

BPMN



- BPMN 1.x
 - Business Process Modeling Notation
 - Current version 1.2 (January 2009)
 - http://www.omg.org/spec/BPMN/1.2/
- BPMN 2.0
 - Business Process Model and Notation
 - In RFP process



The BPM Modeling Space

Multi-Party Interactions (Choreography)

Single-Party Behavior (Orchestration) Collaboration Conversation Choreography

Definition of externally observable behavior of an interaction

Abstract process
Public process

Definition of process, its activities and its interactions – may be incomplete / not sound

Description/Insight Contract Executable process

Fully specified process with enough information for automatic execution (or simulation)

BPMN 1.1

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- + Notation
- Interchange
- Semantics
- + Available

Executable process

Fully specified process with encugh information for automatic execution (or simulation)



WS-BPEL 2.0

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BPMN 2.0

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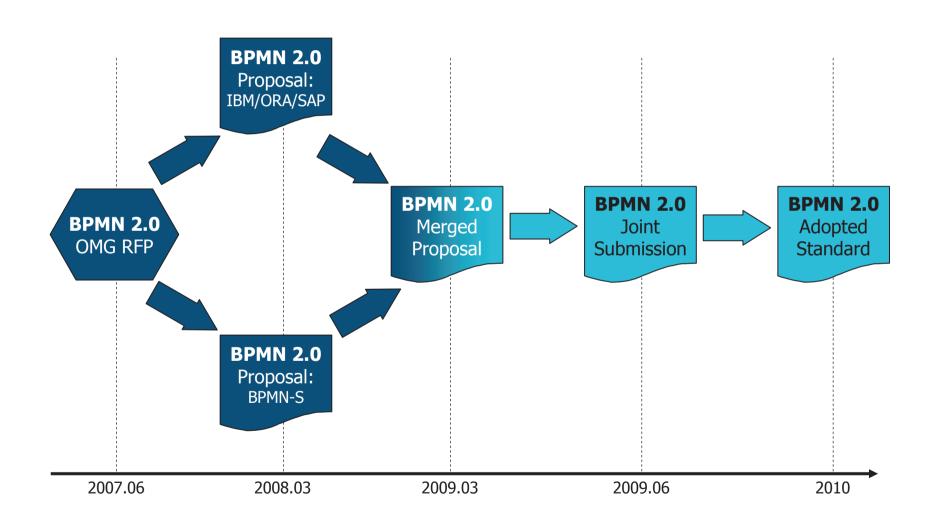
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BPMN 2.0 Timeline





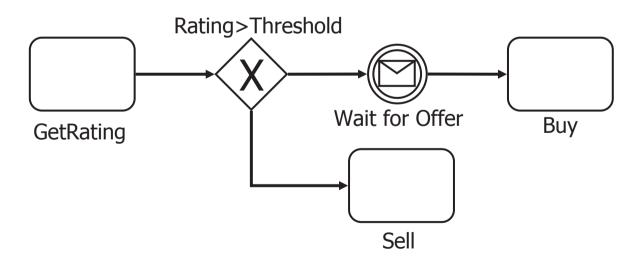
BPMN 2.0 Conformance Classes

- Process Modeling Conformance
 - Support modeling of processes and collaborations
 - Corresponds roughly to the BPMN 1.1 set of capabilities
- Choreography Modeling Conformance
 - Support modeling of choreographies
- Process Execution Conformance
 - Support execution of BPMN processes according to defined execution semantics
- BPEL Process Execution Conformance
 - Support execution of BPMN processes by mapping to BPEL as per the defined BPMN-BPEL mapping.



