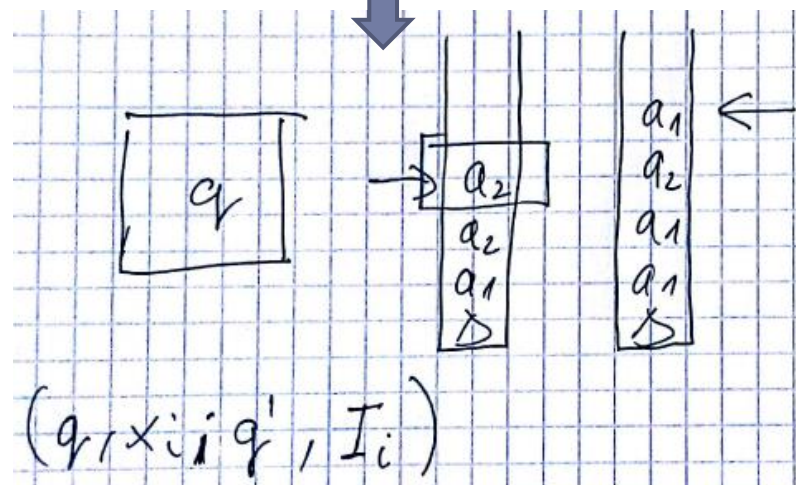
A Turing machine **tape** can be simulated by **two stacks**:



- rewrite
- move the head



- pop and push the new symbol
- pop from one stack, push on the other



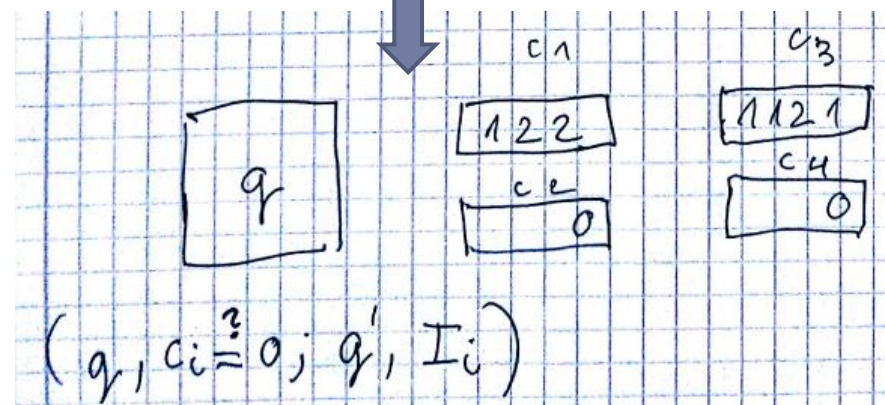
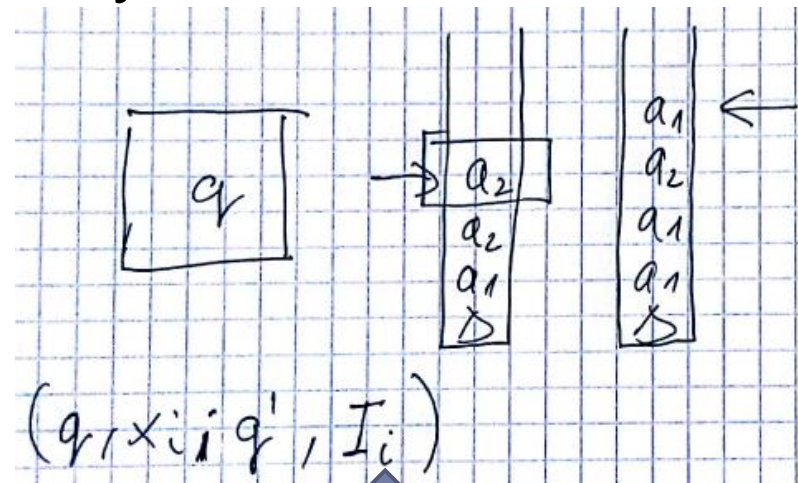
# (What are counter automata and why are they interesting?)

A **stack** can be simulated by **two counters**:

- $a_1 a_2 a_2$  in the stack
- pop, push



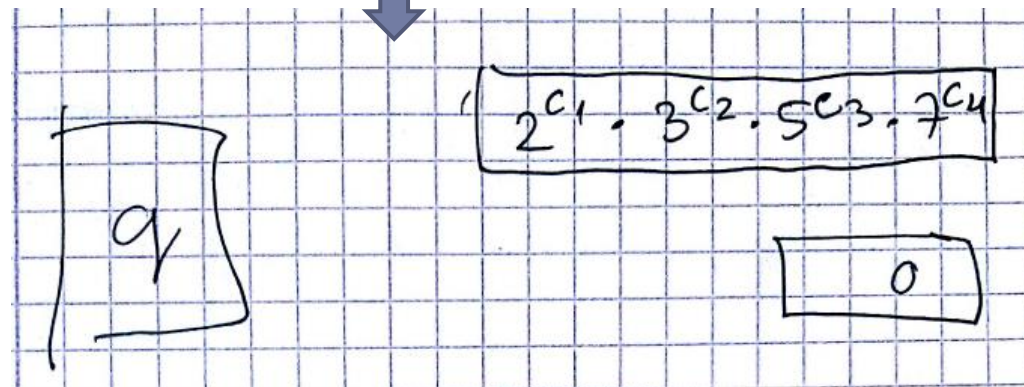
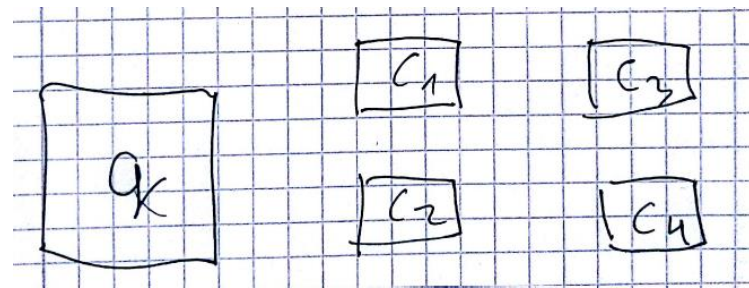
- 122 in the counter
- pop: divide by 10
- push  $ax$ : multiply by 10 and add  $x$



# (What are counter automata and why are they interesting?)

Any number of **counters** can be simulated by **two** counters:

- increment  $c_i$
- decrement  $c_i$
- does  $c_i$  contain 0?



- multiply  $c_1$  with the  $i$ th prime
- divide  $c_1$  by the  $i$ th prime
- is  $c_1$  divisible by the  $i$ th prime?

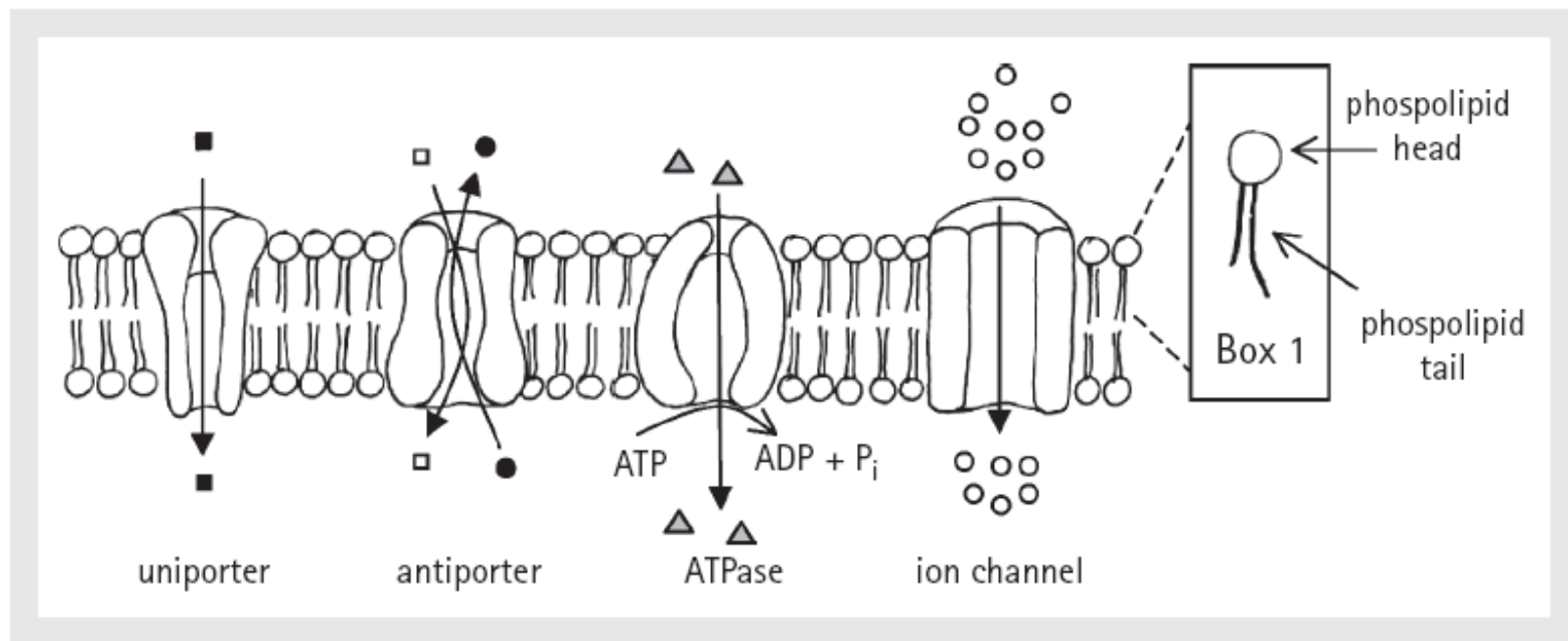
# Automata-like membrane systems

- state **transitions**
- reading an **input**  
→ operating in an “**environment**”
- working with **tapes/counters**  
→ using resources represented by **multisets**

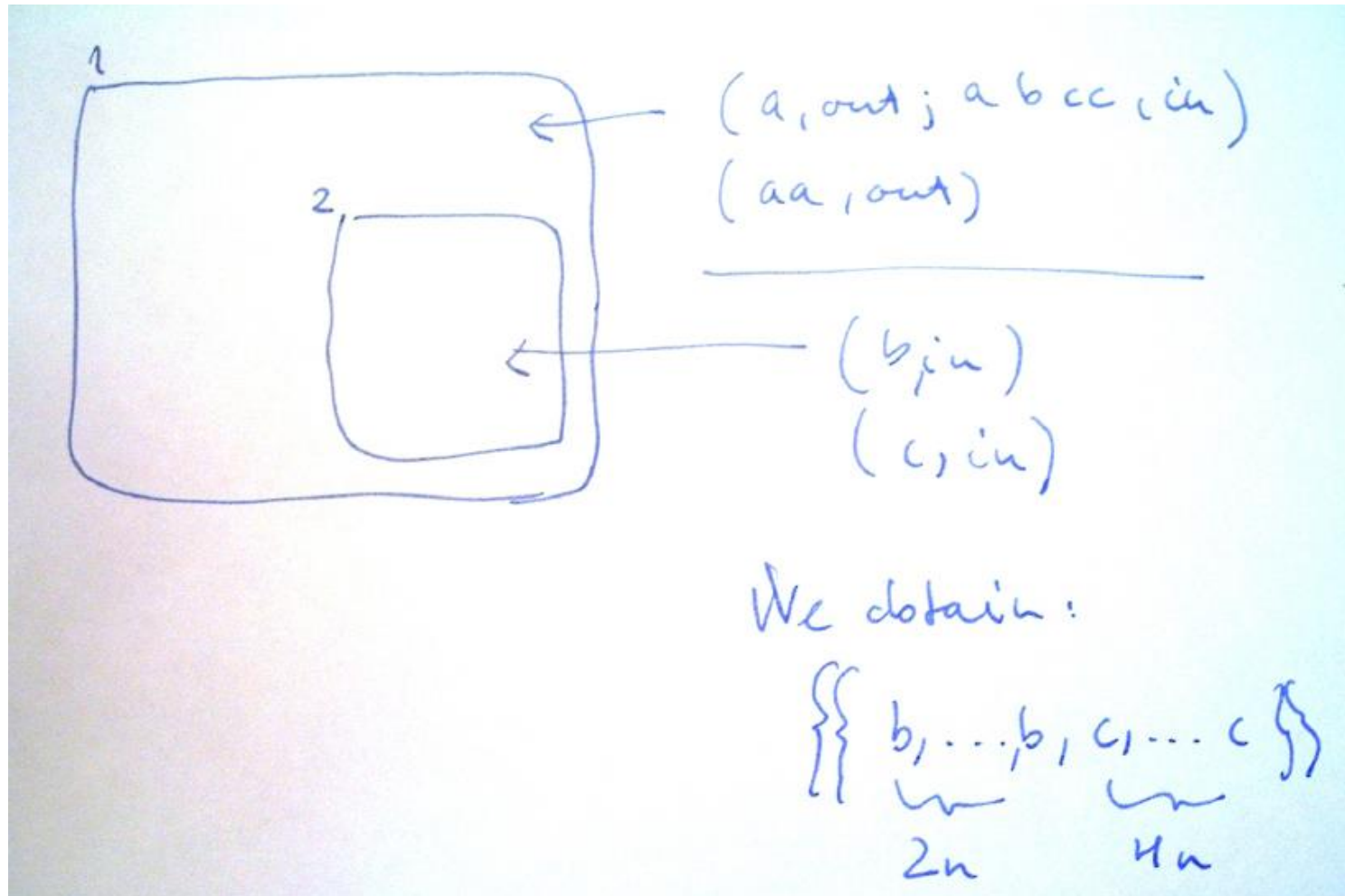


# Membrane systems with communication only

## Symport/antiport systems



# Example, in communication with the environment





# Example, in communication with the environment

*(a, out; a b c c, in)*

$a, a, b, c, a, b, b, c, c, \dots \quad [ a, a [ ]_2 ]_1 \Rightarrow$

$a, a, \quad , \quad , a, b, \quad , \quad , \quad , c, \dots \quad [ a, b, c, c, a, b, c, c [ ]_2 ]_1 \Rightarrow$

