



Universidad de Oviedo

EN  
English



# Modularity



SOFTWARE  
ARCHITECTURE

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# Modularity

Decomposing the project in modules at development time  
Modules can be developed independently



# Modularity

Big Ball of Mud

Modularity definitions

Modularity recommendations

SOLID, Cohesion, Coupling, Connascence, Robustness, Demeter, Fluid interfaces

Modularity styles

Layers

Aspect Oriented decomposition

Domain based decomposition

# Big Ball of Mud

## *Big Ball of Mud*

Described by Foote & Yoder, 1997

### Elements

Lots of entities intertwined

### Constraints

None



# Big Ball of Mud

## Quality attributes (?)

### Time-to-market

#### Quick start

It is possible to start without defining an architecture

Incremental piecemeal methodology

Solve problems on demand

### Cost

Cheap solution for short-term projects



# Big Ball of Mud

## Problems

High Maintenance costs

Low flexibility at some given point

At the beginning, it can be very flexible

After some time, a change can be dramatic

## Inertia

When the system becomes a *Big Ball of Mud* it is very difficult to convert it to another thing

A few *prestigious* developers know where to touch

*Clean* developers run away from these systems

# Big Ball of Mud

## Some reasons

### Throwaway code:

You need an immediate fix for a small problem, a quick prototype or proof of concept

When it is good enough, you ship it

### Piecemeal growth

### Cut/Paste reuse

Bad code reproduced in lots of places

### Anti-patterns and technical debt

Bad smells

Not following clean code/architecture

# Definitions of modules

## Module:

Piece of software that offers a set of responsibilities

It makes sense at building time (not at runtime)

Separates interface from body

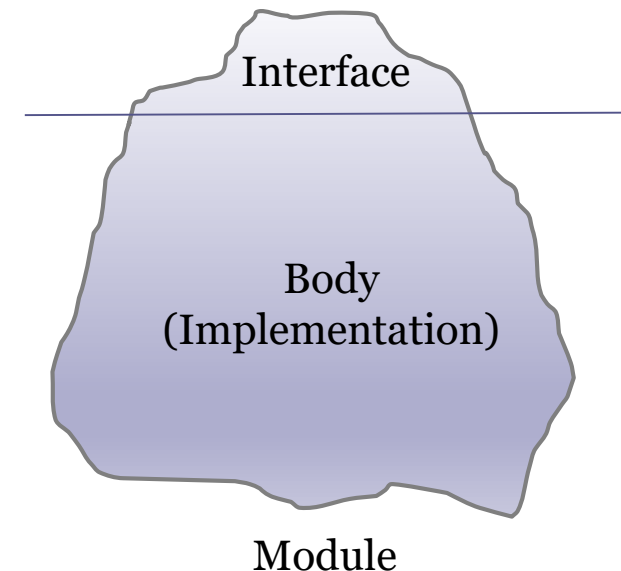
## Interface

Describes what is a module

How to use it  $\approx$  Contract

## Body

How it is implemented





# Modular decomposition

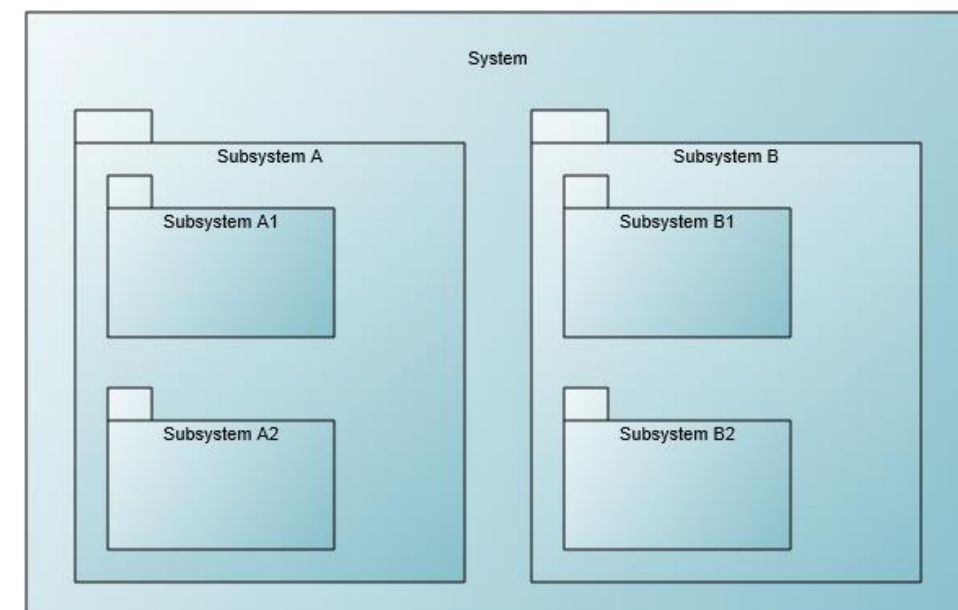
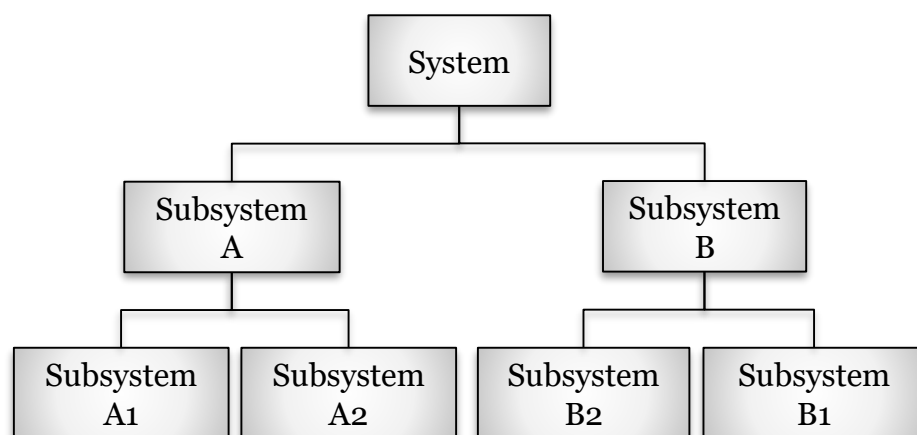
Relationship: *is-part-of*

Constraints

No cycles are allowed

Usually, a module can only have one parent

Several representations



# Modularity Quality attributes

## Communication

Communicate the general aspect of the system

## Maintainability

Facilitates changes and extensions

Localized functionality

## Simplicity

A module only exposes an interface - less complexity

## Reusability

Modules can be used in other contexts

Product lines

## Independence

Modules can be developed by different teams

# Modularity challenges

Bad decomposition can augment complexity

Dependency management

Third parties modules can affect evolution

Team organization

Modules decomposition affects team organization

Decision: Develop vs buy

COTS/FOSS modules

# Modularity recommendations

SOLID design principles

Cohesion

Coupling

Connascence

Robustness: Postel's law

Demeter's Law

Fluid interfaces

# SOLID design principles

SOLID principles can be applied to classes and modules

**S**RP (Single Responsibility Principle)

**O**CP (Open-Closed Principle)

**L**SP (Liskov Substitution Principle)

**I**SP (Interface Segregation Principle)

**D**IP (Dependency Injection Principle)



Robert C. Martin

# (S)ingle Responsibility

A module must have one responsibility

Responsibility = A reason to change

No more than one reason to change a module

Otherwise, responsibilities are mixed and coupling increases



VS



# (S)ingle Responsibility

```
class Employee {  
  def calculatePay(): Money = { ... }  
  
  def saveDB() { ... }  
  
  def reportWorkingHours(): String = { ... }  
}
```

Responsible departments

← Financial department

← Operations

← Management

There can be multiple reasons to change the Employee class

Solution: Separate concerns

Gather together the things that change for the same reasons.  
Separate those things that change for different reasons.

# (O)pen/Closed principle

## Open for extension

The module must adapt to new changes

Change/adapt the behavior of a module

## Closed for modification

Changes can be done without changing the module

Without modifying source code, binaries, etc

It should be easy to change the behaviour of a module without changing the source code of that module



# (O)pen/Closed principle

Example:

```
List<Product> filterByColor(List<Product> products,  
                           String color) {  
    ...  
}
```

If you need to filter by height, you need to change the source code

A better way:

```
List<Product> filter(List<Product> products,  
                    Predicate<Product> criteria) {  
    . . .  
}
```

Now, it is possible to filter by any predicate without changing the module

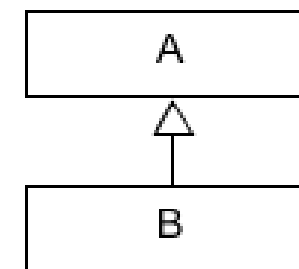
```
redProducts      = selector.filter(p -> p.color.equals("red"));  
biggerProducts  = selector.filter(p -> p.height > 30);
```

# (L)iskov Substitution

Subtypes must follow supertypes contract

B is a subtype of A when:

$\forall x \in A$ , if there is a property Q such that Q(x)  
then  $\forall y \in B$ , Q(y)



*"Derived types must be completely substitutable by their base types"*

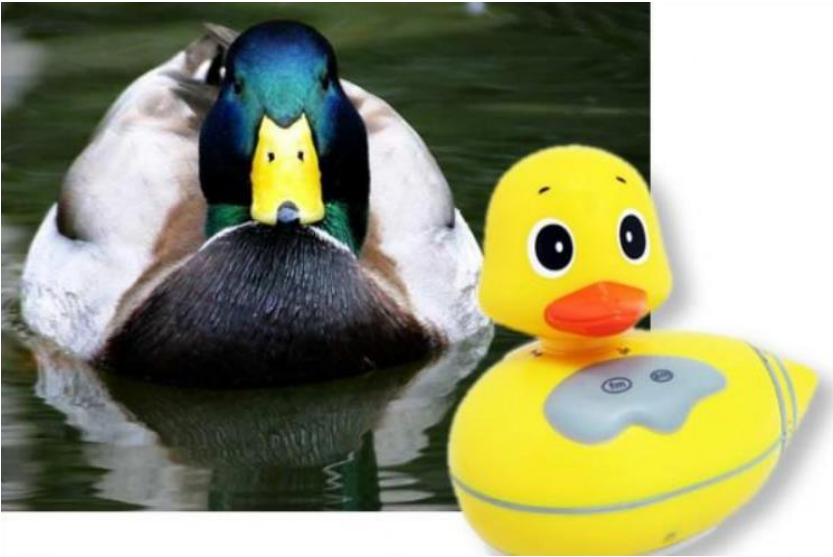
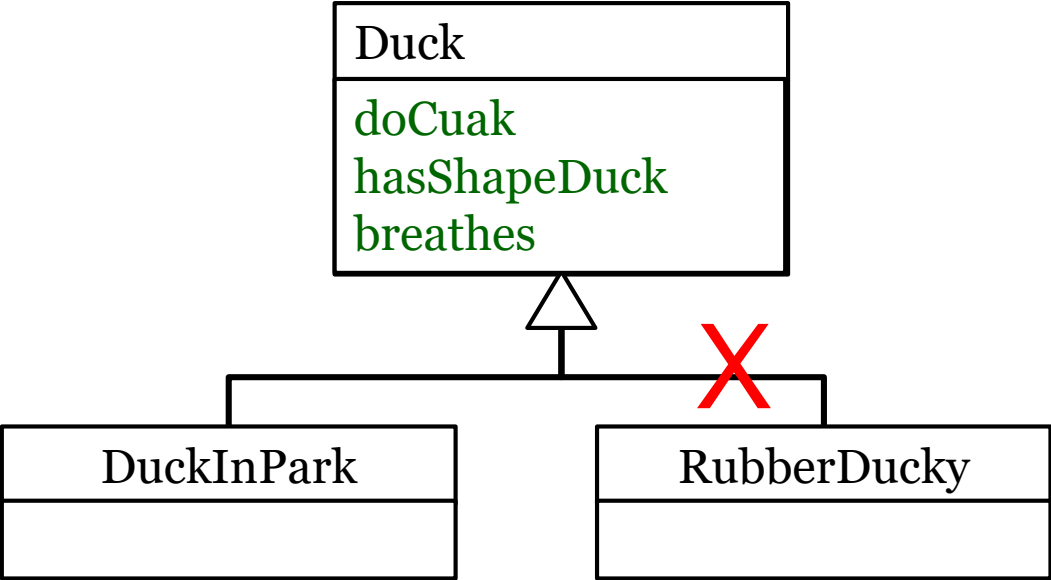
Common mistakes:

