



# Engineering Fine-Grained Dependability Requirements

An Environment Modeling based  
Approach

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# Outline

- **Motivation:**
  - System need to be more dependable
- **Challenges:**
  - Dependability is non-functional feature and needs to be interweaved with functional features
- **Approach:**
  - Derive dependability concerns from environment features
  - Adopt control-based framework to interweave dependability and functionality
- **Expectation:**
  - Benefits and further efforts

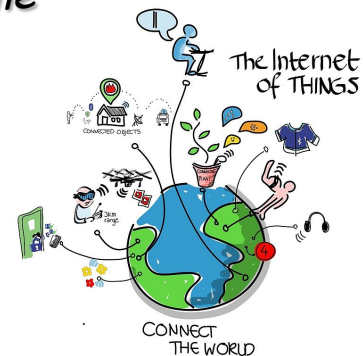
# Motivation: Trend in Computing

- *Cyber-Physical Systems*

- *Cyber-physical systems are **integrations of computation with physical processes**. Embedded computers and networks monitor and control the physical processes, .....* (Edward A. Lee)

- *The integration of physical systems and processes with networked **computing** has led to the emergence of a new generation of engineered systems: **cyber-physical systems**.* (CPS steering group)

- *A world where **physical objects** are seamlessly integrated into the **information network**, and where the physical objects can become **active participants in business processes**.* (SAP)





# Motivation: Trend in Computing

## Cyber-Physical (-Social) Systems

Software systems are to be tightly  
*integrated with* the physical systems and  
the social systems

with

*networked sensing,  
computation,  
actuation, etc.*



# Realm of Integration: Everywhere + Invisible

*Populations of **computing entities** will be a significant part of our environment, **performing tasks** that support us, and we shall **be largely unaware of them**.*

*The most profound technologies are those that **disappear**. They weave themselves into the fabric of everyday life until they are **indistinguishable** from it.*

*Mark Weiser, a pioneer of ubiquitous computing*

**Invisible = Software and hardware are embedded in the physical world and human society. That produce a new operable "application scenario"**

# Motivation: Trend in Computing

*As tool of the information processing, software needs only to meet the predefined specification*

*Traditional Application Scenario*

*Software: be in charge of information processing*

*Adaptivity, Continuous Evolution, **Dependability** and Scalability*

*New Application Scenario*

*Software: be carrier of application values*

*Software needs to deal with the open and dynamic environment, continuously meet the diverse and varied needs of users*





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# State of Art: Process

- A defined software process is essential
  - Enforcing standards, avoiding that issues fall through cracks, learning from past mistakes
  - Including procedures for version control, bug tracking and regression testing
  - Including standard structures for documents and guidelines for meetings
  - Including collection of detailed statistics and explicit mechanisms for adjusting the process accordingly





# State of Art: Testing

- To find bugs
  - Structural tests identify bugs in known categories
    - A mutation test, a regression test, .....
  - A successful test is one that fails, and thus identifies a bug
- To provide evidence of dependability
  - Test cases are drawn randomly from the expected profile of use, and statistical inferences are made about the likelihood of failure
  - A successful test is one that succeeds to provide direct evidence for demonstrating dependability



# Challenges Remained

- What form of process and testing should take that can offer **just enough dependability** considering the **cost, usability, performance, etc.?**
  - **make balance**
- The adoption of rigorous processes and testing has an **indirect impact** on dependability, **evidence of a direct link** between dependability and design **is missing.**
  - **build trace links**
- Developers find **interweaving the business needs and dependability needs** is still real headache
  - **help operationalization**



# Challenges to Developers

- From where, the needs for dependability can be identified ?
- What is the relationship between dependability needs and the business functionality ?
- How will these two be interweaved together ?



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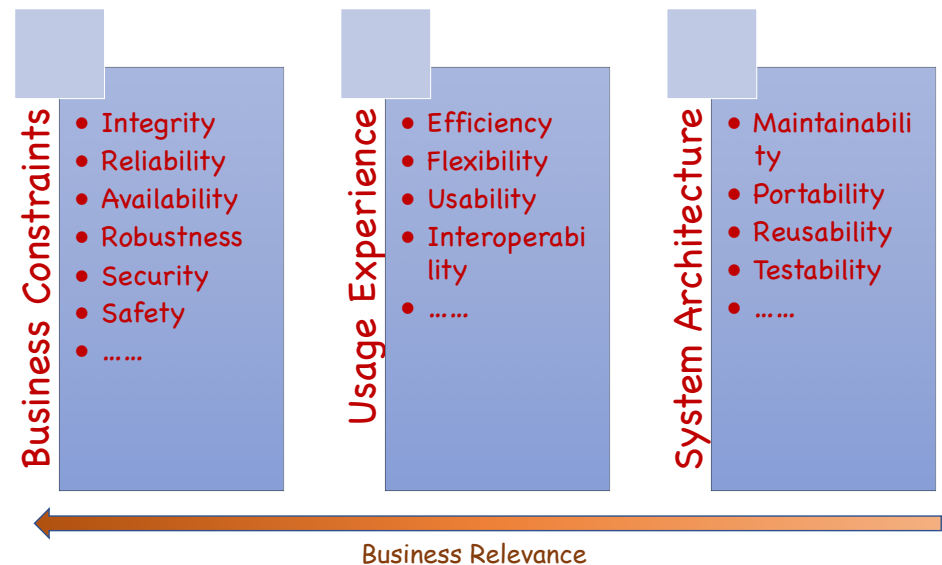
# Dependability by Construction

- Dependability by construction
  - build dependability into every step
  - demand
    - rigorous requirements definition
    - precise system-behavior specification
    - solid and verifiable design
    - code that can be precisely understood
- Construction starts from requirements definition

# Where comes Requirements

- Needed business capabilities
  - To solve the business domain problem
- Needed quality properties of entire system, a system component, service, or function
  - Not about business logics
  - But ensure the quality of domain problem solving

## Quality Properties





# What is Dependability

The notion of dependability, defined as *the trustworthiness of a computing system which allows reliance to be justifiably placed on the service it delivers*, enables these various concerns to be subsumed within a single conceptual framework.

IFIP WG10.4

Dependability

non-functional requirements

quality property

underspecified functional requirements



Dependability

Reliability

Availability

Safety

Security

Confidentiality

Integrity



# Quality Properties

## Domain Feature Usage Scenario

### Business Constraints

- Integrity
- Reliability
- Availability
- Dependability
- Supportability

Dependability

It is a kind of unspecified functional requirements

## Algorithm Implementation

### Usage Experience

- Efficiency
- Flexibility
- Usability
- Interoperability
- .....

## Developer's Design skill

### System Architecture

- Maintainability
- Portability
- Reusability
- Testability
- .....

Business Relevance





# RE assumption and Dependability Argument

**E**nvironment  
Assumptions



**S**pecification



**R**equirements



## The task of RE

Given Environment Assumptions

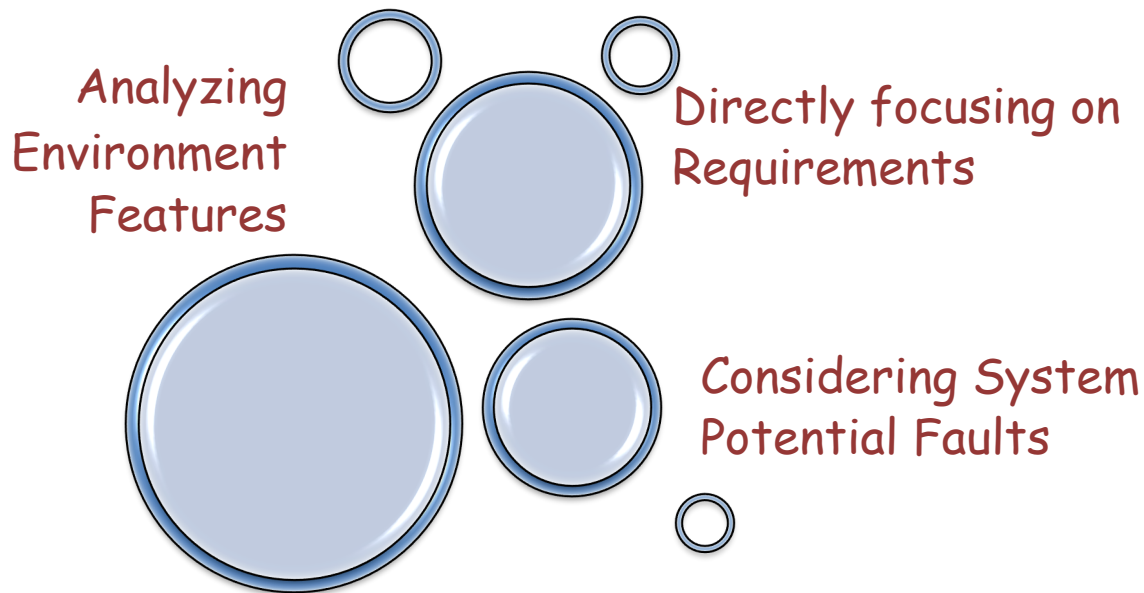
And Requirements

When Conduct RE

Then System Capability is decided



# Three Penetrations



# NFR Framework: Focus on Req

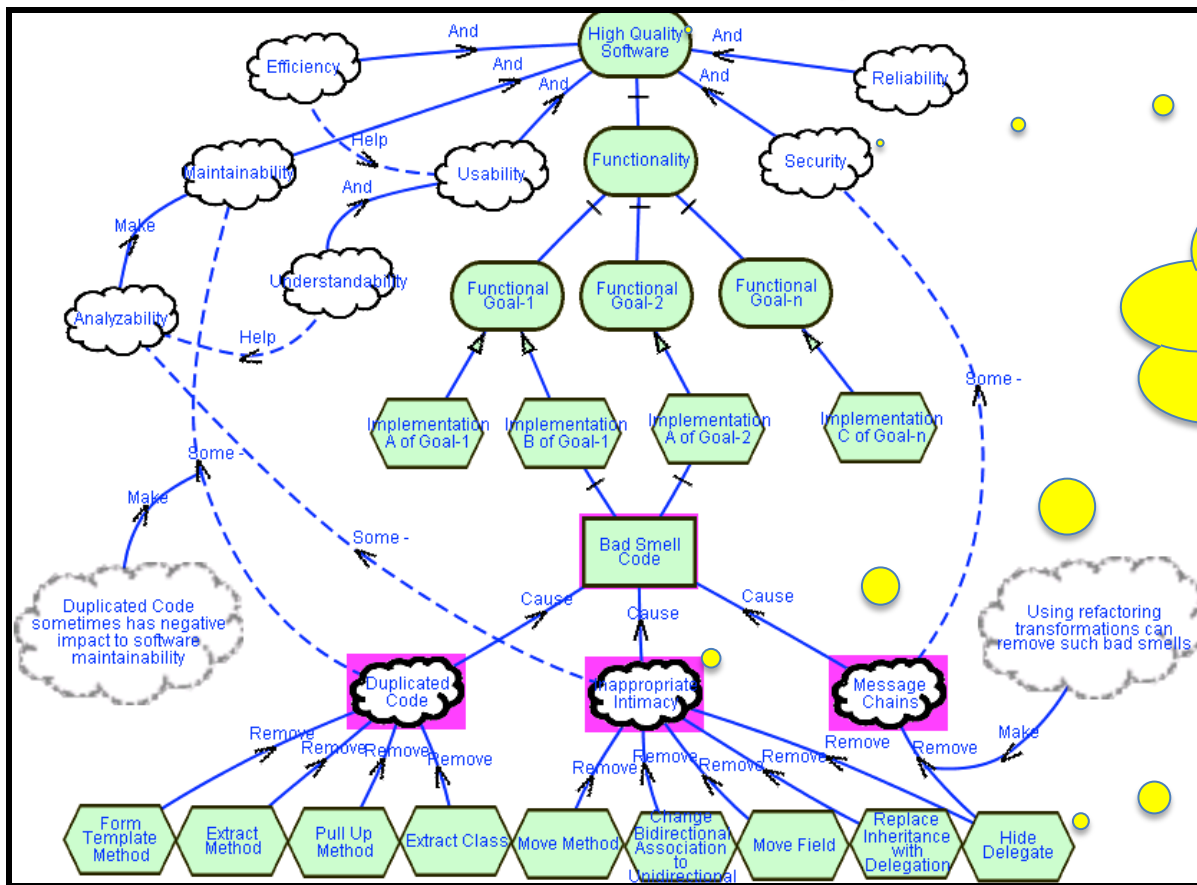
- Generic to any NFR
- Directly Analyze Requirements
- Associate to Function Implementation

I want high quality

Which types of quality ?

