

MPRI BioProg Biochemical Programming

Rule-based Modeling

Syntax, semantics, simulation

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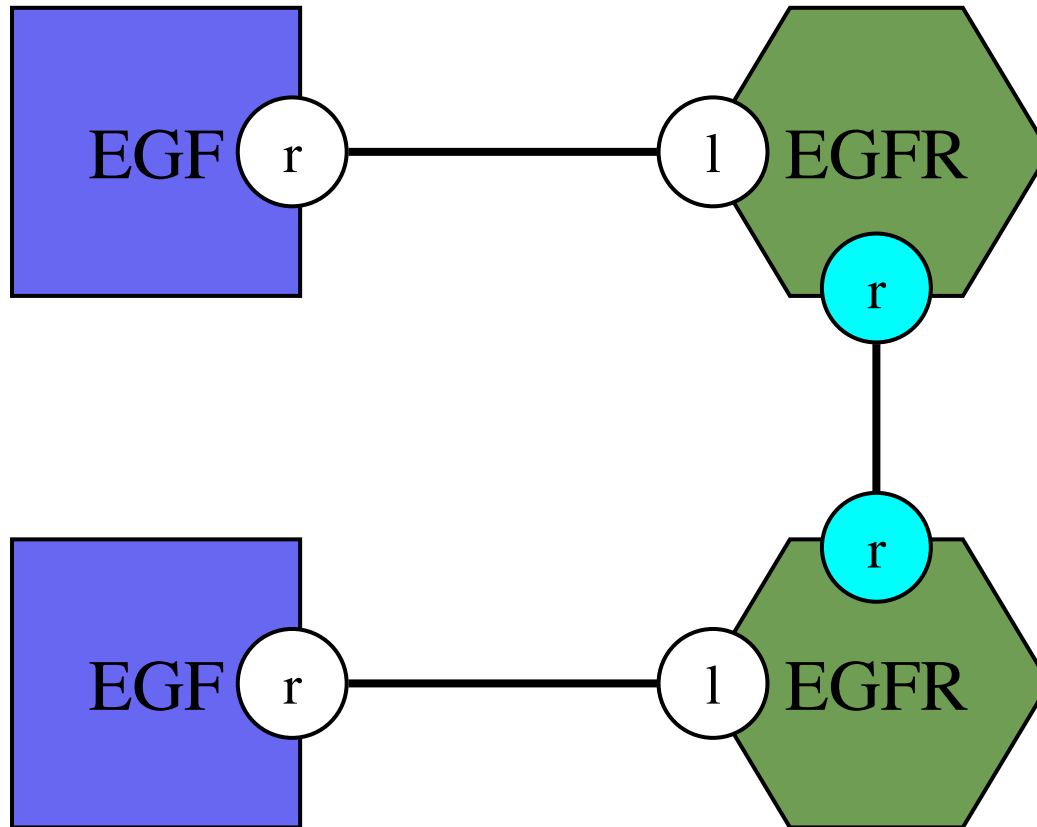
kappalanguage.org

Wednesday, the 10th of December, 2025

Overview

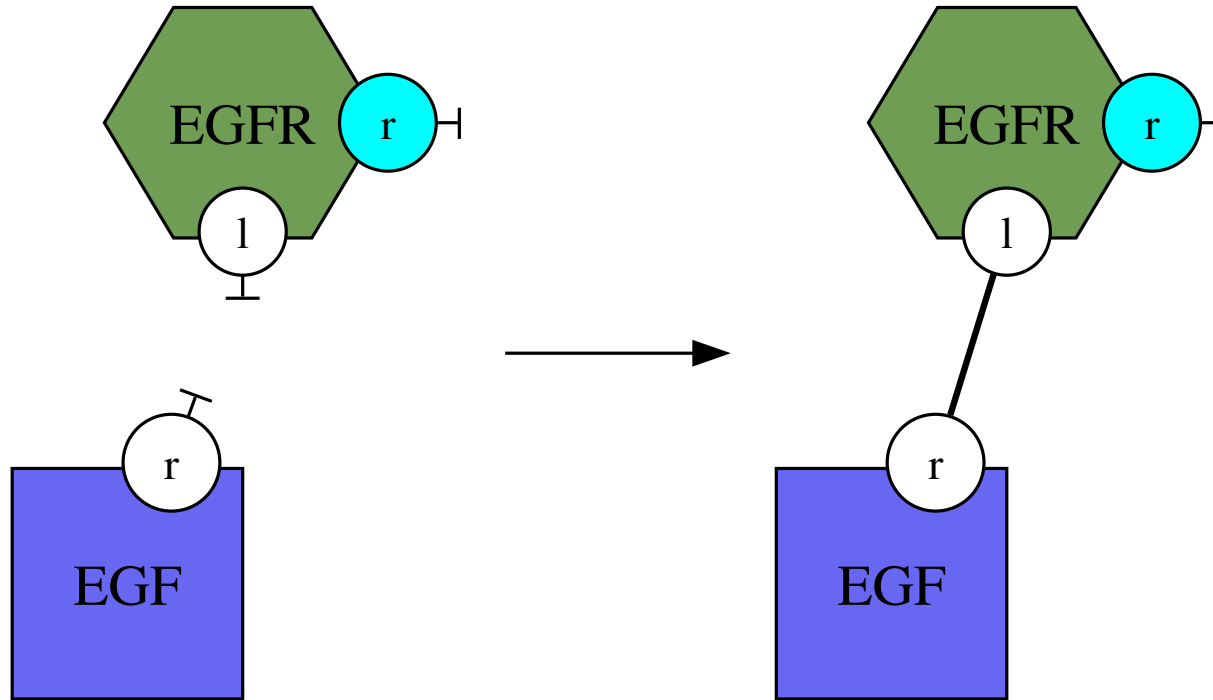
1. **Syntax**
2. Markovian clocks
3. Stochastic semantics
4. Optimizations
5. Counter-factual execution
6. Bibliography

A chemical species



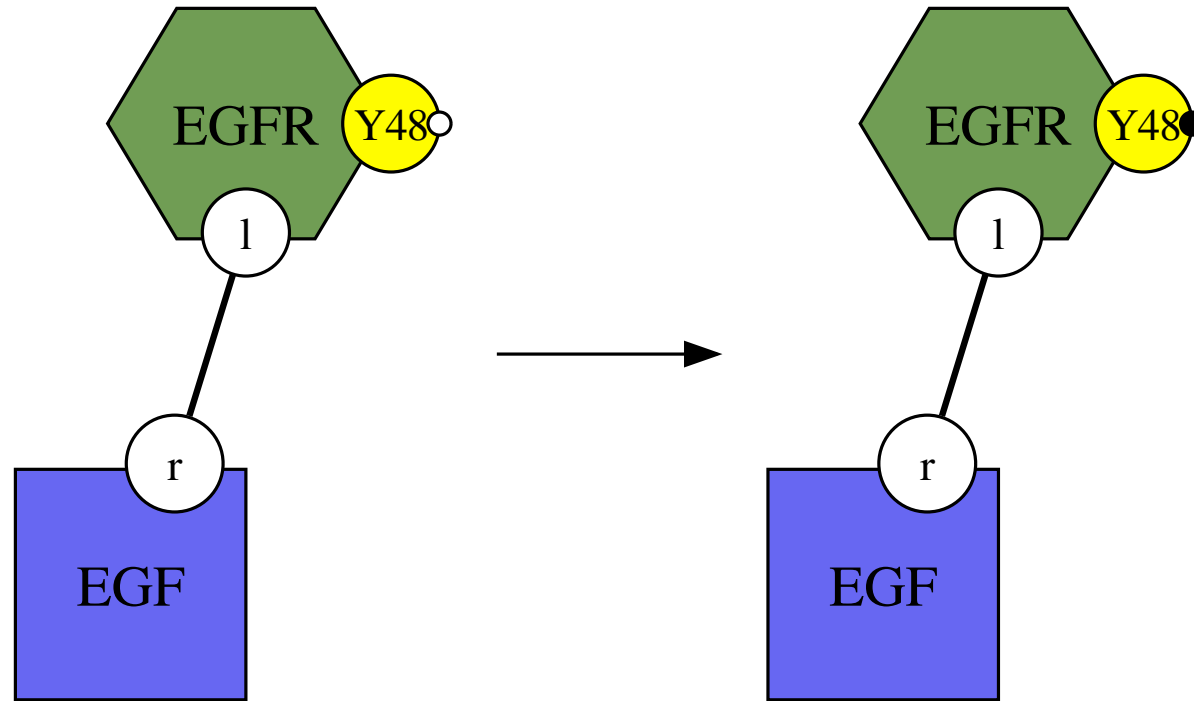
$EGF(r[1])$, $EGFR(l[1],r[2])$, $EGFR(r[2],l[3])$, $EGF(r[3])$

A Unbinding/Binding Rule



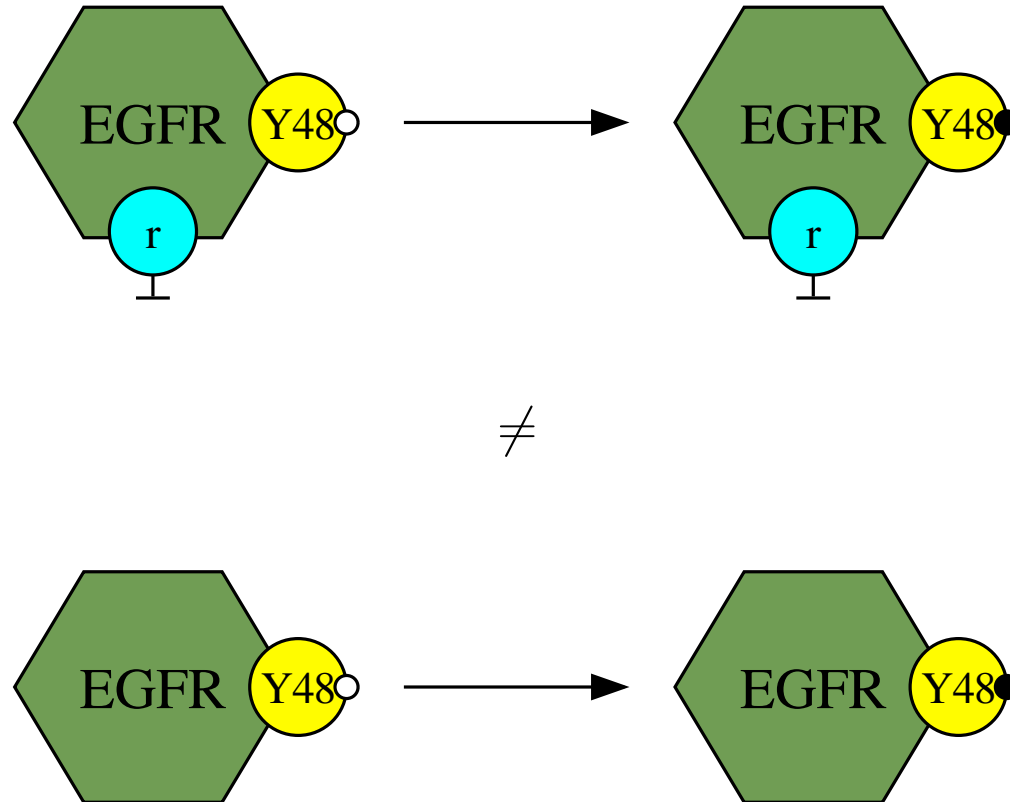
$EGF(r[.]), EGFR(l[.],r[.]) \rightarrow EGF(r[1]), EGFR(l[1],r[.])$

Site properties

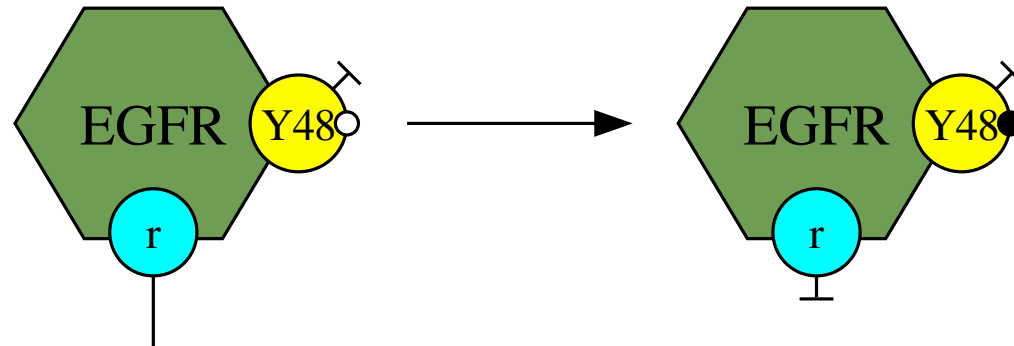


$EGFR(Y48\{u\},l[1]), EGF(r[1]) \rightarrow EGFR(Y48\{p\},l[1]), EGF(r[1])$

Don't care, Don't write

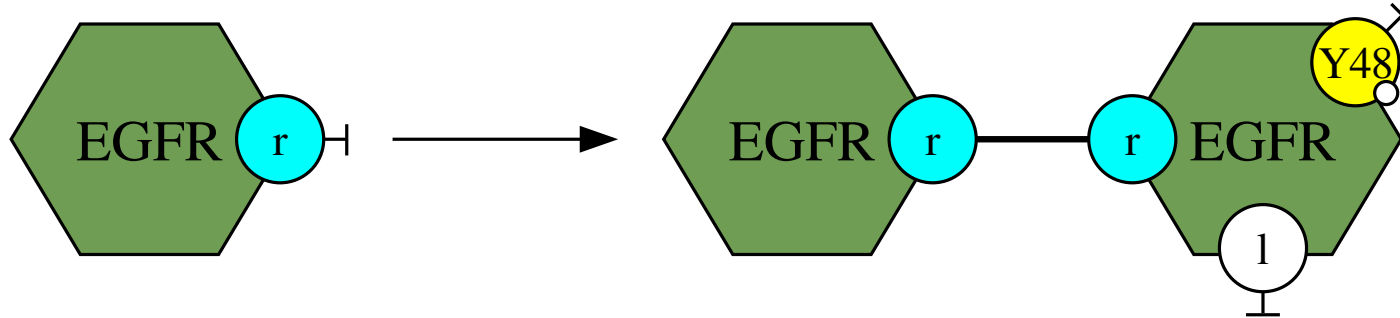


A contextual rule

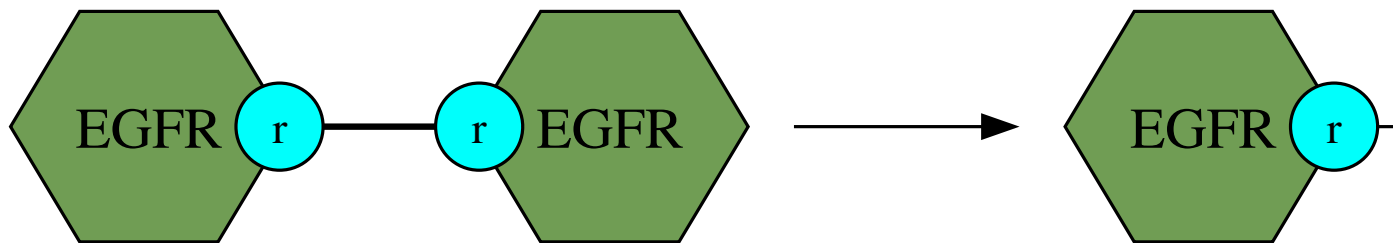


$EGFR(Y48\{u\}[\cdot], r[_]) \rightarrow EGFR(Y48\{p\}[\cdot], r[\cdot])$

Creation/Suppression

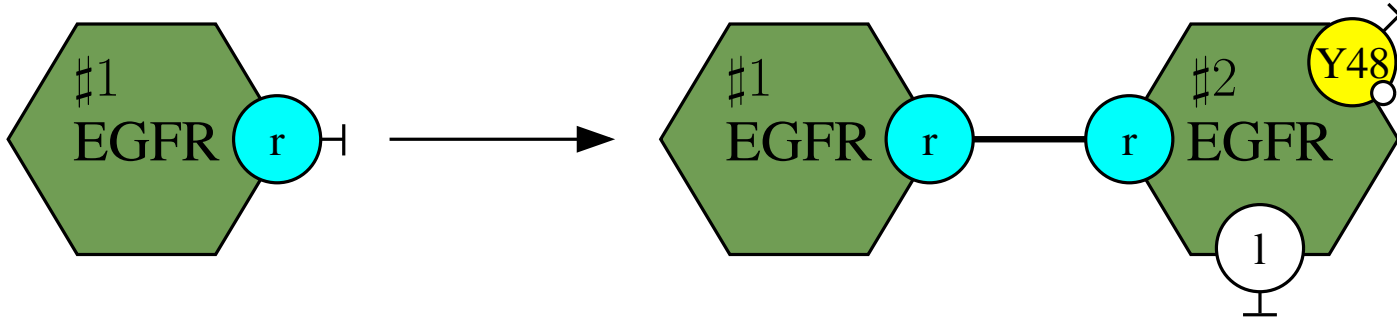


$EGFR(r[.]), . \rightarrow EGFR(r[1]), EGFR(r[1], l[.], Y48\{u\}[.])$

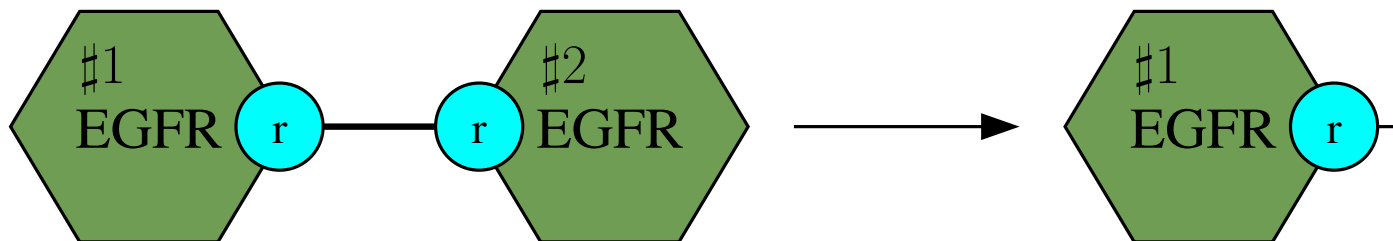


$EGFR(r[1]), EGFR(r[1]) \rightarrow EGFR(r[.]), .$

Creation/Suppression

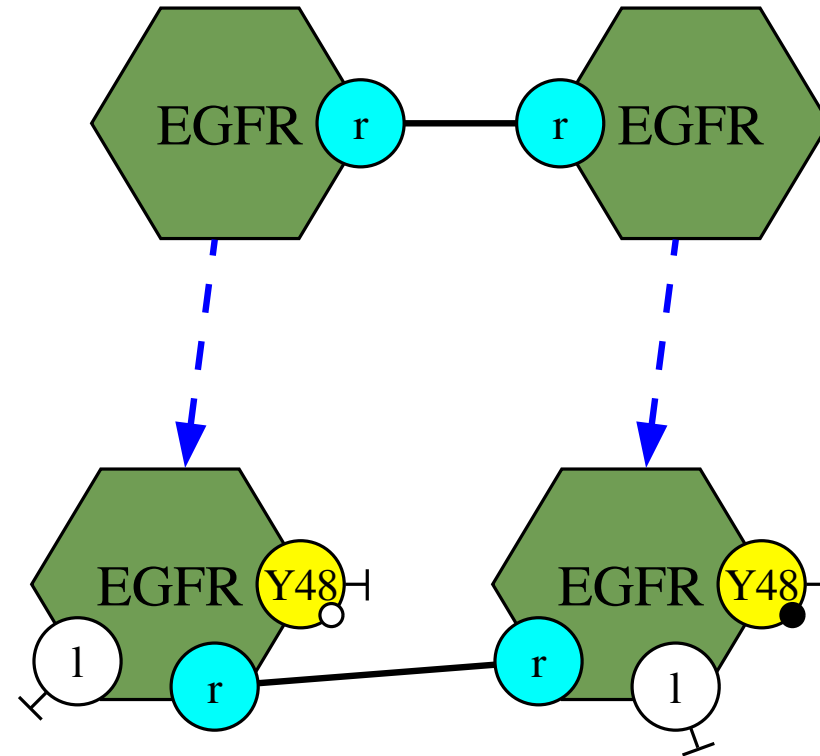


$EGFR(r[.]), . \rightarrow EGFR(r[1]), EGFR(r[1], l[.], Y48\{u\}[.])$

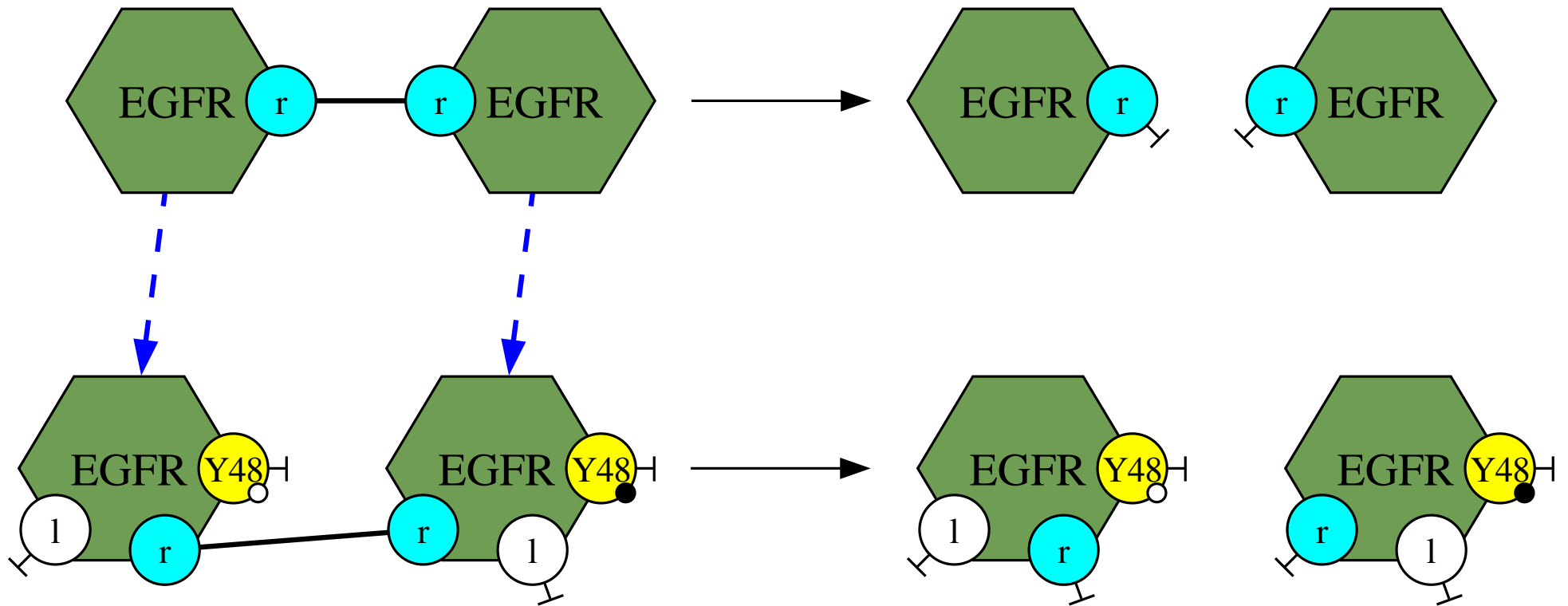


$EGFR(r[1]), EGFR(r[1]) \rightarrow EGFR(r[.]), .$

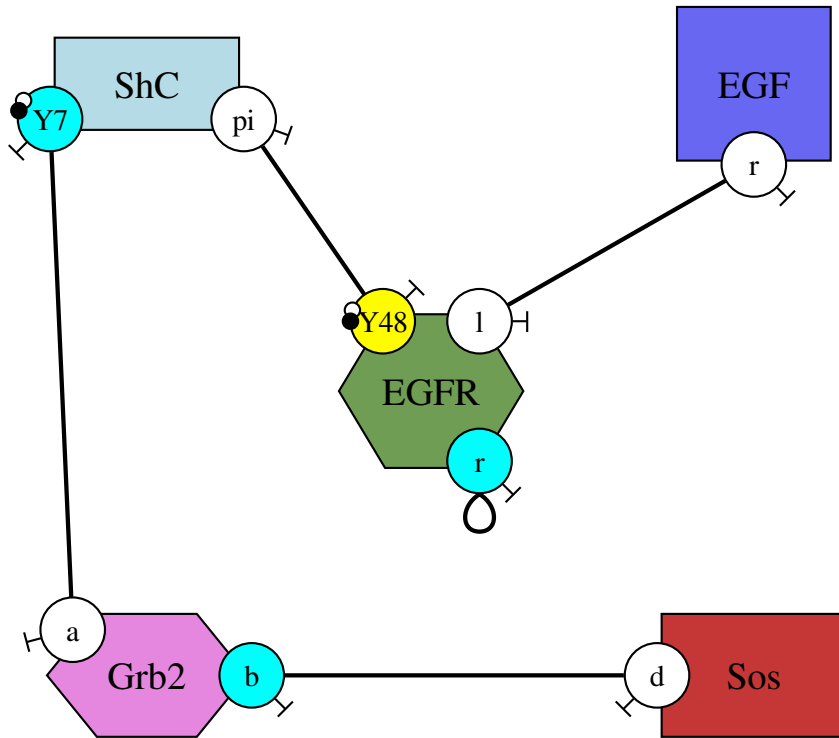
Embedding



Rule application



Contact map



%agent: EGF(r)

