

### Programmazione

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### Design pattern

Observer



#### Some motivations

- In many programs, when a object changes state, other objects may have to be notified
- This pattern answers the question: How best to notify those objects when the subject changes?
- And what if the list of those objects changes during run-time?

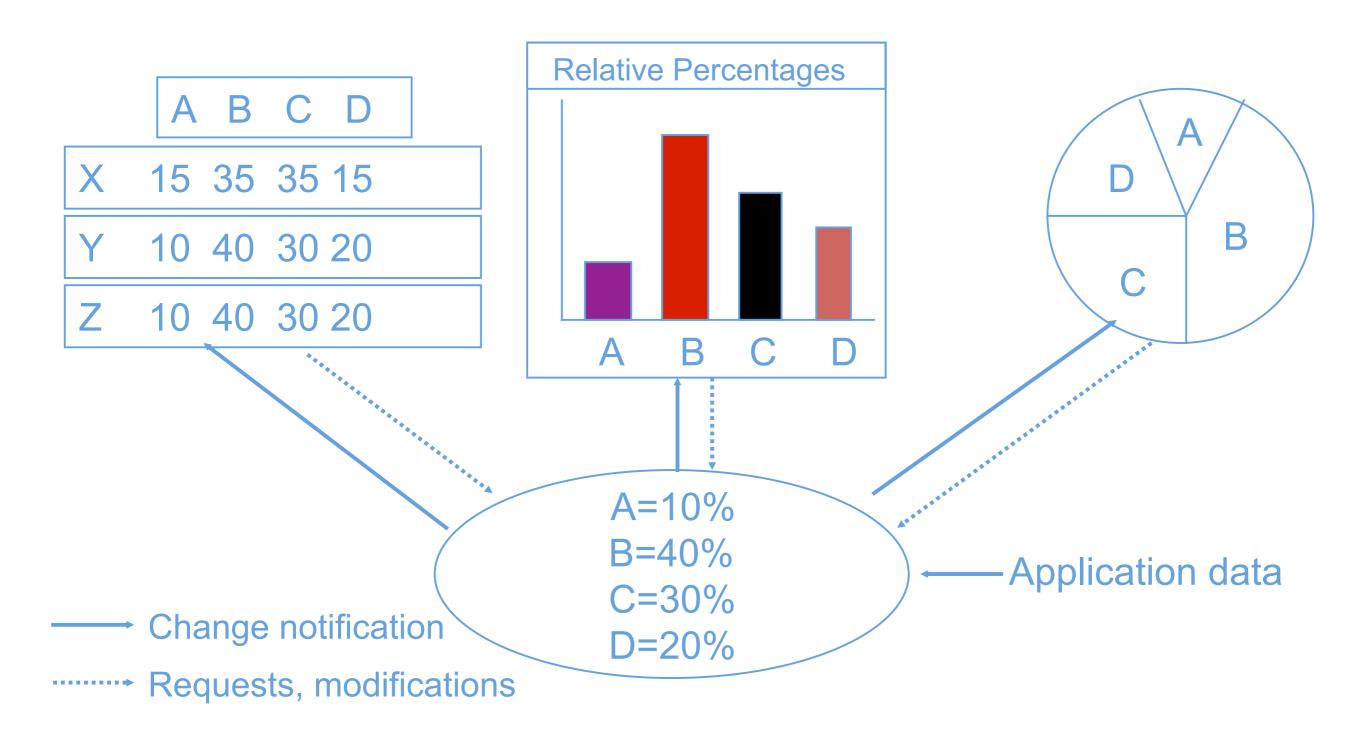


#### Some examples

- Example: when an car in a game is moved
  - The graphics engine needs to know so it can re-render the item
  - The traffic computation routines need to re-compute the traffic pattern
  - The objects the car contains need to know they are moving as well
- Another example: data in a spreadsheet changes
  - The display must be updated
  - Possibly multiple graphs that use that data need to redraw themselves



#### Another example





#### Observer Pattern

- Problem
  - Need to update multiple objects when the state of one object changes (one-to-many dependency)
- Context
  - Multiple objects depend on the state of one object
  - Set of dependent objects may change at run-time
- Solution
  - Allow dependent objects to register with object of interest, notify them of updates when state changes
- Consequences
  - When observed object changes others are notified
  - Useful for user interface programming, other applications



### Participants

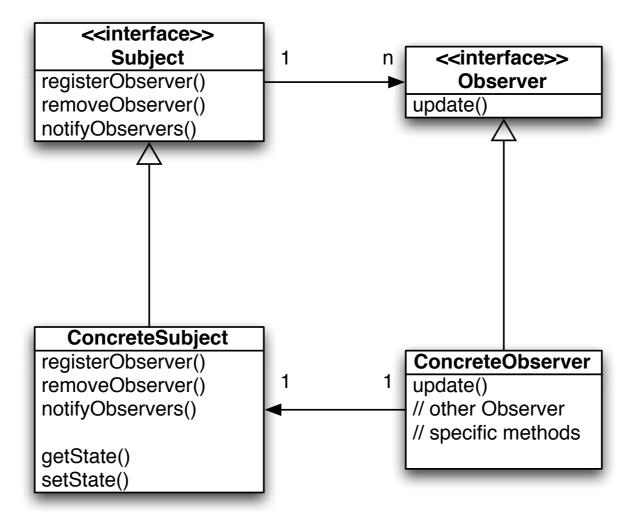
- The key participants in this pattern are:
- The Subject, which provides an (virtual) interface for attaching and detaching observers
- The Observer, which defines the (virtual) updating interface
- The ConcreteSubject, which is the class that inherits/extends/ implements the Subject
- The ConcreteObserver, which is the class that inherits/extends/ implements the Observer
- This pattern is also known as dependents or publish-subscribe



