

Introduction

Jibesh Patra, Soumyajit Dey

Week 1 – Software Engineering – CS20202 – Spring 2026 – IIT Kharagpur

Adapted from: Software Engineering Theory and Practice by Pfleeger & Atlee, Software Engineering Modern Approaches by Braude & Bernstein.

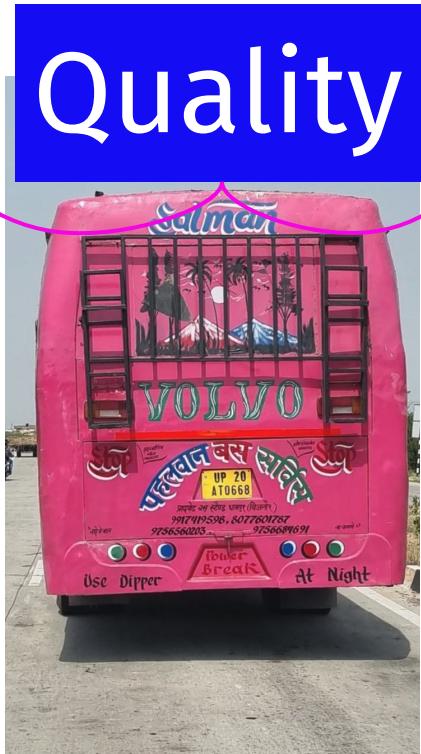
Week 1 - Software Engineering – Spring 2026

Why Software Engineering?

Motivation

- Software is everywhere.
- Goal of software engineering is the creation of software systems that meet the needs of customers and are reliable, efficient and maintainable.
- Good software engineering practices ensure that software makes a positive contribution to how we lead our lives.

Needs of Customer



Why Software Engineering?

- High failure rates: A large number of modern software projects are unsuccessful.

Software Project Failures: Why 70% Miss the Mark

Cloud Development Experience Platform Engineering

Failure isn't just a crash; it's the gap between expectation and reality

Why Software Engineering?

- High failure rates: A large number of modern software projects are **unsuccessful**.

- Exceeds schedule
- Over budget
- Lower quality than expected
- Too difficult to use
- Performance issues



Software Project Failures: Why 70% Miss the Mark

Cloud Development Experience Platform Engineering

Failure isn't just a crash; it's the gap between expectation and reality

Why Software Engineering?

- Catastrophic consequences:
 - Ariane project
 - Radiation overdose



- Root Cause: Not enough robust methods.

Software Engineering is Balance of Art & Science

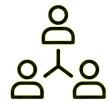
- Writing software is both an **art** and a **science**.
 - it requires “artistic” craft.
 - and “engineering” rigor.
- Examples of **artistic aspects**:
 - Using an optimizing compiler as a tool.
 - Adopting a specific sorting algorithm.
- **Engineering aspects**: Parallels with building a house.

House Building Analogy

- Stakeholders.
- Phases:
 - Conference/Discussions – Requirements.
 - Blueprints – Design
 - Construction
 - Inspection – Testing
 - Maintenance.
- Handling Change:
 - Materials (libraries) become unavailable.
 - Customers realizing new possibilities as the system takes shape.
 - Budget or schedule shifts forcing requirement changes.
- Context: Built within a larger social and governmental structure.



Organization of Effort



People

Project stakeholder



Product

The software product plus associated documents



Project

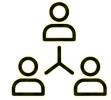
The activities carried out to produce the product



Process

Framework within which the team carries out the activities necessary to build

People (1/2)



- Business Management (Senior executives, Product managers) – Focus is on business issues including profit, cost effectiveness, market competitiveness, and customer satisfaction.
- Project Management (Project managers) – Responsible for planning and tracking a project.
- Development Team (Software engineers) – Responsible for developing and maintaining the software. It includes many tasks such as requirements gathering, software architecture and design, implementation, testing, configuration management, and documentation.

People (2/2)



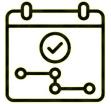
- Customers (Purchasers of the software) – They may not actually use the product and may be purchasing it for use by others in their organization. Interested in software that is cost-effective, meets specific business needs, and is of high quality.
- End users (People interacting with the finished product) – Motivated by software that's easy to use and helps them perform their jobs as efficiently as possible.

Product



- Project documentation – Documents produced during software definition and development.
- Source code.
- Test documents – Plans, cases and results.
- Customer documentation – Documents explaining how to use and operate product.
- Productivity measurements – Analyze project productivity.

