Requirements Engineering

Semi-Formal Specification:
Structural Functional Requirements – Structured Analysis

- Data Flow Diagrams
- SADT
- IDEF0
Back to the past

- GO/AO
- OO
- SA (DT)
  - DFD
  - SADT
  - IDEF (Back to the future)
Types of Requirements along different views

- Functional Requirements (FRs)
  - Structural Functional Requirements
    - Functional, i.e., Function-oriented
    - Informational, i.e., Information-oriented
  - Behavioral Functional Requirements

- Non-Functional Requirements (NFRs)
Function Oriented Problem Analysis

- Creates a hierarchy of functions
  - Also called (process, activity, work-step, transactions, transforms, bubbles)
- Root is most abstract
- Leaf nodes the most detailed
- Most methods use data flow diagrams and dictionaries
- Examples
  - SRD structured requirements definition
  - SADT
  - Information Engineering
  - Modern structured Analysis
  - Problem statement Language
Process Modeling

A data flow diagram (DFD) is a tool (and type of process model) that depicts the flow of data through a system and the work or processing performed by that system.

DFDs have become a popular tool for business process redesign.
Data Flow Diagrams

- Existed long before computers
- Show the flow of data through a system
- System
  - Organization
  - Company
  - A computer hardware system
  - A software system
- Icons
  - Data on the move – named arrows
  - Transformations of data – named bubbles
  - Sources and destinations of data – named rectangles (terminators)
  - Data in static storage – two parallel lines
**Data Flow Diagram Notations**

**Process**
A process transforms incoming data flow into outgoing data flow.

**Yourdon and Coad Process Notations**

**Gane and Sarson Process Notation**

**Data Store**
Data stores are repositories of data in the system. They are sometimes also referred to as files.

**Dataflow**
Dataflows are pipelines through which packets of information flow. Label the arrows with the name of the data that moves through it.

**External Entity**
External entities are objects outside the system, with which the system communicates. External entities are sources and destinations of the system's inputs and outputs.
DataFlow Diagrams
Data Flow Diagram Layers

- Data flow diagrams are drawn in several nested layers.
- A single process node on a high level diagram can be expanded to show a more detailed data flow diagram.
- Draw the context diagram first, followed by various layers of data flow diagrams.
Context Diagrams

- A context diagram is a top level (also known as Level 0) data flow diagram. It only contains one process node (process 0) that generalizes the function of the entire system in relationship to external entities.
DFD levels

The first level DFD shows the main processes within the system. Each of these processes can be broken into further processes until you reach pseudocode.
Context Diagram - Registration

Admissions
- Eligible student list

Cashier
- Registration status
- Payment status

Students
- Preferences and other information

Faculty
- Class schedule
- Eligible student lists

Financial Aid Office
- Registration status
- Classroom capacities

Department
- Requirement lists
- Schedule information

Physical Facilities
- Reports & statistics
- Classroom descriptions
Explosion of Process 4

1. Obtain student preferences
2. Check Eligibility
3. Check Course Availability
4. Enroll Student in Classes
5. Create Wait Lists
6. Inform student of unavailability

- list of students
- eligible students
- preferred course lists
- refused classes
- schedule
- new course assignment request
- wait list offer
- individual registration information
- request for wait list status

Processes:
- 4.1
- 4.2
- 4.3
- 4.4
- 4.5
- 4.6
- 5
Data Flow Diagrams

- Rules
  - All names must be unique
  - Not a flow chart – no order implied
  - No logical decisions
  - Don’t get bogged down in detail

- Leveling
  - Preserve the number of inputs and outputs between the levels
Difference between DFD and Flowcharts

- Processes on DFDs can operate in parallel (at-the-same-time)
  - Processes on flowcharts execute one at a time

- DFDs show the flow of data through a system
  - Flowcharts show the flow of control (sequence and transfer of control)

- Processes on one DFD can have dramatically different timing
  - Processes on flowcharts are part of a single program with consistent timing
Homework -

- Draw a DFD for an ATM
Illegal Data Flows

- Illegal data flows:
  - B1 → B2
  - B1 → DS1
  - DS1 → B1
  - DS1 → DS2

- Corrected data flows:
  - A process is needed to exchange data flows between external agents:
    - B1 → B1
  - A process is needed to update (or use) a data store:
    - B1 → DS1
  - A process is needed to present data from a data store:
    - DS1 → B1
  - A process is needed to move data from one data store to another:
    - DS1 → DS2
## Structured English context

