Recall: Design Patterns

“A pattern describes a problem that occurs often, along with a tried solution to the problem” - Christopher Alexander, 1977

A Design Pattern describes parts of a problem/solution that are the same every time.

Design Pattern ≠
- Specific classes or libraries
- Full design

Design Pattern = template

A pattern is not a specific class or library, instead it is a template for designing a specific class or library. Over time as a SW developer you will build up a repository of such patterns, helping you develop high-quality SW much more quickly (since you are not “starting from scratch”). You have already used many design patterns, at different scales, including the three-tier architecture pattern, model-view-controller (MVC) patterns, React’s virtual-DOM based rendering approach and more. Today we will talk more about designs patterns and some other general design principles to keep in mind, especially when working with statically typed languages.
A well-known example of design patterns comes from this very influential book on writing object-oriented software. The book describes a variety of techniques for dealing with common issues that come up in object-oriented design. An example would be the factory method, where you create a static method for creating and initializing new objects instead of a constructor. This allows you to swap in different subclasses depending on need, i.e. depending on the arguments. The caller does not need to know which sub-class should be created in any given context, that is the responsibility of the factory.

Imagine you are writing a class to work with both un-compressed and compressed files. We want to use the same interface in both contexts, that is the code that consumes the files shouldn’t care whether the file is compressed or not. We can imagine creating a hierarchy with the AbstractFileReader as the base, with CompressedFileReader and UncompressedFileReader as the child classes. The factory method, which would return a AbstractFileReader*, would look at the filename, etc. and determine which class to create.
SOLID provide a set of guidelines for defining classes in object-oriented programming (OOP) (and our code more generally). Unlike design patterns, SOLID is not a solution to a class of problems but instead a set of “cross-cutting” principles that inform how we write classes.

**SOLID OOP principles (CS312 version)**

*Motivation: minimize cost of change*

- Single Responsibility principle
- Open/Closed principle
- Liskov substitution principle
- Injection of dependencies
  Traditionally, Interface Segregation principle
- **Demeter principle**
  Traditionally, Dependency Inversion

*Robert C. Martin*
Change is not data changing, but requirements changing. “If you can think of more than one motive for changing a class, then that class has more than one responsibility.” —Agile Software Development

Part of the craft of OO design is defining responsibilities and then sticking to them. This is a situation where the CRC cards can be helpful. We use that lo-fi approach to work out the responsibilities before writing any code.

In our example, we are caught between a rock and hard place (a common problem)... for efficiency we want to maintain this information in a single table, but the resulting model is overly complex. How can we handle such a situation?

Single Responsibility Principle (SRP)

- A class should have *one and only one* reason to change
  - Each *responsibility* is a possible *axis of change*
  - Coupled changes are fragile
- What is a Classes’ responsibility in ≤25 words?
- Example: Models with many sets of behaviors
  - A user is a moviegoer, and an authentication principal, and a social network member, etc.
Example: Extract classes in Model

Mixins

```javascript
const addrMix = Base => class extends Base {
  isValidZip() { ... }
}
const idMix = Base => class extends Base {
  isVIP() { ... }
}
class Customer extends addrMix(idMix(Model)) {
  ...
}
```

Composition & Delegation

```javascript
class Customer extends Model {
  get address() { return new Address(this); }
}
class Address {
  isValidZip() { ... }
  get zip() { return this.customer.zip(); }
  ...
}
```

Our solution is to have one table (for efficiency) but multiple responsibilities (Identity and address). We can use techniques for creating cliques of methods for each responsibility, i.e. having an id and having and address, to decouple those responsibilities for each other. The address clique would have methods like isValidZip, etc. relevant to addresses, while the identity clique would have methods like isVIP, relevant to identity. Here are some examples of how we could do that in JavaScript. Notice that Customer has all the designed capabilities, but we have implemented those distinct responsibilities separately so that they can developed and tested in isolation and reused in other settings. DRYing up our code in this way will minimize the cost to add additional features to a responsibility (minimize cost of change).
Other example of SRP violations: A modem communication class that has methods for establishing a connection (e.g. “hangup”) and methods for data transfers (e.g. “send” or “receive”).

LCOM scores are a measure of methods/variables. Many methods accessing different instance variables would have high LCOM score.

Doesn’t this create needless complexity? Possibly? “An axis of change is an axis of change only if the changes actually occur. It is not wise to apply the SRP, or any other principle for that matter, if there is no symptoms.” –Agile Software Development
Which of the following is true about a class's observance of the Single Responsibility Principle?

