
# Modeling System Operations

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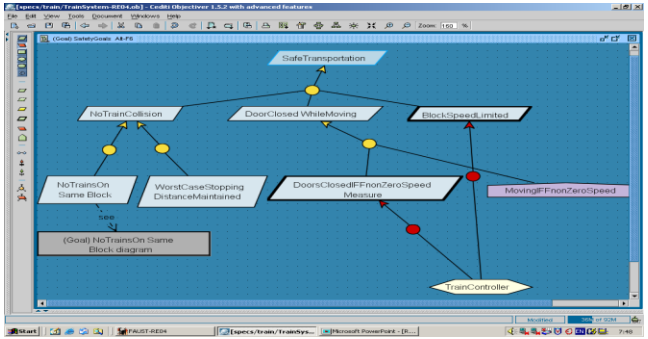
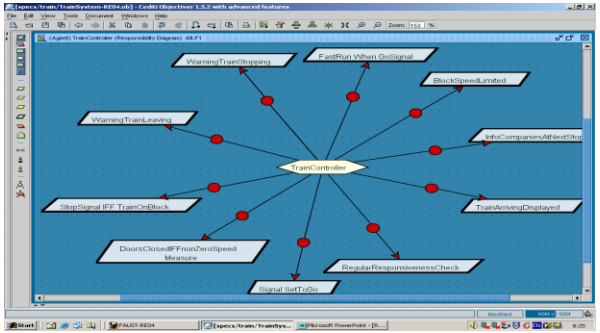
# Building models for RE

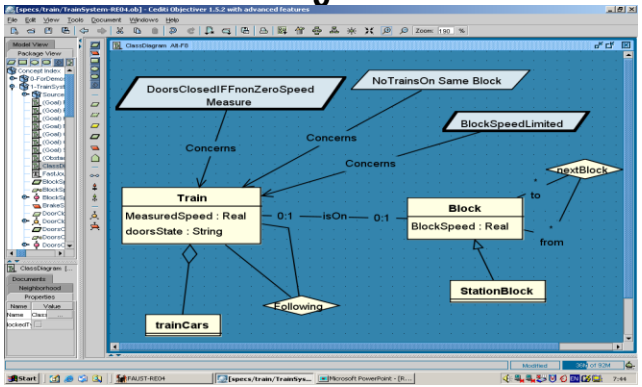
## Goals



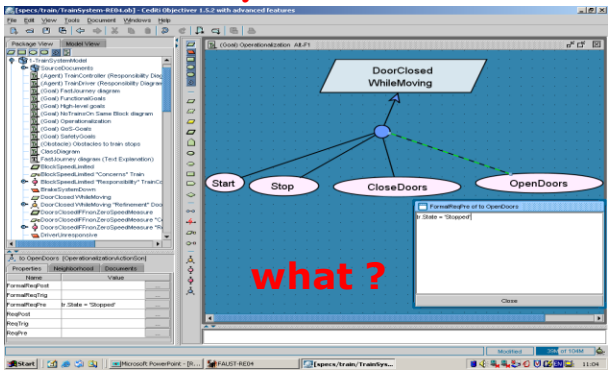

## Agents & responsibilities




## Objects




## Operations



# The operation model

- Functional view of the system being modeled
  - **what services** are to be provided? (statics)
  - **under what conditions** for goal satisfaction?
- Represented by operationalization diagram, UML use cases
- Multiple uses:
  - software specifications --input for development team
  - description of environment tasks & procedures
  - basis for deriving:
    - black-box test data
    - executable specs for animation, prototyping
  - definition of function points (for size estimation), work units, user manual sections
  - satisfaction arguments, traceability management

# Modeling system operations: outline

- What are operations?
- Characterizing system operations
  - Operation signature
  - Domain pre- and postconditions
  - Operation performer
- Goal operationalization
  - Required pre-, post-, trigger conditions for goal satisfaction
  - Agent commitments
  - Goal operationalization and satisfaction arguments
- Goals, agents, objects & operations: the semantic picture
- Representing operation models
  - Operationalization diagrams
  - UML use case diagrams
- Building operation models: heuristics & derivation rules

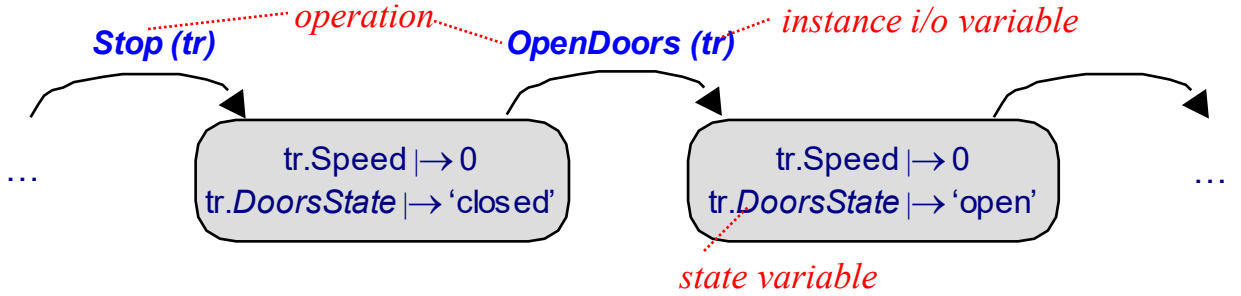
# What are operations?

