

Software Design, Modelling and Analysis in UML

Lecture 11: Core State Machines I

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- **Recall:** Basic Causality Model
- **Event Pool**
 - insert, remove, clear, ready.
- **System Configuration**
 - **implicit attributes:**
stable, st, and friends.
 - **system state** plus **event pool**
- **Actions**
 - simple **action language**.
 - **transformer:** effects of actions.

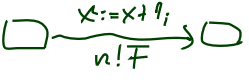
Roadmap: Chronologically

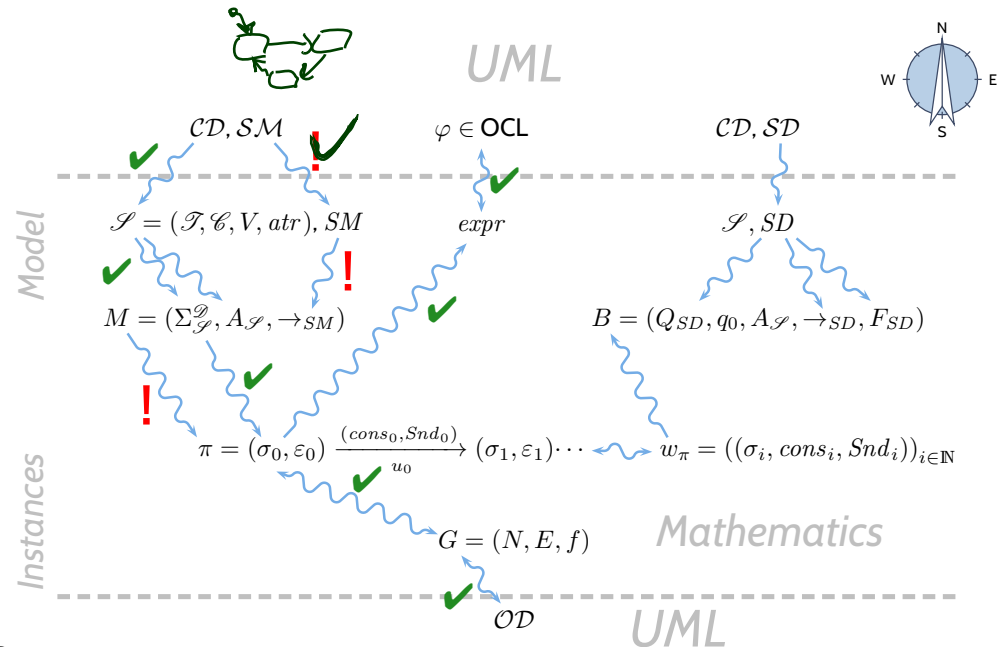
Syntax:

- (i) UML State Machine Diagrams. ✓
- (ii) Def.: Signature with **signals**. ✓
- (iii) Def.: **Core state machine**. ✓
- (iv) Map UML State Machine Diagrams to core state machines. ✓

Semantics:

