

Generative AI Bootcamp

AI System Design Patterns

Week 0, Day 2, Session 1

November 14, 2025

Learning Objectives

- Understand modular AI system architecture
- Learn key software design patterns for AI applications
- Recognize scalability, maintainability, and testability principles

What Is a Design Pattern?

A reusable solution to a common software design problem.

- Encourages consistency and clarity
- Improves collaboration across teams
- Helps manage complex AI codebases

AI System Layers

1. **Data layer** – Vector DB, prompt/context store, logs
2. **Model layer** – LLMs, embeddings, fine-tunes
3. **Orchestration layer** – AI workflows, routing, policies
4. **Interface layer** – API endpoints, UI, integrations

AI System Layers

Compare with non-AI application

```
flowchart LR
    subgraph T [Traditional App]
        T1["Frontend (UI)"]
        T2["Backend (business logic, APIs)"]
        T3["Data Layer (DB, cache)"]
        T1 --> T2
        T2 --> T3
    end
```

```
subgraph A [AI System Layers]
```

```
    A1["Interface Layer (API, UI, integrations)"]
```

```
    A2["Orchestration Layer (AI workflows, routing, policies)"]
```

```
    A3["Model Layer (LLMs, embeddings, fine-tunes)"]
```

```
    A4["Data Layer (vector DB, prompt/context store, logs)"]
```

```
    A1 --> A2
    A2 --> A3
```

```
    A2 --> A4
```

```
end
```

AI System Layers

Enterprise AI application

```
flowchart LR
    FE["Frontend"] --> BE["Backend"]
    BE --> |Business path| SVC["Traditional Backend Services"]
    subgraph BE_subgraph [Backend Subgraph]
        O["Orchestration Layer"]
        ETL["Ingestion / Preprocessing"]
        AI["AI Services"]
    end
    BE --> O
    O --> ETL
    ETL --> AI
    AI --> Data["Data Layer"]
    Data --> DB["(System of Record DB)"]
    DB --> VDB["(Vector DB / Artifacts)"]
    VDB --> LOGS["(Prompt / Result Logs)"]
    LOGS --> BE
    BE --> |AI path| O
    O --> SVC
    SVC --> DB
    DB --> VDB
    VDB --> LOGS
    LOGS --> MODEL["Model Layer (LLM / Embeddings)"]
```

Why Patterns Matter in AI

- Prevent “spaghetti AI pipelines”
- Support reusability and testing
- Enable easier debugging and monitoring

Core Patterns for AI Systems

- **Factory Pattern** – dynamic model selection
- **Strategy Pattern** – switch between algorithms or prompts
- **Adapter Pattern** – standardize APIs
- **Observer Pattern** – monitor outputs or feedback

Example: Factory Pattern

```
class ClientFactory:
    def get_client(self, name):
        if name == 'openai':
            from openai import OpenAI
            return OpenAI()
        elif name == 'gemini':
            from google import genai
            return genai.Client()
        else:
            raise ValueError('Unknown client')

factory = ClientFactory()
client = factory.get_client('openai')
```

Example: Strategy Pattern

```
def summarize_basic(text):  
    return text.split('.')[0] + '.'  
  
def summarize_keywords(text):  
    return ', '.join(text.split()[:5]) + '...'
```

Want to use different summarization strategies without changing main code.

Example: Strategy Pattern

Can be done via dependency injection:

```
class Summarizer:
    def __init__(self, strategy):
        self.strategy = strategy
    def summarize(self, text):
        return self.strategy(text)

text = 'Generative AI is revolutionizing industry.'
summarizer = Summarizer(summarize_keywords)
print('Keywords:', summarizer.summarize(text))
```

Example: Adapter Pattern

```
from openai import OpenAI

class OpenAIAdapter:
    def __init__(self, client):
        self.client = client
    def generate(self, prompt):
        return self.client.chat.completions.create(
            model="gpt-4o-mini",
            messages=[{"role": "user", "content": prompt}]
        ).choices[0].message.content

adapter = OpenAIAdapter(client)
print(adapter.generate('Hello world!'))
```

👁️ Example: Observer Pattern

- Log model outputs in real time
- Capture user feedback for retraining

```
class LoggerObserver:  
    def update(self, data):  
        print("Logging:", data)  
  
observer = LoggerObserver()  
observer.update({'event': 'inference', 'result': 'Success'})
```

Composition Example

Combine multiple patterns to build modular pipelines:

```
factory = ClientFactory()
client = factory.get_client("openai")
adapter = OpenAIAdapter(client)
observer = LoggerObserver()
output = adapter.generate('Describe AI design patterns.')
observer.update({'event': 'output', 'data': output})
```

AI Pipeline Design Principles

- Separate data, model, and service logic
- Use dependency injection where possible
- Implement logging and monitoring early

Scalability Considerations

- Use async APIs
- Deploy microservices with Docker
- Centralize configuration files

Common Pitfalls

- Hard-coded model names
- Tight coupling between components
- Lack of observability

Summary

- Patterns simplify complex AI system design
- Factory, Strategy, Adapter, and Observer are essential for modularity
- Build scalable, testable, maintainable pipelines

Next Session

Session 2: API Exploration Lab

Hands-on practice integrating multiple model SDKs.