Design A Method for Detecting the Inconsistent Loops in the Specification of Multimedia Hyper-Presentation Using Petri-Net

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Abstract. This paper introduces the method of describing the hyper-presentation using Petri-Net and proposes the method of detecting inconsistent hyper-link loop in the hyper-presentation description. The concept of a hyper-presentation, as an extension of a hypermedia, is the presentation in which time-varying multimedia presentations are dynamically linked together and a hyperlink's context can be changed over time at any time during a continuous presentation. For the purpose of detecting such inconsistent hyper-linked loop, we propose Multi Dimensional Timed Petri-Net Model for specification of a multimedia hyper-Presentation. Then, based on the model, two methods, one for detecting the inconsistent loop and the other for finding the critical path for the actual presentation of the hyper-Presentation specification are described.

Keywords: Petri-Net; Hyperlinks; Hyperlink loop; Multimedia

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1 Introduction

Multimedia system has been focused on the method of synchronization mainly centered on the sequential presentation of media streams up to now.

The method of describing the timed synchronization for multimedia presentation includes Time Axes-based Specification that specifies media presentation time at global-time, and Interval-based Specification that specifies temporal priority by describing relationships between media to present[2,5,6,8,12]. In addition to such existing method of synchronized presentation, this paper proposes a new synchronized specification for hyper-presentation.

The concept of a hyper-presentation is an extension of a hypermedia concept to existing multimedia presentation. That is, it is not a sequential multimedia presentation, but it enables time-varying multimedia presentation to see the next information required at a specific point by setting hyperlink.

While synchronized method in hyper-presentation enables flexible presentation, inconsistency problems can be introduced in between several presentations connected by such synchronized method. This paper proposes, as a solution of this problem, the algorithm for verification of consistency after modeling hyper-presentation specification program with Petri-Net and also proposes the algorithm to judge Critical Path affecting the presentation QoS(Quality of Service) of hyper-presentation.

2 Hyper-presentation Model

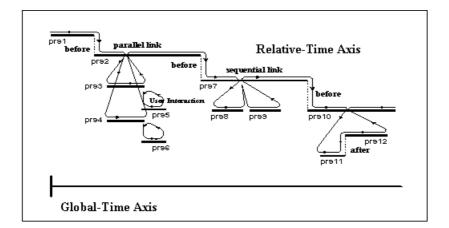
2.1 Example of Hyper-presentation News Casting Scenario

Here's a news casting exercise for an example of hyper-presentation as shown in the Figure 2. The presentation clips, prs1, prs2, prs7, and prs10 are configuration of the news casting and these

become the main streams. And the presentations containing the report on the event or weather forecast during the news are connected in sequence.

- prs1 : Starting comment of a anchorman
- prs2 : Explanation on speech field for an election of an assembly member and closing comment after prs3, 4, 5, and 6 end.
- prs3 : Speech Scene of Candidate A
- prs4 : Detailed explanation on Candidate A
- prs5 : Speech Scene of Candidate B
- prs6 : Detailed explanation on Candidate B
- prs7 : Report on the next event and closing comment after prs8 and 9 end
- prs8 : Explanation on the event by reporter
- prs9 : Circumstance screen of the event
- prs10 : Weather forecast for tomorrow and news closing comment after prs11 and 12
- prs11 : Regional Weather forecast
- prs12 : Weekly weather forecast

The following Figure 1 shows a specification hyper-presentation using the above presentation clips.



"Figure 1" News Casting Example

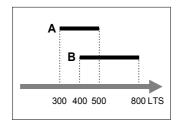
2.2 Synchronized specification Method for hyper-presentation

Here the mechanisms for describing hyper-presentation are introduced.

2.2.1 Global LTS (Logical Time System)

Logical Time System (LTS), as a timing method for synchronization of streams, can determine the unit time by adjusting internal tick interval.

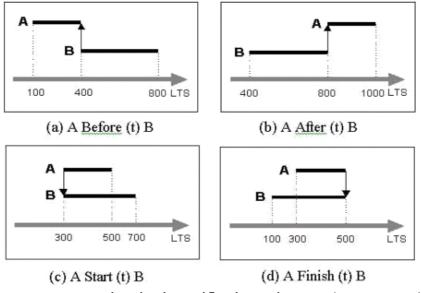
The Figure 2 is a hyper-presentation whose start time and end time are set on LTS time axes. Presentation A starts at LTS 300 and ends at 500. Also presentation B starts at LTS 400 and ends at 800. Seeing from the point between LTS 400 and 500, both presentation A and B are performed simultaneously, but they have an independent relation respectively.



