

Lecture 9, Part 1: Modelling Interactions

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Moving Towards Specifications

- What functions will the new system provide?
 - How will people interact with it?
 - Describe functions from a user's perspective
- UML Use Cases
 - Used to show:
 - the **functions** to be provided by the system
 - which **actors** will use which functions

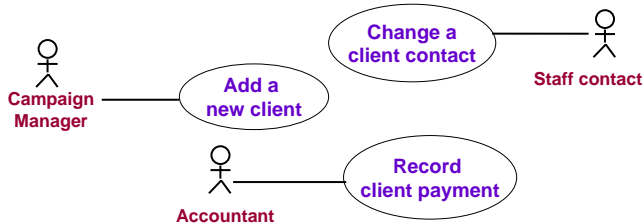
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UML Use Case Diagrams

Capture the relationships between **actors** and **use cases**.

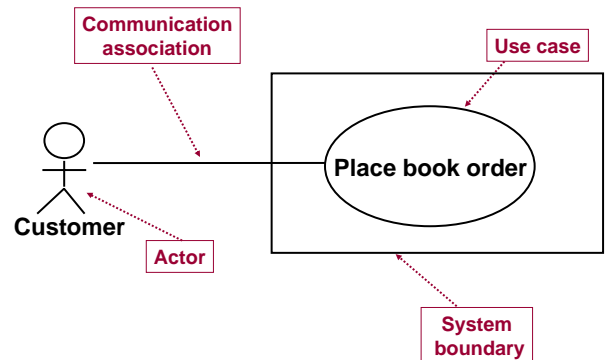


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Notation for Use Case Diagrams



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Use cases and Actors

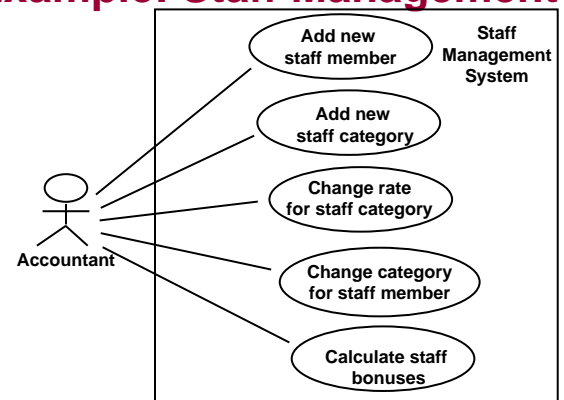
- **Use case:**
 - a pattern of behavior that the new system is required to exhibit
 - a sequence of related actions performed by an actor and the system via a dialogue.
- **Actor:**
 - anything that needs to interact with the system:
 - a person
 - a role that different people may play
 - another (external) system.

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Example: Staff Management



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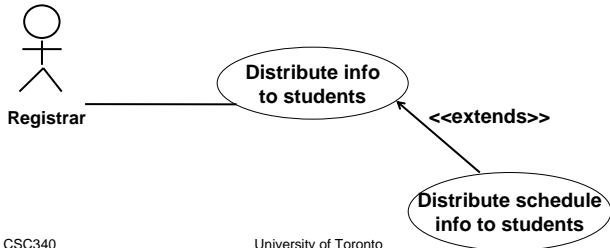
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When one use case adds behaviour to a base case

- used to model a part of a use case that the user may see as optional system behavior;
- also models a separate sub-case which is executed conditionally.



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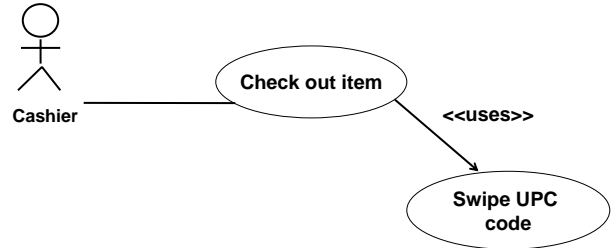
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<<uses>>

One use case invokes another (like a procedure call);

- used to avoid describing the same flow of events several times
- puts the common behavior in a use case of its own.

