

# Modeling Methodology for Reconfigurable Distributed Systems using Transformations from GR-UML to GR-TNCES and IEC 61499

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**Abstract:** As today's reconfigurable distributed control systems become more and more complex, the modelling of its controlling applications becomes more difficult. The Unified Modelling Language (UML) is considered as a standard language for modelling software and systems. However, UML does not provide formal semantics that allow correctness verification. It also has no semantics to design probabilistic scenarios running under energy and memory constraints. Moreover, despite its numerous assets when used to model Distributed Control Systems (DCS), UML still do not allow the simulation of models in some DCS hardware platforms. To overcome these limitations, we propose in this paper a new UML profile called GR-UML (Generalized Reconfigurable-UML) to model the mentioned features. Then, we introduce a modeling methodology that allows to use GR-UML, formal verification, and models deployment according to the IEC 61499 DCS standard. The paper presents also the rules responsible for automatic transformation of GR-UML to GR-TNCES (a Petri net formalism used for formal verification) and to function blocks (the elementary unit of the IEC 61499 standard). These transformations are implemented in a software tool. The contributions of the paper are proved using an example of microgrid control application example.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

UML is a semi-formal modelling language used for the specification and modelling of software systems. It provides graphical representations using different diagrams that allow to illustrate standardized view to a particular scope of a system. Thanks to its various advantages, UML is adopted to design many systems including the industrial DCS (Castellanos et al., 2017), (Oueslati et al., 2018). Despite its undeniable assets, UML still has some limitations, among them we focus on two main ones: UML does not guarantee the models correctness, and it does not provide the ability to execute models in some target hardware platform of DCSs. UML has also some hurdles to define the event flow concept which is very important for distributed systems. It also does not define semantics to model probabilistic scenarios running under memory and energy constraints.

**Concerning the models correctness**, the literature is rich with transformations between UML and formal verification techniques. For example, in early 2002, the authors of (Jansen et al., 2002) have pro-

posed a solution to add probability to statecharts then to use model checking on the generated models. Despite its importance, this solution does not consider the reconfiguration, timing, and the resources usages constraints (Fkaier et al., 2016b), (Fkaier et al., 2016a), (Fkaier. et al., 2017). Later, the authors of (Addouche et al., 2006) have extended the class and statechart diagrams with real-time requirements and have introduced a methodology to verify probabilistic properties. In (Nokovic and Sekerinski, 2013), the authors have also extended the statechart diagram with probabilities and based on it they have created a software toolkit to design probabilistic properties of complex systems. But there is no consideration to timing, reconfiguration, and resources usage. The authors of (Salem et al., 2015a) have proposed a UML profile to extend its existing semantics with reconfiguration and shared resources control. They have also introduced a transformation to the formalism R-TNCES (a Petri nets extension allowing the verification of reconfiguration functions) in order to verify timed properties. Although the latter represents an important contribution, it does not allow the possibility to model

and verify probabilistic requirements and applications running under memory and energy constraints.

**Concerning the possibility to run models in specific hardware platform**, since its appearance IEC 61499 have been a subject of transformations to other modelling languages, formal and non-formal ones, as it tackles deeply the technical side of applications models while other scopes are omitted. The function block concept does not use many of the component-based and object-oriented software engineering. In (Tranoris and Thramboulidis, 2002) and (Thramboulidis, 2004), UML concepts have been included in the specification and modelling using different diagrams for determining the subsequent function block diagrams. The authors of (Dubinin et al., 2005) have proposed a framework for the design of distributed control using a combination of function blocks with UML. Statechart, cooperation, class, and sequence diagrams are transformed to the executable function blocks. In (Panjaitan and Frey, 2006b), (Panjaitan and Frey, 2006a), and (Hussain and Frey, 2007) authors have proposed transformation concepts from class, packages, and statechart diagrams to models in terms of IEC 61499. Despite the importance of these works, more detailed transformations may ensure better quality, especially for the mapping of combined structural and behavioral aspects of an application.

As it can be seen from the study of the existing works, there is still a need for techniques enabling better features coverage and better modeling efficiency. First, currently there is no UML semantics defining the probability and resources constraints together in one approach. Second, existing attempts to bring together UML and function blocks are still simple and more details are required. More importantly, there is a crucial need to a systematic methodology defining the modeling process of correct and consistent models. It is especially significant to provide a software tool guaranteeing the mapping of models.

In this paper, we propose first a new UML profile called GR-UML enriched with semantics enabling the modeling of probabilities and limited resources (mainly memory and energy). Thanks to the extensibility mechanisms of UML, we define new stereotypes and improve the class and statechart diagrams. Afterwards, we define transformation rules from GR-UML to the Petri nets formalism GR-TNCES as well as to the IEC 61499 function blocks. Then, we define a modeling methodology that consists of three phases: (1) modeling applications using GR-UML, (2) performing formal verification of the created models, and (3) performing analysis of the function block models. In order to facilitate the use of the proposed concepts (i.e., UML profile, methodology and transformations)

a software tool is introduced. To show the suitability of the proposed concepts an example of microgrids software is considered.

The layout of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 presents the background. Section 3 introduces the new UML profile and the corresponding transformations. Section 4 presents the methodology and the software tool. Section 5 shows the suitability through the case study. Finally, Section 6 concludes the paper and presents future perspectives.

