

Lecture 7

Aspect-orientation (AO*)

A new paradigm in Software Engineering

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Last lecture and tutorial ...

Software Quality Measurements

- We have shown the use of quality measurements to monitor the progress of software development
- The development/restructuring (maintenance) activities (refactoring, tuning, adding features) can be guided by the metrics of softgoals

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Today ...

On Aspect Orientation

- Today we explain the paradigm of aspect-orientation
 1. Concepts: What are aspects?
 2. Practices: Aspect-orientation at large
 - AOP: Aspect-oriented programming
 - AOSD: Aspect-oriented software development
 - *AORE: Aspect-oriented requirements engineering*
 - AOSR: Aspect-oriented software reuse (probably next lecture)
 3. A case study of AORE
 4. Summary

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1. What are aspects?

1. Some design principles
 - Divide and conquer: problem solving/design principle
 - Modularization: high cohesion/low coupling
Separation of concerns
 - DRY: Don't Repeat Yourself
Increase the fan-in
2. Previous paradigms
 - 70s – 80s:
Structured programming (Goto's considered harmful) =>
Structured Analysis, Structured Design
 - 80s – 90s:
Object-oriented programming (OOP) =>
OOA/OOD => UML
3. Why another paradigm ?
 - Since late 90s ...
Separation of the *crosscutting* concerns
4. What are aspects?
 - Modularizing the crosscutting concerns

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1.1 Some design principles

Structured programming

- What is structured program?
 - A program has no more GOTO's
 - Only three kinds of structure prevails
 - Sequential
 - If-then-else
 - Loops
- [Dijkstra: Goto considered harmful]
 - In other words, every statement block has single-entry, single-exit as Hammock Graph
- [Weiser: Program slicing]
- "Whenever possible, we wish to maximize **fan-in** during the design process. Fan-in is the *raison d'être* of modularity. Each instance of multiple fan-in means that some duplicate code has been avoided."

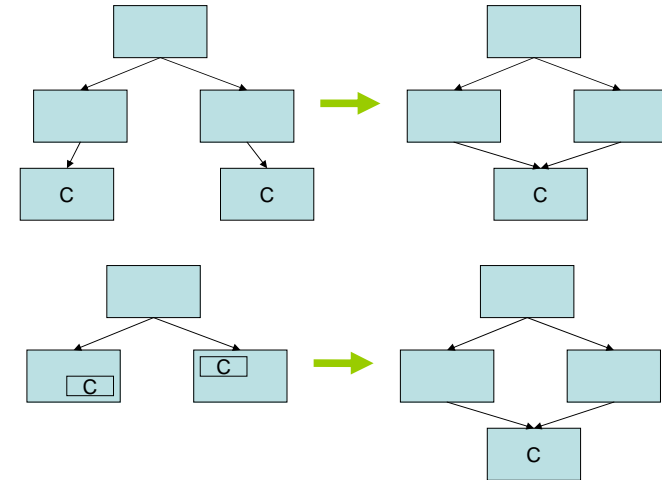
raison d'être: grounds for existence
(<http://www.french-linguistics.co.uk/dictionary/>)
[Yourdon & Constantine79] *Structured Design* (pg. 172, see also <http://www.wpa.win.tue.nl/wstomv/quotes/structured-design.html>)
[parnas: Modularization, information hiding]

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- (1) A decomposition hierarchy from abstract to concrete:
Divide and Conquer, Structured Design;
- (2) Don't Repeat Yourself, Factoring / Refactoring ...

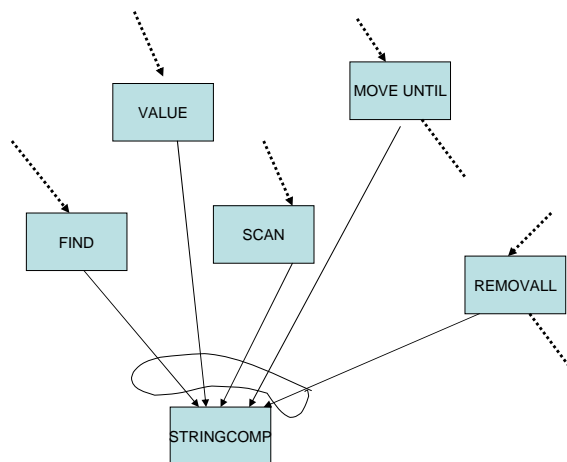


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Example



Yourdon & Constantine, SD, pg.168

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1.1 Some design principles

Object-oriented programming

- Everything is an object (Smalltalk)
- Information hiding / Encapsulation: object groups related data and the operations on the data into a module
- Object has structural relationships:
 - inheritance: generalization / specialization: isA/instanceOf
 - aggregation : hasA / isPartOf
 - associations: 1-to-many, 1-to-1, many-to-many
- In the end, the structurally-related objects are *packaged* into components

