Software Design, Modelling and Analysis in UML

Lecture 09: Class Diagrams IV

2012-11-27

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Contents & Goals

Last Lectures:

- Started to discuss "associations", the general case.

This Lecture:

- **Educational Objectives:** Capabilities for following tasks/questions.
  - Cont'd: Please explain this class diagram with associations.
  - When is a class diagram a good class diagram?
  - What are purposes of modelling guidelines? (Example?)
  - Discuss the style of this class diagram.
- **Content:**
  - Treat "the rest".
  - Where do we put OCL constraints?
  - Modelling guidelines, in particular for class diagrams (following [Ambler, 2005])

Associations: The Rest

The Rest

Recapitulation: Consider the following association:

$$\langle r : \langle role_1 : C_1, \mu_1, P_1, \xi_1, \nu_1, o_1\rangle, \ldots, \langle role_n : C_n, \mu_n, P_n, \xi_n, \nu_n, o_n\rangle\rangle$$

- **Association name** r and **role names/types** $role_i/C_i$ induce extended system states λ.
- **Multiplicity** μ is considered in OCL syntax.
- **Visibility** ξ/**Navigability** ν: well-typedness.

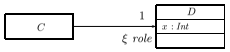
Now the rest:

- **Multiplicity** μ: we propose to view them as constraints.
- **Properties** P_i: even more typing.
- **Ownership** o: getting closer to pointers/references.
- **Diamonds**: exercise.

Visibility

Not so surprising: Visibility of role-names is treated completely similar to visibility of attributes, namely by **typing rules**.

Question: given



is the following OCL expression well-typed or not (wrt. visibility):

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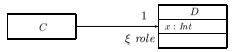

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Basically same rule as before: (analogously for other multiplicities)

$$(Assoc_1)\quad \frac{A, B \vdash expr_1 : \tau_C}{A, B \vdash role(expr_1) : \tau_D}, \quad \begin{array}{l}\mu = 0..1 \text{ or } \mu = 1,\\ \xi = +, \text{ or } \xi = - \text{ and } C = B\end{array}$$

$$\langle r : \ldots \langle role : D, \mu, \_, \xi, \_, \_\rangle, \ldots \langle role' : C, \_, \_, \_, \_, \_\rangle, \ldots\rangle \in V$$

Navigability

Navigability is similar to visibility: expressions over non-navigable association ends ($\nu = \times$) are **basically** type-correct, but **forbidden**.

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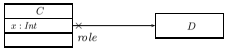

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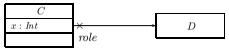

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The standard says:

- '$-$': navigation is possible
- '$\times$': navigation is not possible
- '$>$': navigation is efficient — by context decide what "efficient" means to you and communicate this to the developers

So: In general, UML associations are different from pointers/references!

But: Pointers/references can faithfully be modelled by UML associations.

The Rest of the Rest

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Multiplicities as Constraints

Recall: The multiplicity of an association end is a term of the form:

$$\mu ::= * \mid N \mid N..M \mid N..* \mid \mu, \mu \qquad (N, M \in \mathbb{N})$$

Proposal: View multiplicities (except $0..1$, 1) as additional invariants/constraints.

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Recall: we can normalize each multiplicity μ to the form

$$N_1..N_2,\ \ldots,\ N_{2k-1}..N_{2k}$$

e.g. $3, 10..12, 14$ $\overset{\text{normalize}}{\mapsto}$ $3..3, 10..12, 14..14$ — $*$ $\mapsto$ $0..*$

where $N_i \leq N_{i+1}$ for $1 \leq i \leq 2k$, $\quad N_1, \ldots, N_{2k-1} \in \mathbb{N}$, $\quad N_{2k} \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{*\}$.

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Define $\mu^C_{\mathsf{OCL}}(role) :=$ context C inv :

$(N_1 \leq role$ -> size() $\leq N_2)$ or $\ldots$ or $(N_{2k-1} \leq role$ -> size() $\leq N_{2k})$

omit if $N_{2k} = *$

for each $\mu \neq 0..1$, $\mu \neq 1$,

$\langle r : \ldots, \langle role : D, \mu, \_\_\_\_\_\rangle, \ldots, \langle role' : C, \_\_\_\_\_\rangle, \ldots\rangle \in V$ or

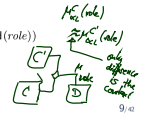
$\langle r : \ldots, \langle role' : C, \_\_\_\_\_\rangle, \ldots, \langle role : D, \mu, \_\_\_\_\_\rangle, \ldots\rangle \in V, role \neq role'$.

