CSCI 1108
Introduction to Experimental Robotics

Robotics Overview

Aseba Intro

What is a Robotics

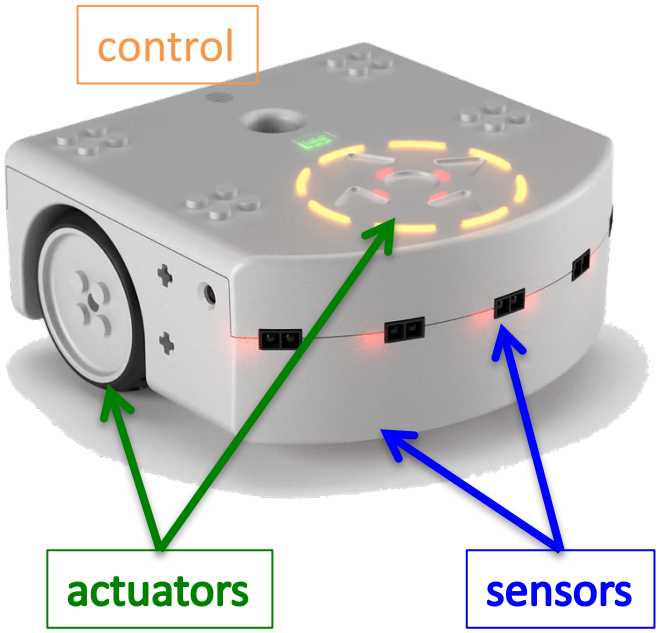
- "Robotics is the science of perceiving and manipulating the physical world through computer-controlled devices"

  Probabilistic Robotics
  S. Thrun, W. Burgard, and D. Fox
  MIT press 2006

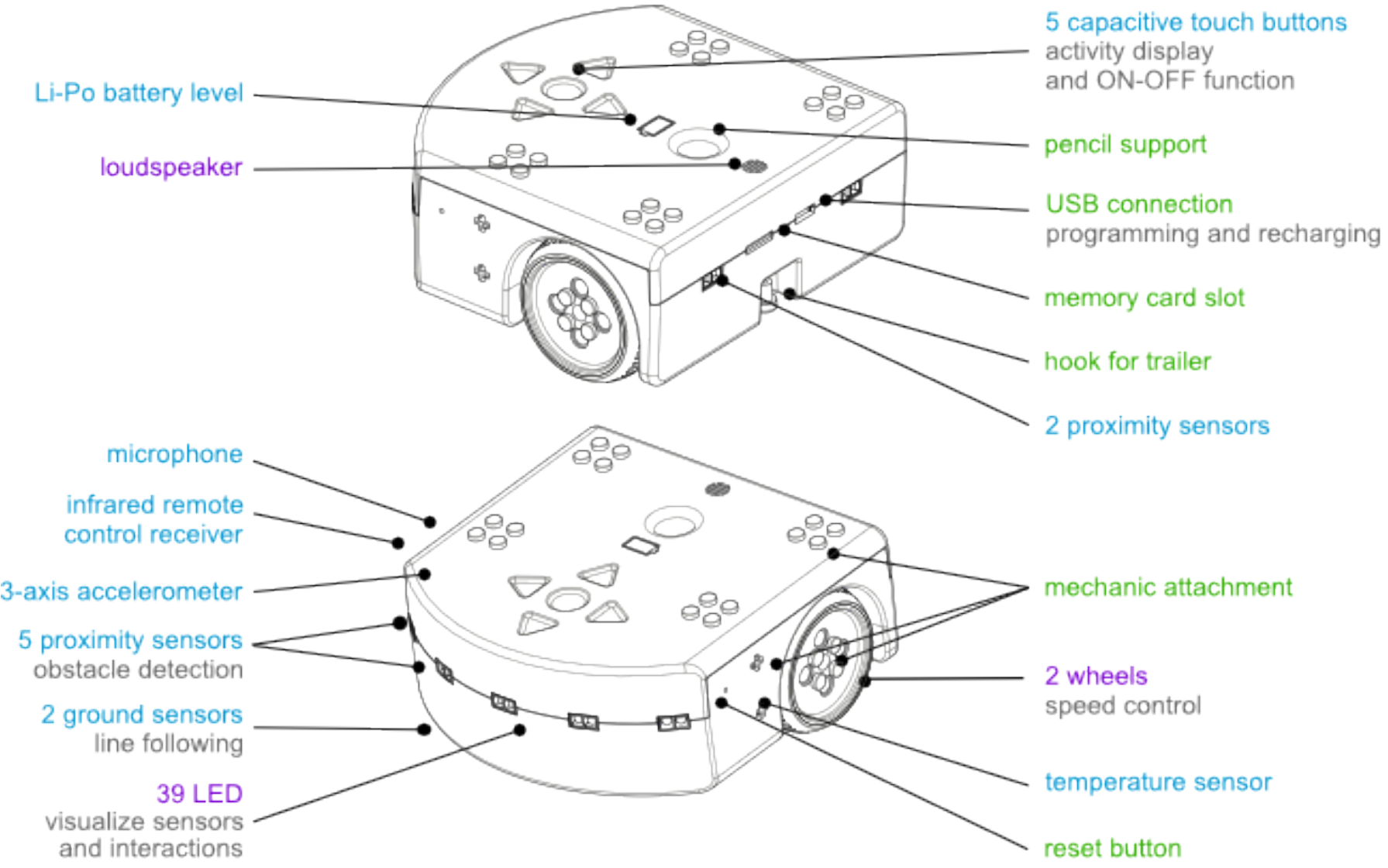
- Word robot first used in 1920
  play R.U.R. by the Czech writer Karel Čapek

