

Practical HFSM

Andrew Gresyk @ Splash Damage

Hi!



ASSASSIN'S
C R E E D
REVELATIONS

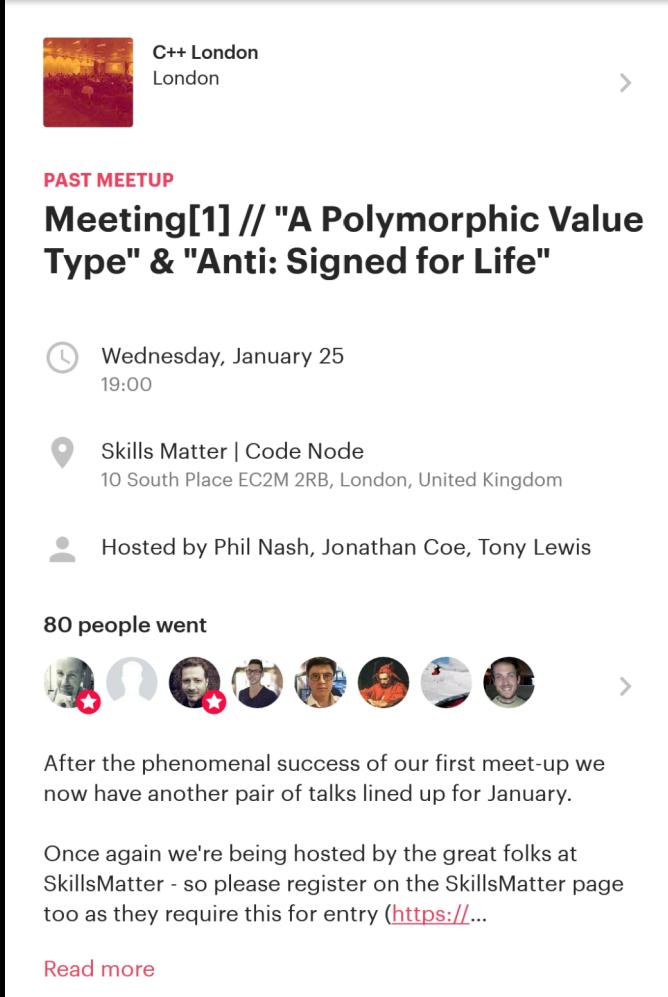
BATTLEFIELD
4



Hi!



Anniversary



C++ London
London >

PAST MEETUP

Meeting[1] // "A Polymorphic Value Type" & "Anti: Signed for Life"

