Unified Modeling Language (UML)

Outline

- Importance of Modeling
- What is UML?
- Building Blocks of UML
- UML 2.2 Diagrams
  - Structure Diagrams
  - Behavior Diagrams

Importance of Modeling

- A model is a simplification of reality.
- A model provides the blueprints of a system.
- A model may describe either structure or behavior of a system.
  - Structure – organization of the system
  - Behavior – dynamics of the system
- We build models to better understand the system we are developing.

Importance of Modeling

- Through modeling, we achieve four aims:
  - Visualize a system as it is or as we want it to be.
  - Specify the structure or behavior of a system.
  - Develop templates that can be used to construct a system.
  - Document the decisions we have made.
- We build models of complex systems because we cannot comprehend such a system in its entirety.

What is UML?

- The UML is a language for visualizing, specifying, constructing, and documenting the artifacts of a software-intensive system.
- The UML is the unification effort of mostly three prominent methods:
  - Booch method by Grady Booch
  - OMT (Object Modeling Technique) by James Rumbaugh
  - OOSE (Object-Oriented Software Engineering) by Ivar Jacobson
- The UML is process independent.
- The UML specification is now under the control of the Object Management Group (OMG): www.uml.org

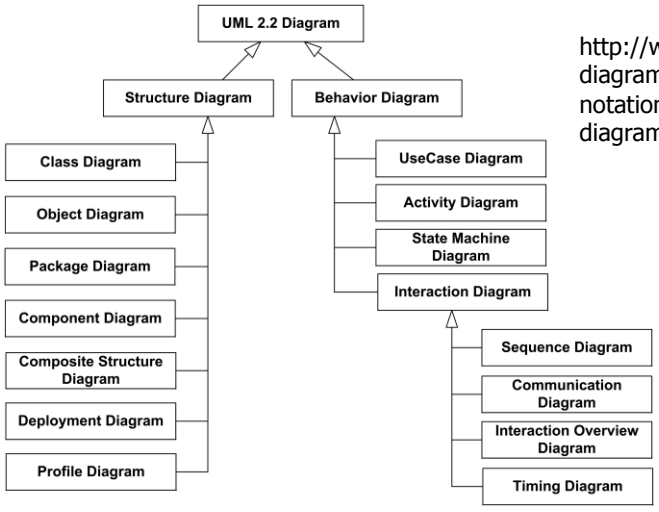
Building Blocks of UML

- The vocabulary of the UML consists of three kinds of building blocks:
  - Things
    - Abstractions that are first-class citizens in a model
  - Relationships
    - Tie things together
  - Diagrams
    - Group interesting collections of things along with relationships.

UML 2.2 Diagrams

- UML 2.2 defines fourteen types of diagrams, divided into two categories.
  - Structure diagrams
  - Behavior diagrams
- Structure diagrams show the static structure of the system and its parts at different abstraction and implementation levels and relationships between parts of the system.
- Behavior diagrams show the dynamic behavior of objects (and other things) in the system.

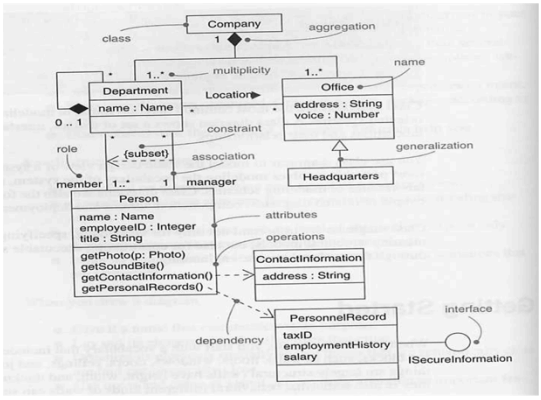
Diagrams in UML 2.2



http://www.uml-diagrams.org/notation/uml-22-diagrams.png

Class Diagrams

- A class diagram shows static model elements of a design such as classes and types, their contents, and their relationships.



Relationships in UML

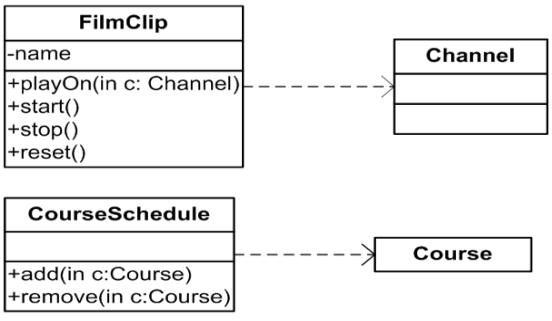
- A relationship is a connection between things.
- Graphically, a relationship is rendered as a path, with different kinds of lines to distinguish the different relationships.
- Kinds of relationships in UML
  - Dependency
  - Generalization
  - Association
    - Aggregation
    - Composition
  - Realization

Dependency Relationship

- A dependency is a using relationship between two things.
- It specifies that a change in specification of one thing may affect another thing that uses it, but no necessarily the reverse.
- Apply dependencies when you want to show one thing using another.
- Typical use of dependencies – one class uses another class as an argument in the signature of an operation or a local variable with a method.

