

## UNIT-I

### INTRODUCTION

#### The Structure of Complex systems:

##### **Examples of Complex Systems**

**The Structure of a Personal Computer** A personal computer is a device of moderate complexity. Most of them are composed of the same major elements: a central processing unit (CPU), a monitor, a keyboard, and some sort of secondary storage device, usually either a floppy disk or a hard disk drive. We may take any one of these parts and further decompose

**The Structure of Plants and Animals** In botany, scientists seek to understand the similarities and differences among plants through a study of their morphology, that is, their form and structure. Plants are complex multicellular organisms, and from the cooperative activity of various plant organ systems arise such complex behaviors as photosynthesis and transpiration. Plants consist of three major structures (roots, stems, and leaves), and each of these has its own structure. For example, roots encompass branch roots, root hairs, the root apex, and the root cap. Similarly, a cross-section of a leaf reveals its epidermis, mesophyll, and vascular tissue. Each of these structures is further composed of a collection of cells, and inside each cell we find yet another level of complexity, encompassing such elements as chloroplasts, a nucleus, and so on. As with the structure of a computer, the parts of a plant form a hierarchy, and each level of this hierarchy embodies its own complexity.

**The Structure of Matter** The study of fields as diverse as astronomy and nuclear physics provides us with many other examples of incredibly complex systems. Spanning these two disciplines, we find yet another structural hierarchy. Astronomers study galaxies that are arranged in clusters, and stars, planets, and various debris are the constituents of galaxies. Likewise, nuclear physicists are concerned with a structural hierarchy, but one on an entirely different scale. Atoms are made up of electrons, protons, and neutrons; electrons appear to be elementary particles, but protons, neutrons, and other particles are formed from more basic components called *quarks*.

**The Structure of Social Institutions** As a final example of complex systems, we turn to the structure of social institutions. Groups of people join together to accomplish tasks that cannot be done by individuals. Some organizations are transitory, and some endure beyond many lifetimes. As organizations grow larger, we see a distinct hierarchy emerge. Multinational corporations contain companies, which in turn are made up of divisions, which in turn contain branches, which in turn encompass local offices, and so on. If the organization endures, the boundaries among these parts may change, and over time, a new, more stable hierarchy may emerge.

The relationships among the various parts of a large organization are just like those found among the components of a computer, or a plant, or even a galaxy. Specifically, the degree of interaction among employees within an individual office is greater than that between employees of different offices. A mail clerk usually does not interact with the chief executive officer of a company but does interact frequently with other people in the mail room. Here too, these different levels are unified by common mechanisms. The clerk and the executive are both paid by the same financial organization, and both share common facilities, such as the company's telephone system, to accomplish their tasks.

#### The Inherent Complexity of Software:

## **The Properties of Simple and Complex Software Systems**

A dying star on the verge of collapse, a child learning how to read, white blood cells rushing to attack a virus: these are but a few of the objects in the physical world that involve truly awesome complexity. Software may also involve elements of great complexity; however, the complexity we find here is of a fundamentally different kind. As Brooks points out, "Einstein argued that there must be simplified explanations of nature, because God is not capricious or arbitrary. No such faith comforts the software engineer. Much of the complexity that he must master is arbitrary complexity. We do realize that some software systems are not complex. These are the largely forgettable applications that are specified, constructed, maintained, and used by the same person, usually the amateur programmer or the professional developer working in isolation. This is not to say that all such systems are crude and inelegant, nor do we mean to belittle their creators. Such systems tend to have a very limited purpose and a very short life span. We can afford to throw them away and replace them with entirely new software rather than attempt to reuse them, repair them, or extend their functionality. Such applications are generally more tedious than difficult to develop; consequently, learning how to design them does not interest us.

### **Why Software Is Inherently Complex**

As Brooks suggests, "The complexity of software is an essential property, not an accidental one". We observe that this inherent complexity derives from four elements: the complexity of the problem domain, the difficulty of managing the developmental process, the flexibility possible through software, and the problems of characterizing the behavior of discrete systems.

