

Analysis of Requirements for the Design of a Detector Control System in a High Energy Physics (HEP) Experiment

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In this work the use of the Rational Unified Process (RUP) to model the design of a Detector Control System (DCS) in a High-Energy Physics (HEP) experiment is proposed. We include a brief description of the wide diversity of elements and aspects to be considered and general definitions for the analysis of requirements. The characteristics, functional and non-functional requirements and Use Cases (UC) of main actors involved in the design, implementation and operation of this type of software systems are also specified. For the description of these requirements, tools of the Unified Modeling Language (UML) like diagrams and tabular use cases are used by means of the Enterprise Architect® software.

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1. Introduction

Precise knowledge of the requirements of any system is a principle that unquestionably marks the success or failure of a software development. Establishing and managing the requirements for the design of a system are fundamental aspects of software engineering. One of the main software systems in a High Energy Physics (HEP) experiment is the Detector Control System (DCS). The DCS allows the control, monitoring and configuration of the experimental equipment either from a single on-site place or remotely, through a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. The DCS manages communications and provide feedback to the various experiment's services and systems, such as: the accelerator, cooling systems, electricity, magnets, safety, access control, among others.; in addition to providing feedback to them.

On the other hand, the design, simulation, construction, installation, commissioning and operation of a detector in a HEP experiment are usually complex tasks. In addition to the former have to be considered the large number of detectors and subdetectors that need to be controlled independently by corresponding DCS; likewise, there are significant conceptual and structural differences among them, such as: types of events to be analyzed (particles collisions or cosmic rays), dimensions, materials (semiconductors, plastic scintillators, gas chambers), parameters to be monitored (temperature, radiation, magnetic field, position, cryogenic system, etc.), type of control actuators (cooling, high and low voltage channels, gas system, etc.), infrastructure, number of readout channels, etc. [1]. This complexity and diversity of detectors should always be considered when defining and specifying the requirements of the experiment's control system. Based on the previous description, an initial methodology that specifies and standardizes the requirements for the development, commissioning and operation of the software for a HEP experiment's DCS was carried out.

2. Requirement Analysis Overview

Modeling consists in creating representations of system abstract models, where a diagram or table represents a different perspective of it. Models permit: 1) to know system requirements (in this case a software for the control of a detector for HEP studies), and 2) to generate a system abstraction to simplify and compiling its most important characteristics [2].

Firstly, the model process named Rational Unified Process (RUP), which is a case-driven language, architecture-centric, iterative and incremental. Unified Process is repeated over a series of cycles, where each cycle constitutes a version of the system [3]. A cycle in RUP consists of four discrete phases in the software processes, which are: conception, elaboration, construction and transition. Each phase can be presented iteratively with the incremental delivery of results. An iteration is a set of disciplines or workflows are developed, among which the following stand out: requirements, analysis, design, coding, and testing. Similarly, in RUP, description of the workflow is oriented on associated UML models, such as: use case, sequence, analysis, design, etc. [3].

This research work focuses on requirements specification of the RUP model process, which is defined like documentation of required performance by a software system from point of view of the main actors involved, and generally uses a mathematical notation or modeling language [3]. For that a software engineering analysis technique called use cases has been selected. In general, a use case shows a generic scenario describing what user requires of the system [3].

Use-case modeling should preferably include a diagram and a tabular description. Subsequently, general characteristics, functional and non-functional requirements, and elements of use cases are described

2.1 Actors (stakeholders)

Requirements analysis of control system is done based on the three main actors that are:

1. Expert in the Detector (ED)
2. Expert in the Central DCS of the Experiment (ECDCS)
3. Operator in the Central DCS / DCS Shifter of the Experiment (OCDCS)

Actors can be people or subsystems (software, modules, logbook, web browser, etc.).

2.2 Objective

“Develop a methodological proposal for obtaining software requirements related to design, commissioning and operation processes of the detector control system (DCS) for High-Energy Physics (HEP) experiments applying software engineering techniques”.

2.3 Justification

- The update of the current detectors or installation of new detectors in a High Energy Physics (HEP) experiment implies its need to develop, integrate and commissioning of the control system of each detector in the central DCS.
- The definition of a methodology in the development process of the DCS for a new or updated detector applying software engineering techniques would have the following advantages:
 - a) To define the stakeholders involved in this process of control software development, as well as the description of their general characteristics.
 - b) To establish the functional and non-functional requirements by applying diagrams and tables of use cases; in addition to the specification of these by means of activity diagrams.
 - c) To define in a standardized way the processes of static structures applying class diagrams, and dynamic structures using sequence diagrams, where the main stakeholders are involved.
 - d) To model the behavior of the nodes of a software architecture for a detector, specifying the sequences of states and their response to certain events, usually applying Finite State Machines (FSM).

2.4 Tabular description of use cases

A tabular description defines in more detail the specific use cases appearing in a diagram. These descriptions include the following elements:

- Actors: name of those involved in the use case.
- Description: brief explanation of what constitutes a use case, and how actors will use required data.
- Data: information actors require to carry out a process.
- Stimulus: internal or external action that defines the beginning of a process.
- Response: defines how system should respond to a stimulus according to provided information.
- Comments: annotations and important observations concerning the particularities of each case and/or involved elements.

