

Non-Functional Requirements: From Elicitation to Modelling Languages

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What are Non-Functional Requirements ?

- NFRs are also known as Quality Requirements [Chung 93] [Boehm 96].
- Functional Requirements -> What
- Non-Functional Requirements -> How
- Non-Functional Requirements are always related to a Functional Requirement [EAGLE 95][Chung 00].

- NFRs are rarely 100% satisfied
- | | |
|---|-----------|
| { | Satisfice |
| | X |
| | Satisfy |

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Non-Functional Requirements examples

- Adaptability
- Architectural integrity
- Cost
- Configurability
- Efficiency
- Maintainability
- Flexibility
- Profitability
- Performance
- Usability
- Understandability
- Risk
- Resilience
- Reusability
- Time to Market
- Reliability
- Security
- Modularity
- Portability
- Size
- Safety
- Testability
- Mobility
- Standard compliant
- Robustness
- Complexity
- Learnability

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Why Care About Non-Functional Requirements



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Why Non-Functional Requirements ?



- Nowadays, the market demands more and more non-functional aspects to be implemented in information systems besides its functionality.
- Recent works [Dardene 93] [Mylopoulos 92] [Chung 00] have shown that complex conceptual models must deal with non-functional requirements.
- Errors due to omission of NFRs or to not properly dealing with them are among the most expensive type and most difficult to correct (Mylopoulos 92) (Ebert 97) (Cysneiros 99).

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One case of Failure Due to neglecting non-functional requirements (NFRs)



The London Ambulance System was deactivated just after its deployment because, among other reasons, many **non-functional requirements** were neglected during the system development

e.g. **reliability** (vehicles location), **cost** (emphasis on the best price), **usability** (poor control of information on the screen), **performance** (the system did what was supposed to do but the performance was unacceptable), [Finkelstein 96] [Breitman et al 99].

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Eliciting is not Enough



- **Integrating NFRs into conceptual models can help to get software deployed faster and with lower development costs [Cysneiros 99].**

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Our Proposal

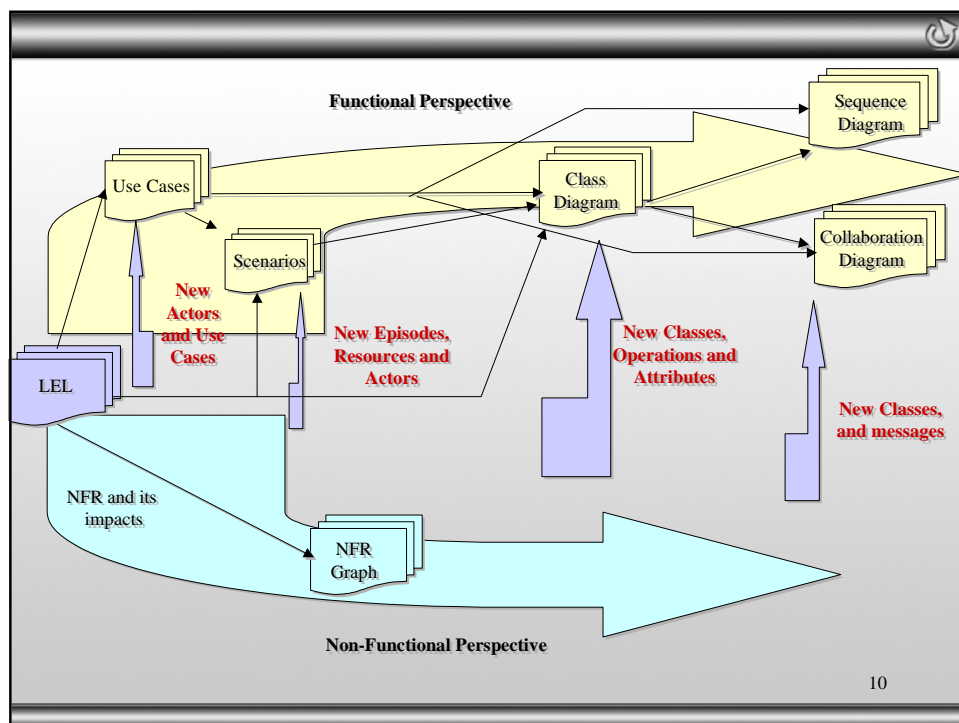


- We propose a strategy to deal with NFR since the early stages of software development
- The first part presents some heuristics to elicit NFR and a systematic way to search for interdependencies
 - Uses the Language Extended Lexicon (LEL) [Leite 93] as an anchor for the definition of the non-functional model
 - Extends the LEL to deal with NFR
 - Extends the OORNF Tool to support NFR elicitation
- The second part presents some heuristics to integrate NFRs into conceptual models
 - Also uses the LEL as an anchor to build the functional model
 - Extends the scenario model [Leite 97], the class, sequence and collaboration diagrams [Rumbaugh 99] to deal with NFR

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The Proposed Strategy

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NFR Taxonomy



- A NFR can be classified as Primary and Secondary ones where the secondary one is a decomposition of a Primary one
 - For Examples:
 - Accuracy
 - ❖ Numeric
 - ❖ Write information at the right time
- Diagram illustrating the classification of NFRs:
- ```
graph LR; A[Accuracy] --- B[Numeric]; A --- C[Write information at the right time]; B --- D[Primary]; C --- D; D --- E[Secondary]
```
- Dynamic NFR
    - Are those that demands an action to be taken
  - Static NFR
    - This type of NFR always demands some information to be used, usually in a persistent way

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## Language Extended Lexicon (LEL)



- Aims to register the vocabulary used in the UofD
- It is based on a system of symbols composed of Notions and Behavioural Responses
- Notions specify the meaning of the symbol (denotation)
- Behavioural Responses register the results driven from the symbol utilization (connotation)
- Its construction is based on the minimum vocabulary and circularity principles

