Methods for the specification and verification of business processes MPB (6 cfu, 295AA)



Roberto Bruni http://www.di.unipi.it/~bruni

20 - Business process modelling notation

Object

We overview BPMN and their analysis based on Petri nets



Business Process Management Initiative

The Business Process Management Initiative

is an independent organization devoted to

the development of open specifications

for the management of **e-Business processes** that span multiple applications, corporate departments, and business partners, behind the firewall and over the Internet













The membership of the BPMI Notation Working Group represent Full and the Segment Full Segment of the BP modelling community



BMI-DTF

June 2005

The Business Process Management Initiative (BPMI.org) and the Object Management Group™ (OMG™) decided to merge their **Business Process Management** (**BPM**) activities to provide thought leadership and industry standards for this vital and growing industry.

The combined group has named itself the Business Modeling & Integration Domain Task Force (BMI -DTF)

Standardisation

The development of BMPN is an important step in

reducing the fragmentation that exists with myriad of process modelling tools and notation

exploiting expertise and experience with many divergent proposals to consolidate the best ideas

supporting the wide-spread adoption of inter-operable business process management systems

reducing the confusion among business and IT end-users

Disclaim

Formal rigour and conciseness: not primary concerns for BPMN specifications (shorthands and alternative constructs are often available)

The large number of object types and their continuous evolution makes it hard to define mappings and to prove their consistency under all contexts

Inconsistencies and ambiguities in BPMN standard are present but hard to detect

Business process diagram

BPMN defines a standard for Business Process Diagrams (BPD)

based on **flowcharting technique** tailored to graphical models of business process operations

> Four basic categories of elements: Artefacts Swimlanes Flow objects Connecting objects

BPMN: (some) key features

Key features of BPMN include: sub-processes exceptions message flows

> and also: transactions compensations choreographies

> > . . .

Versioning

BPMN 1.0 approved 2006BPMN 1.1 approved 2007BPMN 1.2 approved 2009

BPMN 2.0 Beta 1 proposed 2009BPMN 2.0 Beta 2 proposed 2010BPMN 2.0 Final delivered 2011

BPMN 1.0 (2004/06)

Main goal:

provide a notation that is readily understandable by all business users

from the **business analysts** who create initial drafts of the processes

to the **technical developers** responsible for implementing the technology that will perform those processes

to the **business people** who will manage those processes

BPMN 2.0 (2009/11) FAQ

What is **BPMN**?

BPMN is a graphical notation that depicts the steps (end to end flow) in a business process.

The notation has been specifically designed to coordinate the sequence of processes and the messages that flow between different process participants in a related set of activities.

BPMN 2.0 (2009/11) FAQ Why is BPMN important?

The world of business processes has changed dramatically over the past few years. Processes can be coordinated from behind, within and over organizations natural boundaries. A business process now spans multiple participants and coordination can be complex.

Until BPMN, there has not been a standard modelling technique developed that addresses these issues.

BPMN has been developed to provide users with a **royalty free notation**.

This will benefit users in a similar manner in which UML standardised the world of software engineering. There will be training courses, books and a body of knowledge that users can access in order to better implement a business process.

BPMN 2.0 (2009/11) FAQ Who is BPMN targeted at?

BPMN is targeted at a **high level for business users** and at a lower level for process implementers.

The business users should be able to easily read and understand a BPMN business process diagram.

The process implementer should be able to adorn a business process diagram with further detail in order to represent the process in a physical implementation.

BPMN is targeted at users, vendors and service providers that need to communicate business processes in a standard manner.

BPMN 2.0 (2009/11) FAQ

What does this mean for UML users?

The unified modelling language (UML) takes an objectoriented approach to the modeling of applications, while BPMN takes a **process-oriented approach** to modelling of systems.

The BPMN and the UML are compatible with each other. Where BPMN has a focus on business processes, the UML has a focus on software design and therefore the two are not competing notations but are different views on systems.

