

Design and UML Class Diagrams

Suggested reading:

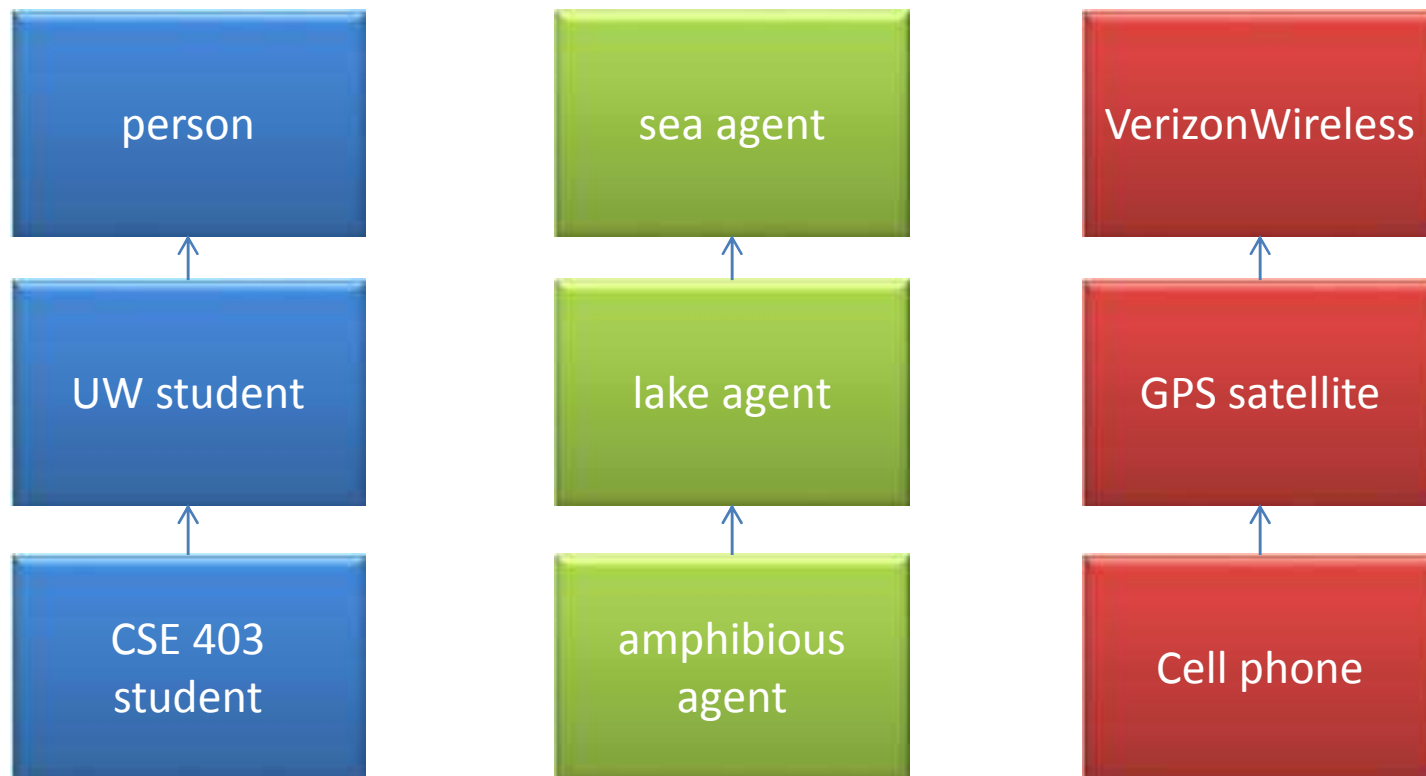
Practical UML: A hands on introduction for developers

<http://dn.codegear.com/article/31863>

UML Distilled Ch. 3, by M. Fowler

**How do people
draw / write down
software architectures?**

Example architectures



Big questions

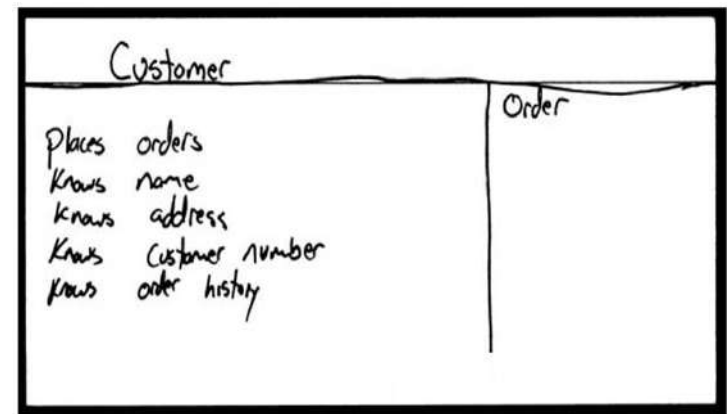
- What is UML?
 - Why should I bother? Do people really use UML?
- What is a UML class diagram?
 - What kind of information goes into it?
 - How do I create it?
 - When should I create it?

Design phase

- **design:** specifying the structure of how a software system will be written and function, without actually writing the complete implementation
- a transition from "what" the system must do, to "how" the system will do it
 - What classes will we need to implement a system that meets our requirements?
 - What fields and methods will each class have?
 - How will the classes interact with each other?

How do we design classes?

- class identification from project spec / requirements
 - nouns are potential classes, objects, fields
 - verbs are potential methods or responsibilities of a class
- CRC card exercises
 - write down classes' names on index cards
 - next to each class, list the following:
 - **responsibilities:** problems to be solved; short verb phrases
 - **collaborators:** other classes that are sent messages by this class (asymmetric)
- UML diagrams
 - class diagrams (today)
 - sequence diagrams
 - ...



What is UML?

- UML: pictures of an OO system
 - programming languages are not abstract enough for OO design
 - UML is an open standard; lots of companies use it
- What is legal UML?
 - a *descriptive* language: rigid formal syntax (like programming)
 - a *prescriptive* language: shaped by usage and convention
 - it's okay to omit things from UML diagrams if they aren't needed by team/supervisor/instructor

Uses for UML

- as a sketch: to communicate aspects of system
 - forward design: doing UML before coding
 - backward design: doing UML after coding as documentation
 - often done on whiteboard or paper
 - used to get rough selective ideas
- as a blueprint: a complete design to be implemented
 - sometimes done with CASE (Computer-Aided Software Engineering) tools
- as a programming language: with the right tools, code can be auto-generated and executed from UML
 - only good if this is faster than coding in a "real" language

UML

In an effort to promote Object Oriented designs, three leading object oriented programming researchers joined ranks to combine their languages:

- Grady Booch (BOOCH)
- Jim Rumbaugh (OML: object modeling technique)
- Ivar Jacobsen (OOSE: object oriented software eng)

and come up with an industry standard [mid 1990's].

UML – Unified Modeling Language

- Union of all Modeling Languages
 - Use case diagrams
 - Class diagrams
 - Object diagrams
 - Sequence diagrams
 - Collaboration diagrams
 - Statechart diagrams
 - Activity diagrams
 - Component diagrams
 - Deployment diagrams
 -
- Very big, but a nice standard that has been embraced by the industry.