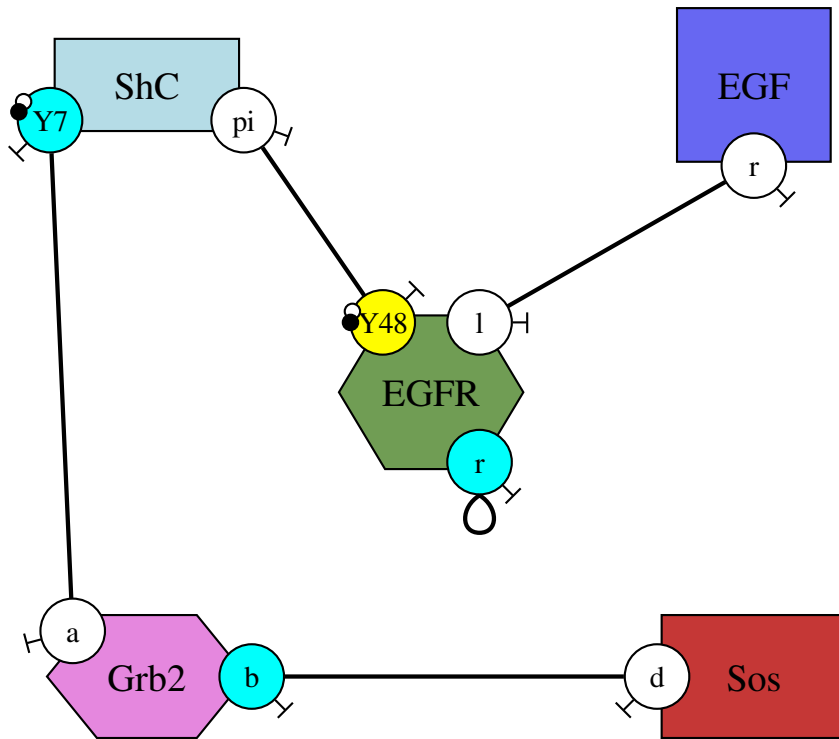
%agent: EGFR(l r Y48{u p})

%agent: ShC(pi Y7{u p})

%agent: Grb2(a b)

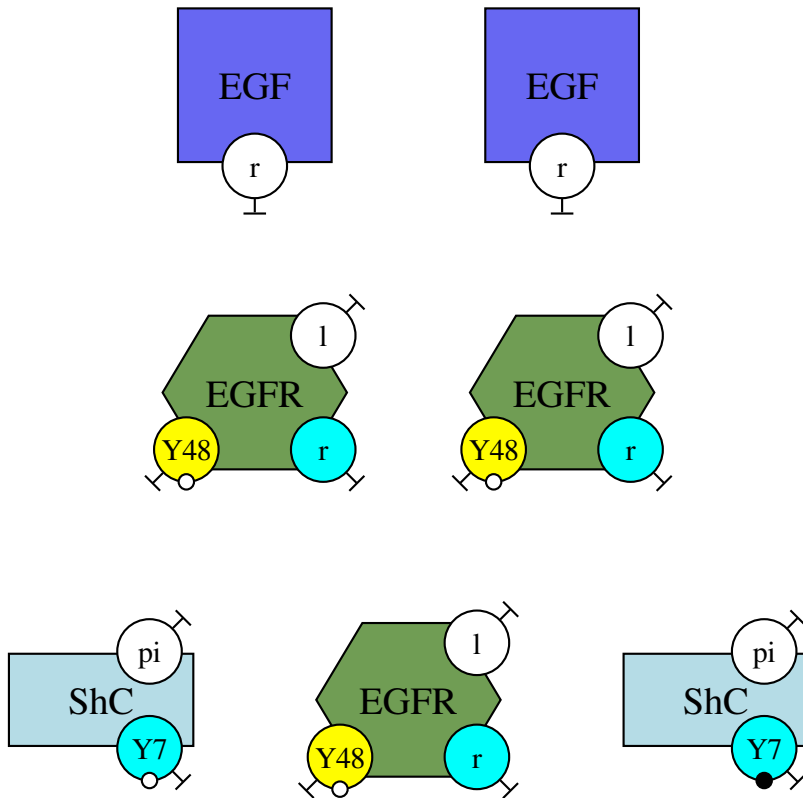
%agent: Sos(d)

Extended contact map



```
%agent: EGF(r[l.EGFR])
%agent: EGFR(l[r.EGF]
           r[r.EGFR]
           Y48{u p}[pi.ShC])
%agent: ShC(pi[Y48.EGFR]
           Y7{u p}[a.Grb2])
%agent: Grb2(a[Y7.ShC]
           b[d.Sos])
%agent: Sos(d[b.Grb2])
```

Initial state



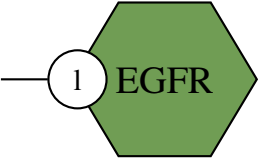
%init: 2 EGF()

%init: 3 EGFR()

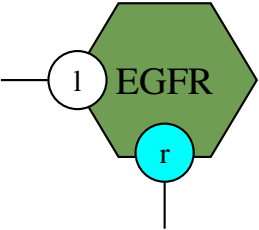
%init: 1 ShC()

%init: 1 ShC(Y7{p})

Observation



%obs: 'l' |EGFR(l[])|

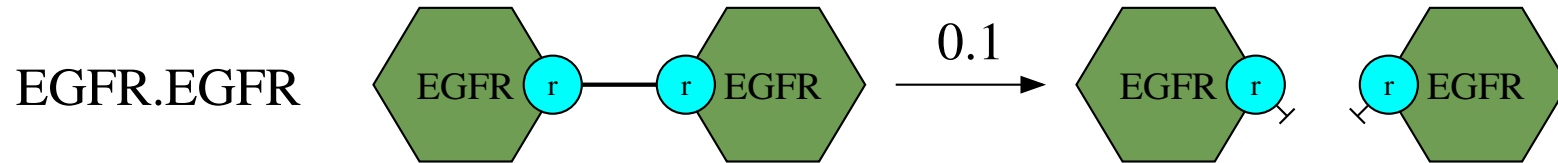


%obs: 'r' |EGFR(l[] r[])|



%obs: 'r' |EGFR(Y48{p})|

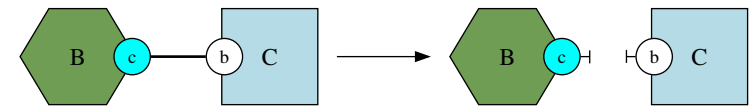
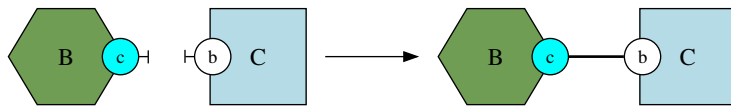
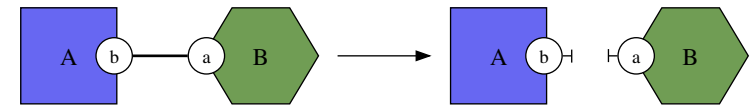
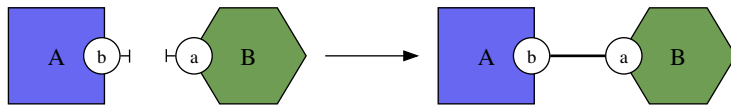
Labels and rates



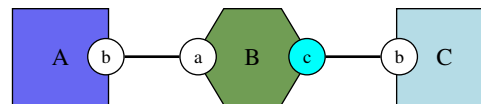
'EGFR..EGFR' $EGFR(r[1]),EGFR(r[1]) \rightarrow EGFR(r[.]),EGFR(r[.])$ @ 0.1

Practical activity

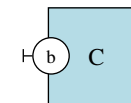
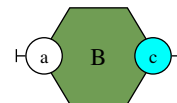
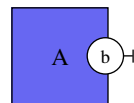
Consider the four following rules:



and study the abundance of the following pattern:



when the initial abundance of the following agents:



is changing.

Overview

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2. Markovian clocks
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Exponential law: Definition

We denote as $P(e > T)$ the probability that a given event e does not occur before time T .

We assume $P(e > T + t \mid e > T) = P(e > t)$.

We have:

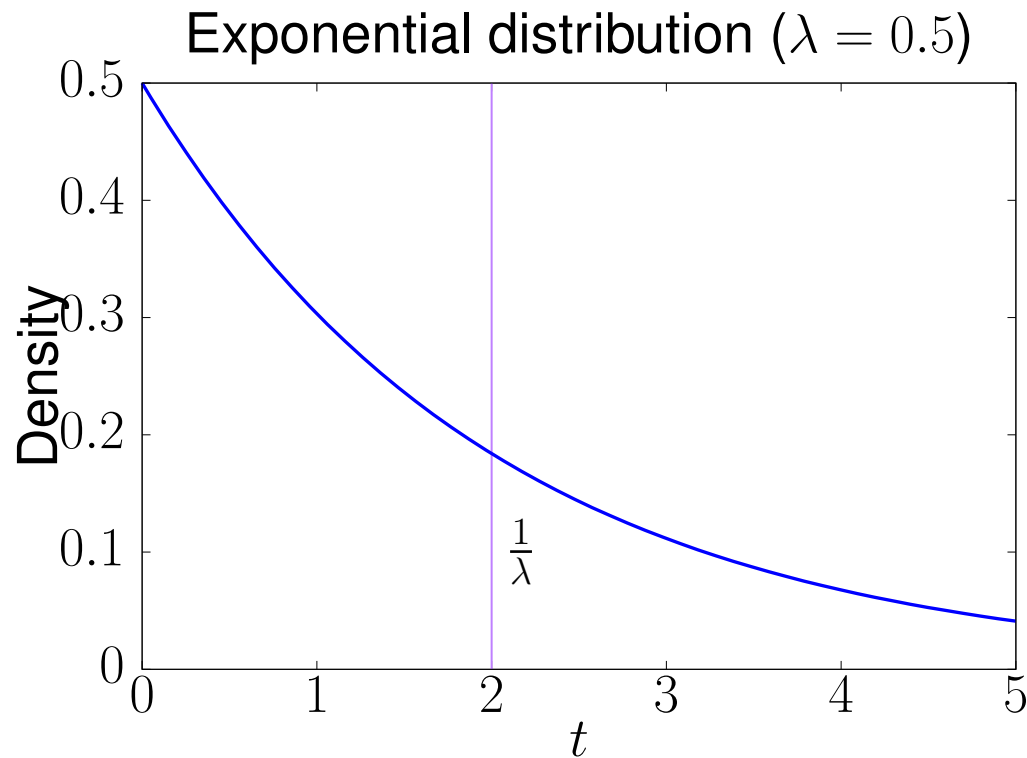
1. $P(e > t)$ is monotonic (decreasing);
2. $P(e > 0) = 1$;
3. $P(e > T + t) = P(e > T)P(e > T + t \mid e > T) = P(e > T)P(e > t)$.

So $P(e > t) = e^{-\lambda t}$ for a given $\lambda > 0$.

That is to say: $P(T + t > e > T) = e^{-\lambda T}(1 - e^{-\lambda t})$.

The **time distribution of the event** e is said to be defined by the **exponential law** with parameter λ .

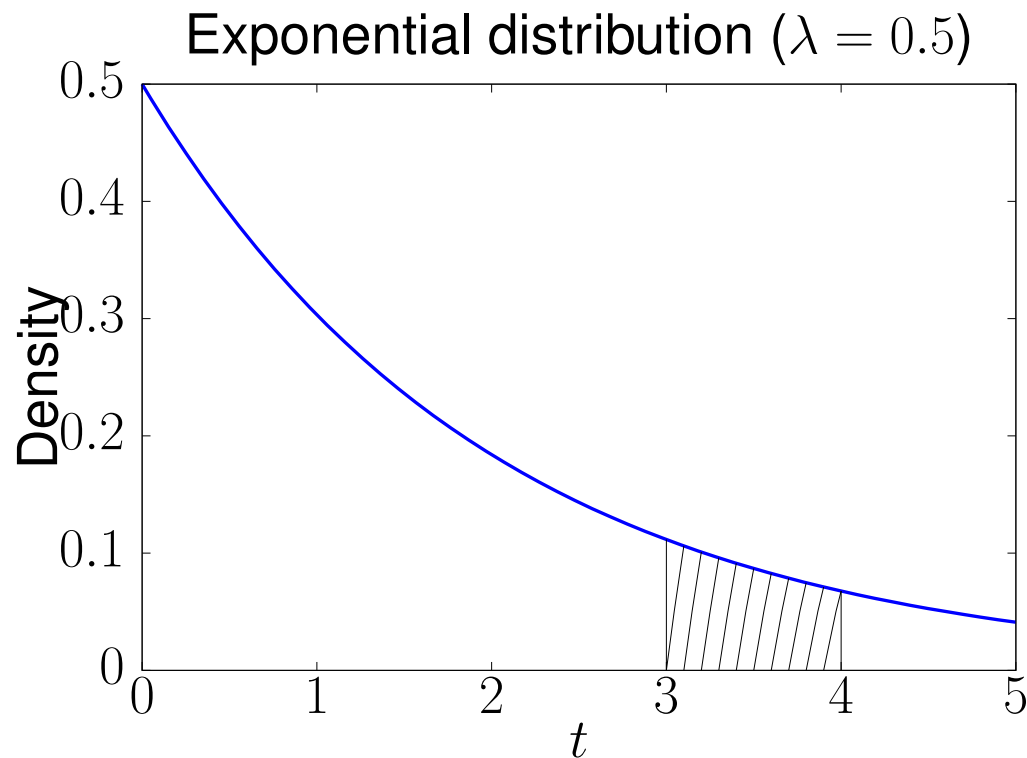
Exponential law: time distribution



$$\lim_0 \frac{P(t < e < t + dt)}{dt}$$

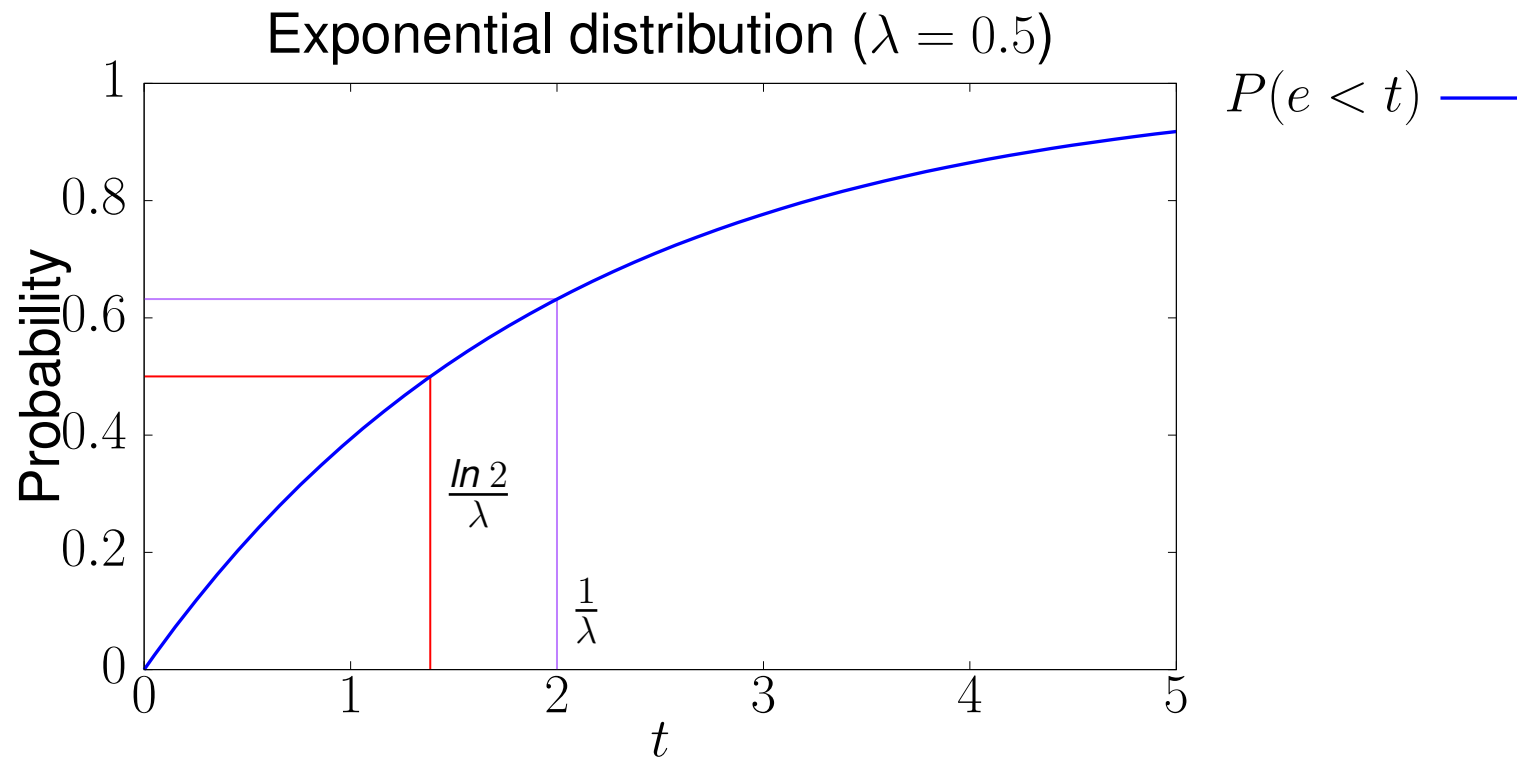
Average time: $\frac{1}{\lambda}$
Variance: $\frac{1}{\lambda^2}$.

Exponential law: probability to occur in a time interval



$$\lim_0 \frac{P(t < e < t + dt)}{dt}$$

Exponential law: cumulative distribution



Average time: $\frac{1}{\lambda}$ Median time: $\frac{\ln 2}{\lambda}$

One Markovian clock

We consider a random clock such that the time between two consecutive ticks is drawn according to an exponential law of parameter λ .



We denote as X_t^λ the random variables that counts the number of ticks.

X_t^λ is called a Markovian clock with time parameter λ .

Combining Markovian clocks

The sum of two Markovian clock of parameters λ and μ is a Markovian clock of parameters $\lambda + \mu$.



The probability that a clock ticks between time T and $T + t$ is equal to:

$$e^{-(\lambda+\mu)T}(1 - e^{-(\lambda+\mu)t})$$

The probability that the next tick is from the first clock is:

$$\frac{\lambda}{\lambda + \mu}$$



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Set of events

We consider:

- Q , a set of states.
- \mathcal{E} , a set of events

each event $e \in \mathcal{E}$ is made of:

- ENABLED_e , a subset of the set Q ;
- ACTION_e , a function from the set Q into the set Q ;
- $\lambda(e)$, a time parameter.

Stochastic semantics

The stochastic semantics of a set of events \mathcal{E} is defined as follows:

- Each event $e \in \mathcal{E}$ ticks according to a Markovian clock with parameter $\lambda(e)$.
- On a clock tick,
 - when the current state q belongs to the set ENABLED_e , the state q is replaced with the state $\text{ACTION}_e(q)$.
 - otherwise, the state q remains as it is.

Doob-Gillespie algorithm

Using linearity properties of exponential time distribution, the stochastic semantics of a set of events can be sampled by the following loop:

At state q :

1. Compute the set of enabled events: $\overline{\text{ENABLED}}(q) = \{e \in \mathcal{E} \mid q \in \text{ENABLED}_e\}$.
2. Compute the activity of the system: $\text{ACT}(q) = \sum_{e \in \overline{\text{ENABLED}}(q)} \lambda(e)$.
3. Draw the time period between the last and the next event: $\frac{-\ln(U)}{\text{ACT}(q)}$.
(U is the uniform density distribution from 0 to 1)
4. Draw which event e is the next one
(each event $e \in \overline{\text{ENABLED}}(q)$ has probability $\frac{\lambda(e)}{\text{ACT}(q)}$ to be the next one).
5. Replace the current state q with the state $\text{ACTION}_e(q)$.
6. Repeat while $\overline{\text{ENABLED}}(q) \neq \emptyset$.

