MOSIG PDES / Embedded Systems

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Verimag / Grenoble INP

2014-2015

Teachers and Organization

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Organization, Online Resources

A single place for all documents and slides:
`http://ensiwiki.ensimag.fr/index.php/`
`MOSIG_2_-_Option_DEMIPS_-_UE_Embedded_Systems`

Or, go to `http://ensiwiki.ensimag.fr/`, and search for DEMIPS.
The page of the course should appear in the list of documents found.

Or...

google "`maraninchi mosig`".

Books?

There's no book that could cover the full range of subjects we will be looking at during the course.
On Pascal's part (model-checking), there are books.
On Florence's part (general introduction and notions, definition of models and modeling embedded systems), there will be papers.

VERIMAG Lab

`www-verimag.imag.fr`

Embedded Systems
(Domain-Specific) Languages, validation methods (automatic test, formal verification), development methods, model-driven design, modeling, components, security, formal models, etc.

Application Domains: embedded control systems, systems-on-a-chip, sensor networks, distributed algorithms and systems, middleware, component-based systems, robotics, electronic voting, ...

CNRS Gold Medal 2014: Gérard Berry

`binaire.blog.lemonde.fr/2014/09/26/`
`gerard-berry-traqueur-de-bugs`

About synchronous languages, verification, and the impact on embedded system design.

Contents of the course (2014-2015 Edition)

- First part, course + work on research papers :
  - Characteristics and constraints of embedded systems
  - Formal models that can be used to represent the concurrent and timed aspects of embedded systems
  - Modeling principles (synchronous and asynchronous models, mixed models), how to use models
- Second part, course + practical activities :
  - Synchronous programming of embedded systems: a de facto standard
  - Principles and applications of model-checking

Prerequisites

- Programming with an imperative language (C, Java, Ada, ...)
- Parallel programming, at least one style (threads in Java, tasks in Ada, Unix processes in C...)
- Basic synchronous circuits,
- Operating systems,
- Low-level software,
- Automata and formal languages

Calendar

See webpage (ensiwiki)

Evaluation

- Pascal's part of the course contains practical exercises (P)
- There is a 3h written exam for the first session (E), about both Florence and Pascal's parts
- The mark for the first session is E, *modified by P*
- There is a 1h30 written exam for the second session (E'), on both parts
- The mark for the second session is E' (we forget about P)

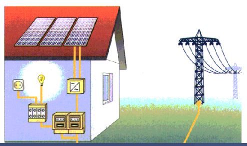
Part I

General Introduction to Embedded Systems: Characteristics and Constraints

Outline

Embedded Systems: Computer Systems in Everyday-Life Objects

- Smart buildings and Energy
- Trains, subways, cars ...
- Consumer electronics (phones, digital cameras, ...)
- Telecom equipments
- Smart cards
- Computer Assisted Surgery
- Avionics and space

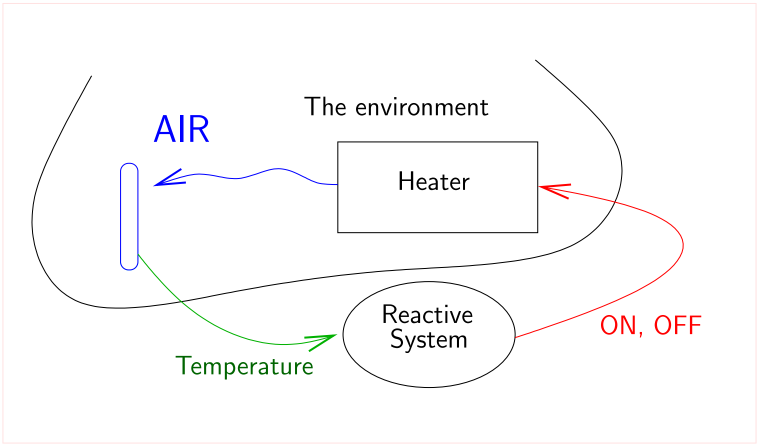


Ex 1: Embedded Control

In trains, cars, aircraft, space objects, nuclear power plants, ...
Systems: ABS, fly-by-wire, automatic flights, security control, ...

