Transactions on Industrial Electronics



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Journal:	Transactions on Industrial Electronics
Manuscript ID	15-TIE-3480.R2
Manuscript Type:	Regular paper
Manuscript Subject:	Embedded Systems
Keywords:	Scheduling, Modeling, Software verification and validation
Are any of authors IEEE Member?:	Yes
Are any of authors IES Member?:	No
	·

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Abstract—Rate-Monotonic Scheduling (RMS) is one of the most important real-time scheduling used in industry. There are a large number of results about RMS, especially on its schedulability. However, the theoretical results do not contain enough details to be used directly for an industrial RMS implementation. On the other hand, the correctness of such an implementation is of the crucial importance. In this paper, we analyze a realistic RMS implementation by using Real-Time Maude, a formal modeling language and analysis tool based on rewriting logic. Overhead and some details of the hardware are taken into account in the model. We validate the schedulability and the correctness of the implementation within key scenarios. The soundness and the completeness of our approach are substantiated.

Index Terms—Real-time systems, scheduling, embedded systems, modeling, formal verification, rewriting logic.

I. Introduction

PERIODIC task scheduling is one of the most important topics within the field of industrial real-time systems. A set of periodic tasks is said to be *schedulable* with respect to some scheduling algorithm if all jobs meet their deadlines. *Rate-Monotonic Scheduling (RMS)* is a *fixed* priority scheduling algorithm for preemptive hard real-time environments proposed by Liu and Layland [1], which assigns priorities to jobs according to the periods of the corresponding tasks: the smaller period, the higher priority. RMS is proven to be the *optimal* fixed priority scheduling algorithm [1], in the sense that any set of tasks, which is schedulable under *some* fixed priority scheduling algorithm, is also schedulable with respect to RMS. It is widely used in safety-critical real-time applications, such as vehicles and avionics, thanks to its optimality and easiness to implement.

Liu and Layland [1] gave a sufficient condition for the schedulability of a set of n tasks scheduled by RMS: $\sum_{i=1}^n C_i/T_i \leq n(2^{1/n}-1)$, where C_i and T_i are the computation (time) requirement and the period of task τ_i , respectively. Two main directions on RMS have been explored since then. One is to relax the assumptions on the original RMS model, making it applicable on more systems. For instance, [2]–[5] allow aperiodic tasks in the scheduling, [6], [7] generalize RMS to be deadline-monotonic, [8] allows resource sharing among tasks, [9]–[12] extend RMS on multiprocessors, and [13]–[15] enhance fault-tolerance. The other direction is to generate better schedulability test conditions for the algorithm and its extensions [10], [12], [16]–[19]. The RMS algorithm is no doubt of practical importance.

It is even more crucial to ensure the reliability of an implementation instead of the algorithm, when RMS serves

in a safety-critical system. When analyzing a realistic implementation, theoretical results may be no more applicable. For instance, even though the conditions derived from algorithm analysis are satisfied, schedulability can be broken by overhead in the system, or by the interrupt mask mechanism which may delay interrupt handling. On the other hand, correctness of the implementation with respect to the algorithm is difficult to be verified by the traditional methods such as testing and simulation due to their incompleteness. Extensive effort to apply formal methods, such as model checking and theorem proving, has been made to analyze safety-critical systems for the past few years [20]–[23]. However, as far as we know, few [24], [25] attempt to analyze the RMS algorithm, while no work for implementations of RMS is found.

In this paper, we use *Real-Time Maude*, a *rewriting*-based formal modeling language and analysis tool for real-time systems, to model a realistic implementation of RMS that serves as a simplified operating system within an avionic control system, and then verify several desired properties. Based on a realistic implementation, our model extends the standard RMS model proposed in [1], by considering overhead and other details of the hardware platform.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section II gives some background of both the RMS algorithm and Real-Time Maude. Section III presents the RMS implementation that we model and analyze. Section IV introduces how we model the RMS implementation using Real-Time Maude. Then Section V explains how to verify the desired properties and to evaluate the results. Related work is discussed in Section VI. We conclude the paper in Section VII.

II. BACKGROUND

A. Rate-Monotonic Scheduling Algorithm

A task set consists of only n periodic tasks τ_1,\ldots,τ_n . Each task τ_i has a period T_i and a computation requirement C_i . First jobs of all tasks are assumed to be initiated at time 0 simultaneously. Deadlines consist of runnability constraints only: the deadline of a job corresponding to τ_i is the initiation time of the next job corresponding to τ_i . The RMS algorithm chooses the labeling such that $T_1 \leqslant T_2 \leqslant \ldots \leqslant T_n$. Consequently, τ_i receives priority i, assuming smaller numbers have higher priorities. The following assumptions are made:

(A1) Jobs corresponding to task τ_i are initiated exactly at times kT_i with integers $k \ge 0$.

(A2) Computation requirement C_i for each task τ_i is constant and does not vary with time.

(A3) Tasks are independent, such that they are ready to run at their initiation times and can be preempted instantly (ignoring all blocking).

(A4) All overhead, such as task switching time, is ignored. A simple example showing this algorithm is depicted in Figure 2a. However in this paper, we consider an implementation instead of the RMS algorithm itself, thus the model would be more complicated than this standard, ideal setting. Assumption (A1) will be modified because of the interrupt mask mechanism, while (A4) is relaxed to obtain a more realistic analysis model.

B. Real-Time Maude

Real-Time Maude [26] is an extension of *Maude* [27] which is a language and tool based on *rewriting logic* [28]. It supports formal specification and analysis of real-time systems.

- 1) Specification: Real-Time Maude models systems as modules. A module specifies a real-time rewrite theory $\mathcal{R} = (\Sigma, E \cup A, IR, TR)$, where:
 - Σ is an algebraic *signature*, that is, a set of declarations of *sorts*, *subsorts* and *function symbols*. The function symbols are allowed to be mixfix, in which case underscores "_" indicate the positions of parameters. *Terms* are expressions built from function symbols and variables.
 - $(\Sigma, E \cup A)$ is a membership equational logic theory, with E a set of conditional equations and memberships on Σ , and A a set of equational axioms such as associativity, commutativity and identity. $(\Sigma, E \cup A)$ models the system's "static" states as terms of some sort, and is equipped with a built-in specification of a sort Time.
 - IR is a set of labeled conditional rewrite rules specifying the system's local transitions. Each rule has the form [l]: t→t' if ∫_{j=1}ⁿ cond_j, where each cond_j is an equality u_j = v_j, and l is a label, t, t', u_j, v_j are terms. Such a rule specifies an instantaneous transition, without consuming time, from an instance of t to the corresponding instance of t', provided the conditions hold.
 - TR is a set of (labeled) tick rules of the form [l]: {s} → {s'} in time r if cond that specify timed transitions.
 Each tick rule advances time by r time units from the entire state modeled by term s to the destination state s'.

