



State Machine

Designing components using a state machine model.

When State Matters

Some components behave differently depending on the *state* they are in.

Examples:

- **Alarm Clock** - showing time, setting alarm, ringing
- **Stop Watch** - running or stopped
- **Calculator** - has value or not, has operand or not
- *parsers* - state depends on previous value

Simple Example: Stopwatch

Stopwatch *behaves differently* when it is **running** and **stopped**.

Identify States

Stopwatch states: **RUNNING** and **STOPPED**

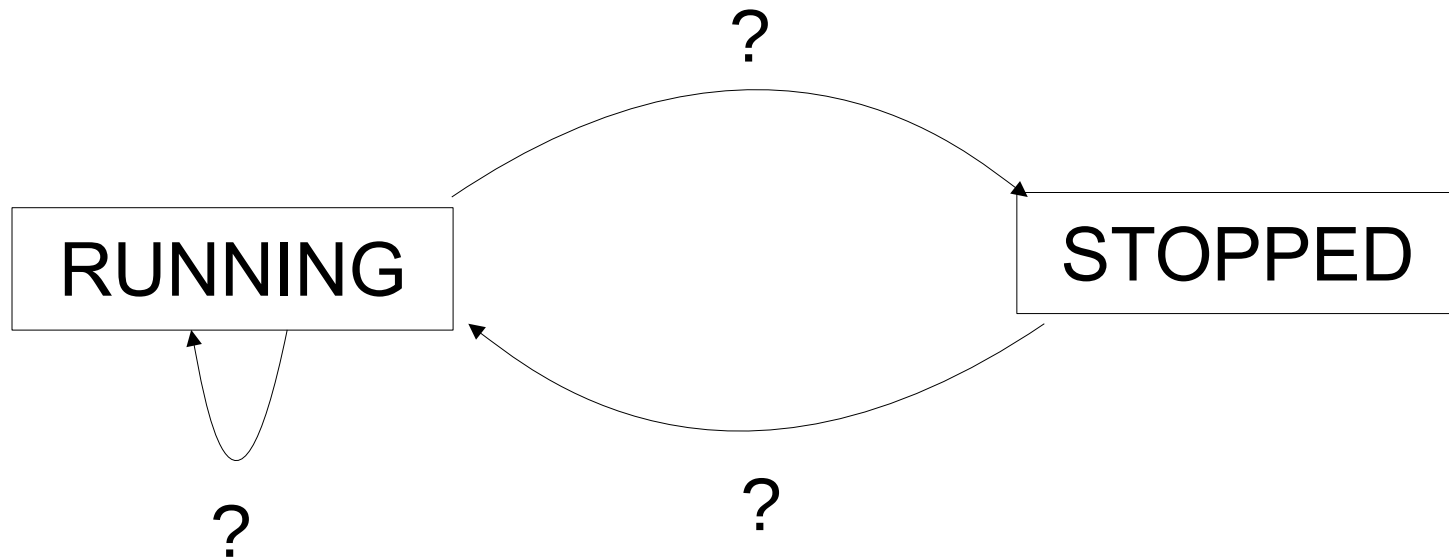
RUNNING

STOPPED

Events

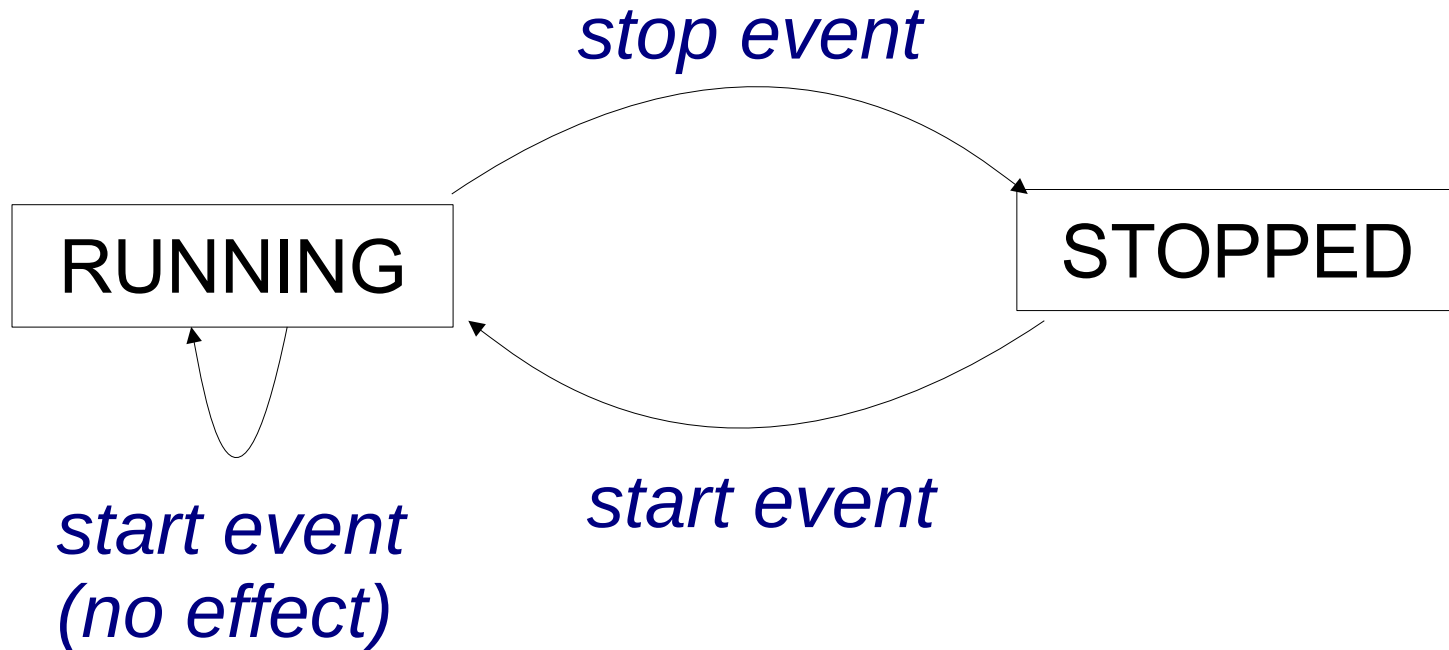
Events are actions that can cause a state machine to change state.

What **events** cause a stopwatch to change state?



Events

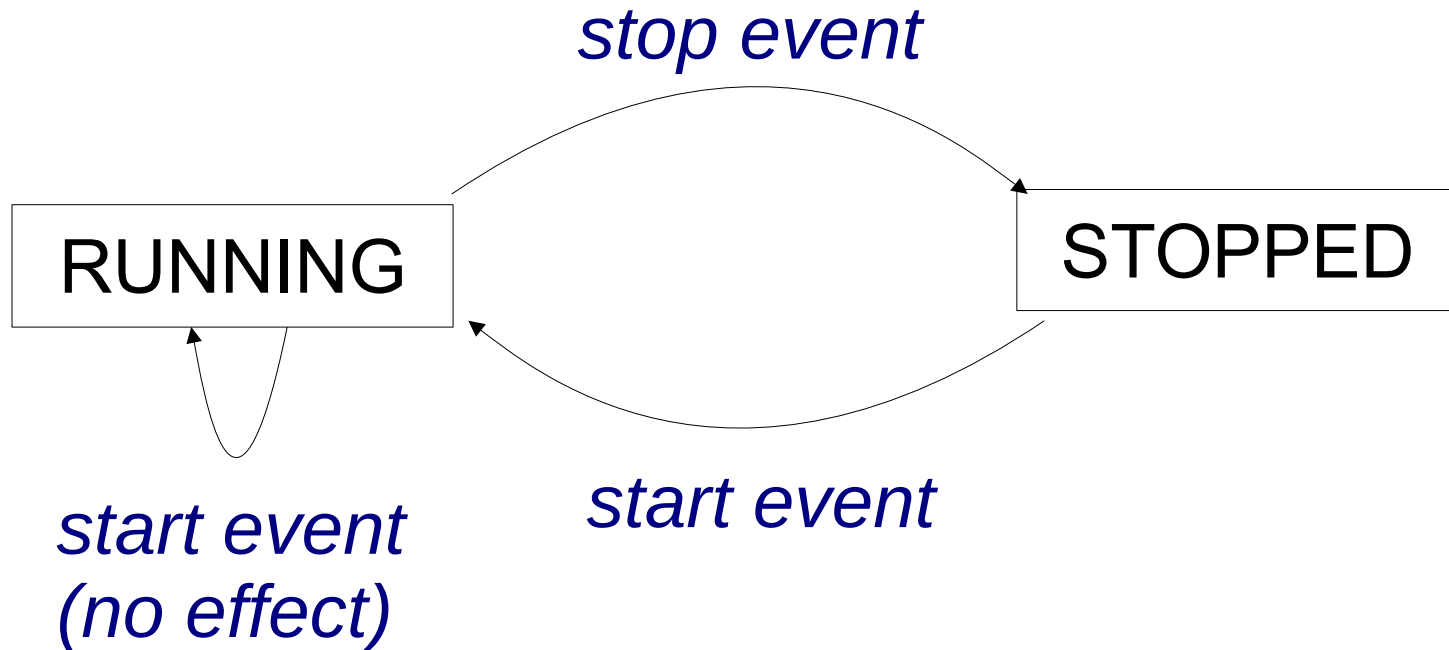
Events can be *user actions* or other external events.