$\dots \quad [ a, b, c, c, a, b, c, c [ b, c, c, b, c, c ]_2 ]_1$

$\Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow$  *(aa, out)*

$\dots \quad [ a, b, c, c, a, b, c, c [ \underbrace{b, \dots, b}_{2n}, \underbrace{c, \dots, c}_{4n} ]_2 ]_1 \Rightarrow \quad [ [ \underbrace{b, \dots, b}_{2n+1}, \underbrace{c, \dots, c}_{4n+1} ]_2 ]_1$

$$L = \{ \{ \underbrace{\{b, \dots, b\}}_{2n}, \underbrace{\{c, \dots, c\}}_{4n} \} \mid n \geq 0 \}$$

# Symport/antiport systems – The rules

**Symport/antiport** rules, possibly with promoters:

$(x, out; y, in)|_Z$ , with  $Z \in \{z, \neg z\}$ ,  $x, y, z \in V^*$

- Maximal **parallel** rule application
- **out** - leave **to the** upper, **parent** region,  
**in** - enter **from the parent** region
- The parent of the **skin** region is the **environ-  
ment**

# (Accepting) symport/antiport systems

$$\Pi = (V, \mu, E, w_1, \dots, w_n, R_1, \dots, R_n, F, i_{in})$$

- $V$  – a finite **alphabet of objects**
- $\mu$  – a **membrane** structure
- $E \subseteq V$  – a set of objects, the ones which can be found in the **environment**
- $w_i \in V^*$  – the **initial contents** of region  $i$
- $R_i$  – sets of **symport/antiport rules** associated to region  $i$
- $F$  – a set of **final configurations**
- $i_{in}$  – the label of the **input membrane**, if  $i = 0$  the input is read from the **environment**

# The transitions

$$\Pi = (V, \mu, E, w_1, \dots, w_n, R_1, \dots, R_n, F, i_{in})$$

A configuration:

$(u_0, u_1, \dots, u_n)$ ,  $u_i \in V^*$ , the **contents** of the environment and the  $n$  **regions** of  $\Pi$

The transition mapping:

$$\delta : V^* \times (V^*)^{n+1} \rightarrow (V^*)^n,$$
$$\delta(u, (u_0, u_1, \dots, u_n)) \ni (u'_0, u'_1, \dots, u'_n)$$

the **multiset** entering the **skin** membrane      the **configuration**      the **new configuration**

# Symport/antiport systems and counter automata

the **multiplicity** of the  
object  $a_i$



the value of **counter**  $i$

the **presence** of the  
object  $q$



being in the **internal  
state**  $q$

# Symport/antiport systems and counter automata

$(q, out; q'a_i, in) \longleftrightarrow$

- change the **state**  $q \longrightarrow q'$
- **increase** the value of **counter**  $i$

$(qa_i, out; q', in) \longleftrightarrow$

- change the **state**  $q \longrightarrow q'$
- **decrease** the value of **counter**  $i$

# Symport/antiport systems and counter automata

$(q, out; q_1q_2, in)$

$(q_1a_i, out ; q_1', in)$

$(q_2, out; q_3, in)$

$(q_1q_3, out; q', in)$

$(q_1'q_3, out; q'', in)$

$\longleftrightarrow$

- change the **state**  $q \longrightarrow q'$
- check the **emptiness** of **counter**  $i$
- if  $c_i$  is not empty:  $q \rightarrow q''$

•  $(q_f, out; f, in)$

• **no rule** for  $f$

$\longleftrightarrow$

$q_f$  is a **final** state

# Symport/antiport systems and counter automata

$$N(\Pi) = \{k \in \mathbb{N} \mid c_0 = (w_0, w_1, \dots, w_n), \text{ with } |w_{in}|_{a_i} = k, \\ \text{and there is } c_t \in F \text{ and a sequence } c_i \text{ with} \\ \delta(u_{i+1}, c_i) = c_{i+1} \text{ for all } 0 \leq i \leq t - 1\}$$

- $c_0$  is the **initial configuration**
- $a_i \in V$  is the object corresponding to the **input counter**
- $F$  is the set of **halting configurations**



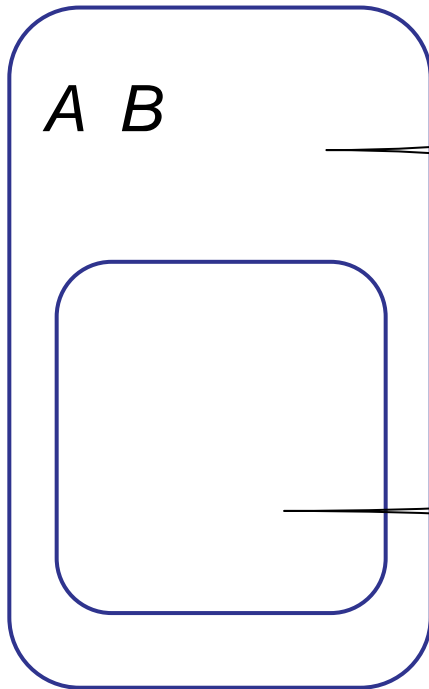
# From multiplicities (numbers) to sequences (strings)...

Consider the **multiset sequences** accepted by antiport  $P$  systems

# Accepted multiset sequences - Example

initial

configuration:



rules:

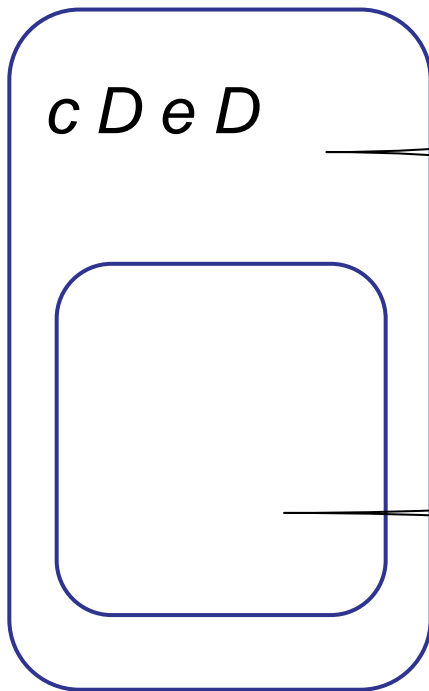
$(A, out; cD, in)$   
 $(B, out; eD, in)$   
 $(D, out; F, in)$

$(F, in)$

# Accepted multiset sequences - Example

configuration:

rules:



$(A, out; cD, in)$   
 $(B, out; eD, in)$   
 $(D, out; F, in)$

$(F, in)$

# Accepted multiset sequences - Example

configuration:

rules:



$c F e F$

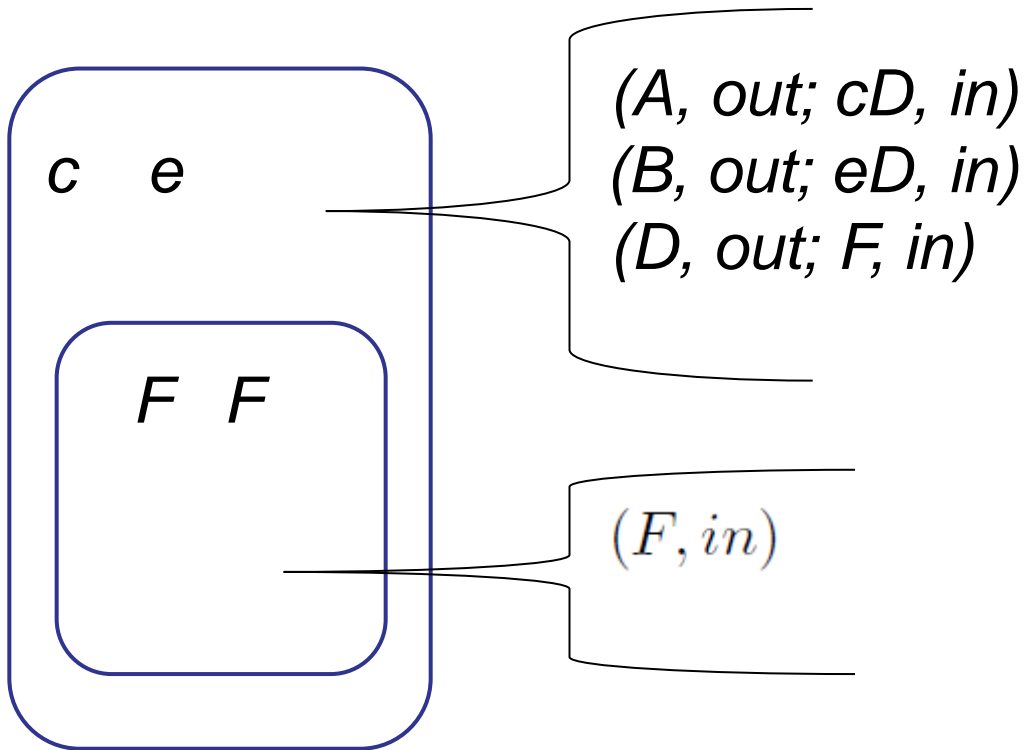
$(A, out; cD, in)$   
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$(F, in)$

# Accepted multiset sequences - Example

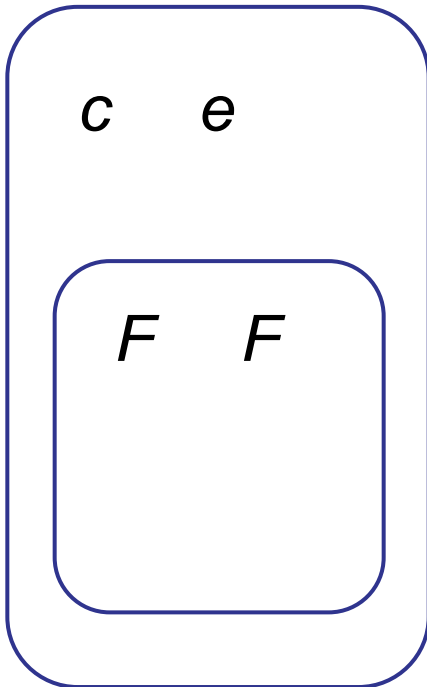
configuration:

rules:



# Accepted multiset sequences - Example

final  
configuration:



The (set of) accepted **multiset sequence(s)**:

$$\{ \{c,e,D,D\}\{F,F\} \}$$

# Accepting P systems – What we have so far...

- A **P system** in an **environment**
- Given an **initial configuration**
- A **sequence of multisets** is read from the environment during the computation
- The multiset sequence is **accepted** if the computation ends in a **halting configuration**

# Characterizing string languages/1

How to **map** the accepted **multiset sequences** to accepted **strings**?

## 1. **Analyzing P systems, extended P automata**

- **Terminals** and **nonterminals** – only terminal symbols are taken into account
- The **input multisets** are **mapped** to **sets of strings** which can be **constructed** from the **terminals**



# Characterizing string languages/1

## Analyzing P systems:

- a set of **terminal objects**  $T \subseteq V$
- $i_{in} = 0$ , the input is read from the **environment**
- $F$  is the set of **halting configurations**

[R. Freund, M. Oswald: A short note on analysing P systems. *Bulletin of the EATCS*, 78 (October 2002), 231–236.]

