

Software Design with UML Class Diagrams

Object Oriented Software Engineering
Lecture 2: Part 2

Dr. Graham McDonald
graham.mcdonald@glasgow.ac.uk

Class Diagrams

UML Class Diagrams

- What is a UML class diagram?
 - A diagram of the classes in an OO system, their fields and methods, and connections between the classes that interact or inherit from each other
- Things not represented in a UML class diagram:
 - details of how the classes interact with each other
 - algorithmic details; how a particular behavior is implemented

How Do We Design Classes?

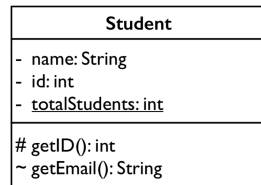
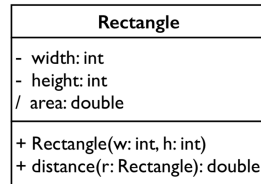
Identify classes and interactions from project requirements:

- **Nouns** are potential classes, objects, and fields
- **Verbs** are potential methods or responsibilities of a class
- Relationships between nouns are potential interactions (containment, generalization, dependence, etc.)

- Which nouns in your project should be classes?
- Which ones are fields?
- What verbs should be methods?
- What are potential interactions between your classes?

Diagram of a Class

- **Class name** in top of box
 - write <<interface>> on top of interfaces' names
 - use *italics* for an abstract class name
- **Attributes** (optional)
 - should include all fields of the object
- **Operations / methods** (optional)
 - may omit trivial (get/set) methods
 - but **don't omit any methods from an interface!**
 - should not include inherited methods

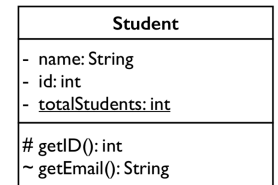
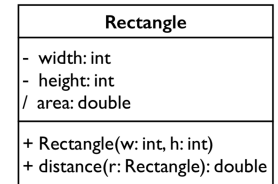


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Class Attributes (fields, instance variables)

visibility name : type [count] = default_value

- **visibility:**
 - + public
 - # protected
 - Private
 - ~ package (default)
 - / derived
- underline **static attributes**
- **derived attribute:** (/) not stored, but can be computed from other attribute values

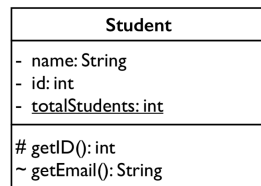
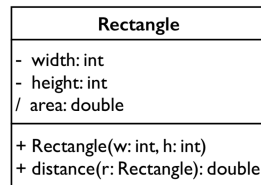


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Class Operations / Methods

visibility name(parameters) : return_type

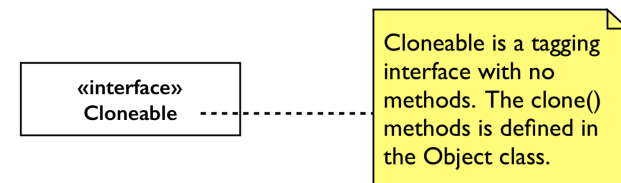
- **visibility:**
 - + public
 - # protected
 - Private
 - ~ package (default)
- underline **static methods**
- **parameters** listed as **name : type**
- omit return_type on constructors and when return type is void



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Comments

- Represented as a folded note, attached to the appropriate class/method/etc by a dashed line



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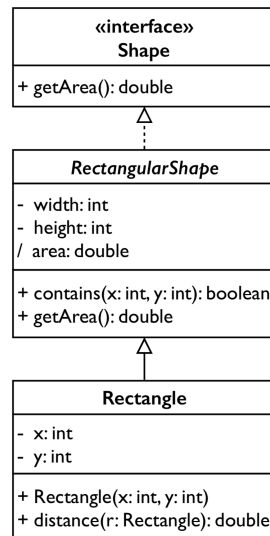
Relationships Between Classes

- **Generalization**: an inheritance relationship
 - inheritance between classes
 - interface implementation
- **Association**: a usage relationship
 - dependency
 - aggregation
 - composition

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Generalization Relationships

- Hierarchies drawn top-down with arrows point upward to parent.
- Line/arrow styles indicate if parent is a(n):
 - **class**: solid line, white arrow
 - **interface**: dashed line, white arrow
- We often omit trivial / obvious generalization relationships, such as drawing the Object class as a parent

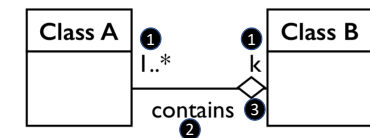


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Associational (usage) Relationships

1. Multiplicity (how many are used)

- * (zero or more)
- 1 (exactly one)
- 2..4 (between 2 and 4, inclusive)
- 3..* (3 or more, * may be omitted)



2. Name (what relationship the objects have)

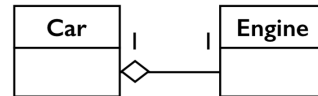
3. Navigability (direction)

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Association Multiplicities

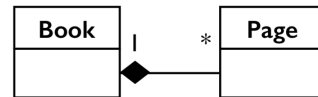
- **One-to-one**

- Each car has exactly one engine.
- Each engine belongs to exactly one car.



