Translating a VDM Model to Kapture

Joe Hare, Leo Freitas and Ken Pierce

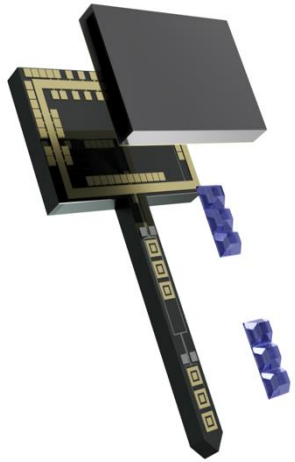
Overture 2025, 11/06/2025, Aarhus Denmark

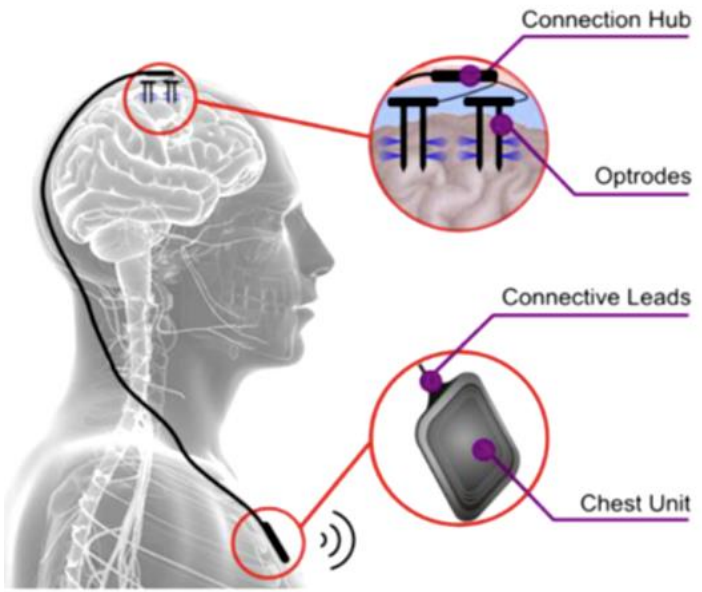
Motivation

- Explore the usefulness of a requirements modelling tool.
  - Assurance/safety case focused with links to DO178-C / DO-333 certification
  - Learn Kapture and begin modelling with it
    - Task undertaken by an undergraduate student with no prior FM experience
- Claim extra safety standards with Kapture
- Compare abstractions: Kapture x VDM-SL

The Existing VDM model

- VDM-SL (1.5KLOC) abstraction of CANDO C code (3KLOC).
- Based on the CANDO optrode CMOS system for brain pace maker
- Model of the FSM controlling the behaviour of optrodes
  - State transitions are determined by the current state and an event variable
- Defines the operations run in each state





The Existing VDM model

```
Command = <LED_ON_C>| <LED_OFF_C>| <READ_LED_C>| <SET_BRE_C>| <SET_VLED_C>| <READ_DIAG_C>| <PROG_DELAY_DIAG_C>| <PROG_OP_MEM_C>|
          <LED_ALL_OFF_C>| <RUN_MEM_C>| <READ_LFP_C>| <PROG_CLK_CNT_C>| <RESET_ANA_C>| <SET_ANA_C>| <CONFIG_REC_C>| <PROG_ID_C>| <DUMMY_C>;

-- columns: [21 events]
Event =  <CONT> | <ERROR> | <SPI_TX_FINISH> | <SPI_RX_FINISH> | <LED_ON_E> | <SET_VLED_E> | <SET_BRE_E> | <LED_ALL_OFF_E> |
         <PROG_DELAY_DIAG_E> | <PROG_OP_MEM_E> | <RUN_MEM_E> | <PROG_CLK_CNT_E> | <RESET_ANA_E> | <SET_ANA_E> | <CONFIG_REC_E> |
         <PROG_ID_E> | <DUMMY_E> | <READ_LED_E> | <READ_DIAG_E> | <READ_LFP_E> | <GET_CMD_E>;

-- rows: [34 states]
State = <start> | <get_cmd> | <LED_off> | <send_packet_3> | <LED_on> | <set_vLED> | <send_packet_6> | <set_sDac> | <set_bre> |
        <send_packet_9> | <set_dDac> | <LED_all_off> | <prog_delay_diag> | <prog_op_mem_1> | <send_packet_14> | <prog_op_mem_2> |
        <run_mem> | <prog_clk_cnt> | <reset_ana> | <set_ana> | <config_rec> | <prog_ID> | <dummy> | <read_LED> | <send_packet_24> |
        <read_DIAG> | <read_LFP> | <receive_packet_27> | <receive_packet_28> | <receive_packet_29> | <receive_packet_30> | <error_> |
        <chip_rst> | <cmd_finish>;
```

