

Software Architecture

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Motivation of this course

- Be able to think on the level of ***software architecture*** in all the phases of software engineering
- Algorithm level
- Programming (language) level

教科书和参考书

- 教科书:

- 软件构架实践（第3版），L. Bass, P. Clements, and R. Kazman，清华大学出版社(2013)

- 参考书:

- 软件构架编档，Paul Clements，Felix Bachmann 等著，朱崇高 译，清华大学出版社(2004)
- 软件体系结构——一门初露端倪学科的展望,M. Shaw and D. Garlan, Prentice Hall, 1996 清华大学出版社(1998), 科学出版社(2003)
- 软件体系结构，张友生等，清华大学出版社，2006



考试与成绩

- 期末考试 60%
- 平时成绩 40%
 - 大作业
 - 课堂考勤
 - 课后习题

Major Contents

- Introduction of software architecture
 - what, why, contexts of software architecture
- Quality attributes
 - Availability, modifiability, performance, security, testability, and usability
- Architecture in the life cycle
 - Requirement, design, implementation, test, and evaluation
- Architecture in the Cloud

Chapter 1

What is Software Architecture?

What is Software Architecture?

The software architecture of a system is the set of structures needed to reason about the system, which comprise software elements, relations among them, and properties of both.

Architecture Is a Set of Software Structures

- A structure is a set of elements held together by a relation.
- Software systems are composed of many structures, and no single structure holds claim to being the architecture.
- There are three important categories of architectural structures.
 1. Module
 2. Component and Connector
 3. Allocation

Module Structures

- Some structures partition systems into implementation units, which we call modules.
- Modules are assigned specific computational responsibilities, and are the basis of work assignments for programming teams.
- In large projects, these elements (modules) are subdivided for assignment to sub-teams.

Component-and-connector Structures

- Other structures focus on the way the elements interact with each other **at runtime** to carry out the system's functions.
- We call runtime structures *component-and-connector (C&C) structures*.
- In our use, a component is always a runtime entity.
 - In SOA, the system is to be built as a set of services.
 - These services are made up of (compiled from) the programs in the various implementation units – modules.



