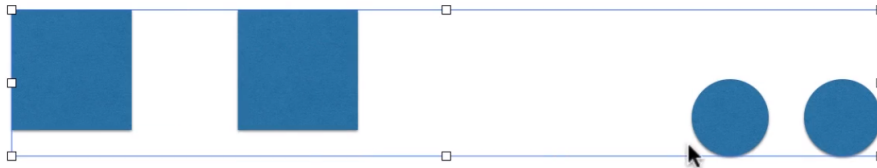


Composite Pattern

If you have a hierarchy and you want to treat the objects in this hierarchy the same way you should use the Composite Design Pattern.

Example Problem - you wish to represent objects in a hierarchy e.g. in Microsoft Powerpoint you have drawn four shapes two circles which you then group together and two squares which you group together you then group both groups together creating a Main group containing two sub groups and four object which can all be resized and moved together. This is quite similar to how the file system on your PC works.



Represents in words this hierarchy becomes :

Group

Group1

Square

Square

Group2

Circle

Circle

One implementation may be to have the add method of Group class take an object rather than a shape which will allow it to accept Groups as well as shapes in the Hierarchy. the downside of this is that in the render method you will have to provide logic to decide on what to do for both shapes and groups which will have to be cast. this same logic will have to be repeated in every method of the group class such as resize or remove :

```

public void add(Object shape) {
    objects.add(shape);
}

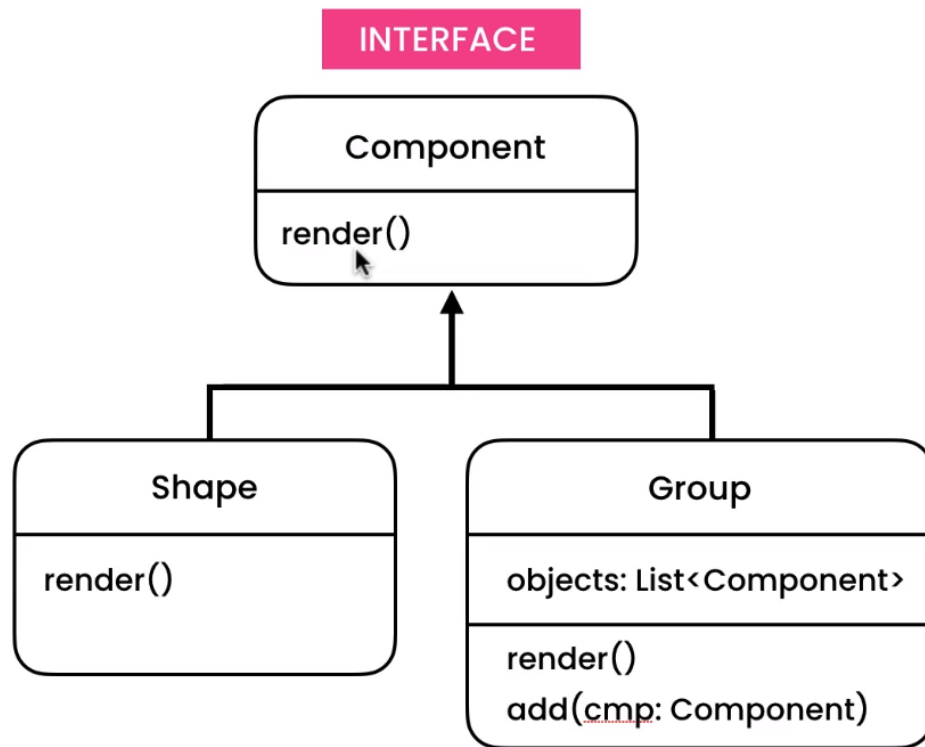
public void render() {
    for (var object : objects) {
        if (object instanceof Shape)
            ((Shape)object).render();
        else
            ((Group)object).render();
    }
}