The Existing VDM Model

```
  <ERROR>  |-> {|->}, -- event 1  = ERROR
  <SPI_TX_FINISH>  |-> {          -- event 2  = SPI_TX_FINISH
                    <send_packet_3>  |-> <send_packet_3>,
                    <send_packet_6>  |-> <send_packet_6>,
                    <send_packet_9>  |-> <send_packet_9>,                --@TC
                    <send_packet_14> |-> <send_packet_14>,
                    <send_packet_24> |-> <send_packet_24>
                    },
<SPI_RX_FINISH>  |-> { -- event 3  = SPI_RX_FINISH
                    <receive_packet_27> |-> <receive_packet_27>,
                    <receive_packet_28> |-> <receive_packet_28>,
                    <receive_packet_29> |-> <receive_packet_29>,
                    <receive_packet_30> |-> <receive_packet_30>
                    },
      <LED_ON_E>                |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <LED_on>},
      <SET_VLED_E>           |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <set_vLED>},              -- ev
      <SET_BRE_E>               |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <set_bre>},             --
      <LED_ALL_OFF_E>        |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <LED_all_off>},      -- event 7
      <PROG_DELAY_DIAG_E> |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <prog_delay_diag>}, -- event 8  = PR
      <PROG_OP_MEM_E>        |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <prog_op_mem_1>},    -- event 9
      <RUN_MEM_E>               |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <run_mem>},            --
      <PROG_CLK_CNT_E>       |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <prog_clk_cnt>},       -- event
      <RESET_ANA_E>          |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <reset_ana>},          -- ever
      <SET_ANA_E>               |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <set_ana>},            --
      <CONFIG_REC_E>         |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <config_rec>},         -- event
      <PROG_ID_E>               |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <prog_ID>},            --
      <DUMMY_E>                 |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <dummy>},
      <READ_LED_E>              |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <read_LED>},
      <READ_DIAG_E>          |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <read_DIAG>},          -- ever
      <READ_LFP_E>              |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <read_LFP>},
      <GET_CMD_E>                  |-> {
                                          <error_>  |-> <get_cmd>,
                                          <chip_rst> |-> <get_cmd>
                                       }
};
```

```
StateMap = map State to State
inv s ==
    --@doc states cannot map to the initial state "Start"
    not <start> in set rng s
    and
    --@doc start state can only map to <get_cmd> or <error>
    (<start> in set dom s => s(<start>) in set { <get_cmd>, <error_> })
    and
    --@doc chip_reset can only lead to error or get_cmd
    (<chip_rst> in set dom s => s(<chip_rst>) in set {<get_cmd>,<error_>})
```

```
FSM = map Event to StateMap;

--@doc FSM that is total on events and state map for every eve
TFSM = FSM
inv fsm ==
    dom fsm = ALL_EVENTS
    and
    forall e in set dom fsm & is_TStateMap(fsm(e));

--@doc Cando FSM is total on events and states
CandoFSM = TFSM
inv fsm ==
    --@doc check that all send states map to receive state if
    --@doc that is, the StateMap from <CONT> event over send_s
    --@doc if this wasn't total map, then we would need
    --        <CONT> in set dom fsm => is_TXMap(send_states <:
    --is_TXMap(send_states <: fsm(<CONT>))
    dom (send_states <: fsm(<CONT>)) subset send_states
    and
    rng (send_states <: fsm(<CONT>)) subset receive_states
    and
```