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1.2 Aspect-orientation

- Component language
(any structured or OO language, even corresponding design and requirements specification)
- What are crosscutting concerns?
- An aspect language
 - What are joinpoints?
 - What are pointcuts?
 - What are advices?
- A weaving mechanism

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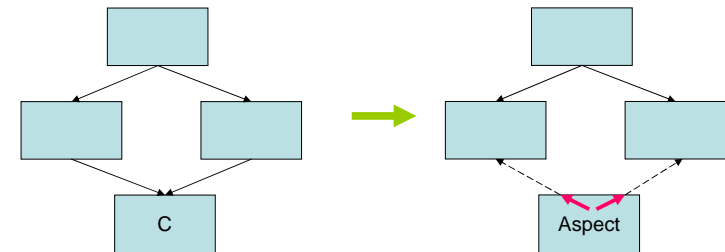
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Aspect concepts

- Concepts:
cross-cutting,
component, aspect,
join points, weaving

AOP hides the join points

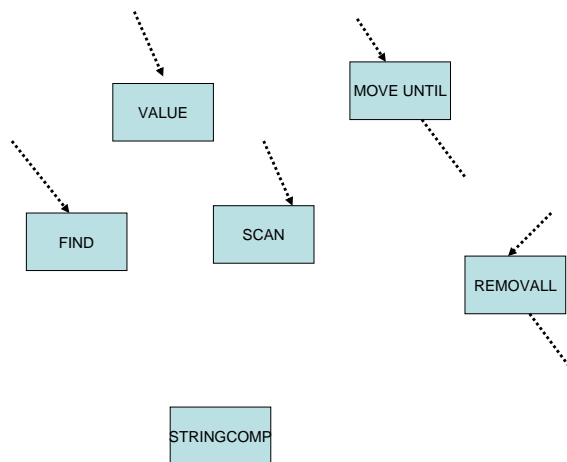


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AOP (THE MAGIC)

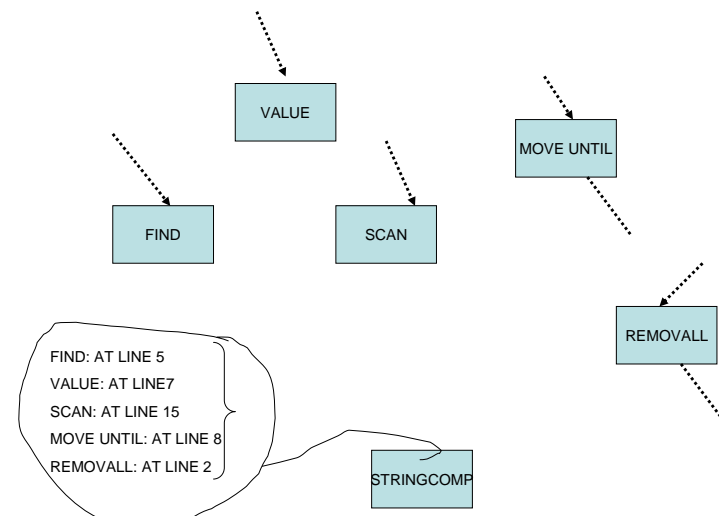


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AOP (NOT REALLY MAGIC)



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AOP example



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Stan Wagon's bike

My square-wheel bike, on permanent display at Macalester College. This construction, believe it or not, earned me an entry in "Ripley's Believe It or Not"; beats standing in a block of ice for three days or growing three-foot long fingernails.

<http://www.stanwagon.com>

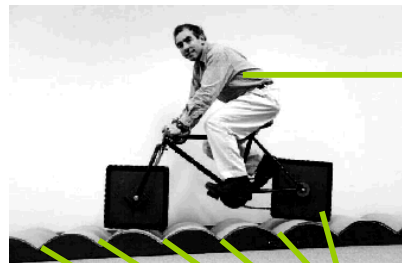
Stan Wagon (wagon@macalester.edu), Prof. of Mathematics and Computer Science, Macalester College, St. Paul, Minnesota



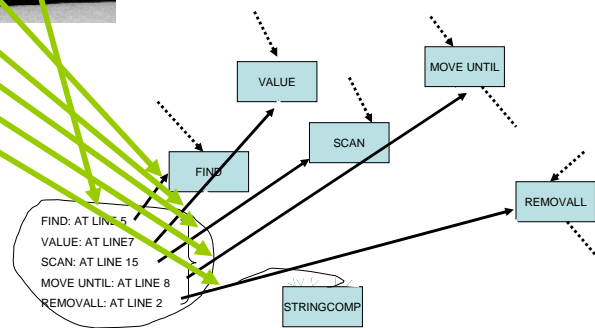
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The Weaver