The Basic Causality Model ✓

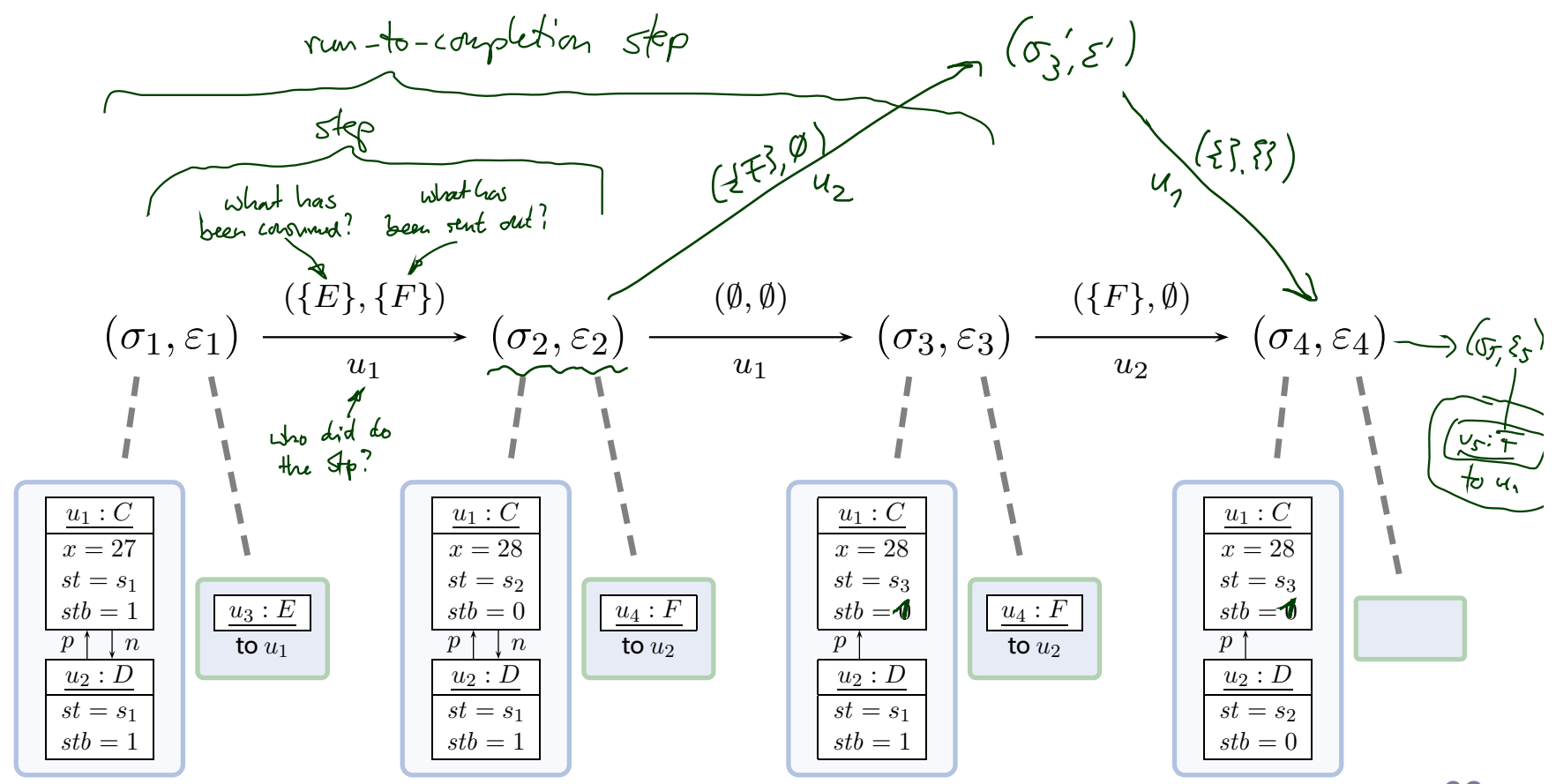
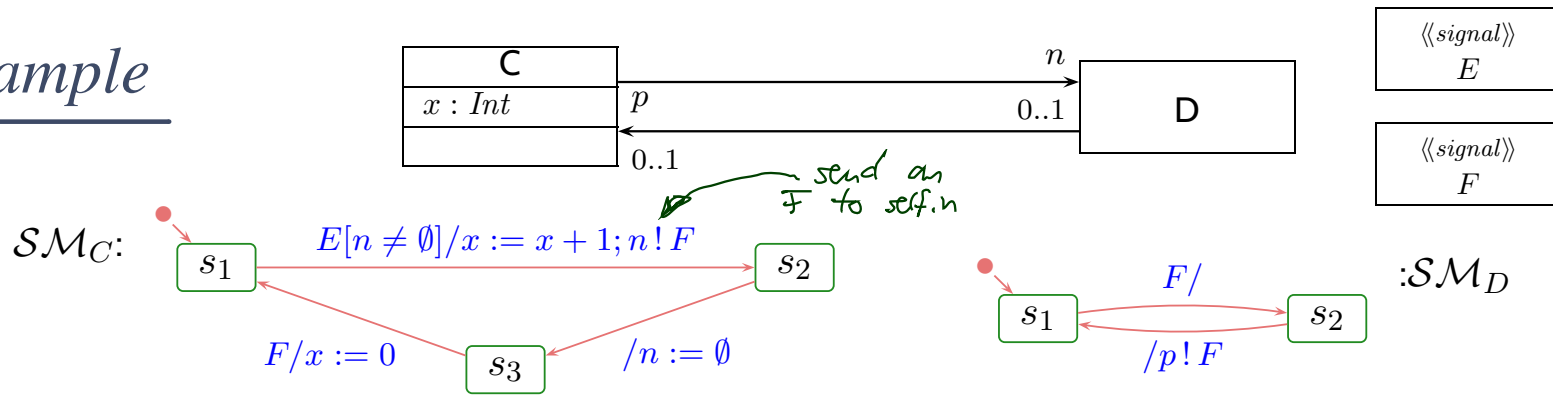
- (v) Def.: **Ether** (aka. event pool)
- (vi) Def.: **System configuration**.
- (vii) Def.: **Event**.
- (viii) Def.: **Transformer**. 
- (ix) Def.: **Transition system**, computation.
- (x) Transition relation induced by core state machine.
- (xi) Def.: **step, run-to-completion step**.
- (xii) Later: Hierarchical state machines.



15.3.12 StateMachine (OMG, 2011b, 574)

- Event occurrences are detected, dispatched, and then processed by the state machine, one at a time.
- The semantics of event occurrence processing is based on the **run-to-completion assumption**, interpreted as **run-to-completion processing**.
- **Run-to-completion processing** means that an event [...] can only be taken from the pool and dispatched if the processing of the previous [...] is fully completed.
- The processing of a single event occurrence by a state machine is known as a **run-to-completion step**.
- Before commencing on a **run-to-completion step**, a state machine is in a **stable state** configuration with all entry/exit/internal-activities (but not necessarily do-activities) completed.
- The same conditions apply after the **run-to-completion step** is completed.
- Thus, an event occurrence will never be processed [...] in some intermediate and inconsistent situation.
- [IOW,] The **run-to-completion step** is the passage between two ^{state} configurations of the state machine. *stable*
- The **run-to-completion assumption** simplifies the transition function of the StM, since concurrency conflicts are avoided during the processing of event, allowing the StM to safely complete its **run-to-completion step**.
- The order of dequeuing is **not defined**, leaving open the possibility of modeling different priority-based schemes.
- Run-to-completion may be implemented in **various ways**. [...]

Example



$u_1 : C$
$x = 27$
$st = s_1$
$stb = 1$
$p \uparrow \downarrow n$
$u_2 : D$
$st = s_1$
$stb = 1$

$u_3 : E$
to u_1

$u_1 : C$
$x = 28$
$st = s_2$
$stb = 0$
$p \uparrow \downarrow n$
$u_2 : D$
$st = s_1$
$stb = 1$

$u_4 : F$
to u_2

$u_1 : C$
$x = 28$
$st = s_3$
$stb = 0$
$p \uparrow \downarrow n$
$u_2 : D$
$st = s_1$
$stb = 1$

$u_4 : F$
to u_2

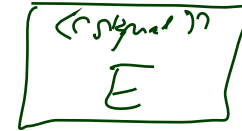
$u_1 : C$
$x = 28$
$st = s_3$
$stb = 0$
$p \uparrow \downarrow n$
$u_2 : D$
$st = s_2$
$stb = 0$

--

Ether

Recall: 15.3.12 StateMachine (OMG, 2011b, 563)

- The order of dequeuing is **not defined**, leaving open the possibility of modeling different (priority-based) schemes.



