

Model Driven Design of Web Applications

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WEE Net Summer School
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Departamento de Informática

Schedule

Mon June 19	Introduction/ Overview (Schwinger)	1h
	Requirements Modeling	75m
	Conceptual Modeling	30m
Tue June 20	Navigation Modeling - Navigational Classes	60m
	Project activity Start modeling the example problem	45m
Wed June 21	Navigation Modeling - Contexts and Access Structures	90m
	Project activity Navigation modelling of example problem	45m
	Interface Design	60m
Thu June 23	Project activity Introduction to HyperDE – understanding the environment, start of implementation of solution to example problem	75m
	Project activity Finishing the implementation of example problem	120m
Fri June 24	Wrap-up Overview of what has been done Discussion on further work	30m

My Own Bias

- Web applications are “Advanced Information Systems”
- Solution to complex problems is done by a *man-machine team*; the part done by the machine is an Advanced Information System
- Advanced Information Systems allow knowledge representation:
 - “informally”, when processed by the human being (hypertext/hypermedia)
 - “formally”, when processed by the computer (AI, KBSs, DBs, IR, etc...)
 - Boundary between formal and informal is arbitrary and can be moved

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My Own Bias

- Hypertext paradigm is used to
 - Help humans process informally represented knowledge
 - Integrate both representation
- Interactivity
 - Paradigm shift - non-sequential, user-controlled
 - Time dependent data

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Design Issues for Web applications

- How do we characterize what tasks are to be supported?
- What are the information items?
- How does one navigate and process information items?
- How are information items perceived?
- How do we take the user into account in the application itself?
- Can we reuse designs effectively?
- Can we be systematic in the process?

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Some premises

- Should be Model-based
 - allow abstractions to control complexity
- No single model solves it all!
- Should support various possible software architectures
- Should have a diagrammatic notation whenever possible
- Domain Specific Languages (DSLs) should be employed when possible

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Graphical Notations

- Are graphical notations really easier?
- Human being has special purpose hardware – cognitive apparatus
- Map visual properties onto domain properties
 - shape
 - color
 - position
 - size
- Be consistent in the mapping
- Adequate choice of visual property still an art...
- Can't express everything graphically!

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Some premises

- A good Web application is a good hypermedia application
- We will use OOHDM/SHDM as a reference
 - <http://www.tecweb.inf.puc-rio.br/oohtm>

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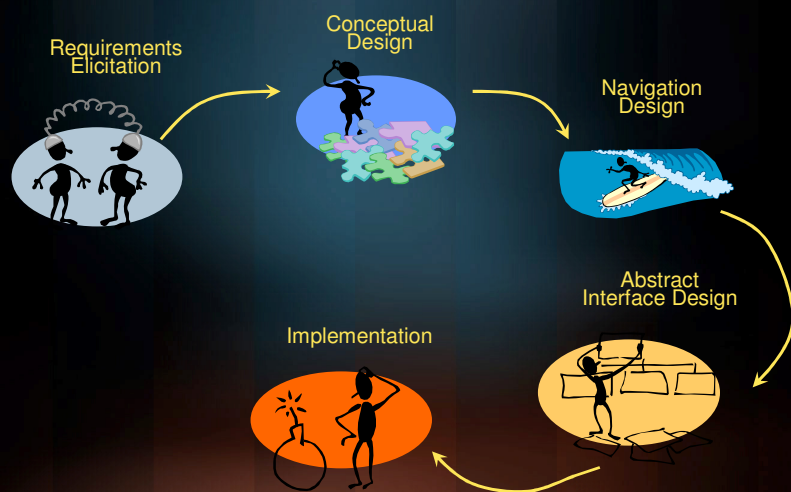
Useful abstractions

- User Interaction Diagrams
- Conceptual Model
- Navigation Model
- Abstract Interface
- Domain Specific Languages (DSLs)
- Design Patterns
- Frameworks
- Design Rationale

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OOHDM/SHDM Phases

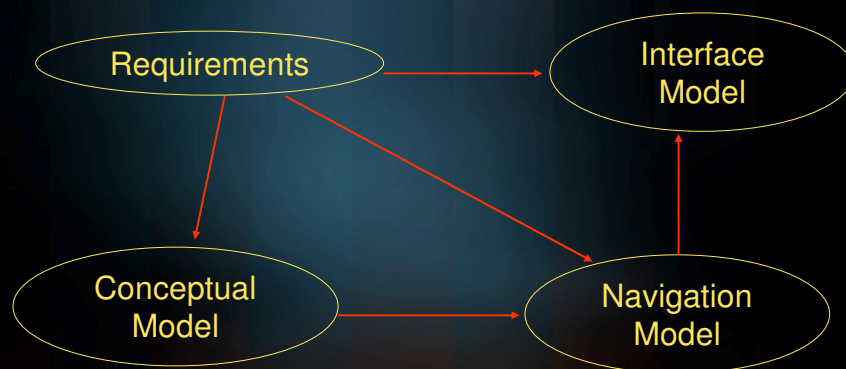


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Requirements

Requirements Elicitation



Characterizing Tasks

- Several design methods employ Scenarios and Use Cases
- Web applications allow the user to navigate through information items using their navigational structure.
- Business logic is separate from navigation

Characterizing Tasks

- User Interaction Diagrams (UIDs)
 - diagrammatic modeling technique
 - focus exclusively on the information exchange between the application and the user.
 - UIDs consider neither user interface aspects nor navigation aspects.
- UIDs support the synthesis of
 - conceptual model
 - navigation structure
 - interface elements

Proposed method

Steps

1. Designer familiarization with domain;
2. Scenario specification;
3. Use Case specification;
4. UID specification;
5. User validation;
6. Synthesis of conceptual schema.

1. Designer familiarization with Domain

- Analysis of documents and interaction with users themselves.
- Results:
 1. Identification of Classes of Users
 2. Identification of Potential Scenarios

1.1 Identification of Classes of Users

- Users are people that exchange information with the application
- Classes of Users represent users that perform the same set of tasks.
- Note: Users only discuss scenarios for tasks they perform

1.2 Scenario Identification

- A scenario describes how a task is carried out from the user's point of view.
- First scenarios are identified, and described later.

Exemple – CD Store

1.1 User classes

- Client

1.2 Potential Scenarios

- Buy a CD given its title;
- Buy a CD given a song title;
- Buy a CD given the name of a song composer;
- Buy a CD given a performer's name;
- Find information about a CD;
- Find CDs of a given genre;
- See most popular CDs;
- ...

2. Scenario specification

- Users describe scenarios for the tasks they wish to perform
- Scenarios should not focus on interface or implementation details
- Scenarios are described in natural language

Example – CD Store

- **User 2**

1. Buy a CD given a performer's name.

I type the performer's name or some prefix, and the application shows the performers that match the entered string.

I choose the performer of interest, and its CD's are shown, with a picture of the CD cover.

I select the CD I'm looking for, and it is added to my shopping cart. It would be nice to see the CD price as well.

I can buy more than one CD by clicking on the ones I desire.

Example – CD Store

- **User 1**

1. Buy a CD given a performer's name.

I want to buy a CD by Caetano Veloso; I type his name, and get a list of his CDs. For each CD, its year, number of tracks, availability and price are shown. It is also possible to find out more details about a CD, such as track names, track time, composer, an image of the CD cover. For some tracks it is possible to listen to an excerpt. I select the CD I want, and I can go back to see information about other CDs. To finalize my purchase, I may remove CDs from the order or add new ones. I can may confirm or cancel the order.