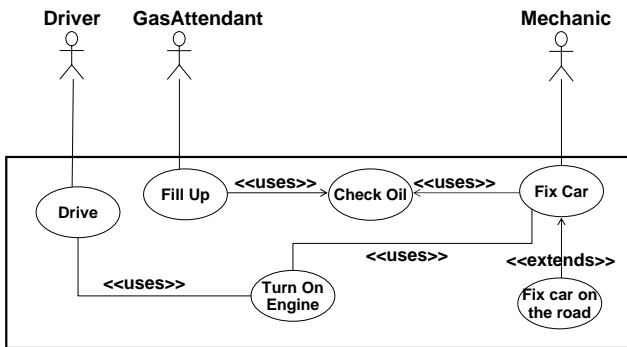


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Example: Car

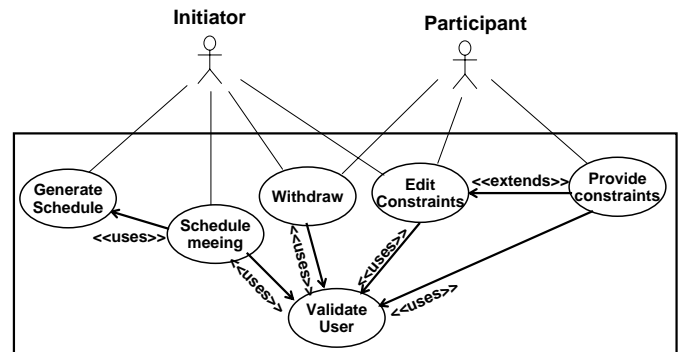


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Example: Meeting Scheduler



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Identifying Actors

- **Look for:**
 - the users who directly use the system
 - also others who need services from the system
- **To find actors that are people/roles ask:**
 - Who will be a primary user of the system? (primary actor)
 - Who will need support from the system to do her daily tasks?
 - Who will maintain, administrate, keep the system working? (secondary actor)
 - Who or what has an interest in the results that the system produces ?
- **To find actors that are external systems ask:**
 - Which hardware devices does the system need?
 - With which other systems does the system need to interact with?

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Finding Use Cases

- For each actor, ask the following questions:
 - Which functions does the actor require from the system?
 - What does the actor need to do ?
 - Does the actor need to read, create, destroy, modify, or store some kinds of information in the system ?
 - Does the actor have to be notified about events in the system?
 - Does the actor need to notify the system about something?
 - What do those events require in terms of system functionality?
 - Could the actor's daily work be simplified or made more efficient through new functions provided by the system?

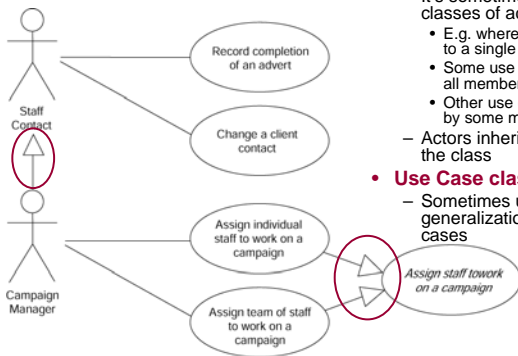
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Generalizations

Generalization relations: "is a"



Actor classes

- It's sometimes useful to identify classes of actor
 - E.g. where several actors belong to a single class
 - Some use cases are needed by all members in the class
 - Other use cases are only needed by some members of the class
- Actors inherit use cases from the class

Use Case classes

- Sometimes useful to identify a generalization of several use cases

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Exercise: Online Order System

Prepare a use case diagram for the online order system:

- Using the online order system, the customer places his order (by adding items, possibly removing items, and then submitting the order).
- The order clerk retrieves the order from the system and assigns it to a delivery person.
- The delivery person delivers the order to the customer.