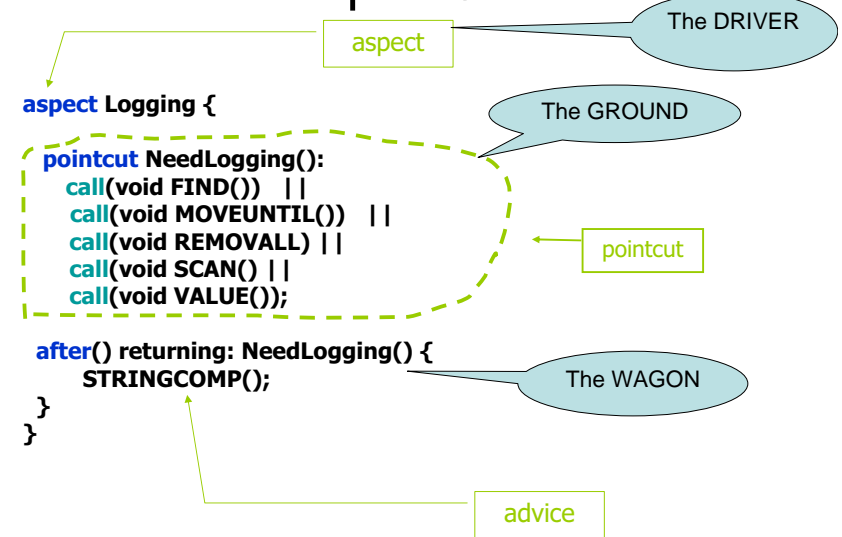


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Yourdon & Constantine, SD, pg.168
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AspectJ



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2.1 Aspect-oriented Programming

- It permeates into almost every popular high-level programming languages
 - Java
[Hyper/J](#), [AspectJ](#), [AJDT](#), [JBoss](#)
 - C/C++/C#
[AspectC/C++](#), [C#](#)
 - PHP
[AOPHP](#), [AspectPHP](#)
- ... and many many more: see [AOSD.NET](#)

Every AOP mechanism has to support

- Definition and representation of aspects
 - Definition of Advices in the component language
 - Definition of Joinpoints in regular expressions
 - *Optionally, they can introduce new data members, changing the structures of components*
 - *Representation: New keywords, New directives, XML, but never change the code of components directly*
- Implementing a weaver
 - As preprocessor => generates woven components in the component language (AspectC, AOPHP)
 - As instrumenting compiler => generates woven components in the bytecode for the languages supporting reflection (AspectJ)
 - As interpretator => interpreting the woven code on-the-fly (AspectPHP)

2.2 Aspect-Oriented SD

- AO includes the whole lifecycle of SE
 - <http://www.aosd.net>
 - There is a conference AOSD
 - There are workshops on Early Aspects at AOSD, OOPSLA, ICSE
 - Hot topics related to all other SD technologies
 - Aspect-oriented Refactoring
 - Aspect Mining
 - Aspect-oriented Debugging
 - Aspect-oriented Testing
 - Aspect-oriented Slicing
 - Aspect-oriented Model Checking
- ...

2.3 Aspect-Oriented RE

- Lessons learnt from success stories
 - SP => SA
 - OOP => OOA
 - Why not AOP => AOA?
 - Separation of crosscutting concerns earlier
 - Avoid duplication as early as possible
 - Identify aspects before mining them from code
- Discover aspects in the early requirements
 - From structured requirement documents
 - From unstructured (textual) documents
- Verify discovered (candidate) aspects in AOP

3. A Case Study on AORE

1. Quickly go through goal-oriented requirements engineering basics
2. A requirements engineering process to elicit early aspects (goal aspects)
3. A reverse engineering exercise to identify candidate aspects (code aspects)
4. Linking goal aspects with code aspects

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3.1 Requirements Goal Models

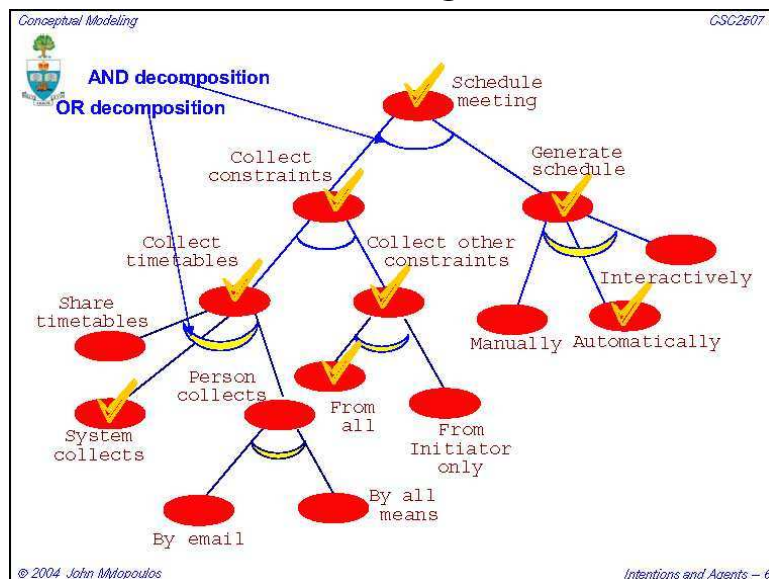
- A goal model is an intentional model
- A goal can be decomposed into AND or OR subgoals
- A goal model has both hard and soft goals
 - A hard goal can be either satisfied or denied
 - A soft goal is partially satisfied => *satisficed*
- Soft goal uses HELP (+), HURT (-), MAKE (++) or BREAK (--) correlations to show partial satisfaction (satisfice) from a set of subgoals