⌚ Wednesday, January 25
19:00

📍 Skills Matter | Code Node
10 South Place EC2M 2RB, London, United Kingdom

👤 Hosted by Phil Nash, Jonathan Coe, Tony Lewis

80 people went

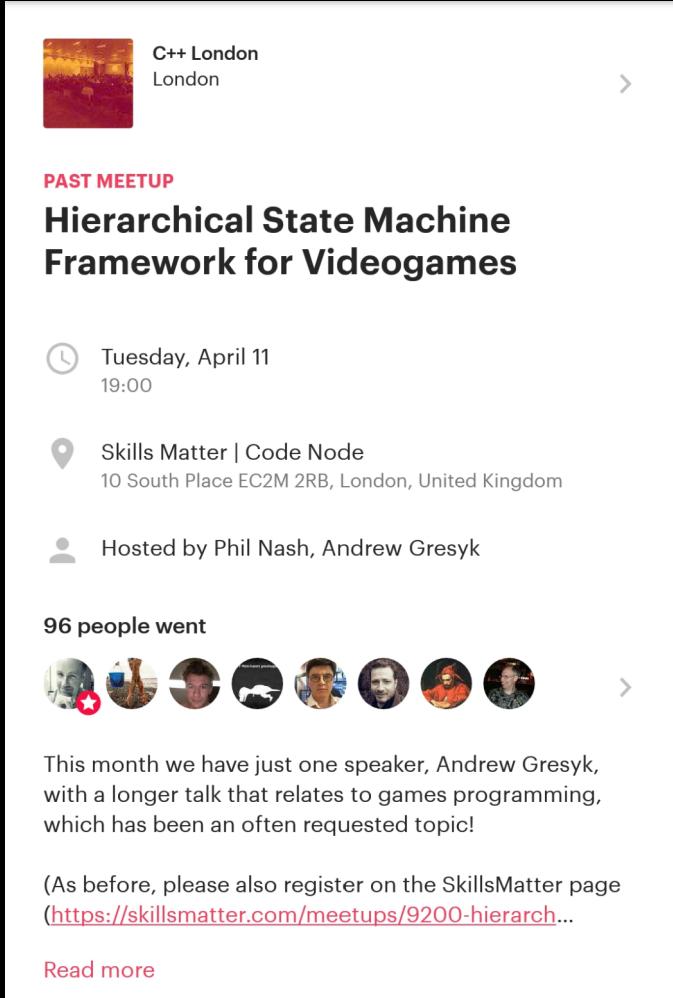


After the phenomenal success of our first meet-up we now have another pair of talks lined up for January.

Once again we're being hosted by the great folks at SkillsMatter - so please register on the SkillsMatter page too as they require this for entry (<https://...>)

[Read more](#)

Evolution



A screenshot of a Meetup.com card for a past event. The card has a white background with a black header bar at the top. The title "C++ London" is in bold black font, with "London" in a smaller font below it. To the right of the title is a small orange circular icon with a white arrow pointing right. Below the title is a thumbnail image of a group of people at a social gathering. The text "PAST MEETUP" is in red capital letters. The main title of the event is "Hierarchical State Machine Framework for Videogames". Below the title are several details: a clock icon followed by "Tuesday, April 11" and "19:00"; a location pin icon followed by "Skills Matter | Code Node" and "10 South Place EC2M 2RB, London, United Kingdom"; and a person icon followed by "Hosted by Phil Nash, Andrew Gresyk". Below these details is the text "96 people went" followed by a row of small circular profile pictures of attendees. At the bottom of the card is a paragraph of text: "This month we have just one speaker, Andrew Gresyk, with a longer talk that relates to games programming, which has been an often requested topic!" followed by "(As before, please also register on the SkillsMatter page (<https://skillsmatter.com/meetups/9200-hierarch...>)". A "Read more" button is at the very bottom.

