

Finite-State Machines (FSM)

Software Systems (Computer & Embedded Systems Engineering)

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Extended from a version by Arjan Mooij

Based on CREATE material from Itemis.

An initiative of industry, academia and TNO

Dimensions for each model type

- **Motivation** **When/where to apply the model type?**
- **Concepts** **What elements and relations between them are used in the model type?**
- **Notation** **How to represent these concepts in a textual/graphical way?**
- **Tool** **How to create models using this notation?**
- **Skill** **How to determine which concepts to use for your models?**

Objectives

At the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Explain the purpose of Finite-State Machines, including several application areas
- Explain the concepts and notations of Finite-State Machines
- Create basic Finite-State Machines to model software-intensive systems

Assessment:

- Modeling assignment using Finite-State Machines (in groups of 2 students)
- Reflection document on Model-Based Development (individual)

Agenda for Finite-State Machines

(Each week the Software Systems course has 2 lecture hours + 4 lab hours)

- **Week 8 Lecture**

- 30 minutes Basic Notation and simulation
- 15 minutes Basic Modeling skills
- 15 minutes Break
- 15 minutes Notation and simulation
- 15 minutes Modeling skills
- 15 minutes Application areas

- **Week 8 Lab**

- Notation and simulation
- Modeling skills

What do you already know about FSM?

- **What is an FSM?**
 - It is a mathematical model of computation.
 - It is an abstract machine that can be in exactly one of a finite number of states at any given time.
- **What parts (or type of logic) do you need to realize an FSM?**
 - Combinatorial and sequential logic
- **How many types of FSM do you know?**
 - Mealy / Moore
- **What is the main difference between them?**
 - Mealy's output depends on input and current state
 - Moore's output depends only on the current state
- **What are possible problems with simple FSM representations?**
 - Explosion of the number of states and transitions in certain cases

Motivation

Finite-State Machines are a very practical way to describe behavior:

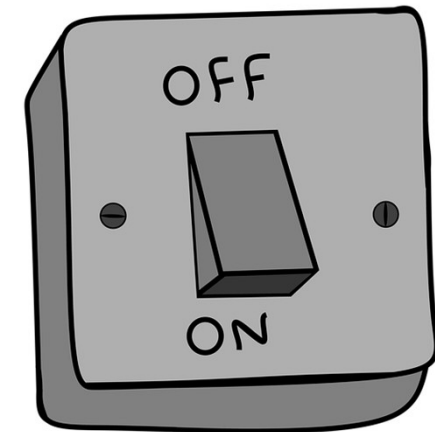
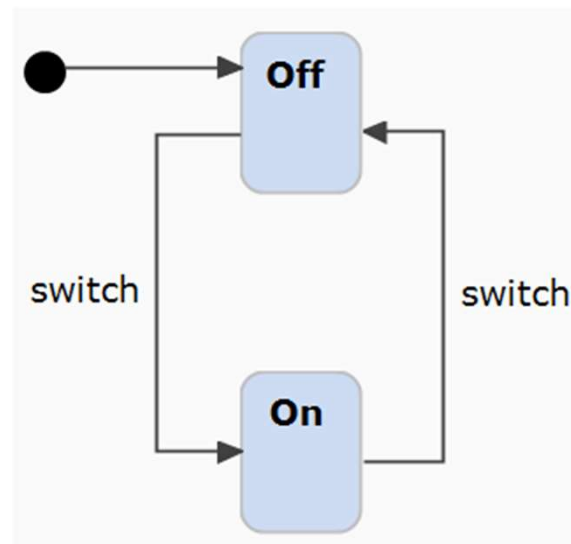
- User workflow
 - In which environment will the system be used?
 - E.g., passport renewal (submit application, background check, printing process, delivery, etc.)
- System behavior
 - What is the logic that the system should implement?
 - E.g., guarantee the safety of traffic lights
- Communication protocols on interfaces
 - How should concurrent components interact with each other?
 - E.g., only send messages (or call methods) in a specific order (e.g., after initialization)

Note: Finite-State Machines are called State Machine Diagram in UML

Notation and simulation

Finite-State Machines (FSM)

