Local Planning of Multiparty Interactions with Bounded Horizons

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Abstract. Dynamic scheduling of distributed real-time systems with multiparty interactions is acknowledged to be a very hard task. For such systems, multiple schedulers are used to coordinate the parallel activities of remotely running components. In order to ensure global consistency and timing constraints satisfaction, these schedulers must cope with significant communication delays while moreover, use only point-to-point message passing as communication primitive on the platform.

In this paper, we investigate a formal model for such systems as compositions of timed automata subject to multiparty interactions, and we propose a distributed implementation method aiming to overcome the communication delays problem through planning ahead interactions. Moreover, we identify static conditions allowing to make the planning decisions local to different schedulers, and thus to decrease the overall coordination overhead. The method has been implemented and we report preliminary results on benchmarks.

Keywords: Distributed real-time systems · Timed automata · Knowledge

1 Introduction

Over the past few decades, real-time systems have undergone a shift from the use of single processor based hardware platforms, to large sets of interconnected and distributed computing nodes. Such evolution stems from an increase in complexity of real-time software embedded on such platforms (e.g. electronic control in avionics and automotive domains [1]), and the need to integrate formerly isolated systems [2] so that they can cooperate as well as share resources, improving functionality and reducing costs.

The design and the implementation of distributed systems is acknowledged to be a very difficult task. A central question is how to efficiently coordinate parallel activities in a distributed system by means of primary communication primitives

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offered by the platform, such as point-to-point messages or broadcast. Considering real-time constraints brings additional complexity since any scheduling or control decision may not only impact system performance, but may also affect the satisfaction of timing constraints. To deal with such complexity, the community of safety critical systems often restricts its scope to predictable systems, which are represented with domain specific models (e.g. periodic tasks, synchronous systems, time-deterministic systems) for which the range of possible executions is small enough to be easily analyzed, allowing the precomputation of optimal control strategies. For non-critical systems, the standard practice is not to rely on models for precomputing scenarios but rather to design systems dynamically adapting at runtime to the actual context of execution. Such approaches do not offer any formal guarantee of timeliness. The lack of a priori knowledge on system behavior leaves also little room for static optimization.

In our framework, systems consist of components represented as timed automata that may synchronize on particular actions to coordinate their activities. Timed automata are strictly more expressive [3] than time-deterministic systems considered in time-triggered approaches [4–7]. Our framework also differs from the one proposed in [8,9] by considering not only binary, but also multiparty (n-ary) synchronizations, a.k.a. *interactions*, expressing the fact that a subset of components may jointly (and atomically) switch their states if given preconditions are fulfilled. Such high level coordination means are rarely part of the built-in primitives offered by distributed platforms, and thus need to be implemented using simpler ones, e.g. exchange of messages. This has been extensively studied in the untimed context [10–17] but to the best of our knowledge, it has been solved for timed systems only under the assumption of non-decreasing deadlines in [18,19].

We contribute to this research field by proposing methods for scheduling interactions with bounded horizons, which aims to reduce the impact of communication delays on systems execution. In particular, *(i)* we define a semantics for *planning* interactions with bounded horizons, *(ii)* we provide sufficient conditions for this semantics to be correct, and *(iii)* we present an operational method to check those conditions using system knowledge.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. In Sect. 2, we provide a formal definition of composition of timed automata with respect to multiparty interactions. We also present a semantics for planning interactions with bounded horizons. In Sect. 3, we study sufficient conditions for a safe planning of interactions. Thereafter, we use global knowledge of the system to refine the latest conditions for more precise results and in order to avoid unnecessary verification (Sect. 4). Finally, the application of previous results on various examples is presented in Sect. 5. Note that all the proofs can be found in the technical report [20].

2 Timed Systems and Properties

2.1 Global State Semantics

In the framework of the present paper, components are timed automata and systems are compositions of timed automata with respect to multiparty interactions.

The timed automata we use are essentially the ones from [21], however, slightly adapted to embrace a uniform notation throughout the paper.

Definition 1 (Component). *A* component *is a tuple* $(\mathcal{L}, \ell_0, A, T, \mathcal{X}, tpc)$ *where* $\mathcal{L}$ *is a finite set of* locations, $\ell_0 \in \mathcal{L}$ *is an* initial *location,* A *a finite set of* actions, $\mathcal{X}$ *is a finite set of* clocks, $T \subseteq \mathcal{L} \times (A \times \mathcal{C} \times 2^{\mathcal{X}}) \times \mathcal{L}$ *is a set of* transitions *labeled with an action, a guard, and a set of clocks to be reset, and* $tpc : \mathcal{L} \to \mathcal{C}$ *assigns a* time progress condition, tpc_ℓ, *to each location, where* $\mathcal{C}$ *is the set of* clock constraints *defined by the following grammar:*

$$C := true \mid x \sim ct \mid x - y \sim ct \mid C \wedge C \mid false,$$

with $x, y \in \mathcal{X}$, $\sim \in \{<, \leq, =, \geq, >\}$ *and* $ct \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$. *Time progress conditions are restricted to conjunctions of constraints of the form* $x \leq ct$.

Throughout the paper, we consider that components are deterministic timed automata, that is, at a given location ℓ and for a given action a, there is at most one outgoing transition from ℓ labeled by a. Given a timed automaton $(\mathcal{L}, \ell_0, A, T, \mathcal{X}, tpc)$, we write $\ell \xrightarrow{a,g,r} \ell'$ if there exists a transition $\tau = (\ell, (a, g, r), \ell') \in T$. We also write:

$$guard(a, \ell) = \begin{cases} g, & \text{if } \exists \tau = (\ell, (a, g, r), \ell') \in T \\ false, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Let $\mathcal{V}$ be the set of all clock valuation functions $v : \mathcal{X} \to \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$. For a clock constraint C, $C(v)$ is a boolean value corresponding to the evaluation of C on v. For a valuation $v \in \mathcal{V}$, $v + \delta$ is the valuation satisfying $(v + \delta)(x) = v(x) + \delta$, while for a subset of clocks r, $v[r]$ is the valuation obtained from v by resetting clocks of r, i.e. $v[r](x) = 0$ for $x \in r$, $v[r](x) = v(x)$ otherwise. We also denote by $C + \delta$ the clock constraint C shifted by δ, i.e. such that $C(v + \delta)$ iff $C(v)$.

