

Abstract data types

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User-defined types

Decide which types you want; provide a full set of operations for each type

- User-defined types follow nearly the same rules for naming, scope, allocation, lifetime, etc., as does a built-in type such as `int` or `char`
 - User-defined types address the shortcomings of pseudo-types that can be created through modular programming
- A user-defined type is also known as an abstract data type (ADT)
 - Stroustrup prefers the term user-defined type as a reasonable definition of an abstract data type would require a mathematical "abstract" specification

Abstract Data Types (ADT)

- An Abstract Data Type (ADT) consists of
 - An interface
 - Communicating the set of operations that can be performed
 - The allowable behaviors
 - The way we expect instances of the ADT to respond to operations
- The implementation of an ADT consists of
 - An internal representation
 - A set of methods implementing the interface
 - A set of representation invariants, true initially and preserved by all methods

<http://www.cse.wustl.edu/~top/cse511/Notes/DataAbstraction/data.html>

Ex: Sphere

- **Interface:**
 - Create
 - Move
 - Resize
 - Check if point within sphere
 - Volume
- **Internal representation:**
 - x, y, z (center) and r (radius)
- **Representation invariant:**
 - $r \geq 0$
- **Allowable behaviors:**
 - Any position is ok, most recent position is used, resize ok as long as $r \geq 0$

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Ex: Student management software

- *You've been asked to write a program that manages students for a lecture section...*
- **What** student information should we include in a record?
 - There are many attributes that are used to characterize a student... what are the essential characteristics with respect to our program?
- **What** operations should be allowed?
 - Add a new student to the class?
 - Searching the class for a student?
 - Deleting a student who dropped the class?

Ex: Student management software

- **What** attributes and operations we select during this process of abstraction defines our *abstract data type (ADT)*
- **How** the student records will be stored in memory and **how** these operations are implemented *do not*

ADT mathematical models?

- Simply describe the underlying the data structuring mechanism independent of programming language syntax

Arrays

- Mapping specific objects in some range domain R for each value in some finite index domain I
- Denoted $I \rightarrow R$

Sequences (Lists, Strings)

- Ordered collections of any number of elements of a base domain C
- Denoted C^* . $C^* = \{\}$
 $+ C + C \times C + C \times C \times C + \dots$

<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/15-451/2017/001/ADTModels.html>
