Requirements Analysis 2: Realizing Use Cases

Based on Chapter 7 of Bennett, McRobb and Farmer:

Object Oriented Systems Analysis and Design Using UML, (4th Edition), McGraw Hill, 2010.

In This Lecture You Will Learn:

- What is meant by use case realization
- Two approaches for realizing use cases:
  - Robustness analysis combined with communication diagrams
  - Class-Responsibility-Collaboration (CRC)
- How to combine use case class diagrams into a single analysis class model

From Requirements to Classes

- Requirements (use cases) are usually expressed in user language
- Use cases are units of development, but they are not structured like software
- The software we will implement consists of classes
- We need a way to translate requirements into classes

Goal of Realization

- An analysis class diagram is only an interim product
- This in turn will be realized as a design class diagram
- The ultimate product of realization is the software implementation of that use case

Communication Diagram Approach

- Analyse one use case at a time
- Identify likely classes involved (the use case collaboration)
  - These may come from a domain model
- Draw a communication diagram that fulfils the needs of the use case
- Translate this into a use case class diagram
- Repeat for other use cases
- Assemble the use case class diagrams into a single analysis class diagram

Robustness Analysis

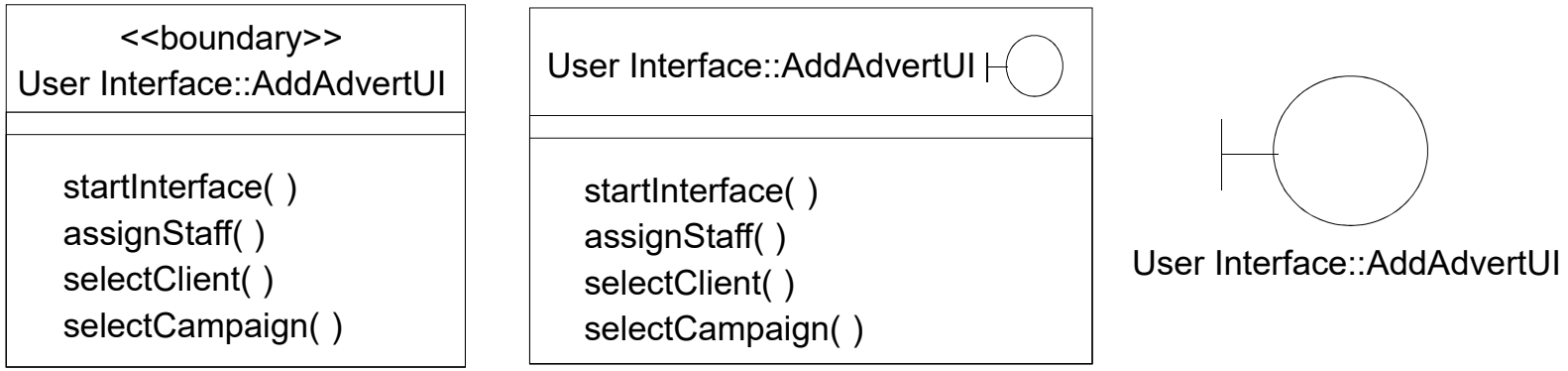
- Aims to produce set of classes robust enough to meet requirements of a use case
- Makes some assumptions about the interaction:
  - Assumes some class or classes are needed to handle the user interface
  - Abstracts logic of the use case away from *entity* classes (that store persistent data)

Robustness Analysis: Class Stereotypes

- Class stereotypes differentiate the roles objects can play:
  - Boundary objects model interaction between the system and actors (and other systems)
  - Control objects co-ordinate and control other objects
  - Entity objects represent information and behaviour in the application domain
  - Entity classes may be imported from domain model
  - Boundary and control classes are more likely to be unique to one application

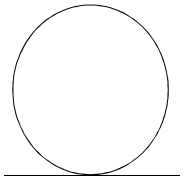
Boundary Class Stereotype

- Boundary classes represent interaction with the user - likely to be unique to the use case but inherited from a library
- Alternative notations:



