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Distribution Middleware Technologies for Cyber Physical Systems

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Distribution Middleware Technologies for Cyber Physical Systems

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Cyber Physical Systems (CPS)

CPS integrate computation and physical processes

The term CPS was coined around 2006 by researchers of different disciplines:

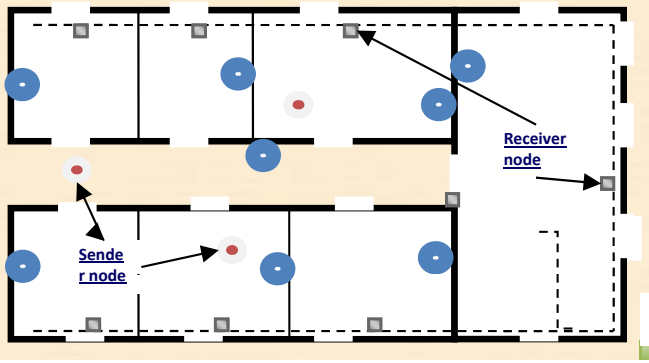
- Real-time systems
- Hybrid systems
- Control systems

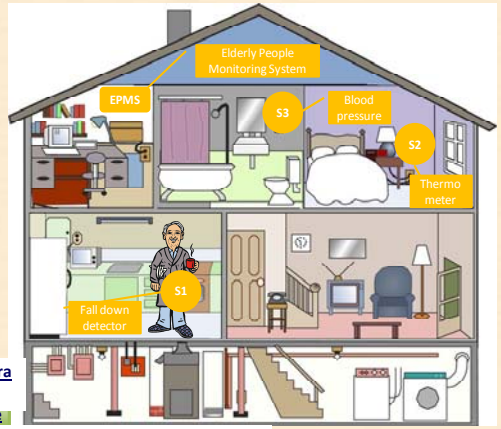
Internet of things vs. CPS => Two different communities

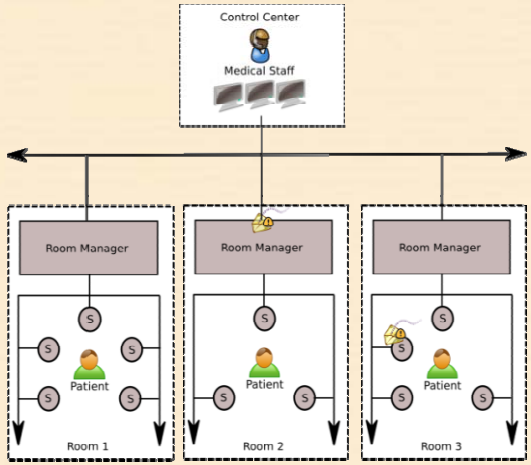
CPS are increasingly used in several domains:

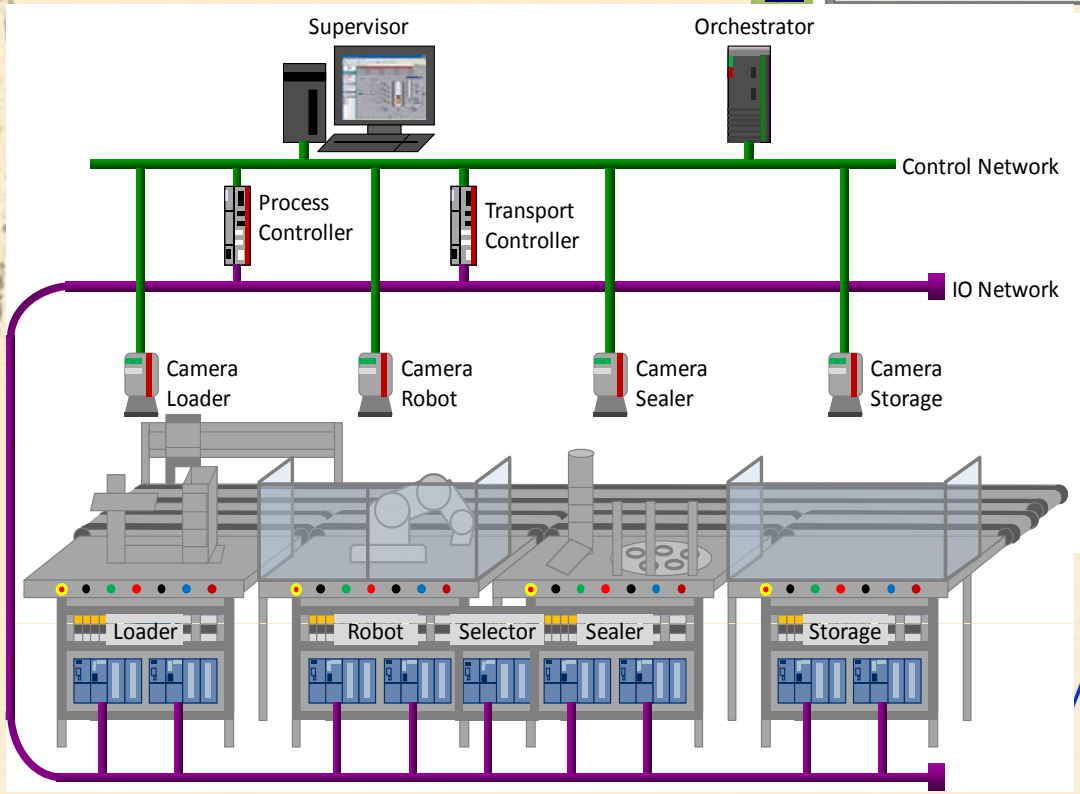
- Healthcare
- Transportation
- Process control
- Manufacturing
- Electric power grids

