

Factory and Proxy Patterns

Comp-304 : Factory and Proxy Patterns

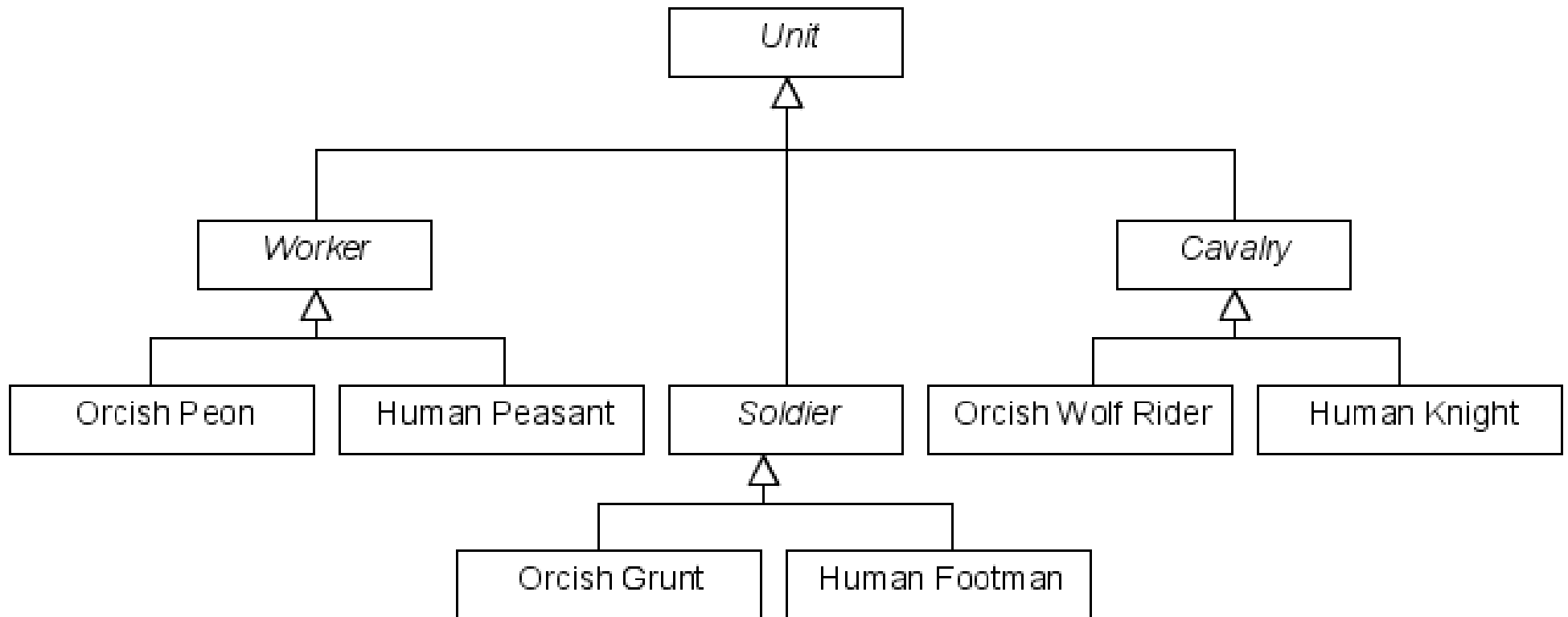
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McGill University
Winter 2009

Reminder

Mercury class evaluations

Human vs Orc

- The following classes are from a real time strategy game where Humans and Orcs face each other for supremacy



- Each Human unit has an Orcs counterpart which is identical.

If ... else ...

- The interface for players playing either race is identical.
- Thus, every function that creates a unit has a similar piece of code:

```
Worker worker;  
if (player.race == RACE.HUMAN) {  
    worker = createPeasants()  
} else {  
    worker = createPeon()  
}
```

- This is bad because
 - It's code duplication.
 - It's going to make things complicated when I add another race.
- What can I do to avoid this?

Factory Patterns

- Factory patterns are examples of creational patterns
- They hide how objects are created and help make the overall system independent of how its objects are created and composed.

Two Types

- Class creational patterns focus on the use of inheritance to decide the object to be instantiated
 - ◆ Factory Method
- Object creational patterns focus on the delegation of the instantiation to another object
 - ◆ Abstract Factory

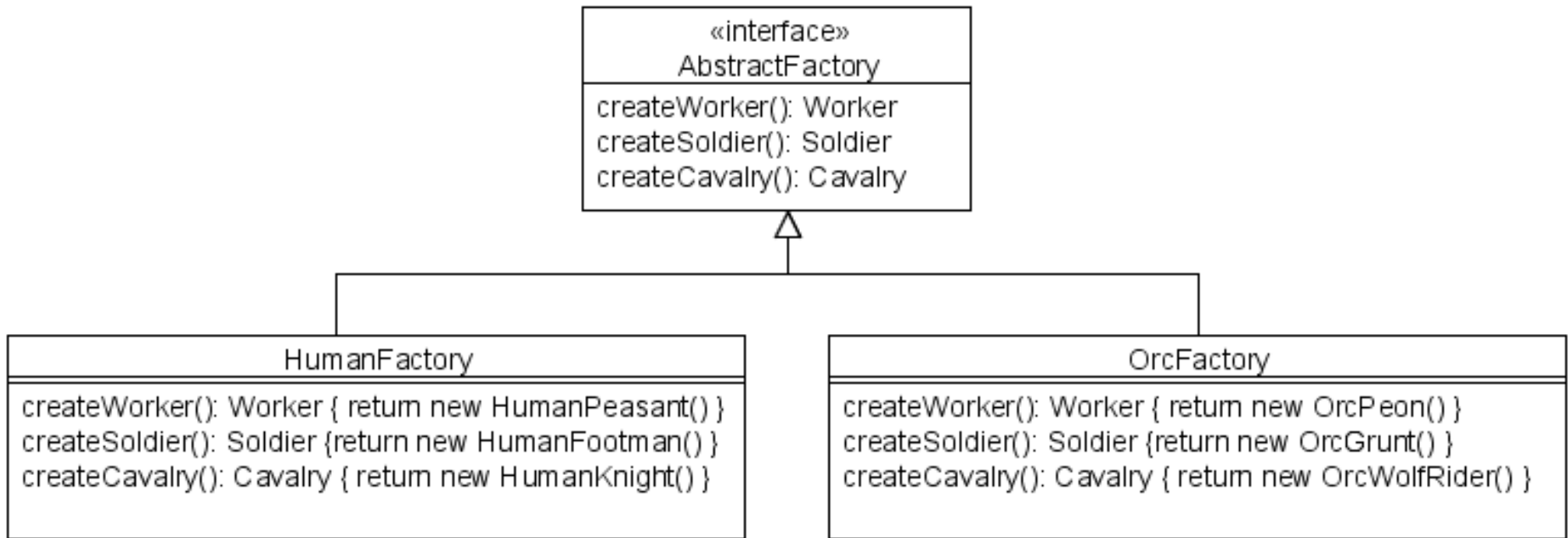
Abstract Factory

- Provide an interface for creating families of related or dependent objects without specifying their concrete classes.