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UML Sequence Diagrams

Describe a Use Case using Sequence Diagrams

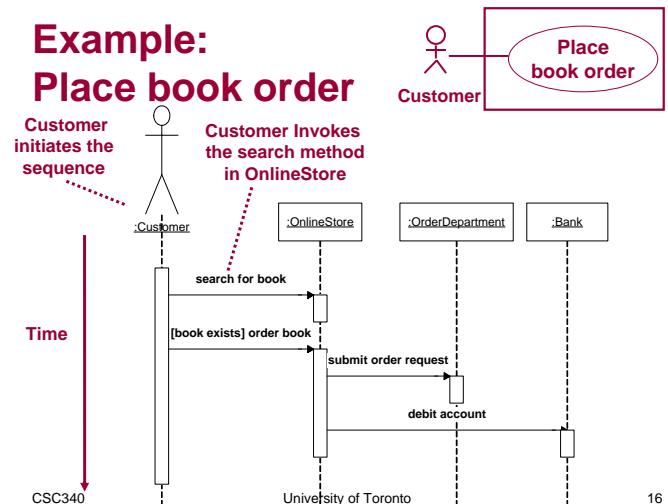
- Sequence diagrams show step-by-step what's involved in a use case
 - Which objects are relevant to the use case
 - How those objects participate in the function
- You may need several sequence diagrams to describe a single use case.
 - Each sequence diagram describes one possible scenario for the use case
- Sequence diagrams...
 - ...should remain easy to read and understand.
 - ...do not include complex control logic

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Example: Place book order

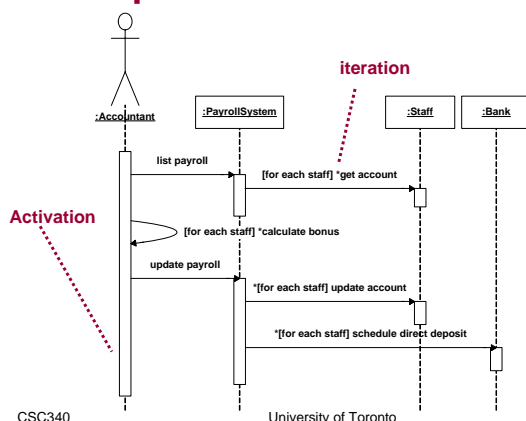


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Example: Calculate staff bonuses

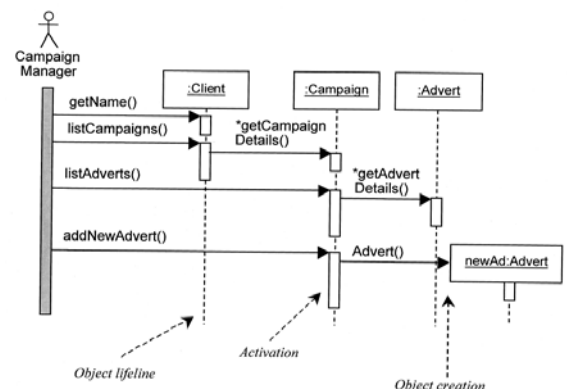


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Example: Add an advertisement



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Modelling Sequences of Events

- Objects “own” information and behaviour
 - Objects don’t “know” about other objects’ information, but can ask for it.
 - To carry out business processes, objects have to collaborate.
 - ...by sending messages to one another to invoke each others’ operations
 - Objects can only send messages to one another if they “know” each other
 - I.e. if there is an association between them.

Exercise: Online Order System

- Prepare a sequence diagram for the **Assign Driver** use case:

The order clerk requests a list of drivers from the system. Using the system, he selects a driver and the system checks the driver's availability. This is repeated until a driver has been selected (until an available driver is found). Then the order clerk assigns the driver using the system, and the system notifies the delivery person.

References

- [Amb03] Ambler, S. W. 2003. *The Elements of UML Style*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- [BMF99] Bennett S., McRobb S., and Farmer R. 1999. *Object-Oriented System Analysis and Design using UML*. Berkshire, UK: McGraw Hill.