IR and *TR* together model the "dynamic" behaviors of the system.

In rewriting logic, rewrite rules are applied non-deterministically, that is, when several rules can be applied on a given term t, any of them may be chosen. Hence non-deterministic behaviors can be modeled naturally in Real-Time Maude. Real-Time Maude also supports specifications in *object-oriented* style. A class declaration class $C \mid att_1:s_1,\ldots,att_n:s_n$ defines a class C with attributes att_1 to att_n of sorts s_1 to s_n , respectively. An *object* of class C is represented as a term $< O:C \mid att_1:val_1,\ldots,att_n:val_n >$ of sort Object, where O, of sort Oid, is the object's identifier, and val_i is the value of the attribute att_i with $i \in [1,n]$. Rules can be defined on a given class. A subclass inherits all the attributes and rules of its superclasses.

2) Formal Analysis: Real-Time Maude provides many useful commands and tools to analyze a given model. For example, rewrite allows to execute the model, symbolically; given an initial state, search is used to search reachable states satisfying the desired properties; the Maude's Inductive Theorem Prover (ITP) can be applied to interactively prove properties written in membership equational logic.

In this paper, we only consider Real-Time Maude's $Linear\ Temporal\ Logic\ (LTL)\ model\ checker$, which analyzes whether each behavior satisfies a temporal logic formula. $State\ propositions$ are defined as terms of sort Prop. Their semantics is defined by conditional equations of the form ceq $statePattern\ |=prop=b$ if cond, with b a term of sort Bool, stating that prop evaluates to b in states which are instances of statePattern provided the condition cond holds. These equations together define prop to hold in all states s that make s |= prop evaluate to true. A temporal logic formula is constructed by state propositions and $temporal\ logic$ operators such as "(negation), \/(disjunction), []("always"), U("until"). Real-Time Maude supports both timed and $untimed\ LTL\ model\ checking$. The untimed model checking command

(mc
$$s$$
 |=u Φ .)

checks whether the temporal logic formula Φ holds in all behaviors starting from the initial state s, with no time limit.

III. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RMS

The implementation written in C is from an industrial avionic control system. Interrupts would be triggered by, and only by, the clock every T, which we call interrupt cycle. When an interrupt request occurs, if the system is interruptible, i.e. the interrupt mask bit is cleared, the handler function schedule() will be invoked; otherwise schedule() will be pending until the interrupt mask bit becomes cleared. The pseudocode of schedule() is shown in Figure 1, where taskList is the list of periodic tasks to be scheduled. We assume that the list is in descending order of priority, and both variables taskList and timer are global. In this implementation, there is only one kind of interrupt, the period T_i of each task is a multiple of T, and the tasks are independent, meeting assumption (A3).

In Figure 1, the handler function schedule() first updates status of all tasks in taskList via function updateStatus(). This updating actually initiates tasks that should be scheduled in the current interrupt cycle. Then schedule() traverses the list to execute the ready tasks one by one, or to do a return when encountering an interrupted task. As for the function updateStatus(), it updates each task in two steps: firstly, if the task is running, it becomes interrupted; secondly for the task at its initiation time, if its previous job is complete, it would be set ready, otherwise it misses its deadline, producing an error. Notice that schedule() is invoked only when the interrupt request is handled, not when the interrupt is disabled (the interrupt mask bit is set). Due to the interrupt mask bit, its execution cannot be interrupted when it is updating status of tasks or searching the next task to execute, however, it can be

¹Note that the status *INTERRUPT* indicates the task is interrupted for the moment, or was interrupted before but its execution is not complete yet.

58

59

60

```
1: function schedule()
                                                ⊳ to disable interrupts
 2:
        int\_off();
        updateStatus(taskList);
 3:
 4:
        timer = timer + 1;
 5:
        p = taskList;
 6:
        while p do
            if p \rightarrow status == INTERRUPT then
 7:
 8:
                return:
            else if p \rightarrow status == READY then
 9:
10:
                p \rightarrow status = RUNNING;
11:
                int\_on();

    to enable interrupts

                p \rightarrow function();
                                                 ⊳ to execute the task
12:
13:
                int\_off();
                p \rightarrow status = DORMANT;
14:
            end if
15:
16:
            p = p \rightarrow next;
17:
        end while
18:
    end function
19:
    function updateStatus(p)
20:
        while p do
21.
            if p \rightarrow status == RUNNING then
22:
                    \rightarrow status = INTERRUPT;
23:
            end if
            if timer \% (p \rightarrow period) == 0 then
24:

    the task

    should be initiated
25:
                if p \rightarrow status == DORMANT then \triangleright the previous
    job finishes
26:
                    p \rightarrow status = READY;
27:
                              ⇒ the status is READY or INTERRUPT
                else
28:
                    reportTaskError(p);
                                                       ⊳ task misses its
    deadline
29:
                end if
30:
            end if
31:
            p = p \rightarrow next;
32:
        end while
33: end function
```

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Fig. 1. The C-Like Pseudo-code of schedule()

interrupted while executing some task (Line 12). This allows the execution of schedule() to be nested.

For simplicity, in the rest of this paper, we use scheduling to refer to the stage, from the moment when a pending interrupt request is detected, to the moment when the first should-be-run periodic task starts executing, i.e. Line 8 or 12 in Figure 1. Therefore, scheduling time mainly consists of three parts: (i) the time for switching context from the running task, possibly none, to schedule() when an interrupt request is handled, (ii) the time spent by schedule() searching and setting the first should-be-run periodic task (Lines 2-11 in Figure 1), and (iii) the time for switching context from schedule() to that task. Switching refers to the stage, from the moment when a periodic task completes its execution, to the moment when the next should-be-run periodic task starts executing. Switching time thus also consists of three parts: (i) the time for switching context from the complete task back to schedule(), (ii) the time spent by schedule() searching and setting the next shouldbe-run periodic task, and (iii) the time for switching context from schedule() to that task.