Dependency Relationship

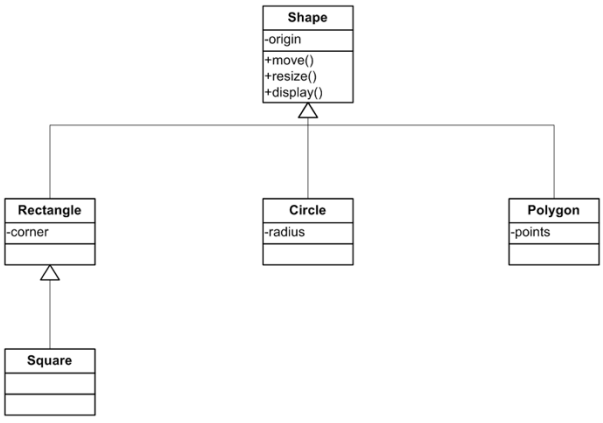
- Graphically, a dependency is rendered as a dashed directed line, directing to the thing being depended on.



Generalization Relationship

- A generalization is a relationship between a general thing (called the superclass or parent) and a more specific kind of that thing (called the subclass or child).
- Generalization is sometimes called an "is-a" or "is-a-kind-of" relationship.
- In generalization, the child is substitutable for the parent.
- You can also create generalizations among other things – packages, use cases, actors, etc.
- Graphically, generalization is rendered as a solid directed line with a large open arrowhead pointing to the parent.

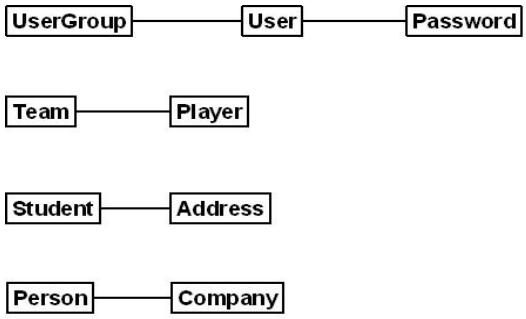
Generalization Relationship



Association Relationship

- An association is a structural relationship that specifies that objects of one thing are connected to objects of another thing.
- Basic adornments that apply to an association
  - Name
  - Role at each end of the association
  - Multiplicity at each end of the association
  - Navigation (bidirectional assumed if not specified)
  - Aggregation (simple or composite)
- Graphically, an association is rendered as a solid line connecting the same or different classes.

Association Relationship



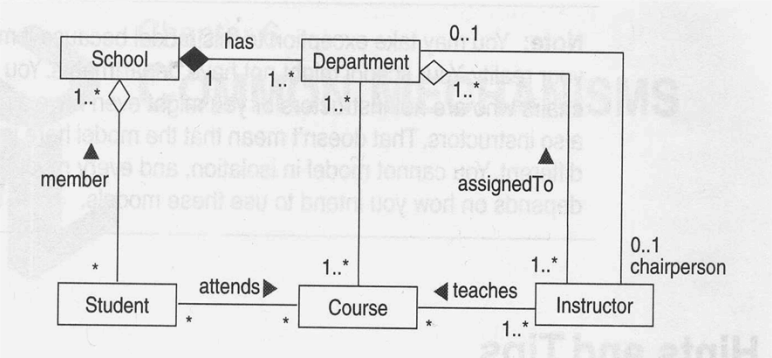
Aggregation

- Aggregation is a specialization of association, specifying a "whole-part" or "has-a" relationship between two objects.
  - Objects of the whole has objects of the part
- Aggregation is graphically rendered as a plain association with an open diamond at the whole end
- Aggregation is entirely conceptual.
  - Distinguishes the "whole" from the "part".
  - Does not change the meaning of navigation across association.
  - Does not link the lifetimes of the whole and its parts.

Composition

- Composition is a form of aggregation with strong ownership.
- Semantics of strong ownership
  - Parts are created after the composite itself and they live and die with it.
  - An object may be a part of only one composite at a time.
  - The whole is responsible for creation and destruction of its parts.
- Composition is graphically rendered as a plain association with a filled diamond at the whole end.