Business Process Modeling Notation





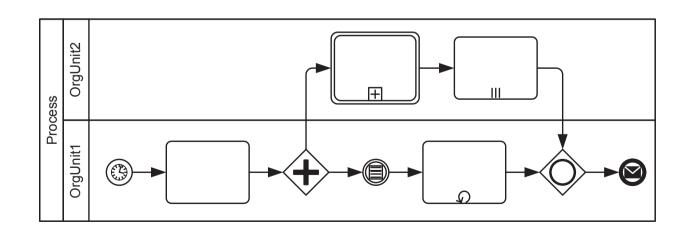


Overall Structure of a BPMN Process

- Lanes
- Activities
 - Structured
 - Atomic → Tasks

- Events
 - Inbound
 - Outbound

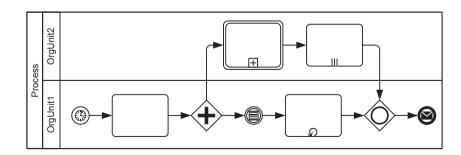
- Ordering
 - Sequence Flow
 - Gateways
 - "Adornments"





Lanes

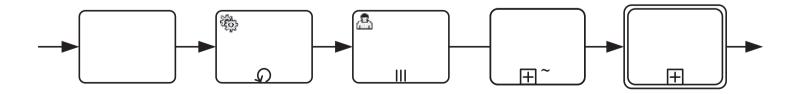
- Sub-partition of a Process
- Used to organize and categorize activities
- Typically represent an organizational unit of an enterprise
- Lanes are a visual construct only
- Can be used to structure visualization of activities by any suitable attribute





Activities

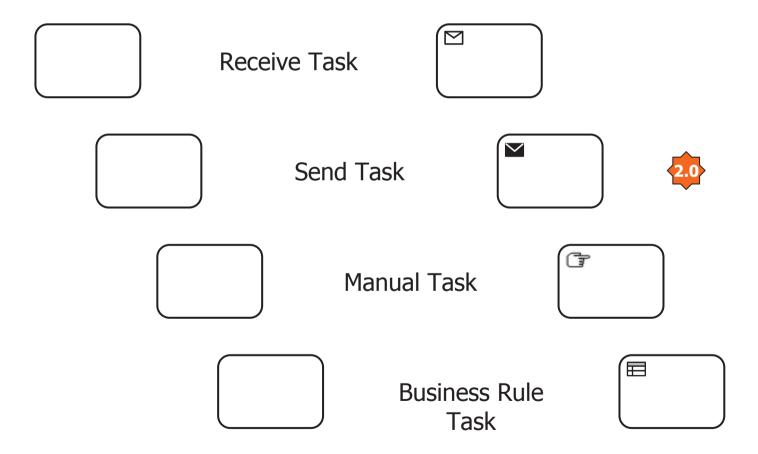
- Represents work performed in a process
- Atomic activities Tasks
 - General, service, human, script, ...
- Compound activities
 - Inline (sub-process) or referenced (20 call activity)
- Decorations for looping, multiple instantiation, ad-hoc execution



Tasks

General Task			
Service Ta	isk		2.0
Use	er Task		
	Script	Task	

Tasks (continued)







Service Model

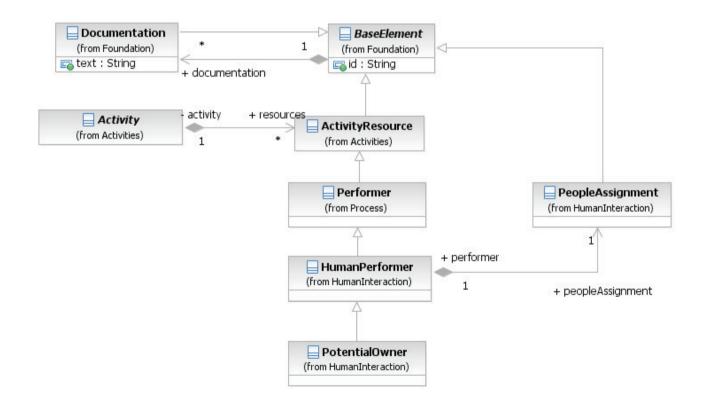
- BPMN 2.0 adds a service model to capture service-related information
 - Interface
 - Operation
 - Endpoint
- Captures WSDL 1.1 style information
 - Allows referencing service information from activities and processes
- Alignment with SoaML in progress
 - Similar relationship as BPEL and SCA





People Assignment Model (1)

- Human Performer identifies human resources
- Potential Owner identifies responsible people
- People Assignment to link to actual people