**The Complexity of the Problem Domain** The problems we try to solve in software often involve elements of inescapable complexity, in which we find a myriad of competing perhaps even contradictory, requirements. Consider the requirements for the electronic system of a multi-engine aircraft, a cellular phone switching system, or an autonomous robot. The raw functionality of such systems is difficult enough to comprehend, but now add all of the (often implicit) nonfunctional requirements such as usability, performance, cost, survivability, and reliability. This unrestrained external complexity is what causes the arbitrary complexity about which Brooks writes.

This external complexity usually springs from the "impedance mismatch" that exists between the users of a system and its developers: users generally find it very hard to give precise expression to their needs in a form that developers can understand. In extreme cases, users may have only vague ideas of what they want in a software system. This is not so much the fault of either the users or the developers of a system; rather, it occurs because each group generally lacks expertise in the domain of the other. Users and developers have different perspectives on the nature of the problem and make different assumptions regarding the nature of the solution. Actually, even if users had perfect knowledge of their needs, we currently have few instruments for precisely capturing these requirements. The common way of expressing requirements today is with large volumes of text, occasionally accompanied by a few drawings. Such documents are difficult to comprehend, are open to varying interpretations, and too often contain elements that are designs rather than essential requirements.

**The Difficulty of Managing the Development Process** The fundamental task of the software development team is to engineer the illusion of simplicity - to shield users from this vast and often arbitrary external complexity. Certainly, size is no great virtue in a software system. We strive to write less code by inventing clever and powerful mechanisms that give us this illusion of simplicity, as well as by reusing frame-works of existing designs and code. However, the sheer volume of a system's requirements is sometimes inescapable and forces us either to write a large amount of new software or to reuse existing software in novel ways.

Just two decades ago, assembly language programs of only a few thousand lines of code stressed the limits of our software engineering abilities. Today, it is not unusual to find delivered systems whose size is measured in hundreds of thousands, or even millions of lines of code (and all of that in a high-order programming language, as well). No one person can ever understand such a system completely. Even if we decompose our implementation in meaningful ways, we still end up with hundreds and sometimes thousands of separate modules. This amount of work demands that we use a team of developers, and ideally we use as small a team as possible. However, no matter what its size, there are always significant challenges associated with team development. More developers means more complex communication and hence more difficult coordination, particularly if the team is geographically dispersed, as is often the case in very large projects. With a team of developers, the key management challenge is always to maintain a unity and integrity of design.

**The Flexibility Possible Through Software** A home-building company generally does not operate its own tree farm from which to harvest trees for lumber; it is highly unusual for a construction firm to build an on-site steel mill to forge custom girders for a new building. Yet in the software industry such practice is common. Software offers the ultimate flexibility, so it is possible for a developer to express almost any kind of abstraction. This flexibility turns out to be an incredibly seductive property, however, because it also forces the developer to craft virtually all the primitive building blocks upon which these higher-level abstractions stand. While the construction industry has uniform building codes and standards for the quality of raw materials, few such standards exist in the software industry. As a result, software development remains a labor-intensive business.