### Observer UML class diagram

The Subject interface is used by objects to (un)register as Observers.

Each Subject my have several Observers.



Each potential Observer has to implement this interface. The update() method gets called when the Subject changes its state.

A concrete subject has to implement the Subject interface.

The notifyObservers() method is used to update all the current observers whenever state changes.

Concrete observers have to implement the Observer interface.

Each concrete observer registers with a concrete subject to receive updates.

The concrete subject may have methods for setting and getting its state.



### Some interesting points

- In the Observer pattern when the state of one object changes, all of its dependents are notified:
  - the subject is the sole owner of that data, the observers are dependent on the subject to update them when the data changes
  - it's a cleaner design than allowing many objects to control the same data



### Loose coupling

- The Observer pattern provides a pattern where subjects and observers are loosely coupled (minimizing the interdependency between objects):
  - the only thing the subject knows about an observer is that it implements an interface
  - observers can be added/removed at any time (also runtime)
  - there is no need to modify the subject to add new types of observers (they just need to implement the interface)
  - changes to subject or observers will not affect the other (as long as they implement the required interface)



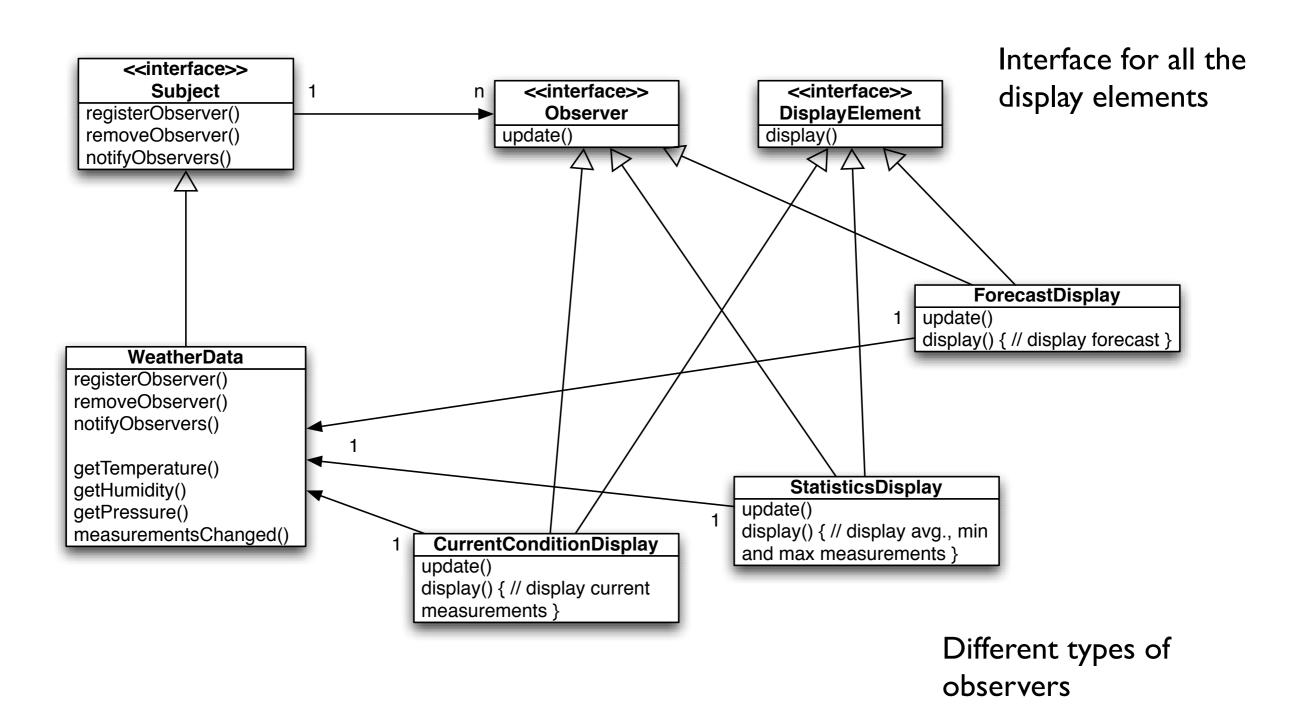
```
class Subject {
protected:
 virtual ~Subject() {};
                                           class Observer {
public:
                                           protected:
 virtual void
                                           virtual ~0bserver() {};
registerObserver( Observer* o ) = 0;
                                           public:
                                           virtual void update(float temp,
 virtual void
removeObserver( Observer* o ) = 0;
                                              float humidity, float pressure) = 0;
 virtual void notifyObservers() const
                                           };
= 0;
};
```



