



OOP as if you meant it

Messaging as a programming model

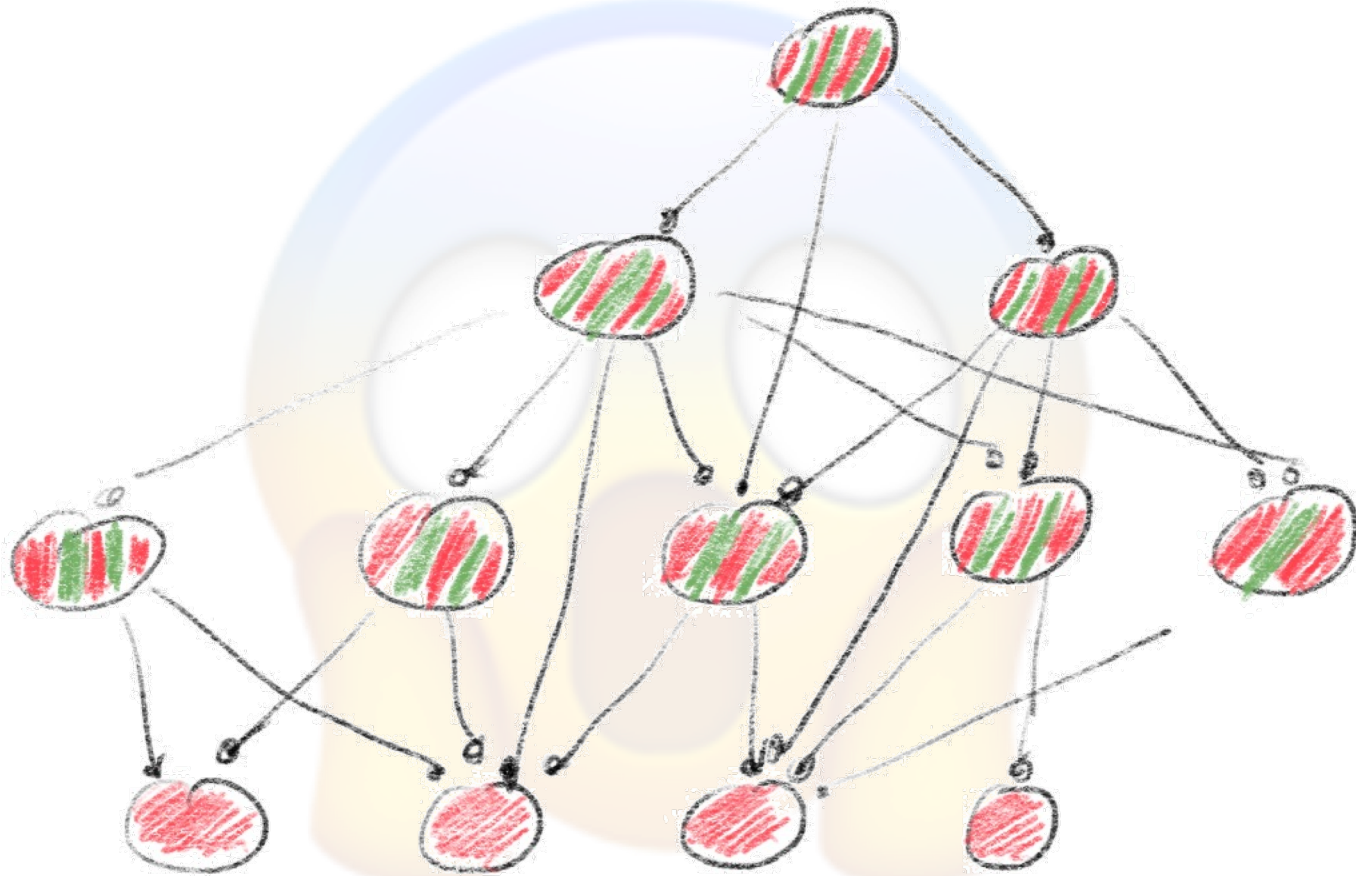
Ralf Westphal

info@ralfw.de

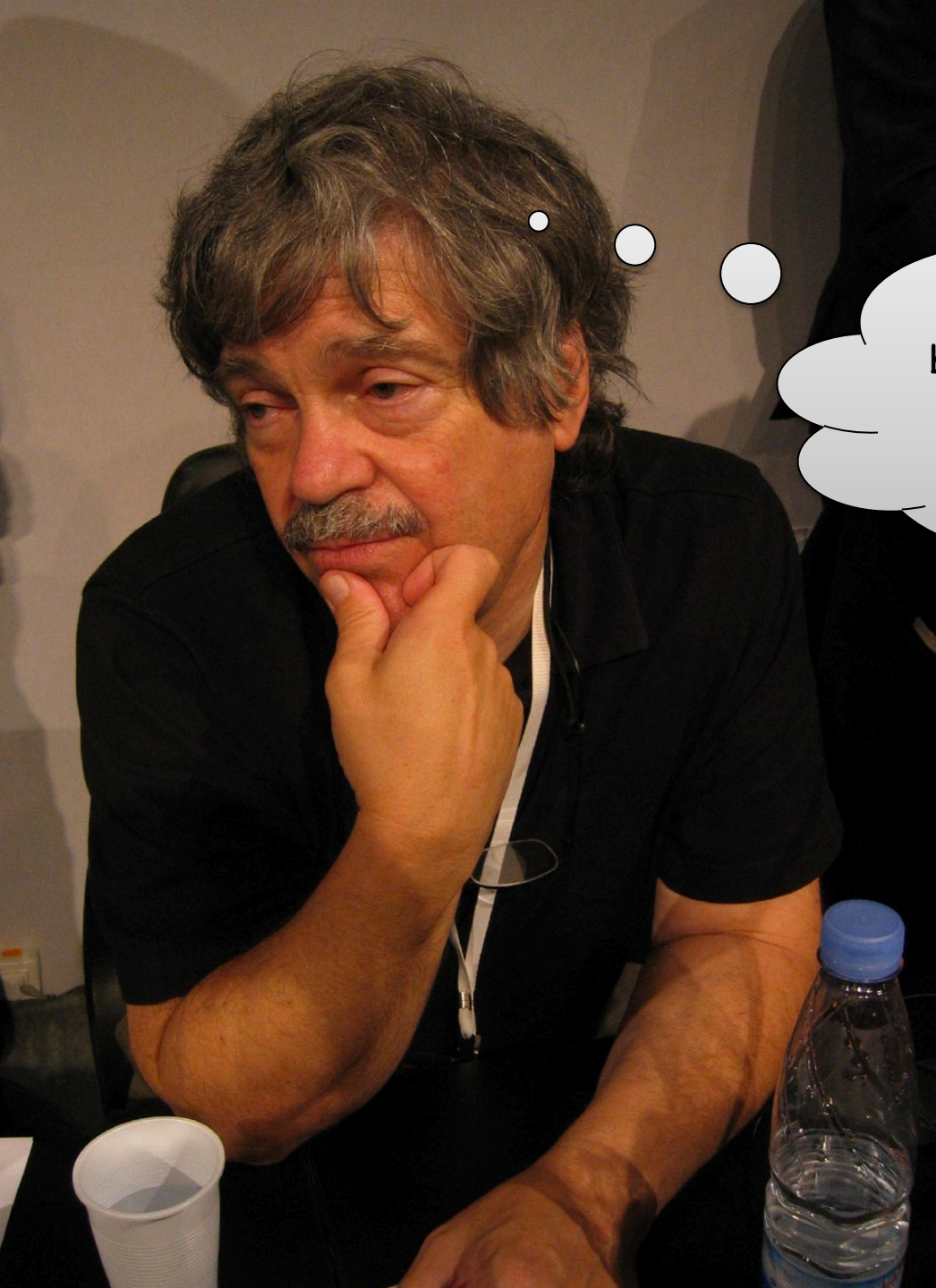
[@ralfw](#) (DE/EN)

www.ralfw.de (DE)

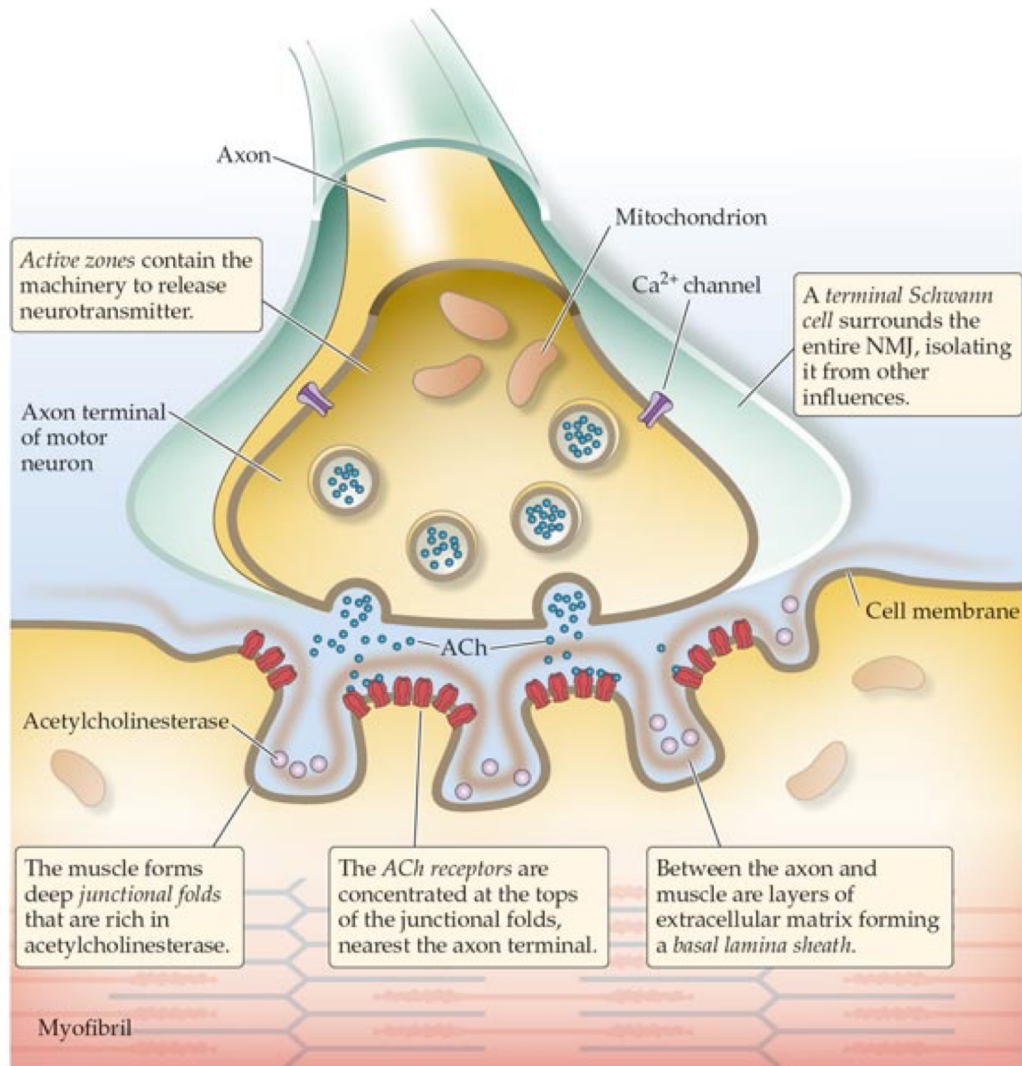
<https://ralfw.de/category/english/> (EN)



Concepts



„[I´m thinking] of objects
being like biological cells [...] only able to communicate
with messages.“



THE NEUROMUSCULAR JUNCTION



What's lacking in today's
object-orientation?
„The big idea is messaging.“

Fundamental features and concepts [edit]

See also: *List of object-oriented programming terms*

A survey by Deborah J. Armstrong of nearly 40 years of computing literature. Not all of these concepts appear in all object-oriented programming languages; for example, *prototype-based programming* does not typically use *object* and *instance*.