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Potential optimizations

- Dynamic update of the set of enabled events.
- Over-approximating the set of enabled events.
- Rectangular approximation.
- Rigidity.
- Use sharing.

Wake up/Inhibition map

Positive (wake-up) and negative influences between rules can be computed statically.

$$\begin{aligned} 1. \text{ WAKE-UP}^\# &\supseteq \left\{ (e, e') \in \mathcal{E} \left| \begin{array}{l} \exists q_0 \in \mathcal{Q}_0, q \in \mathcal{Q} q_0 \rightarrow^* q, \\ q \in \text{ENABLED}_e \setminus \text{ENABLED}_{e'}, \\ \text{ACTION}_e(q) \in \text{ENABLED}_{e'} \end{array} \right. \right\}. \\ 2. \text{ INHIBITION}^\# &\supseteq \left\{ (e, e') \in \mathcal{E} \left| \begin{array}{l} \exists q_0 \in \mathcal{Q}_0, q \in \mathcal{Q}, q_0 \rightarrow^* q, \\ q \in \text{ENABLED}_e \cap \text{ENABLED}_{e'}, \\ \text{ACTION}_e(q) \notin \text{ENABLED}_{e'} \end{array} \right. \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

where \mathcal{Q}_0 is the set of potential initial states.

Three levels of accuracy

- low resolution:

Manhattan distance:

The engine only checks that the event e change one bit of information that is required for the event e' .

- medium resolution:

Takes into account local context:

Wake-up: Additionally checks that the rhs of a refinement of the rule related to the event e and the lhs of a refinement of the rule related to the event e' may share a common connected component.

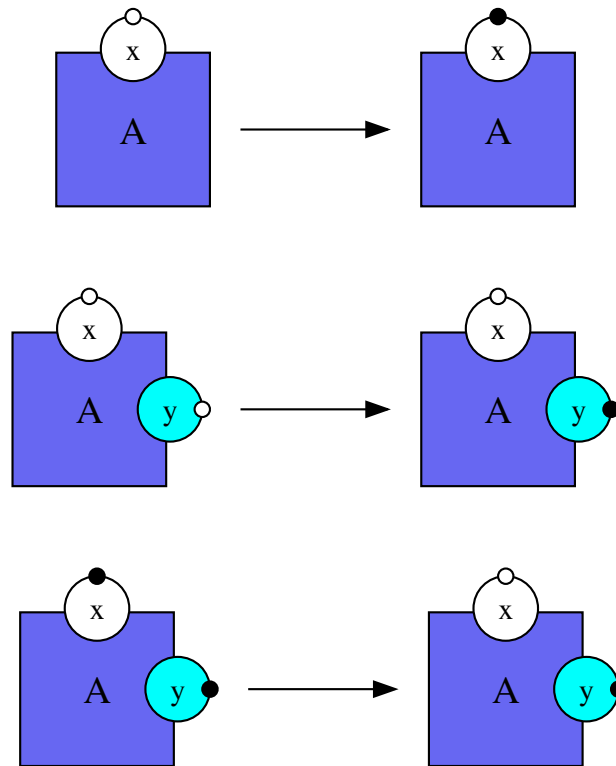
Inhibition: Additionally checks that the lhs of a refinement of the rule related to the event e and the lhs of a refinement of the rule related to the event e' may share a common connected component.

- high resolution:

The engine additionally checks that this pattern is reachable.

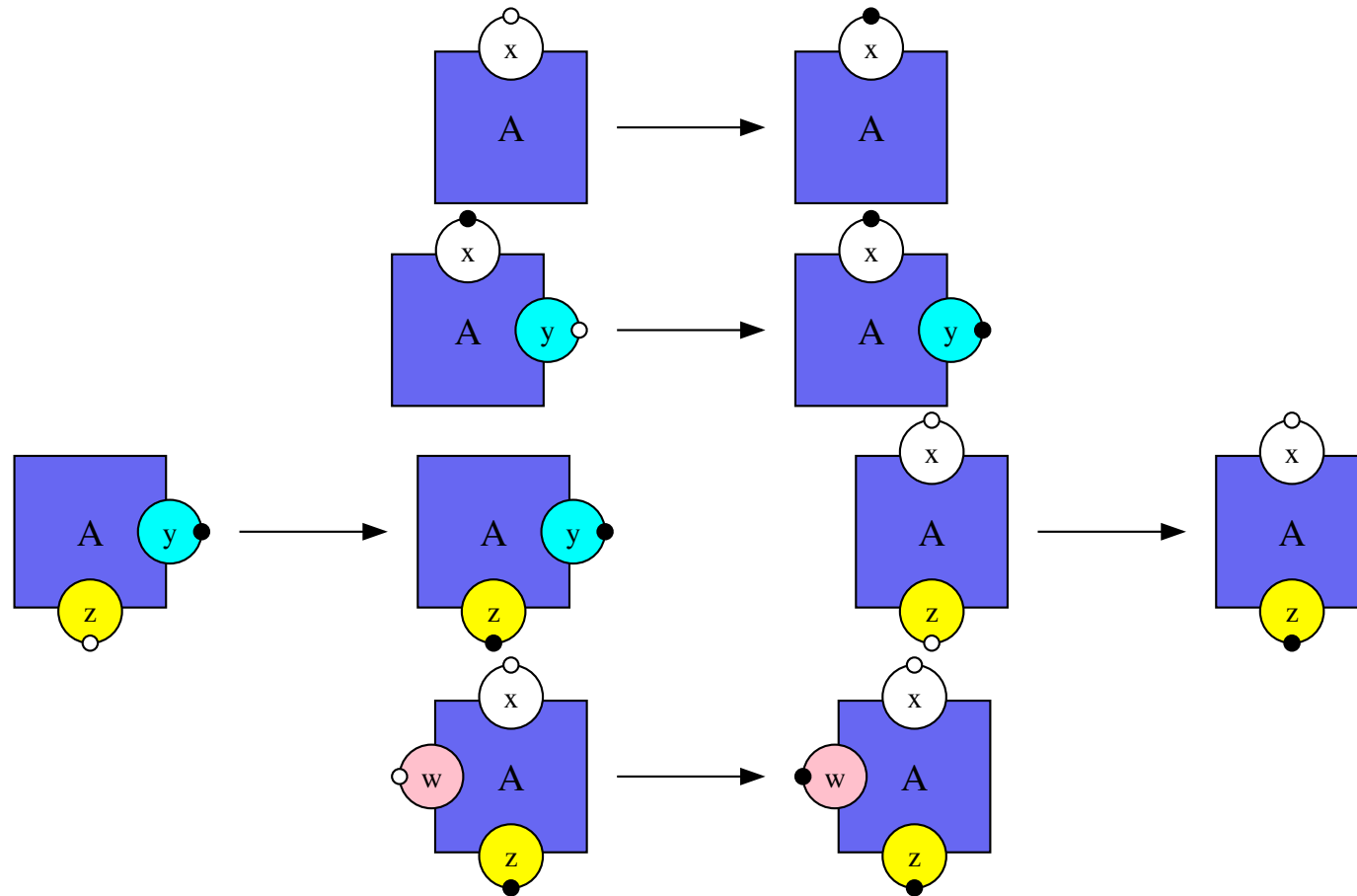
Practical activity

Compute the influence map, at each level of resolution, for the following set of rules:



Practical activity

Compute the influence map, at each level of resolution, for the following set of rules:



Over-approximating the set of enabled events

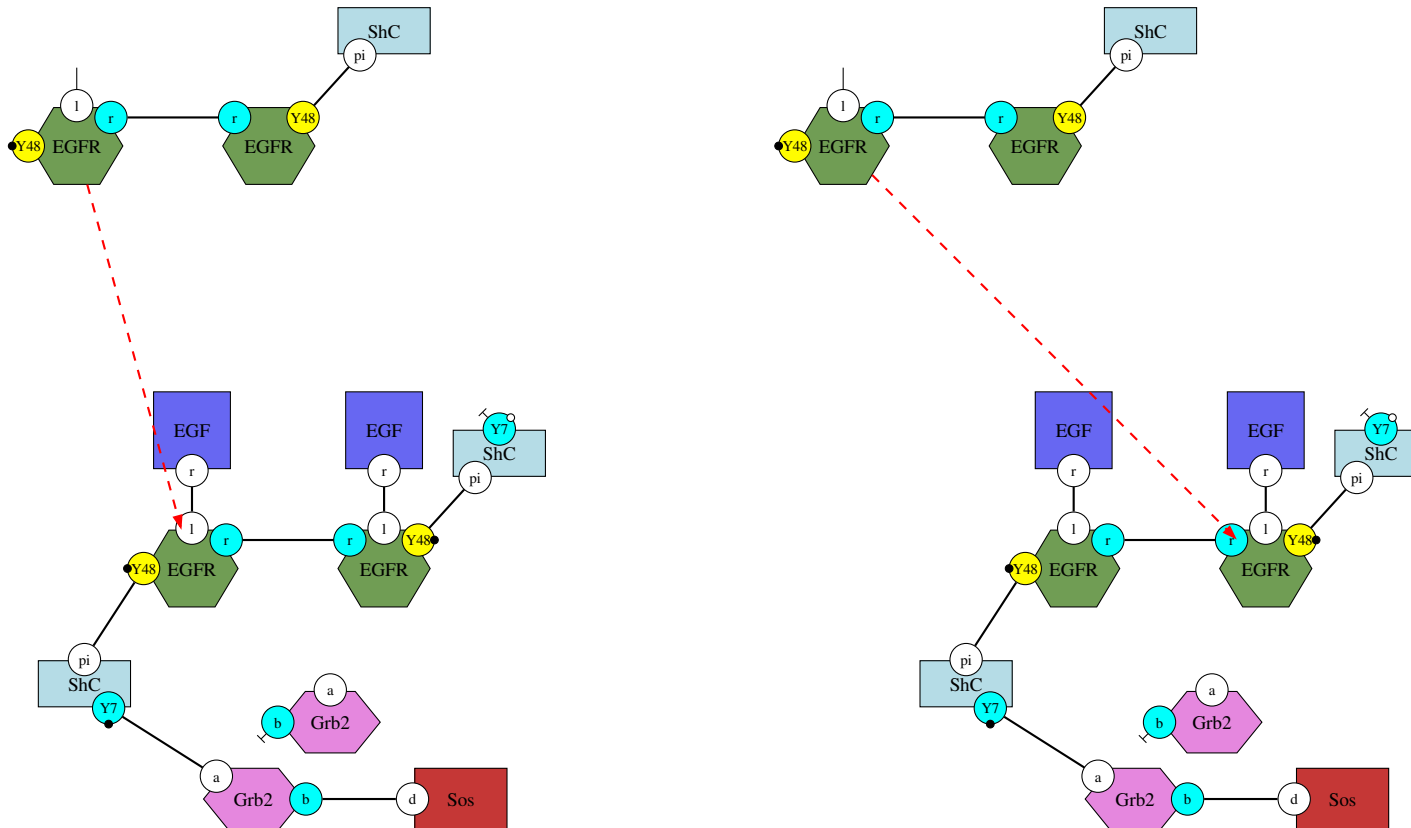
Using linearity properties of exponential time distribution, the stochastic semantics of a set of events can be sampled by the following loop:

At state q :

1. Compute a **super-set** $\overline{\text{ENABLED}}^\#(q) \supseteq \{e \in \mathcal{E} \mid q \in \text{ENABLED}_e\}$ of the set of enabled events.
2. **Over-approximate** the activity of the system: $\text{ACT}^\#(q) = \sum_{e \in \overline{\text{ENABLED}}^\#(q)} \lambda(e)$.
3. Increment time by $\frac{-\ln(U)}{\text{ACT}^\#(q)}$.
4. Draw which event is the next one (each event $e \in \overline{\text{ENABLED}}^\#(q)$ has probability $\frac{\lambda(e)}{\text{ACT}^\#(q)}$).
5. whenever $e \in \overline{\text{ENABLED}}(q)$, replace the state with $\text{ACTION}_e(q)$; **otherwise ignore** e .
6. Repeat while $\overline{\text{ENABLED}}^\#(q) \neq \emptyset$.

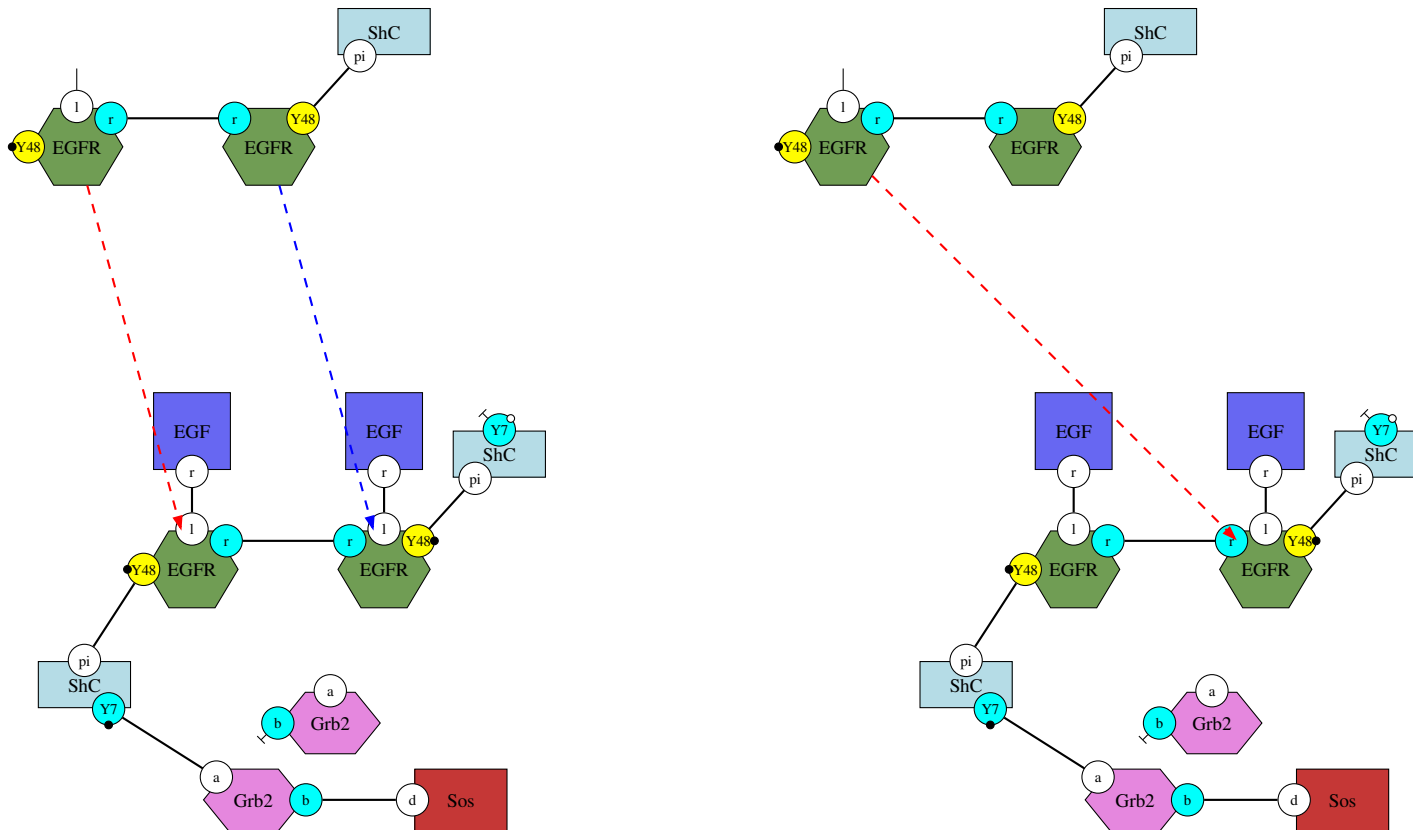
Rigidity

An embedding between a connected pattern and a graph is fully defined by the image of an agent.



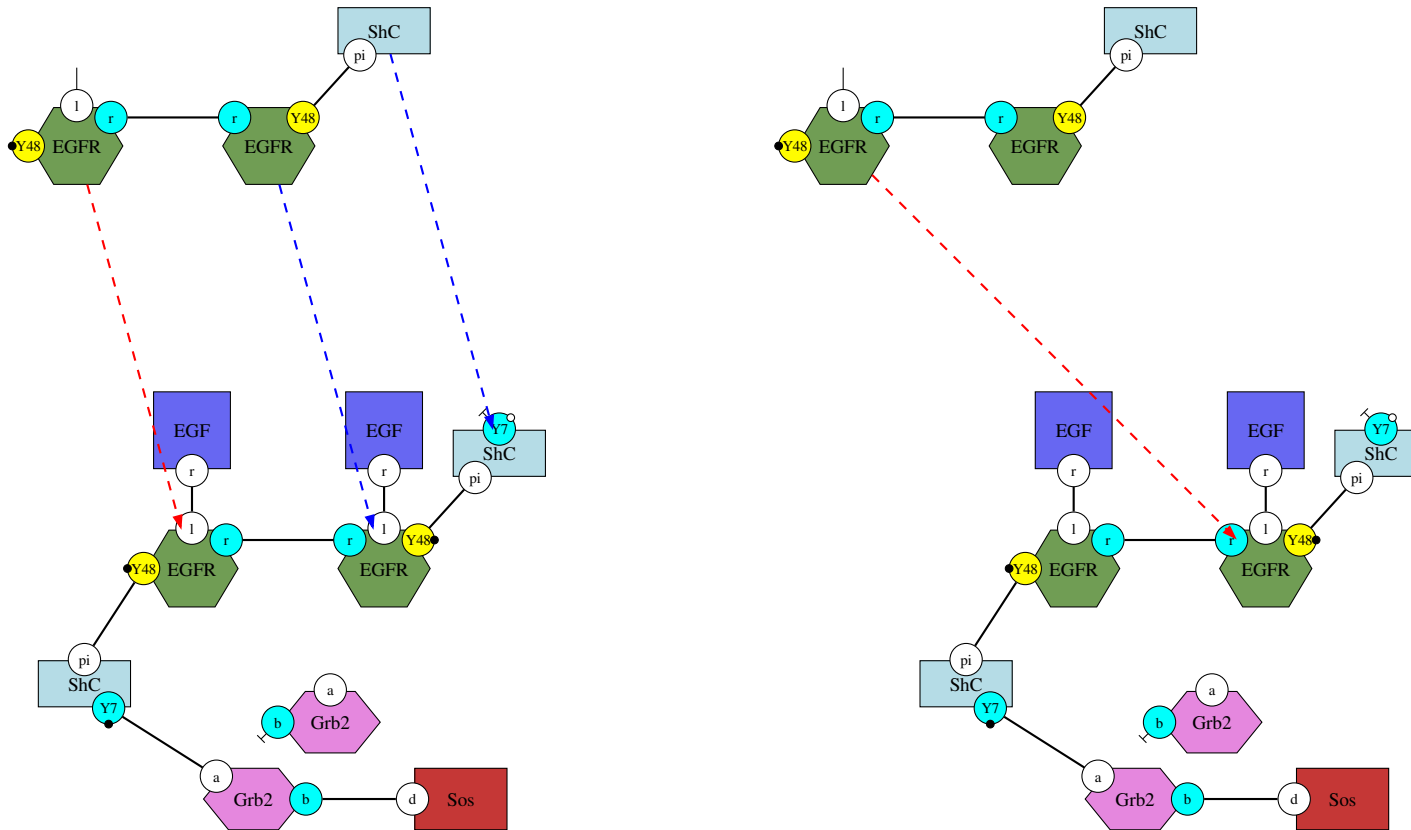
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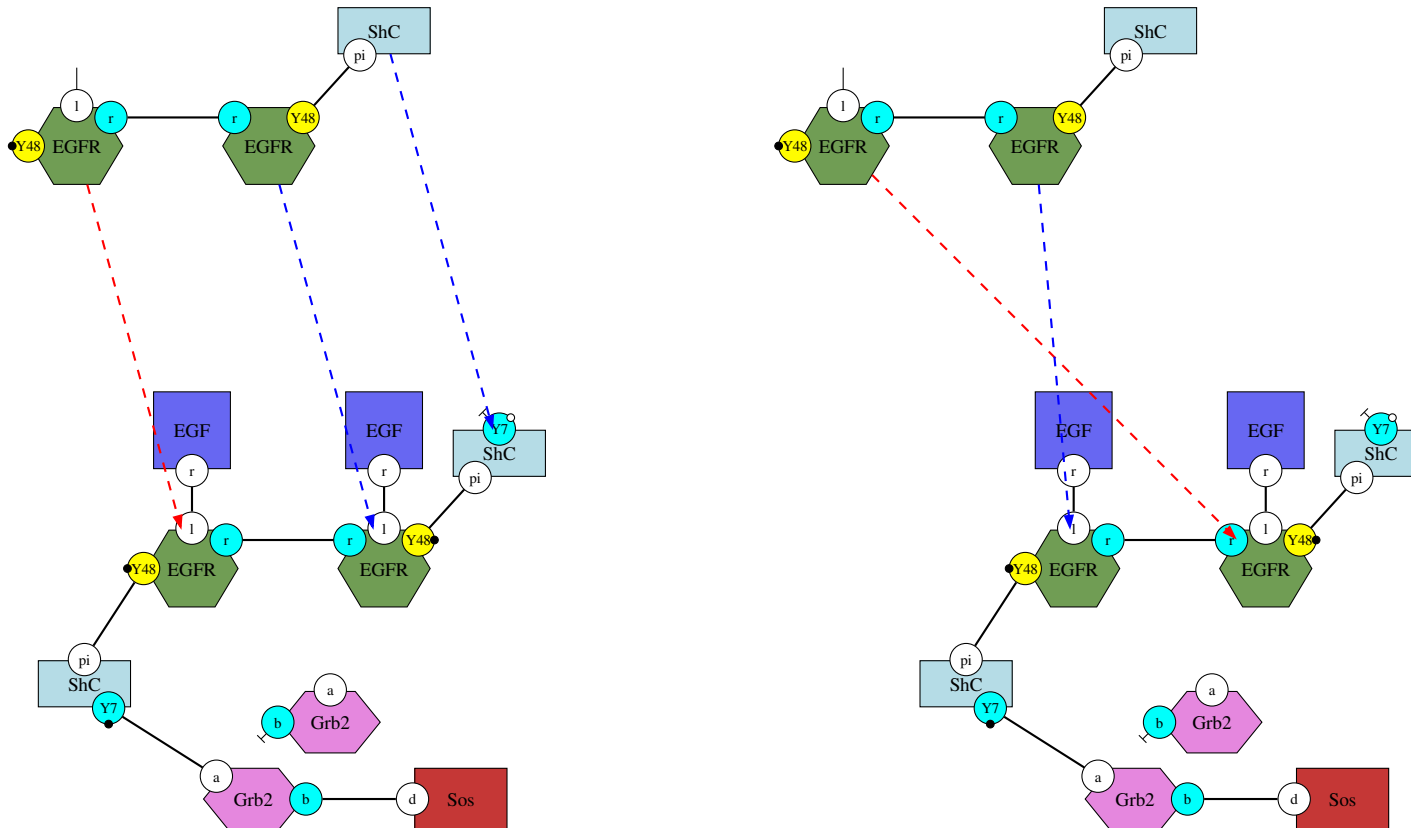
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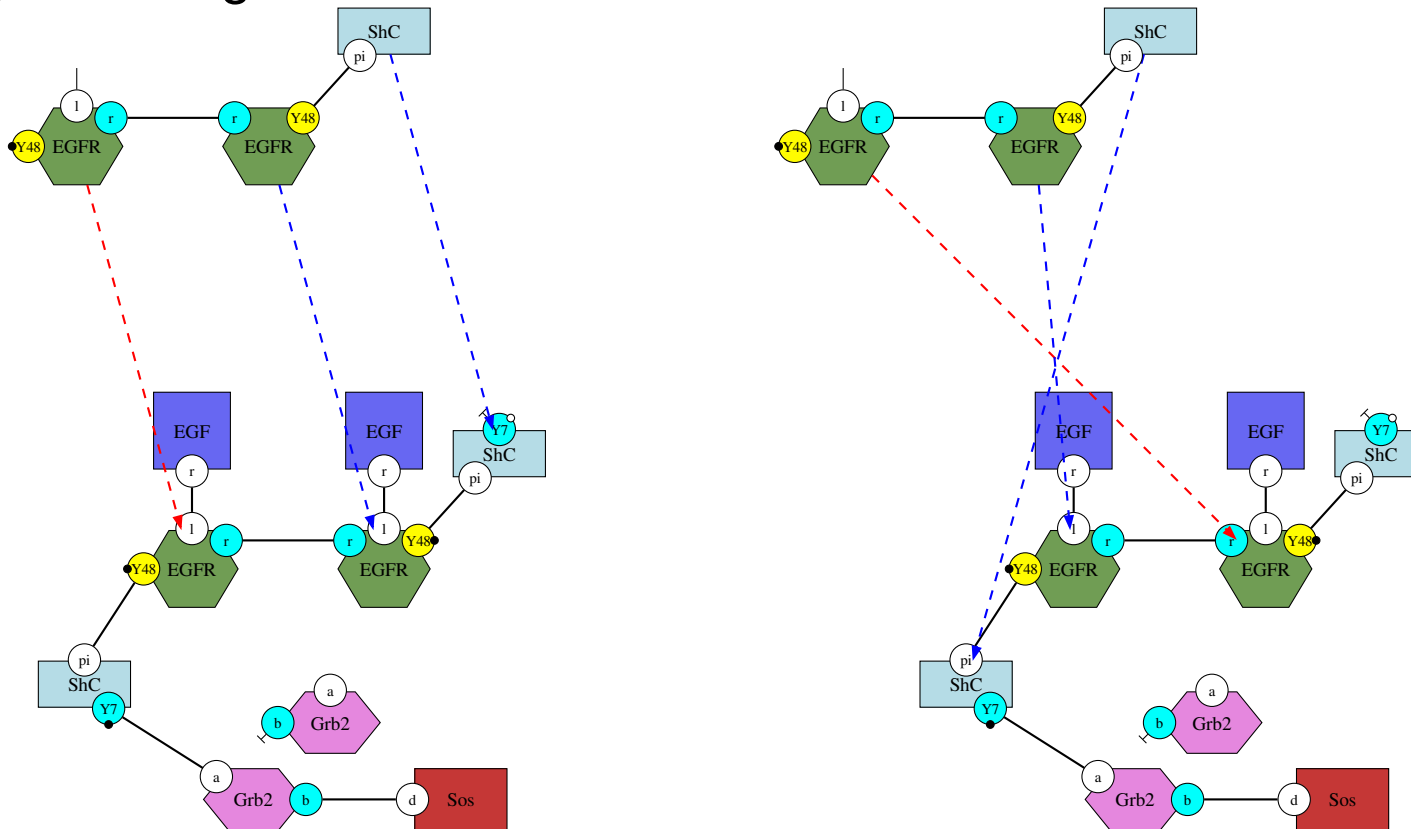
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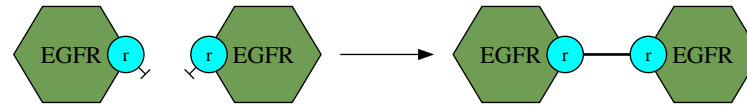
Rigidity