IV. FORMAL MODELING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION

Considering some technical details of the platform, such as interrupt mask mechanism, we model the implementation under the following assumptions:

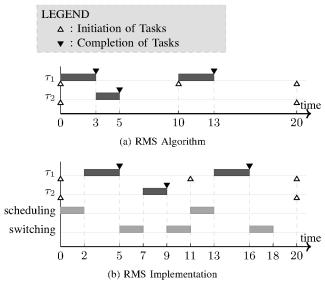


Fig. 2. A set of 2 periodic tasks scheduled under RMS algorithm and the implementation, respectively. $T=T_1=10,\,T_2=20,\,C_1=3,\,C_2=2.$ In Figure 2b, we assume both scheduling time and switching time are 2.

(A1') Jobs corresponding to task τ_i are initiated at the beginning of scheduling that handles the requests triggered at times kT_i with integers $k \ge 0$.

(A2) Computation requirement C_i for each task τ_i is constant and does not vary with time.

(A3) Tasks are independent, such that they are ready to run at their initiation times and can be preempted instantly.

(A4') Scheduling time and switching time are considered, while other overhead is ignored.

These assumptions make our model different from the standard one. For instance, with assumption (A1'), an interrupt request that occurs during switching will be pending, such that jobs of task τ_i cannot initiate at kT_i . They should wait until switching finishes and the interrupt mask bit is cleared, which is different from (A1). Note that (A3) says that jobs are ready to run at their initiation times, however, no one can start running at exactly its initiation time, because scheduling takes time. Under these assumptions, an example showing the execution of tasks scheduled by the implementation is depicted in Figure 2b. Note that the second job instance of τ_1 is initiated at time 11 instead of 10, because switching is performed and the interrupt mask bit is set at time 10, exemplifying differences between (A1') and (A1).

In this section, we introduce first how we model the states—the static aspect—of the system using terms of given sorts, or called data types, then how we specify the essential behaviors—the dynamic aspect—using rewrite rules. In particular, modeling of *instantaneous behaviors* would be explained in Sections IV-C, IV-D and IV-E, followed by *timed behaviors* in Section IV-F.

A. Basic Data Types

In our model, tasks are identified by their indexes of sort Nat in the taskList. We define a sort MaybeNat wrapping Nats to refer to some task, with constructor some followed by a Nat n indicating the task indexed n, and none for no task:

```
op none : -> MaybeNat [ctor] .
op some_ : Nat -> MaybeNat [ctor] .
```

where the keyword ctor denotes the corresponding function symbol to be a constructor.

A sort Stack is introduced to model the stack of the system, storing the tasks that are being interrupted, and equipped with operations push, pop and peek on it.

We also need a sort Counter to record the execution of tasks. We call *execution time* the time how long a task has been executing for. A Counter records the execution time and the computation requirement of a task.

The global variable timer is reset when it reaches an upper bound while increasing, which is not shown in detail in Figure 1 but is reasonable. The upper bound is the least common multiple of the periods of all tasks. A sort Timer is defined to model the timer.

B. Modeling the System States

The system can be considered as consisting of several parts: the tasks which are scheduled, the scheduler itself, the hardware including registers and stacks, and the interrupt source. The scheduler, i.e. the function schedule(), can be described by a single variable timer. We present the models of the other parts one by one.

1) Tasks: Each task is abstracted from its functionality as a Counter. Overhead for scheduling and switching is considered in our model. They are treated as two system tasks. Every task is modeled as an object instance of some subclass of the base class Task:

```
class Task | cnt : Counter .
op error : -> Object [ctor] .
```

where error is an object indicating some task that misses its deadline.

A periodic task, which needs to be scheduled, is an object instance of the subclass PTask of Task with additional attributes priority, period and status:

where Status is a sort with four constant constructors RUNNING, INTERRUPT, READY and DORMANT, same as in the implementation.

The list of periodic tasks, the variable taskList in the implementation, is modeled as an instance of sort TaskList, which is a list of PTasks and/or errors. Periodic tasks are identified by their indexes in the list.

On the other hand, a system task is an object instance of the subclass SysTask of Task with no extra attributes:

```
class SysTask | .
subclass SysTask < Task .</pre>
```

Different from periodic tasks, system tasks are organized in a multiset of sort SysTasks, and identified by their Oids.

2) *Hardware:* Our model considers two parts of hardware related to the interrupt handling mechanism: the registers and the stack.

The set of registers is modeled as an object instance of the class Regs, with attributes pc denoting the program counter,

mask for the interrupt mask bit and ir for the interrupt request bit, respectively:

where the sort TaskID contains subsorts MaybeNat and Oid, referring to some task. Some operations, such as getPc and setMask, are defined on the class Regs.

Then the hardware is described by the sort Hardware consisting of an instance of Regs and a term of sort Stack.

3) Interrupt Source: The interrupt source is modeled as an object of class IntSrc, with attributes cycle denoting the interrupt cycle T, and val for the value which will decrease from T to 0 while time advances:

```
class IntSrc | val : Time, cycle : Time .
```

4) System: The entire system in our model is a composition of the parts introduced above, of a sort System²:

where "~>" means that the function defined is a partial function and the keyword mb declares a membership axiom, stating here that a term composed of a TaskList, a Timer, a SysTasks, a Hardware and an object instance of class IntSrc is of sort System.

C. Interrupt Requests

Interrupt requests are performed by the source exactly every cycle T, when the attribute val decreases to zero. The requesting is an instantaneous action, thus is modeled by the following instantaneous conditional rule applied on System:

```
crl [interrupt-request] :
   (L T STS HW ISRC)
   => (L T STS (HW).intReq reset(ISRC))
   if (ISRC).timeout .
```

where the function _.timeout examines whether the attribute val equals zero, and _.intReq sets the ir bit indicating there exists an interrupt request to be handled.

Then the request will wait to be handled, which is explained in Section IV-E.

