The University of Iowa

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Object-Oriented Software Development

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Interaction Diagrams (Chapter 15)

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Interaction Diagrams

- UML interaction diagrams represent interaction (communication, collaboration) between objects/classes
- For dynamic object modeling
- UML interaction diagrams consist of
 - Sequence diagrams
 - Communication diagrams



We have used a simplified version of these for System Sequence Diagrams



Steps are enumerated and placed in lines with arrows

The diagrams compared

Sequence diagram

- clearly shows sequence or time ordering of messages
- large set of detailed notation options
- forced to extend to the right when adding new objects; consumes horizontal space

- space economical;
 flexibility to add new
 objects in two
 dimensions
- more difficult to see sequence of messages
- fewer notation options











- In the case of singleton objects/classes, we put a "I" on their boxes
- Singleton classes are the ones that only have one instance
 - Cf. Scala: singleton defined with "object", not "class"





Two ways to specify a return value.

The first one is brief.

The second one allows one to describe the information contained in the returned value.





Vertical "presence" or coverage demonstrates the life-cycle of an object



Types of frames:

loop—for repeated statements,

opt—for if-statements without else,

alt-for if-statements with else or else-if,

par—for parallel execution,

region—for critical region (concurrency).





Vertical "presence" or coverage demonstrates the life-cycle of an object



Nesting of frames



Polymorphism





• Numbering follows legalistic ordering



Three ways to show creation in a communication diagram

create message, with optional initializing parameters. This will normally be interpreted as a constructor call.









Concurrency

a stick arrow in UML implies an asynchronous call	active
a filled arrow is the more common synchronous call	:ClockStarter System :
In Java, for example, an asynchronous call may occur as follows:	
<pre>// Clock implements the Runnable interface Thread t = new Thread(new Clock()); t.start();</pre>	startClock
the asynchronous <i>start</i> call always invokes the <i>run</i> method on the <i>Runnable</i> (<i>Clock</i>) object	run
to simplify the UML diagram, the <i>Thread</i> object and the <i>start</i> message may be avoided (they are standard "overhead"); instead, the essential detail of the <i>Clock</i> creation and the <i>run</i> message imply the asynchronous call	runFinalization

Note the dependency with the programming language. For the sake of abstraction and generality, you may want to express concurrency in its simplest form here.

Concurrency





Notes and figures adapted from

Applying UML and Patterns: An Introduction to Object-Oriented Analysis and Design and Iterative Development by C. Larman. 3rd edition. Prentice Hall/Pearson, 2005.