

Introduction to UniboDISI DDR-Robots

(2019)

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1 Virtual and Real robots

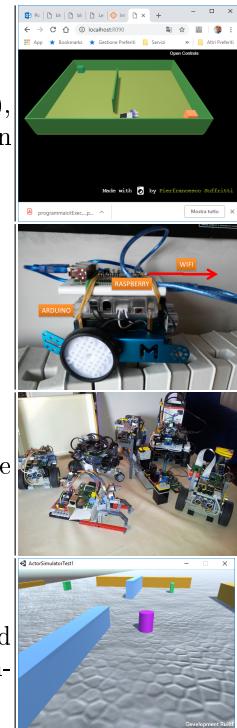
Our company (**Unibo**) has developed:

A virtual environment (named **W-Env**) built in **JavaScript** (see Subsection 2.1), that includes a virtual robot that accepts commands sent on a TCP connection on port 8999.

A physical robot based upon a **mBot robot** (see Section 3).

A physical **ddr** robot built in-house (see Section 4), modelled as an observable **POJO**.

A virtual environment (named **U-Env**) based on the **Unity** system (not described here), that includes a virtual robot that accepts commands sent on a TCP connection on port 8090.

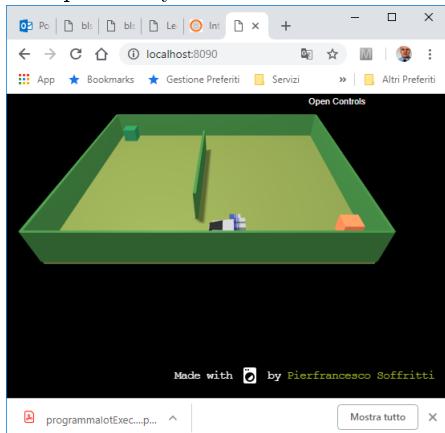


2 The virtual environments

During software analysis and testing, it could be preferable to use virtual devices rather real, physical devices.

2.1 A virtual environment based on JavaScript (wenv)

This virtual environment (called **wenv**) has been built by Pierfrancesco Soffritti¹ using the <https://threejs.org/> JavaScript library.



The scene is described in a configuration file. For an example, see Lab9.html | Interacting with a virtual robot

The virtual robot accepts commands sent on a TCP connection on port 8999.

```
1 moveForward : '{ "type": "moveForward", "arg": 300 }'
2 moveBackward : '{ "type": "moveBackward", "arg": 300 }'
3
4 turnRight : '{ "type": "turnRight", "arg": 300 }'
5 turnLeft : '{ "type": "turnLeft", "arg": 300 }'
6
7 stop : '{ "type": "alarm" }'
```

Moreover, the virtual environment sends to the connected client (via TCP on the port 8999) the following data:

```
1 webpage-ready : '{ "type": "webpage-ready", "arg": {} }'
2 sonar-activated : '{'
3   "type": "sonar-activated",
4   "arg": { "sonarName": "sonarName", "distance": 1, "axis": "x" }
5 }
6 collision : '{'
7   "type": "collision",
8   "arg": { "objectName": "obstacle-1" }
9 }'
```

2.2 An example of usage in Java

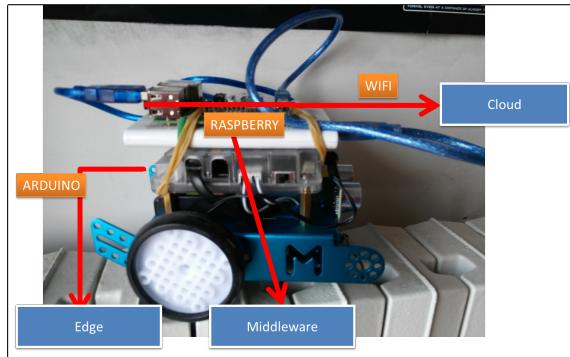
¹ See <https://github.com/PierfrancescoSoffritti/ConfigurableThreejsApp>

An example of usage at this basic level can be found in:

`it.unibo.eclipse.qak.robot/src/resources/clientWenvObjTcp.kt.`

3 The mbot robot

The mbot architecture can be viewed as a simple example of a IoT architecture in which the **edge** part is implemented on Arduino, the **middleware** part is implemented on a RaspberryPi and the **cloud** part is implemented on a conventional PC.



Our real robot is made of a RaspberryPi connected via the serial USB cable with the Arduino included in the Makeblock Mbot device:

Arduino handles physical devices such as motors and sensors, while RaspberryPi provides support for interaction with a remote node.

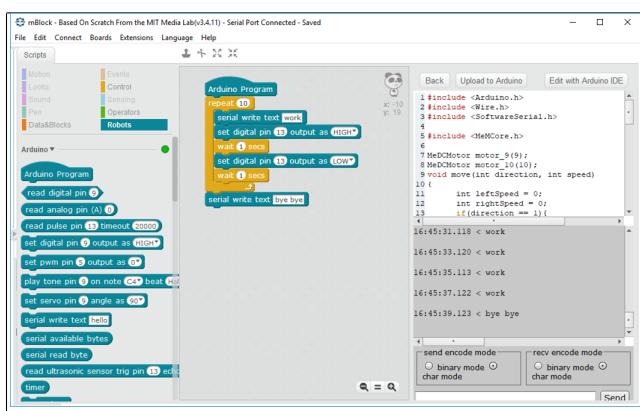
The software for the real robot is made of two main parts:

1. a low-level hardware-related part running on Arduino (see Subsection 3.2);
2. a high-level robot-control part running on the RaspberryPi (see Subsection ??).

3.1 Mblock software

This code on the mbot can be built with the help of the mblock IDE. mBlock is a graphical programming software which is designed based on Scratch 2.0 and compatible with Arduino UNO, mega 2560, leonardo, etc.

The following picture shows a [mblock](#) project for the ArduinoUno board that blinks the built-in led:



Of course, this is quite limited way to build low-level code for the mbot robot.

