

# Timed Actors and their Formal Verification

**Marjan Sirjani**

Professor in Software Engineering  
Mälardalen University, IDT  
Cyber-Physical Systems Analysis group

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**Acknowledgement:**  
All the Rebeca Team,  
specially  
Ehsan Khamespanah

# Timed Actors for Modeling and Analysis

I will talk about  
Modeling  
Analysis and Verification  
Applications

- Actors and Timed Rebeca
- Model Checking of Timed Rebeca and Reduction Techniques, different semantics for Timed Rebeca
- Different Projects

# Main messages of the talk

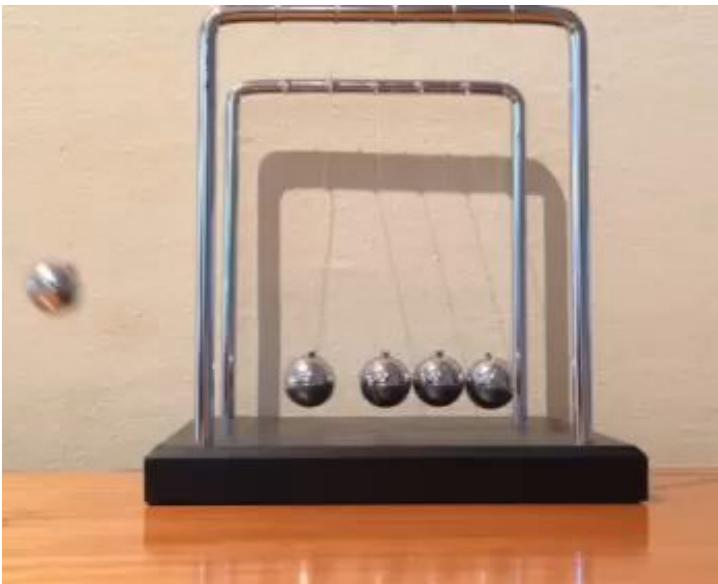
- The actor-based language, **Rebeca**, provides a **friendly** and **analyzable** model for distributed, concurrent, event-driven software systems and cyber-physical systems.
- **Floating Time Transition System** is a natural event-based semantics for timed actors, giving us a significant amount of **reduction in the state space**, using a non-trivial idea.

# Yet another model?

## Models vs. Reality

A model is any description of a system that is not the thing-in-itself.

The target:  
the thing  
being  
modeled



The model

$$x(t) = x(0) + \int_0^t v(\tau) d\tau$$
$$v(t) = v(0) + \frac{1}{m} \int_0^t F(\tau) d\tau,$$

In this example, the *modeling universe* is calculus and Newton's laws.

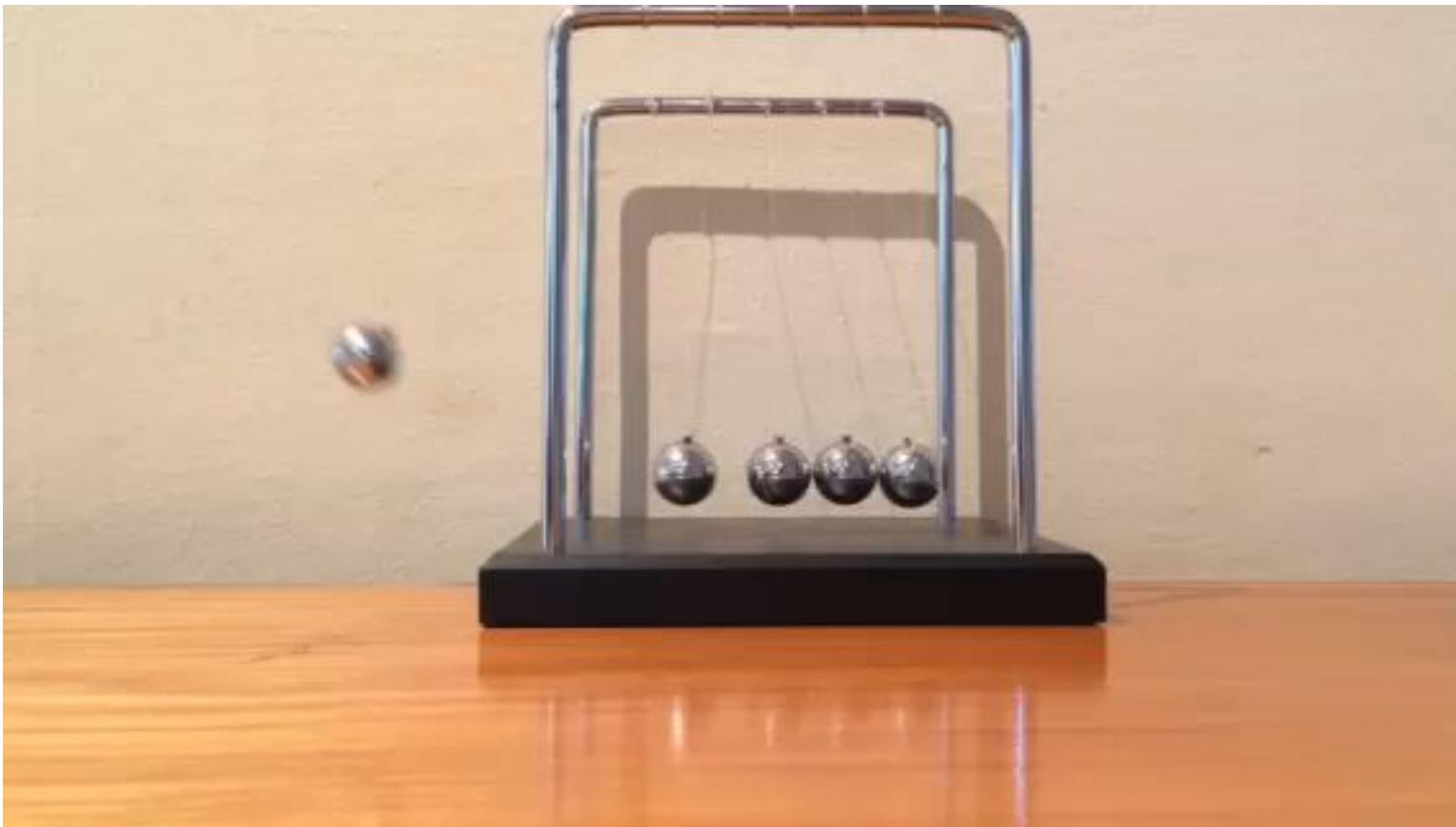
# Another Model



*Faithfulness* is how well the model and its target match

Image by Dominique Toussaint, GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or later.

# A Physical Realization



# The Value of Models

- In *science*, the value of a *model* lies in how well its behavior matches that of the physical system.
- In *engineering*, the value of the *physical system* lies in how well its behavior matches that of the model.

A scientist asks, “Can I make a model for this thing?”

An engineer asks, “Can I make a thing for this model?”

# Useful Models and Useful Things

To a *scientist*, the model is flawed.

To an *engineer*, the realization is flawed.

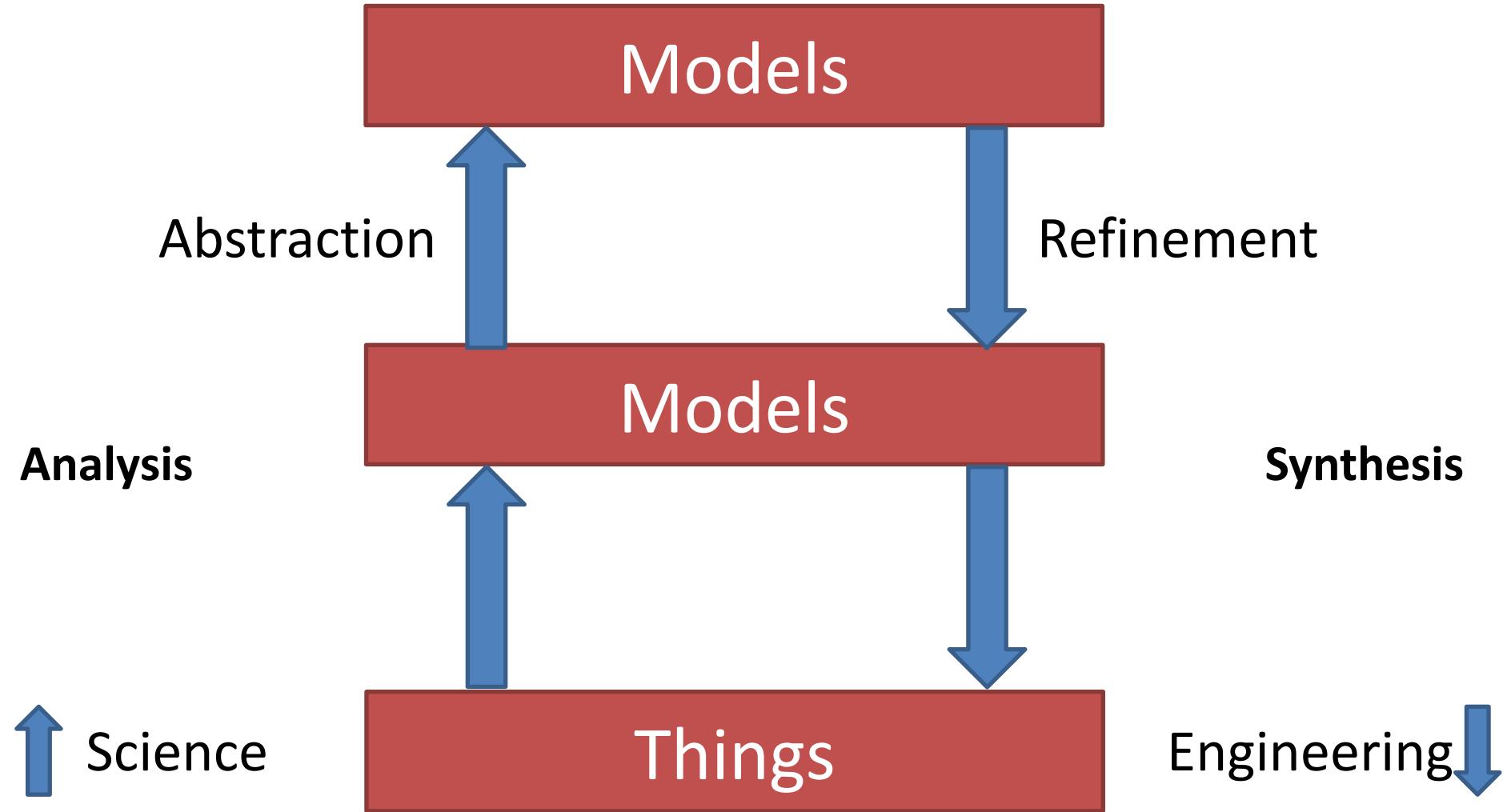
“Essentially, all models are wrong,  
but some are useful.”

Box, G. E. P. and N. R. Draper, 1987: *Empirical Model-Building and Response Surfaces*. Wiley Series in Probability and Statistics, Wiley.

“Essentially, all system implementations  
are wrong, but some are useful.”

Lee and Sirjani, “What good are models,” FACS 2018.

# Models and Models and Things



# Faithfulness

- Faithfulness of the *modeling language* is important
- Properties of the modeling language should reflect properties of the problem domain
  - A modeling language with encapsulation, discrete events, concurrency, and asynchronous interactions will make it easier to model distributed software systems.

# Power is Overrated, Go for Friendliness!

- Expressiveness versus Faithfulness and Usability in Modeling
  - Based on my experience with actors
- What is the Expressive Power of a language?
  - Generally defined as the breadth of ideas that can be represented and communicated in a language
  - Usually checked by mutually encoding the formalisms into each other

# Modeling

with my engineering hat on

## The Language, the Thing, the Modeler

- Expressiveness of the modeling *language*
- Faithfulness of the “modeling language” or “the model” to the *thing*
- Usability of the modeling language for the *modeler*



# Friendly Models: Faithful and Usable

- Friendly to the system we want to build: **Faithfulness**
- Friendly to the user who builds the system: **Usability**
  
- The Map you use has to show the roads correctly, and also be easily readable.

Compare Google map and Apple map

# Faithfulness

- Less semantic gap between the real world and the model
- The structures and features supported by the modeling language match the constructs of interest in the system being modeled
- Faithfulness: Leads to Domain-specific Modeling Languages
- Faithfulness is also defined as: The degree of detail incorporated in the model (but this is not my definition)

# Model of Computation and Faithfulness

- MoC: a collection of rules
  - govern the execution of the [concurrent] components and
  - the communication between components
- We say a modeling language is faithful to a system if the model of computation supported by the language matches the model of computation of [the features of interest of] the system.

# Different approaches for Modeling and Verification

Abstract

Mathematical

## Modeling languages

CCS      CSP

Petri net  
RML

Timed Automata

FDR

UPPAAL

NuSMV

Spin

SMV

Promela

## Verification Techniques:

- Deduction  
needs high expertise
- Model checking  
causes state explosion

Too heavy  
Not  
always

## Programming languages

Java

C

Bandera

SLAM

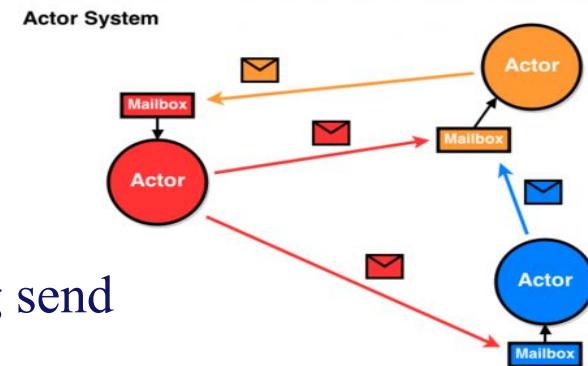
Java PathFinder

# Our choice for modeling: Actors

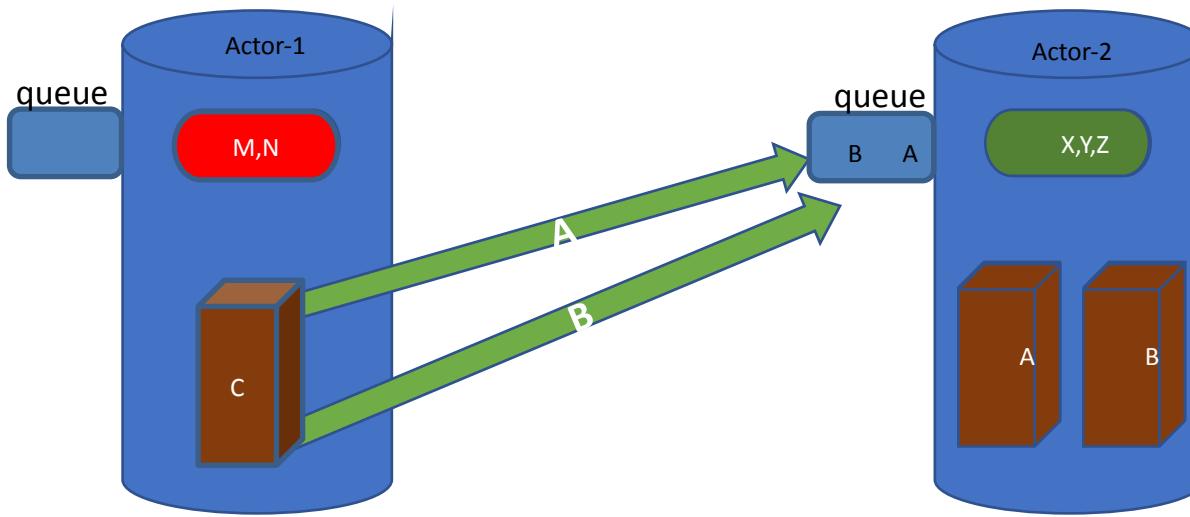
- A reference model for concurrent computation
  - Consisting of concurrent, distributed active objects
- 
- Proposed by Hewitt as an agent-based language (MIT, 1971)
  - Developed by Agha as a concurrent object-based language (Illinois, since 1984)
  - Formalized by Talcott (with Agha, Mason and Smith): Towards a Theory of Actor Computation (CONCUR 1992)

# Rebeca: The Modeling Language Asynchronous and Event-driven

- **Rebeca: Reactive object language** (**Sirjani, Movaghari, Presented at AVoCS 2001**)
  - Based on Hewitt actors
  - Concurrent reactive objects (OO)
  - Java like syntax
- Communication:
  - Asynchronous message passing: non-blocking send
  - Unbounded message queue for each rebec
  - No explicit receive
- Computation:
  - Take a message from top of the queue and execute it
  - Event-driven



# Rebeca - Behavior



**An actor:**

- A message queue
- Message servers
- State Variable

# Rebeca - Structure

**A Rebeca model consists of:**

- reactive classes and their behavior definition
- instantiations of rebecs (reactive objects) to run in parallel

A reactive class is made of three parts:

1. known rebecs (other rebecs to whom messages can be sent),
2. state variables (like attributes in object-oriented languages),
3. message server (defining the behavior of the actor like methods).

<http://www.rebeca-lang.org/>

# Rebeca Modeling Language

Actor-based Language with Formal Foundation



Language with a formal foundation, designed in an effort to bridge the gap between theory and practice. It can be considered as a reference model for concurrent computation and provides a platform for developing object-based concurrent systems in practical applications.



