

Playing games with observation, dependency and agency in a new environment for making construals

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and the CONSTRUIT! project team

CONSTRUIT!

*Making construals
as a new digital skill
for creating interactive
open educational resources*

construit.org

jseden.dcs.warwick.ac.uk/construit.c3

“The environment for making construals” – aka as “the MCE”

WARWICK

Helix5



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Construing the title ...

Playing games ...

Noughts-&-Crosses (N&C)! → OXO-like games

*... with **observation, dependency and agency***

key concepts in “making construals”

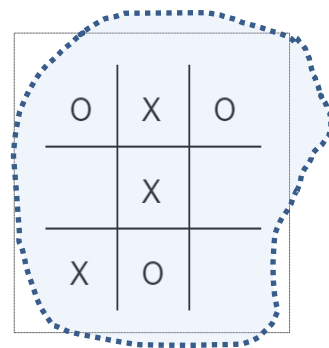
... in a new environment for making construals

`jseden.dcs.warwick.ac.uk/construit.c3`

Making a construal of N&C

Imagine you are watching two people play N&C
Explain what you think is going on ...

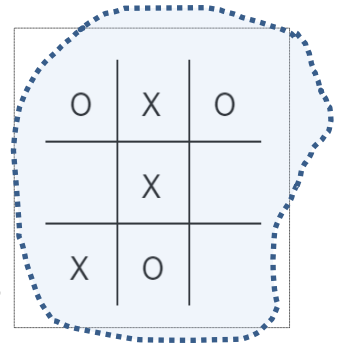
- there's a grid, some squares
- players take turns to place Os and Xs
- if O/X makes a line of Os/Xs, they win
- if neither player makes a line, it's a draw



Making a construal of ... ?

Imagine two people playing *what looks like* N&C
Explain what you think is going on ...

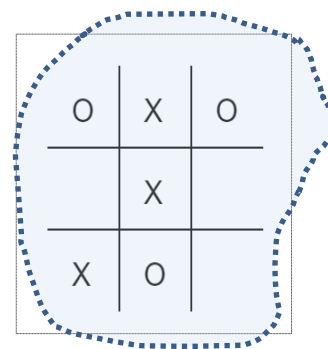
- when an O disappears from the grid
- when X makes two successive moves
- when X wins in the position pictured above
- when the board rotates after each move



Some possible construals

Perhaps when we see the two 'N&C players' ...

- they are designing a board for N&C
- a piece falls of the board in play
- a player cheats
- the winning lines are different
- the playing protocol has been changed

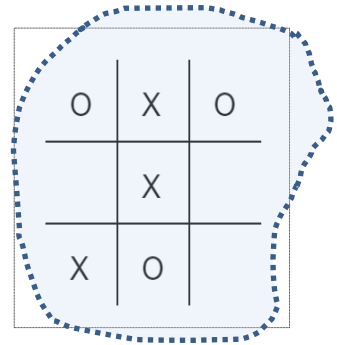


Making a construal ... ?

What does it mean to make a construal?

We link what we think is going on with:

- what/who is *responsible for changes*
- what we/they must be *observing*
- what *connects the changes* we/they observe

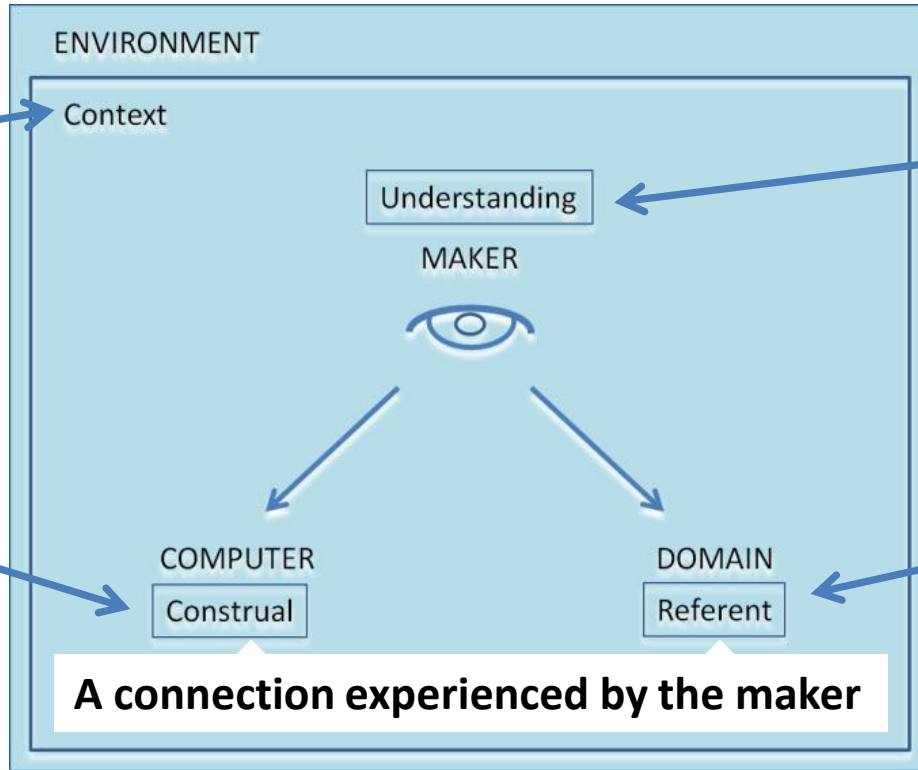


These are **agency / observables / dependencies**

Making a digital construal

From which perspective is the maker making the construal e.g. Agents? Constraints?