3.2 The low-level code on Arduino

The code can be built by working directly within a conventional Arduino IDE. We must operate as follows:

- Download the Makeblock-Official library from Github at
<https://github.com/Makeblock-official/Makeblock-Libraries>
- Unzip the file into a temporary folder.
- Change to the temporary folder and zip the "makeblock" directory content.
- In the Arduino IDE, click Sketch->Include Library->Add .ZIP library and select the `makeblock.zip` file you've created.
- In the Arduino IDE, click file/Esempi/MakeBlockDrive/Firmware_For_mBlock/mbot_factory_firmware to download the firmware
- In the Arduino IDE, open C:/Didattica/mBot/uniboControl/uniboControl.ino

The current code is composed of the following parts:

1. A set of declarations Subsection 3.2.1
2. A interpreter of commands to move the robot Subsection 3.2.2
3. An emitter of sonar data Subsection 3.2.3
4. A function that implements a *line-follower strategy* Subsection 3.2.4
5. The set-up and the main loop Subsection 3.2.5

3.2.1 Declarations. A set of declarations:

```
1 #include <Arduino.h>
2 #include <Wire.h>
3 #include <SoftwareSerial.h>
4 #include <MeMCore.h>
5
6 MeDCMotor motor_9(9);
7 MeDCMotor motor_10(10);
8 double angle_rad = PI/180.0;
9 double angle_deg = 180.0/PI;
10 void lookAtSonar();
11 void move(int direction, int speed);
12 double sonar;
13 int input;
14 int count;
15 MeUltrasonicSensor ultrasonic_3(3);
16 MeRGBLed rgbled_7(7, 7==7?2:4);
17 void remoteCmdExecutor();
```

Listing 1.1. uniboControl.ino: declarations

3.2.2 Move commands. A function that works as an interpreter of commands to move the robot:

```
1 void remoteCmdExecutor()
2 {
3     if((Serial.available() > (0 ))){
4         input = Serial.read();
5         //Serial.println(input);
6         switch( input ){
7             case 119 : move(1,150); break; //w
```

```

8     case 115 : move(2,150); break; //s
9     case 97 : move(3,150); break; //a
10    case 100 : move(4,150); break; //d
11    case 104 : move(1,0); stopFollow = true; break; //h
12    case 102 : move(1,0); stopFollow = false; break; //f
13    default : move(1,0); stopFollow = true;
14  }
15 }
16 /**
17 * -----
18 * Moving
19 * -----
20 */
21 void move(int direction, int speed)
22 {
23   int leftSpeed = 0;
24   int rightSpeed = 0;
25   if(direction == 1){ //forward
26     leftSpeed = speed;
27     rightSpeed = speed;
28   }else if(direction == 2){ //backward
29     leftSpeed = -speed;
30     rightSpeed = -speed;
31   }else if(direction == 3){ //left
32     leftSpeed = -speed;
33     rightSpeed = speed;
34   }else if(direction == 4){ //right
35     leftSpeed = speed;
36     rightSpeed = -speed;
37   }
38   motor_9.run((9)==M1?-(leftSpeed):(leftSpeed));
39   motor_10.run((10)==M1?-(rightSpeed):(rightSpeed));
40 }
41

```

Listing 1.2. uniboControl.ino: the command interpreter

3.2.3 Sonar data. A function that works as an emitter of sonar data (a value of type `double`) that implements also a prefixed obstacle-avoidance policy (retrogress the robot when it is very near to an obstacle):

```

1 void lookAtSonar()
2 {
3   sonar = ultrasonic_3.distanceCm();
4   //emit sonar data but with a reduced frequency
5   if( count++ > 50 ){ Serial.println(sonar); count = 0; }
6   if((sonar) < (10)){ //very near
7     if(((input)==(119))){
8       move(1,0);
9       rgbled_7.setRGB(0,60,0,0);
10      rgbled_7.show();
11      //Serial.println("OBSTACLE FROM ARDUINO");
12      _delay(0.3);
13      move(2,100);
14      _delay(1);
15      move(2,0);
16    }
17  }
18

```

Listing 1.3. uniboControl.ino: sonar data

The `delay` function is a loop to lose time:

```

1 void _loop(){
2 }
3
4 void _delay(float seconds){
5     long endTime = millis() + seconds * 1000;
6     while(millis() < endTime)_loop();
7 }
```

Listing 1.4. uniboControl.ino: delay

3.2.4 Line follower.

A function that implements a line-follower strategy:

```

1 double stopFollow = true;
2 double sonarVal;
3 void lineFollow();
4 MeLineFollower linefollower_2(2);
5
6 void sonarDetect()
7 {
8     sonarVal = ultrasonic_3.distanceCm();
9     Serial.println(sonarVal);
10    if((sonarVal) < (10)){
11        move(1,0);
12        stopFollow = true;
13        //Serial.println("stopFollow line follow");
14    }
15 }
16 void lineFollow()
17 {
18     if( stopFollow == true ) return;
19     if(((linefollower_2.readSensors())==(0))){
20         move(1,200);
21     }
22     if(((linefollower_2.readSensors())==(1))){
23         motor_9.run((9)==M1?-(0):(0));
24         motor_10.run((10)==M1?-(150):(150));
25     }
26     if(((linefollower_2.readSensors())==(2))){
27         motor_9.run((9)==M1?-(150):(150));
28         motor_10.run((10)==M1?-(0):(0));
29     }
30     if(((linefollower_2.readSensors())==(3))){
31         move(2,100);
32     }
33     //sonarDetect();
34 }
```

Listing 1.5. uniboControl.ino: the line-follower

3.2.5 Setup.

The set-up and the main loop:

```

1 void setup(){
2     Serial.begin(115200);
3     //Serial.println("start");
4 }
5
6 void loop(){
7     rgbled_7.setRGB(0,0,60,0);
8     rgbled_7.show();
9     remoteCmdExecutor();
10    lookAtSonar();
```

```

11     lineFollow();
12     _loop();
13 }
```

Listing 1.6. uniboControl.ino: the main loop

3.3 mbotConnArduinoObj

The user-defined class `mbotConnArduinoObj` is the 'adapter' between high-level and the low-level worlds. It is written in Java and is based on another software layer (the class `SerialPortConnSupport`) that provides operations to send commands to the low-level executor on Arduino.

