



# Deterministic Actors

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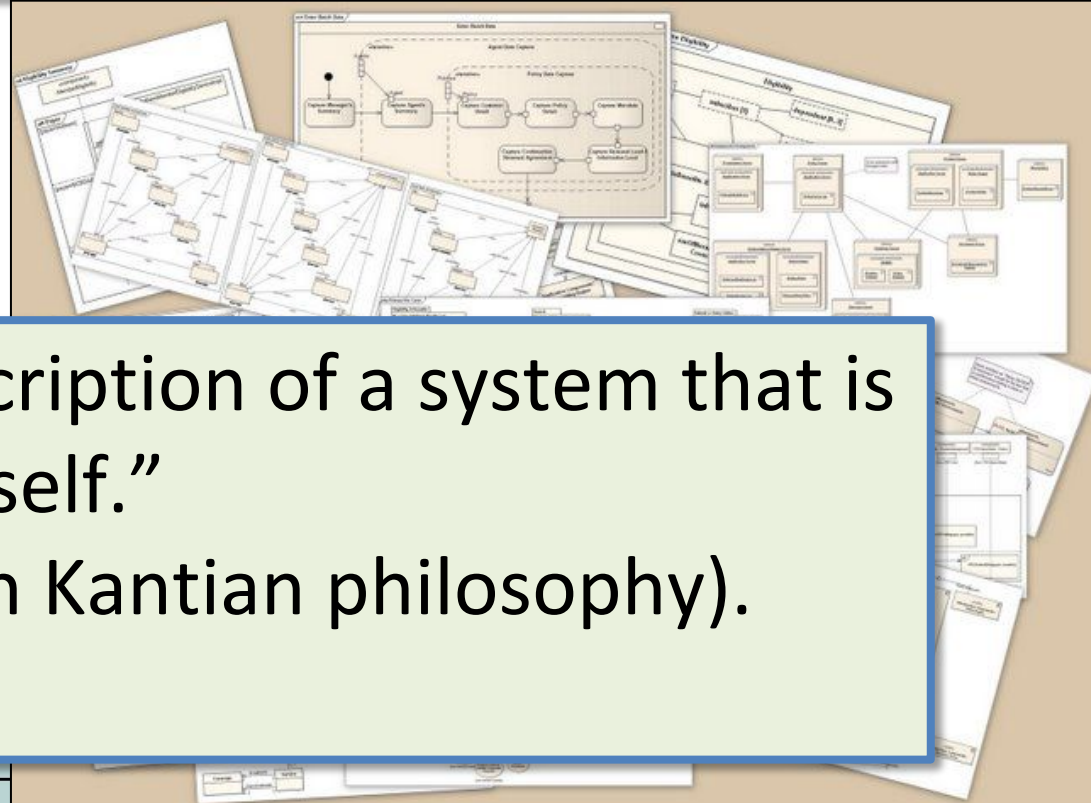
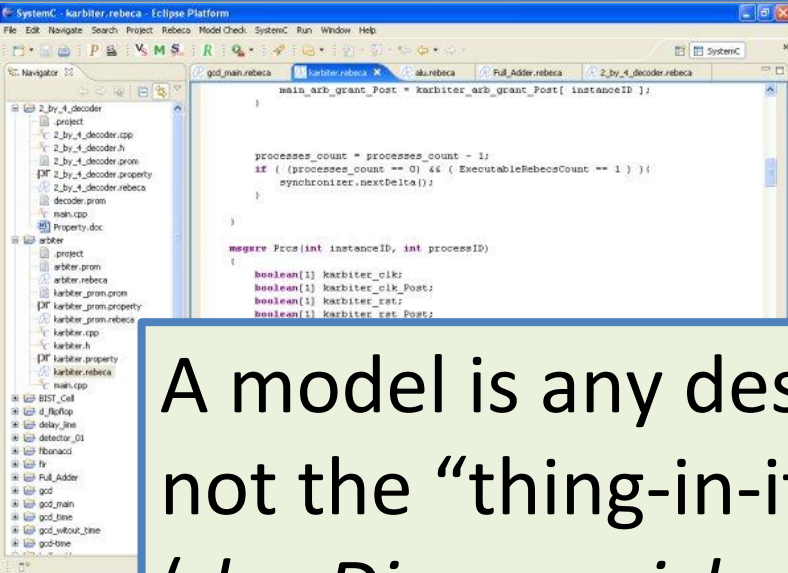