The standard distinguishes (among others)

- **SignalEvent** (OMG, 2011b, 450) and **Reception** (OMG, 2011b, 447).

On **SignalEvents**, it says

A signal event represents the receipt of an asynchronous signal instance.

A signal event may, for example, cause a state machine to trigger a transition. (OMG, 2011b, 449) [...]

Semantic Variation Points

The means by which requests are transported to their target depend on the type of requesting action, the target, the properties of the communication medium, and numerous other factors.

In some cases, this is instantaneous and completely reliable while in others it may involve transmission delays of variable duration, loss of requests, reordering, or duplication.

(See also the discussion on page 421.) (OMG, 2011b, 450)

Our **ether** (→ in a minute) is a general representation of **many possible choices**.

Often seen minimal requirement: order of sending **by one object** is preserved.

Ether aka. Event Pool

Definition. Let $\mathcal{S} = (\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{C}, V, atr, \mathcal{E})$ be a signature with signals and \mathcal{D} a structure.

We call a tuple $(Eth, ready, \oplus, \ominus, [\cdot])$ an **ether** over \mathcal{S} and \mathcal{D} if and only if it provides

- a **ready** operation which yields a set of events (i.e., signal instances) that are ready for a given object, i.e.

$$ready : Eth \times \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow 2^{\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{E})}$$

- a operation to **insert** an event for a given object, i.e.

$$\oplus : Eth \times \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{C}) \times \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{E}) \rightarrow Eth$$

- a operation to **remove** an event, i.e.

$$\ominus : Eth \times \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{E}) \rightarrow Eth$$

- an operation to **clear** the ether for a given object, i.e.

$$[\cdot] : Eth \times \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow Eth.$$

for an event pool \mathcal{E} ...
 ...and object identity u...
 ..yield a set of signal instances ready for consumption by u

destination
 signal instance

destination

Example: FIFO Queue

A (single, global, shared, reliable) FIFO queue is an ether:

- $Eth = (\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{C}) \times \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{E}))^*$

the set of finite sequences of pairs $(u, e) \in \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{C}) \times \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{E})$

destination object id signal instance

- $ready : Eth \times \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow 2^{\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{E})}$

$$(\varepsilon, u_2) \mapsto \begin{cases} \{(u_2, e)\}, & \text{if } \varepsilon = (u_2, e).\varepsilon' \\ \emptyset, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- $\oplus : Eth \times \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{C}) \times \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{E}) \rightarrow Eth$

$$(\varepsilon, u, e) \mapsto \varepsilon.(u, e)$$

- $\ominus : Eth \times \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{E}) \rightarrow Eth$

$$(\varepsilon, e) \mapsto \begin{cases} \varepsilon' & \text{if } \varepsilon = (u, e).\varepsilon', u \in \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{C}) \\ \varepsilon & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- $[\cdot] : Eth \times \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow Eth$

$$[\cdot](\varepsilon, u):$$

remove all (u, e) elements from the given ε , $e \in \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{E})$

Other Examples

- One FIFO queue per active object is an ether.

$$E\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{D}(e) \rightarrow (\mathcal{D}(e) \times \mathcal{D}(e))^*$$

- One-place buffer.

$$E\mathcal{H} = e \circ (\mathcal{D}(e) \times \mathcal{D}(e))$$

- Priority queue.

...

- Multi-queues (one per sender).

...

- Trivial example: sink, “black hole”.

...

- Lossy queue (\oplus needs to become a relation then).

- ...

System Configuration

System Configuration

Definition. Let $\mathcal{S}_0 = (\mathcal{T}_0, \mathcal{C}_0, V_0, atr_0, \mathcal{E}_0)$ be a signature with signals, \mathcal{D}_0 a structure of \mathcal{S}_0 , $(Eth, ready, \oplus, \ominus, [\cdot])$ an ether over \mathcal{S}_0 and \mathcal{D}_0 .

Furthermore assume there is one core state machine M_C per class $C \in \mathcal{C}$.

A **system configuration** over \mathcal{S}_0 , \mathcal{D}_0 , and Eth is a pair

$$(\sigma, \varepsilon) \in \Sigma_{\mathcal{S}}^{\mathcal{D}} \times Eth$$

if $Bool \notin \mathcal{T}_0$ then
add it and use
 $\mathcal{D}(Bool) = \{0, 1\}$

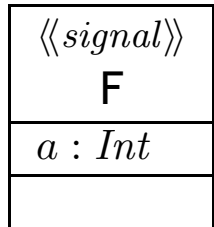
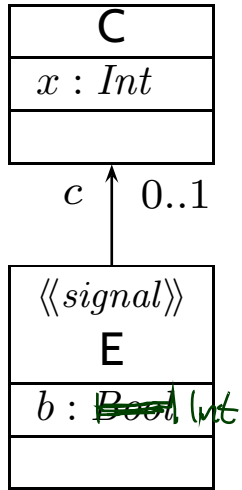
where

- $\mathcal{S} = (\mathcal{T}_0 \dot{\cup} \{S_{M_C} \mid C \in \mathcal{C}_0\}, \mathcal{C}_0,$
 $V_0 \dot{\cup} \{\langle stable : Bool, -, true, \emptyset \rangle\}$
 $\dot{\cup} \{\langle st_C : S_{M_C}, +, s_0, \emptyset \rangle \mid C \in \mathcal{C}\}$
 $\dot{\cup} \{\langle params_E : E_{0,1}, +, \emptyset, \emptyset \rangle \mid E \in \mathcal{E}_0\},$
 $\{C \mapsto atr_0(C)$
 $\cup \{stable, st_C\} \cup \{params_E \mid E \in \mathcal{E}_0\} \mid C \in \mathcal{C}\}, \mathcal{E}_0)$

