Real-Time Scheduling for Mono-Processor Systems

> Laurent Pautet strec.wp.imt.fr pautet.wp.imt.fr/jobs Laurent.Pautet@enst.fr

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What do they have in common ?



An embedded system is a special-purpose system which software, hardware, mechanical, ... components are encapsulated in the device it controls

As opposed to general-purpose systems, they have specific properties such as low consumption, small size and weight, limited resources ...

A cruise control, a washing machine, factory robot, ...

Real-Time Systems Definition and Requirements

A real-time system consists in one or more sub-systems that have to react under specified time requirements to stimuli produced by the environment

> A response after a deadline is invalid Even if the response is logically correct

A cruise control, a washing machine, factory robot, a nuclear plant, an air traffic control, trading center, ...

Most real-time systems are embedded systems

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Timing constraints



Image of the system in the real environment

mage of the system in the application



Actions

- The application must have a precise and consistent image of the system in its environment at anytime
- The goal of real-time systems is to minimize the difference between the images of the system in reality and in its application (|R(t)-A(t)| < ε)
- To update the image in the application, it reads in particular sensors periodically. The period being a temporal granularity during which the measures evolve significantly)

Non Fonctional Properties

These systems have to be predictible

- Reactivity and temporal consistency
 - Define temporal interval during which data is valid
 - Define time granularity (ship sec, rail msec, airplane usec)
 - Guarantee response time boundaries (known in advance)
- Reliability and Availability
 - Guarantee the correctness of the computed data values
 - Enforce system availability in presence of hostile conditions (fault tolerance, malicious behavior ...)

Non-Fonctional Properties -> temporal & structural

From requirements to technical solutions

- Requirements
 - Reactivity & temporal consistency
 - Reliability & Availability
- Solutions
 - Architectures and frameworks to help the design (Kernels, RT buses and networks, ...)
 - Models and methods to enforce predictibility (RT scheduling, Fault tolerance, ...)
 - Suitable programming languages (C-Misra, Java-RT, Standard POSIX 1003.1c, Ada, ...)
 - Tools to integrate modeling, analysis and synthesis (AADL, Marte, verification, simulation, generation, testing)

Notations

- Parameters of task ti
 - C_i : Worst Case Execution Time (WCET) of task t_i
 - A_i : Arrival time of task t_i
 - Task must not arrive before A_i
 - A_i may be different from 0 (dependency)
 - T_i : Period of task t_i
 - D_i : Deadline of task t_i
 - Task must not complete after D_i
 - $A_i + C_i < D_i$ however ...
 - $D_i \leq T_i$ is not mandatory (constrained deadline)
 - $U_i = C_i / T_i = \text{processor utilisation of task } t_i$
- Operators
 - Ceiling $\lceil x \rceil$ (least integer greater than or equal to x)
 - Floor $\lfloor x \rfloor$ (greatest integer less than or equal to x





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Soft Real-Time Task (Different from Best Effort Task that has No Deadline)



Hard real-time vs soft real-time tasks

For a hard real-time task

- Deadlines must always be fulfilled
- WCET must never be overrun (over-dimension)
- Reduce inaccuracy from non-determinism
 - Pre-allocation (no dynamic allocation), ...
 - Non-predictible cache behavior, ...
- For a soft real-time task
 - Missing deadlines can be tolerated:
 - For a given percentage of times
 - For a given number of times
 - For a given frequency
 - And result in a degraded execution mode
 - Reuse previous job results for instance



A real-time system is composed of several sub-systems with different real-time properties

Some of these sub-systems may be non real-time, soft real-time or hard real-time sub-systems

- Hard real-time tasks must fulfill their deadlines.
- Soft real-time tasks may fail to fulfill their deadlines.
 If so, they may execute in a degraded mode.
- Other tasks execute in best-effort mode.