Software Architecture

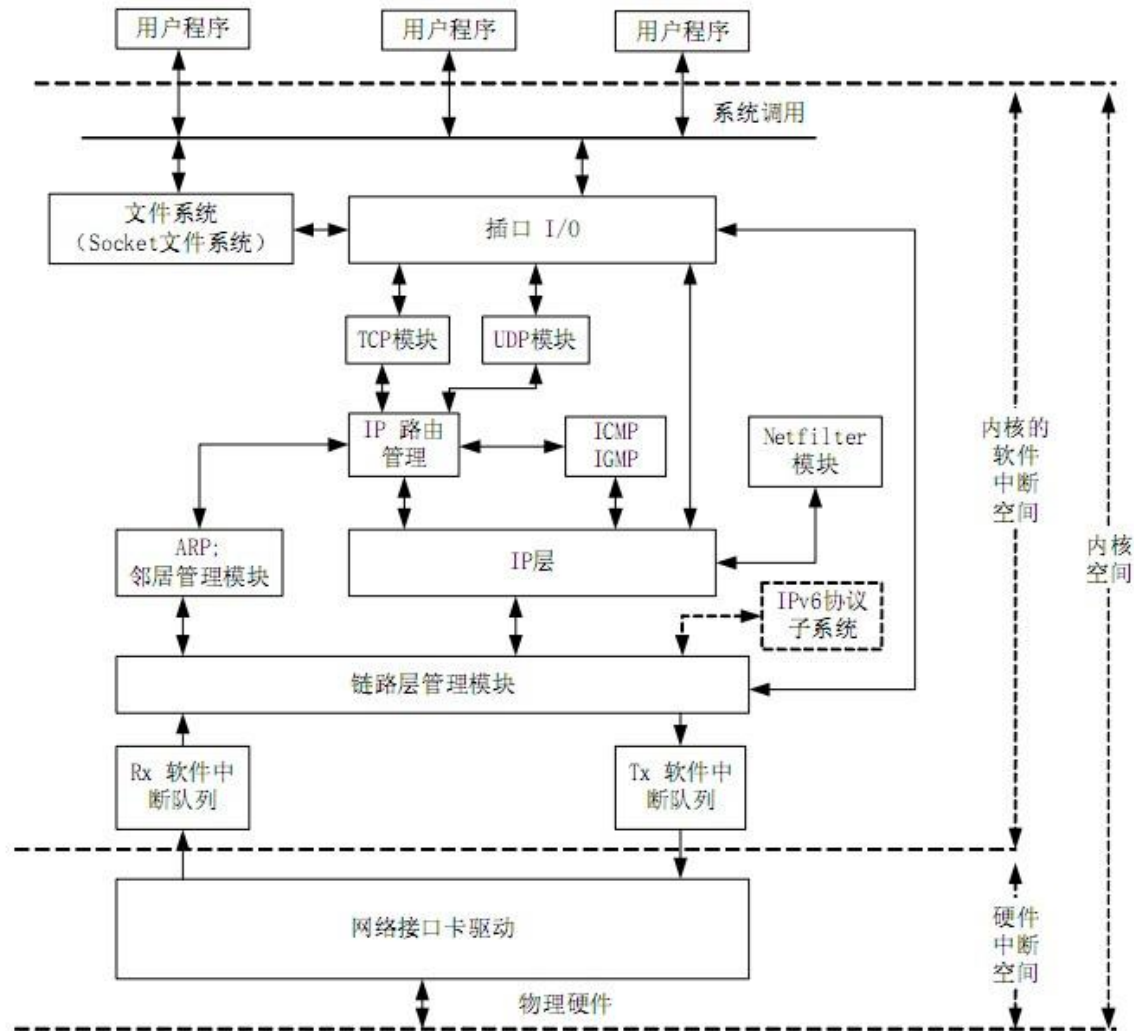


图1 Linux 内核的 TCP/IP 的体系结构图

Allocation Structures

- Allocation structures describe the mapping from software structures to the system's environments
- For example
 - Modules are assigned to **teams** to develop, and assigned to places in **a file structure** for implementation, integration, and testing.
 - Components are deployed onto **hardware** in order to execute.

Which Structures are Architectural?

- A structure is architectural if it supports reasoning about the system and the system's properties.
- The reasoning should be about an attribute of the system that is important to some stakeholder.
- These include
 - functionality achieved by the system
 - the availability of the system in the face of faults
 - the difficulty of making specific changes to the system
 - the responsiveness of the system to user requests,
 - many others.

Architecture is an Abstraction

- An architecture specifically omits certain information about elements that is not useful for reasoning about the system.
- The architectural abstraction lets us look at the system in terms of its elements, how they are arranged, how they interact, how they are composed, and so forth.
- This abstraction is essential to taming the complexity of an architecture.

Every System has a Software Architecture

- But the architecture may not be known to anyone.
 - Perhaps all of the people who designed the system are long gone
 - Perhaps the documentation has vanished (or was never produced)
 - Perhaps the source code has been lost (or was never delivered)
- An architecture can exist independently of its description or specification

Architecture Includes Behavior

- The behavior of each element is part of the architecture insofar as that behavior can be used to reason about the system.
- This behavior embodies how elements interact with each other, which is clearly part of the definition of architecture.
- This does not mean that the exact behavior and performance of every element must be documented in all circumstances.

Structures and Views

- A *view* is a representation of a coherent set of architectural elements, as written by and read by system stakeholders.
- A *structure* is the set of elements itself, as they exist in software or hardware.
- In short, a view is a representation of a structure.
 - For example, a module *structure* is the set of the system's modules and their organization.
 - A module *view* is the representation of that structure, documented according to a template in a chosen notation, and used by some system stakeholders.
- Architects design structures. They document views of those structures.

Module Structures

- **Module structures** embody decisions as to how the system is to be structured as a set of **code or data units**
- In any module structure, the elements are modules of some kind (perhaps classes, or layers, or merely divisions of functionality, all of which are units of implementation).
- Modules are assigned areas of functional responsibility.

