

RESS: Real-Time Embedded Software Synthesis and Prototyping Methodology*

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Abstract. In this work, we propose a complete methodology called RESS (*Real-Time Embedded Software Synthesis*) for the automatic design of real-time embedded software. Several issues are solved, including software synthesis, software verification, code generation, graphic user interface, and system emulation. To avoid design errors, a formal approach is adopted because glitches in real-time embedded software are intolerable and very expensive or even impossible to fix. *Time Complex-choice Petri Nets* are used to model real-time embedded software, which are then synthesized using a *time extended quasi static scheduling* algorithm. The final generated C code is prototyped on an emulation platform, which consists of an 89C51 microcontroller for executing the software, an FPGA chip for programming the hardware for different applications, and some input/output devices. Two application examples are used to illustrate the feasibility of the RESS methodology.

1 Introduction

Real-time embedded systems have made a man's life more convenient through easier controls and flexible configurations on many of our home amenities and office equipments. Due to the growing demand for more and more functionalities in real-time embedded systems, an all-hardware implementation is no longer feasible because it is not only costly, but also not easily maintainable or upgradeable. Thus, software has gradually taken over a large portion of a real-time embedded system's functionalities. But, along with this flexibility, real-time embedded software has also become highly complex. The past approach of starting everything from scratch is no

* This work was partially supported by research project grant NSC-90-2218-E-014-009 from National Science Council, Taiwan, ROC.

longer viable. We need to use tools that automate several tedious tasks, but though there are some tools available for the design of embedded software, yet there is still a lack for a general design methodology. In this work, we are proposing a complete methodology, covering issues such as software synthesis, software verification, code generation, and system emulation.

An embedded system is one that is installed in a large system with a dedicated functionality. Some examples include avionics flight control, vehicle cruise control, and network-enabled devices in home appliances. In general, embedded systems have a microprocessor for executing software and some hardware in the form of ASICs, DSP, and I/O peripherals. The hardware and software work together to accomplish some given function for a larger system. Embedded software is often hardware-dependent, thus it must be co-developed along with the development of the hardware, or the interface must be clearly defined. To satisfy all user-given constraints, formal approaches are a well-accepted design paradigm for embedded software [1], [2], [3], [4], [5].

Software synthesis is a process in which a formally modeled system can be synthesized by a scheduling algorithm into a set of feasible schedules that satisfy all user-given constraints on system functions and memory space. Due to its high expressiveness, Petri nets are a widely-used model. We propose and use a high-level variant of the model called *Time Complex-Choice Petri Nets (TCCPN)*. TCCPN extends the previously used models called *Free-Choice Petri Nets* [6]. Thus, our synthesis algorithm also extends a previously proposed quasi-static scheduling algorithm. Details on the model and the proposed *Time Extended Quasi-Static Scheduling (TEQSS)* algorithm along with code generation will be given in Section 3.2.

Software verification formally analyzes the behavior of synthesized software to check if it satisfies all user-given constraints on function and memory space. In this verification process, we use the well-known model checking procedure to automatically verify synthesized software schedules. Further, we also need to estimate the amount of memory used by a generated software schedule. Details of this procedure will be given in Section 3.3.

Finally, the generated real-time embedded software is placed into an emulation platform for prototyping and debugging. The software code is downloaded into a single chip microcontroller. The hardware for software code emulation is programmed on an FPGA chip. According to the real-time embedded software specifications, the settings of the input/output devices are configured. The embedded hardware and the I/O devices are then used for monitoring the functions of the real-time embedded software through a debugger.

The proposed RESS methodology will be illustrated using two examples: a *Vehicle Parking Management System (VPMS)* [7] and a motor speed control system. Details are given in Section 4.

This article is organized as follows. Section 2 gives a brief overview about previous work on embedded software synthesis, verification, and code generation. Section 3 describes the software synthesis method and our emulation platform architecture. Two real-time embedded system examples are given in Section 4. Section 5 concludes the article and gives directions for future research work.