Entity Class Stereotype

- Entity classes represent persistent data and common behaviour likely to be used in more than one application system
- Alternative notations :

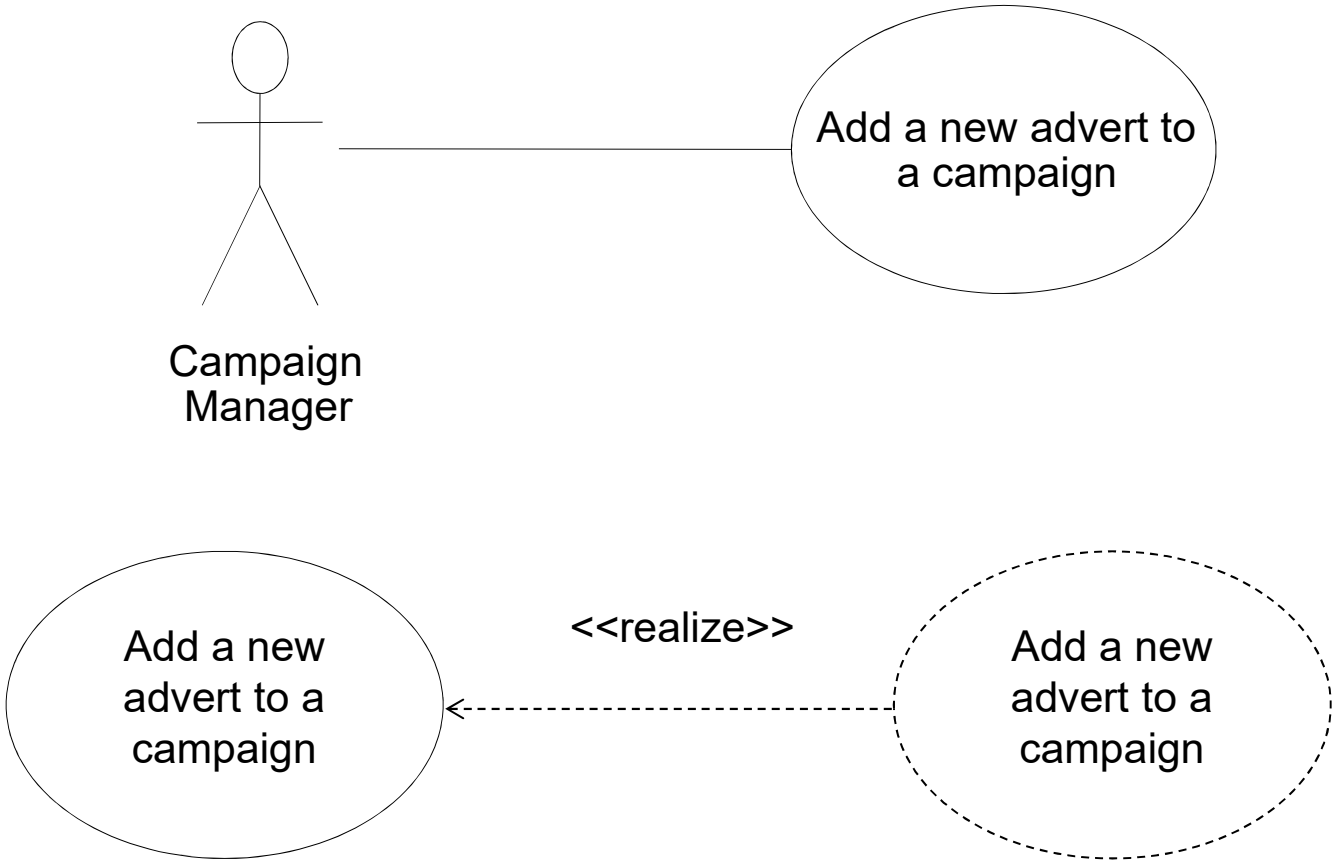


Campaign