# Determinism as a Property of Models

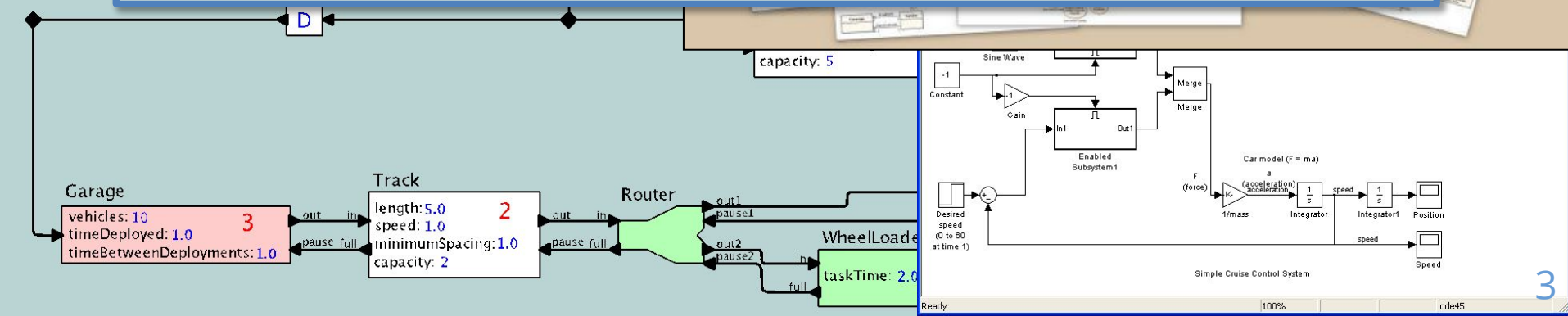
A model is *deterministic* if, given the initial *state* and the *inputs*, the model defines exactly one *behavior*.



# What is a Model?



A model is any description of a system that is not the “thing-in-itself.”  
(*das Ding an sich* in Kantian philosophy).





# Deterministic Models

Software

ISAs

SDL

Model

```

1 void foo(int32_t x) {
2     if (x > 1000) {
3         x = 1000;
4     }
5     if (x > 0) {
6         x = x + 1000;
7         if (x < 0) {
8             panic();
9         }
10    }
11 }

```

Physical System

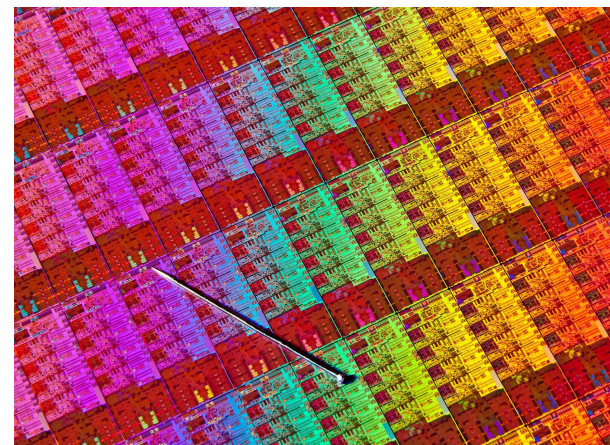
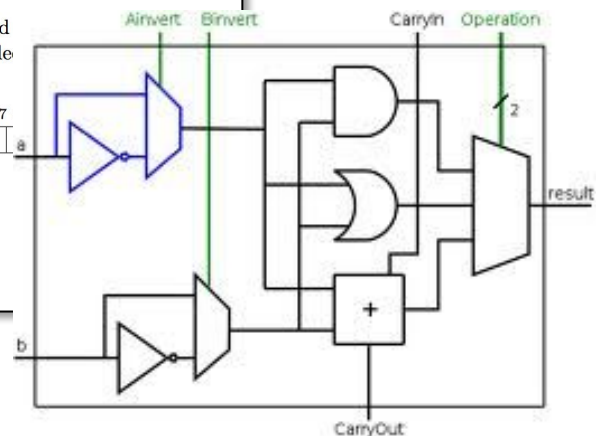


## Integer Register-Register Operations

RISC-V defines several arithmetic R-type operations. All operations read as source operands and write the result into register *rd*. The *funct10* field sele