## 2 BACKGROUND

This section provides an overview of the used concepts. First we present the GR-TNCES formalism. Then, we present the IEC 61499 standard through a formal definition of its concepts.

### 2.1 GR-TNCES

GR-TNCES is an extension of the formalism R-TNCES which in addition to the reconfiguration and timed features of the Net Condition/Event systems, it includes the ability to capture probability and memory and energy resources control. As presented in (Khlifi et al., 2015), the GR-TNCES formalism is defined as a network of R-TNCES as follows:  $G = \{\sum R\text{-TNCES}\}$ , where  $R\text{-TNCES} = (B, R)$  with  $B$  being the behavior module and  $R$  being the control module. The behavioral module  $B$  is defined as a union of multiple TNCES and defined as  $B = (P, T, F, QW, CN, EN, DC, V, Z_0)$ , with (i)  $P$  is a finite non-empty set of places. (ii)  $T$  is a finite non-empty set of transitions. (iii)  $F$  is a set of flow arcs such that  $F \subseteq (P \times T) \cup (T \times P)$ .  $QW = (Q, W)$  with  $Q : F \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is the probability of the arc and  $W$  is a mapper that maps a weight to a flow arc such that  $(P \times T) \cup (T \times P) \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ ,  $W(x, y) > 0$  if  $(x, y) \in F$  and  $W(x, y) = 0$  otherwise, with  $x$  and  $y \in P \cup T$ . (iv)  $CN$  is a set of condition signals with  $CN \subseteq (P \times T)$ . (v)  $EN$  is a set of event signals with  $EN \subseteq (T \times T)$ . (vi)  $DC$  is a superset of time constraints on output arcs such that  $F \subseteq (P \times T) \rightarrow [l, h]$ . (vii)  $V : T \rightarrow \{\vee, \wedge\}$  indicates an event processing mode to each transition (AND or OR). (viii)  $Z_0 = (T_0, D_0)$  where  $T_0 : P \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  is the initial marking position and  $D_0 : P \rightarrow \{0\}$  is the initial clock position.

### 2.2 IEC 61499

IEC 61499 is the standard of the distributed control systems (Miguel-Escríg et al., 2020). IEC 61499 offers a function block concept which has three main

function block types: basic (*BFB*), composite (*CFB*), and service interface (*SIFB*) function blocks. In the following our formal definition of the IEC 61499 concepts are presented. No matter its type, a function block is defined by an interface, noted  $I$ , and an internal structure. The interface  $I$  of all types of function blocks is defined as  $I = (IE, OE, ID, OD, IW, OW)$ , where (i)  $IE$  (*resp.*  $OE$ ) is a set of input (*resp.* output) events. (ii)  $ID$  (*resp.*  $OD$ ) is a set of input (*resp.* output) data. (iii)  $IW$  (*resp.*  $OW$ ) is a set of With-associations for inputs (*resp.* for outputs).

A basic function block is given by  $BFB = (I, ECC, A)$ , where  $I$  is its interface,  $ECC$  is the Execution Control Chart, and  $A$  is the encapsulated algorithms defining the functionalities of a *BFB* and it is given by  $A = \{alg_i | i \in \{1, \dots, |A|\}\}$ , where  $alg_i$  is an algorithm.  $ECC$  is the chart supervising the operation of a function block. It is defined by  $ECC = (ES, EA, ET, EF)$ , where (i)  $ES$  is a set of states of  $ECC$ . (ii)  $EA$  is a set of actions. An action is associated to an algorithm  $alg_i$  and a subset of the output events of  $I$ . (iii)  $ET$  is a set of transitions between  $ECC$  states. Each transition has a guard condition which is the coming of an input event of  $I$ . (iv)  $EF$  is a set of arc flows that indicates the flow between the different  $ECC$  states.

A composite function block is given by  $CFB = (I, N)$ , where  $N$  is a network of *BFB* and/or *CFB*. A *SIFB* type represents an interface to some services offered by the operating system and/or the device. For instance, interface to hardware (e.g., sensors) or communication services (client/server communication).

### 3 NEW UML PROFILE: GR-UML

This section introduces the new UML profile called GR-UML and its transformations to GR-TNCES and to IEC 61499 function blocks.

#### 3.1 GR-UML

The new profile defines formal semantics to define probabilities and memory & energy resources constraints in one model. To this end, we enhance both structural and behavioural views through the class and state diagrams defined in (Salem et al., 2015a). We introduce a formal definition of the component diagram since we need it later for transformations.

##### 3.1.1 Structural View

This section defines the enhanced class diagram and the component diagram.

**Definition of UML Class Diagram.** UML class diagram is offered as one of the structural view enablers of systems and applications. It expresses the system structure by showing a set of classes, their attributes, their methods, and the relations among objects. To make the semantics of this diagram more suitable to the probabilistic reconfigurable systems that operate under resources constraints (i.e., memory and energy), we extend its vocabulary by defining new stereotypes to express the probabilistic property. Thus, we extend the solution proposed in (Salem et al., 2015a) by defining new stereotypes of the class attributes as follow:

- $\ll probability \gg$ : depicts that the said attribute is a probabilistic functionality/operation.
- $\ll energy \gg$ : depicts that the said attribute represents energy resources of an operation.
- $\ll memory \gg$ : depicts that the said attribute represents memory resources of an operation.

