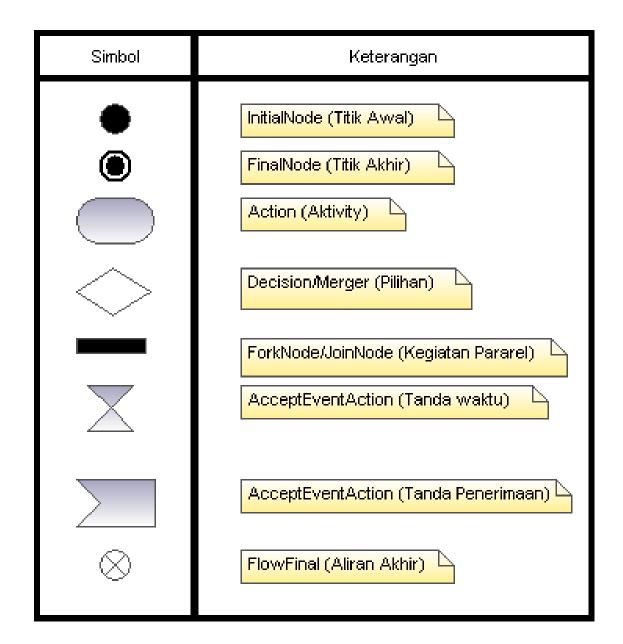
Activity Diagrams

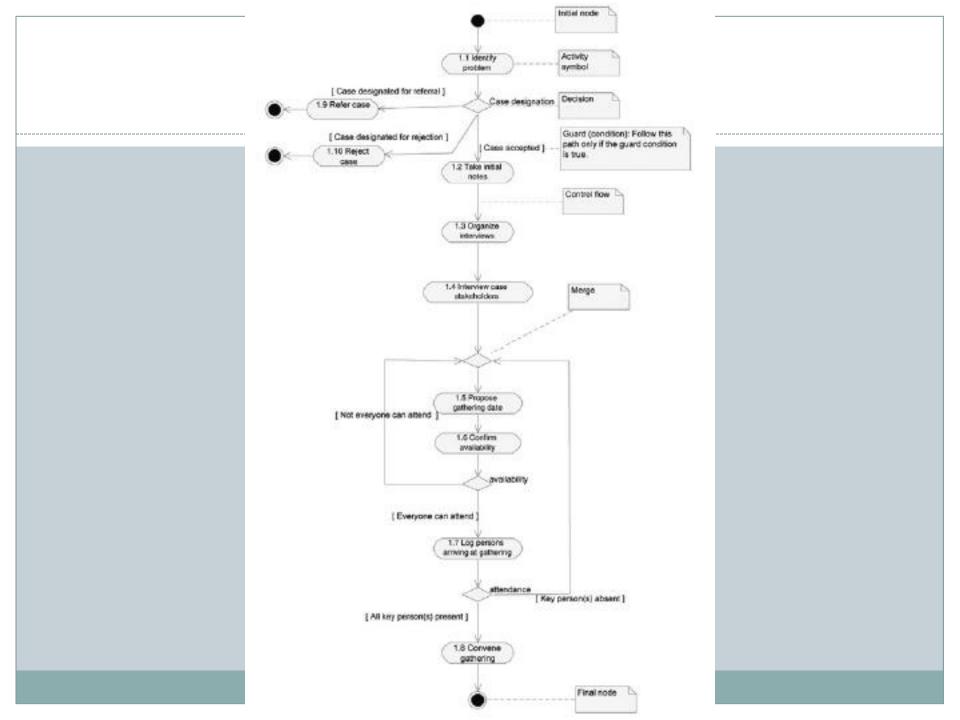
Notation

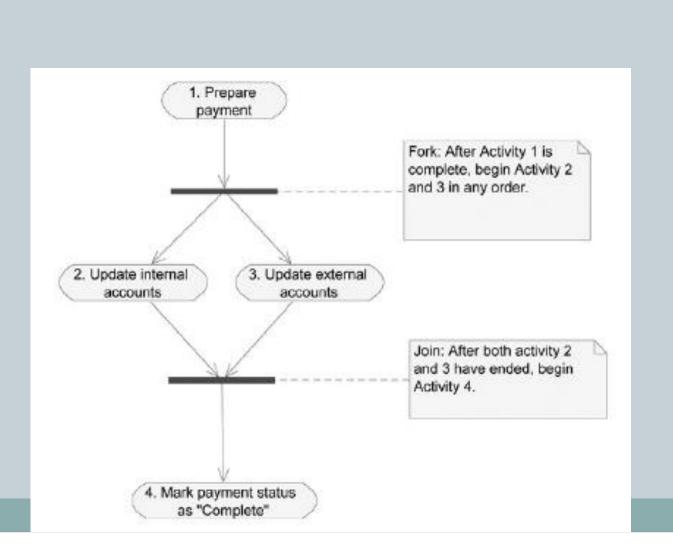


Elements (Activity without partitions)

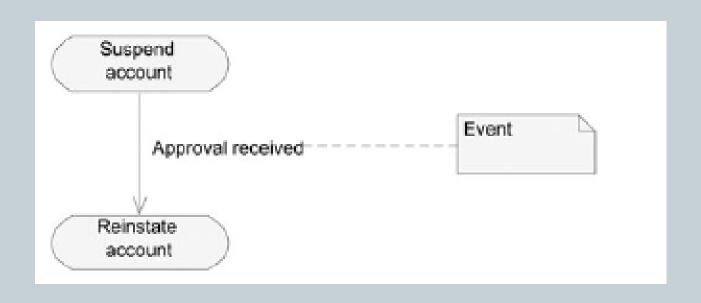
- Initial node: Indicates where the workflow begins.
- Control flow: An arrow showing the direction of the workflow.
- Activity: Indicates a step in the process.
- **Decision**: A diamond symbol, indicating a choice. Workflow will proceed along one of a number of possible paths, according to the guard conditions.
- **Merge**: Use this symbol if you wish to adhere to strictly to the UML standard when modeling a number of alternative flows that lead to the same activity. Rather than terminating them at the same activity, terminate them at a merge, and draw a flow from the merge to the activity.

- Fork and join: Bars used to document parallel activities. In the UML, parallel activities are those that may begin in any sequence—either at the same time or one before the other. A fork indicates the point after which a number of activities may begin in any order. A join indicates that workflow may commence only once the parallel activities that flow into it have all been completed.
