

Fawkes Behavior Engine

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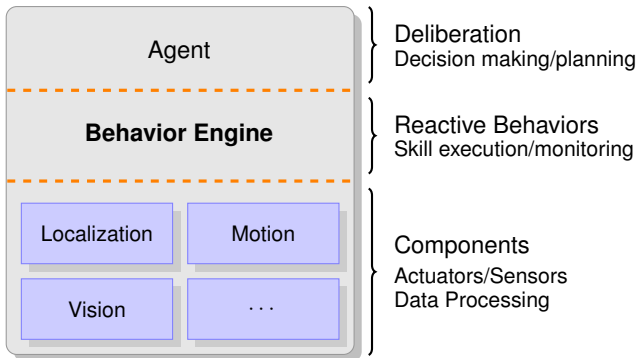


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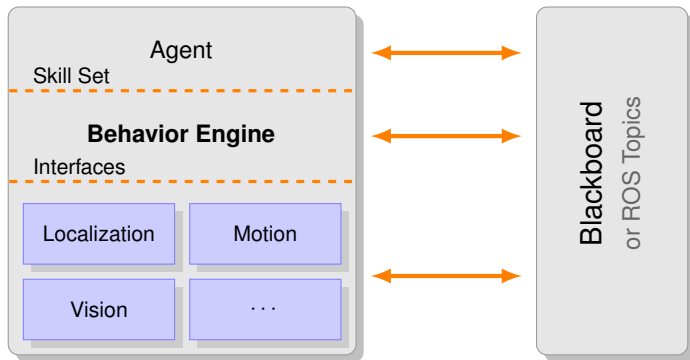
High-level reasoning generates sequence of primitive actions

- Separate strategic from local decisions
- Middle layer between agent and low-level components
- Define elementary behavioral units
- Instruct and then monitor the functional components
- Quick execution to operate at soft-realtime
- Easy to learn and use

Introduction – System Architecture



Introduction – System Architecture



Behavior Engine

- Framework to develop, execute, and monitor skills
- Provides a skill set, which defines the available skills
- Runs in a single plugin called skiller (**skill** execution run-time)
- Access to config, blackboard, logging, clock . . .
- No compiling, automated reload (via inotify)

Skills

- Performs a simple, isolated task (e.g. close gripper)
- Hierarchical calling (allows 'complex' skills)
- Each implemented as a Lua module
- Execution state updated @ 15 Hz
- Three possible statuses:
S_RUNNING, S_FINAL, S_FAILED

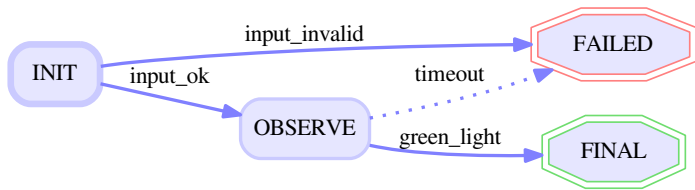
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Modeled as **Hybrid State Machines**

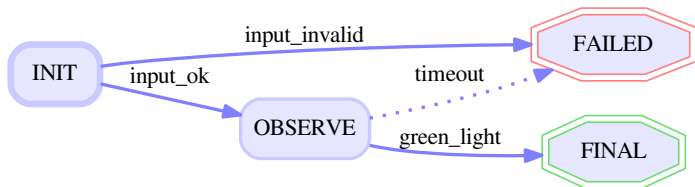
Hybrid State Machine (HSM)

Example



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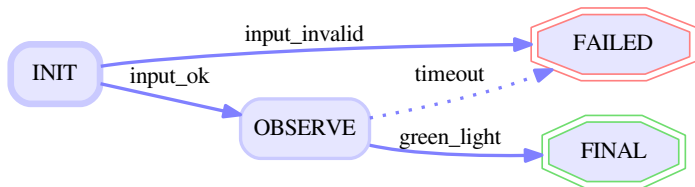


Differences from normal state machines

- Action occurs in the states
- Can access & modify global variables
- Both continuous processes and discrete state changes

Hybrid State Machine (HSM)

Example

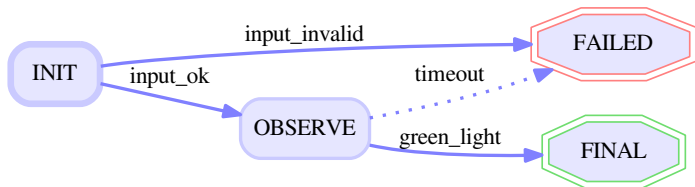


States

- Incoming/outgoing transitions
- Various hook functions
- Special **skill**-states that execute subskills