Project



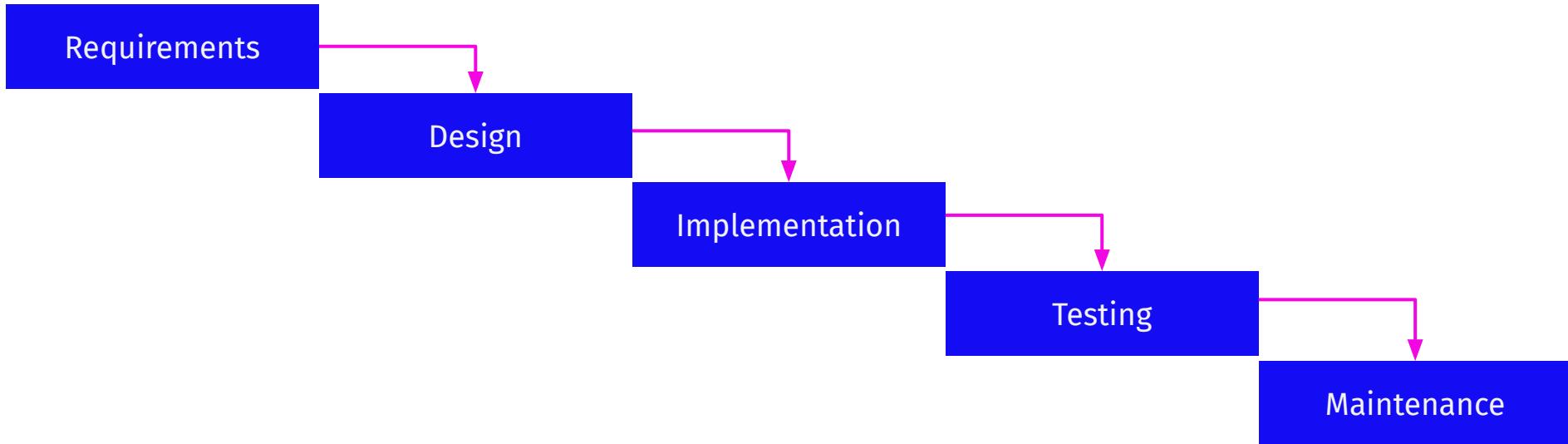
- Planning – Plan, monitor, & control the software project.
- Requirement analysis – Define what to build.
- Design – Describe how to build.
- Implementation – Write code.
- Testing – Validate the software meets the requirement.
- Maintenance – Resolve errors, add new features to meet new requirements.

Process (1/2)



- Framework for discipline.
- Guiding structure.
- Time-bound phases.
- Process definitions.

Process (2/2)



Example: Waterfall software development process

View as a Software Engineer

We can concentrate on the computers and programming languages, OR we can view them as tools to be used in designing and implementing a solution to a problem.



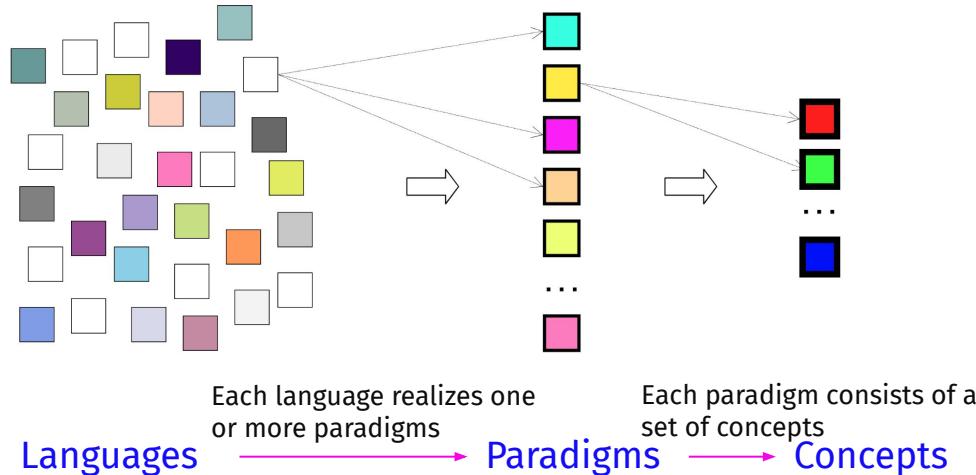
Software Engineer

Introduction to OCaml



Programming Paradigm

A **programming paradigm** is an approach to programming a computer based on a mathematical theory or a coherent set of principles.



Programming Paradigm

Each paradigm supports a set of concepts that makes it the **best** for a certain kind of problem.

Object-oriented

Logic Programming

Procedural

Best for problems with a large number of related data abstractions organized in a hierarchy.

Best for transforming or navigating complex symbolic structures according to logical rules.

Functional Programming

- Functional Programming (FP) is a programming paradigm where computation is expressed as the evaluation of mathematical functions, emphasizing **immutability** and **minimizing side effects** and changing state.
- I have two functions $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ where the $f(x)$ uses the results computed by $g(x)$. How do I compose?
Mathematically:
$$\text{result} = f(g(x))$$
- Functional programming is about building such pipelines.

