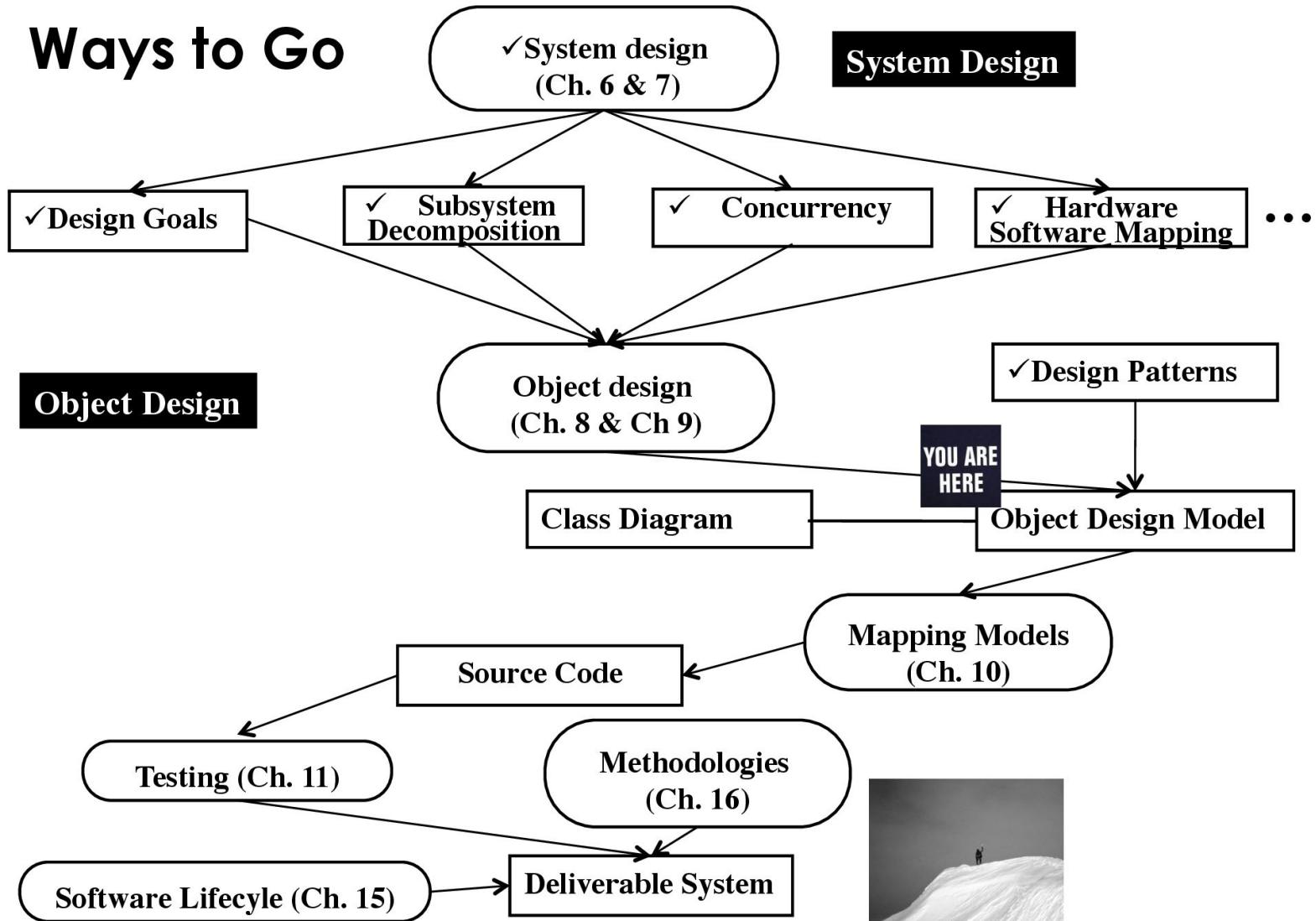


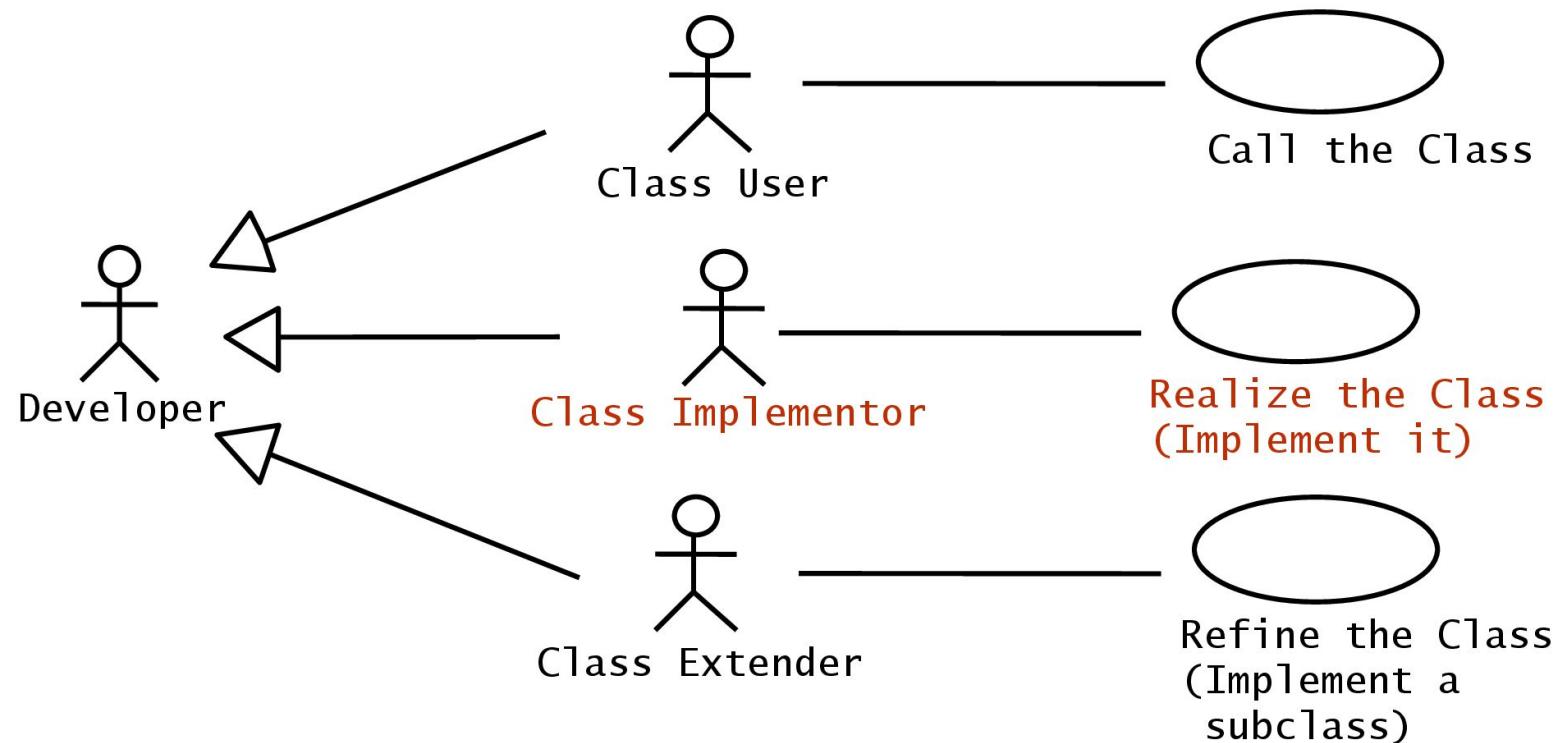
Ways to Go



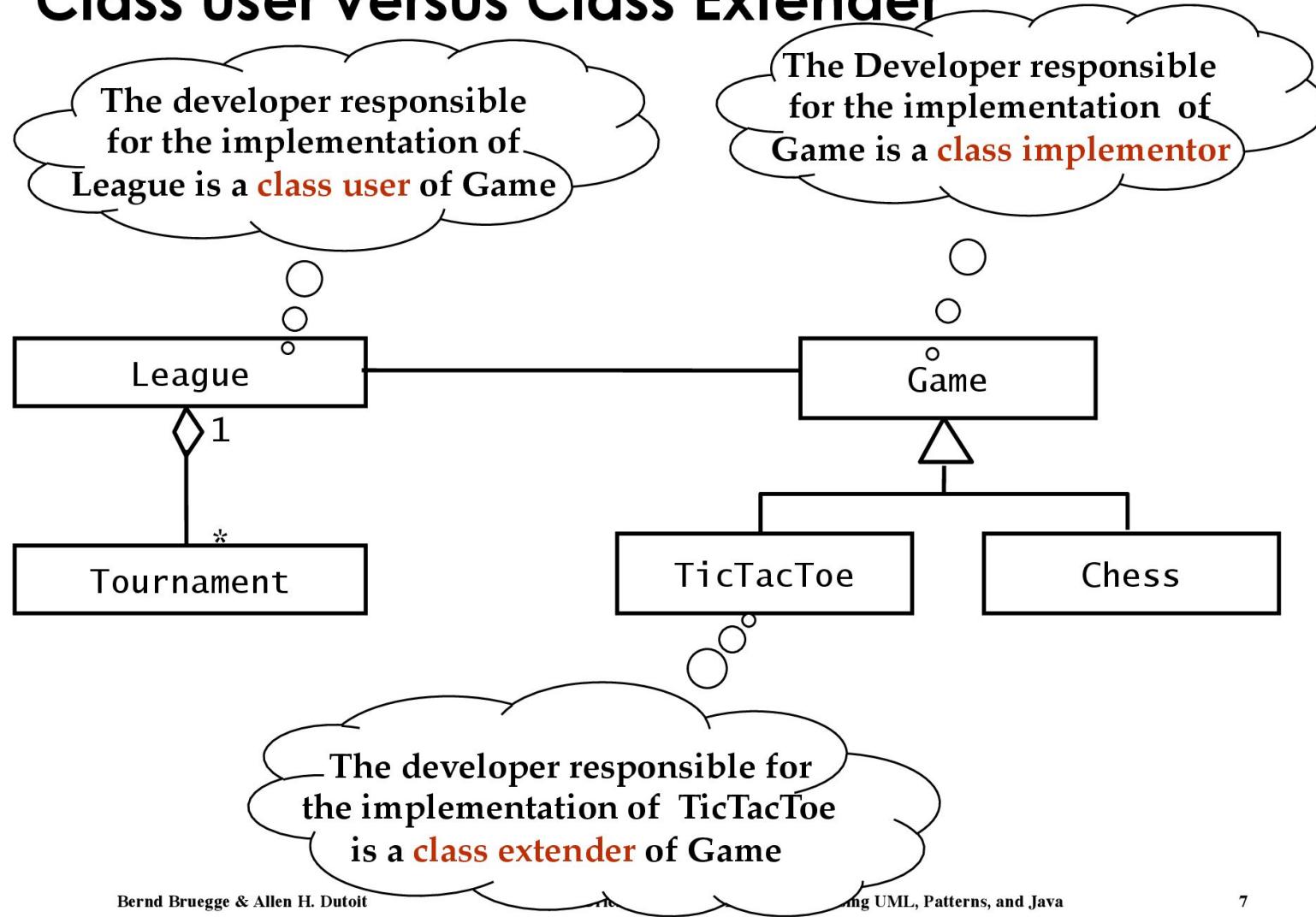
Outline of today's Lecture

- Object Design Activities
- Visibilities