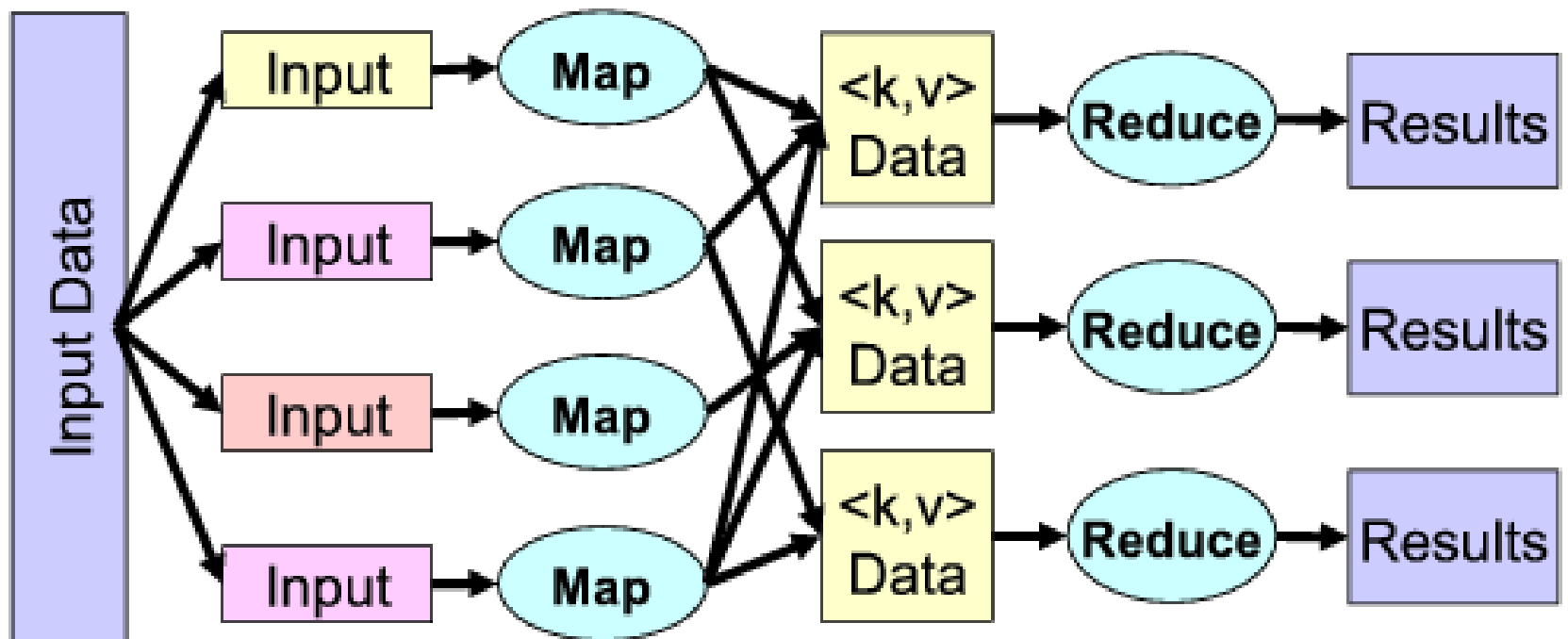
Component-and-connector Structures

- Component-and-connector structures embody decisions as to how the system is to be structured as a set of elements that have **runtime** behavior (components) and interactions (connectors).
- Elements are **runtime components** such as services, peers, clients, servers, or many other types of runtime element)
- Connectors are the communication vehicles among components, such as call-return, process synchronization operators, pipes, or others.

Component-and-connector Structures

- *Component-and-connector views* help us answer questions such as these:
 - What are the major executing components and how do they interact at runtime?
 - What are the major shared data stores?
 - Which parts of the system are replicated?
 - How does data progress through the system?
 - What parts of the system can run in parallel?

MapReduce



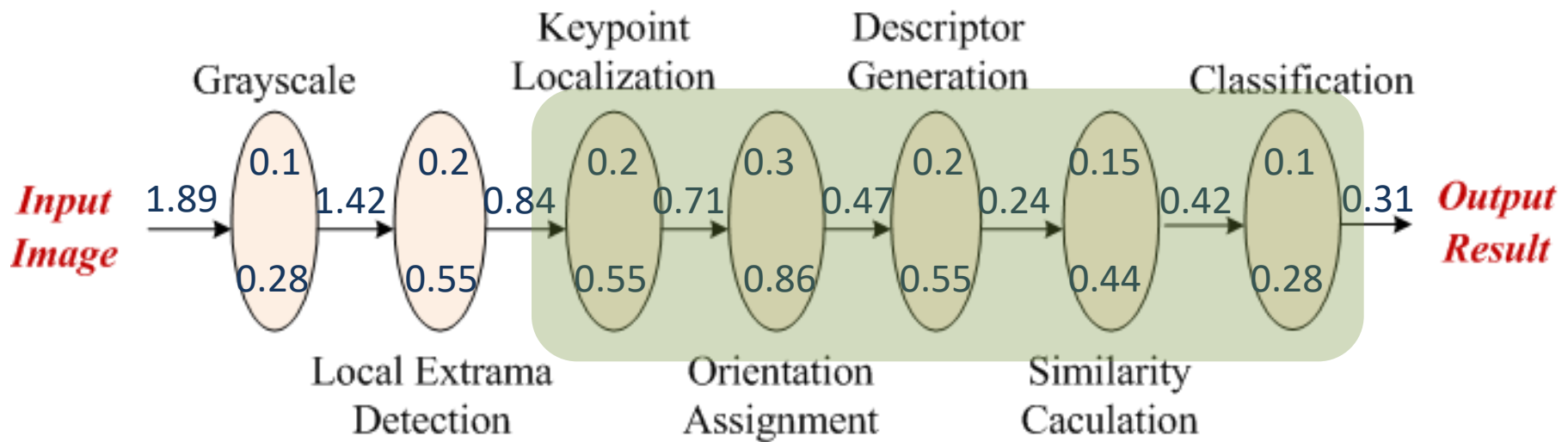
Allocation structures

- ***Allocation structures*** show the relationship between the *software elements* and elements in one or more *external environments* in which the software is created and executed.
- ***Allocation views*** help us answer questions such as these:
 - What **processor** does each software element execute on?
 - In what directories or **files** is each element stored during development, testing, and system building?
 - What is the assignment of each software element to development **teams**?

Structures Provide Insight

- Each structure provides a perspective for reasoning about some of the relevant quality attributes.
- For example:
 - The **module structure**, which embodies what modules use what other modules, is strongly tied to the ease with which a system can be extended.
 - The **concurrency structure**, which embodies parallelism within the system, is strongly tied to the ease with which a system can be made free of deadlock and performance bottlenecks.
 - The **deployment structure** is strongly tied to the achievement of performance, availability, and security goals.