Anatomy of a Robot

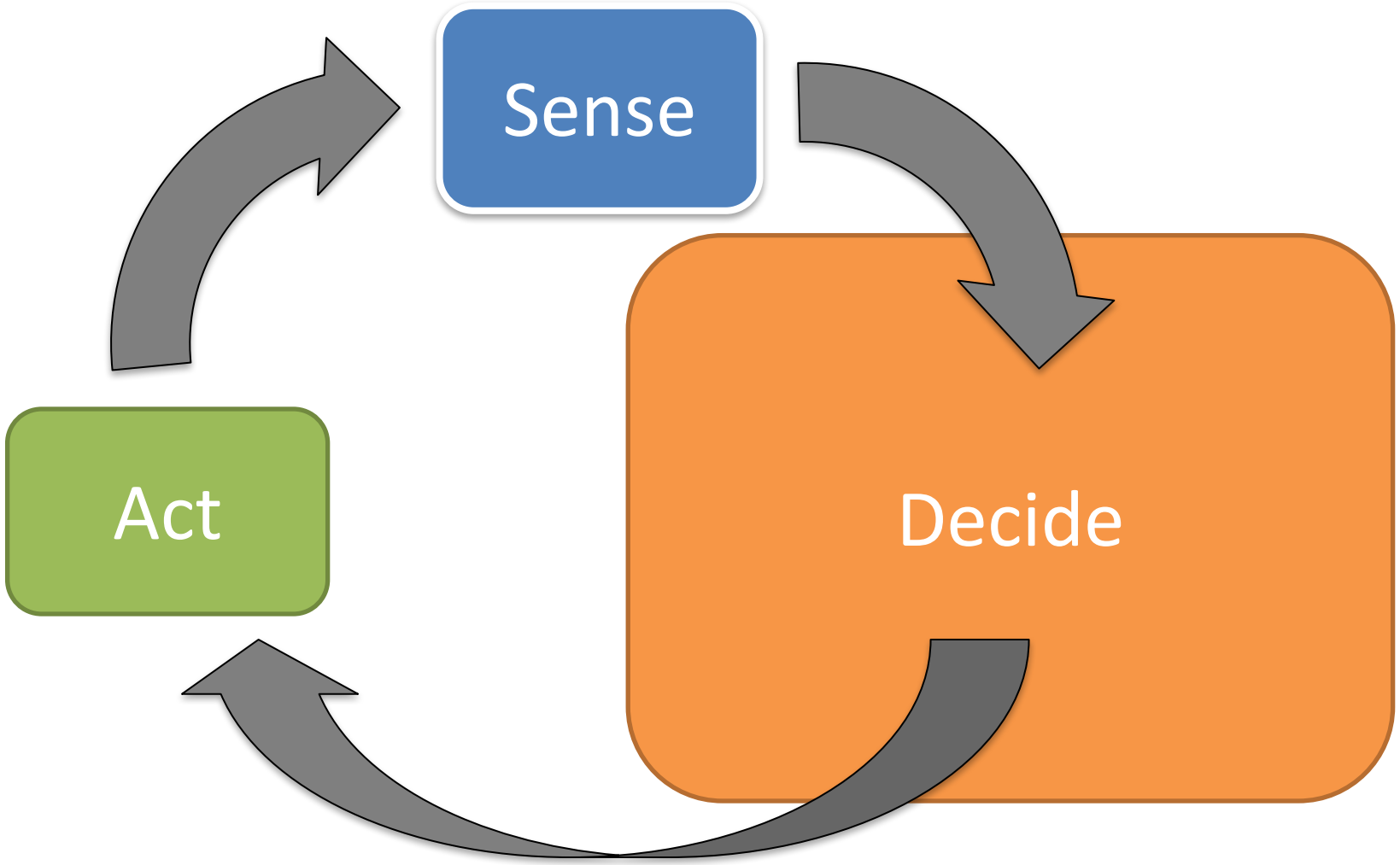
- Thymio II robot
  - https://aseba.wikidot.com
- Components:
  - Sensors
  - Controller
  - Actuators



