

Cohension and Coupling

Modules



What is a module?

lexically contiguous sequence of program statements, bounded by boundary elements, with aggregate identifier



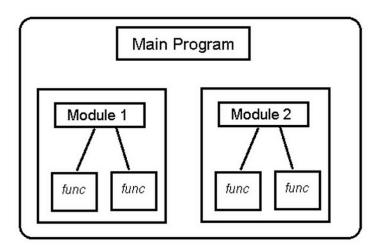
Examples

procedures & functions in classical PLs objects & methods within objects in OO PLs

Modular programming

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Modular programming is a software design technique that emphasizes separating the functionality of a program into independent, interchangeable **modules**, such that each contains everything necessary to execute only one aspect of the desired functionality. This means that if you are not writing the new Star Wars Movie script, and if you are developing software, you do not write the whole software script in one file like the Iliad. By dividing the whole concept into smaller parts, modules, you deal with them separately and construct the communication of these modules with each other while creating the whole.



Modularization

- The main purpose of **modularization** is to make the software project simpler and more manageable and scalable. Let's modulate the benefits:
- Your code will be easier to read.
- You will **test** your code easily.
- In fact, since we also categorize the responsibilities in modularization, you will be able to easily **access** a code snippet or function that you are looking for.
- **Reusability**. You will not need to write the same code again and again.
- If a function is problematic, then you will just **fix** that specific function. You do not need to visit all parts of the software which are using this function.
- It will be very easier to **refactor** your code. Besides, it will be easier to work together with **team** members. Each person can work on a different module, etc.

Coupling and cohesion

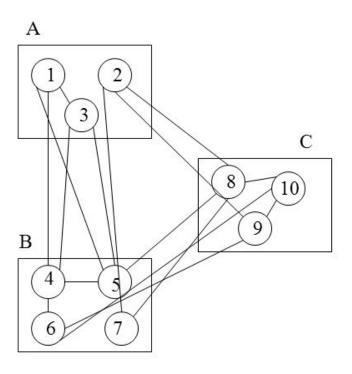
 Coupling and cohesion are two higher-level terms that we should consider when constructing the inter-module and intra-module structure in a software design. They give information about how easily your code can be changed or extended.

Coupling and cohesion

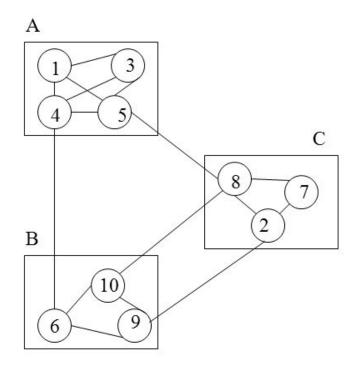
- Coupling the extent to which two components depend on each other for successful execution
 - Low coupling is good

- Cohesion the extent to which a component has a single purpose or function
 - High cohesion is good

Good vs. Bad Modules



Bad modularization: low cohesion, high coupling



Good modularization: high cohesion, low coupling

Good vs. Bad Modules

- Two designs functionally equivalent, but the 1st is
 - hard to understand
 - hard to locate faults
 - difficult to extend or enhance
 - cannot be reused in another product. Implication?
 - -> expensive to perform maintenance
- Good modules must be like the 2nd design
 - maximal relationships within modules (cohesion)
 - minimal relationships between modules (coupling)
 - this is the main contribution of structured design

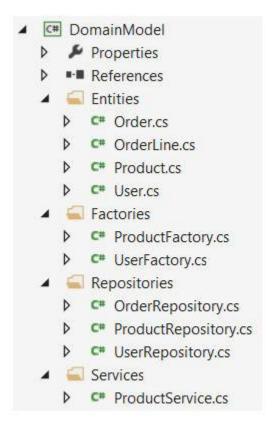
Modules interactions

- When a large software is decomposed into smaller modules, it's inevitable that these modules will interact with one another.
- If the boundaries of these modules have been poorly identified, then the modules will heavily depend and frequently interact with one another.
- In a poor design, it might also happen that classes and methods within a module perform diverse tasks and therefore don't seem to belong together.

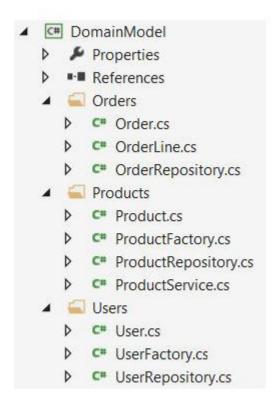
Cohesion and Coupling

- **Cohesion** is about how well elements within a module belong together and serve a common purpose.
- Coupling is about how much one module depends or interacts with other modules.
- Thus, cohesion is an intra-module concern whereas coupling cuts across modules.
- To manage the complexity of an application, a software designer must find the right balance of cohesion and coupling.
- This is relevant to object-oriented design, the design of APIs and microservices.

Could you explain cohesion and coupling with an example?