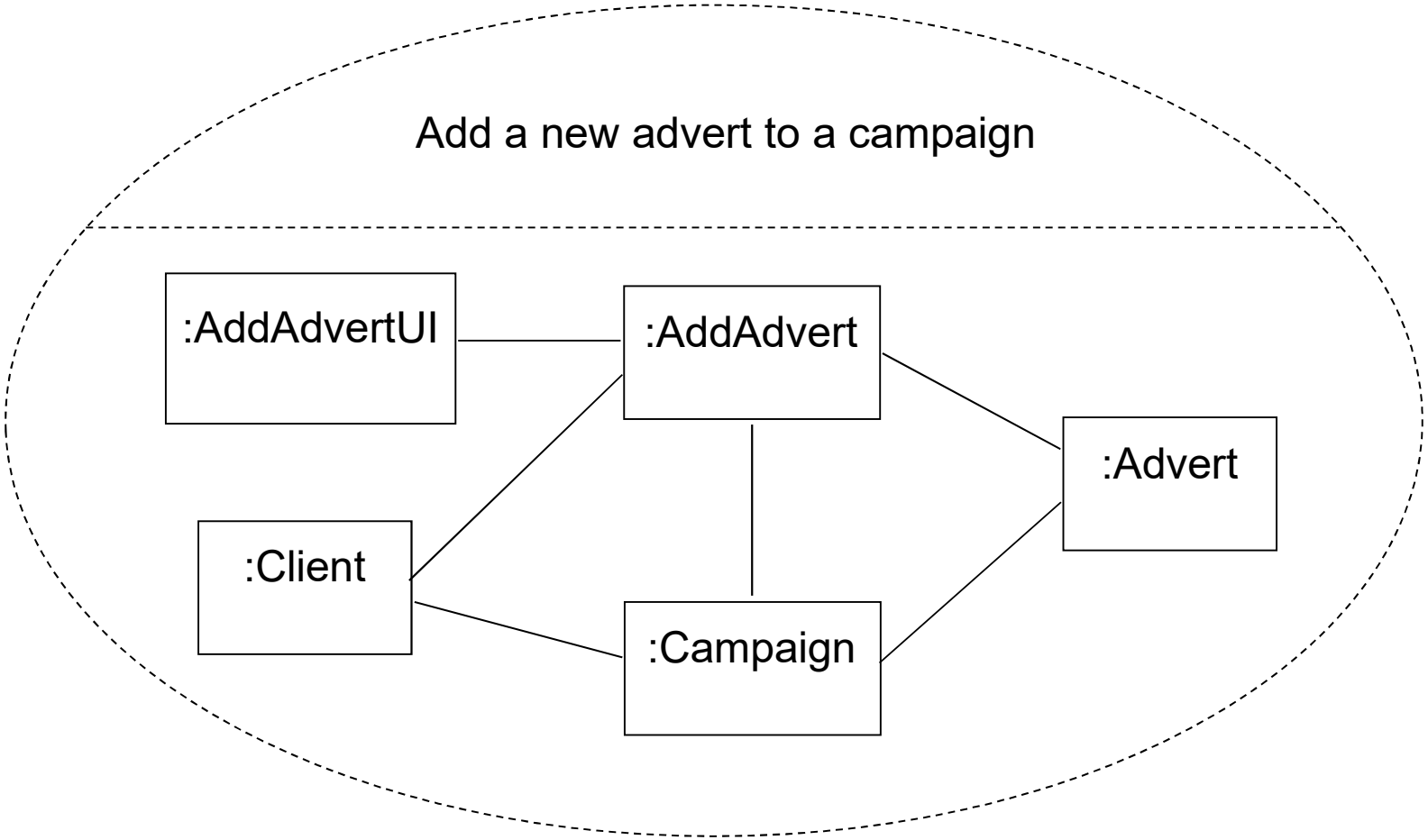
Control Class Stereotype

- Control classes encapsulate unique behaviour of a use case
- Specific logic kept separate from the common behaviour of entity classes
- Alternative notations:

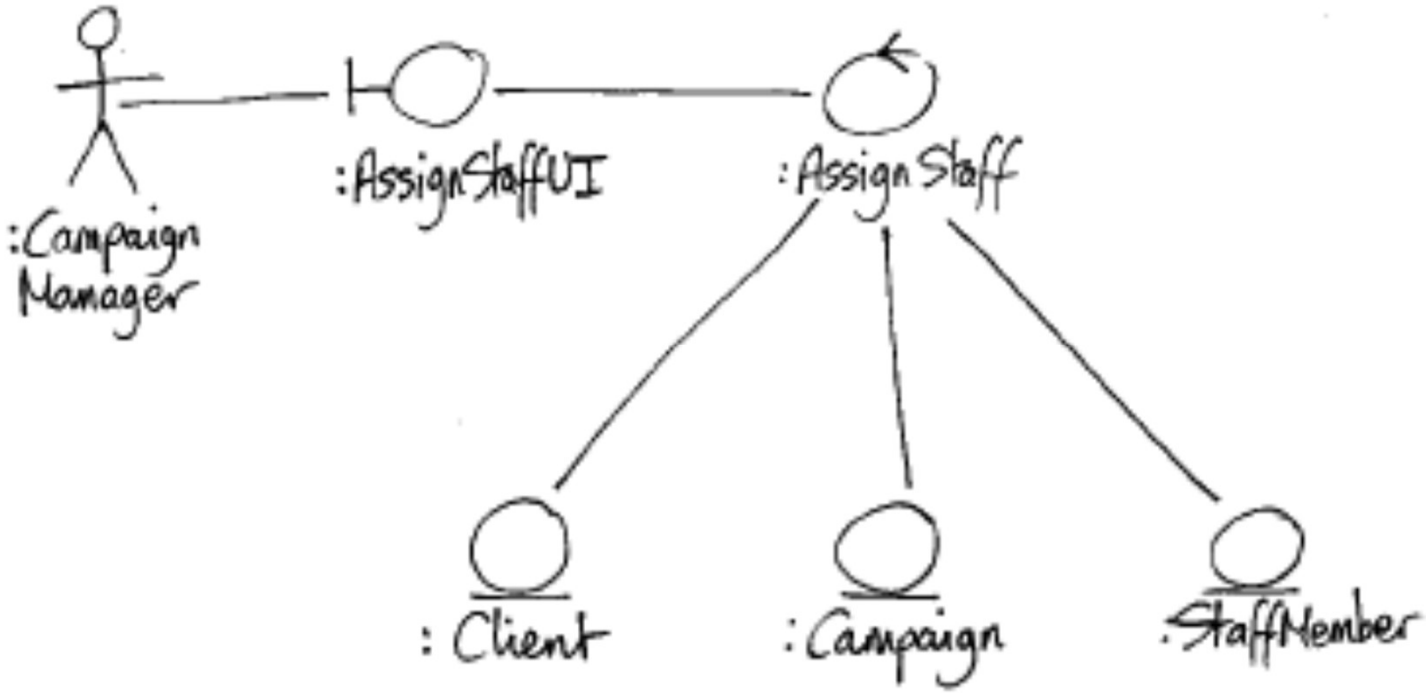
Use Case and Collaboration



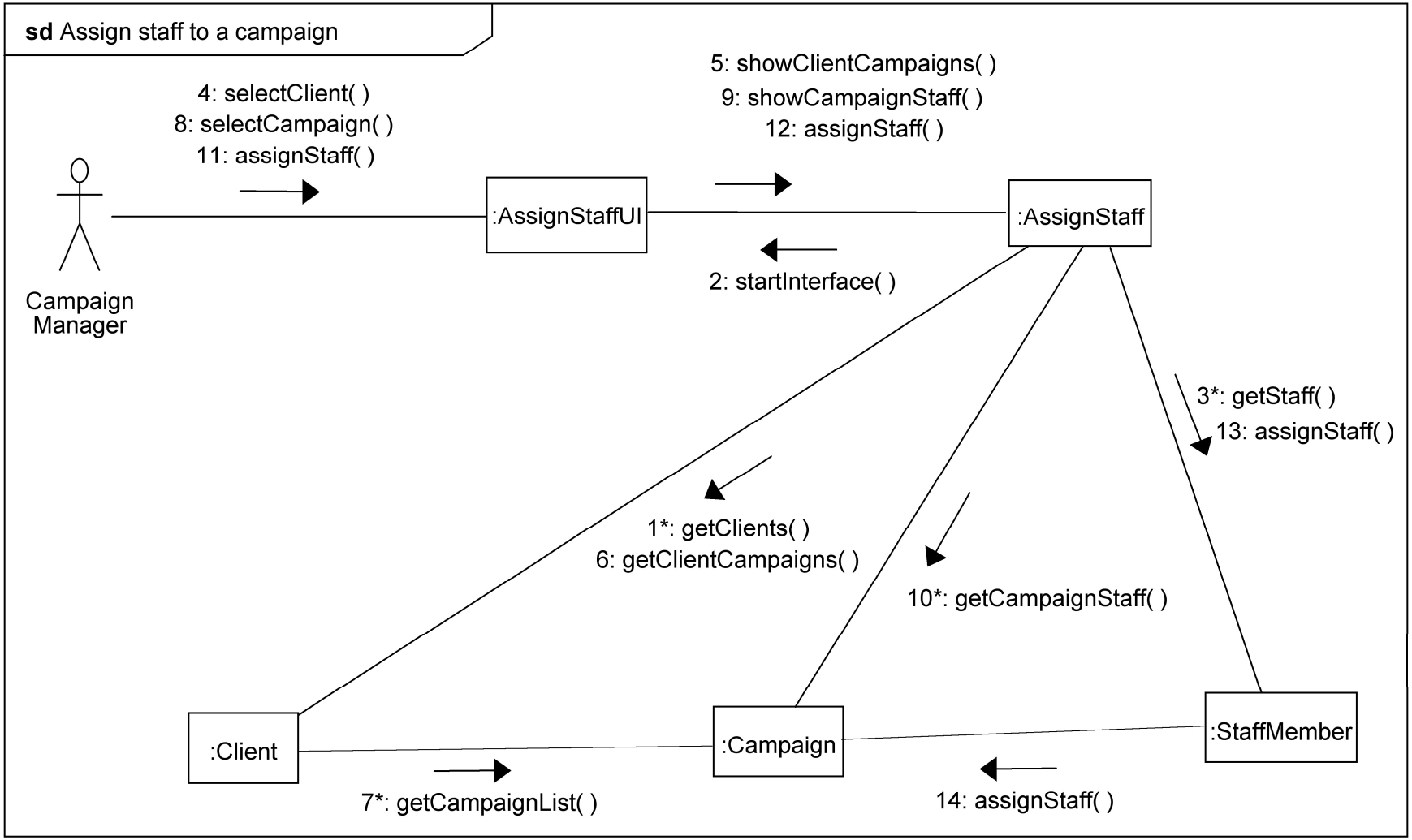
A Possible Collaboration



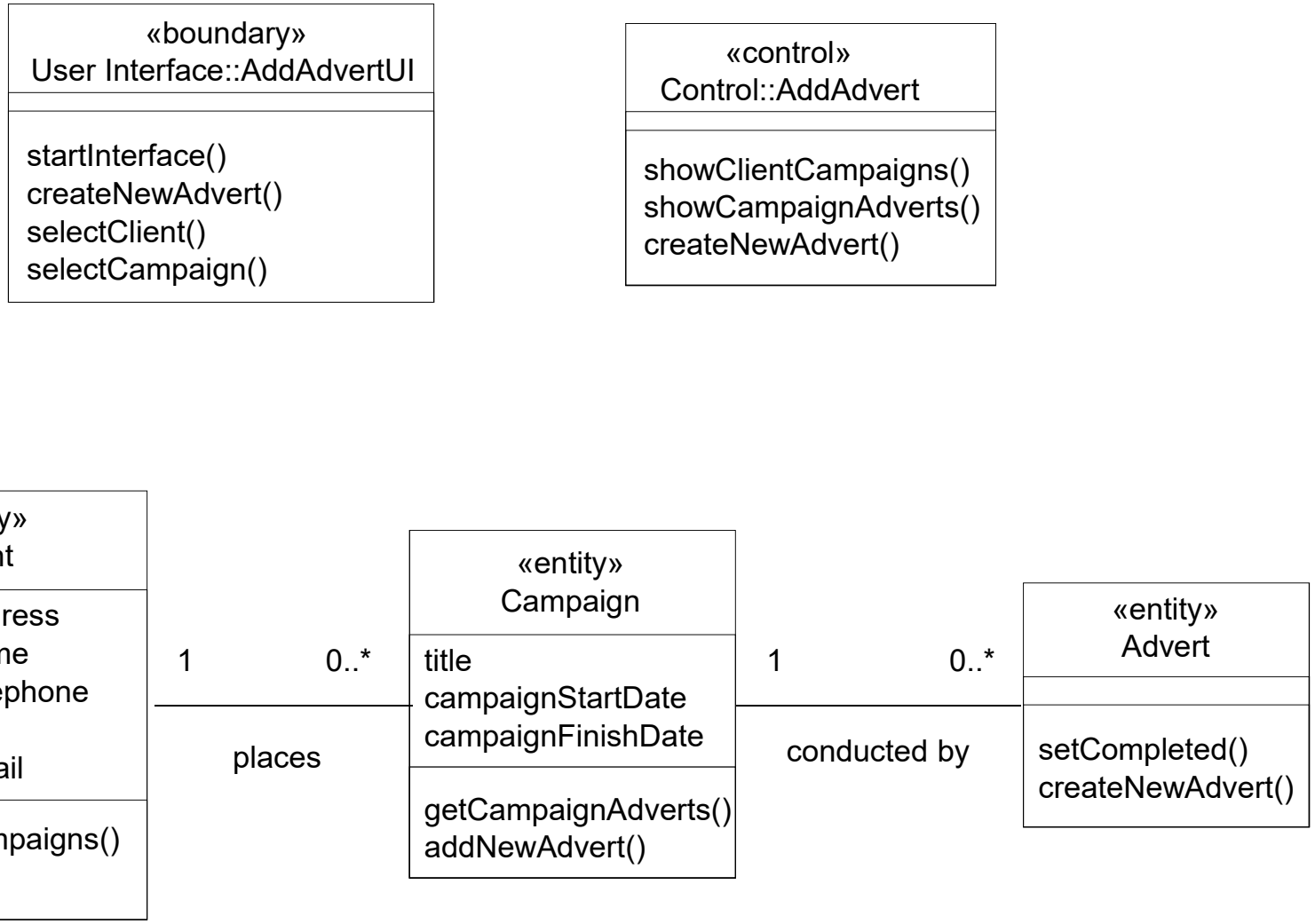
Early Draft Communication Diagram



More Developed Communication Diagram



Resulting Class Diagram



Reasonability Checks for Candidate Classes

- A number of tests help to check whether a candidate class is reasonable
  - Is it beyond the scope of the system?
  - Does it refer to the system as a whole?
  - Does it duplicate another class?
  - Is it too vague?

  (More on next slide)

Reasonability Checks for Candidate Classes (cont'd)

- Is it too tied up with physical inputs and outputs?
- Is it really an attribute?
- Is it really an operation?
- Is it really an association?

- If any answer is 'Yes', consider modelling the potential class in some other way (or do not model it at all)

CRC Cards

- Class–Responsibility–Collaboration cards help to model interaction between objects
- Used as a way of:
  - Identifying classes that participate in a scenario
  - Allocating responsibilities - both operations and attributes (*what can I do?* and *what do I know?*)
- For a given scenario (or use case):
  - Brainstorm the objects
  - Allocate to team members
  - Role play the interaction

CRC Cards

Class Name:	
Responsibilities	Collaborations
Responsibilities of a class are listed in this section.	*Collaborations with other classes are listed here, together with a brief description of the purpose of the collaboration.*

