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# STATECHARTS: AN ENHANCEMENT OF FINITE-STATE MACHINES TO MODEL COMPLEX SYSTEMS

Software Systems (Computer & Embedded System Engineering)

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07-01-2025



## AGENDA OF THE COURSE

	Week 6 (17-12)	Week 6 (19-12)	Week 7 (7-1)	Week 7 (9-1)	Week 8 (14-1)	Week 8 (16 -1)	Week 9 (21-1)	Week 10
Lectures on Tuesdays (2 hours)	Introduction		StateChart 1		DSL 1			
	UML 1		StateChart 2		DSL 2			
Labs on Thursdays (4 hours)		1 UML Lect 3 labs		StateChart		1 DSL lec + conclusion 3 DSL labs		
Assignment due on Friday				UML		Statechart		DSL + Reflection

## QUIZ GAMES

- Identified by the banner:

Think/Write → Pair → Share




- Instructions:

1. Divide into teams of two students
2. Discuss the solution to the quiz together
3. Volunteer or be asked to share
4. Points will be awarded for participation:
  1. Every time you share during a game, you earn 0.3 points
  2. You can earn up to a maximum of 1 additional point on the final note for this part of the course
  3. Do not forget to write your name on the winners' sheet after the lecture

## OBJECTIVES

- At the end of the course, you should be able to:
  - Explain the purpose of State Charts, including several application areas
  - Explain the concepts and notations of State Charts
  - Create basic State Charts to model software systems
- Assessment:
  - Modeling assignment using State Charts (in groups of 2 students)
  - (Talk of State Charts in the) Reflection document (individual)

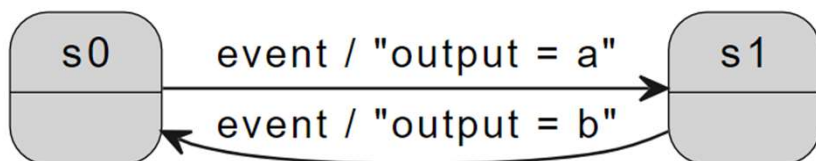
## WHAT DO YOU ALREADY KNOW ABOUT FSM?

- **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.
- **Can you give an example of the use of an FSM?** 
- **There can be two types of deterministic FSM (Mealy and Moore). What is the main difference between them?** 
- **What are possible problems with FSM representations of complex systems?** 
- Duration: 3 minutes discussion in pair

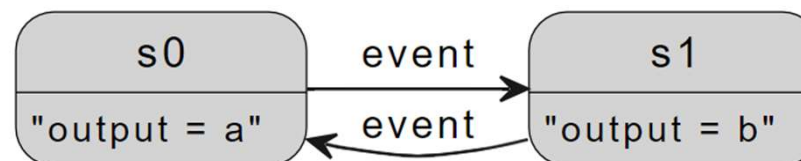
Think/Write → Pair → Share

# MEALY VERSUS MOORE

- **Mealy**



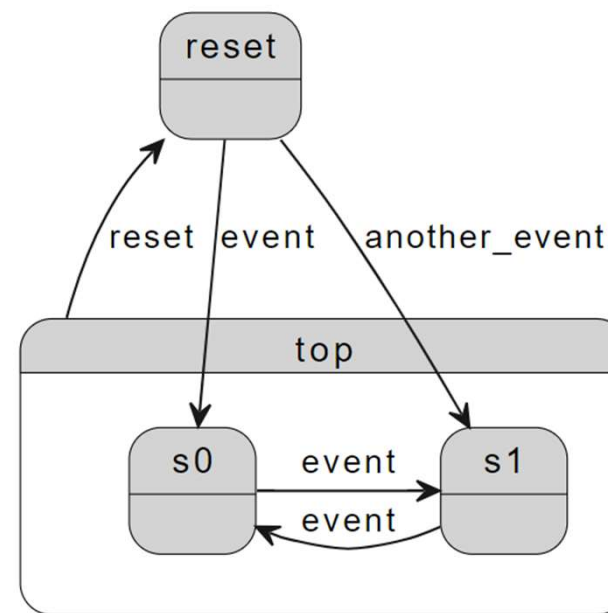
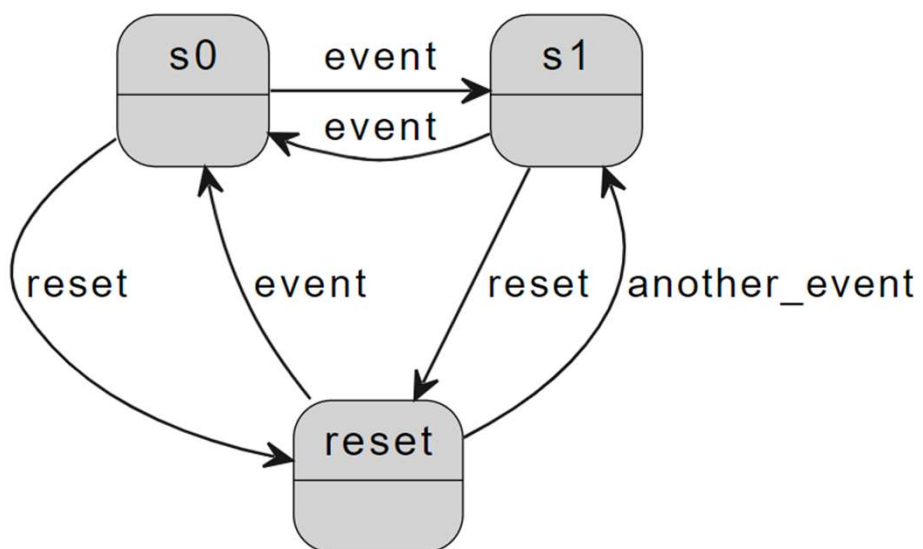
- **Moore**



	<b>Mealy Machine</b>	<b>Moore Machine</b>
<b>Output Glitches</b>	More prone to glitches in output due to immediate reaction to input changes.	Less prone to glitches as outputs change only on state transitions.
<b>State Complexity</b>	Generally, it requires fewer states for the same functionality.	May require more states to achieve the same functionality.
<b>Design Complexity</b>	Can be more complex to design and understand due to the input dependency.	Simpler to design and understand as outputs are state-dependent only.

## POSSIBLE PROBLEMS WITH FSM REPRESENTATIONS OF COMPLEX SYSTEMS

- Explosion of the number of states and transitions



"Statecharts: A Visual Formalism for Complex Systems" by David Harel. 1986



## EXAMPLE OF USE OF FINITE-STATE MACHINES (AND STATE CHARTS)

- FSM are a very practical way to describe behaviour:
  - User workflow
    - In which environment will the system be used?
    - E.g., passport renewal (submit an 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)

# AGENDA FOR FINITE-STATE MACHINES

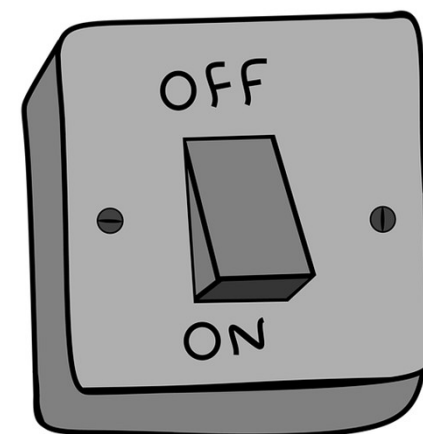
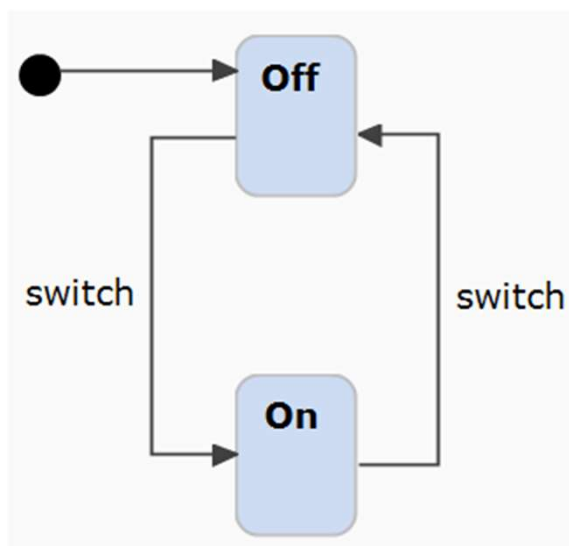
(EACH WEEK THE SOFTWARE SYSTEMS COURSE HAS 2 LECTURE HOURS + 4 LAB HOURS)

- Week 7 Lecture
  - 5 minutes Introduction
  - 15 minutes Basic Notation and simulation
  - 25 minutes Modeling skills
  - 15 minutes Break
  - 20 minutes Advanced notation and simulation
  - 20 minutes Modeling skills
  - 5 minutes Conclusions
- Week 7 Lab
  - Notation and simulation
  - Modeling skills

# BASIC NOTATION AND SIMULATION

- State Charts

## WHAT DO THE ELEMENTS IN THIS STATE CHART MEAN?

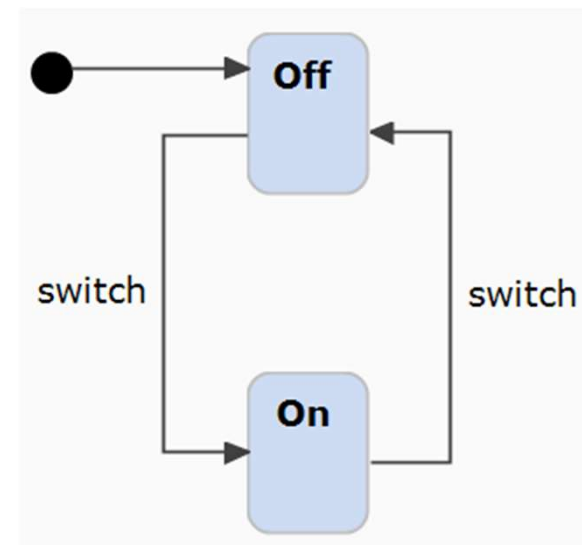


Duration: 1 minute discussion in pair

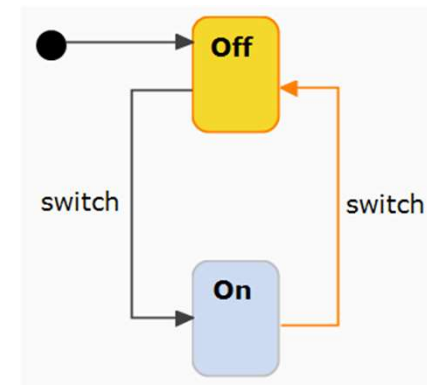
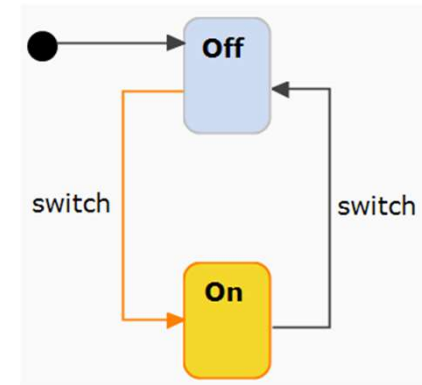
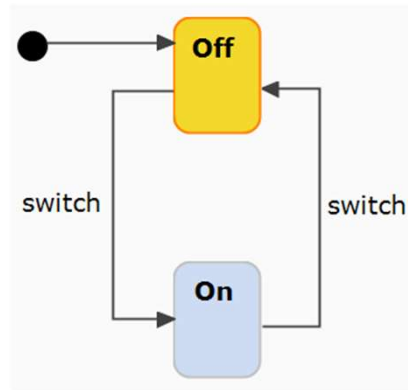
Think → Pair → Share