Script of definitions of observables with associated **network** of dependencies



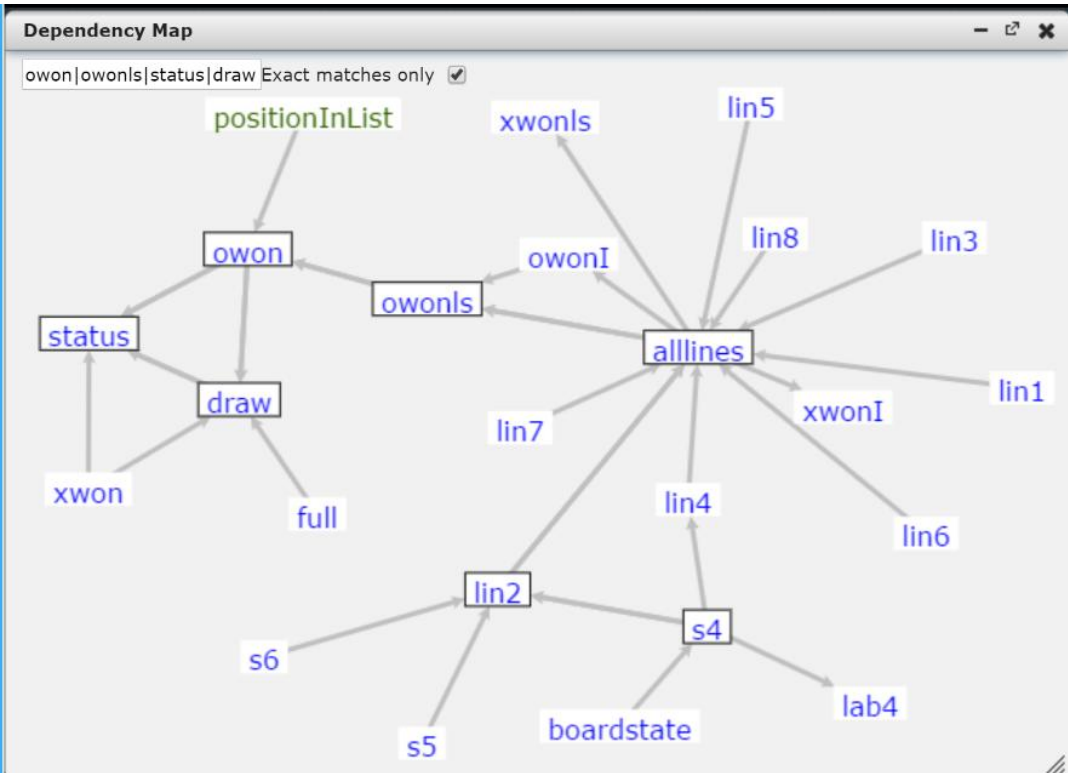
What interactions and interpretations is the maker familiar with? Convinced of? puzzled about?

What external subject does the maker have in mind when interacting with the construal?

Dependencies in N&C

```
...observableList2  
  
s4 is boardstate[4];  
lin2 is [s4,s5,s6];  
alllines is [lin1,lin2,lin3,lin4,  
             lin5,lin6,lin7,lin8];  
owonI is (alllines[_i][1] == o) &&  
         (alllines[_i][2] == o) &&  
         (alllines[_i][3] == o);  
owonls is owonI with _i is 1..alllines#;  
owon is positionInList(true, owonls) != 0;  
draw is (! xwon) && (! owon) && full;  
status is (xwon?"X wins ":"") //  
          (owon?"O wins ":"") //  
          (draw?"Draw ":"") // "";
```

Script of observable definitions
and **network** of dependencies



The OXO Laboratory

The screenshot shows the OXO Laboratory interface with the following components:

- INCLUDE NEXT LAYER** (cyan button)
- GEOMETRY**: A 3x3 grid with colored lines (red, green, blue, purple, yellow) indicating winning paths.
- STATUS**: A 3x3 grid showing the current board state with 'X' and 'O' markers.
- STATISTICS**:
 - X has won = FALSE
 - O has won = FALSE
 - It is a draw = FALSE
 - The board is full = FALSE
 - Number of Xs = 3
 - Number of Os = 3
- INITIALISE** (green button), **O TO START** (yellow button), **Computer On** (cyan button)
- SQVALS**: A 3x3 grid of numerical values representing square evaluations.

0	0	0
7	0	16
0	0	12
- PLAY**: A 3x3 grid showing the chosen move, with the center cell containing '41'.

0	41	0
11	0	16
0	0	8
- GAMESTATE**: A 3x3 grid showing the state of the OXO board in play.
- HELP**:

This layer incorporates the whole concept of playing a game. It introduces the concept of whose turn it is. A player cannot place a counter if it is not their turn or if the game is over. You also cannot 'cheat' by removing or overwriting an O or an X. Click on the 'Initialise' button to clear the board and start a new game. Click on the yellow button to change who starts (The player to start is displayed on the button). Click on the cyan button to turn the computer on or off (The state described on the button says whether the computer is currently on or off).

