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Topic : Data Modeling (Software Engineering)

References : <https://www.lucidchart.com/pages/er-diagrams>

Data modeling in software engineering helps in organizing the structure of a system's data to ensure efficient storage, retrieval, and relationships between entities. By using concepts like entities, relationships, normalization, and ER diagrams, software developers can design databases that are both efficient and scalable.

In software engineering, data modeling is the process of creating a visual representation of a system's data and its structure. It defines how data is stored, accessed, and related within a system. The goal is to establish a blueprint for the data architecture, helping developers understand the system's data flow and database design. Let's explore key data modeling concepts with examples:

1. Entities

An entity represents a real-world object or concept that has data stored about it. Each entity is characterized by attributes.

- Example: In a student management system, entities could be **Student**, **Course**, and **Instructor**.

2. Attributes

Attributes are the properties or characteristics of an entity. They define the data that each entity stores.

- Example: For the entity **Student**, attributes could include **StudentID**, **Name**, **DateOfBirth**, **Email**.

3. Relationships

Relationships describe how entities are related to each other. These relationships can be one-to-one, one-to-many, or many-to-many.

- Example: In a school system:
 - A one-to-many relationship: One **Instructor** teaches many **Courses**.
 - A many-to-many relationship: Many **Students** can enroll in many **Courses**.

4. Primary Key

A primary key is a unique identifier for an entity, ensuring that each record in a table can be uniquely identified.

- Example: For the **Student** entity, **StudentID** could be the primary key, uniquely identifying each student.

5. Foreign Key

A foreign key is an attribute in one entity that refers to the primary key of another entity, establishing a relationship between the two entities.

- Example: In a **Course** entity, **InstructorID** could be a foreign key that refers to the **InstructorID** in the **Instructor** entity, linking courses to their respective instructors.

6. Normalization

Normalization is the process of organizing data to reduce redundancy and dependency. It involves dividing large tables into smaller ones and establishing relationships between them to ensure data integrity.

- Example: Suppose there is a single table that stores both student and course information, leading to data redundancy (e.g., storing the same course details for multiple students). By normalizing the table, the **Student** and **Course** entities **would** be split into separate tables, and a new **Enrollment** table would handle the relationship between students and courses.

7. Cardinality

Cardinality refers to the number of instances of one entity that can be related to another entity.

- Example: In a library system:
 - A one-to-many cardinality: One **Library** has many **Books**.
 - A many-to-many cardinality: Many **Members** can borrow many **Books**.

8. ER Diagrams (Entity-Relationship Diagrams)

An ER Diagram is a visual representation of the entities, their attributes, and relationships within a system. It's widely used in data modeling to describe how data is structured and interrelated.

- Example: In an e-commerce system:
 - Entities: **Customer**, **Order**, **Product**
 - Relationships: **Customer** places many **Orders**; **Order** contains many **Products**.

9. Data Types

Data types define the kind of data that attributes can store (e.g., integer, string, date).

- Example: In a banking system:
 - **AccountNumber** could be an integer.
 - **AccountHolderName** would be a string.
 - **DateOfTransaction** could be of date type.

10. Schema

A schema represents the structure of the database, including the tables, fields, and relationships between tables. It defines how data is organized in the system.

- Example: In a payroll system, the schema may consist of tables such as **Employee**, **Salary**, **Department**, each with its own attributes and relationships.

Example Scenario: Library Management System

Let's build a data model for a Library Management System:

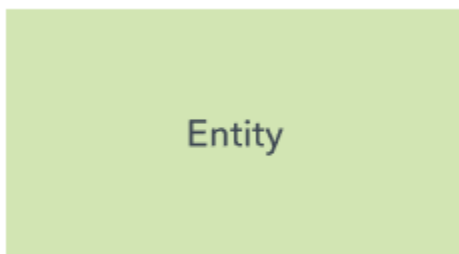
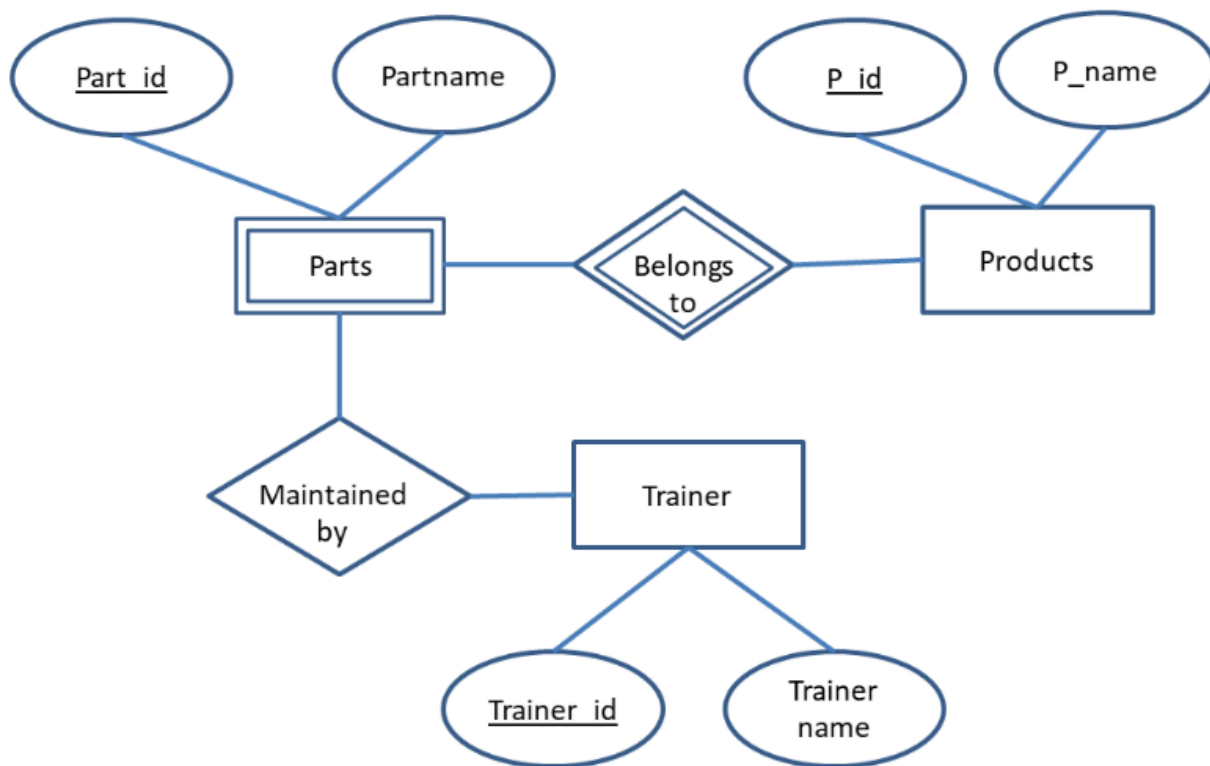
- Entities:
 - **Book** (attributes: **BookID**, **Title**, **Author**)
 - **Member** (attributes: **MemberID**, **Name**, **Email**)
 - **Loan** (attributes: **LoanID**, **IssueDate**, **ReturnDate**)

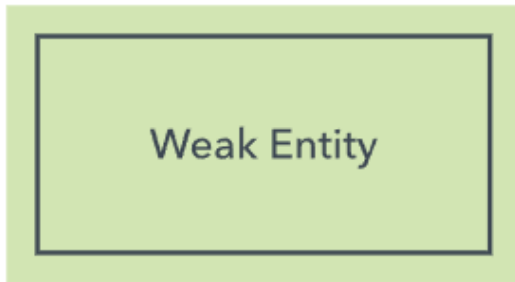
- **Relationships:**
 - A **Member** can borrow many **Books**, and a **Book** can be borrowed by many **Members** (many-to-many relationship), managed through the **Loan** entity.

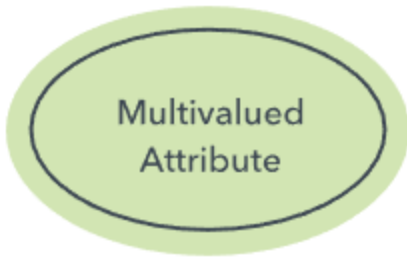
The ER diagram for this system would show:

- **Member** and **Book** entities with their respective attributes.
- A **Loan** entity acting as a bridge table connecting **Member** and **Book**.

ER Diagram







Cardinality



Zero or one



Many



One



One (and only one)

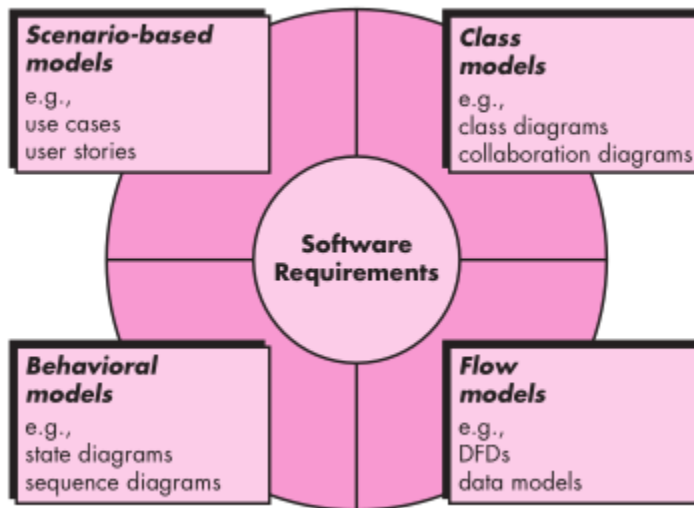
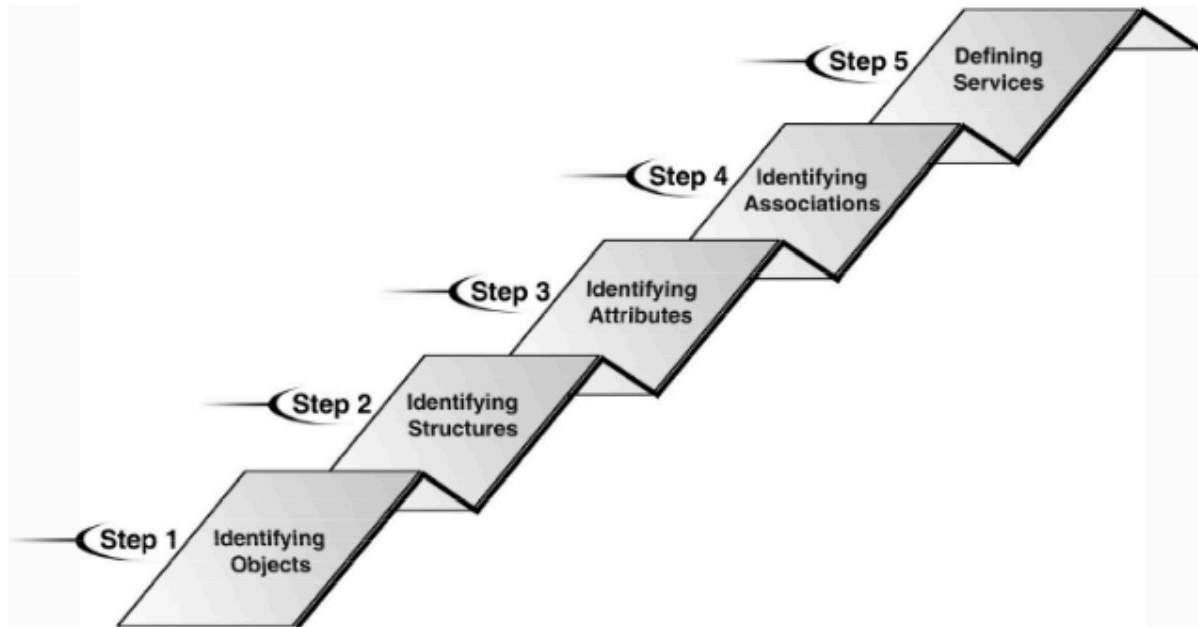


