Component Specification with UML
A simple form of specification of component-based software

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Component Specification

Creation process of the Interface Information Model (IIM)
Creation process of the System IIM
Component factorization techniques

Component Based Systems (CBS) Specification

Contracts in CBS

- Contract of use
- Contract of realization

Specification of an interface

To determine which parts the interface is composed of and to describe these parts without ambiguity

Specification of a component

The interfaces that the component implements are grouped and the constraints that affect the component itself must be written

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Creation process of the System IIM
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Provided interfaces

An interface of this type fulfills the following conditions:

- It is implemented by the component itself or
- It is implemented by one of the component's objects or
- It is yield by one component's port

Figure: Component `Weather services` implements the interface `Weather Forecast`

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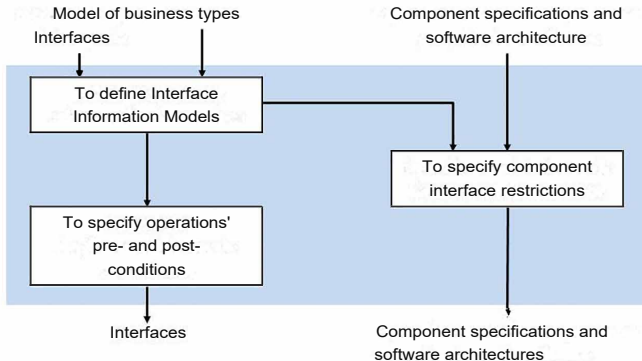
Required Interfaces

An interface of this type fulfills the following conditions:

- There is a dependency of use of the component itself
- There is a dependency of use of the component's objects
- There is needed by a component's *public port*
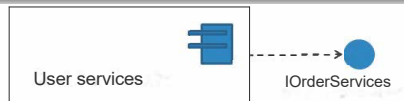
Figure: Component User Services requires the interface IOrderServices

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Specification process of interfaces

Figure: Specification of a component within the complete workflow at this stage

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Interface specification vs. operation specification

Component operations specification:

- They lack of any structural information of the component
- Operations definition does not provide an appropiate description level of a component's dependencies

Component interfaces specification

- Grouping of related operations
- This type of operation grouping will be revisited in the *factorization* activity afterwards
- Interface subtyping introduction
- Can include only 1 *self-contained* and independent component

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Operations specification

What does an operation specification need to include? and what does not?

- Relationship between operation inputs, outputs and component object state description
- To define the effect that one call will have on the input/output relation in an operation

What does it have to guarantee?

- Transparency of the relations between the component object and other objects

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Operations specification II

Elements of the specification:

- Input and output parameters
- Constraints of application to the component object
- Any change of state that results in the component object
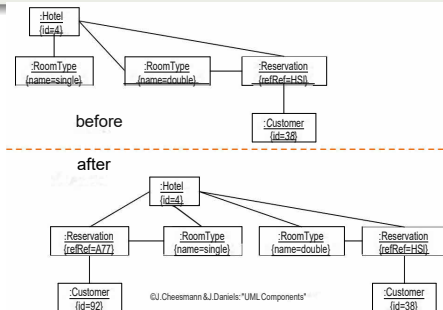
Figure: `IHotelMgt::makeReservation()` operation effect in part of the component object

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Interface specification I

Model characteristics:

- The Interface Information Model (IIM) contains enough information to allow carrying out the operations specification as part of the interface
- As well as the effect and constraints that an operation execution has on the component's state
- Description of the state changes as result of operation execution
- By adding types, attributes, ..., an interface specification is incrementally built as the specification activity advances

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Interface specification II

Conditions that the specification model must abide:

- Interfaces are only associated to *typed information*
- Only will include information on the set of states that a component owns
- Will never give information on the component internal-state implementation
- Neither do interfaces give information about persistence of the component

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Interface Specification Model

Component object state representation of which the interfaces depends on

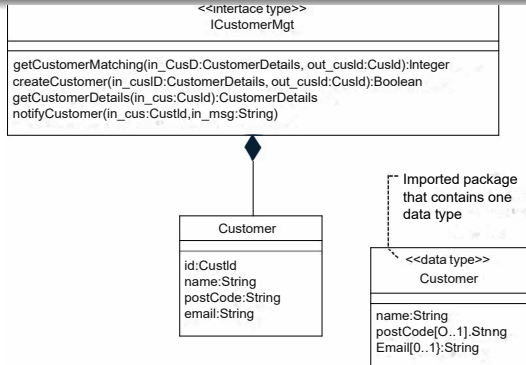- An Interface Information Model (IIM) is needed

Figure: 1. Interface specification model for `ICustomerMgt`

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Interface Information Model (IIM)