Inherit and modify behaviour of base class

Add functionality to supertypes that subtypes don't follow

# (L)iskov Substitution

## Example



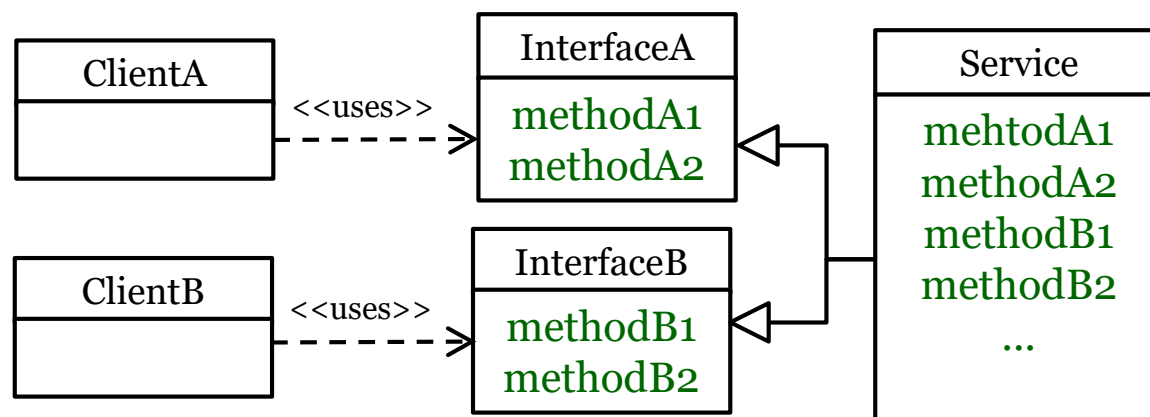
# (I)nterface Segregation

Clients must not depend on unused methods

Better to have small and cohesive interfaces

Otherwise  $\Rightarrow$  non desired dependencies

If a module depends on non-used functionalities and these functionalities change, the module can be effected



# (D)ependency Inversion

Invert conventional dependencies

*High-level modules should not depend on low-level modules*

*Both should depend on abstractions*

*Abstractions should not depend upon details.*

*Details should depend upon abstractions*

Can be accomplished using dependency injection or several patterns like plugin, service locator, etc.

# (D)ependency Inversion

Lowers coupling

Facilitates unit testing

Substituting low level modules by test doubles

Related with:

Dependency injection and Inversion of Control

Frameworks: Spring, Guice, etc.



# Cohesion

Cohesion = Degree to which the elements of a module work together

It is recommended to have high cohesion

Each module must solve one functionality

Granularity

Modules must be released and reused independently

It should be possible to test each module separately



# Cohesion metric LCOM



LCOM (Lack of cohesion of methods), Chidamber and Kemerer

Measure degree of similarity of methods in a class

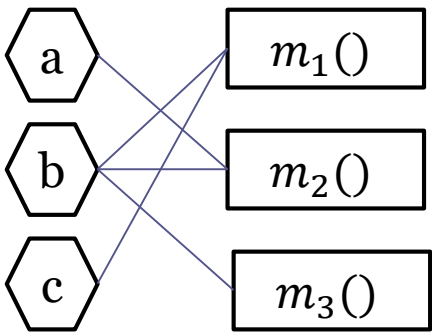
Several variants have been proposed LCOM 1-5

$$LCOM = \begin{cases} |P| - |Q| & \text{si } |P| - |Q| > 0 \\ 0 & \text{en caso contrario} \end{cases}$$

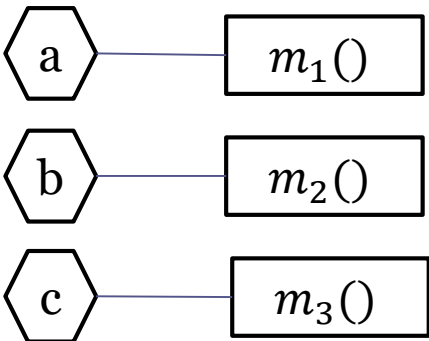
$|P|$ = Number of methods without common attributes

$|Q|$ = Number of methods with common attributes

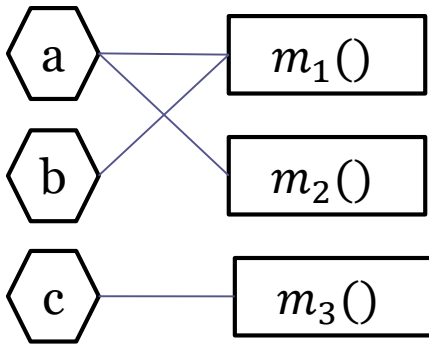
Bigger LCOM  $\Rightarrow$  less cohesion



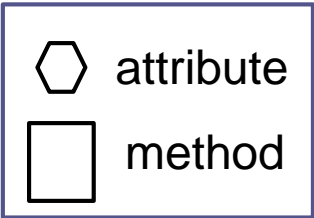
$|P|= 0, |Q|= 3$   
LCOM=0



$|P|= 3, |Q|= 0$   
LCOM=3



$|P|= 2, |Q|= 1$   
LCOM=1





# Cohesion principles

REP - Reuse/Release Equivalence Principle

CCP - Common Closure Principle

CRP - Common Reuse Principle



Robert C. Martin

# REP

## Reuse/Release Equivalence Principle

The granule of reuse is the granule of release

In order to reuse an element in practice, it is necessary to publish it in a release system of some kind

Release version management: numbers/names

All related entities must be released together

Group entities for reuse

# CCP

## Common Closure Principle

Gather in a module entities that change for the same reasons and at the same time