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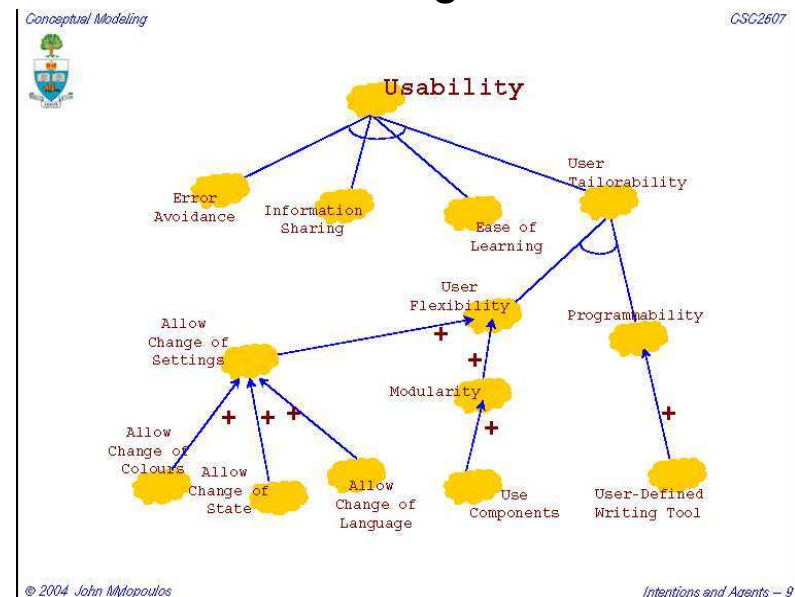
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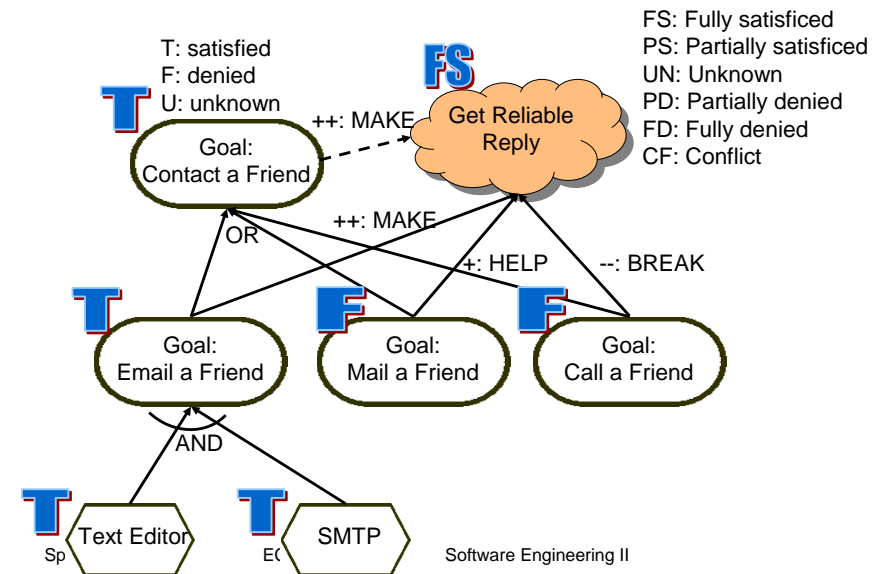
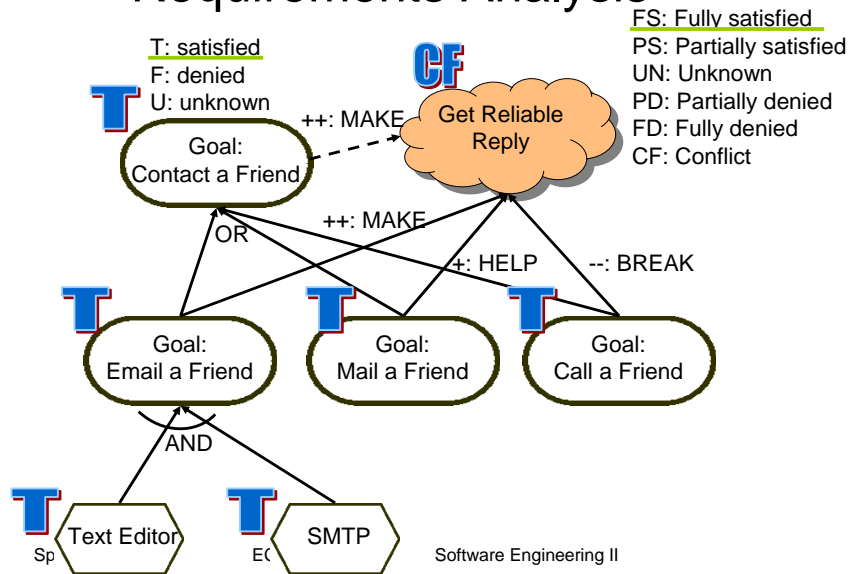
3.1.1 Hard goal model