Class Name	*Client*
Responsibilities	Collaborations
Provide client information. *Provide list of campaigns.*	*Campaign provides campaign details.*

Class Name	*Campaign*
Responsibilities	Collaborations
Provide campaign information. *Provide list of adverts.* *Add a new advert.*	*Advert provides advert details.* *Advert constructs new object.*

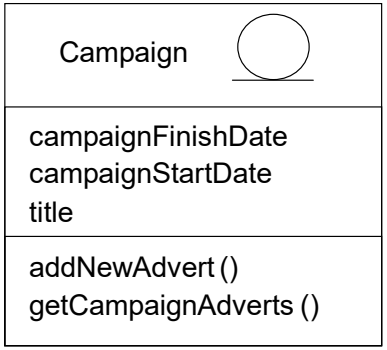
Class Name	*Advert*
Responsibilities	Collaborations
Provide advert details. *Construct adverts.*	

CRC Cards

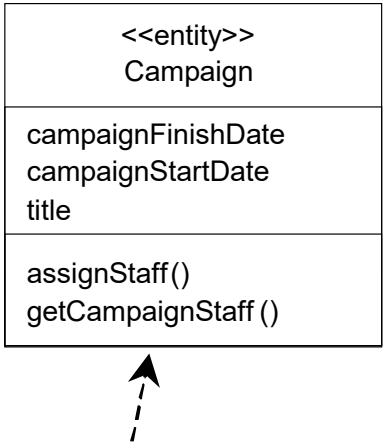
- Effective role play depends on an explicit strategy for distributing responsibility among classes
- For example:
  - Each role player tries to be lazy
  - Persuades other players *their* class should accept responsibility for a given task
- May use ‘Paper CASE’ to document the associations and links

Assembling the Class Diagram

- However individual use cases are analysed, the aim is to produce a single analysis class diagram
- This models the application as a whole
- The concept is simple:
  - A class in the analysis model needs *all* the details required for that class in each separate use case