- Information Hiding
- Contracts
- OCL.

Developers play 3 different Roles during Object Design of a Class



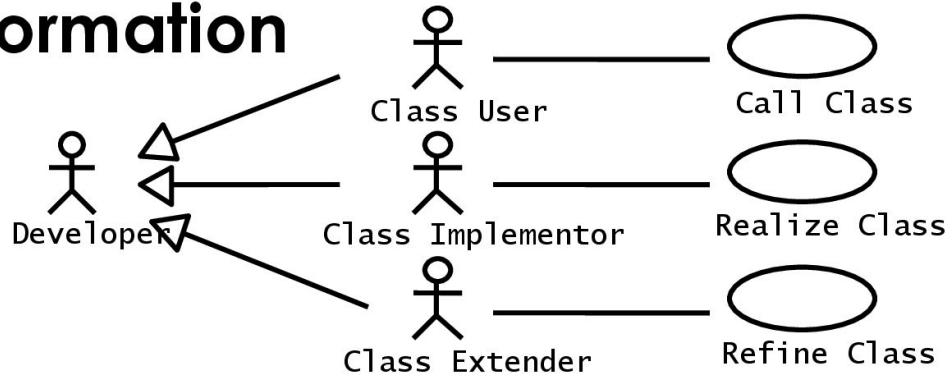
Class user versus Class Extender



Specifying Interfaces

- Requirements analysis activities
 - Identify attributes and operations without specifying their types or their parameters
- Object design activities
 - ➡ Add visibility information
 - Add type signature information
 - Add contracts.