Benjamin C. Pierce and some other researchers view any attempt to distill the OOP programming style in most object-oriented languages:^[21]

- **Dynamic dispatch** – when a method is invoked on an object, the object determines which method to execute. This feature distinguishes an object from an **abstract data type**. This is a programming methodology that gives modular component development.
- **Encapsulation** (or **multi-methods**, in which case the state is kept separate from the methods)
- **Subtype polymorphism**
- **Object inheritance** (or **delegation**)
- **Open recursion** – a special variable (syntactically it may be a keyword) that refers to the object. This variable is *late-bound*; it allows a method defined in one class to call a method defined in a later class.

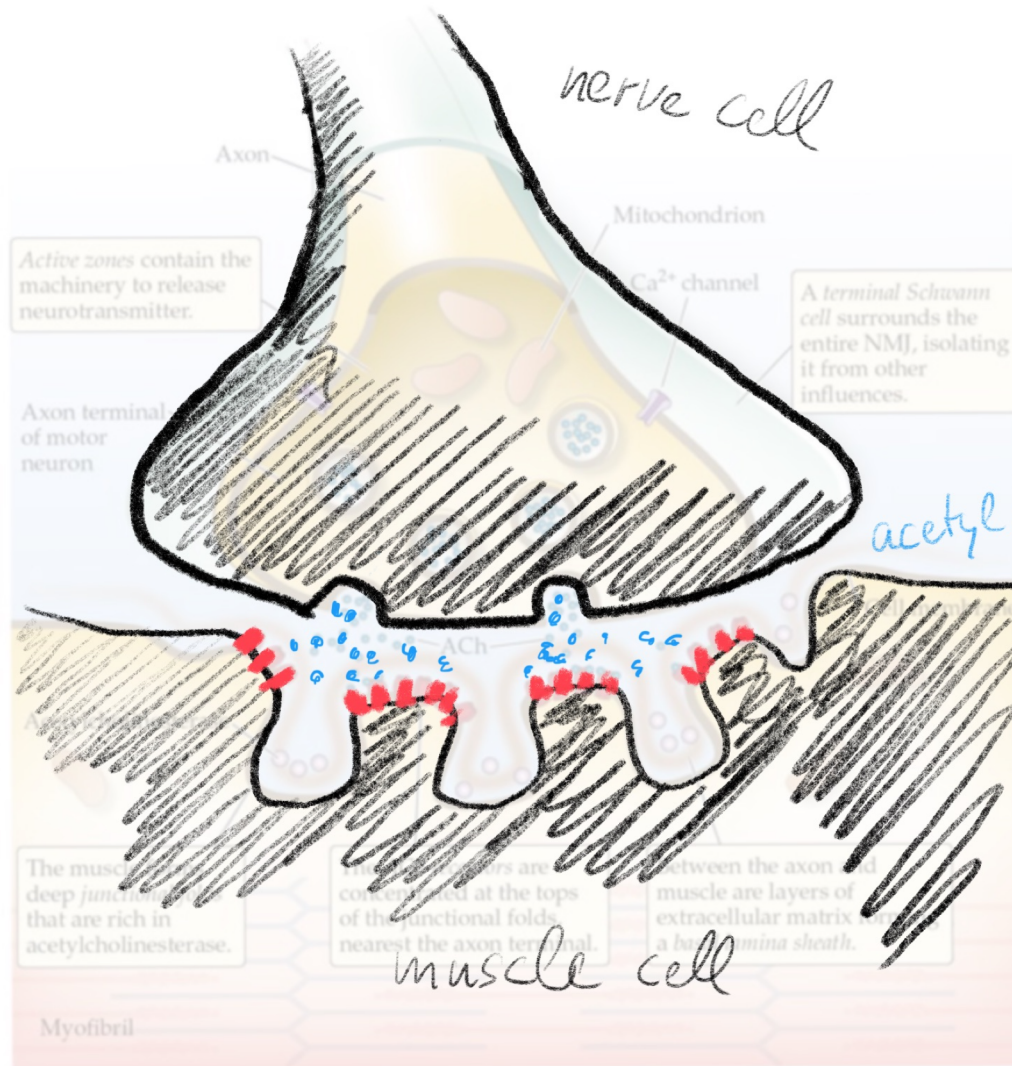
Similarly, in his 2003 book, *Concepts in programming languages*, John C. Reynolds discusses the concept of **late inheritance**.^[22] Michael Lee Scott in *Programming Language Pragmatics* also discusses this concept.

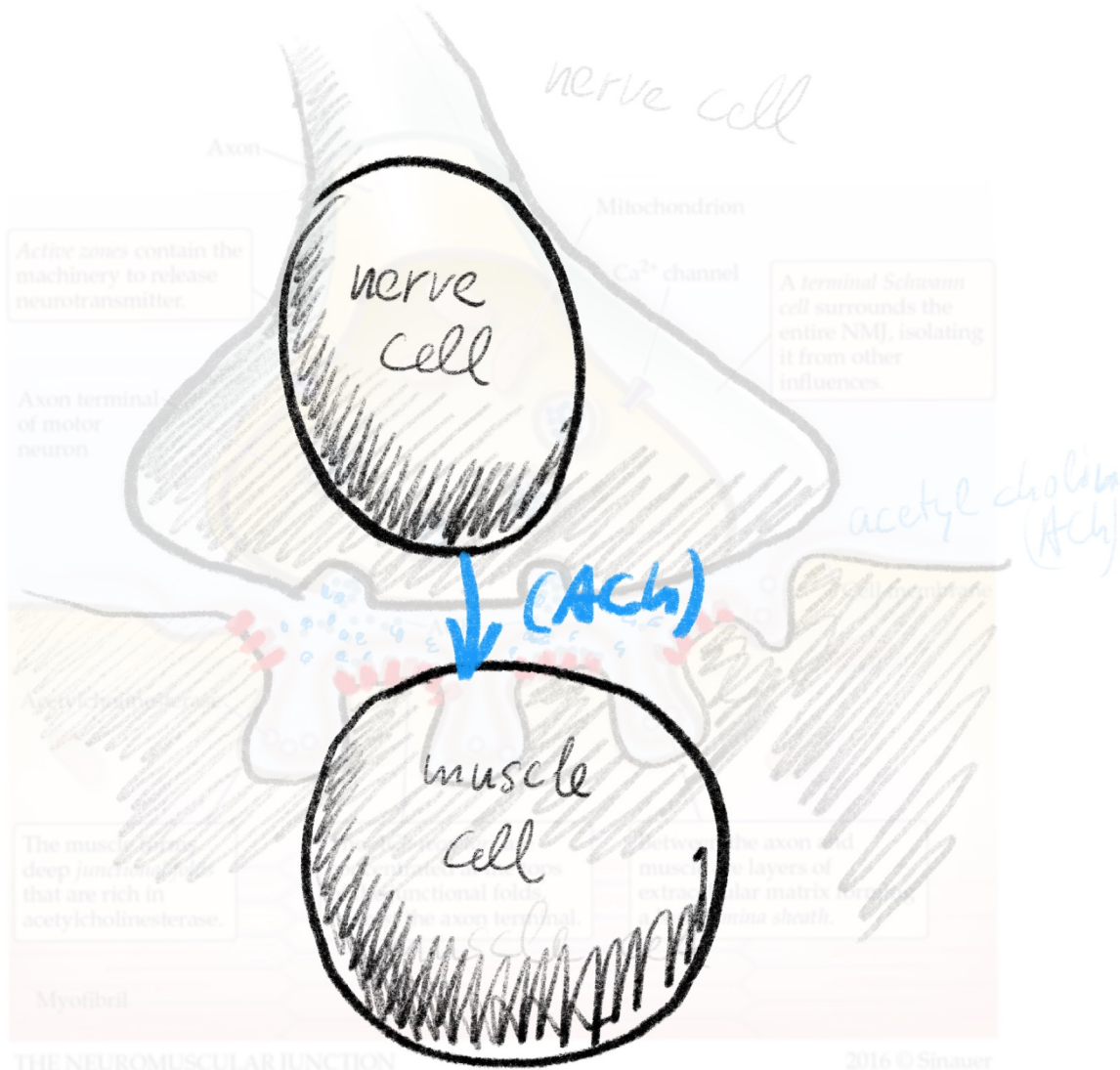
Additional concepts used in object-oriented programming include:

- **Classes** of objects
- **Instances** of classes
- **Methods** which act on the attached objects.
- **Message passing**
- **Abstraction**

Decoupling [edit]

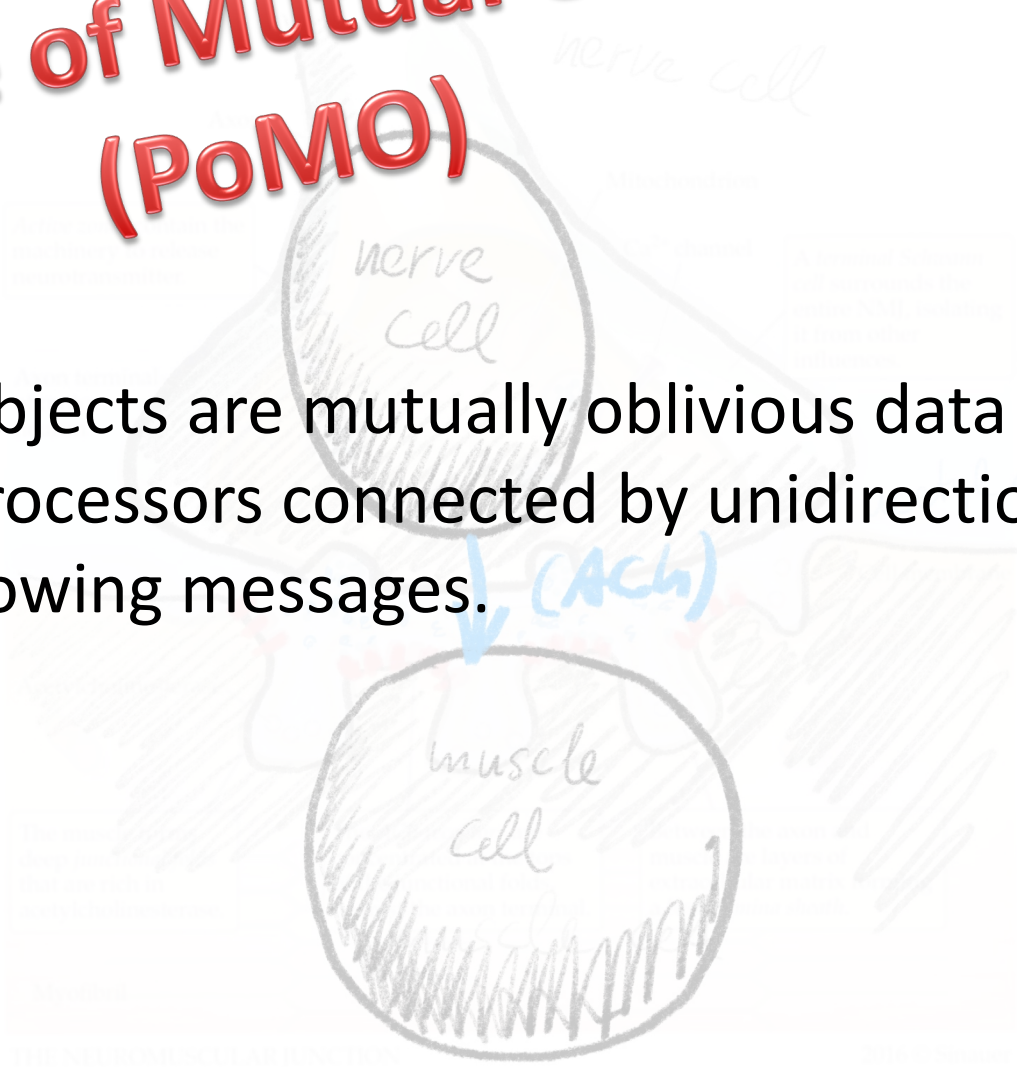
Decoupling refers to careful controls that separate code modules from parts of the system. It is used to decouple the encapsulation (see **bridge pattern** and **adapter pattern**) – for example, to separate an object's class.