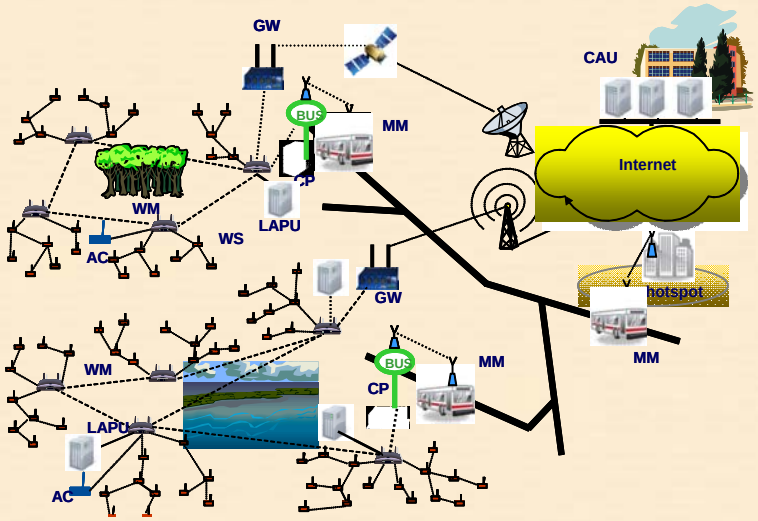
Application domains



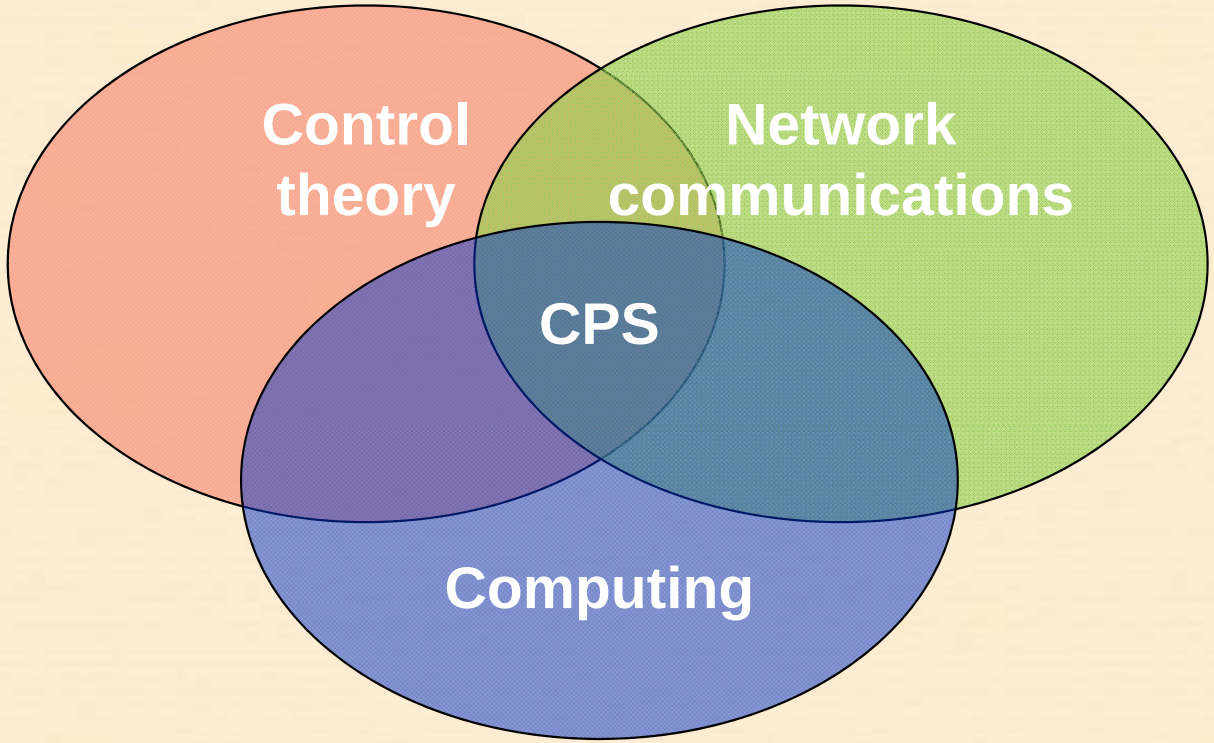








Cyber Physical Systems (CPS)



Technology implications

CPS benefit from advances in several research domains:

- Networked control systems
- Hybrid systems
- Real-time computing and networking
- Wireless technologies
- Smart sensors and actuators
- Security
- Model driven development
- Evolution in computing platforms:

  Low cost / Small size / High performance
- High bandwidth networks
- Improvements in energy capacity and management

Difficulties of building CPS

Building CPS is not a trivial task:

- Integration of different technologies
- Different points of view must be considered:
  - Computing (concurrency and real-time issues), Control theory, Network communications
- Heterogeneous embedded hardware and software platforms
- Fault-tolerance: Dependable and safe systems
- Flexibility and adaptability to changes
- Scalability to build large systems
- Maintenance: CPS are created to work for long periods of time (e.g. several years)

- **Of course: Building new systems on schedule and keeping low costs!**

Communication issues

- Radical approaches:

  Design of new specific technologies and protocols from scratch for CPS

- Pragmatic approach:

  Use in short to medium term of worldwide accepted standards even though they provide lower performance:

  - Internet Protocols (IP)
  - IEEE802.11 (Wifi)

  Use of patches to improve their performance

Use of middleware technologies

- Ease the construction of new applications
- Hide low level implementation details
- Generic middleware technologies (J2EE, .NET, CORBA, DDS, or Web Services) drawbacks:
  - Tend to be excessive and introduce performance overhead
  - Do not match some specific requirements of CPS

- **Need of specific middleware architectures for CPS which introduce specific services and abstractions**
  - **Avoiding reinventing the wheel**
  - **Keep an adequate performance**

Main requirements of CPS

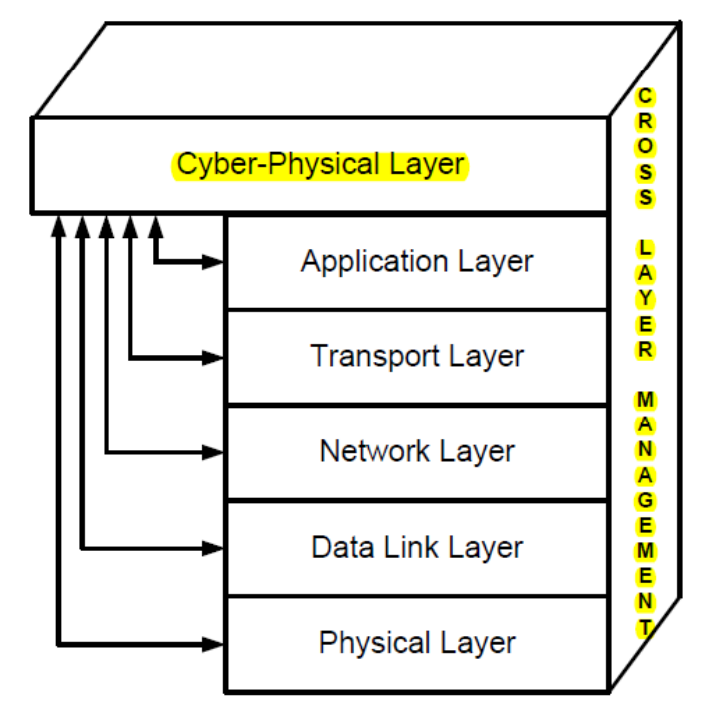
The nature of CPS imposes specific requirements different from general purpose computing:

- **Dealing with time:** Physical world is concurrent and reacting in time is critical
- **Close integration:** Highly coupled systems
- **Solving heterogeneity:** Mixture of platforms and technologies (computing platforms, OS, programming languages, network technologies)
- **Low resource devices:** CPU, memory, network bandwidth and energy consumption
- **Dynamic reconfiguration and reorganization:** Capable of adapting to changes in the physical world or changing requirements
- **Dependability and robustness:** Safety must be ensured even in adverse situations. Sometimes, CPS require certification.

