Interaction Diagrams

The Original Notation:
Message Sequence Charts
(ITU Z.120)
Basic MSC

Constraints (Conditions)

Idle
- Lift handset
- Dial Tone

Dialing
- Last digit
- Ring tone

Called Party Onhook
- Ring

Alerting
Alternatives and Parallelism

Loops
**MSC 1 - The Watch**

- User
- S1
- S2
- S3
- Button Controller
- Time Manager
- Date Manager
- Display
- Crystal

Watch starts in the Time Display mode

**MSC 2 - Watch keeps Time and Date**

**MSC 3 - User reads the watch**

**MSC 4 - User sets the watch**

**MSC 5 - Increment Seconds**

Tick every 1/50th of second

- CountOfTicks != 49
- CountOfTicks++;  
- CountOfTicks = 49
- CountOfTicks = 0;

MSC 5 - Increment Seconds
MSC 3 - User reads the watch

 MSC 9 - Update Date Info

MSC 10 - Update Time Info

MSC 4 - User sets the watch

MSC 4a - User sets Time

MSC 4b - User sets Date
MSC 4a - User sets Time

MSC 4a.1 - User sets Minutes

MSC 4a.2 - User sets Hours

MSC 5 - Increment Seconds

MSC 7 - Increment Minutes
MSC 5 - Increment Seconds

This MSC is used by MSC 2 and MSC 4.a.

Are the two possibly concurrent? For example, while setting the seconds, if the user presses S2 at long intervals, will the seconds start incrementing by themselves?

Is it the case for MSC 4.a that every time we increment the seconds, we want to possibly also increment the minutes, hours, etc.?

MSC 6 - Update Time Display

MSC 7 - Increment Minutes

MSC 6 - Update Time Display

Mode != "displayTime"

Mode == "displayTime"

N.B.: Don’t use an Alt box when it only involves one instance! Use a CASE statement.

N.B.: Also notice that the first alternative does nothing...
MSC 7 - Increment Minutes

MSC 8 - Increment Hours

MSC 9 - Update Date Info

Question: Why do we pass a pointer to the Display?
**MSC 10 - Update Time Info**

**Quiz:** Is this MSC consistent with others?

**Issues with the MSCs**

- **MSC 1:** Have we really addressed the concurrency of the ticks with the rest of the functionality?
- Is it the case that we want the ButtonController to send the incr("min") message to TimeManager? Why doesn’t the latter send it to itself?
- Are we sure MSC 6 and MSC 7 can be in parallel?
- MSC 2 uses MSC 5, which uses MSCs 6 and 7, and so on. Given that there is no user input in the case of the watch keeping the time, this chain makes sense.
  - But MSC 4.a reuses MSC 5, which leads to reusing MSCs 6, 7, etc. Is this what we really want? That is, do we want to increment minutes automatically as we are setting seconds??
  - The alternative consists in NOT incrementing the minutes and cycling back to 0 after reaching 59... So much for reusing MSC 5 and others.
- Considering MSC 4.a, if we do set seconds, how do we proceed to setting the minutes?
  - It seems we are missing a loop around the alternative box.
  - In turn, this suggests cleaning the MSCs to be more generic.
  - The question raised here is how obvious the flow of control between the different MSCs really is. Maybe a high level MSC (i.e., a flowchart) would be more appropriate.
UML 2.0: Interaction Overview Diagram

An interaction with the syntax of activity diagrams

UML 2.0: Revamped Sequence Diagrams