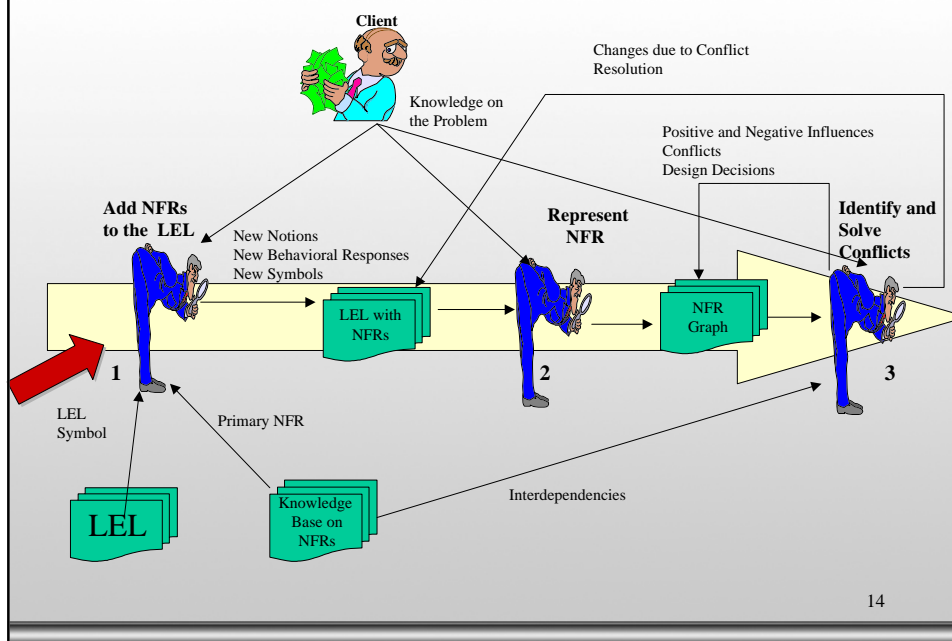
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## LEL – Proposed Extension

- We now register Primary NFR in the notion of the symbols
- We register the fact that a notion or a behavioural response is stated for satisficing an NFR from another symbol (eventually from the same symbol)
- We can now show what notions and behavioural responses are necessary to satisfy an NFR

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## Building the Non-Functional View



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### Add NFRs to the LEL

- **To each symbol of the LEL :**
  - Check if any NFR belonging to the Knowledge Base may be necessary in this symbol
  - If it is true, represent it in the Notion
  - Evaluate the possible consequences in this symbol and in other symbols due to NFR satisfaction
  - Establish a dependency link between these notion and behavioural Responses to this NFR

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### Language Extended LExicon

Symbol  
**Sample / Samples**

Category  
Objeto

Notions

- It is a recipient after it has been tagged with a bar code label.
- each sample has a unique number.
- 

Behavioral Responses

- samples may be aliquoted.
- Samples are placed in analyzers.
- Samples are sent to different sectors.
- 

Choose Primary NFR

Choose NFR

- portability
- quality
- reliability
- safety
- security
- traceability
- usability

