On Algorithms and Extensions of Coordination Control of Discrete-Event Systems

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Abstract: In this paper, we further develop the coordination control scheme for discrete-event systems based on the Ramadge-Wonham framework. The notions of conditional decomposability, conditional controllability, and conditional closedness are revised and simplified, supremal conditionally controllable sublanguages of general non-prefix-closed languages are discussed, and a procedure for the computation of a coordinator for nonblockingness is presented.

Keywords: Discrete-event system, supervisory control, coordination control, nonblockingness.

1. INTRODUCTION

A distributed discrete-event system with synchronous communication is modeled as a parallel composition of two or more subsystems. Each subsystem has its own observation channel. The local control synthesis then consists in synthesizing local nonblocking supervisors for each subsystem.

Recently, Komenda and van Schuppen (2008) have proposed a coordination control architecture as a trade-off between the purely local control synthesis, which does not work in general, and the global control synthesis, which is not always possible because of complexity reasons. The coordination control approach has been developed for prefix-closed languages in Komenda et al. (2011b, 2012b) and partially discussed for non-prefix-closed languages in Komenda et al. (2011a). A coordination control plug-in handling the case of prefix-closed languages has recently been implemented for libFAUDES, see Moor et al. (2012).

In this paper, we further develop the coordination control scheme for discrete-event systems based on the Ramadge-Wonham framework. The notions of conditional decomposability, conditional controllability, and conditional closedness are revised and simplified, supremal conditionally controllable sublanguages of general non-prefix-closed languages are discussed, and a procedure for the computation of a coordinator for nonblockingness is presented.

The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 recalls the basic theory and revises the basic concepts. Section 3 formulates the problem of coordination supervisory control. Section 4 provides new results concerning non-prefix-closed languages, and Section 5 discusses the construction of a nonblocking coordinator. Section 6 revises the prefix-closed case, and Section 7 concludes the paper.

2. PRELIMINARIES AND DEFINITIONS

In this paper, we assume that the reader is familiar with supervisory control of discrete-event systems, where discrete-event systems are modeled as deterministic finite automata with partial transition functions, see Cassandras and Lafortune (2008).

Let E be a finite, nonempty set (of *events*), then E^* denotes the set of all finite words over E; the *empty word* is denoted by ε. A *generator* over E is a construct $G = (Q, E, f, q_0, Q_m)$, where Q is a finite set of *states*, $f : Q \times E \to Q$ is a *partial transition function*, $q_0 \in Q$ is the *initial state*, and $Q_m \subseteq Q$ is the set of *marked states*. In the usual way, f can be extended to a function from $Q \times E^*$ to Q by induction. The behavior of G is described in terms of languages. The language *generated* by G is the set $L(G) = \{s \in E^* \mid f(q_0, s) \in Q\}$, and the language *marked* by G is the set $L_m(G) = \{s \in E^* \mid f(q_0, s) \in Q_m\}$.

We restrict our attention to regular languages. A *(regular) language* L over E is a set $L \subseteq E^*$ such that there exists a generator G with $L_m(G) = L$. The prefix closure of L is the set $\overline{L} = \{w \in E^* \mid \exists u \in E^*, wu \in L\}$; L is *prefix-closed* if $L = \overline{L}$.

A *controlled generator* over E is a structure (G, E_c, Γ), where G is a generator over E, $E_c \subseteq E$ is the set of *controllable events*, $E_u = E \setminus E_c$ is the set of *uncontrollable events*, and $\Gamma = \{\gamma \subseteq E \mid E_u \subseteq \gamma\}$ is a *set of control patterns*. A *supervisor* for the controlled generator (G, E_c, Γ) is a map $S : L(G) \to \Gamma$. The *closed-loop system* associated with the controlled generator (G, E_c, Γ) and the supervisor S is defined as the minimal language $L(S/G)$ such that (i) $\varepsilon \in L(S/G)$, and (ii) if $s \in L(S/G)$, $sa \in L(G)$, and $a \in S(s)$, then $sa \in L(S/G)$. We define $L_m(S/G) = L(S/G) \cap L_m(G)$. The supervisor disables transitions of G, but it cannot disable a transition with an uncontrollable event. If the closed-loop system is nonblocking, i.e., $\overline{L_m(S/G)} = L(S/G)$, then the supervisor S is called *nonblocking*.

Given a specification language K, the control objective of supervisory control is to find a nonblocking supervisor S so that $L_m(S/G) = K$. For the monolithic case, such a supervisor exists if and only if K is *controllable* with respect to $L(G)$ and E_u, that is, $\overline{K}E_u \cap L \subseteq \overline{K}$, and K is $L_m(G)$-*closed*, that is, $K = \overline{K} \cap L_m(G)$. For uncontrollable specifications, controllable sublanguages are considered. In this paper, $\sup C(K, L, E_u)$ denotes the supremal controllable sublanguage of K with respect to

L and E_u, which always exists and equals to the union of all controllable sublanguages of K, see Wonham (2011).

A *projection* $P : E^* \to E_0^*$, $E_0 \subseteq E$, is a homomorphism defined so that $P(a) = \varepsilon$, for $a \in E \setminus E_0$, and $P(a) = a$, for $a \in E_0$. The *inverse image* of P is denoted by $P^{-1} : E_0^* \to 2^{E^*}$. For E_i, E_j, $E_\ell \subseteq E$, we use the notation P_ℓ^{i+j} to denote the projection from $(E_i \cup E_j)^*$ to E_ℓ^*. If $E_i \cup E_j = E$, we write only P_ℓ. Moreover, $E_{i,u} = E_i \cap E_u$ denotes the sets of locally uncontrollable events.

The synchronous product of languages $L_1 \subseteq E_1^*$ and $L_2 \subseteq E_2^*$ is defined by $L_1 \| L_2 = P_1^{-1}(L_1) \cap P_2^{-1}(L_2) \subseteq (E_1 \cup E_2)^*$, where $P_i : (E_1 \cup E_2)^* \to E_i^*$, $i = 1,2$, are projections. For generators G_1 and G_2, the definition can be found in Cassandras and Lafortune (2008). It holds that $L(G_1 \| G_2) = L(G_1) \| L(G_2)$ and $L_m(G_1 \| G_2) = L_m(G_1) \| L_m(G_2)$. In the automata framework, where the supervisor S has a finite representation as a generator, the closed-loop system is a synchronous product of the supervisor and the plant. Thus, we can write $L(S/G) = L(S) \| L(G)$.