Actions

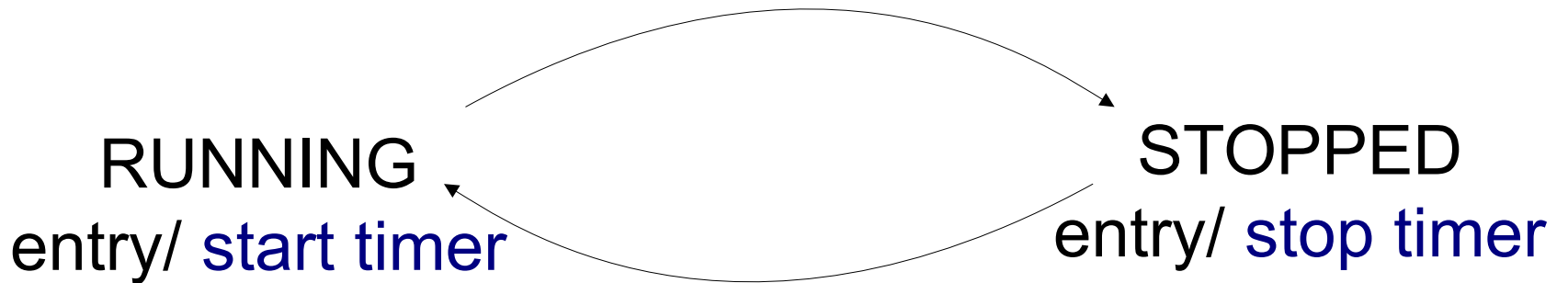
The stopwatch performs an *action* in response to an event.

As shown here, some events cause it to change state.



More Actions

The stopwatch performs an *action* whenever it enters a new state.



Activities

An **activity** is something that lasts for some time.

An **action** is (nearly) **instantaneous**.

In the StopWatch UI, "*update display*" is an activity.

Programming a State Machine

Design the state machine first – step by step.

1. Identify the **states**
2. Identify **events**: external and internally generated
3. Identify **actions** & **activities** the state machine performs
4. Draw a **state machine** diagram.

Finally,

5. Code *state-dependent behavior* using state machine.

What behavior depends on state?

We use the attribute `running` to keep track of state.

```
class Stopwatch {
    private boolean running;

    public void start( ) {
        if (running) return;
        startTime = System.nanoTime();
        running = true; // change state
    }
}
```

What behavior depends on state?

`start()`, `stop()`, `getElapsed()`, `isRunning()`

```
public double getElapsed() {
    if (running)
        return (System.nanoTime()-startTime)
            * NANoseconds;
    else
        return (stopTime-startTime)
            * NANoseconds;
}
public void stop() {
    if (! running ) return;
    stopTime = System.nanoTime();
    running = false;
}
```

Two Implementations of State Machine

1. State variable

- use a variable to represent state
- use a "switch" statement inside state-dependent methods. States are "case" in the switch.

