



Chapter 5 – System Modeling

Topics covered



- ✧ Context models
- ✧ Interaction models
- ✧ Structural models
- ✧ Behavioral models

System modeling



✧ System modeling

- Developing abstract models of a system
- Each model presenting a different view or perspective of that system.
- Almost always based on notations in the Unified Modeling Language (UML).

✧ Usage

- Helps analysts to understand the functionality of the system
- Are used to communicate with customers

Existing and planned system models



✧ Models of the existing system

- Used during requirements engineering
- They help clarify what the existing system does
- Can be used as a basis for discussing its strengths and weaknesses
- May lead to requirements for a new system

✧ Models of the new system

- Used during requirements engineering to help explain the proposed requirements to other system stakeholders
- Engineers use these models to discuss design proposals
- Document the system for implementation

System perspectives



✧ An external perspective

- where you model the **context or environment** of the system.

✧ An interaction perspective

- where you model the **interactions between a system and its environment**, or **between the components** of a system.

✧ A structural perspective

- where you model the **organization of a system**
- or the **structure of the data** that is processed by the system

✧ A behavioral perspective

- where you model the **dynamic behavior** of the system
- and how it responds to events.

UML diagram types



✧ Activity diagrams

- show the **activities involved in a process** or in data processing

✧ Use case diagrams

- show the interactions between a **system and its environment**

✧ Sequence diagrams

- show interactions between **actors and the system** and between **system components**.

UML diagram types



✧ Class diagrams

- show the object **classes** in the system and the **associations** between these classes.

✧ State diagrams

- show how the **system reacts** to internal and external **events**

Use of graphical models



- ✧ As a means of **facilitating discussion** about an existing or proposed system
 - Incomplete and incorrect models are OK as their role is to support discussion.
- ✧ As a way of **documenting** an existing system
 - Models should be an accurate representation of the system but need not be complete.
- ✧ As a **detailed system description** that can be used to generate a system implementation
 - Models have to be both correct and complete.

Context models

Context models



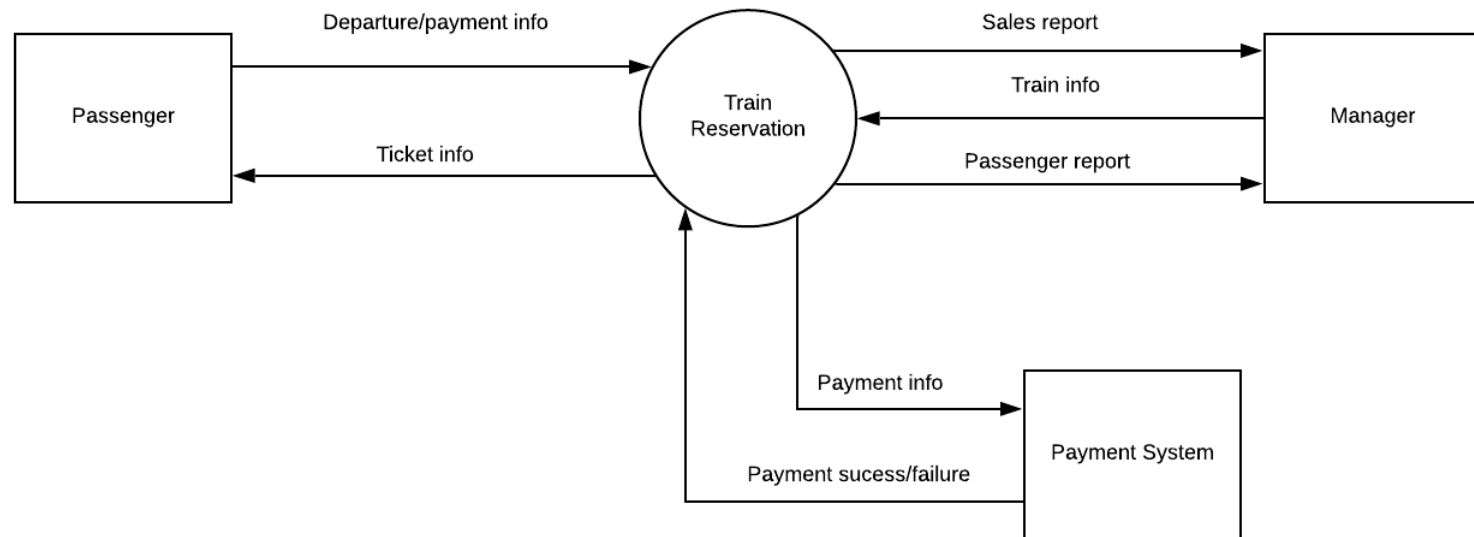
- ✧ Context models are used to **illustrate the operational context of a system** - they show **what lies outside** the system boundaries.
- ✧ Social and organisational concerns may affect the decision on where to position system boundaries.
- ✧ Architectural models show the system and its relationship with other systems.

System boundaries

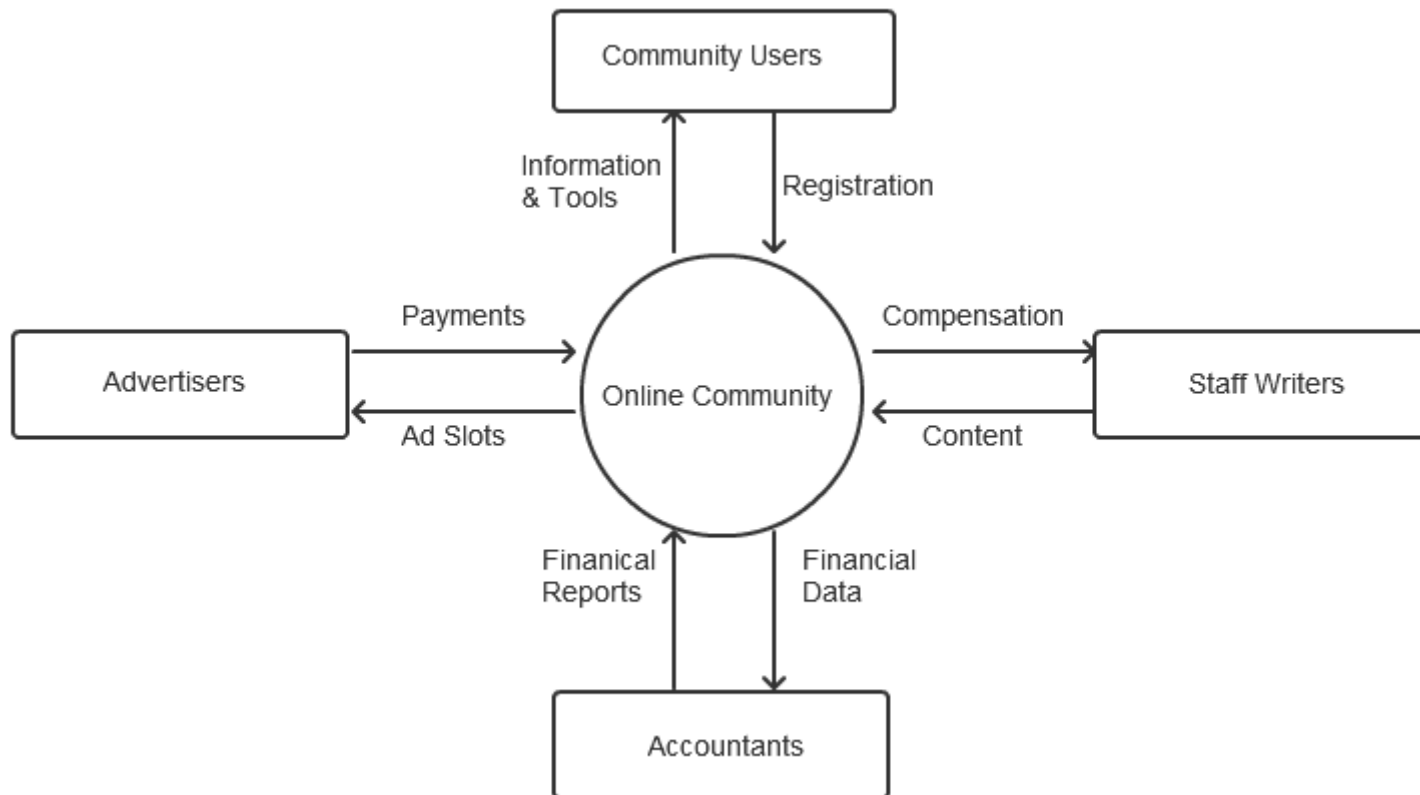


- ✧ **System boundaries** are established to define **what is inside and what is outside** the system.
 - They show other systems that are used or depend on the system being developed.
- ✧ The position of the system boundary has a **profound effect on the system requirements**.
- ✧ Defining a system boundary is a **political judgment**
 - There may be pressures to develop system boundaries that increase / decrease the influence or workload of different parts of an organization.

Data Flow Diagram (Level 0 – Context-level DFD)

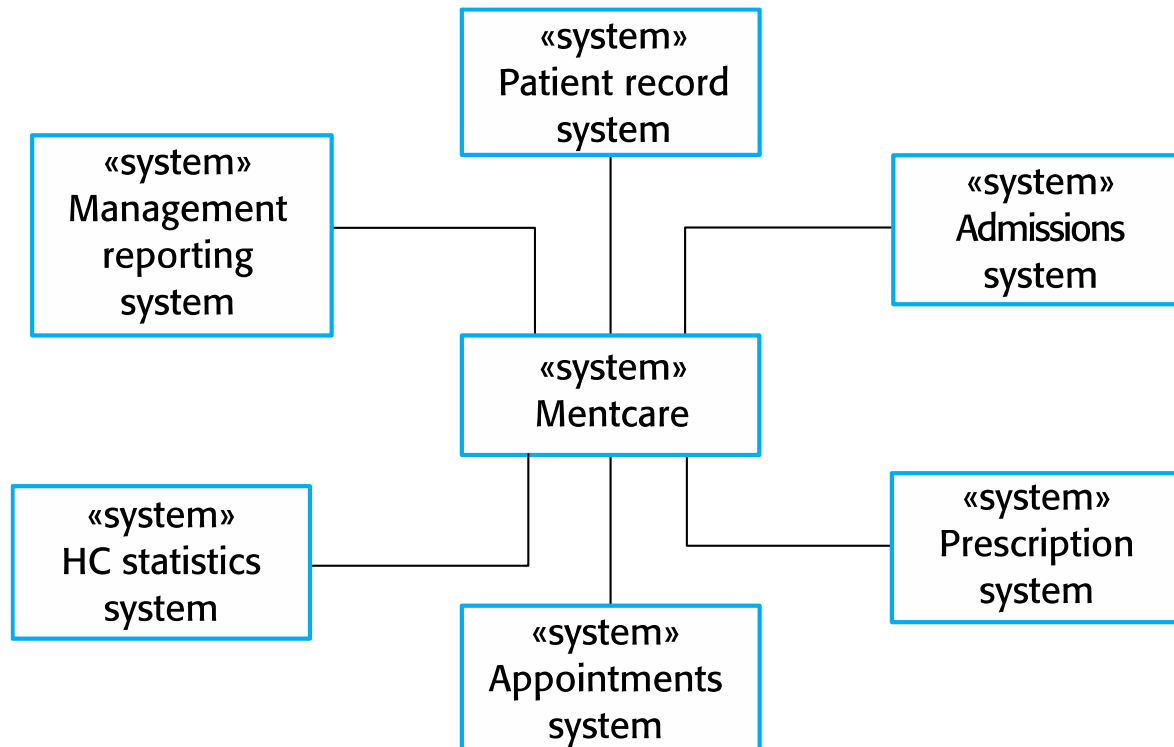


Data Flow Diagram (Level 0 – Context-level DFD)



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The context of the Mentcare system

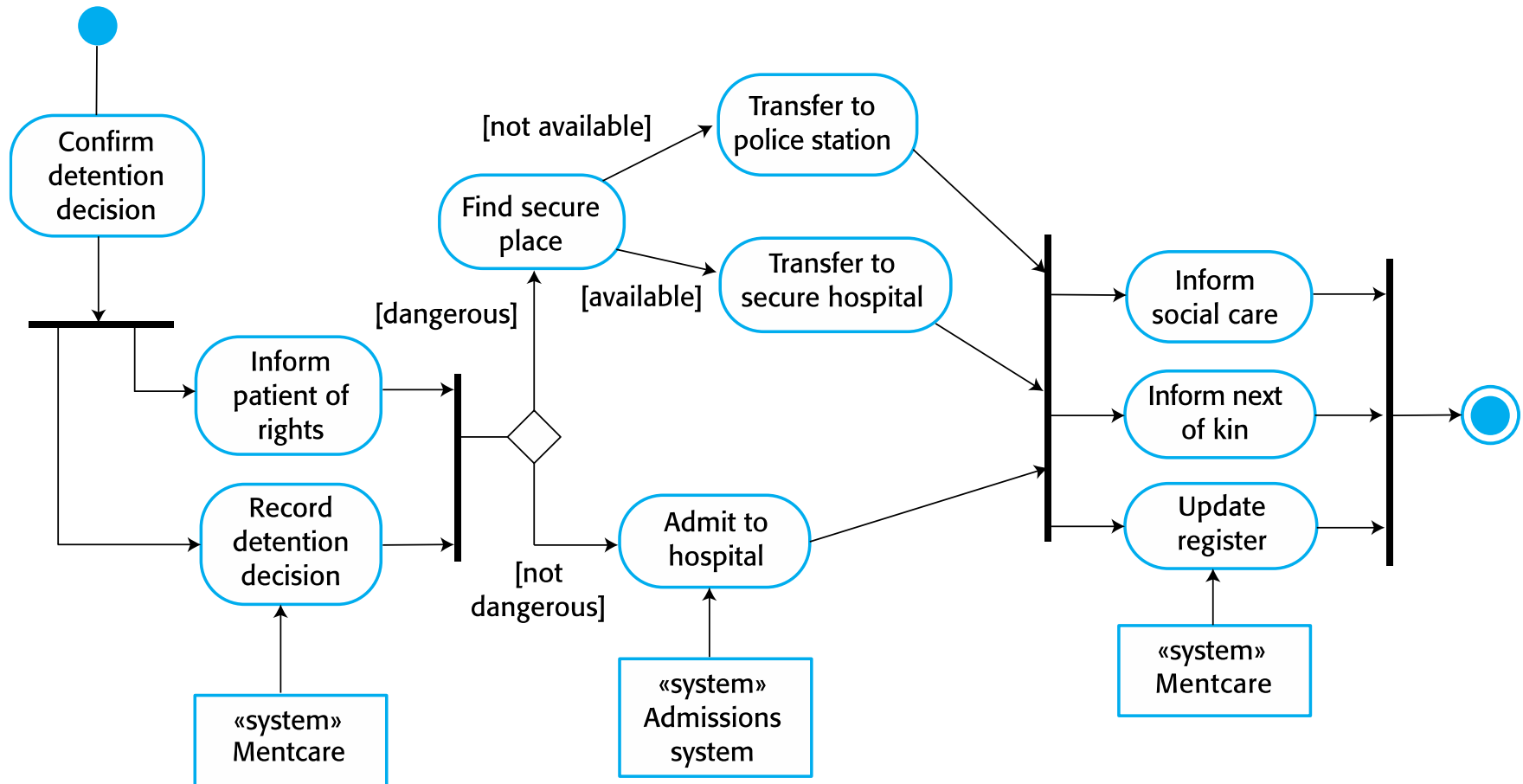


Process perspective





- ✧ Context models simply **show the other systems in the environment**
 - Not how the system being developed is used in that environment.
- ✧ **Process models** reveal **how the system being developed is used** in broader business processes.
- ✧ UML **activity diagrams** may be used to define business process models.