2 Previous Work

Several techniques for software synthesis from a concurrent functional specification have been proposed [6], [8], [9], [10], [11], [12], [13], [14]. Buck and Lee [9] have introduced the *Boolean Data Flow* (BDF) networks model and proposed an algorithm to compute a *quasi-static schedule*. However, the problem of scheduling BDF with bounded memory is undecidable, *i.e.* any algorithm may fail to find a schedule even if the BDF is schedulable. Hence, the algorithm proposed by Buck can find a solution only in special cases. Thoen et al. [10] proposed a technique to exploit static information in the specification and extract from a constraint graph description of the system statically schedulable clusters of threads. The limit of this approach is that it does not rely on a formal model and does not address the problem of checking whether a given specification is schedulable. Lin [11] proposed an algorithm that generates a software program from a concurrent process specification through an intermediate Petri-Nets representation. This approach is based on the strong assumption that the Petri Net is safe, *i.e.* buffers can store at most one data unit. This on one hand guarantees termination of the algorithm, on the other hand it makes impossible to handle multirate specifications, like FFT computations and down-sampling. Safeness implies that the model is always schedulable and therefore also Lin's method does not address the problem of verifying schedulability of the specification. Moreover, safeness excludes the possibility to use Petri Nets where source and sink transitions model the interaction with the environment. This makes impossible to specify inputs with independent rate. Later, Zhu and Lin [12] proposed a compositional synthesis method that reduced the generated code size and thus was more efficient.

Software synthesis method was proposed for a more general Petri-Net framework by Sgroi et al. [6]. A quasi-static scheduling algorithm was proposed for *Free-Choice Petri Nets* (FCPN) [6]. A necessary and sufficient condition was given for a FCPN to be schedulable. Schedulability was first tested for a FCPN and then a valid schedule generated. Decomposing a FCPN into a set of *Conflict-Free* (CF) components which were then individually and statically scheduled. Code was finally generated from the valid schedule.

Balarin et al. [2] proposed a software synthesis produce for reactive embedded systems in the *Codesign Finite State Machine* (CFSM) [15] framework with the POLIS hardware-software codesign tool [15]. This work cannot be easily extended to other more general frameworks.

Recently, Su and Hsiung [13] proposed an *Extended Quasi-Static Scheduling* (EQSS) using *Complex-Choice Petri Nets* (CCPNs) as models to solve the issue of complex choice structures. Gau and Hsiung [14], [16] proposed a *Time-Memory Scheduling* (TMS) method for formally synthesizing and automatically generating code for real-time embedded software, using the *Colored Time Petri Nets* model. In our current work, we use a time extension of EQSS called TEQSS [17] to synthesize real-time embedded software and use the code generation procedure from [13] to generate the C code for 8051 microcontroller.

Several simulation or emulation boards for single chip micro-controller, such as Intel 8051 or ATMEL 89c51, have been developed. As we know, the platform for

real-time embedded software synthesis is still lacking. Therefore, we develop a flexible emulation environment for real-time embedded software system. To the best of our knowledge, there are some emulation platforms available for embedded system design such as [18], [19]. In [18], a reconfigurable architecture platform for embedded control applications aimed at improving real time performance was proposed. In [19], the authors present the technology assessment of N2C platform of CoWare Inc., which proposes a solution to the co-design/co-simulation problem.

3 Embedded Software Synthesis and Prototyping Methodology

In the automatic design of real-time embedded software, there are several issues to be solved, including how software is to be synthesized and code generated, how software is to be verified, and how software code is to be emulated. Each of these issues was introduced in Section 1 and will be discussed at length in the rest of this Section.

The overall flow of real-time embedded software synthesis and the emulation of the generated software code on our prototype platform is as shown in Fig. 1. Given a real-time embedded software specification, we analyze it and then decide the requirements of the hardware within which the embedded software is to be executed. The hardware is then synthesized by an FPGA/CPLD development tool and programmed into the chip of ALTERA or XILINX on our platform.

On synthesis, if feasible software schedules cannot be generated then we rollback to the embedded software specification and ask the user to recheck or modify the specification. If feasible software schedules can be generated, then a C code for 8051 microcontroller will be generated by a code generation procedure. The machine executable code will be then generated using a 8051-specific C compiler. The target machine code is finally loaded into the 89C51 or 87C51 microcontroller chip on the platform.

3.1 Software Synthesis and Code Generation

Software synthesis is a scheduling process whereby feasible software schedules are generated, which satisfy all user-given functional requirements, timing constraints, and memory constraints. Here, we use a previously proposed *Time Extended Quasi-Static Scheduling* (TEQSS) method for the synthesis of real-time embedded software. TEQSS takes a set of TCCPN as input along with timing and memory constraints such as periods, deadlines, and an upper bound on system memory space. TCCPN is defined as follows.

