

Requirement Elicitation [Iteration 1, Phase 1]

Slide Series 2

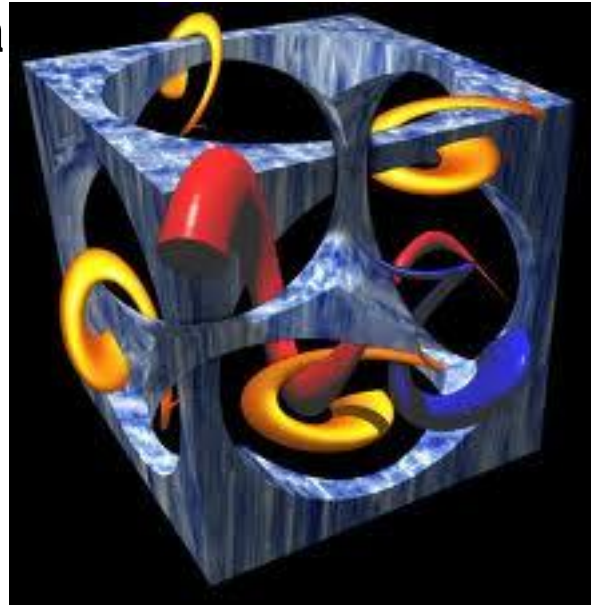
Hmmm...



Problem Domain

The **problem domain** is the area of expertise that needs to be examined to solve the problem

- Often, as computer engineers, we don't have expertise in that area!
 - How do you write "human resource" system for hotels?
- Must explore/learn



What's the
inside of this?

Requirement elicitation

Requirement elicitation is the exploration/learning phase

During RE we aim to get an understanding of the problem domain ...

...and to get a common vision of what to build!

- Else you'll end up building multiple applications inside one application.... (not recommended ;-))!

RE Topics

Purpose

- Why are we doing this? What are we trying to achieve? Who will use it?

General characteristics of application

- What kind of application is this? In what environment will it be used?

Scope of the system

- What should be in and what should not

Objectives and success criteria

- When are we finished?

What can we do with the system?

- **Functional requirements:** Set of inputs, the behavior, and outputs

Other criteria to judge the operation of a system

- Non-functional requirements (GUI kind of?)

Introducing: "The Monopoly Project"

As a running "case" we'll implement a prototype of the board game Monopoly by Parker Bros.

- It's an application instance, there are other styles/ways...
- Abbreviation: **MP** (on slides)



Problem Domain **MP**

Problem domain known (?) but note...

- ...there are quite a few rules!
- ...there are different sets of rules!
- ...there are possible unspecified situations!
- ...there are possible contradicting rules!
- ...there are possible hidden rules (hard or impossible in physical word but very possible with computers)?


Have to find them all....!!!

Requirements for **MP**

We have no customer so what's our vision for the project?

We'll inspect beginning of the RAD for MP (on course page)

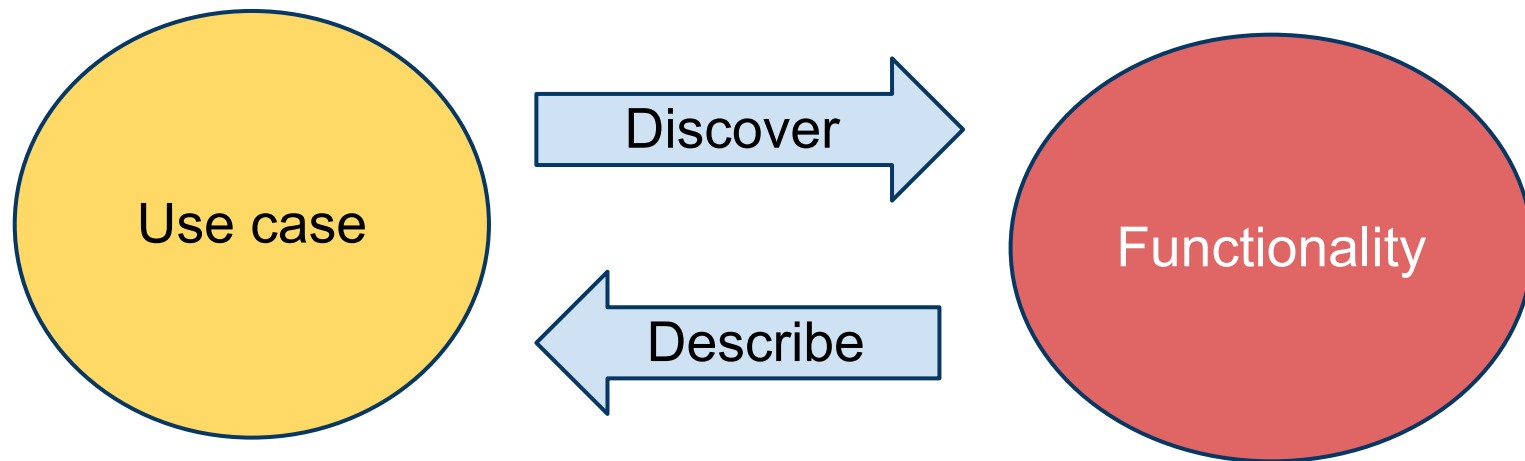
- Purpose
- General characteristics of application
- Scope of the system
- Objectives and success criteria



