

CSCE 310J
Data Structures & Algorithms

**Introduction to
Finite State Automata
and
Finite State Machines**

Dr. Steve Goddard
goddard@cse.unl.edu

<http://www.cse.unl.edu/~goddard/Courses/CSCE310J>

1

CSCE 310J
Data Structures & Algorithms

- ◆ Giving credit where credit is due:
 - » Most of the lecture notes are based on slides created by Drs. Doug Hogan (Penn State), A.E. Eiben, Stephen Cheney, Niraj Shah, Joseph Conron, John Laird and Mike van Lent.
 - » Epp, Susanna S. *Discrete Mathematics with Applications*. 2nd Ed. Belmont, CA: Brooks, 1995.
 - » I have modified them and added new slides

2

What is a finite state automaton?

- ◆ A model of computation
- ◆ A set of *states* and how to get from some state to other states

3

Why do we care?

- ◆ An ideal representation of a computer
 - » Why?
 - ❖ A state describes the computer at any given point
 - ◆ Programs, memory, etc.
 - ❖ Many states, but still a finite number
- ◆ Represents legal steps of a process
 - » Some computation
 - » Valid inputs
 - » Valid words in a language
 - ❖ Compilers

4

Vending Machine Example

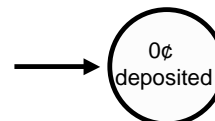
- ◆ Accepts only nickels and dimes
- ◆ Everything costs 20 cents

- ◆ Consider the *state* of the vending machine
 - » We'll model the state by how much money has been deposited.
 - » What is the initial state of the vending machine?

5

Vending Machine Initial State

- ◆ Start with 0¢ deposited.
 - » Called the **initial state** of the machine.
 - » A circle is drawn for the state



- » An arrow pointing to this state marks it as the initial state.

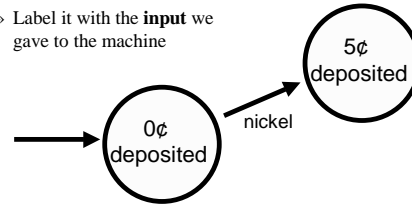
6

Where to from here?

- ◆ Make transitions to different states...
- ◆ What can we do?
 - » Deposit a nickel
 - » Deposit a dime

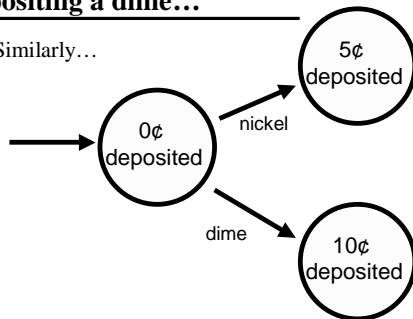
Depositing a nickel...

- ◆ Takes us to a new state: 5¢ deposited
- ◆ Add an arrow for the transition
 - » Label it with the **input** we gave to the machine



Depositing a dime...

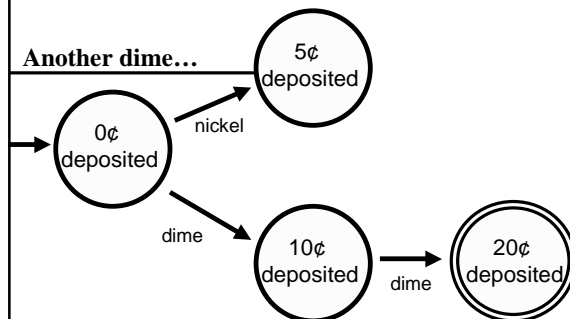
- ◆ Similarly...



From here...

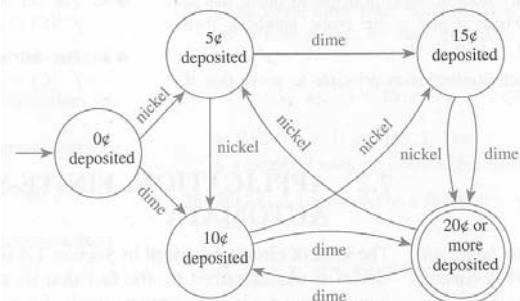
- ◆ There are many possibilities as to what could happen
- ◆ We're going to consider what happens when we deposit another dime.
 - » Goes to a new state: 20¢ deposited.
 - ❖ That means we've put in enough money to buy something.
 - ❖ The vending machine "accepts" 20¢ as a place to stop.
 - ◆ called an **accepting state**

Another dime...



