Advanced Software Engineering

Required Courses: Software Engineering, Human Computer Interaction
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Language: Greek or English

Vidakis Nikolaos PhD

Architectural Design

Objectives

- To introduce architectural design and to discuss its importance
- To explain the architectural design decisions that have to be made
- To introduce architectural styles
- To discuss reference architectures are used to communicate and compare architectures

Topics covered

- Architectural design decisions
- System organisation
- Decomposition styles
- Control styles
- Reference architectures

Software architecture

- The design process for identifying the sub-systems making up a system and the framework for sub-system control and communication is **architectural design.**
- The output of this design process is a description of the **software architecture.**

Architectural design

- An early stage of the system design process.
- Represents the link between specification and design processes.
- Often carried out in parallel with some specification activities.
- It involves identifying major system components and their communications.

Definitions

- The software architecture of a program or computing system is the structure or structures of the system which comprise
  - The software components
  - The externally visible properties of those components
  - The relationships among the components
- Software architectural design represents the structure of the data and program components that are required to build a computer-based system
- An architectural design model is transferable
  - It can be applied to the design of other systems
  - It represents a set of abstractions that enable software engineers to describe architecture in predictable ways

Emphasis on Software Components

- A software architecture enables a software engineer to
  - Analyze the effectiveness of the design in meeting its stated requirements
  - Consider architectural alternatives at a stage when making design changes is still relatively easy
  - Reduce the risks associated with the construction of the software
- Focus is placed on the software component
  - A program module
  - An object-oriented class
  - A database
  - Middleware

Importance of Software Architecture

- Representations of software architecture are an enabler for communication between all stakeholders interested in the development of a computer-based system
- The software architecture highlights early design decisions that will have a profound impact on all software engineering work that follows and, as important, on the ultimate success of the system as an operational entity
- The software architecture constitutes a relatively small, intellectually graspable model of how the system is structured and how its components work together

Advantages of explicit architecture

- Stakeholder communication
  - Architecture may be used as a focus of discussion by system stakeholders.
- System analysis
  - Means that analysis of whether the system can meet its non-functional requirements is possible.
- Large-scale reuse
  - The architecture may be reusable across a range of systems.

Architecture and system characteristics

- Performance
  - Localise critical operations and minimise communications. Use large rather than fine-grain components.
- Security
  - Use a layered architecture with critical assets in the inner layers.
- Safety
  - Localise safety-critical features in a small number of sub-systems.
- Availability
  - Include redundant components and mechanisms for fault tolerance.
- Maintainability
  - Use fine-grain, replaceable components.

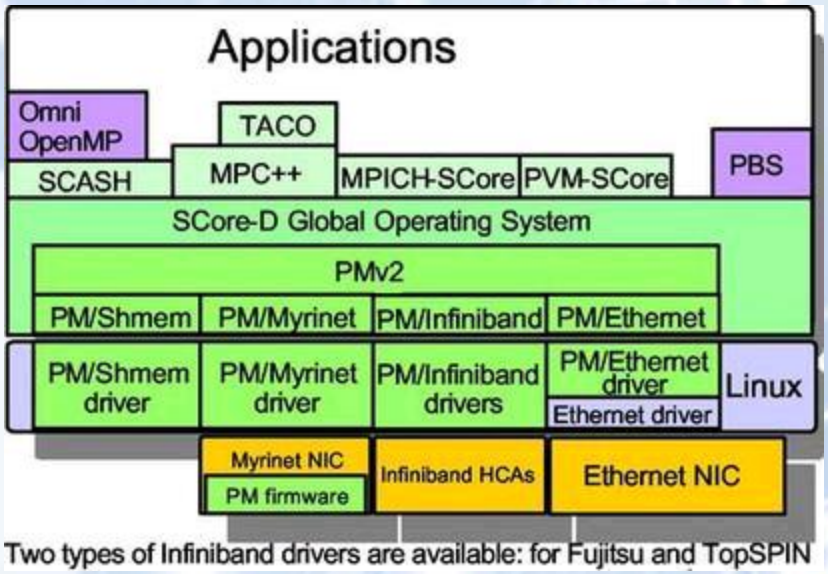
Architectural conflicts

- Using large-grain components improves performance but reduces maintainability.
- Introducing redundant data improves availability but makes security more difficult.
- Localising safety-related features usually means more communication so degraded performance.

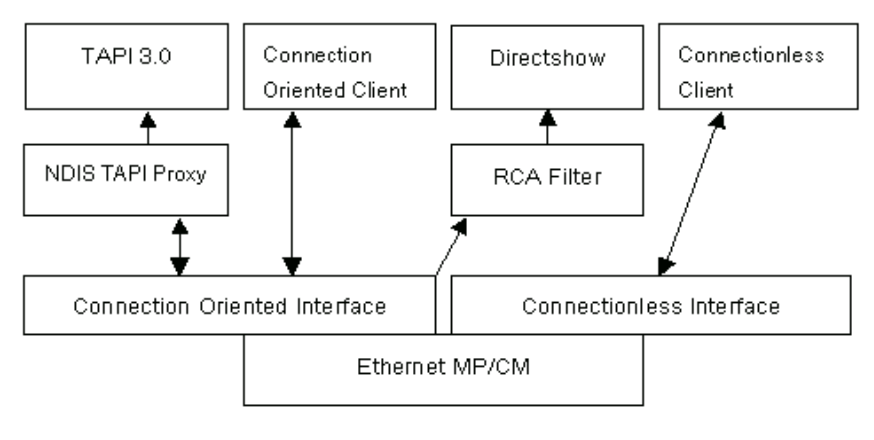
System structuring

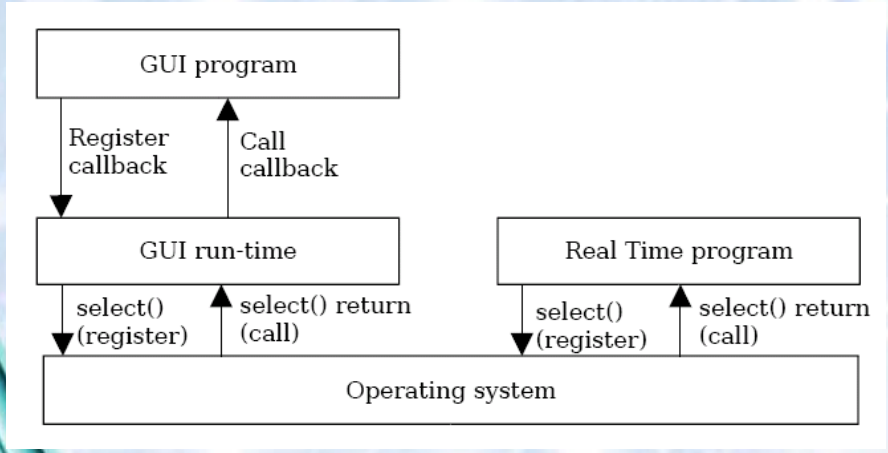
- Concerned with decomposing the system into interacting sub-systems.
- The architectural design is normally expressed as a block diagram presenting an overview of the system structure.
- More specific models showing how sub-systems share data, are distributed and interface with each other may also be developed.

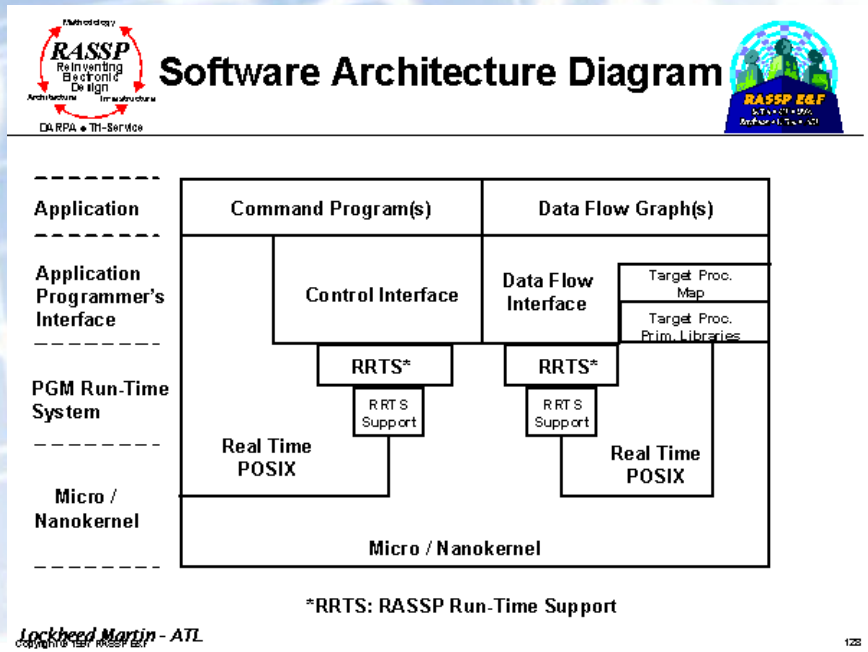
Example Software Architecture Diagrams



Two types of Infiniband drivers are available: for Fujitsu and TopSPIN







Software Architectural Styles

Common Architectural Styles of American Homes

Common Architectural Styles of American Homes

- A-Frame
- Bungalow
- Cape Cod
- Colonial
- Federal
- Four square
- Georgian
- Greek Revival
- Prairie Style
- Pueblo
- Ranch
- Split level
- Tidewater
- Tudor
- Victorian

Software Architectural Style

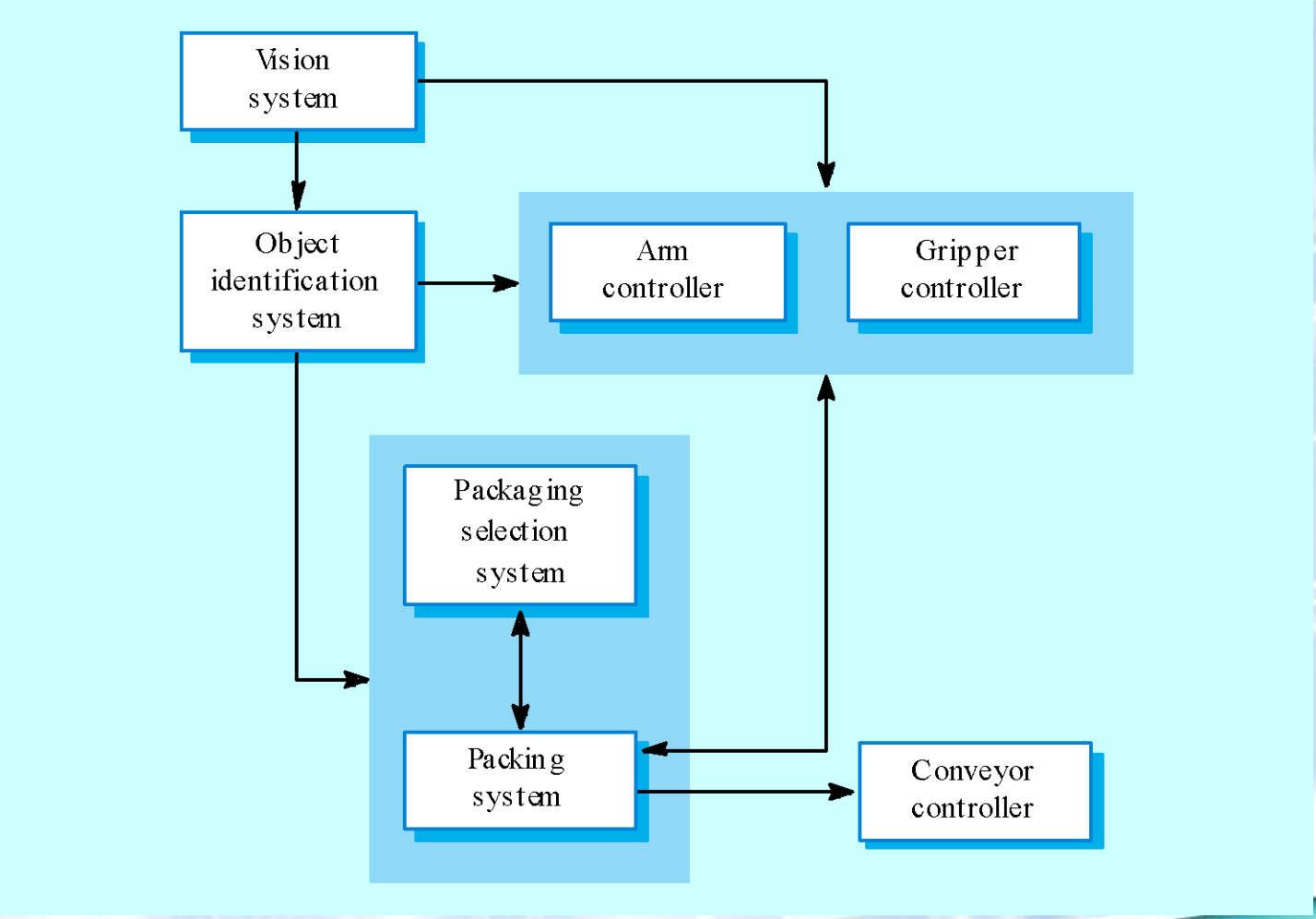
- The software that is built for computer-based systems exhibit one of many architectural styles
- Each style describes a system category that encompasses
  - A set of component types that perform a function required by the system
  - A set of connectors (subroutine call, remote procedure call, data stream, socket) that enable communication, coordination, and cooperation among components
  - Semantic constraints that define how components can be integrated to / form the system
  - A topological layout of the components indicating their runtime interrelationships

(Source: Bass, Clements, and Kazman. *Software Architecture in Practice*. Addison-Wesley, 2003)

Box and line diagrams

- Very abstract - they do not show the nature of component relationships nor the externally visible properties of the sub-systems.
- However, useful for communication with stakeholders and for project planning.

Packing robot control system



Architectural design decisions

- Architectural design is a creative process so the process differs depending on the type of system being developed.
- However, a number of common decisions span all design processes.

Architectural design decisions

- Is there a generic application architecture that can be used?
- How will the system be distributed?
- What architectural styles are appropriate?
- What approach will be used to structure the system?
- How will the system be decomposed into modules?
- What control strategy should be used?
- How will the architectural design be evaluated?
- How should the architecture be documented?

Architecture reuse

- Systems in the same domain often have similar architectures that reflect domain concepts.
- Application product lines are built around a core architecture with variants that satisfy particular customer requirements.

Architectural styles or models

- The architectural model of a system may conform to a generic architectural model or style.
- An awareness of these styles can simplify the problem of defining system architectures.
- However, most large systems are heterogeneous and do not follow a single architectural style.

Architectural styles or models

- Used to document an architectural design.
- Static structural model that shows the major system components.
- Dynamic process model that shows the process structure of the system.
- Interface model that defines sub-system interfaces.
- Relationships model such as a data-flow model that shows sub-system relationships.
- Distribution model that shows how sub-systems are distributed across computers.

System organisation

- Reflects the basic strategy that is used to structure a system.
- Three organisational styles are widely used:
  - A shared data repository style;
  - A shared services and servers style;
  - An abstract machine or layered style.

Sub-systems and modules

- A sub-system is a system in its own right whose operation is independent of the services provided by other sub-systems.
- A module is a system component that provides services to other components but would not normally be considered as a separate system.

Modular decomposition styles

- Styles of decomposing sub-systems into modules.
- No rigid distinction between system organisation and modular decomposition.

Modular decomposition

- Another structural level where sub-systems are decomposed into modules.
- Two modular decomposition models covered
  - An object model where the system is decomposed into interacting object;
  - A pipeline or data-flow model where the system is decomposed into functional modules which transform inputs to outputs.
- If possible, decisions about concurrency should be delayed until modules are implemented.

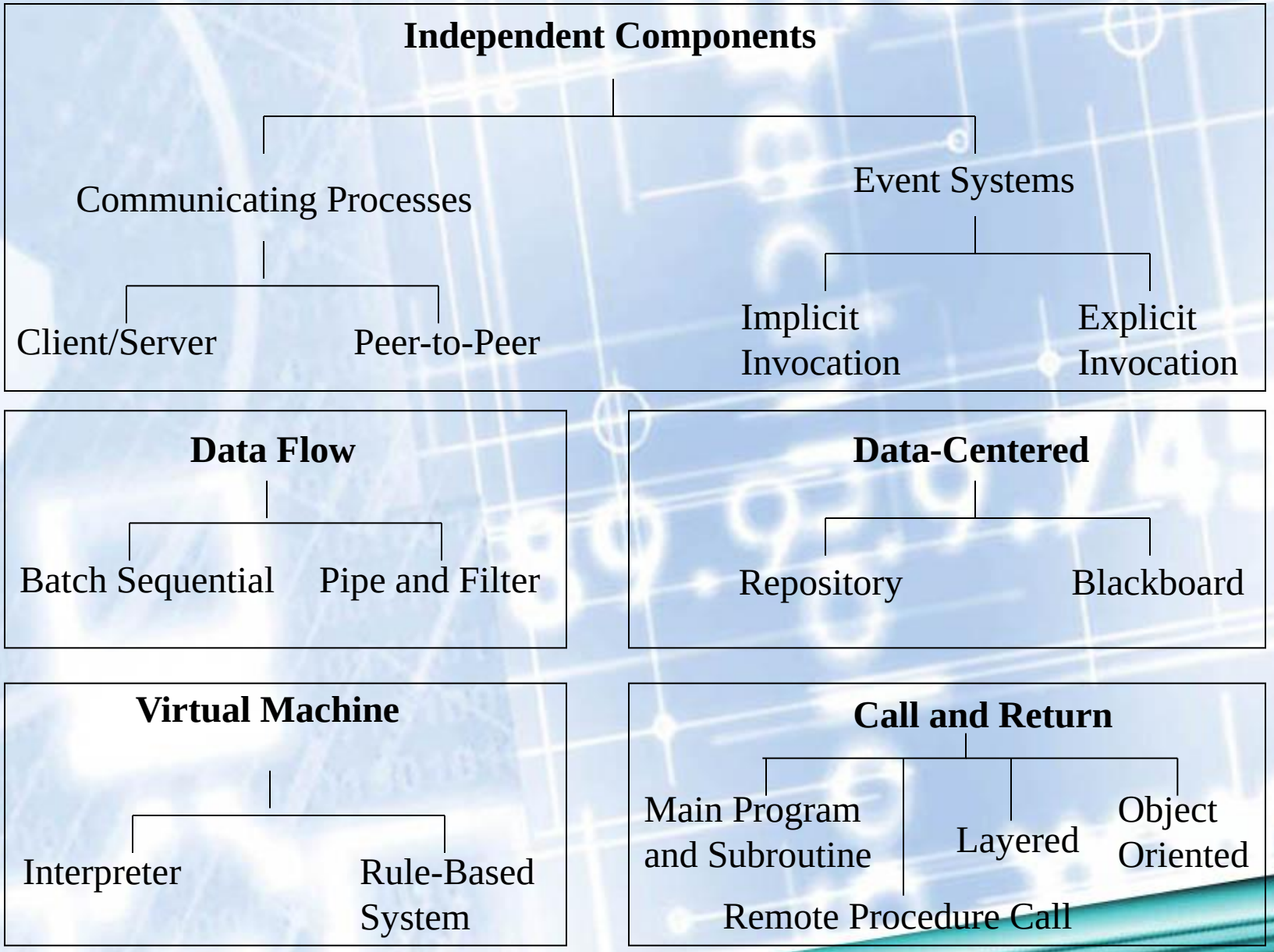
Control styles

- Are concerned with the control flow between sub-systems. Distinct from the system decomposition model.
- Centralised control
  - One sub-system has overall responsibility for control and starts and stops other sub-systems.
- Event-based control
  - Each sub-system can respond to externally generated events from other sub-systems or the system's environment.

