# Is the UML appropriate for Interaction Design?

Giorgio Brajnik

Dip. di Matematica e Informatica University of Udine, Italy

www.dimi.uniud.it/giorgio

Future Standards for Model Based User Interfaces

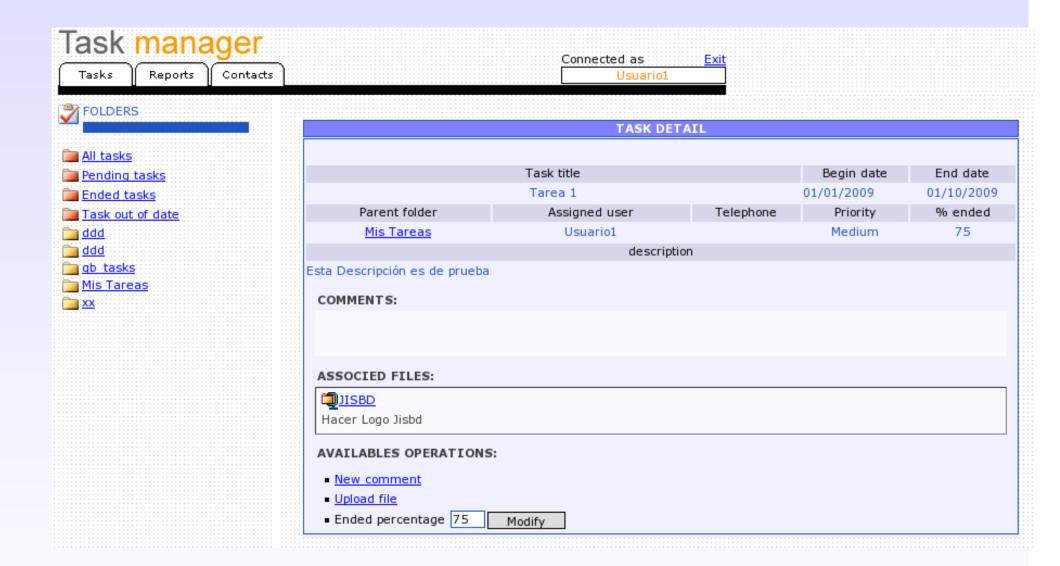
# MDE: some examples

- ▶ OOH, OOH4RIA: Object Oriented Hypermedia
- WebML
- ▶ UWE: UML Web Engineering
- ► UMLi

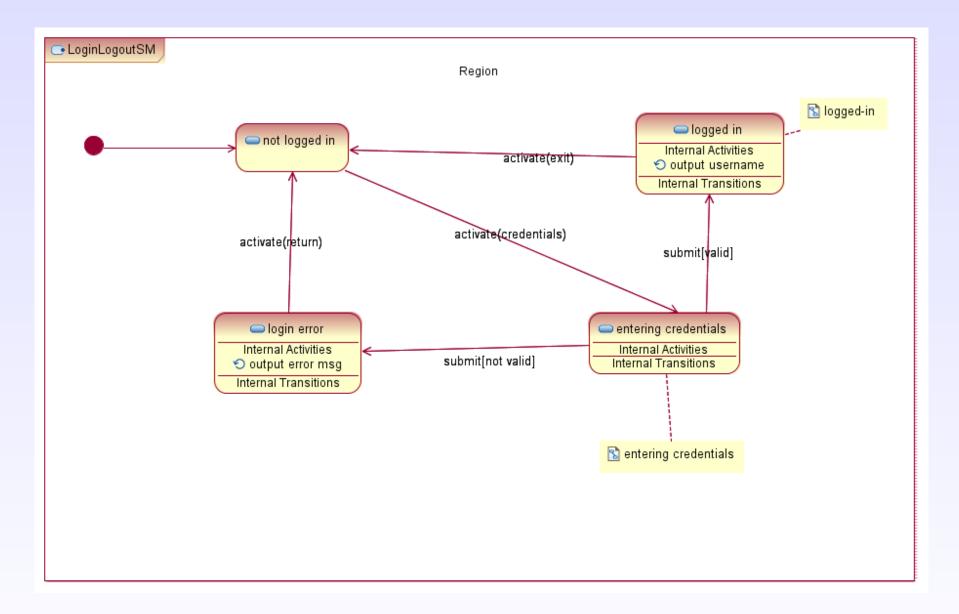
# UML-IDEA: UML for Interaction Design Approach