Further white papers will follow on the mapping between these techniques.

BPMN 2.0 (2009/11) FAQ

Will there be a major rewrite?

Not for 2 or 3 years...

BPMN 2.0 vs 1.0

Updated (new markers):

Tasks/SubProcesses Events Gateways Artefacts

Added:

Choreographies Full metamodel XML Serialization Diagram Interchange BPMN Execution Semantics (verbal)

Weaknesses of BPMN

ambiguity and confusion in sharing BPMN models

lack of support for routine work

lack of support for knowledge work

how to convert BPMN models to executable environments?

BPMN - Business Process Modeling Notation



20

BPMN 1.0 poster

Business Process Diagram Graphical Objects



From BPMN 1.2 poster

Business Process Diagram Connecting Objects

Sequence Flow and Message Flow rules

Graphical connecting objects



There are three ways of connecting **Flow objects (Events, Activities, Gateways)** with each other or with other information – using sequence flows, message flows or associations.

Graphical connecting objects

Normal sequence flow		A Sequence Flow is used to show the order In which the activities in a process will be performed.
Conditional sequence flow	$\diamond \rightarrow \bullet$	A Sequence Flow can have condition expressions which are evaluated at runtime to determine whether or not the flow will be used.
Default sequence flow	\rightarrow	For Data-Based Exclusive Decisions or Inclusive Decisions, one type of flow is the Default condition flow. This flow will be used only if all other outgoing conditional flows are NOT true at runtime.
Message flow	0>	A Message Flow is used to show the flow of messages between two participants that are prepared to send and receive them. In BPMN, two separate Pools in a Diagram can represent the two participants.
Association	>	An Association (directed, non-directed) is used to associate information with Flow Objects. Text and graphical non-Flow Objects can be associated with Flow objects.

Only objects that can have an incoming and/or outgoing Sequence Flow / Message

Sequence flow mechanism

The Sequence Flow mechanisms is divided into types: Normal flow, Exception flow, Conditional flow, Link Events and Ad Hoc (no flow). Refer also to specific »Workflow Patterns«.



Compensation Association

In case of transactions it is desired that all activities which constitute a transaction are finished successfully. Otherwise the transaction fails and rollback (compensation) activities occur which undo done activities.



From BPMN 1.2 poster

BPMN 2.0 - Business Process Model and Notation

http://bpmb.de/poster



BPMN 2.0 - Business Process Model and Notation



BPMN 2.0 poster (in Italian)

BPMN basics Artefacts

Artefacts

BPMN is designed to allow modellers and modelling tools some flexibility in extending the basic notation

Any number of artefacts can be added to a diagram as appropriate for the specific context of the business process being modelled

BPMN includes three pre-defined types of artefacts: Data object Group Text annotation

Data object

A data object specifies the data that are required or produced by an activity

A data object is often represented by the usual file icon



A **Data Input** is an external input for the entire process. It can be read by an activity.

A **Data Output** is a variable available as result of the entire process.





A **Collection Data Object r**epresents a collection of information, e.g., a list of order items.

A Data Object represents information flowing

through the process, such as business

documents, e-mails, or letters.





A **Message** is used to depict the contents of a communication between two Participants.

Group

An arbitrary set of objects can be defined as a group to show that they logically belong together



A group is represented by rounded corner rectangles with dashed lines

Annotation

Any object can be associated with a text annotation to provide any additional information and documentation that can be needed



A text annotation is represented as a dotted-line call-out

Artefacts

Artefacts are used to provide additional information about the process. If required, modellers and modelling tools are free to add new artefacts. <u>Examples of data objects: 'A letter', 'Email message', 'XML document', 'Confirmation',...</u>

Set of standardized artefacts

Data object	[state]	Data objects provide information about what activities are required to be triggered and/or what they produce. They are considered as Artefacts because they do not have any direct effect on the Sequence Flow or Message Flow of the Process. The state of the data object should also be set.
Group		Grouping can be used for documentation or analysis purposes. Groups can also be used to identify the activities of a distributed transaction that is shown across Pools. Grouping of activities does not affect the Sequence or Message Flow.
Annotation	Description	Text Annotations are a mechanism for a modeller to provide additional information for the reader of a BPMN Diagram.