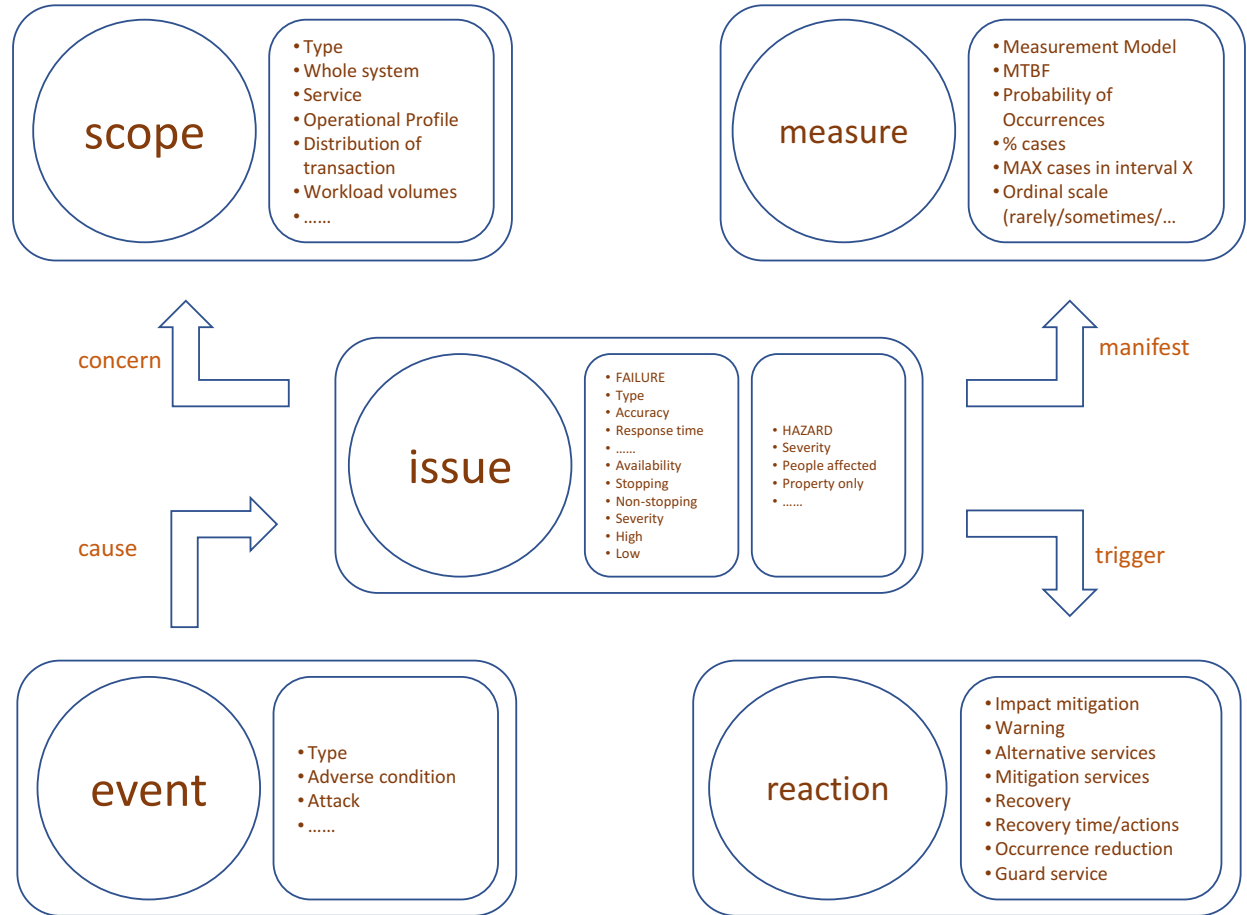
Which vulnerabilities may be introduced during implementation that may reduce quality ?

What are countermeasures dealing with the vulnerabilities ?



# UMD: Concerning System Failures

- Start from the potential issues of the system
- Identify the event that may cause the issues and the scope impacted by the issues
- Decide the measurements for detecting the issues
- Specifying the desired system reactions



# Dependability from Environment

Analyzing  
Environment  
Features and  
Application  
Scenarios

Directly focusing on  
Requirements

Considering System  
Potential Faults

**E**nvironment  
Assumptions



**S**pecification

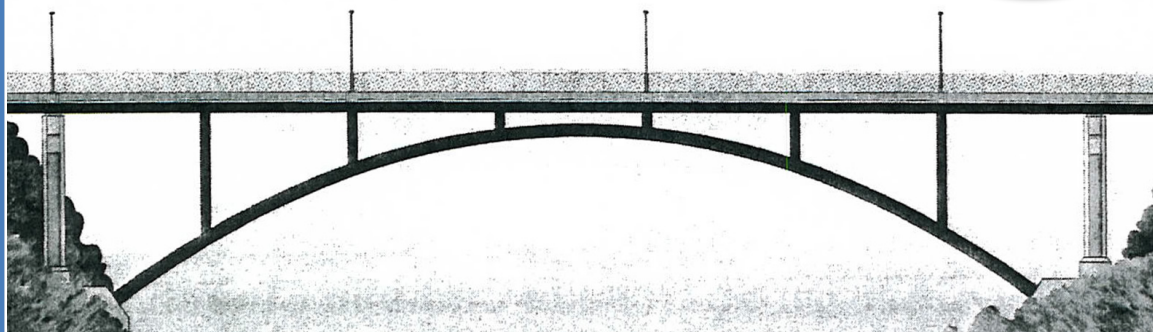


**R**equirements

# Why this is Reasonable ?

When the Environment is Open, Dynamic, Uncertain, Safe-Critical, Malicious ?

**Software System**



**Physical and Social World**

*Functionality*

# reasonable ?

Inherent Properties for the physical/social world  
Need to be adaptive to match and pace with

*Safety-Critical Factors*

*Context-aware Reqs.*

*Non-Deterministic Factors*

*Self-adaptation Reqs.*

*Changeable*

*Real Time Reqs.*

*Timelin*

**Software System**

*Availability Reqs.*

*System Fault*

*Security Reqs.*

*Malicious Factors*

*Reqs.*

*Errors*

*Functional*

Undesired, loss-caused effects  
Need to be prevented

**Social World**

Undesired internal behaviors  
Need to avoid by online self-healing

Undesired external interference  
Need to guard against

# Why not Dependable ?



Errors and Malicious Attacks from known or unknown environment entities



Un-anticipated Domain Behaviors

Changes in causal entity, e.g. unrecognized states, new causal entities



New Domain Assumptions

Un-proper system behaviors causing disaster to critical environment entity



Fatal System Behaviors

Fault in system producing undesired system performance



Un-anticipated System Behaviors





# Dependability from Scenario

Based on environment assumptions and application context to introduce dependability strategies

