The decorator design pattern

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Introduction

Introduction

Lecture topics

- Adding responsibilities dynamically
- Possible solutions and pitfalls
- The decorator design pattern
- Conclusions

Introduction

Introduction

- Today we are going to study a behavioral pattern: the decorator design pattern
- Consider a series of objects and their customizations (*behaviours*)
- Sometimes, we need to dynamically bind objects and zero or more behaviors

Introduction

Introduction

- Hand made combinations could be a solution
- Examples:

- Add a turbo to a `Car`
- Add an extra seat to a `Car`
- Add a turbo and an extra seat to a `Car`
- etc.

Introduction

Introduction

- All possible combinations of objects and behaviors are too many
- We cannot have a class for each
- Moreover, we need *dynamism* of the binding: add or remove behaviors at runtime

Introduction

- The decorator pattern (also known as wrapper) solves this issue
- How? By emulating polymorphism through composition

Case study

Case study

Case study

- Consider again the iterator interface

```
1 interface Iterator<T> {
2   IOption<T> GetNext();
3 }
```

Case study

Case study

- Consider again the natural numbers implementation

```
1  class Naturals : Iterator<int> {
2    private int current;
3    public Naturals() {
4      current = 1;
5    }
6    IOption<int> GetNext() {
7      current = (current + 1);
8      return new Some<int>(current);
9    }
10 }
```

Case study

First task: selecting only natural even numbers

- We wish now to iterate only the even numbers of our natural number list

```
1  class Evens : Iterator<int> {
2    private  int current;
3    public Evens() {
4      current = -1;
5    }
6    IOption<int> GetNext() {
7      current = (current + 1);
8      if(((current % 2) == 0)) {
9        return new Some<int>(current);
10     }
11     else{
12       return this.GetNext();
13     }
14   }
15 }
```

Case study

Another task: iteration with offset

- We wish now to iterate our natural number list and while iterating it add an offset to each element

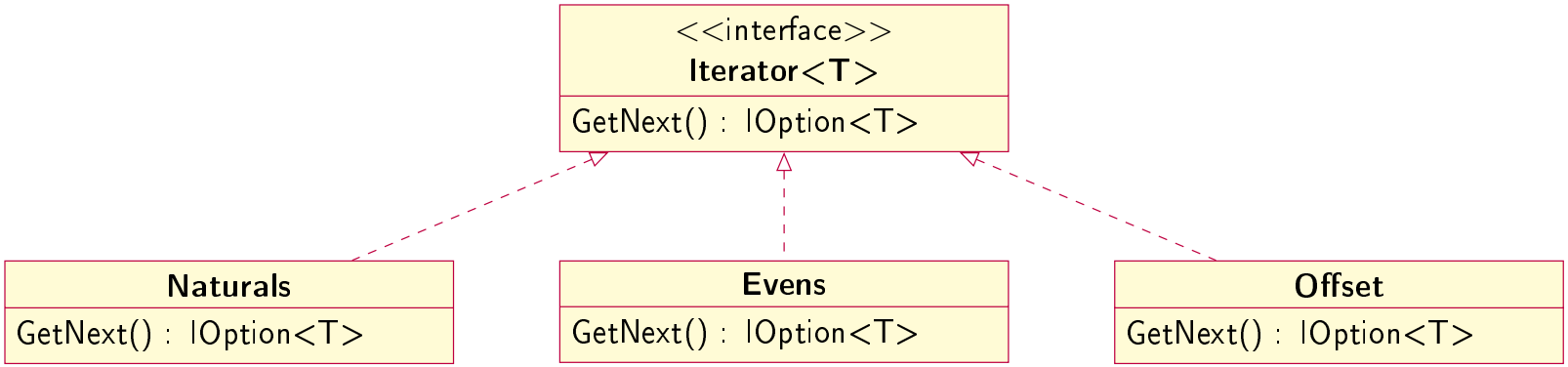
```
1  class Offset : Iterator<int> {
2    private int current;
3    private int offset;
4    public Offset(int offset) {
5      current = -1;
6      this.offset = offset;
7    }
8    IOption<int> GetNext() {
9      current = (current + 1);
10     return new Some<int>((current + offset));
11   }
12 }
```

Case study

UML

- Lets give a look to the UML of our classes made so far..