(a) Low cohesion, high coupling



(b) High cohesion, low coupling

A good organization of s/w project

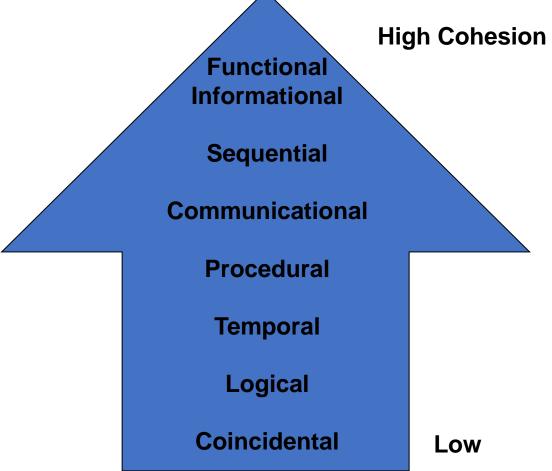
Low cohesion means the module is trying to do too many things.

High coupling means modules are tightly interconnected via many complex interfaces and information flows.

Code organization analyzed from the perspective of cohesion and coupling. Source: Khorikov 2015.

Parts of a module that collectively perform a single well-defined function is the

strongest type of cohesion.



Coincidental cohesion

Utility class is a class that defines a set of methods that perform common, often reused functions.

No conceptual relationship between elements. It is accidental and the worst form of cohesion. This one is very common in utility classes. For example, in the class below, there are unrelated methods together.

```
from abc import ABC, abstractmethod
class Utility(ABC):
    @abstractmethod
    def check currency(self):
        pass
    @abstractmethod
    def parse user entry(self):
        pass
    @abstractmethod
    def convert_list_to_string(self):
        pass
```

Coincidental Cohesion

- Def.
 - module performs multiple, completely unrelated actions
- Example
 - module prints next line, reverses the characters of the 2nd argument, adds 7 to 3rd argument
- How could this happen?
 - hard organizational rules about module size
- Why is this bad?
 - degrades maintainability & modules are not reusable
- Easy to fix. How?
 - break into separate modules each performing one task

Logical cohesion:

They are classes that are brought together by thinking that they are about the same concept, even though they are different in reality.

Better than coincidental, there is at least a low level of semantic relation.

All the methods in the below class are related to reading, but there is no semantic unity between them. Which object reads both the article and the database?

```
@abstractmethod
def read paper(self):
    pass
@abstractmethod
def read from database(self):
    pass
@abstractmethod
def read article(self):
    pass
@abstractmethod
def read exams(self):
```

Logical Cohesion

- Def.
 - module performs series of related actions, one of which is selected by calling module
- Why is this bad?
 - interface difficult to understand
 - code for more than one action may be intertwined
 - difficult to reuse

Temporal cohesion

The elements are related by their timing involved. In a module connected with temporal cohesion, all the tasks must be executed in the same period. For example, there may be a situation where a method trying to perform a calculation catches the exception thrown when it fails to perform the calculation for some reason, logs the situation, generates the necessary warnings, and continue to calculate in other ways.

```
class Calculation(ABC):
   @abstractmethod
    def final result(self):
        pass
    @abstractmethod
    def temperature failure(self):
        pass
   @abstractmethod
    def log temperature failure(self):
        pass
   @abstractmethod
    def throw exception temperature failure(self):
        pass
   @abstractmethod
    def warn user temperature failure(self):
        pass
   @abstractmethod
    def final result temperature failure case(self):
        pass
```

Temporal Cohesion

- Def.
 - module performs series of actions related in time
- Initialization example

open old db, new db, transaction db, print db, initialize sales district table, read first transaction record, read first old db record

- Why is this bad?
 - actions weakly related to one another, but strongly related to actions in other modules
 - code spread out -> not maintainable or reusable
- Initialization example fix
 - define these intializers in the proper modules & then have an initialization module call each

Procedural cohesion:

It is the functional separation of works related to a subject from top to bottom and bringing them all together in a class.

```
def read input(self):
    pass
@abstractmethod
def validate(self):
    pass
@abstractmethod
def convert units(self):
    pass
@abstractmethod
def calculate temperature(self):
    pass
@abstractmethod
def decide state(self,temp):
```

Procedural Cohesion

- Def.
 - module performs series of actions related by procedure to be followed by product
- Example
 - update part number and update repair record in master db
- Why is this bad?
 - actions are still weakly related to one another
 - not reusable
- Solution
 - break up!