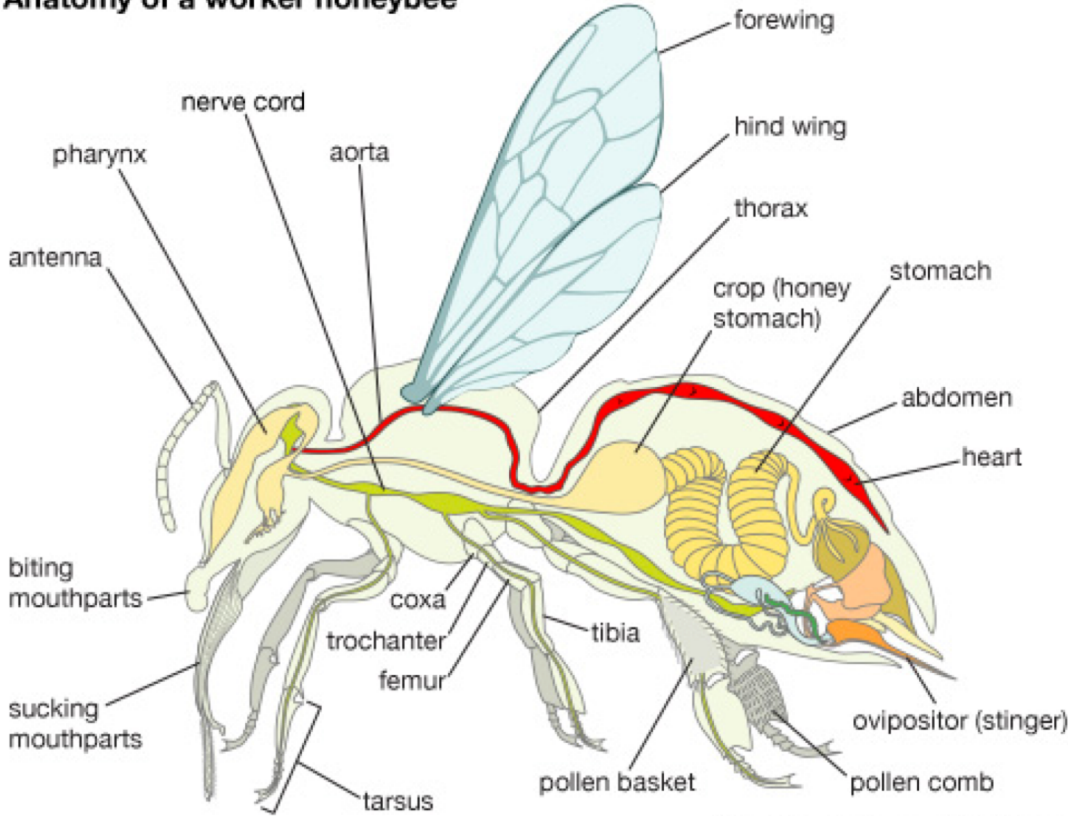


Principle of Mutual Oblivion (PoMO)

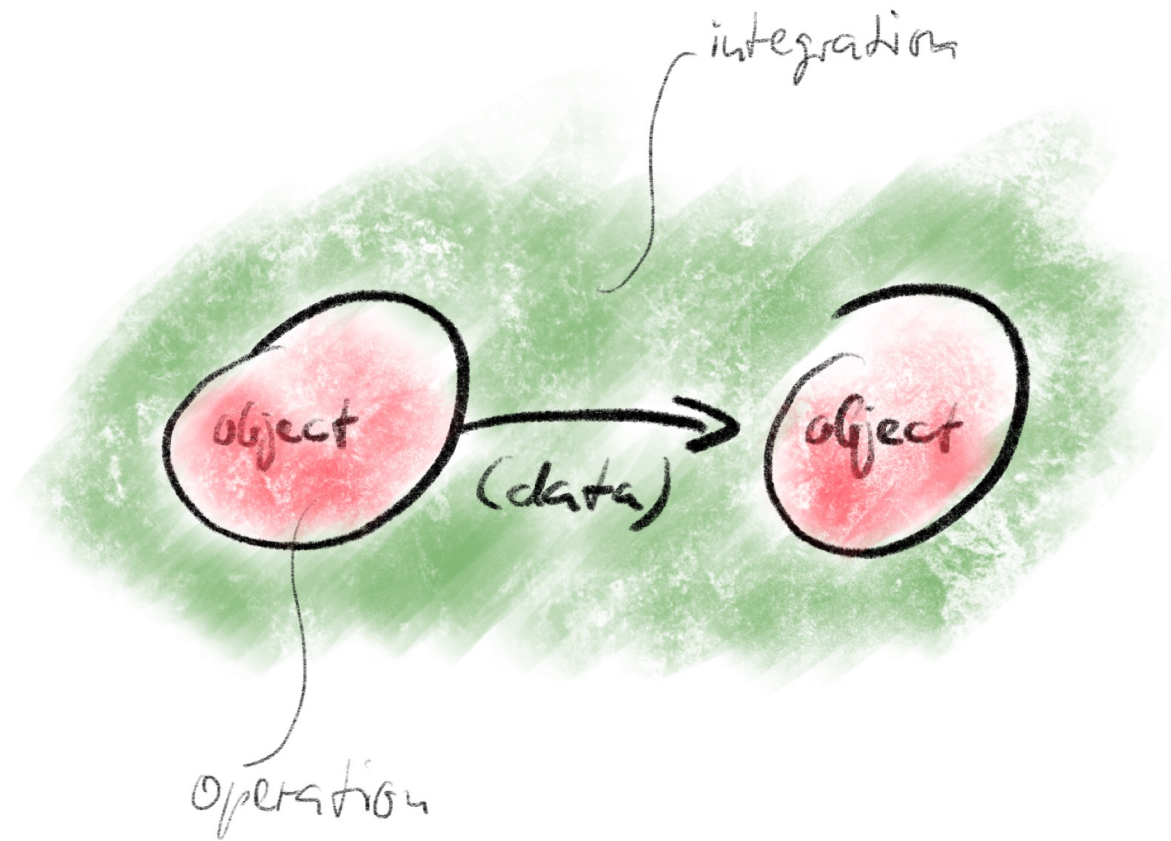
Objects are mutually oblivious data processors connected by unidirectionally flowing messages.



Anatomy of a worker honeybee





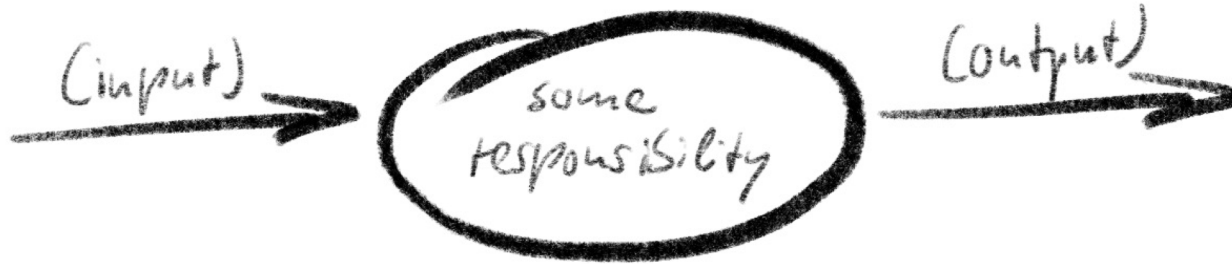


Integration Operation Segregation Principle (IOSP) *integration*

Objects are either operational, i.e. they contain only behavior creating logic¹⁾, or they are integrational, i.e. they wire together other objects into processes.

¹⁾ Expressions, control statements, I/O (API calls)

Translation



```
TOutput SomeResponsibility(TInput input) {...}

void SomeResponsibility(TInput input,
                        Action<TOutput> onOutput) {...}

class SomeResponsibility {
    public void Process(TInput input) {
        ...
        onOutput(...);
        ...
    }

    public event Action<TOutput> onOutput;
}
```


1D flow



```
var s = A(x);  
var stats = B(s);  
C(stats);
```

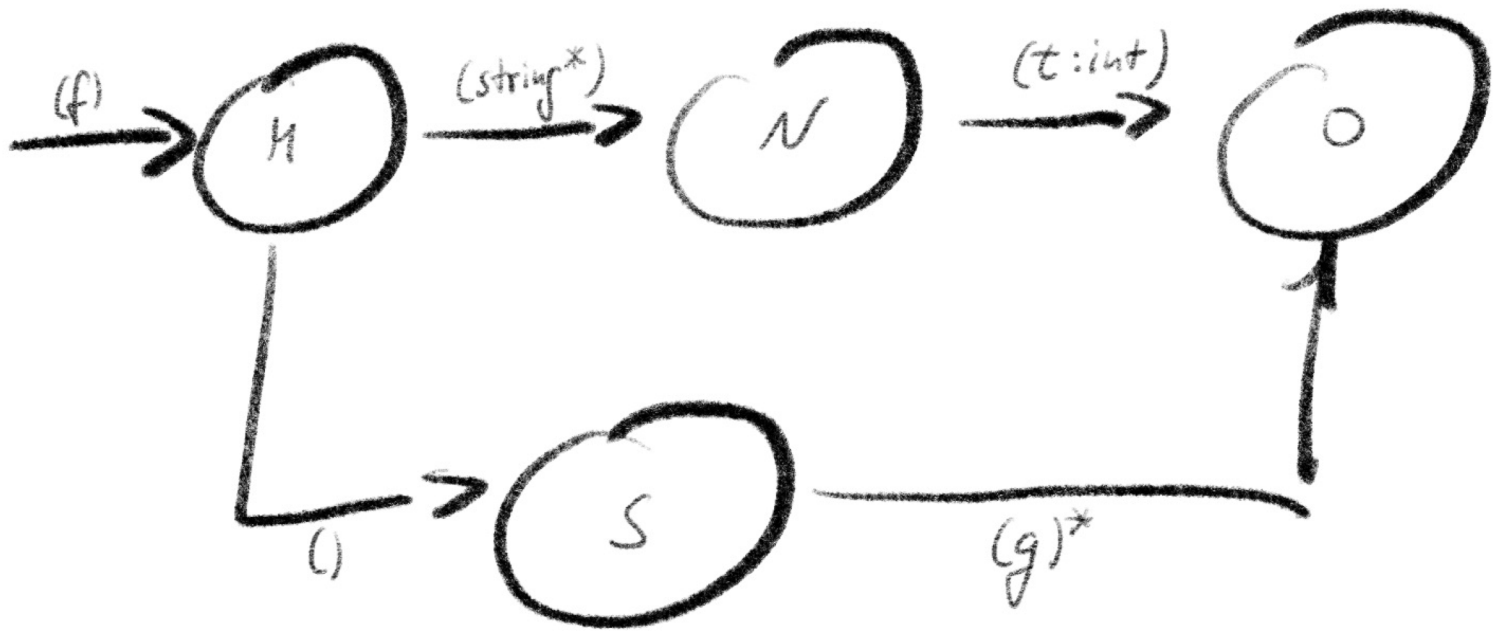
x |> A |> B |> C

```
var a = new A();  
var b = new B();  
var c = new C();
```