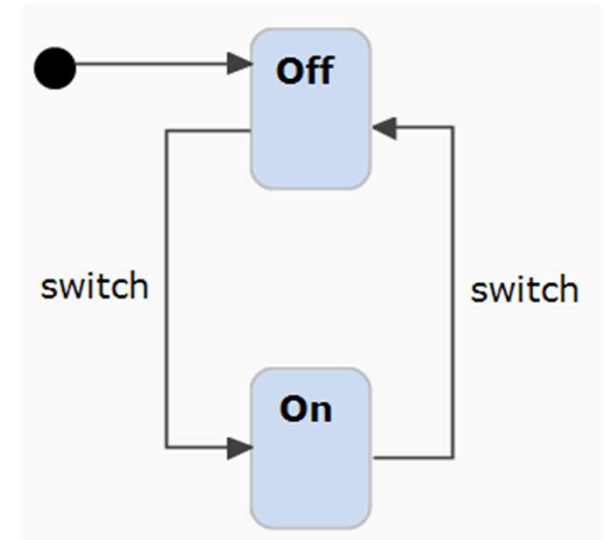
What would the elements in this Finite-State Machine mean?



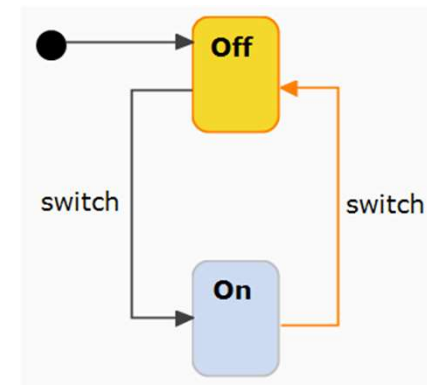
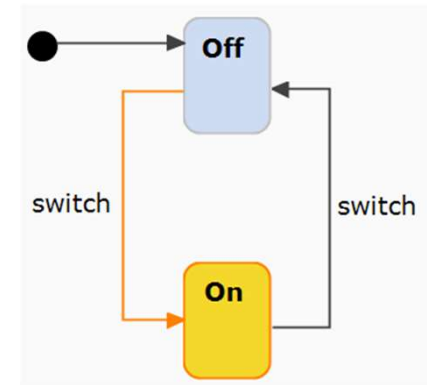
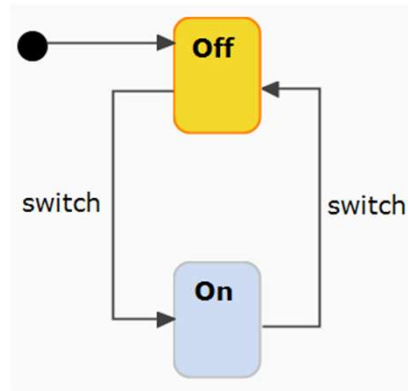
Think → Pair → Share

States, transitions and events

- **State**
 - Represents a possible mode of a system
 - Where the system is executing an activity or waits for an event.
 - Each state can be active or inactive
 - Visualization:
 - Normal state: Rounded rectangle (with a name)
 - Initial state: Indicated by an entry point
 - Entry Point: Filled black circle (without a name)
- **Transition**
 - Represents a possible state change
 - Visualization: Arrow from the source state to the target state (with an event trigger)
- **Event**
 - Represents a possible element on the interface of the system