Case study



Case study

A new task: iteration over evens with offset

- We wish now to iterate only even numbers of our natural number list and for each number add an offset
- Yes, we need another class...

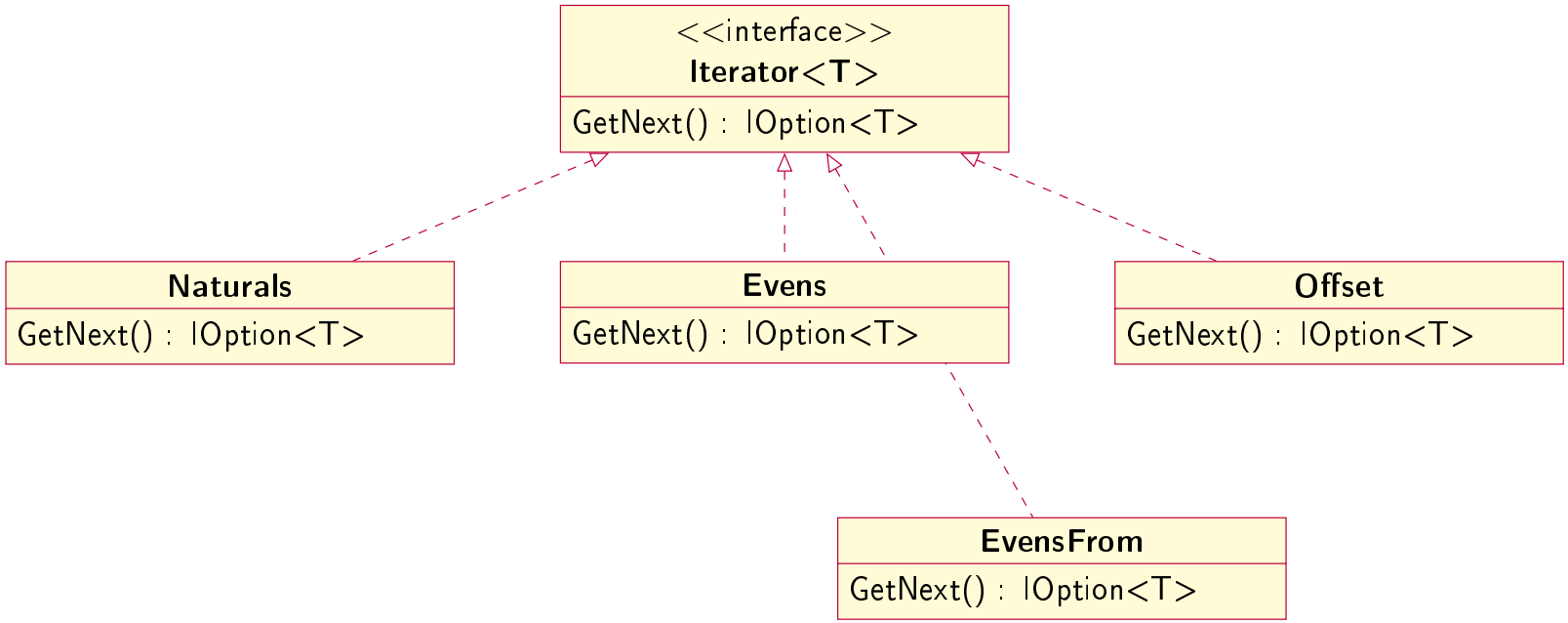
```
1  class EvensFrom : Iterator<int> {
2    private  int current;
3    private  int offset;
4    public EvensFrom(int offset) {
5      current = -1;
6      this.offset = offset;
7    }
8    IOption<int> GetNext() {
9      current = (current + 1);
10     if(((current % 2) == 0)) {
11       return new Some<int>((current + offset));
12     }
13     else{
14       return this.GetNext();
15     }
16   }
17 }
```

Case study

UML discussion

- As we can see our class hierarchy is growing “horizontally”, because of lacks of reuse
- Let us see the UML again

Case study



Case study

Iterating a range between two integers

- Imagine if we now wish to implement a new data structure `Range` that takes two integers A and B (where A <= B)
- We want `Range` to support the `Offset` and `Even` behaviors
- We have to literally duplicate everything and to implement all possible combinations

Case study

Considerations

- Polymorphism solves our problem, but adds another one. Too many combinations
- Every change/add requires lots of work
- Behavioral commonalities are not taken into consideration

