Modeling System Behaviours

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Notice

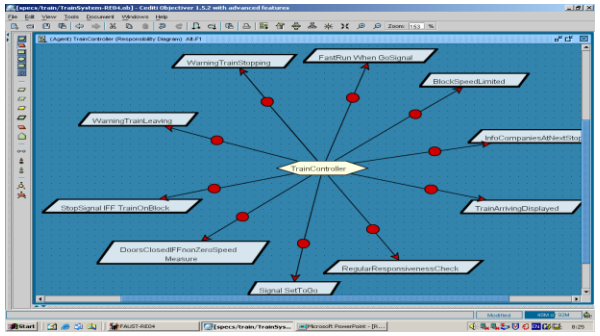
- Candidate exam dates (possibly subject to change)

  June 16th
  July 14th

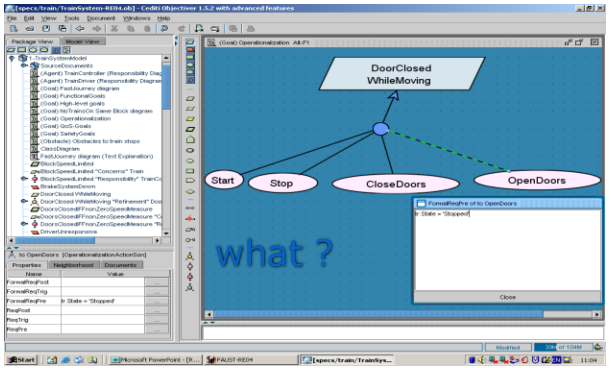
  September 29th

Building models for RE

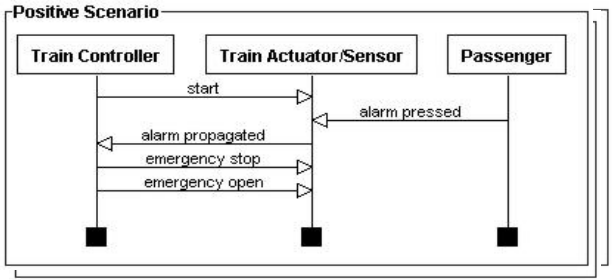
Agents & responsibilities



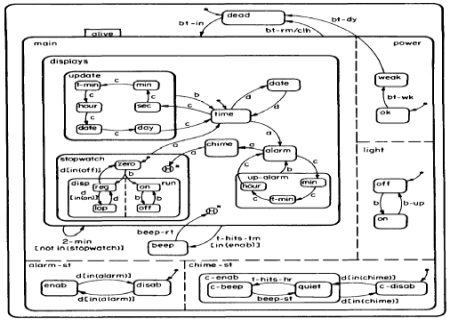
Operations



Behaviors -*Scenarios*



Behaviors -*State machines*



The behavior model

- **System dynamics**: behavior of agents in terms of temporal sequences of state transitions for variables they control
  - **instance behaviors**: specific behaviors of specific agent instances
    -> scenarios: implicit states, explicit events
  - **class behaviors**: all possible behaviors of any agent instance
    -> state machines: explicit states, explicit causing events
- Actual behaviors (syst-as-is) or required behaviors (syst-to-be)
- Represented by UML sequence diagrams, UML state diagrams
- Multiple uses:
  - instance level: scenarios for understanding, elicitation, validation, explanation, acceptance test data
  - class level: state machines for animation, model checking, code generation

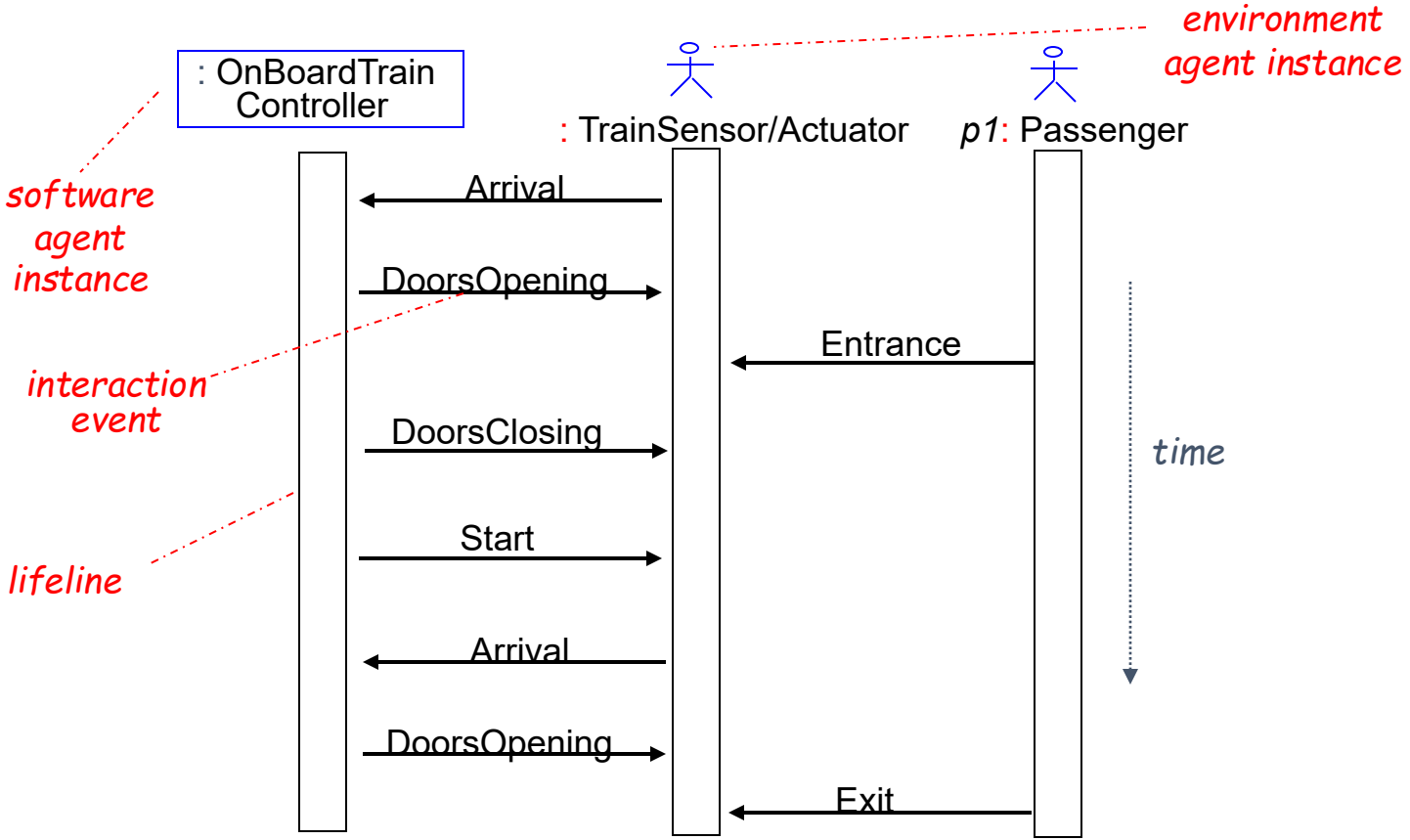
Modeling system behaviors: outline

- Modeling instance behaviors
  - Scenarios as UML sequence diagrams
  - Scenario refinement: episodes and agent decomposition
- Modeling class behaviors
  - State machines as UML state diagrams
  - State machine refinement: sequential & concurrent substates
- Building behavior models
  - Elaborating relevant scenarios for good coverage
  - Decorating scenarios with explicit state conditions
  - From scenarios to state machines
  - From scenarios to goals
  - From operationalized goals to state machines

Modeling instance behaviors through scenarios

- **Scenario** = temporal sequence of **interaction events** among agent instances
  - instances of different agents or of same agent
  - interactions are **directed**
    - **from** source agent instance, controlling the event,
    - **to** target agent instance, monitoring the event
  - interactions are **synchronous** among event controller/monitor
- **Positive** scenario: illustrates some way of achieving implicit goal(s)
  - normal scenario: in normal cases
  - abnormal scenario: in exception cases (don't forget these!)
- **Negative** scenario: illustrates some inadmissible behavior (obstacle)

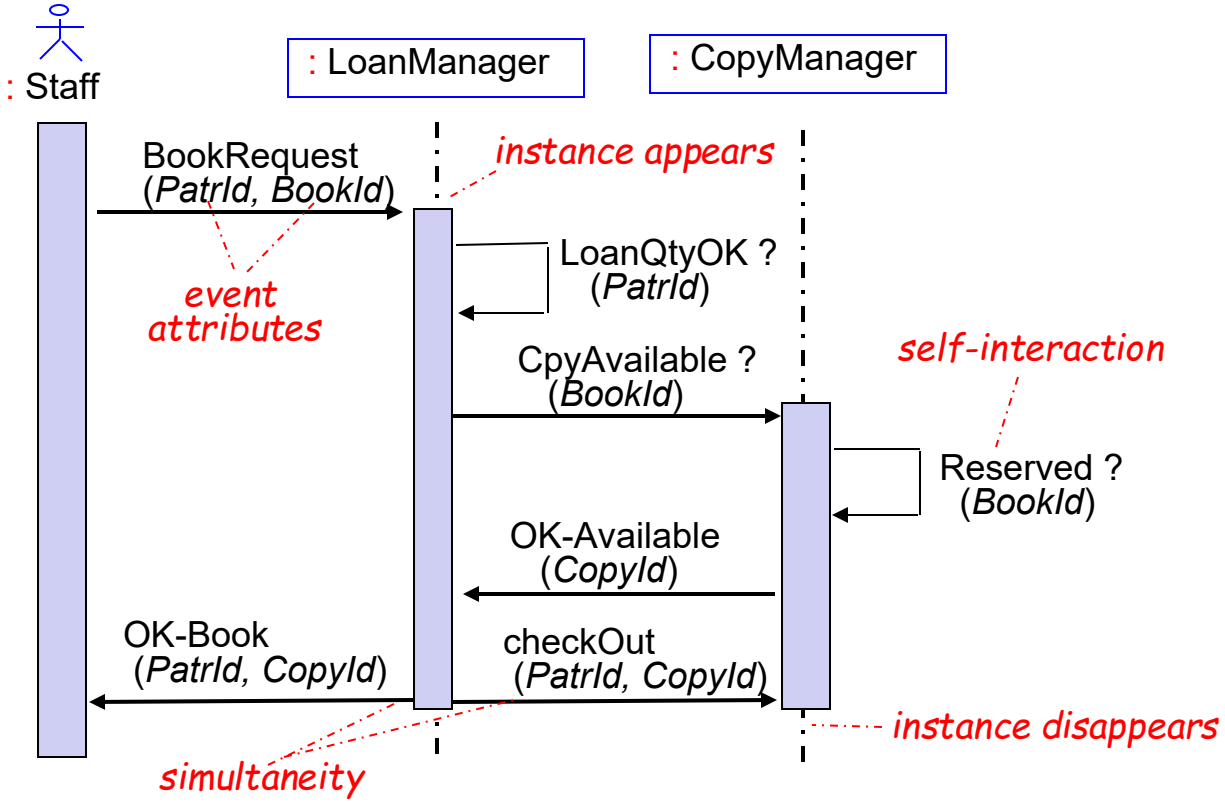
Scenarios as UML sequence diagrams



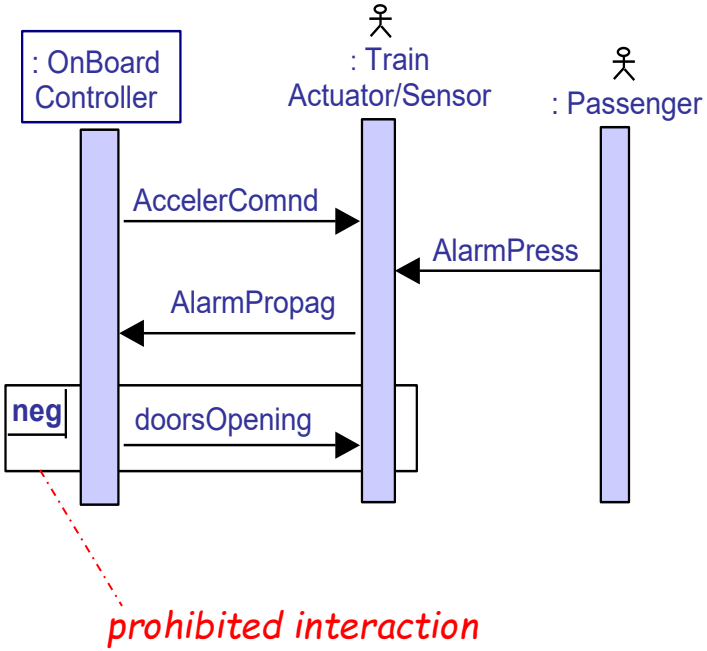
Scenarios as UML sequence diagrams

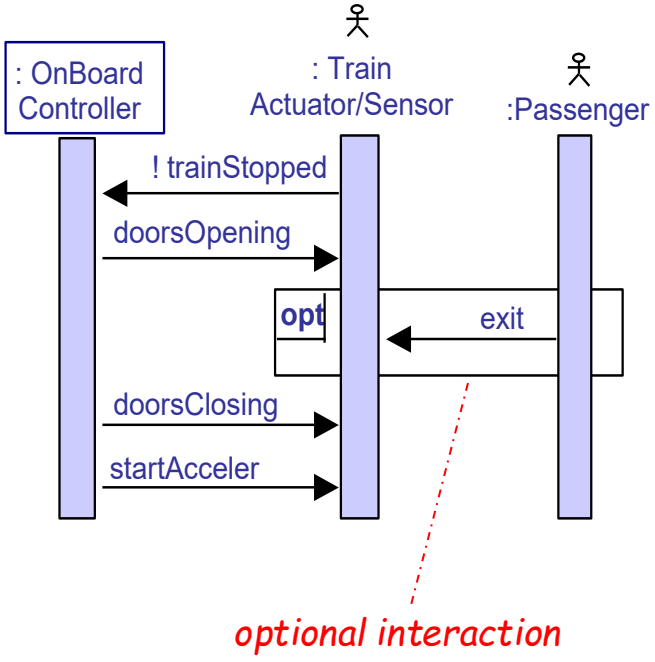
- **Event** = instantaneous conceptual object
  - instances exist in **single** system states only
  - can be structured in the object model (cf. "conceptual objects" lecture)
    - attributes, structural associations
    - used for **information transmission** along interaction
    - event specialization/generalization with inheritance
- Interaction events correspond to applications of **operations**
  - by source agent, notified to target agent (cf. operation model)
- A sequence diagram defines ...
  - a **total order** on events along an agent's lifeline (precedence)
  - a **partial order** on all scenario events
    - independent events on different lifelines are not comparable under precedence
- A scenario may be composed of episodes (sub-scenarios)