Winning lines

Square evaluation and chosen move

Status of an arbitrary OXO position

State of OXO board in play

The OXO Lab in the MCE

The screenshot displays the MCE (Multiagent Control Environment) interface for the OXO Lab. The browser address bar shows `jseden.dcs.warwick.ac.uk/scifest16/`. The interface is divided into three main panels:

- Observable List (showObservables):** Lists the current state of the environment:

```
xwon = false
owon = false
nofx = 3
nofo = 3
full = false
draw = false
```
- Agent (wmb/OXOlaboratory):** Contains the code for the OXO agent:

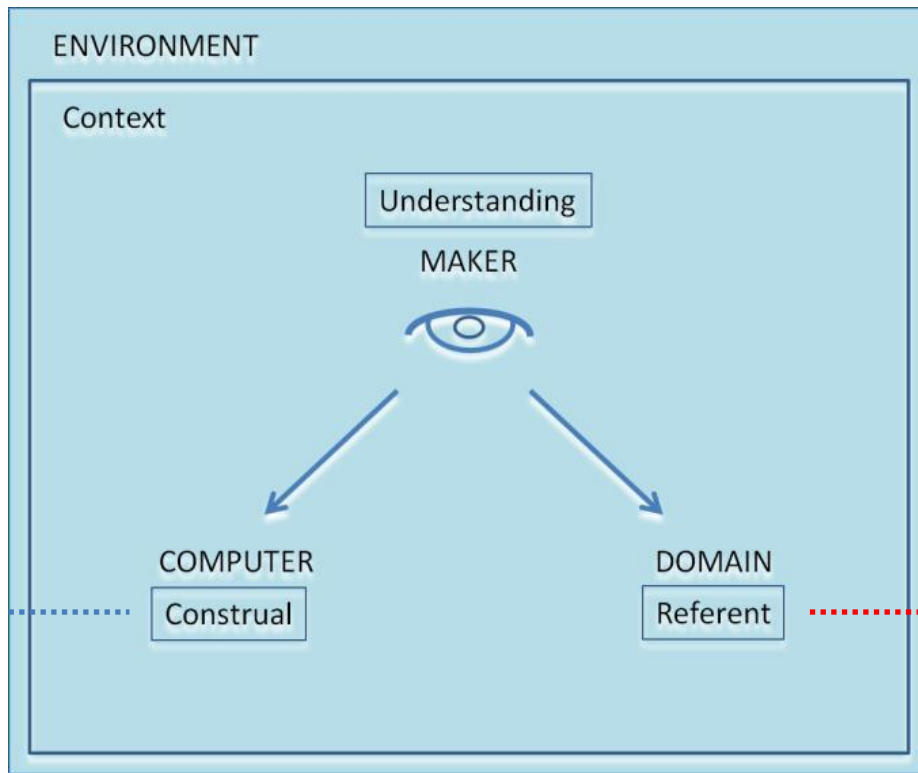
```
import wmb/OXOlaboratory/geometry;
import wmb/OXOlaboratory/winninglines;
import wmb/OXOlaboratory/status;
import wmb/OXOlaboratory/boardcontent;
import wmb/OXOlaboratory/selectmove;
import wmb/OXOlaboratory/statusrules;

/*
geometry - the grid lines and key locations in the grid
winninglines - the conceptual triples of winning lines
status - where the pieces are on the board
boardcontent - the pieces as visually represented by labels
selectmove - enabling pieces to be placed using the mouse
statusrules - interpreting the current position
              with reference to the rules of noughts-and-crossed
*/

showObservables("xwon$|owon$|draw|full|nofx|nofo");
```
- Canvas picture:** Displays a 3x3 tic-tac-toe board with the following state:

O	X	O
	X	
X	O	

Observing the geometry

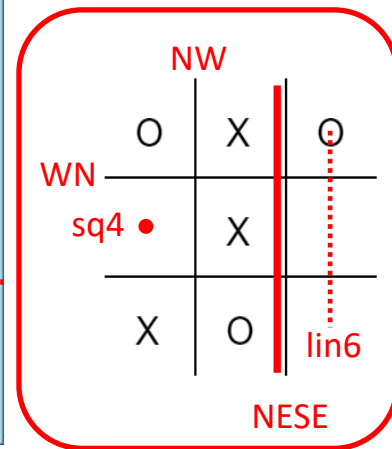


Geometry

- lines of the grid (NESE)
- endpoints of lines (NW)
- locations for tokens (sq4)
- size of the grid (size)

Winning lines

- eight winning triples (lin6)