Object diagram (\neq class diagram)

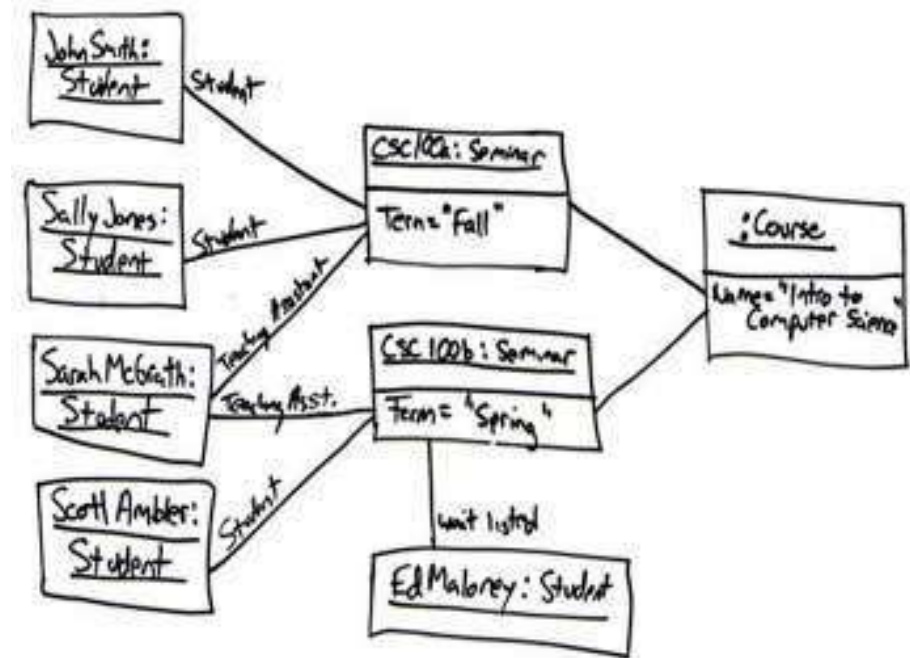
- individual objects (heap layout)

- objectName : type
 - attribute = value

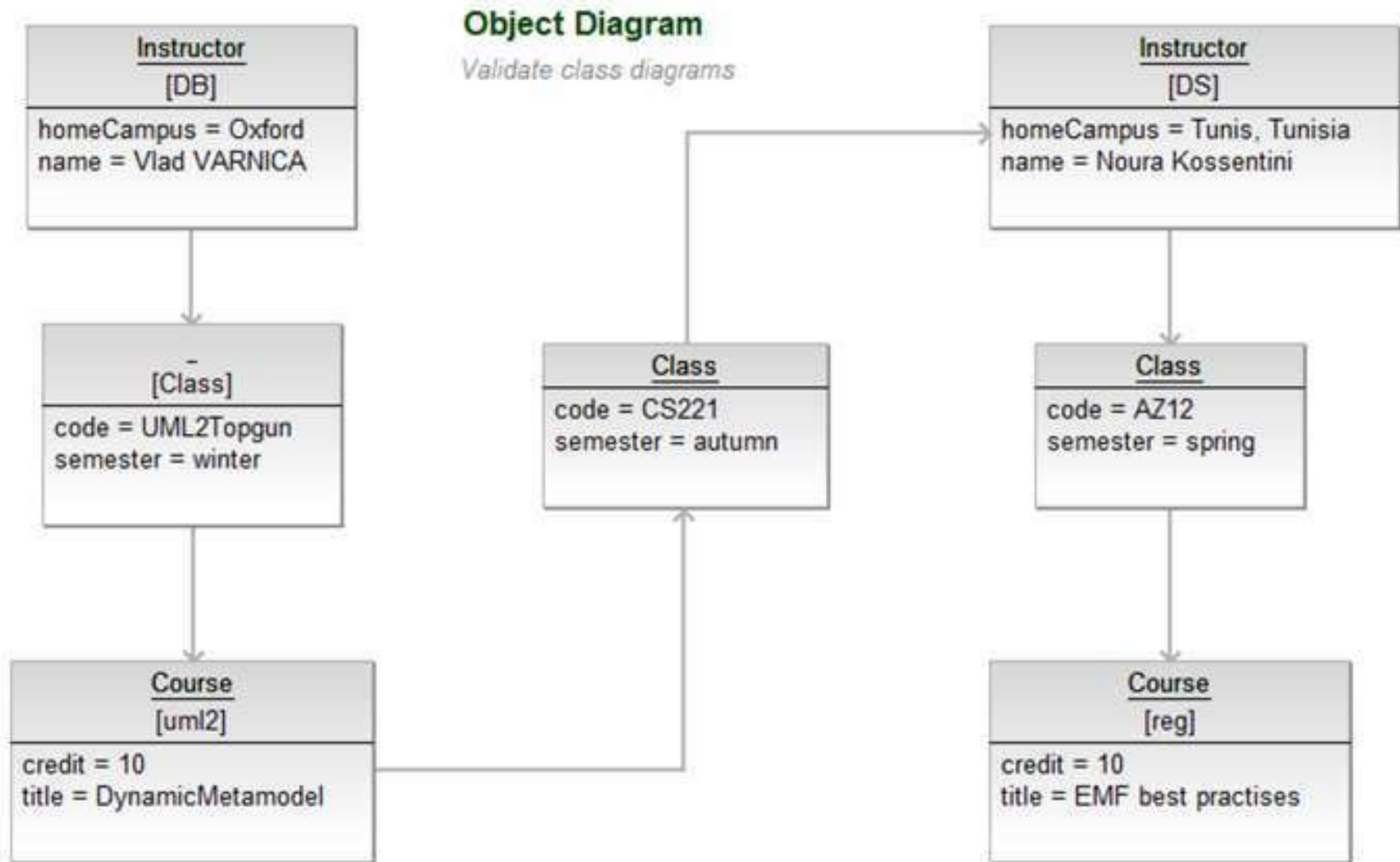
- lines show field references

- Class diagram:

- summary of all possible object diagrams



Object diagram example

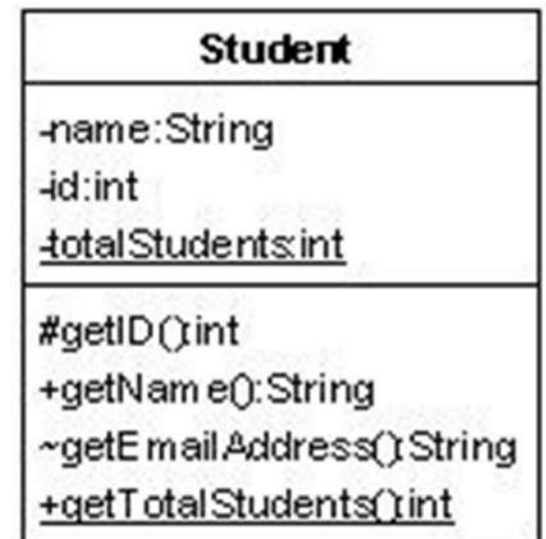
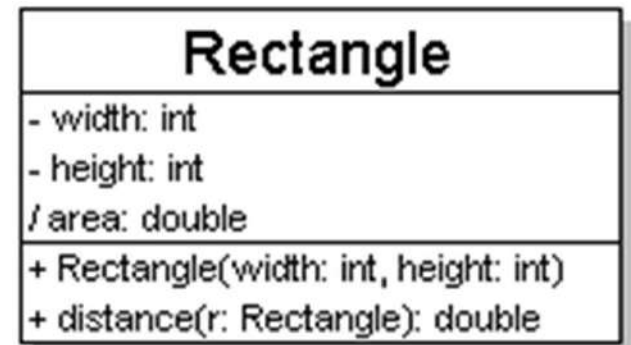


