

Chapter 5 – System Modeling

System modeling



- ♦ System modeling is the process of developing abstract models of a system.
- ♦ Each model presents a different view or perspective of that system.
- ♦ System modeling has now come to mean representing a system using some kind of graphical notation, which is now almost always based on notations in the Unified Modeling Language (UML).
- ♦ System modelling helps the analyst to understand the functionality of the system.
- ♦ Models are used to communicate with customers.

System perspectives



- ♦ An external perspective, where you model the context or environment of the system.
- ♦ An interaction perspective, where you model the interactions between a system and its environment, or between the components of a system.
- ♦ A structural perspective, where you model the organization of a system or the **structure of the data** that is processed by the system.
- ♦ A behavioral perspective, where you model the dynamic behavior of the system and how it responds to events.

UML diagram types



- ♦ Use case diagrams, which show the interactions between a system and its environment.
- ♦ Sequence diagrams, which show interactions between actors and the system and between system components.
- ♦ Class diagrams, which show the object classes in the system and the associations between these classes.
- ♦ State diagrams, which show how the system reacts to internal and external events.
- Activity diagrams, which show the activities involved in a process or in data processing.



Context models

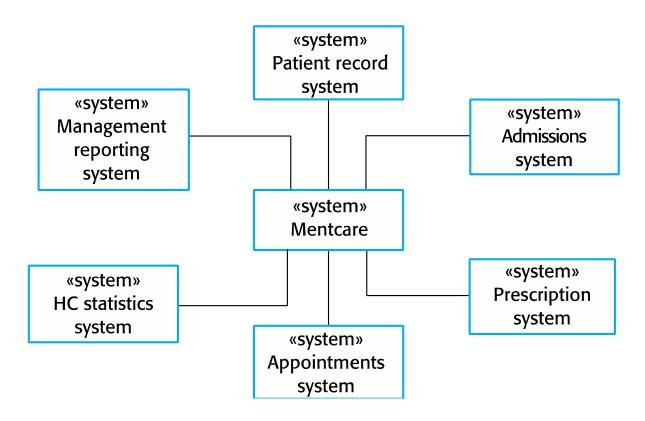
Context models



- ♦ Context models are used to illustrate the operational context of a system - they show what lies outside the system boundaries.
- ♦ Architectural models show the system and its relationship with other systems.
- ♦ System boundaries are established to define what is inside and what is outside the system.
 - They show other systems that are used or depend on the system being developed.
- ♦ The position of the system boundary has a profound effect on the system requirements.

