

2. Case description

This MLM challenge involves representing universal properties of process types along with actor types, actor types and their various relationships (Section 2.2), and an application of these in the scope of a particular software engineering process (Section 2.3). Submitted solutions should include bottom-level instances, at least for key types, exemplifying all attributes mentioned in the challenge description. Deviations from the case as described here should be documented in submissions. The case description may be extended but respective rationales should then be provided.

2.1. Overview

Process management is characterized by a set of rules concerning the execution of processes, tasks, actions or activities, the creation and keeping track of processes, i.e. the enactments of process types, with such processes being referred to as "process instances" in the literature. For example, in the software engineering domain, it is necessary to keep track of the fact whether or not code has been tested, etc. Further rules impact the participation of business actors (human and artifacts (equipment, documents, tools) and specifies dependencies between them. In the software engineering domain: (i) *sign*; (ii) *test case design*; (iii) *testing* is performed by a *tester*, employs a *requirement* results in *test cases*; and (iii) *testing* is performed by a *tester*, employs *test cases*, and produces a *test result*.

In other contexts, such as insurance, there may be a need to keep track of *test cases*, when it comes to *analyst authorized payment* of a claim, response to the claim, how much

when arrived... or may go further to another Task...

Hence there is a perform relationship

Does that mean there is an actual duration? i.e a start time?

all instances should be critical or some of them? I choose the

Model de Fahad ?

P10: so many interpretations!

P11-P1x reduce interpretation scope...

P11: task instance!

ambiguous. p16/p14. exists (weak-preferred) or all (strong) or in between?

Any constraints on TT-auth- A et TT -auth- A?

Submissions to the challenge should focus on the software engineering domain. They may optionally include the insurance domain as well. In the following, we are using the insurance domain for illustrative purposes only.

2.2. Processes, tasks, actors and artifacts

The following general rules pertaining to processes, tasks, actors and artifacts apply for the challenge:

- P1) A **process type** (such as *claim handling*) is defined by the **composition of one or more task types** (receive *claim*, *assess claim*, *pay premium*) and **their relations**.
- P2) Ordering constraints between **task types** of a **process type** are **established** through **gateways**, which may be **sequencing, and-split, or-split, and-join and or-join**.

How other things are created, linked?

- Each **process type** has **one initial task type** (with which all executions begin), and **one or more final task types** (with which all its executions end).
- P4) Each **task type** is **created** by an **actor**, who **will not necessarily perform it**. For example, *Ben Boss* created the task type *assess claim*.
- P5) For each **task type**, one may stipulate a set of **actor types** whose instances are the only ones that **may perform** instances of that **task type**. For example, in the *XSure* insurance company, only a *claim handling manager* or a *financial officer* may *authorize payments*.
- P6) A **task type** may alternatively be assigned to a particular set of **actors** who are **authorized** (e.g., *John Smith* and *Paul Alter* may be the only *actors* who are allowed to *assess claims*).
- P7) For each **task type** (such as *authorize payment*) one may stipulate the **artifact types** which are **used** and **produced**. For example, *assess claim* uses a *claim* and produces a *claim payment decision*.
- P8) **Task types** have an **expected duration** (which is not necessarily respected in particular occurrences).
- P9) **Critical task types** are those whose instances are **critical tasks**; each of the latter must be **performed** by a **senior actor** and the **artifacts** they produce must be **associated** with a **validation task**.
- P10) Each **process type** may be **enacted** multiple times.
- P11) Each **process** comprises one or more **tasks**.
- P12) Each **task** has a **begin date** and an **end date**. (e.g., *Assessing Claim 123* has *begin date 01-Jan-19* and *end date 02-Jan-19*).
- P13) **Tasks** are associated with **artifacts used** and **produced**, along with **performing actors**.
- P14) **Every artifact used or produced** in a **task** must instantiate one of the **artifact types stipulated** for the **task type**.
- P15) An **actor** may have **more than one actor type** (e.g., *Senior Manager* and *Project Leader*).
- P16) Likewise, an **artifact** may have **more than one artifact type**.
- P17) An **actor** who **performs a task** must be **authorized** for that task. Typically, a **class** of actors is **automatically authorized** for certain **classes** of tasks.
- P18) **Actor types** may **specialize** other **actor types** in which case all the **rules** that apply to instances of the specialized **actor type** must apply to instances of the specializing **actor type**. For **example**, if a *manager* is allowed to *perform tasks* of a certain **task type**, so is a *senior manager*.
- P19) All **modeling elements**, at all levels, must have a **last updated** value of type **time stamp**. This feature should be defined as few times as possible, ideally only **once**. **Respective** definitions are exempt from the requirement to have a **last updated** value. Note that this requirement differs from the respective version id.

see S1

see S13

P9: how use/ produce / other?

Not arte fact type

P9: an instance or a type?

class = type or a new concept? Choice ==

??

Note that it is not necessary for every **type** in the model to have an instance. It is useful, however, to **illustrate** the design with a number of instances.

names are implicit see S0

In the world, in the company, in the team?
 Lets interpret in the known system.

2.3. Software engineering process

An application of the above described process management must be defined to capture the essence of software engineering process. The *Software Development Company* development process is composed of *requirements analysis*, *design*, *coding*, *test case design*, *test design review* and *testing* (conforming to the constraints indicated in Figure 1). The bars represent an *and-split* and an *and-join*.