Directly focusing on Requirements

Considering System Potential Faults

Define just-enough quality property

Trace to application context

Be operationalized as interactions or constraints

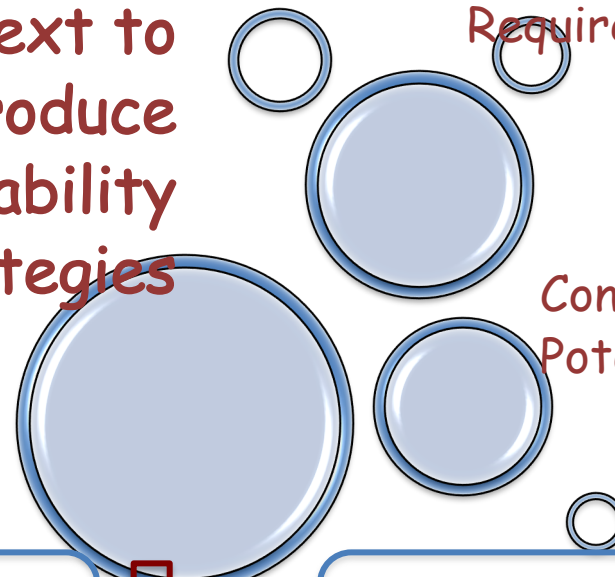
**E**nvironment Assumptions



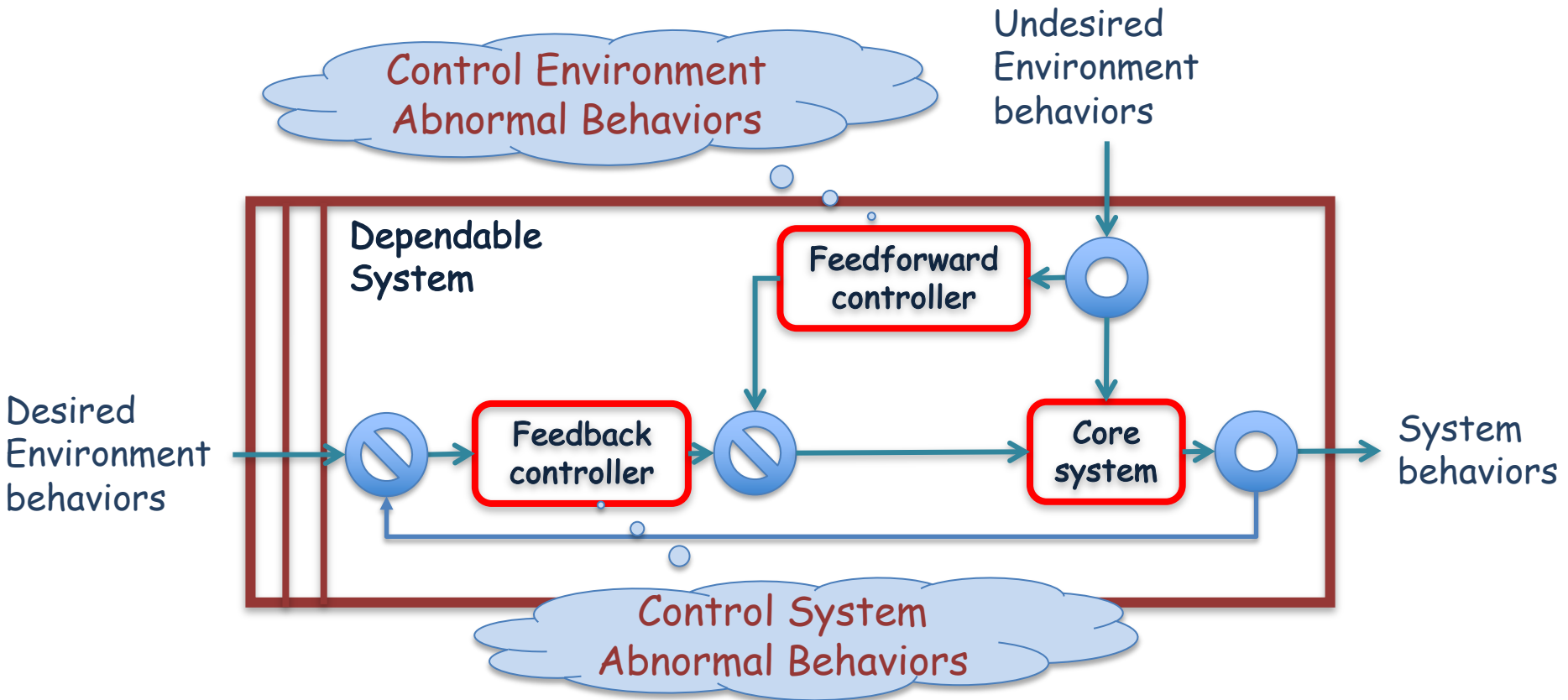
**S**pecification



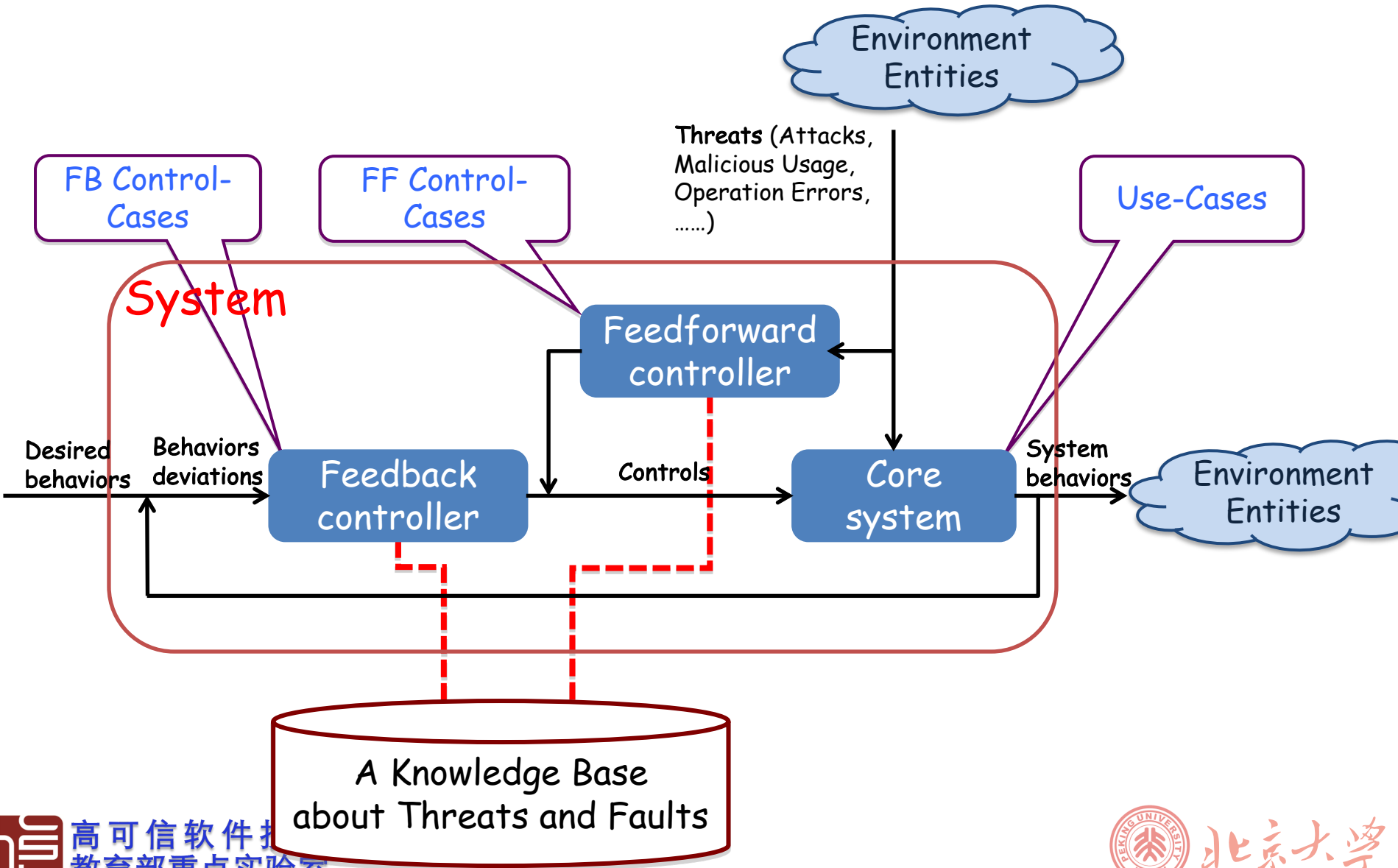
**R**equirements



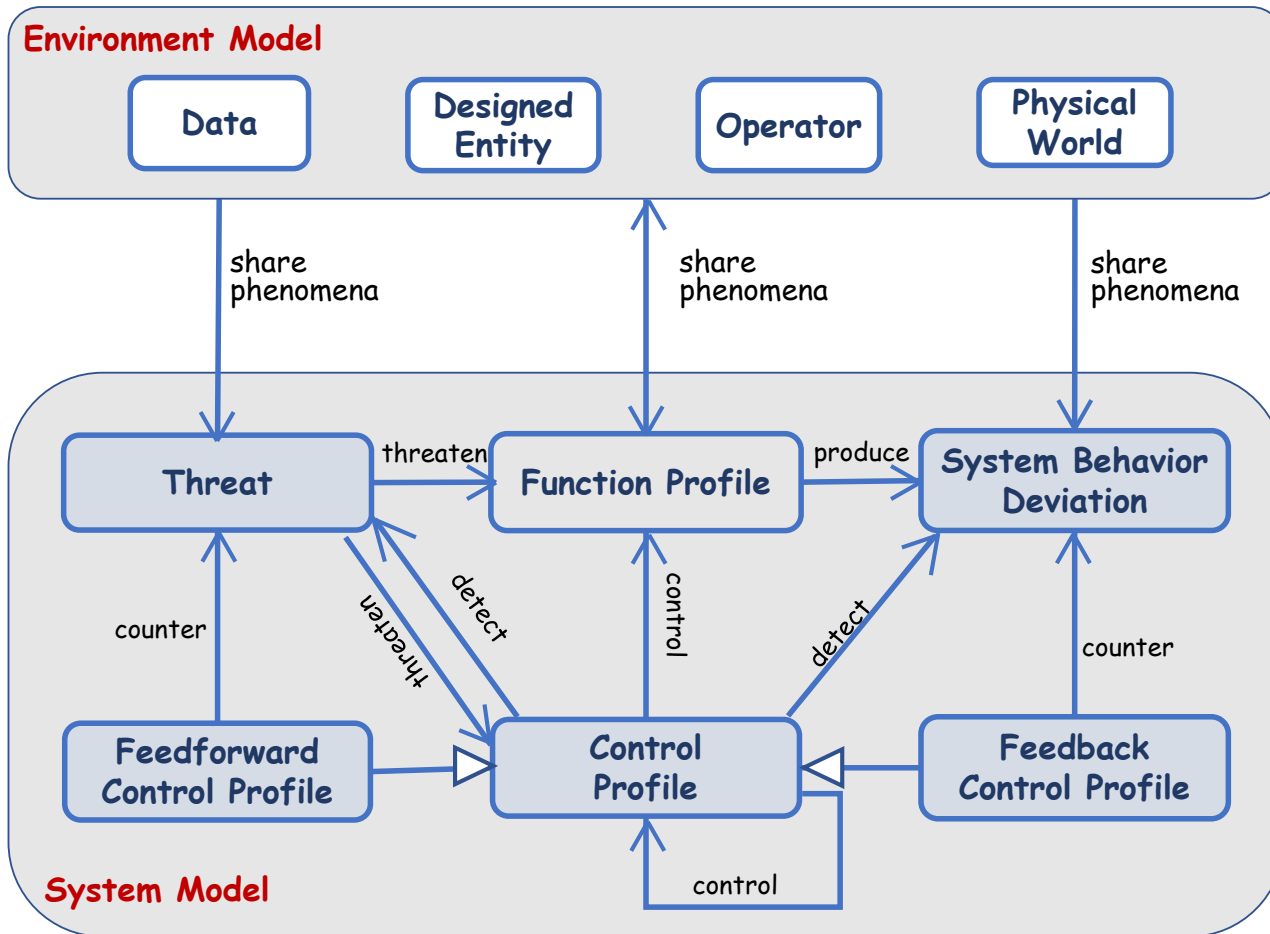
# Control Based Meta-Model



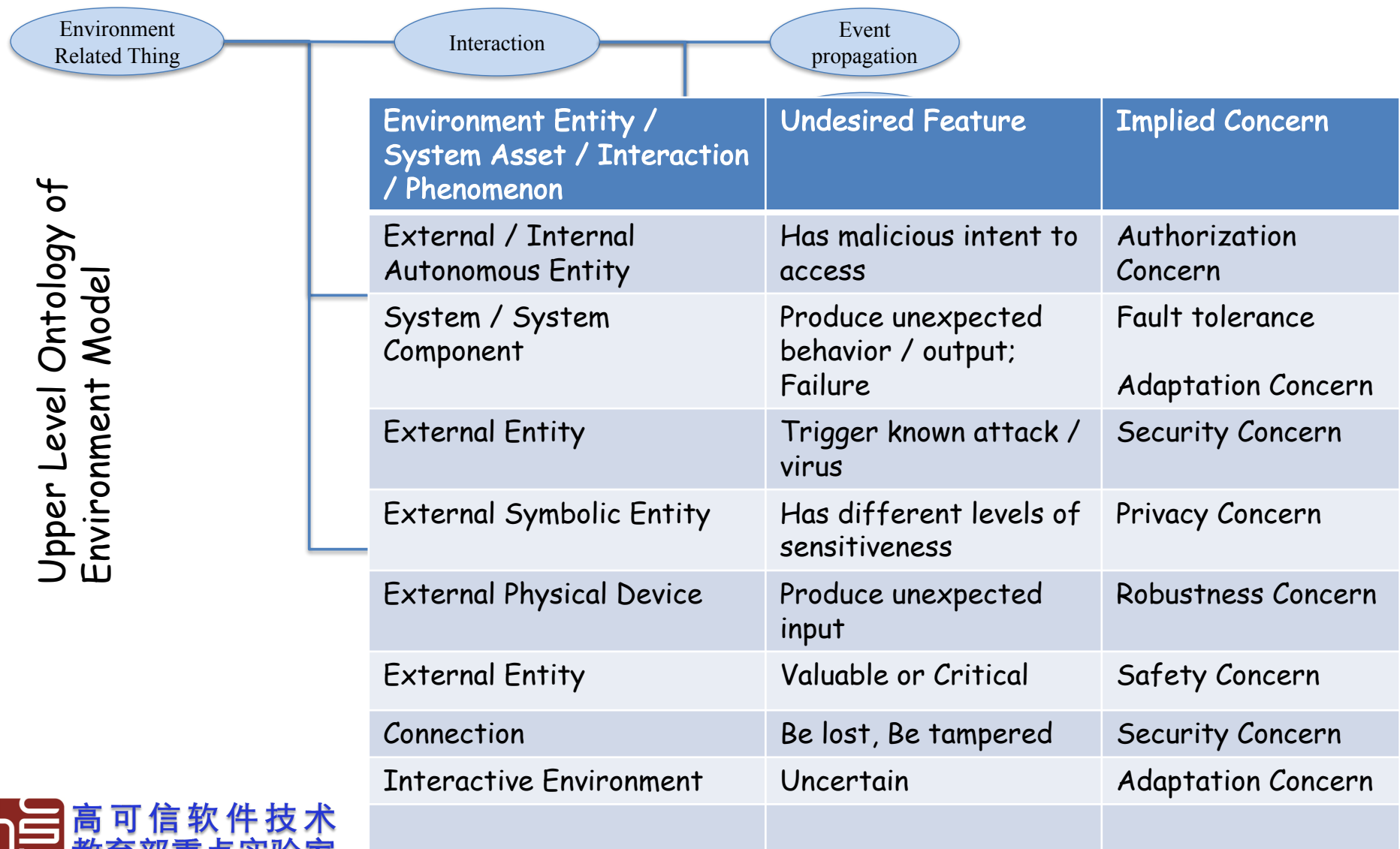
# Requirements Representation



# Conceptual Model



# Concerns Identification from Interactive Environment



Upper Level Ontology of Environment Model

# Entity / Threat / Countermeasure

Featured Entity / Service / Interaction	Threat	Countermeasure
Private/sensitive data	Information disclosure in transmission or service delivering	Strong authorization to data accessing; Strong encryption to the data; Communication link securing with protocols that provides message confidentiality
High available system service	Denial of service by malicious user	Resource and bandwidth throttling; Input validation and filtering
Malicious operator	Spoofing for illegal usage	Strong authentication; Strong encryption to operators' login data; Authentication cookie protection with Secure Sockets Layer
Critical / Valuable data, Device, or Interactor that can result in big loss	Tampering with data in transmission or data storage and/or processing	Data hashing and signing; Digital signatures; Strong authorization; Tamper-resistant protocols across communication links; Communication link securing with protocols that provides message integrity
	System fault or behavior deviation	Oracle-based system behavior checking
Open system/service with highly-desired availability	Virus, e.g. Trojan horse, Worms, .....	Block all unnecessary ports at the firewall and host; Disable unused functionality; Harden weak, default configuration settings
<p>高可信软件技术教育部重点实验室</p> <p>MicroSoft, Improve Web Application Security; Common Criteria for Information Technology Security Evaluation;</p>		