The current code is composed of the following parts:

1. Initialization Subsection 3.3.1
2. Command sender Subsection 3.3.2
3. Observer Subsection 3.3.3
4. Data receiver Subsection 3.3.4

3.3.1 Initialization. The first part of `mbotConnArduinoObj` provides operations to initialize the serial connection between a PC or a Raspberry and Arduino:

```

1 package it.unibo.mbot;
2 import it.unibo.mbot.serial.JSSCSerialComm;
3 import it.unibo.mbot.serial.SerialPortConnSupport;
4
5 public class MbotConnArduinoObj {
6     private SerialPortConnSupport conn = null;
7     private JSSCSerialComm serialConn;
8     private double dataSonar = 0;
9     private String curDataFromArduino;
10    private ISensorObserverFromArduino observer;
11
12    public void initRasp( String port ) { //"/dev/ttyUSBO"
13        init( port );
14    }
15    public void initPc(String port) { //"COM6"
16        init( port );
17    }
18    private void init(String port) {
19        try {
20            System.out.println("mbotConnArduinoObj starts");
21            serialConn = new JSSCSerialComm(null);
22            conn = serialConn.connect(port); //returns a SerialPortConnSupport
23            if( conn == null ) return;
24            curDataFromArduino = conn.receiveALine();
25            System.out.println("mbotConnArduinoObj received:" + dataSonar);
26            getDataFromArduino();
27        }catch( Exception e) {
28            System.out.println("mbotConnArduinoObj ERROR" + e.getMessage());
29        }
30    }
}
```

Listing 1.7. MbotConnArduinoObj.java: init

3.3.2 Command sender. Afterwards, the class defines operations to map high-level commands into low-level commands to be sent to Arduino:

```

1  public void executeTheCommand( char cmd) {
2      System.out.println("mbotConnArduinoObj executeTheCommand " + cmd + " conn=" + conn);
3      switch(cmd) {
4          case 'h' : mbotStop(); break;
5          case 'w' : mbotForward(); break;
6          case 's' : mbotBackward(); break;
7          case 'a' : mbotLeft(); break;
8          case 'd' : mbotRight(); break;
9          case 'f' : mbotLinefollow(); break;
10     }
11 }
12 public void mbotForward() {
13     try { if( conn != null ) conn.sendCmd("w"); } catch (Exception e) {e.printStackTrace();}
14 }
15 public void mbotBackward() {
16     try { if( conn != null ) conn.sendCmd("s"); } catch (Exception e) {e.printStackTrace();}
17 }
18 public void mbotLeft() {
19     try { if( conn != null ) conn.sendCmd("a"); } catch (Exception e) {e.printStackTrace();}
20 }
21 public void mbotRight() {
22     try { if( conn != null ) conn.sendCmd("d"); } catch (Exception e) {e.printStackTrace();}
23 }
24 public void mbotStop() {
25     try { if( conn != null ) conn.sendCmd("h"); } catch (Exception e) {e.printStackTrace();}
26 }
27 public void mbotLinefollow( ) {
28     try { if( conn != null ) conn.sendCmd("f"); } catch (Exception e) {e.printStackTrace();}
29 }
```

Listing 1.8. MbotConnArduinoObj.java: output

3.3.3 Observer. Then, the class defines an operation to add an observer to the data sent on the serial line by Arduino.

```

1  public void addObserverToSensors( ISensorObserverFromArduino observer ){
2      this.observer = observer;
3 }
```

Listing 1.9. MbotConnArduinoObj.java: addObserver

3.3.4 Data receiver. Finally, there is an operation that waits for sonar values coming from Arduino (see Subsection 3.2.3) and maps these data into an event `realSonar:sonar(DISTANCE)`:

```

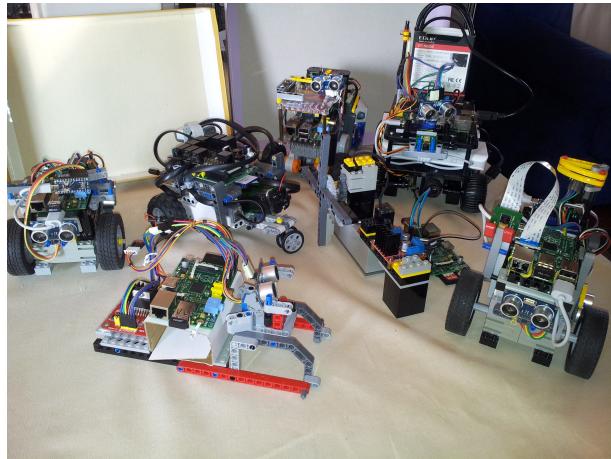
1  private void getDataFromArduino() {
2      new Thread() {
3          public void run() {
4              try {
5                  System.out.println("mbotConnArduinoObj getDataFromArduino STARTED" );
6                  while(true) {
7                      try {
8                          curDataFromArduino = conn.receiveALine();
9                          System.out.println("mbotConnArduinoObj received:" + curDataFromArduino );
10                         double v = Double.parseDouble(curDataFromArduino);
11                         //handle too fast change
12                         double delta = Math.abs( v - dataSonar);
13                         if( delta < 7 && delta > 0.5 ) {
14                             dataSonar = v;
15                             System.out.println("mbotConnArduinoObj sonar:" + dataSonar);
16                             observer.notify(""+dataSonar);
17                         }
18                     }
19                 }
20             }
21         }
22     };
23 }
```

```
17 //          QActorUtils.raiseEvent(curActor, curActor.getName(), "realSonar",
18 //                                      "sonar( DISTANCE )".replace("DISTANCE",(""+dataSonar));
19     }
20   } catch (Exception e) {
21     System.out.println("mbotConnArduinoObj ERROR:" + e.getMessage());
22   }
23 }
24 } catch (Exception e) {
25   e.printStackTrace();
26 }
27 }
28 }.start();
29 }
```