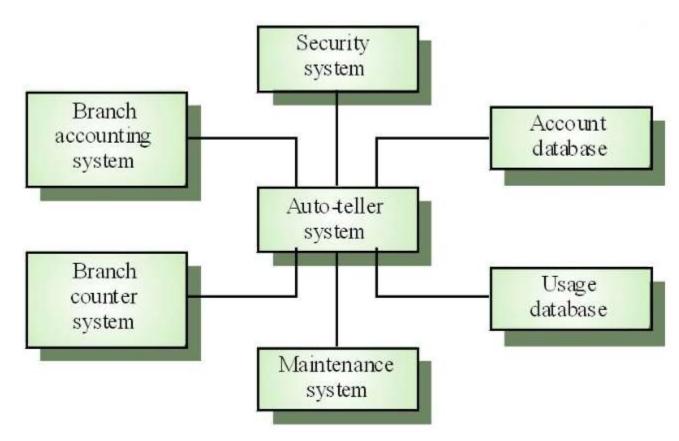






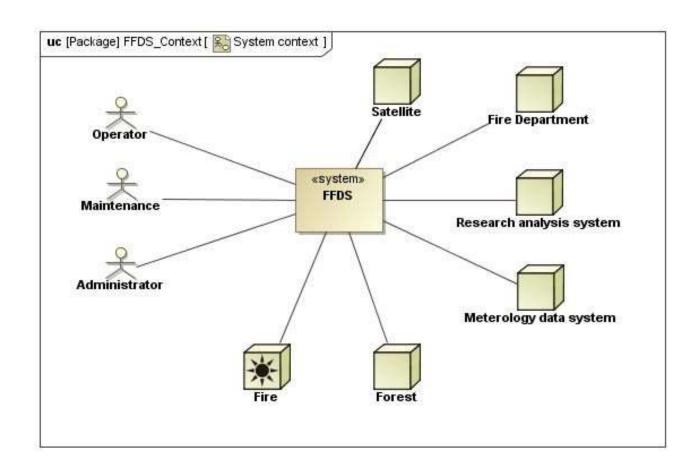












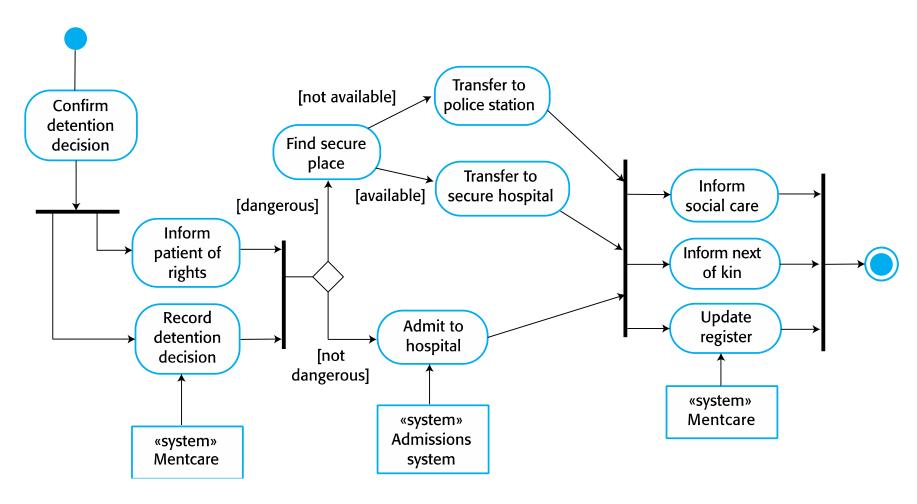
Process perspective



- Context models simply show the other systems in the environment.
- ♦ Simple context models are used along with other models, such as business process models.
- ♦ Process models reveal how the system being developed is used in broader business processes.
- ♦ UML activity diagrams may be used to define business process models.
- Activity diagram is basically a flowchart to represent the flow from one activity to another activity.