Real-Time Schedulers

- Allocate (CPU) resources to guarantee safety (timing) properties
- In normal mode, respect the time constraints of all tasks
- Otherwise, limit the effects of time overflows and ensure compliance with the constraints of the most critical tasks
 - In the following, it will be ensured that the time dedicated to the scheduling algorithm and that of context switch are negligible which implies a low complexity and an effective implementation

Definitions Execution Model

- Dependent or independent tasks
 - Independent tasks sharing only the processor
 - Dependent tasks with shared resources or linked by precedence constraints
- Synchronous tasks have the same activation time (0)
- Periodic task with implicit deadline means periodic task with deadline equals to period
- Task job : instanciation of a task during period
- Worst Case Execution Time : worst computation time
- Response time : time to complete a job while other jobs are also running on the same processor

Definitions

- Preemptive and non-preemptive scheduling
 - A preemptive scheduler can interrupt a task for a higher priority task when a non-preemptive scheduler executes the task until it completes
- Offline or online scheduling
 - A scheduler decides offline or online when and which task to execute
- Optimal scheduling
 - Algorithm that produces a schedule for any set of schedulable tasks (if an algorithm does, it does too)
- Scheduling test
 - A necessary and / or sufficient condition for an algorithm to satisfy the temporal constraints of a set of tasks

Overview of algorithms

Scheduling periodic tasks

- Non-preemptive table-based scheduling
- Preemptive scheduling with static priorities
 - Rate and Deadline Monotonic Scheduling
- Preemptive scheduling with dynamic priorities
 - Earliest Deadline First and Least Laxity First
- Scheduling aperiodic tasks
 - Background, polling, deferred & sporadic servers
- Sharing resources
 - Priority Inheritance, Priority Ceiling & Highest Locker

Proving schedulability using a scheduling algorithm

- To prove schedulability/feasibility of a task set
 - Execute the algorithm over a feasibility interval
 - Compute a (necessary sufficient) scheduling test
 - Compute response time & check against deadlines
- Feasibility interval : minimum interval needed to verify the schedulability of a system
 - For independent synchronous periodic tasks : ∀i: Di ≤ Ti with a fixed priority scheduling [0, LCM (∀i: Ti)] (LCM or hyper-period)
 - For independent asynchronous periodic tasks
 ∀i: Di ≤ Ti with a fixed priority scheduling
 [0, 2 * LCM (∀i: Ti) + max (∀i: Ai)]

Table Driven Scheduling Principles

- Hypotheses
 - Periodic tasks
- Principles
 - Major cycle = LCM of the task periods
 - Minor cycle = non-preemptible block
 - The minor cycle divides the major cycle
 - A cyclic scheduler loops on the major cycle by executing the sequence of minor cycles
 - The minor cycle provides a control point to check the respect of the timing constraints

Table Driven Scheduling Example

		Period	Deadline	WCET	Usage
	τ_1	10	10	2	0,200
	τ ₂	15	15	4	0.267
	τ3	6	6	2	0.333



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Table Driven Scheduling Advantages and Disadvantages

- Advantages
 - Effective implementation
 - No need for mutual exclusion between tasks
- Disadvantages
 - Not work conserving :
 - the processor may be idle while jobs are not completed
 - Impact of an additional task
 - Execution of aperiodic tasks
 - Difficult construction of the table
 - Allocating slots is a complex problem (NP-hard)

Static Priority Scheduling Highest Priority First

- Offline, each task is assigned a priority (integer number) before runtime
- Online, the scheduler always executes the task of the ready tasks list with the highest priority
- The scheduler can preempt the current task to execute a new task that has just been activated
- There are many algorithms to assign offline priorities to tasks (mostly based on their timing parameters)
- The objective is to find a mapping that makes the task set schedulable