New theories and tools are required

Lack of theory and tools that help designers to build CPS in an efficient way

- Extending abstractions that integrate in the existing nextwork infrastructures and reference models
- Koubaa, A and Anderson, B. (2009) proposed a protocol stack for CPS on top of the TCP/IP stack



Need of distribution middleware in CPS

- Preeminence of TCP/IP stack
- Best effort techniques => Difficult to achieve timing predictability
- CPS require combining different types of traffic with different Quality of Service (QoS) requirements
- Convergence of Internet technologies with embedded systems
- Programming directly over TCP/IP sockets is complex, especially as the number of devices increases
- According to T. Pearson (2005), the use of middleware produce up to 50% decrease in software development and costs
- Middleware technologies:

  Provide an additional layer on top of the TCP transport layer

  Follow modular approaches

  Solve scalability and heterogeneity needs

General purpose middleware specs

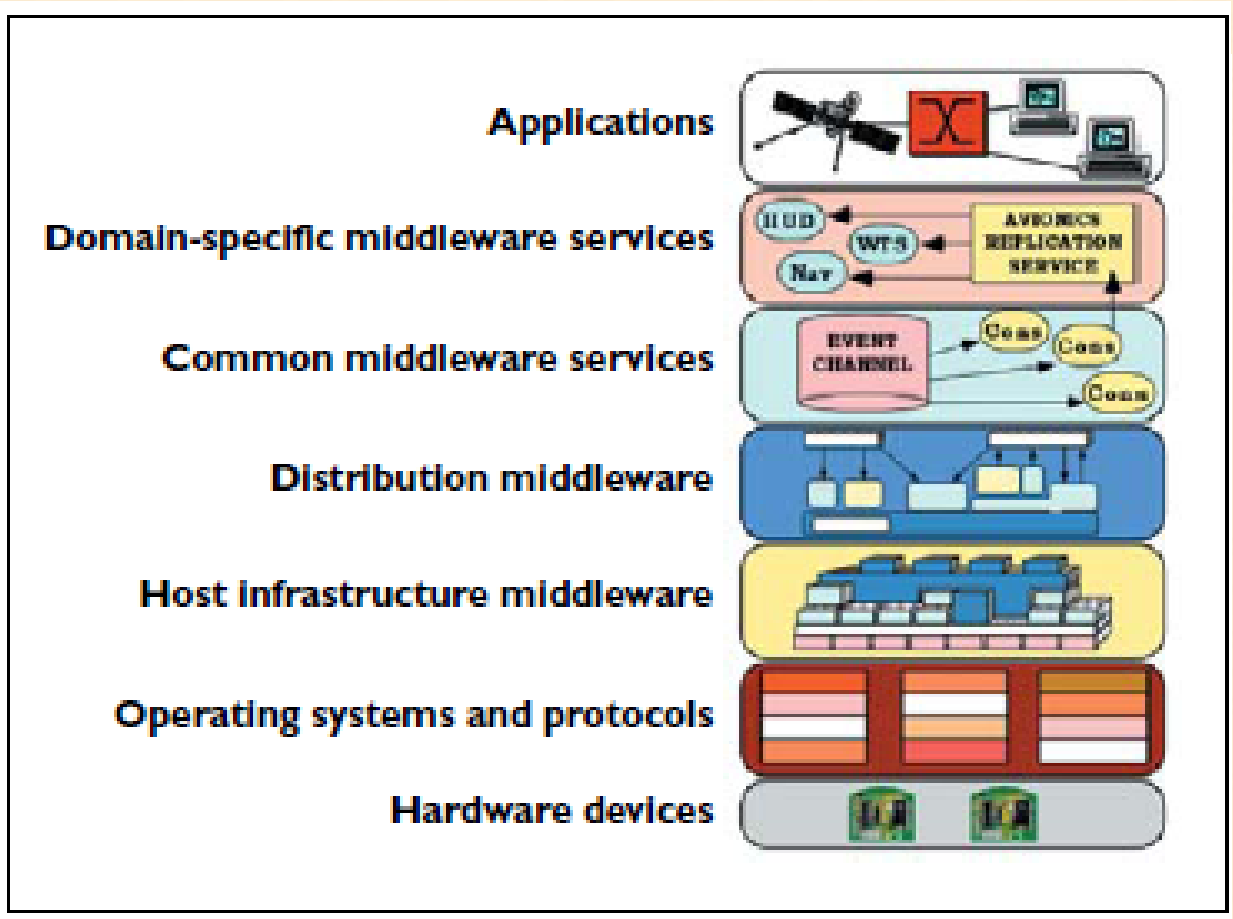
- Success of some middleware specifications