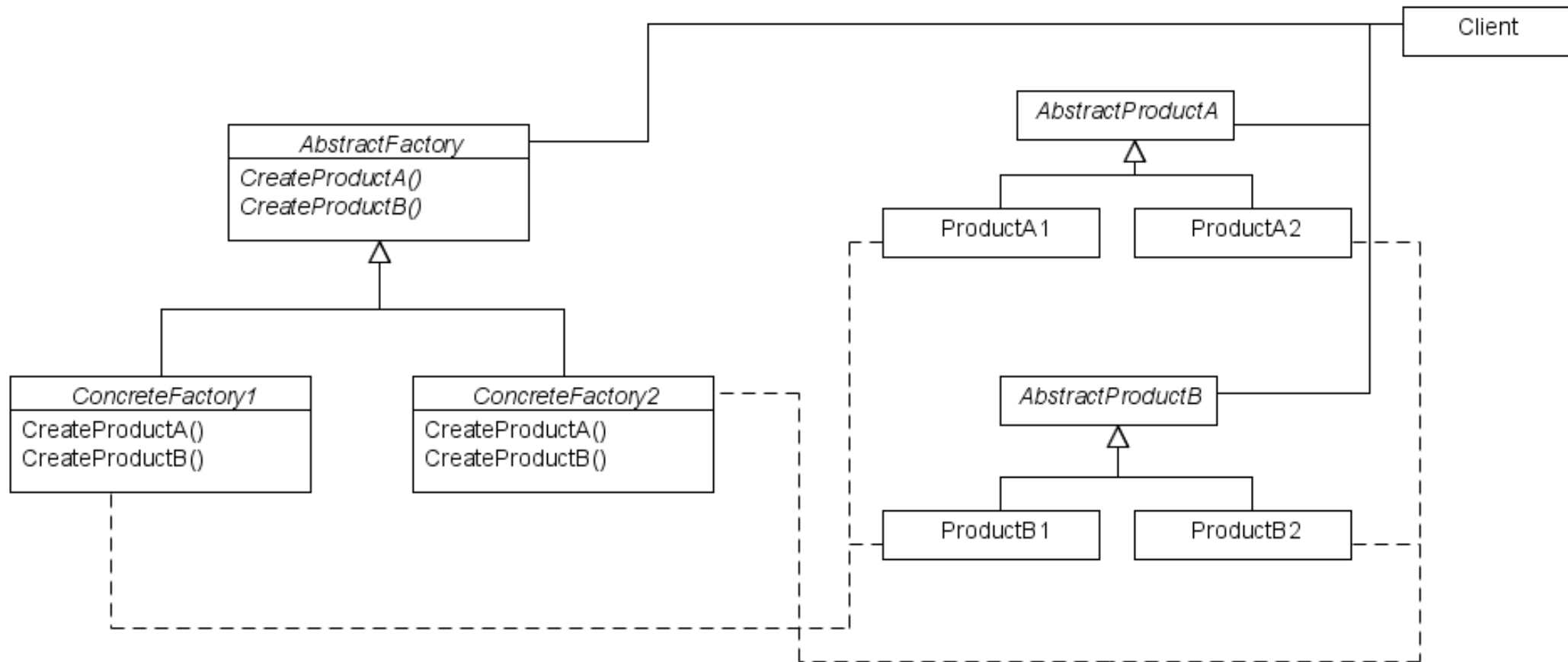
Applicability

- Use the Abstract Factory pattern in any of the following situations:
 - ♦ A system should be independent of how its products are created, composed, and represented
 - ♦ A class can't anticipate the class of objects it must create
 - ♦ A system must use just one of a set of families of products
 - ♦ A family of related product objects is designed to be used together, and you need to enforce this constraint

Families of Soldiers



Class Diagram



Participants

- **AbstractFactory**
 - ◆ Declares an interface for operations that create abstract product objects
- **ConcreteFactory**
 - ◆ Implements the operations to create concrete product objects
- **AbstractProduct**
 - ◆ Declares an interface for a type of product object
- **ConcreteProduct**
 - ◆ Defines a product object to be created by the corresponding concrete factory
 - ◆ Implements the `AbstractProduct` interface
- **Client**
 - ◆ Uses only interfaces declared by `AbstractFactory` and `AbstractProduct` classes

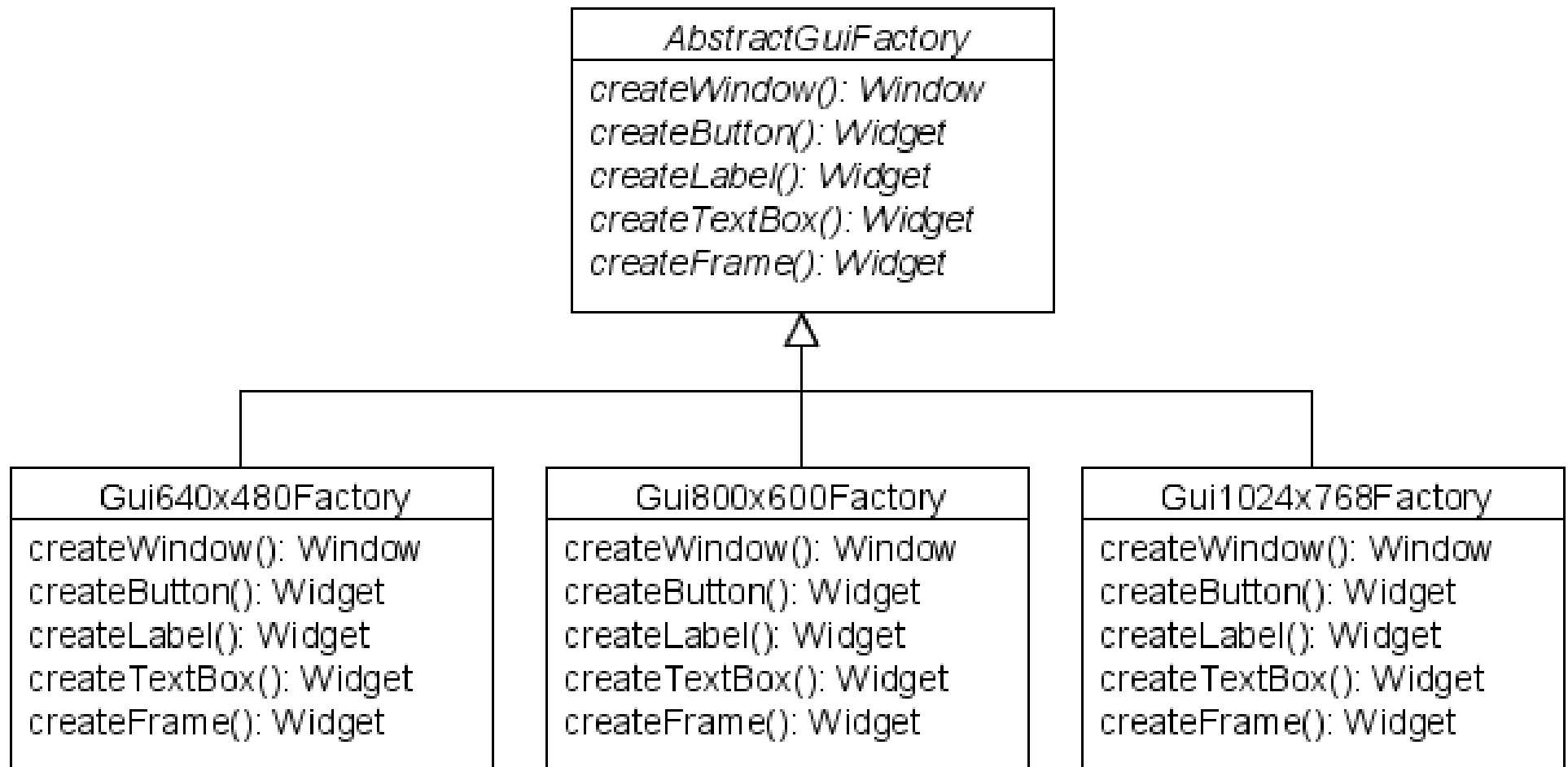
Consequences

- Exchanging or adding product families is easy.
- It also promotes consistencies among product (across families).
- However, adding new products involves a lot more modifications.

GUI Systems Games

- Before 3D acceleration, GUI system in game very sensitive to screen resolution variations.
- For gameplay reasons, whatever the screen resolution, the GUI had to be the same size.
- Because of this complexity, many games had only one resolution.

GUIFactory



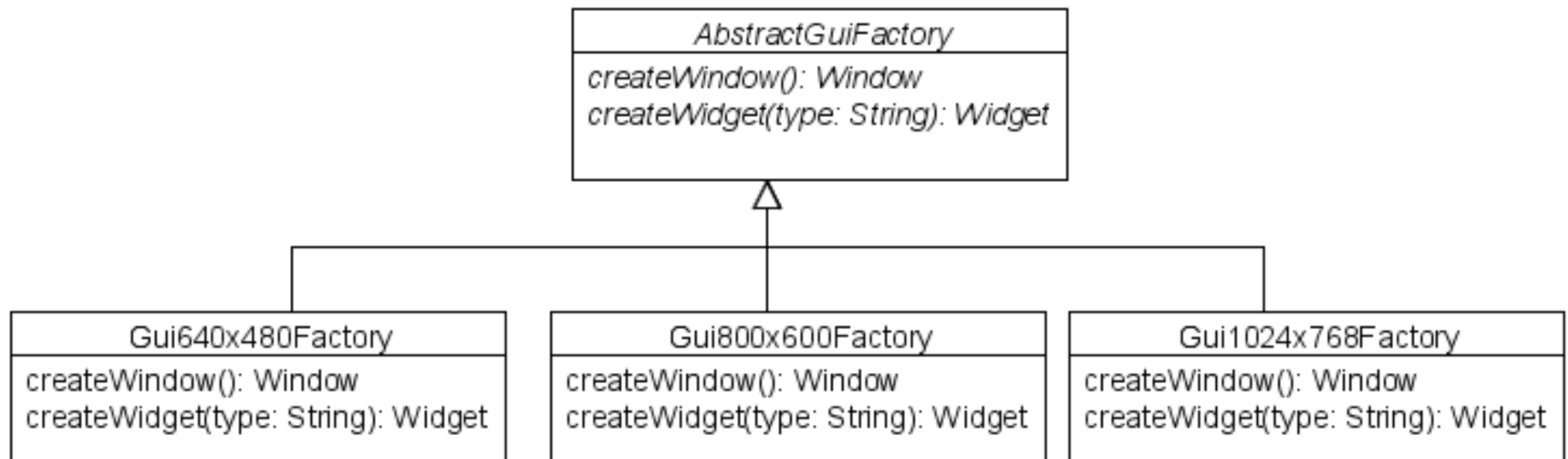
Factories as Singletons

- Typically, you only need one instance of a factory per product family.
- That makes it an ideal candidate for Singleton.