- ◆ Add new state with **double circle** to denote that it's an **accepting state**.

Complete Vending Machine

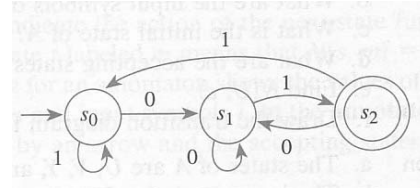


Another Representation: Next-State Table

TABLE 7.2.1 Next-state Table

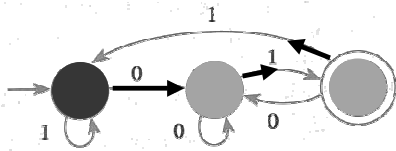
	Input	
	Nickel	Dime
→	0¢ deposited	5¢ deposited
	5¢ deposited	10¢ deposited
	10¢ deposited	15¢ deposited
State	15¢ deposited	20¢ or more deposited
⊙	20¢ or more deposited	5¢ deposited
	10¢ deposited	15¢ deposited

Another example



- ◆ Initial state?
- ◆ Accepting state?

Another example



- ◆ What happens if we input 01?
 - » String is "accepted" by this automaton
- ◆ What about 011?
 - » Go back to non-accepting state. String is rejected.

Finite State Machine (FSM)

- ◆ Finite automata are similar to FSM's, but
 - » they do not produce any outputs,
 - » they just accept input sequences (an *accepting set of states* is given).
- ◆ Let's define the idea of a "machine"
 - » organism (real or synthetic) that responds to a countable (**finite**) set of stimuli (**events**) by generating predictable responses (**outputs**) based on a history of prior events (current **state**).
- ◆ A finite state machine (FSM) is a computational model of a machine.

FSM Elements

- ◆ **States** represent the particular configurations that our machine can assume.
- ◆ **Events** define the various inputs that a machine will recognize
- ◆ **Transitions** represent a change of state from a current state to another (possibly the same) state that is dependent upon a specific event.
- ◆ **The Start State** is the state of the machine before it has received any events

Finite State Machine (FSM)

Moore Machine: is a quintuple: $M(S, I, O, \delta, \lambda)$

- » S : finite non-empty set of states
- » I : finite non-empty set of inputs
- » O : finite non-empty set of outputs
- » δ : $S \times I \rightarrow S$ transition (or next state) function
- » λ : $S \rightarrow O$ output function (note: output only a function of present state)

Mealy Machine: $M(S, I, O, \delta, \lambda)$ but

- » λ : $S \times I \rightarrow O$ (i.e. output depends on both present state and present input)

- » for digital circuits, typically $I = \{0,1\}^m$ and $O = \{0,1\}^n$

In addition, (for both Moore and Mealy machines) certain states are classified as *reset or initial states*

Machine Types

- ◆ **Mealy machine**
 - » one that generates an output for each transition,
- ◆ **Moore machine**
 - » one that generates an output for each state.
- ◆ Moore machines can do anything a Mealy machine can do (and vice versa).
- ◆ The following example FSM is a Mealy machine.

19

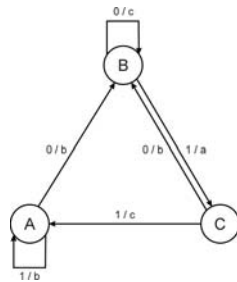
Prediction by finite state machines

- ◆ Finite state machine (FSM):
 - » States S
 - » Inputs I
 - » Outputs O
 - » Transition function $\delta : S \times I \rightarrow S \times O$
 - » Transforms input stream into output stream
- ◆ Can be used for predictions, e.g. to predict next input symbol in a sequence

20

FSM example

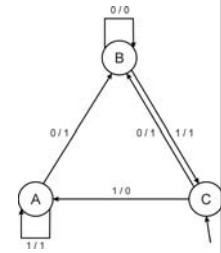
- ◆ Consider the FSM with:
 - » $S = \{A, B, C\}$
 - » $I = \{0, 1\}$
 - » $O = \{a, b, c\}$
 - » δ given by a diagram



21

FSM as predictor

- ◆ Consider the following FSM
- ◆ Task: predict next input
- ◆ Quality: % of $in_{(i+1)} = out_i$
- ◆ Given initial state C
- ◆ Input sequence 011101
- ◆ Leads to output 110111
- ◆ Quality: 3 out of 5