3.1.2 Soft goal model

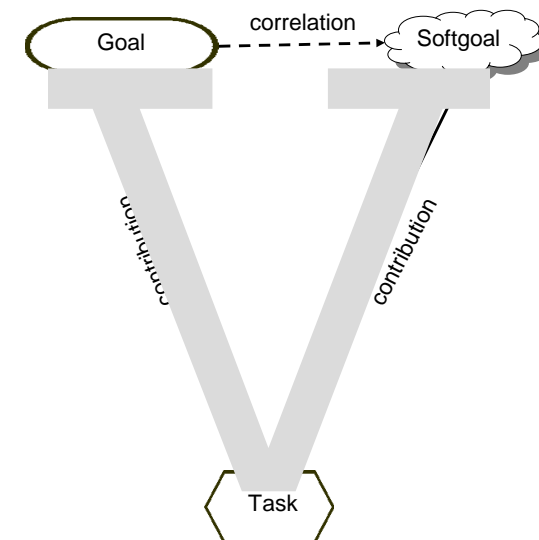


3.1.3 Goal-Oriented Requirements Analysis



3.1.4 V-graph

In order to reason about interplay of functional and non-functional requirements, we create a particular type of goal model, called *V-graph*



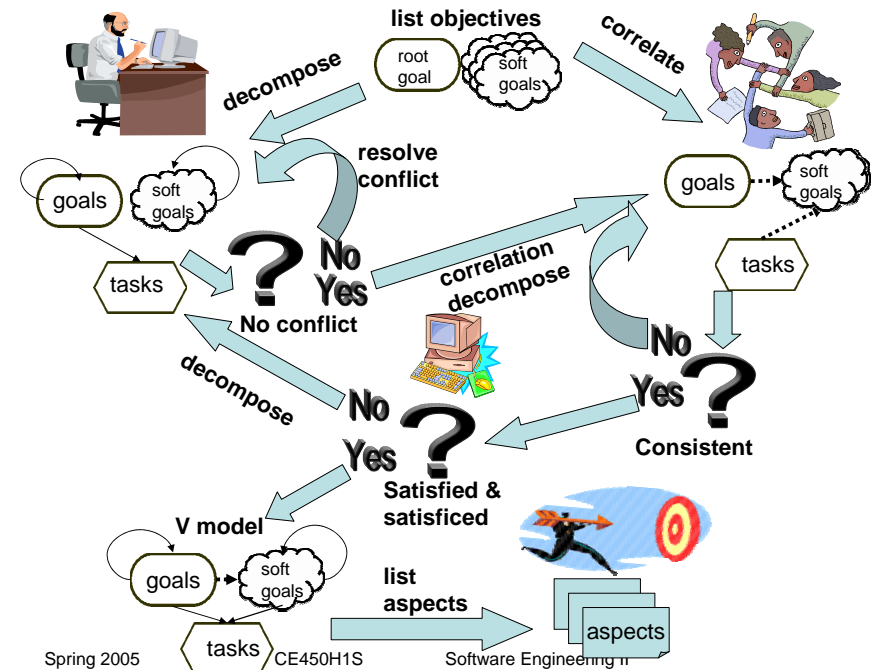
3.2 The Process

- Start from root-level goals and soft goals, correlate and decompose them into a V-graph
- A goal analysis based on the label propagation algorithm is used to check for:
 - Conflicts
 - Inconsistencies
 - Denial of any goal or soft goals
- After resolving the problems, a proper V-graph is obtained
- Then we list the candidate aspects from the V-graph

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3.3 A Case Study

- Medi@Shop adapted from literature: Castro, Kolp, Mylopoulos, Towards requirements-driven information systems engineering: the Tropos project, Journal of Information Systems, 2002.
Can we find aspects from early requirements?
- osCommerce studied from an LAMP (Linux, Apache, MySQL, PHP) Open-Source project: (<http://www.oscommerce.com>)
Do they manifest in the developed software?