Definition 1. Time Complex-Choice Petri Nets (TCCPN)

A Time Complex-Choice Petri Net is a 5-tuple (P, T, F, M_0, τ) , where:

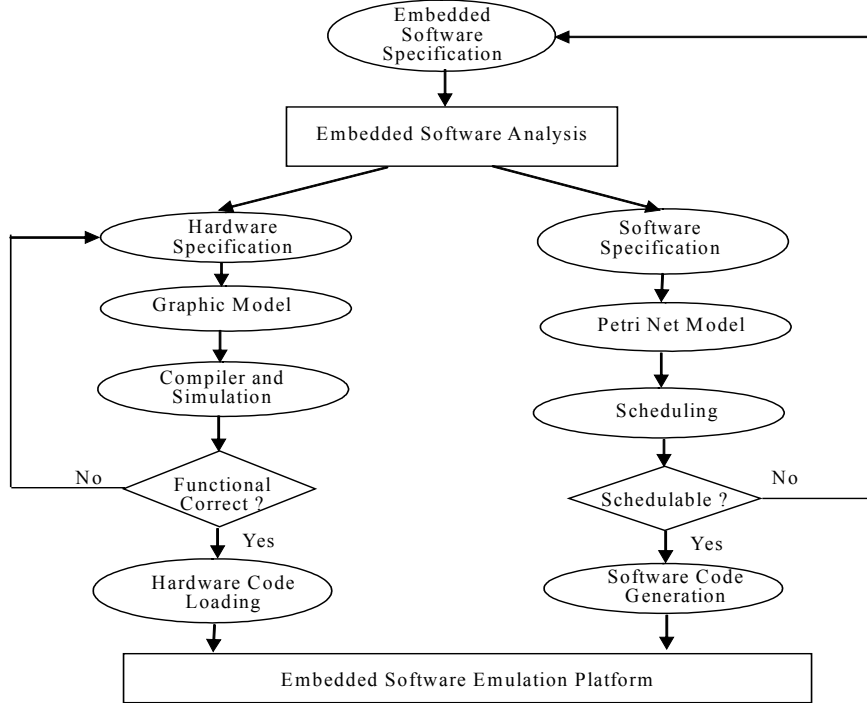


Fig. 1. Real-Time Embedded Software Synthesis and Prototyping Methodology

- P is a finite set of places,
- T is a finite set of transitions, $P \cup T \neq \emptyset$, and $P \cap T = \emptyset$,
- $F: (P \times T) \cup (T \times P) \rightarrow N$ is a weighted flow relation between places and transitions, represented by arcs, where N is the set of nonnegative integers. The flow relation has the following characteristics.
 - Synchronization at a transition is allowed between a branch arc of a choice place and another independent concurrent arc.
 - Synchronization at a transition is not allowed between two or more branch arcs of the same choice place.
 - A self-loop from a place back to itself is allowed only if there is an initial token in one of the places in the loop.
- $M_0: P \rightarrow N$ is the initial marking (assignment of tokens to places). and
- $\tau: T \rightarrow N \times (N \cup \infty)$, i.e. $\tau(t) = (\alpha, \beta)$, where $t \in T$, α is the earliest firing time (EFT), and β is latest firing time (LFT). We will use the abbreviations $\tau_\alpha(t)$ and $\tau_\beta(t)$ to denote EFT and LFT, respectively. □

Graphically, a TCCPN can be depicted as shown in Fig. 2, where circles represent places, vertical bars represent transitions, arrows represent arcs, black dots represent tokens, and integers labeled over arcs represent the weights as defined by F . Here, $F(x, y) > 0$ implies there is an arc from x to y with a weight of $F(x, y)$, where x and y

can be a place or a transition. *Conflicts* are allowed in a TCCPN, where a conflict occurs when there is a token in a place with more than one outgoing arc such that only one enabled transition can fire, thus consuming the token and disabling all other transitions. The transitions are called *conflicting* and the place with the token is also called a *choice* place. For example, decelerate and accelerate are conflicting transitions in Fig. 2. Intuitions for the characteristics of the flow relation in a TCCPN, as given in Definition 1, are as follows. First, unlike FCPN, *confusions* are also allowed in TCCPN, where confusion is a result of synchronization between an arc of a choice place and another independently concurrent arc. For example, the accelerate transition in Fig. 2 is such a synchronization. Second, synchronization is not allowed between two or more arcs of the same choice place because arcs from a choice place represent (un)conditional branching, thus synchronizing them would amount to executing both branches, which conflicts with the original definition of a choice place (only one succeeding enabled transition is executed). Third, at least one place occurring in a loop of a TCCPN should have an initial token because our TEQSS scheduling method requires a TCCPN to return to its initial marking after a finite complete cycle of markings. This is basically not a restriction as can be seen from most real-world system models because a loop without an initial token would result in either of two unrealistic situations: (1) loop triggered externally resulting in accumulation of infinite number of tokens in the loop, or (2) loop is never triggered. Through an analysis of the choice structures in a TCCPN, TEQSS generates a set of conflict-free components and then schedules each of them, if possible. Once each component can be scheduled to satisfy all constraints, the system is declared schedulable and code is generated in the C programming language.

