

**A computer program does  
what you tell it to do, not what  
you want it to do – Unknown**

# Automata and machines

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**UNIMORE**  
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI  
MODENA E REGGIO EMILIA

High Performance  
Real Time **Lab**



# Industrial embedded systems

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What they do

- › Monitor physical properties of the system/plant (via *sensors*)
- › Might perform some control, or part of, control algos
- › Via *actuators*

Control can be

- › Continuous in time
  - › Discrete in time
- ➔ Control theory



# Industrial controls in a nutshell



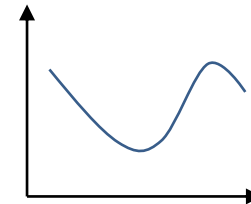
In their generic form,

$$F: \{S, I\} \rightarrow \{O\}$$

computed ...when?

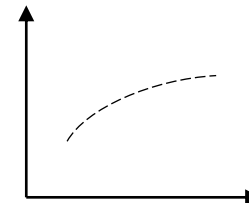
If continuous

- › Physical properties and actuators are continuous in time
- ›  $F(t)$  continuous
- › Combinatorial logic/analogic systems



If discrete

- › Computed at pre-determined instance in time
- › Event-driven (e.g., timeout, interrupt)
- › Sequential logics/digital systems





# Finite state automations for discrete controls

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E.g., an elevator, reacts to multiple events

- › Typically in idle state
- › If you are press the button, the door opens
- › You select the floor, doors close
- › Then, it reaches the floor (feat. velocity control)
- › Then, it opens the door, which subsequently closes after X seconds

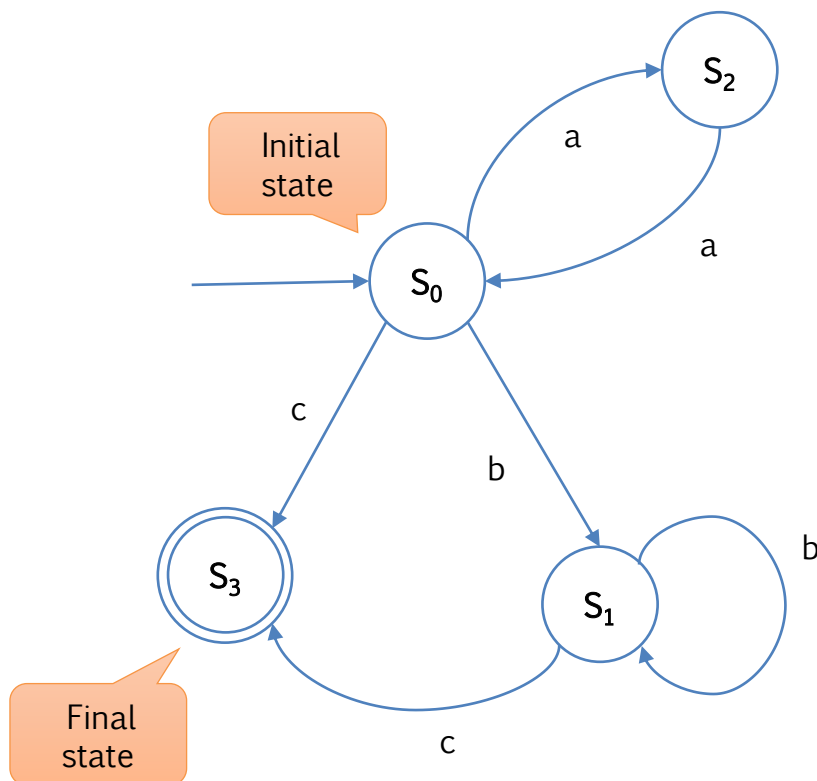
This behavior is controlled by a **finite state automations/machine**



# Finite State Automations/Machines

## Problem

- › Identify even sequences of  $a$  (even empty), followed by one, or more, or no,  $b$ , ended by  $c$



Given an alphabet  $V$ ,

*...that identifies a language (we'll see)..*

define FSA as

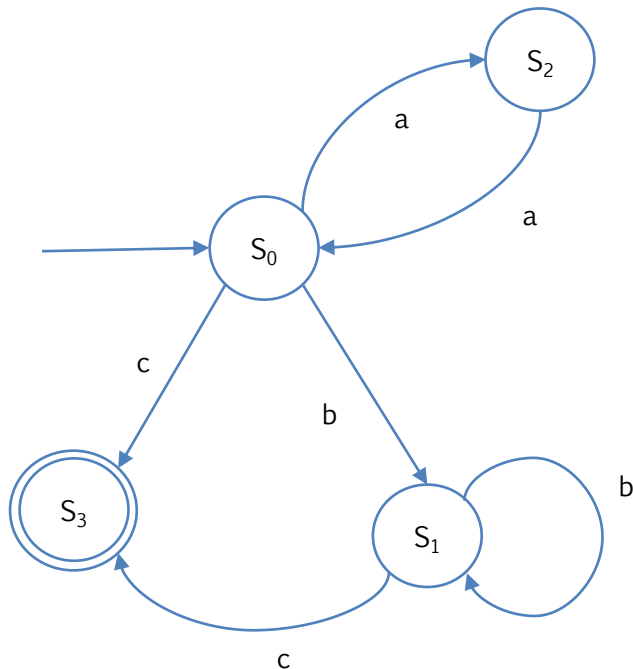
- ›  $S$  : a non-empty states set
- ›  $s_0 \in S$  : initial state
- ›  $S_f \subseteq S$  : final states set
- ›  $t: S \times V \rightarrow S$  : states transaction func



# FSMs and languages

Let  $V^* = \{v, w, \dots\}$  contain all the combinations of words using  $V$  symbols

- › Including the empty word  $\varepsilon$
- › For instance,  $ac$ ,  $aabbc$ ,  $abbabbbc$  belong to  $V^*$
- › (note that, we can associate words in  $V^*$  to inputs, or combination of them)



A **language**  $L$  is a subset of  $V^*$

(abbabbbc does **not** belong  
to  $L$ , as previously defined)

*“Identify even sequences of  $a$  (even empty),  
followed by one, or more, or no,  $b$ , ended by  $c$ ”*