- **Operation** Op = set of input-output state pairs (binary relation)

  $Op \subseteq \text{InputState} \times \text{OutputState}$

  - state = tuple of functional pairs $\mathbf{x_i} \mapsto \mathbf{v_i}$ (cf. conceptual object lecture)

    $\mathbf{x_i}$ : variable, $\mathbf{v_i}$ : corresponding value
  - input variables: object instances to which *Op* applies
  - output variables: object instances upon which *Op* acts
  - attributes of i/o variables instantiated as state variables
- Operation **applications** yield state transitions (events)



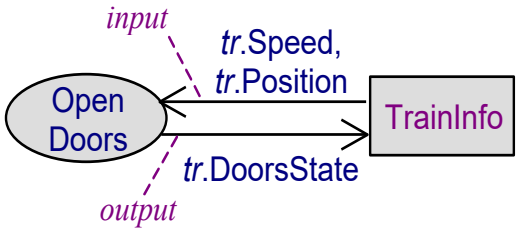
# What are operations?

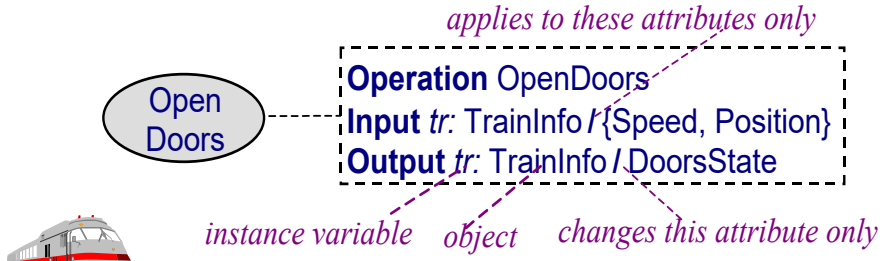
- Op must **operationalize** underlying goals from goal model
  - to make these satisfied => application under restricted conditions
- Generally deterministic: relation over states is a function
  - no multiple alternative outputs from same input
- **Atomic**: map input state to state at next smallest time unit
  - not decomposable into finer-grained operations
    - ☞ decompose underlying goals, not operations ! (semantically simpler)
  - for operations lasting some duration: use **startOp/endOp** events
- May be applied concurrently with others
  - intra-agent concurrency (beside inter-agent concurrency)
  - e.g. OpenDoors || DisplayWhichPlatform

- Software operations, environment operations (tasks)
  - e.g. PlanMeeting , SendConstraints

# Characterizing system operations

- Basic features: Name, Def, Category
- Signature
  - declares the input-output relation over states
    - input/output variables & their type (object from object model)
    - scope may be restricted to specific attributes (nothing else changes)
    - used in pre-, post-conditions
  - graphical or textual annotation



# Characterizing system operations: domain pre- and post-conditions

- Conditions capturing the class of state transitions that intrinsically defines the operation
- **DomPre**: condition characterizing class of input states in domain
  - descriptive, not prescriptive, for some goal
- **DomPost**: condition characterizing class of output states in domain
  - descriptive, not prescriptive, for some goal

# Characterizing system operations: operation performer

- An agent **performs** an operation if the applications of this operation are activated by instances of this agent (cf. agent responsibility lecture)
- Consistency rules between *operation* model & *agent* model:
  - every *input/output* state variable in signature of operation performed by an agent must be *monitored/controlled* by it in the agent model
  - every operation is performed by exactly one agent
    - cf. *Unique Controller* constraint in agent model