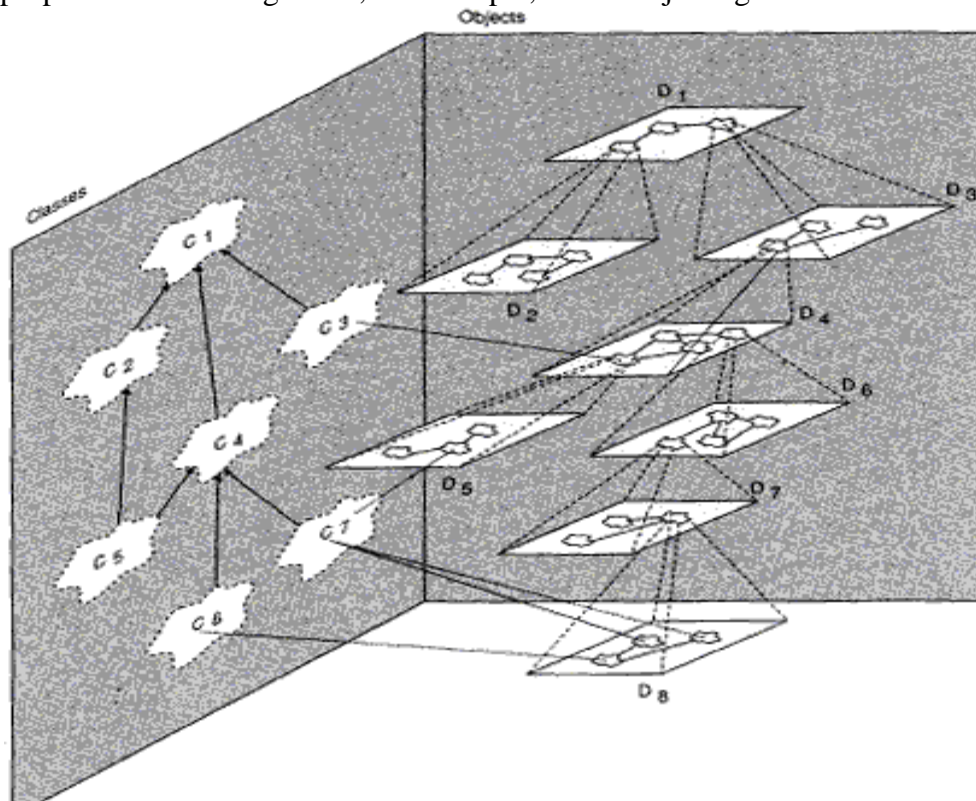
**The Problems of Characterizing the Behavior of Discrete Systems** If we toss a ball into the air, we can reliably predict its path because we know that under normal conditions, certain laws of physics apply. We would be very surprised if just because we threw the ball a little harder, halfway through its flight it suddenly stopped and shot straight up into the air<sup>2</sup> in a not-quite-debugged software simulation of this ball's motion, exactly that kind of behavior can easily occur.

### **The Five Attributes of a Complex System**

1. "Frequently, complexity takes the form of a hierarchy, whereby a complex system is composed of interrelated subsystems that have in turn their own subsystems, and so on, until some lowest level of elementary components is reached
2. The choice of what components in a system are primitive is relatively arbitrary and is largely up to the discretion of the observer of the system.
3. "Intracomponent linkages are generally stronger than intercommoning linkages. This fact has the effect of separating the high-frequency dynamics of the components - involving the internal structure of the components - from the low-frequency dynamics - involving interaction among components
4. "Hierarchic systems are usually composed of only a few different kinds of subsystems in various combinations and arrangements
5. "A complex system that works is invariably found to have evolved from a simple system that worked.... A complex system designed from scratch never works and cannot be patched up to make it work. You have to start over, beginning with a working simple system "

### **Organized and Disorganized Complexity**

**The Canonical Form of a Complex System** The discovery of common abstractions and mechanisms greatly facilitates our understanding of complex systems. For example, with just a few minutes of orientation, an experienced pilot can step into a multiengine jet aircraft he or she has never flown before and safely fly the vehicle. Having recognized the properties common to all such aircraft, such as the functioning of the rudder, ailerons, and throttle, the pilot primarily needs to learn what properties are unique to that particular aircraft. If the pilot already knows how to fly a given aircraft, it is far easier to know how to fly a similar one. This example suggests; that we have been using the term *hierarchy* in a rather loose fashion. Most interesting systems do not embody a single hierarchy; instead, we find that many different hierarchies are usually present within the same complex system. For example, an aircraft may be studied by decomposing it into its propulsion system, flight-control system, and so on. This decomposition represents a structural, or "part of" hierarchy. Alternately, we can cut across the system in an entirely orthogonal way. For example, a turbofan engine is a specific kind of jet engine, and a Pratt and Whitney TF30 is a specific kind of turbofan engine. Stated another way, a jet engine represents a generalization of the properties common to every kind of jet engine; a turbofan engine is simply a specialized kind of jet engine, with properties that distinguish it, for example, from ramjet engines.



