UML: Unified Modeling Language

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Modeling

- Describing a system at a high level of abstraction
  - A model of the system
  - Used for requirements and specification

- Many notations over time
  - State machines
  - Entity-relationship diagrams
  - Dataflow diagrams

History: 1980's

- The rise of object-oriented programming
- New class of OO modeling languages
- By early '90's, over 50 OO modeling languages

History: 1990's

- Three leading OO notations decide to combine
  - Grady Booch (BOOCH)
  - Jim Rumbaugh (OML: Object Modeling Technique)
  - Ivar Jacobsen (OOSE: OO Soft. Eng)

- Why?
  - Natural evolution towards each other
  - Effort to set an industry standard
UML

- UML stands for Unified Modeling Language

- Design by committee
  - Many interest groups participating
  - Everyone wants their favorite approach to be "in"

UML (Cont.)

- Resulting design is huge
  - Many features
  - Many loosely unrelated styles under one roof

- Could also be called Union of all Modeling Languages

This Lecture

- We discuss
  - Use Case Diagrams for functional models
  - Class Diagrams for structural models
  - Sequence Diagrams
  - Activity Diagrams for dynamic models
  - State Diagrams

- This is a subset of UML
  - But probably the most used subset

Sources and more information

- Practical UML: A Hands-On Introduction for Developers
  - by Randy Miller
  - http://dn.codegear.com/article/31863

- UML 2 for Dummies - by Chonoles and Schardt
  - Available on books24x7 through home.nyue.edu

- CS 169 web page (George Necula, Berkeley)
  - http://www-inst.eecs.berkeley.edu/~cs169/fa04/lectures.shtml

- Free UML tool
  - ArgoUML: http://argouml.tigris.org
**Running Example: Automatic Train**

- Consider an unmanned people-mover
  - as in many airports

- Train
  - Moves on a circular track
  - Visits each of two stations (A and B) in turn
  - Each station has a "request" button
    - To stop at this station
  - Each train has two "request" buttons
    - To stop at a particular station

**Use-Cases**

- Describe functionality from the user’s perspective

- One (or more) use-cases per kind of user
  - May be many kinds in a complex system

- Use-cases capture requirements

**An Example Use-Case in UML**

- Name
  - Normal Train Ride

- Actors
  - Passenger

- Entry Condition
  - Passenger at station

- Exit Condition
  - Passenger leaves station
**An Example Use-Case in UML**

- Event-flow
  - Passenger presses request button
  - Train arrives and stops at platform
  - Doors open
  - Passenger steps into train
  - Doors close
  - Passenger presses request button for final stop
  - ...
  - Doors open at final stop
  - Passenger exits train
- Nonfunctional requirements

**Use Case Diagram**

- Graph showing
  - Actors
  - Use cases
  - Edges actor-case if that actor is involved in that case
- Actors
  - Stick figures
- Use cases
  - Ovals

**Exceptional Situations**

- Use cases have relationships
  - Inclusion (E.g., push button included in ride)
  - Variations
- UML has a special notation
  - The "extends" relationship to express a exceptional variation of a use case
  - Normally used to express errors

**Extension**

- Dotted arrow pointing to "normal" case
Summary of Use Cases

- **Use Case Diagram**
  - Shows all actors, use cases, relationships
  - Actors are agents external to the system
    - E.g., users

- **Supplemental information**
  - Entry/Exit Conditions, Story, Main and Alternative flows, Nonfunctional requirements
  - Specified in a separate document
    - In English

Class Diagrams

- **Describe classes**
  - In the OO sense

- **Each box is a class**
  - List fields
  - List methods

- The more detail, the more like a design it becomes

Class Diagrams: Relationships

- Many different kinds of edges to show different relationships between classes

- Mention just a couple

Associations

- **Capture n-m relationships**
  - Subsumes ER diagrams

- Label endpoints of edge with cardinalities
  - Use * for arbitrary

- Typically realized with embedded references
- Can be directional (use arrows in that case)
Aggregation

• Show contains a relationships

• Station and Train classes can contain their respective buttons

• Denoted by open diamond on the “contains” side

More about Class Diagrams

• Classes vs Objects
  - Same diagrams can be used to specify relationships between instances of classes

• Roles and Association Classes
  - More detail on relationships between classes

• Hierarchical Diagrams

Generalization

• Inheritance between classes

• Denoted by open triangle

Sequence Diagrams

• A table
  - Columns are classes or actors
  - Rows are time steps
  - Entries show control/data flow
    • Method invocations
    • Important changes in state
Method invocation
Note: These are all synchronous method calls. There are other kinds of invocations.