# State transaction function

- ›  $t(s_0, b) = s_1 \quad | \quad s_0 \rightarrow s_1$
- ›  $s_y$  is reachable by  $s_x$  if there exists a path from  $s_x$  to  $s_y$ 
  - a combination of alphabet symbols  $l$  (letters in our case)

$$t: S \times V \xrightarrow{b} S$$

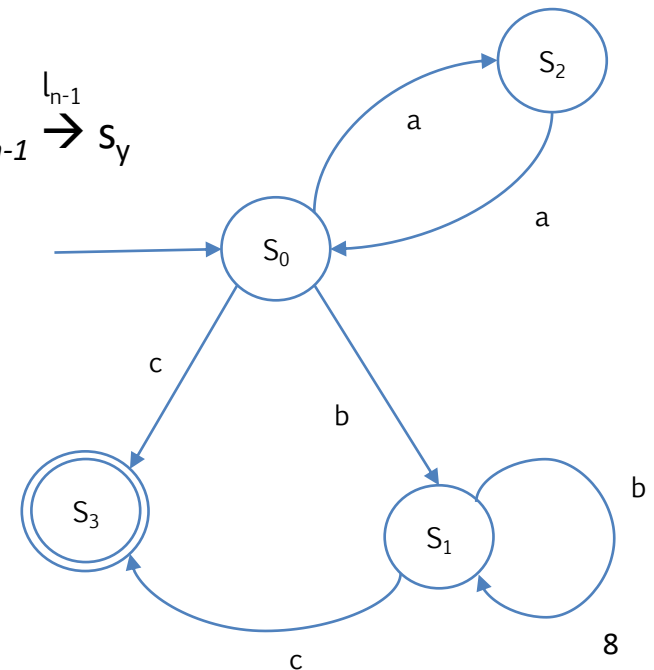
$$\rightarrow^* : S \times V^* \times S : s_x \xrightarrow{w^*} s_y$$

iff

$$w = l_1 l_2 \dots l_n \quad \exists s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n : s_x \xrightarrow{l_1} s_1 \xrightarrow{l_2} s_2 \dots s_{n-1} \xrightarrow{l_{n-1}} s_y$$

$$s_2 \xrightarrow{w^*} s_1$$

$$w = aaab \quad \exists s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n : s_2 \xrightarrow{a} s_0 \xrightarrow{a} s_2 \xrightarrow{a} s_0 \xrightarrow{b} s_1$$







# Exercise

Let's  
code!

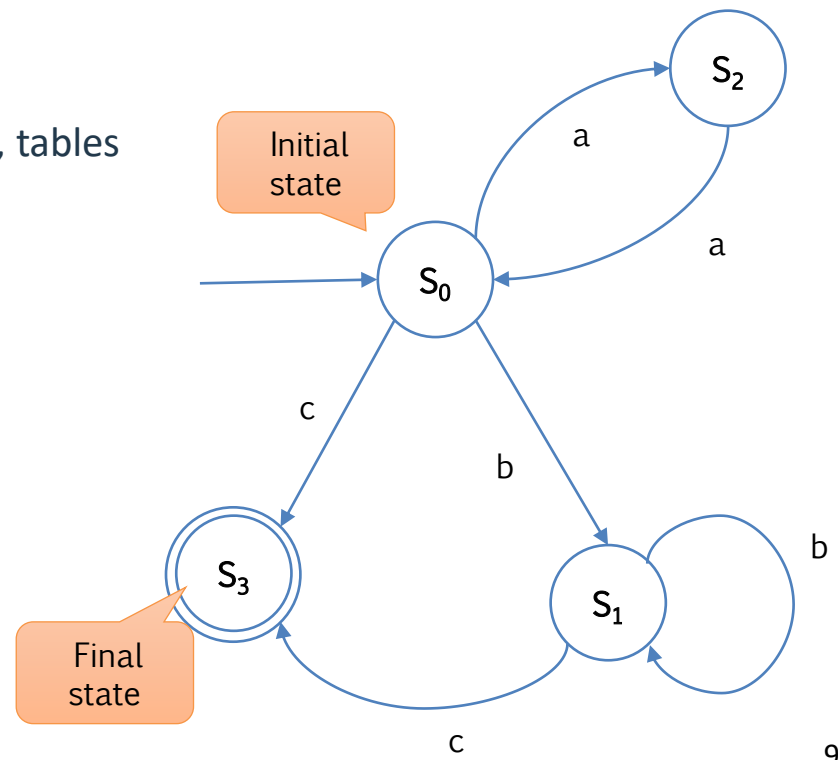
- › Implement the automata that understands whether a words is from L

*“Identify even sequences of a (even empty),  
followed by one, or more, or no, b, ended by c”*

- › Use the language that you want
  - You just need IFs,CASE-SWITCH, recursion, tables
  - Receive the target word from stdin

What's missing?

- › In case of error => default error state
- › Typically implicit in state diagrams





# Grammars

- › A standard way of representing languages (Noam Chomsky, 1950)

$$G = \langle VT, VN, P, S \rangle$$

*VT and VN disjoint*

$$VT \cap VN = \emptyset$$

- › VT : terminal symbols  $\subseteq V$
- › VN : non-terminal symbols  $\subseteq V$  (aka: syntax categories)
- › P : production rules  $P \subseteq VN \times (VN \cup VT)$
- ›  $S \in VN$ : initial symbol

*VT and VN are V*

$$VT \cup VN = V$$

A language  $L_G$  generated by grammar  $G$  is the set of  $V^*$  elements derived by start symbol  $S$  through productions in  $P$



# Backus-Naur Form

- › Productions rules have form

$$\alpha ::= \beta, \alpha \in VN \beta \in V$$

- ›  $x \in VN$  have the form  $\langle \text{name} \rangle$
- ›  $|$  specifies an option

```
VT = { il, gatto, topo, sasso, mangia, beve }
```

```
VN = { <frase>, <soggetto>, <verbo>, <compl-ogg>, <articolo>, <nome> }
```

```
S = <frase>
```

```
P = {  
  <frase> ::= <soggetto> <verbo> <compl-ogg>  
  <soggetto> ::= <articolo><nome>  
  <articolo> ::= il  
  <nome> ::= gatto | topo | sasso  
  <verbo> ::= mangia | beve  
  <compl-ogg> ::= <articolo> <nome>  
}
```