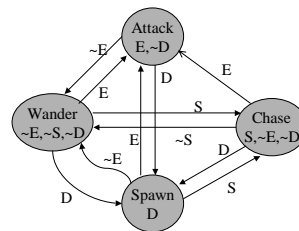
22

Quake Bot Example

- ◆ Types of behavior to capture:
 - » Wander randomly if don't see or hear an enemy
 - » When see enemy, attack
 - » When hear an enemy, chase enemy
 - » When die, respawn
 - » When health is low and see an enemy, retreat
- ◆ Extensions:
 - » When see power-ups during wandering, collect them
- ◆ Borrowed from John Laird and Mike van Lent's GDC tutorial

23

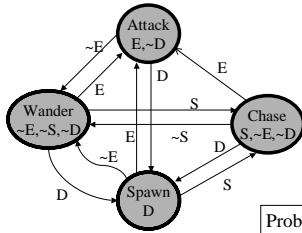
Example FSM



- ◆ States:
 - » E: enemy in sight
 - » S: sound audible
 - » D: dead
- ◆ Events:
 - » E: see an enemy
 - » S: hear a sound
 - » D: die
- ◆ Action performed:
 - » On each transition
 - » On each update in some states (e.g. attack)

24

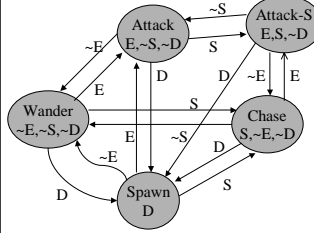
Example FSM Problem



- ◆ States:
 - » E: enemy in sight
 - » S: sound audible
 - » D: dead
- ◆ Events:
 - » E: see an enemy
 - » S: hear a sound
 - » D: die

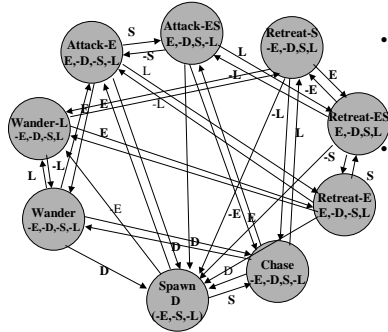
Problem: Can't go directly from attack to chase. Why not?

Better Example FSM



- ◆ States:
 - » E: enemy in sight
 - » S: sound audible
 - » D: dead
- ◆ Events:
 - » E: see an enemy
 - » S: hear a sound
 - » D: die
- ◆ Extra state to recall whether or not heard a sound while attacking

Example FSM with Retreat

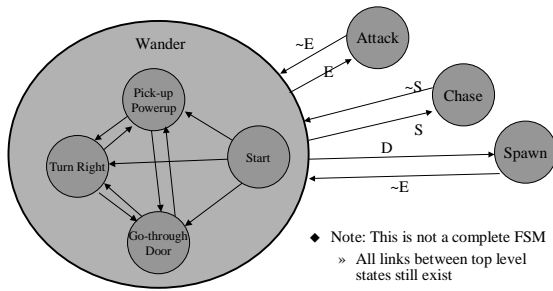


- States:
 - E: enemy in sight
 - S: sound audible
 - D: dead
 - L: Low health
- Worst case: Each extra state variable can add $2n$ extra states
 - n = number of existing states

Hierarchical FSMs

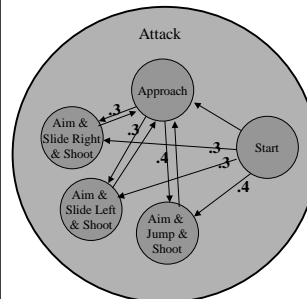
- ◆ What if there is no simple action for a state?
- ◆ Expand a state into its own FSM, which explains what to do if in that state
- ◆ Some events move you around the same level in the hierarchy, some move you up a level
- ◆ When entering a state, have to choose a state for it's child in the hierarchy
 - » Set a default, and always go to that
 - » Or, random choice
 - » Depends on the nature of the behavior

Hierarchical FSM Example



- ◆ Note: This is not a complete FSM
 - » All links between top level states still exist
 - » Need more states for wander

Non-Deterministic Hierarchical FSM (Markov Model)



- ◆ Adds variety to actions
- ◆ Have multiple transitions for the same event
- ◆ Label each with a probability that it will be taken
- ◆ Randomly choose a transition at run-time
- ◆ Markov Model: New state only depends on the previous state