- The environment is a physical system, not a human being
- There are quite strong real-time constraints
- They are safety-critical systems
- The computer system is the implementation of a control engineering solution
- The computer system is reactive

Embedded Control - Reactive Systems



Embedded Control - Real-Time Systems

A typical real-time program:

```
initializations
while (true) {
      --- point (1)
      get inputs
          from the sensors
      compute outputs
          and update memory
      write outputs
          on the actuators
      --- point (2)
}
```

The time it takes to execute the code between points (1) and (2) defines the sampling period of the program. This is real time.

The outputs to the environment may have some influence on future inputs. This is reactivity.

Real-Time Programming Problems

- Write code that is sufficiently fast (you're not always allowed to answer: "*try a bigger machine*")
- Be able to tell how fast your program is, *in advance* (Worst-Case-Execution-Time static evaluation)
- It's not always possible to write single-loop code, because of the *intrinsic parallelism* of a reactive system.
  e.g., between two independent sensor-computing-actuator lines

Embedded Control - Safety

Criticity:
A fault is very "expensive"
(human lives, damage to the environment, ...).

HW Fault-tolerance:
Examples: several sensors of the same kind, plus a voter, several copies of the same code, running on several processors
SW Fault-tolerance:
Example: Several distinct versions developed independently from the same specification.

Embedded Control - Centralized or Distributed Systems?

Fact: centralized systems are far simpler than distributed ones.

But:

- Fault-tolerance forces distribution
- Physical position of sensors and computers also forces distribution
- Efficiency sometimes requires distribution

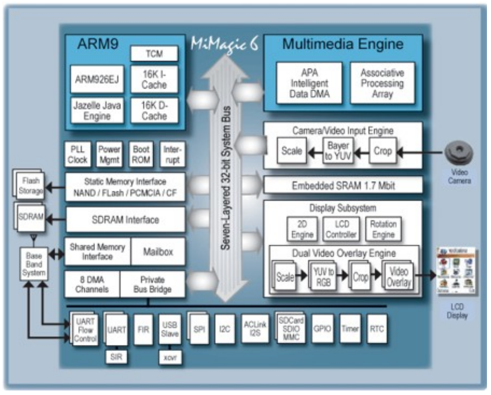
Another fact: distributed real-time programming is very hard.

Ex 2: Consumer Electronics

Digital cameras, set-top boxes, mobile phones, internet tablets, all kinds of portable devices...

- The environment is: a physical system (radio link) + a human being
- There are real-time constraints on the radio part
- They are business-critical systems
- The memory capacity and the processor speed are limited, the size is important, energy consumption is a very important constraint
- The hardware architecture is complex, and dedicated to the device (several processors, a DMA, a MPEG decoder, buses, radio components, ...) and the software is very hard to build.

Consumer Electronics - Systems-on-a-Chip



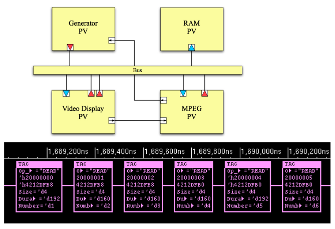
A complete computer system... on a single chip.
Several HW elements, embedded SW on the computing units, (RT)OS on some of the computing units, ...

Systems-on-a-Chip: SW Development on Virtual Prototypes of the HW

The SW developers should start developing SW for a particular HW platform, long before the circuit corresponding to this HW platform is available.

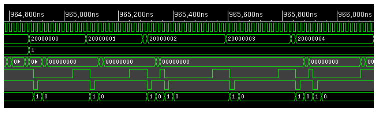
Solution: virtual prototyping = write a program (SW) able to simulate the behaviours of the HW platform, w.r.t. the SW.