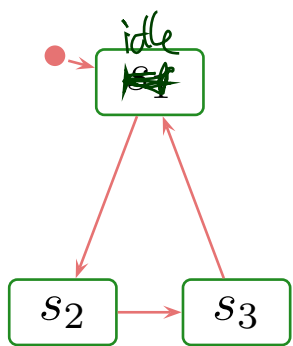
Handwritten annotations:
 - "a new type for each class" points to $\{S_{M_C} \mid C \in \mathcal{C}_0\}$
 - "initial state of M_C " points to s_0
 - " $\cup atr_0 \mid \mathcal{E}_0$ " points to the $params_E$ set

- $\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{D}_0 \dot{\cup} \{S_{M_C} \mapsto S(M_C) \mid C \in \mathcal{C}\}$, and
- $\sigma(u)(r) \cap \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{E}_0) = \emptyset$ for each $u \in \text{dom}(\sigma)$ and $r \in V_0$.

System Configuration: Example



SMC:



$\mathcal{S}_0 = (\mathcal{I}_0, \mathcal{C}_0, V_0, atr_0, \mathcal{E}_0), \mathcal{D}_0; \quad (\sigma, \varepsilon) \in \Sigma_{\mathcal{Y}}^{\mathcal{D}} \times Eth$ where

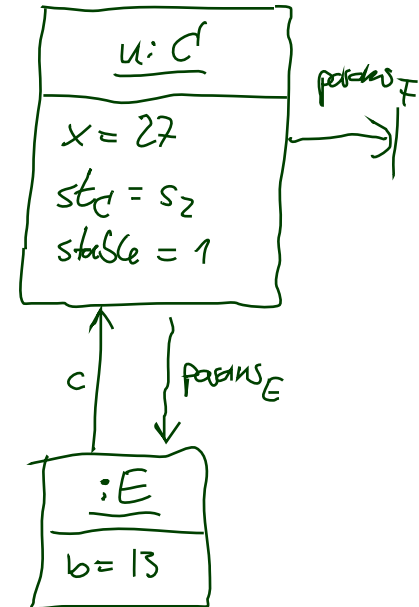
- $\mathcal{S} = (\mathcal{I}_0 \dot{\cup} \{S_{M_C} \mid C \in \mathcal{C}\}, \mathcal{C}_0,$
 $V_0 \dot{\cup} \{\langle stable : Bool, -, true, \emptyset \rangle\} \dot{\cup} \{\langle st_C : S_{M_C}, +, s_0, \emptyset \rangle \mid C \in \mathcal{C}\}$
 $\dot{\cup} \{\langle params_E : E_{0,1}, +, \emptyset, \emptyset \rangle \mid E \in \mathcal{E}_0\},$
 $\{C \mapsto atr_0(C) \cup \{stable, st_C\} \cup \{params_E \mid E \in \mathcal{E}_0\} \mid C \in \mathcal{C}\}, \mathcal{E}_0)$
- $\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{D}_0 \dot{\cup} \{S_{M_C} \mapsto S(M_C) \mid C \in \mathcal{C}\},$ and
- $\sigma(u)(r) \cap \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{E}_0) = \emptyset$ for each $u \in \text{dom}(\sigma)$ and $r \in V_0$.

$\mathcal{I}_0 = (\{Int\},$
 $\{C\},$
 $\{x: Int, b: Int,$
 $d: Int, c: C_{0,1}\}, = V_0$
 $\{C \mapsto \{x\},$
 $E \mapsto \{b, c\},$
 $F \mapsto \{a\}\},$
 $\{E, F\})$

$\mathcal{S} = (\{Int, Bool, S_{M_C}\},$
 $\{C\},$
 $V_0 \cup \{stable: Bool,$
 $st_C: S_{M_C},$
 $params_E: E_{0,1},$
 $params_F: F_{0,1}\},$
 $\{C \mapsto \{x, stable, st_C,$
 $params_E, params_F\},$
 $E \mapsto \{b, c\},$
 $F \mapsto \{a\}\}, \{E, F\})$

$\mathcal{D}(S_{M_C}) = \{idle, s_2, s_3\}$

$\sigma \in \Sigma_{\mathcal{Y}}^{\mathcal{D}}:$



System Configuration Step-by-Step

- We start with some signature with signals $\mathcal{S}_0 = (\mathcal{T}_0, \mathcal{C}_0, V_0, atr_0, \mathcal{E})$.
- A **system configuration** is a pair (σ, ε) which comprises a system state σ wrt. \mathcal{S} (not wrt. \mathcal{S}_0).
- Such a **system state** σ wrt. \mathcal{S} provides, for each object $u \in \text{dom}(\sigma)$,
 - values for the **explicit attributes** in V_0 ,
 - values for a number of **implicit attributes**, namely
 - a **stability flag**, i.e. $\sigma(u)(stable)$ is a boolean value,
 - a **current (state machine) state**, i.e. $\sigma(u)(st)$ denotes one of the states of core state machine M_C ,
 - a temporary association to access **event parameters** for each class, i.e. $\sigma(u)(params_E)$ is defined for each $E \in \mathcal{E}$.
- For convenience require: there is **no link to an event** except for $params_E$.

Definition.

