Events in AnyLogic

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Events & Scheduling in AnyLogic

• Reminder: In simulating stock & flow models, time advances in steps
  – Euler integration: Fixed-sized Steps
  – Runga-Kutta: Fixed or variable sized steps
  – For each timestep, we compute the flows & update the stocks

• AnyLogic jumps from “event” to “event”
  – The data structure that keeps track of such events is called the “schedule”
  – The associated process is called the “scheduler”
Implicit Events we’ve Seen

• Transitions
  – Fixed rate (Poisson arrival)
  – Timeout
  – Condition
  – Message transmission (schedules event for the receiver)
• Starting a model
• Stopping a model
• In this course, we term these implicit events because they are not reified as objects in the model
• To handle these events, code is inserted into certain handler areas for each of different sorts of classes
Example: Built-In Events (Agent 1)

"Handler": Code is executed when the specified event (e.g., arrival at a destination, message arrival) occurs.
Example: Built-In Events (Agent 2)
Example: Built-In Events (Main)
The Schedule

• At a given time, the schedule keeps track of a number of queued events
• Events may get added to the schedule (e.g. when we enter a new state)
• Events get deleted from the schedule
  – When they fire off and are complete
  – When another mutually exclusive event preempts them (e.g. a person dies before they recover from an infection)
Explicit Events

• Explicit Events can also be declared from the pallette
  – Dynamic events can have multiple instances
    • Each instance can be scheduled at different times
    • The instances disappear after event firing
  – Regular (static) events can be rescheduled, enabled/disabled, but can only have one scheduled firing at a time

• There are some subtleties with explicit events
(Explicit) Event Subtleties

• Be very careful of what you count on for recomputation of rate – may think was recomputed, but hasn’t been

• Event rates (and likely event timeout times) are only computed occasionally, not continuously
  – These are computed when
    • Explicitly call event methods
      – start()
      – restart()
      – onChange()
        » e.g. if wish to update rates associated with transitions, *Main* can periodically call *onChange()* on each agent
        • An event in Main can take care of this task
    • When event fires and requires restarting
    • (For outgoing transitions) when enter a state in a statechart

• Calling “reset” will disable a rate until re-enable (e.g. with call to *restart()*

Event Times: Common Options for Event Scheduling

• At a specified rate (Poisson arrivals)
  – Interarrival time is exponentially distributed!
  – Mean time between events is reciprocal of rate (i.e. 1/rate)

• One-time
  – Can go off at a particular time (specified as a calendar time or as a double-precision value)

• At some initial time and then cyclically beyond with set “timeout” period
  – The timeout period is set according to the time unit
  – This goes off after exactly the timeout time

• When boolean condition changes (depends on onChange being called)

• Manually (via restart() – see following slides)
Event Subtleties

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• Calling “reset” will disable a rate until re-enable (e.g. with call to restart())
Dynamic Events (Closure-Like)

• Like a static event, a dynamic event is associated with an action to invoke when it occurs

• A static event has a single associated schedule

• Just as a class can be associated with multiple instances, Dynamic events can have multiple instances
  – Each instance can be scheduled at different times
  – The schedule for each different instance proceed in parallel
  – The instances disappear after event firing
    • We can think of each dynamic event instance as its own one-time ("one-shot") event
Parameterization of Dynamic Events

• With a dynamic event, we create the event during simulation, but at a different time than it occurs
• Frequently the action we want to performed in a dynamic event depends on specific context known at the time that it was created
  – For example, we want to create or delete a particular person, or a person with particular characteristics
• Specification of dynamic events at design time defines custom ‘parameters’ (‘arguments’)
  – Parameters values can be used to communicate context from time of creation of the dynamic event until when it fires
  – Particular values for these parameters are then given at time when dynamic event instance is created
Specifying a Dynamic Event Step 1

1) Click here,
2) use mouse to click in Canvas to add Dynamic event

Click on the “Model” label in the “Palette” window.
Specifying a Dynamic Event Step 2
Attractive Use of Dynamic Events 1

Scheduling Future Birth at time of Conception

• Mating of deer during rut occurs long before births of fawns

• Contacts between deer during rut could be simulated in the model
  – At time of contact, create single dynamic event to schedule associated future birth
  – Could save away information of history relevance e.g.
    • Characteristics of parents
      – Infection status
      – Genotype
      – Stress level
    • Location of where conception occurred
Attractive Use of Dynamic Events 2
Adding in Individuals to Population over a Time Interval

• Dynamic events can be very handy if have a known number of actions that need to take place spread out over some period of time

• Example: Given: Known count of Immigrants with particular characteristics to be added to model population over course of each month
  – Suppose we don’t know when these individuals arrive during the month
  – We can simply create the same count of dynamic events, whether each dynamic event takes care of
    • Creating a person with known characteristics
    • Adding that person to the model population

This approach will be discussed in an upcoming guest lecture