Modelling the OXO grid

```
Agent
wmb/OXOlaboratory/geometry

statusrules
geometry

WN is Point(100+size*0.5, 100+size*4.5);
NW is Point(100+size*2.5, 100+size*6.5);

-----

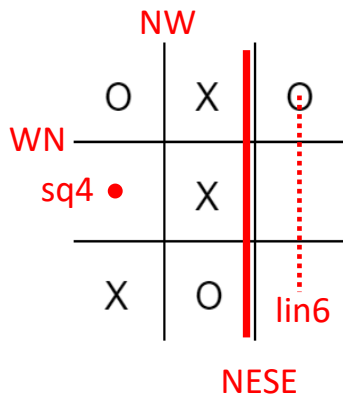
sq1 is Point(100+size*1.5, 100+size*5.5);
sq2 is Point(100+size*3.5, 100+size*5.5);
sq3 is Point(100+size*5.5, 100+size*5.5);
sq4 is Point(100+size*1.5, 100+size*3.5);

-----

NWSW is Line(NW["x"],NW["y"],SW["x"],SW["y"]);
NESE is Line(NE["x"],NE["y"],SE["x"],SE["y"]);

gridlines is [WNEN, WSES, NWSW, NESE];
picture is gridlines;

size = 40;
```



```
Agent
wmb/OXOlaboratory/winninglines

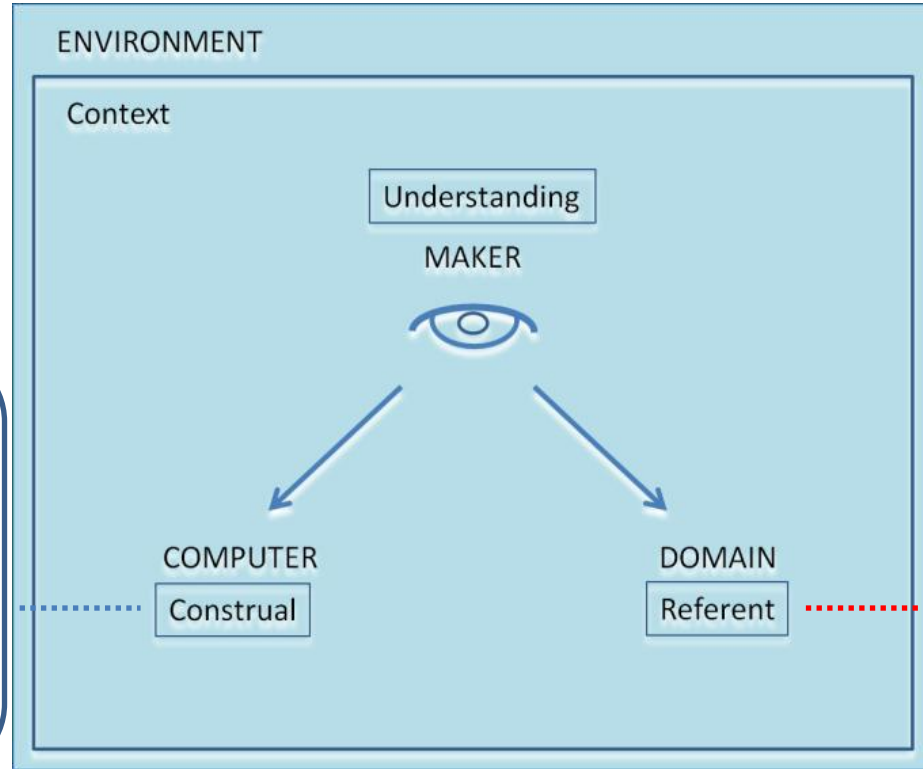
statusrules
geometry
winninglines

allsquares is [s1,s2,s3,s4,s5,s6,s7,s8,s9];
nofsquares is allsquares#;

lin1 is [s1,s2,s3];
lin2 is [s4,s5,s6];
lin3 is [s7,s8,s9];
lin4 is [s1,s4,s7];
lin5 is [s2,s5,s8];
lin6 is [s3,s6,s9];
lin7 is [s1,s5,s9];
lin8 is [s3,s5,s7];

alllines is [lin1,lin2,lin3,lin4,lin5,lin6,lin7,lin8];
```

Observing the board state



Status

- current position (boardstate)
- tokens on squares (x / o / u)

Board content

- visual token (lab5)
- located visual token (piece5)

boardstate :

[o,x,o,u,x,u,x,o,u]

x / o / u: 1 / -1 / 0

lab5: "X"

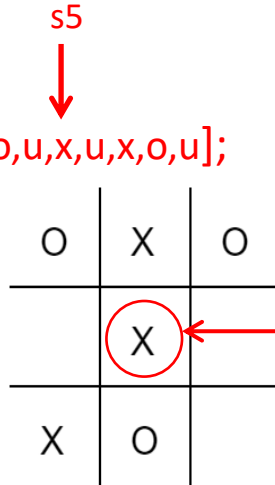
piece5: "X" at sq5

O	X	O
	X	
X	O	

The state of the OXO grid

```
Agent
wmb/OXOlaboratory/status
status
x = 1;
o = -1;
u = 0;
boardstate = [u,u,u,u,u,u,u,u,u];
s1 is boardstate[1];
s2 is boardstate[2];
s3 is boardstate[3];
s4 is boardstate[4];
s5 is boardstate[5];
s6 is boardstate[6];
s7 is boardstate[7];
s8 is boardstate[8];
s9 is boardstate[9];
allsquares is boardstate;
```

boardstate = [o,x,o,u,x,u,x,o,u];

