

# The Stable Abstractions Principle

## Measuring abstraction

- $N_c$ : the # of classes in the component
- $N_a$ : the # of interfaces and abstract classes in the component
- $A$ : Abstractness.  $A = N_a / N_c$ 
  - $A = 0$ : no abstract classes at all
  - $A = 1$ : abstract component

# Main Sequence in A / I graph

## Locate the stable and flexible components

- Main Sequence
  - a locus of points defining reasonable positions
    - (0,1) and (1,0) are perfect, but
    - anywhere along the line between is also good
  - infer by finding the zones of exclusion
- Zones of exclusion
  - the zone of pain — highly stable and concrete
    - volatile components like database schema, concrete utils lib
    - non-volatile component is fine like String component
  - the zone of useless — highly abstract but no implementation