Definition 2 (Semantics). *A component* $B = (\mathcal{L}, \ell_0, A, T, \mathcal{X}, tpc)$ *defines the labeled transition system (LTS)* $(\mathrm{Q}, A \cup \mathbb{R}_{>0}, \to)$ *where* $\mathrm{Q} \subseteq \mathcal{L} \times \mathcal{V}(\mathcal{X})$ *denotes the* states *of* B *and* $\to \subseteq \mathrm{Q} \times (A \cup \mathbb{R}_{>0}) \times Q$ *denotes the set of transitions between states according to the rules:*

- $(\ell, v) \xrightarrow{a} (\ell', v[r])$ *if* $\ell \xrightarrow{a,g,r} \ell'$, *and* $g(v)$ *is true (action step).*
- $(\ell, v) \xrightarrow{\delta} (\ell, v + \delta)$ *if* $tpc_\ell(v + \delta)$ *(time progress).*

We define the predicate $urg(tpc_\ell)$ characterizing the urgency of a time progress condition $tpc_\ell = \bigwedge_{i=1}^{m} x_i \leq ct_i$ at a state (ℓ, v) as follows:

$$urg(tpc_\ell) = \bigvee_{i=1}^{m} (x_i = ct_i),$$

An *execution sequence* of B from a state (ℓ, v) is a path in the LTS starting at (ℓ, v) and that alternates action steps and time steps (time progress), that is:

$$(\ell_1, v_1) \xrightarrow{\sigma_1} \ldots \xrightarrow{\sigma_i} (\ell_n, v_n), n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}, \sigma \in A \cup \mathbb{R}_{>0}$$

In this paper, we always assume components with *well formed guards* meaning that transitions $\ell \xrightarrow{a,g,r} \ell'$ satisfy $g(v) \Rightarrow tpc_\ell(v) \wedge tpc_{\ell'}(v[r])$ for any $v \in \mathcal{V}$. We say that a state (ℓ, v) is *reachable* if there is an execution sequence from the initial configuration (ℓ_0, v_0) leading to (ℓ, v), where v_0 assigns 0 to all clocks. Notice that the set of reachable states is in general infinite, but it can be partitioned into a finite number of symbolic states [22–24]. A symbolic state is defined by a pair (ℓ, ζ) where, ℓ is a location of B, and ζ is a zone, i.e. a set of clock valuations defined by a clock constraint (as defined in Definition 1). Efficient algorithms for computing symbolic states and operations on zones are fully described in [23]. Given symbolic states $\{(\ell_j, \zeta_j)\}_{j \in J}$ of B, the predicate $Reach(B)$ characterizing the reachable states can be formulated as:

$$Reach(B) = \bigvee_{j \in J} \mathsf{at}(\ell_j) \wedge \zeta_j,$$

where $\mathsf{at}(\ell_j)$ is true on states whose location is ℓ_j, and clock constraint ζ_j is straightforwardly applied to clock valuation functions of states.

We also define the predicate $Enabled(a)$ characterizing states (ℓ, v) at which an action a is enabled, i.e. such that $(\ell, v) \xrightarrow{a} (\ell', v')$. It can be written:

$$Enabled(a) = \bigvee_{(\ell,a,g,r,\ell') \in T} \mathsf{at}(\ell) \wedge guard(a, \ell)$$

Definition 3 (Deadlock). *We say that a state (ℓ, v) of a component B deadlocks, if neither action steps nor time steps can be done from this state. The following equation characterizes those states:*

$$\forall a \in A.\ \neg Enabled(a) \ \wedge \ urg(tpc_\ell)$$

In our framework, components communicate by means of *multiparty interactions*. A multiparty interaction is a rendez-vous synchronization between actions of a fixed subset of components. It takes place only if all the participants agree to execute the corresponding actions. Given n components B_i, $i = 1, \ldots, n$, with disjoint sets of actions A_i, an interaction is a subset of actions $\alpha \subseteq \cup_{1 \leq i \leq n} A_i$ containing at most one action per component, i.e. $\alpha \cap A_i$ is either empty or a singleton $\{a_i\}$. That is, an interaction α can be put in the form $\{a_i\}_{i \in I}$ with $I \subseteq \{1, \ldots, n\}$ and $a_i \in A_i$ for all $i \in I$.

Definition 4 (Composition). *For n components $B_i = (\mathcal{L}_i, \ell_0^i, A_i, T_i, \mathcal{X}_i, tpc_i)$, with $\mathcal{L}_j \cap \mathcal{L}_j = \emptyset$, $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$, and $\mathcal{X}_i \cap \mathcal{X}_j = \emptyset$ for any $i \neq j$, the* composition *$\gamma(B_1, \ldots, B_n)$ w.r.t. a set of interactions γ is defined by a timed automaton $S = (\mathcal{L}, \ell_0, \gamma, T_\gamma, \mathcal{X}, tpc)$ where $\ell_0 = (\ell_0^1, \ldots, \ell_0^n)$, $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{X}_1 \cup \ldots \cup \mathcal{X}_n$, $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_1 \times \ldots \times \mathcal{L}_n$, $tpc = tpc_1 \wedge \ldots \wedge tpc_n$ for $\ell = (\ell_1, \ldots, \ell_n)$, and T_γ is such that $\ell \xrightarrow{\alpha,g,r} \ell'$ for $\alpha = \{a_i\}_{i \in I}$, $\ell = (\ell_1, \ldots, \ell_n)$, and $\ell' = (\ell'_1, \ldots, \ell'_n)$, if for $i \notin I$ we have $\ell'_i = \ell_i$, and for $i \in I$ we have $\ell_i \xrightarrow{a_i,g_i,r_i} \ell'_i$, and $g_\alpha = \bigwedge_{i \in I} g_i$ and $r = \bigcup_{i \in I} r_i$.*

In practice we do not explicitly build compositions of components as presented in Definition 4. We rather interpret their semantics at runtime by evaluating enabled interactions based on current states of components. In a composition of n components $B_{i\in\{1,\cdots,n\}}$, denoted by $\gamma(B_1,\ldots,B_n)$, an action a_i can execute only as part of an interaction α such that $a_i \in \alpha$, that is, along with the execution of all other actions $a_j \in \alpha$, which corresponds to the usual notion of multiparty interaction.