Extensible Factories

- One of the big limitation of Abstract Factory is the impact of adding new products.
- A flexible, but less safe design, is to parameterize the object you want to create.

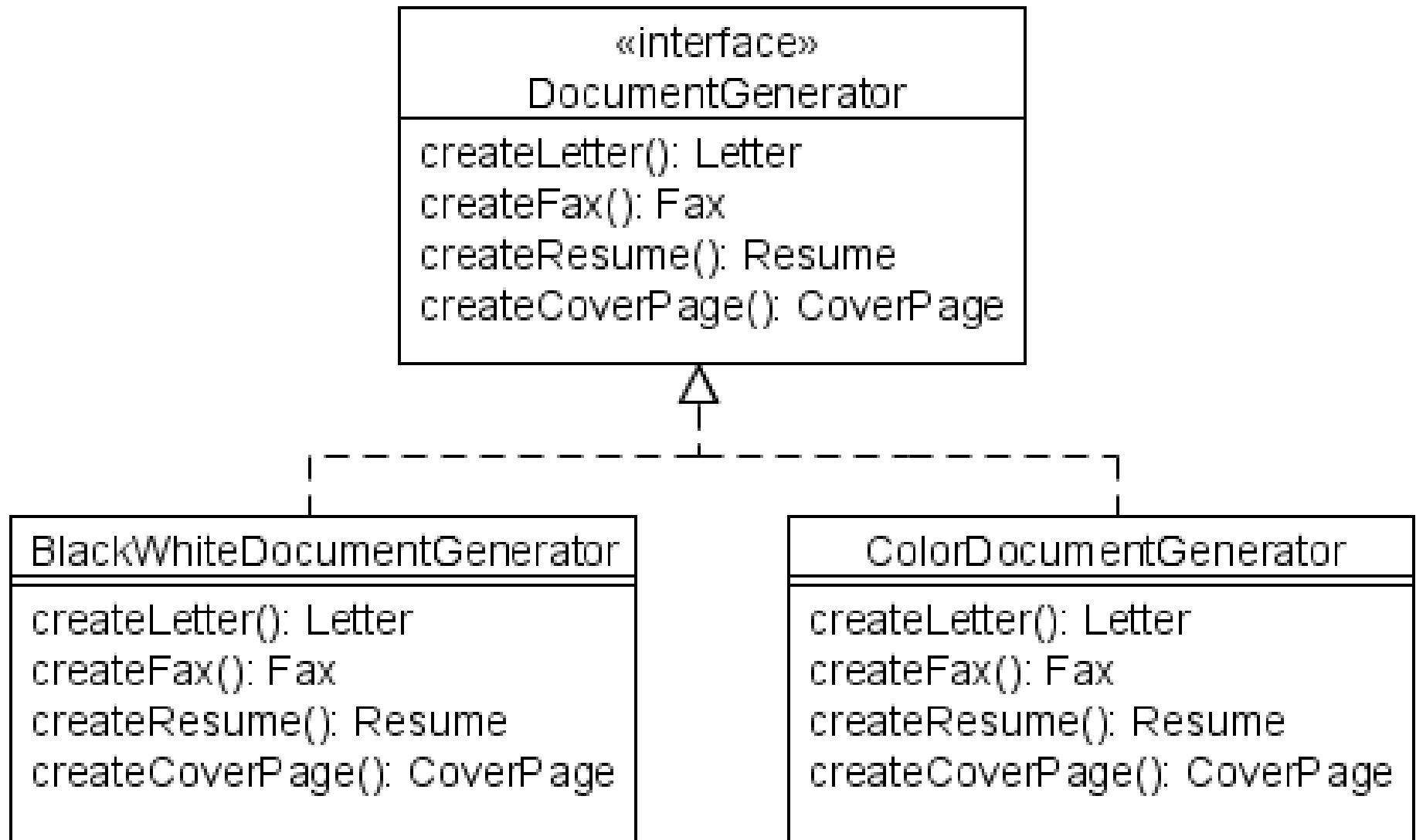
Example



The Problems ...

- As already mentioned, this is not a safe design.
 - ◆ Implementing in all factories
 - ◆ Coercision
- In addition, all return Products must have the same return type.

Another Example



Let design this ...

- I'm currently designing a unified driver for Nvidia Geforce cards.
- This unified driver supports the following cards.
 - ◆ Geforce 2
 - ◆ Geforce 3
 - ◆ Geforce 4
 - ◆ Geforce FX
 - ◆ Geforce 6
 - ◆ Geforce 7
 - ◆ Geforce 8

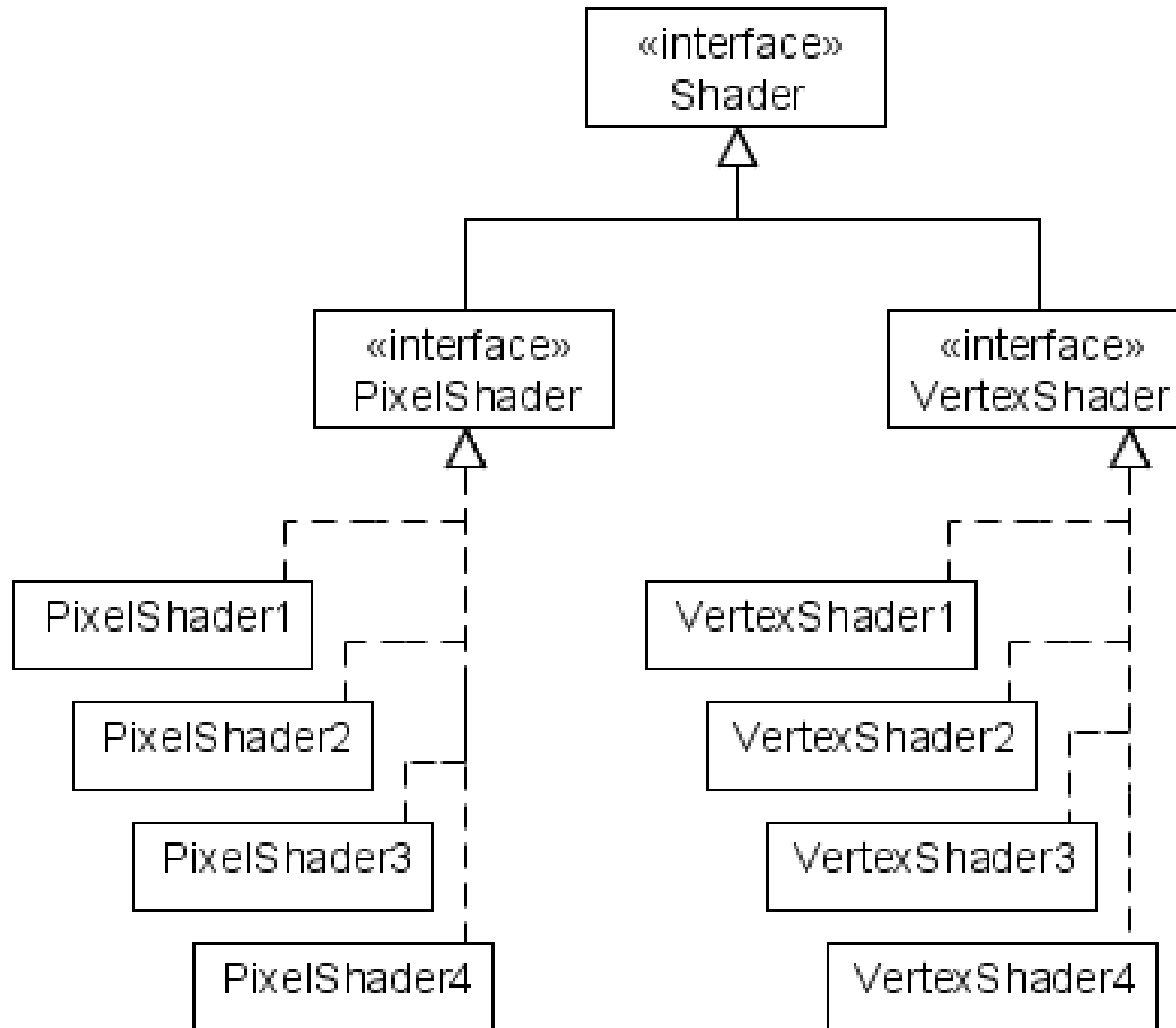
Shader Objects

- Shaders are programs written specifically for graphic cards to perform visual effects.
- Two main types of shaders exist:
 - ◆ Pixel shaders : works on a 2D image / texture
 - ◆ Vertex shaders : works on a 3D mesh