Sensors and Actuators



The Sense-Decide-Act Framework



Controller:

A controller decides what action to take based on input from sensors. Our task is to write a control program for the Thymio II.

This is done in a special programming language called ASEBA

Classic Robotics themes

Actuators and movements:

Kinematics –basic movement geometry

Differential movements - change in position (Jacobian)

Dynamics –movement mechanics with forces

Sensor and object recognition:

Computer Vision

Localization:

Bayes (Kalman) filtering, SLAM, etc

Motion planning

A*, tangent bug, obstacle avoidance, etc

Other robotics terms we will be using

Pose:

Describes the configuration (e.g. position and direction) of a robot

Model:

A (simplified) description of a system

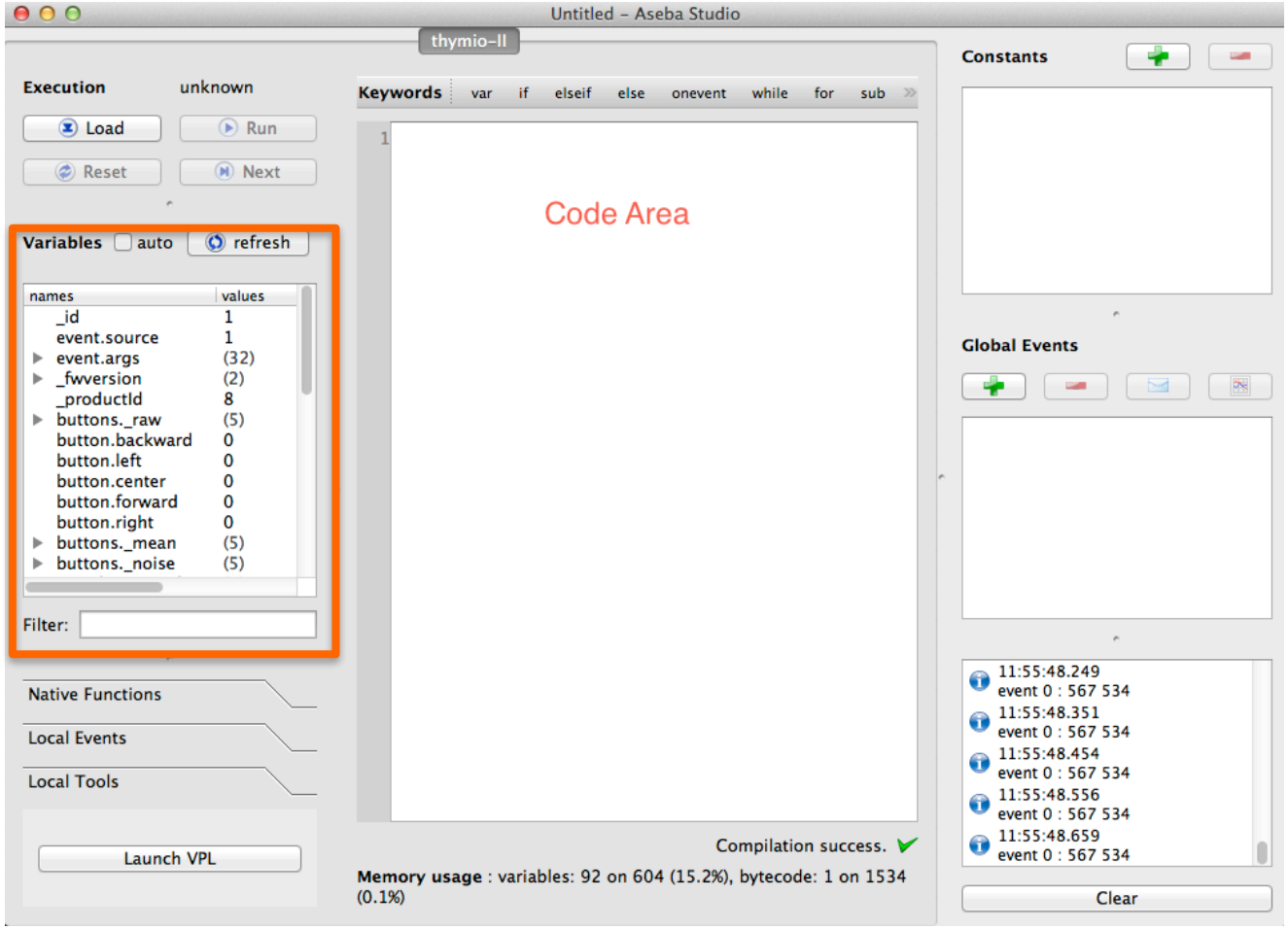
We will specifically study **Sensor models** & **Motion models**

Autonomous:

Acting independently

(as opposed to a ROVER: Remote Operated Vehicle)

Aseba Studio



https://aseba.wikidot.com/en:thymioapi

Programming in Aseba

- Programs are text-based
- Programing environment called Aseba Studio
- Key Ideas: Event-based programming
  - Events are triggered by sensors
  - Events are handled by event handlers for which we write the code: **`onevent …`**
  - Common programing model for interactive programs (e.g. www, computer interface, etc)

A Sample Program