**Figure 1-1**  
**The Canonical Form of a Complex System**

Combining the concept of the class and object structure together with the five attributes of a complex system, we find that virtually all complex systems take on the same (canonical) form, as we show in Figure 1-1. Here we see the two orthogonal hierarchies of the system: its class structure and its object structure. Each hierarchy is layered, with the more abstract classes and objects built upon more primitive ones. What class or object is chosen as primitive is relative to the problem at hand, Especially among the parts of the object

structure, there are close collaborations among objects at the same level of abstraction. Looking inside any given level reveals yet another level of complexity. Notice also that the class structure and the object structure are not completely independent; rather, each object in the object structure represents a specific instance of some class. As the figure suggests, there are usually many more objects than classes of objects within a complex system. Thus, by showing the "part of" as well as the "is a" hierarchy, we explicitly expose the redundancy of the system under consideration. If we did not reveal a system's class structure, we would have to duplicate our knowledge about the properties of each individual part. With the inclusion of the class structure, we capture these common properties in one place.

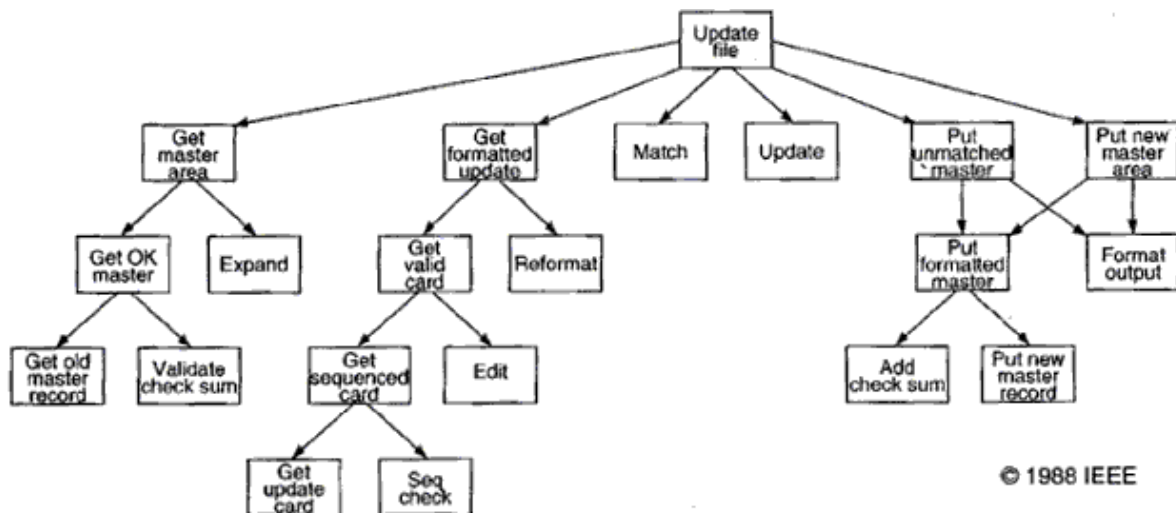
**The Limitations of the Human Capacity for Dealing with Complexity** If we know what the design of complex software systems should be like, then why do we still have serious problems in successfully developing them? As we discuss in the next chapter, this concept of the organized complexity of software (whose guiding principles we call the *object model*) is relatively new. However, there is yet another factor that dominates: the fundamental limitations of the human capacity for dealing with complexity. As we first begin to analyze a complex software system, we find many parts that must interact in a multitude of intricate ways, with little perceptible commonality among either the parts or their interactions: this is an example of disorganized complexity. As we work to bring organization to this complexity through the process of design, we must think about many things at once.