Computation Partitioning a simple example



Optimal Partitioning $0.28 + 0.55 + 0.84 + \underline{0.2 + 0.3 + 0.2 + 0.15 + 0.1} + 0.31 = 2.93$

Local Execution: $0.28 + 0.55 + 0.55 + 0.86 + 0.55 + 0.44 + 0.28 = 3.51$

Remote Execution: $1.89 + \underline{0.1 + 0.2 + 0.2 + 0.3 + 0.2 + 0.15 + 0.1} + 0.31 = 3.45$

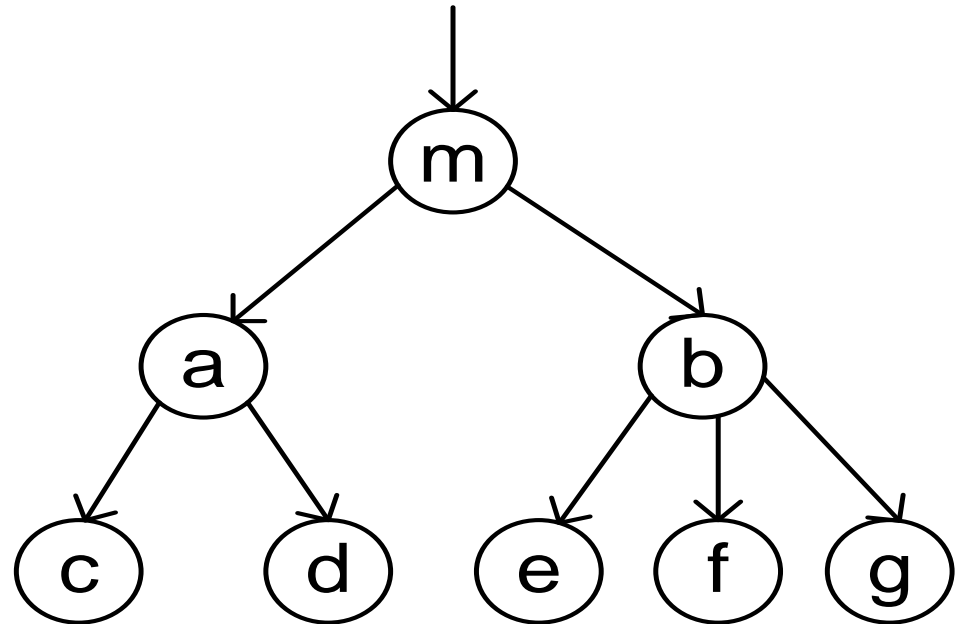
Some Useful Module Structures

Decomposition structure

- The units are modules that are related to each other by the *is-a-submodule-of* relation.
- It shows how modules are decomposed into smaller modules recursively until the modules are small enough to be easily understood.
- Modules often have products (such as interface specifications, code, test plans, etc.) associated with them.
- The decomposition structure determines, to a large degree, the system's modifiability, by assuring that likely changes are localized.

Decomposition structure: an example

```
void m()  
{  
    a() {  
        c();  
        d();  
    };  
    b() {  
        e();  
        f();  
        g();  
    };  
}
```

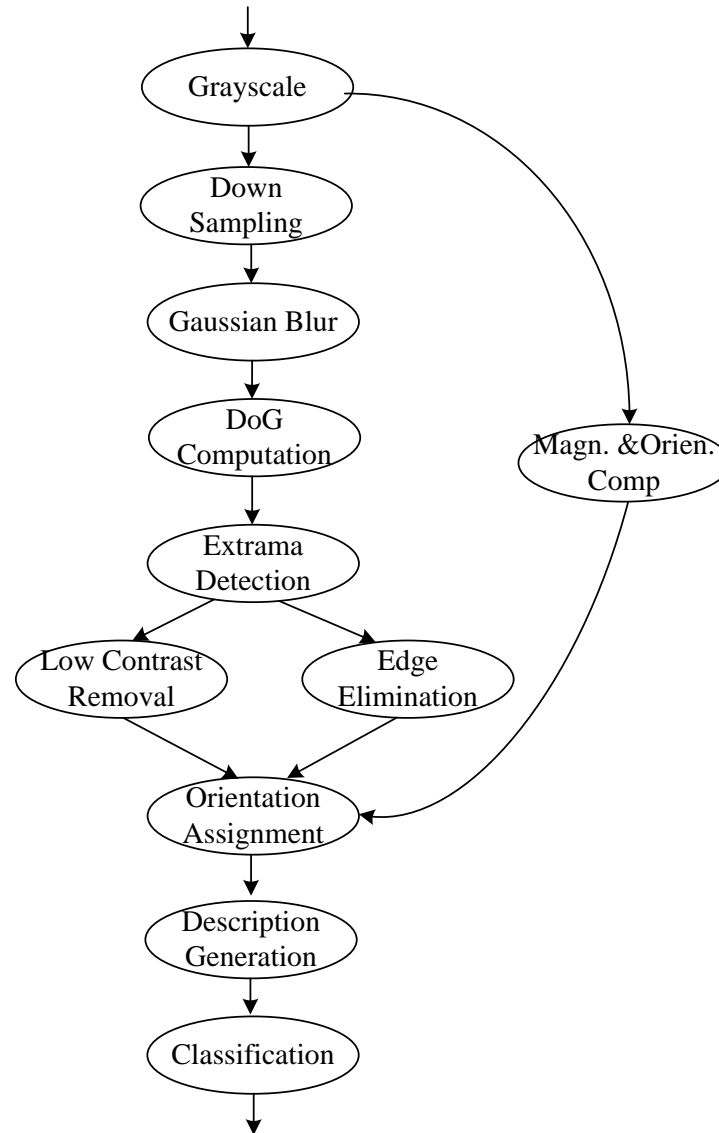


Some Useful Module Structures

Uses structure.