Zero or many



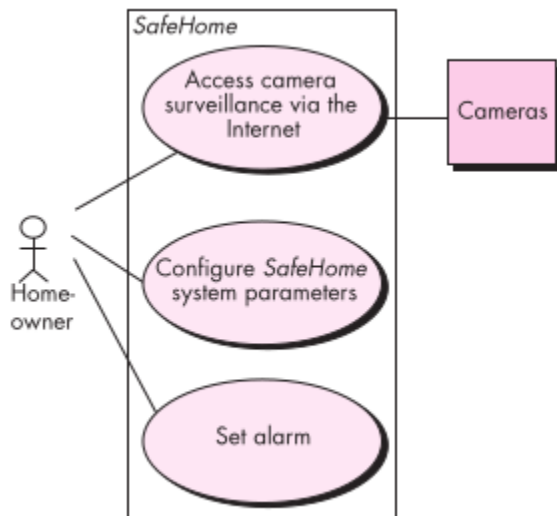
One or many

OOP analysis

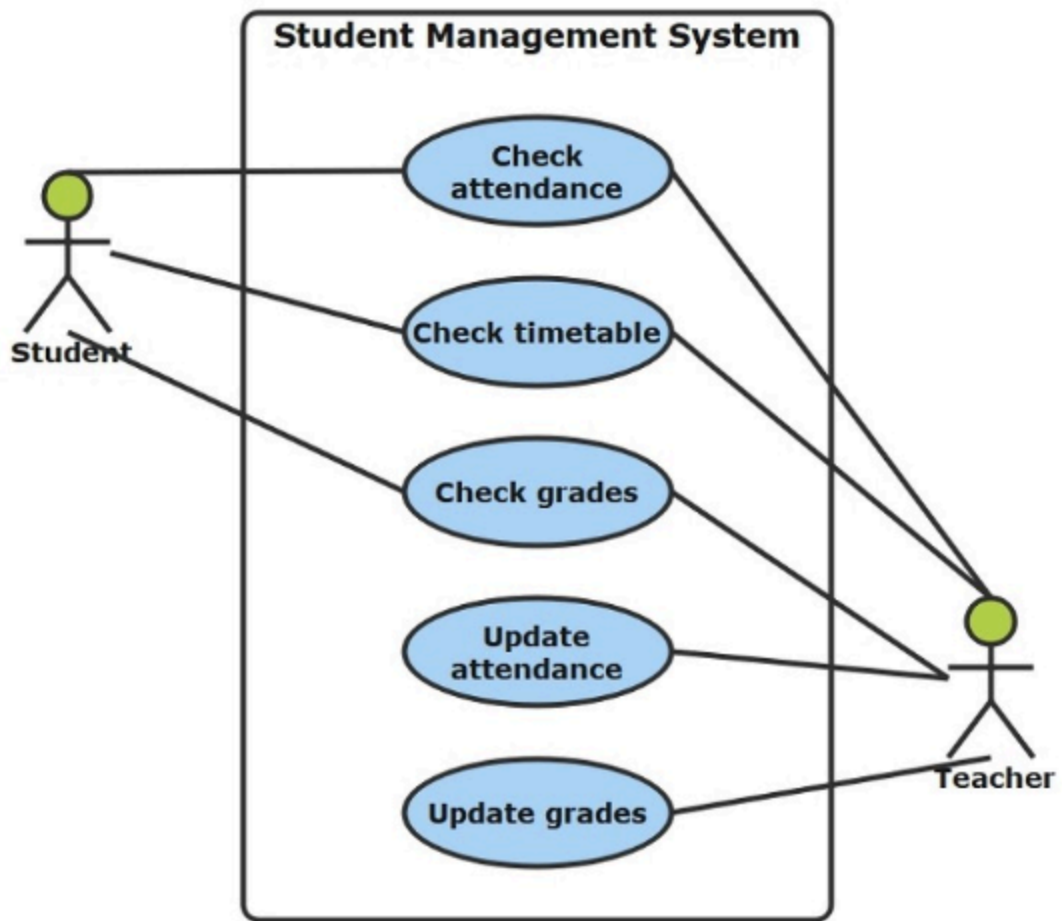


Use case diagrams

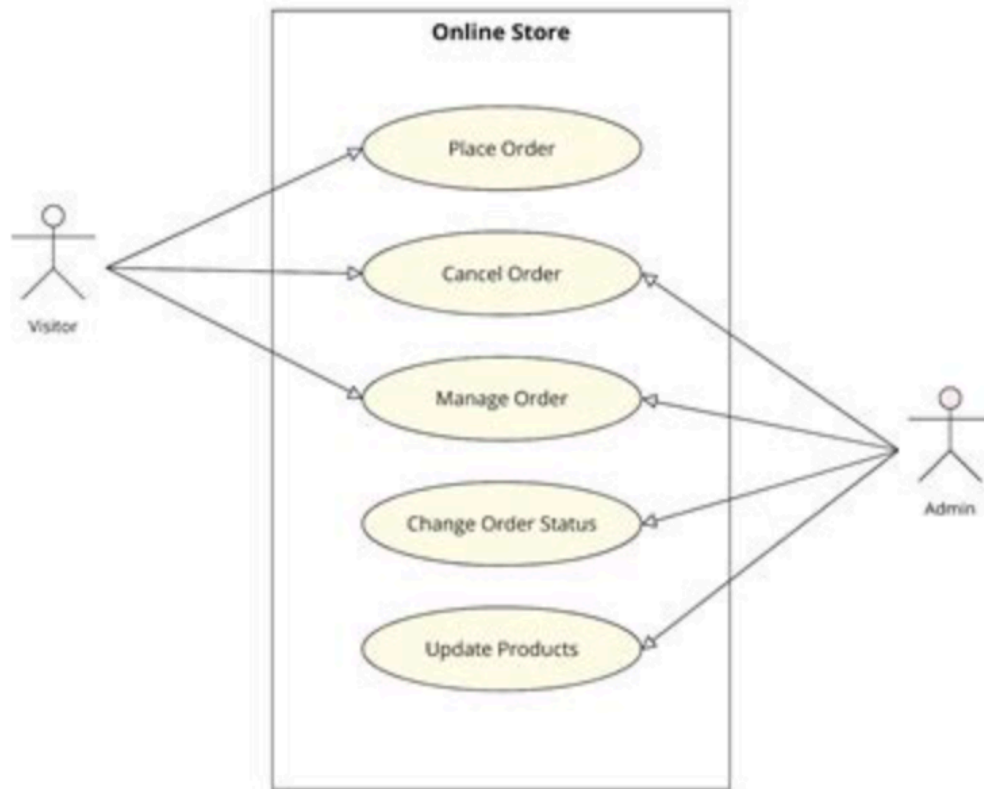
Safe home systems



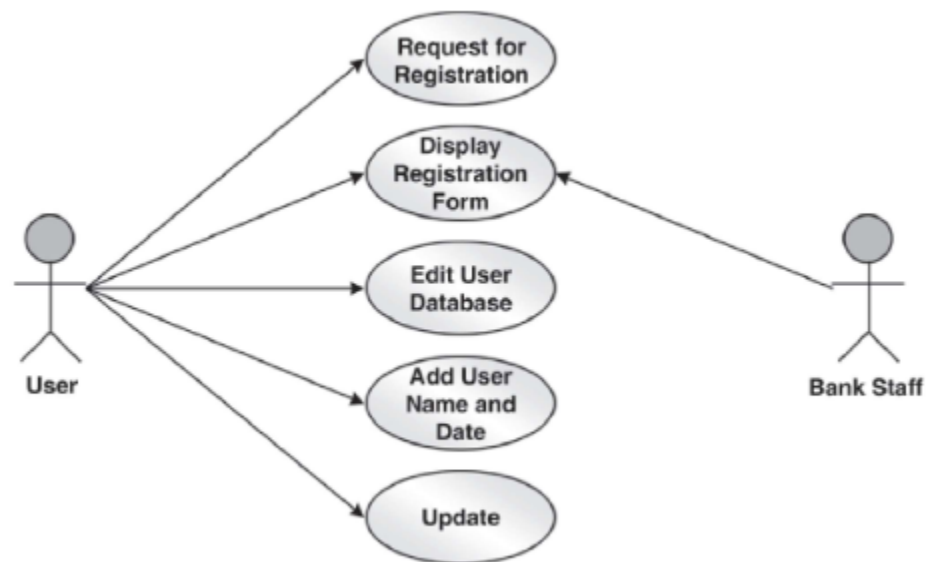
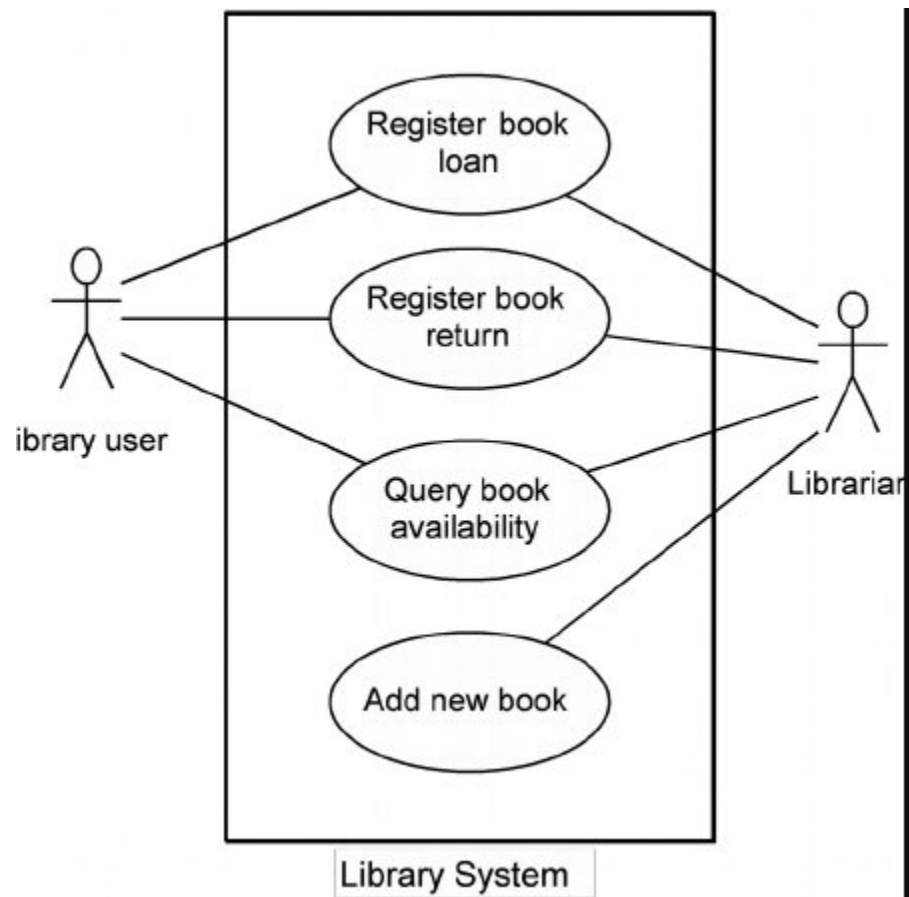
Student Management System



