
Introduction to Real-Time Systems

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What is Real-Time Computing ?

❑ Misconceptions

- Real-time computing is equivalent to fast computing
- The objective of real-time computing is to minimize the response time of a given set of tasks

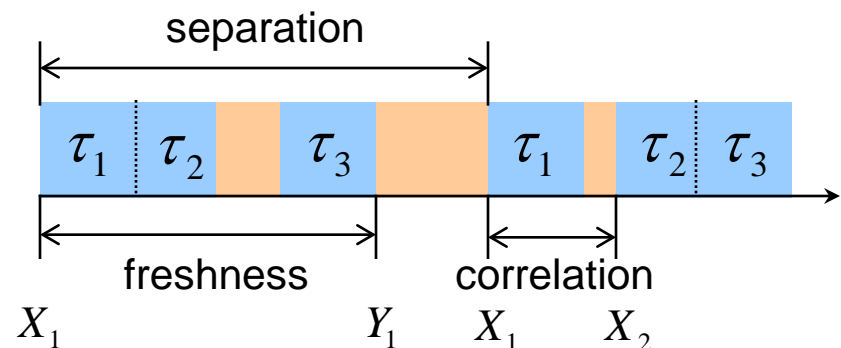
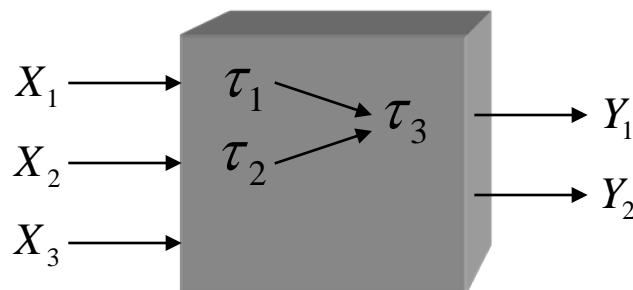
❑ Theoretical definition

- The correctness of computing depends not only on the correctness of its logical result but also on the result delivery time
- In addition, real-time computing must be predictable

Classification of Timing Requirements

□ Three types of timing requirements

- **Freshness -> deadline**
 - The time delay for data to flow through the system
- **Separation -> period**
 - The time interval between two consecutive activations (completions)
- **Correlation -> synchronization**
 - The time skew between several inputs to produce an output



Typical Real-Time Systems

❑ Automatic control systems -> deadline, period

❑ Such systems monitor and control their environment

❑ Inevitably associated with hardware devices

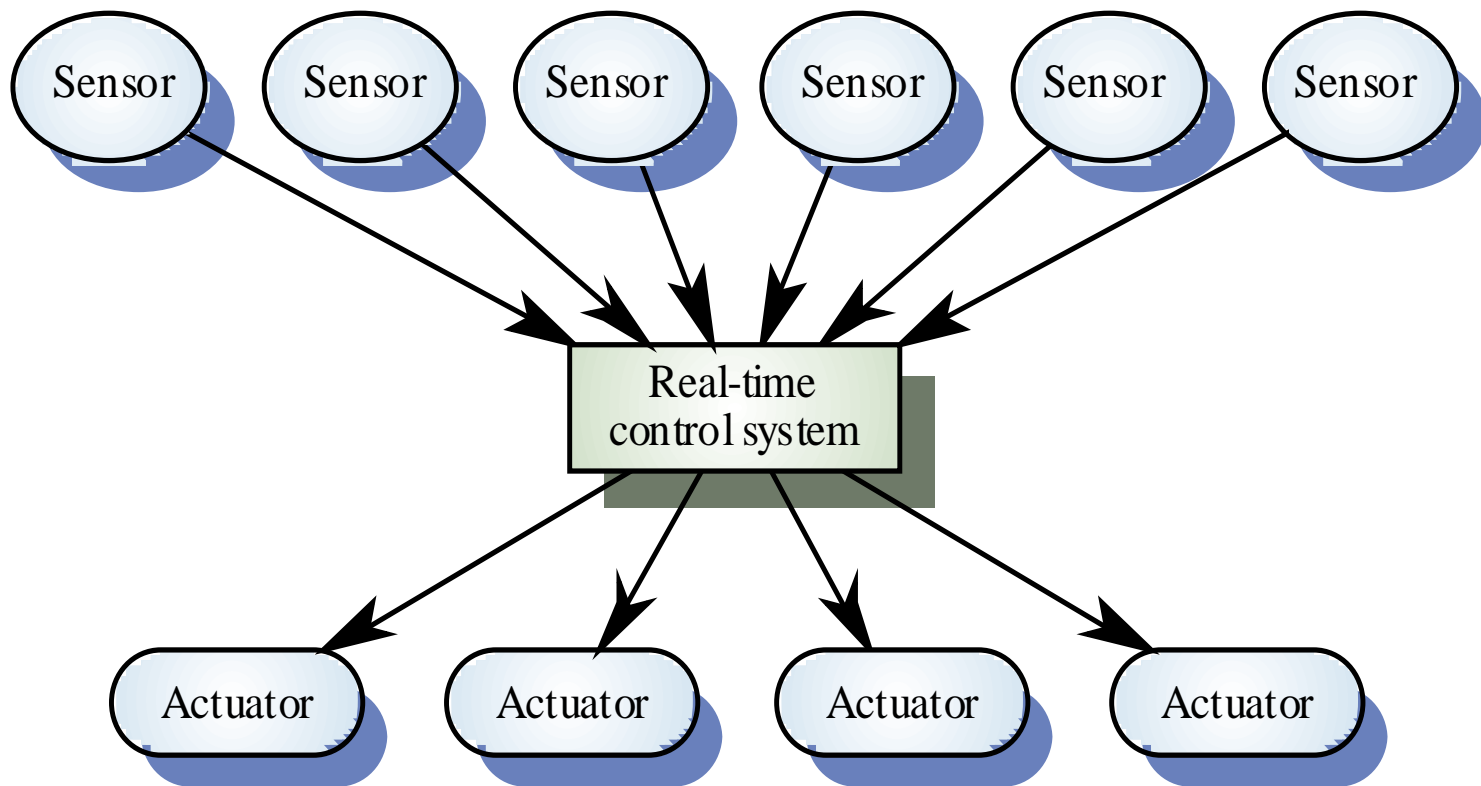
- Sensors: Collect data from the system environment
- Actuators: Change (in some way) the system's environment