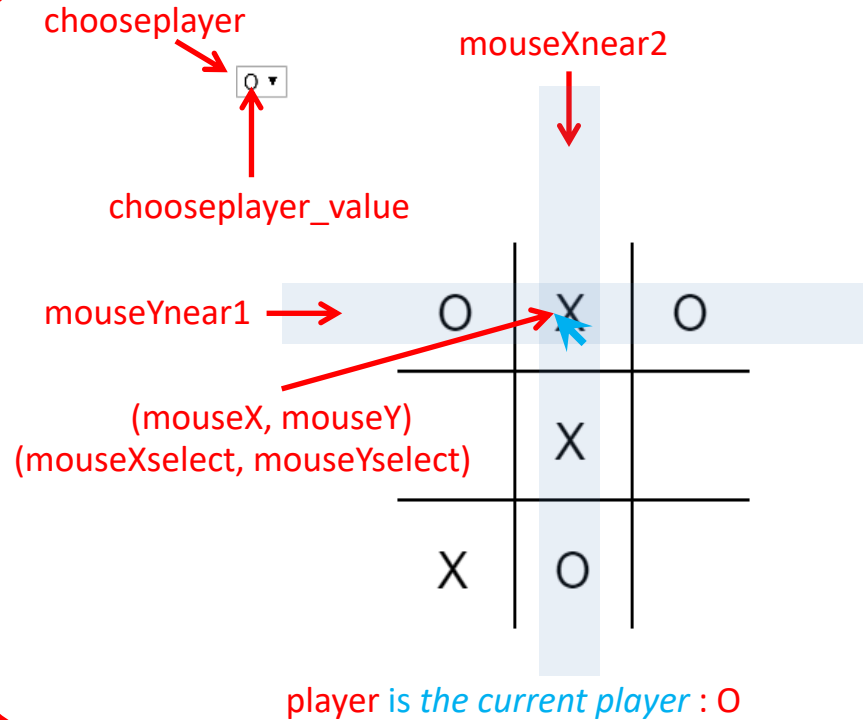


```
Agent
wmb/OXOlaboratory/boardcontent [saved]
winninglines
boardcontent
[lab1 is (s7 == o) ? "O" : ((s7 == x) ? "X" : "");
piece1 is Text(lab1,sq1["x"]-15, sq1["y"]-15, 32, "black");
lab2 is (s8 == o) ? "O" : ((s8 == x) ? "X" : "");
piece2 is Text(lab2,sq2["x"]-15, sq2["y"]-15, 32, "black");
lab3 is (s9 == o) ? "O" : ((s9 == x) ? "X" : "");
piece3 is Text(lab3,sq3["x"]-15, sq3["y"]-15, 32, "black");
lab4 is (s4 == o) ? "O" : ((s4 == x) ? "X" : "");
piece4 is Text(lab4,sq4["x"]-15, sq4["y"]-15, 32, "black");
lab5 is (s5 == o) ? "O" : ((s5 == x) ? "X" : "");
piece5 is Text(lab5,sq5["x"]-15, sq5["y"]-15, 32, "black");
lab6 is (s6 == o) ? "O" : ((s6 == x) ? "X" : "");
piece6 is Text(lab6,sq6["x"]-15, sq6["y"]-15, 32, "black");
lab7 is (s1 == o) ? "O" : ((s1 == x) ? "X" : "");
piece7 is Text(lab7,sq7["x"]-15, sq7["y"]-15, 32, "black");
lab8 is (s2 == o) ? "O" : ((s2 == x) ? "X" : "");
piece8 is Text(lab8,sq8["x"]-15, sq8["y"]-15, 32, "black");
lab9 is (s3 == o) ? "O" : ((s3 == x) ? "X" : "");
piece9 is Text(lab9,sq9["x"]-15, sq9["y"]-15, 32, "black");
pieces is [piece1, piece2, piece3, piece4, piece5, piece6, piece7, piece8, piece9];
picture is gridlines // pieces;
```

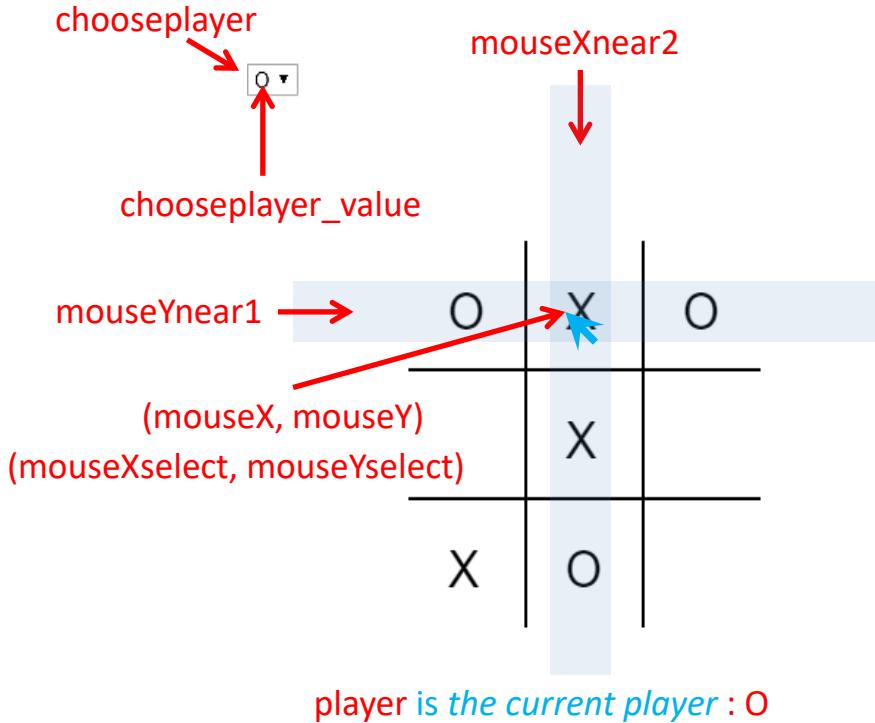
Modelling players' agency

Select move

- whose turn is it?
(chooseplayer /
chooseplayer_value /
player
)
- where on board to play?
(mouseXnear2 /
mouseYnear1)
- which square?
(mouseXselect /
mouseYselect)