Process model of involuntary detention

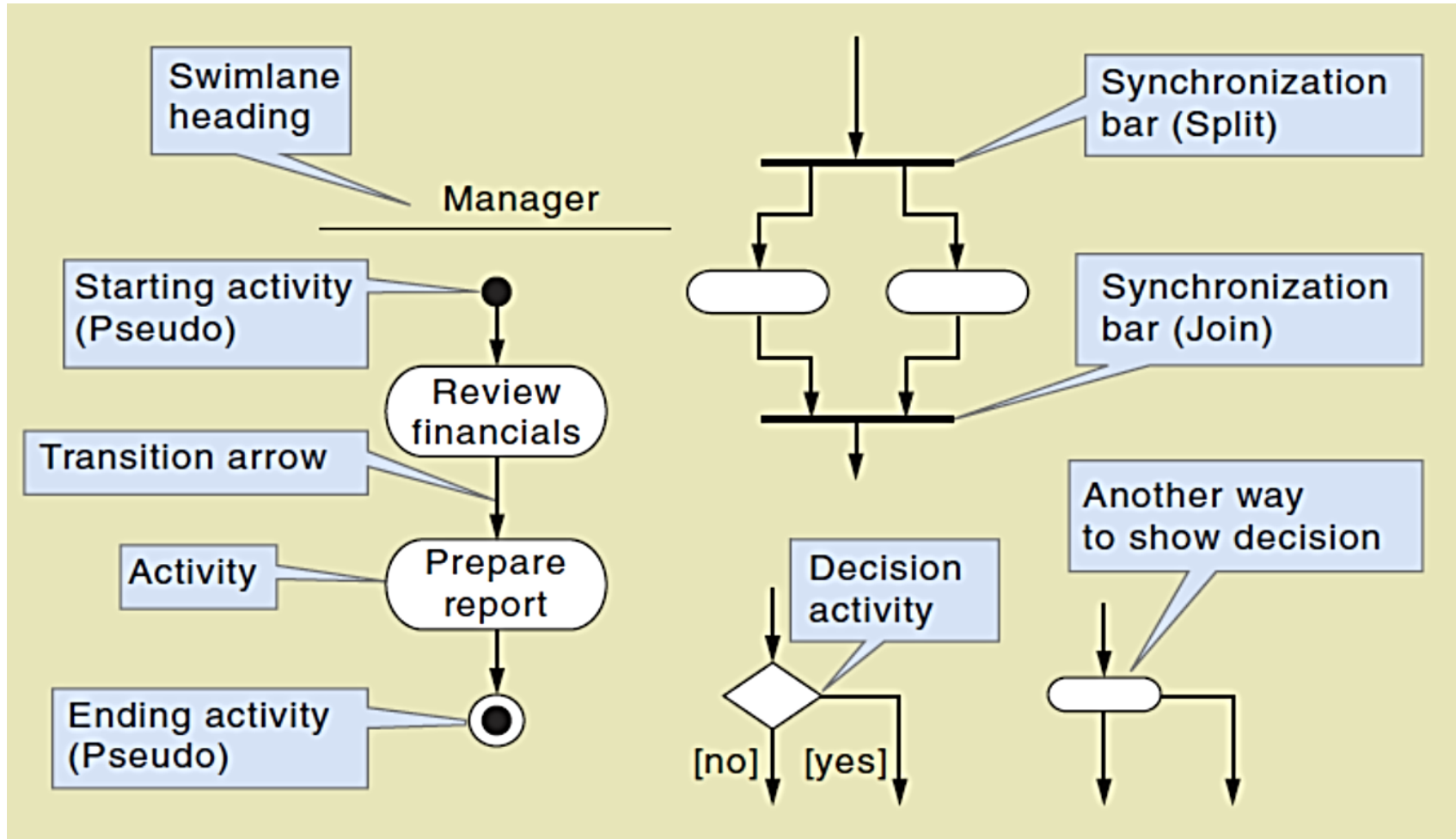


Activity diagram



- Activities that make up a system process
- Starts with 
- Ends with 
- Rounded rectangles show activities
- Arrows represent the flow of work
- Solid bar is used to indicate activity coordination (synchronization)
 - Fork (split) and Join

Activity Diagram Symbols

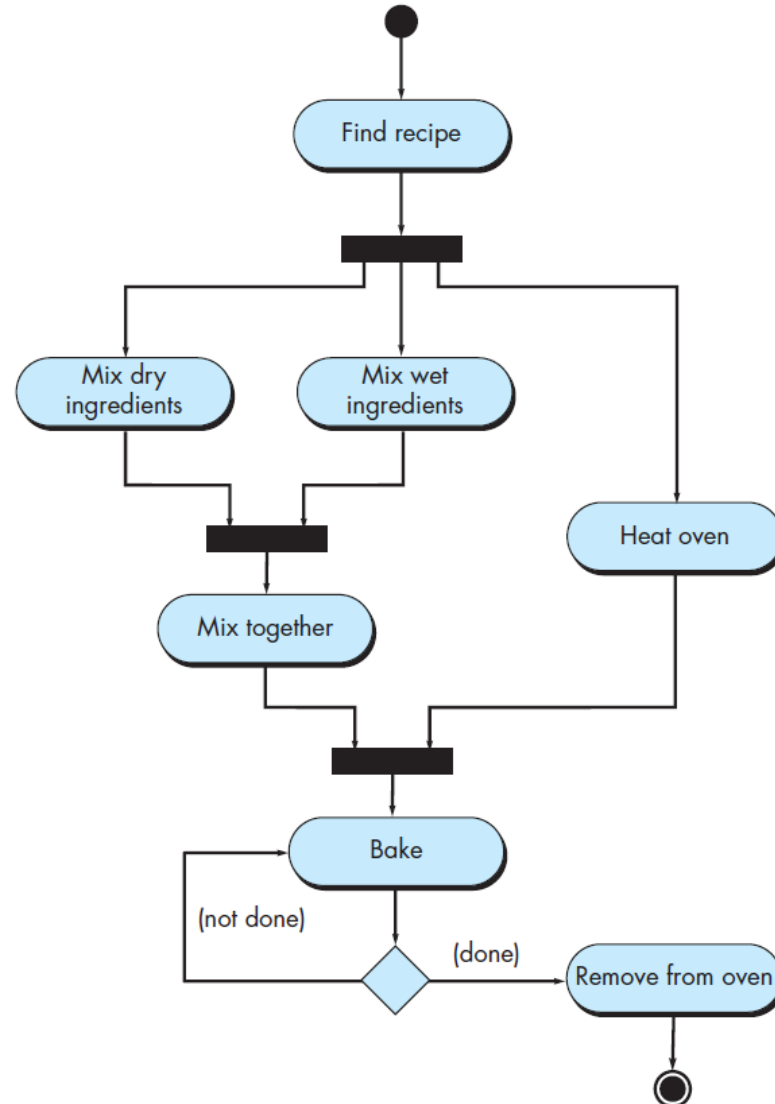


Activity diagram



- Draw the activity diagram of coming to school in the morning
- From wake up time until you arrive to the school
- Consider parallel activities, conditions

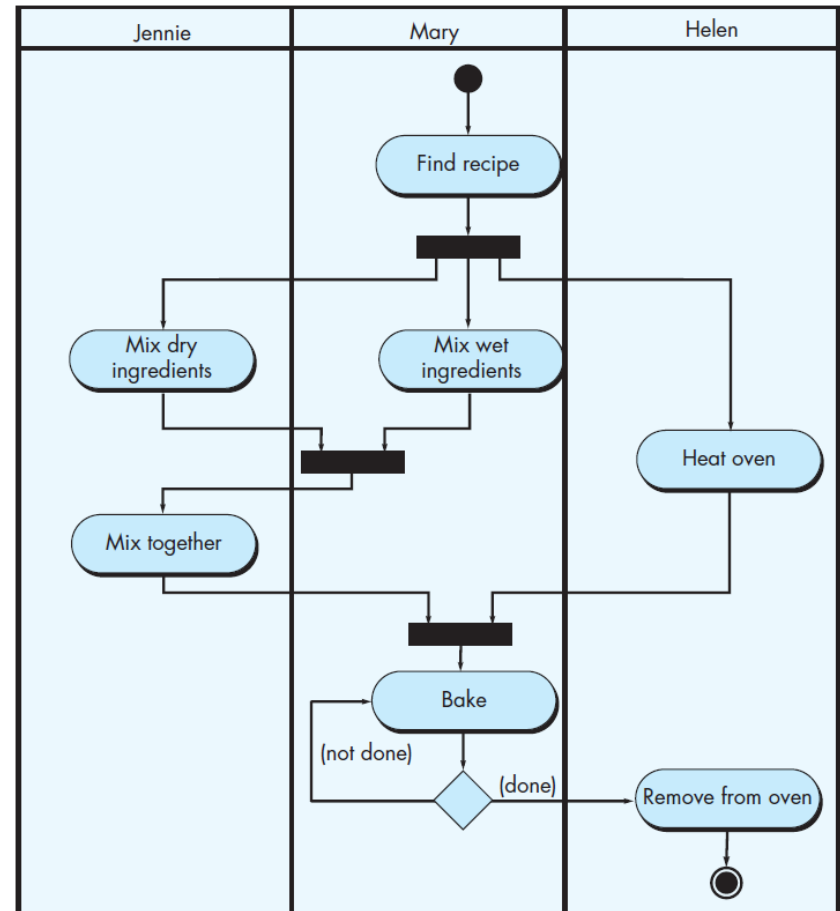
Activity diagram - another example

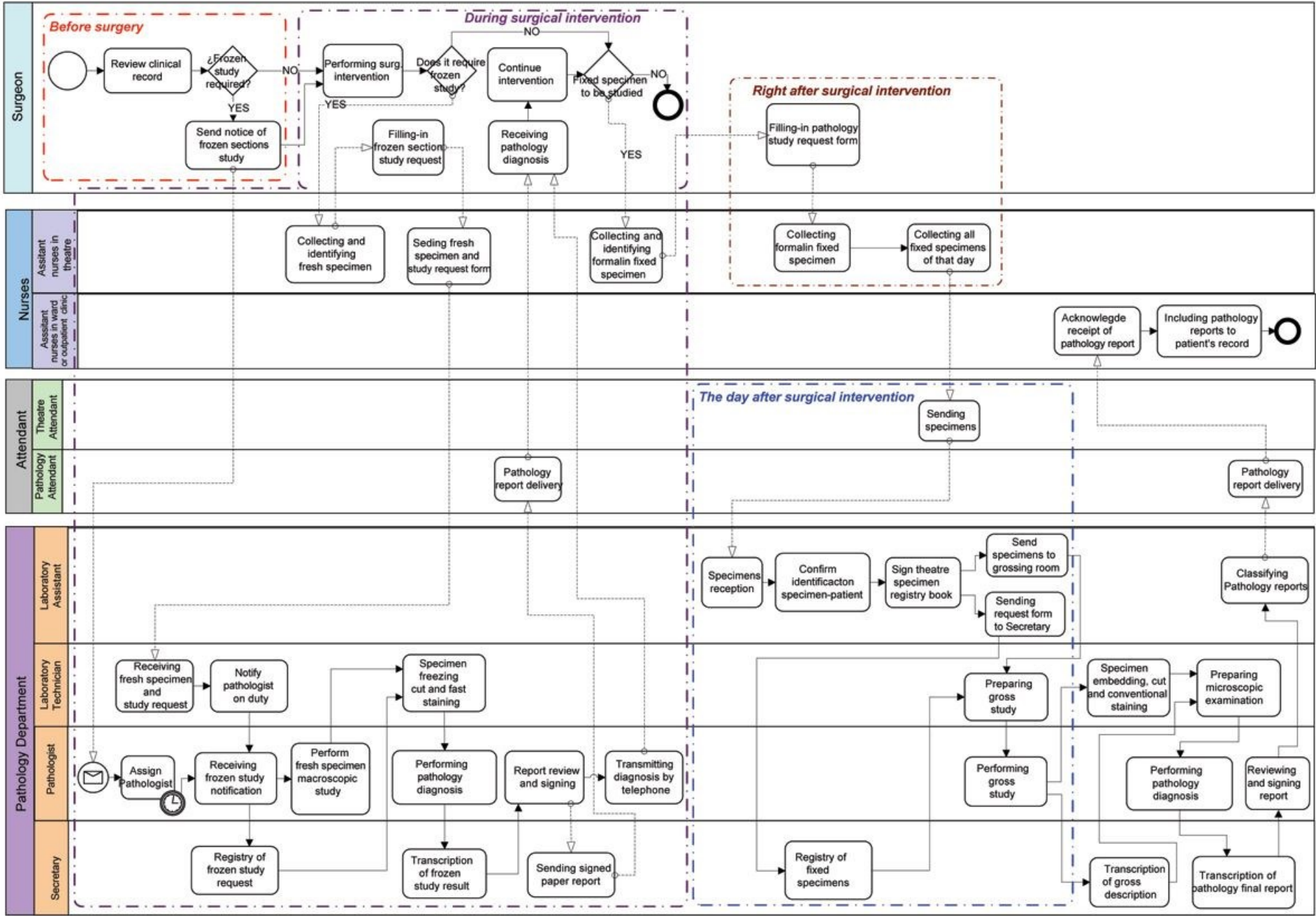


Activity diagram - swimlanes



- Allows to show who or what is responsible for each action
- Each individual/thing has its own lane