Automata states



# Another example

## › Natural numbers

```
VT = { 0, 1, ..., 9 }
```

```
VN = { <num>, <cifra>, <cifra-non-nulla> }
```

```
S = <num>
```

```
P = {
```

```
<num> ::= <cifra> | <cifra-non-nulla> {<cifra>}
```

```
<cifra> ::= 0 | <cifra-non-nulla>
```

```
<cifra-non-nulla> ::= 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9
```

```
}
```

“Recursion”  
Extended BNF

## › **Challenge:** extend it with sign (+, -)!



# Another example: solution

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## › Natural numbers

```
VT = { 0, 1, ..., 9, +, - }
```

```
VN = { <int>, <num>, <cifra>, <cifra-non-nulla> }
```

```
S = <num>
```

```
P = {
```

```
  <int> ::= [+|-] <num>
```

```
  <num> ::= <cifra> | <cifra-non-nulla> {<cifra>}
```

```
  <cifra> ::= 0 | <cifra-non-nulla>
```

```
  <cifra-non-nulla> ::= 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9
```

```
}
```

## › Challenge: extend it with sign (+, -)!



# In reality....

- › We only give production rules: VN, VT, S are implicitly defined..

```
P = {  
  <frase> ::= <soggetto> <verbo> <compl-ogg>  
  <soggetto> ::= <articolo><nome>  
  <articolo> ::= il  
  <nome> ::= gatto | topo | sasso  
  <verbo> ::= mangia | beve  
  <compl-ogg> ::= <articolo> <nome>  
}
```

Let's  
code!

Want to try?

- › Implement a machine that recognizes whether a sentence (aka: **a word of the Language L**) is legal for that language
- › (“our” words are symbols of L)



# Chomsky classification

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- › 4 types of grammars, with increasing constraints on production rules structures

## Type 0

- › No restriction on productions
- › Phrases can even become shorter!



# Type 1 grammars/languages

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- › *Context-sensitive*
- › Production must be in the form

$$x A y \rightarrow x \alpha y$$

where

$$x, y, \alpha \in (VT \cup VN)^*, A \in VN, \alpha \neq \varepsilon$$

- › A can be replaced with  $\alpha$  only if in the context of (surrounded by) x and y
- › Phrases never get shortened
- ›  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$  con  $|\beta| \geq |\alpha|$





# Type 2 grammars/languages

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- › *Context-free*
- › Production must be in the form

$$A \rightarrow \alpha$$

where

$$\alpha \in (VT \cup VN)^*, A \in VN$$

- ›  $\alpha$  can be  $\epsilon$
- ›  $A$  can always be replaced with  $\alpha$



# Type 3 grammars/languages

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- › *Regular*
- › Production must be in the **linear** form

$$\begin{aligned} A &\rightarrow \alpha \\ A &\rightarrow B \alpha \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} A &\rightarrow \alpha \\ A &\rightarrow \alpha B \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\alpha \in VT^*, A, B \in VN$$

- ›  $\alpha$  can be  $\epsilon$
- › Either left, or right linear: not both in the same grammar



# ...and..?

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We can build specific machines to recognize/process specific grammar Types

- › Type 0 => Turing machine (if  $L(G)$  is recognizable)
- › Type 1 => **Turing machine** with constrained tape length
- › Type 2 => Finite state automations with stack (**Push down automations**)
- › Type 3 => **Finite state automations**



# Hierarchy of machine types

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- › Base (combinatorial) machine
- › Finite state machines – FSM
- › FSM with stack (PDA)
- › Turing machine





# Base combinatorial machine

$\langle I, O, \text{mfn} \rangle$

$I$  : (finite) set of Input symbols

$O$  : (finite) set of output symbols

$\text{mfn}: I \rightarrow O$  machine function

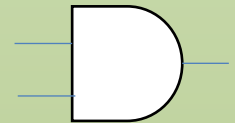
- › E.g., Logical ports, gates
- › Suitable for continuous control
- › Non suitable if you need state/memory
  - Need to model all possible cases!