Add Visibility Information



Class user (“Public”): +

- Public attributes/operation can be accessed by any class

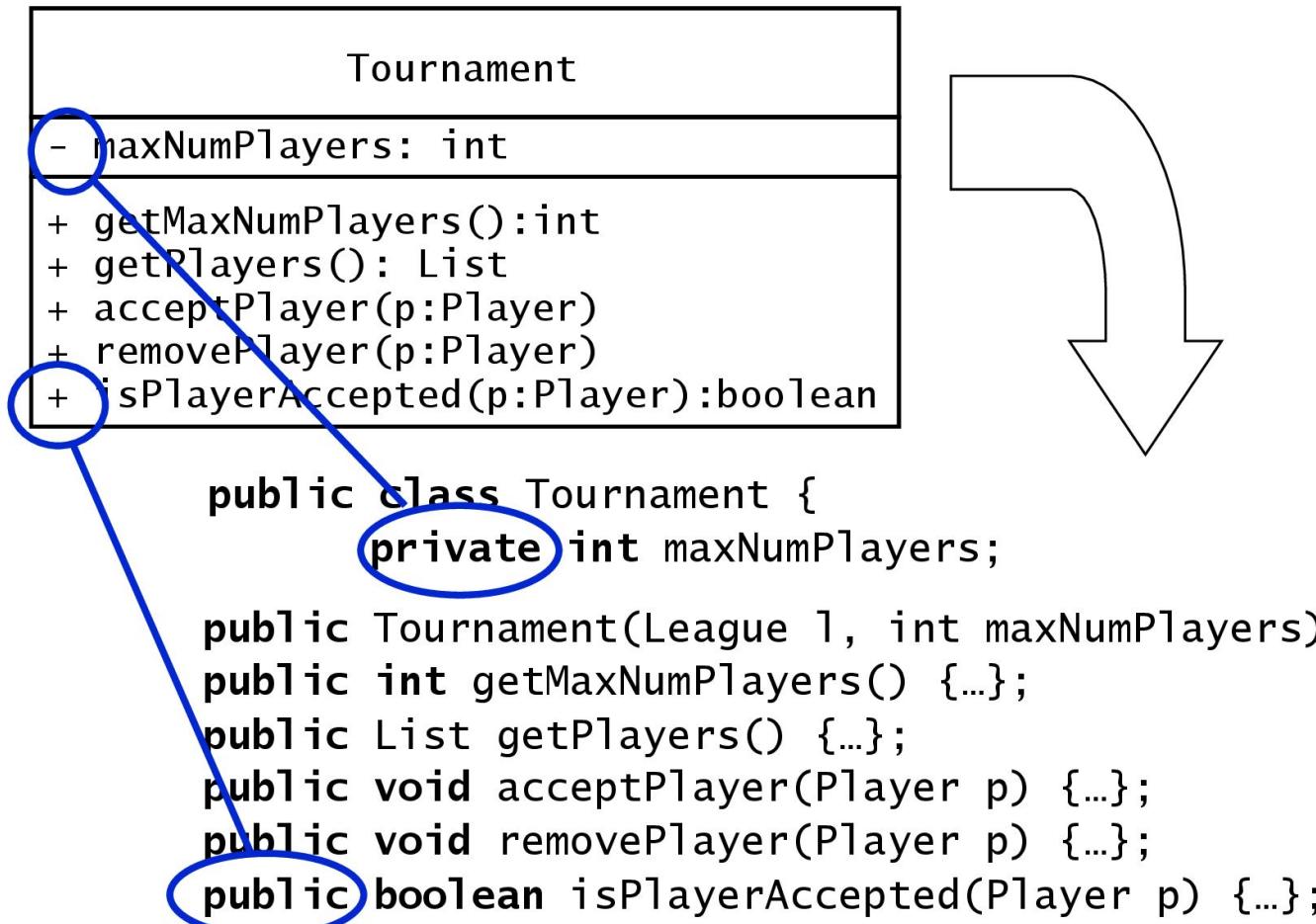
Class implementor (“Private”): -

- Private attributes and operations can be accessed only by the class in which they are defined
- They cannot be accessed by subclasses or other classes

Class extender (“Protected”): #

- Protected attributes/operations can be accessed by the class in which they are defined and by any descendent of the class.