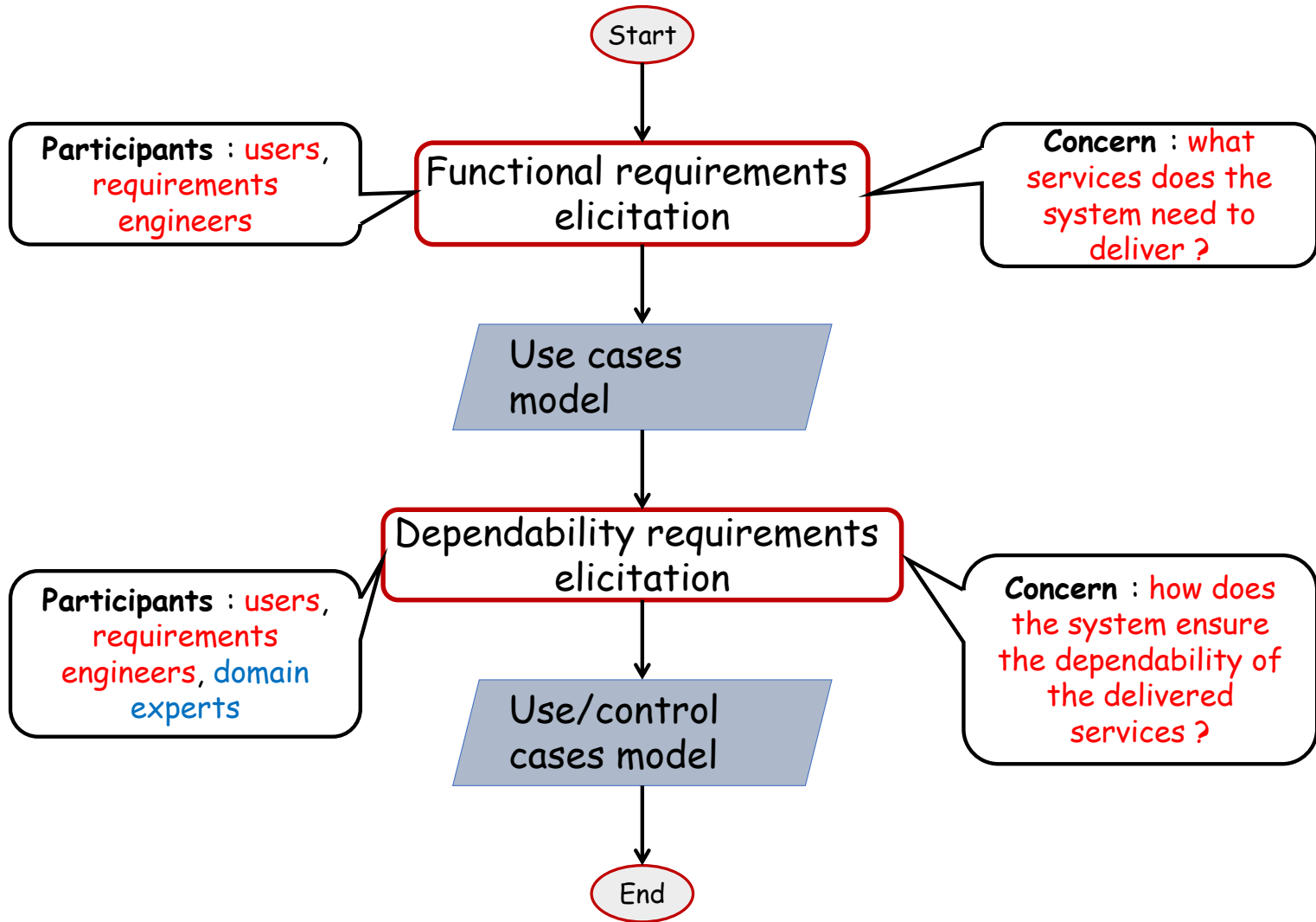




# Process of Requirements Elicitation

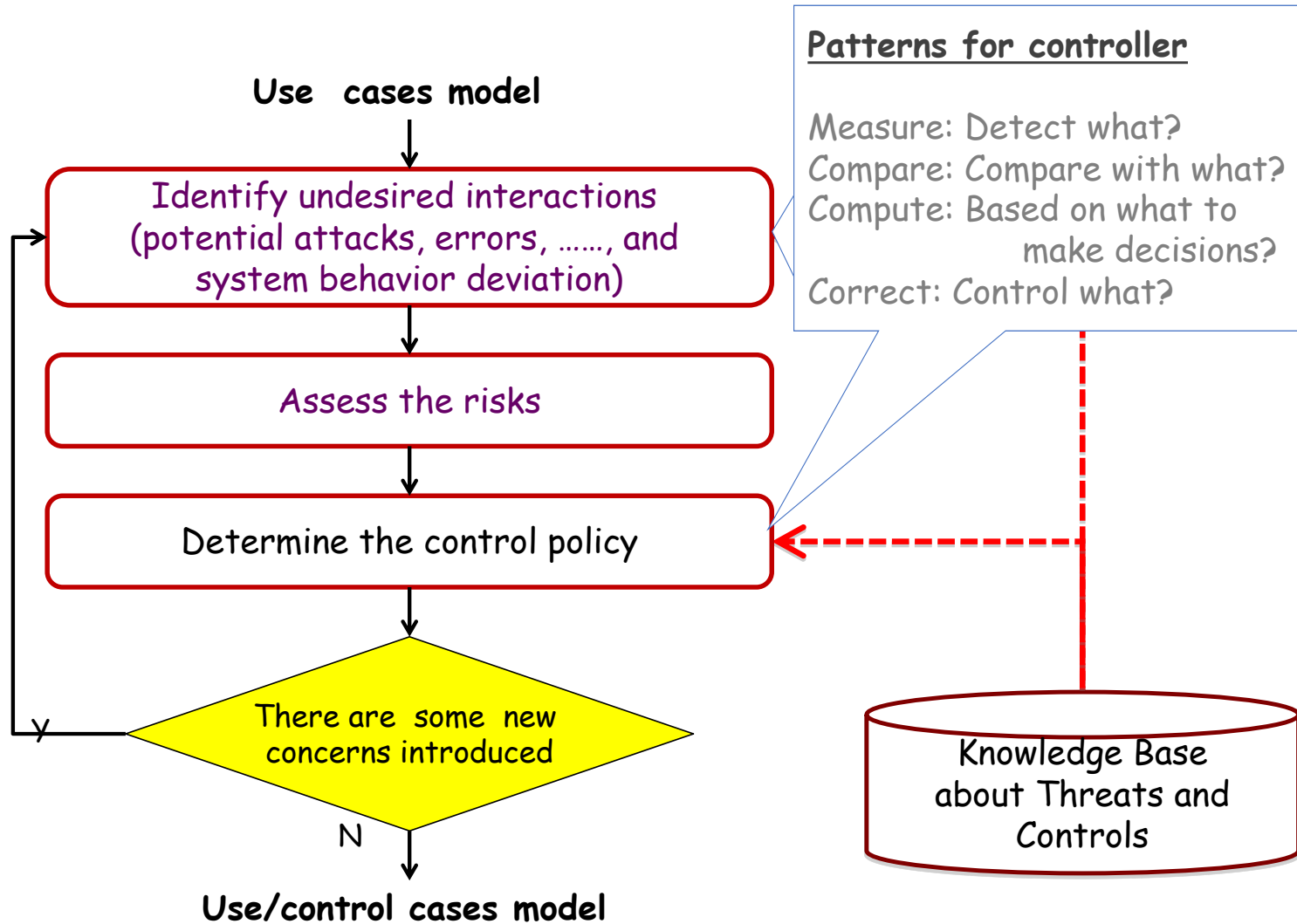
- **Adopt use cases** to specify the business functional requirements
- For each use case
  - Identify **feed-forward controllers** to handle the potential undesired inputs, e.g. errors, attacks, etc. They are the external threats
  - Identify **feed-back controllers** to handle the potential system behavior deviations. They are the internal threats
  - Adopt threat-counter patterns (specific domain knowledge) to specifying the **operationalization of the controllers**
  - **Weave controllers and use case** to build dependable use case

# Requirements Elicitation Process



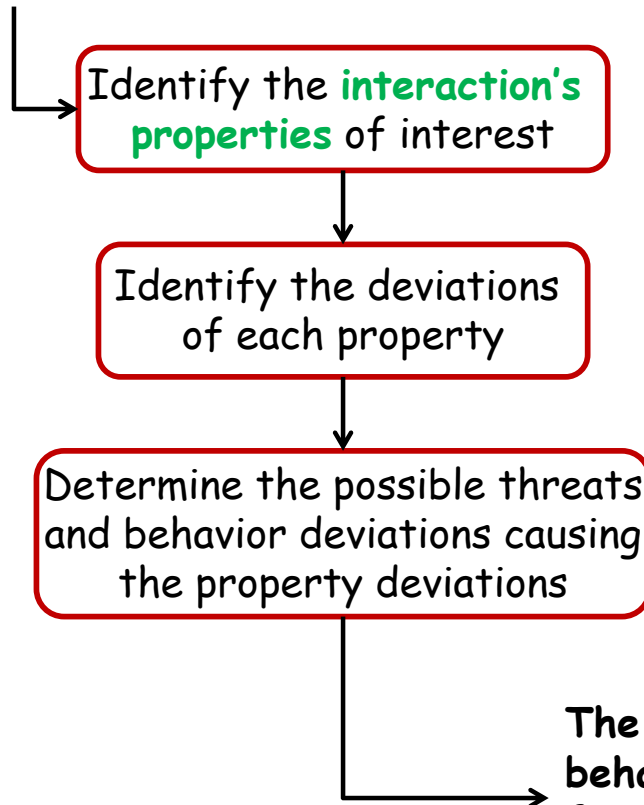


# Requirements Elicitation Process



# Requirements Elicitation Process

Each **interaction** described in a use case



## Example:

**Interaction of use case: log-in:**

The customer inputs the account and password.

**Properties of interest:**

- 1, The frequency of this interaction,
- 2, The confidentiality of the account and password

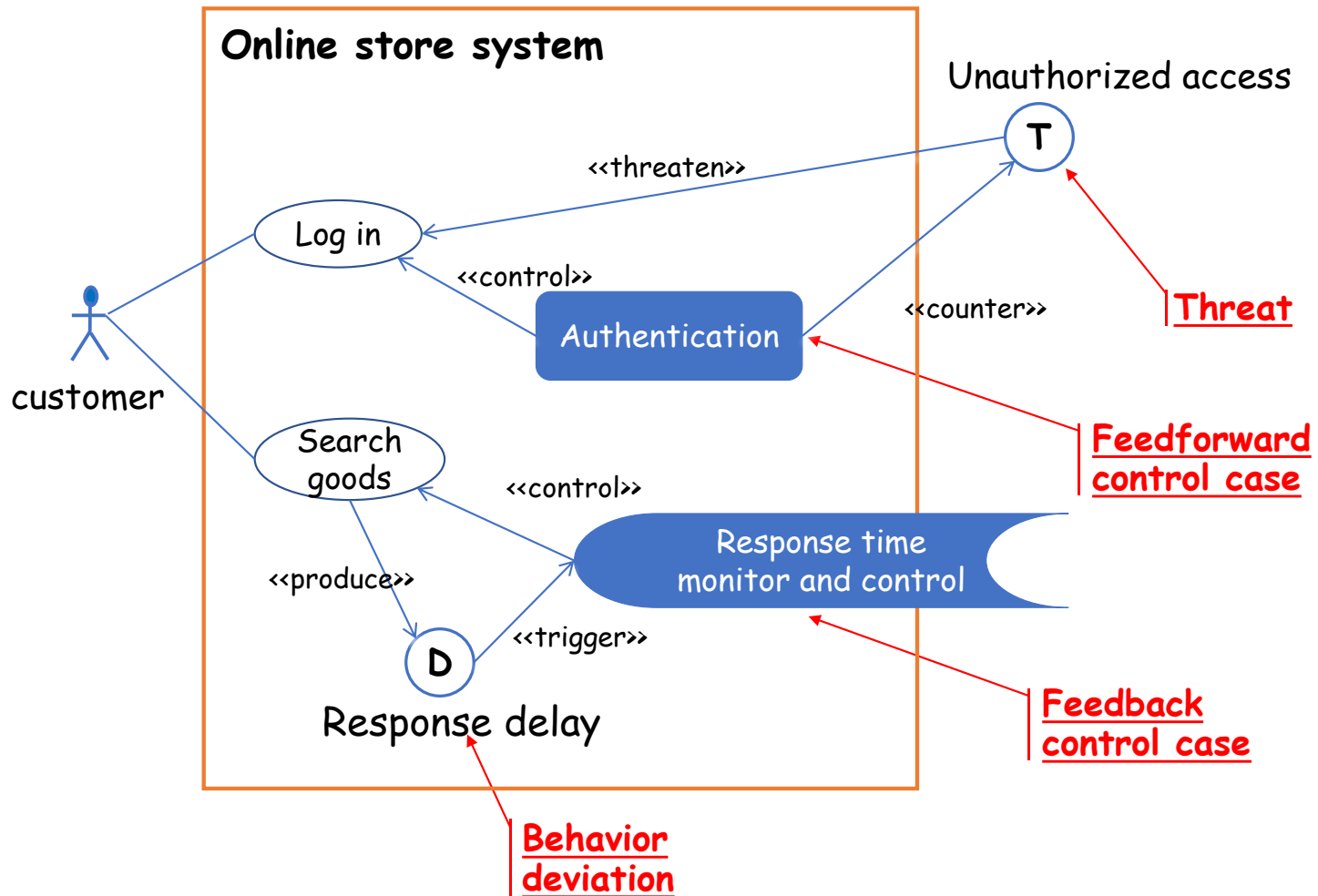
**Deviations of properties:**

- 1, This interaction occurs frequently (**guideword: more**)
- 2, The account and password is disclosed (**guideword: no**)