- The units here are also modules, perhaps classes.
- The units are related by the *uses* relation, a specialized form of dependency.
- A unit of software *uses* another if the correctness of the first requires the presence of a correctly functioning version (as opposed to a stub) of the second.
- The ability to easily create a subset of a system allows for incremental development.

User structure: an example



Some Useful Module Structures

Layer structure

- The modules in this structure are called *layers*.
- A layer is an abstract “virtual machine” that provides a cohesive set of services through a managed interface.
- Layers are *allowed to use* other layers in a strictly managed fashion.
 - In strictly layered systems, a layer is only allowed to use a single other layer.
- This structure imbues a system with portability, the ability to change the underlying computing platform.



Software Architecture

Some Useful Module Structures

Class (or generalization) structure

- The module units in this structure are called *classes*.
- The relation is *inherits from* or *is an instance of*.
- ***Inheritance*** is a mechanism for [code reuse](#) and to allow independent extensions of the original software
- The class structure allows one to reason about reuse and the incremental addition of functionality.

Some Useful Module Structures

Data model structure

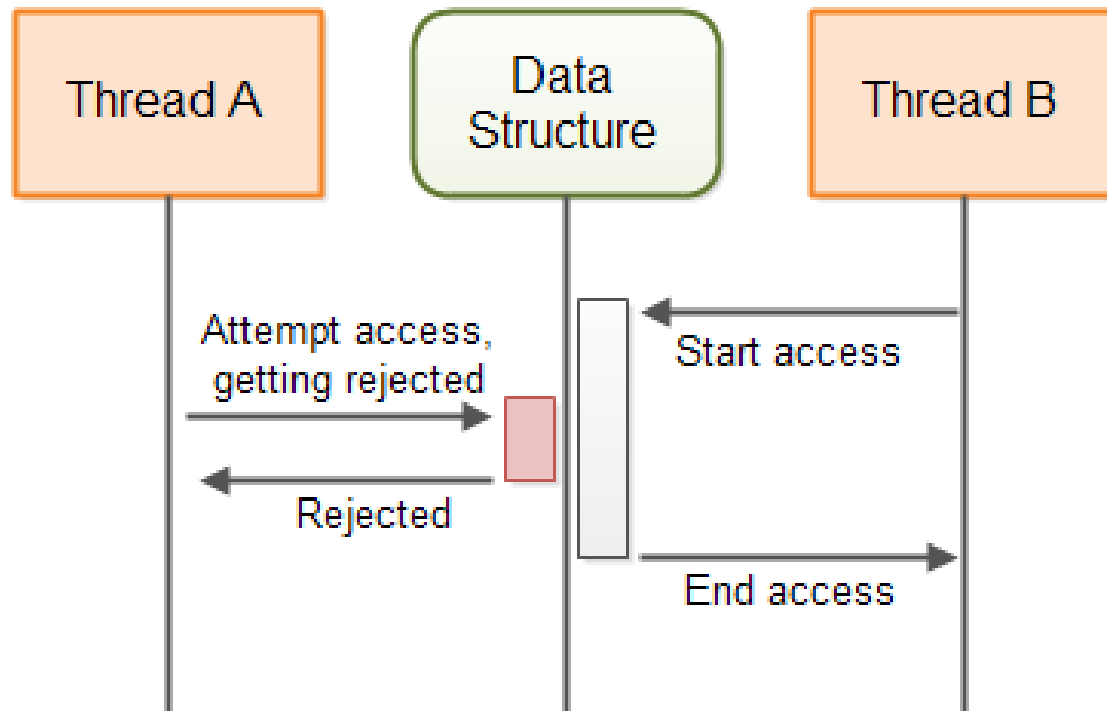
- The data model describes the static information structure in terms of data entities and their relationships
 - For example, in a banking system, entities will typically include Account, Customer, and Loan.
 - Account has several attributes, such as account number, type (savings or checking), status, and current balance.

Some Useful C&C Structures

- Service structure
 - The units are services that interoperate with each other by service coordination mechanisms such as SOAP
 - The service structure helps to engineer a system composed of components that may have been developed **anonymously and independently** of each other.

Some Useful C&C Structures

- Concurrency structure
 - This structure helps determine opportunities for parallelism and the locations where resource contention may occur.
 - The units are components
 - The connectors are their communication mechanisms.
 - The components are arranged into logical threads.