Semantically, the behavior of a TCCPN is given by a sequence of *markings*, where a marking is an assignment of tokens to places. Formally, a marking is a vector $M = \langle m_1, m_2, \dots, m_{|P|} \rangle$, where m_i is the non-negative number of tokens in place $p_i \in P$.

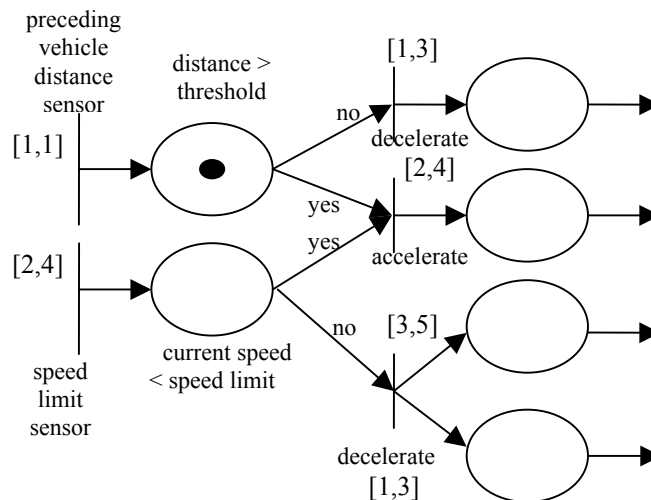


Fig. 2. Automatic Cruise Controller TCCPN Model

Starting from an initial marking M_0 , a TCCPN may transit to another marking through the firing of an enabled transition and re-assignment of tokens. A transition is said to be *enabled* when all its input places have the required number of tokens, where the required number of tokens is the weight as defined by the flow relation F . An enabled transition not necessarily fire. But upon firing, the required number of tokens is removed from all the input places and the specified number of tokens is placed in the output places, where the specified number of tokens is that specified by the flow relation F on the connecting arcs.

Time Extended Quasi-Static Scheduling. The details of our proposed TEQSS algorithm are as shown in Table 1. Given a set of TCCPNs $S = \{ A_i \mid A_i = (P_i, T_i, F_i, M_{i0}, \tau_i), i = 1, 2, \dots, n \}$ and a maximum bound on memory μ , the algorithm finds and processes each set of complex choice transitions (Step (1)), which is simply called *Complex Choice Set* (CCS) and is defined as follows.

Definition 2. Complex Choice Set (CCS)

Given a TCCPN $A_i = (P_i, T_i, F_i, M_{i0}, \tau_i)$, a subset of transitions $C \subseteq T_i$ is called a complex choice set if they satisfy the following conditions.

- There exists a sequence of the transitions in C such that any two adjacent transitions are always conflicting transitions from the same choice place.
- There is no other transition in $T_i \setminus C$ that conflicts with any transition in C , which means C is maximal. \square

From Definition 2, we can see that a free-choice is a special case of CCS. Thus, QSS also becomes a part of TEQSS. For each CCS, TEQSS analyzes the mutual exclusiveness of the transitions in that CCS and then records their relations into an *Exclusion Table* (Steps (2)-(5)). Two complex-choice transitions are said to be *mutually exclusive* if the firing of any one of the two transitions disables the other transition. When the (i, j) element of an exclusion table is True, it means the i^{th} and the j^{th} transitions are mutually exclusive, otherwise it is False. Based on the exclusion table, a CCS is decomposed into two or more *conflict-free* (CF) subsets, which are sets of transitions that do not have any conflicts, neither free-choice nor complex-choice. The decomposition is done as follows (Steps 6-14). For each pair of mutually exclusive transitions t, t' , do as follows.

- Make a copy H' of the CCS H (Step (11)),
- Delete t' from H (Step (12)), and
- Delete t from H' (Step (13)).

Based on the CF subsets, a TCCPN is decomposed into conflict-free components (subnets) (Steps (15)-(16)). The CF components are not distinct decompositions as a transition may occur in more than one component. Starting from an initial marking for each component, a *finite complete cycle* is constructed, where a finite complete cycle is a sequence of transition firings that returns the net to its initial marking. A CF component is said to be schedulable (Step (19)) if a finite complete cycle can be found for it and it is deadlock-free. Once all CF components of a TCCPN are scheduled, a valid schedule for the TCCPN can be generated as a set of the finite complete cycles. The reason why this set is a valid schedule is that since each component always returns to its initial marking, no tokens can get collected at any