D. Task Initiation

Periodic tasks are initiated sequentially by the function updateStatus() in Figure 1, which is treated as an instantaneous action in our model. It is modeled by a recursive function updateStatus_with_:

which applies function update_with_ on individual task sequentially to update the status (Lines 21-30 in Figure 1):

²Following the Maude convention, variables would be written in capital letters. Some variable declarations are not shown for simplicity.

```
else error fi
  if TIMER rem T == 0 .
eq update < O : PTask | status : ST >
    with TIMER
= if ST == RUNNING
    then < O : PTask | status : INTERRUPT >
    else < O : PTask |> fi [otherwise] .
```

with TIMER the current value of the global variable timer. Given a task, if TIMER(timer) can be divided by its period T, this task should be initiated. In the case where the task should be initiated, it is set READY if its status is DORMANT; otherwise that means the previous job of this task is not complete, hence it misses its deadline, producing an error. In the other case where the task should not be initiated, its status changes only if it is RUNNING.

We can see that updateStatus_with_behaves the same as updateStatus() in Figure 1.

E. Interrupt Handling and Task Scheduling

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When an interrupt request occurs, it may not be detected immediately by the system. It requires the bit mask to be cleared. Once the request is detected, it is handled in two steps: the interrupt handling mechanism of the hardware (such as clearing ir, pushing context into stack and so on), and to invoke the function schedule(). This behavior is modeled by the following instantaneous rewrite rule:

```
crl [interrupt-handle] :
   SYSTEM
   => ((SYSTEM).interrupt).startScheduling
   if (SYSTEM).existInt .
```

where _.existInt checks whether mask is cleared and ir is set. The function _.interrupt models the interrupt handling mechanism performed by the hardware and does four things: (i) clearing the bit ir, which means the request has been handled; (ii) pushing the current pc into the stack, storing the interrupted context; (iii) assigning scheduling of sort Oid to pc, which indicates that the system is scheduling; and (iv) setting the bit mask, to mask coming interrupt requests.

Unlike periodic tasks, even though the scheduling stage is modeled by a Counter, its functionality is too important to be abandoned. We divide the behaviors of scheduling into three parts. The first part contains its timed behaviors. This part is modeled by regarding scheduling as a system task of sort SysTask. Modeling timed behaviors of tasks is explained in Section IV-F. The other two parts together define its functionality. The second part corresponds to Lines 3-4 in Figure 1. It updates the status of taskList and increases timer by 1. This part is modeled by function _.startScheduling which applies instantaneously at the beginning of scheduling, as shown in rule interrupt-handle:

```
op _.startScheduling : System -> System .
eq (L T STS HW ISRC).startScheduling
= ((updateStatus L with T)
        inc(T) STS HW ISRC) .
```

The third part corresponds to Lines 6-11, searching the first should-be-run periodic task and setting it to execute. It is modeled by function _.finishScheduling, which applies instantaneously at the end of scheduling:

```
op _.finishScheduling : System -> System .
eq (L T STS HW ISRC).finishScheduling
= (L T (finish scheduling in STS)
```

```
HW ISRC).run1stTask .
```

where finish_in_ resets the counter of task scheduling, and _.run1stTask models Lines 6-11 in Figure 1, searching the task with highest priority that has status INTERRUPT or READY then performing an *interrupt return* or executing it, respectively.

When the execution time of the system task scheduling reaches its computation requirement, scheduling is finished. We model this instantaneous action with the following rule:

```
crl [scheduling-finish] :
   (L T STS HW ISRC)
   => (SYSTEM).finishScheduling
   if SYSTEM := (L T STS HW ISRC)
      /\ (SYSTEM).running == scheduling
      /\ scheduling isComplete?in STS .
```

where function _.running returns the current pc value of the system, and _isComplete?in_ checks whether the execution time of the task reaches its computation requirement.

Similar to scheduling, the switching stage is also divided into timed behaviors of switching and its functionality. switching starts when the running periodic task is complete, and finishes when itself is so. Two similar instantaneous rules switching-start and switching-finish are defined to model the functionality of switching.

F. Timed Behaviors of the System

Timed behaviors of the system consist of two parts: the execution of tasks and the execution of the interrupt source. Both are modeled together by the following single *standard* tick rule³ [29]:

```
crl [tick]:
   {SYSTEM} => {delta(SYSTEM, R)} in time R
   if R le mte(SYSTEM) [nonexec] .
```

where delta defines the effects of time elapse on the system, and mte denotes the maximum amount of time allowed to elapse from the current state until an instantaneous transition must be performed. In fact, the core to model timed behaviors is to define functions delta and mte. Notice that the variable R is continuous with respect to the specific time domain⁴ that we choose to instantiate our model on, which is different from timed automata that discretize dense time by defining "clock region".

Time affects the system by advancing both the running task whose ID is loaded at pc and the interrupt source simultaneously. While time elapses, cnt of the former increases and val of the latter decreases, respectively:

where the last condition states that ID is of sort MaybeNat. Due to similarity, we omit details for the case where ID is of sort Oid and deltaTask applies on STS instead of L.

³The keyword nonexec should be given to allow the Real-Time Maude engine to apply the rule with some strategies.

⁴Real-Time Maude contains built-in modules to define the time domain to be natural numbers and rational numbers, specifying *discrete* time domains and *dense* time domains, respectively.

mte, the maximum amount of time allowed to elapse, depends on when the next instantaneous action must perform. Therefore, it is decided by three arguments: the remaining time to complete the running task, the remaining time to request the next interrupt, and whether or not there exists an interrupt request detected for the moment:

where mteIr returns zero if there exists an interrupt request detected in the system, or INF which represents *infinity* otherwise. Again we do not show the case where ID is of sort Oid, which is very similar.

V. FORMAL VERIFICATION

In this section, we analyze our model of the RMS implementation within different realistic scenarios. Notice that from any (reasonable) given initial state, the number of reachable states is finite, but may be unknown, thanks to the upper bound given to *timer*, which provides the potential for applying the untimed model checker.

A. Properties

We consider two properties in this paper: schedulability and correctness. By schedulability, we examine whether a given task set is schedulable by the implementation. By correctness, we verify whether the implementation schedules periodic tasks exactly with respect to the RMS algorithm.