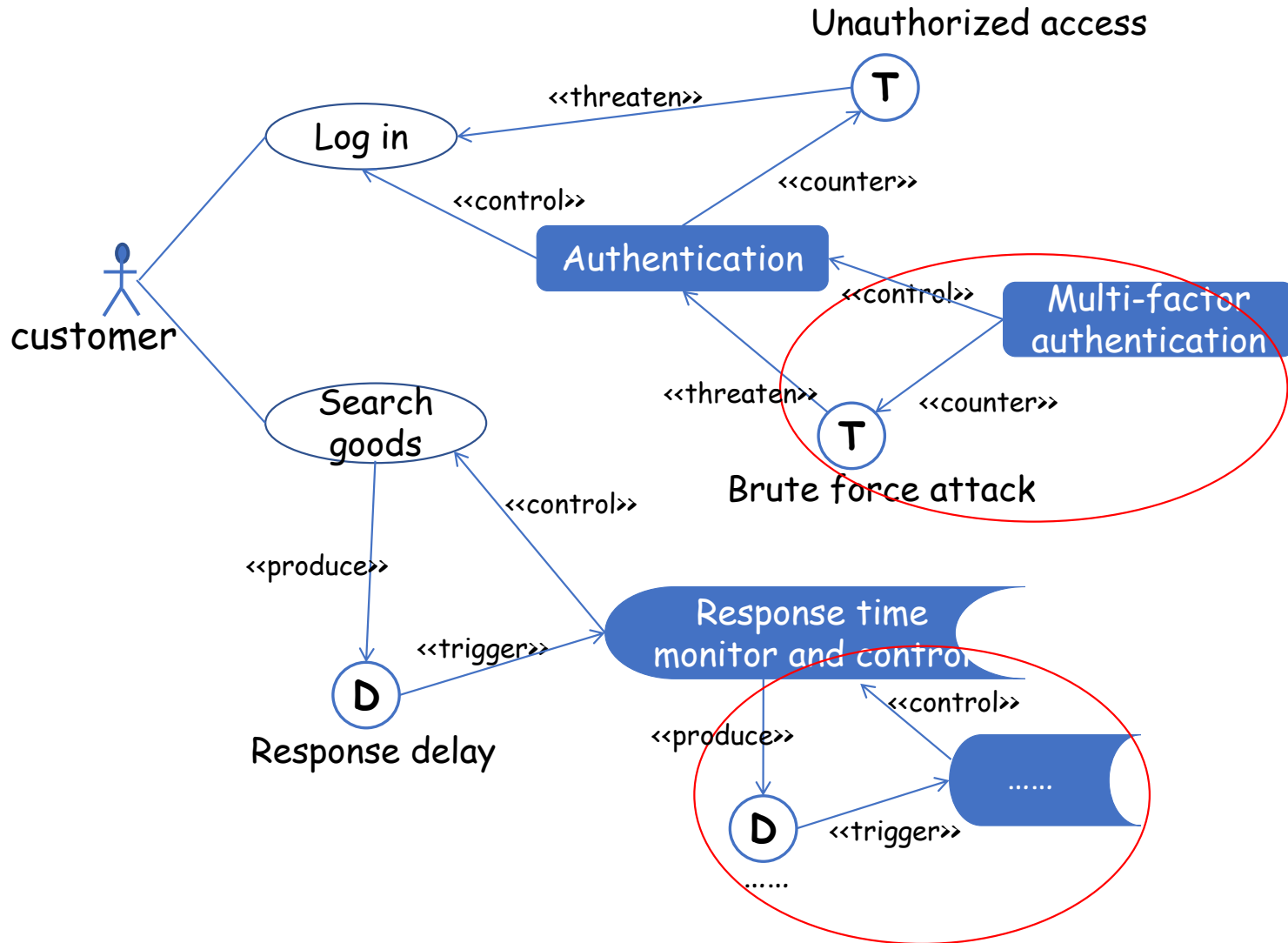
**Threats or system behavior deviations:**

- 1, Brute force attack
- 2, Network monitoring

# Use Case / Controller Model



# Multi-level Controls

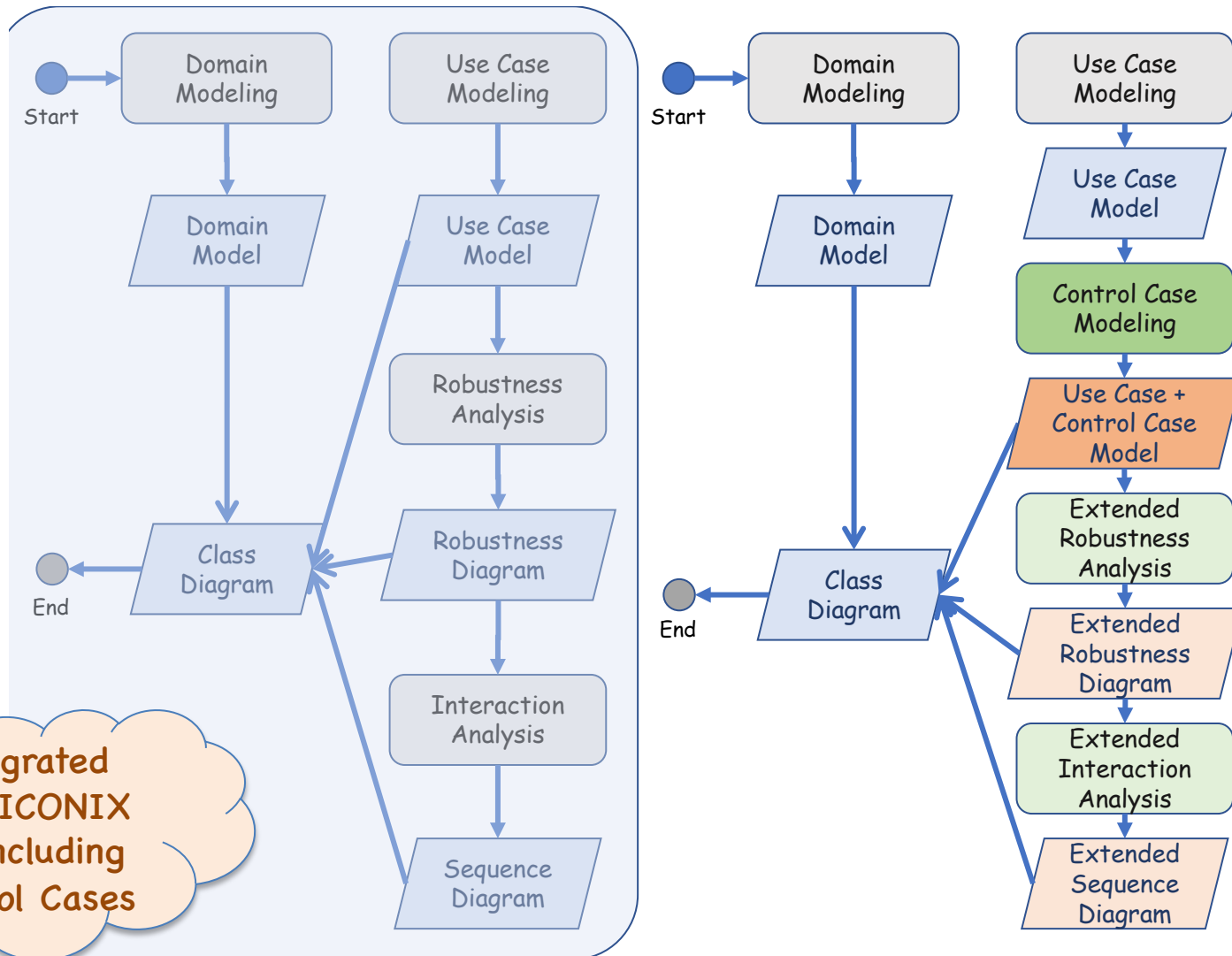




# Controller Representation

<b>FFControl case:</b>	<b>Authentic</b>	<b>FBControl case:</b>	<b>Response time monitor and control</b>
Controlled use case:	Log in	Controlled use case:	Search goods
Stakeholders:	Customer	Stakeholders:	Customer, system manager
Threat model: Threat: Threat description:	Unauthorized The unauth buy a lot o malicious i of others	Behavior deviation model: Behavior deviation: Deviation description:	Response time >30 sec While the customers search what they are interested in, they expect the system to respond within 30 sec. But with the increase of the customers, the response time may delay, and it will affect the reputation of the enterprise
Controls:	while the c system nee customer t password, valid, allow deny the l	Controls:	the system needs to monitor the response time of each request. And if the response time delays, activate more computing resource to accelerate the system responses

# Requirements Interweaving









Integrated with ICONIX by Including Control Cases

D. Rosenberg, et al., 2001, Applying Use Case Driven Object Modeling with UML: an Annotated e-Commerce Example, Addison-Wesley



# Extended Modeling Icons

Functional Object	Icon	Dependability Object	Icon
Boundary Object		Dependability Boundary Object	
Entity Object		Dependability Entity Object	
Controller		Dependability Controller	

# Static / Dynamic Controller Robustness Analysis

Process: "use case+control case" driven robustness analysis

Input:

US: the set of use cases

CS: the set of control cases

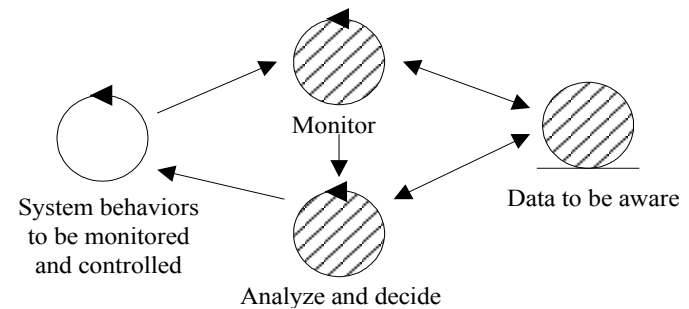
Output:

Extended robustness diagrams

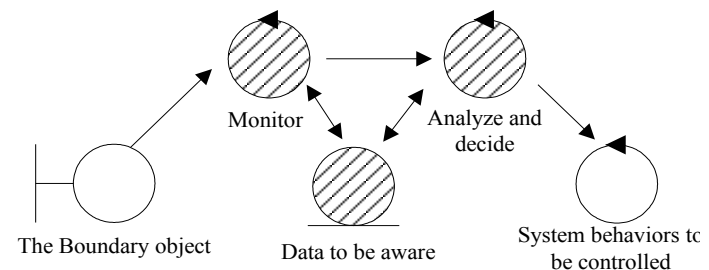
Begin:

- 1 for each use case  $uc \in US$
- 2 identify the boundary object, entity object, and control object from  $uc$ 's description;
- 3 construct the robustness diagram for  $uc$ ;
- 4 find the set of control cases  $CS_{uc}$  that directly or indirectly control the use case  $uc$  from CS;
- 5 for each control case  $cc \in CS_{uc}$
- 6 identify boundary object, entity object, and control object from  $cc$ 's description;
- 7 if the controls described by  $cc$  are dynamic
- 8 construct an independent robustness diagram for  $cc$ ;
- 9 else
- 10 if  $cc$  directly controls  $uc$
- 11 add the objects identified from  $cc$  to the robustness diagram of  $uc$ ;
- 12 else
- 13 add the objects identified from  $cc$  to the diagram of the control case that  $cc$  controls;
- 14 endif
- 15 endif
- 16 endfor
- 17 endfor

End.



Pattern for Dynamic Feedback controller



Pattern for Dynamic Feedforward controller



# Extended Interaction Analysis

Process: "use case+control case" driven interaction modeling

Input:

*U/S*: the set of use cases

*CS*: the set of control cases

*RS*: the set of extended robustness diagram

Output:

Extended sequence diagrams

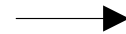
Begin:

- 1 for each extended robustness diagram  $ers \in RS$
  - 2 copy the involved use case and control cases of  $ers$  to the left margin of the sequence diagram;
  - 3 add the involved actors in  $ers$  to the sequence diagram;
  - 4 add the involved entity objects in  $ers$  to the sequence diagram;
  - 5 add the involved boundary objects in  $ers$  to the sequence diagram;
  - 6 for each control object  $co$  in  $ers$
  - 7 allocate the behaviors of  $co$  among the collaborator objects;
  - 8 endfor
  - 9 endfor
- End.

The symbols for use cases:

: Object

Object for use case

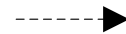


Message for use case

The symbols for control cases:

: Object

Object for control case



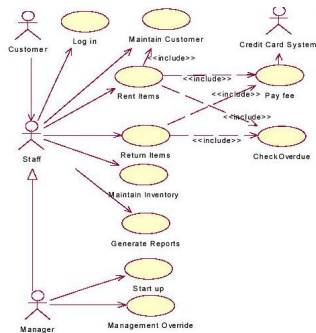
Message for control case

# The Whole Process

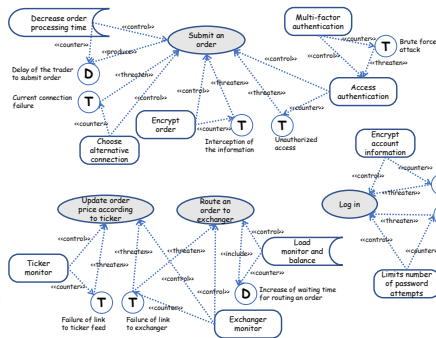
## Use Case Description

Name	Save item for purchase
ID	UC_001
Description	While browsing items in the store, a user finds an item he is not ready to purchase yet, but he wants to save it to a list so that he can later find the item that he was previously interested in.
Actors	Store customer
Operational Benefits	Increase sales by helping the customer remember products he was previously interested in.
Frequency of Use	30% of users save an item to be bought later each time they visit the site. 50% of saved items are purchased within one year of the save date.
Triggers	The user selects an option to save an item.
Preconditions	User is viewing an item in the catalog. The item selected to be saved is visible to the user when he views his saved items.
Postconditions	The item selected to be saved is reflected as a saved item when the user views his store search and browse results.
Main Course	1. System prompts user to confirm saving selected item instead of purchasing right away. 2. User confirms to save now (see EX1). 3. System determines user is not logged in and redirects user to log on (see AC1). 4. User logs on (see AC2, AC3). 5. System saves the user's item. 6. System redirects the user to their saved items list to view the full list.
Alternate Courses	AC1: System determines user is already logged on. 1. Return to Main Course step 5. AC2: User logs off again. 1. Return user to Main Course step 3. AC3: User does not have an account already. 1. User creates an account. 2. System confirms account creation. 3. Return user to Main Course step 5. AC4: System determines user is not logged in and redirects user to log on (see AC1). 1. User logs on (see AC2, AC3). 2. System saves the user's item. 3. System redirects the user to their saved items list to view the full list.
Exceptions	EX1: User decides to purchase the item now. 1. See "Purchase Item" Use Case. EX2: System fails on saving items to list. 1. System notifies user that an error has occurred. 2. Return user to Main Course step 1.