BPMN basics Swimlanes

Swimlanes

Many process modelling methodologies utilise the concept of a swimlane as a mechanism to organise activities into separate visual categories in order to illustrate different functional capabilities or responsibilities

BPMN supports two main swimlane objects: **Pool** Lane

Pool and Lanes

A pool represents a participant (or role) in a process A pool is represented as rectangle with a name

A lane is a hierarchical sub-partition within a pool that is used to organise and categorise activities



A lane is an inner rectangle to the pool that extends to the entire length of the pool

Swimlanes



Pool

ane

Lane

Pools and lanes are used to represent organizations, roles, systems and responsibilities. <u>Examples:</u> <u>'University', 'Sales division', 'Warehouse', 'ERP system',...</u>



A Pool can contain 0 or more lanes.

Two pools can only be connected with message flows.

A **Pool** represents a participant in a process. It contains a business process and is used in B2B situations.

A **Lane** is a sub-partition within a pool used to organize and categorize activities.



Pools and Lanes represent



Message Flow symboli information flow acros

BPMN basics Flow Objects

Flow objects

Theory: fix a small set of core elements so that modellers do not have to learn and recognise a large number of different shapes: Events Activities Gateways

Practice:

use different border styles and internal markers to add many more information (this way the notation is more extensible)
Event

An event is something that "happens" during the course of a business process

The type of an event is one among: start, intermediate, end

An event is represented as a circle its type depends on the style of the border

Usually an event has a cause (**trigger**) or an impact (**result**) Internal markers denote the trigger or result

	Start	Interm	iediate End		
	Catc	Catching		wing	
Plain				0	Untyped events, typically showing where the process starts or ends.
Message					Receiving and sending messages.
Timer		\bigcirc			Cyclic timer events, points in time, time spans or timeouts.
Error	 			\bigotimes	Catching or throwing named errors.
Link	 				Off-page connectors. Two corresponding link events equal a sequence flow.
Terminate					Triggering the immediate termination of a process.

Catching



Start Event: Catching an event starts a new process instance.



Intermediate Event (catching): The process can only continue once an event has been caught.

Throwing



End Event: An event is thrown when the end of the process is reached.



Intermediate Event (throwing):

 An event is thrown and the process continues.

I	Start	Intermediate En		End	I
	Cato	hing	Throwing		
Plain		\bigcirc		0	Untyped events, typically showing where the process starts or ends.
Message					Receiving and sending messages.
Timer	Ð	\bigcirc			Cyclic timer events, points in time, time spans or timeouts.
Error		\bigotimes		\bigotimes	Catching or throwing named errors.
Cancel				\bigotimes	Reacting to cancelled transactions or triggering cancellation.
Compen- sation					Compensation handling or triggering compensation.
Conditional					Reacting to changed business conditions or integrating business rules.
Signal					Signalling across different processes. One signal thrown can be caught multiple times.
Multiple					Catching or throwing one out of a set of events.
Link		\bigcirc			Off-page connectors. Two corresponding link events equal a sequence flow.
Terminate					Triggering the immediate termination of a process.