Formal Semantics

Provides a formal semantics



Model Checking

Rebeca models can be directly modeled

```

Property

```

processes_count = processes_count - 1;
if ((processes_count == 0) && (arbiter.nextDelta() == 1)) {
    synchronizer.nextDelta();
}

```

Model checking result view

```

## Festschrift Papers:

- **Ten years of Analyzing Actors: Rebeca Experience (Sirjani, Jaghouri), Carolyn Talcott Festschrift, 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, LNCS 7000, 2011**
- **On Time Actors (Sirjani, Khamespanah), Theory and Practice of Formal Methods, Frank de Boer Festschrift, 2016**
- **Power is Overrated, Go for Friendliness! Expressiveness, Faithfulness and Usability in Modeling - The Actor Experience, Edward Lee Festschrift, 2017**

# Projects



## SEADA

In SEADA (Self-Adaptive Actors) we will use Ptolemy to represent the architecture, and extensions of Rebeca for modeling and verification. Our models@runtime will be coded in an extension of Probabilistic Timed Rebeca, and supporting tools for customized run-time formal verification



## RoboRebeca

RoboRebeca is a framework which provides facilities for developing safe/correct source codes for robotic applications. In RoboRebeca, models are developed using Rebeca family language and automatically transformed into ROS compatible source codes. This framework is



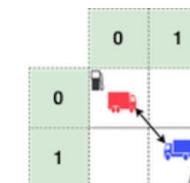
## HybridRebeca

Hybrid Rebeca, is an extension of actor-based language Rebeca, to support modeling of cyber-physical systems. In this extension, physical actors are introduced as new computational entities to encapsulate the physical behaviors. [Learn more](#)



## Tangramob

Tangramob offers an Agent-Based



## AdaptiveFlow

AdaptiveFlow is an actor-based eulerian



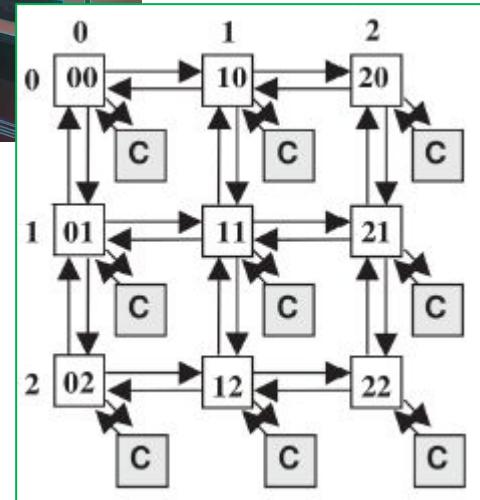
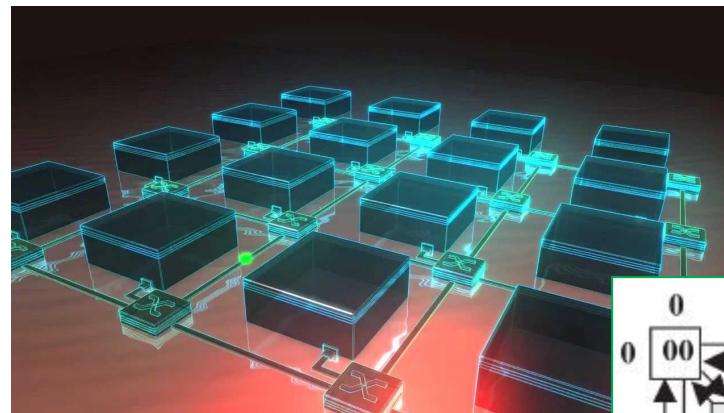
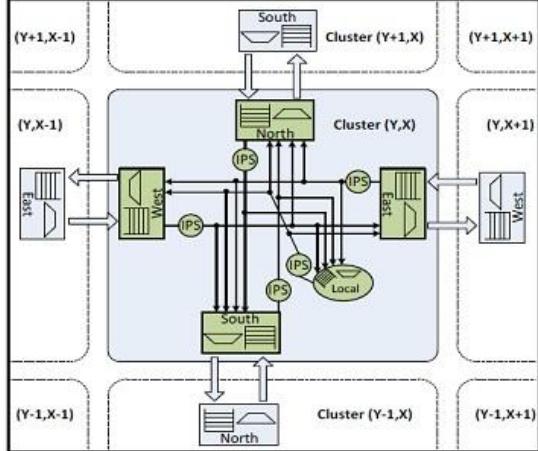
## wRebeca

wRebeca is an actor-based modeling

# Timed Rebeca

- An extension of Rebeca for real time systems modeling
  - Computation time (**delay**)
  - Message delivery time (**after**)
  - Periods of occurrence of events (**after**)
  - Message expiration (**deadline**)

# Timed Rebeca with an example: Network on Chip



## Exploring Design Decisions:

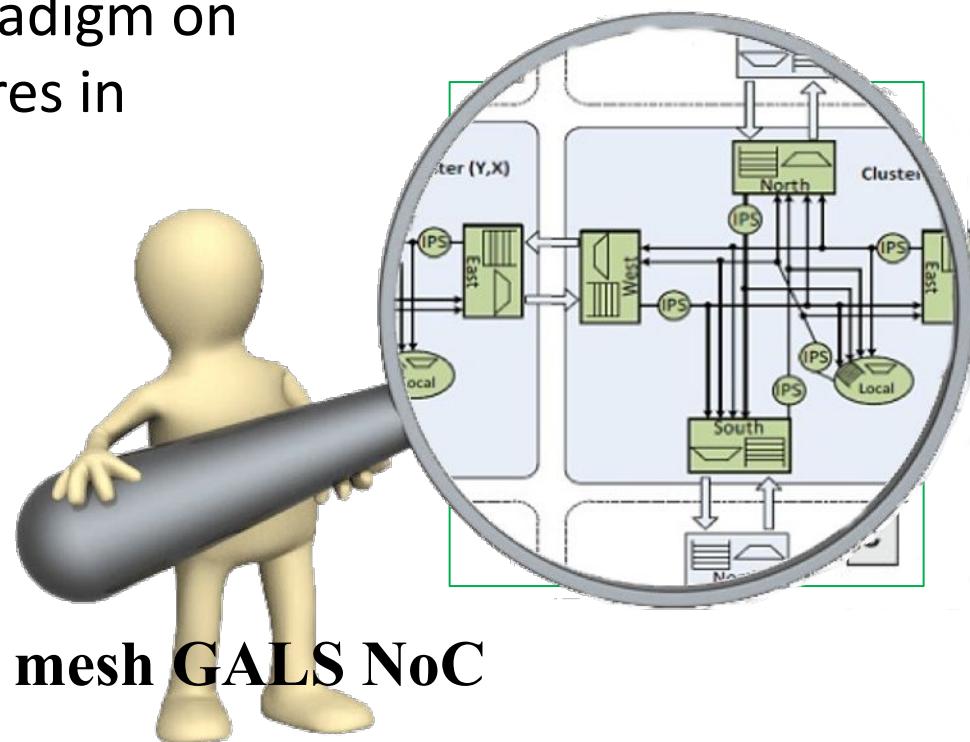
- Evaluating routing algorithms
- Buffer length
- Choose the best place for the memory

# Globally Asynchronous- Locally Synchronous NoC

NoC is a communication paradigm on a chip, typically between cores in a system on a chip (SoC).

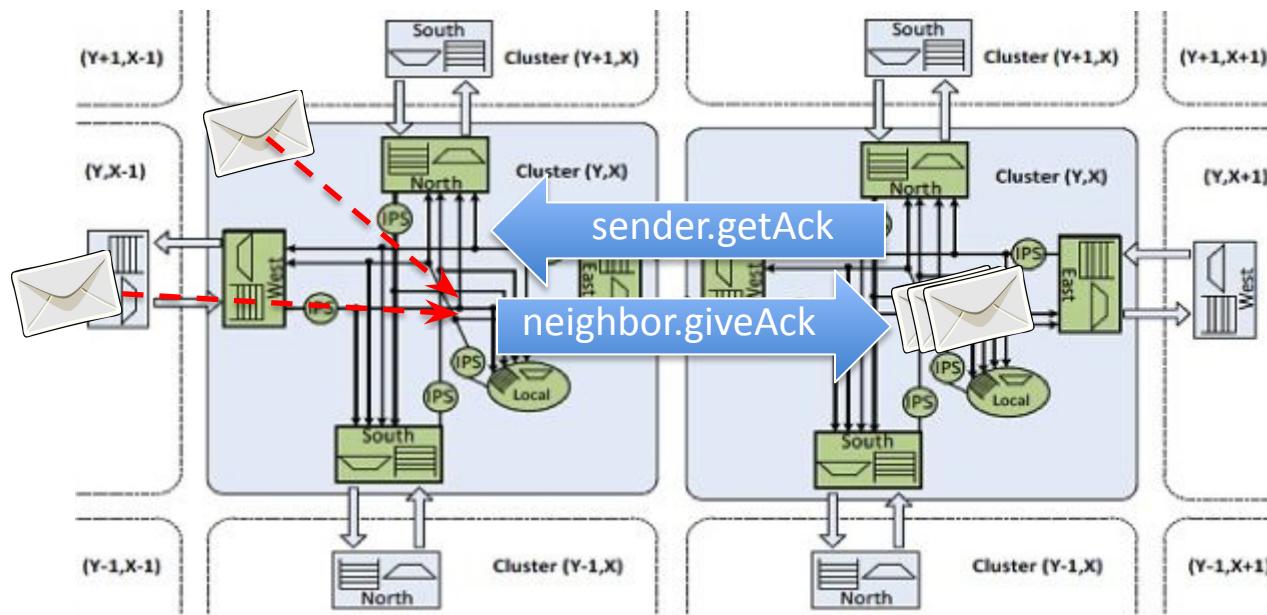
- GALS NoC

**ASPIN: Two-dimensional mesh GALS NoC**



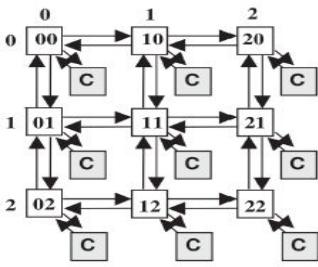
XY routing algorithms

Communication Protocol



- **Four phase handshake communication protocol:** the channel is blocked until the packet arrives to the other router.
- The sender put the packet in the output buffer along with the request signal to the receiver and doesn't send the next packet before receiving the Ack.

# ASPIN: Rebeca abstract model



```
reactiveclass Router{  
    knownrebecs  
    {Router[4] neighbor, Core myCore}  
    Actor type  
    and its  
    message  
    servers  
    statevars{int[4] buffer;}  
    Router (myId-row, myId-col) { ... }  
    msgsrv reqSend() {  
        neighbor[x]. giveAck() after(3);  
        ...  
    }  
    Constructors  
    msgsrv getAck() {  
        //receive ack from the receiver  
        //get ready for receiving the next  
        //packet ...  
    }  
    A  
    message}  
    server msgsrv giveAck (...) {  
        //if the message is for my core use it  
        myCore.forMyCore()  
        //send ack to the sender  
        sender.getAck() after(3);  
        // if not route it to the receiver ...  
    } }
```

```
reactiveclass Core{  
    knownrebecs {Router myRouter}
```

```
statevars{ ... }
```

```
Core ( ... ) {  
    ...  
}
```

```
msgsrv forMyCore() {  
    // get the Packet and use it  
    ...  
}
```

```
main(){
```

```
Router r00(r02,r10,r01,r20)(0,0);
```

```
Router r01(r00,r11,r02,r21)(0,1);
```

```
...  
Core c00(r00)
```

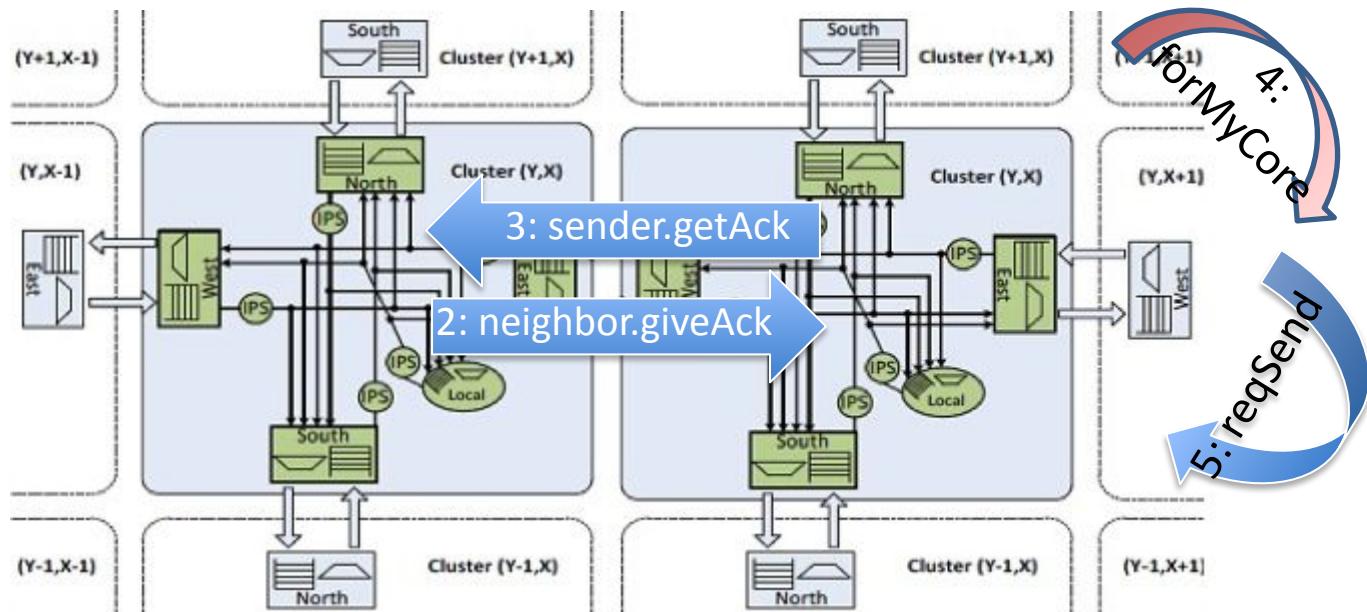
```
Core c01(r01)  
...  
}
```

Instances of  
different actors

Parameters

Known rebecs

1: reqSend



```
reqSend:  
//Route the Packet  
neighbor.giveAck;
```

```
getAck:  
//send the Packet  
//set the flag of your port to free
```

```
giveAck:  
//if I am the final Receiver  
//then Consume the Packet  
sender.getAck;  
myCore.forMyCore;
```

```
//else if my buffer is not  
full  
//get the Packet  
sender.getAck  
//and route it ahead  
self.reqSend;
```

# ASPIN: Rebeca abstract model

```

reactiveclass Router{
    knownrebecs {Router[4] neighbor}
    statevars{int[4] buffer;}
    Router ( ... ) {
        ....
    }
    msgsrv reqSend() {
        delay(2);
        neighbor[x].giveAck() after(3) deadline(6);
        ...
    }
}
```

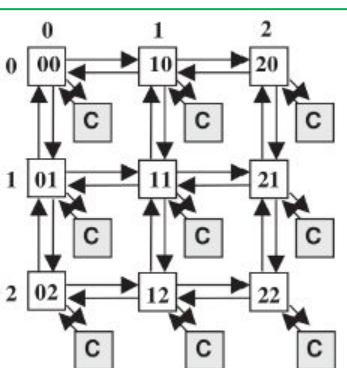
Time progress  
because of  
computation delay

Deadline for the  
receiver

```

msgsrv giveAck (...) {
    //if the message is for my core use it
    myCore.forMyCore()
    //send ack to the sender
    sender.getAck() after(3);
    // if not and buffer not full then route it to the receiver ...
    // if buffer full then busy-wait until buffer empty
    else self.giveAck() after(10),
}
```

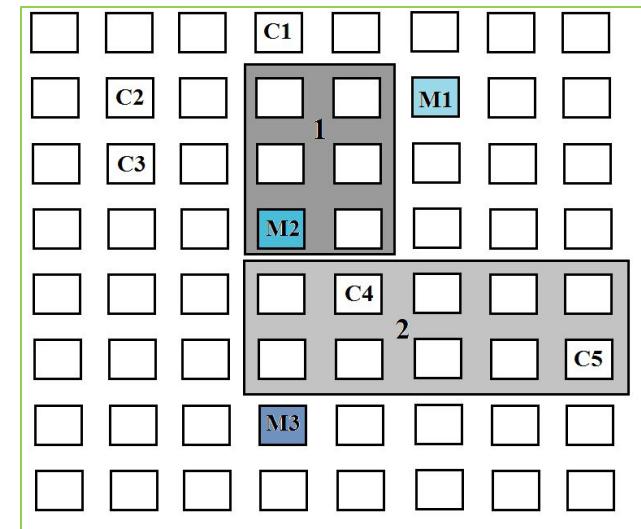
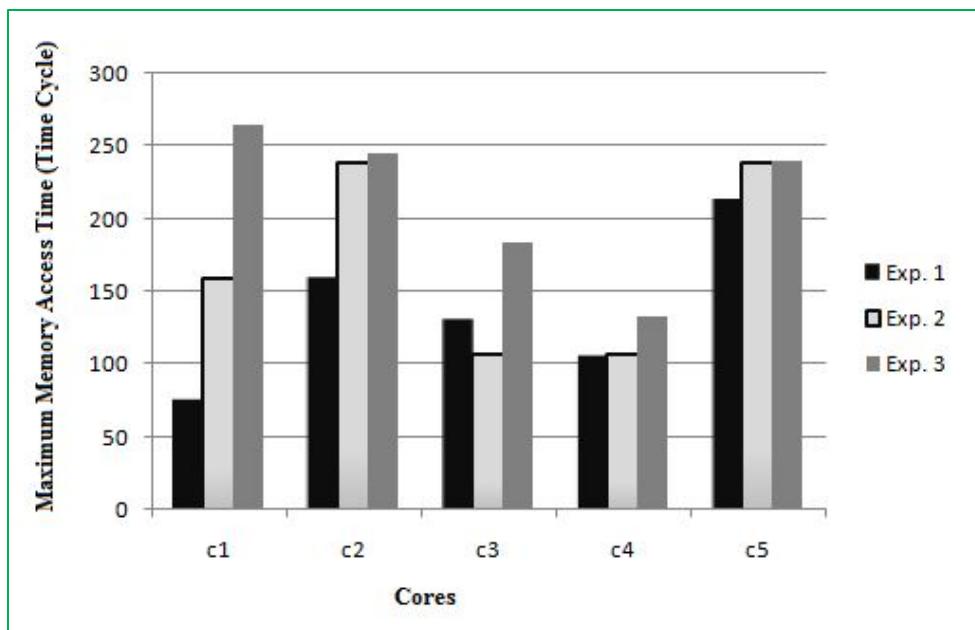
Communication  
delay



periodic tasks

# Evaluation of different memory locations for ASPIN 8x8

- Consider 5 cores and their access time to the memory
- 3 choices for memory placement
- 40 packets are injected
- High congestion in area 1 and 2



- Unlike our expectation, M1 is a better choice than M2
- The packet injection is based on an application (note that cores have different roles)

# Modeling NoC in TRebeca

ASPIN Component

Router + Core

Buffer

Model in Rebeca

Rebec

Rebec queue (write/read delays by

**Keep the constructs and features that affect the properties of interest and check the following:**

1. Possible Deadlock
2. Successful sending and receiving of packets
3. Estimating the maximum end-to-end packet latency

Channel

Communication  
protocol

Model checking: 3 seconds

HSPICE: 24 hours

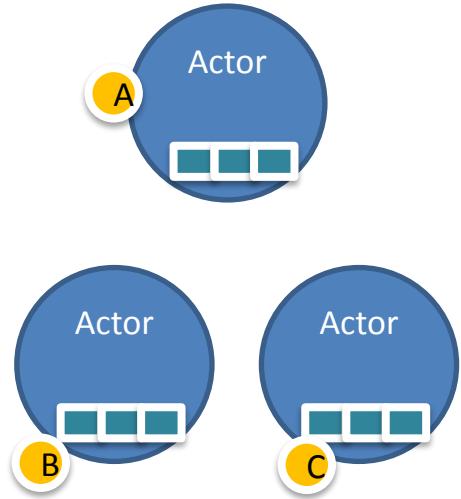
Much less details.