ICustomerMgt example discussion

- Customer is a *typed information*
- The interface types cannot maintain associations with any entity outside the model
  - Location in the same package that the interface
  - Exception made for inherited *subtypes* among interfaces; these types are not shared but can be imported
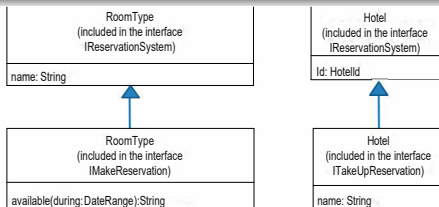

Figure: Type inheritance example after performing a factorization of interfaces

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Pre and postconditions

- Each operation has got an associated *pre* and *poscondition*, which details what the operation will do
- Pre and postconditions do not provide any algorithmic or implementation-related information
- Act as the *fine print* of a contract with the client
- Precondition: it guarantees that the execution of the operation will make true the postcondition
- The mentioned operation call is completely independent of the certainty value of its precondition
- Any assumption about the operation execution is responsibility of the client
- Postdition: contractual guarantee that is responsability of the operation provider (e.g. the component *developer*)

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OCL

Definition

Object Constraint Language is a declarative programming notation that allows building written *logical expressions* OCL is of use for specifying contractual conditions (for instance) when it comes to develop the interface specification of software components

OCL expressions of sematically correct pre and postconditions

- Can refer to parameters, operation results and to the component's object state
- Cannot refer to other interfaces elements
- The interface specification only has a local effect (they only apply to the information model handled)

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Expressions built with OCL

OCL specification of the name change operation

```
1  context ICustomerMgt :: changeCustomerName ( in cus : CustId ,
2              in newName : String )
3
4  pre :
5      ––cus  is a client valid identifier
6      customer –> exists ( c | c . id = cus )
7  post :
8      ––the client name whose identifier is 'cus' is changed to '
          newName '
9      customer –> exists ( c | c . id = cus and c . name = newName )
```

'customer' means the set of clients associated to the supporting
component-object: ICustomerMgt

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OCL Expressions (II)

Operation for obtaining a client details specification

```
1  context ICustomerMgt::getCustomerDetails(in cus: CustId):
       CustomerDetails
2  pre: --cus is a client valid identifier
3      customer->exists(c | c.id = cus)
4  post: --the returned details after execution are identically
       equal to the client with identifier 'cus'
5          --to find the client
6      Let theClient = customer->select(c | c.id = cus) in
7          --to specify the result
8          result.name= theClient.name and
9          result.postalCode = theClient.postalCode and
10         result.email = theClient.email
11     --the returned value is implicitly yield with the assignment
12     --of the variable 'result'; there is no state change
```

The operation does not change the executing object state,
since a postcondition only specifies the returning result.

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OCL (II)

Conditions in posconditions

- Expressions of a poscondition can refer either the state prior the operation execution (@pre of OCL) or to its subsequent state
- Allow writing expressions that specify how the IIM atributes and associations change as result of an operation execution

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Interface Information Model creation example

General aspects of the IIM 'hotel reservations'

- The interface `IHotelMgt` addresses hotel booking management by carrying out assignment of rooms to client
- `ICustomerMgt` addresses client management
- `IHotelMgt` is responsible of the following types definition:

    - `Hotel`
    - `RoomType`
    - `Room`
    - `Reservation`

- `ICustomerMgt` is responsible of the following types definition:
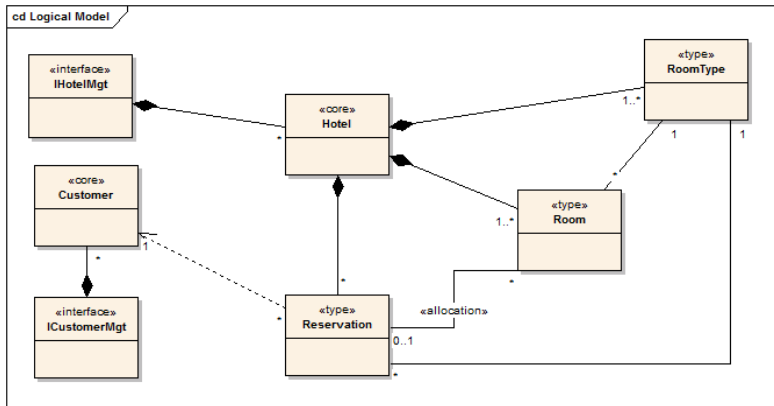   - `Customer`

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Interface Information Model creation example - II

Figure: Responsibility Diagram of the Interface (RDI) `IHotelMgt`

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Interface Information Model creation example - III

