Software Design Models, Tools & Processes

Lecture 3: Elaboration Phase Cecilia Mascolo

USDP context



Pioneers – Peter Chen

- Entity-Relationship Modeling
 - 1976, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- User-oriented response to Codd's relational database model
 - Define attributes and values
 - Relations as associations between things
 - Things play a *role* in the relation.
- E-R Diagrams showed entity (box), relation (diamond), role (links).
- Object-oriented Class Diagrams show class (box) and association (links)

UML history & status



Review of objects and classes

- objects
 - represent 'things' in some problem domain (example: "the red car down in the car park")
- classes
 - represent all objects of a kind (example: "car")
- operations
 - actions invoked on objects (Java "methods")
- instance
 - can create many instances from a single class
- state
 - all the attributes (field values) of an instance

Premise



 It is possible to model a software system (or other system) as a collection of collaborating objects





Modelling elements

- Structural elements
 - Class, interface, collaboration, use case, active class, component, node
- Behavioral elements
 - Interaction, state machine
- Grouping elements
 - Package, subsystem
 - Capture the *requirements* of a system
- Other elements
 - Note





Relationships



- Dependency
- Association





Diagrams



- A *diagram* is a view into a model
 - Presented from the aspect of a particular stakeholder
 - Provides a partial representation of the system
 - Is semantically consistent with other views
- In UML, there are nine standard diagrams
 - Static views: use case, class, object, component, deployment
 - **Dynamic views:** sequence, collaboration, statechart, activity





UML models, views & diagra





Class diagram



Captures the vocabulary of a system





Class diagram (cont...)



- Built & refined throughout development
- Purpose
 - Name & model concepts in the system
 - Specify collaborations
- Developed by analysts, designers & implementers



Deriving objects from a scenario

- The *nouns* in a description refer to 'things'.
 - A source of classes and objects.
- The *verbs* refer to actions.
 - A source of interactions between objects.
 - Actions describe object behavior, and hence required methods.

Example of context description

The cinema booking system should store seat bookings for multiple theatres.

Each theatre has seats arranged in rows.

Customers can reserve seats and are given a row number and seat number.

They may request bookings of several adjoining seats.

Each booking is for a particular show (i.e., the screening of a given movie at a certain time).

Shows are at an assigned date and time, and scheduled in a theatre where they are screened.

The system stores the customers' telephone number.

Nouns

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Verbs

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Extracted nouns & verbs



Scenario structure: CRC cards

- First described by Kent Beck and Ward Cunningham.
 - Later innovators of "agile" programming, and also the first wiki!
- Use simple index cards, with each cards recording:
 - A class name.
 - The class's *responsibilities*.
 - The class's *collaborators*.

Typical CRC card

Class name	Collaborators
Responsibilities	

Partial example

CinemaBookingSystem	Collaborators
Can find movies by	Movie
title and day.	
Stores collection of	Collection
movies.	
Retrieves and displays	
movie details.	
•••	

Dividing up a design model

- Abstraction
 - Ignore details in order to focus on higher level problems (e.g. aggregation, inheritance).
 - If classes correspond well to types in domain they will be easy to understand, maintain and reuse.
- Modularization
 - Divide model into parts that can be built and tested separately, interacting in well-defined ways.
 - Allows different teams to work on each part
 - Clearly defined interfaces mean teams can work independently & concurrently, with increased chance of successful integration.

Class design from CRC cards

- Scenario analysis helps to clarify application structure.
 - Each card maps to a class.
 - Collaborations reveal class cooperation/object interaction.
- Responsibilities reveal public methods.
 - And sometimes fields; e.g. "Stores collection ..."

Refining class interfaces

- Replay the scenarios in terms of method calls, parameters and return values.
- Note down the resulting method signatures.
- Create outline classes with public-method stubs.
- Careful design is a key to successful implementation.

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Pioneers – David Parnas

- Information Hiding
 - 1972, Carnegie Mellon University
- How do you decide the points at which a program should be split into pieces?
 - Are small modules better?
 - Are big modules better?
 - What is the optimum boundary size?
- Parnas proposed the best criterion for modularization:
 - Aim to hide design decisions within the module.

Information hiding in OO models

- Data belonging to one object is hidden from other objects.
 - Know what an object can do, not how it does it.
 - Increases independence, essential for large systems and later maintenance
- Use Java visibility to hide implementation
 - Only methods intended for interface to other classes should be public.
 - Fields should be private accessible only within the same class.
 - Accessor methods provide information about object state, but don't change it.
 - *Mutator* methods change an object's state.

Cohesion in OO models

- Aim for high cohesion:
 - Each component achieves only "one thing"
- Method (functional) cohesion
 - Method only performs out one operation
 - Groups things that must be done together
- Class (type) cohesion
 - Easy to understand & reuse as a domain concept
- Causes of low, poor, cohesion
 - Sequence of operations with no necessary relation
 - Unrelated operations selected by control flags
 - No relation at all just a bag of code

Summary

- We have described the main activity of the elaboration phase
- We have introduced class diagrams as well as CRC cards and the process of identifying relevant classes.