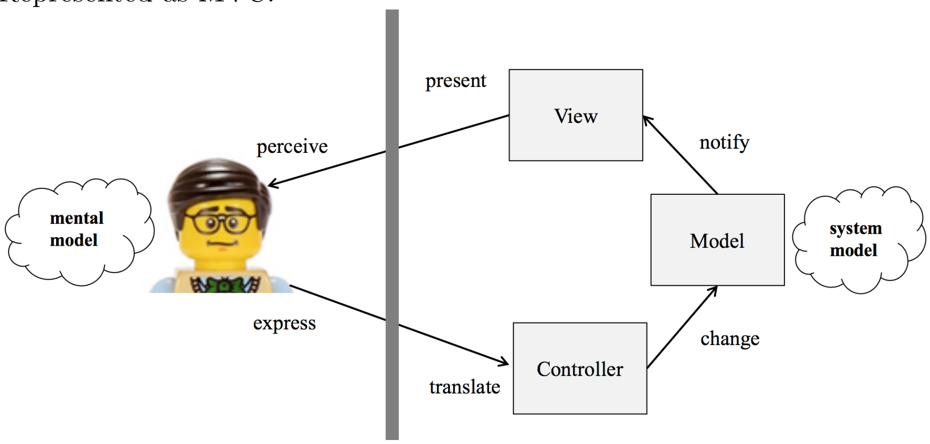
CS 349 Midterm Review

Background & History

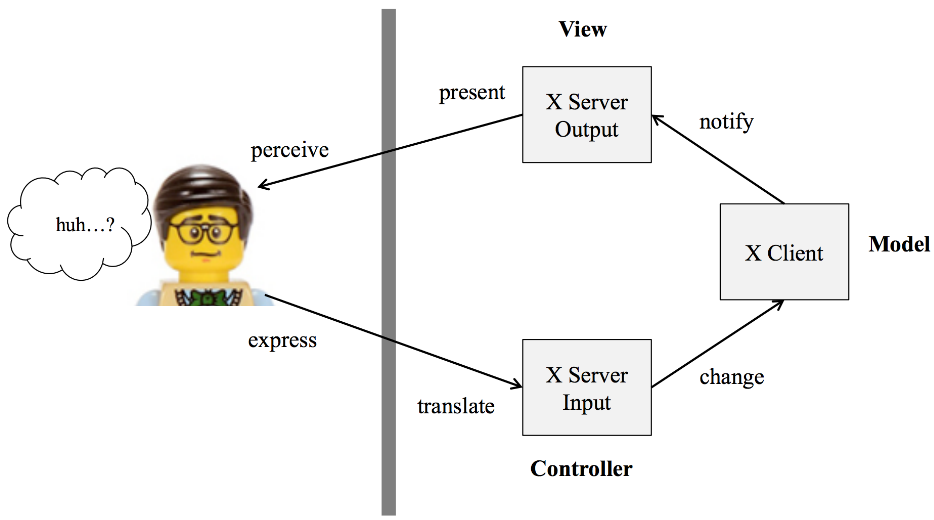
- **User interface**:
  - The place where a person expresses intention to an artifact, and the artifact presents feedback to the person
  - The way people (mental model) and technology (system model) interact
  - Represented as MVC:



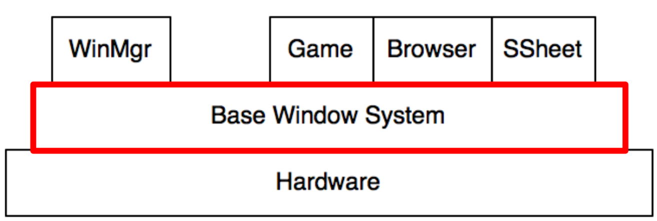
- **Interface**: external presentation (visual, physical, auditory) to the user
  - e.g. controls
- **Interaction**: actions invoked by user and corresponding responses (behaviour)
  - e.g. action and dialog
- Batch interfaces (1945-1965)
  - Sets of instructions fed via punch cards
  - Only used by highly trained individuals
- Conversationalist interface (1965-1985+)
  - Text-based feedback and input
  - I/O is in system language, not task language
  - Vannevar Bush – conceptualized the memex, a desk with integrated display, input, and data storage
  - Ivan Sutherland – created the Sketchpad, an early graphical interface with a light pen and direct manipulation
  - Douglas Engelbart – invented the mouse, introduced copy/paste
  - Alan Kay – worked on the Xerox Star, first commercial computer with GUI
- Graphic user interface (1984+)
  - Hardware interface: high resolution & refresh graphics display, keyboard, and pointing device
  - WIMP interface: windows, icons, menus, and pointer
  - Benefits of GUI:
    - Keeps the user in control
    - Emphasize recognition (discovery of options) over recall (memorizing commands)
    - Uses metaphor; makes interaction language closer to user's language

