

Component Level Design

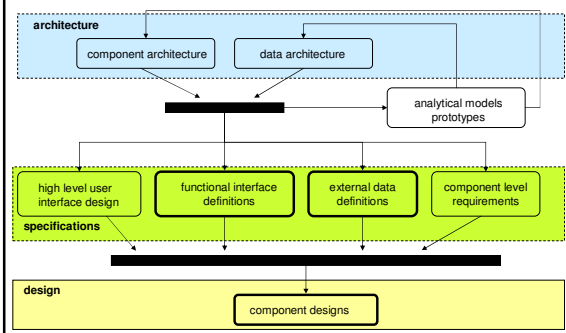
- Components and Specifications
- Packages and Classes
 - elements of good class design
 - classes in non object oriented languages
 - elements of good packaging
- Routines
 - elements of good routine design
 - representing routine designs

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Model Hierarchy/Succession



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What is a “component”?

- A modular, deployable, and replaceable part of a system, that encapsulates implementation, and exposes a set of interfaces.
 - it is a defined piece of a larger system
 - it can be added or removed from that system (not necessarily a **Field Replaceable Unit**)
 - it contributes to the working of the system
 - its inner mechanisms may be hidden
 - its functionality is defined by an interface

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Component Specifications

“The definition of what a program is expected to do”

- a description of a component's function
 - usually, in terms of its output values
 - for specified input values
 - under specified preconditions.
- this is different from
 - system requirements (focus on component)
 - system architecture (more complete)
 - component design (what, not how)

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When to create a new class

- provide needed objects
 - obvious objects from the problem domain
- provide better behaved objects
 - kinder, gentler versions of real objects
- make applications more stable & portable
 - isolating implementation specifics in a class
 - abstraction protects app from future evolution
- compartmentalize complexity
 - bring all related code into a single place
 - simplify interface seen by rest of system

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Characteristics of a good class

- it is well abstracted
- it is cohesive
- it exhibits good information hiding
- Other principles are tests of goodness
 - Open/Closed principle
 - open for extension, closed for modification
 - Liskov Substitution principle
 - derived sub-class can substitute for its parent
 - Dependency Inversion Principle
 - depend on abstraction – not implementation

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OO Languages and Design

- OO languages provide valuable features
 - mechanisms to support class inheritance
 - mechanisms to encourage information hiding
 - explicit support for interface polymorphism
 - automatic object instantiation
- these help us design better software
 - organizing our designs into modular classes
 - consciously decide what is public/private
 - encourage us to reuse common components

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Classes in non-OO languages

- the basic principles of good design
 - apply to all software: C, FORTRAN, asm, perl
- any module, in any language, should
 - implement a general and intuitive “class”
 - export a well abstracted interface to that class
 - be cohesive with respect to that class
 - employ good information hiding
 - be usable, w/o change, for many purposes
 - be organized/grouped with related modules

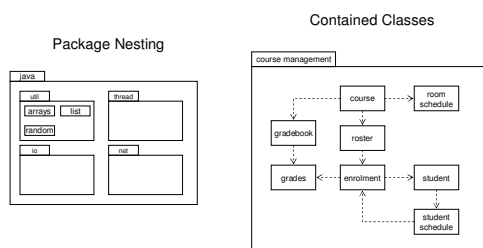
“Program into your language, not in it.”

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UML Package Contents



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Class Packages

- some classes make sense in isolation
 - stacks, queues, strings, input files
- some classes naturally come in groups
 - courses, rosters, programs, grades
- a package is a collection of classes
 - that is aggregated together into a group
 - that are added and removed as a group
- some OO languages support packages
 - not the same as install-time packages

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Class Packaging Principles

- Release/Reuse Equivalency Principle
 - “the granule of reuse is the granule of release”
 - (keep your packages cohesive)
 - if someone only needs classes A and B, don't force him to take the unrelated class C as well.
- Common Closure Principle
 - “classes that change together travel together”
 - (avoid strong inter-package coupling)
 - if changes to class A regularly break class B, deliver both of them in a single package.