Case study

Considerations

- How can we group such behaviors (offset and even) to define them once and use them everywhere?
- A possible solution would see our natural number implementing offset and even

```
1 class EvensFrom : Naturals, Offset, Evens {
2   ...
3 }
```

- This solution is not good, since the responsibilities are now not clear, see SOLID

Case study

Considerations

- Abstract classes with a series of booleans, which we can use as "switchers" to select the appropriate algorithm, could be another solution
- But fields do not force appropriate behavior for each of the roles

```
1 class Naturals : Iterator<int> {
2   private  bool isEven;
3   private  bool isOffset;
4   ...
5 }
```

- This solution is not good, since the responsibilities are now not clear, see SOLID

Case study

Considerations

- We need a better mechanism. Ideally we wish:
  - To define once our naturals
  - To define once our even behavior
  - To define once our offset behavior
  - To apply the above behaviors "on demand", and not to all instances of natural lists
  - To combine the above behaviors without defining new behaviors

Case study

Idea

- A interesting solution could be to built a *proxy*, like adapter, but with the possibility to add semantics!

Case study

Idea

- We define an intermediate entity `Decorator`, which inherits our iterator and also contains an instance of it (`decorated_item`)
- Note `GetNext` acts as a proxy by simply calling `decorated_item.GetNext()` and returning its result
- `Decorator` is abstract, so you cannot create it without a "concrete" behavior

```
1  abstract class Decorator : Iterator<int> {
2    protected Iterator<int> decorated_item;
3    public Decorator(Iterator<int> decorated_item) {
4      this.decorated_item = decorated_item;
5    }
6    protected abstract  IOption<int> GetNext();
7  }
```

Case study

Idea

- We can think of the decorator as an iterator containing elements, but which does not know how to iterate them
- A concrete decorator needs a specification of how to iterate

Case study

Idea

- We now declare concrete two decorators `Even` and `Offset` that extend our `Decorator`
- `Even` and `Offset` are unaware (and they do not need to be) of whether they are going to deal with all natural numbers, just a range of them, or something else

Case study

Idea: even class

- In the following you find the code for Even

```
1  class Even : Decorator {
2    public Even(Iterator<int> collection) : base(collection) {
3    }
4    public override IOption<int> GetNext() {
5      Option<int> current = base.decorated_item.GetNext();
6      if(current.IsNone()) {
7        return new None<int>();
8      }
9      else{
10       if(((current.GetValue() % 2) == 0)) {
11         return new Some<int>(current.GetValue());
12       }
13       else{
14         return this.GetNext();
15       }
16     }
17   }
18 }
```

Case study

Idea: even class, with lambdas

- In the following you find the code for Even, with lambdas

```
1  class Even : Decorator {
2    public Even(Iterator<int> collection) : base(collection) {
3    }
4    public override IOption<int> GetNext() {
5      Option<int> current = base.decorated_item.GetNext();
6      current.Visit(() => new None<int>(),current =>
7  { if(((current % 2) == 0)) {
8    return new Some<int>(current);
9  }
10 else{
11   return this.GetNext();
12 }
13  });
14   }
15 }
```

Case study

Idea: offset class

- In the following you find the code for `Offset`

```
1  class Offset : Decorator {
2    private  int offset;
3    public Offset(int offset,Iterator<int> collection) : base(collection) {
4      this.offset = offset;
5    }
6    public override IOption<int> GetNext() {
7      Option<int> current = base.decorated_item.GetNext();
8      if(current.IsNone()) {
9        return new None<int>();
10     }
11     else{
12       return new Some<int>((current.GetValue() + offset));
13     }
14   }
15 }
```

Case study

Idea: offset class, with lambdas

- In the following you find the code for `Offset`, with lambdas

```
1  class Offset : Decorator {
2    private  int offset;
3    public Offset(int offset,Iterator<int> collection) : base(collection) {
4      this.offset = offset;
5    }
6    public override IOption<int> GetNext() {
7      Option<int> current = base.decorated_item.GetNext();
8      current.Visit(() => new None<int>(),current => new Some<int>((current +
           offset)));
9    }
10 }
```

Case study

Idea

- With `Even` and `Offset` we managed to capture a reusable behavior that works with any collection made of numbers
- They work on `Range` and `Numbers`
- They work on any other collection of ints, even with those built with decorators

- `Naturals` → `Evens` → `Offset`
- `Range` → `Odd` → `TimesTwo`
- `List` → `Even`
- etc.