Entities that change together belong together

Goal: limit the dispersion of changes among release modules

Changes must affect the smallest number of released modules

Entities within a module must be cohesive

Group entities for maintenance

Note: imilar to SRP (Single Responsibility Principle), but for modules

# CRP

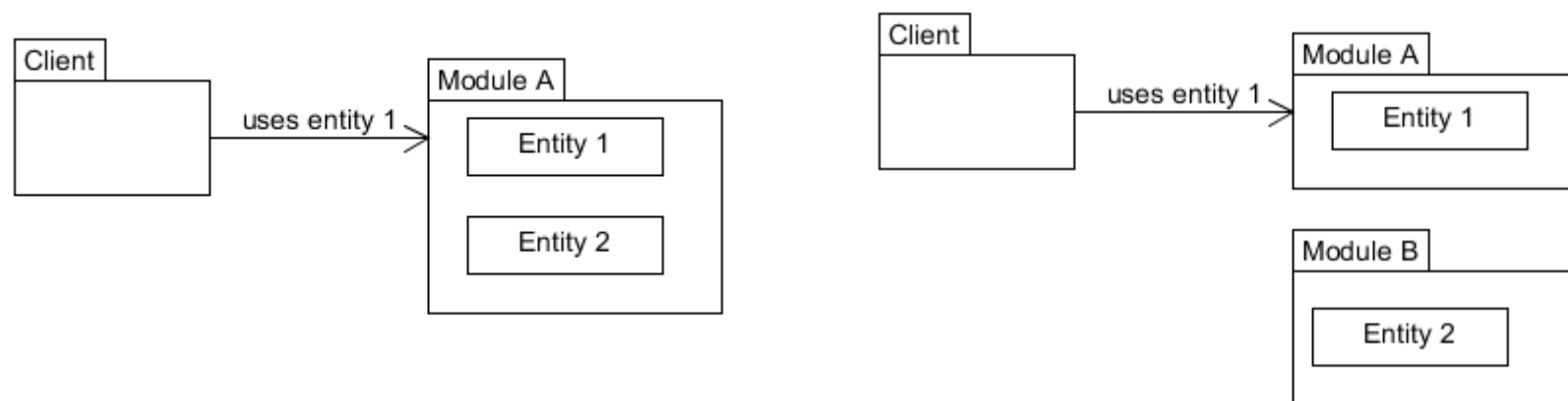
## Common Reuse Principle

*Modules should only depend on entities they need*

*They shouldn't depend on things they don't need*

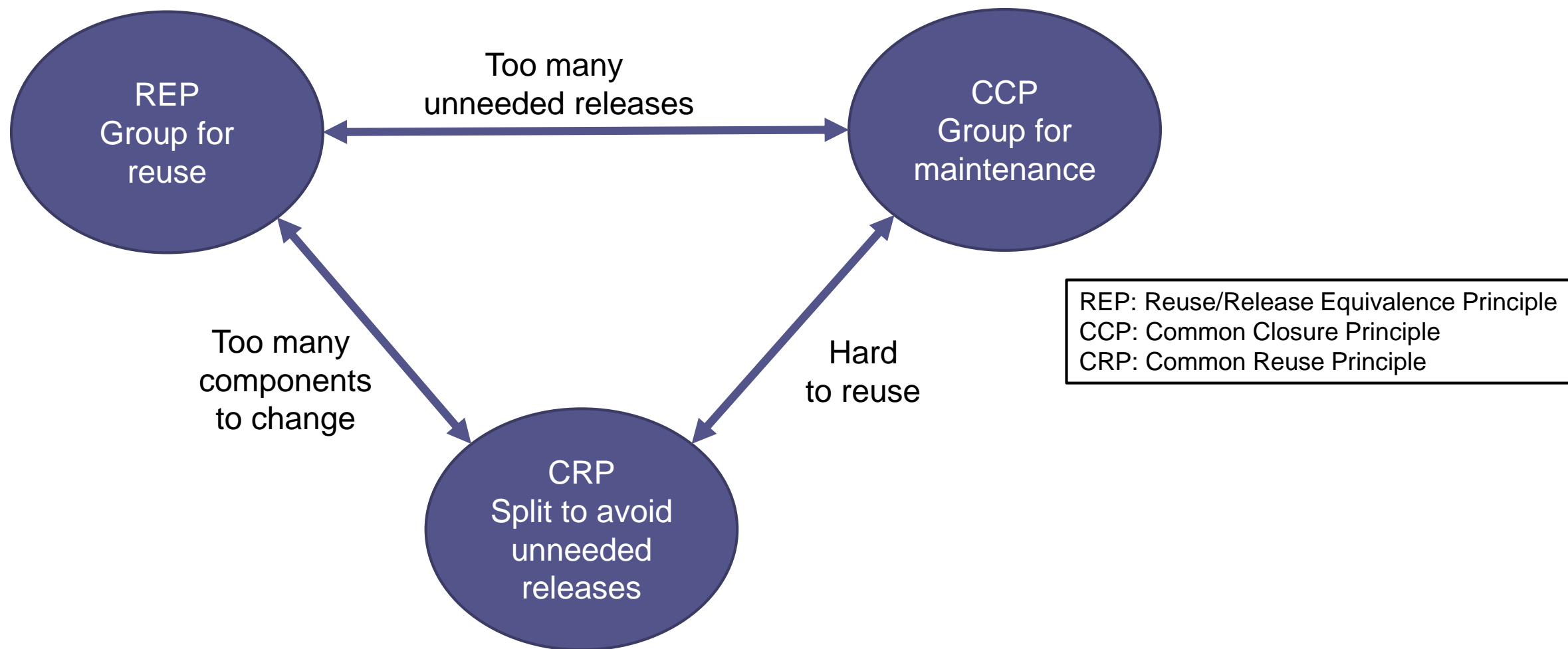
Otherwise, a consumer may be affected by changes on entities that is not using

Split entities in modules to avoid unneeded releases



Note: This principle is related with the ISP (Interface Segregation Principle)

# Tension diagram between component cohesion



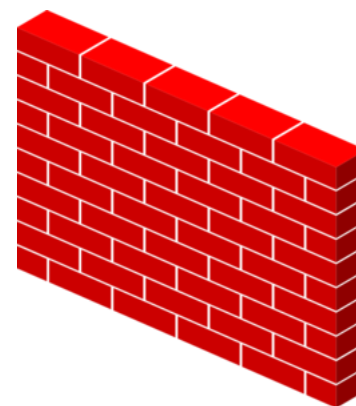
# Coupling

Coupling = Degree of interdependence between software modules

Low coupling  $\Rightarrow$  Improves modifiability

Independent deployment of each module

Stability against changes in other modules



# Coupling principles

ADP - Acyclic dependencies principle

SDP - Stable dependencies principle

SAP - Stable abstractions principle



Robert C. Martin

# ADP - Acyclic Dependencies Principle

The dependency structure for released modules must be a Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG)

Avoid cycles

A cycle can make a single change very difficult

Lots of modules are affected

Problem to work-out the building order

NOTE: Cycles can be avoided using the DIP (Dependency Inversion Principle)

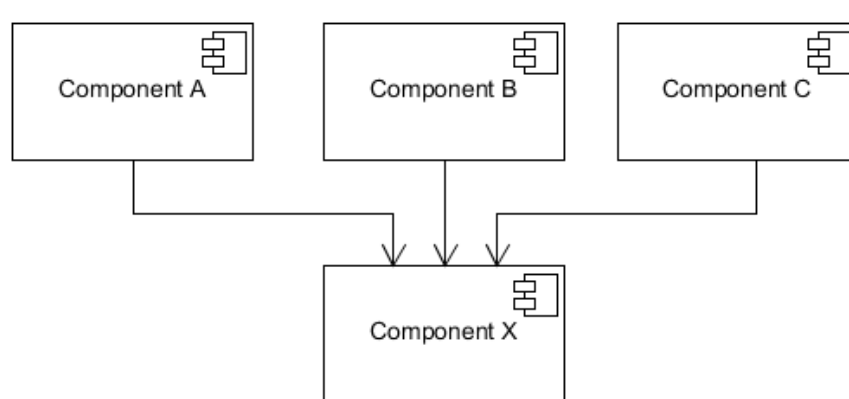


# SDP Stable Dependencies Principle

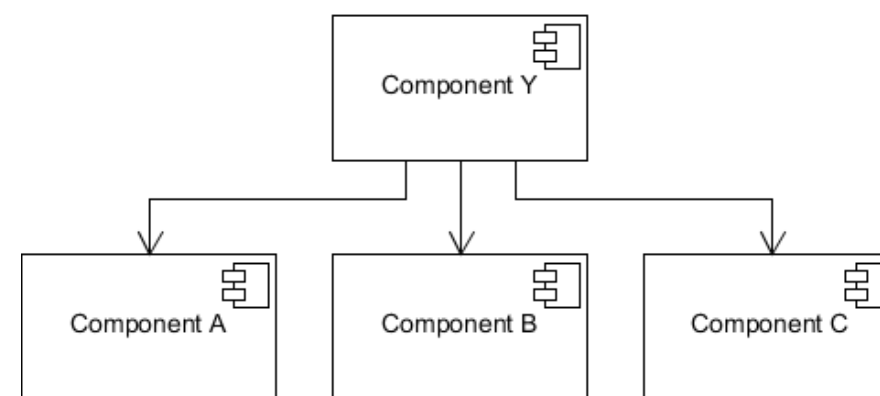
The dependencies between components in a design should be in the direction of stability

A component should only depend upon components that are more stable than it is

Stability = fewer reasons to change



Component X is stable  
Only depends on itself



Component Y is less stable  
It has at least 3 reasons to change

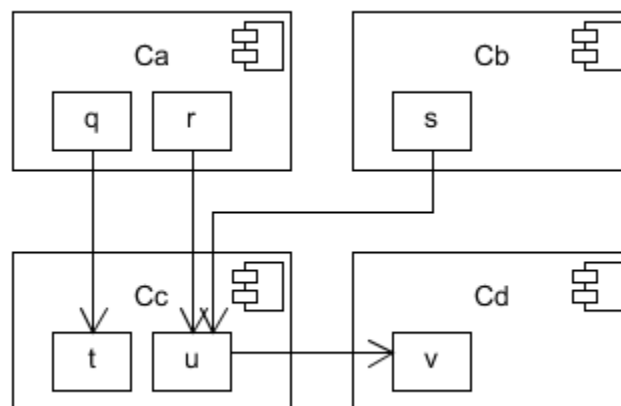
# Stability metrics

*Fan-in*: incoming dependencies

*Fan-out*: outgoing dependencies

$$\text{Instability } I = \frac{\text{Fan-out}}{\text{Fan-in} + \text{Fan-out}}$$

Value between 0 (stable) and 1 (unstable)



$$I(Ca) = \frac{2}{0+2} = 1$$

$$I(Cb) = \frac{1}{0+1} = 1$$

$$I(Cc) = \frac{1}{3+1} = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$I(Cd) = \frac{0}{1+0} = 0$$

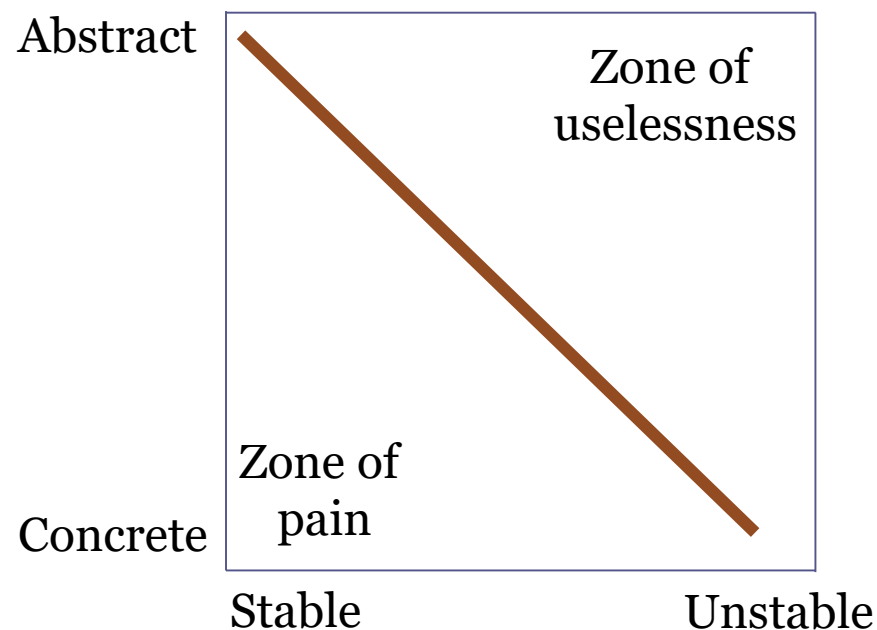
Stable Dependencies Principle states that the dependencies should be from higher instability to lower

# SAP - Stable Abstractions Principle

A module should be as abstract as it is stable

Packages that are maximally stable should be maximally abstract.

Instable packages should be concrete



- Abstract/stable = Interfaces with lots of dependant modules
- Concrete/Unstable = Implementations without dependant modules
- Zone of pain = DB schema
- Zone of uselessness = interfaces without implementation

# Connascence

Things that are born and grow together

A change in one requires others to be modified to maintain the system correct

Indicates problems to change - affects modifiability

It is a vocabulary to talk about coupling

Combines coupling and cohesion



More info: <https://connascence.io/>

# 3 properties of connascence

## Degree

Number of elements affected by connascence

## Locality

Distance between those elements

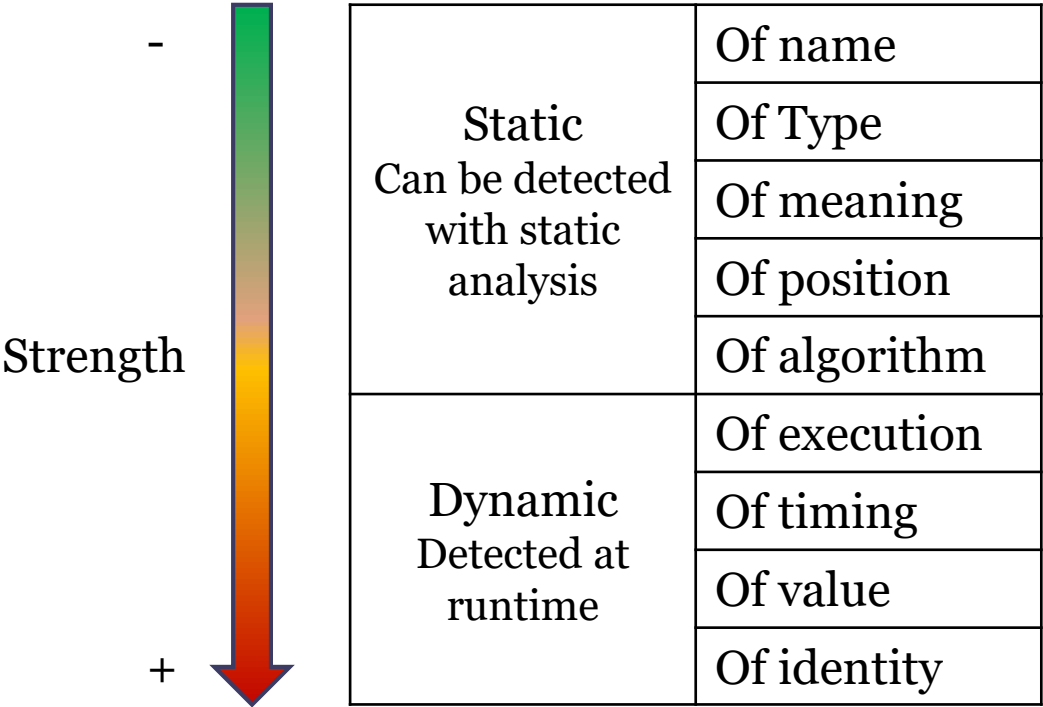
Same function?, same class?, same package? ...