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osCommerce (version 2.2m2)



Duplications in code

Candidate code aspects in the code Clone detection (by Semantic Design,Inc)

LOC	#clones	Code description	Need refactoring?
1	319	require(\$path . \$file);	No
1	260	echo \$expression;	No
559	2	class email;	No
2	292	define (\$variable, \$value);	No
76	2	class mime;	No
4	67	messageStack->add (\$error);	Yes (NFR)
15	15	Postal code zone check	Yes (FR)
22	10	require(application_top.php); SSL check	Yes (FR/NFR)
3	64	Set HTML head CHARSET	Yes (NFR)

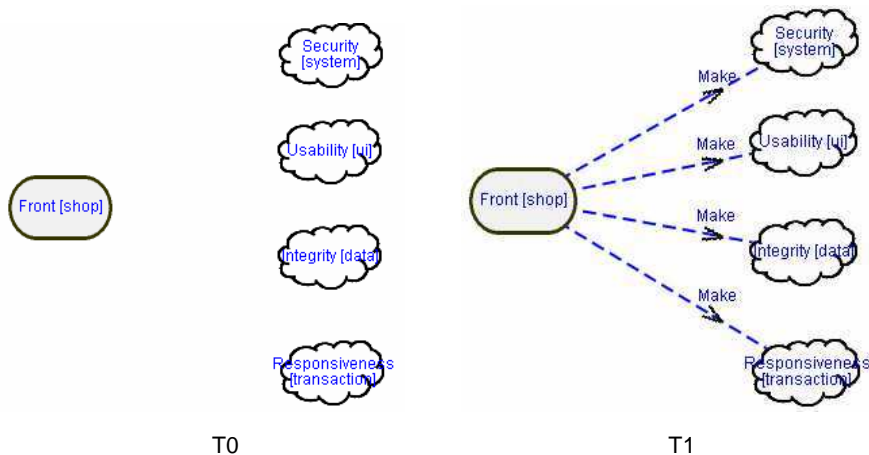
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3.4 Identifying goal aspects