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Construct</th>
<th>Sample Template</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Sequence of steps** – unconditionally perform a sequence of steps. | [ Step 1 ]  
[ Step 2 ]  
...  
[ Step n ] |
| **Simple condition steps** – if the specified condition is true, then perform the first set of steps. Otherwise, perform the second set of steps. Use this construct if the condition has only two possible values. (Note: The second set of conditions is optional.) | If [ truth condition ]  
then  
[ sequence of steps or other conditional steps ]  
else  
[ sequence of steps or other conditional steps ]  
End If |
| **Complex condition steps** – test the value of the condition and perform the appropriate set of steps. Use this construct if the condition has more than two values. | Do the following based on [ condition ]:  
**Case 1**: If [ condition ] = [value] then  
[ sequence of steps or other conditional steps ]  
**Case 2**: If [ condition ] = [value] then  
[ sequence of steps or other conditional steps ]  
...  
**Case n**: If [ condition ] = [value] then  
[ sequence of steps or other conditional steps ]  
End Case |
Structured English Rules

**Multiple conditions** – test the value of multiple conditions to determine the correct set of steps.

Use a **decision table** instead of nested if-then-else Structured English constructs to simplify the presentation of complex logic that involves combinations of conditions.

A decision table is a tabular presentation of complex logic in which rows represent conditions and possible steps, and columns indicate which combinations of conditions result in specific steps.

Although it isn't a Structured English construct, a decision table can be named, and referenced within a Structured English procedure.
### Decision Table Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition Stub</th>
<th>Condition Entry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>If</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customer is bookstore</td>
<td>Y   Y   N   N   N   N   N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order size &gt; 6 copies</td>
<td>Y   N   N   N   N   N   N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customer is librarian/individual</td>
<td>Y   Y   Y   Y   Y   Y   Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order size 50 copies or more</td>
<td>Y   N   N   N   N   N   N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order size 20 to 49 copies</td>
<td>Y   N   N   N   N   N   N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order size 6 – 19 copies</td>
<td>Y   N   N   N   N   N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Then</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allow a 25% discount</td>
<td>X   X   X   X   X   X   X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allow a 15% discount</td>
<td>X   X   X   X   X   X   X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allow 10% discount</td>
<td>X   X   X   X   X   X   X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allow a 5% discount</td>
<td>X   X   X   X   X   X   X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allow 0% discount</td>
<td>X   X   X   X   X   X   X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Structured English constructs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structured English construct</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>One-to-many iteration</strong> – Repeat the set of steps</td>
<td>Repeat the set of steps until the condition is false.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>until the condition is false.</td>
<td>Use this construct if the set of steps must be performed at least once,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>regardless of the condition’s initial value.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Zero-to-many iteration</strong> – Repeat the set of steps</td>
<td>Repeat the set of steps until the condition is false.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>until the condition is false.</td>
<td>Use this construct if the set of steps are conditional based on the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>condition’s initial value.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Code Examples

**Repeat the following until [truth condition]:**

- [sequence of steps or conditional steps]

**End Repeat**

**Do While [truth condition]:**

- [sequence of steps or conditional steps]

**End Do**

- OR -

**For [truth condition]:**

- [sequence of steps or conditional steps]

**End For**
Structured English

Structured English is a language and syntax, based on the relative strengths of structured programming and natural English, for specifying the underlying logic of elementary processes on DFDs.

1. For each CUSTOMER NUMBER in the data store CUSTOMERS:
   a. For each LOAN in the data store LOANS that matches the above CUSTOMER NUMBER:
      1) Keep a running total of NUMBER OF LOANS for the CUSTOMER NUMBER.
      2) Keep a running total of the ORIGINAL LOAN PRINCIPAL for the CUSTOMER NUMBER.
      3) Keep a running total of CURRENT LOAN BALANCE for the CUSTOMER NUMBER.
      4) Keep a running total of AMOUNTS PAST DUE for the CUSTOMER NUMBER.
   b. If the TOTAL AMOUNTS PAST DUE for the CUSTOMER NUMBER is greater than $100.00 then:
      1) Write the CUSTOMER NUMBER and all their data attributes as described in the data flow LOANS AT RISK.
   Else
   1) Exclude the CUSTOMER NUMBER and data from the data flow LOANS AT RISK.
Data Dictionaries

- Used to augment the Data Flow Diagrams
- Repository
- Layout
  - Name of the item
  - Alias
  - Description/Purpose
  - Related data items
  - Range of values
  - Data flows
  - Data structure definition/form
Data Structures