Showed the same trend.

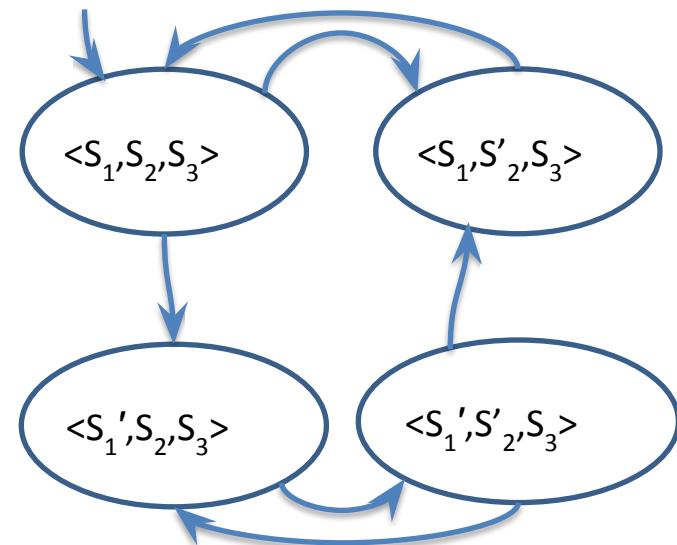
# Go Through Different models at Different Levels



Real World

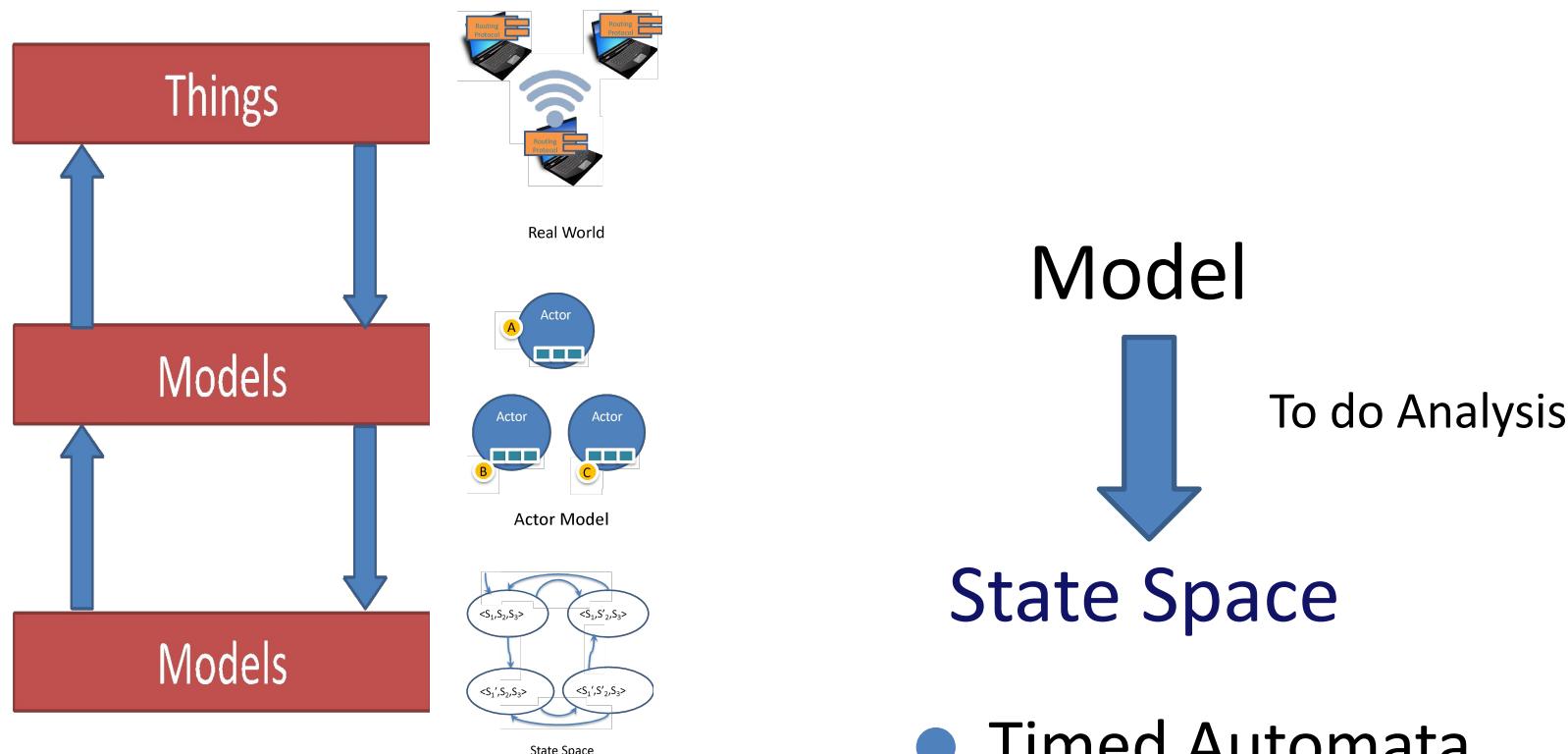


Actor Model



State Space

# Efficient Model Checking of Timed Actors: Focus on Events



- Timed Automata
- Timed Transition System
- **Floating Time Transition System**

# Standard Semantics: Timed Transition System

- In TTS transitions are of three types:
  - Passage of time
  - Taking a message from the queue to execute: event
  - Silent transition **T**: internal actions in an actor

# Semantics of a simple Timed-Rebeca Model: Timed Transition System

```
reactiveclass RC1 (3) {
```

```
    knownrebecs {
```

```
        RC2 r2;
```

```
,
```

Line number as  
program counter

```
}
```

```
msgsrv m1() {
```

```
    delay(2);
```

```
    r2.m2();
```

```
    delay(2);
```

```
    r2.m3();
```

```
    self.m1()
```

```
}
```

```
}
```

```
    msgsrv m1() {
```

```
        delay(2);
```

```
        r2.m2();
```

```
        delay(2);
```

```
        r2.m3();
```

```
        self.m1() after (10);
```

```
}
```

```
reactiveclass RC2 (4) {
```

```
    knownrebecs {
```

```
        RC1 r1;
```

```
}
```

```
RC2() {}
```

```
msgsrv m2() {}
```

```

msgsrv m1()
1 delay(2);
2 r2.m2();
3 delay(2);
4 r2.m3();
5 self.m1() af
}

```

time = 0

time = 2

time = 4

time = time + 2

S5			
	r1	queue	-
	r1	pc	m1: 4
	r2	queue	-
	r2	pc	-

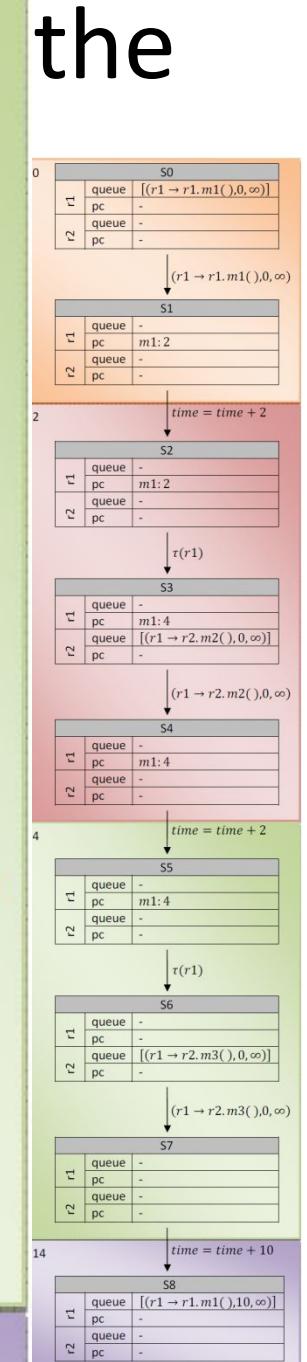
$\tau(r1)$

S6			
	r1	queue	-
	r1	pc	-
	r2	queue	$[(r1 \rightarrow r2.m3(), 0, \infty)]$
	r2	pc	-

$(r1 \rightarrow r2.m3(), 0, \infty)$

S7			
	r1	queue	-
	r1	pc	-
	r2	queue	-
	r2	pc	-

time = time + 10



# Properties in an event-based system

- Properties that we care about the most:
  - Distance of occurrence of two events
  - Event precedence
- Remember, in TTS the transitions are of three types:
  - Passage of time
  - Taking a message from the queue to execute: event
  - Silent transition **T**: internal actions in an actor

# Real-time Patterns

(Koymans, 1990), (Abid et al., 2011), (Bellini et al., 2009) and (Konrad et al., 2005), (Dwyer et al., 1999)

- Maximal distance
  - Every  $e_1$  is followed by an  $e_2$  within  $x$  time units
- Exact distance
  - Every  $e_1$  is followed by an  $e_2$  in exactly  $x$  time units
- Minimal distance
  - Two consecutive events of  $e$  are at least  $x$  time units apart

## ● Properties that we care about the most:

- Distance of occurrence of two events
- Event precedence

maximum number of time units

- Precedence
  - Within the next  $x$  time units, the occurrence of  $e_1$  precedes the occurrence of  $e_2$

# So, we proposed

- An event-based semantics for Timed Rebeca:
- Floating Time Transition System

# Floating Time Transition System: Event-based Timed-Rebeca Semantics

- Formal semantics given as SOS rules
- The main rule is the schedular rule:

$$\frac{(\sigma_{r_i}(m), \sigma_{r_i}[rtime = \max(TT, \sigma_{r_i}(\text{now})), [\overline{arg} = \bar{v}], \text{sender} = r_j], Env, B) \xrightarrow{\tau} (\sigma'_{r_i}, Env', B')} C}{(\{\sigma_{r_i}\} \cup Env, \{(r_i, m(\bar{v}), r_j, TT, DL)\} \cup B) \rightarrow (\{\sigma'_{r_i}\} \cup Env', B')} C$$

# The scheduler and progress of time

- The scheduler picks up messages from the bag based on their **time tags** and execute the corresponding methods.
- **delay** statements change the value of the current local time, **now**, for the considered rebec.
- The **time tag** for the message is the current local time (**now**), plus value of the **after**
- The scheduler picks the message with the **smallest time tag** of all the messages (for all the rebecs) in the message bag.
- The scheduler checks if a **deadline** is missed.
- The variable **now** is set to the **maximum between the current time of the rebec and the time tag of the selected message.**

# State space reduction: a simple Timed-Rebeca Model

```
reactiveclass RC1 (3) {
```

```
    knownrebecs {
```

```
        RC2 r2;
```

```
,
```

Line number as  
program counter

```
}
```

```
    msgsrv m1() {
```

```
        delay(2);
```

```
        r2.m2();
```

```
        delay(2);
```

```
        r2.m3();
```

```
        self.m1() after (1
```

```
}
```

```
reactiveclass RC2 (4) {
```

```
    knownrebecs {
```

```
        RC1 r1;
```

```
}
```

```
    RC2() { }
```

```
    msgsrv m2() { }
```

```
        msgsrv m1() {
```

```
            delay(2);
```

```
            r2.m2();
```

```
            delay(2);
```

```
            r2.m3();
```

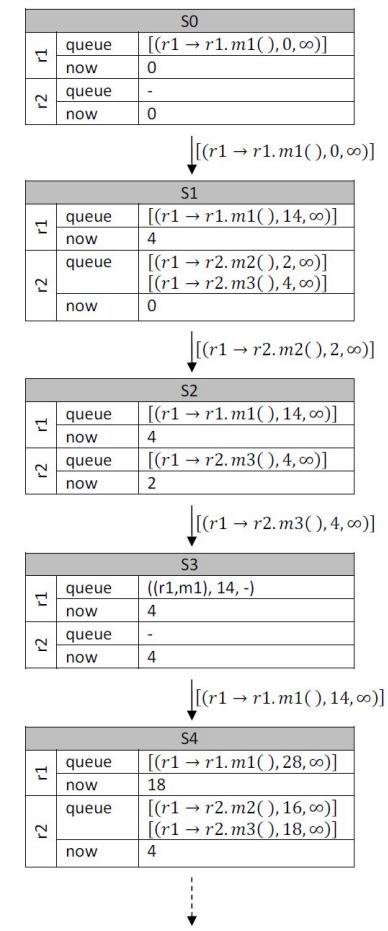
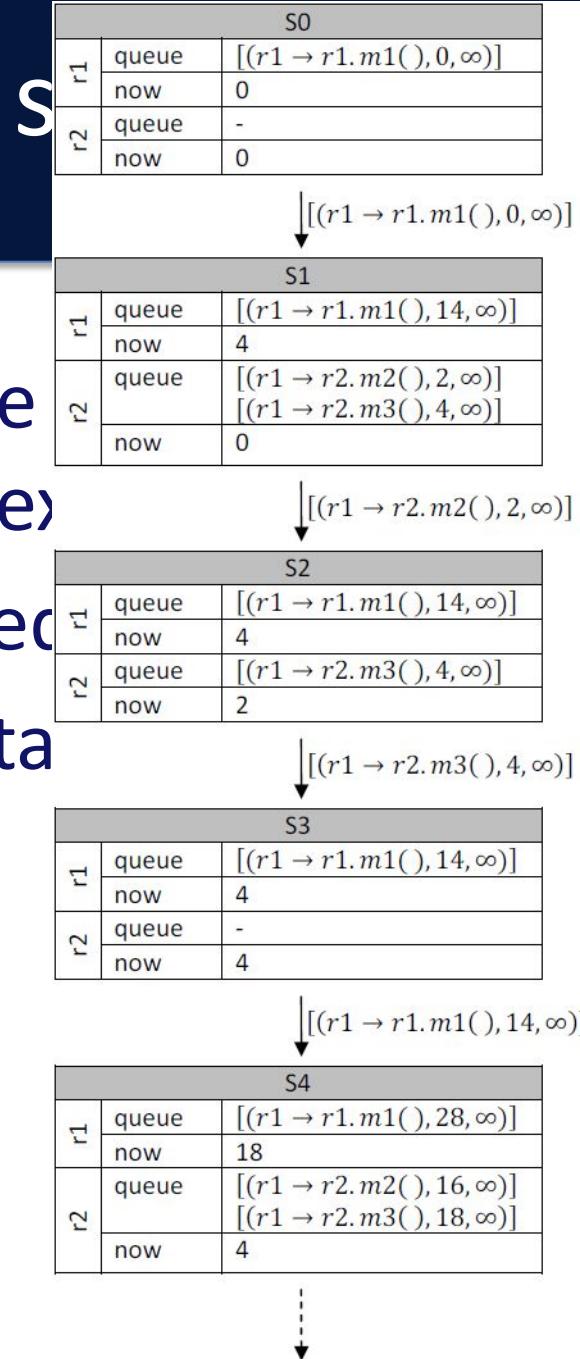
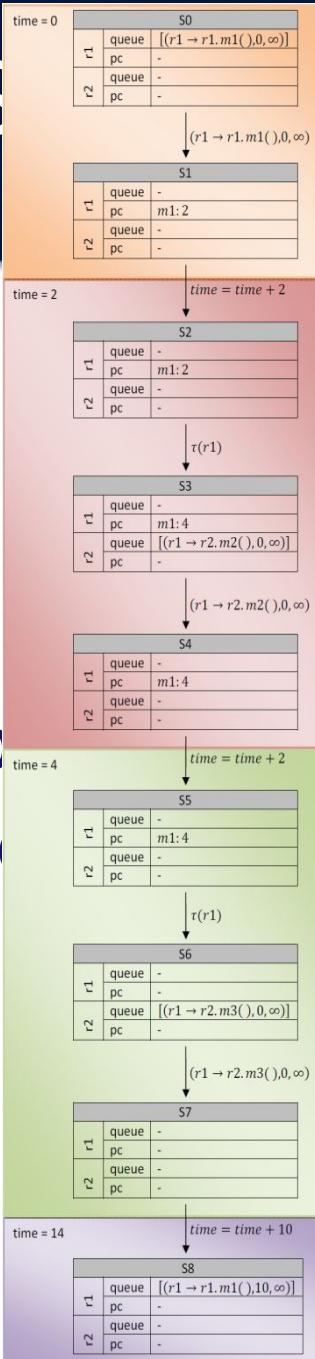
```
            self.m1() after (10);
```

```
}
```