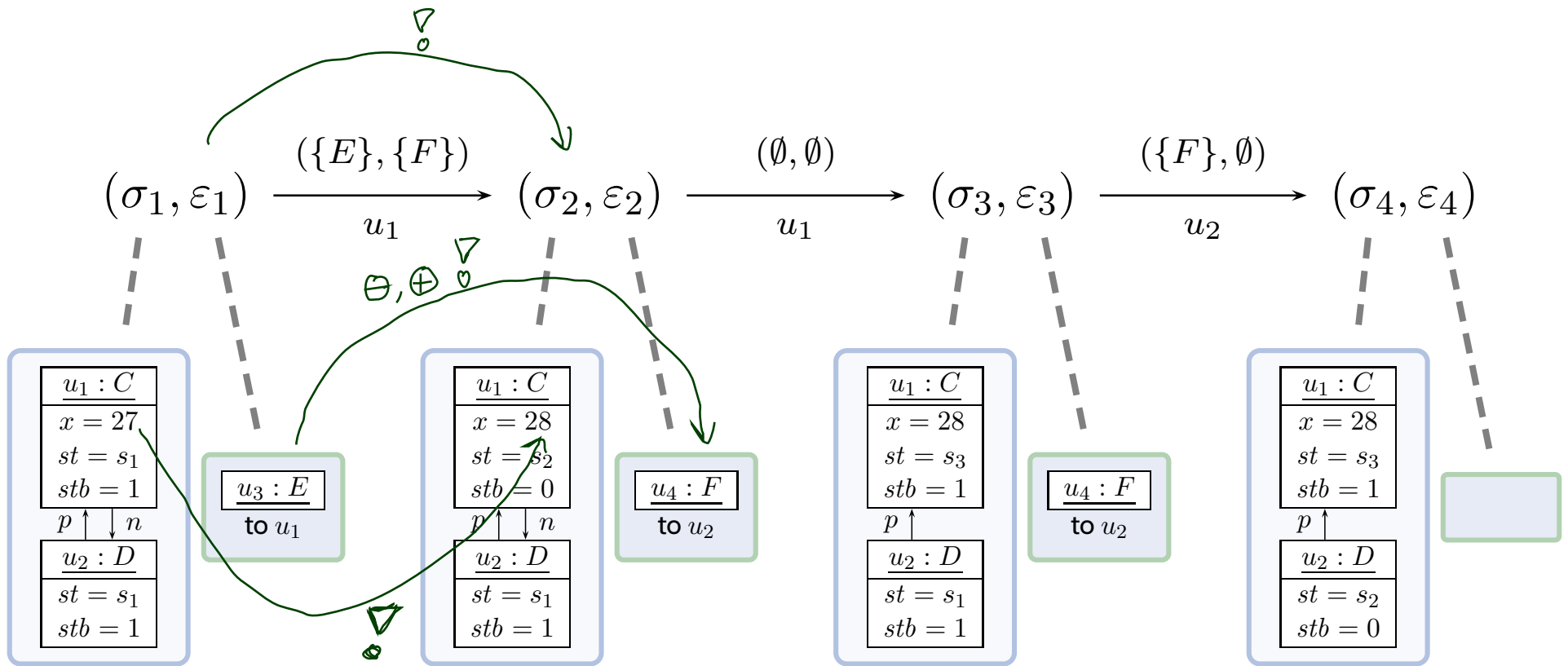
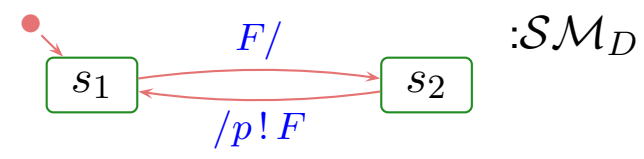
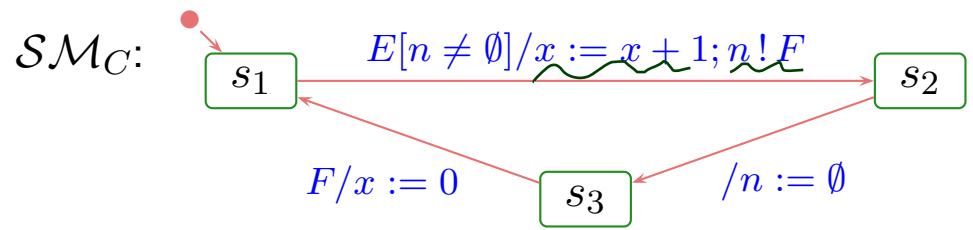
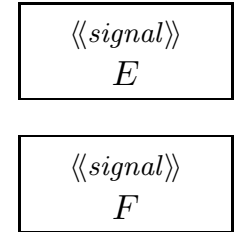
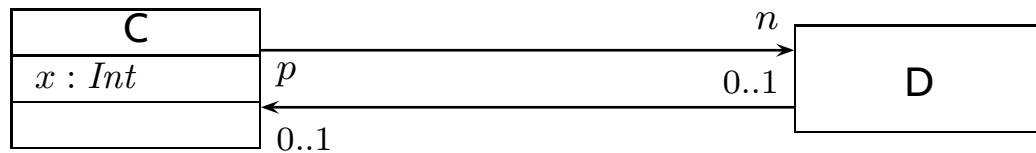
Let (σ, ε) be a system configuration over some $\mathcal{S}_0, \mathcal{D}_0, Eth$.

We call an object $u \in \text{dom}(\sigma) \cap \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{C}_0)$ **stable in** σ if and only if

$$\sigma(u)(stable) = \text{true}. 1$$

And unstable otherwise.

Where are we?