## Use Case Diagram



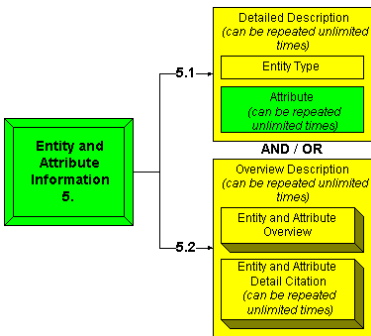
## Controllers and Use Case Diagram



Guided Generation

NLP Techniques:  
Domain Entity Recognition,  
Relation Classification

## Interactive Entities and Attributes



Risk Analysis  
Countermeasure Selection  
Threats-Countermeasure  
Knowledge Base

## Dependable Use Cases

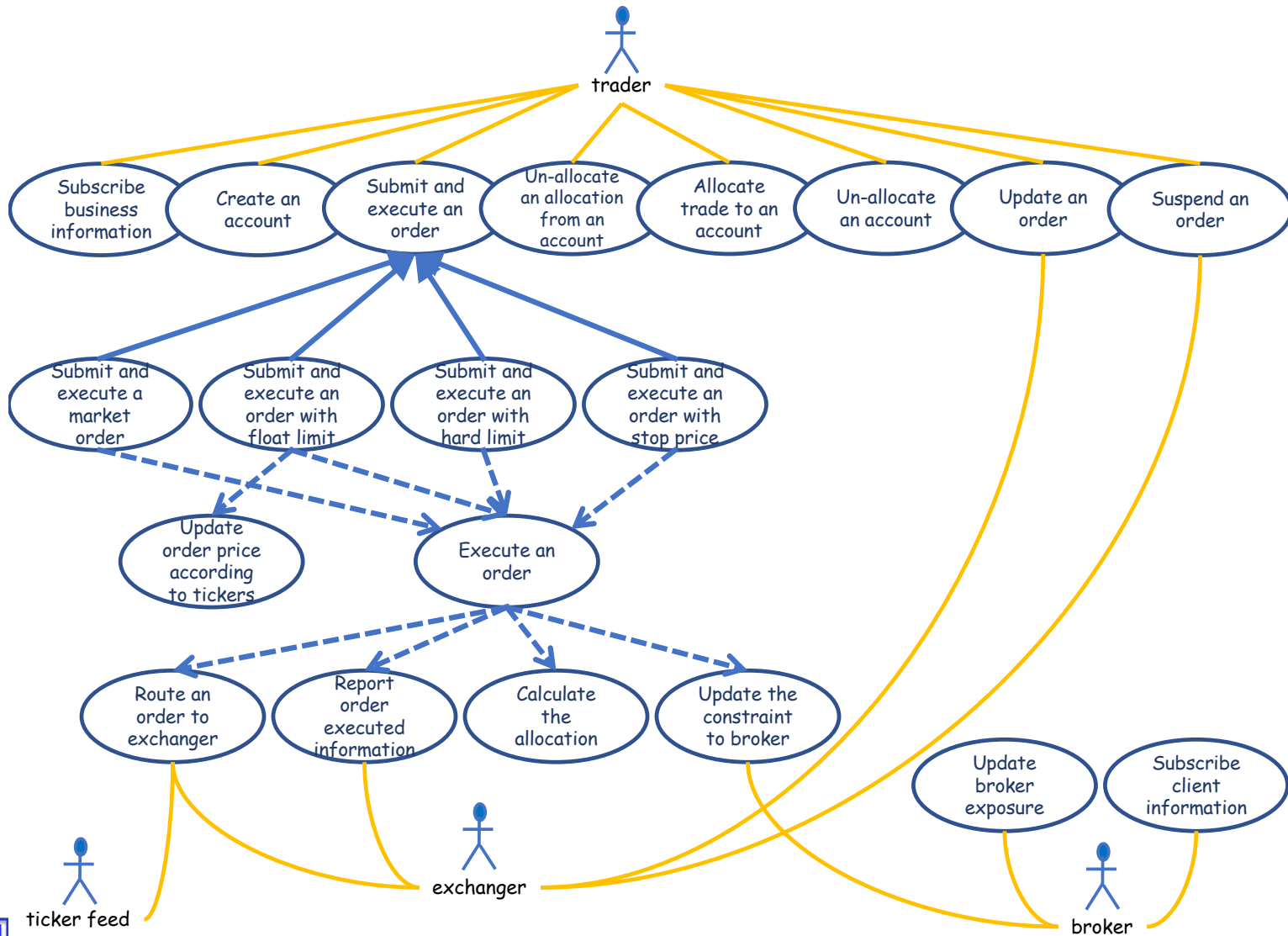
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Environment Entity / System Asset	Undesired Feature	Implied Concern
System / System Component	Produce unexpected behavior / output; Failure	Fault tolerance Adaptation Concern
External Entity	Trigger known attack / virus	Security Concern
External Symbolic Entity	Has different levels of sensitiveness	Privacy Concern
External Physical Device	Produce unexpected input	Robustness Concern
External Entity	Valuable or Critical	Safety Concern

Candidate Controlled Domain,  
Threats and Concerns

Domain Knowledge  
Domain Expert Experience  
(Entity's Property, Relation's Property)

# A Case Study: Online Stock Trading System



# Online Stock Trading System: Use Cases

## Use case: Log in

**Actor: Trader**

### **Preconditions:**

- The stock trading system is available.

### **Main flow:**

1. The trader clicks the login button on the Home page.
2. The system displays the Login page.
3. The trader enters the account name and password, and click the submit button.
4. The system validates the account information against the persistent account data and returns the customer to the Home page.

### **Postconditions:**

- The trader has logged in the system.

### **Alternative flows:**

- 4a. The account information is not right:
  - 4a1. The system displays a message to inform the failure and prompts the trader to either re-enter the account information or click the create account button

## Use Case : Submit an order

**Actor: Trader**

### **Preconditions:**

- The exchanger which the order will route is connected and can accept instructions from system.
- The trader has logged in.

### **Main flow:**

1. The trader clicks the submit order button on the Home page
2. The system displays the order submission page.
3. The trader sets the basic information of the order: the stock symbol, the size, the type of the order in remote flag field, the price, and the type of the transaction(buy or sell) .
4. The trader clicks the submit button to send the order to system.
5. The system checks the order if legal.
6. The system routes the order to the exchange where the stock lists for trading
7. The system sends a submission success message to the trader

### **Postconditions:**

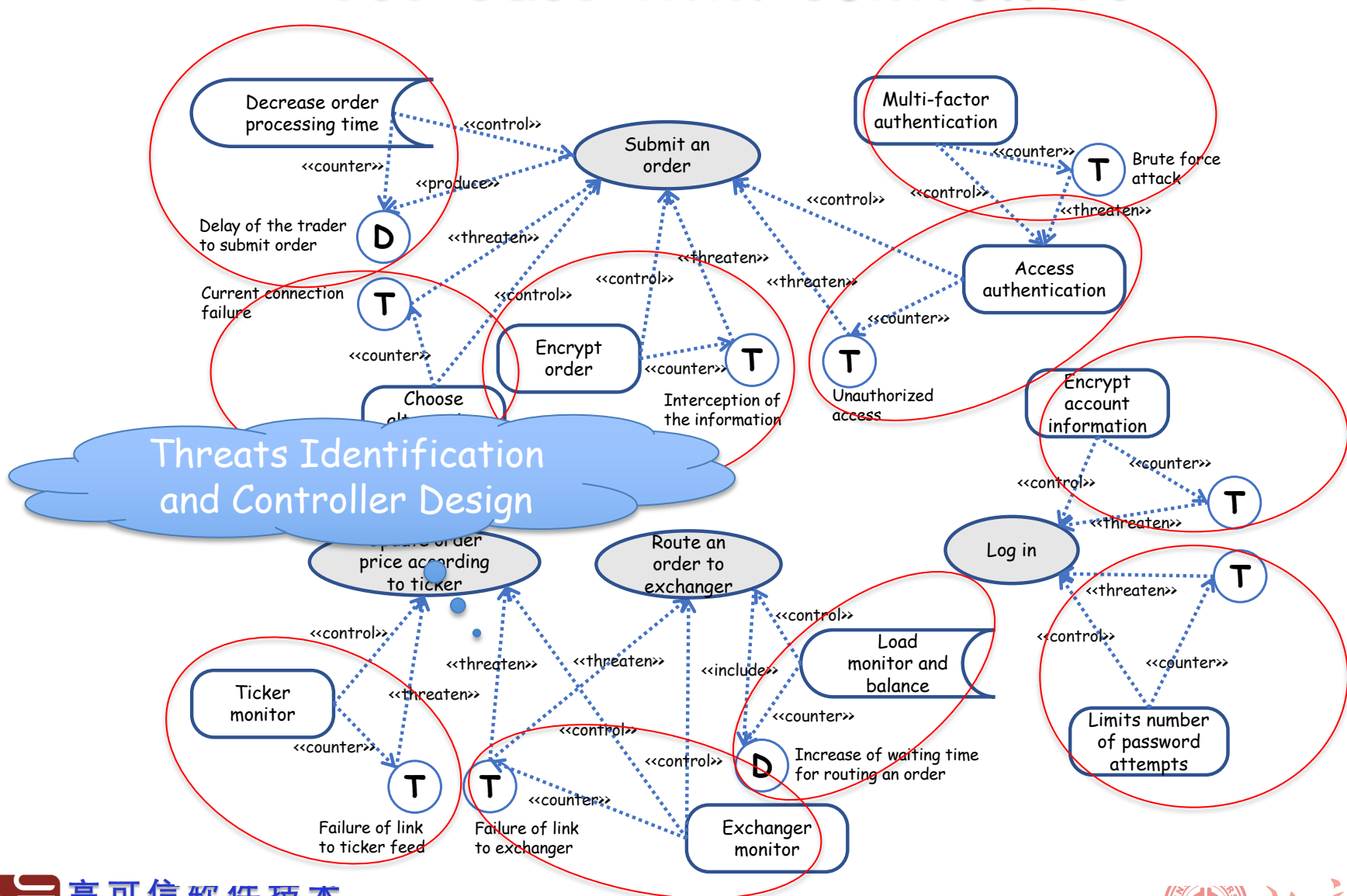
- The system has received an order from the trader.
- The system waits for the trading result of the order.

### **Alternative Flows:**

- 5a. The order is not legal.
  - 5a1. The system asks the trader to reset the information of the order.
- 7a. The order's submission fails.
  - 7a1. The system returns the failure information to the trader.



# Online Stock Trading System: Use Case with Controllers



# Online Stock Trading System: Controller Description

## FFcontrol case: Encrypt account name and password

**Stakeholder:** Trader

**Controlled use case:** Log in

**Threat model:**

**Threat name:** Data interception

**Threat description:** After the customer enters the account information, the account information may be intercepted by some malicious persons through some sniffers. The malicious person may use the account information for some purpose undesired by the customer.

**Controls:**

**Alternative 1:** Encryption

**Actions:** After the customer enters the account information for login, the system encrypts the account name and password before other actions.

## FFcontrol case: limit the number of password attempts

**Stakeholder:** Trader

**Controlled use case:** Log in

**Threat model:**

**Threat name:** Password cracking

**Threat Description:** Once some malicious persons know the account name of the trader, he will crack the account password by testing the password again and again with the help of some software tools.

**Characteristics quantity:** The number of the password attempts in one trading day

**Acceptable interval:** [0,5]

**Event:** The number of the password attempts in one trading day > 5

**Controls:**

**Alternative 1:** Limit the number of password attempts in one trading day

**Actions:** 1, while the trader enters the account information, the system first check the number that the trader has attempted, and then the system validate the account.

2, If the password is right, then return the trader to the Home page.

3, If the password is not right, the system needs to increase the number of the password attempts.

4, If the number of attempts is bigger than three, the system displays the message about the closure of the account on the Login page.

## FFcontrol case: Encrypt order

**Stakeholder:** Trader

**Controlled use case:** Submit an order

**Threat model:**

**Threat name:** Data interception

**Threat description:** Someone may use some agents to intercept the order information that the trader has submitted. In that way, the malicious person may fake the information to destroy the system or cause losses to the trader.

**Controls:**

**Alternative 1:** Encryption

**Actions:** The system encrypts the order after the trader has submitted it.

## FFcontrol case: Enable alternate connection

**Stakeholder:** Trader

**Controlled use case:** Submit an order

**Threat model:**

**Threat name:** Exchange connection failure

**Threat description:** Because of the physical reasons, the connection between the system and each exchange may be not available. This will cause that the order can't be routed to the exchange timely, and bring some losses.

**Characteristics quantity:** The state of the connection to the exchange

**Acceptable interval:** The connection is ok.

**Event:** The connection is not available.

**Controls:**

**Alternative 1:** Monitor the state of the connection and alarm the failure

**Actions:** 1, The system sends the "SYSTEM CHECK" message to the exchange in every 5 minutes.

2, If the connections are ok, the system will receive the same message from the exchange.