Invocation lifetime spans lifetimes of all nested invocations

“Lifelines” fill in time between invocations
**Sequence Diagrams Notes**

- Sequence diagrams
  - Refine use cases
  - Gives view of dynamic behavior of classes
    - Class diagrams give the static class structure

- Not orthogonal to other diagrams
  - Overlapping functionality
  - True of all UML diagrams

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**Activity Diagrams**

- Reincarnation of flow charts
  - Uses flowchart symbols

- Emphasis on control-flow

- Two useful flowchart extensions
  - Hierarchy
    - A node may be an activity diagram
  - Swim lanes

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**Example Activity Diagram**

- Activities in rounded rectangles
- May itself be a nested activity diagram

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**Example Activity Diagram**

- Concurrency, fork & join

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**Example Activity Diagram**

Swim lanes show which classes/actors are responsible for which part of the diagram.

- Station
  - pushButton
- Train
  - addStop

**Another Example Activity Diagram**

Classic flow-chart if-then-else

- StopRequested?
  - yes: stopTrain
  - no: announceNoStop

**StateCharts**

- Hierarchical finite automata
  - Invented by David Harel, 1983
- Specify automata with many states compactly
- Complications in meaning of transitions
  - What it means to enter/exit a compound state

**Example Simple StateChart**

- Button
  - off
  - on
  - depart
  - push
**StateChart for the Train**

- A train can be
  - At a station (atA, atB)
  - Between stations (AtoB, BtoA)

- Pending requests are subset of \{A,B\}

- 16 possible states
  - Transitions: pushA, pushB, departA, departB, ...

**StateChart for Buttons + Train**

**Opinions about UML: What’s Good**

- A common language
  - Makes it easier to share requirements, specs, designs

- Visual syntax is useful, to a point
  - A picture is worth 1000 words
  - For the non-technical, easier to grasp simple diagrams than simple pseudo-code

- To the extent UML is precise, forces clarity
  - Much better than natural language

- Commercial tool support
  - Something natural language could never have
Opinions On UML: What's Bad

- Hodge-podge of ideas
  - Union of most popular modeling languages
  - Sublanguages remain largely unintegrated
- Visual syntax does not scale well
  - Many details are hard to depict visually
    - Ad hoc text attached to diagrams
  - No visualization advantage for large diagrams
  - 1000 pictures are very hard to understand
- Semantics is not completely clear
  - Some parts of UML underspecified, inconsistent
  - Plans to fix

UML is Happening

- UML is being widely adopted
  - By users
  - By tool vendors
  - By programmers
- A step forward
  - Seems useful
  - First standard for high-levels of software process
  - Expect further evolution, development of UML

Suggestions on using UML

- Requirements
  - Use Case Diagrams to illustrate use cases
  - Activity or Sequence Diagrams to illustrate typical flow within a use case (scenarios)
- Design
  - Class Diagram for system architecture

Presentations (Requirements)

- 20 minutes/presentation
  - Hard limit!
- Format
  - 15 minute presentation
  - 5 minutes Q&A
- Try to make your presentation useful
  - It is a plus to share negative experiences, perhaps with solutions
Presentation 1: Requirements: ~10 slides

1. Project name and name of speaker
2. What does it do?
   - Brief description of what project will do
3. Who are the customers?
   - List of customers you have contacted
   - Comments on each
4. What are the requirements?
   - Bulleted list, use cases
5. What are the problems?
   - What don’t you know how to solve yet?
   - HTML, PDF, or PowerPoint
   - Email to barrett@cs by 10am on the day of presentations.

Presentation 2: Design: ~10 slides, 20 min.

1. Project name and name of speaker
   - Different speaker than last time
2. How has the spec. changed
   - If nothing, say "none"
3. Design
4. Plan
   - Implementation and testing plan
5. What are the problems?
   - What don’t you know how to solve yet?
   - HTML, PDF, or Powerpoint
   - Email to barrett@cs by 10 a.m. on the day of the presentation

Presentations 3&4: Testing, Final Report

1. Different speakers (so everyone gets a chance)
2. More information on these coming later