



# System Modeling

# System modeling

- Abstract models of a system
- Ignores system details
- Different perspective of system
- Helps the analyst to understand the **functionality** of the system
- Models are used to **communicate** with customers

# Let's remember a timely example

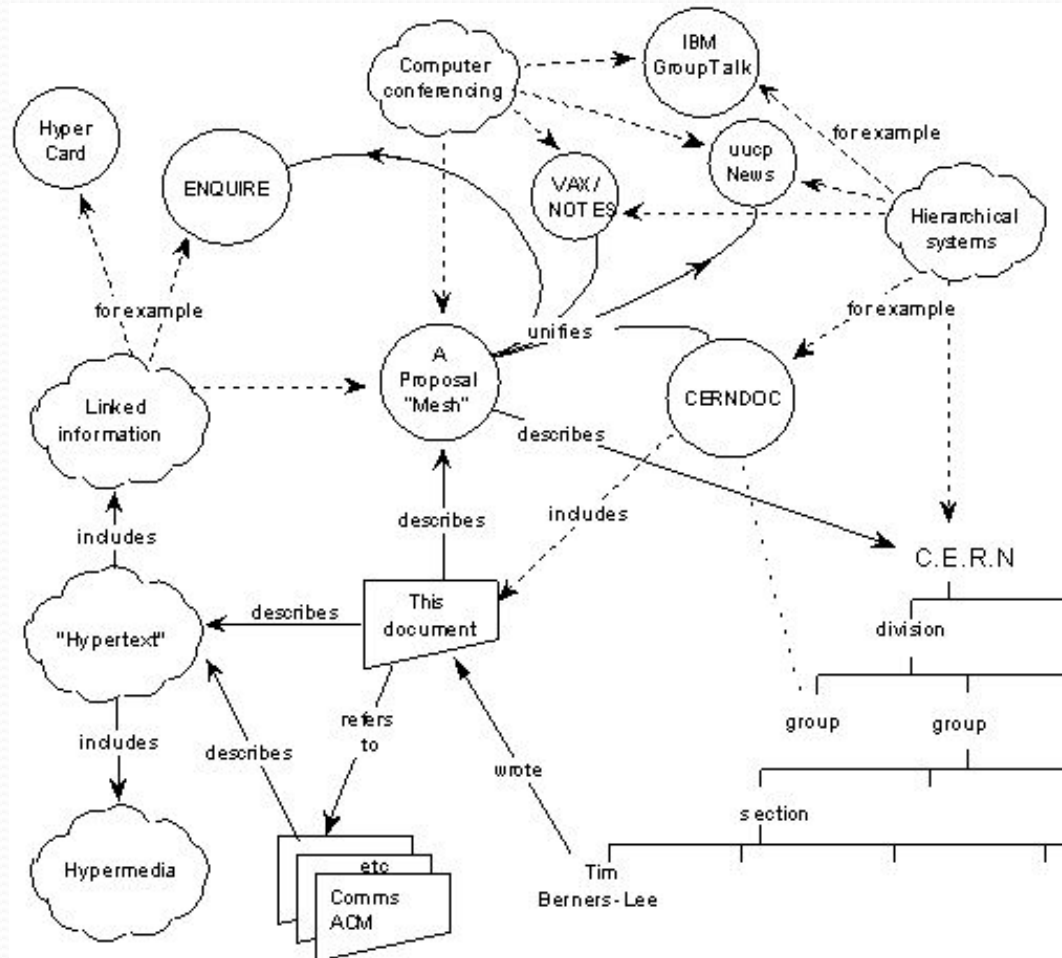
- Proposal for Web (1989) by
- Big issues:
  - security,
  - surveillance
  - privacy
  - open infrastructure
  - net neutrality
  - content protection
  - ...



Sir Tim Berners-Lee

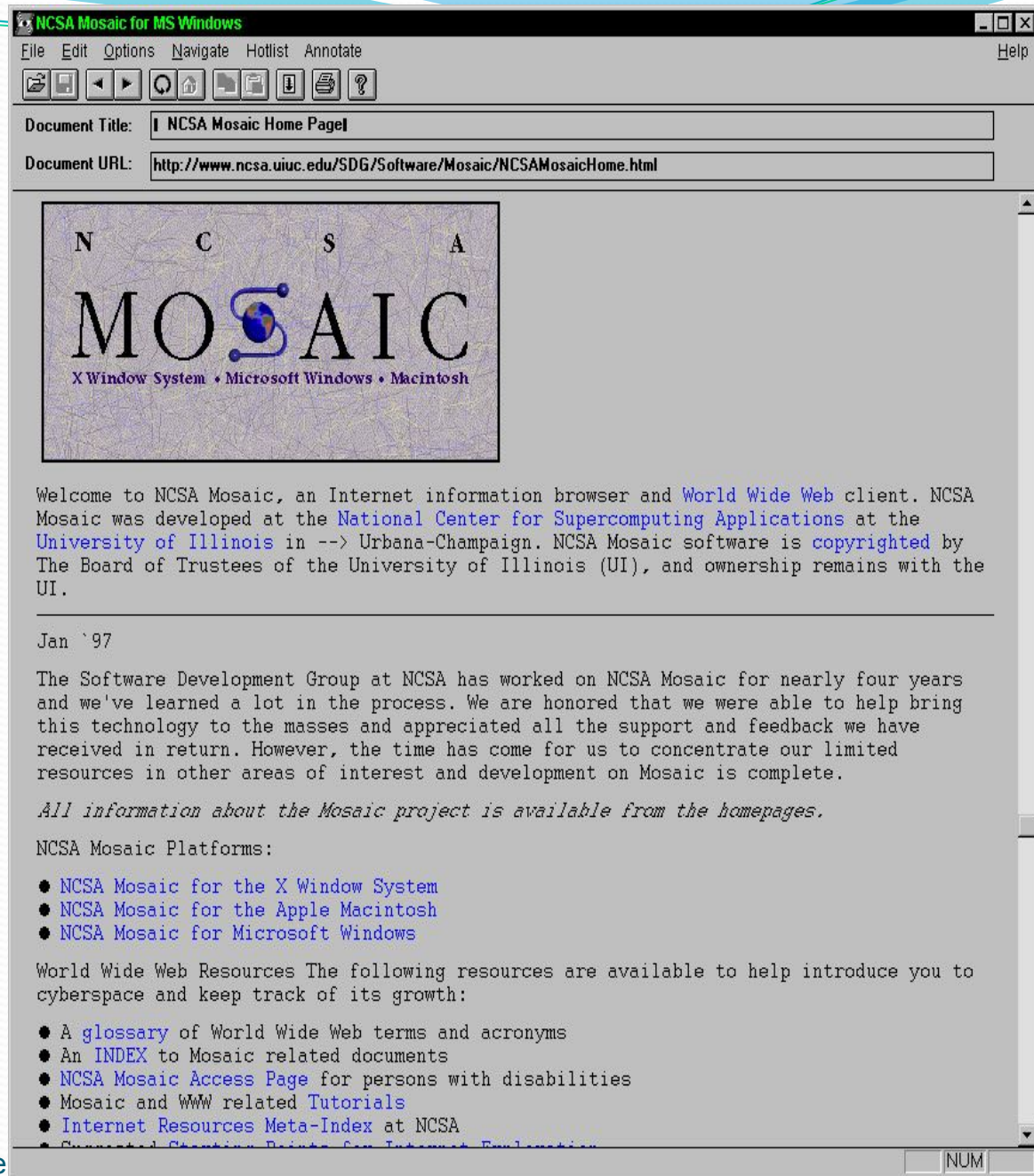
[History of the Web](#)

# Proposal for Information Management at CERN by TBL



Written:  
March 1989  
Redistributed:  
May 1990

# First Graphical Web Browser *NCSA MOSAIC*



# System perspectives

- **External** perspective models
  - the context or environment of the system.
- **Interaction** perspective models between:
  - system and its environment
  - the components of a system
- **Structural** perspective models
  - the **organization** of a system
  - the **structure** of the data
- **Behavioral** perspective models
  - the **dynamic** behavior of the system
  - how it responds to events.

# UML diagram types

- **Activity** diagrams
  - **Activities** in a process
- **Use case** diagrams
  - **interactions** between system & environment
- **Sequence** diagrams
  - interactions between
    - **actors** & system
    - system **components**
- **Class** diagrams
  - object classes in the system
  - associations between classes
- **State** diagrams
  - system response to internal and external events

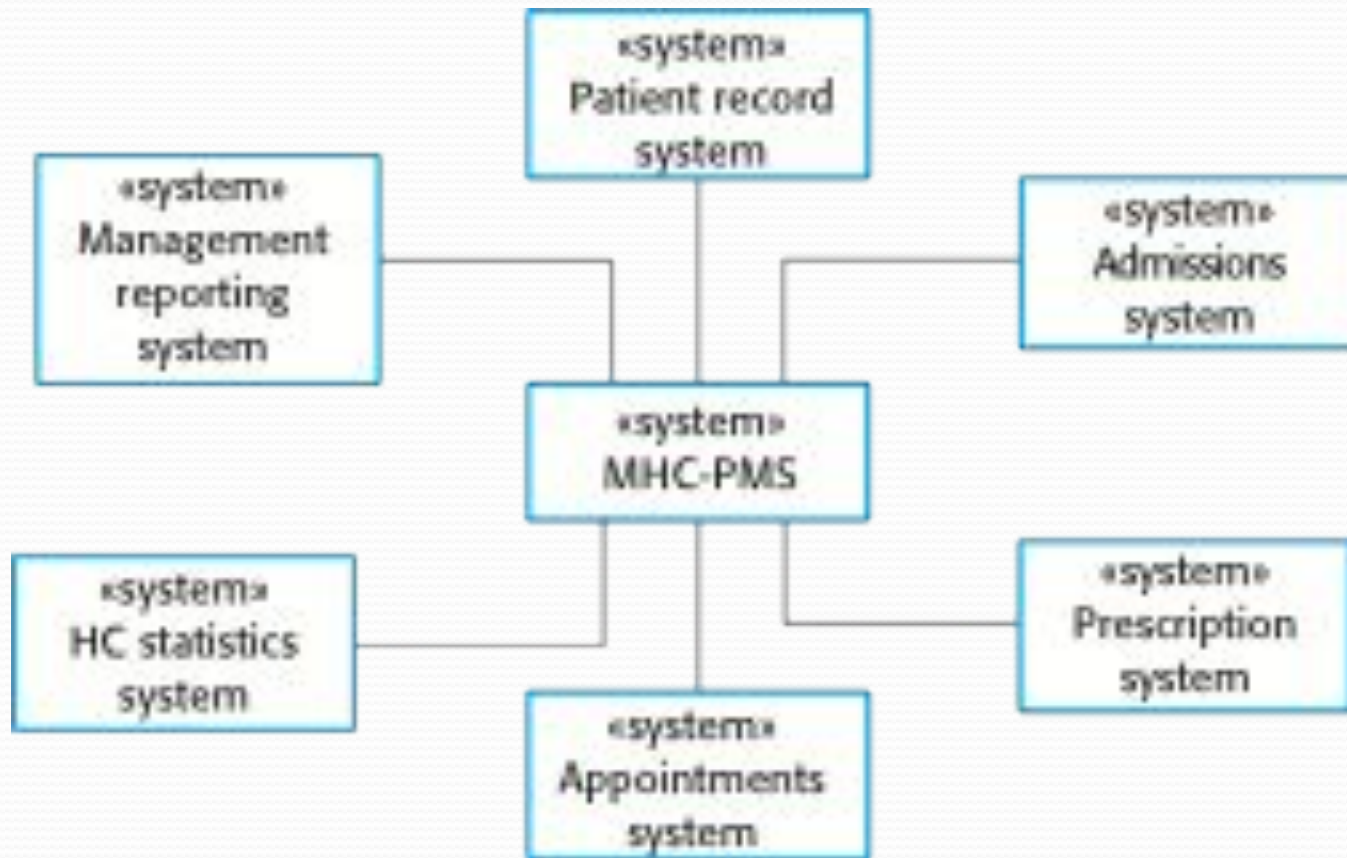


# Context models

- Operational context
- Relationship to other system
- Shows **boundaries**
  - what is inside and what is outside
- Boundary setting is important
  - Huge impact on requirements



