

Deducing Interactions in Partially Unspecified Biological Systems

P. Baldan¹ A. Bracciali² L. Brodo³ R. Bruni²

¹Università di Padova

²Università di Pisa

³Università di Sassari

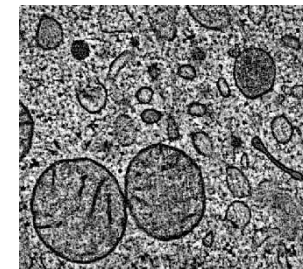
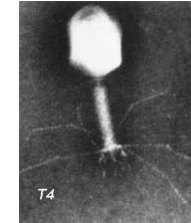
Algebraic Biology - Hagenberg, July 2-4, 2007

Outline

- 1 Open Biological Systems
- 2 Distributed and concurrent systems
- 3 Symbolic Transition System
- 4 Biological examples

biological systems are *open* in different meanings

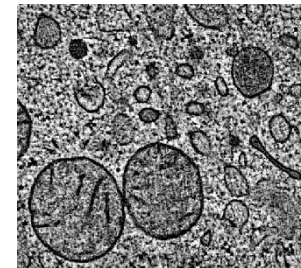
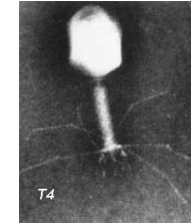
- **perturbable** - any living system expresses an external behaviour
- **incomplete** - our knowledge of biological systems is incomplete
- **built by hand** - we may always assume to add some external components to a given complex



Partial information imposes that the approach is to predict the behaviours (of missing knowledge).

biological systems are *open* in different meanings

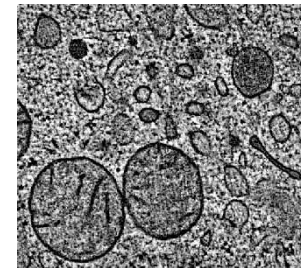
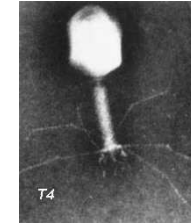
- **perturbable** - any living system expresses an external behaviour
- **incomplete** - our knowledge of biological systems is incomplete
- **built by hand** - we may always assume to add some external components to a given complex



Partial information imposes that the approach is to predict the behaviours (of missing knowledge).

biological systems are *open* in different meanings

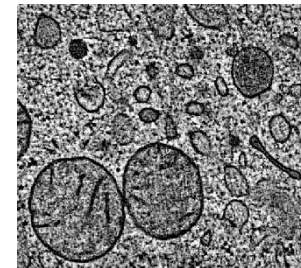
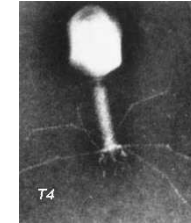
- **perturbable** - any living system expresses an external behaviour
- **incomplete** - our knowledge of biological systems is incomplete
- **built by hand** - we may always assume to add some external components to a given complex



Partial information imposes that the approach is to predict the behaviours (of missing knowledge).

biological systems are *open* in different meanings

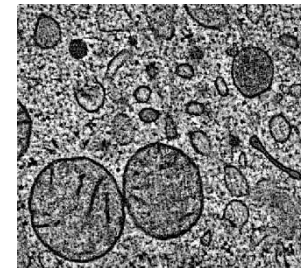
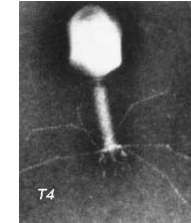
- **perturbable** - any living system expresses an external behaviour
- **incomplete** - our knowledge of biological systems is incomplete
- **built by hand** - we may always assume to add some external components to a given complex



Partial information imposes that the approach is to predict the behaviours (of missing knowledge).

biological systems are *open* in different meanings

- **perturbable** - any living system expresses an external behaviour
- **incomplete** - our knowledge of biological systems is incomplete
- **built by hand** - we may always assume to add some external components to a given complex



Partial information imposes that the approach is to predict the behaviours (of missing knowledge).

partial biological knowledge, an analogy

molecule - as - computation

System of interacting molecular entities is described and modelled by a system of interacting computational entities.

Regev, Shapiro - *Nature*, September 2002.

- **relevant:** essential properties
- **computable:** computational knowledge
- **understandable:** conceptual framework
- **extensible:** capture other real properties

partial knowledge - as - partial modelling

Modelling *incomplete systems* by applying a theory for *open systems*.

partial biological knowledge, an analogy

molecule - as - computation

System of interacting molecular entities is described and modelled by a system of interacting computational entities.