Shader Support

- Different architectures support different types of shaders.
 - ◆ Geforce 2,3,4 : Pixel and Vertex Shaders 1.0
 - ◆ Geforce FX : Pixel and Vertex Shaders 2.0
 - ◆ Geforce 6, 7 : Pixel and Vertex Shaders 3.0
 - ◆ Geforce 8 : Pixel and Vertex Shaders 4.0

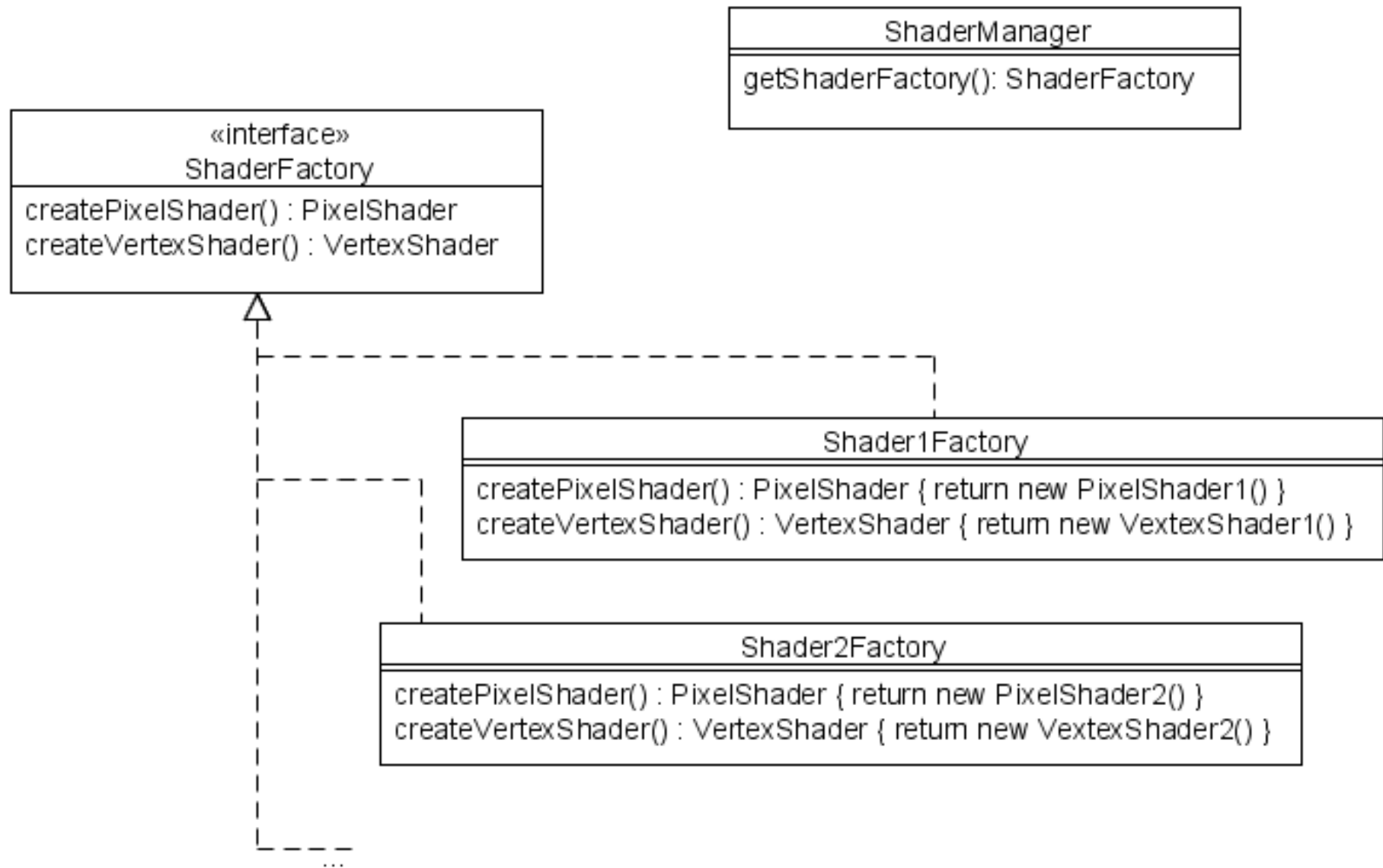
Shader Objects



Creating these objects

- As already mentioned, different cards create different types of shader objects.
 - ◆ If a particular functionality is not supported by a particular card, it is sometimes emulated in software.
- However, an OpenGL or DirectX application should be able to create shader objects in a generic fashion.
 - ◆ i.e. It doesn't need to know we have a Geforce FX.