  CORBA, ICE, DDS, Web Services, OPC (in industrial environments)
- Used for distributing information (Distribution middleware specifications)
- Do not solve specific challenges involved at the construction of CPS:

  Real-time, management of the resources, management and schedulability of distributed systems, etc.
- Lack of specific features for CPS domain applications

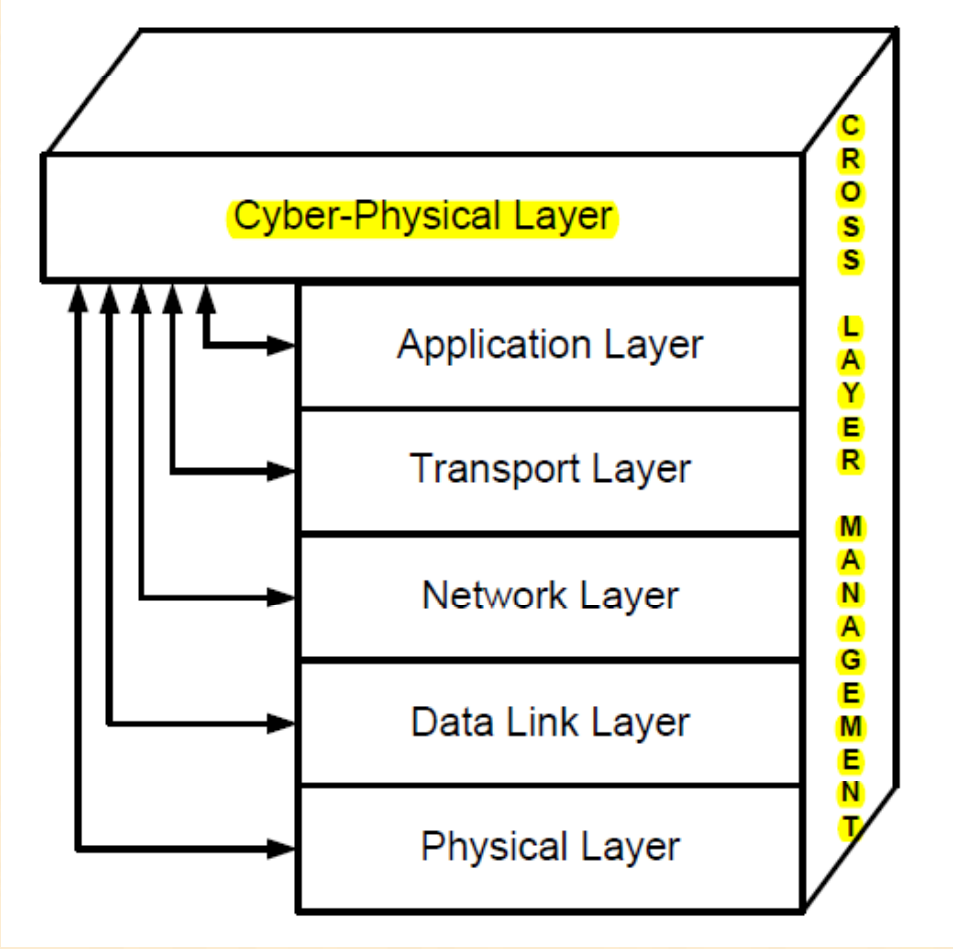
Layered middleware architectures

- Middleware is organized in a hierarchy of several layers (D.C Schmidt, 2002)



Middleware architectures for CPS

- Provide specific services for CPS and software abstractions
- The Cyber-Physical Layer