# STATES, TRANSITIONS AND EVENTS

- **State**
  - Represents a possible mode of a system where the system executes an activity or waits for an event.
  - Each state can be active or inactive
  - Type:
    - Normal state: Rounded rectangle (with a name)
    - Initial state: Indicated by an entry point (Filled black circle)
- **Transition**
  - Represents a possible state change triggered by an event
  - Visualization: Arrow from the source state to the target state (with an event trigger)
- **Event**
  - Triggers a state change
  - An input event represents a possible element on the interface of the system

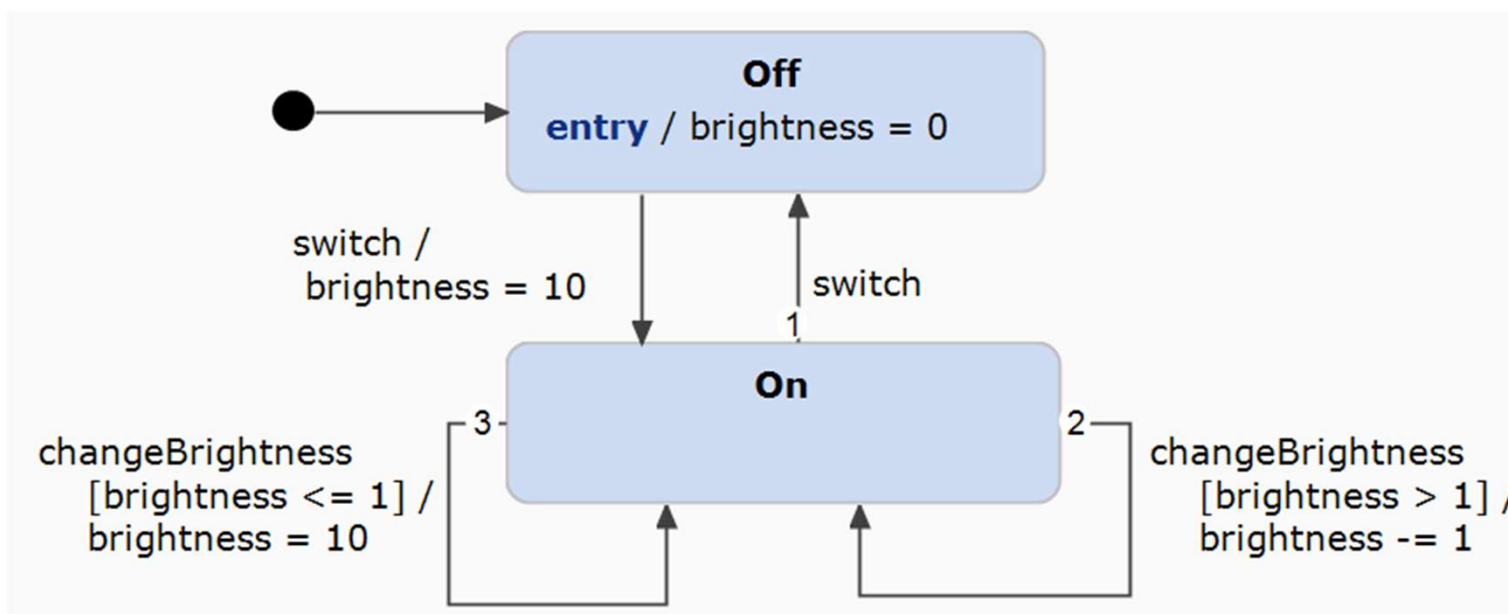


# SIMULATION



Live demo

## WHAT DO THE ELEMENTS IN THIS STATE CHART MEAN?

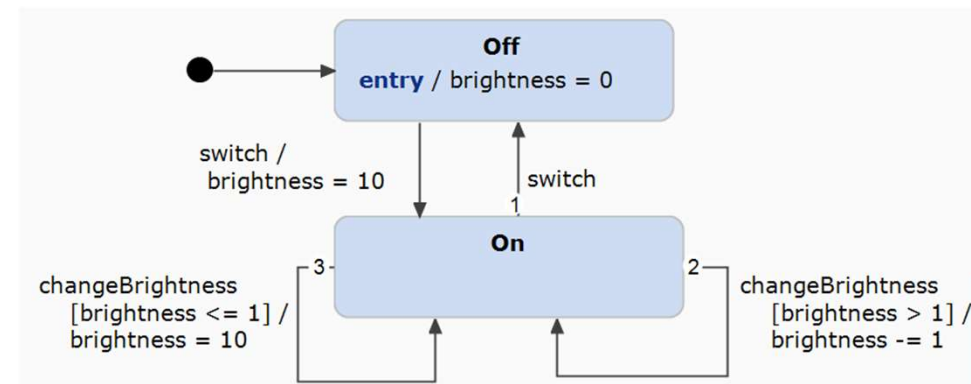


Duration: 3 minutes discussion in pair

**Think → Pair → Share**

# VARIABLES, GUARDS, AND EFFECTS

- Variable
  - Stores some data that can be changed
- 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
    - **every 2s** / effect Executed every 2 seconds
    - **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





# SIMULATION

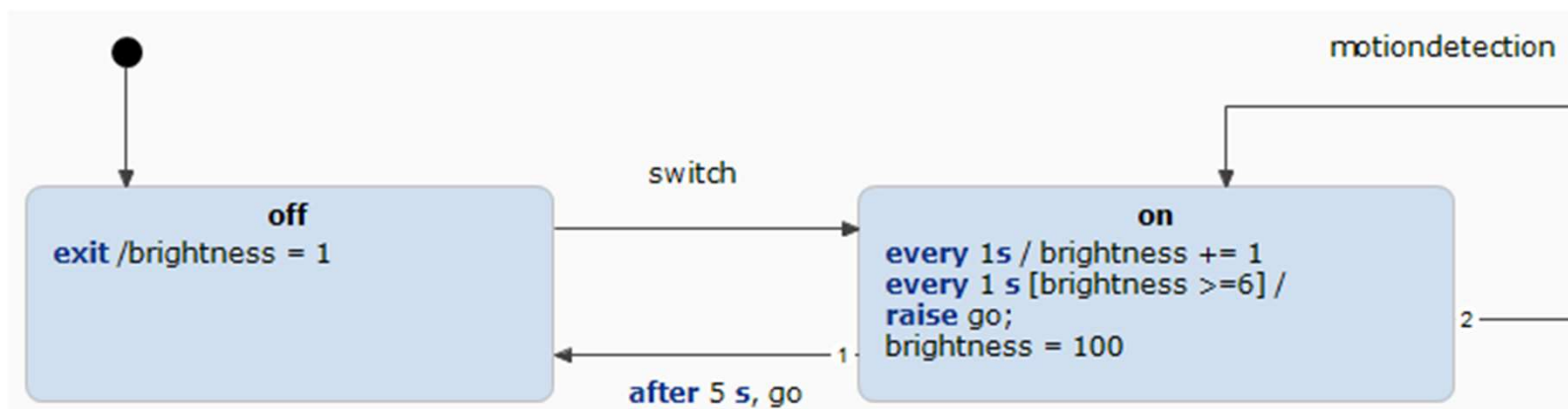
Live demo

# WHAT WOULD THE ELEMENTS IN THIS FINITE-STATE MACHINE MEAN?

Statechart

```

interface:
  in event motiondetection
  var brightness: integer
internal:
  event go
  
```



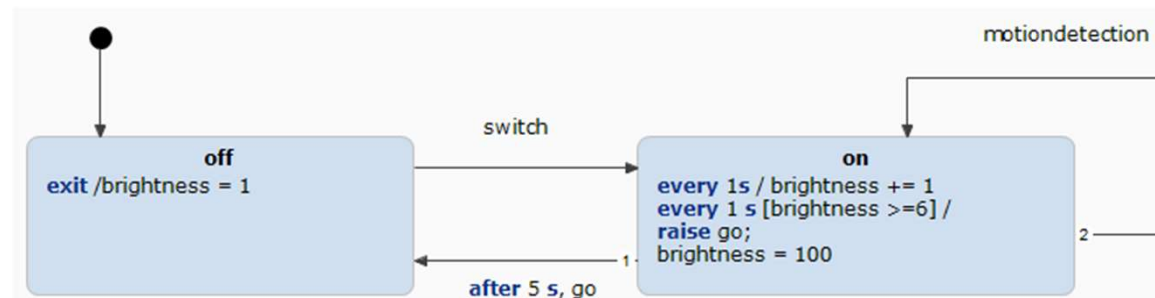
Think → Pair → Share

# TRIGGERS

- Single event trigger (e.g., switch)
  - Trigger when the event is raised and can have a condition
  - Syntax: ev1 [condition]
- Multiple event triggers (e.g. after 5s, go)
  - Trigger when one of the two events is raised
  - Syntax: ev1, ev2
- Time trigger (e.g., after 5s)
  - Trigger after a given amount of time
  - Syntax: after 30s

```

Statechart
interface:
  in event switch
  in event motiondetection
  var brightness: integer
internal:
  event go
  
