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Abstract. Since decades, Flexible Manufacturing System (FMS) is a significant part of automated production and manufacturing. In the development of FMS, deadlock prevention becomes a crucial point. This paper presents a critical-siphon theory to demonstrate exactly one monitor for quality FMS is required for the set of siphons in the family of a 2-compound siphons and how to assign its initial markings. The theory is aiming to avoid redundant monitors in FMS and the unnecessary associated computational burden so that the quality of a class of Flexible Manufacturing Systems can be assured latest in the run-time. Neither reachability graph nor minimal siphon needs to be computed achieving polynomial complexity—essential for large systems. This paper redevelops the theory more formally and further applies this approach to two well-known S′PR to obtain a controller full or near maximally permissive in the context of deadlock resolution and Quality Assurance. This paper further categorizes mixture siphons into partial and full ones and the sequence among them to add monitors associated with one or different 2-compound siphons. As a result, there is no need to enumerate all siphons and the time complexity involved is polynomial. This is the first of its kind of works among all current results on the benchmark.

Introduction

After the concept of Build-to-Order, FMS becomes the most important component of automated production and manufacturing. Deadlock-freeness is essential for the automation of a FMS as well as a CIM. Various deadlock resolution approaches [1, 2] have been proposed to tackle deadlocks. Deadlock prevention has been popular to avoid deadlocks in FMS and CIM since it runs fast and statically to avoid run-time detection and computation. Classical approaches either suffer from adding too many monitors or reaching too few states [1,2,3]. Recently, maximally permissive process control policies [4,5,6] with little redundancy have emerged. They however suffer from either complete state enumeration—based on region theory [4,5,6] or the concept of selective-siphons [6]. Both are NP-hard and take exponential amount of time.

In obtaining PN based monitors for deadlock prevention (or liveness enforcing) there are three main issues tackled within the literature: behavioral permissiveness, computational complexity, and structural complexity. Behavioral complexity is related to the performance in terms of the reachable good states. In the context of FMS the number of good states in a Petri net model of an FMS, which can be provided under the deadlock prevention or liveness-enforcing policies, has been regarded as a “quality measure”. In terms of the practical implementation of these policies, this quality measure implies high efficiency, throughput, and flexibility [3]. The highest quality can be provided by the maximally permissive (optimal) control policies. Computational complexity is related to the computational cost paid in order to obtain a liveness-enforcing supervisor (LES) for a given deadlock prevention FMS problem. In this case it is desirable to obtain an answer for a given problem in the least time possible. Structural complexity means extra cost in system verification, validation, and implementation. It is related with two aspects of a LES: the number of monitors and the type of monitors. In the former, it is desirable to obtain the least number of monitors possible. In the latter, there are two types of monitors: ordinary and general. Ordinary monitors are the ones with no weighted arcs. General monitors are the ones with weighted arcs. It is obvious that ordinary monitors are preferable to general monitors due to verification, validation, and implementation issues.

Classical approaches either suffer from adding too many monitors [4] (problematic siphons growing quickly with the size of the system) or reaching too few states [5, 6]. Recently, maximally permissive control policies [7-11] with little redundancy have emerged. They however suffer from either complete state enumeration—based on region theory [7-11] or the concept of selective-siphons [10, 11]. Both are NP-hard and take exponential amount of time.

We propose in [12] to optimize the number of monitors (good states as well) if one adds monitors in the normal
sequence of basic, compound, control, and other types of siphons. It is shown that among all 2-dependent siphons (depending on two component siphons), only one (called critical) siphon needs to be controlled by adding a monitor.

This greatly simplifies the synthesis as well as minimizes the number of monitors required while making the controlled net near maximally permissive. Furthermore, the computational burden is much less since there is no need to enumerate minimal siphons, nor to build the reachability graph. It requires neither iterations nor the removal of redundant monitors. In addition, no control arcs are weighted. It scales well with the initial markings and the size of the nets. However, theorems in [12] are stated need to enumerate all siphons and the time complexity involved is polynomial. We apply the above theory of sequence-control or critical-siphon to the control of 2 well-known benchmarks with much less computational burden than other approaches, while achieving near or full maximal permissiveness. This is the first paper that is able to identify that each monitored siphon of the benchmark is either a basic one, or a compound one, or a mixture one. This is the first of its kind among all current results on the benchmark.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section II presents the preliminaries about types of siphons. Section II reviews the dependence relationship as well as the sequence of control to reduce the number of redundant monitors. It also develops new theories. Section III applies the theory to 2 well-known benchmarks. Finally, Section IV concludes the paper.

Theory

Due to the space limitation, we refer the reader to [12] for some basic terminologies in this paper. A core subnet can be obtained from an elementary circuit, called core circuit, by repeatedly adding handles. Details of handles and how an SMS is synthesized from a core subnet are in [8, 12, 13] and omitted here to shorten the paper.