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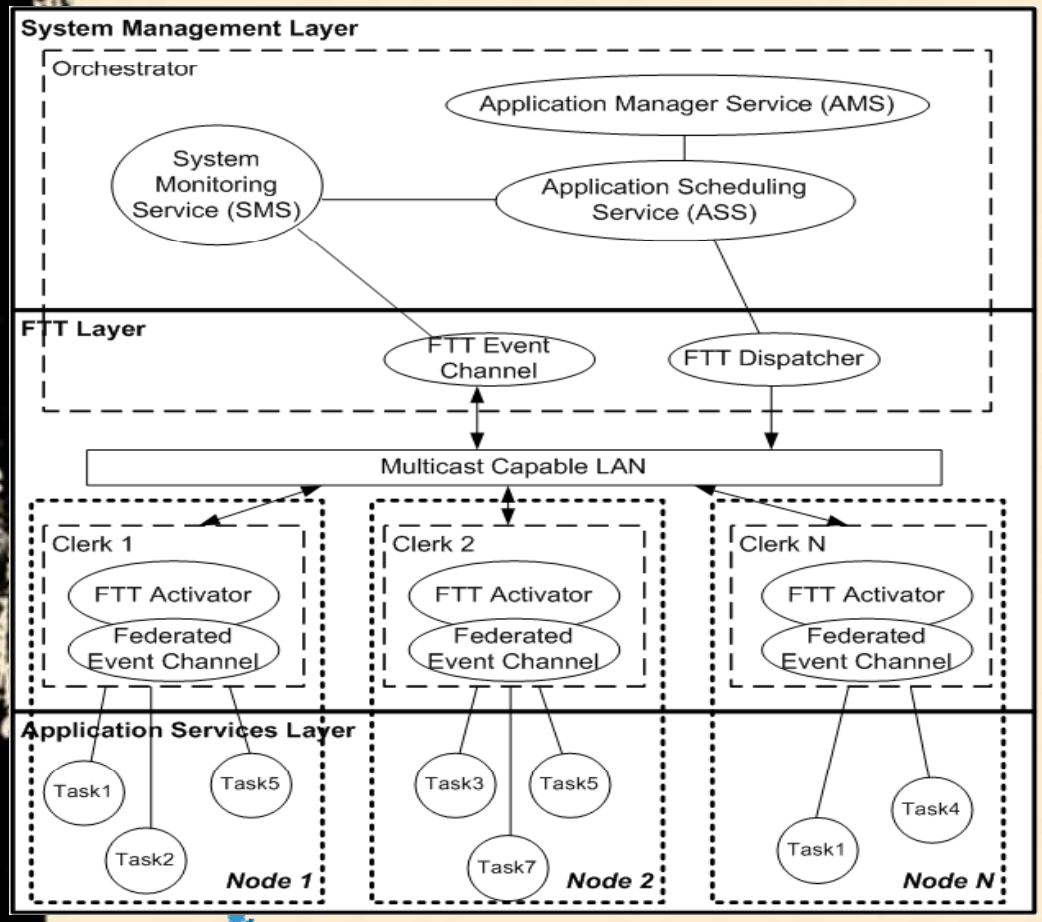
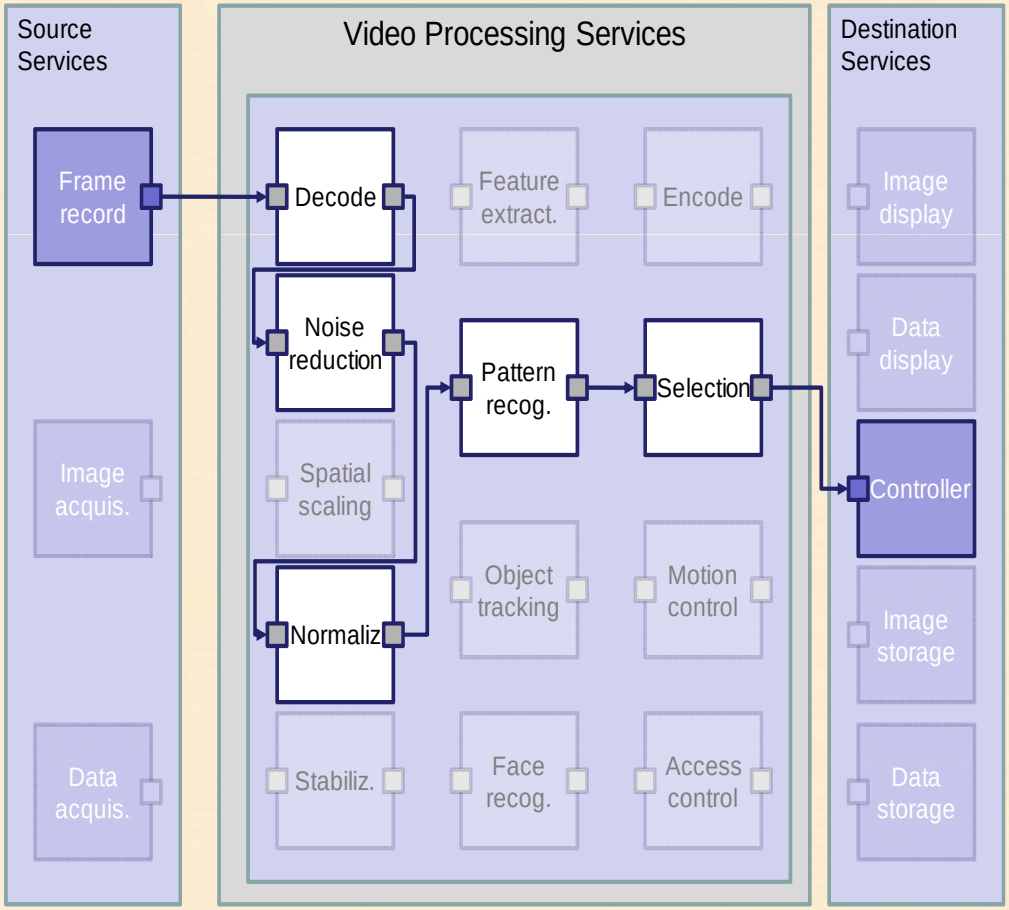
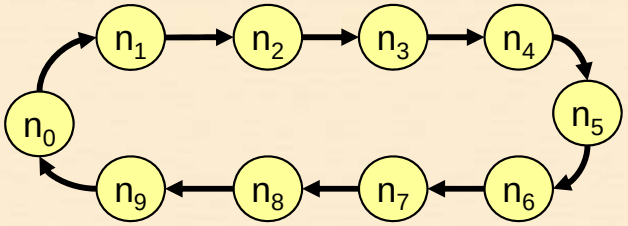
- Synchronizing the tasks activations of a distributed system according to a plan that may be changed at run-time