```
var speed = 100


motor.left.target = 0
motor.right.target = 0


onevent button.forward
  motor.left.target = speed
  motor.right.target = speed

onevent button.backward
  motor.left.target = 0
  motor.right.target = 0

onevent button.left
  motor.left.target = -speed
  motor.right.target = speed

onevent button.right
  motor.left.target = speed
  motor.right.target = -speed
```

Key Idea: Actuators are controlled by setting variables that represent them

The Four Parts of an Aseba Program

- Variable declarations
  - Begin with the **`var`** keyword
- Initialization code
  - Anything except declarations
- Event handlers
  - Begin with the **`onevent`** keyword
- Subroutines
  - Begin with the **`sub`** keyword

Basic Aseba

- Variables

```
var name
var list[]
```

- Event Handler

```
onevent prox
```

- Conditional

```
if a>b then
  …
end
```

- Loop

```
for i in 1:10 do
  …
end
```

- Subroutine

```
sub subname

Callsub subname
```

Sensors and Actuators in Aseba

- Key Idea: All sensors and actuators are accessed via predefined variables, e.g.,
  - to control motors, assign values to motor variables

```
motor.left.target = 100
motor.right.target = 100
```

  - to check if an object is close, read proximity variable

```
if prox.horizontal[2] > 1000 then
  ...
end
```

- Where are all the predefined variables listed?
- When do we check variables?