Table 1. Time Extended Quasi-Static Scheduling Algorithm

```

TEQSS_Schedule( $S, \mu$ )
 $S = \{ A_i \mid A_i = (P_i, T_i, F_i, M_{i_0}, \tau_i), i = 1, 2, \dots, n \};$ 
 $\mu$ : integer; // Maximum memory
{
  while ( $C = \text{Get\_CCS}(S) \neq \text{NULL}$ ) { (1)
    // Construct Exclusion Table ExTable for CCS  $C$ 
    Initialize_Table(ExTable); // Initialize table to
                                False (2)
    for each transition  $t$  in  $C$  (3)
      for each transition  $t'$  in  $C$  (4)
        if ( $M\_Exclusive(t, t')$ ) ExTable[ $t, t'$ ] = True; (5)

    // Decompose CCS  $C$  into conflict-free subsets (6)
     $D = \{C\}$ ; //  $D$  is a power-set of  $C$  (7)
    for each subset  $H$  in  $D$  (8)
      for each transition  $t$  in  $H$  (9)
        for each transition  $t'$  in  $H$  (10)
          if (ExTable[ $t, t'$ ] = True) { (11)
             $H' = \text{Copy\_Set}(H)$ ; (12)
            Delete_Trans( $H, t'$ ); (13)
            Delete_Trans( $H', t$ ); (14)
             $D = D \cup H'$ ; } (14)
    // Decompose a TCCPN into subnets according to  $D$  (15)
    for each subset  $H$  in  $D$  (15)
      Decompose_TCCPN( $S, H$ ); (16)
  }
  // Schedule all CF components (17)
  for each TCCPN  $A_i$  in  $S$  (17)
    for each conflict-free subnet  $X$  of  $A_i$  { (18)
       $X_s = \text{Schedule}(X, \mu)$ ; (19)
      if ( $X_s = \text{NULL}$ ) return ERROR; (20)
      else  $\text{TEQSS}_i = \text{TEQSS}_i \cup X_s$ ; } (21)
  Check_Time( $\text{TEQSS}_1, \dots, \text{TEQSS}_n$ ); (22)
  Generate_Code( $S, \mu, \text{TEQSS}_1, \dots, \text{TEQSS}_n$ ); (23)
}

```

place. Satisfaction of memory bound is checked by observing if the memory space represented by the maximum number of tokens in any marking does not exceed the bound. Here, each token represents some amount of buffer space (i.e., memory) required after a computation (transition firing). Hence, the total amount of actual memory required is the memory space represented by the maximum number of tokens that can get collected at all the places in a marking during its transition from the initial marking back to its initial marking. Finally, time is checked using a worst-case analysis (Step (22)) and the real-time embedded software code is generated (Step (23)), the details of which are given in the following paragraph.

Code Generation with Multiple Threads. In contrast to the conventional single-threaded embedded software, we propose to generate embedded software with multiple threads, which can be processed for dispatch by a real-time operating system. Our rationalizations are as follows:

With advances in technology, the computing power of microprocessors in an embedded system has increased to a stage where fairly complex software can be executed.

Due to the great variety of user needs such as interactive interfacing, networking, and others, embedded software needs some level of concurrency and low context-switching overhead.

Multithreaded software architecture preserves the user-perceivable concurrencies among tasks, such that future maintenance becomes easier.

The procedure for code generation with multiple threads (CGMT) is given in Table 2. Each source transition in a TCCPN represents an input event. Corresponding to each source transition, a *P*-thread is generated (Steps (1), (2)). Thus, the thread is activated whenever there is an incoming event represented by that source transition. There are two sub-procedures in the code generator, namely `Visit_Trans()` and `Visit_Place()`, which call each other in a recursive manner, thus visiting all transitions and places and generating the corresponding code segments. A TCCPN transition represents a piece of user-given code, and is simply generated as `call t_k`; as in Step (3). Code generation begins by visiting the source transition, once for each of its successor places (Steps (4), (5)).

In both the sub-procedures `Visit_Trans()` (Steps (1)-(3)) and `Visit_Place()` (Steps (6-8)), a semaphore `mutex` is used for exclusive access to the `token_num` variable associated with a place. This semaphore is required because two or more concurrent threads may try to update the variable at the same time by producing or consuming tokens, which might result in inconsistencies. Based on the firing semantics of a TCCPN, tokens are either consumed from an input place or produced into an output place, upon the firing of a transition. When visiting a choice place, a `switch()` construct is generated as in Step (3).

3.2 Embedded Software Verification

There are three issues to be handled in software verification, that is: “what to verify”, “when to verify”, and “how to verify”? Each of these issues is solved as follows.