People Assignment Model (2)

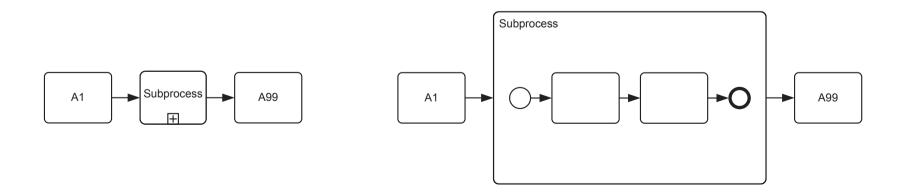
Multiple forms of People Assignment

- Literal list of user IDs
- Expression eval at runtime, returns list of user IDs
 - Example: getActivityInstanceAttribute("approve", "owner")
- Process Role abstract group of people
 - Named, possibly parameterized
 - Example: salesManager(region)
 - Evaluated at runtime, binding arguments from process context
 - Example: salesManager("CHE")→"Konrad Schmidt"



Subprocess

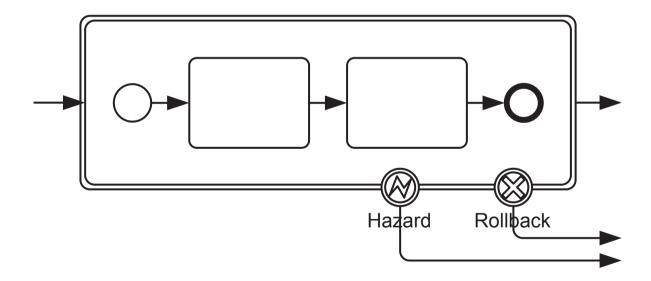
- Activity whose internal structure is a flow
 - Compound activity
 - Recursive aggregation to structure processes
- Can be collapsed/expanded
 - Affects the visual model only
- Provides scoping boundary
 - For data, exception handling, transactions, ...





Transaction Subprocess

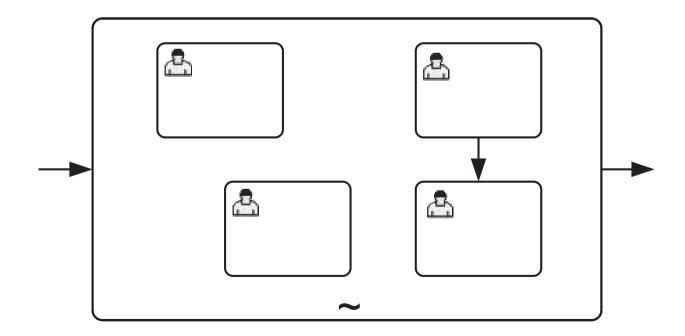
 A subprocess with transactional behavior of its activities, maintained through a coordination protocol





Ad-hoc Subprocess

- Used for collaborative processes
- Contained activities can be performed in any order
 - As decided by assigned people

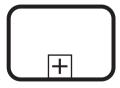






Call Activity

- Activity to call another process, or global task
 - Process/task-aware call with life-cycle coupling
 - Notation: Thick boundary line





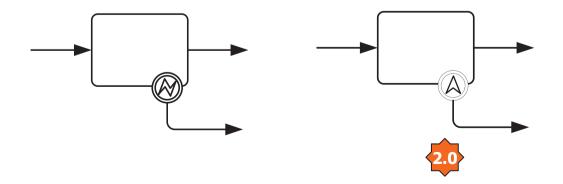




Events







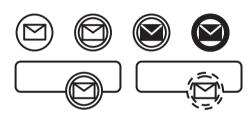


Event Types (1)

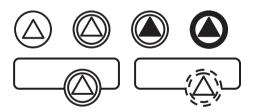
- General / unspecified
 - Event details not known or immaterial



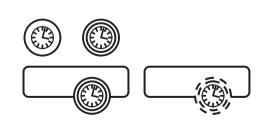
- Message
 - A message is received or sent



- Signal
 - A signal is received or sent



- Timer
 - A timer expires





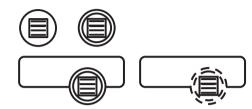
Event Types (2)