Property 1 (Semantics of a Composition). Given a set of components $\{B_1,\cdots,B_n\}$ and an interaction set γ. The semantics of the composite component $S = (\mathcal{L},\ell_0,\gamma,T_\gamma,\mathcal{X},tpc)$ w.r.t the set of interaction γ, is the LTS $(\mathrm{Q}_g,\gamma\cup\mathbb{R}_{>0},\rightarrow_\gamma)$ where:

- $\mathrm{Q}_g = \mathcal{L}\times\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{X})$ is the set of global states, where $\mathcal{L}=\mathcal{L}_1\times\cdots\times\mathcal{L}_n$ and $\mathcal{X}=\bigcup_{i=1}^n\mathcal{X}_i$. We write a state $q=(\ell,v)$ where $\ell=(\ell_1,\cdots,\ell_n)\in\mathcal{L}$ is a global location and $v=(v_1,\cdots,v_n)\in\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{X})$ is a global clocks valuations.
- γ is the set of interactions
- $\rightarrow_\gamma$ is the set of labeled transitions defined by the rules:
  - Action steps:

$$\frac{\alpha=\{a_i\}_{i\in I}\in\gamma,\quad \forall i\in I.(\ell_i,v_i)\xrightarrow{a_i}(\ell_i',v_i'),\quad \forall i\notin I.(\ell_i,v_i)=(\ell_i',v_i')}{(\ell,v)\xrightarrow{\alpha}_\gamma(\ell',v')}$$

  - Time steps:

$$\frac{\delta\in\mathbb{R}_{>0}\quad \forall i\in\{1,\cdots,n\}\quad tpc_i(v_i+\delta)}{(\ell,v)\xrightarrow{\delta}_\gamma(\ell,v+\delta)}$$

In what follows, we consider only deadlock-free systems w.r.t the presented semantics. By abuse of notation, predicates $\mathsf{at}(\ell_i)$ of individual components B_i are interpreted on states of S, being true for (ℓ,v) iff B_i is at location ℓ_i in ℓ, i.e. iff $\ell\in\mathcal{L}_1\times\ldots\times\mathcal{L}_{i-1}\times\{\ell_i\}\times\mathcal{L}_{i+1}\times\ldots\times\mathcal{L}_n$. Similarly, clock constraints of components B_i are applied to clock valuation functions v of the composition $S=(\mathcal{L},\ell_0,\gamma,T_\gamma,\mathcal{X},tpc)$ by restricting v to clocks $\mathcal{X}_i$ of B_i. Given an interaction $\alpha\in\gamma$, these notations allow us to write $Enabled(\alpha)$ as:

$$\begin{aligned}
Enabled(\alpha) &= \bigvee_{\ell=(\ell_1,\cdots,\ell_n)\in\mathcal{L}_\alpha}\mathsf{at}(\ell)\wedge guard(\alpha,\ell),\\
&= \bigvee_{(\ell_1,\cdots,\ell_n)\in\mathcal{L}_\alpha}\mathsf{at}(\ell)\wedge\bigwedge_{a_i\in\alpha}guard(a_i,\ell_i),\\
&= \bigvee_{(\ell_1,\cdots,\ell_n)\in\mathcal{L}_\alpha}\bigwedge_{i=1}^{n}\mathsf{at}(\ell_i)\wedge\bigwedge_{a_i\in\alpha}guard(a_i,\ell_i),\\
&= \bigwedge_{a_i\in\alpha}Enabled(a_i),
\end{aligned}$$

where $\mathcal{L}_\alpha=\{\ell\in\mathcal{L}|\ell\xrightarrow{\alpha,g,r}\ell'\}$.

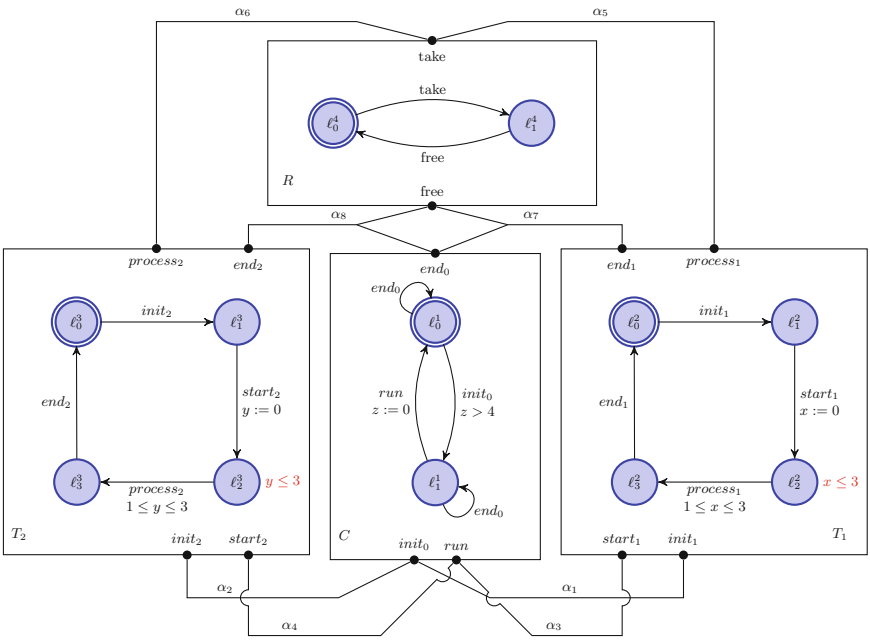

Fig. 1. Task Manager

Example 1 (Running Example). Let us consider as a running example the composition of four components C, T_1, T_2, and R of Fig. 1. Component C represents a controller that initializes, releases, and ends tasks T_1 and T_2. Tasks use the shared resource R during their execution. To implement such behavior, we consider the following interactions between C, R, and T_1: $\alpha_1 = \{init_0, init_1\}$, $\alpha_3 = \{run, start_1\}$, $\alpha_5 = \{take, process_1\}$, $\alpha_7 = \{end_0, free, end_1\}$, and similar interactions α_2, α_4, α_6, α_8 for task T_2, as shown by connections on Fig. 1. The controller is responsible for firing the execution of each task. First, it nondeterministically initializes one of the two tasks, i.e. executes α_1 or α_2, and then releases it through interaction α_3 or α_4. Tasks perform their processing independently of the controller, after being granted an access to the shared resource (α_5 or α_6). When ended by the controller, a task releases the resource (interactions α_7 or α_8) and go back to its initial location. An example of execution sequence of the system of Fig. 1 is given below, in which valuations v of clocks x, y, and z are represented as a tuples $(v(x), v(y), v(z))$:

$$((\ell_0^1, \ell_0^2, \ell_0^3, \ell_0^4), (0,0,0)) \xrightarrow{5}_\gamma ((\ell_0^1, \ell_0^2, \ell_0^3, \ell_0^4), (5,5,5)) \xrightarrow{\alpha_1}_\gamma ((\ell_1^1, \ell_1^2, \ell_0^3, \ell_0^4), (5,5,5))$$
$$\xrightarrow{\alpha_3}_\gamma ((\ell_0^1, \ell_2^2, \ell_0^3, \ell_0^4), (0,5,0)) \xrightarrow{2}_\gamma ((\ell_0^1, \ell_2^2, \ell_0^3, \ell_0^4), (2,7,2)) \xrightarrow{\alpha_5}_\gamma ((\ell_0^1, \ell_3^2, \ell_0^3, \ell_1^4), (2,7,2))$$
$$\xrightarrow{3}_\gamma ((\ell_0^1, \ell_3^2, \ell_0^3, \ell_1^4), (5,10,5)) \xrightarrow{\alpha_2}_\gamma ((\ell_1^1, \ell_3^2, \ell_1^3, \ell_1^4), (5,10,5))$$