Interaction models

Interaction models



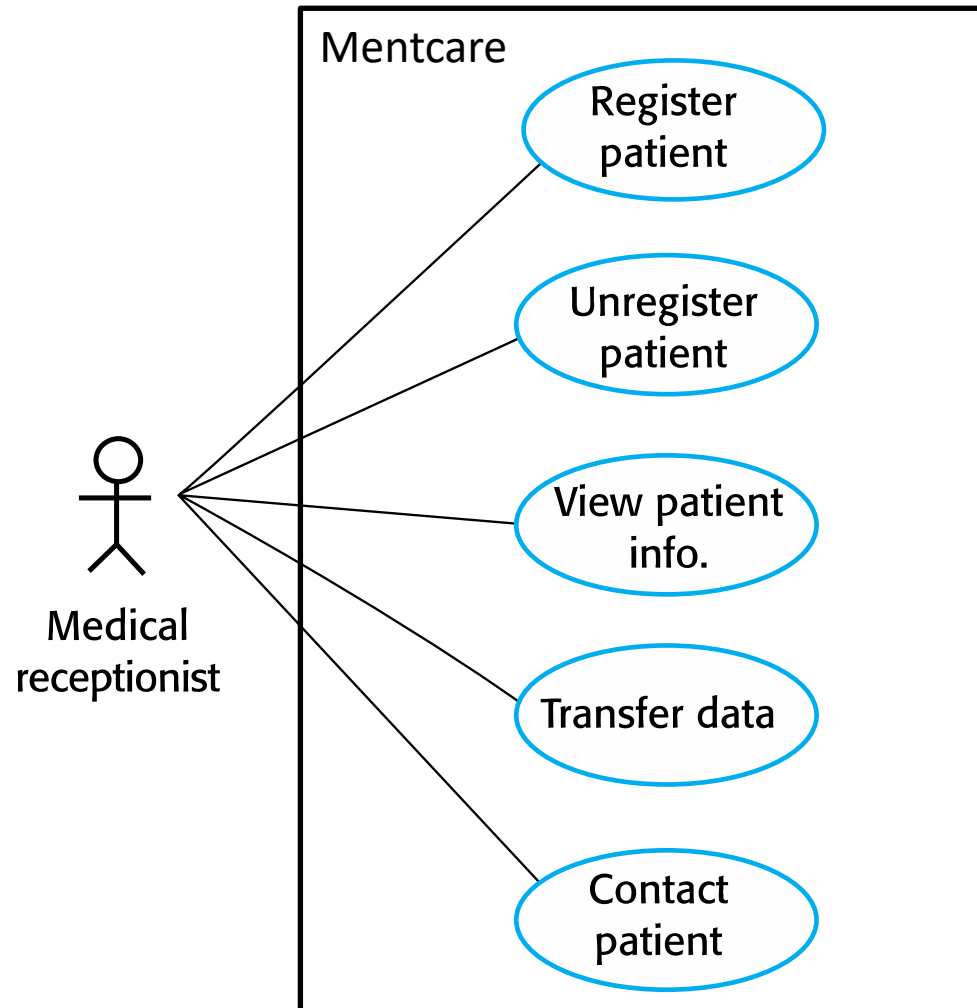
- ✧ Modeling **user** interaction is important as it helps to identify **user requirements**.
- ✧ Modeling **system-to-system** interaction **highlights the communication problems that may arise**.
- ✧ Modeling **component interaction** helps us understand if a proposed system structure is likely to deliver the required **system performance and dependability**.
- ✧ **Use case diagrams and sequence diagrams** may be used for interaction modelling.

Use case modeling



- ✧ Use cases were developed originally to **support requirements elicitation** and now incorporated into the UML.
- ✧ Each use case represents a discrete task that involves **external interaction with a system**.
- ✧ Actors in a use case may be **people** or other **systems**.
- ✧ Represented diagrammatically to provide an overview of the use case and in a **more detailed textual form**.

Use cases in the Mentcare system involving the role 'Medical Receptionist'



Example



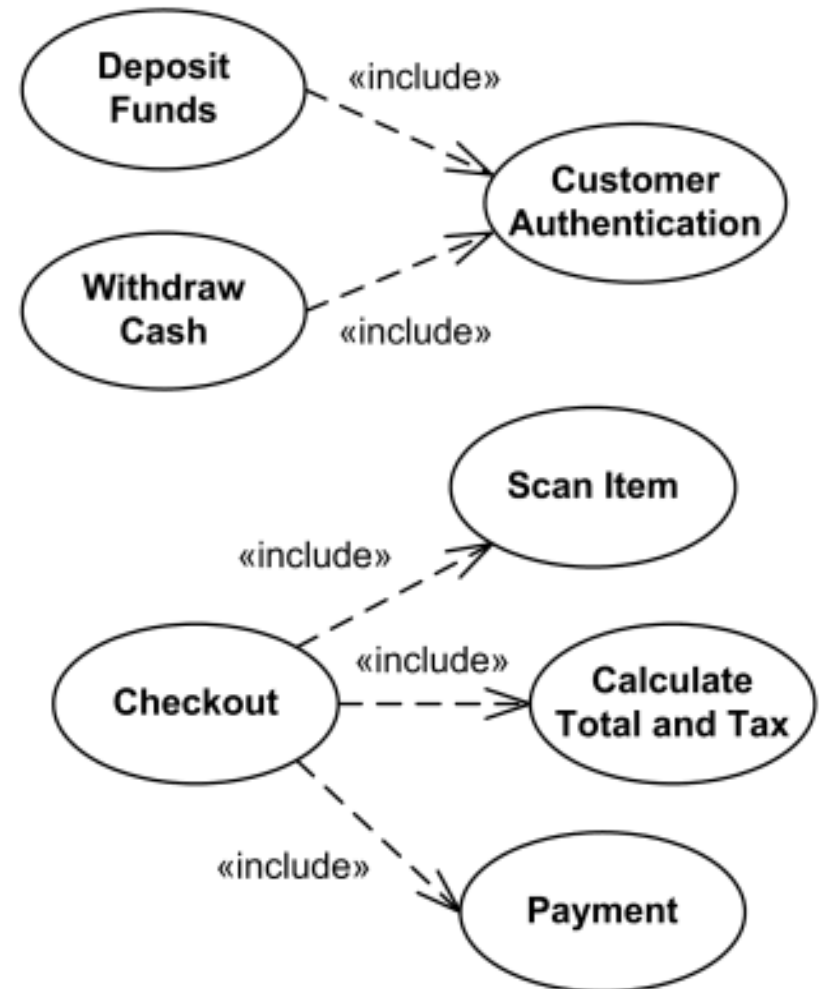
- ✧ Draw a use case diagram for a simple ATM
- ✧ Include use cases such as:
 - Withdraw
 - Deposit
 - Transfer
 - User authentication
- ✧ Who are the actors?
 - Include two actors

Include relationship



✧ Use:

- when there are **common parts** of the behavior of two or more use cases,
- to simplify large use case by splitting it into several use cases.



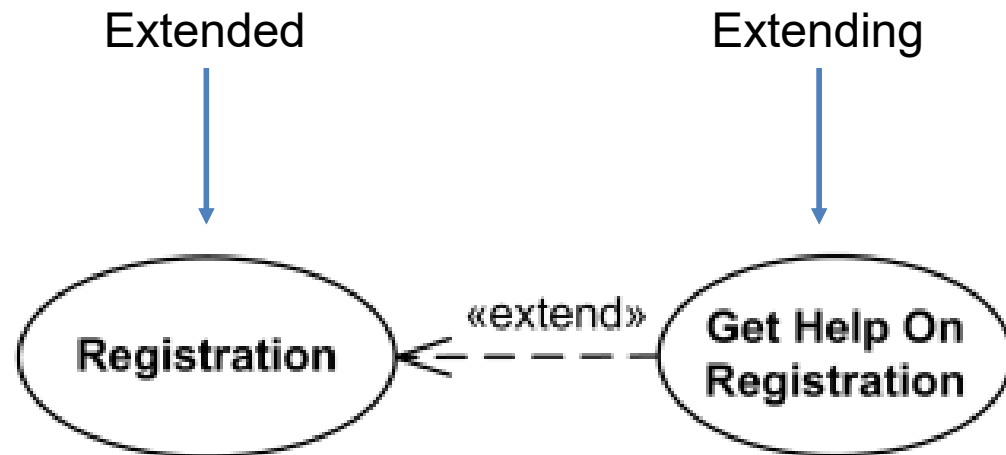
Extend relationship



✧ **Extended** use case is meaningful on its own

- it is **independent** of the extending use case.

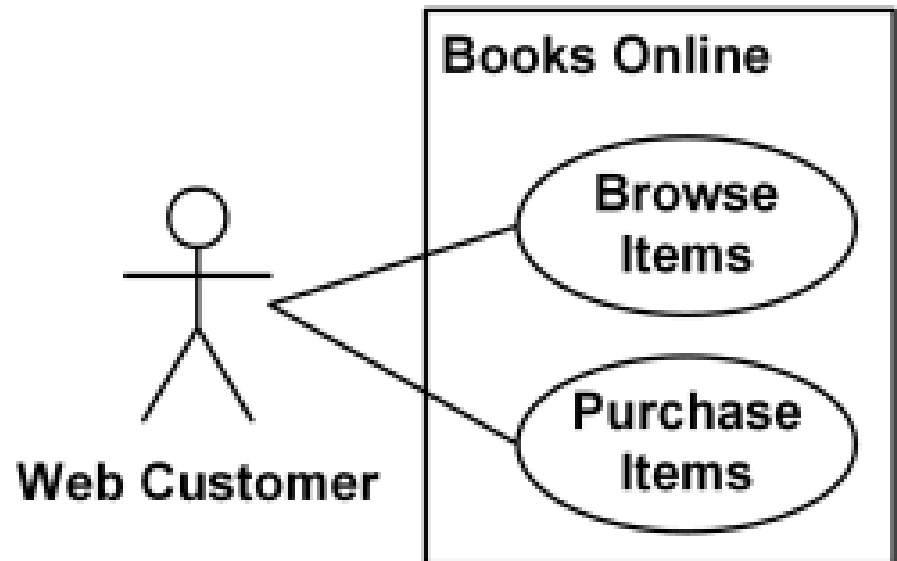
✧ **Extending** use case typically defines **optional** behavior that is not necessarily meaningful by itself.



Subject – system boundary



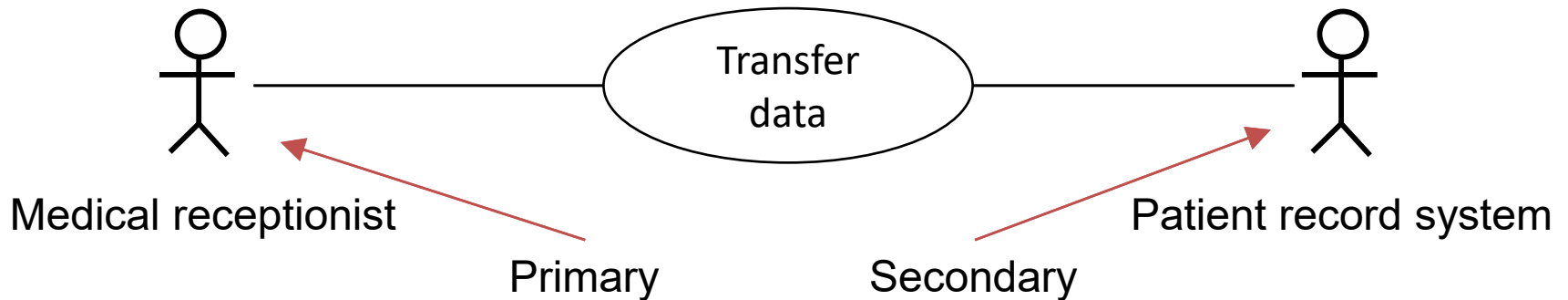
- ✧ **System** is presented by a rectangle with its name in upper corner
- ✧ **Use cases** inside the rectangle and **actors** - outside of the system boundaries.



Transfer data use case



✧ A use case in the Mentcare system



✧ Use case diagram gives high level overview of interactions

✧ Details can be provided as

- text (read Ch. 9 of UML distilled), table (forms), sequence diagram

Tabular description of the 'Transfer data' use-case



MHC-PMS: Transfer data

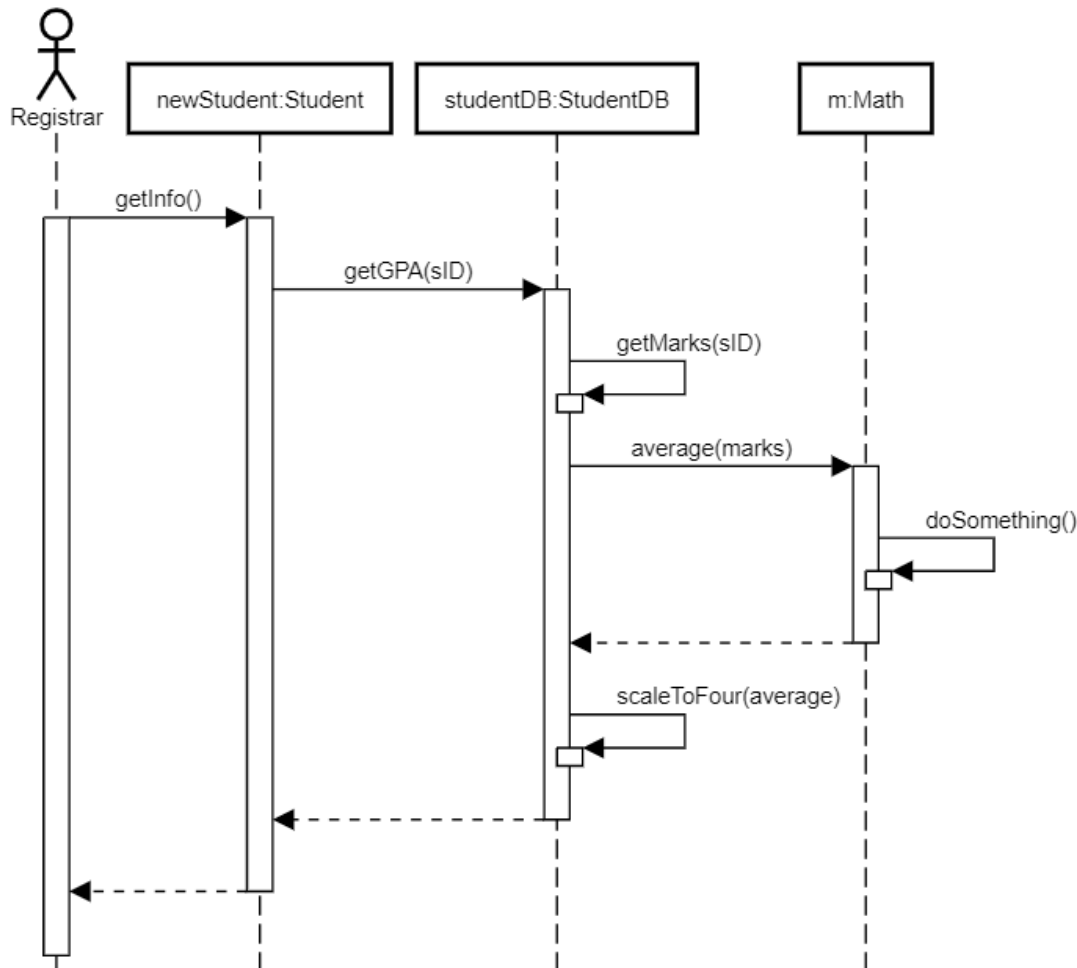
Actors	Medical receptionist, patient records system (PRS)
Description	A receptionist may transfer data from the Mentcase system to a general patient record database that is maintained by a health authority. The information transferred may either be updated personal information (address, phone number, etc.) or a summary of the patient's diagnosis and treatment.
Data	Patient's personal information, treatment summary
Stimulus	User command issued by medical receptionist
Response	Confirmation that PRS has been updated
Comments	The receptionist must have appropriate security permissions to access the patient information and the PRS.

