Software Engineering

Lecture 1
Introduction, principles & architecture

David Baelde
baelde@lsv.ens-cachan.fr

MPRI

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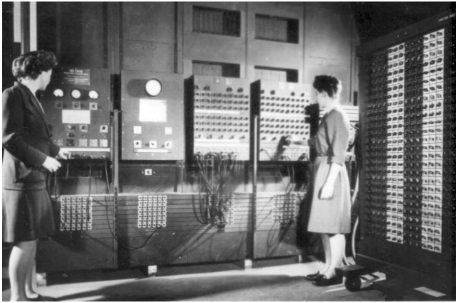
Introduction

Prehistory



Main control panel of ENIAC (1946)

First Turing-complete computers

- Huge and expensive (30 tons, 167m^2, 150kW, 6M$)
- One-off, built for specific purposes (military computations)
- Focus on making hardware reliable

Industrialization

IBM System/360 (1964)

Mainframe computers

- Wide range of applications, scientific to commercial
- Separation of architecture and implementation
- Software complexity rises

Birth of software engineering

1960' software crisis

- Spectacular failures: bugs, cost, overtime, cancellation

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> *The flaws in design and execution pervade especialy the control program. [. . .] The product was late, it took more memory than planned, the costs were several times the estimate, and it did not perform very well until several releases after the first.*

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1968 NATO conference on Software Engineering

Need for software manufacturers to be based on the types of theoretical foundations and practical disciplines that are traditional in the established branches of engineering.

Software Engineering

A lot of parameters:

- Product: is it critical? clearly defined? meant to evolve?
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Relies on common sense, computer science but also social sciences: psycho, ethno, experiments, etc.
No best approach.

Software Engineering

Problems	Goal
Complexity	Correctness
Change	Evolutivity

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Approach

- Principles behing good software products and processes.
- Methodologies that apply and promote those principles.
- Tools to implement and help follow methodologies.

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Scope

Activities	implem.
Products	code

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Scope

Activities	spec.	design	implem.	validation	evolution
Products	doc	doc	code	tests	history

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There *will* be bugs!

- Be paranoid, seek to detect anomalies early on
- Design precise tests, run them after each change

Change

Anticipation of change

Code *will* evolve

- Bugs will have to be fixed
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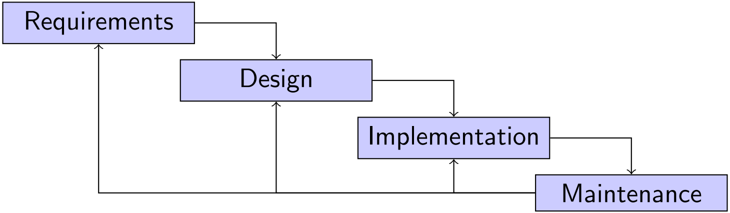
Be ready

- Actively work to identify potential changes
- Design code so that change and re-use is facilitated
- Use tools that help to keep track of change
- Organize work around upcoming changes

Software development processes

Waterfall model



Software development processes

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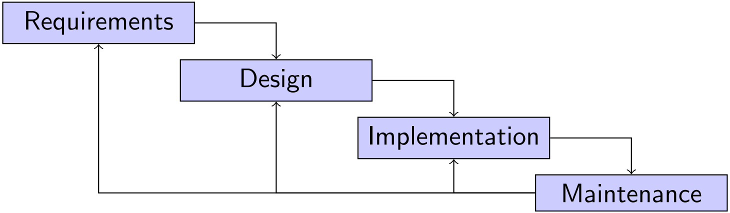


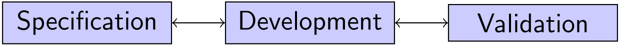
- Prevalent at least until 70'
- Probably inspired from other engineering fields
- DoD guidelines for military software: mandatory until 88
  remains reference after that (until recently?)

Incrementality

Proceed step by step to get early feedback and adjust.

- Start by implementing a subset of features.
- Start with functional correctness only.

Incremental development model



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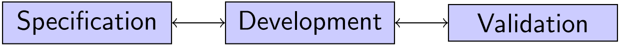

Pros/cons

⊕ Early feedback. Opportunity to fix requirements and design.
May be necessary if requirements are not initially clear.

⊕ Good for the morale of developers and clients!

⊖ Requires refactoring to maintain good structure.

⊖ Hard to keep track of change in large projects.

The Linux kernel

The main invention in Linux is . . .

The Linux kernel

The main invention in Linux is its development model.

- Wide distribution and invitation to contribute, thanks to personal computers and the internet.
- Active integration of patches and frequent releases, initially by hand, then with dedicated tools.
- Pre-requisites in the code:
  - precise documentation
  - extensibility through modules for drivers, file system, etc.

📕 E. S. Raymond, *The Cathedral and the Bazaar*, O'Reilly, 1999.

More development models

Collaborative software development

Incremental with collaboration and involvement of the public

Main model for open-source software:

- More testers → earlier bug reports
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Agile software development

Incremental process + focus on collaboration & self-organization

`http://agilemanifesto.org/principles.html`

Various methodologies (XP, SCRUM. . .)