# The context of MHS-PMS

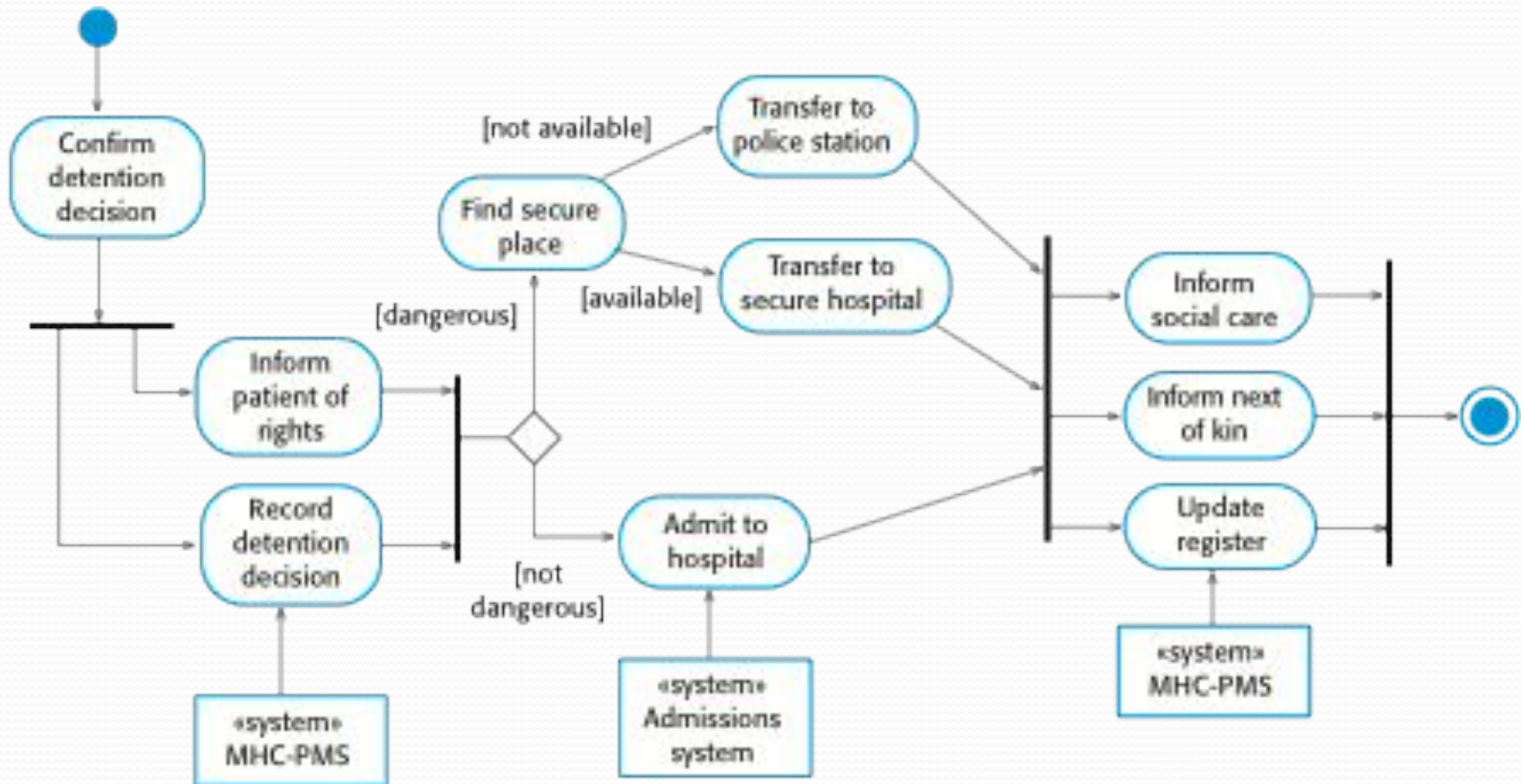


Source: Sommerville Software Engineering Examples

# Process perspective

- Shows how the system is used
- UML **activity diagrams**

# Process model: involuntary detention



# Interaction models

- Use case diagrams
  - User interaction
  - Useful for requirements
  - Communication issues revealed
- Sequence diagrams
  - Component interaction
  - Useful to determine if system will satisfy requirements

# Use case modeling

- Each use case represents a discrete task
- Involves external interactions
- Actors
  - People
  - Organizations
  - Other systems

# Use case: Transfer Data



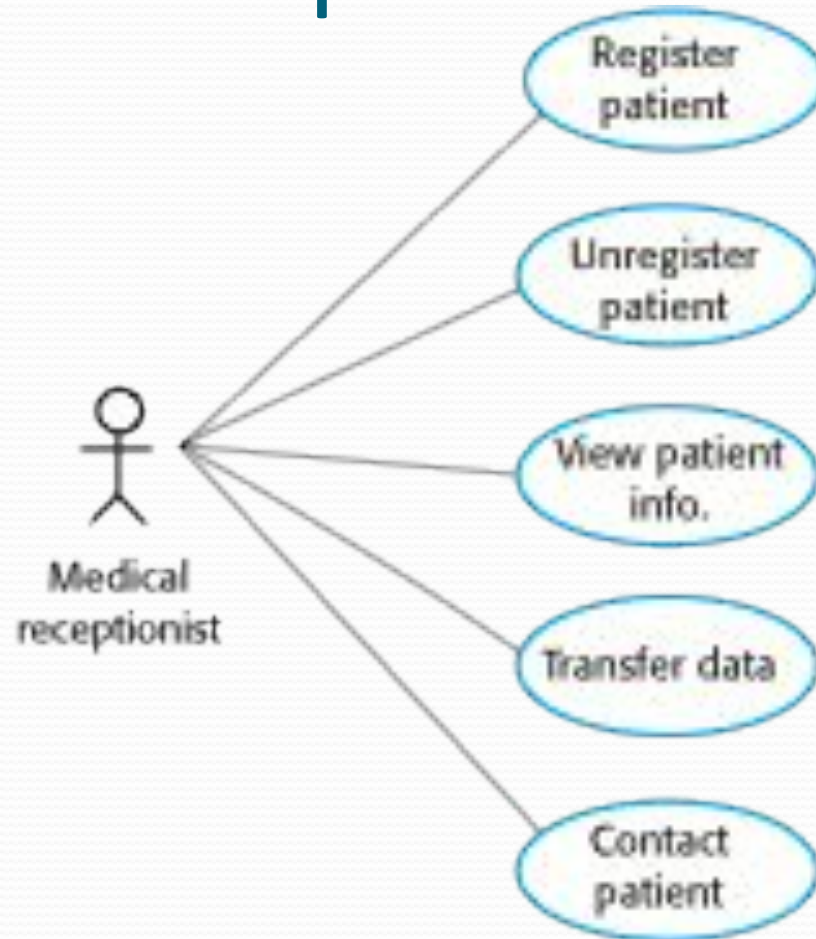
# Description 'Transfer data'

## use-case

MHC-PMS: Transfer data	
Actors	Medical receptionist, patient records system (PRS)
Description	A receptionist may transfer data from the MHC-PMS to a general patient record database that is maintained by a health authority. The information transferred may either be updated personal information (address, phone number, etc.) or a summary of the patient's diagnosis and treatment.
Data	Patient's personal information, treatment summary
Stimulus	User command issued by medical receptionist
Response	Confirmation that PRS has been updated
Comments	The receptionist must have appropriate security permissions to access the patient information and the PRS.



# Use cases in the MHC-PMS role 'Medical Receptionist'



# Structural models

- **Organization** of a system
  - components of the system
  - relationships between components
- Useful in designing the **system architecture**

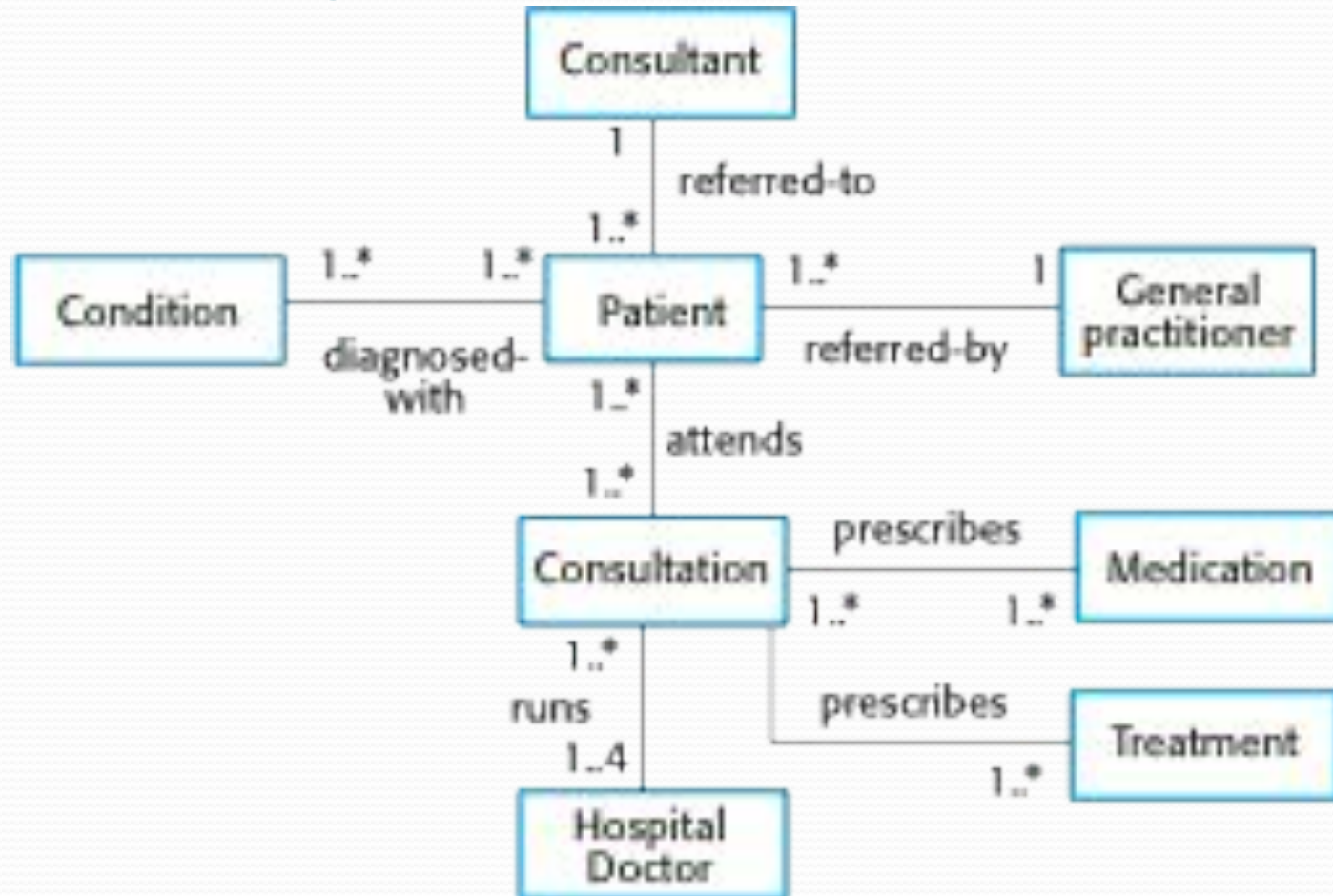
# Class diagrams

- Object-oriented system model
- Classes in a system
- Relationships between classes