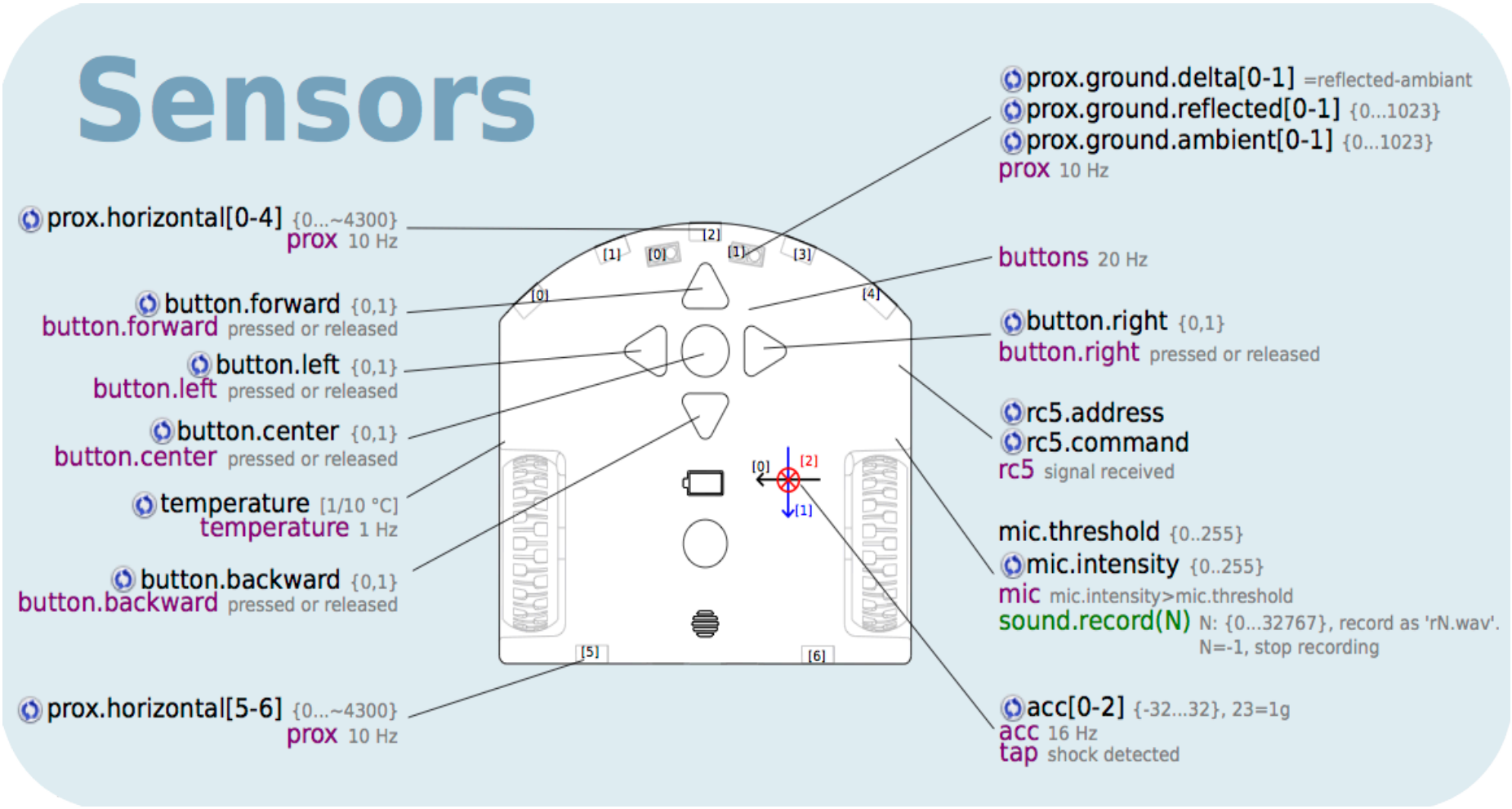
When do We Check the Sensors?