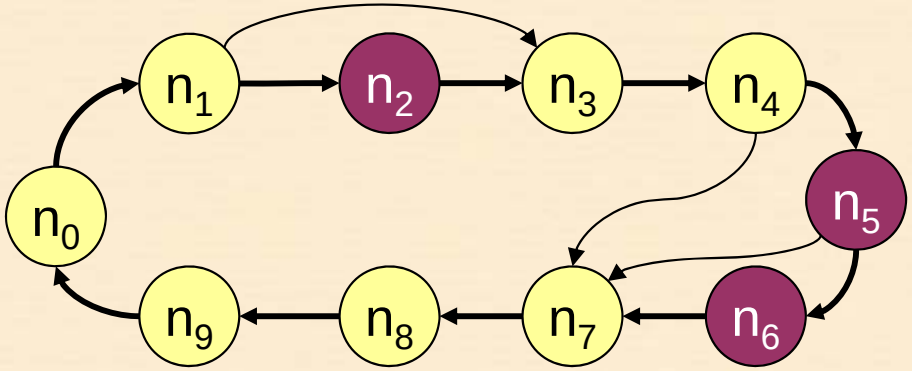




Reliable Friend

- Distributed topologies implemented as middleware architectures that provide fault tolerance and reconfiguration of CPS





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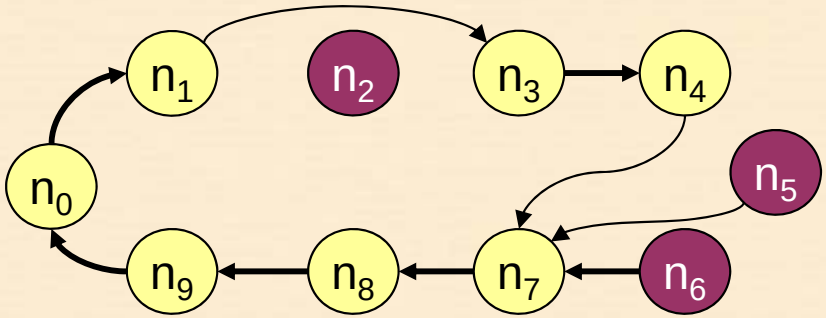

