

UML Class Diagrams

André Restivo

Index

Introduction Classes Inheritance Associations Interfaces

Aggregation

Introduction

Types of Diagrams

In UML, there are two basic categories of diagrams:

- Structure diagrams show the static structure of the system being modeled: class, component, deployment, object diagrams, ...
- Behavioral diagrams show the dynamic behavior between the objects in the system: activity, use case, communication, state machine, sequence diagrams, ...

Class Diagrams

Class diagrams show the classes of the system, their relationships (including inheritance, aggregation, and association), and the operations and attributes of the classes.

Class diagrams are used for different purposes:

- Conceptual domain modeling:
 - Illustrates meaningful conceptual classes in problem domain.
 - Represents real world concepts, not software components.
- Detailed **design** modeling:
 - Represents the concrete software components.

Classes

Class

The UML representation of a class is a rectangle containing three compartments stacked vertically:

Circle

- centerX : double
- centerY : double
- radius : double
- + getArea() : double

Class Attribute List

The middle compartment lists each of the attributes of the class on a separate line.

Each line uses the following format:

name : attribute type

For example:

width: double

Attribute Default Value

Default values can be specified (**optionally**) in the attribute list section by using the following **notation**:

name : attribute type = default value

For example:

width : double = 0

Class Operations List

The lowest compartment lists each of the operations of the class on a separate line.

Each line uses the following format:

name(parameter list): type of value returned

For example:

setRadius(radius : double) : void

Operation Parameters

When an operation has parameters, they are put inside parentheses.

Each parameter uses the format:

parameter name : parameter type

They can also have a **optional** "in" or "out" marking specifying if the parameter is an **input** or **output** parameter.

For example:

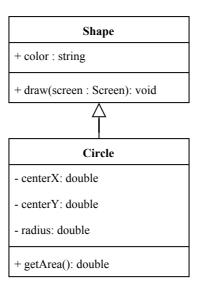
setRadius(in radius : double) : void

Inheritance

Inheritance

The ability of one class (child class) to **inherit** the identical **functionality** of another class (super class), and then **add new functionality** of its own.

Inheritance is indicated by a solid line with a closed, unfilled arrowhead pointing at the super class.

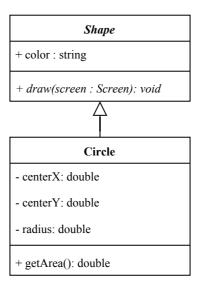


Abstract classes and operations

Abstract operations are operations where the class only provides the operation signature and not it's code.

Abstract classes are classes that contain abstract operations and, therefore, cannot be instantiated.

They are both represented in italic.

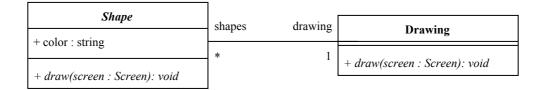


Associations

Bi-directional association

Associations are assumed to be **bi-directional** by default. This means that both classes are aware of each other.

A bi-directional association is indicated by a solid line between the two classes.



At either end of the line, you place a role name and a multiplicity value.

Multiplicity

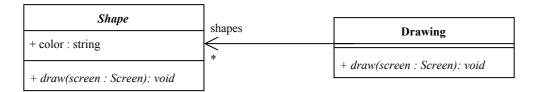
Some examples of possible multiplicities:

Multiplicity	Shorthand	Cardinality
00	0	Collection must be empty
01		No instances or one instance
11	1	Exactly one instance
0*	*	Zero or more instances
1*		At least one instance
55	5	Exactly 5 instances
mn		At least m but no more than n instances

Uni-directional association

In a uni-directional association, two classes are related, but only one class knows that the relationship exists.

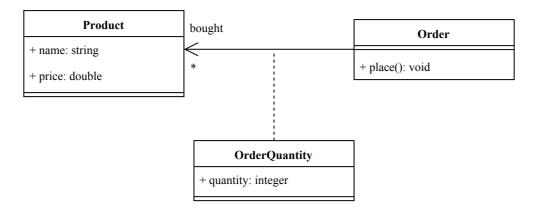
A uni-directional association is drawn as a solid line with an open arrowhead pointing to the known class.



Association Class

An association class includes information about a relationship.

It is represented like a normal class but has a dotted line connecting it to the association.



Interfaces

Interface

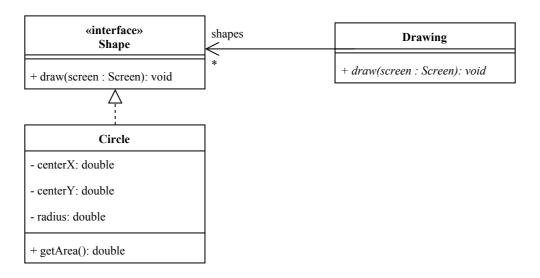
- An interface is a **description** of the **actions** that an object **can do**.
- The combination of all public methods and properties of an object.
- Interfaces can also be seen as contracts that other classes must fulfil.

In UML, an interface is depicted just like a class but with a **«interface» keyword**.



Implementation

A class can declare that it implements a certain interface in a very similar way to inheritance (but with the line dotted and not solid).



Aggregation

Aggregation

- Aggregation is a special type of **association** used to model a "**whole** to its **parts**" relationship.
- An association with an aggregation relationship indicates that one class is a part of another class.
- · In an aggregation relationship, the child class instance can outlive its parent class.
- To represent an aggregation we use an unfilled diamond shape on the parent's association end.



Composition

- The **composition aggregation** relationship is another, **stronger**, form of the aggregation relationship.
- In an composition aggregation relationship, the child class instance cannot outlive its parent class.
- To represent a composition aggregation we use an **filled diamond** shape on the **parent**'s association **end**.