Regev, Shapiro - *Nature*, September 2002.

- **relevant:** essential properties
- **computable:** computational knowledge
- **understandable:** conceptual framework
- **extensible:** capture other real properties

partial knowledge - as - partial modelling

Modelling *incomplete systems* by applying a theory for *open systems*.

partial biological knowledge, an analogy

molecule - as - computation

System of interacting molecular entities is described and modelled by a system of interacting computational entities.

Regev, Shapiro - *Nature*, September 2002.

- **relevant**: essential properties
- **computable**: computational knowledge
- **understandable**: conceptual framework
- **extensible**: capture other real properties

partial knowledge - as - partial modelling

Modelling *incomplete systems* by applying a theory for *open systems*.

partial biological knowledge, an analogy

molecule - as - computation

System of interacting molecular entities is described and modelled by a system of interacting computational entities.

Regev, Shapiro - *Nature*, September 2002.

- **relevant**: essential properties
- **computable**: computational knowledge
- **understandable**: conceptual framework
- **extensible**: capture other real properties

partial knowledge - as - partial modelling

Modelling *incomplete systems* by applying a theory for *open systems*.

Outline

- 1 Open Biological Systems
- 2 Distributed and concurrent systems**
- 3 Symbolic Transition System
- 4 Biological examples

Distributed and concurrent systems

Mobile and distributed programming (interaction, coordination, open)

- open systems can evolve (*no universal closure, higher level of dynamics*);
- constructive methodology (*unification based - the most general unifier is chosen to infer the transition*)
- complementary with contextualization techniques (*using contexts as labels to derive LTS, for which bisimilarity is a congruence, leads to use universal closure*);
- generality and friendly notation

The advantage is to import:

- theories
- automatic tools

Distributed and concurrent systems

Mobile and distributed programming (interaction, coordination, open)

- open systems can evolve (*no universal closure, higher level of dynamics*);
- constructive methodology (*unification based - the most general unifier is chosen to infer the transition*)
- complementary with contextualization techniques (*using contexts as labels to derive LTS, for which bisimilarity is a congruence, leads to use universal closure*);
- generality and friendly notation

The advantage is to import:

- theories
- automatic tools

Main ingredients: contexts and process variables.

Processes with holes

$$P[X_1] \parallel Q[X_2]$$

The evolution of the system depends on the particular components will be substituted with X_1 and X_2 .

Computational steps, involving external components, require some hypothesis to fix the particular behaviour needed to compute the desired action.

A simulation trace is equipped with the required hypothesis.

Required behaviour

$$Q[X] \rightarrow Q'[Y]$$

Recording

- how many *holes* (process variables) there are;
- the hypothesis assumed at each computation step;
- how the computation is modified by the new assumption taken

by the way of formula:

$$\varphi ::= X \mid \diamond a \varphi \mid f(\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_n)$$

Formulae as labels

General structure of labels:

$$C[X_1, \dots, X_n] \xrightarrow{(\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_n)}_a D[Y_1, \dots, Y_m]$$

The formula of a label transition, from one state to another, keeps trace of all the structure modifications required by the assumptions made hitherto.

formulae

Formula definition depends on the particular process algebra adopted:

- basic actions
- structural operators
- compositional operators

Outline

- 1 Open Biological Systems
- 2 Distributed and concurrent systems
- 3 Symbolic Transition System**
- 4 Biological examples

Simulating systems

Operational semantics

Inference rules

$$\frac{}{m[in\ n.Q\ | R] \ | \ n[P] \ \rightarrow_{\tau} \ n[m[Q\ | R] \ | P]} \text{ (in capability)}$$

$$\frac{}{n[P] \ | \ open\ n.Q \ \rightarrow_{\tau} \ P \ | \ Q} \text{ (open capability)}$$

$$\frac{P_1 \ \rightarrow_{\alpha} \ Q_1 \quad P_2 \ \rightarrow_{\alpha^{\perp}} \ Q_2}{P_1 \ | \ P_2 \ \rightarrow_{\tau} \ Q_1 \ | \ Q_2} \text{ (communication)}$$

specific formula set

$$\varphi ::= X \ | \ \diamond in\ \varphi \ | \ \diamond open\ \varphi \ | \ (\varphi_1 \ | \ \varphi_2)$$