## Strength

Easy with which it can refactored



# Types of connascence



# Static connascence

## Of name

Several components must agree on the same name

## Of type

Several components must agree on the same type

## Of meaning

Several components must agree on a meaning

Example: magical constants

## Of position

Several components must agree on a position

Example: arguments with same type

## Of algorithm

Several components must agree on an algorithm

Example: Same hash function to encrypt/decrypt



```
public class Time {
    int _hour; int _min; int _sec;

    public Time(int hour, int min, int sec) {
        _hour = hour ;
        _minute = minute ;
        _second = second ;
    }

    public String display() {
        return _hour + ":" + _min + ":" + _sec ;
    }
}

public class Client {
    val noon = Time(12,0,0);
    . . .
}
```

# Dynamic connascence

## Of execution

The order of execution is important

## Of timing

When the timing is important

Example: race conditions

## Of values

Several values must change together

## Of identity

Multiple components must reference the same entity

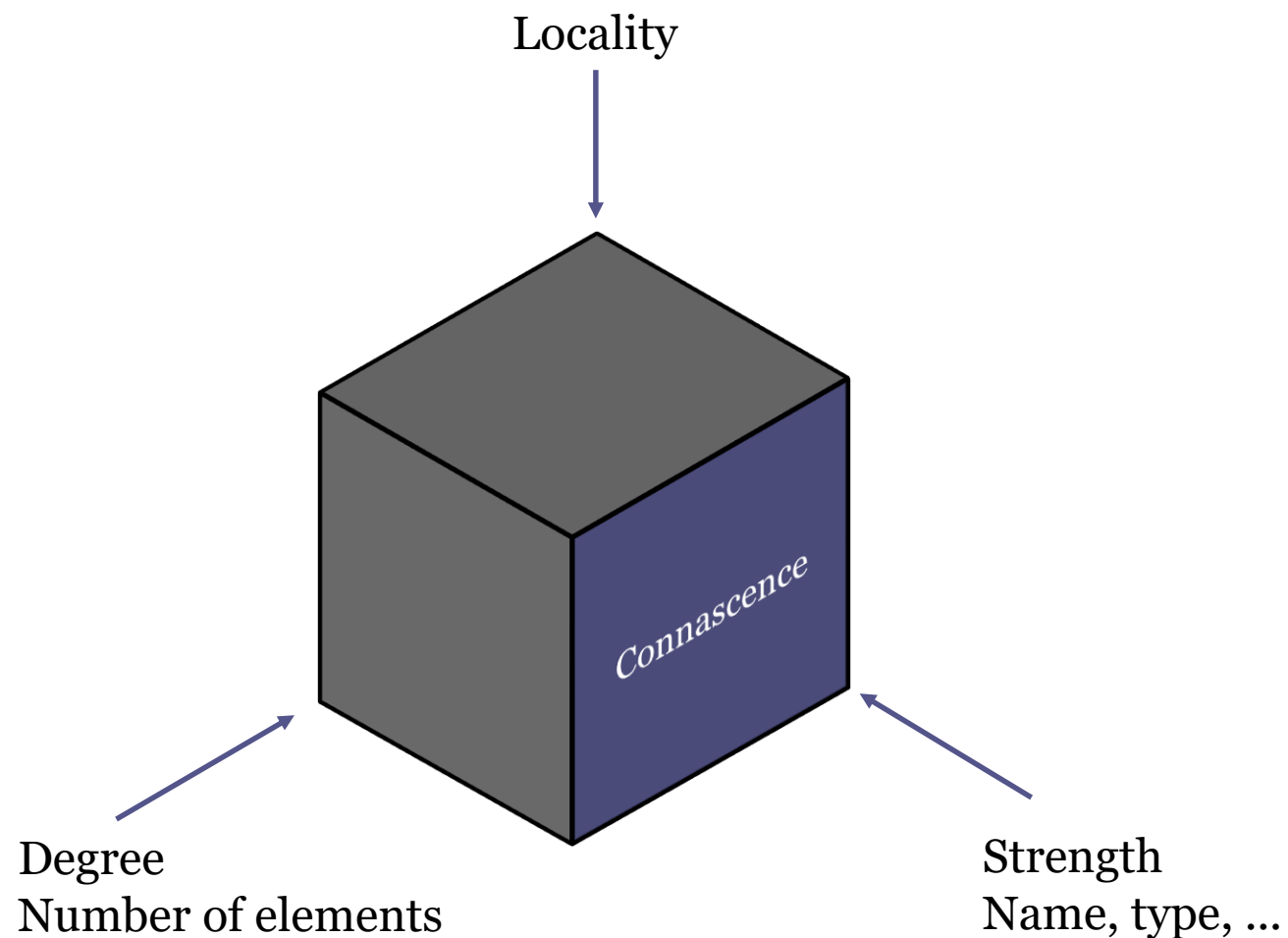


```
Email email = new Email();  
email.setRecipient("foo@example.comp");  
email.setSender("me@mydomain.com");  
email.send();  
email.setSubject("Hello World");
```



# Reducing connascence

Refactor code according to the 3 axes



# Robustness Principle, Postel's law

Postel's law (1980), defined for TCP/IP

Be liberal in what you accept and conservative in what you send

Improve interoperability

Send well formed messages

Accept incorrect messages

Applications to API design

Process fields of interest ignoring the rest

Allows APIs to evolve later



Jon Postel

# Demeter's Law

Also known as Principle of less knowledge

Named after the Demeter System (1988)

Units should have limited knowledge about other units

Only units “closely” related to the current unit.

Each unit should only talk to its friends

"Don't talk to strangers"

Symptoms of bad design

Using more than one dot...

`a.b.method(...)`

`a.method(...)`



The Law of Demeter improves loosely coupled modules  
It is not always possible to follow



# Fluent APIs

Improve readability and usability of interfaces

Advantages

Can lead to domain specific languages

Auto-complete facilities by IDEs

```
Product p = new Product().setName("Pepe").setPrice(23);
```

Trick: Methods that modify, return the same object

```
class Product {  
  ...  
  public Product setPrice(double price) {  
    this.price = price;  
    return this;  
  };  
}
```

It does not contradict Demeter's Law because it acts on the same object



# Other modularity recommendations

Facilitate external configuration of a module

Create an external configuration module

Create a default implementation

GRASP Principles

General Responsibility Assignment Software Patterns

DRY (Don't repeat yourself)

Intent is declared in one place

YAGNI (You ain't gonna need it) and

KISS (Keep it simple stupid)

Do the Simplest Thing That Could Possibly Work”

# Module Systems

In Java:

OSGi

Module = bundle

Controls encapsulation

It allows to install, start, stop and deinstall modules during runtime

Used in Eclipse

Modules = Micro-services

Several implementations: Apache Felix, Equinox

Jigsaw Project (Java 9)

In .Net: Assemblies

# Module Systems

In NodeJs

Initially based on CommonJs

`require` imports a module

`exports` declares an object that will be available

person.js

```
const VOTING_AGE = 18
const person = {
  name: "Juan",
  age: 20
}
function canVote() {
  return person.age > VOTING_AGE
}
module.exports = person;
module.exports.canVote = canVote;
```

```
const person = require('./person');

console.log(person.name);
console.log(person.canVote());
```

# Module Systems

In Javascript (ES6), it requires Babel in Node

`import` statement imports a module

`export` declares an object that will be available

person.js

```
const VOTING_AGE = 18;
export const person = {
  name: "Juan",
  age: 20
};
export function canVote() {
  return person.age > VOTING_AGE
}
```

```
import { canVote, person } from
 './person';
console.log(person.name);
console.log(person.canVote());
```



# Modularity styles

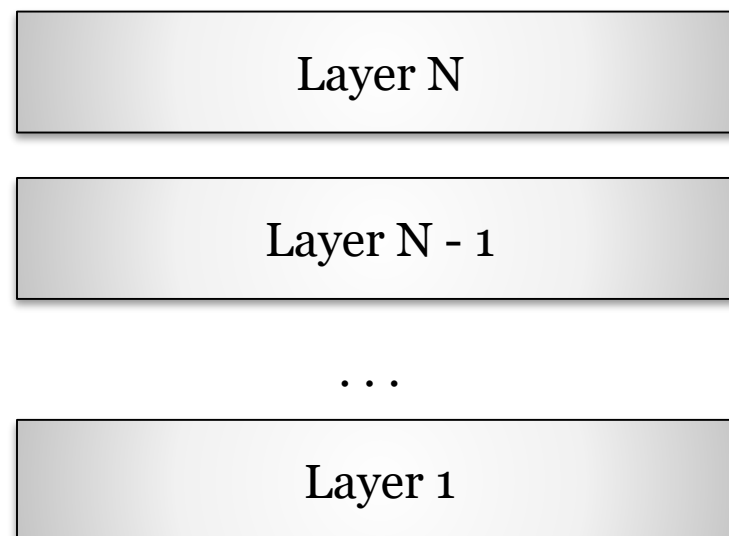
# Layers

# Layers

Divide software modules in layers

Layers are ordered

Each layer exposes an interface that can be used by higher layers

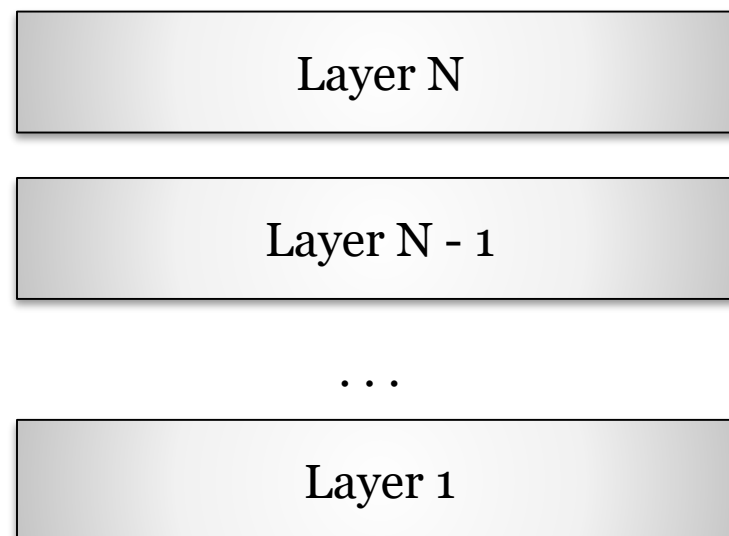


# Layers

## Elements

Layer: set of functionalities exposed through an interface at a level N

Order relationship between layers



# Layers

## Constraints

Each software block belongs to one layer

There are at least 2 layers

A layer can be:

- Client: consumes services from below layers

- Server: provides services to upper layers

2 variants:

- Strict: Layer N uses only functionality from layer N-1

- Lax: Layer N uses functionalities from layers N - 1 a 1

No cycles

# Layers

## Example



Presentation

Business

Persistence

Database

# Layers

## Layers $\neq$ Modules

A layer can be a module...