To verify the schedulability of a given set of periodic tasks, we define an atomic proposition taskTimeout to hold if there exists an error in taskList of the current state, that is, some task misses its deadline:

where containError returns true if there is an error existing in L. Then schedulability can be formalized as the temporal logic formula: [](~taskTimeout), expressing that the proposition taskTimeout is always false. As the property is not *clock-related*, given an initial state init, the following untimed model checking command returns true if the schedulability property holds with no time limit; otherwise a trace showing a counterexample is provided:

```
(mc init |=u [](~taskTimeout) .)
```

Another important objective is to verify the correctness of the implementation. The atomic proposition correct is hence defined to hold if the running periodic task is the one requested to be executed with the highest priority:

where shouldRun (ID, L) returns true if the task identified by ID, probably none, is the one possessing the highest priority among those whose status is not DORMANT. Note that during verification, we do not care the behaviors after some task misses its deadline. Therefore, the correctness property is formalized by the temporal logic formula:

([]correct)\/(correct U taskTimeout), stating that correct is always true, or is true until taskTimeout holds. It can be verified by the following untimed model checking command provided an initial state init:

B. Scenarios

We use the following setting for our verification, which is from the statistics provided by our industrial partner:

- The interrupt cycle T is 5ms.
- The scheduling time is $38\mu s$ and the switching time is $20\mu s$.
- The initial state is with empty stack, empty pc, cleared mask and cleared ir.

We have analyzed our model in ten different scenarios, including both realistic ones provided by our industrial partner and experimental ones designed by ourselves, four of them are described below:

- Scenario (i) with two tasks τ_1 and τ_2 : $T_1 = 5ms$, $C_1 = 3ms$, $T_2 = 25ms$ and $C_2 = 7ms$.
- Scenario (ii) with two tasks τ_1 and τ_2 : $T_1=5ms$, $C_1=2ms$, $T_2=25ms$ and $C_2=2.3ms$.
- Scenario (iii) with three tasks τ_1 , τ_2 and τ_3 : $T_1=5ms$, $C_1=2.7ms$, $T_2=10ms$, $C_2=2ms$, $T_3=25ms$ and $C_3=3ms$.
- Scenario (iv) with three tasks τ_1 , τ_2 and τ_3 : $T_1=5ms$, $C_1=2.5ms$, $T_2=10ms$, $C_2=1.5ms$, $T_3=15ms$ and $C_3=4.5ms$.

Note that thanks to the powerful expressiveness of Real-Time Maude, we only need to define an initial state of sort System to specify a given task set. No necessity to modify the model is needed.

Instantiating our model on dense time domain and choosing the *maximal time sampling strategy*, the results of the model checking show that the correctness property holds in all scenarios. As to the schedulability property, it holds in Scenarios (i-iii), but fails in Scenario (iv). One counterexample of the schedulability within Scenario (iv), returned by the model checking command, is pictured in Figure 3, where the third task τ_3 misses its deadline at the time 15ms.

The results above have demonstrated that our approach is capable of handling realistic industrial systems. However to further exam the efficiency of our approach, we also apply our method to larger test scenarios. Test scenarios are generated randomly. We verify the schedulability of them under the above setting on an Intel Core 2 Quad Q9550, 2.83GHz, 4cores machine with 8GB RAM running 64-bit Ubuntu 15.04. Among the 50 generated test scenarios with 5 tasks, we find that the execution time of the model checking command for each scenario varies from about 300ms up to a timeout, which is set to 90 minutes. This is because the efficiency of model checking depends on the scale of the state space. And the scale is further positively correlated with mn, where m is the upper bound of timer and n is the number of periodic tasks. By the generated test scenarios, it turns out that the model checking command for schedulability in our model is

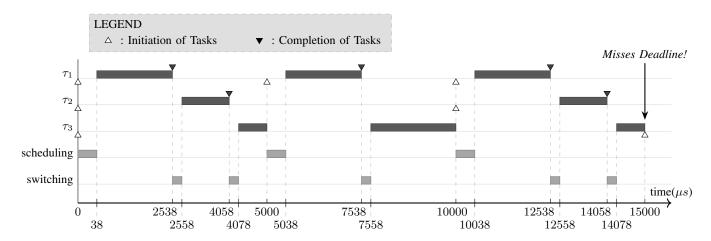


Fig. 3. A counterexample of schedulability in Scenario (iv). The first job instance of τ_3 misses its deadline at time 15ms, which is the initiation time for the second job instance of τ_3 .

able to handle scenarios, where mn is up to about 10^6 , in an acceptable period of time say 90 minutes.

C. Evaluation

We now show in this section that our results are both sound and complete.

An analysis method is called *sound* if any counterexample found using such a method is a real counterexample of the question, and *complete* if the fact that no counterexample can be found using such a method implies no counterexample exists for the question in analysis. The soundness of our results is trivial to check, simply by examining the counterexamples found. For instance, the counterexample shown in Figure 3 is a real counterexample, implying that the result for schedulability of Scenario (iv) is sound. But this is not the case for completeness, since we choose instantiating our model on dense time domain to make it more real but giving rise to an infinite state space which is unfeasible to exhaust.

In general, completeness of untimed model checking cannot be achieved for any systems, any time sampling strategies and any properties. However, Ölveczky and Meseguer proved the completeness of untimed temporal logic model checking, under the maximal time sampling strategy, for a large class of real-time systems possessing a set of "good" properties that is called *time-robustness*, and for a set of "good" LTL formulae constructed by *tick-invariant* propositions⁵ [29]:

Theorem 1 ([29]): Given a time-robust real-time rewrite theory \mathcal{R} , a set AP of tick-invariant atomic propositions, an LTL formula Φ (excluding the *next* operator \bigcirc) whose atomic propositions are contained in AP. The untimed temporal logic model checking verifying Φ is *complete* under the maximal time sampling strategy.

Therefore, we achieve the following theorem, showing that the results in Section V-B are complete.

Theorem 2: Our approach using untimed model checking to verify the schedulability and the correctness of our model is complete.

Proof: By showing that our model is time-robust and that the two defined atomic propositions—taskTimeout and correct—are tick-invariant, then using Theorem 1. For a more detailed proof, see the Appendix.