Simulating systems

Operational semantics

Inference rules

$$\frac{}{m[in\ n.Q\ | R] \ | n[P] \ \rightarrow_{\tau} \ n[m[Q\ | R] \ | P]} \text{ (in capability)}$$

$$\frac{}{n[P] \ | \ open\ n.Q \ \rightarrow_{\tau} \ P \ | \ Q} \text{ (open capability)}$$

$$\frac{P_1 \ \rightarrow_{\alpha} \ Q_1 \quad P_2 \ \rightarrow_{\alpha^{\perp}} \ Q_2}{P_1 \ | \ P_2 \ \rightarrow_{\tau} \ Q_1 \ | \ Q_2} \text{ (communication)}$$

specific formula set

$$\varphi ::= X \ | \ \diamond in\ \varphi \ | \ \diamond open\ \varphi \ | \ (\varphi_1 \ | \ \varphi_2)$$

Symbolic Transition

$$v[X] \mid c[\text{open } v.(\text{prot} \mid \text{rna}^\perp)]$$

initial state

Assuming we want the *virus* $v[\dots]$ to enter the *cell* $c[\dots]$, the required hypothesis is that the virus were the capability to do that.

$$\xrightarrow{\text{in } c.Y|Z} \tau$$

label

The formula abstracts over the structure of the virus in the most general way!

$$c[v[Y \mid Z] \mid \text{open } v.(\text{prot} \mid \text{rna}^\perp)]$$

residual

In the next state (i.e. the continuation) there is a modification of the configuration of the process variables, due to the assumptions made.

Symbolic Transition

$$v[X] \mid c[\textit{open } v.(\textit{prot} \mid \textit{rna}^\perp)]$$

initial state

Assuming we want the *virus* $v[\dots]$ to enter the *cell* $c[\dots]$, the required hypothesis is that the virus were the capability to do that.

$$\begin{array}{c} \textit{in } c.Y|Z \\ \longrightarrow \tau \end{array}$$

label

The formula abstracts over the structure of the virus in the most general way!

$$c[v[Y \mid Z] \mid \textit{open } v.(\textit{prot} \mid \textit{rna}^\perp)]$$

residual

In the next state (i.e. the continuation) there is a modification of the configuration of the process variables, due to the assumptions made.

Symbolic Transition

$$v[X] \mid c[open\ v.(prot \mid rna^\perp)]$$

initial state

Assuming we want the *virus* $v[\dots]$ to enter the *cell* $c[\dots]$, the required hypothesis is that the virus were the capability to do that.

$$\begin{array}{c} in\ c.Y|Z \\ \longrightarrow \tau \end{array}$$

label

The formula abstracts over the structure of the virus in the most general way!

$$c[v[Y \mid Z] \mid open\ v.(prot \mid rna^\perp)]$$

residual

In the next state (i.e. the continuation) there is a modification of the configuration of the process variables, due to the assumptions made.

Symbolic Transition

$$v[X] \mid c[open\ v.(prot \mid rna^\perp)]$$

initial state

Assuming we want the *virus* $v[\dots]$ to enter the *cell* $c[\dots]$, the required hypothesis is that the virus were the capability to do that.

$$\begin{array}{c} in\ c.Y|Z \\ \longrightarrow \\ \tau \end{array}$$

label

The formula abstracts over the structure of the virus in the most general way!

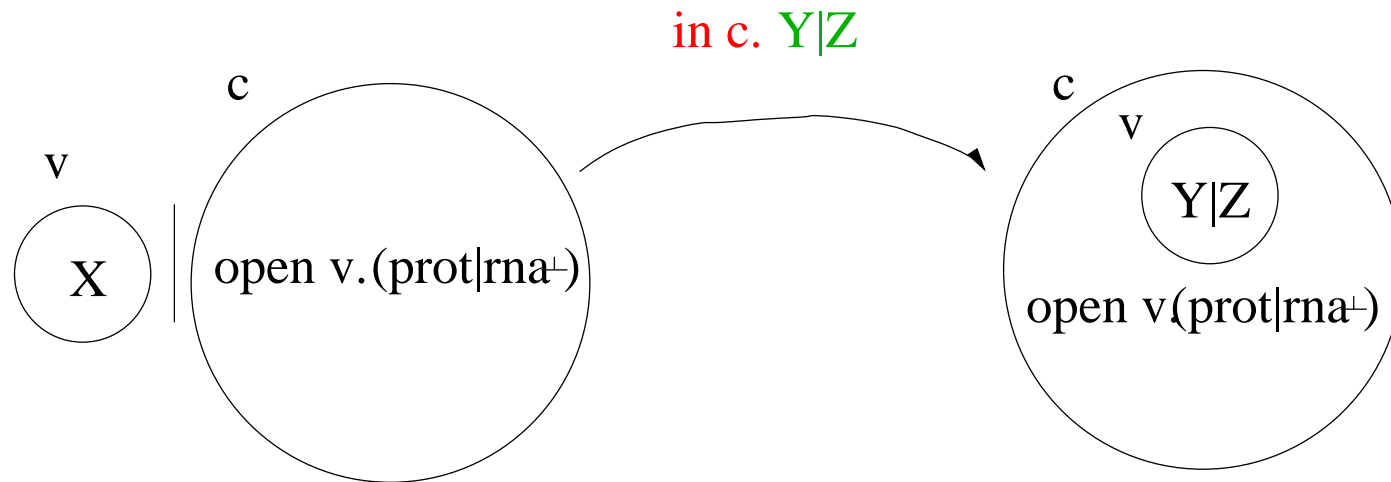
$$c[v[Y \mid Z] \mid open\ v.(prot \mid rna^\perp)]$$