❑ Time is critical

- Real-time systems **MUST** respond within specified times

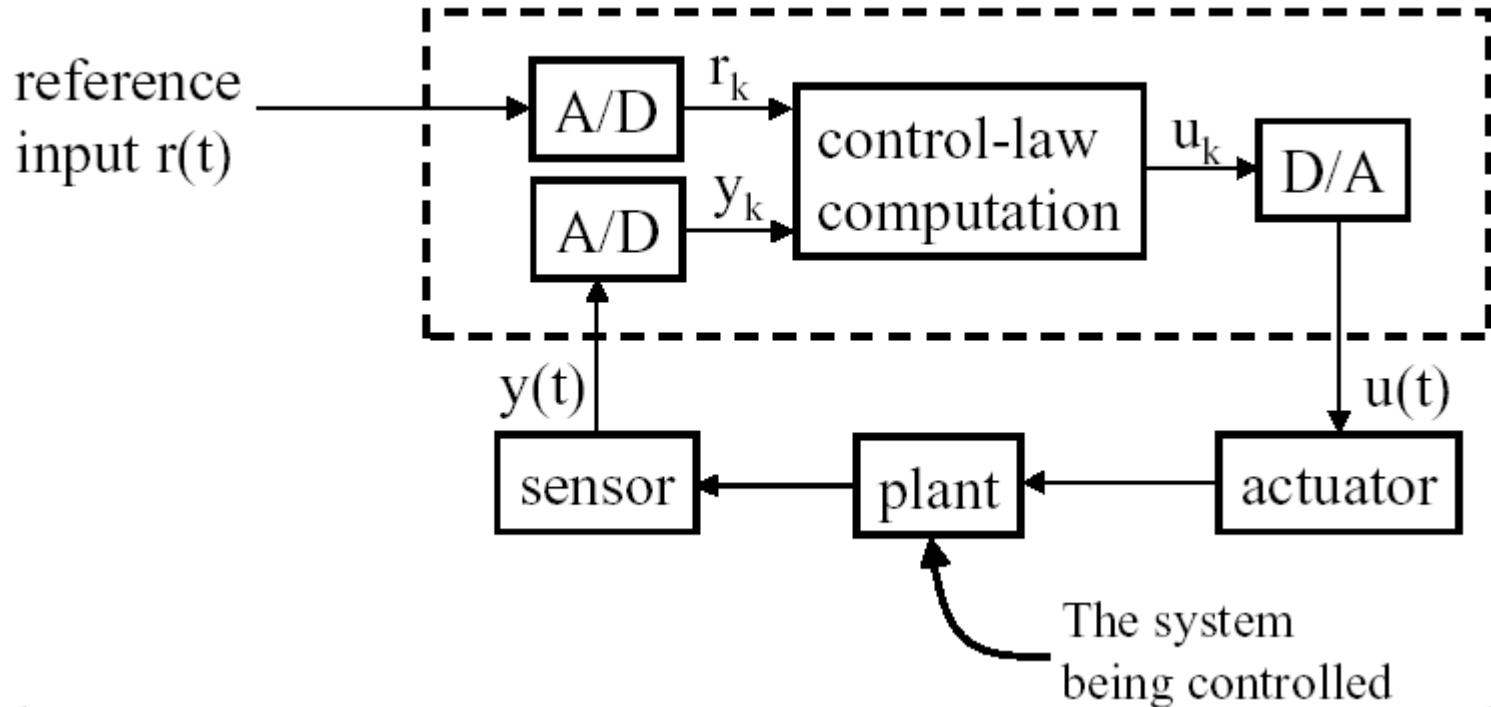


Real-Time Control System Structure



A Simple RT Control System Model

□ SISO (Single Input Single Output) control loop



Control Loop Implementation

❑ Pseudo code for the SISO control system

```
set timer to interrupt periodically with period  $T$ ;  
at each timer interrupt do  
    do analog-to-digital conversion to get  $y$ ;  
    compute control output  $u$ ;  
    output  $u$  and do digital-to-analog conversion;  
od
```

- **T (sampling period)**

- Design choice between a lower bound and an upper bound

❑ Timing requirements

- Control systems have periodicity requirements, and therefore deadline requirements to complete periodic jobs

Other Applications

❑ Air traffic and flight control

- Hierarchy model

❑ Other applications include

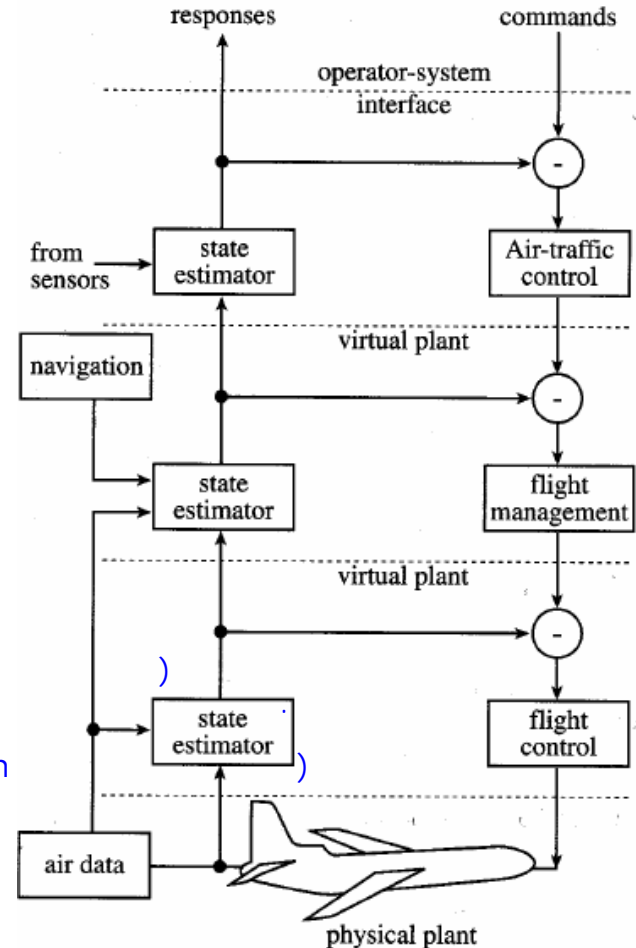
- Radar surveillance system
- Robot control system
- Cruise control system

1. requirement
real time
time req 가

2. design
behavior
(real time scheduling)

3. implementation
time analysis
1. (-> worst case)
2. binary (, cache miss & branch)

4. v&v(verification&validation)
time requirement



Hard and Soft Real-Time Systems

☐ Hard deadline

- A deadline miss results in a catastrophe
- Probabilistic perspective: deadline miss probability is zero

☐ Soft deadline

- Deadline misses are allowed, but degrades system performance
- Probabilistic perspective: deadline miss probability is small

☐ Firm deadline

- Completing a task after its deadline is not useful and may even be harmful

Hard and Soft Real-Time Systems

❑ Guaranteed service

- The user wants guarantees on services
- Hard real-time or soft real-time guarantees
- Hard real-time applications
 - Control systems
 - Database systems
- Soft real-time applications
 - Multimedia and network applications with service guarantees

❑ Best-effort service

- The system attempts to provide best services with no guarantees

RT Scheduling: RM (Rate Monotonic)

❑ Assumptions

- Processes have periods, worst-case execution times (WCETs), and deadlines

❑ Scheduling policy




- Give higher priorities to tasks with shorter periods
- Preemptive static priority scheduling

