Distributed Artificial Intelligence and Intelligent Agents (ID2209): Project assignment

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I. Introduction

The work presented in this report is part of the final project in the course Distributed Artificial Intelligence and Intelligent Agents. The focus of the project is on Agent Oriented Software Engineering, where I apply various different methodologies and compare them. The methods are applied to the business case of the SmartMuseum framework as of which have been used during the course for numerous programming assignments.

If agents are to realise their potential as a software engineering paradigm, then it is necessary to develop software engineering techniques that are specifically tailored to them.[14]

II. Task 1 - Modeling with GAIA Methology

In this section the result of modeling the SmartMuseum framework with the GAIA methodology [14] is presented.

The GAIA methology is essentially a systematic procedure of transforming a set of articulated requirements for the system/organization to a design. For structural reasons the design is done in steps and is divided into various related models that use different levels of detail. The system in this context is a SmartMuseum Agent Framework, as of following the GAIA methodology [14] I will from here on frequently use the *organization* metaphor when referring to the system.

I. Analysis

I.1 Requirements Statement

I.1.1 Mission Statement

The SmartMuseum organization has the purpose of connecting different people and entities that are in some sense involved in consuming or providing services related to art. The goal of the organization is to improve the overall experience for everyone involved. The organization should make it easier for consumers to view and find interesting art, for art-curators to provide art and reach out to consumers, for tourguides to find interested consumers as well as building relevant tours and finally for artists to sell their work.

I.1.2 Organization Description

The activity of a consumer viewing an art-artifact involves atleast three, sometimes four, or five main divisions: tour-guide division, art-curator division, artist-management division, user-service

division and artist-division. The activity is initiated by the consumer who contacts the user-service division and selects some type of art-service, the user-service division support the consumer in requesting/retrieving the service from either the art-curator division or tour-guide-division. In parellel to managing consumer requests the tour-guide division browses art-artifacts that is curated by the art-curator division. Further more, the art-curator division participates in auctions for obtaining art-artifacts from the artist-management division, in parallel to managing requests from consumers and tourguides. Finally, the artist-management division initiates auctions for art-artifacts on request from artists.

The activities described above can the be modelled as an organization in the following way. The organization consists of 7 roles. The ArtConsumer (AC) who consumes arts in different forms. The UserHandler (UH) which the consumer uses to purchase and browse services related to art. The TourGuide (TG) which builds and offers virtual tours. The ArtBuyer (AB) who buys art to include in its gallery/museum, the ArtQuoter (AQ) who quotes the price for arts and sells it to consumers. The ArtSeller (AS) who is hired by artists to sell their work to art buyers. And finally the Artist (A) who produces art.

I.2 Roles Model

The following assumption is necessary to avoid making decisions about implementation details when doing the analysis/design.

Assumption 1-A. Roles can find each other in some way in order to communicate

```
Role Schema:
                  ARTCONSUMER (AC)
Description:
       Initiates activity of consuming art, either buying artifact or downloading a virtual tour
Protocols and activities:
       DownloadVirtualTour, BuyArt, VisitArtifact, ViewArtifact
Permissions:
                                  supplied availableServices // list of services
                     reads
                                  money
                                                                  money of the consumer
                                  userProfile
                                                                 profile of the consumer
                                                             // list of visited artifacts
                                  visited Artifacts
                     generates
                                  valuation
                                                             // valuation of selected artifact
                                  artifactTitle
                                                                 title of selected artifact
                                  virtualTourTitle
                                                                 title of selected virtual-tour
                                  moneyForArtifact
                                                             // money for selected artifact
                                  supplied virtualTour
                                                            // downloaded virtual-tour
                                  supplied auctionResult
                                                            // bought artifact or nil
Responsibilities
Liveness:
              ArtConsumer = (GetService. ConsumeService)^{\omega}
              ConsumeService = (VisitArtifact | ViewArtifact)
              GetService = (DownloadVirtualTour | BuyArt)
Safety:
       • moneyForArtifact ≤ money
       ullet artifactTitle \in availableServices.artifacts
       ullet virtualTourTitle \in availableServices.artifacts
```

Figure 1: Schema for role ArtConsumer

```
Role Schema:
                 UserHandler (UH)
Description:
       Receives request to buy art-services from consumers and manages the process of the
       consumer purchasing and obtaining the service.
Protocols and activities:
       GetArtifact, GetVirtualTour, GetArtifactsList,
       GetVirtualTourList, GenerateListOfArtServices
Permissions:
                             availableServices
                                                          // list of services
                generates
                                                           // strategy for dutch auction
                             strategy
                reads
                             supplied virtualTours
                                                          // list of virtual tours
                             supplied artifacts
                                                          // list of art-artifacts
                             supplied moneyForArtifact // consumer money to purchase artifact
                             supplied valuation
                                                         // consumer valuation of artifact
                             supplied artifactTitle
                                                          // title of artifact-purchase
                             supplied virtualTourTitle // title of virtual-tour selection
                             supplied virtualTour
                                                         // virtual-tour downloaded by consumer
                             supplied auctionResult
                                                         // artifact bought by consumer or nil
Responsibilities
Liveness:
              UserHandler = (All)^{\omega}
              All = (PresentServices || HandleConsumerRequest)^{\omega}
              PresentServices = GetServices. GenerateListOfArtServices
              GetServices = GetArtifactsList. GetVirtualToursList
              HANDLECONSUMERREQUEST = GetArtifact | GetVirtualTour
Safety:
       • availableServices = artifacts \cup virtualTours
        • auctionResult \neq nil \implies auctionResult \in artifacts
        • virtualTour ∈ virtualTours
```

Figure 2: Schema for role UserHandler

```
TourGuide (TG)
   Role Schema:
   Description:
          Responsible for constructing virtual tours of art-artifacts. Looks up available
          artifacts at curators and then builds different types of tours.
          Sends tours to user-handlers.
   Protocols and activities:
          SendVirtualTours, SendVirtualTour, GetArtifactList, BuildVirtualTour
Permissions:
                                      virtualTour
                                                                  // virtual tour of art-artifacts
                        generates
                                      virtualTours
                                                                  // list of virtual-tours
                                                                  // list of artifacts
                        reads
                                      supplied artifacts
                                      supplied virtualTourTitle // specific virtual-tour title
   Responsibilities
   Liveness:
                 TourGuideBuilder = (ConstructTour || [Send])^{\omega}
                 ConstructTour = (GetArtifactList. BuildVirtualTour)^{\omega}
                 Send = SendVirtualTours | SendVirtualTour
   Safety:
           • \forall virtual Tour.artifact virtual Tour.artifact \in artifacts
```

Figure 3: Schema for role TourGuide

```
Role Schema:
                     ARTBUYER (AB)
   Description:
          Buys art-artifacts from art-sellers.
   Protocols and activities:
          BuyArt, SendArtifacts, HandleVisit
Permissions:
                                      artifacts
                                                                   // list of purchased artifacts
                        generates
                                      strategy
                                                                      strategy for dutch auction
                                      valuation
                                                                  // valuation for artifact
                                      moneyForArtifact
                                                                  // money for artifact
                                                                  // the buyer's money
                        reads
                                      money
                                      artifactTitle
                                                                  // title for a specific artifact
                                                                 // bought artifact or nil
                                      supplied artifactResult
   Responsibilities
   Liveness:
                 ArtBuyer = ([BuyArt] || [SendArtifacts] || [HandleVisit])^{\omega}
   Safety:
           • moneyForArtifact ≤ money
           • artifactTitle \in artifacts
```

Figure 4: Schema for role ARTBUYER

```
Role Schema:
                     ARTQUOTER (AQ)
   Description:
          Quotes art and resells it to consumers
   Protocols and activities:
          QuoteArt, SellArt, GetArtifacts, SendArtifacts
Permissions:
                                      supplied artifacts // list of artifacts
                   reads
                                      supplied artifact // artifact for auction
                                      quote
                                                          // quote of artifact
                   generates
                                      rateOf Reduction // rate of reduction for dutch auction
                                      initialPrice
                                                         // initial price for auction
                                      reservePrice
                                                         // reserved price for auction
                                                         // price auction ended at
                                      price
                                                         // winner of auction or nil
                                      winner
                                      artifactResult
                                                         // result of auction
                                                         // bidders of auction
                                      bidders
Responsibilities
   Liveness:
                 ArtQuoter = ((GetArtifacts. QuoteArt. SellArt) || SendArtifacts)^{\omega}
   Safety:
           • winner \in bidders
           • reservePrice \le price \le initialPrice
```

Figure 5: Schema for role ArtQuoter

```
Role Schema:
                     ARTSELLER (AS)
   Description:
          Sells art to art-traders/curators.
   Protocols and activities:
          SellArt, GetArtifact
Permissions:
                   reads
                                 supplied artifact // artifact to be sold
                   generates
                                 rateOf Reduction // rate of reduction for dutch auction
                                 initial Price
                                                     // initial price for auction
                                 reservePrice
                                                     // reserved price for auction
                                                     // price auction ended at
                                 price
                                                    // winner of auction or nil
                                 winner
                                                    // result of auction
                                 artifactResult
                                 bidders
                                                    // bidders of auction
   Responsibilities
   Liveness:
                 ArtSeller = (GetArtifact. SellArt)^{\omega}
   Safety:
          • winner \in bidders
           • reservePrice \le price \le initialPrice
```

Figure 6: Schema for role ARTSELLER

Role Schema: Artist (A)

Description:
Sells art to art-traders/curators.