- Are specific arrangements of data attributes that define a single instance of a data flow
  - A sequence that occur one after another
  - A selection of one or more attributes from a set
  - A repetition of one or more attributes
- Most common data structure notation is Boolean algebraic notation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>“Consists of” or “is composed of”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>Means and and designates sequence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[...]</td>
<td>Only one of the attributes may be present – <em>selection</em> - Attributes separated by commas Either/or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>{...}</td>
<td>Attributes may occur many times – <em>repetition</em> - Attributes separated by commas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(...)</td>
<td>Attributes in side are optional no value for some of the data flows</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Example Data Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATA STRUCTURE</th>
<th>ENGLISH ENTERPRETATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ORDER=</td>
<td>An instance of ORDER consists of:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ORDER NUMBER and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ORDER DATE and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Either PERSONAL CUSTOMER NUMBER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or CORPORATE ACCOUNT NUMBER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and SHIPPING ADDRESS (which is equivalent to ADDRESS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and optionally: BILLING ADDRESS (which is equivalent to ADDRESS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and one or more instances of:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PRODUCT NUMBER and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PRODUCT DESCRIPTION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>QUANTITY ORDERED and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PRODUCT PRICE and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PRODUCT PRICE SOURCE and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EXTENDED PRICE and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SUM OF EXTENDED PRICES and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PREPAID AMOUNT and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CREDIT CARD NUMBER and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EXPIRATION DATE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADDRESS=</td>
<td>An instance of ADDRESS consists of:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(POST OFFICE BOX NUMBER) and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STREET ADDRESS and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CITY and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[STATE, MUNICIPALITY] and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(COUNTRY) and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>POSTAL CODE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Example Data Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORDER NUMBER</th>
<th>ORDER DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PERSONAL CUSTOMER NUMBER</td>
<td>CORPORATE ACCOUNT NUMBER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHIPPING ADDRESS</td>
<td>BILLING ADDRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRODUCT NUMBER</td>
<td>PRODUCT DESCRIPTION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUANTITY ORDERED</td>
<td>PRODUCT PRICE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUM OF EXTENDED PRICES</td>
<td>PREPAID AMOUNT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CREDIT CARD NUMBER</td>
<td>EXPIRATION DATE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POST OFFICE BOX NUMBER</td>
<td>STREET ADDRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITY</td>
<td>[STATE, MUNICIPALITY]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(COUNTRY)</td>
<td>POSTAL CODE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Simple Process Model
Traditional Approaches to Enterprise Modeling
SADT (Structured Analysis and Design Technique)

• **Background**
  • in use since the mid-seventies
  • inspiration for many commercial tools
  • (DFD?) trademark of Softech, Inc.

• **View**
  • "System" refers to any enterprise/organization, physical, manufacturing, and SW system

• **Context Analysis should involve**
  • technical assessment: feasibility of system architecture
    • *Are the components and inter-relationships technically realizable?*
  • operational assessment: system performance in a working environment
    • *Can the system perform task X in less than a week of time?*
  • economic assessment: costs & impacts of system implementation & use
    • *Can the system be built with $20M, 1000 SE’s, in 2 yrs?*
SADT (Structured Analysis and Design Technique)

Requirements definition encompasses all aspects of system development prior to actual system design.

- Current or Foreseen Conditions
  - similar customer base
  - similar dealerships
  - similar interest rates

Management Objectives
- order processing max. 1 week
- error rate 0.1%
- low factory inventory level

Operational Concepts

- Define system functions and allocate
  - Personal Functions
    - loan evaluation
  - Software Functions
    - warning of low inventory level
    - destroy confidential info.
  - Hardware Functions
    - loan request date + 7 days < now.date
SADT (Structured Analysis and Design Technique)

Boxes "composed" into a diagram and interconnected through arrows.
Each diagram is decomposed into up to "six" other diagrams.
Informal documentation (as with DFDs).
Two types of diagrams:

- **Actigrams**
  boxes: happenings - activities, operations, processing, events
  box label: start with a verb

- **Datagrams**
  boxes: things - entities, objects, data, information, substances
  box label: noun
SADT (Structured Analysis and Design Technique)

Semantics of Arrows

*In an actigram*

- Inputs are data that are consumed by the activity
- Outputs are produced by the activity
- Controls influence the execution of an activity but are not consumed
- Mechanism is a processor (machine, computer, person) which makes the activity happen
SADT (Structured Analysis and Design Technique)

Example: Modelling Software Process for the development world

- Controls influence the execution of an activity but are not consumed
- Inputs are data that are consumed by the activity
- Outputs are produced by the activity