The Existing VDM Model

```
error_() ==          -- state 31
        (
            if(tx_cnt < 2) then
            (
                --for (i = 0; i < 3; i++)
                --ack[i] = 0;
                currentEvt := <GET_CMD_E>;
                tx_cnt := tx_cnt + 1;
            )
            else
            (
                tx_cnt := 0;
                currentEvt := <CONT>;
            )
        )
    ext
        rd currentSt
        wr tx_cnt, currentEvt
    pre currentSt = <error_>
    post currentEvt in set { <CONT>, <GET_CMD_E> };
```

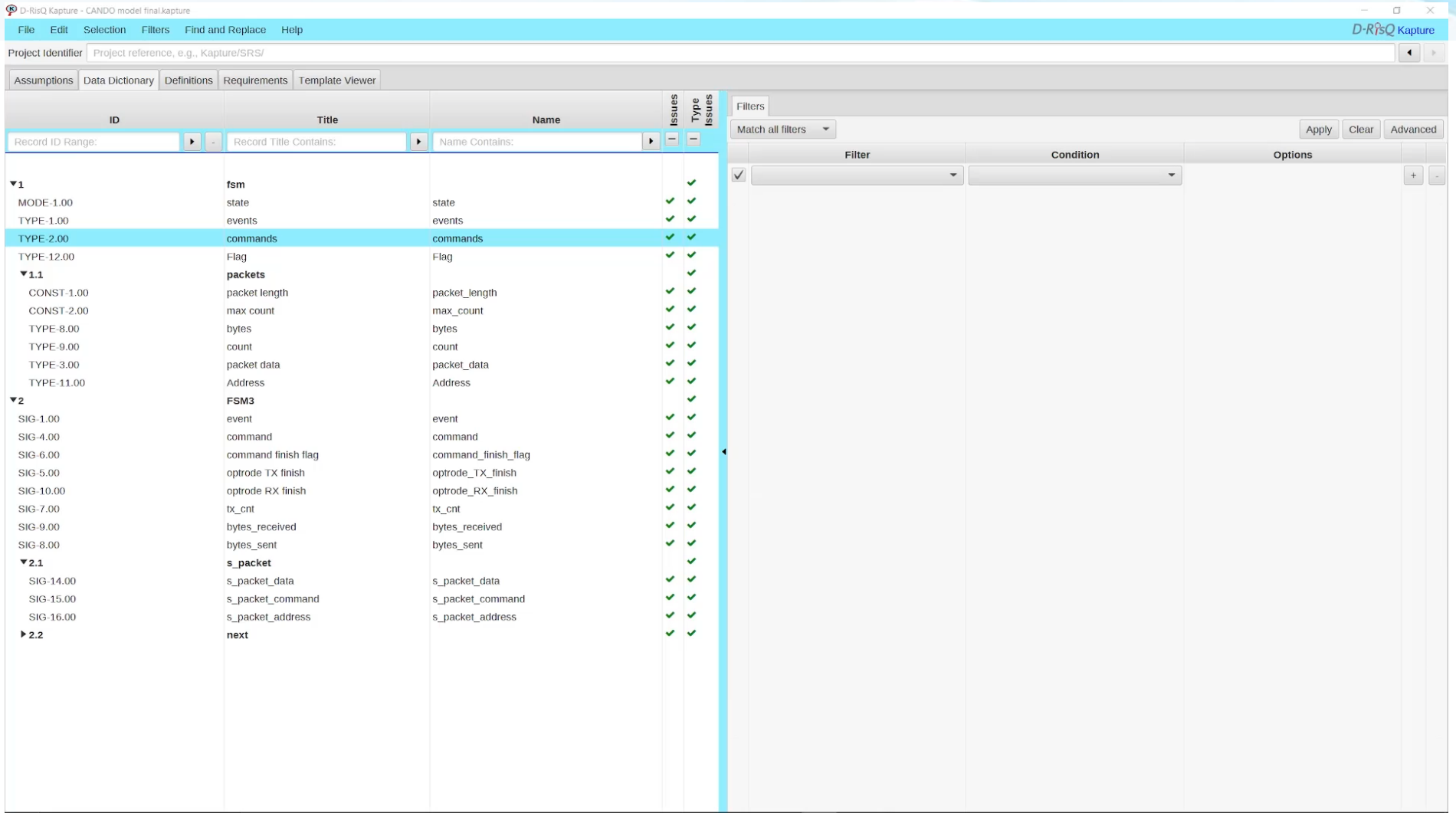
```
    manual()==
        (
        while(not command_finish_flag) do --while program isnt finished
        (
         printState();      --   1)   write the variables/state
                                      --   2)   if state is in use for two long then send it to error state
         transition();   --   3)       do state transition
                                      --   4)     record time in this new state
         execute();             --   5)   execute new state
        );
        printState();    -- prints the final line which shows finished state and the finished flag as true
    )
ext
    rd command_finish_flag;
```

```
execute() ==          --   runs the operation equivalent to the state currently in
        (
        cases currentSt:
            <start>                     ->                  start(),              -- 0;
            <get_cmd>                   ->                get_cmd(currentCmd),    -- 1;
            <LED_off>                   ->                LED_off(),              -- 2;
            <send_packet_3>         ->                  send_packet(),          -- 3;
            <LED_on>                    ->                  LED_on(),             -- 4;
            <set_vLED>                  ->                set_vLED(),             -- 5;
```