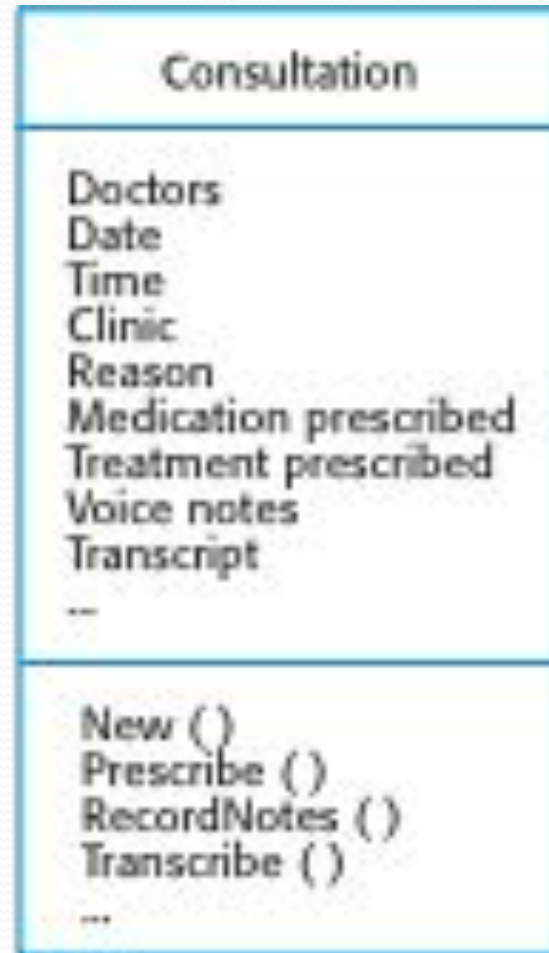
# UML classes and association



# Classes and associations in the MHC-PMS



# The Consultation class

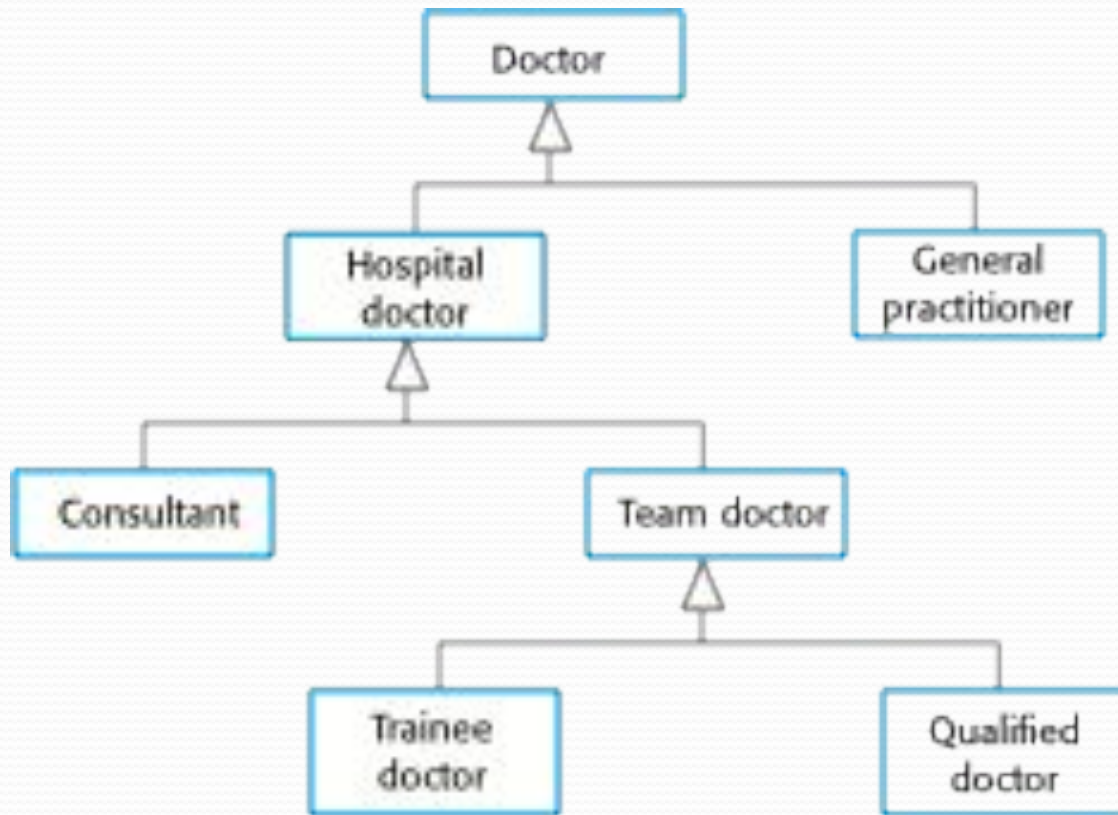


# Generalization

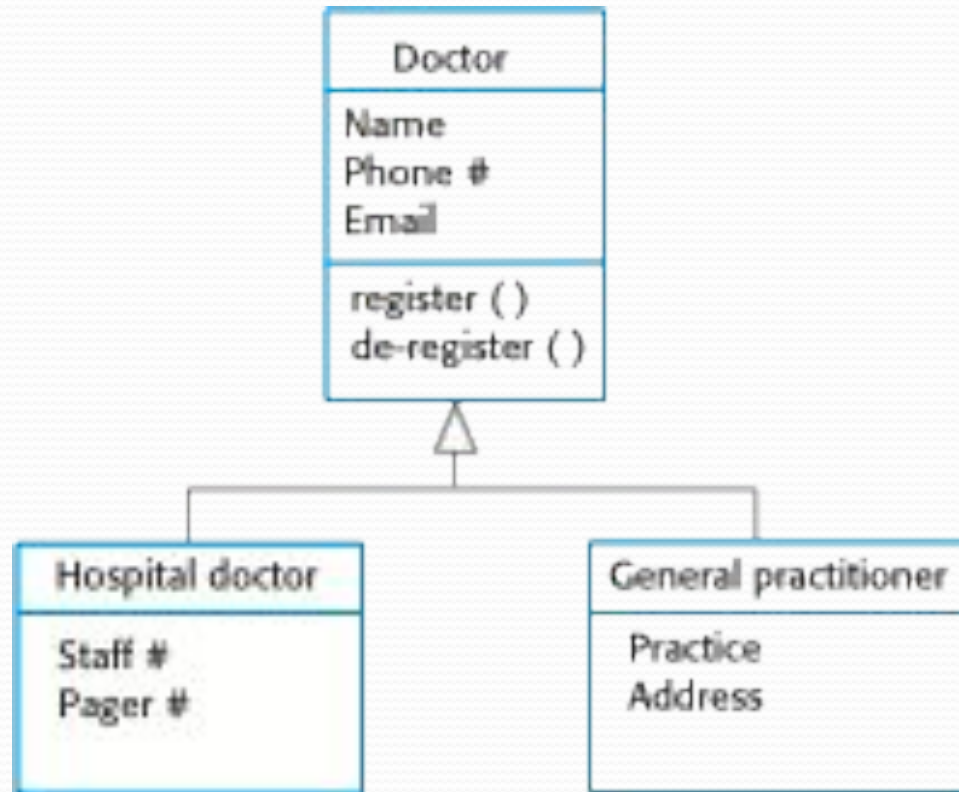
- Represent shared properties and behavior
- OOP
  - Inheritance
  - Superclasses – shared properties
  - Low level classes have specific details



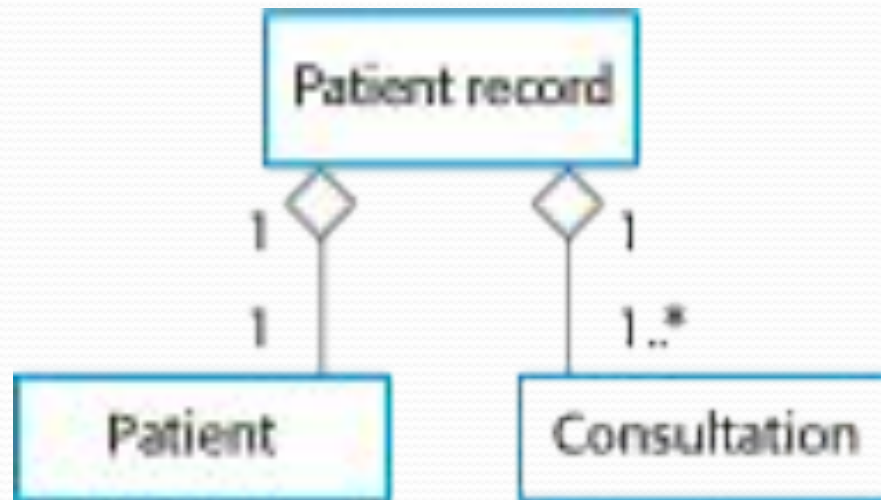
# A generalization hierarchy



# A generalization hierarchy with added detail

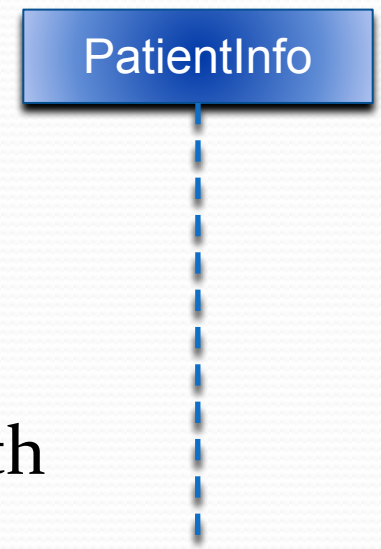


# The aggregation association



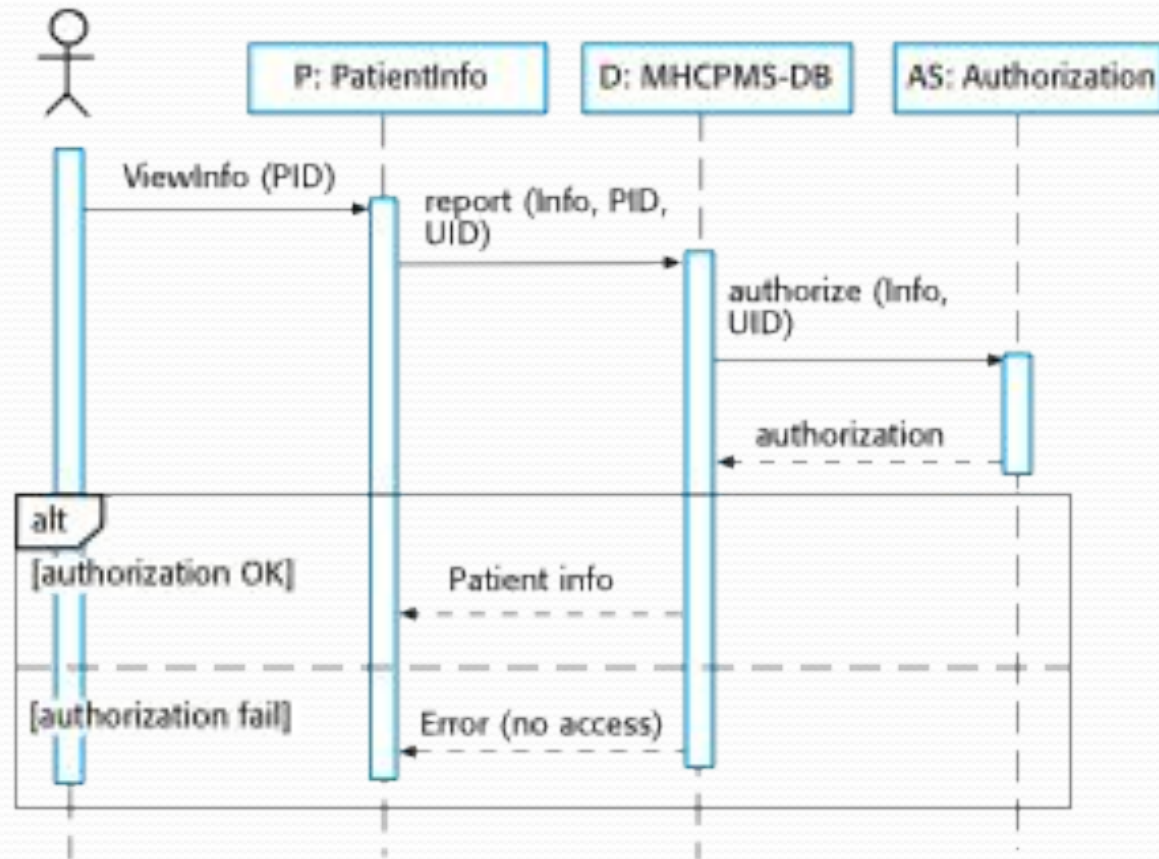
# Sequence diagrams

- **Interactions** between the **actors** and the objects within a **system**.
- Shows the sequence of interactions during a use case
- Actors & Objects are listed at the top
  - Dotted line drawn vertically from these.
- Interactions between objects are shown with annotated arrows