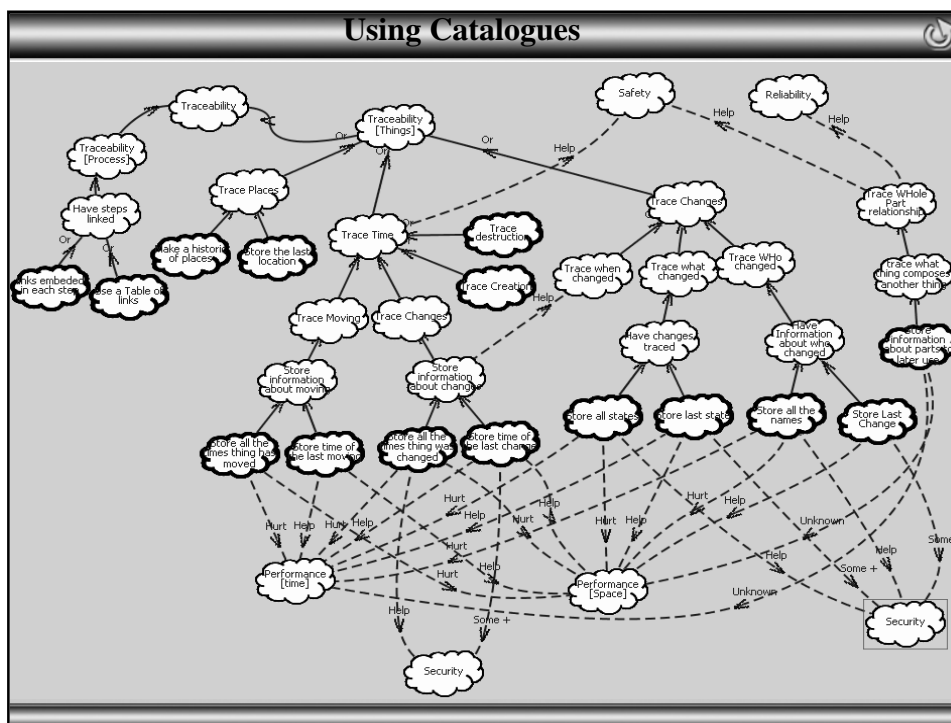
Close Cancel

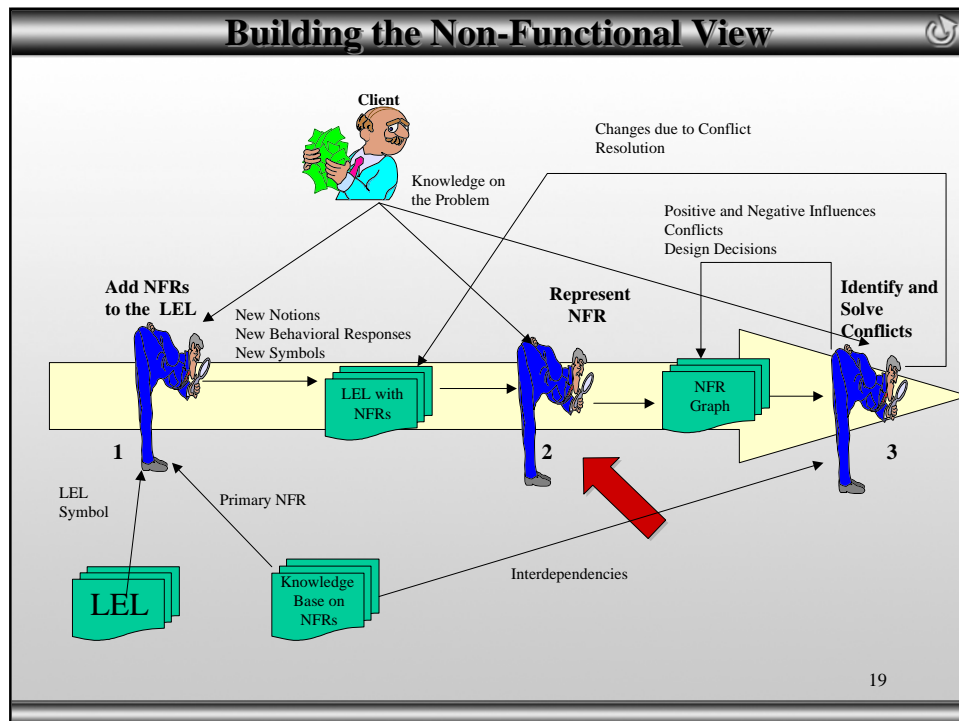
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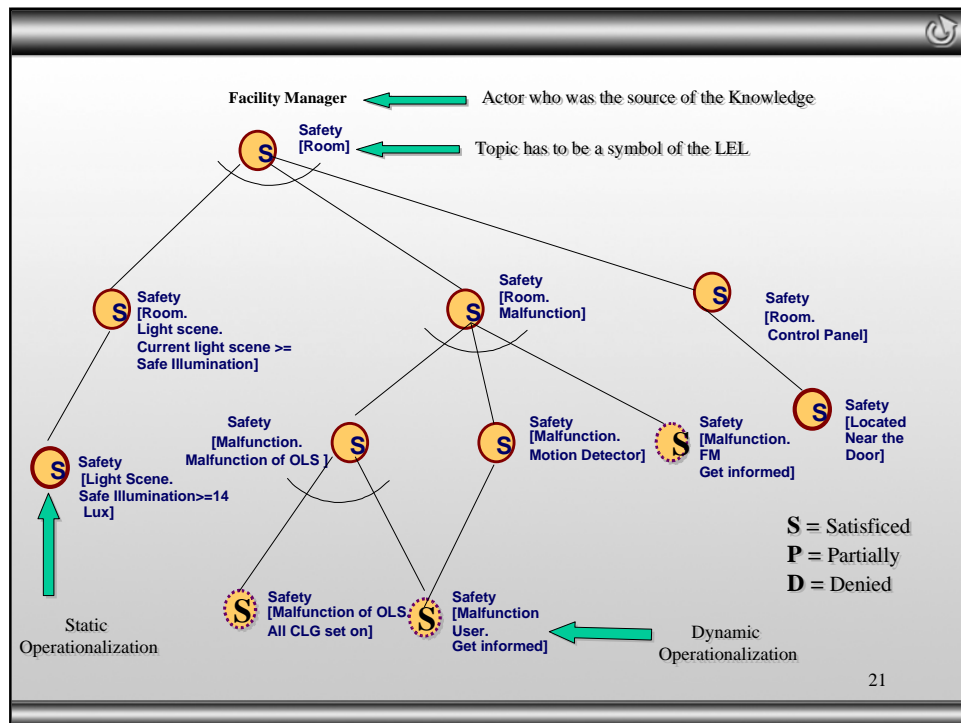




### Represent NFR

- We propose the use of the NFR Framework
- One system can have (usually does)  $n$  graphs
- Some proposed extensions
  - Always use a symbol of the LEL to represent an NFR Topic
  - Represent above the graph the actor(s) responsible for the knowledge represented in the graph
  - Introduces the concept of Dynamic and Static Operationalizations

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## How to Create a Graph

**Léxico Ampliado da Linguagem**

**Símbolos**

Símbolos  
rooms / room

**Categoria**  
Sujeito

**Noções**

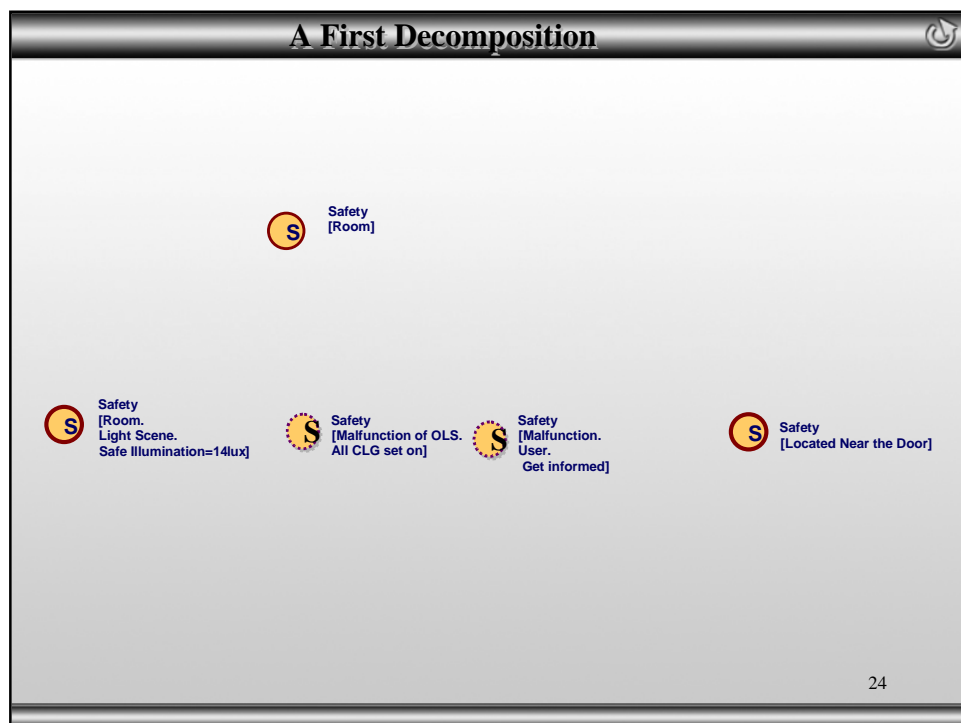
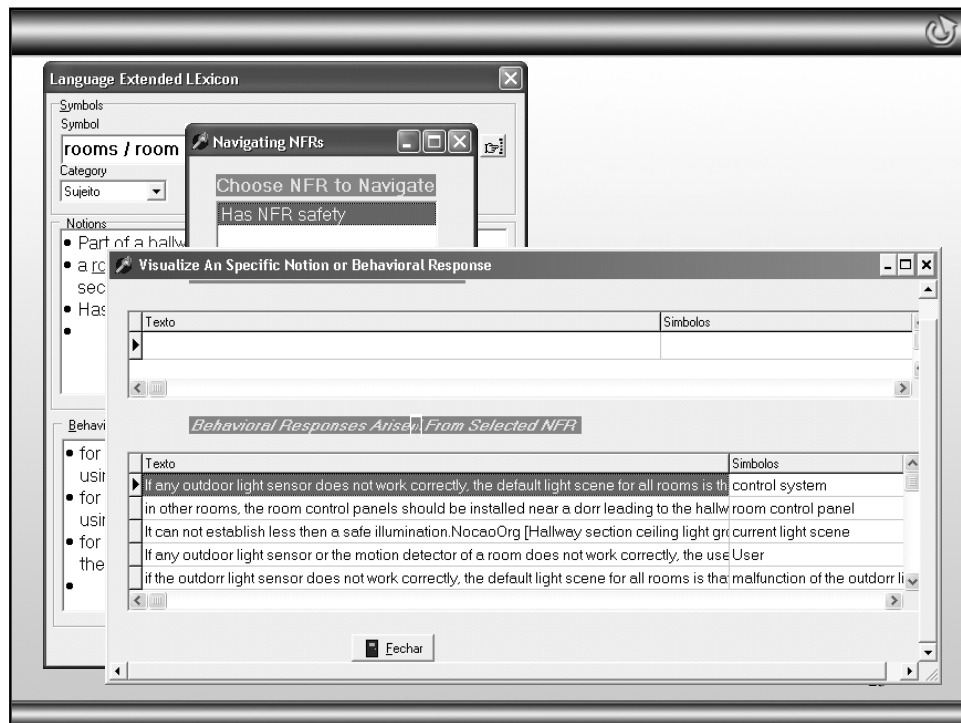
- Part of a hallway section.
- a room can be a computer lab, an office, a hardware section a meeting room and or a peripheral room.
- Has NFR safety.