3. Use Case Specification

- All scenarios for the same tasks are gathered and consolidated
- A step-by-step description of the task is synthesized
- Additional information may be included
- Referral to other scenarios made when applicable

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Use Case - ex: CD Store

- **Use Case 4:** Buy a CD given a performer's name.

Scenarios: 1.1 / 2.1 / 3.4 / 4.1 / 5.2 / 6.1 / 6.4

Description:

1. The user enters the name (or part of it) of the performer's name. If desired, he may also enter the year or period of the CD.
2. The system shows a list of performers matching the input. If there is only one match, a list of CDs is shown (step 4).
3. The user selects the desired performer.
4. The system shows a list of CDs of that performer. For each CD, the title, performer name, year, price, availability, cover picture, country and genre are shown.

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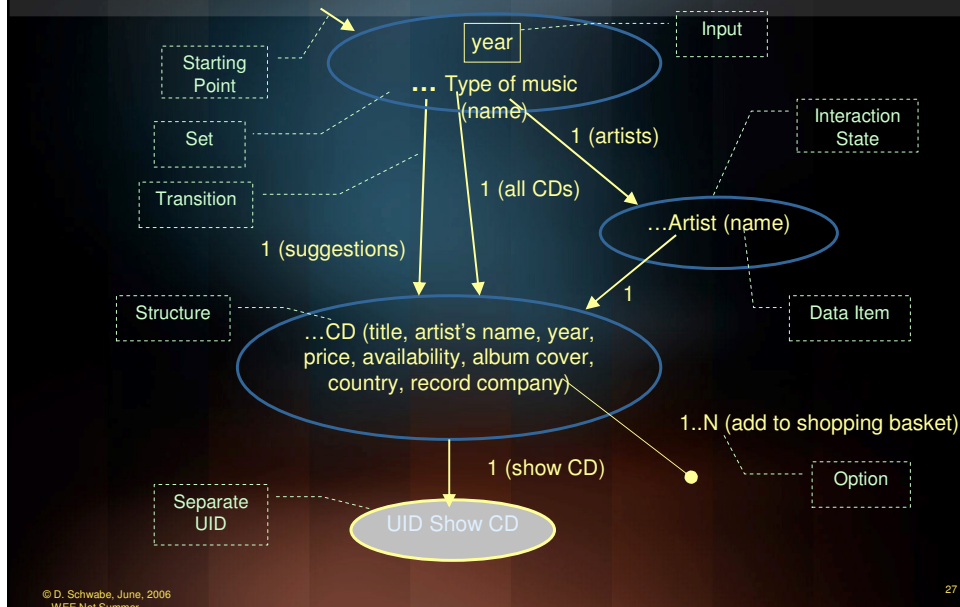
Use Case - ex: CD Store (cont.)

- (Use Case 4: Buy a CD given a performer's name.)
5. If the user desires, s/he may see the songs in the CD (use case **Show songs in CD**).
 6. If the user wishes to buy one or more CDs, s/he selects the desired ones to be included in the shopping cart. (use case **Buy**).
 7. Is so desired, the user may return to step 5 to select another CD by the same performer.

4. UID Specification

- One UID is specified for each Use Case.
- Graphical representation of UID.
- May be annotated with non-functional requirements and complementary information

UID Notation



UIDs - Notation

- Elipsis represent interaction between user and application
- Each elipsis shows the information exchanged between between user and application
- Arrows connecting elipsis represent processing by the application before new information is exchanged.
- Initial interaction is signaled with sourceless arrow

Synthesis of UID - ex: CD Store

- Use Case 4: Buy CD given a performer's name.

The user enters the name (or part of it) of the performer's name. If desired, he may also enter the year or period of the CD.

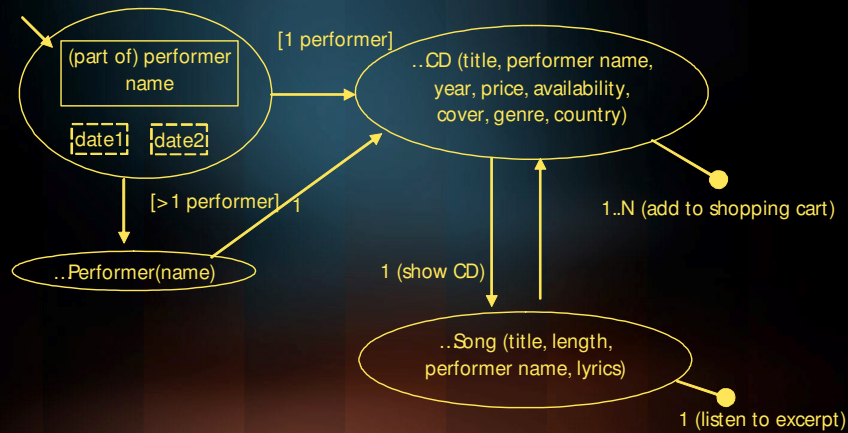
The system shows a list of CDs of that performer. For each CD, the title, performer name, year, price, availability, cover picture, country and genre are shown.

The system shows a list of performers matching the input. If there is only one match, a list of CDs is shown (step 4).

If the user desires, s/he may see the songs in the CD

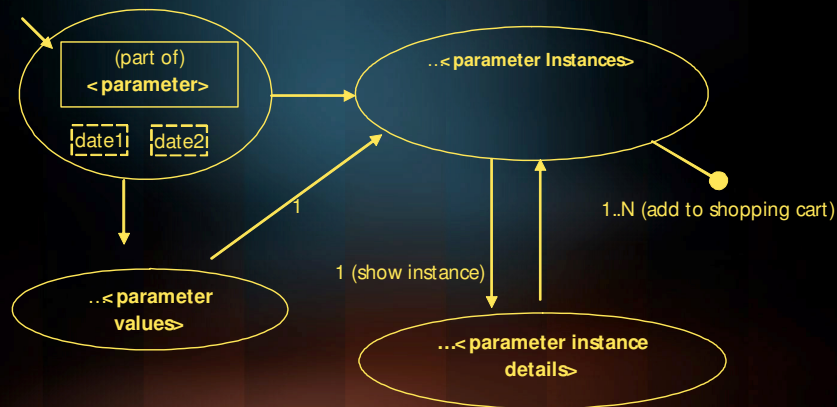
Synthesis of UID - ex: CD Store

- Use Case 4: Buy CD given a performer's name.



Parameterized UIDs

- UIDs may be parameterized.
- Validation with user use instantiated UID



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5. Use Cases and UIDs Validation

- Use cases and UIDs should be validated with users
- Differences resulting from validation must be consolidated
 - May result in more UIDs
 - May remove Use Case
 - May remove user class
- Convergence of process based on resource availability
 - Time
 - Cost

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Conceptual Design

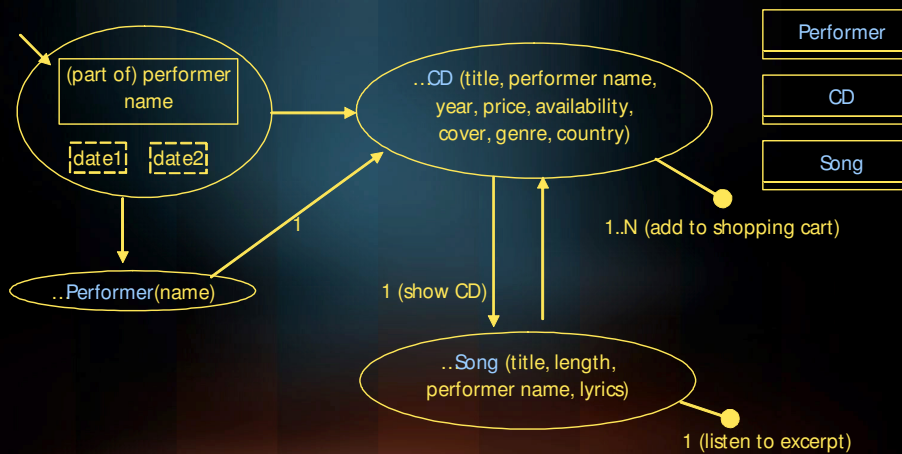
6. Synthesis of Preliminary Conceptual Schema