Hybrid State Machine (HSM)

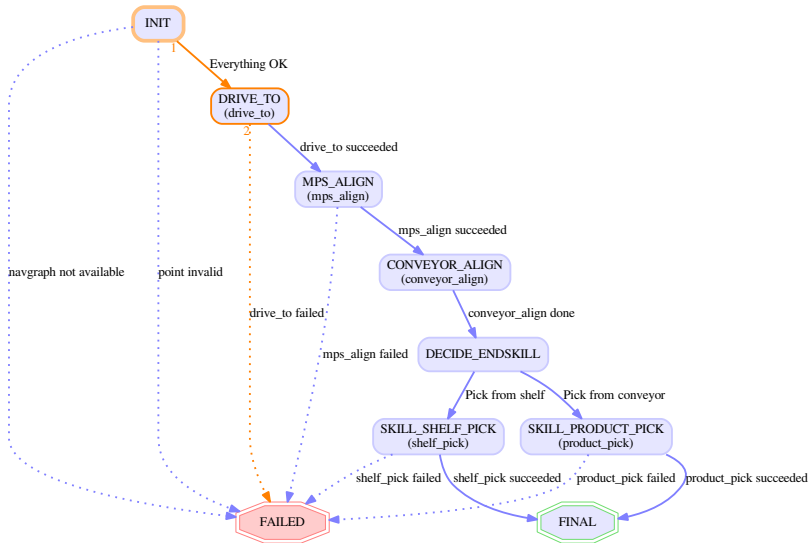
Example



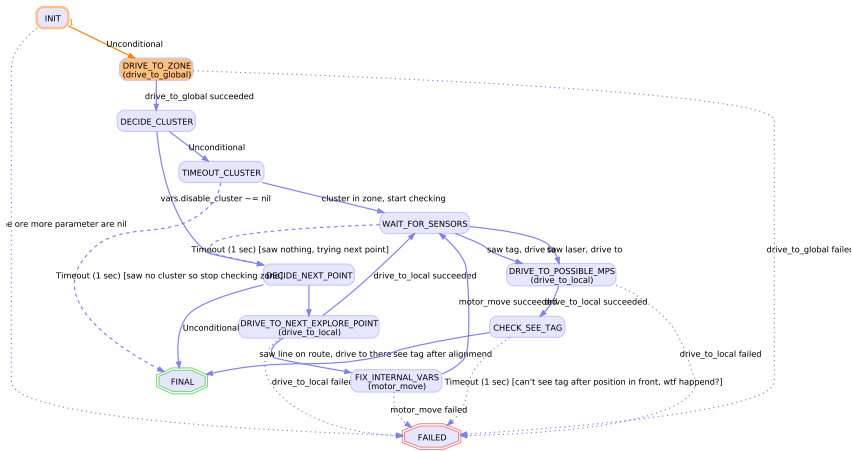
Transitions

- Originating state
- Target state
- Condition (boolean function)
- Timeout

Example Graph: get_product_from



Example Graph: explore_zone



Skill Execution: Control Flow

Given: Current skill, current state CUR_STATE

1. Evaluate skill module
2. Execute `CUR_STATE:loop()`
3. Test all outgoing transitions of `CUR_STATE`
4. If a condition `c` is `true`:
 - Execute `CUR_STATE:exit()`
 - `CUR_STATE` is now `c`'s target state
 - Execute `CUR_STATE:init()`
5. Repeat from 2. @15 Hz!

Skill Execution: The Lua Programming Language



- Powerful, fast, light-weight, embeddable
- Tables as ubiquitous data structure
- Easy C++ integration
- Flexible, yet simple programming environment
- Usage in other projects
 - NASA Space Shuttle Hazardous Gas Detection System
 - CryEngine Game AI, World of Warcraft Extension API

Skill Implementation: States

State definition

```
fsm:define_states{ export_to = _M,  
  { "INIT", JumpState },  
  { "OBSERVE", JumpState}  
}
```

Syntactic explanation

- `fsm` = global Lua object representing state machine
- `define_states` = method called “on” `fsm` object
- One table passed as argument to `define_states`:
 - One element named `export_to`
 - Two unnamed elements that are again tables

Skill Implementation: States

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```

Sugar-free syntax

```
fsm.define_states( fsm,  
  { export_to = _M,  
    { "INIT", JumpState },  
    { "OBSERVE", JumpState }  
  }  
)
```

