

Bad Smells in Code

Shin-Jie Lee (李信杰)
Assistant Professor
Computer and Network Center
Department of CSIE
National Cheng Kung University



☐ The program is still runnable, but may cause unexpected errors

```
public void printSomething() {
       int size = 3
                                                          Null pointer access: The variable target can only be null at this location
       String target = null;
4
                                                     i = 1
5
       for(int i = 0; i < size; i++) {
                                                     Exception in thread "main" java.lang.NullPointerException
         System.out.println("i = " + i);
                                                             at Examples.main(Examples.java:15)
8
9
    System.out.println(target.toString(
10
                                                                                                      2
```



Every dynamic allocated memory is deallocated or there is garbage collection

The memory may be fully occupied when an amount of instantiated objects are not deleted as they will no longer be used.

```
int main() {
     int size = 10;
      int result = 0;
      int array = new int[size];
      // Assign value to the array
      for(int i = 0; i < size; i++) {
        array[i] = i;
9
10
11
      for(int i = 0; i < size; i++) {
        result += array[i];
12
13
                               Memory Leak
14
```



- ☐ The object programs that live best and longest are those with short methods.
- ☐ The longer a procedure is, the more difficult it is to understand.
- ☐ It's not easy to name the long method



☐ Decompose the long method into short methods through *Extract Method*

```
public void createPartControl(Composite parent) {
    _failnodes = new HashSet<Object>();
    _comps = new ConcurrentLinkedQueue<IComponent>();
    _viewer = new TreeViewer(parent, SWT.MULTI |
    SWT.H_SCROLL);
    _viewer.setInput(getViewSite());
    ...
    _selectionHandler = new SelectionChangHandler();
    _selectionHandler.setViewer(_viewer);
}
```



☐ A classic smell is a method that seems more interested in a class other than the one it actually is in.

```
public void doSomething() {
   ClassA a = new ClassA();
   int x = a.getX();
   int y = a.getY();
   int z = a.calculateSomething(x + y, y);
   a.setZ(z);
}
```

```
public ClassA() {
   public void doSomeThing() {
    z = calculateSomething(x + y, y);
}
```

☐ Use *Move Method* to move the method to another class



Unsuitable naming

☐ Giving a suitable name for a class, a method, or a variable will make programmers easy to understand

```
public class T() {
   boolean b = false;

public int xyz(int x, int y, int z) {
   int r = 0;
   r = (x + y) * z / 2;
   return r;
}
```

```
public class Trapezoid() {
   boolean islsosceles = false;

public int calculateArea(int top, int bottom, int height) {
   int area = 0;
   area = (top + bottom) * height / 2;
   return area;
}
```



All assigned variables have proper type consistency or casting (1/2)

- ☐ Casting is another bane of the Java programmer's life.
- ☐ As much as possible try to avoid making the user of a class do downcasting.

```
void testType() {
    unsigned short x = 65535;
    short y = x;

for(int i = 0; i < y; i++) {
    Do something
}
</pre>
```



All assigned variables have proper type consistency or casting (2/2)

□ Upcasting

```
class Animal() {}
  class Mammal extends Animal()
  {}
4
  class Cat extends Mammal() {}
  class Dog extends Mammal() {}
```

```
Mammal m = new
Mammal()
```

2 Cat c = (Cat)m;





Loop termination conditions are obvious and invariably achievable

```
for(int i = 1; (i % 2) ? ((i + 100) < 200) : ((i* 30) < 50);
    i++) {
2
       Do something
3
4
5
   for(int i = 0; i < 100; i++) {
6
       Do something
7
       i = i * 5:
8
    }
9
   int i = 0:
11
   while(i < 10) {
12
       Do something
13 }
```

```
for(int i = 1; i < 10; i++) {
2
       Do something
3
4
5
    for(int i = 0; i < 100; i++) {
       Do something
6
7
8
9
10
   int i = 0;
    while(i < 10) {
11
       Do something
12
13
        i++;
14 }
```



Parentheses are used to avoid ambiguity

☐ Use parentheses to increase the readability and prevent logical errors

```
public int trapezoidArea(int top, int bottom, int height) {
   int area = top + bottom * height / 2;
   return area;
}

if (isOK && getX() * getY() == 2000 && !isFinished) {
   Do something
}
```

```
public int trapezoidArea(int top, int bottom, int height) {
   int area = (top + bottom) * height / 2;
   return area;
}

if ((isOK) && (getX() * getY() == 2000) && (!isFinished)) {
   Do something
}
```



Lack of comments (1/2)

- ☐ A good time to use a comment is when you don't know what to do.
- ☐ In addition to describing what is going on, comments can indicate areas in which you aren't sure.
- ☐ A comment is a good place to say *why* you did something. This kind of information helps future modifiers, especially forgetful ones.