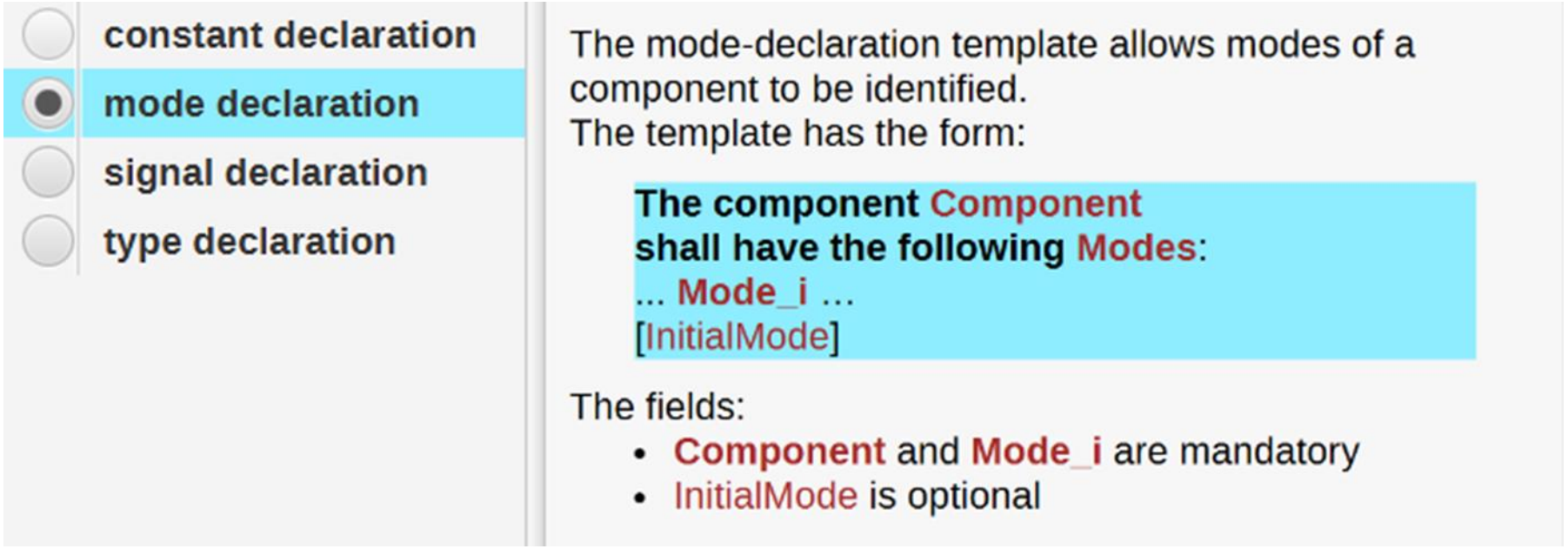
An Overview of Kapture

- A tool for writing clear software requirements in English
- English constructs Converted to CSP/Stateflow for validation
- Final conversion to Matlab Simulink Stateflow
- Designed for high assurance
- calculating C code from high-level requirements (ClawZ)
- Compliance with DO-178C and DO-333
- Applied to various industries (nuclear, avionics, medical)
- Part of an EU innovate grant with industry partners