Example: logical AND

$I = \{ \{0,1\} \times \{0,1\} \}$

$O = \{0,1\}$

**mfn** defined by a table



	0	1
0	0	0
1	0	1



# Finite state machine

$\langle I, O, S, mfn, sfn \rangle$

$I$  : (finite) set of Input symbols

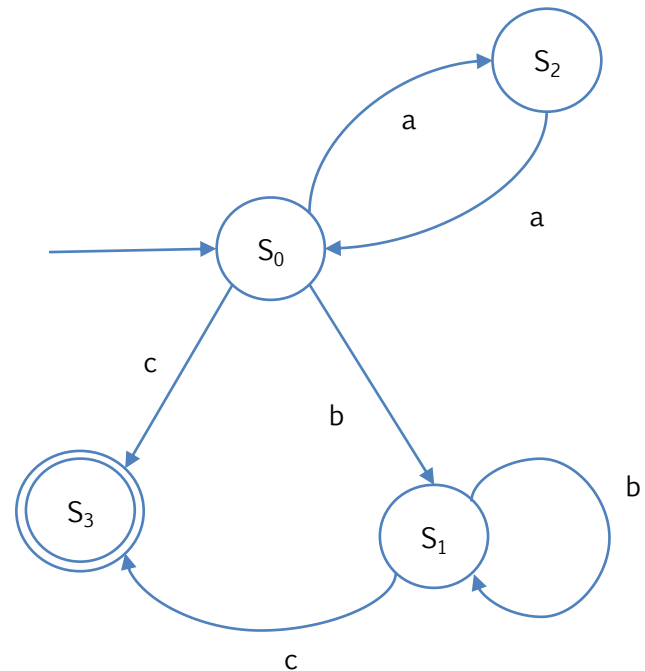
$O$  : (finite) set of output symbols

$S$  : (finite) set of states

$mfn: I \times S \rightarrow O$  machine function

$sfn: I \times S \rightarrow S$  state function

- › Partly already seen
- › Has memory
- › Memory is a limitation





# Finite state machine with stack

$\langle I, O, A, S, \text{mfn}, \text{sfn} \rangle$

$I$  : (finite) set of Input symbols

$A$  : (finite) set of stack alphabet symbols

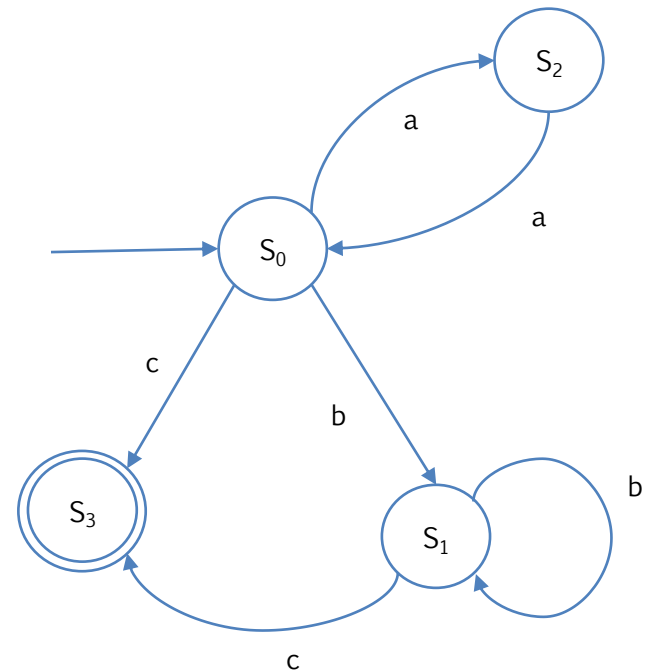
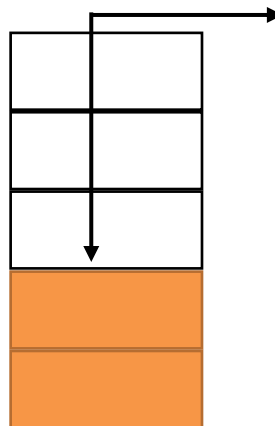
$O$  : (finite) set of output symbols

$S$  : (finite) set of states

$\text{mfn}: I \times S \times A \rightarrow O$  machine function

$\text{sfn}: I \times S \times A \rightarrow S$  state function

- › Also known as Push-Down Automata (PDA)
- › Uses a stack
- › We'll see them...





# Turing machine

**$\langle A, S, mfn, sfn, dfn \rangle$**

$A$  : (finite) set of in/out symbols

$S$  : (finite) set of states

$mfn: A \times S \rightarrow A$  machine function

$sfn: A \times S \rightarrow S$  state function (inc. HALT)

$dfn: A \times S \rightarrow \{ \text{left, right, none} \}$   
direction function

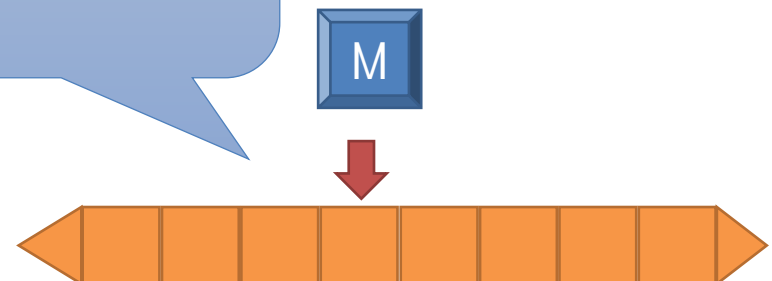
› Unlimited memory

Possible operations:

- Read from tape
- Write (**mfn**) to tape
- Change internal status (**sfn**)
- Move tape in any (**dfn**) direction

## Church-Turing thesis

*A function on the natural numbers can be calculated by an effective method if and only if it is computable by a Turing machine*







# A Universal Turing Machine

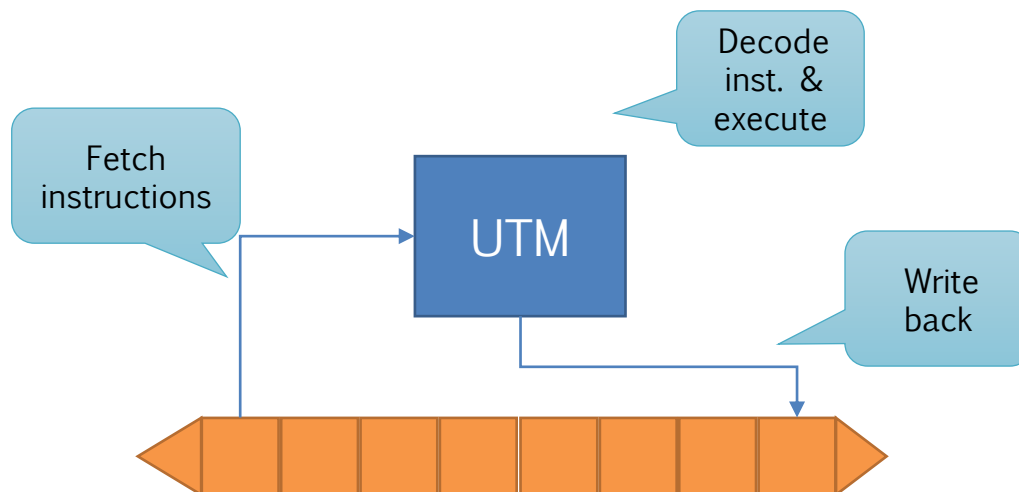
- › In TM, the algorithm is inside the machine M, we write results in the tape

What if instruction as well is in the tape?

- › We have a programmable machine, with a memory
- › .....does this remind something?

Which are the catch? What do we miss?

- › Ok, the infinite tape makes it infeasible
- › ..but what else?