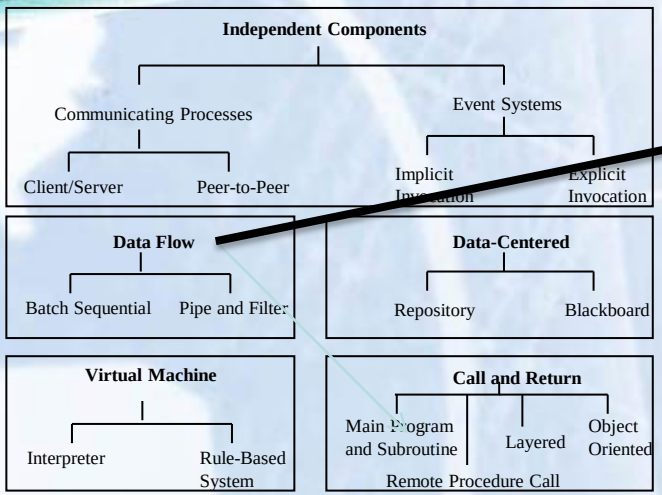
Centralised control

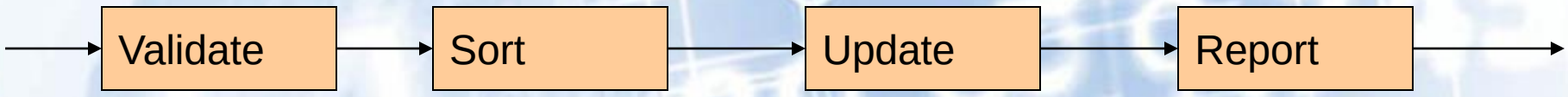
- A control sub-system takes responsibility for managing the execution of other sub-systems.
- Call-return model
  - Top-down subroutine model where control starts at the top of a subroutine hierarchy and moves downwards. Applicable to sequential systems.
- Manager model
  - Applicable to concurrent systems. One system component controls the stopping, starting and coordination of other system processes. Can be implemented in sequential systems as a case statement.

A Taxonomy of Architectural Styles



Data Flow Style





- Use this style when it makes sense to view your system as one that produces a well-defined easily identified output
  - The output should be a direct result of sequentially transforming a well-defined easily identified input in a time-independent fashion

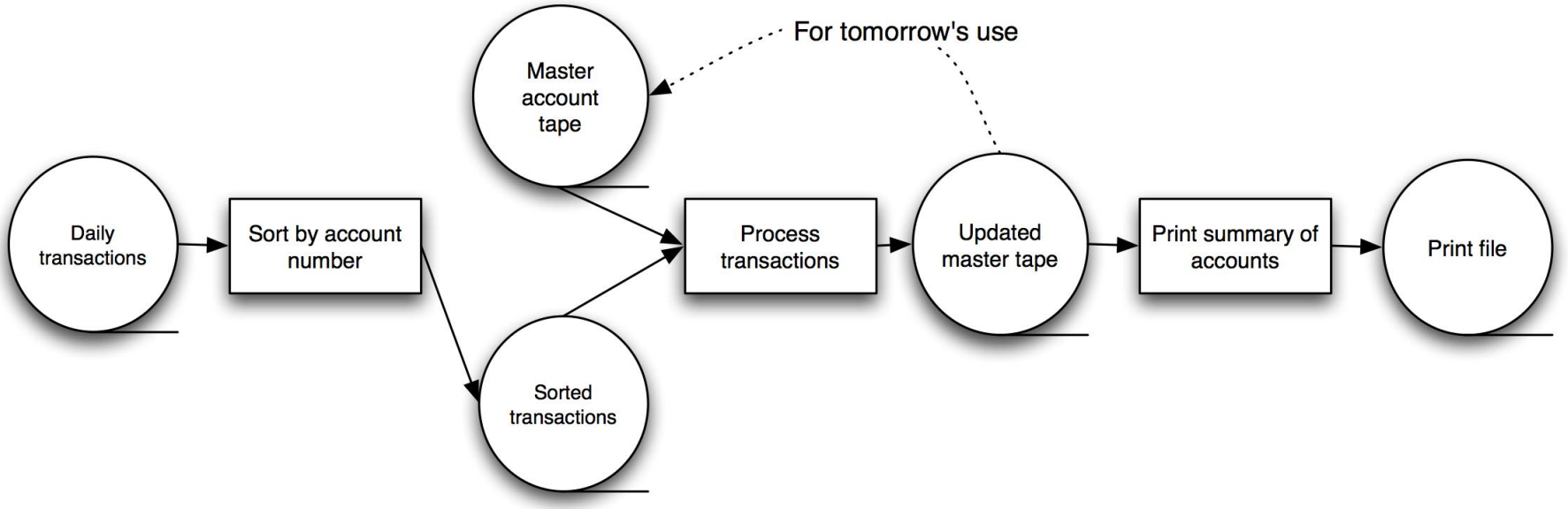
Data Flow Style

- Has the goal of modifiability
- Characterized by viewing the system as a series of transformations on successive pieces of input data
- Data enters the system and then flows through the components one at a time until they are assigned to output or a data store
- Batch sequential style
  - The processing steps are independent components
  - Each step runs to completion before the next step begins
  - Separate programs are executed in order; data is passed as an aggregate from one program to the next.
  - Connectors: “The human hand” carrying tapes between the programs, a.k.a. “sneaker-net ”
  - Data Elements: Explicit, aggregate elements passed from one component to the next upon completion of the producing program’s execution.
  - Typical uses: Transaction processing in financial systems. “The Granddaddy of Styles”
- Pipe-and-filter style
  - Emphasizes the incremental transformation of data by successive components
  - The filters incrementally transform the data (entering and exiting via streams)
  - The filters use little contextual information and retain no state between instantiations
  - The pipes are stateless and simply exist to move data between filters

Data Flow Style (cont.)

- Advantages
  - Has a simplistic design in the limited ways in which the components interact with the environment
  - Consists of no more and no less than the construction of its parts
  - Simplifies reuse and maintenance
  - Is easily made into a parallel or distributed execution in order to enhance system performance
- Disadvantages
  - Implicitly encourages a batch mentality so interactive applications are difficult to create in this style
  - Ordering of filters can be difficult to maintain so the filters cannot cooperatively interact to solve a problem
  - Exhibits poor performance
    - Filters typically force the least common denominator of data representation (usually ASCII stream)
    - Filter may need unlimited buffers if they cannot start producing output until they receive all of the input
    - Each filter operates as a separate process or procedure call, thus incurring overhead in set-up and take-down time

Batch-Sequential: A Financial Application



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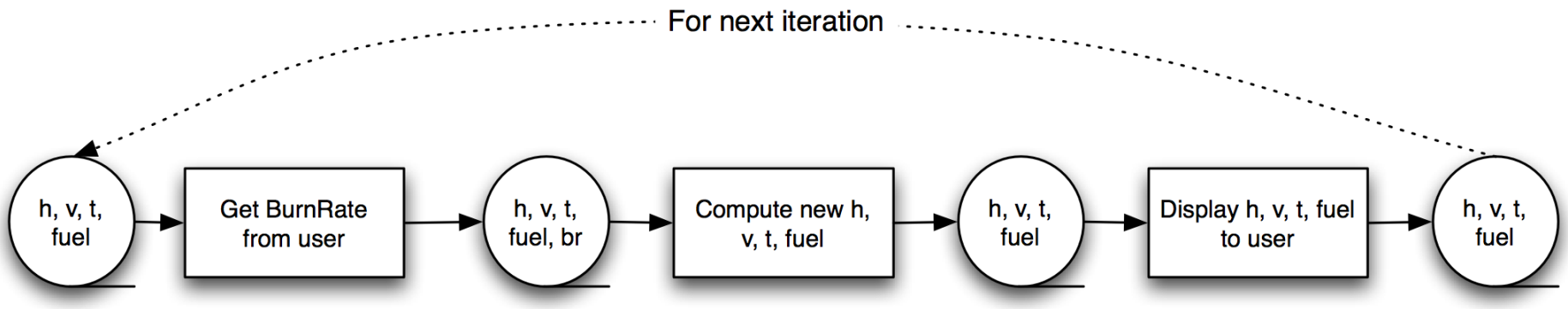
Batch-Sequential



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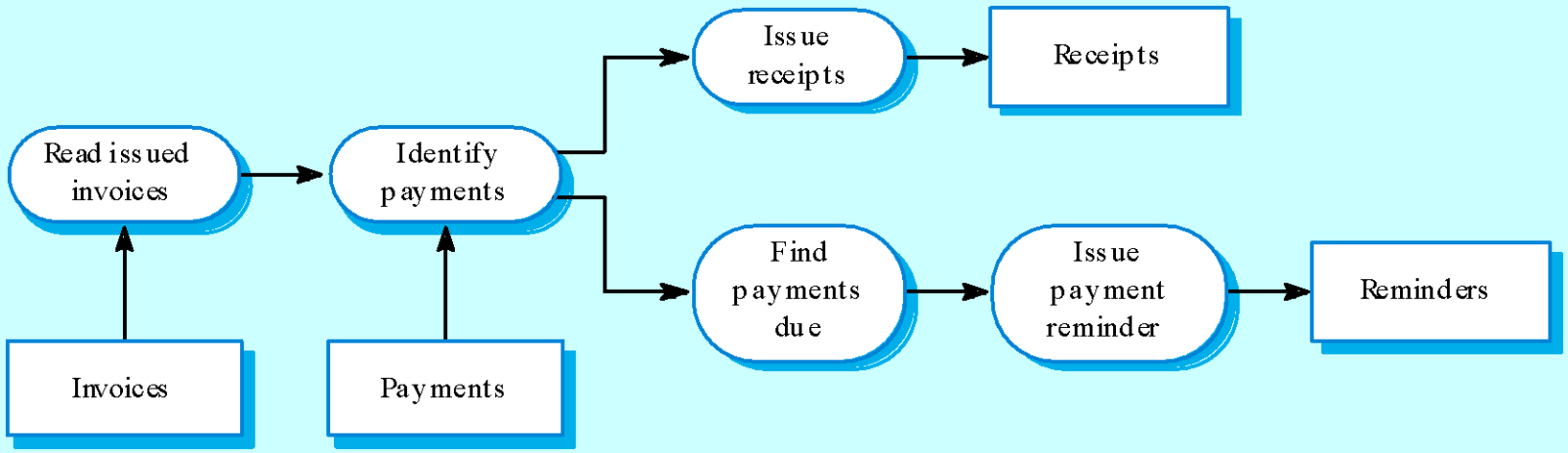
Function-oriented pipelining

- Functional transformations process their inputs to produce outputs.
- May be referred to as a pipe and filter model (as in UNIX shell).
- Variants of this approach are very common. When transformations are sequential, this is a batch sequential model which is extensively used in data processing systems.
- Not really suitable for interactive systems.

Invoice processing system



Pipeline model advantages

- Supports transformation reuse.
- Intuitive organisation for stakeholder communication.
- Easy to add new transformations.
- Relatively simple to implement as either a concurrent or sequential system.
- However, requires a common format for data transfer along the pipeline and difficult to support event-based interaction.

Pipe and Filter Style

- Components are filters
  - Transform input data streams into output data streams
  - Possibly incremental production of output
- Connectors are pipes
  - Conduits for data streams
- Style invariants
  - Filters are independent (no shared state)
  - Filter has no knowledge of up- or down-stream filters
- Examples
  - UNIX shell signal processing
  - Distributed systems parallel programming
- Example: ls invoices | grep -e August | sort

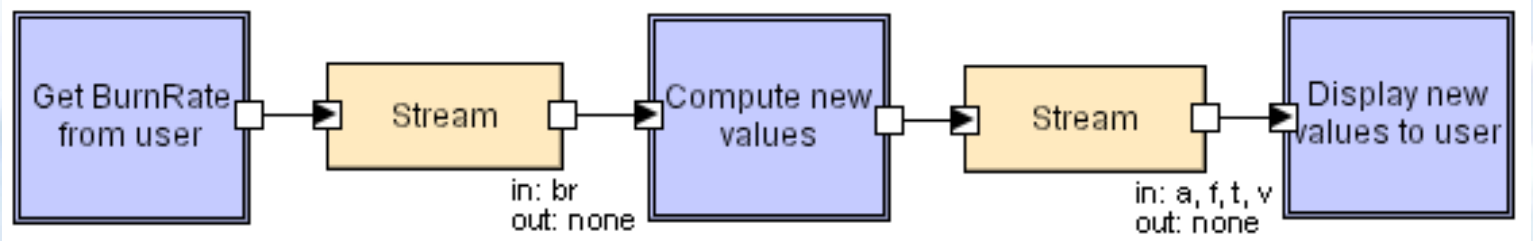
Pipe and Filter (cont'd)

- Variations
  - Pipelines — linear sequences of filters
  - Bounded pipes — limited amount of data on a pipe
  - Typed pipes — data strongly typed
- Advantages
  - System behavior is a succession of component behaviors
  - Filter addition, replacement, and reuse
    - Possible to hook any two filters together
  - Certain analyses
    - Throughput, latency, deadlock
  - Concurrent execution

Pipe and Filter (cont'd)

- Disadvantages
  - Batch organization of processing
  - Interactive applications
  - Lowest common denominator on data transmission

Pipe and Filter



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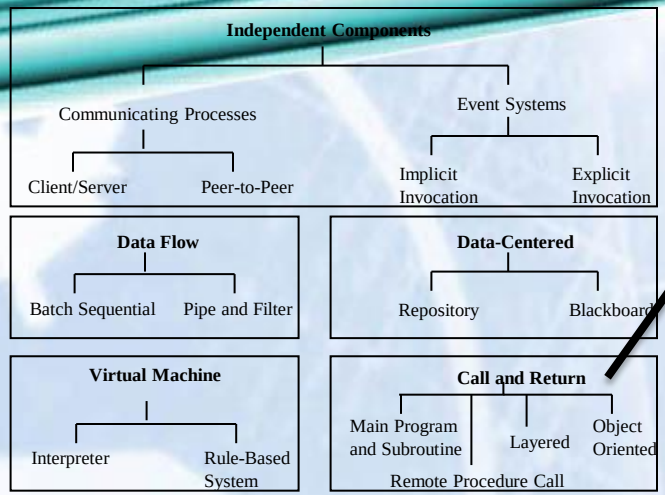
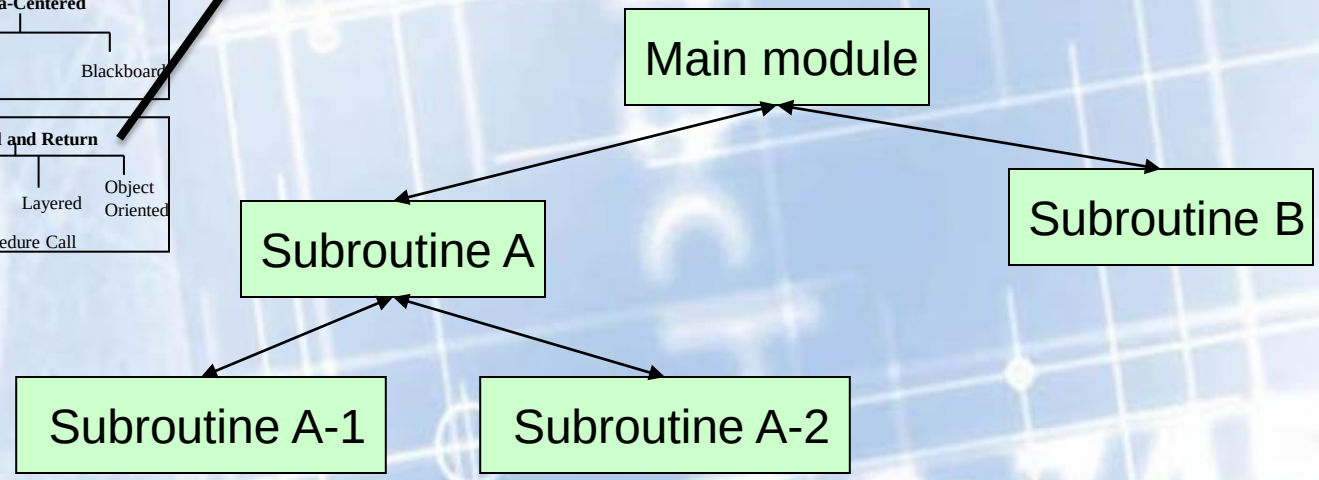
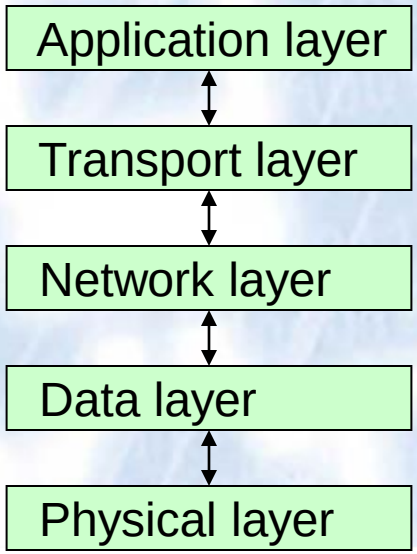
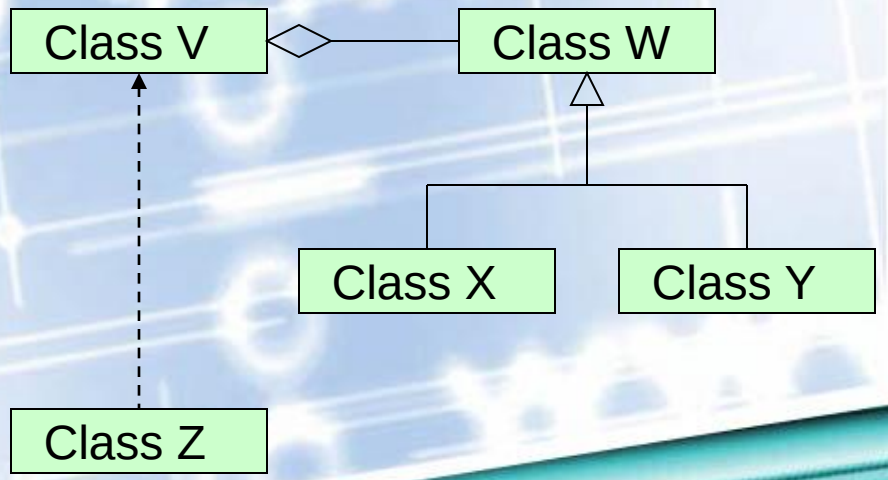
Call-and-Return Style