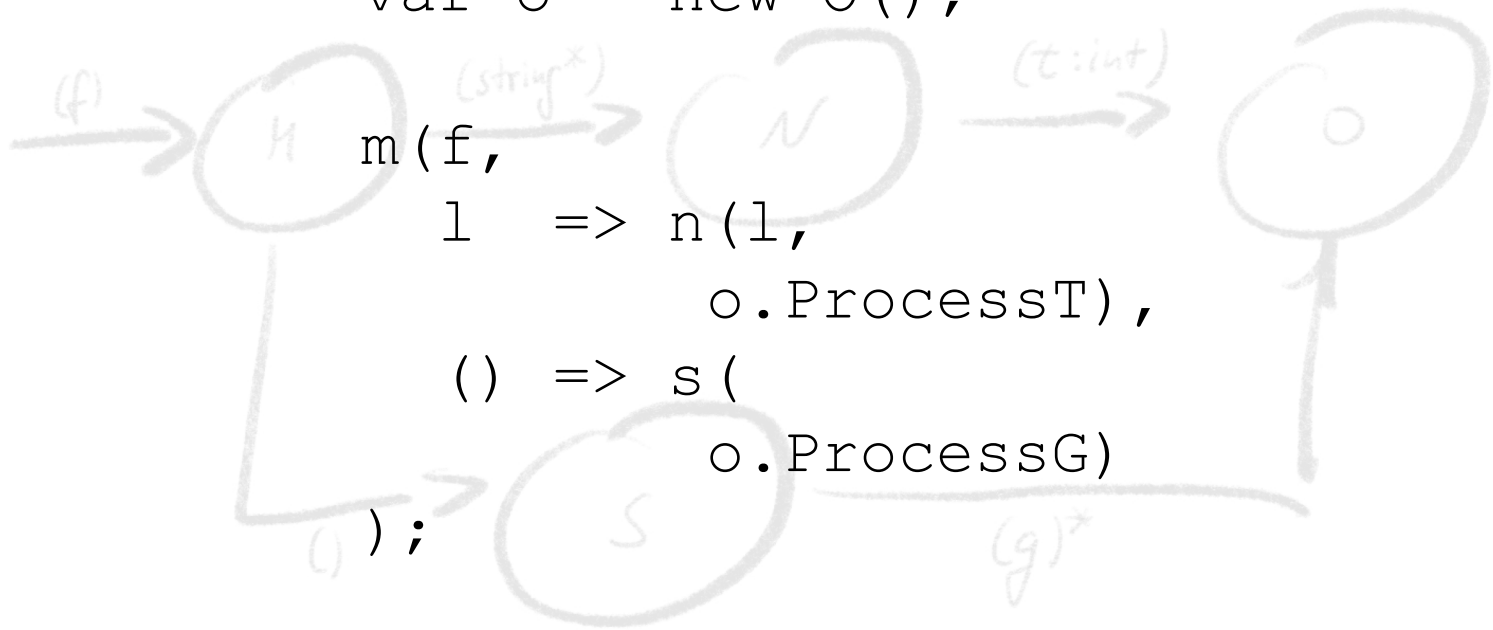
```
A(x, s =>  
  B(s,  
    C()));
```

```
a.onS += b.Process;  
b.onStats += c.Process;  
a.Process(x);
```

