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4.2 Coupling



Coupling

- **Degree of interaction between modules**
- **Five categories or levels of coupling**

- | | | |
|----|------------------|--------|
| 5. | Data coupling | (Good) |
| 4. | Stamp coupling | |
| 3. | Control coupling | |
| 2. | Common coupling | |
| 1. | Content coupling | (Bad) |



1. Content Coupling

- **Two modules are content coupled if one directly references contents of the other.**



Why Is Content Coupling So Bad?

```
public class Product {  
    public float unitPrice;  
    .....  
}
```

```
public class Order {  
    private Product myProduct=new Product();  
    public void setItem() {  
        myProduct.unitPrice = 100.0;  
    }  
}
```

Why Is Content Coupling So Bad?

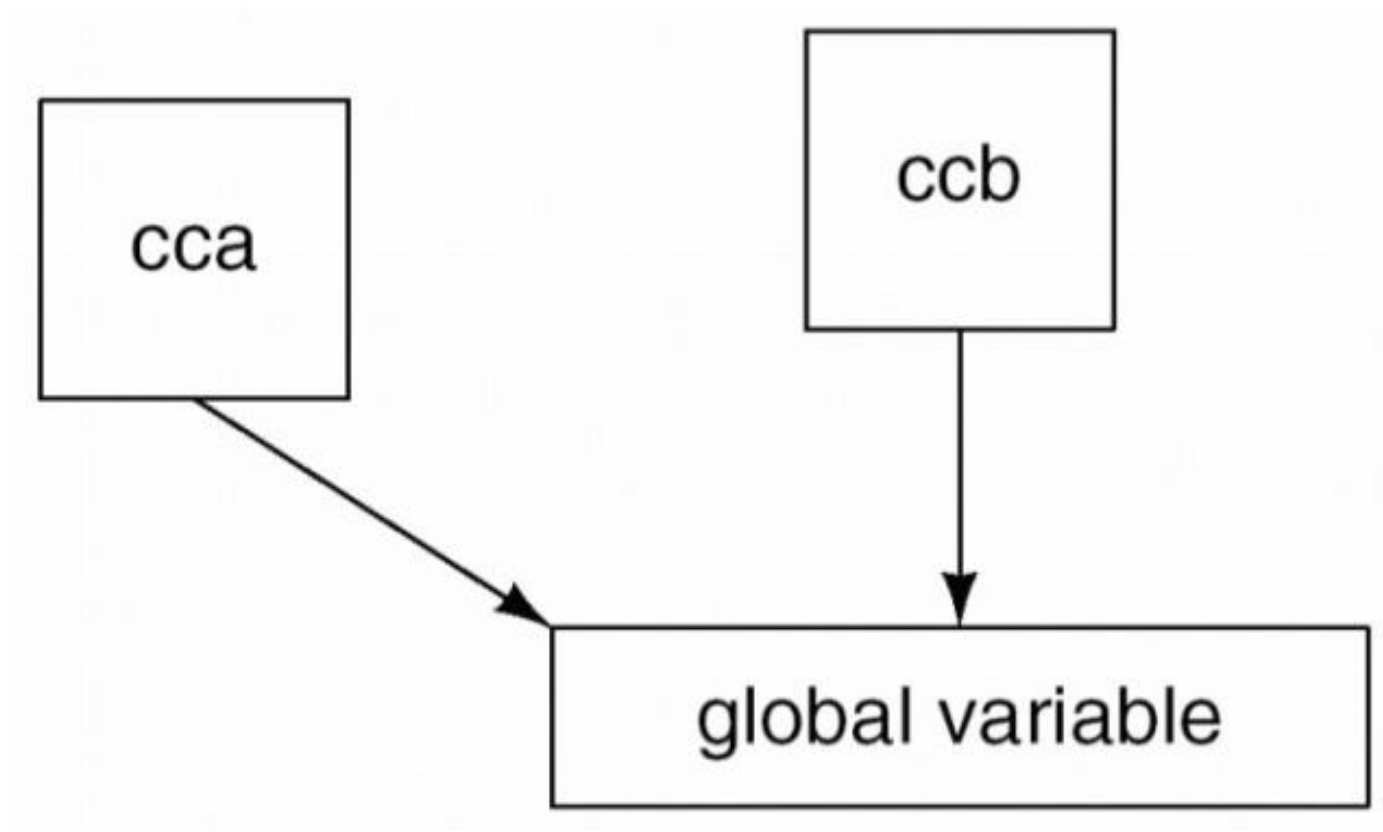


```
public class Product {  
    private float unitPrice;  
    public void setUnitPrice(float pUnitPrice){ ... }  
}
```

```
public class Order {  
    private Product myProduct=new Product();  
    public void setItem() {  
        myProduct.setUnitPrice (100.0);  
    }  
}
```