**First parts of
RAD starts here
(during RE)**

Finding Functional Requirements

- To capture functionality we create **use cases**
- Known or apparent functionality described as use cases
- Start at either side



Use Cases

A use case describes a sequence of actions that provide a measurable value to an actor (user or possibly another system)

- A use case has a name
- Name use cases using domain terminology
- Use case names begin with a strong verb

A use case is represented as a text document

- Often two columns, one for user, one for system
- Numbered steps
- Use case text uses domain terminology (board, dice,...not array, randomGenerator ...)
- **Template on course page**

Hmm, who started out with [this](#) ?

Use Cases: Starting out

The sequence of actions starts with a user invoking some action from the user interface

- To write the UC's we need a preliminary user interface

User Interface

During requirement elicitation we sketch a preliminary user interface

- Needed for use cases
- Use a paper mock up

Also

- Initially envision the system.
- Enables you to explore the problem space with your stakeholders
- Enables you to explore the solution space of your system.
- A vehicle to communicate the possible UI design(s) of your system
- A potential foundation from which to continue developing the system (finding use cases)

User Interface for **MP**

Should look like a Monopoly game

- Flat 2d look for now
- Possible animations later

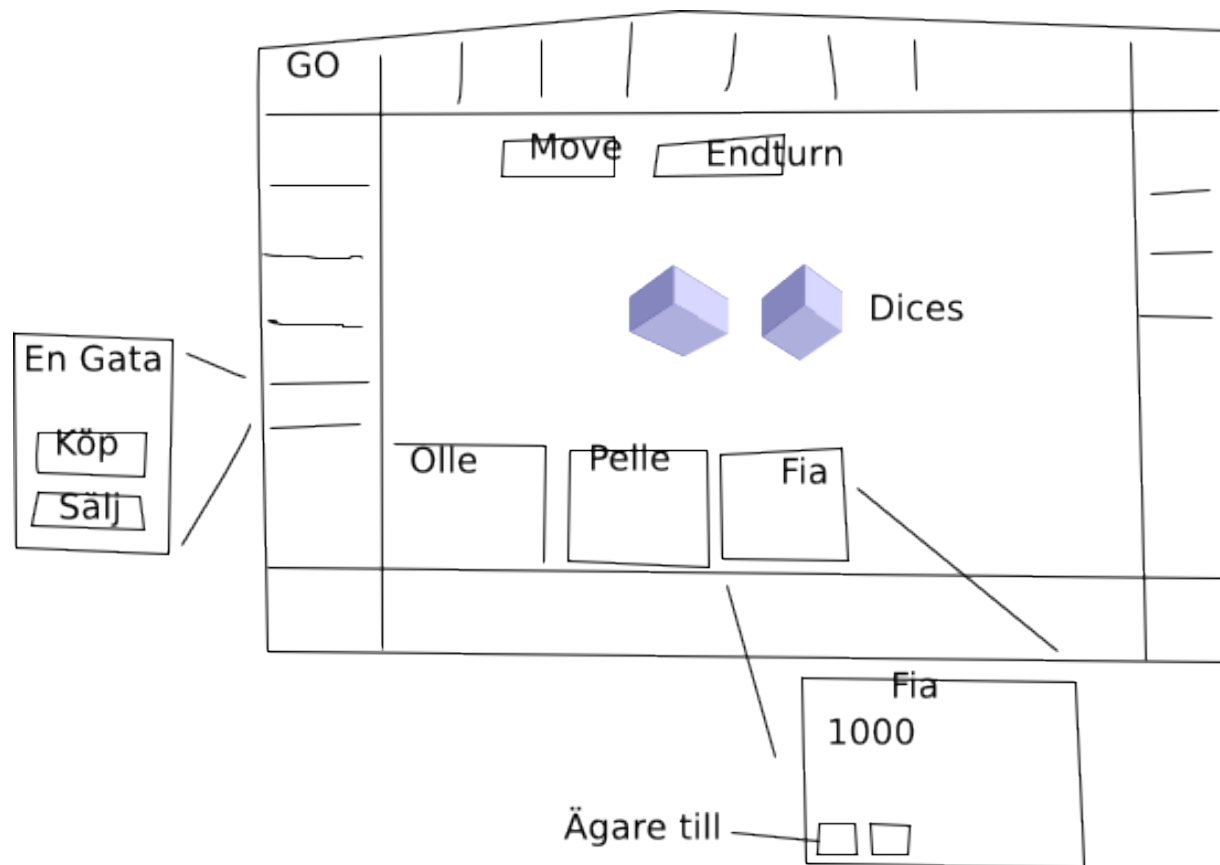
Possible to select different location (London,...Ullared)

