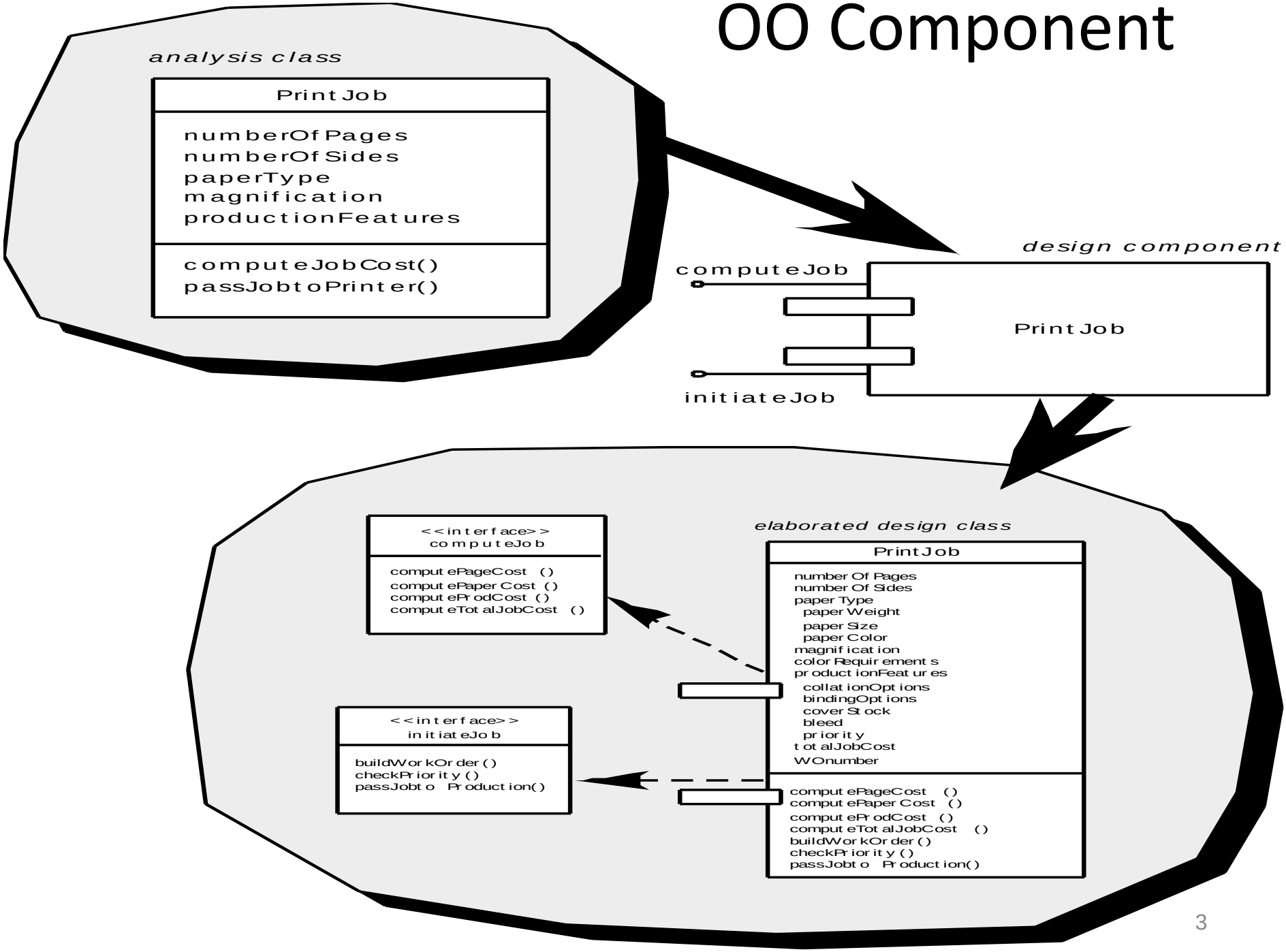
Component-Level Design

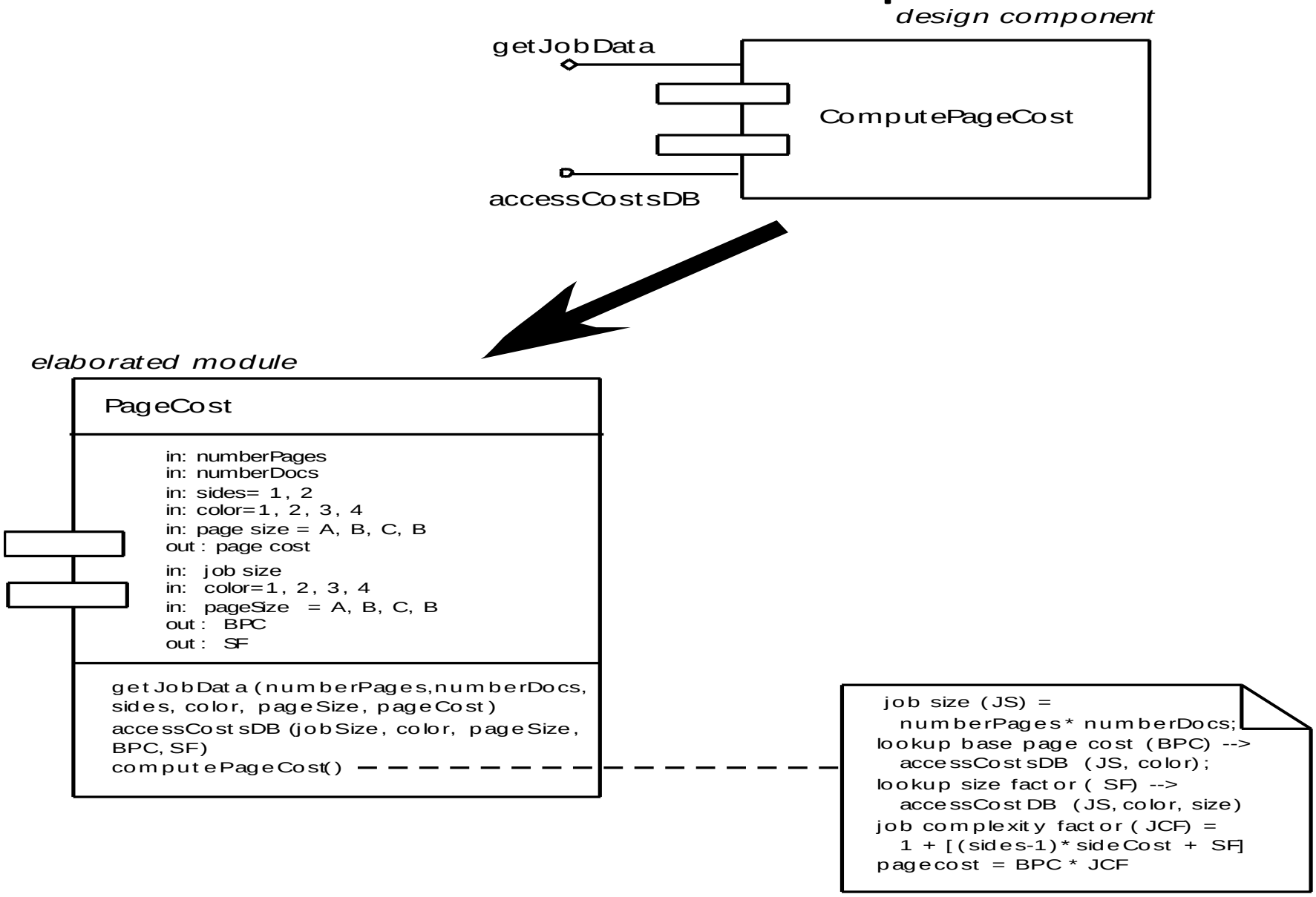
What is a Component?

- *OMG Unified Modeling Language Specification* [OMG01] defines a component as
  - "… a modular, deployable, and replaceable part of a system that encapsulates implementation and exposes a set of interfaces."
- *OO view:* a component contains a set of collaborating classes
- *Conventional view:* a component contains processing logic, the internal data structures that are required to implement the processing logic, and an interface that enables the component to be invoked and data to be passed to it.