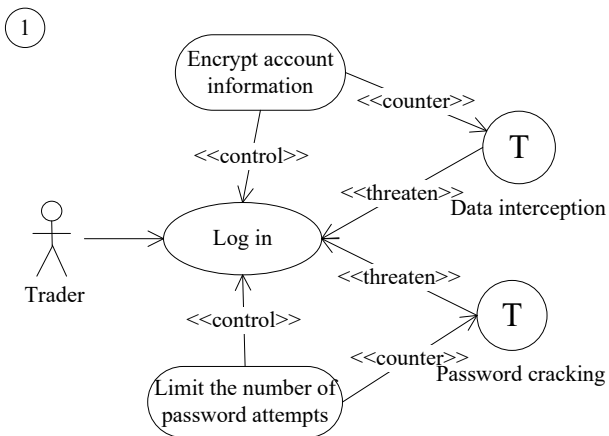
3, If one connection is down, the system needs to alarm, and enable the alternate connection.

## FBcontrol case: Decrease order process time

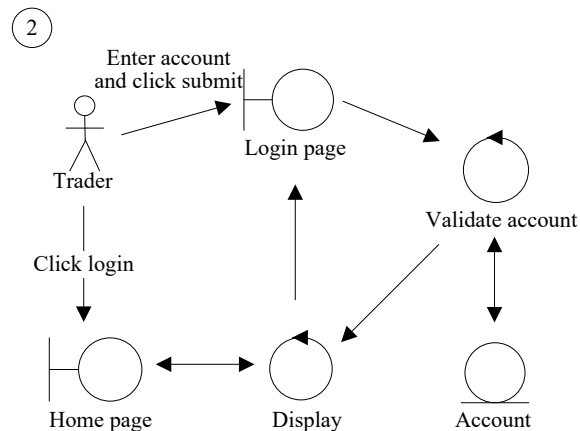
**Stakeholder:** Trader

**Controlled use case:** Submit an order

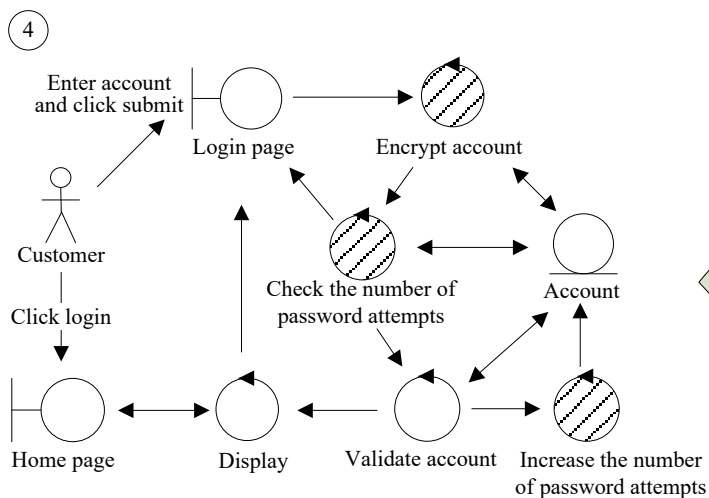
# Online Stock Trading System: Log-in Static Controller and Robustness Analysis



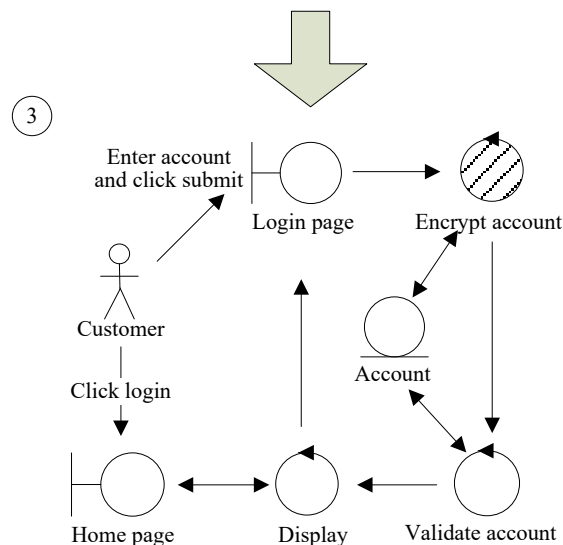
(a) use cases + control cases diagram



(b) analyze use case: log in



(d) analyze control case: limit the number of password attempts



(c) analyze control case: encrypt account

# Online Stock Trading System: Log-in Controlled Use Case

**Use case: Login/control cases: encrypt account name and password, limit the number of password attempts**

**Main flow:**

- 1, The trader clicks the login button on the Home page.
- 2, The system displays the Login page.
- 3, The trader enters the account information, and click the submit button.

/encrypt account name and password: After the customer enters the account information for login, the system encrypts the account information before other actions.

- 4, The system validates the account information against the persistent account data and returns the trader to the Home page.

/limit the number of password attempts: 1, while the trader enters the account information, the system first checks the number that the trader has attempted, and then validate the account.

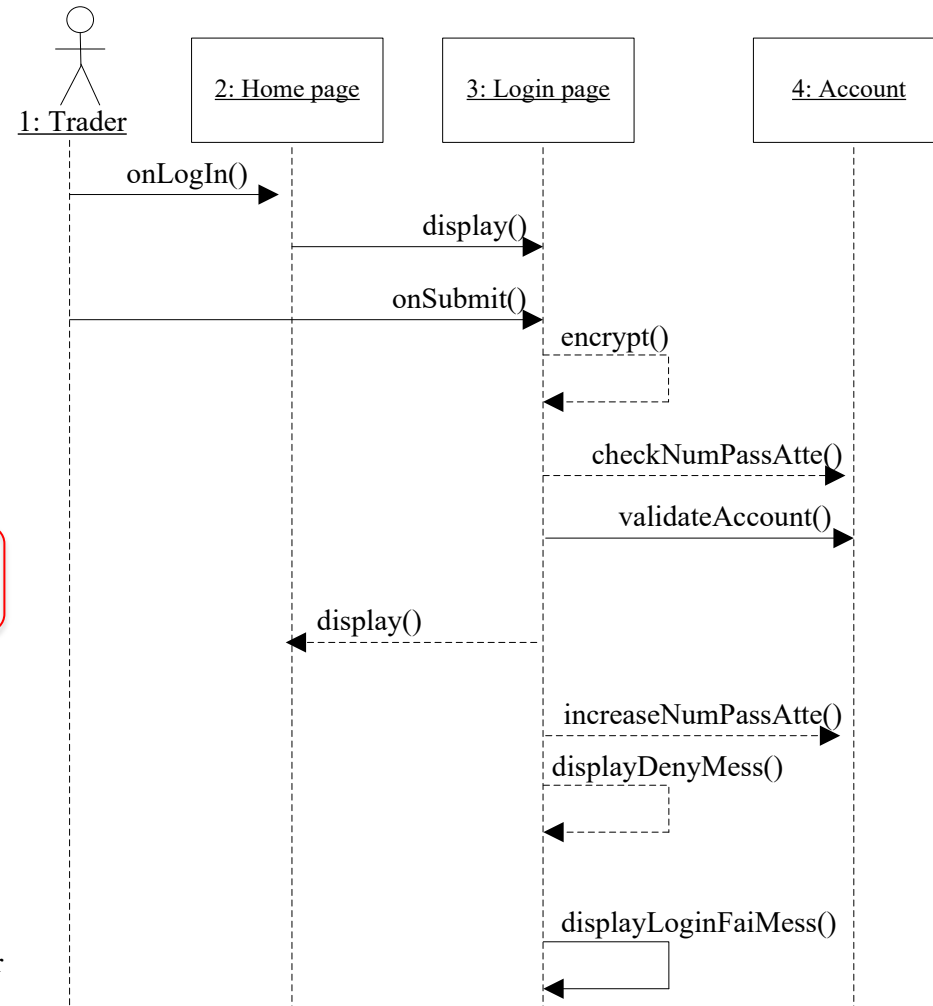
2. If the password is right, then return the trader to the Home page.

3. If the password is not right, the system needs to increase the number of the password attempts.

4. If the number of attempts is bigger than three, the system displays the denying message on the Login page.

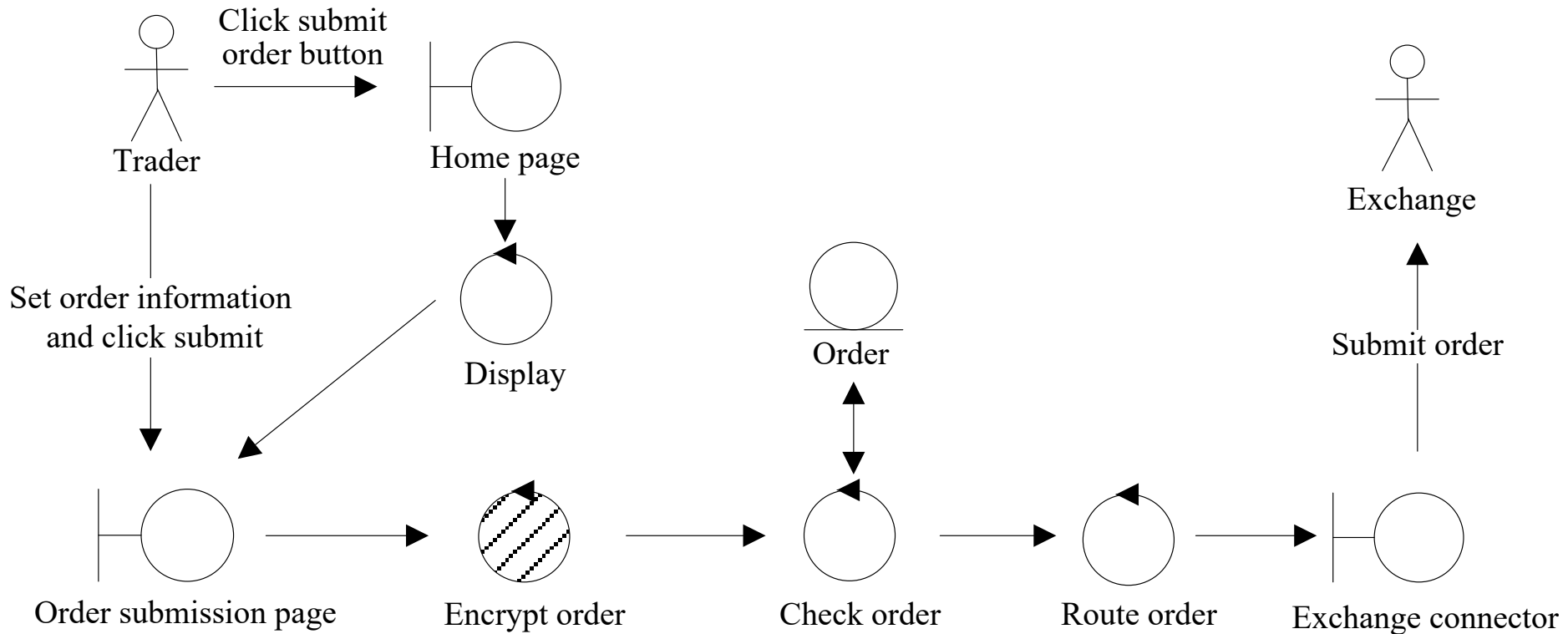
**Alternative flows:**

- 4a. The account information is not right:
  - 4a1. The system displays a message to inform the failure and prompts the trader to either re-enter the account information or click the create account button



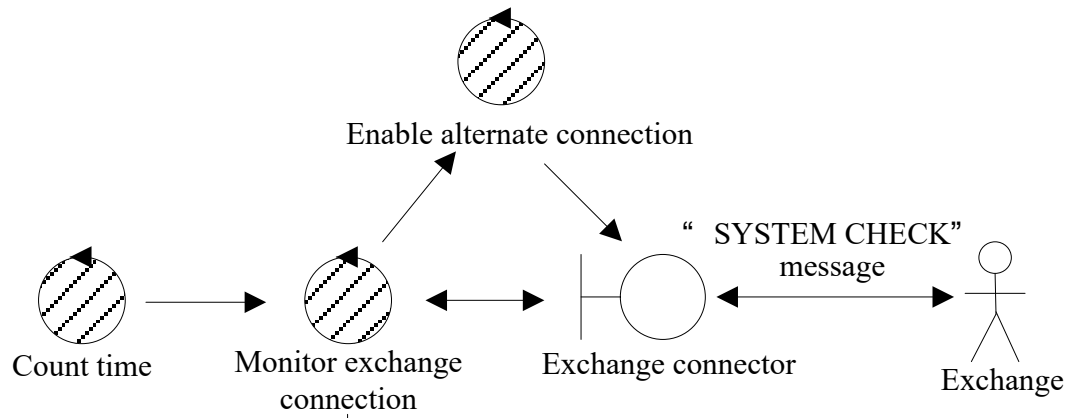
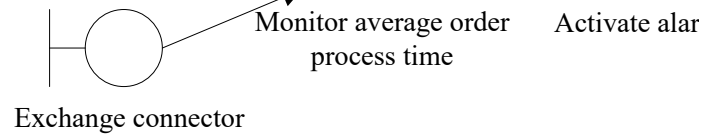
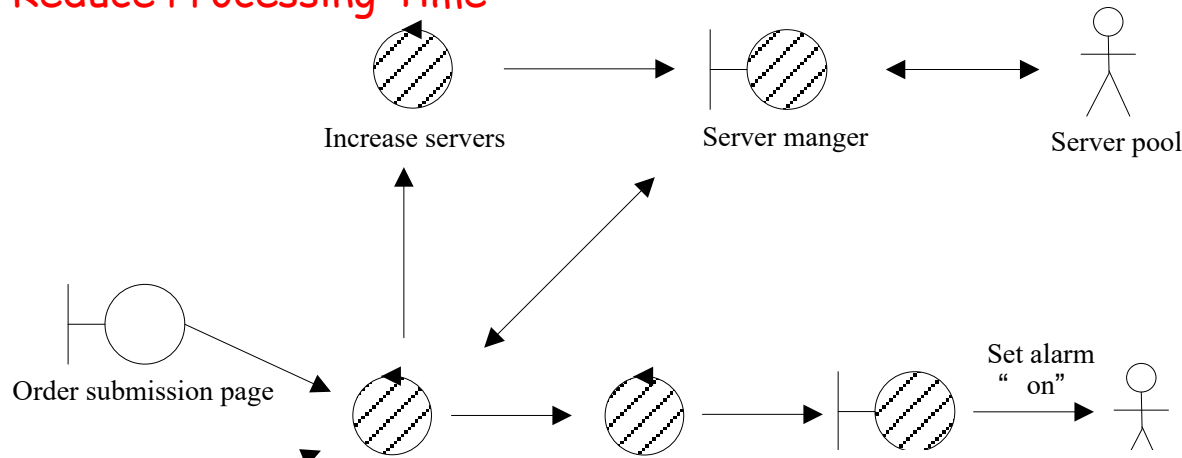


