CSE 331 Spring 2025 Intro to the Browser



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- HW1 out!
 - HW is mostly about debugging, not just coding
 - so: we are mostly assessing you on debugging, and not really on correctness (see: spec!)
 - but, you do need to attempt all functions
- advice:
 - read spec carefully app is complex, but you are implementing a small subset
 - you probably have questions about JS, node,
 NPM, and express. <u>That's expected</u> ask them!
 - start early! & take advantage of office hours!

The 123 Programming Model

Run code from front-to-back, once.*



The 331 Server Programming Model



The 331 Programming Model, Zooming Out

Client-Server programming has two programs



The Browser, HTML, and CSS

Recall: Browser Operation

Browser reads the URL to find what HTML to load



• Contacts the given server and asks for the given path



Browsers: JavaScript and HTML



- Browser natively knows how to display HTML
- Page can also include JavaScript to execute
 - but it is not required
 - if present, the JavaScript can *change* the HTML displayed

HTML

- HTML = Hyper Text Markup Language
 - text format for describing a document / UI
 - HTML describes the structure of the content, and (partially) what you want drawn in the browser
- HTML text consists primarily of "tags" and text

HTML Tags



- Elements can have children (text or elements)
 - text is always a leaf in the tree



- HTML is a text format that describes a tree
 - nodes are elements or text



HTML tree

- HTML text is parsed into a tree ("DOM")
- JS can access the tree in the variable "document" our code lives in the world on the right side

Displaying HTML

- Browser window displays an HTML document
 - tree is turned into drawing in the page



- browser displays the HTML in the window

browsers parse and draw very quickly

- JS has limited access to display information

Developer Tools show the HTML

- Click on any HTML element and choose "Inspect"
 - can see exact size in pixels, colors, etc.

C

Submi	Look Up "Submit"	
	Сору	
	Copy Link to Highlight	
	Search Google for "Submit"	
	Print	
	Open in Reading Mode	
	Translate Selection to English	
	Inspect	
	Speech	>
	Services	>

- ▼<body>
 - ▶ ...
 - ▼<div id="submit">

```
<button type="button" onclick="getAnswer(event);">Submit</button>
</div>
```

- The "style" attribute controls appearance details
 - margins, padding, width, fonts, etc.
 - see an <u>HTML reference</u> for details (when necessary)
- Attribute value can include many properties
 - each is "name: value"
 - separate multiple using ";"

```
Hi,
<span style="color: red; margin-left: 15px">Bob</span>!
```

```
Hi, Bob!
```

- we will generally not worry much about looks in this class...

Cascading Style Sheets (CSS)

- Commonly used styles can be named
 - association of names to styles goes in a .css file

```
// foo.css
span.fancy { color: red; margin-left: 15px }
// foo.html
... Hi, <span class="fancy">Bob</span> ...
```

- Useful to avoid repetition of styling
 - makes it easier to change

Old School Web UI

Including JavaScript in HTML

- Server usually sends back HTML to the browser
- Include code to execute inside of script tag:

```
<script>
console.log("Hi, browser");
</script>
```

• Can also put the script into another file:

```
<script src="mycode.js"></script>
```

- Client applications are event-driven
 - register "handlers" for various events
- Can do so like this in HTML (but don't!)

```
<button onClick="handleClick(event)">Click Me</button>
```

```
<script>
    const handleClick = (evt) => {
        console.log("ouch");
    };
</script>
```

• Change the HTML displayed like this (but don't!)

```
Add 2 to <input type="text" id="num"></input>
<button onClick="doAdd (event) ">Submit</button>
<div id="answer"></div>
<script>
  const doAdd = (evt) => {
    const numElem = document.getElementById("num");
    const num = Number(numElem.value);
    const ansElem = document.getElementById("answer");
    ansElem.innerHTML = `The answer is ${num+2}`;
  };
</script>
```

Updating the DOM: Adding Nodes



Updating the DOM: Removing Nodes



Updating the DOM: Editing Nodes





Problems with Old School Ul

- Write code for every way the UI could <u>change</u>
 - many, many cases
 - particularly tricky when working in teams/groups
- Not specific to HTML
 - same issue exists in Windows, on the iPhone, Xbox, etc.
 - if you write code to put things on screen,
 then you write code to change where they are on screen

- New approach: what should it look like <u>now</u>?
 - write function that maps current state to desired HTML
 - <u>compare</u> desired HTML to what is on the screen now
 - make any <u>changes</u> needed to turn former into latter
- Huge improvement in productivity
 - introduced in Meta's "React" library
 - library performs the "compare" and "change" parts
- Faster to write HTML UI than anything else
 - many similar libraries exist for the web
 - same approach also used in mobile apps, games, ...