31	27 26	22 21	17 16	7
rd	rs1	rs2	funct10	
5	5	5	10	
dest	src1	src2	ADD/SUB/SLT/SLTU	
dest	src1	src2	AND/OR/XOR	
dest	src1	src2	SLL/SRL/SRA	
dest	src1	src2	ADDW/SUBW	
dest	src1	src2	SLLW/SRLW/RAW	

Waterman, et al., The RISC-V Instruction Set Manual, UCB/EECS-2011-62, 2011



Images: Wikimedia Commons



# Why have deterministic models proven so valuable?

- They enable testing.
  - Known inputs => known outputs
- Analysis is more tractable.
  - Math: Boolean algebra, calculus, etc.
- Simulation is more useful.
  - One input yields one trace.
- Verification scales better.
  - Much smaller state space.
- More certifiable?



# Actors: Asynchronous Message Passing

Distributed  
Systems



Machine  
Learning



Cyber-  
physical  
Systems





# Example

```
Actor Bar {  
  handler init() {  
    Foo x = new  
    Foo();  
    Baz z = new  
    Baz();  
    z.pass(x);  
    x.increment(1);  
  }  
}
```

```
Actor Baz {  
  handler pass(Foo x) {  
    x.double();  
  }  
}
```

What is printed?

```
Actor Foo {  
  int state = 1;  
  handler double() {  
    state *= 2;  
  }  
  handler increment(arg) {  
    state += arg;  
    print state;  
  }  
}
```

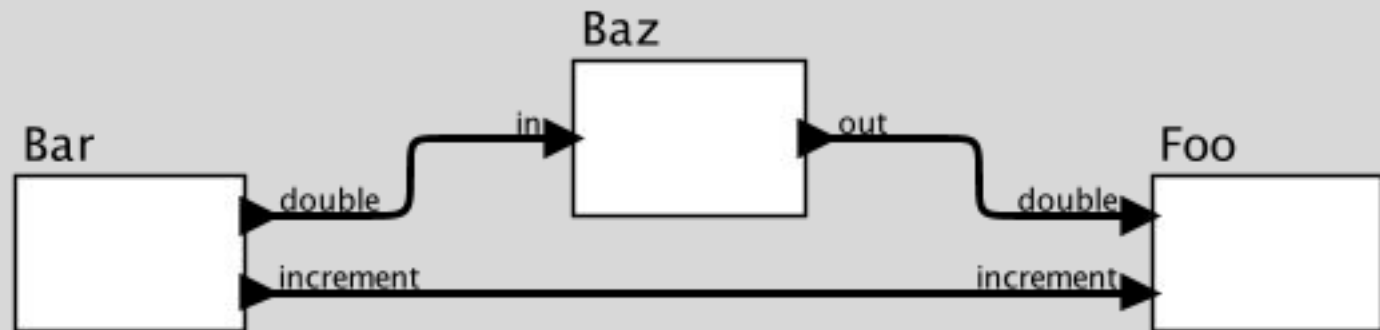




# Coordination: Ports, Hierarchy, and Scheduling

```
composite Top {  
  Foo x = new Foo();  
  Bar y = new Bar();  
  Baz z = new Baz();  
  connect(y.double, z.in);  
  connect(y.increment, x.increment);  
  connect(z.out, x.double);  
}
```