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Component Specification vs. Design

- Component/Class Specification
 - creates (relatively) fixed interfaces
 - is driven by encapsulation and abstraction
 - views every component as a black box
- Component/Class Implementation Design
 - very few things are ever cast in concrete
 - the public/private distinction becomes weaker
 - the user/implementer distinction vanishes
 - what routines do becomes a mere detail
 - how the component works is everything

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Where do routines come from?

- many are already defined for us
 - our public methods (external entry points)
- some emerge naturally from our approach
 - just as ADTs emerge from problem domain
 - some methods and functions will be obvious
 - easier to specify because they are private
- many (most?) are artifacts of our solution
 - we create them to simplify the implementation
 - routines can do this in many ways

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Why create a new routine?

- creating useful private classes
 - create better abstractions to work with
 - we may even derive private sub-classes
- detail encapsulation
 - move complex sequences out of main code
 - segregate portable from non-portable code
 - hide/wrap global data structures
- centralize a recurring computation
 - one copy of an oft-repeated code sequence
 - enable interception of key operations

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elements of good routines

- simplicity and clarity
 - obvious what routine does, how to use it
- good abstraction is still important
 - a well thought out function is easier to use
- information hiding is still important
 - avoid shared data, distributed algorithms
 - interactions mean complexity and bugs
 - encapsulate nasty details within a routine
- cohesion is still valuable
 - shorter routines are easier to understand

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Routine Level Designs

- all routines are not simple
 - many embody complex algorithms
 - many cases to handle, many decisions
- such designs must be put in writing
 - help designer flesh out, record the design
 - present design to others for review
 - basis for implementation, white-box testing
- such designs can still be high level
 - they need not spell out simple/obvious steps

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Representing Routine Designs

- there are many possible representations
 - prose: e.g. pseudo-code
 - graphical: e.g. UML activity or state diagrams
 - tabular: enumerating cases and handling
 - formal: e.g. Object Constraint Language
- none is intrinsically superior to the others
 - but each has advantages for some problems
 - some may have development tool support
- Choose one that makes sense
 - but, “when in Rome, do as the Romans do”

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Mid-Term Exam

- Format
 - closed book, 12 question
- Scope
 - entirely based on key learning objectives (L1-15)
 - primarily (3/4) focused on issues and concepts
 - less (1/4) focus on representations and techniques
- Difficulty
 - 3 simple similar to quiz questions
 - 6 moderate similar to in-class discussion points
 - 3 moderate questions, not discussed in class
 - I prepared the answer sheet in about 30 minutes

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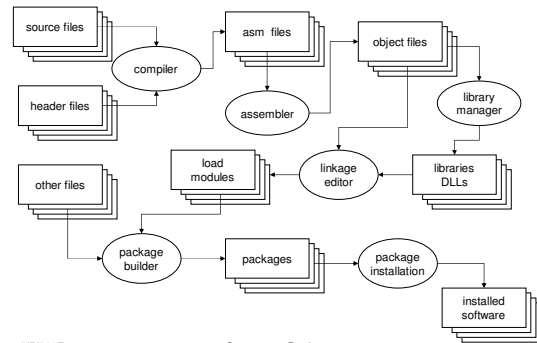
Supplementary Slides

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Whence all these components?



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Pseudo Code

```
if local request
    find the record
else
    do remote
        if error
            return failure
        create new transaction
            including record
        return transaction ID
end if

find record:
    hash the key
    run down the chain
    if end of chain
        allocate new record
        label with this key
    return record pointer

do remote:
    allocate request
    fill it out
    try 3x til response
        set timeout
        send request
        await response
    extract completion info
    if successful
        allocate new record
        insert into cache
        return record pointer
    else
        translate error
        return error
end do remote
```

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macros

```
#define BoundsCheck(s,x,y,z)
    {if (x<y || x>z) log_error("bounds",s)}
```

- compile-time functions
 - expanded at compile time, duplicated code
- advantages
 - can be changed by compile time options
 - faster, no procedure calls, stack maintenance
- disadvantages
 - multiple copies, take up more space
 - can't have local storage (static or dynamic)

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