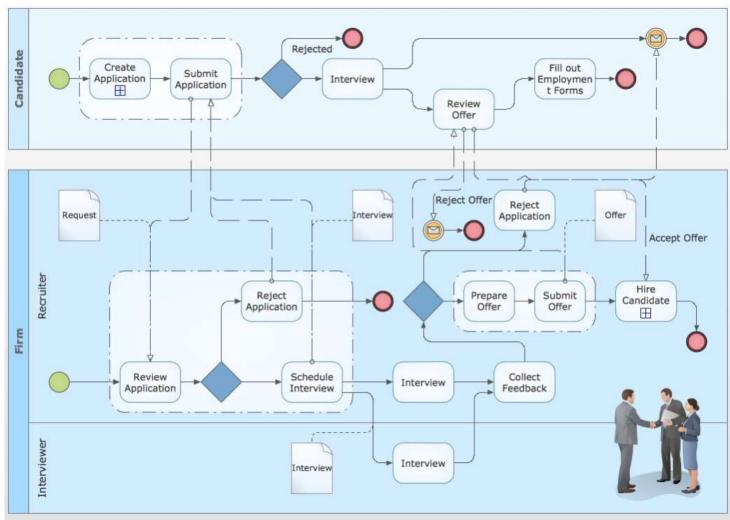








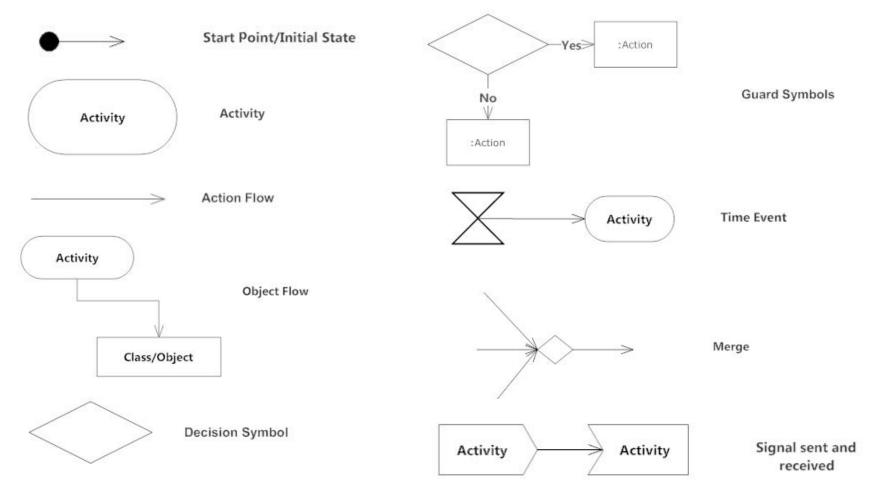




Activity Diagram Symbols

https://www.smartdraw.com/activity-diagram/

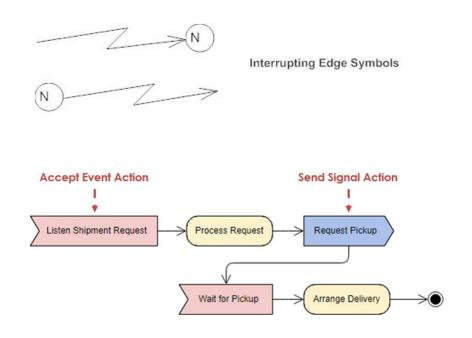




Activity Diagram Symbols

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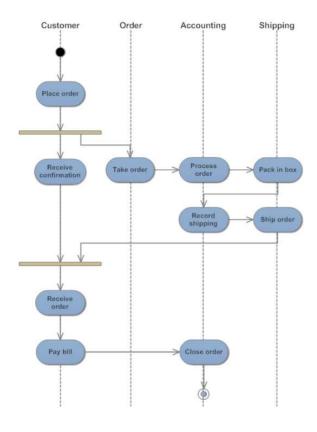




Swimlanes

Swimlanes group related activities into one column.

UML Activity Diagram: Order Processing





Interaction models

Interaction models



- ♦ Modeling user interaction is important as it helps to identify user requirements.
- Modeling system-to-system interaction highlights the communication problems that may arise.
- ♦ Modeling component interaction helps us understand if a proposed system structure is likely to deliver the required system performance and dependability.
- ♦ Use case diagrams and sequence diagrams may be used for interaction modelling.

Use case modeling



- Use cases were developed originally to support requirements elicitation and now incorporated into the UML.
- ♦ Each use case represents a discrete task that involves external interaction with a system.
- ♦ Actors in a use case may be people or other systems.
- ♦ Represented diagrammatically to provide an overview of the use case and in a more detailed textual form.





♦ A use case in the Mentcare system



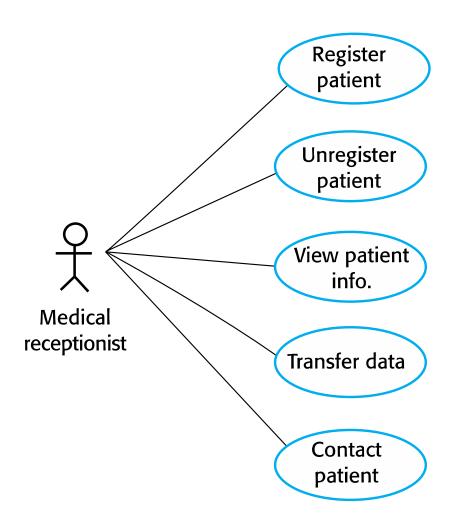
Tabular description of the 'Transfer data' usecase



MHC-PMS: Transfer data	
Actors	Medical receptionist, patient records system (PRS)
Description	A receptionist may transfer data from the Mentcase system to a general patient record database that is maintained by a health authority. The information transferred may either be updated personal information (address, phone number, etc.) or a summary of the patient's diagnosis and treatment.
Data	Patient's personal information, treatment summary
Stimulus	User command issued by medical receptionist
Response	Confirmation that PRS has been updated
Comments	The receptionist must have appropriate security permissions to access the patient information and the PRS.

