



COMP 354: Introduction to Software Engineering

Design Concepts

Based on Chapter 9 of the textbook



Software Design

- Encompasses the set of principles, concepts, and practices that lead to the development of a high quality system or product.
- Design principles establish and overriding philosophy that guides the designer as the work is performed.
- Design concepts must be understood before the mechanics of design practice are applied.
- Software design practices change continuously as new methods, better analysis, and broader understanding evolve.

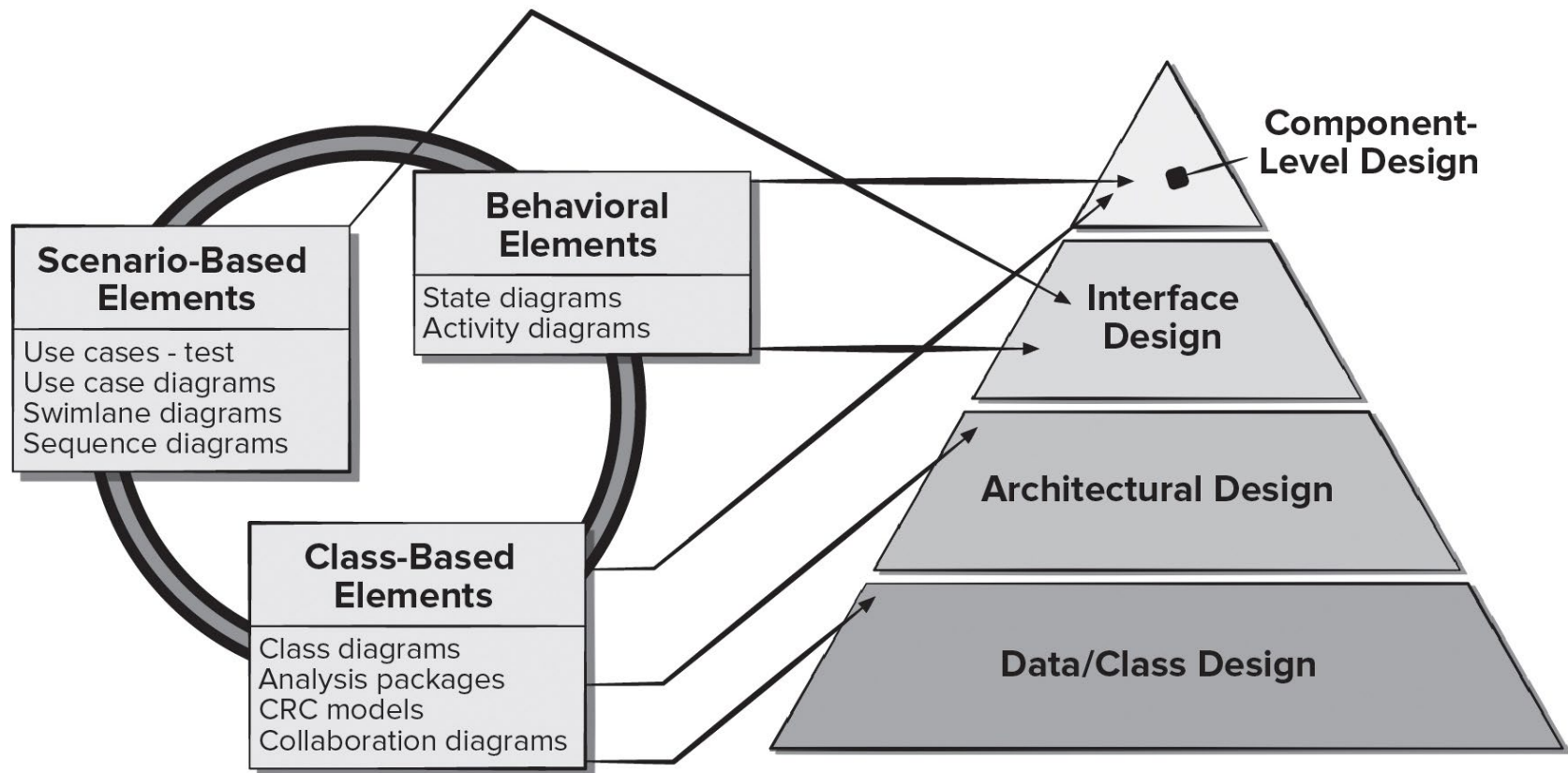


Software Engineering Design

- **Data/Class design** – transforms analysis classes into implementation classes and data structures.
- **Architectural design** – defines relationships among the major software structural elements.
- **Interface design** – defines how software elements, hardware elements, and end-users communicate.
- **Component-level design** – transforms structural elements into procedural descriptions of software components.

