

DISCRETE EVENT SYSTEMS



Roger Wattenhofer

ETH Zurich – Distributed Computing – www.disco.ethz.ch

Chapter 0

INTRODUCTION



Roger Wattenhofer

ETH Zurich – Distributed Computing – www.disco.ethz.ch

Organization Matters

- Lecture
 - Thu, 1-3, ETZ E9
 - Roger Wattenhofer
- Exercises
 - Thu, 3-5, ETZ E9
 - Klaus-Tycho Förster, Tobias Langner, Jochen Seidel
- Course Material
 - Check www.disco.ethz.ch → courses 

0/3

Course Overview

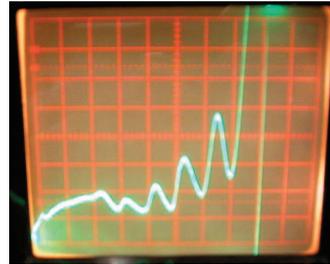
- Part 1: Theory of Coke Vending Machines
 - Automata and Languages
 - Discrete Event Systems (DES) Models
- Part 2: Theory of Standing in a Line
 - Stochastic Processes
 - Markov Chains, Queuing Theory
 - Average-Case Analysis of DES
- Part 3: Theory of Renting Skis
 - Online & Streaming Algorithms
 - Worst-Case Analysis of DES
- Plus a few smaller parts



0/4

Motivation: Orthodox EE

- Science is often based on natural phenomena
- Laws of physics: mechanics, gravitation, electrodynamics
- Continuous variables for mass, velocity, power, etc.
- Can be solved by differential equations



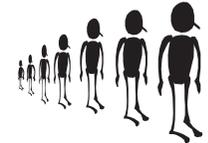
0/5

Motivation: Discrete Events

- Some complex systems are not [primarily/only] continuous
 - Computer systems
 - Communication networks
 - Business processes (“workflow”)
 - Transportation systems
 - Software



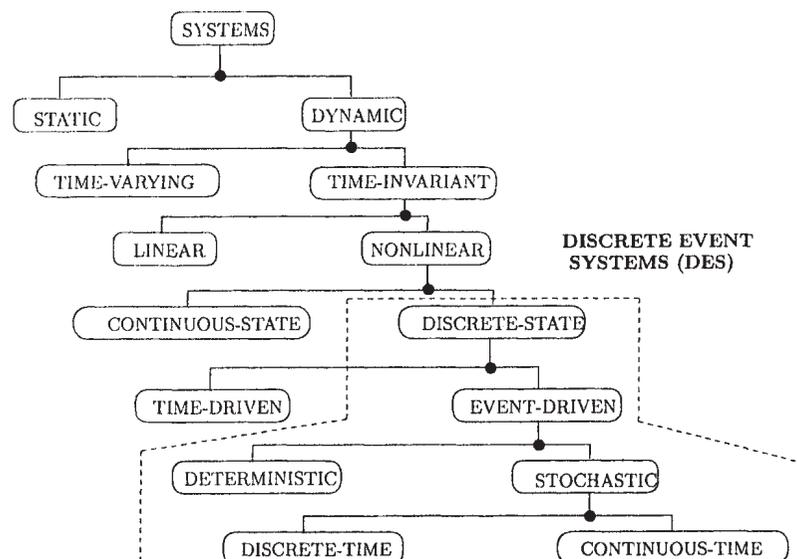
- Instead systems are determined by discrete events
 - Telephone calls
 - Customers arrivals



- „Theoretical Computer Science for IT/EE students“

0/6

Motivation: System Classification



0/7

Some Literature

- Christos G. Cassandras, Stephane Lafortune. Introduction to Discrete Event Systems. Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1999.
- **Part 1**
 - Michael Sipser. Introduction to the Theory of Computation. PWS Publishing, 1997. (Chapters 1 and 2)
- **Part 2**
 - Thomas Schickinger, Angelika Steger: Diskrete Strukturen, Band 2. Springer, 2001. (Chapters 1, 2, and 4)
 - Dimitri Bertsekas, Robert Gallager. Data Networks. Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ, 1992. (Chapter 3)
- **Part 3**
 - Allan Borodin, Ran El-Yaniv. Online Computation and Competitive Analysis. Cambridge University Press, 1998. (Selected Chapters)
- Plus research papers...

0/8