- Conditional
 - A condition becomes true
- Error
 - An error is thrown or caught

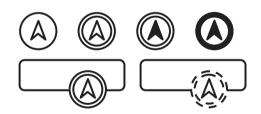


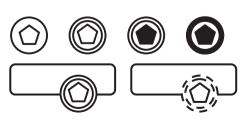


- An escalation is thrown or caught
- Multiple
 - A combination of other events is thrown or caught





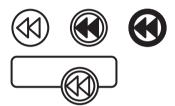






Event Types (3)

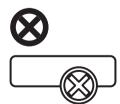
- Compensation
 - Compensation is triggered or handled



- Terminate
 - Abort the current process



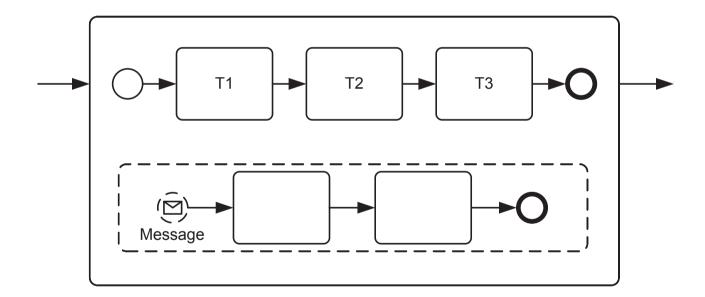
- Cancel
 - Rollback of current transaction is triggered or handled







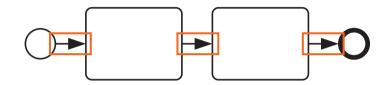
Event Subprocess



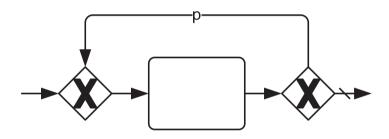


Establishing Order

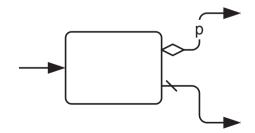
- Sequence flow
 - Perform steps in sequence



- Gateways
 - Split and merge the flow of control
 - Conditional execution
 - Parallel execution
 - Cyclic execution
 - ...



- Shortcuts
 - Implicit IOR in case of multiple outs
 - Implicit XOR in case of multiple ins

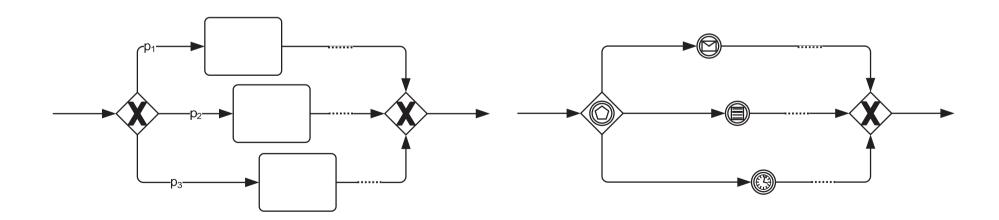




Gateway Types (1)

- Exclusive Gateway
 - Selects exactly one branch, the first whose condition is true
 - Merges control flow from several exclusive branches

- Exclusive Gateway event-based
 - Selects exactly one branch, based on event trigger
 - (Merge as before)

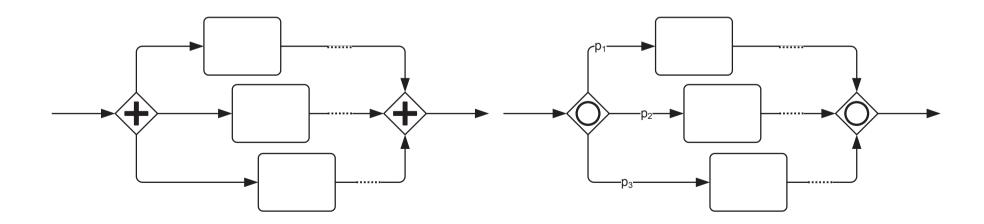




Gateway Types (2)

