Control of Time-Varying Behavior

Can often express a “mission” in terms of a sequence of sub-tasks (or a plan)
• But: we also want to handle contingencies when they arrive

Finite state machines are a simple way of expressing such plans and contingencies
Finite State Machines (FSMs)

Pure FSM is composed of:

• A set of states
• A set of possible inputs (or events)
• A set of possible outputs (or actions)
• A transition function:
  – Given the current state and an input: defines the output and the next state
Finite State Machines (FSMs)

States:
• Represent all possible “situations” that must be distinguished
• At any given time, the system is in exactly one of the states
• There is a finite number of these states
Finite State Machines (FSMs)

An example: a 3-bit counter that increments when “count” input is received

- States: ?
Finite State Machines (FSMs)

An example: a counter

- States: the different combinations of the digits: 000, 001, 010, ... 111

- Inputs: ?
Finite State Machines (FSMs)

An example: a counter

• Inputs (events):
  – Only one: “count”
  – We will call this “C”

• Outputs: ?
Finite State Machines (FSMs)

An example: a counter
• Outputs: same as the set of states
• Transition function: ?
Finite State Machines (FSMs)

An example: a counter

- Transition function:
  - On the count event, transition to the next highest value
FSM Example: Synchronous Counter

A Graphical Representation:

A set of states
FSM Example:
Synchronous Counter

A transition

C/001

000

001

010

011

100

111

110

101
FSM Example: Synchronous Counter

A transition

The event

C/001
FSM Example: Synchronous Counter

A transition

The output
FSM Example: Synchronous Counter

A transition

The output: The Zyante book calls these “Mealy Actions”
FSM Example: Synchronous Counter

The next transition
FSM Example: Synchronous Counter

The next transition

000 -> 001 (C/001) -> 010 (C/010) -> 011 (C/011)
FSM Example: Synchronous Counter

The full transition set

Diagram showing the transition set with states and transitions labeled.
FSM Example: Synchronous Counter

Initial condition

- **x/000**
- C/000
- C/001
- C/001
- 000
- 001
- C/010
- 010
- C/011
- 011
- 100
- C/101
- 101
- C/110
- 110
- C/111
- 111
- C/111

Transitions:
- 000 → 001 (C/001)
- 001 → 010 (C/010)
- 010 → 011 (C/011)
- 011 → 100 (C/000)
- 100 → 101 (C/101)
- 101 → 110 (C/110)
- 110 → 111 (C/111)
- 111 → 000 (C/000)
Example II: An Up/Down Counter

Suppose we have two events (instead of one): Count up and count down

• How does this change our state transition diagram?
Example II: An Up/Down Counter

From state 000, there are now two possible transitions:

- U/001 from 000 to 001
- D/111 from 000 to 111
Example II: An Up/Down Counter

Likewise for state 001…

![State Diagram]

- From state 000:
  - U/001 transitions to state 001
  - D/000 transitions to state 111

- From state 001:
  - U/010 transitions to state 010

- From state 010:
  - U/010 transitions to state 000

- From state 011:
  - D/111 transitions to state 111

- From state 100:
  - D/111 transitions to state 110

- From state 101:
  - U/010 transitions to state 010

- From state 110:
  - U/010 transitions to state 010

- From state 111:
  - D/111 transitions to state 110
Example II: An Up/Down Counter

The full transition set

000 001 010 011 100 101 110 111

U/000 U/001 D/000 D/001 U/010 U/011 D/010 D/011

D/100 D/101 U/100 U/101

D/110 D/111 U/110 U/111
FSMs and Control

How do we relate FSMs to Control?
• States are?
FSMs and Control

How do we relate FSMs to Control?

• States are our memory of recent inputs

• Inputs are ?
FSMs and Control

How do we relate FSMs to Control?

• States are our memory of recent inputs

• Inputs are some processed representation of what the sensors are observing

• Outputs are?
FSMs and Control

How do we relate FSMs to Control?

• States are our memory of recent inputs

• Inputs are some processed representation of what the sensors are observing

• Outputs are the control actions
  – These are typically “high level” actions: e.g., set the goal orientation to 125 degrees
FSMs: A Control Example

Suppose we have a vending machine:

• Accepts dimes and nickels
• Will dispense one of two things once $.20 has been entered: Jolt or Buzz Water
  – The “user” requests one of these by pressing a button
• Ignores select if < $.20 has been entered
• Immediately returns any coins above $.20
Vending Machine FSM

What are the states?
Vending Machine FSM

What are the states?

- $0
- $.05
- $.10
- $.15
- $.20
Vending Machine FSM

What are the inputs/events?
Vending Machine FSM

What are the inputs/events?