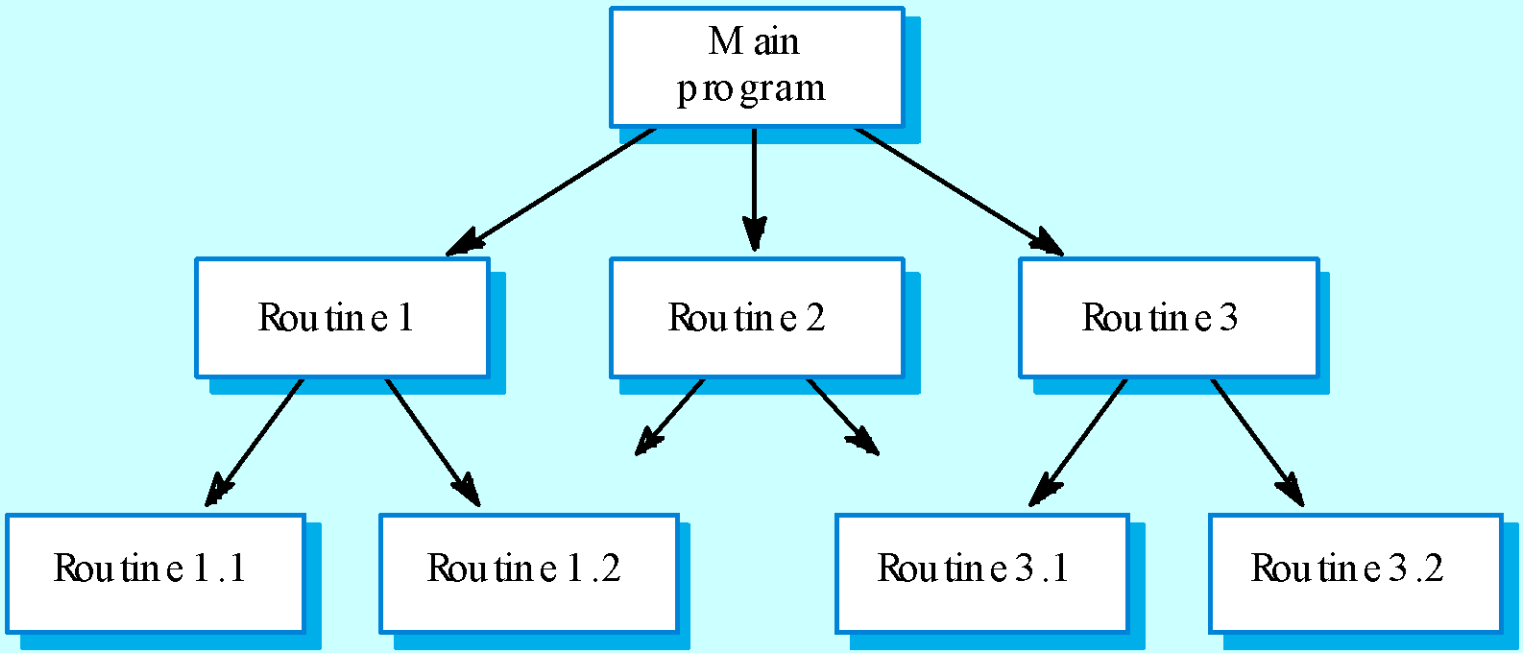
Call-and-Return Style

- Has the goal of modifiability and scalability
- Has been the dominant architecture since the start of software development
- Main program and subroutine style
  - Decomposes a program hierarchically into small pieces (i.e., modules)
  - Typically has a single thread of control that travels through various components in the hierarchy
- Remote procedure call style
  - Consists of main program and subroutine style of system that is decomposed into parts that are resident on computers connected via a network
  - Strives to increase performance by distributing the computations and taking advantage of multiple processors
  - Incurs a finite communication time between subroutine call and response

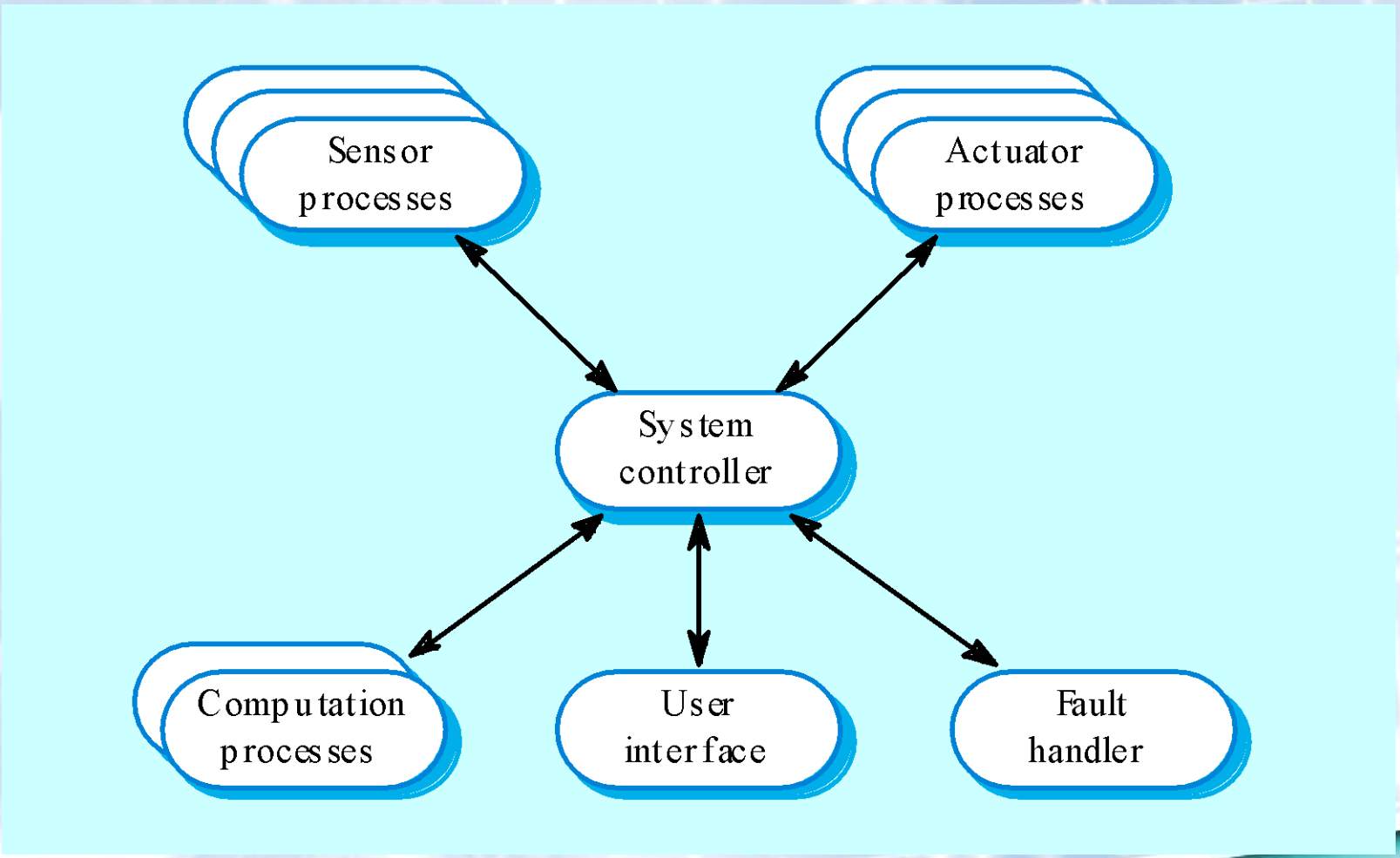
Call-and-Return Style (cont.)

- Object-oriented or abstract data type system
  - Emphasizes the bundling of data and how to manipulate and access data
  - Keeps the internal data representation hidden and allows access to the object only through provided operations
  - Permits inheritance and polymorphism
- Layered system
  - Assigns components to layers in order to control inter-component interaction
  - Only allows a layer to communicate with its immediate neighbor
  - Assigns core functionality such as hardware interfacing or system kernel operations to the lowest layer
  - Builds each successive layer on its predecessor, hiding the lower layer and providing services for the upper layer
  - Is compromised by layer bridging that skips one or more layers to improve runtime performance
- Use this style when the order of computation is fixed, when interfaces are specific, and when components can make no useful progress while awaiting the results of request to other components

Call-return model



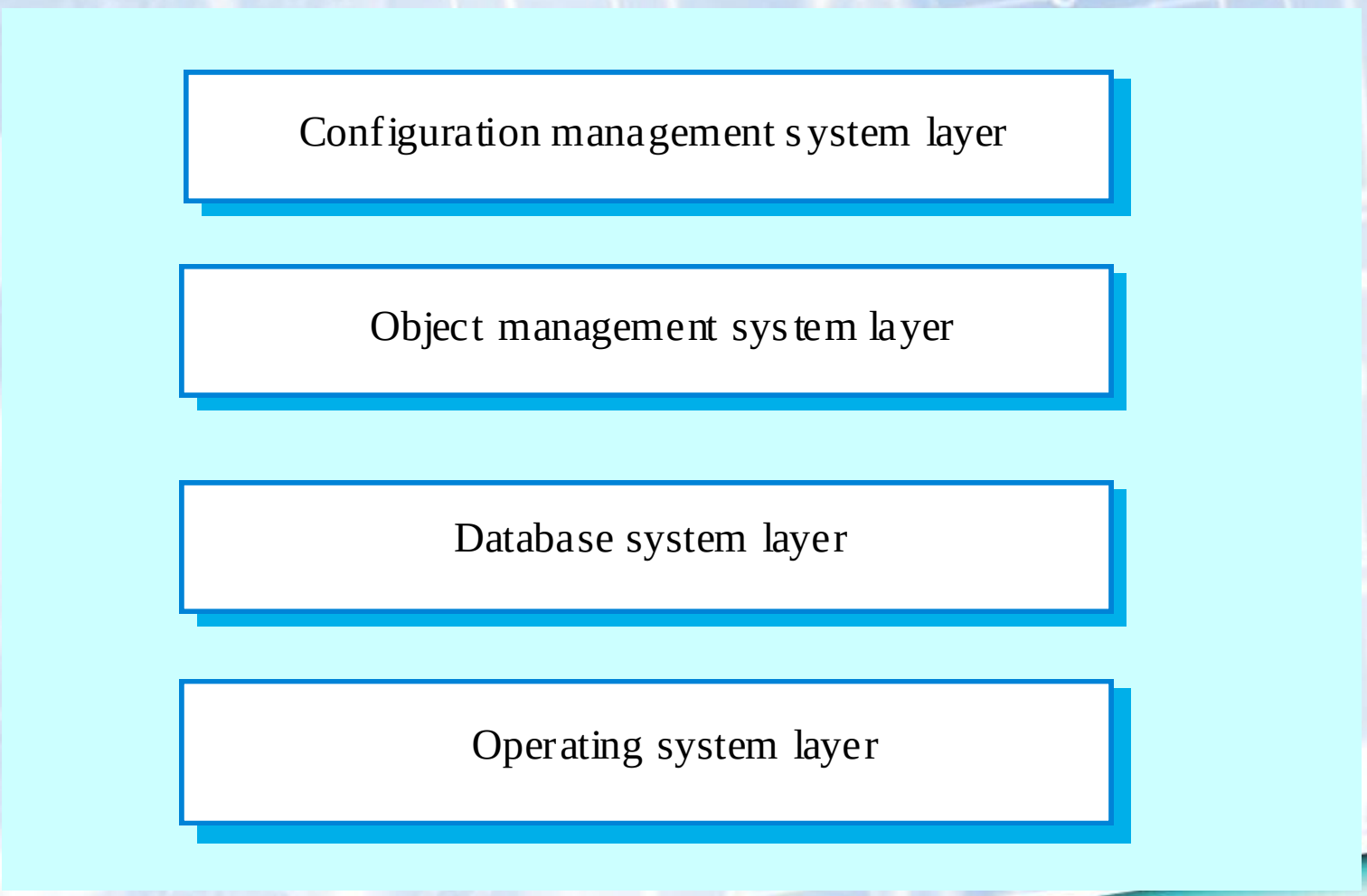
Real-time system control



Abstract machine (layered) model

- Used to model the interfacing of sub-systems.
- Organises the system into a set of layers (or abstract machines) each of which provide a set of services.
- Supports the incremental development of sub-systems in different layers. When a layer interface changes, only the adjacent layer is affected.
- However, often artificial to structure systems in this way.

Version management system



Layered Style

- Hierarchical system organization
  - "Multi-level client-server"
  - Each layer exposes an interface (API) to be used by above layers
- Each layer acts as a
  - *Server:* service provider to layers "above"
  - *Client:* service consumer of layer(s) "below"
- Connectors are protocols of layer interaction
- Example: operating systems
- *Virtual machine* style results from fully opaque layers

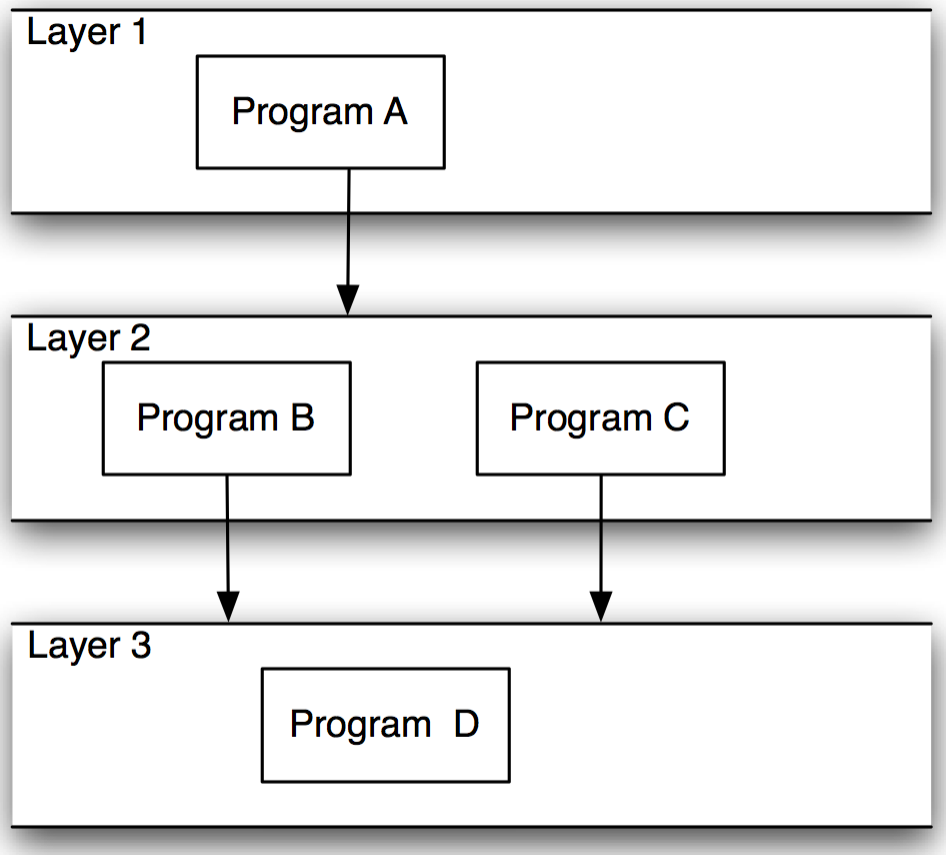
Layered Style (cont'd)

- Advantages
  - Increasing abstraction levels
  - Evolvability
  - Changes in a layer affect at most the adjacent two layers
    - Reuse
  - Different implementations of layer are allowed as long as interface is preserved
  - Standardized layer interfaces for libraries and frameworks

Layered Style (cont'd)

- Disadvantages
  - Not universally applicable
  - Performance
- Layers may have to be skipped
  - Determining the correct abstraction level

Layered Systems/Virtual Machines



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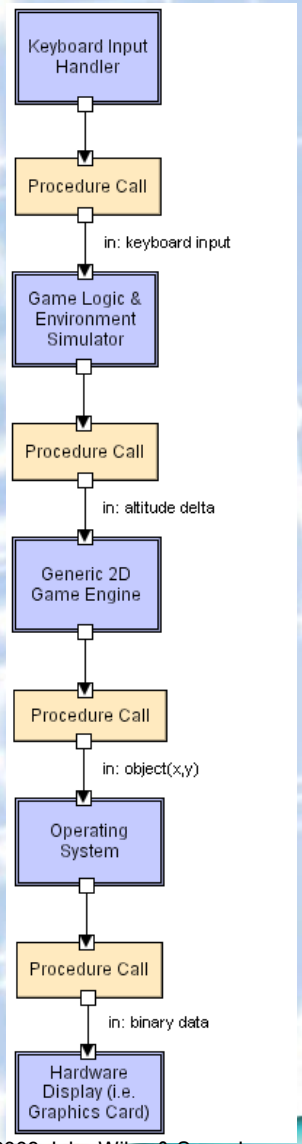
Layered