- Key Idea: Sensors generate events. Event handlers check sensors

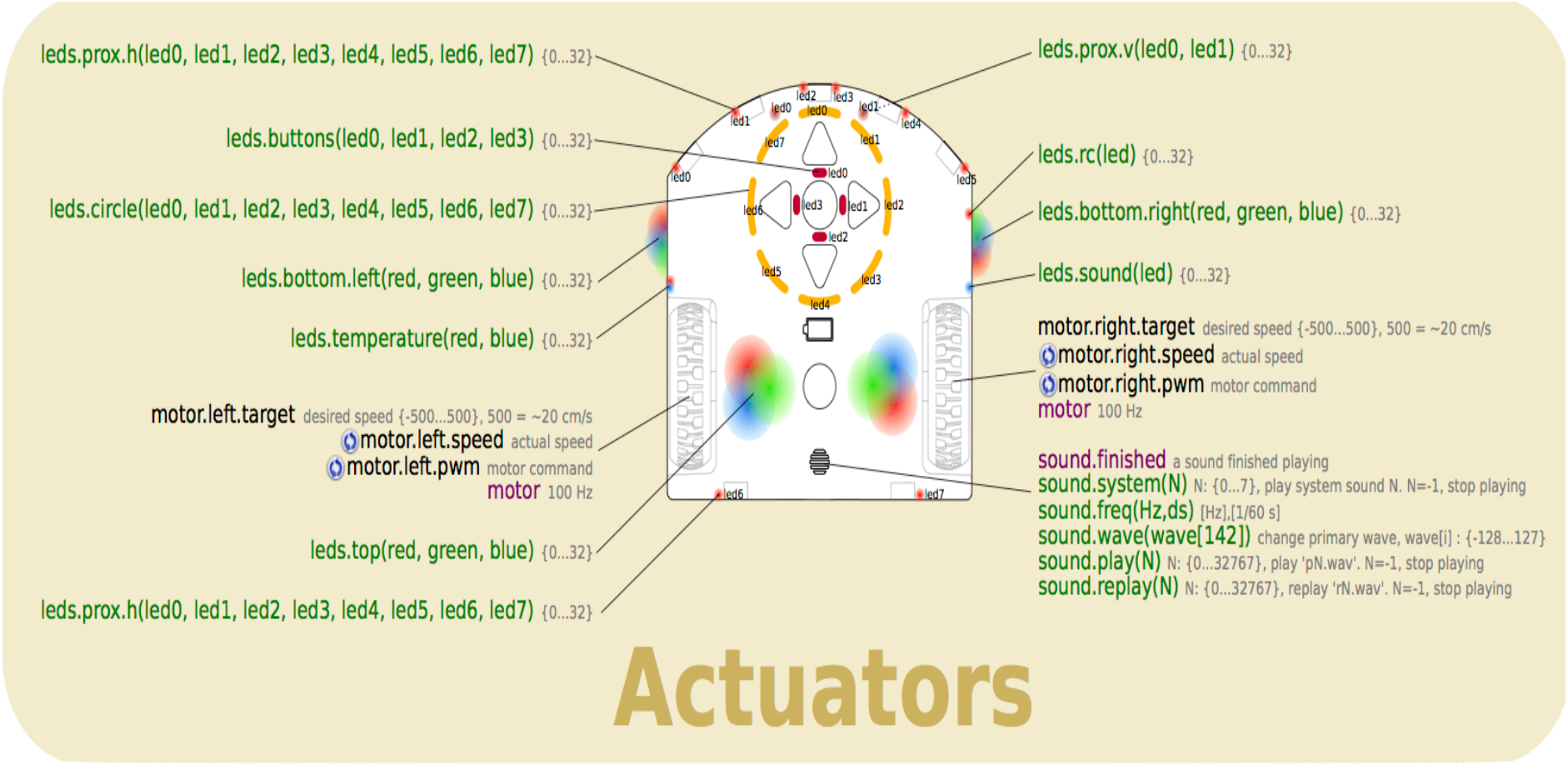
- Example: Proximity (**prox**) sensors generate 10 events per second

```
onevent prox
  if prox.horizontal[2] > 1000 then
    motor.left.target = 0
    motor.right.target = 0
  else
    motor.left.target = 100
    motor.right.target = 100
  end
```