Protocols and activities:
ProduceArt, SendArtifact

Permissions:

generates artifact // produced artifact

Responsibilities
Liveness:
Artist = (ProduceArt. SendArtifact)^\omega
Safety:

• true

Figure 7: Schema for role Artist

I.3 Interaction Model

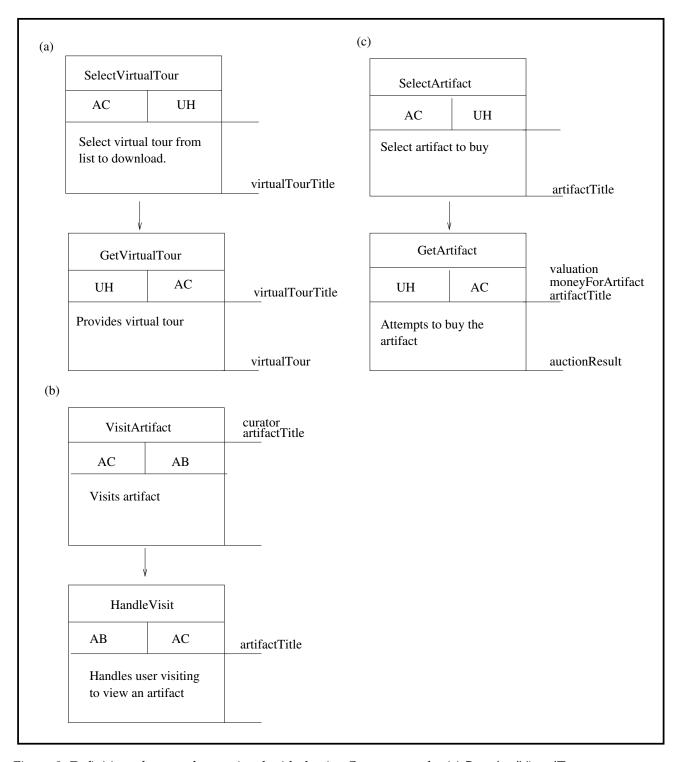


Figure 8: Definition of protocols associated with the ArtConsumer role: (a) DownloadVirtualTour, (b) VisitArtifact (c) BuyArt

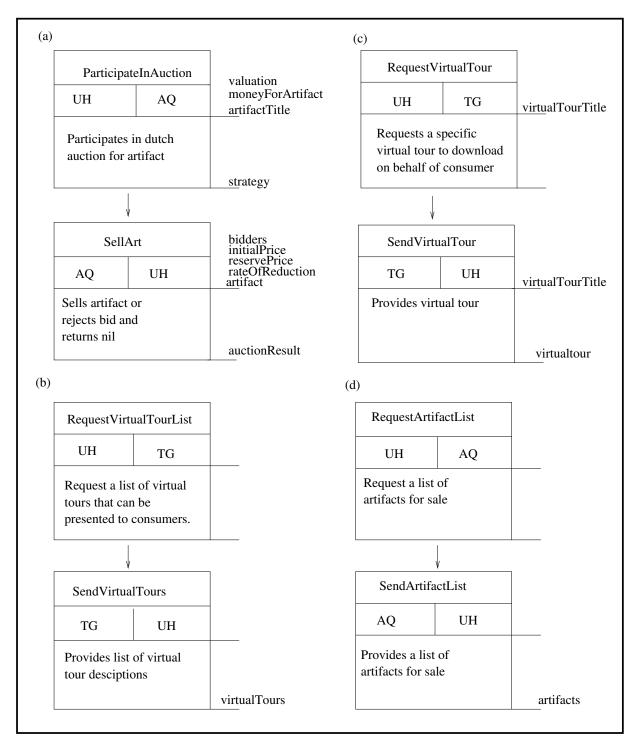


Figure 9: Definition of protocols associated with the UserHandler role: (a) GetArtifact, (b) GetVirtualTourList, (c) GetVirtualTour, (d) GetArtifactsList

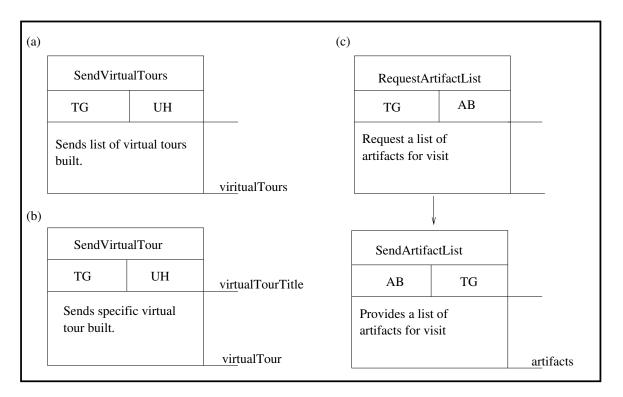


Figure 10: Definition of protocols associated with the TOURGUIDE role: (a) SendVirtualTours, (b) SendVirtualTour, (c) GetArtifactList

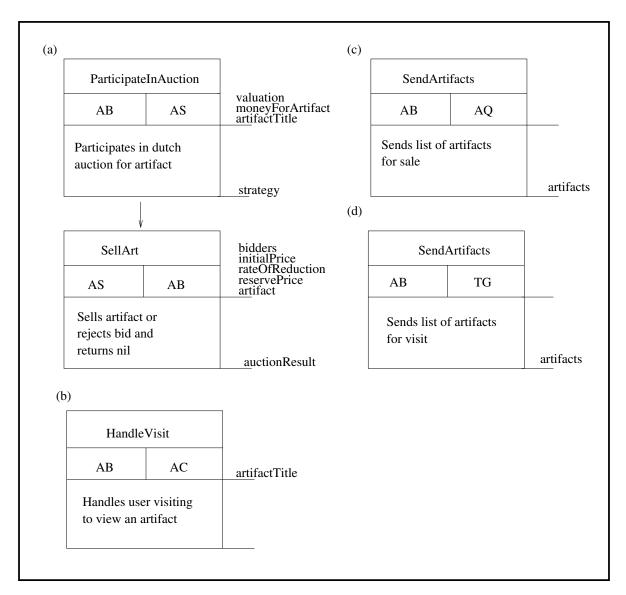


Figure 11: Definition of protocols associated with the ARTBUYER role: (a) BuyArt, (b) HandleVisit, (c) SendArtifacts (1), (d) SendArtifacts (2)

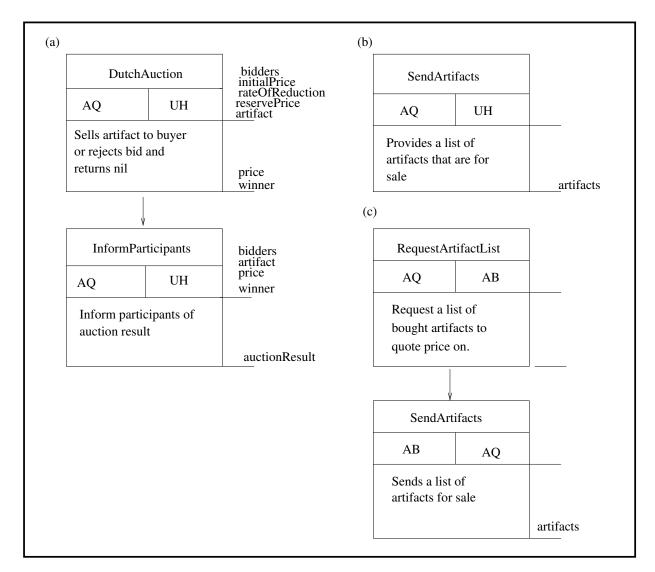


Figure 12: Definition of protocols associated with the ARTQUOTER role: (a) SellArt, (b) SendArtifacts, (c) GetArtifacts