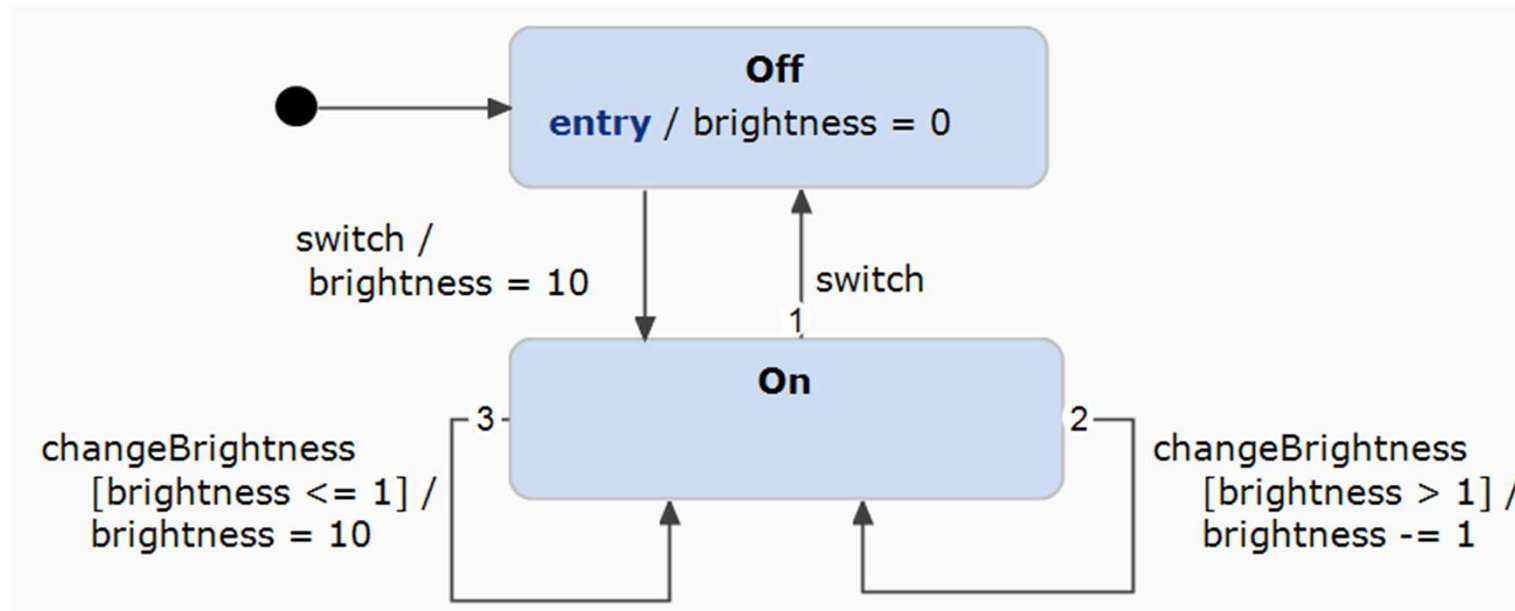


Simulation



Live demo

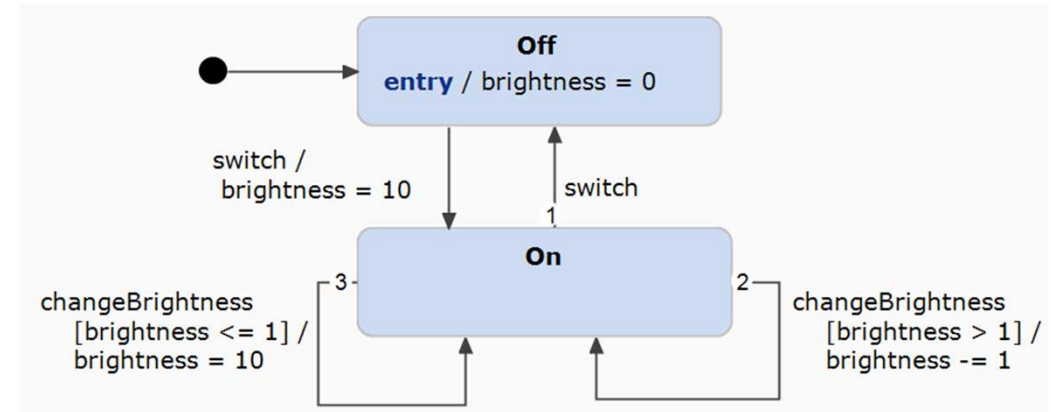
What would the elements in this Finite-State Machine mean?



Think → Pair → Share

Variables, guards, and effects

- **Variable**
 - Stores some data that can be changed
 - (Model may no longer be finite state)
- **Effects:**
 - Assignment to a variable
 - Raise an event (syntax: **raise** event)
 - Sequential composition (syntax: effect1 ; effect2)
- **Transition reaction:**
 - Executed when the transition is taken
 - Syntax: trigger [guard] / effect
 - Guard is a condition that enables the transition
- **State reaction:**
 - Syntax:
 - **entry** / effect Executed when the state is entered
 - **exit** / effect Executed when the state is exited
 - event / effect Executed when no outgoing transition can be taken
- **Priorities on the outgoing transitions of a state**