Sensors


Sensors
prox.horizontal[0-4] {0...~4300}
prox 10 Hz
button.forward {0,1}
button.forward pressed or released
button.left {0,1}
button.left pressed or released
button.center {0,1}
button.center pressed or released
temperature [1/10 °C]
temperature 1 Hz
button.backward {0,1}
button.backward pressed or released
prox.horizontal[5-6] {0...~4300}
prox 10 Hz
prox.ground.delta[0-1] =reflected-ambiant
prox.ground.reflected[0-1] {0...1023}
prox.ground.ambient[0-1] {0...1023}
prox 10 Hz
buttons 20 Hz
button.right {0,1}
button.right pressed or released
rc5.address
rc5.command
rc5 signal received
mic.threshold {0..255}
mic.intensity {0..255}
mic mic.intensity>mic.threshold
sound.record(N) N: {0...32767}, record as 'rN.wav'.
N=-1, stop recording
acc[0-2] {-32...32}, 23=1g
acc 16 Hz
tap shock detected
[0]
[1]
[2]
[3]
[4]
[5]
[6]

Actuators


leds.prox.h(led0, led1, led2, led3, led4, led5, led6, led7) {0...32}
leds.buttons(led0, led1, led2, led3) {0...32}
leds.circle(led0, led1, led2, led3, led4, led5, led6, led7) {0...32}
leds.bottom.left(red, green, blue) {0...32}
leds.temperature(red, blue) {0...32}
motor.left.target desired speed {-500...500}, 500 = ~20 cm/s
motor.left.speed actual speed
motor.left.pwm motor command
motor 100 Hz
leds.top(red, green, blue) {0...32}
leds.prox.h(led0, led1, led2, led3, led4, led5, led6, led7) {0...32}
leds.prox.v(led0, led1) {0...32}
leds.rc(led) {0...32}
leds.bottom.right(red, green, blue) {0...32}
leds.sound(led) {0...32}
motor.right.target desired speed {-500...500}, 500 = ~20 cm/s
motor.right.speed actual speed
motor.right.pwm motor command
motor 100 Hz
sound.finished a sound finished playing
sound.system(N) N: {0...7}, play system sound N. N=-1, stop playing
sound.freq(Hz,ds) [Hz],[1/60 s]
sound.wave(wave[142]) change primary wave, wave[i] : {-128...127}
sound.play(N) N: {0...32767}, play 'pN.wav'. N=-1, stop playing
sound.replay(N) N: {0...32767}, replay 'rN.wav'. N=-1, stop playing
Actuators

Last Example

```
onevent prox
  if prox.horizontal[2] > 1000 then
    motor.left.target = 0
    motor.right.target = 0
  elseif prox.horizontal[4] > 1000 then
    motor.left.target = -100
    motor.right.target = 100
  elseif prox.horizontal[0] > 1000 then
    motor.left.target = 100
    motor.right.target = -100
  else
    motor.left.target = 100
    motor.right.target = 100
  end
```