An embedding between a connected pattern and a graph is fully defined by the image of an agent.

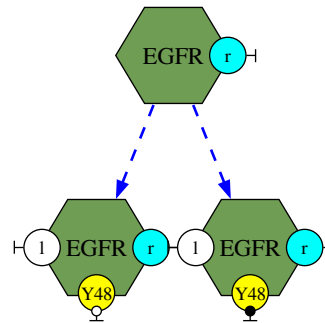


6

Rectangular approximation



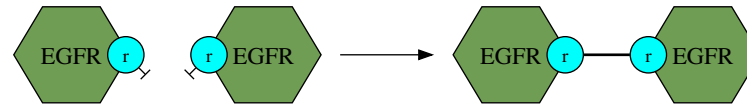
We collect potential embeddings for each connected component of the lhs.



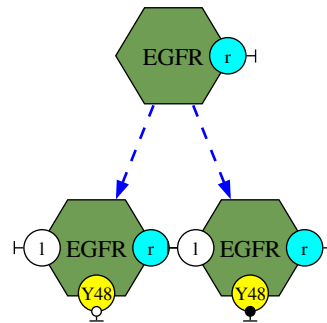
An event is restored by recombining the embeddings (one per cc).
In case of collision, it is dealt with as a null event.



Rectangular approximation



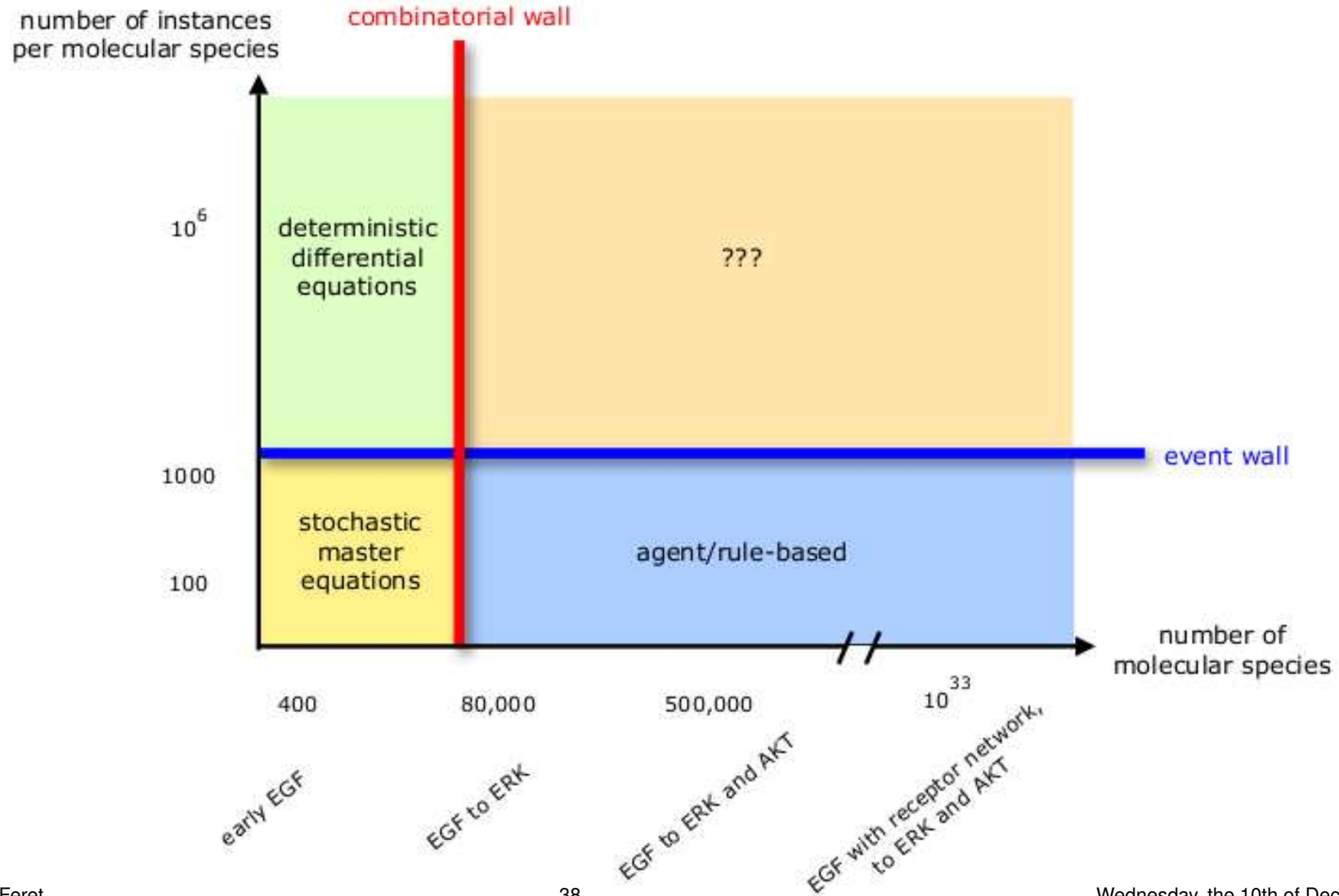
We collect potential embeddings for each connected component of the lhs.



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Complexity walls

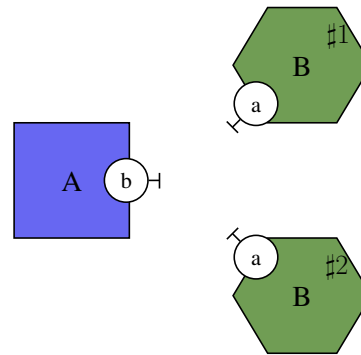


Overview

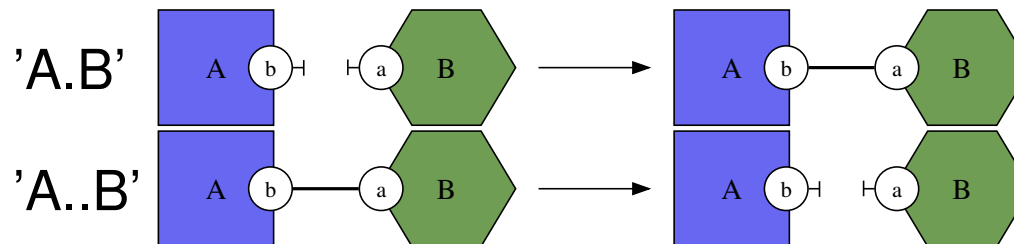
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Counter-factual execution

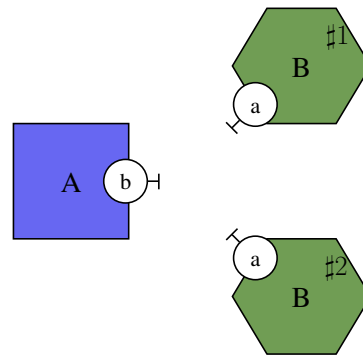
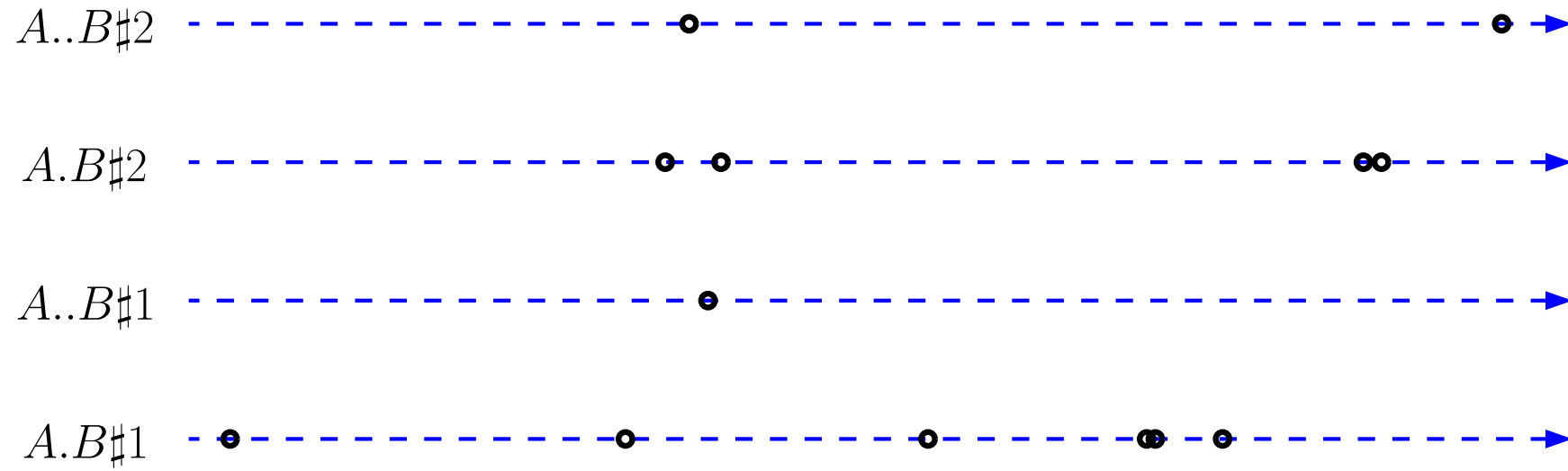
We consider the following initial state:



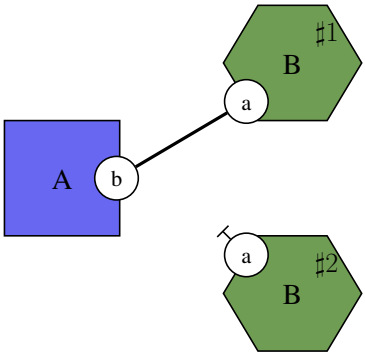
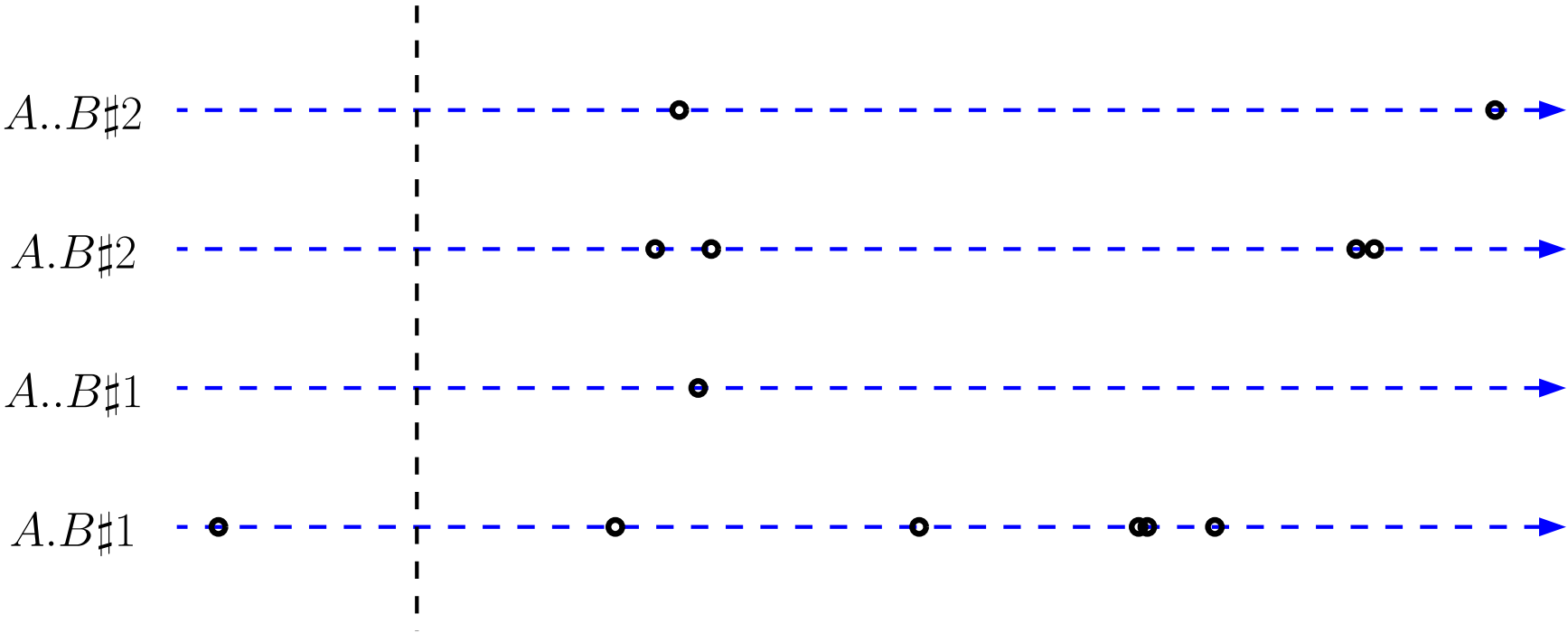
and the following rules:



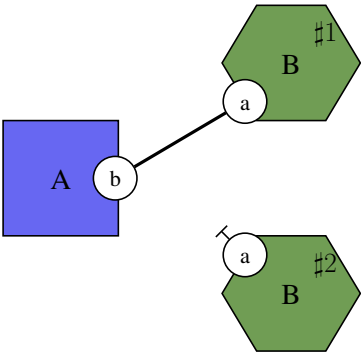
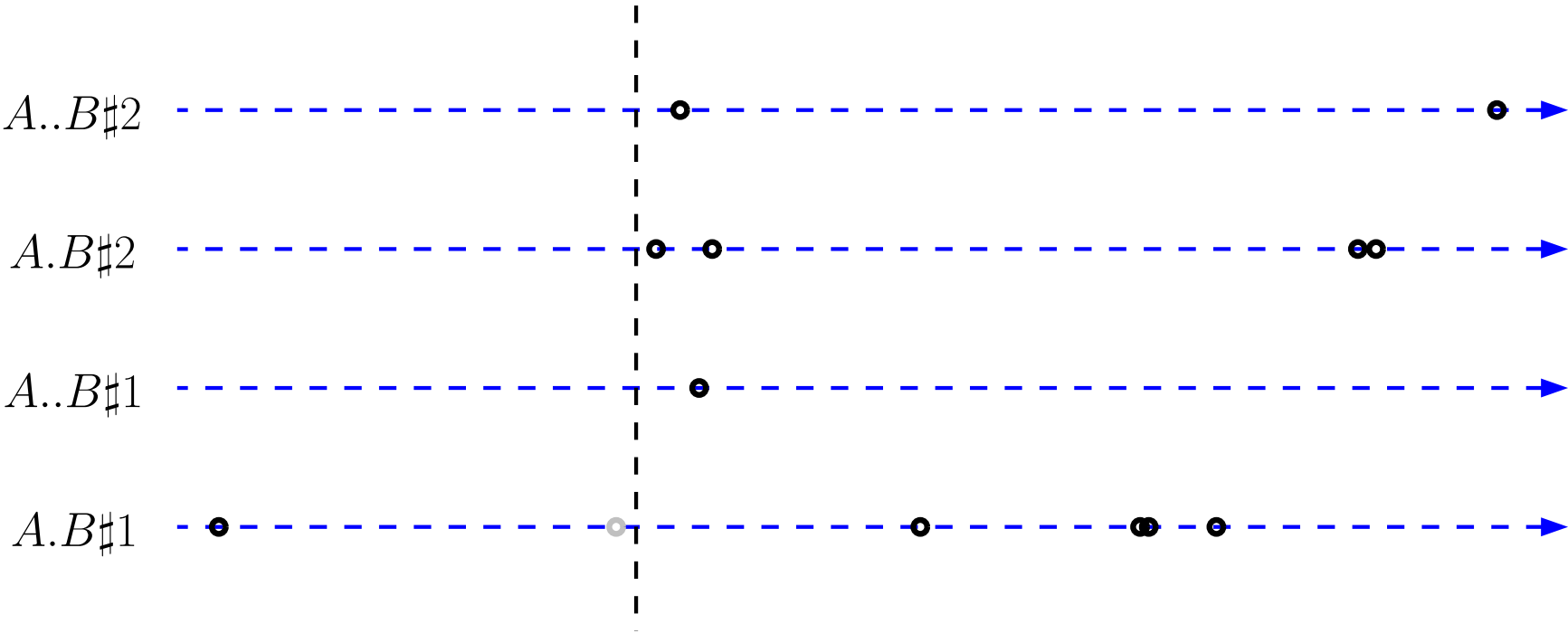
One execution