Windowing Systems & X11

- **Windowing system**: provides input, output, and window management capabilities to the OS
- **X Windows (X11)**:
  - Standard windowing system for Unix-based systems
- X11 architecture
  - **X Client** handles all application logic
  - **X Server** handles all user input & display output
  - There may be many clients – each client is an application; server draws all clients onto one screen and reads all input



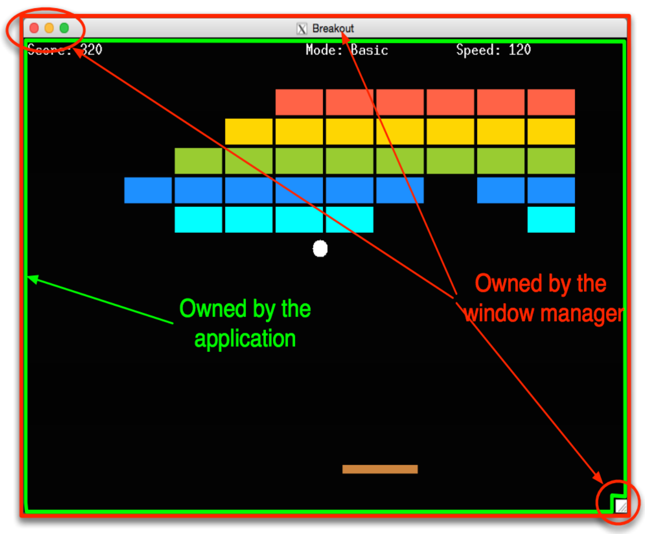
- Structure of an X program (application is run on the X client):
  - Perform client initialization
  - Connect to X server (e.g. `XOpenDisplay()`, `XCreateWindow()`)
  - Perform X related initialization (e.g. create graphic contexts with `XCreateGC()`; put window on the screen with `XMapRaised()`)
  - Event loop
    - Get next event from server (e.g. `XNextEvent()`)
    - Handle event (e.g. `XLookupKeysym()`)
    - Send draw request to server (e.g. flush output buffer with `XFlush()`)
  - Close down connection to X server (e.g. `XCloseDisplay()`)
  - Perform client cleanup
- X11 is a **base windowing system**:



  - A standard/protocol for creating windows, low-level graphical output, and user input

- Does not specify the style of each application's UI
- Provides each application with a window and manages its access
- Each application (only) owns a canvas; shielded from details such as visibility, other windows, etc.
- Some design goals of X11/BWS:
  - Supports multiple overlapping & resizable windows
  - A display may have multiple screens (e.g. monitors) and a window may span multiple screens
  - High-performance, high-quality text, 2D graphic & imaging

- **Window manager**:
  - Provides interactive components (e.g. menus, close button, resizing)
  - The WM owns each application's window itself (while application owns the canvas)
    - i.e. application developers usually cannot change the window style
  - Separation of the WM from the BWS enables many alternative "look and feels"



- **Drawing**
  - Three conceptual drawing models:
    - Pixel (e.g. images)
    - Stroke (e.g. lines, outlines of shapes)
    - Region (e.g. text, filled shapes)
  - X11 uses graphics contexts to store drawing options/parameters – stored on X server
  - **Clipping**: exposing only a particular region (specified by a mask) of an underlying image
  - Implementation in X11:
    - `XSetClipMask()`, `XSetClipRectangles()`
    - Only exposed area is repainted
  - **Painter's Algorithm**: draw shapes in layers from back to front to create composite shapes
  - Implementation in X11:
    - `Displayable` class with abstract `paint()` method
    - Implement `paint()` in each subclass