"Figure 2" Time Axes-based Specification

2.2.2 Cue

The existing Interval-based Specification [7,12] matched synchronization by defining temporal relationships between media with Before, After, Starts, Finishes, Overlaps, During, Meets, Equals, Before⁻¹, After⁻¹, Starts⁻¹, Finishes⁻¹, Overlaps⁻¹, During⁻¹, and Meets⁻¹. Difference of CUE from LST is that cue is set by specifying temporal relationships of the presentation A and B as shown in the Figure 3 below.



"Figure 3" Synchronized Specification Using Cue (Except, t = 0)

2.2.3 Hyper-Link

When applying extension of hypermedia concept to the existing sequential multimedia presentation, the presentation currently being performed should temporarily suspend, perform the other presentation and then resume the original presentation. Hyper-link is defined with three elements as described below.

As a method to set location of hyper-link on the optional presentation, it provides temporal location "At" and "During" as LTS value.

(2) Condition

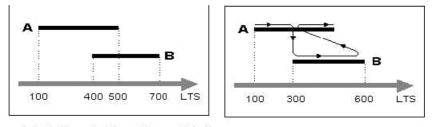
As a condition given to location and action of hyper-link, it includes "Active", "Inactive", and "User_Selection".

(3) Action

It means the action that hyper-link should perform and it includes "Play" of presentation or "Execute" of external program, etc.

(Figure 4) shows the presentation A having a hyper-link at which the presentation B should be performed. The presentation time can calculate as shown below.

- EndTime(A) = StartTime(A) + Duration(A) + Duration(B) = 800
- EndTime(B) = StartTime(B) + Duration(B) = 600



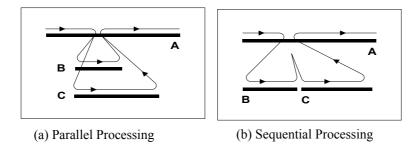
(a) Before Setting Hyper-Link (b) After Setting Hyper-Link "Figure 4" Synchronized Specification Using Hyper-Link

2.3 Overlapped Hyper-link

If more than one presentation clips, say B and C, are overlapped at the same location of a presentation, they can be defined into two ways as follow.

(a) As shown in the Figure 5, both presentation B and C are performed at the point of hyperlink simultaneously. At this time, two conditions exist in order to perform presentation A continuously after completing performance of presentation B and C. First one is to perform A continuously after the presentation C that takes longer time for performance ends. Second one is to perform presentation A right after the presentation B that takes less time for performance ends. These two assumptions may be possible.

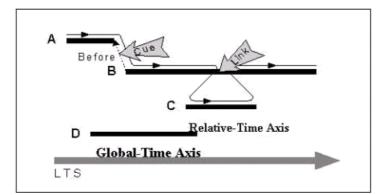
(b) As shown in the Figure 5, presentation B and C are performed in sequence. Accordingly, performance sequence of presentation B and C becomes an important condition.



"Figure 5' Overlapped Hyper-Link

2.4 Synchronization between Presentations

Hyper-presentation can specify synchronization between presentations with LTS, cue and hyper-link and they form Relative-Time axes.

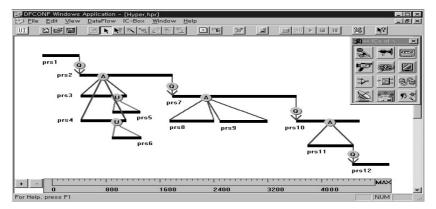


"Figure 6" Synchronization Time Axes of Hyper-Presentation

In a Figure 6, presentation A is set as "Before" cue to presentation B and it is bound to its relationship. Also presentation C is connected to presentation B by hyper-link. Therefore, that presentation performed on the basis of wide area time axes are only B and D.

2.5 Problems

The Figure 7 shows hyper-presentation that prepared news casting scenario by using VIP (Visual Interface Player).