Design Requirements

Preliminary Design Data → Perform Detailed Design

Recommended Detailed Data

Mechanism is a processor (machine, computer, person) which makes the activity happen
SADT (Structured Analysis and Design Technique)

Example: Modelling Software Process for the development world
SADT (Structured Analysis and Design Technique)

Example: Modelling Software Process for the development world
SADT (Structured Analysis and Design Technique)

Semantics of Arrows

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In a datagram

- Inputs are activities that produce the data
- Outputs consume the data
- Controls influence the internal state of the data
- Mechanism is a device for storage, representation, impl., etc.
A Simple Data Model *(not part of SADT)*
FUNCTION MODELING USING IDEF-0

A Function Model is a Representation of the Activities and Relationships Between Activities in an Existing or Planned System.
IDEF0 (Integration Definition for Function Modeling)

Background

- released in Dec., 1993
- the "reference model" for system/enterprise function modeling
- also in use for software process modeling
- Federal Information Processing Standard maintained by Dept. of Commerce, NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) & Computer Systems Laboratory
- based on ICAM (Integrated Computer-Aided Manufacturing) from the US Air Force Wright Aeronautical Laboratories
- Information Modeling (IDEF1X) uses ERD + generalization/specialization
- closely resembles "actigrams" of SADT

Stringent Rules

E.g., Boxes shall be sufficient to insert box names
rectangular in shape with square corners
drawn with solid lines
Arrows that bend shall be curved using only 90 degree arcs
shall be drawn in solid line segments
vertically or horizontally, not diagonally
Traditional Approaches to Enterprise Modelling

IDEF0 (Integration Definition for Function Modelling)

C Diagram syntax rules

E.g.,

- **control feedbacks shall be shown as "up and over"**

```
1  ->  2
```

- **input feedbacks shall be shown as "down and under"**

```
1  <-  2
```

- **mechanism feedbacks shall be shown as "down and under"**

```
1  <-  2
```
Appendix: More on IDEF0
Terminology of IDEFØ

- Functions and activities
- Diagrams, Boxes, and Arrows
- ICOMs: Inputs, Controls, Outputs, and Mechanisms
- Arrows, links, relationships, and concepts
- Splits, Joins, Unbundling, Bundling, and Branching
- Decompositions
- Viewpoint, Purpose, and Context
- NIST (FIPS ) standard
What is IDEFØ?

- An IDEF method for modeling functions
  - Graphics (diagrams)
  - Text (glossary & narrative)

- Provides both a process and a language for constructing a model of the decisions, actions, and activities in an organization
What is an IDEFØ Model?

- A definition of activities and information
  - Within a particular *Context*
  - Having a consistent *Viewpoint*
  - For a particular *Purpose*

- Series of diagrams (that decompose a subject into manageable chunks)

- A foundation for requirements specification, design, and programming

- A useful record throughout the life-cycle of an enterprise
Example IDEFØ Diagram

Customer Expectations

Needs

Establish Reqsmts. A1

Understanding of Customer Requirements

Requirements

Alternative Technologies

Knowledge of Previous Design

Design System A2

Contract for Tradeoff Decisions

Design

Raw Material

Analysis Methods

Build System A3

Product

Design Methods

Fabrication Methods
Diagram Construction (1)

- Boxes represent functions

- Arrows represent real objects or data

```
CONTROL

FUNCTION

INPUT

MECHANISM

OUTPUT
```
Diagram Construction (2)

- Labels are words that name functions and data/real objects.
- Function labels are verbs or verb phrases and are put in the center of the function box.
- Data labels are nouns or noun phrases.
- Data labels name the input, control, output, and mechanism arrows.
IDEFØ Function

- An Activity, Action, Process, or Operation
- A Description of “What Happens” in a Particular Environment
- Accomplished by People, Machines, Computers
- Labeled with an Active Verb or Verb Phrase
IDEFØ Functions (Activities)

Represented as a box in an IDEF0 Model.