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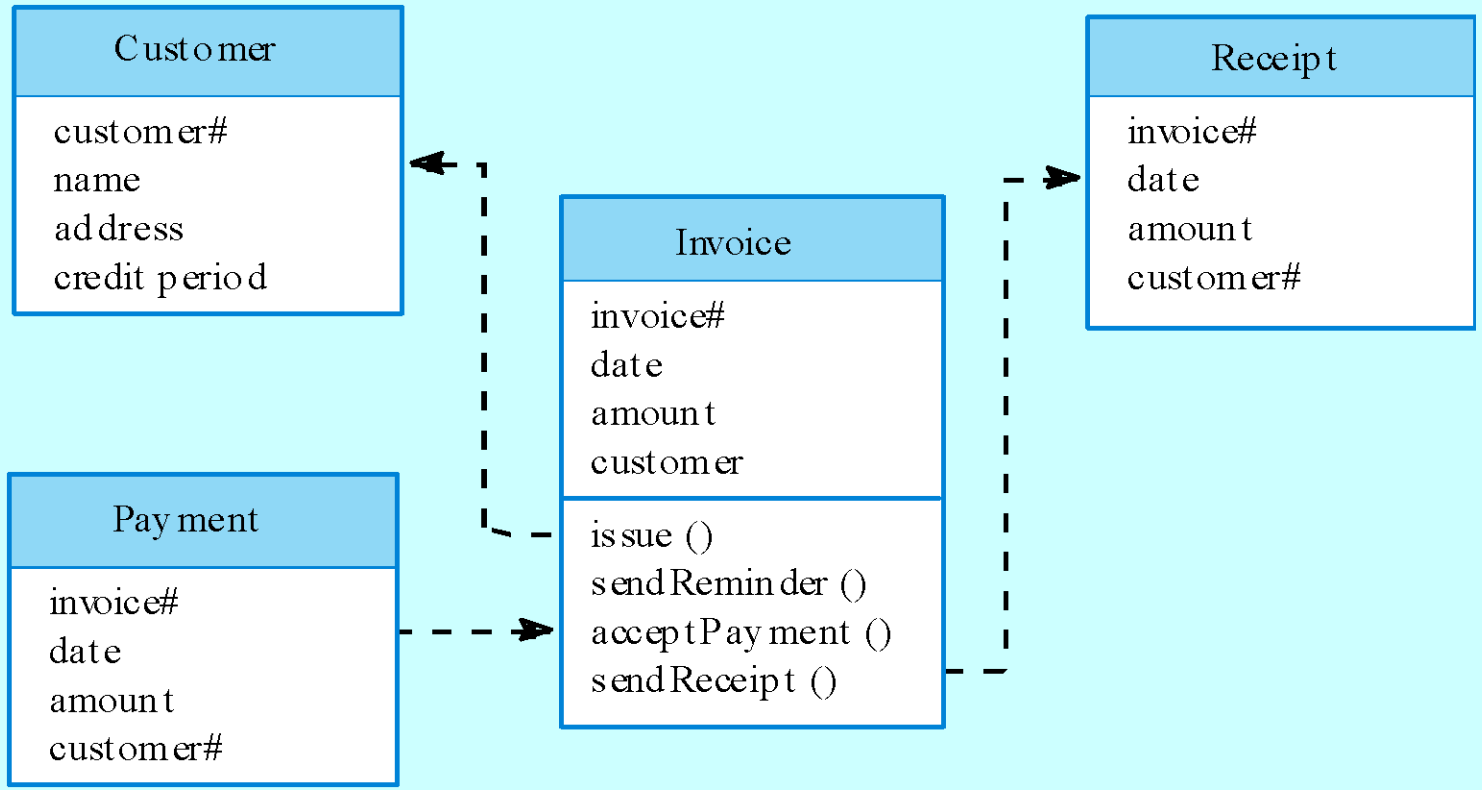
Object models

- Structure the system into a set of loosely coupled objects with well-defined interfaces.
- Object-oriented decomposition is concerned with identifying object classes, their attributes and operations.
- When implemented, objects are created from these classes and some control model used to coordinate object operations.

Invoice processing system



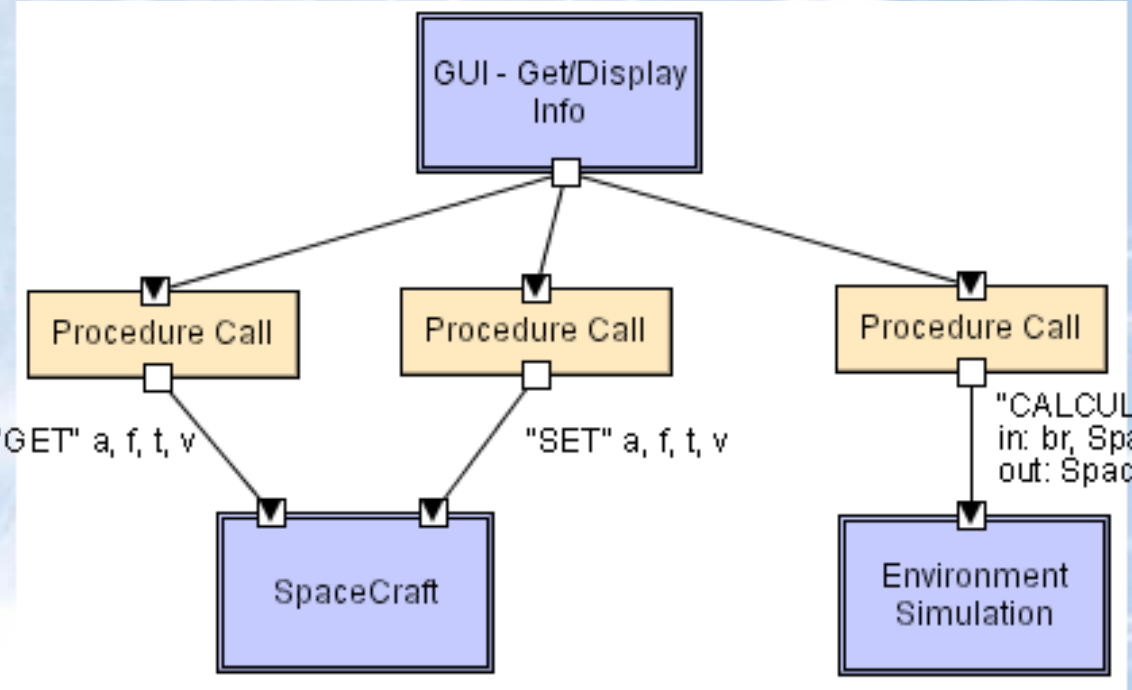
Object model advantages

- Objects are loosely coupled so their implementation can be modified without affecting other objects.
- The objects may reflect real-world entities.
- OO implementation languages are widely used.
- However, object interface changes may cause problems and complex entities may be hard to represent as objects.

Object-Oriented Style

- Components are objects
  - Data and associated operations
- Connectors are messages and method invocations
- Style invariants
  - Objects are responsible for their internal representation integrity
  - Internal representation is hidden from other objects
- Advantages
  - “Infinite malleability” of object internals
  - System decomposition into sets of interacting agents
- Disadvantages
  - Objects must know identities of servers
  - Side effects in object method invocations

Object-Oriented LL



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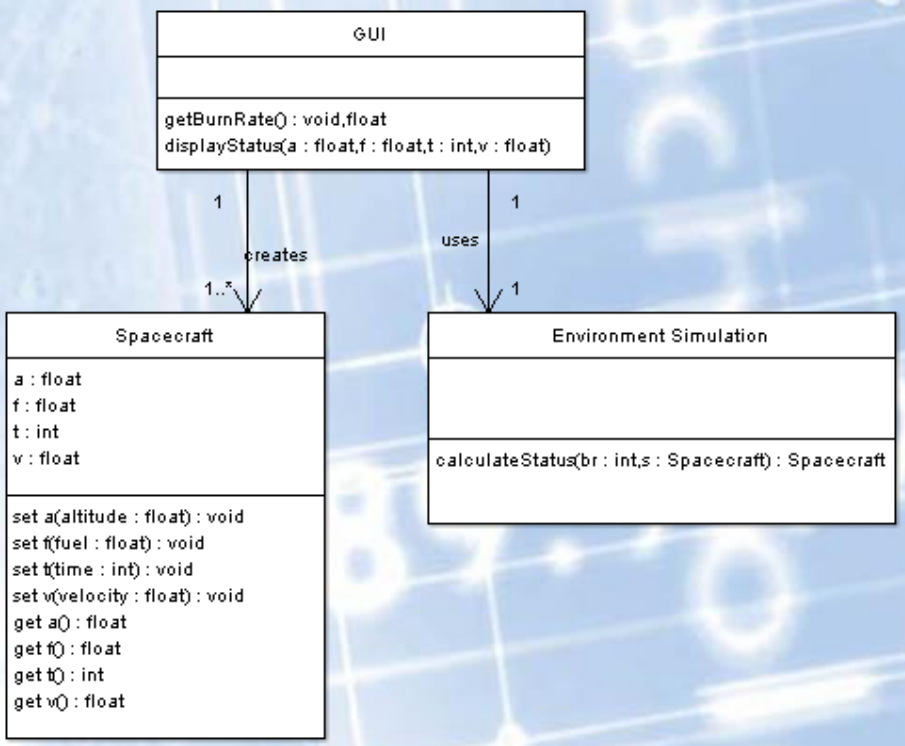

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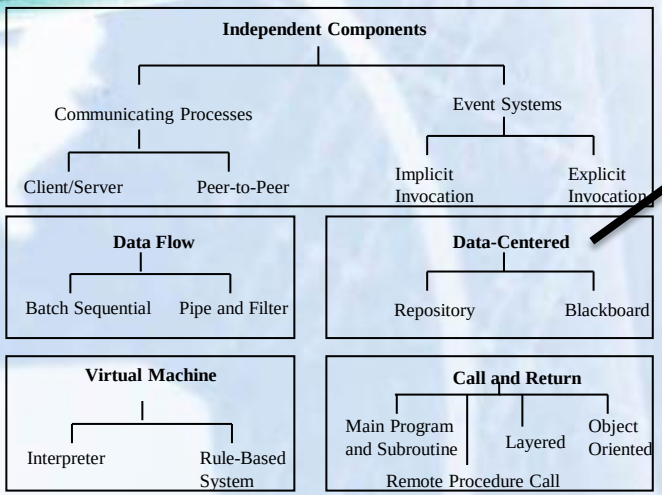
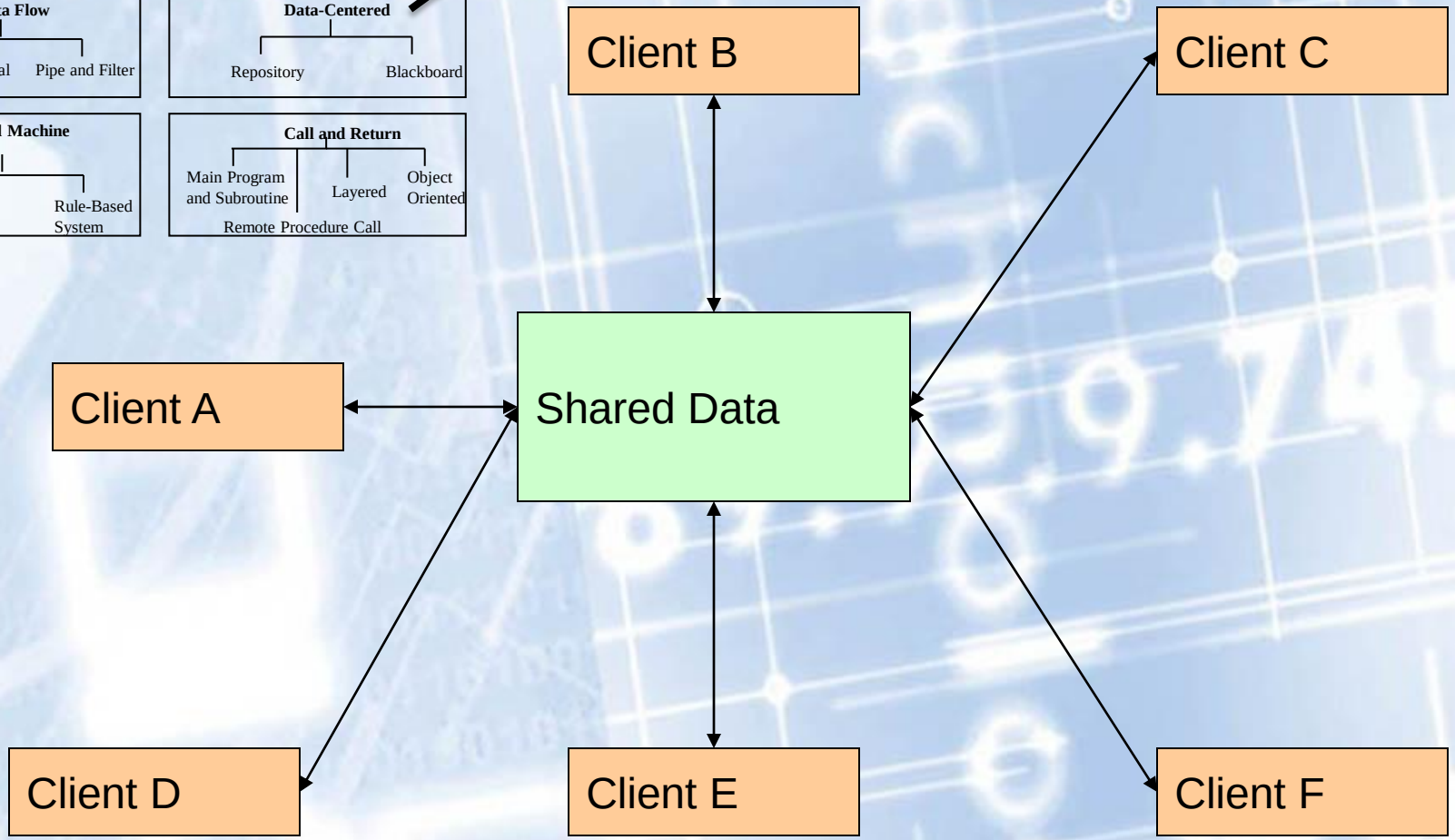
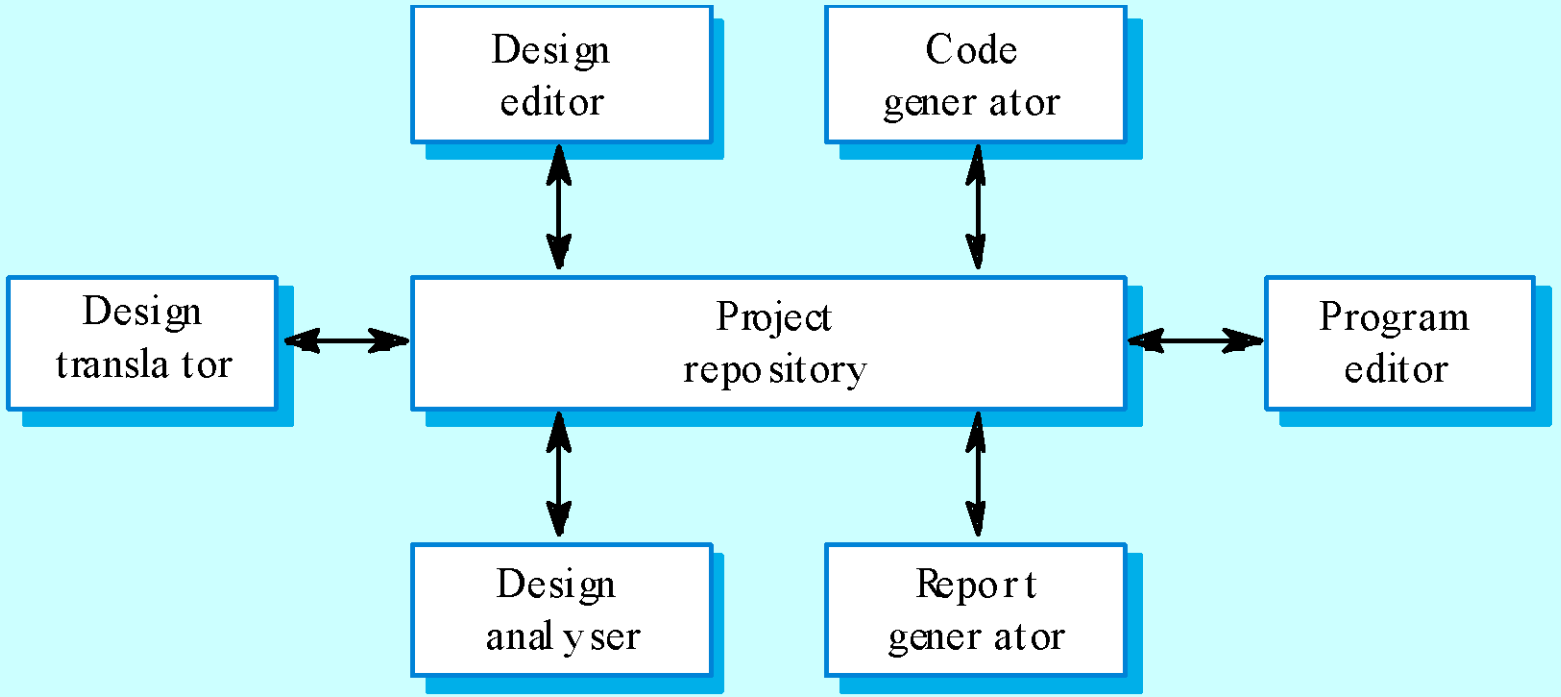
Data-Centered Style





CASE toolset architecture



Data-Centered Style (cont.)

- Has the goal of integrating the data
- Refers to systems in which the access and update of a widely accessed data store occur
- A client runs on an independent thread of control
- The shared data may be a passive repository or an active blackboard
  - A blackboard notifies subscriber clients when changes occur in data of interest
- At its heart is a centralized data store that communicates with a number of clients
- Clients are relatively independent of each other so they can be added, removed, or changed in functionality
- The data store is independent of the clients

Data-Centered Style (con.)

- Use this style when a central issue is the storage, representation, management, and retrieval of a large amount of related persistent data
- Note that this style becomes client/server if the clients are modeled as independent processes

The repository model

- Sub-systems must exchange data. This may be done in two ways:
  - Shared data is held in a central database or repository and may be accessed by all sub-systems;
  - Each sub-system maintains its own database and passes data explicitly to other sub-systems.
- When large amounts of data are to be shared, the repository model of sharing is most commonly used.