## **Bringing Order to Chaos**

### **The Role of Decomposition**

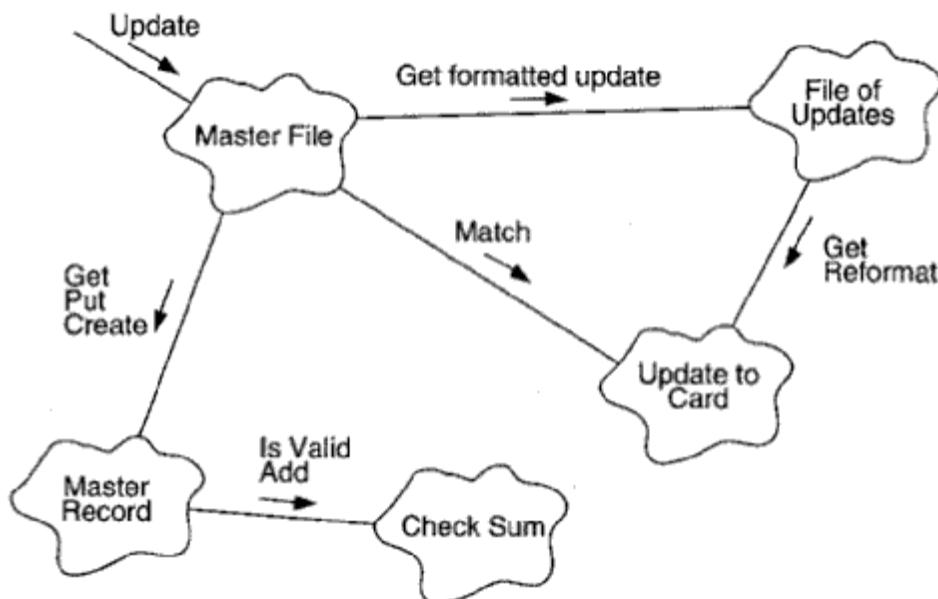
As Dijkstra suggests, "The technique of mastering complexity has been known since ancient times: *divide et impera* (divide and rule)" [16]. When designing a complex software system, it is essential to decompose it into smaller and smaller parts, each of which we may then refine independently. In this manner, we satisfy the very real constraint that exists upon the channel capacity of human cognition: to understand any given level of a system, we need only comprehend a few parts (rather than all parts) at once. Indeed, as Parnas observes, intelligent decomposition directly addresses the inherent complexity of software by forcing a division of a system's state space

**Algorithmic Decomposition** Most of us have been formally trained in the dogma of topdown structured design, and so we approach decomposition as a simple matter of algorithmic decomposition, wherein each module in the system denotes a major step in some overall process. Figure 1-2 is an example of one of the products of structured design, a structure chart that shows the relationships among various functional elements of the solution. This particular structure chart illustrates part of the design of a program that updates the content of a master file. It was automatically generated from a data flow diagram by an expert system tool that embodies the rules of structured design



**Figure 1-2**  
**Algorithmic Decomposition**

**Object-Oriented Decomposition** We suggest that there is an alternate decomposition possible for the same problem. In Figure 1-3, we have decomposed the system according to the key abstractions in the problem domain. Rather than decomposing the problem into steps such as *Get formatted update* and *Add check sum*, we have identified objects such as *Master File* and *Check Sum*, which derive directly from the vocabulary of the problem domain. Although both designs solve the same problem, they do so in quite different ways. In this second decomposition, we view the world as a set of autonomous agents that collaborate to perform some higher level behavior. *Get formatted update* thus does not exist as an independent algorithm; rather, it is an operation associated with the object *File of Updates*. Calling this operation creates another object, *Update to Card*. In this manner, each object in our solution embodies its own unique behavior, and each one models some object in the real world. From this perspective, an object is simply a tangible entity which exhibits some welldefined behavior. Objects do things, and we ask them to perform what they do by sending them messages. Because our decomposition is based upon objects and not algorithms, we call this an *object-oriented* decomposition



**Figure 1-3**

## **Object-Oriented Decomposition**

**Algorithmic versus Object-Oriented Decomposition** Which is the right way to decompose a complex system - by algorithms or by objects? Actually, this is a trick question, because the right answer is that both views are important: the algorithmic view highlights the ordering of events, and the object-oriented view emphasizes the agents that either cause action or are the subjects upon which these operations act. However, the fact remains that we cannot construct a complex system in both ways simultaneously, for they are completely orthogonal views<sup>4</sup>. We must start decomposing a system either by algorithms or by objects, and then use the resulting structure as the framework for expressing the other perspective.