Lack of comments (2/2)

```
public RSSIMapCollection() {
     _maps = new Hashtable<String, RSSIMap>();
3
     _listeners = new Vector<RSSIMapCollectionEventListener>();
     _stabilizes = new SelectionProperty(STABILIZES_LABEL);
4
     _stabilizes.addElement(Stabilize.NONE);
5
     _stabilizes.addElement(Stabilize.THRESHOLD);
6
     stabilizes.addElement(Stabilize.AVERAGE);
     _stabilizes.addElement(Stabilize.WIEGHTED);
8
9
     _stabilizes.setSelectedItem(Stabilize.THRESHOLD);
10
```

```
public RSSIMapCollection() {
      _maps = new Hashtable<String, RSSIMap>();
      _listeners = new Vector<RSSIMapCollectionEventListener>();
4
5
      // Initialize a selection property for multiple stabilizations
      _stabilizes = new SelectionProperty(STABILIZES_LABEL);
6
      _stabilizes.addElement(Stabilize.NONE);
      _stabilizes.addElement(Stabilize.THRESHOLD);
      _stabilizes.addElement(Stabilize.AVERAGE);
      _stabilizes.addElement(Stabilize.WIEGHTED);
10
11
      _stabilizes.setSelectedItem(Stabilize.THRESHOLD);
12
```



Fat View (1/2)

```
// codes that create menus, buttons, and connects signals to slots
     (omitted)
32
    MainWindown::loadMindMap() {
                                       // ROOTNODE
33
       /** open dialogue box that le
                                                                h, and read
                                      0 MindMind_Topic
     the text
                                       50 50 40 60
34
          * file using ifstream. Also,
                                       // NODE
     the
                                       1 10 Node_Description
35
          * varaibles that we need t
                                       150 0 40 60
36
37
45
       while (fin.eof()) { // fin is a ifstream object.
46
         fin >> line;
47
         if (line == "//ROOTNODE") {
48
           fin >> nodeId >> nodeDescription;
49
           newRoot = new AbstractNode(nodeId, nodeDescription);
50
           fin >> coordinateX >> coordinateY >> width >> height;
51
           newRoot->setX(coordinateX);
           ... // more bussiness logic
52
100 }
```



51

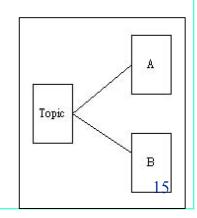
... // more methods

Fat View (2/2)

```
// codes that create menus, buttons, and connects signals to slots (omitted)
32
     MainWindown::loadMindMap() {
33
        /** open dialogue box that lets user specify a file path, and read the text
34
           * file using ifstream. Also, assume we have properly declared the
35
          * varaibles that we need to restore a mind map.
36
         */
37
38
       m mindMap->loadMindMap(filePath);
39
40
       ... // more methods
41
```

```
void MindMap::loadMindMap(string filePath) {
10
11
       while (fin.eof()) {
12
          fin >> line:
13
          if (line == "//ROOTNODE") {
14
            fin >> nodeId >> nodeDescription;
15
            newRoot = new AbstractNode(nodeld, nodeDescription);
16
            fin >> coordinateX >> coordinateY >> width >> height;
17
            newRoot->setX(coordinateX);
            ... // set coordinateY, width, and height for root node.
18
19
          } else if (line == //NODE) {
            fin >> parentId >> nodeId >> nodeDescription;
20
21
            ... // more bussiness logic
50
```

MindMap object is now responsible for loading exisitng mind map.