- Must be possible to change texts,
- Internationalization,...must use internal representation (keys) for text.

Possible small screen

- Will use popup for details, dialogs for messages

GUI Sketch MP



Use Cases: Normal FLOW

Normal flow is the most likely (normal) path in the sequence of actions

	User	System
1	clicks on destroy button (see GUI sketch)	
2		feels bad
3	clicks ok in confirm dialog	
4		goodbye cruel world...

Use Cases: Alternate flows

Often have alternative path's in the sequence of actions, **alternate flows**

- Depending on outcome of response, or others...
- No standard numbering system, example later

Use Cases: Exceptional flow

How will the sequence of actions behave if we get an exception?

Example: User enables auto reply on mail

Normal flow:

User	System
1. Selects auto reply	
	2. System shows a ...
3. User ...	
	4. System...
	n. Incoming mail
	n+1. Auto replies to sender

Exceptional flow: Can you think of a (funny) exception?

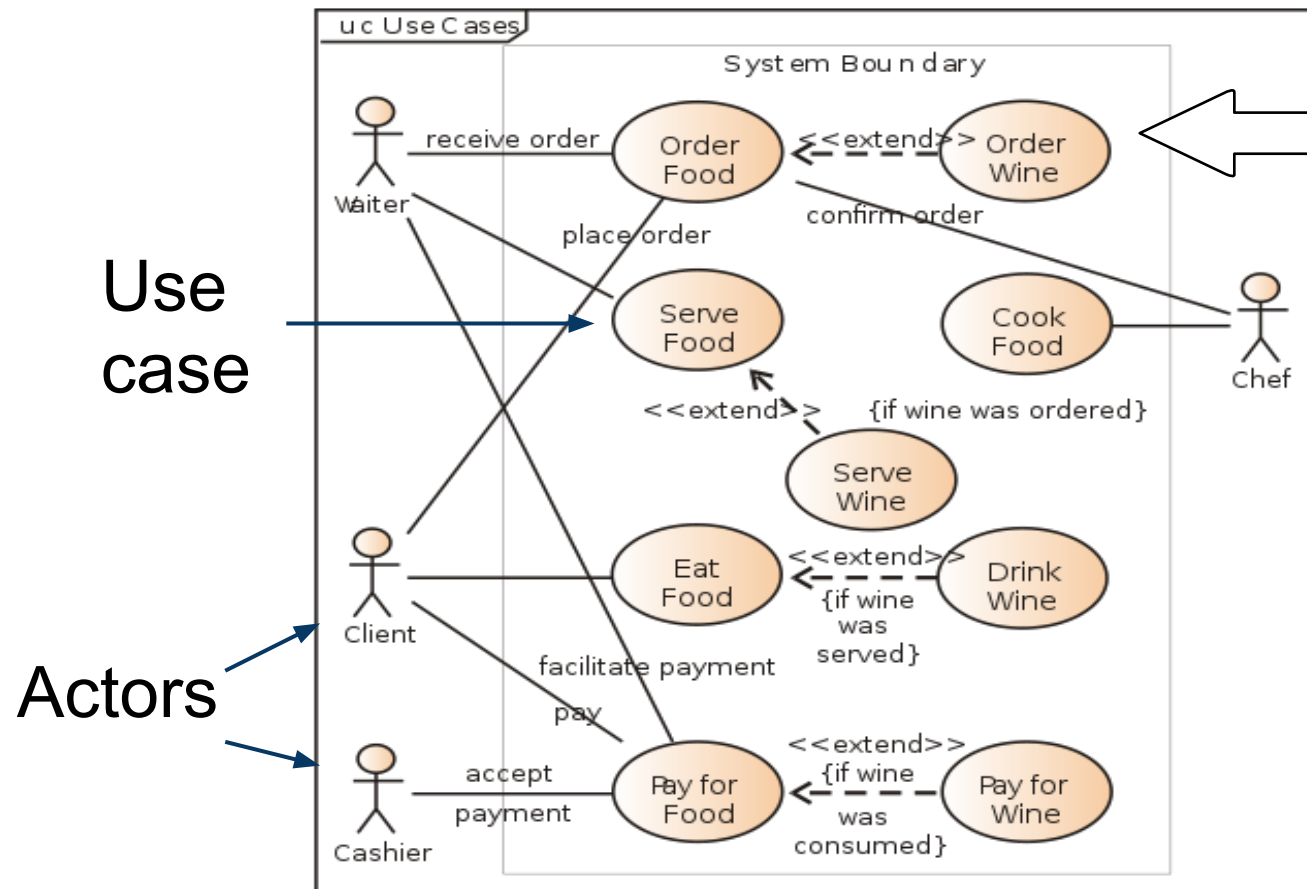
Finding Use Cases

Techniques

- Interviews
- Questionnaires
- User observation
- Literature study
- Workshops
- Brainstorming
- Screen (GUI) mockups

UML for Use Cases

Use case diagram, not overly useful but can give an overview



There will be a use case text named "OrderWine" to describe in detail

Use Cases: Fine Prints

Use case granularity

- Too large, have to break down
- Too small, trivial, possible part of another use case

Use case "extends"