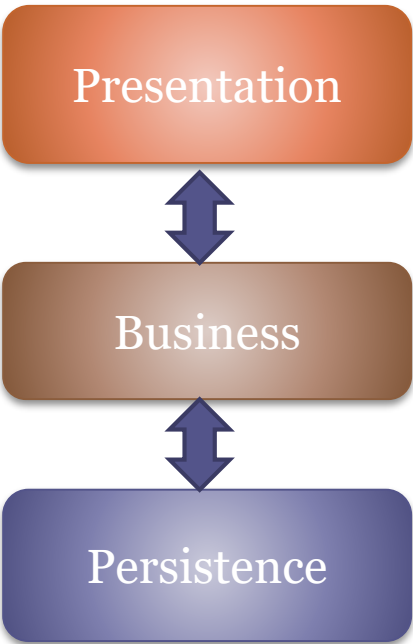
...but modules can be decomposed in other modules (layers can't)

Dividing a layer, it is possible to obtain modules

# Layers

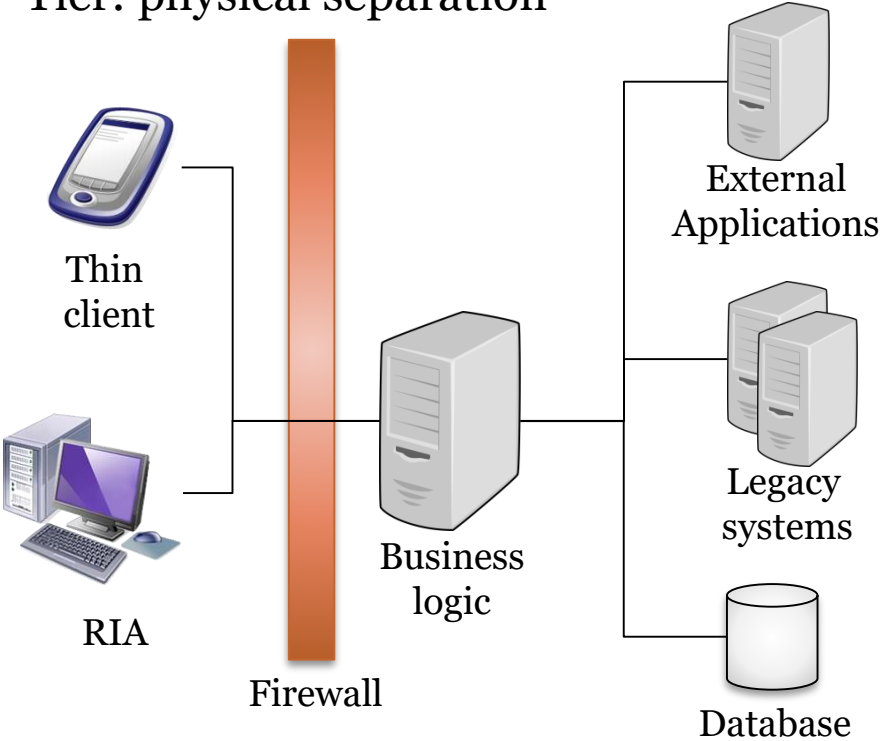
## Layers ≠ Tiers

Layer: conceptual separation



3-Layers

Tier: physical separation



Presentation

Business

Data

3-tiers



# Layers

## Advantages

Separates different abstraction levels

Loose coupling: independent evolution of each layer

It is possible to offer different implementations of a layer that keep the same interface

## Reusability

Changes in a layer affects only to the layer that is above or below it.

It is possible to create standard interfaces as libraries or application frameworks

## Testability

# Layers

## Challenges

It is not always possible to apply it

We don't always have different abstraction levels

## Performance

Access through layers can slow the system

## Shortcuts

Sometimes, it may be necessary to skip some layers

## It can lend to monolithic applications

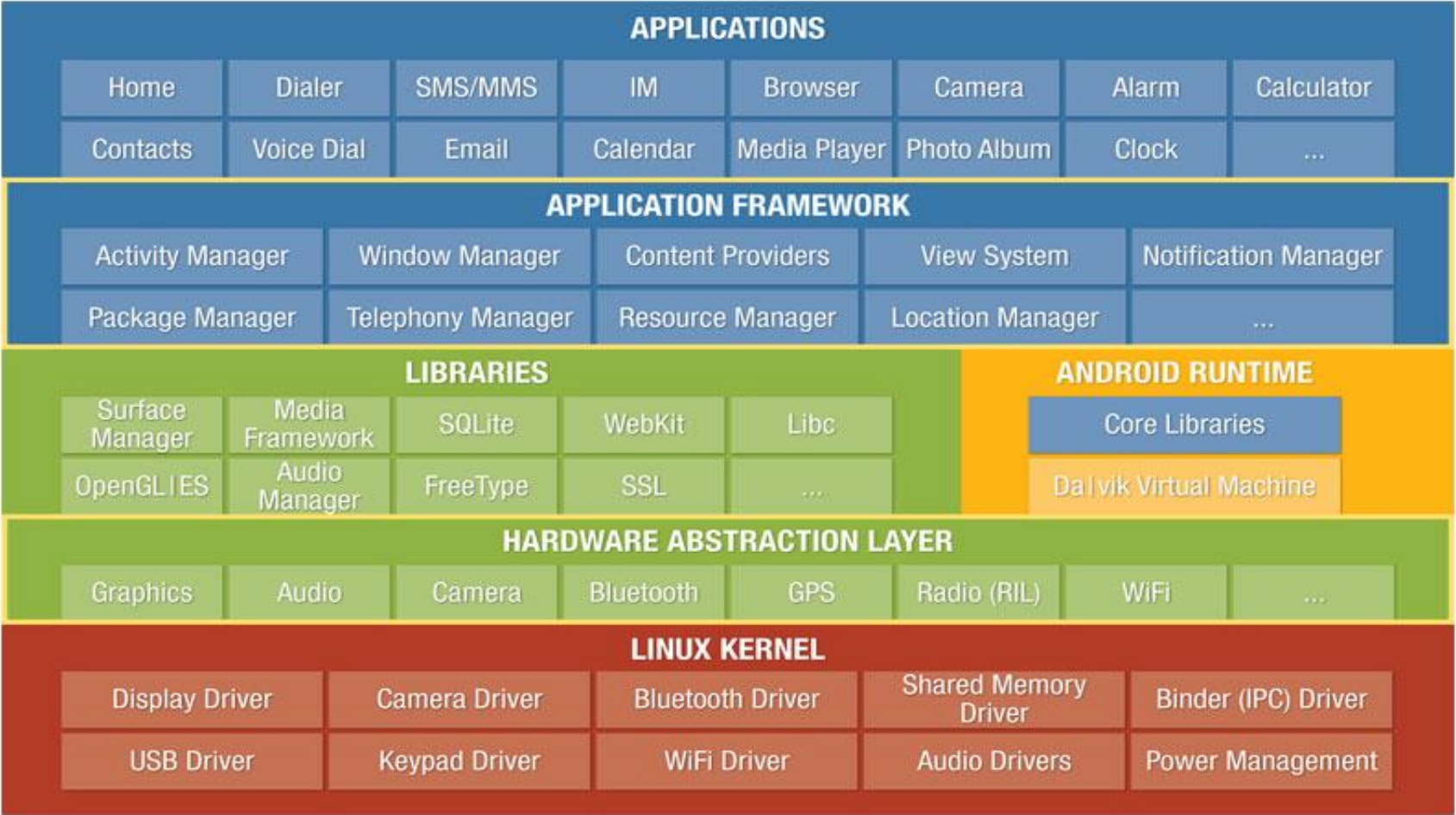
Issues in terms of deployment, reliability, scalability

## Sinkhole antipattern

Requests flow through layers without processing

# Layers

## Example: Android



# Layers

Variants:

Virtual machines, APIs

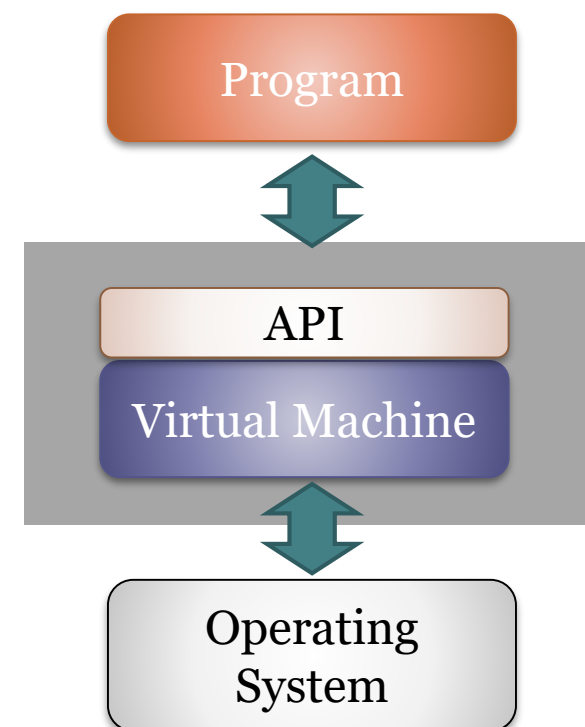
3-layers, N-layers

# Virtual machines

Virtual machine = Opaque layer

Hides a specific OS implementation

One can only get Access through the public API



# Virtual machines

## Advantages

- Portability

- Simplifies software development

  - Higher-level programming

- Facilitates emulation

## Challenges

- Performance

  - JIT techniques

- Computational overload generated by the new layer

# Virtual machines

## Applications

Programming languages

JVM: Java Virtual Machine

CLR .Net

Emulation software

# 3-layers (N-layers)

Technical partitioning

Each layer requires different technical capabilities



Presentation

Business

Persistence

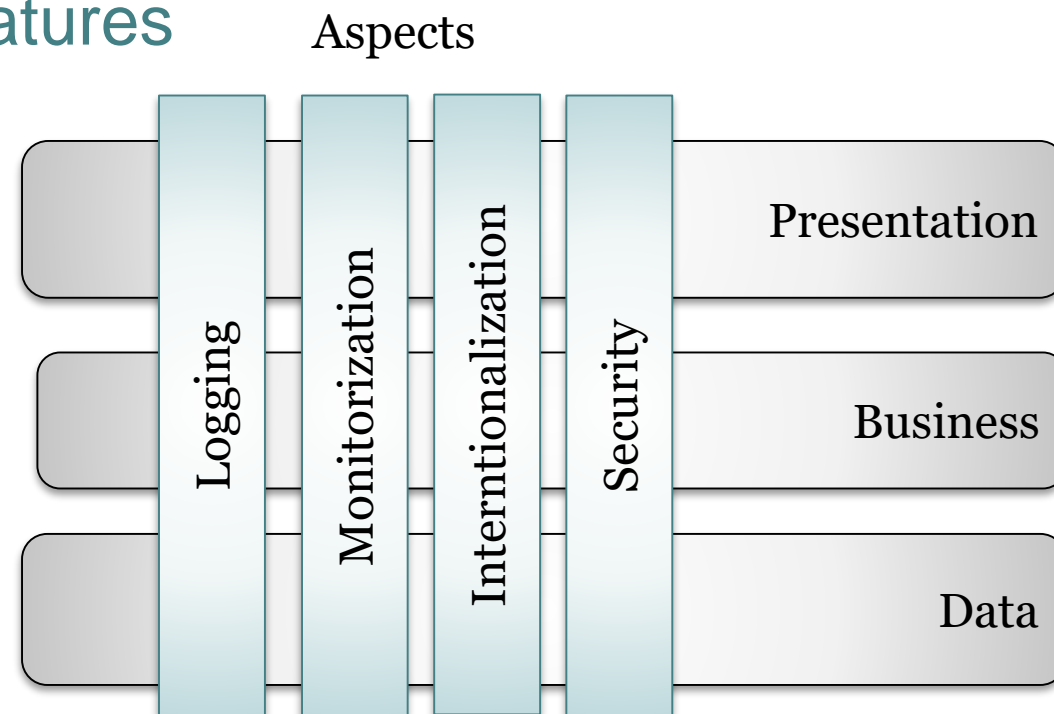


# Aspect Oriented

# Aspect Oriented

## Aspects:

Modules that implement crosscutting features



# Aspect Oriented

## Elements:

### *Crosscutting concern*

Functionality that is required in several places of an application

Examples: logging, monitoring, i18n, security,...

Generate *tangling* code

*Aspect*. Captures a *crosscutting-concern* in a module

# Aspect Oriented

## Example: Book flight seats

Several methods to do the booking:

- Book a seat

- Book a row

- Book two consecutive seats

- ...

En each method:

- Check permission (security)

- Concurrency (block seats)

- Transactions (do the whole operation in one step)

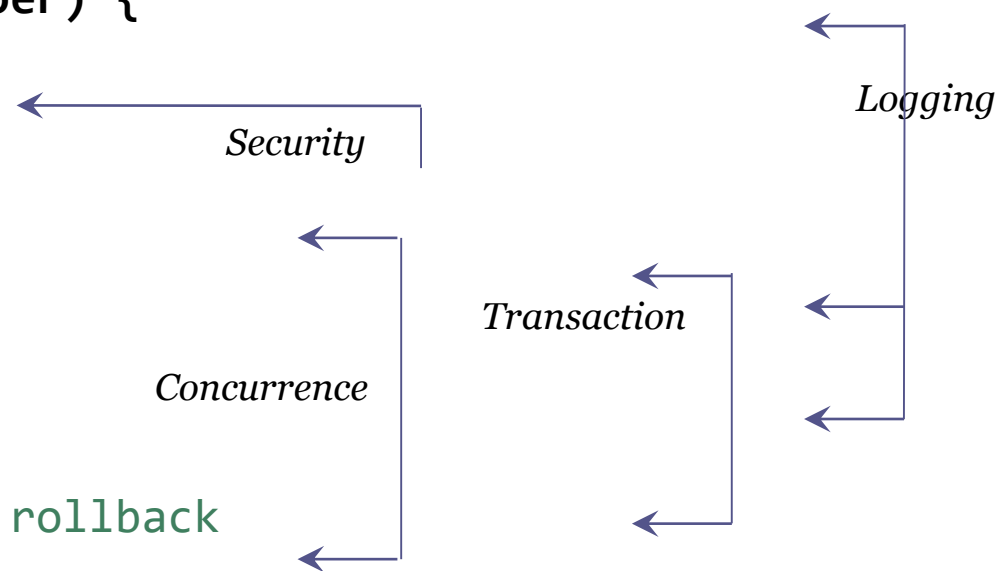
- Create a log of the operation

- ...

# Aspect Oriented

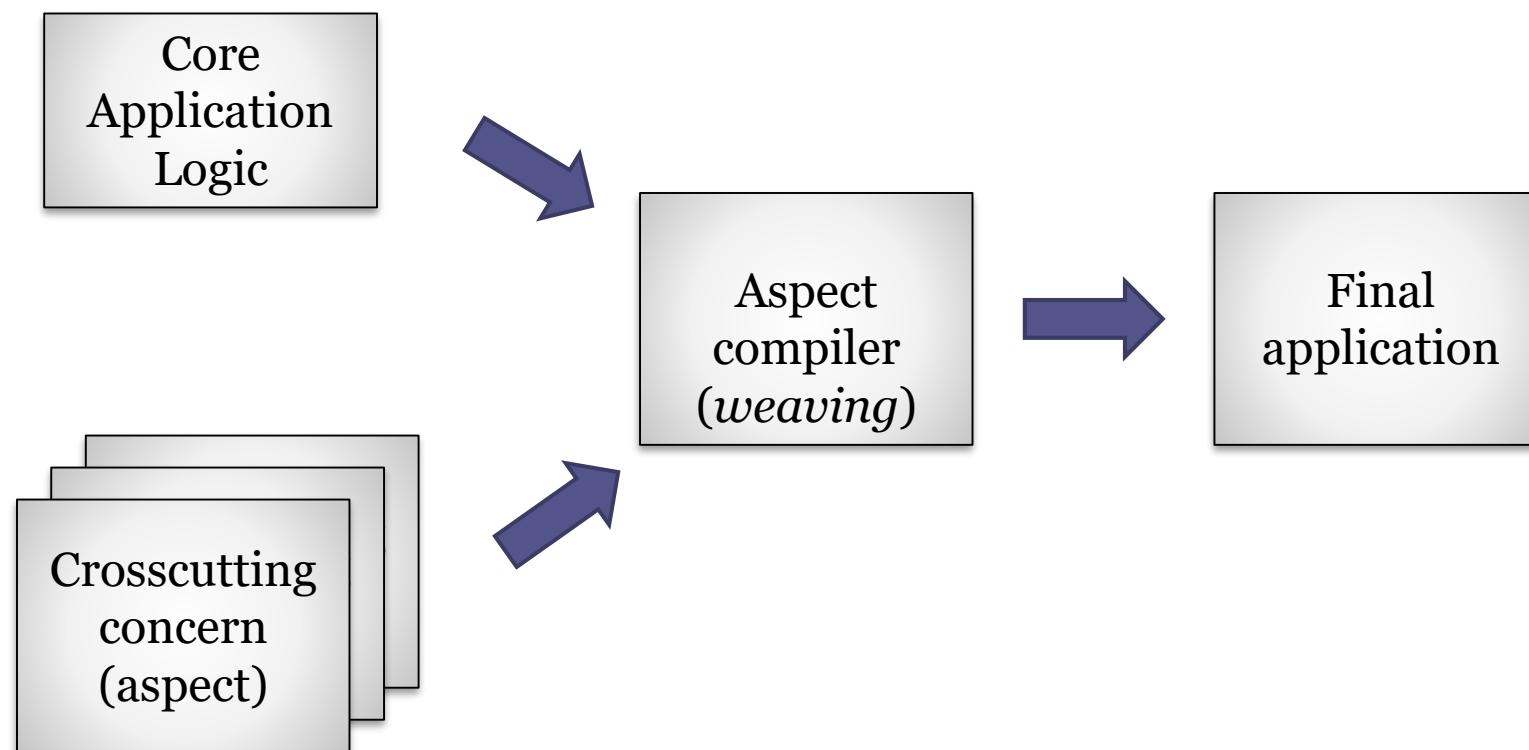
## Traditional solution

```
class Plane {
    void bookSeat(int row, int number) {
        // ... Log book petition
        // ... check authorization
        // ... check free seat
        // ... block seat
        // ... start transition
        // ... log start of operation
        // ... Do booking
        // ... Log end of operation
        // ... Execute transaction or rollback
        // ... Unblock
    }
    ...
    public void bookRow(int row) {
        // ... More or less the same!!!!
    }
    ...
}
```



# Aspect Oriented

Structure



# Aspect Oriented

## Definitions

*Join point*: Point where an aspect can be inserted

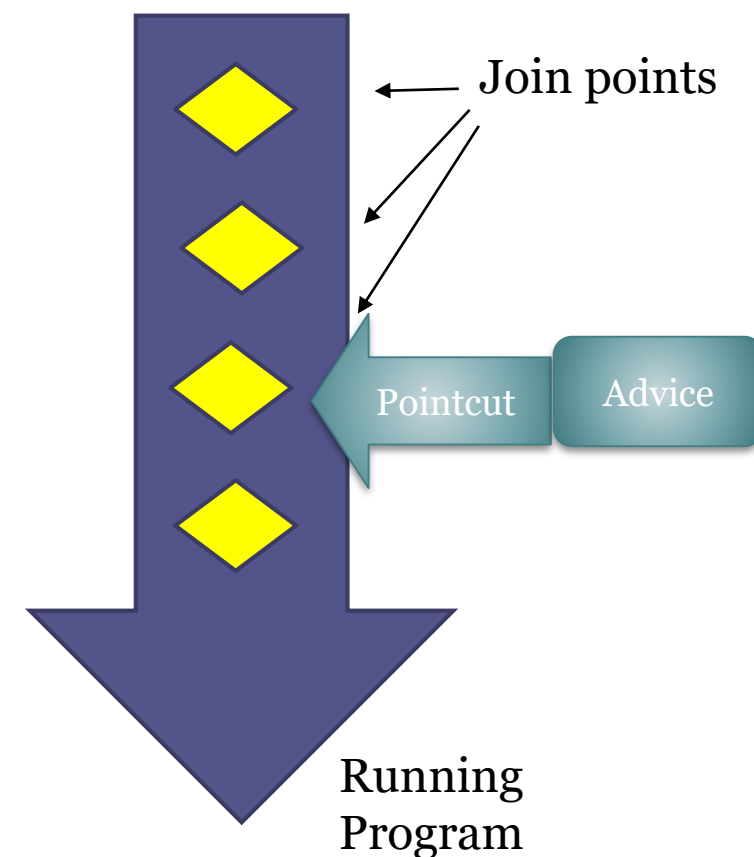
Aspect:

Contains:

*Advice*: defines the job of the aspect

*Pointcut*: where the aspect will be introduced

It can match one or more *join points*



# Aspect Oriented

## Aspect example in @Aspectj

```
@Aspect
public class Security {

    @Pointcut("execution(* org.example.Flight.book*(..))")
    public void safeAccess() {}

    @Before("safeAccess()")
    public void authenticate(JoinPoint joinPoint) {
        // Does the authentication
    }

}
```

Methods book\*



It is executed before  
to invoke those  
methods



It can Access to  
information of the  
joinPoint





# Aspect Oriented

## Constraints:

- An aspect can affect one or more traditional modules

- An aspect captures all the definitions of a *crosscutting-concern*

- The aspect must be inserted in the code

  - Tools for automatic introduction

# Aspect Oriented

## Advantages

### Simpler design

Basic application is clean of crosscutting concerns

### Facilitates system modifiability and maintenance

Crosscutting concerns are localized in a single module

### Reuse

*Crosscutting concerns* can be reused in other systems

# Aspect Oriented

## Challenges

External tools are needed

Aspects compiler. Example: AspectJ

Other tools: Spring, JBoss

Debugging is more complex

A bug in one aspect module can have unknown consequences in other modules

Program flow is more complex

Team development needs new skills

Not every developer knows aspect oriented programming

# Aspect Oriented

## Applications

AspectJ = Java extension with AOP

Guice = Dependency injection Framework

Spring = Enterprise framework with dependency injection and AOP

## Variants

DCI (Data-Context-Interaction): It is centered in the identification of roles from use cases

Apache Polygene

# Domain based

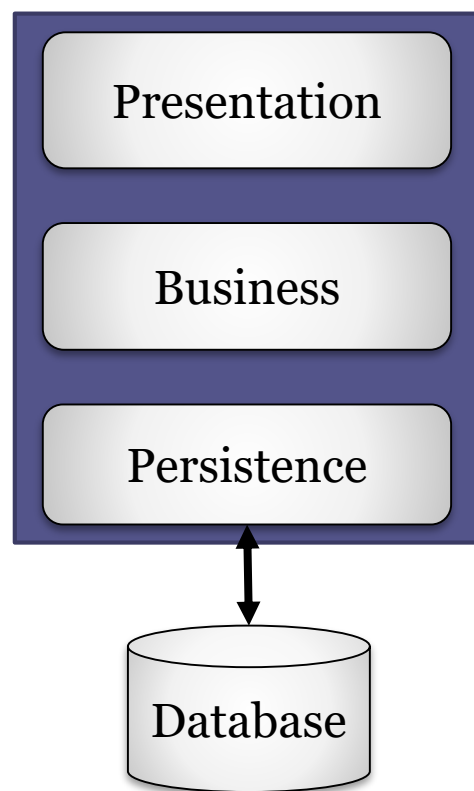
## Domain based

- Domain driven design
- Hexagonal architecture
- Data centered
- Naked Objects

# Technical vs domain partitioning

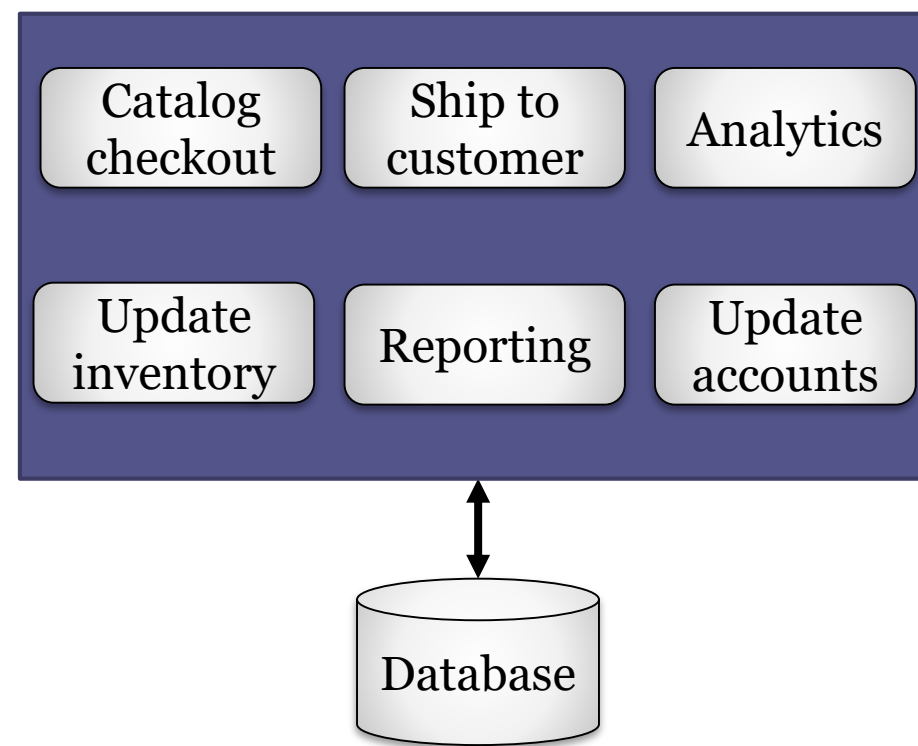
## Technical partitioning

Organize system modules by technical capabilities



## Domain partitioning

Organize modules by domain



# Data model vs domain model

## Data models

### Physical:

Data representation

Tables, columns, keys, ...

### Logical:

Data structure

Entities and relationships

## Domain models

Conceptual model of some domain

Vocabulary and context

Entities, relationships

Behavior

Business rules

# Domain based

Centered on the domain and the business logic

Goal: Anticipate and handle changes in domain

Collaboration between developers and domain experts



# Domain based

## Elements

Domain model: formed by:

Context

Entities

Relationships

Application

Manipulates domain elements

# Domain based

## Constraints

Domain model is a clearly identified module separated from other modules

Domain centered application

Application must adapt to domain model changes

No topological constraints

# Domain based

## Advantages:

- Facilitates team communication

  - Ubiquitous language

- Reflects domain structure

  - Address domain changes

  - Share and reuse models

- Reinforce data quality and consistency

- Facilitates system testing

  - It is possible to create testing doubles with fake domain data

# Domain based

## Challenges:

- Collaboration with domain experts

- Stalled analysis phase

  - It is necessary to establish context boundaries

- Technological dependency

  - Avoid domain models that depend on some specific persistence technologies

- Synchronization

  - Synchronize system with domain changes

# Domain based

## Variants

DDD - *Domain driven design*

Hexagonal style

Data centered

N-Layered Domain Driven Design

Naked Objects

# DDD - Domain Driven Design

General approach to software development

Proposed by Eric Evans (2004)

Connect the implementation to an evolving domain

Collaboration between technical and domain experts

Ubiquitous language

Common vocabulary shared by the experts and the development team

# DDD - Domain Driven Design

## Elements

### Bounded context

Specifies the boundaries of the domain

### Entities

An object with an identity

### Value objects

Contain attributes but no identity

### Aggregates

Collection of objects bound together by some root entity

### Repositories

Storage service

### Factories

Creates objects

### Services

External operations

# DDD - Domain Driven Design

## Constraints

Entities inside aggregates are only accessible through the root entity

Repositories handle storage

Value objects immutable

Usually contain only attributes



# DDD - Domain driven design

## Advantages

### Code organization

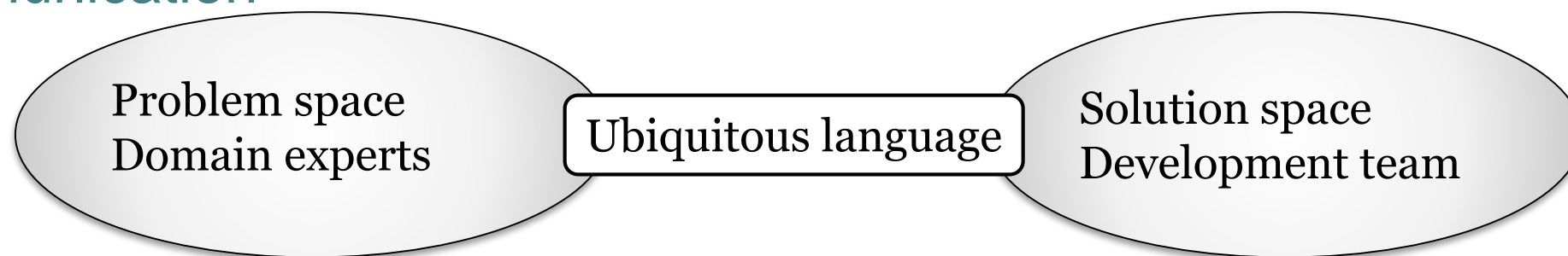
- Identification of the main parts

### Maintenance/evolution of the system

- Facilitates refactoring

- It adapts to Behavior Driven Development

### Team communication



# DDD - Domain driven design

## Challenges

- Involve domain experts in development

  - It is not always possible

- Apparent complexity

  - It adds some constraints to development

  - Useful for complex, non-trivial domains

# Hexagonal style

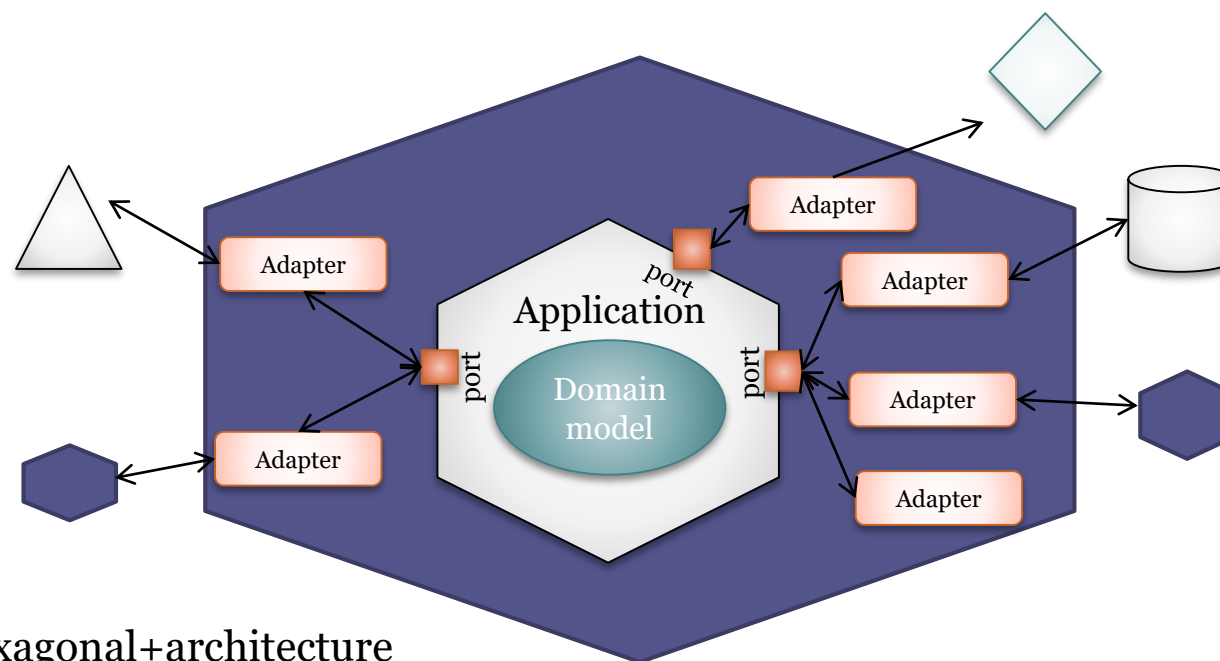
Other names:

ports and adapters, onion, clean architecture, etc.