2. Common Coupling

- **Two modules are common coupled if they have write access to global data.**

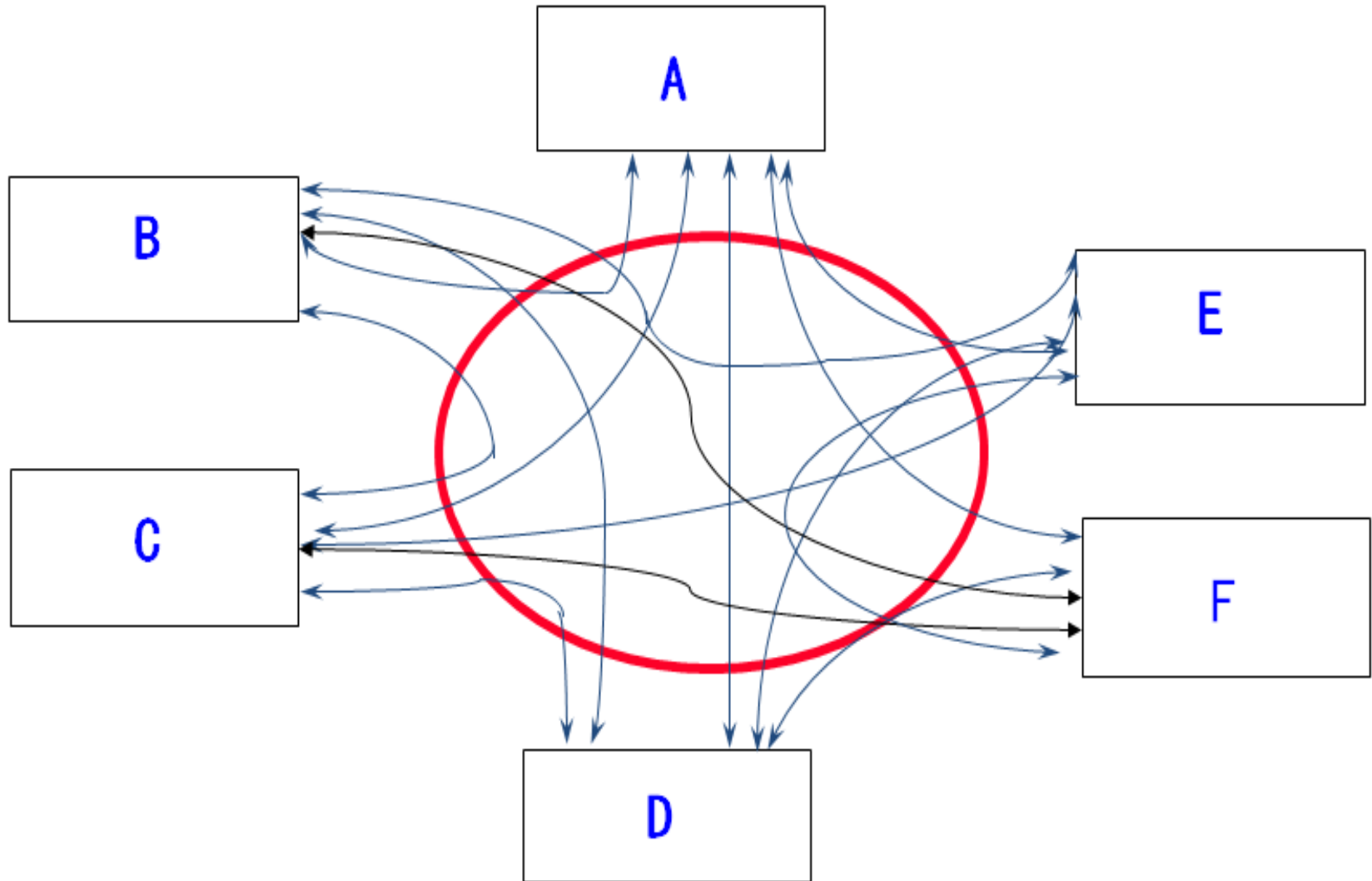


Why Is Common Coupling So Bad?

- **Contradicts the spirit of structured programming**
 - **The resulting code is virtually unreadable**

```
while (global variable == 0)
{
    if (argument xyz > 25)
        module 3 ();
    else
        module 4 ();
}
```


Why Is Common Coupling So Bad?