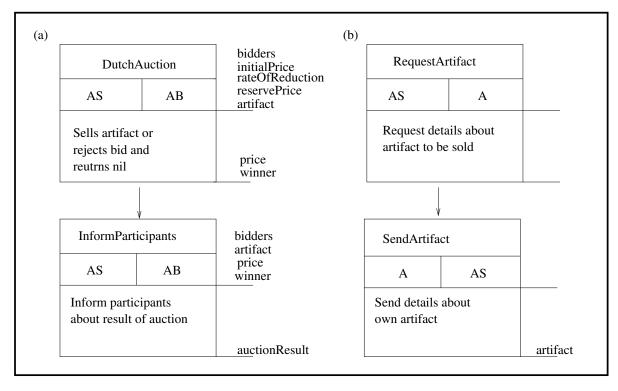


Figure 13: Definition of protocols associated with the ARTSELLER role: (a) SellArt, (b) GetArtifact

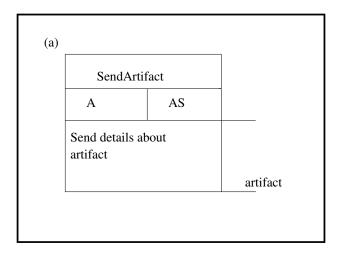


Figure 14: Definition of protocols associated with the ARTIST role: (a) SendArtifact

II. Design

II.1 Agent Model

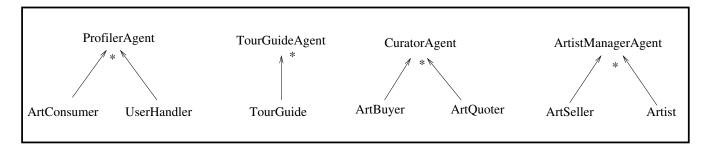


Figure 15: The agent model

II.2 Services Model

Table 1: Services model for agent ProfilerAgent

Service	Inputs	Outputs	Pre-condition	Post-condition
obtain virtual-tour		virtualTours	true	virtualTours ≠ nil
list				
obtain artifact list		artifacts	true	$artifacts \neq nil$
generate list of ser-	virtualTours	availableServices	$\exists virtual Tours$, $artifacts$	created list of available
vices	, arti facts			services
register as bidder	auctioneer, art	ifact	auction exists	$self$ \in
for auction				auctioneer.bidders ∧
				$strategy \neq nil$
receive CFP	currentPrice		is participating in the auc-	true
			tion	
place bid	currentPrice		<i>currentPrice</i> ≤	bid sent to auctioneer
			money For Artifact	
receive bid result	$accept \lor$		have bidded	bid accepted or rejected
	reject			
informed auction	artifact∨nil		participated in auction	informed auction ended
ended				and received result
download virtual	tourguide, virt	ualtour	∃tourguide, virtualtour	downloaded virtual tour
tour				
visitArtifact	curator, artif a	ctTitle	$artifactTitle$ \in	$artifactTitle$ \in
			curator.gallery.titles	visited Arti facts

Table 2: Services model for agent TourGuideAgent

Service	Inputs	Outputs	Pre-condition	Post-condition
obtain artifact list		artifacts	true	artifacts ≠ nil
manage virtual-	virtual Tour Title	virtualTour ∨	true	true
tour request		nil		
manage list of		virtualTours	true	true
virtual-tours-				
request				
build virtual tour	artifacts	virtualTour	artifacts.size > 0	virtualTour ≠ nil

Table 3: Services model for agent ArtistManagerAgent

Service	Inputs	Outputs	Pre-condition	Post-condition
get registered bid-		bidders	true	true
ders				
send inform-start- of-auction	bidders	informMessage	bidders are registered	bidders informed about start of auction
send CFP	bidders	CFP	bidders are registered and auction ongoing	bidders informed about current price and encour- aged to bid
receive bid	bid	bids	bidder registered	$bid \in bids$
manage bids	bids	bidResponses	bids > 0	one bid was accepted and the bidder received the good, the rest was rejected and the bidders were in- formed
modify price	reservePrice, rateOf Reduction, currentPrice	newPrice	no bids was received	$reservePrice \leq newPrice \leq currentPrice$
send inform- auction-closed	bidders, auctionResult	informMessage	bidders are registered	bidders informed about close of auction

Table 4: Services model for agent CuratorAgent

Service	Inputs	Outputs	Pre-condition	Post-condition
get registered bid- ders	-	bidders	true	true
register as bidder	auctioneer, artifac	rt .	auction exists	$self$ \in
for auction				auctioneer.bidders \land strategy \neq nil
receive CFP	currentPrice		is participating in the auction	true
place bid	currentPrice		currentPrice \leq moneyForArtifact	bid sent to auctioneer
receive bid result	accept ∨ reject		have bidded	bid accepted or rejected
informed auction ended	arti fact ∨ nil		participated in auction	curator were informed auction ended and re- ceived result
manage artifact-list request		artifacts	true	true
manage visit- artifact request	artifactTitle	artifact	true	provided artifact for visit only
quote art	artifact	quote	true	true
send inform-start- of-auction	bidders	informMessage	bidders are registered	bidders informed about start of auction
send CFP	bidders	CFP	bidders are registered and auction ongoing	bidders informed about current price and encour- aged to bid
receive bid	bid	bids	bidder registered	$\overrightarrow{bid} \in bids$
manage bids	bids	bidResponses	bids > 0	one bid was accepted and the bidder received the good, the rest was rejected and the bidders were in- formed
modify price	reservePrice, rateOf Reduction, currentPrice	newPrice	no bids was received	$reservePrice \leq newPrice \leq currentPrice$
send inform- auction-closed	bidders, auctionResult	informMessage	bidders are registered	bidders informed about close of auction

II.3 Acquaintance Model

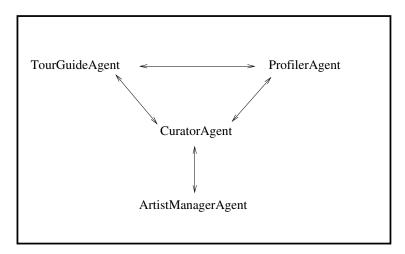


Figure 16: Acquaintance model

II.4 Mobility Model

Assumption 2-A. I've assumed the mobile architecture that I used for homework 3, i.e that only artistmanager agents and curator agents are mobile and can clone themself. Further more the cardinality of agents and places also follow from this assumption.

Table 5: Place Types

Place Types	Description	Instances	
Heritage Malta Container	Container where art- curators can reside and perform their services and where artistman- ager agents can reside temporarily to perform auctions	1	
Museo Galileo Container	Container where art- curators can reside and perform their services and where artistman- ager agents can reside temporarily to perform auctions	1	
ArtistManager Container	Container where artist- manager agents reside and where they come back to after performing auctions	*	
ProfilerAgent Container	Container where profiler agents reside	*	
TourGuideAgent Container	Container where tourguide agents reside	*	

Table 6: Agents and Places Specification

Agent Type	Mobile	Place Type	Constraints
ProfilerAgent	No	ProfilerAgent Container	
TourGuideAgent	No	TourGuideAgent Con-	
		tainer	
CuratorAgent	Yes	Museo Galileo Container,	
_		Heritage Malta Container	
ArtistManagerAgent	Yes	ArtistManagerAgentConta	iner,
		Museo Galileo Container,	
		Heritage Malta Container	

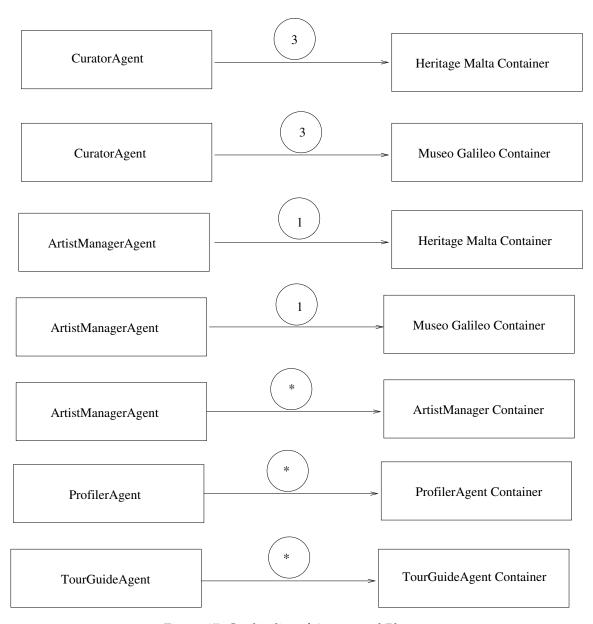


Figure 17: Cardinality of Agents and Places

Agent Type: CuratorAgent

Description: Can be cloned in current container to participate in auctions.
Origin: Heritage Malta Container or Museo Galileo Container.
Final Destination: Same as its origin container.
List of atomic movements:

1 | Cloned in Heritage Malta Container
2 | Cloned in Museo Galileo Container

Paths:
Cloned in the same container, no paths.