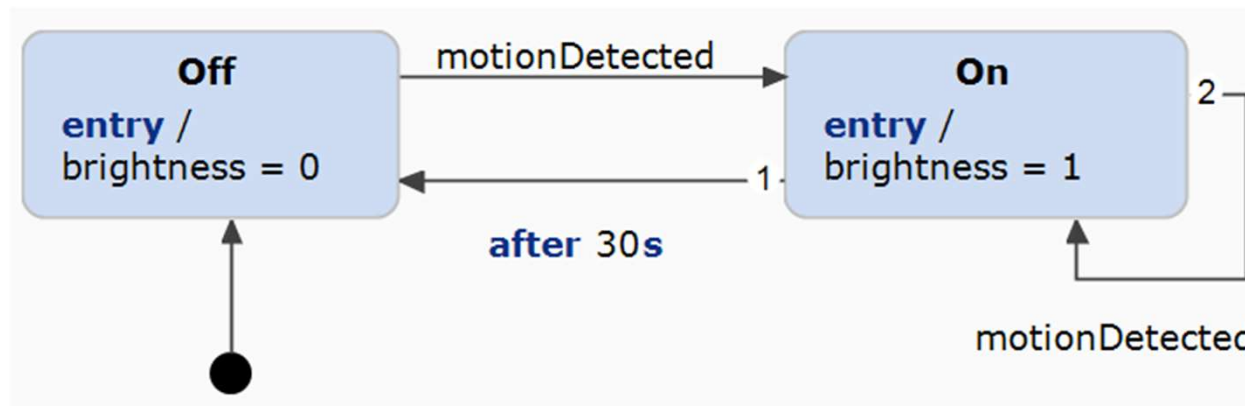
A teal decorative shape in the top-left corner, consisting of a long horizontal bar that tapers to a point on the right, with a small vertical bar extending downwards from its left end.

Simulation

A teal button with a scroll effect on the left side, containing the text 'Live demo' in white.

Live demo

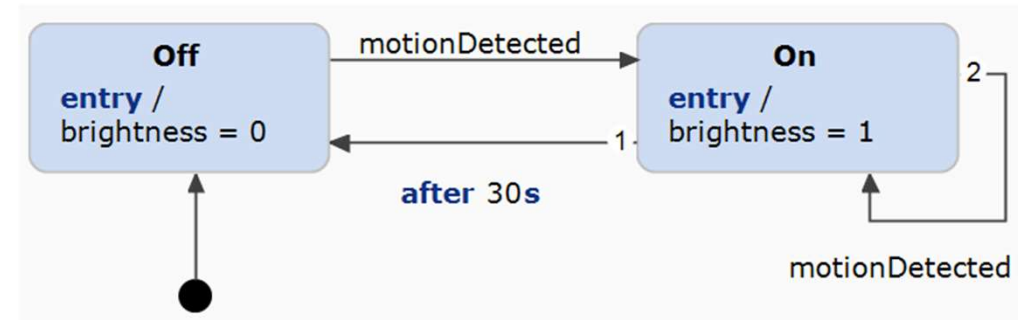
What would the elements in this Finite-State Machine mean?



Think → Pair → Share

Triggers

- **Single event trigger**
 - Trigger when the event is raised
 - Syntax: ev1
- **Multiple event trigger**
 - Trigger when one of the event is raised
 - Syntax: ev1, ev2
- **Time trigger**
 - Trigger after given amount of time
 - Syntax: after 30s



A teal decorative shape in the top-left corner, consisting of a long horizontal bar that tapers to a point on the right, with a small vertical bar extending downwards from its left end.

Simulation

A teal button with rounded corners and a scroll effect on the left side, containing the text "Live demo" in white.

Live demo

Modeling skills

Finite-State Machines (FSM)

Creation of an FSM

Ship lock:

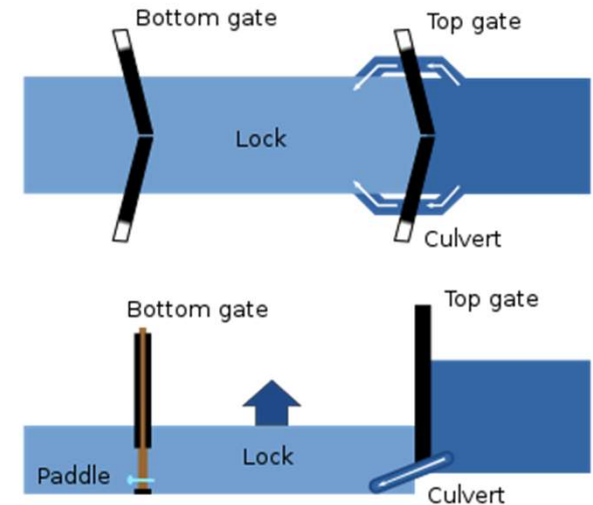
- Two gates: bottom and top
- Two valves: bottom (paddle) and top (culvert)

Why would it be interesting to model this?

Safety constraints:

- At most one gate or valve open at a time
- Gates can only be opened when the water levels match

Let's model the behavior of the lock in terms of the gates and valves!



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lock_\(water_navigation\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lock_(water_navigation))

Creation of an FSM

Goal of the model: safe operating procedure of the gates and valves

Events:

- **Depend on the gate/valve interface** → perhaps first model their interface behavior!
 - For the valves we rely on time
 - For the gates we rely on sensors that confirm certain positions
- **User interactions:**
 - Start the next swap
 - (Possible extension: interrupt a swap?)