Scenarios as UML sequence diagrams



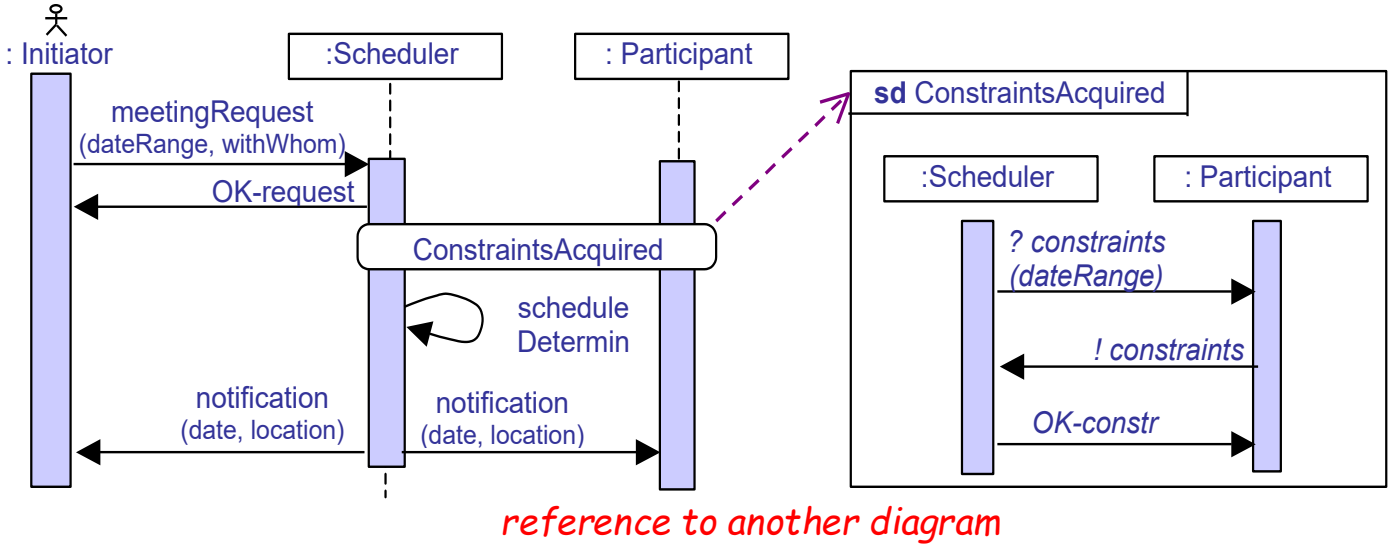
UML sequence diagrams: negative scenarios, optional interactions





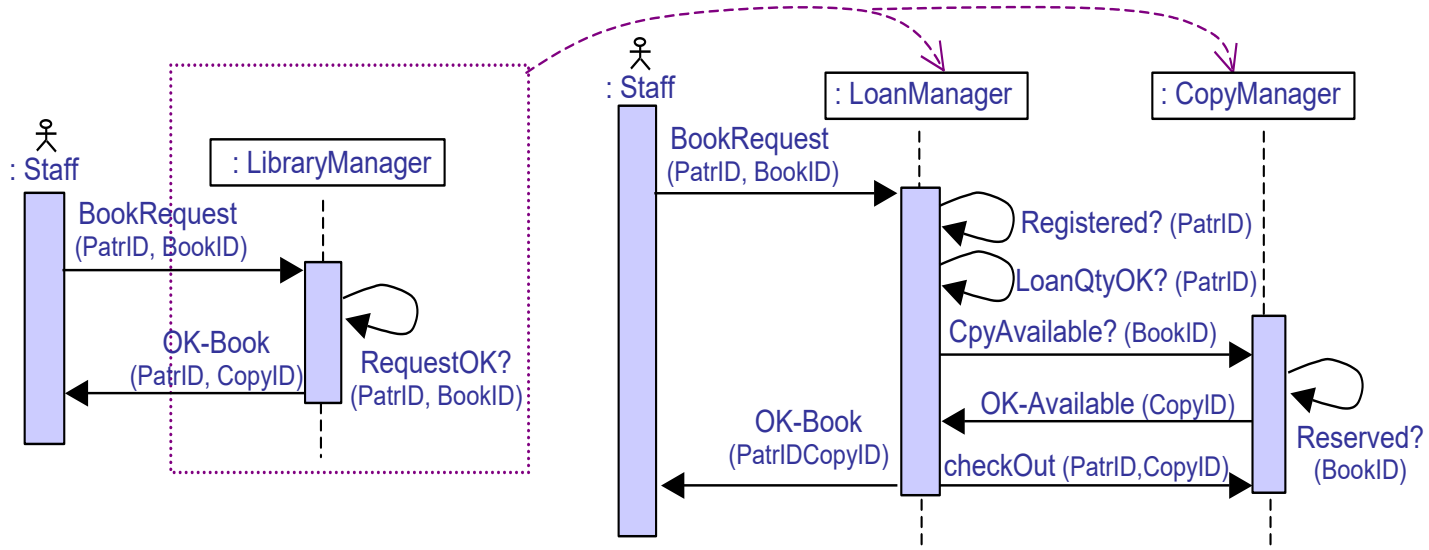
Scenario refinement: episodes

- Episode = subsequence of interactions for specific subgoal
- Appears as coarse-grained interaction
- To be detailed in another diagram with specific interactions
- Helpful for incremental elaboration of complex scenarios

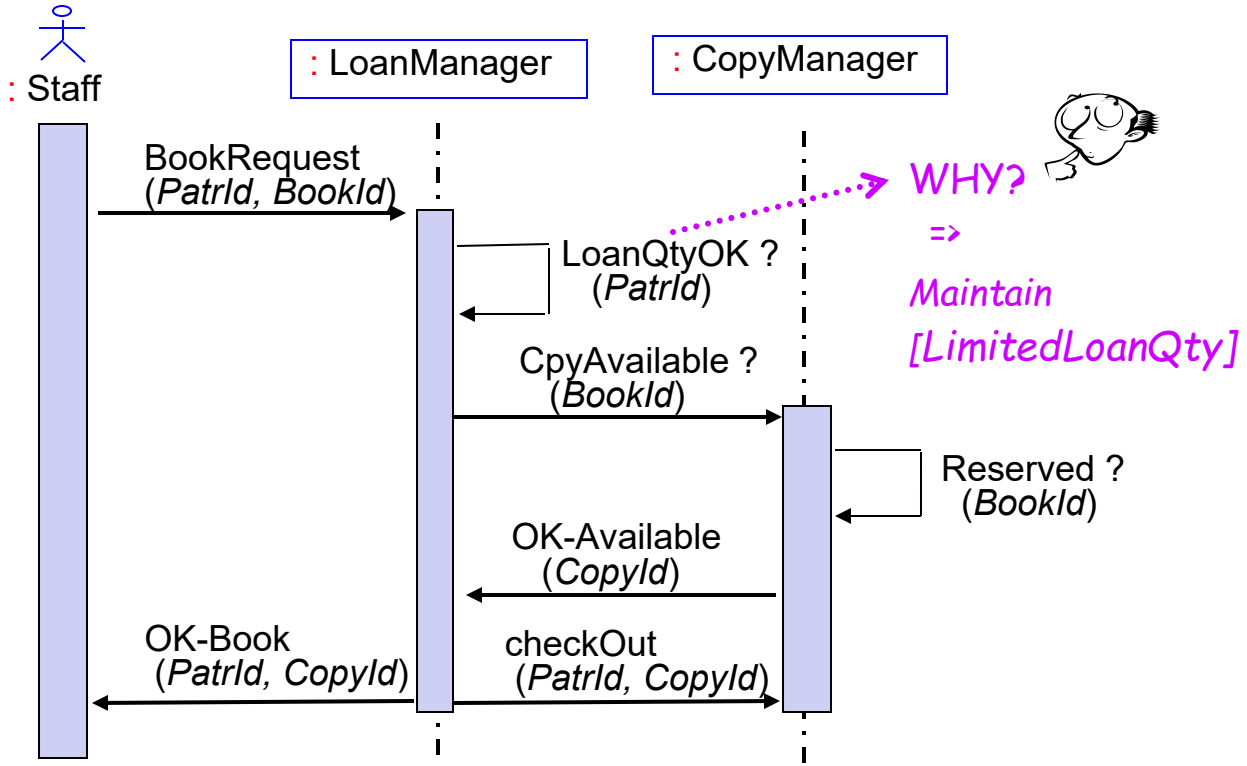


Scenario refinement: agent decomposition

- Coarse-grained agent instances may subsequently be decomposed into finer-grained ones
- With finer-grained interactions



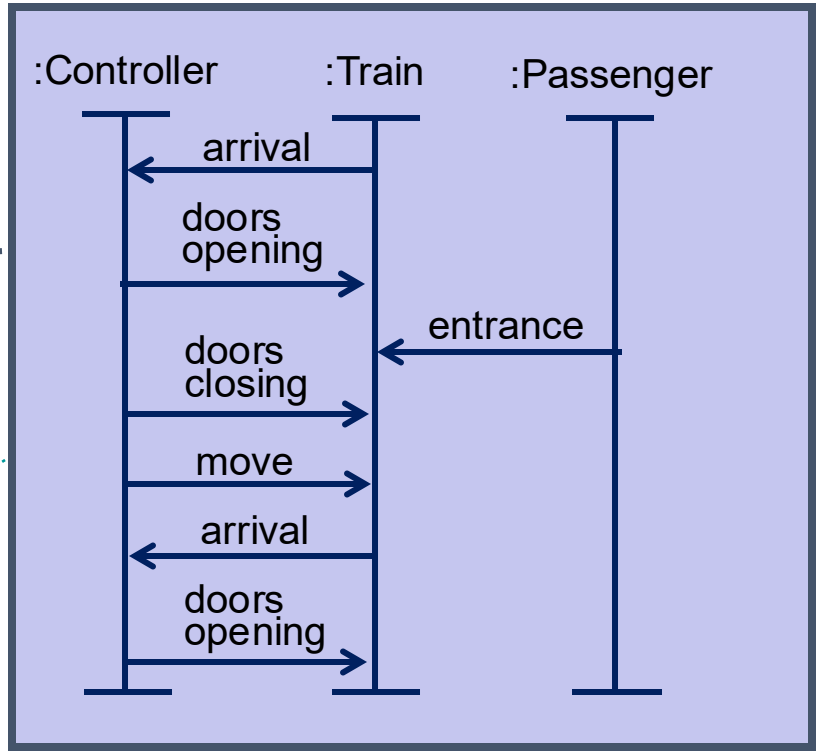
Scenarios are concrete vehicles for goal elicitation



Scenarios are concrete vehicles for goal elicitation

easy to get from or validate with stakeholders

DoorsClosed WhileMoving



G **covers** *Sc*:

Sc is subhistory in set of behaviors prescribed by *G*

Modeling system behaviors: outline

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  - State machine refinement: sequential & concurrent substates
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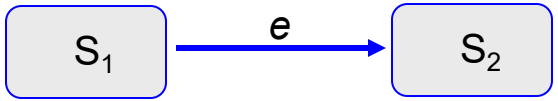
State machines

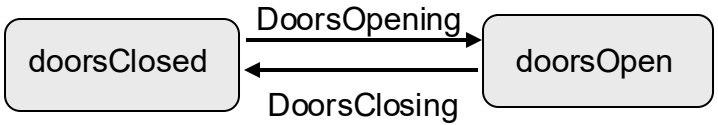
- A state machine (SM) is specified by a transition relation

$$tr: S \times E \rightarrow S$$

  - *S*: set of explicit states (usually finite), for any class instance
  - *E*: finite set of events causing state transitions
  - Preferably, *tr* is a function: deterministic SM
- Graphically, tr (S1, e) = S2 is represented by ...



- Semantics: the transition to S_2 gets fired iff we are in state S_1 and event *e* occurs



SM states vs. snapshot states

- **Snapshot state** of an object instance (cf. "conceptual objects" lecture):

  tuple of functional pairs $\mathbf{x_i} \mid\!\rightarrow \mathbf{v_i}$

  $\mathbf{x_i}$: state variable (object attribute, association)

  $\mathbf{v_i}$: corresponding value

  e.g. (tr.Speed $\mid\!\rightarrow$ 0, tr.Location $\mid\!\rightarrow$ 9.25, tr.DoorsState $\mid\!\rightarrow$ Open, On $\mid\!\rightarrow$ (tr, block13), At $\mid\!\rightarrow$ (tr, platform1))

- **SM state** of object instance: **class** of snapshot states sharing same value for some behavioral state variable (equivalence class)

  e.g.

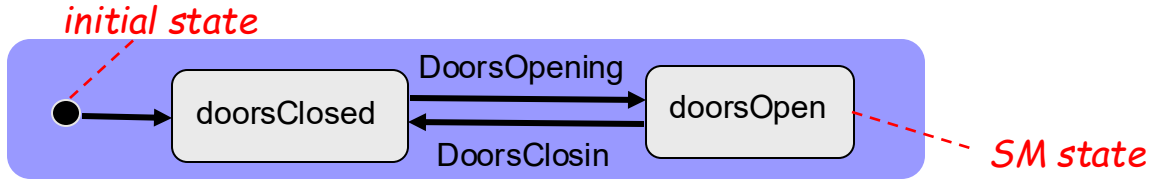
  SM state doorsClosed of Train instance tr includes snapshot states

  { tr.Speed $\mid\!\rightarrow$ 0, tr.Loc $\mid\!\rightarrow$ 3, tr.DoorsState $\mid\!\rightarrow$ 'closed', At $\mid\!\rightarrow$ (tr, pl1) },

  { tr.Speed $\mid\!\rightarrow$ 5, tr.Loc $\mid\!\rightarrow$ 9, tr.DoorsState $\mid\!\rightarrow$ 'closed', At $\mid\!\rightarrow$ (tr, nil) }

SM states

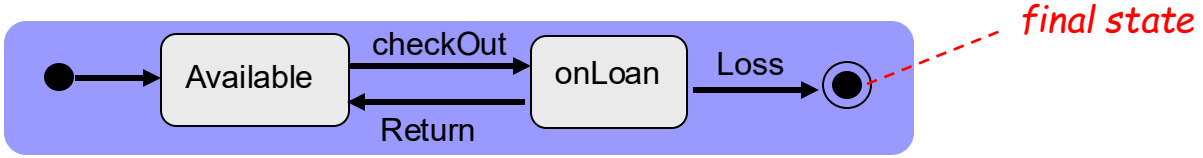
- To model agent behaviors: **one** state machine **per state variable controlled** by an arbitrary agent instance
  - captures admissible sequences of transitions among SM states of corresponding object instance --for **this** variable
- A SM state has some duration
  - corresponding object instance remains some time in it
- **Initial state** = state when object instance appears in system
  - InstanceOf (o, Ob) gets *true*



SM for state variable *tr.doorsState* of TrainInfo object controlled by TrainController

SM states

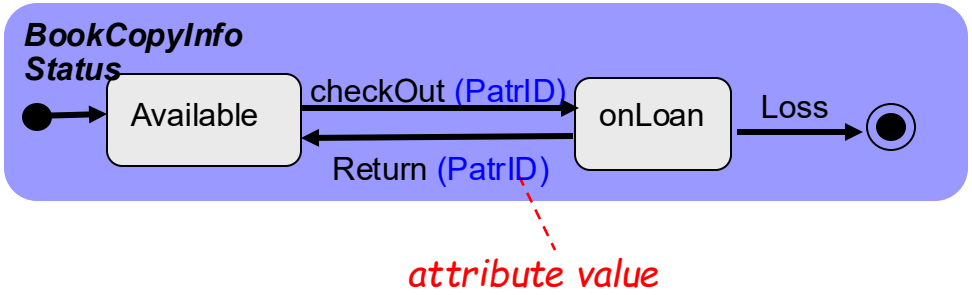
- **Final state** = state when object instance disappears from system
  - InstanceOf (o, Ob) gets *false*