"Figure 7" News Casting Scenario Prepared by VIP

Though the presentations are prepared to be synchronized presentation according to the settings of scenario, it may not be presented as the user has intended when occasion demands. When preparing hyper-presentation specification program, it often becomes impossible to actually present. Such problem is caused from consistency error of the specification program, that is, though the user specified synchronization of the presentations, the cycle that was not intended by the presentations occurs and the presentations may be infinitely repeated or not performed at all. Therefore, finding and solving such cycles prior to presentation is to maintain consistency of the hyper-presentation.

2.6 Related Study

2.6.1 Petri-Net Model

2.6.1.1 Definition of Petri-Net

Petri-Net was introduced for the first time in a thesis for a doctorate prepared by Dr. C. A. Petri in the University of Born in Germany in 1962 and it is a graphic and mathematical modeling tool designed to study the features of concurrent or parallel processes on a system. Petri-Net model is defined by tuple such as P, T, F, and B, and each attribute is as follows in [3,4].

- P is a finite set of places.
- $P = \{p_1, p_2, p_3, ..., p_m\}, P \neq \phi$
- T is a finite set of transitions.
- $T = \{t_1, t_2, t_3, \dots, t_m\}, T \neq \phi, P \cap T \neq \phi$
- F is forward incidence function.
- B is backward incidence function.
- μ_0 , as initial marking, indicates initial state.

2.6.1.2 Petri-Net Graph

Petri-Net was developed as a modeling tool describing the concurrent or parallel processes on a system. Process may suppose to be configured of condition, events, and rule that describes relationship between them. These condition and events are described with place (mark with circle) and transition (mark with segment or box) in Petri-Net graph respectively.

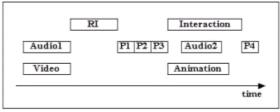
2.6.2 Synchronized Specification using Petri-Net

2.6.2.1 Temporal Relationships Model

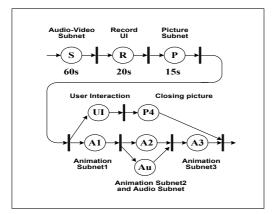
Allen[7] defined it with seven(7) relationships describing time interval between two object in his study and the next is a figure described temporal relationship in such Interval-based Specification with Petri-Net [5,6,9,12].

2.6.2.2 UI Description using Petri-Net

The (Figure 8) below is an example of synchronization described Time Axes-based media data and User Interaction, and (Figure 9) is an example of modeling this with Petri-Net [2,8,12].



"Figure 8" Example of Synchronization



"Figure 9" Synchronized Specification using Petri-Net

3 Modeling of Hyper-presentation Specification Program using Petri-Net

3.1 Definition of Multidimensional Timed Petri-Net (MTPN) Model

Multi-dimensional TPN is defined by extending the existing Timed Petri-Net for modeling of multi-dimensional hyper-presentation as follows:

[Definition 1] Multi-dimensional Timed Petri-Net

MTPN C = (P, T, F, B, μ_0 , t, ϵ)

- $\mathbf{P} = \{\mathbf{p}_1, \, \mathbf{p}_2, \, \mathbf{p}_3, \, \dots, \, \mathbf{p}_m \}, \, \mathbf{P} \neq \phi$
- $\bullet \ T \ = \{t_1, \, t_2, \, t_3, \, ..., \, t_m \ \}, \ T \ \neq \phi, \ P \cap T = \phi$
- $F : P \ge T \rightarrow N(Except, N \text{ is an integral set except negative number})$
- B : P x T \rightarrow N
- $\bullet\; \mu_0 \,\colon\, P \;\to\; N$
- $\tau \rightarrow N$
- $\bullet \, \epsilon \, \colon P \, \to \, N$

Petri-Net model consists of a 7-tuple such as a finite set P of place, a finite set T of transition, backward incidence function B, forward incidence function F, initial marking μ_0 , time function τ , state function ε .

In marking μ in which Transition tj T are given, if it is μ (pi) \geq F(pi, tj) for all pi P, tj is described as ignitable transition for marking μ . Also the set E(μ) of all ignitable transitions for the optional marking μ is called ignitable set for marking μ . At this time, tj

 $E(\mu)$ pi P, μ (pi) $\geq F(pi, tj)$ is formed. If current marking is μ and transition tj T are ignitable transitions, next marking μ ' is defined as follows. At this time, marking μ ' is called to be attainable from marking μ .