Generators G_1 and G_2 are *conditionally independent* with respect to a generator G_k if $E_r(G_1 \| G_2) \cap E_r(G_1) \cap E_r(G_2) \subseteq E_r(G_k)$, where for a generator G over E, $E_r(G) = \{a \in E \mid \exists u, v \in E^*, uav \in L(G)\}$ is the set of all events appearing in words of $L(G)$. In other words, there is no simultaneous move in both G_1 and G_2 without the coordinator G_k being also involved. From the practical viewpoint, we omit the element $E_r(G_1 \| G_2)$ because we do not want to compute the global plant $G_1 \| G_2$.

Now, the notion of decomposability is weakened. Moreover, it is simplified in comparison with our previous work, see Komenda et al. (2012b), but still equivalent. A language K is *conditionally decomposable* with respect to event sets E_1, E_2, E_k if $K = P_{1+k}(K) \| P_{2+k}(K)$. There always exists an extension of E_k which satisfies the condition. The question which extension should be used (the minimal one?) requires further investigation. Polynomial-time algorithms for checking the condition and extending the event set are discussed in Komenda et al. (2012a).

Languages K and L are *synchronously nonconflicting* if $\overline{K \| L} = \overline{K} \| \overline{L}$. Note that if $\overline{K}$ is conditionally decomposable, then the languages $P_{1+k}(K)$ and $P_{2+k}(K)$ are synchronously nonconflicting because $\overline{K} \subseteq \overline{P_{1+k}(K) \| P_{2+k}(K)} \subseteq \overline{P_{1+k}(K)} \| \overline{P_{2+k}(K)} = \overline{K}$. The following example shows that there is no relation between the conditional decomposability of K and $\overline{K}$ in general.

Example 1. Let $E_1 = \{a_1, b_1, a, b\}$, $E_2 = \{a_2, b_2, a, b\}$, $E_k = \{a, b\}$ be event sets, and let $K = \{a_1 a_2 a, a_2 a_1 a, b_1 b_2 b, b_2 b_1 b\}$. Then, $P_{1+k}(K) = \{a_1 a, b_1 b\}$, $P_{2+k}(K) = \{a_2 a, b_2 b\}$, and $K = P_{1+k}(K) \| P_{2+k}(K)$. Notice that $a_1 b_2 \in \overline{P_{1+k}(K)} \| \overline{P_{2+k}(K)}$, but $a_1 b_2 \notin \overline{K}$, which means that $\overline{K}$ is not conditionally decomposable. On the other hand, consider the language $L = \{\varepsilon, ab, ba, abc, bac\} \subseteq \{a,b,c\}^*$ with $E_1 = \{a,c\}$, $E_2 = \{b,c\}$, $E_k = \{c\}$. Then, $\overline{L} = \overline{P_{1+k}(L)} \| \overline{P_{2+k}(L)} = P_{1+k}(L) \| P_{2+k}(L)$, and it is obvious that $L \neq \overline{L}$. ◁

3. COORDINATION CONTROL SYNTHESIS

In this section, we formulate the coordination control problem and revise the necessary and sufficient conditions of Komenda et al. (2011a,b, 2012b) under which the problem is solvable.

Problem 2. Consider generators G_1, G_2 over E_1, E_2, respectively, and a coordinator G_k over E_k. Let $K \subseteq L_m(G_1 \| G_2 \| G_k)$ be a specification. Assume that generators G_1 and G_2 are con-

ditionally independent with respect to the coordinator G_k, and that the specification language K and its prefix-closure $\overline{K}$ are conditionally decomposable with respect to E_1, E_2, E_k. The aim of the coordination control synthesis is to determine nonblocking supervisors S_1, S_2, S_k for the respective generators such that $L_m(S_k/G_k) \subseteq P_k(K)$, $L_m(S_i/[G_i \| (S_k/G_k)]) \subseteq P_{i+k}(K)$, for $i = 1,2$, and the closed-loop system with the coordinator satisfies

$$L_m(S_1/[G_1 \| (S_k/G_k)]) \| L_m(S_2/[G_2 \| (S_k/G_k)]) = K.$$

◇

Note that then $L(S_1/[G_1 \| (S_k/G_k)]) \| L(S_2/[G_2 \| (S_k/G_k)]) = \overline{K}$ because $\overline{K} = \overline{L_m(S_1/[G_1 \| (S_k/G_k)]) \| L_m(S_2/[G_2 \| (S_k/G_k)])} \subseteq L(S_1/[G_1 \| (S_k/G_k)]) \| L(S_2/[G_2 \| (S_k/G_k)]) \subseteq \overline{K}$, and if such supervisors exist, their synchronous product is a nonblocking supervisor for the global plant, cf. Komenda et al. (2011a).

One of the possible methods how to construct a suitable coordinator G_k has been discussed in the literature, see Komenda et al. (2011a,b, 2012b).

Algorithm 1. (Construction of a coordinator). Let G_1 and G_2 be two subsystems over E_1 and E_2, respectively, and let K be a specification language. Construct the event set E_k and the coordinator G_k as follows:

(1) Set $E_k = E_1 \cap E_2$.
(2) Extend E_k so that K and $\overline{K}$ are conditional decomposable.
(3) Define $G_k = P_k(G_1) \| P_k(G_2)$.

So far, the only known condition ensuring that the projected generator is smaller than the original one is the observer property. Therefore, we might need to add step (2b) to extend E_k so that P_k is also an $L(G_i)$-observer, for $i = 1,2$, cf. Definition 7.

3.1 Conditional controllability

Conditional controllability was introduced in Komenda and van Schuppen (2008) and later studied in Komenda et al. (2011a,b, 2012b). In this paper, we revise and simplify this notion.

Definition 3. A language $K \subseteq L(G_1 \| G_2 \| G_k)$ is *conditionally controllable* for generators G_1, G_2, G_k and uncontrollable event sets $E_{1,u}$, $E_{2,u}$, $E_{k,u}$ if

(1) $P_k(K)$ is controllable wrt $L(G_k)$ and $E_{k,u}$,
(2) $P_{1+k}(K)$ is controllable wrt $L(G_1) \| \overline{P_k(K)}$ and $E_{1+k,u}$,
(3) $P_{2+k}(K)$ is controllable wrt $L(G_2) \| \overline{P_k(K)}$ and $E_{2+k,u}$.

where $E_{i+k,u} = (E_i \cup E_k) \cap E_u$, $i = 1,2$.