Systems-on-a-Chip: Virtual Prototypes



TLM
+ Early Available
+ Fast Simulations
– Not synthesizable

RTL
Synthesizable+
Cycle and Data Accurate+
Slow Simulations–



Systems-on-a-Chip: Summary

(RTL = Register Transfer Level, TLM = Transaction-Level Modeling)

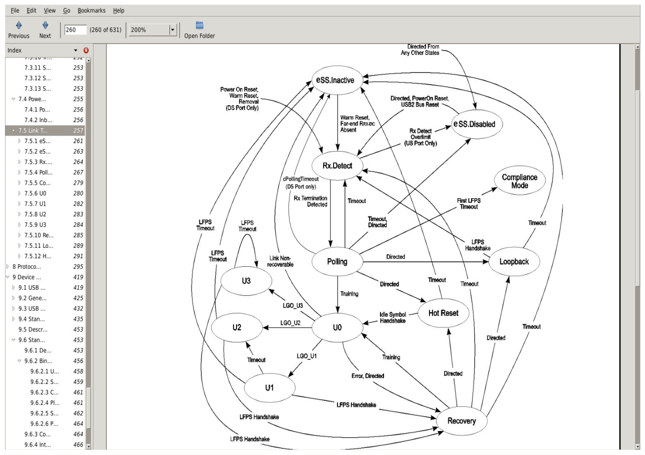
Main difficulties:

- Choose the right abstraction of the HW behavior
- Ensure that the SW developed on the virtual prototype will work, unchanged, on the real HW
- Define several abstractions, depending on the use (functional validation, timing performances, energy consumption, ...)

Example: HW and Drivers USB 3.0 Verification Techniques: Testing USB at the System Level

Recent announce for a seminar:
“As designer engineers work to integrate USB 3.0 into their devices, they will have to be cognizant of a number of complex issues. SuperSpeed links introduce 21 new state machines to USB operation - many of which rely on timers for entrance and exit. In addition, consumer devices often require seamless translation into other technologies such as, PCI Express, SATA, Fibre Channel and DDR3. And in mobile applications, vBUS power draw can limit the design’s performance.”

USB3 Specification, page 7-48



USB3 Specification, page 8-21

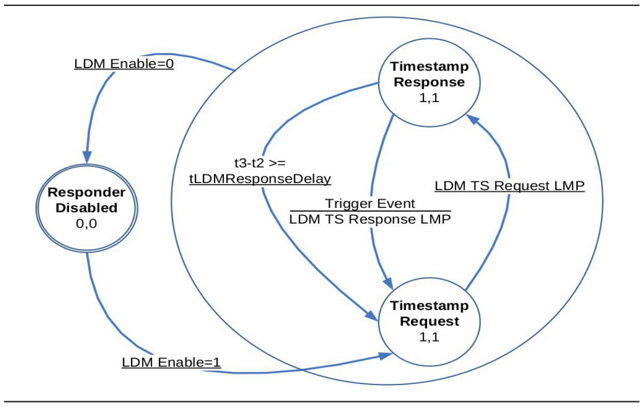
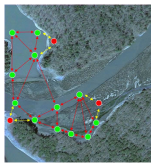
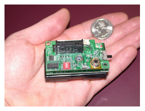


Figure 8-15. LDM Responder State Machine

Ex 3: Sensor Networks

Environment monitoring, logistics, ...



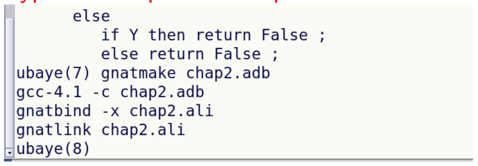


- The environment is: a physical system (radio link + physical inputs on the sensors)
- The memory capacity and the processor speed are very limited, energy consumption is THE key point
- The hardware architecture of a node is quite simple
- The software (MAC and routing protocols, application code) is crucial for energy consumption

The main problem is cross-layer design.

Transformational Systems

Typical example : a compiler



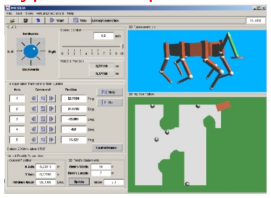
```
      else
         if Y then return False ;
         else return False ;
ubaye(7) gnatmake chap2.adb
gcc-4.1 -c chap2.adb
gnatbind -x chap2.ali
gnatlink chap2.ali
ubaye(8)
```

Inputs at the beginning, then some finite time computation, outputs at the end.