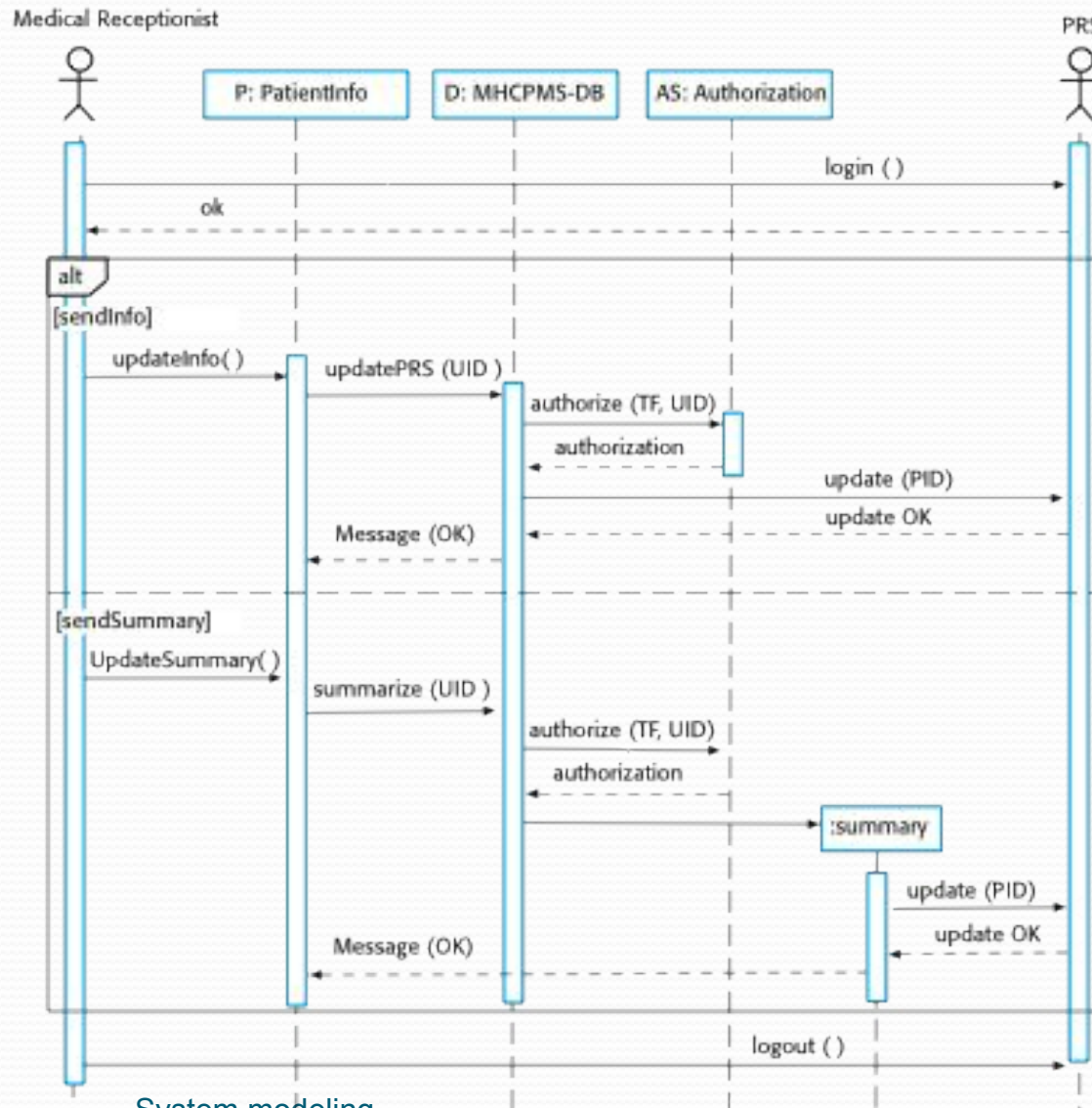


# Sequence diagram for View patient information

Medical Receptionist



# Sequence diagram for Transfer Data



# Interaction Modelling Notation

- Interaction **sequence** diagrams
- **Communication** diagrams
- Interaction **overview** diagrams
- **Timing** diagrams



# Sequence Diagrams

- Shows an interaction between objects with their lifelines
- Objects are arranged in a **time sequence**
- Typically shows object interaction for one use case

# Sequence Diagrams

- **Lifelines**

- Objects
- Subsystems

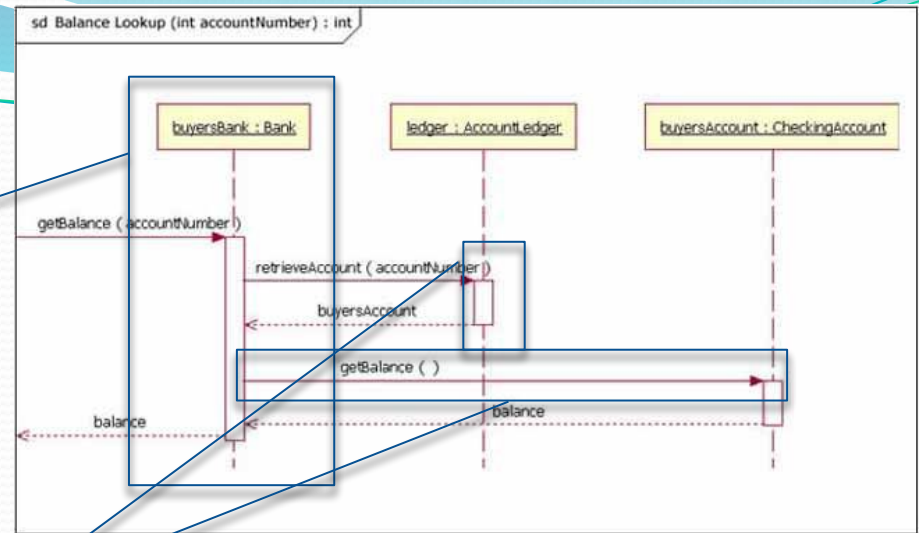
- Lifelines are arranged horizontally.

- Time represented vertically

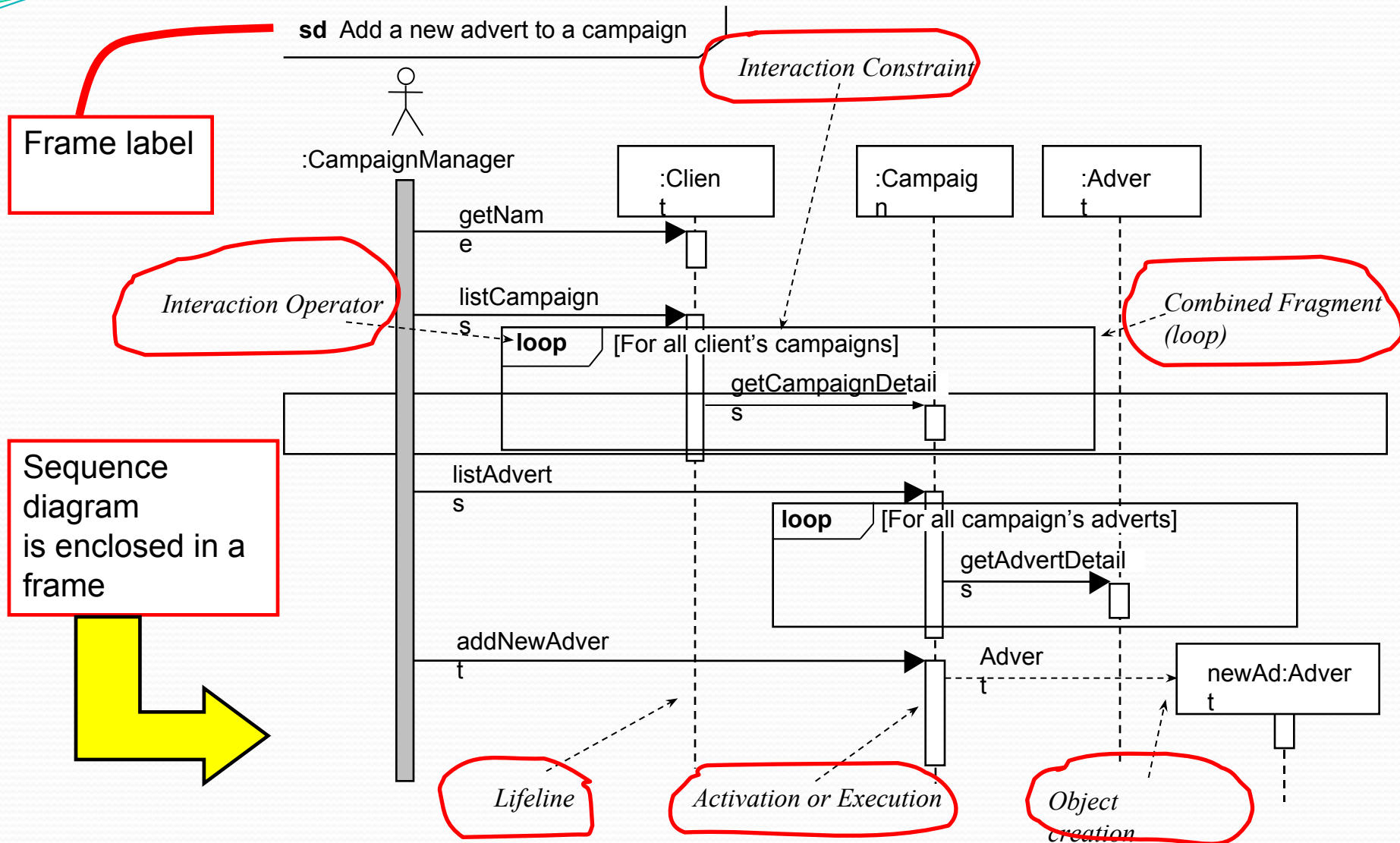
- **Messages** are represented with a solid horizontal arrow

- The **execution** or activation of an operation

- represented with a rectangle
- placed on relevant lifeline.



# Sequence diagram

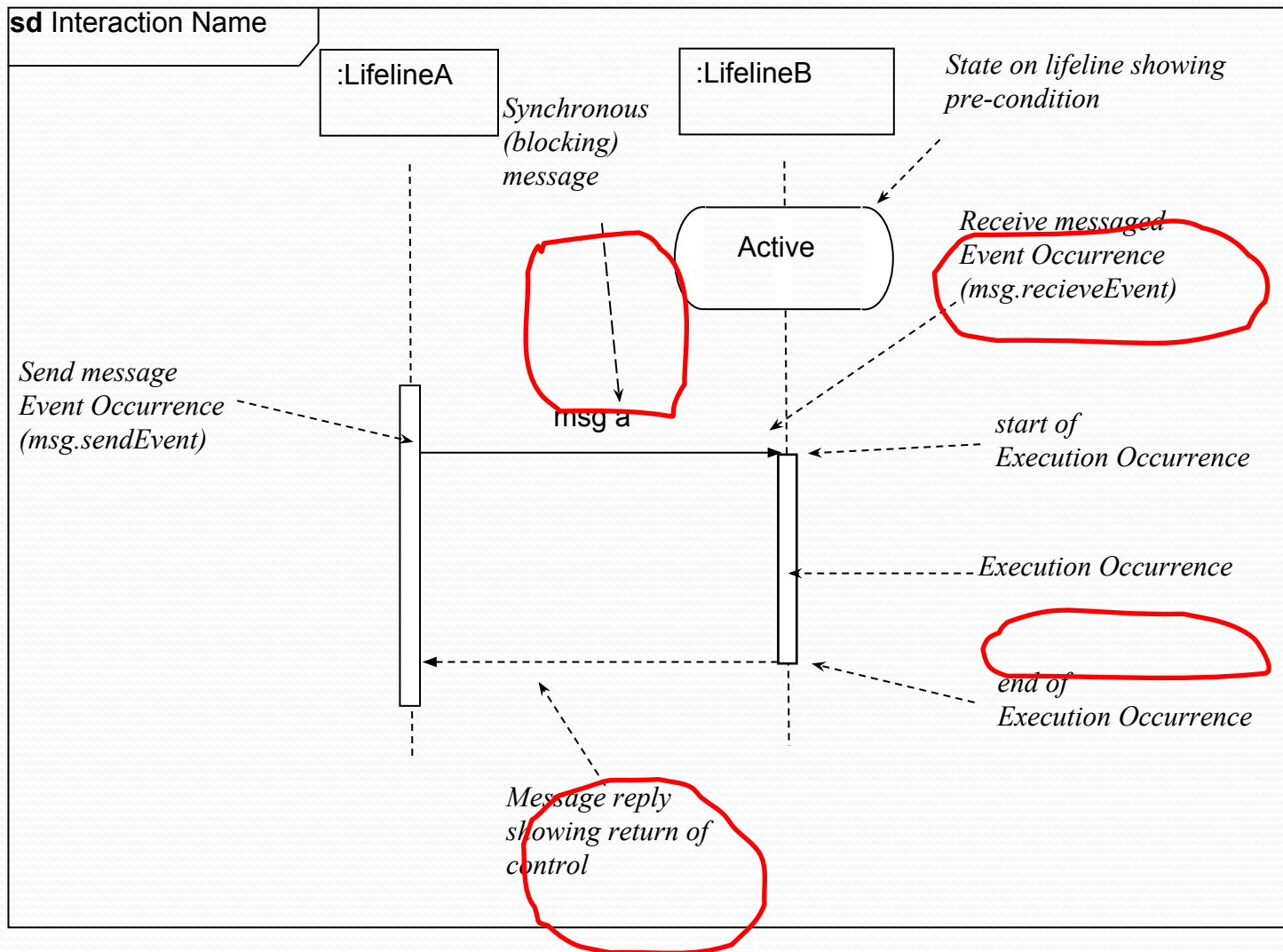


# Sequence Diagram

- Iteration is represented with
  - *combined fragment* rectangle
  - *interaction operator* 'loop'
- The loop executes when guard condition evaluates to true
- Object creation
  - construction arrow (dashed)
  - Target: object symbol for the to lifeline