An Overview of Kapture



Model Translation: States and Events



Model Translation: Rounds

```
<LED_ON_E>                  |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <LED_on>},
<SET_VLED_E>            |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <set_vLED>},
<SET_BRE_E>                 |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <set_bre>},
<LED_ALL_OFF_E>         |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <LED_all_off>},
<PROG_DELAY_DIAG_E> |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <prog_delay_diag>},
<PROG_OP_MEM_E>         |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <prog_op_mem_1>}
<RUN_MEM_E>                 |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <run_mem>},
<PROG_CLK_CNT_E>        |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <prog_clk_cnt>},
<RESET_ANA_E>           |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <reset_ana>},
<SET_ANA_E>                 |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <set_ana>},
<CONFIG_REC_E>          |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <config_rec>},
<PROG_ID_E>                 |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <prog_ID>},
<DUMMY_E>                   |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <dummy>},
<READ_LED_E>                |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <read_LED>},
<READ_DIAG_E>           |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <read_DIAG>},
<READ_LFP_E>                |-> { <get_cmd> |-> <read_LFP>},
```

Trigger On Event Template

+ (Index)	*Optional*
+ (Delay)	*Optional*

If
The fsm is in state get_cmd at the start of the round
and The current event is CONT
occurs, then

+ (AtSomePoint)	*Optional*
+ (Subsequently)	*Optional*
+ (Within)	*Optional*

The fsm is in state LED_off at the end of the round
holds.

Model Translation: Operations

```
receive_packet() ==  -- state 27-30
    (
        if(optrode_RX_finish) then
        (   bytes_received := bytes_received + 1;
            if (bytes_received < PACKET_LENGTH) then
                currentEvt := <SPI_RX_FINISH> -- repeat rec
            else
            (
                optrode_RX_finish := false;
                --bytes_received := 0;
                currentEvt := <CONT>;                    --h
                s_packet := nil;
            );
        )
        else
        (
            optrode_RX_finish := false;
            --bytes_received := 0;
            currentEvt := <ERROR>;
            s_packet := nil;
        )
    )
ext
    rd currentSt
    wr currentEvt, s_packet, optrode_RX_finish, bytes_received
```

Case Template

\+ (Delay) *Optional*

At each time step,

\+ (Until) *Optional*

the first of the following cases that is true shall apply:

\+ × (Clause) *Optional*

when
The state is in the receive_states group at the start of the round
and signal optrode_RX_finish equals *true*
and signal bytes_received + *1* is less than constant packet_length
occurs then
signal next_bytes_received equals signal bytes_received + *1*
and signal event equals *events.SPI_RX_FINISH*
shall also hold

\+ × (Clause) *Optional*

when
The state is in the receive_states group at the start of the round
and signal optrode_RX_finish equals *true*
and signal bytes_received + *1* equals constant packet_length
occurs then
signal next_bytes_received equals signal bytes_received + *1*
and signal event equals *events.CONT*
and signal next_optrode_RX_finish equals *false*
and s_packet is nil
shall also hold

\+ × (Clause) *Optional*

when
The state is in the receive_states group at the start of the round
and signal optrode_RX_finish equals *false*
occurs then
signal event equals *events.ERROR*
and signal next_optrode_RX_finish equals *false*
and s_packet is nil
shall also hold

Model Translation: Operations

```
manual()==
    (
    while(not command_finish_flag) do --while program isnt finished
    (
     printState();      --   1)   write the variables/state
                                --   2)   if state is in use for two long then send it to error state
     transition();   --   3)       do state transition
                                --   4)     record time in this new state
     execute();            --   5)   execute new state
    );
    printState();    -- prints the final line which shows finished state and the finished flag as true
    )
ext
    rd command_finish_flag;
```

```
execute() ==          --   runs the operation equivalent to the state currently in
        (
        cases currentSt:
            <start>                     ->                      start(),              -- 0;
            <get_cmd>                ->                   get_cmd(currentCmd),   -- 1;
            <LED_off>                ->                 LED_off(),             -- 2;
            <send_packet_3>       ->                send_packet(),         -- 3;
            <LED_on>                     ->                      LED_on(),             -- 4;
            <set_vLED>                ->                   set_vLED(),           -- 5;
```