SM for state variable *bc.Status* of BookCopyInfo object controlled by LibraryManager

SM events

- Event instances are instantaneous phenomena
  - (As seen before) event = object whose instances exist in single states
    - InstanceOf (ev, E) denoted by Occurs (E)
  - Can be structured
    - attributes, associations, specializations, to be declared in object model
    - corresponding attribute values can be attached to events in SM
  - No duration, unlike SM states

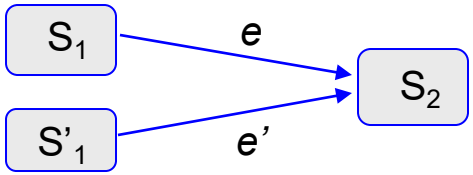


Typology of SM events

- **External event**: not controlled by agent associated with SM
  - **temporal event**
    - elapsed time period e.g. **after** (3secs), **after** (Timeout)
    - clock state change e.g. **when** (12:00pm)
  - **external stimulus**: event occurring in SM controlled by another agent
    - state change, condition becoming true
    - to be notified from that other SM (see below)
    - e.g. TrainStart, PassengerAlarm
- **Internal event**: controlled by agent associated with this SM
  - application of operation performed by the agent
    - e.g. DoorsClosing is an application of operation CloseDoors
  - **Tip**: use suggestive verb for operation, corresponding noun for operation application

Events & state transitions

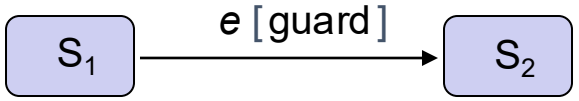
- **State transition** = state change caused by event occurrence



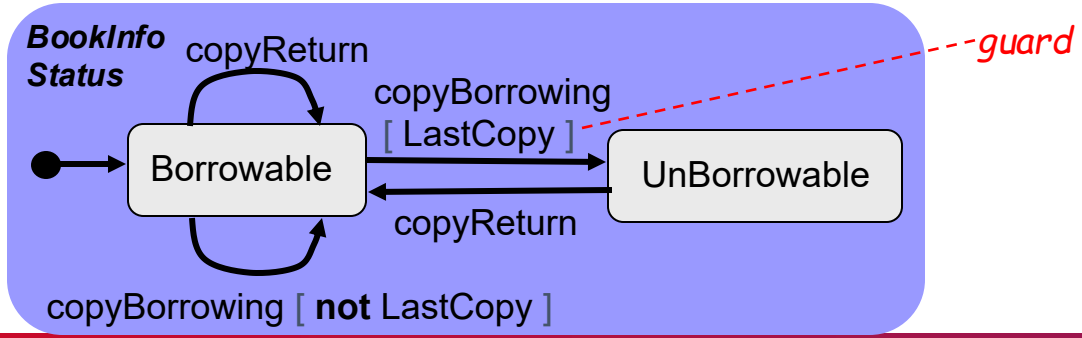
  - the associated object instance gets to target state S_2 iff...
    - it is in source state S_1 and instance of event e occurs; OR
    - it is in source state S'_1 and instance of event e' occurs
- **Automatic transition** = no event label
  - fires without waiting for event occurrence

Guarded transitions

- Transitions may also have a guard label
  - guard = Boolean expression on state variables



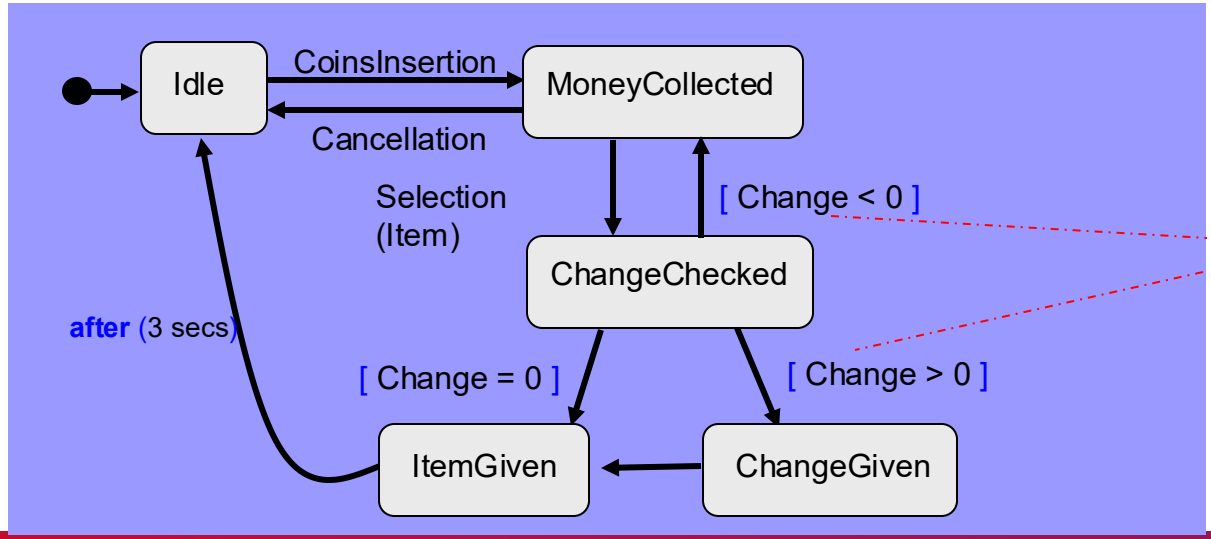
- Necessary condition for transition firing:
  - the associated object instance gets into state S_2
    - **if** it is in state S_1 and instance of event *e* occurs
    - and **only if** the guard is true



Guarded transitions

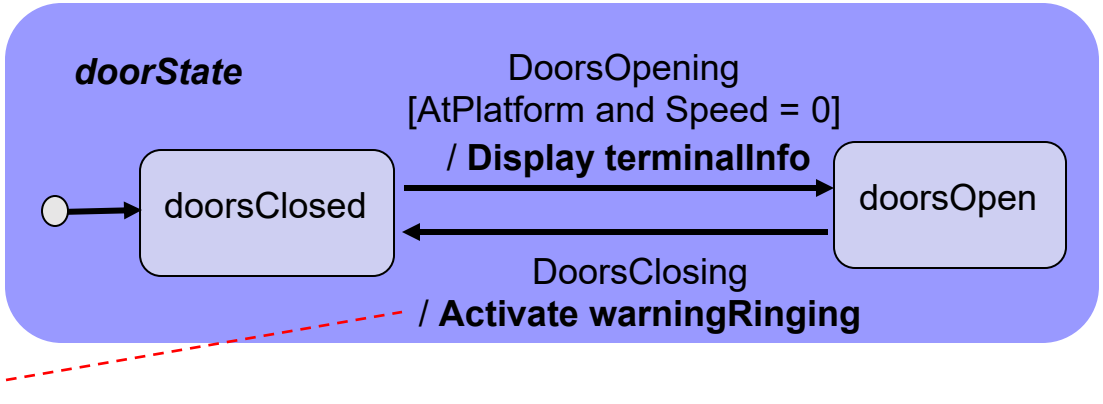
- Do not confuse
  - necessary condition for transition firing: guard true
  - sufficient condition for transition firing: event occurrence
- **Trigger condition**: guard on transition with no event label
  - automatic transition with guard => necessary/sufficient cond

SM for state variable controlled by VendingMachine

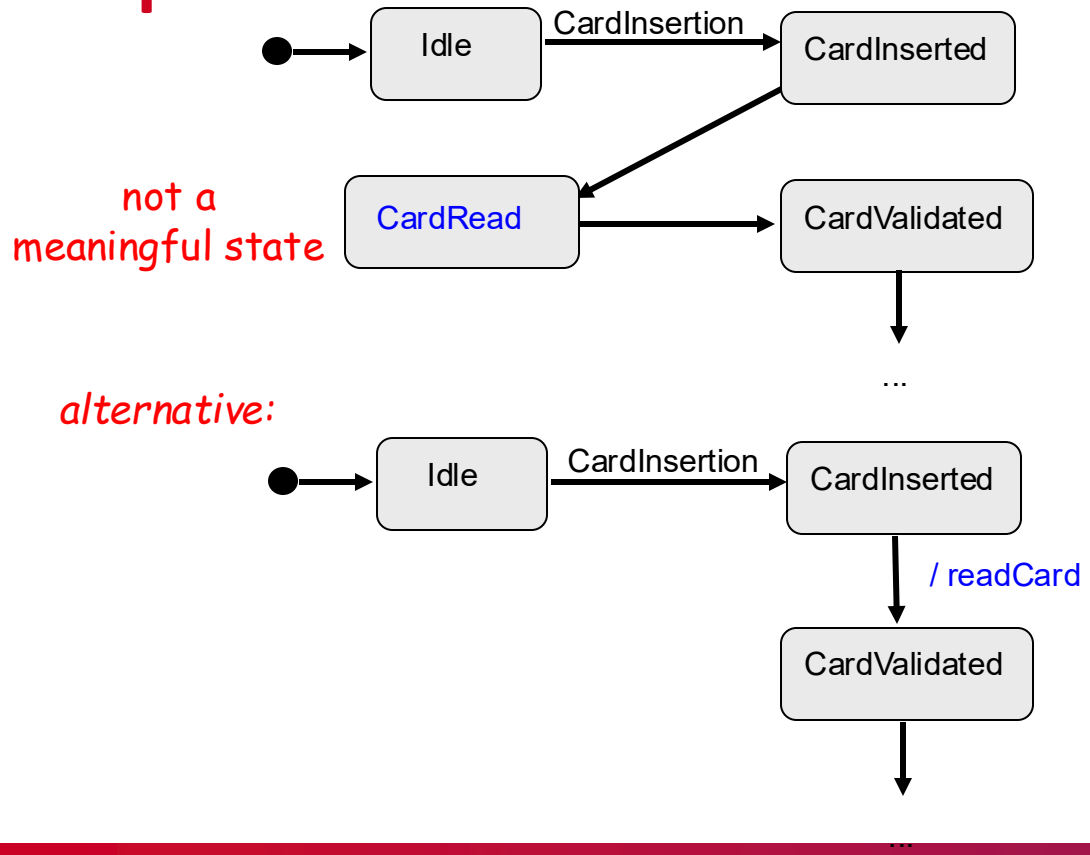


Auxiliary actions in a state diagram

- **Action** = operation associated with a transition
  - to be applied when transition fires
  - atomic
  - no meaningful effect on dynamics captured by SM states:
    - state resulting from operation application would clutter diagram
  - typically, info display/acquisition to/from agent's environment



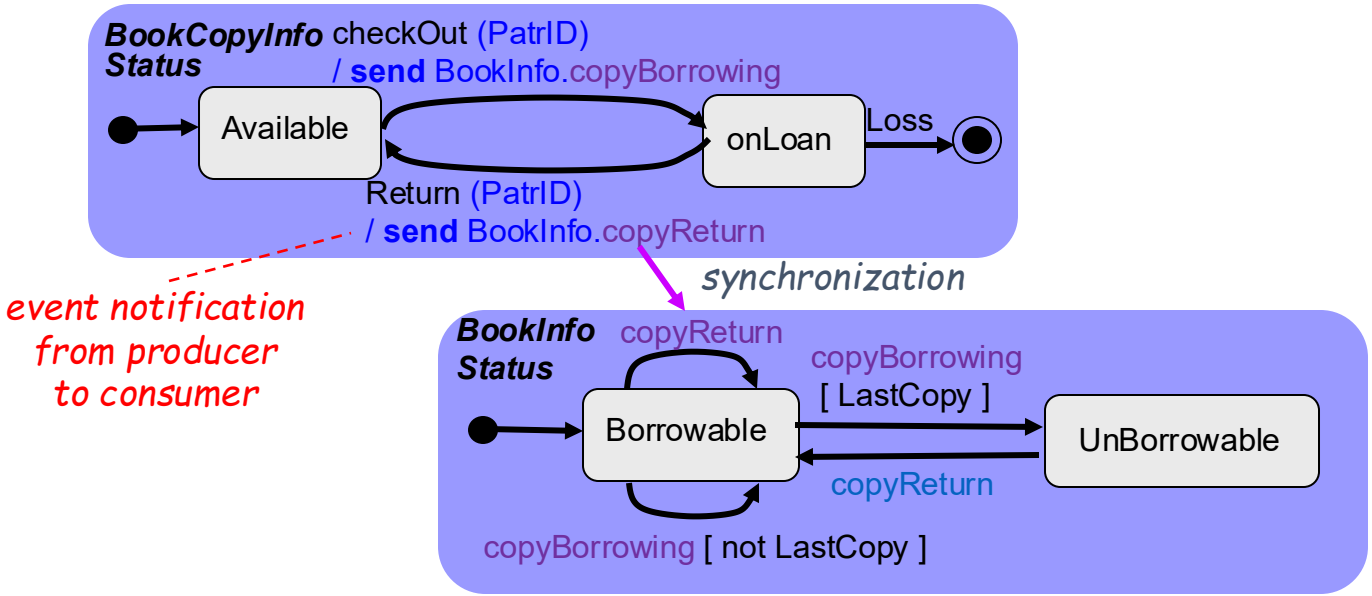
Avoiding irrelevant states through actions: example



Event notification

Important subclass of actions

- event is notified from **producing** diagram to **consuming** diagram
  - causes transitions in consuming diagram => diagram synchronization