# Analyzing P systems

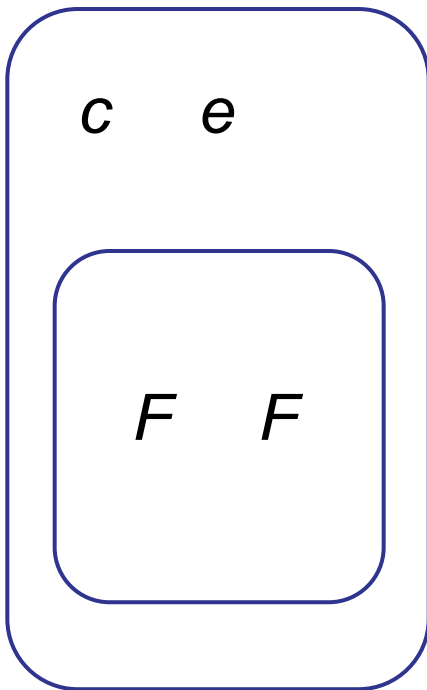
$$\Pi = (V, \mu, E, w_1, \dots, w_n, R_1, \dots, R_n, F, i_{in})$$

$$L(\Pi) = \bigcup str_T(u_1) \cdot str_T(u_2) \cdot \dots \cdot str_T(u_t)$$

for all  $c_t \in F$  and sequence  $c_i$  with  $\delta(u_{i+1}, c_i) = c_{i+1}$   $0 \leq i \leq t - 1$ ,

- $c_0$  is the **initial** configuration
- $str_T(u) \subseteq T^*$  is the set of **terminal strings** corresponding to the multiset  $u \in V^*$
- $F$  is the set of **halting** configurations

# The previous example:



The (set of) accepted **multiset sequence(s)**:

$$\{ \{c,e,D,D\}\{F,F\} \}$$

If the set of **terminal** symbols is  $T=\{e,c\}$ , then the **accepted strings** are:

$$\{ ce, ec \}$$

# The power of analyzing P systems

Any **recursively enumerable** language can be **accepted** by an analyzing P system having **one membrane**.

[R. Freund, M. Oswald: A short note on analysing P systems. *Bulletin of the EATCS*, 78 (October 2002), 231–236.]

# The proof idea

1. **Read the input** object sequence
2. **Create a numerical encoding** of the object sequence in the “input counter”
3. Simulate the computation of a **counter machine**

The **terminal-nonterminal** distinction is **essential**: nonterminals provide the “**workspace**” for the computation.

# The numerical encoding

$$\Sigma = \{a_1, \dots, a_{z-1}\}$$

symbols

$z$  – ary digits

$a_1$        $\longleftrightarrow$       (1)

$a_2$        $\longleftrightarrow$       (2)

$\vdots$

$a_{z-1}$        $\longleftrightarrow$       ( $z - 1$ )

# The numerical encoding

$$w = a_{i_1} \dots a_{i_k} \in \Sigma^* \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \text{code}(w) = (i_1) \dots (i_k) \in \mathbb{N}$$

The encoding of an input word is created step by step, with each new symbol  $a_i$ :

$$\text{code}(wa_i) = \text{code}(w) \cdot z + i$$


Simple arithmetic operations, they can be done by the counter machine.

# The proof idea again

1. **Read the input** object sequence
2. **Create a numerical encoding** of the object sequence in the “input counter”
3. Simulate the computation of a **counter machine**

The **terminal-nonterminal** distinction is **essential**: nonterminals provide the “**workspace**” for the computation.





What is the **role of the different features**? What are those which are **necessary for reaching universal power**? Is it possible to **restrict the power** of the system in any “interesting” way?

# Finite (extended) P automata

$$\Pi = (V, [ ], w_1, R_1, F)$$

- a set of **terminal objects**  $T \subseteq V$
- **rules of two types:**
  1.  $(q, out; pa, in)$  with  $q, p \in V - T, a \in T$
  2.  $(pa, out; r, in)$  with  $p, r \in V - T, a \in T$

For any rule of type 1. with  $p \in V - T$ , there is only one rule of type 2. with the same  $p \in V - T$
- $F$  contains **halting** configurations with a “final” nonterminal inside the system

[R. Freund, M. Oswald, L. Staiger: Omega-P automata with communication rules. *Lecture Notes in Computer Sci.*, 2933 (2004), 203–217]

# Finite (extended) P automata

$$\Pi = (V, [ ], w_1, R_1, F)$$

$$L(\Pi) = \bigcup str_T(u_1) \cdot str_T(u_2) \cdot \dots \cdot str_T(u_t)$$

for all  $c_t \in F$  and sequence  $c_i$  with  $\delta(u_{i+1}, c_i) = c_{i+1}$   $0 \leq i \leq t - 1$ ,

$L$  is regular if and only if it is accepted by a finite P automaton with antiport rules.

# Exponential space symport/antiport acceptors

$$\Pi = (V, \mu, w_1, \dots, w_n, R_1, \dots, R_n, F)$$

- a set of **terminal objects**  $T \subseteq V$  containing a distinguished symbol  $\$$
- the input is read from the **environment**
- **rules of four types** in the **skin membrane**:
  1.  $(u, out; v, in)$  with  $u, v \in (V - T)^*$ ,  $|u| \geq |v|$
  2.  $(u, out; va, in)$  with  $u, v \in (V - T)^*$ ,  $|u| \geq |v|$ ,  $a \in T$
  3.  $(u, out; v, in)|_a$  with  $u, v \in (V - T)^*$
  4. for every  $a \in T$ ,  $(a, out; v, in)$
- **rules** of the form  $(u, out; v, in)$  with  $u, v \in (V - T)^*$  in the **other regions**

# Exponential space symport/antiport acceptors

$$\Pi = (V, \mu, w_1, \dots, w_n, R_1, \dots, R_n, F)$$

$$L(\Pi) = \bigcup \text{str}_T(u_1) \cdot \text{str}_T(u_2) \cdot \dots \cdot \text{str}_T(\bar{u}_t) \in T^*$$

for all  $c_t \in F$  and sequence  $c_i$  with  $\delta(u_{i+1}, c_i) = c_{i+1}$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq t - 1$ ,  $\$ \in u_t$ ,  $\bar{u}_t = u_t - \$$

- $c_0$  is the **initial** configuration
- $\text{str}_T(u) \in T^*$  is the set of **terminal strings** corresponding to the multiset  $u \in V^*$
- $F$  is the set of **halting configurations**

# The power of exponential space symport/antiport acceptors

A language  $L$  is accepted by an exponential-space symport/antiport acceptor **if and only if  $L$  is context-sensitive.**

A language  $L$  is regular if and only if it can be accepted by an exponential-space symport/antiport acceptor **using only rules of type 1. and 2.**

1.  $(u, out; v, in)$  with  $u, v \in (V - T)^*$ ,  $|u| \geq |v|$
2.  $(u, out; va, in)$  with  $u, v \in (V - T)^*$ ,  $|u| \geq |v|$ ,  $a \in T$

[O.H. Ibarra, Gh. Paun: Characterization of context-sensitive languages and other language classes in terms of symport/antiport P systems. *Theoretical Computer Sci.*, 358 (2006), 88–103]

# Characterizing string languages/2

How to **map** the accepted **multiset sequences** to accepted **strings**?

2. P automata:

- **No distinction** between **terminals** and **nonterminals**
- The **input multisets** can be **mapped** to (sets of) **strings** using **any** (nonerasing) **mapping**.
- (**Sequential rule application** is also considered.)

# P automata

- An **antiport P system** in an **environment** from where the **input** is read
- Given an **initial configuration** and a set of final **(accepting) configurations**
- A **sequence of multisets** is read from the environment during the computation
- The multiset sequence is **accepted** if the computation ends in an **accepting configuration**

[E. Csuhaj-Varju, Gy. Vaszil: P automata or purely communicating accepting P systems. *Lecture Notes in Computer Sci.*, 2597 (2003), 219–233]



# P automaton

A P automaton is

$$\Pi = (V, \mu, P_1, \dots, P_n, c_0, \mathcal{F})$$

with

- object alphabet
- membrane structure
- rules corresponding to the regions
- initial configuration  $c_0 = (w_1, \dots, w_n)$ ,  $w_i \in V^*$
- set of accepting configurations  $E_1 \times \dots \times E_n$ ,  $E_i \subseteq V^*$  with  $E_i$  being finite, or  $E_i = V^*$

# Examples...

- Variants of P automata for regular languages – different ways of mapping multiset sequences to strings

# P automaton – An example

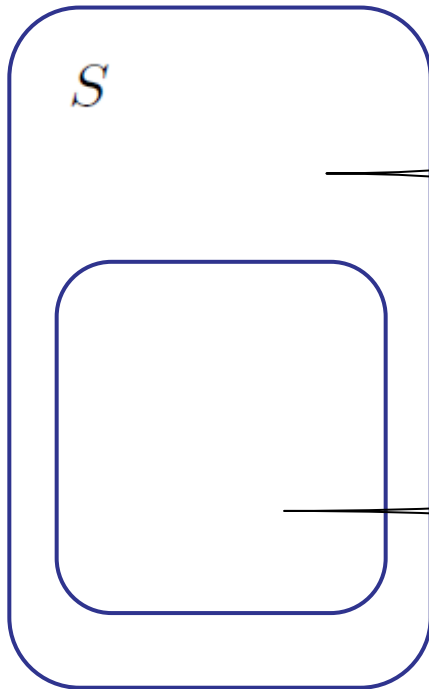
Given a **regular grammar** with:

$$S \rightarrow aA, A \rightarrow bS, S \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

initial

rules:

configuration:



$(S, out; aA, in)$

$(A, out; bS, in)$

$(A, out; bF, in)$

$(F, in)$

final configuration:  $F$  is in the region

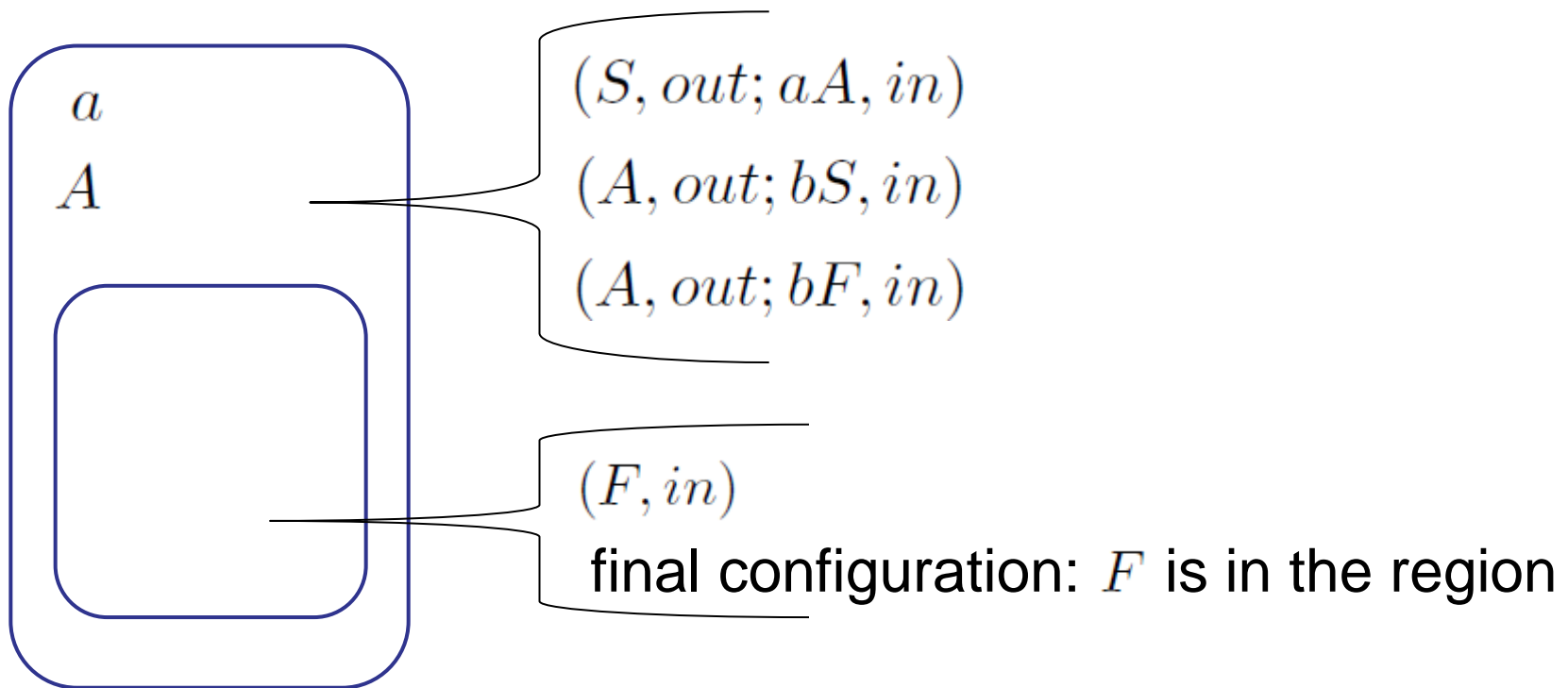
# P automaton – An example

Given a **regular grammar** with:

$$S \rightarrow aA, A \rightarrow bS, S \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

configuration:

rules:



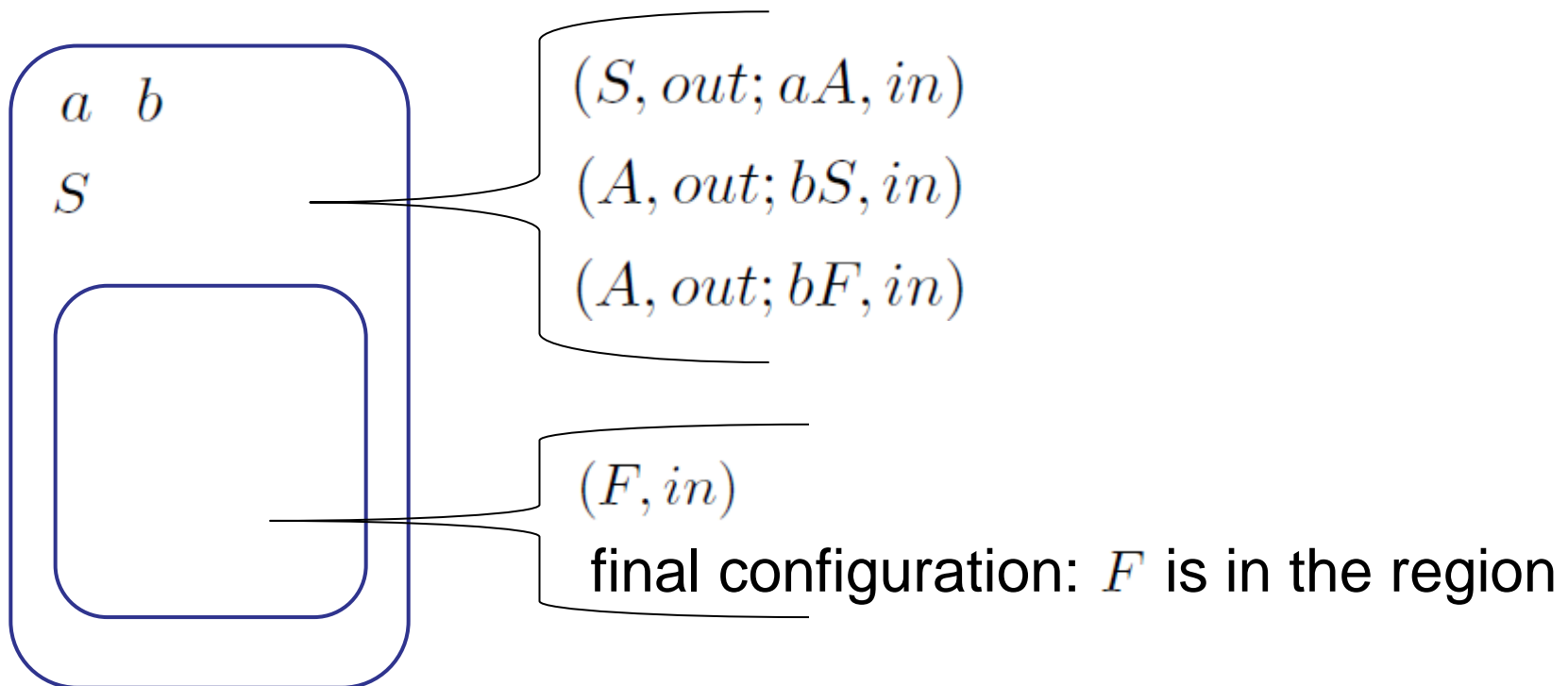
# P automaton – An example

Given a **regular grammar** with:

$$S \rightarrow aA, A \rightarrow bS, S \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

configuration:

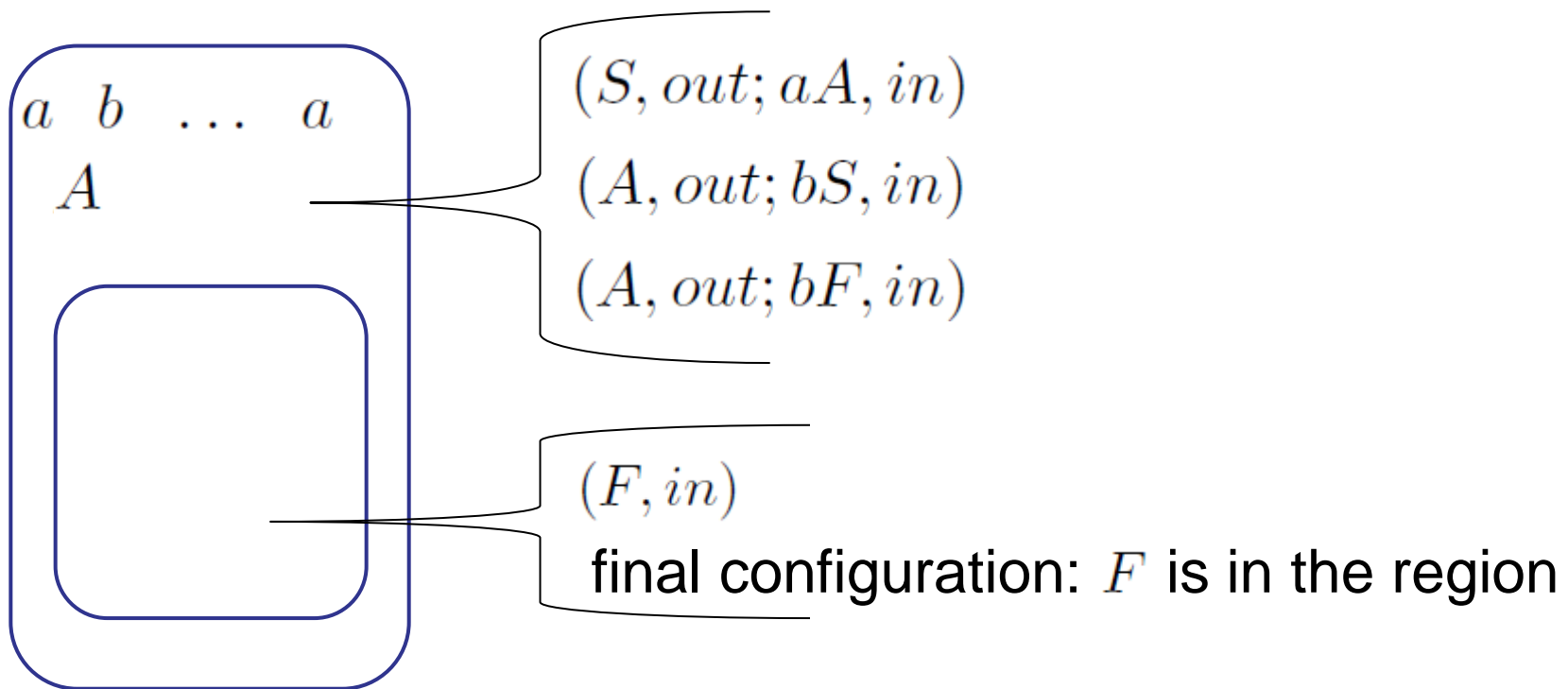
rules:



# P automaton – An example

Given a **regular grammar** with:  $S \rightarrow aA, A \rightarrow bS, S \rightarrow \varepsilon$

configuration:          rules:



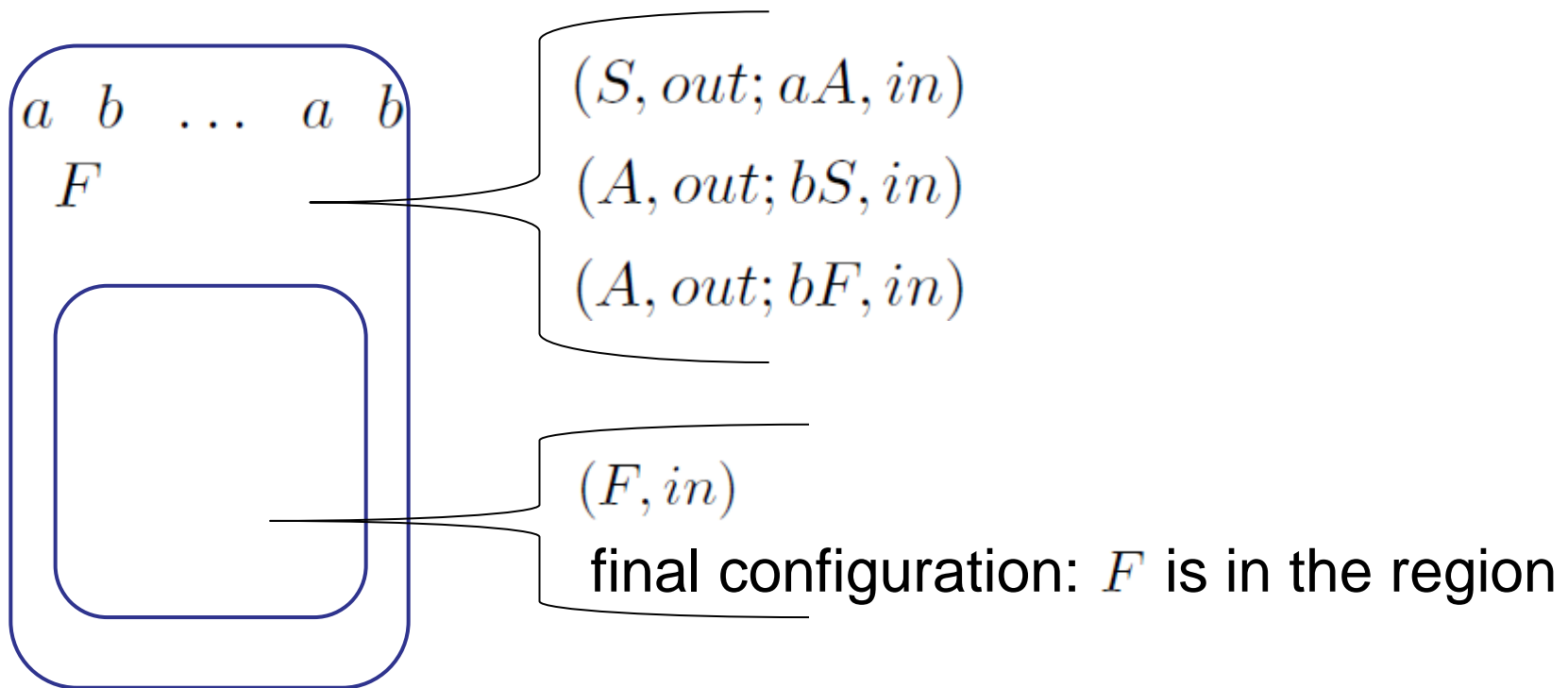
# P automaton – An example

Given a **regular grammar** with:

$$S \rightarrow aA, A \rightarrow bS, S \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

configuration:

rules:



# P automaton – An example

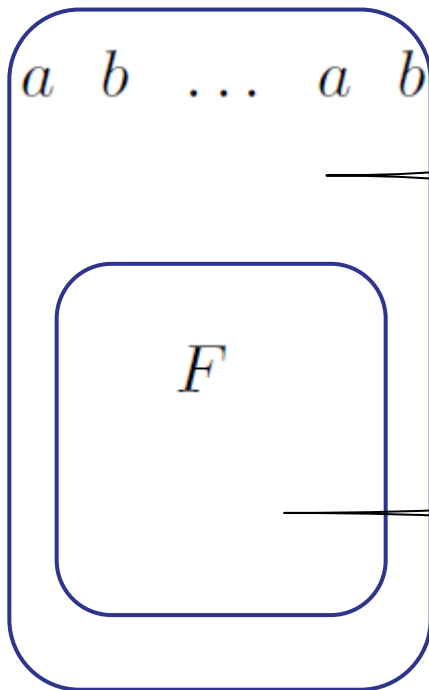
Given a **regular grammar** with:

$$S \rightarrow aA, A \rightarrow bS, S \rightarrow \varepsilon$$

final

rules:

configuration:



$(S, out; aA, in)$

$(A, out; bS, in)$

$(A, out; bF, in)$

$(F, in)$

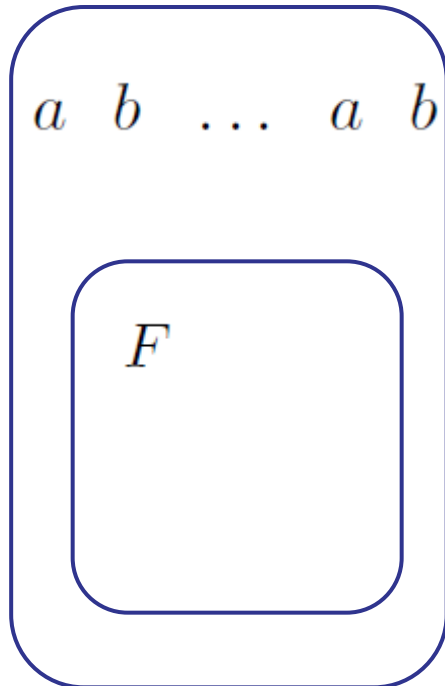
final configuration:  $F$  is in the region