VI. RELATED WORK

In this section we discuss our results with related work in three directions.

Considering schedulability test, Liu and Layland [1] gave the famous sufficient condition that a set of periodic tasks is schedulable with respect to RMS if $\sum_{i=1}^{n} C_i/T_i \leq n(2^{1/n}-1)$ holds. Then a more sufficient condition, known as Hyperbolic Bound, which has the same complexity as Liu and Layland's, was proposed in [18]. On the other hand, necessary and sufficient conditions for schedulability were derived independently in [3] and [7], requiring more sophisticated analysis on the task set. Nevertheless, all these results take no overhead into account, being not as realistic as ours. Katcher et al. did consider overhead in their schedulability analysis, under several models based on different kinds of popular implementations [30]. However, our target implementation is not in their scope. Furthermore, compared with those theoretical analyses, our approach based on formal modeling and verification has three advantages. One is that if our schedulability test answers "no", it returns at the same time a real counterexample, which is able to guide our engineer to adjust the design, by changing either the priorities or even the scheduling algorithm. The second is that, when a fresh scheduling strategy is applied, our analysis can be adjusted only by modifying the model, while theoretical approaches may need thorough analyses and reasoning. The last one is that, considering overhead and details of hardware do introduce some kind of non-determinism into the model. For example, in our model, if the running task is complete right at the time when an interrupt request occurs, two different behaviors are possible: (i) the system performs task switching, during which the interrupt request is masked, hence the scheduling and initiation of tasks may be delayed; (ii) the system answers the interrupt request immediately, the switching being delayed. Tackling such non-determinism via theoretical analyses seems more complicated than our automatic approach.

⁵We avoid introducing the definitions of time-robustness and tick-invariance, due to the requirements of extra rewriting logic background.

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[25] and [24] also made use of model checking to analyze the RMS algorithm along the same line but with different languages and tools. The RMS algorithm is investigated using an extension of SPIN [31] in [25], while the logic programming language TMSVL [32] and its model checker are applied in [24]. The work presented in [25] and [24] has two main differences with ours. The first one, which is also the motivational one, is that they considered only the ideal setting of the algorithm as in [1], instead of an implementation which contains much more complex details. In fact, our model of the implementation can easily degenerate to a model of the RMS algorithm, if we let the times for scheduling and switching be zero. The other difference is that when adding a new task into the task set, the models in [25] and [24] should be modified by explicitly defining a sub-model of the new task and its behaviors. In particular, the scheduling part of the model in [25] needs adjustments as well to include a new task. Nevertheless, a new task set is specified in our approach merely by giving a new initial state, without necessity to modify the model, as already emphasized in Section V-B. On the other hand, [25] used a discrete time domain in the model, while we employ a generic time domain, which is flexible to be instantiated on either discrete or dense ones. In [24], the time domain is dense, and a modeling strategy like our maximal time sampling strategy is applied to reduce the state space. However, a completeness statement like Theorem 2 was not given in [24].

Finally, Maude and Real-Time Maude have been successfully applied on large numbers of applications [28], especially on communication protocols, real-time and cyber-physical systems. But few results are achieved on scheduling problems. RMS is investigated using Real-Time Maude for the first time.

VII. CONCLUSION

We have formally modeled a realistic implementation of RMS using Real-Time Maude, a modeling language based on rewriting logic. By taking into account the overhead of scheduling and switching, and by modeling some mechanism of the hardware, our model contains sufficient details to be analyzed for the behaviors of the real target system. Two important properties—schedulability and correctness—are verified by model checking on our model, within several key scenarios. We demonstrate the soundness and completeness of our results.

APPENDIX PROOF OF THEOREM 2

We show here a detailed proof of Theorem 2.

Some more preliminaries from [29] are needed. A term t is called *ground* if it contains no variables. For a set $P \subseteq AP$ of atomic propositions and ground terms t,t', we write $t \simeq_P t'$ (or $t \simeq t'$ for simplicity when P is implicit) if t and t' satisfy exactly the same set of propositions from P.

Time-robustness is a set of properties expected from a well-behaved real-time rewrite theory. We avoid introducing the accurate definition of time-robustness, but instead give the following lemma to prove time-robustness:

Lemma A.1 ([29]): Let \mathcal{R} be an object-oriented specification with a standard tick rule, and let the infinity element INF be

the only element in the time domain which is not a normal time value. Then \mathcal{R} is time-robust if the following conditions are satisfied for all appropriate ground terms t and r, r':

- (i) mte(delta(t,r)) = mte(t) monus r, for all $r \le mte(t)$, where monus is the built-in minus operation defined on sort Time;
- (ii) delta(t, 0) = t;
- (iii) delta(delta(t, r), r') = delta(t, r+r'), for $r+r' \leq mte(t)$;
- (iv) $mte(\sigma(l)) = 0$ for each ground instance $\sigma(l)$ of each left-hand side of an instantaneous rewrite rule.

Each one-step rewrite can be categorized and then tick-invariance can be defined:

Definition A.2 ([29]): A one-step rewrite $t \rightarrow_1^r t'$ using a tick rule and having duration r is:

- a maximal tick step, written $t \to_{max}^r t'$, if there is no time value r' > r such that $t \to_1^{r'} t''$ for some t'';
- an ∞ tick step, written $t \to_{\infty}^{r} t'$, if for each time value r' > 0, there is a tick rewrite step $t \to_{1}^{r'} t''$; and
- a non-maximal tick step if there is a maximal tick step $t \to_{max}^{r'} t''$ for r' > r.

Definition A.3 ([29]): A time-robust specification \mathcal{R} is *tick-invariant* with respect to a set P of propositions if and only if it is the case that $t \simeq_P t'$ holds for each non-maximal or ∞ tick step $t \to^r t'$.

The following lemma is needed to prove the tick-invariance of our defined propositions:

Lemma A.4 ([29]): Let $\mathcal R$ be a time-robust object-oriented specification with a standard tick rule, and let the infinity element INF be the only element in the time domain which is not a normal time value. Then $\mathcal R$ is tick-invariant with respect to a set P of atomic propositions if $\{t\} \simeq_P \{ \text{delta}(t,r) \}$ for all t,r with r < mte(t).

