Software Design, Modelling and Analysis in UML Lecture 20: Live Sequence Charts

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Contents & Goals

Last Lecture:

- Hierarchical State Machines completed.
- Behavioural feature (aka. methods).

This Lecture:

- Educational Objectives: Capabilities for following tasks/questions.
 - What does this LSC mean?
 - Are this UML model's state machines consistent with the interactions?
 - Please provide a UML model which is consistent with this LSC.
 - What is: activation, hot/cold condition, pre-chart, etc.?

• Content:

- Reflective description of behaviour.
- LSC concrete and abstract syntax.
- LSC semantics.
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You are here.



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Motivation: Reflective, Dynamic Descriptions of Behaviour

Recall: Constructive vs. Reflective Descriptions

[Harel, 1997] proposes to distinguish constructive and reflective descriptions:

• "A language is **constructive** if it contributes to the dynamic semantics of the model. That is, its constructs contain information needed in executing the model or in translating it into executable code."

A constructive description tells **how** things are computed (which can then be desired or undesired).

 "Other languages are reflective or assertive, and can be used by the system modeler to capture parts of the thinking that go into building the model – behavior included –, to derive and present views of the model, statically or during execution, or to set constraints on behavior in preparation for verification."

A reflective description tells what shall or shall not be computed.

Note: No sharp boundaries!

Recall:

- The semantics of the UML model $\mathcal{M} = (\mathscr{CD}, \mathscr{SM}, \mathscr{OD})$ is the transition system (S, \rightarrow, S_0) constructed according to discard/dispatch/commence-rules.
- The computations of \mathcal{M} , denoted by $\llbracket \mathcal{M} \rrbracket$, are the computations of (S, \rightarrow, S_0) .

Now:

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A reflective description tells what shall or shall not be computed.

More formally: a requirement ϑ is a property of computations; something which is either satisfied or not satisfied by a computation

$$\pi = (\sigma_0, \varepsilon_0) \xrightarrow{(cons_0, Snd_0)} (\sigma_1, \varepsilon_1) \xrightarrow{(cons_1, Snd_1)} \dots \in \llbracket \mathcal{M} \rrbracket$$

denoted by $\pi \models \vartheta$ and $\pi \not\models \vartheta$, resp. Simplest case: OCL constraint.

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| | 71 |
| | |

Live Sequence Charts — Concrete Syntax



Example: What Is Required?



- Whenever the CrossingCtrl has consumed a 'secreq' event
- then it shall finally send 'lights_on' and 'barrier_down' to LightsCtrl and BarrierCtrl,
- if LightsCtrl is not 'operational' when receiving that event, the rest of this scenario doesn't apply; maybe there's another LSC for that case.
- if LightsCtrl is 'operational' when receiving that event, it shall reply with 'lights_ok' within 1–3 time units,
- the BarrierCtrl shall reply with 'barrier_ok' within 1-5 time units, during this time (dispatch time not included) it shall not be in state 'MvUp',
- 'lights_ok' and 'barrier_ok' may occur in any order.
- After having consumed both, CrossingCtrl may reply with 'done' to the environment.

Building Blocks



• Instance Lines:



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Building Blocks



b

• Messages: (asynchronous or synchronous/instantaneous)

a



Building Blocks



• Conditions and Local Invariants: ($expr_1, expr_2, expr_3 \in Expr_{\mathscr{S}}$)



Intuitive Semantics: A Partial Order on Simclasses

(i) Strictly After:





(ii) **Simultaneously:** (simultaneous region)



(iii) Explicitly Unordered: (co-region)



Partial Order Requirements



- Whenever the CrossingCtrl has consumed a 'secreq' event
- then it shall finally send 'lights_on' and 'barrier_down' to LightsCtrl and BarrierCtrl,
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LSC Specialty: Modes

With LSCs,

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- whole charts,
- locations, and
- elements

have a mode — one of hot or cold (graphically indicated by outline).



Example: Modes



- Whenever the CrossingCtrl has consumed a 'secreq' event
- then it shall finally send 'lights_on' and 'barrier_down' to LightsCtrl and BarrierCtrl,
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LSC Specialty: Activation

One **major defect** of **MSCs and SDs**: they don't say **when** the scenario has to/may be observed.