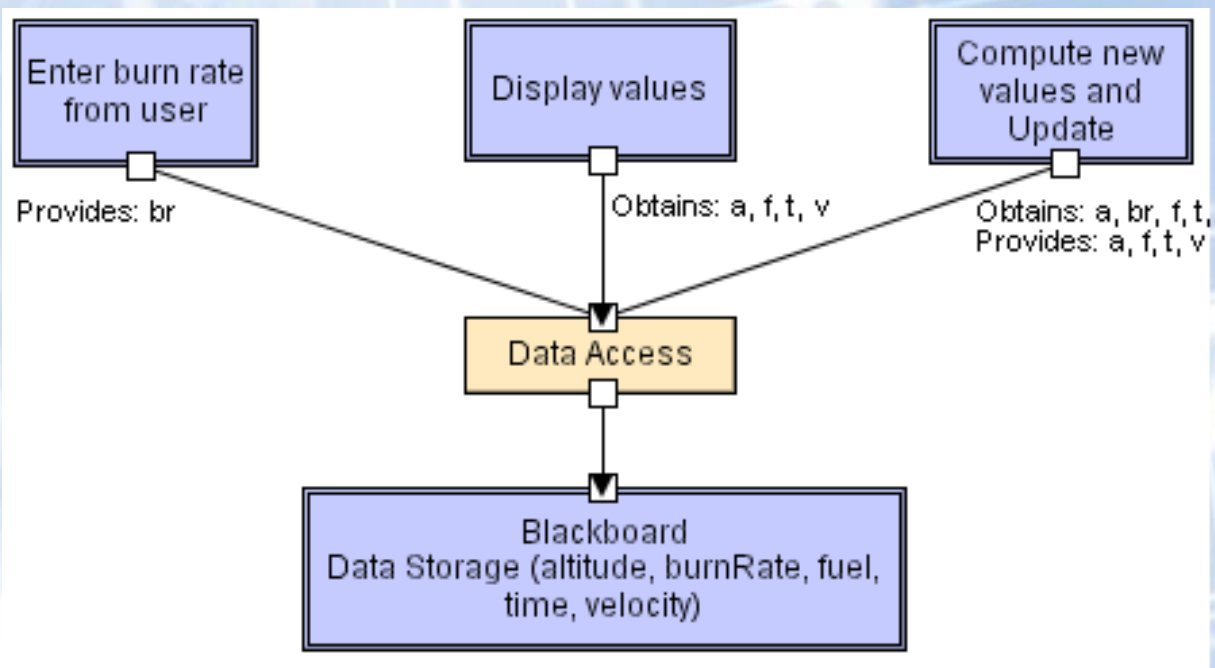
Repository model characteristics

- Advantages
  - Efficient way to share large amounts of data;
  - Sub-systems need not be concerned with how data is produced Centralised management e.g. backup, security, etc.
  - Sharing model is published as the repository schema.
- Disadvantages
  - Sub-systems must agree on a repository data model. Inevitably a compromise;
  - Data evolution is difficult and expensive;
  - No scope for specific management policies;
  - Difficult to distribute efficiently.

Blackboard Style

- Two kinds of components
  - Central data structure — blackboard
  - Components operating on the blackboard
- System control is entirely driven by the blackboard state
- Examples
  - Typically used for AI systems
  - Integrated software environments (e.g., Interlisp)
  - Compiler architecture

Blackboard LL



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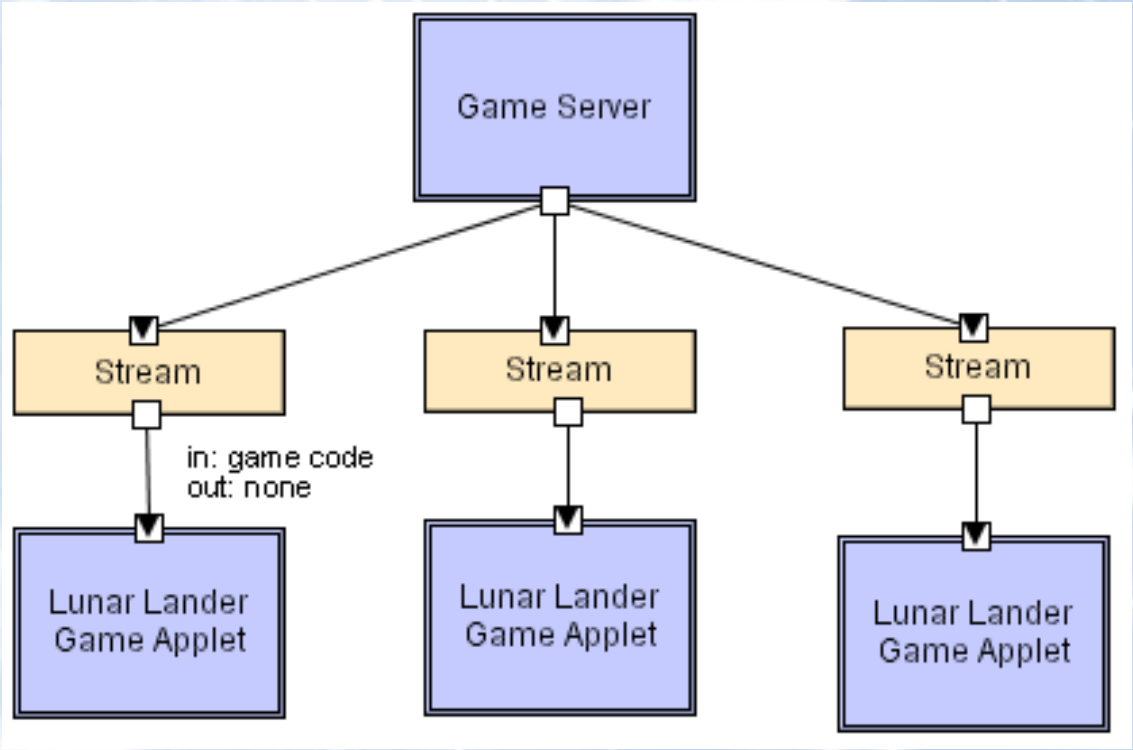
Mobile-Code Style

- Summary: a data element (some representation of a program) is dynamically transformed into a data processing component.
- Components: “Execution dock”, which handles receipt of code and state; code compiler/interpreter
- Connectors: Network protocols and elements for packaging code and data for transmission.
- Data Elements: Representations of code as data; program state; data
- Variants: Code-on-demand, remote evaluation, and mobile agent.

Mobile Code



Scripting languages (i.e. JavaScript, VBScript), ActiveX control, embedded Word/Excel macros.

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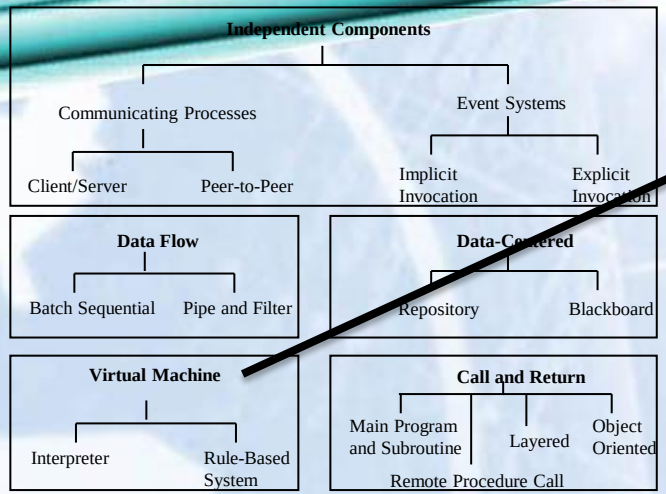
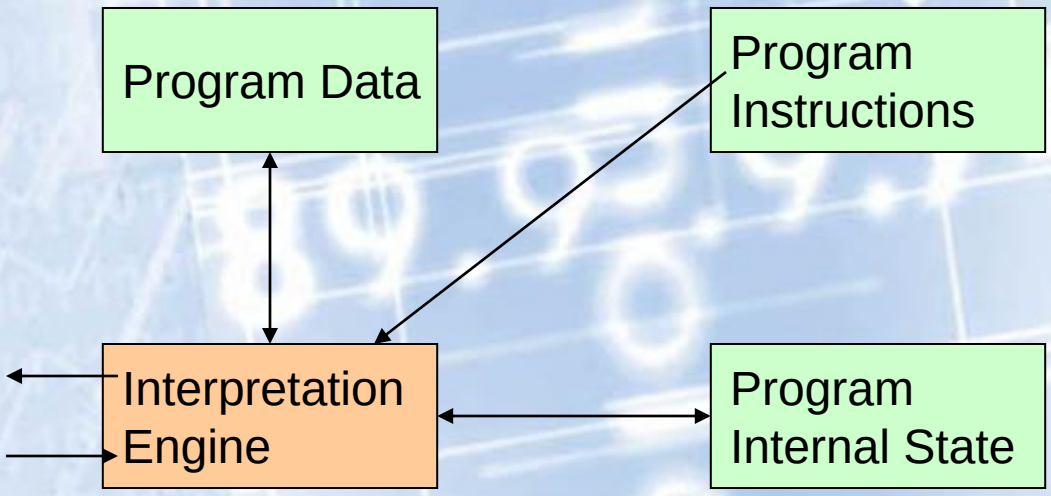


Virtual Machine Style



Virtual Machine Style

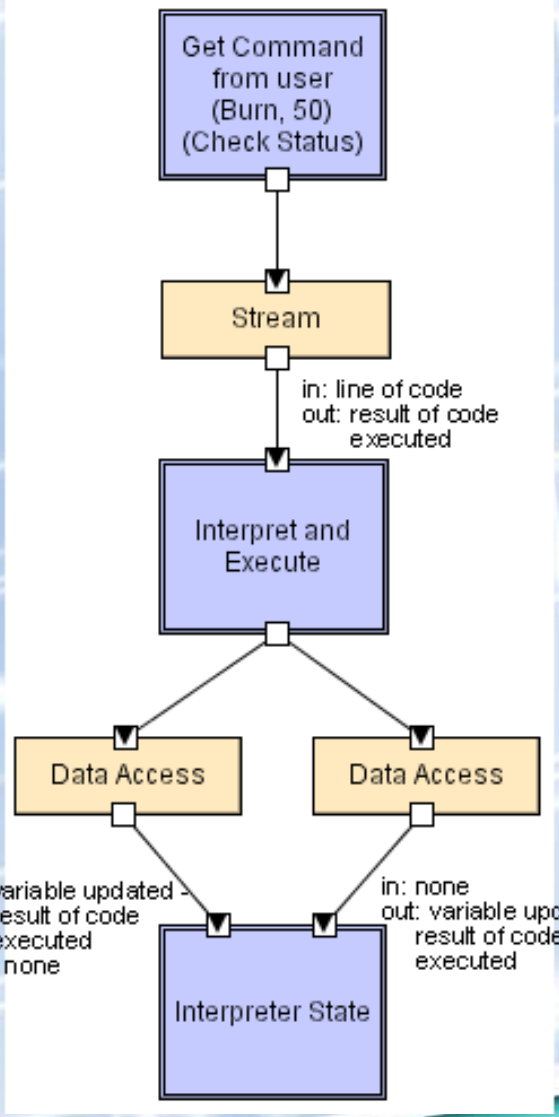
- Has the goal of portability
- Software systems in this style simulate some functionality that is not native to the hardware and/or software on which it is implemented
  - Can simulate and test hardware platforms that have not yet been built
  - Can simulate "disaster modes" as in flight simulators or safety-critical systems that would be too complex, costly, or dangerous to test with the real system
- Examples include interpreters, rule-based systems, and command language processors
- Interpreters
  - Add flexibility through the ability to interrupt and query the program and introduce modifications at runtime
  - Incur a performance cost because of the additional computation involved in execution
- Use this style when you have developed a program or some form of computation but have no make of machine to directly run it on

Interpreter Style

Interpreter parses and executes input commands, updating the state maintained by the interpreter

- Components: Command interpreter, program/interpreter state, user interface.
- Connectors: Typically very closely bound with direct procedure calls and shared state.
- Highly dynamic behavior possible, where the set of commands is dynamically modified. System architecture may remain constant while new capabilities are created based upon existing primitives.
- Superb for end-user programmability; supports dynamically changing set of capabilities
- Lisp and Scheme

Interpreter



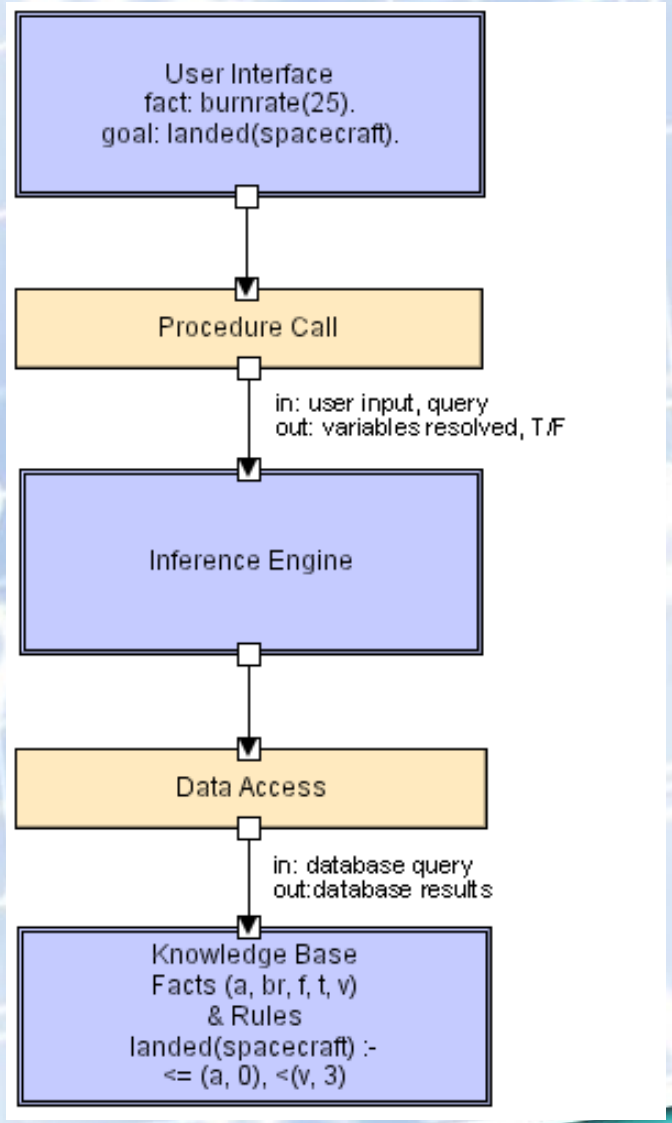
Rule-Based Style

Inference engine parses user input and determines whether it is a fact/rule or a query. If it is a fact/rule, it adds this entry to the knowledge base. Otherwise, it queries the knowledge base for applicable rules and attempts to resolve the query.

Rule-Based Style (cont'd)

- Components: User interface, inference engine, knowledge base
- Connectors: Components are tightly interconnected, with direct procedure calls and/or shared memory.
- Data Elements: Facts and queries
- Behavior of the application can be very easily modified through addition or deletion of rules from the knowledge base.
- Caution: When a large number of rules are involved understanding the interactions between multiple rules affected by the same facts can become *very* difficult.

Rule Based



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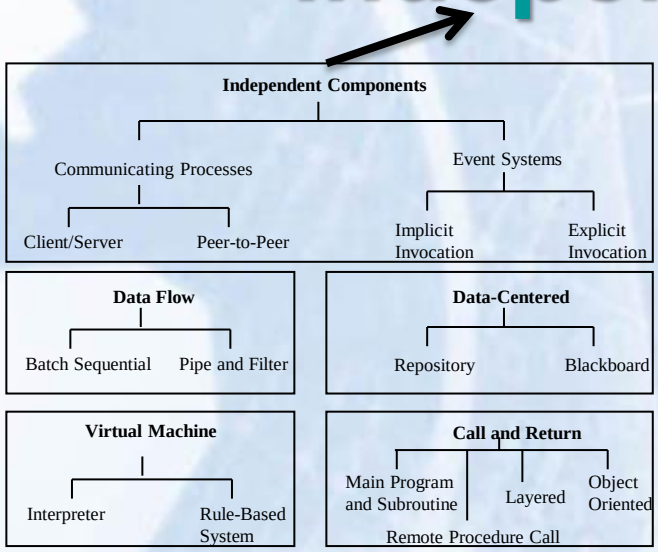
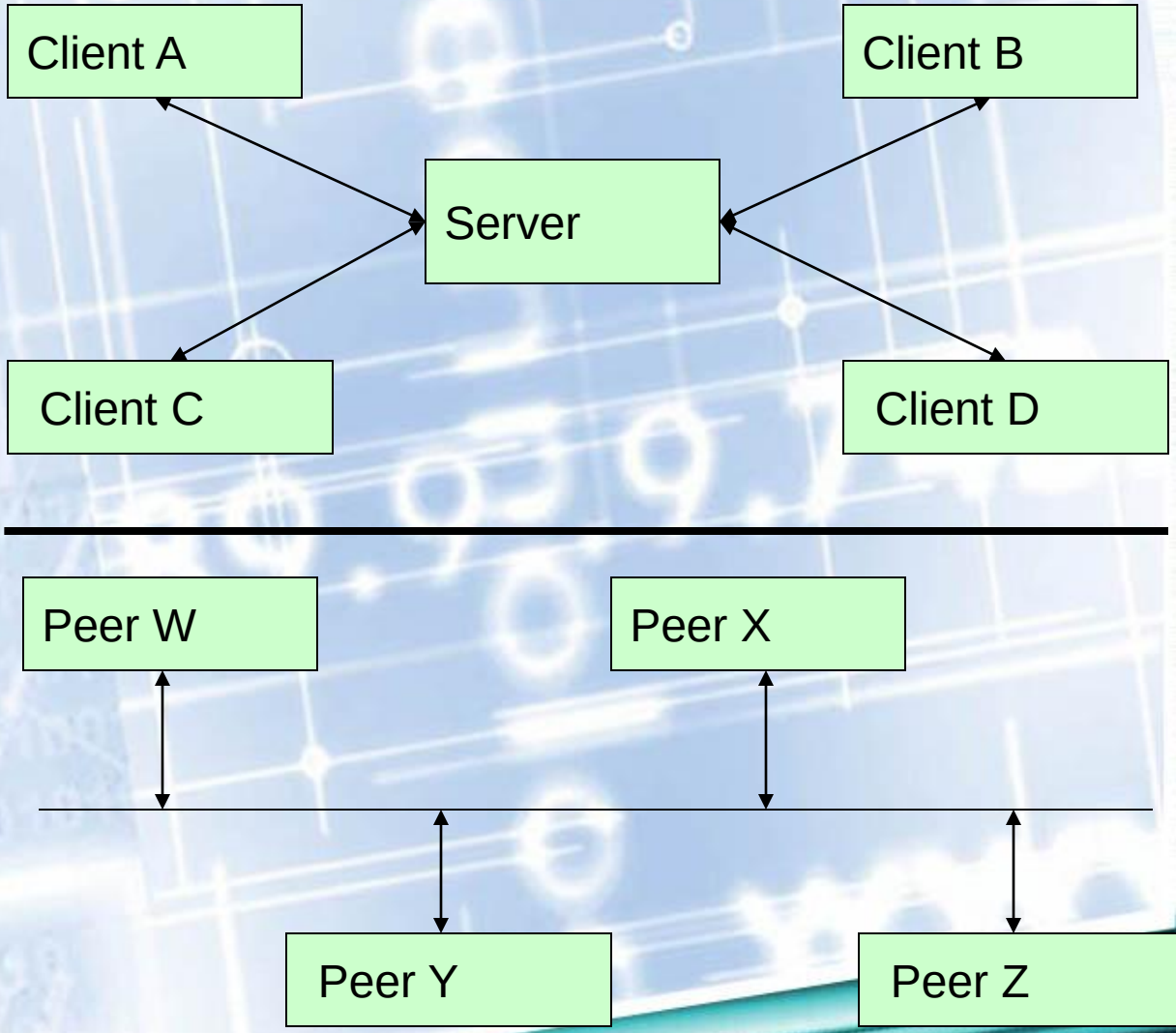
Independent Component Style