RDI adaptations necessary to obtain the IIM

- Types `Hotel`, `RoomType` and `Reservation` must be included in the interface information model of `IHotelMgt`
- The association between reservations and customers does not need to be included in the IIM
- Associations in the RDI can be transformed:
  - Direct association inclusion: `IHotelMgt -> Reservation`
  - From *derived* association into *direct* association: `Hotel->Reservation`
- Some RDI associations can be deleted:
  - Derived association: `Hotel -> RoomType`
- Attribute inclusion to the RDI: attribute `claimed` into `Reservation`

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Interface Information Model creation example IV
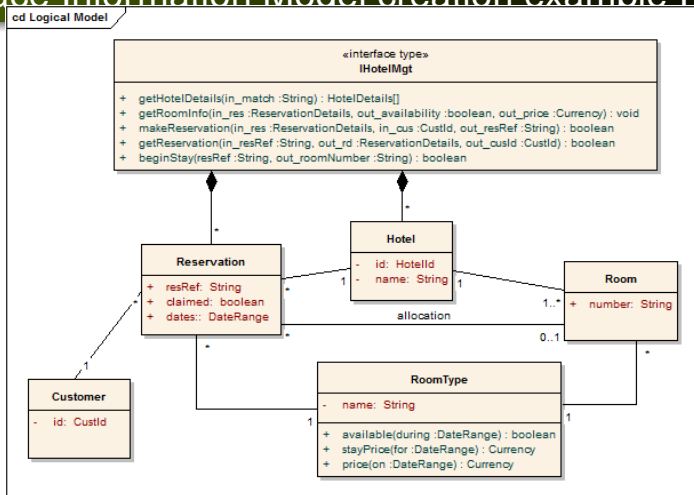
Figure: Interface Specification Diagram of IHotelMgt

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Interface Information Model creation example V

Invariants

- *Invariant*: constraint associated to a type that can be maintained true in all instances of the type

- Invariants can be graphically expressed resorting to UML

- Invariants can be written as OCL expressions:

```
1 context r : Reservation inv :
2   --a reservation is claimed if there is already an
        assigned room
3   r . claimed = r . allocation –>noEmpty
```

- From the definition above we can use "claimed" as an abbreviated form of an association

- An invariant is capable of connecting different parts of the information included in a specification

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OCL Operations Specification

Exercise

By using the operators: `exists`, `select` y
`asSequence->first`, to specify the operation
`IHotelMgt::makeReservation (...)` entirely with the
OCL notation

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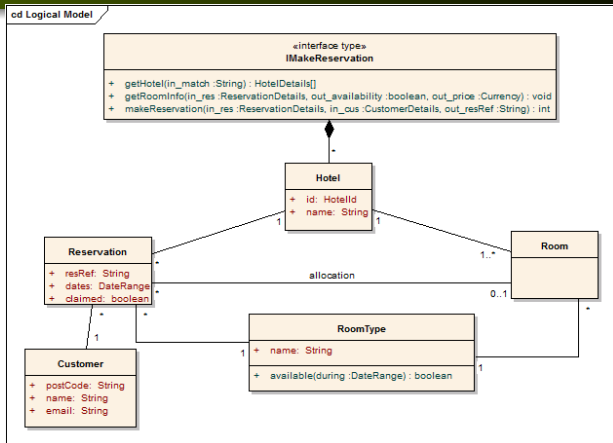Component factorization techniques

System Interfaces Specification

System Interfaces

- The so called System's Information Interface Model (SIIM) is a subset of the *business type model*
- This interface model tries to group any function automatically, i.e. without human assistance, performed by the system
- Differences between SIIM and IIM of a business model:
  - SIIM does not have to contain all the business model types
  - *Responsibility Diagrams of Interfaces* preparation does not yield as much information on the business model types as in the case of IIM elaboration
  - Business model types that must be included in the IIM cannot be clearly identified until programming the operations

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System Information Interfaces Models

Figure: System Interface Specification Diagram `IMakeReservation`

This model does not need the business-IIM's `Room` class attribute `number`

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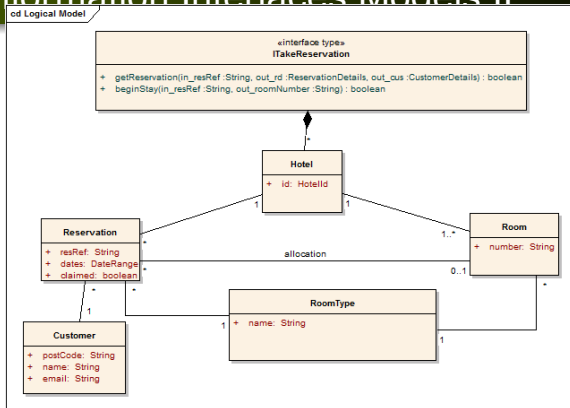# System Information Interfaces Models II