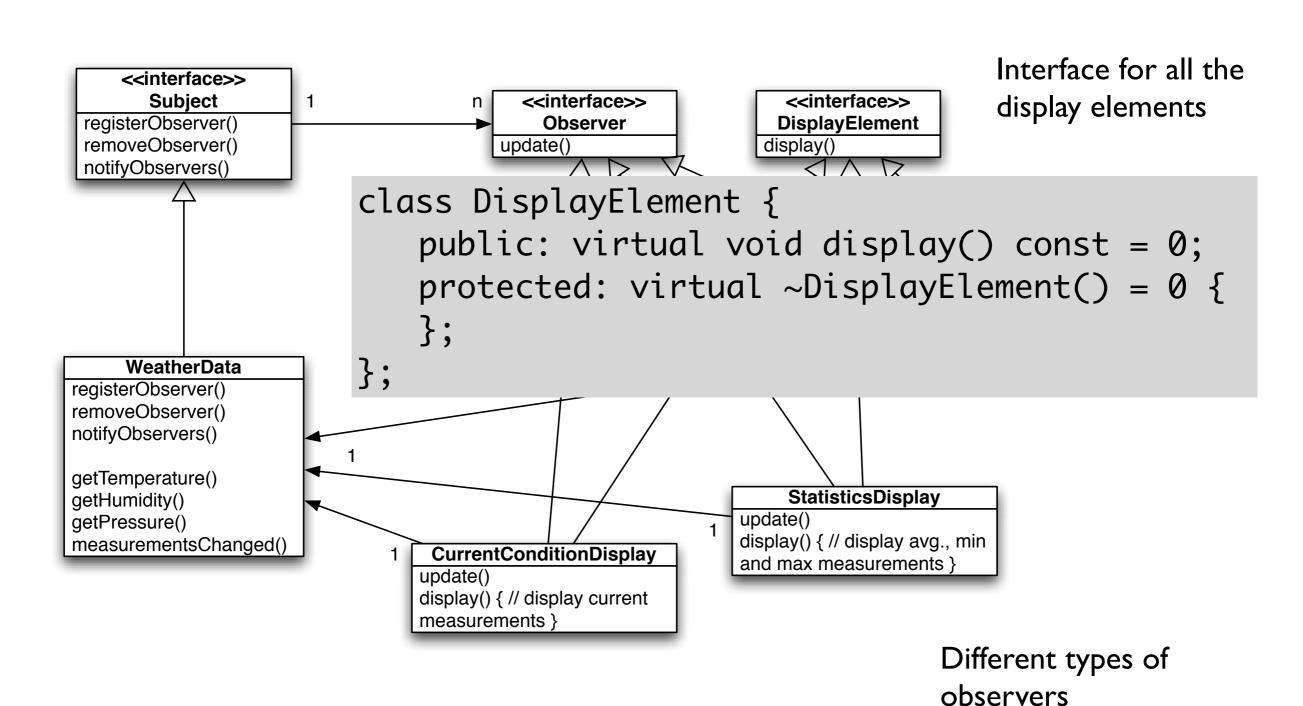
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  virtual void
removeObserver( Observer* o ) = 0;
                                               float humidity, float pressure) = 0;
  virtual void notifyObservers() const
                                           };
= 0;
};
```

The update method gets the state values from the subject: they'll change depending on the subject, in this example is a weather station











### Implementing the Subject interface

```
class WeatherData : public Subject {
 private: list< Observer* > observers;
 private: float temperature;
 private: float humidity;
 private: float pressure;
 public: WeatherData() : temperature( 0.0 ),
humidity( 0.0 ), pressure( 0.0 ) {
 public: void
 registerObserver( Observer* o ) {
      observers.push_back(o);
 public: void
 removeObserver( Observer* o ) {
   observers.remove(o);
 public: void notifyObservers() const {
    for( list< Observer* >::iterator itr =
observers.begin(); observers.end() != itr; ++itr ) {
      (*itr)->update( temperature, humidity, pressure );
   }
```

```
public: void measurementsChanged() {
    notifyObservers();
  public: void setMeasurements( float temperature,
             float humidity, float pressure ) {
    temperature = temperature;
    humidity = humidity;
    pressure = pressure;
    measurementsChanged();
  // other WeatherData methods here
  public: float getTemperature() const {
    return temperature;
  public: float getHumidity() const {
    return humidity;
  public: float getPressure() const {
    return pressure;
};
```



### Implementing the Subject interface

```
class WeatherData : public Subject {
  private: list< Observer* > observers;
 private: float temperature;
 private: float humidity;
  private: f
 public: We The weather station device would call this
humidity( 0. method, providing the measurements
  public: vo
  registerObserver( Observer* o ) {
      observers.push_back(o);
  public: void
  removeObserver( Observer* o ) {
   observers.remove(o);
 public: void notifyObservers() const {
    for( list< Observer* >::iterator itr =
observers.begin(); observers.end() != itr; ++itr ) {
      (*itr)->update( temperature, humidity, pressure );
```