# P automata – An example

Given a **regular grammar** with rules:  $S \rightarrow aA, A \rightarrow bS, S \rightarrow \varepsilon$

final  
configuration:



The set of accepted **multiset sequences**:

$$\{ \{a, A\} \{b, S\} \dots \{a, A\} \{b, F\} \}$$

or using the string notation for multisets:

$$\{ aA, bS, \dots, aA, bF \}$$

# P automaton – An example

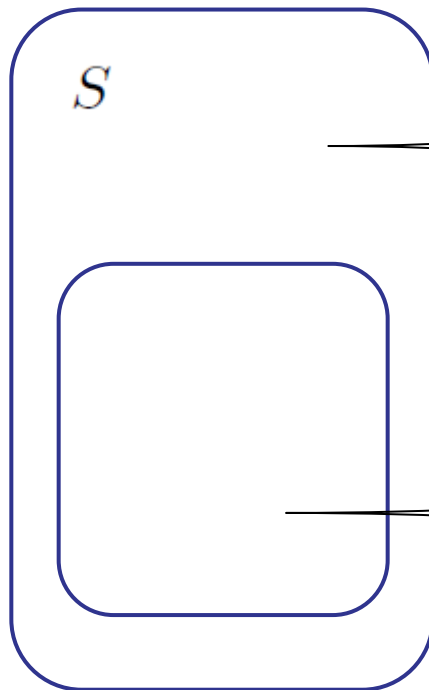
Given a **regular grammar** with:

$$A \rightarrow aB, A \rightarrow a \in P$$

initial

rules:

configuration:



$(A, out; aB, in)$

$(A, out; aF, in)$

for all rules of the  
grammar

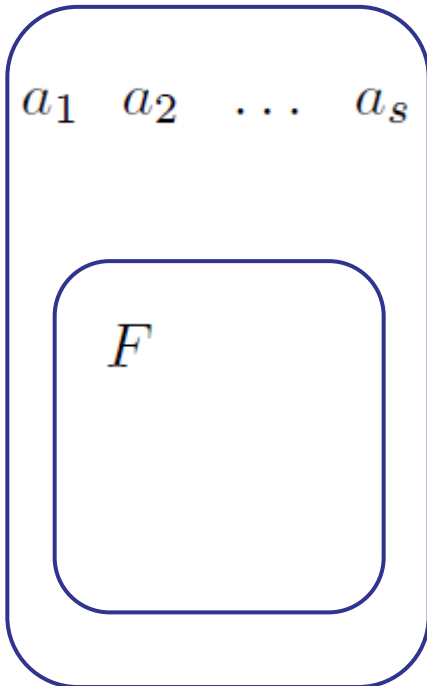
$(F, in)$

final configuration:  $F$  is in the region

# P automaton – An example

Given a **regular grammar** with:  $A \rightarrow aB, A \rightarrow a \in P$

final  
configuration:



The set of accepted **multiset sequences**:

$$\{a_1B_1, a_2B_2, \dots, a_sF \mid a_1a_2 \dots a_s \in L\}$$

# P automaton – An other example

**A finite automaton**  $M = (\Sigma_1, Q, \delta, q_0, F)$   $\Sigma_1 = \{a_1, \dots, a_k\}$

A simulating P automaton with 2 membranes:

$$w_1 = a\#,$$

$$P_1 = \{(a^i, in; a, out)|_t, (a^{i-1}, out)|_{t'} \mid t = [q_j, a_i, q_k], i > 1\} \cup \\ \{(a, in; a, out)|_t \mid t = [q_j, a_1, q_k]\},$$

$$w_2 = \{\{t, t' \mid t \in TR\}\},$$

$$P_2 = \{(\#, in; t_0, out) \mid t_0 = [q_0, a_i, q]\} \cup \\ \{(t, in; t', out), (t', in; s, out) \mid t \in TR, s \in next(t')\},$$

$$F_2 = \{ \{\{t, t' \mid t \in TR\}\} - \{\{s'\}\} \mid \text{for} \\ \text{all } s' \in TR' \text{ such that } s' = [q, a_i, q_f]', q_f \in F\}.$$

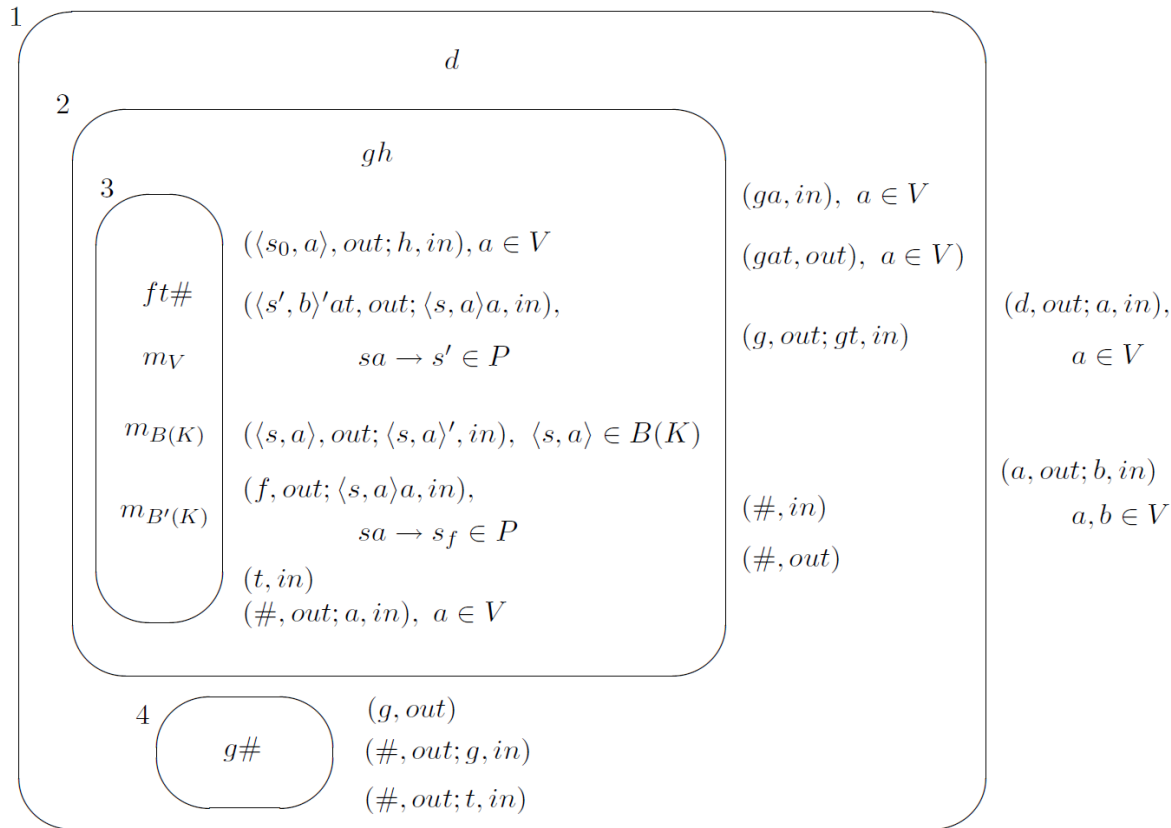
# P automaton – An other example

The system simulates a **finite automaton** over  $\Sigma_1 = \{a_1, \dots, a_k\}$  with 2 membranes, and **sequential** rule application.

In this case, it is done in such a way that the accepted **multiset sequences** are:

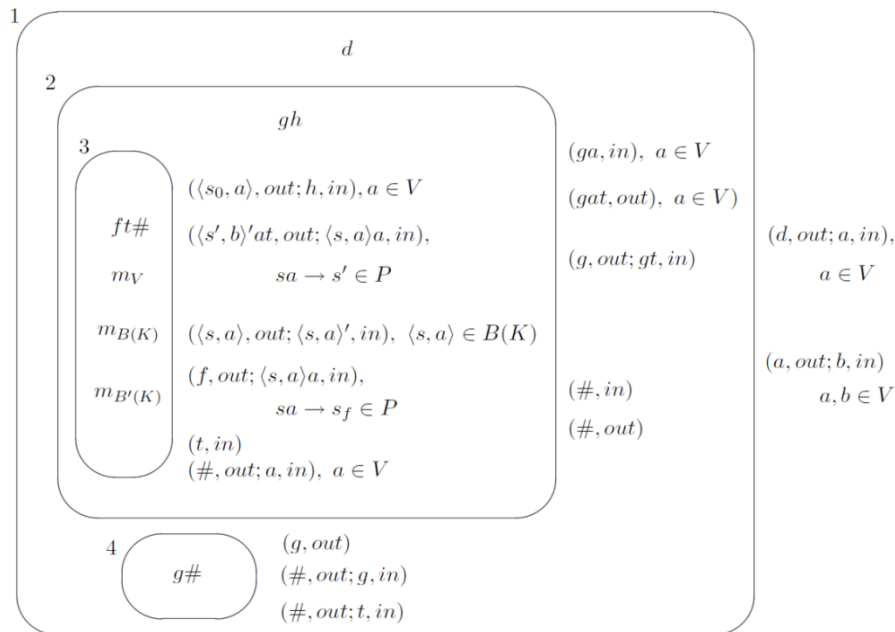
$$\left\{ \underbrace{a \dots a}_{i_1}, \underbrace{a \dots a}_{i_2}, \dots, \underbrace{a \dots a}_{i_s} \mid a_{i_1} a_{i_2} \dots a_{i_s} \in L \right\}$$

# P automaton – A third example



[R. Freund, M. Kogler, Gh. Paun, and M. J. Perez-Jimenez. On the power of P and dP automata. *Annals of Bucharest University Mathematics-Informatics Series*, LVIII:5-22, 2009.]

# P automaton – A third example



The set of accepted **multiset sequences**:

$$\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_s \mid a_1 a_2 \dots a_s \in L\}$$

# P automata

- An **antiport P system** in an **environment** from where the **input** is read
- Given an **initial configuration** and a set of final **(accepting) configurations**
- A **sequence of multisets** is read from the environment during the computation
- The multiset sequence is **accepted** if the computation ends in an **accepting configuration**
- The string interpretation of the accepted **multiset sequence** is **provided by an input mapping**



# The input mapping

An **input mapping** maps the **sequences of multisets** over the object alphabet  $V$  **to strings** over an alphabet  $T$ :

$$f : V^* \rightarrow 2^{T^*}$$

The **language accepted** by a P automaton  $\Pi$  :

$$L(\Pi, f) = \{f(v_1) \dots f(v_s) \mid v_1, \dots, v_s \text{ is an accepted multiset sequence of } \Pi\}$$

# The input mapping

The **first** example:  $\{a_1B_1, a_2B_2, \dots, a_sF \mid a_1a_2 \dots a_s \in L\}$

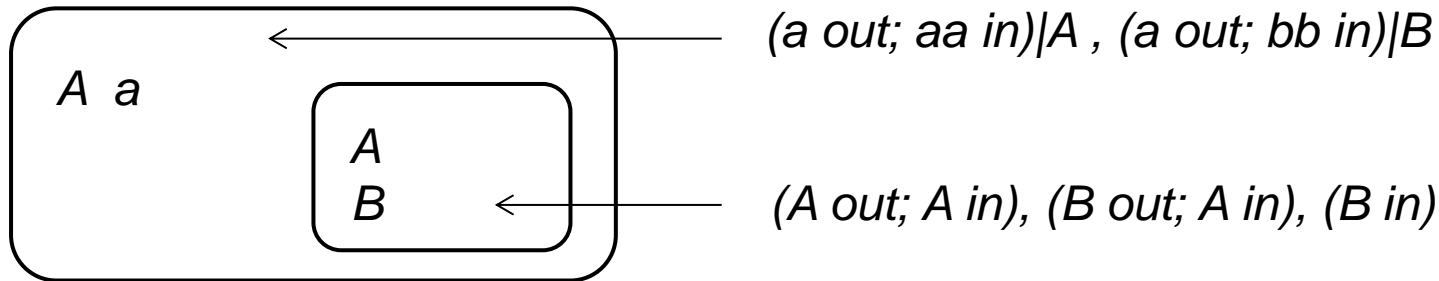
- the mapping:  $V = N \cup T$ ,  $f(aA) = \{a\}$  where  $A \in N$ ,  $a \in T$

