System Sequence Diagrams

The following slides make extensive use of material from:

Applying UML and Patterns, 3rd Edition; Craig Larman; Prentice Hall
A system sequence diagram (SSD) illustrates input and output events.

- An SSD shows - for one particular scenario of a use case -
  - the events that external actors generate,
  - their order, and
  - inter-system events
- The system is treated as a black-box
- SSDs are derived from use cases; SSDs are often drawn for the main success scenarios of each use case and frequent or complex alternative scenarios
- SSDs are used as input for object design
System Events and System Operations

- System operations are the operations that the system as a black box component offers in its public interface. These are high-level operations triggered by an external input event / system event generated by an external actor.

- During system behavior analysis, system operations are assigned to a conceptual class System.
The system operations are shown in the system sequence diagram (SSD).

- To provide more analysis detail on the effect of the system operations implied use cases, (System) Operation Contracts may be considered.
Operation Contract Template

**Operation:**
Name of the operation and parameters.

**Cross References:**
Use cases this operation can occur with.

**Preconditions:**
Noteworthy / non-trivial assumptions about the system or objects in the domain model before execution of the operation.

**Postconditions:**
The state of the objects in the domain model after completion of the operation. Domain model state changes include:
- `instances created`,
- `associations formed or broken`,
- `attributes changed`.

[Postconditions should be stated in the past tense.]

Helpful when assigning responsibilities to classes (More details will follow).
Operation Contract for “enterItem()”

Operation:
enterItem(itemId: ItemId, quantity: Integer)

Cross References:
Use Cases: Process Sale

Preconditions:
There is a sale underway.

Postconditions:
- A SalesLineItem instance (SLI) was created.  
  (instance creation)
- SLI was associated with the current Sale.  
  (association formed)
- SLI was associated with a ProductDescription, based on itemId match.  
  (association formed)
Example of an SSD for the Process Sale Scenario

Use Case: Process Sale Scenario - Main Success Story

1. Cashier starts new sale
2. Cashier enters item identifier
3. System records sale line item and presents item description, price and running total
   Steps 2 and 3 are repeated until all items are processed.
4. System presents total with taxes calculated
5. Cashier tells Customer the total and asks for payment
6. Customer pays and System handles payment
SSDs are drawn using UML’s sequence diagram notation. The name of each event should state the intention (e.g. “enterItem(itemId)” vs. “scan(itemId)”.)
Example of an SSD for the Process Sale Scenario

SSDs are drawn using UML’s sequence diagram notation. The name of each event should state the intention (e.g. “enterItem(itemId)” vs. “scan(itemId)”).

![System Sequence Diagram](image)

- **an external actor to the system**
- **a message with parameters**
- **return value(s)** (optional if nothing is returned)
Use Case: Process Sale Scenario - Main Success Story

1. Cashier starts new sale
2. Cashier enters item identifier
3. System records sale line item and presents item description, price and running total
   Steps 2 and 3 are repeated until all items are processed.
4. System presents total with taxes calculated
5. Cashier tells Customer the total and asks for payment
6. Customer pays and System handles payment
Use Case: Process Sale Scenario - Main Success Story

1. Cashier starts new sale

2. Cashier enters item identifier

3. System records sale line item and presents item description, price and running total
   Steps 2 and 3 are repeated until all items are processed.

4. System presents total with taxes calculated

5. Cashier tells Customer the total and asks for payment

6. Customer pays and System handles payment
Process Sale Scenario

System Sequence Diagram

[Diagram showing the process sale scenario with user interaction and system responses.]

- **Cashier**: enterItem(itemId, quantity)
- **System**: description, price, total
- **Loop**: [more items]
"Complete" SSD for the Process Sale Scenario

System Sequence Diagram

:Cashier

Process Sale Scenario

:System

makeNewSale

loop

[more items]

enterItem(itemId, quantity)

description, price, total

endSale

total with taxes

makePayment (amount)

change due, receipt
Drawing UML diagrams is a reflection of making decisions about the design.

What matters are the fundamental object design skills - not knowing how to draw UML.
Summary
The goal of this lecture is to enable you to systematically carry out small(er) software projects that produce quality software.

- SSDs are used as input for object design and provide more details
• The goal of this lecture is to enable you to systematically carry out small(er) commercial or open-source projects.