Files are checked for existence before attempting to access them

- □開啟檔案之後沒有測試檔案是否正確載入就進行操作。 (using C++ as example language)
 - ▶ 開啟檔案之後應該測試檔案是否已正確開啟。

```
... // include necessary header files.
    using namespace std;
    int main () {
       ifstream inputFileStream;
7
      inputFileStream.open("MyText.txt");
8
9
      char output[100];
       while (!inputFileStream.eof()) {
10
         inputFileStream >> output;
11
         ... // process read-in data
12
16
                                      read in lines
17
      inputFileStream.close();
                                   without checking
18 }
                                     file existence.
```

```
... // include necessary header files.
    using namespace std;
6
    int main () {
       ifstream inputFileStream;
      inputFileStream.open("MyText.txt");
8
9
      char output[100];
       if (inputFileStream.is open())
10
          while (!inputFileStream.eof()
11
          inputFileStream >> output;
12
                                          Check if file
           ... // process read-in data
13
                                           has been
16
                                            opened
      } else {
17
                                         successfully.
          ... // error-handling code
18
20
22
```



Each class have appropriate constructors and destructors

```
Class Student {
    public:
2
3
       ~Student () {
         delete _fullName; // release source
4
5
       Student (int id, char *fullName) {
6
         _id = id;
8
         int length;
9
         _fullName = new char [length + 1]; // allocate memory space
         strcpy(_fullName, fullName);
10
11
12
20
    private:
                                                        Now we have
21
       int _id;
                                                      Constructor and
22
       char* _fullName;
                                                         Destructor
23
```



Duplicated Code (1/2)

☐ If you see the same code structure in more than one place, you can be sure that your program will be better if you find a way to unify them.

```
public class ClassAReport {
2
3
       public int calculateAverage(List<Integer>
    scores) {
          int sum, average = 0;
4
          for (int i = 0; i < scores.size(); i++) {
5
6
            sum += scores.get(i);
11
20
          average = sum / scores.size();
21
          retrun average;
22
23
```

```
public class ClassBReport {
2
3
       public int calculateAverage(List<Integer>
    scores) {
         int sum, average = 0;
4
         for (int i = 0; i < scores.size(); i++) {
5
            sum += scores.get(i);
6
11
         average = sum / scores.size();
20
21
         return average;
22
                        This piece of code occurs
23
                             more than once!18
```



Duplicated Code (2/2)

☐ The simplest duplicated code problem is when you have the same expression in two methods of the same class.

➤ Then all you have to do is *Extract Method* and invoke the code from

both places.

```
public class AverageCalculator {
       public int calculateAverage(List<Integer>
2
    scores) {
          int sum, average = 0;
3
          for (int i = 0; i < scores.size(); i++) {
4
5
            sum += scores.get(i);
6
          average = sum / scores.size()
7
          retrun average
8
9
                      This class is responsible
10
                      for calculating average.
```

```
public class ReportCardManager {
2
       public static void main (String args[]) {
3
          AverageCalculator ac = new AverageCalculator();
          ClassAReport classAReport = new ClassAReport();
4
5
          ClassBReport classBReport = new ClassBReport();
          int classAAverage = classAReport.calculateAverage(ac);
6
7
          int classBAverage = classBReport.calculateAverage(ac);
8
9
10
```

```
public class classAReportCard {
       private List<Integer> classAScores;
2
       ... // initialize scores
3
       public int calculateAverage (AverageCalculator ac) {
4
          retrun ac.calculateAverage(classAScores);
5
6
    // Another Class
    public class classBReportCard {
1
2
       private List<Integer> classBScores;
       ... // initialize scores
       public int calculateAverage (AverageCalculator ac) {
          retrun ac.calculateAverage(classBScores);
5
```



All methods have appropriate access modifiers and return types (1/2)

☐ The access to classes, constructors, methods and fields are regulated using access modifiers i.e. a class can control what information or data can be accessible by other classes.

```
1 Class Account {
2 public:
3 string _password;
4 string getPassword();
5 ...
};
```

```
1 Class Account {
2  public:
3    string getPassword();
4    ...
5  private:
6    string _password;
7    ...
};
```



All methods have appropriate access modifiers and return types (2/2)

• Add an appropriate return type to help check if the method executes successfully.

```
bool openAndProcessFile(string filePath) {
   ifstream ifs;
   ifs.open(filePath.c_str());
   if (!ifs.is_open())
      return false;
   ...
      Return false if file
   is not opened
      successfully.
```



Are there any redundant or unused variables?