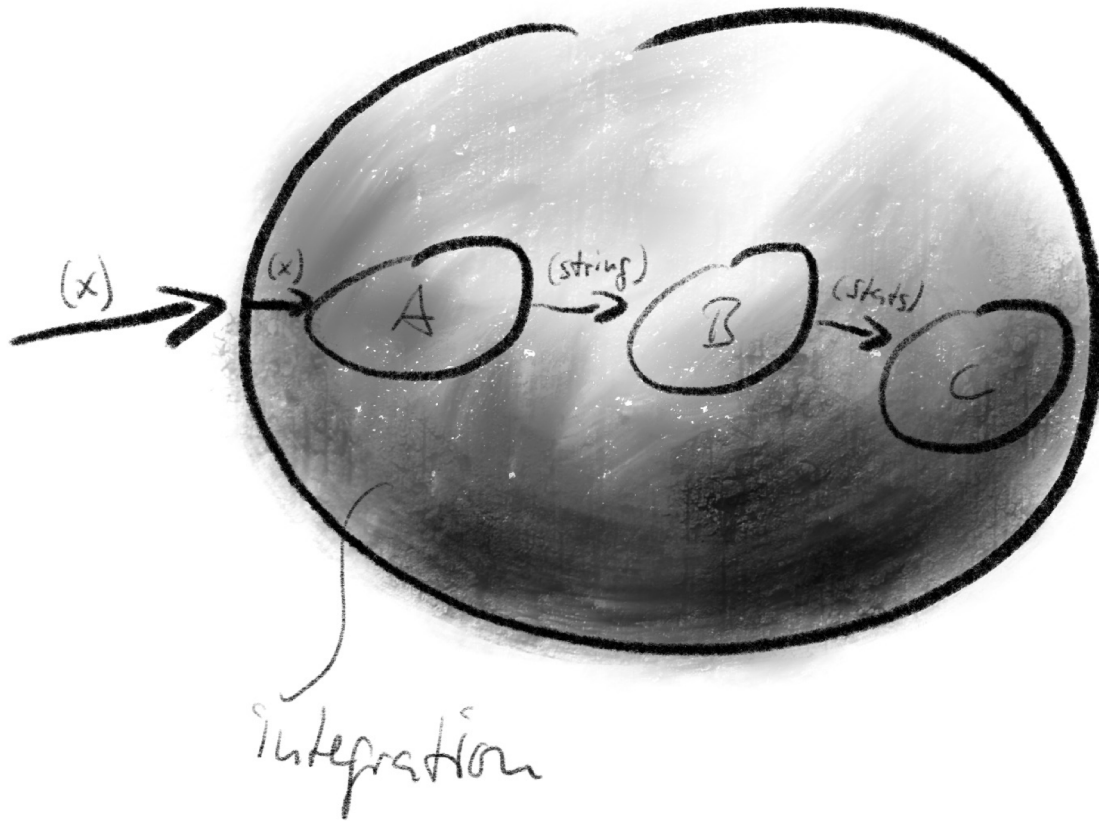
2D flow



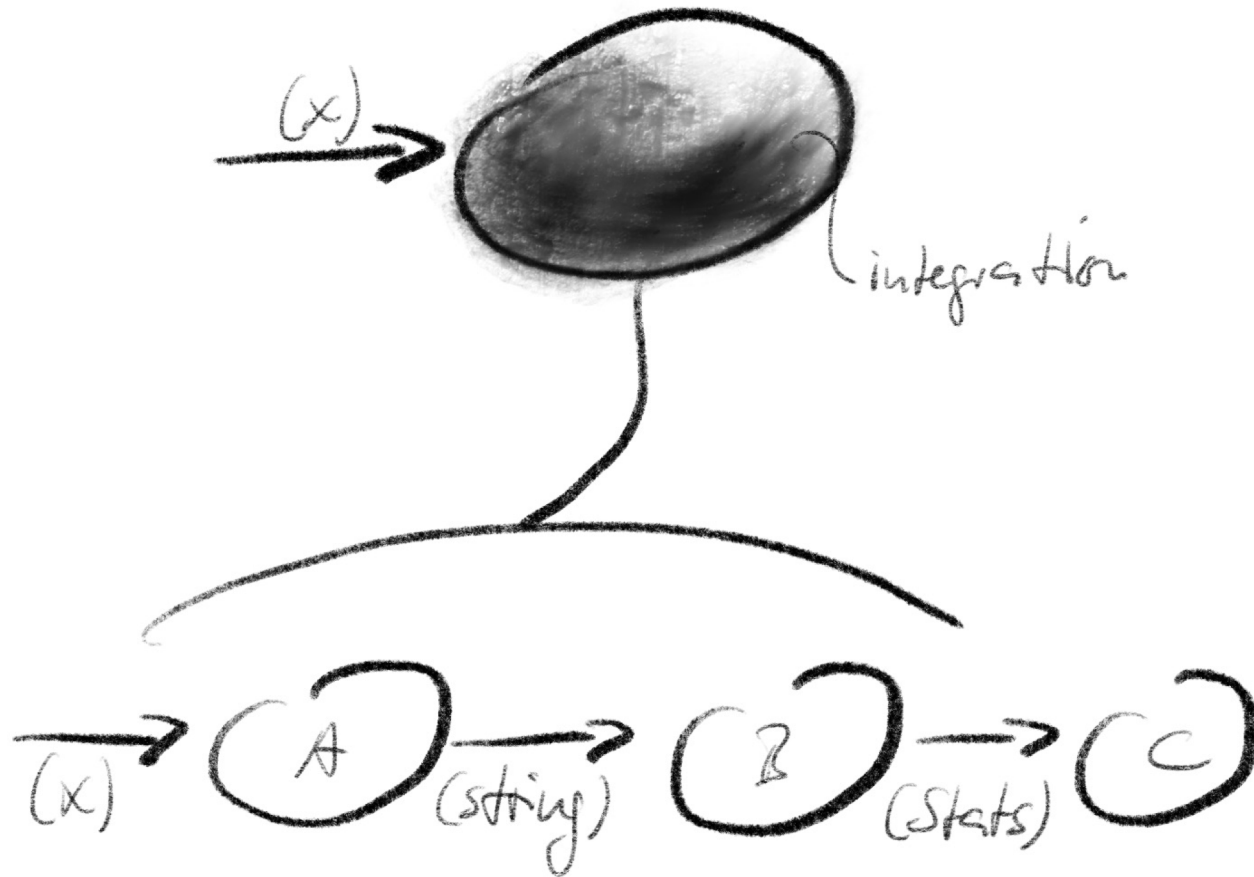
```
var o = new O();
```



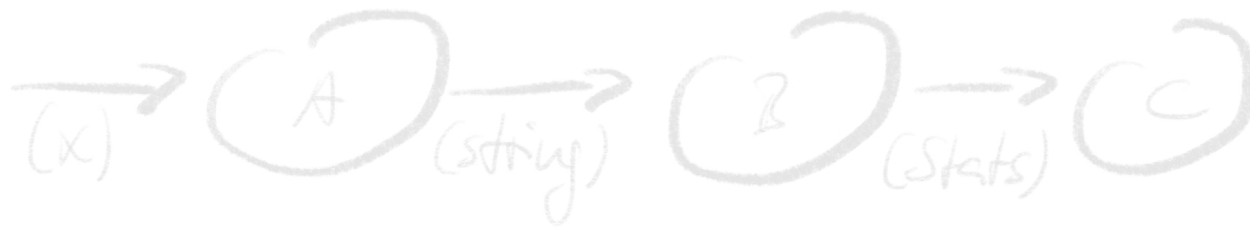
3D flow

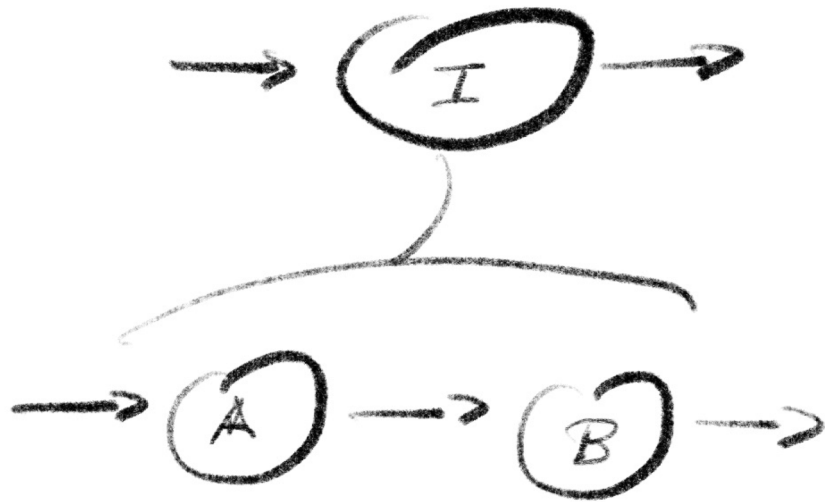


3D flow

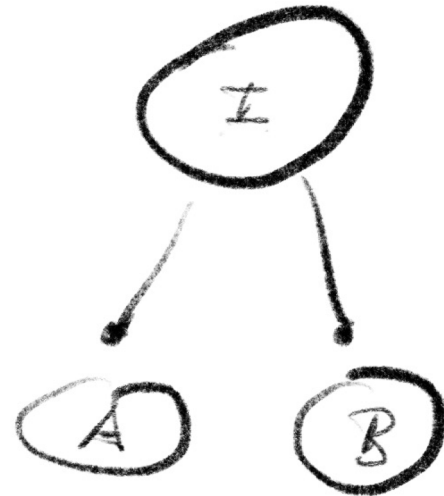


```
void Integration(X x)
{
    var s = A(x);
    var stats = B(s);
    C(stats);
}
```





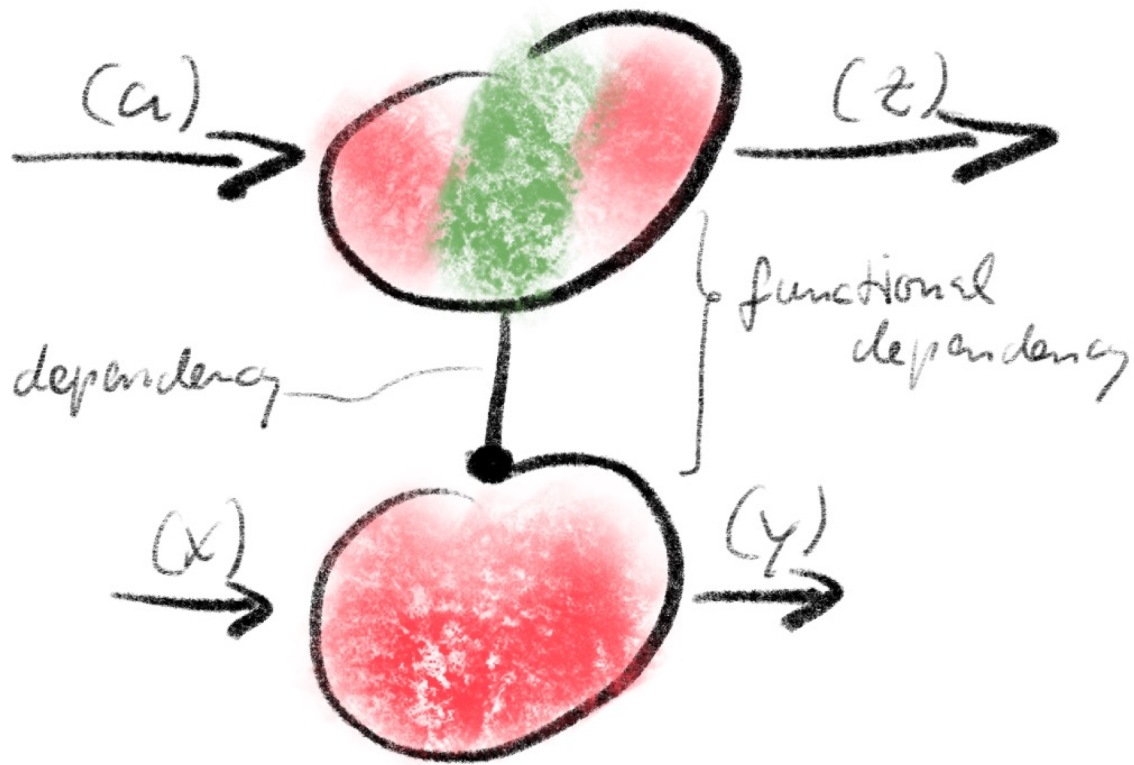
\cong



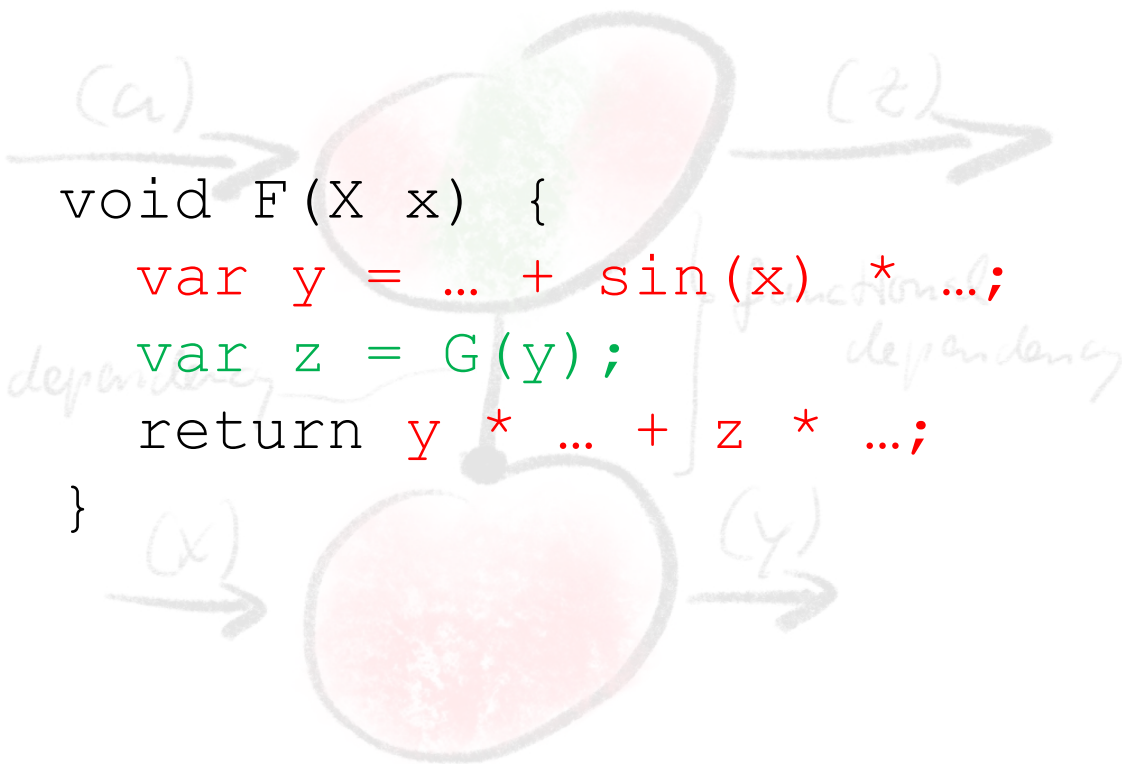
Functions are the new objects

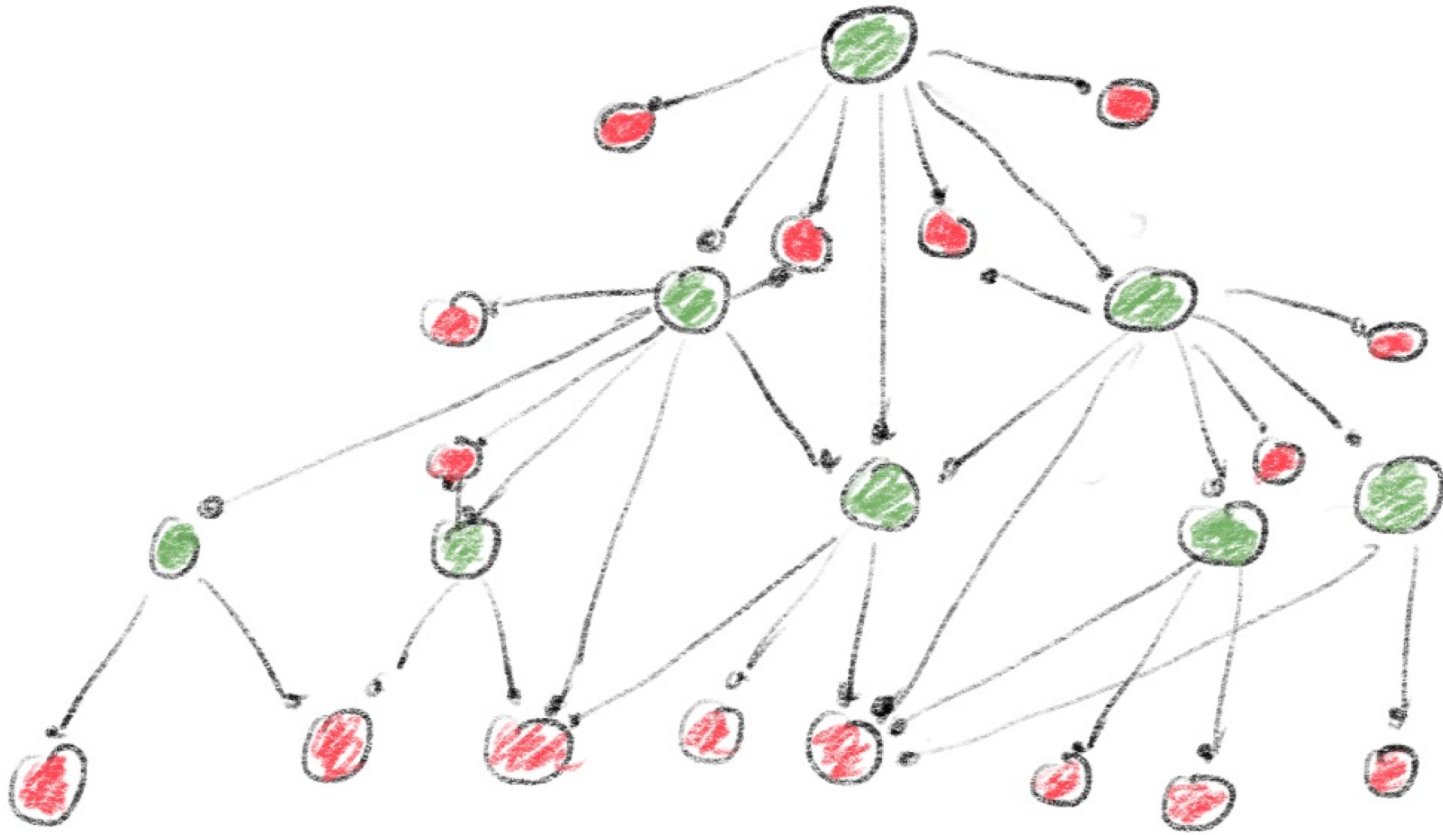
Functional dependencies

considered harmful!