Several auxiliary lemmas are proved:

Lemma A.5: Given ID of sort MaybeNat and L of sort TaskList, mteTask(ID, deltaTask(ID, L, r)) = mteTask(ID, L) monus r for all $r \le$ mteTask(ID, L).

Proof: If ID = none, the case is trivial. By definition, mteTask (none, deltaTask (none, L, r) = mteTask (none, L) = INF = mteTask (none, L) monus r. Otherwise, ID = some N with N of sort Nat. Assume that the cnt of the Nth task in L is $\lfloor r_e/C \rfloor$. Then by definition, deltaTask (ID, L, r) = L', where the Nth task in L' has cnt value being $\lfloor (r_e+r)/C \rfloor$. Hence,

```
\begin{split} & \texttt{mteTask} \; (ID, \texttt{deltaTask} \; (ID, L, r) \; ) \\ &= \texttt{mteTask} \; (ID, L') \\ &= C \; \texttt{monus} \; (r_e + r) = (C \; \texttt{monus} \; r_e) \; \texttt{monus} \; r \\ &= \texttt{mteTask} \; (ID, L) \; \texttt{monus} \; r \; . \end{split}
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Lemma A.6: Given ISRC of class IntSrc representing an reasonable state of interrupt source in our model, mteIS(deltaIS(ISRC, r)) = mteIS(ISRC) monus r for all $r \leq$ mteIS(ISRC).

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Proof: A reasonable ISRC must be of the form $<\!O\!:\! \texttt{IntSrc|val}\!:\! v$, $\texttt{cycle}\!:\! T\!\!>\!$ with $v\leqslant T.$ Thus by definition,

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\begin{split} &\texttt{mteIS}\,(\texttt{deltaIS}\,(ISRC,r)\,)\\ &= \texttt{mteIS}\,(<\!O\!:\!\texttt{IntSrc}\,|\,\texttt{val}\!:\!(v\;\texttt{monus}\;r),\texttt{cycle}\!:\!T>)\\ &= v\;\texttt{monus}\;r = \texttt{mteIS}\,(ISRC)\;\texttt{monus}\;r\;. \end{split}
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Lemma A.7: Given HW of sort Hardware, for all $r \leq \max(HW)$, $\min(HW) = \min(HW)$ monus r.

Proof: It concludes by discussing on whether there exists an interrupt request detected in HW.

Now we can present the detailed proof of Theorem 2:

Proof of Theorem 2: We first prove the time-robustness of our model by Lemma A.1. Instantiated on the built-in dense time domain POSRAT-TIME-DOMAIN-WITH-INF, our model has INF as the only element which is not a normal time value. As presented in Section IV-F, only a single standard tick rule is defined. Hence our model is time-robust by Lemma A.1 provided conditions (i-iv) hold.

Condition (i). We must prove $\mathtt{mte}(\mathtt{delta}(s,r)) = \mathtt{mte}(s)$ monus r for all $r \leqslant \mathtt{mte}(s)$, with s being a system state of sort System. Let s be of the form $(L\ T\ STS\ HW\ ISRC)$ and ID = (HW).getPc. We only consider the case $ID::\mathtt{MaybeNat}$ in detail, while the other case $ID::\mathtt{Oid}$ is similar. By definitions of \mathtt{mte} and \mathtt{delta} ,

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 \begin{split} & \texttt{mte}\left(\texttt{delta}\left(s,r\right)\right) \\ &= \texttt{mte}\left(\texttt{deltaTask}\left(ID,L,r\right)\right. \\ & \quad T \; STS \; HW \; \texttt{deltaIS}\left(ISRC,r\right)\right) \\ &= \texttt{minimum}\left(\texttt{mteTask}\left(ID,\texttt{deltaTask}\left(ID,L,r\right)\right), \\ & \quad \texttt{mteIS}\left(\texttt{deltaIS}\left(ISRC,r\right)\right), \\ & \quad \texttt{mteIr}\left(HW\right)\right) \; . \end{split}
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By Lemmas A.5, A.6 and A.7, it can be further reduced:

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\begin{split} & \text{mte}\left(\text{delta}\left(s,r\right)\right) \\ &= \text{minimum}\left(\text{mteTask}\left(ID,L\right) \text{ monus } r \text{ ,} \\ & \text{mteIS}\left(ISRC\right) \text{ monus } r \text{ ,} \\ & \text{mteIr}\left(HW\right) \text{ monus } r \text{ )} \\ &= \text{minimum}\left(\text{mteTask}\left(ID,L\right), \\ & \text{mteIS}\left(ISRC\right), \\ & \text{mteIr}\left(HW\right) \right) \text{ monus } r \\ &= \text{mte}\left(s\right) \text{ monus } r \text{ .} \end{split}
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Condition (ii) follows from the fact that r+0=r and r monus 0=r for all r.

Condition (iii). We must prove delta (delta (s,r), r') = delta (s,r+r') for all $r+r' \leq \text{mte}(s)$, with s being a system state of sort System. Using the same notations as in (i), we only consider the case ID::MaybeNat in detail. By definition, the left side of the equation

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\begin{split} & \text{delta}\left(\text{delta}\left(s,r\right),r'\right) \\ &= \left(\text{deltaTask}\left(ID,\text{deltaTask}\left(ID,L,r\right),r'\right) \\ & \quad T \; STS \; HW \; \text{deltaIS}\left(\text{deltaIS}\left(ISRC,r\right),r'\right)\right) \; , \end{split}
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and the right side of the equation

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\begin{aligned} &\text{delta}(s,r+r') \\ &= (\text{deltaTask}\left(ID,L,r+r'\right) \\ &\quad T \; STS \; HW \; \text{deltaIS}\left(ISRC,r+r'\right)) \; . \end{aligned}
```

 $\begin{array}{lll} \operatorname{deltaTask}\left(ID,\operatorname{deltaTask}\left(ID,L,r\right),r'\right) &= \\ \operatorname{deltaTask}\left(ID,L,r+r'\right) & \operatorname{holds} & \operatorname{by} & \operatorname{the} & \operatorname{associativity} \\ \operatorname{of} &+, & \operatorname{while} & \operatorname{deltaIS}\left(\operatorname{deltaIS}\left(ISRC,r\right),r'\right) &= \\ \operatorname{deltaIS}\left(ISRC,r+r'\right) & \operatorname{holds} & \operatorname{since} & (v & \operatorname{monus} & r) \\ \operatorname{monus} & r' &= v & \operatorname{monus} & (r+r') & \operatorname{with} & v & \operatorname{of} & \operatorname{sort} & \operatorname{Time}. & \operatorname{Thus} \\ \operatorname{condition} & (\operatorname{iii}) & \operatorname{holds}. & \end{array}$