residual

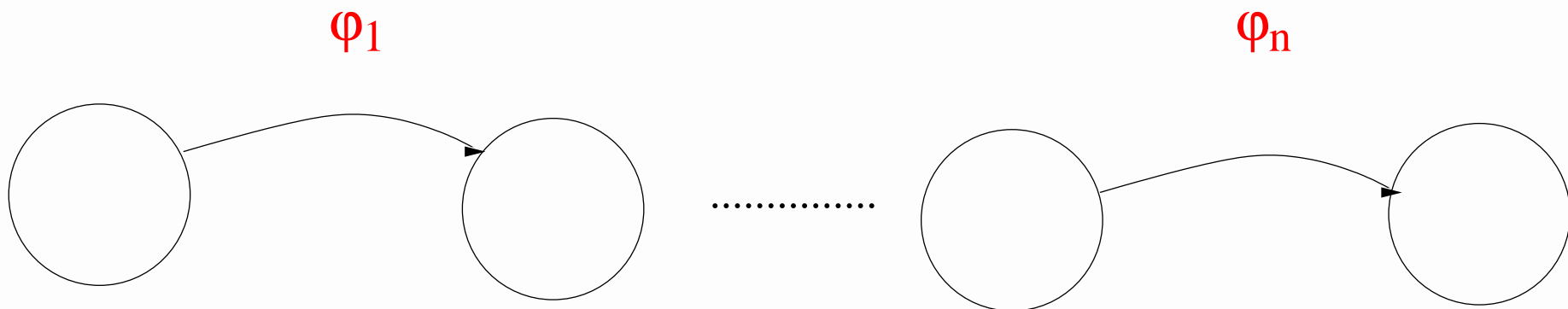
In the next state (i.e. the continuation) there is a modification of the configuration of the process variables, due to the assumptions made.