Mapping Requirements Model to Design Model

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Analysis Model

COMP 354, Fall 2023

Design Model

Design Concepts



Design and Quality

- The design must implement all of the explicit requirements contained in the analysis model, and it must accommodate all of the implicit requirements desired by the customer.
- The design should be a readable, understandable guide for those who generate code and for those who test and subsequently support the software.
- The design should provide a complete picture of the software, addressing the data, functional, and behavioral domains from an implementation perspective.



Quality Guidelines

1. A design should exhibit an architecture (a) created using recognizable architectural styles or patterns, (b) composed of well designed components (c) implemented in an evolutionary fashion.
2. A design should be modular.
3. A design should contain distinct representations of data, architecture, interfaces, and components.
4. A design should lead to data structures that are drawn from recognizable data patterns.
5. A design should contain functionally independent components.
6. A design should lead to interfaces that reduce the complexity of connections between components and the external environment.
7. A design should be derived using a repeatable method that is driven by software requirements analysis.
8. A design should be represented using meaningful notation.



Common Design Characteristics

Each new software design methodology introduces unique heuristics and notions – yet they each contain:

1. A mechanism for the translating the requirements model into a design representation.
2. A notation for representing functional components and their interfaces.
3. Heuristics for refinement and partitioning.
4. Guidelines for quality assessment.