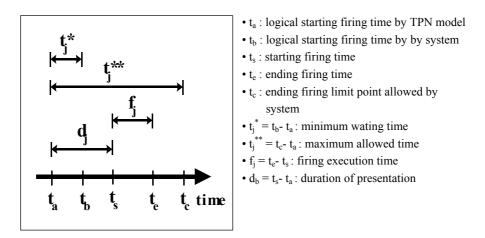
 $(\forall p_i \in P) \mu'(p_i) = \mu(p_i) - B(p_i, t_j) + F(p_i, t_j)$

3.1.1 Time Function of MTPN Model

Time function τ describes time condition given to each transition. Next is the definition of time condition in the existing Timed Petri-Net.

Carlier[13] proposed firing executing time as a time condition of Timed Petri-Net and it indicates the time from starting firing time to ending firing time. Removal of token from input place due to firing of t_i occurs in starting firing time (t_s) and addition of token to output place occurs ending firing time ($t_s + f_i$) [10,11,13].

This paper defined actual waiting time of transition as a time condition of MTPN model and (Figure 10) shows application of duration of presentation to this.



 \forall (p_i, t_j) \in (P×T), τ (t_j) = Duration(p_i) = d_j

"Figure 10". Time Condition in Timed Petri-Net Model

3.1.2 State Function of MTPN Model

Event has a time domain different from description of a presentation and it is impossible to presuppose occurrence of an event. Therefore, this paper defines state function ε for modeling multi-dimensional hyper-presentation as follows. At this time, Ro is a positive real number set including 0 and ∞ .

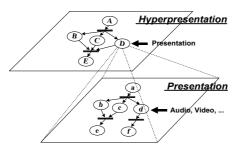
 $\epsilon \left(p_{i} \right) = e \qquad \qquad (p_{i} \ \in \ P, e \ \in \ R_{0}, 0 \leq e \leq \ \tau \left(t_{j} \right))$

Here, e, as the time that an event occurred, can occur in the entire section of description of a presentation. Therefore, state function ε indicate the time to resume the original presentation after completing a performance by event.

3.2 Modeling of Synchronized Specification Program using MTPN

When taking a presentation for an object and specifying synchronization between the objects, description of a hyper-presentation is available without any affect from media stream configuring the presentation or synchronization between them. If a presentation is

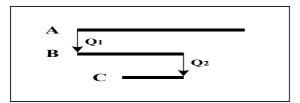
described with a place, the place containing a token can consider as a currently performing presentation. Therefore, firing from input place to output place means performance of next presentation following right after the completion of currently performing presentation. Thus, description of a hyper-presentation is possible as shown in the (Figure 11).



"Figure 11" Modeling of Hyper-Presentation Using MTPN

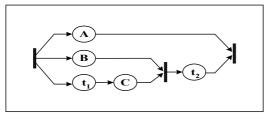
3.2.1 Modeling Cue

Cue describes synchronization by specifying temporal relationships between two presentations. Next (Figure 12) shows a configuration of a hyper-presentation by specifying temporal priority of the presentations connected with cue.



"Figure 12" Synchronization between Presentations Connected with Cue

Next (Figure 13) shows a modeling of a synchronized specification with MTPN as (Figure 12), and <Table 1> is the formula to calculate starting time of sub-presentation that is synchronized by relationship of cue.



"Figure 13" Time Relationship Model of Cue Using MTPN

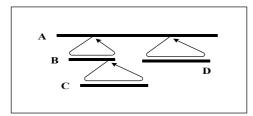
<Table 1> Calculation Formula of Starting Time of Sub-presentation according to Relationships of Cue

Attribute of Cue	Starting Time of Sub-Presentation
A Start (t) B	StartTime(B) = StartTime(A) + t
A Finish (t) B	StartTime(B) = EndTime(A) - Duration(B) - t
A Before (t) B	StartTime(A) = StartTime(B) - Duration(A) - t
A After (t) B	StartTime(A) = EndTime(B) + t

3.2.2 State Function of MTPN Model

A hyper-presentation provides multi-dimensional multimedia description method. The method to set event point on a presentation;

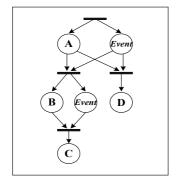
- If time value by LTS is set to event point
- If hot-spot on consecutive media is set to event point



"Figure 14" Synchronization between Presentations Connected with Hyper-Link

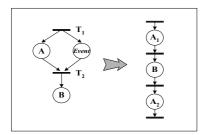
This paper proposes modeling method of such hyper-link concept using MTPN. (Figure 14) shows synchronization between presentations connected with hyper-Link.