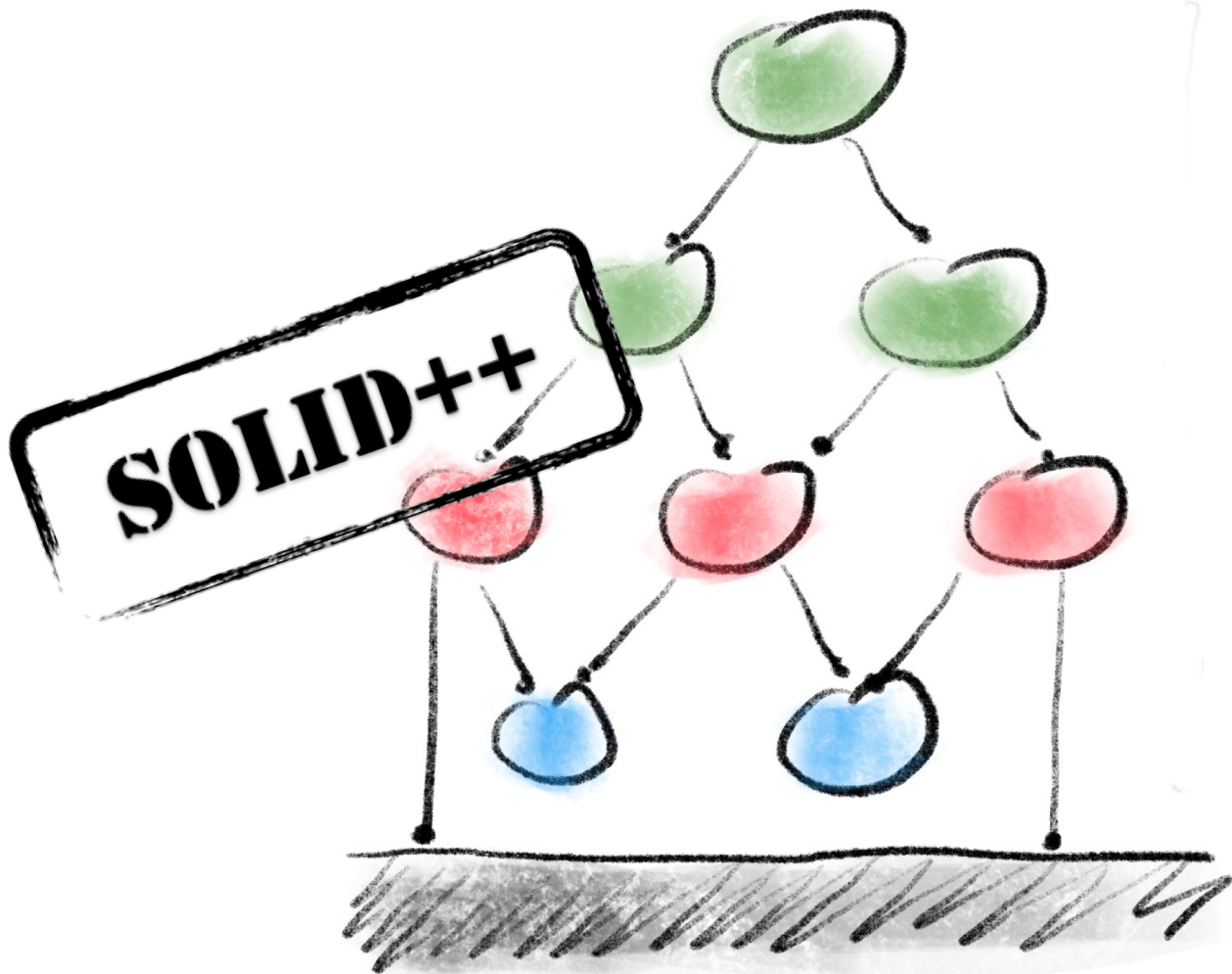
Violation of IOSP!



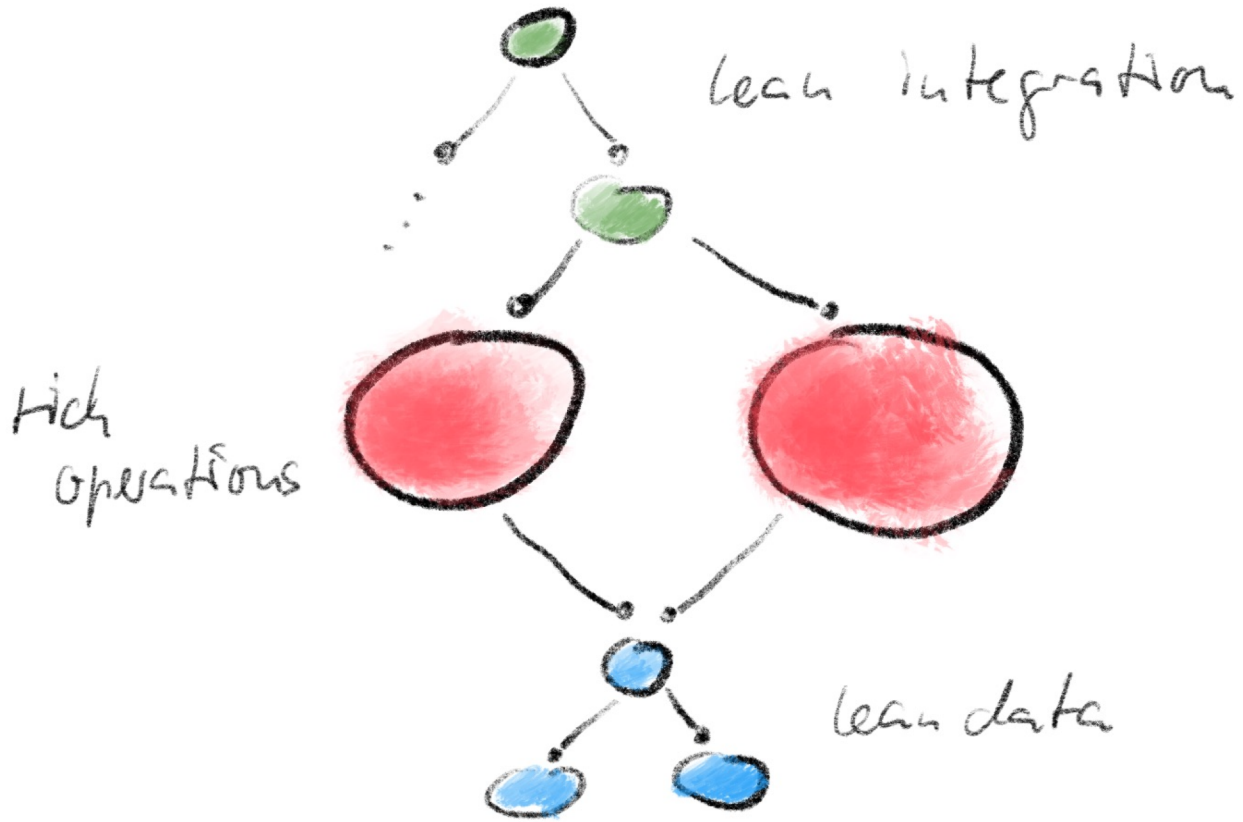


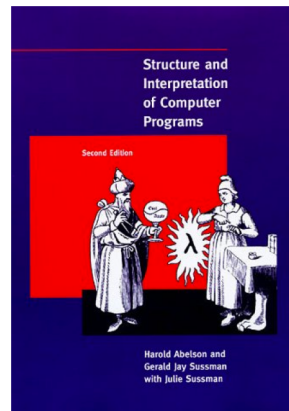
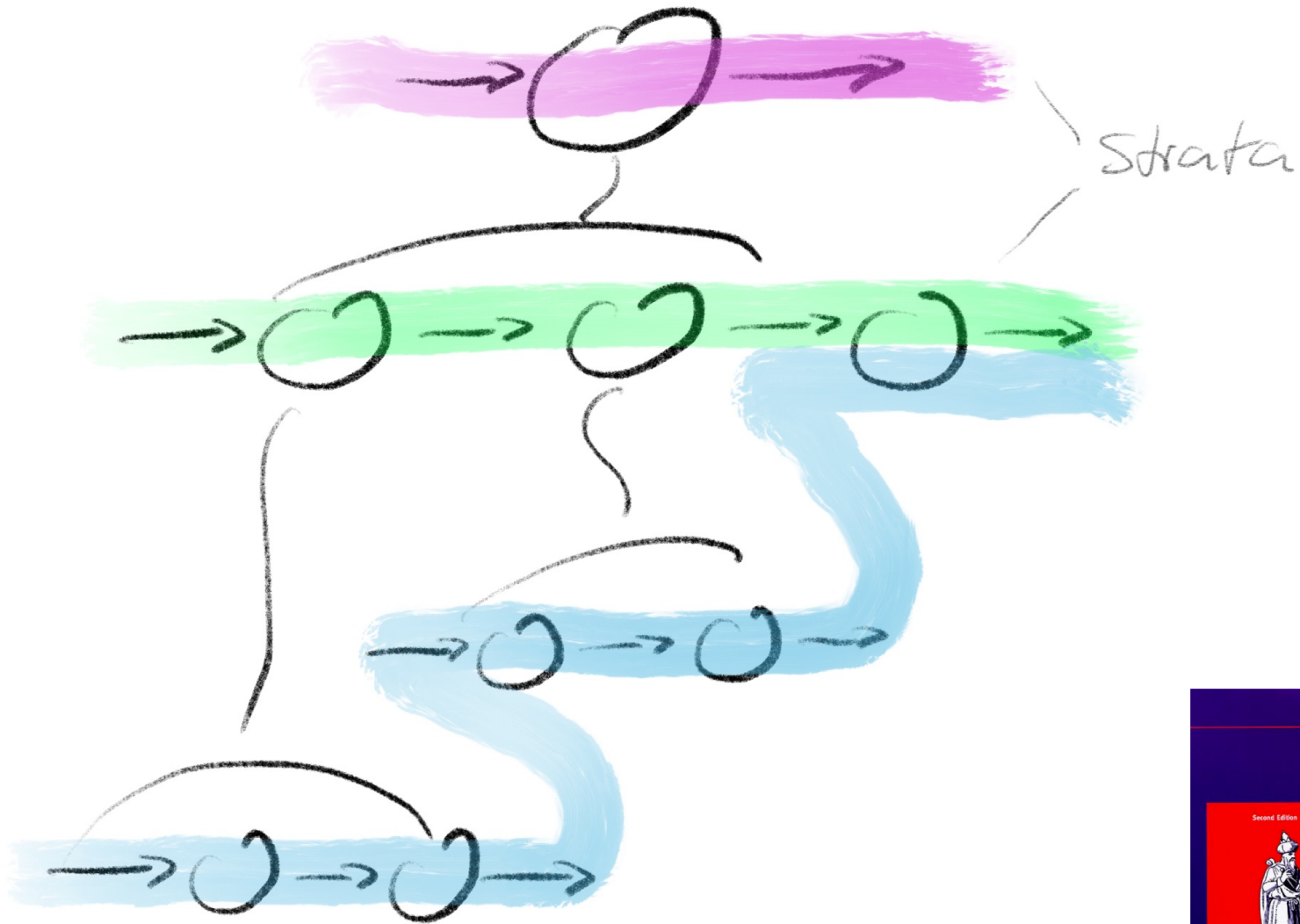
The future of your code! 🥰