```
public: void measurementsChanged() {
    notifyObservers();
  public: void setMeasurements( float temperature,
             float humidity, float pressure ) {
    temperature = temperature;
    humidity = humidity;
    pressure = pressure;
    measurementsChanged();
  // other WeatherData methods here
  public: float getTemperature() const {
    return temperature;
  public: float getHumidity() const {
    return humidity;
  public: float getPressure() const {
    return pressure;
};
```



### Implementing the Subject interface

When measurements are updated then the Observers are notified

```
class WeatherData
  private: list< Observer* > observers;
 private: float temperature;
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  private: f
 public: We The weather station device would call this
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  public: vo
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      observers.push_back(o);
  public: void
  removeObserver( Observer* o ) {
   observers.remove(o);
 public: void notifyObservers() const {
    for( list< Observer* >::iterator itr =
observers.begin(); observers.end() != itr; ++itr ) {
      (*itr)->update( temperature, humidity, pressure );
```

```
public: void measurementsChanged() {
    notifyObservers();
  public: void setMeasurements( float temperature,
             float humidity, float pressure ) {
    temperature = temperature;
    humidity = humidity;
    pressure = pressure;
    measurementsChanged();
  // other WeatherData methods here
  public: float getTemperature() const {
    return temperature;
  public: float getHumidity() const {
    return humidity;
  public: float getPressure() const {
    return pressure;
};
```



```
class CurrentConditionsDisplay : public Observer,
private DisplayElement {
  private: Subject* weatherData;
  private: float temperature;
  private: float humidity;

  public: CurrentConditionsDisplay( Subject*
  weatherData ) : weatherData( weatherData ),
  temperature( 0.0 ), humidity( 0.0 ) {
     weatherData->registerObserver( this );
  }
  public: ~CurrentConditionsDisplay() {
     weatherData->removeObserver( this );
  }
}
```



```
public: void update( float temp, float hum, float
class CurrentConditionsDisplay : public Observer,
                                                       pres ) {
private DisplayElement {
                                                           temperature = temp;
 private: Subject* weatherData;
                                                           humidity = hum;
 private: float temperature;
                                                           display();
 private: float humidity;
                                                         public: void display() const {
                                               The constructor gets the Subject and use it .nt );
 to register to it as an observer.
weatherData ) : weatherData( weatherData ),
                                                                     WITCHE CONVECTORS.
                                                                                            << temperature;
temperature(0.0), humidity(0.0) {
                                                           cout << " C° degrees and " << humidity;
   weatherData->registerObserver( this );
                                                           cout << "% humidity" << std::endl;</pre>
 public: ~CurrentConditionsDisplay() {
                                                       };
   weatherData->removeObserver( this );
```



The reference to the subject is stored so that it is possible to use it to un-register

```
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        weatherData->removeObserver( this );
    }
}
```

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    humidity = hum;
    display();
    }
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    cout << " C° degrees and " << humidity;
    cout << "% humidity" << std::endl;
    }
};</pre>
```



The reference to the subject is stored so that it is possible to use it to un-register

When update is called it stores the data, then display() is called to show them

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      weatherData->removeObserver( this );
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                                                                humidity = hum;
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                                                                display();
  private: float humidity;
                                                              public: void display() const {
                                                   The constructor gets the Subject and use it .nt );
  public: CurrentConditionsDisplay( Subject* ←
                                                   to register to it as an observer.
weatherData ) : weatherData( weatherData ),
                                                                                                    << temperature;
                                                                           ALL CITE COUNTECTORS. "
temperature( 0.0 ), humidity( 0.0 ) {
                                                                cout << " C° degrees and " << humidity;
   weatherData->registerObserver( this );
                                                                cout -- "% humidity" -- std::endl:
                                               Remind to unregister the observer when it is
 public: ~CurrentConditionsDisplay()
                                               destroyed.
    weatherData->removeObserver( this );
```



```
int main( ) {
 WeatherData weatherData;
 CurrentConditionsDisplay currentDisplay( &weatherData );
 StatisticsDisplay statisticsDisplay( &weatherData );
 ForecastDisplay forecastDisplay( &weatherData );
 weatherData.setMeasurements( 80, 65, 30.4f );
 weatherData.setMeasurements( 82, 70, 29.2f );
 weatherData.setMeasurements(78, 90, 29.2f);
 return 0;
```



```
int main( ) {
                              Create the
 WeatherData weatherData;
                              concrete subject
 CurrentConditionsDisplay currentDisplay( &weatherData );
  StatisticsDisplay statisticsDisplay( &weatherData );
 ForecastDisplay forecastDisplay( &weatherData );
 weatherData.setMeasurements( 80, 65, 30.4f );
 weatherData.setMeasurements( 82, 70, 29.2f );
 weatherData.setMeasurements(78, 90, 29.2f);
 return 0;
```