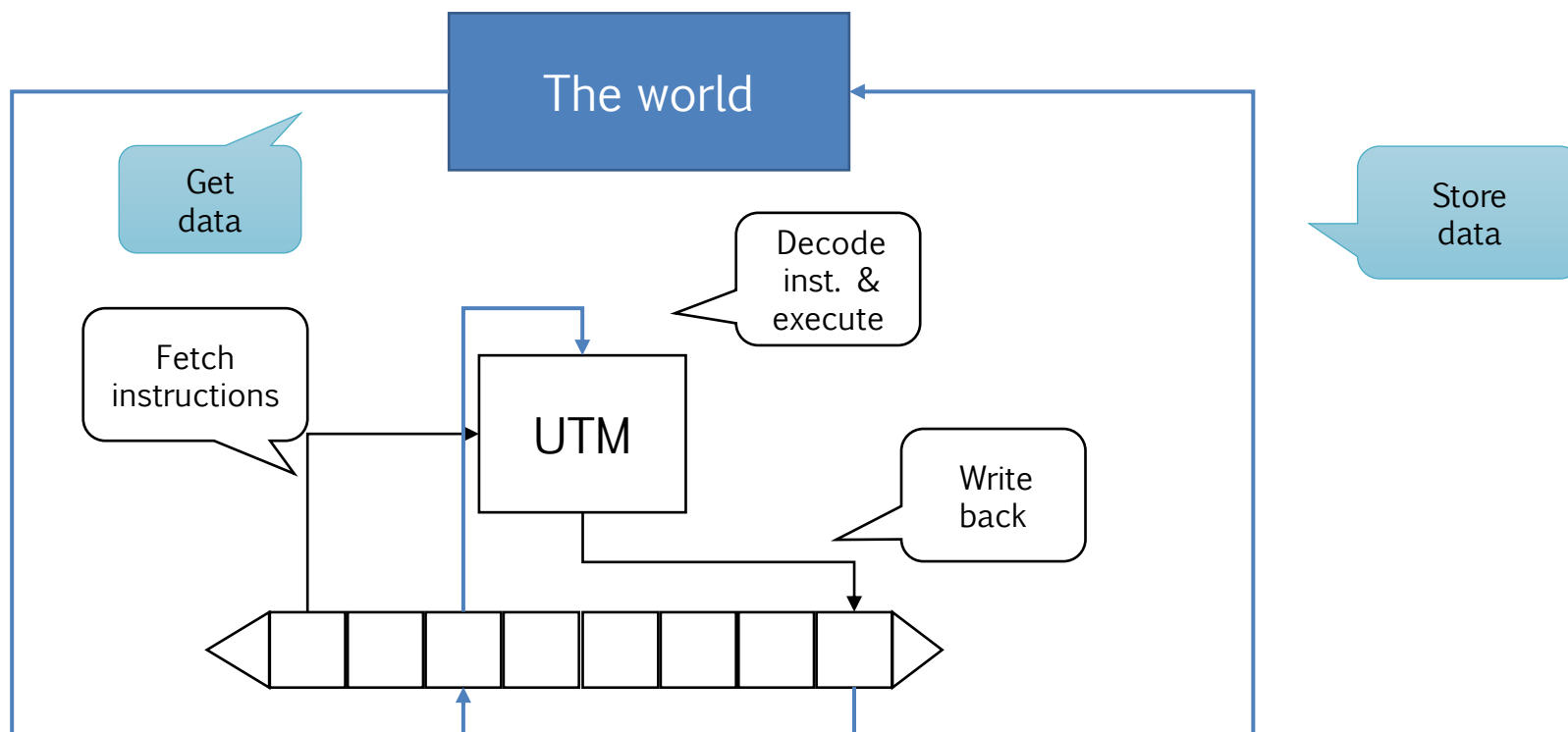




# The Van Neumann Machine

We also need to model the interaction with the environment!

- › Aka: I/O (HD/SSD is also I/O)
- › Where data comes from!
- › It is a real machine: we can **build** it



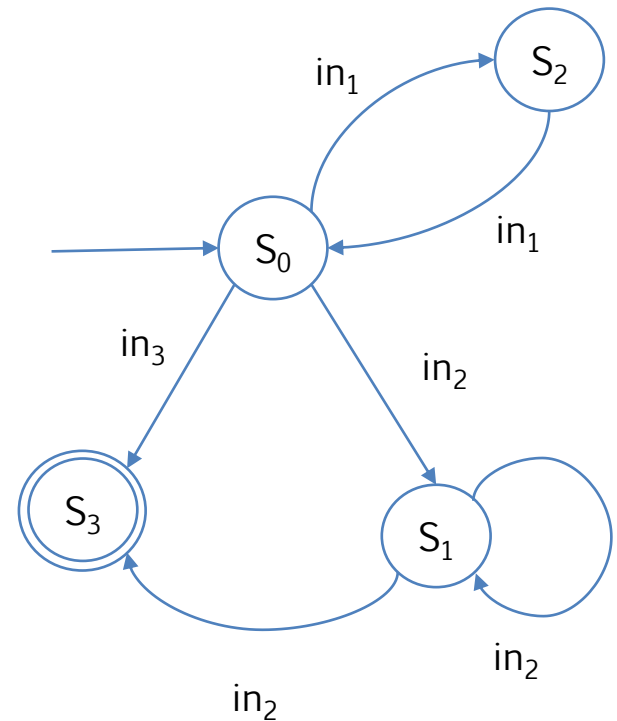


# How to implement a FSM



# A generic FSM

- › Till now, we only saw machines that can recognize a **word** from a language
  - I say “word”, you might want to understand “sentence”
- › Let’s now see how a machine can actually **produce** an output





