

AMSS Lecture 10: Evaluating & Testing UML Models

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Agenda

Goal

Learn how to evaluate, validate, verify, and test UML models using structured techniques and common tools.

General evaluation principles

- ▶ Why evaluate UML models?
- ▶ Model quality criteria
- ▶ Static evaluation techniques
- ▶ UML conformance checking

Tools

- ▶ Model simulation & execution tools
- ▶ Testing scenarios and behavioral models

General Evaluation Principles

Why Evaluate UML Models?

- ▶ Models are abstractions → may be ambiguous or incomplete
- ▶ Early detection of design problems reduces cost
- ▶ Ensures consistency across the system architecture
- ▶ Supports automated transformations and code generation

Evaluation dimensions

- ▶ Consistency
- ▶ Completeness
- ▶ Correctness
- ▶ Usability
- ▶ Maintainability

Evaluation dimensions: Consistency

- ▶ Ensures uniform use of notation, naming, and style across all UML diagrams.
- ▶ Avoids contradictions between different diagram types (e.g., class vs. sequence diagrams).
- ▶ Increases clarity and coherence throughout the model.

Evaluation dimensions: Completeness

- ▶ All required system elements, behaviors, and interactions are represented.
- ▶ No missing components that hinder system understanding.
- ▶ Covers all relevant viewpoints needed by stakeholders.

Evaluation dimensions: Correctness

- ▶ Follows UML syntax and semantic rules.
- ▶ Accurately reflects system requirements and domain constraints.
- ▶ Contains no logical, structural, or behavioral errors.

Evaluation dimensions: Usability

- ▶ Diagrams are easy for stakeholders to read and interpret.
- ▶ Uses an appropriate level of detail—neither too abstract nor too cluttered.
- ▶ Supports communication, documentation, and decision-making processes.

Evaluation dimensions: Maintainability

- ▶ Diagrams can be easily updated as the system evolves.
- ▶ Minimizes unnecessary complexity to accommodate future changes.
- ▶ Encourages modular, scalable architecture representation.

UML Model Quality Criteria

Semantic quality

- ▶ Are the diagrams logically correct?
- ▶ Do they represent valid domain concepts?

Syntactic quality

- ▶ Do diagrams follow the UML meta-model?
- ▶ Are constructs used properly?

Pragmatic quality

- ▶ Are diagrams understandable to stakeholders?
- ▶ Are they readable and not over-complex?

Static Evaluation Techniques

- ▶ **Checklist-based evaluation**
- ▶ **Traceability checks**
- ▶ **Cross-diagram consistency checks**

Checklist-based evaluation

Useful for manual reviews.

Typical questions

- ▶ Do all classes have well-defined responsibilities?
- ▶ Are associations properly navigable?
- ▶ Are sequence diagrams consistent with class diagrams?

Benefits

- ▶ Improves model quality early, reducing rework during coding.
- ▶ Better communication among stakeholders.
- ▶ Supports teaching and training for junior modelers.
- ▶ Makes model reviews faster and more systematic.

Limitations

- ▶ Checklist quality determines quality of evaluation.
 - ▶ may miss semantic issues if the checklist is shallow.
- ▶ does not replace automated validation tools
 - ▶ e.g., UML consistency checkers

Traceability checks

Goal

ensure that every element of a UML model is properly linked to other artifacts across the software lifecycle

- ▶ Requirements → Use cases → Sequence diagrams → Classes
- ▶ Detect missing or redundant elements

What Do You Check in UML Traceability?

Use Cases – Requirements

- ▶ Does every requirement link to at least one use case?
- ▶ Does every use case represent a valid requirement?

Use Cases – Interaction Diagrams (Sequence/Communication)

- ▶ Are all use case steps represented in a sequence diagram?
- ▶ Are alternative flows supported by alternative paths?

Interaction Diagrams – Class Diagrams

- ▶ Do all invoked messages map to defined class operations?
- ▶ Do lifelines correspond to existing classes?

Class Diagrams – State Machine Diagrams

- ▶ Are the state transitions consistent with class operations?
- ▶ Do state machines events match interaction diagrams triggers?

Design Models – Test Cases

- ▶ Does every use case have at least one test sequence?
- ▶ Are all state transitions covered by tests?

Cross-diagram consistency checks

Goal

multiple UML diagrams describing the same system do not contradict one another

- ▶ Messages in sequence diagrams correspond to operations in classes
- ▶ State diagram transitions match methods/events

Types of Consistency

Syntactic Consistency

- ▶ Ensures diagram elements are used correctly according to UML rules across diagrams.
 - ▶ Example: Using the same notation for multiplicity or stereotypes.

Semantic Consistency

- ▶ Ensures diagrams describe the same meaning.
 - ▶ Example: Sequence diagram says “validateOrder()”, but no such operation exists in the class diagram.