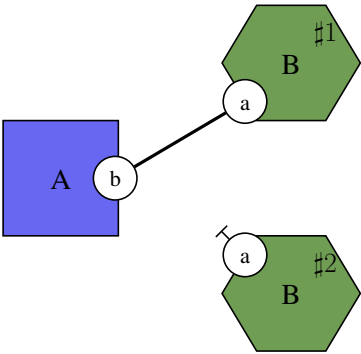
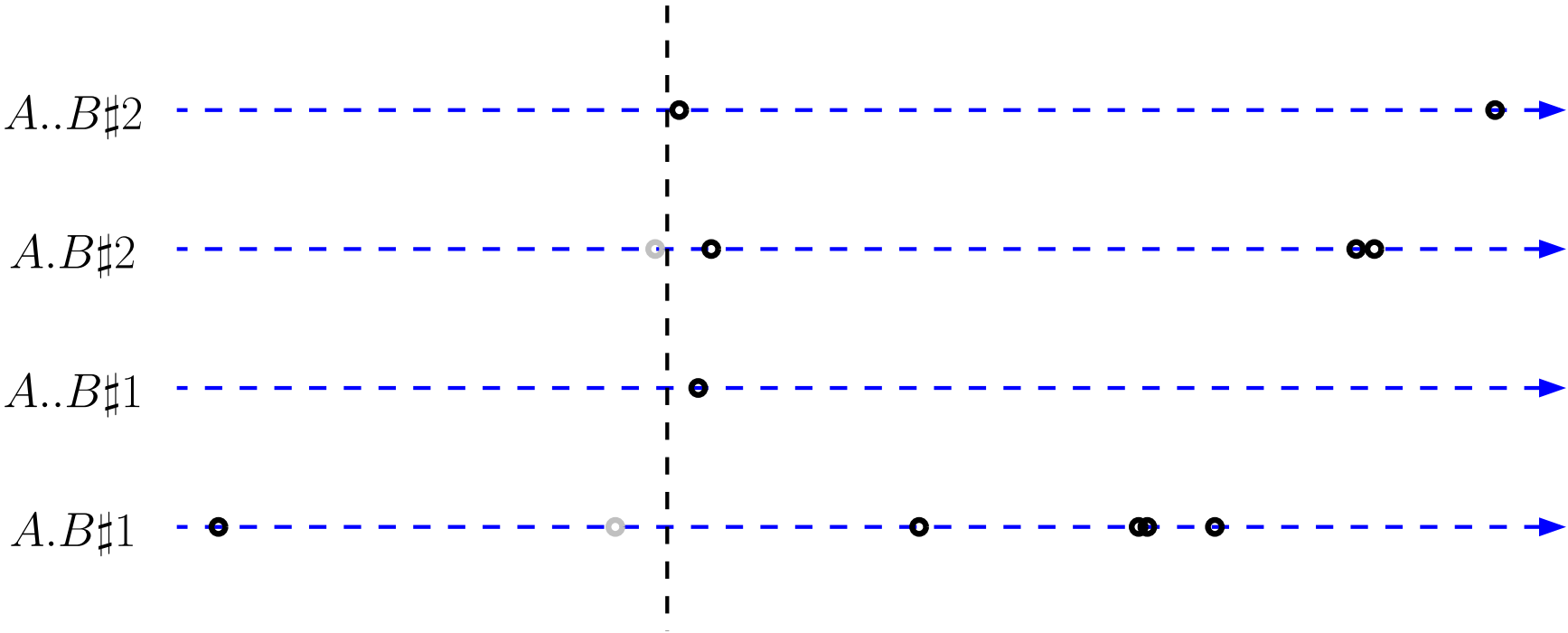
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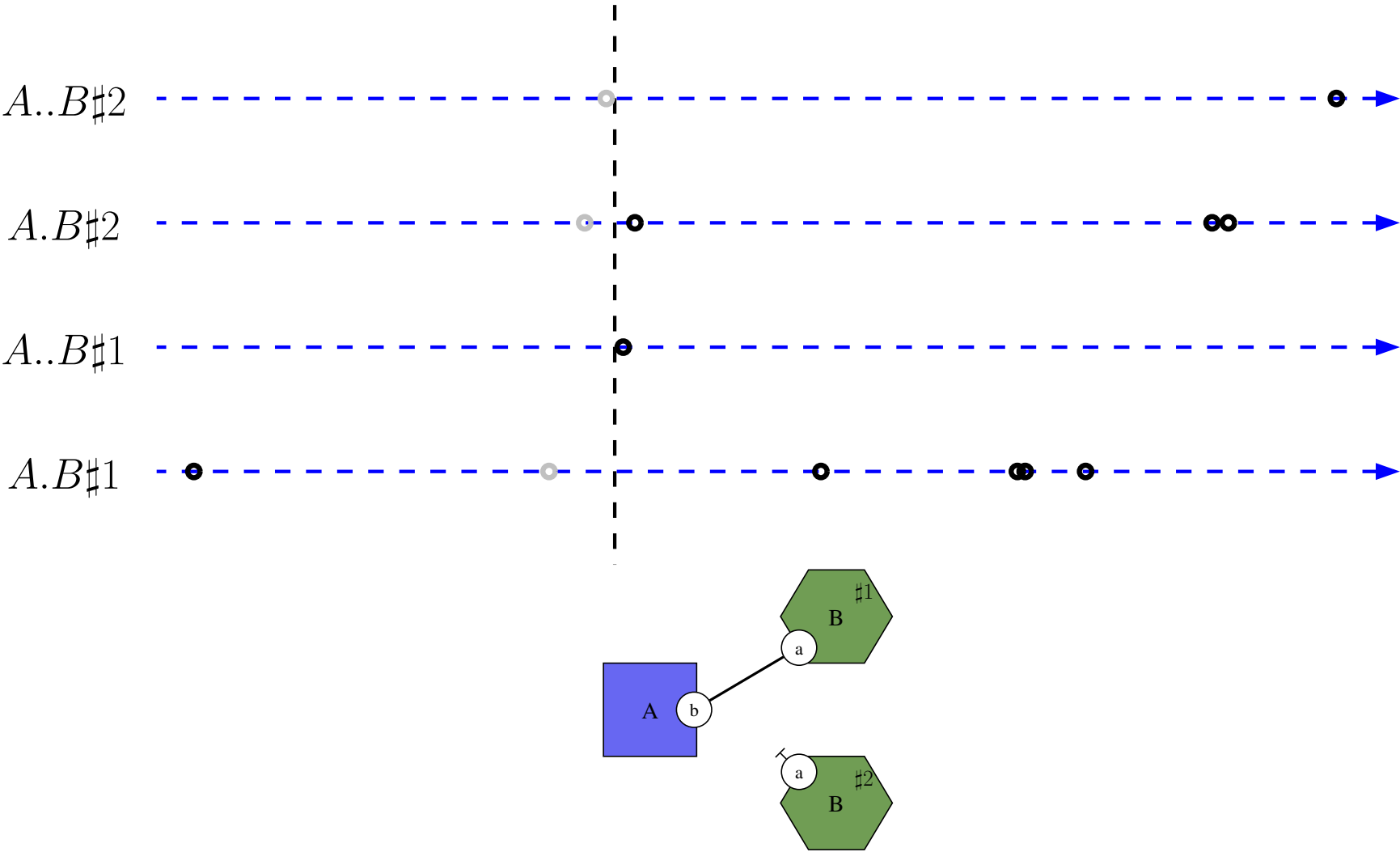
One execution



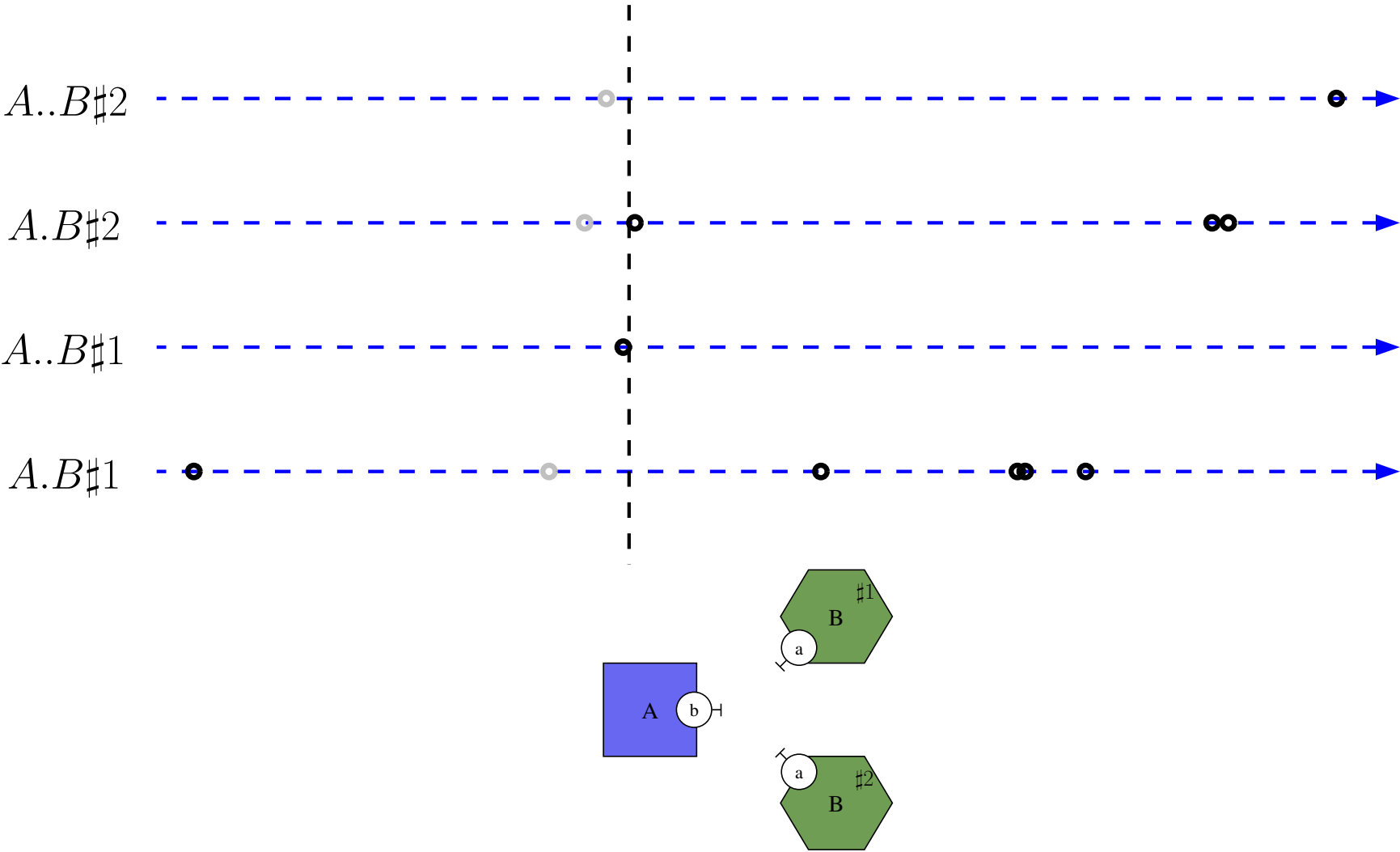
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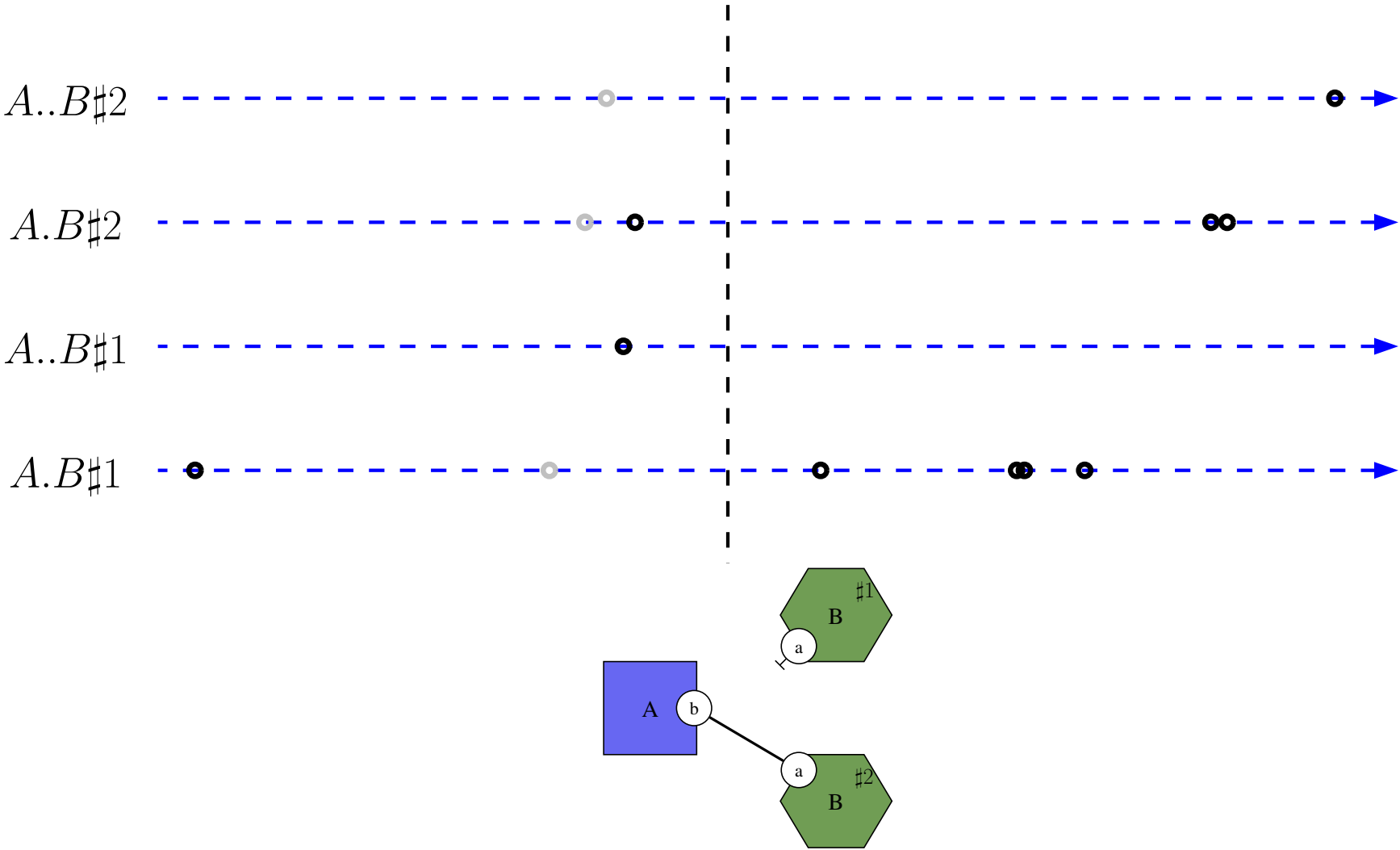
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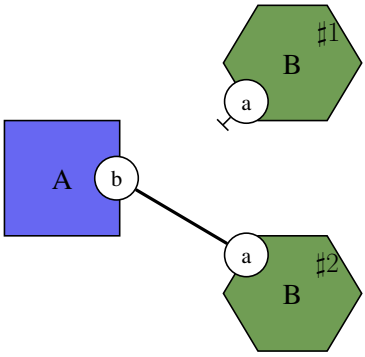
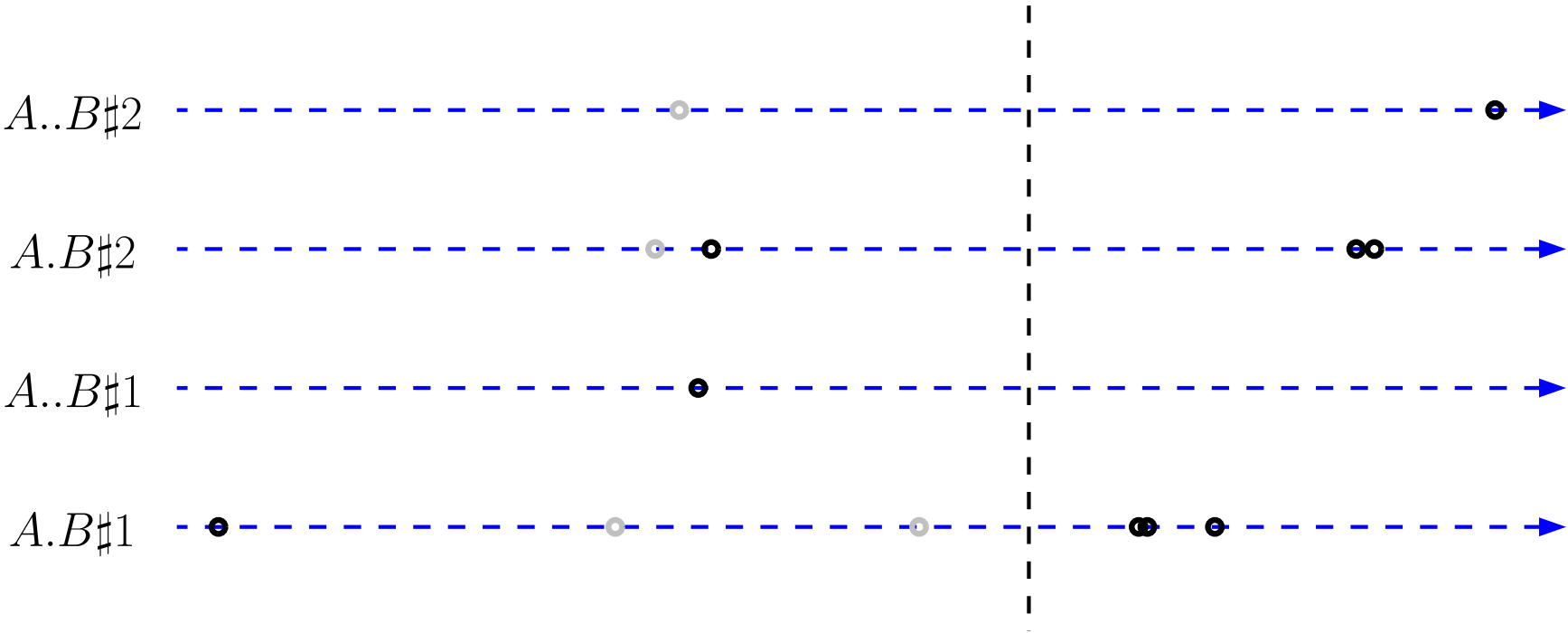
One execution



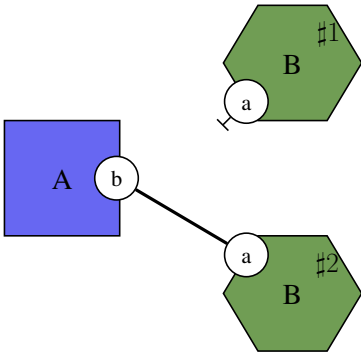
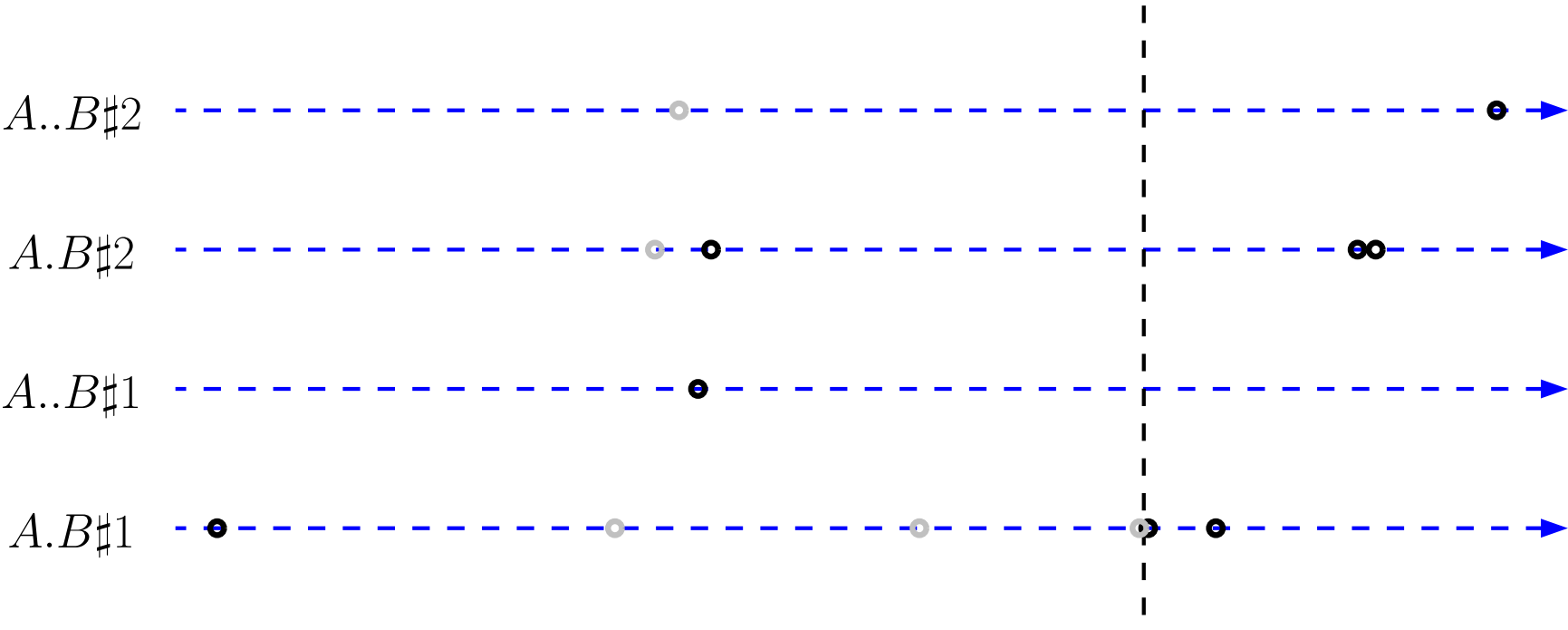
One execution