Incrementing values issue

```
error_() ==          -- state 31
        (
            if(tx_cnt < 2) then
            (
                --for (i = 0; i < 3; i++)
                --ack[i] = 0;
                currentEvt := <GET_CMD_E>;
                tx_cnt := tx_cnt + 1;
            )
            else
            (
                tx_cnt := 0;
                currentEvt := <CONT>;
            )
        )
```

+ × (Clause)

when

The fsm is in state error_ at the start of the round

and signal tx_cnt is less than *2*

occurs then

signal event equals *events.GET_CMD_E*

and signal next_tx_cnt equals signal tx_cnt + *1*

shall also hold

If

signal tx_cnt does not equal signal next_tx_cnt

occurs, then

+ × (AtSomePoint)

at some point,

+ (Subsequently)

+ × (Within)

but within 0 rounds,

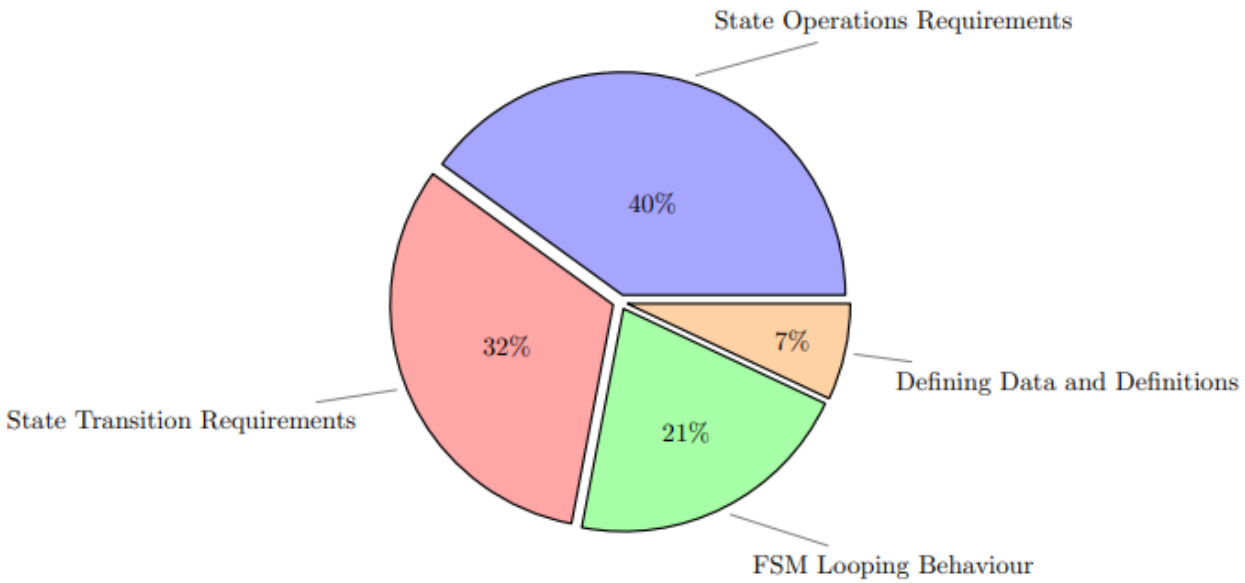
signal tx_cnt equals signal next_tx_cnt

holds.

Results and Testing

- Results tested by creating manual traces using the Kapture model
  - Traces had same results as the ones generated by VDM-SL model
- Completed within four weeks
- >90% of the (~1000 LOC) VDM model translated into 113 Kapture requirements

Proportion of time spent translating different parts of VDM model into Kapture



Issues Encountered During Development

- Learning curve
- Lack of tools for creating and editing en masse
- Using Kapture for low-level requirements
- Shift in abstraction between VDM and Kapture
  - Feedback from D-RisQ

Conclusions and Future Work

- Successful translation in a short period of time
- A readable set of requirements for CANDO

- Further improvements to the model
- Modelworks
- Further collaboration with D-RisQ