Use cases in the Mentcare system involving the role 'Medical Receptionist'





Sequence diagrams

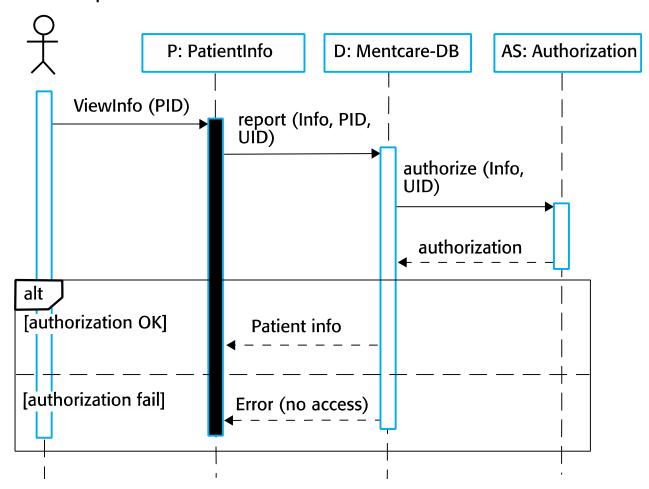


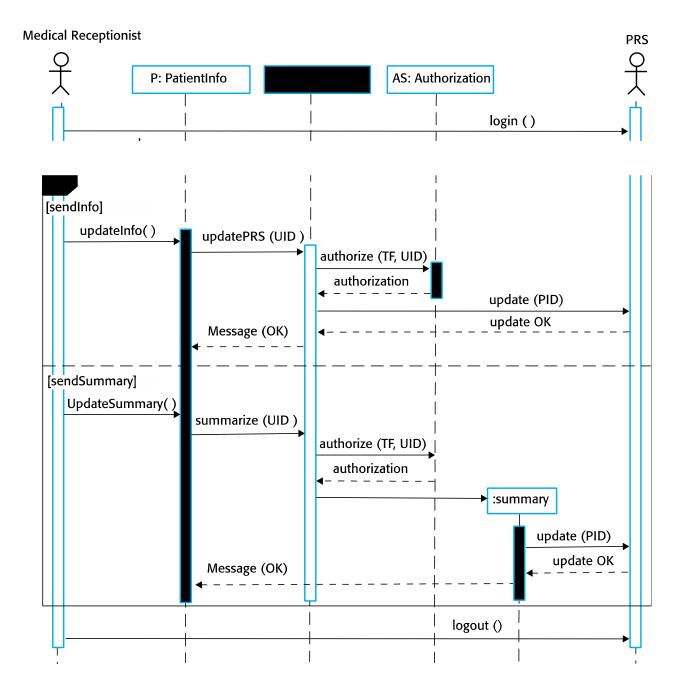
- ♦ Sequence diagrams are part of the UML and are used to model the interactions between the actors and the objects within a system.
- ♦ A sequence diagram shows the sequence of interactions that take place during a particular use case or use case instance.
- The objects and actors involved are listed along the top of the diagram, with a dotted line drawn vertically from these.
- Interactions between objects are indicated by annotated arrows.





Medical Receptionist







Sequence diagram for Transfer Data



Structural models

Structural models



- ♦ Structural models of software display the organization of a system in terms of the components that make up that system and their relationships.
- ♦ Structural models may be static models, which show the structure of the system design, or dynamic models, which show the organization of the system when it is executing.
- ♦ You create structural models of a system when you are discussing and designing the system architecture.

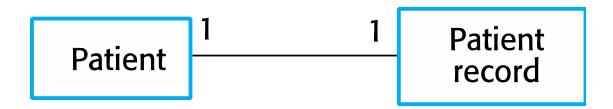
Class diagrams



- Class diagrams are used when developing an objectoriented system model to show the classes in a system and the associations between these classes.
- An object class can be thought of as a general definition of one kind of system object.
- ♦ An association is a link between classes that indicates that there is some relationship between these classes.
- When you are developing models during the early stages of the software engineering process, objects represent something in the real world, such as a patient, a prescription, doctor, etc.

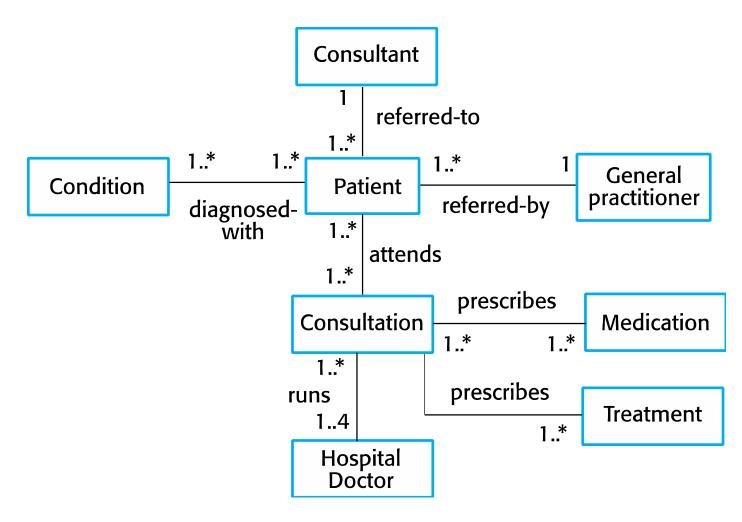


UML classes and association









The Consultation class



Consultation

Doctors
Date
Time
Clinic
Reason
Medication prescribed
Treatment prescribed
Voice notes
Transcript