        - Draw list of `Displayables` from back to front, clear screen on every repaint

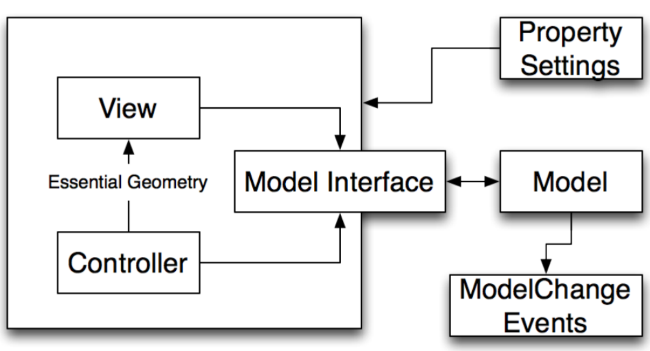
- **Events & animation**
    - Objective: need to map input from real-word devices to actions within a system
    - **Event-driven programming**: flow of program is determined by events such as user input (key press, mouse click, input focus change) or sensor/timer events
    - Implementation in X11:
        - Use `XSelectInput()` and event masks (e.g. `KeyPressMask` etc.) to register for types of events
        - Use `XNextEvent()` to dequeue the next event; may block if no events
            - Use `XPending()` to check for # of events before dequeueing
        - Should dequeue *all events* before repainting to avoid input lag
        - Should subtract time spent in event loop from `sleep()` to maintain consistent FPS
        - Should draw all images to a *buffer* (`XCreatePixmap()`), then copy the buffer onto the screen in one go (`XCopyArea()`) (aka. double buffering)
            - Avoids displaying an intermediate image (i.e. flickering)

Widgets, Events & Layout

- **Widgets**: parts of an interface that have their own behaviour
  - Control their own appearance; recieve and handle their own events
  - Widgets toolkit defines a set of GUI components
  - Design goals:
    - Complete – covers wide range of functionality
    - Consistent – look-and-feel across components
    - Customizable – developers can extend functionality
  - Consistent behaviour of components helps users anticipate how the interface will react, and promotes easier *discoverability* of features

Heavyweight widgets: • Wrappers around OS's native GUI & windowing system • e.g. Java AWT	**Lightweight widgets**: • OS provides top-level window in which widgets are drawn • Toolkit is responsible to passing events to widgets
Advantages: • Events passed directly to OS/BWS • Preserves the OS look-and-feel	Advantages: • Consistent look-and-feel across platforms • Consistent widget set across platforms • Allows for highly optimized widgets
Disadvantages: • OS-specific programming • Small set of common widgets across different platforms	Disadvantages: • May appear "non-native"

- Widgets as logical input devices
  - Characteristics:
    - Model manipulated by the widget (e.g. number, text)
    - Events generated by the widget (e.g. changed)
    - Properties (behaviour and appearance) of the widget (e.g. colour, size, allowed values)



  - Model is abstracted into an interface/abstract class for more code reuse and customizability
    - Interface may provide many accessors, mutators & event-firing functions to be implemented by the custom widgets, allowing for easy manipulation of custom data
  - Essential geometry is computed by the view; controller interacts with it
    - Mapping mouse position/action to some behaviour or concept in the model

  - e.g. mouse position → scrollbar region/position
- Examples of widgets and their characterstics:
  - e.g. button
    - Model = *none*; events = *push*; properties = *label, size, colour etc.*
  - e.g. radio button
    - Model = *Boolean*; events = *changed*; properties = *size, colour etc.*
  - e.g. text field
    - Model = *string*; events = *changed, selection*; properties = *optional formatters, font etc.*
- Special value widgets: colour picker, calendar etc.

- Event dispatch → event handling → notifying view & windowing system
- **Event dispatch**: dequeueing events from event queue and pushing to appropriate applications
- **Interactor tree** – hierarchy of containers and their nested widgets
- **Positional dispatch** – input sent to widget under mouse cursor location
  - Bottom-up positional dispatch:
    - Event is routed to leaf (lowest) widget in interactor tree
    - Widget can process the event or pass to its parent
    - e.g. widget belongs in a group/container – may be better for container to handle the event
  - Top-down positional dispatch:
    - Event is routed to highest-level node that contains mouse cursor
    - Widget can process the event or pass to child component
    - e.g. parent widget can enforce policies
    - e.g. easy logging of events (as it traverses down through the tree)
- **Focus dispatch** – events dispatched to widget that has keyboard/mouse focus
  - At most one widget each can be in keyboard & mouse focus at a given time
  - Focus dispatch also needs positional dispatch to change focus (i.e. mouse click)
  - Accelerator keys (i.e. keyboard shortcuts) can bypass focus dispatch – they're handled before widget receives events