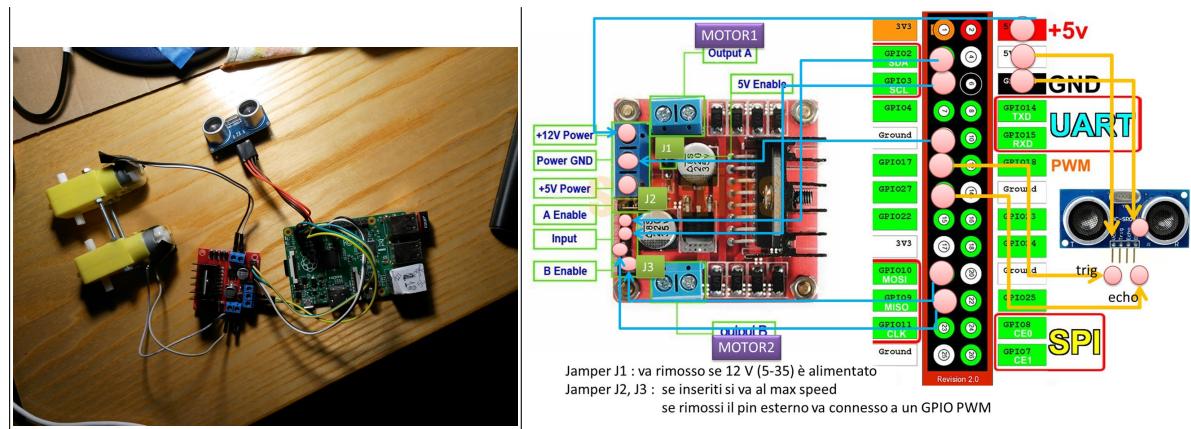
Listing 1.10. MbotConnArduinoObj.java: input

4 The in-house (nano) robot

From the physical point of view, a `BaseRobot` is a custom device built with low-costs components including sensors, actuators and processing units like *RaspberryPi* and *Arduino*. Examples are given in the following picture:



The hardware components of a `BaseRobot` and their configuration can be quite different from robot to robot. For example, a DDR-robot built around a *RaspberryPi* could have the basic hardware structure shown hereunder:



In this case, the correct configuration of the hardware connections can be tested by some simple bash code :

```
1 #!/bin/bash
2 #
3 # nanoMotorDriveA.sh
4 # test for nano0
5 # Key-point: we can manage a GPIO pin by using the GPIO library.
6 # On a PC, edit this file as UNIX
7 #
```

```

8
9  in1=2 #WPI 8 BCM 2 PHYSICAL 3
10 in2=3 #WPI 9 BCM 3 PHYSICAL 5
11 inwp1=8
12 inwp2=9
13
14 if [ -d /sys/class/gpio/gpio2 ]
15 then
16 echo "in1 gpio${in1} exist"
17 gpio export ${in1} out
18 else
19 echo "creating in1 gpio${in1}"
20 gpio export ${in1} out
21 fi
22
23 if [ -d /sys/class/gpio/gpio3 ]
24 then
25 echo "in2 gpio${in2} exist"
26 gpio export ${in2} out
27 else
28 echo "creating in2 gpio${in2}"
29 gpio export ${in2} out
30 fi
31
32 gpio readall
33
34 echo "run 1"
35 gpio write ${inwp1} 0
36 gpio write ${inwp2} 1
37 sleep 1.5
38
39 echo "run 2"
40 gpio write ${inwp1} 1
41 gpio write ${inwp2} 0
42 sleep 1.5
43
44 echo "stop"
45 gpio write ${inwp1} 0
46 gpio write ${inwp2} 0
47
48 gpio readall

```

Listing 1.11. nanoMotorDriveA.sh

4.1 Beyond the hardware level

However, some software layer is required to hide configuration differences as much as possible and to build a 'technology independent' layer, to be used by application designers.

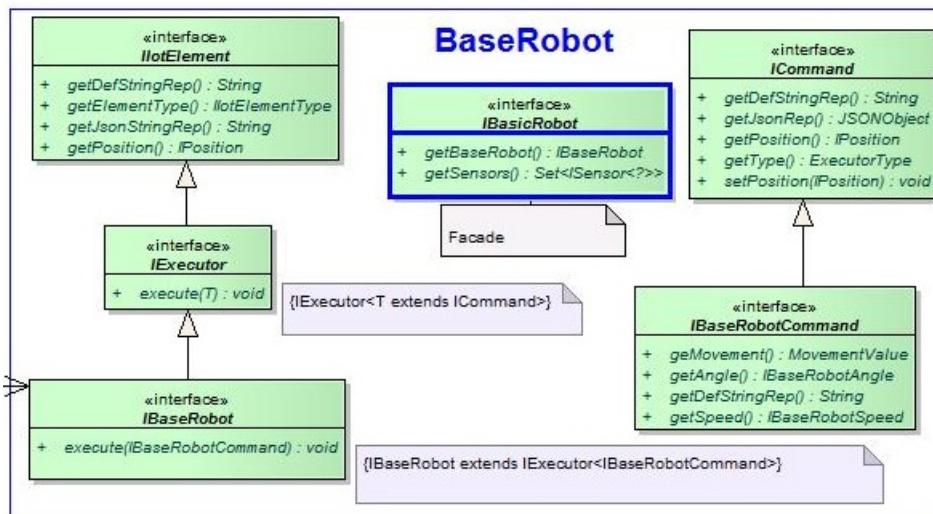
A software layer of this kind is provided by the library [labbaseRobotSam.jar](#). More specifically:

<i>it.unibo.lab.baseRobot</i>	The basic software for differential drive robots that are able to move and to acquire sensor data. Library: <i>labbaseRobotSam.jar</i> .
<i>it.unibo.robotRaspOnly.BasicRobotUsageNaive</i> in project <i>it.unibo.mbot2018</i>	Example of the usage of the API of a BaseRobot.

4.2 A model for the BaseRobot

The main goal of the *labbaseRobotSam.jar* library is to simplify the work of an application designer by exposing at application level a very simple model of a BaseRobot:

- As regards the **structure**, a **BaseRobot** can be viewed as a entity composed of two main parts:
 - An executor (with interface **IBaseRobot**), able to move the robot according to a a prefixed set of movement commands (**IBaseRobotCommand**)
 - A set of GOF -observable sensors (each with interface **ISensor**), each working as an active source of data.
- As regards the **interaction**, a **BaseRobot** can be viewed as a POJO that implements the interface **IBaseRobot**, while providing a (possibly empty) set of observable sensors;
- As regards the **behavior**, a **BaseRobot** is an object able to execute **IBaseRobotCommand** and able to update sensor observers defined by the application designer.



