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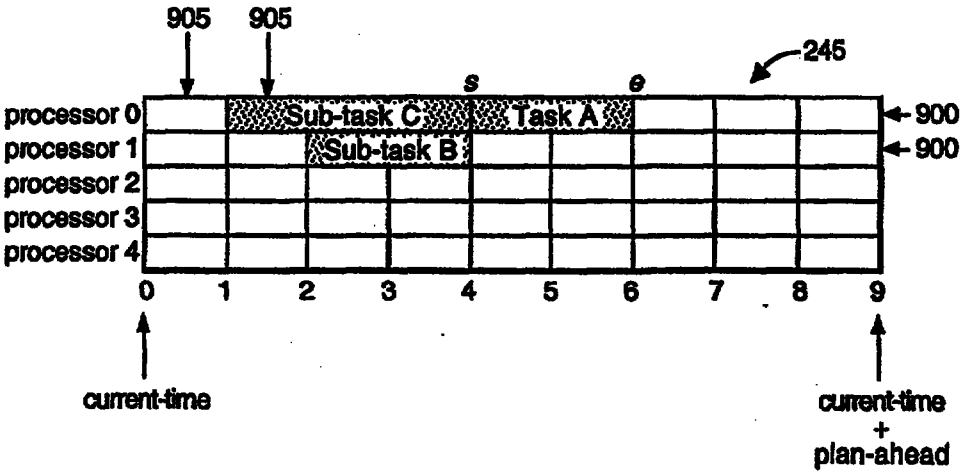
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(54) Title: SCHEDULER FOR A SOFTWARE SYSTEM



(57) Abstract

A community of collaborative software agents works together in a domain to provide functionality such as provision of communications services or control of a chemical process. A scheduler is built into each collaborative agent which schedules tasks allocated to that particular agent and tasks sub-allocated by that agent. The scheduler has a mechanism for over-booking tasks for any one agent. It can also make tentative bookings which can be overwritten or timed out.