2.2 Weak Planning Semantics

The presented semantics is based on a global state operational semantics, that is, the operational semantics rules and the computation of possible interactions between timed components is achieved through global states. Considering a distributed context, components are intrinsically concurrent and their execution is asynchronous. This means that even if states of components participating in an interaction α are known, α cannot be executed in the global state semantics until the states of all components are known, which breaks the principle of distribution. Usually, components are mapped at different areas on the distributed platform in a way that better suits their interactions. In other terms, components that synchronize their actions are more likely to be next to each others. However, there are cases where several components participate in the same interaction but are mapped far from each other, which adds on communication delays to the interaction corresponding to the exchange of messages.

In order to reach an efficient scheduling, able of taking decisions ahead and using only partial (local) information, we define a different semantics based on a local planning of interactions. It aims to alleviate the problem of communication delays through an early decision making mechanism while preserving deadlock freedom property of the system. This is achieved by planning each interaction ahead, which means to choose an execution time within a certain horizon for each interaction, based only on the states of components involved in that interaction. Consequently, components are notified ahead through communication primitive, and will wait until the chosen execution time to perform their corresponding actions. Our approach is to define for each interaction its earliest planning date, which correspond to the maximum horizon value that ensure a safe planning of the considered interaction.

Preliminaries. We define the predicate $Enabled^{\nearrow\delta}(\alpha)$ characterizing all states from which α is *enabled* if time progresses by δ units of time, that is:

$$Enabled^{\nearrow\delta}(\alpha) = \bigvee_{\ell \in \mathcal{L}_\alpha} \big(\mathsf{at}(\ell) \wedge \bigwedge_{a_i \in \alpha} (guard(a_i, \ell_i) + \delta)\big), \tag{1}$$

Property 2. Let (ℓ, v) be a state of the composition S. For any interaction $\beta \in \gamma$ such that, $\mathrm{part}(\alpha) \cap \mathrm{part}(\beta) = \emptyset$ and $(\ell, v) \xrightarrow{\beta}_\gamma (\ell', v')$, where $\mathrm{part}(\alpha)$ (resp. $\mathrm{part}(\beta)$) represents components participating in interaction α (resp. β), if $Enabled^{\nearrow\delta}(\alpha)$ holds at state (ℓ, v) then it still holds at state (ℓ', v').

This property derives from the fact that executing interactions with disjoint set of components than α does not change the states of components participating in α, that is, for $a_i \in \alpha$ we have $\ell_i = \ell'_i$ and $v_i = v'_i$.

Property 3. Let (ℓ, v) and $(\ell, v + \delta')$, with $\delta' \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ be two states of the composition S. If $Enabled^{\nearrow\delta}(\alpha)$ is *true* at state (ℓ, v) then $Enabled^{\nearrow\delta-\delta'}(\alpha)$ is true at state $(\ell, v + \delta')$ for $\delta' \leq \delta$.

This property can be found directly by writing Eq. 1 on state $(\ell, v + \delta')$.

Let $\delta_{\max}$ be a partial function $\delta_{\max} : \gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ that defines for each interaction a maximum horizon to be planned with. We define the predicate $Enabled^{\nearrow^{[0,\delta_{\max}(\alpha)]}}(\alpha)$ characterizing all states from which α can be planned with a $\delta_{\max}(\alpha)$-horizon as follows:

$$Enabled^{\nearrow^{[0,\delta_{\max}(\alpha)]}}(\alpha) = \bigvee_{\ell \in \mathcal{L}_\alpha} (\mathsf{at}(\ell) \wedge \swarrow^{\delta_{\max}(\alpha)} (\bigwedge_{a_i \in \alpha} guard(a_i, \ell_i))),$$

with $\swarrow^{\delta_{\max}(\alpha)}$ represents an adaptation of the backward operators [22] that satisfies:

$$\swarrow^{\delta_{\max}(\alpha)} g(x) \Leftrightarrow \exists \delta \leq \delta_{\max}(\alpha).g(x+\delta),$$

Property 4. If the predicate $Enabled^{\nearrow^{\delta}}(\alpha)$ is *true* at a state (ℓ, v), then the predicate $Enabled^{\nearrow^{[0,\delta_{\max}(\alpha)]}}(\alpha)$ is also *true* for $\delta \leq \delta_{\max}(\alpha)$.

Definition 5 (Plan). *We say that two interactions α and β, $\alpha \neq \beta$,* conflicts *if* $\mathrm{part}(\alpha) \cap \mathrm{part}(\beta) \neq \emptyset$*, and we write $\alpha \# \beta$. A plan π is a partial function $\pi : \gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ defining relative times for executing a subset of non conflicting interactions, i.e.:*

$$\alpha \neq \alpha', \pi(\alpha) \neq \perp, \pi(\alpha') \neq \perp \implies \neg(\alpha \# \alpha').$$

We also denote by $conf(\pi)$ the set of interactions conflicting with the plan π, i.e. $conf(\pi) = \{\alpha \mid \exists \beta \# \alpha \,.\, \pi(\beta) \neq \perp\}$, and $\mathrm{part}(\pi)$ *the set of components involved in interactions planned by π, i.e.* $\mathrm{part}(\pi) = \{B_i \mid \exists \alpha \,.\, \pi(\alpha) \neq \perp \wedge B_i \in \mathrm{part}(\alpha)\}$.

We denote by $\min \pi$ the closest relative execution time of interactions in the plan π, i.e. $\min \pi = \min \{\pi(\alpha) \mid \alpha \in \gamma \wedge \pi(\alpha) \neq \perp\} \cup \{+\infty\}$. Notice that since π stores relative times, whenever time progresses by δ the value $\pi(\alpha)$ assigned by π to an interaction α should be decreased by δ, until it reaches 0 which means that α have to execute. We write $\pi - \delta$ describing the progress of time over the plan, that is, $(\pi - \delta)(\alpha) = \pi(\alpha) - \delta$ for interactions α such that $\pi(\alpha) \neq \perp$. We also write $\pi - \alpha$ to denote the removal of interaction α from the plan π, i.e. $(\pi - \alpha)(\beta) = \pi(\beta)$ for any interaction $\beta \neq \alpha$, $(\pi - \alpha)(\alpha) = \perp$. Similarly, $\pi \cup \{\alpha \mapsto \delta\}$ assigns relative time δ to α, $\alpha \notin conf(\pi)$, into existing plan π, i.e. $(\pi \cup \{\alpha \mapsto \delta\})(\beta) = \delta$ for $\beta = \alpha$, $(\pi \cup \{\alpha \mapsto \delta\})(\beta) = \pi(\alpha)$ otherwise. Finally, the plan π such that $\pi(\alpha) = \perp$ for all interactions $\alpha \in \gamma$ is denoted by $\emptyset$.