ShaderFactory



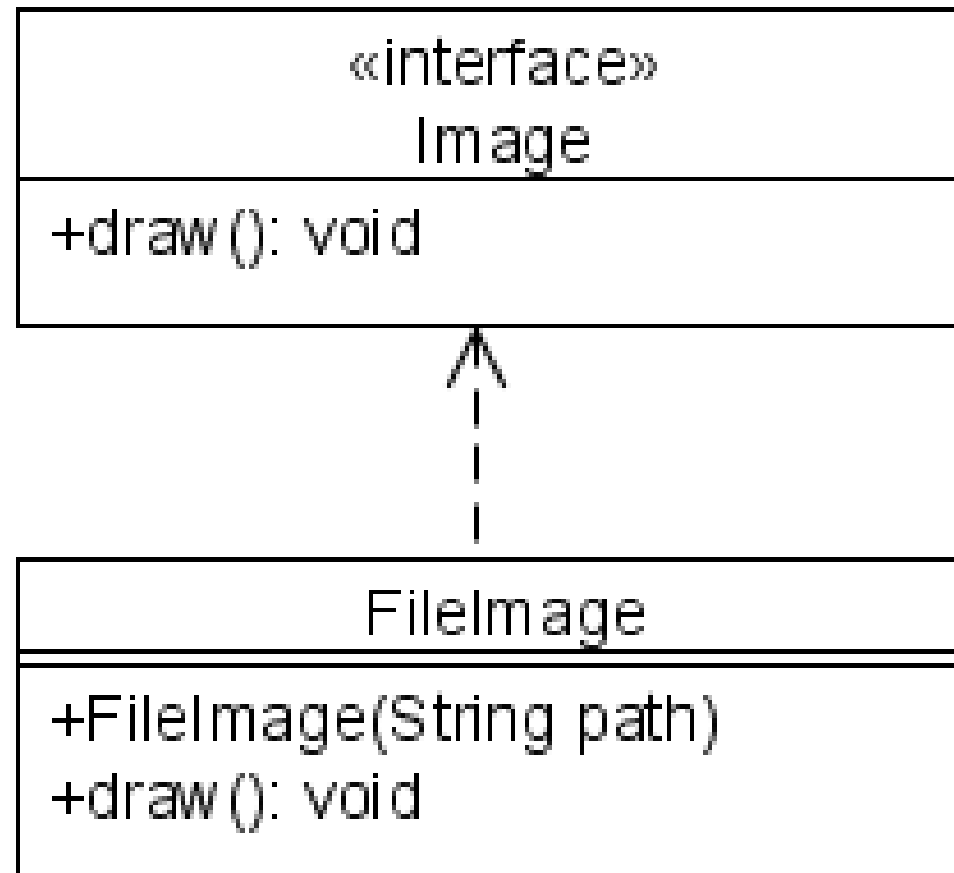


Performance Problem

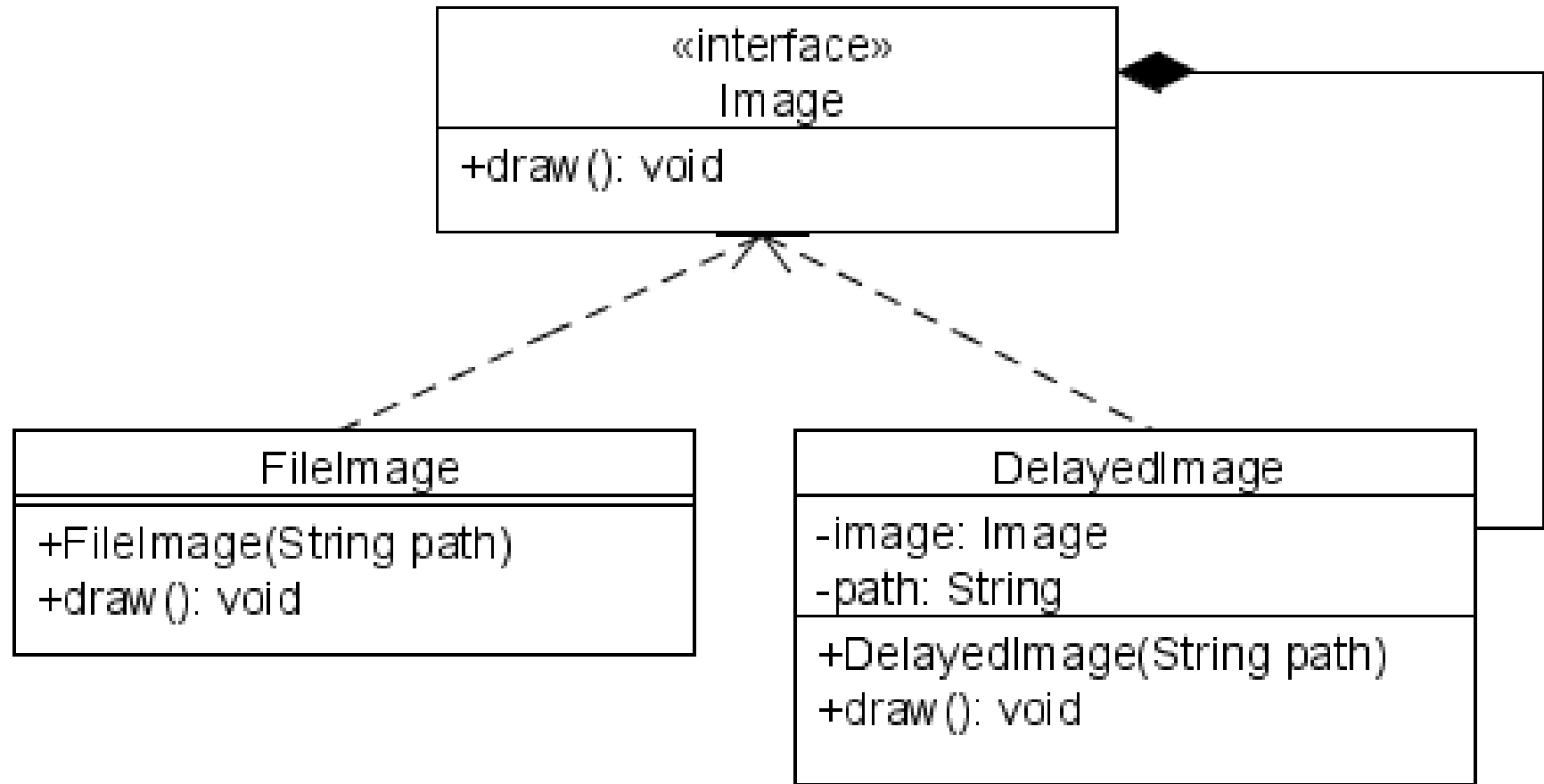
- Game X takes 30 seconds to load a level.
 - ◆ It needs to load 300 images.
- On average, a level only uses 50 images.
- Images are stored in an FileImage class
 - ◆ FileImage is a proprietary class file from a 3rd party library
- How can I improve performance and minimize code changes?

Original idea from Wikipedia

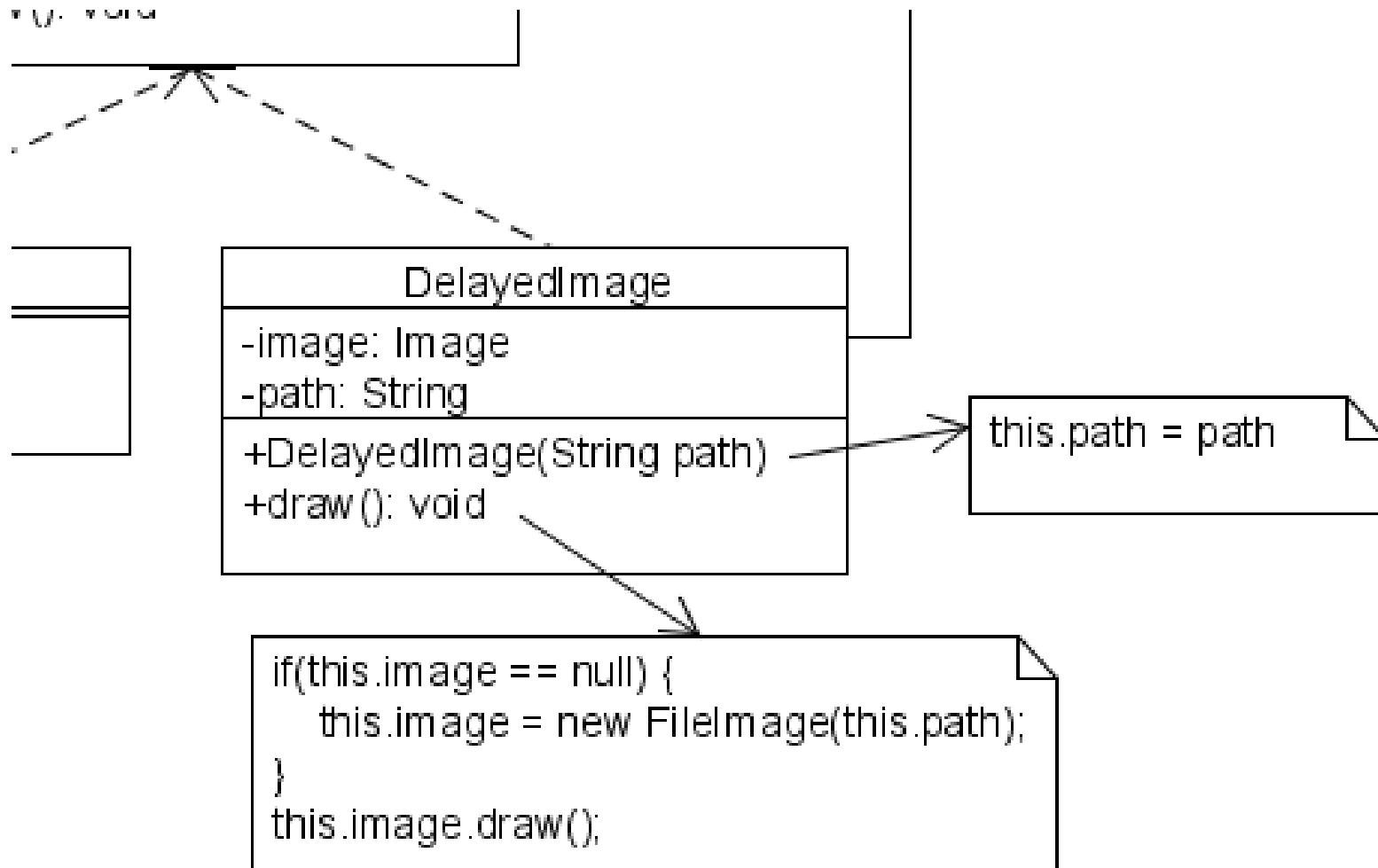
Image and FileImage



DelayedImage



Focus on DelayedImage



- Provide a surrogate or placeholder for another object to control access to it.
- Aka: Surrogate