A transformational system has to terminate.

Interactive Systems

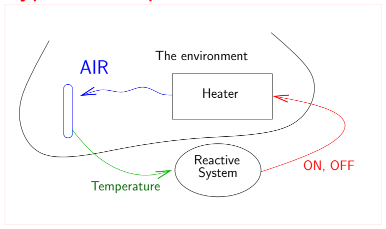
Typical example: a man-machine interface



loop-based behavior (does not necessarily terminate), where inputs come all the time (human actions on buttons, mouse, keyboard) and outputs are produced all the time also (changes of the interface, effects on the underlying computer system).

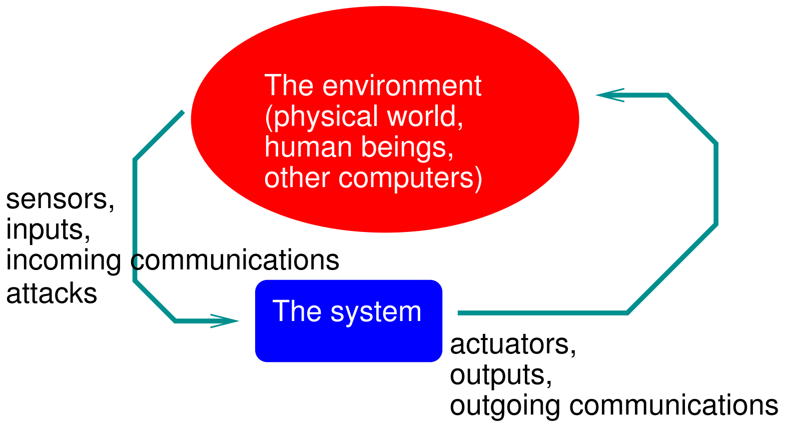
Reactive Systems

Typical example: a heater controller.



The same as interactive systems, but the speed of the interaction is driven by the (physical) environment. The computer system should be sufficiently fast in order not to miss relevant evolutions of the environment.

External View (1)


The environment (physical world, human beings, other computers)
sensors, inputs, incoming communications attacks
The system
actuators, outputs, outgoing communications

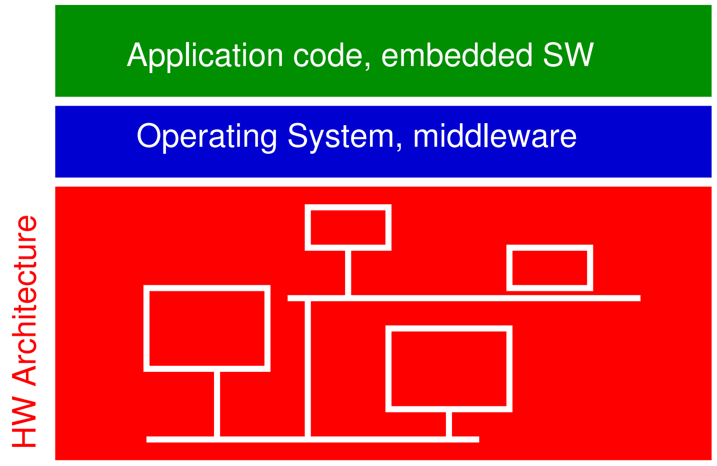
External View (2)

A Communicating Embedded Application is essentially reactive.

Externally observable properties:

- Correctness (functional property), or...
- ... Failure rate (functional property)
- Power consumption (non-functional property)
- Time (functional or non functional ?)
- Resistence to attacks (functional or non functional ?)

Internal View



Constraints

- (very) Scarce resources (memory, CPU, energy, ...)
- Real-time constraints and reactivity
- critical contexts of use (human lives, environment, business, ...) that imply strong and "in advance" validation methods for functional properties
- Importance of power Consumption and other extra-functional properties
- Fault-tolerance

Main Difficulties for the Design of Embedded Systems

- Real-time parallel and distributed programming (choice of a programming language?)
- Relation with control engineering
- Intricate dependency between HW, application SW, and OS or middleware
- Certification authorities
- Several degrees of dynamicity (from simple reconfigurations to mobile code...)