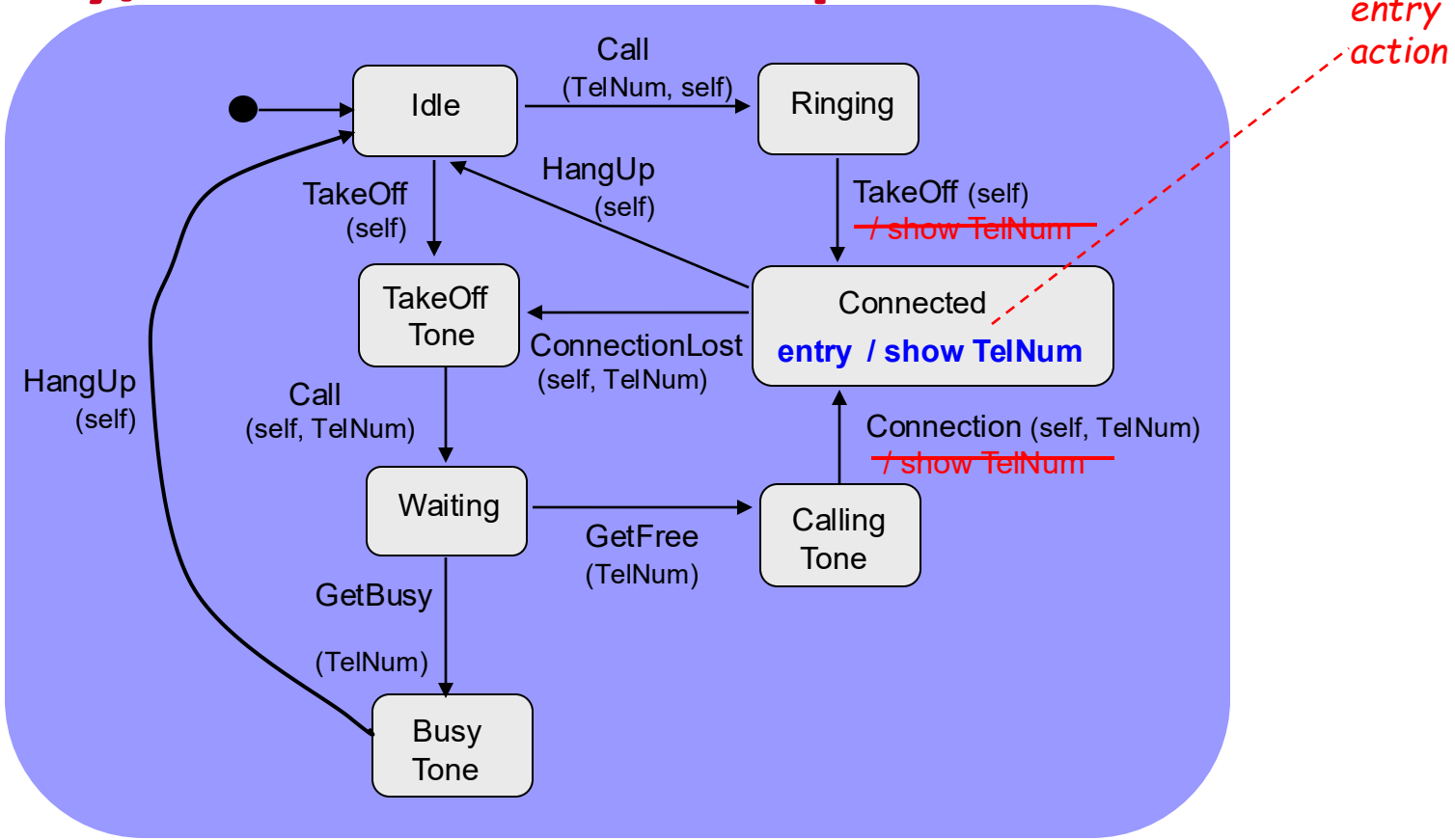


Entry/exit actions

- Entry action
  - within state, prefixed by “entry”
  - amounts to all incoming transitions (for a state) labelled with this action
- Exit action
  - within state, prefixed by “exit”
  - amounts to all outgoing transitions (for a state) labelled with this action

=> avoids action duplication in diagrams

Entry/exit actions: example

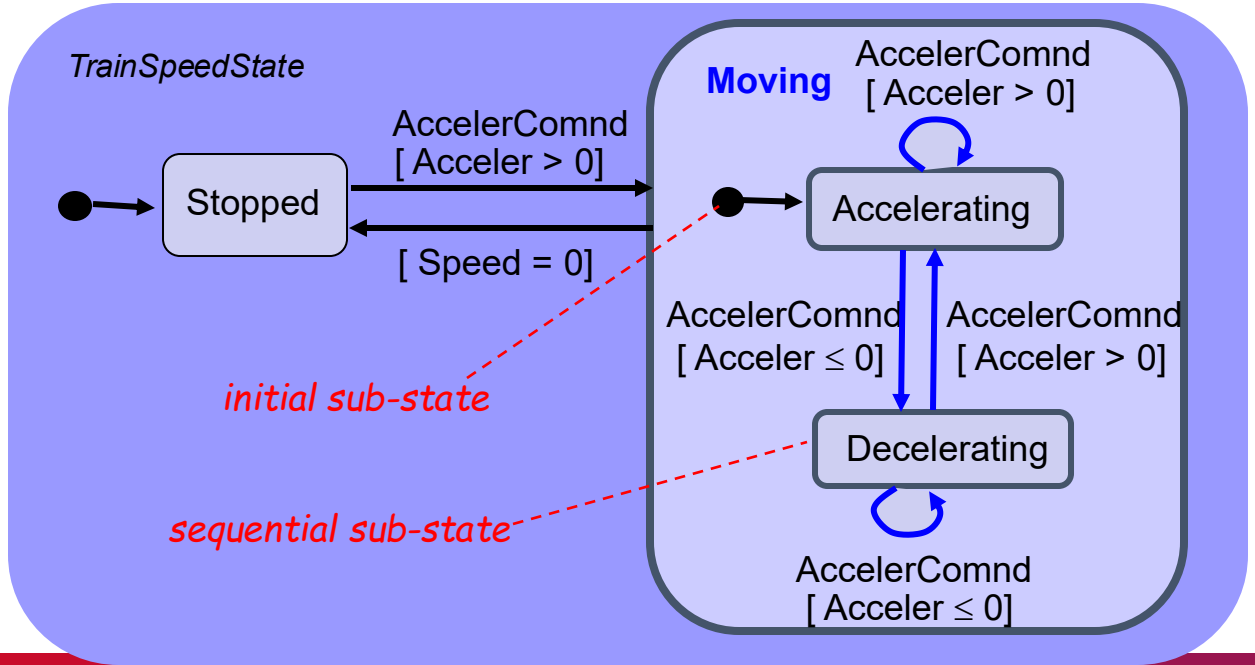


Nested states for SM structuring

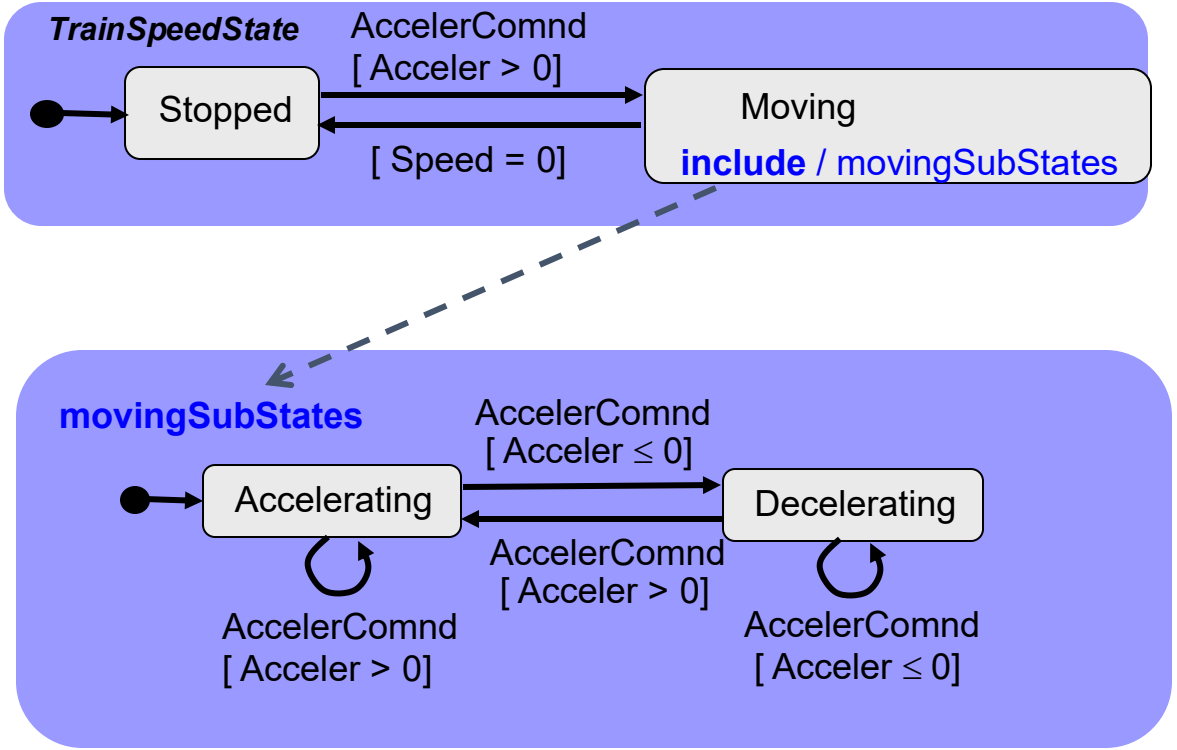
- SM states can be decomposed into sub-states
  - convenient for incremental elaboration of complex SM
    - coarse-grained states refined into finer-grained states
- Sequential decomposition:
  - coarse-grained state becomes SM on sequential sub-states: visited sequentially
- Parallel decomposition:
  - coarse-grained state becomes SM on concurrent sub-states: visited concurrently
- Structuring mechanisms in UML borrowed from Statecharts

SM refinement: sequential decomposition

- Super-state is a diagram composed of sequential sub-states connected by new transitions
  - contains the nested sub-states (graphical nesting)
  - **or** contains "include" reference to other diagram



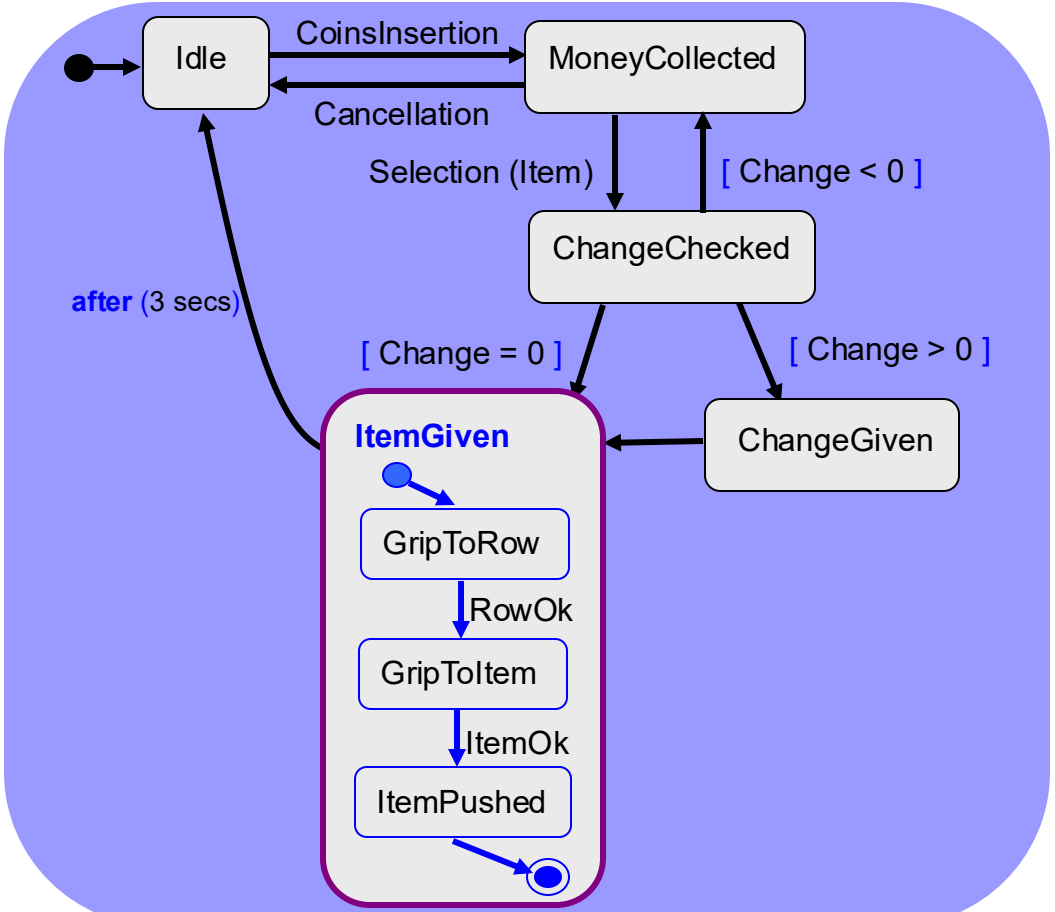
Sequential decomposition: same example with include reference



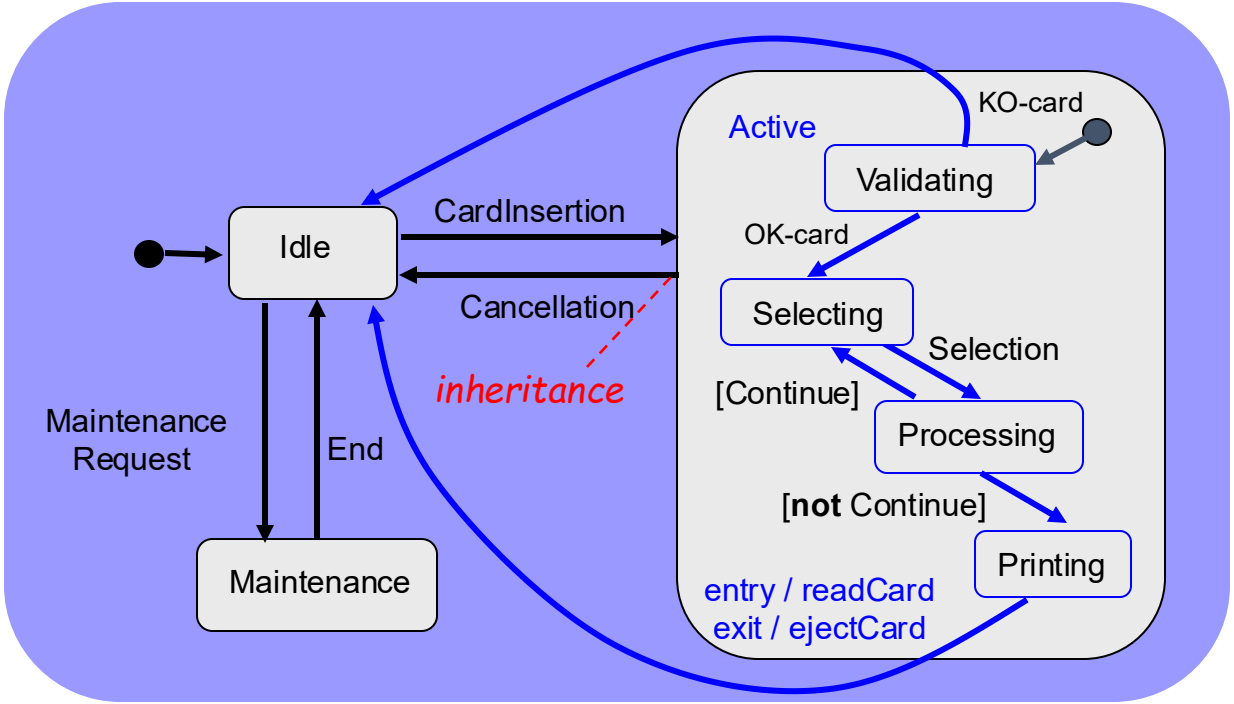
Sequential decomposition: semantic rules

- The object instance is in super-state iff it is in **one** (and only one) **of** the nested sub-states
- Every incoming or outgoing transition of super-state is by default **inherited** by each sub-state
  - substates may have their own incoming/outgoing transitions
    - within super-state or to external states
- To inhibit transition inheritance by each substate ...
  - for incoming transition to super-state: insert **initial sub-state** as predecessor of sub-state where to start
    - forces to start from there, not from anywhere
  - for outgoing transition from super-state: insert **final sub-state** as successor of sub-state where to leave
    - forces to leave from there, not from anywhere