We define below the semantics for planning each interaction $\alpha \in \gamma$ with $\delta_{\max}(\alpha)$-horizon.

Definition 6 (Weak Planning Semantics). *Given a set of components $\{B_1, \cdots, B_n\}$ and an interaction set γ, we define the weak planning semantics of the composite component $S = (\mathcal{L}, \ell_0, \gamma, T_\gamma, \mathcal{X}, tpc)$, as the labeled transition system $S_p = (\mathrm{Q}_\pi, \gamma \cup \mathbb{R}_{>0} \cup \{\mathbf{plan}\}, \rightsquigarrow)$ where:*

- $\mathrm{Q}_\pi = \mathcal{L} \times \mathcal{V}(\mathcal{X}) \times \Pi$*, where $\mathcal{L}$ is the set of global location, $\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{X})$ is the set of global clocks valuations, and Π is the set of plans.*

– **plan** *defines the action of planning interactions*
– $\rightsquigarrow$ *is the set of labeled transitions defined by the rules:*
  - *Plan:*

$$\frac{\delta \leq \delta_{\max}(\alpha), \alpha \in \gamma, \mathrm{part}(\alpha) \cap \mathrm{part}(\pi) = \emptyset \quad \mathit{Enabled}^{\nearrow \delta}(\alpha)}{(\ell, v, \pi) \overset{\mathbf{plan}(\alpha,\delta)}{\rightsquigarrow} (\ell, v, \pi \cup \{\alpha \mapsto \delta\}).}$$

  - *Exec:*

$$\frac{\pi(\alpha) = 0}{(\ell, v, \pi) \overset{\alpha}{\rightsquigarrow} (\ell', v', \pi - \alpha)\}}$$

  - *Time Progress:* $\delta \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$

$$\frac{\delta \leq \mathit{min}\ \pi \wedge \mathit{tpc}_i(v_i + \delta)_{i \in \{1,\cdots,n\}}}{(\ell, v, \pi) \overset{\delta}{\rightsquigarrow} (\ell, v + \delta, \pi - \delta)}$$

Example 2. Let us consider the following execution sequence for the example of Fig. 1 under the weak planning semantics rules and for a value $\delta_{\max} = 5$ for all interactions except α_5 and α_6 that will be assigned a $\delta_{\max} = 3$:

$$\begin{aligned}
&((\ell_0^1, \ell_0^2, \ell_0^3, \ell_0^4), (0,0,0), \emptyset) \overset{\mathbf{plan}(\alpha_1,5)}{\rightsquigarrow} ((\ell_0^1, \ell_0^2, \ell_0^3, \ell_0^4), (0,0,0), \{\alpha_1 \mapsto 5\}) \overset{5}{\rightsquigarrow} \\
&((\ell_0^1, \ell_0^2, \ell_0^3, \ell_0^4), (5,5,5), \{\alpha_1 \mapsto 0\}) \overset{\alpha_1}{\rightsquigarrow} ((\ell_1^1, \ell_1^2, \ell_0^3, \ell_0^4), (5,5,5), \emptyset) \overset{\mathbf{plan}(\alpha_3,2)}{\rightsquigarrow} \\
&((\ell_1^1, \ell_1^2, \ell_0^3, \ell_0^4), (5,5,5), \{\alpha_3 \mapsto 2\}) \overset{2}{\rightsquigarrow} ((\ell_1^1, \ell_1^2, \ell_0^3, \ell_0^4), (7,7,7), \{\alpha_3 \mapsto 0\}) \overset{\alpha_3}{\rightsquigarrow} \\
&((\ell_0^1, \ell_2^2, \ell_0^3, \ell_0^4), (0,7,0), \emptyset) \overset{\mathbf{plan}(\alpha_5,2)}{\rightsquigarrow} ((\ell_0^1, \ell_2^2, \ell_0^3, \ell_0^4), (0,7,0), \{\alpha_5 \mapsto 2\}) \overset{2}{\rightsquigarrow} \\
&((\ell_0^1, \ell_2^2, \ell_0^3, \ell_0^4), (2,9,2), \{\alpha_5 \mapsto 0\}) \overset{\alpha_5}{\rightsquigarrow} ((\ell_0^1, \ell_3^2, \ell_0^3, \ell_1^4), (2,9,2), \emptyset) \overset{\mathbf{plan}(\alpha_2,3)}{\rightsquigarrow} \\
&((\ell_0^1, \ell_3^2, \ell_0^3, \ell_1^4), (2,9,2), \{\alpha_2 \mapsto 3\}) \overset{3}{\rightsquigarrow} ((\ell_0^1, \ell_3^2, \ell_0^3, \ell_1^4), (5,12,5), \{\alpha_2 \mapsto 0\}) \overset{\alpha_2}{\rightsquigarrow} \\
&((\ell_1^1, \ell_3^2, \ell_1^3, \ell_1^4), (5,12,5), \emptyset) \overset{\mathbf{plan}(\alpha_4,0)}{\rightsquigarrow} ((\ell_1^1, \ell_3^2, \ell_1^3, \ell_1^4), (5,12,5)\{\alpha_4 \mapsto 0\}) \overset{\alpha_4}{\rightsquigarrow} \\
&((\ell_0^1, \ell_3^2, \ell_2^3, \ell_1^4), (5,0,0), \emptyset) \overset{\mathbf{plan}(\alpha_7,4)}{\rightsquigarrow} ((\ell_0^1, \ell_3^2, \ell_2^3, \ell_1^4), (5,0,0), \{\alpha_7 \mapsto 4\}) \overset{3}{\rightsquigarrow} \\
&((\ell_0^1, \ell_3^2, \ell_2^3, \ell_1^4), (8,3,3), \{\alpha_7 \mapsto 1\})
\end{aligned}$$

This execution sequence represents a path that alternates plan actions, time steps and execution of some interactions. We can see that for interaction α_7 which is planned 4 units of time ahead, the system cannot reach the state from which it can be executed since there is a time progress expiration in component T_2 after 3 time units from planning this interaction. This means that local planning of interactions doesn't always allow the progress of time and may thus, introduce deadlocks even if the system under the global semantics rules is deadlock-free.