Theorem 1 (Theorem 1 in [20]): Let \((N_0, M_0)\) be a marked \(S\)PR and \(S_1, S_2, \ldots, S_n\) a set of SMS such that \(\forall i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, n,\} S_i \cap \overline{S}_j \neq \emptyset\) if \(i \neq j = 1\) and \(S_i\) is controlled \((M(S_i)) > 0\). Each \(S_i\) is a basic siphon synthesized from basic circuit \(c_i\). \(S_0\) is an SMS synthesized from \(c_0 = c_1 \circ c_2 \circ \ldots \circ c_n\) and \(R(S_0) = R(S_1) \cup R(S_2) \cup \ldots \cup R(S_n)\) \((R(S)\) is the set of resource places in \(S)\). \(c_0\) and \(S_0\) are called an n-compound circuit and respectively. Let \(\overline{S}_i = S_i \cup A_i\) \(\forall i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, n-1\}\). Then, (1) if \(\exists M \in R(N, M_0)\), such that \((M(S_0)) = 0\), then \((M(A_1) + M(A_2) + \ldots + M(A_n)) \geq n\). (2) \(\forall M \in R(N, M_0)\), \((M(S_i)) > 0\) if \((M(S_i)) \cap \overline{S}_{i+1} = 1\), \(\forall i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, n-1\}\).

In Fig. 1(a), there are three SMS: \(S_1 = \{p_3, p_4, p_5, p_6, p_7, p_8, p_9\}\), \(S_2 = \{p_2, p_4, p_5, p_8, p_9\}\), and \(S_3 = \{p_1, p_2, p_3, p_5\}\). R(S_0) = R(S_1) \cup R(S_2) \cup R(S_3)\). 

Figure 1(a). Example partial-mixture. Figure 1(b) Controlled siphon.

In Fig. 1(a), there are three SMS: \(S_1 = \{p_3, p_4, p_5, p_6, p_7, p_8, p_9\}\), \(S_2 = \{p_2, p_4, p_5, p_8, p_9\}\), and \(S_3 = \{p_1, p_2, p_3, p_5\}\). R(S_0) = R(S_1) \cup R(S_2) \cup R(S_3)\). 

Thus, \(S_0\) cannot become unmarked. Based on this theorem, one adds a monitor for a control siphon only if there are no non-sharing resource places \((R(S) = R(S') = \emptyset)\) in the two basic siphons and the initial marking of \(S_i \cap S_j\) equals one. For the example in Fig. 1(b), even if \(b = 1\), no monitor is needed for the control siphon due to the presence of non-sharing resource place \(p_{16}\). For the example in Fig. 1(b), \(b = 1\), \(R(S') = \{p_{16}\} \neq \emptyset\) (see the example after Def. 4).
siphon can never become unmarked since \( p_{14} \in S', \) and \( p_{6} \in S' \).

Theorem 2: If \( S' = S'^{-} \) can become unmarked, and is controlled by adding a monitor, then any mixture siphon, partial or full, corresponding to compound siphon \( S'^{-} \), is already controlled and needs no monitor.

This theorem states that all mixture siphons are already controlled and need no monitors after I add a monitor upon the control siphon. If one follows [14] to add a monitor with WC arcs for the partial mixture siphon, the monitor is controlled and need no monitors after I add a monitor upon the control siphon. It is easy to see that \( S' \) is already controlled. Similar conclusion applies to \( S' = S'^{-} \). For \( S' = S'^{-} \), either \( M_{\text{max}}(A) = M(R_{1}) < b+1 \), or \( M_{\text{max}}(A) = M(R_{1}) - 1 \), or \( M_{\text{max}}(A) = M(R_{1}) - 1 \). In either case, it is easy to see that \( S' \) is already controlled.

**Theorem 3:** Let \( S' = S'^{-} \) be a partial mixture siphon as defined in Def. 10, and no monitor is added for \( S'^{-} \). 1) \( M_{\text{max}}([S]) = M(R_{1} \cup R_{2} \cup R_{3}) + b - 1 \). 2) \( S' \) can become unmarked, if \( i) R_{2}' = \emptyset \). 3) \( S' \) becomes unmarked when \( M_{\text{max}}([S]) = M(R_{1} \cup R_{2} \cup R_{3}) + b - 1 \). 4) Adding a monitor to \( S' = S'^{-} \) and \( [S'] \) is not controlled, then any mixture siphon, partial or full, corresponding to compound siphon \( S'^{-} \), is already controlled and needs no monitor.