Correlate initial goals and softgoals

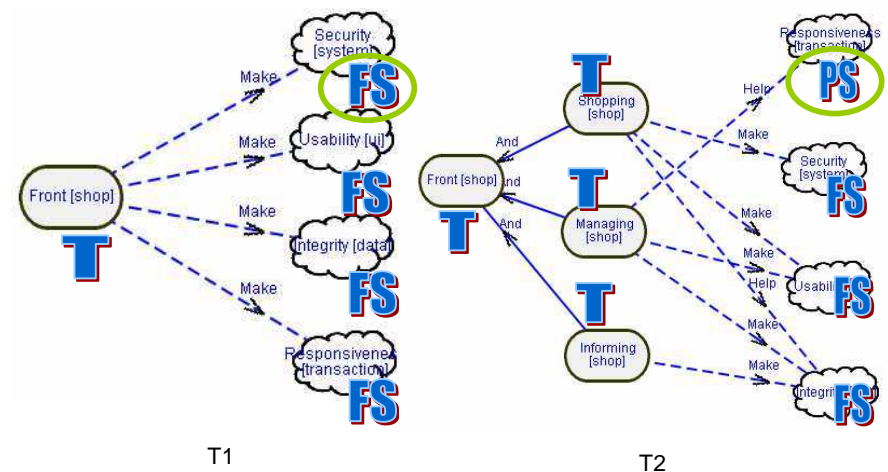


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Inconsistent decomposition

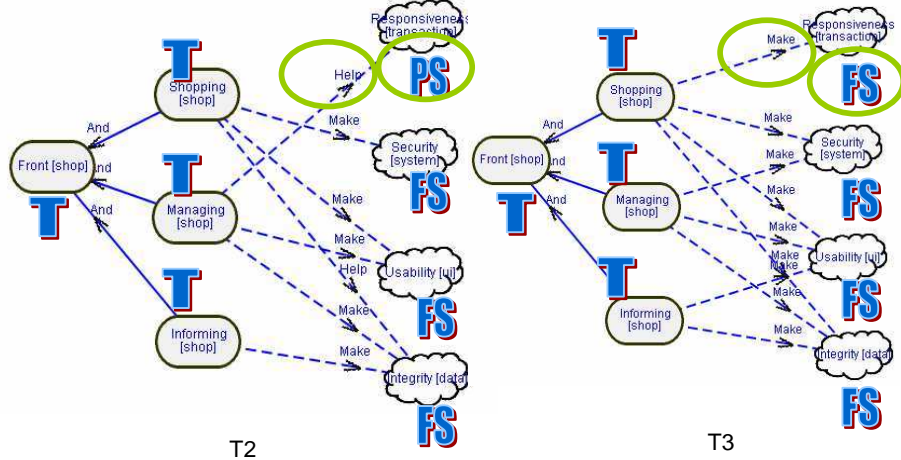


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Resolving inconsistency

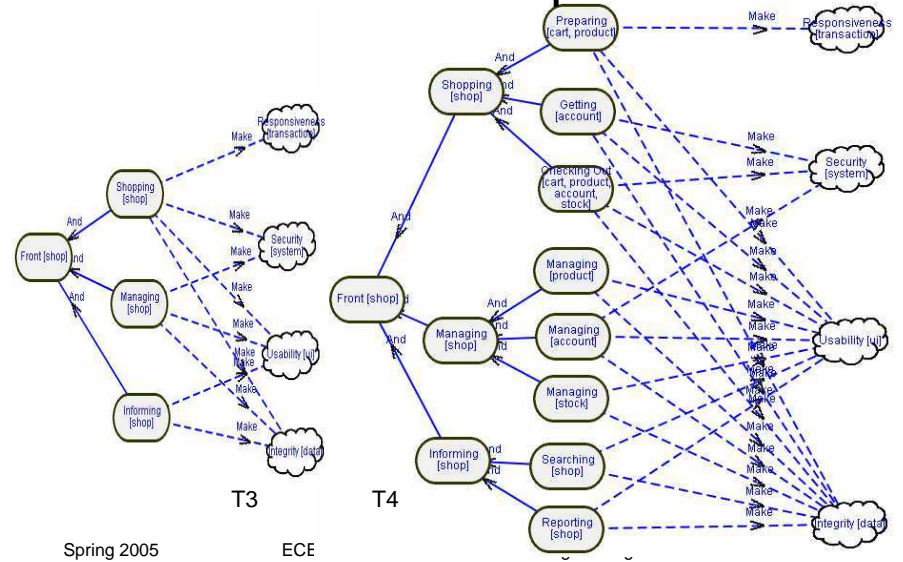


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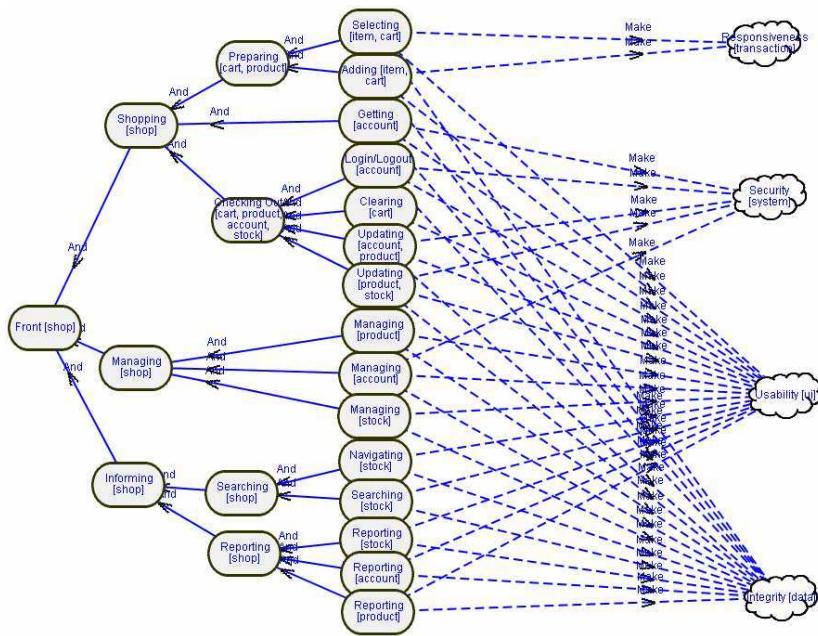
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Further decomposition



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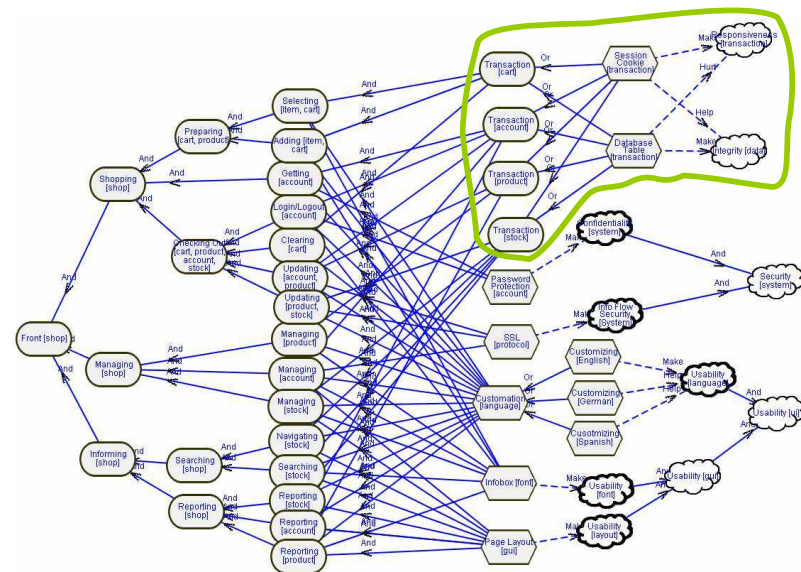
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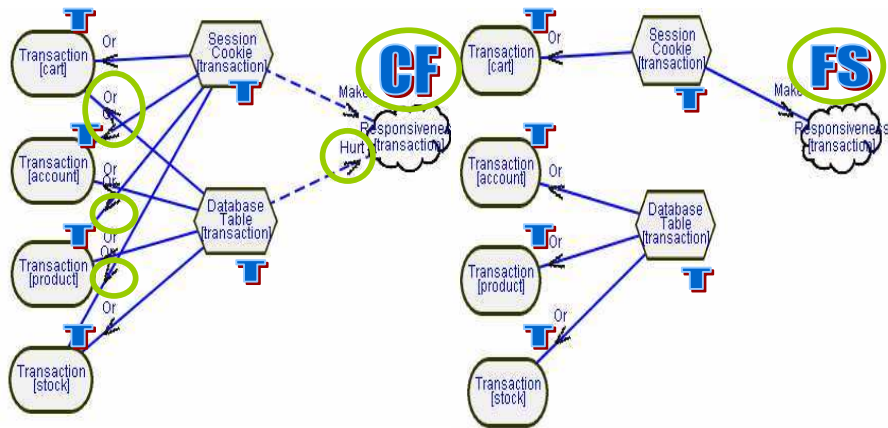