Behavioral Consistency

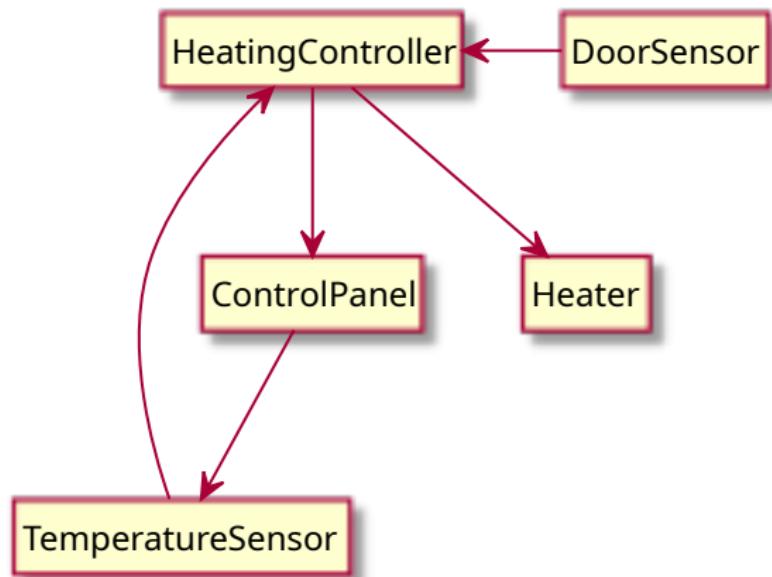
- ▶ Ensures system behavior is logically coherent across diagrams.
 - ▶ Example: A state transition occurs only if an event is possible in the sequence diagram.

Naming Consistency

- ▶ Names of classes, attributes, operations, events, and states must be the same across all diagrams.
 - ▶ Example: “CustomerAccount” vs “ClientAccount”.

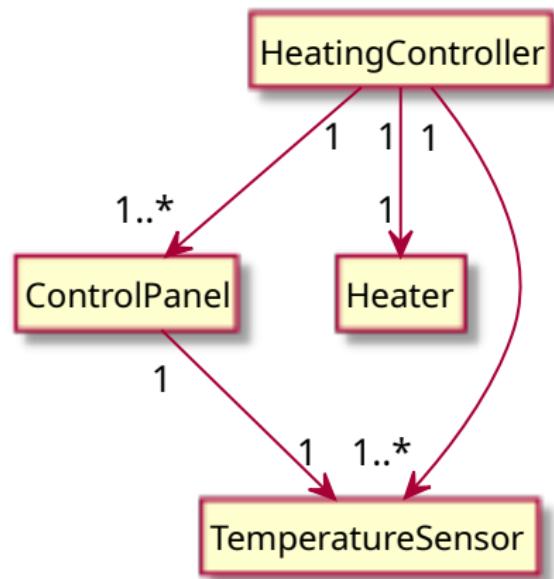
Interactive Exercise

Identify **3 possible inconsistencies** in the following class diagram:



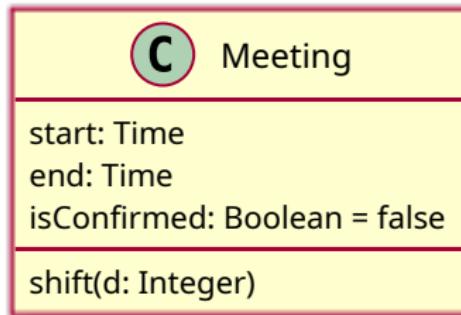
Possible solution

- ▶ A DoorSensor doesn't logically belong to heating
- ▶ TemperatureSensor - HeatingController is backwards
- ▶ associations are unqualified.



Tools for UML OCL Consistency Checking

Expressing constraints using OCL



- ▶ invariants

```
context Meeting inv: end > start
```

- ▶ action triggers as pre-conditions

```
context Meeting::shift(d:Integer)  
pre: isConfirmed = false and d>0
```

- ▶ post conditions

```
context Meeting::shift(d:Integer)  
post: start = start@pre + d and end = end@pre + d
```

OCL consistency checking tools

Static analysis

- ▶ **USE (UML-based Specification Environment)**
 - ▶ research from University of Bremen
 - ▶ Executes OCL constraints
 - ▶ Generates object diagrams to validate designs

Model validation inside modeling tools

- ▶ **Papyrus** (Eclipse-based, supports OCL constraints)
 - ▶ research by various French institutions
- ▶ **Magic Software Architect** by No Magic, Inc.
 - ▶ research from TU Dresden
- ▶ **Enterprise Architect** by Sparx Systems

Facilities

- ▶ Verify UML meta-model conformance
- ▶ Check stereotype/constraint validity
- ▶ Detect broken references

Simulation and Execution Tools

Sequence diagram execution

- ▶ Animate interactions
- ▶ Highlight active lifelines
- ▶ Execute state machines

Tools

- ▶ **IBM Rhapsody**,
- ▶ **Papyrus-RT**,
- ▶ **Cameo Simulation Toolkit**

State machine simulation

- ▶ Visual debugging of transitions
- ▶ Event injection
- ▶ Coverage measurement (visited states)

Tools

- ▶ Xholon, open source, by Primordion
- ▶ Magic Model Analyst
- ▶ partially Papyrus Moka

Activity diagram execution

- ▶ Token-based simulation
- ▶ Deadlock/livelock detection

Tools

- ▶ Papyrus Moka
- ▶ Magic Model Analyst

Testing Behavioral Models

Model-Based Testing (MBT)

Use the UML model as the basis for generating tests.