AC: expr AM: invariant I: strict



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One **major defect** of **MSCs and SDs**: they don't say **when** the scenario has to/may be observed.

LSCs: Activation condition (AC $\in Expr_{\mathscr{S}}$), activation mode (AM $\in \{init, inv\}$), and pre-chart.





Intuition: (universal case)

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- given a computation π , whenever *expr* holds in a configuration $(\sigma_i, \varepsilon_i)$ of ξ
 - which is initial, i.e. k = 0, or
 - whose k is not further restricted,

and if the pre-chart is observed from k to k + n, then the main-chart has to follow from k + n + 1.

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(AM = initial)

(AM = invariant)

Example: What Is Required?



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Live Sequence Charts — Semantics in a Nutshell

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Restricted Syntax



Restricted Abstract Syntax



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Cuts



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Firedsets



Towards Automata









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 $l_{1,2}$

 $l_{2,3}$

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Loops





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Language





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Course Map



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Language of a Model

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Words over Signature

Definition. Let $\mathscr{S} = (\mathscr{T}, \mathscr{C}, V, atr, \mathscr{E})$ be a signature and \mathscr{D} a structure of \mathscr{S} . A word over \mathscr{S} and \mathscr{D} is an infinite sequence

 $(\sigma_i, cons_i, Snd_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}_0} \\ \in \left(\Sigma_{\mathscr{S}}^{\mathscr{D}} \times 2^{\mathscr{D}(\mathscr{C}) \times Evs(\mathscr{E}, \mathscr{D}) \times \mathscr{D}(\mathscr{C})} \times 2^{\mathscr{D}(\mathscr{C}) \times Evs(\mathscr{E}, \mathscr{D}) \times \mathscr{D}(\mathscr{C})} \right)^{\omega}.$

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The Language of a Model

Recall: A UML model $\mathcal{M} = (\mathscr{CD}, \mathscr{SM}, \mathscr{OD})$ and a structure \mathscr{D} denotes a set $[\![\mathcal{M}]\!]$ of (initial and consecutive) **computations** of the form

$$(\sigma_0, \varepsilon_0) \xrightarrow{a_0} (\sigma_1, \varepsilon_1) \xrightarrow{a_1} (\sigma_2, \varepsilon_2) \xrightarrow{a_2} \dots \text{ where}$$
$$a_i = (cons_i, Snd_i, u_i) \in \underbrace{2^{\mathscr{D}(\mathscr{C}) \times Evs(\mathscr{E}, \mathscr{D}) \times \mathscr{D}(\mathscr{C})}}_{=:\tilde{A}} \times \mathscr{D}(\mathscr{C}).$$

For the connection between models and interactions, we **disregard** the configuration of **the ether** and **who** made the step, and define as follows:

Definition. Let $\mathcal{M} = (\mathscr{CD}, \mathscr{SM}, \mathscr{OD})$ be a UML model and \mathscr{D} a structure. Then $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{M}) := \{(\sigma_i, cons_i, Snd_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}_0} \in (\Sigma_{\mathscr{SP}}^{\mathscr{D}} \times \tilde{A})^{\omega} \mid \\ \exists (\varepsilon_i, u_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}_0} : (\sigma_0, \varepsilon_0) \xrightarrow{(cons_0, Snd_0)} (\sigma_1, \varepsilon_1) \cdots \in \llbracket \mathcal{M} \rrbracket \}$ is the language of \mathcal{M} .

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Example: The Language of a Model

 $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{M}) := \{ (\sigma_i, cons_i, Snd_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}_0} \in (\Sigma_{\mathscr{S}}^{\mathscr{D}} \times \tilde{A})^{\omega} \mid \\ \exists (\varepsilon_i, u_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}_0} : (\sigma_0, \varepsilon_0) \xrightarrow[u_0]{(cons_0, Snd_0)} (\sigma_1, \varepsilon_1) \cdots \in \llbracket \mathcal{M} \rrbracket \}$

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Signal and Attribute Expressions

- Let $\mathscr{S} = (\mathscr{T}, \mathscr{C}, V, atr, \mathscr{E})$ be a signature and X a set of logical variables,
- The signal and attribute expressions $Expr_{\mathscr{S}}(\mathscr{E}, X)$ are defined by the grammar:

 $\psi ::= true \mid expr \mid E_{x,y}^! \mid E_{x,y}^? \mid \neg \psi \mid \psi_1 \lor \psi_2 \mid \mathcal{E}_{xy}^{!?}$ where $expr : Bool \in Expr_{\mathscr{S}}, E \in \mathscr{E}, x, y \in X.$ Set of variables



Alternative: keep track of event identities.