Transformer

Recall

- The (simplified) syntax of transition annotations:

$$\text{annot} ::= [\langle event \rangle [[' \langle guard \rangle ']] ['/ \langle action \rangle]]$$

- **Clear:** $\langle event \rangle$ is from \mathcal{E} of the corresponding signature.
- **But:** What are $\langle guard \rangle$ and $\langle action \rangle$?
 - UML can be viewed as being **parameterized** in **expression language** (providing $\langle guard \rangle$) and **action language** (providing $\langle action \rangle$).
 - **Examples:**
 - **Expression Language:**
 - OCL
 - Java, C++, ... expressions
 - ...
 - **Action Language:**
 - UML Action Semantics, “Executable UML”
 - Java, C++, ... statements (plus some event send action)
 - ...
 - 

Needed: Semantics

OCL:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \llbracket \text{Expr} \rrbracket(\sigma, u) &:= \\
 &\begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } \mathcal{I}_{\text{OCL}} \llbracket \text{Expr} \rrbracket(\sigma, \{s \mid f \mapsto u\}) = 1 \\ 0, & \text{if } \mathcal{I}_{\text{OCL}} \llbracket \text{Expr} \rrbracket(\sigma, \{s \mid f \mapsto u\}) = 0 \\ \text{undefined,} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}
 \end{aligned}$$

In the following, we assume that we're **given**

- an **expression language** $Expr$ for guards, and
- an **action language** Act for actions,

and that we're **given**

- a **semantics** for boolean expressions in form of a partial function

$$\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket(\cdot, \cdot) : Expr \times \Sigma_{\mathcal{F}}^{\mathcal{D}} \times \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$$

which evaluates expressions in a given system configuration,

Assuming I to be partial is a way to treat “undefined” during runtime. If I is not defined (for instance because of dangling-reference navigation or division-by-zero), we want to go to a designated “error” system configuration.

- a **transformer** for each action: for each $act \in Act$, we assume to have

$$t_{act} \subseteq \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{C}) \times (\Sigma_{\mathcal{F}}^{\mathcal{D}} \times Eth) \times (\Sigma_{\mathcal{F}}^{\mathcal{D}} \times Eth)$$

Definition.

Let $\Sigma_{\mathcal{D}}$ the set of system configurations over some $\mathcal{S}_0, \mathcal{D}_0, Eth$.

We call a relation

$$t \subseteq \left(\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{C}) \times (\Sigma_{\mathcal{D}} \times Eth) \right) \times (\Sigma_{\mathcal{D}} \times Eth)$$

a (system configuration) **transformer**.

Example:

- $t[u_x](\sigma, \varepsilon) \subseteq \Sigma_{\mathcal{D}} \times Eth$ is
 - the set (!) of the **system configurations**
 - which **may** result from **object** u_x
 - **executing** transformer t .
- $t_{\text{skip}}[u_x](\sigma, \varepsilon) = \{(\sigma, \varepsilon)\}$
- $t_{\text{create}}[u_x](\sigma, \varepsilon)$: add a previously non-alive object to σ (*id. non-det, chose*)

Observations

- In the following, we assume that
 - each application of a transformer t
 - to some system configuration (σ, ε)
 - for object u_x

is associated with a set of **observations**

$$Obs_t[u_x](\sigma, \varepsilon) \in 2^{(\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{E}) \dot{\cup} \{*, +\}) \times \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{C})}.$$

- An observation

$$(u_e, u_{dst}) \in Obs_t[u_x](\sigma, \varepsilon)$$

represents the information that,
as a “side effect” of object u_x executing t in system configuration (σ, ε) ,
the event u_e has been sent to u_{dst} .

Special cases: creation ($'*$ ') / destruction ($'+'$).

A Simple Action Language

In the following we use

$$Act_{\mathcal{S}} = \{\text{skip}\}$$

$$\cup \{\text{update}(expr_1, v, expr_2) \mid expr_1, expr_2 \in Expr_{\mathcal{S}}, v \in atr\}$$

$$\cup \{\text{send}(E(expr_1, \dots, expr_n), expr_{dst}) \mid expr_i, expr_{dst} \in Expr_{\mathcal{S}}, E \in \mathcal{E}\}$$

$$\cup \{\text{create}(C, expr, v) \mid C \in \mathcal{C}, expr \in Expr_{\mathcal{S}}, v \in V\}$$

$$\cup \{\text{destroy}(expr) \mid expr \in Expr_{\mathcal{S}}\}$$

and OCL expressions over \mathcal{S} (with partial interpretation) as $Expr_{\mathcal{S}}$.

Transformer Examples: Presentation

abstract syntax	concrete syntax
op	
intuitive semantics	...
well-typedness	...
semantics	$\left. \begin{aligned} &((\sigma, \varepsilon), (\sigma', \varepsilon')) \in t_{\text{op}}[u_x] \text{ iff ...} \\ &\text{or} \\ &t_{\text{op}}[u_x](\sigma, \varepsilon) = \{(\sigma', \varepsilon') \mid \text{where ...}\} \end{aligned} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{transformer} \\ t_{\text{op}} \end{array}$
observables	$Obs_{\text{op}}[u_x] = \{\dots\}$
(error) conditions	Not defined if ...

Transformer: Skip

abstract syntax	concrete syntax
skip	<i>skip</i>
intuitive semantics	<i>do nothing</i>
well-typedness	<i>./.</i>
semantics	$t_{\text{skip}}[u_x](\sigma, \varepsilon) = \{(\sigma, \varepsilon)\}$
observables	$Obs_{\text{skip}}[u_x](\sigma, \varepsilon) = \emptyset$
(error) conditions	