- A preliminary Conceptual Schema is obtained by applying guidelines
- The resulting schema must be manually complemented

Class definition

- Define a Class for each structure in the UID
- Is it assumed there is an OID attribute for each class

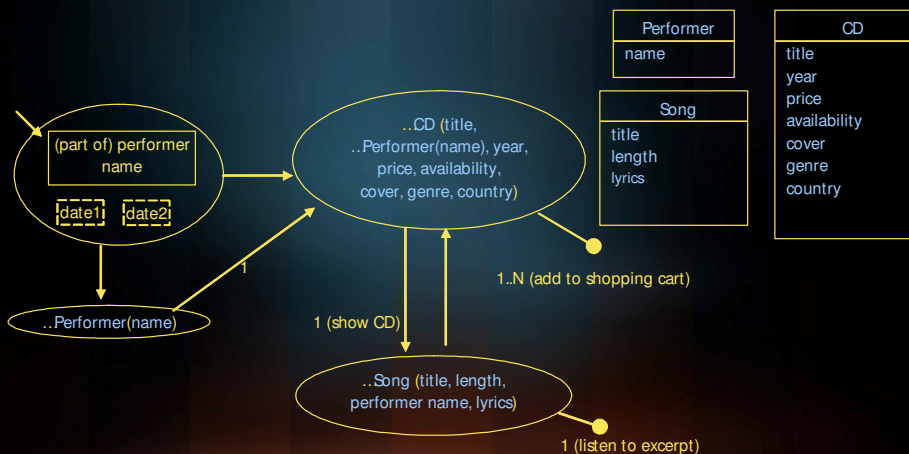
Class definition example



Attribute definitions

- Each data item becomes an attribute
- If the data item is functionally dependent on the OID of some class, but not transitively dependent on this OID,
 - the item becomes an attribute of this class
- If the data item is functionally dependent on the OID of more than one class, but not transitively dependent on them,
 - the item becomes an attribute of an association between these classes
- If the data item is not functionally dependent of any OID, or only transitively dependent of an existing OID
 - the item becomes an attribute of a new class

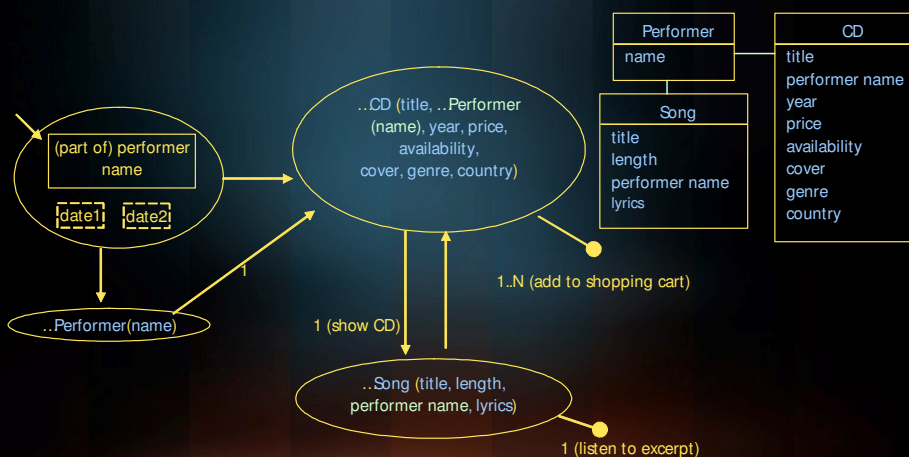
Attribute definition example



Definition of Relations

- Each attribute that appears within a structure that does not correspond to its class, there is a relation between the attribute's class and the class corresponding to the structure
- This also applies to structures within structures
- Check for semantic correctness
- Determine cardinality

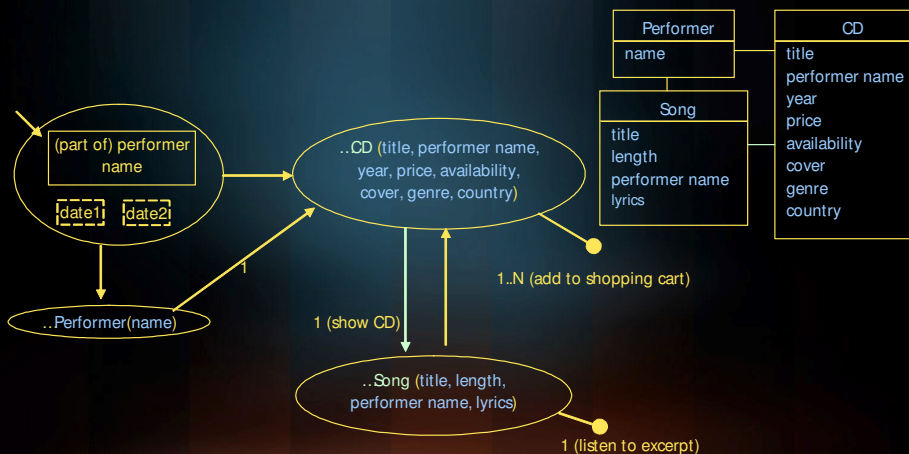
Definition of relation example



Definition of Relations

- For each interaction state transition (arrow) if the classes corresponding to the source and destination elements are different, define a relation between these classes
- Verify semantic correctness
- Determine cardinalities

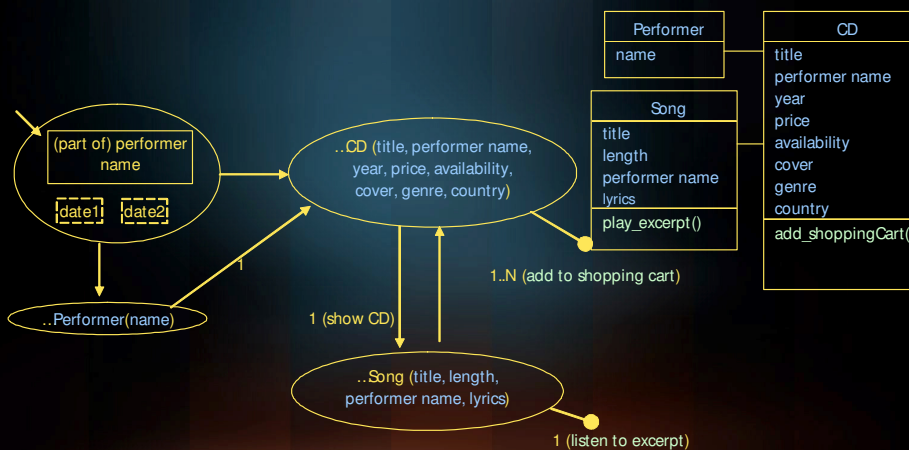
Definition of relation example



Definition of Operations

- For each option leading to an empty state, define an operation for the associated class
- Verify semantic correctness

Definition of relation example



Adjustments and Verifications

- Identify generalizations e agregations
- Define missing cardinalities
- Eliminate reduntant cycles of relations
- Check for missing attributes (incorrect Use Cases)
- If a class has been modeled as an attribute of another class, it is likely to be a terminology problem – verify class name redundancy

Navigation Design

Navigation Design

- Why Navigation?
 - important functionality whose basic semantics are known – opportunity for specialized model
- Supermarket Analogy
 - Product Kits
 - Aisles
 - Product placement