# *Synchronous message/procedural call*

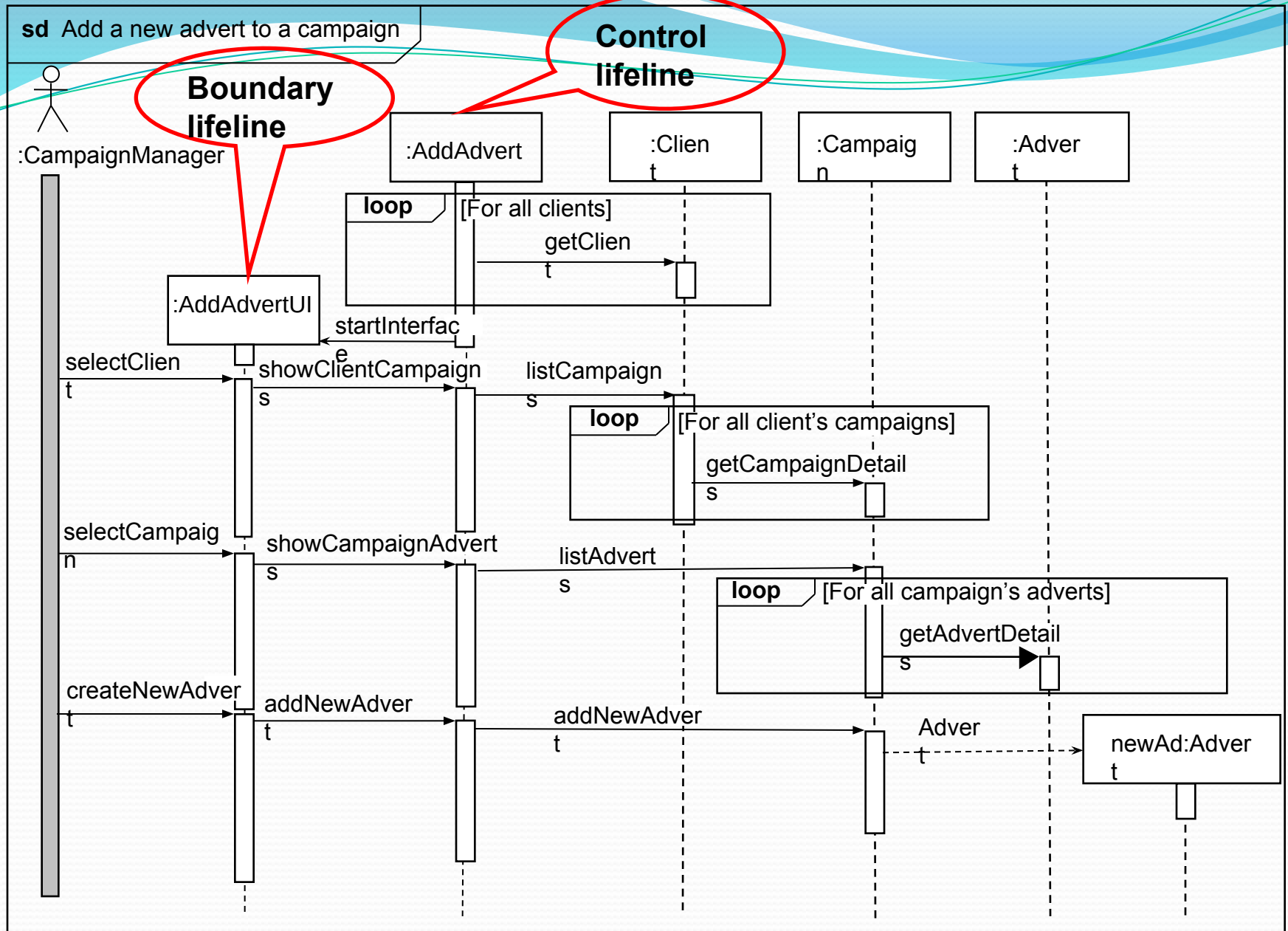
- Represented with a full arrowhead
- Caller execution is **suspended** until flow of control is returned to it.



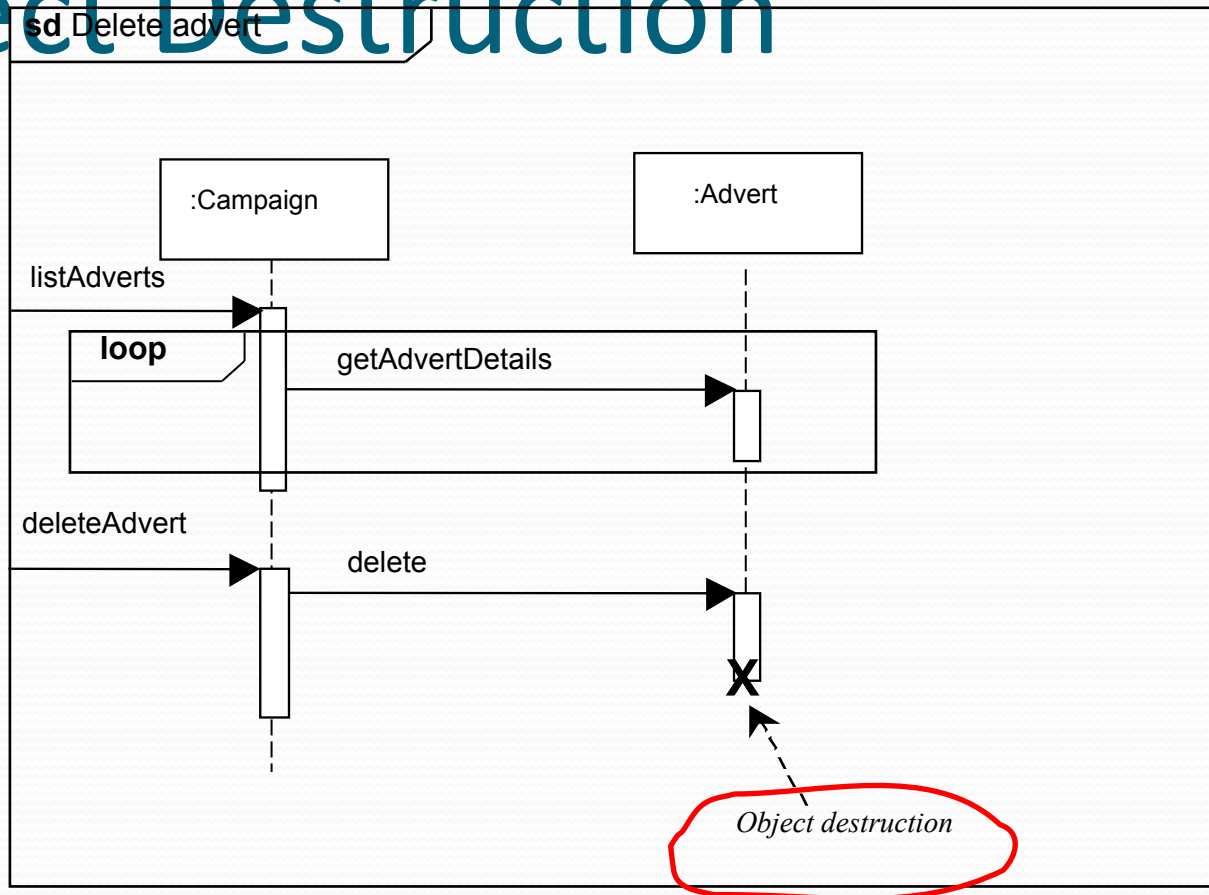
# Boundary & Control Classes

- Boundary object
  - manages interaction between the actor and the system
- Control manages overall object communication

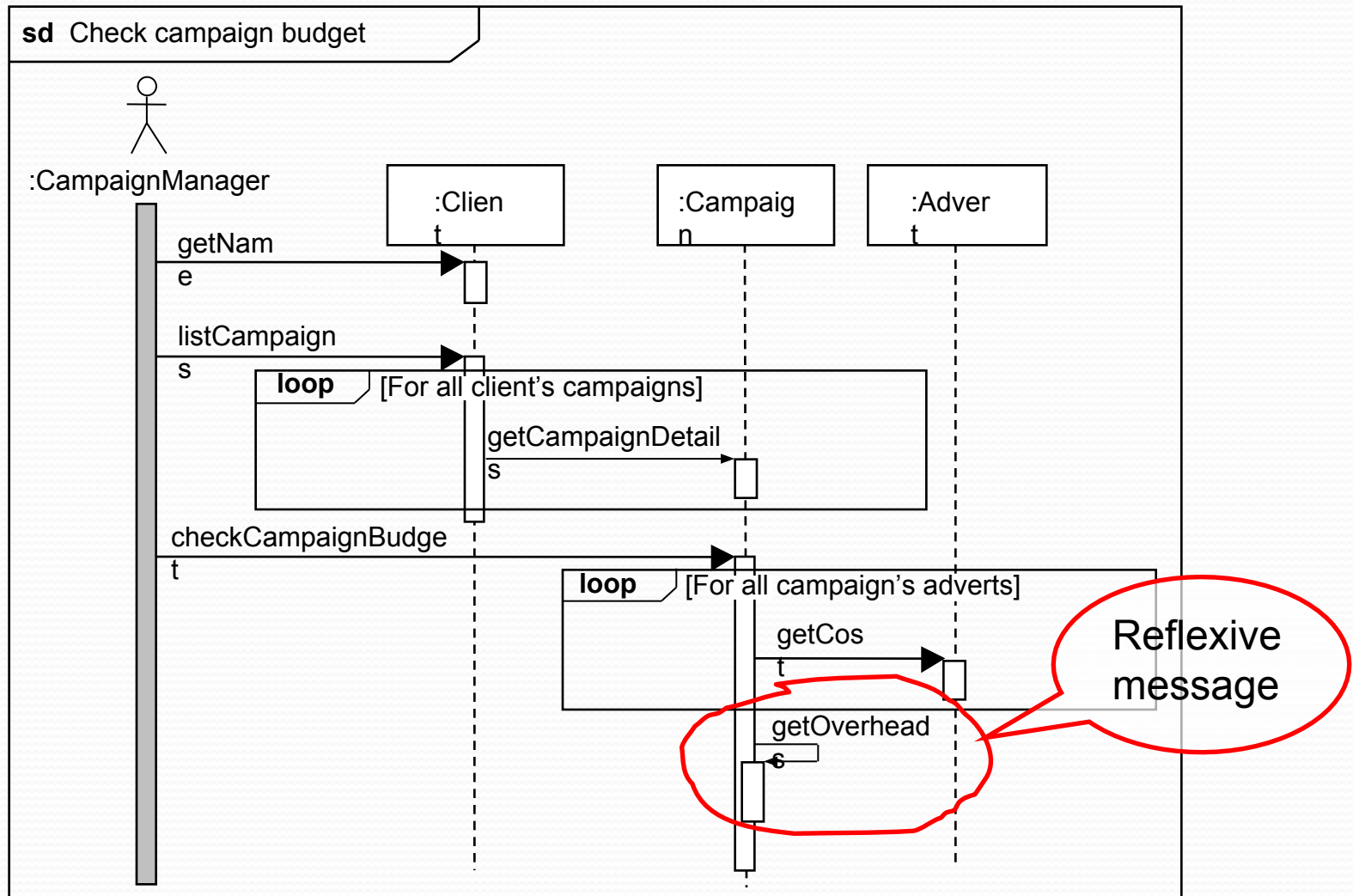




# Object Destruction



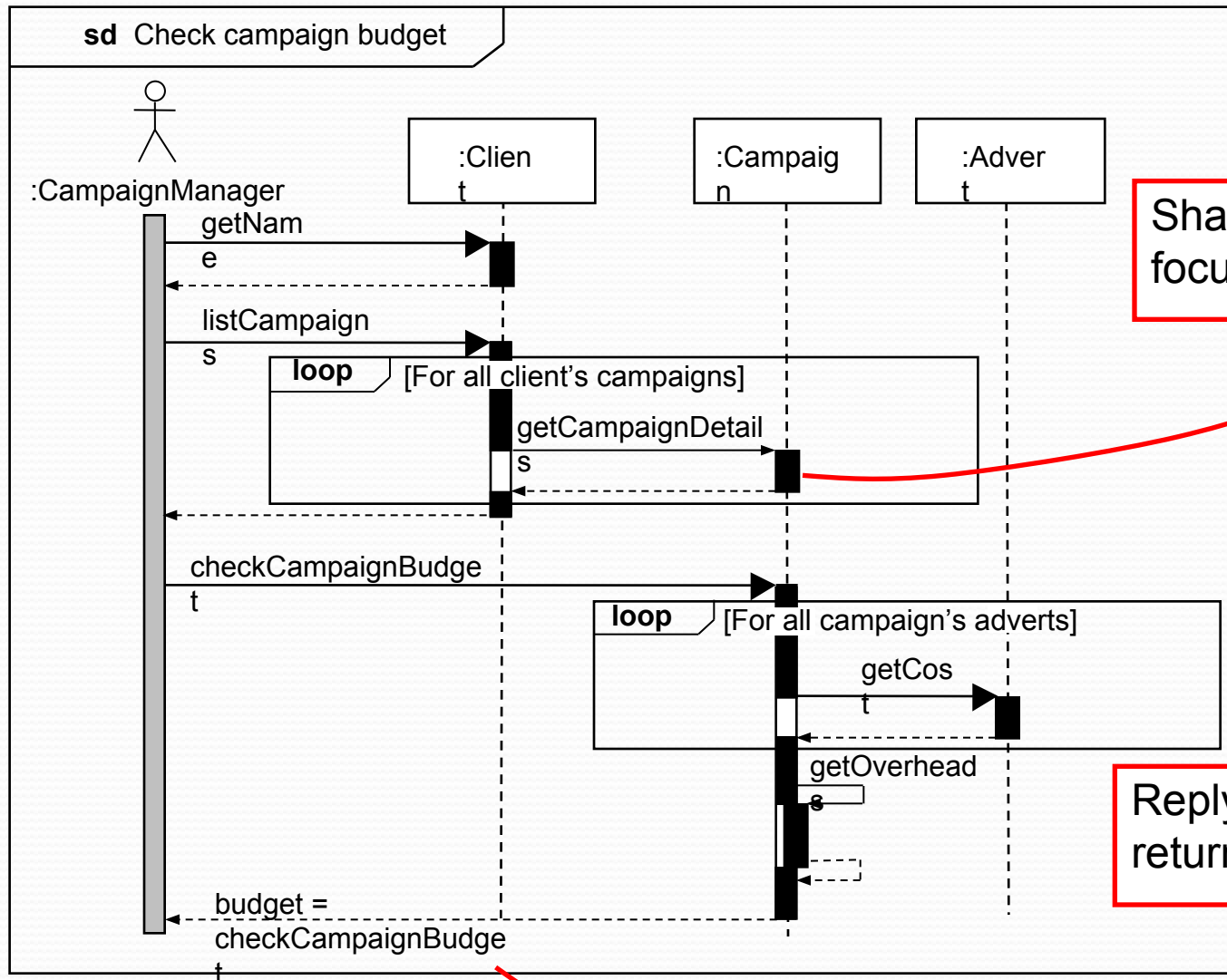
# Reflexive Messages



# Focus of Control

- Indicates when processing happens in an object (activation)
- When an activation is waiting, it does not have focus of control.