Case study

Idea

- The following are all examples of how to use our new data structures:
- `Iterator<int> ns1 = new Even(new Naturals())`
- `Iterator<int> ns2 = new Offset(new Naturals())`
- `Iterator<int> ns2 = new Offset(new Even(new Naturals()))`
- `Iterator<int> ns3 = new Offset(new Even(new Range(5, 10)))`

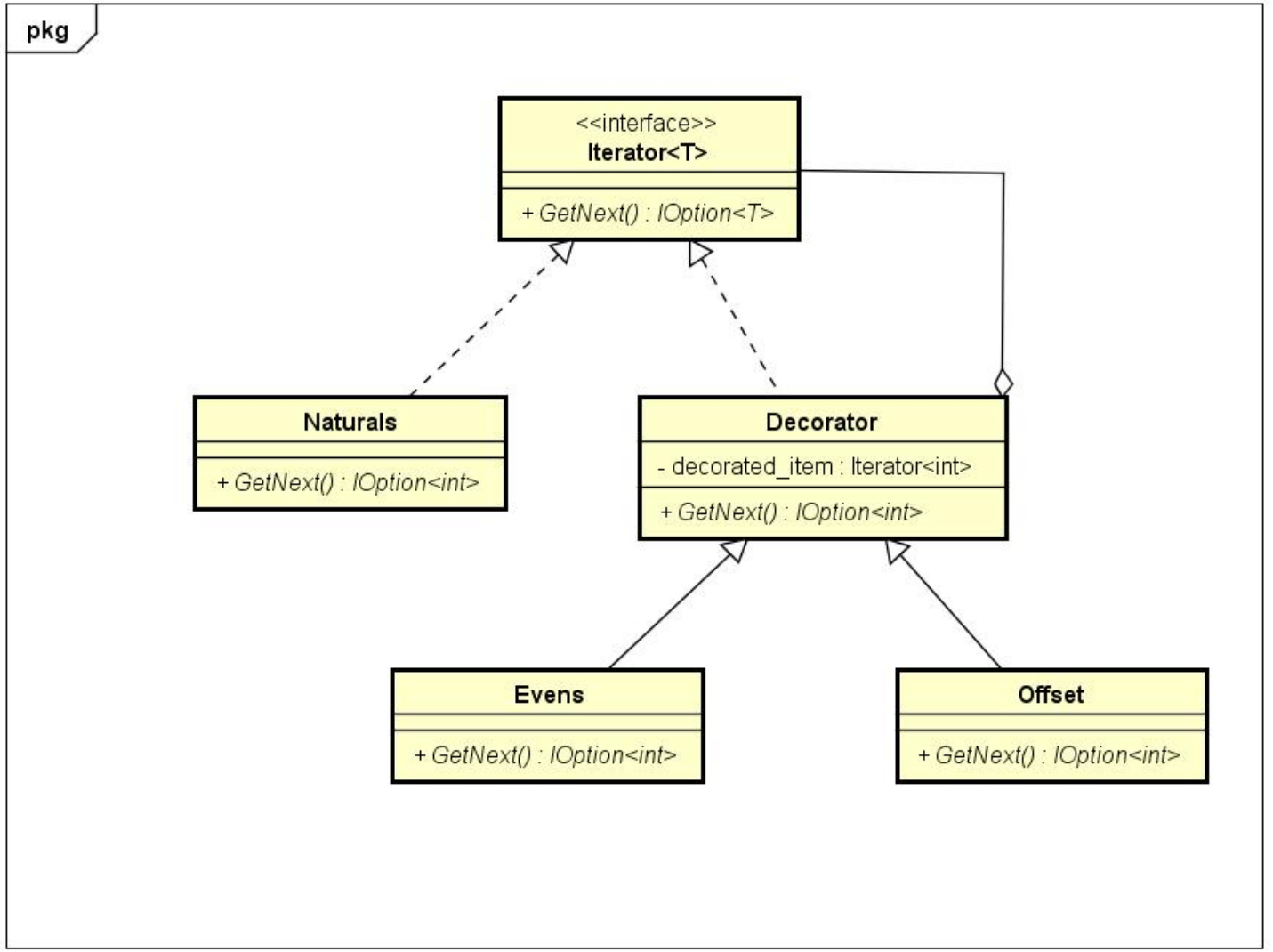
Case study

Idea

- Note how decomposability helps to keep the interaction surface clean and reusable and the implementation compact
- We now show the UML of our code