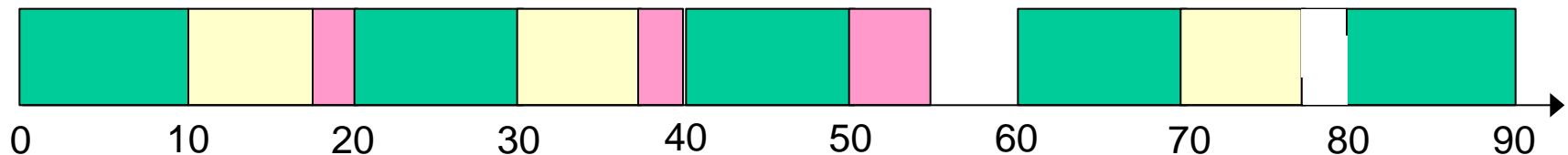
❑ Optimality

- If a feasible static priority assignment exists for some process set, the RM priority assignment is feasible for that process set

RT Scheduling: RM (Rate Monotonic)

□ Consider the following tasks

- Process X  : period = 20, WCET = 10, deadline = 20
- Process Y  : period = 30, WCET = 8, deadline = 30
- Process Z  : period = 40, WCET = 4, deadline = 40



□ Schedulability test

- CPU utilization: $U = \sum_{i=1}^m e_i / p_i$
- A set of m processes is schedulable if $U \leq m(2^{1/m} - 1)$
 - For large m , $m(2^{1/m} - 1) \approx \ln 2 \approx 0.69$

RT Scheduling: EDF (Earliest Deadline First)

❑ Scheduling policy

- Give higher priorities to tasks with earlier absolute deadlines
- Preemptive dynamic priority scheduling

❑ Optimality

- If a feasible dynamic priority assignment exists for some process set, the EDF priority assignment is feasible for that process set

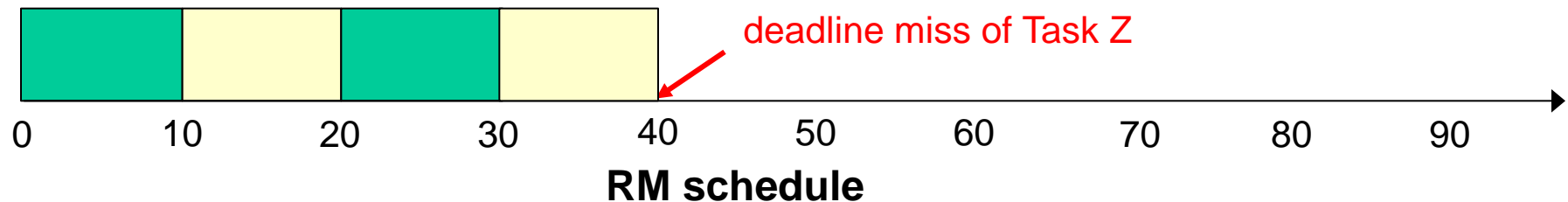
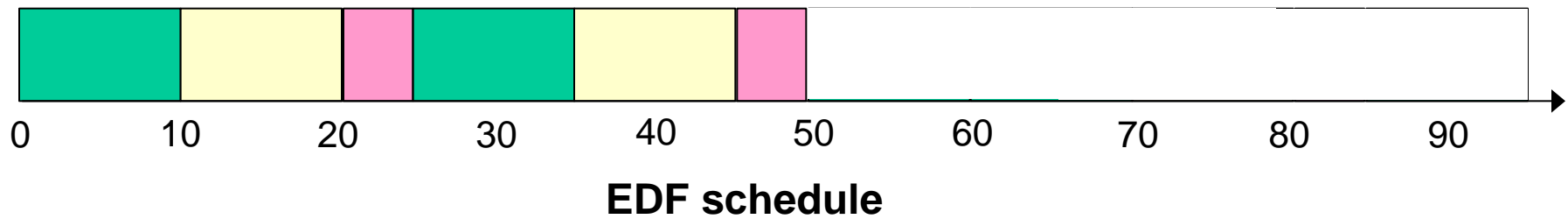
❑ Schedulability test

- A set of m processes is schedulable if and only if $U \leq 1$

RT Scheduling: EDF (Earliest Deadline First)

□ Consider the following tasks

- Process X: period = 20, WCET = 10, deadline = 20
- Process Y: period = 30, WCET = 10, deadline = 30
- Process Z: period = 40, WCET = 5, deadline = 40



Non-schedulable Behavior

□ Consider the following tasks

- Process X (green): period = 20, WCET = 10, deadline = 20
- Process Y (yellow): period = 30, WCET = 8, deadline = 30
- Process Z (pink): period = 40, WCET = 15, deadline = 40