Figure: System Interface Specification Diagram `ITakeUpReservation`

- It needs now the attribute `number` of `Room`
- It does not need the attribute `name` of Hotel nor the attribute `available(during)` of `RoomType`

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Component Specification

Differences with respect to the specification of other interfaces

- The IIM and SIIM of a business process refer to the *contract of use*
- We are now more interested in the specification of the *contract of realization*
- The most important thing here is to describe the dependencies between a component and other interfaces
- Includes the *realization constraints* and combination of components

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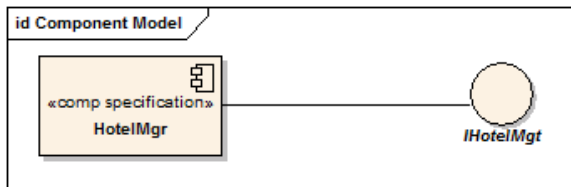
Component Specification II

Figure: Component Specification Diagram of `HotelMgr`

The component must yield the interface `IHotelMgt` and it cannot be prevented from using other interfaces

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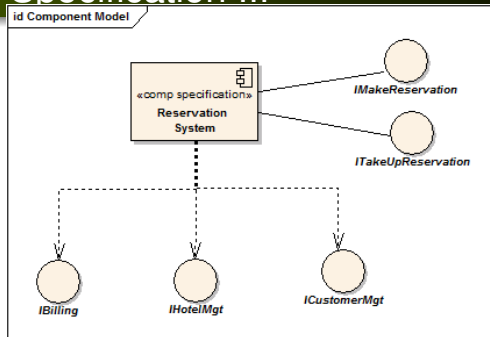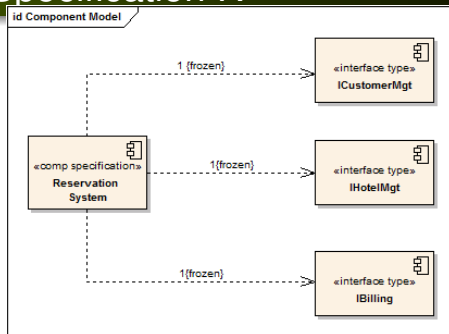
Component Specification III

Figure: Component Specification Diagram of `HotelMgr`

- The component must yield 2 system interfaces and it has to use 3 more business interfaces
- It does not tell how these interfaces will be used during the component implementation activity

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Component Specification IV

Figure: Component Specification Diagram of ReservationSystem

- All the component implementations have to use the same objects that each one of its interfaces are offering
- The frozen constraint: the component-object will have the same objects all its life-time long

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Constraints between interfaces

To complete the specifications of the components

- How the interfaces *provided* by one component relate to each other?
- How the interfaces *required* in one component relate to each other?

Provided Interfaces

Constraints that apply over these interfaces

It must be made clear that types with the same name and yielded by 2 or more interfaces refer to the same concept

```
1 context ReservationSystem
2 -- constraints between provided interfaces
3 IMakeReservation :: hotel = ITakeUpReservation :: hotel
4 IMakeReservation :: reservation = ITakeUpReservation :: reservation
5 IMakeReservation :: customer = ITakeUpReservation :: customer
```

Instances of an IIM type such as `IMakeReservation` are *logically* equal (=) that instances of `ITakeUpReservation` (IIM type as well)

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Provided and required interfaces

Constraints among all the interfaces

- Implementations of *provided* interfaces obtain all the information they need from *business components*, i.e., these interfaces do not implement common types

- Neither do we need to specify message protocols established between a *provided* interface and a *required* interface

- We only need to describe those OCL constraints that make the information models of all the interfaces match

```
1  context   ReservationSystem
2  −−constraints  between  provided  and  required  interfaces
3  IMakeReservation :: hotel  =  IHotelMgt :: hotel
4  IMakeReservation :: reservation  =  IHotelMgt :: reservation
5  IMakeReservation :: customer  =  ICustomerMgt :: customer
```

Interface factorization

Motivation

Each interface has to have a different information model, but sometimes they only differ from each other by small changes, and thus a lot of redundance happens in the complete specification

Steps

- To include new *abstract* interfaces that act as *super types* of other interfaces that share information between them
- The abstract interface holds all the common elements and operations of several IIMs
- Definition of abstract interfaces could be useful when the *use case models* –of which the interfaces originate– share a set of *actors*

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Interface factorization II

Exercise

1) Factorize the common information elements of interfaces:
`IMakeReservation` and `ITakeUpReservation` and put
them in a new interface: `IReservationSystem`. Then, the
interfaces `IMakeReservation` and `ITakeUpReservation`
inherit from `IReservationSystem`
2) Contruct the class diagrams of the interfaces
`IReservationSystem` and rebuild the `IMakeReservation`
interface model

Fundamental references

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