Modularity

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A slogan: High Cohesion, Low Coupling

- Maximize modularity:
  parallelizability of the software process, chances of re-use
- Minimize interactions:
  separately test, modify…understand, then integrate

Example (types of cohesion)

- Coincidental: no (good) reason
- Temporal: executed around the same time, *e.g.*, init
- Functional: realize a task, *e.g.*, convert file
- …

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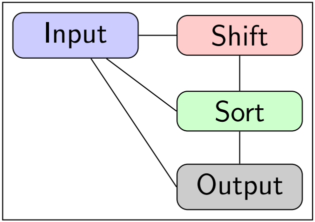
What is a good modularization?

Modularity



Modules export arrays

No text in shifted/sorted arrays

A possible modularization for a *KWIC index generator*:

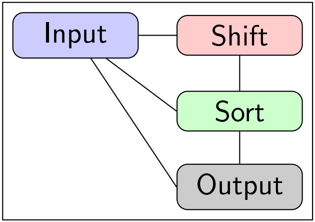
Input: lines of text

Output:

all permutations of those lines, sorted alphabetically

David Parnas, *On the Criteria To Be Used in Decomposing Systems into Modules*, Communications of the ACM, 1972.

Modularity



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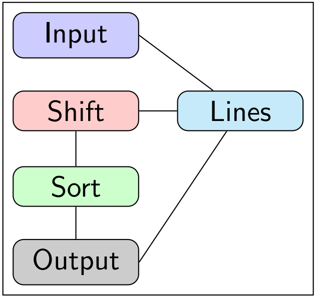

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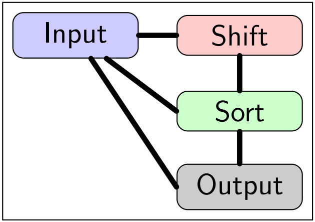
Modularity



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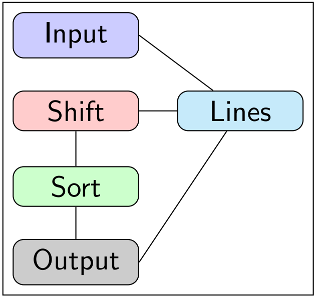

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Example (types of cohesion)

- Coincidental: no (good) reason
- Temporal: executed around the same time, *e.g.*, init
- Functional: realize a task, *e.g.*, convert file
- Informational: independent operations on same data, *e.g.*, list

Modularization goes hand in hand with information hiding, aka . . .

Abstraction

Ignoring details

Design

- Do not specify implementation details.
- Details are things that can easily change:
  maximum waiting time, password length, etc.

Code

- Code in a high-level language, far from the machine.
- Code for correctness first, then optimize if needed.
  "*Premature* optimization is the root of all evil." – Knuth
- Don't hardcode:
  no magic numbers, any constant should be justified.

Modularity + Abstraction

Segment project in modules with clearly defined interfaces.

Maximize information hiding in interfaces:

- Minimize coupling.
- Plan for evolution.

Language support

More or less constraining/helpful

- Modules and abstract types in ML-like languages
- Classes in object oriented programming
- Separate compilation units in other languages
- Procedures in *structured programming languages*!

Proof assistants

Concerns of computer-aided theorem proving

- Soundness: the whole point is to have trustworthy proofs!
- Usability: undo, notations, automation, efficiency, user extensions, etc.

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Edinburgh LCF (70's)

- Proof objects cannot be maintained for performance reasons
- Small trusted kernel provides sound manipulations of abstract datatype `theorem`
- Tactics and tacticals built on top of this sound kernel
- By-product: ML language and module system!

M. J. C. Gordon, *From LCF to HOL: a short history*, 2000.

Proof assistants

Concerns of computer-aided theorem proving

- Soundness: the whole point is to have trustworthy proofs!
- Usability: undo, notations, automation, efficiency, user extensions, etc.

Coq v7 (2000)

- Proof objects are maintained: relevant, non-local checks
- Isolated kernel: breaking dependency on undo-able objects
- (OCa)ML modules still used: abstraction ensures safety
- Kernel is purely functional, 1/3 of the code
- 2013, `v8.4pl2`: same design, impure kernel, 1/10 of the code

J-C. Filliâtre, *Design of a proof assistant: Coq version 7*, 2000.

Exercises

Intermediaries

Discuss the following Java function:

```java
public void
showDeadline(User u, Conference c) {
  TimeZone tz = u.getLocation().getTimeZone();
  Date d = c.getPaperDeadline();
  ... // something involving only tz and d
}
```

Pairs

(Based on 2013 MPRI project “Geriatric Terrorist Anarchy”)

Two C++ classes use pairs:

- The UI performs drawing using SFML’s `Vector2f` class.
- The simulator moves characters around the world, also using 2D floating point coordinates.