UML class diagrams

- **UML class diagram:** a picture of
 - the classes in an OO system
 - their fields and methods
 - connections between the classes
 - that interact or inherit from each other
- Not represented in a UML class diagram:
 - details of how the classes interact with each other
 - algorithmic details; how a particular behavior is implemented

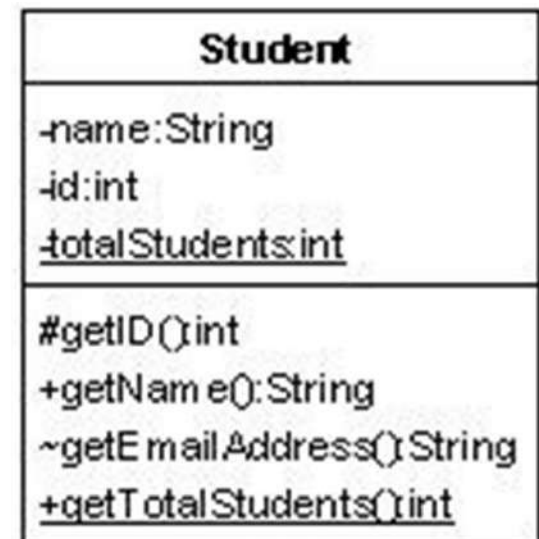
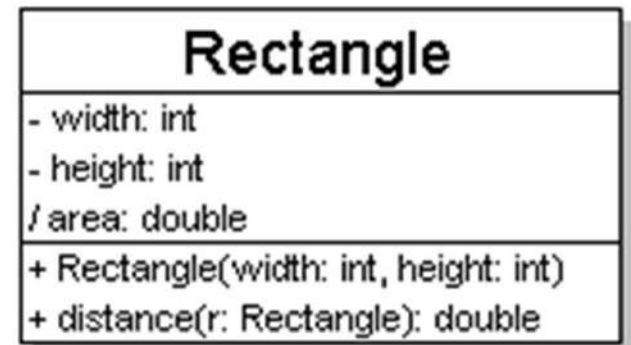
Diagram of one class

- class name in top of box
 - write <<interface>> on top of interfaces' names
 - use *italics* for an *abstract class* name
- attributes (optional)
 - should include all fields of the object
- operations / methods (optional)
 - may omit trivial (get/set) methods
 - but don't omit any methods from an interface!
 - should not include inherited methods



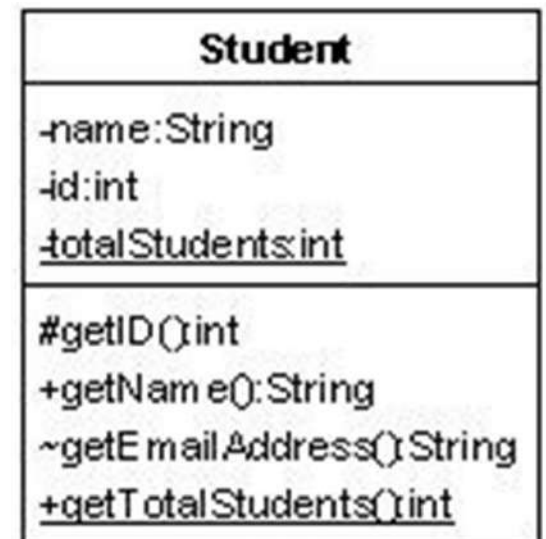
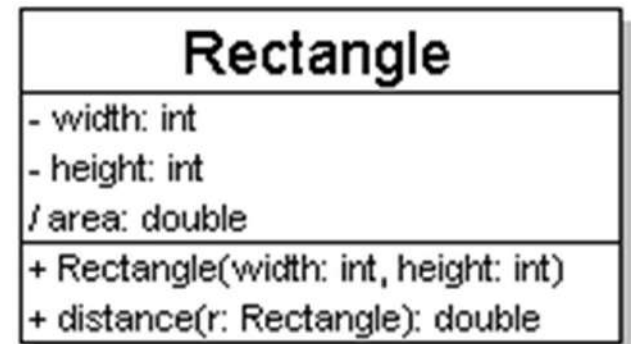
Class attributes (= fields)

- attributes (fields, instance variables)
 - *visibility name : type [count] = default_value*
 - visibility:
 - + public
 - # protected
 - private
 - ~ package (default)
 - / derived
 - underline static attributes
 - **derived attribute**: not stored, but can be computed from other attribute values
 - “specification fields “ from CSE 331
 - attribute example:
 - balance : double = 0.00



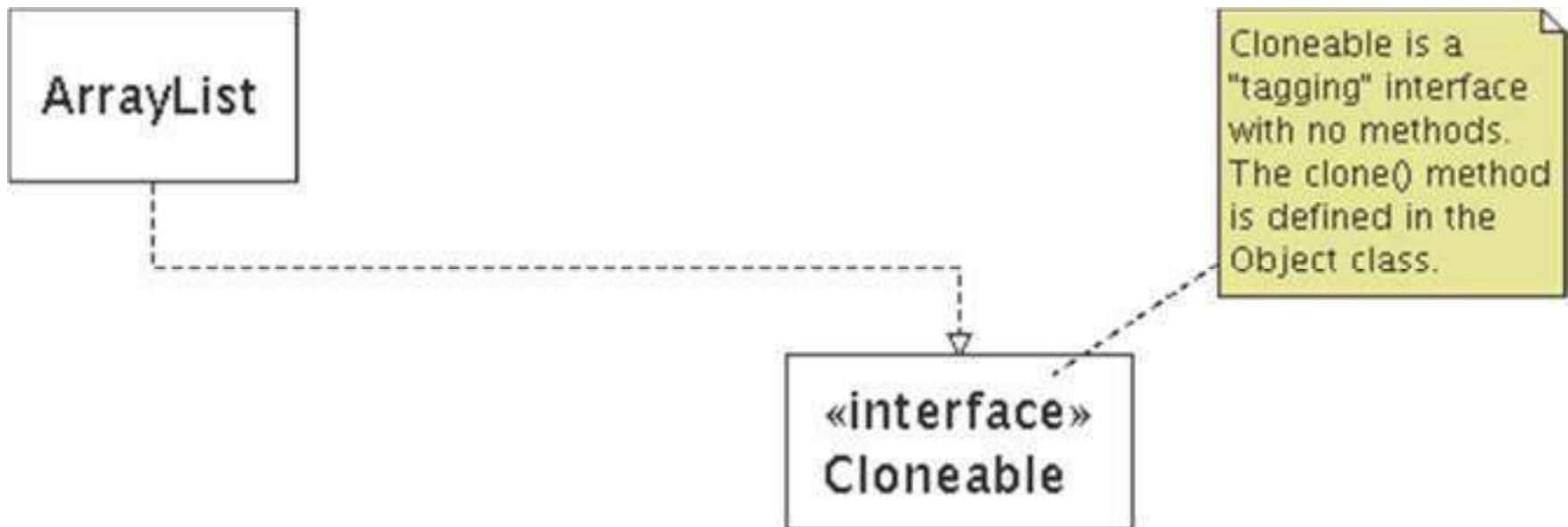
Class operations / methods

- operations / methods
 - *visibility name (parameters) : return_type*
 - visibility:
 - + public
 - # protected
 - private
 - ~ package (default)
 - underline static methods
 - parameter types listed as (name: type)
 - omit *return_type* on constructors and when return type is void
 - method example:
 - + distance(p1: Point, p2: Point): double