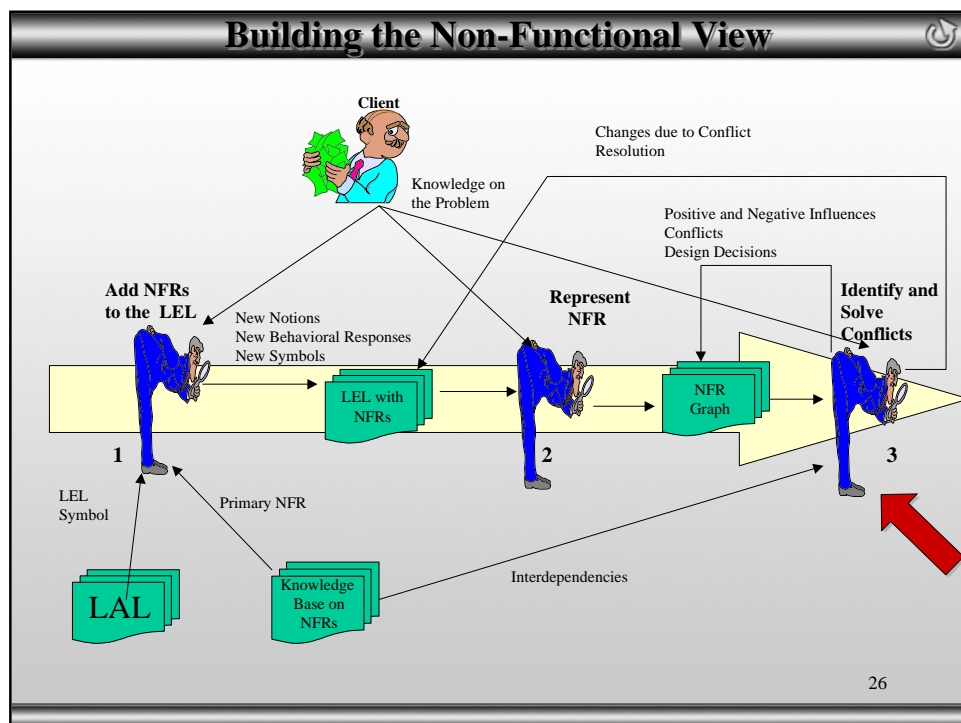
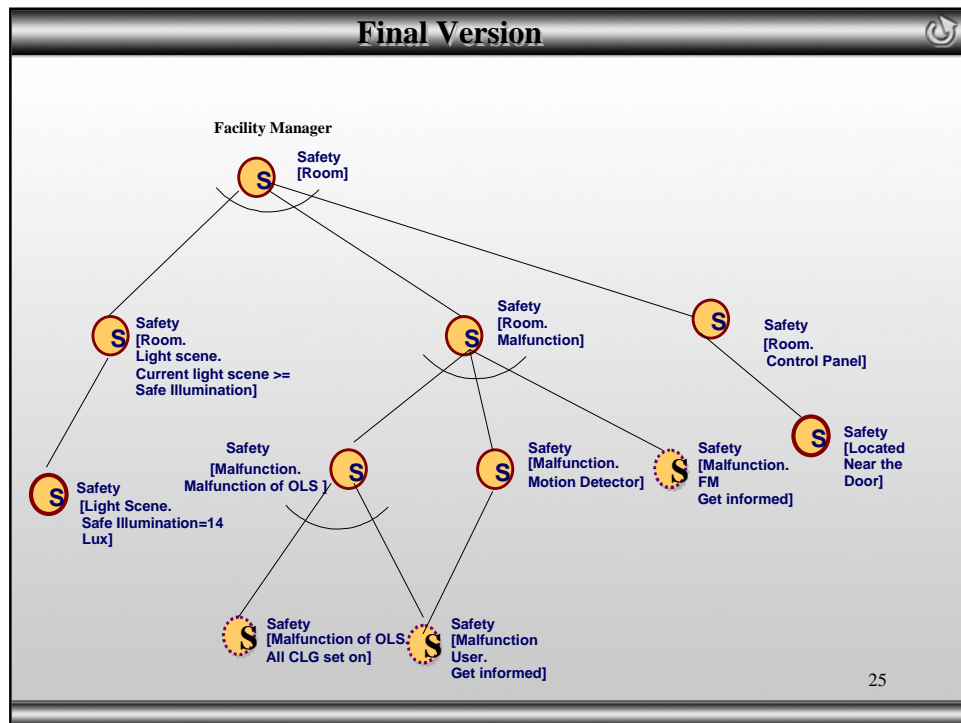
**Impactos**

- All rooms in a hallway section can be accessed via a connected hallway section.
- for each room, the chosen light scene can be set by using the room control panel.
- for each room, the default light scene can be set by using the room control panel.
- for each room, the value of I1 can be set by using the room control panel.

