SM	is a one-to-one service mapping function between MI and M;
SP	a mapping function between an input link and the place in the method;
t	a transition;
tk	a token;
T	a finite non-empty set of transitions;
TTK(p, tk)	token time stamp;
V	a set of nodes, objects;
~	a transition with 0 time delay between parts in an object;
τ	token time stamp;
Δ	time;

mb	a message buffer;
md	a message dispatcher;
ms	a self-manipulated method;
mbf	a Petri nets representation of message buffer *mb*;
mdf	a Petri nets representation of message dispatcher *md*;
M	a finite non-empty set of methods;
MC	a finite non-empty set of object control methods;
MI	a set of messages that an object can receive;
MO	a set of messages that an object can send;
o	an object;
oa	an atomic object;
oc	a container object;
OA	a finite non-empty set of atomic objects;
OC	s finite none-empty set of container objects;
OP	output function, $<po_i, ln_j>$;
OS	an object structure
p	a place;
pi	an input place;
po	an output place;
post(t)	a post-condition of the transition *t*;
pre(t)	a pre-condition of the transition *t*;
ptk	a primitive token;
P	a finite non-empty set of places;
PI	a set of input places;
PO	a set of output places;
R	a finite non-empty set of firing operations;
RM	is a one-to-one request mapping function between MO and M;
RP	a mapping function between a place in a method and the corresponding link;

i, j, k, l, m, n, t	general indices;
a	an arrow;
B(OA)	behavior function of atomic objects;
B(OC)	behavior function of container objects;
c	a color;
ctk	a container token;
C	a finite non-empty set of token colors;
CP	a control place;
ds	a data type;
ds_{ij}	port place j of data type i;
dsf_i	Petri nets representation of ds_i;
D	linear transition time function;
DS	a finite set of data types;
DSF	a finite set of Petri nets representations of *DS*;
e	a component box;
E	a set of edges, branches;
I-	input function;
I+	output function;
IP	input function, $<ln_i, pi_j>$;
l	a label, which is a set of tokens;
L	a finite non-empty set of labels;
ln	a link, which is defined as $<o_i, l_k, o_j>$;
LF	mapping function of input and output links;
LN	a finite non-empty set of links;
LN-	a finite set of input links;
LN+	a finite set of output links;
m	a marking