For DCSs, it is often required to model equipment resources consumption especially memory and energy ones. Hence, it is required to have relevant methods for it. Thus, we define these methods:

- $checkEnergy(name : string) : bool$  - controls the energy resources defined by  $name$ .
- $checkMemory(name : string) : bool$  - controls the memory resources defined by  $name$ .

Based on these semantic extensions, a class diagram is now defined as follows:  $ClDiag = \{Cl, At, Me, S, \psi, \omega\}$ , where (i)  $Cl = \{cl_1, cl_2, \dots, cl_m\}$  is a finite set of classes. (ii)  $At = \{at_1, at_2, \dots, at_n\}$  is a finite set of attributes of classes. (iii)  $Me = \{setInput, resetInput, setOutput, resetOutput, checkEnergy, checkMemory, setCeiling\}$  is a set of methods of the classes. (iv)  $S = \{\ll probability \gg, \ll memory \gg, \ll energy \gg, \ll in \gg, \ll out \gg, \ll input \gg, \ll output \gg, \ll eventInput \gg, \ll eventOutput \gg, \ll boolean \gg, \ll integer \gg\}$  is a finite set of stereotypes. (v)  $\psi : at_i \rightarrow cl_j$  is a function mapping the attribute  $at_i$  to the class  $cl_j$ . (vi)  $\omega : s_i \rightarrow at_j$  is a function mapping the stereotype  $s_i$  to the attribute  $at_j$ .

**Definition of UML Component Diagram.** In this paper, only simple components of the UML component diagram are used. Hence, we define a component diagram, denoted by  $ComDiag$ , as  $ComDiag = \{Co, In, \alpha_{dep}, \alpha_{rea}\}$ , where, (i)  $Co$  is a finite set of components of  $ComDiag$ . (ii)  $In$  is a finite set of interfaces of  $ComDiag$ . (iii)  $\alpha_{dep}$  is a finite set of dependency relationships of components to interfaces such that  $\alpha_{dep} \subseteq (In \times Co)$ . (iv)  $\alpha_{rea}$  is a finite set of

realization relationships of interfaces by components such that  $\alpha_{rea} \subseteq (Co \times In)$ .

### 3.1.2 Behavioral View

State diagram is used to characterize the behavior of objects. Guard conditions can now include the  $\ll probability \gg$  stereotype that enables to express probabilistic transition between states. A UML state diagram is then defined as,  $StDiag = \{St, Tr, Ev, G, Ac, Fr, Jn, Fl, Ch, \rho, \gamma, \delta, \varepsilon\}$ , where (i)  $St = \{st_1, st_2, \dots, st_n\}$  is a finite set of states in  $StDiag$ . (ii)  $Tr = \{tr_1, tr_2, \dots, tr_m\}$  is a finite set of transitions in  $StDiag$ . (iii)  $Ev$  is a finite set of events in transitions of  $StDiag$ . (iv)  $G$  is a finite set of guards in  $StDiag$ . (v)  $Ac$  is a finite set of actions in  $StDiag$ . (vi)  $Fr$  is a finite set of fork pseudostates in  $StDiag$ . (vii)  $Jn$  is a finite set of join pseudostates in  $StDiag$ . (viii)  $Fl$  is a finite set of the transitions flow, such that  $Fl \subseteq (St \times Tr) \cup (Tr \times St)$ . (ix)  $Ch$  is a finite set of choice pseudostates. (x)  $\rho: Gr^i_{probability} \subset Gr \rightarrow Tr^i \subset Tr$  is a condition ensuring that the subset of guard conditions  $Gr^i_{probability}$  assigned to a subset of transitions  $Tr^i$  leaving a state  $st_i$  sum to one. (xi)  $\gamma: ev_i \rightarrow tr_j$  is a function mapping an event  $ev_i$  of  $Ev$  to a transition  $tr_j$  of  $Tr$ . (xii)  $\delta: gr_k \rightarrow tr_j$  is a function mapping a guard  $gr_k$  of  $Gr$  to a transition  $tr_j$  of  $Tr$ . (xiii)  $\varepsilon: act_l \rightarrow tr_j$  is a function mapping an action  $act_l$  to a transition  $tr_j$ .

## 3.2 Transformation to GR-TNCES

For better modeling flexibility and easiness, we propose the following list of transformation rules that map GR-UML models to GR-TNCES:

Rule 1: In an  $StDiag$ , guards stereotyped with  $\ll probability \gg$  are transformed to the set  $QW$  of the behavioral module  $B$  of GR-TNCES. A probabilistic guard  $gr$  has the form of  $[Proba_i == x]$  where  $Proba_i$  stands for the probability on the transition and  $x \in [0..1]$  is the value of the probability.

Rule 2: In an  $StDiag$ , some actions can be transformed to some transitions. An action  $ac$  corresponds to four event arcs,  $ea$ , in an GR-TNCES. An event output signal,  $eo$ , is added to the transition from which the event is triggered and an event input signal,  $ei$ , as well as an transition  $t_{ac}$  are added to the related transition  $t$ .

Rule 3: A fork pseudostate  $fr$  that splits an  $StDiag$  transition  $tr$  into several orthogonal regions of a composite state  $cst$ , is mapped to a transition  $t_{fr_a}$  linked to a place  $p_{cst}$  presenting the composite state  $cst$ , and  $p_{cst}$  is linked to a transition  $t_{fr_b}$  that is linked to  $n$  places presenting the internal simple states of a  $cst$ .