```
int main( ) {
                               Create the
                                                          Create the displays
  WeatherData weatherData;
                                                          and pass the
                               concrete subject
                                                          concrete subject
  CurrentConditionsDisplay currentDisplay( &weatherData );
  StatisticsDisplay statisticsDisplay( &weatherData );
  ForecastDisplay forecastDisplay( &weatherData );
  weatherData.setMeasurements( 80, 65, 30.4f );
  weatherData.setMeasurements( 82, 70, 29.2f );
  weatherData.setMeasurements(78, 90, 29.2f);
  return 0;
```



```
int main( ) {
                                Create the
                                                           Create the displays
  WeatherData weatherData;
                                                           and pass the
                                concrete subject
                                                           concrete subject
  CurrentConditionsDisplay currentDisplay( &weatherData );
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                                                        Simulate
  weatherData.setMeasurements(82, 70, 29.2f);
                                                        measurements
  weatherData.setMeasurements(78, 90, 29.2f);
  return 0;
```



### Push or pull?

- In the previous implementation the state is pushed from the Subject to the Observer
- If the Subject had some public getter methods the Observer may pull the state when it is notified of a change
  - If the state is modified there's no need to modify the update(), change the getter methods



### Pull example

```
public: void update() {
  temperature = weatherData->getTemperature();
  humidity = weatherData->getHumidity();
  display();
}
```



### Pull example

The update() method in the Observer interface now is decoupled from the state of the concrete subject

```
public: void update() {
  temperature = weatherData->getTemperature();
  humidity = weatherData->getHumidity();
  display();
}
```



### Pull example

The update() method in the Observer interface now is decoupled from the state of the concrete subject

```
public: void update() {
  temperature = weatherData->getTemperature();
  humidity = weatherData->getHumidity();
  display();
}
```

We just have to change the implementation of the update() in the concrete observers



This must be a pointer to the concrete subject instead of Subject interface, or you can not use its getter methods

#### example

The update() method in the Observer interface now is decoupled from the state of the concrete subject

```
public: void update() {
  temperature = weatherData->getTemperature();
  humidity = weatherData->getHumidity();
  display();
}
```

We just have to change the implementation of the update() in the concrete observers



### Flexible updating

 To have more flexibility in updating the observers the Subject may have a setChanged() method that allows the notifyObservers() to trigger the update()

```
setChanged() {
  changed = true;
public: void notifyObservers() const {
  if( changed ) {
      for( list< Observer* >::iterator itr = observers.begin();
           observers.end() != itr; ++itr ) {
        Observer* observer = *itr;
        observer->update( temperature, humidity, pressure );
      changed = false;
```



### Flexible updating

 To have more flexibility in updating the observers the Subject may have a setChanged() method that allows the notifyObservers() to trigger the update()

```
setChanged() {
                        call the setChanged() method when the state has
  changed = true;
                        changed enough to tell the observers
public: void notifyObservers() const {
  if( changed ) {
      for( list< Observer* >::iterator itr = observers.begin();
            observers.end() != itr; ++itr ) {
        Observer* observer = *itr;
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            observers.end() != itr; ++itr ) {
        Observer* observer = *itr;
        observer->update( temperature, humidity, pressure );
      changed = false;
```



### Observer and pointers

- In the pull version of Observer the Subject contains a pointer to an Observer, and the Observer can hold a pointer to the Subject.
- Neither object owns the other, and either object can be deleted at any time. They are separate objects that just happen to communicate with each other via pointers.
- Remind: before an Observer is deleted, it must be unregistered from every Subject it is observing.
   Otherwise, the Subjects will keep trying to Update it via the invalid pointer, causing undefined behavior.



### Observer and pointers

- In the pull version of Observer the Subject contains a pointer to an Observer, and the Observer can hold a pointer to the Subject.
- Neither object owns the other, and either object can be deleted at any time. They are separate objects that just happen to communicate with each other via Do this in the destructor
  - Remind: before an Observer is deleted, it must be unregistered from every Subject it is observing. Otherwise, the Subjects will keep trying to Update it via the invalid pointer, causing undefined behavior.



# Observer and pointers

Also remind to destroy the Subject after its
Observers have been destroyed, or some
Observers will try to unregister from an already
destroyed Subject (again using an invalid pointer...

#### Do this in the destructor

Remind: before an Observer is deleted, it must be unregistered from every Subject it is observing. Otherwise, the Subjects will keep trying to Update it via the invalid pointer, causing undefined behavior.



# Observer and video games

 Some game engines (e.g. OGRE3D) let programmers extend Ogre::FrameListener and implement: virtual void frameStarted(const FrameEvent& event) virtual void frameEnded(const FrameEvent& event)

 These are methods called by the main game loop before and after the 3D scene has been drawn.
 Add code in those methods to create the game.



# Observer and video games