A single instance of Ann Smith exists (I know many of them)

défini comment?

On mélange... ce qu'on décrit et comment c'est construit. Demain, ce sera encore vrai ? ou c'est vrai now !

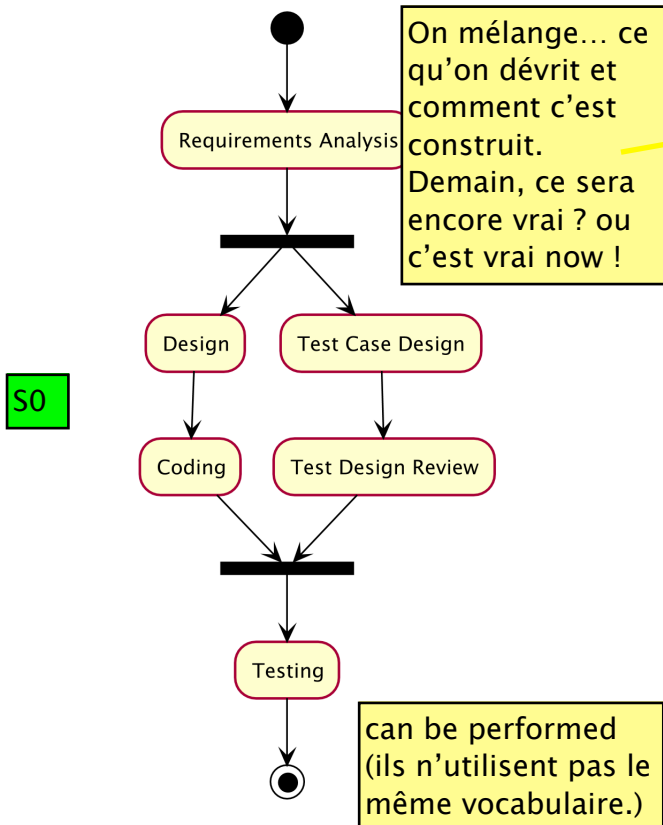


Figure 1. The Acme software engineering process.

The following rules for the software engineering domain apply:

- S1) A *requirements analysis* is *performed* by an *analyst* and *produces* a *requirements specification*.
- S2) A *test case design* is *performed* by a *developer* or a *tester* and *produces* *test cases*. Note that this requirement from [3] conflicts with S13. We have maintained it here for the record but ask submitters to let the information in S13 override S2, i.e. only *senior analysts* may perform a *test case design*. Note that *test case designs* still *produce test cases*.
- S3) An *occurrence* of *coding* is *performed* by a *developer* and *produces* *code*. It must furthermore reference one or more *programming language* employed.

1. As mentioned before, an *occurrence* of *coding* in the software engineering domain is purely optional.

It = code artefact or coding task?
 Task! see S4

- S4) *Code* must reference *the programming language(s)* in which it was *written*.
- S5) *Coding in COBOL* always *produces* *COBOL code*.
- S6) All *COBOL code* is *written* in *COBOL*.
- S7) *Ann Smith* is a *developer*; she is *the only one allowed* to perform *coding in COBOL*.
- S8) *Testing* is *performed* by a *tester* and *produces* a *test report*.
- S9) Each *tested artifact* must be *associated* to its *test report*.
- S10) *Software engineering artifacts* have a *responsible actor* and a *version number*. This applies to *requirements specification*, *code*, *test case*, *test report*, but also to any future types of *software engineering artifacts*.
- S11) *Bob Brown* is an *analyst* and *tester*. He has *created* all *task types* in this *software development process*.
- S12) The *expected duration* of *testing* is *9 days*.
- S13) *Designing test cases* is a *critical task* which must be performed by a *senior analyst*. *Test cases* must be validated by a *test design review*.

forever, as soon as it exists?

3. Solution presentation requirements

Submissions responding to the challenge should describe a multi-level model conforming to the case description, including justifications for non-trivial design decisions. In order to foster comparability between solutions, respondents are asked to make sure that concepts of the case description are explicitly represented by one or more model elements. Conformance of the model elements to each of the requirements (P1–P19 and S1–13) must be documented in a dedicated section of the article.

3.1. Mandatory discussion aspects

Challenge respondents must discuss their multilevel model solution with regard to the following aspects, each of which should be treated in a specific sub-section of the “Assessment” section of the article:

- **Basic modeling constructs:** Explain the basic modeling constructs used in the solution.
- **Levels (or other model content organization schemes employed):** Explain the nature of “levels” in the model, how model elements are arranged on these levels and which relationships (such as “instance-of”) may feature between elements at different levels. The nature of levels should be captured by explicitly stating the level segregation and the level cohesion principles used [5]. Avoid vague language such as “higher level concepts are more abstract” if the inter-level relationship is more specific. If the inter-level relationship is deliberately allowed to be vague, state this explicitly.
- **Number of levels:** Elaborate whether the submitted solution could have had more or fewer levels and explain how any potentially existing degrees of freedom were resolved.
- **Cross-level relationships:** Discuss if and how associations and links can connect model elements at different levels. State well-formedness constraints, if any apply.