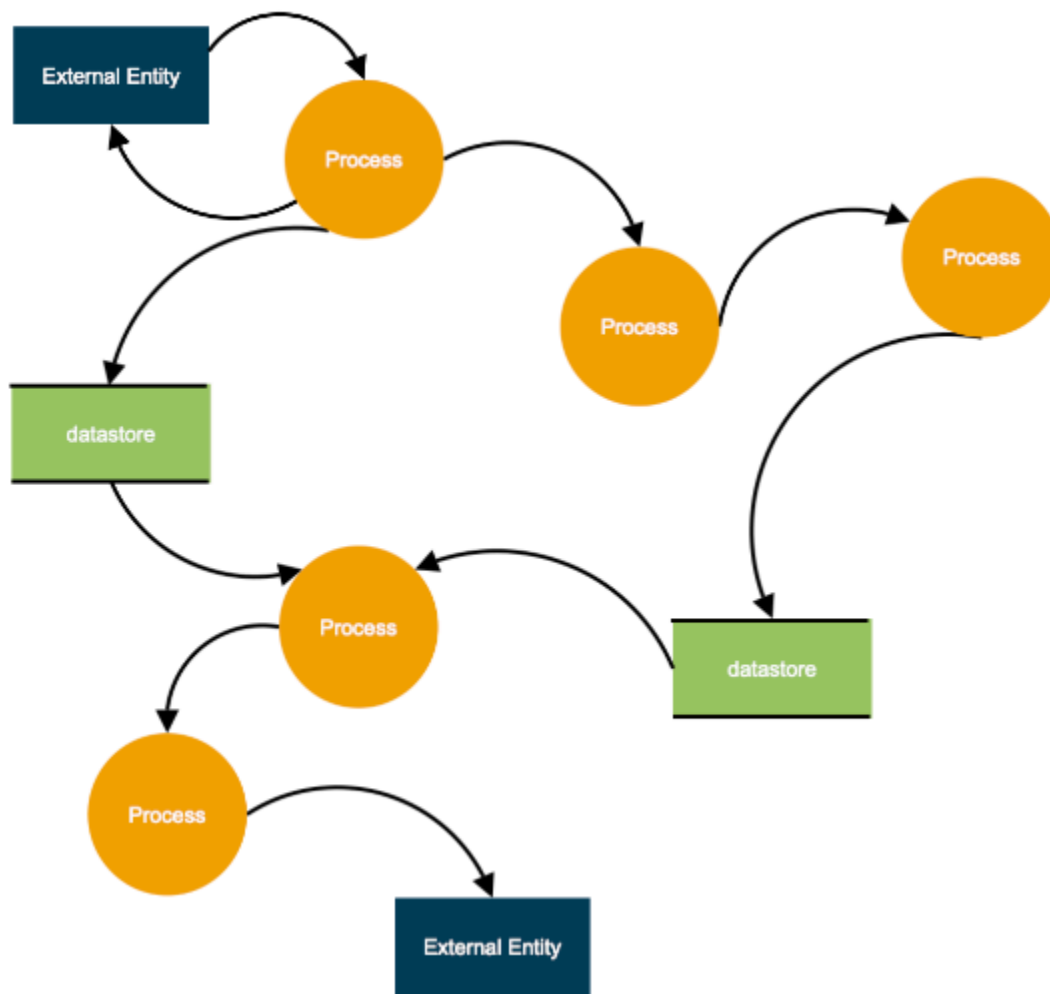
Online store



Library System



DFD Diagram



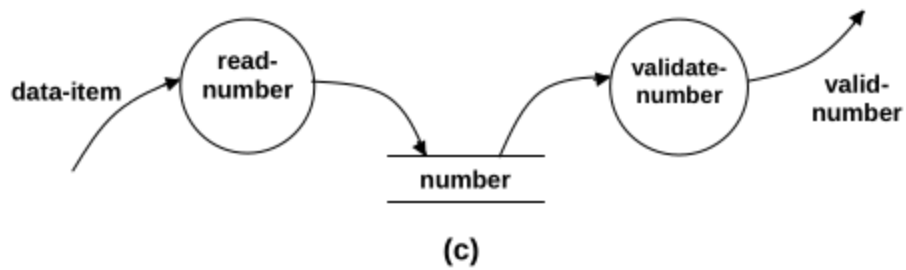
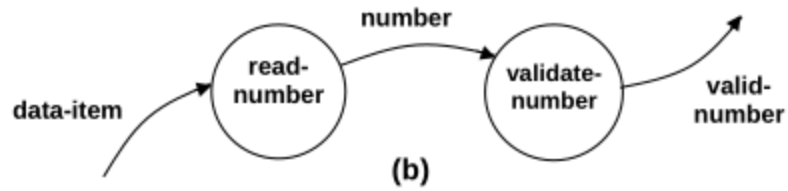
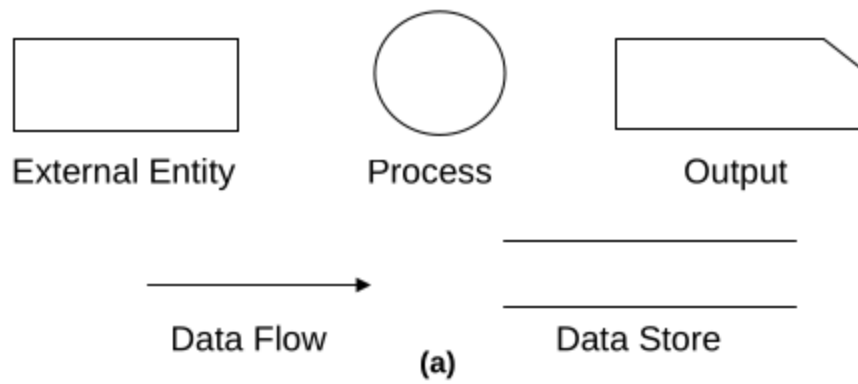


Fig. 5.1 (a) Symbols used for designing DFDs
(b), (c) Synchronous and asynchronous data flow

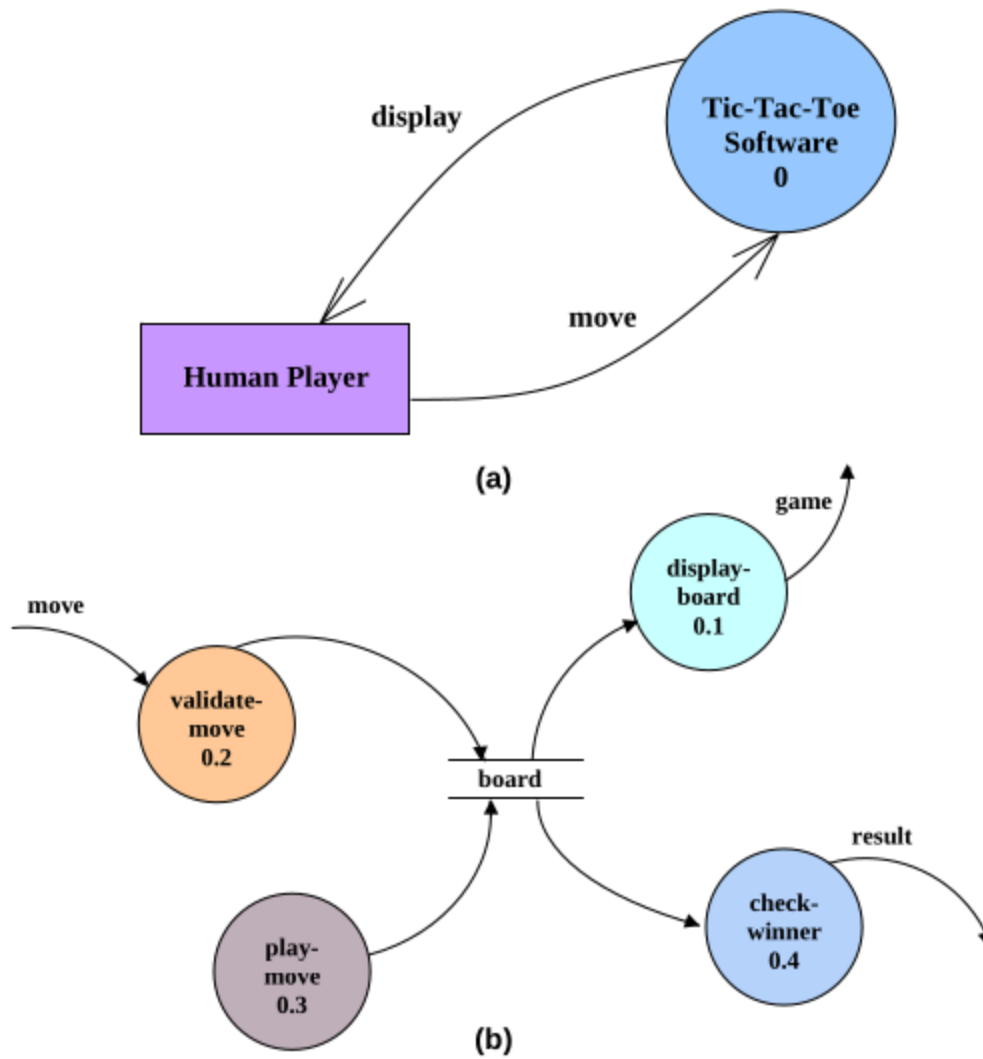


Fig 5.2 (a), (b) Level 0 and Level 1 DFD for Tic-Tac-Toe game described in Example 1

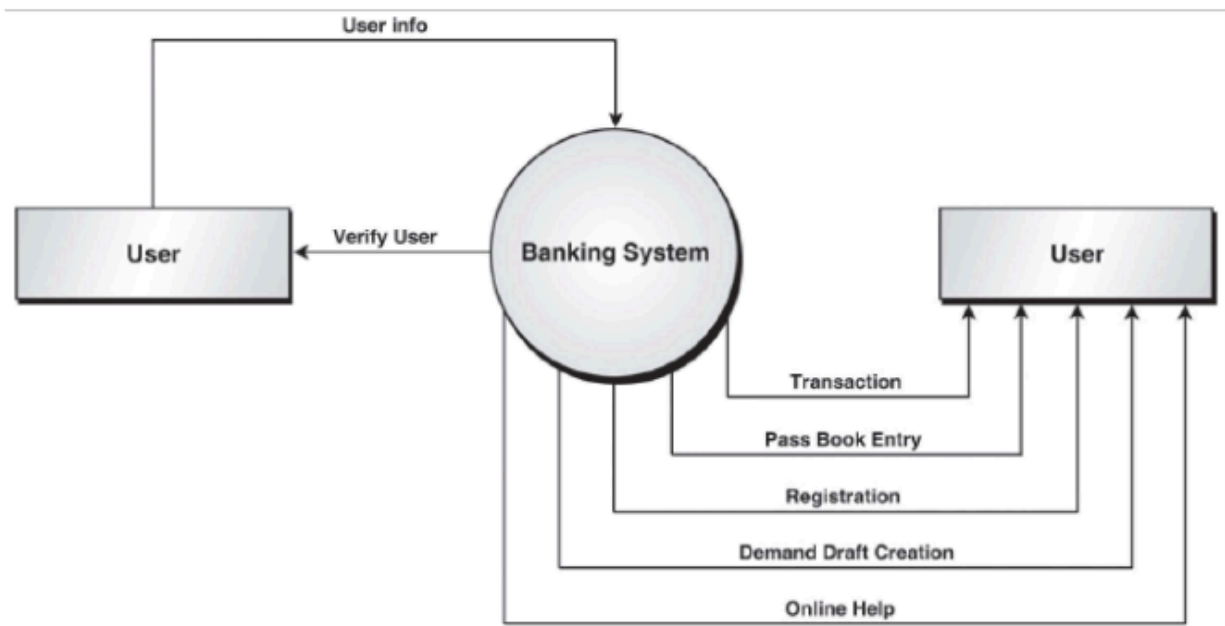
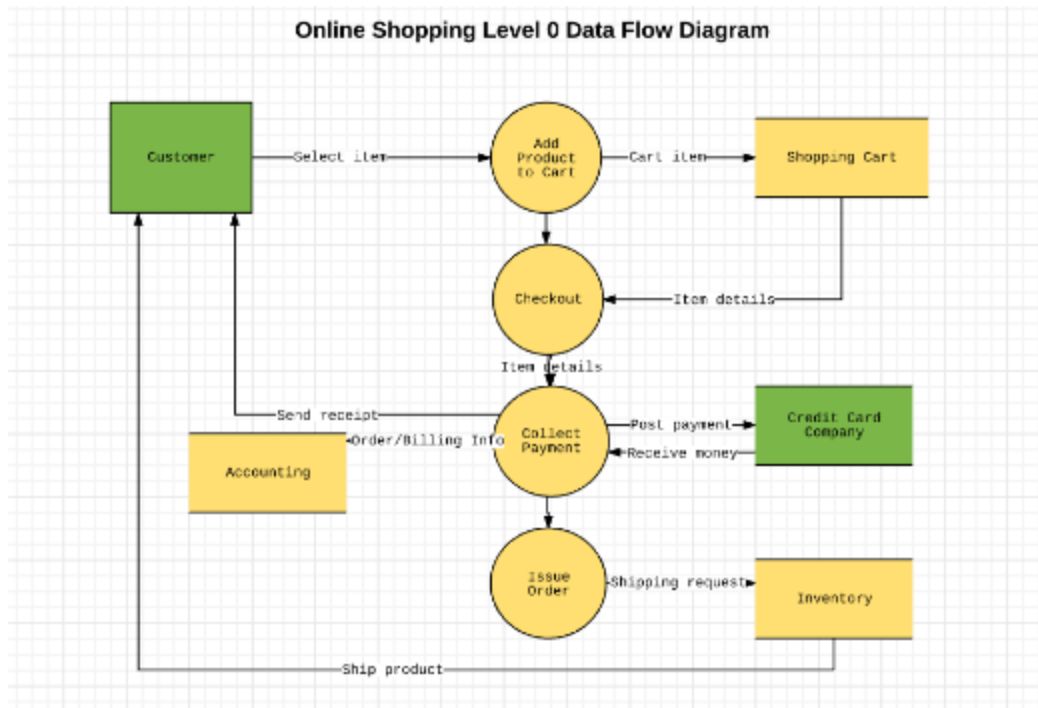