Rule 4: A join pseudostate  $jn$  that merges  $StDiag$

transitions from several orthogonal regions of a composite state  $cst$ , is mapped to a transition  $t_{jn_a}$  that is linked to  $n$  places of the internal simple states of a  $cst$ ,  $t_{jn_a}$  is linked to a place  $p_{cst}$  presenting the composite state  $cst$ , and  $p_{cst}$  is linked to a transition  $t_{jn_b}$ .

Rule 5: A choice pseudostate  $ch$  that splits an  $StDiag$  transition to multiple conditional outgoings is transformed to a decision state along with transition  $t_{ch}$  that is linked to  $n$  places representing the target states, also  $n$  input/output condition signals are added as follows: a condition output signal,  $co$ , is added to the place guaranteeing the condition and a condition input signal,  $ci$ , to the related transition. .

## 3.3 Transformation to IEC 61499

In order to allow a smooth transformation of the created GR-UML model into function blocks model, we introduce the hereafter transformation rules.

Rule 6: A component  $co \in Co$  of the component diagram  $ComDiag$  is transformed to a composite function block  $CFB$ .

Rule 7: In UML component diagram, as it is the case for class diagram, interfaces contain methods, where each method has a name, a set of input arguments defined by their name and type, and a return value defined by its type. An interface  $in \in In$  realized by a component  $co_a$  and used by a component  $co_b$  is transformed to inputs of the interface  $I_b$  (i.e., subsets of  $IE, ID, IW$ ) of function block  $fb_b$  and a part of the interface  $I_a$  (i.e., subsets of  $IE, ID, IW, OE, OD, OW$ ) of function block  $fb_a$ .

Rule 8: Based on Rule 7, methods defined an interface  $in$  are transformed to  $I_p$  as follows:

1. A provided method defined in  $in$  is transformed to an input event  $ie_i \in IE$  with the related association  $iw_i \in IW$  as well as the relevant input data  $id^i \subset ID$ , such that the name of the method is transformed to the name of event, the arguments of the method are transformed to the associated data, and the types of method arguments are the transformed to the type of input data.
2. The output of the provided method is transformed to an output event  $oe_i \in OE$  with the related association  $ow_i \in OW$  as well as the relevant output data  $od^i \subset OD$ , such that the return type is the output data type.

Rule 9: Based on Rule 7, required methods defined an interface  $in$  are transformed to  $I_b$  as follows: Each method defined in  $in$  is transformed to an input event  $ie_i \in IE$  with the relevant association  $iw_i$  as well as the relevant input data  $id^i \subset ID$ , such that the name of the method is transformed to the name of event and

the arguments of the method are transformed to the associated data. The types of arguments are transformed to the type of data.

Rule 10: The internal activity of each module is transformed according to its state diagram as follows: every simple state is transformed to a *BFB* while every composite state is transformed to a *CFB*.

Rule 11: A state requiring the use of a resource access is transformed to *SIFB*.

Rule 12: States of a state diagram do generally hold a set of internal activities (entry action, do activity action, exit action). These actions are transformed to the algorithms of a *BFB*. The evolution of state activities are transformed to the *ECC*.

Rule 13: A transition  $tr_i \in Tr$  that is leaving a state  $st_p$  and entering a state  $st_q$  is mapped to transitions linking an output event  $oe_i \in OE_p$  and the related output data  $od^i \subseteq OD_p$  to the input event  $ie_i \in IE_q$  and the related input data  $id^i \subseteq ID_q$ .

Rule 14: A guard  $gr_p$  associated to a transition  $tr_p$  linking a state  $st_p$  to a state  $st_q$  is transformed to output data  $od_i$  along with a with-association  $ow_i$  of the interface of the source function block  $fb_p$  and to input data  $id_i$  along with a with-association  $iw_i$  of the interface of the destination function block  $fb_q$ .

## 4 MODELING METHODOLOGY

In order to generate more powerful, consistent, and efficient applications models, we propose to verify the created GR-UML models using formal verification and to analyze models in accordance with IEC 61499. From the one side, formal verification allows to get sureness about the behavior since mathematical extensive model testing is used. It helps also to catch errors and ambiguities in early stages and consequently offer the opportunity to fix them in low cost manner (time and effort). From the other side, analyzing the function block models allows to execute applications in target hardware environments. Therefore to get a fine-grained executable model.

To make the move from GR-UML to GR-TNCES and to IEC 61499 function blocks easy, the transformation rules introduced in the previous section are implemented in a software tool.

### 4.1 Methodology Flow

The proposed modeling methodology is composed of the following three phases. An overview of the proposed methodology is depicted in Figure 1.

**Phase 1: Modelling Applications using GR-UML.** In this phase applications models are elaborated us-

ing the new semantics of GR-UML. Structural and behavioral views can now cover the probabilistic as well as the memory and energy control. Creating abstract models of any application before implementation helps to reach clear unified view.

**Phase 2: Formal Verification.** After creating the GR-UML models of a certain application, proving and/or disproving some properties can be conducted in this phase. Formal verification and validation can be conducted using mathematical basis. The GR-UML models are edited, visualized, simulated using the new software extension to ZIZO tool (Salem et al., 2015b) -which we will present in the next section-. At the end of a simulation with ZIZO, a report is generated that contains the number of explored places, the elapsed time, and whether deadlocks exist. The new software tool allows also to export the created GR-UML models to GR-TNCES editor in the form of ".zz" files. ZIZO offers the possibility to transform GR-TNCES to PRISM model checker, so that model checking using CTL and PCTL formulas can be conducted. In this phase, the model is examined, verified, and analyzed, and whenever some non desirable behaviors are caught, the GR-UML can be refined until the target result is obtained.