Sequence diagrams



- ✧ Sequence diagrams are part of the UML and are used to model the interactions **between the actors and the objects within a system.**
- ✧ A sequence diagram shows the **sequence of interactions** that take place during a particular **use case or use case instance.**
- ✧ The objects and actors involved are listed **along the top** of the diagram, with a dotted line (known as life line) drawn vertically from these.
- ✧ Interactions between objects are indicated by **annotated arrows.**

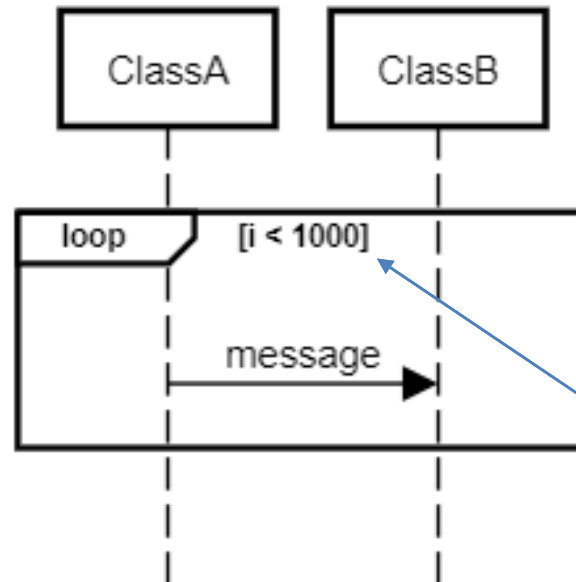
An example



actor Registrar
 participant "newStudent:Student" as student
 participant "studentDB:StudentDB" as DB
 participant "m:Math" as Math
 participant student
 participant DB
 participant Math

Registrar->>student: getInfo()
 activate Registrar
 activate student
 student->>DB: getGPA(sID)
 activate DB
 DB->>DB: getMarks(sID)
 activate DB
 deactivateafter DB
 DB->>Math: average(marks)
 activate Math
 Math->>Math: doSomething()
 activate Math
 deactivateafter Math
 Math-->>DB:
 deactivate Math
 DB->>DB: scaleToFour(average)
 activate DB
 deactivateafter DB
 DB-->>student:
 deactivate DB
 student-->>Registrar:
 deactivate student

Loop



Interaction frame

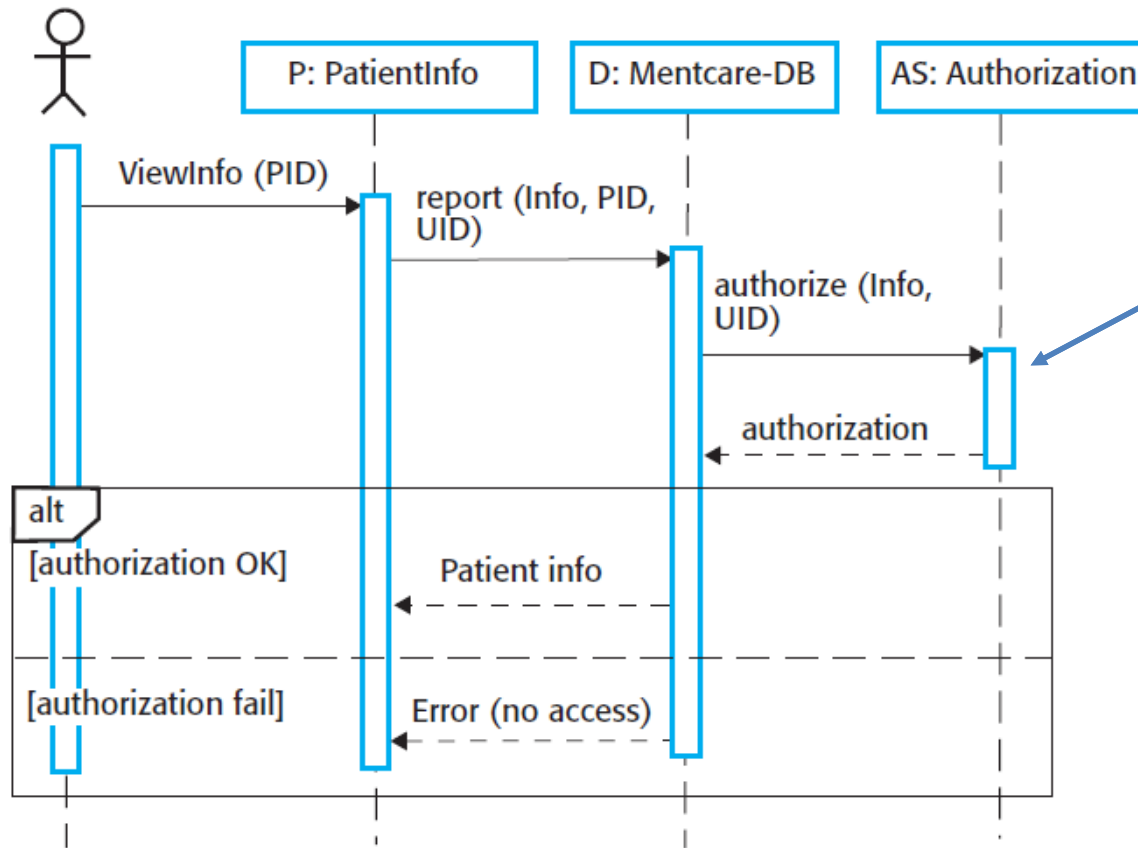
Guard

<https://sequencediagram.org/>

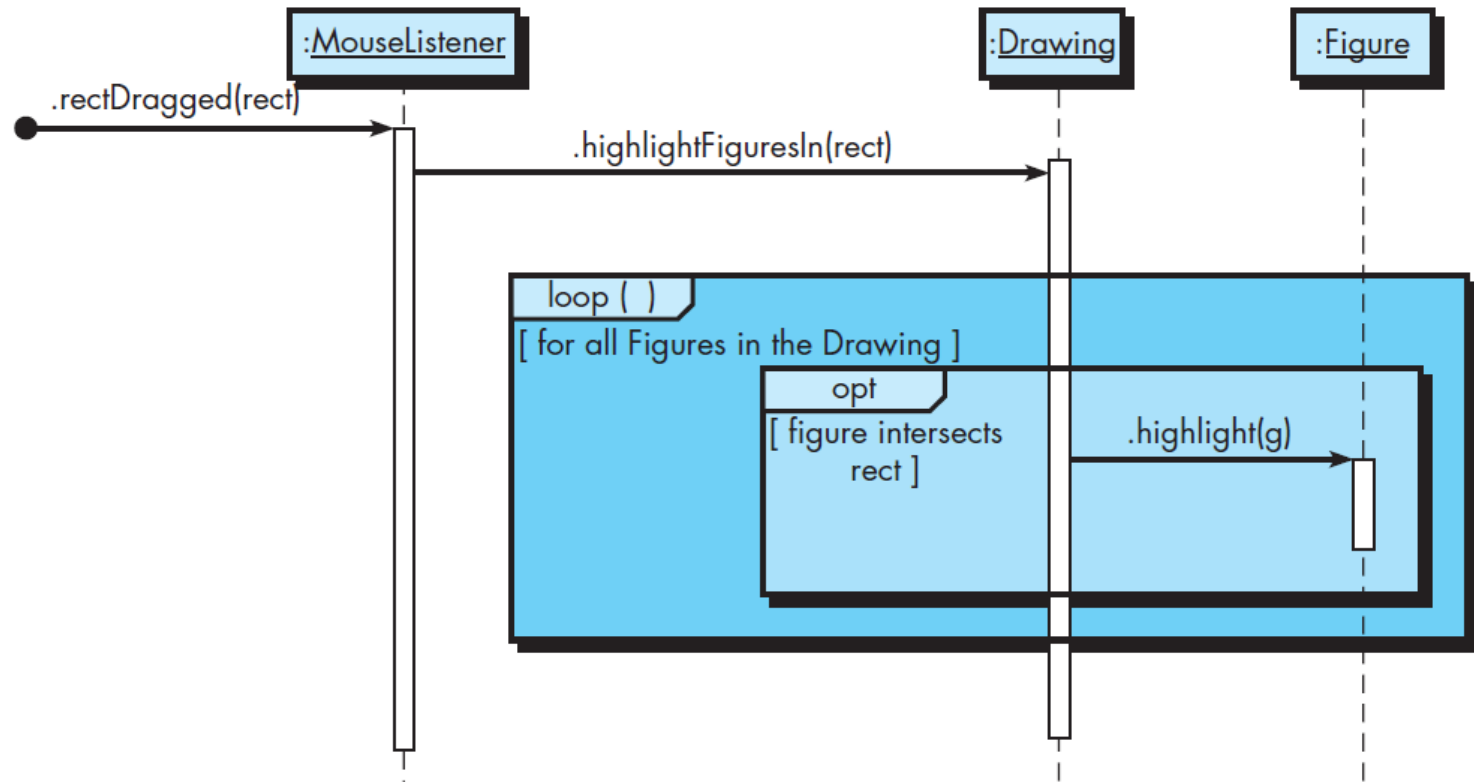
Sequence diagram for View patient information