Condition (iv). We show that mte of each instance of the left-hand side of any instantaneous rule is 0. For example, considering the (conditional) rule interrupt-request, with its condition (ISRC).timeout, we know that the val of ISRC equals 0. Therefore,

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\begin{split} & \text{mte}\left(L \; T \; STS \; HW \; ISRC\right) \\ &= \text{minimum}\left(\text{mteTask}\left(ID,L\right)\right, \\ & \quad \text{mteIS}\left(ISRC\right), \text{mteIr}\left(HW\right)\right) \\ &= \text{minimum}\left(\text{mteTask}\left(ID,L\right), \; 0 \;, \text{mteIr}\left(HW\right)\right) \\ &= 0 \; . \end{split}
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The other rules can be similarly proved with their conditions. Hence our model is time-robust by Lemma A.1.

Finally we prove the tick-invariance of the propositions used to analyze our model, i.e. taskTimeout and correct. By Lemma A.4, we must prove $\{s\} \simeq_P \{ \text{delta}(s,r) \}$ with s of sort System and r < mte(s), that is, applying a tick rule advancing r time units will not change the value of each proposition. Let s be $(L\ T\ STS\ HW\ ISRC)$ and (HW). qetPc = ID.

- taskTimeout holds if and only if L contains an error. Since delta does not produce or eliminate error in L, taskTimeout holds in s if and only if taskTimeout holds in delta (s,r) for any r < mte(s), which means that our model is tick-invariant with respect to taskTimeout.
- The value of correct depends on ID and the status of each task in L. Similarly, delta does not change ID or the status of any task in L, hence correct holds in s if and only if correct holds in delta (s,r) for any r < mte(s). It concludes the tick-invariance of correct.

Therefore, by Theorem 1, our approach using untimed model checking to verify the schedulability and the correctness is complete.

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Responses to Reviews

Manuscript Number: 15-TIE-3480.R1

Manuscript Title: Formal Modeling and Verification of a

Rate-Monotonic Scheduling Implementation

with Real-Time Maude

Submitted to: Transactions on Industrial Electronics

Manuscript Type: Regular paper

1 General Response

We thank all the reviewers for their invaluable comments, which help us a lot in improving the paper.

According to the comments, we make several minor revisions, which are highlighted in the manuscript. And detailed responses to all the comments are shown in the rest of this document.

2 Responses to Reviewer 1

COMMENT:

I have read the revised version of the article. Overall, the authors did a very good job at addressing the reviewers' comments and I now consider the paper to be acceptable for publication.

The revised version of this paper has been improved following the suggestions given by the reviewers of the original submission:

- (1) Sections II.B and IV are improved to be more self-contained now.
- (2) A more detailed but simplified version of a proof of Theorem 2 is now included in an Appendix, and the authors refer the detailed proof to a non-anonymous technical report.

However, due to the importance of this theorem, I suggest to put the complete detailed proof in the printed version.

In summary, I am satisfied with the revisions made by the authors and consider that the paper can now be accepted for publication.

RESPONSE:

Thanks for your positive comments.

We agree that Theorem 2 is very important and that is also the reason we have carefully revised the proof and extended it to contain all necessary deduction steps. However, due to the space limit of TIE, we found it almost impossible to include the proof without comprising other important details of the paper. As a result, we have to put the detailed proof as a separate technical document.

3 Responses to Reviewer 2

3.1 General Comments

COMMENT:

My most important concerns have been addressed, so I think the paper is now in a shape acceptable for publication. I couldn't check the proof completely, but it appears sound.

The significance of the paper remains not very high, because the paper shows the proposed technique can be used in one particular case while it does not provide results of general validity.

Nevertheless, as I said in my previous review, I believe these initial results may be useful for readers, since there seem to be no other paper providing a similar detail level in the models.

RESPONSE:

Thank you very much for the approval.

3.2 Detailed Comments

COMMENT:

[Section II.B, page 2] left column, lines 37-38: What are u_j and v_j ? Are they terms too? This should be specified in the text.

RESPONSE:

Yes, they are terms as well. This is specified now.

COMMENT

[Section II.B, page 2] left column, lines 42-46: I guess s' is the destination state. This should be specified in the text. The sentence "IR and TR together..." should not be part of the item. It should go into a new paragraph after the list.

RESPONSE:

Yes, thank you for pointing this out. They are modified now.

COMMENT:

[Section II.B, page 2] right column, lines 22-24: As it seems the timed operators are not used, I suggest to avoid mentioning them. By the way, this mention without any other detail is useless.

RESPONSE:

Thanks for the suggestion. It is addressed now. Actually some of the timed operators are used in Section V.A when describing the properties we verify. We now only mention the necessary timed operators which will be used, and also add explanations when using them in Section V.A.

COMMENT:

[Page 4] line 45: Why is a period of sort Nat? Shouldn't it be Counter?

RESPONSE:

This is a good question!

In our model, a period is of sort Nat instead of Counter. A Counter is some kind of "dynamic". It is like a countdown timer to complete the execution of a task. However, a period is a "static" property of a task. Therefore, a period is modeled as a term of sort Nat instead of Counter.

On the other hand, a period can also be modeled as a Counter. Then it becomes a countdown timer to trigger an execution request of the task.

Both ways to model periods are feasible. We choose the former since its behaviors are more faithful to the real implementation we model and verify.

4 Responses to Reviewer 3

COMMENT

This paper has been revised according to reviewers comments and suggestions, I recommend to accept it for publication after minor revisions on possible typos, such as the word "monus" on page 9 and 10.

RESPONSE:

Thanks for your pros and carefully reading. However, "monus" is not a typo but the name of the built-in minus operation defined in Real-Time Maude (as explained in Lemma A.1). We have done proof checking again to avoid other typos.