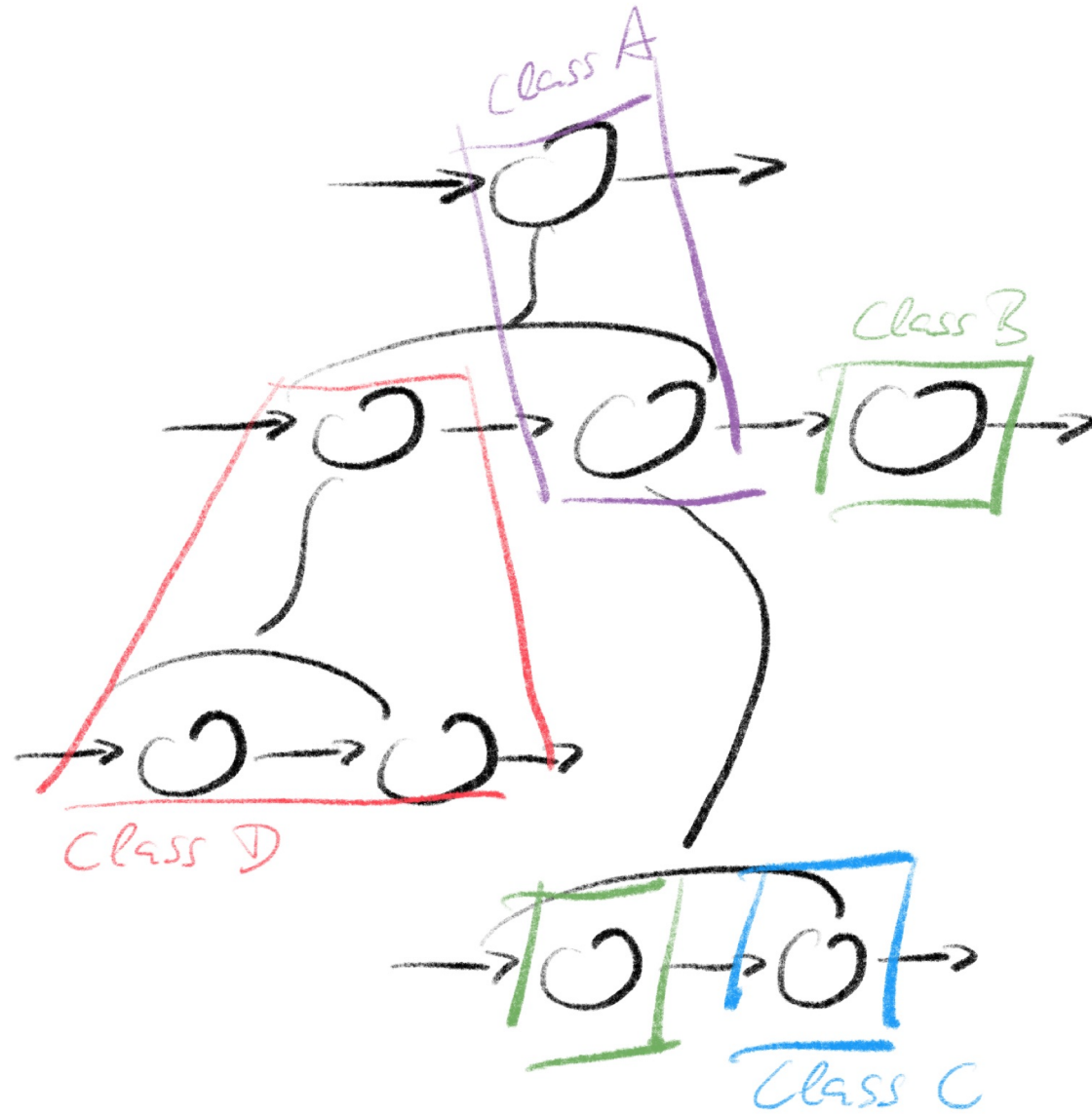
Architectural implications

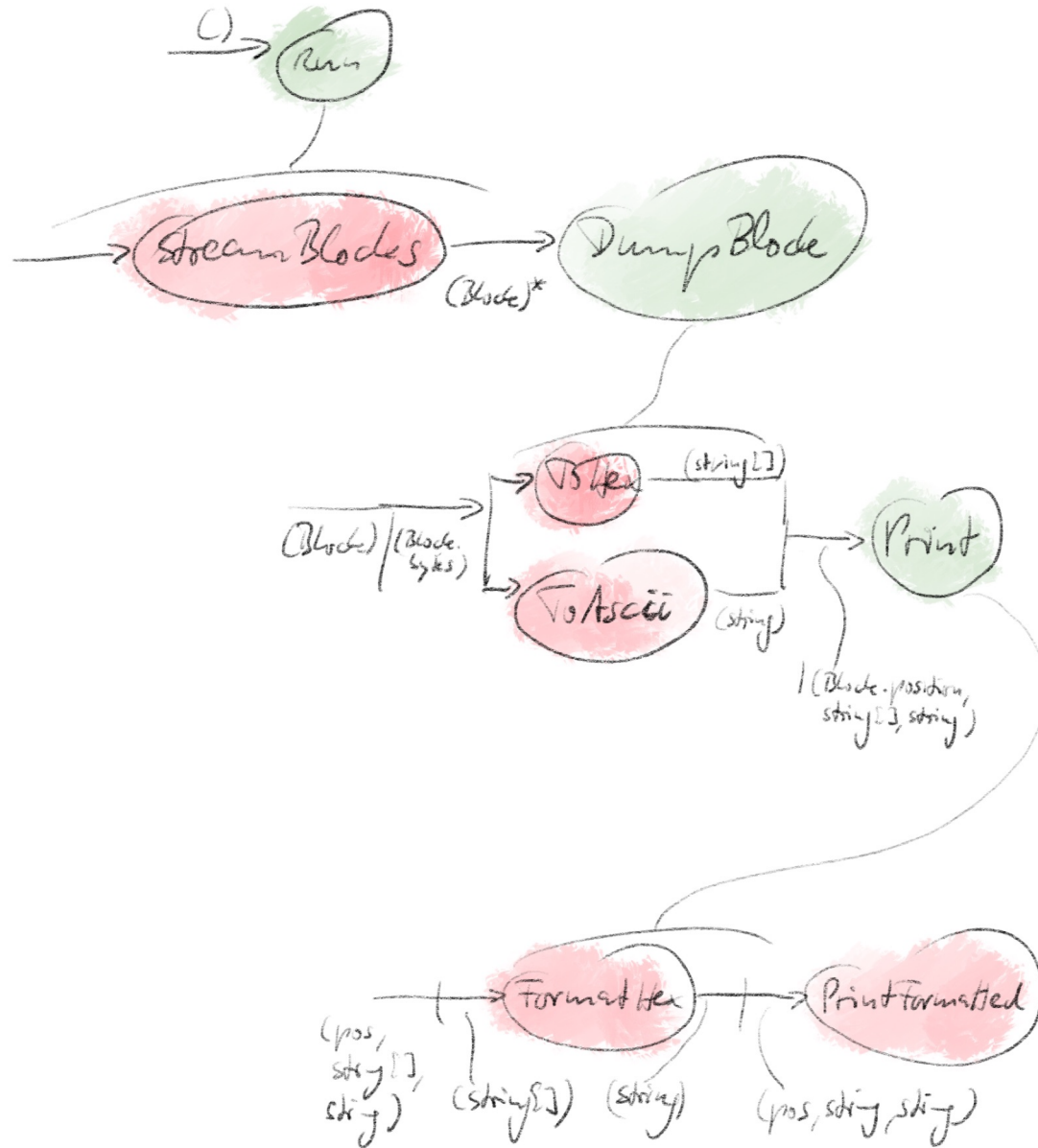


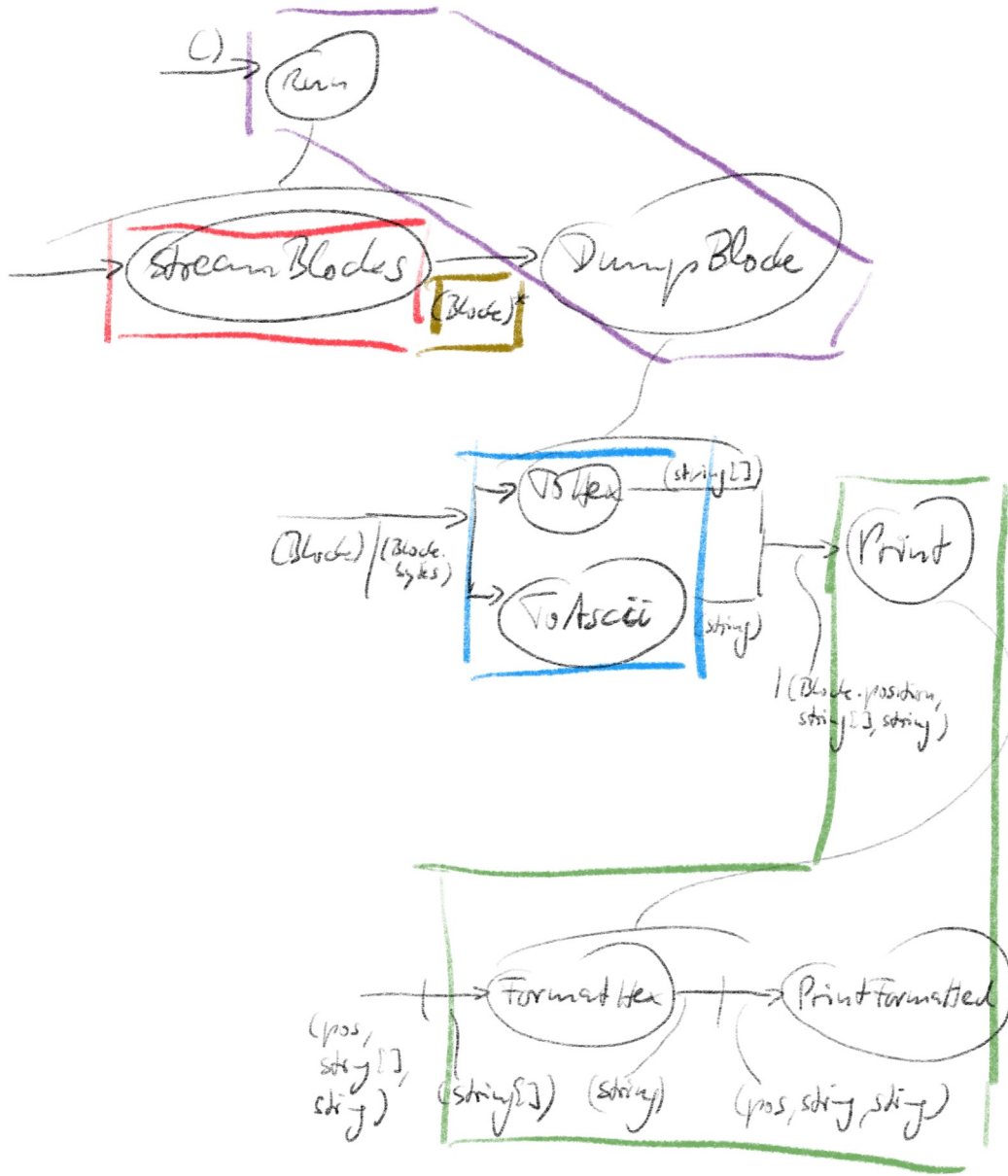
} Integration
} Operation
} Data
} API
IODA

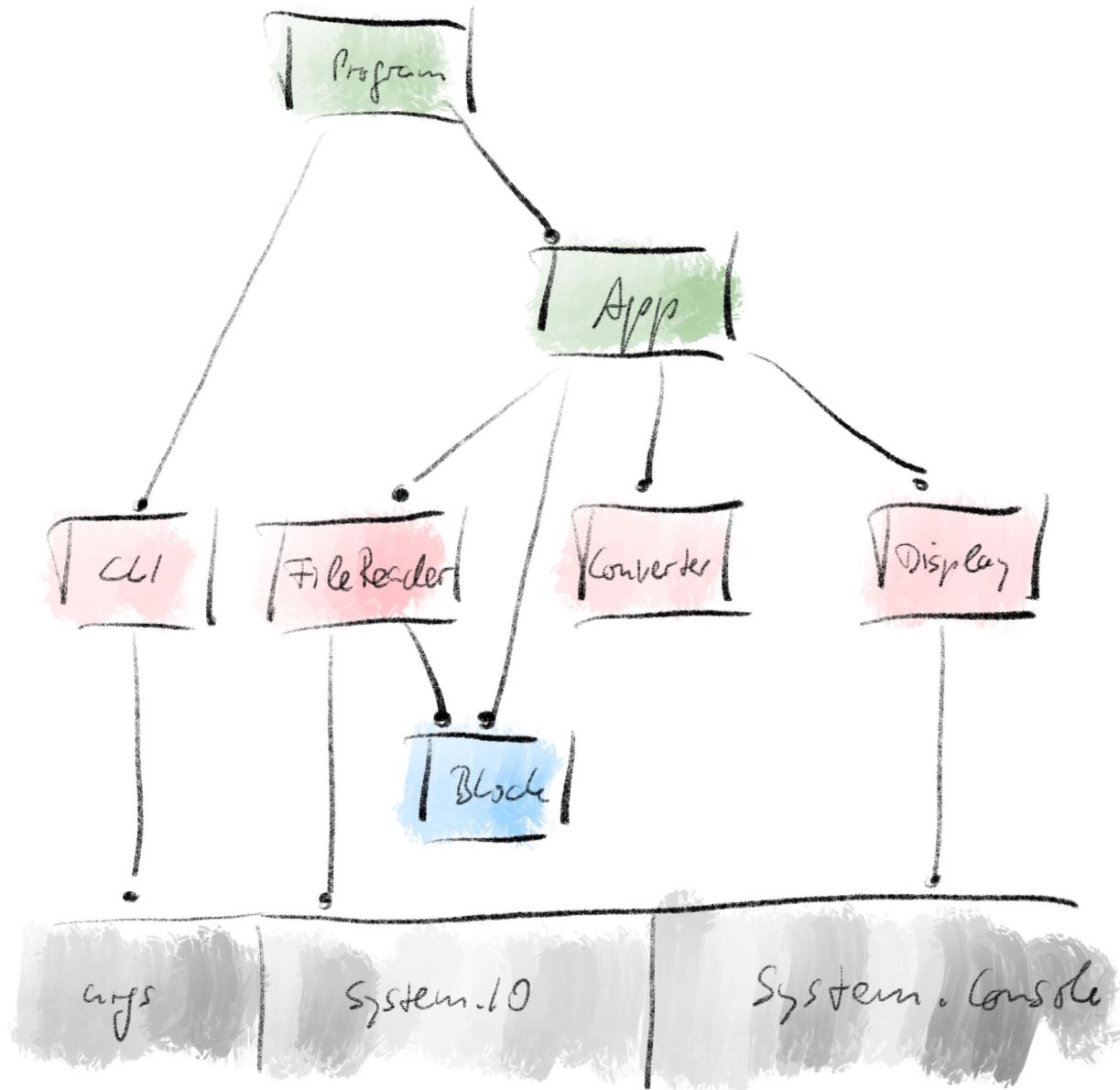




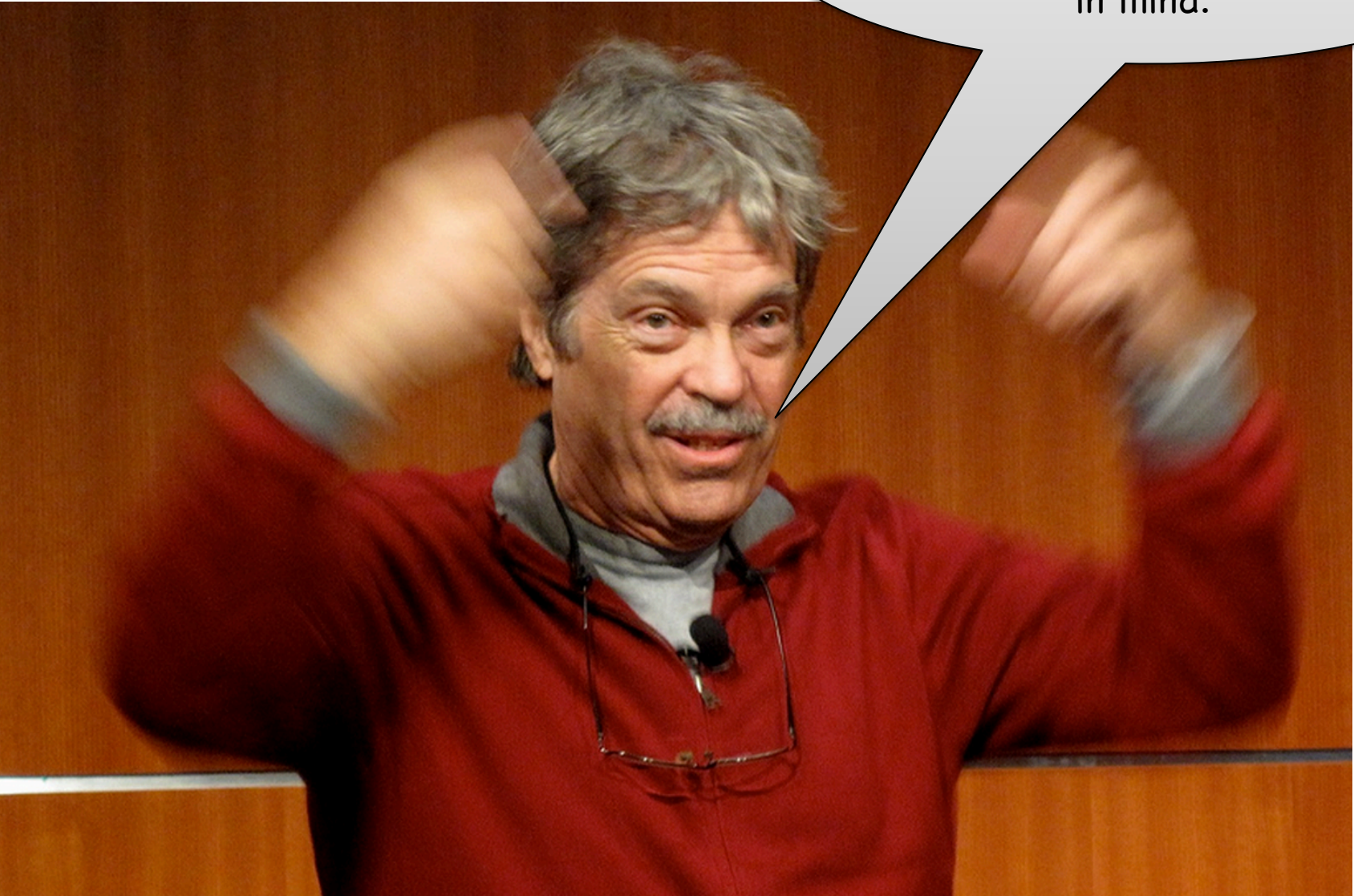








„I invented the term object-oriented, and I can tell you that C++ wasn't what I had in mind.“



Classes are secondary

- share data between „objects“ (master data)
- achieve polymorphy (master architectura decisions)
- aggregate functions (master number of „moving parts“)
- hide integration (master detail)

Summary

- Object-orientation (OO) today is suffering from massive functional dependencies.
- Going back to the roots of the term OO provides a fresh ideas for how to structure code differently for...
 - easier testing
 - less accidentally complexity
 - Increased understandability
- ...and it puts behavior first!

Resources

- Ralf Westphal, Messaging as a Programming Model,
https://leanpub.com/messaging_as_a_programming_model
 - an eBook made from: Ralf Westphal, OOP as if you meant it,
<http://geekswithblogs.net/theArchitectsNapkin/archive/2013/09/08/oop-as-if-you-meant-it.aspx>
- Dr. Alan Kay on the Meaning of „Object-Oriented Programming“,
http://userpage.fu-berlin.de/~ram/pub/pub_jf47ht81Ht/doc_kay_oop_en
- Alan Kay's Definition of Object Oriented,
<http://c2.com/cgi/wiki?AlanKaysDefinitionOfObjectOriented>



Speaker

- Ralf Westphal is a freelance consultant, project coach, and trainer on software architectural topics as well as software team organization.
- He is the co-founder of the German "Clean Code Developer" initiative to increase software quality, currently counting more than 4300 members since 2009.