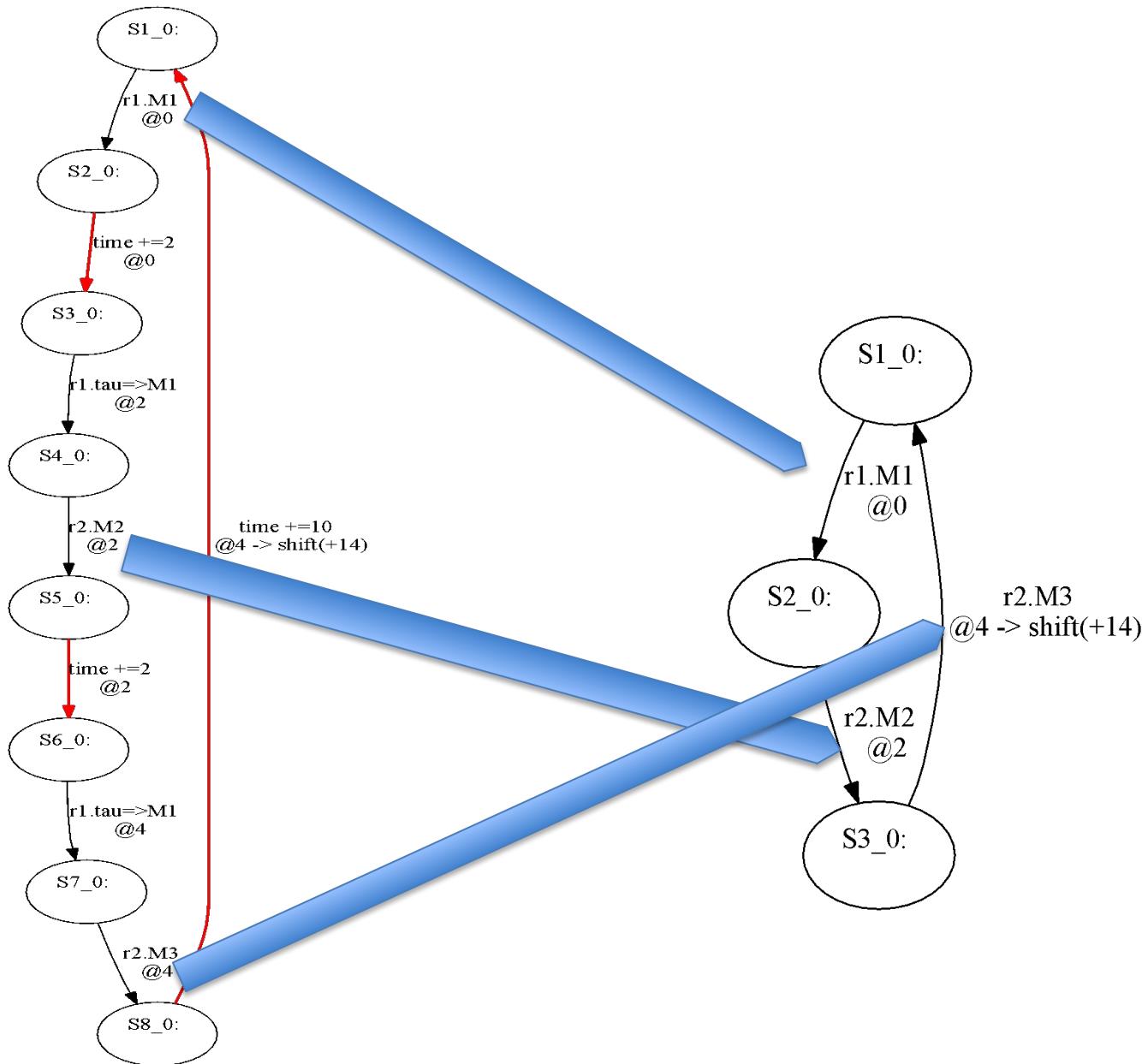
```
}
```

# FTTS

- Four nodes
- one PC
- PCs
- Unbounded
- generations



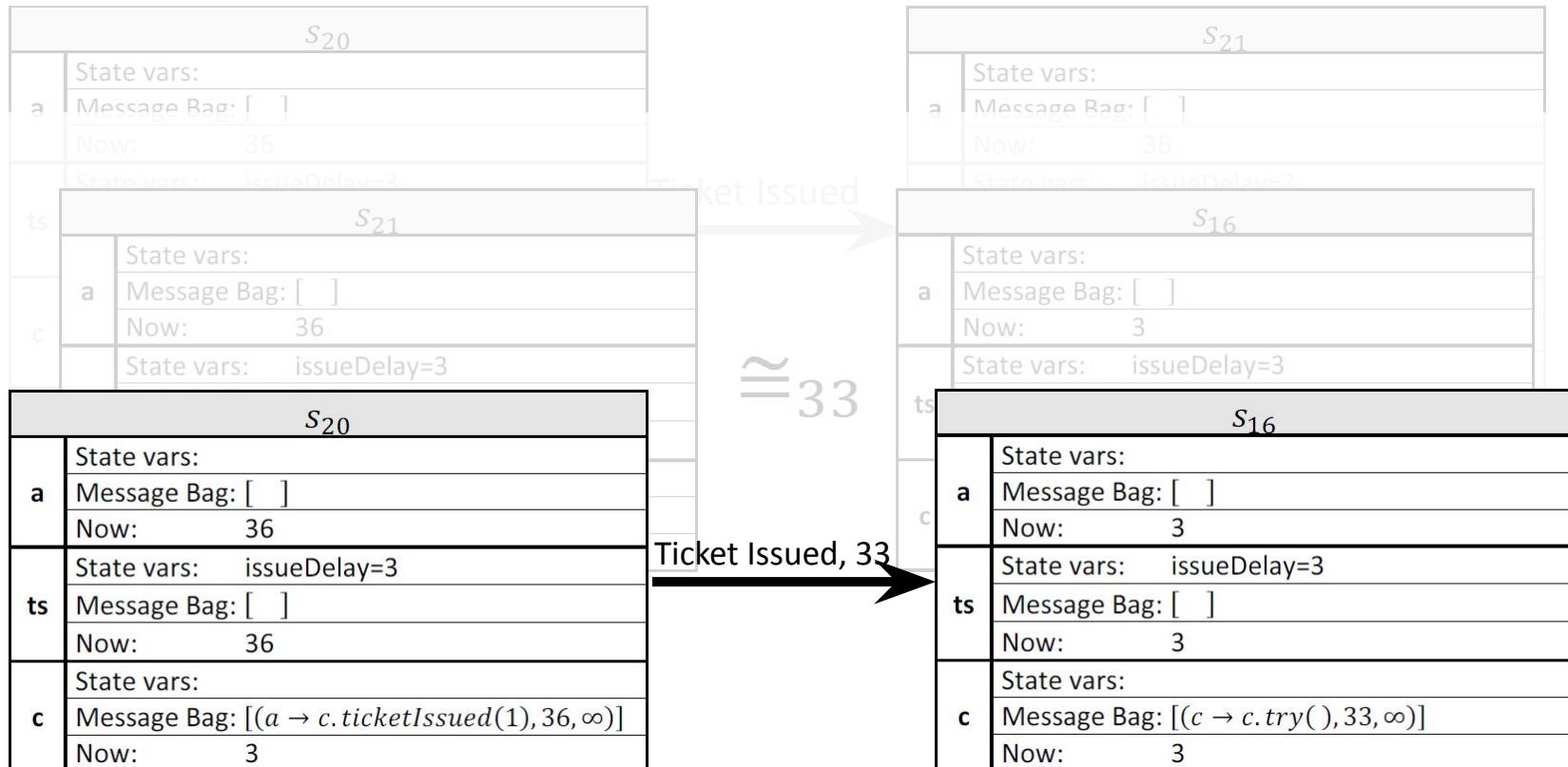
# TTS versus FTTS



# Bounded Floating-Time Transition System

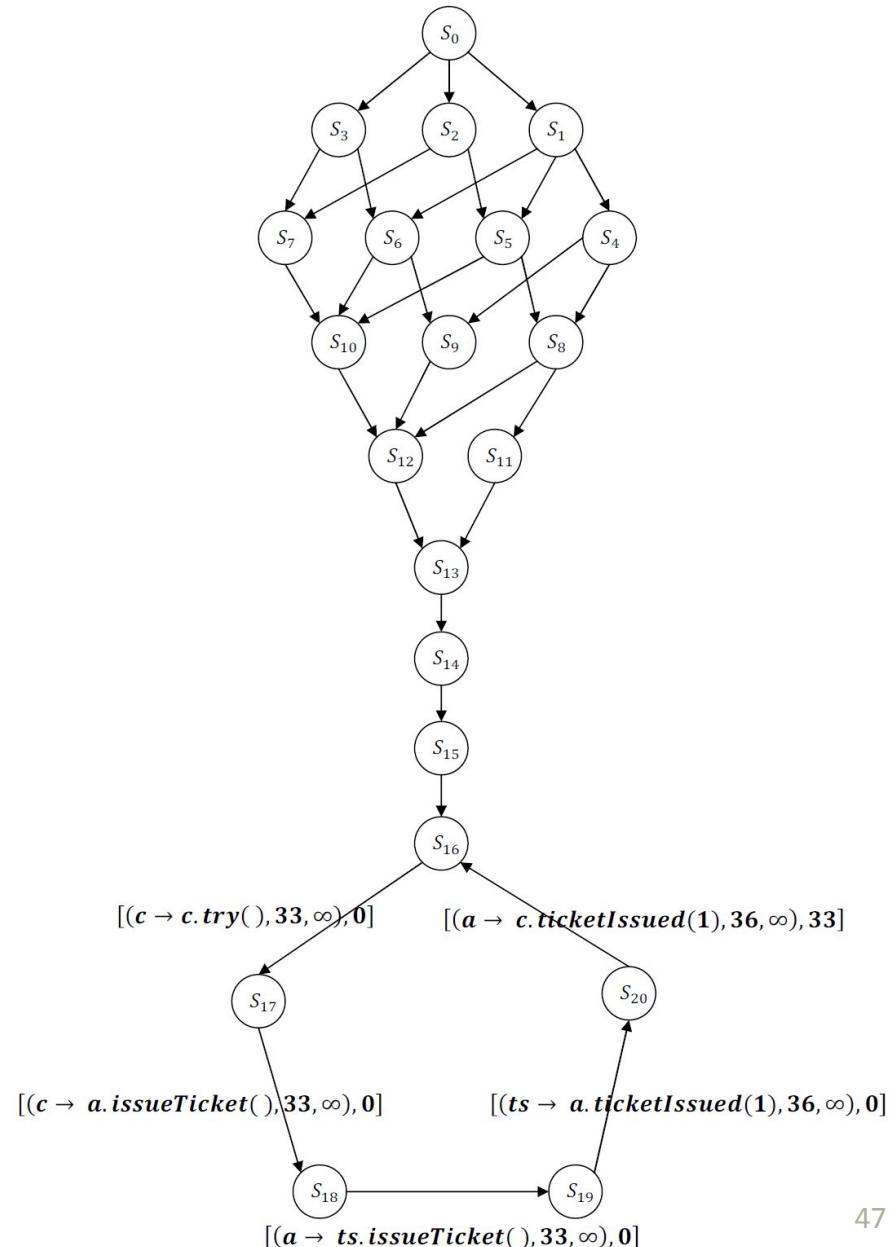
- A notion of state equivalence by shifting the local times of rebecs
- Time in Timed-Rebeca models is relative
  - Uniform shift of time to past or future has no effect on the execution of statements

# Bounding the Floating-Time Transition System



# Bounded Floating-Time Transition System: an example

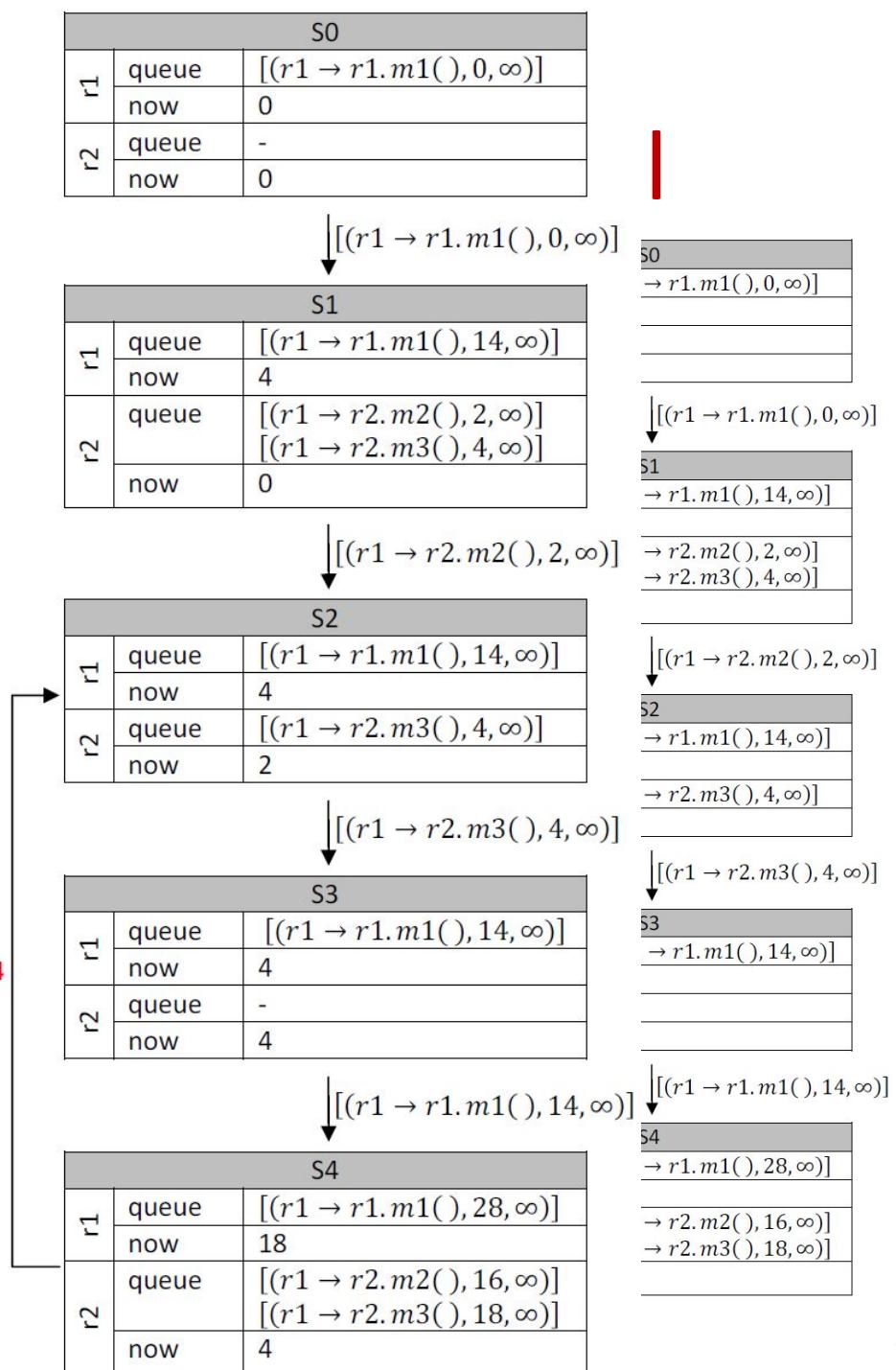
- A shift-time transition, between states 16 and 20



# Bounded FTTS

- Bounded time system is guaranteed to terminate
- Contents of states are treated as FTTS

$[(r1 \rightarrow r2.m2(), 16, \infty)], 14$



# Deadlock and schedulability check

- We keep the relative distance between values of all the timing values of each state (relative timing distances are preserved)
- Deadlines are set relatively so time shift has no effect on deadline-miss
- For checking “deadline missed” and “deadlock-freedom” relative time is enough

# TTS vs FTTS State Space Size

- About 50% state space reduction

Model Name	Number of Rebeccas	FTTS State Space Size	TTS State Space Size
Ticket Service System	3	6	12
	4	43	86
	5	282	532
	6	2035	3526
	7	17849	31500
CSMA/CD	4	54	108

# Experimental results

- Three models, three tools

Problem	Size	Using BFTTS		Using Timed Automata		Using McErlang	
		#states	time	#states	time	#states	time
Ticket Service	1 customer	8	< 1 sec	801	<1 sec	150	<1 sec
	2 customers	51	< 1 sec	19M	5 hours	4.5k	3 secs
	3 customers	280	< 1 sec	-	>24 hours <sup>†</sup>	190K	5.1 mins
	4 customers	1.63K	< 1 sec	-	>24 hours <sup>†</sup>	> 4M <sup>‡</sup>	-
	5 customers	11K	< 1 sec	-	>24 hours <sup>†</sup>	> 4M <sup>‡</sup>	-
	6 customers	83K	2 secs	-	>24 hours <sup>†</sup>	> 4M <sup>‡</sup>	-
	7 customers	709K	3 mins	-	>24 hours <sup>†</sup>	> 4M <sup>‡</sup>	-
	8 customers	6.8M	9.7 hours	-	>24 hours <sup>†</sup>	> 4M <sup>‡</sup>	-
Sensor Network	1 sensor	183	< 1 sec	-	>24 hours <sup>†</sup>	> 6.5M <sup>‡</sup>	-
	2 sensors	2.4K	< 1 sec	-	>24 hours <sup>†</sup>	> 6M <sup>‡</sup>	-
	3 sensors	33.6K	1 sec	-	>24 hours <sup>†</sup>	> 6M <sup>‡</sup>	-
	4 sensors	588K	13 secs	-	>24 hours <sup>†</sup>	> 6M <sup>‡</sup>	-
Slotted ALOHA Protocol	1 interface	68	< 1 sec	-	>24 hours <sup>†</sup>	153K	1.8 secs
	2 interfaces	750	< 1 sec	-	>24 hours <sup>†</sup>	> 2.8M <sup>‡</sup>	-
	3 interfaces	7.84K	1 sec	-	>24 hours <sup>†</sup>	> 2.8M <sup>‡</sup>	-
	4 interfaces	45.7K	6 secs	-	>24 hours <sup>†</sup>	> 2.8M <sup>‡</sup>	-
	5 interfaces	331K	64 secs	-	>24 hours <sup>†</sup>	> 2.8M <sup>‡</sup>	-

Table 1: Model checking time and size of state space, using three different tools. The † sign on the reported time shows that model checking takes more than the time limit (24 hours). The ‡ sign on the reported number of states shows that state space explosion occurs as the model checker want to allocate more than 16GB in memory which is more than total amount of memory.