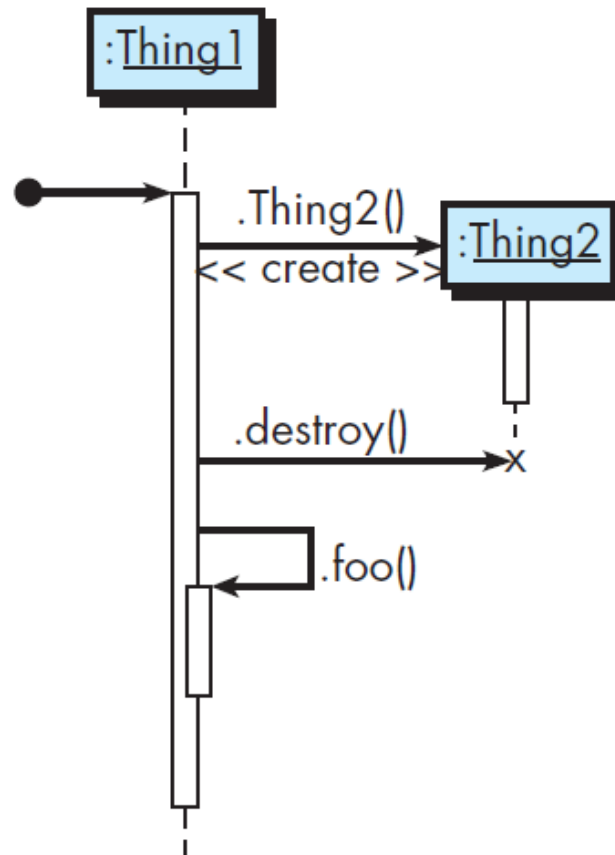


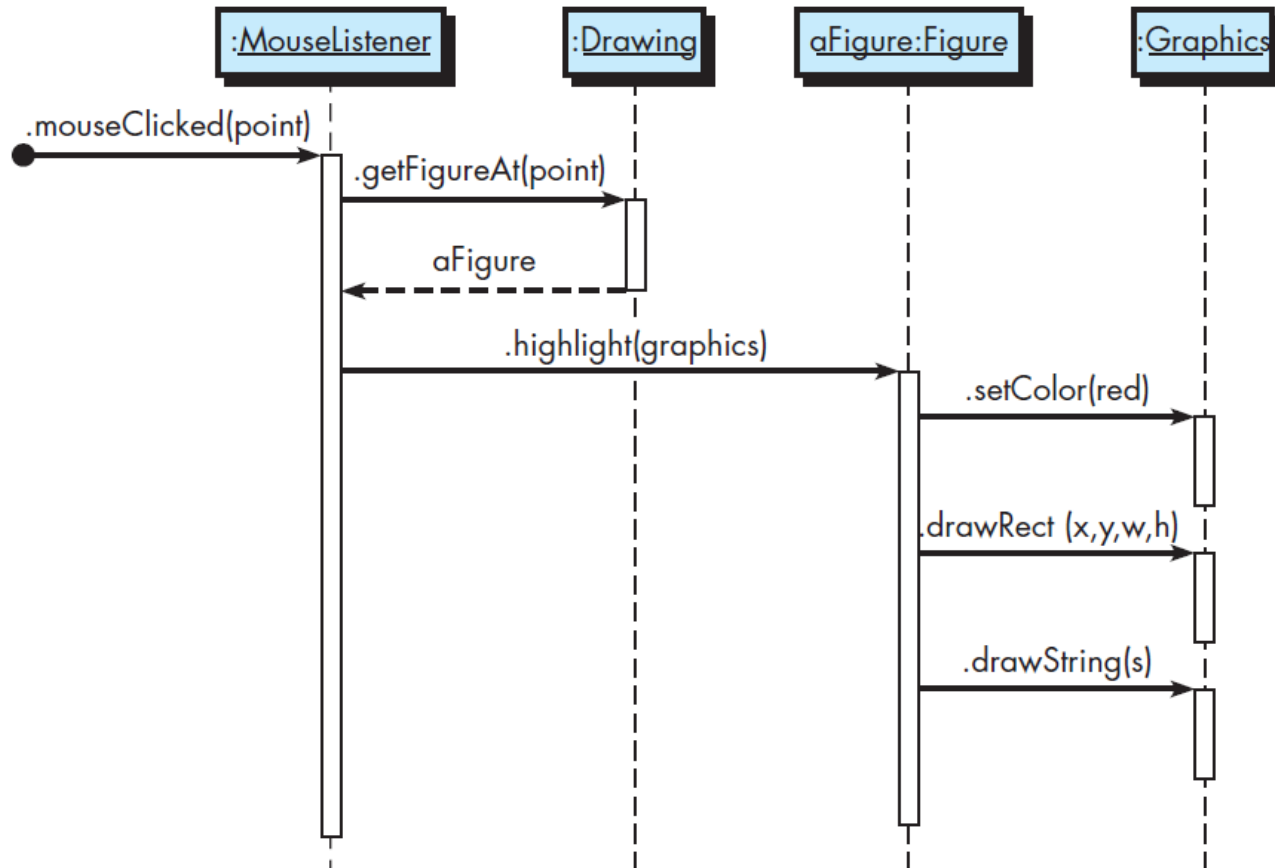
Medical Receptionist

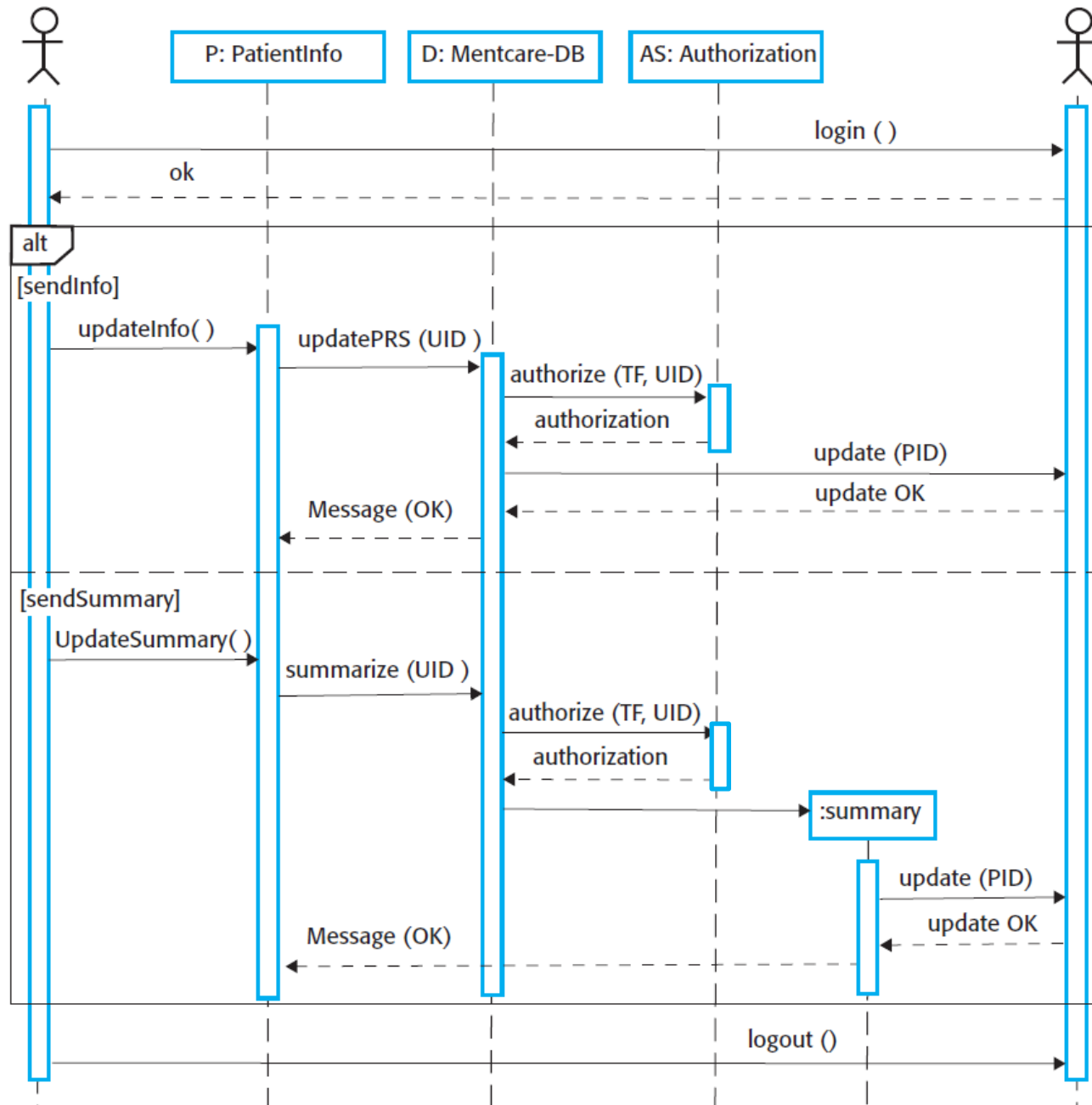


Activation bar









Sequence diagram for Transfer Data



Structural models

Structural models



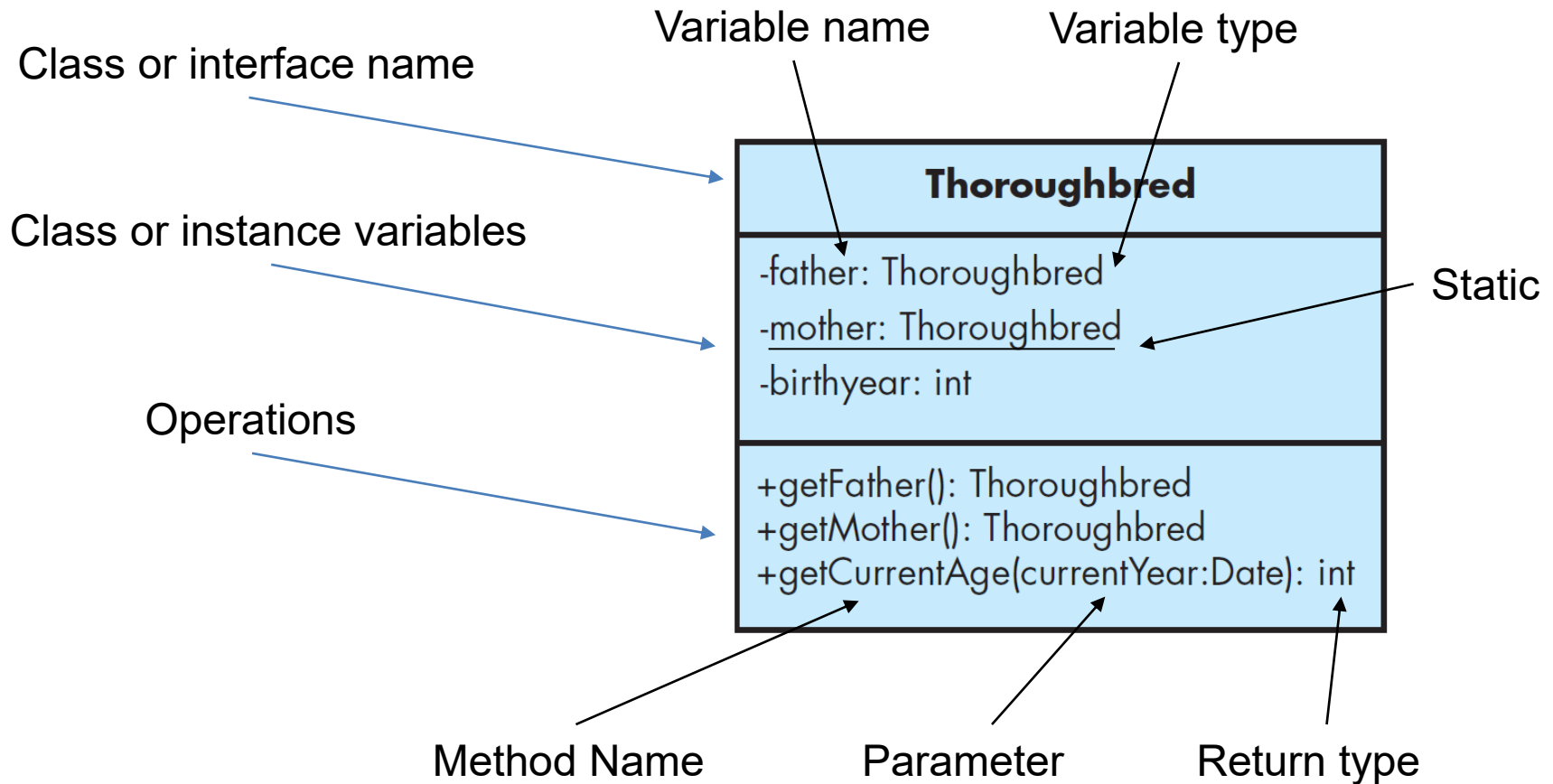
- ✧ Structural models of software display the **organization** of a system in terms of the **components** that make up that system and their **relationships**.
- ✧ Structural models may be **static** models, which show the structure of the system design, or **dynamic** models, which show the organization of the system when it is executing.
- ✧ Structural models are useful in **discussing** and **designing the system architecture**.

Class diagrams

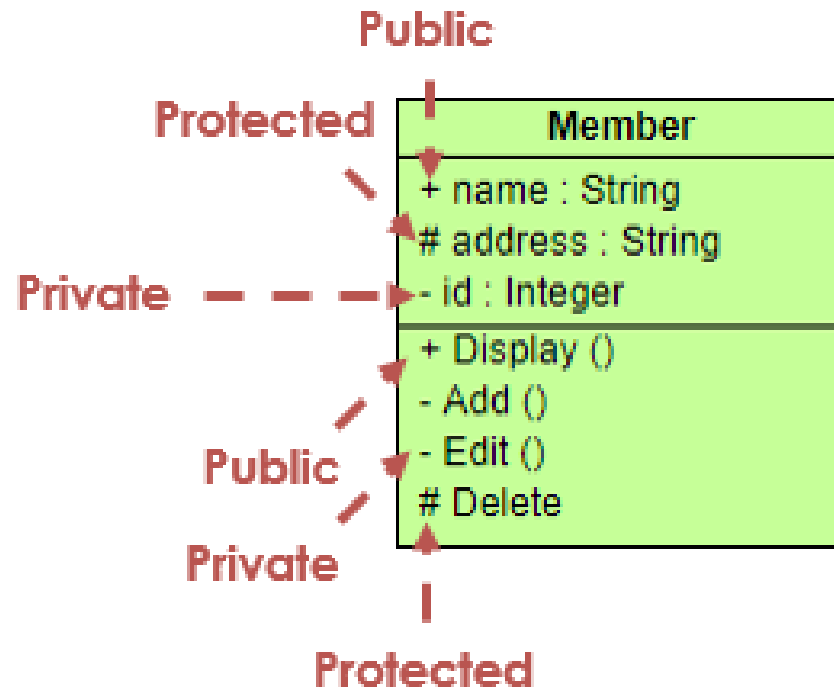


- ✧ Used when developing an **object-oriented system model** to show the **classes** in a system and the **associations** between these classes.
- ✧ An object **class** can be thought of as a **general definition of one kind** of system object.
- ✧ An **association** is a link between classes that indicates that there is some **relationship** between these classes.
- ✧ In early stage models of the software engineering process, objects **represent something in the real world**, such as a patient, a prescription, doctor, etc.