- ▶ **Sequence diagrams** → Interaction tests
- ▶ **State machines** → Transition coverage tests
- ▶ **Activity diagrams** → Path tests

Tools (test generation from UML models)

- ▶ **Conformiq Designer**
 - ▶ originally a start-up based on Finland government-funded research
- ▶ **RTT-MBT**
 - ▶ by Verified Systems, spin-off from University of Bremen
- ▶ **MBT suite**

State-Based Test Example

For a DoorSensor state machine:

- ▶ States: Closed, Open, Alert
- ▶ Transitions: doorOpened, doorClosed, alarmTriggered

Test coverage:

- ▶ Visit all states
- ▶ Trigger each transition
- ▶ Evaluate guard conditions

Cross-Model Evaluation

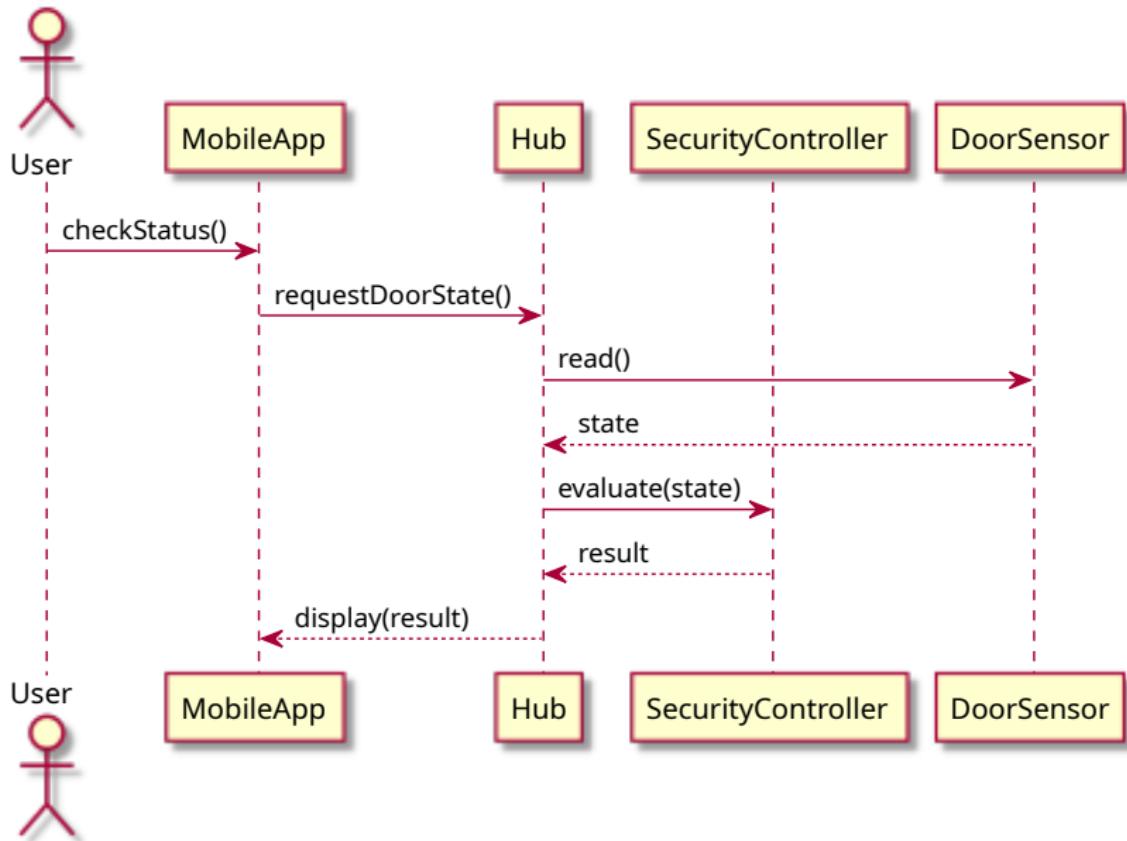
- ▶ Every event in a state machine appears in a sequence diagram
- ▶ Every lifeline in a sequence diagram corresponds to a class
- ▶ Every operation message matches a method signature

Tools supporting this:

- ▶ **MagicDraw/Cameo** (robust cross-diagram analyzer)
- ▶ **Enterprise Architect** (dependency matrix + traceability)
- ▶ **Papyrus** (custom validation rules)

Interactive Exercise

What should happen? What can go wrong? Design test cases.



Wrap-Up

- ▶ Evaluating UML models prevents early design flaws
- ▶ Tools support: syntax checking, semantic validation, simulation
- ▶ Model-Based Testing connects behavioral diagrams with executable tests