The interface **IBasicRobot** is introduced as a (GOF) *Facade* for the model.

```

1 package it.unibo.iot.baseRobot.hlmodel;
2 import java.util.Set;
3 import it.unibo.iot.executors.baseRobot.IBaseRobot;
4 import it.unibo.iot.sensors.ISensor;
5
6 public interface IBasicRobot {
7     public IBaseRobot getBaseRobot(); //selector
8     public Set<ISensor<?>> getSensors(); //selector
9 }
```

Listing 1.12. IBasicRobot.java

4.3 The BasicRobot class

The class **BasicRobot** provides a factory method to create a **BaseRobot** and to select its main components.

```

1 package it.unibo.iot.baseRobot.hlmodel;
2 import java.util.Set;
3 import it.unibo.iot.configurator.Configurator;
4 import it.unibo.iot.executors.baseRobot.IBaseRobot;
5 import it.unibo.iot.sensors.ISensor;
6 
```

```

7  public class BasicRobot implements IBaseRobot{
8  private static IBaseRobot myself = null;
9  public static IBaseRobot getRobot(){
10     if( myself == null ) myself = new BasicRobot();
11     return myself;
12 }
13 public static IBaseRobot getTheBaseRobot(){
14     if( myself == null ) myself = new BasicRobot();
15     return myself.getBaseRobot();
16 }
17 -----
18 private Configurator configurator;
19 private IBaseRobot robot ;
20 //Hidden constructor
21 protected BasicRobot() {
22     init();
23 }
24 protected void init(){
25     configurator = Configurator.getInstance();
26     robot      = configurator.getBaseRobot();
27 }
28 public IBaseRobot getBaseRobot(){
29     return robot;
30 }
31 public Set<ISensor<?>> getSensors(){
32     Set<ISensor<?>> sensors = configurator.getSensors();
33     return sensors;
34 }
35 }
```

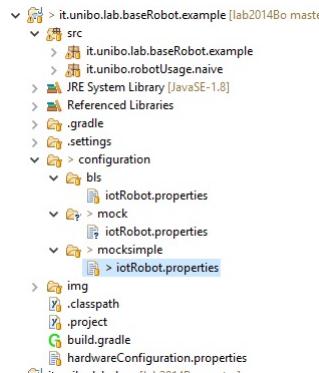
Listing 1.13. BasicRobot.java

This class shows that the work to set-up and access to the internal structure of a `BaseRobot` is delegated to a `Configurator`. This `Configurator` reads the specification of the robot structure written in a file named `iotRobot.properties` (see Subsection 4.5).

4.4 Using a BaseRobot

Let us introduce a robot with configuration named `mocksimple` (see Subsection 4.5), equipped with two motors and a distance sensor, all simulated.

4.4.1 The project workspace The application designer must organize its project workspace as shown in the following snapshot:

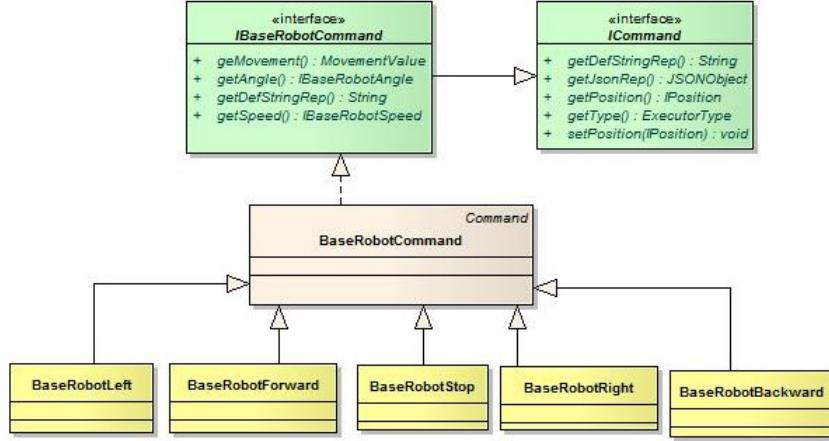


4.4.2 The code The application: *i)* first creates a sensor observer and adds it to all the sensors; *ii)* then it tells the robot to execute the commands (sent from an user console) it is able to understand.

```

1  private final IBaseRobotSpeed SPEED_LOW = new BaseRobotSpeed(BaseRobotSpeedValue.ROBOT_SPEED_LOW);
2  private final IBaseRobotSpeed SPEED_MEDIUM = new BaseRobotSpeed(BaseRobotSpeedValue.ROBOT_SPEED_MEDIUM);
3  private final IBaseRobotSpeed SPEED_HIGH = new BaseRobotSpeed(BaseRobotSpeedValue.ROBOT_SPEED_HIGH);
4  private IBasicRobot basicRobot;
5  private IBaseRobot robot ;
6
7  public BasicRobotUsageNaive() {
8      basicRobot = BasicRobot.getRobot();
9      robot     = basicRobot.getBaseRobot();
10     // addObserverToSensors(basicRobot);
11 }
12 public void handleUserCommands() {
13     try {
14         while(true) {
15             int v   = System.in.read();
16             if( v == 13 || v == 10 ) continue;
17             char cmd = (char)v;
18             System.out.println( "INPUT= " + cmd + "(" + v + ")");
19             executeTheCommand( cmd );
20         }
21     } catch (IOException e) {
22         e.printStackTrace();
23     }
24 }
25 public void executeTheCommand( char cmd ) {
26     IBaseRobotCommand command = null;
27     switch( cmd ) {
28         case 'h' : command = new BaseRobotStop(SPEED_LOW );break;
29         case 'w' : command = new BaseRobotForward(SPEED_HIGH );break;
30         case 's' : command = new BaseRobotBackward(SPEED_HIGH );break;
31         case 'a' : command = new BaseRobotLeft(SPEED_MEDIUM );break;
32         case 'd' : command = new BaseRobotRight(SPEED_MEDIUM );break;
33         default: System.out.println( "Sorry, command not found");
34     }
35     if( command != null ) robot.execute(command);
36 }
37 protected void addObserverToSensors( ){
38     ISensorObserver observer = new SensorObserver();
39     // for (ISensor<?> sensor : basicRobot.getSensors()) {
40     //     System.out.println( "doJob sensor= " + sensor.getDefStringRep() + " class= " + sensor.getClass().getName()
41     // );
42     //     sensor.addObserver(observer);
43     // }
44     addObserverToSensors(observer);
45 }
46 public void addObserverToSensors( ISensorObserver observer ){
47     for (ISensor<?> sensor : basicRobot.getSensors()) {
48         System.out.println( "adding observer to sensor: " + sensor.getDefStringRep() );
49         sensor.addObserver(observer);
50     }
51 }
52
53 public static void main(String[] args) throws Exception{
54     new BasicRobotUsageNaive().handleUserCommands();
55 }
56 }
```