```
class GameFrameListener : public Ogre::FrameListener {
            public:
Some
                virtual void frameStarted(const FrameEvent& event) {
                      // Do things that must happen before the 3D scene
   progra
                      // is rendered (i.e., service all game engine
                      // subsystems).
   impler
                      pollJoypad(event);
                      updatePlayerControls(event);
   virt
                      updateDynamicsSimulation(event);
                      resolveCollisions(event);
   Fram
                      updateCamera(event);
                      // etc.
   virt
                virtual void frameEnded(const FrameEvent& event) {
                      // Do things that must happen after the 3D scene
   Fram
                      // has been rendered.
                      drawHud(event);
                      // etc.
These
   before<sup>};</sup>
```

Add code in those methods to create the game.



### Model-View-Controller



# The observer pattern and GUIs

- The observer pattern is also very often associated with the model-view-controller (MVC) paradigm.
- In MVC, the observer pattern is used to create a loose coupling between the model and the view.

Typically, a modification in the model triggers the notification of model observers which are actually the views.



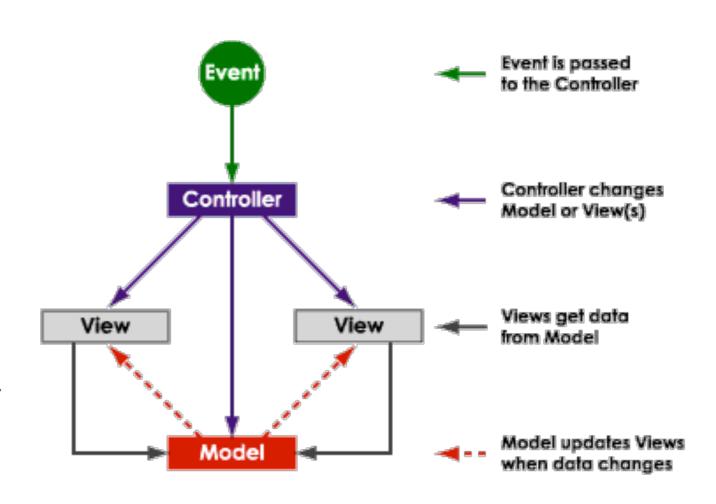
# MVC: GoF brief description

 "MVC consists of three kinds of objects. The model is the application object, the view is its screen presentation, and the controller defines the way the user interface reacts to user input. Before MVC, user interface designs tended to lump these objects together. MVC decouples them to increase flexibility and reuse."



#### MVC schema

- The model maintains data, views display all or a portion of the data, and controller handles events that affect the model or view(s).
- Whenever a controller changes a model's data or properties, all dependent views are automatically updated.





### MVC schema

#### Controller

- knows how this particular application works
- controls the view and the model

#### Model

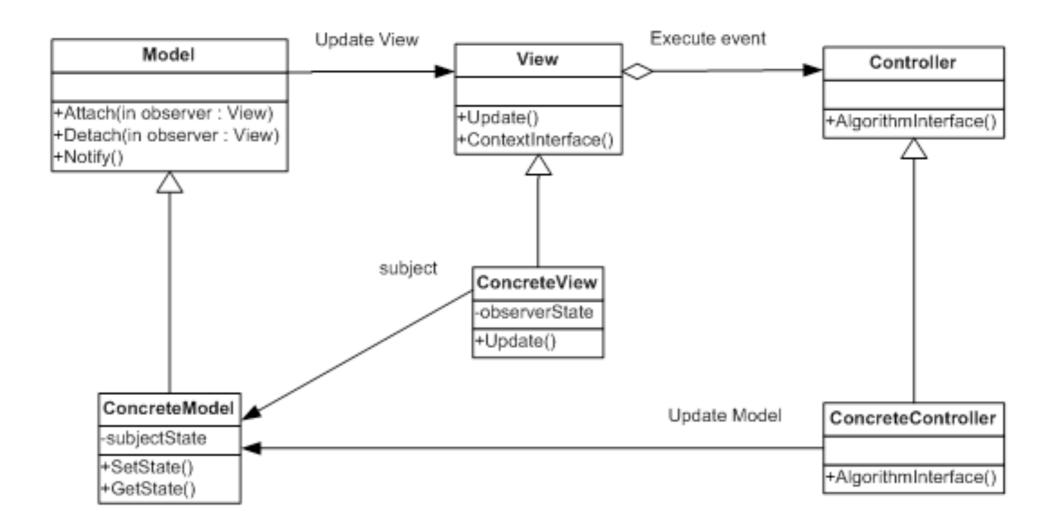
