Input part 3: Implementing Interaction Techniques Georgia Tech

Interaction techniques

- A method for carrying out a specific interactive task
 - Example: enter a number in a range
 - could use... (simulated) slider
 - (simulated) knob
 - type in a number (text edit box)
 - Each is a different interaction technique

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Suppose we wanted to implement an interaction for specifying a line



- Could just specify two endpoints
 - click, click
 - not good: no affordance,no feedback
- Better feedback is to use "rubber banding"
 - stretch out the line as you drag
 - at all times, shows where you would end up if you "let go"



Aside

- Rubber banding provides good feedback
- How would we provide better affordance?



Aside

- Rubber banding provides good feedback
- How would we provide better affordance?
 - Changing cursor shape is about all we have to work with

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Implementing rubber banding

```
Accept the press for endpoint p1;
P2 = P1;
Draw line P1-P2;
Repeat
Erase line P1-P2;
P2 = current_position();
Draw line P1-P2;
Until release event;
Act on line input;
```

Implementing rubber banding

- Need to get around this loop absolute min of 5 times / sec
 - I0 times better
 - more would be better
- Notice we need "undraw" here

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What's wrong with this code?

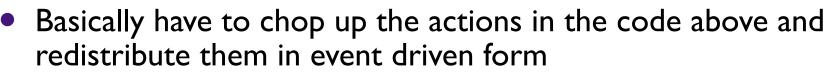
```
Accept the press for endpoint p1;
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Not event driven

- Not in the basic event / redraw cycle form
 - don't want to mix event and sampled
 - in many systems, can't ignore events for arbitrary lengths of time
- How do we do this in a normal event / redraw loop?

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You don't get to write control flow anymore



- "event driven control flow"
- need to maintain "state" (where you are) between events and start up "in the state" you were in when you left off

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Finite state machine controllers

- One good way to maintain "state" is to use a state machine
 - (deterministic) finite state machine

• FSM

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FSM notation

- Circles represent states