```



# SIMULATION

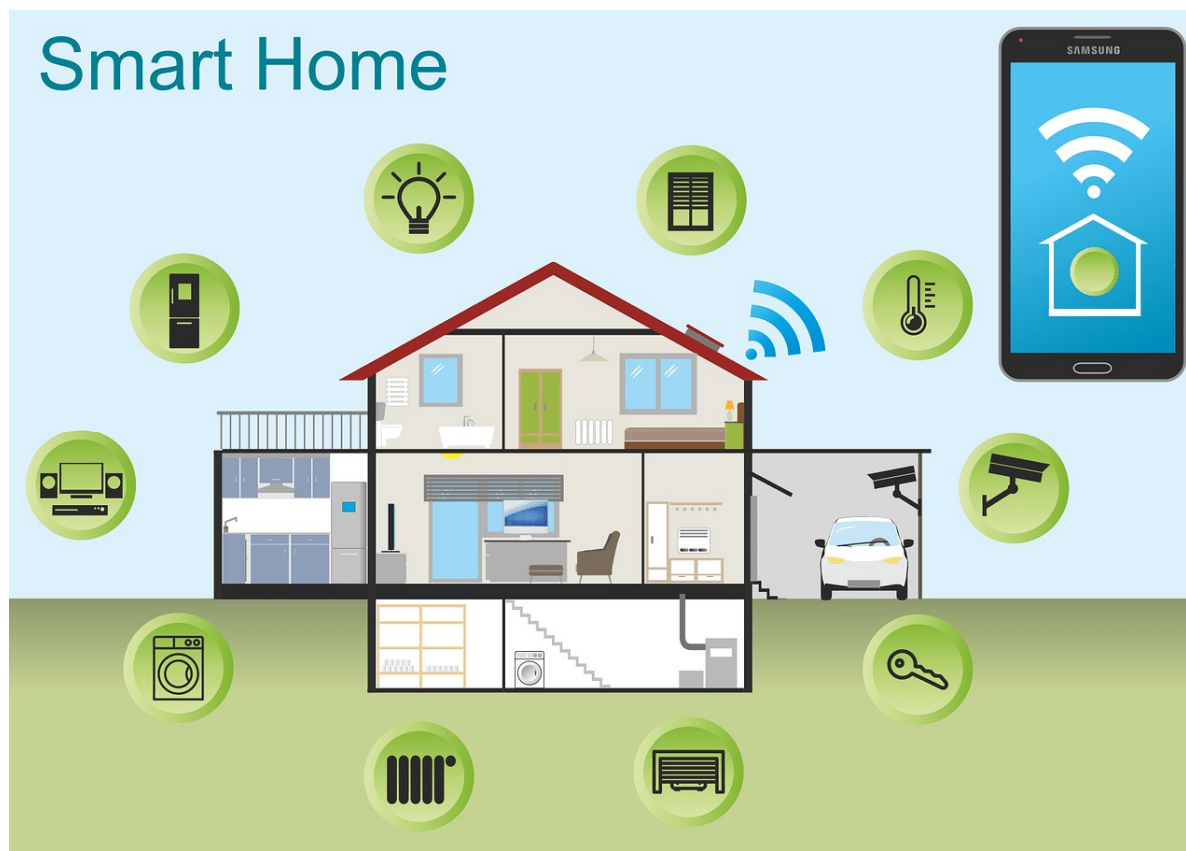
Live demo

# MODELING SKILLS

- State Charts



# CASE STUDY: HOME AUTOMATION – SECURITY SYSTEM



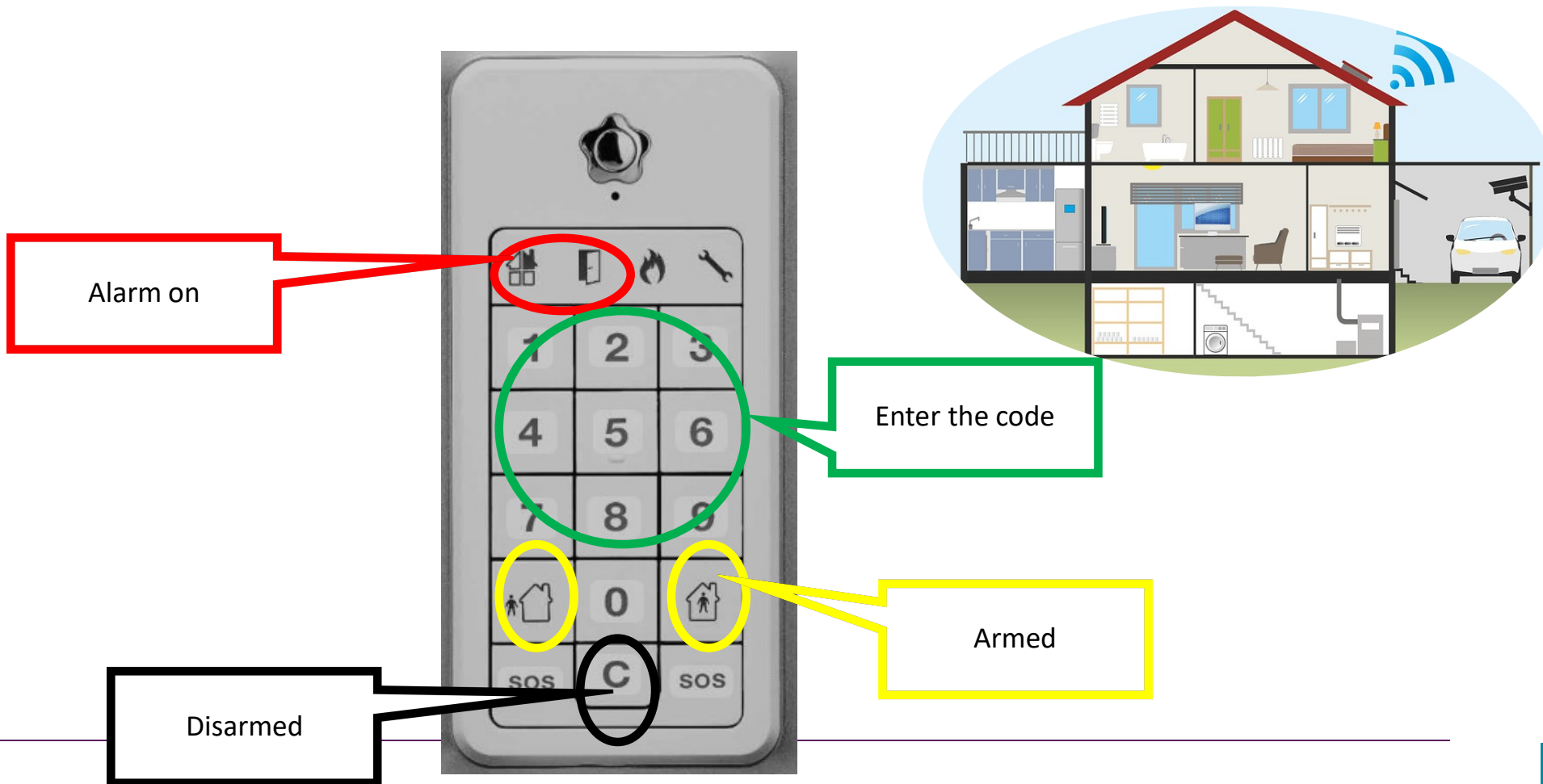
Cameras

Sensors

Alarm

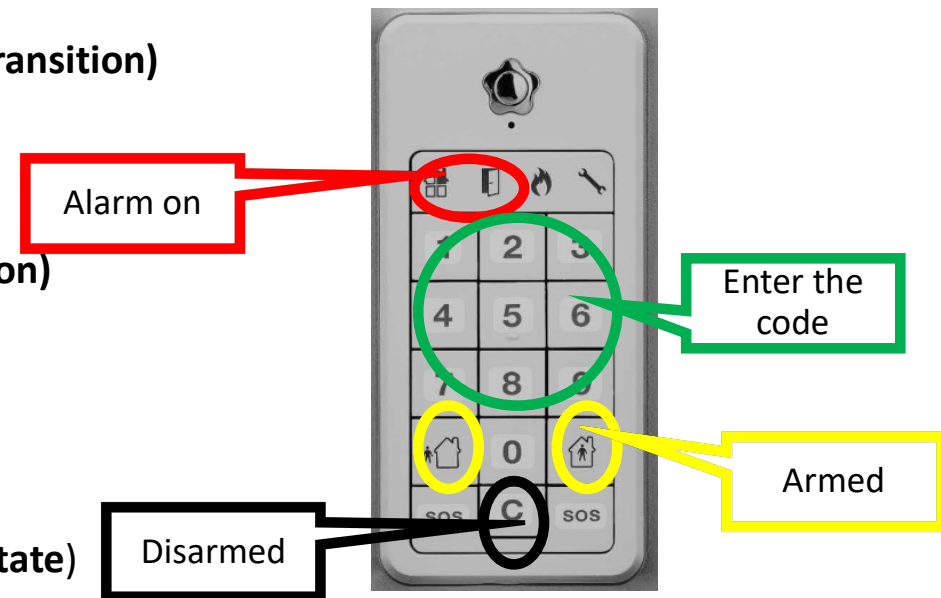


# USER INTERACTION WITH THE SECURITY SYSTEM KEYPAD



## CREATE A STATE CHART FOR A SECURITY SYSTEM

- Goal of the model: describe how the user interacts with the system
- The user can **arm the security system (disarmed → armed transition)**
  - *First, select* the mode “armed” and then *dial the code*
  - (for now, in-house or out-of-house are one single state)
- The user can **disarm the system (armed → disarmed transition)**
  - *First, select* the mode “C” and then *dial the code*
- If the alarm is on (because a sensor detected an intrusion), the user can **deactivate the alarm** by selecting “C” and then, *dialling the security code (the system returns to the armed state)*



Duration: 10 minutes designing + 5 minutes reporting

Think → Pair → Share



## A POSSIBLE SOLUTION (1)



What is the problem here?