Static Priority Scheduling Response Time

- The critical instant for a set of synchronous periodic tasks is when all jobs start at the same time
- For each task, compute time t at which its first activation completes by integrating the execution of highest priority tasks activated in the mean time
 - Start with a first response time $R^{i}_{0} = C_{i}$
 - Compute $R_{n+1}^{i} = \sum_{j \le i} C_j * \langle R_n^{i} \rangle \langle T_j \rangle$ to integrate the execution of the tasks of highest priority
 - Iterate until a fixed point is reached
 - In other word : $\forall i, 1 \le i \le n, \exists t \le D_i W_i(t) = \sum_{j \le i} C_j * \lceil t/T_j \rceil \le t$
- The task is schedulable if the response time is a fixed value less than or equal to the deadline
- Valid for any static priority scheduling

Static Priority Scheduling Response Time (RMS)

		Т	С	Р
	Т ₁	З	1	3
Check for τ_1 1. $R_0 = C_1 = 1$	T ₂	5	2	2
2. $R_1 = \text{Response}(R_0) = 1*1 = 1$	T ₃	15	4	1

2. Check for τ_2 and take into account τ_1 1. $R_0 = C_2 = 2$

1.

1.
$$R_1 = \text{Response}(R_0) = 1*1+1*2 = 3$$

2. $R_2 = \text{Response}(R_1) = 1*1+1*2 = 3$



Static Priority Scheduling OPA – Optimal Priority Assignment

- Let have N fixed priority tasks
- Among these tasks, find a task that can have the lowest priority ...
 - Its response time should be less than its deadline when all the others have a higher priority
 - If there is such a task, give it the lowest priority
 - Otherwise, the system is not schedulable
- Repeat process with the N-1 remaining tasks

Static Priority Scheduling Rate Monotonic Scheduling

Hypotheses

- Synchronous, deadline implicit & independent tasks
- Synchronous (A_i = 0)
- Deadline implicit (D_i = T_i)
- Principle
 - Task activation or completion wake up the scheduler
 - Select the ready task with the shortest period
- Scheduling test
 - Necessary condition: $\sum C_i/T_i \le 1$
 - Sufficient condition: $\sum C_i / T_i \le n (2^{1/n} 1)$

$$\rightarrow \log(2) = 69\%$$

Static Priority Scheduling Rate Monotonic Scheduling

3(21/3-1)=78%	Period	WCET	Usage
τ_1	10	2	0.200
τ ₂	15	4	0.267
τ ₃	18	6	0.333



Static Priority Schdeuling Rate Monotonic Scheduling

3(21/3-1)=78%	Period	WCET	Usage
τ_1	10	4	0.400
τ ₂	15	4	0.267
τ ₃	18	6	0.333



Static Priority Scheduling Rate Monotonic Scheduling



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Static Priority Scheduling Rate Monotonic Scheduling

- Advantages
 - Easy to implement
 - Optimal for static priority scheduling
 - Frequent in the classic executives
 - Good behavior in case of overload
- Disadvantages
 - Possible oversizing of the system
- RMS is always a possible result of OPA
 - Both RMS and OPA are optimal

OPA vs RMS

3x(2 ^{1/3} -1)=0.78	Period	WCET	Usage
τ_1	5	2	0.400
τ ₂	15	4	0.267
τ ₃	3	1	0.333

• τ_1 lowest priority: $R_0 = 2$; $R_1 = 7$; or $R_1 > T_1$

- τ₂ lowest priority: R₀= 4; R₁=8; R₂=14; R₃=15;
 - τ_1 : R_0 = 2; R_1 =3; $\tau_2 < \tau_1 < \tau_3$: same as RMS
 - τ_3 : $R_0 = 1$; $R_1 = 3$; $\tau_2 < \tau_3 < \tau_1$: different from RMS
- τ_3 lowest priority: $R_0 = 1$; $R_1 = 7$; or $R_1 > T_3$
- OPA always finds an assignment if it exists (optimal), in particular the assignment of RMS (also optimal)