Alternatives to discuss:

- Use `Vector2f` for the simulator code.
- Create a new class for pairs of floats.
- (Use `std::pair`.)

strtok

```
char *strtok(char *str, const char *delim);
```

```
The strtok() function parses a string into a sequence
of tokens. On the first call to strtok() the string
to be parsed should be specified in str.  In each
subsequent call that should parse the same string,
str should be NULL.
```

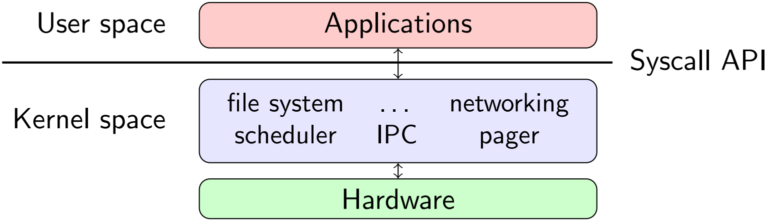
Discuss

- What's wrong with this spec?
- Give examples of when the function is unusable.
- Propose other designs, not necessarily in C.

Software architecture examples

Layers

Monolithic kernel architecture



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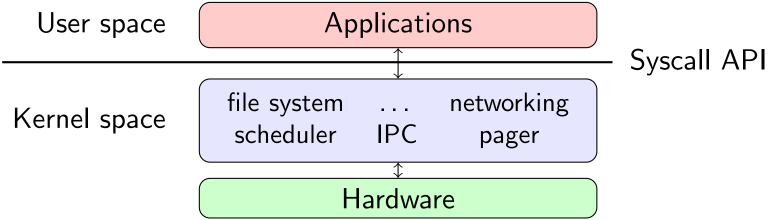

Unix

Powerful abstractions such as processes and file descriptors.

> *The success of Unix lies not so much in new inventions but rather in the full exploitation of a carefully selected set of fertile ideas.*

N. Gordon, *Ghosts of the UNIX past: a historical search for design patterns*, LWN, 2010.

Layers

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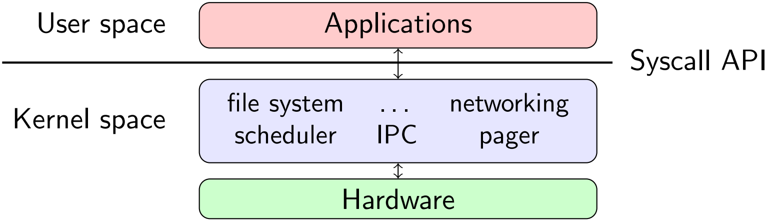
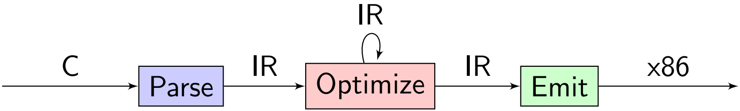


Exercise

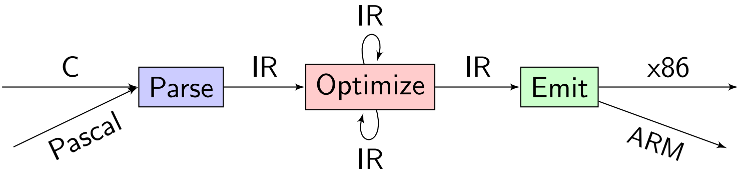
Does Unix follow a strict layered architecture?

Pipes and filters



- Parser generators are engineering pearls in themselves

Pipes and filters



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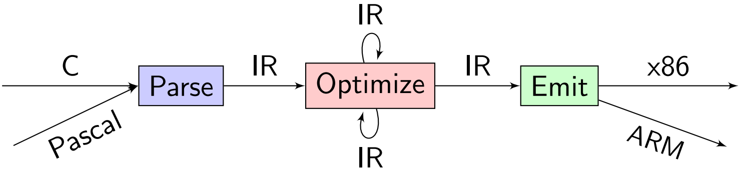
- Reason separately about individual “filters” (cf. CompCert)
- Easy extension with new front-ends, back-ends or optimizers?

Pipes and filters



- Parser generators are engineering pearls in themselves
- Reason separately about individual “filters” (cf. CompCert)
- Easy extension with new front-ends, back-ends or optimizers?
- LLVM took this architecture seriously: truly decoupled phases, documented interfaces, ships as library, provides dynamic configuration tools
  ⇝ maximum re-use, huge community, lots of features

🌐 Chris Lattner, *The Architecture of Open Source Applications, volume I*, chapter 11: *LLVM*, 2012.

References

- Frederick P. Brooks, *The Mythical Man-Month (20th anniversary edition)*, Addison-Wesley, Prentice Hall, 1995.
- Ian Sommerville, *Software Engineering (9th edition)*, Addison-Wesley, 2011.
- C. Ghezzi, M. Jazayeri, D. Mandrioli, *Fundamentals of Software Engineering*, Prentice Hall, 1991.
- A. Hunt, D. Thomas, *The Pragmatic Programmer*, Addison-Wesley, 2000.

. . . and many others cited in the slides.