HSS

**interface:**

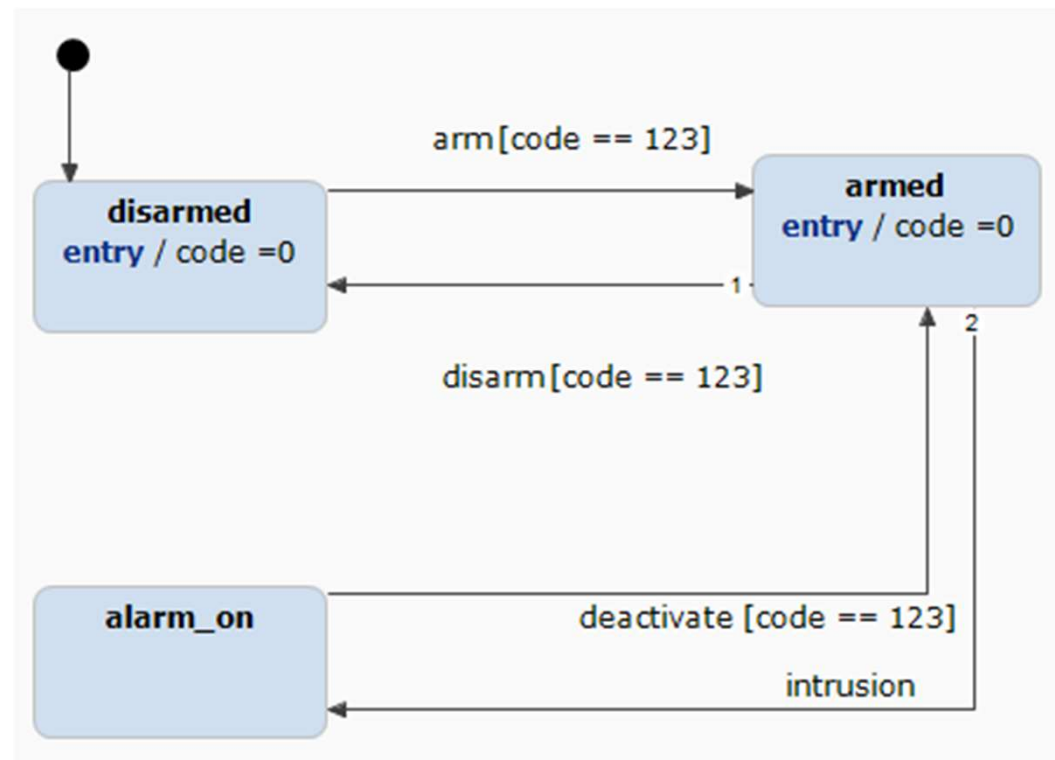
**in event** arm

**in event** disarm

**in event** intrusion

**in event** deactivate

**var** code:integer



## A POSSIBLE SOLUTION (2)

### Statechart

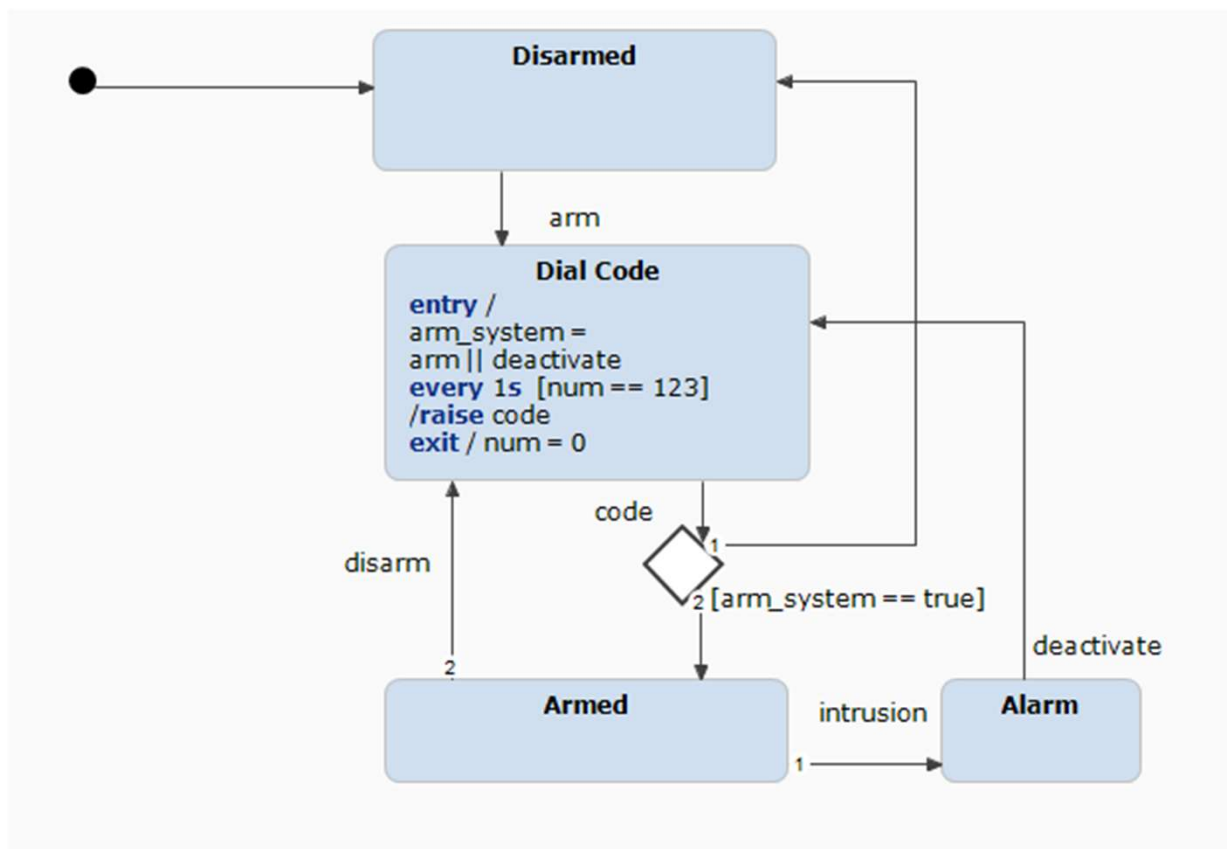
#### interface:

**in event** arm  
**in event** disarm  
**in event** intrusion  
**in event** deactivate

**var** num:integer  
**var** arm\_system: boolean

#### internal:

**event** code



## A POSSIBLE SOLUTION (3)

### Statechart

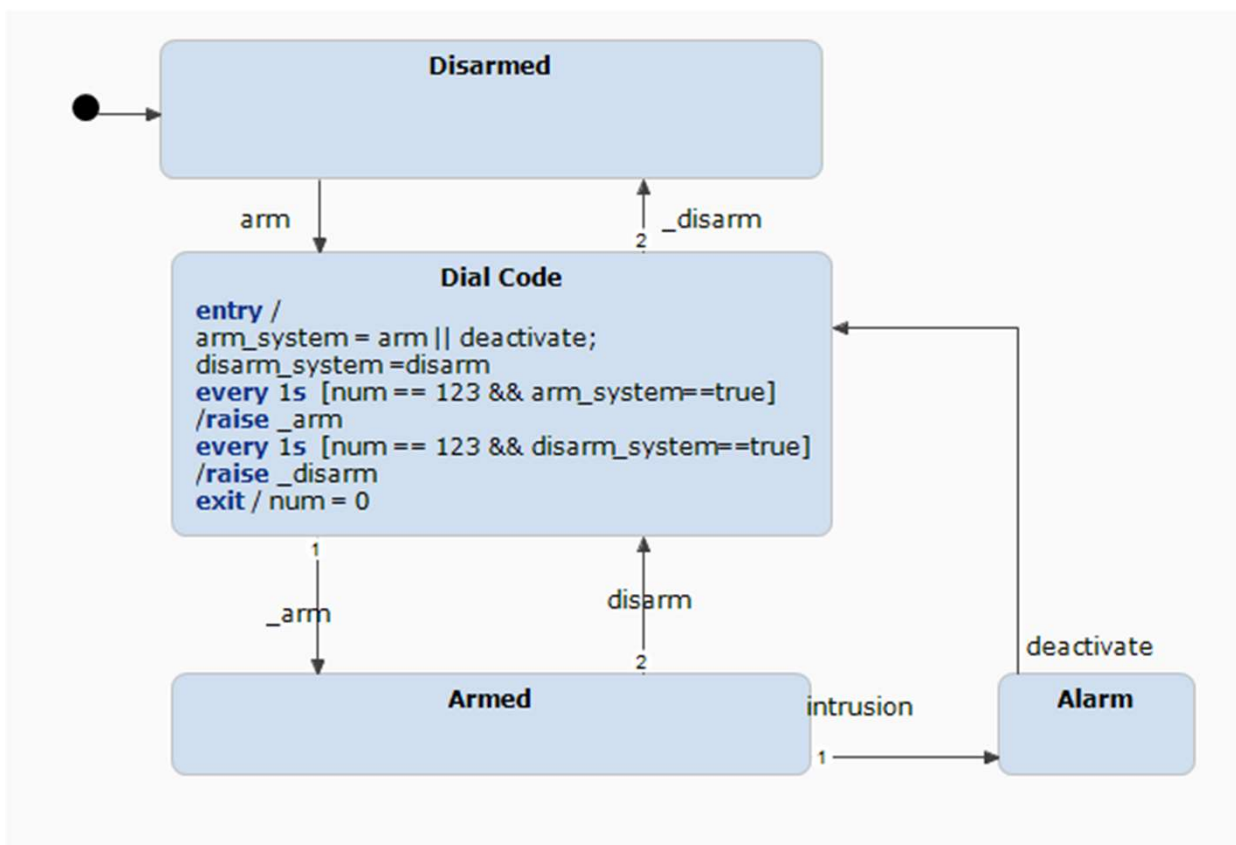
#### interface:

**in event** arm  
**in event** disarm  
**in event** intrusion  
**in event** deactivate

**var** num:integer  
**var** arm\_system: boolean  
**var** disarm\_system: boolean

#### internal:

**event** \_arm  
**event** \_disarm



# SIMULATION

Live demo

# ADVANCED NOTATION AND SIMULATION

- State Chart

## ADVANCED CONCEPTS OF STATECHARTS

- Composite state
  - Named entries and exits
  - History nodes
-

## A STATE CHART FOR A SECURITY SYSTEM

- Goal of the model: describe how the user interacts with the system

RQ1

- The user can **arm the security system in STAY or AWAY modes** (disarmed → away/stay or away ↔ stay transitions)

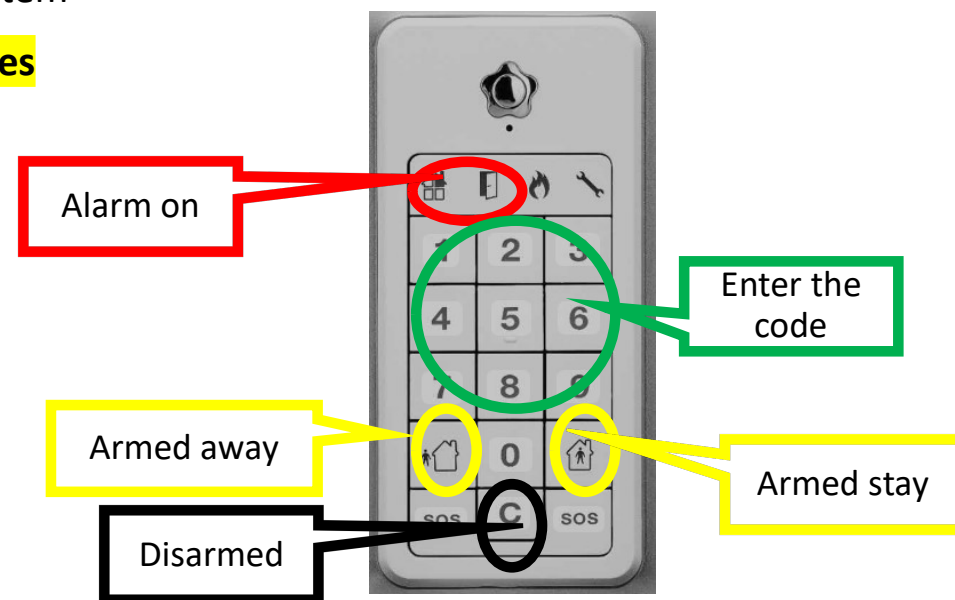
- *First, select the mode and then dial the code*
- (mode armed away waits 5s before being activated)

- The user can **disarm the system**

- *First, select the mode “C” and then dial the code*

- If the alarm is on (because a sensor detected an intrusion), the user can **deactivate the alarm** by selecting “C” and then, *dialling the security code*

- After deactivating the alarm, the system returns to the exact same armed state it was before the alarm was turned on.



