Inf111/CSE121: Software Tools and Methods

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Modeling Languages

Natural language

- Extremely expressive and flexible
- Very poor at capturing the semantics of the model
- Better used for elicitation, and to annotate models for communication
- Semi-formal notation
 - Captures structure and some semantics
 - Can perform (some) reasoning, consistency checking, animation, etc.
 - Examples: diagrams, tables, structured English, etc.
 - Mostly visual for rapid communication with a variety of stakeholders
- Formal notation
 - very precise semantics, extensive reasoning possible
 - Every detailed models (may be more detailed than we need)

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Hints for Class Diagrams

- Remember: models are for communication
- Remember: include only important stuff
- How do I find classes, attributes and so on?
 - Classes often correspond to nouns
 - Associations often correspond to verbs
- A class should
 - Represent a coherent concept
 - Principle: Low Coupling, High Cohesion
 - Have a small, well-defined set of responsibilities
 - Be named with a singular noun that says what each instance of the class is

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- Have no more than 10-20 operations

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