# Our reduction technique: distilled

- Event-based analysis - maximum progress of time based on events (not timer ticks)
  - Generating no new states because of delays, each rebec has its own local time in each state
- Making use of isolated message server execution of actors
  - no shared variables, no blocking send or receive, single-threaded actors, non-preemptive execution of each message server
- Check the state equivalence by shifting the local times of concurrent elements in case of recurrent behaviors

# Comparing to others

- Real-time Maude
  - It ticks ... so, explosion
  - Bounded model checking
- Timed Automata
  - Produce many automata and many clocks for an asynchronous system – so, explosion

# A Point: FTTS, Considering only the time-tags

```
reactiveclass Actor1(3) {  
    Actor1() {  
        self.job1();  
    }  
    msgsrv job1() {  
        self.job2() after(1);  
        delay(5);  
    }  
    msgsrv job2() {  
    }  
    msgsrv job3() {  
        self.job3() after(1);  
    }  
}
```

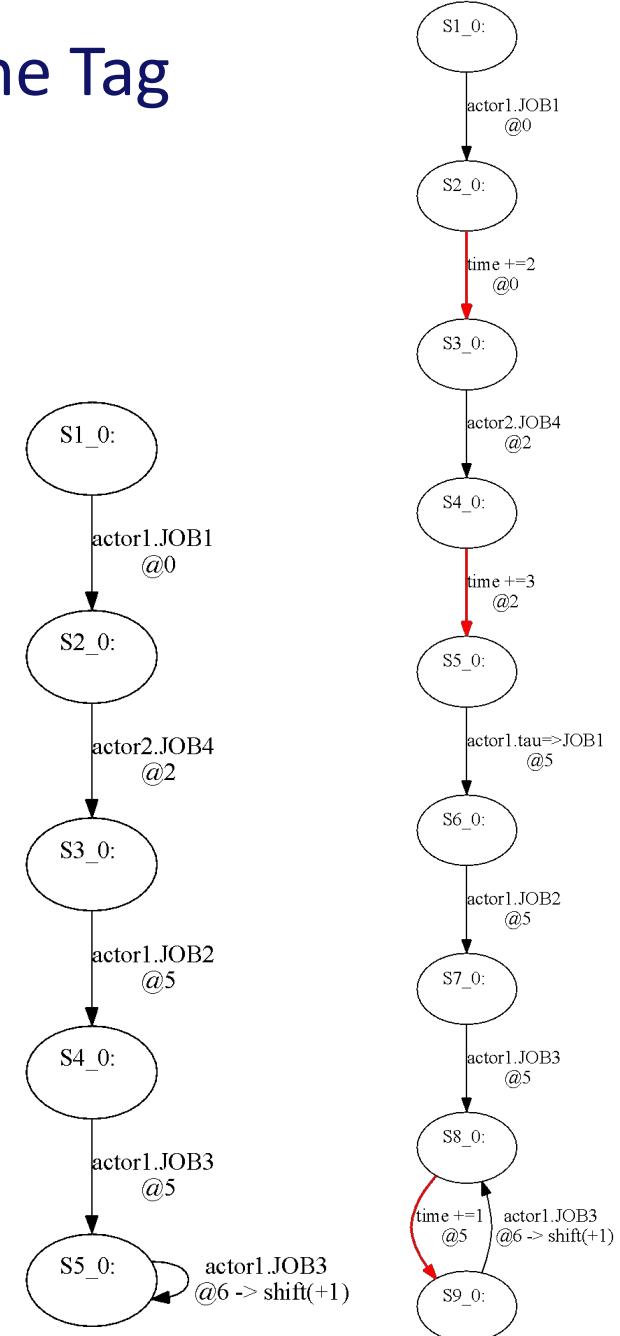
```
reactiveclass Actor2(3) {  
    knownrebecs {  
        Actor1 a1;  
    }  
    Actor2() {  
        self.job4() after(2);  
    }  
    msgsrv job4() {  
        a1.job3() after(2);  
    }  
}  
  
main {  
    Actor1 actor1():();  
    Actor2 actor2(actor1):();  
}
```

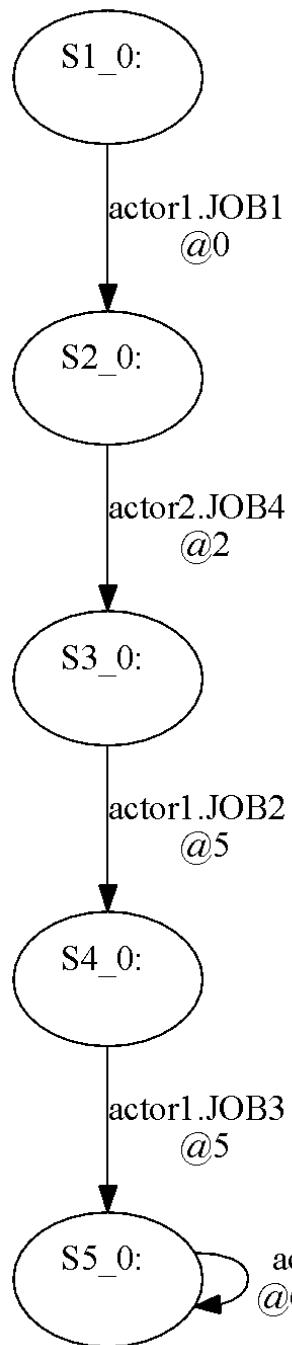
# Simple FTTS: Consider only Smallest Time Tag

```
reactiveclass Actor1(3) {
    Actor1() {
        self.job1();
    }
    msgsrv job1() {
        self.job2() after(1);
        delay(5);
    }
    msgsrv job2() {
    }
    msgsrv job3() {
        self.job3() after(1);
    }
}
```

```
reactiveclass Actor2(3) {
    knownrebecls {
        Actor1 a1;
    }
    Actor2() {
        self.job4() after(2);
    }
    msgsrv job4() {
        a1.job3() after(2);
    }
}

main {
    Actor1 actor1():();
    Actor2 actor2(actor1):();
}
```





**actor1** <now>0  
<queue> arrival="0" deadline="infinity" sender="actor1">job1  
**actor2** <now>0  
<queue> arrival="2" deadline="infinity" sender="actor2">job4

**actor1** <now>5  
<queue> arrival="1" deadline="infinity" sender="actor1">job2  
**actor2** <now>2  
<queue> arrival="2" deadline="infinity" sender="actor2">job4

**actor1** <now>5  
<queue> arrival="1" deadline="infinity" sender="actor1">job2  
arrival="4" deadline="infinity" sender="actor2">job3  
**actor2** <now>5  
<queue>

**actor1** <now>5  
<queue> arrival="4" deadline="infinity" sender="actor2">job3  
**actor2** <now>5  
<queue>

```

reactiveclass Actor1(3) {
    Actor1() {self.job1();}
    msgsrv job1() {
        self.job2() after(1);
        delay(5);
    }
    msgsrv job2() {}
    msgsrv job3() {
        self.job3() after(1);
    }
}

```

```

reactiveclass Actor2(3) {
    knownrebecs {Actor1 a1;}
    Actor2() {
        self.job4() after(2);
    }
    msgsrv job4() {
        a1.job3() after(2);
    }
}
main {
    Actor1 actor1();
    Actor2 actor2(actor1());
}

```

# Projects



## SEADA

In SEADA (Self-Adaptive Actors) we will use Ptolemy to represent the architecture, and extensions of Rebeca for modeling and verification. Our models@runtime will be coded in an extension of Probabilistic Timed Rebeca, and supporting tools for customized run-time formal verification



## RoboRebeca

RoboRebeca is a framework which provides facilities for developing safe/correct source codes for robotic applications. In RoboRebeca, models are developed using Rebeca family language and automatically transformed into ROS compatible source codes. This framework is



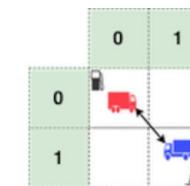
## HybridRebeca

Hybrid Rebeca, is an extension of actor-based language Rebeca, to support modeling of cyber-physical systems. In this extension, physical actors are introduced as new computational entities to encapsulate the physical behaviors. [Learn more](#)



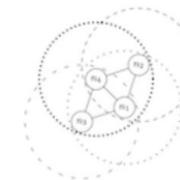
## Tangramob

Tangramob offers an Agent-Based



## AdaptiveFlow

AdaptiveFlow is an actor-based eulerian

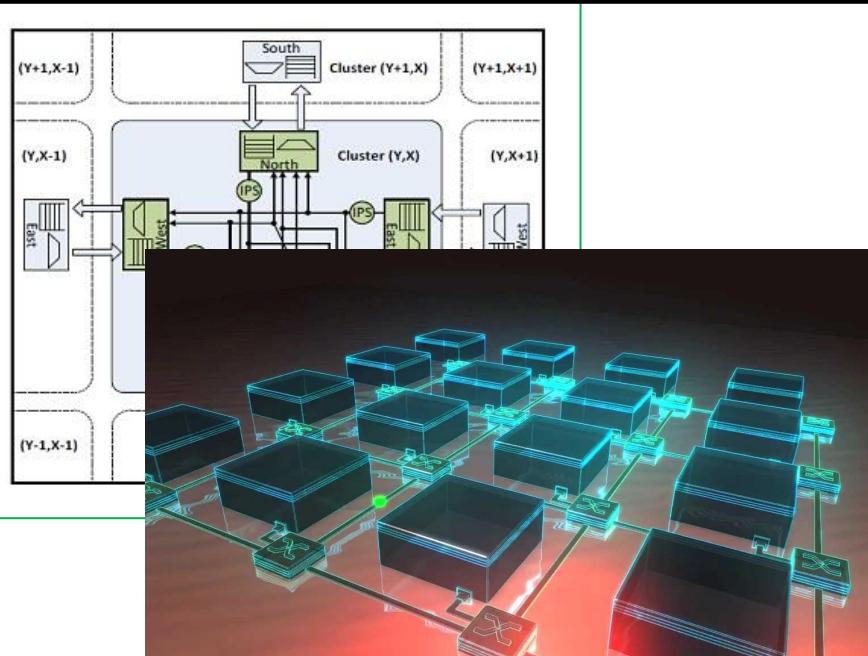


## wRebeca

wRebeca is an actor-based modeling

# Design Decisions Network on Chip

Siamak Mohammadi, Zeinab Sharifi, UT



Design Decisions:  
routing algorithms  
Buffer length  
Memory Allocation

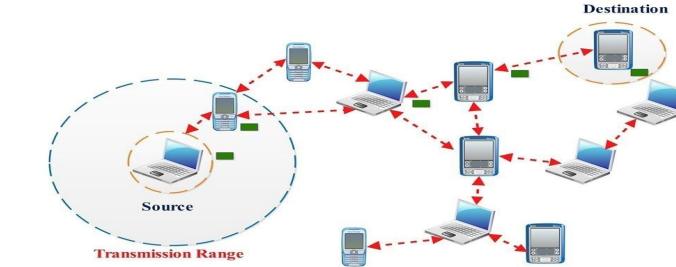
Zeinab Sharifi, Mahdi Mosaffa, Siamak Mohammadi, and Marjan Sirjani: Functional and Performance Analysis of Network-on-Chips Using Actor-based Modeling and Formal Verification, AVoCS, 2013.

<https://rebeca-lang.org/assets/papers/2013/Performance-Analysis-of-NoC.pdf>

# Bug Check Network Protocols

Fatemeh Ghassemi, Ramtin Khosravi, UT

**MANET (Mobile Ad Hoc Network)**



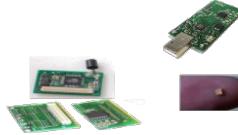
Deadlock and loop-freedom of  
Mobile Adhoc Networks

Behnaz Yousefi, Fatemeh Ghassemi, and Ramtin Khosravi: Modeling and Efficient Verification of Wireless Ad hoc Networks, volume 29, Issue 6, pp 1051–1086, Formal Aspects of Computing, 2017.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00165-017-0429-z>

# Performance Optimization Smart Structures

Gul Agha, OSI, UIUC and Ehsan Khamespanah, UT



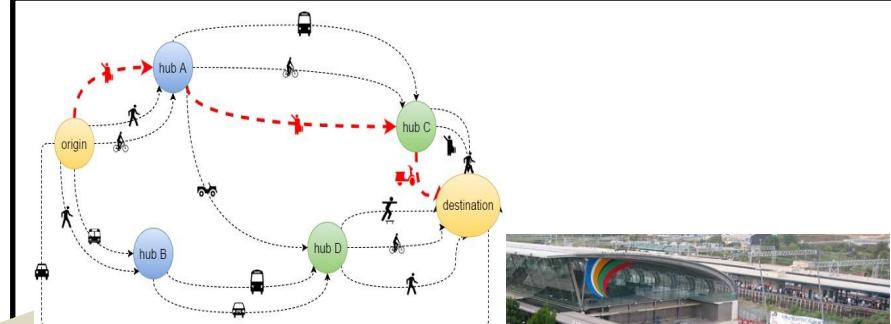
Schedulability Analysis of UT  
Distributed Real-Time Sensor  
Network: Finding the best  
configuration

Ehsan Khamespanah, Kirill Mechitov, Marjan Sirjani, Gul Agha: Modeling and Analyzing Real-Time Wireless Sensor and Actuator Networks Using Actors and Model Checking, Software Tools for Technology Transfer, 2017.

<https://rebeca-lang.org/assets/papers/2017/Modeling-and-Analyzing-Real-Time-Wireless-Sensor-and-Actuator-Networks-Using-Actors-and-Model-Checking.pdf>

# Resource Management Smart Transport Hubs

Andrea Polini, Francesco De Angelis, Unicam Smart Mobility Lab.



Not only Safety and Robustness  
but also Performance, Cost and  
User Satisfaction

Minimize:

Number of service disruptions

Number of mobility resources in smart hubs

Cost of mobility for commuters

Travel time for commuters

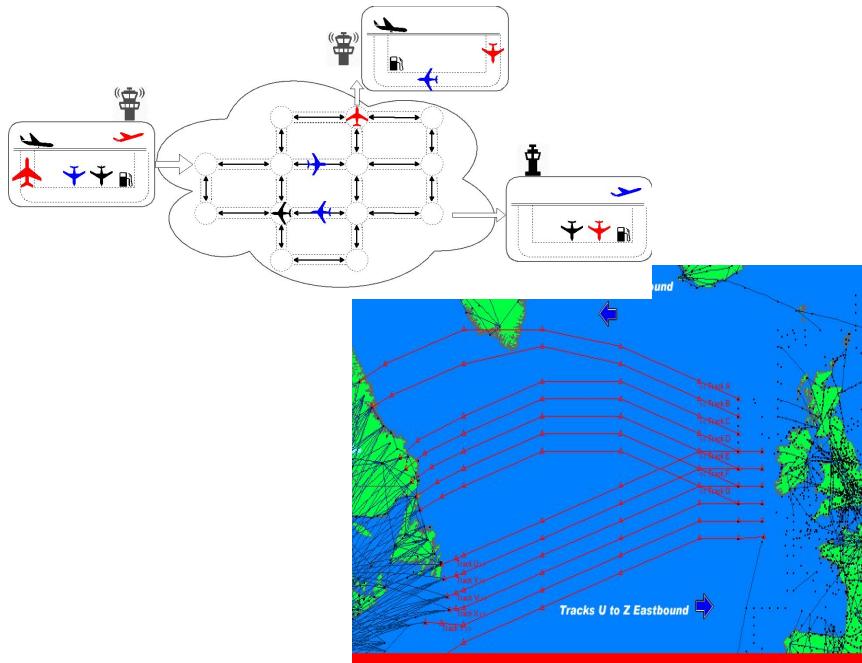
Travel distance for commuters

Jacopo de Berardinis, Giorgio Forcina, Ali Jafari, Marjan Sirjani:  
Actor-based macroscopic modeling and simulation for smart urban planning. Sci. Comput. Program. 168: 142-164 (2018)

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0167642318303459?via%3Dihub>

# Adaptive Flow Management Air Traffic Control

UC Berkeley, Edward Lee and Sharif, Ali Movaghar

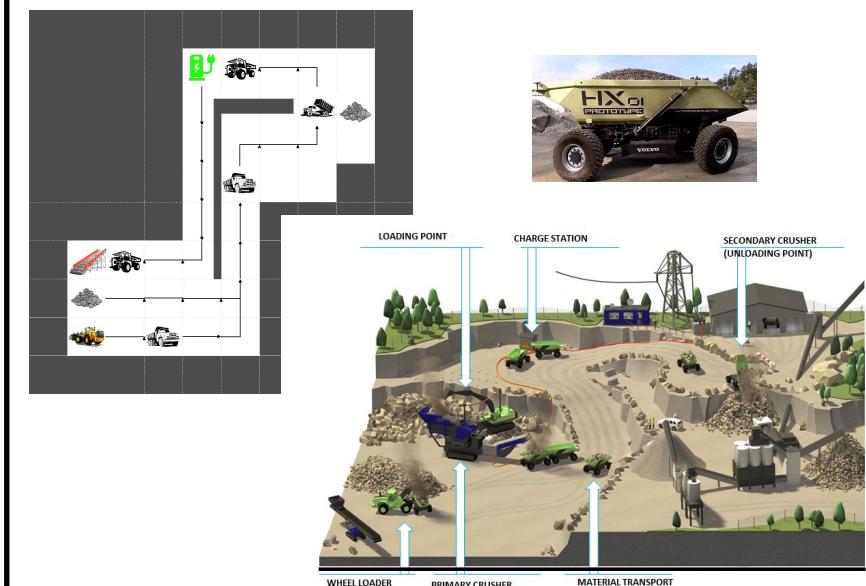


Adaptive Air Traffic Control:  
Safe rerouting of airplanes using  
Magnifier

Maryam Bagheri, Marjan Sirjani, Ehsan Khamespanah, Christel Baier, Ali Movaghar,  
Magnifier: A Compositional Analysis Approach for Autonomous Traffic Control,  
IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering, 2021  
<https://rebecca-lang.org/assets/papers/2021/Magnifier-A-Compositional-Analysis-Approach-for-Autonomous-Traffic-Control.pdf>

# Adaptive Flow Management Volvo CE Quarry Site

Volvo-CE, Stephan Baumgart and Torbjörn Martinsson

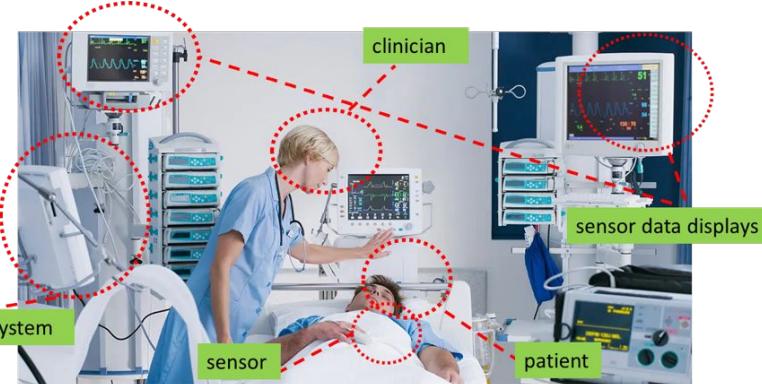


Safe and optimized fleet control

Marjan Sirjani, Giorgio Forcina, Ali Jafari, Stephan Baumgart, Ehsan Khamespanah, Ali Sedaghatbaf: An Actor-based Design Platform for System of Systems, IEEE 43rd Annual Computers, Software, and Applications Conference (COMPSAC), 2019  
<https://rebecca-lang.org/assets/papers/2019/An-Actor-based-Design-Platform-for-System-of-Sytems.pdf>

# Time Analysis Connected Medical Systems

John Hatcliff, U. of Kansas, and Fatemeh Ghassemi, UT



Local properties of devices are assured by the vendors at the development time.