And **define**

$$\mu^C_{\mathsf{OCL}}(role) := \text{context } C \text{ inv : not(oclIsUndefined}(role))$$

for each $\mu = 1$.

Note: in n-ary associations with $n > 2$, there is redundancy.



Multiplicities as Constraints Example

$\mu^C_{\mathsf{OCL}}(role) =$ context C inv :

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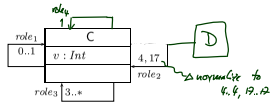
$\mathcal{CD}$:



$Inv(\mathcal{CD}) =$

- { context D inv : $4 \leq role_2$->size() ≤ 4 or $17 \leq role_2$->size() ≤ 17 }
- ∨ { context C inv : $3 \leq role_3$->size() }
- ∨ { context C' inv : not oclIsUndefined(role') }

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  use array of size 4 — if model behaviour (or the implementation) adds 5th identity, we'll get a runtime error, and thereby see that the constraint is violated. **Principally acceptable**, but: checks for array bounds everywhere...?
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- $\mu = 5..7$:
  could be represented by an array of size 7 — but: few programming languages/data structure libraries allow lower bounds for arrays (other than 0). If we have 5 identities and the model behaviour removes one, this should be a violation of the constraints imposed by the **model**.
  The implementation which does this removal is **wrong**. How do we see this...?

Multiplicities Never as Types...?

Well, if the **target platform** is known and fixed,
and the target platform has, for instance,

- reference types,
- range-checked arrays with positions $0, \ldots, N$,
- set types,

then we could simply **restrict** the syntax of multiplicities to

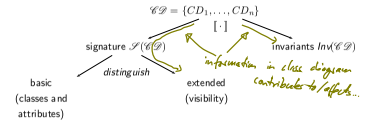
$$\mu ::= 1 \mid 0..N \mid *$$

and don't think about constraints
(but use the obvious 1-to-1 mapping to types)...

In general, **unfortunately**, we don't know.

Multiplicities as Constraints of Class Diagram

Recall/Later:



From now on: $\mathit{Inv}(\mathscr{CD}) = \{\text{constraints occurring in notes}\} \cup \{\mu^C_{\mathsf{OCL}}(role) \mid$

$\langle r : \ldots, \langle role : D, \mu, \_, \_, \_, \_ \rangle, \ldots, \langle role' : C, \_, \_, \_, \_, \_ \rangle, \ldots \rangle \in V$ or

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$role \neq role', \mu \notin \{0..1\}\}.$

Properties

We don't want to cover association **properties** in detail,
only some observations (assume binary associations):

Property	Intuition	Semantical Effect
unique	one object has **at most one** r-link to a single other object	**current setting**
bag	one object may have **multiple** r-links to a single other object	have $\lambda(r)$ yield multi-sets
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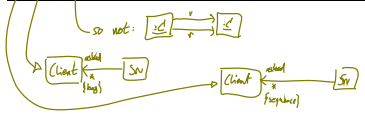

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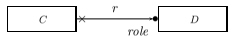
Property	OCL Typing of expression $role(expr)$
unique	$\tau_D \to Set(\tau_C)$
bag	$\tau_D \to Bag(\tau_C)$
ordered, **sequence**	$\tau_D \to Seq(\tau_C)$

For **subsets**, **redefines**, **union**, etc. see [OMG, 2007a, 127].

Ownership



Intuitively it says:

Association r is **not a "thing on its own"** (i.e. provided by λ),
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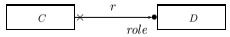

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So: if multiplicity of $role$ is $0..1$ or 1, then the picture above is very close to concepts of pointers/references.

Actually, ownership is seldom seen in UML diagrams. Again: if target platform is clear, one may well live without (cf. [OMG, 2007b, 42] for more details).