Static Priority Scheduling Deadline Monotonic Scheduling

Hypotheses

- Synchronous and independent tasks
- The deadline is less than the period $(D_i \le T_i)$
- Principle
 - Select the ready task with the shortest deadline
 - When for all tasks $T_i = D_i$, DMS becomes RMS
- Scheduling test
 - The necessary and sufficient condition exists
 - Sufficient condition: $\sum C_i/D_i \le n (2^{1/n} 1)$ (we oversize : the task period is its deadline)

Static Priority Scheduling Deadline Monotonic Scheduling

- Advantages
 - See RMS
 - RMS penalizes long period but short deadline tasks
 - DMS is better in this case.
- Disadvantages
 - See RMS
 - Do not to be confused with EDF

Dynamic Priority Scheduling Earliest Deadline First

Hypotheses

- Periodic, independent tasks
- Deadline implicit $(D_i = T_i)$ or not $(D_i <= T_i)$
- Principle
 - Task activation or completion wake up the scheduler
 - Select the ready task with the earliest deadline
- Scheduling test
 - Necessary and sufficient condition : $\sum C_i/T_i \le 1$
 - Sufficient when not implicit $(D_i \le T_i) : \sum C_i/D_i \le 1$

Dynamic Priority Scheduling Earliest Deadline First

	Period	WCET	Usage
τ_1	10	4	0.400
τ ₂	15	4	0.267
τ ₃	18	6	0.333


Dynamic Priority Scheduling Earliest Deadline First

- Advantages
 - Possible use of 100% of the processor
 - Optimal for dynamic priority scheduling if the deadlines are lower than the periods
- Disadvantages
 - Slight complexity of implementation
 - Less common in executives than RMS
 - Bad behavior in case of overload
- Remarks
 - If D_i is arbitrary compared to T_i, the necessary and sufficient condition is no longer sufficient.

Dynamic Priority Scheduling Least Laxity First

- Hypotheses
 - Similar to those of EDF
- Principle
 - Task activation or completion wake the scheduler
 - Select the ready task with the lowest margin
 - margin = deadline remaining comp. time current time
- Scheduling test
 - Necessary and sufficient condition: $\sum C_i/T_i \le 1$

Dynamic Priority Scheduling Least Laxity First

	Period	WCET	Usage
τ_1	10	4	0.400
τ ₂	15	4	0.267
τ ₃	18	6	0.333



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Dynamic Priority Scheduling Least Laxity First

Advantages

- Better than EDF in the case of multi-processor
- Disadvantages
 - High complexity of implementation
 - Complex to compute remaining execution time
 - Bad behavior in case of overload
 - High number of preemptions
 - LLF oscillates in case of tied-laxities tasks

Aperiodic Task Scheduling

Definitions

- Aperiodic tasks are activated at arbitrary instants
- Sporadic tasks are aperiodic tasks activated with a minimum delay between two activations
- Sporadic tasks are almost periodic as they are activated with a variable but minimal period
- Aperiodic tasks must respect their deadlines
- Principles
 - Aperiodic tasks must be integrated into the scheduling of periodic tasks

Aperiodic tasks with periodic tasks

First solution for sporadic tasks

- Handle sporadic tasks as periodic tasks when scheduling algorithm supports it
- Ie the scheduling algorithm accepts tasks that are not activated at fixed time
- Second solution (more general)
 - Handle aperiodic tasks with a periodic server
 - The periodic server when it is active handles the aperiodic tasks as long as it is allowed
- Reuse schedulability tests for periodic tasks

Scheduling aperiodic tasks Background server

- The aperiodic tasks are processed sequentially by a low priority server
- The server has no associated budget (since it has the lowest priority)
- The lack of budget comes from the fact that the server fills the holes in the scheduling

Scheduling aperiodic tasks Background server

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Scheduling aperiodic tasks Background server

- Advantages
 - Simplicity of implementation
- Disadvantages
 - Difficult to predict response time of aperiodic tasks
 - ... although aperiodic tasks can be critical
 - Bad response time under heavy workload