Implementation of UML Visibility in Java



Information Hiding Heuristics

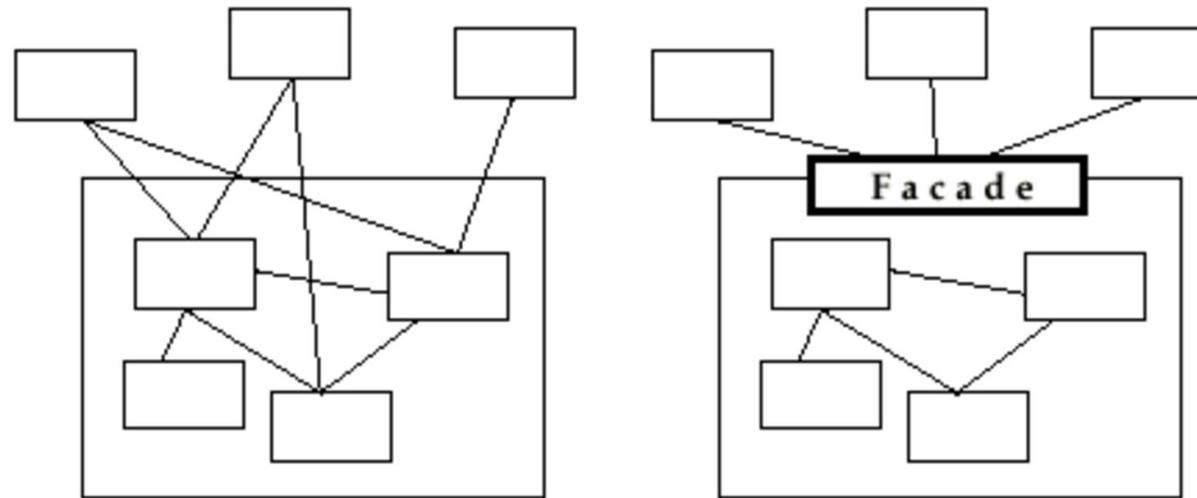
- Carefully **define the public interface** for classes as well as subsystems
 - For subsystems use a **façade** design pattern if possible (see next slides)
- Always apply the “**Need to know**” principle:
 - Only if somebody needs to access the information, make it publicly possible
- The fewer details a class user has to know
 - the easier the class can be changed
 - the less likely they will be affected by any changes in the class implementation
- Trade-off: Information hiding vs. efficiency
 - Accessing a private attribute might be too slow.