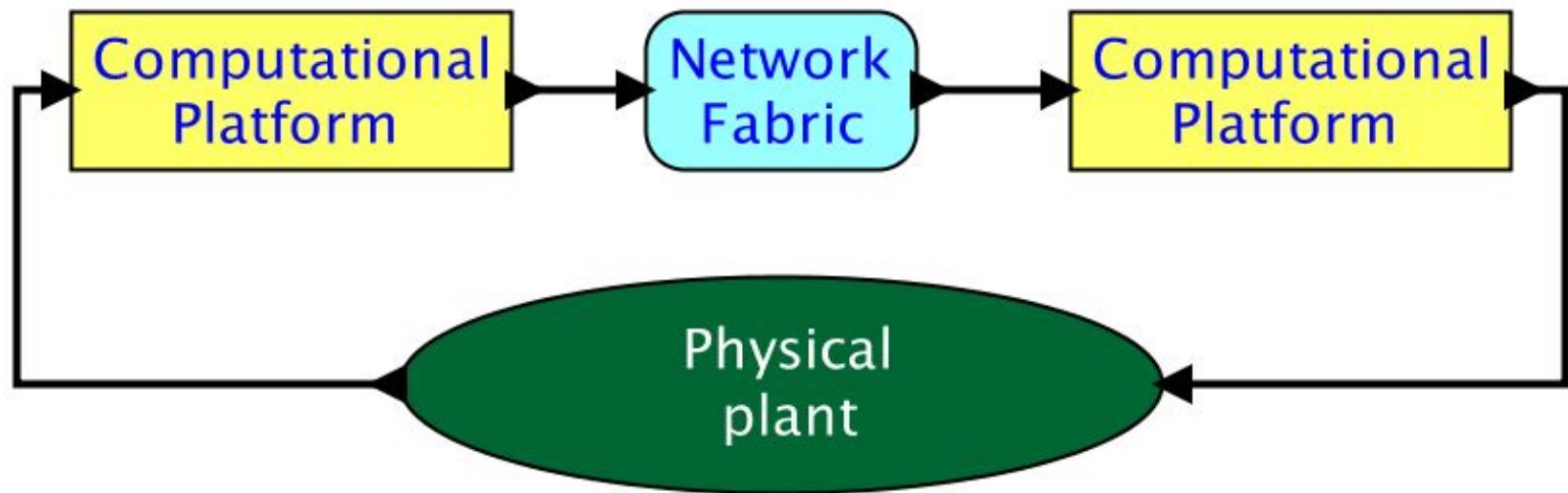
See our paper for an elaborate discussion on how coordination is done in KPN, DF, SR, and DE.







# Cyber-Physical Systems



Predictability requires determinacy and depends on timing, including execution times and network delays.



# Lingua Franca

## Hello World

Polyglot

Time

Periodic reactions

Reaction interfaces

Not shown:

- Inheritance
- Actions
- Deadlines

Mutually atomic reactions, written  
in target language

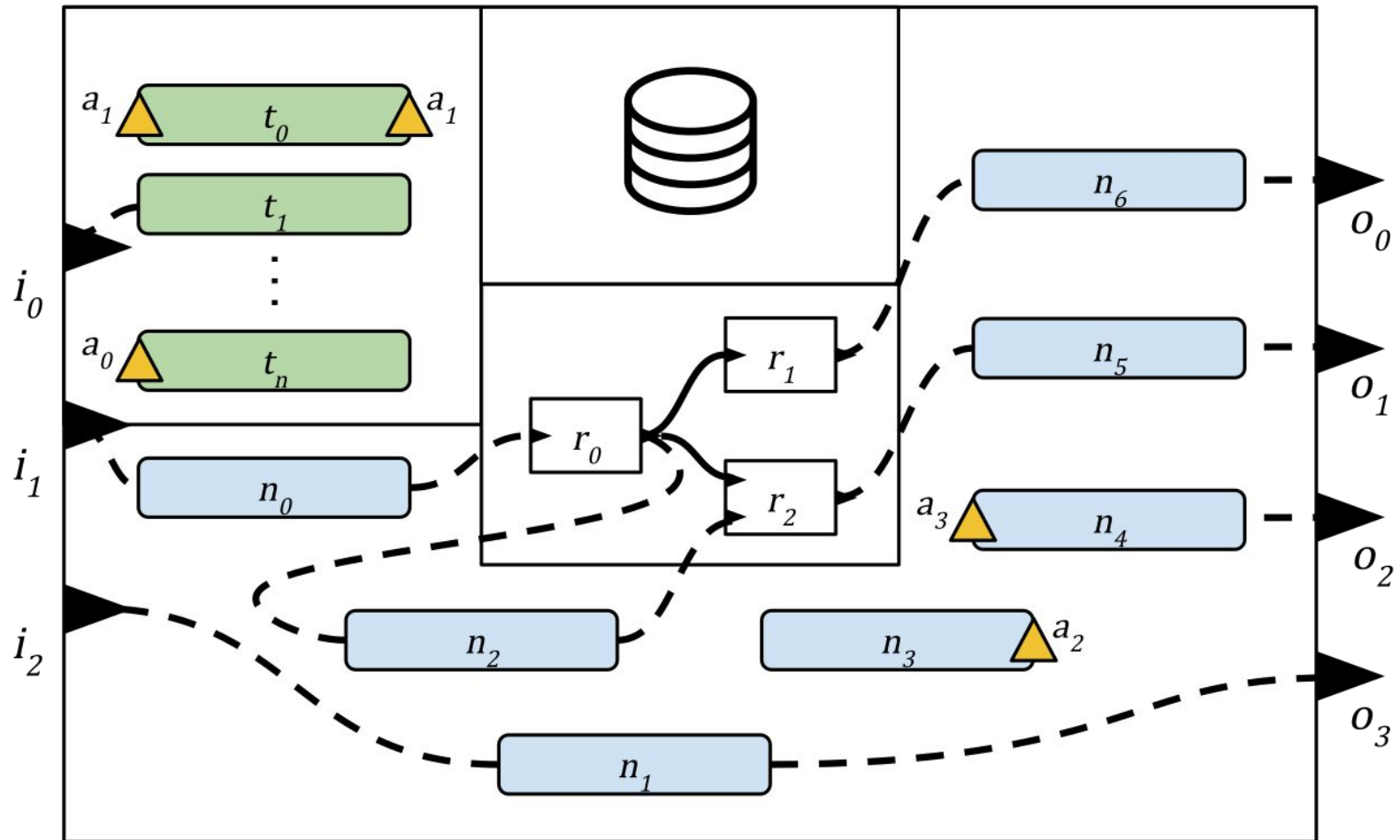
Deterministic, time-stamped communication