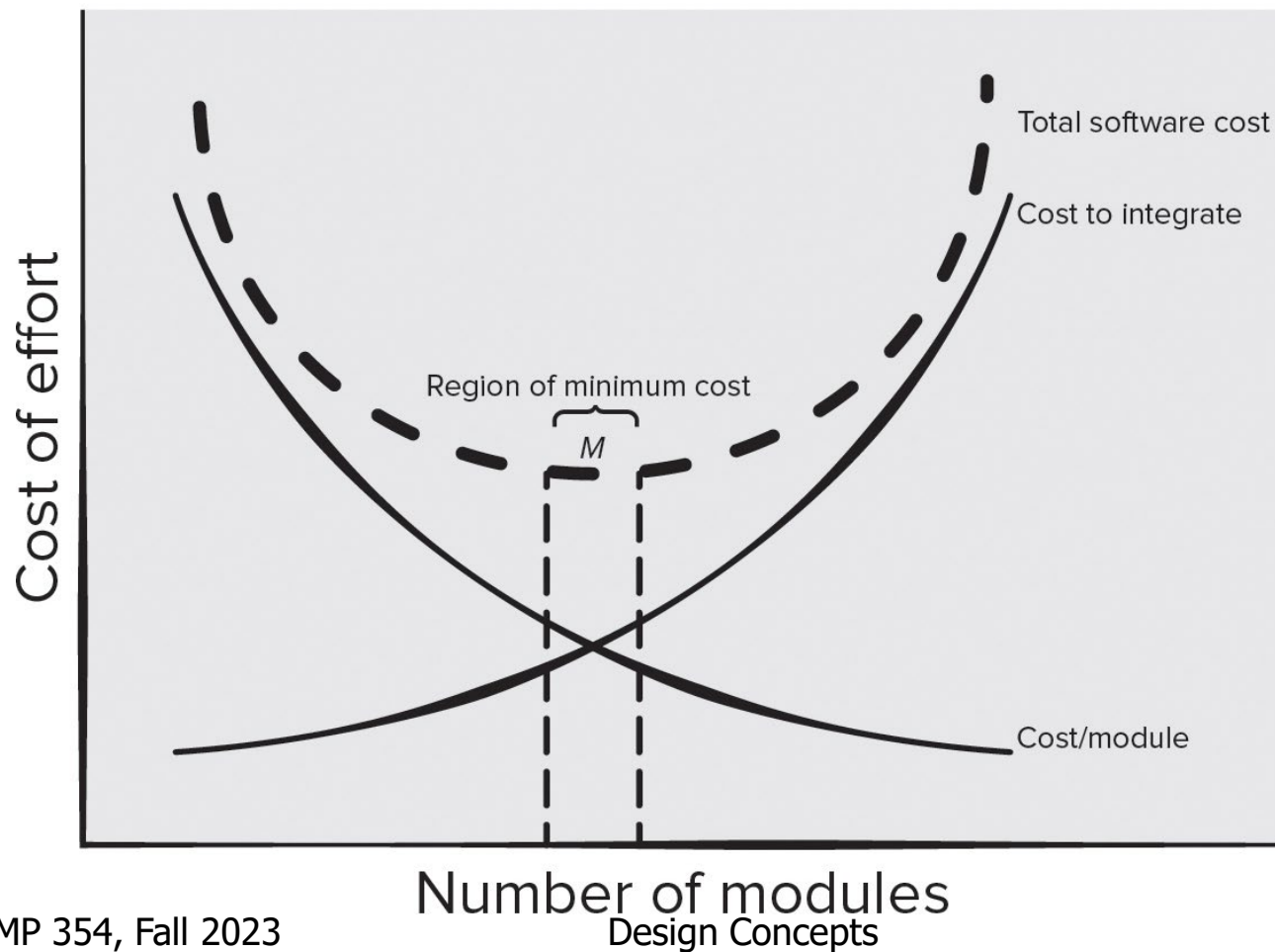


Design Concepts

- **Abstraction** – data (named collection of data describing data object), procedural (named sequence of instructions with specific and limited function).
- **Architecture** - overall structure or organization of software components, ways components interact, and structure of data used by components.