The following result shows that every conditionally controllable and conditionally decomposable language is controllable.

Proposition 4. Let G_i be a generator over E_i, $i = 1,2,k$, and let $G = G_1 \| G_2 \| G_k$. Let $K \subseteq L_m(G)$ be such that $\overline{K}$ is conditionally decomposable wrt E_1, E_2, E_k, and conditionally controllable for generators G_1, G_2, G_k and uncontrollable event sets $E_{1,u}$, $E_{2,u}$, $E_{k,u}$. Then, K is controllable with respect to $L(G)$ and E_u.

Proof. As $\overline{P_{1+k}(K)}$ is controllable wrt $L(G_1) \| \overline{P_k(K)}$ and $E_{1+k,u}$, and $\overline{P_{2+k}(K)}$ is controllable wrt $L(G_2) \| \overline{P_k(K)}$ and $E_{2+k,u}$, Lemma 24 implies that $\overline{K} = \overline{P_{1+k}(K)} \| \overline{P_{2+k}(K)}$ is controllable wrt $L(G_1) \| \overline{P_k(K)} \| L(G_2) \| \overline{P_k(K)} = L(G) \| \overline{P_k(K)}$ and E_u, where the equality is by the commutativity of the synchronous product and the fact that $\overline{P_k(K)} \subseteq L(G_k)$. As $\overline{P_k(K)}$ is controllable wrt

$L(G_k)$ and $E_{k,u}$, by Definition 3, $L(G)\|\overline{P_k(K)}$ is controllable wrt $L(G)\|L(G_k) = L(G)$ by Lemma 24. By Lemma 25, $\overline{K}$ is controllable wrt $L(G)$ and E_u. However, this means that K is controllable wrt $L(G)$ and E_u, which was to be shown. $\square$

On the other hand, controllability does not imply conditional controllability.

Example 5. Let $L(G) = \overline{\{au\}}\|\overline{\{bu\}} = \overline{\{abu, bau\}}$. Then $K = \{a\}$ is controllable wrt $L(G)$ and $E_u = \{u\}$. Both K and $\overline{K}$ are conditionally decomposable wrt event sets $\{a,u\}$, $\{b,u\}$, and $\{u\}$, and $P_k(K) = \{\varepsilon\}$ is not controllable wrt $\{u\}$ and $\{u\}$. $\lhd$

However, if the observer and local control consistency (LCC) properties are satisfied, this implication also holds. To prove this, we need the following two definitions, cf. Schmidt and Breindl (2011); Wong and Wonham (1996), respectively.

Definition 6. Let $L \subseteq E^*$ be a prefix-closed language, and let $E_0 \subseteq E$. The projection $P_0 : E^* \to E_0^*$ is *locally control consistent* (LCC) with respect to $s \in L$ if for all $\sigma_u \in E_0 \cap E_u$ such that $P_0(s)\sigma_u \in P_0(L)$, it holds that either there does not exist any $u \in (E \setminus E_0)^*$ such that $su\sigma_u \in L$, or there exists $u \in (E_u \setminus E_0)^*$ such that $su\sigma_u \in L$. The projection P_0 is LCC with respect to a language L if P_0 is LCC for all $s \in L$.

Definition 7. The projection $P_k : E^* \to E_k^*$, where $E_k \subseteq E$, is an *L-observer* for a language $L \subseteq E^*$ if, for all words $t \in P_k(L)$ and $s \in \overline{L}$, $P_k(s)$ is a prefix of t implies that there exists $u \in E^*$ such that $su \in L$ and $P_k(su) = t$.

Proposition 8. Let $L \subseteq E^*$ be a prefix-closed language, and let $K \subseteq L$ be a language such that K is controllable with respect to L and E_u. If P_i is an L-observer, for $i \in \{k, 1+k, 2+k\}$, and LCC for L, then K is conditionally controllable.

Proof. (1) Let $s \in \overline{P_k(K)}$, $a \in E_{k,u}$, and $sa \in P_k(L)$. Then, there exists $w \in \overline{K}$ such that $P_k(w) = s$. By the observer property, there exists $u \in (E \setminus E_k)^*$ such that $wua \in L$ and $P_k(wua) = sa$. By LCC, there exists $u' \in (E_u \setminus E_k)^*$ such that $wu'a \in L$, that is, $wu'a \in \overline{K}$ by the controllability. Hence $sa \in \overline{P_k(K)}$. (2) Let $s \in \overline{P_{1+k}(K)}$, $a \in E_{1+k,u}$, and $sa \in L(G_1)\|\overline{P_k(K)}$. Then, there exists $w \in \overline{K}$ such that $P_{1+k}(w) = s$. By the observer property, there exists $u \in (E \setminus E_{1+k})^*$ such that $wua \in L$ and $P_{1+k}(wua) = sa$. By LCC, there exists $u' \in (E_u \setminus E_{1+k})^*$ such that $wu'a \in L$, that is, $wu'a \in \overline{K}$ by controllability. Hence $sa \in \overline{P_{1+k}(K)}$. $\square$

For a generator G with n states, the time and space complexity of the verification whether P is an $L(G)$-observer is $O(n^2)$, see Pena et al. (2008). An algorithm extending the event set to satisfy the property runs in time $O(n^3)$ and linear space. The most significant consequence of the observer property is the following theorem.

Theorem 9. (Wong (1998)). If a projection P is an $L(G)$-observer, for a generator G, then the minimal generator for the language $P(L(G))$ has no more states than G.

3.2 Conditionally closed languages

Analogously to the notion of $L_m(G)$-closed languages, we define the notion of conditionally closed languages.

Definition 10. A language $\emptyset \neq K \subseteq E^*$ is *conditionally closed* for generators G_1, G_2, G_k if

(1) $P_k(K)$ is $L_m(G_k)$-closed,
(2) $P_{1+k}(K)$ is $L_m(G_1)\|P_k(K)$-closed,

(3) $P_{2+k}(K)$ is $L_m(G_2)\|P_k(K)$-closed.