Hierarchical composition

```
target C;
- reactor Ramp(period:time(1 sec)) {
    input set:int;
    output out:int;
    timer clock(period);
    state count:int(0);
    reaction(clock) -> out {=
        (this->count)++;
        set(out, (this->count));
    =}
    reaction(set) {=
        this->count = set;
    =}
}
- reactor Print {
    input in:int;
    reaction(in) {=
        printf("%d\n", in);
    =}
}
- composite Main {
    a = new Ramp(period = 2 secs);
    b = new Print();
    a.out -> b.in;
}
```

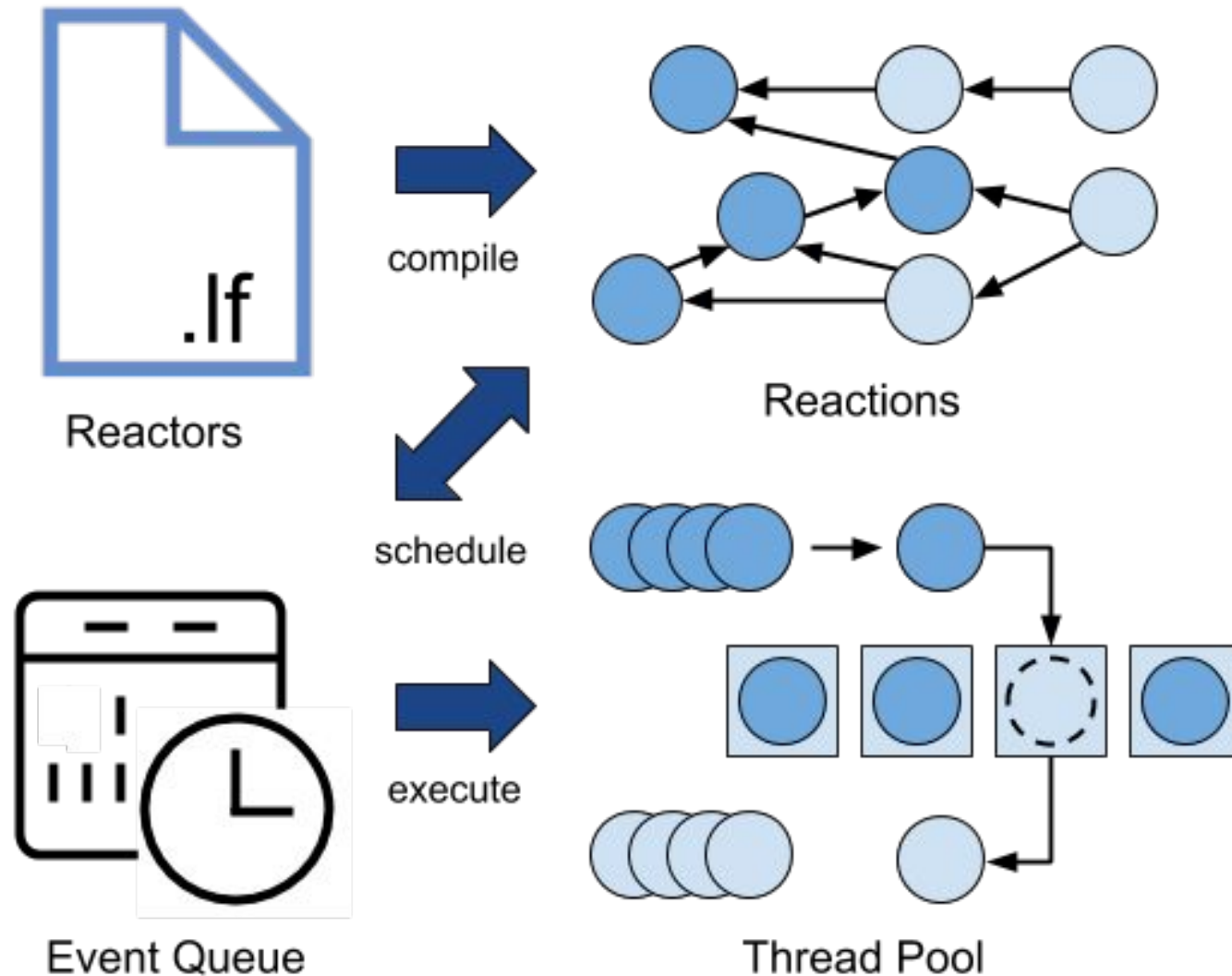


# Reactors: Deterministic Actors



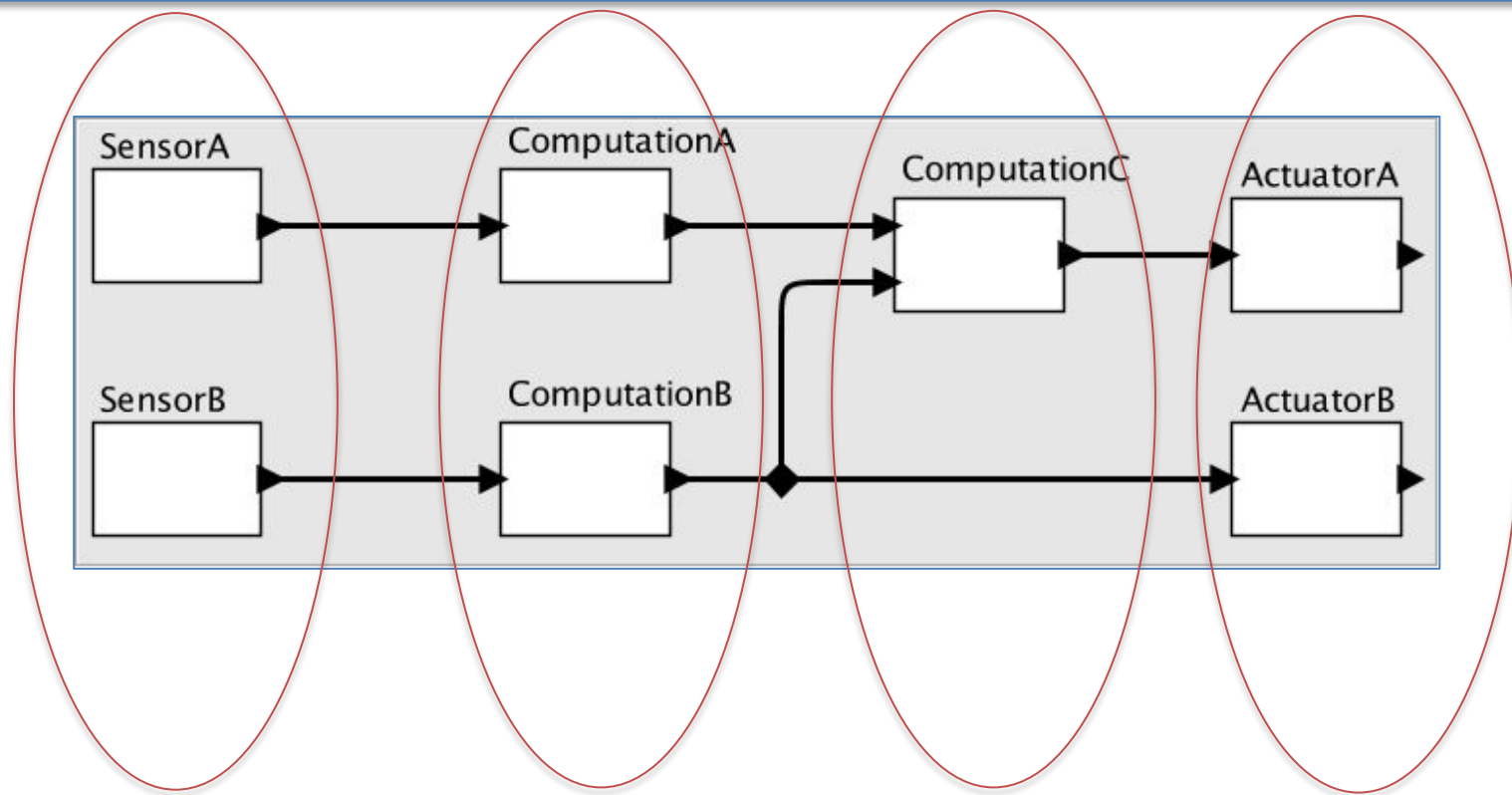