Transformer: Update

$x := x + 1$
 $(\text{self} \cdot x := \text{self} \cdot x + 1)$

abstract syntax	$\text{update}(expr_1, v, expr_2)$	concrete syntax	$expr_1.v := expr_2$
intuitive semantics	Update attribute v in the object denoted by $expr_1$ to the value denoted by $expr_2$.		
well-typedness	$expr_1 : T_C$ and $v : T \in \text{atr}(C)$; $expr_2 : T$; $expr_1, expr_2$ obey visibility and navigability		
semantics	$t_{\text{update}(expr_1, v, expr_2)}[u_x](\sigma, \varepsilon) = \{(\sigma', \varepsilon)\}$ <p>where $\sigma' = \sigma[u \mapsto \sigma(u)[v \mapsto I[expr_2](\sigma, u_x)]]$ with</p> $u = I[expr_1](\sigma, u_x).$		
observables	$Obs_{\text{update}(expr_1, v, expr_2)}[u_x] = \emptyset$		
(error) conditions	Not defined if $I[expr_1](\sigma, u_x)$ or $I[expr_2](\sigma, u_x)$ not defined.		

change state of object u

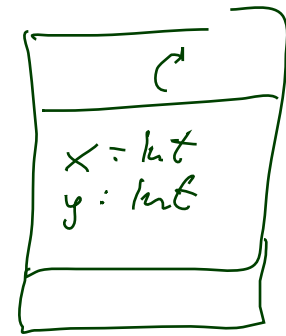
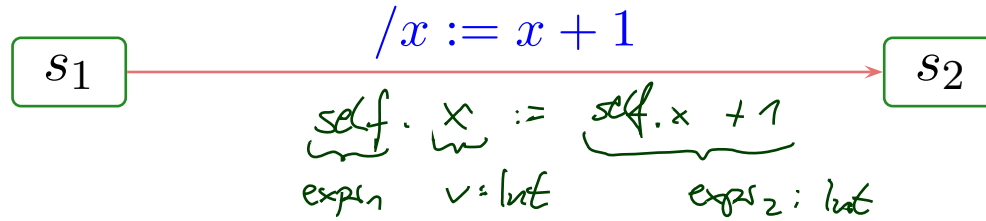
this does not change

change value of this attr. new value

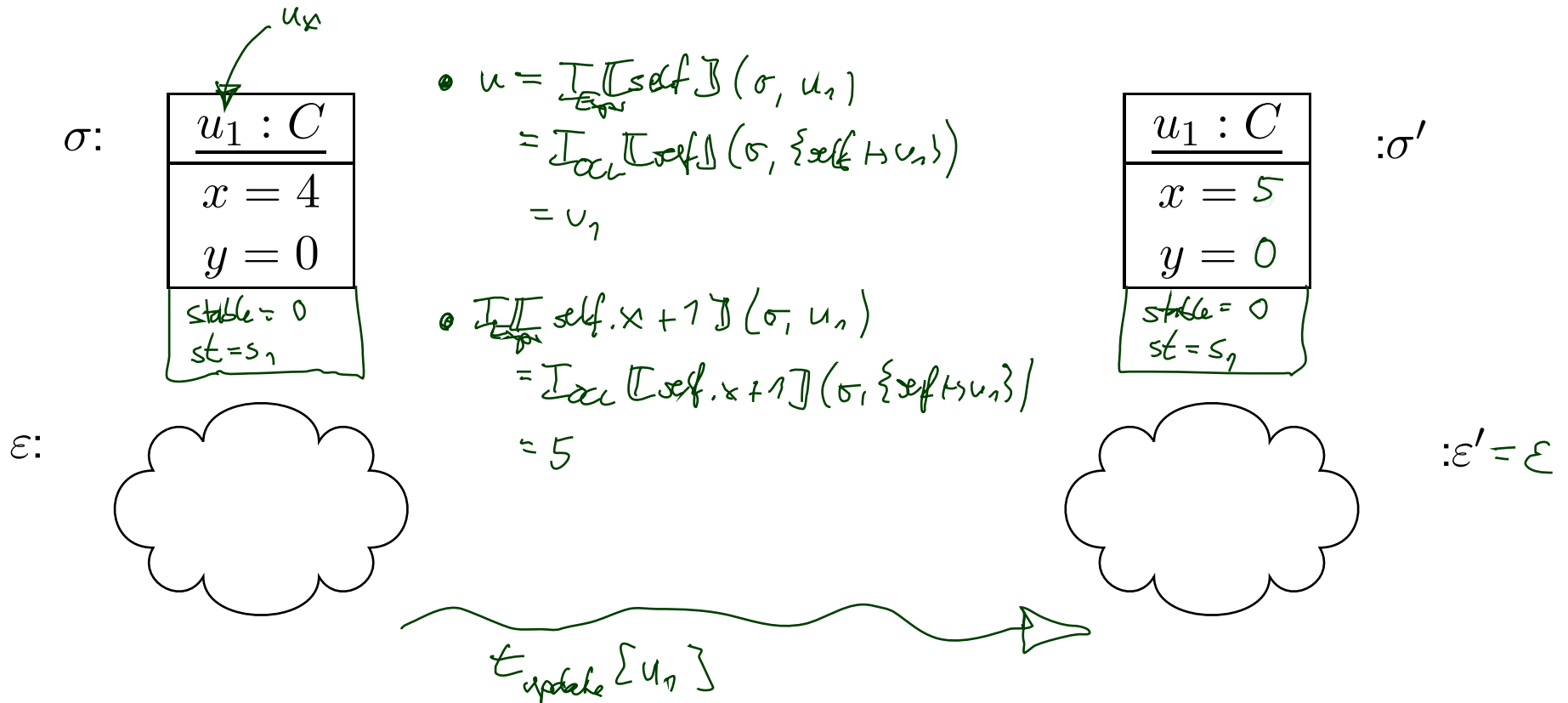
object denoted by $expr_1$ (relative to u_x as self)

Update Transformer Example

SMC:



$$t_{\text{update}(expr_1, v, expr_2)}[u_x](\sigma, \varepsilon) = (\sigma' = \sigma[u \mapsto \sigma(u)[v \mapsto I[\![expr_2]\!](\sigma, u_x)]], \varepsilon), u = I[\![expr_1]\!](\sigma, u_x)$$



abstract syntax

$\text{send}(E(\text{expr}_1, \dots, \text{expr}_n), \text{expr}_{dst})$

concrete syntax

intuitive semantics

Object $u_x : C$ sends event E to object expr_{dst} , i.e. create a fresh signal instance, fill in its attributes, and place it in the ether.

