UML Class Diagrams: Inheritance, Composition, and Aggregation

1. Introduction

UML class diagrams model the static structure of object-oriented systems, showing classes and relationships like inheritance, composition, and aggregation. They are vital for software design.

Objective: The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of UML class diagrams by designing and illustrating the five types of inheritance **(single, multiple, multilevel, hierarchical, and hybrid), composition, and aggregation**, and to implement these relationships in C++ code, showcasing their application in object-oriented system design.

Notation Guide:

- → : Inheritance (empty head)
- ◆ : Composition (filled diamond)
- ◇ : Aggregation (empty diamond)

2. Five Types of Inheritance

Inheritance represents "is-a" relationship where subclasses inherit from parents.s

2.1 Single Inheritance

Definition: A class inherits from one parent.
Example: Class `Car` inherits from `Vehicle`.

Figure 1: Single Inheritance Diagram

2.2 Multiple Inheritance

Definition: A class inherits from multiple parents.
Example: Class `Smartphone` inherits from `Phone` and `Camera`.

Figure 2: Multiple Inheritance Diagram

2.3 Multilevel Inheritance

Definition: A class inherits from a parent that inherits from another.
Example: Class `SportsCar` inherits from `Car`, which inherits from `Vehicle`.

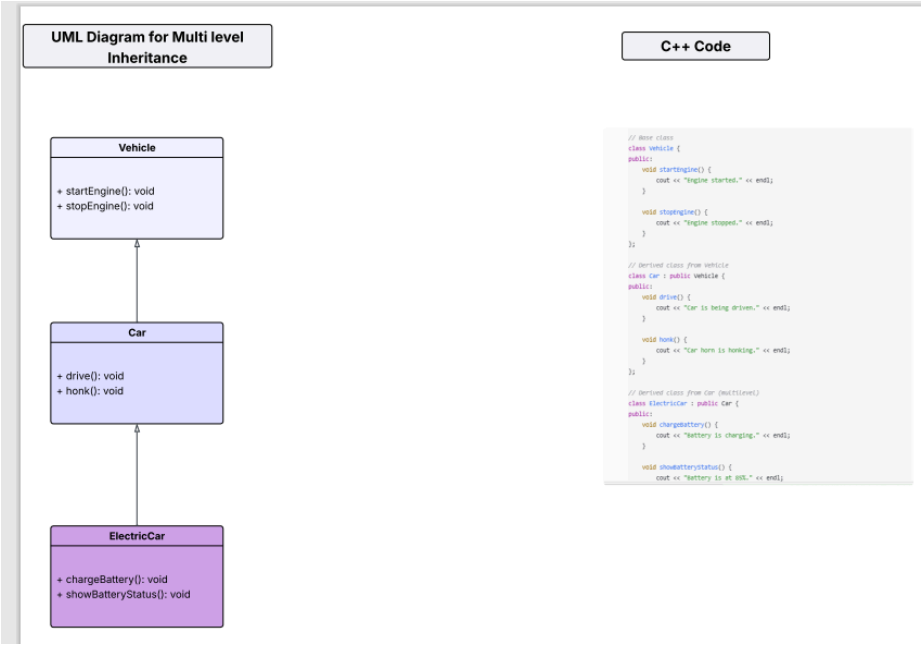

Figure 3: Multilevel Inheritance Diagram

2.4 Hierarchical Inheritance

Definition: Multiple classes inherit from one parent.
Example: Classes `Car` and `Truck` inherit from `Vehicle`.