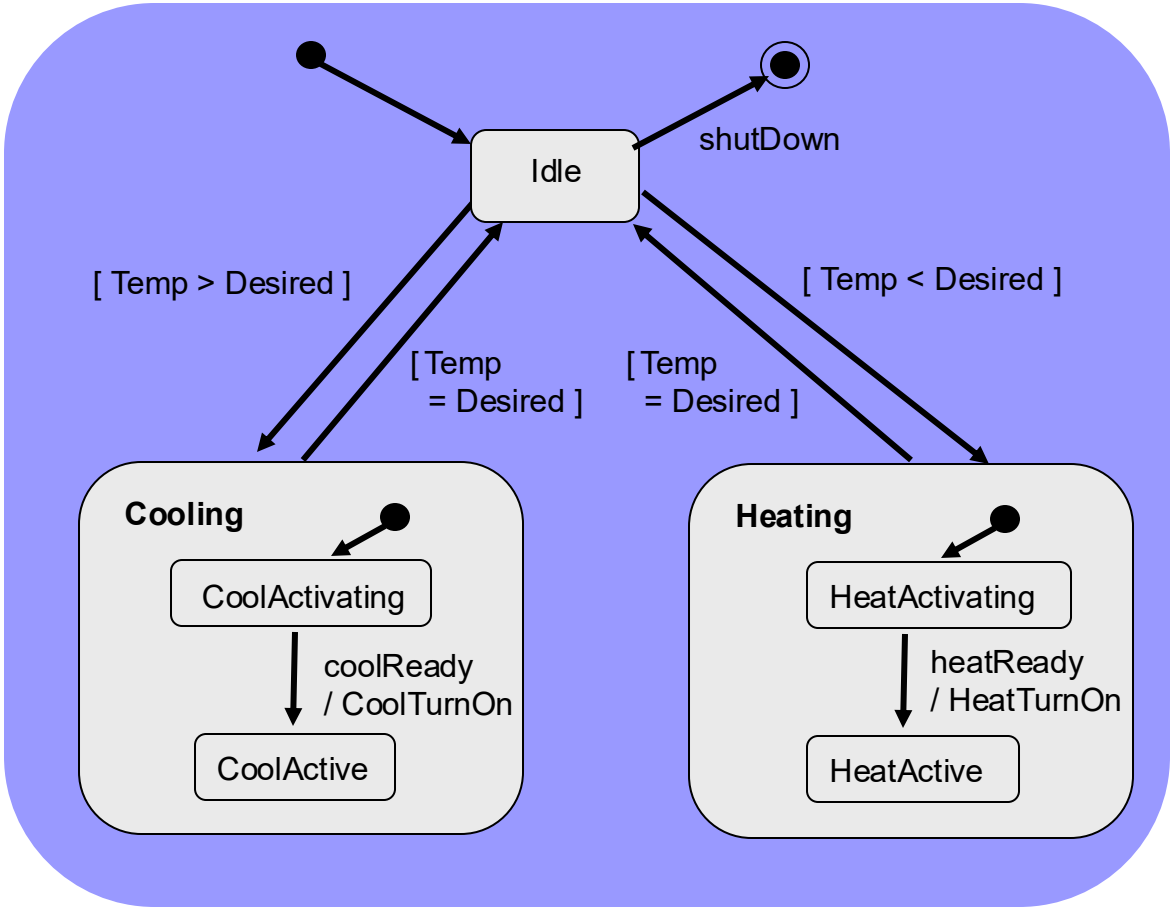
Sequential decomposition: vending machine ex.



Sequential decomposition: cash machine ex.



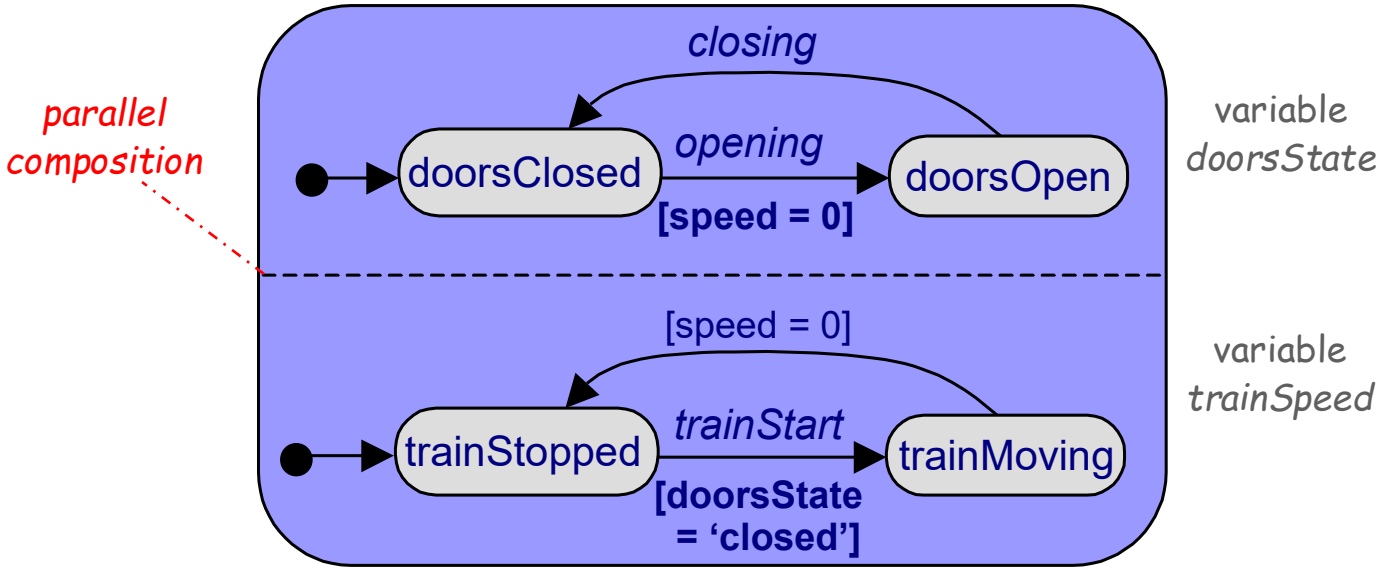
Sequential decomposition: thermostat controller



Parallel decomposition: concurrent behaviors

- Agents often control *multiple* items in parallel
- Problems with flat SM diagram:
  - N item variables each with *M* values => M^N states !
  - same SM state mixing up different variables
- **Statechart** = parallel composition of SM diagrams
  - one per variable evolving in parallel
  - statechart **state** = aggregation of concurrent substates
    - each may be recursively decomposed sequentially (or in parallel)
  - from M^N explicit SM states to **M** × **N** statechart states !
- Statechart trace = sequence of successive aggregated SM states up to some point
- Interleaving semantics: for 2 transitions firing in same state, one is taken after the other (non-deterministic choice)

Concurrent sub-states: example



- Trace example:

  < (doorsClosed, trainStopped); (doorsClosed, trainMoving);

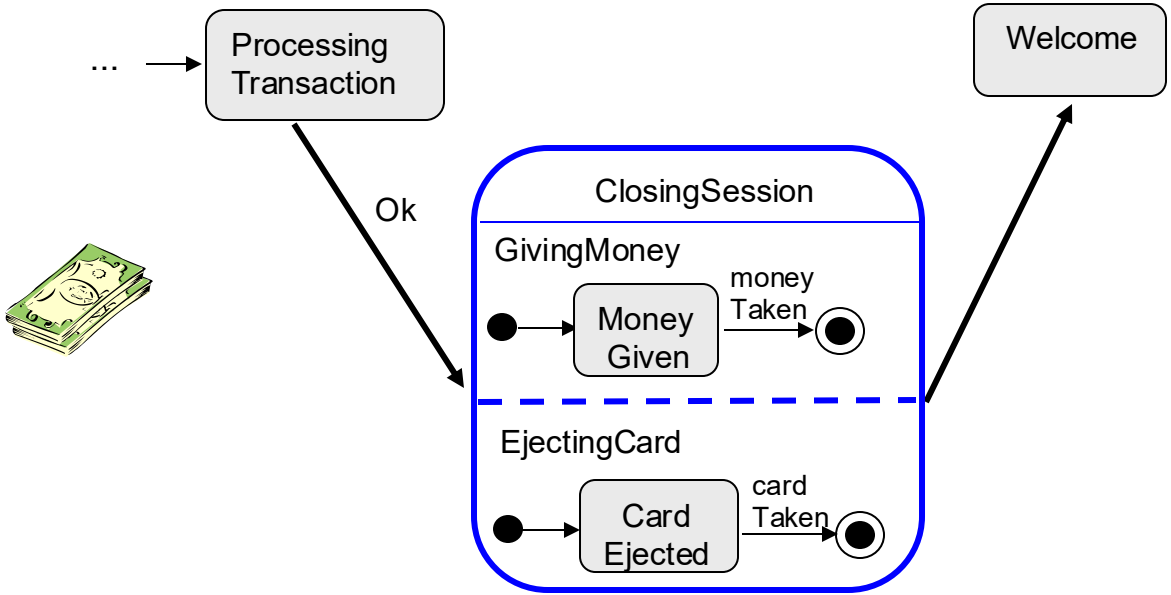
  (doorsClosed, trainStopped); (doorsOpen, trainStopped) >

- Model-checking tools can generate counterexample traces leading to violation of desired property

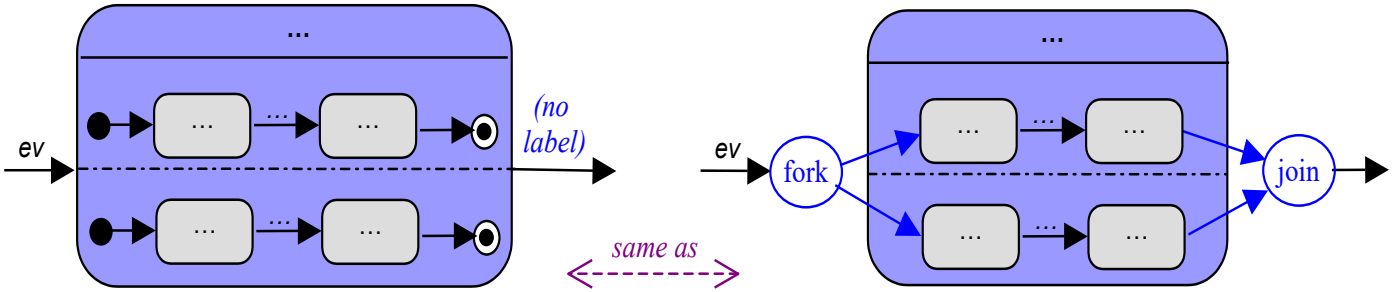
Parallel decomposition: semantic rules

- The object instance is in super-state iff it is in **each of** the nested concurrent sub-states
- Every incoming or outgoing transition of super-state is propagated to each concurrent sub-state:
  - for **incoming transition**: when it fires, an implicit transition to each concurrent substate is simultaneously fired (**FORK** mechanism)
  - for **outgoing transition**:
    - **if no label**: fires when implicit transitions from all concurrent substates were fired (in whatever order, **JOIN** mechanism)
    - **if label**: fires when event in label occurs with guard being true (forcing exit from all concurrent sub-states)

Fork / Join mechanisms: example



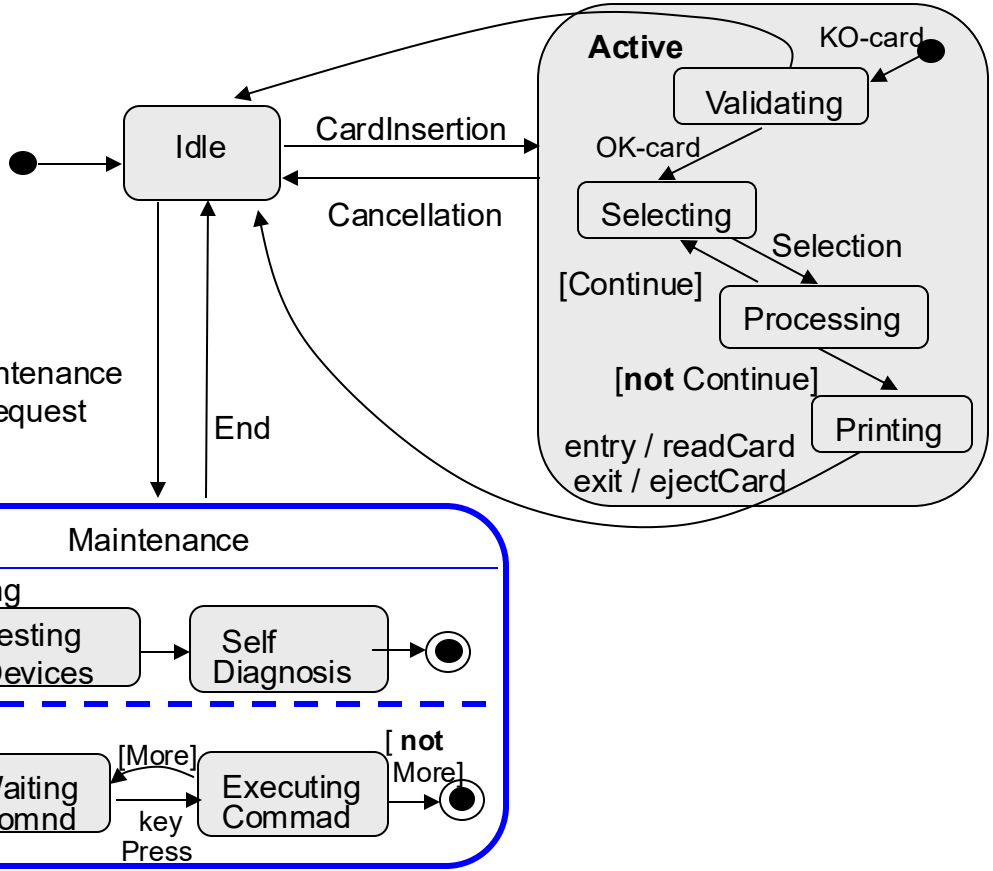
Initial and final substates in concurrent diagrams



Combining parallel & sequential decomposition: guidelines for manageable diagrams