Independent Component Style

- Consists of a number of independent processes that communicate through messages
- Has the goal of modifiability by decoupling various portions of the computation
- Sends data between processes but the processes do not directly control each other
- Event systems style
  - Individual components announce data that they wish to share (publish) with their environment
  - The other components may register an interest in this class of data (subscribe)
  - Makes use of a message component that manages communication among the other components
  - Components publish information by sending it to the message manager
  - When the data appears, the subscriber is invoked and receives the data
  - Decouples component implementation from knowing the names and locations of other components

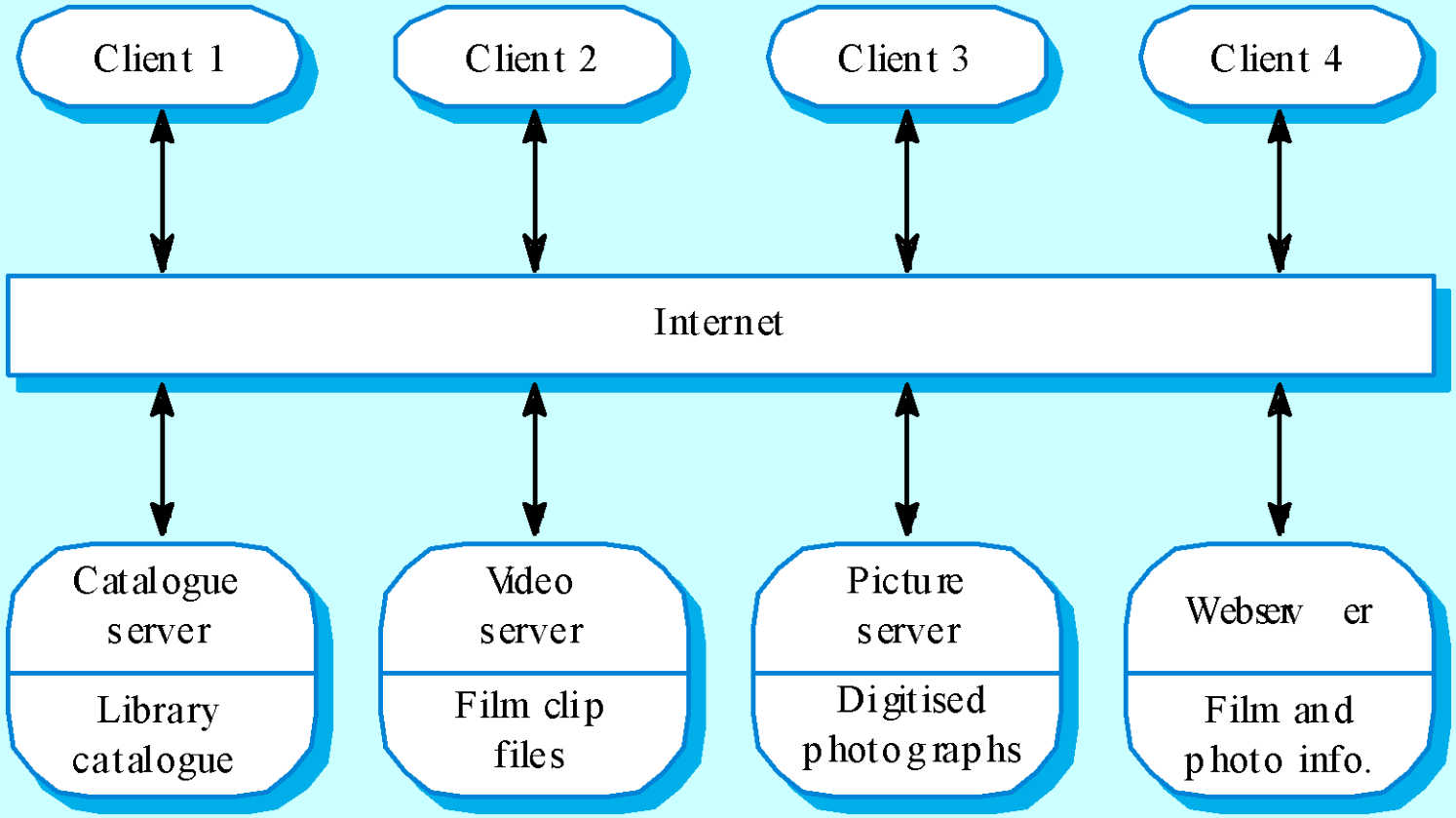
Independent Component Style (cont.)

- Communicating processes style
  - These are classic multi-processing systems
  - Well-know subtypes are client/server and peer-to-peer
  - The goal is to achieve scalability
  - A server exists to provide data and/or services to one or more clients
  - The client originates a call to the server which services the request
- Use this style when
  - Your system has a graphical user interface
  - Your system runs on a multiprocessor platform
  - Your system can be structured as a set of loosely coupled components
  - Performance tuning by reallocating work among processes is important
  - Message passing is sufficient as an interaction mechanism among components

Client-server model

- Distributed system model which shows how data and processing is distributed across a range of components.
- Set of stand-alone servers which provide specific services such as printing, data management, etc.
- Set of clients which call on these services.
- Network which allows clients to access servers.

Film and picture library



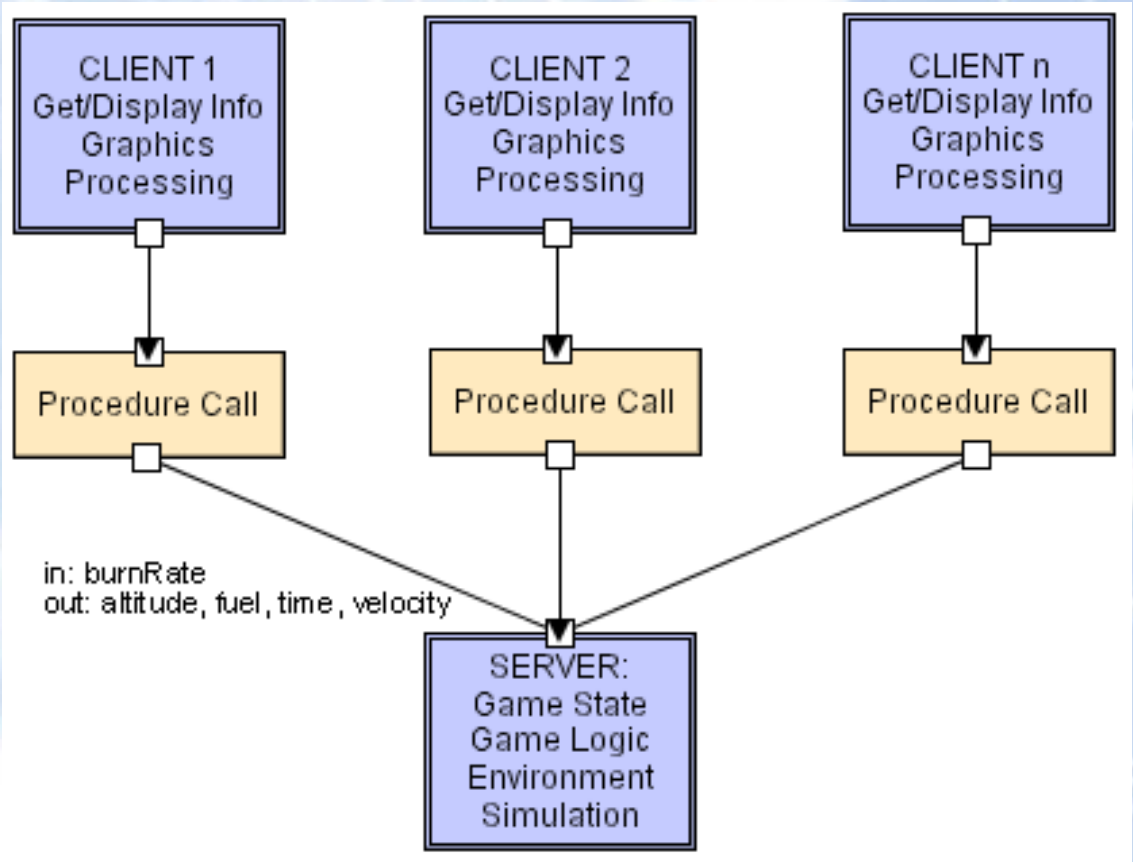
Client-server characteristics

- Advantages
  - Distribution of data is straightforward;
  - Makes effective use of networked systems. May require cheaper hardware;
  - Easy to add new servers or upgrade existing servers.
- Disadvantages
  - No shared data model so sub-systems use different data organisation. Data interchange may be inefficient;
  - Redundant management in each server;
  - No central register of names and services - it may be hard to find out what servers and services are available.

Client-Server Style

- Components are clients and servers
- Servers do not know number or identities of clients
- Clients know server's identity
- Connectors are RPC-based network interaction protocols

Client-Server



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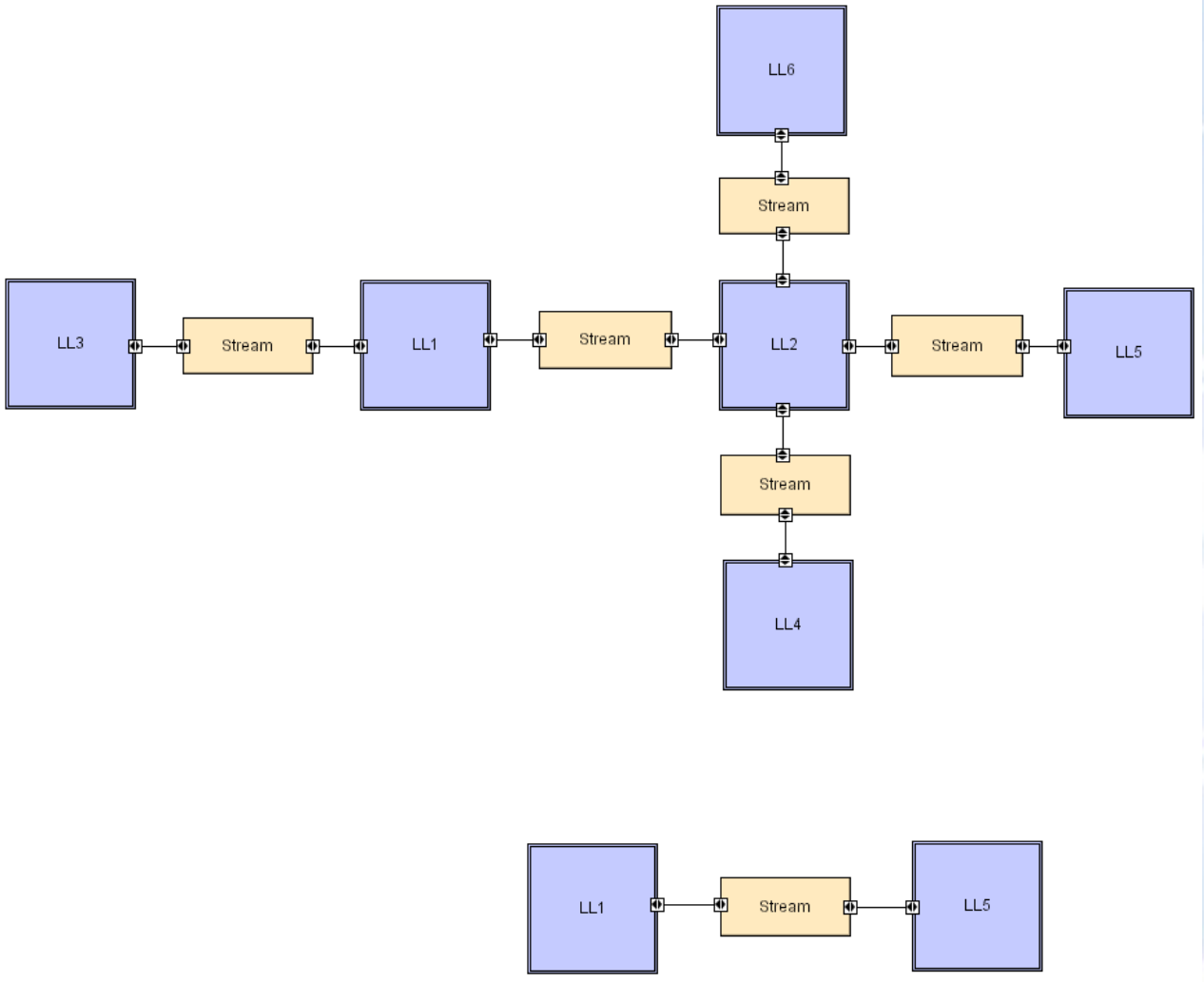
Peer-to-Peer Style

- State and behavior are distributed among peers which can act as either clients or servers.
- Peers: independent components, having their own state and control thread.
- Connectors: Network protocols, often custom.
- Data Elements: Network messages

Peer-to-Peer Style (cont'd)

- Topology: Network (may have redundant connections between peers); can vary arbitrarily and dynamically
- Supports decentralized computing with flow of control and resources distributed among peers.
- Highly robust in the face of failure of any given node.
- Scalable in terms of access to resources and computing power.
  - But caution on the protocol!

Peer-to-Peer LL



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Implicit Invocation Style

- Event announcement instead of method invocation
  - “Listeners” register interest in and associate methods with events
  - System invokes all registered methods implicitly
- Component interfaces are methods and events
- Two types of connectors
  - Invocation is either explicit or implicit in response to events
- Style invariants
  - “Announcers” are unaware of their events’ effects
  - No assumption about processing in response to events

Implicit Invocation (cont'd)

- Advantages
  - Component reuse
  - System evolution
    - Both at system construction-time & run-time
- Disadvantages
  - Counter-intuitive system structure
  - Components relinquish computation control to the system
  - No knowledge of what components will respond to event
  - No knowledge of order of responses

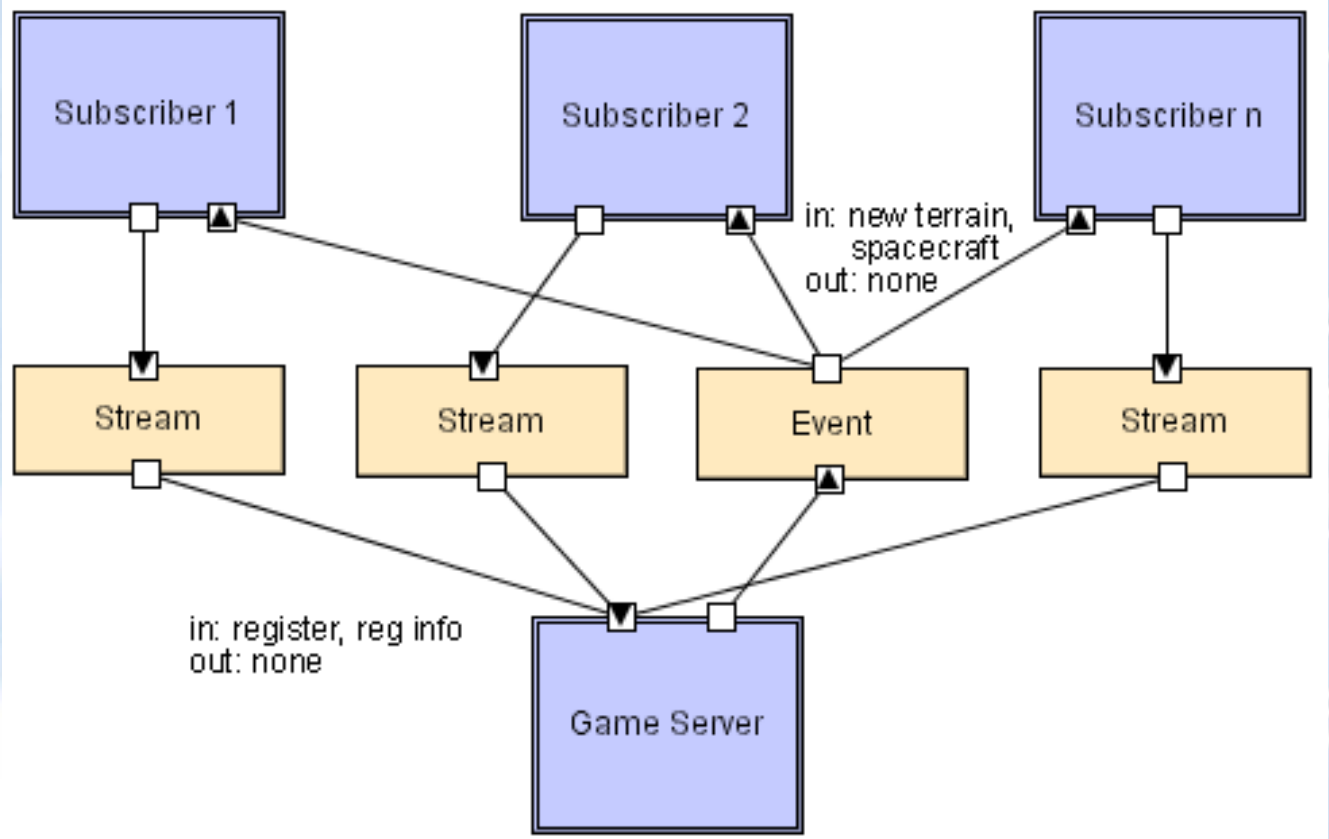
Publish-Subscribe

Subscribers register/deregister to receive specific messages or specific content. Publishers broadcast messages to subscribers either synchronously or asynchronously.