Fig. 6.2 Level 0 DFD of Banking System

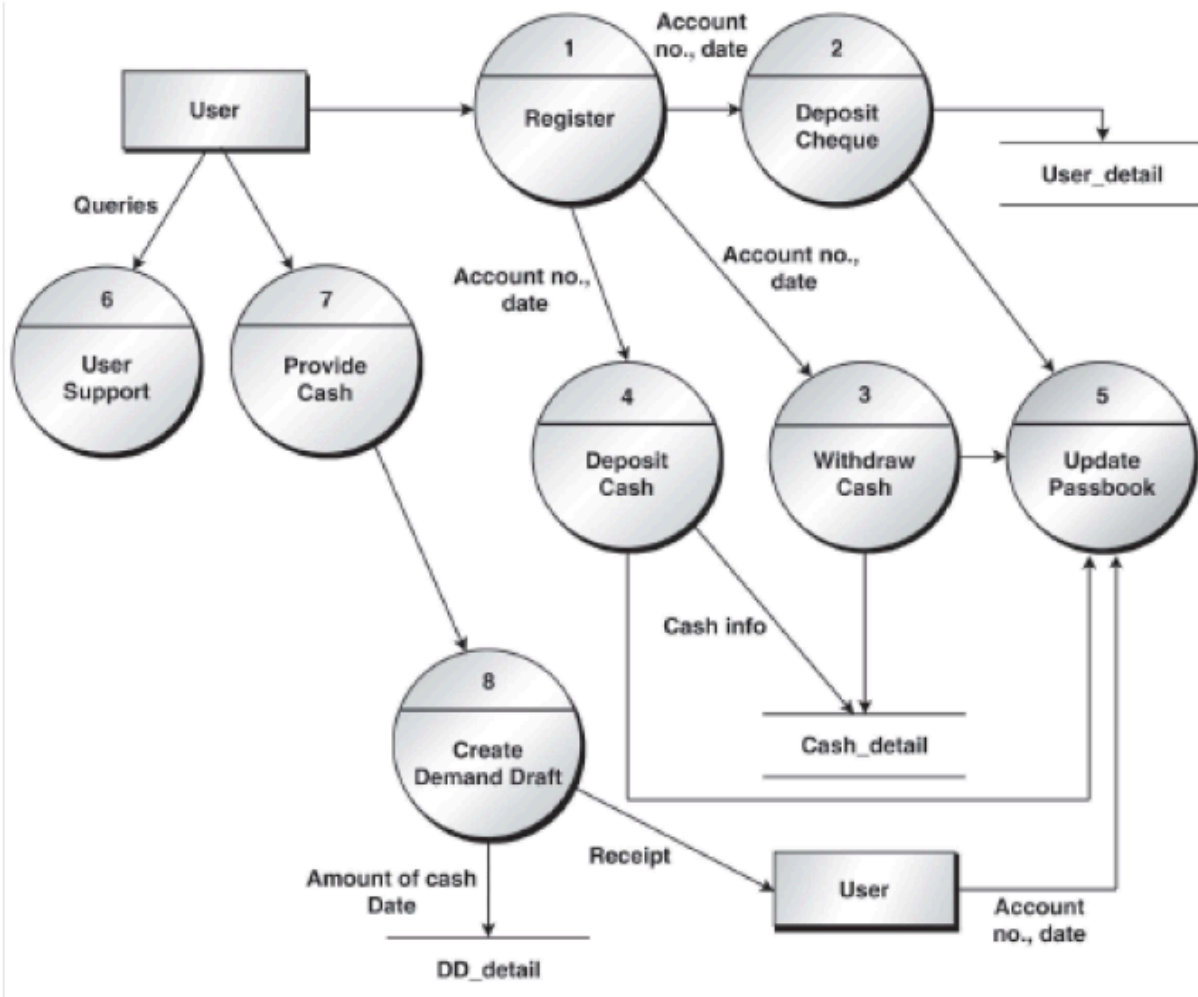


Fig. 6.3 Level 1 DFD to Perform Transaction

processes to the system.

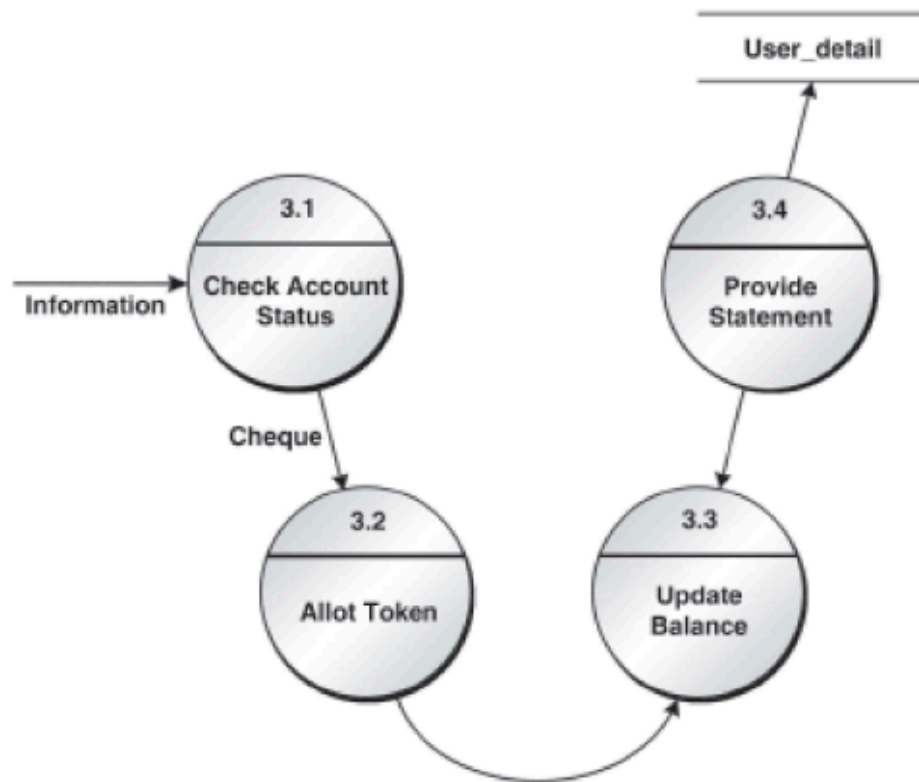


Fig. 6.4 Level 2 DFD to Withdraw Cash

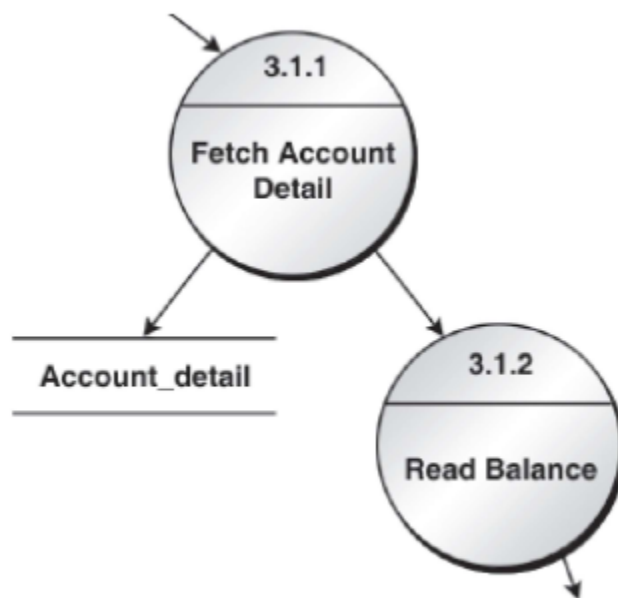
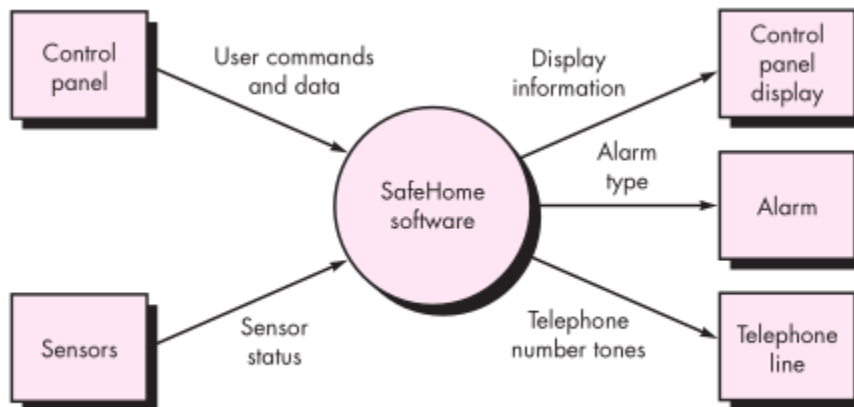
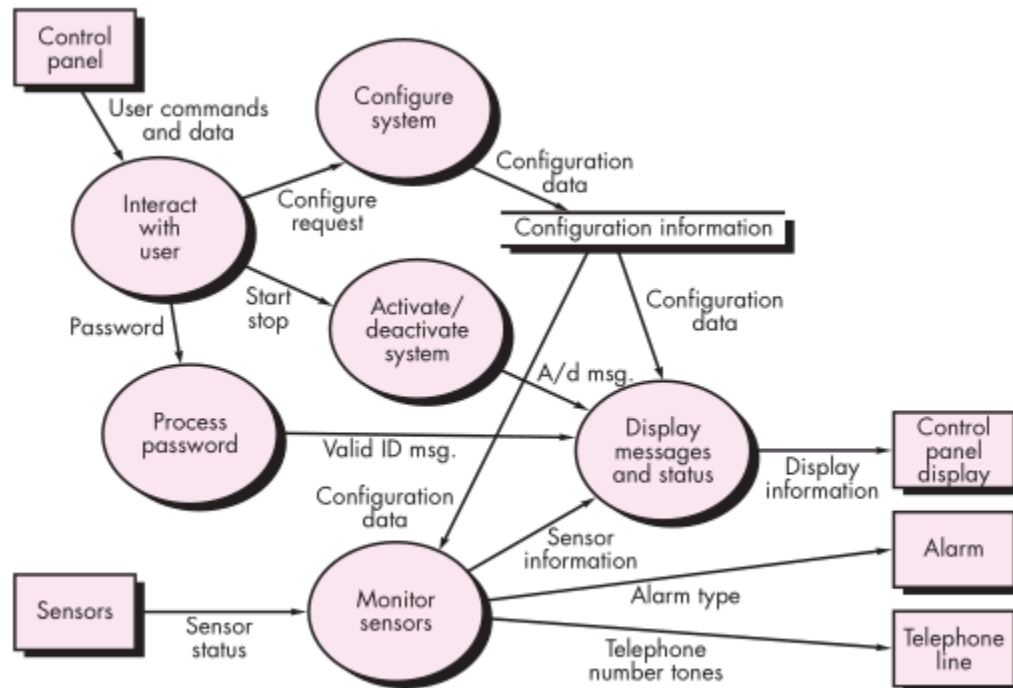


