# segments

*\times*  

# objects

\(+\)

diamond vertices (4)

center(1)

# segments/object

*\times*  

# directions(4)

# segments/direction(2)
**Exercise: The Earth’s Circumference**

Estimate the circumference of the earth. Break down this problem in such a way as to take advantage of the following facts:

1. The distance between New York and San Francisco is about 3,000 miles.
2. There are 24 time zones.
3. New York and San Francisco are 3 time zones apart.

---

**Estimate the number of piano tuners in Chicago, assuming:**

1. Chicago has a population of about 3 million people.
2. A family contains four members on the average.
3. One in five families owns a piano.
4. A piano tuner takes a two-week vacation during the year.
5. A piano tuner services four pianos every day of the work week on the average.
6. All pianos are tuned once a year on the average.
Problems often look overwhelming at first.

The secret is to break problems into small, manageable chunks. If you deal with those, you're done before you know it.

For example, I'm supposed to read this entire history chapter. It looks impossible, so I break the problem down.

You focus on reading the first section?

I ask myself, "Do I even care?"
Functional Decomposition: An Approach to Solving Complex Problems

1. Break down the complex problem into simpler problems.
2. Solve each simpler problem.*
3. Put the solutions back together to arrive at the solution to the original problem.
* If the simpler problems are still too complex, continue the break down process.

How to read:
Doing A involves doing A1, A2, and A3, but not necessarily every time, or in that order

The Flow of Control
Department of Motor Vehicles Functional Decomposition Diagram

Legend:

- **Department**
- **System**
From Analysis to Design

The Centerpiece of Systems Analysis: Data Flow Diagram

The Centerpiece of Systems Design: Structure Chart
The Hidden Logic of Execution

The **logic** in a module =
The manner/sequence in which it executes its subordinate modules. It does not address the module’s peers or superiors.

The above structure chart may be executed in any of the following ways, depending on the logic hidden in module A.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario 1</th>
<th>Scenario 2</th>
<th>Scenario 3</th>
<th>Scenario 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>A3</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>IF … THEN</td>
<td>IF … THEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A3</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>A2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IF … THEN</td>
<td>ELSE</td>
<td>ELSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A3</td>
<td>A3</td>
<td>A3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENDIF</td>
<td>ENDIF</td>
<td>ENDIF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The data flow diagram (DFD), reflecting user requirements.
The Process of Building A Structure Chart

The Starting Point

The Purchasing Fulfillment System works as follows. First supplier-related data are obtained. This involves getting quotes from suppliers and getting supplier material evaluations from engineering. Then material-related data are obtained. This involves getting the production capacities from production schedulers and based on those calculating material forecasts, getting material specs from engineering, and getting the production schedule from production schedulers. Next, purchase agreements are planned and purchased good specs are developed. Finally, material orders are produced, which involves producing bill of material, selecting preferred supplier, generating the order, and sending the order to the supplier.

The Transformation

The Purchasing Fulfillment System [works as follows.]

[First] supplier-related data are obtained ➔ Get supplier data
[This involves]
getting quotes [from suppliers] ➔ Get supplier quotes
[and]
going supplier material evaluations [from engineering] ➔ Get supplier material evaluations

[Then] material-related data are obtained ➔ Get material data
[This involves]
getting the production capacities from [production schedulers] ➔ Get production capacities
[and based on those] calculating material forecasts ➔ Calculate material forecasts
getting material specs [from engineering] ➔ Get material specs
[and] getting the production schedule [from production schedulers] ➔ Get production schedule

[Next,] purchase agreements are planned ➔ Plan purchase agreements
and purchased good specs are developed ➔ Develop purchased goods specs

[Finally,] material orders are produced ➔ Put material orders
[which involves]
producing bill of material ➔ Produce bill of materials
selecting preferred supplier ➔ Select preferred supplier
generating the order ➔ Generate order
[and] sending the order [to the supplier.] ➔ Put order
The Action Diagram

0. The Purchasing Fulfillment System

-1. Get supplier data
   - 1.1. Get supplier quotes
   - 1.2. Get supplier material evaluations

2. Get material data
   - 2.1. Get material forecasts (note: this is a new boss added)
     - 2.1.1. Get production capacities
     - 2.1.2. Calculate material forecasts
   - 2.2. Get material specs
   - 2.3. Get production schedule

3. Plan purchase agreements

4. Develop purchased goods specs

5. Put material orders
   - 5.1. Produce bill of materials
   - 5.2. Select preferred supplier
   - 5.3. Generate order
   - 5.4. Put order

Children Indent

siblings Align
The Structure Chart
The "diamond"
From the standpoint of user interface, □ = Menu
The \( \triangle \) ("hat")

```
Read Payroll File
Perform Calculations
Print Paycheck
```

—the listed children are chunks of code within the parent module, rather than physically independent modules”
**Structure Chart: Benefits**