Symbolic Transition

At each step of the computation, new hypotheses are required

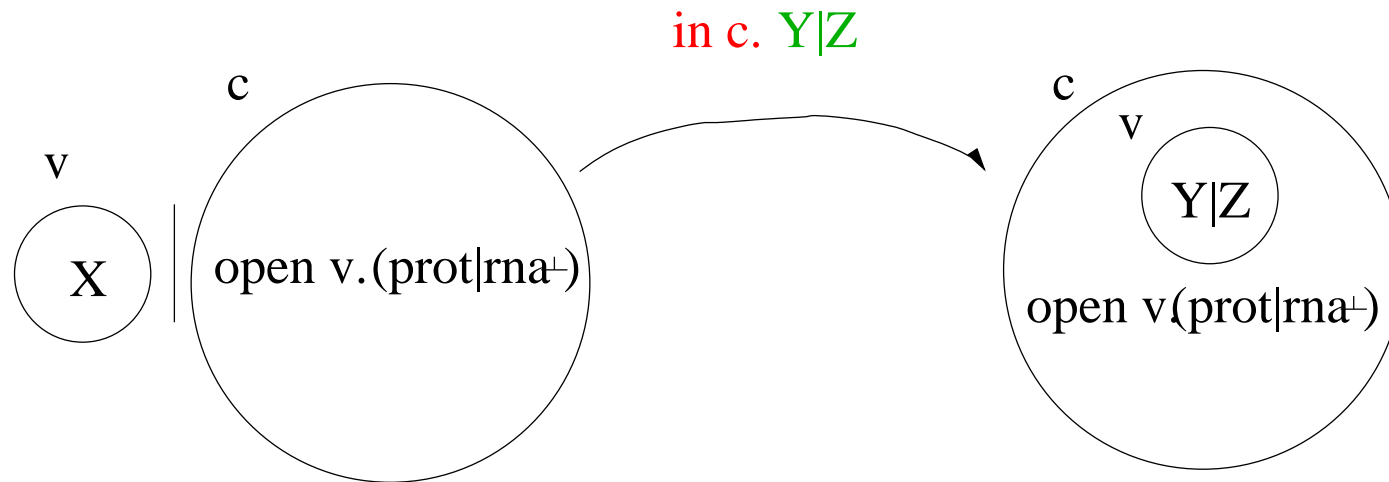


how to build a trace ?

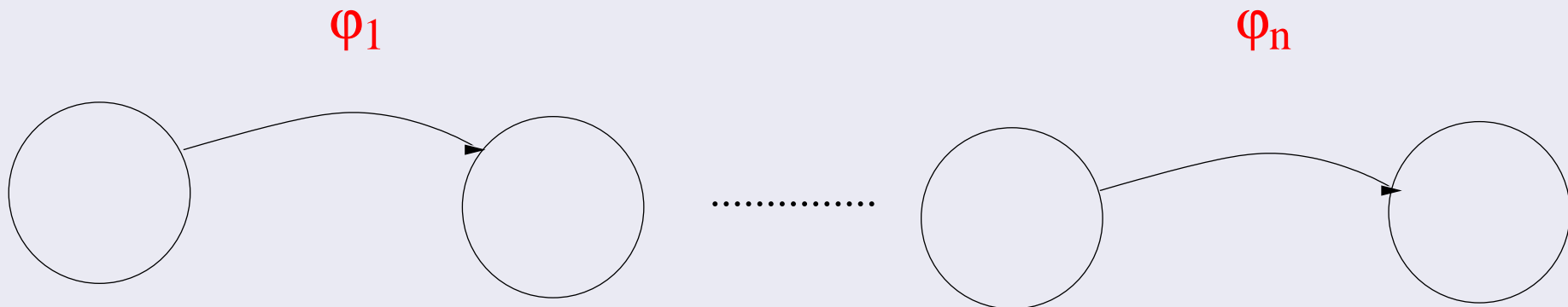


Symbolic Transition

At each step of the computation, new hypotheses are required



how to build a trace ?



Symbolic Trace

$$E[X] = v[X] \mid c[\text{open } v.(\text{prot} \mid \text{rna}^\perp)]$$

first transition

$$E[X] \xrightarrow{\text{in } c.Y|Z} \tau c[v[Y \mid Z] \mid \text{open } v.(\text{prot} \mid \text{rna}^\perp)]$$

second transition

$$c[v[Y \mid Z] \mid \text{open } v.(\text{prot} \mid \text{rna}^\perp)] \xrightarrow{Y,Z} \tau c[Y \mid Z \mid \text{prot} \mid \text{rna}^\perp]$$

third transition

$$c[Y \mid Z \mid \text{prot} \mid \text{rna}^\perp] \xrightarrow{\diamond \text{rna}W,Z} c[W \mid Z \mid \text{prot}]$$

label composition

$$\text{in } c.(\diamond \text{rna } W) \mid Y$$

- Correctness and completeness of Symbolic Transition Systems
 - **correctness** every concrete behaviour (of a full specified system) has an abstract representation (the corresponding in STS)
 - **completeness** every instance of an abstract behaviour (STS) correspond to a concrete behaviour
- symbolic bisimulation for open systems (different from universal closure)
- Symbolic Transition System is built by unification (Prolog)

bibliography

- Paolo Baldan, Andrea Bracciali, Roberto Bruni. **Bisimulation by unification**. AMAST 2002, LNCS vol.2422: 254-270.
- Paolo Baldan, Andrea Bracciali, Roberto Bruni. **Symbolic Equivalence for Open Systems**. Global Computing 2004, LNCS vol.3267: 1 -17.