→ Safety [Room] S

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## Identify and Solve Conflicts

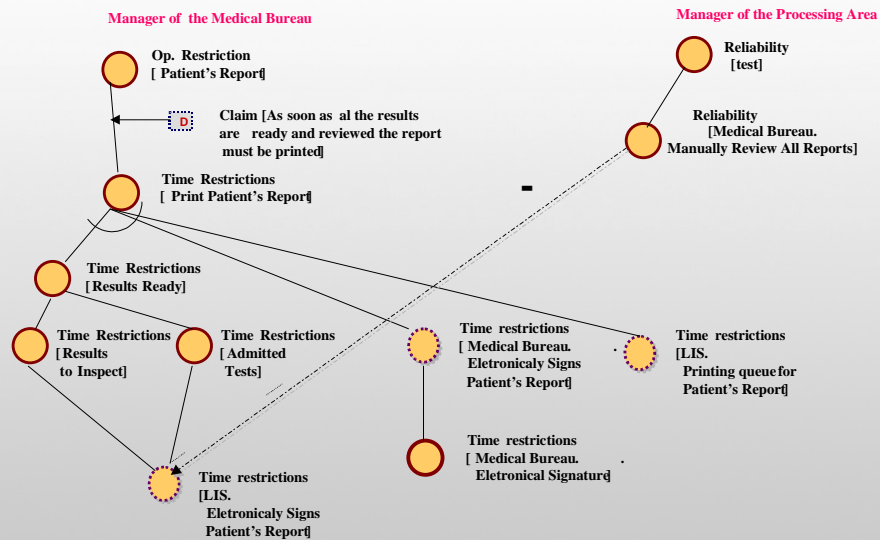
- Compare graphs with the same type (ex: Performance)
- Compare graphs with conflicting types (Ex: Security and Performance or Usability)
- Pair wise graphs

For each of the above heuristics:

- Register positive and negative interdependencies
- Try to solve possible conflicts (negative interdependencies)

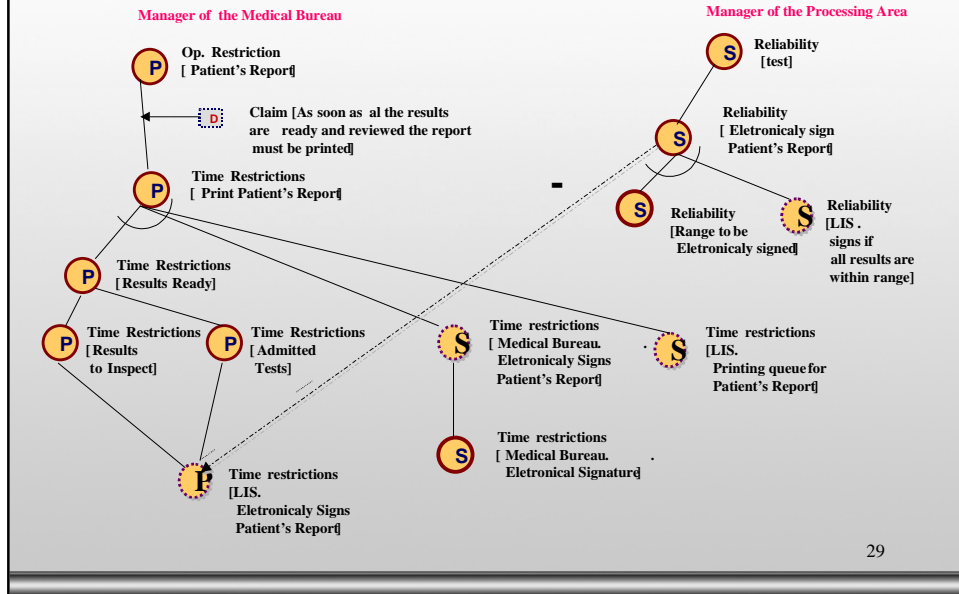
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## Example



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## Example



## Conclusion

- We propose a strategy to deal with NFR since the early stages of software development and to integrate them into the conceptual models
- Part of this strategy shows how to elicit NFR and define some heuristics on how to systematically search for interdependencies among NFR
- Integrating NFR into conceptual models contributes to better visualize the impacts that NFR will have on conceptual models
- It also contributes to keep software engineers attention on NFR
- Allow to evaluate designs of ongoing systems or even legacy systems

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## Extending Functional View Models

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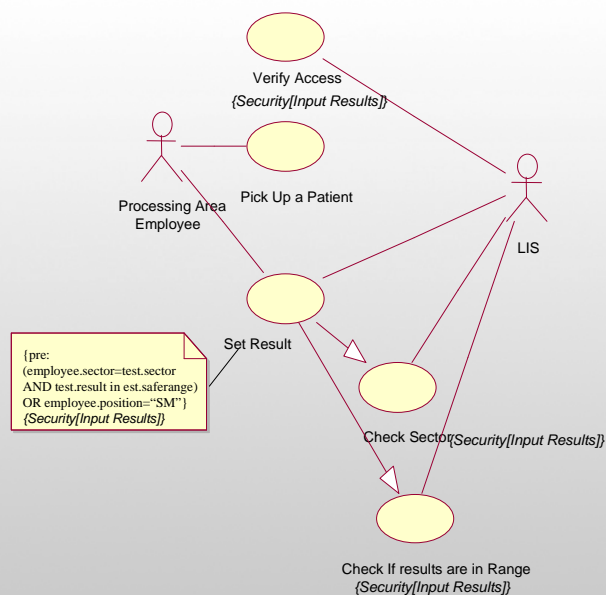


## Extending Use Cases

- Every use case or actor included, due to NFR satisfaction, must be followed by an expression using the pattern:  
**{NFR\_Type[NFR\_topic]}.**
- Represent Special Conditions that must prevail to an Use Case, using whenever possible OCL to describe these conditions
  - Ex: In a Light Control System
  - The Use Case Turn Off Lights after T3 Sec must have a special condition saying that this will only happen if the room is empty
  - We should then represent it as: Pre: room.number\_people=0

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## Example



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- Every change in a scenario due to an NFR satisficing must be followed by the expression :

**Constraint: {NFR[Topic]}**

- Reason: Traceability between models

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The screenshot shows a window titled "Cenários" with the following fields and content:

- Título:** Define Light Scene.
- Objetivo:** Define user preferred light scene.
- Contexto:** 4th floor of building 32, user in room.
- Atores:** user, control system.
- Recursos:** default light scene value, control panel.
- Episódios:**
  - 1. user places himself/herself near Control Panel.
  - 2. user retrieves cdefault light scene.
  - 3. user changes desired values for his chosen light scene.
  - 4. Control System determines how much lux does this light scene represents.
  - 5. If light scene < safe illumination then system issues a warning.