- Inserting additional action sequences into the base use-case sequence

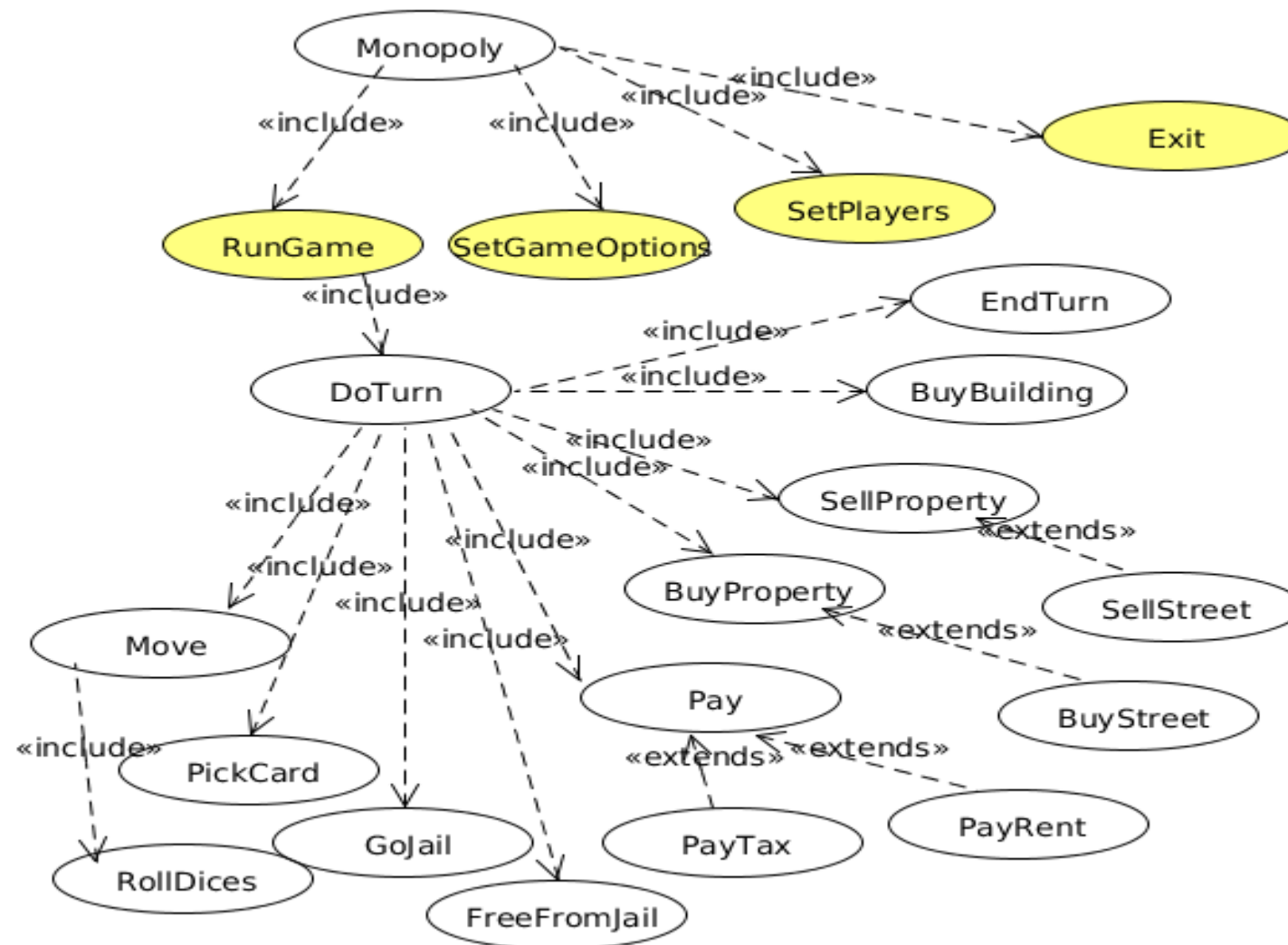
Use case "includes"

- An invocation of a use case by another one

Use case refactoring

- Must do! Else possibly end up with duplicate code

Use Cases for MP



UC Examples for **MP**

The UC's (on course page)

- Move
- EndTurn

Quality of UC

The quality of the UC's will have impact later

- Let UC text be as focused (short) as possible but try to be precise (missing facts will possibly affect later stages)
- Make it a short play (one person emulating the system, playing really dumb), does it work?

Priority of Use Cases

The use cases should be ordered by priority

- High, implemented in first iteration
- Mid, later iterations
- Low, optional, possible never implemented

High priority characteristics

- Significant, central functionality
- Substantial coverage of the solution, stress or illustrate a specific point of the solution (to be solved)

UC Priority for **MP**

Highest

- Move
- EndTurn

Mid

- Buy, sell?

Scenarios

Finding the general interaction (use case) with the system is sometimes too complicated

- A scenario is special case of a use case (fixed data)

Example: Schedule a meeting

- Use case: What is a meeting in general? Location, remote participating, duration, who can participate individuals, groups, roles, rights...who can schedule a meeting .. lot to analyze
- Scenario: Pick an instance. Sven schedules a meeting with Lisa (remote) and all sales representatives at ... thu 10-11...

Non-Functional requirements

- Usability, the ease of use and learnability of a human-made object (in our case GUI)
- Reliability, probably NA
- Performance, probably NA
- Supportability
- Testability (yes, implicitly mandatory in course more to come...)
- Implementation (any restrictions, yes, Java in this course)
- Packaging and installation
- Legal

See Wikipedia for long list .. (don't overdo)