A. Low cohesion is a possible indicator of an opportunity to extract a class
B. If a class respects SRP, its methods probably respect SOFA
C. If a class’s methods respect SOFA, the class probably respects SRP

Answer: A

Recall that SOFA method is Short, Does it do One thing, has Few arguments, and is at a consistent level of Abstraction. There isn't a direct connection between methods observing SOFA and a class observing SRP. A class with many highly "SOFA" methods could still violate the SRP.

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Open/Closed Principle

Classes should be *open for extension, but closed for source modification*

```java
class Report {
    report() {
        if (this.format == "html") {
            new HtmlFormatter(this).report();
        } else if (this.format == "pdf") {
            new PdfFormatter(this).report();
        } ...
    }
    ...
}
```

What is the issue here? How could we update to observe the OCP?

“Open for extension”: The behavior of the module can be extended

“Closed for modification”: Extending the behavior does not result in changes to the existing source code
In OOP, the primary mechanism for extension is creating abstract class (interfaces), e.g. a Reporter interface, and then use polymorphic dispatch. Here we use duck typing in lieu of interfaces and go one step further and use a form of reflection to translate strings into classes (and a registry). Report.report is now “closed” to modification for adding report types.

In some languages the registry would be unnecessary, as they have more reflection support (i.e. can obtain class by name).
OCP In Practice

• You can’t close against *all* types of changes; you must choose and might be wrong
• Agile methodology can help expose *important types of changes early*
• Then you can try to close against *those types of changes*

Close sounds "negative" but remember that here it means enable extension without source modification (i.e. minimizing the cost of change).
Open/Closed principle

• **What:** *Extending* functionality of a class shouldn’t require *modifying* existing code, just *adding* to it

• **Symptoms:**
  Conditional statements based on class or other property that doesn’t change after assignment

• **Resolution:**
  Abstract factory pattern combined with...
  Template and strategy patterns (capture outline of algorithm’s steps, or of overall algorithm)
  Decorator (add behaviors to a base class)

Template/strategy patterns use polymorphism to customize a common set of steps.
Formalizing subtyping: Liskov Substitution Principle

Let $\varphi(x)$ be a property provable about objects $x$ of type $T$. Then $\varphi(y)$ should be true for objects $y$ of type $S$ where $S$ is a subtype of $T$.

TL;DR; A method that works on an instance of type $T$, should also work on any subtype of $T$.

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When a Square is not a Rectangle

class Rectangle {
    constructor(w, h) {
        this.w = w;
        this.h = h;
    }
    setWidth(w) { this.w = w; }
}

class Square extends Rectangle {
    constructor(side) {
        super(side, side);
    }
    setWidth(w) {
        this.w = w;
        this.h = h;
    }
}
Liskov Substitution principle

- **What:** Instance of subtype of type $T$ can always be safely substituted for a $T$
- **Symptoms:**
  Refused bequest: No meaningful way to implement a behavior of your superclass
- **Resolutions:**
  Composition: Rather than inheriting from $T$, create class that has a $T$ as a component
  *Explicitly delegate* method calls on $T$ to component
  (inheritance is effectively implicit delegation)
Which of the following two statements about the Liskov Substitution Principle (LSP) are true?

a) In duck-typed languages, LSP violations can occur even when inheritance is not used
b) In statically-typed languages, if the compiler does not report any type errors or warnings, then there are no LSP violations

A. Only (a) is true
B. Only (b) is true
C. Both (a) and (b) are true
D. Neither (a) or (b) are true

Answer: A

LSP isn't necessarily tied to inheritance or class-based typing and thus applies to both duck-typed and statically-typed languages. Any time polymorphism is used (in whatever form) the LSP is applicable. But as we saw in our square/rectangle example, successfully compiling does not ensure there are no LSP violations.

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Dependency Inversion & Dependency Injection

- Problem: A depends on B, but B’s interface & implementation can change, even if functionality stable
- Solution: “Inject” an abstract interface that A & B depend on

If not exact match, Adapter/Façade

“Inversion”: Now B and A depend on interface vs. A depending on B

It seems natural to have a high-level module (SessionStore) depend on a low-level module (the DB), but that creates problematic coupling when B changes (e.g. using a different database). High-level modules should influence low-level modules, not the other way around. We solve this by “inverting” the dependencies so that A uses an interface implemented by B (i.e. they both depend on the interface).

Injection is the means of supplying a valid implementation (often by supplying the implementation class as a constructor argument).