- **Final node**: Indicates the end of the process.

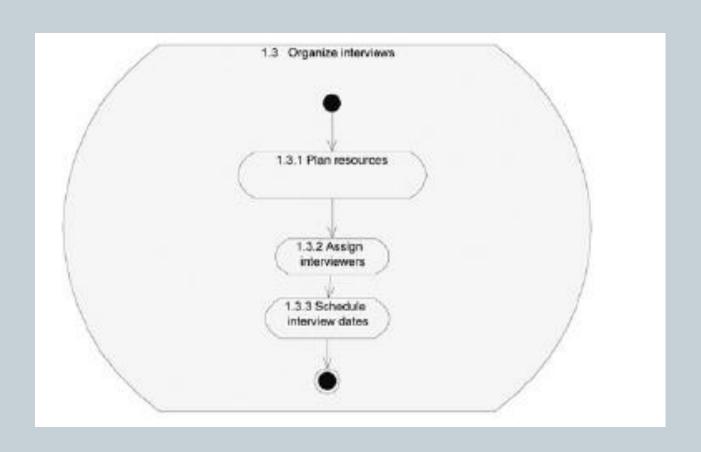




A control flow labeled with an event



Activities nested within an activity symbol.



Activity Diagram with Partitions (Swimlanes)

- The elements in an activity diagram can be grouped by using partitions. The purpose of a partition is to indicate where the responsibility lies for performing specific activities. In a business model, the partitions may be business units, divisions, or organizations. For systems, the partitions may be other systems or subsystems. In application modeling, the partitions may be objects in the application. Each partition may be named to indicate the responsible party.
- To indicate who performs each activity, you add partitions (commonly referred to as swimlanes) to the activity diagram. A partition is depicted as a column (or row) on an activity diagram. Allocate one partition for each object that takes an active part in the process flow. Each partition represents a stakeholder (business actor or worker) who carries out some activity. Although you shouldn't spend too much time focusing on technology at this time, you may also show a computer system as a partition.