☐ Remove unused variables from source code

```
public int calculateClassAverage (List<Integer> scores) {
   int rank = 0; // never used
   int sum, average = 0;
   for (int i = 0; I < scores.size(); i++) {
      sum += scores.get(i);
   }
   return average;
}</pre>
```

```
public int calculateClassAverage (List<Integer> scores) {
   int sum, average = 0,
   for (int i = 0; I < scores.size(); i++
       sum += scores.get(i);
   }
   return average;
}</pre>
Delete unused
variable
```



Indexes or subscripts are properly initialized, just prior to the loop

Variables used in the termination conditions should be initialized properly

```
1 int i;
2 while (i < 0) {
3    doSomething();
4    i++;
5 }</pre>
```

```
1 int i = -10; initialized
2 while (i < 0) {
3     doSomething();
4     i++;
5 }</pre>
```

```
1 int i;
2 for (i ; i < someInt; i++) {
3    doSomething();
4 }</pre>
```

```
1 int i = 0; initialized
2 for (i ; i < someInt; i++) {
3    doSomething();
4 }</pre>
```



int main () {

Is overflow or underflow possible during a computation?

☐ An overflow or underflow during a computation may cause system crash

```
short int addend = 30000;
      short int augend = 30000;
      short sum = addend + augend;
4
      doSomething(sum);
  };
                       int main () {
                         short int addend, augend;
                          cin >> addend;
                          cin >> augend
                    5
                         if (addend + augend > numeric_limits<short>::max() ||
                              (addend + augend < numeric_limits<short>::min()) {
                           throw "short integer overflow / underflow"
                    8
                          short int sum = addend + augend;
                    9
                                                                               24
                   12
```



Are divisors tested for zero?

☐ Divisors should not be zero at runtime

```
int divisor;
int dividend;
cin >> divisor;
cin >> dividend;
int quotient = dividend /
divisor;
...
}
```

```
int divisor;
int dividend;
cin >> divisor;
cin >> dividend;

if (divisor == 0) {
    throw "divisor is 0";
}
int quotient = dividend /
divisor;
...
}
```



Inconsistent coding standard

- ☐ To use meaningful names
- ☐ To use an underline as the prefix of an attribute of a class
 - 1 成員變數名稱前應加底線。
 - 2 To use meaningful names

```
1 class Car {
2 public:
3   int getAbc();
4   string getXyz();
5   ...   meaningless
6  private:   naming
7   int id;
8   string manufactureDate;
9   ...   Inconsistent
10 };
```

```
1 class Car {
2 public:
3   int getVehicleId ();
4   string getManufactureDate();
5   ...
6 private:
7   int _id;
8   string _manufactureDate;
9   ...
10 };
```



Data clumps₁

☐ Often you'll see the same three or four data items together in lots of places: fields in a couple of classes, parameters in many method signatures.

```
public class Customer {
  private String name;
  private String title;
  private String house;
  private String street;
  private String city;
  private String postcode;
  private String country;
  ...
}
```

```
public class Staff {
private String lastname;
private String firstname;
private String house;
private String street;
private String city;
private String postcode;
private String country;
...
```



Data clumps₂

☐ Often you'll see the same three or four data items together in lots of places: fields in a couple of classes, parameters in many method signatures.

```
public class Address {
  private String house;
  private String street;
  private String city;
  private String country;
  ...
}
```

```
public class Staff {
   public class Customer {
1
      private String name;
                                                     private String lastname;
2
      private String title;
                                                     private String firstname;
3
      private Address customerAddr;
                                                     private Address staffAddr;
4
                                               4
5
6
8
                                               8
9
                                               9
```



Switch statement

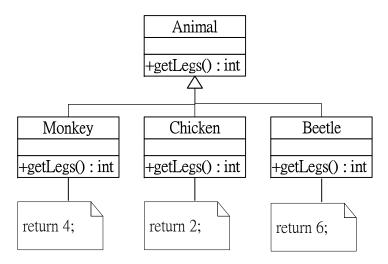
☐ To use polymorphism instead of switch statement ∘

Not good:

```
public int getLegsNum() {
      switch(animal) {
2
      case 'chicken':
4
        return 2;
      case 'monkey':
5
        return 4;
6
      case 'beetle':
        return 6;
9
      default:
10
        return 0;
11
12 }
```

Better solution:

```
public int getLegsNum(Animal a) {
  return a.getLegs();
}
```