General-Purpose or Domain-Specific Languages?

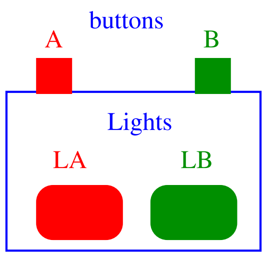
Ada, Java for real-time programming?

A DSL (Domain-Specific Language) may have specific operations dedicated to reading sensors, writing actuators, synchronizing on time, etc., but it also has less than general-purpose languages.

Example

A programming language for embedded systems should not allow to write programs for which the memory is not statically bounded (implies: no recursion, no dynamic allocation)

A Special Note on Parallel Systems (1)



Behavior to be programmed:
— Each time A is pressed, toggle light A
— Each time B is pressed, toggle light B

How to program such a system?

A Special Note on Parallel Systems (2)

```
StateA := OFF ;                StateB := OFF ;
while (true) {                 while (true) {
    read button A                  read button B
    if (buttonA) {                 if (buttonB) {
        StateA := not StateA ;         StateB := not StateB ;
    }                              }
    if (StateA) {                  if (StateB) {
        LightA.ON                      LightB.ON
    }                              }
    else {                         else {
        LightA.OFF                     LightB.OFF
    }}                             }}
```

This is a solution for (one button, one light). How to describe two of them in parallel?

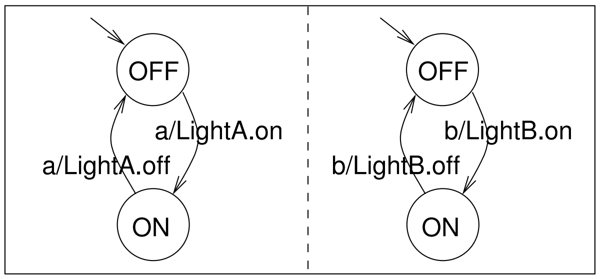
A Special Note on Parallel Systems (3)

```
StateB := OFF ; StateA := OFF ;
while (true) {
    read button B ; read button A ;
    if (buttonB) { StateB := not StateB ; }
    if (buttonA) { StateA := not StateA ; }
    if (StateB)  { LightB.ON } else { LightB.OFF }
    if (StateA)  { LightA.ON } else { LightA.OFF }
}
```

A solution with static scheduling: the code produced is sequential, but the high-level language may be parallel.

A Special Note on Parallel Systems (4)

A Solution in an Automaton-Based Language
(Statecharts, Argos, SCADE, EsterelStudio/SyncCharts, ...)

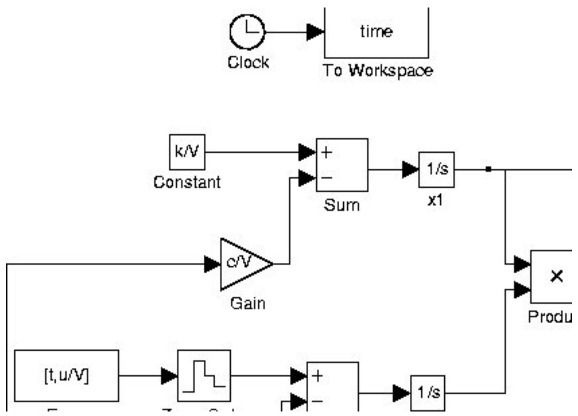


Validation and Certification

Validation:
Simulation, automatic testing, formal verification, ... are methods that help in analysing (functional) properties of a computer system before it is deployed.

Certification:
Examples: the DO178B norm for civil avionics, common criteria for smart cards, ...

A Simulink Diagram



Development from Simulink

- A continuous control problem and solution, including a model of the environment
- A discrete solution for the controller part
- An implementation. *Automatic code generation from Simulink?* or manual encoding, considering the diagrams as a detailed specification?

