Interaction Modelling: Sequence Diagrams

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(theses slides are derived from the book “Object-oriented modeling and design with UML”)
Interaction Modelling: Detailing Use Cases with Scenarios

**Use Case:** Buy a beverage

**Summary:** The vending machine delivers a beverage after a customer selects and pays for it.

**Actors:** Customer

**Preconditions:** The machine is waiting for money to be inserted.

**Description:** The machine starts in the waiting state in which it displays the message “Enter coins.” A customer inserts coins into the machine. The machine displays the total value of money entered and lights up the buttons for the items that can be purchased for the money inserted. The customer presses a button. The machine dispenses the corresponding item and makes change, if the cost of the item is less than the money inserted.

**Exceptions:**

- **Canceled:** If the customer presses the cancel button before an item has been selected, the customer’s money is returned and the machine resets to the waiting state.
- **Out of stock:** If the customer presses a button for an out-of-stock item, the message “That item is out of stock” is displayed. The machine continues to accept coins or a selection.
- **Insufficient money:** If the customer presses a button for an item that costs more than the money inserted, the message “You must insert $xx.xx more for that item” is displayed, where $xx.xx is the amount of additional money needed. The machine continues to accept coins or a selection.

- **No change:** If the customer has inserted enough money to buy the item but the machine cannot make the correct change, the message “Cannot make correct change” is displayed and the machine continues to accept coins or a selection.

**Postconditions:** The machine is waiting for money to be inserted.
Interaction Modelling

[Diagram of interaction modelling between a Customer and a Vending Machine, showing steps such as InsertCoin(), totalAmount, and chosenBeverage.]
Sequence Diagrams

- A sequence diagram shows the participants in an interaction and the sequence of messages among them.
- A sequence diagram shows the interaction of a system with its actors to perform a use case.
Sequence Diagrams

- Sequence diagrams show procedure calls.
- An object is activated only when it is called. Once the execution of an operation completes, the control returns to the caller and the object becomes inactive.
The period of time of an object’s execution is a thin rectangle called \textit{activation} or \textit{focus of control}. 
An activation shows the time period during which a call of a method is processed including the time when the called method invokes other methods.
The period of time when an object exists but is not active is shown as a dashed line.
The entire period of time when an object exists is called **lifeline**.
The notation for a call (synchronous message) is an arrow from the calling activation to the activation created by the call.
A return of a call is a dashed arrow from the bottom of the called activation to the calling activation.
Procedural Sequence Diagrams

An activation has a call arrow coming into its top and a return arrow leaving its bottom.
Objects A and B exist during the entire time shown in the diagram, whereas object C is created and destroyed in a smaller period of time. Therefore, its lifetime does not span the whole diagram.
If an object does not exist at the beginning of the sequence diagram, it must be created. UML shows creation by placing the object symbol at the head of the dashed arrow representing the call that creates the object.
A large ‘X’ marks the end of the life of an object that is destroyed during the sequence diagram. The ‘X’ is placed at the head of the call arrow that destroys the object.
Procedural Sequence Diagrams

During a call to a method on an object there can be another call to another method on the same object. This call is shown with an arrow from the activation rectangle to the top of an additional rectangle superimposed on the first.
Procedural Sequence Diagrams

An object can call its own operations (self calls)
A simple example
Advanced Sequence Diagrams: alt
Advanced Sequence Diagrams: loop
Advanced Sequence Diagrams: break
Closing the circle
From a Domain model to an Application model
From a Domain model to an Application model