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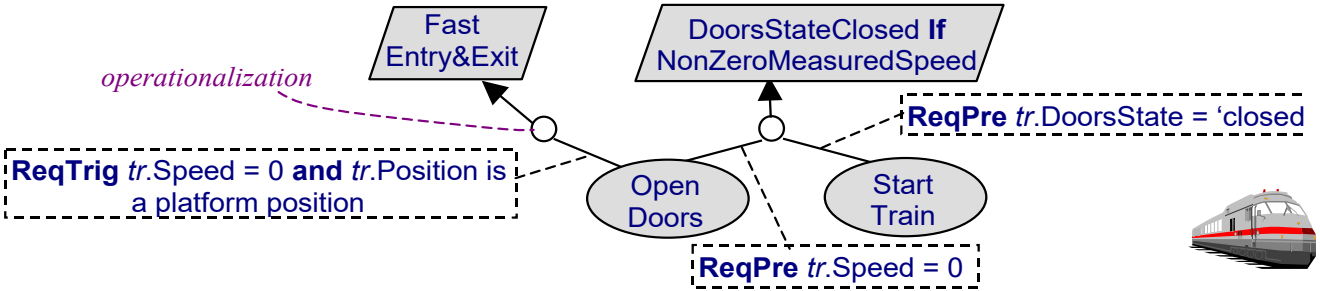
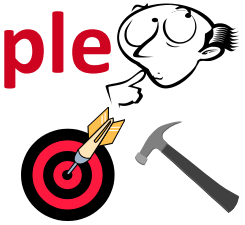
# Goal operationalization

- A set of operations **operationalizes** a leaf goal if their spec ensures that the goal is satisfied
- These specs are **prescriptive** conditions on the operations:
  - **ReqPre**: *necessary* condition on Op's input states to ensure G:
    - when DomPre *true*, Op **may** be applied **only if** ReqPre *true* (permission)
  - **ReqTrig**: *sufficient* condition on Op's input states to ensure G:
    - when DomPre *true*, Op **must** be applied **as soon as** ReqTrig *true* (obligation)
  - **ReqPost**: condition on Op's output states to ensure G



# Specifying operations textually: example



- **Operation** OpenDoors
  - **Def** *Operation controlling the opening of all train doors*
  - **Input** *tr*: Train / {Speed, Position}
  - **Output** *tr*: Train / DoorsState
  - **DomPre** The doors of train *tr* are closed
  - **DomPost** The doors of train *tr* are open
  - **ReqPre** For DoorsClosedWhileNonzeroSpeed
    - The speed of train *tr* is 0
  - **ReqPre** For SafeEntry&Exit
    - Train *tr* is at a platform
  - **ReqTrig** For FastEntry&Exit
    - Train *tr* has just stopped at a platform

# Specifying operations textually: another example

- **Operation** SendAccelerationCommand
  - **Def** *Operation of sending an acceleration command to a train*
  - **Input** *tr*: Train, cm: CommandMsg;
  - **Output** cm: Sent % association instance %
  - **DomPre** not Sent (cm, tr)
  - **DomPost** Sent (cm, tr)
  - **ReqPost** For SafeAccelerationCommand
    - The commanded acceleration sent to *tr* is within safe range with respect to the preceding train's position and speed
  - **ReqTrig** For CommandMsgSentInTime
    - No acceleration command has been sent to *tr* since 3 seconds

# Goal operationalization

- A leaf goal is generally operationalized by multiple operations
- An operation generally operationalizes multiple goals
  - all ReqPre/ReqPost are implicitly conjoined with DomPre/DomPost
  - if DomPre *true*, **must** be applied as soon as **one** ReqTrig *true*
    (not applied if one or more ReqTrig *true* with DomPre *false*)
  - if DomPre *true*, **may** be applied provided **all** ReqPre *true*
    (not applicable if all ReqPre *true* with DomPre *false*)

- Consistency constraint on obligations & permissions:

  **if** DomPre and ($ReqTrig_1$ *or* … *or* $ReqTrig_M$) *obligation*

  **then** ($ReqPre_1$ *and* … *and* $ReqPre_N$) *permission*

# Agent commitments

- For every goal G under responsibility of agent ag,
  for every operation Op operationalizing G,
  ag must guarantee that Op is applied:
  **when** Op's DomPre holds,
  **as soon as** one of Op's ReqTrig holds
  **only if** all Op's ReqPre hold,
  **so as to** establish Op's DomPost together with all Op's ReqPost

- Extra consistency rules between *operation* and *agent* models:
  - *ag* responsible for *G* must perform all operations operationalizing *G*
  - if these operations operationalize other goals, *ag* must be responsible for these goals too


# Agent commitments

- Agent non-determinism: eager vs. lazy behavior on ReqPre's
  - **eager**: agent instance applies operation as soon as all ReqPre *true* (maximal progress)
  - **lazy**: agent instance applies operation only when obliged, due to one ReqTrig *true*