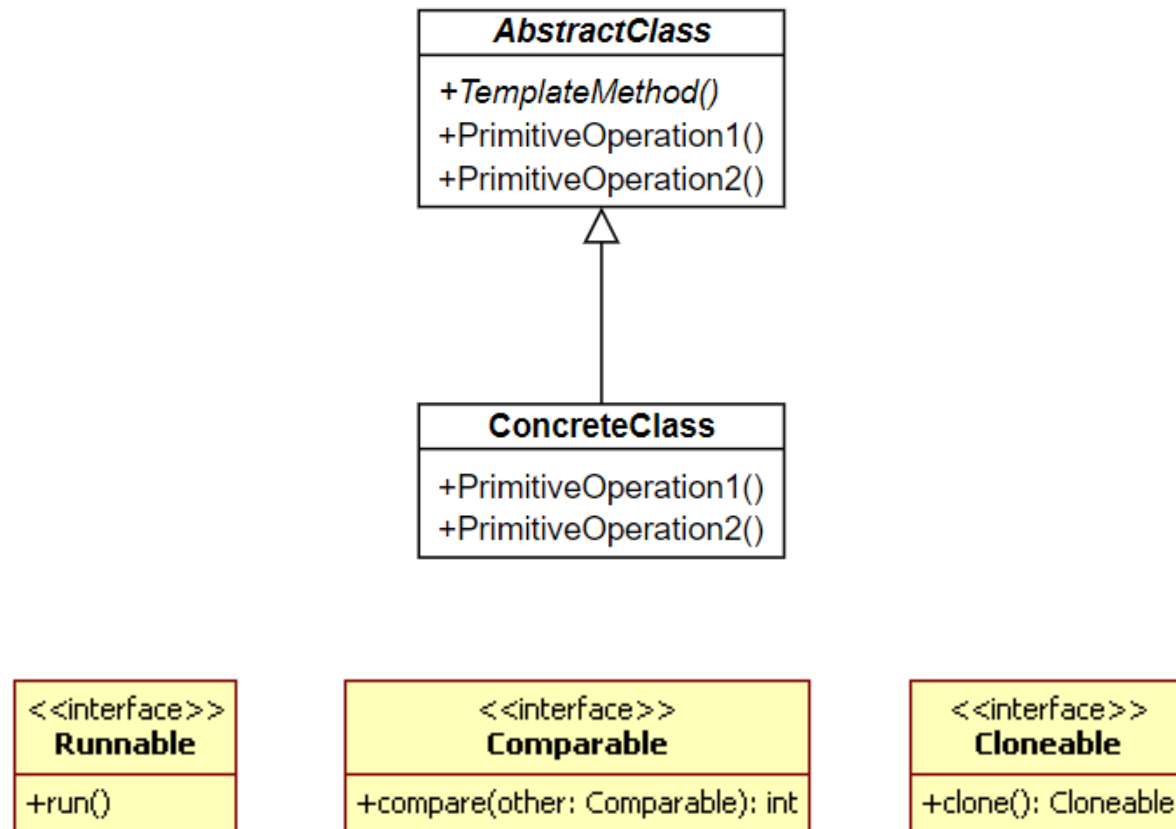
UML class diagram



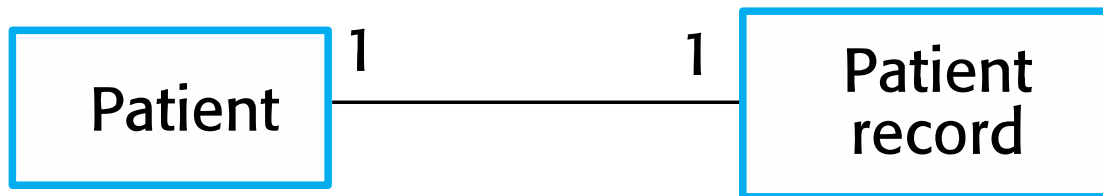
Visibility



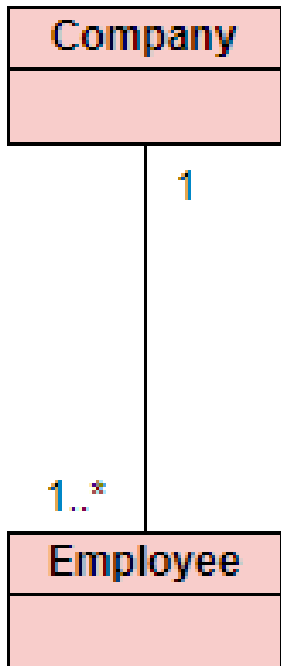
Abstract class and interface



UML classes and association

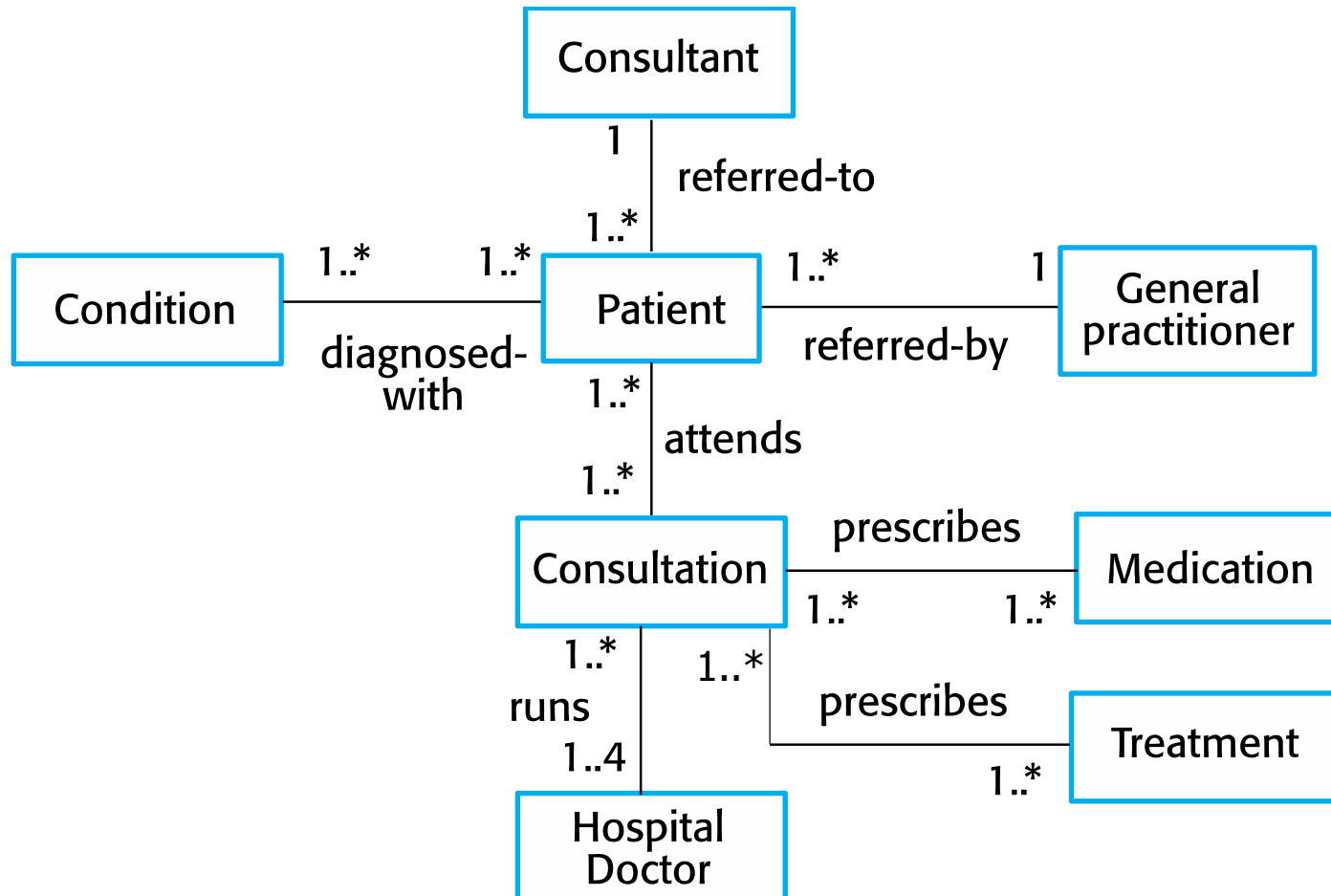


Multiplicity

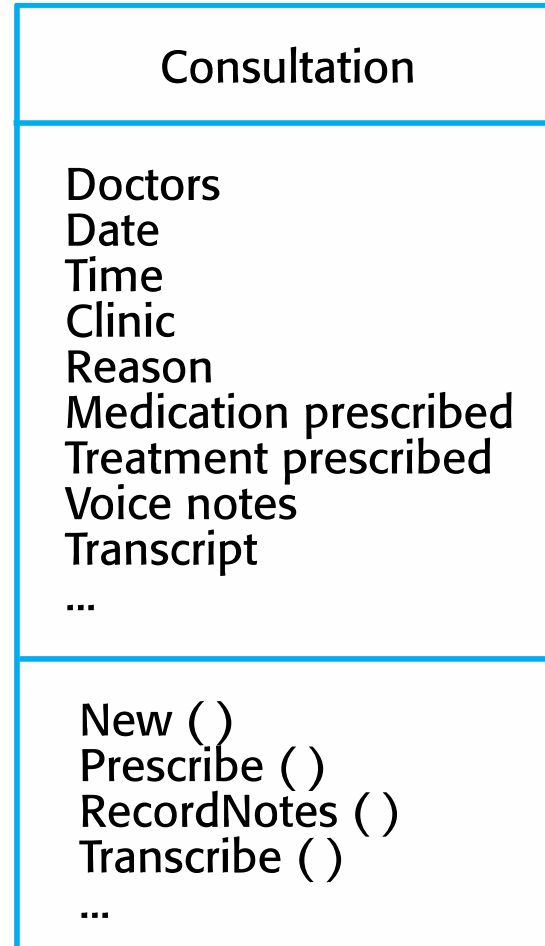


Multiplicity	Option	Cardinality
0..0	0	Collection must be empty
0..1		No instances or one instance
1..1	1	Exactly one instance
0..*	*	Zero or more instances
1..*		At least one instance
5..5	5	Exactly 5 instances
m..n		At least m but no more than n instances

Classes and associations in the MHC-PMS



The Consultation class



Generalization



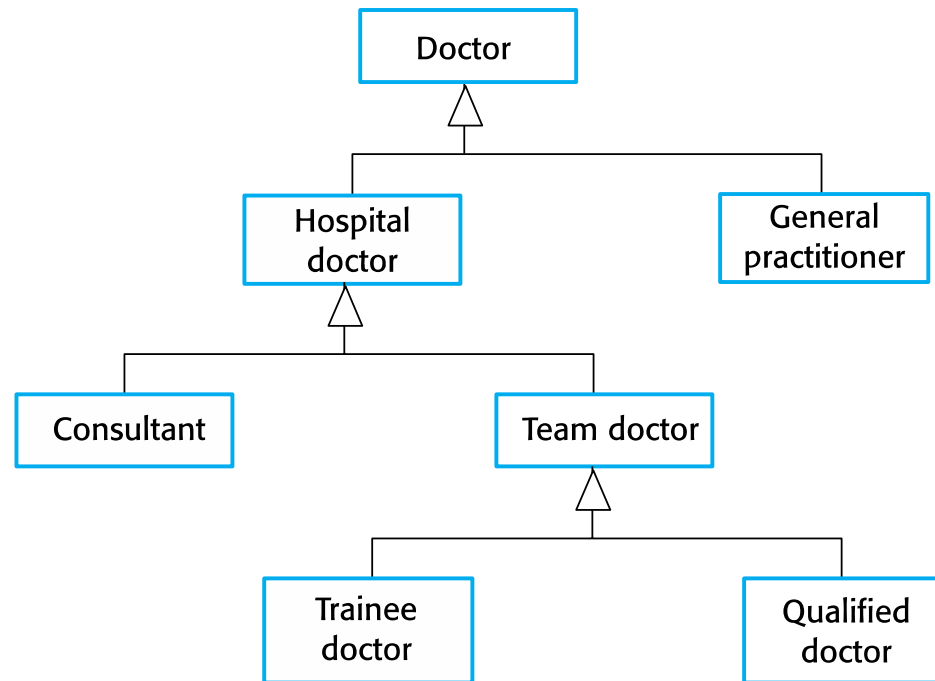
- ✧ Generalization is an everyday technique that we use to **manage complexity**.
- ✧ Rather than learn the detailed characteristics of every entity that we experience, we **place these entities in more general classes** (animals, cars, houses, etc.) and learn the characteristics of these classes.
- ✧ This allows us to infer that different members of these classes have some **common characteristics** e.g. squirrels and rats are rodents.

Generalization

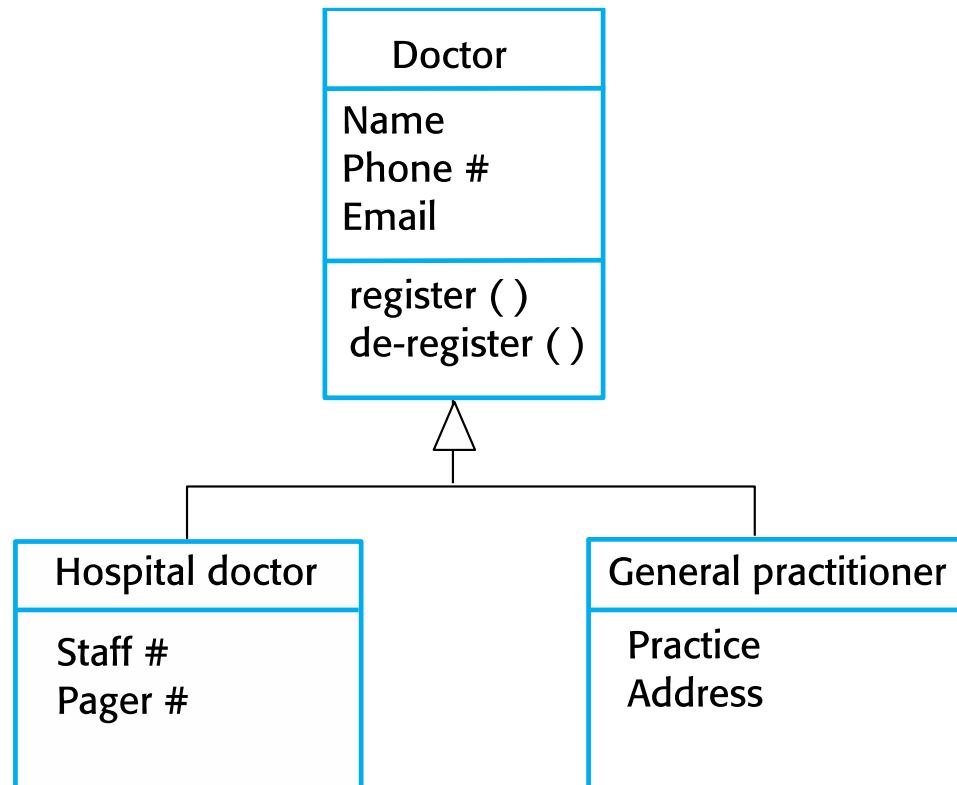


- ✧ In modeling systems, it is often useful to **examine the classes** in a system to see if there is **scope for generalization**.
 - If changes are proposed, then you do not have to look at all classes in the system to see if they are affected by the change.
- ✧ In **object-oriented languages**, such as **Java**, generalization is implemented using the class inheritance mechanisms built into the language.
- ✧ In a generalization, the **attributes and operations** associated with higher-level classes are also associated with the lower-level classes.
- ✧ The lower-level classes are **subclasses inherit** the attributes and operations **from their superclasses**. These lower-level classes then add more specific attributes and operations.

A generalization hierarchy



A generalization hierarchy with added detail

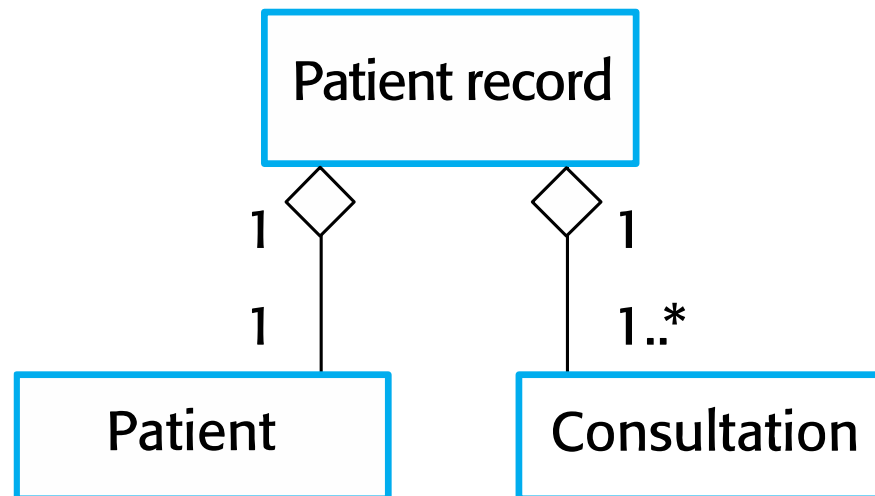


Object class aggregation models



- ✧ An aggregation model shows how **classes that are collections** are composed of other classes.
- ✧ Aggregation models are similar to the **part-of relationship** in semantic data models.

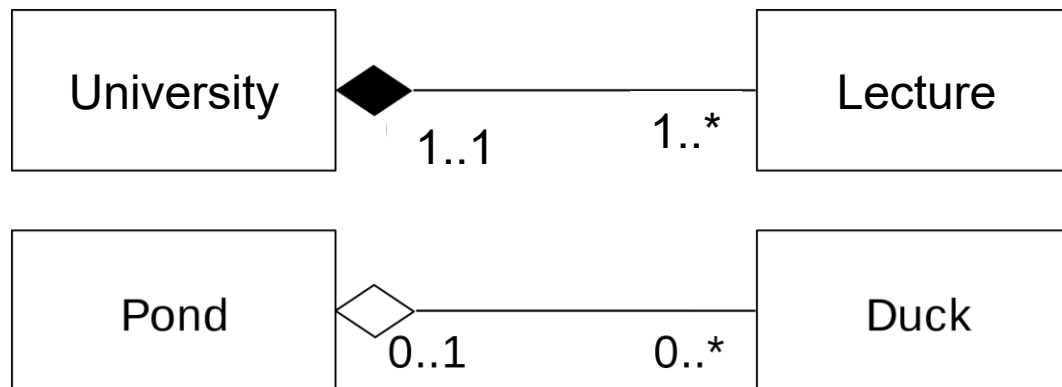
The aggregation association



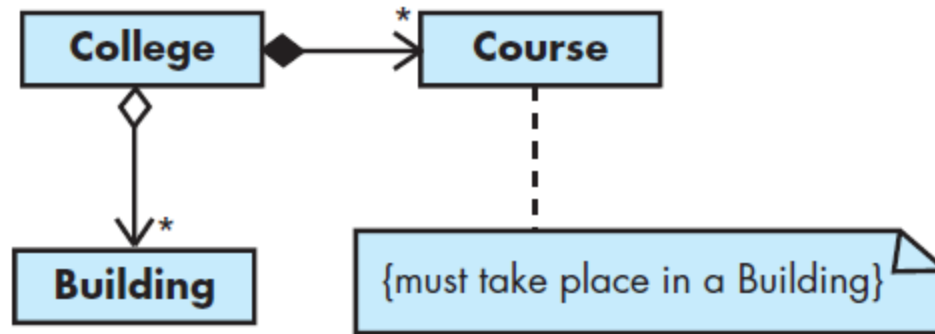
Aggregation vs Composition



- ✧ A university is a composition of classes
 - University ceases to exist -> classes ceases to exist
- ✧ A university is a aggregation of professors/students
 - University ceases to exist -> professors/students continue to exist