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Navigation Design must define

- What structure/items will be navigated?
 - Nodes
- How will the user navigate among items?
 - Links
 - Access Structures (choice steps)
 - Contexts (Task induced grouping)
- Can navigation items be (slightly) different depending on how they are access
 - In-Context Classes

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Navigation Object

```

CD
title
price
availability
cover
add_shippingCart()
    
```

Fina Estampa [LIVE]
 List Price: \$13.98
 Price: \$13.98 & eligible for FREE Super Saver Shipping on orders over \$25.
 Availability: Usually ships within 24 hours. Ships from and sold by Amazon.com.
 Only 3 left in stock - order soon (more on the way).
 Want it delivered Wednesday, June 21? Order it in the next 12 hours and 2 minutes, and choose One-Day Shipping at checkout. [See details](#)
 \$9 used & new available from \$6.84

Product Details
 Audio CD (January 30, 1996)
 Original Release Date: January 30, 1996
 Number of Discs: 1
 Format: [Live](#)
 Label: Polygram Records
 ASIN: B000012UVD
 Average Customer Review: **★★★★★** based on 4 reviews. [Write a review](#)
 Amazon.com Sales Rank: #40,808 in Music (See [Top Sellers in Music](#))
 Yesterday: [\\$19.99](#) in [Music](#)

Listen to Samples
 To hear a song sample, click on "Listen" by that sample. Visit our [audio help page](#) for more information.

1. O Samba E O Tango	Listen	Listen
2. Lamento Borincano	Listen	Listen
3. Fina Estampa	Listen	Listen
4. Cucurucucu Paloma	Listen	Listen
5. Haiti	Listen	Listen
6. Cancão De Amor	Listen	Listen
7. Sopa de Leão	Listen	Listen
8. Labrice Que Bejai	Listen	Listen
9. Você Esteve Com Meu Eam?	Listen	Listen
10. Vete De Mi	Listen	Listen
11. La Barca	Listen	Listen
12. ¡Ay, Amor!	Listen	Listen

Navigation Objects

```

NewsStory
title: string
content: text
photo: image*
publicationDate: date
    
```

Running Out of Bubbles
 By PAUL KRUGMAN
 Remember the stock market bubble? With everything that's happened since 2000, it feels like a distant memory. But a few economists, notably Stephen Roach of Morgan Stanley, argue that we have not yet paid the price for our past excesses.
 I've never fully accepted that view. But looking at the housing market, I'm starting to reconsider.
 In Jan. 2001, Paul McCleary, an economist at Princeton, the glass-brood fiend, predicted that the Federal Reserve would simply replace one bubble with another. "There is room," he wrote, "for the Fed to create a bubble in housing prices. It's necessary to stabilize American business. And I think the Fed has the will to do so, even though political correctness would demand that Mr. Greenspan deny any such thing."
 As Mr. McCleary predicted, interest rate cuts led to soaring home prices, which led in turn not just to a construction boom but to high consumer spending, because homeowners used mortgage refinancing to go deeper into debt. All of this created jobs to make up for those lost when the stock bubble burst.
 Now the question is what can replace the housing bubble.
 Nobody thought the economy could rely forever on home buying and refinancing. But the hope was that by the time the housing boom petered out, it would no longer be needed.
Readers' Opinions
 But although the housing boom has lasted longer than anyone could have imagined, the economy would still be in big trouble if it came to an end. That is, if the hectic pace of home construction were to cool, and consumers were to stop borrowing against their houses, the economy would slow down sharply. If housing prices actually started falling, we'd be looking at a very scary scene, as which both construction and consumer spending would plunge, pushing the economy right back into recession.
 That's why it's so ominous to see signs that America's housing market, like the stock market at the end of the last decade, is approaching the final...

What are the navigation objects?

Navigation Design (II)

- Navigation objects are *views* over conceptual objects!

CD {from c: CD}
title: string performer: p: Performer, <p.name where p PerformsIn c> songs: S: Song, <s.title where c Includes s> content: text cover: image* publicationDate: date

Navigation Design – Topology of the Navigation Space

- Node and link descriptions are too low level
- We need some abstraction analogous to the “Class” abstraction with respect to objects
- Describe sets of objects that behave analogously wrt navigation

Navigation Design - Context

- We define Navigation Contexts as sets of objects that have similar navigation properties
- Every navigation object is always accessed within a context

$$\frac{\text{Navigation Object}}{\text{Context}} \equiv \frac{\text{Object}}{\text{Class}}$$

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Defining Navigation Contexts

- A context is characterized by
 - A query for selecting its elements
 - An ordering for accessing its elements
 - An optional parameter
- Depending on the query they can be
 - class based (a filter on class attributes)
 - relation based (derived from an 1-n relation)
 - both

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Navigation Contexts - Class Derived

- Simple class based – Filter elements of a class :
 - “CDs whose genre is *Samba*”.
 - Context = $\{e \mid P(e), e \in C\}$
- Class based group – Parameterized set of simple contexts
 - “CDs by Genre”
 - Group = $\{\text{Context}_{\text{genre}}\}$,
Context_{genre} = $\{c \mid c.\text{genre}=\text{genre}, c \in \text{CD}\}$.

Navigation Context - Link Derived

- Link based – based on an 1-to-n relationship.
 - “All CDs by Tom Jobim”
 - Context =
 $\{p \mid \text{“Tom Jobim” IsAuthorOf } p, p \in \text{CD}\}$.
 - Structural links are a particular case

Navigation Context - Link Derived

- Link based group – Based on an 1-n relationship where the source instance can vary
 - “CDs by Author”
 - Group = {AuthorContext},
AuthorContext =
{c | a IsAuthorOf c, p ∈ CD, a ∈ Person}

Example of Context

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying a website. The address bar shows the URL: <http://www.portinari.org.br/ppsite/ppacervo/contextoPrincipal.asp?contexto=tema>. The page content includes a navigation menu on the left with items like 'Obras', 'Tema', 'Técnica', 'Cronologia', 'Pesquisas', 'Obras Comentadas', 'Pessoas', 'Entidades', 'Documentos', and 'Eventos'. The main content area is titled 'Obras' and features a red circle around a link that reads 'Obra 3/5 do tema Cultura Brasileira/ Músicos/ Banda de músicos'. Below this link, the page displays information for the artwork 'Chorinho, Série Os Músicos', including its dimensions (225 x 300cm), location (Rio de Janeiro, RJ), and a small image of the artwork. The footer of the page includes the text 'Acerzo Galeria Candido Portinari Centenário Portinari'.