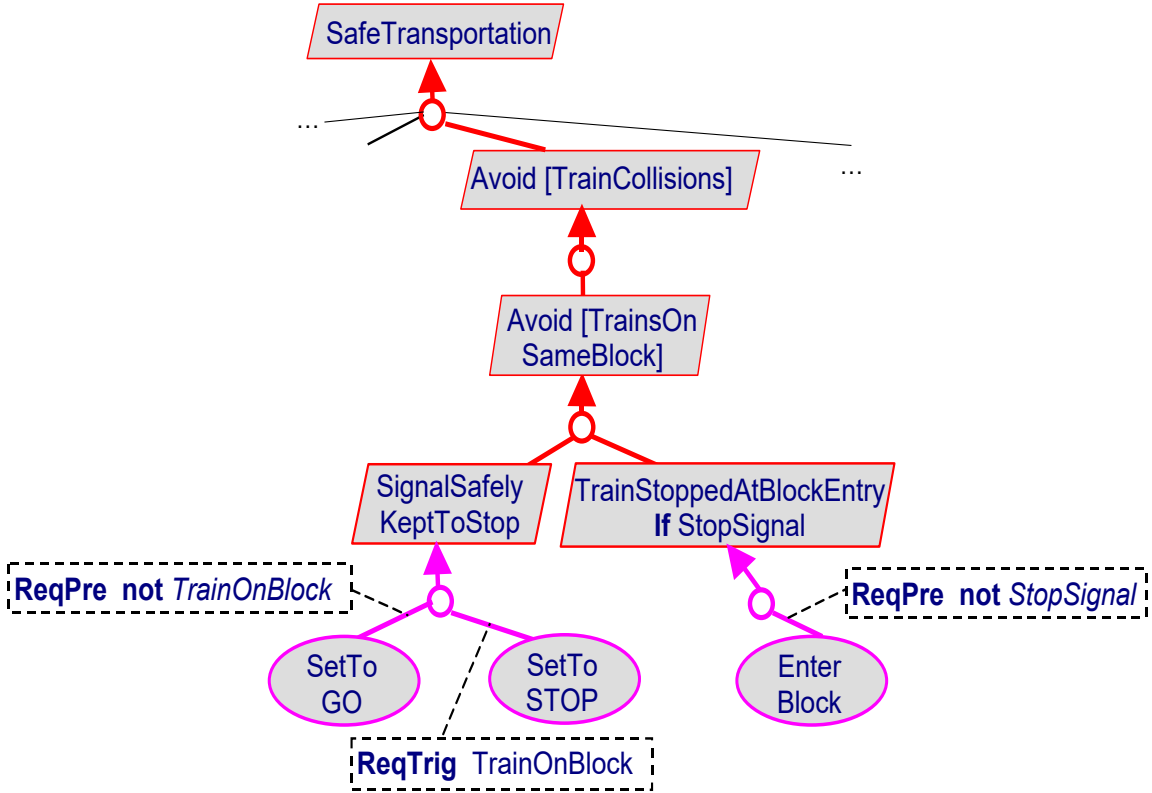
- Agent concurrency:
  - ReqTrig's on multiple operations *true* in same state
  - true parallelism, intra-agent or inter-agent

# Goal operationalization and satisfaction arguments

- The *goal* and *operation* models may be used to argue that operational requirements ensure higher-level objectives
  - bottom-up chaining of *operationalization* & *refinement* links
    - {Spec($Op_1$), …, Spec($Op_M$)} |= OperationalizedGoal
    - {$Subgoal_1$ …, $Subgoal_N$ , DOM} |= ParentGoal (cf. goal diagram lecture)

- Yield derivational traceability links for free
  - **backwards**: why this operational spec, for what goals?
  - **forwards**: how is this goal ensured?