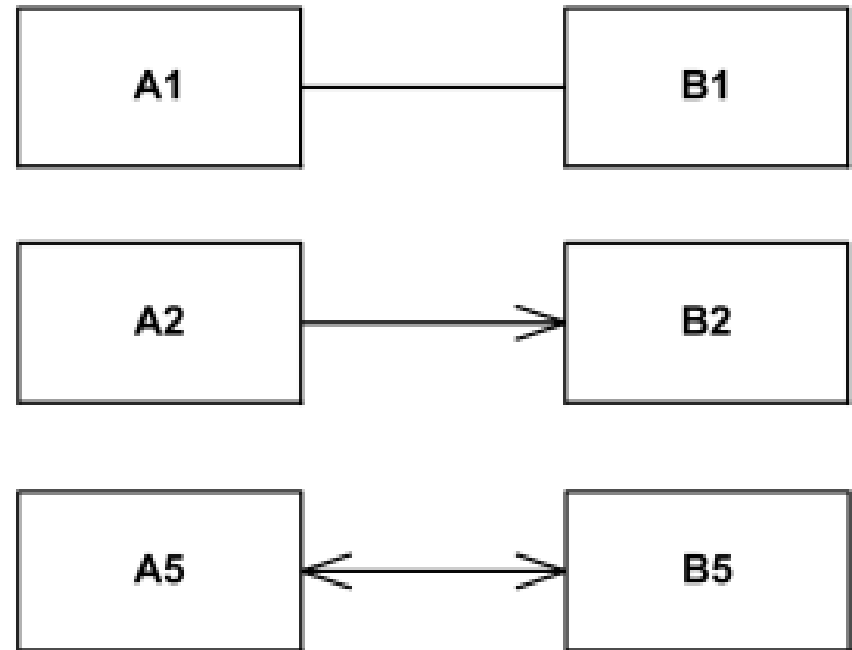
Aggregation vs Composition - 2



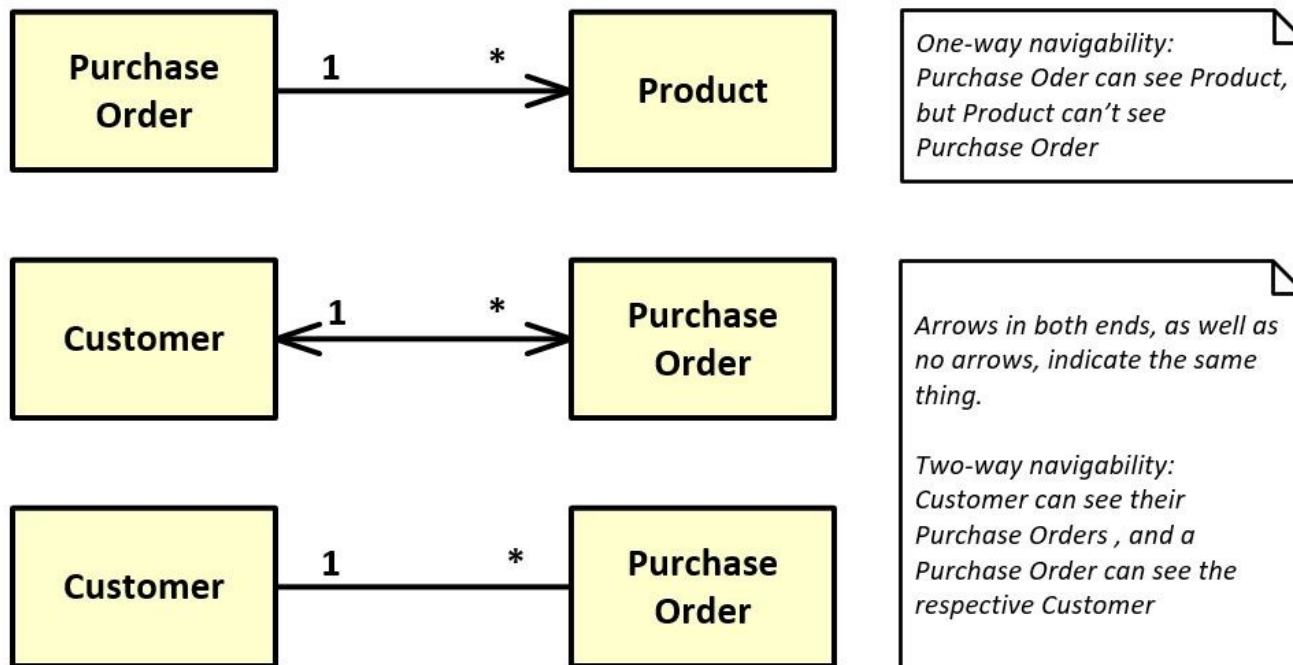
Association navigability



- ✧ End property of association is navigable from the opposite end(s) of association if instances of the classifier at this end of the link can be accessed efficiently at runtime from instances at the other ends of the link.



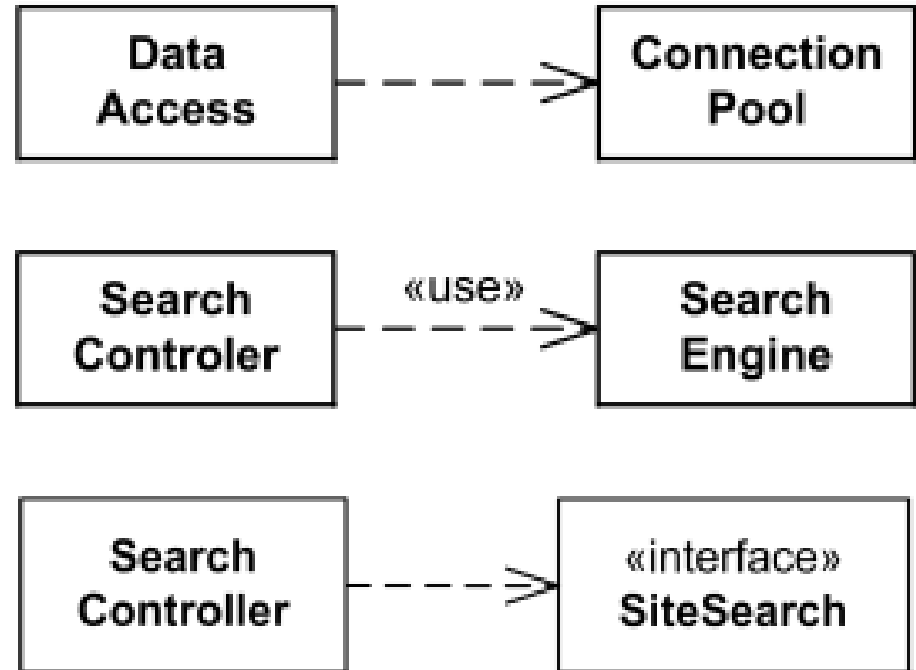
Association navigability



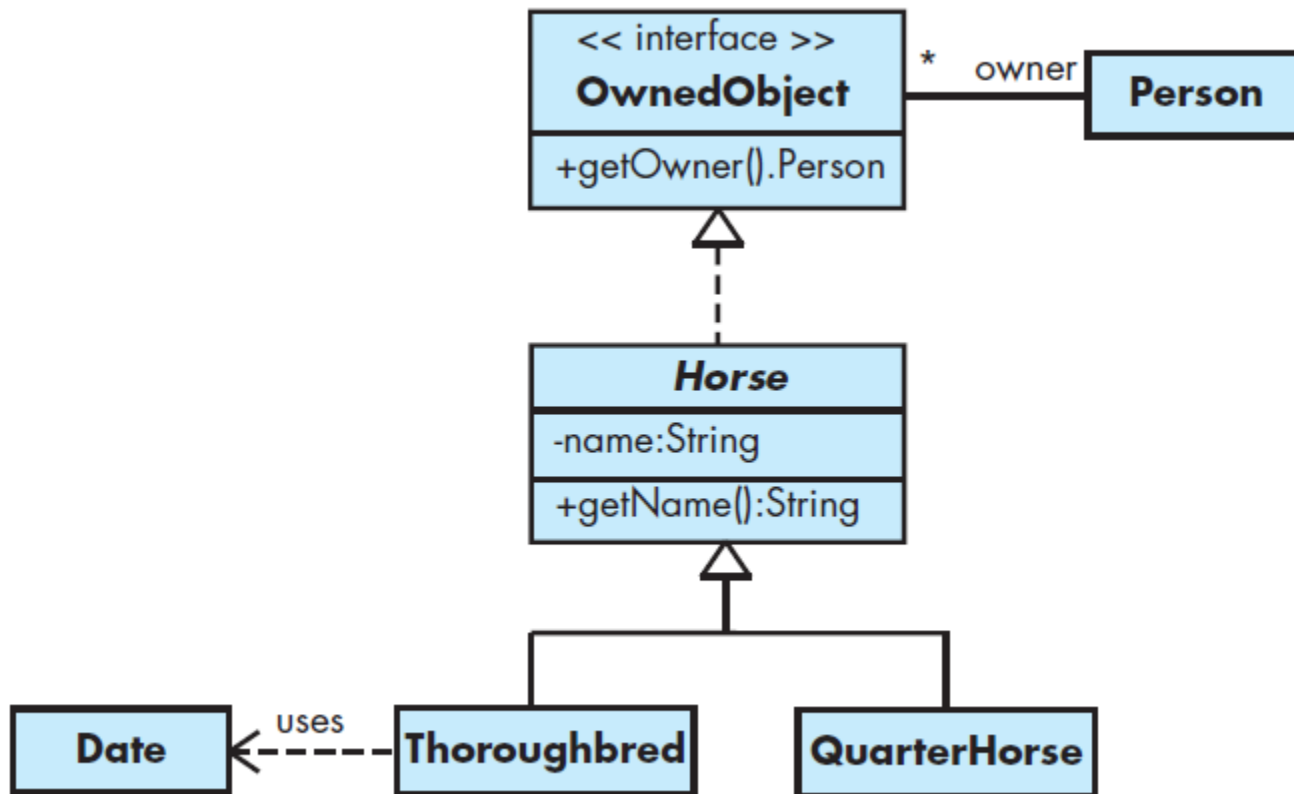
Dependency



- ✧ The model element at the tail of the arrow (the client) depends on the model element at the arrowhead (the supplier)



Another example



Behavioral models

Behavioral models



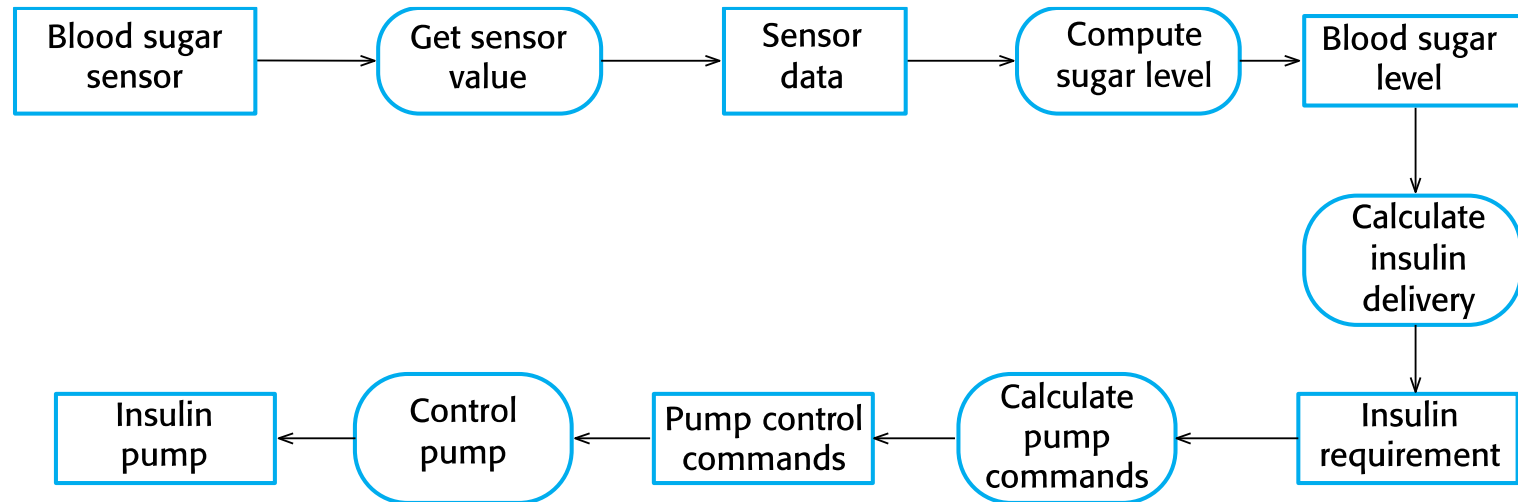
- ✧ Models of the dynamic behavior of a system as it is executing. They show **what happens or what is supposed to happen** when a **system responds to a stimulus** from its environment.
- ✧ You can think of these stimuli as being of two types:
 - **Data** Some data arrives that has to be processed by the system.
 - **Events** Some event happens that triggers system processing. Events may have associated data, although this is not always the case.

Data-driven modeling

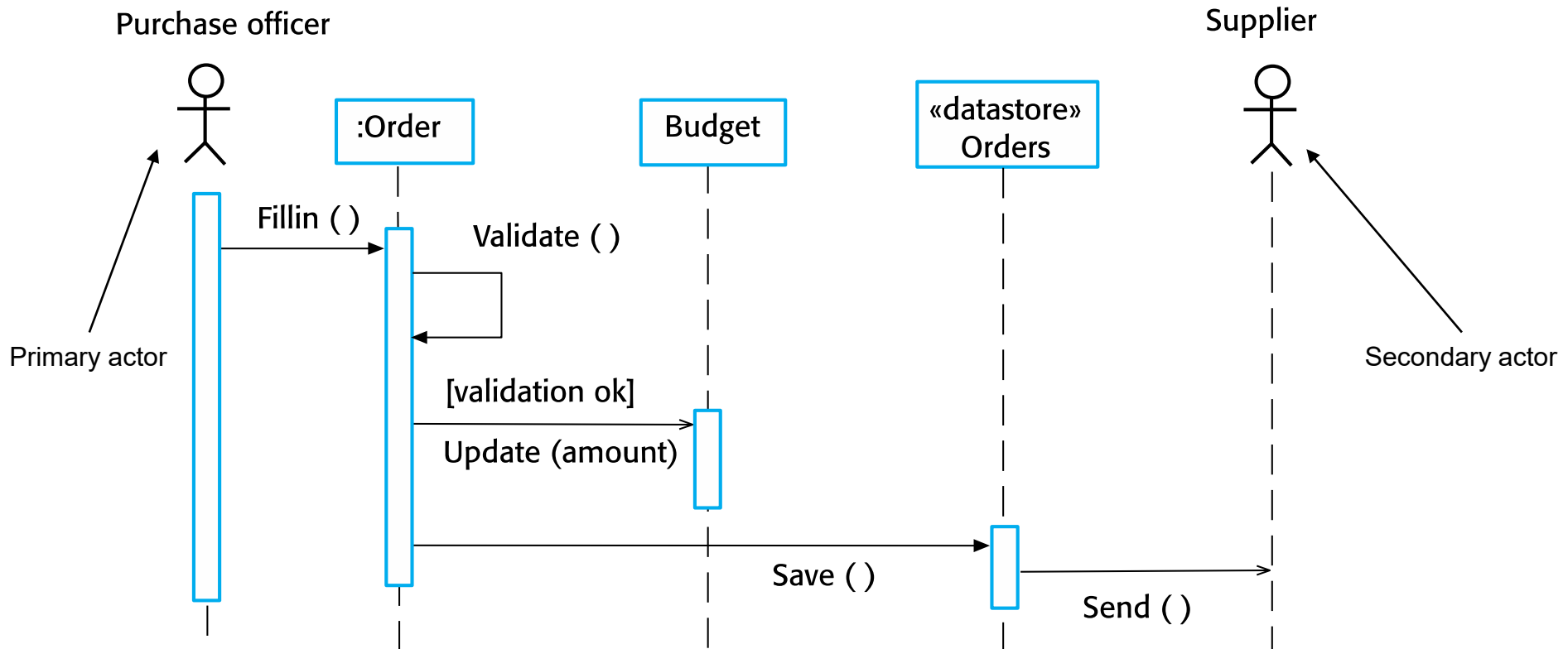


- ✧ Many business systems are **data-processing systems** that are primarily driven by data. They are controlled by the data input to the system, with relatively little external event processing.
- ✧ Data-driven models show the **sequence of actions** involved in **processing input data** and generating an **associated output**.
- ✧ They are particularly useful during the **analysis of requirements** as they can be used to show **end-to-end processing** in a system.