Placing Os and Xs on grid



```
Agent
wmb/OXOLaboratory/selectmove

OXOLaboratory  selectmove  simpleNandC  statusrules

near = 50;

mouseXnear1 is ((mouseX-160)*(mouseX-160)<near);
mouseXnear2 is ((mouseX-240)*(mouseX-240)<near);
mouseXnear3 is ((mouseX-320)*(mouseX-320)<near);

mouseYnear1 is ((mouseY-160)*(mouseY-160)<near);
mouseYnear2 is ((mouseY-240)*(mouseY-240)<near);
mouseYnear3 is ((mouseY-320)*(mouseY-320)<near);

mouseXselect is (mouseXnear1 ? 1 : (mouseXnear2 ? 2 : (mouseXnear3 ? 3 : 0)));
mouseYselect is (mouseYnear1 ? 1 : (mouseYnear2 ? 2 : (mouseYnear3 ? 3 : 0)));

proc makemove: mousePressed {
  if ((mousePressed) && (mouseXselect*mouseYselect != 0))
    boardstate[(mouseYselect-1)*3 + mouseXselect] = player;
}

chooseplayer is DropDownList(["O","X"],["O","X"], 10, 10, true);
player is (chooseplayer_value == "O") ? o : ((chooseplayer_value == "X") ? x : "");
picture is gridlines // pieces // [chooseplayer];
```

Maker-defined functions

```
Agent
wmb/OXOlaboratory/statusrules

OXOlaboratory  selectmove  simpleNandC  statusrules

## illustrating the use of functions

func nopieces {
  para p1, p2; ..... p1 is a list of squares
                   ..... p2 is a 'o' or 'x'
  auto count, total;
  total = 0;
  for (count=1; count <= p1#; count++)
    if (p1[count] == p2)
      total++;
  return total;
}
```

Total number of Xs on the grid (nofx)
nofx is nopieces(allsquares, x);
nofo is nopieces(allsquares, o);
full is (nofx + nofo == nofsquares);

Using the **with**-construct

```
Agent
wmb/OXOlaboratory/statusrules

OXOlaboratory  selectmove  simpleNandC  statusrules

## illustrating the with construct

xwonI is (alllines[_i][1] == x) && (alllines[_i][2] == x) && (alllines[_i][3] == x);
xwonls is xwonI with _i is 1..alllines#;

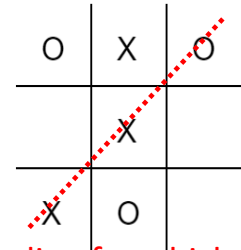
owonI is (alllines[_i][1] == o) && (alllines[_i][2] == o) && (alllines[_i][3] == o);
owonls is owonI with _i is 1..alllines#;

xwon is positionInList(true, xwonls) != 0;
owon is positionInList(true, owonls) != 0;
```



"The line indexed by *_i* is a winning line for X"

← "X has a winning line"



"The line for which *_i* is 8"

"Has X or O won the game? == "Is there a winning line for X or O?"

Interpreting the rules

```
Agent
wmb/OXOlaboratory/statusrules

## illustrating the with construct

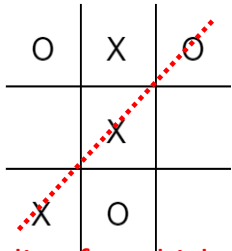
xwonI is (alllines[_i][1] == x) && (alllines[_i][2] == x) && (alllines[_i][3] == x);
xwonls is xwonI with _i is 1..alllines#;

owonI is (alllines[_i][1] == o) && (alllines[_i][2] == o) && (alllines[_i][3] == o);
owonls is owonI with _i is 1..alllines#;

xwon is positionInList(true, xwonls) != 0;
owon is positionInList(true, owonls) != 0;
```

← “X has a winning line”

← “The $_i$ -th line is a winning line for X”



← “The line for which $_i$ is 8”

```
Agent
wmb/OXOlaboratory/statusrules

## illustrating the use of functions

func nopieces {
  para p1, p2;
  auto count, total;
  total = 0;
  for (count=1; count <= p1#; count++)
    if (p1[count] == p2)
      total++;
  return total;
}
```

p1 is a list of squares
p2 is a 'o' or 'x'

```
nofsquares is allsquares#;
nofx is nopieces(allsquares, x);
nofo is nopieces(allsquares, o);
full is (nofx + nofo == nofsquares);
draw is (! xwon) && (! owon) && full;
status is (xwon?"X wins ":"") // (owon?"O wins ":"") // (draw?"Draw ":"") // "";
```

← Total number of Xs on the grid

i O seeks a winning move

- *Is the game over?*

end_of_game is owon || xwon || draw;

- *Does line **lin** have just 2 Os on it?*

lin_w is lin[1]+lin[2]+lin[3] == -2;