# Satisfaction arguments & derivational traceability: example



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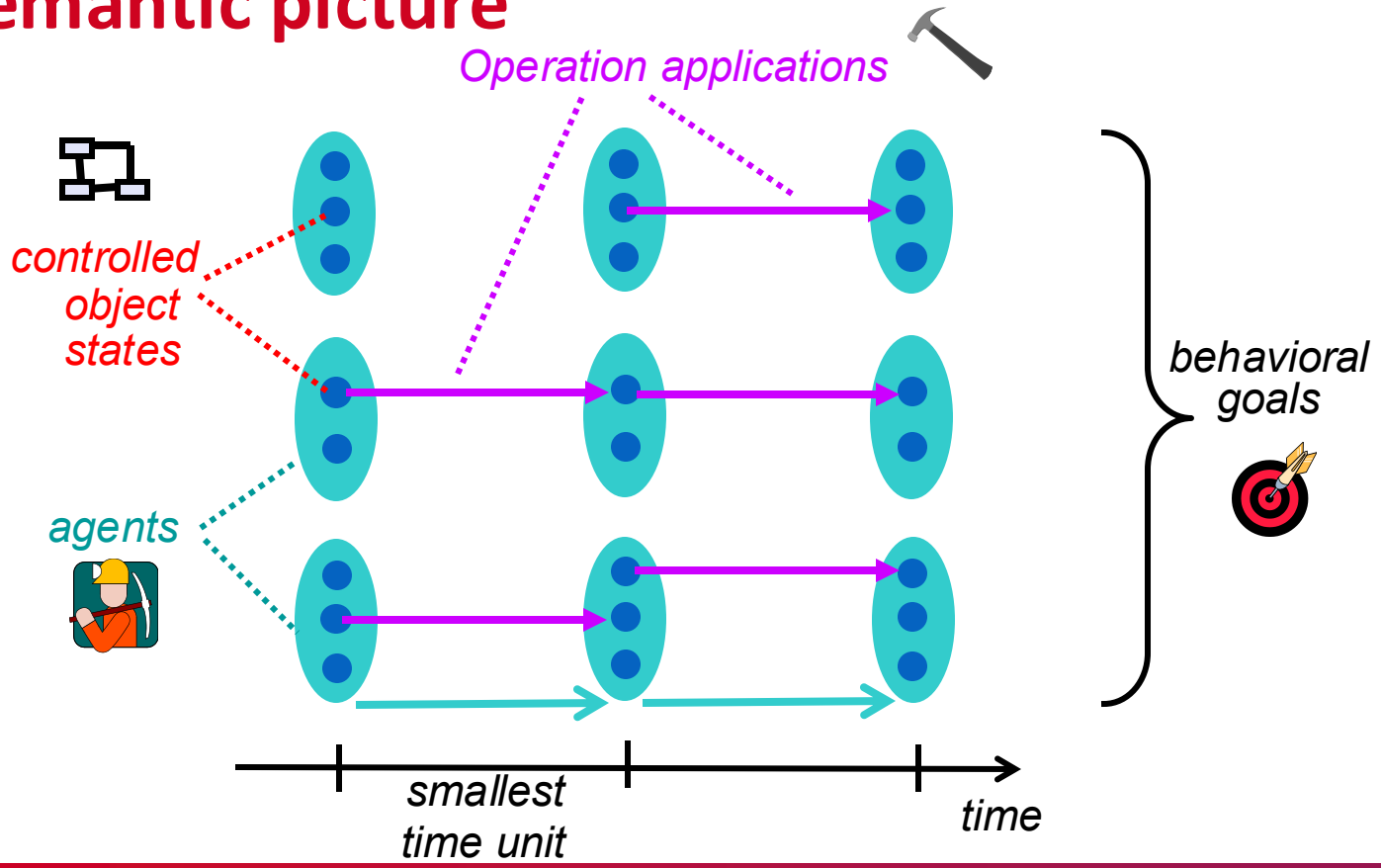
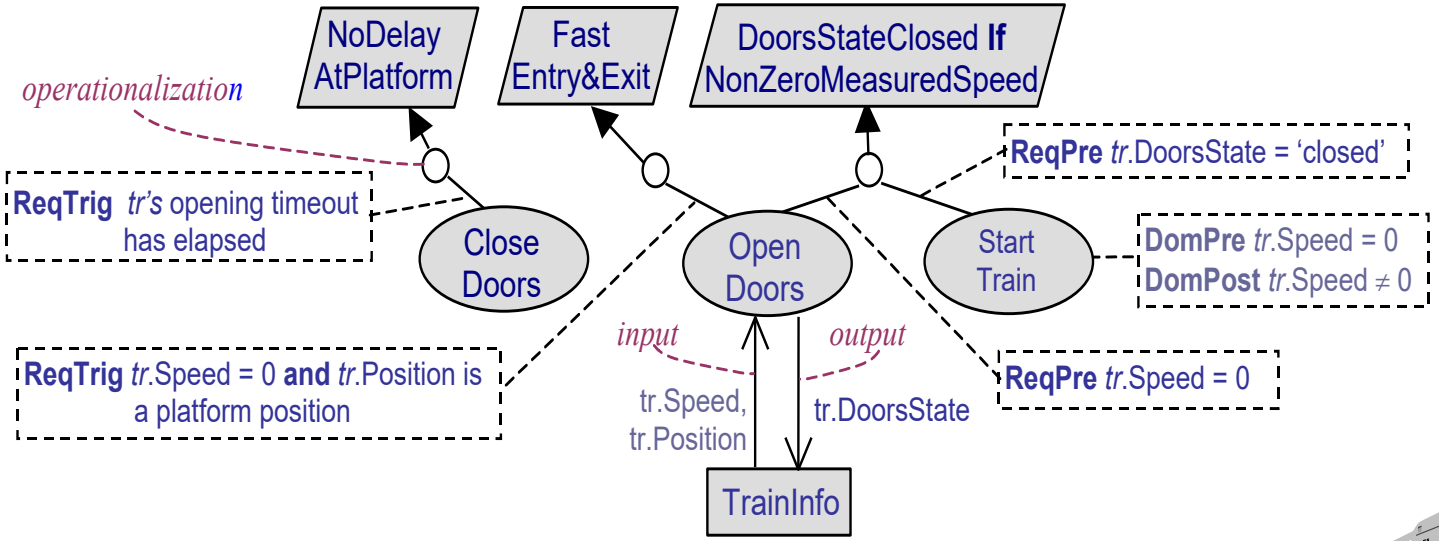
# Goals, objects, agents, operations: the semantic picture