This theorem states that if no monitor is added for a control siphon, then a monitor is needed for partial mixture siphon \( S'^{-} \) if \( b = M(S_{i} \cap S_{j}) = 1 \) and there are no non-sharing resource places (in \( S_{i} \)) whose holder places are in \( [S'] \). For the example in Fig. 1(b), \( b = 1 \), \( R_{2}' = \emptyset \) (see the example after Def. 4), \( S'^{-} = \{ p_{2}, p_{4}, p_{7}, p_{14}, p_{15} \} \) and \( [S'^{-}] = \{ p_{2}, p_{4}, p_{14}, p_{15}, p_{10} \} \). \( S'^{-} \) is unmarked when \( M(p_{14}) = M(p_{1}) = 1 \) and \( M(p_{15}) = M(p_{15}) = 2 \) even though there exists non-sharing resource place \( p_{16} \). If one follows [14] to add a monitor with WC arcs for the partial mixture siphon, the monitor is not redundant. We now extend the theory to full mixture siphons.

**Theorem 4:** Let \( S' = S'^{-} \) be a full mixture siphon corresponding to compound siphon \( S'^{-} \). Then 1) \( M_{\text{max}}([S]) = M(R_{1} \cup R_{2} \cup R_{3}) + b - 2 \). 2) \( S' \) can become unmarked if \( b > 2 \). 3) \( S' \) can become unmarked in the normal sequence, if i) \( R_{1}' = \emptyset \) and \( R_{2}' = \emptyset \), or ii) \( b = M(S_{i} \cap S_{j}) = 1 \).

From Part 1 of this theorem, if \( S' \) becomes unmarked, then \( M_{\text{max}}([S]) = M(R_{1} \cup R_{2} \cup R_{3}) + b - 2 \). For the example in Fig. 1(b), \( b = 1 \), \( R_{2}' = \emptyset \), and \( R_{1}' = \emptyset \) and \( M(S_{i} \cap S_{j}) = 1 \) derived earlier. Thus, \( S' \) can never become unmarked if \( b = 1 \). Hence it must be that \( b > 1 \). Assume that it does not hold that \( R_{1}' = \emptyset \) and \( R_{2}' = \emptyset \). There are two cases:

i) \( R_{1}' = R_{2}' = \emptyset \). \( S'^{-} \) is not controlled since Condition 1 \( (R_{1}' = R_{2}' = \emptyset) \) in Theorem 2 is satisfied and \( b = 1 \). Adding a monitor to \( S'^{-} \), leads to the inequality \( M(S'^{-}) < M(R_{1} \cup R_{2} \cup R_{3}) \), which implies that \( M(R_{1} \cap R_{2} \cup R_{3}) = 0 \).

ii) Exactly one of \( R_{1}' \) and \( R_{2}' \) is a non-empty set. By Theorem 2, a monitor is added for a partial mixture siphon such that \( M([S']) \) cannot reach its maximum for \( S' \) to become unmarked, neither can \( [S'] \) since \( [S'] \neq [S] \) by Parts 2 and 3 of Lemma 1. Hence \( S' \) cannot become unmarked. Both Cases i) and ii) contradict the assumption that \( S' \) can become unmarked. Thus, if \( S' \) becomes unmarked, then \( b = 1 \), \( R_{1}' = \emptyset \), and \( R_{2}' = \emptyset \). If \( b = 1 \), then \( M_{\text{max}}([S]) = M(R_{1} \cup R_{2} \cup R_{3}) + 2 \). For \( S' \), \( b - 1 = 0 \), which implies \( R_{1}' = \emptyset \), and \( b = M(S_{i} \cap S_{j}) = 1 \). Thus, \( S' \) can become unmarked if \( R_{1}' = \emptyset \), and \( b = M(S_{i} \cap S_{j}) = 1 \).

**Figure 2:** Example full-mixture siphon and non-redundant WC.
For the example in Fig. 3, partial mixture siphon \( S^{S'2}_{1} = \{p_1, p_3, p_7, p_11, p_{16}, p_{15}\} \) may become unmarked when \( b=1 \) in the normal sequence. \( S \) becomes controlled by adding monitor \( V \) such that \( [V]=\{S\}=\{p_2, p_5, p_9, p_{16}\} \) (i.e., \( V^*=\{t_i, t_i0\} \), \( *V^*=\{t_2, t_3\} \) ) and \( M_d(V)= M_d(S_{22})+M_d(V_{22})= M_d(p_{17})+M_d(p_{12})+M_d(p_{15})=3+2=1=4 \). As mentioned earlier, the compound, and the control siphon, and \( S^{S'2}_{1} \) are all controlled and need no monitor. Only three (two for basic siphons and one for \( S^{S'2}_{1} \)) monitors are needed to control the net to make it live.