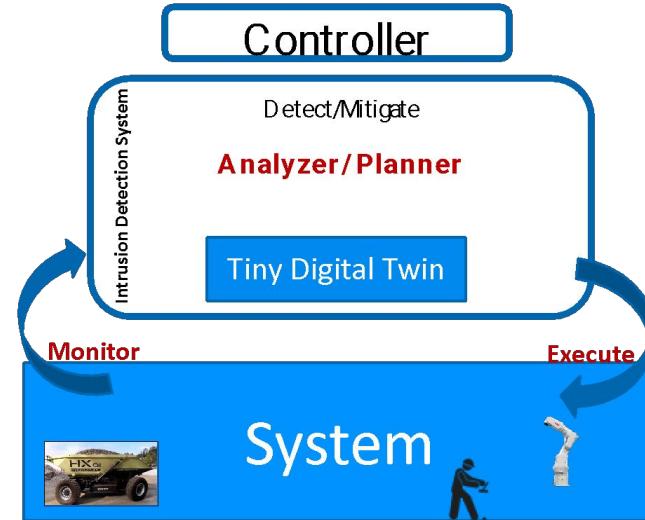
Verify the satisfaction of timing communication requirements.

Helpful for dynamic network configuration or capacity planning.

Mahsa Zarneshan, Fatemeh Ghassemi, Ehsan Khamespanah, Marjan Sirjani, John Hatcliff:  
Specification and Verification of Timing Properties in Interoperable Medical Systems. Log. Methods  
Comput. Sci. 18(2) (2022)  
<https://lmcs.episciences.org/9639>

# Anomaly Detection Model-Based Cyber-Security

SRI, Carolyn Talcott



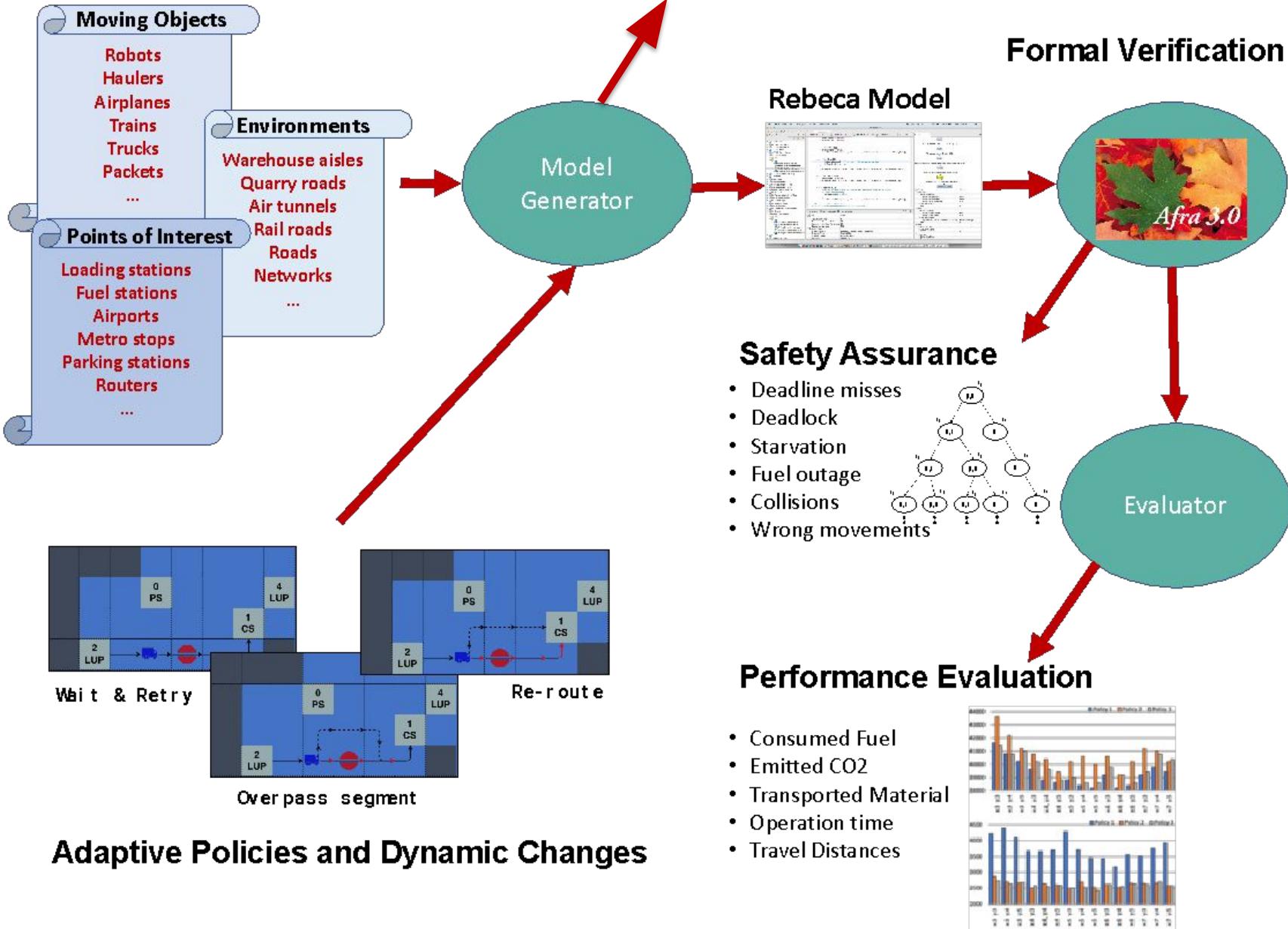
MAPE-K architecture  
(Monitor- Analysis – Plan – Execute)- Knowledge

- Runtime **monitor** to check the system behavior using a **Tiny Digital Twin**

Fereidoun Moradi, Maryam Bagheri, Hanieh Rahmati, Hamed Yazdi, Sara Abbaspour Asadollah, Marjan Sirjani, Monitoring Cyber-Physical Systems using a Tiny Twin to Prevent Cyber-Attacks, 28th International Symposium on Model Checking of Software (SPIN), 2022

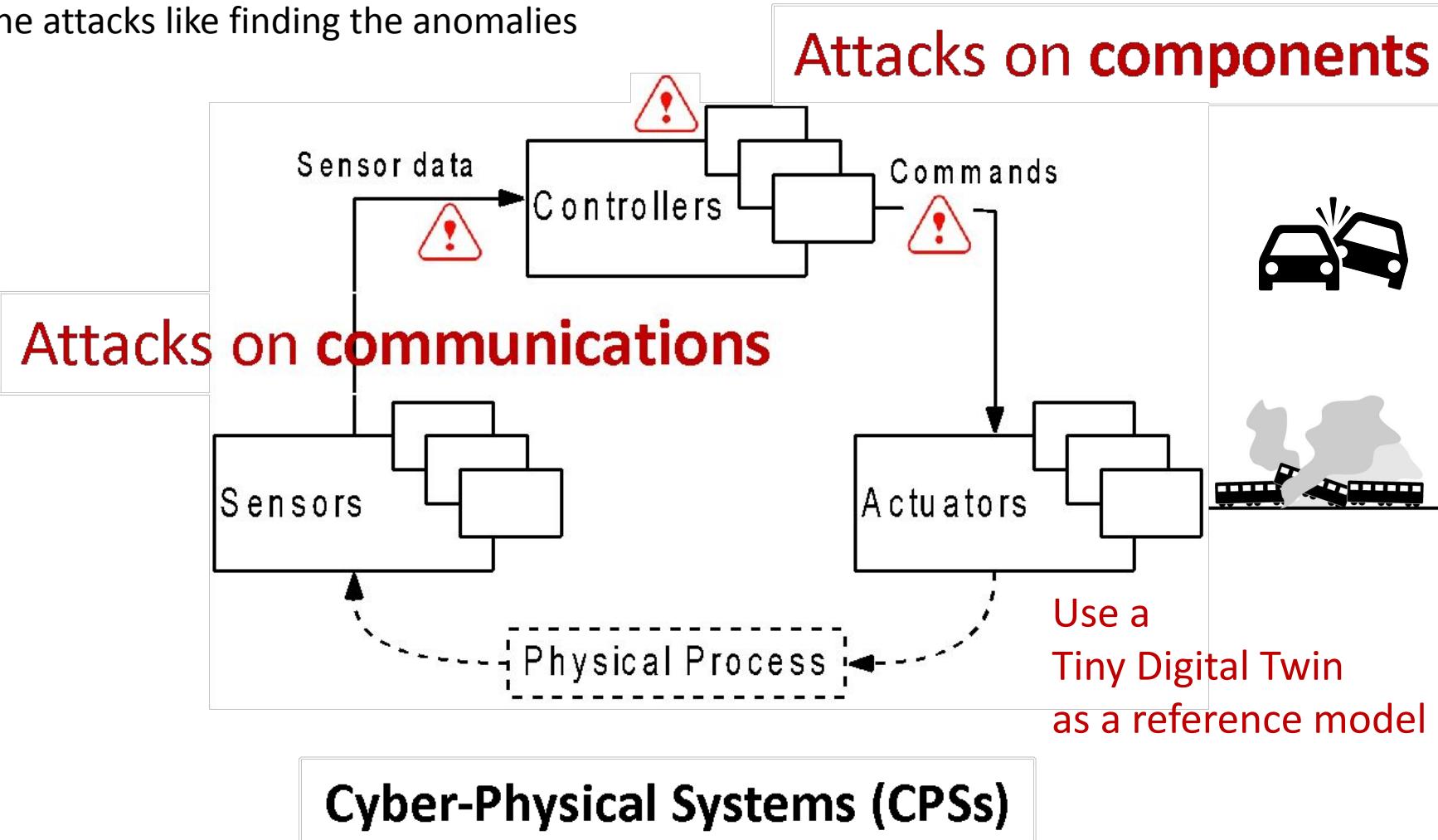
<https://rebeca-lang.org/assets/papers/2022/Monitoring-Cyber-Physical-Systems-Using-a-Tiny-Twin-to-Prevent-Cyber-Attacks.pdf>

# AdaptiveFlow

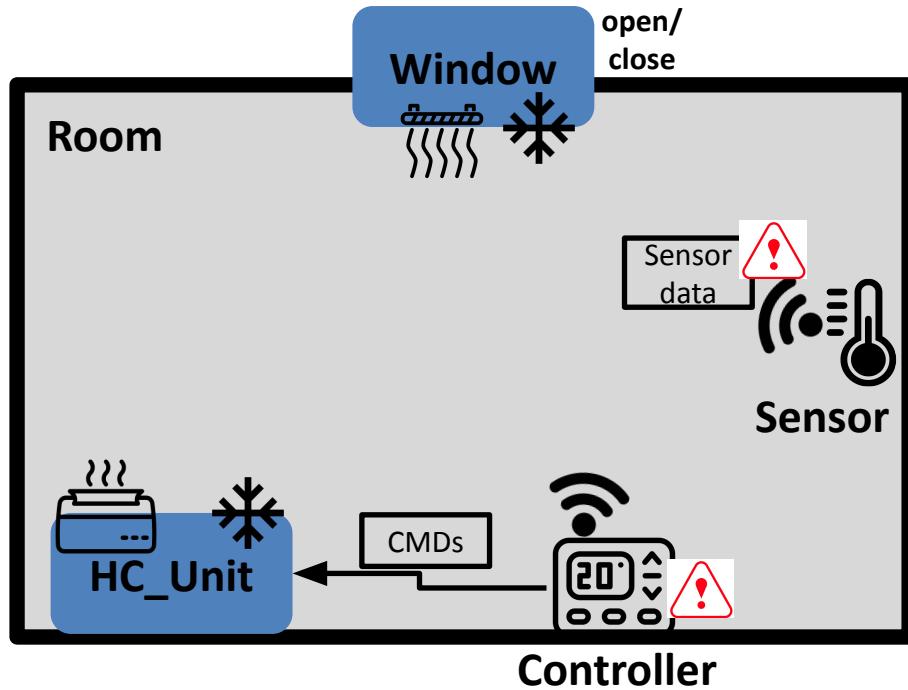


# Cyber-Security Assurance Using Model Checking and Monitoring

Find the attacks like finding the anomalies



# Monitoring at Runtime Temperature Control System (TPS)



**Sensor Data:**  
Temperature value

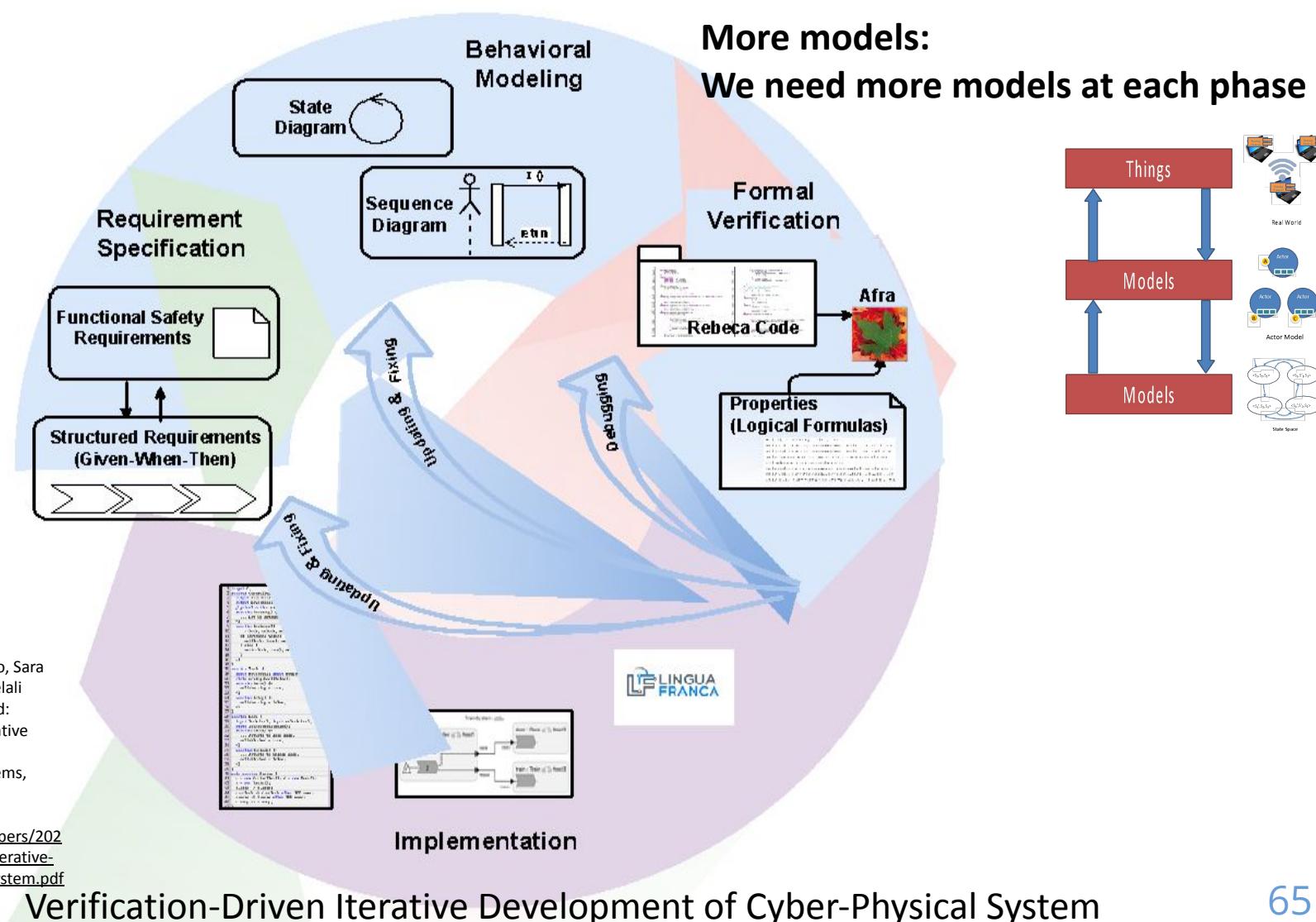
**Commands:**  
Activate Heating/Cooling  
Switch off

**ATTACKs:**  
Dropping packets  
False sensor data injection  
Faulty control commands

**DAMAGEs:**  
Degrades the temperature regulation process,  
Pushes temperature value out of the defined range

The wireless communication network is vulnerable to malicious cyber-attacks!!

# Verification-Driven Iterative Development of Cyber-Physical System



Marjan Sirjani, Luciana Provenzano, Sara Abbaspour Asadollah, Mahshid Helali Moghadam, Mehrdad Saadatmand:  
Towards a Verification-Driven Iterative Development of Software for  
Safety-Critical Cyber-Physical Systems,  
Journal of Internet Services and  
Applications, 2021  
<https://rebeca-lang.org/assets/papers/2020/Towards-a-Verification-Driven-Iterative-Development-of-Cyber-Physical-System.pdf>

# Verification of Cyber-Physical Systems

(UC Berkeley, Edward Lee)

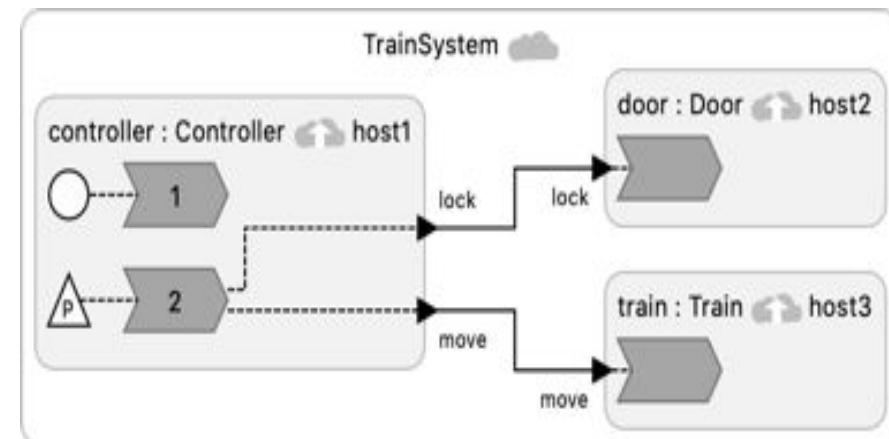
Lingua Franca is a programming language based on the Reactor model of computation for building cyber-physical systems.