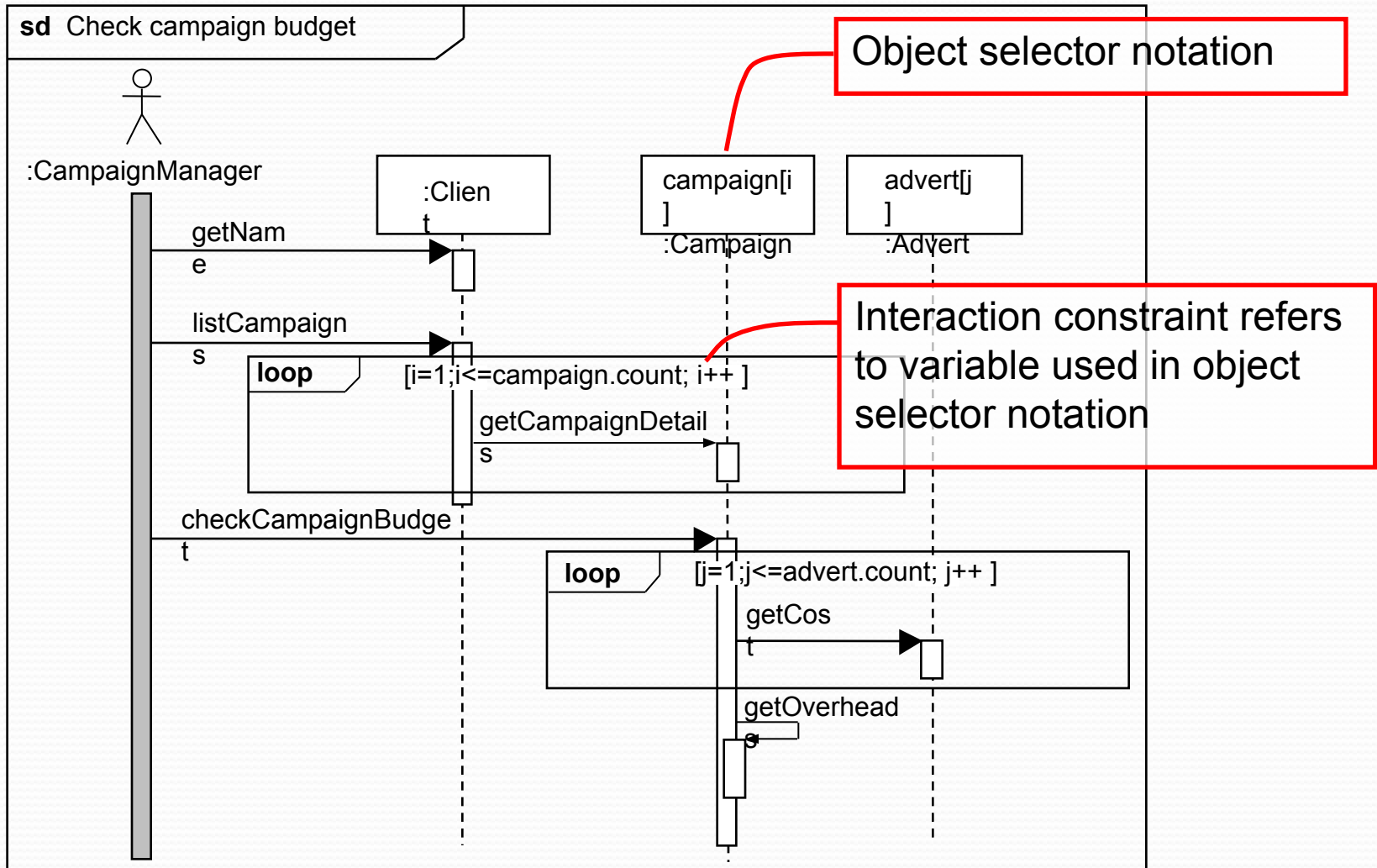
# Focus of Control



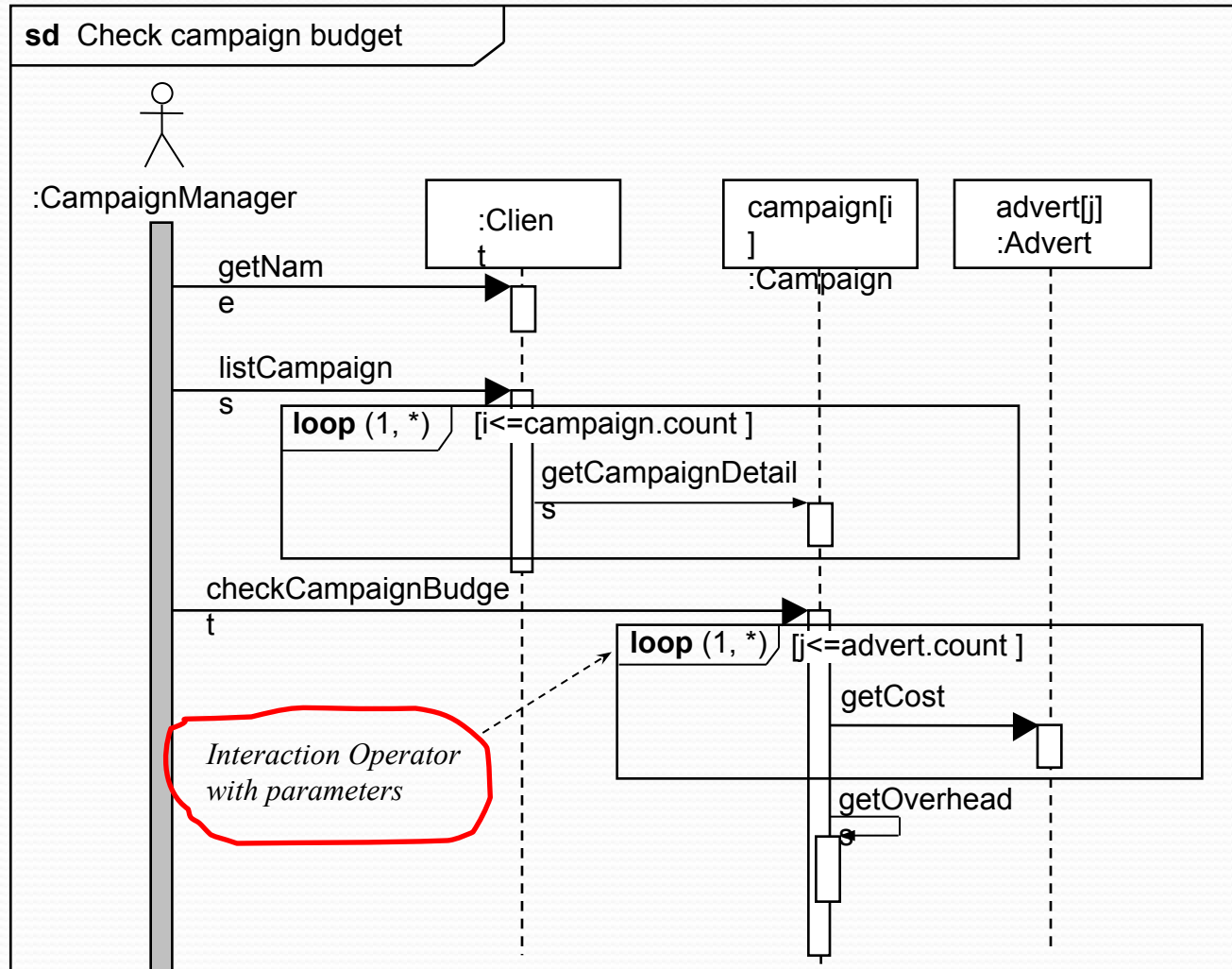
# Reply Message

- A **reply message** returns the control to the caller object
- Shown with a dashed arrow
- Their use is optional
- Assume that control is returned to caller object