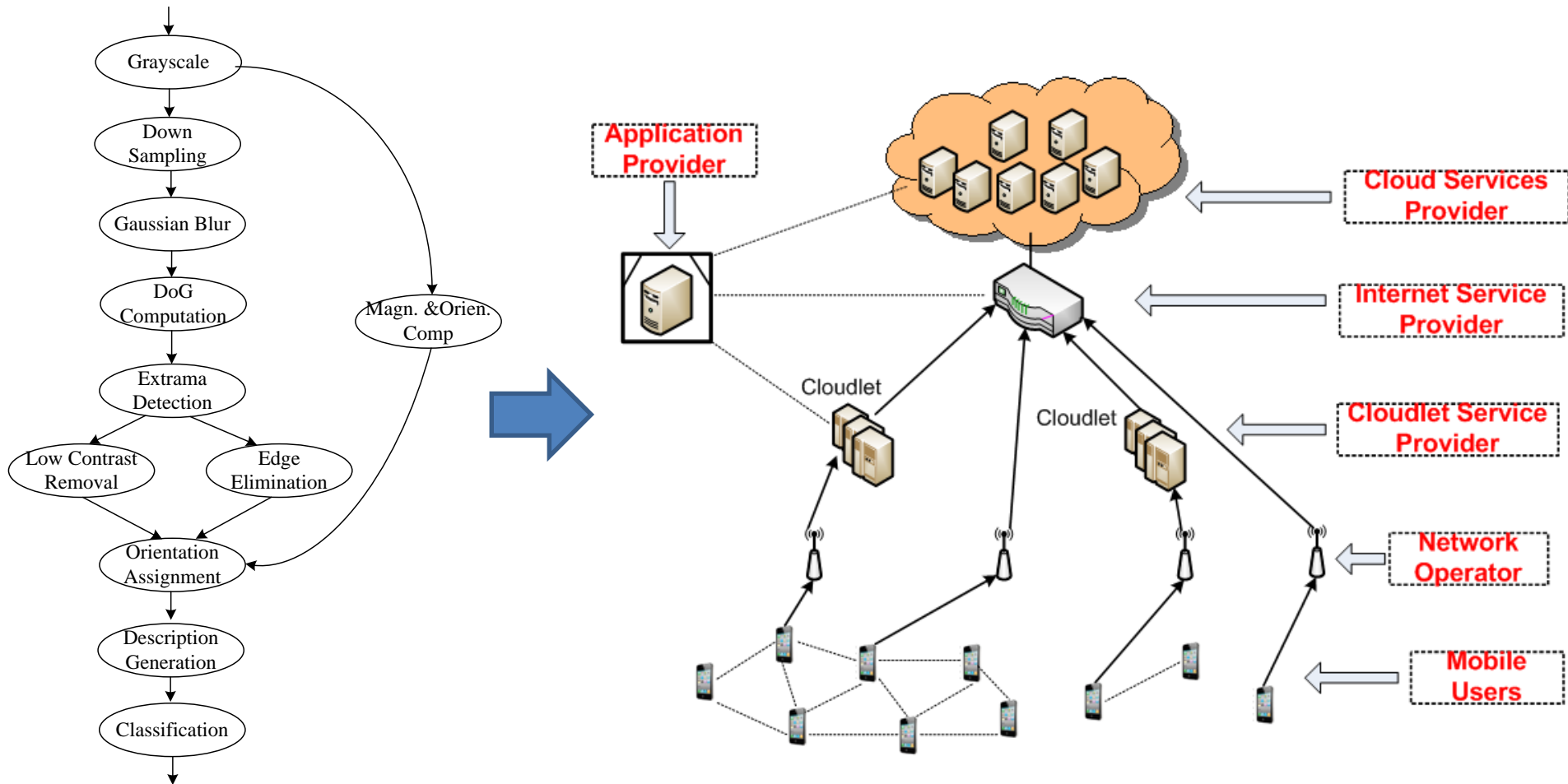


Some Useful Allocation Structures

Deployment structure

- The deployment structure shows how software is assigned to hardware processing and communication elements.
- The elements are software elements (usually a process from a C&C view), hardware entities (processors), and communication pathways.
- Relations are **allocated-to**, showing on which physical units the software elements reside, and migrates-to if the allocation is dynamic.
- This structure can be used to reason about performance, data integrity, security, and availability.
- It is of particular interest in distributed and parallel systems.