If K is conditionally closed and conditionally controllable, then there exists a nonblocking supervisor S_k such that $L_m(S_k/G_k) = P_k(K)$, which follows from the basic theorem of supervisory control applied to $P_k(K)$ and $L(G_k)$, see Cassandras and Lafortune (2008).

As noted in (Cassandras and Lafortune, 2008, page 164), if $K \subseteq L_m(G)$ is $L_m(G)$-closed, then so is the supremal controllable sublanguage of K. However, this does not imply that $P_k(K)$ is $L_m(G_k)$-closed, for $G = G_1\|G_2\|G_k$ such that G_k makes G_1 and G_2 conditionally independent.

Example 11. Let $E_1 = \{a_1, a\}$, $E_2 = \{a_2, a\}$, $E_k = \{a\}$, and $K = \{a_1a_2a, a_2a_1a\}$. Then, $P_{1+k}(K) = \{a_1a\}$, $P_{2+k}(K) = \{a_2a\}$, $P_k(K) = \{a\}$, and $K = P_{1+k}(K)\|P_{2+k}(K)$. Define the generators G_1, G_2, G_k so that $L_m(G_1) = P_{1+k}(K)$, $L_m(G_2) = P_{2+k}(K)$, and $L_m(G_k) = \overline{P_k(K)} = \{\varepsilon, a\}$. Then, $L_m(G) = K$ and K is $L_m(G)$-closed. However, $P_k(K) \subset \overline{P_k(K)}$ is not $L_m(G_k)$-closed. $\lhd$

3.3 Coordination control synthesis

The following theorem is a simplified version of a result presented without proof in Komenda et al. (2011a).

Theorem 12. Consider the setting of Problem 2. There exist nonblocking supervisors S_1, S_2, S_k such that

$$L_m(S_1/[G_1\|(S_k/G_k)]) \| L_m(S_2/[G_2\|(S_k/G_k)]) = K \quad (1)$$

if and only if the specification language K is both conditionally controllable wrt generators G_1, G_2, G_k and event sets $E_{1,u}$, $E_{2,u}$, $E_{k,u}$, and conditionally closed wrt G_1, G_2, G_k.

Proof. Let K satisfy the assumptions, and let $G = G_1\|G_2\|G_k$. As $K \subseteq L_m(G)$, $P_k(K) \subseteq L_m(G_k)$. By the assumption, $P_k(K)$ is $L_m(G_k)$-closed and controllable wrt $L(G_k)$ and $E_{k,u}$. By Ramadge and Wonham (1987), there exists a nonblocking supervisor S_k such that $L_m(S_k/G_k) = P_k(K)$. As $P_{1+k}(K) \subseteq L_m(G_1\|G_k)$ and $P_{1+k}(K) \subseteq (P_k^{1+k})^{-1}P_k(K)$, we have $P_{1+k}(K) \subseteq L_m(G_1)\|P_k(K)$. These relations and the assumption that the system is conditionally controllable and conditionally closed imply the existence of a nonblocking supervisor S_1 such that $L_m(S_1/[G_1\|(S_k/G_k)]) = P_{1+k}(K)$. A similar argument shows that there exists a nonblocking supervisor S_2 such that $L_m(S_2/[G_2\|(S_k/G_k)]) = P_{2+k}(K)$. As the languages K and $\overline{K}$ are conditionally decomposable, $L_m(S_1/[G_1\|(S_k/G_k)]) \| L_m(S_2/[G_2\|(S_k/G_k)]) = P_{1+k}(K)\|P_{2+k}(K) = K$.

To prove the converse implication, P_k, P_{1+k}, P_{2+k} are applied to (1), which can be rewritten as $K = L_m(S_1\|G_1\|S_2\|G_2\|S_k\|G_k)$. Thus, $P_k(K) = P_k(L_m(S_1\|G_1\|S_2\|G_2\|S_k\|G_k)) \subseteq L_m(S_k\|G_k) = L_m(S_k/G_k)$. On the other hand, $L_m(S_k/G_k) \subseteq P_k(K)$, cf. Problem 2. Hence, by the basic controllability theorem, $P_k(K)$ is controllable wrt $L(G_k)$ and $E_{k,u}$, and $L_m(G_k)$-closed. As $E_{1+k} \cap E_{2+k} = E_k$, the application of P_{1+k} to (1) and Lemma 26 give that $P_{1+k}(K) \subseteq L_m(S_1/[G_1\|(S_k/G_k)]) \subseteq P_{1+k}(K)$. Taking $G_1\|(S_k/G_k)$ as a new plant, we get that $P_{1+k}(K)$ is controllable wrt $L(G_1\|(S_k/G_k))$ and $E_{1+k,u}$, and that it is $L_m(G_1\|(S_k/G_k))$-closed. The case of P_{2+k} is analogous. $\square$

4. SUPREMAL CONDITIONALLY CONTROLLABLE SUBLANGUAGES

Let $\mathrm{supcC}(K, L, (E_{1,u}, E_{2,u}, E_{k,u}))$ denote the supremal conditionally controllable sublanguage of K with respect to $L =$

$L(G_1\|G_2\|G_k)$ and sets of uncontrollable events $E_{1,u}, E_{2,u}, E_{k,u}$. The supremal conditionally controllable sublanguage always exists, cf. Komenda et al. (2011b) for the case of prefix-closed languages.

Theorem 13. The supremal conditionally controllable sublanguage of a given language K always exists and is equal to the union of all conditionally controllable sublanguages of K.