```

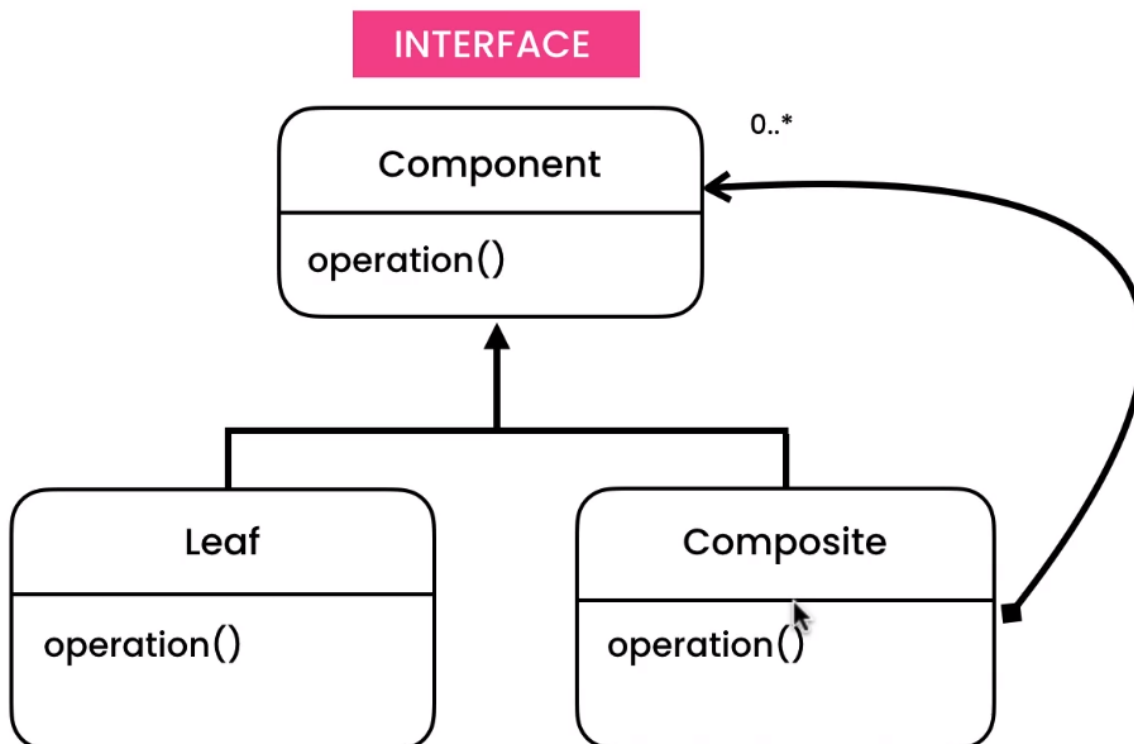
The composite design pattern allows us to treat group and shape objects in the same way :

Solution ;

Extract the common actions to a parent class and make use of inheritance and polymorphism to enable child classes to be treated as one in the hierarchy



The render methods is available to both parts and components (shapes and groups in our case) so it is extracted to an interface, e.g. in your file system the file is a part and the folder is a component, if you delete a folder you want all the files in that folder to be deleted recursively. As per the GOF book each Composite (Group) class can be constructed of 0 or more Components (groups or shapes/files) :



<pre> public interface Component { void render(); void move(); } </pre>	<pre> public class Group implements Component { private List<Component> components = new ArrayList<>() ; public void add(Component shape) { components.add(shape); } public void render() { for (var component : components) component.render(); } @Override public void move() { for (var component : components) component.move(); } } </pre>	<pre> public class Shape impl ements Component { @Override public void render() { System.out.println("Render Shape"); } @Override public void move() { System.out.println("Move Shape"); } } </pre>	<pre> public class Main { @Override public static void main () { var group1 = new Group(); group1.add(new Shape()); //square group1.add(new Shape()); //square var group2 = new Group(); group2.add(new Shape()); //circle group2.add(new Shape()); //circle var group = new Group(); group.add(group1); group.add(group2); group.render(); //outputs Render shape 4x } } </pre>
---	--	--	---