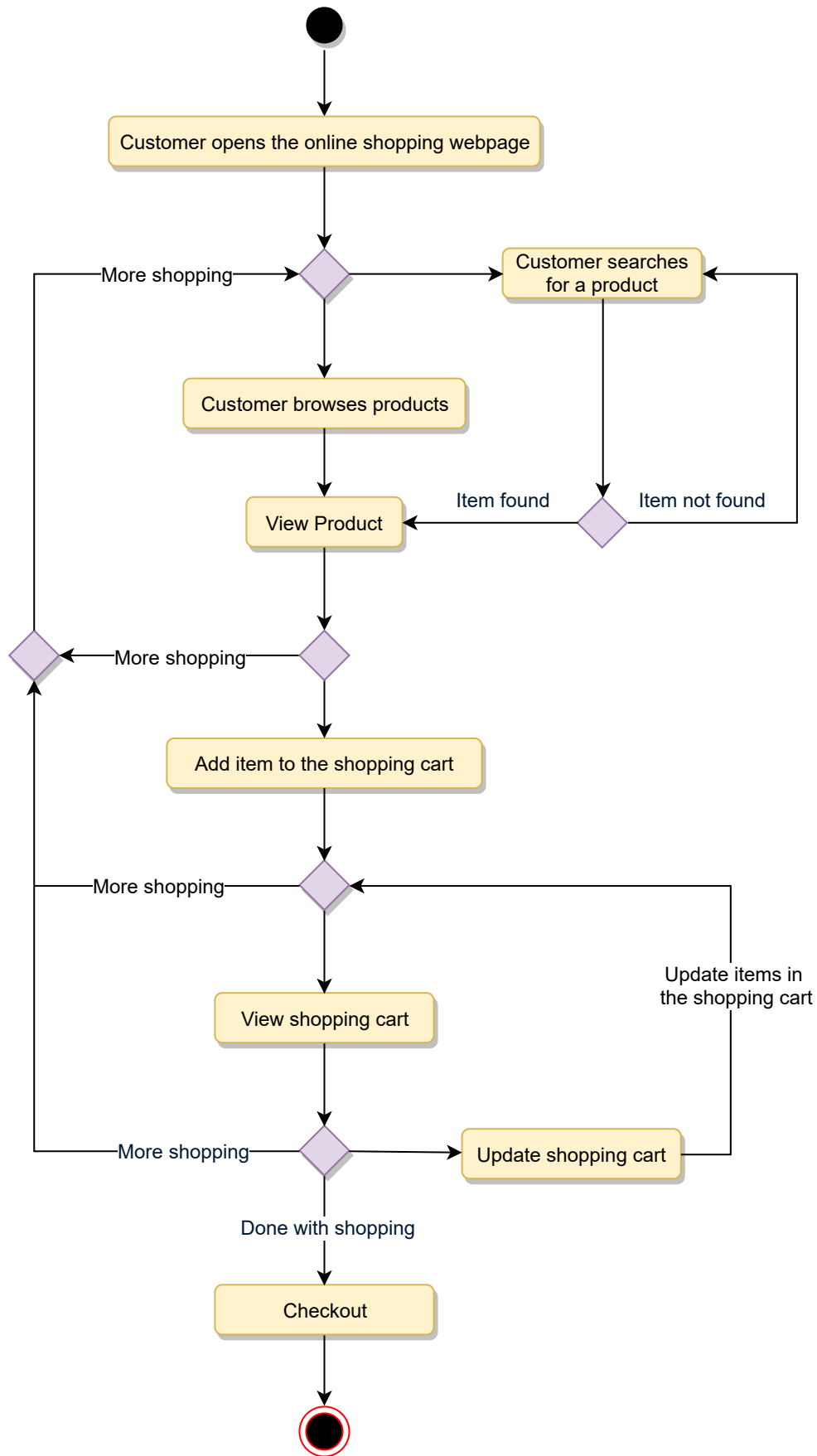# Activity Diagrams

We use Activity Diagrams to illustrate the flow of control in a system. An activity diagram shows the flow of control for a system functionality; it emphasizes the condition of flow and the sequence in which it happens. We can also use an activity diagram to refer to the steps involved in the execution of a use case.

Activity diagrams illustrate the dynamic nature of a system by modeling the flow of control from activity to activity. An activity represents an operation on some class in the system that results in a change in the state of the system. Typically, activity diagrams are used to model workflow or business processes and internal operations.

Following is an activity diagram for a user performing online shopping:

Sample activity diagram for online shopping

What is the difference between Activity diagram and Sequence diagram?

Activity diagram captures the process flow. It is used for functional modeling. A functional model represents the flow of values from external inputs, through operations and internal data stores, to external outputs.

Sequence diagram tracks the interaction between the objects. It is used for dynamic modeling, which is represented by tracking states, transitions between states, and the events that trigger these transitions.

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Sequence diagram

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