TL;DR: High-level classes shouldn’t create concrete instances of lower-level classes

Quick reminder about interfaces… In statically typed languages, interfaces are typically abstract classes (method signatures, but not implementations) that specify what methods a class provides (and you can reference an object through through interface type). In JS you can implement an interface by mixing in new methods.
We want to use an external service for e-mail and may end up using different services in different contexts. Instead of tying our code to a specific “concrete” service, define an Abstract interface. In this case that interface will not exactly match the similar but not identical APIs. Interface serves as an adapter (and a façade – our interface likely only provides a subset of functionality of the e-mail services).

An example of DI in React are higher-order components, that is components that take other components as props.
By concretion we mean specific implementation, i.e. MailChimp, instead of abstract interfaces, like AbstractEmailList. We often use the adapter pattern when creating a common abstract interface for multiple underlying implementations. Façade is used to provide a simplified version of an interface.
Demeter Principle

Only talk to your friends ... not strangers
You can call methods on:
  Yourself
  Your own instance variables, if applicable
But not on the results returned by those methods
Where is the Demeter violation lurking here? Notice that we are accessing the cash property of the customer’s wallet property. Under the Demeter principle we are not allowed to go “past” wallet.

Recall that mocks are synthetic implementations of methods, etc. use for testing, i.e. fake objects or methods with known properties or results.

The complexity of the mocking is an indication we have violated the Demeter principle. In our new version we call a method on on our instance variables (i.e. this.customer) but don’t access properties returned by those (i.e. don’t access the cash property on the wallet accessed via customer). As a result we don’t need to mock nearly as much.
Another example is your PA4 and the chain of fetch and response.json(). Testing that code required creating a mock response, returned by a mock fetch... That is a sign we would to encapsulate that functionality into a single method that implemented the JSON parsing, etc.

Demeter Principle

- **What:** Talk to friends & friends of friends; everyone else is a stranger
- **Symptoms:**
  Long chains of method calls, leading to *mock trainwrecks* in tests
- **Resolutions:**
  Replace method with delegate (e.g. wrap `customer.wallet.withdraw` in `Customer.pay`)
  Visitor pattern (separate traversal from computation)
  Observer pattern (be aware of important events)
Knex includes an "abstract" Client class for connecting with databases. Subclasses of Client exist for each database. The correct subclass is instantiated based on configuration in the knexfile. Which SOLID principles are illustrated by this example?

A. Single Responsibility, Liskov Substitution, Dependency Inversion
B. Open/Closed, Liskov Substitution, Dependency Inversion
C. Open/Closed, Dependency Inversion, Demeter
D. All five

Answer: B

This example demonstrates Open/Closed (open to extending databases without modification), Dependency Inversion (in defining the Client interface), and Liskov Substitution (each concrete implementation can stand in place of the abstract interface).

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SOLID Caveat

• Designed for statically typed languages, so principles have more impact in that context
  Designed, in part, to avoid changing type signatures, recompiling, etc.; not as relevant to JS.
• Use your judgment: Your goal is to deliver working & maintainable code efficiently
Recall that our original goal was to minimize the cost of change. And we saw many guidelines for doing so. At their heart the guidelines (and with design patterns generally) is to separate the aspects that change (from problem to problem, or for a given application as it evolves) from those that don’t. By doing so, we achieve our goal of minimizing the cost of change.

Summary

- Design patterns represent *successful solutions* to classes of problems
  - Reuse of design rather than reuse code or classes
- Can apply at many levels: architecture, design (GoF patterns), computation
- Separate what changes from what stays the same
  - *Program to interface, not implementation*
  - *Prefer composition over inheritance*
  - *Delegate!*
  - All 3 are made easier by duck typing (like in JS, Python, etc.)
- Much more to learn about — this is just a quick survey
Which of the following is true about SW architecture and design patterns in Plan & Document vs. Agile processes?

A. P&D’s explicit design phase results in poor SW architecture with inappropriate use of design patterns
B. Agile prohibits doing any sort of high-level design, the code should just evolve
C. Agile can be dependent on developers’ past experience to plan/architect for functionality not yet implemented
D. None of the above are true

Answer: C

One of the criticisms of Agile is that encourages developers to start without any design and thus is too reliant on later refactoring. Agile doesn’t preclude all design but depending on approach can be dependent on developers keeping past experiences in mind (something you might have experienced), that is anticipating future needs and writing code today accordingly. The issue with P&D is not that the design phase leads to poor architecture, but that designed architecture is no longer the right approach as the application evolves.

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