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## **Programming Languages** Sequential Flow Chart (SFC)





Step state

A step is either active or inactive. The step activity can be used in program expressions:

GSnnn.X (is a BOOL expression)

A step represents a stable state of the process. The duration of step activity can be used in expressions:

GSnnn.T (is a TIME expression)



#### Transitions

- A transition is represented as horizontal line that crosses a vertical line drawn from a step to another.
- The default direction for vertical links is from the top to the bottom.
- Each transition of a SFC program is identified by a unique number.
- A condition is associated with each transition. The condition is a BOOL expression.
- If no condition is entered, it is assumed as always TRUE.





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- Crossing a transition
  - A transition is crossed when:
    - All steps linked before the transition are active AND
    - The condition of the transition is TRUE.
  - When a transition is crossed:
    - All steps linked before the transition are de-activated
    - All steps linked after the transition are activated.
  - Important note:

When the same step is linked before and after the transition, it remains active (no pulse in its activity signal)





#### Describing how it works:

- The chart must have an initial stage. It shows the state of the process when the application starts.
- The initial stage is represented by initial step(s) drawn with a double line border.
- The transitions and their condition describe how the SFC situation changes.
- Each active step is marked with a small circle (token).







#### Runtime execution

- The following steps are performed at each cycle and for each SFC:
  - Evaluate all valid transitions (transitions following active steps).
  - Execute all active steps in the order of the graph
  - If the second second
- If several consecutive transitions are TRUE in a branch, only one is crossed in the target cycle.





#### Divergences

- Several transitions may be linked after the same step. The divergence represents several possible changes of the SFC situation, according to the condition of each transition linked after the step.
- Conditions of a divergence are evaluated using the default priority, from left to right.







#### Parallel branches

- Several steps can be linked after the same transition. Branches linked after the transition represent parallel processes.
- All parallel branches must finish with a link to the same transition (convergence).
- Parallel divergences and convergences are represented by double horizontal lines.
- In order to avoid blocking situations, there should be no link between branches and outside the divergence.







#### Conditions

- Each SFC transition must have a condition to indicate whether the transition can be crossed. The condition is a BOOL expression that can be programmed either in ST or LD language.
  - In ST language, enter a BOOL expression. In can be a complex expression including function calls and parenthesis. For example: bForce AND (bAlarm OR min (iLevel, 1) <> 1)
  - In LD language, the condition is represented by a single rung. The coil at the end of the rung represents the transition and should have no symbol attached.

For example:





- Actions within a step
  - Actions can be attached to a step. The execution of the action depends on the action qualifier:
    - P1": Once when the step becomes active
    - "N": On each cycle while the step is active
    - PO": When the step becomes inactive







#### Actions within a step







# Thank You!

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