C++ London
London

PAST MEETUP

Hierarchical State Machine Framework for Videogames

Tuesday, April 11
19:00

Skills Matter | Code Node
10 South Place EC2M 2RB, London, United Kingdom

Hosted by Phil Nash, Andrew Gresyk

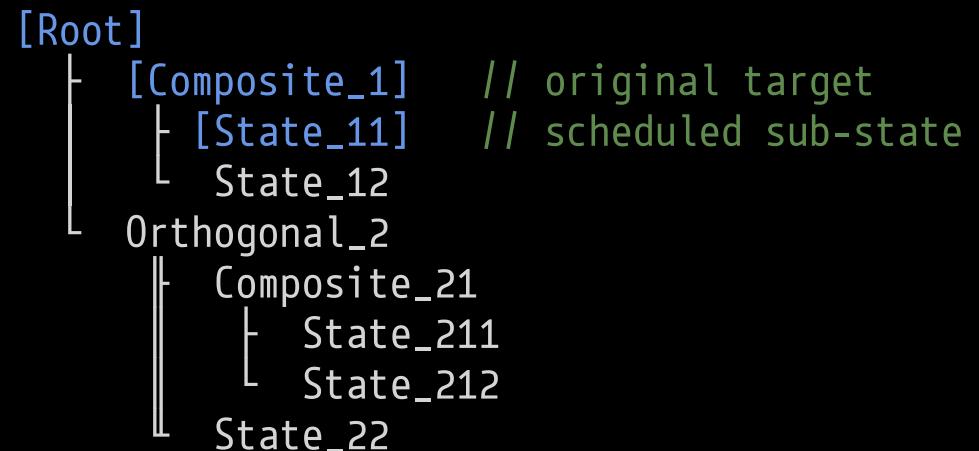
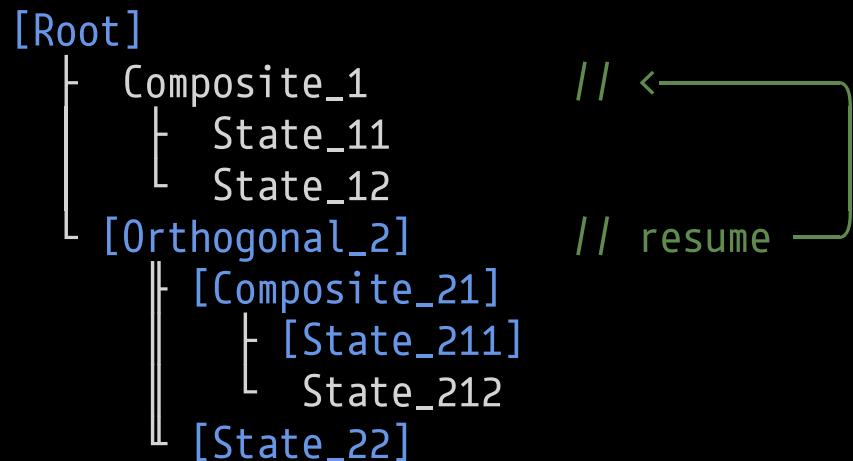
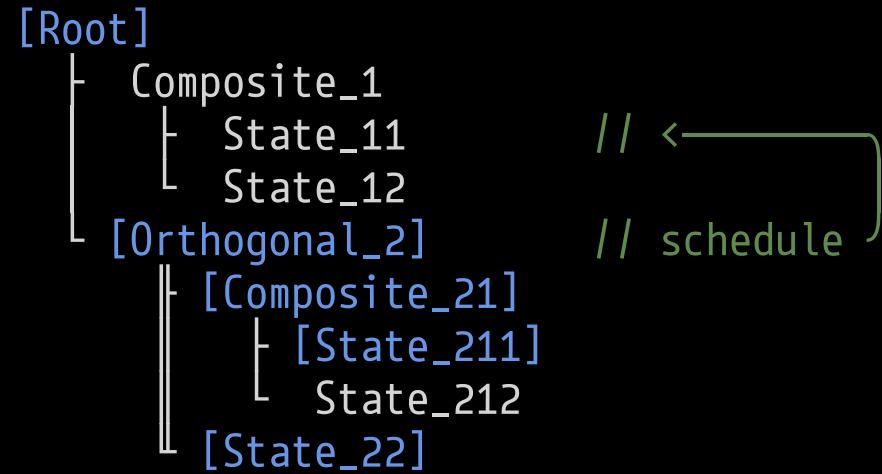
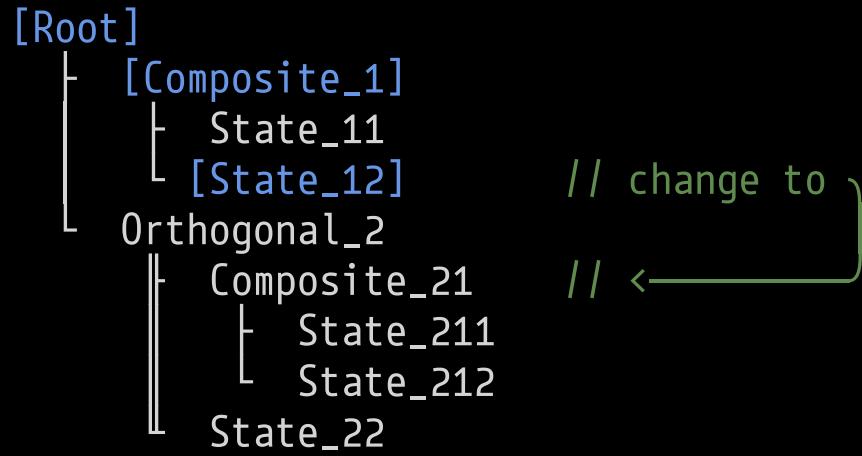
96 people went

This month we have just one speaker, Andrew Gresyk, with a longer talk that relates to games programming, which has been an often requested topic!