New ()
Prescribe ()
RecordNotes ()
Transcribe ()

...

Generalization



- ♦ Generalization is an everyday technique that we use to manage complexity.
- ♦ Rather than learn the detailed characteristics of every entity that we experience, we place these entities in more general classes (animals, cars, houses, etc.) and learn the characteristics of these classes.
- ♦ This allows us to infer that different members of these classes have some common characteristics e.g. squirrels and rats are rodents.

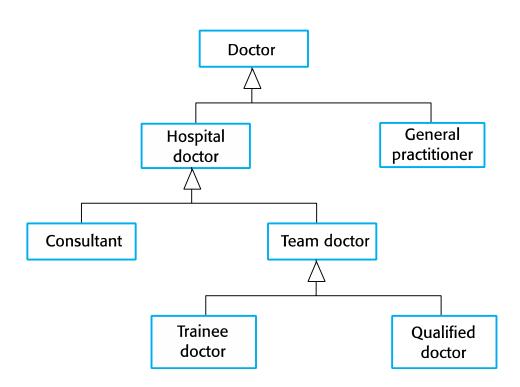
Generalization



- ♦ In modeling systems, it is often useful to examine the classes in a system to see if there is scope for generalization.
- ♦ In object-oriented languages, such as Java, generalization is implemented using the class inheritance mechanisms built into the language.
- ♦ In a generalization, the attributes and operations associated with higher-level classes are also associated with the lower-level classes.
- ♦ The lower-level classes are subclasses inherit the attributes and operations from their superclasses. These lower-level classes then add more specific attributes and operations.

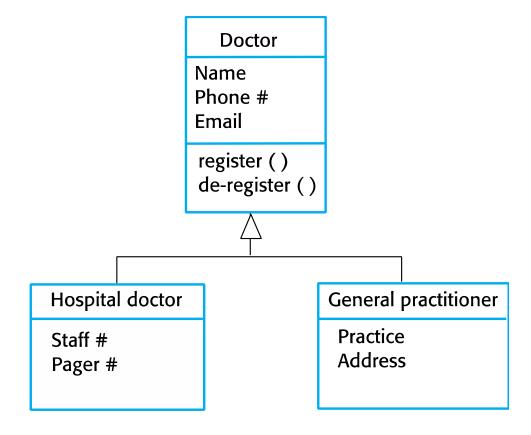








A generalization hierarchy with added detail



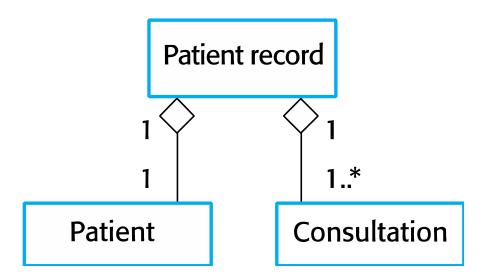
Object class aggregation models



- An aggregation model shows how classes that are collections are composed of other classes.
- Aggregation models are similar to the part-of relationship in semantic data models.









Behavioral models

Behavioral models



- ♦ Behavioral models are models of the dynamic behavior of a system as it is executing. They show what happens or what is supposed to happen when a system responds to a stimulus from its environment.
- ♦ You can think of these stimuli as being of two types:
 - Data Some data arrives that has to be processed by the system.
 - Events Some event happens that triggers system processing.
 Events may have associated data, although this is not always the case.