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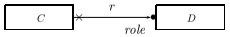

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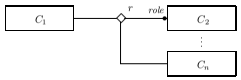
Not clear to me:



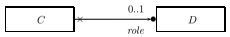
Back to the Main Track

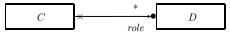
Back to the main track:

Recall: on some earlier slides we said, the extension of the signature is **only** to study associations in "full beauty".
For the remainder of the course, we should look for something simpler...

Proposal:

- **from now on**, we only use associations of the form

(i) 

(ii) 

(And we may omit the non-navigability and ownership symbols.)

- Form (i) introduces $role : C_{0,1}$, and form (ii) introduces $role : C_*$ in V.
- In both cases, $role \in atr(C)$.
- We drop λ and go back to our nice σ with $\sigma(u)(role) \subseteq \mathscr{P}(D)$.

OCL Constraints in (Class) Diagrams

Where Shall We Put OCL Constraints?

Numerous options:

(i) Additional documents.
(ii) Notes.
(iii) Particular dedicated places.

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(iii) Particular dedicated places.

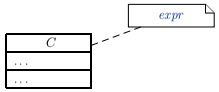
(i) **Notes**:

A UML **note** is a picture of the form

text can principally be **everything**, in particular **comments** and **constraints**.

Sometimes, content is **explicitly classified** for clarity:

OCL in Notes: Conventions



stands for

Where Shall We Put OCL Constraints?

(ii) **Particular dedicated places** in class diagrams: (behav. feature: later)

C
$\xi\ v : \tau\ \{p_1, \ldots, p_n\}\ \{expr\}$
$\xi\ f(v_1 : \tau, \ldots, v_n : \tau_n) : \tau\ \{p_1, \ldots, p_n\}$ {pre : $expr_1$ post : $expr_2$}

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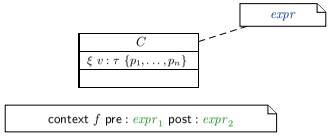
For simplicity, we view the above as an abbreviation for



Invariants of a Class Diagram

- Let $\mathcal{CD}$ be a class diagram.
- As we (now) are able to recognise OCL constraints when we see them, we can define

  $$Inv(\mathcal{CD})$$

  as the set $\{\varphi_1, \ldots, \varphi_n\}$ of OCL constraints **occurring** in notes in $\mathcal{CD}$ — after **unfolding** all abbreviations (cf. next slides).

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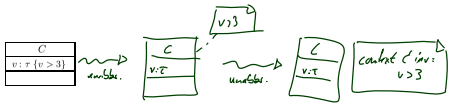
- As usual: $Inv(\mathscr{C}\mathscr{D}) := \bigcup_{\mathcal{CD} \in \mathscr{C}\mathscr{D}} Inv(\mathcal{CD})$. + implicit constraints from multiplicities (in general)
- **Principally clear**: $Inv(\cdot)$ for any kind of diagram.

Invariant in Class Diagram Example



If $\mathscr{CD}$ consists of only $\mathcal{CD}$ with the single class C, then

- $\mathit{Inv}(\mathscr{CD}) = \mathit{Inv}(\mathcal{CD}) =$
  $\{\text{context } C \text{ inv}: v > 3\}$

Semantics of a Class Diagram

Definition. Let $\mathscr{CD}$ be a set of class diagrams.

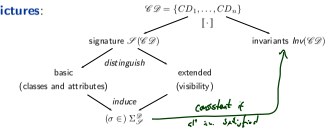
We say, the semantics of $\mathscr{CD}$ is the signature it induces and the set of OCL constraints occurring in $\mathscr{CD}$, denoted

$$[\![\mathscr{CD}]\!] := \langle \mathscr{S}(\mathscr{CD}), \mathit{Inv}(\mathscr{CD}) \rangle.$$

Given a structure $\mathscr{D}$ of $\mathscr{S}$ (and thus of $\mathscr{CD}$), the class diagrams describe the system states $\Sigma^{\mathscr{D}}_{\mathscr{S}}$. Of those, **some** satisfy $\mathit{Inv}(\mathscr{CD})$ and some don't.