(As before, please also register on the SkillsMatter page (<https://skillsmatter.com/meetups/9200-hierarch...>)

Read more

Hierarchy+Transitions



Complexity Intuition

There's a math concept that resembles a feature in terms of complexity and interaction:

- * Feature ~ Matrix
 - * State Variable ~ Matrix Component
 - * Conditional Expression on State Variables ~ Matrix Component Product
 - * Feature Composition / Interaction ~ Matrix Multiplication
-

Feature composition using plain state variables (feels like):

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} \\ b_{21} \\ b_{31} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} \times b_{11} + a_{12} \times b_{21} + a_{13} \times b_{31} \\ a_{21} \times b_{11} + a_{22} \times b_{21} + a_{23} \times b_{31} \end{bmatrix} \begin{array}{l} // \text{ } a_{11}, \text{ } b_{11} \sim \text{State Variables} \\ // \text{ } a_{11} \times b_{11} \sim \text{Conditional Expression} \end{array}$$

Feature composition using FSM framework (feels like):

$$A \times B = C$$

Disclaimers

- Game code was sacrificed to showcase FSMs!

Acknowledgments



SFML

- <https://www.sfml-dev.org/>

Acknowledgments



<https://didigameboy.itch.io/jambo-jungle-free-sprites-asset-pack>

HFSM

- header-only
- template
- without external dependencies
 - except standard c++ headers
- fully static
 - no dynamic memory allocations
- gamedev friendly
- minimal boilerplate
- scalable

Minimal State Machine

Structural Diagram

- Code:

```
struct TopState : M::Base {};
struct State1   : M::Base {};
struct State2   : M::Base {};
```

```
using FSM = M::Root<TopState,
                      State1,
                      State2
                  >;
```

- Diagram:



State Overridables

```
struct State : M::Base {
    void substitute(Control&, Context&);

    void enter(Control&);
    void leave(Context&);

    void update(Control&);
    void transition(Control&, Context&);

    void linger(Control&, Context&);

    template <typename TEvent>
    void react(const TEvent&, Control&, Context&);
};
```

State Transitions

```
struct AnotherState : M::Base {};  
  
struct State : M::Base {  
    void transition(Control& control, Context&, const Time) const {  
        control.schedule<AnotherState>();  
        control.changeTo<AnotherState>();  
        control.resume<AnotherState>();  
        control.catchUp<AnotherState>();  
    }  
};
```

External Transitions

```
struct State1 : M::Base {};
struct State2 : M::Base {};

void example() {
    Context _;
    M::PeerRoot<State1, State2> fsm(_); // State1 is activated
                                         // initially
    fsm.schedule<State2>();
    fsm.changeTo<State2>();
    fsm.resume<State2>();
    fsm.catchUp<State2>();
};
```

Event Handling

```
struct HandledEvent {}; struct UnhandledEvent {};  
  
struct State : M::Base {  
    void react(const HandledEvent&, Control&, Context&, const Time) {  
        // control.changeTo<...>();  
    }  
};  
  
void example() {  
    Context _;  
    M::PeerRoot<State> fsm(_);  
  
    fsm.react(HandledEvent{}, 0.0f);    // State::react() is called  
    fsm.react(UnhandledEvent{}, 0.0f); // no handlers exist, ignored  
};
```

Scene 0

Scene 1

Scene 2

Scene 3

Scene 4

Scene 5

The End

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<https://github.com/andrew-gresyk>