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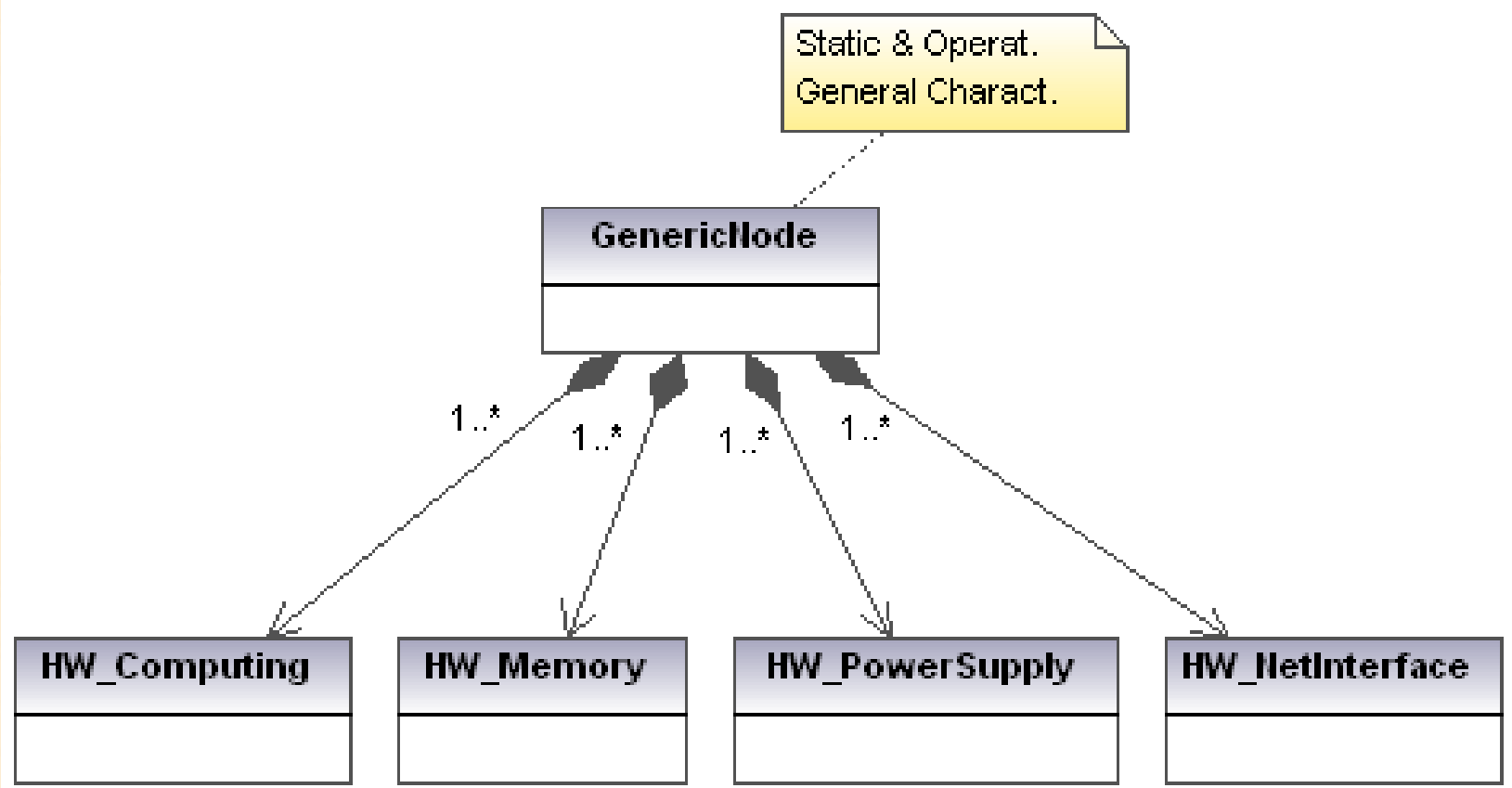
Infrastructure modelling

- CPS require a close interaction with the underlying infrastructure.
- It is necessary to model both static and dynamic attributes



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Conclusions

The design of CPS:

- Involve the use of different computing, communication and control technologies
- Require satisfying simultaneously several restrictive constrains
- Frequently, IP technologies are accepted
- New abstractions that represent CPS entities are needed
- Specific middleware architectures may provide services and abstractions for CPS
- Infrastructure modelling must be considered

Algunos proyectos recientes:

- Proyectos Europeos:
  - iLAND, m**I**dd**L**ew**A**re for deterministic dynamically reconfigurable **N**etworke**D** embedded systems (2009-2012 ARTEMIS)
- Proyectos Nacionales:
  - QoS DREAMS, QoS **D**riven **RE**configur**A**tion of Distributed Syste**MS** (2013-15 MINECO)
- Proyectos autonómicos / EHU
  - FACTORYWARE, Arquitectura Middleware para la composición y reconfiguración dinámica y determinista en aplicaciones de automatización industrial (SAIOTEK, 2011-12)
  - Diseño de un entorno para la construcción de laboratorios remotos (EHU, 2007-2009)

Thank you

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