Heavyweight toolkits:	**Lightweight toolkits**:
• BWS has visibility to all widgets • Can use top-down or bottom-up dispatch	• BWS only has visibility to application window • Toolkit dispatches event to widget • Can only use top-down dispatch

- **Event handling**: interpreting events in widget's application code
  - Event loop & switch statement (X11):
    - All events are consumed in one event loop
    - Switch statement selects the appropriate code for each event (`switch (event.type) ...`)
    - Downsides: switch statement needs to encompass every type of event (too many!)
  - Inheritance binding (Java, OS X):
    - Events are dispatched to base widget class with predefined event handling methods (default behaviour)

        - Child widget overrides methods with custom behaviour
        - Downsides:
            - Event handling code in application logic (child widget) – no separation of concerns
            - Difficult to add new events
    - Listener binding (Java):
        - Interface binding – widget class implements event listener interfaces

```
public class A implements Listener { // implement all methods }
```

        - Object binding – widget class holds listener objects (implement listener interface as a nested class)
            - Event handling & application code are decoupled

```
this.addListener(new Listener() { // implement all methods });
```

        - Adapter pattern – widget class holds adapter objects (class with boilerplate implementations)
            - Custom adapter only needs to extend methods that are used

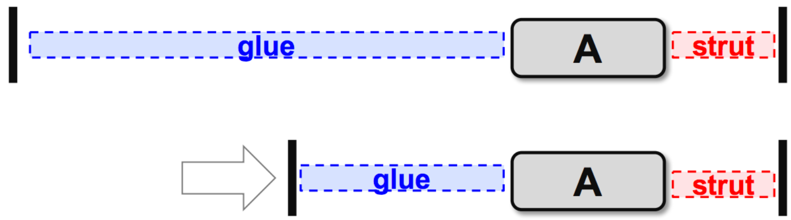
```
this.addListener(new ListenerAdapter() { // override some methods });
```

    - Delegate binding (.NET):
        - Delegates "point" to a method (or methods); invoking delegate calls all associated methods

```
delegate = object.Method1; delegate += object.Method2; delegate(args);
```

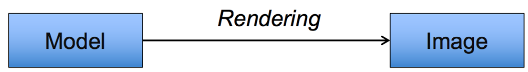
- **Dynamic layout** – maximize use of available of space by widgets, while maintaining consistency & visual quality of spatial layout
    - May adjust location, size, visibility & look-and-feel of widgets
- **Adaptive/responsive layout** – changing spatial layout & swapping widgets to adapt to different device sizes
- Widgets may define constraints for size (e.g. min, preferred, max), position (e.g. anchors)
    - Use layout managers to size & position child widgets
- Composite pattern – group/container of widgets and individual widgets are treated uniformly
    - Widgets are organized in a tree hierarchy
- Strategy pattern – abstract out the algorithm so that it can be changed at run-time
    - Layout manager can employ different layout strategies
- Types of layouts:
    - Fixed – widgets have fixed size & position
        - e.g. set `LayoutManager` to null
    - Intrinsic size – parent widget's size depends on contained widgets
        - Bottom-up algorithm – query each child widget for preferred size, then set size for parent
        - e.g. `FlowLayout`
    - Variable intrinsic size – widget size depends on both parent and contained widgets
        - Bottom-up & top-down algorithm
        - e.g. `BoxLayout`, `GridBagLayout`, `BorderLayout`
    - Struts and Springs – layout specified by contraints and anchors
        - Strut widgets are fixed in size; spring/glue widgets stretch to fill space

- e.g. `SpringLayout`



Graphics & Transformations

- **2D graphics**:
  - Model – mathematical representation of an image/object & its properties
  - Rendering – using the properties to create an image to be displayed on the screen
  - Image – the rendered model



  - Shape model – contains data needed to draw a shape (array of points, colour, border width etc.)
- Selection paradigms:
  - Click selection (for lines) – find closest line segment to mouse position
    - Check distance from mouse to each line segment using vector projection
    - Count as "selection" for distance under a certain threshold
  - Click selection (for closed shapes) – check if mouse position is within shape
    - For complex polygons, draw a ray extending from the point & count the # of intersections with the polygon's boundary
    - If odd # of intersections, the point is within the polygon; if even #, it is not
  - Alternate approaches (not covered): rubberband rectangle, lasso
- **Affine transformations**