(Figure 15) shows a modeling of hyper-presentation in (Figure 14) with MTPN. The place called "Event" was added for this modeling in order to describe Hyper-Link.



"Figure 15" Modeling of Hyper-link using MTPN

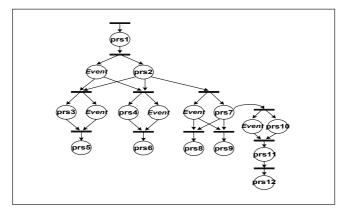
Event point is available of static setting by LTS and also dynamic setting by hot spot. An event (UI) by the user is also a dynamic setting during description. Such events occur with different time domain from description of presentation and temporal presupposition is difficult. Also if an event occurs, presentation A should temporarily suspend at this time and resume description of A again after performing presentation B. Thus a dynamic model executed in run-time is required. (Figure 16) shows, as a dynamic model described this, a dynamic execution model from "Static Description Model" into "Dynamic Execution Model".



"Figure 16" Dynamic Execution Model

3.2.3 Modeling of a New Casting Scenario

The Figure 17 shows a modeling of a news-casting example in (Figure 7).



"Figure 17" Modeling of a News Casting Scenario

4 Verification of Consistency in Hyper-presentation Specification Program

4.1 Inconsistency Problem in Synchronized Specification Program

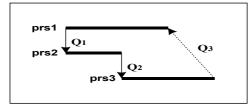
Though the user specified synchronization of the hyper-presentations, the cycle that was not intended by the presentations occur and the presentations may be infinitely repeated or not performed at all. Therefore, finding and solving such cycles prior to presentation is to maintain consistency of the hyper-presentation. This paper proposes, as a solution of this problem modeling hyper-presentation specification program with MTPN for advance judgment on describability of given hyper-presentation and also proposes the algorithm to find Critical Path in the hyper-presentation that specified QoS requirements because

sometimes synchronization of hyper-presentation may not be properly made or QoS of multimedia presentation is deteriorated due to the feature of multimedia presentation and network problem.

4.2 Inconsistency Problem in Synchronized Specification Program

4.2.1 Modeling of Synchronized Specification Program using MTPN

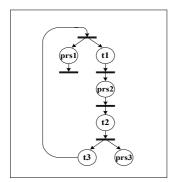
When specifying synchronization between presentations with Cue or Hyper-link, inconsistency problem that cycle occurs is the same in the model that described this (synchronization) with MTPN. Therefore, consistency in specification program can verify by detecting the cycle in MTPN Model. Next (Figure 18) shows occurrence of cycle in connection of cue.



[&]quot;Figure 18" Cycle in Connection

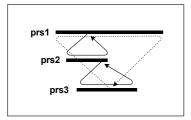
Viewing from the figure above, the cycle occurs when prs1 and prs3 are connected with cue (Q3). Starting time and ending time of prs1 varies according to relationship (Finish) of cue. Seeing from Q1connection again, the starting time and ending time of prs2 is changed because the starting time of the standard presentation prs1 was changed. Similarly, seeing from Q2 connection, starting time and ending time of prs3 are also changed because the starting time of standard presentation prs2 was changed. Accordingly, the result that time value of prs1 by Q3 is continuously repeated.

Next (Figure 19) shows a model of hyper-presentation in (Figure 18) with MTPN and it is easy to know that the cycle occurs between the presentations due to connection of cue.



"Figure 19" Modeling of Cue using MTPN

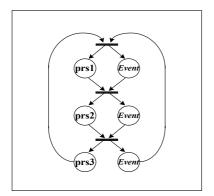
The Figure 20 shows occurrence of cycle between presentations due to hyper-link set to presentation.



"Figure 20" Cycle in Hyper-Link Connection

Viewing from (Figure 20), the cycle occurs when a dynamic performance of prs1 was intended by setting hyper-link to prs3.