First diagram has one Function which bounds the context of the Model. (A - 0 diagram)

Diagram has a maximum of 6 functions & a minimum of 3
IDEFØ Relationships (Between Functions)

- Represented as arrows
- AKA concepts
- Real objects, data, people, machines, and computers
ICOMs

- Inputs
- Controls
- Outputs
- Mechanisms
Inputs

- Real Objects or Data Needed to Perform a Function
- Objects or Data Transformed by a Function
- Labeled with a Noun or Noun Phrase
Output

- Objects or Data Produced as a Result of the Function
- Labeled with a Noun or Noun Phrase
Control

- That which Governs the Accomplishment of the Function
- Things that Influence or Determine the Outputs
- Labeled with a Noun or Noun Phrase

INPUTS → CONTROLS → FUNCTION → OUTPUTS
Mechanism

- Person, Device, or Data which Carries out the Function
- The Means by which the Function is Performed
- Labeled with a Noun or Noun Phrase
Box and Arrow Relations in a Diagram

INPUT

OUTPUT TO INPUTS

ARROWS BRANCHING (Split)

OUTPUT TO MECHANISM

OUTPUT TO CONTROL

FEED BACK OUTPUT TO CONTROL

OUTPUT

(Join)
Arrows: "Branching"

Output can branch and be used by two functions simultaneously or sequentially.

Without labels we cannot tell how the branching occurs.

Once this data is supplied, functions 2 & 3 can operate simultaneously or sequentially.
Arrows: "Joining"

PROCURED ITEMS  PRODUCTION ITEMS

CONTROL PRODUCTION ITEMS & TOOLS

FINISHED SUB-PARTS
Arrows: "Feedback"

- SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS
- DESIGN
- DRAFT SPECIFICATIONS
- REVIEW
- DRAFT SPECIFICATION WITH DESIGN CHANGES
- APPROVED DESIGN
- COMMENTS
Bundling and Unbundling

Bundle: Concepts B and C are bundled to form concept A.

Unbundle: Concept A is unbundled into concepts B and C.
Files = Customer Records + Price & Tax Tables
Account Entries = Transaction Entries + Billing Entries
Bundles and Un-bundles: PCB ASSEMBLY

Management Directives

Process plan

Unbundle

Load board onto m/c
A1

Bare boards

Apply solder paste
A2

Solder paste method

Paste applied board

Place chip on board
A3

Placement method

Soldering completed data

Chip positioned board

Assembly Records

Process Plan = loading details + solder paste details + chip placement method

Assembly Records = soldering completed data + placement completed data
Function Decomposition

"Parent" Activities Represent a Higher Level of Abstraction than that of Their "Children"
Further Decomposition

Parent Diagram

Parent Activity

Child Diagram
Decomposition

- Establishes model hierarchy

- Functions are comprised of other functions

- Decompositions is a process of breaking down of the functions (level-by-level)

- Data consistency is required throughout the level-by-level decomposition breakdown
Complexity Simplification Technique Tunneled Arrows

Tunneled Arrows at Connected Ends
(Concept Does Not Appear on the Next Lower Level.)

Tunneled Arrows at Unconnected Ends
(Concept Does Not Appear on the Next Higher Level.)
Tunneling Example

This control will not appear on child diagram.

This control will still be designated as C3 on child diagram.

This output will not be shown on parent diagram.
Steps in Building a Model

1. Define Viewpoint, Purpose, and Context

2. Develop the Context Diagram (Putting the situation in context)

3. Decompose activities to fit scope of modeling task (complete modeling per rules, etc)

4. Develop glossary
Model Orientation!!!!

- **Context (Subject)**
  The Boundaries of the Subject Matter

- **Viewpoint (Bias)**
  The Perspective from which a Subject is Analyzed

- **Purpose (Objective)**
  The Reason(s) a Model is Created
Example - Context Diagram

Acquire Materials

Inventory Policy
Purchase policy

Stock Levels

Payments
Rejected Materials

Vendor

ABC Co.

A-0 Diagram
Example - Decomposition of the Context Diagram

A0 Diagram

Inventory Policy → Stock Levels

Check Stock Levels & Det Reorder Qty

Reorder Qty → Prepare Authorize & Mail PO

Prepare Authorize & Mail PO → Purchase Order

Purchase Order → PO Prep. Policy

PO Prep. Policy → Inspection Policy

Purchase Policy

Receive Shipment & Inspect

Material

OK Material

Rejected Material

Receive PO Produce & Ship

Invoice

Vendor

Vendor

ABC Co.

Receipt

Restock & Make Payment

Payments
Function Model for Planning and Implementing a Feature Extraction module

- **Purpose**: To obtain a better understanding of the various tasks involved in planning and implementation of a feature extraction module.

- **Context**: We will assume CAD model formats, process planning requirements, and resources available (people and computers) are known. The FE module will be built using available existing resources (no new tools or software will be purchased).

- **Viewpoint**: that of an industrial / mfg engineer who has a background in designing / building software systems.