The **second** example:  $\{a^{i_1}, a^{i_2}, \dots, a^{i_s} \mid a_{i_1}a_{i_2} \dots a_{i_s} \in L\}$

- the mapping:  $V = \{a\}$ ,  $f(a^i) = \{a_i\}$ ,  $a_i \in T = \{a_1, \dots, a_t\}$

(The third example:  $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_s \mid a_1a_2 \dots a_s \in L\}$  )

# An other example – Input mapping with permutation



A configuration sequence, **maximal parallel** rule application:

$(Aa, AB) \Rightarrow (Aaa, AB) \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow (Aa\dots a, AB) \Rightarrow (Ba^{2^k}, AA) \Rightarrow (b^{2^{k+1}}, AAB)$

If  $(V^*, AAB)$  is an accepting state, then

$$\underbrace{\{a^2, a^4, a^8, a^{2^4} \dots, a^{2^k}\}}_{a^{2^{k+1}-2}}, b^{2^{k+1}}$$

is the accepted multiset sequence

$$L = \{a^{n-2} b^n \mid n=2^k, k>1\}$$

could be the accepted language

# Input mapping with permutation

$$f : V^* \rightarrow 2^{T^*}$$

- $f = f_{perm}$  if  $V = T$  and  
 $f(v) = \{a_1 a_2 \dots a_s \mid |v| = s, \text{ and } a_1 a_2 \dots a_s \text{ is a permutation of the elements of } v\}$

The previous example:

$$\underbrace{\{a^2, a^4, a^8, a^{2^4}, \dots, a^{2^k}\}}_{a^{2^{k+1}-2}}, b^{2^{k+1}}$$

is the accepted multiset sequence

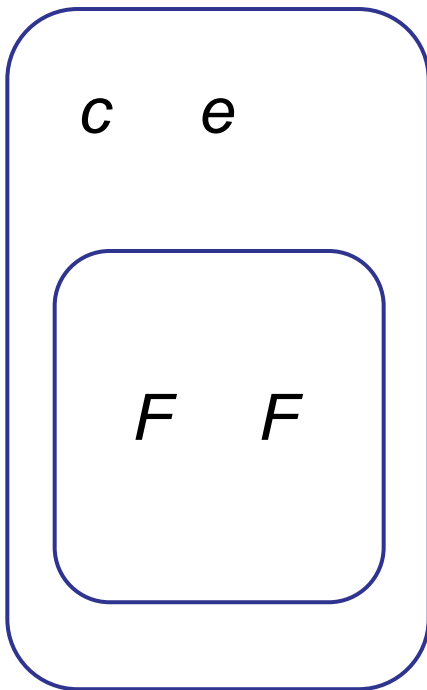
$$L = \{a^{n-2} b^n \mid n = 2^k, k > 1\}$$

is the accepted language



What can a “reasonable” input mapping be?

# A previous example – input mapping with erasing



The (set of) accepted **multiset sequence(s)**:

$$\{ \{c,e,D,D\}\{F,F\} \}$$

If the set of terminal symbols is  $T=\{e,c\}$ , then the accepted strings are:

$$\{ ce, ec \}$$

# The desired properties of the input mapping: nonerasing

If **erasing** is allowed, **any language** is easily **obtained** with simple systems having just **one membrane** (extended P automata, analyzing P systems).

Recall the results of [Freund, Oswald 2002]

Therefore, we study **input mappings** that are **nonerasing**.

# The desired properties of the input mapping: simplicity

- The **power** of the **system** should **not come** from the **power** of a **complex** input **mapping**

The input mapping should be **simple** from the point of view of **computational complexity**:



# Different kinds of input mappings

$$f : V^* \rightarrow 2^{T^*}$$

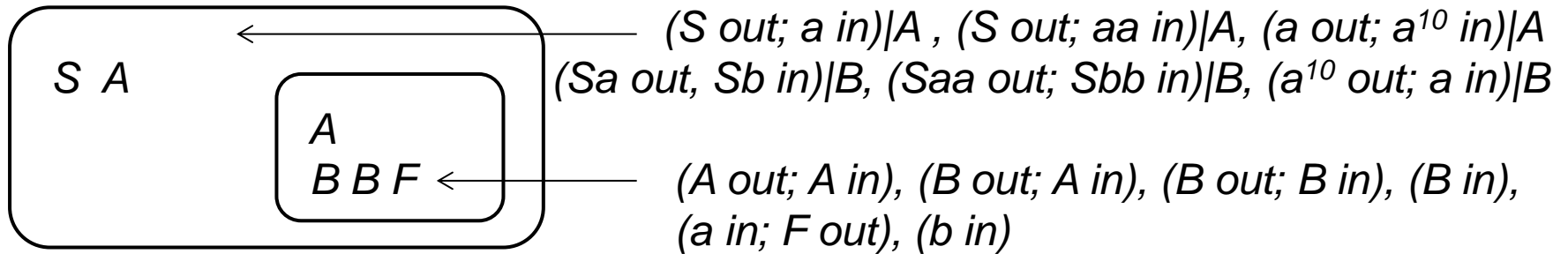
Permutation:

- $f = f_{perm}$  if  $V = T$  and  
 $f(v) = \{a_1 a_2 \dots a_s \mid |v| = s, \text{ and } a_1 a_2 \dots a_s \text{ is a permutation of the elements of } v\}$

Remainder of division by  $k$ :

- $f = f_{k,rem}$  if  $T = \{a_1, a_2, \dots\}$  and  
 $f(v) = \{a_i \mid |v| \text{ divided by } k \text{ gives } i \text{ as remainder}\}$

# Example, remainder



- The number of  $a$ -s entering the system while  $A$  is present in the outer region:

$$\underbrace{(1 \text{ or } 2)}_{v_1}, \underbrace{(10 \text{ or } 20) + (1 \text{ or } 2)}_{v_2}, \underbrace{(110 \text{ or } 120 \text{ or } 210 \text{ or } 220) + (1 \text{ or } 2)}_{v_3}, \dots, \underbrace{\quad\quad\quad}_{v_m}$$

- If the number of  $a$ -s in  $v_5$  is 11212, then  $f_{10, \text{rem}}(v_1)f_{10, \text{rem}}(v_2)\dots f_{10, \text{rem}}(v_5) = a_1 a_1 a_2 a_1 a_2$

- The accepted language:  $L_{\text{rev}} = \{ww^{-1} \mid w \text{ is a string over } \{a_1, a_2\}\}$

# A classification of (interesting) input mappings:

- $f = f_{perm}$  if and only if  $V = T$ , and  
 $f(v) = \{a_1 a_2 \dots a_s \mid |v| = s, \text{ and } a_1 a_2 \dots a_s \text{ is a permutation}$   
of the elements of

(Examples 3, 4)

- $f \in \text{TRANS}$  if and only if, we have  $f(v) = \{w\}$  for some  
 $w \in T^*$  which is obtained by applying a **finite transducer** to  
the string representation of the multiset .

(Examples 1, 2, 5)

# To determine the computation power of P automata...

...consider the **workspace** they have available for their computation.

- How does the power depend on the input mapping?
- How does the power depend on sequential or maximal parallel rule application?

# To determine the computation power of P automata...

...consider the **workspace** they have available for their computation:

1. In case of “**erasing**” input mappings, the **number of objects** inside the system **does not depend** on the **length** of the input.

# To determine the computation power of P automata...

...consider the **workspace** they have available for their computation: ( $d$  is the number of computational steps so far)

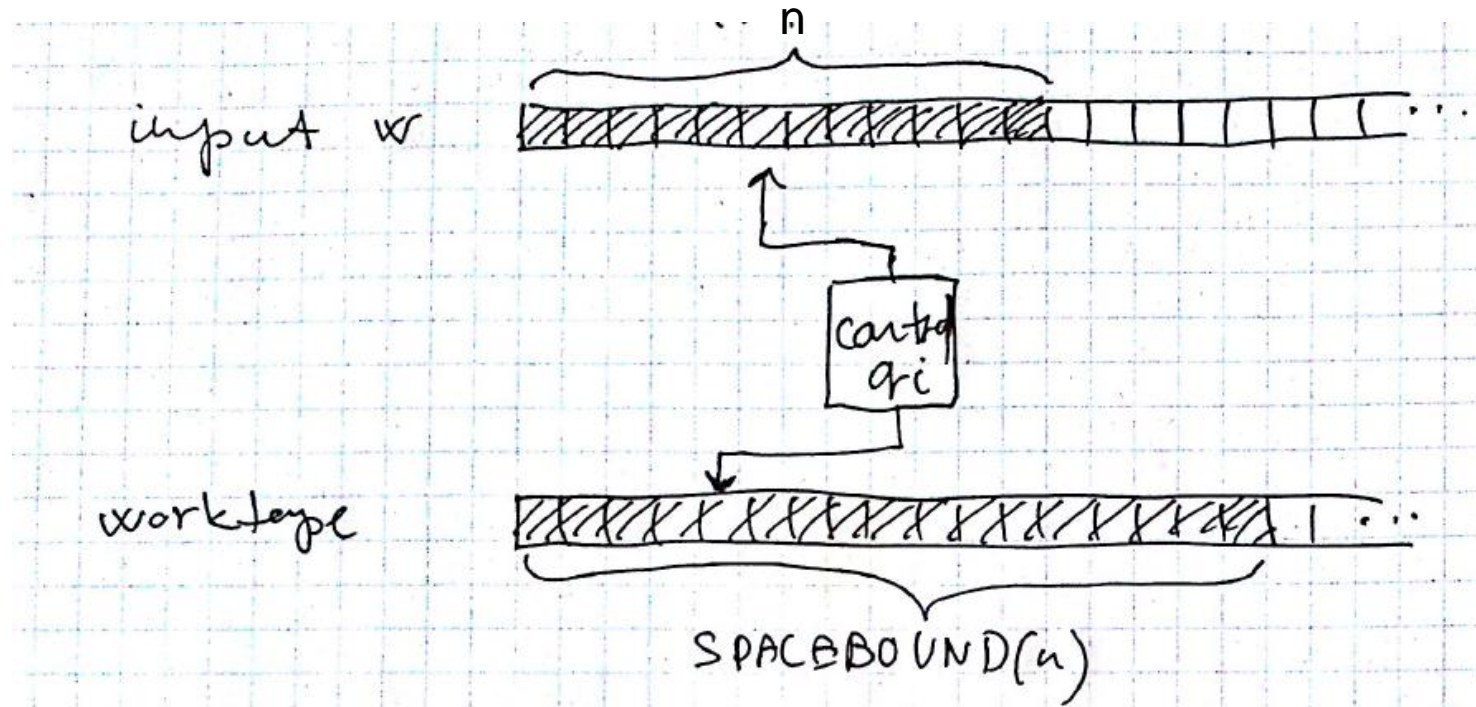
2. In case of  $f \in \text{TRANS}$  :

- **sequential** rule application: **configurations** can be recorded by a Turing machine on  $\log c \cdot d \sim \log d$  **tape cells**
- **parallel** rule application: **configurations** can be recorded by a Turing machine on  $\log c^d \sim d$  **tape cells**

This **limited workspace** becomes available **step-by-step**, it is bounded by  $d$ , the length of the **already processed part** of the input → **restricted space bounded** Turing machines.