**Phase 3: Model Analysis According to IEC 61499.** After having verified the correctness of the created models using formal verification, it becomes possible now to generate function blocks models in compliance with IEC 61499 and test its suitability/performance. The new software tool allows to export the GR-UML models in the form of ".fbt" files readable by some function blocks tools such as FBDK<sup>1</sup> and 4DIAC<sup>2</sup>. In this phase, the function block model can be deployed in a specific hardware platform for example simulating RaspberryPies, Ethernet communication, etc. Analysis can be conducted especially the modular distributed behavior and the event-driven aspects of a DCS.

### 4.2 Software Tool: ZiZo

ZiZo tool, as presented in (Salem et al., 2015b), is initially created to be a visual software environment for the modeling and verification of R-TNCES and GR-TNCES systems. Since we are using GR-TNCES for formal verification, we add new components, features and views to ZiZo in order to get a complete environment implementing the proposed methodology (the process flow depicted in Figure 1).

We have added the ability to model software according to the formal definition of GR-UML. The tool

<sup>1</sup><http://ftp.holobloc.com/fbdk2/index.htm>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.eclipse.org/4diac/>

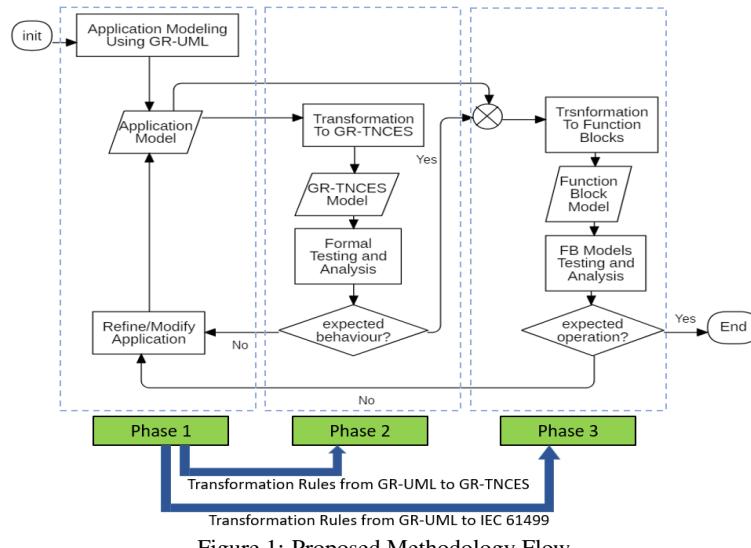


Figure 1: Proposed Methodology Flow.

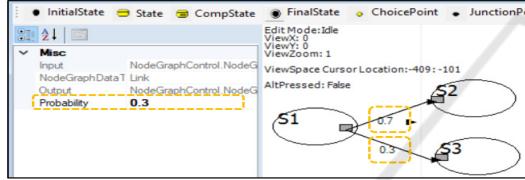


Figure 2: ZIZO probabilistic state diagram editor.

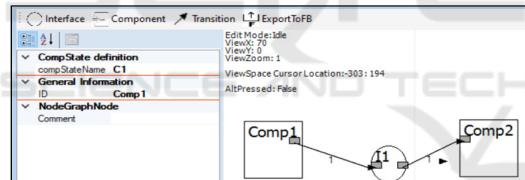


Figure 3: ZIZO component diagram editor.

supports the modeling of probabilistic guards through adding probabilities on transitions as depicted in Figure 2. It also provides the ability to model component diagrams as depicted in Figure 3.

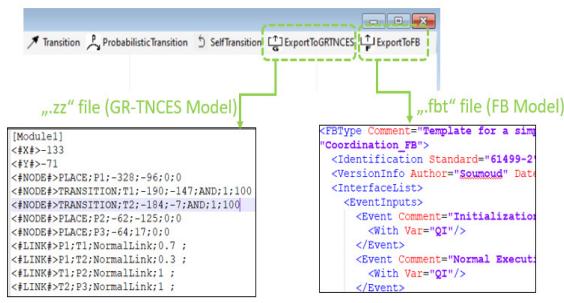


Figure 4: ZIZO Transformations: export to GR-TNCES and export to function blocks.

More importantly, the new ZIZO facilitates the

task of designers through offering the ability to automatically transform created GR-UML models to GR-TNCES by a simple click on "ExportToGRTNCES" button which hides behind it the implementation of the transformation rules defined in the previous section. A ".zz" file is created and can be loaded in the ZIZO GR-TNCES viewer. Then simulation, reachability, time constrained scenarios can be analyzed. The GR-TNCES viewer offers also the possibility to export models to PRISM<sup>3</sup> model checker in the form of ".pm" files. Hence, CSL, CTL, and PCTL formulas can be used. Likewise, a click on the button "ExportToFB" allows to generate ".fbt" file readable by some of the function block tools as depicted in Figure 4.

## 5 CASE STUDY

In order to show the efficiency of the proposed methodology and tool, we model the control application of a reconfiguration agent of a microgrid-based electricity grid as an example.

