

Module 21: "Interpreter"

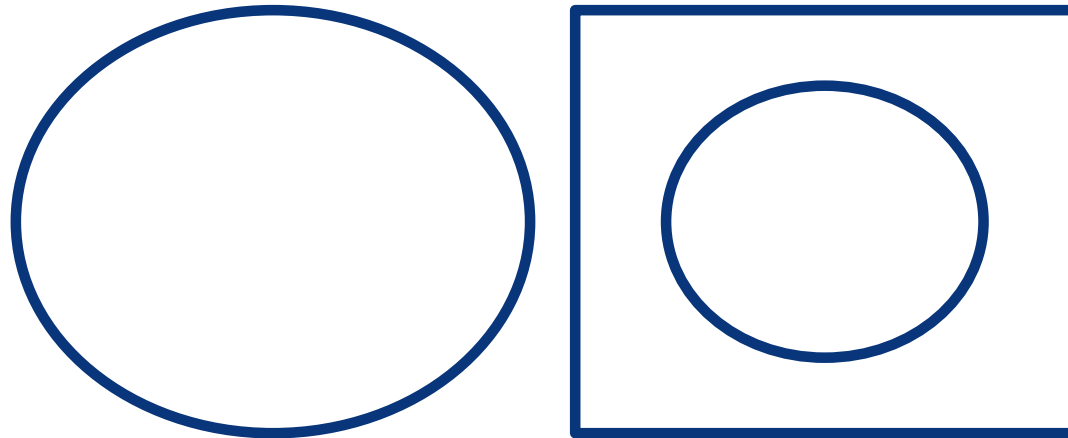


Agenda

- ▶ Introductory Example: A Graphical Language
- ▶ Challenges
- ▶ Background
- ▶ Implementing the Interpreter Pattern
- ▶ Pattern: Interpreter
- ▶ Overview of Interpreter Pattern
- ▶ .NET Framework Example: C# Expression Trees



Introductory Example: A Graphical Language



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Challenges

- ▶ How could we possibly write programs to interpret such graphical languages..??