3. Control Coupling

- **Two modules are control coupled if one passes an element of control to the other.**
- **Example**
 - *Control-switch passed as argument*

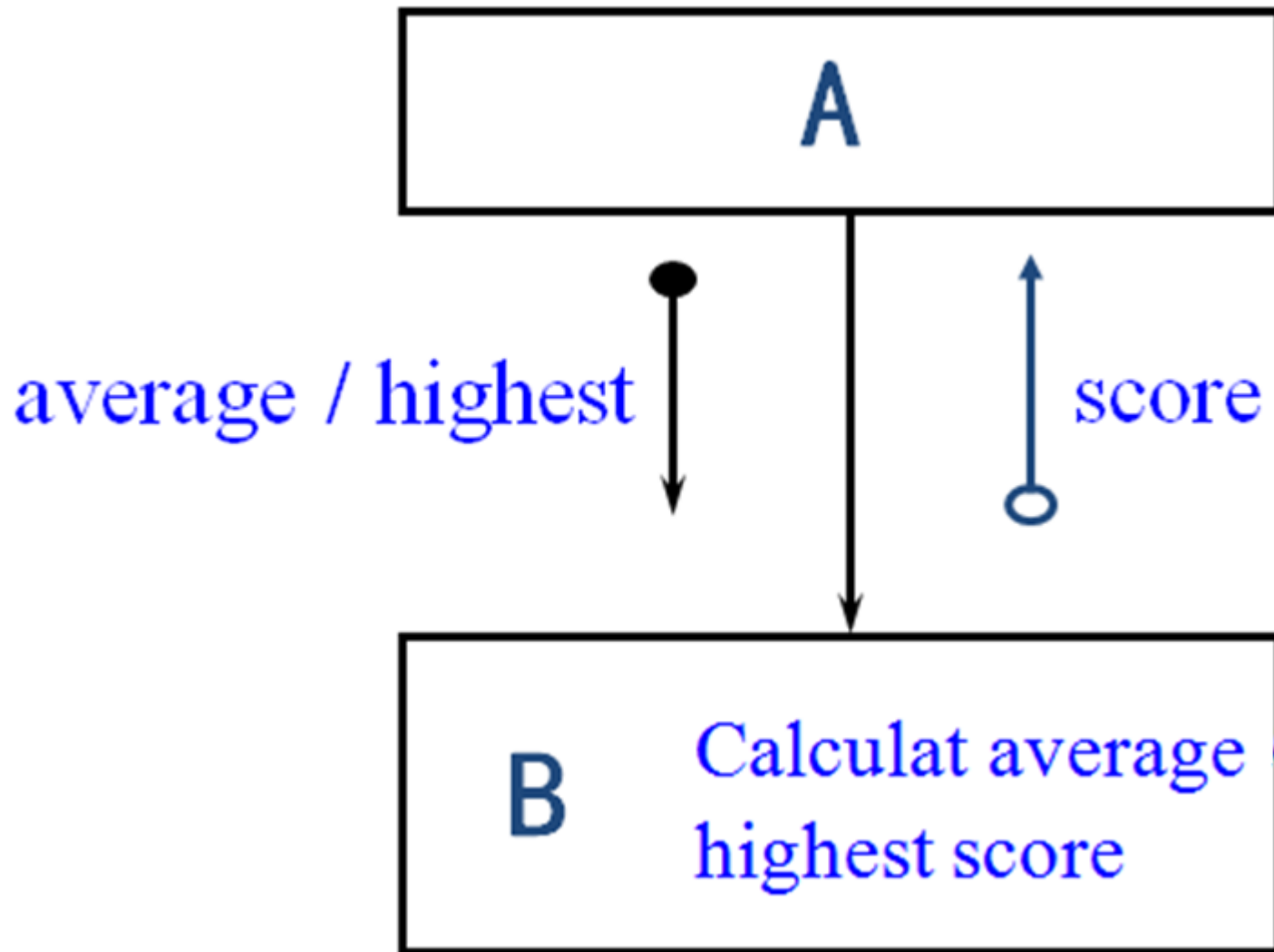


Why Is Control Coupling So Bad?