Fig. 6.5 Level 3 DFD to Check Account Status

DFD diagram for safehome security function

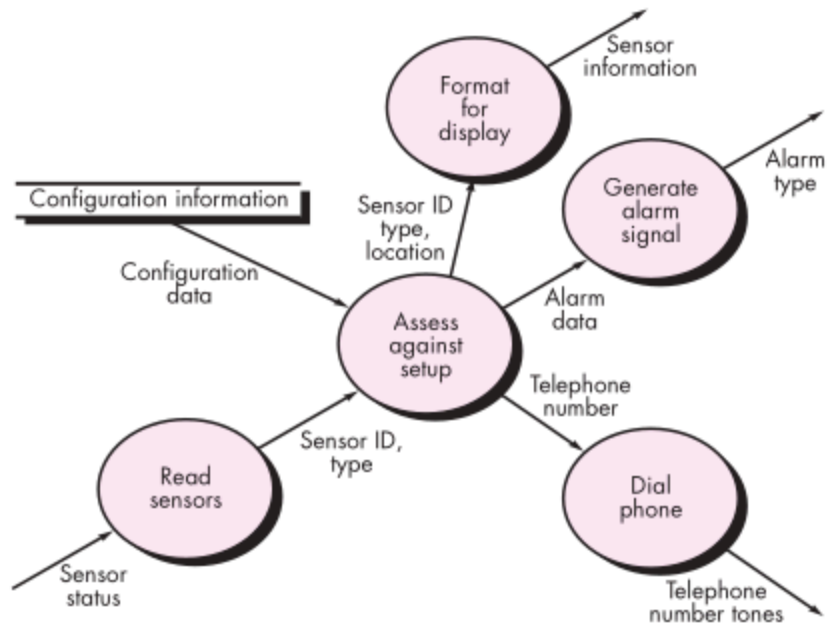


Level1 DFD - safehome

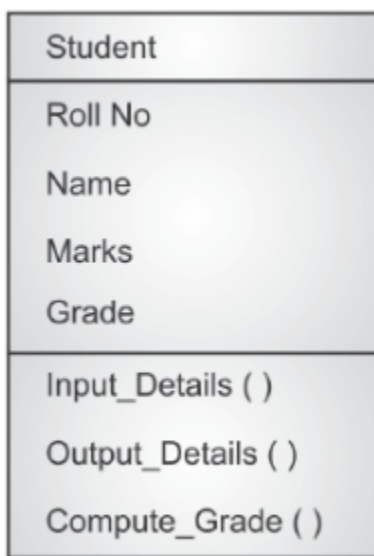


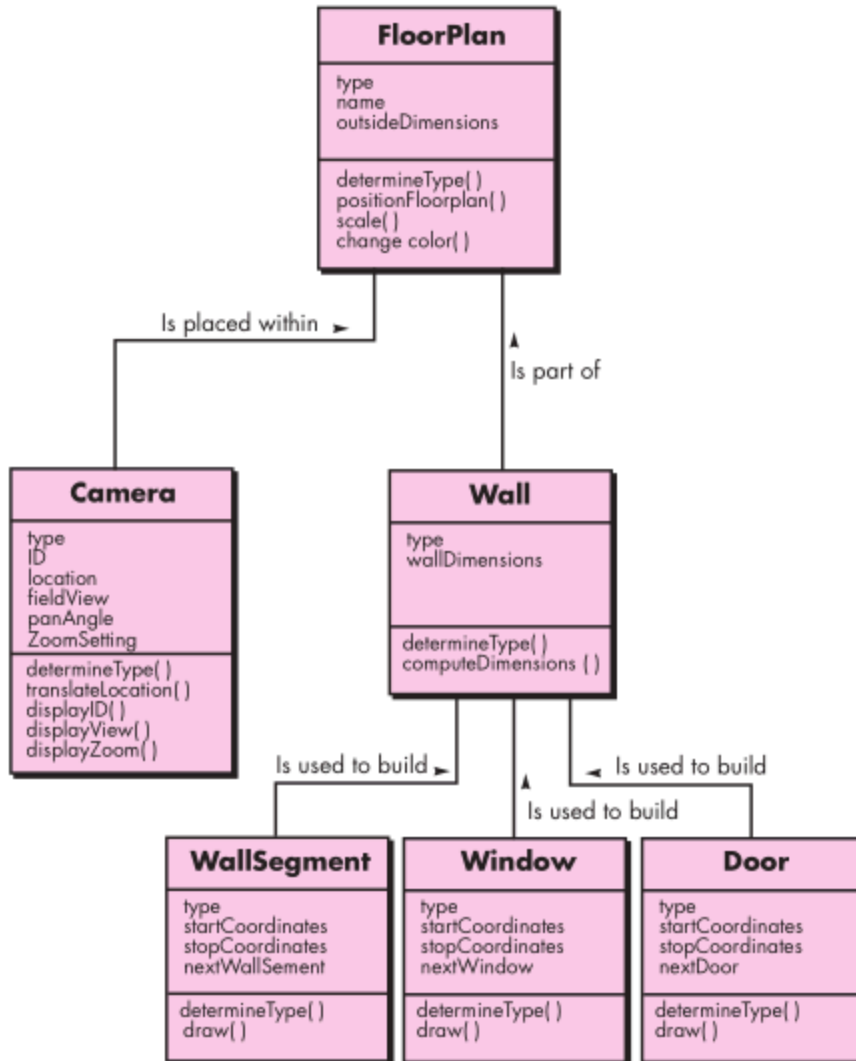
Level2 DFD - monitor sensors process

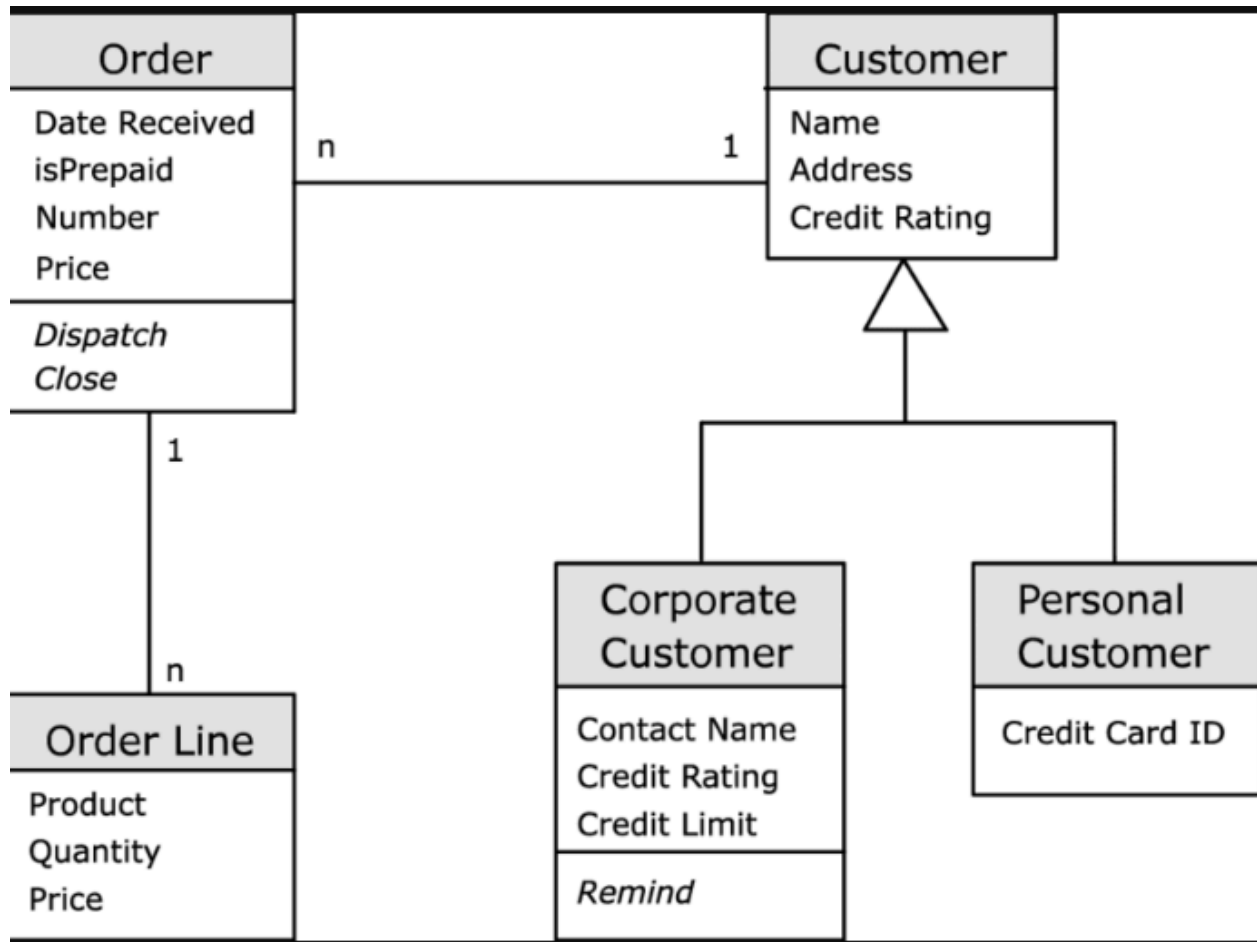
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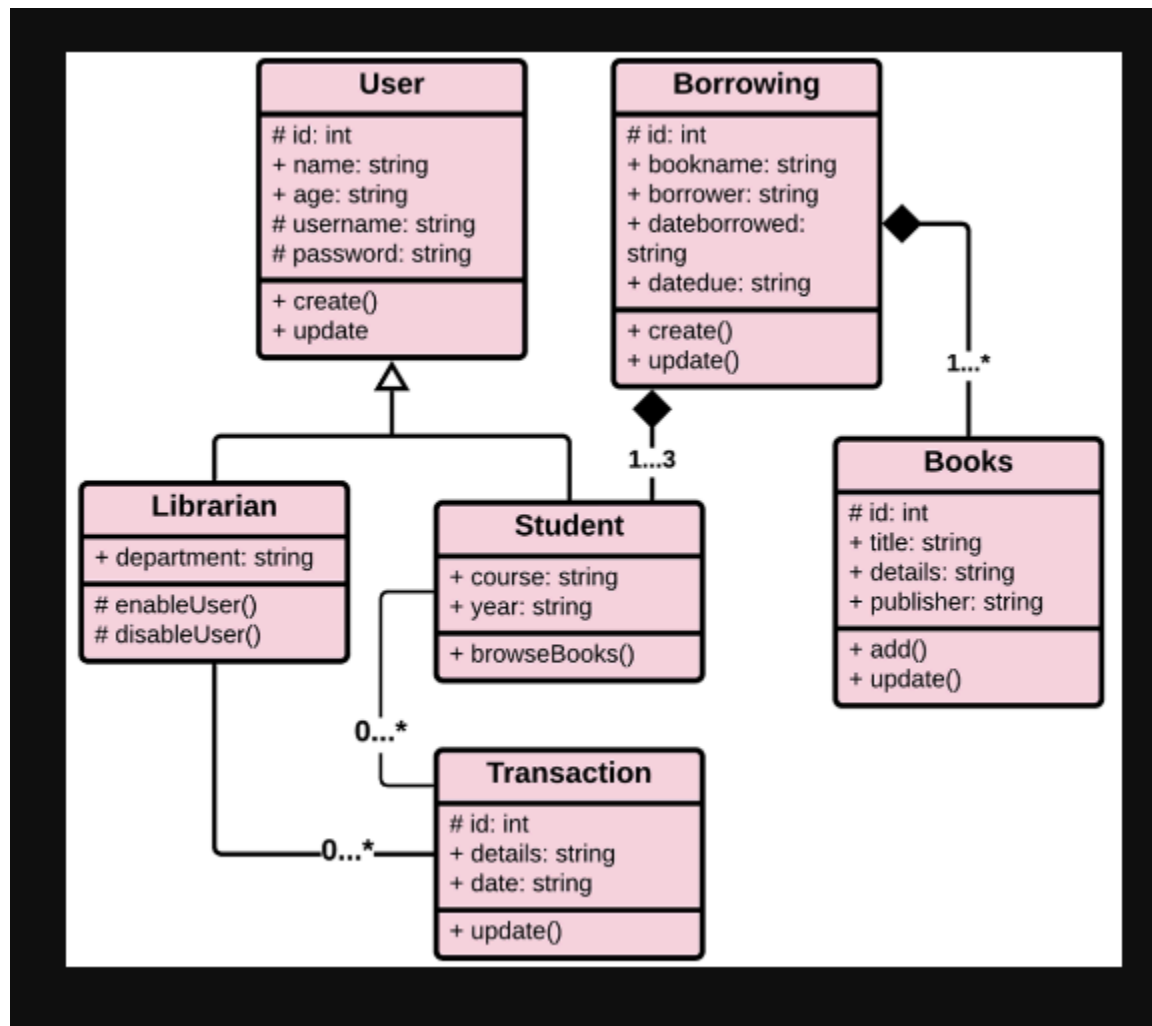
Class diagram

