Distributed verification of real-time systems

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Context

Real-time systems have become ubiquitous in the past few years. Some of them (automated plane and unmanned systems control, banking systems, etc.) are critical in the sense that no error must occur. Testing these systems can possibly detect the presence of bugs, but not guarantee their absence. It is necessary to use formal methods such as model checking [BK08] so as to prove formally the correctness of a system.

Real-time systems are characterized by a set of timing constants, such as the reading period of a sensor on an unmanned aircraft system, the traversal time of a circuit by the electric current, or the delay before retransmitting data in a cellphone. Although numerous techniques to verify a system for one set of constants exist, formally verifying the system for numerous values of these constants can require a very long time, or even infinite if one aims at verifying dense sets of values.

It is therefore interesting to reason in a parametric manner, by considering that these constants are unknown, i.e., parameters, and synthesize a constraint on these parameters guaranteeing the system correctness. A method, the inverse method [AS13, APP13], has been proposed for both timed automata [AHV93] and time Petri nets [JK09, TLR09], two formalisms widely used. Starting from a reference valuation of the parameters corresponding to a correct behavior, this method synthesizes a constraint on the parameters guaranteeing the same correct behavior. As a consequence, this guarantees that the system will be correct for any parameter valuation satisfying this constraint.

Internship subject

In order to take advantage of the multi-core processors and clusters, the verification algorithm shall be redefined to be adapted to the distributed case. The goal is, for a processor with \( n \) cores, that the improved algorithm be (almost) \( n \) times faster than on a mono-core processor – and similarly for clusters. It may be interesting to base on a modular approach proposed for timed Petri nets. An implementation will also be performed by the intern, so as to validate the proposed approach.

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Keywords

Formal methods, model checking, distributed algorithmic, real-time systems, parameter synthesis
Skills

The following skills are not compulsory, but would be welcome: distributed calculus, timed automata, OCaml.

Conditions

Highly motivated applicants are being sought. The internship will take place at LIPN (Laboratoire d’Informatique de Paris Nord) in the Université de Paris 13, Sorbonne Paris Cité (campus of Villetaneuse).

Standard remuneration.

Depending on the candidate’s motivation and wishes, this internship can lead to a PhD thesis.

References