OO Component



Conventional Component



Basic Design Principles

- The Open-Closed Principle (OCP). *"A module [component] should be open for extension but closed for modification.*
- The Liskov Substitution Principle (LSP). *"Subclasses should be substitutable for their base classes.*
- Dependency Inversion Principle (DIP). *"Depend on abstractions. Do not depend on concretions."*
- The Interface Segregation Principle (ISP). *"Many client-specific interfaces are better than one general purpose interface.*
- The Release Reuse Equivalency Principle (REP). *"The granule of reuse is the granule of release."*
- The Common Closure Principle (CCP). *"Classes that change together belong together."*
- The Common Reuse Principle (CRP). *"Classes that aren't reused together should not be grouped together."*

Source: Martin, R., "Design Principles and Design Patterns," downloaded from http:www.objectmentor.com, 2000.

Design Guidelines

- Components
  - Naming conventions should be established for components that are specified as part of the architectural model and then refined and elaborated as part of the component-level model
- Interfaces
  - Interfaces provide important information about communication and collaboration (as well as helping us to achieve the OPC)
- Dependencies and Inheritance
  - it is a good idea to model dependencies from left to right and inheritance from bottom (derived classes) to top (base classes).

Cohesion

- Conventional view:
  - the “single-mindedness” of a module
- OO view:
  - *cohesion* implies that a component or class encapsulates only attributes and operations that are closely related to one another and to the class or component itself
- Levels of cohesion
  - Functional
  - Layer
  - Communicational
  - Sequential
  - Procedural
  - Temporal
  - utility

Coupling

- Conventional view:
  - The degree to which a component is connected to other components and to the external world
- OO view:
  - a qualitative measure of the degree to which classes are connected to one another
- Level of coupling
  - Content
  - Common
  - Control
  - Stamp
  - Data
  - Routine call
  - Type use
  - Inclusion or import
  - External