- *Does the line with index **ix** have just 2 Os on it?*

winlineix is lin_w **with** lin is alllines[ix];

- *Does any line have just 2 Os on it?*

winlines is winlineix **with** ix is 1..8;

- *Where is there an empty square on line **lin**?*

gapinlin is 1 **if** lin[1]==0 **else** (2 **if** lin[2]==0 **else** (3 **if** lin[3]==0 **else** 0));

- *Where the line with index **ix** has a space ... where each line has a space*

playonlinix is gapinlin **with** lin is alllines[ix];

playonlines is playonlinix **with** ix is 1..8;

O makes a winning move

Register the winning lines as sets of indices of cells on the grid, not via their contents

`alllinesindices` is `alllines`

`with` `s1` is 1, `s2` is 2, `s3` is 3, `s4` is 4, `s5` is 5, `s6` is 6, `s7` is 7, `s8` is 8, `s9` is 9;

- *The index of the line with index `_index` if it is a winning line for O*

`winindex` is `_index` if `winline`[`_index`] else 0;

- *The set of indices of line that are winning lines for O – possibly empty*

`iswinindex` is `winindex` with `_index` is 1..8;

- *An index of a winning line for O, if there is one*

`wline` is `max(iswinindex)`;

```
O is to play      there is a winning line      the game isn't over  
when ((player==o) &&      wline>0      &&      !end_of_game      ) {  
  boardstate[      alllinesindices [wline]      [playonlines[wline]]      ] = o;  
}  
      index of winning line      index of gap on winning line
```

Reflections on the MCE

- Tension between ...
 - bricolage vs. eliminate redundancy, conform to standards, clarify through abstraction
 - cf. functions and procedures 'objective'
 - with's and when's 'agent-oriented'
- Challenges
 - ? Project Manager interface
 - ? intuitive way to represent with's

Acknowledgments

Nick Pope, Elizabeth Hudnott, Joe Butler, Tim Monks: The JS-Eden environment

Simon Gardner: The original OXO laboratory (1999)

Mike Joy: The first OXO construal prototype (1994)

References

Beynon, M. and Joy, M. “Computer programming for noughts-and-crosses: New frontiers,” in Proceedings of PPIG’94, 1994, pp. 27–37.

Beynon, M. et al, “Making construals as a new digital skill: dissolving the program - and the programmer – interface,” Proceedings of iTAG 2015, pp. 9-16

Thank you

Any questions?

Computational thinking > WF Draft schedule > JS-EDN v1.22-161 > jaden.dcs.warwick.ac.uk/facet-master/index.dev.html > Bay Samsung UR400U: > Argos - www.argos.co.uk >

New Window Existing Windows Options Help

Canvas picture

Agent
wmb/OXlaboratory/winninglines

```

allsquares is [s1,s2,s3,s4,s5,s6,s7,s8,s9];
nofsquares is allsquares#;

lin1 is [s1,s2,s3];
lin2 is [s4,s5,s6];
lin3 is [s7,s8,s9];
lin4 is [s1,s4,s7];
lin5 is [s2,s5,s8];
lin6 is [s3,s6,s9];
lin7 is [s1,s5,s9];
lin8 is [s3,s5,s7];

alllines is [lin1,lin2,lin3,lin4,lin5,lin6,lin7,lin8];

```

Agent
wmb/OXlaboratory/status

```

x = 1;
o = 1;
u = 0;

boardstate = [u,u,u,u,u,u,u,u,u];

s1 is boardstate[1];
s2 is boardstate[2];
s3 is boardstate[3];
s4 is boardstate[4];
s5 is boardstate[5];
s6 is boardstate[6];
s7 is boardstate[7];
s8 is boardstate[8];
s9 is boardstate[9];

allsquares is boardstate;

```

Agent
wmb/OXlaboratory/selectmove

```

near = 50;

mouseXnear1 is ((mouseX-160)*(mouseX-160)near);
mouseXnear2 is ((mouseX-240)*(mouseX-240)near);
mouseXnear3 is ((mouseX-320)*(mouseX-320)near);

mouseYnear1 is ((mouseY-160)*(mouseY-160)near);
mouseYnear2 is ((mouseY-240)*(mouseY-240)near);
mouseYnear3 is ((mouseY-320)*(mouseY-320)near);

mouseSelect is (mouseNear1 ? 1 : (mouseNear2 ? 2 : (mouseNear3 ? 3 : 0)));
mouseYSelect is (mouseYnear1 ? 1 : (mouseYnear2 ? 2 : (mouseYnear3 ? 3 : 0)));

proc makemove: mousePressed {
  if (mousePressed) && (mouseSelect*mouseYSelect != 0)
    boardstate[(mouseSelect-1)*3 + mouseYSelect] = player;
}

chooseplayer is DropDownList(["O","X"],["O","X"], 10, 10, true);
player is (chooseplayer_value == "O") ? o : ((chooseplayer_value == "X") ? x : "");
picture is gridlines // pieces // [chooseplayer];

```

Observable List (showObservables)

```

xwon is draw/full/inf/Info
Contrual All Kinds
xwon = false
owon = false
nofx = 3
nofo = 3
full = false
draw = false