Comments

- represented as a folded note, attached to the appropriate class/method/etc by a dashed line

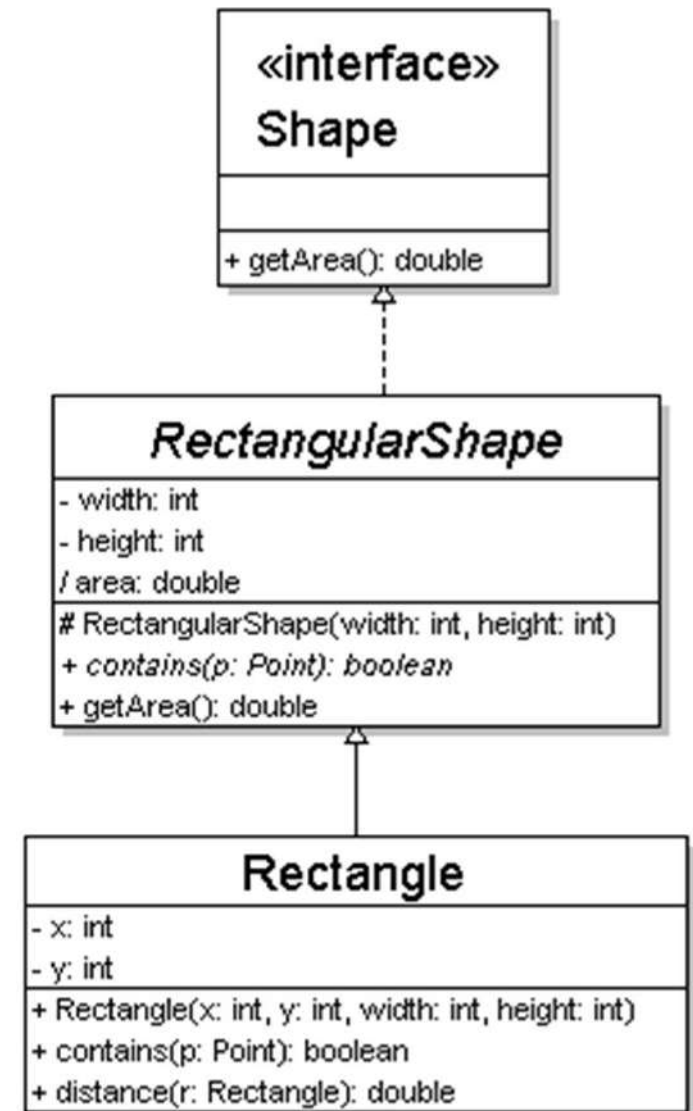


Relationships between classes

- **generalization**: an inheritance relationship
 - inheritance between classes
 - interface implementation
- **association**: a usage relationship
 - dependency
 - aggregation
 - composition

Generalization (inheritance) relationships

- hierarchies drawn top-down
- arrows point upward to parent
- line/arrow styles indicate whether parent is a(n):
 - class:
solid line, black arrow
 - abstract class:
solid line, white arrow
 - interface:
dashed line, white arrow
- often omit trivial / obvious generalization relationships, such as drawing the Object class as a parent



Associational relationships

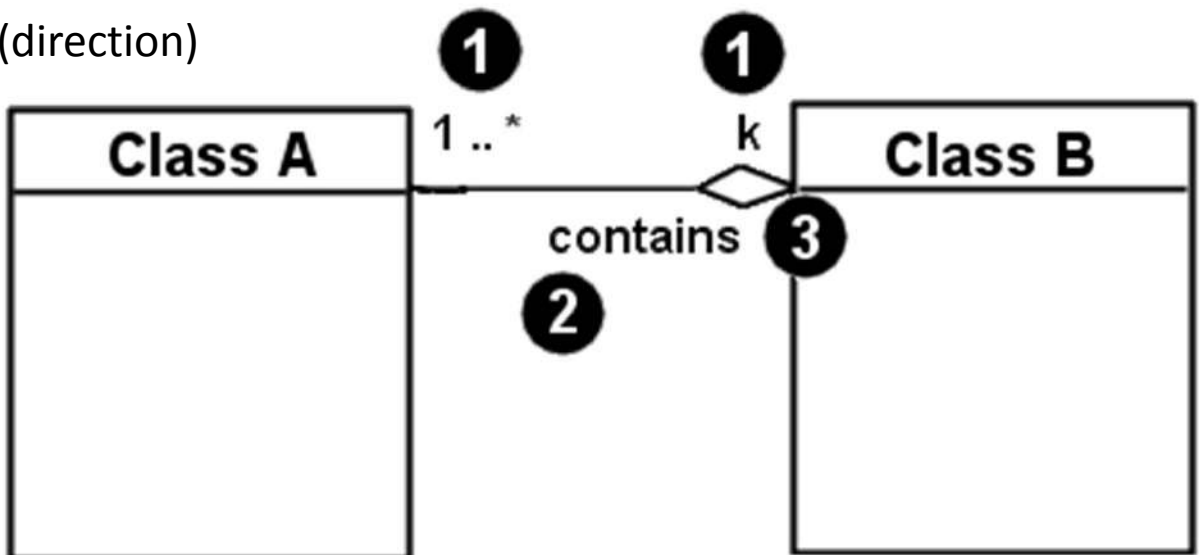
- associational (usage) relationships

1. multiplicity (how many are used)

- * \Rightarrow 0, 1, or more
- 1 \Rightarrow 1 exactly
- 2..4 \Rightarrow between 2 and 4, inclusive
- 3..* \Rightarrow 3 or more (also written as "3..")

