Integration of IEC 61131-3 and IEC 61499 control logic using FORTE and ProConOS

Stefano Campanelli, Pierfrancesco Foglia, Cosimo Antonio Prete
Dipartimento di Ingegneria dell'Informazione, Università di Pisa
Via Diotisalvi 2, 56126 Pisa, Italy
{stefano.campanelli, foglia, prete}@iet.unipi.it

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Introduction

- IEC 61131-3 widely adopted by PLC producers
  - Used in many existing control systems
  - Large base of software libraries, know-how and personnel competences
- IEC 61131-3 has very little support for distributed control
  - IEC 61131-5 communication function blocks
  - Engineering approach device centered
  - No support for distribution of control logic
- IEC 61499 is more suitable for designing distributed control applications
Proposed Architecture (1/2)

Problems

- realization of distributed control between existing IEC 61131-3 systems
- reuse of existing IEC 61131-3 software in an IEC 61499 system
- reuse of existing know-how and personnel competences about IEC 61131-3

Proposed approach: Coexistence

- IEC 61131-3 and IEC 61499 are complementary standards
- Each device has both IEC 61131-3 and IEC 61499 execution environments
- A communication interface is provided in order to allow data exchanges between the two standards
Proposed Architecture (2/2)

PI: PLC Interface
PDE: PLC Data Exchange
PLC Interfaces

- PLC Data Exchange
  - Data Transfer PDE
  - Procedure Call PDE
- PLC Interface
  - A group of PDEs

- IEC 61499
  - PI as a SIFB
  - Each PDE has its own events and data in/outs
- IEC 61131-3
  - Each PDE as an IEC 61131-5 FB
Data Transfer PDEs

Data Transfer from IEC 61131-3 to IEC 61499

Data Transfer from IEC 61499 to IEC 61131-3
Tools Used for Implementation

- Operating System
  - Microsoft Windows
- IEC 61499
  - 4DIAC IDE 1.0
  - FORTE 1.0
    - Custom SIFBs implemented as a C++ class
- IEC 61131-3
  - KW-Software MULTIPROG 4.8
  - ProConOS 4.0
    - Custom FBs implemented as a C function
A Simple Application (1/3)

- Sample application:
  - Periodically reads a digital input
  - Applies a logical not operation on the read value
  - Updates a digital output with the new value

- The IEC 61131-3 program reads the input value and updates the output value
- The IEC 61499 application implements the not logic

- Definition of the PLC interface:
  - 1 Data Transfer PDE from IEC 61131-3 to IEC 61499 to send the input boolean value
  - 1 Data Transfer PDE from IEC 61499 to IEC 61131-3 to send the output boolean value
A Simple Application (2/3)
A Simple Application (3/3)
Implementation of the PI (1/3)

- Communication via IPC
  - Shared memory
  - Semaphores
Implementation of the PI (2/3)

- IEC 61499
  - PI implemented as an Event Source SIFB
    - `executeEvent` handles input events and the external event
  - External Event Handler Thread
    - Waits on semaphores for events such as data reception
    - Sends the external event to the SIFB

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ProConOS

- USEND
- URCV

FORTE

- External Event Handler
- SIFB

Windows IPC
Implementation of the PI (3/3)

- IEC 61131-3
  - IEC 6131-5 FBs implemented as C functions
    - Parameters: input/output variables and internal state
    - Realize state machines
    - Non-blocking waits
Implementation of Data Transfer PDEs
IEC 61131-3 to IEC 61499

- IEC 61131-5 USEND:
  LOOP {
  idle_until_req_detected
  copy_SD_to_shared_mem
  release_SendSem1
  wait_RcvSem1
  pulse_done
  }

- External Event Handler:
  LOOP {
    wait_SendSem1
    startEventChain
  }

- executeEvent:
  CASE ExternalEvent:
  copy_shared_mem_to_RD
  release_RcvSem1
  send_IND
Implementation of Data Transfer PDEs
IEC 61499 to IEC 61131-3

IEC 61131-5 URCV:
LOOP {
  wait_SendSem2
  copy_shared_mem_to_RD
  pulse_NDR
  release_RcvSem2
}

External Event Handler:
LOOP {
  wait_RcvSem2
  startEventChain
}
executeEvent:
CASE REQ:
  copy_SD_to_shared_mem
  release_SendSem2
CASE ExternalEvent :
  send_CNF
Conclusion

- We proposed an architecture to integrate IEC 61499 and IEC 61131-3 control logic
- Architecture based on coexistence of both standards
- Future works:
  - Test the architecture with a reference case study derived from literature and industrial applications
  - Implement a tool for automatic generation of the PLC Interface code modules.
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Contact:

Stefano Campanelli
Università di Pisa
stefano.campanelli@iet.unipi.it

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