- Input nickel (N)
- Input dime (D)
- Select Jolt (J)
- Select Buzz Water (BW)
Vending Machine FSM

What are the outputs?
Vending Machine FSM

What are the outputs?

- Return nickel (RN)
- Return dime (RD)
- Dispense Jolt (DJ)
- Dispense Buzz Water (DBW)
- Nothing (Z)
Vending Machine Design

What is the initial state?
Vending Machine Design

What is the initial state?

• $S = 0$
Vending Machine Design

What can happen from $S = \$0$?

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<th>Event</th>
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Vending Machine Design

What can happen from $S = \$0$?

What does this part of the diagram look like?

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<tr>
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<td>Z</td>
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<tr>
<td>BW</td>
<td>$0</td>
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</table>
Vending Machine Design

A piece of the state diagram:

![State Diagram](image)
Vending Machine Design

What can happen from $S = \$0.05$?

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Vending Machine Design

What can happen from $S = $0.05? 

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What does the modified diagram look like?
A piece of the state diagram:
Vending Machine Design

What can happen from \( S = \$0.10 \)?

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Vending Machine Design

What can happen from $S = \$0.10$?

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Vending Machine Design

A piece of the state diagram:
Vending Machine Design

What can happen from $S = $0.15?  

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### Vending Machine Design

What can happen from $S = $0.15?

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Vending Machine Design

A piece of the state diagram:
Vending Machine Design

Finally: what can happen from $S = \$0.20$?

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</table>
Vending Machine Design

Finally, what can happen from S = $0.20?

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Vending Machine Design

The complete state diagram:
Finite State Machines
FSM Design Pattern

- The system is always in exactly one state
- Think of transitions as happening instantaneously
FSM Design Pattern

Think of transitions as happening instantaneously

- FSM actions are also instantaneous
- For an activity that must take a finite amount of time:
  - The FSM action is to initiate the activity
  - The next state is one in which the system is waiting for activity completion
  - The next event signals completion

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A Robot Control Example

Consider the following task:

- The robot is to move toward the first beacon that it “sees”
- The robot searches for a beacon in the following order: right, left, front
- Once beacon is found, move toward it and stop once the beacon is reached

What is the FSM representation?
Robot Description

Mobile robot with sensor turret on top

• Mobile robot turns take time

• Turret turns are relative to the mobile base and do not take time
Events

- Robot Turn Complete (TC)
- Beacon (B)
- No Beacon (NB)
Actions

• Look left (LL): turn turret to be facing left (relative to the mobile base)
• Look right (LR)
• Look forward (LF)
• Turn left (TL): initiate a turn of the robot base by 90 degrees to the left
• Turn right (TR): initiate right turn
• Move forward (F): initiate forward movement
• Stop (S)
Robot Control Example II

Consider the following task:

• The robot must lift off to some altitude
• Translate to some location
• Take pictures
• Return to base
• Land
• At any time: a detected failure should cause the craft to land

What is the FSM representation?
Vending Machine FSM

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FSMs and Control

How do we relate FSMs to Control?
- States are our memory of recent inputs
- Inputs/events are some processed representation of what the sensors are observing
- Outputs are the control actions
FSMs in C
Implementation in the Arduino environment

PeriodicAction fsm_task(50, fsm_step);

void loop()
{
    // Check to see if 50 ms has gone by
    // If so, then the function
    // fsm_step() is called
    fsm_task.step();
}
FSMs in C

```c
fsm_step() {
    static State state = STATE_0; // Initial state

    <do some processing of the sensory inputs>
    switch(state) {
        case STATE_0:
            <handle state 0>
            break;
        case STATE_1:
            <handle state 1>
            break;
        case STATE_2: ... 
    }
}
```
Creating an Enumerated Variable Type

• Definition:

typedef enum {
    STATE_0, STATE_1, STATE_2
} State;

• Use:

State s = STATE_1;
s can only take on these 3 values
Locally Defined Variables

• Local variables defined inside of a function are allocated to memory only when the function is called
  – Memory region called *the stack*

• When the function returns, the memory is reclaimed for use by other functions
Static Variables

Declaring a variable inside a function as static:

```c
static State state = STATE_0;   // Initial state
```

- The variable acts like a global variable:
  - The memory continues to exist after a return from the function
  - This means that the value from the last call to the function can be used in the next call
  - But: the variable can only be “seen” by this function
Static Variables

Declaring a variable inside a function as static:

```c
static State state = STATE_0;  // Initial state
```