2. name (what relationship the objects have)

3. navigability (direction)



Multiplicity of associations

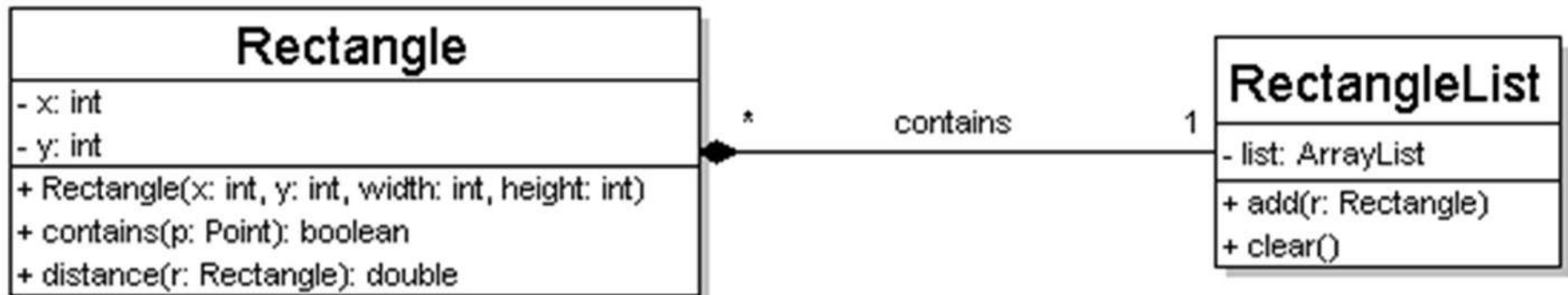
■ one-to-one

- each student must carry exactly one ID card



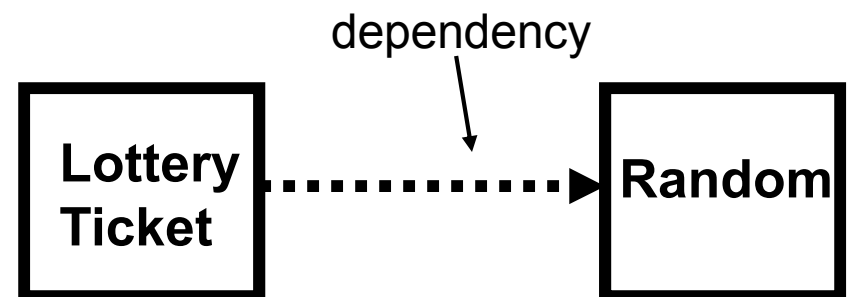
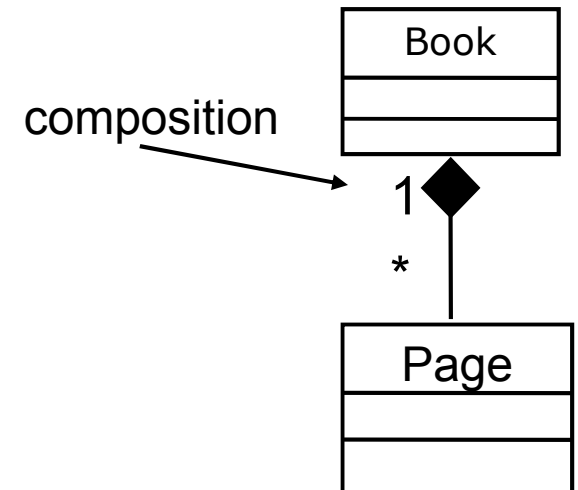
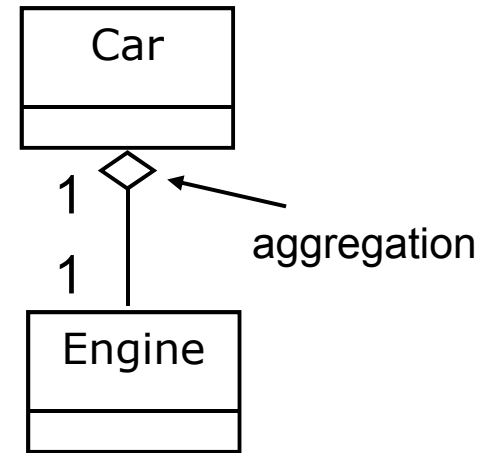
■ one-to-many

- one rectangle list can contain many rectangles

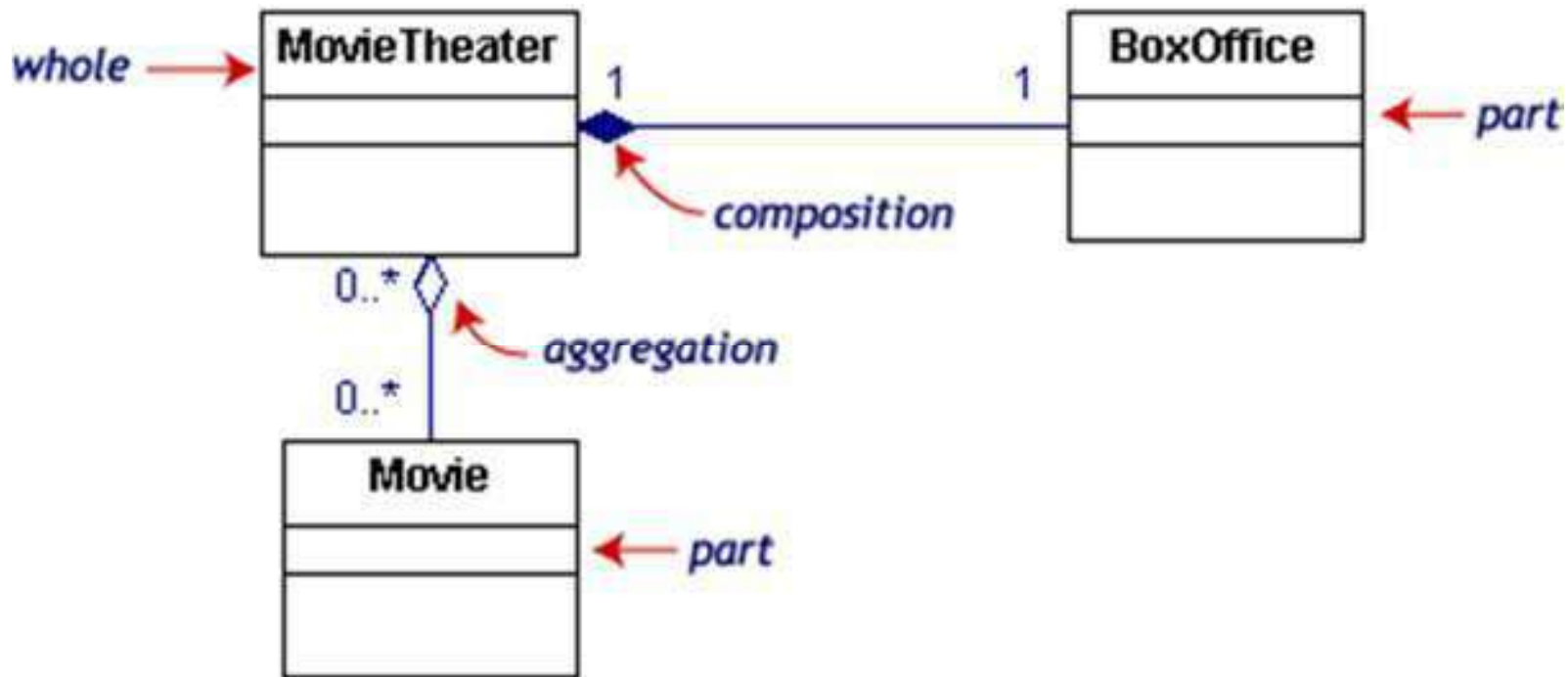


Association types

- **aggregation:** “is part of”
 - symbolized by a clear white diamond
- **composition:** “is entirely made of”
 - stronger version of aggregation
 - the parts live and die with the whole
 - symbolized by a black diamond
- **dependency:** “uses temporarily”
 - symbolized by dotted line
 - often is an implementation detail, not an intrinsic part of that object's state