## WE START FROM THIS SOLUTION

RQ1

The user can arm the security system in **STAY or AWAY modes** (disarmed  $\rightarrow$  away/stay or away  $\leftrightarrow$  stay transitions)

Statechart

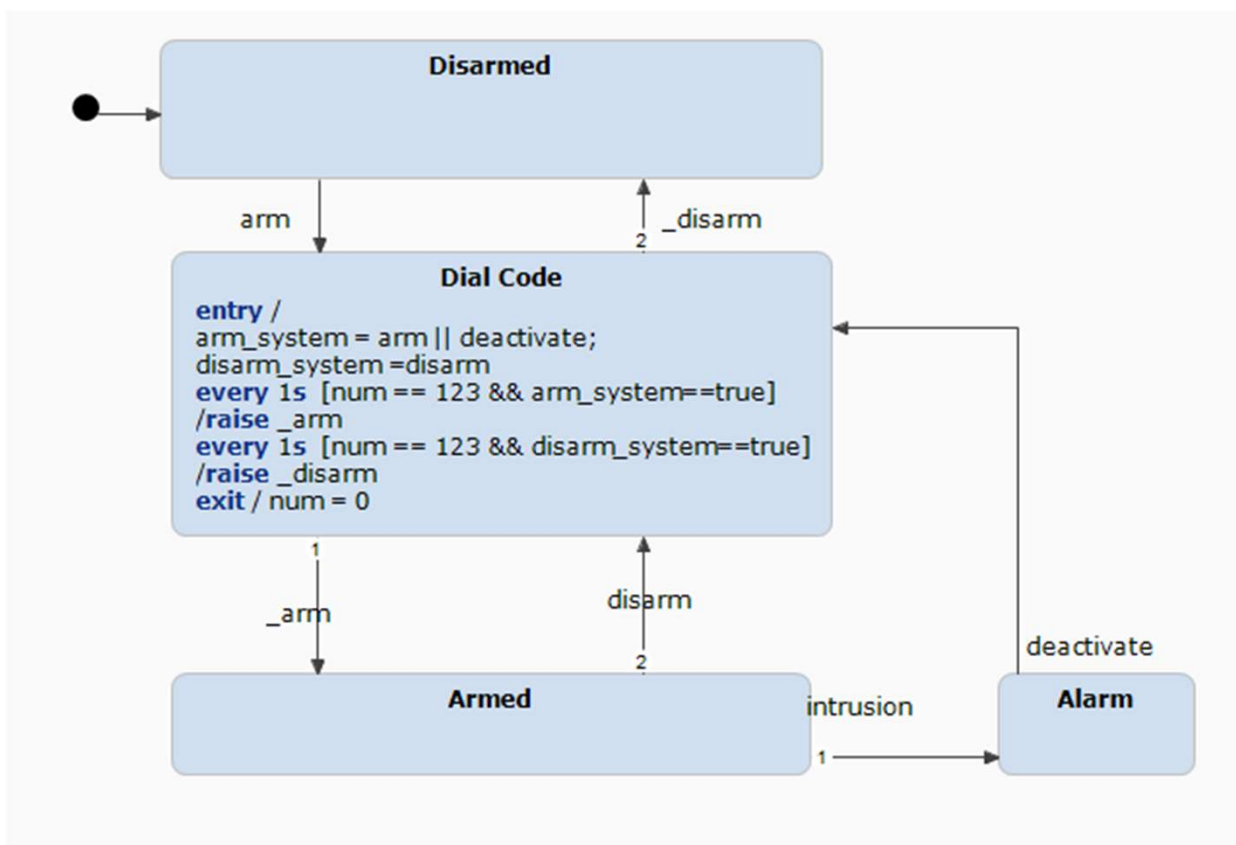
**interface:**

**in event** arm  
**in event** disarm  
**in event** intrusion  
**in event** deactivate

**var** num:integer  
**var** arm\_system: boolean  
**var** disarm\_system: boolean

**internal:**

**event** \_arm  
**event** \_disarm





RQ1

The user can arm the security system in **STAY** or **AWAY** modes

armed\_hierarchy

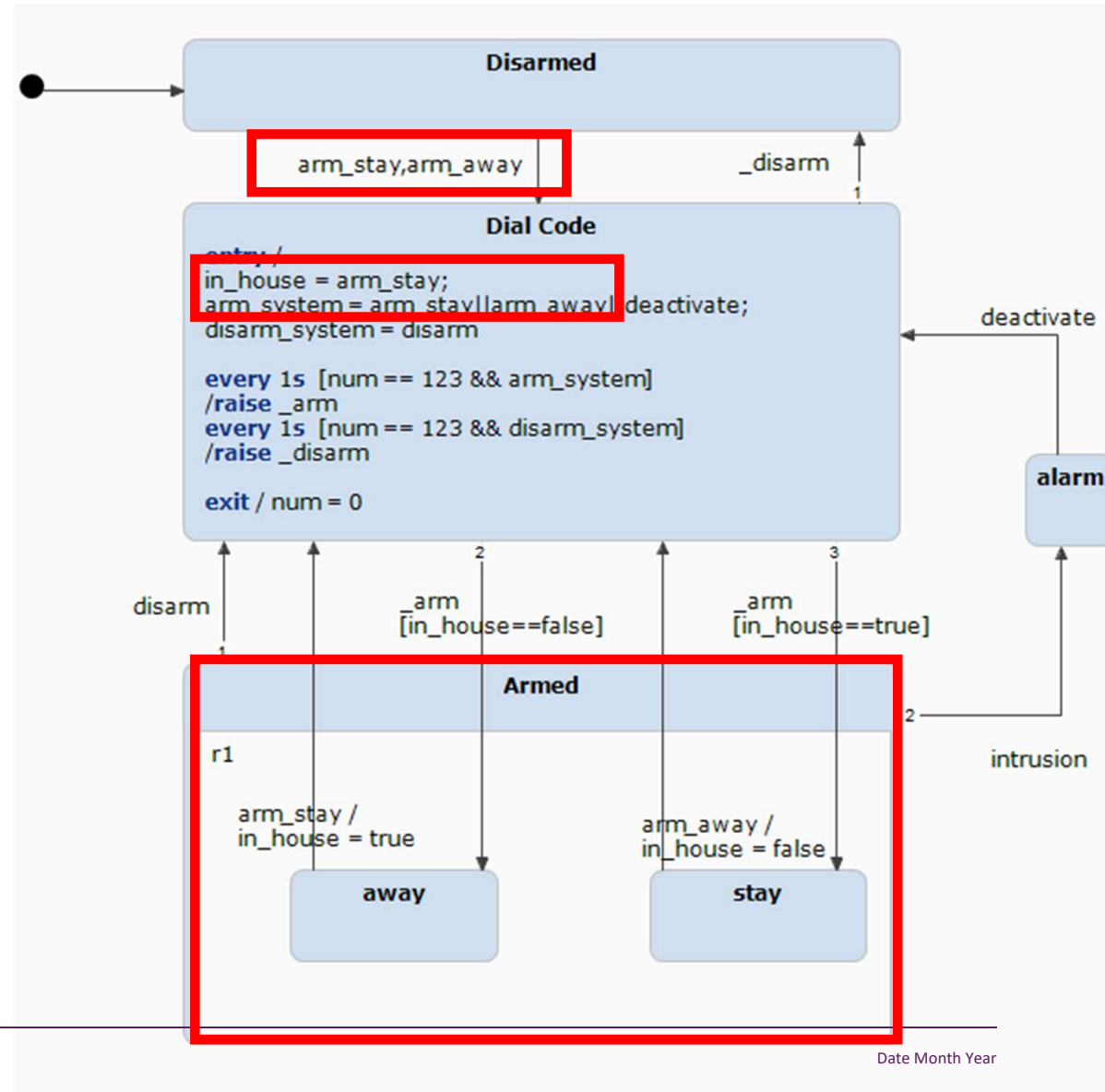
interface:

- in event arm\_stay
- in event arm\_away
- in event disarm
- in event intrusion
- in event deactivate

- var in\_house: boolean
- var num: integer
- var arm\_system: boolean
- var disarm\_system: boolean