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TBA over Signature

Definition. A TBA

 $\mathcal{B} = (Expr_{\mathcal{B}}(X), X, Q, q_{ini}, \rightarrow, Q_F)$

where $Expr_{\mathcal{B}}(X)$ is the set of signal and attribute expressions $Expr_{\mathscr{S}}(\mathscr{E}, X)$ over signature \mathscr{S} is called **TBA over** \mathscr{S} .

• Any word over \mathscr{S} and \mathscr{D} is then a word for \mathcal{B} . (By the satisfaction relation defined on the previous slide; $\mathscr{D}(X) = \mathscr{D}(\mathscr{C})$.)

• Thus a TBA over \mathscr{S} accepts words of models with signature \mathscr{S} . (By the previous definition of TBA.)

TBA over Signature Example



| $(\sigma, cons, Snd) \models$ | $=_{\beta} expr$ | iff $I[[expr]](\sigma,\beta) = 1;$ |
|---|-----------------------|--|
| $(\sigma, \mathit{cons}, \mathit{Snd}) \models$ | $=_{\beta} E_{x,y}^!$ | iff $(\beta(x), (E, \vec{d}), \beta(y)) \in Snd$ |



Activation Condition



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Universal vs. Existential Charts



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Prechart



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Conditions

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Conditions





Model Consistency wrt. Interaction

• We assume that the set of interactions \mathscr{I} is partitioned into two (possibly empty) sets of **universal** and **existential** interactions, i.e.

$$\mathscr{I}=\mathscr{I}_\forall \mathrel{\dot{\cup}} \mathscr{I}_\exists.$$

Definition. A model

$$\mathcal{M} = (\mathscr{CD}, \mathscr{SM}, \mathscr{OD}, \mathscr{I})$$

is called **consistent** (more precise: the constructive description of behaviour is consistent with the reflective one) if and only if

$$\mathcal{J}\mathcal{I} \in \mathscr{I}_{\forall} : \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{M}) \subseteq \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{I})$$

and

 $\forall \, \mathcal{I} \in \mathscr{I}_\exists : \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{M}) \cap \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{I}) \neq \emptyset.$

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Interactions as Reflective Description

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- In UML, reflective (temporal) descriptions are subsumed by interactions.
- A UML model $\mathcal{M} = (\mathscr{CD}, \mathscr{SM}, \mathscr{OD}, \mathscr{I})$ has a set of interactions \mathscr{I} .
- An interaction $\mathcal{I} \in \mathscr{I}$ can be (OMG claim: equivalently) diagrammed as
 - sequence diagram, timing diagram, or
 - communication diagram (formerly known as collaboration diagram).



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Why Sequence Diagrams?

Most Prominent: Sequence Diagrams — with long history:

- Message Sequence Charts, standardized by the ITU in different versions, often accused to lack a formal semantics.
- Sequence Diagrams of UML 1.x

Most severe drawbacks of these formalisms:

- unclear interpretation: example scenario or invariant?
- unclear activation: what triggers the requirement?
- unclear progress requirement: must all messages be observed?
- conditions merely comments
- no means to express forbidden scenarios

Thus: Live Sequence Charts

- SDs of UML 2.x address some issues, yet the standard exhibits unclarities and even contradictions [Harel and Maoz, 2007, Störrle, 2003]
- For the lecture, we consider Live Sequence Charts (LSCs) [Damm and Harel, 2001, Klose, 2003, Harel and Marelly, 2003], who have a common fragment with UML 2.x SDs [Harel and Maoz, 2007]
- Modelling guideline: stick to that fragment.

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