Associations – Examples



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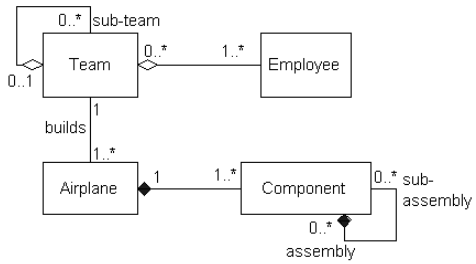

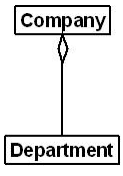

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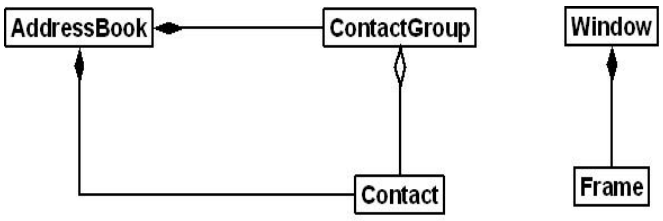
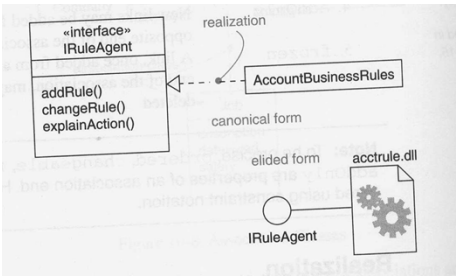


Realization Relationship

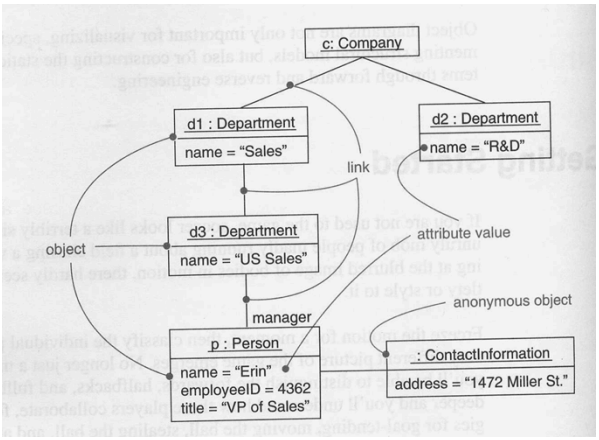
- A realization is a semantic relationship between classifiers in which one classifier specifies a contract that another classifier guarantees to carry out.
- Graphically, a realization is rendered as a dashed directed line with a large open arrowhead pointing to the classifier that specifies the contract.



Object Diagrams

- An object diagram shows a set of objects and their relationships at a point in time.
- An object diagram covers a set of instances of the things found in a class diagram. It is essentially an instance of a class diagram.
- An object diagram expresses the static part of an interaction, consisting of objects that collaborate, but without any of the messages passed among them.
- An object diagram provides a snapshot of the objects in a system at a given moment in time.
- Typically used to model object structures.

Object Diagrams



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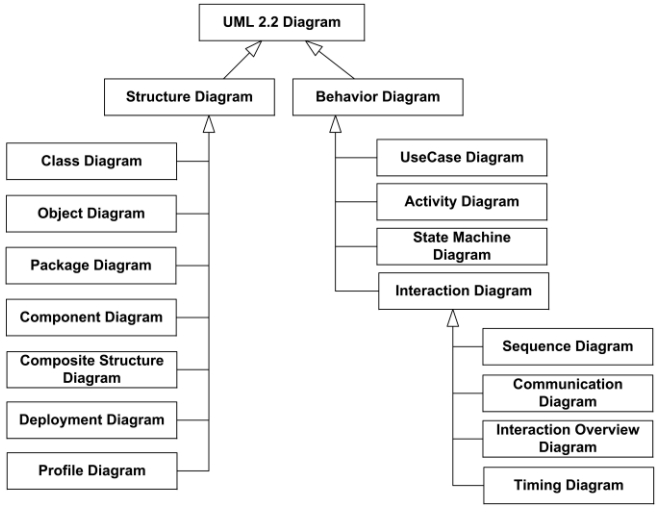
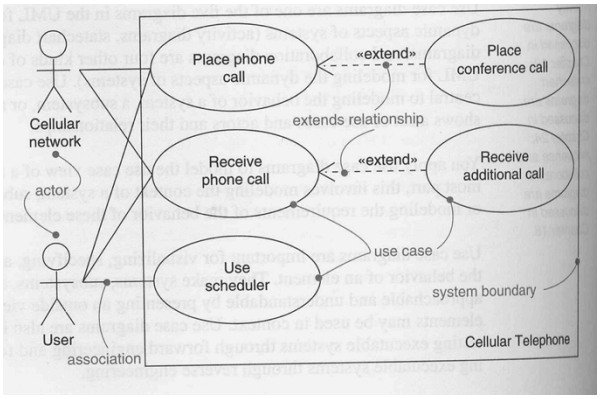