- we will use React in this class
 - goal is not to make you React experts
 - teach you just enough React to understand "New School UI" ideas
 - these ideas will apply everywhere
- similar to JS & Express, only using small subset of the library
- practical note: React is a library installed with npm

React Components

HTML Literals in JSX

- JSX: extension of JS that allows HTML expressions
 - file extension must be .jsx

const x = Hi there!;

• Supports substitution like `..` string literals,

```
- but uses \{ ... \} not \{ ... \}
```

```
const name = "Fred";
return Hi {name};
```

• Can also substitute the value of an attribute:



- Must have a single root tag (i.e., must be a tree)
 - e.g., cannot do this

```
return onetwo;
```

- instead, wrap in a <div> or just <>..</>("fragment")
- Replacements for attributes matching keywords
 - use "className=" instead of "class="
 - use "htmlFor=" instead of "for="

• CSS styling can be used in JSX

```
// foo.css
span.fancy { color: red; margin-left: 15px }
// foo.jsx
import './foo.css'; // another weird import
...
return Hi, <span className="fancy">Bob</span>!;
```

• Nice to get this out of the source code

Anatomy of a React Component

- split up large web pages into individual components
- React components are classes
 - class "extends" React's Component class
 - has a constructor that takes in one argument (more on this in a moment)
 - has a field called state (that holds the app's ... data/state)
- components should have a render method
 - goal: convert app's state to JSX (which it returns)
 - method should have be "pure" and have no "side effects"; in other words, it should not change state
 - we never call the render method React does for us

Simplest React Component

• Component that prints a Hello message:

```
class HiElem extends Component {
 constructor(props) {
    super(props);
    this.state = {lang: "en"};
  }
 render = () => \{
    if (this.state.lang === "es") {
      return Hola, Matt!;
    } else {
      return Hi, Matt!;
    }
                         How do we change "lang"?
  };
}
```

Simplest React Component (rendered)

Hello Matt!



Hola Matt! English

Changing State in our Component

```
render = () => \{
  if (this.state.lang === "es") {
    return Hola, Matt!
       <button onClick={this.doEngClick}>Eng</button>
      </p>;
  } else {
    return Hi, Matt!
       <button onClick={this.doEspClick}>Esp</button>
      </p>;
  }
};
doEspClick = (evt) => \{
  this.setState({lang: "es"};
};
```

React and Component State Changes

```
<button onClick={this.doEspClick}>Esp</button>
```

```
doEspClick = (evt) => {
   this.setState({lang: "es"};
};
```

- Must call setState to change the state
 - directly modifying this.state is a (painful) bug
- React will automatically re-render when state changes
 - but this does not happen instantly
React Responds to setState calls

HTML on screen = render(this.state)

	Component	React
t = 10	this.state = s_1	$doc = HTML_1 = render(s_1)$
t = 20	this.setState(s ₂)	
t = 30	this.state $=$ s ₂	doc $HTML_2 = render(s_2)$

React updates this.state to s_2 and doc to HTML_2 simultaneously

React Component with an Event Handler

• Pass method to be called as argument (a "callback"):

<button onClick={this.doEspClick}>Esp</button>

• Be careful not to do this:

<button onClick={this.doEspClick()}>Esp</button>

- Including parentheses here is a bug!
 - that would call the method inside render
 passing its return value as the value of the onClick attribute
 - we want to pass the method to the button, and have it called when the click occurs

• Initial page has a placeholder in the HTML:

<div id="main"></div>

(empty DIV in index.html)

• Put HTML into it from code like this:

```
const elem = document.getElementById("main");
const root = createRoot(elem);
root.render(<HiElem />);
```

createRoot is a function provided by the React library
 tells React that it should keep the HTML in the page matching what render returns

• Initial page has a placeholder in the HTML:

<div id="main"></div>

(empty DIV in index.html)

• Put HTML into it from code like this:

```
const elem = document.getElementById("main");
const root = createRoot(elem);
root.render(<HiElem name={"Matt"} size={3}/>);
```

- in HiElem, this.props will be {name: "Matt", size: 3}
- each component is a custom tag with its own attributes ("properties")

Props and State, Together

```
render = () => {
    if (this.state.lang === "es") {
        return Hola, {this.props.name}!
            <button onClick={this.doEngClick}>Eng</button>
            ;
    ...
    }
};
```

- render can use both this.props and this.state
 - difference 1: caller give us props, but we set our state
 - difference 2: we can change our state

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More React



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The React Model (1/3)



The React Model (2/3)



The React Model (3/3)





- you only have to write event handlers & render function
- but, you <u>have</u> to play by the rules, or new bugs!!
 - view *must* be a function of *just* the app state
 - render *must* be "pure" (no side effects!)

Reminder: React in Practice

- Writing User Interface with React:
 - write a class that extends Component
 - implement the render method
- Each component becomes a new HTML tag:

```
root.render(<HiElem name={"Matt"}/>);
```

- in HiElem, this.props will be {name: "Matt"}
- Can use props and state (and only those!) in render:

```
render = () => {
  if (this.state.lang === "en") {
    return Hi, {this.props.name}!
        <button onClick={this.doEspClick}>Esp</button>
        ;
```

Second React Component: More User Input

• Put name in state and let the user change it:

```
class HiElem extends Component {
  constructor(props) {
    super(props);
    this.state = {name: "Matt"};
  }
  render = () => \{
    return <p>Hi, {this.state.name}</p>;
 };
}
```

How do we change the name? Ask the user for their name.

Second React Component: The View

What is your name? Matt

Done

Hello Matt!

Second React Component: adding <input>

```
constructor(props) {
  super(props);
  this.state = {showGreeting: false};
}
render = () => \{
  if (this.state.showGreeting) {
    return <p>Hi, {this.state.name}!</p>;
  } else {
    return <p>What is your name?
        <input type="text"></input>
        <button ...>Done/button>
      </p>
  }
};
```

Second React Component: Updating State?

```
<input type="text"></input>
<button onClick={this.doDoneClick}>Done</button>
```

```
doDoneClick = (evt) => {
   this.setState({showGreeting: true});
   // what about "name"?
};
```

How do we get the name text? Do not reach into document! (Always a bug. Often a *heisenbug*.)

Text Value of Input Elememts

• These two are different:

```
<input type="text"></input>
<input type="text" value="abc"></input>
abc
```

- missing value means value=""

- The render method says what HTML should be now
 - bug if calling render would inadvertently change things particularly if it would delete user data!
 - if we want the second picture, we need to set value in render

Second React Component: Input Events

```
doNameChange = (evt) => {
   this.setState({name: evt.target.value});
};
```

- evt.target is the input element
- evt.target.value is the current text in the input element

```
<input type="text" value={this.state.name}
         onChange={this.doNameChange}></input>
    <button onClick={this.doDoneClick}>Done</button>
doNameChange = (evt) => {
  this.setState({name: evt.target.value});
};
doDoneClick = (evt) => {
  this.setState({showGreeting: true});
};
```

```
    Never reach into the document to get state!
```

- React can re-render at any time
- will be a heisenbug when you forget (usually, it still works!)

Second React Component: Mirrored State

```
doNameChange = (evt) => {
   this.setState({name: evt.target.value});
};
doDoneClick = (evt) => {
   this.setState({showGreeting: true});
};
```

Any state you need should be mirrored in your state

```
- set value and handle on Change
```

Event Handler Conventions

• We will use this convention for event handlers



- e.g., doDoneClick, doNewNameChange
- Reduces the need to explain these methods
 - method name is enough to understand what it is for
 - method name is the only thing you know they read
- Components should be just rendering & event handlers

Example: To-Do List

No need to write code to

- add a new item to the HTML
- remove an item from the HTML
- update an item in the HTML

all of this is code is tricky (especially if state is not mirrored properly)

• Instead, we only write:

- 1. state: what does our app care about?
- 2. render method: tell React what it should look like right now
- 3. event handlers: tell React how to update state when buttons are clicked
- React figures out what to add, remove, and update