### 5.1 Case Presentation

A microgrid is a small-scale electricity grid composed of four main subsystems, as reported in (Fkaier, et al., 2020a), electricity generation subsystem (traditional and/or renewable sources), consumption subsystem, energy storage subsystem, and prosumers subsystem. Microgrids can operate in islanded mode or also in connection to the utility grid. The operation of microgrids is generally performed using a set of re-

<sup>3</sup><http://prismmodelchecker.org/>

mately controlled/operated switches that help greatly to reroute power which is substantial for reconfiguration functionalities (Fkaier. et al., 2020b).

One of the important contributions of microgrids lies in the integration of renewable energy sources (RES) such as the wind, sun, and water (see Figure 5). However, these sources are of uncertain behavior and despite the enhanced forecasting methods, generation fluctuations are still occurring. This topic is a major concern in the last years and many researchers try to find solutions to the intermittent supply. Probability theory is used by most of the existing works such as the one reported in (Hemmati et al., 2020).

In this paper, we study the case of neighbor microgrids that can supply each other in order to overcome shortages that may happen to one them. Reconfigurations must take place in order to minimize the downtime and consequently to save the system reliability. We aim to model and analyze the capability of microgrids to operate in islanded mode, especially the successful reconfigurations in cases of RES shortage. In the considered example, we assume that a Reconfiguration Agent (RA) is responsible for the reconfigurations and power rerouting among of microgrids.

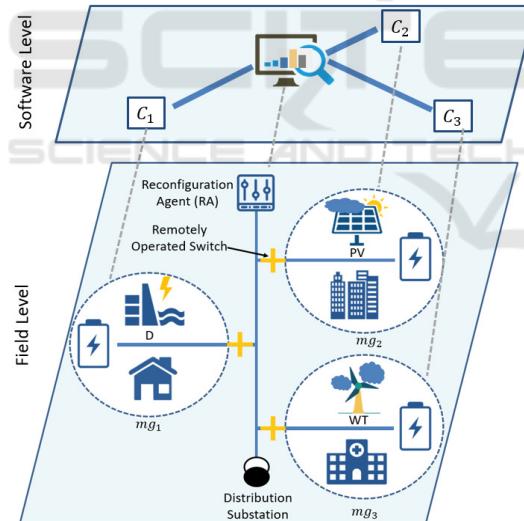


Figure 5: Microgrid-based system.

Figure 5 depicts the considered system with three microgrids  $mg_1$ ,  $mg_2$ , and  $mg_3$ , as well as the RA. Through the chosen scenario, we demonstrate how the GR-UML as well as the proposed methodology help to achieve reliable models. Due to space limitations, we content with showing the probabilistic semantics of GR-UML and we omit the resources control of applications (memory and energy usage of the used hardware). We start with modeling the reconfiguration scenarios of RA using the state diagram of

GR-UML, then we verify the models correctness by estimating the probabilities of successful reconfigurations, finally we test the deployment of the models in a function blocks hardware platform.

## 5.2 Modeling with GR-UML

As shown in Figure 5, the microgrid  $mg_1$  (*resp.*  $mg_2$ ,  $mg_3$ ) relies on water dams (D) (*resp.* photo-voltaic panels (PV), wind turbines(WT)) as RES. Let us suppose that the period of analysis is the three months of the summer season, given by  $d = 3 \times 30 \times 24 \times 3600$ , where 3 is the number of months, 30 is the number of days per month, 24 is the number of hours per day, 3600 is the number of seconds per hour. Let  $e_n$  be the amount of the needed energy by a microgrid, and  $e_r$  is the amount of the reserve energy saved by a microgrid (i.e., surplus). When an electricity shortage is occurring in one microgrid, the reconfiguration agent (RA) tries first to find the needed amount in the other two microgrids. If the amount is affordable, then a reconfiguration is applied through opening/closing the remotely operated switches  $SW_1$  (*resp.*  $SW_2$ ,  $SW_3$ ) corresponding to  $mg_1$  (*resp.*  $mg_2$ ,  $mg_3$ ). If the amount is not affordable, then a switch to the utility connected mode is applied.

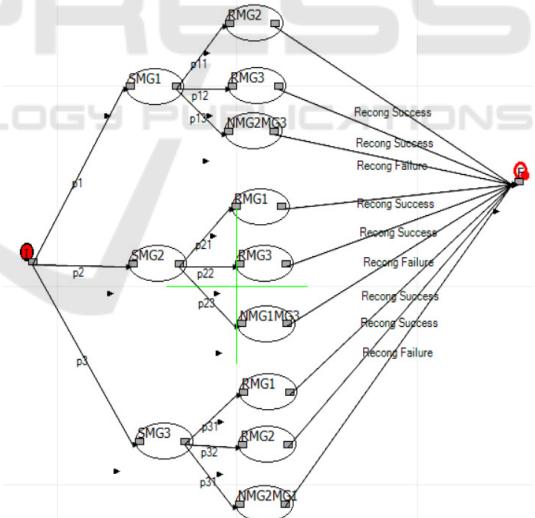


Figure 6: GR-UML: state diagram of the logic of RA.

Let us assume that the probability of electricity shortage of  $mg_1$  (*resp.*  $mg_2$ ,  $mg_3$ ) that relies on D (*resp.* PV, WT) during the summer is ten times,  $p_1 = 10/d = 1.28E-06$ , (*resp.* three times  $p_2 = 3/d = 3.85E-07$ , six times  $p_3 = 6/d = 7.71E-07$ ). The logic is modeled with a state diagram as depicted in Figure 6, where the state  $I$  is the initial state, and the states  $SMG1$ ,  $SMG2$ ,  $SMG3$  as the names indicate, represent the Shortages in  $mg_1$ ,  $mg_2$ ,  $mg_3$ .