Non-Functional for **MP**

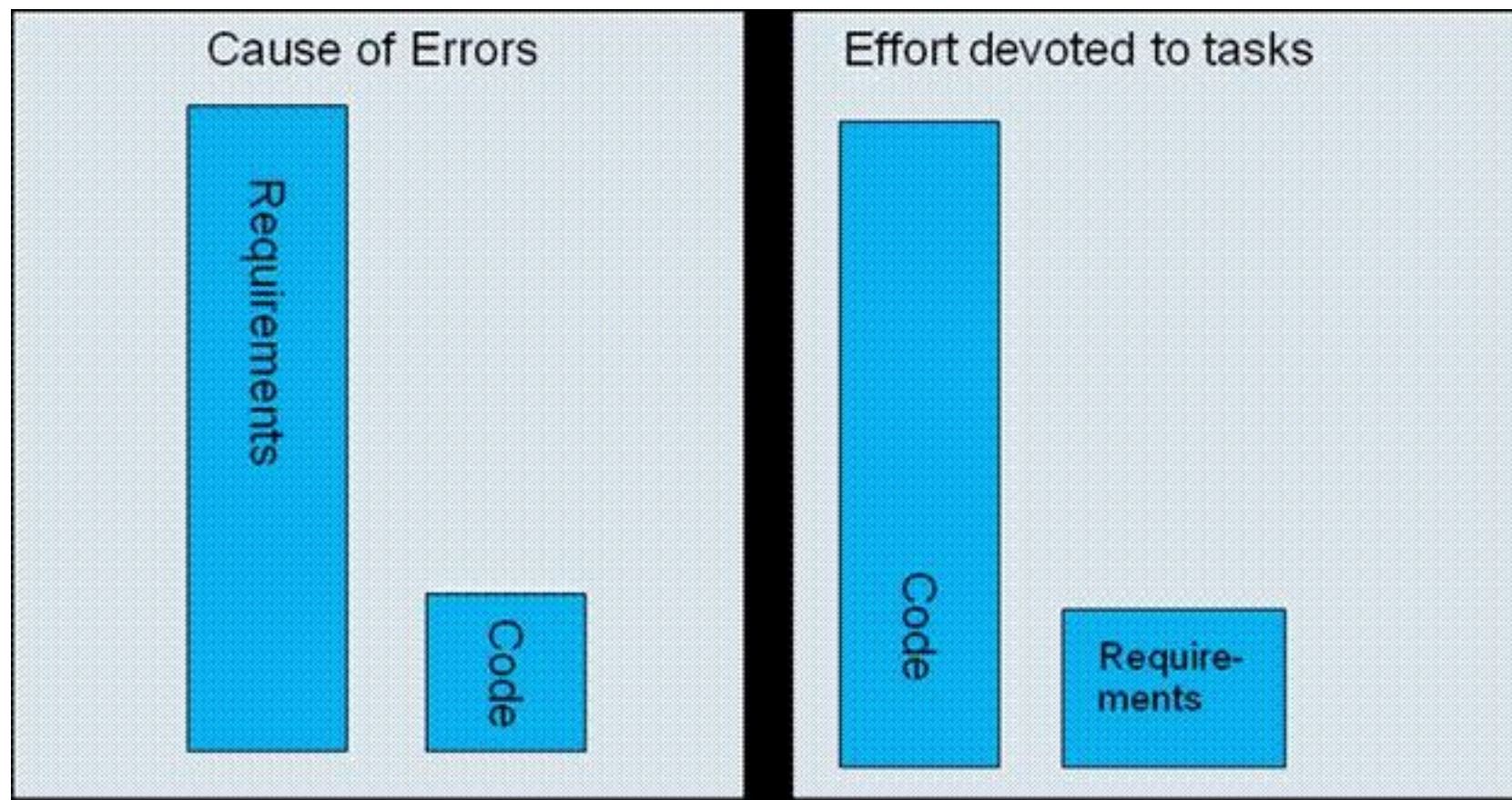
We'll inspect the RAD again

Documenting the RE

All outcome from RE is documented in the RAD

- List of use cases
- Put full UC texts in appendix (not inline)
- Priority of UC's
- Non-functional requirements
- Preliminary user interface

Hmmm...



Summary

Requirement elicitation focus on

- Understanding the problem domain
- To create a shared vision of the project
- Finding functional and nonfunctional requirements (GUI)
- We tried to do so using the Monopoly project as a case

RE documented as part of RAD

Next: From requirements to the domain model,
i.e. the analysis phase