- Parallel Gateway
 - Forks control flow into parallel branches
 - Joins control flow from parallel branches

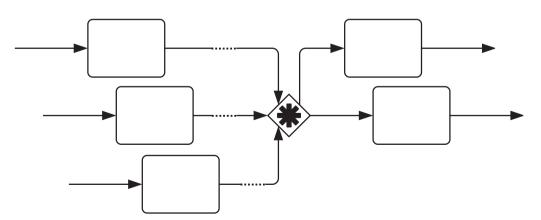
- Inclusive Gateway
 - Forks control flow into parallel branches, activating only those whose conditions are true
 - Joins control flow from several inclusive branches





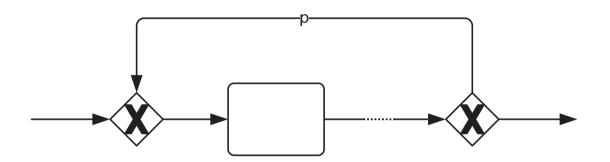
Gateway Types (3)

- Complex Gateway
 - Only exists as converging gateway
 - Mandatory standard output, optional "reset" output
 - Used to support complex synchronization behavior
 - Arbitrary condition on incoming connectors for standard output
 - E.g., n out of m
 - IOR for remaining connectors for reset output
 - E.g. remaining (m-n) out of m





Loops







Multi-Instance

Multiple instantiation of an activity at runtime

- Data-driven via integer expression or cardinality of data array
- Can be performed sequentially or in parallel
- Different behavior alternatives regarding completion and aborting still running instances
- Multi-instance behavior can be specified for any activity

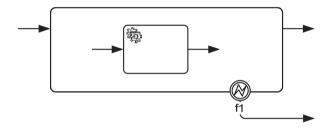


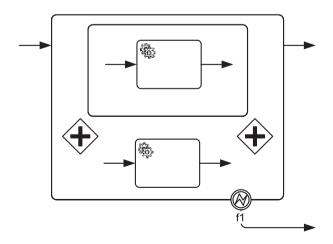


Error Handling

- Errors are raised internal to an activity, or explicitly
- Errors are caught on a boundary
 - task
 - ... sub-process
 - Ongoing parallel work is terminated
- Uncaught errors are propagated up the scope tree
 - Termination is propagated down





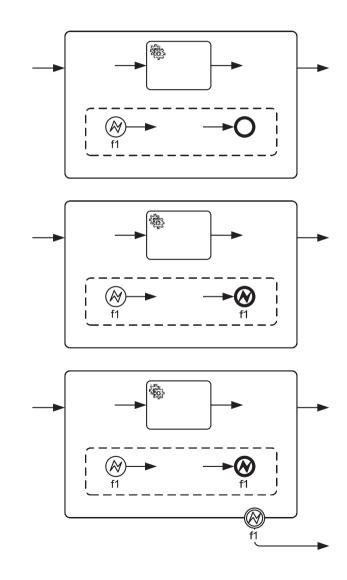






Error Handling (2)

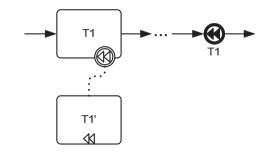
- Inline error handler
 - ... can "absorb" error
 - ... can rethrow error
- Upwards propagation extended
 - Inline handlers are considered first
 - Immediately enclosed boundary handlers second

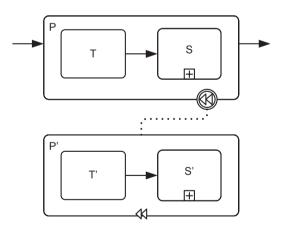




Compensation (1)

- Compensation pairs
 - Activity can be associated with "undo" activity
- Compensation triggered via event
 - Will trigger execution of associated
- No access to subprocess context
 - Only black-box compensation