(Figure 19) that is a modeling with MTPN shows occurrence of cycle between the presentations and (Figure 21) also shows that the cycle occurs when the modeling was described with MTPN. Therefore finding the part that cycle occurs in advance is to prevent occurrence of serious problem to a system.



"Figure 21" Hyper-Link Modeling Using MTPN

4.2.2 Algorithm to detect cycle on MTPN Model

In definition of MTPN C=(P,T,B,F, μ_0 , τ , ε), the set of place P is described as follows.

$$P = \{p_1, p_2, p_3, \dots, p_m\}$$

Also when describing place and transition with node s respectively, the set of following nodes (successor) can define as follows:

$$s^{o} = \{v \in P \cup T, (s,v) \in (P \times T) \cup (T \times P)\}$$

If s is place, so is the output transition set of s, and on the contrary, if s is transition, so is the set of output places. Therefore, so is described as follows:

$$S^{o} = \{ \ \ (s,1), \ \ \ (s,2), \dots, \ \ \ \ (s,|s^{o}|) \}$$
$$P_{i-1} = \{ p_{1}, p_{2}, p_{3}, \dots, p_{i-1} \}$$

Here, $\[Gamma]$ (s,i) is the i-th following nodes(successor) of s. On the basis of such description, this paper proposes the algorithm to detect cycle on a MTPN Model.

1. [Initialize the set of circuits] $C = \phi$.

2. [For i = 1 to n, compute the set of circuits that contain place p_i but do not contain any place belonging $P_{i-1} = \{p_1, p_2, p_3, ..., p_{i-1}\}$.

For this purpose, consider the set of elementary paths starting from p_i . Let w_j be the j-th node of γ .

i.e. $\gamma = \{w_1, w_2, \dots, w_{|t|}\}$ and let w_j+1 be the k[j]-th successor of node w_j , i.e. $w_{j+1} = \Gamma (w_j, k[j])$.]

2.1 Initialize : $\gamma = \{p_i\}, k[1] = 0$

2.2 while $\gamma \neq \phi$, do 2.2.1 k[| γ |] = k[| γ |] + 1

i.e. $\alpha = \bigcap (w_{|r|}, k[j])$. We distinguish the five following cases :]

Case 1 : $\mathbf{k}[|\gamma|] > |\mathbf{w}^0_{|\gamma|}||$

[all successors of $w_{|r|}$ have been examined.

Then remove $w_{|r|}$.]

 $\gamma = \gamma - \{ \mathbf{w}_{|\gamma|} \}$

Case 2 : $\alpha \in p_{i-1}$

 $[\alpha \text{ is one of places } p_1, p_2, p_3, \dots, p_{i-1}. \text{ Then} \\ \text{proceed to the next successor of } w_{|r|}.]$

Case 3 : $\alpha \in \gamma$ and $\alpha \neq p_i$

[α is already exists in path γ and it is not the origin of γ . Then proceed to the next successor of $w_{|r|}$.

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Case 4 : \alpha = p_i
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[γ is a new circuit, add $\gamma \cup \{\alpha\}$ to C, and proceed to the next successor of $w_{|r|}$.]

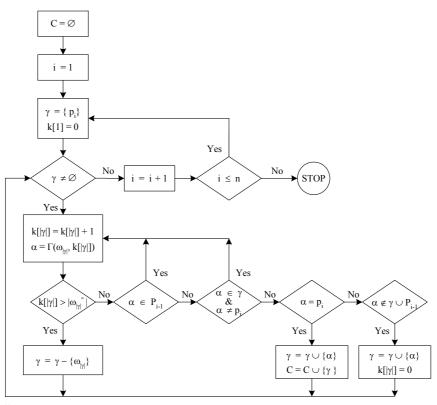
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C = C \cup \{ \gamma \}
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Case 5 : $\alpha \not \in \gamma \cup p_{i-1}$

 $[\alpha \text{ is a new node.}]$

 $\gamma = \gamma \cup \{\alpha\}, k[|\gamma|] = 0$

(Figure 22) shows description of the cycle detecting algorithm in a flow chart.