Skill Implementation: States

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fsm:define_states{ export_to = _M,  
  { "INIT", JumpState },  
  { "OBSERVE", JumpState}  
}
```

Effect

- Predefined states already exist:

A light blue hexagonal icon with a green border containing the text "FINAL".

FINAL

A light blue hexagonal icon with a red border containing the text "FAILED".

FAILED

- Create two new state objects:

A light blue rounded rectangular icon containing the text "INIT".

INIT

A light blue rounded rectangular icon containing the text "OBSERVE".

OBSERVE

Skill Implementation: Subskills

State definition

```
fsm:define_states{ export_to = _M,  
  { "MOVE_FORWARD", SkillJumpState,  
    skills={{ "motor_move" }},  
    final_to="FINAL", fail_to="FAILED"  
  }  
}
```

Meaning

- Execute `motor_move` skill in `MOVE_FORWARD` state
- Transition to `FINAL` if & when `motor_move` ends with `FINAL`
- Transition to `FAILED` if & when `motor_move` ends with `FAILED`

Skill Implementation: Transitions

Transition Definition

```
fsm:add_transitions{
  {"INIT", "OBSERVE", cond=input_ok},
  {"INIT", "OBSERVE", cond="not input_ok()"},
  {"OBSERVE", "FAILED", timeout=5},
  {"OBSERVE", "FINAL", cond=green_light}
}
```

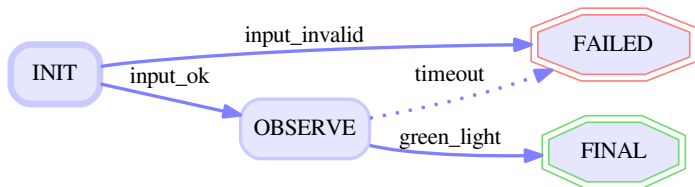
Three ways of defining a condition

1. Function reference (i.e. a function name)
2. Interpreted Lua expression (as a string)
3. Timeout

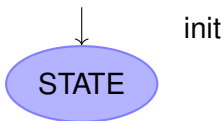
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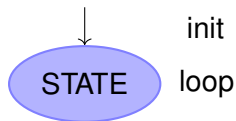


Skill Implementation: State hooks



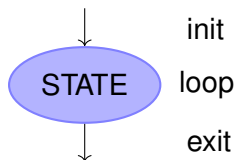
Hook function	Executed...
STATE:init()	once when <i>entering</i> state

Skill Implementation: State hooks



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Hook function	Executed...
STATE:init()	once when <i>entering</i> state
STATE:loop()	15 times/second <i>while</i> state is active
STATE:exit()	once when <i>leaving</i> state

Skill Implementation: Subskills

State definition

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fsm:define_states{ export_to = _M,  
  { "MOVE_FORWARD", SkillJumpState,  
    skills={{ "motor_move" }},  
    final_to="FINAL", fail_to="FAILED"  
  }  
}
```


Skill Implementation: Subskill arguments

```
motor_move skill documentation
```

```
documentation = [=[  
    Move on a (kind of) straight line relative  
    to the given coordinates.  
    @param x The target X coordinate, relative  
    to /base_link  
    @param y Dito  
    [...]  
]=]
```

Skill Implementation: Subskills

State definition

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  }  
}
```

Subskill arguments

```
function MOVE_FORWARD:init()  
  self.args["motor_move"].x = 1  
end
```

Skill Implementation: Handling arguments

motor_move implementation (simplified)

```
function DRIVE:loop()  
  -- [...]  
  local vx = calc_x_speed(self.fsm.vars.x)  
  motor:set_x_speed(vx)  
  -- [...]  
end
```

Three types of variables:

1. Lua local variable
2. Lua global variable
3. fsm.vars table

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lua local

```
function my_function()  
  local foo = "bar"  
  -- code here can use foo  
end  
-- code here can't use foo
```

- local scope
- in functions, loops, conditionals

Three types of variables:

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Lua global

```
local MY_CONSTANT = 10
-- code here can use MY_CONSTANT
function my_function()
  -- code here can use MY_CONSTANT
end
```

- global scope in the skill
- reset before each skiller iteration
- so be careful, only use for constants

Three types of variables:

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fsm.vars table

```
self.fsm.vars.foo = "bar"
```

- table with variables defined in the state machine
- initially filled with the skill parameters
- persistent while the skill is running
- reset when the skill finished

Use blackboard interfaces

1. In `fawkes-robotino/cfg/conf.d/skiller.yaml`

```
skiller/interfaces/robotino:  
  reading:  
    motor: MotorInterface::Robotino  
  writing:  
    light: RobotinoLightInterface::Light determined
```

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2. Skill boilerplate