Publish-Subscribe (cont'd)

- Components: Publishers, subscribers, proxies for managing distribution
- Connectors: Typically a network protocol is required. Content-based subscription requires sophisticated connectors.
- Data Elements: Subscriptions, notifications, published information
- Topology: Subscribers connect to publishers either directly or may receive notifications via a network protocol from intermediaries
- Qualities yielded: Highly efficient one-way dissemination of information with very low-coupling of components

Pub-Sub



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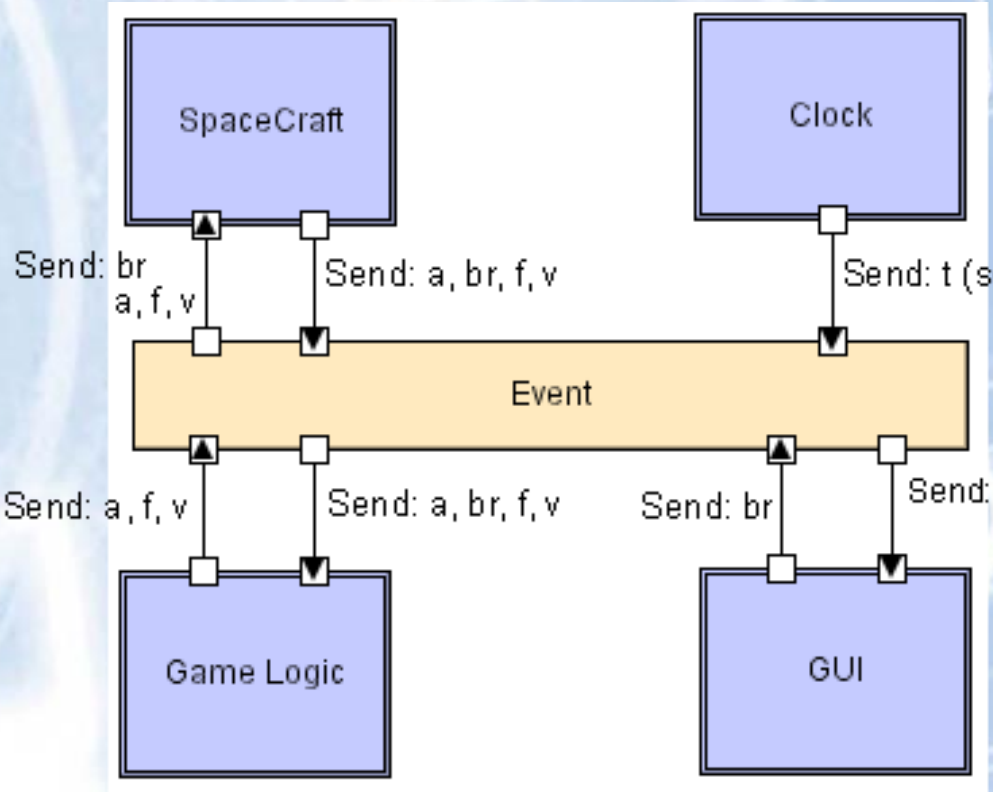
Event-Based Style

- Independent components asynchronously emit and receive events communicated over event buses
- Components: Independent, concurrent event generators and/or consumers
- Connectors: Event buses (at least one)
- Data Elements: Events – data sent as a first-class entity over the event bus
- Topology: Components communicate with the event buses, not directly to each other.
- Variants: Component communication with the event bus may either be push or pull based.
- Highly scalable, easy to evolve, effective for highly distributed applications.

Event-based



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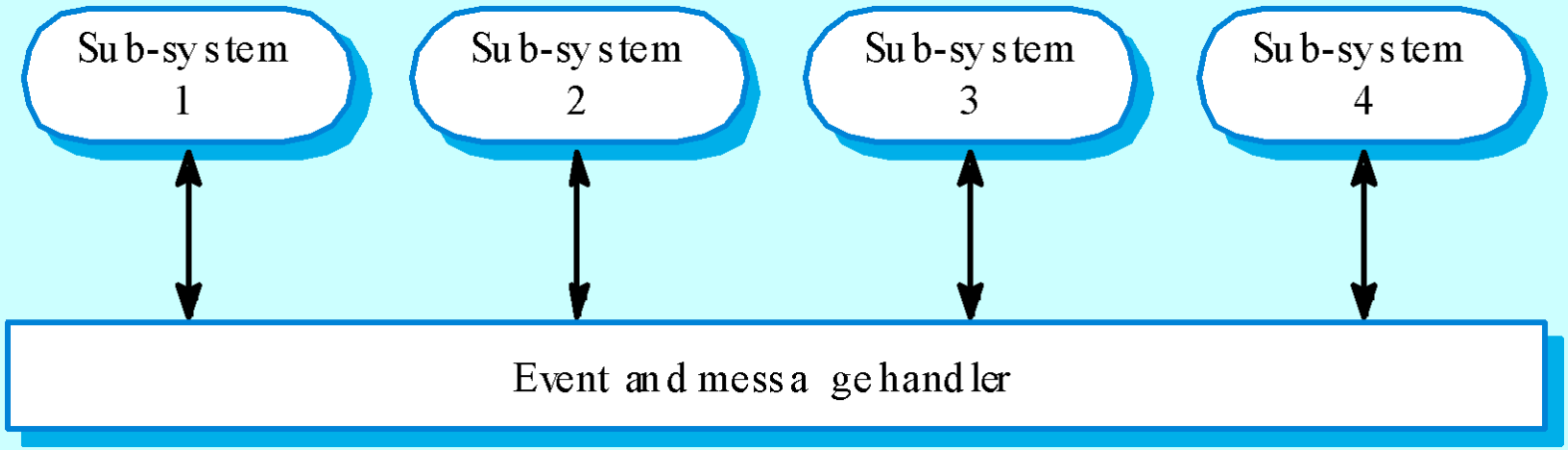
Event-driven systems

- Driven by externally generated events where the timing of the event is outwith the control of the sub-systems which process the event.
- Two principal event-driven models
  - Broadcast models. An event is broadcast to all sub-systems. Any sub-system which can handle the event may do so;
  - Interrupt-driven models. Used in real-time systems where interrupts are detected by an interrupt handler and passed to some other component for processing.
- Other event driven models include spreadsheets and production systems.

Broadcast model

- Effective in integrating sub-systems on different computers in a network.
- Sub-systems register an interest in specific events. When these occur, control is transferred to the sub-system which can handle the event.
- Control policy is not embedded in the event and message handler. Sub-systems decide on events of interest to them.
- However, sub-systems don’t know if or when an event will be handled.

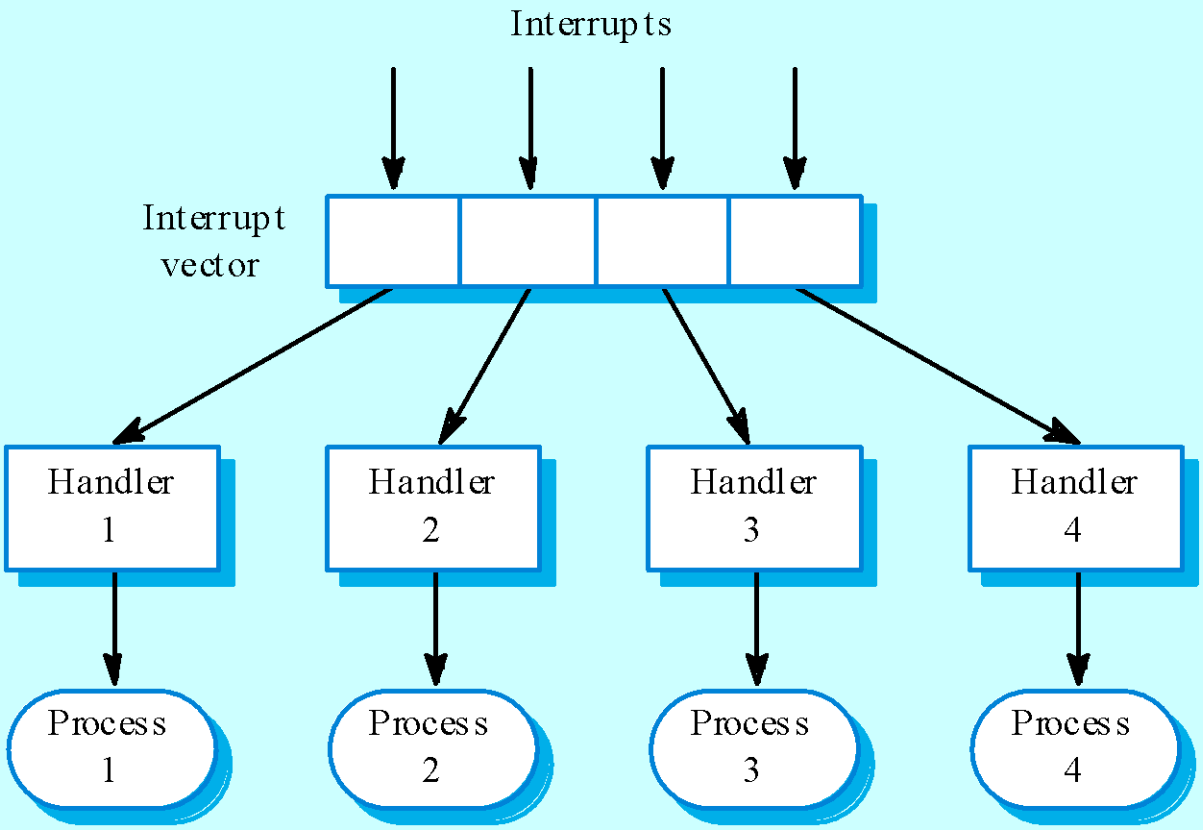
Selective broadcasting



Interrupt-driven systems

- Used in real-time systems where fast response to an event is essential.
- There are known interrupt types with a handler defined for each type.
- Each type is associated with a memory location and a hardware switch causes transfer to its handler.
- Allows fast response but complex to program and difficult to validate.

Interrupt-driven control



Heterogeneous Styles

- Systems are seldom built from a single architectural style
- Three kinds of heterogeneity
  - Locationally heterogeneous
    - The drawing of the architecture reveals different styles in different areas (e.g., a branch of a call-and-return system may have a shared repository)
  - Hierarchically heterogeneous
    - A component of one style, when decomposed, is structured according to the rules of a different style
  - Simultaneously heterogeneous
    - Two or more architectural styles may both be appropriate descriptions for the style used by a computer-based system

Architectural Design Process

Architectural Design Process

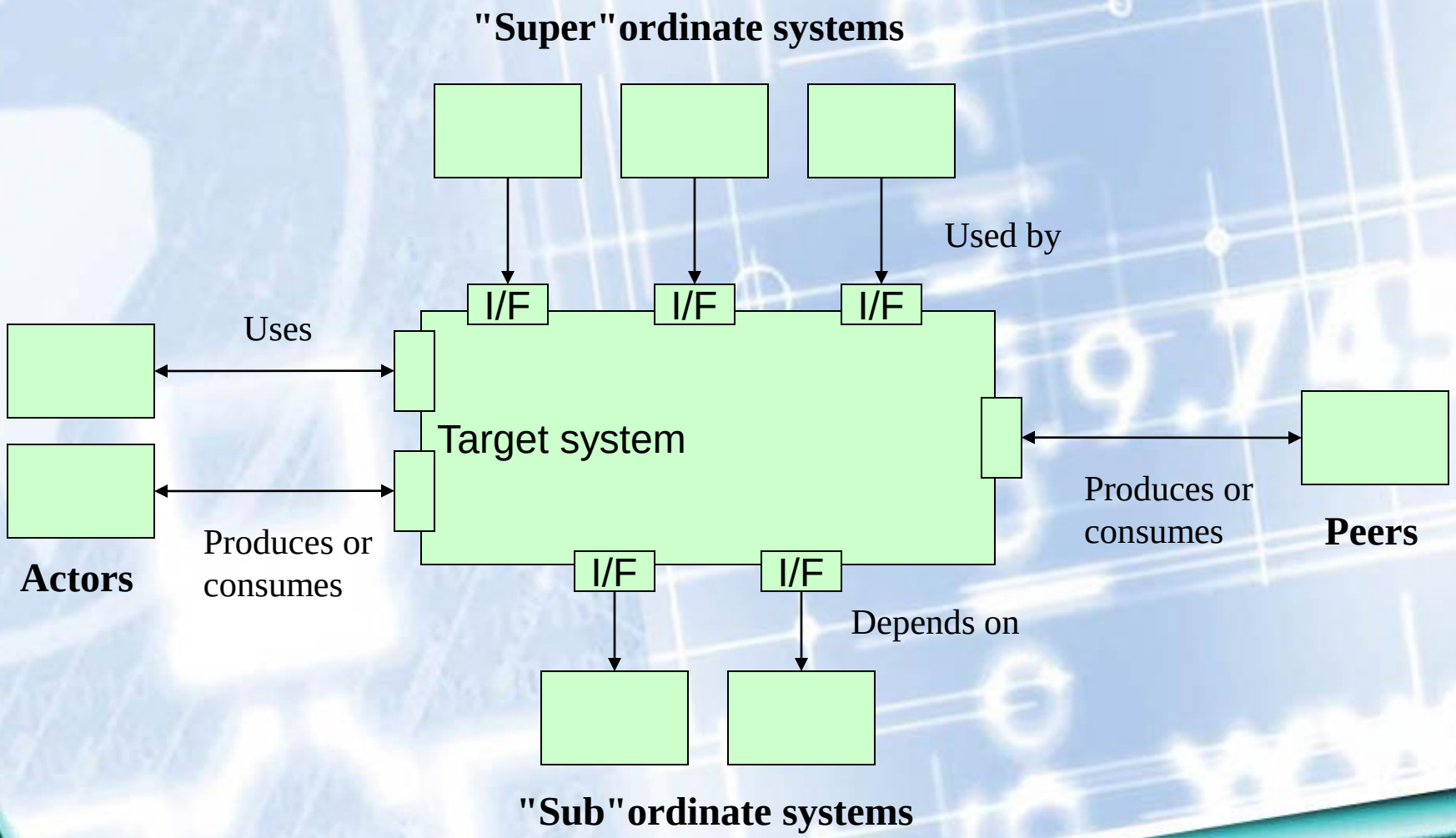
- Basic Steps
  - Creation of the data design
  - Derivation of one or more representations of the architectural structure of the system
  - Analysis of alternative architectural styles to choose the one best suited to customer requirements and quality attributes
  - Elaboration of the architecture based on the selected architectural style
- A database designer creates the data architecture for a system to represent the data components
- A system architect selects an appropriate architectural style derived during system engineering and software requirements analysis

Architectural Design Steps

1) Represent the system in context
2) Define archetypes
3) Refine the architecture into components
4) Describe instantiations of the system

"A doctor can bury his mistakes, but an architect can only advise his client to plant vines." Frank Lloyd Wright

1. Represent the System in Context



1. Represent the System in Context (cont.)

- Use an architectural context diagram (ACD) that shows
  - The identification and flow of all information into and out of a system
  - The specification of all interfaces
  - Any relevant support processing from/by other systems
- An ACD models the manner in which software interacts with entities external to its boundaries
- An ACD identifies systems that interoperate with the target system
  - Super-ordinate systems
    - Use target system as part of some higher level processing scheme
  - Sub-ordinate systems
    - Used by target system and provide necessary data or processing
  - Peer-level systems
    - Interact on a peer-to-peer basis with target system to produce or consume data
  - Actors
    - People or devices that interact with target system to produce or consume data

2. Define Archetypes

- Archetypes indicate the important abstractions within the problem domain (i.e., they model information)
- An archetype is a class or pattern that represents a core abstraction that is critical to the design of an architecture for the target system
- It is also an abstraction from a class of programs with a common structure and includes class-specific design strategies and a collection of example program designs and implementations
- Only a relatively small set of archetypes is required in order to design even relatively complex systems
- The target system architecture is composed of these archetypes
  - They represent stable elements of the architecture
  - They may be instantiated in different ways based on the behavior of the system
  - They can be derived from the analysis class model
- The archetypes and their relationships can be illustrated in a UML class diagram

Example Archetypes in Humanity

- Addict/Gambler
- Amateur
- Beggar
- Clown
- Companion
- Damsel in distress
- Destroyer
- Detective
- Don Juan
- Drunk
- Engineer
- Father
- Gossip
- Guide
- Healer
- Hero
- Judge
- King
- Knight
- Liberator/Rescuer
- Lover/Devotee
- Martyr
- Mediator
- Mentor/Teacher
- Messiah/Savior
- Monk/Nun
- Mother
- Mystic/Hermit
- Networker
- Pioneer
- Poet
- Priest/Minister
- Prince
- Prostitute
- Queen
- Rebel/Pirate
- Saboteur
- Samaritan
- Scribe/Journalist
- Seeker/Wanderer
- Servant/Slave
- Storyteller
- Student
- Trickster/Thief
- Vampire
- Victim
- Virgin
- Visionary/Prophet
- Warrior/Soldier

(Source: http://www.myss.com/ThreeArchs.asp)