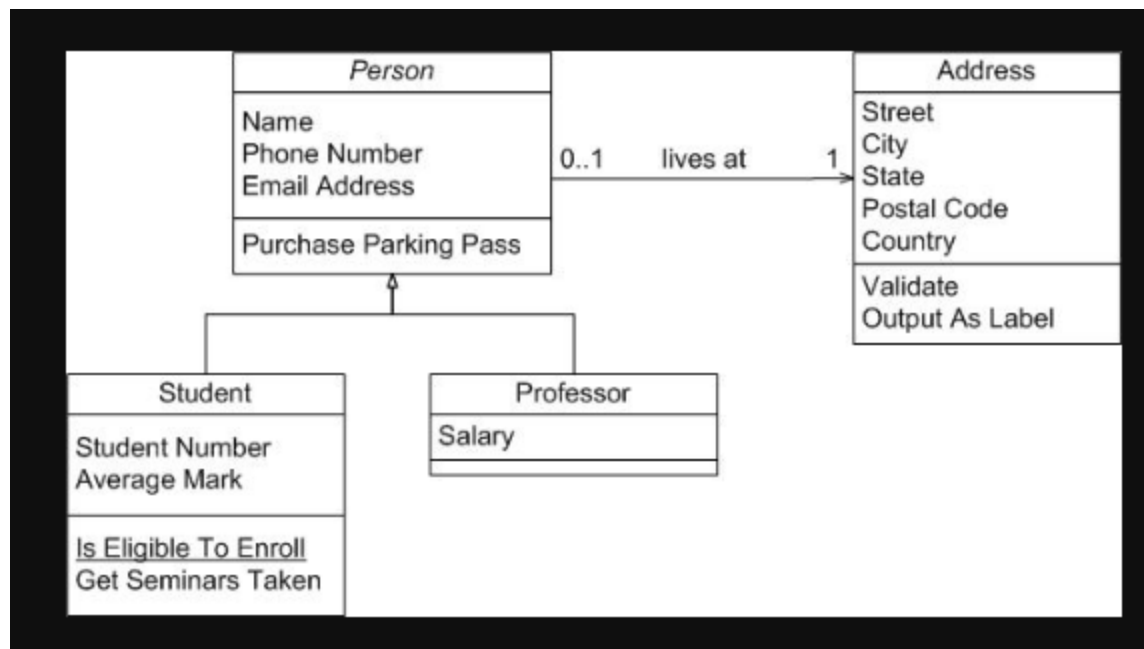






Library Management System





Behavioral Modeling

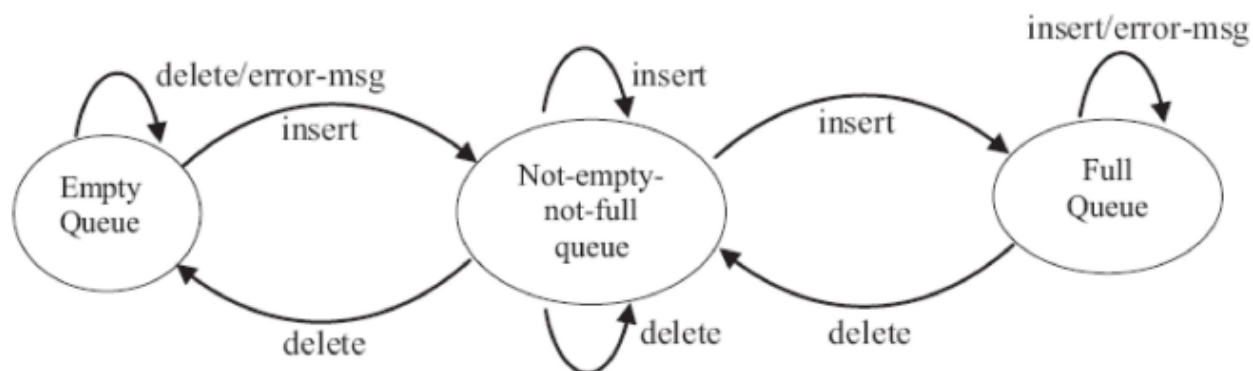
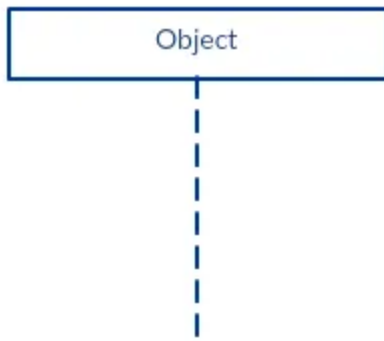
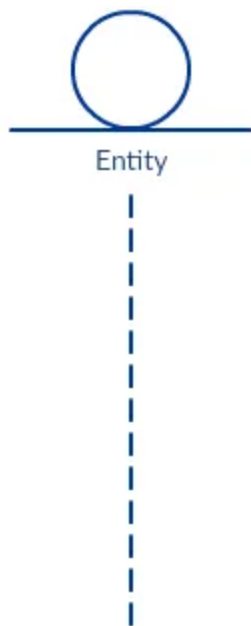