well-typedness

$E \in \mathcal{E}; \text{atr}(E) = \{v_1 : T_1, \dots, v_n : T_n\}; \text{expr}_i : T_i, 1 \leq i \leq n;$
 $\text{expr}_{dst} : T_D, C, D \in \mathcal{C} \setminus \mathcal{E};$
 all expressions obey visibility and navigability in C

semantics

$(\sigma', \varepsilon') \in t_{\text{send}(E(\text{expr}_1, \dots, \text{expr}_n), \text{expr}_{dst})}[u_x](\sigma, \varepsilon)$
 if $\sigma' = \sigma \dot{\cup} \{u \mapsto \{v_i \mapsto d_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\}\}; \quad \varepsilon' = \varepsilon \oplus (u_{dst}, u);$
 if $u_{dst} = I[\![\text{expr}_{dst}]\!](\sigma, u_x) \in \text{dom}(\sigma); \quad d_i = I[\![\text{expr}_i]\!](\sigma, u_x)$ for
 $1 \leq i \leq n;$
 $u \in \mathcal{D}(E)$ a fresh identity, i.e. $u \notin \text{dom}(\sigma),$
 and where $(\sigma', \varepsilon') = (\sigma, \varepsilon)$ if $u_{dst} \notin \text{dom}(\sigma).$

observables

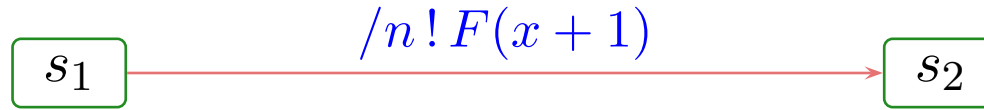
$\text{Obs}_{\text{send}}[u_x] = \{(u_e, u_{dst})\}$

(error) conditions

$I[\![\text{expr}]\!](\sigma, u_x)$ not defined for any $\text{expr} \in \{\text{expr}_{dst}, \text{expr}_1, \dots, \text{expr}_n\}$

Send Transformer Example

\mathcal{SM}_C :



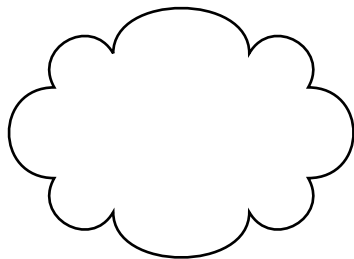
$t_{\text{send}(expr_{src}, E(expr_1, \dots, expr_n), expr_{dst})}[u_x](\sigma, \varepsilon) \ni (\sigma', \varepsilon')$ iff $\varepsilon' = \varepsilon \oplus (u_{dst}, u)$;
 $\sigma' = \sigma \dot{\cup} \{u \mapsto \{v_i \mapsto d_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\}\}$; $u_{dst} = I[\![expr_{dst}]\!](\sigma, u_x) \in \text{dom}(\sigma)$;
 $d_i = I[\![expr_i]\!](\sigma, u_x), 1 \leq i \leq n$; $u \in \mathcal{D}(E)$ a fresh identity;

σ :

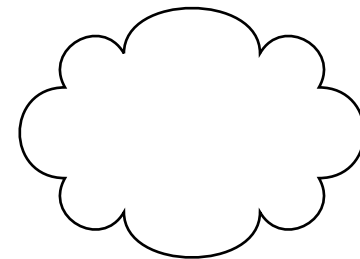
$u_1 : C$
$x = 5$

$:\sigma'$

ε :



$:\varepsilon'$



Sequential Composition of Transformers

- **Sequential composition** $t_1 \circ t_2$ of transformers t_1 and t_2 is canonically defined as

$$(t_2 \circ t_1)[u_x](\sigma, \varepsilon) = t_2[u_x](t_1[u_x](\sigma, \varepsilon))$$

with observation

$$Obs_{(t_2 \circ t_1)}[u_x](\sigma, \varepsilon) = Obs_{t_1}[u_x](\sigma, \varepsilon) \cup Obs_{t_2}[u_x](t_1(\sigma, \varepsilon)).$$

- **Clear:** not defined if one the two intermediate “micro steps” is not defined.

Transformers And Denotational Semantics

Observation: our transformers are in principle the **denotational semantics** of the actions/action sequences. The trivial case, to be precise.

Note: with the previous examples, we can capture

- empty statements, skips,
- assignments,
- conditionals (by normalisation and auxiliary variables),
- create/destroy (later),

but not **possibly diverging loops**.

Our (Simple) Approach: if the action language is, e.g. Java, then (**syntactically**) forbid loops and calls of recursive functions.

Other Approach: use full blown denotational semantics.

No show-stopper, because loops in the action annotation can be converted into transition cycles in the state machine.

Tell Them What You've Told Them...

- A **ether** is an abstract representation of different possible “event pools” like
 - FIFO queues (shared, or per sender),
 - One-place buffers,
 - ...
- A **system configuration** consists of
 - an **event pool** (pending messages),
 - a **system state** over a signature with **implicit attributes** for
 - current state,
 - stability,
 - etc.
- Transitions are labelled with **actions**, the effect of actions is explained by **transformers**, transformers may modify **system state** and **ether**.

References

References

OMG (2011a). Unified modeling language: Infrastructure, version 2.4.1. Technical Report formal/2011-08-05.

OMG (2011b). Unified modeling language: Superstructure, version 2.4.1. Technical Report formal/2011-08-06.