 - arrow for start state
 - double circles for "final states"



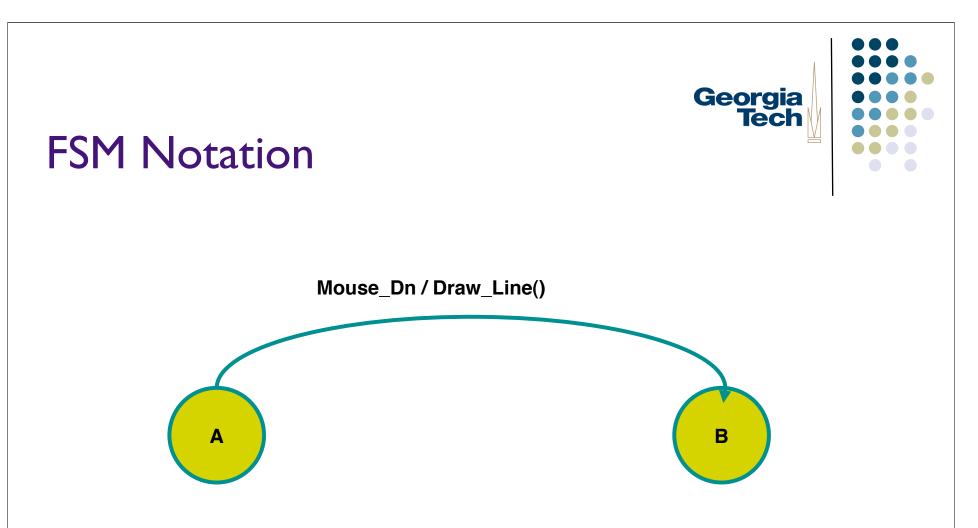
- notion of final state is a little off for user interfaces (don't ever end)
- but still use this for completed actions
- generally reset to the start state

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Georgia Tech **FSM** notation • Transitions represented as arcs Labeled with a "symbol" for us an event (can vary) Also optionally labeled with an action Mouse_Dn / Draw_Line()

Α

В

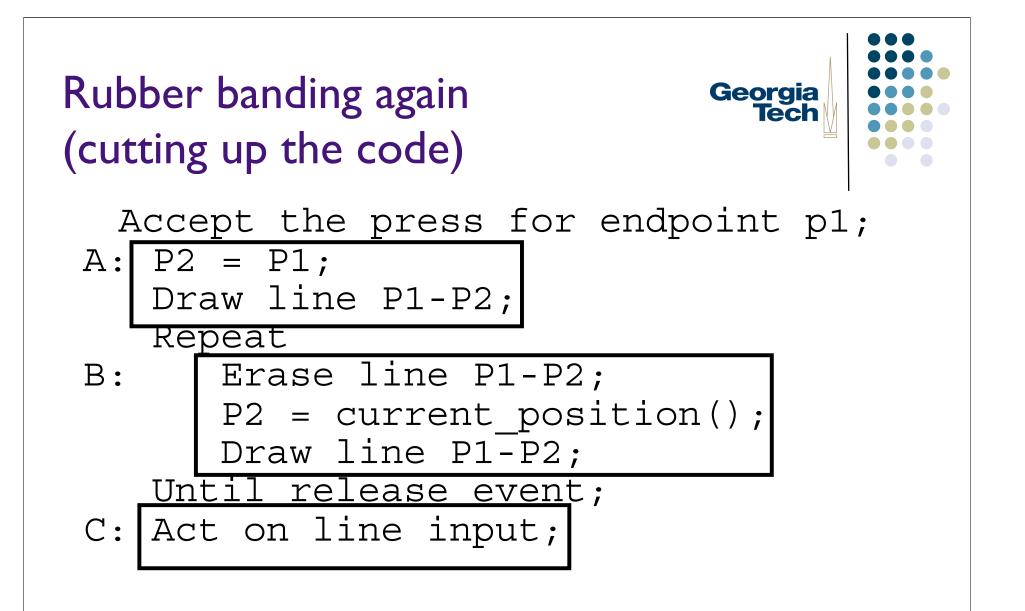


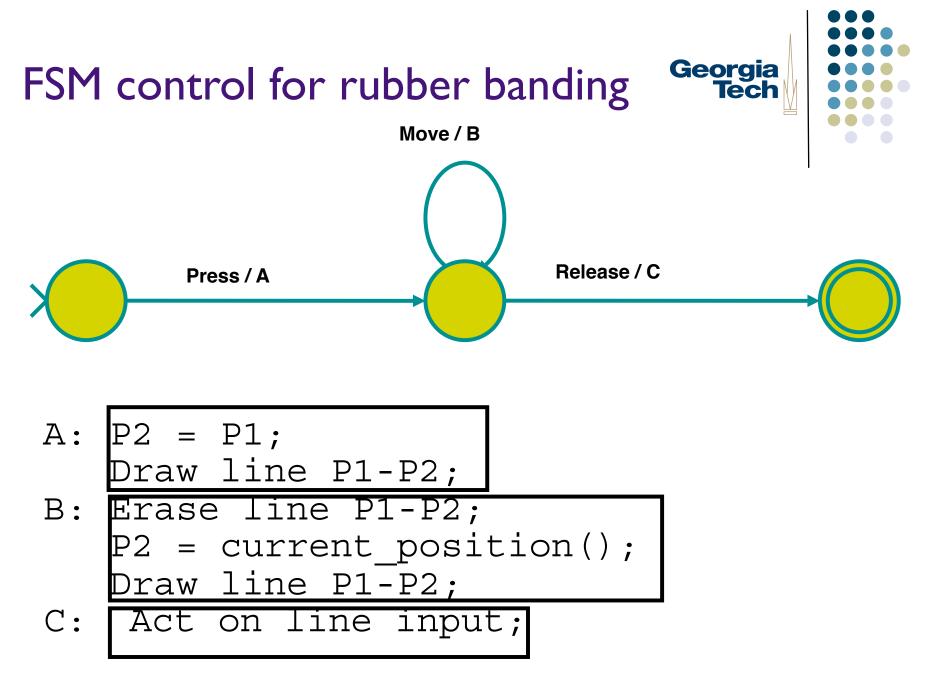
 Means: when you are in state A and you see a mouse down, do the action (call draw_line), and go to state B



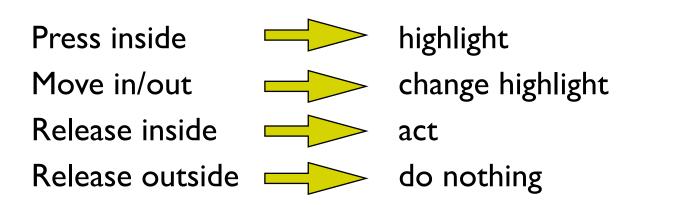
FSM Notation

- Sometimes also put actions on states
 - same as action on all incoming transitions





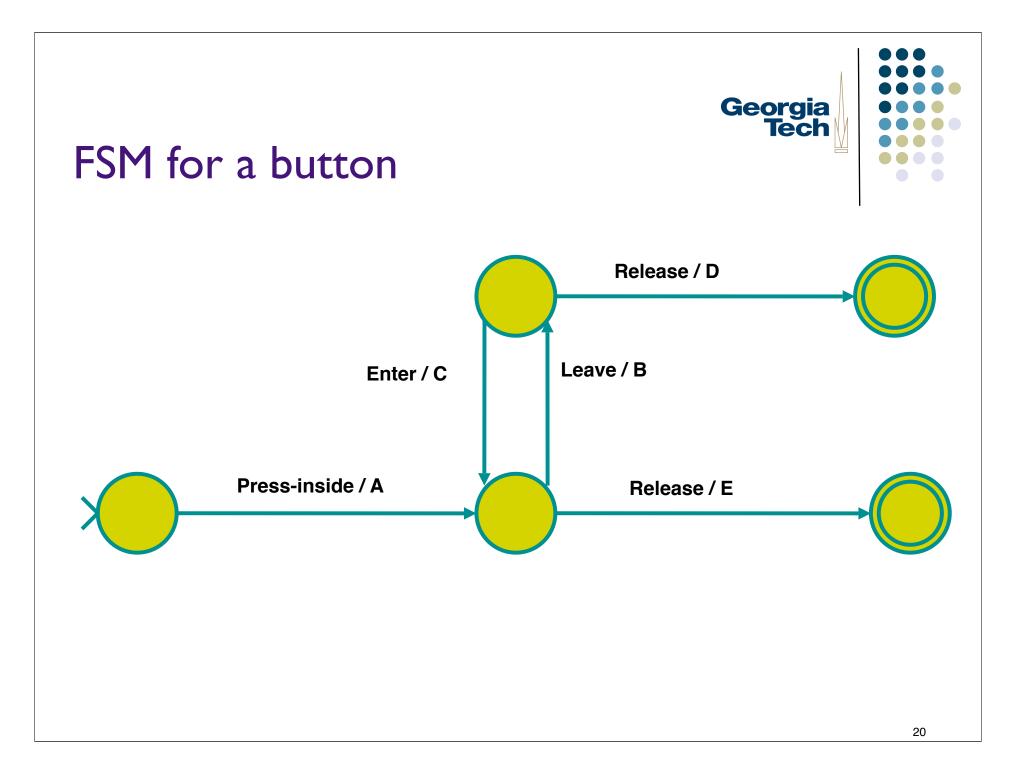
Second example: button

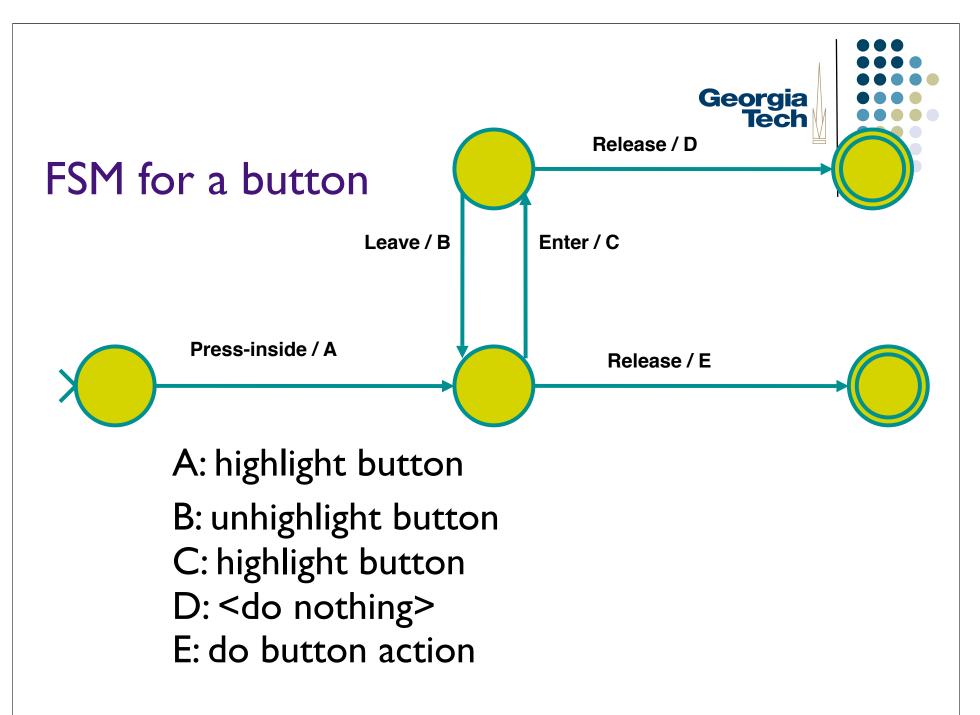


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FSM for a button?





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In general...

- Machine states represent context of interaction
 - "where you are" in control flow