Proof. Let I be an index set, and let K_i, for $i \in I$, be conditionally controllable sublanguages of $K \subseteq L(G_1\|G_2\|G_k)$. To prove that $P_k(\cup_{i\in I}K_i)$ is controllable wrt $L(G_k)$ and $E_{k,u}$, note that $P_k\left(\cup_{i\in I}\overline{K_i}\right)E_{k,u} \cap L(G_k) = \cup_{i\in I}\left(P_k(\overline{K_i})E_{k,u}\cap L(G_k)\right) \subseteq \cup_{i\in I}P_k(\overline{K_i}) = P_k\left(\cup_{i\in I}\overline{K_i}\right)$, where the inclusion is by controllability of $P_k(K_i)$ wrt $L(G_k)$ and $E_{k,u}$. Next, to prove that $P_{1+k}\left(\cup_{i\in I}\overline{K_i}\right)E_{1+k,u}\cap L(G_1)\|P_k\left(\cup_{i\in I}\overline{K_i}\right) \subseteq P_{1+k}\left(\cup_{i\in I}\overline{K_i}\right)$, note that $P_{1+k}\left(\cup_{i\in I}\overline{K_i}\right)E_{1+k,u}\cap L(G_1)\|P_k\left(\cup_{i\in I}\overline{K_i}\right)$

$$= \cup_{i\in I}\left(P_{1+k}(\overline{K_i})E_{1+k,u}\right)\cap\cup_{i\in I}\left(L(G_1)\|P_k(\overline{K_i})\right)$$
$$= \cup_{i\in I}\cup_{j\in I}\left(P_{1+k}(\overline{K_i})E_{1+k,u}\cap L(G_1)\|P_k(\overline{K_j})\right).$$

Consider different indexes $i, j \in I$ such that $P_{1+k}(\overline{K_i})E_{1+k,u}\cap L(G_1)\|P_k(\overline{K_j}) \not\subseteq P_{1+k}\left(\cup_{i\in I}\overline{K_i}\right)$. Then, there exist $x \in P_{1+k}(\overline{K_i})$ and $u \in E_{1+k,u}$ such that $xu \in L(G_1)\|P_k(\overline{K_j})$, and $xu \notin P_{1+k}\left(\cup_{i\in I}\overline{K_i}\right)$. It follows that $P_k(x) \in P_k(\overline{K_i})$ and $P_k(xu) \in P_k(\overline{K_j})$. If $P_k(xu) \in P_k(\overline{K_i})$, then $xu \in L(G_1)\|P_k(\overline{K_i})$, and controllability of $P_{1+k}(\overline{K_i})$ wrt $L(G_1)\|P_k(\overline{K_i})$ implies that $xu \in P_{1+k}\left(\cup_{i\in I}\overline{K_i}\right)$; hence $P_k(xu) \notin P_k(\overline{K_i})$. If $u \notin E_{k,u}$, then $P_k(xu) = P_k(x) \in P_k(\overline{K_i})$, which is not the case. Thus, $u \in E_{k,u}$. As $P_k(\overline{K_i}) \cup P_k(\overline{K_j}) \subseteq L(G_k)$, we get that $P_k(xu) = P_k(x)u \in L(G_k)$. However, controllability of $P_k(\overline{K_i})$ wrt $L(G_k)$ and $E_{k,u}$ implies that $P_k(xu) \in P_k(\overline{K_i})$. This is a contradiction. As the case for P_{2+k} is analogous, the proof is complete. □

Consider the setting of Problem 2, and define the languages

$$\sup C_k = \sup C(P_k(K), L(G_k), E_{k,u}),$$
$$\sup C_{1+k} = \sup C(P_{1+k}(K), L(G_1)\|\overline{\sup C_k}, E_{1+k,u}), \quad (*)$$
$$\sup C_{2+k} = \sup C(P_{2+k}(K), L(G_2)\|\overline{\sup C_k}, E_{2+k,u}).$$

The following inclusion always holds.

Lemma 14. Consider the setting of Problem 2, and the languages defined in (*). Then, $P_k(\sup C_{i+k}) \subseteq \sup C_k$, for $i = 1, 2$.

Proof. By definition, $P_k(\sup C_{i+k}) \subseteq \overline{\sup C_k}$ and $P_k(\sup C_{i+k}) \subseteq P_k(K)$. To prove that $\overline{\sup C_k} \cap P_k(K)$ is a subset of $\sup C_k$, it is sufficient to show that $\overline{\sup C_k} \cap P_k(K)$ is controllable with respect to $L(G_k)$ and $E_{k,u}$. Thus, assume that $s \in \overline{\sup C_k} \cap P_k(K)$, $u \in E_{k,u}$, and $su \in L(G_k)$. By controllability of $\sup C_k$, $su \in \overline{\sup C_k} \subseteq \overline{P_k(K)}$, that is, there exists v such that $suv \in \sup C_k \subseteq P_k(K)$. This means that $suv \in \overline{\sup C_k} \cap P_k(K)$, which implies that $su \in \overline{\sup C_k} \cap P_k(K)$. This completes the proof. □

If also the opposite inclusion holds, then we immediately have the supremal conditionally-controllable sublanguage.

Theorem 15. Consider the setting of Problem 2, and the languages defined in (*). If $\sup C_k \subseteq P_k(\sup C_{i+k})$, for $i = 1, 2$, then $\sup C_{1+k}\|\sup C_{2+k} = \sup cC(K, L, (E_{1,u}, E_{2,u}, E_{k,u}))$.

Proof. Let $\sup cC = \sup cC(K, L, (E_{1,u}, E_{2,u}, E_{k,u}))$ and $M = \sup C_{1+k}\|\sup C_{2+k}$. To prove $M \subseteq \sup cC$, we show that (i)

$M \subseteq K$ and (ii) M is conditionally controllable wrt G_1, G_2, G_k and $E_{1,u}, E_{2,u}, E_{k,u}$. To this aim, $M = \sup C_{1+k}\|\sup C_{2+k} \subseteq P_{1+k}(K)\|P_{2+k}(K) = K$ because K is conditionally decomposable. Moreover, $P_k(M) = P_k(\sup C_{1+k})\cap P_k(\sup C_{2+k}) = \sup C_k$, which is controllable wrt $L(G_k)$ and $E_{k,u}$. Similarly, $P_{i+k}(M) = \sup C_{i+k}\|P_k(\sup C_{j+k}) = \sup C_{i+k}\|\sup C_k = \sup C_{i+k}$, for $j \neq i$, by Lemma 14, which is controllable wrt $L(G_i)\|\overline{P_k(M)}$. Hence, $M \subseteq \sup cC$.