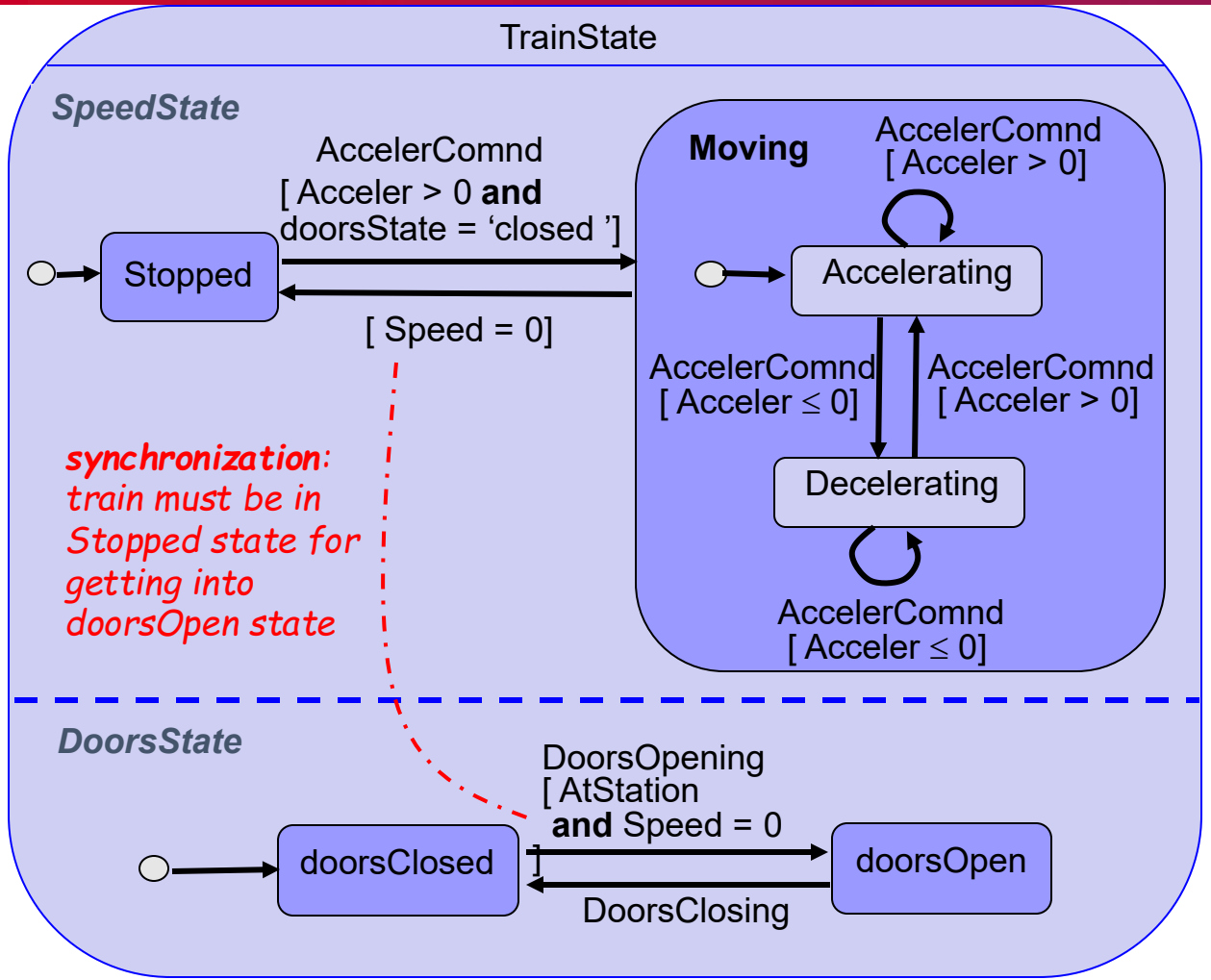
- Introduce sequential sub-states for:
  - refining complex, coarse-grained states
- Introduce concurrent states for:
  - state variables controlled by different agents
  - different state variables controlled by same agent
  - common events triggering multiple independent transitions
- Insert:
  - initial sub-state in each concurrent diagram, with outgoing transition to desired state
  - final sub-state in each concurrent diagram, with incoming transition from desired state
- Avoid "*spaghetti*" diagrams where ...
  - transitions connecting sequential sub-states of a concurrent state to sequential sub-states of other concurrent states (or to outer super-states)

Parallel & sequential decomposition: example



Combining parallel & sequential decomposition: guidelines for manageable diagrams

- When concurrent states are decomposed in sequential sub-states, check if any **synchronization** is required:
  - same event requiring transitions in multiple sub-diagrams
  - event causing transition in consumer diagram to be notified in producer diagram (**send** action)
  - synchronizing guards on same state variable in different sub-diagrams
  - guard in sub-diagram referring to state variable modified by transition in other sub-diagram
- Check lexical consistency of event names in order to avoid:
  - undesired firing by different events with same name
  - non-firing due to same event having different names


TrainState
SpeedState
AccelerComnd
[Acceler > 0 and
doorsState = 'closed ']
Stopped
[Speed = 0]
Moving
AccelerComnd
[Acceler > 0]
Accelerating
AccelerComnd
[Acceler ≤ 0]
AccelerComnd
[Acceler > 0]
Decelerating
AccelerComnd
[Acceler ≤ 0]
synchronization:
train must be in
Stopped state for
getting into
doorsOpen state
DoorsState
DoorsOpening
[AtStation
and Speed = 0
]
doorsClosed
doorsOpen
DoorsClosing

Modeling system behaviors: outline

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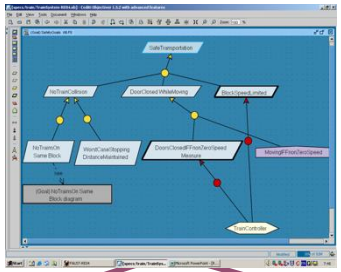
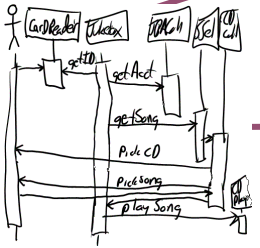
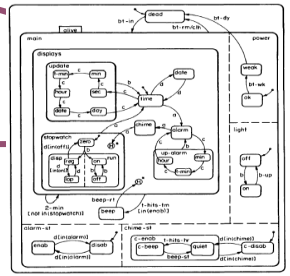
Goals, scenarios, state machines are complementary



☺ declarative, satisfaction arguments
☺ functional & non-functional, options
☺ many behaviors ☹ but implicit
☺ early analyses
☹ too abstract? hard to elicit?





☺ concrete examples, narrative
☺ easier to elicit, validate
☺ explicit behaviors
☺ acceptance test data
☹ partial, few behaviors: coverage?
☹ implicit reqs, premature choices?

☺ visual abstraction
☺ explicit behaviors (entire classes)
☺ verifiable, executable
☺ code generation
☹ implicit reqs ... too operational?
☹ hard to build & understand

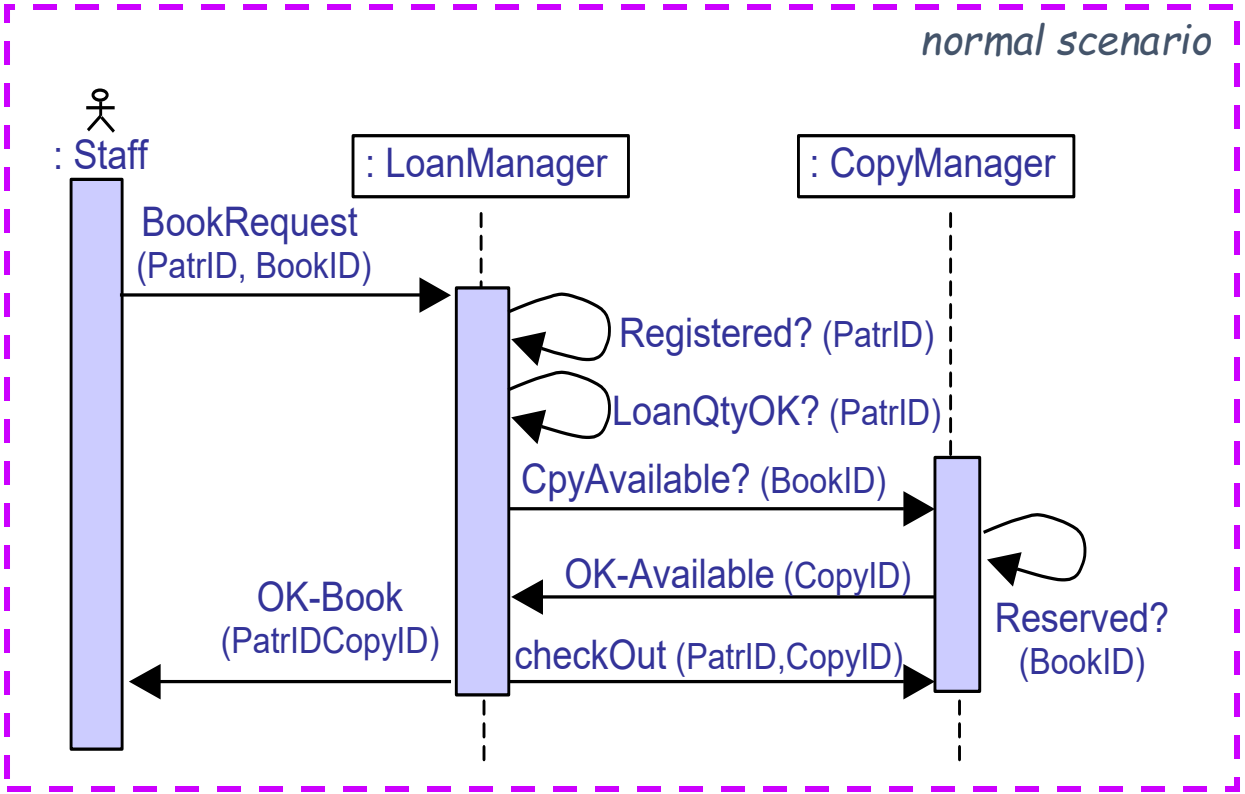
Elaborating relevant scenarios for good coverage

- Work pairwise: one agent pair after the other
- Ensure goal coverage by *positive* scenarios
- Ensure obstacle coverage by *negative* scenarios
- Identify auxiliary episodes
  - required for next interaction
  - info acquisition, agent authentication, help request, …
- Explore stimulus - response chains
  - if interaction = stimulus sent… what response is required?
- Check scenarios for clean-up …
  - split scenarios with unrelated concerns
  - remove irrelevant events
  - refine unmonitorable or uncontrollable interaction events
  - for related episodes: ensure common granularity

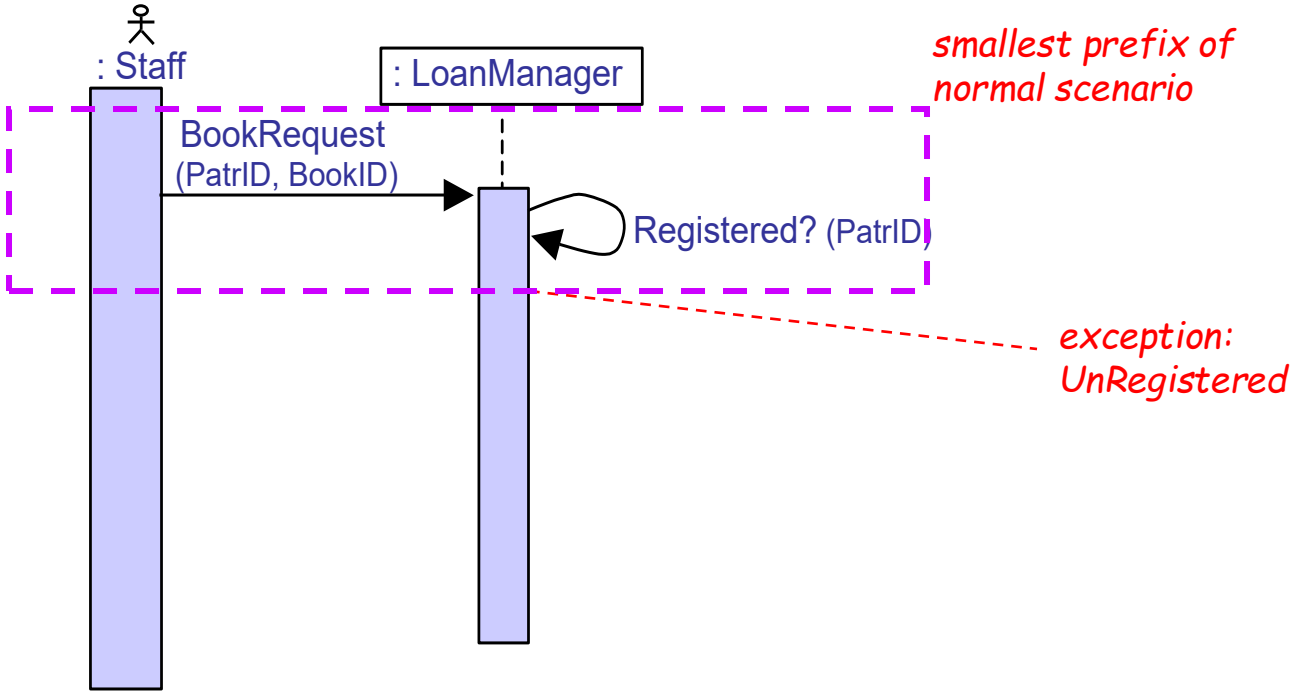
Elaborating relevant scenarios for good coverage

- Look for abnormal scenarios associated with normal ones:
  - "associated" = sharing common prefix episode, then differing by possible exception case
  - look at these **systematically**
    - take all prefix episodes of normal scenario by increasing size
    - for each prefix: possible exceptions at the end ?
      - possible use of exception patterns:
        - invalid data, unsatisfiable request,
        - no response, too late response, inadequate response,
        - cancel events, ...
    - for each exception: what suitable course of action?

Looking for associated *abnormal* scenarios: ex.



Looking for associated *abnormal* scenarios: ex.



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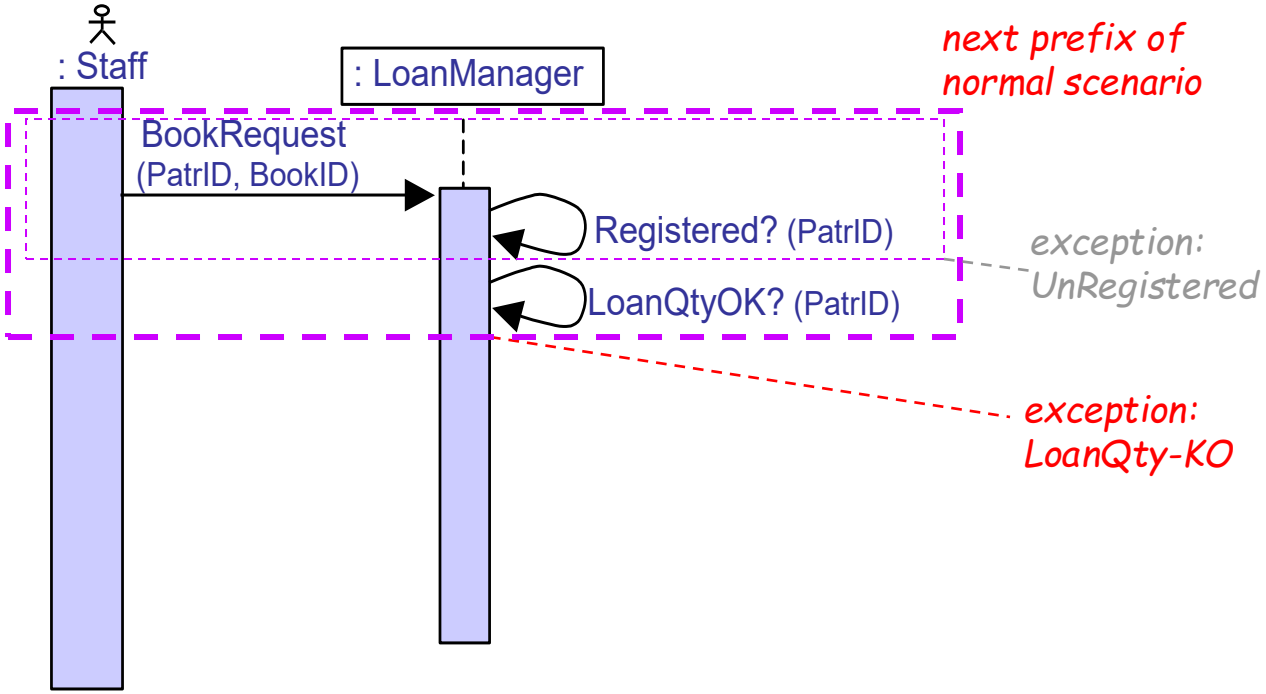