- Communicates effectively
  Diagrams reduce the *intimidation index* of users

- Helps organize work
  Provides a basis for division of labor among programmers

- Fosters reusability
  Utility modules are reusable (write/test once, use many times)

- Reduces program errors
  Design: Top-down
  Construction/Testing: Bottom up

**Modern Incarnation:**  
*Service-Oriented Architecture*

**Action Diagrams**

Action Diagram = Functional Decomposition + Structured English

---

**How many months would it take to build a 30-story hotel?**
## Structure Chart: Design Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Analogy</th>
<th>Design Approach</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coupling</td>
<td>Dependence among modules; the need to share data</td>
<td>Two neighboring towns depending on each other for services → Heavy traffic</td>
<td>Minimize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Each town having all the services it needs → Light traffic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohesion</td>
<td>Wholeness of each module; the needed data are self-contained</td>
<td></td>
<td>Maximize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Span of Control</td>
<td>Number of subordinates of a module</td>
<td>Number of employees under a supervisor</td>
<td>Optimize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Number of management levels</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
<td>Number of levels in the hierarchy</td>
<td></td>
<td>Optimize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Minimize: Reduce the need for data sharing to minimize traffic and ensure efficient communication.
- Maximize: Increase the self-containment of data within each module to optimize the use of resources and enhance efficiency.
- Optimize: Adjust the number of levels or subordinates to optimize the hierarchy and span of control, considering the appropriate criteria.
Structure Chart: Design Criteria

Examples of poorly-designed and well-designed structure charts
The Passed Parameters

1. Data parameter

Same as data flow arrows on a DFD, but much shorter

2. Control parameter (“flag”)

 Represents binary status data (yes/no, 0/1, valid/invalid)

 Acts as a program switch

 Standard output of validation modules
Structure Charts: Quality Control Checklist

- Name each module starting with a verb, as if ordering someone to do it. This someone may later turn out to be the computer.
  Correct: Calculate Balance
  Incorrect: Balance Calculation, Calculates Balance, Calculating Balance, Balance
  The only exception is the name of the module on the highest level. Since it is the name of the entire system, it may start with a noun.

- For any module on the structure chart (say A) and those immediately below it (say B, C, and D), confirm the correctness of your design by reading their relationship as:
  "A"ing involves, "B"ing, "C"ing, and "D"ing.

For instance, read

```
Throw a Party
```

```
Invite
Guests
```

```
Serve
Food
```

```
Clean
Up
```

as:
Throwing a party involves inviting guests, serving food, and cleaning up.

- Use the symbol to show that only one of the children module can be selected at any one time, corresponding to a menu user-interface.

- If two modules have identical names, then they are one and the same module being used more than once (i.e., utility module). Two different modules cannot have the same name.

- No module can have only one child. Every module must have either more than one child or none.

- Use the symbol to show that the listed children are not physically independent modules, but rather chunks of code within the parent module.
Avoid flowchart mentality. Sequence is only *implied* in a structure chart; it is not explicitly shown. Hence it is incorrect to show

```
Throw a Party
   └── Invite Guests
   └── Serve Food
   └── Clean Up
```

as:

```
Throw a Party ─── Invite Guests ─── Serve Food ─── Clean Up
```

If the entire structure chart does not fit on one page, partition it into various smaller charts, with a child on one diagram shown again as a parent on a different diagram to preserve continuity.
At the lowest level, when running out of horizontal space, replace horizontal spreadouts with vertical ones:
In-Class Assignment: Action Diagram

Create an action diagram for the following application. Number each level.

The payroll program is run either to conduct transactions or to produce management reports. It conducts transactions by getting time card data, performing the necessary calculations, and producing the required output. Getting time card data involves getting employee time card, validating it, and reading employee record. Performing calculations comprises getting employee pay rates and calculating pay amounts. The latter is done by calculating base amount, overtime amount, taxes, and other deductions. Producing the output consists of updating employee record, writing payroll transactions, and updating general ledger.
In-Class Assignment: Passed Parameters

Consider the following structure chart.

The system reads the card’s number after you insert it to validate the card. If invalid, it keeps the card and no further processing takes place.

GET VALID CARD
BEGIN
Accept Card (; card-number)
Validate Card (card-number; valid-status)
IF valid-status = 0 THEN
    Keep Card
ENDIF
END
# Card

Number: 123ABC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Card-Number</th>
<th></th>
<th>Valid-Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>456CBA</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>789XYZ</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>123XYZ</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>456ABC</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>123ABC</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>789ABC</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Important Note

A always goes UP.

It never goes DOWN!

WHY?!

A is only a messenger carrying a 0/1 value to the boss module. The boss looks at its value, and based on whether it is a 0 or a 1, makes a decision one way or another.

**GET VALID CARD**

BEGIN
Accept Card (; card-number)
Validate Card (card-number; valid-status)
IF valid-status = 0 THEN
  Keep Card
ENDIF
END

There is no point in sending the to the Keep Card module.

The Keep Card module is only a servant. It does not need to know whether carries a 0 or a 1.