To prove the opposite inclusion, by Lemma 27, it is sufficient to show that $P_{i+k}(\sup cC) \subseteq \sup C_{i+k}$, for $i = 1, 2$. To prove this $P_{1+k}(\sup cC)$ is controllable wrt $L(G_1)\|\overline{P_k(\sup cC)}$ and $E_{1+k,u}$, and $L(G_1)\|\overline{P_k(\sup cC)}$ is controllable wrt $L(G_1)\|\overline{\sup C_k}$ and $E_{1+k,u}$ by Lemma 24 because $P_k(\sup cC)$ being controllable wrt $L(G_k)$ implies it is controllable wrt $\overline{\sup C_k} \subseteq L(G_k)$ and $E_{k,u}$. By Lemma 25, $P_{1+k}(\sup cC)$ is controllable wrt $L(G_1)\|\overline{\sup C_k}$ and $E_{1+k,u}$, which implies that $P_{1+k}(\sup cC) \subseteq \sup C_{1+k}$. The other case is analogous. Hence, $\sup cC \subseteq M$ and the proof is complete. □

Example 16. This example shows that the inclusion $\sup C_k \subseteq P_k(\sup C_{i+k})$ does not hold in general. Moreover, it shows that it does not hold even if the projections are observers or satisfy the LCC property. Consider two systems G_1, G_2, and the specification K as shown in Fig. 1. The controllable
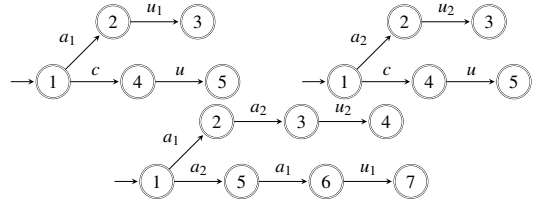

Fig. 1. Generators G_1, G_2, and the specification.

events are $E_c = \{a_1, a_2, c\}$, and the coordinator events are $E_k = \{a_1, a_2, c, u\}$. Construct the coordinator $G_k = P_k(G_1)\|P_k(G_2)$. It can be verified that K is conditionally decomposable, $\sup C_k = \overline{\{a_1a_2, a_2a_1\}}$, $\sup C_{1+k} = \overline{\{a_2a_1u_1\}}$, and $\sup C_{2+k} = \overline{\{a_1a_2u_2\}}$. Hence, $\sup C_k \not\subseteq P_k(\sup C_{i+k})$. It can also be verified that the projections P_k, P_{1+k}, P_{2+k} are $L(G_1\|G_2)$-observers and LCC for $L(G_1\|G_2)$. ◁

Proposition 17. Consider the languages of (*). Let the number of states of the supervisor $\sup C_k$ be n and the number of states of supervisors $\sup C_{i+k}$ be n_i. There is an $O(n\cdot n_i)$ algorithm deciding whether $\sup C_k \subseteq P_k(\sup C_{i+k})$, for $i = 1, 2$.

Proof. Consider a nondeterministic finite automaton, cf. Sipser (1997), for the language $P_k(\sup C_{i+k})$ constructed from the generator for $\sup C_{i+k}$ by replacing projected events with ε, and a deterministic finite automaton for the complement of $\sup C_k$. These automata are constructed in time linear wrt the number of states. To verify that $P_k(\sup C_{i+k})\cap co\text{-}(\sup C_k) = \emptyset$ by checking reachability of a marked state in the product automaton takes time $O(n\cdot n_i)$; here "co-" stands for the complement. □

Note that if we have any specification K which is conditionally decomposable, then the specification $K\|L$ is also conditionally decomposable. The opposite is not true.

Lemma 18. Let K be conditionally decomposable with respect to event sets E_1, E_2, E_k, and let $L = L_1\|L_2\|L_k$, where $L_i \subseteq E_i^*$, for $i = 1, 2, k$. Then, $K\|L$ is conditionally decomposable with respect to event sets E_1, E_2, E_k.
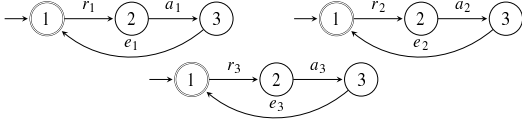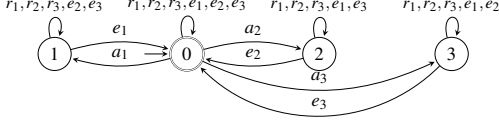
Fig. 2. Generators G_i, $i = 1, 2, 3$.

Fig. 3. The specification K.

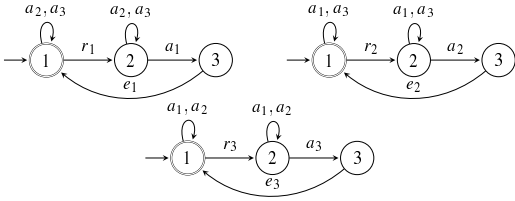Fig. 4. The coordinator G_k, where $supC_k = G_k$.

Fig. 5. Supervisors $supC_{1+k}$, $supC_{2+k}$, and $supC_{3+k}$.

Example 19. Database transactions are examples of discrete-event systems that need to be controlled to avoid incorrect behaviors. Our model of a transaction to the database is a sequence of request (r), access (a), and exit (e) operations. Usually, several (but a limited number of) users access the database, which can lead to inconsistencies when executed concurrently because not all the interleavings of operations give a correct behavior. We consider the case of three users with events r_i, a_i, e_i, $i = 1, 2, 3$. All possible schedules are given by the language of the plant $G = G_1 \| G_2 \| G_3$ over the event set $E = \{r_1, r_2, r_3, a_1, a_2, a_3, e_1, e_2, e_3\}$, where G_1, G_2, G_3 are defined as in Fig. 2, and the set of controllable events is $E_c = \{a_1, a_2, a_3\}$. The specification language K, depicted in Fig. 3, describes the correct behavior consisting in finishing the transaction in the exit stage before another transaction can proceed to the exit phase. For $E_k = \{a_1, a_2, a_3\}$ and the coordinator $G_k = P_k(G_1) \| P_k(G_2) \| P_k(G_3)$, we can compute $supC_k$, see Fig. 4, and $supC_{1+k}$, $supC_{2+k}$, $supC_{3+k}$, Fig. 5, and to verify that the assumptions of Theorem 15 are satisfied. The solution is optimal: the supremal conditionally-controllable sublanguage of K coincides with the supremal controllable sublanguage of K. Moreover, independently on the size of the global plant, the local supervisors have only three states. ◁

5. COORDINATOR FOR NONBLOCKINGNESS

So far, we have only considered the coordinator for safety. In this section, we discuss the coordinator for nonblockingness. To this end, we first prove a fundamental theoretical result and then give an algorithm for the construction of a coordinator for nonblockingness.