- Correctness and completeness of Symbolic Transition Systems
 - **correctness** every concrete behaviour (of a full specified system) has an abstract representation (the corresponding in STS)
 - **completeness** every instance of an abstract behaviour (STS) correspond to a concrete behaviour
- symbolic bisimulation for open systems (different from universal closure)
- Symbolic Transition System is built by unification (Prolog)

bibliography

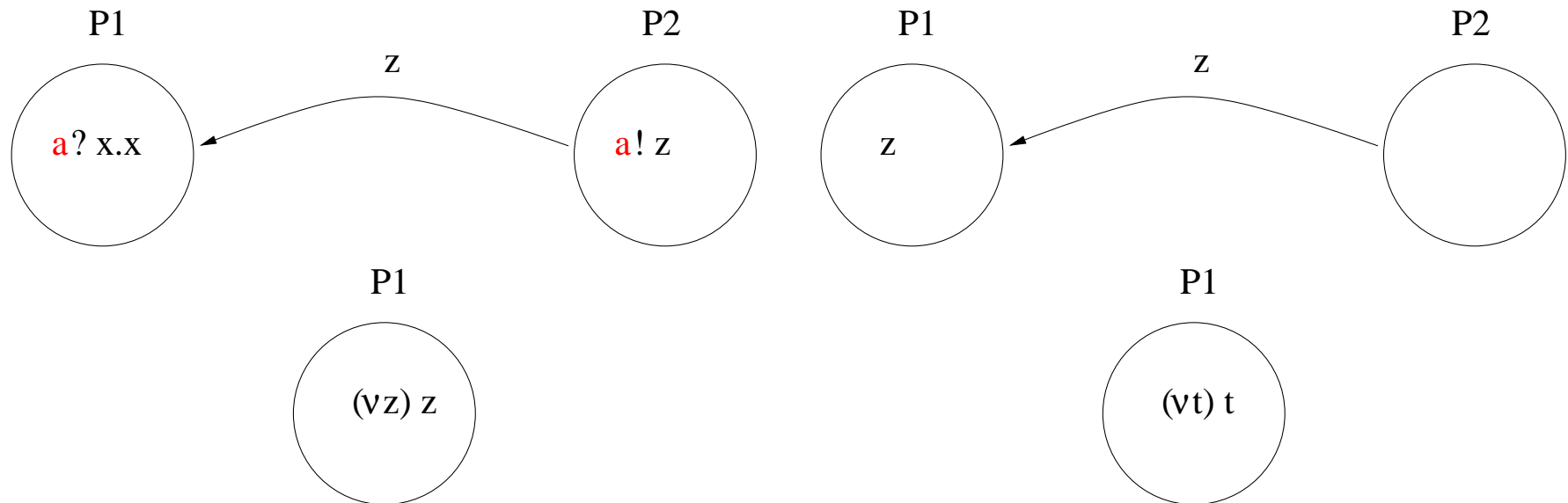
- Paolo Baldan, Andrea Bracciali, Roberto Bruni. **Bisimulation by unification**. AMAST 2002, LNCS vol.2422: 254-270.
- Paolo Baldan, Andrea Bracciali, Roberto Bruni. **Symbolic Equivalence for Open Systems**. Global Computing 2004, LNCS vol.3267: 1 -17.

On going work

STS works with a subset of the modeling languages: not able to handle names, **yet!**