If a shortage is happening in  $mg_1$  and  $mg_2$  has a surplus ( $e_{r_{mg2}} > e_{n_{mg1}}$ ), then we move to the state  $RMG2$  and the reconfiguration succeeds. The probability of this scenario is assumed to be  $p_{11} = 0.5$ . If a shortage is happening in  $mg_1$  and  $mg_3$  has a surplus ( $e_{r_{mg3}} > e_{n_{mg1}}$ ), then we move to the state  $RMG3$  and the reconfiguration succeeds. The probability of this scenario is assumed to be  $p_{12} = 0.3$ . If a shortage is happening in  $mg_1$  and neither  $mg_2$  nor  $mg_3$  has a surplus ( $e_{r_{mg2}} < e_{n_{mg1}}$  and  $e_{r_{mg3}} < e_{n_{mg1}}$ ), then we move to the state  $NMG2MG3$  and the reconfiguration fails. The probability of this scenario is assumed to be  $p_{13} = 0.2$ . The same logic is used for the shortages of  $mg_2$  and  $mg_3$ , with  $p_{21} = 0.3, p_{22} = 0.4, p_{23} = 0.3, p_{31} = 0.3, p_{32} = 0.5, p_{33} = 0.2$ .

### 5.3 Formal Verification

After having modeled the logic in the first phase, formal analysis can be conducted in the phase and whenever results shows non-desirable outputs, modifications and refinement of the model can be conducted.

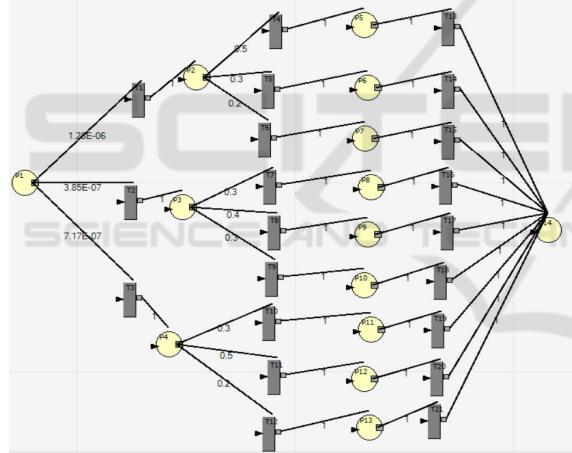


Figure 7: Generated GR-TNCEs model.

Using the ZiZo tool, and thanks to the defined transformation rules, we transform the GR-UML states model to GR-TNCEs model and the output is provided in Figure 7. To illustrate how the transformation rules are used, let us consider the following: in the GR-UML state diagram shown in Figure 6, the initial state has three outgoing transitions to  $SMG1$  (resp. to  $SMG2, SMG3$ ) with a probability  $p_1$  (resp.  $p_2, p_3$ ) as guard condition. The application of Rule 1 results in four places and three transitions where  $P1$  (resp.  $P2, P3, P4$ ) represents the initial state (resp.  $SMG1, SMG2, SMG3$ ). The behaviour can move from  $P1$  to (resp.  $P2, P3, P4$ ) if the probability is equal to  $p_1$  (resp.  $p_2, p_3$ ).

We visualize and analyze the nets, we also simu-

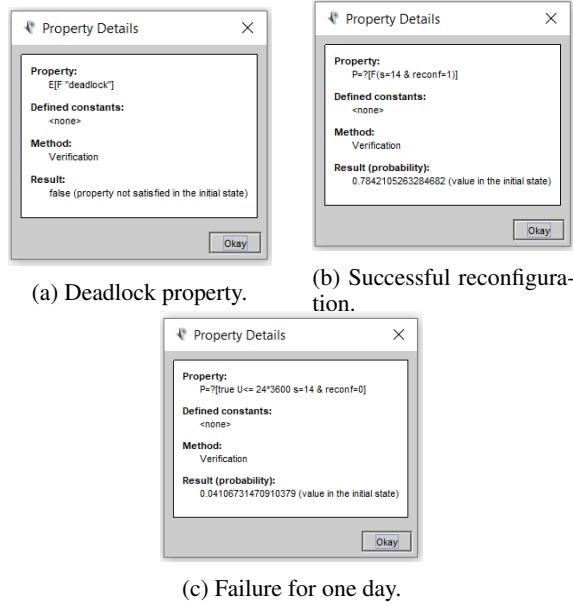


Figure 8: CTL and PCTL properties verification with PRISM.

late it according to the highest and lowest probabilities. Then, we export the model to PRISM model checker and verify the following properties as a part of the analysis: first we verify that the prism model does not contain any deadlock using this formula  $E[F“deadlock”]$ , the result returns false as depicted in Figure 8a.

Then we verify the probability of successful reconfiguration using this formula  $P = ?[F(s = 14 \& reconf = 1)]$ , where  $s = 14$  presents the final state, and  $reconf$  presents the reconfiguration result (0 failed, and 1 successful). The result returns 0.784 as mentioned in Figure 8b. Afterwards, we verify the probability of failure during one day using the formula  $P = ?[true U <= 24 * 3600(s = 14 \& reconf = 0)]$ . The result returns 0.04 as mentioned in Figure 8c. The system designers have to consider the obtained results and decide whether the values are acceptable or not. Depending on the sensitivity of the considered system consumers (household, industrial park, health complexes) a maximal error rate need to be defined to avoid problems.