Case study

Idea



Case study

Considerations

- The pattern seen so far follows a specific design pattern that is called the **Decorator design pattern** (a behavioral design pattern)
- We now study its formalization and add some final considerations

The decorator design pattern

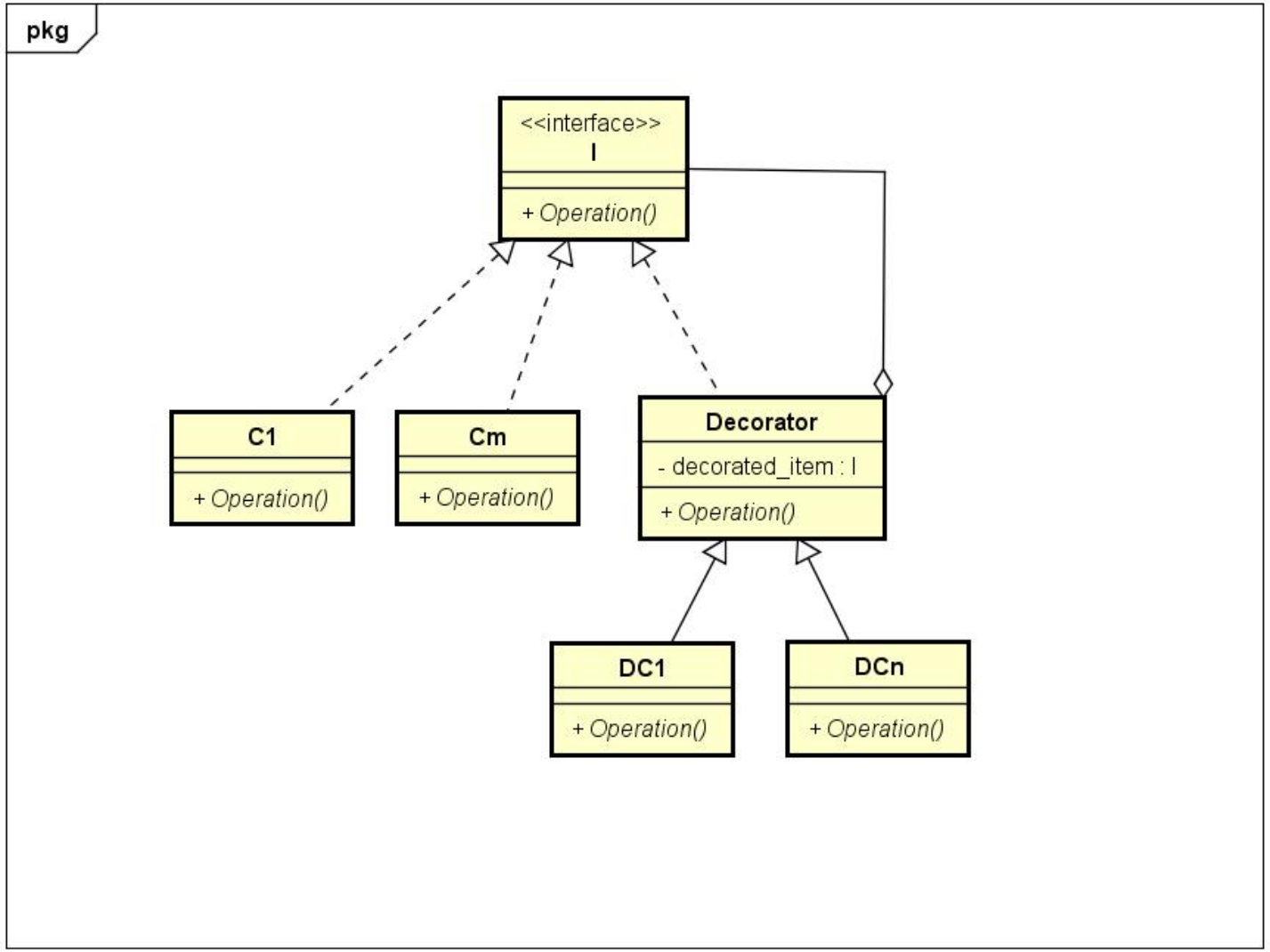
The decorator design pattern

Formalism

- Given a polymorphic type I (to instantiate)
- Given a series of concrete implementations of I: $C_1, .., C_m$
- A decorator D is an entity that implements I and references an instance of I
- Given a series of concrete decorators $CD_1, ..., CD_n$ extends D
- As concrete CD's come with difference semantics, every CD is tasked to apply its semantics by overriding methods of the inherited D