- **Design Patterns** - describe a design structure that solves a well-defined design problem within a specific context.
- **Separation of concerns** - any complex problem can be more easily handled if it is subdivided into pieces.
- **Modularity**—compartmentalization of data and function.

Modularity and Software Cost

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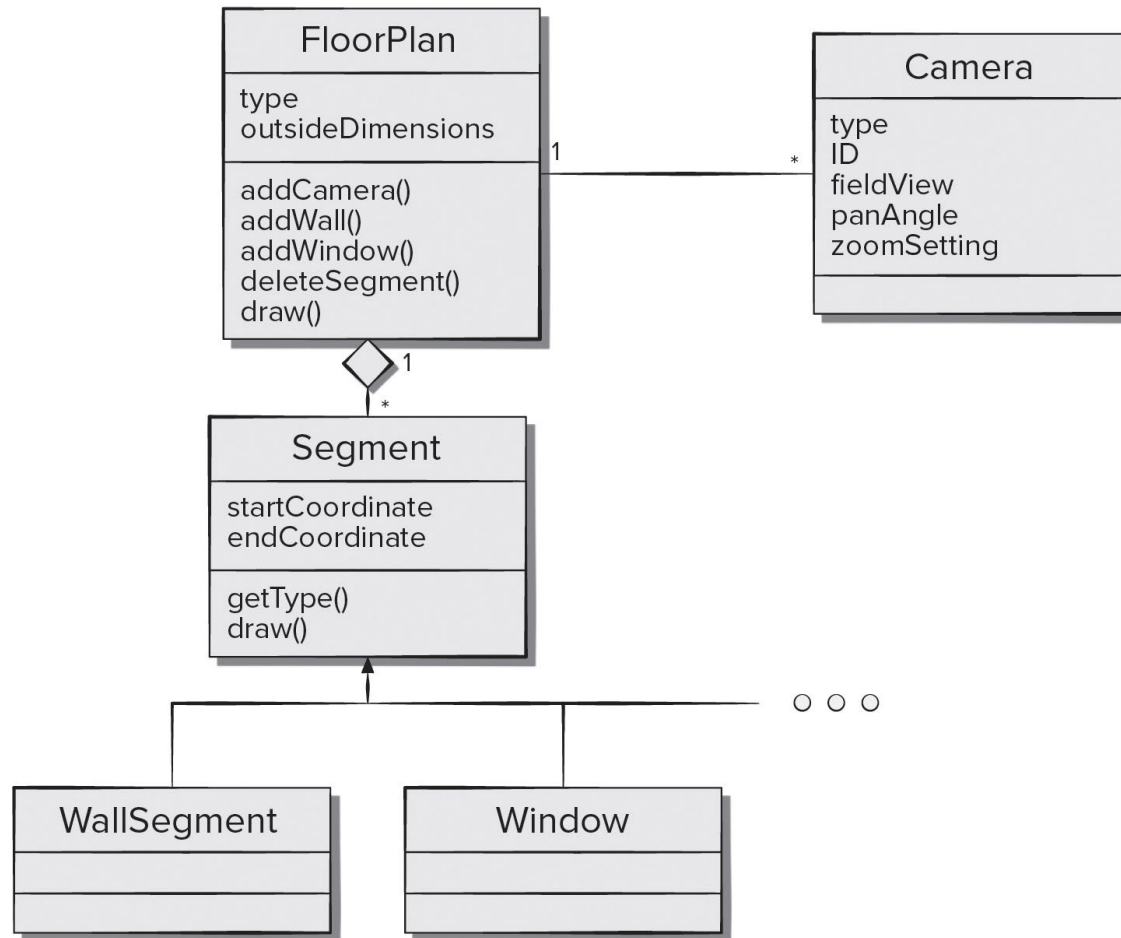