2.3 Relation Between Global and Weak Planning Semantics

We use weak simulation to compare the model under the global semantics rules and the one under the weak planning semantics rules by considering **plan**-transitions unobservable. As explained in Example 2, the weak planning semantics does not preserve the deadlock property of our system. Nevertheless, the following proves weak simulation relations between the two semantics.

Theorem 1. *For all the reachable states* (ℓ, v, π) *of the weak planning semantics, and* $\forall \alpha \in \pi$, *the predicate* $Enabled^{\nearrow \pi(\alpha)}(\alpha)$ *is true.*

Let $S_g = (\mathrm{Q}_g, \gamma \cup \mathbb{R}_{>0}, \rightarrow_\gamma)$ (resp. $S_p = (\mathrm{Q}_p, \gamma \cup \mathbb{R}_{>0} \cup \{\mathbf{plan}\}, \rightsquigarrow)$) the labeled transition system characterizing the global (resp. weak planning) semantics.

Proposition 1

Relation 1 $\forall \delta \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}.(\ell, v, \pi) \overset{\delta}{\rightsquigarrow} (\ell', v', \pi') \Rightarrow (\ell, v) \xrightarrow{\delta}_\gamma (\ell', v')$
Relation 2 $\forall \alpha \in \gamma.(\ell, v, \pi) \overset{\alpha}{\rightsquigarrow} (\ell', v', \pi') \Rightarrow (\ell, v) \xrightarrow{\alpha}_\gamma (\ell', v')$

It is straightforward that Relation 1 is a consequence of the definition of time progress in the weak planning semantics. For Relation 2, using Definition 6, we can deduce that:

$$(\ell, v, \pi) \overset{\alpha}{\rightsquigarrow} (\ell', v', \pi') \Rightarrow \pi(\alpha) = 0$$

By Theorem 1, this implies that $Enabled^{\nearrow 0}(\alpha)$ is *true* at state (ℓ, v, π), meaning that $Enabled(\alpha)$ is also *true*, which allows to infer Relation 2.

Corollary 1. *If a state* $(\ell, v, \pi) \in Reach(S_p)$, *then* $(\ell, v) \in Reach(S_g)$.

Definition 7 (Weak Simulation). *A weak simulation over* $A = (\mathrm{Q}_A, \sum \cup \{\beta\}, \rightarrow_A)$ *and* $B = (\mathrm{Q}_B, \sum \cup \{\beta\}, \rightarrow_B)$ *is a relation* $R \subseteq \mathrm{Q}_A \times \mathrm{Q}_B$ *such that we have:* $\forall (q, r) \in R, a \in \sum .q \xrightarrow{a}_A q' \implies \exists r' : (q', r') \in R \wedge r \xrightarrow{\beta^* a \beta^*}_B r'$ *and* $\forall (q, r) \in R : q \xrightarrow{\beta}_A q' \implies \exists r' : (q', r') \in R \wedge r \xrightarrow{\beta^*} r'$. *B simulates A, denoted by* $A \sqsubseteq_R B$, *means that B can do everything A does.*

The definition of weak simulation is based on the unobservability of $\beta-$transitions. In our case, $\beta-$transitions corresponds to **plan**$-$transitions.

Corollary 2. $S_p \sqsubseteq_{R_1} S_g$ *with* $R_1 = \{(q, \pi); q) \in \mathrm{Q}_p \times \mathrm{Q}_g\}$.

Corollary 2 corresponds to a notion of correctness of the weak planning semantics: any execution in weak planning semantics corresponds to an execution in the global state semantics.

Theorem 2. $S_g \sqsubseteq_{R_2} S_p$ *with* $R_2 = \{(q; (q, \pi)) \in \mathrm{Q}_g \times \mathrm{Q}_p | \pi = \emptyset\}$.

Theorem 2 states that the weak planning semantics preserves all execution sequences of the global state semantics. They are obtained using immediate planning, i.e. plans π such that $\pi(\alpha) = 0$ or $\pi(\alpha) = \bot$. The weak planning semantics aims to reduces the impact of communication delays in the system through planning interactions execution ahead, and by considering only the state of components involved in the planned interaction, which is more suitable for distributed real-time systems than the global state semantics. It does not restrict the behavior of the global state semantics (see Theorem 2), and it executes only sequences allowed by the global state semantics (see Corollary 2). However, it may introduce deadlocks as shown by the scenario presented in Example 2. In the following, we present sufficient conditions for deadlock-free planning of interactions.

3 Deadlock-Free Planning

As explained in Example 2, local planning of interactions can introduce deadlocks in the system since it does not consider time progress conditions of components not participating in the planned interactions. Effectively, the weak planning semantics ensures that time can progress until the chosen execution date only w.r.t timing constraints of participating components, but such progress may be disallowed by the rest of the system leading to deadlock states. In this section, we provide sufficient conditions for having deadlock-free planning.

Planning an interaction α implies not only blocking components participating in α until α executes, but also preventing the system from planning interactions involving these components, that is, interactions of $conf(\alpha)$. Consequently, the subset of interactions $\gamma' \subseteq \gamma$ that can be planned at a given state (ℓ, v, π) depends on the content of the plan π. It satisfies $\gamma' = \{\gamma \setminus \pi \cup conf(\pi)\}$.

By Corollary 1, a (reachable) deadlock state (ℓ, v, π) of the weak planning semantics S_p is such that (ℓ, v) is a reachable state of the global state semantics S_g. Since we assume that S_g is deadlock-free, (ℓ, v) is not a deadlock in S_g. A deadlock state (ℓ, v, π) of S_p is caused by the plan π which is restricting the execution in S_p w.r.t. S_g: interactions α of π cannot execute before $\pi(\alpha)$ time units, and interactions $\alpha \in conf(\pi)$ are blocked for (at least) $\max\{\pi(\beta) \mid \beta \# \alpha\}$. Notice that due to well-formed guards, in a deadlock state (ℓ, v, π) we have necessarily $\mathsf{at}(\ell_i) \wedge urg(tpc_{\ell_i})$ for a location ℓ_i of a component $B_i \notin \mathrm{part}(\pi)$.