Figure 18: Travel schema for agentCuratorAgent

Agent Type: ArtistManagerAgent
Description: Can move between Museo Galileo Container, Heritage Malta Container and ArtistManager Container.
Origin: ArtistManager Container
Final Destination: ArtistManager Container
List of atomic movements:
1 Move from ArtistManager to Heritage Malta Container.
2 Move from Heritage Malta to ArtistManager Container.
3 Move from ArtistManager to Museo Galieo Container.
4 Move from Museo Galieo to ArtistManager Container.
5 Move from Museo Galieo to Heritage Malta Container.
6 Move from Heritage Malta to Museo Galieo Container.
Paths:
1 1.2
1 3.4
1 1.6
1 3.5
1 3.5.2
1 1.6.4

Figure 19: Travel schema for agentArtistManagerAgent

Agent Type: ProfilerAgent

Description: Static agent, not mobile.
Origin: ProfilerAgentContainer
Final Destination: ProfilerAgentContainer
List of atomic movements:
The agent is static and don't have any atomic movements.

Paths:
No paths

Figure 20: Travel schema for agentProfilerAgent

Agent Type: TourGuideAgent

Description: Static agent, not mobile.
Origin: TourGuideAgentContainer
Final Destination: TourGuideAgentContainer
List of atomic movements:
The agent is static and don't have any atomic movements.

Paths:
No paths

Figure 21: Travel schema for agentTourGuideAgent

III. TASK 2 - MODELING WITH AGENTUML

An alternative to the GAIA modeling approach is stick to UML, which is the dominant way of modeling in general software engineering and in particular object-oriented areas. However in the context of agent-oriented programing the UML standard have some obvious problems which are to be expected since UML was not designed for agent-oriented programming but rather object-oriented. Agent UML is an extension to UML with the purpose of making UML more usable for agent-based systems. In this section the result of modeling the SmartMuseum framework with the AgentUML method, and specifically with the approach used in [11] is presented.

I. The Overall Protocol

I.1 ArtistManager Auction package

High-level overview of the protocol where ArtistManagerAgents auctions art-artifacts to Curator-Agents using dutch auctions.

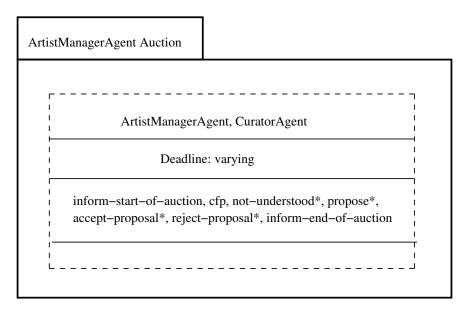


Figure 22: ArtistManager Auction package

I.2 Curator Auction package

High-level overview of the protocol where CuratorAgents auctions art-artifacts to ProfilerAgents using dutch auctions.

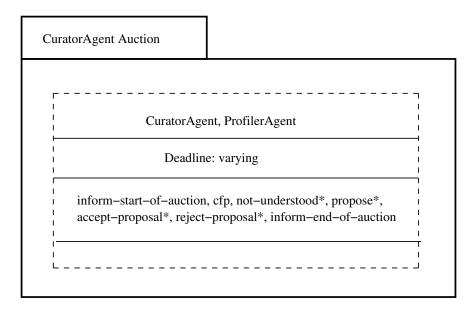


Figure 23: Curator Auction package

I.3 BuildVirtualTour package

High-level overview of the protocol where TourGuideAgents sonds the terrain of artifacts at different curators and then build virtual tours of different type.

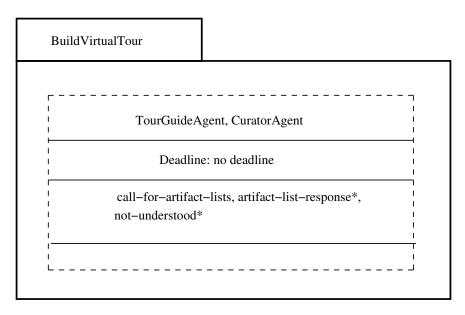


Figure 24: BuildVirtualTour package

I.4 FindVirtualTour package

High-level overview of the protocol where ProfilerAgents searches for virtual tours and rejects or selects the virtual tours.

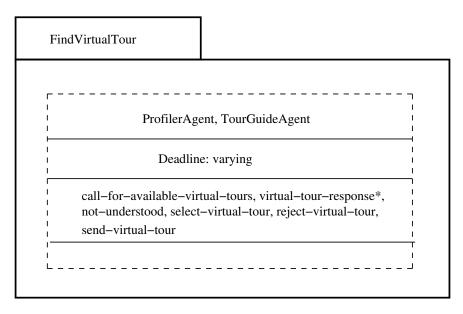


Figure 25: FindVirtualTour package

I.5 VisitArtifact package

High-level overview of the protocol where ProfilerAgents visits artifacts from a virtual tour.

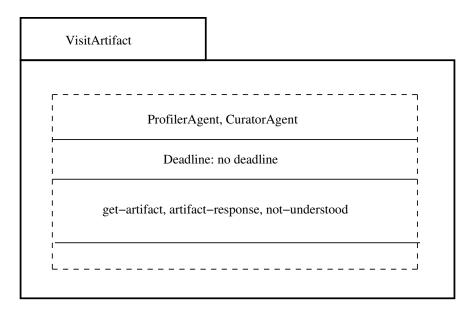


Figure 26: VisitArtifact package

II. Interactions Among Agents

II.1 ArtistManagerAgent Auction

Sequence diagram over the ArtistManagerAgent Auction protocol. When invoked the ArtistManagerAgent sends an inform-start-of-auction message to n number of CuratorAgents, then it sends a call for proposal with the current price, cfp-1 to n CuratorAgents. CuratorAgents can then either not respond at all or respond with either not-understood or propose. The diamond and X indicates that one of the two choices, exlusive, need to be taken. The ArtistManagerAgent will then correspondingly take different action based on which response it receives. If it receives a not-understood response it does nothing, if it receives a propose response (bid) it will either reject or accept it. Finally if the ArtistManagerAgent did'nt receive any bids for a certain amount of time it can either send out another cfp or close the auction by sending a inform-end-of-auction message in case the reservedPrice was reached.

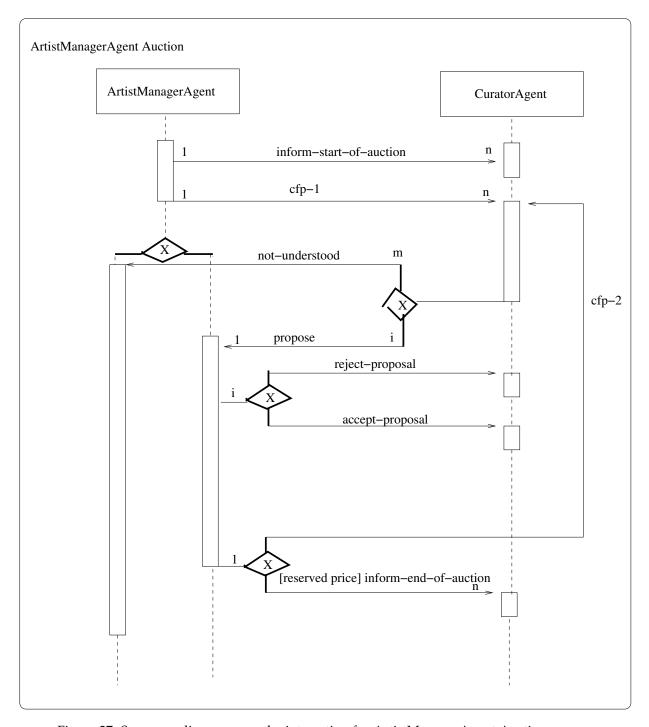


Figure 27: Sequence diagram over the interaction for ArtistManagerAgent Auction

II.2 CuratorAgent Auction

Sequence diagram over the CuratorAgent Auction protocol, this protocol follows the same dutch auction protocol as ArtistManagerAgentProtocol.