Design Concepts

- **Information Hiding** - controlled interfaces which define and enforces access to component procedural detail and any local data structure used by the component.
- **Functional independence** - single-minded (high cohesion) components with aversion to excessive interaction with other components (low coupling).
- **Stepwise Refinement** – incremental elaboration of detail for all abstractions.
- **Refactoring**—a reorganization technique that simplifies the design without changing functionality.
- **Design Classes**—provide design detail that will enable analysis classes to be implemented.

Design Class Example

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Design Class Characteristics

- **Complete** - includes all necessary attributes and methods) and sufficient (contains only those methods needed to achieve class intent).
- **Primitiveness** – each class method focuses on providing one service.
- **High cohesion** – small, focused, single-minded classes.
- **Low coupling** – class collaboration kept to minimum.



Information Hiding

- Reduces the likelihood of “side effects.”
- Limits the global impact of local design decisions.
- Emphasizes communication through controlled interfaces.
- Discourages the use of global data.
- Leads to encapsulation—an attribute of high quality design.
- Results in higher quality software.

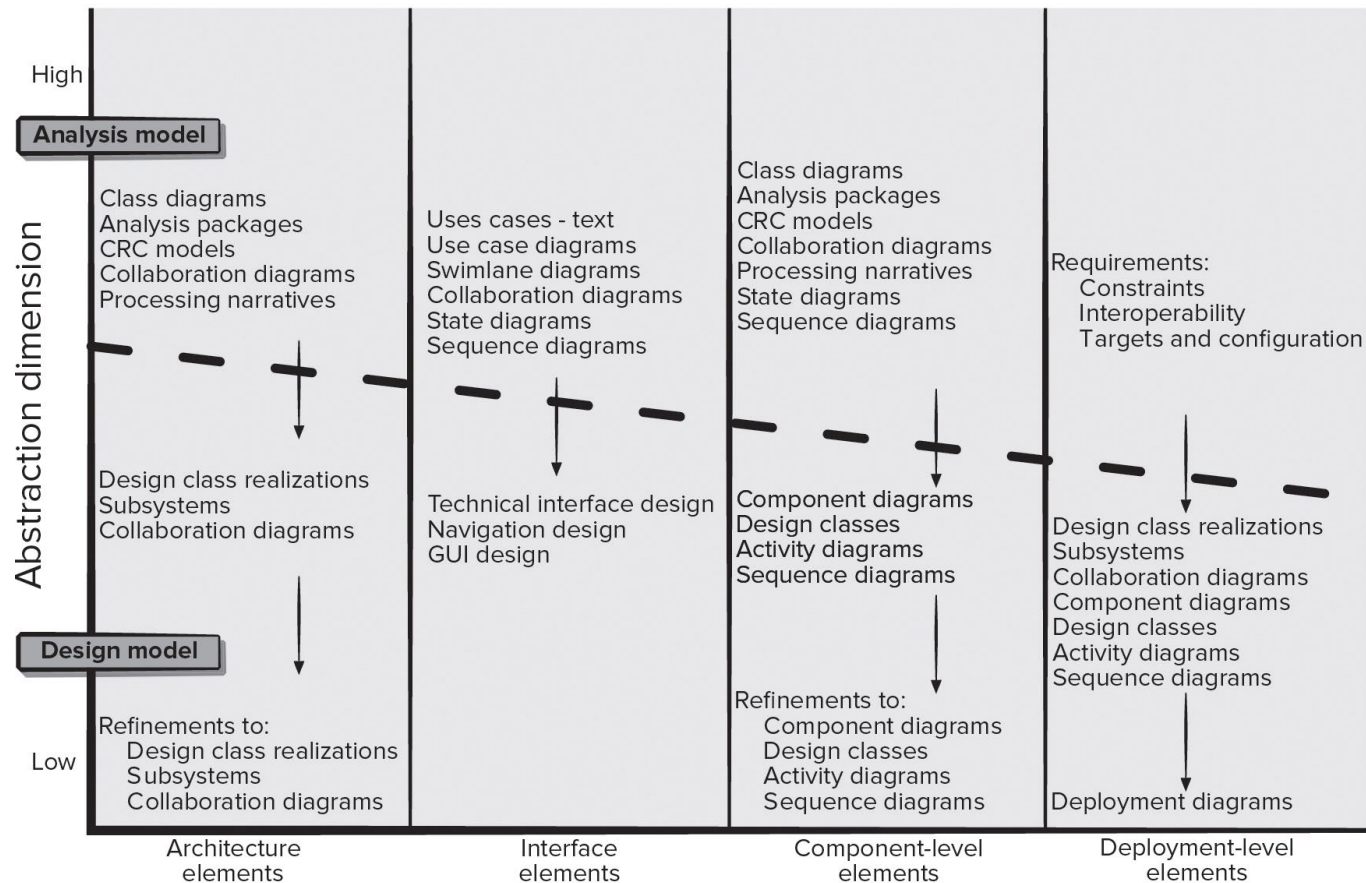


Architecture Properties

- **Structural properties.** This aspect of the architectural design representation defines the components of a system (for example, modules, objects, filters) and the manner components are packaged and interact with one another.
- **Extra-functional properties.** The architectural design description should address how the design architecture achieves requirements for performance, capacity, reliability, security, adaptability, and other characteristics.
- **Families of related systems.** The architectural design should draw upon repeatable patterns (building blocks) often encountered in the design of similar systems.

Design Model

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Design Modeling Principles

- **Principle 1.** Design should be traceable to the requirements model.
- **Principle 2.** Always consider the architecture of the system to be built.
- **Principle 3.** Design of data is as important as design of processing functions.
- **Principle 4.** Interfaces (both internal and external) must be designed with care.
- **Principle 5.** User interface design should be tuned to the needs of the end-user and stress ease of use.



Design Modeling Principles

- **Principle 6.** Component-level design should be functionally independent.
- **Principle 7.** Components should be loosely coupled to each other than the environment.
- **Principle 8.** Design representations (models) should be easily understandable.
- **Principle 9.** The design should be developed iteratively.
- **Principle 10.** Creation of a design model does not preclude using an agile approach.



Data Design Elements

- Data model – data objects and database architectures.
 - Examines data objects independently of processing.
 - Focuses attention on the data domain.
 - Creates a model at the customer's level of abstraction.
 - Indicates how data objects relate to one another.
- Data object can be an external entity, a thing, an event, a place, a role, an organizational unit, or a structure.
- Data objects contain a set of attributes that act as a quality, characteristic, or descriptor of the object.
- Data objects may be connected to one another in many different ways.



Architectural Design Elements

- Architectural design for software - equivalent to the floor plan for a house.
- The architectural model is derived from three sources:
 - Information about the application domain for the software to be built.
 - Specific requirements model elements such as data flow analysis classes and their relationships (collaborations) for the problem at hand, and
 - Availability of architectural patterns and styles.