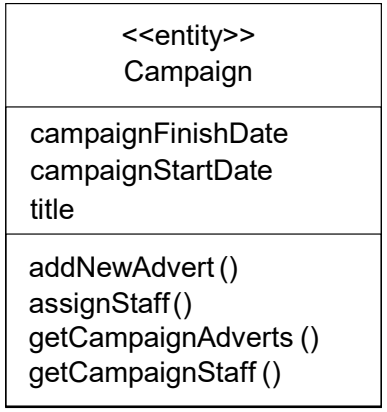


(a) Campaign class that meets the needs of `Add new advert to a campaign`

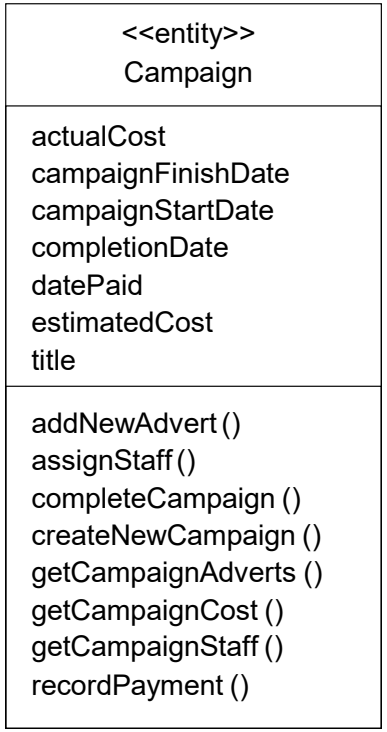


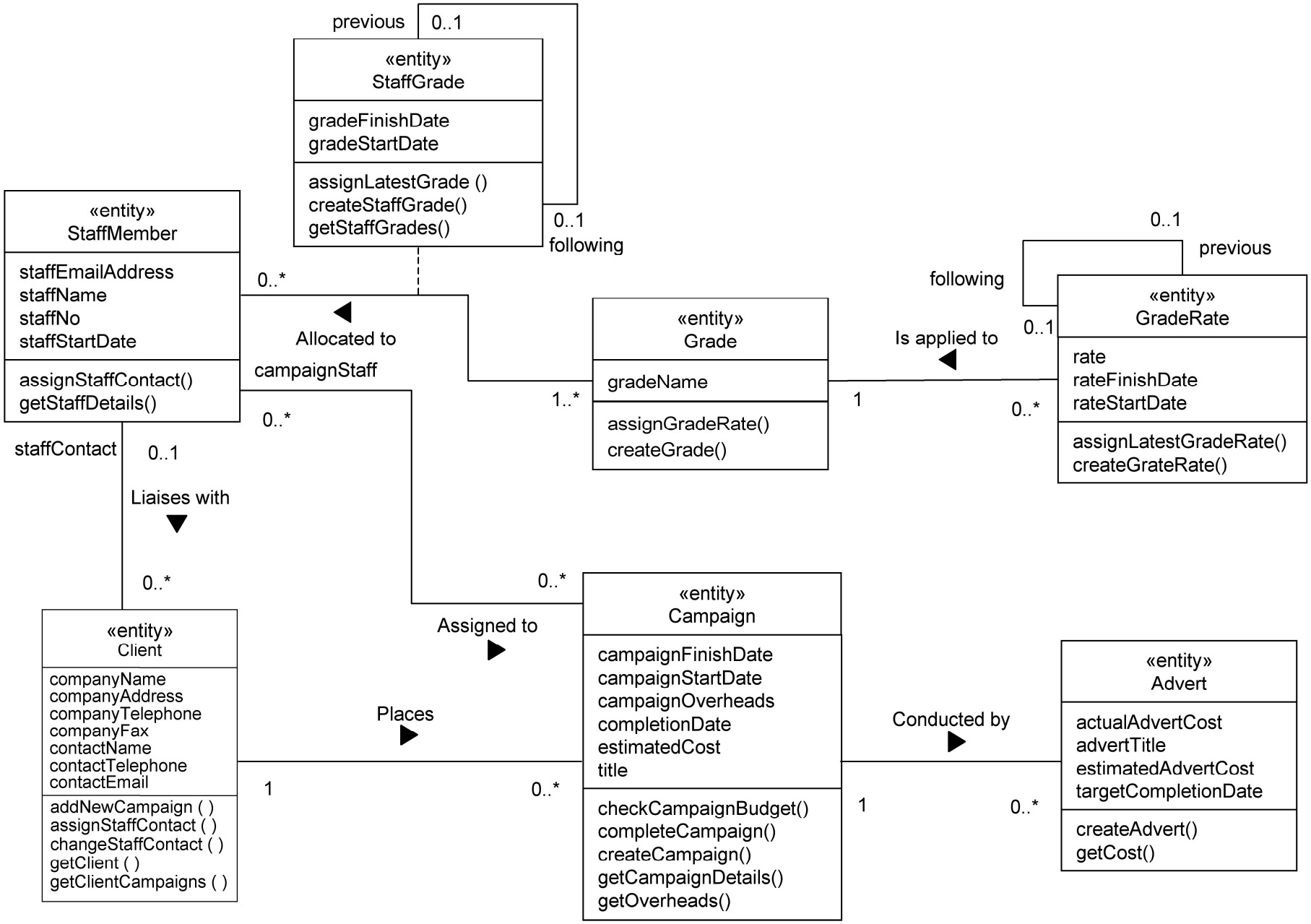
(b) Campaign class that meets the needs of `Assign staff to work on a campaign`

(c) Campaign class that meets the needs of both use cases



(d) A more fully developed Campaign class meets the requirements of these and several other use cases too





Summary

In this lecture you have learned:

- What is meant by *use case realization*
- How to realize use cases with robustness analysis and communication diagrams
- How the CRC technique helps identify classes and allocate responsibilities
- How to assemble the analysis class diagram

References

- Wirfs-Brock (1990) gives a good exposition of CRC cards

  (For full bibliographic details, see Bennett, McRobb and Farmer)