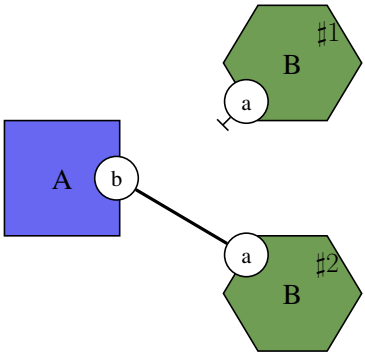
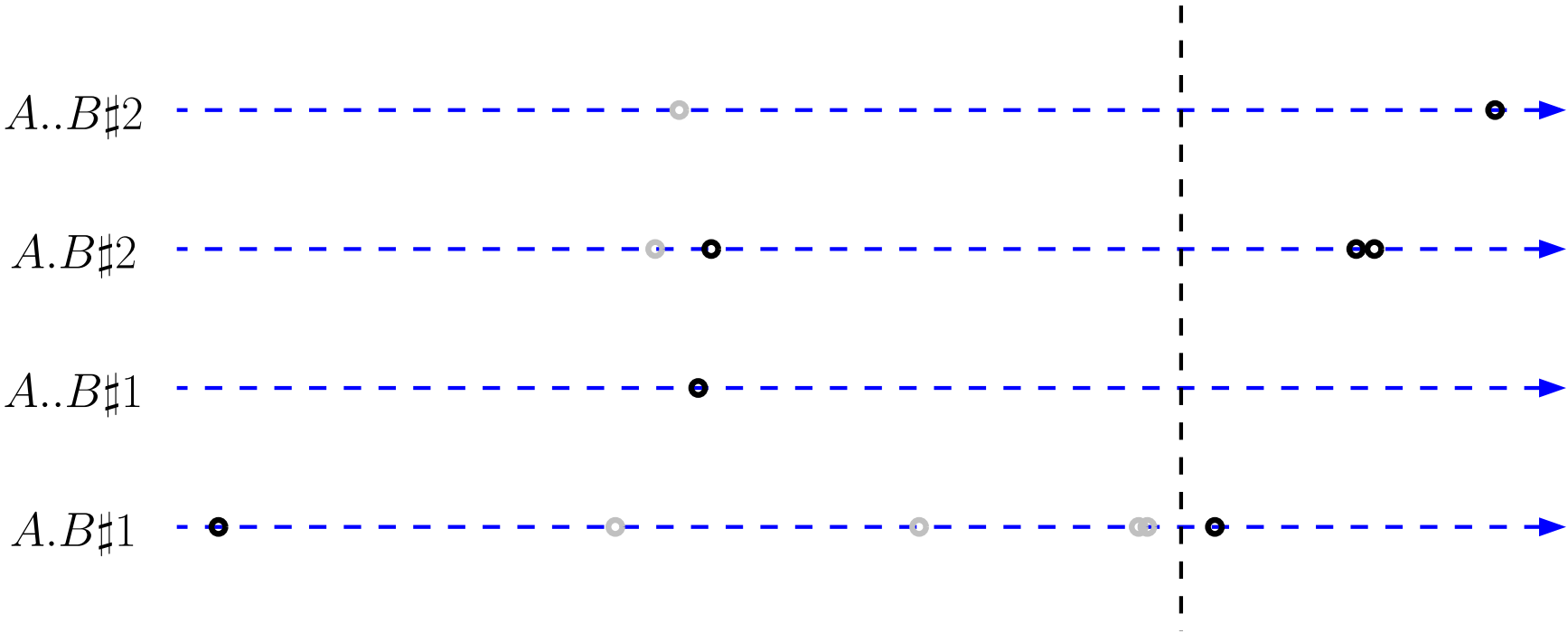
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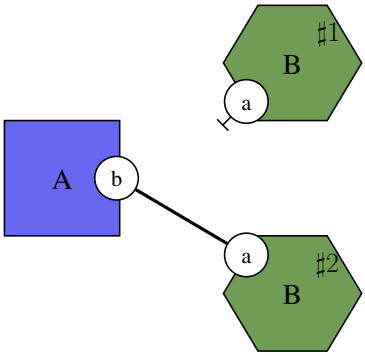
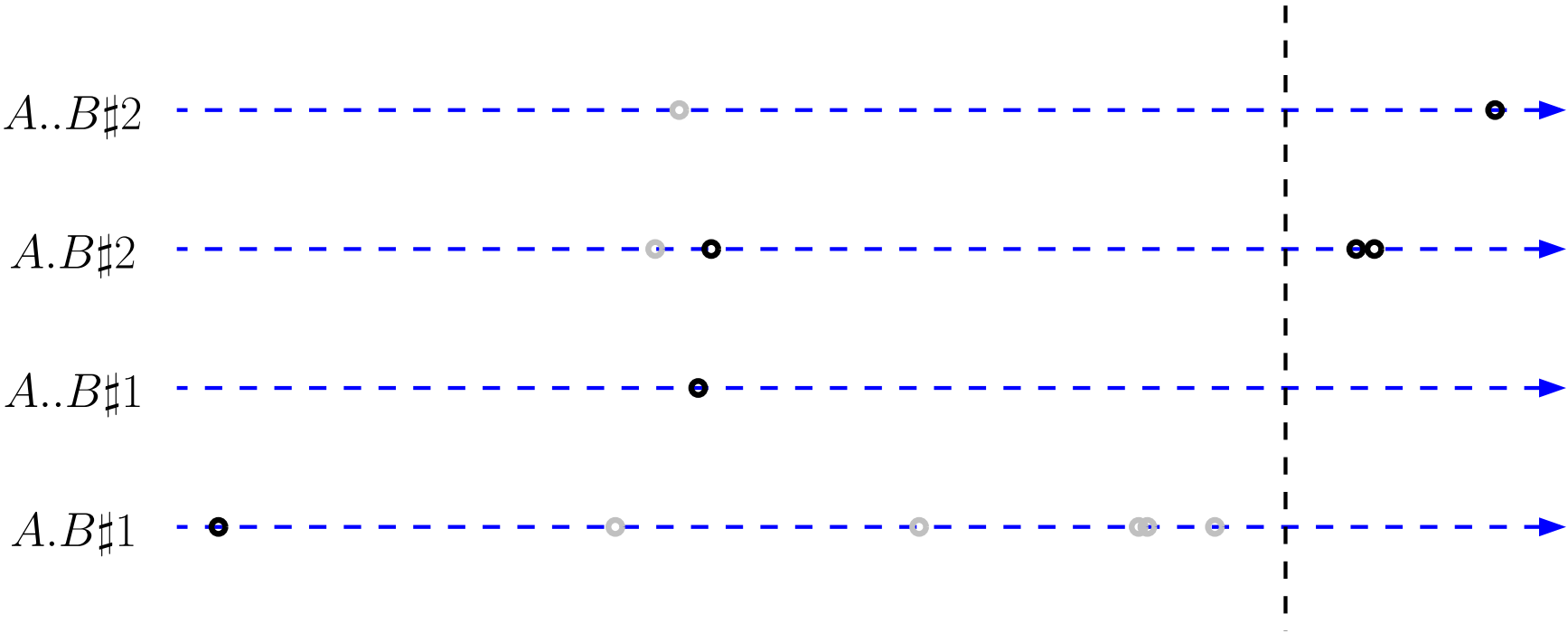
One execution



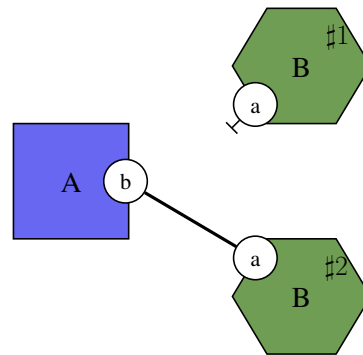
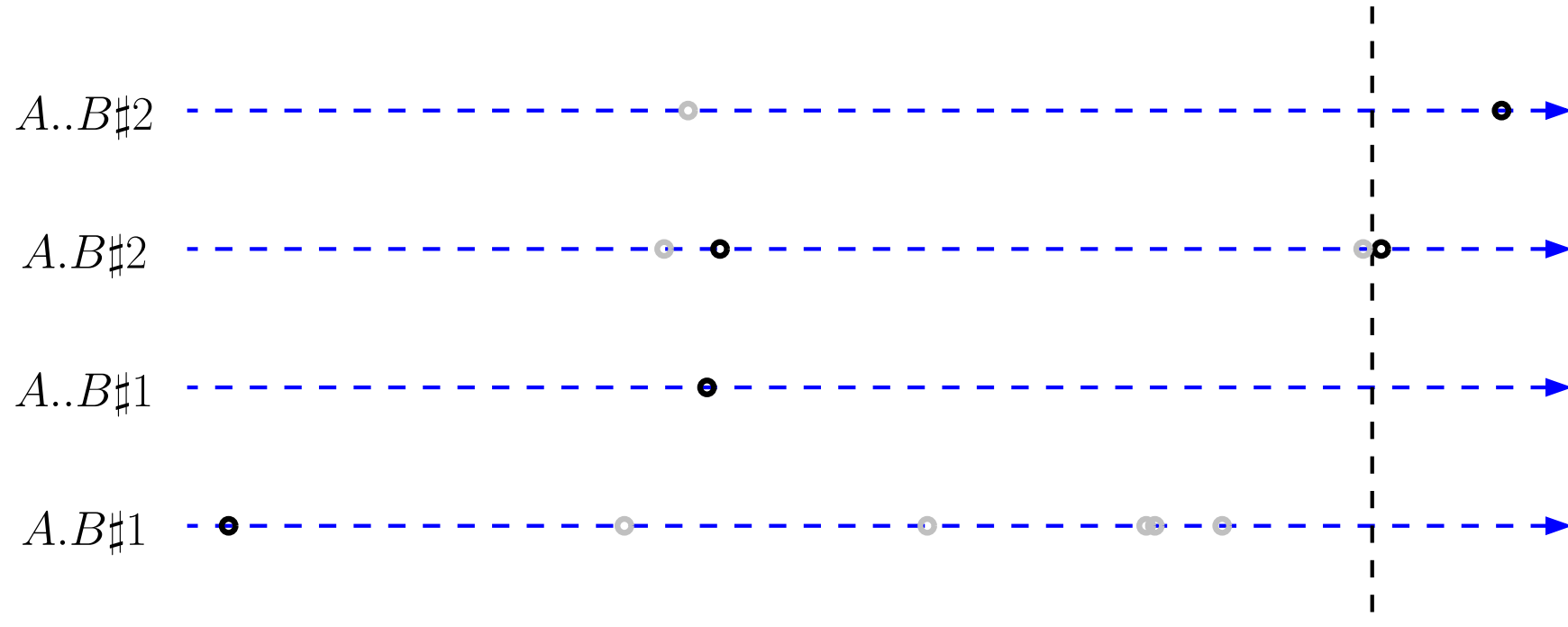
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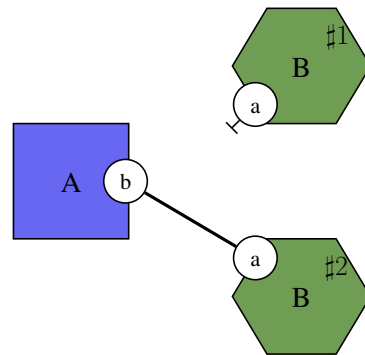
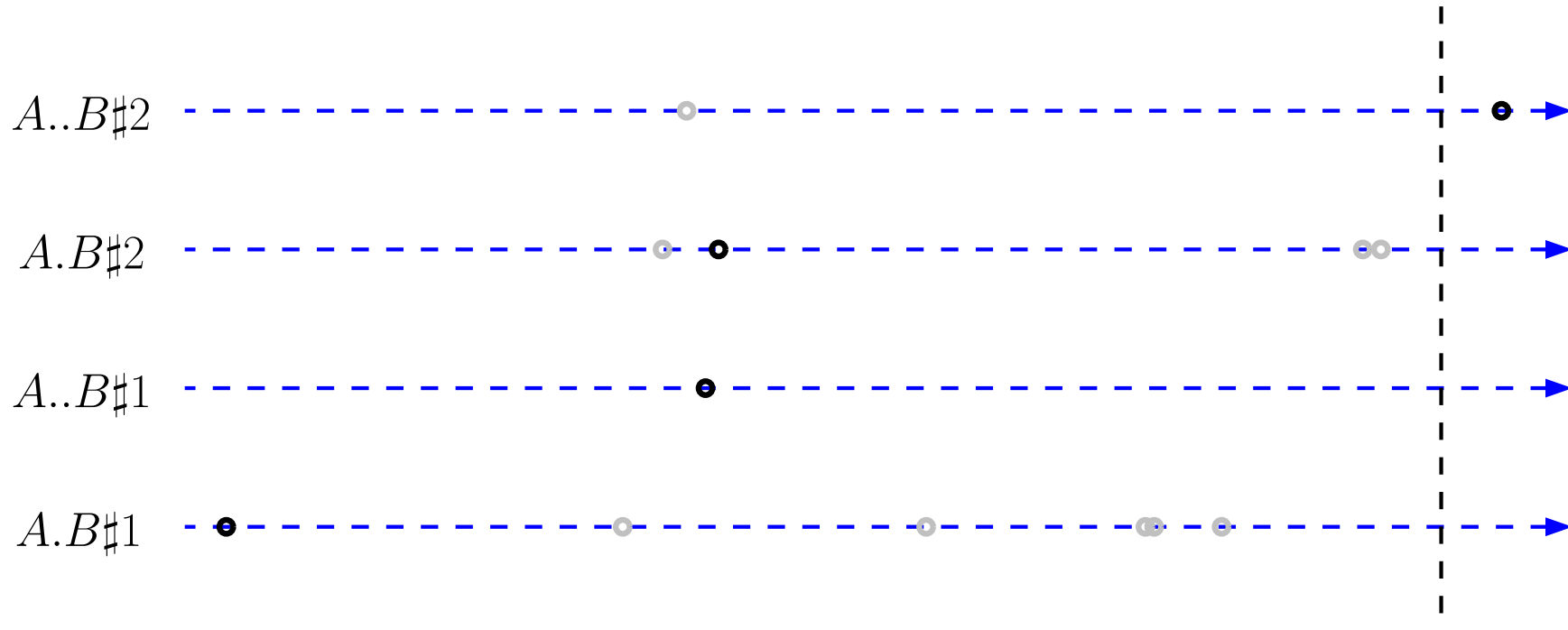
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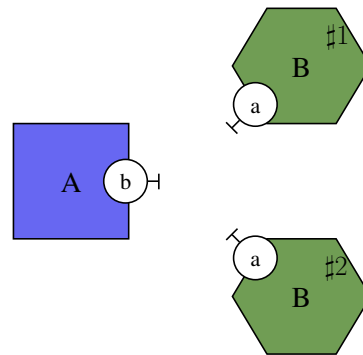
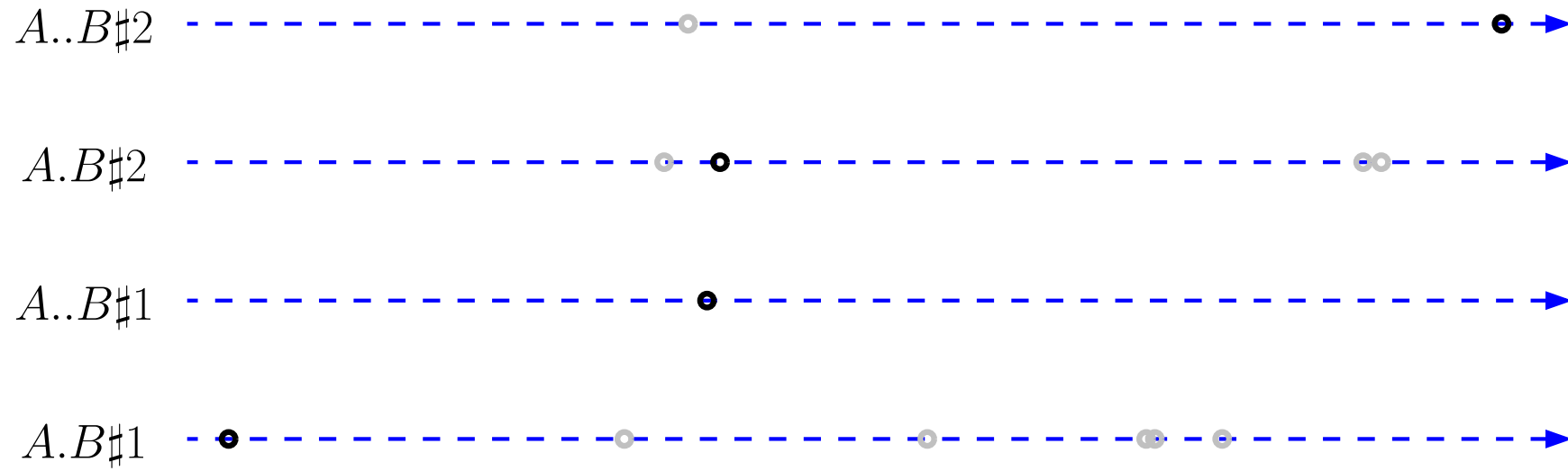
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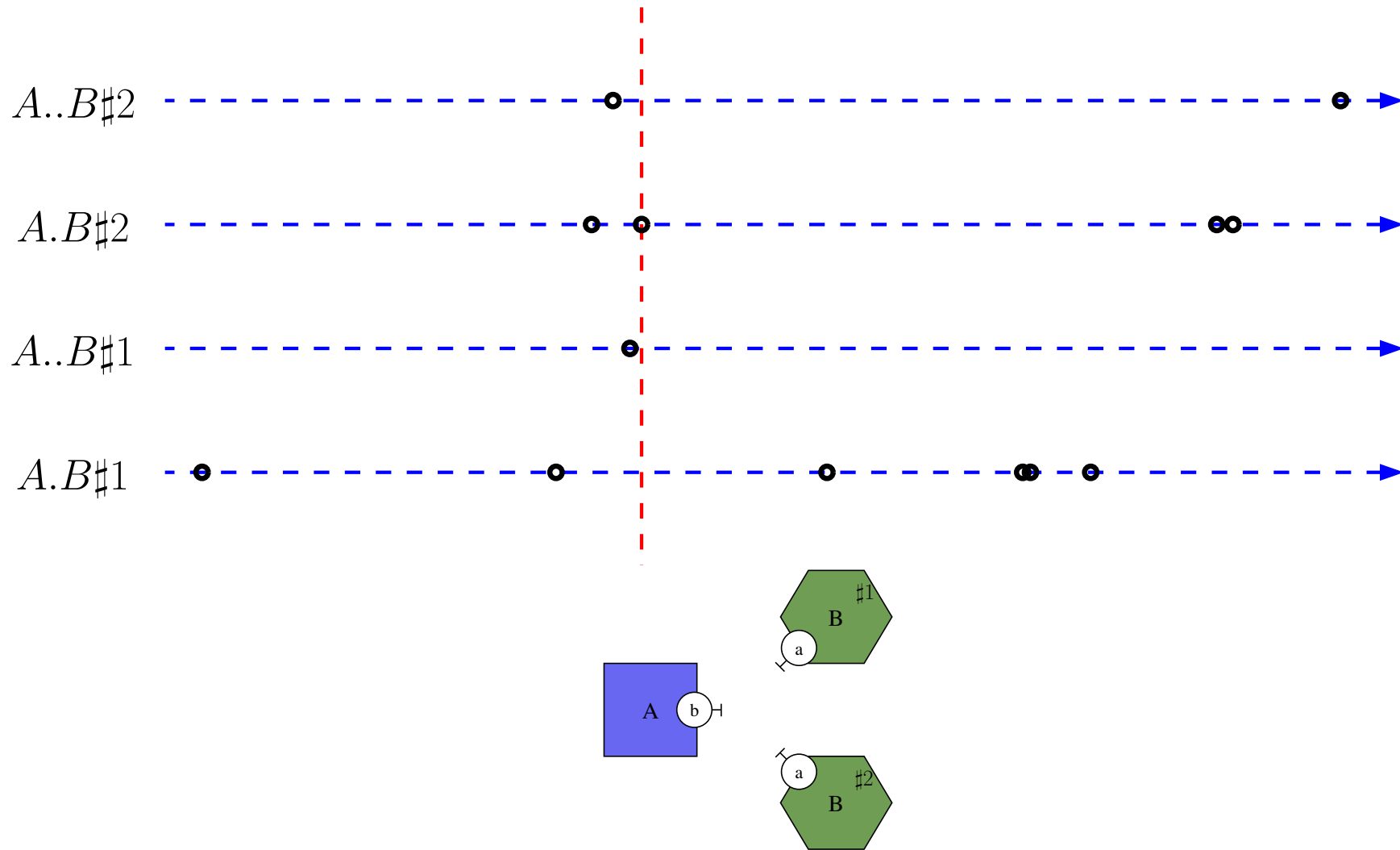
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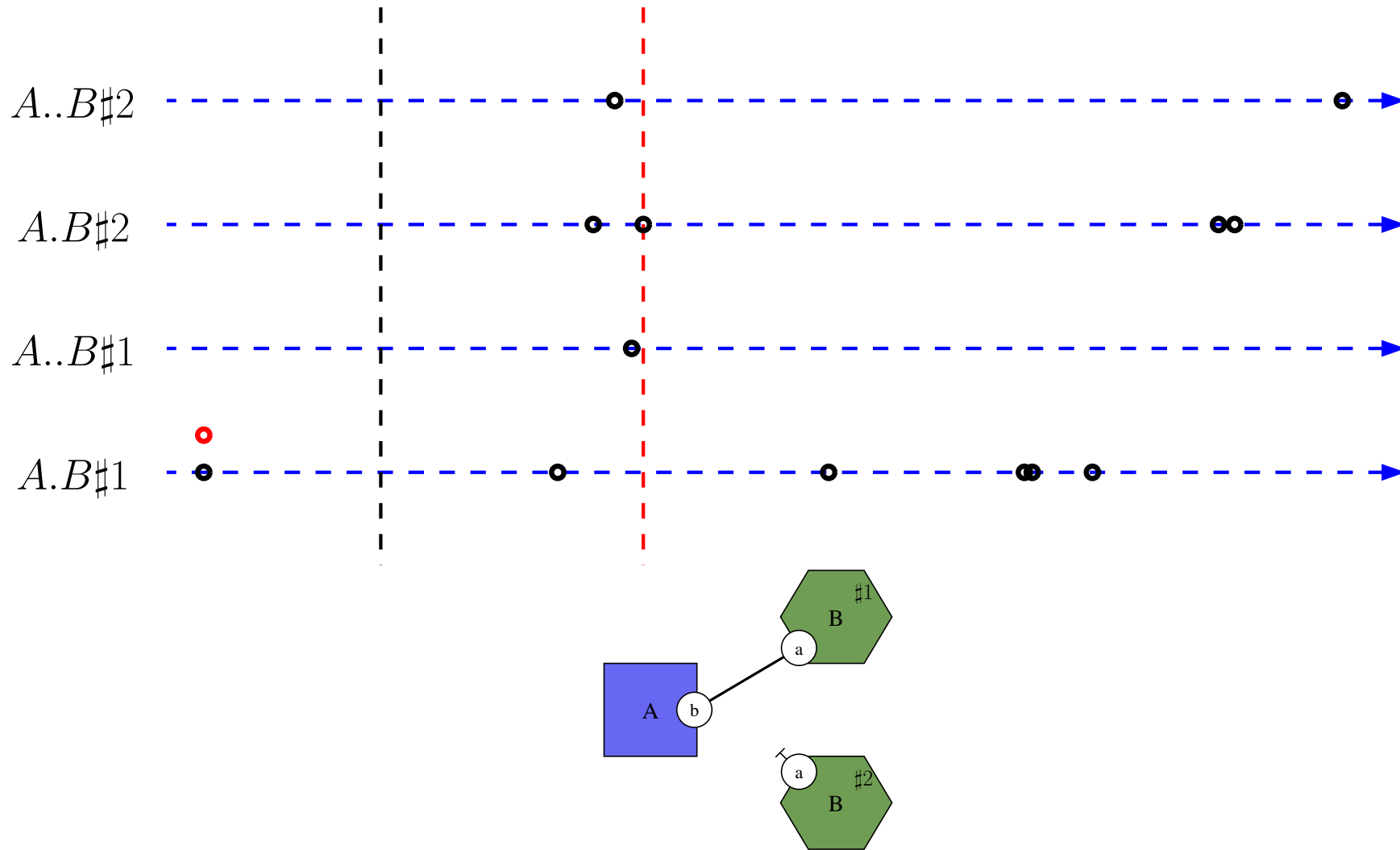
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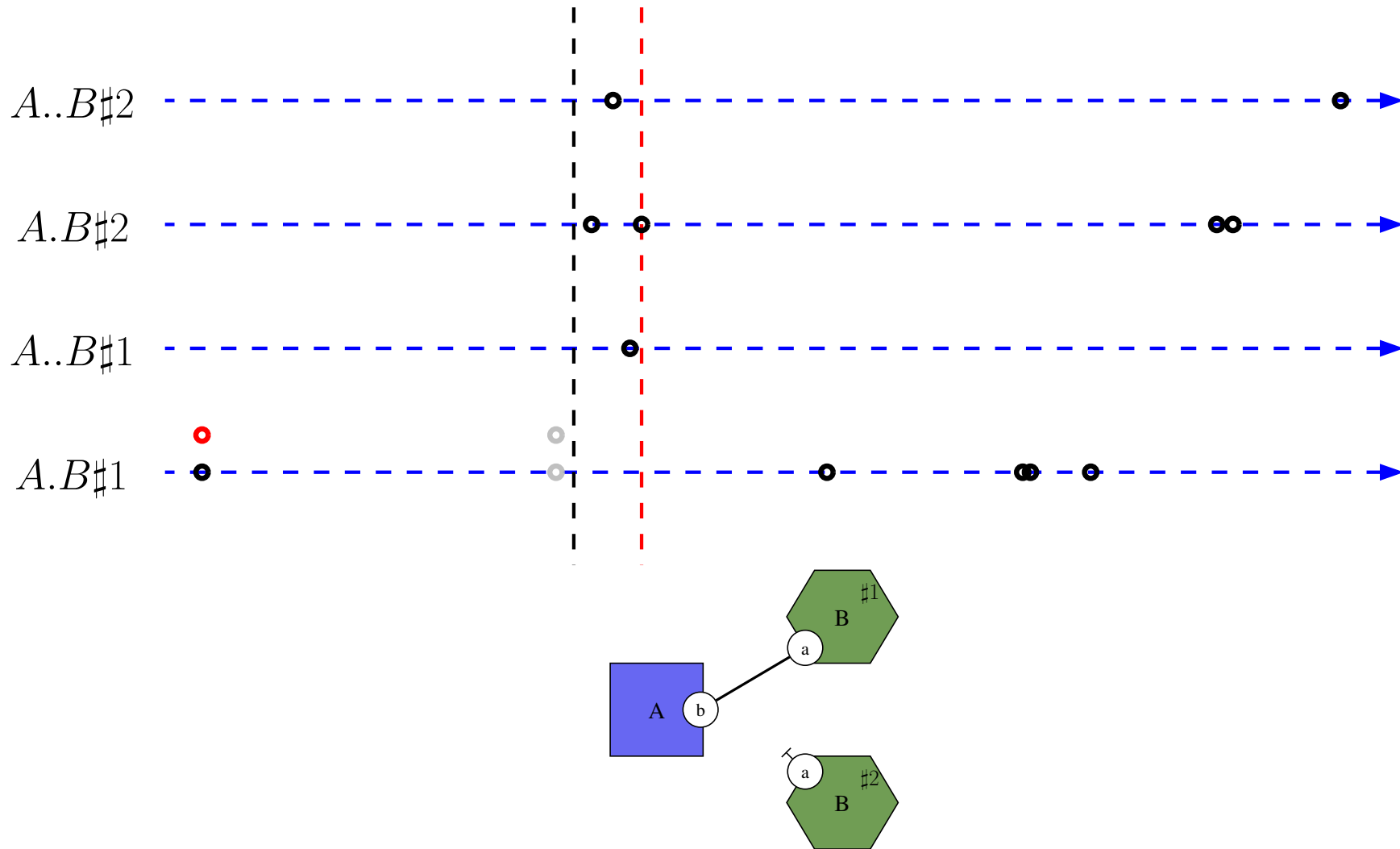
Counterfactual execution