Navigation Design - Indexes

- Indexes are sets of links to navigation elements (nodes or other indexes)
- Each element of the index must have at least one link, and may have other attributes
- Types of Indexes
 - Context derived
 - Defined by query
 - Arbitrary

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Navigational Attributes



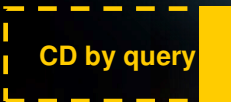
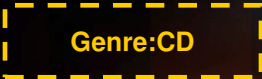
- Navigational attributes can be
 - An index
 - An anchor to an element
 - A set

CD {from c: CD}
title: string performer: anchor(Ctx(PerformerByCD(self))) songs: Idx (SongbyCD(self)) availability:integer cover: image* publicationDate: date

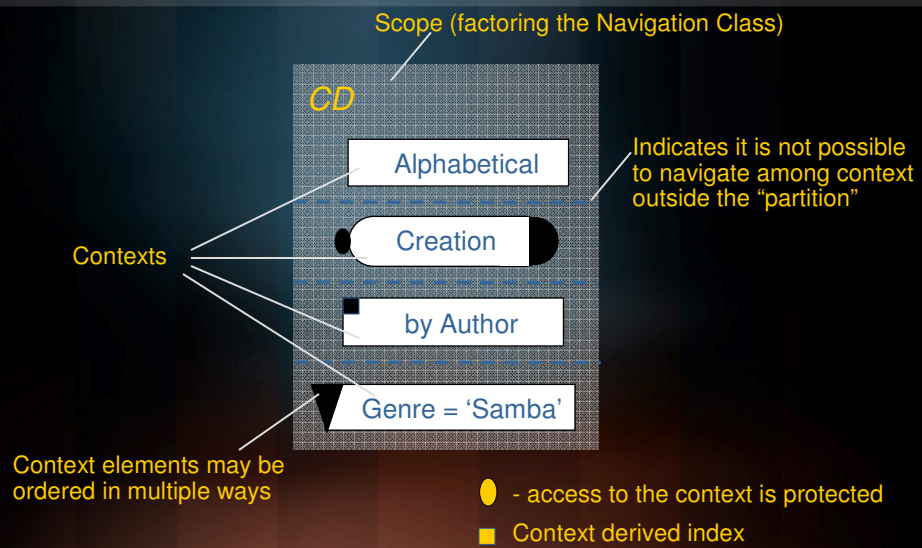
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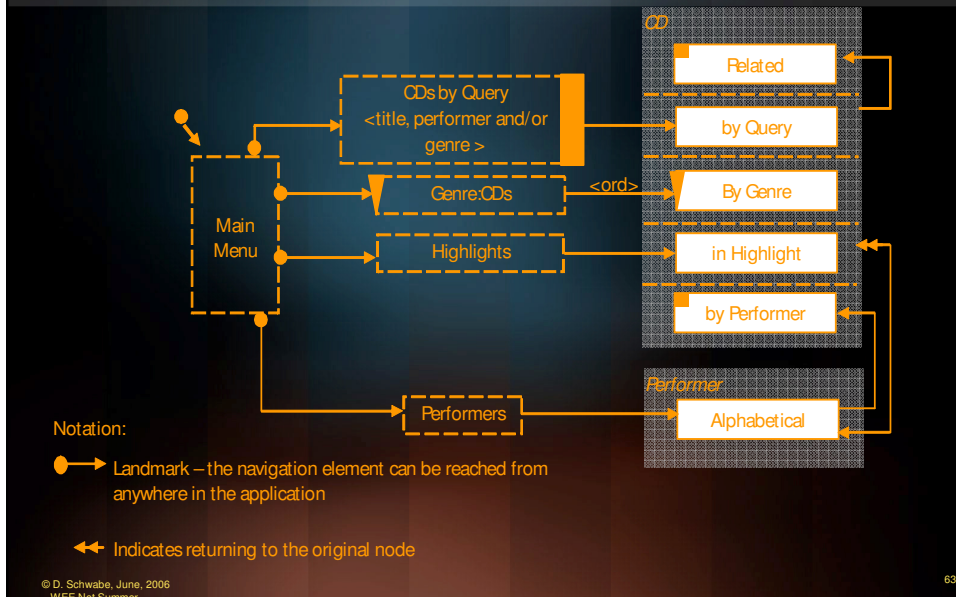
Notation: Access Structures

-  - Simple Access Structure
-  - Access structure with multiple ordering
-  - Dynamic Access structure – the query is defined at navigation time
-  - Hierarchical access structure – Selection in one level determines the elements of the next level

Notation: Navigation Context

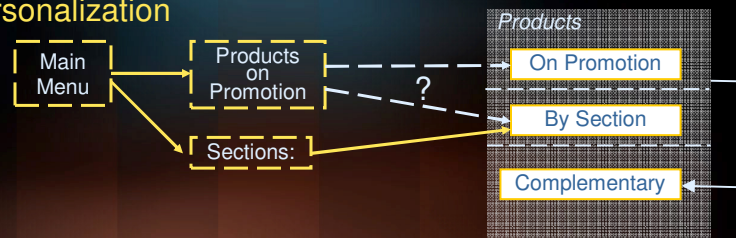


Navigation Context Schema - Example



Abstraction: Expressing Marketing Requirements

- How should navigation be for items on promotion in an e-store?
 - “Cross-sell”
 - “Loss Leaders” e “Up-sell”
 - Promotions
 - Personalization



Synthesizing Context Diagrams from UIDs

- Synthesize a partial context diagram for each task
- Unify partial context diagrams
- Complement result
- Derive Navigation Class diagram
- Derive In-Context Class diagram

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Mapping UIDs to Contexts Diagrams

- UID structures and sets are mapped onto
 - Access structures
 - Navigation Contexts
 - Lists
- Single structures are mapped onto
 - Navigation Contexts
- UID input elements mapped onto
 - Access structures

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Mapping guideline 1

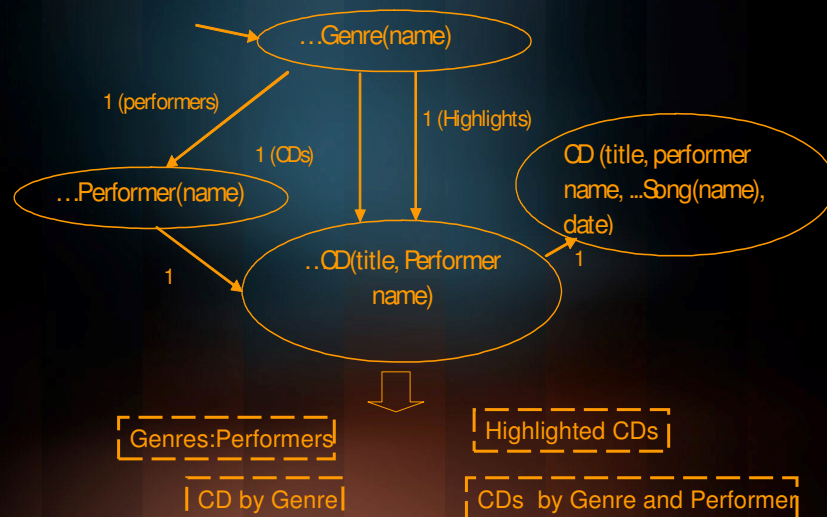
- If the task requires elements to be compared, and one or more be selected by the user, the set of structures should be mapped onto an Access Structure

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Applying guideline 1

UID: Find CDs by a performer given a genre



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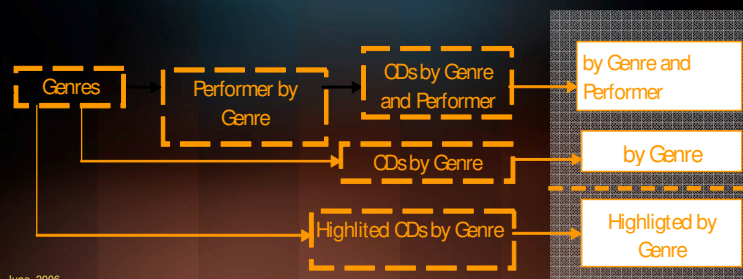
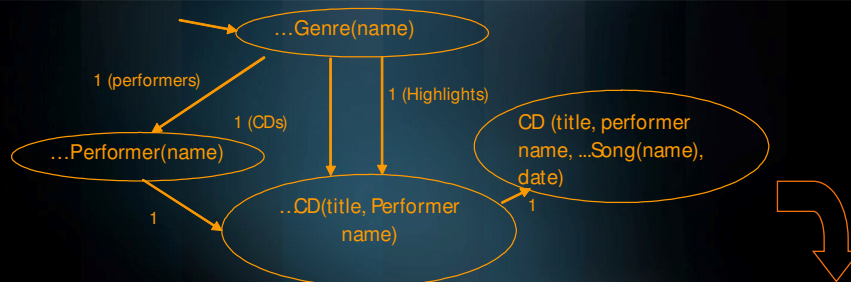
Mapping guideline 2