π -calculus

$a ! b$ output
 $a ? x$ input
 $(\nu n)P$ private names



Outline

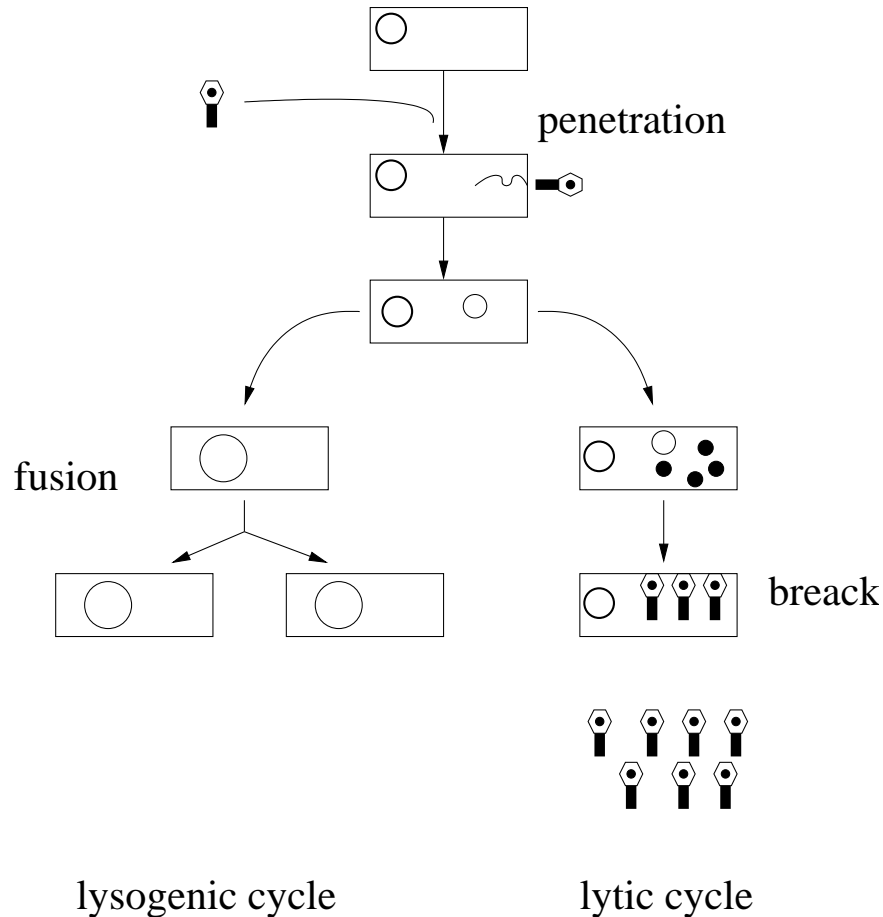
- 1 Open Biological Systems
- 2 Distributed and concurrent systems
- 3 Symbolic Transition System
- 4 Biological examples**

BioAmbients

Introduced for the modelling of biological membranes

$[\dots]$	empty membrane
$[a?x \mid a!z]$	with internal behaviour
$[\dots \mid a!z] \mid [a?x \mid \dots]$	different membranes with internal behaviour
$[\dots \mid \textit{sibling } a!z] \mid [\textit{sibling } a?x \mid \dots]$	trapassing membranes
$[\dots \mid \textit{merge}^+ a] \mid [\textit{merge}^- a \mid \dots]$	merging membranes
$[\dots \mid \textit{enter } a] \mid [\textit{accept } a \mid \dots]$	nesting membranes
$[[\dots \mid \textit{exit } a] \mid \textit{allow } a \mid \dots]$	nesting membranes

Toy example



each protein is an ambient
activation as communication
inhibition as encapsulation

very simplified hypotheses

1 - high concentration of **CI**
determines lysogeny

2 - absence of **CI** determines lysis

3 - **CII** promotes the production of **CI**

4 - **CIII** can inhibit **HFL**

5 - low concentration of **CRO** stimulates
CI production

6 - high concentration of **CRO** inhibits
CI production

BioAmbient code

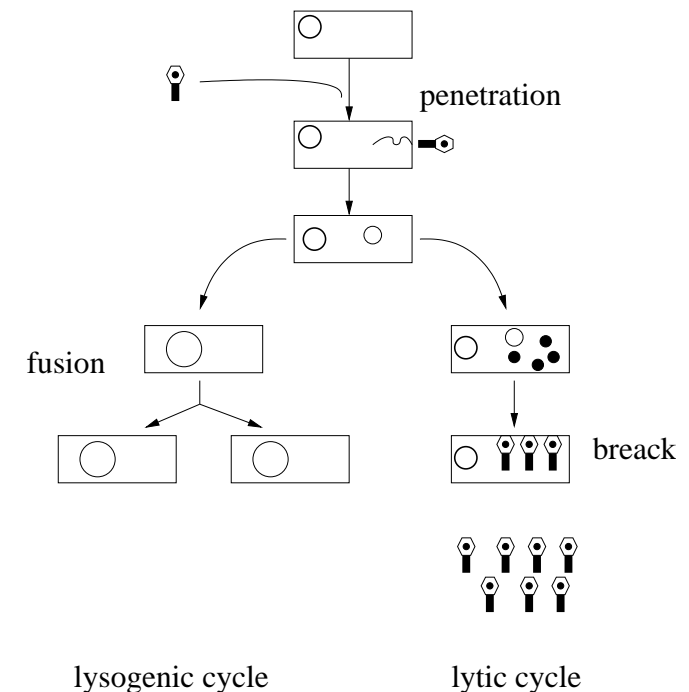
[VIRUS] = [merge⁺ virus.([C3] | [C2] | [C1] | [CRO]) | [DNA λ]]
DNA λ = (lyso?.enter dnae.0)

+

lysi?.(λ [exit newph.VIRUS] | expel newph)