React Requirements for Lists

- To do this, React needs more from
 - needs to distinguish change from add/remove
 - wash doglaundry
 - did l insert a new item or change one and add another?
 <u>impossible</u> to really know without more information
- React requires each list item to have a key=".." property that uniquely identifies it

React Requirements for Lists: Keys

- To do this, React needs more from
 - needs to distinguish change from add/remove

```
wash dogwash dogwash dogwrite lecturelaundry
```

- can now see that "2" was not changed
- only difference is that "3" was inserted
- React will give you a warning (console) if you forget
 - will try its best to figure out what happened
 - always fix these to be safe

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Typescript & Modular Code (with React)

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Why does (in JS):

[98, 100, 99].sort()

evaluate to [100, 98, 99]?

How would JS evaluate:

L
console.log, -5, -42,
console.log("hi")
].sort()

- Many JS shenanigans have to do with types :(
- In HW1, we asked: would a **type checker** help?
 - students reported: 41% fall, 45% winter, spring TBD :)
 - industry studies found even higher numbers (over 60%)
- Mega-scale applications use type-checked languages
 - problems get even worse with multiple programmers
 - basically, unheard of to not use one
- Now: huge shift to "bolt-on" types to dynamically-typed languages (JS, Python, Ruby, ...)

TypeScript

TypeScript Adds Declared Types to JavaScript

- TypeScript includes declared types for variables
 - file names end with .ts or .tsx (not .js or .jsx)
 - one extra config file tsconfig.json
- Compiler checks that the types are valid
 - produces JS just by removing the types

• Critical to understand how the type system works

- know which bugs it catches and which it misses
- you can then focus your attention on the second group

TypeScript Adds Declared Types

• Type is declared after the variable name:

```
const u: bigint = 3n;
const v: bigint = 4n;
const add = (x: bigint, y: bigint): bigint => {
  return x + y;
};
console.log(add(u, v)); // prints 7n
```

- return type is declared after the argument list (...) and before =>
- "Where types go" is the main syntax difference vs Java

Basic Data Types of TypeScript

• JavaScript includes the following types

number	
bigint	
string	
boolean	
null	
undefined	
Object	(record types)
Array	(e.g., string[] as in Java)

• TypeScript has these and also...

unknown(could be anything)any(turns off type checking — do not use!)

• Functions themselves have types. Given:

```
const add = (x: bigint, y: bigint): bigint => {
  return x + y;
};
```

the type of add itself is

(x: bigint, y: bigint) => bigint

- different notion than "what does add return"
- will see this frequently with event handlers

Think Pair Share: I've Become So Numb(er)

```
// TS
const addTS = (x: number, y: number): number => {
  return x + y;
};
addTS(1n, 2n);
```

```
// Java
double addJava(double a, double b) {
return a + b;
}
addJava(1, 2);
```

Which of these would compile?

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• Any literal value is also a type:

let x: "foo" = "foo"; let y: 16n = 16n;

- Variable can only hold that specific value!
 - can assign it again, but only with the same value
 - seems silly, but turns out to be useful...

- Union Types string | bigint
 - can be either one of these
- Not possible in Java!
 - TS can describe types of code that Java cannot
- Unknown type is (essentially) a union

type unknown = number | bigint | string | boolean | ...
unions of literals are "enums"

```
const dist = (dir: "left"|"right", amt: bigint): bigint => {
    if (dir === "right") {
        return amt;
    } else {
        return -amt;
    }
};
```

- TypeScript ensures that callers will only pass one of those two strings ("left" or "right")
 - impossible to do this in Java

(must fake it with the enumeration design pattern)

• Another design pattern built into Java:

```
enum Dir {
   LEFT, RIGHT
}
```

- Dir.LEFT and Dir.RIGHT are the only 2 instances
- Cannot pass a Dir where String is expected
 - must add methods to convert between them

Creating New Types: Records

- Can create compound types in multiple ways
 - put multiple types together into one larger type
- Record Types {x: bigint, s: string}
 - anything with at least fields "x" and "s"

```
const p: {x: bigint, s: string} = {x: 1n, s: "hi"};
console.log(p.x); // prints 1n
```