We call a system state $\sigma \in \Sigma^{\mathscr{D}}_{\mathscr{S}}$ consistent if and only if $\sigma \models \mathit{Inv}(\mathscr{CD})$.

In pictures:



Pragmatics

Recall: a UML **model** is an image or pre-image of a software system.

A set of class diagrams $\mathscr{CD}$ with invariants $\mathit{Inv}(\mathscr{CD})$ describes the **structure** of system states.

Together with the invariants it can be used to state:

- **Pre-image**: Dear programmer, please provide an implementation which uses only system states that satisfy $\mathit{Inv}(\mathscr{CD})$.
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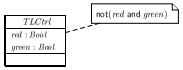
Example: highly abstract model of traffic lights controller.



Constraints vs. Types

Find the 10 differences:

C
$x : \mathit{Int}\ \{x = 3 \vee x > 17\}$

C
$x : T$

$\mathscr{D}(T) = \{3\}$
$\cup \{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid n > 17\}$

- $x = 4$ is well-typed in the left context,
  a system state satisfying $x = 4$ violates the constraints of the diagram.
- $x = 4$ is not even well-typed in the right context,
  there cannot be a system state with $\sigma(u)(x) = 4$ because $\sigma(u)(x)$ is supposed to be in $\mathscr{D}(T)$ (by definition of system state).

Constraints vs. Types

Find the 10 differences:

C
$x : \mathit{Int}\ \{x = 3 \vee x > 17\}$

C
$x : T$

$\mathscr{D}(T) = \{3\}$
$\cup \{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid n > 17\}$

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Rule-of-thumb:

- If something **"feels like" a type** (one criterion: has a natural correspondence in the application domain), then make it a type.
- If something is a **requirement** or restriction of an otherwise useful type, then make it a constraint.

Design Guidelines for (Class) Diagram

(partly following [Ambler, 2005])

Be careful whose advice you buy, but,
be patient with those who supply it.

Baz Luhrmann/Mary Schmich

Main and General Modelling Guideline *(admittedly: trivial and obvious)*

Be good to your audience.

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"Imagine you're given **your** diagram $\mathcal{D}$ and asked to conduct task $\mathcal{T}$.

- Can you do $\mathcal{T}$ with $\mathcal{D}$?
  (semantics sufficiently clear? all necessary information available? ...)
- Does doing $\mathcal{T}$ with $\mathcal{D}$ cost you more nerves/time/money/...than it should?"
  (syntactical well-formedness? readability? intention of deviations from standard syntax clear? reasonable selection of information? layout? ...)

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In other words:

- the things **most relevant** for $\mathcal{T}$, do they **stand out** in $\mathcal{D}$? if yes, good
- the things **less relevant** for $\mathcal{T}$, do they **disturb** in $\mathcal{D}$? if yes, bad

Main and General Quality Criterion *(again: trivial and obvious)*

- **Q:** When is a (class) diagram a good diagram?

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  - realizable, no contradictions
  - abstract, focused, admitting degrees of freedom for (more detailed) design
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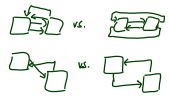
- **Documentation**
  - Right level of abstraction: "if you've only one diagram to spend, illustrate the concepts, the architecture, the difficult part"
  - The more detailed the documentation, the higher the probability for regression "outdated/wrong documentation is worse than none"

General Diagramming Guidelines *[Ambler, 2005]*

(Note: "Exceptions prove the rule.")

- **2.1 Readability**
  - 1.–3. Support Readability of Lines



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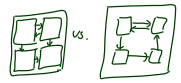

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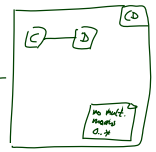

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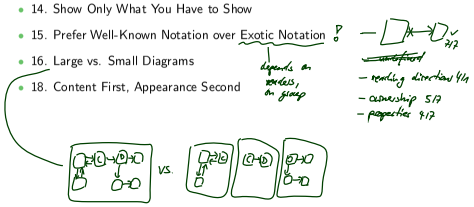

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- **2.4 General**
  - 24. Indicate Unknowns with Question-Marks
  - 25. Consider Applying Color to Your Diagram
  - 26. Apply Color Sparingly