Listing 1.14. BasicRobotUsageNaive.java



4.5 The work of the Configurator

An object of class `it.unibo.iot.configurator.Configurator`:

1. first looks at the file `hardwareConfiguration.properties` to get the name of the robot (e.g. `mock`)
2. then, it consults the file `iotRobot.properties` into the directory `configuration/mock`

For each specification line, the Configurator calls (by using Java reflection) a factory method of the specific `DeviceConfigurator` class associated to the name of the robot.

For example, let us consider a Mock robot equipped with two motors and a distance sensor, all simulated: (file `configuration/mocksimple/iotRobot.properties`):

```

1  # =====
2  # ioRobot.properties for mocksimple robot
3  # Pay attention to the spaces
4  # =====
5  # ----- MOTORS -----
6  motor.left=mock
7  motor.left.private=false
8  #
9  motor.right=mock
10 motor.right.private=false
11 # ----- SENSORS -----
12 distance.front=mock
13 distance.front.private=false
14 # ----- COMPOSED COMPONENT -----
15 actuators.bottom=ddmotorbased
16 actuators.bottom.name=motors
17 actuators.bottom.comp=motor.left,motor.right
18 actuators.bottom.private=true
19 # ----- MAIN ROBOT -----
20 baserobot.bottom=differentialdrive
21 baserobot.bottom.name=mocksimple
22 baserobot.bottom.comp=actuators.bottom
23 baserobot.bottom.private=false

```

Listing 1.15. configuration/mocksimple/iotRobot.properties

The Configurator calls (using an object of class `IotComponentsFromConfiguration`):

-
- `getMotorDevice` of `it.unibo.iot.device.mock.DeviceConfigurator`
(for `motor.left=mock`)
 - `getBaseRobotDevice` of `it.unibo.iot.device.differentialdrive.DeviceConfigurator`
(for `baserobot.bottom=differentialdrive`)
 - `getDistanceSensorDevice` of `it.unibo.iot.device.mock.DeviceConfigurator`
(for `distance.front=mock`)
 - `getMotorDevice` of `it.unibo.iot.device.mock.DeviceConfigurator`
(for `motor.right=mock`)
 - `getActuatorsDevice` of `it.unibo.iot.device.ddmotorbased.DeviceConfigurator`
(for `actuators.bottom=ddmotorbased`)

4.6 From mocks to real robots

In order to use a physical robot rather than a Mock robot, the software designer must simply change the specification of the robot configuration; the application code is unaffected. For example, to use our standard '`nano`' robots, we have to include into the `configuration/nano` directory the following configuration file:

```

1 # =====
2 # ioRobot.properties for nano robot
3 # Pay attention to the spaces
4 # =====
5 # ----- MOTORS -----
6 motor.left=gpio.motor
7 motor.left.pin.cw=8
8 motor.left.pin.ccw=9
9 motor.left.private=false
10 #
11 motor.right=gpio.motor
12 motor.right.pin.cw=12
13 motor.right.pin.ccw=13
14 motor.right.private=false
15 # ----- SENSORS -----
16 distance.front_top=hcsr04
17 distance.front_top.trig=0
18 distance.front_top.echo=2
19 distance.front_top.private=false
20 # ----- COMPOSED COMPONENT -----
21 actuators.bottom=ddmotorbased
22 actuators.bottom.name=motors
23 actuators.bottom.comp=motor.left,motor.right
24 actuators.bottom.private=true
25 # ----- MAIN ROBOT -----
26 baserobot.bottom=differentialdrive
27 baserobot.bottom.name=nano
28 baserobot.bottom.comp=actuators.bottom
29 baserobot.bottom.private=false

```

Listing 1.16. `configuration/nano/iotRobot.properties`

4.7 Sensors and Sensor Data

The current version of the BaseRobot system implements the following sensors:

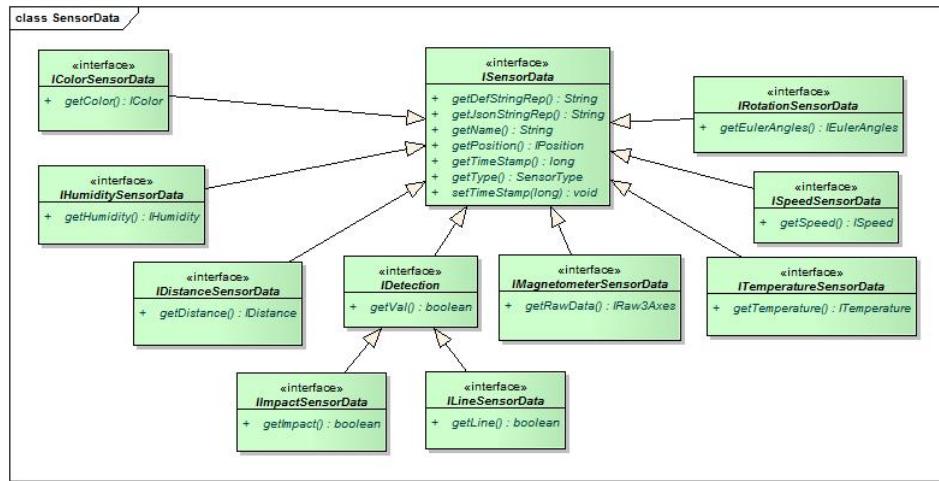
`RobotSensorType: Line | Distance | Impact | Color | Magnetometer`

Each sensor:

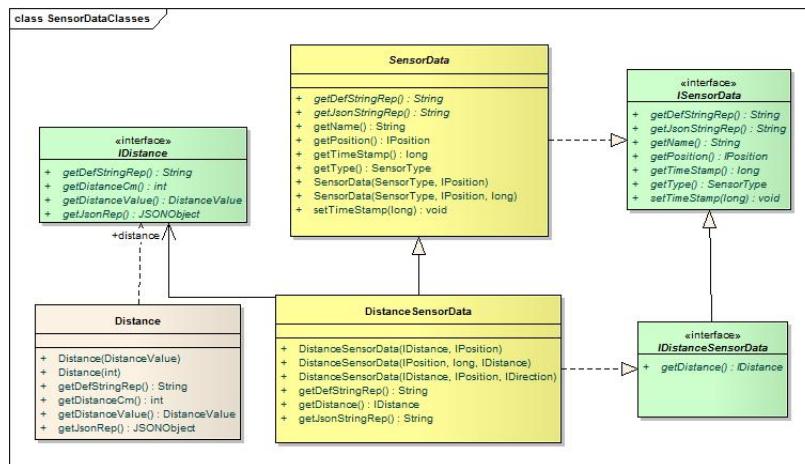
- is associated to a position that can assume one of the following values:

```
DONTCARE |
FRONT | RIGHT | LEFT | BACK | TOP | BOTTOM |
FRONT_RIGHT | FRONT_LEFT | BACK_RIGHT | BACK_LEFT |
TOP_RIGHT | TOP_LEFT | BOTTOM_RIGHT | BOTTOM_LEFT |
FRONT_TOP | BACK_TOP | FRONT_TOP_LEFT | FRONT_TOP_RIGHT |
FRONT_RIGHT_TOP | FRONT_LEFT_TOP | BACK_RIGHT_TOP | BACK_LEFT_TOP
```

- is a source of data, each associated to a specific class and interface:



Each class related to sensor data inherits from a base class SensorData. For example:



The class SensorData provides operations to represent data as strings in two main formats: *i)* in Prolog syntax and *ii)* in Json syntax. For example:

4.7.1 Sensor data representation in Prolog (high level)

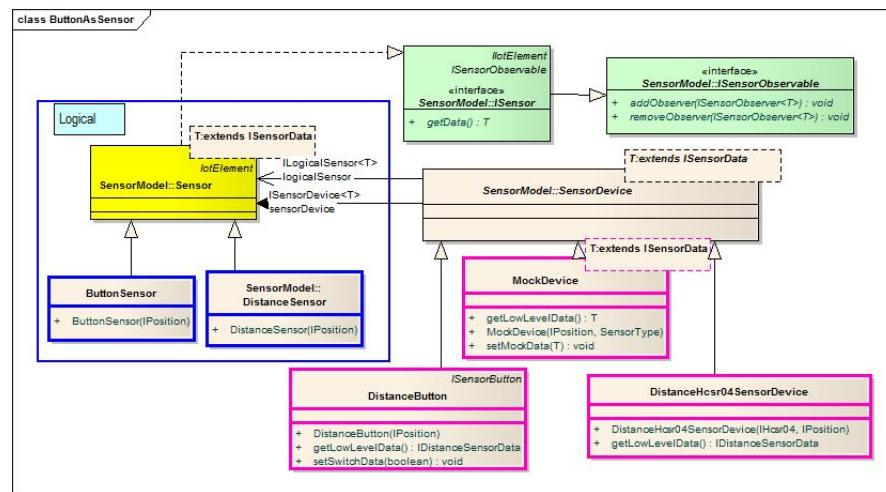
COLOR	color(255 255 255, front)
DISTANCE	distance(43,forward, front)
IMPACT	impact(touch/loss, front)
LINE	line(lineLeft/lineDetected, bottom)
MAGNETOMETER	magnetometer(x(50),y(100),z(0), front)

4.7.2 Sensor data representation in Json (low level)

COLOR	"p":"f","t":"c","d":"color":"r":255,"b":255,"g":255,"tm":148...
DISTANCE	"p":"f","t":"d","d":"cm":43,"tm":14...
IMPACT	"p":"f","t":"i","d":"detection":"touch","tm":14...
LINE	"p":"b","t":"l","d":"detection":"lineDetected","tm":14...
MAGNETOMETER	"p":"f","t":"m","d":"raw3axes":"x":50,"y":100,"z":0,"tm":14...

4.8 Sensor model

The sensor subsystem of the `BaseRobot` is based on the class `Sensor` that represents a sensor from the logical point of view. Each sensor is associated to a class that inherits from `Sensor`.