Recall that a generator G is nonblocking if $\overline{L_m(G)} = L(G)$.

Theorem 20. Consider languages $L_1 \subseteq E_1^*$ and $L_2 \subseteq E_2^*$, and let $P_0 : (E_1 \cup E_2)^* \to E_0^*$, with $E_1 \cap E_2 \subseteq E_0$, be an L_i-observer, for $i = 1, 2$. Let G_0 be a nonblocking generator with $L_m(G_0) =$

$P_0(L_1) \| P_0(L_2)$. Then $\overline{L_1 \| L_2 \| L_m(G_0)} = \overline{L_1} \| \overline{L_2} \| \overline{L_m(G_0)}$, that is, the system is nonblocking.

Proof. Let $\overline{L} = \overline{L_1 \| L_2 \| L_0} = \overline{(L_1 \| L_0) \| (L_2 \| L_0)}$. By Lemma 28, $\overline{(L_1 \| L_0) \| (L_2 \| L_0)} = \overline{(L_1 \| L_0)} \| \overline{(L_2 \| L_0)}$ if and only if it holds $\overline{P_0(L_1 \| L_0) \| P_0(L_2 \| L_0)} = \overline{P_0(L_1 \| L_0)} \| \overline{P_0(L_2 \| L_0)}$, because if P_0 is an L_i-observer, $i = 1, 2$, and P_0 is an L_0-observer, P_0 is also an $L_i \| L_0$-observer by Pena et al. (2006). However, for our choice of the coordinator, this equality always holds because $\overline{P_0(L_1 \| L_0) \| P_0(L_2 \| L_0)} = \overline{L_0}$, and $\overline{P_0(L_1 \| L_0)} \| \overline{P_0(L_2 \| L_0)} = \overline{L_0} \| \overline{L_0} = \overline{L_0}$. It remains to show that $\overline{L_i \| L_0} = \overline{L_i} \| \overline{L_0}$, for $i = 1, 2$. Using Lemma 28 again, we get that this holds if and only if $\overline{P_0(L_i \| L_0)} = \overline{P_0(L_i)} \| \overline{L_0}$. This always holds because $\overline{P_0(L_i \| L_0)} = \overline{L_0}$, and $\overline{P_0(L_i)} \| \overline{L_0} = \overline{P_0(L_i)} \| \overline{P_0(L_1)} \| \overline{P_0(L_2)} = \overline{P_0(L_1)} \| \overline{P_0(L_2)} = \overline{L_0}$ because $\overline{P_0(L_1)} \| \overline{P_0(L_2)} \subseteq \overline{P_0(L_i)}$. □

Hence, for supervisors $supC_{1+k}$ and $supC_{2+k}$, we choose
$$C = P_0(supC_{1+k}) \| P_0(supC_{2+k}),$$
for the projection P_0 being a $supC_{i+k}$-observer, for $i = 1, 2$. Then, by Theorem 20,
$$\overline{supC_{1+k} \| supC_{2+k} \| C} = \overline{supC_{1+k} \| supC_{2+k}}$$
$$= \overline{supC_{1+k}} \| \overline{supC_{2+k}} \| \overline{C},$$
thus C is the language of a non-blocking coordinator.

Algorithm 2. (Computation of a nonblocking coordinator). Consider the notation above.

(1) Compute $supC_{1+k}$ and $supC_{2+k}$ as defined in (*).
(2) If the projection P_k is not a $supC_{1+k}$-observer or not a $supC_{2+k}$-observer, extend the event set E_k so that P_k is both a $supC_{1+k}$- and a $supC_{2+k}$-observer.
(3) Define the nonblocking coordinator as the minimal non-blocking generator for $C = P_k(supC_{1+k}) \| P_k(supC_{2+k})$.

6. SUPREMAL PREFIX-CLOSED LANGUAGES

In this section, we revise the case of prefix-closed languages. Moreover, we use LCC instead of output control consistency (OCC), cf. Komenda et al. (2012b).

Theorem 21. Let $K \subseteq L = L(G_1 \| G_2 \| G_k)$ be a prefix-closed language, where G_i is over E_i, $i = 1, 2, k$. Assume that K is conditionally decomposable, and define $supC_k$, $supC_{1+k}$, $supC_{2+k}$ as in (*). Let P_k^{i+k} be an $(P_i^{i+k})^{-1}(L(G_i))$-observer and LCC for $(P_i^{i+k})^{-1}(L(G_i))$, $i = 1, 2$. Then, $supC_{1+k} \| supC_{2+k} = supcC(K, L, (E_{1,u}, E_{2,u}, E_{k,u}))$.

Proof. Denote $supcC = supcC(K, L, (E_{1,u}, E_{2,u}, E_{k,u}))$, $M = supC_{1+k} \| supC_{2+k}$. It is shown in Komenda et al. (2012b) that $supcC \subseteq M$ and $M \subseteq K$. To prove $P_k(M)E_{k,u} \cap L(G_k) \subseteq P_k(M)$, let $x \in P_k(M)$ and $a \in E_{k,u}$ be such that $xa \in L(G_k)$. To show $xa \in P_k(M) = P_k^{1+k}(supC_{1+k}) \cap P_k^{2+k}(supC_{2+k})$, there exists $w \in M$ such that $P_k(w) = x$, and it is shown in Komenda et al. (2012b) that there exists $u \in (E_1 \setminus E_k)^*$ such that $P_{1+k}(w)ua \in (P_1^{1+k})^{-1}(L(G_1))$ and $P_{1+k}(w) \in L(G_1) \| supC_k$. As P_k^{1+k} is LCC for $(P_1^{1+k})^{-1}(L(G_1))$, there exists $u' \in (E_u \setminus E_k)^*$ such that $P_{1+k}(w)u'a \in (P_1^{1+k})^{-1}(L(G_1))$. The controllability of $supC_{1+k}$ then implies $P_{1+k}(w)u'a \in supC_{1+k}$, i.e., $xa \in P_k^{1+k}(supC_{1+k})$. Analogously, $xa \in P_k^{2+k}(supC_{2+k})$. Thus, $xa \in P_k(M)$. The rest of the proof is the same as in Komenda et al. (2012b). □

The conditions of Theorem 21 imply that P_k is LCC for L.