## **Designing Complex Systems**

### **Engineering as a Science and an Art**

The practice of every engineering discipline - be it civil, mechanical, chemical, electrical, or software engineering - involves elements of both science and art. As Petroski eloquently states, "The conception of a design for a new structure can involve as much a leap of the imagination and as much a synthesis of experience and knowledge as any artist is required to bring to his canvas or paper. And once that design is articulated by the engineer as artist, it must be analyzed by the engineer as scientist in as rigorous an application of the scientific method as any scientist must make" [38]. Similarly, Dijkstra observes that "the programming challenge is a large-scale exercise in applied abstraction and thus requires the abilities of the formal mathematician blended with the attitude of the competent engineer

### **The Meaning of Design**

In every engineering discipline, design encompasses the disciplined approach we use to invent a solution for some problem, thus providing a path from requirements to implementation. In the context of software engineering, Mostow suggests that the purpose of design is to construct a system that:

- "Satisfies a given (perhaps informal) functional specification
- Conforms to limitations of the target medium
- Meets implicit or explicit requirements on performance and resource usage
- Satisfies implicit or explicit design criteria on the form of the artifact
- Satisfies restrictions on the design process itself, such as its length or cost, or the tools available for doing the design

### **The Elements of Software Design Methods**

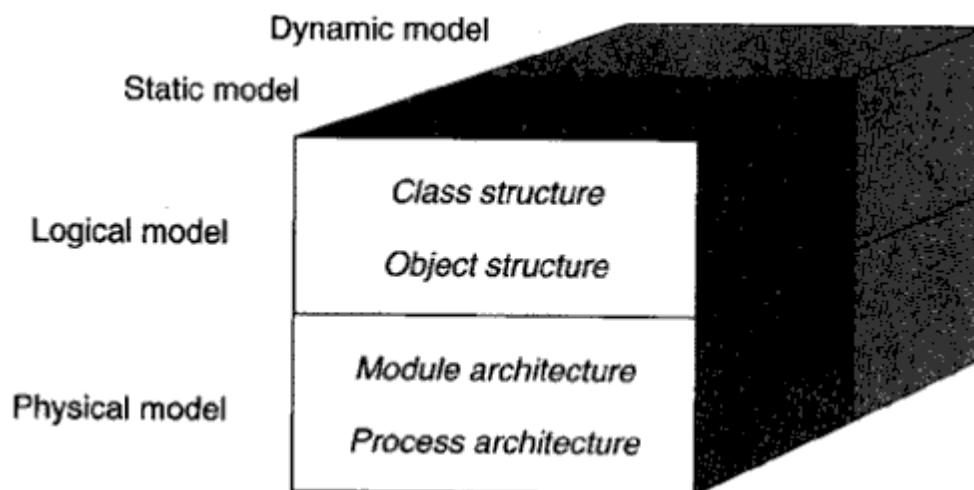
Clearly, there is no magic, no "silver bullet" that: can unfailingly lead the software engineer down the path from requirements to the implementation of a complex software system. In fact, the design of complex software systems does not lend itself at all to cookbook approaches. Rather, as noted earlier in the fifth attribute of complex systems, the design of such systems involves an incremental and iterative process. Still, sound design methods do bring some much-needed discipline to the development process. The software engineering community has evolved dozens of, different design methods, which we can loosely classify into three categories (see sidebar). Despite their differences, all of these methods have elements in common. Specifically, each method includes the following:

- Notation The language for expressing each model

- **Process** The activities leading to the orderly construction of the system's models
- **Tools** The artifacts that eliminate the tedium of model building and enforce rules about the models themselves, so that errors and inconsistencies can be exposed

### The Models of Object-Oriented Development

Is there a "best" design method? No, there is no absolute answer to this question, which is actually just a veiled way of asking the earlier question: What is the best way to decompose a complex system? To reiterate, we have found great value in building models that are focused up on the "things" we find, in the problem space, forming what we refer to as an *object-oriented decomposition*. Object-oriented analysis and design is the method that leads us to an object-oriented decomposition. By applying object-oriented design, we create software that is resilient to change and written with economy of expression. We achieve a greater level of confidence in the correctness of our software through an intelligent separation of its state space. Ultimately, we reduce the risks that are inherent in developing complex software systems