					EV
Event flow Event type	Start	Intermediate	End	Description	
General	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	0	The Start Event indicates where a particular process will start. Intermediate Events occur between a Start Event and an End Event. It will affect the flow of the process, but will not start or (directly) terminate the process. The End Event indicates where a process will end.	None: Un indicate s changes c
Message			\bigcirc	A message arrives from a participant and triggers the Event. This causes process to {start, continue, end} if it was waiting for a message, or changes the flow if exception happens. End type of message event indicates that a message is sent to a participant at the conclusion of the process.	Message: sending n Timer: Cy
Timer				A specific time or cycle can be set that will trigger the start of the Process or continue the process. Intermediate timer can be used to model the time- based delays.	points in 1 timeouts. Escalation
Error		N	\bigcirc	This type of End indicates that a named Error should be generated. This Error will be caught by an Intermediate Event within the Event Context.	Condition changed t
Cancel		\bigotimes	\otimes	This type of Event is used within a Transaction Sub-Process. This type of Event MUST be attached to the boundary of a Sub-Process. It SHALL be triggered if a Cancel End Event is reached within the Transaction Sub-Process.	or integrating business rules.
Compensation				Find is used for compensation handlingboth setting and performing compensation. It calls for compensation if the Event is part of a Normal Flow. It reacts to a named compensation call when attached to the boundary of an activity. Very useful for modelling roll-back actions within the transaction.	Error: Can named er
Rule				This type of event is triggered when the conditions for a rule become true. Rules can be very useful to interrupt the loop process, for example: 'The number of repeats = N'. Intermediate rule is used only for exception handling.	Cancel: R transactic cancellati
Link	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	€	A Link is a mechanism for connecting the end (Result) of one Process to the start (Trigger) of another. Typically, these are two Sub-Processes within the same parent Process. It can be used, for example, when the working area (page) is too small – go to another page.	Compensa triggering Signal: Sig
Multiple			۲	This type of event indicates that there are multiple ways of triggering the Process. Only one of them will be required to {start, continue, end} the Process.	ent proce can be ca Multiple: a set of e
Terminate				This type of End indicates that all activities in the Process should be immediately terminated. This includes all instances of Multi-Instances. The Process is terminated without compensation or event handling.	events de Parallel N all out of
					events. Terminate: Triggering the immediate termination of a

Activity

An **activity** is some "unit of work" (job) to be done during the course of a business process

An activity can be

atomic (task) or compound (sub-process)





An activity is represented as a rounded box, Suitable markers are used to indicate the nature of the action to be performed and the execution behaviour

Task	A Task is a unit of work, the job performed. When marked with a it indicates a Sub-Process , an a be refined.	o to be a + symbol activity that can	Multiple Instances		Multiple Instances of the same activity are started in parallel or sequentially, e.g. for each line item in an order.
Transaction	A Transaction is a set of activit belong together; it might follow transaction protocol.	ies that logically a specified	Loop ດ		Loop Activity is iterated if a loop condition is true. The condition is either tested before or after the activity execution.
	An Event Sub-Process is placed Sub-Process. It is activated whe gets triggered and can interrupt process context or run in paralle interrupting) depending on the s	into a Process or n its start event the higher level el (non- start event.			Ad-hoc Subprocesses contain tasks only. Each task can be executed arbitrarily
Call Activity	A Call Activity is a wrapper for Sub-Process or Task that is reus			often until a completion condition is fulfilled.	
Activity Markers Markers indicate execution behavior of activities:	process. Task Types n Types specify the nature of the action to be performed:	Attached Internactivity is aborted caught.	nediate Event: The ed once an event is	Task	A Task is a unit of work, the job to be performed.
+ Sub-Process Marker	Send Task			Collapse	d decomposable activity.
C Loop Marker	Receive Task			Subproce	ss It can be collapsed to hide the details.
Parallel MI Marker	Manual Task			Ex	panded Subprocess
Sequential MI Marke	Business Rule Task				
Compensation Marker	왕양 Service Task er (로 Script Task	42		An Expande valid BPMN	ed Subprocess contains a diagram.

giovedì 5 dicembre 13

Gateway

A gateway is used to control the splitting and joining of paths in the sequence flow (conditional, fork, wait)



A gateway is represented as a diamond shape Suitable markers are used to indicate the nature of behaviour control



Data-based Exclusive Gateway

When splitting, it routes the sequence flow to exactly one of the outgoing branches based on conditions. When merging, it awaits one incoming branch to complete before triggering the outgoing flow.