Lemma 22. Let $L(G_i) \subseteq E_i^*$, $i = 1,2$, $E = E_1 \cup E_2$, and let $P_i : E^* \to E_i^*$, $i = 1,2,k$ and $E_k \subseteq E$, be projections. If $E_1 \cap E_2 \subseteq E_k$ and P_k^{i+k} is LCC for $(P_i^{i+k})^{-1}(L(G_i))$, $i = 1,2$, then P_k is LCC for $L = L(G_1 \| G_2 \| G_k)$.

Proof. For $s \in L$ and $\sigma_u \in E_{k,u}$, assume that there exists $u \in (E \setminus E_k)^*$ such that $su\sigma_u \in L$. Then, $P_{i+k}(su\sigma_u) = P_{i+k}(s)P_{i+k}(u)\sigma_u \in (P_i^{i+k})^{-1}(L(G_i))$ implies that there exists $v_i \in (E_{i+k,u} \setminus E_k)^*$, $i = 1,2$, such that $P_{i+k}(s)v_i\sigma_u \in (P_i^{i+k})^{-1}(L(G_i))$. As $P_k(v_i) = \varepsilon$, $P_i(v_i) = v_i$, we get $P_i(s)P_i(v_i)P_i(\sigma_u) \in L(G_i)$, $i = 1,2,k$. Consider $u' \in \{v_1\} \| \{v_2\}$. Then $P_i(u') = v_i$ and, thus, $su'\sigma_u \in L$. Moreover, $u' \in (E_u \setminus E_k)^*$. $\square$

It is an open problem how to verify that P_{i+k} is LCC for L without computing the whole plant.

Theorem 23. Consider the setting of Theorem 21. If, in addition, $L(G_k) \subseteq P_k(L)$ and P_{i+k} is LCC for L, for $i = 1,2$, then $\sup C(K,L,E_u) = \sup cC(K,L,(E_{1,u},E_{2,u},E_{k,u}))$.

Proof. It was shown in Komenda et al. (2012b) that P_k is an L-observer. By Lemma 22, P_k is LCC for L. Denote $\sup C = \sup C(K,L,E_u)$. We prove that $P_k(\sup C)$ is controllable wrt $L(G_k)$. Assume $t \in P_k(\sup C)$, $a \in E_{k,u}$, and $ta \in L(G_k) \subseteq P_k(L)$. We proved in Komenda et al. (2012b) that there exists $s \in \sup C$ and $u \in (E \setminus E_k)^*$ such that $sua \in L$ and $P_k(sua) = ta$. By the LCC property of P_k, there exists $u' \in (E_u \setminus E_k)^*$ such that $su'a \in L$. By controllability of $\sup C$ wrt L, $su'a \in \sup C$, i.e., $P_k(su'a) = ta \in P_k(\sup C)$. Thus, (1) of Definition 3 holds. By Komenda et al. (2012b), P_{i+k} is an L-observer, for $i = 1,2$. To prove (2) of Definition 3, assume that $t \in P_{i+k}(\sup C)$, $1 \le i \le 2$, $a \in E_{i+k,u}$, and $ta \in L(G_i) \| P_k(\sup C)$. We proved in Komenda et al. (2012b) that there exists $s \in \sup C$ and $u \in (E \setminus E_k)^*$ such that $sua \in L$ and $P_{i+k}(sua) = ta$. As P_{i+k} is LCC for L, there exists $u' \in (E_u \setminus E_{1+k})^*$ such that $su'a \in L$. Then, the controllability of $\sup C$ wrt L implies that $su'a \in \sup C$, that is, $P_{i+k}(su'a) = ta \in P_{i+k}(\sup C)$. The other inclusion is the same as in Komenda et al. (2012b). $\square$

7. CONCLUSION

We have revised, simplified, and extended the coordination control scheme for discrete-event systems. These results have been used, for the case of prefix-closed languages, in the implementation of the coordination control plug-in for libFAUDES. Note that a general procedure for the computation of supremal conditionally-controllable sublanguages is still missing. This requires further investigation.

AUXILIARY RESULTS

Lemma 24. (Proposition 4.6, Feng (2007)). Let $L_i \subseteq E_i^*$, $i = 1,2$, be prefix-closed languages, and let $K_i \subseteq L_i$ be controllable with respect to L_i and $E_{i,u}$, $E = E_1 \cup E_2$. If K_1 and K_2 are synchronously nonconflicting, then $K_1 \| K_2$ is controllable with respect to $L_1 \| L_2$ and E_u.

Lemma 25. (Komenda et al. (2012b)). Let $K \subseteq L \subseteq M$ be languages over E such that K is controllable with respect to $\overline{L}$ and E_u, and L is controllable with respect to $\overline{M}$ and E_u. Then, K is controllable with respect to $\overline{M}$ and E_u.

Lemma 26. (Wonham (2011)). Let $P_k : E^* \to E_k^*$, $L_i \subseteq E_i^*$, $E_i \subseteq E$, $i = 1,2$, $E_k \supseteq E_1 \cap E_2$. Then, $P_k(L_1 \| L_2) = P_k(L_1) \| P_k(L_2)$.

Lemma 27. (Komenda et al. (2012b)). Let $L_i \subseteq E_i^*$, $i = 1,2$, and $P_i : (E_1 \cup E_2)^* \to E_i^*$. Let $A \subseteq (E_1 \cup E_2)^*$ be a language such that $P_1(A) \subseteq L_1$ and $P_2(A) \subseteq L_2$. Then $A \subseteq L_1 \| L_2$.

Lemma 28. (Pena et al. (2006)). Let $L_i \subseteq E_i^*$, $i = 1,2$, and let $E_1 \cap E_2 \subseteq E_0$. If $P_{i,0} : E_i^* \to (E_i \cap E_0)^*$ is an L_i-observer, $i = 1,2$, then $\overline{L_1 \| L_2} = \overline{L_1} \| \overline{L_2}$ iff $\overline{P_{1,0}(L_1) \| P_{2,0}(L_2)} = \overline{P_{1,0}(L_1)} \| \overline{P_{2,0}(L_2)}$.

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