Fig. 6.10 State Transition Diagram for Queue Object

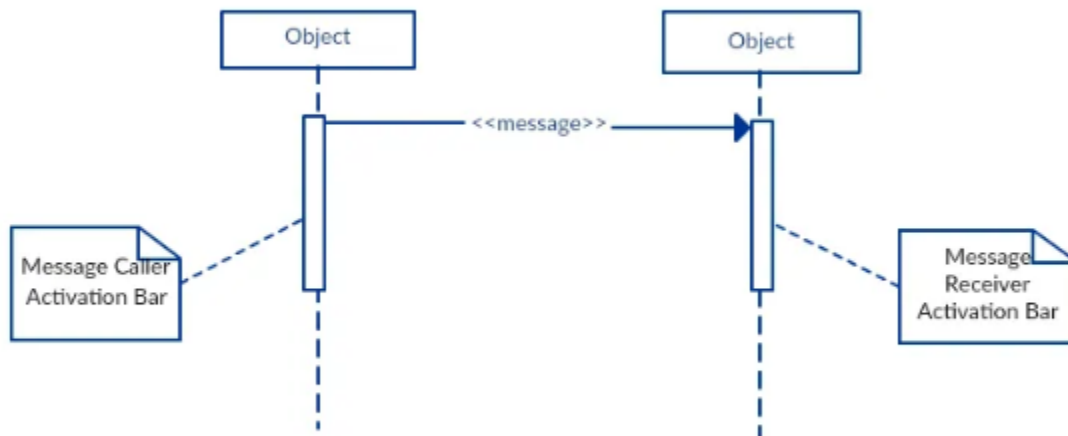
Sequence Diagrams



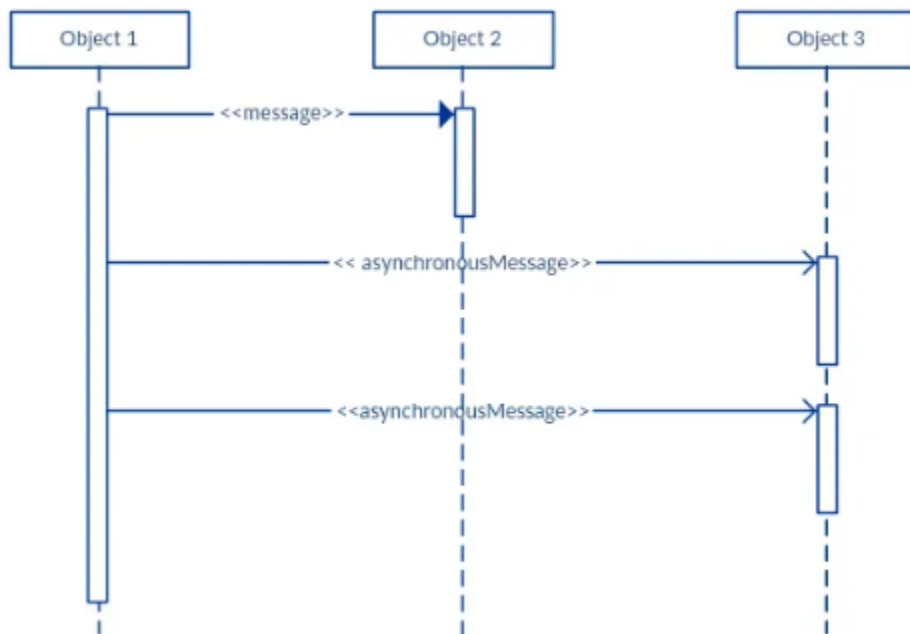




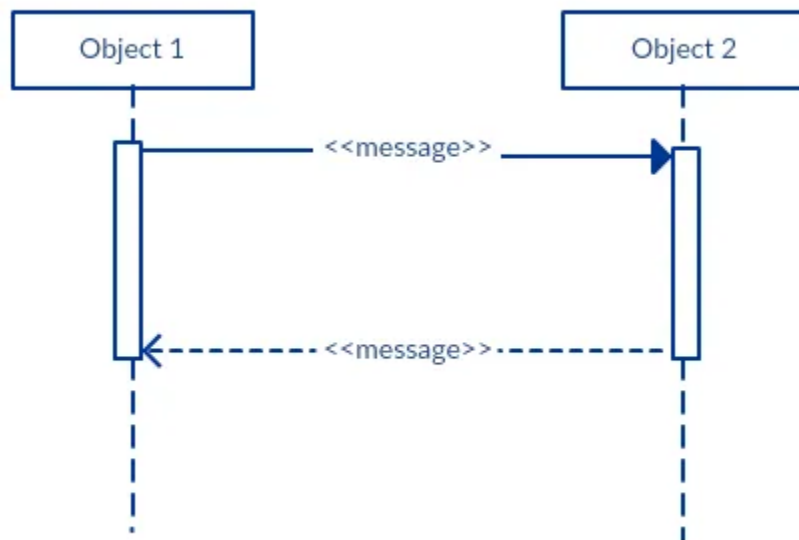
Control



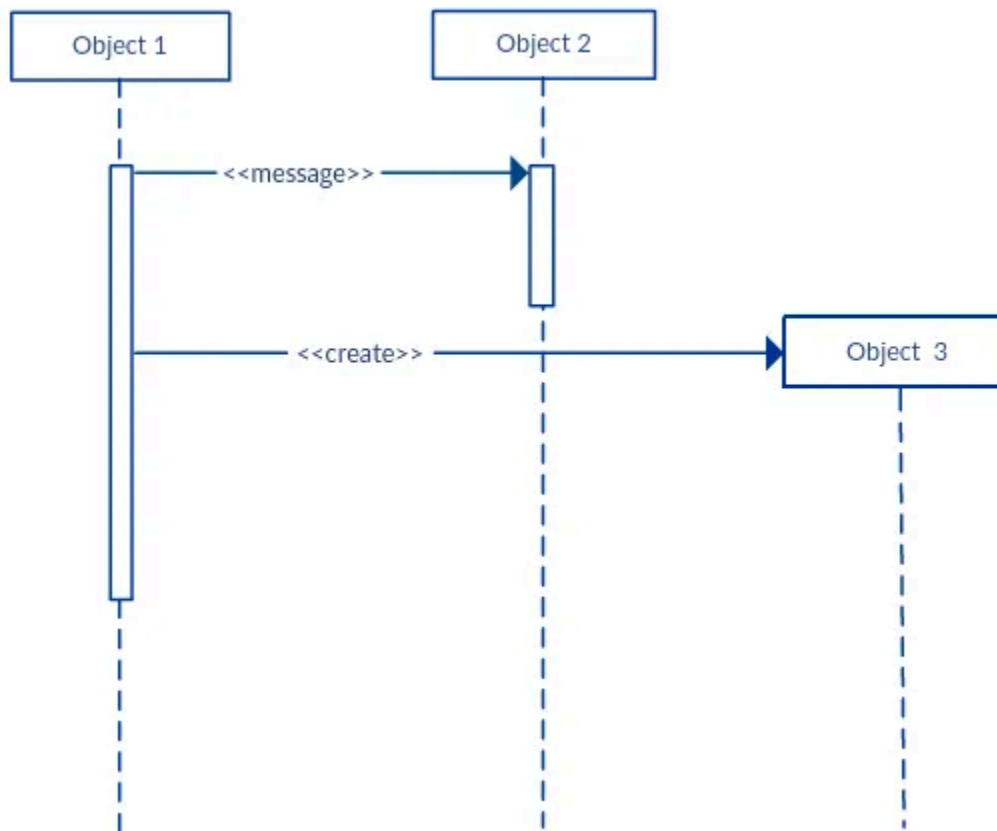
Message



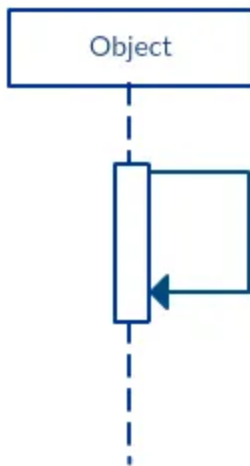
Return Message



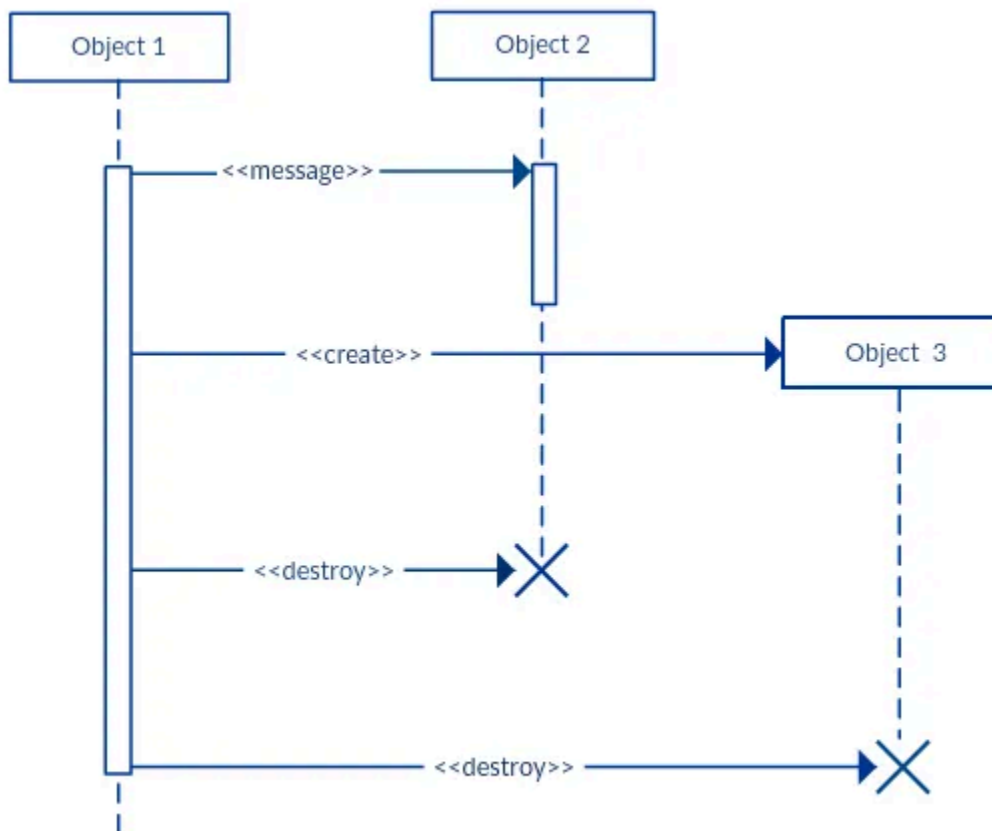
Create message



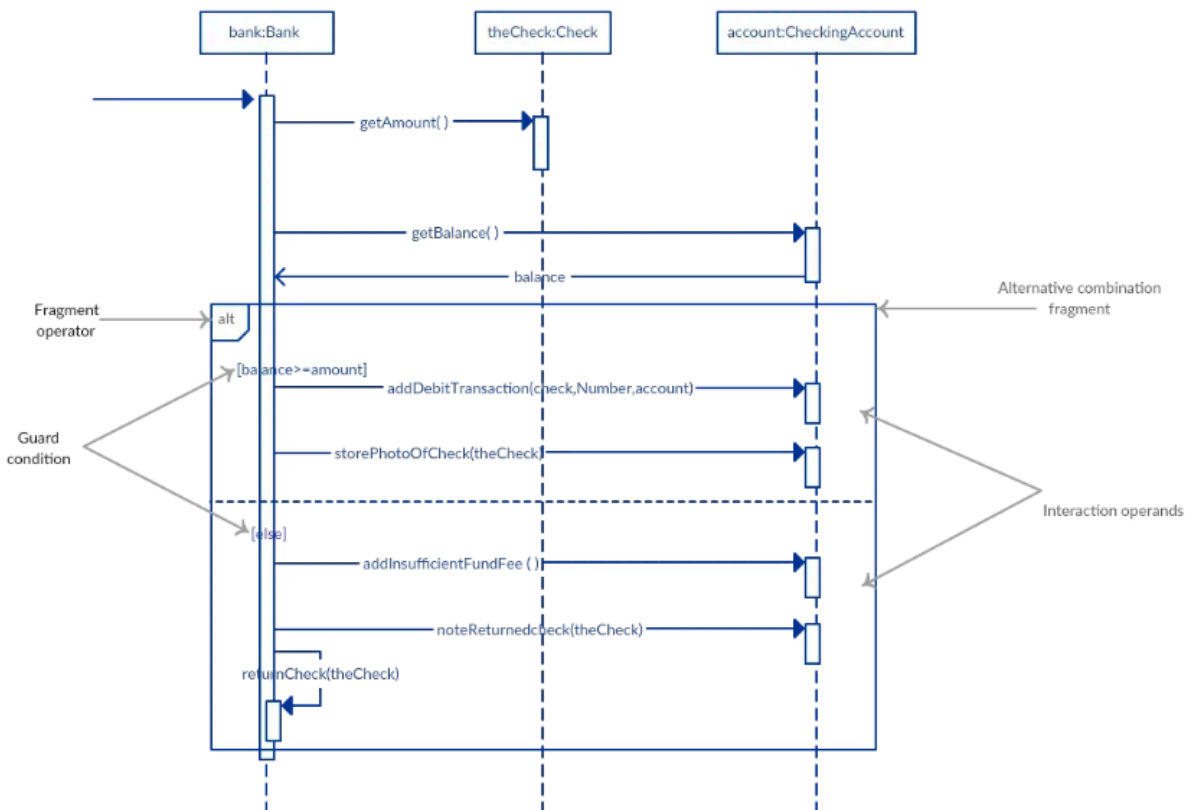
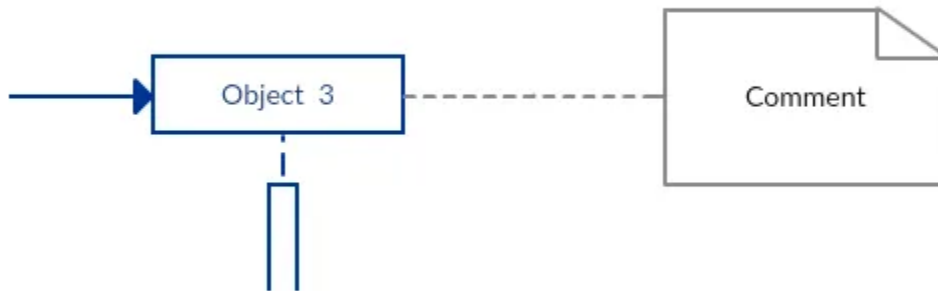
Message Destruction