```
depends_interfaces = {  
  {v = "motor", type = "MotorInterface", id="Robotino"}  
}
```

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2. Skill boilerplate

```
depends_interfaces = {  
  {v = "motor", type = "MotorInterface", id="Robotino"}  
}
```

3. Handle interface object

```
if motor:has_writer() then  
  do_stuff()  
end
```

Transforms

```
-- Include tf_module
local tf = require("fawkes.tfutils")

function my_function(self)
  -- Transform (0,0,0) from /base_link to /map
  -- and save it to fsm.vars.startpos
  self.fsm.vars.startpos = tf.transform({x=0, y=0,
    ori=0}, "base_link", "map")
  --check if the transform is valid
  if self.fsm.vars.startpos ~= nil then
    return self.fsm.vars.startpos
  else
    print("startpos transform not available!")
    return false
  end
end
```

Use navgraph

```
self.fsm.vars.node = navgraph:node(self.fsm.vars.place)
if self.fsm.vars.node:is_valid() then
    self.fsm.vars.x = self.fsm.vars.node:x()
    self.fsm.vars.y = self.fsm.vars.node:y()
    if fsm.vars.node:has_property("output_offset_y") then
        self.fsm.vars.ori = self.fsm.vars.node:
            property_as_float("output_offset_y");
    end
end
```

```
fawkes-robotino/src/lu/skills/robotino/init.lua
```

- Initiates the skill space for robotino
- Add the skill you need (without .lua extension)
- Load order reflects the dependencies!

```
skillenv.use_skill("skills.robotino.my_skill")  
skillenv.use_skill("skills.robotino.depends_on_skill")
```

SkillGUI and calling skills manually

The screenshot displays the Skill GUI interface for a skill named 'PPGOTO'. The main area shows a state transition diagram with the following components:

- PPGOTO** (Start state, orange circle):
 - Transitions to **TIMEOUT** (blue oval) on the event "Navigator failure with err: 0 try goto".
 - Transitions to **SKILL_GOTO (goto)** (blue oval) on the event "Position reached".
 - Transitions to **FAILED** (red hexagon) on the event "No writer for interface" and "Invalid/insufficient parameters".
- TIMEOUT** (blue oval):
 - Transitions to **SKILL_GOTO (goto)** (blue oval) on the event "Timeout (1 sec)".
- SKILL_GOTO (goto)** (blue oval):
 - Transitions to **FINAL** (green hexagon) on the event "goto succeeded".
 - Transitions to **FAILED** (red hexagon) on the event "goto failed".
- FINAL** (green hexagon): End state.
- FAILED** (red hexagon): End state.

The interface also includes a status bar at the bottom with the following information:

- Skiller**
- Status:** S_FINAL
- Alive:** Yes
- Continuous:** ?
- Skill:** ppgoto(place="P35")
- Error:**

Buttons for "Stop" and "Execute" are visible on the right side of the status bar.

Conclusion

- Behavior engine and skills
- Hybrid state machines
- Structure of a skill
- In-depth implementation

Separate the agent and the behavior level to separate strategic from local decisions

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Questions?

First Task

- Call skills manually via the skillGUI in the simulation
- Try out different skills in the skillspace and learn what they do
- Fetch a product from the cap station and put it onto the belt

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Second Task:

- Write a 'complex' skill which calls other skills
 1. Pick a base with a cap from the CS shelf
 2. Instruct the CS to remove the cap
 3. Put the base on the conveyor
 4. Pick up the processed base at the output side
 5. Deliver it at the DS
- Hint: you can use navgraph node names

The skills are located in

```
~/robotics/fawkes-robotino/src/luaskills/robotino
```

Lua reference manual

<http://www.lua.org/manual/5.1/manual.html>

Hands-On Hints

■ Access the navgraph:

1. Start the simulation with the agent and with navgraph generation: `./gazsim.bash -x start -r -n 1 -a -t`
2. Select the team and start up the setup phase
3. Unload the plugin `clips-agent`
(look at *Plugins* in the SkillGUI)

■ Start RVIZ:

```
export ROS_MASTER_URI=http://localhost:11321
roslaunch rviz rviz
```

■ Send MPS instructions:

1. Run the simulation as before
2. Stop the program in the last tab of the simulation
(`GazsimLLSFRbCommThread`)
3. Go to `~/robotics/llsf-refbox/bin`
4. To instruct C-CS1 to retrieve a cap:
`./rcll-prepare-machine Carologistics C-CS1
RETRIEVE_CAP`