2. Object-Oriented Approach

- an Interface for State.
- one class for each concrete state.

State Variable

We used a `boolean` variable (`running`) to record the state.

This works when there are only 2 states.

For more states we need another type of state variable.

Example: a `StopWatch` with `Start`, `Stop`, and `Hold` states.

State variable to remember state

```
// use "int" or "char"
class Stopwatch {

    final int STOPPED = 0;
    final int RUNNING = 1;
    final int HOLDING = 2;

    int state;
    public void stop( ) {
        switch(state) {
            case RUNNING:
                // handle "stop" when
                // stopwatch is in
                // RUNNING state
        }
    }
}
```

```
// use an enum
class Stopwatch {
    enum State {
        STOPPED,
        RUNNING,
        HOLDING;
    }
    State state;
    public void stop() {
        switch(state) {
            case RUNNING:
                // handle "stop" when
                // stopwatch is in
                // RUNNING state
        }
    }
}
```

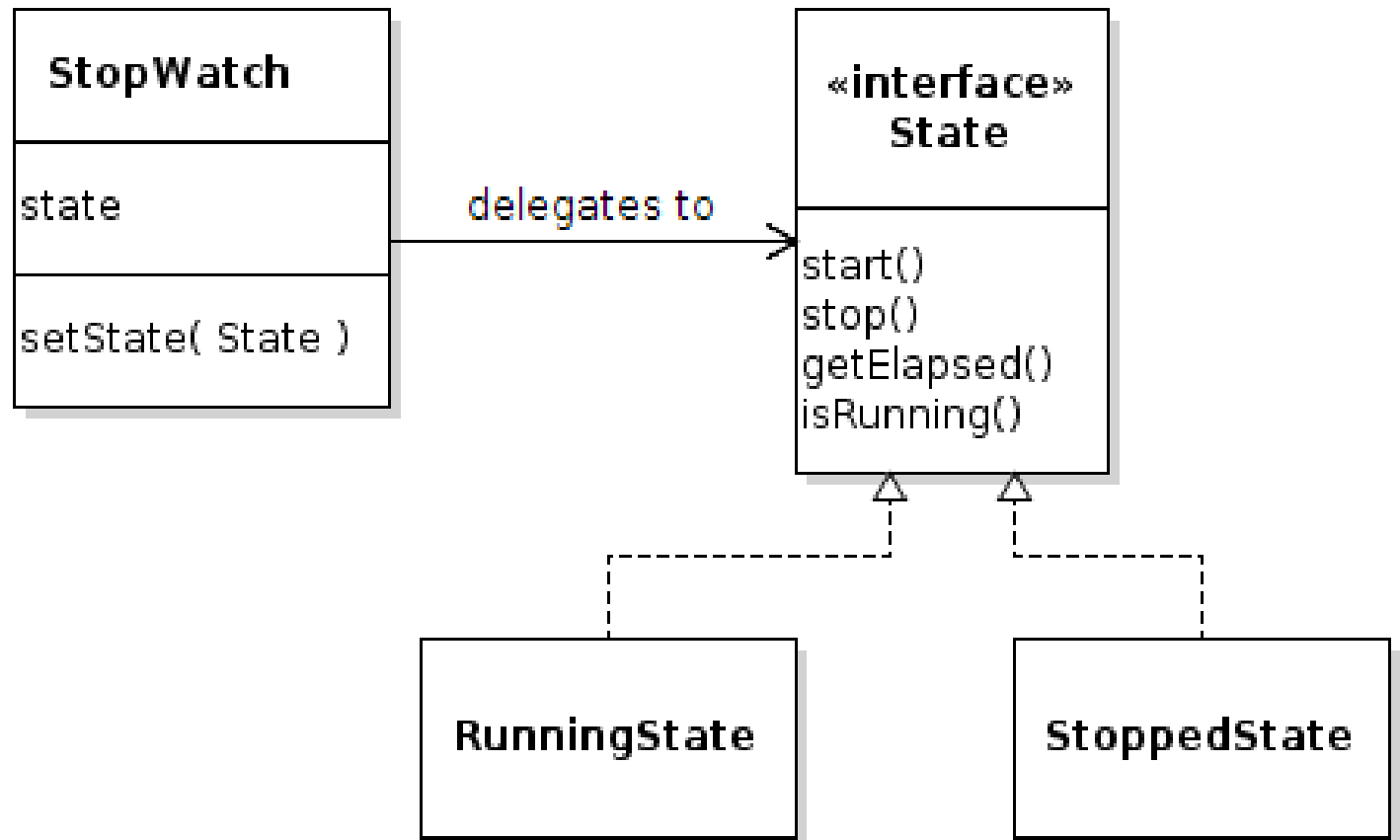
State variable with "switch"

```
// Stopwatch with enum for states
class Stopwatch {
    private State state;
    public void start() {
        switch (state) {
            case RUNNING:
                return; // do nothing
            case STOPPED:
                // start the stopwatch
                startTime = System.nanoTime();
                state = State.RUNNING;
                return;
            case HOLD:
                ...
        }
    }
}
```