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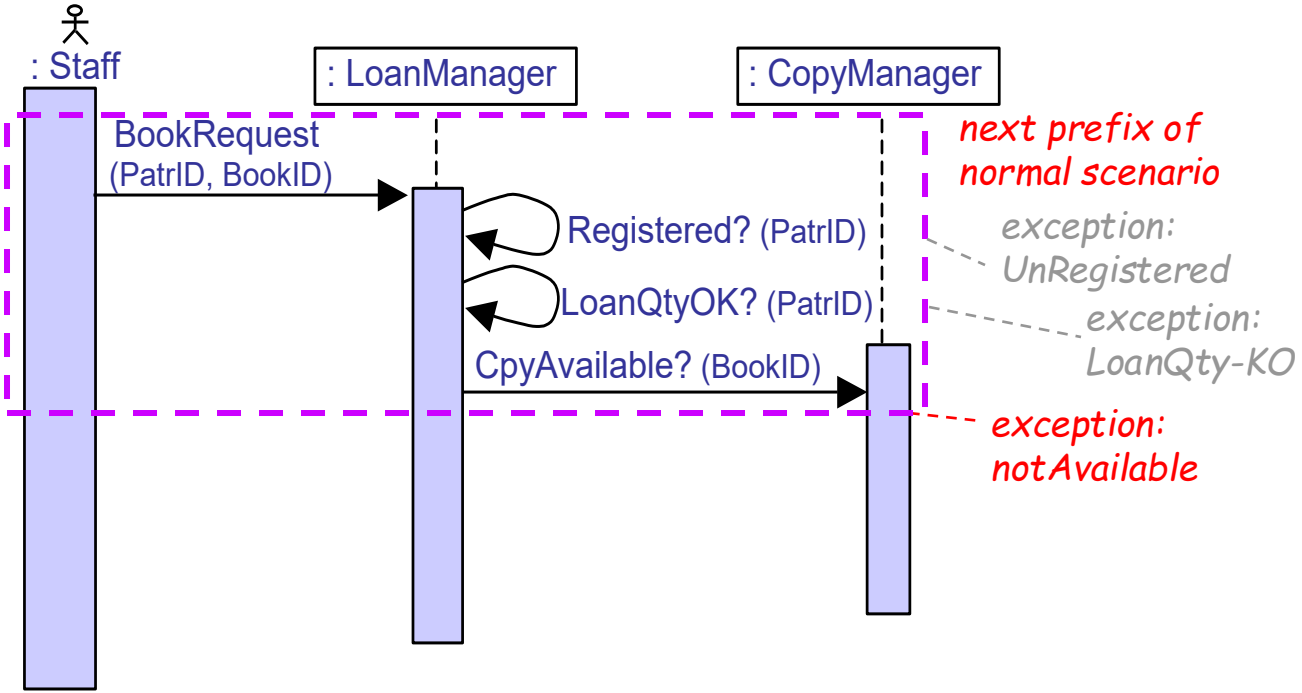

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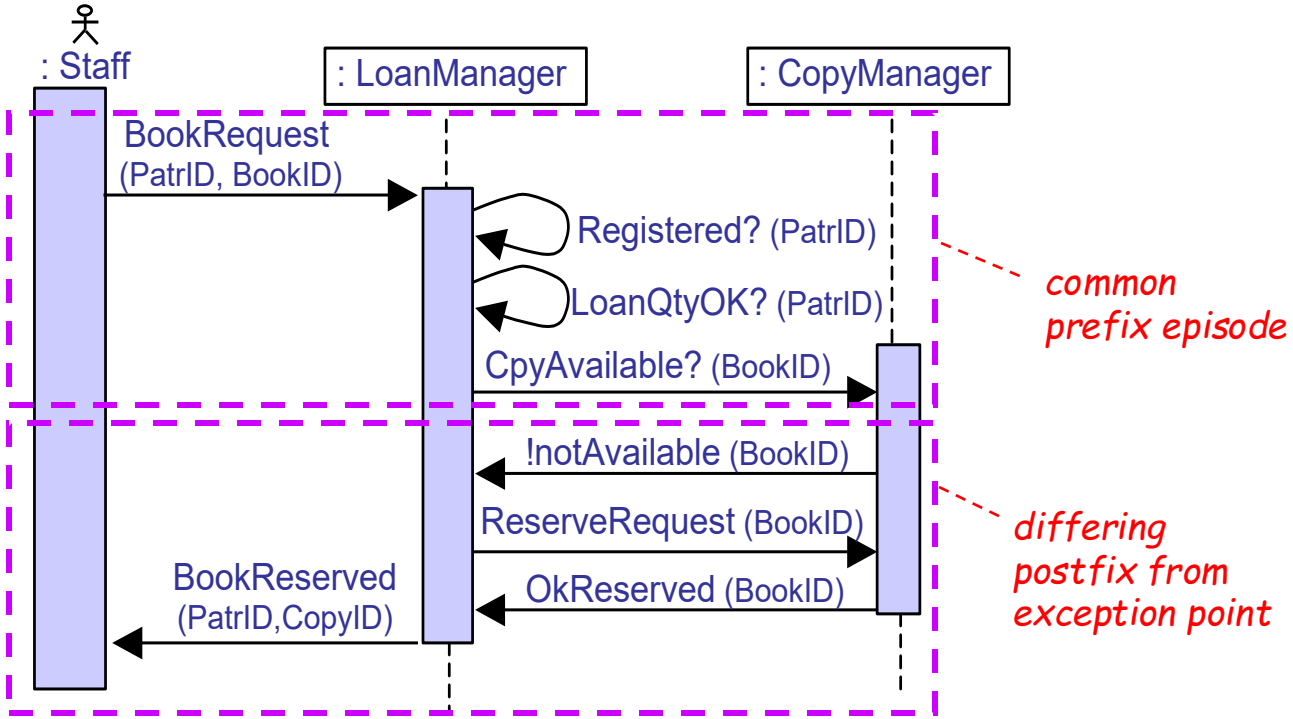

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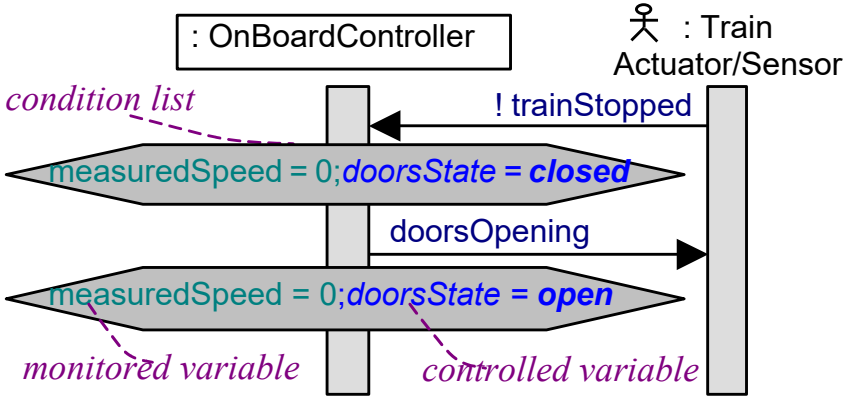
Decorating scenarios with state conditions

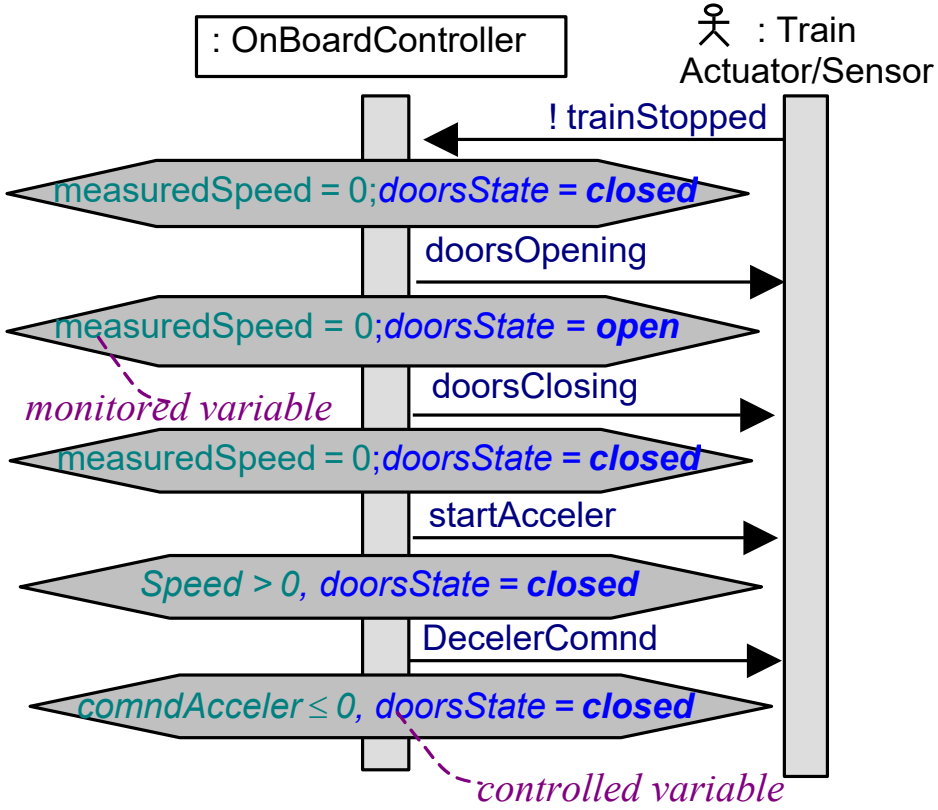
- Helpful for state-based reasoning from scenarios
- **State condition** at timepoint on agent lifeline:
  - captures snapshot state of dynamic variables at this point
- Structured as **condition list**: implicitly conjoined:
  - monitored conditions: state of variables monitored by the agent
  - controlled conditions: state of variables controlled by the agent



Decorating scenarios with state conditions

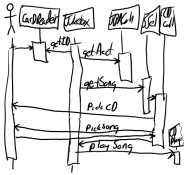
- Condition lists are computed by down propagation along lifeline
- From *DomPre*, *DomPost* of operations corresponding to interaction events (available from operation model)
- For **outgoing** event:
  - add its *DomPre* to list of *controlled* conditions before it
  - add its *DomPost* to list of *controlled* conditions after it
  - remove any invalidated condition
- For **incoming** event:
  - add its *DomPost* to list of *monitored* conditions after it
  - remove any invalidated condition

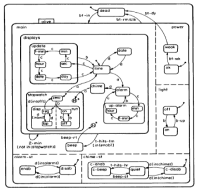
Propagating condition lists: example



From scenarios to state machines

- State machines can be built incrementally from scenarios:
  - so as to cover all behaviors captured by positive scenarios
  - while excluding all behaviors captured by negative scenarios
- For building state diagrams from sequence diagrams, 3 steps:
  - Decorate scenarios with state conditions (as just seen)
  - Generalize scenarios into state machines
  - Check, extend & restucture resulting SMs

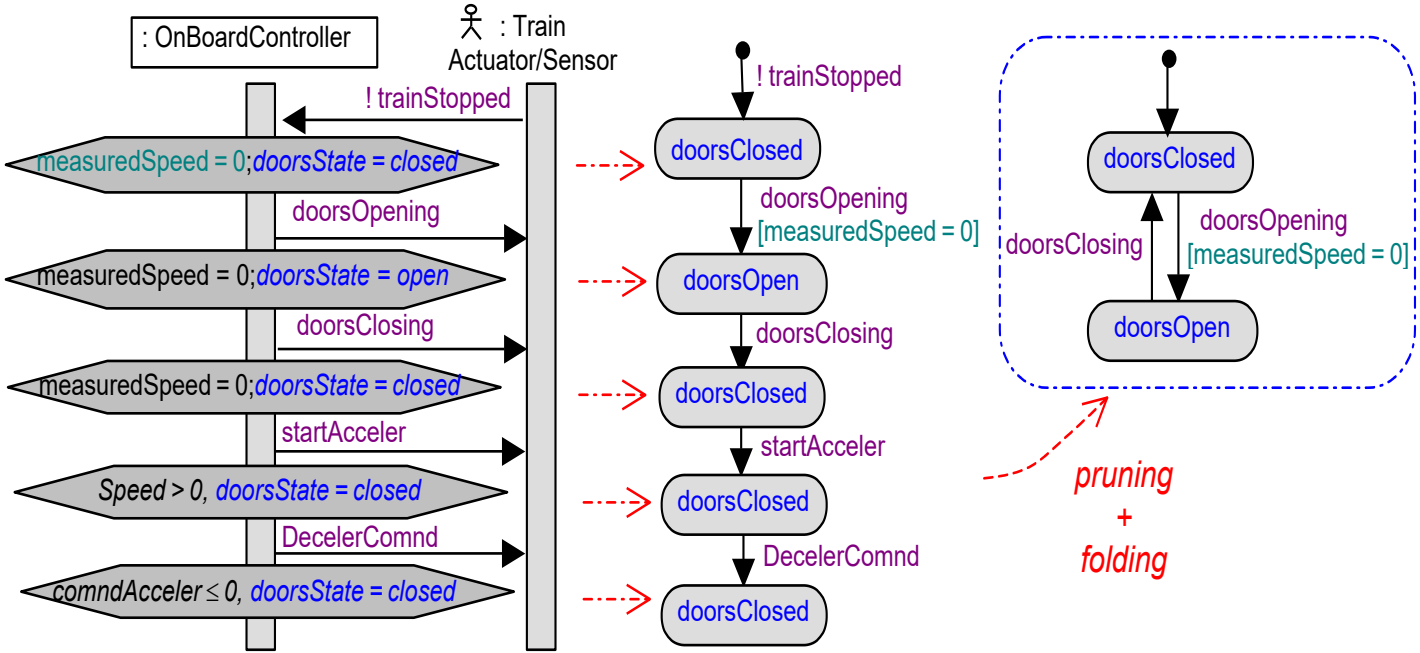




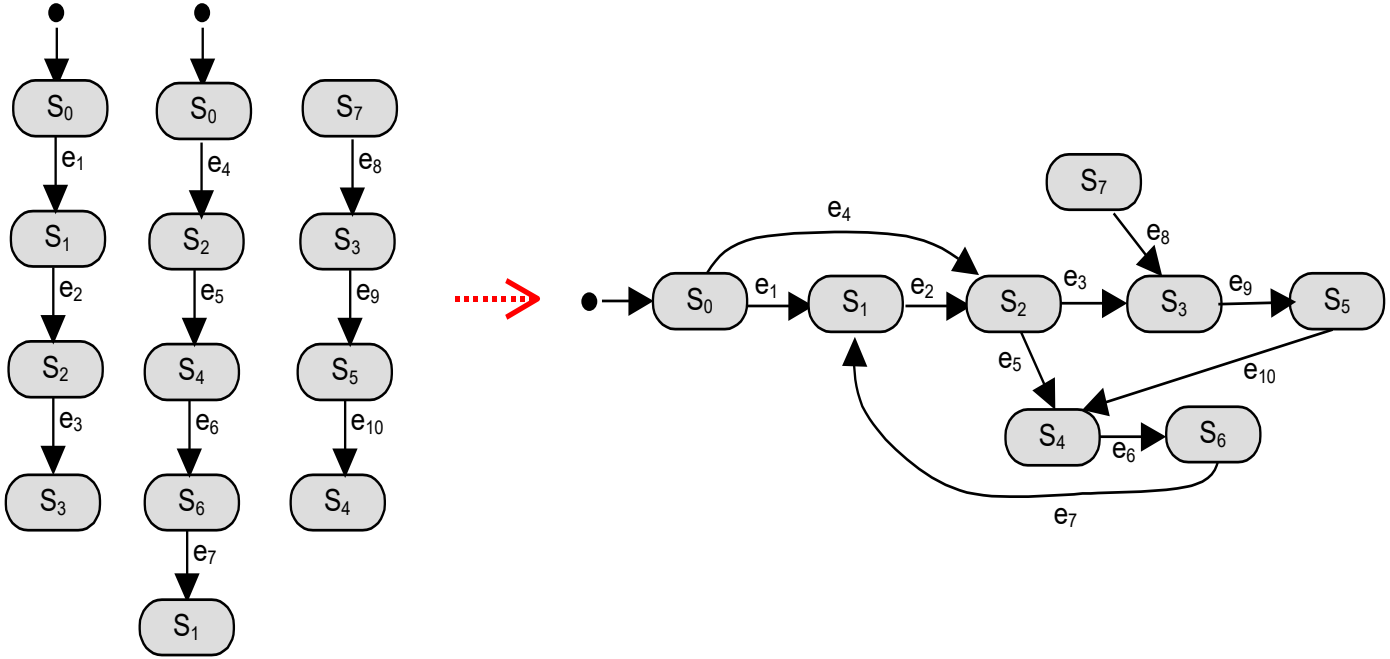
Generalize scenarios into state machines