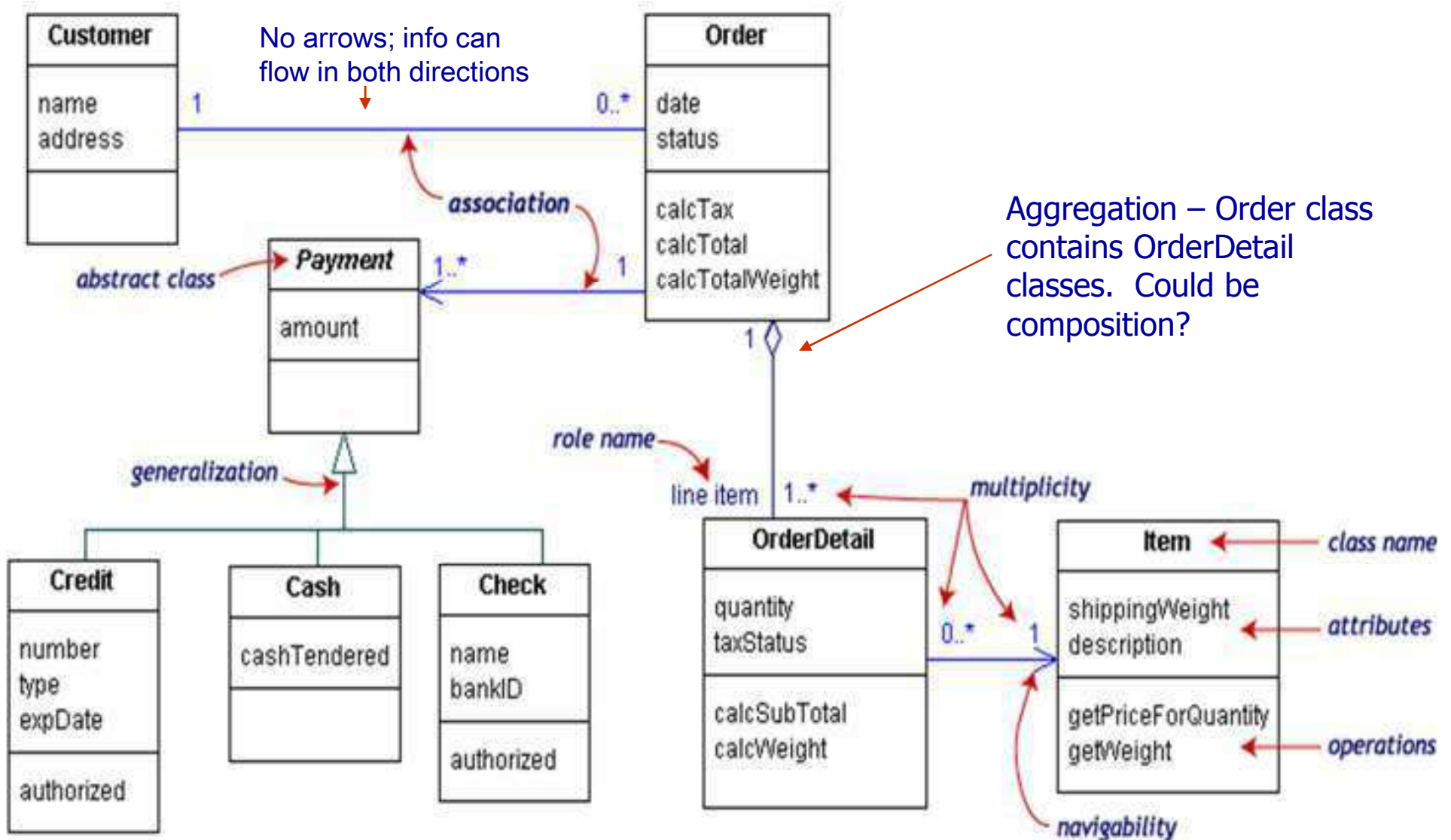


Composition/aggregation example

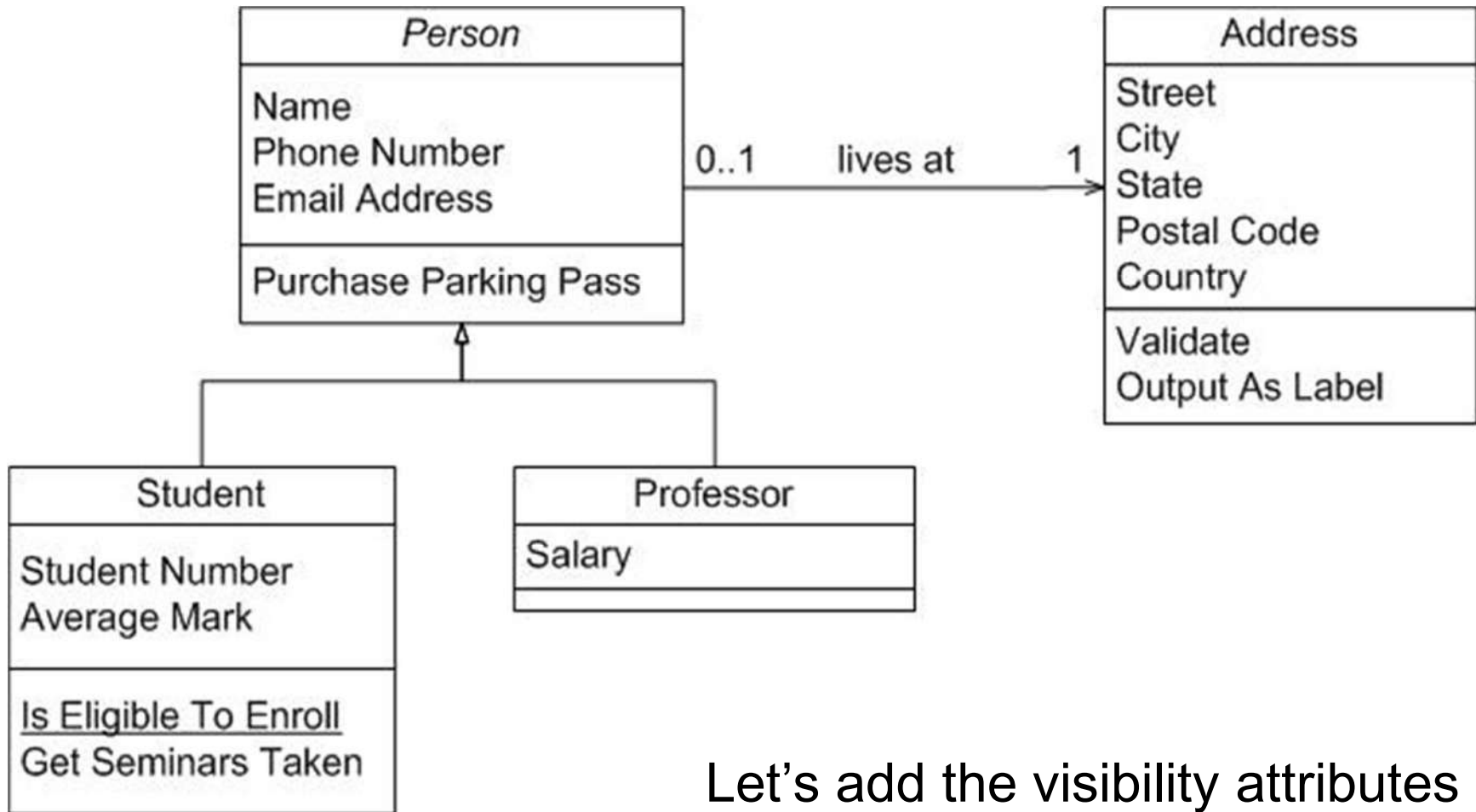


If the movie theater goes away
so does the box office => composition
but movies may still exist => aggregation