The O-O Approach

Use *Objects* to encapsulate state and the behavior that depends on state.

The *context* (StopWatch) delegates behavior to state objects.



Interface for State-dependent Behavior

Actual states must each provide this behavior.

```
public class State {  
    /** Handle start event */  
    public void start();  
  
    /** Handle stop event */  
    public void stop();  
  
    /** Get the elapsed time */  
    public double getElapsed();  
  
    /** Inquire if stopwatch is running */  
    public boolean isRunning();  
}
```

States without "if"

Each state knows exactly what to do.

```
public class RunningState {
    /** Handle start event */
    public void start() {
        // do nothing -- already running
    }

    /** Inquire if stopwatch is running */
    public boolean isRunning() {
        return true;
    }
}
```

Delegating Behavior

Delegate means "let someone else do it".

Stopwatch delegates behavior to the **state**.

```
public class StopWatch {  
    private State state;  
  
    public void start( ) {  
        state.start();  
    }  
    public void stop() { state.stop(); }  
    public double getElapsed() {  
        return state.getElapsed();  
    }  
}
```

State Objects and Changing State

The *context* (StopWatch) needs a `setState` method as a way of changing the state.

```
// Create states with a reference to stopwatch
final State RUNNING = new RunningState(this);
final State STOPPED = new StoppedState(this);
// initially the Stopwatch is stopped
private State state = STOPPED;

// a method for changing the state
public void setState(State newstate) {
    this.state = newstate;
}
```

Example of Changing State

If the stopwatch is **running** and the Stop button is pressed, then change to **stopped** state...