# The Machine of Mealy

- › When crossing an edge, produce an output

**$\langle I, O, S, mfn, sfn \rangle$**

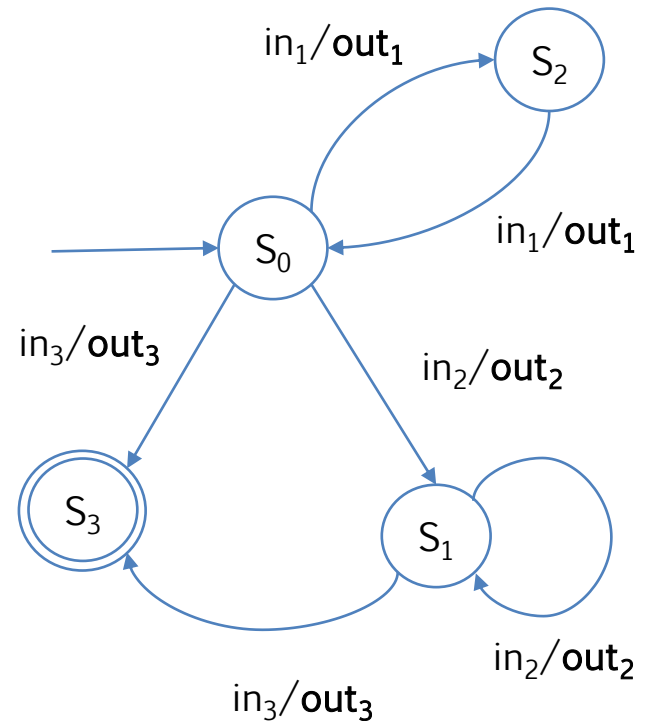
$I$  : (finite) set of Input symbols

$O$  : (finite) set of output symbols

$S$  : (finite) set of states ( $s_0$  initial state)

$mfn: I \times S \rightarrow O$  machine/output function

$sfn: I \times S \rightarrow S$  state transition function





# The Machine of Moore

- › When in a state an edge, produce an output

**$\langle I, O, S, mfn, sfn \rangle$**

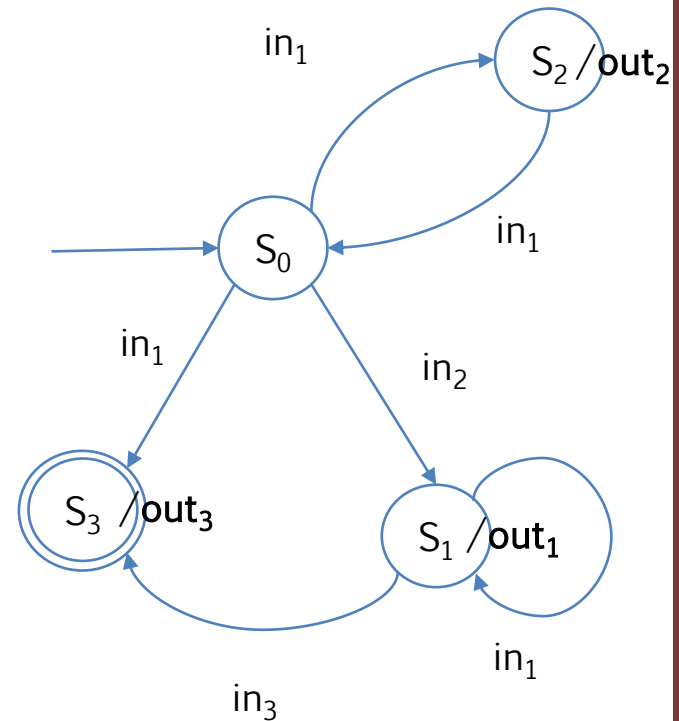
$I$  : (finite) set of Input symbols

$O$  : (finite) set of output symbols

$S$  : (finite) set of states ( $s_0$  initial state)

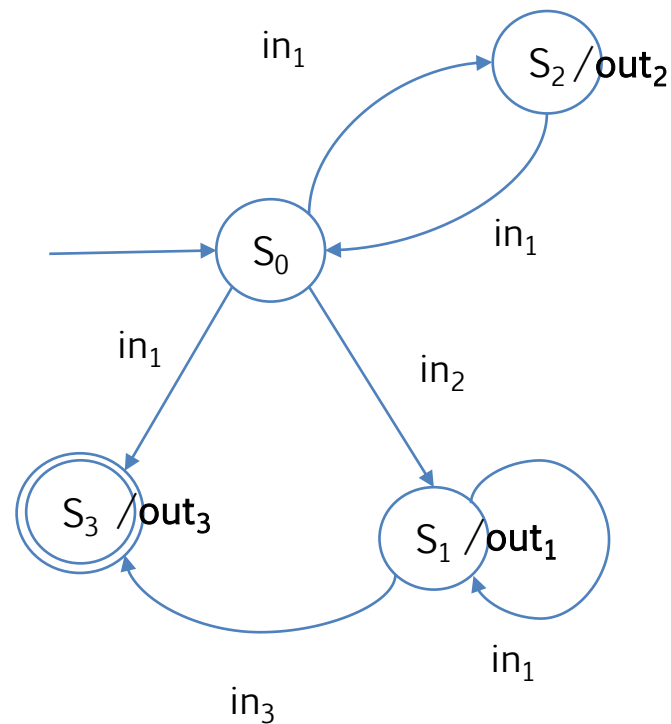
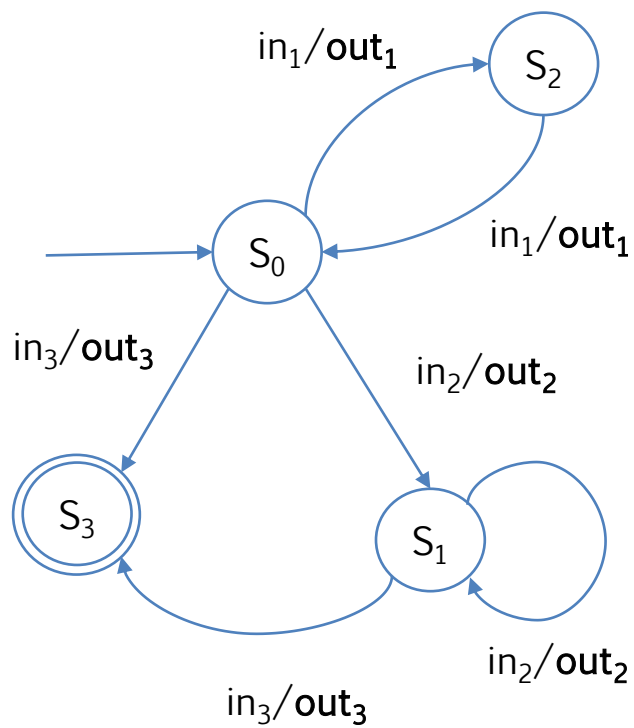
$mfn: S \rightarrow O$  machine/output function

$sfn: I \times S \rightarrow S$  state transition function





# What's the difference?





# What's the difference?

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Mathematically equivalent

- › One can be transformed in another

..but..