Creating New Types: Tuples

- Can create compound types in multiple ways
 - put multiple types together into one larger type
- Tuple Types [bigint, string]
 - create them like this

```
const p: [bigint, string] = [1n, "hi"]; // an array
```

- give names to the parts ("destructuring") to use them

const [x, y] = p; console.log(x); // prints 1n

- Records and tuples provide the same functionality
 - both allow you to put parts together into one object
 - conceptually interchangeable
- They differ in who names the parts and when
 - record: creator picks the names

everyone must use the same name

- tuple: user of the tuple picks the names
 each user can pick their own names
- <u>331 convention</u>: destructure tuples (only)
 - no reason to destructure records, so we disallow it

Optional Fields in TypeScript

• Records can have optional fields

```
type T = {x: bigint, y?: bigint};
const t: T = {x: 1n};
```

- type of "t.y" is "bigint | undefined"
- Functions can have optional arguments

```
const f = (a: bigint, b?: bigint): bigint => {
  console.log(b);
};
```

```
- type of " b " is " bigint | undefined "
```

• TypeScript lets you give shorthand names for types

```
type Point = {x: bigint, y: bigint};
const p: Point = {x: 1n, y: 2n};
console.log(p.x); // prints 1n
```

- Usually nicer but not necessary
 - e.g., this does the same thing

```
const p: {x: bigint, y: bigint} = {x: 1n, y: 2n};
console.log(x); // prints 1n
```

- Deep difference between TypeScript and Java types
- TypeScript uses "structural typing"
 - sometimes called "duck typing"

"if it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it's a duck"

type T1 = {a: bigint, b: string};
type T2 = {a: bigint, b: string};

const x: T1 = {a: 1n, b: "two"};

- can pass " x " to a function expecting a " ${\mathbb T}2$ "!
- can pass " \times " to *any* function expecting a record with a bigint a and a string b

Java uses "nominal typing"

class T1 { int a; int b; }
class T2 { int a; int b; }

T1 x = new T1();

- cannot pass " \times " to a function expecting a " ${\tt T2}$ "
- Libraries do not interoperate unless it was pre-planned
 - create "adapters" to work around this
 example of a design pattern used to work around language limitations

Think Pair Share: Be There, or Be Square

```
type Square = { width: number };
type Rectangle = { width: number, height: number };
type SquareOrRect = { width: number, height?: number };
const squareArea = (s: Square) : number => {
return s.width * s.width;
}
```

Can we pass to squareArea:

- 1. any Square?
- 2. squareOrRects with no height
- 3. any SquareOrRect?
- 4. any Rectangle?

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Type Inference

- If you leave off the type, TS will try to guess it
 - often, but not always, it guesses correctly
- This will work fine

const p = {x: 1n, y: 2n}; console.log(p.x); // prints 1n

- compiler should correctly guess { x: bigint, y: bigint}
- can see in VS Code by <u>hovering</u> over " p "

Type Inference in 331

- If you leave off the type, TS will try to guess it
 - often, but not always, it guesses correctly
- <u>331 convention</u>: type declarations are required on...
 - function arguments and return values
 - variables declared outside of any function ("top-level")
 these could be exported, so types should be explicit
- We do not require declarations on local variables
 - but it is fine to include them
 - if TS guesses wrong, you will need to include it

React Components and TypeScript

```
type HiProps = {name: string};
type HiState = {greeting: string};
class HiElem extends Component<HiProps, HiState> {
    constructor(props: HiProps) {
        super(props);
        this.state = {greeting: "Hi"};
    }
```

- Component is a generic type
 - first component is type of this.props (readonly)
 - second component is type of this.state

Linters

- Linters are like type checkers
 - try to find potential bugs in the program
 - as well as poor style / design issues
- In 331, we have our own linter ("comfy-tslint")
 - e.g., types are declared except local vars in functions
 - coming in HW3 :)
- They can be overzealous
 - can flag issues that aren't really problems
 - (happens with type checkers also, but less frequently)

Unused Variables & Linters

Linter will complain about unused variables

```
const f = (a: bigint, b: bigint): bigint => {
  return b;
};
```

– linter will complain that \mathbf{a} is unused

this looks suspicious, doesn't it?

- This ignores variables whose names start with "_"
 - the underscore indicates you know it is unused
 - change the variable name to get rid of the error