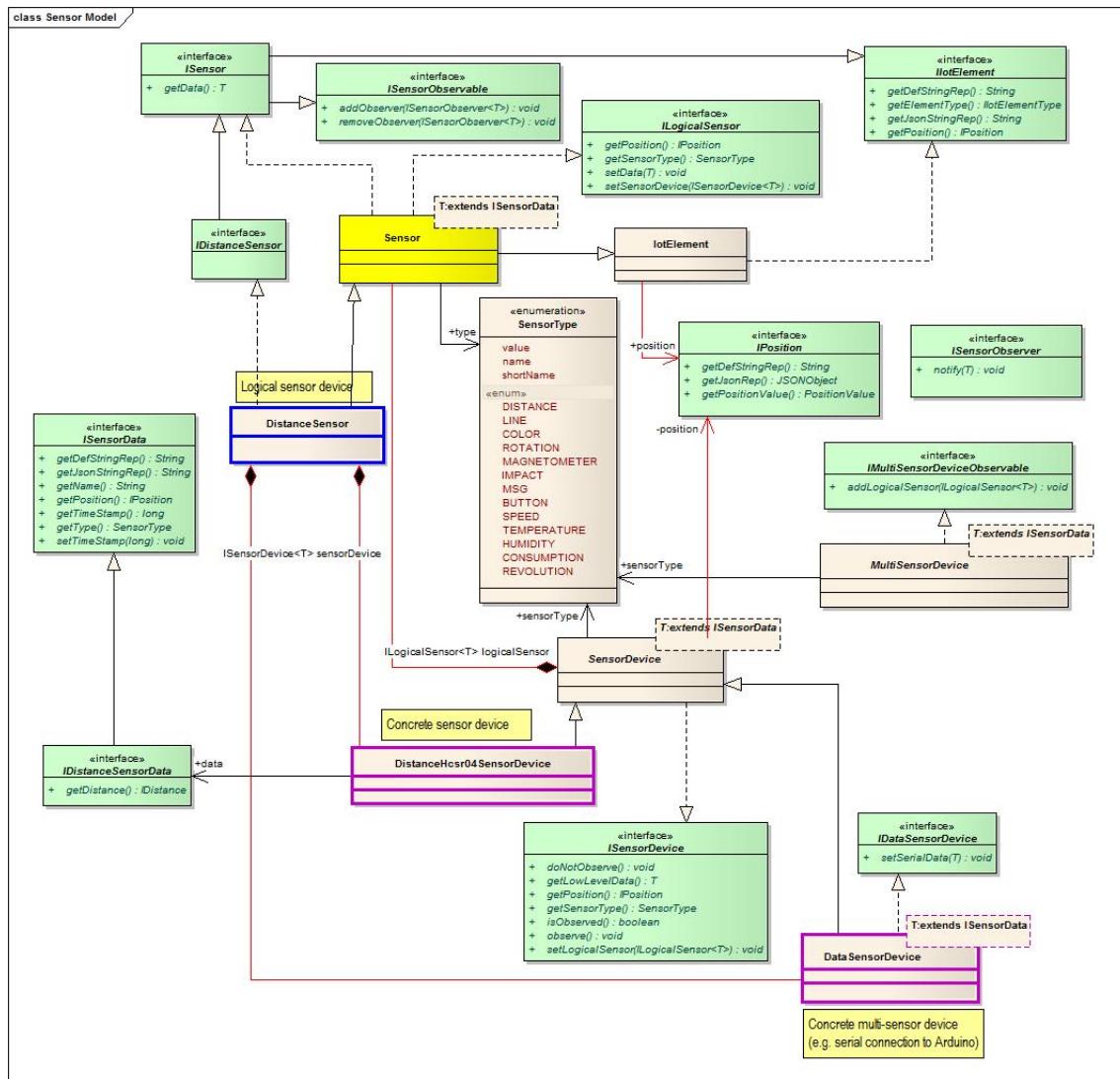


The model reported in the picture above shows that:

- A **DistanceSensor** is a logical **Sensor** associated (by the *Configurator*) to a concrete device (e.g. **DistanceHcsr04SensorDevice**). The same is true for a **ButtonSensor** (impact).
 - A **DistanceHcsr04SensorDevice** is a concrete **SensorDevice** that updates its logical sensor when it produces a value. The same is true for a **DistanceButton** (impact). The diagram shows also a **MockDevice** that can be used to simulate the behavior of the supported sensors.
 - Any **Sensor** is an observable entity that, when updated from its concrete device, updates the registered application observers.

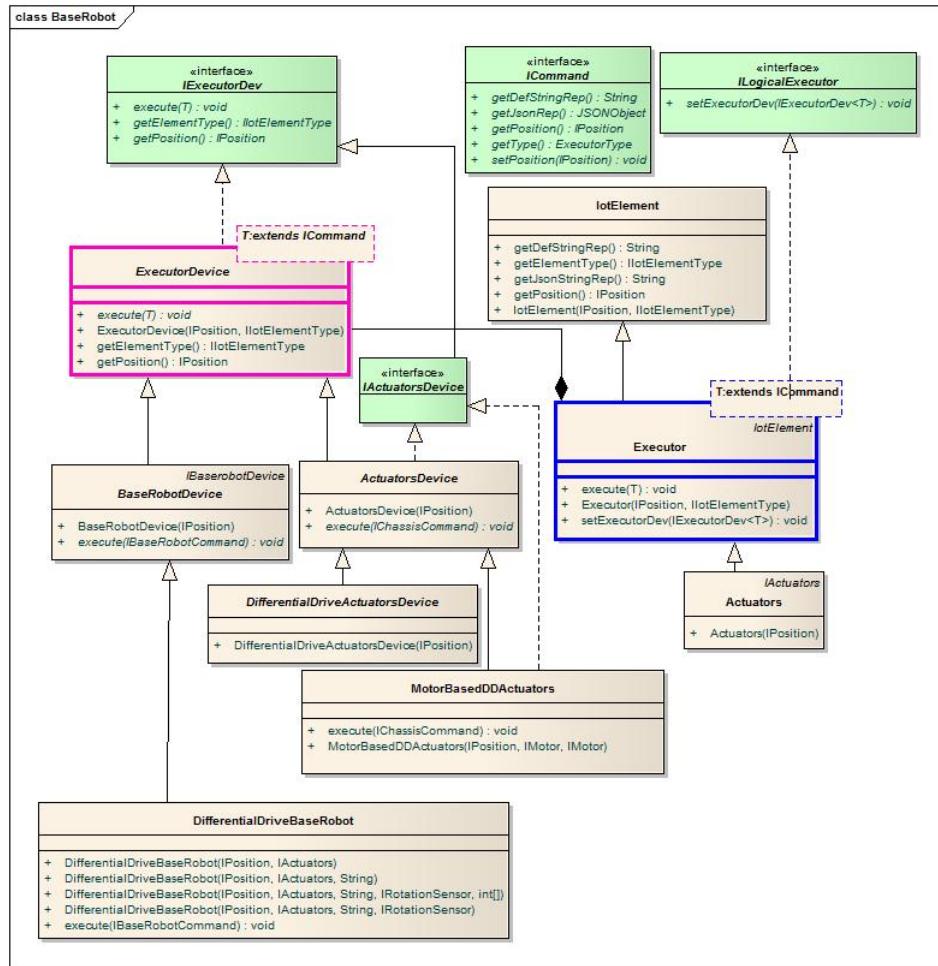
In this way, according to the GOF pattern *Bridge*, the **Sensor** abstraction hierarchy is decoupled from the hierarchy of **SensorDevice** implementation.

A more detailed picture is reported hereunder:



4.9 Actuators and Executors

The GOF Bridge pattern has been adopted also to model the 'motors' and the more general concept of 'executor'.



However this part of the `BaseRobot` can be ignored by the application designer and it is no more discussed here.