# Lingua Franca Compiler & Runtime





# Questions Addressed by Reactors



What combinations of periodic, sporadic, behaviors are manageable?

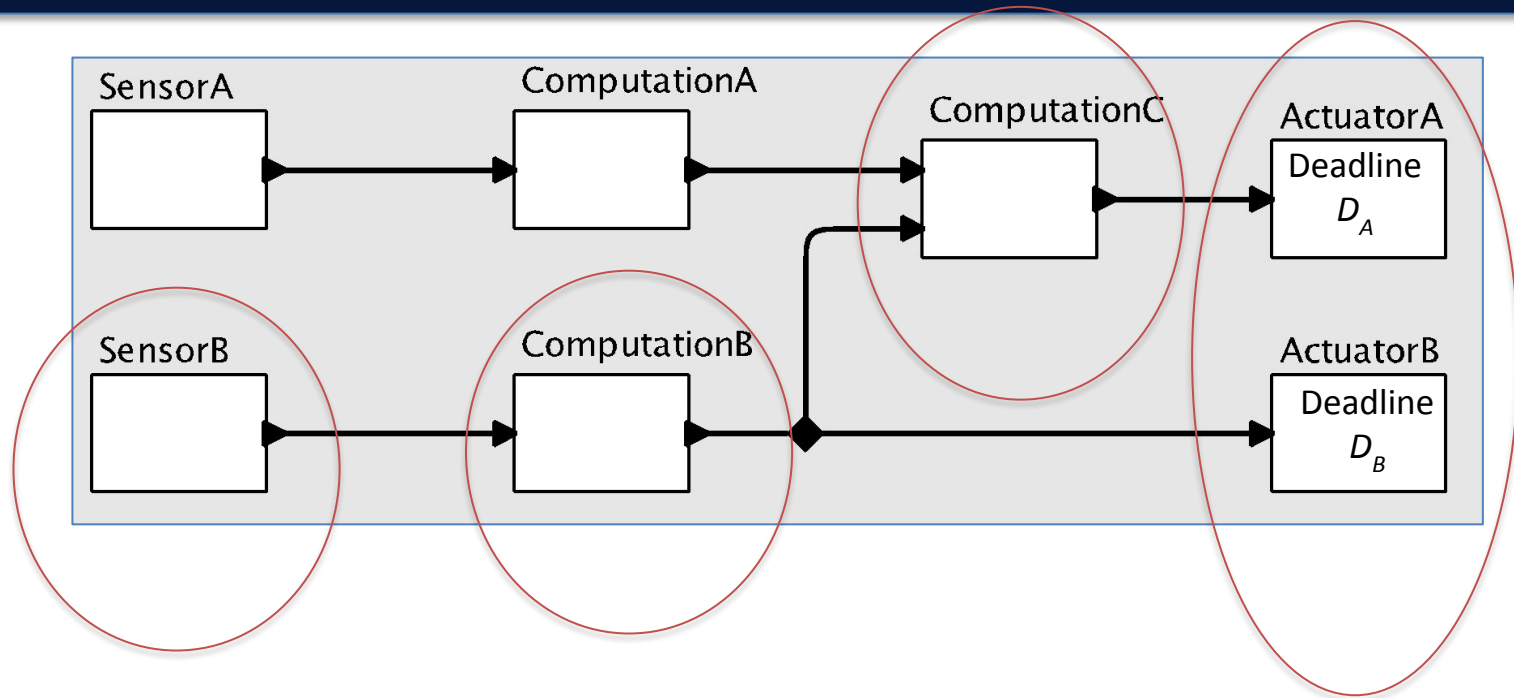
How do execution times affect feasibility?  
How can we know execution times?