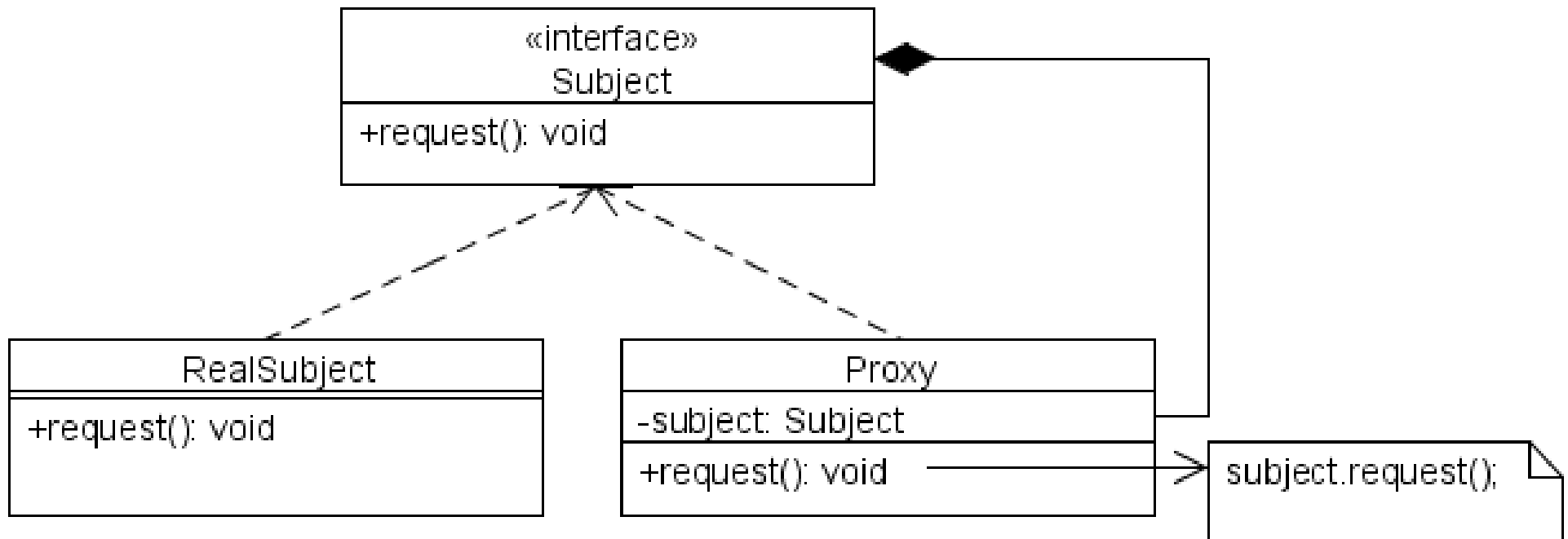
What is a proxy?

- A proxy is
 - ◆ a person authorized to act for another person
 - ◆ an agent or substitute
 - ◆ the authority to act for another

Motivation

- Sometimes, you want to modify the behavior of an object (or control access to it), without modifying the object itself.

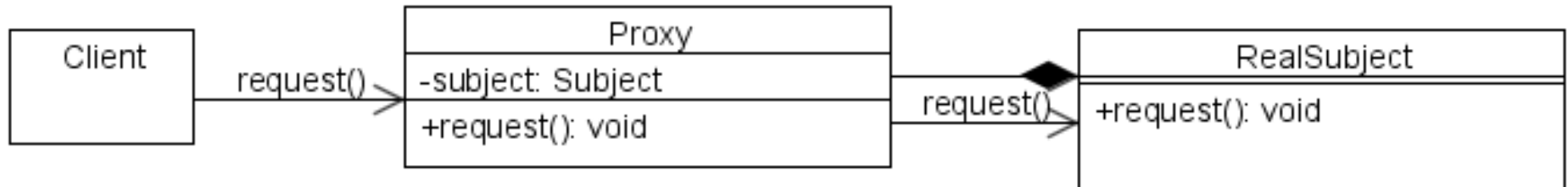
Structure



When to use?

- Use the Proxy pattern when
 - ◆ You want to remotely access a local object.
 - ◆ You want to create expensive objects on demand.
 - ◆ You want to protect the original object.
 - ◆ You want to make the original object smarter.

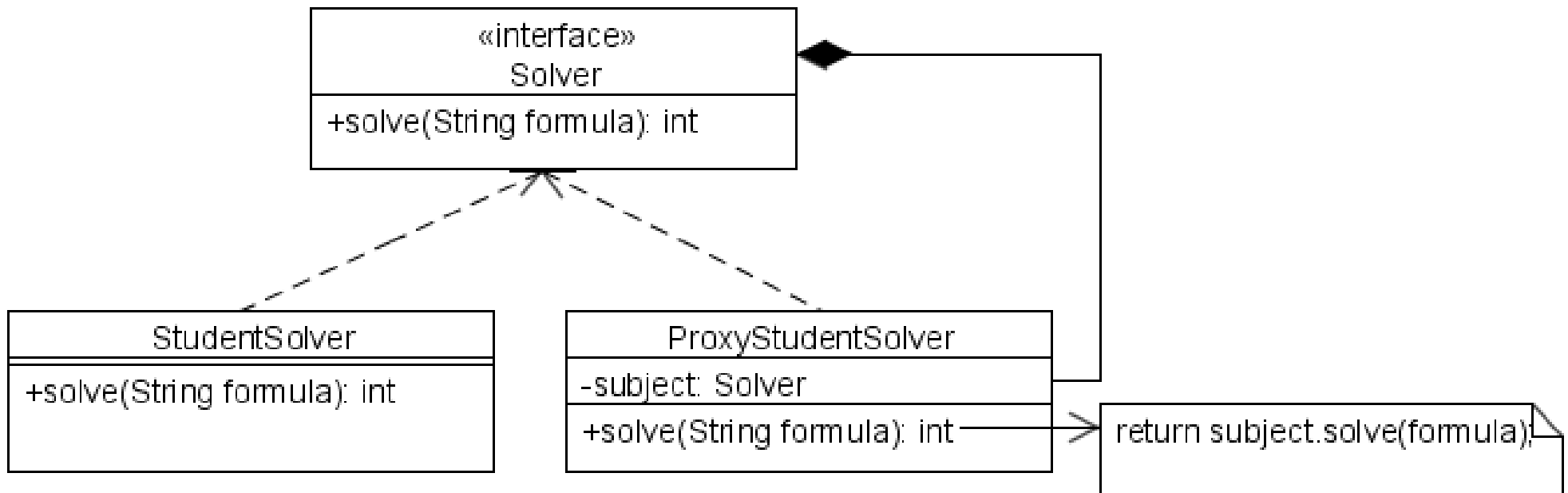
How does it work?



Implementation Issues

- Proxies are even easier to use (and transparent) in languages where you can ...
 - ◆ Override the member access operators.
 - ◆ Use Aspects.
- Proxy doesn't need to know the concrete type of the subject.
- What to do with proxies without subjects?