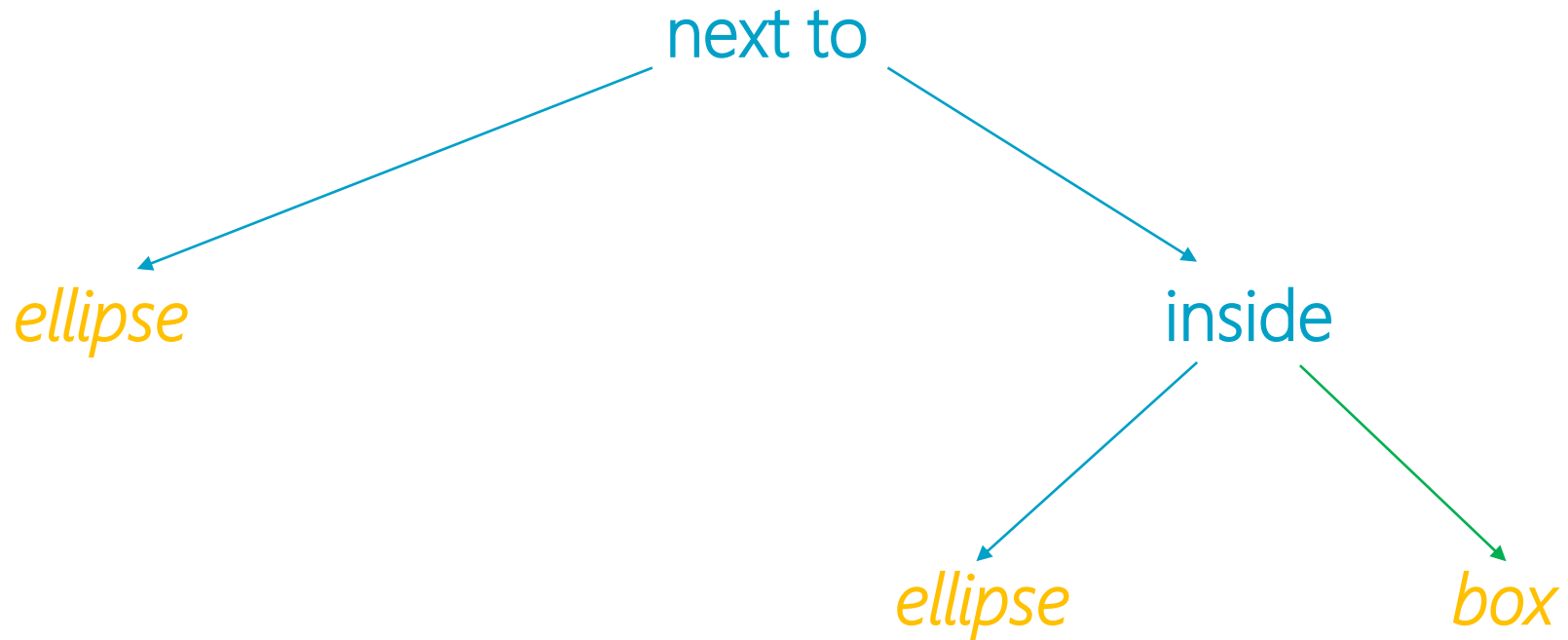


Background: BNF Grammars

$\langle \textit{drawing} \rangle ::= \langle \textit{drawing} \rangle \text{ next to } \langle \textit{drawing} \rangle$
 | $\langle \textit{drawing} \rangle \text{ inside } \langle \underline{\textit{shape}} \rangle$
 | $\langle \textit{shape} \rangle$
 $\langle \textit{shape} \rangle ::= \langle \textit{box} \rangle$
 | $\langle \textit{ellipse} \rangle$



Abstract Syntax Tree (AST)



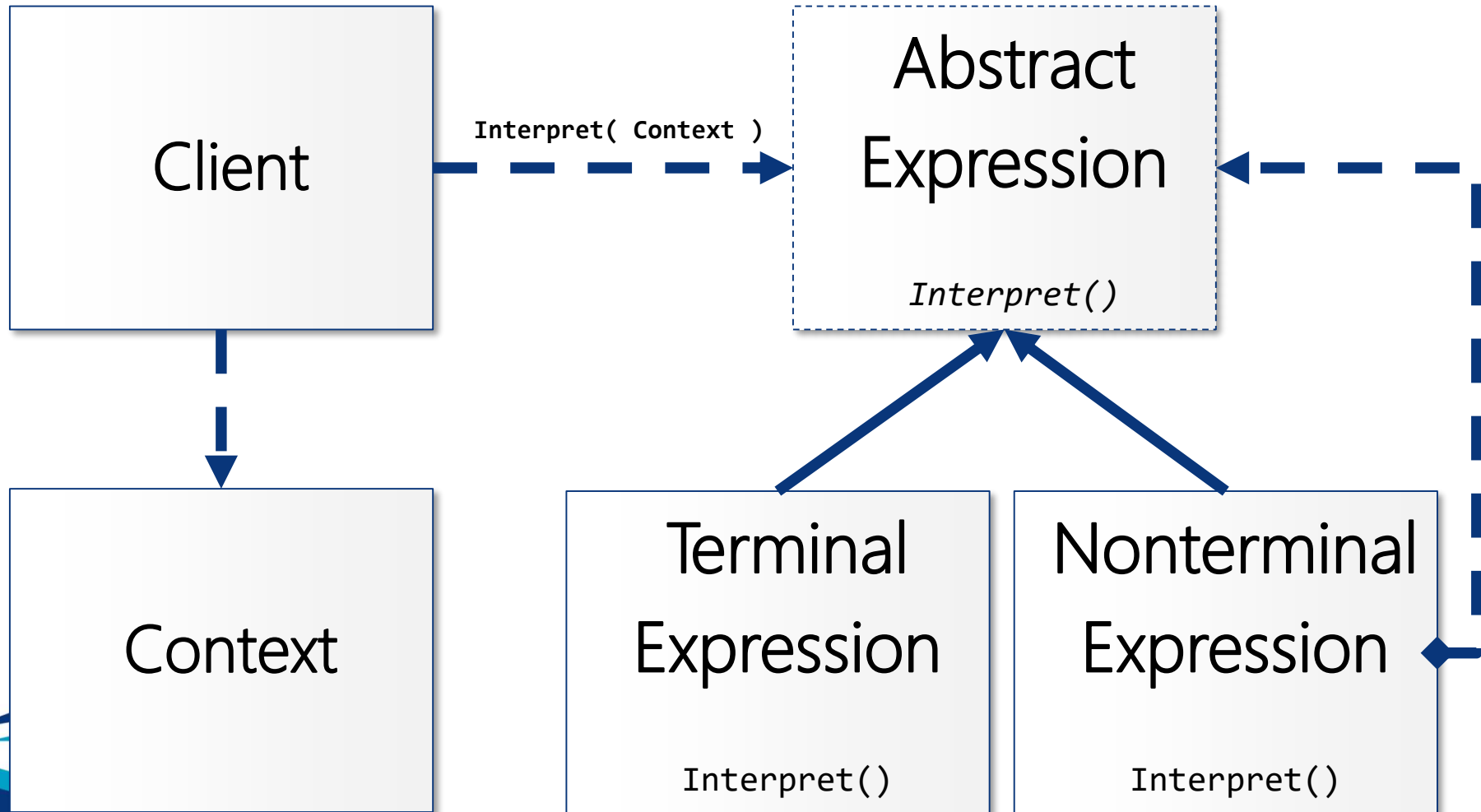
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Pattern: Interpreter