Reflexive message : when object sends message to itself

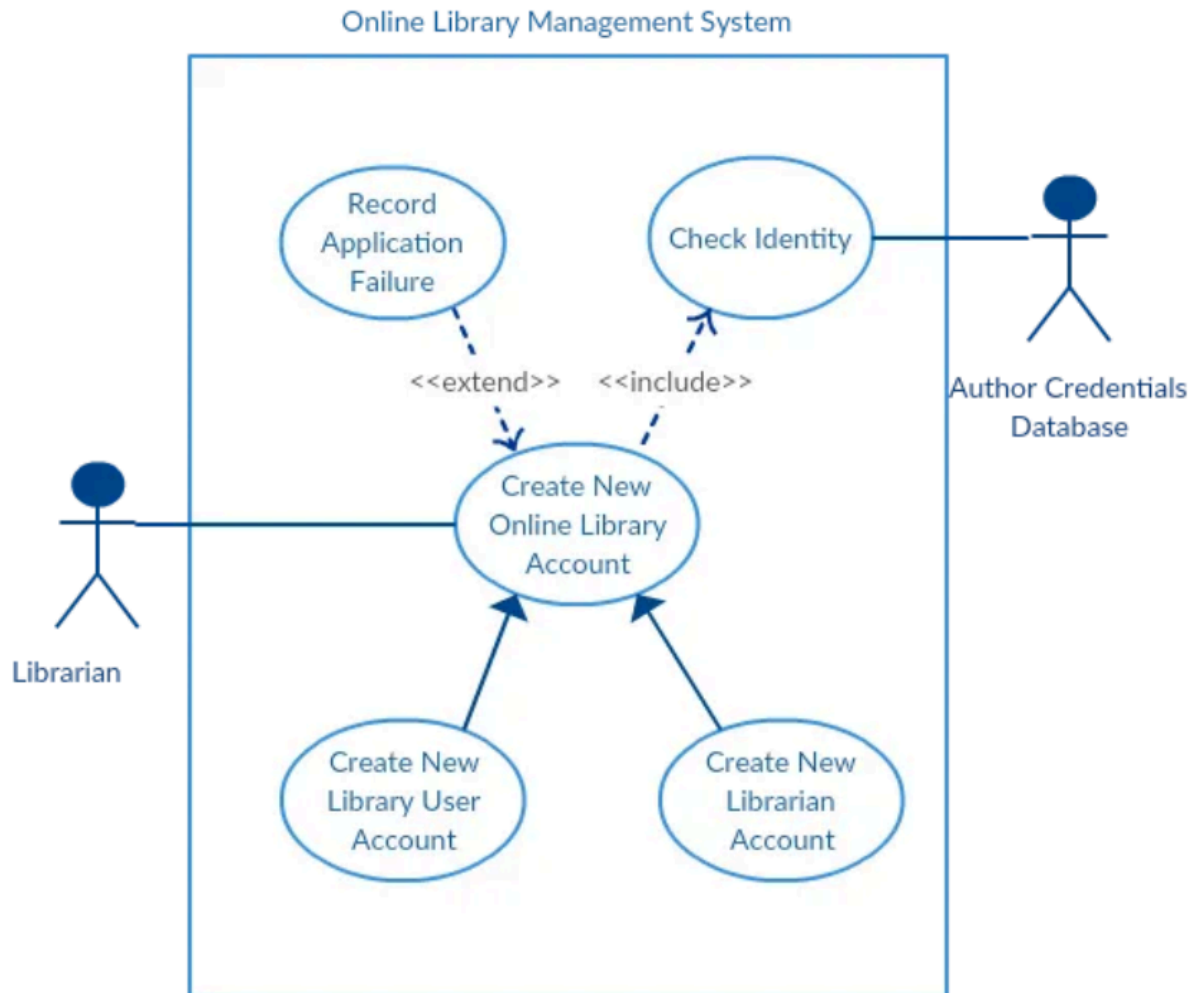


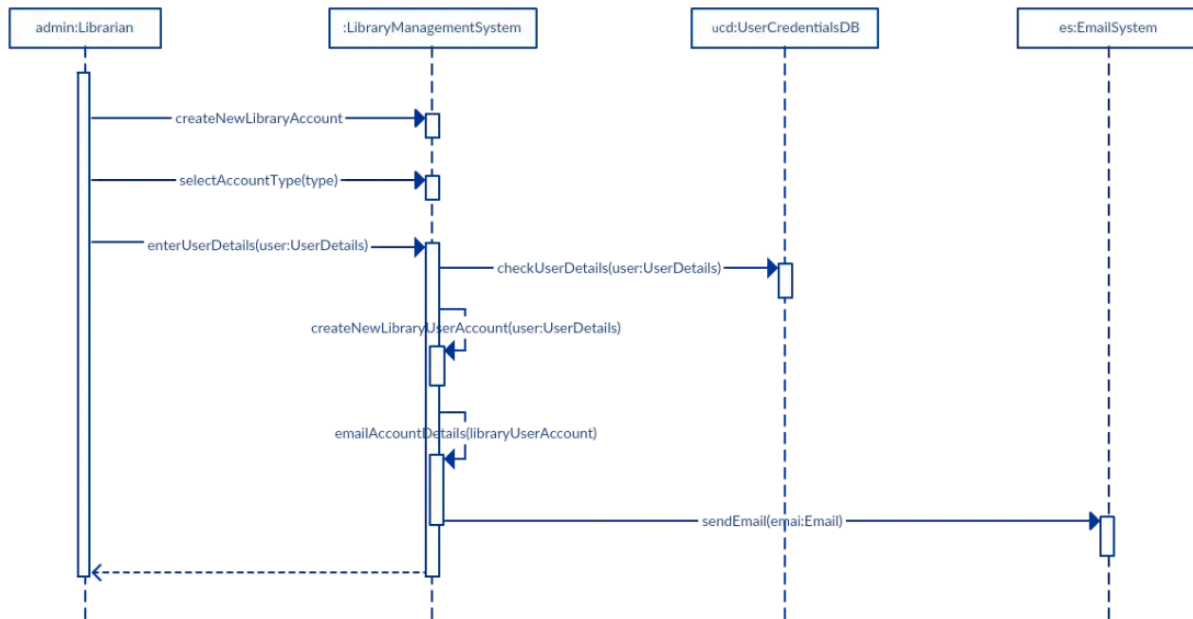
Comments



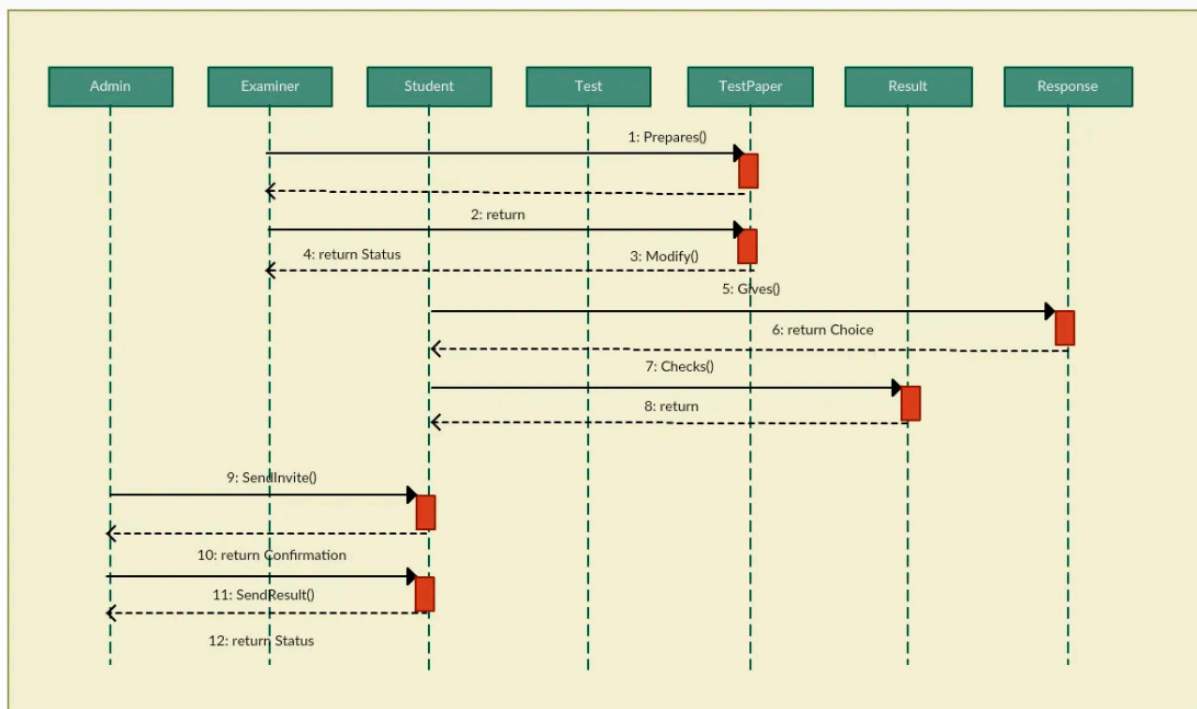
Creating a Sequence diagram from use case diagram

the particular use case above.

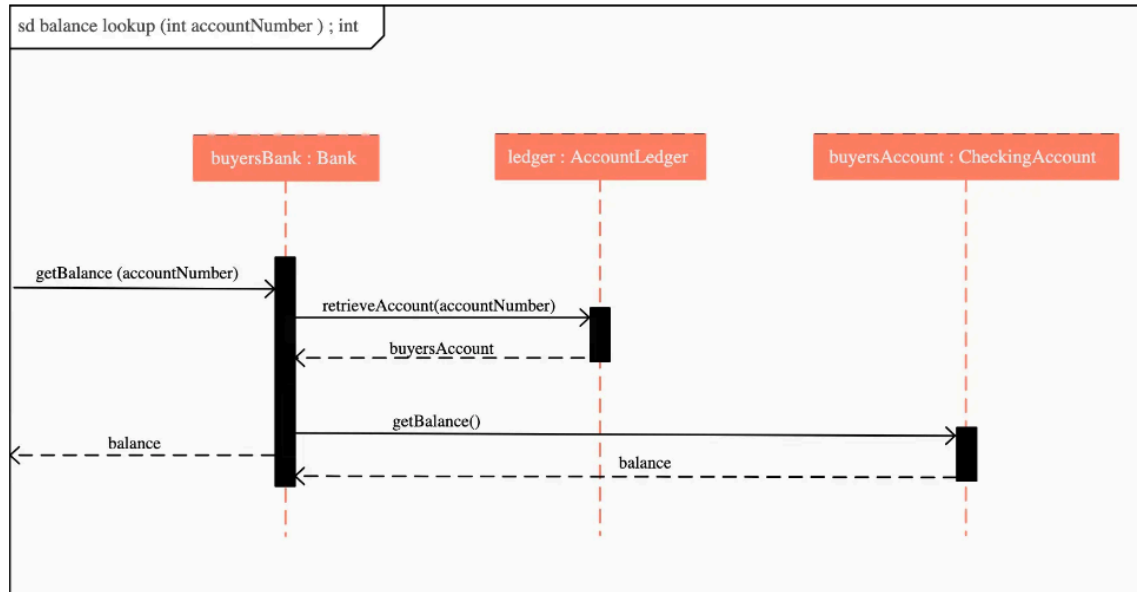




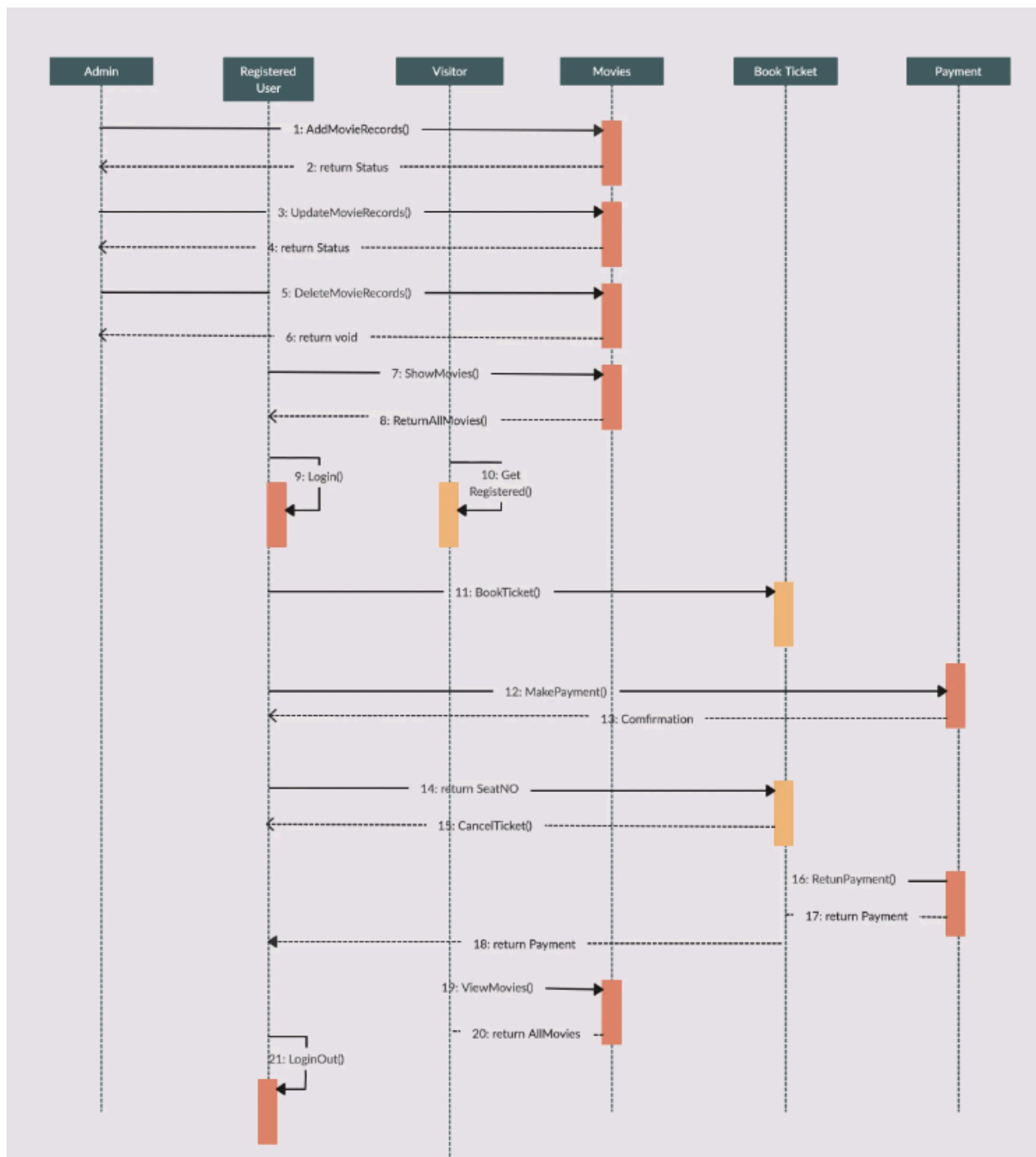
Sequence Diagram for Online Exam



Balance Lookup



Movie Ticket Booking System



END