- ·"real world"
- works when the controller asks it to work
- updates the view

#### View

- user interface
- knows how to communicate with the end user



#### MVC UML schema



 The Model acts as a Subject from the Observer pattern and the View takes on the role of the Observer object.



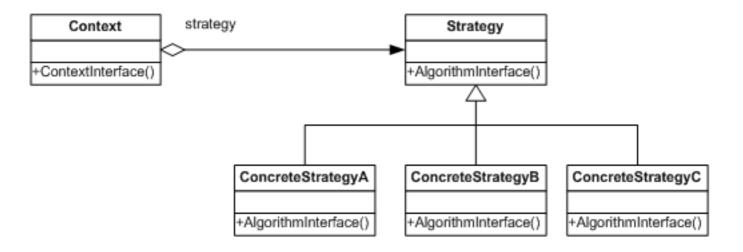
# MVC: a composite pattern

- MVC is not defined as a design pattern per-se in GoF, but is rather referred to as a "set of classes to build a user interface" that uses design patterns such as Observer, Strategy, and Composite."
- The relation between Model and View is implemented as Observer...



# MVC: a composite pattern

 The relation between View and Controller is implemented using the Strategy pattern

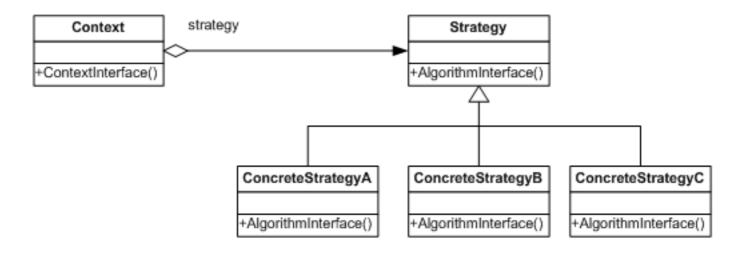


 The View uses the Controller to implement a specific type of response. The controller can be changed to let the View respond differently to user input.



# MVC: a composite pattern

 The relation between View and Controller is implemented using the Strategy pattern



Strategy pattern: we have objects that hold alternate algorithms to solve a problem.

In this DP an algorithm is separated from the object that uses it, and encapsulated as its own object.

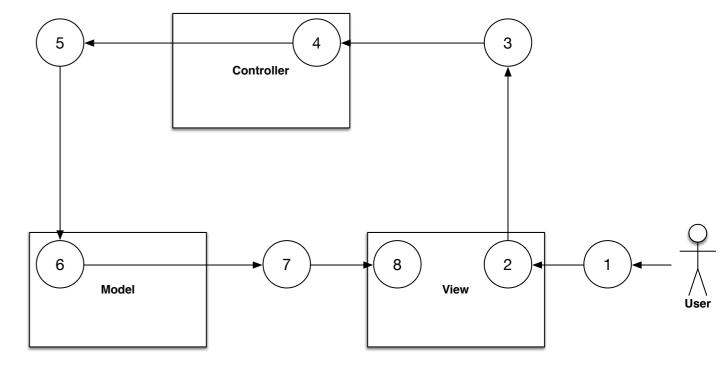
- A concrete strategy implements one behavior, one implementation of how to solve the same problem
- It separates algorithm for behavior from object that wants to act
- Allows changing an object's behavior dynamically without extending / changing the object itself





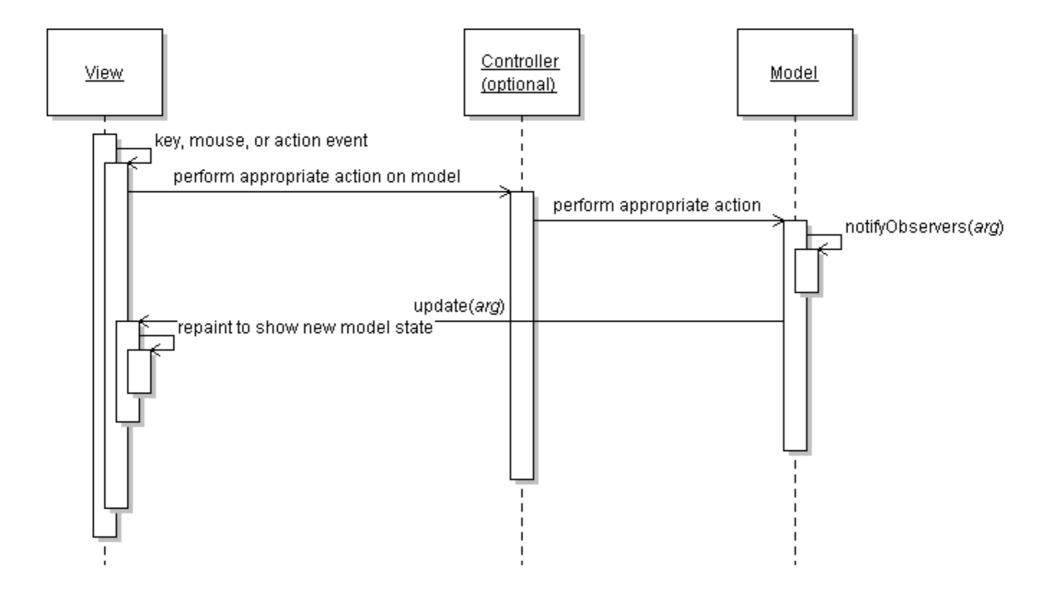
#### MVC in action

- I. The end user manipulates the view (e.g. presses a button).
- 2. The user's actions are interpreted by the view.
- 3. The view passes the interpreted commands to the controller.
- 4. The controller decides what to do...
- 5. ...and the controller makes the model act.
- 6. The model acts independently, and according to the requests of the controller
- 7. The model notifies the views interested in its updates
- 8. Each notified view displays the information in its own way.



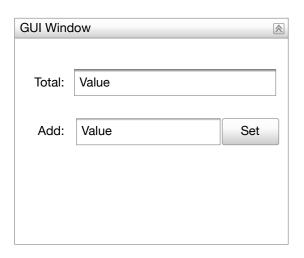


# MVC: sequence diagram





### MVC in action