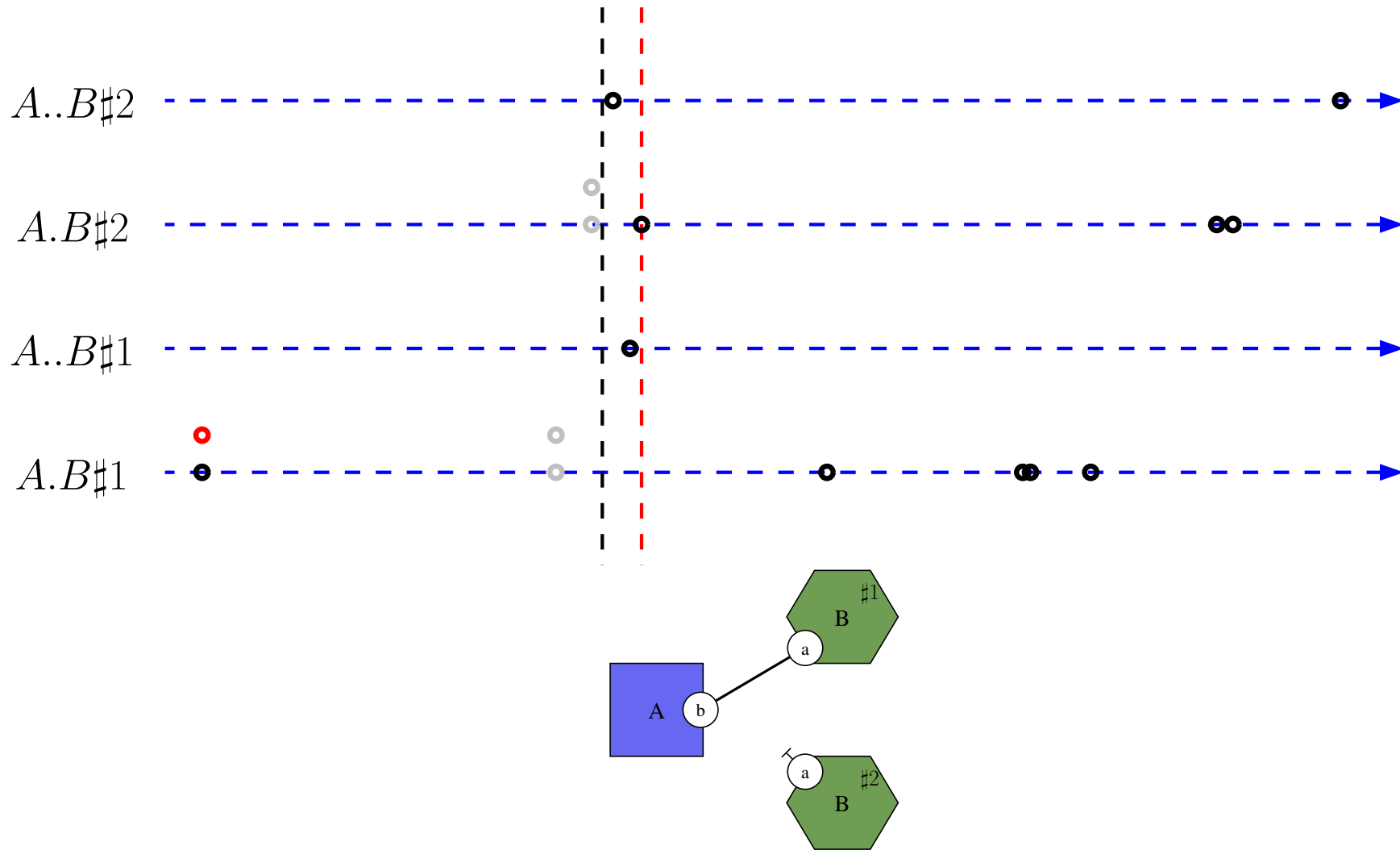
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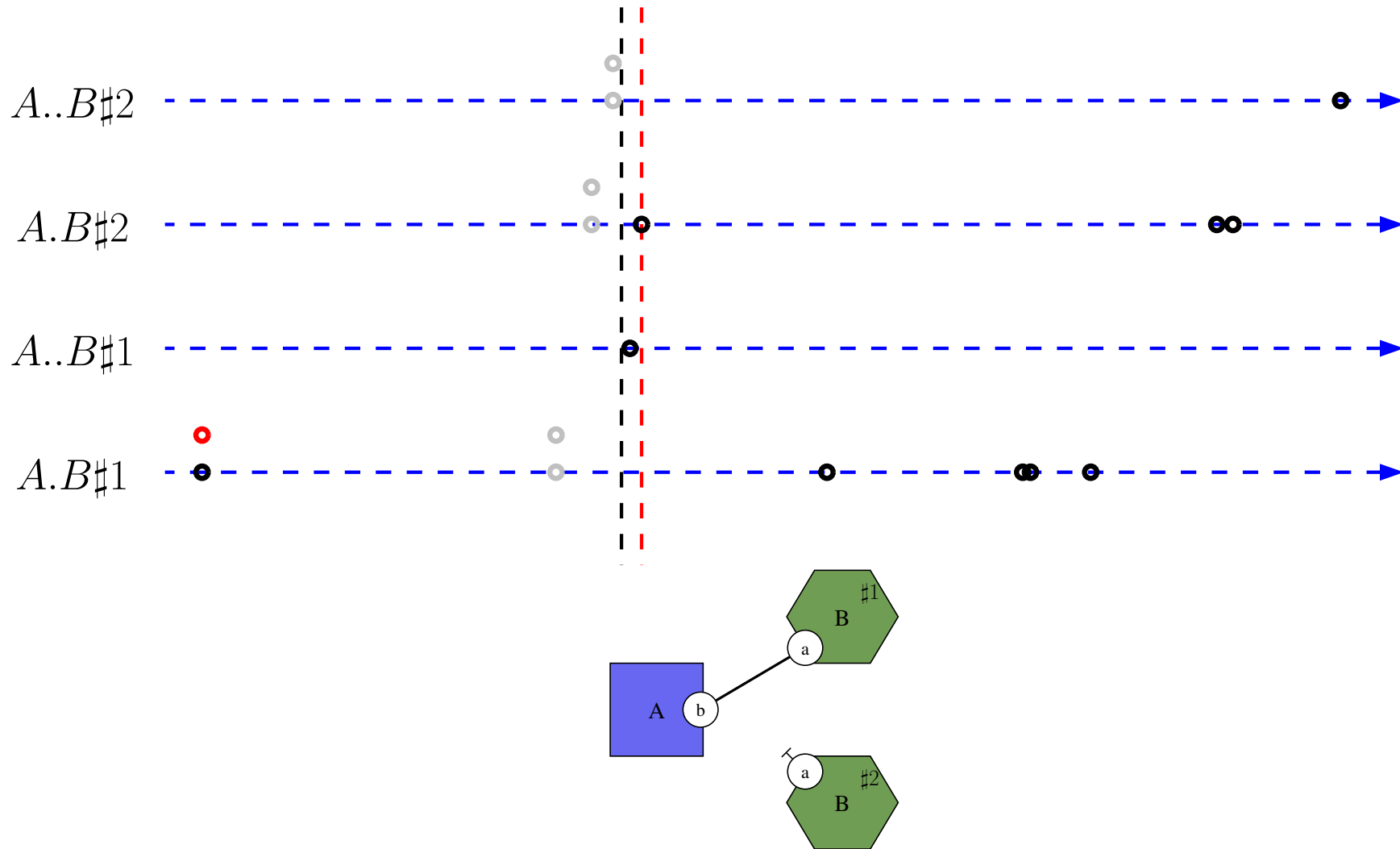
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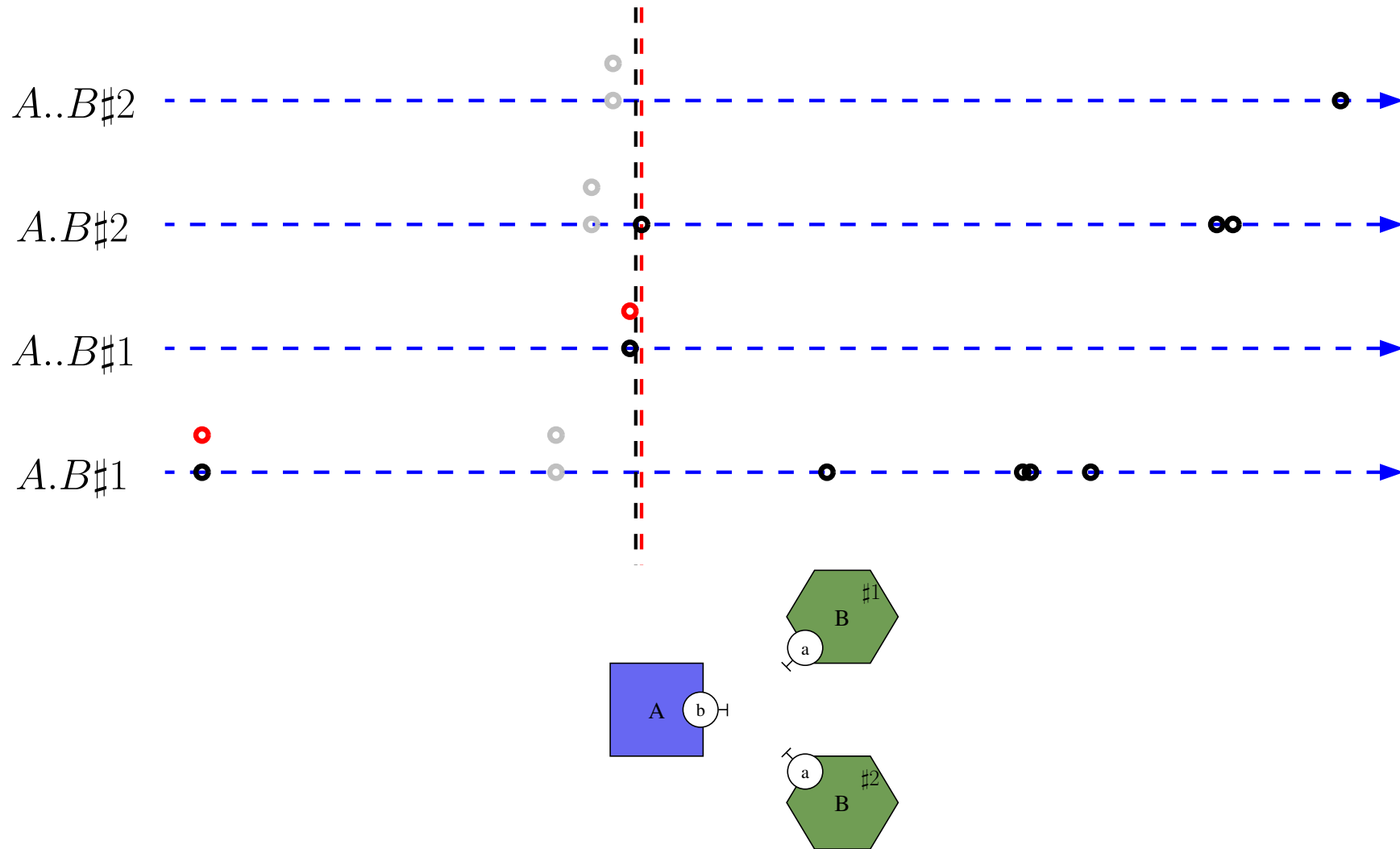
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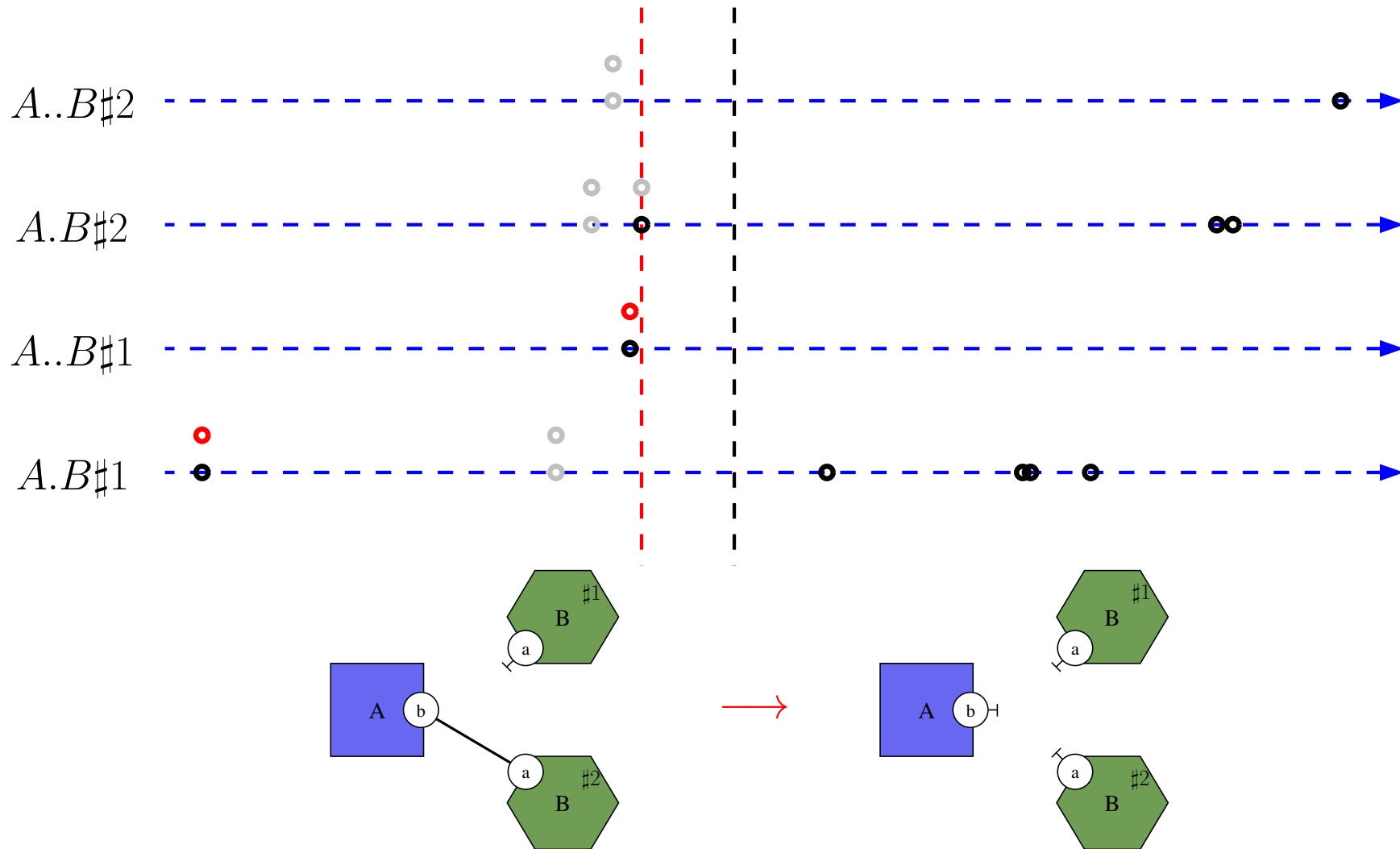
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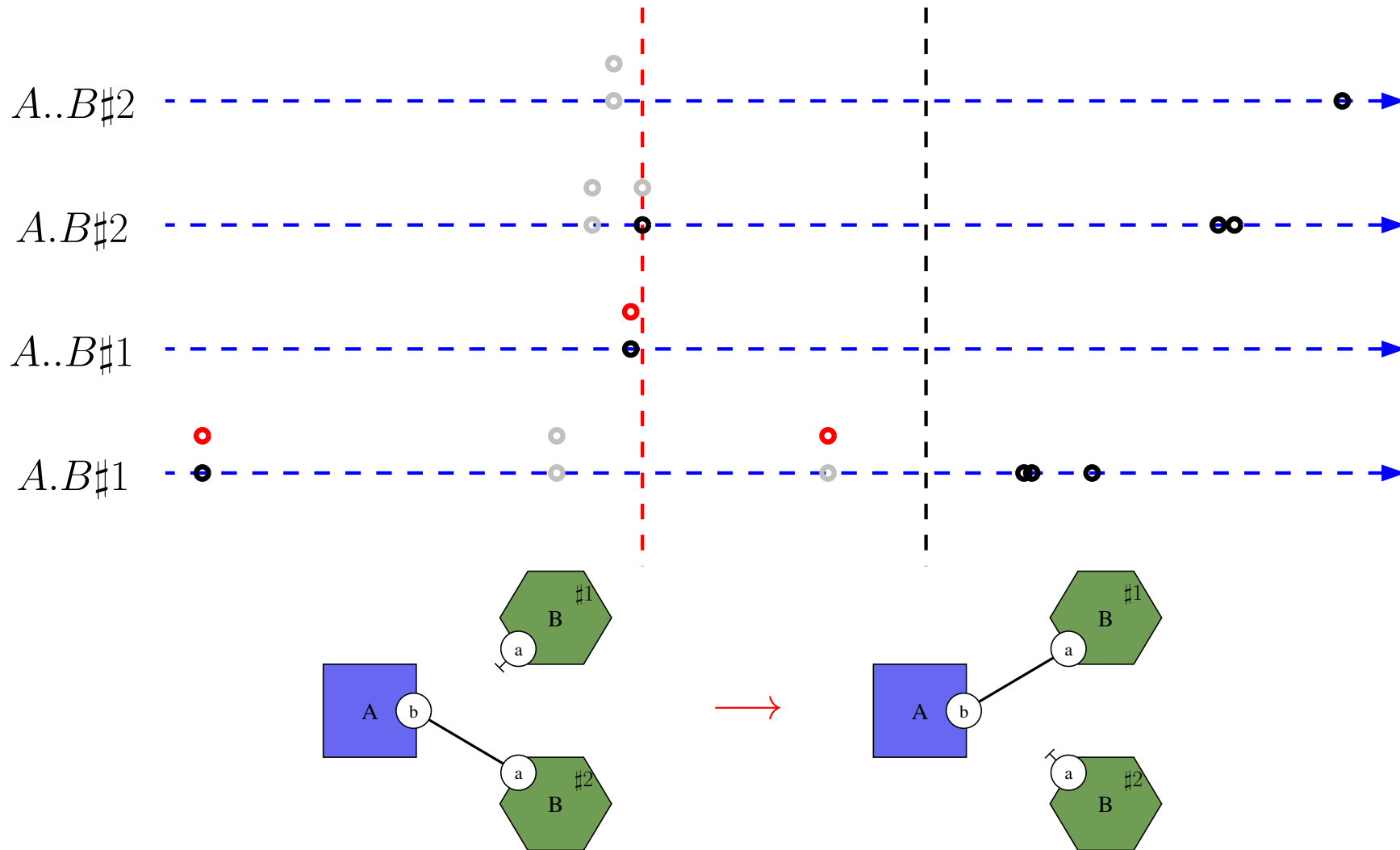
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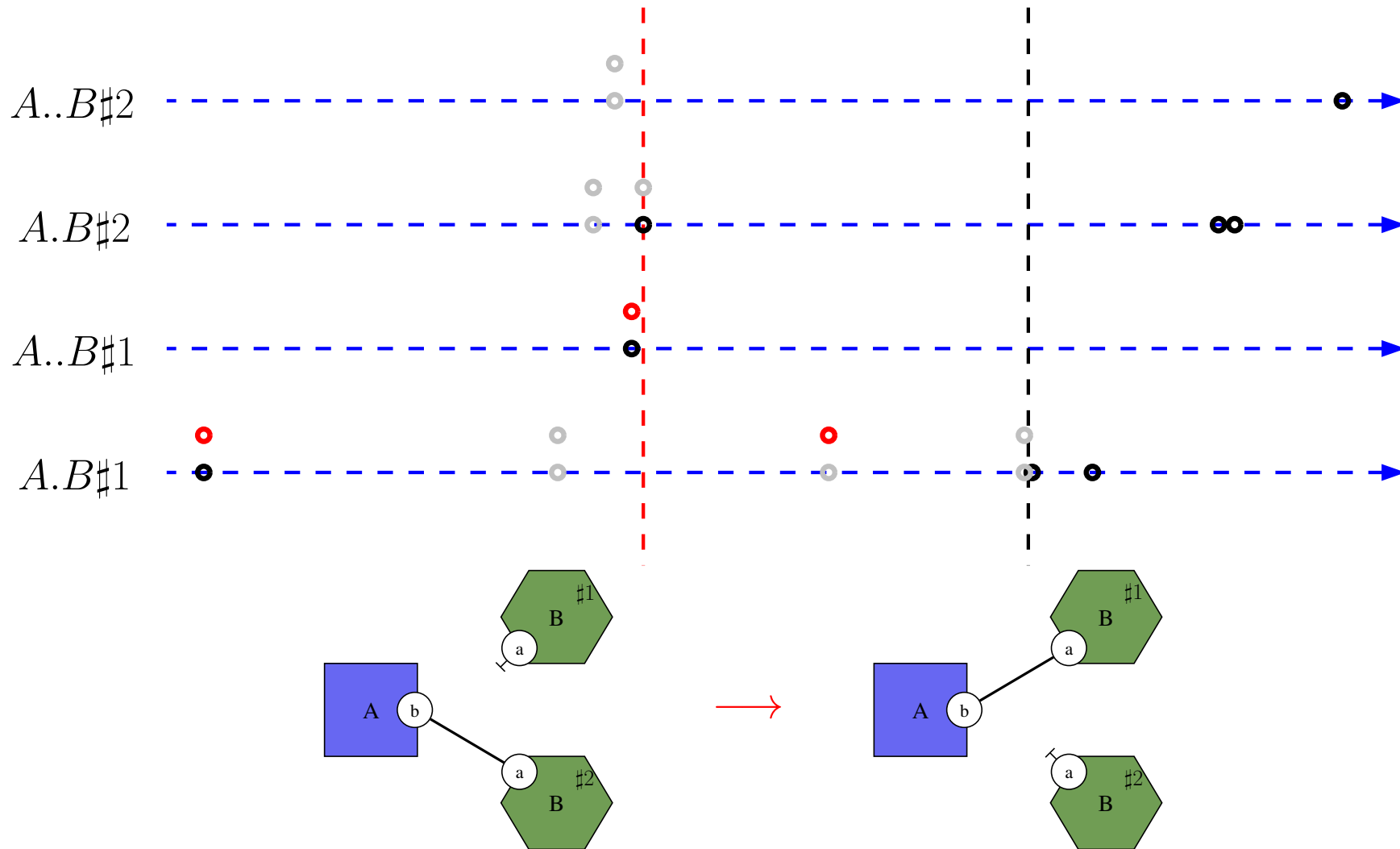
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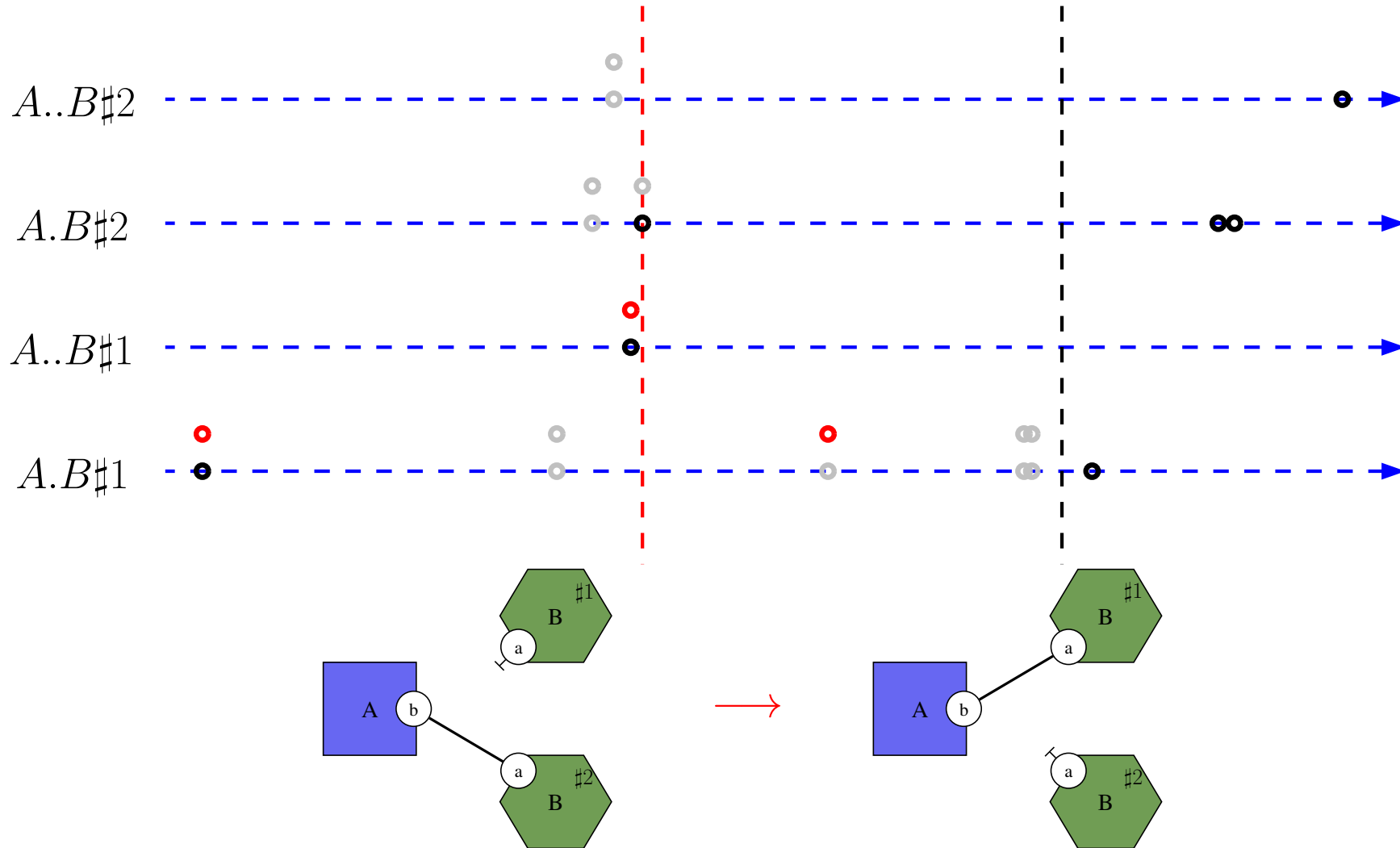
Counterfactual execution