In solution to the “what to verify” issue, TCCPN models are translated into timed automata models which are then input to a model checker. Timed automata models are easier to verify than TCCPN models because of its state space can be finitely represented. Since both TCCPN and timed automata are formal models, there is an exact mapping between the two. For example, a marking of a TCCPN is mapped to a state location of a timed automaton. Concurrency in TCCPN is mapped to two or more concurrent timed automaton. Source transitions in TCCPN are mapped to initial states of timed automata. Non-deterministic choice places in TCCPN are mapped to states with branching transitions in timed automata. Loops in TCCPN are mapped to loops in timed automata.

Table 2. Code Generation Algorithm for TEQSS

```

Generate_Code( $S, \mu, \text{TEQSS}_1, \text{TEQSS}_2, \dots, \text{TEQSS}_n$ )
 $S = \{ A_i \mid A_i = (P_i, T_i, F_i, M_{i0}, \tau_i), i = 1, 2, \dots, n \};$ 
 $\mu$ : integer; // Maximum memory
 $\text{TEQSS}_1, \dots, \text{TEQSS}_n$ : sets of schedules of conflict-
free TCCPNs
{
  for each source transition  $t_k \in \cup_i T_i$  do { (1)
     $T_k = \text{Create\_Thread}(t_k);$  (2)
    output( $T_k, \text{"call } t\_k; \text{"}$ ); (3)
    for each successor place  $p$  of  $t_k$  (4)
      Visit_Trans( $\text{TEQSS}_k, T_k, t_k, p$ ); (5)
    }
  Create_Main(); (6)
}

Visit_Trans( $\text{TEQSS}_k, T_k, t_k, p$ ) {
  output( $T_k, \text{"mutexs\_lock}(\&\text{mutex}); \text{"}$ ); (1)
  output( $T_k, \text{"p.token\_num} += \text{weight}[t\_k, p]; \text{"}$ ); (2)
  output( $T_k, \text{"mutexs\_unlock}(\&\text{mutex}); \text{"}$ ); (3)
  Visit_Place( $\text{TEQSS}_k, T_k, p$ ); (4)
}

Visit_Place( $\text{TEQSS}_k, T_k, p$ ) {
  if(Visited( $p$ ) = True) return; (1)
  if(Is_Choice_Place( $p$ ) = True) (2)
    output( $T_k, \text{"switch } (p) \{ \text{"}$ ); (3)
  for each successor transition  $t'$  of  $p$  (4)
    if(Enabled( $\text{TEQSS}_k, t'$ )) { (5)
      output( $T_k, \text{"mutexs\_lock}(\&\text{mutex}); \text{"}$ ); (6)
      output( $T_k, \text{"p.token\_num} -= \text{weight}[p, t']; \text{"}$ ); (7)
      output( $T_k, \text{"mutexs\_unlock}(\&\text{mutex}); \text{"}$ ); (8)
      output( $T_k, \text{"call } t'; \text{"}$ ); (9)
      for each successor place  $p'$  of  $t'$  (10)
        Visit_Trans( $\text{TEQSS}_k, T_k, t', p'$ ); (11)
      output( $T_k, \text{"break}; \text{"}$ ); } (12)
    output( $T_k, \text{"} \text{"}$ ); (13)
}

```

In solution to the “when to verify” issue, we propose to verify software after scheduling (synthesis) and before code generation. Our rationalization is based on the fact that before scheduling or after code generation, the state-space is much larger than after scheduling and before code generation. A formal analysis proves this fact. Intuitively, before scheduling the state-space is much unconstrained than after scheduling, thus we have to explore a larger state-space if we verify before scheduling. Further, after code generation the state-space is also larger than that before code generation because upon code generation a lot of auxiliary and temporary variables are added, which add to the size of the state-space unnecessarily.

In solution to the “how to verify” issue, we adopt a compositional model checking approach, where two timed automata are merged in each iteration and reduced using some state-space reduction techniques such as read-write reduction, symmetry reduction, clock shielding, and internal transition bypassing. The reduction techniques have all been implemented in the State Graph Manipulators (SGM) tool, which is a high-level model checker for real-time systems modeled as timed automata with properties specified in timed computation tree logic (TCTL). After the globally reduced state-graph is obtained, it is model checked for satisfaction of some user-given TCTL property. Details can be found in [20].

3.3 Graphic User Interface and Platform Architecture

As shown in Fig. 3, we designed a graphical user interface for real-time embedded software specification input using Petri Net model. The designer draws the required behavior of embedded software as Petri Nets using the icons in the GUI. By clicking the “schedule” button, the tool generates the schedules. The designer can view the job scheduling states in the generation region and the scheduling bar of the GUI.