How do we get repeatable and testable behavior when communication is across networks?

How do we specify, ensure, and enforce deadlines?



# Logical vs. Physical Time



Sporadic events are assigned a time stamp based on the local physical-time clock

Computations have logically zero delay.

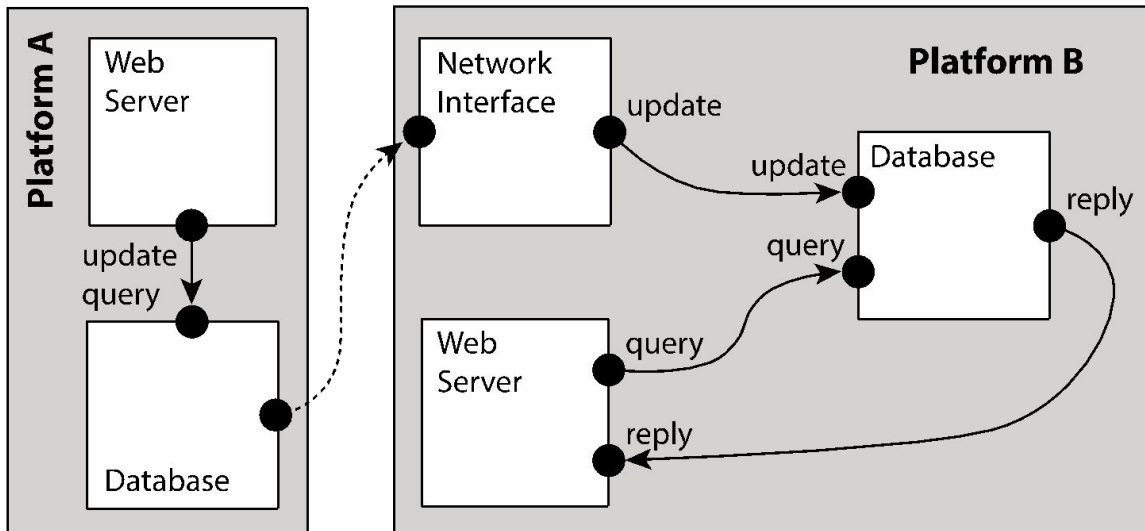
Every reactor handles events in time-stamp order. If time-stamps are equal, events are “simultaneous”

Actuators can have a deadline  $D$ . An input with time stamp  $t$  is required to be delivered to the actuator before the local clock hits  $t + D$ .



# Distributed Execution w/PTIDES

- Bounded clock synchronization error
- Bounded network latency
- Bounded execution times



in Proceedings of the 13th IEEE Real-Time and Embedded Technology and Applications Symposium (RTAS 07), Bellevue, WA, United States.

Fundamental tradeoff between latency and determinism.

## A Programming Model for Time-Synchronized Distributed Real-Time Systems

<http://ptolemy.org/projects/chess/ptides>

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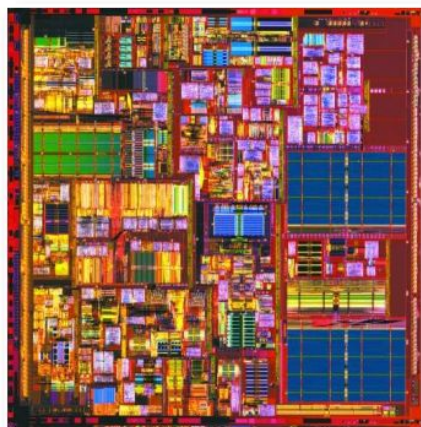


# PRET Machines

## Our Vision: PRET Machines

<http://ptolemy.org/projects/chess/pret>

PREcision-Timed processors: Performance & Predicability



+



= PRET



# Conclusions

- ◎ Reactors provide a programming model that fits PRET and PTIDES
- ◎ The coordination of reactors does not require any code analysis, enabling ***Lingua Franca***:
  - Time is a first-class citizen in the language
  - Nondeterminism must be introduced explicitly using *actions*
  - A small runtime API allows for the reading of inputs, writing of outputs, and scheduling of actions
  - The LF compiler is relatively simple because code optimization is left to the target language compiler entirely
  - Adding support for a new target language only requires writing a runtime and code generator



<https://github.com/icyphy/lingua-franca>