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#### Constellation

### Autonomous Control and Data Acquisition System for Dynamic Experimental Setups

Stephan Lachnit, DESY Simon Spannagel, DESY

12<sup>th</sup> BTTB Workshop Edinburgh, UK 2024-04-15



### What do we expect from a "flexible DAQ system"?

- Useful to control single laboratory setup (e.g. radioactive source measurement)
- **Possibility to integrate multiple setups** (Detector DAQ, TCT laser control)
- Lab supervision mode

   (multiple setups monitored but control not ceded)
- Synchronized operations

(test beam environment, coordinated start/stop, central control)

Scalability for small experiments

 (many detectors, multiple data endpoints & monitors)



15/04/20

## Introducing Constellation (in 30 sec)

- Project goals:
  - **Easy** to use, easy & fast to integrate new systems
  - Stable operation, reliable error handling
  - **Flexible** and applicable for many use cases
- Solid foundation: well-defined communication protocols between components
- Participants are called **satellites** (eudaq: Producers/Collectors)
  - Operation is governed by a **finite state machine**
  - Satellites can operate **autonomously** without active user interface







## Network Discovery and Resiliance

DESY. St

- Current testbeam software often involves
  - assigning **fixed IP adresses & ports**
  - a **central control software** (single point of failure)
- Industry has long moved to more flexible and reliable systems, like
  - automatic **service discovery** in local network
  - **autonomous operation** with stateless control interfaces (REST)
- Constellation features both as **core design principle**



## Live Demo: Network Discovery & Logging

DESY. St

- Starting a **logger** on Stephan's laptop that listens for all satellites
- Starting a 1<sup>st</sup> **satellite** (also on Stephan's Laptop)
  - Logger **discoveres** the satellite
  - Logger **starts listening** to messages from the satellite
- Starting a 2<sup>nd</sup> satellite **on Simon's laptop** (on the same network)
  - Has **dynamically assigned** IP address and port
  - Logger discoveres 2<sup>nd</sup> satellite
  - Logger starts listening to messages from Simon's satellite

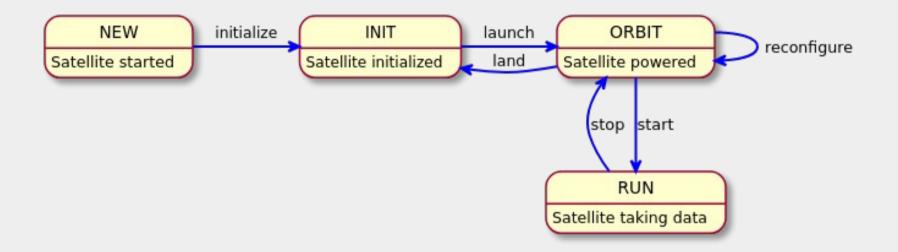






# Controlling the Finite State Machine of a Satellite

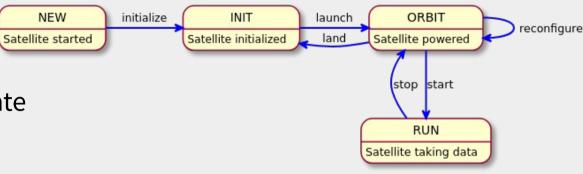






# Live Demo: Controlling a Satellite

- Satellite starts in **NEW** state
- Sending initialize command
   → Satellite transitions to INIT state
- Sending launch command
   → Satellite transitions to ORBIT state
- Sending launch command again
   → Get response that this is an invalid command for the current state
- Sending land command
   → Satellite transitions to INIT state











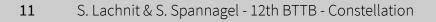
### How to implement a Satellite



• C++ example



• Note: separate Python implementation also available





## Live Demo: Starting a Run and Disconnect

- Sending initialize, launch and start commands to start a run
- Satellite calls **user function** 
  - Logs frame number while running
- **Disconnect** controller
  - Satellite continues running
- Reconnect controller
  - Get state of satellite to see it is still running







### Live Demo: MicroSat

...well-defined protocols means independence from implementation

- Let's implement Constellation on a 5 EUR, low power
   ESP8266 microcontroller
- Possible applications:
  - Adding an RS232 interface and controlling a Keithley
  - Providing temperature & humidity data















### Where are we now?

- Implementing a new control & DAQ system bottom-up
- Many core concepts and features already implemented
  - Network discovery
  - Controlling & Logging over the network
  - Interface for Satellite implementation ready!
- Documentation in the process of being written, check it out at constellation.pages.desy.de
- All code is open source and available at gitlab.desy.de/constellation









#### What's next?

- Implementation of last core components underway
- Next big item up: (graphical) user interfaces!
- We are holding a (2<sup>nd</sup>) Hackathon in May in Hamburg
  - Working towards User Interfaces
  - Continue writing user & developer documentation

- Do you have suggestions?
  - Chat with us!
  - Send us a mail!
  - Open a ticket on GitLab!