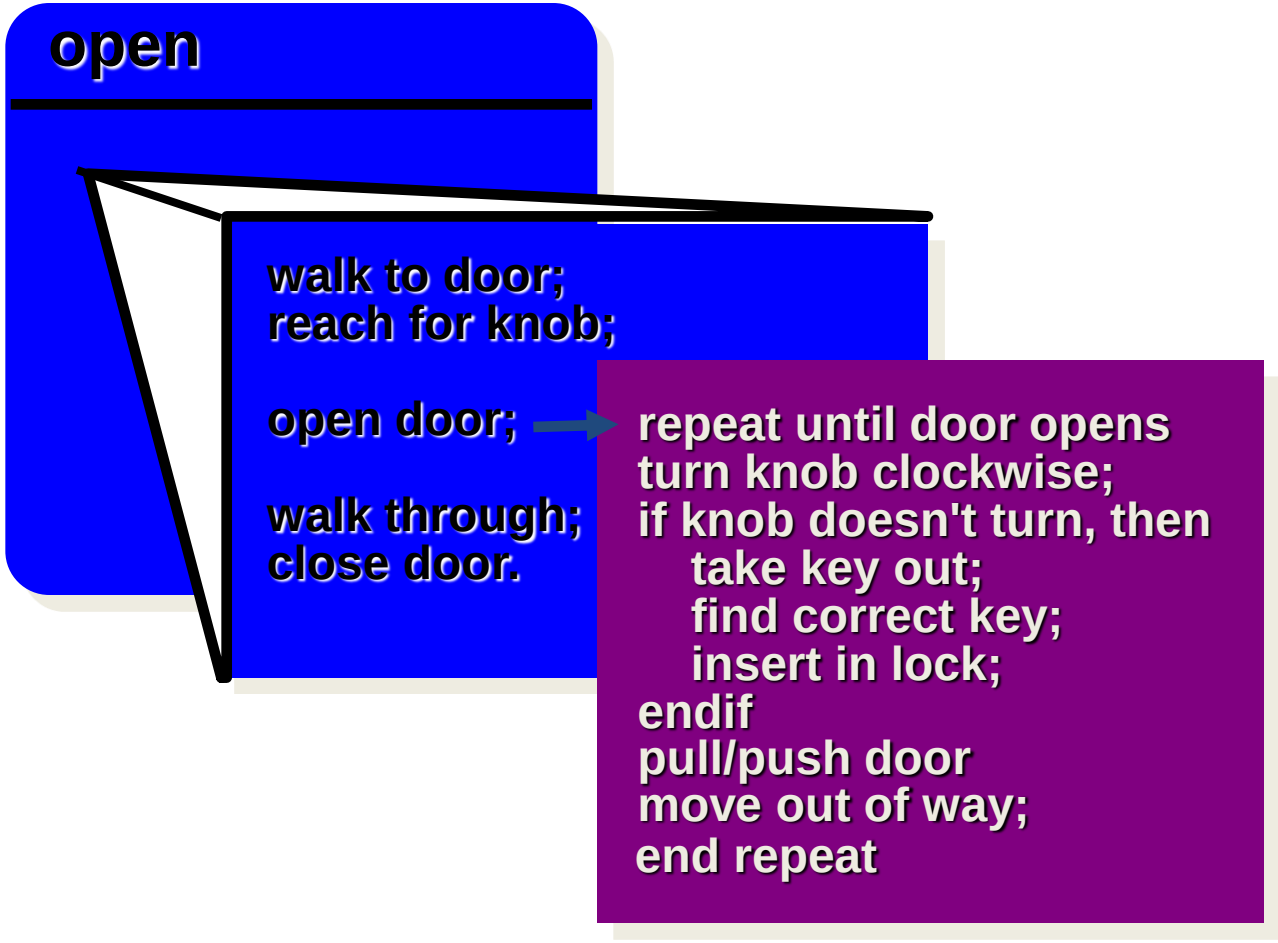
Designing Conventional Components

- The design of processing logic is governed by the basic principles of algorithm design and structured programming
- The design of data structures is defined by the data model developed for the system
- The design of interfaces is governed by the collaborations that a component must effect

Algorithm Design

- the closest design activity to coding
- the approach:
  - review the design description for the component
  - use stepwise refinement to develop algorithm
  - use structured programming to implement procedural logic
  - use ‘formal methods’ to prove logic