- If the task requires the information about a specific element to be accessed,
 - the set of structures should be mapped onto a Navigation Context
 - define the access to the context
 - context derived access structure
 - anchor to an object in the context
 - Name the context accordingly
- Similarly for single structures

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Applying guideline 2



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Mapping guideline 3

- If the task does not require set elements to be compared, but they must be accessible at the same time, the set should be mapped onto a list.
 - List of song titles for CD

Mapping guideline 4

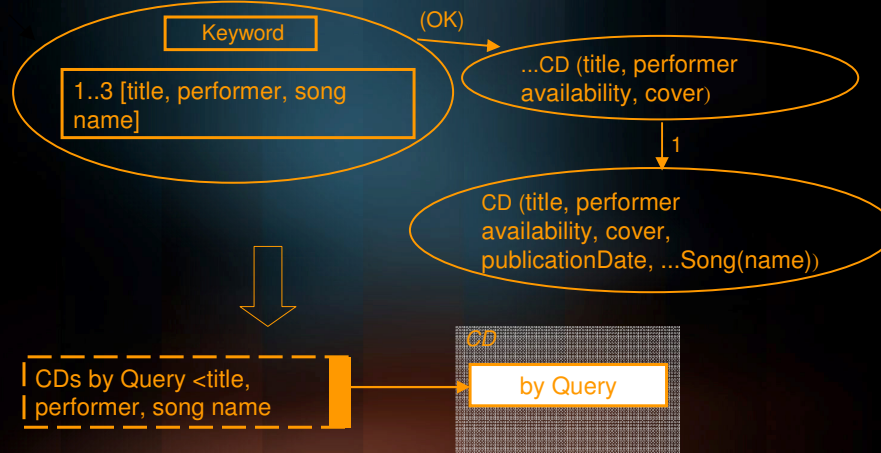
- When the task requires a search or selection to return a specific element, map the data input onto an Access Structure
- If the data input is followed by a state showing structures of the same kind, both the data entry and the state are mapped onto a single access structure

Refining the type of Access Structure

- If the user makes *arbitrary queries*
 - map the input state and resulting state into a dynamic access structure
- If the user can generate the possible input values
 - map the input state and the resulting state into a single or hierarchical access structure

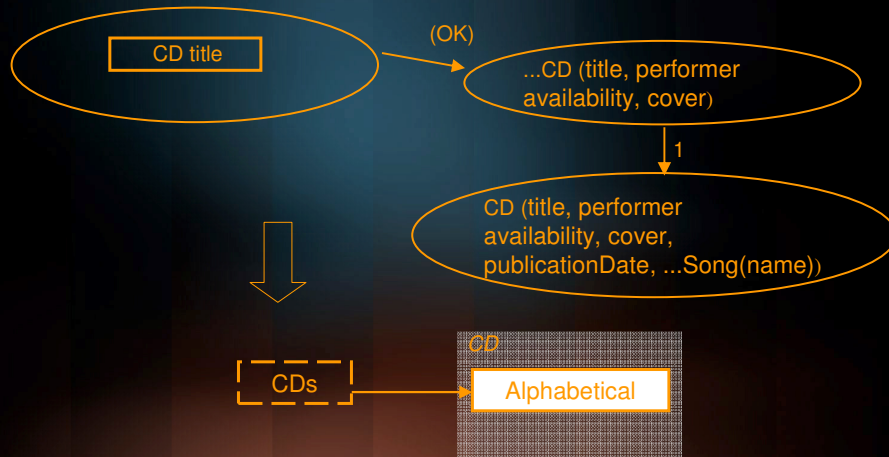
Example 1

- Arbitrary query



Example 2

- system can generate the options



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Validation of Task Navigation

- Generated navigations should be validated with users
- Convergence based on resource availability
- May lead to more than one application

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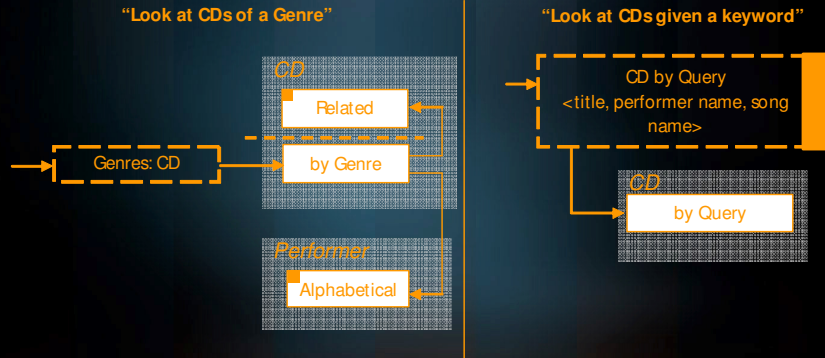
Unification of contexts

- Incrementally unify partial navigation schemas
- After each unification step
 - generate a new context schema
 - update object vision cards

Context unification

- The same class may appear in contexts in different partial schemas
 - Attempt to unify these contexts
 - Object views and permissions do not conflict
 - resulting context must support original tasks
 - If unification was successful
 - unify access paths to resulting context if possible
 - If unification was not possible
 - Attempt to generalize navigations in each single context to the other contexts
 - Attempt to add navigation between them

Context Unification - Example

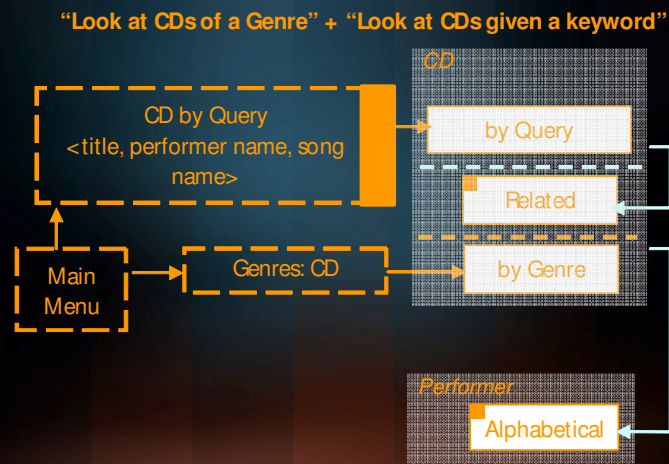


- Can we unify "CDs by Genre" and "CD by Query"?

