Lecture 14: Robustness Analysis

Good Object Oriented Design

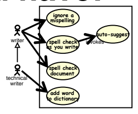
Robustness Analysis

Allocating Behaviour

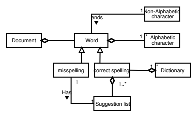
Starting Point

You've done the Requirements Analysis

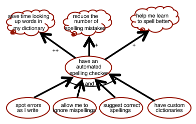
You have:



A set of Use Cases
(explaining how users will use the system)



A Domain Model
(to keep track of key domain concepts)

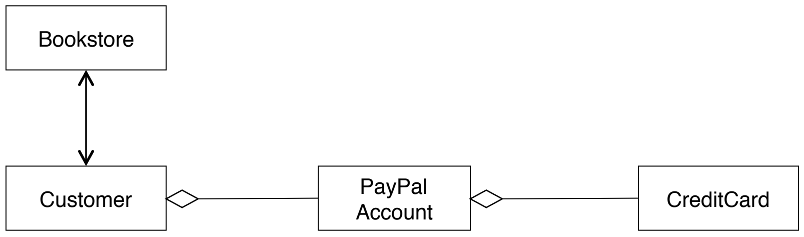

save time looking up words in my dictionary
reduce the number of spelling mistakes
help me learn to spell better
++
+
+
have an automated spelling checker
and
spot errors as I write
allow me to ignore mispellings
suggest correct spellings
have custom dictionaries

Stakeholder Goal Models
(explaining how the use cases will meet the stakeholders' real needs)

Challenge:

Allocate responsibility for the use cases to classes in the system

Diversion: What's wrong with this?



```
class Bookstore {
  …

void settlebill (int total) {
    …
    Customer.PayPalAccount.CreditCard.subtract(total)
    …
    }
}
```

the Law of Demeter

Basically:

"Only talk to your friends"

More specifically:

A method, m, of an object, O, can only call methods of:

1. **O itself**
2. **m's parameters**
3. **any object created by m**
4. **O's direct component objects**

[m cannot call methods of an object returned by another method call]

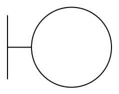
Programmer's rule of thumb:

"use only one dot"

e.g. instead of: Customer.PayPalAccount.CreditCard.subtract(total)

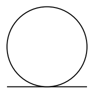
use: Customer.GetPayment(total)

Robustness Analysis



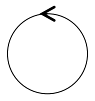
Boundary Objects

- Used by actors when communicating with the system
- Only these can initiate events
- (usually major User Interface elements, eg screens)



Entity Objects

- Usually objects from the domain model
- Things we need to keep track of



Control Objects

- The “glue” between boundary objects & entity objects
- Capture business rules and policies
- (note: often implemented as methods of other objects)

Why do Robustness Analysis?

Bridges the gap between Requirements and Design

Sanity Check

- Tests the language in the Use Case description
- Nouns from the Use Case get mapped onto objects
- Verbs from the Use Case get mapped onto actions

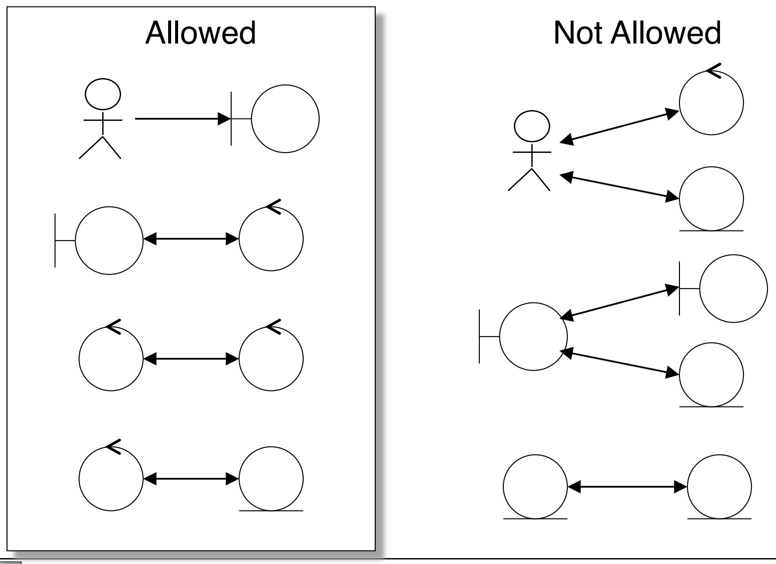
Completeness Check

- Discover the objects you need to implement the use cases
- Identify alternative courses of action