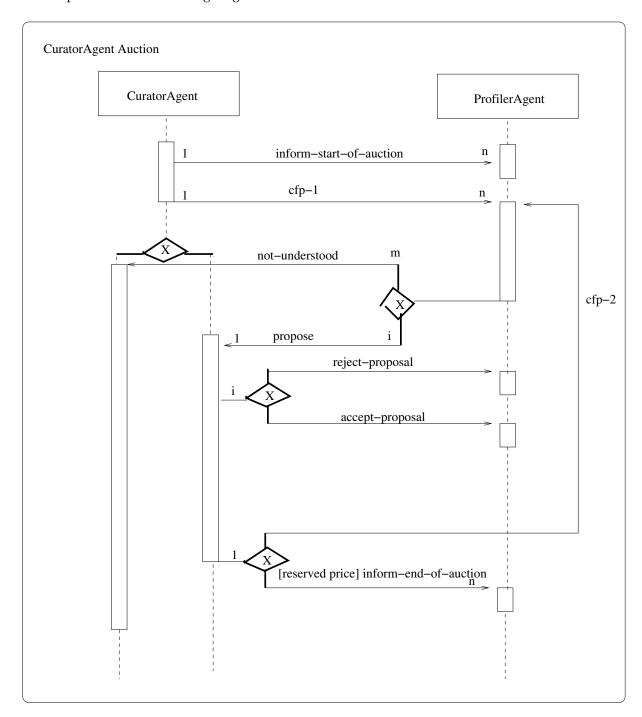


Figure 28: Sequence diagram over the interaction for CuratorAgent Auction

II.3 BuildVirtualTour

Sequence diagram over the BuildVirtualTour protocol. When invoked the TourGuideAgent sends a call - for - artifact - lists to n CuratorAgents. CuratorAgents can then choose to not respond or respond with either not - understood or artifact - list - response.

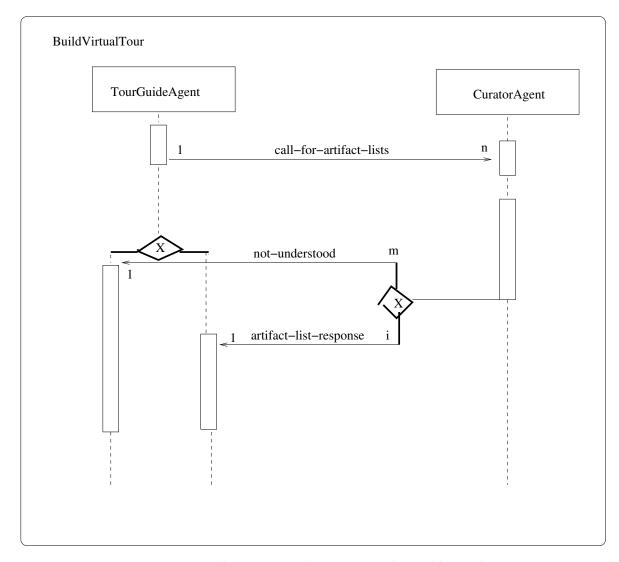


Figure 29: Sequence diagram over the interaction for BuildVirtualTour

II.4 FindVirtualTour

Sequence diagram over the FindVirtualTour protocol. When invoked the ProfilerAgent sends a call-for-available-virtual-tours to n TourGuideAgents. TourGuideAgents can then choose to not respond or respond with either not-understood or virtual-tour-response. If the ProfilerAgent receives a not-understood message it does nothing, if it receives a virtual-tour-response it either responds with select-virtual-tour upon the tourguide responds with the full

virtual-tour, or reject - virtual - tour.

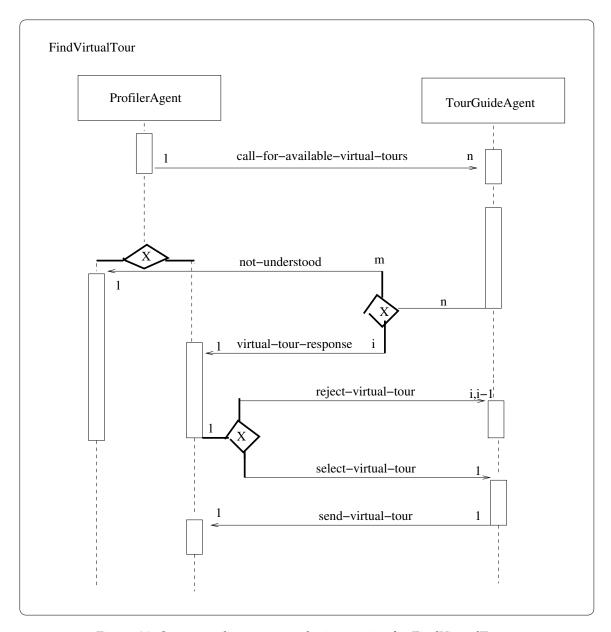


Figure 30: Sequence diagram over the interaction for FindVirtualTour

II.5 VisitArtifact

Sequence diagram over the VisitArtifact protocol. When invoked the ProfilerAgent sends a get-artifact message to 1 CuratorAgent. The CuratorAgent can then choose to not respond or respond with either not-understood or artifact-response.

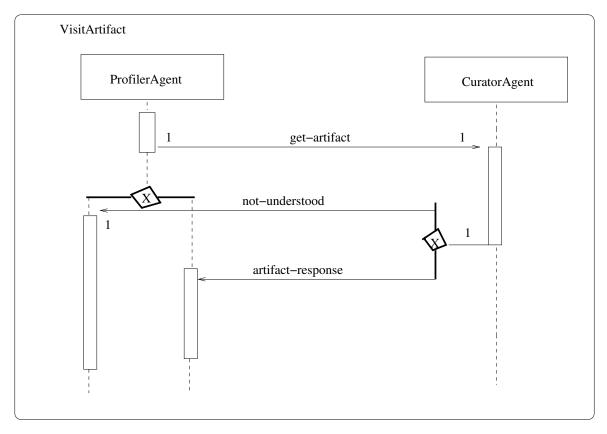


Figure 31: Sequence diagram over the interaction for VisitArtifact

III. Internal Agent Processing

III.1 ArtistManagerAgent

The ArtistManagerAgent contains internal processing for modifying prices in the dutch auction as well as selecting a winner when there is multiple bids. Many of the internal states depends on external events from the interaction protocol.

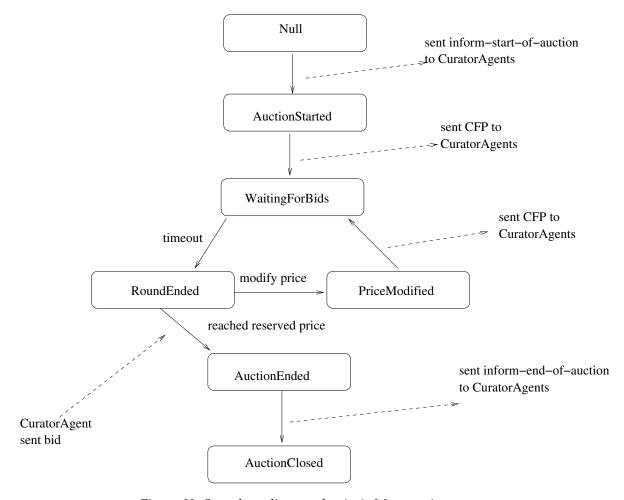


Figure 32: Statechart diagram for ArtistManagerAgent

III.2 TourGuideAgent

The TourGuideAgent contains internal processing for building virtual tours bases on artifacts. Many of the internal states depends on external events from the interaction protocol.