Scheduling aperiodic tasks Polling server

- Aperiodic tasks are processed sequentially by a high priority server
- The server has a budget and a period
- The budget is reallocated every period
- The time consumed to process an aperiodic task is debited on its budget
- The server executes aperiodic tasks within its budget
- The server becomes inactive when there is no task to execute and gives up its budget until next period

Scheduling aperiodic tasks Polling server



Scheduling aperiodic tasks Polling server

- Advantages
 - Simplicity of implementation
- Disadvantages
 - By giving up its budget, the server exhausts the processing time allocated to future tasks
 - Bad response time even when aperiodic tasks are released just after server activations

Scheduling aperiodic tasks Deferred server

- The aperiodic tasks are processed sequentially by a high priority server
- The server has a budget and a period
- The budget is reallocated every period
- The time consumed to process an aperiodic task is debited on its budget
- The server becomes active only when an aperiodic task is to be processed and its budget is not yet exhausted

Scheduling aperiodic tasks Deferred server



Scheduling aperiodic tasks Deferred server

- Advantages
 - It preserves its budget for future tasks
- Disadvantages
 - By not immediately consuming its budget, a deferred server violates the scheduling hypotheses of a periodic task because it does not execute while it can.
 - A scheduling analysis can claim that the scheduling is correct while the server causes a deadline miss of a low priority task by delaying its execution



Scheduling aperiodic tasks Issue with deferred server

	Period / Release	Budget	Priority	Utilisation/Response
Aperiodic task ϵ_1	28	6		12
Periodic task τ_1	14	4	1	0,285 13
Periodic task τ_2	14	5	2	0,357 9
Deferred Server S	10	2	3	0,200 2

Tasks S, τ_1 and t τ_2 are schedulable with RMS: R_S=2<8, R τ_1 =8<14, R τ_2 =13<14

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Sporadic server

- The aperiodic tasks are processed sequentially by a high priority server
- The server has a budget and a period
- The time consumed to process an aperiodic task is debited on its budget
- The time consumed is credited back after a task period from the time it starts consuming
- The server becomes active when an aperiodic task is to be processed and its budget is not exhausted

Scheduling aperiodic tasks Sporadic server

		Pe	eriod/Relea	ise	Budget	Priority	Utilisation	/Response	
	Aperiodic Tas	sk ε ₁		7	3			9	
	Aperiodic Tas	sk ε₂		11	4			21	
	Aperiodic Tas	sk τ ₁ 10	0		4	2	0,400		
	Aperiodic Tas	sk τ ₂ 20	0		6	1	0,300		
	Sporadic Serv	ver S 8			2	3	0,250		
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Scheduling aperiodic tasks Sporadic server

- Advantages
 - Better properties than previous servers
- Disadvantages
 - High complexity compared to the deferred server
- Variant
 - An alternative is to transform the sporadic server into a background server (low priority) when its budget is exhausted in order to take advantage the unused processing time



Analogy with the previous model (independent tasks)

- Let B_i be the longest duration of potential blocking of task t_i by a task of lower priority
- Analogy with a scenario in which task t_i would have a WCET of C_i + B_i instead of C_i
- The goal is to reduce B_i by introducing adequate resource sharing policies

Sharing resources

Including blocking time in scheduling test

- A high priority task can be blocked **directly** by a low priority task because they share a common resource
- A middle priority task can be blocked **indirectly** when a high priority task is blocked by a low priority task, those tasks having no resource shared with the middle priority task
- Sufficient scheduling condition with RMS

 $\forall i, 1 \leq i \leq n, \Sigma_{j \leq i}C_j/T_j + B_i/T_i \leq n (2^{1/n} - 1)$

