Association

In the Class diagrams, an Association represents the semantic relationship between two or more classifiers which specifies connections between their instances. An Association relationship is the most general of all relationships and the most semantically weak.

In the Use Case diagrams, an Association represents the participation of an Actor in a Use Case, for example, when instances of an Actor and instances of a Use Case communicate with each other. This is the only relationship between Actors and Use Cases. Sometimes an association relationship is called communication Association.

An Association is drawn as a solid path connecting two classifier symbols.

The communication path is a subclass of an Association. It specifies the relationship between nodes by defining the number of nodes that may be connected (multiplicity), and the nature of the connection, via the name of the path or a stereotype.

Related pages

- Working with Associations
- Association End
- Association Class
- Association in Use Case diagrams
- Communication Path

- Model Elements
- Class diagrams
- Use Case
- Use Case diagram
- Sequence diagram
- Activity diagram