**Figure 1-4**  
The Models of Object-Oriented Development

## Evolution of the Object Model

### Trends in Software Engineering

**The Generations of Programming Languages** As we look back upon the relatively brief yet colorful history of software engineering, we cannot help but notice two sweeping trends:

- The shift in focus from programming-in-the-small to programming-in-the-large
- The evolution of high-order programming languages

Most new industrial-strength software systems are larger and more complex than their predecessors were even just a few years ago. This growth in complexity has prompted a significant amount of useful applied research in software engineering, particularly with regard to decomposition, abstraction, and hierarchy. The development of more expressive programming languages has complemented these advances. The trend has been a move away from languages that tell the computer what to do (imperative languages) toward languages that describe the key abstractions in the problem domain (declarative languages). Wegner has



classified some of the more popular high-order programming languages in generations arranged according to the language features they first introduced:

- First-Generation Languages (1954-1958)

FORTRANI Mathematical expressions

ALGOL 58 Mathematical expressions

Flowmatic Mathematical expressions

IPL V Mathematical expressions

- Second-Generation Languages (1959~1961)

FORTRANII Subroutines, separate compilation

ALGOL 60 Block structure, data types

COBOL Data description, file handling

Lisp List processing, pointers, garbage collection

- Third-Generation Languages (1962-1970)

PL/1 FORTRAN + ALGOL + COBOL

ALGOL 68 Rigorous successor to ALGOL 60

Pascal Simple successor to ALGOL 60

Simula Classes, data abstraction

- The Generation Gap (1970-1980)

Many different languages were invented, but few endured

## **Foundations of the Object Model**

Structured design methods evolved to guide developers who were trying to build complex systems using algorithms as their fundamental building blocks. Similarly, object-oriented design methods have evolved to help developers exploit the expressive power of object-based and object-oriented programming languages, using the class and object as basic building blocks.

### **OOP, OOD, and OOA**

Because the object model derives from so many- disparate sources, it has unfortunately been accompanied by a muddle of terminology. A Smalltalk programmer uses *methods*, a C++ programmer uses *virtual member functions*, and a CLOS programmer uses *generic functions*. An Object Pascal programmer talks of a *type coercion*; an Ada programmer calls the same thing a *type conversion*. To minimize the confusion, let's define what is object-oriented and what is not. The glossary provides a summary of all the terms described here, plus many others.

## **Object-Oriented Programming**

Object-oriented programming is a method of implementation in which programs are organized as cooperative collections of objects, each of which represents an instance of some class, and whose classes are all members of a hierarchy of classes united via inheritance relationships.

### **Object-Oriented Design**

The emphasis in programming methods is primarily on the proper and effective use of particular language mechanisms. By contrast, design methods emphasize the proper and effective structuring of a complex system. What then is object-oriented design? We suggest

that Object-oriented design is a method of design encompassing the process of object-oriented decomposition and a notation for depicting both logical and physical as well as static and dynamic models of the system under design.

## **Object-Oriented Analysis**

Object-oriented analysis is a method of analysis that examines requirements from the perspective of the classes and objects found in the vocabulary of the problem domain.

## **Elements of the Object Model**

There are four major elements of this model:

- Abstraction
- Encapsulation
- Modularity
- Hierarchy

There are three minor elements of the object model:

- Typing
- Concurrency
- Persistence

### **Abstraction**

*An abstraction denotes the essential characteristics of an object that distinguish it from all other kinds of objects and thus provide crisply defined conceptual boundaries, relative to the perspective of the viewer.*

### **Encapsulation**

Encapsulation hides the details of the implementation of an object.

*Encapsulation is the process of compartmentalizing the elements of an abstraction that constitute its structure and behavior; encapsulation serves to separate the contractual interface of an abstraction and its implementation*

### **Modularity**

*Modularity is the property of a system that has been decomposed into a set of cohesive and loosely coupled modules.*

Modularity packages abstractions into discrete units.