Class Diagram Guidelines [Ambler, 2005]

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Class Diagram Guidelines [Ambler, 2005]

- **5.1 General Guidelines**
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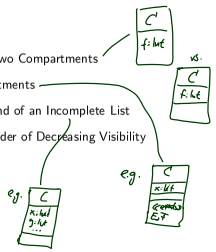
- **5.2 Class Style Guidelines**
  - 96. Prefer Complete Singular Nouns for Class Names
  - 97. Name Operations with Strong Verbs
  - 99. Do Not Model Scaffolding Code **[Except for Exceptions]**

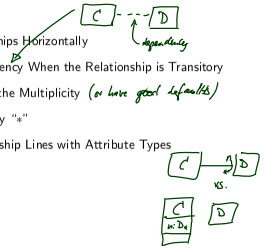
Class Diagram Guidelines [Ambler, 2005]

- **5.2 Class Style Guidelines**
  - 103. Never Show Classes with Just Two Compartments
  - 104. Label Uncommon Class Compartments
  - 105. Include an Ellipsis (...) at the End of an Incomplete List
  - 107. List Operations/Attributes in Order of Decreasing Visibility



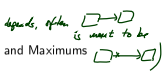
Class Diagram Guidelines [Ambler, 2005]

- **5.3 Relationships**
  - 112. Model Relationships Horizontally
  - 115. Model a Dependency When the Relationship is Transitory
  - 117. Always Indicate the Multiplicity *(or have good defaults)*
  - 118. Avoid Multiplicity "*"
  - 119. Replace Relationship Lines with Attribute Types



Class Diagram Guidelines [Ambler, 2005]

- **5.4 Associations**
  - 127. Indicate Role Names When Multiple Associations Between Two Classes Exist
  - 129. Make Associations Bidirectional Only When Collaboration Occurs in Both Directions
  - **131. Avoid Indicating Non-Navigability** *(it depends, often is unsure to be)*
  - 133. Question Multiplicities Involving Minimums and Maximums



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- **5.6 Aggregation and Composition**
  - → exercises

[...] But trust me on the sunscreen.

Baz Luhrmann/Mary Schmich

Example: Modelling Games

Task: Game Development

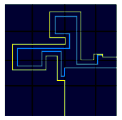
Task: develop a video game. **Genre**: Racing. **Rest**: open, i.e.

Degrees of freedom:	
• simulation vs. arcade	
• platform (SDK or not, open or proprietary, hardware capabilities...)	
• graphics (3D, 2D, ...)	
• number of players, AI	
• controller	
• game experience	

Task: Game Development

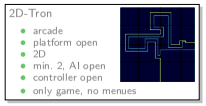
Task: develop a video game. **Genre**: Racing. **Rest**: open, i.e.

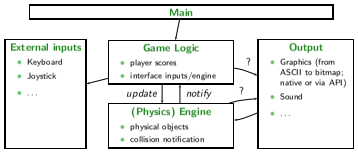
Degrees of freedom:	Exemplary choice: 2D-Tron
• simulation vs. arcade	arcade
• platform (SDK or not, open or proprietary, hardware capabilities...)	open
• graphics (3D, 2D, ...)	2D
• number of players, AI	min. 2, AI open
• controller	open (later determined by platform)
• game experience	minimal: main menu and game



Modelling Structure: 2D-Tron

- In many domains, there are canonical architectures – and adept readers try to see/find/match this!
- For games:





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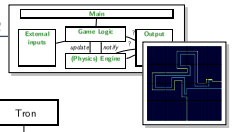

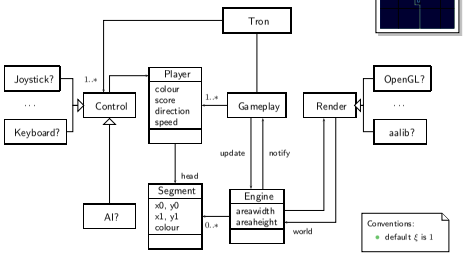

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[OMG, 2007b] OMG (2007b). Unified modeling language: Superstructure, version 2.1.2. Technical Report formal/07-11-02.