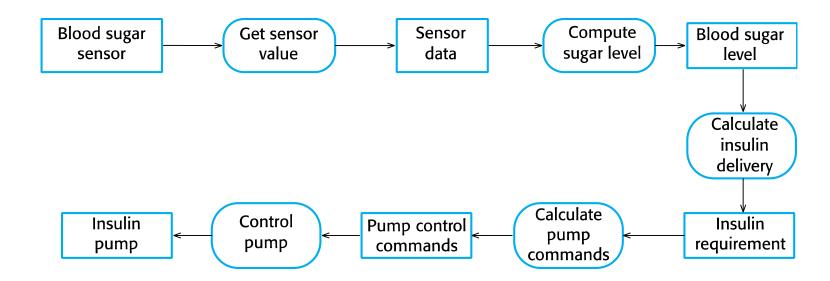
Data-driven modeling



- Many business systems are data-processing systems that are primarily driven by data.
- ♦ They are controlled by the data input to the system, with relatively little external event processing.
- Data-driven models show the sequence of actions involved in processing input data and generating an associated output.
- They are particularly useful during the analysis of requirements as they can be used to show end-to-end processing in a system.

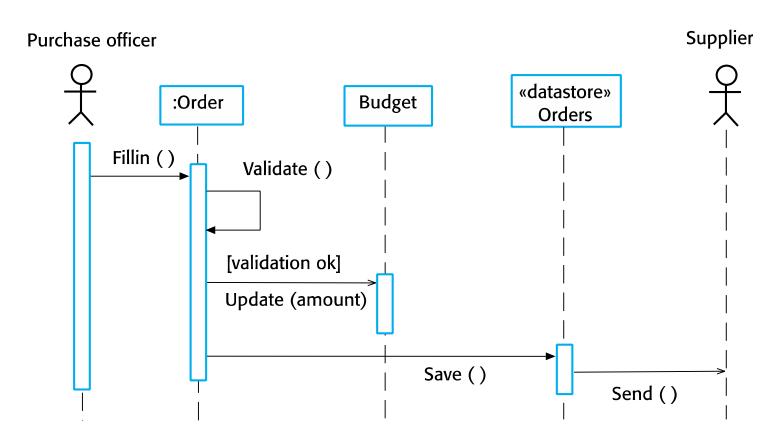
An activity model of the insulin pump's operation











Event-driven modeling



- Real-time systems are often event-driven, with minimal data processing. For example, a landline phone switching system responds to events such as 'receiver off hook' by generating a dial tone.
- ♦ Event-driven modeling shows how a system responds to external and internal events.
- ♦ It is based on the assumption that a system has a finite number of states and that events (stimuli) may cause a transition from one state to another.

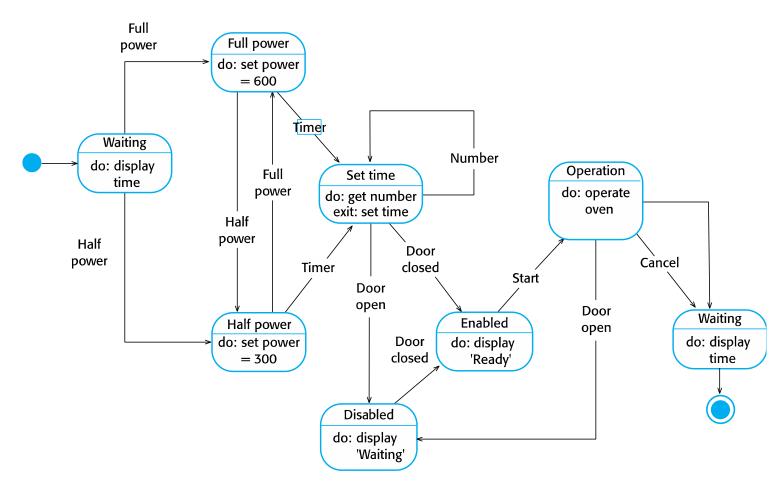
State machine models



- ♦ These model the behaviour of the system in response to external and internal events.
- ♦ They show the system's responses to stimuli so are often used for modelling real-time systems.
- ♦ State machine models show system states as nodes and events as arcs between these nodes. When an event occurs, the system moves from one state to another.
- ♦ Statecharts are an integral part of the UML and are used to represent state machine models.