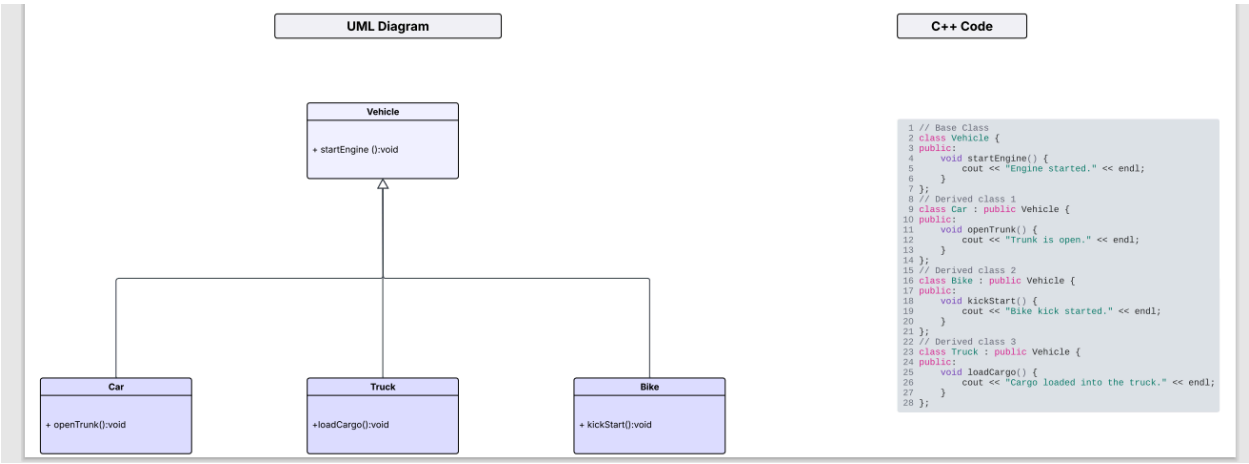

Figure 4: Hierarchical Inheritance Diagram

2.5 Hybrid Inheritance

Definition: Combines multiple and multilevel inheritance.
Example: Class `AmphibiousVehicle` inherits from `Car` and `Boat`, where `Car` inherits

from `Vehicle`.

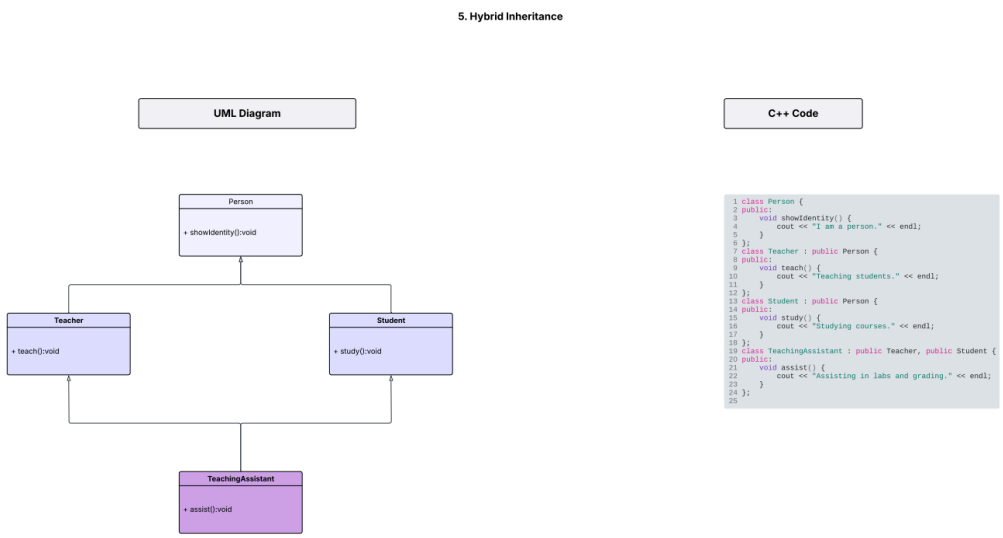

Figure 5: Hybrid Inheritance Diagram

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3. Composition and Aggregation

Composition and aggregation model "has-a" relationships, differing in ownership.

3.1 Composition

Definition: Whole-part relationship; parts cannot exist without the whole.
Example: A `House` contains `Rooms`.