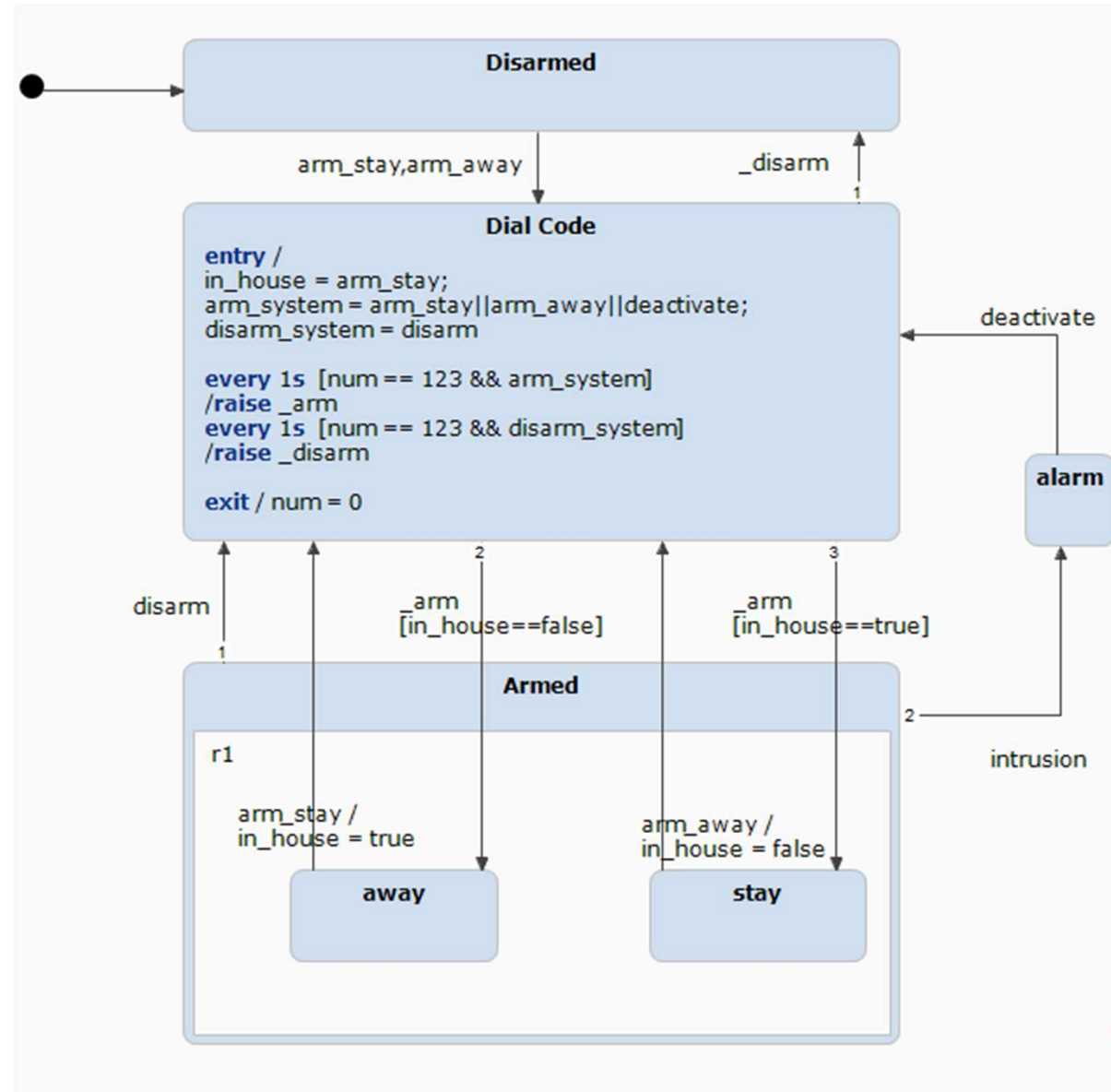
internal:

- event \_arm
- event \_disarm



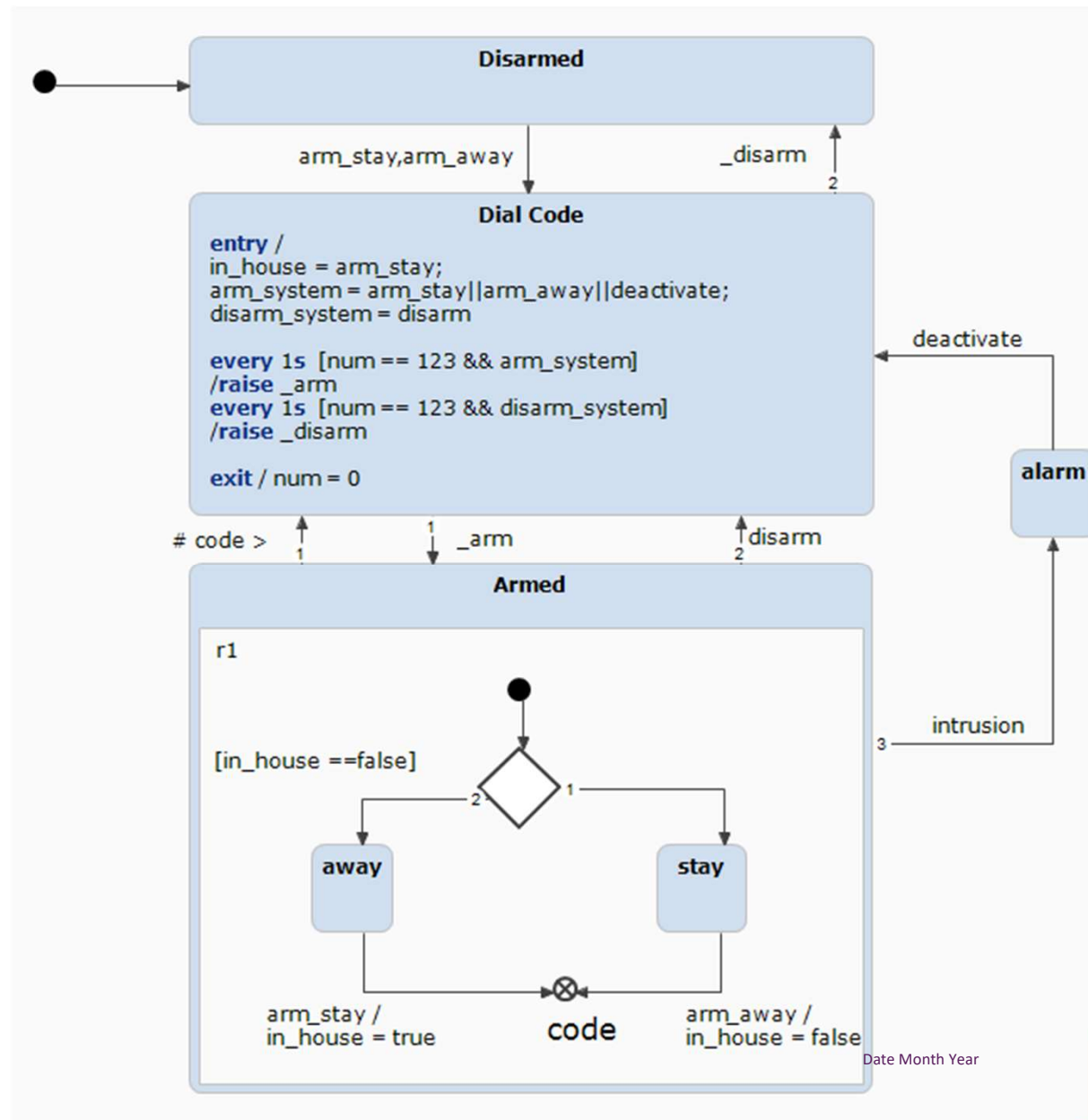
# COMPOSITE STATES

- State that contains one or more substates (Armed)
- Outgoing transitions from a state apply to all its substates
- Transitions can point to either a state or a substate



# (MULTIPLE) NAMED ENTRIES AND EXITS

- Whenever entering a composite state, the **default** (i.e., unnamed) entry node is activated
- It is possible to have **(multiple) named entry** nodes (with unique names)
- It is possible to have **(multiple) named exit** nodes (with unique names)



# SIMULATION

Live demo

## A STATE CHART FOR A SECURITY SYSTEM

- Goal of the model: describe how the user interacts with the system

RQ1

- The user can **arm the security system in STAY or AWAY modes** (disarmed → away/stay or away ↔ stay transitions)

- *First, select* the mode and then *dial the code*
- (mode armed away waits 5s before being activated)

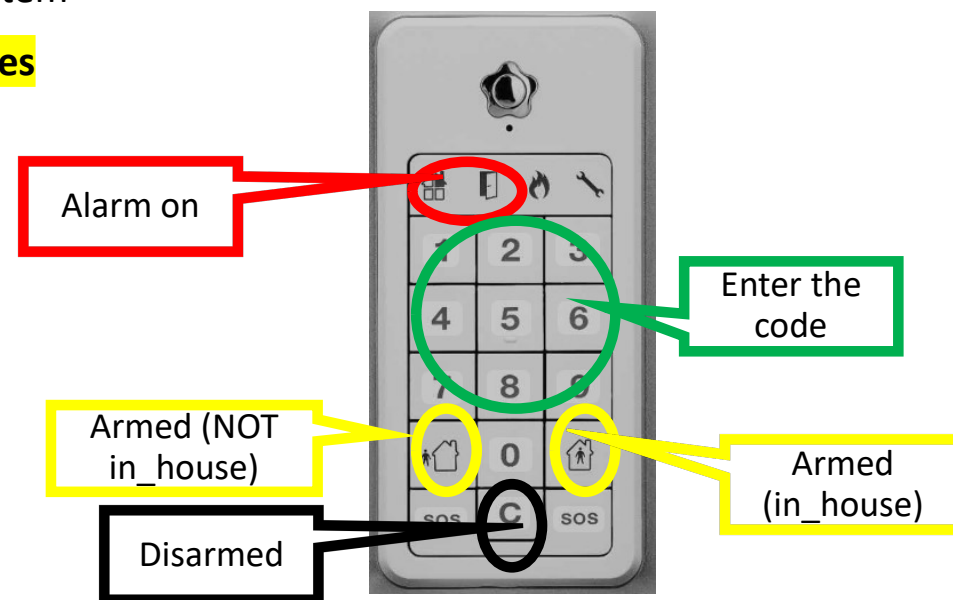
- The user can **disarm the system**

- *First, select* the mode “C” and then *dial the code*

- If the alarm is on (because a sensor detected an intrusion), the user can **deactivate the alarm** by selecting “C” and then, *dialling the security code*