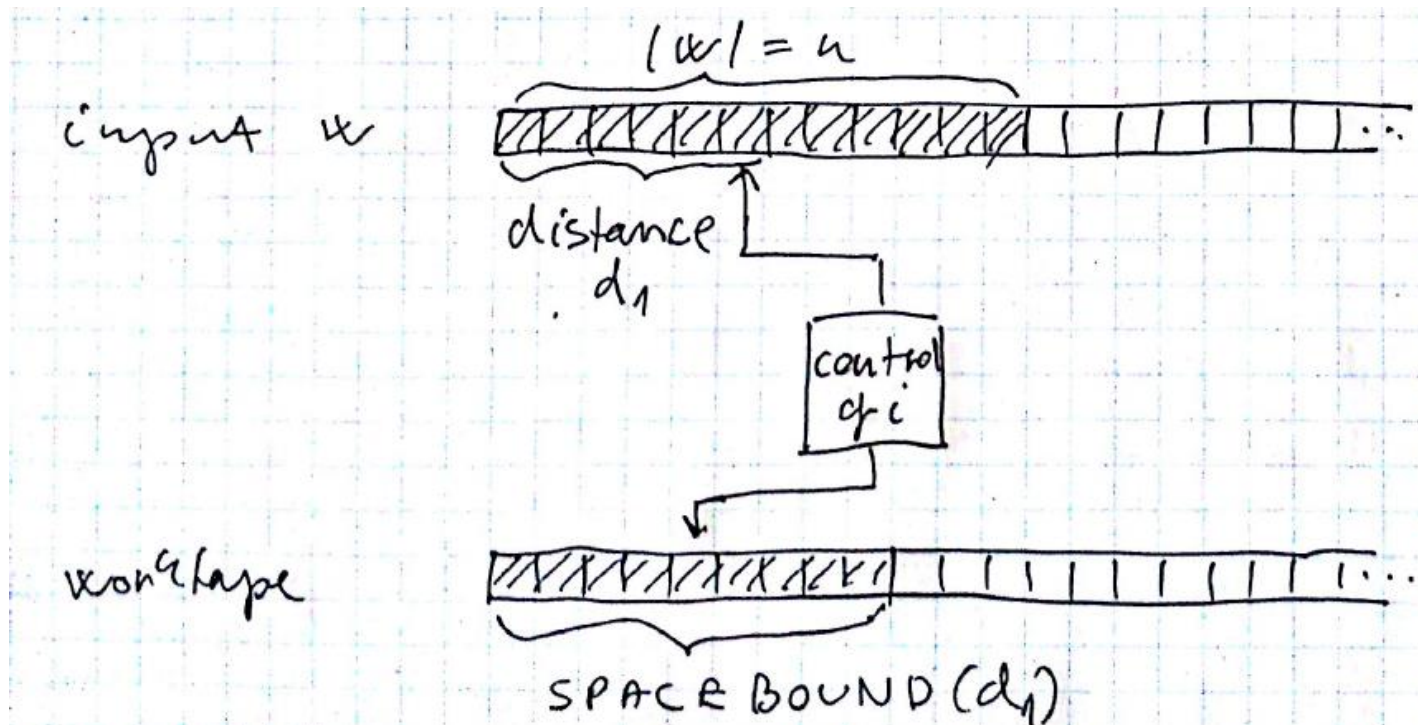
# A Turing machine with **SPACEBOUND(n)**

The length of the available worktape is bounded by the length of the input:



# Turing machines with *restricted* space bound

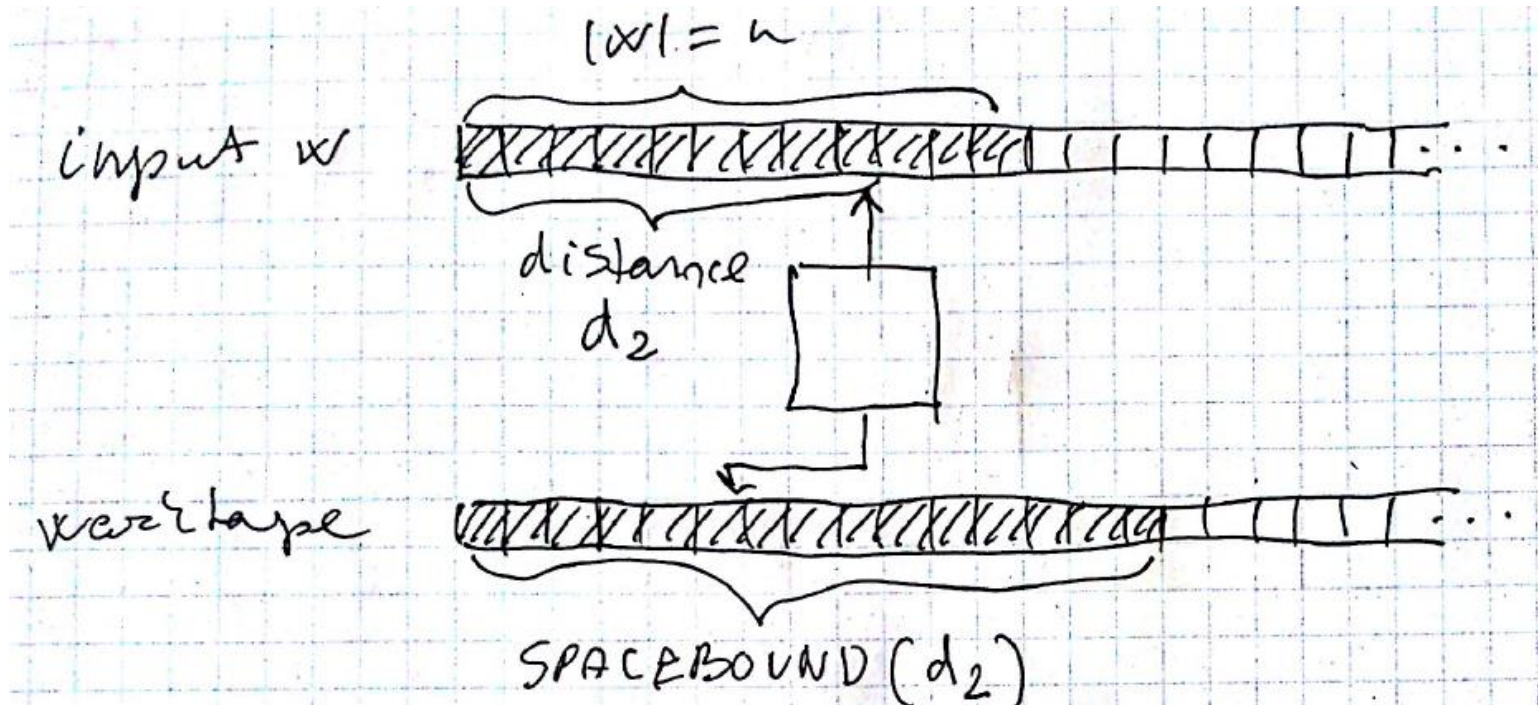
1. After reading  $d_1$  input cells:





# Turing machines with *restricted* space bound

2. After reading  $d_2$  input tape cells:



# Turing machines with restricted space bound

A nondeterministic Turing machine with a **one-way** input tape is **restricted  $S(n)$  space bounded** if the number of **nonempty cells** on the worktape(s) is **bounded by  $S(d)$** , where  $d$  is the **distance of the reading head** from the left-end of the one-way input tape.

**Notations for logarithmic space bound:**

*1LOGSPACE, r1LOGSPACE,*

*1LINSPEACE, r1LINSPEACE*

# Restricted space complexity

The **restricted** space complexity **classes** are **not** necessarily the **same** as the „usual” ones.

Consider for example:

$$L = \{xy \mid x \in \{1, 2, \dots, 9\}\{0, 1, \dots, 9\}^*, y \in \{\#\}^+, \text{val}(x) = |y|\}.$$

(11##### is in  $L$ , 3##### is not in  $L$ )

$L$  is in  $1\text{LOGSPACE}$ , but it is **not** in  $r1\text{LOGSPACE}$ .

# Restricted space complexity

The **restricted logarithmic space** bound:

- $r1LOGSPACE \subset 1LOGSPACE$
- In the **deterministic** case, it is equal to the **strong logarithmic space** bound.

The **restricted linear space** bound:

- $r1Linspace = Linspace$

[E. Csuhaj-Varju, O.H. Ibarra, Gy. Vaszil: On the computational complexity of P automata. *Lecture Notes in Computer Sci.*, 3384 (2005), 77–90.]

[M. Kutrib, J. Provillard, Gy. Vaszil, M. Wendtland: Deterministic One-Way Turing Machines with Sublinear Space. *Fundam. Inform.* 136(1-2): 139-155 (2015)]

# The power of systems with mappings by finite transducers

1.  $\mathcal{L}_{par}(PA, TRANS) = r1Linspace = CS$

For **any** kind of  $f : V^* \rightarrow 2^{T^*}$  as long as it is **not more complex than linear space computable** (by Turing machines),  $L(\Pi, f) \in CS$ .

2.  $\mathcal{L}_{seq}(PA, TRANS) = r1LOGSPACE \subset 1LOGSPACE$

[E. Csuhaj-Varju, O.H. Ibarra, Gy. Vaszil: On the computational complexity of P automata. *Lecture Notes in Computer Sci.*, 3384 (2005), 77–90.]

# The characterization of CS in more detail

For **any context-sensitive** language  $L$ , a **P automaton**  $\Pi$  can be constructed, such that  $L = L(\Pi, f_1)$  for a mapping  $f_1$  where

$f_1(x) = a$  for  $x = a^k$ , and  $f_1(x) = \{\varepsilon\}$  if  $x$  is the empty multiset.

# The characterization of CS in more detail

For any **P automaton**  $\Pi$  with object alphabet  $V$  and mapping  $f : V^* \rightarrow 2^{T^*}$  for some alphabet  $T$ , such that  $f$  is **linear-space computable**, the language  $L(\Pi, f) \subseteq T^*$  is **context-sensitive**.

# Mappings in *TRANS* and the mapping $f_{perm}$

The **language** by Example 5 (with  $f$  from *TRANS*):

$$L_{rev} = \{ww^{-1} \mid w \text{ is a string over } \{a, b\}\}$$

This is **interesting** because  $L_{rev}$  **cannot** be **characterized** using **permutations** as shown in:

[R. Freund, M. Kogler, Gh. Paun, and M. J. Perez-Jimenez. On the power of P and dP automata. *Annals of Bucharest University Mathematics-Informatics Series*, LVIII:5-22, 2009.]

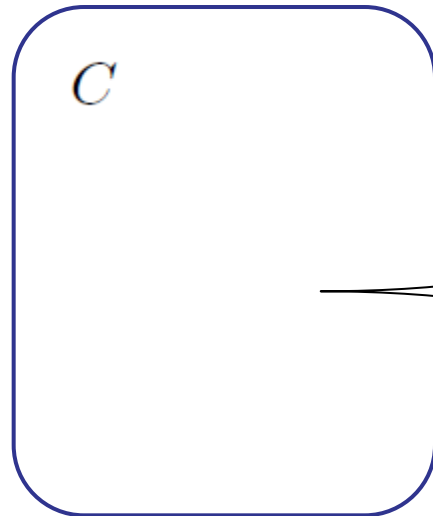


# Systems with mappings from *TRANS*

initial

configuration:

rules:



$(C, out; AC, in)$

$(AC, out; BD, in)$

$(AD, out; BD, in)$

$(B, out)$

final configuration: A single  $D$  is in the region

The accepted multiset sequences:  $\{(AC)^n(BD)^n \mid n \geq 1\}$

Consider:  $f_1(AC) = \{ab\}$ ,  $f_1(BD) = \{ac\}$

$f_2(AC) = \{aac\}$ ,  $f_2(BD) = \{bbd\}$

There are simple **linear languages** which cannot be characterized with systems using  $f_{perm}$  .

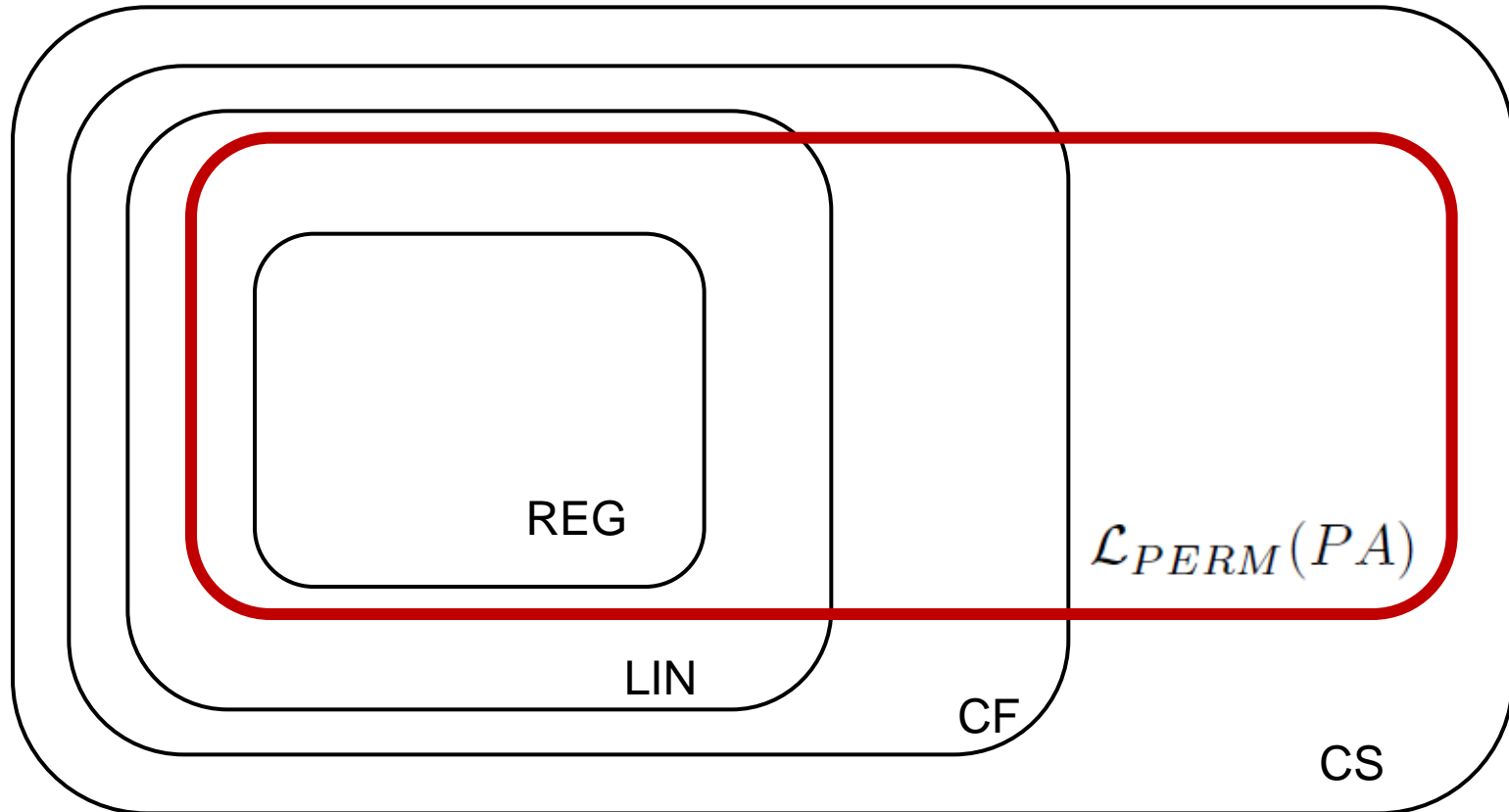
$$L = \{(ab)^n(ac)^n \mid n \geq 1\} \notin \mathcal{L}_{PERM}(PA)$$