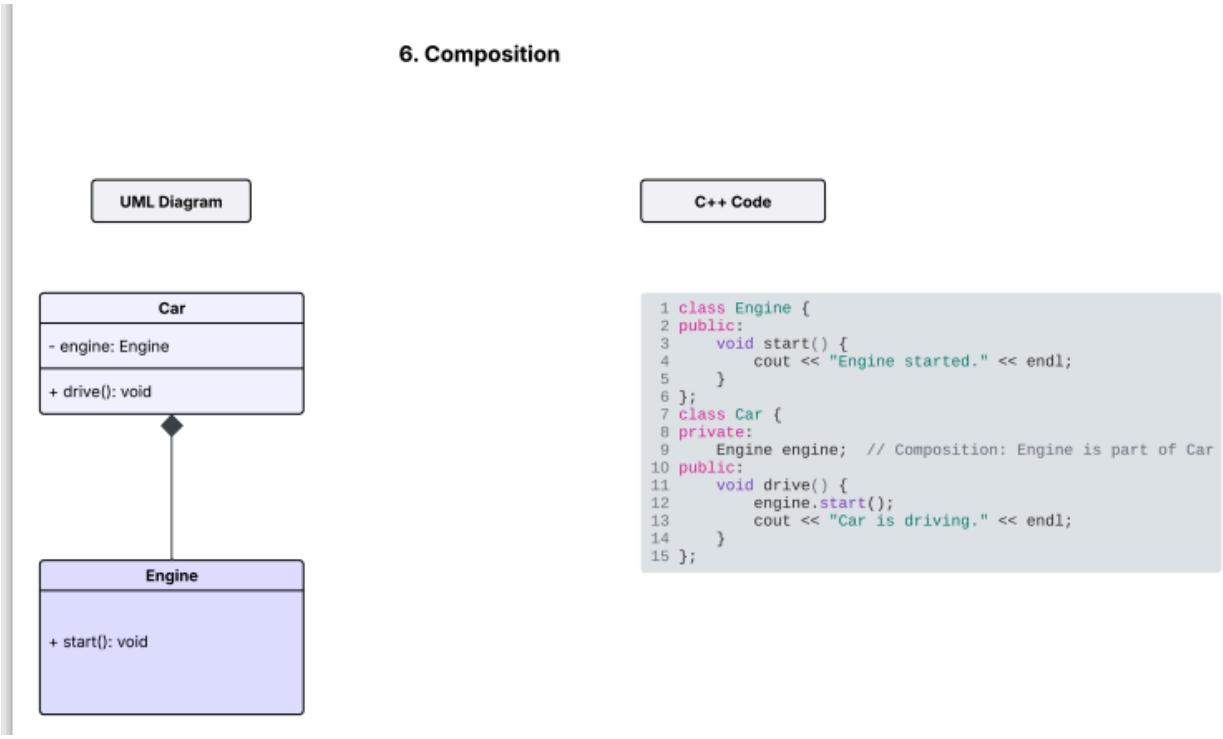

Figure 6: Composition Diagram

3.2 Aggregation

Definition: Whole-part relationship; parts can exist independently.
Example: A `University` contains `Students`.

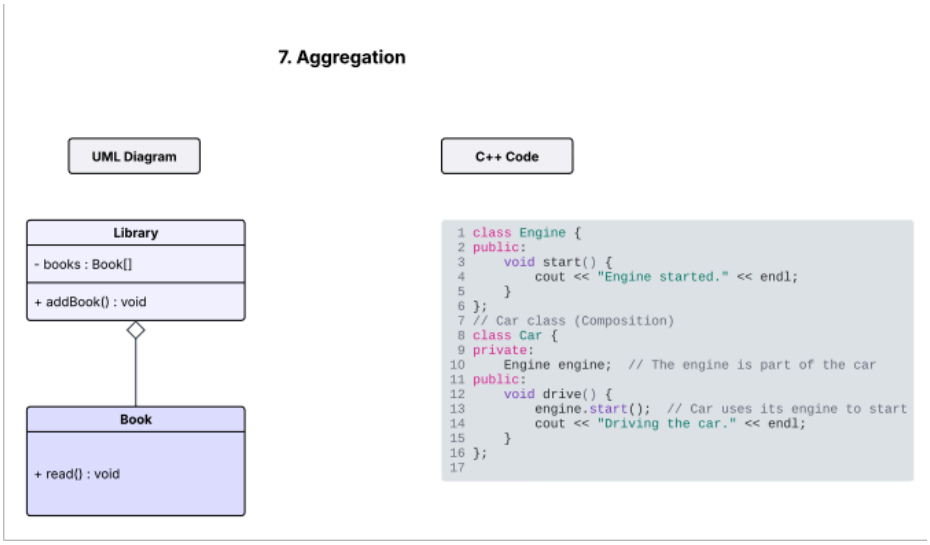

Figure 7: Aggregation Diagram

Comparison:

Aspect	Composition	Aggregation
Ownership	Strong	Weak
Part Lifespan	Tied to Whole	Independent

5. Key Takeaways

- UML class diagrams are essential for object-oriented design.
- Inheritance models "is-a" relationships (e.g., single, multiple).
- Composition and aggregation model "has-a" relationships.
- Practical applications include libraries, apps, and more.