The decorator design pattern

Formalism



The decorator design pattern

Generic decorators

- We can build generic decorators
- Genericity comes from lambdas, which act as “holes” in their behaviors
- Concrete decorators can be defined by specifying the underlying iterator + the lambdas

The decorator design pattern

Filter

- A `Filter` is a generic decorator that skips some elements
- We can use it to express our `Evens`, see code below

```
1  class Filter : Decorator {
2    Func<int, bool> p;
3    public Filter(Iterator<int> collection,Func<int, bool> p) : base(
         collection) {
4      p = this.p;
5    }
6    public override IOption<int> GetNext() {
7      Option<int> current = base.decorated_item.GetNext();
8      if(current.IsNone()) {
9        return new None<int>();
10     }
11     else{
12       if(p.Invoke(current.GetValue())) {
13         return new Some<int>(current.GetValue());
14       }
15       else{
16         return this.GetNext();
17       }
18     }
19   }
20 }
21 Iterator<int> numbers = new Filter(new Range(0,5),n => ((n % 2) == 0));
```

The decorator design pattern

Filter, with lambdas

- A `Filter` is a generic decorator that skips some elements
- We can use it to express our `Evens`, see code below (with lambdas)

```
1  class Filter : Decorator {
2    Func<int, bool> p;
3    public Filter(Iterator<int> collection,Func<int, bool> p) : base(
         collection) {
4      p = this.p;
5    }
6    public override IOption<int> GetNext() {
7      Option<int> current = base.decorated_item.GetNext();
8      current.Visit(() => new None<int>(),current =>
9  { if(p.Invoke(current)) {
10   return new Some<int>(current);
11 }
12 else{
13   return this.GetNext();
14 }
15  });
16   }
17 }
18 Iterator<int> numbers = new Filter(new Range(0,5),n => ((n % 2) == 0));
```

The decorator design pattern

Map

- A Map transforms all elements one after the other
- We can use it to express our Offset, see code below

```
1  class Map : Decorator {
2    Func<int, int> t;
3    public Map(Func<int, int> t,Iterator<int> collection) : base(collection) {
4      this.t = t;
5    }
6    public override IOption<int> GetNext() {
7      Option<int> current = base.decorated_item.GetNext();
8      if(current.IsNone()) {
9        return new None<int>();
10     }
11     else{
12       return new Some<int>(t.Invoke(current.GetValue()));
13     }
14   }
15 }
16 Iterator<int> numbers = new Map(new Range(0,5),n => (current + 1));
```

The decorator design pattern

Map, with lambdas

- A `Map` transforms all elements one after the other
- We can use it to express our `Offset`, see code below (with lambdas)

```
1  class Map : Decorator {
2    Func<int, int> t;
3    public Map(Offset offset,Iterator<int> collection) : base(collection) {
4      this.offset = offset;
5    }
6    public override IOption<int> GetNext() {
7      Option<int> current = base.decorated_item.GetNext();
8      current.Visit(() => new None<int>(),current => new Some<int>(t.Invoke(
           current)));
9    }
10 }
11 Iterator<int> numbers = new Map(new Range(0,5),n => (current + 1));
```

The decorator design pattern

Map and Filter

- Of course we can combine them, so to express our `EvensFrom`
- `Iterator<int> numbers = new Filter(new Map(new Range(0,5), n => n + 1), n => n % 2 == 0);`

Conclusions

Conclusions

Conclusions

- Sometimes, we need to apply behaviors instances dynamically
- Hand made combinations could be a solution, but the number of combinations is huge
- The decorator pattern solves this issue by emulating a customizable, dynamic form of polymorphism through composition
- In short, a decorator allows behavior to be added to an individual object, without affecting other objects

This is it!

The best of luck, and thanks for the attention!