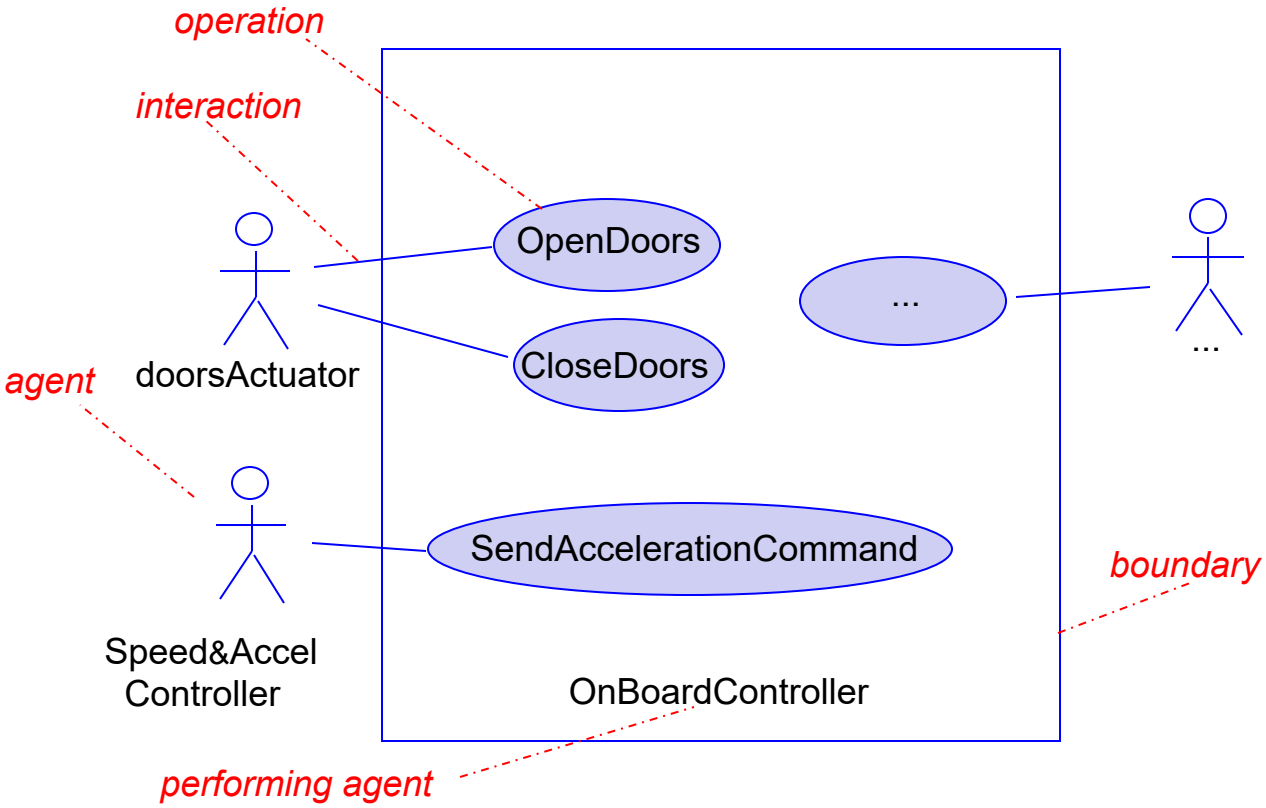
# Representing operation models: operationalization diagrams