Reactors and Rebeca: Natural mapping of semantics  
(similar syntax)



A polyglot meta-language for  
deterministic, concurrent,  
time-sensitive systems.

Marten Lohstroh , Martin Schoeberl, Andrés Goens, Armin Wasicek, Christopher D. Gill, Marjan Sirjani, Edward A. Lee: Actors Revisited for Time-Critical Systems. DAC 2019: 152



Verification of cyberphysical systems  
M Sirjani, EA Lee, E Khamespanah  
Mathematics 8 (7), 1068, 2020

```

1 target C;
2 reactor Controller {
3   output lock:bool; output unlock:bool;
4   output move:bool; output stop:bool;
5   physical action external:bool;
6   reaction(startup) {
7     ... Set up external sensing.
8   }
9   reaction(external)
10    ->lock, unlock, move, stop {
11      if (external_value) {
12        set(lock, true); set(move, true);
13      } else {
14        set(unlock, true); set(stop, true);
15      }
16    }
17 }
18 reactor Train {
19   input move:bool; input stop:bool;
20   state moving:bool(false);
21   reaction(move) {
22     self->moving = true;
23   }
24   reaction(stop) {
25     self->moving = false;
26   }
27 }
28 reactor Door {
29   input lock:bool; input unlock:bool;
30   state locked:bool(false);
31   reaction(lock) {
32     ... Actuate to lock door.
33     self->locked = true;
34   }
35   reaction(unlock) {
36     ... Actuate to unlock door.
37     self->locked = false;
38   }
39 }
40 main reactor System {
41   c = new Controller(); d = new Door();
42   t = new Train();
43   c.lock -> d.lock;
44   c.unlock -> d.unlock after 100 msec;
45   c.move -> t.move after 100 msec;
46   c.stop -> t.stop;
47 }

```



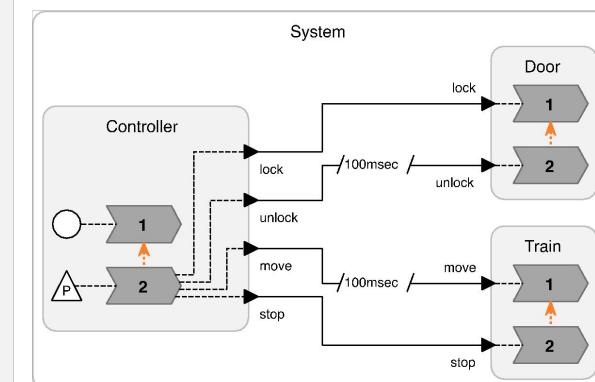
```

1 reactiveclass Controller(5) {
2   knownrebecs{
3     Door door; Train train; Afra,0
4   }
5   statevars { boolean moveP;}
Controller() {
  moveP = true;
  self.external_move();
}
msgsrv external_move() {
  int d =
  int x =
  int ext =
  if (mov
    c
    t
  } els
  doc
  tra
} moveP
self.
} }
reactiveclas
statevars
boolean
Train() {
  moving
}
@priority
moving = false;
} @priority(2) msgsrv move() {
  moving = true;
}
reactiveclass Door(10) {
  statevars{
    boolean is_locked;
  }
Door() {
  is_locked = false;
}
@priority(1) msgsrv lock () {
  is_locked = true;
}
@priority(2) msgsrv unlock () {
  is_locked = false;
}
main {
  @priority(1) Controller controller(door,
train):();
  @priority(2) Train train():();
  @priority(2) Door door():();
}

```



Lingua Franca Construct/Features	Timed Rebeca Construct/Features
reactor	reactiveclass
reaction	msgsrv
trigger	msgsrv name
state	statevars
input	msgsrv
output	known rebecls
physical action	msgsrv
implicit in the topology	Priority
main	main
instantiation (new)	instantiation of rebecls
connection	implicit in calling message servers
after	after
-	delay



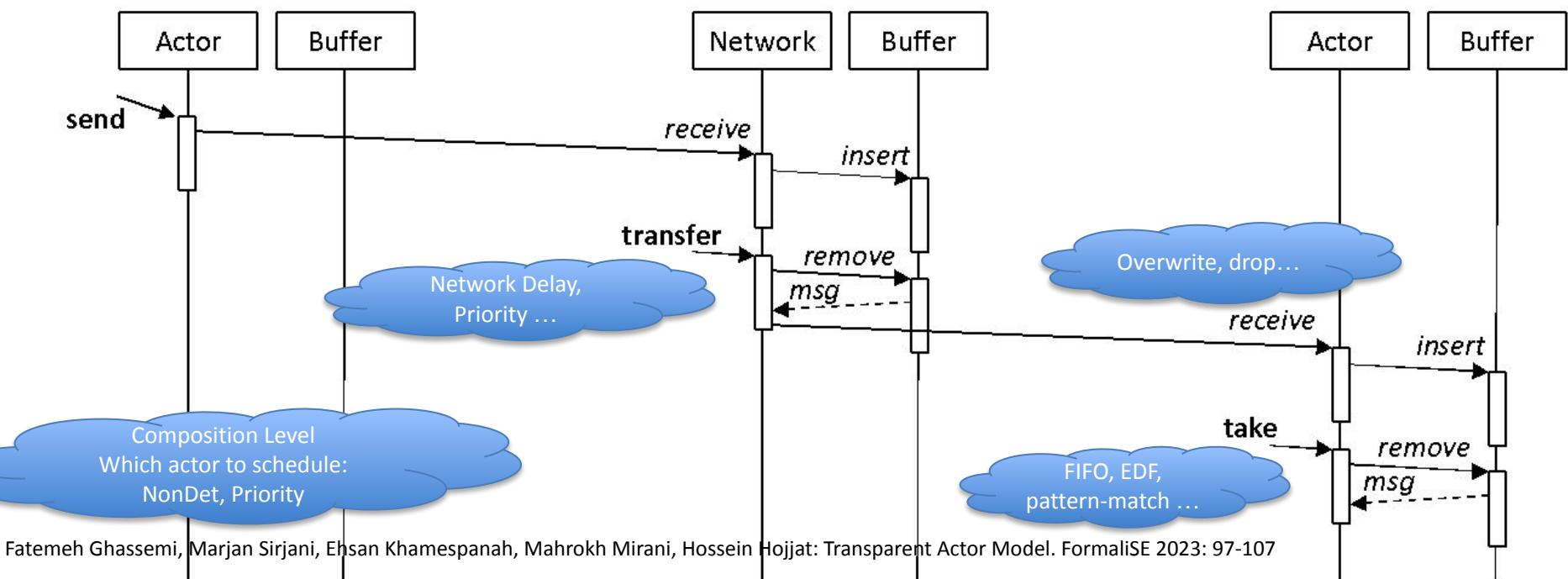
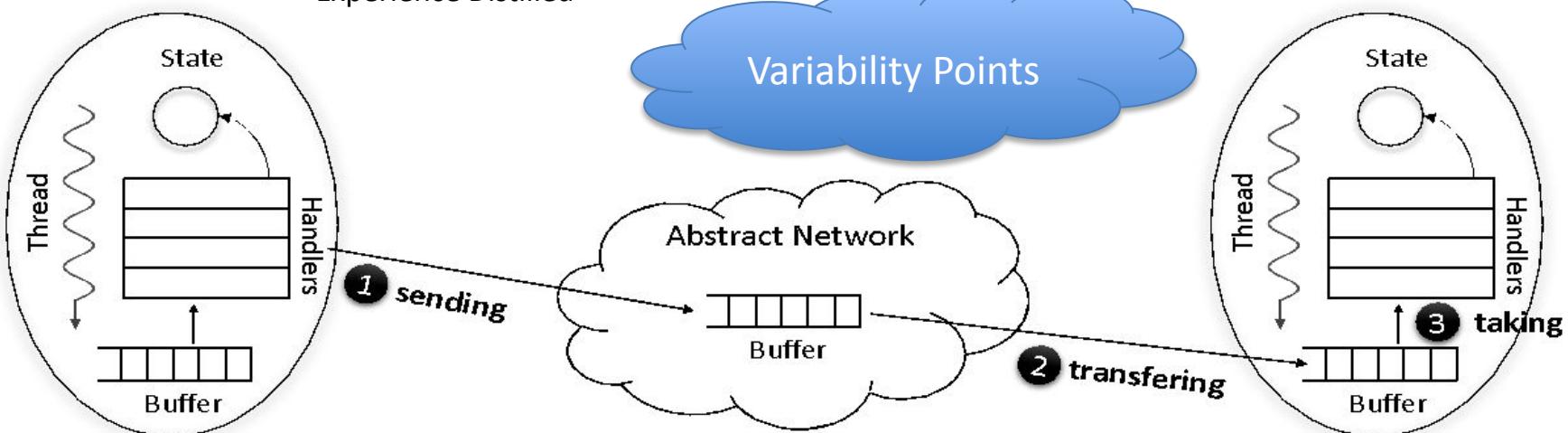
# Experience Distilled as Transparent Actors

- Looking into different application domains
  - Scheduling and end-to-end delays of Sensor Networks and Cyber-Physical Systems
    - Volvo cars, Volvo Trucks, Deif – Smart Structures (Gul Agha), Interoperable Medical Systems (John Hatcliff)
  - Optimisation of Flow Management
    - Volvo CE, Isavia, NoC (Siamak Mohammadi, Smart Hubs (Andrea Polini))
  - Model Checking Network Protocols, CPS
    - AODV, LF, all the above
- Different Actor-based Languages
  - Rebeca, Timed Rebeca, Hewitt-Agha actor-based languages
  - Creol, ABS, Concurrent object languages
  - Lingua Franca and Edward Lee's actors

# Transparent Actors

(Fateme Ghazemi, Ehsan Khamespanah, Hossein Hojjat, 2023)

Experience Distilled



# References

- For publications, see

<http://rebeca-lang.org/publications>

- For projects, see

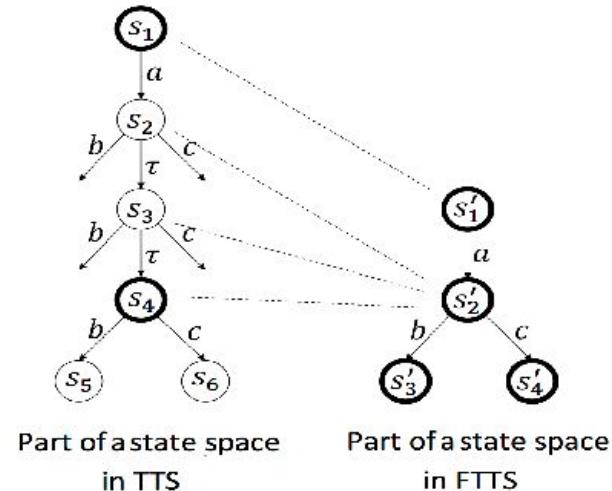
<http://rebeca-lang.org/projects>

- QUESTIONS?

# The Big Theorem

**Theorem 1.** The relation  $R$  is an action-based weak bisimulation relation between states of TTS and FTTS.

- $s \stackrel{\text{tm sg}}{!} t$  completing traces are considered
- $s \stackrel{\text{sg}}{!} t$  Stuttering of  $s$



**Corollary 1.** Transition systems of Timed Rebeca models in TTS and FTTS are equivalent with respect to all formulas that can be expressed in modal  $\mu$ -calculus with weak modalities where the actions are taking messages from bags.  $\square$

22

Corollary 1. Transition systems of Timed Rebeca models in TTS and FTTS are equivalent with respect to all formulas that can be expressed in modal  $\mu$ -calculus with weak modalities where the actions are taking messages from bags.

# Timed Rebeca Model of Ping-Pong

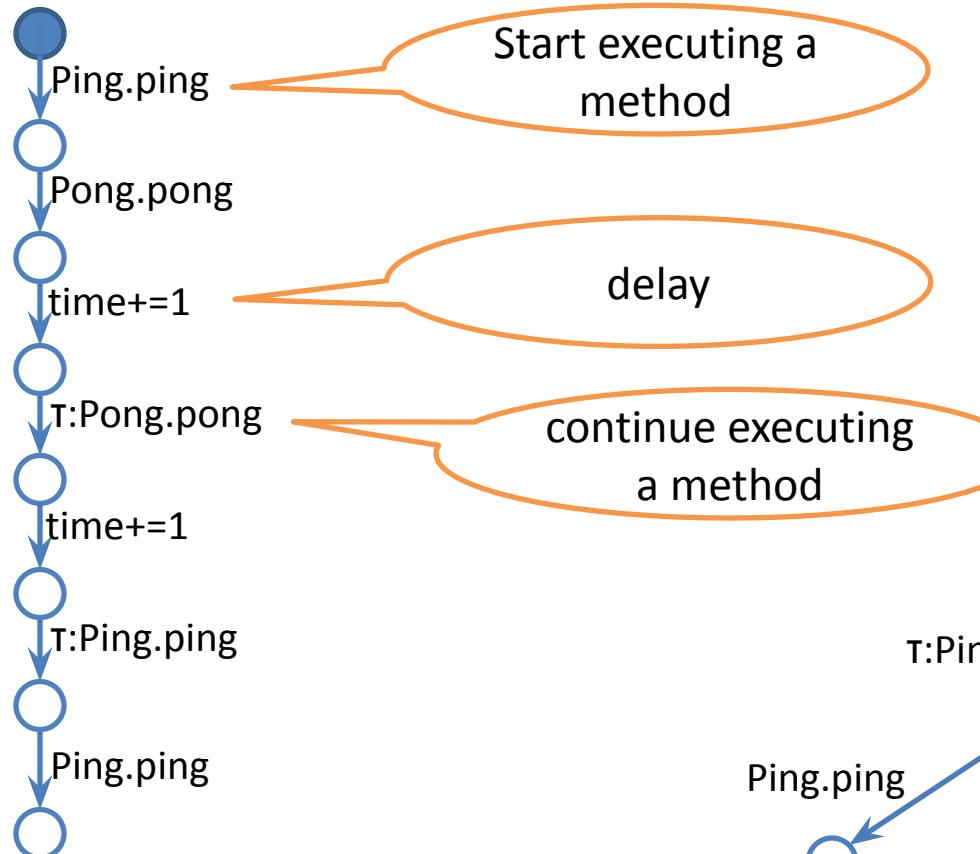
```
reactiveclass Ping(3) {
    knownrebecs {Pong pong;}
    Ping() {
        self.ping();
    }
    msgsrv ping() {
        pong.pong() after(1);
        delay(2);
    }
}

main {
    Ping ping(pong):();
    Pong pong(ping):();
}
```

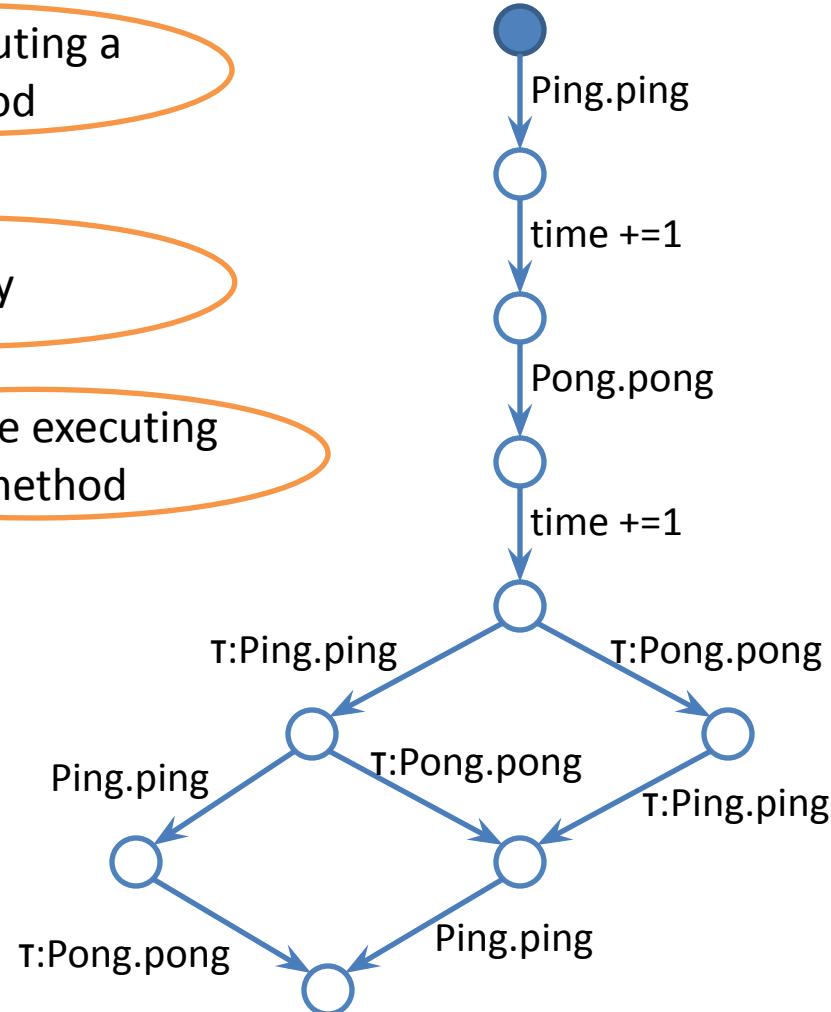
```
reactiveclass Pong(3) {
    knownrebecs {Ping ping;}
    Pong() {
    }
    msgsrv pong() {
        ping.ping() after (1) deadline(2);
        delay(1);
    }
}
```