Arithmetic Example



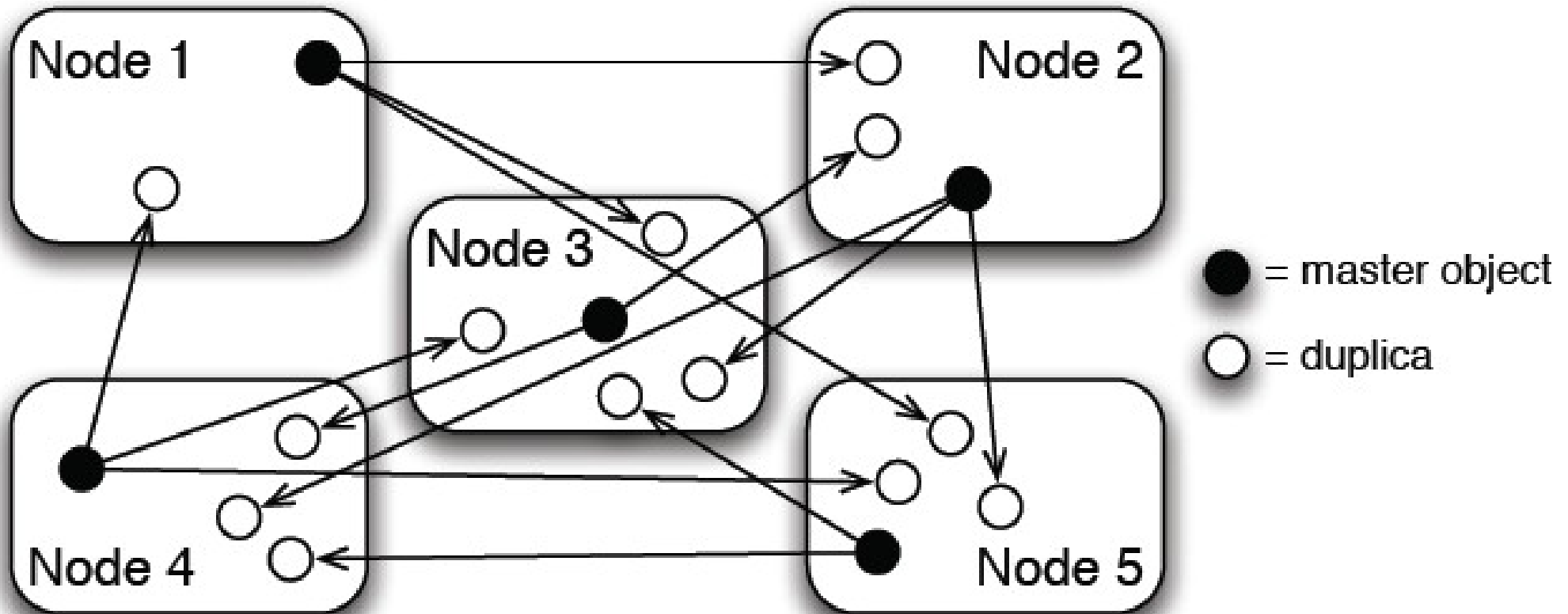
Solution

17 911 178

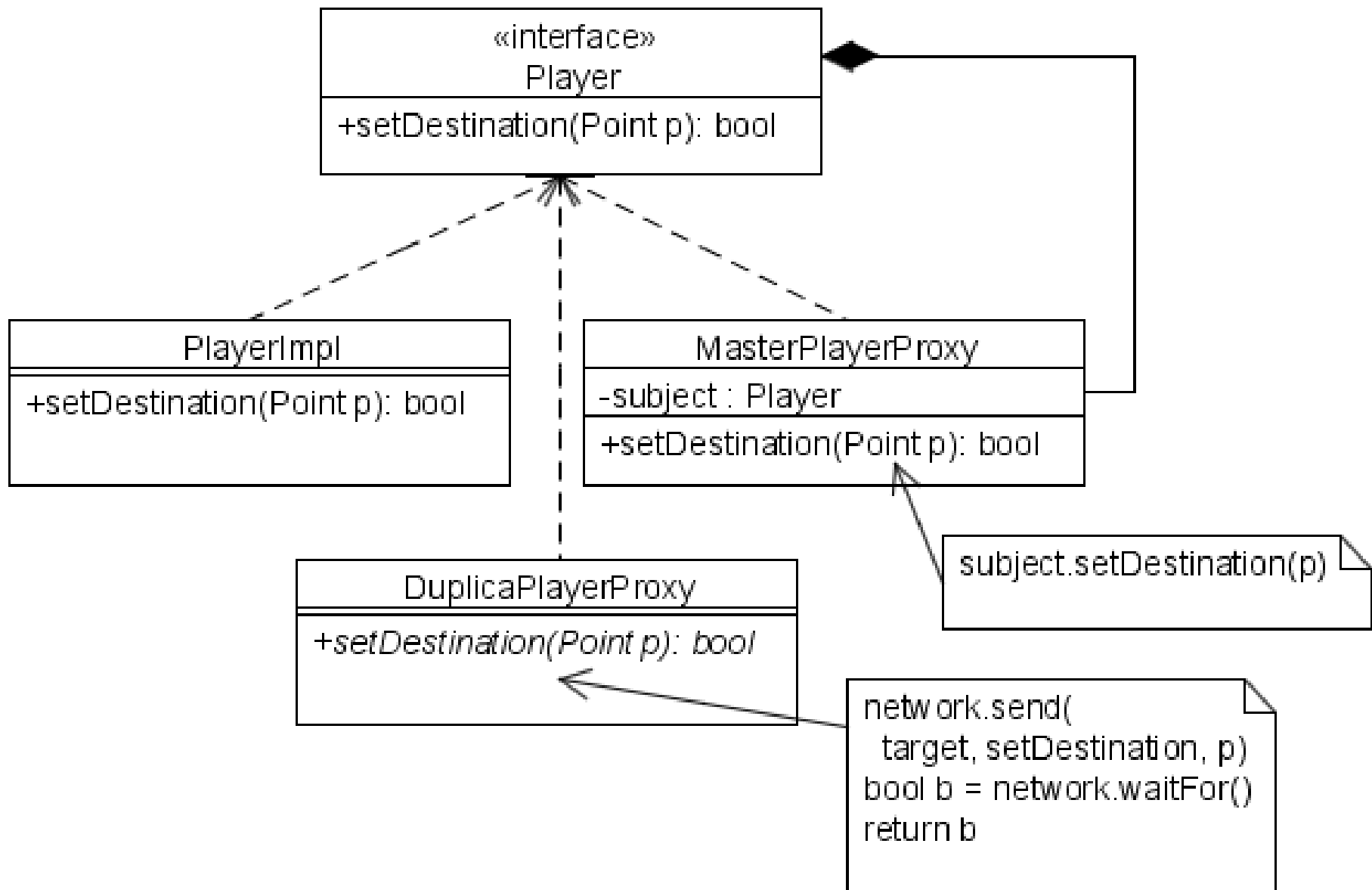
Mammoth Example



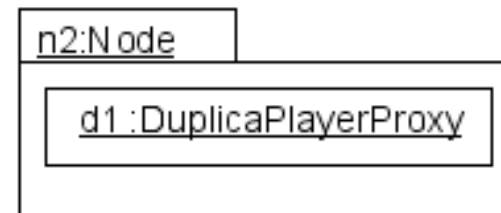
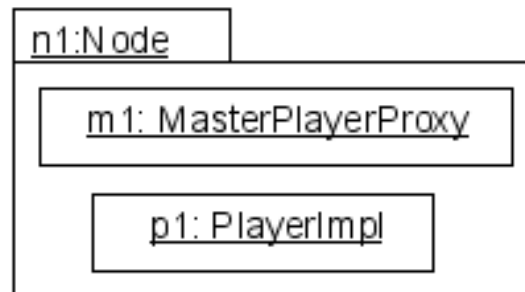
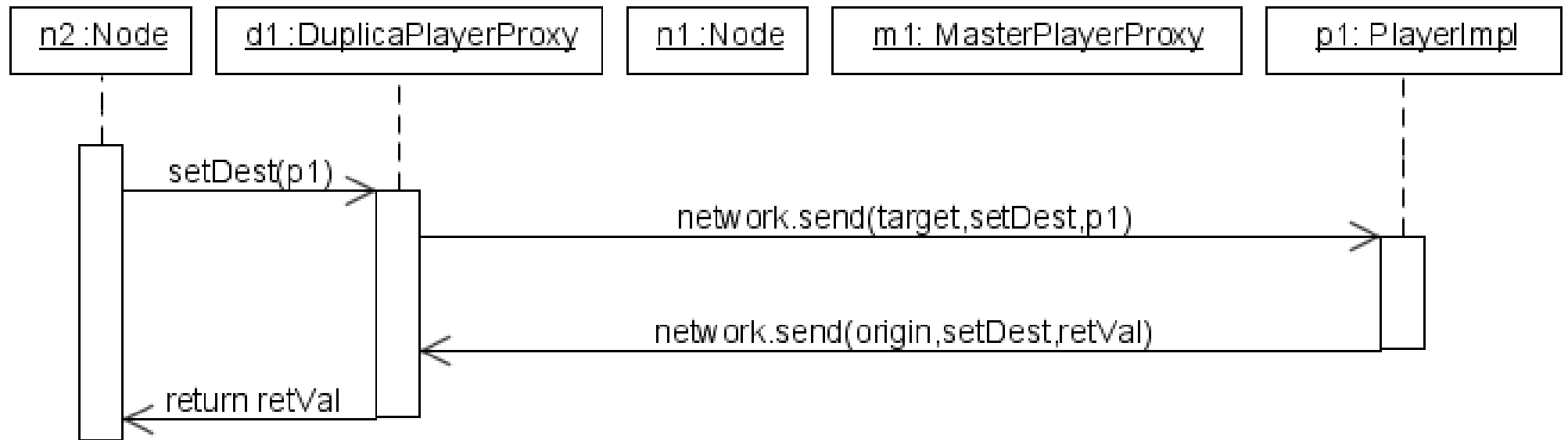
Replication Systems