- › Mealy can potentially have different outs, to different inputs/transitions
  - Less states, if output depends on inputs one can add an edge to the machine
- › Moore potentially keeps the output stable for all the state
  - Moore requires more states, in case out depends on input and not only on state





# Exercise

Let's  
code!

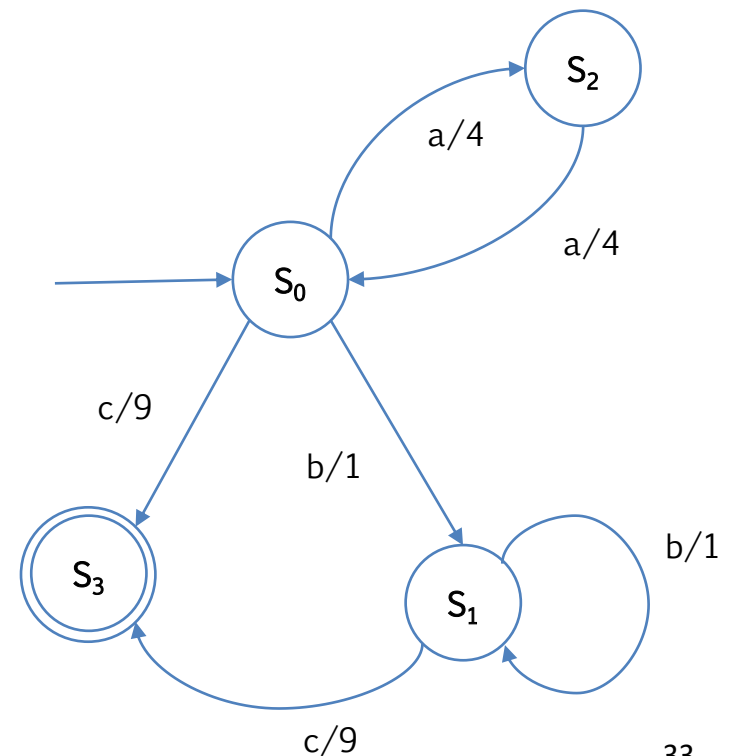
- › Implement the automata that understands whether a words is from L

*“Identify even sequences of a (even empty),  
followed by one, or more, or no, b, ended by c”*

- › ..and writes the corresponding number  
(I choose them randomly)
- › Mealy? Moore? You choose
  - Here, I show Mealy

Hint

- › If not already done, use tables  
for state/output transactions





# What else?


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Several tools to support the design


- › Matlab Stateflow, UML

Several grammar interpreters to rely the burden of writing FSM code

- › GNU Bison
- › YACC



# Event driven Systems





# Event driven systems

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A system that reacts from external stimula

- › Instantly?
- › Aka: Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS)

Can be

- › Synchronous
- › Asynchronous



# Synchronous (Active polling)

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- › Infinite loop

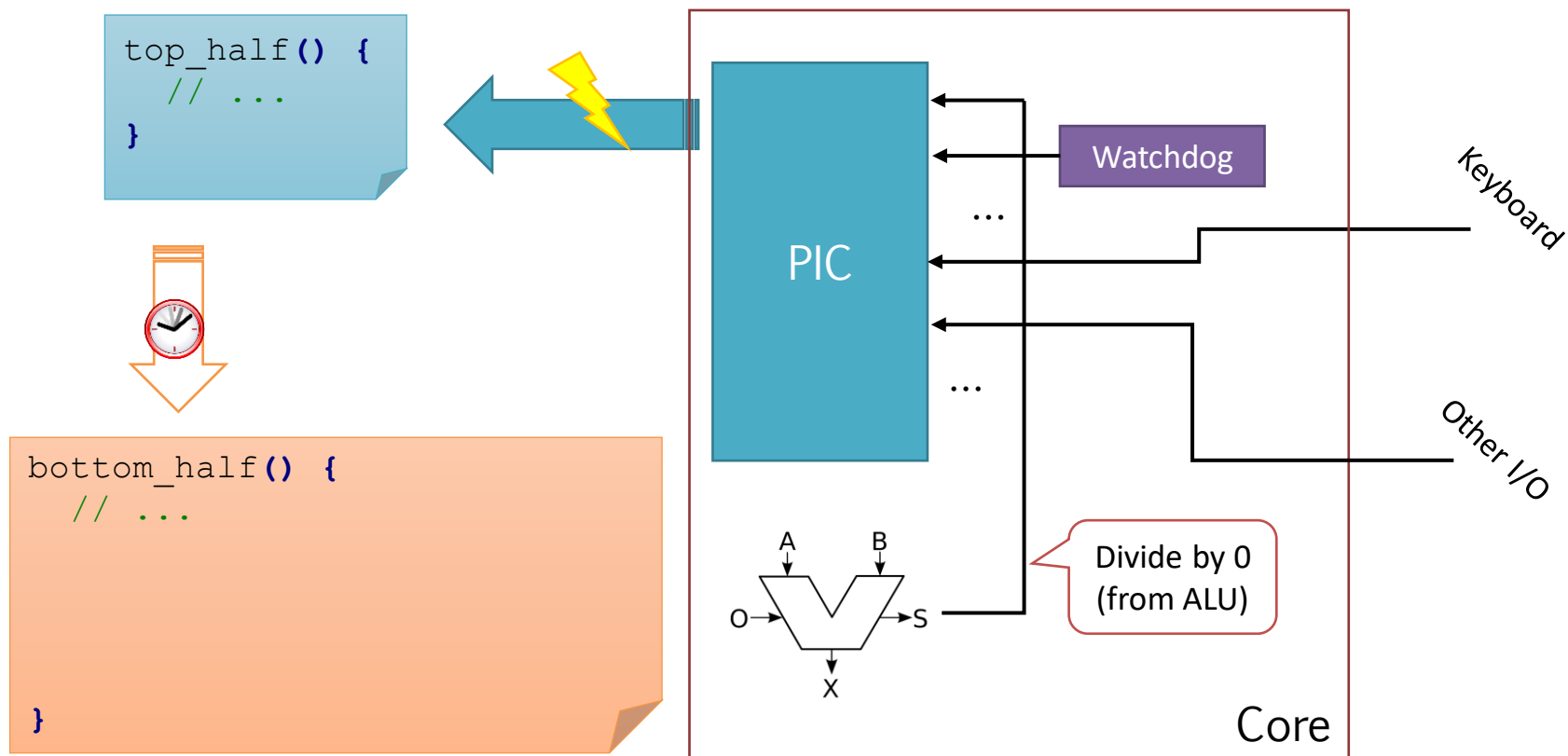
```
char c;  
while (c != SOME_VALUE)  
    c = readC();  
  
// We can go, now
```