Class diagram example

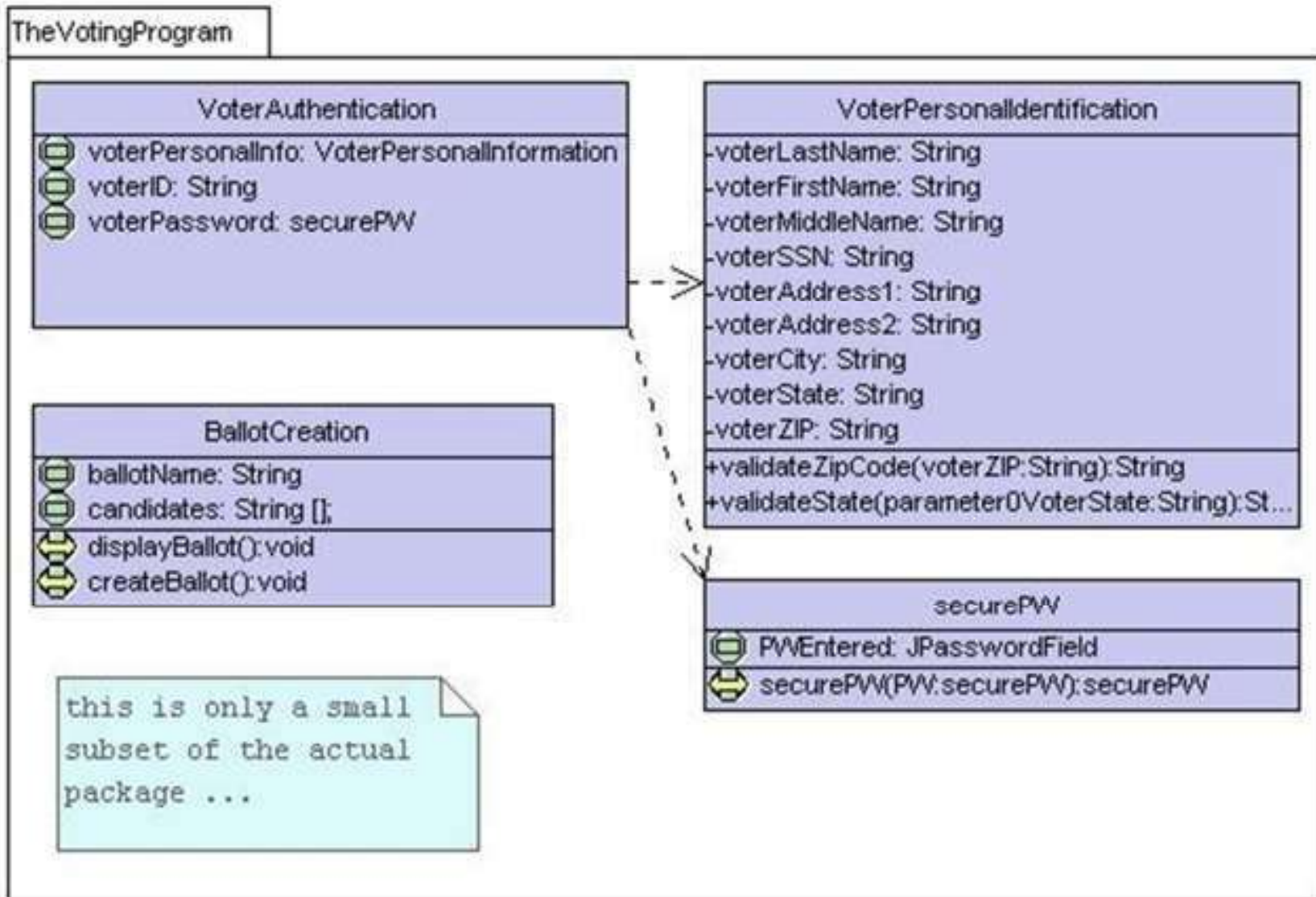


UML example: people

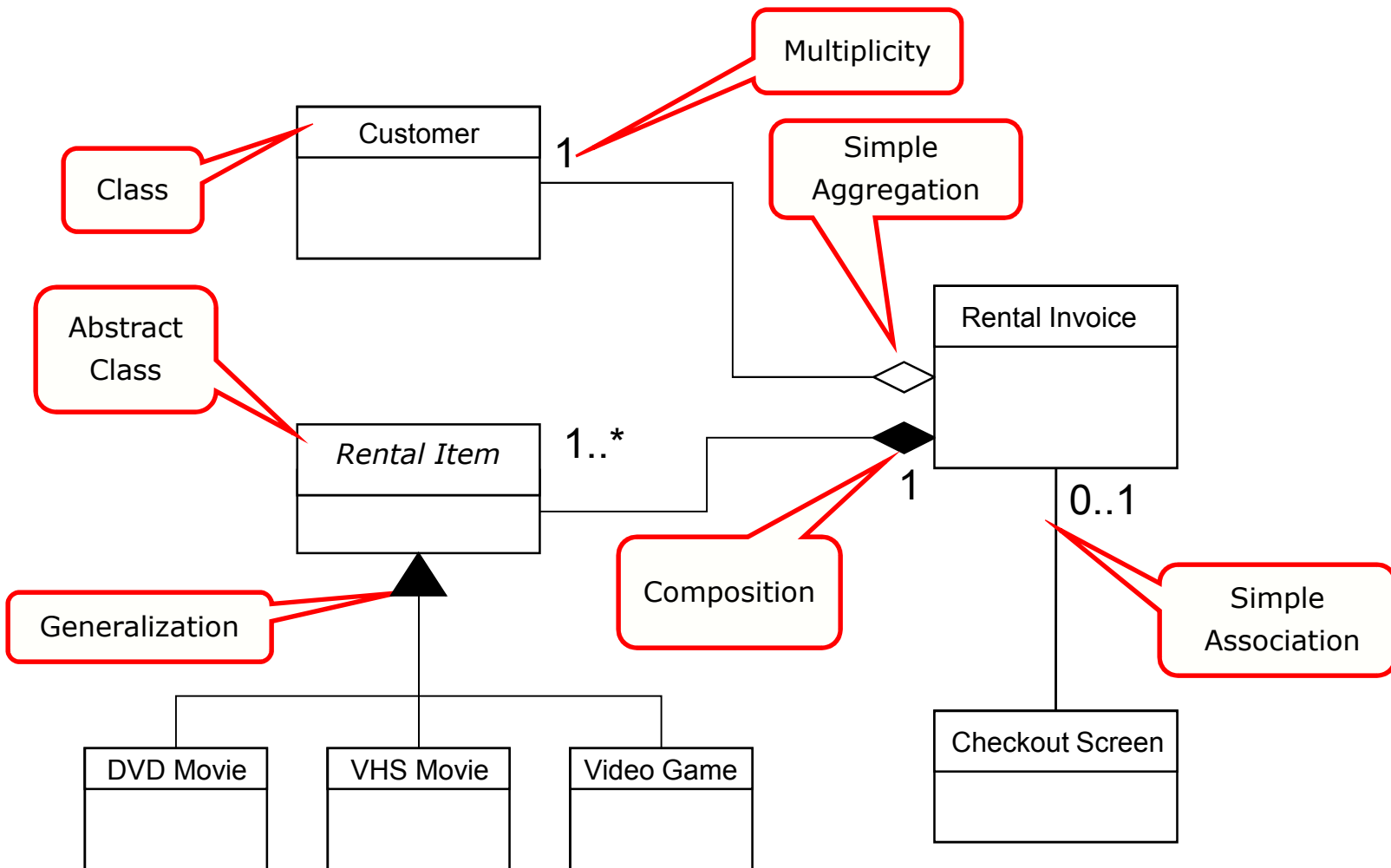


Let's add the visibility attributes

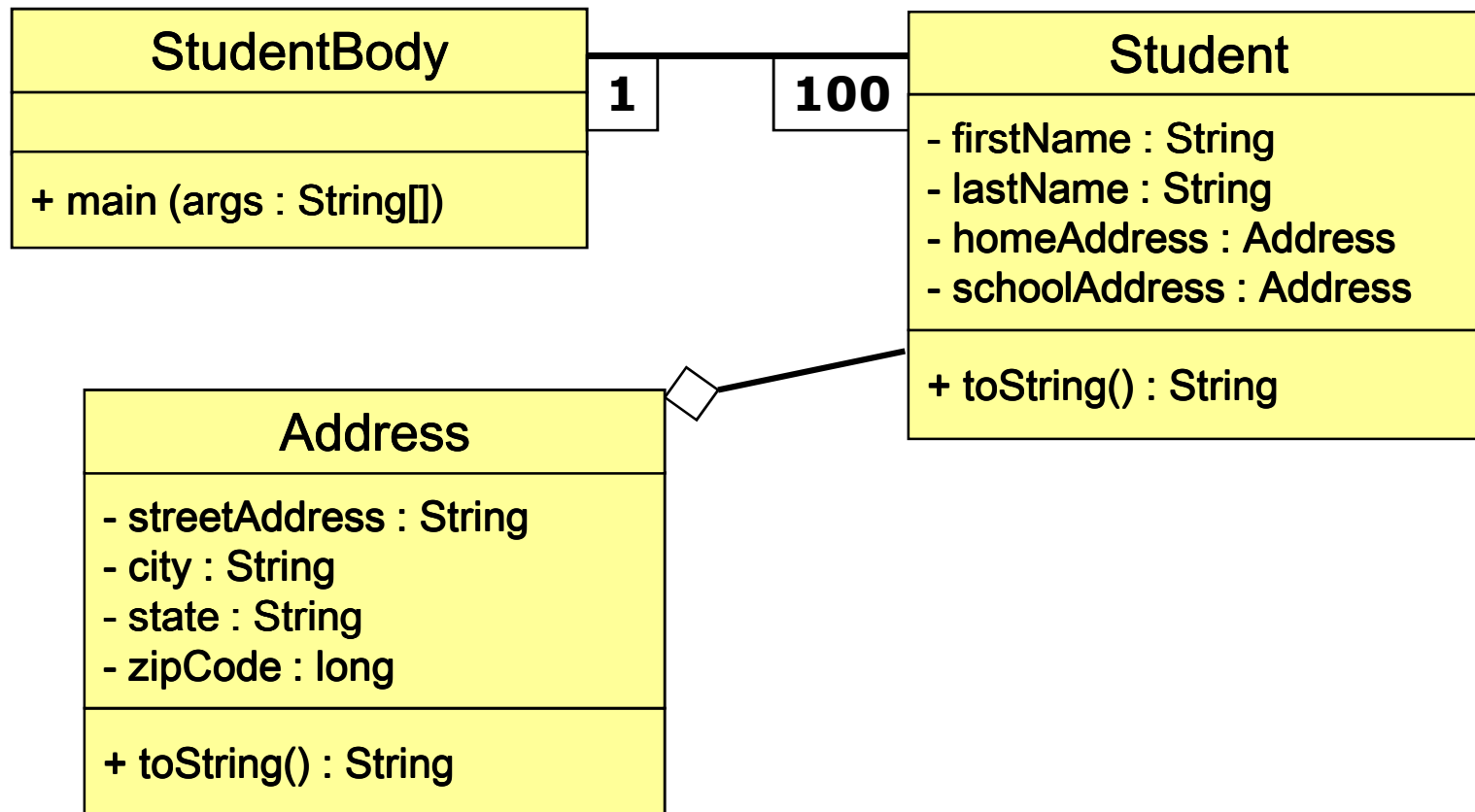
Class diagram: voters



Class diagram example: video store



Class diagram example: student



Tools for creating UML diagrams

- Violet (free)
 - <http://horstmann.com/violet/>
- Rational Rose
 - <http://www.rational.com/>
- Visual Paradigm UML Suite (trial)
 - <http://www.visual-paradigm.com/>
 - (nearly) direct download link:
<http://www.visual-paradigm.com/vp/download.jsp?product=vpuml&edition=ce>

(there are many others, but most are commercial)

Design exercise: Texas Hold 'em poker game

- 2 to 8 human or computer players
- Each player has a name and stack of chips
- Computer players have a difficulty setting: easy, medium, hard
- Summary of each hand:
 - Dealer collects ante from appropriate players, shuffles the deck, and deals each player a hand of 2 cards from the deck.
 - A betting round occurs, followed by dealing 3 shared cards from the deck.
 - As shared cards are dealt, more betting rounds occur, where each player can fold, check, or raise.
 - At the end of a round, if more than one player is remaining, players' hands are compared, and the best hand wins the pot of all chips bet so far.
- What classes are in this system? What are their responsibilities? Which classes collaborate?
- Draw a class diagram for this system. Include relationships between classes (generalization and associational).

Class diagram pros/cons

- Class diagrams are great for:
 - discovering related data and attributes
 - getting a quick picture of the important entities in a system
 - seeing whether you have too few/many classes
 - seeing whether the relationships between objects are too complex, too many in number, simple enough, etc.
 - spotting dependencies between one class/object and another
- Not so great for:
 - discovering algorithmic (not data-driven) behavior
 - finding the flow of steps for objects to solve a given problem
 - understanding the app's overall control flow (event-driven? web-based? sequential? etc.)