CSCI 1106
Lecture 5

State Transition Diagrams

Announcements

- Quiz #1 is this Friday, January 25, in class
- Today's Topics
  - Modeling Tasks
  - States and Transitions
  - State Transition Diagrams
  - Examples

Crossing at an Intersection

- If light is red, wait for light to turn green
- If light is yellow, wait for light to turn green
- If light is green but there is not enough time, wait for light to turn red and then green
- If light is green and there is enough time,
  - Proceed on crosswalk
  - If a car is speeding at you, get out of the way
- Stop crossing when other side is reached

Observations

- Even simple tasks are hard to specify
  - What are the steps?
  - When are the steps to be done?
  - Which steps need to be done?
- Specifying computer tasks is even harder
- Need a simple way to specify and model
  - Steps of a task
  - Conditions under which the steps are performed
  - Environment of the robot during the task
- Idea: Use state transition diagrams

State

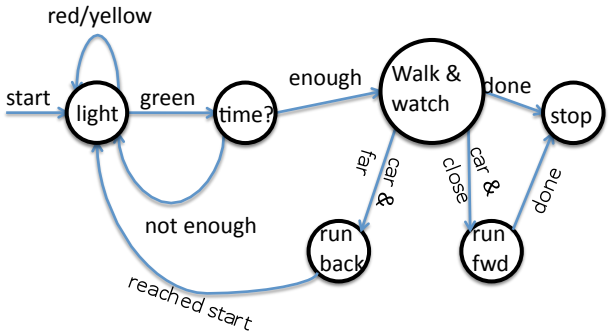
- A *state* is a unique set of conditions that hold at a given time
- Conditions include:
  - Measured or sensed properties of the environment
    - E.g., light is green and there is 20 seconds to cross
  - Current behaviour
    - E.g., Crossing the street
  - Current expectations
    - E.g., Will reach the other side without being run over
- Key Idea: A robot can be in one state at a time
- Robots can transition from one state to another state

State Transitions

- A *state transition* occurs when
  - An *event* occurs
  - One of the conditions describing the state changes
  - The state of the robot changes
- Transitions are typically caused by
  - External events
    - E.g. The stoplight changing colour
  - Completion of a step in a task (internal event)
    - E.g. Completion of crossing the street

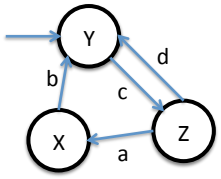
State Transition Diagrams

- Idea: We use a state transition diagram to model a task
- States are represented by circles
- Arrows represent transitions between states



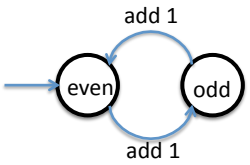
Creating State Transition Diagrams

- Identify the states (conditions) of a task
  - Determine what actions must be performed
  - Determine groups of unique (relevant) conditions
  - Label each group with a unique name
- Identify state to state transitions
  - What is being sensed?
  - What external events will be sensed?
  - What internal events will occur?
  - What conditions will these events change?
  - Determine which conditions change?
  - Determine the corresponding states in the transition
  - Label each transition with a unique label
- Create diagram
  - Combine states and transitions
  - Refine the diagram by repeating the process
- **This diagram is a blueprint for your program!**



Determine if Number of People is Even

- Idea
  - Don't want to count people
  - Just keep track if # of people is odd or even
- States: (2)
  - Even
  - Odd
- Transitions:
  - Each additional person causes a transition to the other state

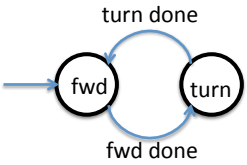


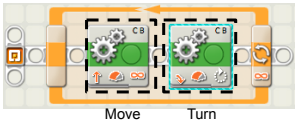
Determine if Number of People is Divisible by 3

- Idea
  - Don't want to count people
  - Just keep track if # of people is divisible by 3
- States: (?)
- Transitions:
  - Each additional person causes a transition

Move in a Square

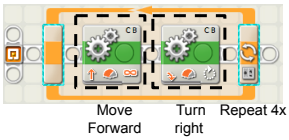
- Idea
  - Two actions
    - Move forward
    - Turn right
  - Two events
    - Finish straight move
    - Finish right turn
- States: (2)
  - Forward
  - Turn
- Transitions:
  - When an action completes





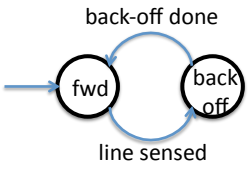
Make One Square

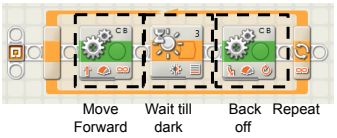
- Idea
  - Two actions
    - Move forward
    - Turn right
    - Repeated 4 times
  - Two events
    - Finish straight move
    - Finish right turn
- States: (?)
  - Forward?
  - Turn?
- Transitions:
  - When an action completes



Avoid the Boundary

- Idea
  - Two actions
    - Move forward
    - Back off
  - Two events
    - Black line sensed
    - Finish back-off
- States: (2)
  - Forward
  - Back-off
- Transitions:
  - Line sensed
  - Back-off done



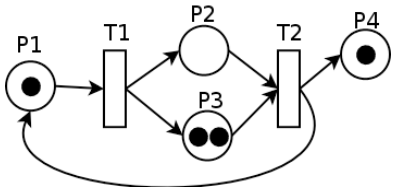


Follow the Line

- Setup
  - Actions?
  - Events?
- States: (?)
- Transitions: ?

Outlook

Preti Nets (multiple simultaneous states)



Bayes Nets (stochastic nets)