Division of Continuing Education

Module 4: Interfaces for Abstraction

Topic 2.1: Using Interfaces

Ways to Use an Interface

- Need a function which takes multiple types as a parameter
- Function foo() parameter
 - Type X or type Y
- Define interface Z
- foo() parameter is interface Z
- Types X and Y satisfy Z
- Interface methods must be those needed by foo()



Pool in a Yard

- I need to put a pool in my yard
- Pool needs to fit in my yard
 - Total area must be limited
- Pool needs to be fenced
 - Total perimeters must be limited
- Need to determine if a pool shape satisfies criteria
- FitInYard()
 - Takes a shape as a argument
 - Returns true if the shape satisfies criteria



FitInYard()

- Many possible shape types
 - Rectangle, triangle, circle, etc.
- FitInYard() should take many shape types
- Valid shape types must have:
 - Area()
 Perimeter()
- Any shape with these methods is OK



Interface for Shapes

```
type Shape2D interface {
   Area() float64
   Perimeter() float64
type Triangle {...}
func (t Triangle) Area() float64 {...}
func (t Triangle) Perimeter() float64 {...}
type Rectangle {...}
func (t Rectangle) Area() float64 {...}
func (t Rectangle) Perimeter() float64 {...}
```

Rectangle and Triangle satisfy Shape2D interface



FitInYard() Implementation

```
func FitInYard(s Shape2D) bool {
   if (s.Area() < 100 &&
        s.Perimeter() < 100) {
        return true
   }
   return false
}</pre>
```

Parameter is any type that satisfies the interface



Empty Interface

- Empty interface specifies no methods
- All types satisfy the empty interface
- Use it to have a function accept any type as a parameter

```
func PrintMe(val interface{}) {
   fmt.Println(val)
}
```