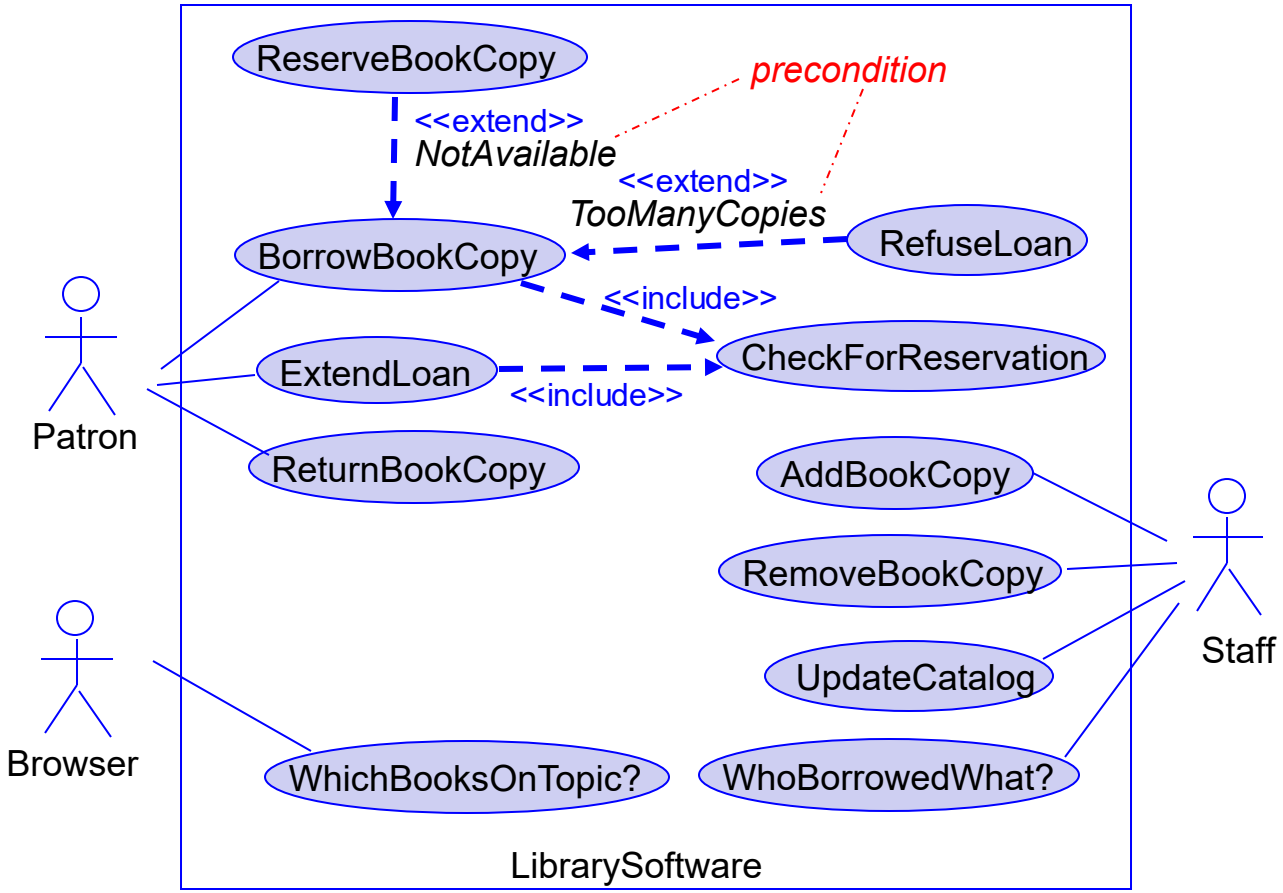

# Representing operation models: UML use case diagrams

- A **use case** outlines the operations an agent has to perform
  - +: interactions with:
    - the agents controlling operation inputs
    - the agents monitoring operation outputs
  - +: optional (ill-defined) links:
    - to exception operations with preconditions ("**extend**")
    - to sub-operations ("**include**")
- A use case should operationalize the leaf goals underlying the operations in it
- Decompose goals, NOT operations!! (=> precise semantics)
- Generation of use cases from the operation & agent models is straightforward (see hereafter)

# UML use case diagrams: example



# UML use case diagrams: another example



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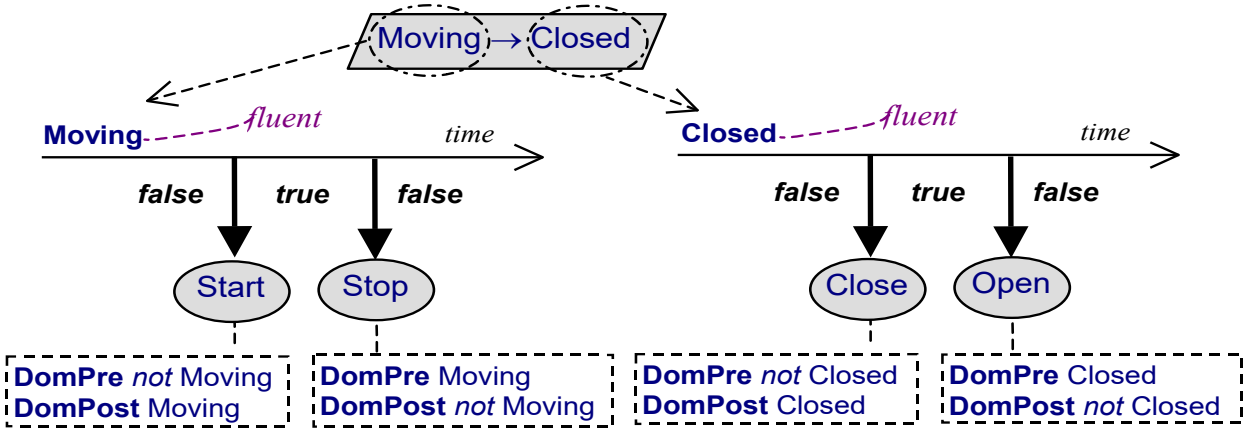
# Derive operations from goal fluents