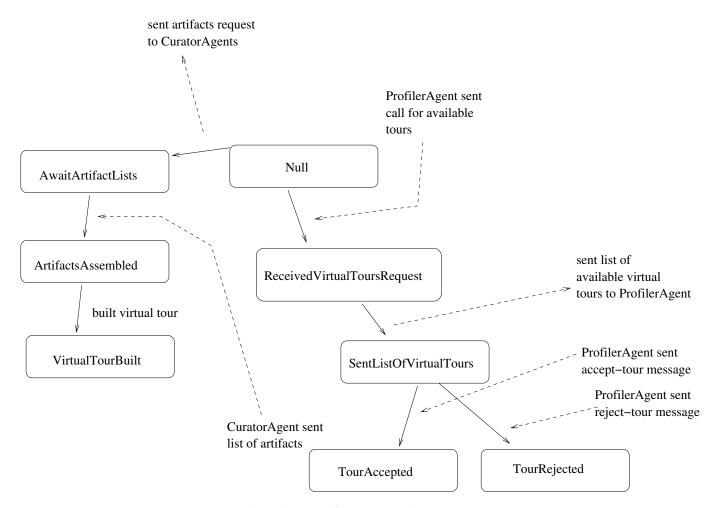


Figure 33: Statechart diagram for TourGuideAgent

III.3 ProfilerAgent

The ProfilerAgent contains internal processing for choosing to participate in auctions, find virtual tours, as well as visiting artifacts. Many of the internal states depends on external events from the interaction protocol.

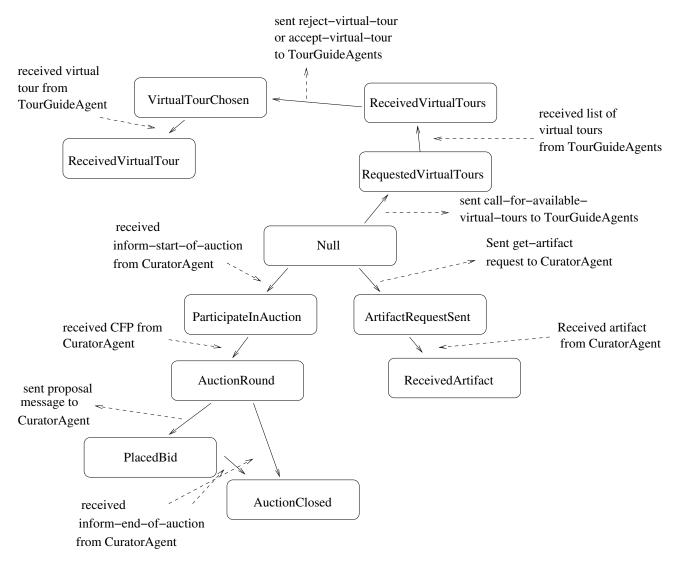


Figure 34: Statechart diagram for ProfilerAgent

III.4 CuratorAgent

The CuratorAgent contains internal processing for participating in auctions, modifying prices in the dutch auction as well as selecting a winner when there is multiple bids. Many of the internal states depends on external events from the interaction protocol.

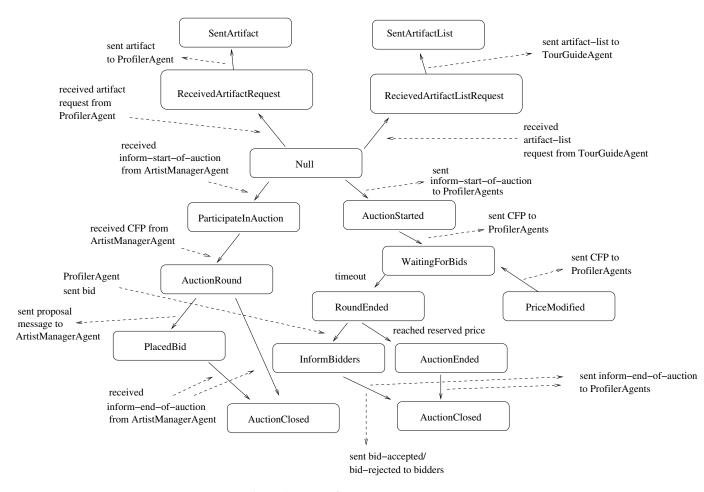


Figure 35: Statechart diagram for CuratorAgent

IV. TASK 3 - UML CLASS DIAGRAM REVISITED

In this section the results from modelling the SmartMuseum framework with class diagrams as described in [3] is presented.

I. ArtistManagerAgent

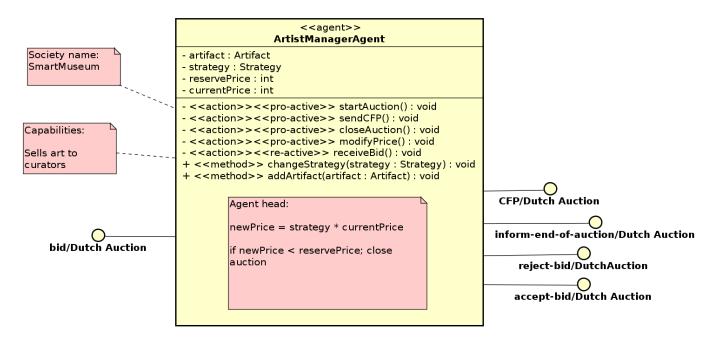


Figure 36: Class diagram for ArtistManagerAgent

II. TourGuideAgent

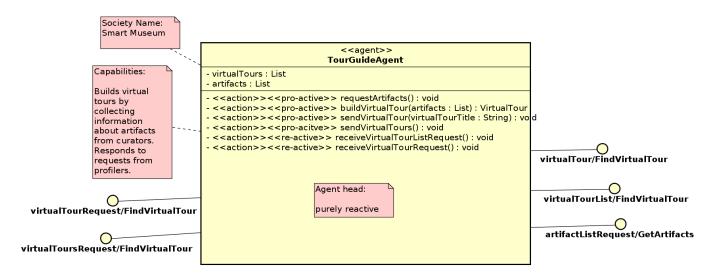


Figure 37: Class diagram for TourGuideAgent

III. ProfilerAgent

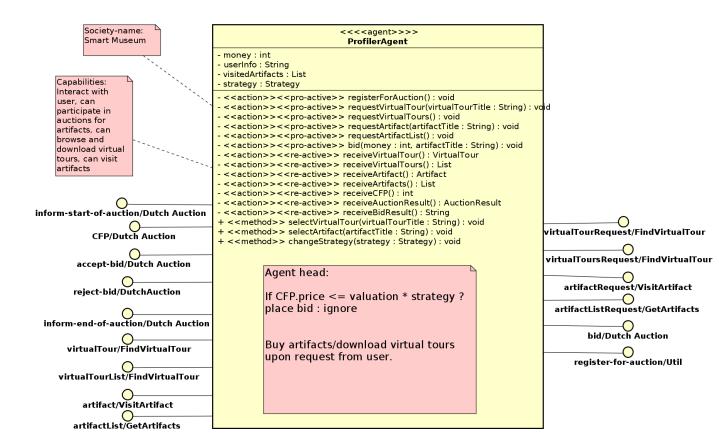


Figure 38: Class diagram for ProfilerAgent

IV. CuratorAgent

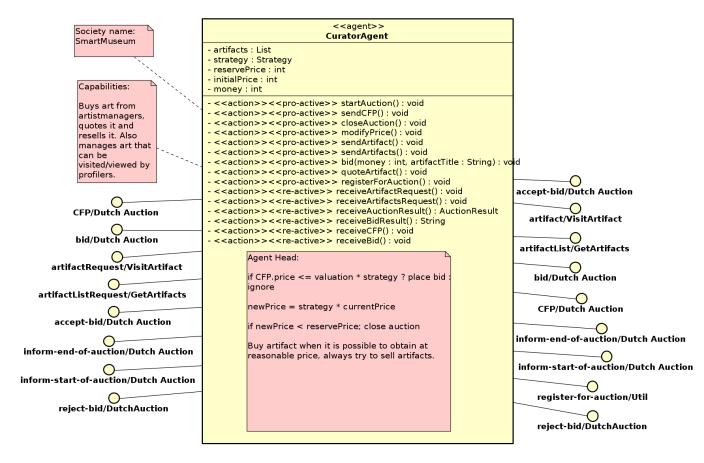


Figure 39: Class diagram for CuratorAgent

V. Task 4 - Role-based Modeling with Romas

In this section the result from role-based modeling with the RoMAS [12] method is presented. RoMAS is a role-based modeling methods for agent systems, it introduces a slightly new concept of roles as compared to the role concept used in Task 1 for GAIA modeling. In particular RoMAS modeling assumes that agent and role bindings are dynamic.