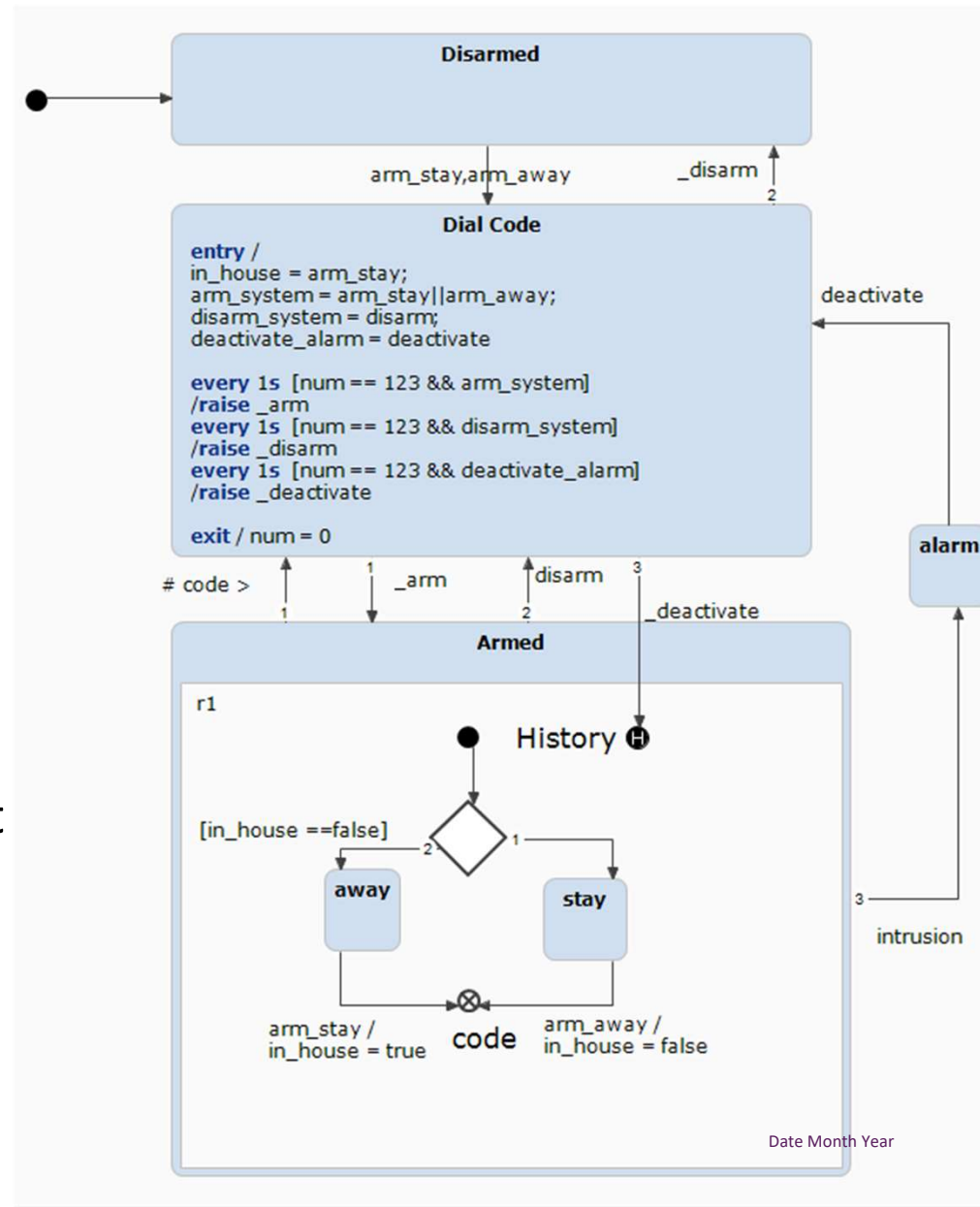
RQ2

- After deactivating the alarm, the system returns to the exact same armed state it was before the alarm was turned on.



# HISTORY NODES

- (Default: don't remember the state that was active when the composite state was left)
- Shallow: remember the state that was active when the composite state was left
- Deep: remember all nested states when the composite state was left



# SIMULATION

Live demo

# MODELING SKILLS

- State Chart





## CREATE A STATE CHART FOR A SECURITY SYSTEM

- Goal of the model: describe how the user interacts with the system

RQ1

- The user can **arm the security system in STAY or AWAY modes** (disarmed  $\rightarrow$  away/stay or away  $\leftrightarrow$  stay transitions)

– *First, select the mode and then dial the code*

– (mode armed away waits 5s before being activated)

RQ3

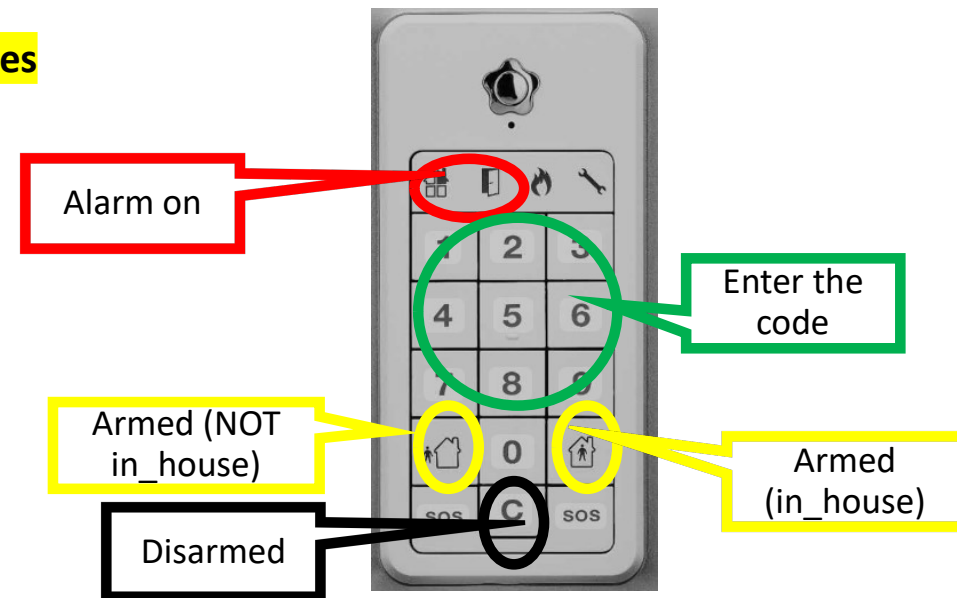
- The user can **disarm the system**

– *First, select the mode “C” and then dial the code*

- If the alarm is on (because a sensor detected an intrusion), the user can **deactivate the alarm** by selecting “C” and then, dialling the security code

RQ2

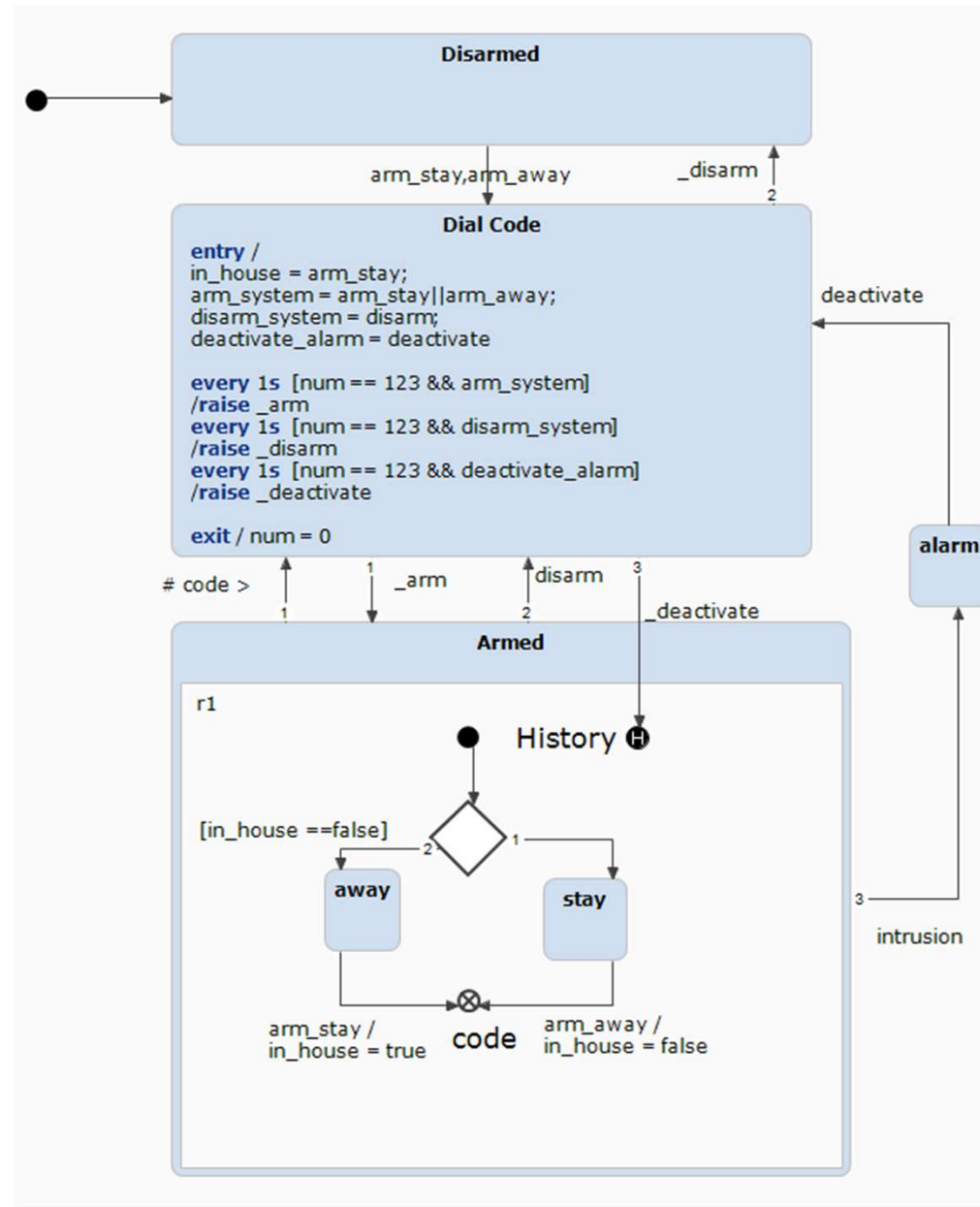
– After deactivating the alarm, the system returns to the exact same armed state it was before the alarm was turned on.