Below the Episodes list, there are two lines of text, each preceded by a right-pointing arrow:

- Constraint: {Safety (Room)}.
- Constraint: {Safety (Room)}.

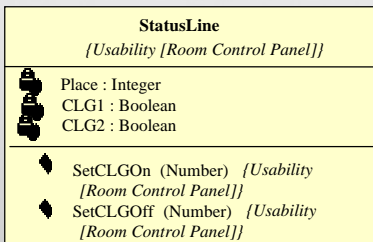
At the bottom of the window, there is a navigation bar with buttons: back, forward, search, and other controls.

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## Extending the Class Diagram



- Every class will be named using a symbol of the LEL
- Classes created due to an NFR satisficing will be followed by the same traceability pattern used in scenarios.



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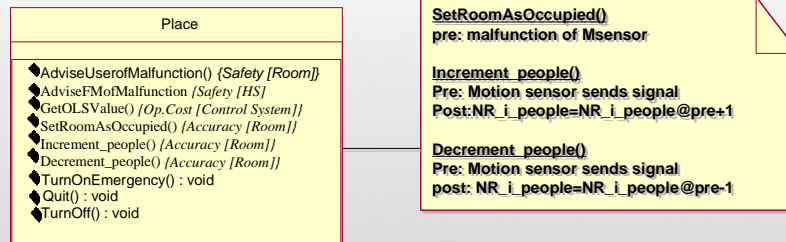
## Extending the Class Diagram (cont.)



- Operations that are in the class due to an NFR satisficing will **always** be followed by the same kind of expression used in scenarios : **{NFR[Topic]}**
- We may have to represent special conditions that holds for an operation. These conditions will be represented between {} and must use, whenever possible, expressions written using OCL
- If these conditions impose a significant loss of space, we might represent them inside a note

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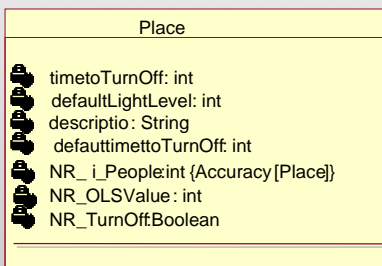
## Example



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## Extending the Class Diagram (cont.)

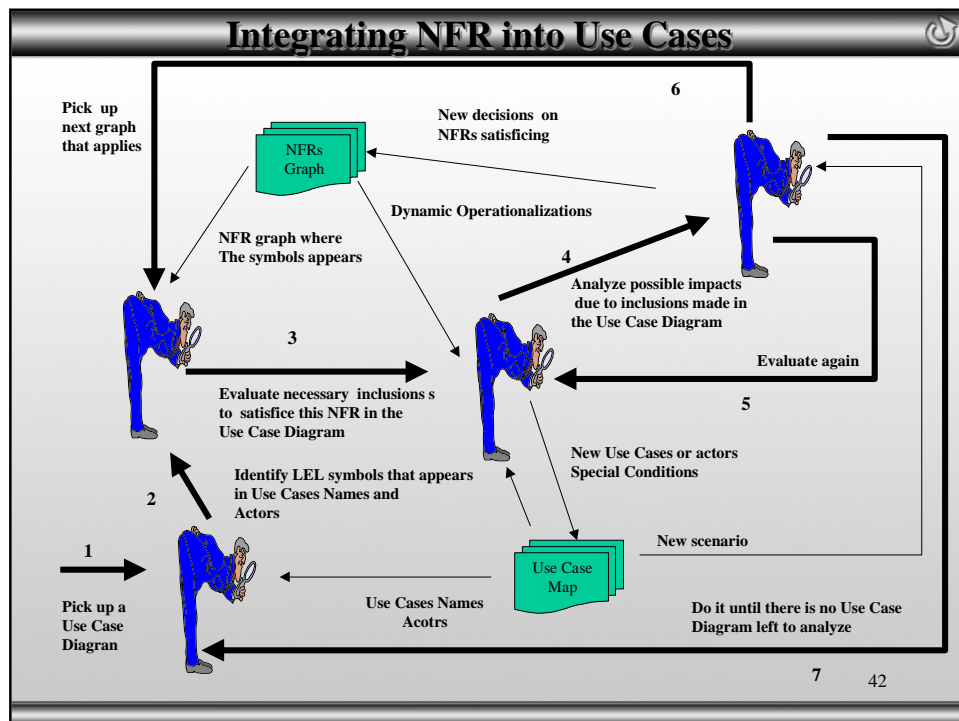
- Attributes included in class to satisfy an NFR will be preceded of NR\_ in its names
- If the Req. Eng. finds it is necessary, the attribute may be followed by the same kind of expression used before to add traceability:  
**{NFR[topic]}**

