

```
In [9]: from abc import abstractmethod
        from math import pi
```

The Visitor Pattern

Introduction

The Visitor Pattern is a behavioral design pattern.

It allows us to separate algorithms from the objects on which they operate.

Key idea:

Instead of putting logic inside the object itself, we "visit" the object with a special visitor class.

```
In [ ]: class NaiveSquare:
        def __init__(self, side):
            self.side = side

        def area(self):
            pass

        def perimeter(self):
            pass

        class NaiveCircle:
            def __init__(self, radius):
                self.radius = radius

            def area(self):
                pass

            def perimeter(self):
                pass
```

Problem

Imagine you have a structure of different elements like `Circle` or `Square` and you want to perform different operations on them.

Naive approach:

Add methods for each operation inside every class.

→ This leads to bloat and violates the **Single Responsibility Principle**.

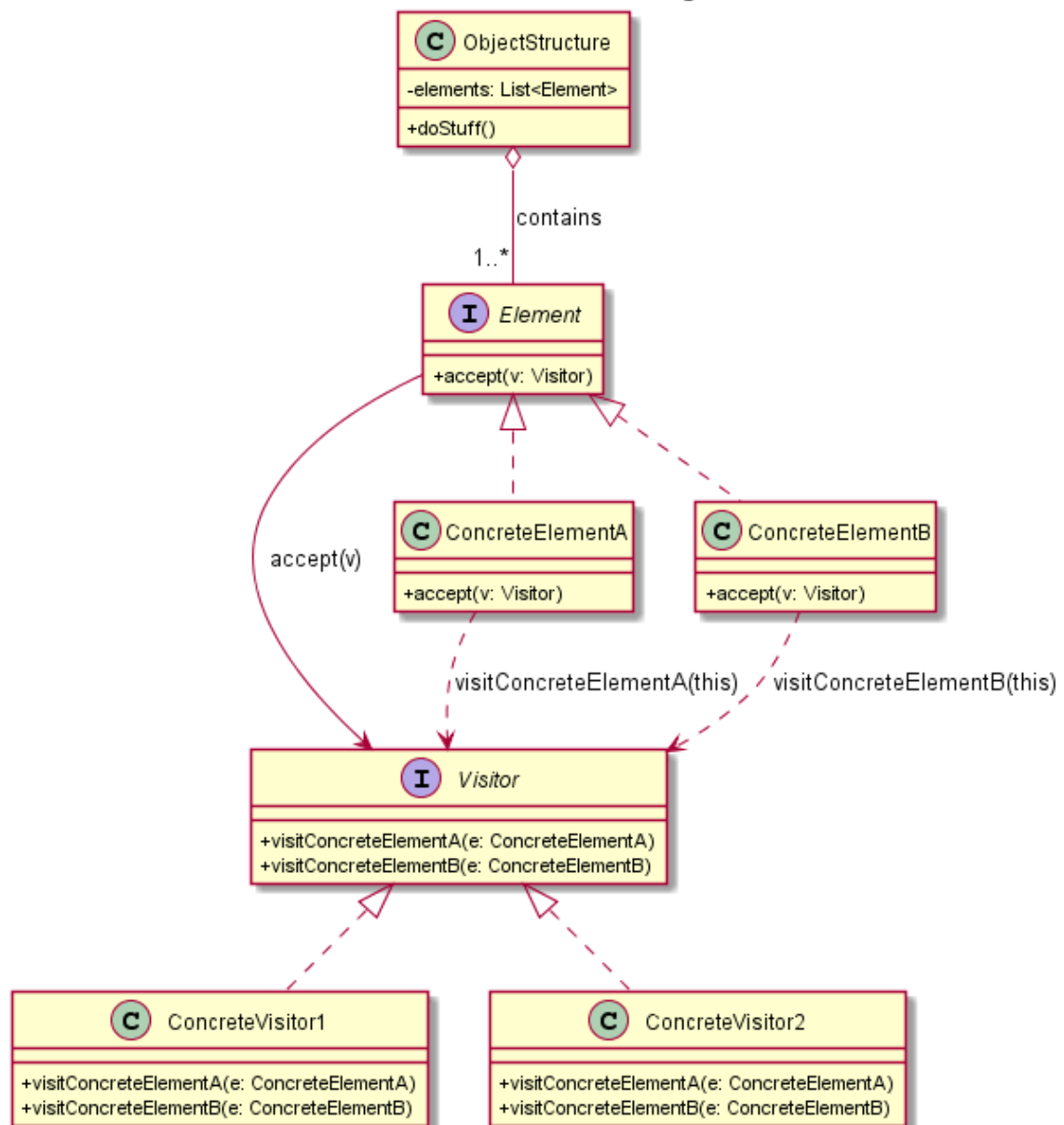
Visitor Pattern solution:

We define a `Visitor` that encapsulates these operations.