"Figure 22" Cycle Detecting Algorithm in a Flow chart

To detect cycle on a MTPN Model, allocate the set of place P that is executed first to time function τ between the presentations and every time when the time function τ moves one by one, put this value to w_j the set element of time function (that is, the result value α acquired from comparison of (j and k[j]. And the cycle detecting algorithm proposed above can detect cycle by applying Γ (DELTA), that is, with 5 cases as shown in the formula (j+1 = Γ ((j, k[j]). Also it can detect the other cycle by increasing time function one by one after detecting the cycle.

And the condition to detect cycle is $C=\phi$.

4.3 Critical Path in Hyper-presentation

Mostly duration limit for given network transmission cannot know and that the most realistic time is set to representative value for the duration by using statistic method and then transmission schedule for all packets are prepared on the basis of this. Therefore, it is required to judge Critical Path in order to guarantee the quality of multimedia presentation.

4.3.1 Critical Path Judgment Algorithm

This paper intends to take the QoS requirements of the user on the place, that is, presentation in a hyper-presentation specification program using Petri-Net from the user and then judge critical path in hyper-presentation on the basis of this. The followings are definitions of critical path judgment algorithm and the terms used for this.

- S : start place
- E : end place
- •QoS(p) : QoS of place p
- PP(p) : previous place set of p

- N(p) : number of element of PP(p)
- A(p) : max{A(PARENT(p)) + QoS(p)}
- [This step initializes a variable N(p) to id p for every place p ≠ S. The variable N(p) will be used to count the number of places adjacent to p that have not yet been labeled.] For every place p ≠ S, let N(p) = the number of PP(p).
- 2. [A queue Q is initialized] $Q = \phi$.
- 3. [This step labels S and updates N(p) for all places p adjacent from S. Further, those places p for which N(p) = 0 are added to Q, which consists of places that are ready to be labeled.]

 $\begin{array}{l} 3.1 \ A(S) = 0.\\ 3.2 \ For every place p \ such \ that \ S \ \in \ PP(p),\\ let \ N(p) = N(p) \ - \ 1, \ PARENT(p) = S \ and \ add \ p \ to \ Q. \end{array}$

4. [This step deletes a place q from Q, labels q, determines PARENT(q), updates N(p) for all places p adjacent from q, and adds to Q those places p for which N(p) = 0.]

let N(p) = N(p) - 1. If N(p) = 0, then add p to Q.

- 5. [This step determines whether T has been labeled.] If T has been labeled, then continue ; Otherwise, return to Step 4.
- 6. [This step finds a critical path in PN.] 6.1 CP : $T = p_0$. 6.2 k = 0. 6.3 [Suppose that CP : p_k , p_{k-1} , •••• p_1 , p_0 has been determined, where $P_i = PARENT(p_i-1)$ for $1 \le I \le K$.

Then this step determines whether CP is already a critical path. If we have not yet found a critical path, then this step extends P.]

If $p_k = S$, then output CP and A(T), and stop. Otherwise, let $p_k+1 = PARENT(p_k)$ and CP $: p_k, p_{k-1}, \dots, p_1, p_0$. 6.4 k = k+1 and return to Step 6.3.

Critical Path means the link with the high possibility to cause bottleneck due to the most serious consumption of resources. Generally the packets transmitted with the longer duration than the set duration value cannot be presentation at the required time and so they are processed as loss packet. The more the loss packet, the quality of presentation deteriorates. Therefore, it is very important to prepare transmission schedule to minimize loss packet as many as possible.

Critical Path algorithm shown above grants id to the p's of previous places in the set of place p first, give label to executing place (S) and then change the p value of previous place around there. If the changed p value of previous place is the element of S, it decreases one by one to process all the values contained in Queue and decide paths and then fine critical path among these paths.

5 Conclusion

This paper intended to make advance judgment on the describability of given hyperpresentation by modeling hyper-presentation specification program with Petri-Net and Journal of Digital Information Management Vol. 1 No. 1 March 2003 36 defined MTPN in order to judge the possibility to describe hyper-presentation and performed modeling of synchronized specification program using this model. Also it proposed the algorithm to detect cycle on a MTPN model of hyper-presentation that can verify consistency in synchronized specification program. In addition, it proposed the algorithm to judge Critical Path on a MTPN model in order to judge the possibility to describe hyper-presentation that considered QoS requirements of user and the capacity of actual resources.

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