Automatic Code Generation

Embedded Control Systems
Fall 2012
Software Development: “Waterfall Model”

- Requirements
- Design
- Implementation
- Verification
- Maintenance
Software Development: “V diagram”
Model-based SW Engineering: Process

- Control law validated by simulation and rapid prototyping
- Executable software specification (algorithm model)
- Software Development (or automatic generation)
- HIL verification of embedded implementation
- Models permit V&V at every step of the process from requirements to implemented code.
Typical Requirements Analysis
Model-based Software Engineering: Statistics

Model-based Software Development vs. Historical for Major Powertrain Control Project

- More time on modeling, validation, verification
- Model-based software works "first time"

- ~43%

Start of Project to First Release
Start of Project to Fully Functional Software

Cumulative Errors

Model-based
Historic

1st Release
Time
Advantages of Automatic Code Generation (dSPACE website with editorial comments in red)

- Less time-consuming and error-prone than hand coding
- Shorter development times, often reduced by more than 40%
- Model and C code always consistent (really?)
- Uniform standard for coding (really?)
- No implementation errors (assuming the model is correct!)
- Code documentation always up-to-date (really?)
Disadvantages of Automatic Code Generation

- Code size (not as big a problem as it once was)
- Integration with legacy code
- Consistency between model and code (temptation to tweek the code rather than revise the model and re-generate)
Automatic Code Generation Tools

- **dSPACE Targetlink**
  - Code generation from Simulink/Stateflow
  - Extended Targetlink block set for fixed-point code generation and implementation specific information

- **ETAS ASCET**
  - Code generation from ETAS graphical modeling environment
  - New product supports translation from Simulink/Stateflow

- **National Instruments LabVIEW**
  - FPGA code generation from LabVIEW “Virtual Instrument” modeling environment

- **The MathWorks**
  - Code generation from Simulink/Stateflow
  - Real-time Workshop (RTW) and RTW with Embedded Coder
Real Embedded Software

- Large, complex, developed by many people, integrated at the end, and expected to work.
- Typical automotive control “feature”
  - Much more than just the control law
  - Multiple versions address program-to-program variability
  - Average feature has
    - 1-2 execution contexts
    - 20 inputs
    - 14 outputs
- ~60-100 features per vehicle with more than 2000 connections among features
Model-based Software Engineering

- Modeling environment requires
  - Flexible, interchangeable and reusable model components
  - Seamless process for component “plug-and-play”
  - Data and complexity management
  - Systems and software analysis tools
**Conventional Cam Timing**

- **Conventional engine**
  - Camshaft linked mechanically to crankshaft
  - Hence valve motion is fixed
  - Tradeoffs between fuel economy, combustion stability, maximum torque performance
Variable Cam Timing

- VCT/VVT/camless engine
  - Phase valve opening and closing with respect to firing event

Potential Benefits
- Eliminate pumping losses (fuel economy)
- Increase burned gas fraction (NOx emissions)
- Reduce the effects of manifold filling dynamics (driveability)

Issue
- the cam activity must not adversely affect other measures of engine performance
VCT Diagram

\[ T_q = f(\ldots) \]
\[ NO_x = f(\ldots) \]
\[ HC = f(\ldots) \]
VCT: Time delay
VCT: Control solution

![Diagram of control system]
Style Matters

- Models must be clear, readable, modular, documented and precise
- Automatic code generation does not eliminate human error – just moves it higher in the process
- Order of execution, execution context, data types – must be specified in the model!
- Naming conventions, data scoping, annotations and comments, ...

Reference: “Style Matters - Applying the lessons from the software industry to Autocoding with Simulink” by Peter Gilhead, Ricardo Tarragon
Hatley-Pirbhai Model Methodology

- Simulink diagrams model data flow; Stateflow diagrams model control flow
- Process specifications (P-specs) modeled using Simulink blocks and/or Stateflow diagrams, depending on the nature of the algorithm
- Control specifications (C-specs) are modeled using Stateflow
- One Simulink subsystem per execution context (10ms, 100ms, etc.)

Mathworks Automotive Advisory Board

- Originally established to coordinate feature requests from several key customers in the automotive industry.

- Inaugural meeting in July 1998 involved Ford, Daimler Benz, and Toyota.

- Meetings now involve many of the major automotive OEMs and suppliers.

- Focus on the usage and enhancements of MathWorks controls, simulation, and code generation products including Simulink, Stateflow, and Embedded Coder.

- MAAB Control Algorithm Modeling Guidelines Using Matlab, Simulink, Stateflow
MAAB Style Guide: Simulink or Stateflow?

- The choice of whether to use Simulink or Stateflow to model a given portion of the control algorithm functionality should be driven by the nature of the behavior being modeled.
  - If the function primarily involves complicated logical operations, Stateflow should be used.
  - Stateflow should be used to implement modal logic – where the control function to be performed at the current time depends on a combination of past and present logical conditions.
- If the function primarily involves numerical operations, Simulink should be used.
Stateflow w/ simple math

- If the primary nature of the function is logical, but some simple numerical calculations are done to support the logic, it is preferable to implement the simple numerical functions using the Stateflow action language.

![Stateflow diagram showing a state machine with transitions labeled `[DeActivationCond]` and `[ActivationCond]` and an entry action `Activated entry: ActivationCt = ActivationCt + 1;` with an embedded simple math operation.]
Simulink w/ simple logic

- If the primary nature of the function is numerical, but some simple logical operations are done to support the arithmetic, it is preferable to implement the simple logical functions within Simulink.

![Simulink diagram](image)

**Embedded simple logic operations**