Example Archetypes in Software Architecture

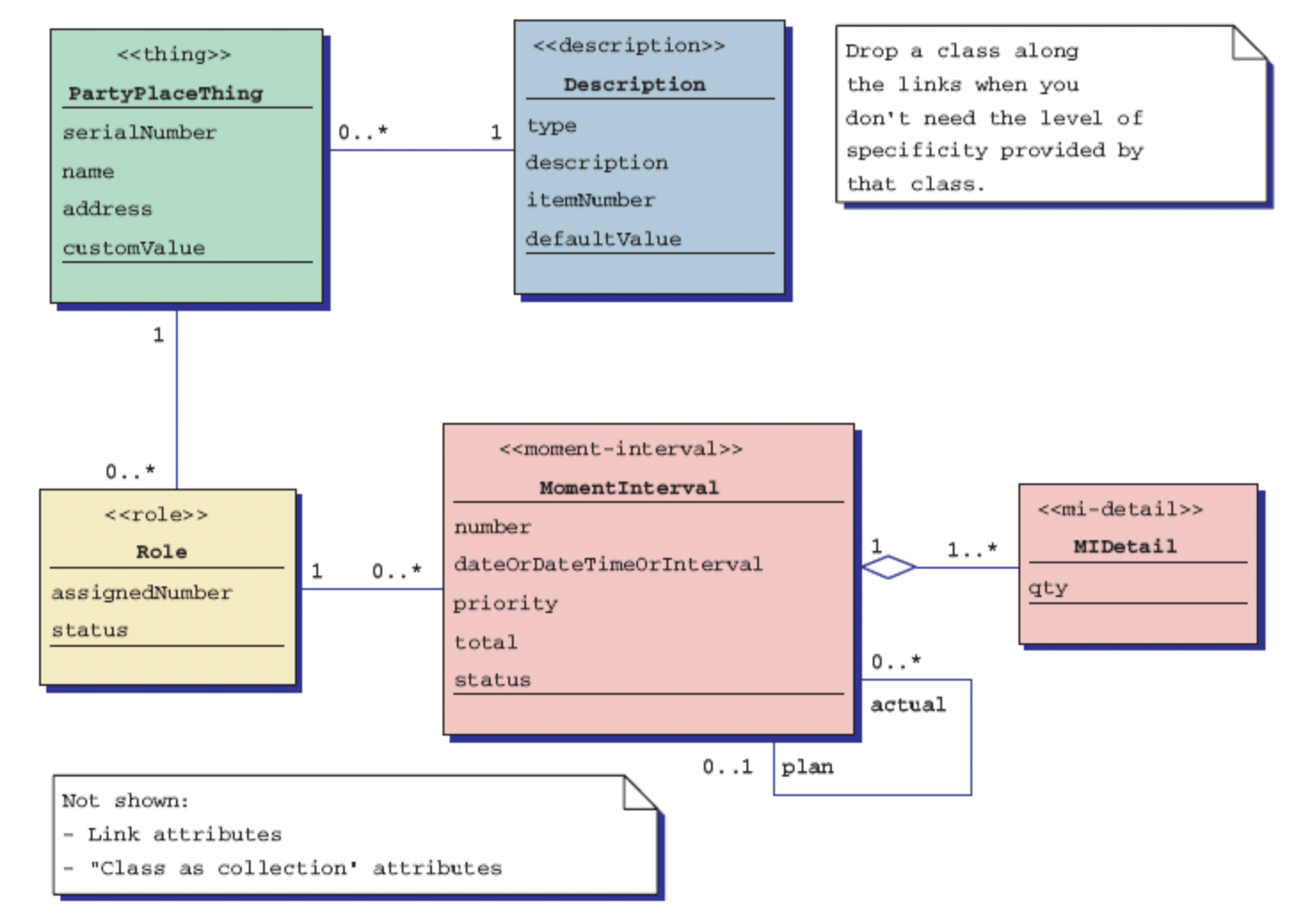
- Node
- Detector/Sensor
- Indicator
- Controller
- Manager

(Source: Pressman)

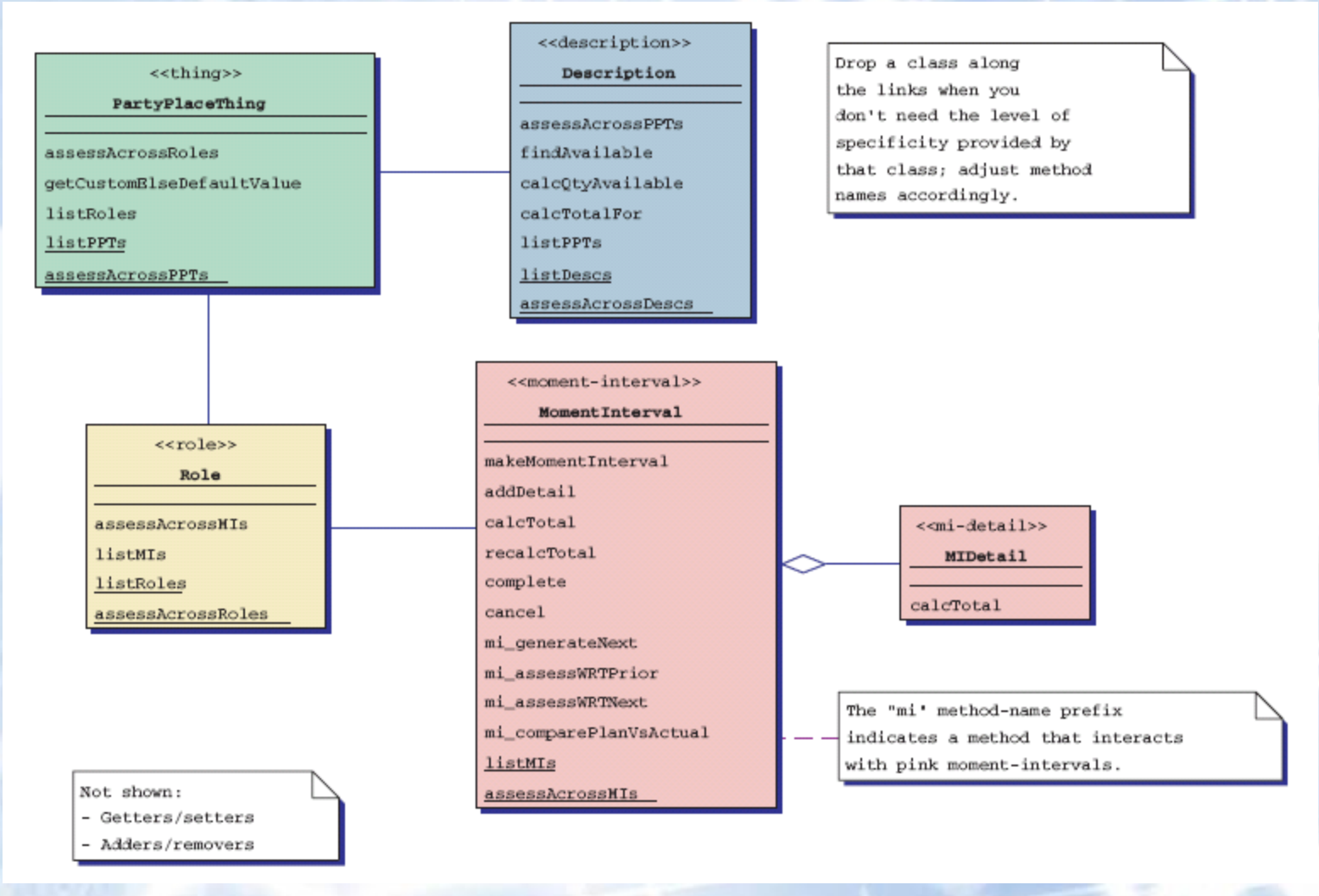
- Moment-Interval
- Role
- Description
- Party, Place, or Thing

(Source: Archetypes, Color, and the Domain Neutral Component)

Archetypes – their attributes



Archetypes – their methods



3. Refine the Architecture into Components

- Based on the archetypes, the architectural designer refines the software architecture into components to illustrate the overall structure and architectural style of the system
- These components are derived from various sources
  - The application domain provides application components, which are the domain classes in the analysis model that represent entities in the real world
  - The infrastructure domain provides design components (i.e., design classes) that enable application components but have no business connection
    - Examples: memory management, communication, database, and task management
  - The interfaces in the ACD imply one or more specialized components that process the data that flow across the interface
- A UML class diagram can represent the classes of the refined architecture and their relationships

4. Describe Instantiations of the System

- An actual instantiation of the architecture is developed by applying it to a specific problem
- This demonstrates that the architectural structure, style and components are appropriate
- A UML component diagram can be used to represent this instantiation

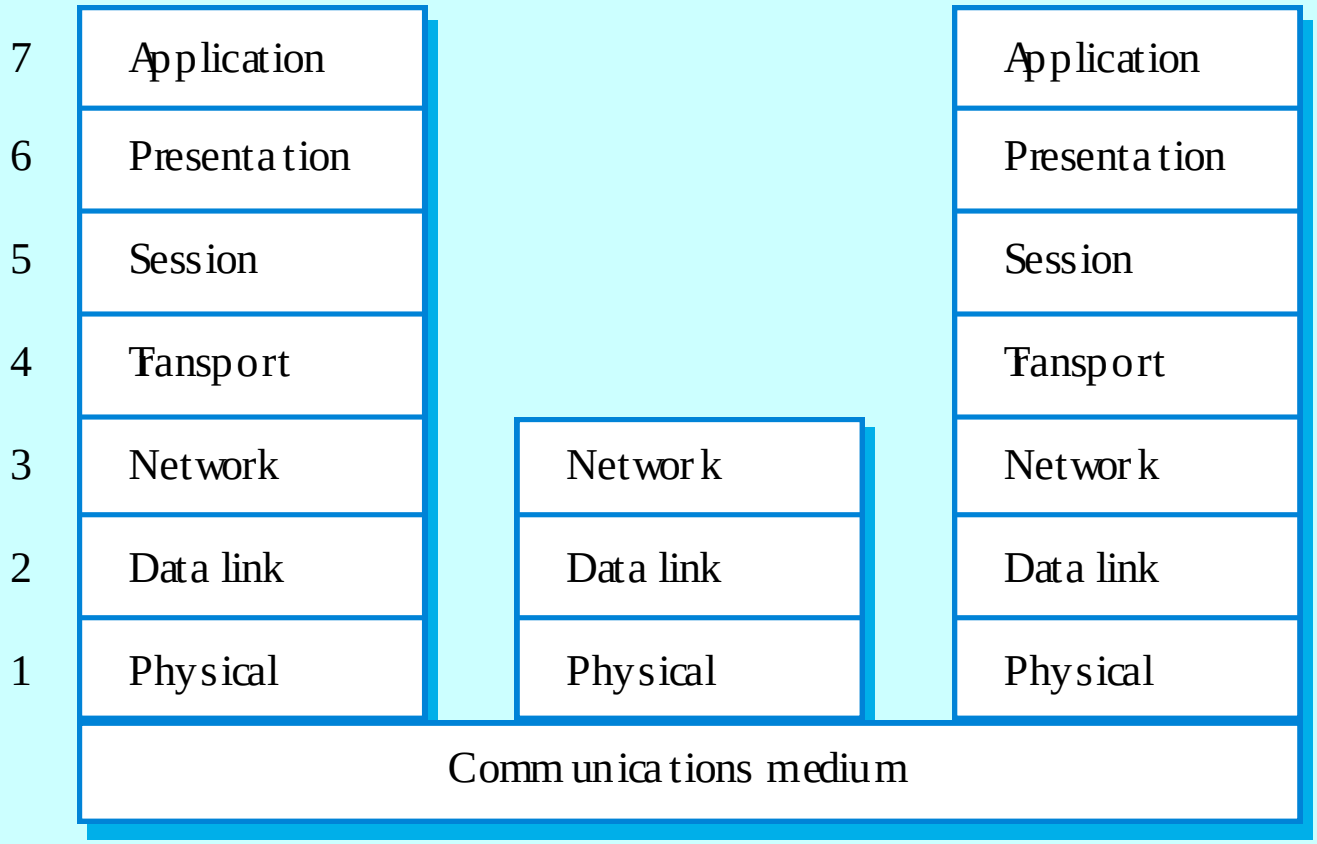
Reference architectures

- Architectural models may be specific to some application domain.
- Two types of domain-specific model
  - Generic models which are abstractions from a number of real systems and which encapsulate the principal characteristics of these systems.
  - Reference models which are more abstract, idealised model. Provide a means of information about that class of system and of comparing different architectures.
- Generic models are usually bottom-up models; Reference models are top-down models.

Reference architectures

- Reference models are derived from a study of the application domain rather than from existing systems.
- May be used as a basis for system implementation or to compare different systems. It acts as a standard against which systems can be evaluated.
- OSI model is a layered model for communication systems.

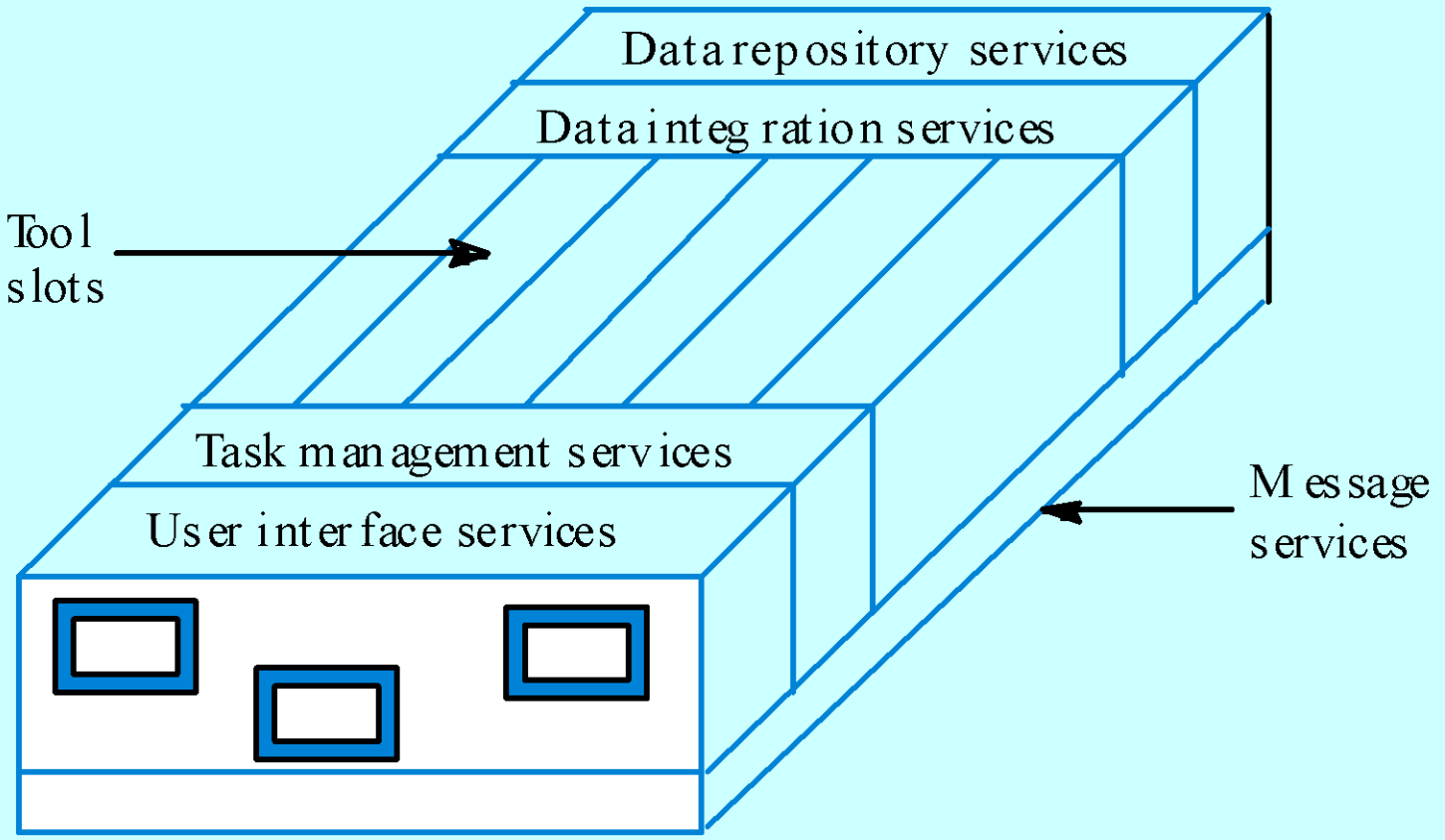
OSI reference model



Case reference model

- Data repository services
  - Storage and management of data items.
- Data integration services
  - Managing groups of entities.
- Task management services
  - Definition and enaction of process models.
- Messaging services
  - Tool-tool and tool-environment communication.
- User interface services
  - User interface development.

The ECMA reference model



Assessing Alternative Architectural Designs

Various Assessment Approaches

A. Ask a set of questions that provide the designer with an early assessment of design quality and lay the foundation for more detailed analysis of the architecture
   - Assess the control in an architectural design (see next slide)
   - Assess the data in an architectural design (see upcoming slide)

B. Apply the architecture trade-off analysis method

C. Assess the architectural complexity

Approach A: Questions -- Assessing Control in an Architectural Design

- How is control managed within the architecture?
- Does a distinct control hierarchy exist, and if so, what is the role of components within this control hierarchy?
- How do components transfer control within the system?
- How is control shared among components?
- What is the control topology (i.e., the geometric form that the control takes)?
- Is control synchronized or do components operate asynchronously

Approach A: Questions -- Assessing Data in an Architectural Design

- How are data communicated between components?
- Is the flow of data continuous, or are data objects passed to the system sporadically?
- What is the mode of data transfer (i.e., are data passed from one component to another or are data available globally to be shared among system components)
- Do data components exist (e.g., a repository or blackboard), and if so, what is their role?
- How do functional components interact with data components?
- Are data components passive or active (i.e., does the data component actively interact with other components in the system)?
- How do data and control interact within the system?

Approach B: Architecture Trade-off Analysis Method

1) Collect scenarios representing the system from the user's point of view
2) Elicit requirements, constraints, and environment description to be certain all stakeholder concerns have been addressed
3) Describe the candidate architectural styles that have been chosen to address the scenarios and requirements
4) Evaluate quality attributes by considering each attribute in isolation (reliability, performance, security, maintainability, flexibility, testability, portability, reusability, and interoperability)
5) Identify the sensitivity of quality attributes to various architectural attributes for a specific architectural style by making small changes in the architecture
6) Critique the application of the candidate architectural styles (from step #3) using the sensitivity analysis conducted in step #5

Based on the results of steps 5 and 6, some architecture alternatives may be eliminated. Others will be modified and represented in more detail until a target architecture is selected

Approach C: Assessing Architectural Complexity

- The overall complexity of a software architecture can be assessed by considering the dependencies between components within the architecture
- These dependencies are driven by the information and control flow within a system
- Three types of dependencies
  - Sharing dependency **U ← → □ ← → V**
    - Represents a dependency relationship among consumers who use the same source or producer
  - Flow dependency **→ U → V →**
    - Represents a dependency relationship between producers and consumers of resources
  - Constrained dependency **U "XOR" V**
    - Represents constraints on the relative flow of control among a set of activities such as mutual exclusion between two components

Key points

- The software architecture is the fundamental framework for structuring the system.
- Architectural design decisions include decisions on the application architecture, the distribution and the architectural styles to be used.
- Different architectural models such as a structural model, a control model and a decomposition model may be developed.
- System organisational models include repository models, client-server models and abstract machine models.

Key points

- Modular decomposition models include object models and pipelining models.
- Control models include centralised control and event-driven models.
- Reference architectures may be used to communicate domain-specific architectures and to assess and compare architectural designs.

Architectural models

- Different architectural models may be produced during the design process
- Each model presents different perspectives on the architecture

Architecture attributes

- Performance
  - Localise operations to minimise sub-system communication
- Security
  - Use a layered architecture with critical assets in inner layers
- Safety
  - Isolate safety-critical components
- Availability
  - Include redundant components in the architecture
- Maintainability
  - Use fine-grain, self-contained components

Further Reading

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