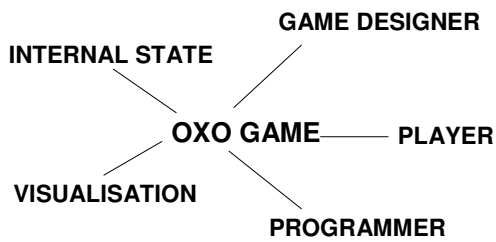
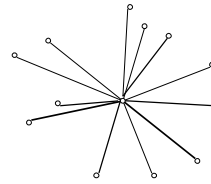


... Behaviour as programmed state change



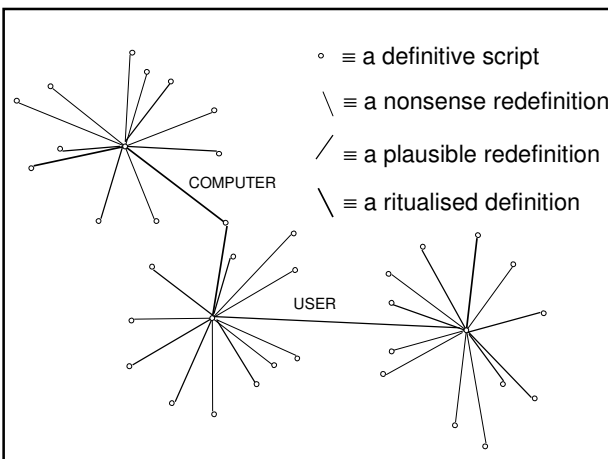
Static and dynamic elements of state

Definitive scripts as “furry blobs”



- ≡ a definitive script
- \ ≡ a nonsense redefinition
- / ≡ a plausible redefinition
- \ ≡ a ritualised definition

Plausible : *could* open the desk drawer
 – note continuous spectrum of redefinitions
 Ritualised : door *automatically* closes after being opened
 Nonsense : opening the drawer makes the room smaller



Classical programming ...1

Behaviour is derived from a pre-specified conception of function and purpose ...

... based on interactions whose outcomes are reliable and for which the mode of interpretation is determined in advance

...motivates declarative approaches

Classical programming ...2

... motivates declarative approaches:

`output=F(input)`

... problematic to deal with a dynamic input, as in playing a game

... hence add “lazy evaluation” to model as
`stream_of_output=F(stream_of_input)`

Significance of interpretation ...

Miranda *can* be viewed as a definitive notation over an underlying algebra of functions and constructors

BUT this interpretation emphasises

program design as a state-based activity

NOT

declarative techniques for *program specification*

Illustrative example

... a version of 3D OXO written in the functional programming language Miranda

... to be compared with oxoJoy1994 which was in some respects 'derived' from it

Two experimental systems!

A definitive Miranda ("admira"): definitive notation with general functional programs and types as operators & data structures

The Kent Recursive Calculator (KRC): developing functional programs by framing definitive scripts

Objects vs observations 1

A definitive script

represents the atomic transformations of a geometric symbol

DoNaLD room can be transformed through redefinition in ways that correspond 'exactly' to the observed patterns of change associated with opening a door, or moving a table

Objects vs observations 2

Thesis:

- set of atomic transformations of a symbol captures its semantics [cf. Klein's view of a geometry as "the study of properties invariant under a family of transformations"]
- Illustration via a geometric pun (demo)

Is the DoNaLD room an object in the class-based OOP sense? 1

Can view each room transformation as a method for the object

BUT

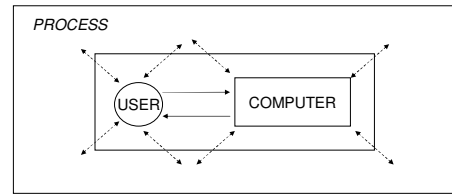
definitive script is an object specification

only if

set_of_transformations_performed_on_room is **circumscribed**

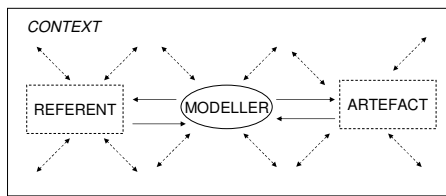
Programming from two perspectives

- a program is conceived with reference to how its behaviour participates in a wider process with functional objectives: states emerge as the side-effects of behaviours
- a computer artefact is developed so as to reflect the agency within an environment: the artefact and environment evolve until (possibly) program-like processes emerge



Conventional programs as embedded in *processes* of interaction with the world

Programs are understood in relation to processes in their surrounding environment



Artefacts and their referents as sculpted out of open interaction with the world

States of the referent and the artefact are connected through experience of interacting with the referent and the artefact

... but this presents some philosophical challenges ...

An EM perspective on programming some problematic issues

In focusing on current state-as-experienced, we have some problems to resolve:

- Behaviour raises questions about agency: what is the status of a "computer" action?
- How do we deal with state-as-experienced in semantic terms?
- How do we make science of activities in which human interpretation is so critical?