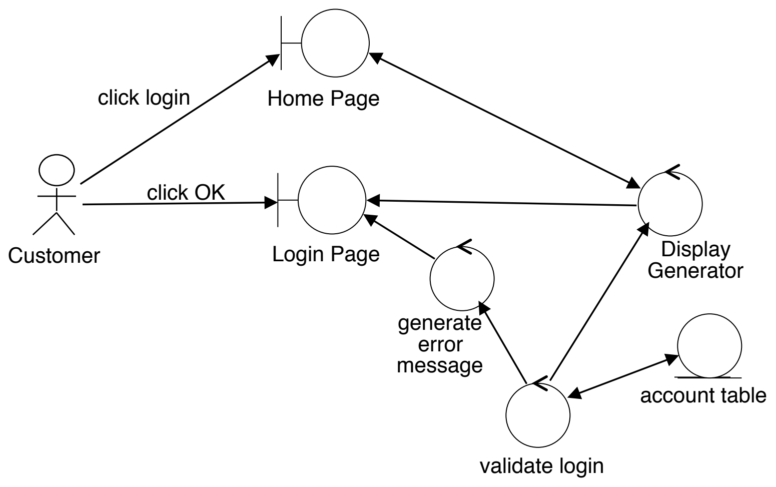
Object Identification

- Decide which methods belong to which objects

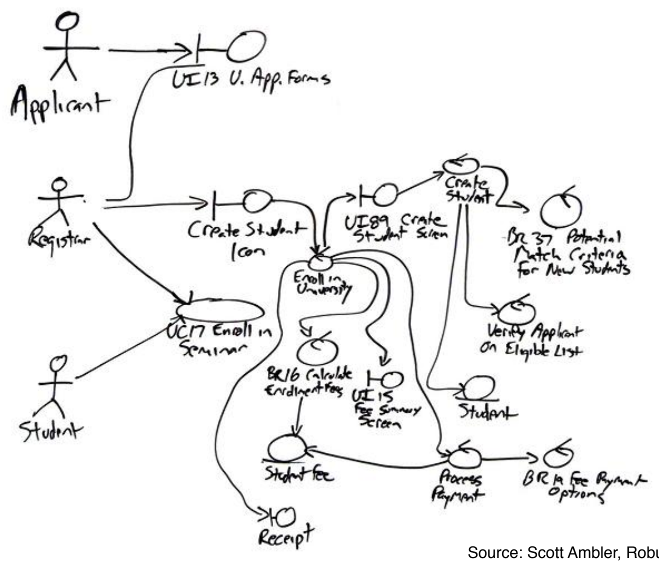
Rules for Robustness Diagrams



Example



Intended for the whiteboard…



Source: Scott Ambler, Robustness Diagrams

Constructing a Robustness Diagram

Add a boundary element for each major UI element

- (not at the level of individual widgets though!)