Theorem 3. *If a state $(\ell, v, \pi) \in Reach(S_p)$ deadlocks, the following equation is satisfied:*

$$\underbrace{\bigwedge_{\alpha\in\pi} Enabled^{\nearrow\pi(\alpha)}(\alpha)}_{A} \wedge \underbrace{\bigvee_{B_i\in S\setminus \mathrm{part}(\pi)} \bigvee_{\ell_i\in\mathcal{L}_i} \ell_i \wedge urg(tpc_{\ell_i})}_{B}$$
$$\wedge \underbrace{\bigwedge_{\alpha\in\pi} \pi(\alpha) \neq 0 \wedge \Big(\bigvee_{\alpha\in\pi} (Enabled(\alpha) \vee \bigvee_{\alpha\in conf(\pi)} Enabled(\alpha))\Big)}_{C} \tag{2}$$

From Theorem 1, Term A of Eq. 2 represents an invariant of the system. On the other hand, terms B and C characterize the deadlock: Term B expresses the urgency of time progress condition in components not involved in the planned interactions, whereas, term C specifies the origin of the deadlock: it characterizes states (ℓ, v, π) of S_p for which π restricts the execution of an interaction α whereas it can be executed at (ℓ, v) in S_g. As explained above, such an interaction satisfies $\pi(\alpha) > 0$ or $\alpha \in \mathit{conf}(\pi)$.

It is clear that Eq. 2 depends on the reachable states of the planning semantics since it explicitly depends on plans π. The following gives weaker conditions for deadlocks which are independent of the plan.

Theorem 4. *Let $\Phi(\alpha)$ be the following predicate:*

$$\widehat{\mathit{Enabled}^{\nearrow^{[0,\delta_{\max}(\alpha)]}}(\alpha)} \wedge \bigvee_{B_i \in S \setminus \mathrm{part}(\alpha)} \bigvee_{\ell_i \in \mathcal{L}_i} \mathsf{at}(\ell_i) \wedge \mathit{urg}(\mathit{tpc}_{\ell_i}) \wedge \bigvee_{\beta \in \alpha \cup \mathit{conf}(\alpha)} \mathit{Enabled}(\beta) \tag{3}$$

where $\widehat{\mathit{Enabled}^{\nearrow^{[0,\delta_{\max}(\alpha)]}}(\alpha)}$ is the result of transforming all the timing constraints of the form $x \leq ct$ by $x < ct$ in $\swarrow^{\delta_{\max}(\alpha)} (\bigwedge_{a_i \in \alpha} \mathit{guard}(a_i, \ell_i))$ of $\mathit{Enabled}^{\nearrow^{[0,\delta_{\max}(\alpha)]}}(\alpha)$.

If a reachable state of the system (ℓ, v, π) deadlocks then the following is satisfied:

$$\exists \alpha \in \gamma, \Phi(\alpha) \wedge \delta_{\max}(\alpha) \neq 0 \tag{4}$$

Let $\mathit{schedule}(\alpha, \delta_{\max}(\alpha))$ be the following predicate:

$$\mathit{schedule}(\alpha, \delta_{\max}(\alpha)) = \neg\Phi(\alpha) \vee (\delta_{\max}(\alpha) = 0)$$

Using Theorem 4 and Corollary 1, we can conclude that for all interactions $\alpha \in \gamma$ and for all reachable states of the global state semantics S_g, if the predicate $\mathit{schedule}(\alpha, \delta_{\max}(\alpha))$ is satisfied, then the weak planning semantics is deadlock-free. Notice that given an interaction $\alpha \in \gamma$ the satisfaction of $\mathit{schedule}(\alpha, \delta_{\max}(\alpha))$ on $\mathit{Reach}(S_g)$ depends only on $\delta_{\max}(\alpha)$. Moreover, it is monotonic, that is, if it holds for $\delta_{\max}(\alpha)$ then it holds for any $\delta_{\max}(\alpha)' < \delta_{\max}(\alpha)$. This provides means for building implementations that plan interactions as soon as possible by taking for $\delta_{\max}(\alpha)$ the maximal value of δ such that $\mathit{schedule}(\alpha, \delta)$ holds on $\mathit{Reach}(S_g)$.

4 Using Knowledge to Enhance Deadlock-Free Planning

In Sect. 3, we presented sufficient conditions that ensure a deadlock-free planning of interactions. Effectively, we use an SMT solver to check the satisfiability of those conditions on the reachable states of the planning semantics. As explained in Sect. 3 to prove deadlock-freedom of weak planning semantics it is sufficient to prove that for all interactions $\alpha \in \gamma$ the following formula:

$$\mathit{Reach}(S_g) \wedge \neg \mathit{schedule}(\alpha, \delta_{\max}(\alpha))$$

is unsatisfiable. In practice, we do not calculate $Reach(S_g)$ to avoid the combinatorial explosion problem inherent to composition of timed automata. Instead, we use over-approximations of the latter which enable us to build stronger conditions of deadlock freedom. As explained in more detail below, these over-approximations take the form of invariants I (i.e. such that $Reach(S_g) \Rightarrow I$) that are used to establish deadlock freedom by checking the unsatisfiability of:

$$I \wedge \neg schedule(\alpha, \delta_{\max}(\alpha))$$

Timed Invariants. Our approach consists in leveraging global knowledge of the system in the form of invariants that will be used to approximate $Reach(S_g)$. Locations reachable in a composition $S = \gamma(B_1, \ldots, B_n)$ are necessary combinations of reachable locations of individual components B_i, i.e., $Reach(S_g) \Rightarrow \bigwedge_{i=1}^{n} Reach(B_i)$. However, in general not all combinations are reachable since components are not fully independent as they synchronize through interaction set γ. Moreover, individual reachable states of components do not express the fact that time progresses the same way in all components.

For example, a global location may be not reachable because component locations having disjoint time progress conditions, or an interaction may be not enabled from a state because of an empty timing constraint. Such properties require additional relationships relating clocks of different components that are not available in $Reach(B_i)$ as it is is restricted to clocks of a single component.

We follow the approach of [25–27] for reinforcing individual reachable states of components with global invariants on clocks. They are induced by simultaneity of transitions execution when executing an interaction and the synchrony of time progress. To compute such invariants, additional *history* clocks are first introduced in components. History clocks are associated to actions of components and to interactions, and reset upon their execution. They do not modify the behavior since they are not involved in timing constraints. They only reveal local timing of components, relevant to the interaction layer, which allows to infer further properties referred as *history clocks inequalities* in [25], expressing the fact that the history clock of an interaction is necessary equal to history clocks of its actions after its execution and until the execution of another interaction involving these actions. By combining history clocks inequalities $\mathcal{E}(S)$ and symbolic states of components, we have:

$$Reach(S_g) \Rightarrow \bigwedge_{i=1}^{n} Reach(B_i) \wedge \quad \mathcal{E}(S_g) \tag{5}$$

Notice that for such systems with multiparty interactions, other types of invariants could be used, like those of [28] that corresponds to the notion of *S-invariants* in the Petri net community [29]. Even if they are time abstracted, it is proved that they are appropriate for verifying non coverage of subsets of individual locations.