```
View
View::setButtonPressed() {
  int value = addTextField.getInt();
  controller->setBalance(value);
}
View::showTotal(int total) {
  totalTextField.setInt(total);
}
```

```
Controller::setBalance(int val) {
  model->setTotal(v);
}
```

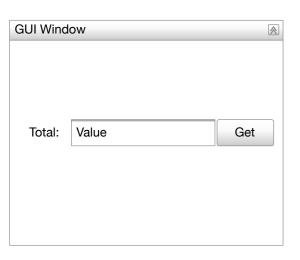
```
Model

Model::setTotal(int val) {
   total = v;
   notify();
}

Model::notify() {
   for( view : views )
     view->showTotal(total);
}
```



### MVC in action - 2



```
View
View::getButtonPressed() {
  controller->getBalance();
}
View::showTotal(int total) {
  totalTextField.setInt(total);
}
```

#### Controller

```
Controller::getBalance() {
  int total = model->getTotal();
  view->showTotal(total);
}
```

#### Model Model::getTotal() {

```
Model::getTotal() {
   return total;
}

Model::notify() {
   for( view : views )
      view->showTotal(total);
}
```



#### Model

- represents the "real world"
- is capable of completing "real world" tasks independently
- is controlled by the controller
  - the controller makes the model act
  - the model updates the view
- has methods to set/get its state



#### View

- it is the user interface
  - all the callback functions of the windowing system
  - all the widgets of the windowing system
- knows how to communicate with the enduser
  - knows how to present things to the end user
  - knows how to receive the end user's actions
- does not decide what to do with the user's actions: lets the controller decide
- has feedback, manipulation and query methods:
  - has methods like showValueInTextField(), setRadioButtonX() to present things to the end user,
  - has methods like onButtonXXXPressed(), onSliderYYYMoved() to capture the end user's actions,
  - has methods like getDropDownSelection(), getCheckBoxXX() to capture the end user's selections made some time ago



#### Controller

- Controls the application
  - makes application specific decisions
  - knows how this application should behave
- Controls the application by making the model and the view act
  - knows WHAT the model and the view are capable of doing
  - knows WHAT the model and the view should do
  - doesn't know HOW things are done inside the model and the view



# Example

```
class Observer {
    class Subject {
    public:
        virtual ~Observer() {}
        virtual void update() = 0;
        virtual void notify() = 0;
        virtual void addObserver(Observer* o) = 0;
        virtual void removeObserver(Observer* o) = 0;
    };
```



# Example: Model

```
class Model : Subject {
public:
int getData(){
    return data;
}
void setData(const int i) {
    data = i;
    notify();
}
virtual void
addObserver(Observer* o) {
    observers.push_back(o);
}
virtual void
removeObserver(Observer* o) {
    observers.remove(o);
}
```

```
virtual void notify() {
    for (Observer* observer :
                   observers)
         observer->update();
}
private:
  int data = 0;
  list<Observer*> observers;
};
```



# Example: Controller

```
class Controller {
public:
  Controller(Model* m) : model(m) {}
  void increment() {
      int value = model->getData();
      value++;
      model->setData(value);
  }
  void decrement() {
      int value = model->getData();
      value--;
      model->setData(value);
  }
private:
  Model* model;
};
```



# Example: View

```
class View : Observer {
public:
View(Model* m, Controller* c) {
    model = m;
    model->addObserver(this);
    controller = c;
}
virtual ~View() {
    model->removeObserver(this);
}
void displayTextField(int i) {
    cout << "Text field: " << i << endl;</pre>
}
virtual void update() {
    int value = model->getData();
    displayTextField(value);
}
```

```
void incrementButton() {
    controller->increment();
void decrementButton() {
    controller->decrement();
private:
 Model* model;
  Controller* controller;
};
```



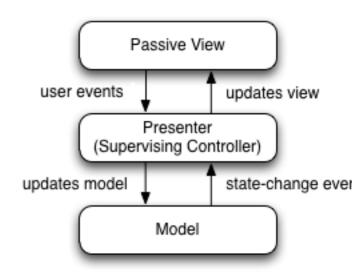
# Example: main

```
Model* model = new Model;
Controller* controller = new Controller(model);
View* view = new View(model, controller);
// simulate user interaction:
view->incrementButton();
view->incrementButton();
view->incrementButton();
view->decrementButton();
```



#### View and Controller and MVP

- Often View and Controller classes are merged
- There are variations of MVC, like MVP (Model-View-Presenter) where View and Controller are merged. A new actor, called Presenter is introduced; it can access the View and the Model directly, and the Model-View relationship can still exist where relevant. The Presenter can update the model and the view directly.





#### Credits

- These slides are based on the material of:
  - Glenn Puchtel
  - Fred Kuhns, Washington University
  - Aditya P. Matur, Purdue University