# Object Selector Notation

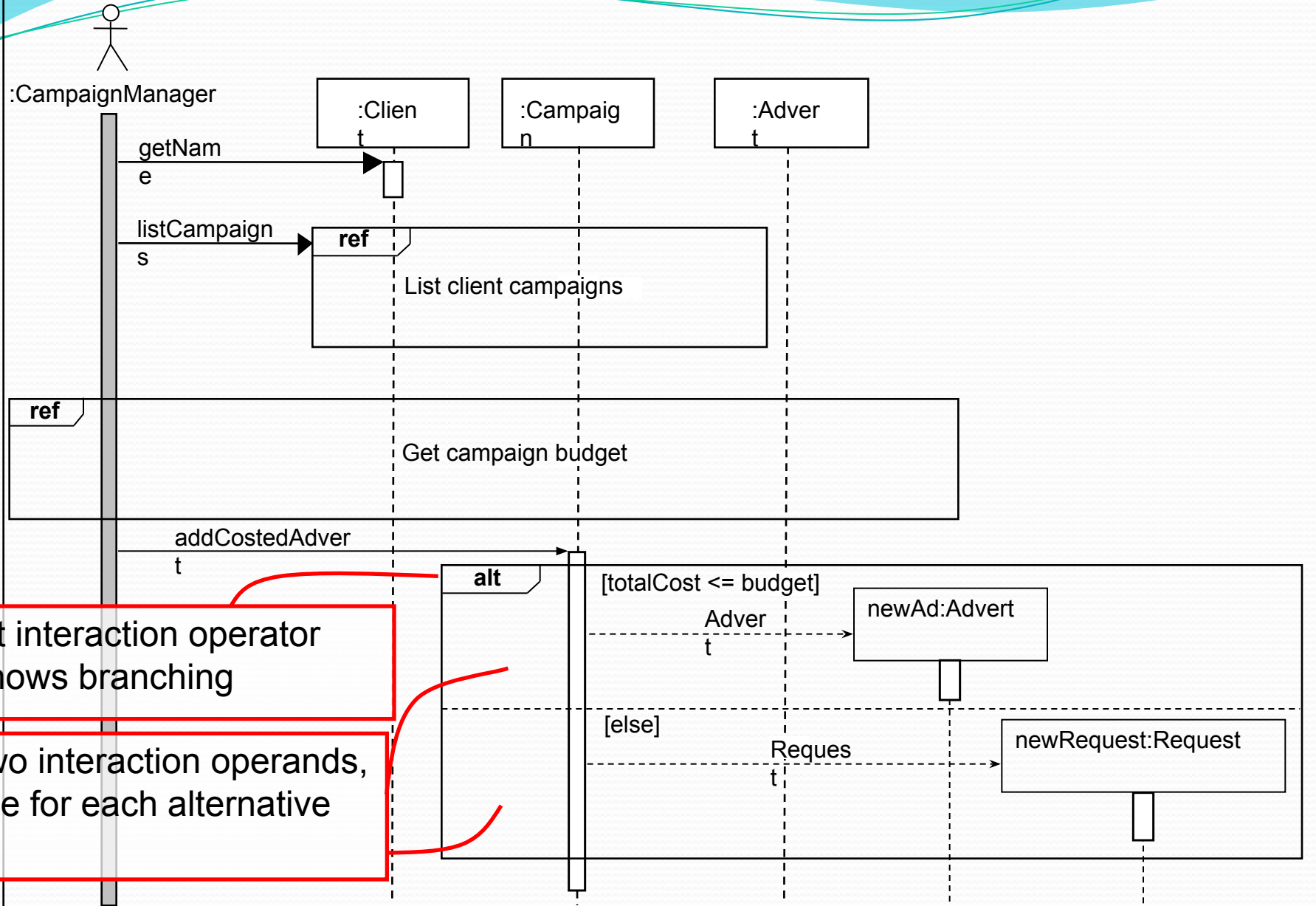


# Interaction Operators



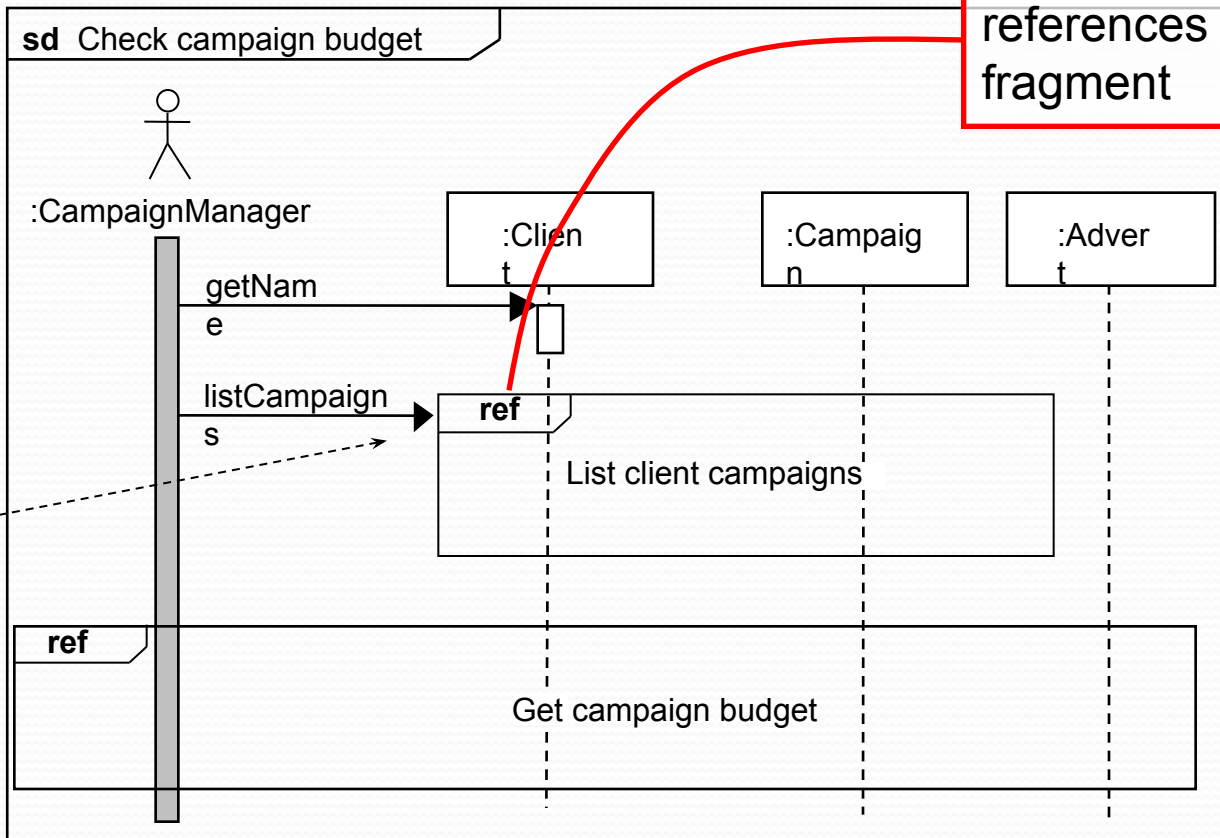


**sd** Add a new advert to a campaign if within budget



# Using Interaction Fragments

ref interaction operator  
indicates interaction  
occurrence that  
references an interaction  
fragment

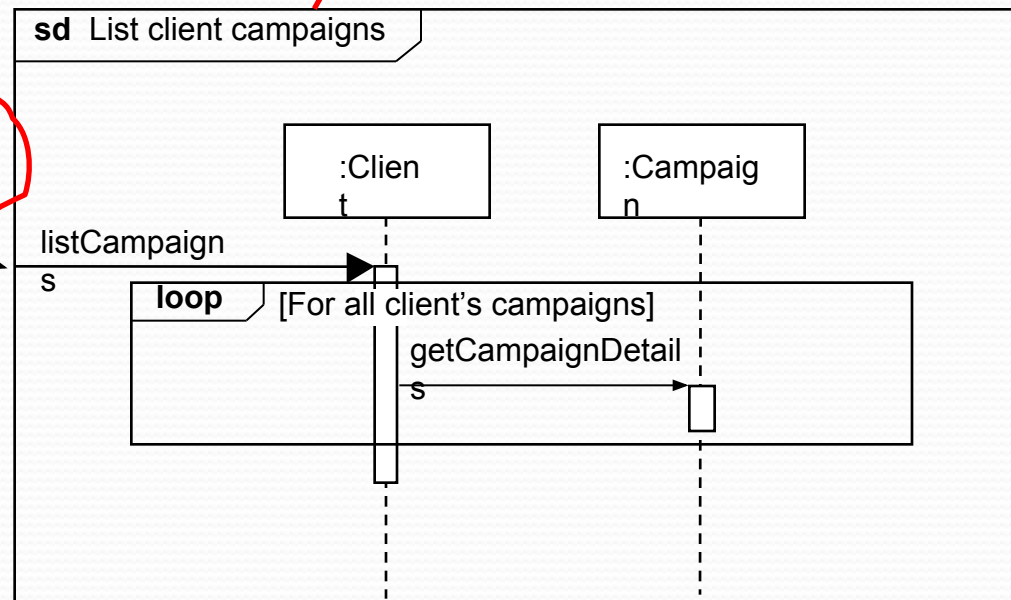


Gate showing the  
message enter this  
interaction occurrence

# Interaction Fragment

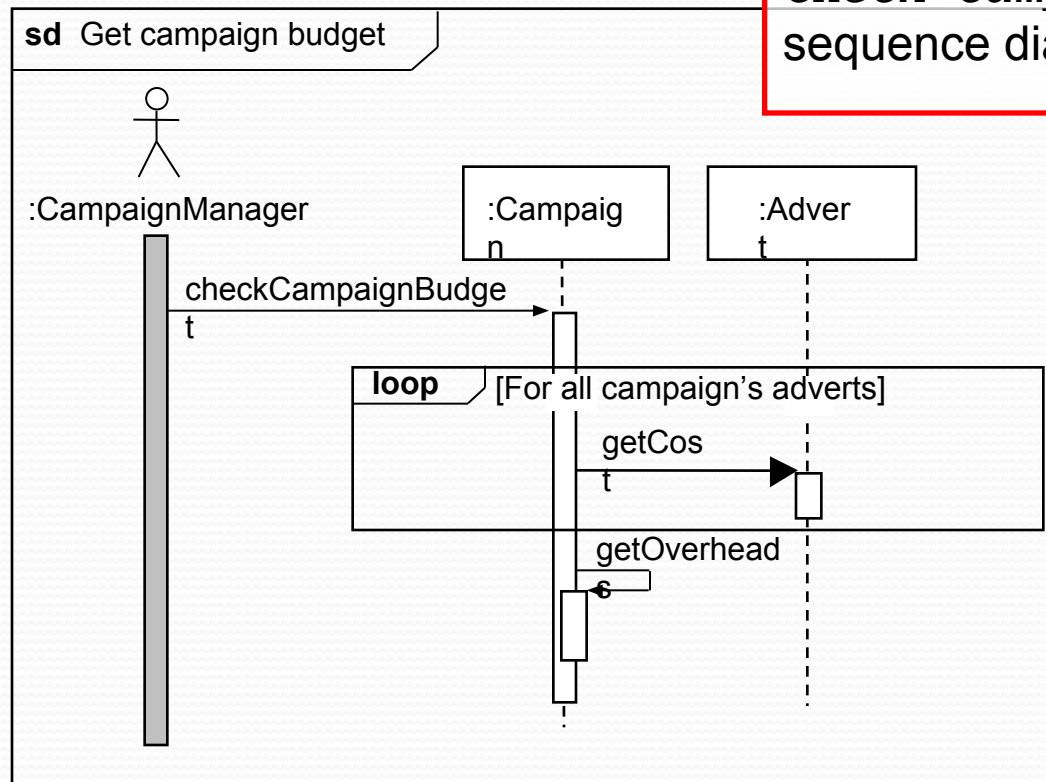
Interaction fragment that is  
referenced in  
Check campaign budget  
sequence diagram

*Gate showing the  
message enter this  
Interaction Fragment*

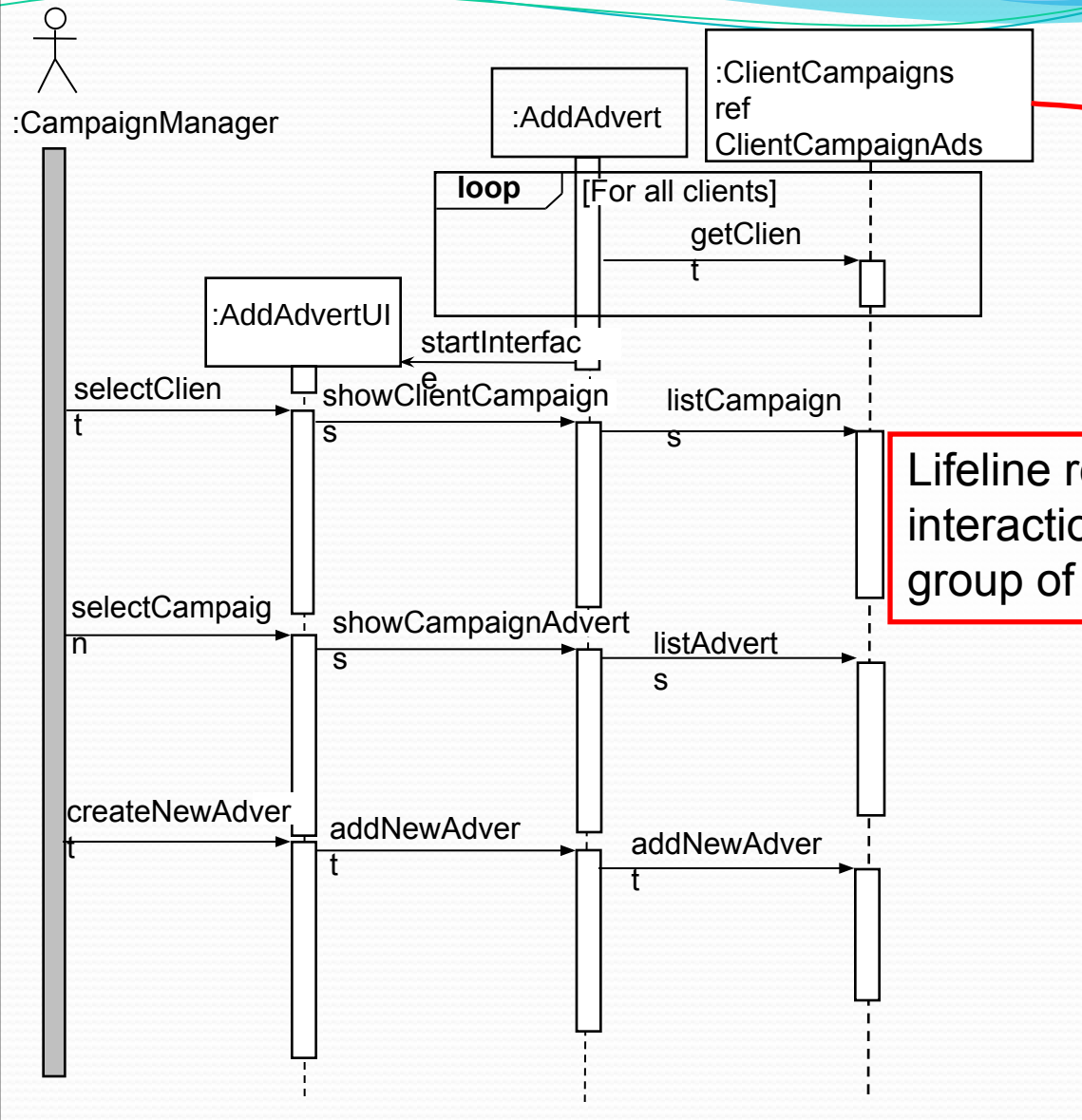


# Interaction Fragment

Interaction fragment that is also referenced in  
Check campaign budget  
sequence diagram

