Principles of Software Construction: Objects, Design, and Concurrency

Part 2: Designing (sub-)systems

A formal design process: Domain modeling

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Administrivia

• Homework 3 due tonight at 11:59 p.m.
• Optional reading for today:
  • UML and Patterns Chapter 17
  • Effective Java Items 49, 54, and 69
• Required reading due Tuesday:
  • UML and Patterns Chapters 14, 15, and 16
  – Midterm exam next Thursday (September 26th)
  • Exam review session: Wednesday 7-9 pm, MM A14
  • Practice exam coming soon
Key concepts from Tuesday
Key concepts from Tuesday

• More design patterns for reuse
  – Template method pattern
  – Iterator pattern
  – Decorator pattern

• Design principles: heuristics to achieve design goals
A design principle for reuse: *low coupling*

- Each component should depend on as few other components as possible

- Benefits of low coupling:
  - Enhances understandability
  - Reduces cost of change
  - Eases reuse
Representational gap

• Real-world concepts:

• Software concepts:
A related design principle: high cohesion

- Each component should have a small set of closely-related responsibilities
- Benefits:
  - Facilitates understandability
  - Facilitates reuse
  - Eases maintenance
Our path toward a more formal design process

**Problem Space**

- Real-world concepts
- Requirements, concepts
- Relationships among concepts
- Solving a problem
- Building a vocabulary

**Solution Space**

- System implementation
- Classes, objects
- References among objects and inheritance hierarchies
- Computing a result
- Finding a solution
Today

- Interaction diagrams: to visualize dynamic behavior
- Understanding a design problem: Object-oriented analysis
Visualizing dynamic behavior: Interaction diagrams

• An *interaction diagram* is a picture that shows, for a single scenario of use, the events that occur across the system’s boundary or between subsystems

• Clarifies interactions:
  – Between the program and its environment
  – Between major parts of the program

• For this course, you should know UML *sequence diagrams*
Constructing a sequence diagram

- an Order Entry window
- an Order
- an Order Line
- a Stock Item
An example sequence diagram

- an Order Entry window
- an Order
- an Order Line
- a Stock Item

prepare() → prepare()

hasStock := check()

[hasStock]
remove()

[needsReorder]
new

a Reorder Item

[hasStock]
new

a Delivery Item
(Sequence diagram with notation annotations)
Draw a sequence diagram for a call to LoggingList.add:

```java
public class LoggingList<E> implements List<E> {
    private final List<E> list;
    public LoggingList<E>(List<E> list) { this.list = list; }
    public boolean add(E e) {
        System.out.println("Adding " + e);
        return list.add(e);
    }
    public E remove(int index) {
        System.out.println("Removing at " + index);
        return list.remove(index);
    }
    ...
```
Today

• Interaction diagrams: to visualize dynamic behavior
• Understanding a design problem: Object-oriented analysis
A high-level software design process

- Project inception
- Gather requirements
- Define actors, and use cases
- Model / diagram the problem, define objects
- Define system behaviors
- Assign object responsibilities
- Define object interactions
- Model / diagram a potential solution
- Implement and test the solution
- Maintenance, evolution, ...
Artifacts of this design process

• Model / diagram the problem, define objects
  – Domain model (a.k.a. conceptual model)

• Define system behaviors
  – System sequence diagram
  – System behavioral contracts

• Assign object responsibilities, define interactions
  – Object interaction diagrams

• Model / diagram a potential solution
  – Object model
Artifacts of this design process

- Model / diagram the problem, define objects
  - Domain model (a.k.a. conceptual model)
- Define system behaviors
  - System sequence diagram
  - System behavioral contracts
- Assign object responsibilities, define interactions
  - Object interaction diagrams
- Model / diagram a potential solution
  - Object model

Today: understanding the problem

Defining a solution
Input to the design process: Requirements and use cases

• Typically prose:

A public library typically stores a collection of books, movies, or other library items available to be borrowed by people living in a community. Each library member typically has a library account and a library card with the account’s ID number, which she can use to identify herself to the library. A member’s library account records which items the member has borrowed and the due date for each borrowed item. Each type of item has a default rental period, which determines the item’s due date when the item is borrowed. A library member must be able to log in at a library system kiosk and borrow a book. After confirming that the member has no unpaid late fees, the library system should determine the book’s due date by adding its rental period to the current day, and record the book and its due date as a borrowed item in the member’s library account.
Modeling a problem domain

- Identify key concepts of the domain description
  - Identify nouns, verbs, and relationships between concepts
  - Avoid non-specific vocabulary, e.g. "system"
  - Distinguish operations and concepts
  - Brainstorm with a domain expert
Modeling a problem domain

- **Identify key concepts of the domain description**
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- **Visualize as a UML class diagram, a *domain model***
  - Show class and attribute concepts
    - Real-world concepts only
    - No operations/methods
    - Distinguish class concepts from attribute concepts
  - Show relationships and cardinalities
Building a domain model for a library system

A public library typically stores a collection of books, movies, or other library items available to be borrowed by people living in a community. Each library member typically has a library account and a library card with the account’s ID number, which she can use to identify herself to the library.