A platform supports a hardware-software environment for hardware emulation and software execution. In this work, we design a platform with an architecture as shown in Fig. 4. The FPGA/CPLD chip is programmed according to the hardware requirements of an embedded system. The embedded software is downloaded into the microcontroller. If microcontroller memory is not enough, then external memory can be used. The input/output devices, such as keyboard, LCD display, LED display, and input switch are connected to FPGA/CPLD chip and microcontroller using a bus. The procedure adopted for emulating embedded software in a platform is as follows. (1) The embedded software code is downloaded into the ROM or Flash memory, (2) The

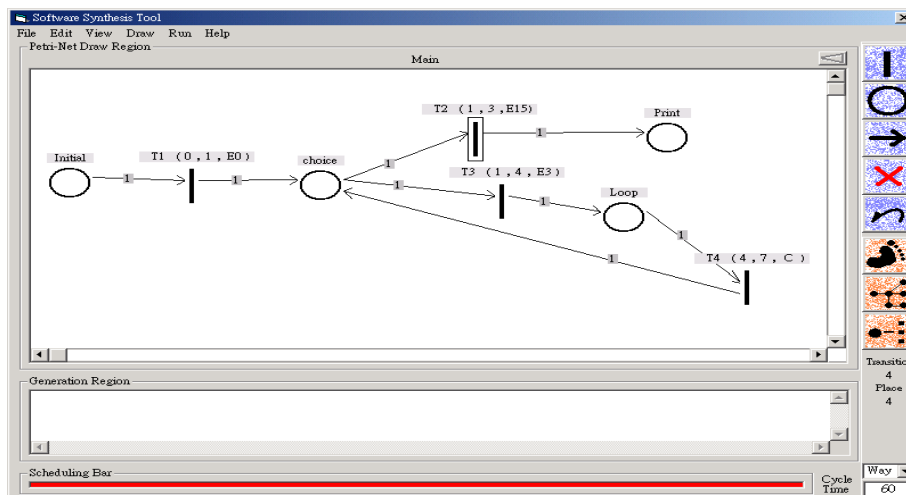


Fig. 3. Graphical User Interface for Real-Time Embedded Software Synthesis

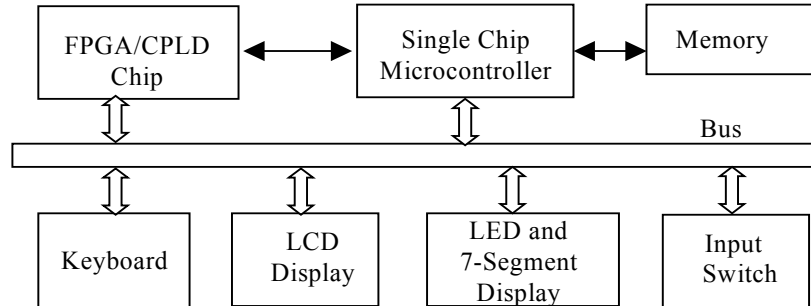


Fig. 4. Hardware-Software Prototype Platform Architecture

settings of the I/O devices are configured according to the embedded software specifications, (3) The emulation platform is booted, input conditions are changed, and the output functions are checked for satisfaction of the functional requirements of the embedded software.

4 Embedded System Examples

In this section, we use two embedded system examples to illustrate our proposed embedded software synthesis and prototyping methodology. The first example is display subsystem of Vehicle Parking Management System (VPMS) example, which includes three subsystems: entry management system, exit management system, and display system. The display system consists of a control system (counter and display interface) and a 7-segment display device. The counter value (count) indicates the number of available parking vacancies. Further details on the VPMS specification can be found in [7].

The display system in VPMS was modeled as a TCCPN as shown in Fig. 5 and the TCCPN transitions are given in Table 3. The embedded software code generated for the display system is shown in Fig. 6, which was emulated using our RESS platform. We use two input switches to simulate the Car in and Car out signals, respectively, and then use a 7-segment display to show the number of available parking vacancies.

Another example is a motor speed control system, whose TCCPN model is as shown in Fig. 7. The main function of this system is to adjust the speed of a motor based on its current speed. There are two timers T0, T1 and two interrupts INT0, INT1 that drive the system. On software synthesis, that is, TEQSS, there are two feasible schedules for this system as given in Table 4, where an asterisk on a partial schedule indicates a loop of at least one iteration. The generated code is shown in Fig. 8, which was emulated on our RESS platform. We use two input switches to connect the trigger of INT0 and INT1, respectively. Motor speed is displayed by an LCD display device.