Example 3. We illustrate the application of (5) for a safe planning of interactions by considering again example of Fig. 1. It can be shown that locations

configuration including location ℓ_2^3 (resp. ℓ_2^2) does not satisfy the predicate $schedule(\alpha, \delta_{\max}(\alpha))$ for interaction α_5 (resp. α_6). In the following, we prove how such configurations can be excluded using history clocks inequalities.
Since action run of C is synchronized with either $start_1$ of T_1 or $start_2$ of T_2, and since history clocks h_a of an action a is reset whenever a is executed, by [25] the history clock inequalities for run are:

$$(h_{run} = h_{start_1} < h_{start_2} - 4) \ \vee \ (h_{run} = h_{start_2} < h_{start_1} - 4). \tag{6}$$

Equation (6) states that h_{run} is equal to the history clock corresponding to the last synchronization, i.e. either h_{start_1} or h_{start_2}, and is lower than history clocks of previous synchronizations. Value 4 in (6) is obtained considering *separation constraints* computed from symbolic states of components [25]: two occurrences of run are separated by at least 4 time units because of timing constraints of C, and so do occurrences of $start_1$ or $start_2$ which can only execute jointly with run. To relate history clocks with components clocks, we simply include history clocks when computing symbolic states of components (i.e. $Reach(B_i)$ for components), which is used to establish here that $x = h_{start_1}$ and $y = h_{start_2}$. That is, combined with (6) we obtain $x < y - 4$ or $y < x - 4$.

By definition of *Enabled* we have $Enabled(\alpha_6) = \mathsf{at}(\ell_2^2) \wedge (1 \leq x \leq 3)$. Similarly, $Enabled(\alpha_6) = \mathsf{at}(\ell_2^3) \wedge (1 \leq y \leq 3)$. This proves that components T_1 and T_2 can never be at locations ℓ_2^3 and ℓ_2^2 at the same time. Thus, while checking for interaction α_5 (resp. α_6) that $\bigwedge_{i=1}^{n} Reach(B_i) \wedge \mathcal{E}(S_g) \wedge \neg schedule(\alpha, \delta_{\max}(\alpha))$ is unsatisfiable, this case will be excluded using history clock inequalities.

5 Implementation and Experiments

The presented method has been implemented as a middleend filter of the BIP compiler. BIP [30] is a highly expressive, component-based framework with rigorous semantics that allows the construction of complex, hierarchically structured models from single components characterized by their behavior. The method input consists of real-time BIP model and a file containing an approximation of the reachable states of components combined with history clock inequalities as explained in Sect. 4. The latter is generated using the RTD-Finder tool, a verification tool for real-time component based systems modeled in the RT-BIP language. Our filter generates for each interaction of the input model a Yices [31] file containing system invariants together with the condition for planning the considered interaction, that is, $\neg schedule(\alpha, \delta_{\max}(\alpha))$. Thereafter, Yices checks the satisfiability of $\bigwedge_{i=1}^{n} Reach(B_i) \wedge \mathcal{E}(S_g) \wedge \neg schedule(\alpha, \delta_{\max}(\alpha))$. We also define $\delta_{\max}(\alpha)$ as free variable. If this condition is unsatisfiable, then planning interactions α is safe and unbounded that is, $\delta_{\max} = +\infty$. Otherwise, Yices generates a counter-example. Due to the monotony of the condition, this counter-example can be used to find the maximal value of $\delta_{\max}(\alpha)$ satisfying the above condition using a binary search algorithm. Together, the determined values of the bounds $\delta_{\max}$ for each interaction will affect the dynamic of the hole system: for an interaction α the greater $\delta_{\max}(\alpha)$ is, the more flexible the scheduling of α will be.

Table 1. Detailed results of the Task Manager experiments

Interaction	Conflicting interactions	*tpc*	$\delta_{\max}(\alpha)$
α_1	$\alpha_2, \alpha_4, \alpha_8$	ℓ_2^3	∞
α_3	$\alpha_2, \alpha_4, \alpha_8$	ℓ_2^3	∞
α_5	α_6, α_8	ℓ_2^3	∞
α_7	α_2, α_4	ℓ_2^3	0

Table 2. Results of experiments

Model	Number of interactions		
	$\delta_{\max} = 0$	$\delta_{\max} = \infty$	total
Task Manager	2	6	8
Pacemaker	0	6	6
Gear	0	17	17
Fischer	0	10	10

We ran our experiments on three other models besides of the model presented in Fig. 1: Pacemaker [32], Fischer [33], and Gear controller [34]. We developed an implementation of these models in RT-BIP. The following tables show the result of our experiments. Table 1 gives a detailed result of the experiments ran on the Task Manager model Fig. 1. It summarizes, for each interaction, its *conflicting interactions* and the potential locations for which a time progress condition may expire while planning it (column *tpc*). The last column, $\delta_{\max}(\alpha)$, details the maximum horizon for planning interaction α. Notice that the symmetry of the model allows to perform the verification on interactions $\alpha_1, \alpha_3, \alpha_5$, and α_7 and deduce the results for the other interactions. Table 2 depicts the results of our experiments on different models. For each model, it summarizes the number of interactions that can be safely planned with an unbounded horizon ($\delta_{\max} = \infty$). It also gives the number of interactions that cannot be planned in advance, and thus, need to be executed immediately after being planned ($\delta_{\max} = 0$).

6 Conclusion and Future Work

We presented a method for scheduling real-time systems in a distributed context considering models including multiparty interactions. The proposed approach defines sufficient conditions ensuring a deadlock-free local planning of interactions with certain horizons. Moreover, it is proved that those conditions are interaction dependent, in other terms, this means that changing the planning horizon of an interaction does not affect the planning of other interactions. A key innovative idea is the use of global knowledge in addition to local components informations to enhance the local scheduling of interactions. The computed

knowledge captures not only the way components synchronize through interactions, but it also consider the history clock inequalities between those interactions and express explicitly the synchrony of time progress.

There are many open problems to be investigated such as: *(i)* when planning an interaction, identifying conditions based on the state of components involved in this interaction, and *(ii)* defining a lower bound for planning interaction. The latter represents an important point meaning that, if planning interactions can be ensured for a lower bound, that effectively represents the communication delays of the target platform, then all the problems induced by those delays, such as global consistency and performance dropping will be solved.

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