# Timed Transition System of Ping-Pong

Without *after* and *deadline*



With *after* and *deadline*



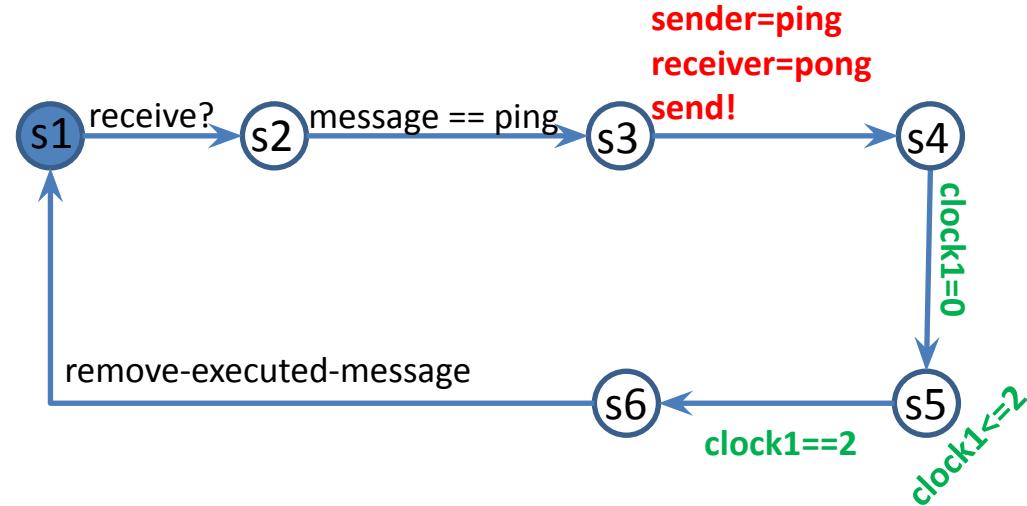
# Timed Automata of Timed Rebeca Models

- Three types of automata
  - A timed automaton for modeling the behavior of each rebec
  - A timed automaton for each message bag
  - A timed automaton for simulating the behavior of *after*

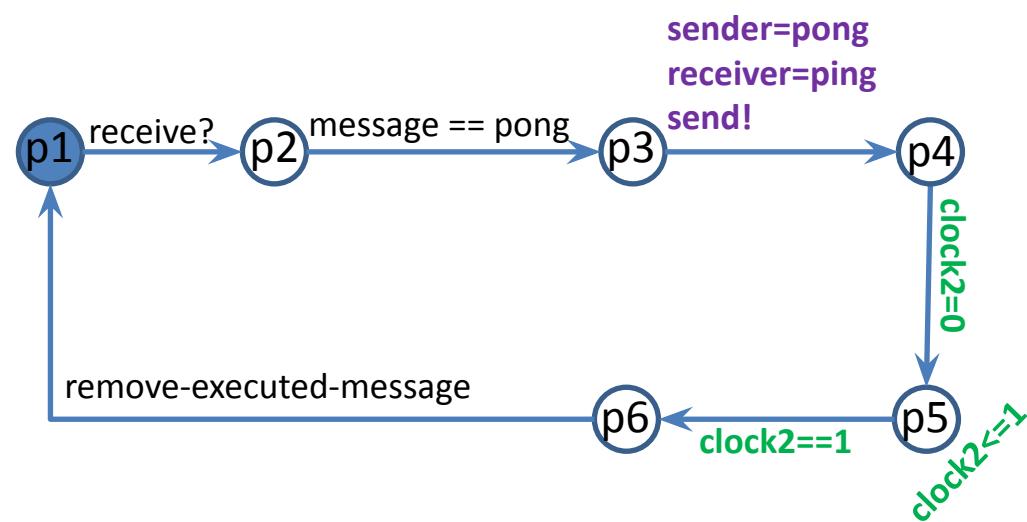
# Timed Automata for Ping and Pong

(Model without *after* and *deadline*)

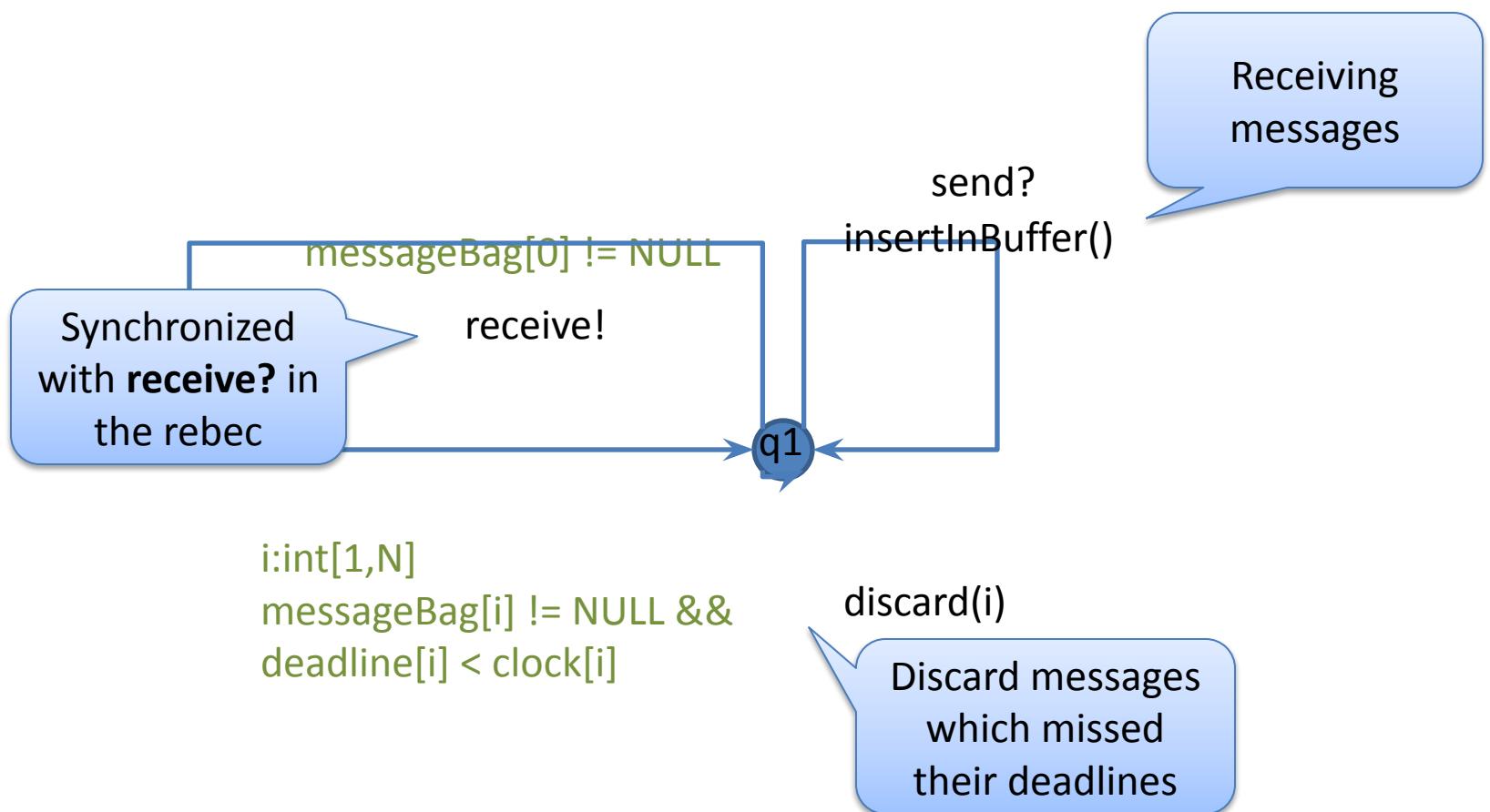
```
reactiveclass Ping(3) {
    knownrebecs {Pong pong;}
    Ping() {self.ping();}
    msgsrv ping() {
        pong.pong();
        delay(2);
    }
}
```



```
reactiveclass Pong(3) {
    knownrebecs {Ping ping;}
    Ping() {}
    msgsrv ping() {
        ping.ping();
        delay(1);
    }
}
```



# Timed Automata for Message Buffers



# Timed Automata for *After*

Send the messages  
when time enough is  
passed according to  
the *after* parameter

messageBag[i] != NULL &&  
time[i] == clock[i]

takeFromBuffer()  
send!

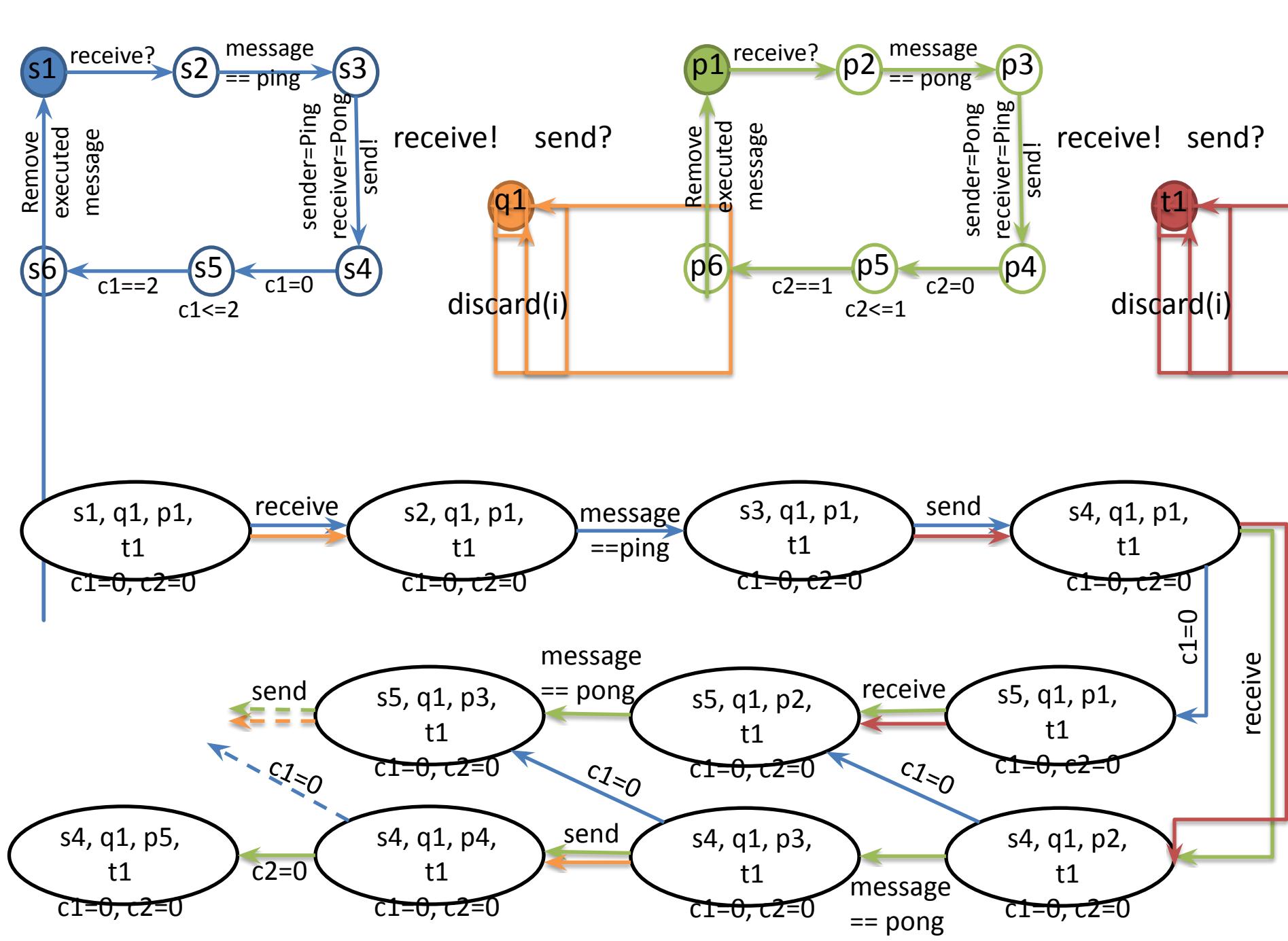
Receive messages  
and put them in a  
buffer

*after?*  
insertInBuffer()



# Region Transition System of Timed Automata Model

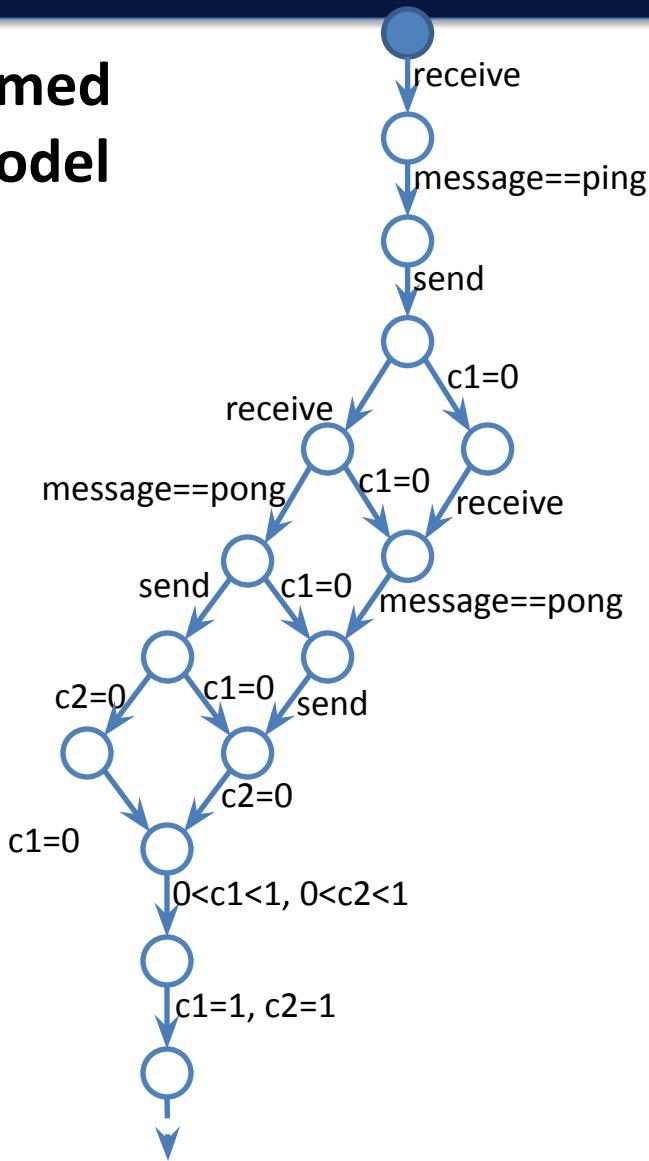
- Labels of states
  - s: Ping actor,
  - p: Pong actor,
  - q: Ping queue,
  - t: Pong queue
  - c1: local clock of Ping actor,
  - c2: local clock of Pong actor



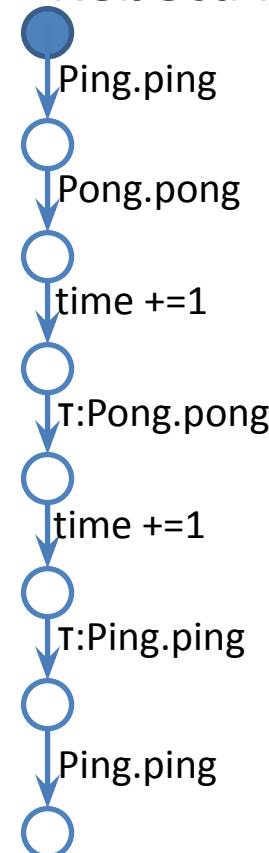
# Region Transition System of Timed Automata Model

(Model without *after* and *deadline*)

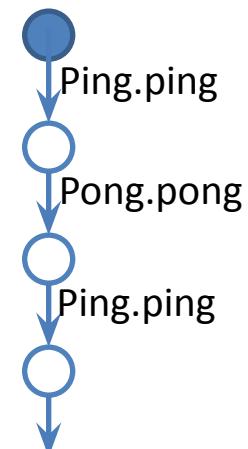
## RTS of the Timed Automata model



## TTS of the Timed Rebeca model



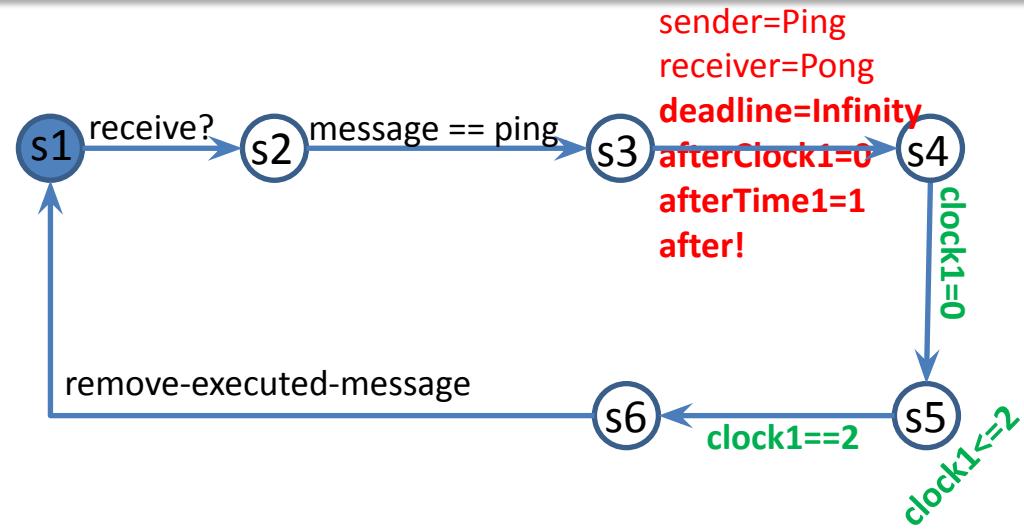
## FTTS of the Timed Rebeca model



# Timed Automata for Ping-Pong

(Model with *after* and *deadline*)

```
reactiveclass Ping(3) {
    knownrebecs {Pong pong;}
    Ping() {self.ping();}
    msgsrv ping() {
        pong.pong() after(1);
        delay(2);
    }
}
```



```
reactiveclass Pong(3) {
    knownrebecs {Ping ping;}
    Ping() {}
    msgsrv ping() {
        ping.ping() after (1) deadline(2);
        delay(1);
    }
}
```