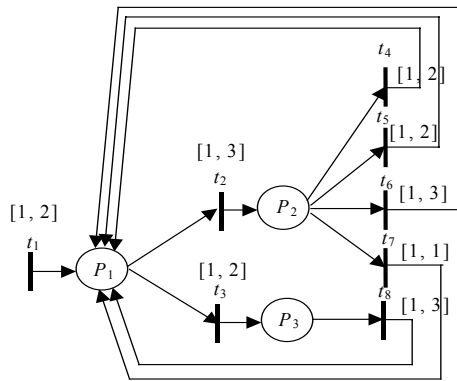


Fig. 5. Petri Net Model of Display System

Table 3. TCCPN Transitions in Display System

Place	Description
P_1	Counter value updated
P_2	Signal polling complete
P_3	Digit selected
Transition	Description
t_1	Initial counter
t_2	Poll signal
t_3	Select digit
t_4	Decrement counter
t_5	Increment counter
t_6	Check count
t_7	No operation
t_8	Display digit

```

Display C-code
{(t1 t2 t4) (t1 t2 t5) (t1 t2 t6) (t1 t2 t7) (t1 t3
t8)}
t1;
while (true) {
if (p1) {
t2;
switch (p2) {
Case Car in: t4;
Case Car out: t5;
Case Time stamp button pushed: t6;
Case Default: t7;
}/* End of switch */
}/* End of if */
else {t3; t8;}
}/* End of while */

```

Fig. 6. Software Code for VPMS Display System

5 Conclusion and Future Work

A complete methodology called RESS was proposed for emulating hardware and synthesizing and executing embedded software, which includes a time-extended quasi-static scheduling algorithm, a code generation procedure, and an emulation platform. The methodology will not only reduce development time for embedded software, but also aid in debugging and testing its functional correctness. This version

of our real-time embedded software synthesis tool has a new graphical user interface to increase its user-friendliness. How to transfer the software code for applying to ARM-based systems will be our future work.

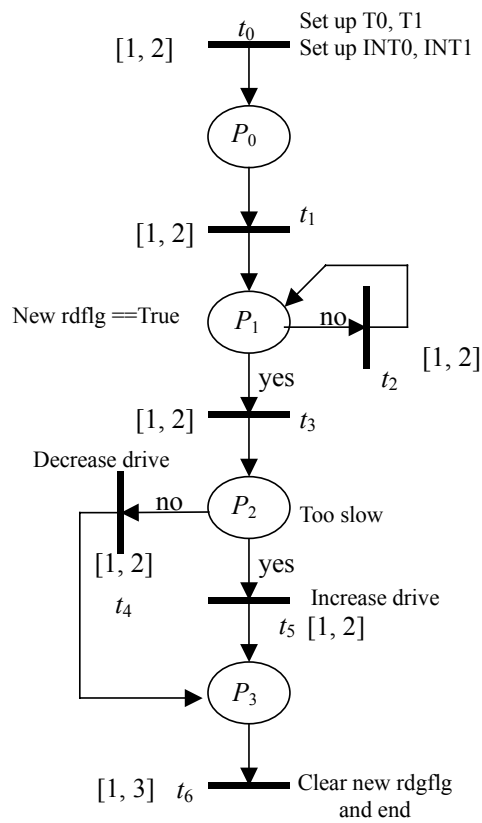


Fig. 7. Motor Speed Control System TCCPN Model

Table 4. Feasible Schedules for Motor System

TCCPN	#T	#P	#S	Schedules
MSCS	7	4	2	$\langle t_0, \langle t_1 \rangle^*, t_2, t_3, t_5, t_6 \rangle,$ $\langle t_0, \langle t_1 \rangle^*, t_2, t_3, t_4, t_6 \rangle$

#T: #transitions, #P: #places, #S: #schedules

```

void *thread_run0(void *arg) {
    t0(); pthread_mutex_lock(&mutex);
    operation(t0,p0,'+')
    switch(p0) { case 1 : do{ if(check_enable(t1)) {
        mutex_operation(p0,t1,'-');
        t1();mutex_operation(p0,t1,'+'); } }
        while(pla0);
        pthread_mutex_unlock(&mutex); break;
        case 2 : if(check_enable(t2))
        { operation(p0,t2,'-'); t2();
        pthread_mutex_unlock(&mutex);
        pthread_mutex_lock(&mutex);
    operation(t2,p1,'+')
    switch(p1) { case 3 : if(check_enable(t3)) {
        operation(p1,t3,'-'); t3();
        pthread_mutex_unlock(&mutex);
        pthread_mutex_lock(&mutex);
        operation(t3,p2,'+') ... }}}}

```

Fig. 8. Code for Motor Speed Control

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