Large class

As with a class with too many instance variables, a class with too much code is prime breeding ground for duplicated code, chaos, and death.

```
public class A() {
       public void method A() {
2
         m1();
                                      public class A() {
         m2();
                                        public void method_A() {
         m3();
6
                                                                        public class B () {
                                           b.m1();
       public void m1() {...}
                                                                          public void m1() {
                                                                   2
                                           c.m2();
                                                                    3
       public void m2() {...}
                                                                   4
                                           d.m3();
       public void m3() {...}
                                  6
10
                                                                   5
11
                                                                        public class C() {
                                                                   6
                                  8
12 public class A() {
                                                                          public void m2() {
                                                                   7
                                 11
                                                                   8
                                 12
                                                                   9
                                 13
                                                                   10
                                                                   11
                                                                        public class D() {
                                                                          public void m3() {
                                                                   12
                                                                   13
                                                                   14
                                                                                                          30
                                                                   15
```



Long parameter list

☐ Long parameter lists are hard to understand, and they become inconsistent and difficult to use

Not good:

```
public class Member {
public createMember(
    Name name,
    String country,
    String postcode,
    String city,
    String street,
    String house) {
    ...
}
```

Better solution:

```
public class Member {
public createMember(

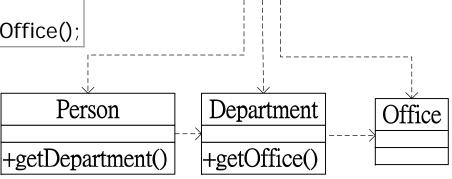
Name name,

Address address) {

...
}
```



- ☐ You see message chains when a client asks one object for another object, which the client then asks for yet another object, which the client then asks for yet another another object, and so on.
- Not good:
- 1 Person jack = new Person();
- 2 Office office = jack.getDepartment().getOffice();



Client

- Better solution:
- 1 Person jack = new Person();
- 2 Office office = jack.getOffice();



Literal constants

☐ To use keyword (*static*) *const* or *define* to define constants

Not good:

```
public double potentialEnergy(double mass, double height) {
   return mass * 9.81 * height;
}
```

Better solution:

```
public double potentialEnergy(double mass, double height) {
  final static double GRAVITATION = 9.81;
  return mass * GRAVITATION * height;
}
```

Every variable is properly initialized

Not good:

```
Person person;
Manager = person.getManager();
int workHours, hourlyWage;
Int salary = workHours * hourlyWage;
```

Better solution:

```
Person person = new Person();
Manager = person.getManager();
int workHours = 40, hourlyWage = 120;
Int salary = workHours * hourlyWage;
```



- ☐ Uncalled, unneeded, or unreachable code may occupy unnecessary memory
- ☐ Time and effort may be spent maintaining and documenting a piece of code which is in fact unreachable.



There are uncalled or unneeded procedures or any unreachable code

```
1 if(i < 60) {
2    //unreachable
3    if(i == 60) {
4        System.out.println("PASS");
5    }
6    else{
7        System.out.println("NOT PASS");
8    }
9    }
10 else{
11        System.out.println("PASS");
12    }</pre>
```

```
public class Client {
  public createMember(Name name)
  {
    Name name = new Name();
    Member.createMember(name);
  }
}
```



Does every switch statement have a default?

☐ Every switch-case should define a default action

Not good:

```
1 switch(weekday) {
2 case 'Monday':
3 System.out.println("國文課");break;
4 case 'Tuesday':
5 System.out.println("英文課");break;
6 case 'Thursday':
7 System.out.println("數學課");break;
8 }
```

Better solution:

```
1 switch(weekday) {
2 case 'Monday':
3 System.out.println("國文課");break;
4 case 'Tuesday':
5 System.out.println("英文課");break;
6 case 'Thursday':
7 System.out.println("數學課");break;
8 default:
9 System.out.println("休息");break;
12 }
```



The code avoids comparing floating-point numbers for equality

- □ Suggest to prevent comparing two floating-point numbers
- □ Not good:

```
1 double x = 1e-10, y1 = 20e-10, y2 = 19e-10;
2 double y = y1 - y2;
3 if(x == y) {
4 System.out.println("X == Y");//並不會成立
5 }
```

• Better solution:

```
1 double x = 1e-10, y1 = 20e-10, y2 = 19e-10;
2 double y = y1 - y2;
3 if(Math.abs(x - y) < 1e-5) {
4 System.out.println("X == Y");//成立
5 }
```



All comments are consistent with the code

□ Not good:

```
1 // 計算一年獲利, 傳入參數(int amount)
2 public void countProfit(int amount, double rate) {
3 __profit = amount * (1 + rate );
4 }
```

• Better solution:

```
1 // 計算一年獲利, 傳入參數(int amount, double rate)
2 public void countProfit(int amount, double rate) {
3 _profit = amount * (1 + rate);
4 }
```