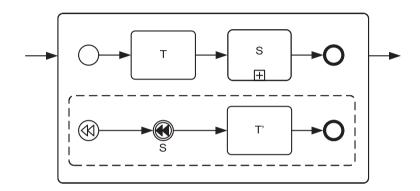


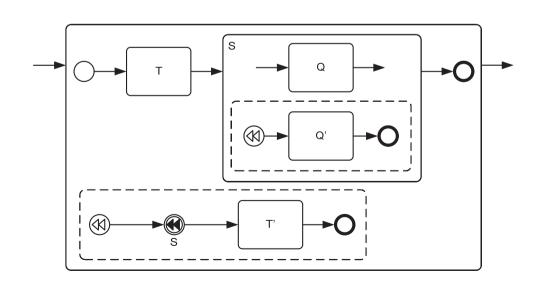




Compensation (2)

- Compensation "Event Sub-process" (Handler)
 - Access to subprocess context – white-box compensation
 - Allows for recursive compensation definition
- Compensation Triggering
 - From a compensation handler
 - From an error handler

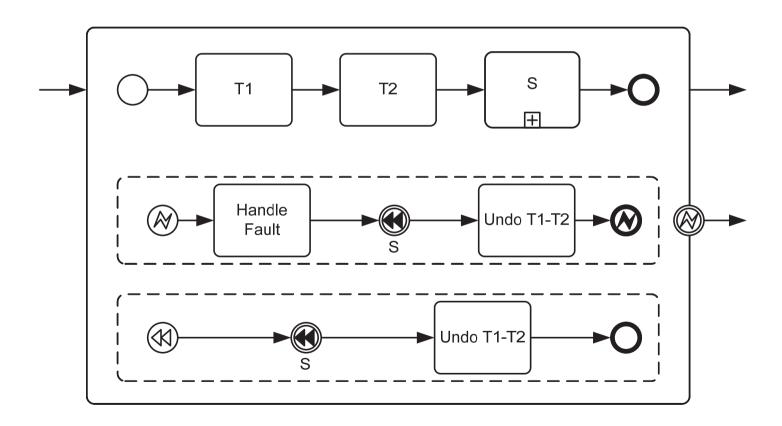








Error Handling and Compensation







Error Handling and Compensation

- Successful completion of subprocess
 - Preparation for possible compensation, snapshot of data is taken
- Unsuccessful completion of subprocess
 - Presumed abort: no side effects may persist
 - Error handler possibly needs to take care
- Compensation
 - Successful completion is undone
 - Snapshot data is made available to handler



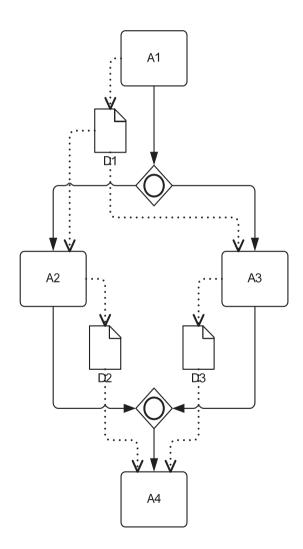
Data Flow

Data Object

- Used to store data
- Pre-defined structure definition
- Scoped, with standard visibility rules and life-time

Data association

 Describe data flow between data objects and flow nodes (activities or events)





"Item-aware Elements" (1)

Data Object

- Pre-defined (modeled) structure definition
- Visualized in process diagram
- Contained in enclosing (sub-) process
- Single instance or collection

CustomerRecord Set of Customers

Property

- Pre-defined (modeled) structure definition
- Not visualized
- Contained in (sub-) process or activity





"Item-aware Elements" (2)

Data Input

- Input of an activity
- Not visualized

Input Set

 Collection of inputs forming a valid set

Example Input Set

{ customerID| (customerName, address, SSN) }

Data Output

- Output of an activity
- Not visualized

Output set

 Collection of outputs forming a valid set

Example Output Set

{ customerRating | error }

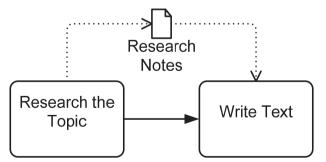




Data Association

Input data association

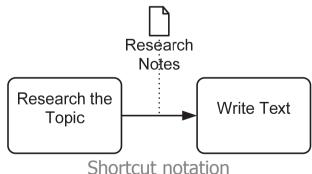
- Provide data for inputs of an activity
- Possibly multiple sources: data objects, properties, expressions
- Transformation specified as expression