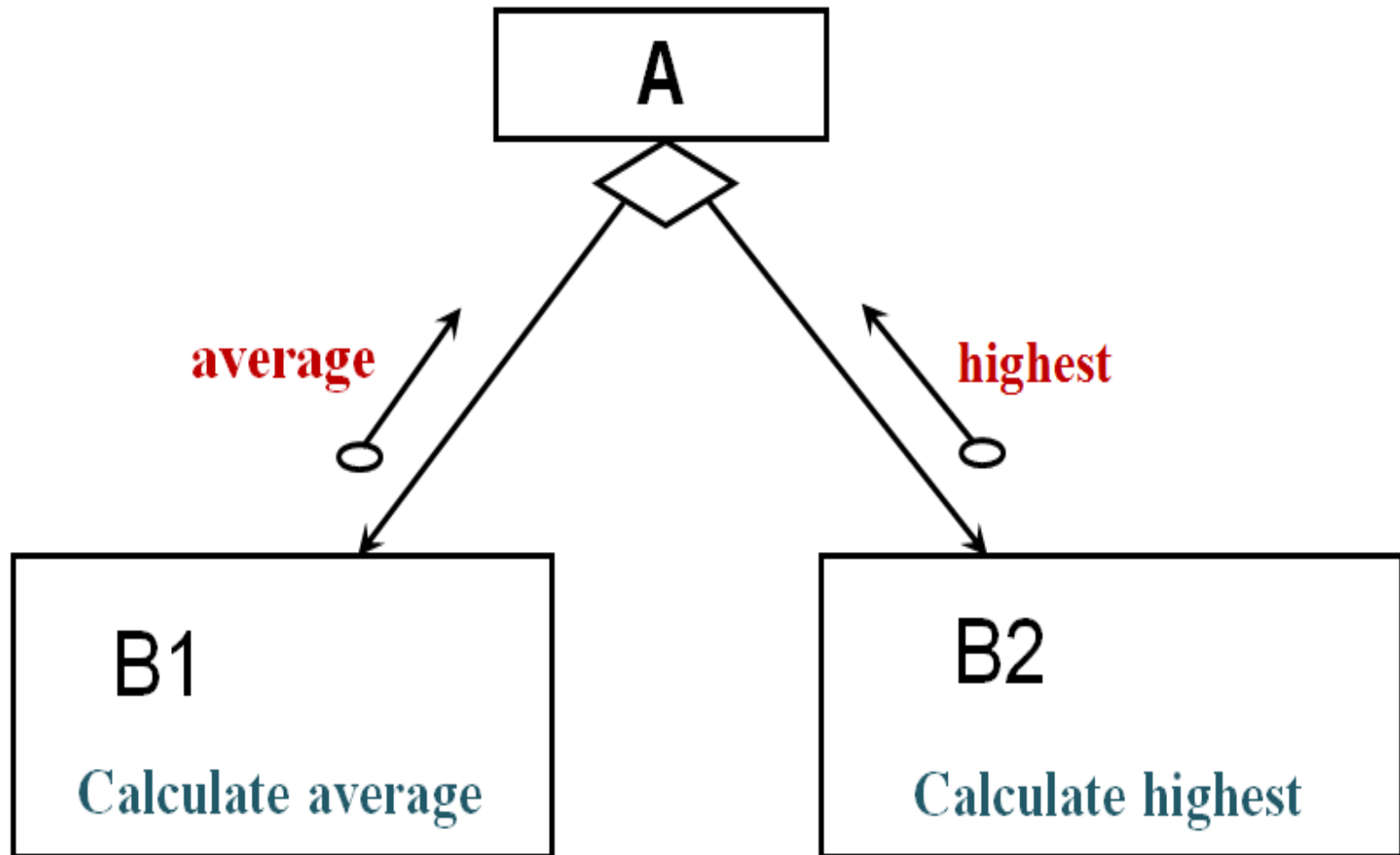
- **Modules are not independent; module *b* (the called module) must know internal structure and logic of module *a* (the calling module).**
 - **Affects reusability**
- **Associated with modules of logical cohesion**



3. Control Coupling



3. Control Coupling





4. Stamp Coupling

- **Some languages allow only simple variables as parameters**
 - *quantity*
 - *studentName*
 - *unitPrice*
- **Many languages also support passing of data structures**
 - *Record*
 - *ResultSet*
 - *HashMap*



4. Stamp Coupling

- **Two modules are stamp coupled if a data structure is passed as a parameter, but the called module operates on some but not all of the individual components of the data structure.**



Why Is Stamp Coupling So Bad?

```
function printFirstStudent(Student[ ]){  
    .....  
    printf (“The first student is ” + Student[0]);  
    .....  
}
```




Why Is Stamp Coupling So Bad?

- **It is not clear, without reading the entire module, which fields of a record are accessed or changed.**
- **Difficult to understand**
- **Unlikely to be reusable**



Why Is Stamp Coupling So Bad?

- **More data than necessary is passed**
 - *Uncontrolled data access can lead to computer crime*
- **There is nothing wrong with passing a data structure as a parameter, provided all the components of the data structure are accessed and/or changed.**
 - *invert matrix (original matrix, inverted matrix);*
 - *print inventory record (warehouse record);*



5. Data Coupling

- **Two modules are data coupled if all parameters are homogeneous data items. That is, every argument is either a simple argument, or data structures all of whose elements are used by called module.**
- **Examples**
 - *display time of arrival (FlightNo);*
 - *computeTotalPrice(UnitPrice, Qty);*
 - *get job with highest priority (JobQueue);*



Why Is Data Coupling So Good?

- **The difficulties of content, common, control, and stamp coupling are not present.**
- **Maintenance is easier.**



***Good* design has**

high cohesion

&

low coupling