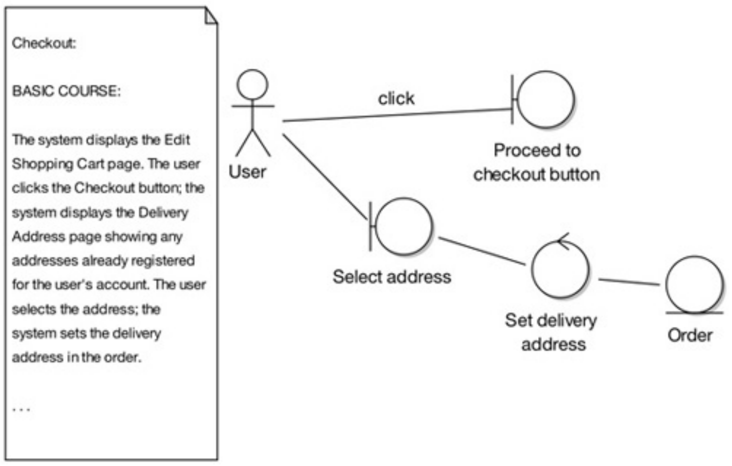
Add controllers:

- One to manage each Use Case
- One for each business rule
- Another for each activity that involves coordination of several other elements

Add an entity for each business concept

- (most domain objects!)

Compare against each Use Case


Checkout:

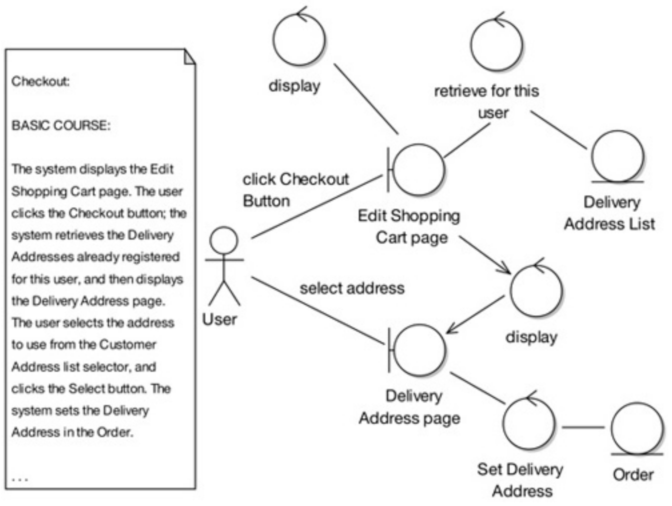
BASIC COURSE:

The system displays the Edit Shopping Cart page. The user clicks the Checkout button; the system displays the Delivery Address page showing any addresses already registered for the user's account. The user selects the address; the system sets the delivery address in the order.

. . .

Source: Matt Stephens, Robustness Analysis in Practice

Improved Diagram…


Checkout:

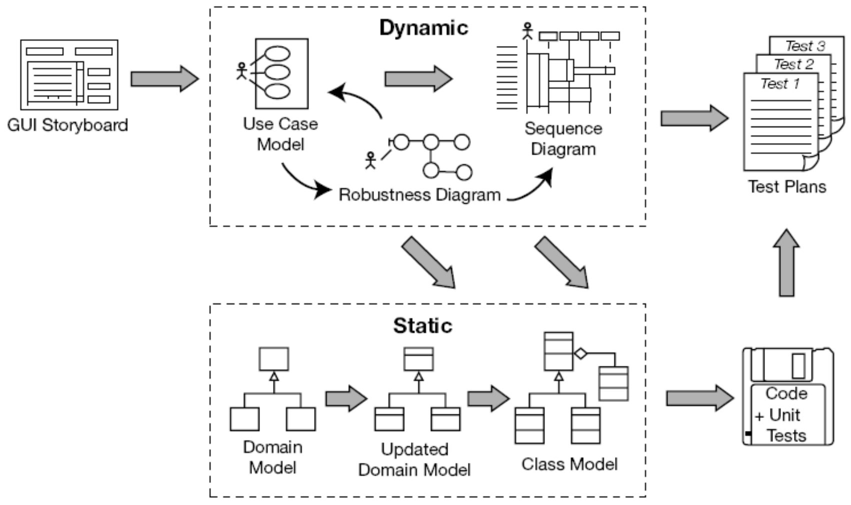
BASIC COURSE:

The system displays the Edit Shopping Cart page. The user clicks the Checkout button; the system retrieves the Delivery Addresses already registered for this user, and then displays the Delivery Address page. The user selects the address to use from the Customer Address list selector, and clicks the Select button. The system sets the Delivery Address in the Order.