Functional Style in C

```
#include <stdio.h>

int g(int x)
{
    return x * 2;
}

int f(int x)
{
    return x + 5;
}

typedef int (*int_func)(int);

int pipeline(int_func outer_function, int_func inner_function, int x)
{
    int inner_result = inner_function(x);
    int final_result = outer_function(inner_result);
    return final_result;
}
```

Functional Style in C

```
int main()
{
    int input = 10;
    printf("Input: %d\n", input);

    int result_f_g = pipeline(f, g, input);
    printf("Result: %d\n", result_f_g);

    int result_g_f = pipeline(g, f, input);
    printf("Result: %d\n", result_g_f);

    return 0;
}
```

Benefit: Can compose the function sequence at will

Side-Effects

```
#include <stdio.h>

int count = 0;

void add_to_acc(int value) {
    count += value; ← Modifies external state
}
```

Why learn OCaml?

- OCaml is an industrial-strength, statically-typed functional language.
- New programming paradigm.
- Used by industry
 - [Jane Street](#)
 - Meta
 - Bloomberg
 - ...
 - [Many more](#)



Hello World!

hello_world.ml

```
let () = print_endline "Hello, World!";; (* single line comment *)
(* multiple line comment,
commenting out part
of a program *)
```

A built-in function

Bind values

```
> ocaml
OCaml version 5.3.0
> ocamlc -o hello_world hello_world.ml
> ./hello_world
Hello, World!
```

Expressions

- Everything has a value & every value has a type.
- OCaml has type inference. For most parts, it can automatically determine type of an expression.

```
10 * 5;;
```

```
let student = "Ashoka";;
```

```
- : int = 50
val student : string = "Ashoka"
```

value declaration



if then else

- This is an **expression** unlike if-else in C/C++ where it is a **statement**.
- It always produces a value.
- Both branches must return the same type.
- It can be used anywhere an expression is allowed.

```
2 * if "one" = "two" then 3 else 4;;
```

```
- : int = 8
```



Any similar expression in C/C++?

- Specifies where to go next or what action to perform?
- It does not evaluate to a **value** and an if block can't be assigned to a **variable**.

Data Types

```
let house_number = 71;;
```

```
let lakh = 1_00_000;;
```

```
let pi = 4.0 *. atan 1.0;;
```

```
(1 < 2) = false;;
```

```
'a';;
```

```
"Hello" ^ " " ^ "world";;
```

- int → 64-bit platforms range is -2^{62} to $2^{62} - 1$.
Why 63 bits? One bit is used by OCaml runtime implementation.
- float → approximate representation.
What does adding 0.1 and 0.2 produce?
- bool → IEEE 754 standard. 53 bits of mantissa & exponent ranges -1022 to 1023
- char → represented as 8-bit integers between 0 and 255
- string → ^ is string concat operator

Try Out

- Evaluate max_int
- Evaluate min_int
- Evaluate max_int + 1

Local Definitions

```
let y = 50 in y * y;;  
y;;
```

Error: Unbound value y

- This creates a binding for `y` only in the expression following the `in` keyword. It throws an error in the global scope as can be seen from the last line of the above code block.
- `let __ = __ in __` is an expression, and it can be used within another expression in order to have several values with their own names.

```
let a = 1 in  
let b = 2 in  
  a + b;;
```

Type Conversions

```
int_of_char '\n';;  
float_of_int 2;;  
"Hello".[1];;
```

```
- : int = 10  
- : float = 2.  
- : char = 'e'
```

- float_of_int
- int_of_float
- int_of_char
- char_of_int
- string_of_int
- string_of_float
- string_of_bool
- bool_of_string
- int_of_string
- float_of_string

Data Types

- Predefined data structures include tuples, arrays, lists
- list
 - empty list are called *nil* and represented by []
 - the :: operator is used to add elements in front of the list
 - all elements must be of same type
 - lists are **immutable**

```
let lst = ["one"; "two"; "three"];;
"zero" :: lst;;
let e = [];;
```

type variable, meaning it can be a list of
any type

```
val lst : string list = ["one"; "two"; "three"]
- : string list = ["zero"; "one"; "two"; "three"]
val e : 'a list = []
```

Data Types

- **tuple**
 - Tuples are fixed-length collections of elements of any type.
Written as (1, 2, 3) or (1, "two", 'T')
- **array**
 - Arrays are **mutable**, fixed-size block of memory.
 - all elements must be of same type.

```
let nums = [| 1; 2; 3 |];;
```

```
nums.(1) <- 200;;
```

```
nums;;
```

```
val nums : int array = [|1; 2; 3|]
- : unit = ()
- : int array = [|1; 200; 3|]
```

This is the end