### 5.4 Analysis According to IEC 61499

After having modeled the logic using GR-UML and after having verified its correctness with formal verification (ZiZo and PRISM), it is possible now to test the model in hardware environment. We used the new ZiZo specifically the component diagram viewer (see Figure 9) to generate the “.fbt” file of the example, then we use 4DIAC to analyze its deploy-

ment. In Figure 9, the component *ShortageMG1* (*resp.* *ShortageMG2*, *ShortageMG3*) has the role of detecting the shortages of  $mg_1$  (*resp.*  $mg_2$ ,  $mg_3$ ). The components having the form of name  $MG_iNeedsMG_jSupply$ , have to compare and decide whether a microgrid  $mg_i$  can be supplied with a microgrid  $mg_j$ . The final decisions (opening, closing of switches) are made by the component *RA*. The interfaces are called  $I_i$  with  $i = 1, \dots, 6$ . An ongoing link to  $I_i$  from a component  $C_j$  means that the latter realizes the interface. An outgoing link from  $I_i$  to a component  $C_j$  means that the latter requires the interface.

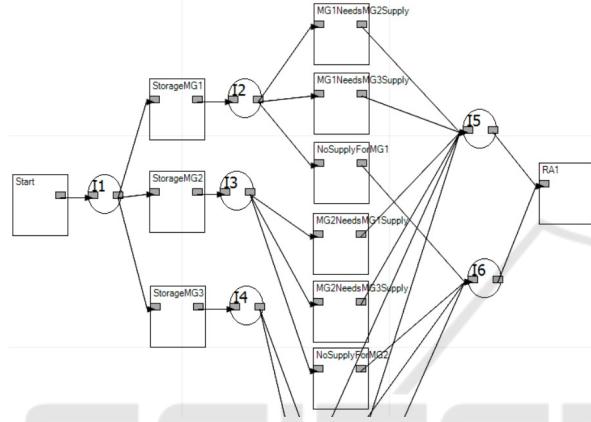


Figure 9: GR-UML:part of the created component diagram.

Figure 10 shows a part of the resulted function block model in 4DIAC environment. Thanks to Rule 6, the component *Start* is mapped to a composite function block having the same name, the rest of the components likewise.

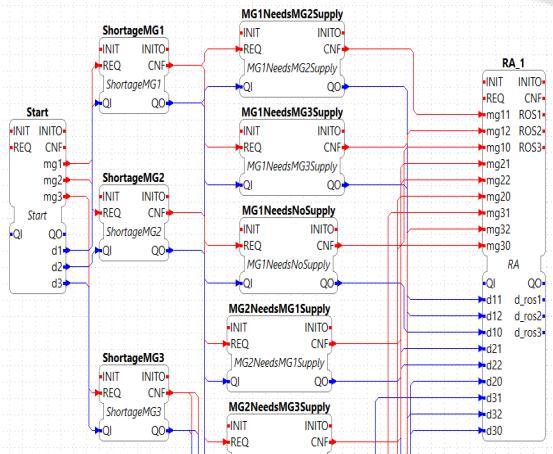


Figure 10: Part of the generated function blocks model.

## 5.5 Comparison to Other Works

In comparison to the existing works, our methodology is more efficient since: (i) it covers more scopes, and (ii) its concepts are implemented in a software tool. To the best of our knowledge, all existing methodologies are always missing a scope of applications modelling: (1) There are methods that consider the function blocks and formal verification but abstract UML are missing, so these approaches are very tied to the control and automation level, (2) there are methods that consider the UML and formal verification, but function blocks are missing so the advantages of IEC 61499 (such as the executable models) are not used, (3) there are methods that consider the UML and function blocks but here the guarantees about models correctness are missing. In this paper, a solution that takes advantages from all the mentioned modeling scopes is provided. Further, the move from the first phase to the second and third phases are automated thanks to the new ZiZo version.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

This paper proposed a modelling methodology for reconfigurable distributed control systems. Dealing with reconfigurations in distributed systems is a complicated task to perform since many constraints should be taken into account. The proposed methodology is introduced to facilitate and improve the modelling stage.

We first introduced a new UML profile, called GR-UML, for the modelling of probabilistic systems running under memory and energy constraints. Thereafter, we defined two sets of transformation rules responsible for the mapping from GR-UML to the Petri nets formalism GR-TNCES and the mapping from GR-UML to IEC 61499 function blocks. The proposed contributions are implemented in software tool called ZiZo that allows to edit the new UML profile and to transform it to GR-TNCES and to function blocks.

Based on these contributions, we built the proposed methodology which consists of three phases: (1) modelling applications using GR-UML, (2) formal verification of GR-TNCES models obtained from a transformation of the GR-UML models of the first phase, and (3) deployment analysis of the function blocks models obtained from a transformation of the GR-UML models of the first phase. In this way we ensure applications clarity from software as well as control designers/engineers. In future work, we aim to extend the software tool to enable more output files

formats readable by other IEC 61499 tools. We plan also to use the methodology in other DCS applications such as the airports baggage handling systems.

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