[ECOLI] = [merge⁻ virus | *Dna_e*[accept dnae] | [HFL]]

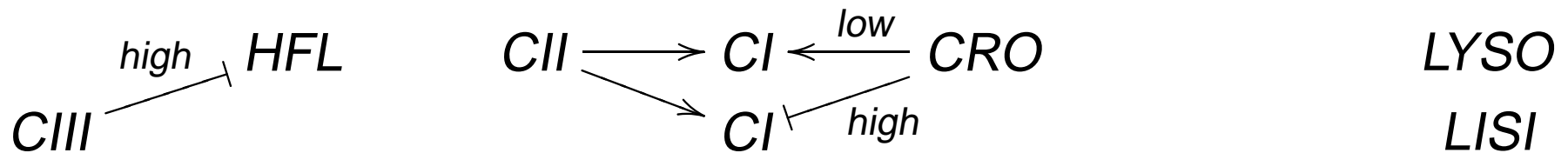
HFL = enter h_c3.0 + X



Bioambients - logical formulae

$$\varphi ::= X \mid \diamond a \varphi \mid \varphi_1 + \varphi_2 \mid \varphi_1 \mid \varphi_n \mid a.\varphi$$
$$a ::= n? \mid n! \mid \text{enter } n \mid \text{accept } n \mid \dots$$

Assuming partial knowledge



$C_3 = l_{c3!.0} + \text{accept } h_{c3}. \text{pro}_{c2!.0}$

$C_2 = \text{pro}_{c2?}. \text{pro}_{c1!.0} + \text{enter } c2.0$

$C_1 = \text{pro}_{c1?}.(h_{cro?}. \text{lysi!.0} + l_{cro?}. \text{lyso!.0})$

$CRO = l_{cro!.0} + h_{cro}.0$

$$\begin{aligned} & Ecoli \left[([C3] \mid [C2] \mid [C1] \mid [CRO]) \mid [DNA \lambda] \mid_{Dna_e} [accept dnae] \mid [enter h_c3.0 + X] \right] \\ & \quad \xrightarrow{(I_c3?.Y_1 + Y_2) \mid Y_3} \\ & Ecoli \left[CIII[0] \mid [C2] \mid [C1] \mid [CRO] \mid [DNA \lambda] \mid_{Dna_e} [accept dnae] \mid hfl[Y_1 \mid Y_3] \right] \\ & \quad \xrightarrow{(Y_4 + accept c2.Y_5 \mid Y_6), Y_3} \\ & Ecoli \left[(CIII[0] \mid [C1] \mid [CRO]) \mid [DNA \lambda] \mid_{Dna_e} [accept dnae] \mid hfl[CII[0] \mid (Y_5 \mid Y_6) \mid Y_3] \right] \\ & \quad \xrightarrow{(Y_7 + lysi!.Y_8), Y_6, Y_3} \\ & Ecoli \left[(CIII[0] \mid [C1] \mid [CRO]) \mid [\lambda[exit newph.VIRUS] \mid expel newph] \mid_{Dna_e} [accept dnae] \mid hfl[CII[0] \mid (Y_8 \mid Y_6) \mid Y_3] \right] \\ & \quad \xrightarrow{Y_8, Y_6, Y_3} \\ & Ecoli \left[(CIII[0] \mid [C1] \mid [CRO]) \mid \lambda[VIRUS] \mid_{Dna_e} [accept dnae] \mid hfl[CII[0] \mid (Y_8 \mid Y_6) \mid Y_3] \right] \end{aligned}$$

The deduced symbolic trace

$$(I_{c3?} \cdot (Y_4 + \text{accept } c2(Y_7 + \text{lysi!} \cdot Y_8) \mid Y_6) + Y_2) \mid Y_3$$

As theory is correct, the trace computed can be obtained in a fully specified system, assuming the same biological hypotheses.

Possible applications

How to use our approach:

Before in silico experiments

Preliminary study of the systems.

Partial data

When is not possible to design a complete model.

Extention of existing models

To build new complexes by studying the requirements the new components should have to interact in the desired way

Future work

- **names**: extend approach to make the STS also works with process algebras that handle name restriction and substitution;
- **automatic tool** build automatic simulator working with any process algebra of interest (based on unification);
- **quantitative analysis** adding values for calculating the probability of a transition;

The end

Thanks for your attention !

Future work II

- building a *significant* trace requires to follow a criterium to discriminate between infinite moves.
- ... quantitative values may help —