3. Requirements of the Expert in the Detector

3.1 General Characteristics (ED)

- Involves in the design, commissioning, maintenance and updating of the control system of a detector for high energy physics studies by applying the SCADA software.
- Restores the normal functions of the detector in case of any disturbance or unwanted conditions in it.
- Attends the queries or requirements of the shift operators in the experiment.
- Integrates the recommendations and/or updates of the system that the staff of the central DCS considers necessary.

3.2 Functional Requirements (FR-ED)

In the table I, use-cases of the software functional requirements by expert in the detector (ED) are shown.

Table I. Use Cases Diagram of Functional Requirements of the DE

RF Code	Functional Requirements of the Expert in the Detector
UC_FR01_01	Defining the Interaction Using User Interfaces
UC_FR01_02	Set up Alarms
UC_FR01_03	Set up Alarm Help Instructions
UC_FR01_04	Plotting the Behavior of Important Parameters
UC_FR01_05	Model the Behavior of the DCS Nodes through FSMs
UC_FR01_06	Design DCS to Frond-End Electronic Link
UC_FR01_07	Integrate the DCS Detector to Central DCS
UC_FR01_08	Configuring of Flows Parameters that Determinate Operating Conditions
UC_FR01_09	Configuring of Restricted Access Based on Roles
UC_FR01_10	Operate and Monitor the Power System
UC_FR01_11	Configuring of Runs Parameters

For each of the functional software requirements of all the actors, their corresponding tabular use cases and diagrams were defined.

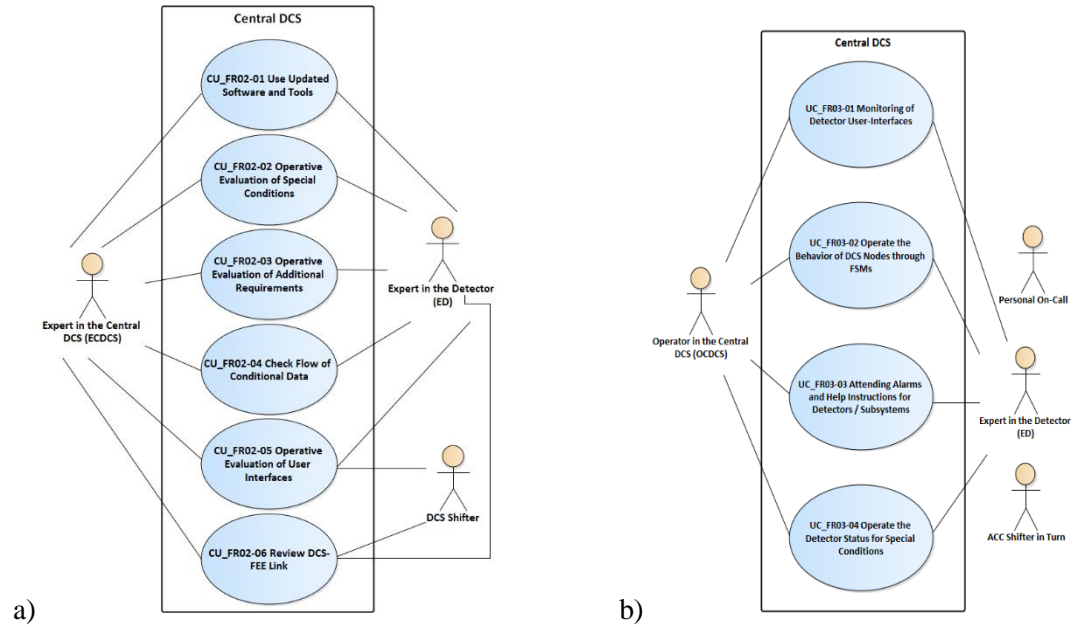
4. Requirements of the Expert in the Central DCS (ECDCS)

4.1 General Characteristics (ED)

- Supervises that systems and subsystems of the DCS of all detectors, which integrate the experiment, work correctly.
- Remains on alert in case of any disturbance or unwanted conditions in the central DCS, or when the operating personnel in turn of the control center require it.
- Trains to collaboration members who wish to participate as central operators of the DCS in the Run Control Center (RCC) of the experiment.
- Provides monitoring, training and advice in the processes of software migration and updating of the control systems for all detectors in the experiment.

4.2 Functional Requirements (FR-ECDCS)

In the figure 1, use cases diagrams of software functional requirements by expert (ECDCS) and operator (OCDCS) in the central DCS are shown.



5. Requirements of the Operator in the Central DCS (OCDCS)

5.1 General Characteristics (OCDCS)

- Operates and monitoring the control system (DCS) of the experiment, and all its detectors and subsystems during a shift in the RCC of the experiment. Applies basic tools such as: a) User Interface (UI), b) Alerts and Errors screen (AES), c) Operator and Experiment Logbook, and d) a repository of documents.
- Checks alert messages with the highest severity level on the Alert and Event Screen (AES), and respond them with aim of restoring the normal operation of that subdetector or subsystem.
- Sets up the relevant safety conditions in the experiment for a set of detectors or a single detector using a special panel.
- Modifies the detector subsystems state when a change in the magnet (dipole/solenoid) conditions must be established, for example: planned ramp up/down transition of the current.
- Monitors and publishes important announcements in the DCS Main Screen at RCC.
- Could be assigned as safety leader during a shift, which is responsible of continuously monitoring screens related to security information, among other related activities.
- Develops a report of activities and incidents at end of the shift.
- Enables or disables the DCS locks (usually FSM) to take the control of a detector, sub-tree or node, after a shift leader request.
- Includes or excludes partially or totally one or more experiment detectors or subsystems.

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