Structure of the Visitor Pattern:

- **Element:** Defines an `accept(visitor)` method.
- **Concrete Element:** Implements `accept` and calls the appropriate visitor method.
- **Visitor:** Declares visit methods for each element type.
- **Concrete Visitor:** Implements specific behavior for each element type.

Visitor Pattern — Class Diagram



```
In [10]: class Visitor:

    @abstractmethod
    def visit_square(self, element):
        pass
```

```

    @abstractmethod
    def visit_circle(self, element):
        pass

class AreaVisitor(Visitor):

    def visit_square(self, element):
        return element.side ** 2

    def visit_circle(self, element):
        return pi * element.radius ** 2

class PerimeterVisitor(Visitor):

    def visit_square(self, element):
        return element.side * 4

    def visit_circle(self, element):
        return 2 * pi * element.radius

```

```

In [11]: class GeometricShape:
    @abstractmethod
    def accept(self, visitor: Visitor):
        pass

class Square(GeometricShape):
    def __init__(self, side):
        self.side = side

    def accept(self, visitor: Visitor):
        return visitor.visit_square(self)

class Circle(GeometricShape):
    def __init__(self, radius):
        self.radius = radius

    def accept(self, visitor: Visitor):
        return visitor.visit_circle(self)

```

Example Run

```

In [12]: shape_elements = [Square(4), Circle(3)]

area_visitor = AreaVisitor()
perimeter_visitor = PerimeterVisitor()

for shape in shape_elements:
    print(f"Area: {shape.accept(area_visitor)}")
    print(f"Perimeter: {shape.accept(perimeter_visitor)}")

```

Area: 16
Perimeter: 16
Area: 28.274333882308138
Perimeter: 18.84955592153876

Benefits

- Separates algorithms from object structure
- Easy to add new operations without changing element classes

Drawbacks

- Harder to add new element types as all visitors must be updated
 - Visitors might lack access to certain private fields and methods
-

Real-Life Example: File System Operations

Two element types:

- File
- Directory

We want to perform different operations on them:

- Calculate total size
- Generate a text report

Instead of embedding all these operations inside `File` and `Directory`, we use the Visitor Pattern.

```
In [13]: class File:
          def __init__(self, name, size):
              self.name = name
              self.size = size

          def accept(self, visitor):
              visitor.visit_file(self)

          class Directory:
              def __init__(self, name, children=None):
                  self.name = name
                  self.children = children if children else []

              def accept(self, visitor):
                  visitor.visit_directory(self)
```

The Visitor Interface

Each visitor knows how to "handle" both Files and Directories.

```
In [14]: class FileSystemVisitor:
    def visit_file(self, file):
        pass

    def visit_directory(self, directory):
        pass

class SizeVisitor(FileSystemVisitor):
    def __init__(self):
        self.total_size = 0

    def visit_file(self, file):
        self.total_size += file.size

    def visit_directory(self, directory):
        for child in directory.children:
            child.accept(self)

class ReportVisitor(FileSystemVisitor):
    def __init__(self, indent=0):
        self.indent = indent

    def visit_file(self, file):
        print(" " * self.indent + f"File: {file.name} ({file.size} KB)")

    def visit_directory(self, directory):
        print(" " * self.indent + f"Directory: {directory.name}")
        for child in directory.children:
            child.accept(ReportVisitor(self.indent + 1))
```

Example Run

```
In [15]: root = Directory("root", [
    File("readme.txt", 5),
    Directory("images", [
        File("logo.png", 150),
        File("banner.jpg", 300)
    ])
])

size_visitor = SizeVisitor()
root.accept(size_visitor)
print("Total size:", size_visitor.total_size, "KB")
print("\nFile system report:")
root.accept(ReportVisitor())
```

Total size: 455 KB

File system report:

Directory: root

File: readme.txt (5 KB)

Directory: images

File: logo.png (150 KB)

File: banner.jpg (300 KB)

Summary

Use the Visitor Pattern:

- when you need to perform an operation on all elements with different logics
- to clean up auxiliary behavior in business logic