Data input and data output association

Output data association

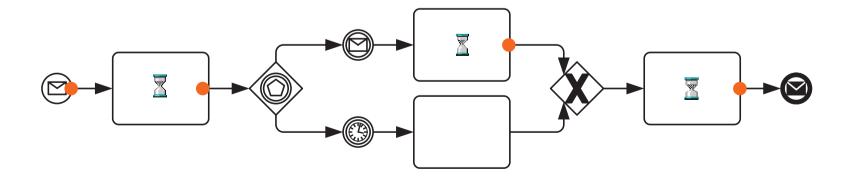
- Update data objects or properties after completion of an activity
- Sources: activity's data outputs
- Transformation specified as expression





Execution Semantics

- Execution Semantics is described by means of token flow
 - Tokens flow along sequence flow
 - Tokens are produced and consumed by activities, events and gateways





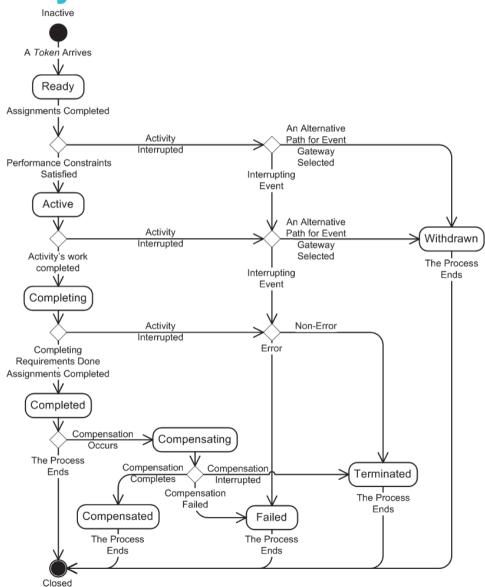
Process Life-cycle

- Instantiation ...
 - ... when start event is triggered
 - Exception: If start event is part of an existing conversation, that conversation is joined
- Termination ...
 - ... when all of the following holds
 - All start events have been triggered (one for each group in case of starting event-based gateways)
 - No remaining token
 - No active activity





Activity Life-cycle



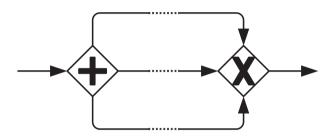


Soundness

Sound process:

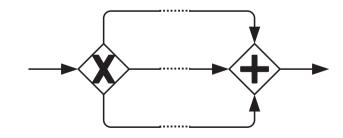
- No lack of synchronization
- Deadlock free

Lack of synchronization



Deadlock

BPMN does not require processes to be sound







Mapping from BPMN to BPEL

- Pre-req: Process is sound
- Basic mapping
 - Syntactical mapping: Basic BPMN blocks are mapped to BPEL constructs
 - Semantics are preserved
 - Applies to subset of all sound BPMN processes
- Extended mapping
 - Builds on basic mapping
 - Any mapping of BPMN to BPEL that preserves the BPMN semantics
 - Spec describes a number of specific patterns
 - Extensible by vendors, allows usage of vendor extensions



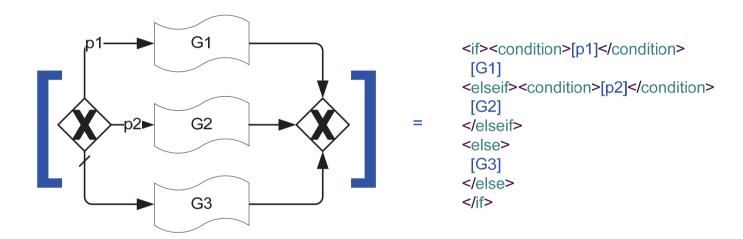


- Recursive description, driven by BPMN syntax structure
- Notation:
 - [BPMN fragment] = BPEL fragment





BPEL Mapping Example – If-Elseif-Else







BPEL Mapping Example – Pick