- Other key thing to remember: the assignment is executed exactly once (before the main() function is executed)
- We can use this to set the initial value of the static variable
FSMs in C

```c
fsm_step() {
    static State state = STATE_0;   // Initial state

    <do some processing of the sensory inputs>
    switch(state) {
        case STATE_0:
            <handle state 0>
            break;
        case STATE_1:
            <handle state 1>
            break;
        case STATE_2: ... 
    }
}
```
FSMs in C
(integrating with other code)

fsm_step() {
    static State state = STATE_0; // Initial state

    <do some processing of the sensory inputs>
    switch(state) {
        case STATE_0:
            <handle state 0>
            break;
        case STATE_1:
            <handle state 1>
            break;
        case STATE_2: ...
    }

    <do some low-level control>
}
Handling Each State

• You will need to provide code that handles the event processing for each state

• Specifically:
  – You need to handle each event that can occur
  – For each event, you must specify:
    • What action is to be taken
    • What the next state is
Handling Each State

In our vending machine example:

- Events are easy to describe (only a few things can happen)
- We will write an “if()” for each of these cases (or combination of cases)
typedef enum {
    STATE_0cents, STATE_5cents,
    STATE_10cents, STATE_15cents,
    STATE_20cents
} State;

typedef enum {
    EVENT_NICKEL, EVENT_DIME,
    EVENT_JOLT, EVENT_BUZZ, EVENT_NONE
} Event;
FSMs in C

```c
fsm_step() {
    static State state = STATE_0cents;  // Initial

    // Translate sensors into event
    Event event = read_sensors();

    // Execute code for the current state
    switch(state) {
        case STATE_0cents:
            <handle state>
            break;
        case STATE_5cents:
            <handle state>
            break;
        case STATE_10cents: ...
    }
}
```
FSMs in C: Processing for a Single State

```c
: case STATE_10cents:
    // $.10 has already been deposited
    if(event == EVENT_NICKEL) {
        state = STATE_15cents;  // Transition to $.15
    }
    else if(event == EVENT_DIME) {
        state = STATE_20cents;  // Transition to $.2
    }
    else if(event == EVENT_JOLT || event == EVENT_BUZZ) {
        display_NOT_ENOUGH();
    }
    else {
        // Do nothing
    }
break;
:
```
Hovercraft Example

Some events do not fall neatly into one of several categories

• So: the “if()” becomes more interesting
• Also: time can be an aspect of an event
FSMs in C

```c
fsm_step() {
    static State state = STATE_0; // Initial state
    static int counter = 0;
    ++counter;

    <do some processing of the sensory inputs>
    switch(state) {
        case STATE_MISSION_PHASE_3:
            <handle phase 3>
            break;
        case STATE_MISSION_PHASE_4:
            <handle phase 4>
            break;
        case STATE_MISSION_PHASE_5:
            :
    }
}
```
FSMs in C: Processing for Individual States

```c
case STATE_MISSION_PHASE_3:
    if(heading_error < 10.0 &&
       heading_error > -10.0)
    {
        // Move forward!
        desired_velocity = .2;   // Action

        // Transition
        state = STATE_MISSION_PHASE_4;
    }
    break;
```
FSMs in C: Processing for Individual States

case STATE MISSION PHASE 4:
    if(distance_left < 20.0 || distance_right < 20.0)
    {
        // Brake!
        desired_velocity = 0;
        counter = 0;  // Reset the clock

        // Transition
        state = STATE MISSION PHASE 5;
    }
    break;
FSMs in C

```c
fsm_step() {
    static State state = STATE_0;  // Initial state
    static int counter = 0;
    counter++;

    switch(state) {
        case STATE_MISSION_PHASE_3:
            <handle phase 3>
            break;
        case STATE_MISSION_PHASE_4:
            <handle phase 4>
            break;
        case STATE_MISSION_PHASE_5:
            :
    }
}
```
How much time has gone by?
FSMs in C: Processing for Individual States

```c
: case STATE_MISSION_PHASE_5:
    if (counter > 20)
    {
        // A fixed amount of time has gone by
        heading_goal = heading_goal - 90.0;
        if (heading_goal <= -180.0)
            heading_goal += 360;

        // Transition
        state = STATE_MISSION_PHASE_6;
    }
    break;
:
```

How much time has gone by?  1 sec
FSM Implementation Notes

• FSM code should not contain delays or waits
  – No delay_ms() or while(…){}
  – Remember that your FSM code will be called once per control cycle: use “if” to check for an event during that control cycle

• Use LEDs and/or print() to indicate current state
  – Do not print too much!

• Implement and test incrementally
FSM Implementation Notes

For your future projects: you will use an enumerated data type to represent your set of states.

• Allows us to be very clear what the possible values are
• Affords type checking by the compiler