- **One-to-many**

- Each book has many pages.
- Each page belongs to exactly one book.

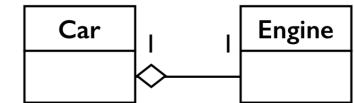


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Association Types

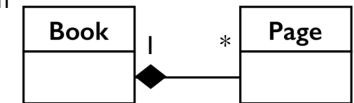
- **Aggregation:** "is part of"

- symbolized by a clear white diamond



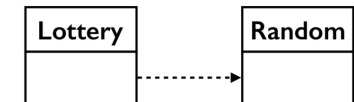
- **Composition:** "part can't exist on its own"

- stronger version of aggregation
- the parts live and die with the whole
- symbolized by a black diamond



- **Dependency:** "uses temporarily"

- symbolized by dotted line
- often is an implementation detail, not an intrinsic part of the object's state

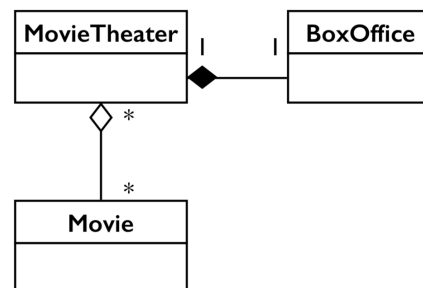


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Example: Aggregation/Composition

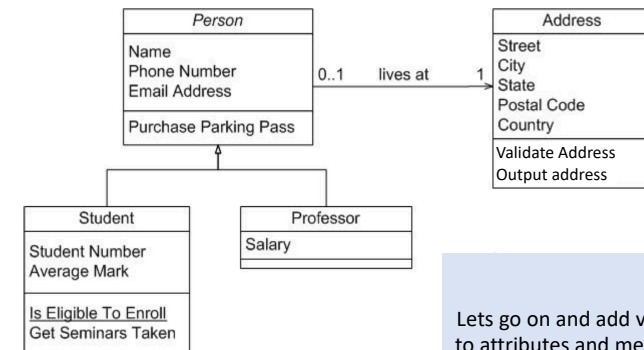
- If the movie theater goes away

- so does the box office: **composition**
- but movies may still exist: **aggregation**



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Exercise: Persons

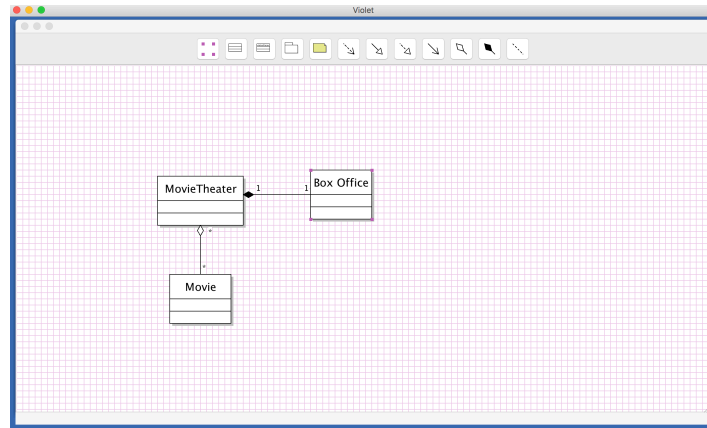


Lets go on and add visibility to attributes and methods...

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Tools for creating UML Diagrams

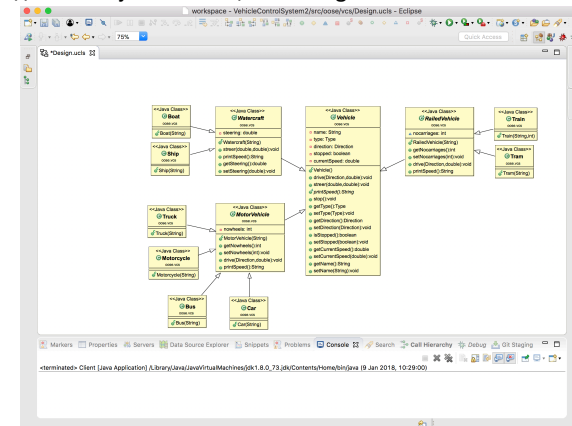
- Violet (free) <http://horstmann.com/violet/>



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Tools for creating UML Diagrams

- ObjectAid UML Explorer (free) -Works as eclipse plugin
- <http://www.objectaid.com/class-diagram>



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What Class Diagrams are Great for

- Discovering **related** data and attributes
- Getting a quick picture of the **important entities** in a system
- Seeing whether you have too **few/many classes**
- Seeing whether the **relationships between objects** are too complex, too many in number, simple enough, etc.
- Spotting **dependencies** between one class/object and another

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What Class Diagrams are **NOT** Great for

- Discovering algorithmic (not data-driven) behavior
- Finding the flow of steps for objects to solve a given problem
- Understanding the app's overall control flow (event-driven? web-based? sequential? etc.)

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Summary

- A design specifies the structure of how a software system will be written and function.
- UML is a language for describing various aspects of software designs.
- UML class diagrams present a static view of the system, displaying classes and relationships between them.