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Context Unification - Example

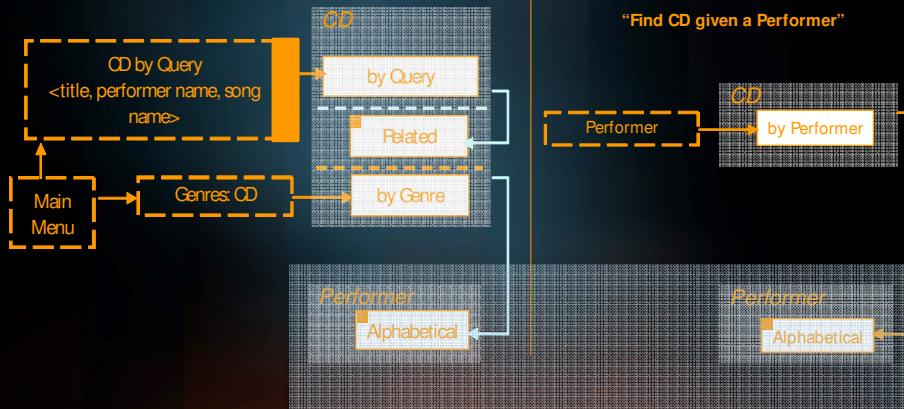


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Context Unification - Example

"Look at CDs of a Genre" + "Look at CDs given a keyword"

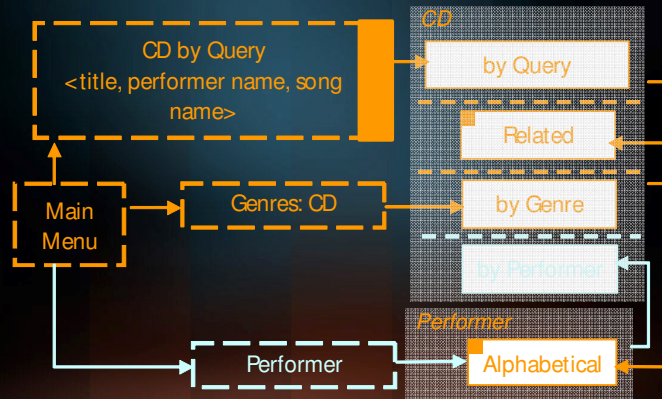


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Context Unification - Example

"Look at CDs of a Genre" + "Look at CDs given a keyword" +
"Find CD given a Performer"



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Abstract Interface Design

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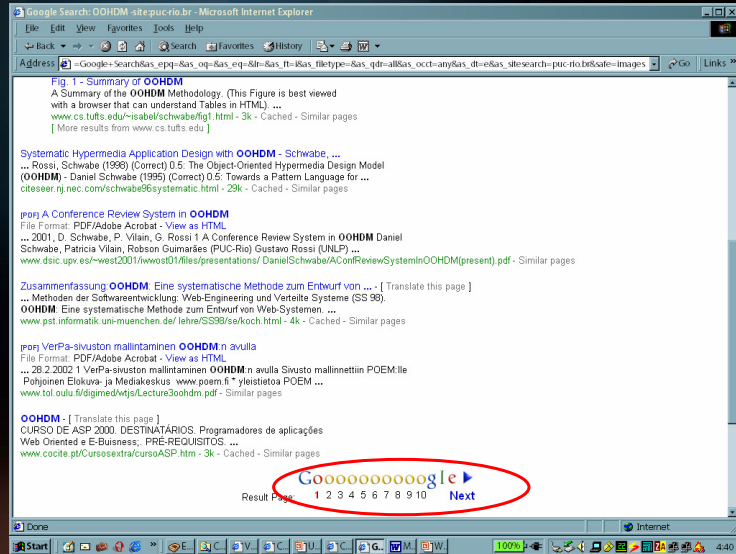
Interface Design

- Interface design is decoupled from navigation
 - Not everything you click is a link!
- Abstract Interface
 - Interface is composed of a set of perceivable interface objects
 - Presentation objects are mapped to navigation objects
 - Events in the interface trigger either navigation or functions (business logic)
 - Perceivable objects change as a result of event processing
- Allows independence from technology, standards, devices

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Interface Operations



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Proposed Approach

- Factor the interface specification in two level – abstract interface and concrete interface
- Abstract Widget Ontology
 - Describes interfaces focusing on information exchange aspects
- Concrete Widget Ontology
 - Describes concrete interface widgets commonly found in implementation environments
- Ontologies currently use OWL

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Abstract Widget Ontology

- ElementExhibitor – exhibits some kind of content
 - Label
 - Text
 - Image
- SimpleActivator – reacts to external events
 - Anchor
 - Button

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Abstract Widget Ontology

- Capturer/ArbitraryValue – is able to capture some arbitrary input value
 - Single-line text box
 - Multi-line text box
- Capturer/PredefinedOptions – the value captured is chosen from a given set
 - Radion button
 - Check box
 - Combo box

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Concrete Interface Example

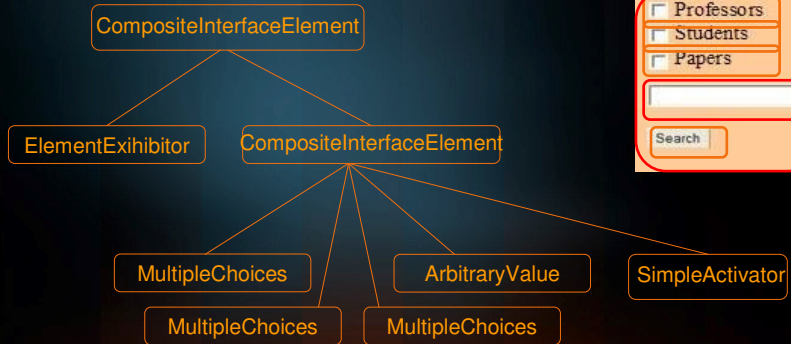
The screenshot shows a web interface with the following components:

- Home** (title)
- Main Menu** (orange box): Professors, Students, Papers
- Search** (green box):
 - Professors
 - Students
 - Papers
 - Search input field
 - Search button
- Professors A to Z** (green background):
 - John Smith**
PhD Computer Science, UCLA, 1981
 - Ph:** +55 21 3114 1500
 - Homepage:** <http://www.example.edu>
 - E mail:** jsmith@example.edu
 - Students:**
 - Peter Young
 - Alice Wu
 - Mike Shoenfeld
 - Navigation: [← Previous](#) | [Next →](#)

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“Search” Component



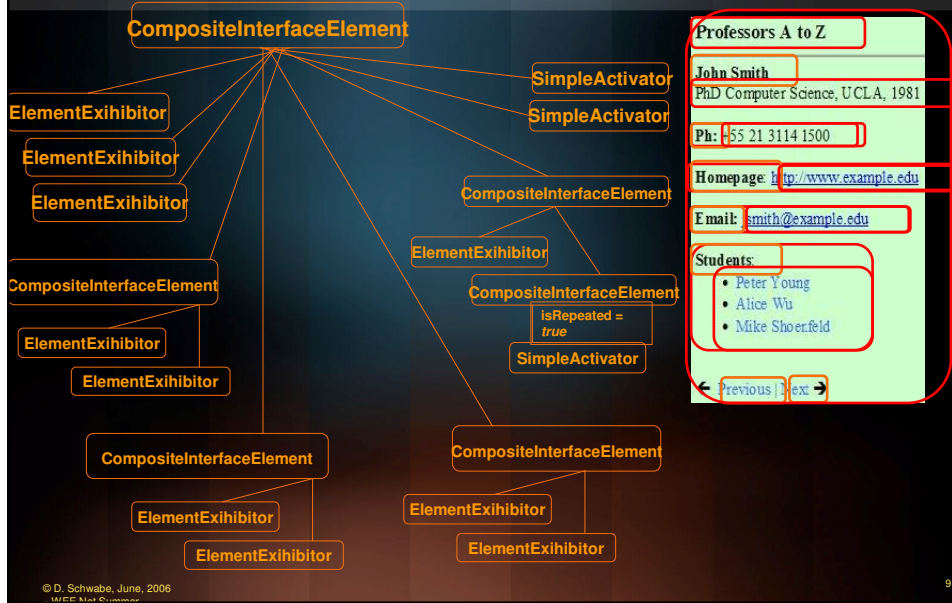
The screenshot shows the Search component with the following elements:

- Search** (title)
- Professors
- Students
- Papers
- Search input field
- Search button