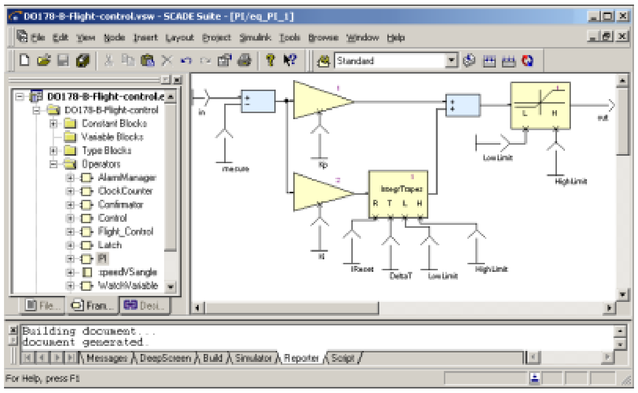
A complete chain from Simulink to embedded code is an instance of the general model-driven approaches.

Recommended readings - Lustre and SCADE

```
@article{ halbwachs91synchronous,
    author = "N. Halbwachs and P. Caspi and
              P. Raymond and D. Pilaud",
    title = "The synchronous data-flow
             programming language {LUSTRE}",
    journal = "Proceedings of the IEEE",
    volume = "79",
    number = "9",
    month = "September",
    year = "1991"}
```

www.esterel-technologies.com/about-us/scientific-historic-background

A Scade diagram

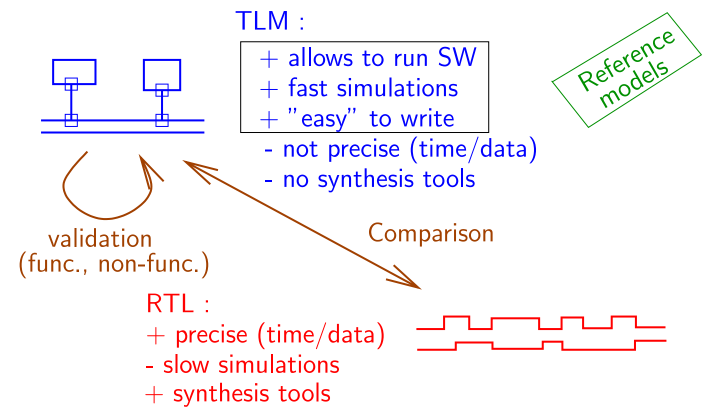


```
Building document...
document generated.
```

Main features

- A formal language
- *Powerful bi-directional interface to requirements management tools like DOORS.*
- KCG Code Generator qualification eliminates the need for low level testing.
- Verification tools
- Import and reuse of Simulink block diagrams and Stateflow diagrams into SCADE.

A new abstraction level: TLM, and SystemC



SystemC example

```
void module1::T1(){
 int a = 0;
 while(true){
  wait(e1);
  a++;e2.notify();
  a++;e3.notify();
}}
void module1::R1(){
 int b = 0;
 while(true){
   b++;wait(e2);
   b++;p2.f2(b);
}}
void module1::
          f1(int x){
  cout << x ;
  e1.notify();
  wait(e3);
}
```

```
void module2::T2(){
 int c;
 while(true){
   c++;  p1.f1(c);
   c++;  wait(e4);
 }
}

void module2::
          f2(int x){
   cout<< x ;
   e4.notify();
}
```

Summary: Programming or Modeling Languages

Software:
C, C++, SystemC, Java or RT Java, Ada, ...
Domain-Specific Languages (DSLs): Lustre/Scade, Simulink, ...

Hardware:
VHDL, Verilog, C, SystemC, ...

Summary: Criticity

Safety-critical systems (e.g., nuclear plants):
Design norms, certification authorities, ...

Business-critical systems (e.g., mobile phones):
Methods to shorten time-to-market (virtual prototyping)

Summary: Intrinsic Difficulties and Methods

Reactivity, distribution, real-time, fault-tolerance, ...

Use of "*models*"