```

Agent
wmb/OXlaboratory/geometry

```

WN is Point(100*size*0.5, 100*size*0.5);
NW is Point(100*size*2.5, 100*size*0.5);
NE is Point(100*size*4.5, 100*size*0.5);
EN is Point(100*size*6.5, 100*size*0.5);
ES is Point(100*size*8.5, 100*size*0.5);
SE is Point(100*size*4.5, 100*size*0.5);
SW is Point(100*size*2.5, 100*size*0.5);
WS is Point(100*size*0.5, 100*size*0.5);

sq1 is Point(100*size*1.5, 100*size*0.5);
sq2 is Point(100*size*1.5, 100*size*1.5);
sq3 is Point(100*size*0.5, 100*size*0.5);
sq4 is Point(100*size*1.5, 100*size*3.5);
sq5 is Point(100*size*3.5, 100*size*0.5);
sq6 is Point(100*size*0.5, 100*size*3.5);
sq7 is Point(100*size*0.5, 100*size*1.5);
sq8 is Point(100*size*1.5, 100*size*1.5);

WNEN is Line(WN["x"],WN["y"],EN["x"],EN["y"]);
WSES is Line(WN["x"],NW["y"],SE["x"],SE["y"]);
NSWM is Line(NW["x"],NW["y"],SW["x"],SW["y"]);
NESE is Line(NE["x"],NE["y"],SE["x"],SE["y"]);

gridlines is [WNEN, WSES, NSWM, NESE];
picture is gridlines;

size = 40;

```

Agent
wmb/OXlaboratory/boardcontent

```

lab1 is (s7 == o) ? "O" : ((s7 == x) ? "X" : "");
piece1 is Text(lab1,sq1["x"],15, sq1["y"],15, 32, "black");
lab2 is (s8 == o) ? "O" : ((s8 == x) ? "X" : "");
piece2 is Text(lab2,sq2["x"],15, sq2["y"],15, 32, "black");
lab3 is (s9 == o) ? "O" : ((s9 == x) ? "X" : "");
piece3 is Text(lab3,sq3["x"],15, sq3["y"],15, 32, "black");
lab4 is (s4 == o) ? "O" : ((s4 == x) ? "X" : "");
piece4 is Text(lab4,sq4["x"],15, sq4["y"],15, 32, "black");
lab5 is (s5 == o) ? "O" : ((s5 == x) ? "X" : "");
piece5 is Text(lab5,sq5["x"],15, sq5["y"],15, 32, "black");
lab6 is (s6 == o) ? "O" : ((s6 == x) ? "X" : "");
piece6 is Text(lab6,sq6["x"],15, sq6["y"],15, 32, "black");
lab7 is (s1 == o) ? "O" : ((s1 == x) ? "X" : "");
piece7 is Text(lab7,sq7["x"],15, sq7["y"],15, 32, "black");
lab8 is (s2 == o) ? "O" : ((s2 == x) ? "X" : "");
piece8 is Text(lab8,sq8["x"],15, sq8["y"],15, 32, "black");
lab9 is (s3 == o) ? "O" : ((s3 == x) ? "X" : "");
piece9 is Text(lab9,sq9["x"],15, sq9["y"],15, 32, "black");

pieces is [piece1, piece2, piece3, piece4, piece5, piece6, piece7, piece8, piece9];
picture is gridlines // pieces;

```

Agent
wmb/OXlaboratory/statusrules

```

## illustrating the with construct
xwon is (alllines[i][i] == x) && (alllines[i][i] == x) && (alllines[i][i] == x);
xwonis is xwon with i is 1..allines;

owon is (alllines[i][i] == o) && (alllines[i][i] == o) && (alllines[i][i] == o);
owonis is owon with i is 1..allines;

xwon is positionInList(true, xwonis) != 0;
owon is positionInList(true, owonis) != 0;

## illustrating the use of functions
func nopieces {
  para p1, p2;
  auto count, total;
  total = 0;
  for (count=1; count <= pi8; count++)
    if (p1[count] == p2)
      total++;
  return total;
}

nofsquares is allsquares#;
nofx is nopieces(allsquares, x);
nofo is nopieces(allsquares, o);
full is (nofx + nofo == nofsquares);
draw is (! xwon) && (! owon) && full;
status is (xwon?"X wins ":"") // (owon?"O wins ":"") // (draw?"Draw ":"") // "";

```

Agent
c6/simplehandC/humanmove

```

end_of_game is owon || xwon || draw;
lin_w is lin[i]+lin[i+1]+lin[i] == -2;
winlin is lin_w with lin is allines[i];
ix = 1;

lin_b is lin[i]+lin[i+1]+lin[i] == 2;
blockline is lin_b with lin is allines[i];
ix = 1;

winlines is winlinex with ix is 1..8;
blocklines is blocklineix with ix is 1..8;

gappin is 1 if lin[i]==0 else (2 if lin[i]==0 else (3 if lin[i]==0 else 0));
## note that if @ is used in place of 0, then the structure of the list playonlines is (out
playonlin is gappin with lin is allines[i];

playonlines is playonlin with ix is 1..8;

alllinesindices is alllines
with s1 is 1, s2 is 2, s3 is 3, s4 is 4, s5 is 5, s6 is 6, s7 is 7, s8 is 8, s9 is 9;

winindex is_index if winlines_index else 0;
_index = 3;

```