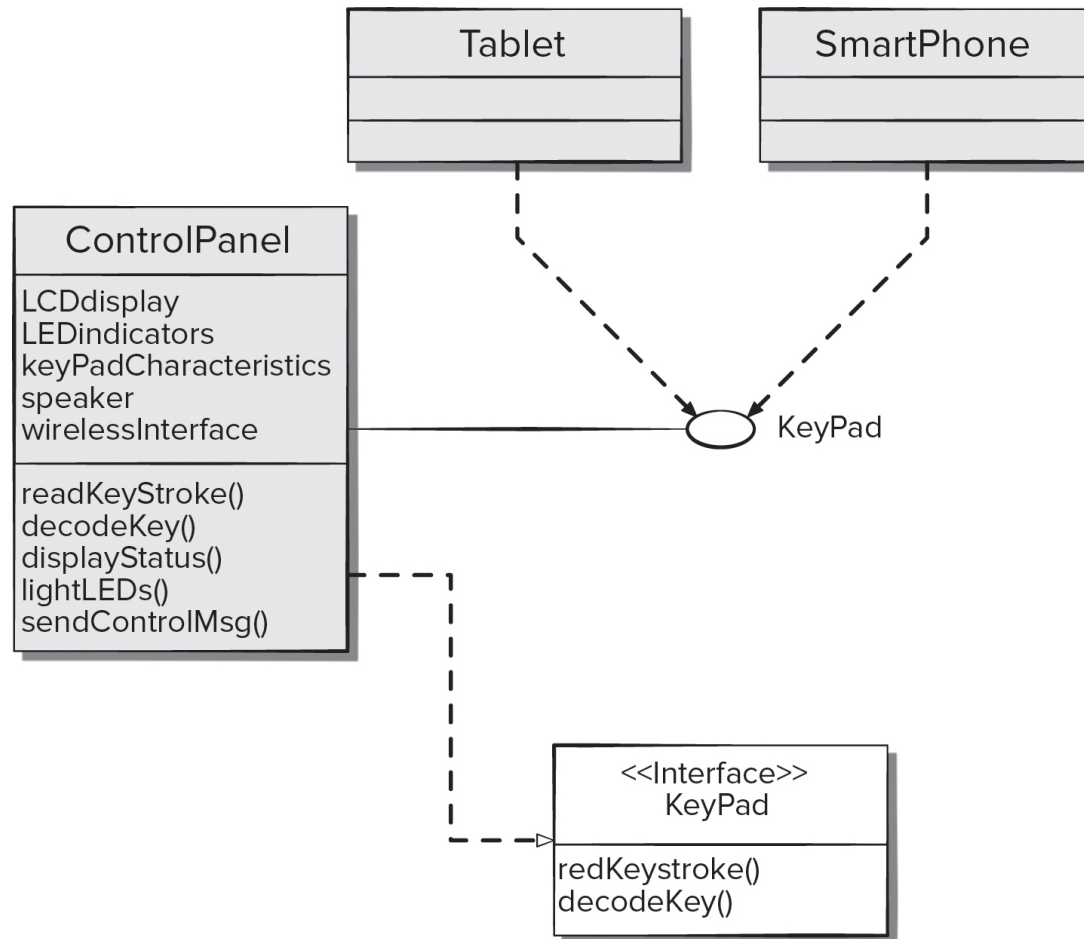


Interface Design Elements

- Interface is a set of operations that describes the externally observable behavior of a class and provides access to its public operations.
- Important elements:
 - User interface (UI).
 - External interfaces to other systems.
 - Internal interfaces between various design components.
- UI or User Experience (UX) is a major engineering action to ensure the creation on usable software products.
- Internal and external interfaces should incorporate both error checking and appropriate security features.

Interface Model for Control Panel

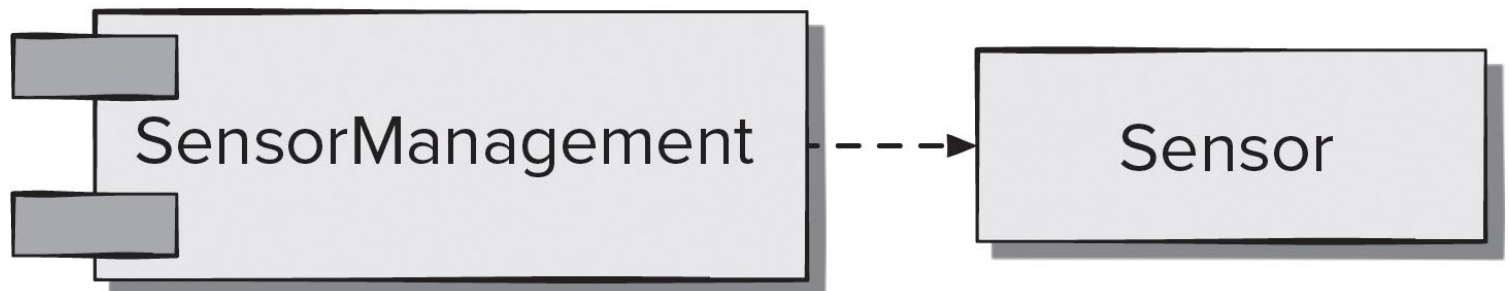
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Component-Level Design Elements

- Describes the internal detail of each software component.
- Defines:
 - Data structures for all local data objects.
 - Algorithmic detail for all component processing functions.
 - Interface that allows access to all component operations.
- Modeled using U M L component diagrams.

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Deployment Design Elements

- Indicates how software functionality and subsystems will be allocated within the physical computing environment.
- Modeled using U M L deployment diagrams.
 - Descriptor form deployment diagrams - show the computing environment but does not indicate configuration details.
 - Instance form deployment diagrams - identify specific hardware configurations and are developed in the latter stages of design.

UML

Deployment Instance Diagram

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