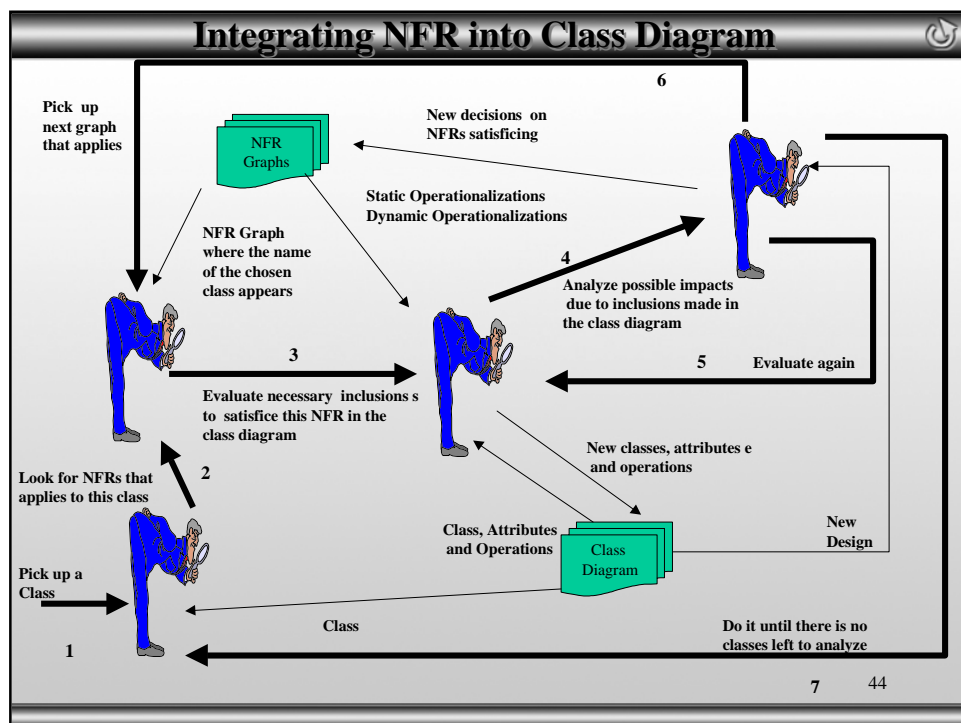
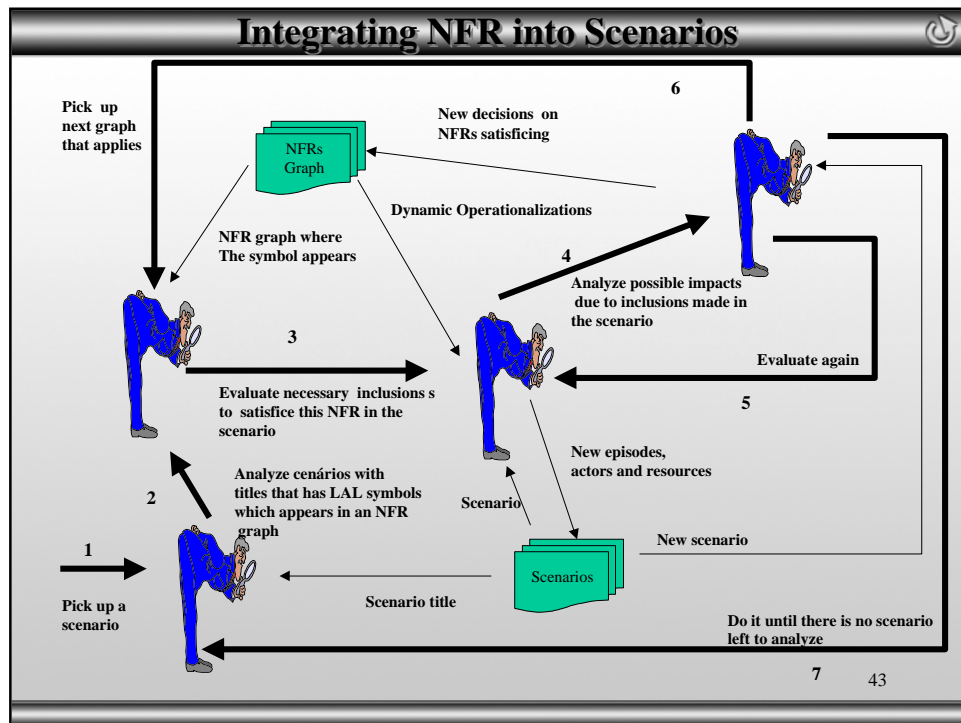


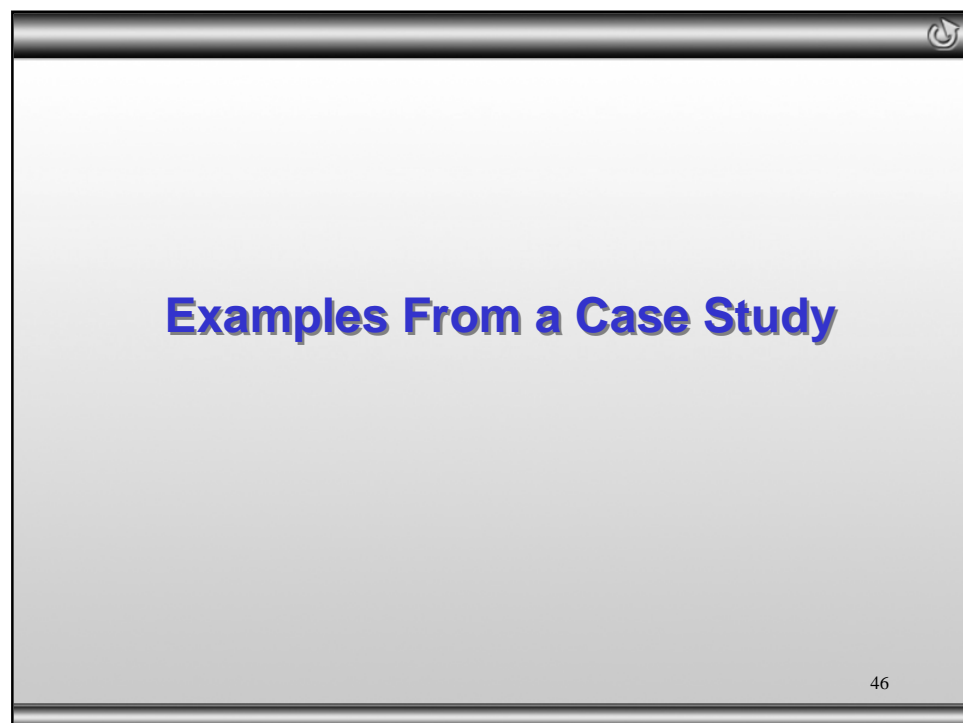
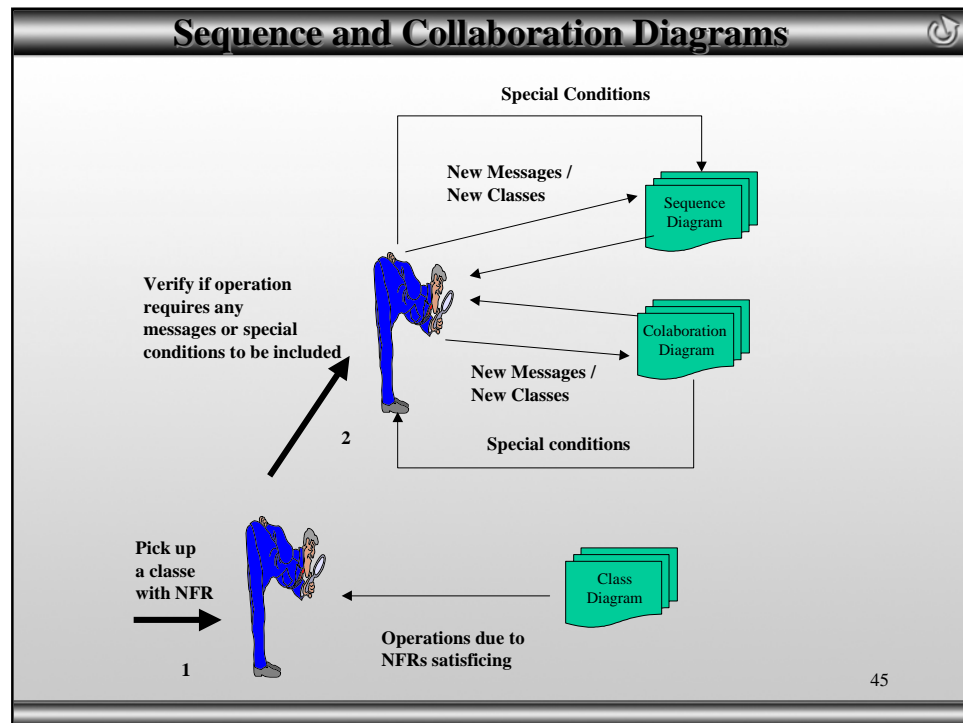
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## The Proposed Integration Method