Stepwise Refinement



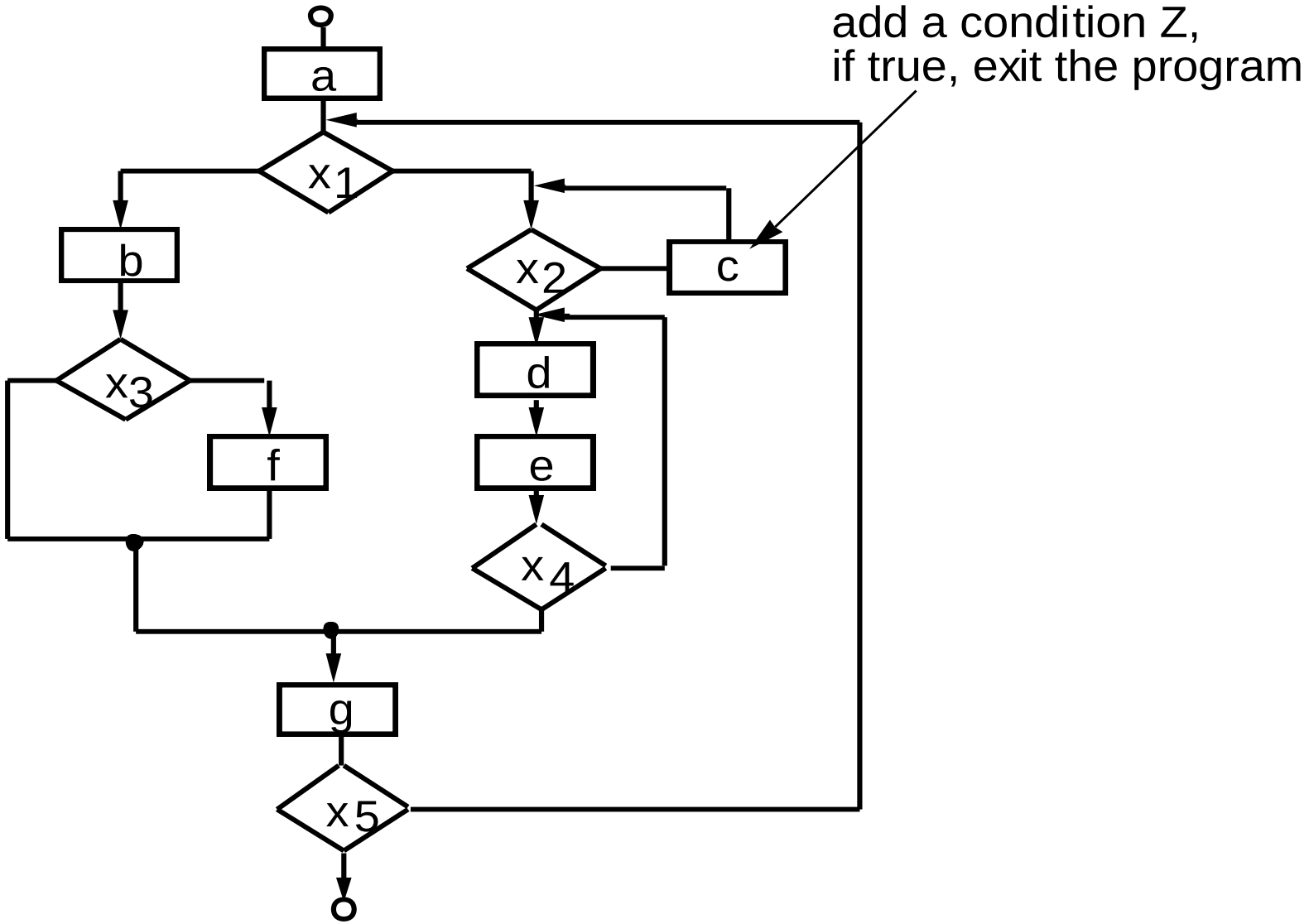
Algorithm Design Model

- represents the algorithm at a level of detail that can be reviewed for quality
- options:
  - graphical (e.g. flowchart, box diagram)
  - pseudocode (e.g., PDL) … choice of many
  - programming language
  - decision table

Structured Programming

- uses a limited set of logical constructs:
  - *sequence*
  - *conditional*— if-then-else, select-case
  - *loops*— do-while, repeat until
- leads to more readable, testable code
- can be used in conjunction with ‘proof of correctness’
- important for achieving high quality, but not enough

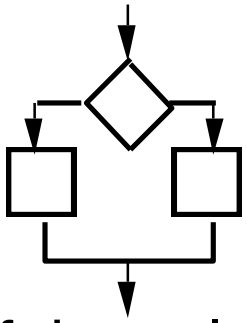
A Structured Procedural Design



Decision Table

	Rules					
Conditions	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**
regular customer	T	T				
silver customer			T	T		
gold customer					T	T
special discount	F	T	F	T	F	T
Rules						
no discount	✓					
apply 8 percent discount			✓	✓		
apply 15 percent discount					✓	✓
apply additional x percent discount		✓		✓		✓

Program Design Language (PDL)



if-then-else

```
if condition x
  then process a;
  else process b;
endif
```

PDL

- easy to combine with source code
- machine readable, no need for graphics input
- graphics can be generated from PDL
- enables declaration of data as well as procedure
- easier to maintain

Why Design Language?

- can be a derivative of the HOL of choice e.g., Ada PDL
- machine readable and processable
- can be embedded with source code, therefore easier to maintain
- can be represented in great detail, if designer and coder are different
- easy to review

Impediments to Reuse

- Few companies and organizations have anything that even slightly resembles a comprehensive software reusability plan.
- Although an increasing number of software vendors currently sell tools or components that provide direct assistance for software reuse, the majority of software developers do not use them.
- Relatively little training is available to help software engineers and managers understand and apply reuse.
- Many software practitioners continue to believe that reuse is “more trouble than it’s worth.”
- Many companies continue to encourage of software development methodologies which do not facilitate reuse
- Few companies provide an incentives to produce reusable program components.

Identifying Reusable Components

- Is component functionality required on future implementations?
- How common is the component's function within the domain?
- Is there duplication of the component's function within the domain?
- Is the component hardware-dependent?
- Does the hardware remain unchanged between implementations?
- Can the hardware specifics be removed to another component?
- Is the design optimized enough for the next implementation?
- Can we parameterize a non-reusable component so that it becomes reusable?
- Is the component reusable in many implementations with only minor changes?
- Is reuse through modification feasible?
- Can a non-reusable component be decomposed to yield reusable components?
- How valid is component decomposition for reuse?