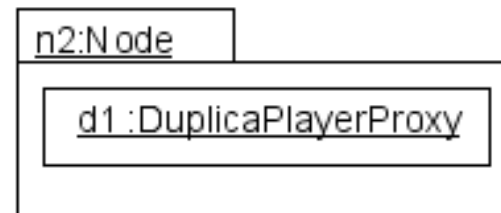
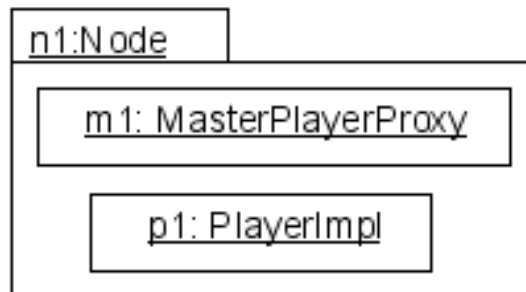
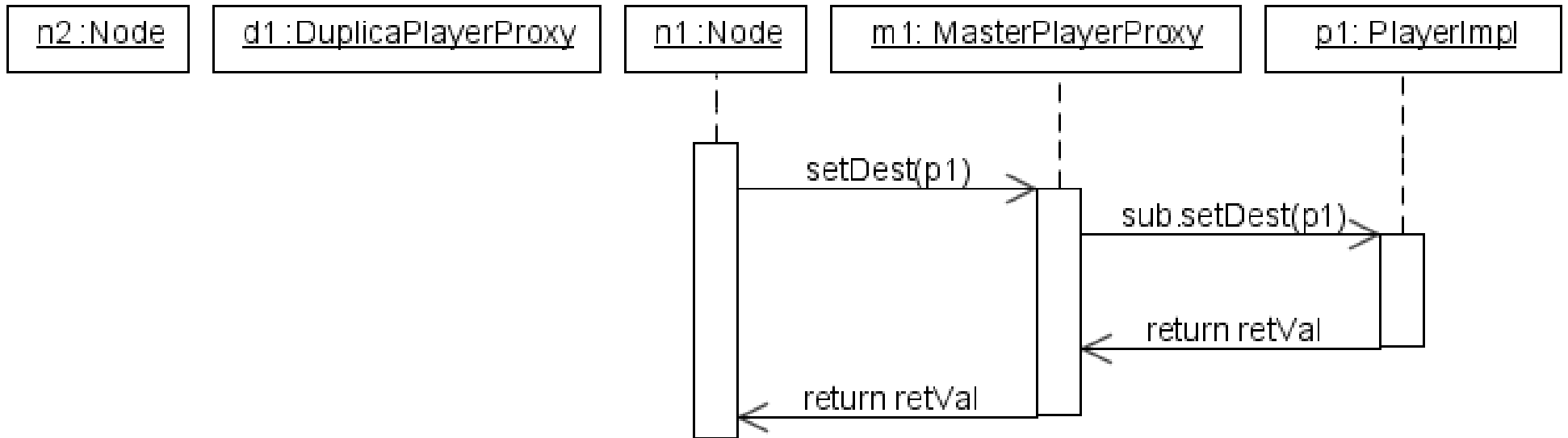
Architecture



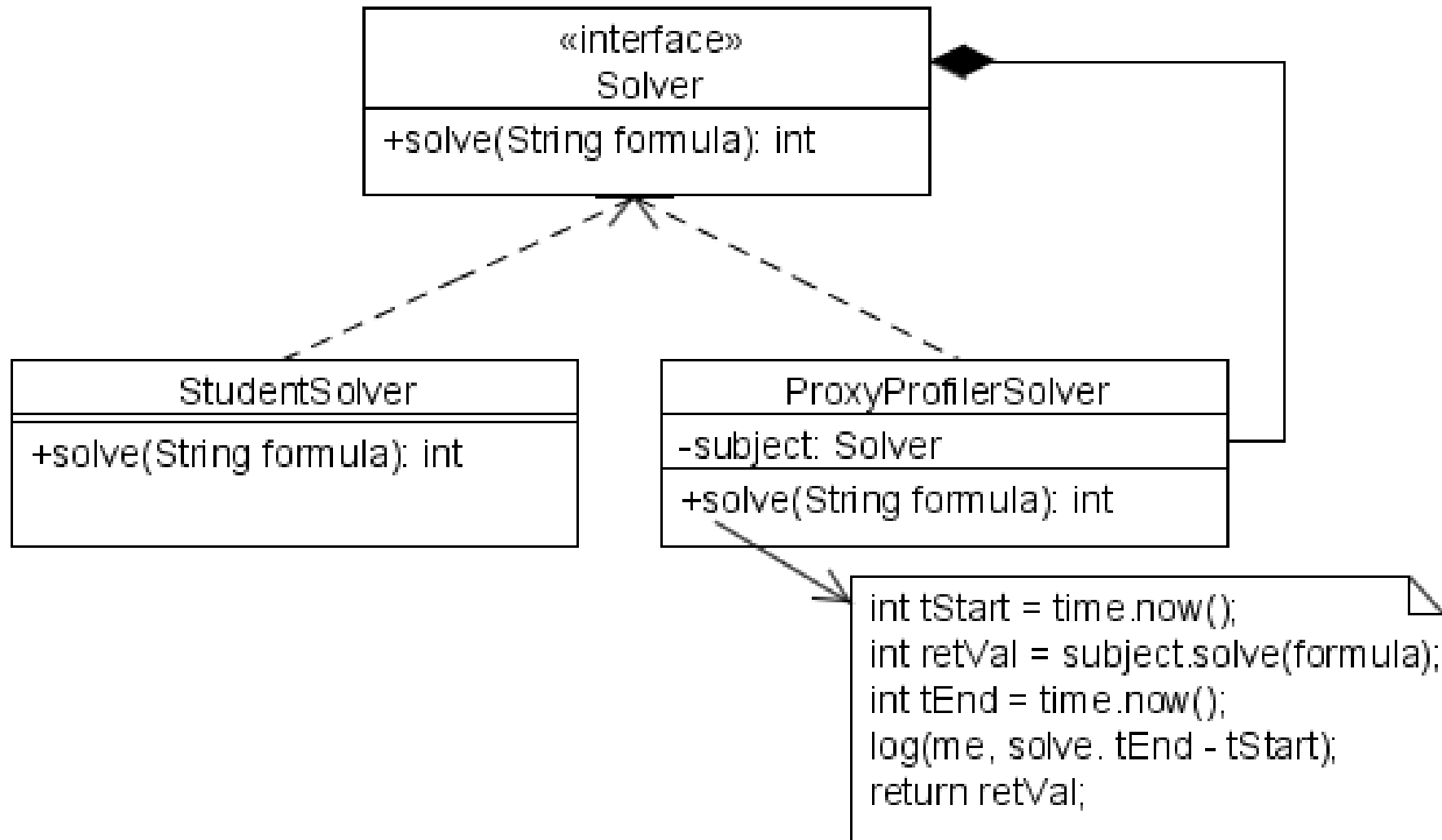
Remote Call



Local Call



Profiler Example



Other Types of Proxies

- Copy-On-Write Proxy - Defers copying (cloning) a target object until required by client actions. Really a form of virtual proxy.
- Protection (Access) Proxy - Provides different clients with different levels of access to a target object
- Cache Proxy - Provides temporary storage of the results of expensive target operations so that multiple clients can share the results
- Firewall Proxy - Protects targets from bad clients (or vice versa)
- Synchronization Proxy - Provides multiple accesses to a target object
- Smart Reference Proxy - Provides additional actions whenever a target object is referenced such as counting the number of references to the object

Extending 3rd party tools

- You don't have the code.
- Can't always subclass existing code.
- Proxies are the next best things.

Design Patterns, the big picture

- Design Patterns are solutions to problems.
- You can teach them with lectures, but that's not optimal.
- To appreciate them, you need to use them.
- And first thing in using them is recognizing when to use them.

The Design Pattern Challenge!

Name that Design Pattern
Left vs Right Edition

<insert inspirational music here>

Question 1

I need to efficiently update several displays monitoring the content of a file, every time the file is updated.

Question 2

I need to be able to queue actions, since I can only process one at a time.

Question 3

I need to generate objects from either the Fire, Water, Air or Earth family of objects.

Question 4

I need to traverse a data structure containing Ninja, Monkey, Pirates and Zombie objects.

Question 5

I need to make sure that a maximum of three copies of my SuperCache object exists.

Question 6

I need to make a library I just purchased type compatible with an existing one.

Question 7

I need to add security to an object from the library I just purchased.

Question 8

I need my application to process all orders in an identical fashion, regardless if they have sub-orders or not.