- 1. Focus on interaction first: state machines
- 2. Focus on details that affect usability: for conceptual model of the UI but also for the concrete UI
- Provide more detailed models as needed: domain, code fragments, presentation models, platform-dependent refined models
- 4. Focus on usability: platform for wireframes
- 5. Automatic generation of prototypes
- 6. Focus on accessibility: at the PSM level(s); eg. ARIA widgets
- 7. Automatic identification of usability anti-patterns
- 8. Automatic generation of functional test scripts
- 9. Analysis of interaction graph

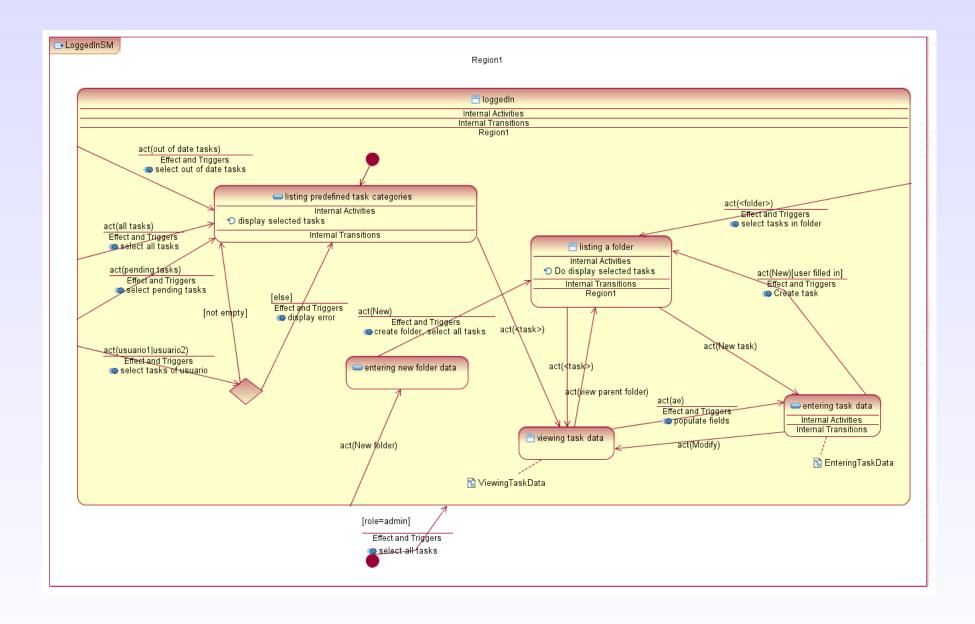
# Case study: Task Manager



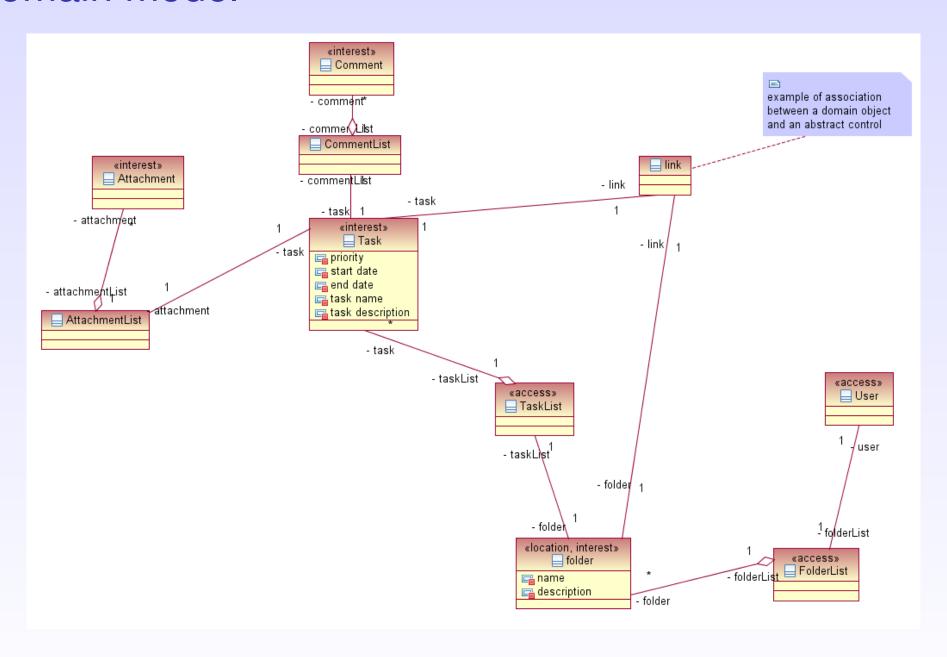
# Top level State Machine



### A more detailed state machine



### Domain model



### Wireframe: static HTML

### Listing predefined categories

#### **Conditions**

- 1. role = admin
- 2. selected tasks=all tasks

#### **Outputs**

- 1. Display user's name