I. Role-based Modeling of SmartMuseum Framework

I.1 Use cases

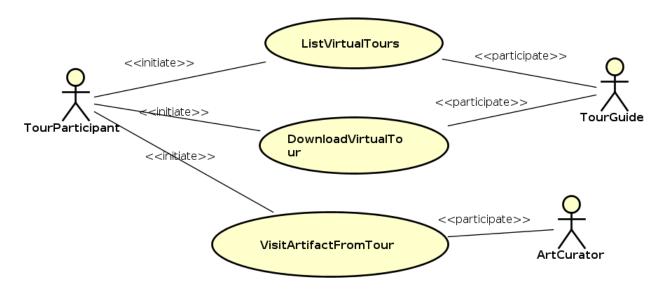


Figure 40: ConsumeVirtualTour usecase

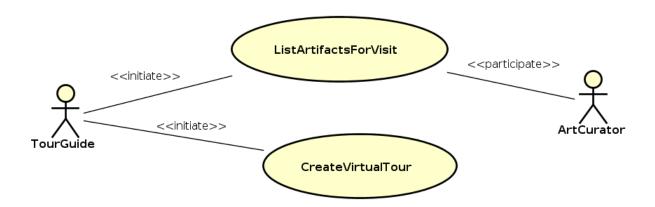


Figure 41: CreateVirtualTour usecase

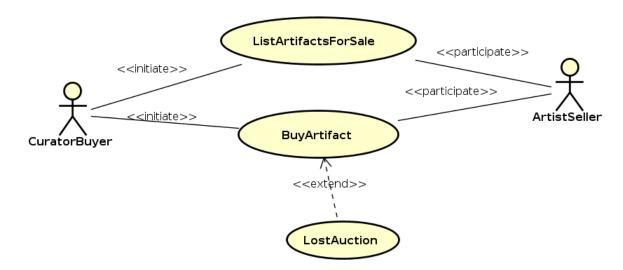


Figure 42: CuratorBuy usecase

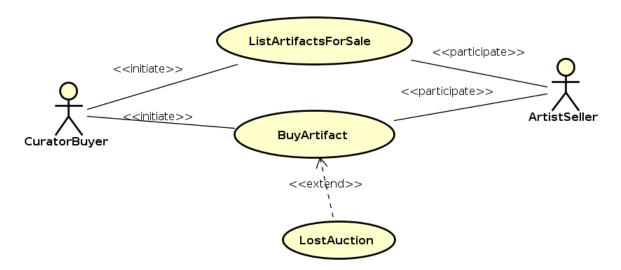


Figure 43: HobbyBuy usecase

I.2 Roles

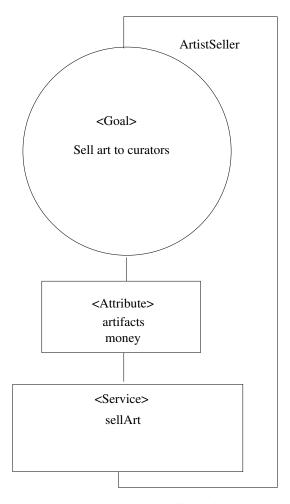


Figure 44: ArtistSeller role

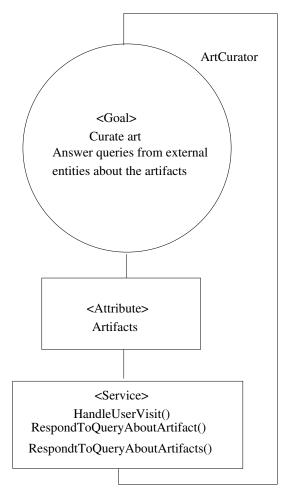


Figure 45: ArtCurator role

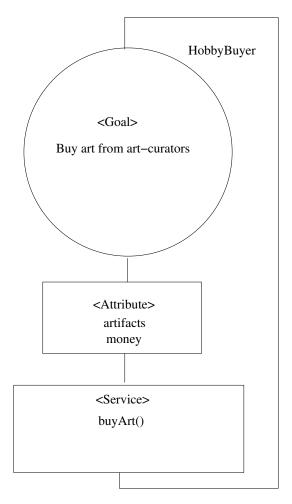


Figure 46: HobbyBuyer role

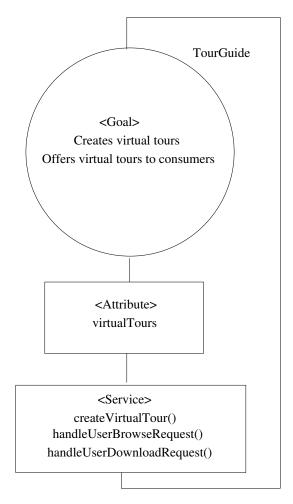


Figure 47: TourGuide role

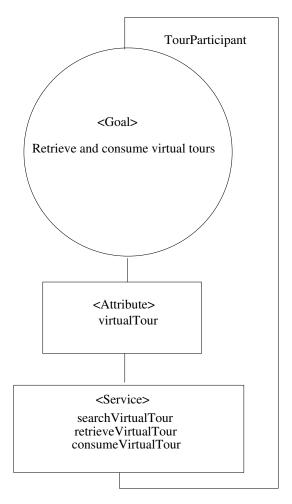


Figure 48: TourParticipant role

I.3 RoleOrganization

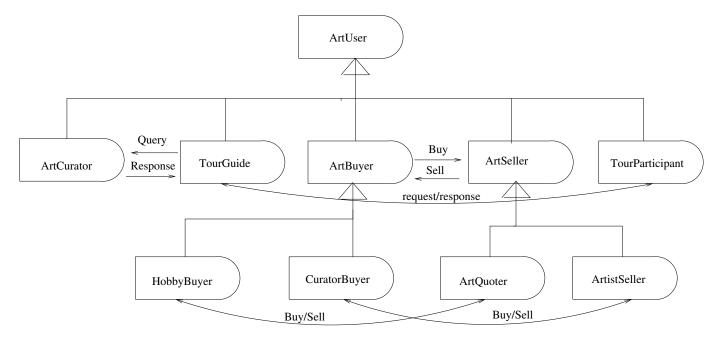


Figure 49: Roles Organization

I.4 Binding Agents to Roles

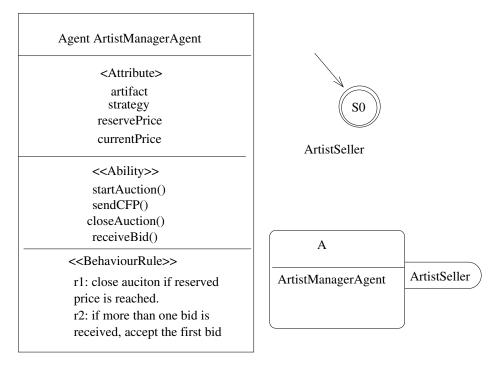


Figure 50: ArtistManagerAgent binding to roles

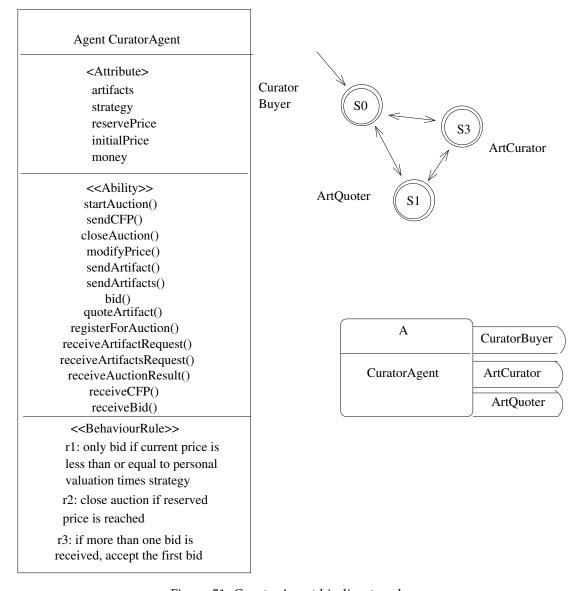


Figure 51: CuratorAgent binding to roles

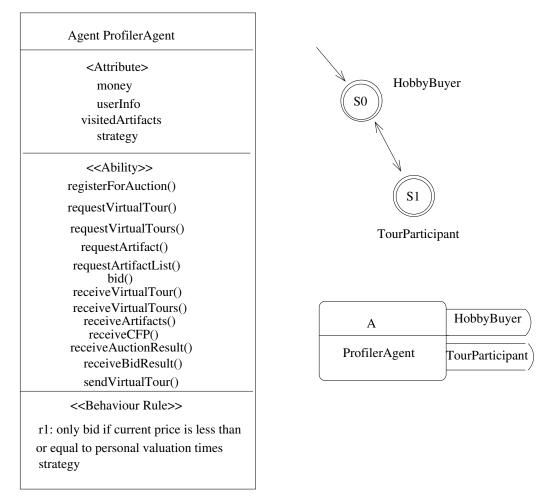


Figure 52: ProfilerAgent binding to roles

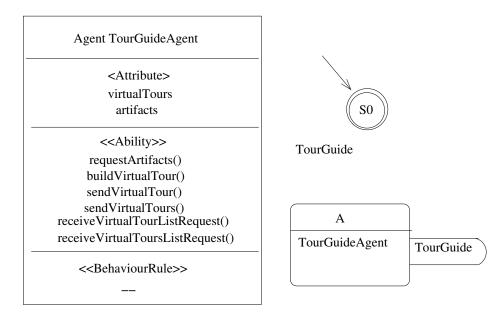


Figure 53: TourGuideAgent binding to roles

II. Comparison between RoMAS and GAIA

The resulting models are very similar, the same number of roles were identified in both cases. The models differ in that with RoMAS the notion that an agent is made out of roles is very explicit while in GAIA the roles gets "lost" when moving into the design phase. Another disparity between the two resulting models is that in the RoMAS model the agent can dynamically change roles over time, while in GAIA the model is assumed to be static. As stated in [14], the GAIA methology is best suited for domains which inhabit the following characteristics:

The organisation structure of the system is static, in that inter-agent relationships do not change at run-time. The abilities of agents and the services they provide are static, in that they do not change at run-time.[14]

In constrast, the RoMAS method do support dynamic binding of role to agent at runtime, and the model only declares the *initial* binding between agents and roles.

VI. Task 5 - Comparing JADE to other Agent Platforms

In this section it follows a high-level comparison of JAVA Agent DEvelopment Framework (JADE) [8], FIPA Open Source (FIPA-OS) [4], and JACK Intelligent Agents [2].

JADE is a framework for developing M.A.S in java where the developer is supposed to use the regular Java language but adopt the guidelines provided by the framework to construct agent systems. JACK is an agent platform developed on top of and integrated with Java, it works as an agent-oriented extension to the object-oriented Java, it is its own language although closely coupled with java. FIPA-OS is a set of components which constitute as the core of the FIPA specification, which means that the developer can utilize this and focus on solving the real problem instead of building agent infrastructure.

I. Services and Architectures

Platform	Architecture	Services
JADE	Container-oriented architecture. Distributed containers that are connected over the network through a message transport system provided by JADE. [6]	Agent Management System (AMS) can kill/create agents, provides a naming service for all agents on the platform. Directory Facilitator (DF) provides a Yellow Pages service which agents can use to find each other. Other notable parts of JADE's infrastructure are: ACL infrastructure, support for agent mobility, built-in support for FIPA-compliant protocols. [6]
FIPA-OS	Component-oriented architecture. When deploying an agent system the developer choose a set of components to use, some components are mandatory, some are optional. [5]	Core components: Agent Shell provides a shell for agent implementation, TM (Task Manager) support ability to split functionality of agents, CM (Conversation Manager) enables to track conversation state at the performative level, MTS (Message Transport Service) the general messaging service that enables agents to communicate. Beyond the mandatory components there are a bunch of optional components, e.g database factory, parser factory. FIPA-OS also provides Directory Facilitator and Agent Management System just as JADE. Other notable parts of FIPA-OS's infrastructure are: ACL infrastructure, support for agent mobility, built-in support for FIPA-compliant protocols. [5].
JACK	JACK Agent Kernel, a runtime engine that provides the infrastructure for developing agent systems. JACK uses a communication layer. The developer is not actively interacting with the kernel but instead uses constructs in the language declaring the name of agents, the address of other agents etc, which will allow the kernel to provide the underlying infrastructure, e.g communication between agents. [9]	JACK provides a default messaging service over UDP and has constructs for a naming-service in the language. One particular agent architecture have stronger support than others in JACK and that is the BDI architecture. JACK provides different services related to BDI such as BDI Models, ways of declaring plans, beliefs and external/internal events. TaskManager which allows agents to schedule tasks. JACK also provides services for teamoriented programming as a way of coordinating between agents. Other notable parts of JACK's infrastructure are: No support for agent mobility, built-in support for FIPA-compliant protocols. [10]