An activity model of the insulin pump's operation



Order processing



Event-driven modeling



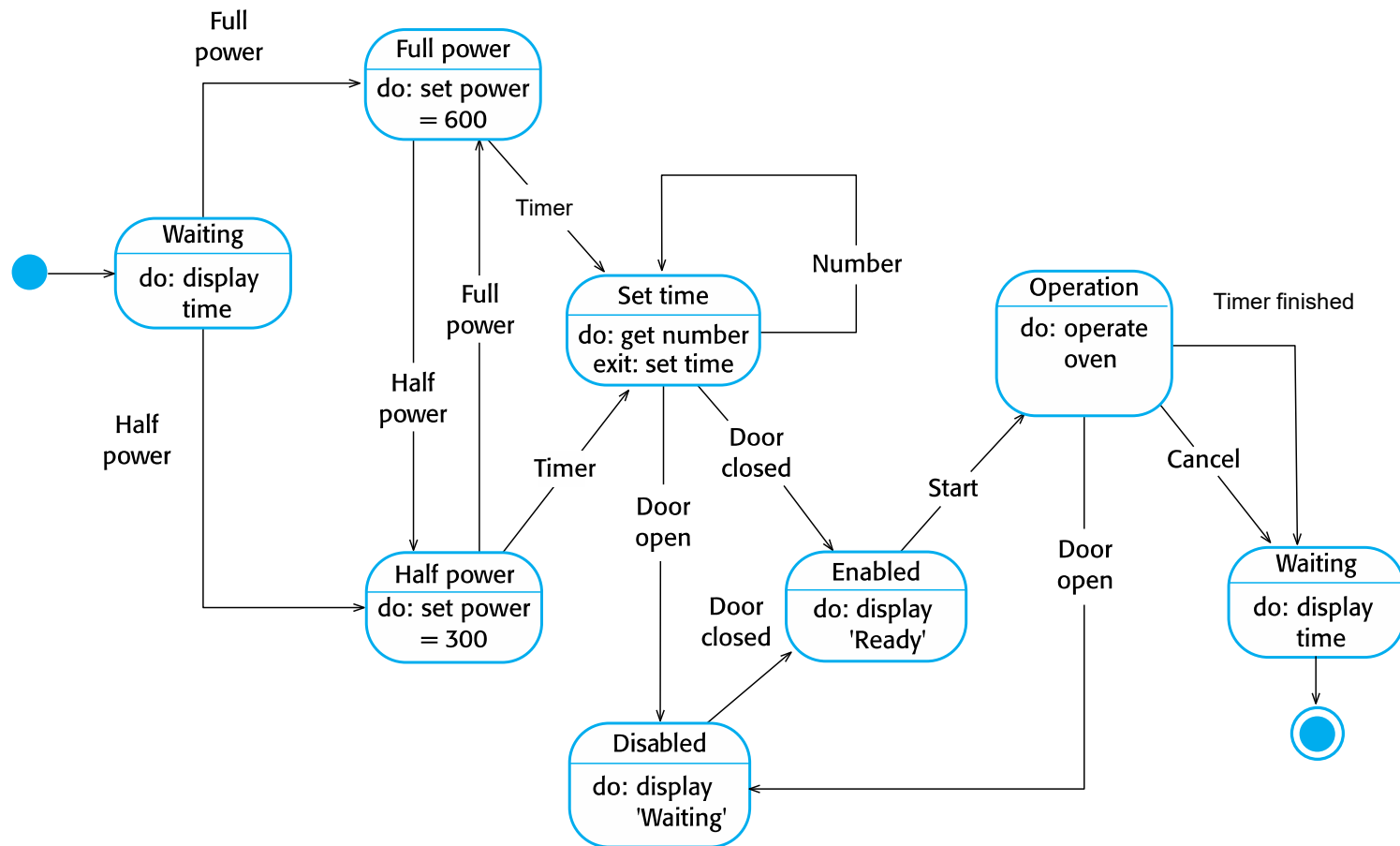
- ✧ **Real-time systems are often event-driven**, with minimal data processing. For example, a landline phone switching system responds to events such as 'receiver off hook' by generating a dial tone.
- ✧ Event-driven modeling shows **how a system responds to external and internal events**.
- ✧ It is based on the assumption that a system **has a finite number of states** and that events (stimuli) may cause a transition from one state to another.

State machine models



- ✧ These model the **behaviour of the system** in response to external and internal **events**.
- ✧ They show the system's responses to stimuli so are **often used for modelling real-time systems**.
- ✧ State machine models show system **states as nodes** and **events as arcs** between these nodes. When an event occurs, the system moves from one state to another.
- ✧ State charts are an integral part of the UML and are used to represent state machine models.

State diagram of a microwave oven



States and stimuli for the microwave oven (a)



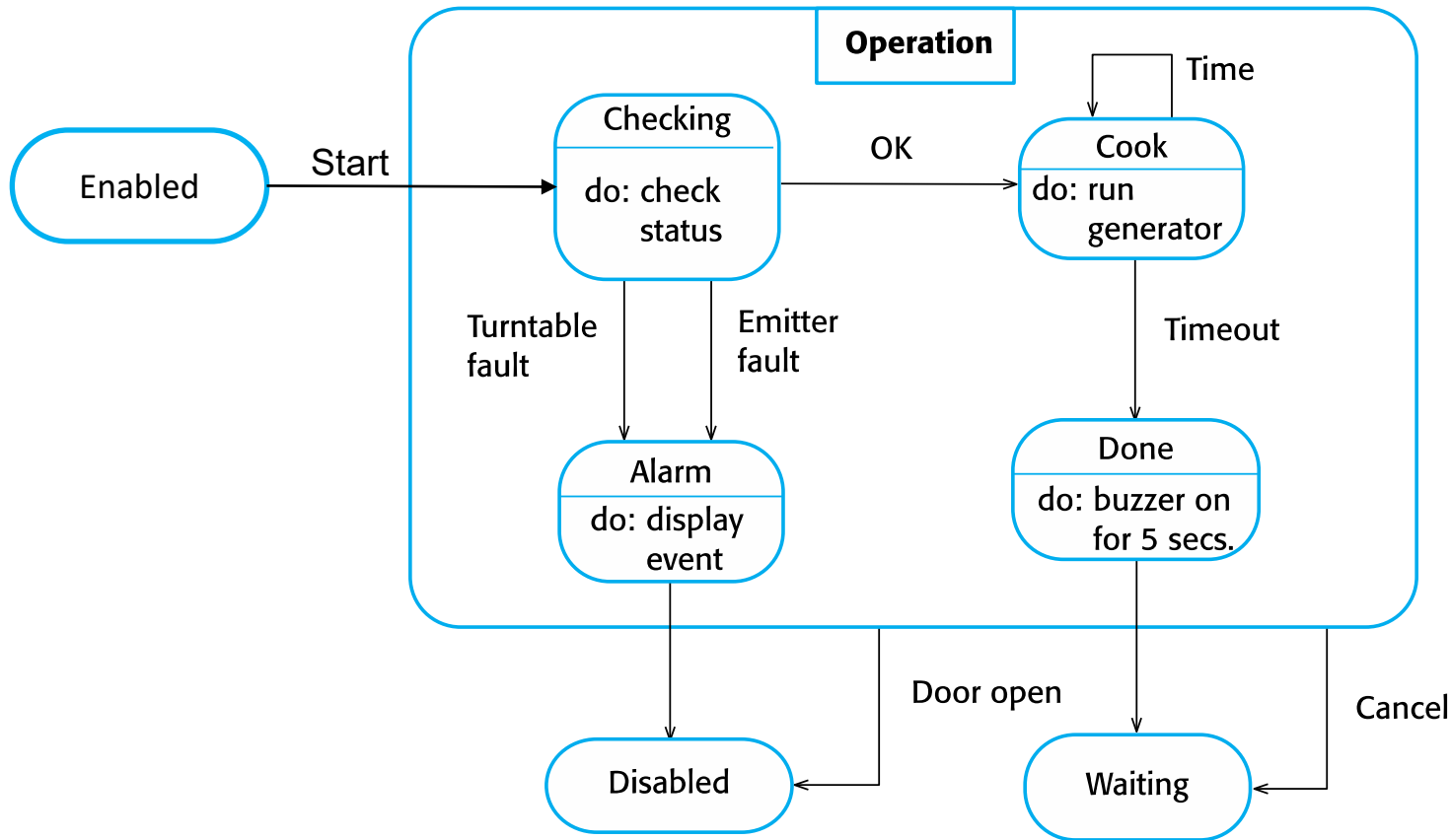
State	Description
Waiting	The oven is waiting for input. The display shows the current time.
Half power	The oven power is set to 300 watts. The display shows 'Half power'.
Full power	The oven power is set to 600 watts. The display shows 'Full power'.
Set time	The cooking time is set to the user's input value. The display shows the cooking time selected and is updated as the time is set.
Disabled	Oven operation is disabled for safety. Interior oven light is on. Display shows 'Waiting'.
Enabled	Oven operation is enabled. Interior oven light is off. Display shows 'Ready to cook'.
Operation	Oven in operation. Interior oven light is on. Display shows the timer countdown. On completion of cooking, the buzzer is sounded for five seconds. Oven light is on. Display shows 'Cooking complete' while buzzer is sounding.

States and stimuli for the microwave oven (b)



Stimulus	Description
Half power	The user has pressed the half-power button.
Full power	The user has pressed the full-power button.
Timer	The user has pressed one of the timer buttons.
Number	The user has pressed a numeric key.
Door open	The oven door switch is not closed.
Door closed	The oven door switch is closed.
Start	The user has pressed the Start button.
Cancel	The user has pressed the Cancel button.

Microwave oven operation

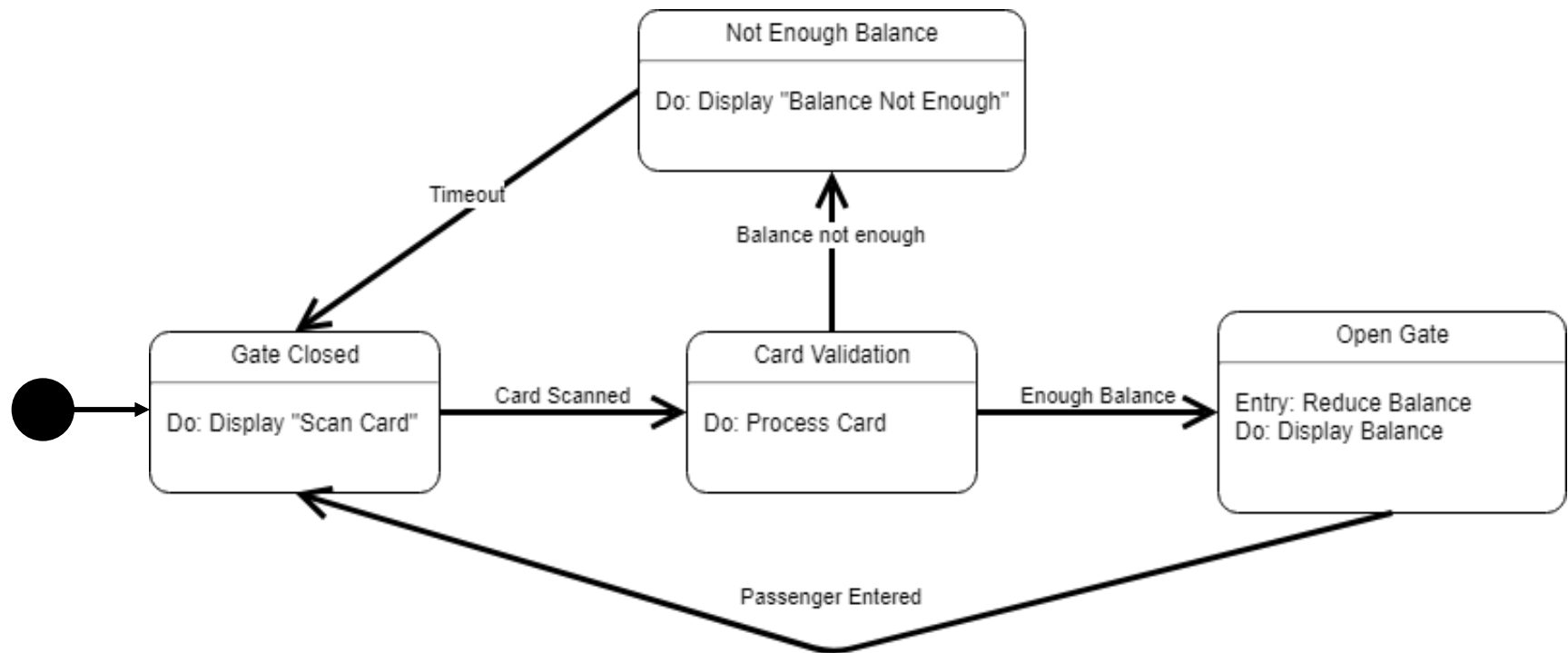


Metro pay gate



✧ Draw state diagram for metro gates in Tehran.

Metro pay gate



Model-driven engineering

Model-driven engineering



- ✧ Model-driven engineering (MDE) is an approach to software development where **models rather than programs** are the principal outputs of the development process.
- ✧ The programs that execute on a hardware/software platform are then **generated automatically from the models**.
- ✧ Proponents of MDE argue that this **raises the level of abstraction** in software engineering so that engineers **no longer have to be concerned with programming language details** or the specifics of **execution platforms**.

Usage of model-driven engineering



- ✧ Model-driven engineering is **still at an early stage of development**, and it is unclear whether or not it will have a significant effect on software engineering practice.
- ✧ Pros
 - Allows systems to be considered at **higher levels of abstraction**
 - Generating code automatically means that it **is cheaper to adapt systems to new platforms**.
- ✧ Cons
 - Models for abstraction and not necessarily right for implementation.
 - Savings from generating code may be outweighed by the **costs of developing translators for new platforms**.

Multiple platform-specific models