- 2. Display all tasks
- 3. Display folder list

#### Commands

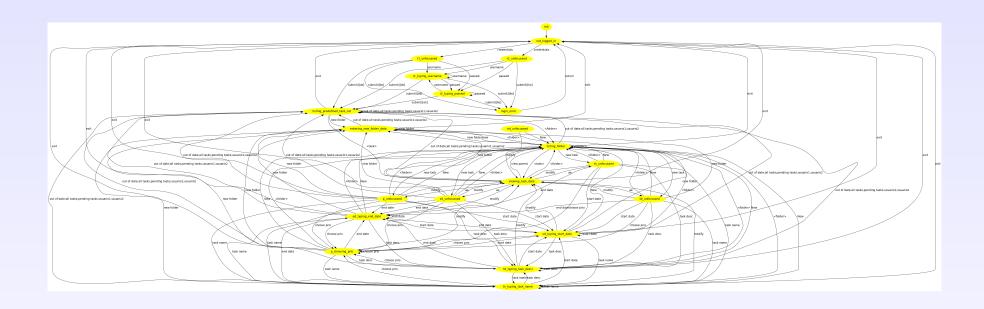
#### Folder list:

- out of date tasks
- pending tasks
- all tasks
- usuario1
- usuario2
- (folder a)
- (folder b)
- (folder c)
- (folder d)
- new folder

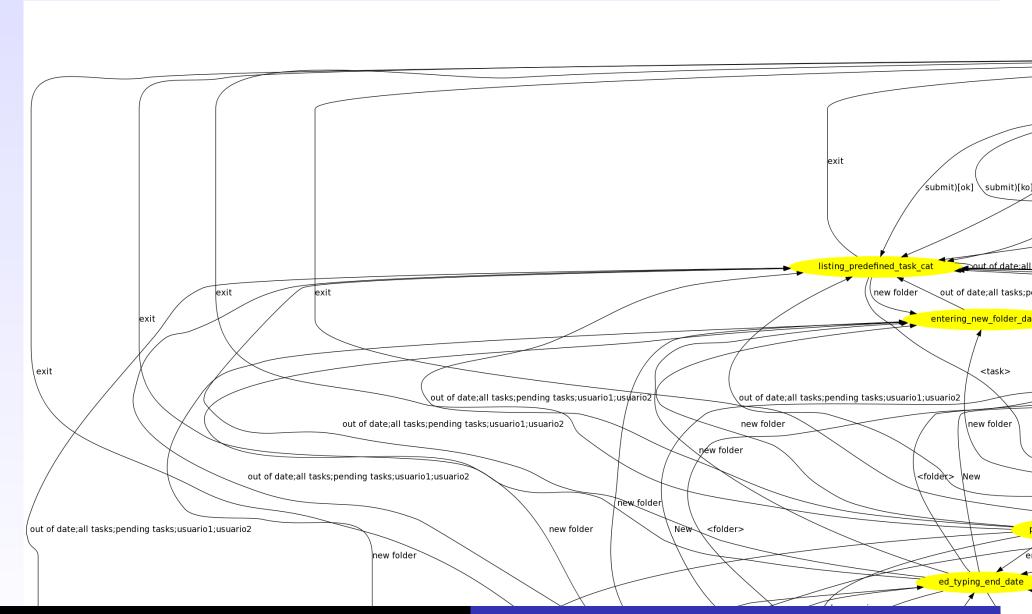
#### All tasks:

- task1
- task2

# Interaction graph



# Interaction graph

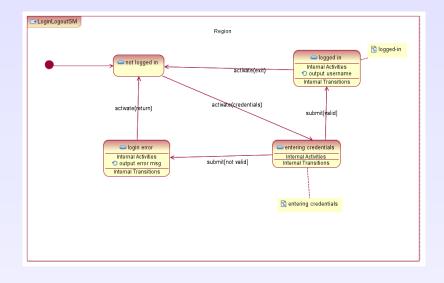


# Usability problems

- 1. Login form does not set the focus on username
- 2. No "remember" credentials in login form
- 3. Useless "return" user action
- 4. ...

### Summary

Out of 25 usability problems, 14 (56%) could be identified from state machine diagrams.



### Conclusion

- 1. So far no expressivity limits of State Machines
- 2. Useful for static usability investigations (anti-patterns) on PIMs
- 3. Viable for generating code for the "wireframe" platform

### Next steps:

Too many 'things to do' to list them here :-)