# MODIFY THE STATE CHART TO MEET RQ3

- (mode armed out-of-house waits 5s before being activated)
- Duration: 5 minutes designing and 3 minutes reporting

Think → Pair → Share



HSS\_final

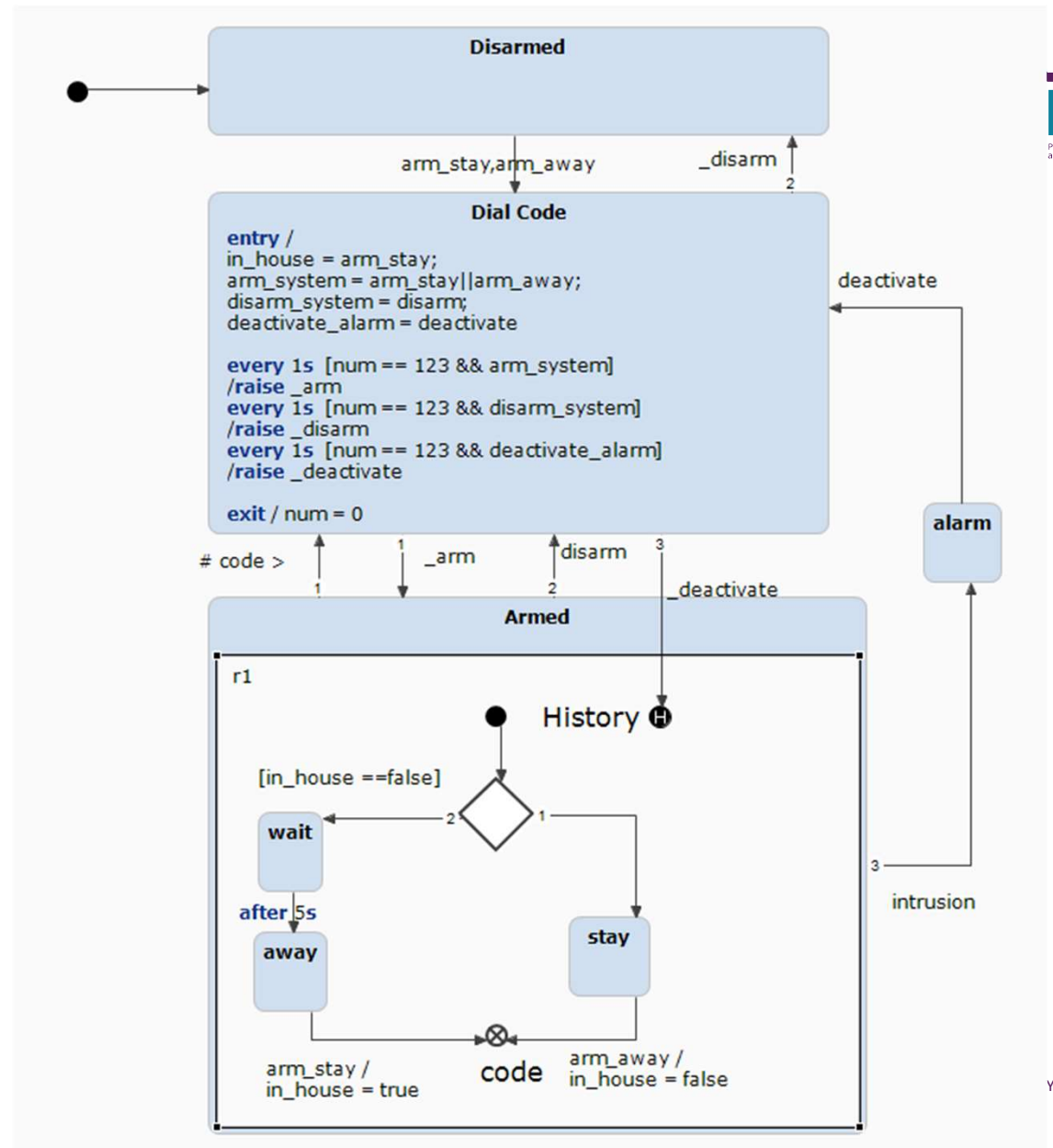
**interface:**

- in event** arm\_stay
- in event** arm\_away
- in event** disarm
- in event** intrusion
- in event** deactivate

- var** in\_house: boolean
- var** num: integer
- var** arm\_system: boolean
- var** disarm\_system: boolean
- var** deactivate\_alarm: boolean

**internal:**

- event** \_arm
- event** \_disarm
- event** \_deactivate



# SIMULATION

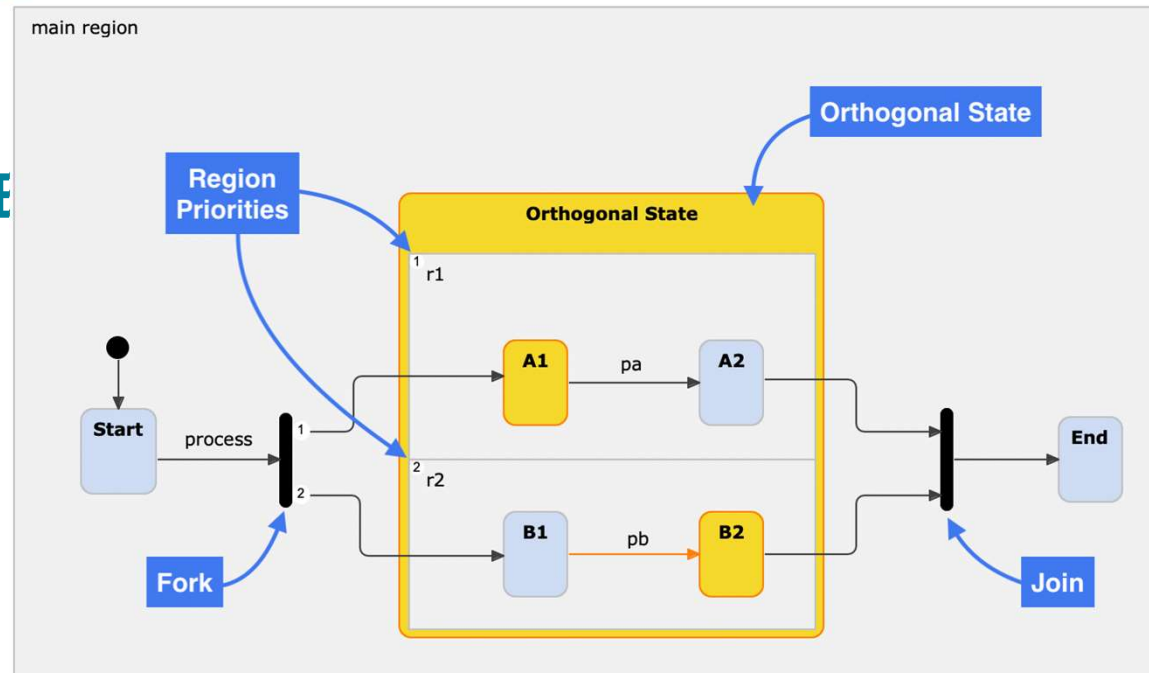
Live demo

# OPTIONAL ADVANCED CONCEPTS

- State Charts

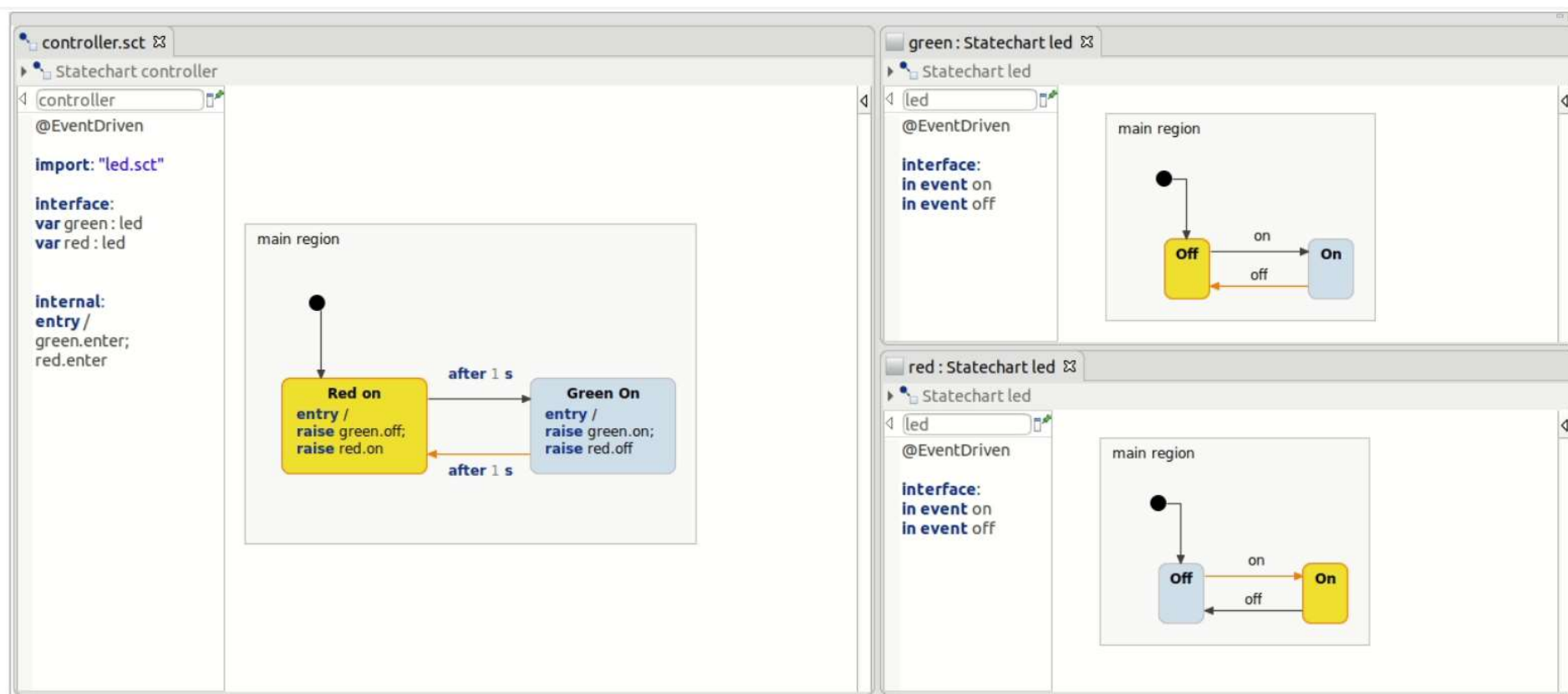


# ORTHOGONAL STATE



- Orthogonal state
  - Surrounded by Fork and Join nodes
  - System can be in multiple states simultaneously
    - Transitions are executed sequentially
    - Orthogonal regions have priorities
  - Orthogonal regions can communicate via internal events

# MULTI STATE-MACHINE MODELLING



# CLOSING REMARKS

- State Charts





## HAVE YOU REACHED THE OBJECTIVES?

- How many of you knew about State Charts before today?
- Do you understand the purpose and application areas of State Charts?
- Do you feel capable of explaining the concepts and notations of State Charts?
- Could you start designing basic State Charts to model software systems?

## CLOSING REMARKS

- Strongly suggested: work on “Notation and simulation” before the lab session
  - Download and install the Itemis CREATE
  - Eclipse → Help → Help Contents → Itemis CREATE documentation
    - Tutorials → Comprehensive tutorial
- Optional (if you are interested in test-driven development):
  - Eclipse → Help → Help Contents → Itemis CREATE documentation
    - User guide → Testing state machines
      - **NOTE: Up to section 1.3 only! So stop before “1.4 The SCTUnit language”**