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Resolving Conflicts



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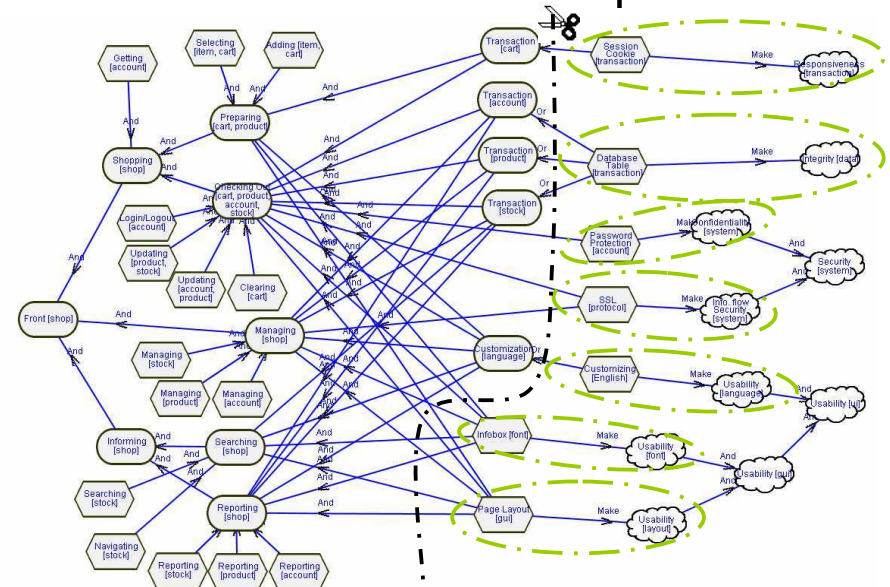
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Result candidate aspects



Goal Aspects

```
goal aspect Responsiveness[transaction] {
  pointcut transaction():
    Preparing[cart,product] ||
    CheckingOut[cart, product, account, stock];
  required () by: transaction() {
    SessionCookie[transaction]();
  }
};
```

- AspectJ-like syntax
- Allow weaving the operationalized tasks with goals specified in the pointcut

Your exercise

- Reverse Engineering
 - Identify some aspects in the OpenOME
 - Clone-detection or Callgraph extraction
 - Goal analysis
- Forward Engineering
 - Implement some new NFR through AspectJ

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4. Summary

- The concepts of aspect-orientation
- The practise of AOP, AOSD, AORE, AOSR
- A Case study of AORE

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Further readings

- [AOP] G. Kiczales, J. Lamping, A. Mendhekar, C. Maeda, C. Lopes, J.-M. Loingtier, and J. Irwin. "Aspect oriented programming". *LNCS*, 1241:220--242, Oct. 1997.
- [AOPRefactoring] C. Zhang, H.-A. Jacobsen. "Refactoring Middleware with Aspects". *TPDS* 14(1):1058-1073. 2003
- [AOMining] C. Zhang, H.-A. Jacobsen. "PRISM is research in Aspect Mining". *OOPSLA*, 2004.
- [AORE] Y. Yu, J.C. Leite, J. Mylopoulos. "From goals to aspects: discovering aspects from goal models". *RE'04*, 2004.

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What's next ...

- A tutorial on aspect-oriented programming tools
 - AspectJ
 - Eclipse/AJDT
 - Visualizing Aspects
 - Aspect mining tool
- A lecture on (aspect-oriented) Software Reuse
 - Q7 in the OpenOME

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