- One concurrent SM per variable controlled by the agent, whose paths cover all corresponding scenario lifelines
  - **Lifeline selection**: all lifelines referring to this controlled variable
  - SM path derivation:
    - sequence of **states** = sequence of lifeline state conditions on this controlled variable
    - **transitions** labelled with corresponding interaction event
    - add initial state, conditions on monitored variables as guards
    - remove transitions with no state change for this controlled variable
    - merge multiple occurrences of same state by folding => cycles
  - **SM path merge**:
    - take a path with initial state as first path
    - merge new path from its start: for each next state:
      - if already there: add incoming transition
      - if not already there: add it + incoming transition

SM path derivation

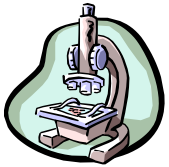


SM path merge



Check resulting concurrent SM

- **Within** concurrent state, for one controlled variable:
  - Unreachable states ? (from initial state)
  - Missing states ? (incl. final state)
  - Missing or inadequate transitions ? (events, guards)
  - Missing actions ?
- **Between** concurrent states, for different controlled variables
  - Synchronization needed? (as seen before)
    - Shared events? Synchronizing guards? Event notification ?
  - Lexical consistency of event names? (as seen before)



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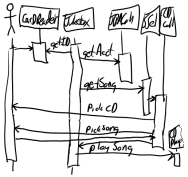
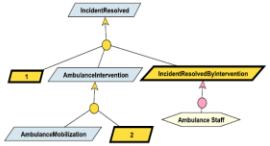
From scenarios to goals

- Goals can be identified & specified from scenarios ...
  - generalize positive scenarios by covering more behaviors
  - while excluding all behaviors captured by negative scenarios
- By asking **WHY?** questions about positive scenarios,

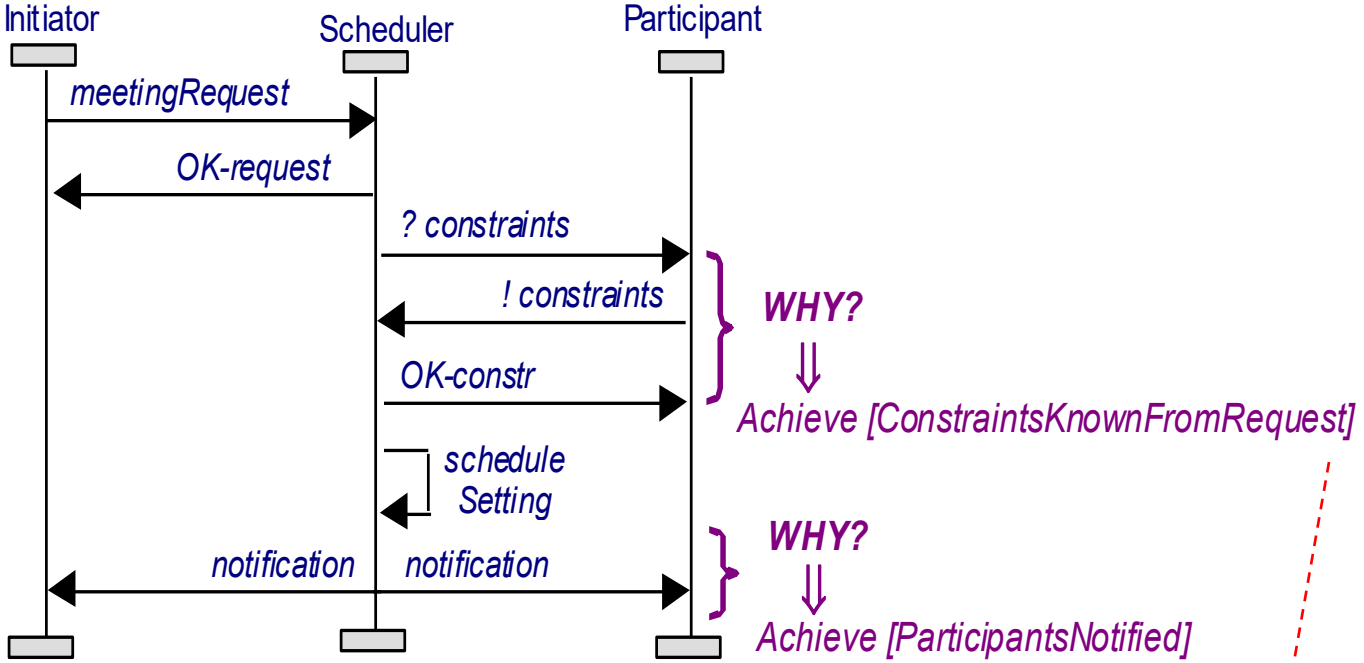
  WHY NOT? questions about negative scenarios
  - Scenario decomposed in episodes

    => milestone refinement of scenario goal into episode subgoals
- By mining behavioral goals from decorated scenarios

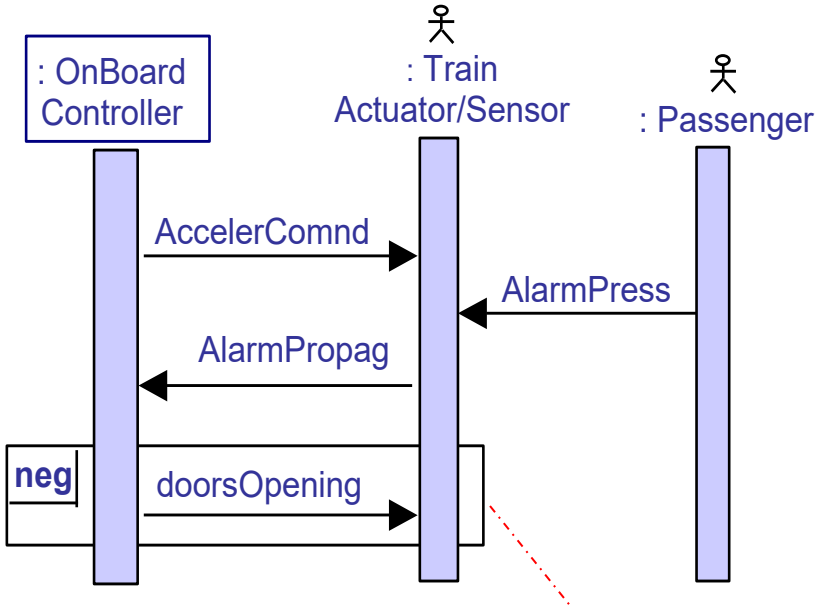




Identifying goals from scenario episodes: WHY questions and milestones

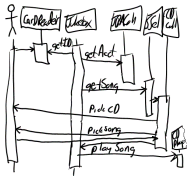


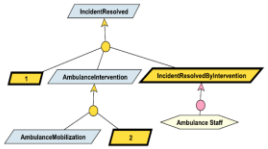
Identifying goals from scenario episodes: WHY NOT questions



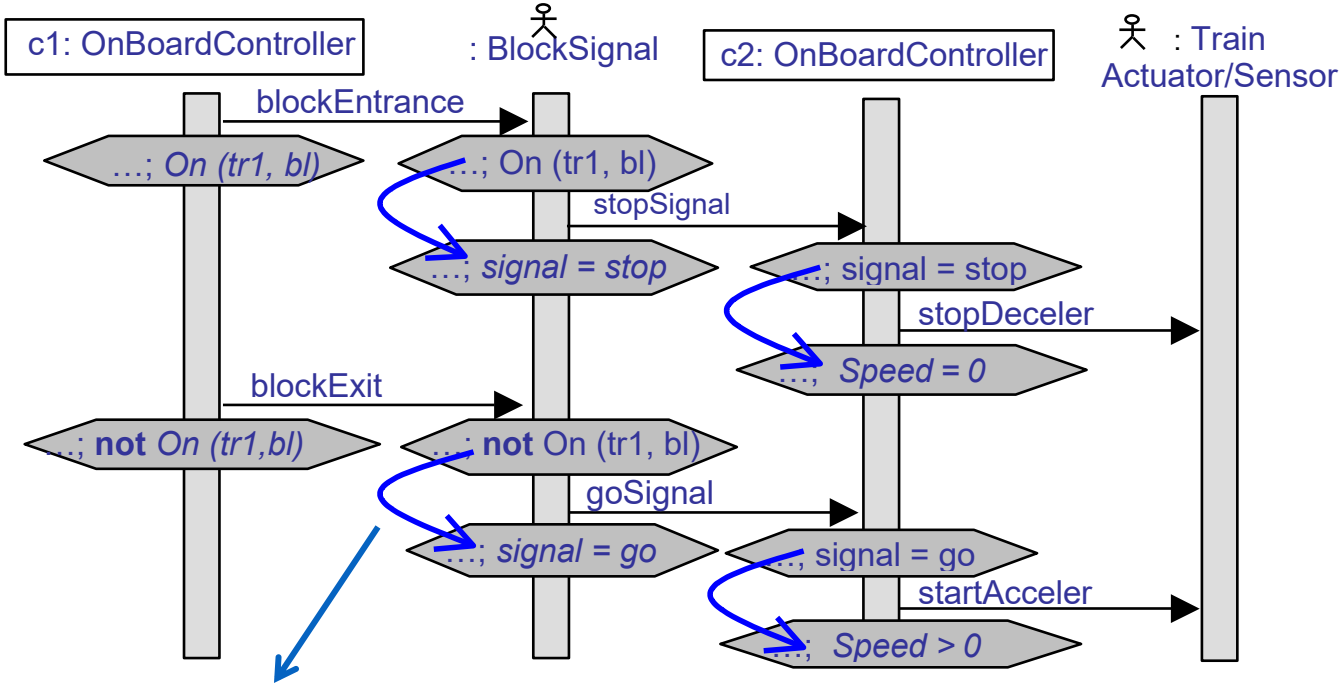
Mining behavioral goals from decorated scenarios

- Based on **state conditions** along timelines of decorated scenario
- For Achieve goals:
  - consider **stimulus-response** interaction patterns
  - if Condition*Before*Interaction **then sooner-or-later** ConditionAfter
- For Maintain goals:
  - consider **invariance** patterns from state transitions *ST*
  - **if** *ST* **then always** *Invariant*Condition unless *New*Condition
- These are leaf goals under responsibility of the agent associated with the timeline



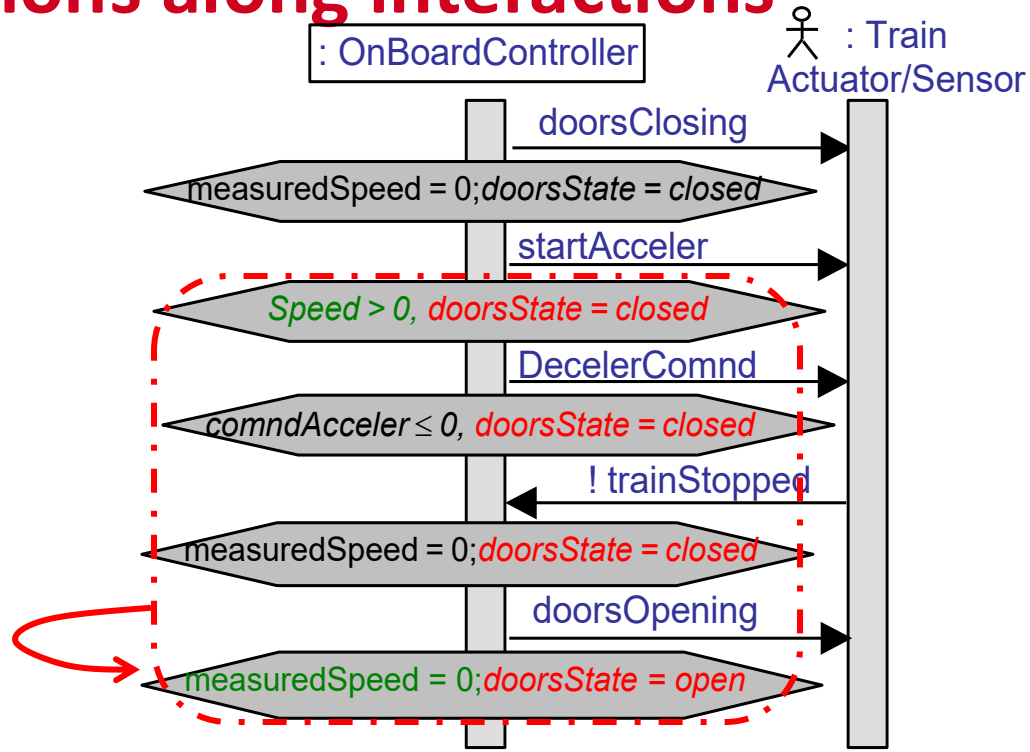


Mining *Achieve* goals from stimulus-response interactions



Achieve [SignalSetToGo **If** NoTrainOnBlock]

Mining *Maintain* goals from invariant conditions along interactions



If Speed > 0 **and** doorsState = closed **then**
always doorsState = closed **unless** measuredSpeed = 0

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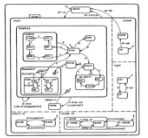
Deriving state diagrams from operationalized goals



- One concurrent SM per agent; one concurrent sub-SM per variable controlled by the agent
- For each dynamically relevant state variable:
  - **Operationalization selection**: take all leaf goals constraining it + associated operations including it in their **Output** list
  - **SM derivation**: for each selected operation Op, derive a transition
    - (DomPre, DomPost) $\Rightarrow$ (sourceState, TargetState) with transition label *Op*
    - Conjunction of all ReqPre $\Rightarrow$ transition guard
    - Disjunction of all ReqTrig $\Rightarrow$ guard on event-free transition
  - Add label-free transition from initial state (based on variable's **Init**)
  - Check, extend, restructure this SM as needed
- Can be used the other way round to find missing ReqPre, ReqTrig, Op

Deriving state diagrams from operationalized goals: example