- Response time with static priorities and blocking times $\forall i, 1 \le i \le n, \exists t \le D_i W_i(t) = \sum_{i \le i} C_i * \lceil t/T_i \rceil + B_i \le t$
- Sufficient scheduling condition with EDF

 $\forall i, 1 \leq i \leq n, \Sigma_{j \leq i} C_j / T_j + B_i / T_i \leq 1$

Sharing resources Priority Inheritance Protocol

Problems

- Preemptive scheduling with fixed priority can lead to a situation of priority inversion
- A low priority task blocks a high priority task for a time longer than that of its mutual exclusion
- Difficult to estimate upper bound of blocking time
- Solution
 - Priority inheritance raises the priority of the blocking task to the blocked one
 - Once the semaphore is released, the blocking task returns to its initial priority

Priority Inheritance Protocol

Blocking time longer than the expected one



Compute the maximum blocking time (BT) on this example

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Priority Inheritance Protocol Benefits and Drawbacks

- Benefits
 - Reduce blocking time
- Remaining drawbacks
 - N resources : N blocking times & priority elevations
 - Deadlocks are possible
- Properties
 - A low priority task blocks a priority task **only once**
 - A high priority task blocks on a resource **only once**
 - A low task can indirectly block a task without sharing a resource because of priority inheritance

Priority Inheritance Protocol Blocking Time Analysis

- τ_3 can be actually blocked by the 3 resources
- Although τ₃ uses only R3, it can be indirectly blocked by τ₄ or τ₅ when they block τ₁ or τ₂ using R1 et R2 because of priority inheritance (τ₄ inherits τ₁ priority)
- A low priority task blocks a priority task only once
- A high priority task blocks on a resource **only once**
- The worst case for τ_3 occurs when
 - τ_4 locks R1, inherits from τ_1
 - τ_5 locks R2, inherits from τ_2

B3 = max(3+2,3+1,1+2,1+1) = 5

	R1	R2	R3	В
τ_1	2			3
τ2		1		5
τ3			2	5
τ4	3	3	1	2
τ5	1	2	1	0





Sharing resources Priority Ceiling Protocol

Problems

- N resources : N blocking times & priority elevations
- Deadlocks are possible
- Solution (fixed priorities)
 - The (static) priority ceiling represents the maximum priority of tasks using the resource
 - A task gets access to a resource when its priority is strictly greater than all the priority ceiling of the resources in use
 - The blocking task inherits the priority of the highest priority blocked task



Compute the maximum blocking time (BT) on this example

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Priority Ceiling Protocol Deadlock







Priority Ceiling Protocol Benefits and drawbacks

Benefits

- No chained blocking time
- The task is blocked at most once whatever the number of shared resources
- No deadlock
- Remaing drawbacks
 - Implementation complexity
 - Multiple priority elevations

Priority Ceiling Protocol Analysis of blocking time

- A low priority task blocks a priority task **only once**
- A high priority task blocks on a resource **only once**
- A low task can indirectly block a task without sharing a resource because of priority inheritance
- With PCP, a task can be blocked by a lower priority task only once and on a single resource

	R1	R2	R3	В
τ1	2			3
τ2		1		3
τ3			2	3
τ4	3	3	1	2
τ5	1	2	1	0

Sharing resources

Immediate Priority Ceiling Protocol

Problems

- PCP implementation complexity
- PCP multiple priority changes
- Solution
 - The (static) priority ceiling represents the maximum priority of the tasks that use it
 - When a task gets access to a resource, it inherits (immediately) a priority strictly greater than the priority ceiling

Immediate Priority Ceiling Protocol Deadlock



Immediate Priority Ceiling Protocol Benefits and drawbacks

- Benefits
 - Less complex than PCP
- Drawbacks
 - IPCP (and PCP) relies on fixed priority scheduling

Conclusions

- To satisfy the time constraints in hard real time systems, the first concern must be the predetermination of the system behavior.
- Offline static scheduling is most often the only practical way to achieve predictable behavior in a complex system

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