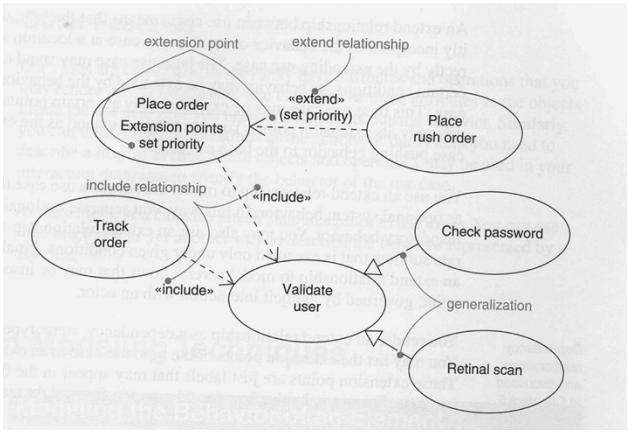
Use Case Diagrams

- A use case diagram shows a set of use cases and actors and their relationships.
- Use case and use case diagrams are typically applied in one of two ways
  - To model the context of a system
    - Draw a line around the whole system with use case inside the box.
    - Actors lie outside the system and interact with the system
  - To model the requirements of a system
    - Use cases specify the desired behavior of the system

Use Case Diagrams



Use Case Diagrams



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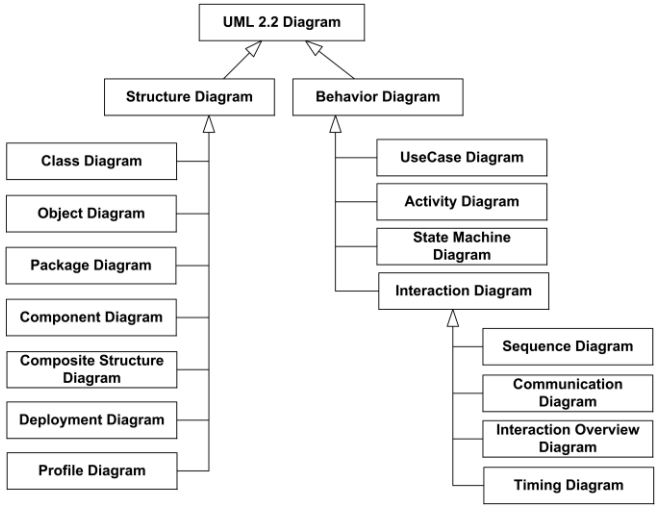
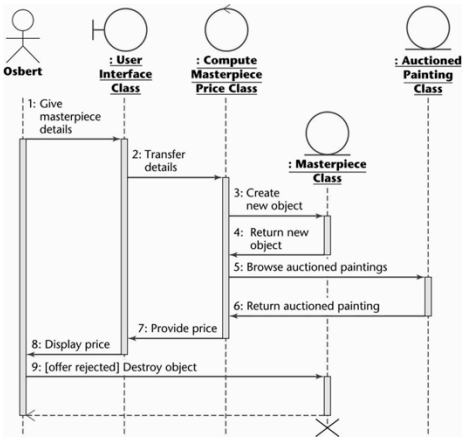


Sequence Diagrams

- A sequence diagram emphasizes the time ordering of messages.
- Graphically, a sequence diagram is a table that shows objects arranged along the x axis and messages, ordered in increasing time, along the y axis.
- Two features that distinguish sequence diagrams from collaboration diagrams
  - Object lifeline – a vertical dashed line that represents the existence of an object over a period of time.
  - Focus of control – a tall, thin rectangle that shows the period of time during which an object is performing an action.

Sequence Diagrams



Communication Diagrams

- A communication (aka collaboration) diagram emphasizes the organization of objects that participate in an interaction.
- Two features that distinguish communication diagrams from sequence diagrams
  - Path – To show how one object is linked to another, a path stereotype can be attached to the far end of a link.
  - Sequence number – To indicate the time order of a message, each message is prefixed with a number.
- Sequence and communication diagrams are semantically equivalent.
  - You can take a diagram in one form and convert it to the other without any loss of information.

Communication Diagrams