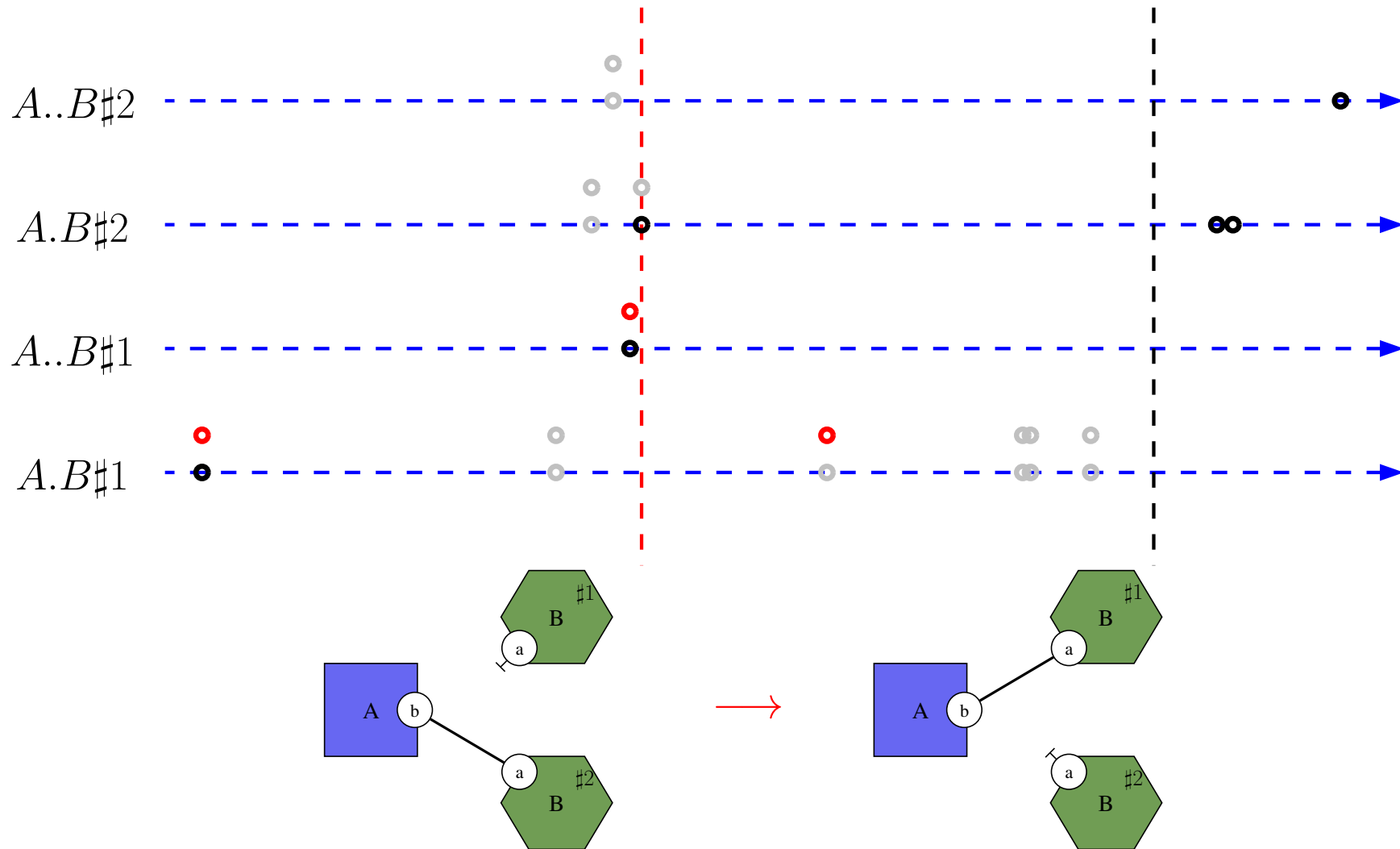
Counterfactual execution



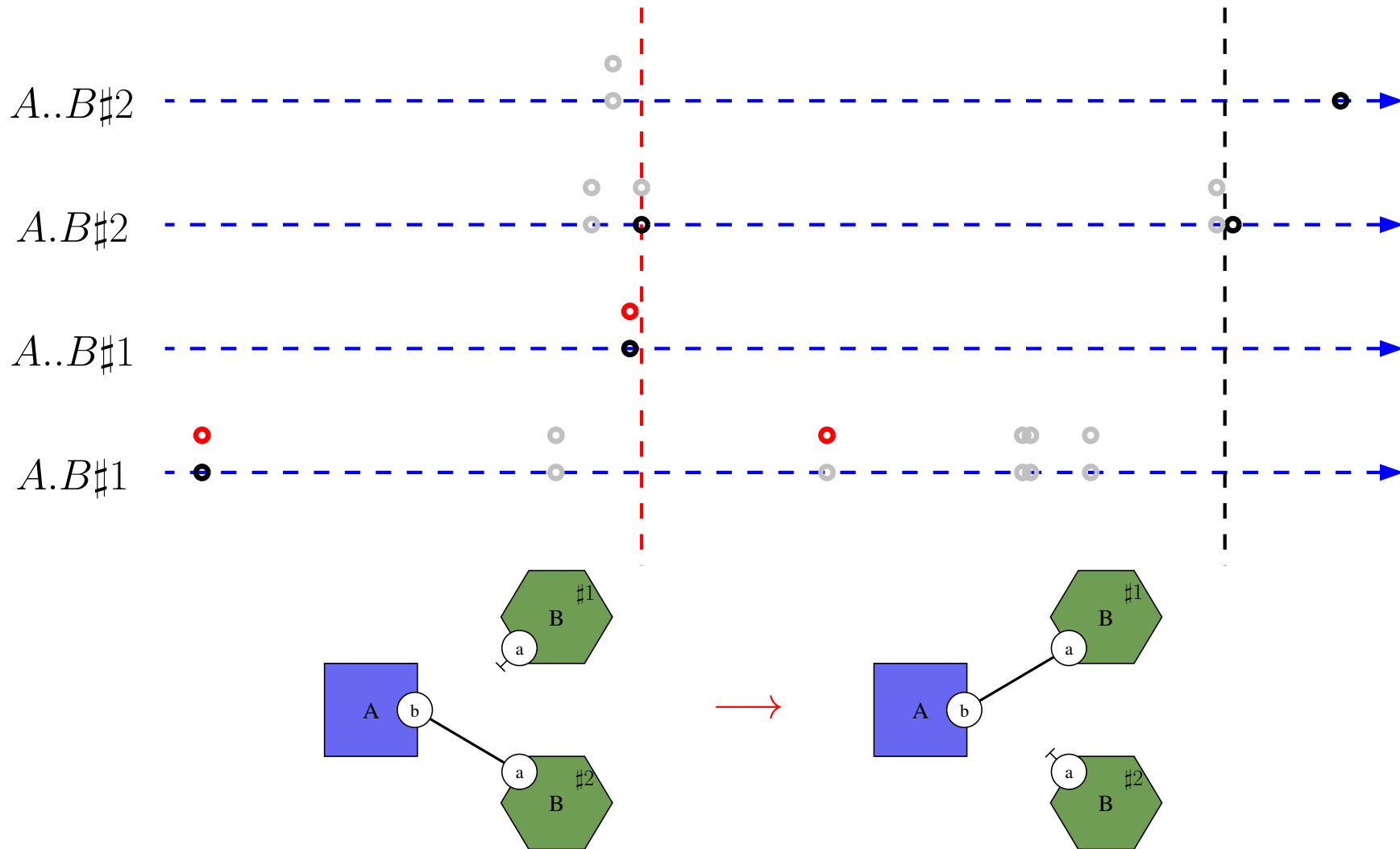
Counterfactual execution



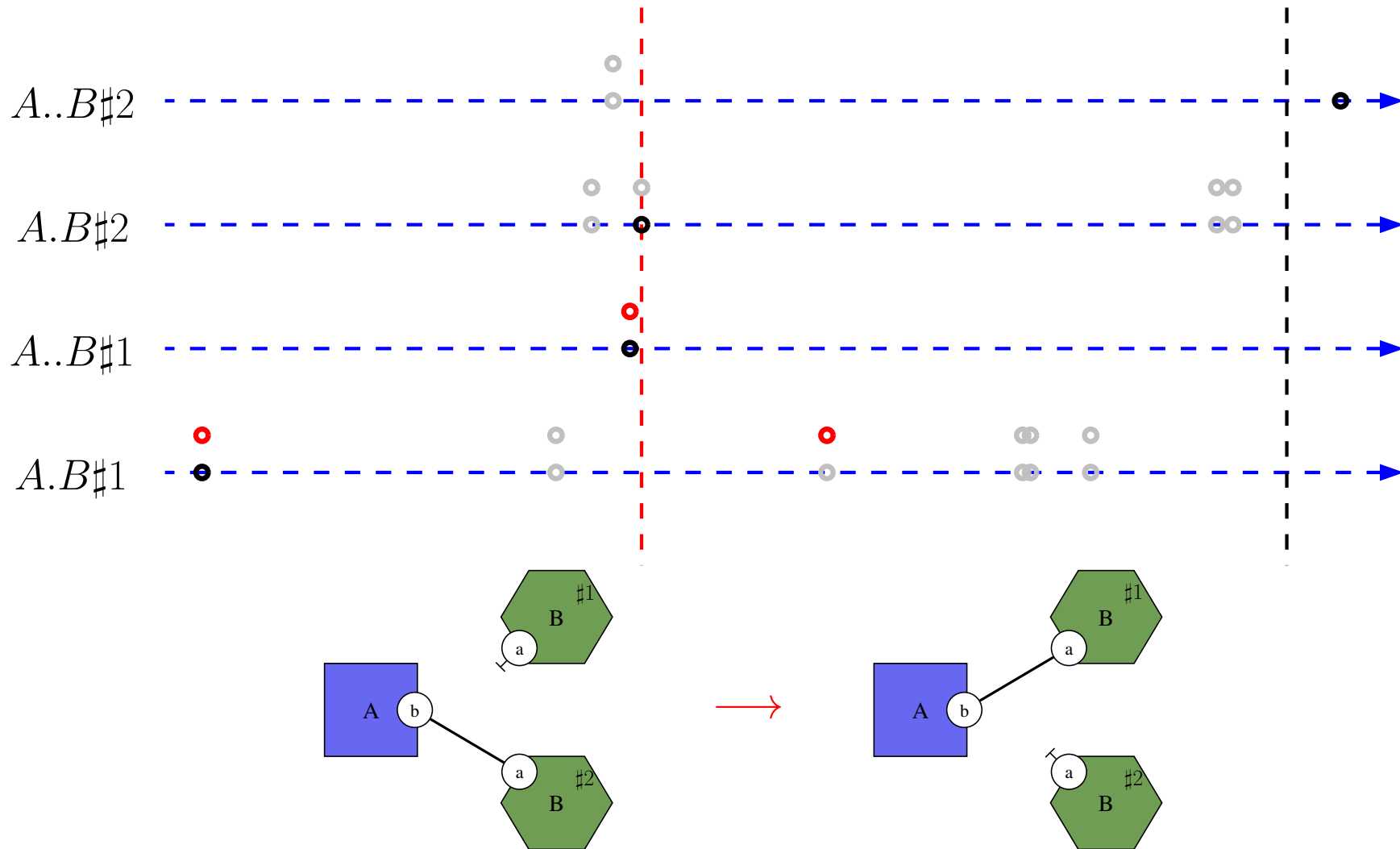
Counterfactual execution



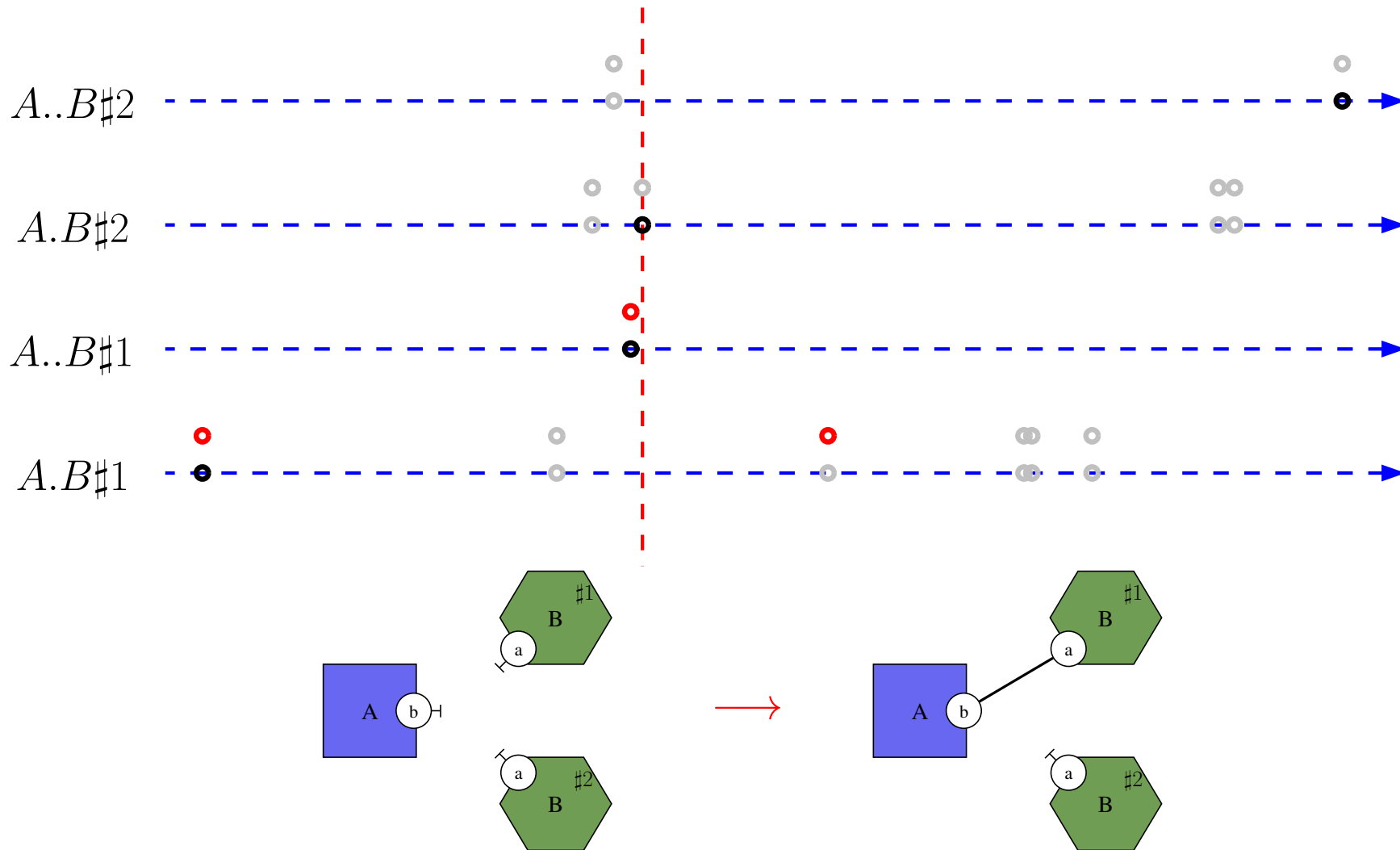
Counterfactual execution



Counterfactual execution



Counterfactual execution

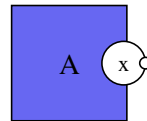


Take home message about counterfactual execution

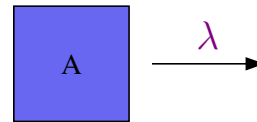
- Reasoning on **what would have happened** if a given event had not occurred in a specific execution trace.
- Given a prefix of trace, it defines **a distribution of pairs** of suffixes of traces
(instead of a **pair of distributions** of suffixes of traces)
according to whether or not the event under investigation has occurred
- It requires a semantics that describes the **operational execution as a function of random draws**.
The counterfactual execution is replayed with the same stream of random draws.
- This stronger semantics is arguable.

Practical activity

We consider 1000 occurrences of the following agent:



1. Use the simulator to check the time necessary to consume half of the agents with the following rule:



2. Same question with the combination of both following rules:



3. Empirically fit λ' so that both time are equal.
4. Compare both abundance curves and conclude.

Overview

1. Syntax
2. Markovian clocks
3. Stochastic semantics
4. Optimizations
5. Counter-factual execution
6. **Bibliography**

Bibliography

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