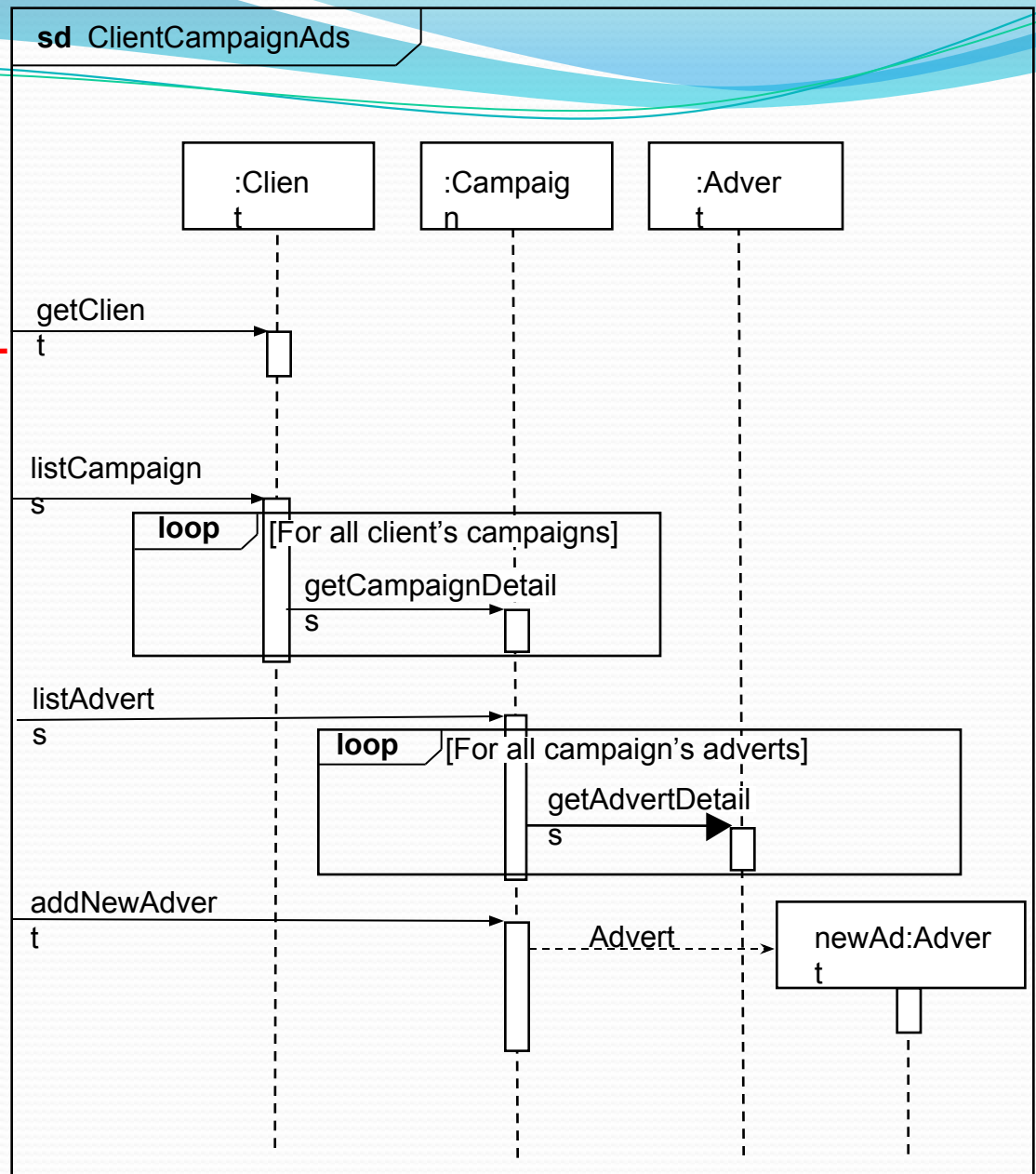


**sd** Add a new advert to a campaign

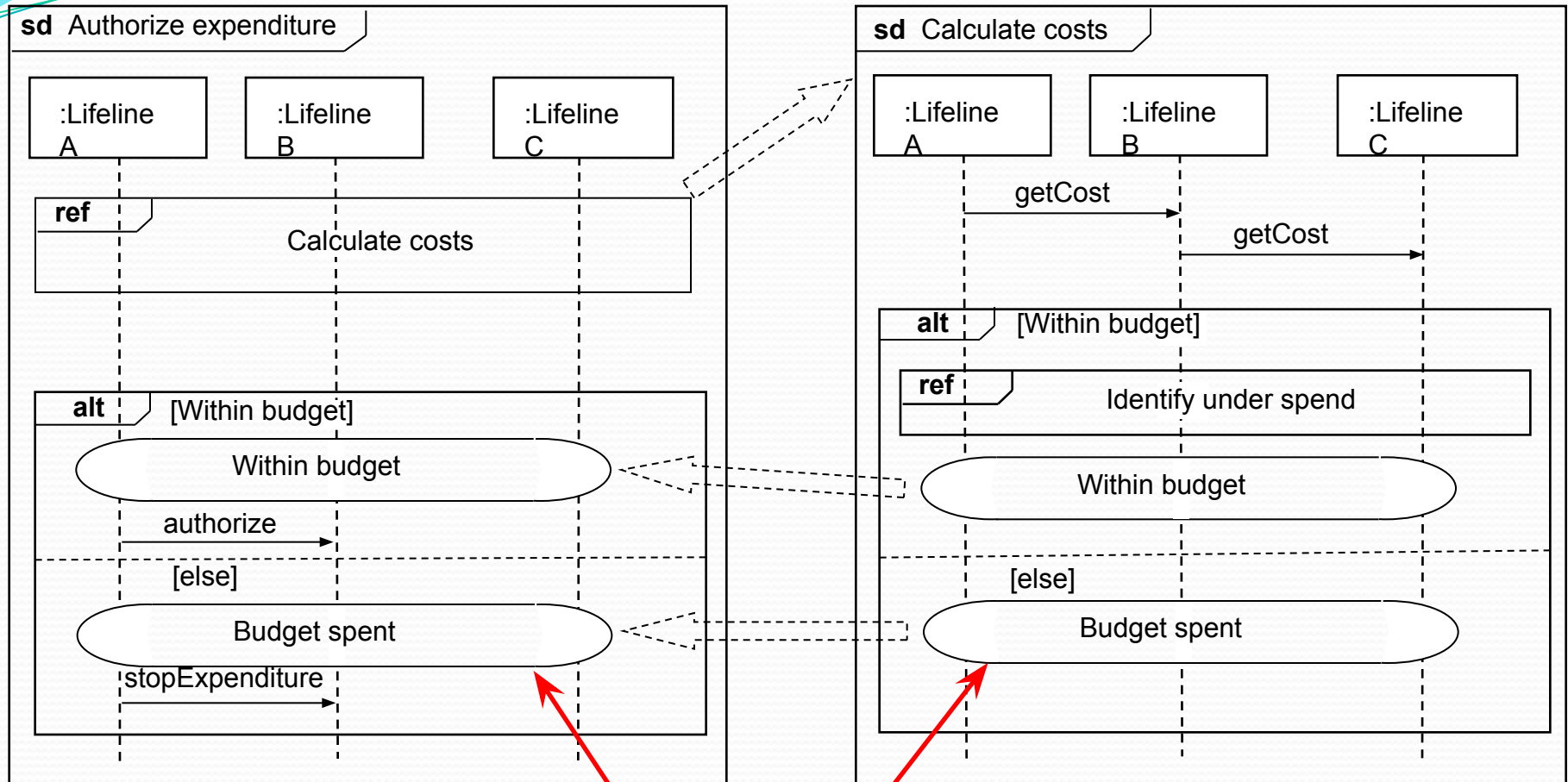


Lifeline representing the interaction between a group of objects

Sequence diagram  
referenced in the  
Add a new advert to  
a campaign sequence  
diagram



# Using Continuations



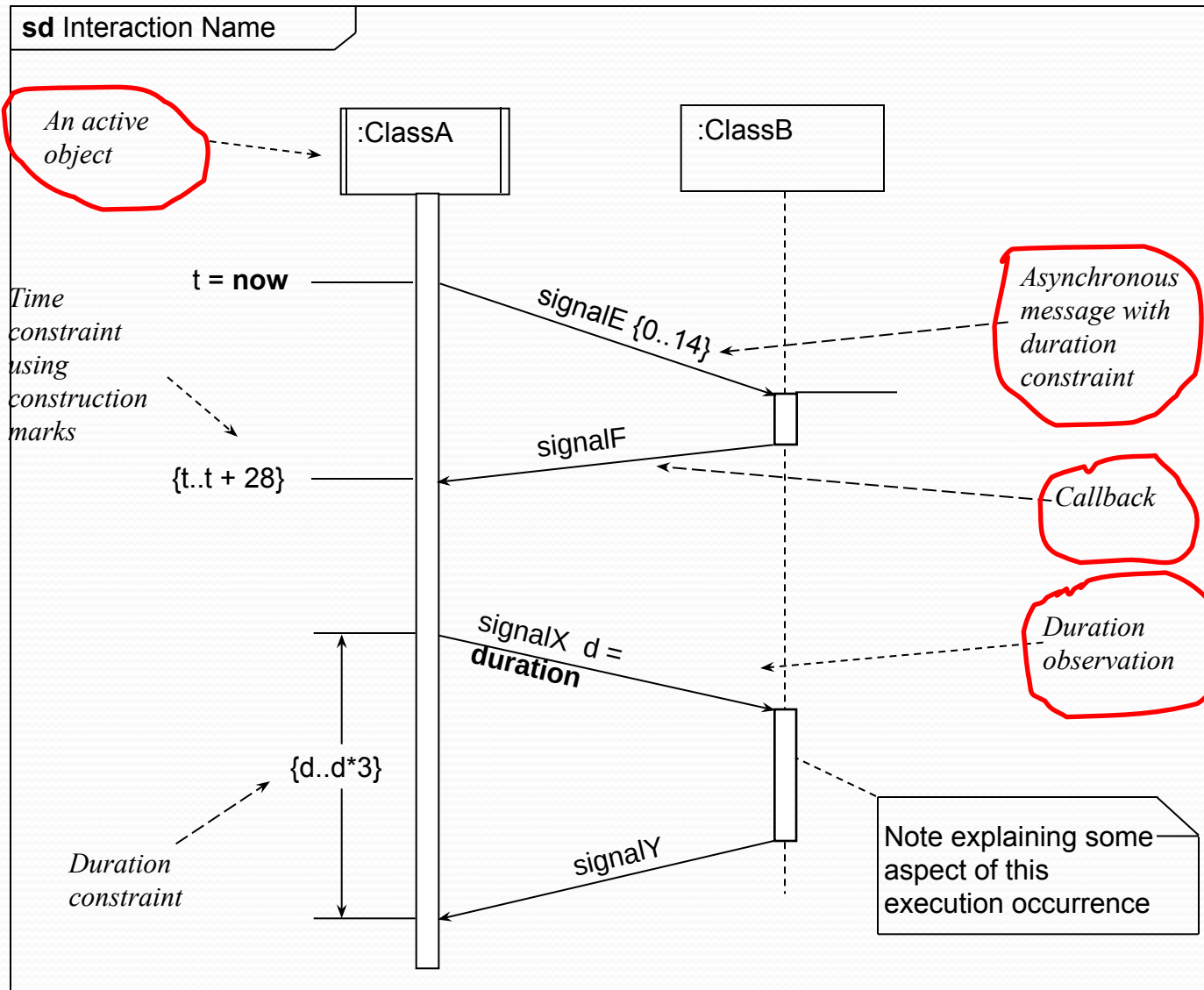
Continuations are used to link  
sequence diagrams

# Asynchronous Message

- *Asynchronous message*
  - drawn with an **open arrowhead**
  - does not halt execution to wait for a return
- Real-time systems
- Concurrency
- Callback to caller can be used to signal completion



# Time – by giving time or duration



# Interaction Operators

Interaction Operator	Explanation and use
<code>alt</code>	Alternatives represents alternative behaviours, each choice of behaviour being shown in a separate operand. The operand whose interaction constraint is evaluated as true executes.
<code>opt</code>	Option describes a single choice of operand that will only execute if its interaction constraint evaluates as true.
<code>break</code>	Break indicates that the combined fragment is performed instead of the remainder of the enclosing interaction fragment.
<code>par</code>	Parallel indicates that the execution operands in the combined fragment may be merged in any sequence once the event sequence in each operand is preserved.
<code>seq</code>	Weak Sequencing results in the ordering of each operand being maintained but event occurrence from different operands on different lifelines may occur in any order. The order of event occurrences on common operands is the same as the order of the operands.
<code>strict</code>	Strict Sequencing imposes a strict sequence on execution of the operands but does not apply to nested fragments.
<code>neg</code>	Negative describes an operand that is invalid.
<code>critical</code>	Critical Region imposes a constraint on the operand that none of its event occurrences on the lifelines in the region can be interleaved.
<code>ignore</code>	Ignore indicates the message types, specified as parameters, that should be ignored in the interaction.
<code>consider</code>	Consider states which messages should be consider in the interaction. This is equivalent to stating that all others should be ignored.
<code>assert</code>	Assertion states that the sequence of messaging in the operand is the only valid continuation.
<code>loop</code>	Loop is used to indicate an operand that is repeated a number times until the interaction constraint for the loop is no longer true.

# Guidelines for Sequence Diagrams

1. Decide a level of modelling the interaction
2. Identify the main elements involved in the interaction
3. Identify alternative scenarios
4. Draw an outline
5. Refine with detail