Information Hiding Design Principles/2

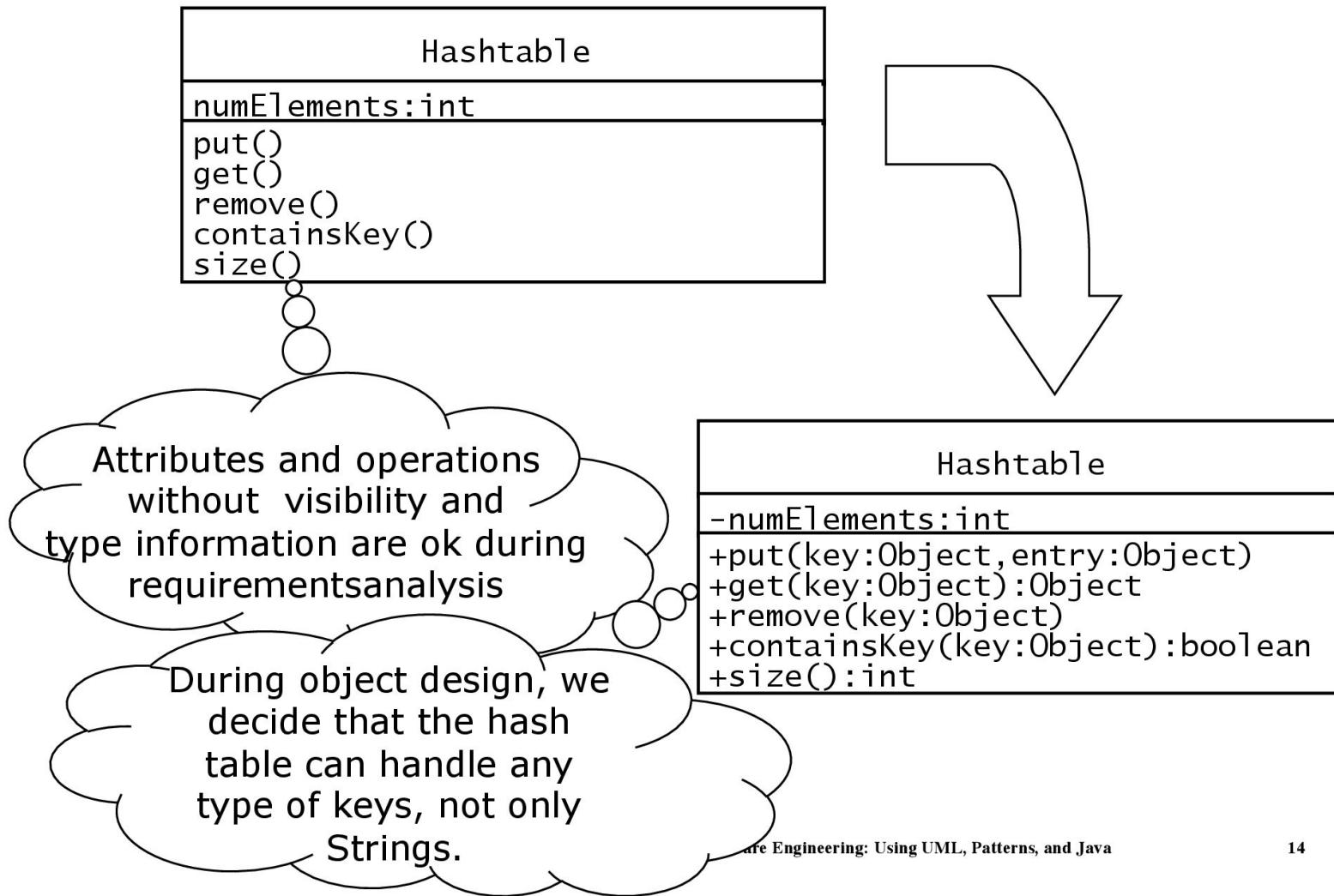
- Only the operations of a class are allowed to manipulate its attributes
 - Access attributes only via operations
- Hide external objects at subsystem boundary
 - Define abstract class interfaces which mediate between the external world and the system as well as between subsystems
 - Use the **façade pattern**
- Do not apply an operation to the result of another operation
 - Write a new operation that combines the two operations.

Facade Pattern

- Provides a unified interface to a set of classes in a subsystem
 - A façade consists of a set of public operations
 - Each public operation is delegated to one or more operations in the classes behind the facade
- A facade defines a higher-level interface that makes the subsystem easier to use (i.e. it abstracts out the gory details).



Add Type Signature Information



Outline of Today's Lecture

- Object Design Activities
 - Visibilities
 - Information Hiding
- ➡ Contracts

Modeling Constraints with Contracts

- Example of constraints in Arena:
 - An already registered player cannot be registered again
 - The number of players in a tournament should not be more than maxNumPlayers
 - One can only remove players that have been registered
- These constraints cannot be modeled in UML
- We model them with contracts
- Contracts can be written in OCL.

Contract

- **Contract:** A lawful agreement between two parties in which both parties accept obligations and on which both parties can found their rights
 - The remedy for breach of a contract is usually an award of money to the injured party
- **Object-oriented contract:** Describes the services that are provided by an object if certain conditions are fulfilled
 - services = “obligations”, conditions = “rights”
 - The remedy for breach of an OO-contract is the generation of an exception.

Object-Oriented Contract

- An **object-oriented contract** describes the services that are provided by an object. For each service, it specifically describes two things:
 - The conditions under which the service will be provided
 - A specification of the result of the service
- Examples:
 - A letter posted before 18:00 will be delivered on the next working day to any address in Germany
 - For the price of 4 Euros a letter with a maximum weight of 80 grams will be delivered anywhere in the USA within 4 hours of pickup.