. . .

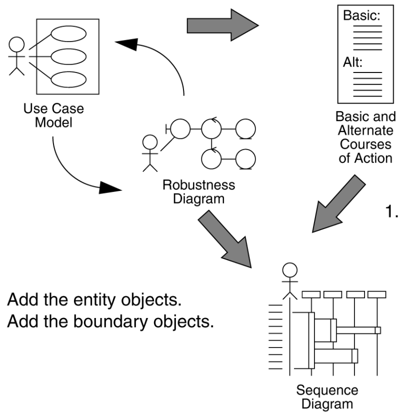
Source: Matt Stephens, Robustness Analysis in Practice

ICONIX process

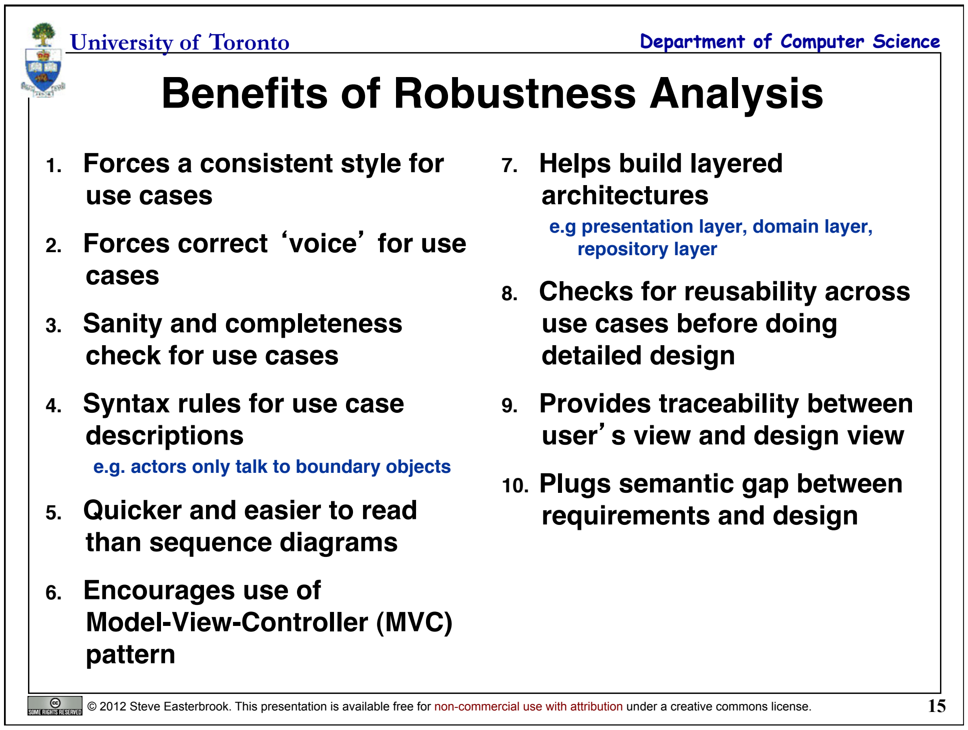


Basic Design Steps

Use case text is refined during robustness analysis and reviewed during the preliminary design review.



1. Copy the use case text to the left margin of the sequence diagram.
2. Add the entity objects.
3. Add the boundary objects.
4. Work through the controllers, one at a time, and figure out how to allocate the behavior among the collaborating objects.



Benefits of Robustness Analysis

1. Forces a consistent style for use cases
2. Forces correct 'voice' for use cases
3. Sanity and completeness check for use cases
4. Syntax rules for use case descriptions
   - e.g. actors only talk to boundary objects
5. Quicker and easier to read than sequence diagrams
6. Encourages use of Model-View-Controller (MVC) pattern
7. Helps build layered architectures
   - e.g presentation layer, domain layer, repository layer
8. Checks for reusability across use cases before doing detailed design
9. Provides traceability between user's view and design view
10. Plugs semantic gap between requirements and design