For the example in Fig. 2, \( S^{S'2}_{2} \) can become unmarked when \( b=1 \) and monitors are added only for two basic siphons. \( S \) becomes controlled by adding monitor \( V \) such that \( [V]=\{S\}=\{p_2, p_5, p_6, p_9, p_9, p_9\} \) (i.e., \( V^*=\{t_i, t_i0\} \), \( *V^*=\{t_2, t_3\} \) ) and \( M_d(V)= M_d(S_{22})+M_d(V_{22})= M_d(p_{17})+M_d(p_{12})+M_d(p_{15})=3+2=1=4 \). As mentioned earlier, the compound, and the control siphon, and \( S^{S'2}_{2} \) are all controlled and need no monitor. Only three (two for basic siphons and one for \( S^{S'2}_{2} \)) monitors are needed to control the net to make it live.

\( \text{Figure 3. First benchmark example.} \)

Applications

This section developed the developed theory to two well-known S/P/R. For example in Fig. 4, however, needs WC arcs to be maximally permissible. We add a monitor for each basic siphon. Among 12 compound siphons, we need only one monitor for \( S_{10} \) (Theorem 1) significantly reducing the total number of monitors required. For the rest of compound siphons, we have \( b=1 \). Now consider 3-compound siphon \( S_{20} \) since a control monitor has been added for \( S_{20} \). By Theorem 2, no monitors need to be added for any partial mixture siphon \( S \) built from control siphon \( S_{20} \) since \( b=M_d(r)=1 \) for all 3-compound siphons. As mentioned earlier, the compound, and the control siphon, and \( S^{S'2}_{2} \) are all controlled and need no monitor. Thus, by Theorem 1, they are all controlled and needs no monitor.

In summary, there are only two 2-control siphons \( S^{S'2}_{20} \) and \( S^{S'2}_{22} \) with no monitors for both the associated compound and control siphons. This implies that one of the associated mixture siphons (Theorem 4) is emptiable and needs a monitor.

Now consider adding monitors for mixture siphons. By Theorem 4, no monitors need to be added for mixture siphons built from control siphon \( S_{10} \) since a control monitor has been added for \( S_{10} \). By Theorem 2, no monitors need to be added for any partial mixture siphon \( S \) built from control siphon \( S_{20} \) since \( b=M_d(r)=1 \) for all 3-compound siphons. As mentioned earlier, the compound, and the control siphon, and \( S^{S'2}_{2} \) are all controlled and need no monitor. Thus, by Theorem 1, they are all controlled and needs no monitor.

Theorem 6: Let \( S_1=S_1 \cap S_2 \) in a marked S/P/R \( (N_0, M_0) \), \( S_2 \) is controlled by adding monitor \( V_{S_0} \), \( S_1 \cap S_2 = \{r\} \). Then exactly one siphon in the set of the compound siphon, control siphon and all mixture siphons is emptiable.

Remarks: The resulting controlled model may not be maximally permissible since some live states are forbidden. For instance, in Fig. 1(b), \( M=2p_{2}+p_{2}+p_{5}+p_{11} \) or \( 2p_{2}+p_{2}+p_{5}+p_{11} \) (as common practice, only operation places are included in \( M \) ) is a live marking, yet forbidden by Monitor \( p_{17} \). However, if a monitor is added for each \( M \) to control smaller region of operation places (hence less disturbance to the original model), the controlled model becomes maximally permissible. We call \( \{p_5, p_9\} \) as the refined operation. If a single monitor is added to cover a refinement region, some live states are lost. If for each place in a refinement region, a monitor is added accordingly (called refine operation), then no live states are lost. For the two examples in the next section, refine operations will be performed to reach more live states.

Conclusion

For the FMS and CIM, I have redeveloped some theorem in the field of critical-siphon theory in a more formal fashion, further categorized mixture siphons, and analyzed their controllability (even among different 2-compound siphons). I have applied the theory of sequence-of-control or critical-siphon to 2 benchmarks without using weighted control arcs. The first one is maximally permissible. Although it may reach fewer states than the maximally permissible one for the 2nd benchmark, it suffers less computational burden since no reachability analysis is required and the enumeration of problematic siphons is
much more efficient. The controllability among different types of siphons implies that some problematic siphons can be skipped; thus relieving the need for complete siphon enumeration. The theory is able to avoid redundant monitors in FMS and the unnecessary associated computational burden so that the quality of a class of FMSs can be assured latest in the run-time. This is the first approach that is able to identify that each monitored siphon of the benchmark is either a basic one, or a compound one, or a mixture one.

The results can only be applied to a class of S^3PR, not any S^3PR. The applied S^3PR has 2-compound siphons. That is to say, if an S^3PR has 3- or 4-compound siphons, the results may not be applicable. Future work should extend the theory to siphons calculated from an n-compound (n>2) resource circuit, to remove the assumption that any two core circuits are interconnected at a single resource place, and to extend the controllability theory to FMS with generalized arcs.

Figure 4. 2nd well-known S^3PR.

References

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