Task allocation in mobile cloud

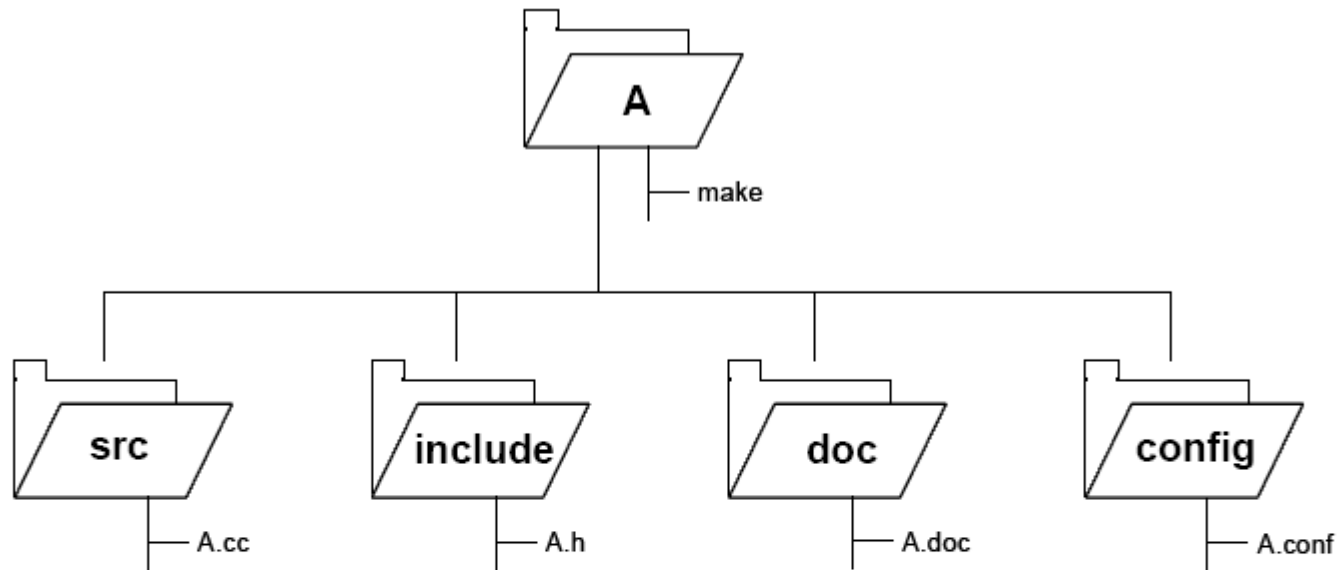


Some Useful Allocation Structures

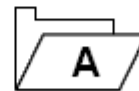
Implementation structure

- This structure shows how software elements (usually modules) are mapped to **the file structure(s)** in the system's development, integration, or configuration control environments.

Implementation structure



Key:



Folder with name of the module

— A.conf

File



containment

Some Useful Allocation Structures

Work assignment structure

- This structure assigns responsibility for implementing and integrating the modules to the **teams** who will carry it out.

Relating Structures to Each Other

- Elements of one structure will be related to elements of other structures, and we need to reason about these relations.
 - A module in a decomposition structure may be manifested as one, part of one, or several components in one of the component-and-connector structures.
- In general, mappings between structures are many to many.