Two kinds of state:

- **Stable system situation:** e.g., gate open
- **Instable stable situation:** e.g., valve open

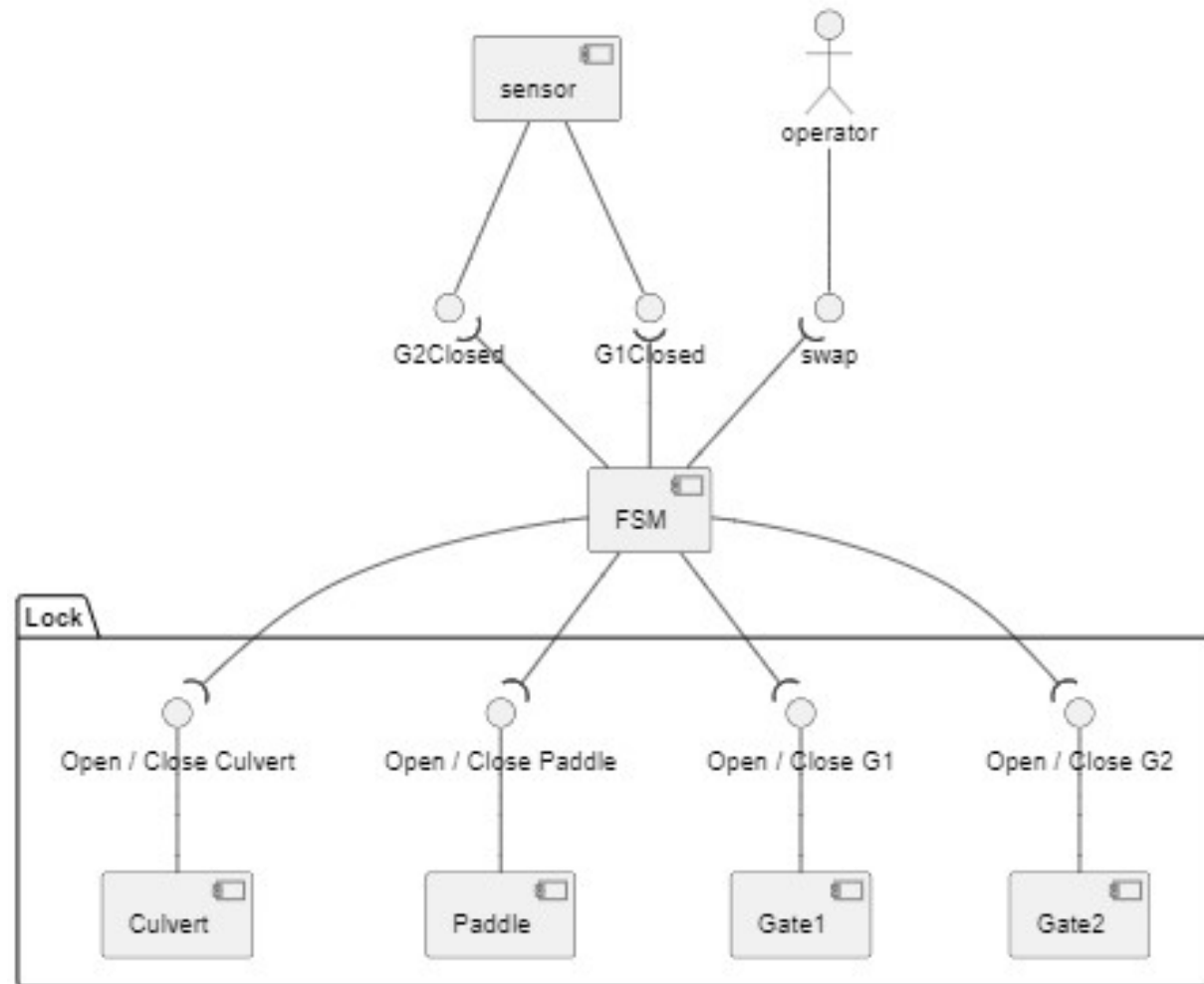
Think → Pair → Share

Components:

- Gate 1 (bottom), gate 2 (top), paddle, culvert

External interface:

- **Input** from an operator: swap
- **Input** from a sensor: G1Closed, G2Closed
- When G1 is closed: **output** OpenCulvert
- When the lock is full: **output** CloseCulvert, OpenG2
- When G2 is closed: **output** OpenPaddle
- When the lock is empty: **output** ClosePaddle, OpenG1



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