Sequential cohesion:

They are classes that combine functions that work in a way that the output of one feeds the other at the class level.

```
python

def get_average(numbers):
   total = 0
   for num in numbers:
       total += num
   average = total / len(numbers)
   return average
```

This function calculates the average of a list of numbers. It exhibits sequential cohesion because the statements are arranged in a logical sequence, with the initialization of the total variable performed first, followed by the looping and the calculation of the average. Each statement depends on the previous statement to produce a meaningful result.

```
@abstractmethod
def read file(self):
    pass
@abstractmethod
def parse(self):
    pass
@abstractmethod
def do semantic analysis(self):
    pass
@abstractmethod
def generate intermediate code(self):
    pass
@abstractmethod
def optimize intermediate code(self):
    pass
@abstractmethod
```

Functional cohesion:

Ideal case. Every essential element for a single computation is contained in the component. A functional cohesion performs the task and functions. They are structures that are single, well-defined, and put together for as little as possible a task or responsibility.

As the details increase in the software development process, the classes in other types of cohesion tend to be larger and larger. In functional cohesion, it is tried to protect the focus by dividing, for example, when new add-on methods arrive, classes are divided by grouping again. Because as the detail increases, the definition of the job or responsibility changes, and each job is divided into different and smaller jobs.

In the example below, the Phone class is both connecting and sending data. We split this class into two to make it more cohesive. DataHandler handles data transfer and PhoneConnection is responsible for connections.

```
class Phone(ABC):
    @abstractmethod
    def dial(self):
        pass
    @abstractmethod
    def hangup(self):
        pass
    @abstractmethod
    def send(self):
        pass
    @abstractmethod
    def receive(self):
        pass
class DataHandler(ABC):
    @abstractmethod
    def send(self):
        pass
    @abstractmethod
    def receive(self):
        pass
class PhoneConnection(ABC):
    @abstractmethod
    def dial(self):
        pass
    @abstractmethod
    def hangup(self):
        pass
```



python def calculate_total_cost(price, quantity): total_cost = price * quantity return total_cost

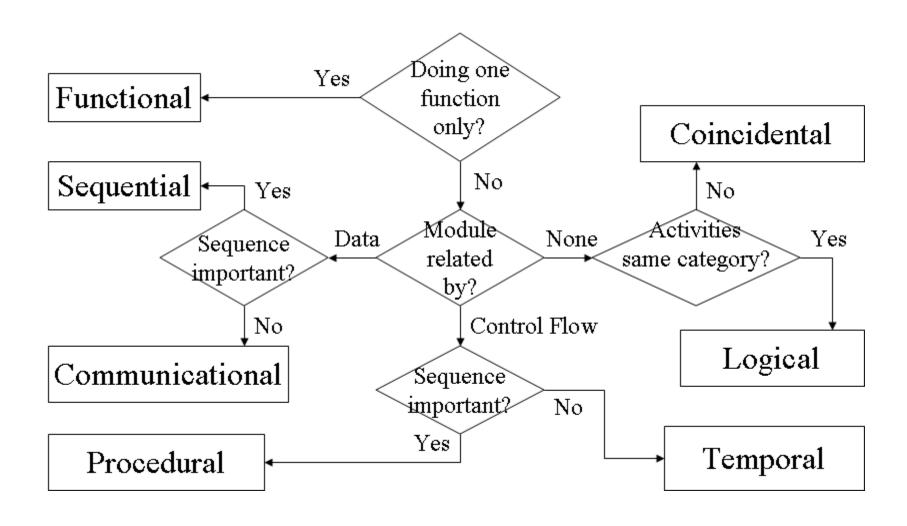
This function calculates the total cost of a purchase given the price and quantity of the item being purchased. It exhibits communicational cohesion because its parameters (i.e., price and quantity) are related to each other and are used together to compute the total cost. The function does not perform any additional tasks beyond this calculation, but it communicates information about the purchase (i.e., the price and quantity) in order to do so.

Communicational Cohesion

- Def.
 - module performs series of actions related by procedure to be followed by product, but in addition all the actions operate on same data
 - communicational cohesion is about how the parts of a module or function work together to achieve a common goal, while sequential cohesion is about the order in which those parts are executed to produce the desired result.
- Why is this bad?
 - still leads to less reusability -> break it up

Functional Cohesion

- Def.
 - module performs exactly one action
- Examples
 - get temperature of furnace
 - compute orbital of electron
 - calculate sales commission
- Why is this good?
 - more reusable
 - corrective maintenance easier
 - fault isolation
 - reduced regression faults
 - easier to extend product



- Coincidental cohesion: Parts are not related and just happen to be in the same module. Such a module is hard to understand, maintain or reuse.
- Logical cohesion: Parts relate to different entities though they perform similar logical functions. For example, mouse inputs and keyboard inputs are handled in the same class.
- **Temporal cohesion:** Parts that are executed when something happens, such as start-up or clean-up routines. Code changes may affect many modules.
- Procedural cohesion: Code that's called one after another.

- **Sequential cohesion:** Similar to procedural cohesion with the additional constraint that the execution sequence is important. For example, call readFile() before calling processData().
- Communicational cohesion: Also called information cohesion. Parts that share or operate on the same data.
- **Functional cohesion:** The most desirable type of cohesion. Parts work together in fulfilling a single function or purpose.