Principles of Software Construction: Objects, Design, and Concurrency

Object-oriented analysis

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REQUIREMENTS







explained it



Leader understood it



designed it wrote it.



How the Programmer

How the Business Consultant sold it.











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Requirements say what the system will do (and not how it will do it).

The hardest single part of building a software system is deciding precisely **what to build**.

No other part of the conceptual work is as difficult as establishing the detailed technical requirements ...

No other part of the work so cripples the resulting system if done wrong.

No other part is as difficult to rectify later.

- Fred Brooks



Requirements

- What does the customer want?
- What is required, desired, not necessary? Legal, policy constraints?
- Customers often do not know what they really want; vague, biased by what they see; change their mind; get new ideas...
- Difficult to define requirements precisely
- (Are we building the right thing? Not: Are we building the thing right?)

Human and social issues beyond our scope (see 17-313)



Requirements



This lecture

- Understand **functional** requirements
- Use **basic UML notation** to communicate designs
- Identify the key abstractions in a domain, model them as a domain model
- Identify the key interactions with a system, model them as a system sequence diagram
- Introduce the **design principle low representational gap**





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

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

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An object-oriented design process

Model / diagram the problem, define concepts

• Domain model (a.k.a. conceptual model), glossary

Define system behaviors

- System sequence diagram
- System behavioral contracts

Assign object responsibilities, define interactions

• Object interaction diagrams

Model / diagram a potential solution

• Object model

OO Analysis: Understanding the problem

OO Design: Defining a solution



DOMAIN MODELS



Chapter 9





Object-Oriented Analysis

Find the concepts in the problem domain

• Real-world abstractions, not necessarily software objects

Understand the problem

- Establish a common vocabulary
- Common documentation, big picture

For communication!

Often using UML class diagrams as (informal) notation

Starting point for finding classes later (low representational gap)



Input to the analysis process: Requirements and use cases

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 must pay a late fee member's library account.

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.

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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



Concepts in our 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.



Read description carefully, look for nouns and verbs

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

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Identify and define key concepts

Ensure shared understanding between developers and customers

Library item: Any item that is indexed and can be borrowed from the library Library member: Person who can borrow from a library, identified by a card with an ID number Book



Visual notation: UML



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Reading associations

One library account can borrow many books





Reading associations









Concepts vs. Attributes



- "If we do not think of some conceptual class X as text or a number in the real world, it's probably a concept, not an attribute"
- Avoid type annotations





One possible domain model for the library system



Notes on the library domain model

- All concepts are accessible to a non-programmer
- UML notation somewhat informal; relationships 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 separate concepts
- Basic attributes (numbers, strings) are usually modeled as attributes



Why domain modeling?

Understand the domain

• Details matter! Are books different from videos for the system?

Ensure completeness

• Late fees considered?

Agree on a common set of terms

• library item vs collection entry vs book

Prepare to design

• Domain concepts are good candidates for OO classes (-> low representational gap)



Hints for Object-Oriented Analysis (see textbook for details)

- A domain model provides vocabulary
 - for communication among developers, testers, clients, domain experts, ...
 - Agree on a single vocabulary, visualize it
- Focus on concepts, not software classes, not data
 - ideas, things, objects
 - Give it a name, define it and give examples (symbol, intension, extension)
 - Add glossary
 - Some might be implemented as classes, other might not
- There are many choices
- The model will never be perfectly correct
 - that's okay
 - start with a partial model, model what's needed
 - extend with additional information later
 - communicate changes clearly
 - otherwise danger of "analysis paralysis"







Audience Q&A Session

(i) Start presenting to display the audience questions on this slide.

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Outlook: Low Representational Gap

Identified concepts provide inspiration for classes in the implementation

Classes mirroring domain concepts often intuitive to understand (low representational gap)



class Account { id: Int: lateFees: Int: borrowed: List<Book>; boolean borrow(Book) { ... } void save(); class Book { ... }





Outlook: Build a domain model for HW 3

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System Sequence Diagram









Understanding system behavior

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



One example 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.



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UML Sequence Diagram Notation





Outlook: System Sequence Diagrams to Tests







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Behavioral Contracts

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Formalize system at boundary

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





System behavioral contract example

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



Recommended Reading: Applying UML and Patterns

Detailed coverage of modeling steps

Explains UML notation

Many examples



"People often ask me which is the best book to introduce them to the world of OO design. Ever since I came across it, Applying UML and Patterns has been my unreserved choice." --Martin Fowler, author of UML Distilled and Refactoring

CRAIG LARMAN

Chapter 9





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



Take-Home Messages

- To design a solution, problem needs to be understood
- Know your tools to build domain-level representations
 - Domain models understand domain and vocabulary
 - System sequence diagrams + behavioral contracts understand interactions with environment
- Be fast and (sometimes) loose
 - Elide obvious(?) details
 - Iterate, iterate, iterate, ...
- Domain classes often turn into Java classes
 - Low representational gap principle to support design for understanding and change
 - Some domain classes don't need to be modeled in code; other concepts only live at the code level
- Get feedback from domain experts
 - Use only domain-level concepts