- ▶ *Given a language, define a representation for its grammar along with an interpreter that uses the representation to interpret sentences in the language.*
- ▶ Purpose
 - Define a grammar as an **IExpression** class hierarchy
 - Represent sentences as abstract syntax trees of **IExpression** objects
 - Interpret sentence by calling the **Interpret()** method of **IExpression** with a specified **Context**
- ▶ Origin: Gang of Four



Overview of Interpreter Pattern

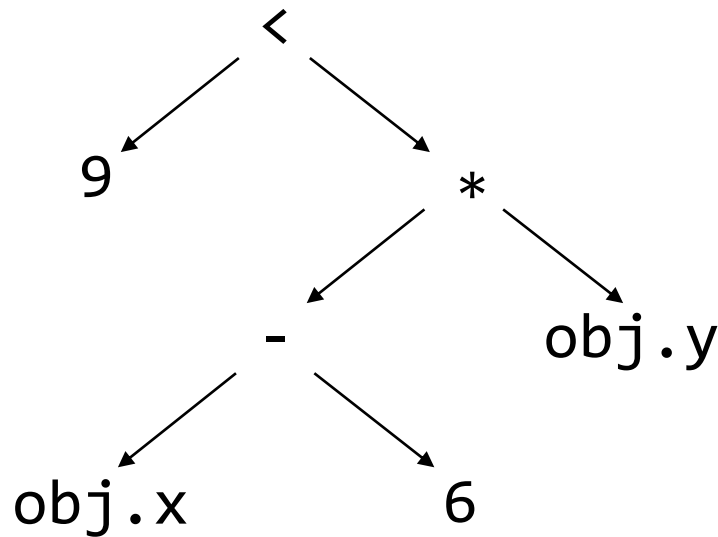


Overview of Interpreter Pattern

- ▶ Abstract Expression
 - Interface or abstract base class for elements of AST classes
- ▶ Terminal Expression
 - Concrete class capturing a Leaf (without subexpressions) of the AST
 - Provides concrete **Interpret()** method
- ▶ Nonterminal Expression
 - Concrete class capturing a Composite (with subexpressions) of the AST
 - Provides **Interpret()** method invoking **Interpret()** on subexpressions
- ▶ Context
 - Implements the infrastructure needed to interpret nodes of the AST
- ▶ Client
 - Invokes the **Interpret()** method on the root expression with some Context

.NET Framework Example: C# Expression Trees

- ▶ The expression `9 < (obj.x - 6) * obj.y` is



- ▶ **Expression** class captures abstract syntax trees for C# expressions



Compiling Lambda Expression Trees

- ▶ Expression trees can be compiled to the underlying delegate type at runtime!

```
Expression<Func<int, int, int>> addTree = ( x, y ) => x + y;
```

```
Func<int, int, int> add = addTree.Compile();
```

```
Console.WriteLine(add(5, 7));
```