A member’s library account records which items the member has borrowed and the due date for each borrowed item. Each type of item has a default rental period, which determines the item’s due date when the item is borrowed. If a member returns an item after the item’s due date, the member owes a late fee specific for that item, an amount of money recorded in the member’s library account.
Building a domain model for a library system

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One domain model for the library system
Notes on the library domain model

- All concepts are accessible to a non-programmer
- The UML is somewhat informal
  - Relationships are often described with words
- Real-world "is-a" relationships are appropriate for a domain model
- Real-word abstractions are appropriate for a domain model
- Iteration is important
  - This example is a first draft. Some terms (e.g. Item vs. LibraryItem, Account vs. LibraryAccount) would likely be revised in a real design.

- Aggregate types are usually modeled as classes
- Primitive types (numbers, strings) are usually modeled as attributes
Build a domain model for Monopoly
Build a domain model for Monopoly

Monopoly is a game in which each player has a piece that moves around a game board, with the piece’s change in location determined by rolling a pair of dice. The game board consists of a set of properties (initially owned by a bank) that may be purchased by the players.

When a piece lands on a property that is not owned, the player may use money to buy the property from the bank for that property’s price. If a player lands on a property she already owns, she may build houses and hotels on the property; each house and hotel costs some price specific for the property. When a player’s piece lands on a property owned by another player, the owner collects money (rent) from the player whose piece landed on the property; the rent depends on the number of houses and hotels built on the property.

The game is played until only one remaining player has money and property, with all the other players being bankrupt.
Understanding system behavior with sequence diagrams

- A *system sequence diagram* is a model that shows, for one scenario of use, the sequence of events that occur on the system’s boundary.
- Design goal: Identify and define the interface of the system
  - System-level components only: e.g., A user and the overall system.
Understanding system behavior with sequence diagrams

• A system sequence diagram is a model that shows, for one scenario of use, the sequence of events that occur on the system’s boundary
• Design goal: Identify and define the interface of the system
  – System-level components only: e.g., A user and the overall system
• Input: Domain description and one use case
• Output: A sequence diagram of system-level operations
  – Include only domain-level concepts and operations
One sequence diagram for the library system

Use case scenario: A library member should be able to use her library card to log in at a library system kiosk and borrow a book. After confirming that the member has no unpaid late fees, the library system should determine the book’s due date by adding its rental period to the current day, and record the book and its due date as a borrowed item in the member’s library account.
Build one system sequence diagram for Monopoly

Use case scenario: When a player lands on an unowned property and has enough money to buy the property, she should be able to buy the property for the property’s price. The property should no longer be purchasable from the bank by other players, and money should be moved from the player to the bank.
Formalize system behavior with behavioral contracts

• A system behavioral contract describes the pre-conditions and post-conditions for some operation identified in the system sequence diagrams
  – System-level textual specifications, like software specifications
A system behavioral contract for the library system

Operation: borrow(item)

Pre-conditions: Library member has already logged in to the system.
Item is not currently borrowed by another member.

Post-conditions: Logged-in member's account records the newly-borrowed item, or the member is warned she has an outstanding late fee. The newly-borrowed item contains a future due date, computed as the item's rental period plus the current date.
Distinguishing domain vs. implementation concepts
Distinguishing domain vs. implementation concepts

• Domain-level concepts:
  – Almost anything with a real-world analogue

• Implementation-level concepts:
  – Implementation-like method names
  – Programming types
  – Visibility modifiers
  – Helper methods or classes
  – Artifacts of design patterns
Summary: Understanding the problem domain

• Know your tools to build domain-level representations
  – Domain models
  – System sequence diagrams
  – System behavioral contracts

• Be fast and (sometimes) loose
  – Elide obvious(?) details
  – Iterate, iterate, iterate, ...

• Get feedback from domain experts
  – Use only domain-level concepts