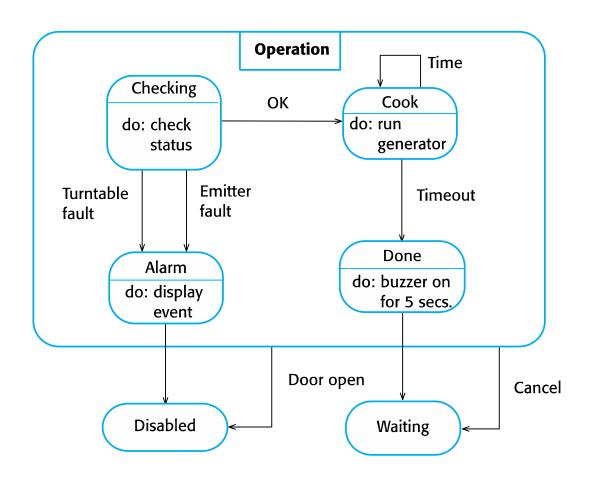






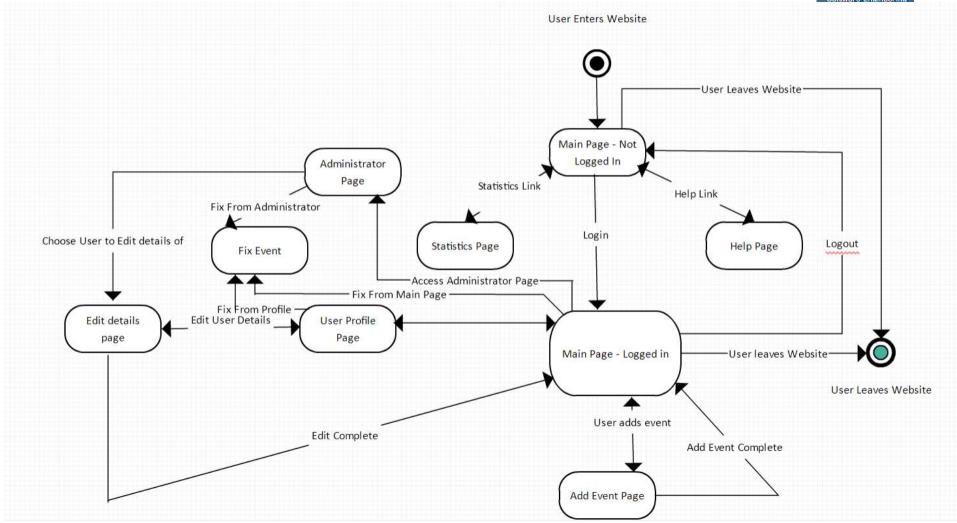














States and stimuli for the microwave oven (a)

State	Description
Waiting	The oven is waiting for input. The display shows the current time.
Half power	The oven power is set to 300 watts. The display shows 'Half power'.
Full power	The oven power is set to 600 watts. The display shows 'Full power'.
Set time	The cooking time is set to the user's input value. The display shows the cooking time selected and is updated as the time is set.
Disabled	Oven operation is disabled for safety. Interior oven light is on. Display shows 'Not ready'.
Enabled	Oven operation is enabled. Interior oven light is off. Display shows 'Ready to cook'.
Operation	Oven in operation. Interior oven light is on. Display shows the timer countdown. On completion of cooking, the buzzer is sounded for five seconds. Oven light is on. Display shows 'Cooking complete' while buzzer is sounding.



States and stimuli for the microwave oven (b)

Stimulus	Description
Half power	The user has pressed the half-power button.
Full power	The user has pressed the full-power button.
Timer	The user has pressed one of the timer buttons.
Number	The user has pressed a numeric key.
Door open	The oven door switch is not closed.
Door closed	The oven door switch is closed.
Start	The user has pressed the Start button.
Cancel	The user has pressed the Cancel button.

Key points



- ♦ A model is an abstract view of a system that ignores system details. Complementary system models can be developed to show the system's context, interactions, structure and behavior.
- ♦ Context models show how a system that is being modeled is positioned in an environment with other systems and processes.
- ♦ Use case diagrams and sequence diagrams are used to describe the interactions between users and systems in the system being designed. Use cases describe interactions between a system and external actors; sequence diagrams add more information to these by showing interactions between system objects.
- ♦ Structural models show the organization and architecture of a system. Class diagrams are used to define the static structure of classes in a system and their associations.

Key points



- ♦ Behavioral models are used to describe the dynamic behavior of an executing system. This behavior can be modeled from the perspective of the data processed by the system, or by the events that stimulate responses from a system.
- ♦ Activity diagrams may be used to model the processing of data, where each activity represents one process step.
- ♦ State diagrams are used to model a system's behavior in response to internal or external events.