- › **Pros:** extremely fast and reactive
- › **Cons:** waste of resources as one core is busy
  - Possible workaround: insert a sleep



# Asynchronous (Interrupt Service Routine)

- › Programmable interrupt controller (hierarchy)



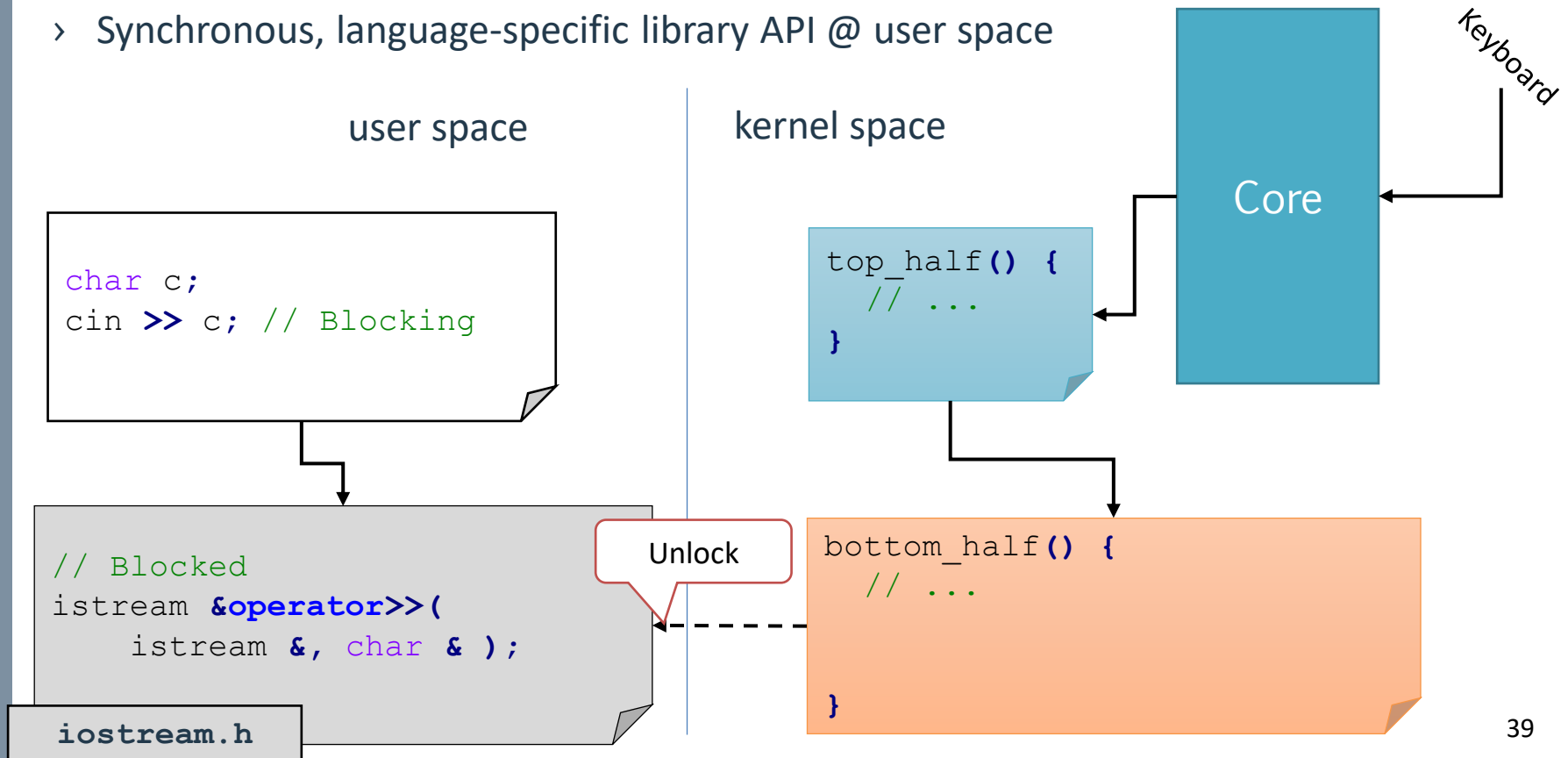
- › **Pros:** “pay-as-you-go”
- › **Cons:** takes more time to issue a ISP



# ...a mix of the two

Keyboard management in a General-Purpose system

- › GNU/Linux
- › ISP with bottom-half and top-half @ kernel space
- › Synchronous, language-specific library API @ user space





# How to run the examples

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Let's  
code!

- › Find them in `Code/` folder from the course website

For C: compile

- › `$ gcc code.c -o code`

Run (Unix/Linux)

`$ ./code`

Run (Win/Cygwin)

`$ ./code.exe`





# References

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## Course website

- › [http://hipert.unimore.it/people/paolob/pub/Industrial\\_Informatics/index.html](http://hipert.unimore.it/people/paolob/pub/Industrial_Informatics/index.html)

## My contacts

- › [paolo.burgio@unimore.it](mailto:paolo.burgio@unimore.it)
- › <http://hipert.mat.unimore.it/people/paolob/>

## Resources

- › Alessandro Fantechi, «Informatica Industriale», Città Studi Edizioni
- › Robert Love, «Linux kernel development», Pearson
- › A "small blog"
  - <http://www.google.com>



# Non-deterministic automata





# Petri nets