# Online Stock Trading System: Submit Order Robustness Analysis Diagram with Static Controller

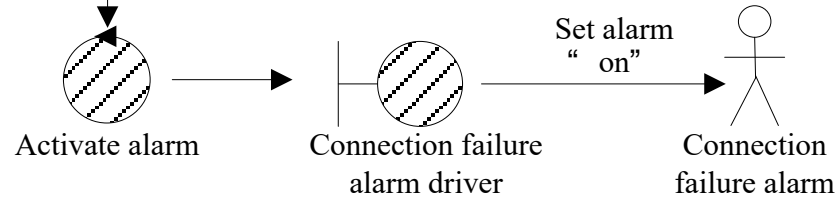


# Online Stock Trading System: Submit Order Dynamic Controllers

## Reduce Processing Time



## Activate Alter Connection



# Online Stock Trading System: Submit Order

## Dynamic Controllers: Reduce Processing Time

**Control cases: decrease order process time**

**Controls:**

**Alternative1:** Increase computing resource

**Precondition:** There are idle servers which can be allocated

**Actions:** 1, After the trader submits the order, the system needs to start to monitor the process time of the order.

2, After the system has routed the order, the system ends the monitor.

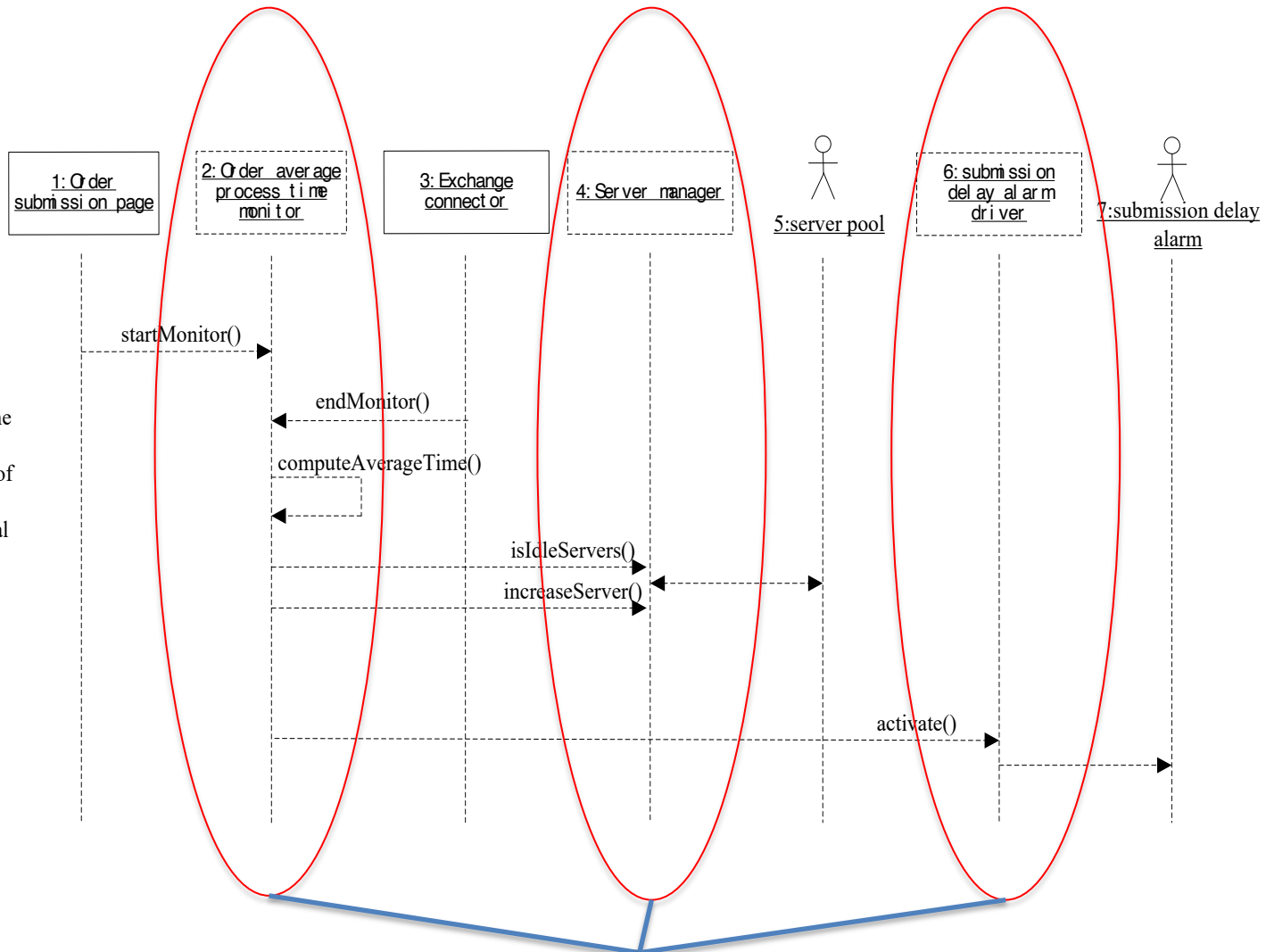
3, The system computes the average time of processing the order.

4, The system allocates more servers to deal with the orders accepted from the traders if the average time > 0.8.

**Alternative2:** Submission delay alarm

**Precondition:** There are no allocatable servers.

**Actions:** 1, The system activates the submission delay alarm to report that the submission delay occurs and the allocatable resources are exhausted.



Including Controller and Control actions are interweaved with business actions

# Online Stock Trading System: Submit Order

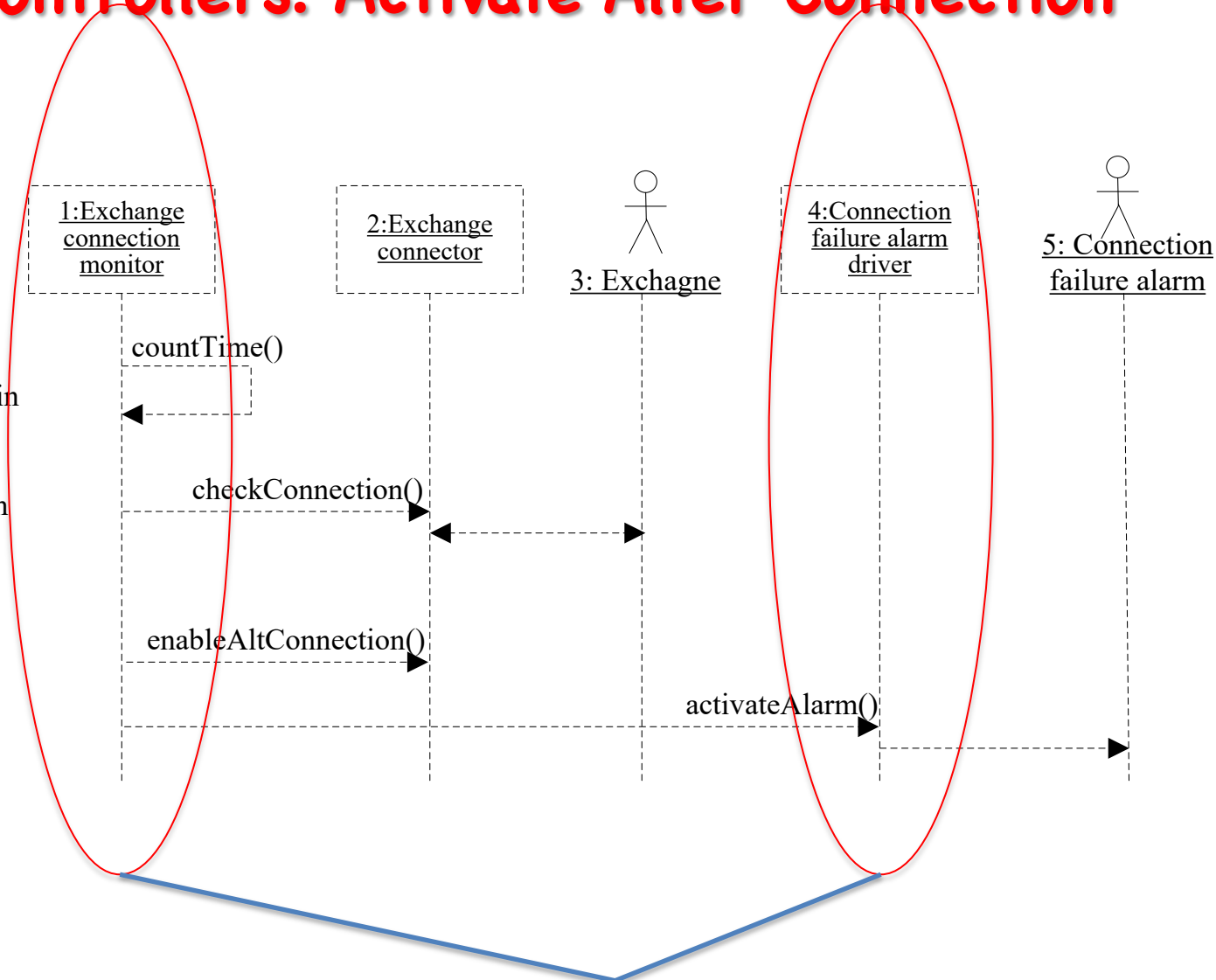
## Dynamic Controllers: Activate Alter Connection

**Control cases: enable alternate connection**

**Controls:**  
The system sends the "SYSTEM CHECK" message to the exchange in every 5 minutes.

If the connections are ok, the system will receive the same message from the exchange.

If one connection is down, the system needs to alarm, and enable the alternate connection.



Including Controller and Control actions are interweaved with business actions



# Key Points

- Start from function scenarios
  - Modeling functional/business requirements  
(**Dependability is accordance with business logic and domain value**)
  - Focusing on interactions between the system and its interactive environment (**input threats and output effect take place here**)
  - Each dependability requirement is attached onto a functional point (**just enough scope, and dependability trace links**)
- Knowledge based
  - The strategies dealing with the dependability issues are IT techniques based (**reuse mature experience**)

# Summarization

1. Model *system* as *a control system*. Within a certain context, for handling the *critical factors in the interactive environment D*, and the *unexpected system behaviors*, use *controllers* to guarantee the *satisfiability* of **R**
2. Use *feed-forward controllers* to control the environment factors; use *feed-back controllers* to avoid disasters resulted by system behavior deviations
3. Provide guidelines to help *identifying controlling policies* based on knowledge about strategies of enhancing system dependability
4. Integrate with ICONIX framework to provide *fine grained operationalization of dependability requirements* that are integrated into functional requirements to reduce the burden of developers





# Outline

- **Motivation:**
  - System need to be more dependable
- **Challenges:**
  - Dependability is non-functional feature and needs to be interweaved with functional features
- **Approach:**
  - Derive dependability concerns from environment features
  - Adopt control-based framework to interweave dependability and functionality
- **Expectation:**
  - Benefits and further efforts



# Benefits

- Providing guided process to support
  - the elicitation of dependability requirements
  - trace link building among dependability of different layers
  - interweaving of the business functionality and dependability functionality of fine-grained





# Future Work

- More case studies, real industry applications
- Quantify risks, threats and countermeasures so to prioritize dependability needs and other NFRs
- To become a go-through approach from specification to execution depends on:
  - Dynamic re-configuration and deployment
  - Run-time system adaptation and evolution
  - .....
- All are challenges



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# Thanks For Your Attentions



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