On the other hand:

$$\{(aac)^n(bbd)^n \mid n \geq 1\} \in \mathcal{L}_{PERM}(PA)$$

[Paun, G., Perez-Jimenez, M.J.: Solving problems in a distributed way in membrane computing: dP systems. *International Journal of Computing, Communication and Control* V(2), 238–250 (2010)]

# Systems with permutation mappings



[R. Freund, M. Kogler, Gh. Paun, and M. J. Pérez-Jiménez. On the power of P and dP automata. *Annals of Bucharest University Mathematics-Informatics Series*, LVIII:5-22, 2009.]



Let us investigate the **power** systems with **permutation** mappings.

# The power of P automata with permutation mapping

$$\mathcal{L}_X(\text{PA}, f_{perm}) \subset \text{r1LOGSPACE} = \mathcal{L}_{seq}(\text{PA}, \text{TRANS})$$

*where  $X \in \{seq, par\}$ .*

- The **inclusion** is shown by a **counter machine model – RCMA**
- The **strictness** is shown using:

$$L_1 = \{(ab)^n \# w \mid w \in \{1\}\{0,1\}^* \text{ val}(w) = n > 1\}$$

and a lemma from [Freund, Kogler, Paun, Pérez-Jiménez 2010]

[E. Csuhaj-Varjú, Gy. Vaszil: On counter machines vs. dP automata. *LNCS* 8340, 138-150, 2014]

# The power of P automata, general formulation

Notation: for  $S : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ ,

$L \in NSPACE(S)$ — as usual

$L \in r1NSPACE(S)$ — there is a Turing machine with a one-way read-only input tape accepting  $L$  using a workspace of at most  $S(d)$  in each step of an accepting computation where  $d$  is the number of cells read on the input tape

# The power of P automata, general formulation

Let  $\Pi$  be a P automaton, and let  $S : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ , such that  $S(d)$  bounds the number of objects inside the system in the  $i$ -th step of functioning,  $d \leq i$  being the number of transitions in which a nonempty multiset was imported into the system from the environment.

If  $f$  is non-erasing and  $f \in NSPACE(S_f)$ , then  $L(\Pi, f) \in r1NSPACE(\log(S) + S_f)$ .

# **P automata over infinite alphabets**



# An interesting restriction of P automata

## P finite automata:

- the object **alphabet**  $V \cup \{a\}$  contains a **distinguished symbol**  $a$
- the **skin** region contains **rules of the form**  $(x, in; y, out)|_Z$  with  $x \in \{a\}^*$ ,  $y \in (V \cup \{a\})^*$ ,  $Z \in \{z, \neg z\}$ ,  $z \in V^*$
- the **other membranes** contain **rules of the form**  $(x, in; y, out)|_Z$  with  $Z \in \{z, \neg z\}$ ,  $x, y, z \in V^*$

[J.Dassow, Gy. Vaszil: P finite automata and regular languages over countably infinite alphabets. *Lecture Notes in Computer Sci.*, 4361 (2006), 367–381.]

# P finite automata

As the **input** multisets **can only contain the symbol**  $a$ , it is appropriate to have

$$f_2 : \{a\}^* \rightarrow 2^{T^*} \text{ with } f_2(\underbrace{a, \dots, a}_i) = \{a_i\}$$

# P finite automata

A language  $L$  is **regular** if and only if there is a **P finite automaton**  $\Pi$  with object alphabet  $V \cup \{a\}$ , such that  $L = L(\Pi, f_2)$ .

# P automata over infinite alphabets

Because of the **maximal parallel rule application**, the number of possible inputs is **infinite**, thus, we might map the input multisets to an **infinite alphabet**.

→ an automata-like **device over infinite alphabets**

→ **P finite automaton** - regular languages over infinite alphabets

# P finite automata over infinite alphabets

$$f_2 : \{a\}^* \rightarrow 2^{T^*} \text{ with } f_2(\underbrace{a, \dots, a}_i) = \{a_i\}$$

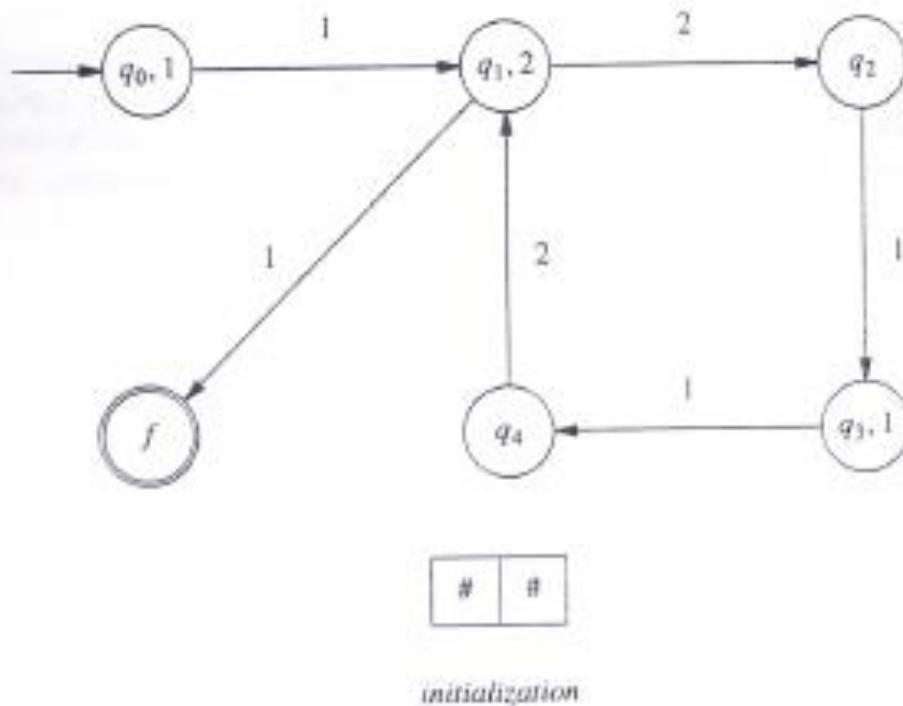
$$T = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_i, \dots\} \longleftrightarrow \{\{a\}\}, \{\{a, a\}\}, \dots, \{\{\underbrace{a, \dots, a}_i\}\}, \dots$$

# How to classify languages over infinite alphabets?

Two “natural” analogues of **regular languages**:

- [M. Kaminski, N. Francez 1994] - languages accepted by **finite-memory automata**
- [F. Otto 1985] - languages characterized by  **$\Delta$ -regular expressions**

# Finite memory automata



An accepted string:  $a_1 a_2 a_1 a_3 a_2 a_4 a_3 a_4$

# Regularity - finite memory automata

“ $L$  is regular if accepted by a **finite memory automaton**”

**Checking equality** of symbols is  
“easy”, but:

$$\{a_{2i} \mid i \geq 1\}$$

**cannot be characterized** this way



# Regularity – $\Delta$ regular expressions

Let  $\Delta$  be an infinite alphabet.

- $\emptyset$  and  $\varepsilon$  denote the empty set and  $\{\varepsilon\}$ , respectively,
- $a_i \in \Delta$  denotes  $\{a_i\}$ ,
- for  $a_i \in \Delta$ ,  $j \geq 1$ , expression  $a_{i,j}$  denotes  $\{a_{i+kj} \mid k \geq 0\}$ ,
- if  $r, s$  are  $\Delta$ -regular expressions denoting  $R, S$ , then  $r + s$ ,  $rs$ , and  $r^*$  denote  $R \cup S$ ,  $RS$ , and  $R^*$ , respectively.

# Regularity – $\Delta$ regular expressions

“ $L$  is regular if described by a  $\Delta$ -regular expression”

Checking relationships between symbols is possible, but:

$$\{a_i a_i \mid i \geq 1\}$$

cannot be characterized this way

# Finite memory automata and $\Delta$ regular expressions

$L_1 = \{a_{2i} \mid i \geq 1\} \notin \mathcal{L}(FMA)$  but  $L_1 \in \mathcal{L}(\Delta - RegExp)$ ,

and

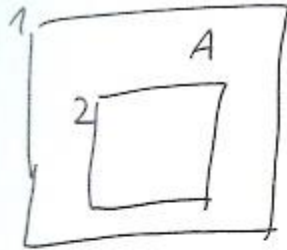
$L_2 = \{a_i a_i \mid i \geq 1\} \in \mathcal{L}(FMA)$  but  $L_2 \notin \mathcal{L}(\Delta - RegExp)$ ,

thus  $\mathcal{L}(FMA)$  and  $\mathcal{L}(\Delta - RegExp)$  are **incomparable**.

$L_1$  is described by the expression  $a_{2,2}$

$L_2$  is also easily described by FMA

# P finite automata for $L_1$

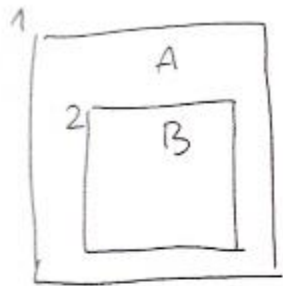


$$\underline{P_1} : (aa^i) \mid A$$

$$\underline{P_2} : (A^i)$$

$$L = \left\{ f(\underbrace{a \dots a}_{2i}) \mid i \geq 1 \right\} = \{ a_{2i} \mid i \geq 1 \}$$

# P finite automata for $L_2$

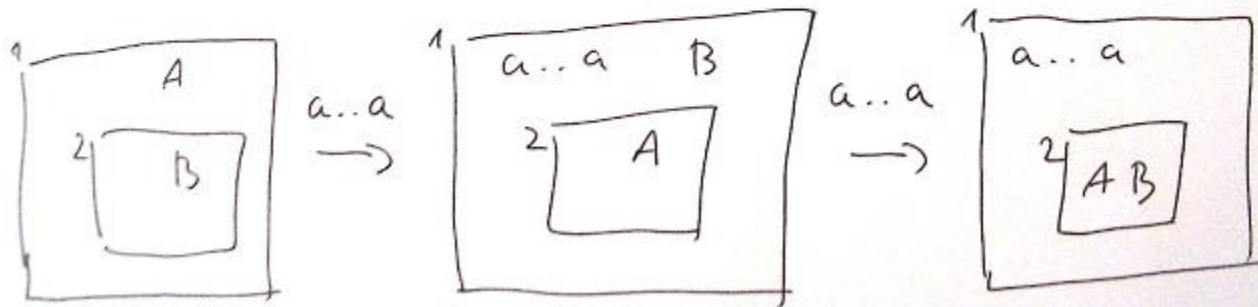



$$P_1 : (a \text{ in}) \mid A$$

$$P_2 : (a \text{ in}, a \text{ out}) \mid B$$

$$D_2 : (A \text{ in}, B \text{ out}), (B \text{ in}), F_2 = \{AB\}$$

$$L(\Pi) = \left\{ \uparrow \left( \underbrace{(a \dots a)}_i \right) \left( \underbrace{(a \dots a)}_i \right) \mid i \geq 1 \right\} = \{a_i a_i \mid i \geq 1\}$$





Using **P finite automata**, we might obtain a more **appropriate definition of regular languages** over **infinite** alphabets.

This is an interesting research direction which is **still open**.

# Thank you for your attention!

- Membrane systems (P systems) with communication rules only, accepting P systems
- P automata
  - The computational power of P automata
  - P automata over infinite alphabets