Object-Oriented Contract

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 - The **conditions** under which the service will be provided
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- Examples:
 - A **letter posted before 18:00** will be delivered on the next working day to any address in Germany.
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Modeling OO-Contracts

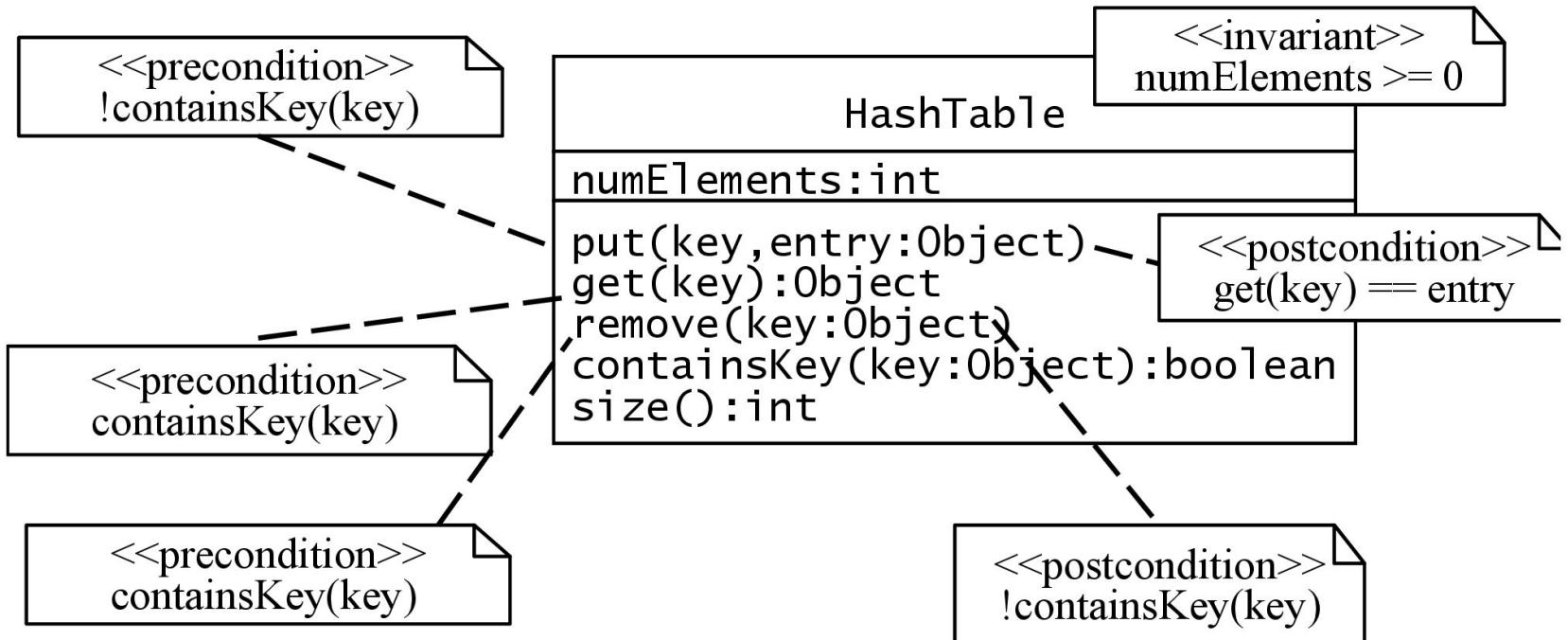
- Natural Language
- Mathematical Notation
- Models and contracts:
 - A language for the formulation of constraints with the formal strength of the mathematical notation and the easiness of natural language:
 - ⇒ UML + OCL (Object Constraint Language)
 - Uses the abstractions of the UML model
 - OCL is based on predicate calculus

Contracts and Formal Specification

- Contracts enable the caller and the provider to share the same assumptions about the class
- A contract is an exact specification of the interface of an object
- A contract include three types of constraints:
 - **Invariant:**
 - A predicate that is always true for all instances of a class
 - **Precondition (“rights”):**
 - Must be true before an operation is invoked
 - **Postcondition (“obligation”):**
 - Must be true after an operation is invoked.

Expressing Constraints in UML Models

- A constraint can also be depicted as a note attached to the constrained UML element by a dependency relationship.



Why not use Contracts already in Requirements Analysis?

- Many constraints represent domain level information
- Why not use them in requirements analysis?
 - Constraints increase the precision of requirements
 - Constraints can yield more questions for the end user
 - Constraints can clarify the relationships among several objects
- Constraints are sometimes used during requirements analysis, however there are trade offs

Requirements vs. Object Design Trade-offs

- Communication among stakeholders
 - Can the client understand formal constraints?
- Level of detail vs. rate of requirements change
 - Is it worth precisely specifying a concept that will change?
- Level of detail vs. elicitation effort
 - Is it worth the time interviewing the end user?
 - Will these constraints be discovered during object design anyway?
- Testing constraints
 - If tests are generated early, do they require this level of precision?

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