- Transitions indicate how to respond to various events
 - what to do in each context

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"Events" in FSMs

- What constitutes an "event" varies
 - may be just low level events, or
 - higher level (synthesized) events
 - e.g. region-enter, press-inside
 - Example: Swing ActionEvents
 - Generated from a range of *different* low-level events
 - Completion of button activation FSM
 - Hitting enter in a text field

Guards on transitions

- Sometimes also use "guards"
 - predicate (bool expr) before event
 - adds extra conditions req to fire
 - typical notation: pred: event / action
 - e.g. button.enabled: press-inside / A

Note: FSM augmented with guards is Turing complete

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FSM are a good way to do control flow in event driven systems



- Can do (formal or informal) analysis
 - are all possible inputs (e.g. errors) handled from each state
 - what are next legal inputs
 - can use to enable / disable
- Can be automated based on higher level specification

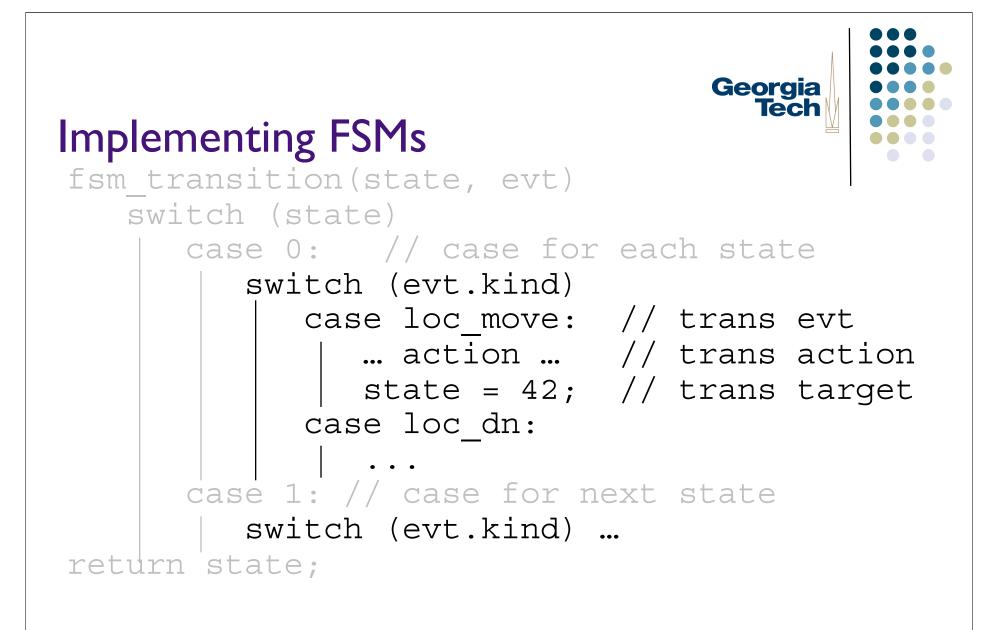


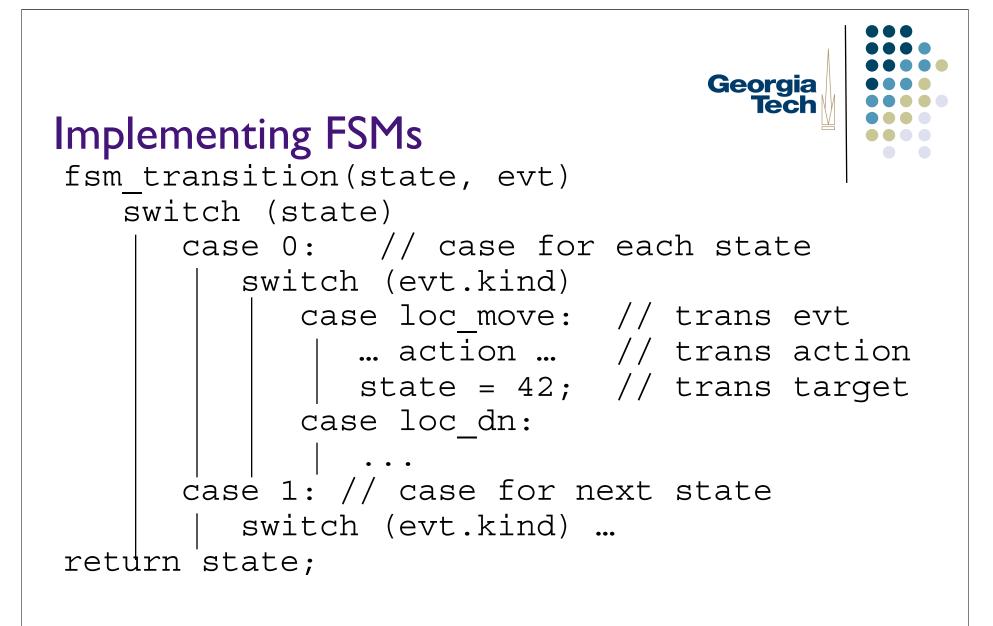
Implementing FSMs

```
state = start_state;
for (;;) {
  raw_evt = wait_for_event();
  evt = transform_event(raw_evt);
   state = fsm_transition(state, evt);
}
```

• Note that this is basically the normal event loop

```
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Implementing FSMs
fsm transition(state, evt)
   switch (state)
      case 0: // case for each state
      case 1: // case for next state
return state;
```





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Table driven implementation

- Very stylized code
- Can be replaced with fixed code + table that represents FSM
 - only have to write the fixed code once
 - can have a tool that generates table from something else

Table driven implementation

- Table consists of array of states
- Each state has list of transitions
- Each transition has
 - event match method
 - list of actions (or action method)
 - target state





Table driven implementation

```
fsm_transition(state, evt)
for each transition TR in table[state]
    if TR.match(evt)
        TR.action();
        state = TR.to_state();
        break;
    return state
```

• Simpler: now just fill in table

