## Stages of design

- Problem understanding
  - Look at the problem from different angles to discover the design requirements
- Identify one or more solutions
  - Evaluate possible solutions and choose the most appropriate depending on the designer's experience and available resources
- Describe solution abstractions
  - Use graphical, formal or other descriptive notations to describe the components of the design
- Repeat process for each identified abstraction until the design is expressed in primitive terms Software Engineering, 5th edition. Chapter 12











## Design methods

- Structured methods are sets of notations for expressing a software design and guidelines for creating a design
- Well-known methods include Structured Design (Yourdon), and JSD (Jackson Method)
- Can be applied successfully because they support standard notations and ensure designs follow a standard form

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 Structured methods may be supported with CASE tools
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- They are guidelines rather than methods in the mathematical sense. Different designers create quite different system designs
- They do not help much with the early, creative phase of design. Rather, they help the designer to structure and document his or her design ideas

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## Design quality

- Design quality is an elusive (わかりにくい) concept. Quality depends on specific organisational priorities
- A 'good' design may be the most efficient, the cheapest, the most maintainable, the most reliable, etc.
- The attributes discussed here are concerned with the maintainability of the design
- Quality characteristics are equally applicable to function-oriented and object-oriented designs
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- Object-oriented systems are loosely coupled because there is no shared state and objects communicate using message passing
- However, an object class is coupled to its super-classes. Changes made to the attributes or operations in a super-class propagate to all sub-classes. Such changes must be carefully controlled

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## Adaptability

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- A design is adaptable if:
  - Its components are loosely coupled
  - It is well-documented and the documentation is up to date
  - There is an obvious correspondence between design levels (design visibility)
  - Each component is a self-contained entity (tightly cohesive)
- To adapt a design, it must be possible to trace the links between design components so that change consequences can be analysed

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- Inheritance dramatically improves adaptability. Components may be adapted without change by deriving a sub-class and modifying that derived class
- However, as the depth of the inheritance hierarchy increases, it becomes increasingly complex. It must be periodically reviewed and restructured

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