When used to split the sequence flow, all simultaneously. When merging parallel br branches to complete before triggering th



Inclusive Gateway

When splitting, one or more branches are conditions. When merging, it awaits all ac complete.

Complex Gateway

It triggers one or more branches based on descriptions. Use it sparingly as the sema

Gateway control types





Exclusive Event-based Gateway (instantiate)

Each occurrence of a subsequent event starts a new process instance.



Parallel Event-based Gateway (instantiate)

The occurrence of all subsequent events starts a new process instance.

giovedì 5 dicembre 13

BPMN basics Connecting objects

Connecting objects

The Flow objects are connected together in a diagram to create the basic skeletal structure of a business process

Three connecting objects can be used:

Sequence flow Message flow Association

Sequence flow

A sequence flow is used to show the order in which activities are to be performed

Note: the term "control flow" is generally avoided in BPMN

A sequence flow is represented by a solid line with a solid arrowhead

Sequence Flow defines the execution order of activities.

Conditional Flow has a condition assigned that defines whether or not the flow is used.



Default Flow is the default branch to be chosen if all other conditions evaluate to false.

Message flow

A message flow is used to show the flow of messages two separate process participants (business entities or business roles) that send and receive them

Note: in BPMN the participants reside in separate pools

0----⊳

A message flow is represented by a dashed line with a open arrowheads (see above)

Sequence Flow and Message Flow rules

Only objects that can have an incoming and/or outgoing Sequence Flow / Message Flow are shown in the Tables Below.



Association

An association is used to associate data, text, and other artefacts with flow objects

Note: in particular, input and output of activities

· · · · · · · · · **>**

An association is represented by a dotted line with a line arrowhead



A **Data Object** represents information flowing through the process, such as business documents, e-mails or letters.

Attaching a data object with an **Undirected Association** to a sequence flow indicates hand-over of information between the activities involved.

A **Directed Association** indicates information flow. A data object can be read at the start of an activity or written upon completion.

A **Bidirected Association** indicates that the data object is modified, i.e. read and written during the execution of an actvity.



Graphical connecting objects



There are three ways of connecting **Flow objects (Events, Activities, Gateways)** with each other or with other information – using sequence flows, message flows or associations.

Graphical connecting objects

Normal sequence flow Conditional sequence flow Default sequence flow

Message flow

Association

A Sequence Flow is used to show the order In which the activities in a process will be performed.

A Sequence Flow can have condition expressions which are evaluated at runtime to determine whether or not the flow will be used.

For Data-Based Exclusive Decisions or Inclusive Decisions, one type of flow is the Default condition flow. This flow will be used only if all other outgoing conditional flows are NOT true at runtime. A Message Flow is used to show the flow of messages between two participants that are prepared to send and receive them. In BPMN, two separate Pools in a Diagram can represent the two participants. An Association (directed, non-directed) is used to associate information with Flow Objects. Text and graphical non-Flow Objects can be associated with Flow objects.

A few patterns



Exclusive decisions (exactly one)







giovedì 5 dicembre 13



Off page connectors (printing / readability)



An example



Conversations, collaborations, and choreographies

Conversation

A Conversation is the logical relation of (correlated) Message exchanges



element

Conversation links



	Participant			
	(from Common)			
giovedì 5 dice	mbrenname : String			

Conversation diagram

A Communication defines a set of logically related message exchanges. When marked with a + symbol it indicates a Sub-Conversation, a compound conversation element.



A **Conversation Link** connects Communications and Participants.



A Forked Conversation Link connect Communications and multiple Participants.