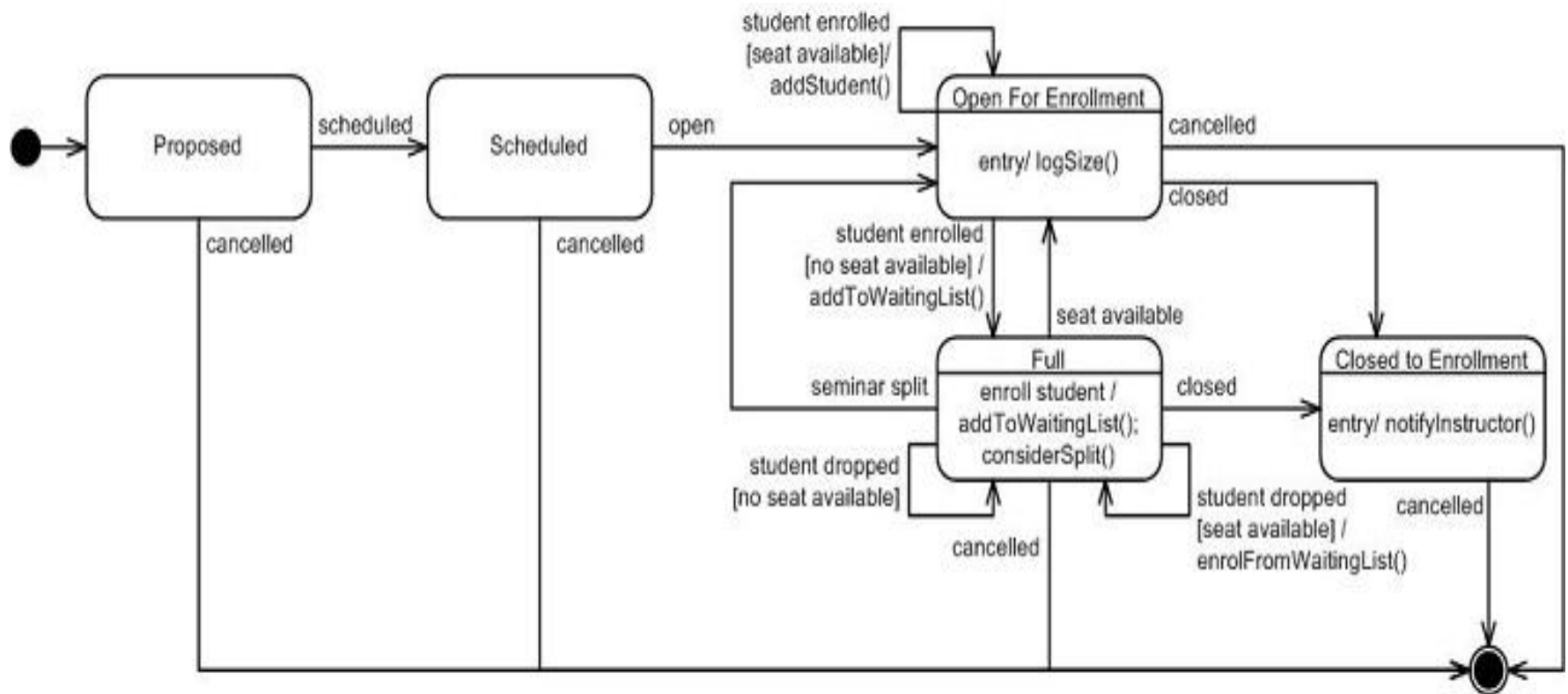
```
class RunningState implements State {
    private Stopwatch context;

    public RunningState(StopWatch sw) {
        this.context = sw;
    }

    public void stop() {
        context.stopTime = System.nanoTime();
        // CHANGE STATE
        context.setState( context.STOPPED );
    }
}
```

UML State Machine Diagram

States for course enrollment.



UML State Machine Diagram

Read *UML Distilled*, chapter 10.

Also good: *UML for Java Programmers*, chapter 10.

Exercise: Syllable Counter

Count the syllables in a word.

As a heuristic, count **vowel sequences**.

Examples:

object = (o)bj(e)ct = 2 vowel sequences

beauty = b(eau)t(y) = 2 vowel sequences

Special cases:

l(a)y(ou)t = *treat "y" as consonant if after other vowel*

l(a)the = don't count final "e" if it is a single vowel

m(o)v(ie) = 2 vowel seq. "final e" rule doesn't apply here.

th(e) = exception: count final "e" if it is the *only* vowel

anti-oxidant = (a)nt(i)-(o)x(i)d(a)nt "-" is non-vowel

Example Words

How many vowel sequences in these words?

remarkable

selfie

county

coincidentally

she

mate

isn't

States for Syllable Counter

Using the above vowel counting heuristic, what are the states?

consonant - last seen letter is a consonant

single_vowel - recent letter was first vowel in sequence

multi_vowel - recent letter was vowel after another vowel

hyphen - most recent char is a hyphen

nonword - the character sequence is not a word (violates some rule for word such as containing an invalid character, .e.g. a digit)

States for Syllable Counter

What should be the *starting state*?

See [Syllable Counter Lab](#) on for details.

Exercise: Skytrain Ticket Machine



Skytrain Ticket Machine

1. What are the states?
2. What are the events?
3. What actions/activities does ticket machine perform?
4. Draw a UML State Machine Diagram.