- Conditions defined by initiating and termination operations are called **fluents**
- For each behavioral leaf goal: list atomic conditions *F* in its specification
- For each *F*, look for:
  - **initiating operation**: makes *F* **true** when *F* was **false**

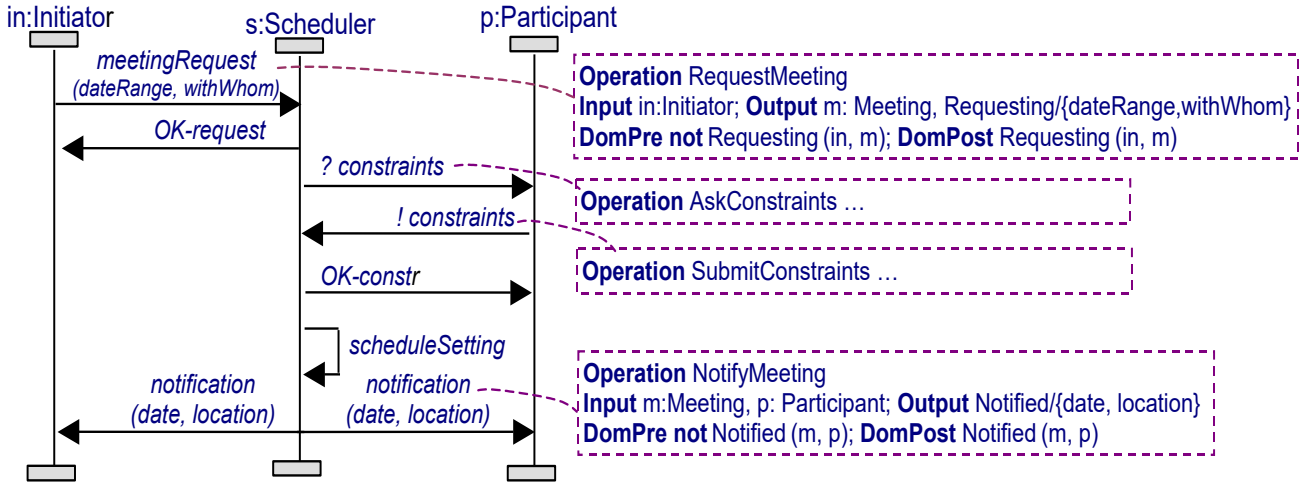
    => DomPre = not *F*, DomPost = *F*
  - **terminating operation**: makes *F* false when *F* was true

    => DomPre = *F*, DomPost = not *F*



# Identify operations from interaction scenarios

- For each interaction event in a scenario:
  - is this an operation application by the source agent with output monitored by the target agent?
  - what is the atomic condition characterizing the interaction on the source agent timeline?
    - right before interaction => DomPre
    - right after interaction => DomPost



# Strengthen DomPre, DomPost with conditions required by goals

- **Identify required permissions**: if an operation's DomPost effect can violate a goal *G* under condition *C*

  => **ReqPre** for G: not C

  e.g. OpenDoors: ReqPre for "Moving → Closed": not Moving

- **Identify required obligations**: if an operation's DomPost effect is prescribed by a goal *G* to hold whenever condition *C* gets *true*

  => **ReqTrig** for G: C

  e.g. OpenDoors: ReqTrig for "StoppedAtPlatform → Open": StoppedAtPlatform

- **Identify required additional effects**: if an operation's DomPost is not sufficient to ensure the target condition *T* of goal *G* ...

  => **ReqPost** for G: missing subcondition from T

  e.g. PlanMeeting: ReqPost for ConvenientMeeting: date not in excluded dates

# Generating use case diagrams from operationalization diagrams

**For each** agent ag in agent diagram:
  enclose all operations performed by ag in a rectangle labelled ag;
  **for each** such operation op in corresponding operationalization diagram:
    **for each** other agent ag-env in the agent diagram:
      **if** ag-env controls one of op's input object attribute/association
            **or** monitors one of op's output object attribute/association
      **then** include ag-env around ag's rectangle
            and draw an interaction link between op and ag-env
        transfer op's DomPre, DomPost, ReqPres, ReqTrigs, ReqPosts