Choreography

The behaviour of different Conversations is modelled through separate Choreographies

A **Choreography** defines the sequence of interaction between participants

A choreography does not exists in a pool and it is not executable

It describes how the participants are supposed to behave

Choreography task

A Choreography task is an activity in a choreography that consists of a set (one or more) Message exchanges

A choreography task involves two or more participants that are displayed in different bands



Sequence flow in a choreography

Sequence Flow are used within Choreographies to show the sequence of the Choreography Activities, Events, and Gateways





 \square

Chorec	ographies	Participant A	
Participant A Choreography Task Participant B	III	Choreography Sub-Process + Participant E Participant C	y 3
A Choreography Task represents an Interaction (Message Exchange) between two Participants.	Multiple Participants Marker denotes a set of Participants of the same kind.	A Choreography Process contain choreography w Interactions.	r Sub- s a refined ith several Participant A
			Participant A Choreography Task Participant B Participant B Participant B Participant A Choreography Task Participant A Choreography Task Participant A Choreography Task Participant C Participant C III
			Participant B
		70	

Collaboration

A **Collaboration** contains two or more Pools, representing the Participants in the Collaboration

A Pool may be empty or show a Process within

The Message exchange is shown by a Message Flow that connects Pools or the objects within the Pools The Messages associated with the Message Flow may also be shown

Choreographies may be shown "in between" the Pools as they bisect the Message Flow

Examples (a taste of BPMN)
A low detailed orchestration



A fragment of a detailed orchestration



A conversation



A choreography



Another choreography



A collaboration diagram



Public processes (collaborative B2B)

Public processes (also called abstract processes) depicts the interaction between two or more business entities

Typically designed as a global view: Sequence of activities and the message exchange patterns between participants

Activities of collaboration participants as "touch points" (visible to the public) Actual processes are likely to have more activities

(private or internal view)

A public process



giovedì 5 dicembre 13

A collaboration with two pools



Three lanes



Some remarks

Lanes are often used to separate activities associated with a specific company function or role

Sequence flow may cross the boundaries of Lanes within the same Pool

Message flow may not be used between Flow objects in Lanes of the same Pool

Three lanes, annotated



An abstract process



An internal, interactive process





Available online at www.sciencedirect.com



INFORMATION AND SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY

www.elsevier.com/locate/infsof

Semantics and analysis of business process models in BPMN

Remco M. Dijkman^a, Marlon Dumas^{b,c}, Chun Ouyang^{c,*}

^a Department of Technology Management, Eindhoven University of Technology, P.O. Box 513, 5600 MB, The Netherlands ^b Institute of Computer Science, University of Tartu, J Liivi 2, Tartu 50409, Estonia ^c Faculty of Information Technology, Queensland University of Technology, G.P.O. Box 2434, Brisbane, Qld 4001, Australia

From BPMN to Petri nets



Simplified BPMN

a start / exception event has just one outgoing flow and no incoming flow

> an end event has just one incoming flow and no outgoing flow

all activities and intermediate events have exactly one incoming flow and one outgoing flow

all gateways have either one incoming flow (and multiple outgoing) or one outgoing flow (and multiple incoming)

Simplified BPMN

The previous constraints are no real limitation:

event or activities with multiple incoming flows insert a preceding XOR-join gateway

event or activities with multiple outgoing flows insert a following AND-split gateway

gateways with multiple incoming and outgoing flows decompose in two gateways

insert start / end event if needed

Simplified BPMN

No link events

they are just a notational convenience to spread a model into several pages (no effect on the semantics)

No transactions and compensations

Limited form of sub-processing

no OR-split

(can be expressed in terms of AND-split and XOR-split)

Task, events and gateways as nets



Activity looping



(a) "while-do" loop



Multiple instances (design-time bounded)



Sub-processes





Message flow



Exception handling: single task



Exception handling: sub-processes



Example: Order process





Example: Travel itinerary



Example: Answer process





Exercise

Translate the BPMN collaboration diagram to nets and discuss problematic issues