### **Hierarchy**

**The Meaning of Hierarchy** Abstraction is a good thing, but in all except the most trivial applications, we may find many more different abstractions than we can comprehend at one time. Encapsulation helps manage this complexity by hiding the inside view of our abstractions. Modularity helps also, by giving us a way to cluster logically related abstractions. Still, this is not enough. A set of abstractions often forms a hierarchy, and by identifying these hierarchies in our design, we greatly simplify our understanding of the problem. *Hierarchy is a ranking or ordering of abstractions.*

### **Typing**

**Meaning of Typing** The concept of a *type* derives primarily from the theories of abstract data types. As Deutsch suggests, "A type is a precise characterization of structural or behavioural properties which a collection of entities all share" [68]. For our purposes, we will use the terms *type* and *class* interchangeably<sup>9</sup>. Although the concepts of a *type* and a *class* are similar, we include typing as a separate element of the object model because the concept of a *type* places a very different emphasis upon the meaning of abstraction.

*Typing is the enforcement Of the class of an object, such, that objects of different types may not be interchanged, or at the most, they may be interchanged only in very restricted ways.*

## Concurrency

**The Meaning of Concurrency** For certain kinds of problems, an automated system may have to handle many different events simultaneously. Other problems may involve so much computation that they exceed the capacity of any single processor. In each of these cases, it is natural to consider using a distributed set of computers for the target implementation or to use processors capable of multitasking. A single process - also known as a *thread of control* is the root from which independent dynamic action occurs within a system. Every program has at least one thread of control, but a system involving concurrency may have many such threads: some that are transitory, and others that last the entire lifetime of the system's execution. Systems executing across multiple CPUs allow for truly concurrent threads of control, whereas systems running on a single CPU can only achieve the illusion of concurrent threads of control, usually by means of some time-slicing algorithm.

*Concurrency is the property that distinguishes an active object from one that is not active.*

## Persistence

An object in software takes up some amount of space and exists for a particular amount of time. Atkinson *et al.* suggest that there is a continuum of object existence, ranging from transitory objects that arise within the evaluation of an expression, to objects in a database that outlive the execution of a single program. This spectrum of object persistence encompasses the following:

- "Transient results in expression evaluation
- Local variables in procedure activations
- Own variables [as in ALGOL 60], global variables, and heap items whose extent is different from their scope
- Data that exists between executions of a program
- Data that exists between various versions of a program
- Data that outlives the program

*Persistence is the property of an object through which its existence transcends time (i.e. the object continues to exist after its creator ceases to exist) and/or space (i. e. the objects location moves from the address space in which it was created).*

## Applying the Object Model

### Benefits of the Object Model

As we have shown, the object model is fundamentally different from the models embraced by the more traditional methods of structured analysis, structured design, and structured programming. This does not mean that the object model abandons all of the sound principles and experiences of these older methods. Rather, it introduces several novel elements that

build upon these earlier models. Thus, the object model offers a number of significant benefits that other models simply do not provide. Most importantly, the use of the object model leads us to construct systems that embody the five attributes of well-structured complex systems. In our experience, there are five other practical benefits to be derived from the application of the object model.

### **Applications of the Object Model**

The object model has proven applicable to a wide variety of problem domains. many of the domains for which systems exist that may properly be called object-oriented. The Bibliography provides an extensive list of references to these and other applications. Object-oriented analysis and design may be the only method we have today that can be employed to attack the complexity inherent in very large systems. In all fairness, however, the use of object-oriented development may be ill-advised for some domains, not for any technical reasons, but for nontechnical ones, such as the absence of a suitably trained staff or a good development environment

### **Open Issues**

To effectively apply the elements of the object model, we must next address several open issues:

- What exactly are classes and objects?
- How does one properly identify the classes and objects that are relevant to a particular application?
- What is a suitable notation for expressing the design of an object-oriented system?
- What process can lead us to a well-structured object-oriented system?
- What are the management implications of using object-oriented design?