Based on a clean Domain model

Infrastructures and frameworks are outside

Access through ports and adapters



<http://alistair.cockburn.us/Hexagonal+architecture>

<http://blog.8thlight.com/uncle-bob/2012/08/13/the-clean-architecture.html>

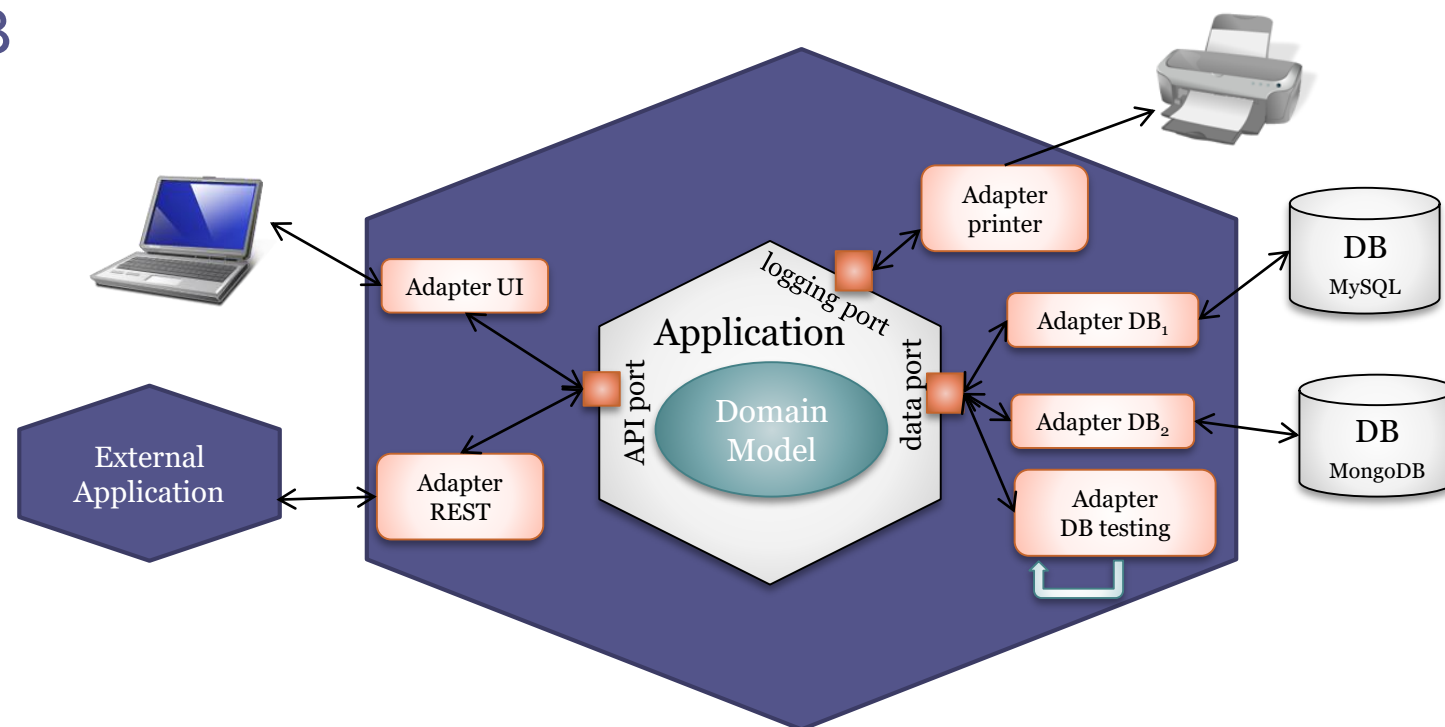
# Hexagonal style

## Example

Traditional application in layers

Incorporates new services

Testing DB



# Hexagonal style

## Elements

### Domain model

Represents business logic: Entities and relationships

Plain Objects (POJOs: Plain Old Java Objects)

### Ports

Communication interface

It can be: User, Database

### Adapters

One adapter by each external element

Examples: REST, User, DB SQL, DB mock,...

# Hexagonal style

## Advantages

### Understanding

Improves domain understanding

### Timelessness

Less dependency on technologies and frameworks

### Adaptability (*time to market*)

It is easier to adapt the application to changes in the domain

### Testability

It is possible to substitute real databases by mock databases

# Hexagonal style

## Challenges

- It can be difficult to separate domain from the persistence system

  - Lots of frameworks combine both

- Asymmetry of ports & adapters

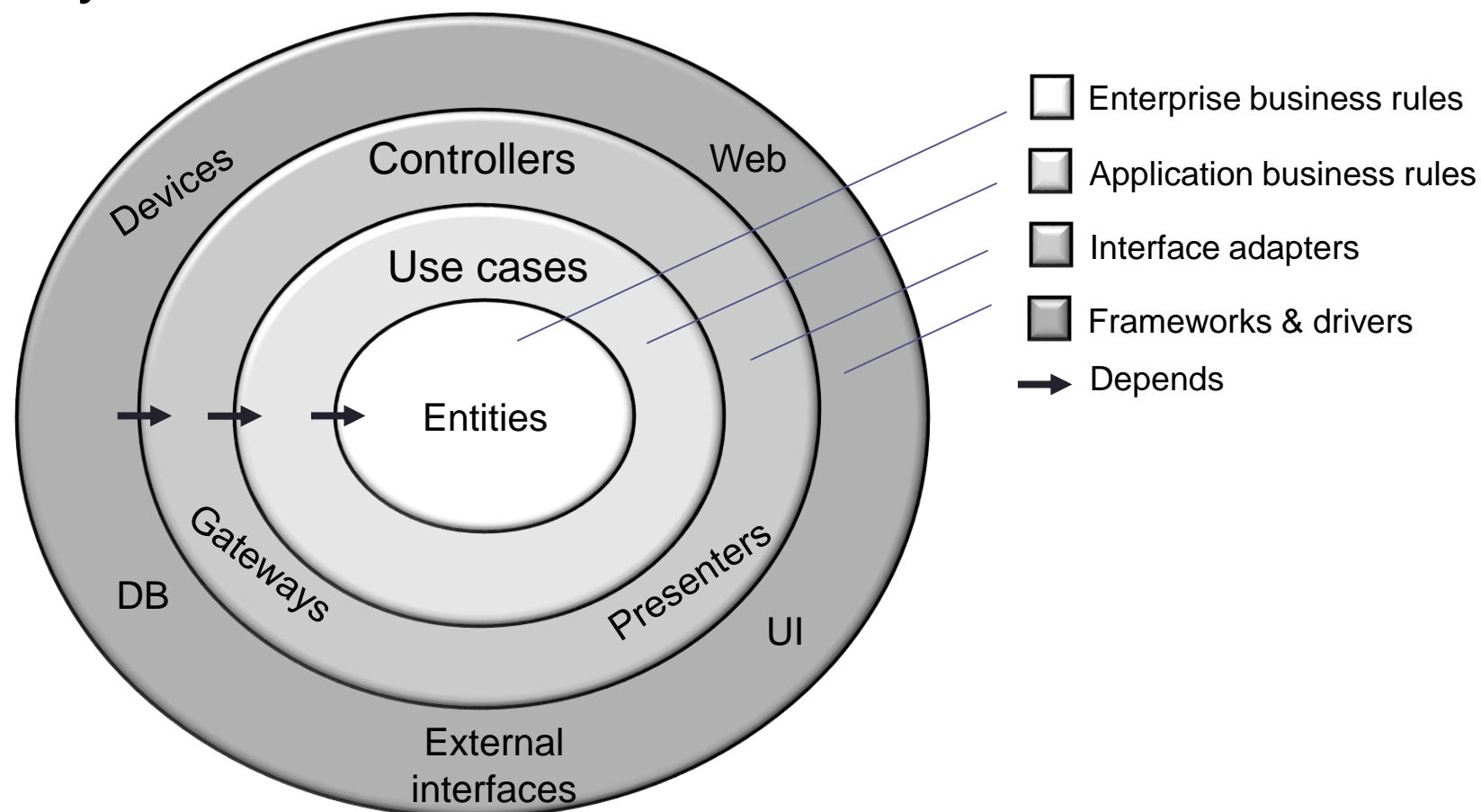
  - Not all are equal

  - Active ports (user) vs passive ports (logger)

# Clean architecture

Almost the same as hexagonal architecture

Presented by Uncle Bob - Clean architecture book





# Data centered

Simple domains based on data

CRUD (Create-Retrieve-Update-Delete) operations

Advantages:

Semi-automatic generation (*scaffolding*)

Rapid development (time-to-market)

Challenges

Evolution to more complex domains

Anemic domains

Classes that only contain *getters/setters*

Objects without behavior (delegated to other layers)

Can be like procedural programming

# Naked Objects

Domain objects contain all business logic

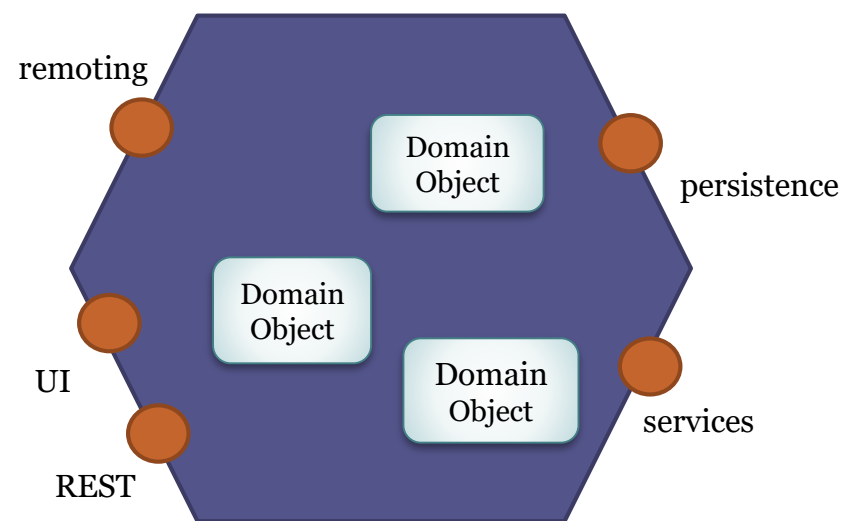
User interface = Direct representation of domain objects

It can be automatically generated

Automatic generation of:

User interfaces

REST APIs



# Naked Objects

## Advantages

- Adaptability to domain

- Maintenance

## Challenges

- It may be difficult to adapt interface to special cases

## Applications

- Naked Objects (.Net), Apache Isis (Java)

# End of Presentation