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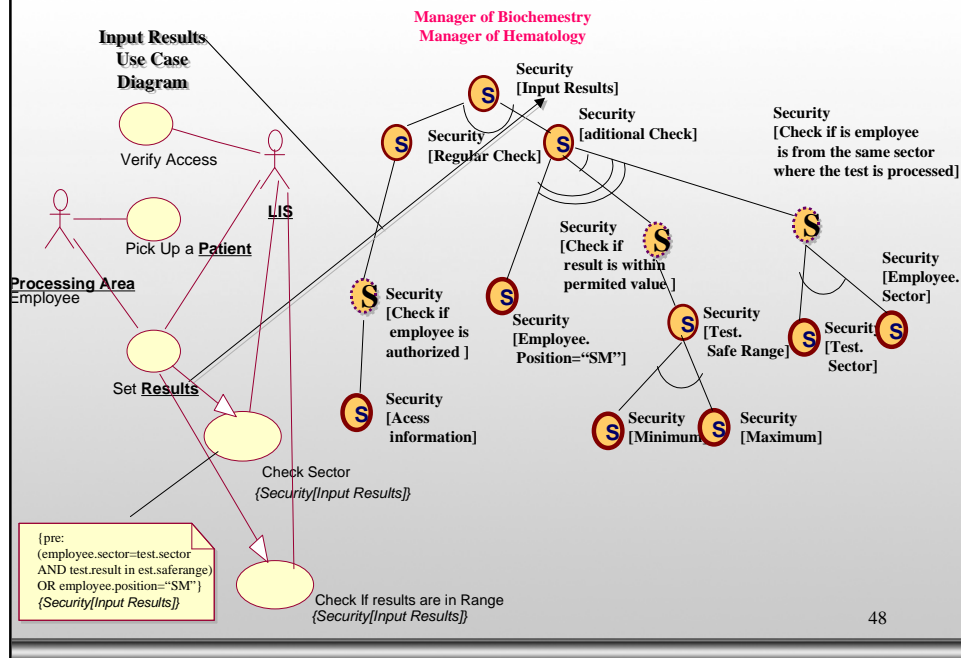


## Strategy Validation

- Strongly based on the replication project principle [Basili 96]
- 3 different case studies
- 2 in vitro (Controlled Environment)
- 1 in vivo (Real Application Environment)
- In all the 3 cases we used conceptual models built by the other teams and we applied the proposed strategy
  - We built the Non-Functional View
  - We integrated the NFRs from this view into the conceptual models developed by the other teams

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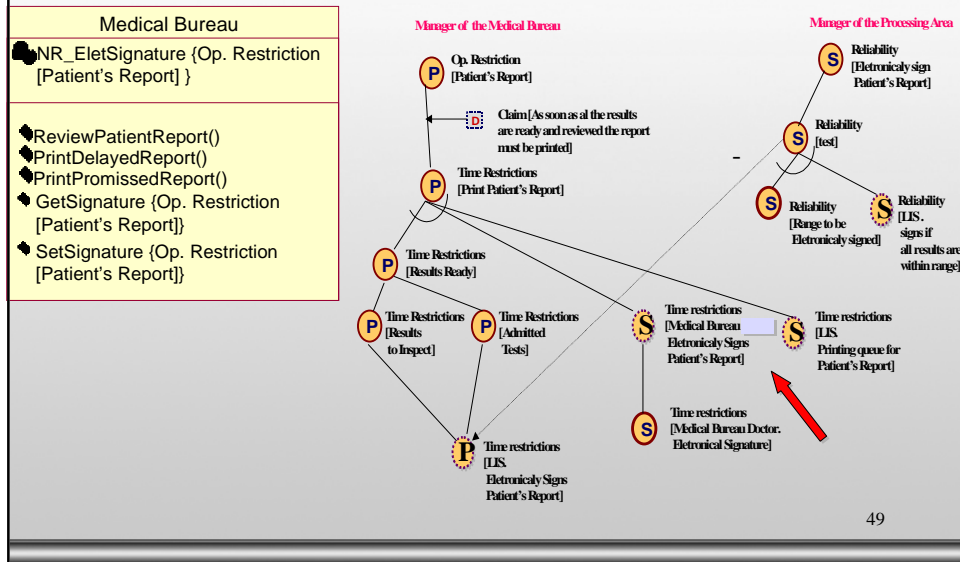
## Integrating NFR into Use Cases



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## Using the Strategy on the Class “Medical Bureau”



## Conclusion

- We propose a strategy to deal with NFR since the early stages of software development and to integrate them into the conceptual models
- Part of this strategy shows how to elicit NFR and define some heuristics on how to systematically search for interdependencies among NFR
- Integrating NFR into conceptual models contributes to better visualize the impacts that NFR will have on conceptual models
- It also contributes to keep software engineers attention on NFR
- Allow to evaluate designs of ongoing systems or even legacy systems

## Conclusion (Cont.)

- We extended the Use Cases, Scenarios, Class, Sequence and Collaboration Diagrams
- We validated our strategy over 3 case studies
  - Errors due to not satisficing NFR are typically found only after the test phase begins and are mainly found after deployment, and therefore, tend to be expensive and difficult to correct
  - The number of changes in the class diagrams used in the 3 case studies (46% of classes were somehow changed, 45% more operations and 35% more attributes), compared with the estimated overhead suggests that the use of the strategy may lead to more quality and productive softwares

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