II. Implementation Comparison

• JADE:

In JADE, service implementation can be done by developing agents that listens for certain type of messages, perform some action, and respond. The functionality for listening for a certain type of messages is provided by the JADE runtime and allows to have multiple services on the same host in a convenient way. Service registration and discovery is closley coupled with the AMS Service and the DF service. The AMS service ensures a global name space with unique names for adressing, the DF service is used to register services and to find other registered services. AMS and DF are agents on their own which means that the interaction with these services is done through messages passing. When registering a service one could define different properties like name, type, description etc.

• FIPA-OS:

Service implementation in FIPA-OS can be done by developing agents that listens for specific type of incoming connections by developing Tasks, Tasks's can then be associated to different events which allows to have multiple tasks on the same host/agent. FIPA-OS uses the same type of services like JADE for service registration and discovery: AMS and DF [5].

• JACK:

In JACK an agent service can be implemented by using the constructs in the language like #handles to declare which events this service/agent should react to, #posts, #sends for event/message sending, #uses for declaring plans. To set up a service in JACK which can be used by other agents, one can use a designated process/agent as a *name-server*, this name server can be designed in different ways, for example it could do lookups of names to port/address, or it could provide a service-registration service or similar. [9]

III. Notable Projects

• JADE:

AMUSE (Agent-based Multi-User Social Environment): Software platform that facilitates the development of distributed social applications involving users that cooperate/compete to achieve common or private goals. Within this scope the primary focus of Amuse is on multi player on-line games [13].

• FIPA-OS:

 - CRUMPET: The overall aim of the CRUMPET project is to implement, validate, and trial tourism-related value-added services for nomadic users (across mobile and fixed networks). [7]

• JACK:

- Realistic Virtual Actors: Simulation system in a military context, uses intelligent agents for the simulation [1].
- Human Behaviour Representation: Application where realistic human behaviour is generated [1].

IV. Personal Judgement

JADE is the only platform I have had the chance to get practical experience working with throughout the assignments in this course. JACK and FIPA-OS are two other platforms with similar purposes as JADE, that I've only read about.

Something I've came to appreciate when using JADE to build agent systems is the simplicity in how much you can build just by using the few default services provided by JADE like DF, AMS and the message transport system. In my opinion JADE neatly provides the necessary infrastructure without getting in the way for the programmer who can focus on solving the specific problem at hand. Another pro of JADE in my opinion is the adoption of the FIPA specification, many protocols and message formats are supported out of the box. Something I feel is lacking in JADE is additional constructs in the framework for designing agents in the micro perspective. Agent design in JADE is done through composing general behaviours, there is no explicit constructs for using BDI architecture or similar.

Another deficiency with JADE in my opinion is the support for agent mobility, although JADE provide some tools that allows to implement mobile agents, the support is very poor if you compare to the standards of the rest of the platform. At the moment of writing this the documentation for agent mobility is also sparse, perhaps because this particular reason.

FIPA-OS is just as the name implies is also compliant with the FIPA specifications and is very similar to JADE. An advantage I've found with FIPA-OS compared to JADE is the ability to combine different components of the infrastructure architecture as you like, in this aspect FIPA-OS provide more eligibility than JADE. FIPA-OS uses the Task abstraction which seems to be analogous to the Behaviour abstraction in JADE.

JACK uses a different approach to FIPA-OS and JADE in that it has its own language. Something I feel missing in JACK is clear guidelines for designing agent systems in the macro perspective as both JADE and FIPA-OS provides with their default services, also JACK does not seem to have as good support for the FIPA specifications as JADE and FIPA-OS. JACK on the other hand gives more sophisticated structures for designing agents in the micro perspective and have very good support for BDI architectures in particular.

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