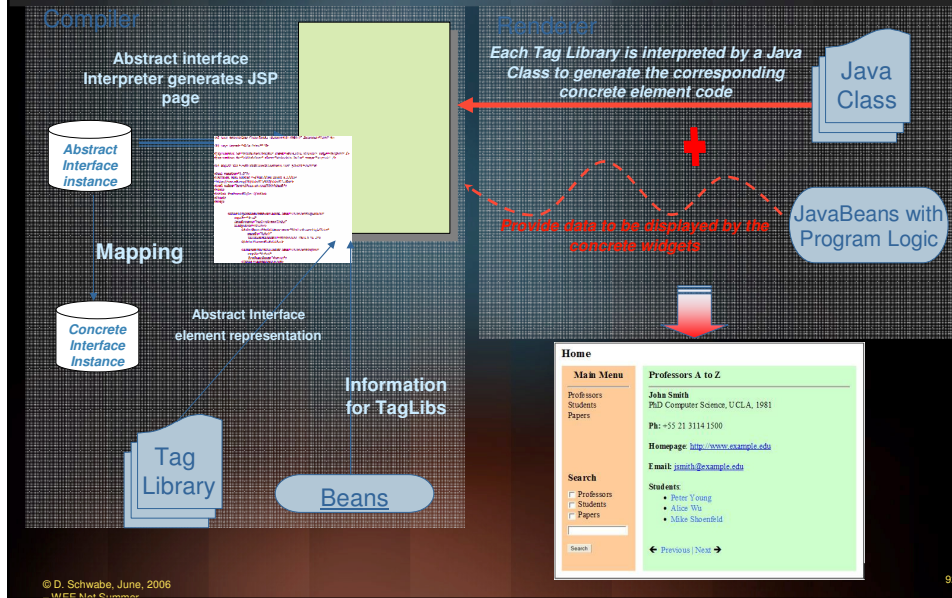
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"Professor Data" Element



Interface Generation Environment



DSL - Simplifying code

- Domain Specific Languages allow direct manipulation of modeled objects
- Can be achieved by dynamically extending existing programming language
- Overload primitive programming language with new, domain-related semantics

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Ruby / HyperDE-DSL

```
schwabe = Professor.find_by_name  
  "Daniel Schwabe"  
  
hypermedia = ResearchArea.find_by_name  
  "Hypermedia"  
  
schwabe.advises.each do |student|  
  unless student.works_in.include?(hypermedia)  
    student.works_in << hypermedia  
  end  
end  
end
```

Native Classes

Methods for persistence:
find, find_all, find_by_*
create, save, destroy

Link access
Methods

"Hypermedia"
Link access
Methods

Link value
assignment
methods

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Reuse

- “In the small” reuse of components
 - code fragments
 - html fragments
- Micro-architectures
 - Design Patterns
- Full Architectures
 - Frameworks
- Design Rationale
 - Design decision structure

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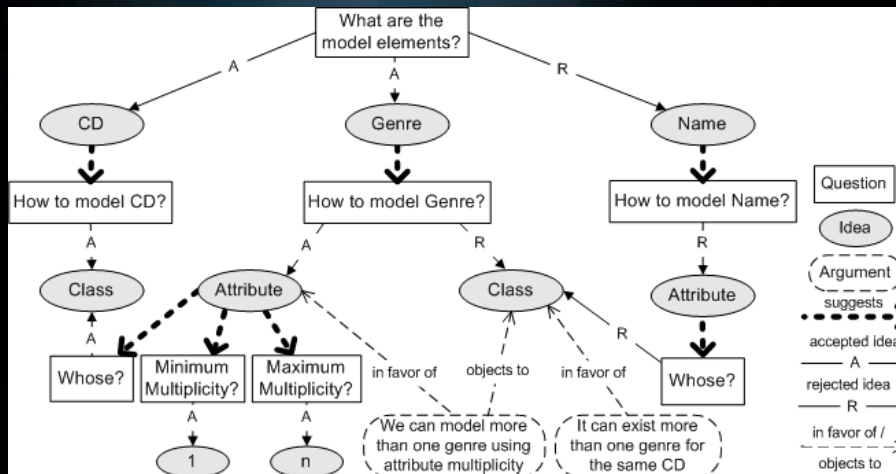
Design Rationale – Kuaba Ontology

- Vocabulary to represent design decision structure
 - Artifact
 - Idea
 - Argument
 - Decision
 - ...
- Support both reuse and group design
- Assumes designed artifact is described in a formal model

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Kuaba - Example



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Navigation Patterns

- Help to record and convey good and recurrent navigation architectures
- Can be organized in catalogues and used as “books of experience”
- Examples:
 - Landmark (to access all important sub-sites)
 - News (to indicate new products)
 - Portal (to serve as a gateway to a set of services)
 - Set-Based Navigation

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Domain-specific patterns

- In some domains, it is possible to find regular structures of problem-solution pairs
- Example: In e-commerce,
 - Opportunistic Linking (for keeping the user engaged)
 - Advising (for helping the user find products he may like)
 - Explicit Process (for helping the user understand application workflows)
 - Secure Bactrack (for maintaining consistency in navigation operations)

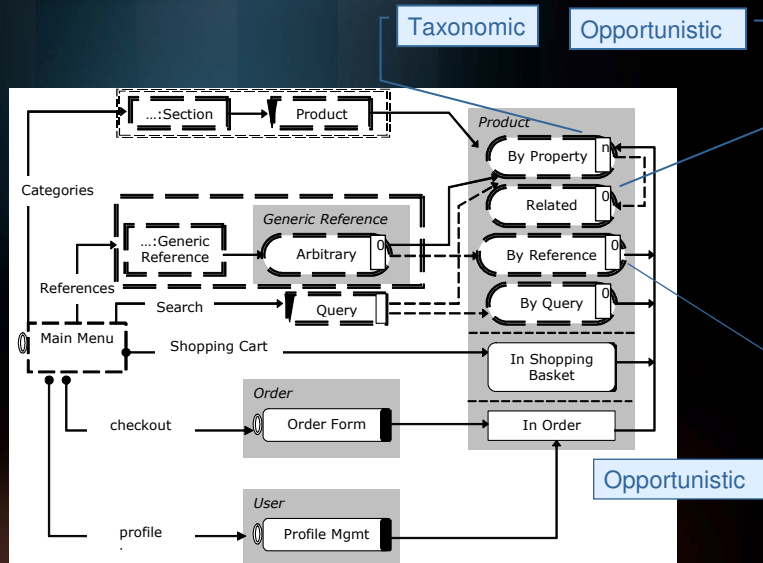
Web Frameworks

- Frameworks are skeletons of applications in a domain
- Extending the notion of framework to the Web domain:
 - Genericity in the conceptual model
 - Genericity in the navigational model (generic nodes and contexts)

OOHDM-Frame

- Uses OOHDM models and notations as a basis for defining frameworks
- A Framework is defined by a set of schemas, containing “hot spots”, and instantiation rules
 - Conceptual Class Schema
 - Navigation and InContext Class Schema
 - Context Diagram and Context Cards
- A Domain is characterized by a Conceptual Schema in OOHDM
 - The only hot spot allowed are classes that are flagged as allowing specialization during the framework instantiation

Navigation Reuse in OOHDM-Frame



Lessons Learned

- Industry still uses few methods
- Tool support
- Graphical notations can work
 - careful choices!
- Specialized vocabularies help
- Models must be used properly

Thanks! Questions?

- HyperDE
 - <http://server2.tecweb.inf.puc-rio.br:8000/hyperde>
- OOHDM Wiki
 - <http://www.tecweb.inf.puc-rio.br/oohdm>
- Authoring Course wiki
 - <http://www.tecweb.inf.puc-rio.br/autoria>
- My email
 - dschwabe@inf.puc-rio.br