Modules vs. Components

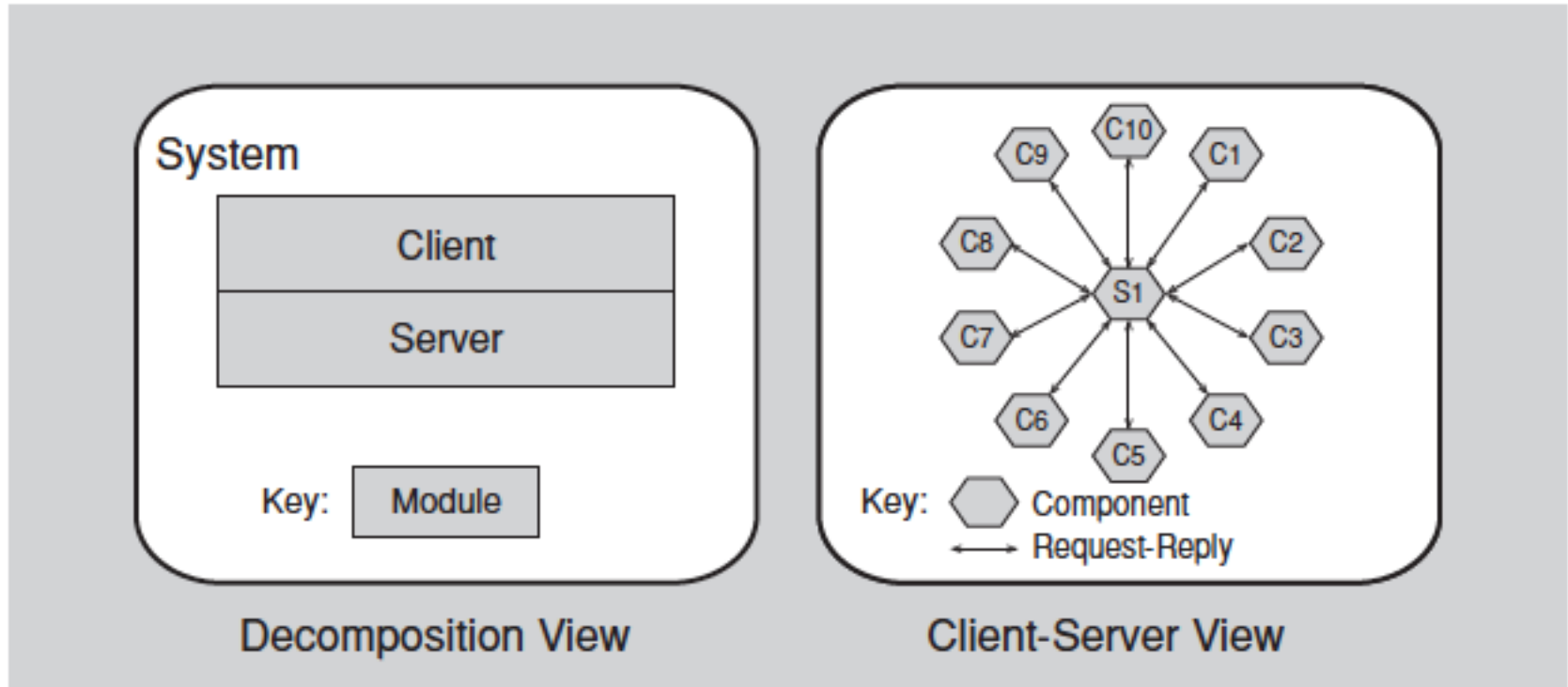


FIGURE 1.2 Two views of a client-server system

Architectural Patterns

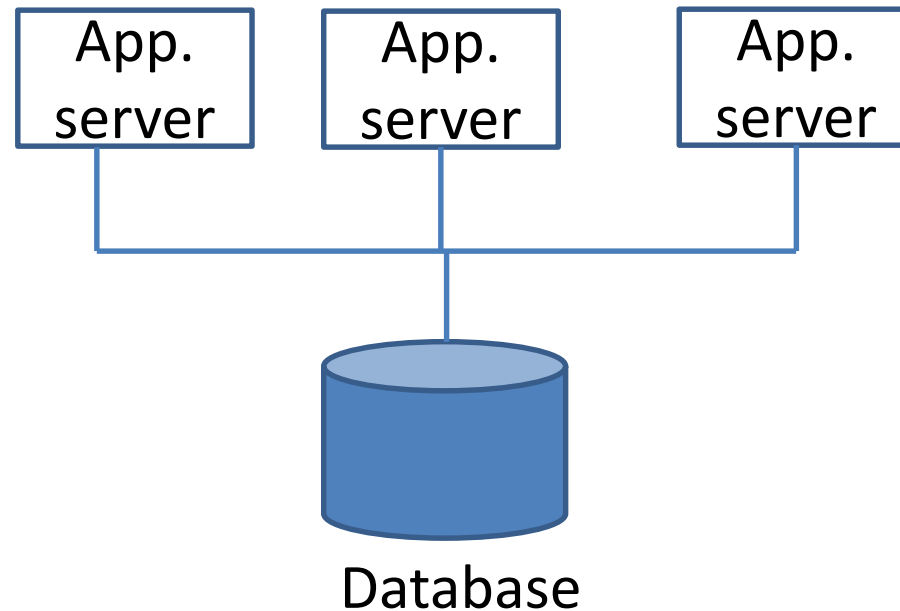
- An **architectural pattern** presents the element types and their forms of interaction used in solving a particular problem.
- A common ***module type pattern*** is the Layered pattern.
 - When the uses relation among software elements is strictly unidirectional, a system of layers emerges.
 - A layer is a coherent set of related functionality.

Architectural Patterns

Common *component-and-connector* type patterns:

- Shared-data (or repository) pattern.
 - This pattern comprises components and connectors that create, store, and access **persistent** data.
 - The repository usually takes the form of a (commercial) database.
 - The connectors are protocols for managing the data, such as SQL.

Shared data pattern



Architectural Patterns

Common *component-and-connector* type patterns:

- Client-server pattern.
 - The components are the clients and the servers.
 - The connectors are protocols and messages they share among each other to carry out the system's work.
- Peer-to-peer pattern
 - E.g. Bittorrent, eMule

Architectural Patterns

Common allocation patterns:

- Multi-tier pattern
 - This pattern specializes the generic deployment (software-to-hardware allocation) structure.
 - Describes how to distribute and allocate the components of a system in distinct subsets of hardware and software, connected by some communication medium.

Architectural Patterns

Common allocation patterns:

- *Competence center* pattern and *platform* pattern
 - These patterns specialize a software system's work assignment structure.
 - In *competence center*, work is allocated to sites depending on the technical or domain expertise located at a site.
 - In *platform*, one site is tasked with developing **reusable core assets** of a software product line, and other sites develop applications that use the core assets.

What Makes a “Good” Architecture?

- There is no such thing as an inherently good or bad architecture.
- Architectures can be evaluated but only in the context of specific stated goals.
- Architectures are either more or less fit for some purpose
- There are, however, good rules of thumb.

Process “Rules of Thumb”

- The architecture should be the product of a single architect or a small group of architects with an identified technical leader.
- The architect (or architecture team) should base the architecture on a prioritized list of well-specified quality attribute requirements.
- The architecture should be documented using views.
- The architecture should be evaluated for its ability to deliver the system’s important quality attributes.
- The architecture should lend itself to incremental implementation.

Structural “Rules of Thumb”

- The architecture should feature well-defined modules
- The architecture should never depend on a particular version of a commercial product or tool
- Modules that produce data should be separate from modules that consume data.
 - This tends to increase modifiability

Structural “Rules of Thumb”

- Don’t expect a one-to-one correspondence between modules and components.
- Every process should be written so that its assignment to a specific processor can be easily changed, perhaps even at runtime.
- The architecture should feature a small number of ways for components to interact.
 - The system should do the same things in the same way throughout.

Summary

- ***The software architecture*** of a system is the set of structures needed to reason about the system, which comprise software elements, relations among them, and properties of both.
- ***A structure*** is a set of elements and the relations among them.
- ***A view*** is a representation of a coherent set of architectural elements. A view is a representation of one or more structures.

Some Useful Structures

- Module structures
 - Decomposition structure
 - User structure -> layer pattern
 - Class structure
 - Data model
- Component-and-connector structures
 - Service structure
 - Concurrency structure
- Allocation structures
 - Deployment structure
 - Implementation structure
 - Work assignment structure

Architectural patterns

- Module type pattern
 - Layered pattern
- Component-and-connector type pattern
 - Shared data pattern
 - Client and server pattern
 - Peer to peer pattern
- Allocation type pattern
 - Multi-tier pattern
 - Competence center pattern
 - Platform pattern