

From Goals to Aspects: Discovering Aspects from Requirements Goal Models

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Abstract

Aspect-oriented programming (AOP) has been attracting much attention in the Software Engineering community by advocating that programs should be structured according to programmer concerns, such as “efficient use of memory”. However, like other programming paradigms in their early days, AOP hasn’t addressed yet earlier phases of software development. In particular, it is still an open question how one identifies aspects early on in the software development process. This paper proposes an answer to this question. Specifically, we show that aspects can be discovered during goal-oriented requirements analysis. Our proposal includes a systematic process for discovering aspects from relationships between functional and non-functional goals. We illustrate the proposed process with a case study adapted from the literature.

1. Introduction

Aspect-oriented programming (AOP) is founded on the idea of aspect [4] as a cross-cutting concern during software development. Aspects are usually “units of system decomposition that are not functional” [12], such as “no unauthorized access to data” or “efficient use of memory”. Aspects cut across different components of a software system. The basic premise of aspect-oriented programming is that software structured according to aspects is easier to develop, understand and maintain.

In name and in practice, aspect-oriented programming is a programming methodology. However, this methodology does not deal with the origins of aspects. Where do aspects come from? Is there a systematic way of discovering aspects early on during the software development process? The main objective of this paper is to propose an answer to these questions. Our proposal is based on the notion of goal and the analysis techniques developed in goal-oriented requirements engineering. These techniques are shown to be useful in guiding the discovery of aspects.

Goal-oriented requirements engineering [15, 22] focuses on goals which are “roughly speaking, precursors of requirements” [7]. Goal-based models support the description and analysis of intentions that underlie a new software system. Some goal models, such as i^* [25, 13], also model the actors who behold these intentions. Most variations of goal models in the literature use AND/OR trees to represent goal decomposition [14, 23] and define a space of alternative solutions to the problem of satisfying a root-level goal. There are several proposals in the literature for (formal) goal analysis techniques. For example, obstacle analysis [23] explores possible obstacles to the satisfaction of a goal. Along a different dimension, qualitative goal analysis [9] allows qualitative contributions from one goal to another, and shows how to formalize and reason with them. In whatever form, goal-oriented requirements engineering has been attracting considerable attention within the community [1, 18, 11, 2].

The rest of the paper is structured as follows. Section 2 presents a quick introduction to aspect-oriented programming, while Section 3 defines a particular type of goal model, called a V-graph. Section 4 describes a systematic process for discovering candidate aspects while doing goal analysis; Section 5 illustrates the aspect discovery process using a case study of media shop requirement analysis. Section 6 compares the candidate aspects with aspects found in an open-source implementation of a media shop system, and proposes goal aspects as a way of documenting candidate aspects for later phases. Section 7 concludes the paper and sketches directions for future research.

2. Aspect Oriented Programming

An aspect, such as “efficient use of memory” is a cross-cutting concern for a software system. Dealing with code fragments that address a single aspect in different components of a software system has been a great challenge for software engineers. Structured Design [24] did recognize the importance of packing commonalities into modules. This is also known in pro-

gramming as the DRY principle, that is, “Don’t Repeat Yourself”. Accordingly, a good design should include components with high fan-in. Figure 1 and Figure 2 show how structured design and aspect-oriented programming view the factoring out of common concerns in complementary ways.

A typical aspect expressed in AspectJ¹ syntax is as follows:

```

aspect DisplayUpdating {
  pointcut move():
    call(void FigureElement.moveBy(int, int)) ||
    call(void Line.setP1(Point)) ||
    call(void Line.setP2(Point)) ||
    call(void Point.setX(int)) ||
    call(void Point.setY(int));
  after() returning: move() {
    Display.update();
  }
}

```

The aspect *DisplayUpdating* includes the advice *Display.update()* that will be weaved into the component code after the *move()* pointcut. A pointcut is a virtual address for the inclusion of the advice in a component. This virtual address is resolved through matching. For example, every time a *Line.setP1(Point)* appears in a component, the advice, *Display.update()* will be weaved in that component.

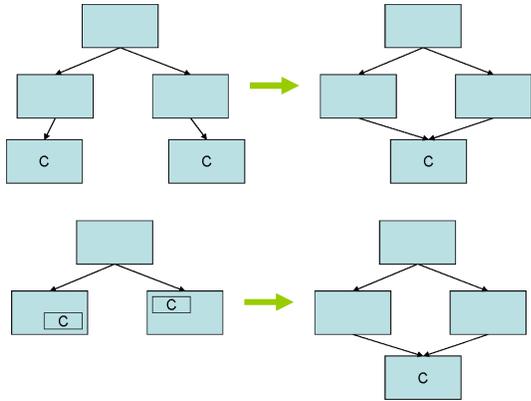


Figure 1. Don’t repeat yourself (DRY) principle: increase fan-in.

The great benefit of software structured according to aspects is the ability to separate issues, Figure 2, and leave it to a pattern matching procedure to weave the issues together at the correct time.

Although the original AOP paper [12] pointed out that aspects are mainly non-functional concerns, there has been no clear link with the notion of non-functional requirements. [14, 5, 6] propose that non-functional

¹This example is taken from [10].

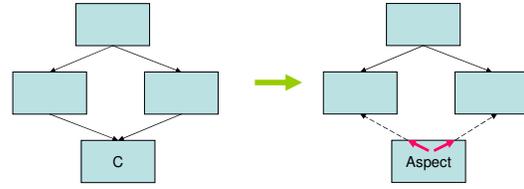


Figure 2. An aspect hides the high fan-in common part from a structured design.

Table 1. Contributions and correlations

link type	and	or	make	help	hurt	break
contrib.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
correlat.	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y

requirements are first class requirements, that is, requirements that are elicited, modeled and analyzed as the software is developed. We adopt their framework and show in the rest of the paper how the analysis of functional and non-functional requirements can lead to the discovery of aspects.

3. The V-graph model

In order to reason about the interplay of functional and non-functional requirements we focus on a particular type of a goal model called a V-graph.

The V-graph is a graph with an overall shape of the letter V (Figure 3). The top two vertices of the V represent respectively functional and non-functional requirements in terms of goal models. Following [14] we represent non-functional requirements in terms of softgoals, i.e., goals with no clear-cut satisfaction. Both models are AND/OR trees with lateral correlation links (see Table 1²). The bottom vertex of the V represent tasks that contribute to the satisfaction of both goals and softgoals.

This model allows for the description of intentional nodes (goals and softgoals), as well as operational ones (tasks.) Following the NFR framework [5], we name each goal and task with two descriptors: a type and a topic. A topic captures contextual information for the goal/task/softgoal. This contextual information is similar to what Zave and Jackson call subject matter [26] which will determine the designations used to identify real world objects related to the goals. For instance, in Figure 7, we have the softgoal Responsiveness (type) of Transactions (topic). A type for a goal or a task describes a generic function; while a type for a softgoal

²In the NFR framework [5], Help/Hurt/Make/Break link types are an extension to the And/Or trees to allow for the description of partial orderings among goals.

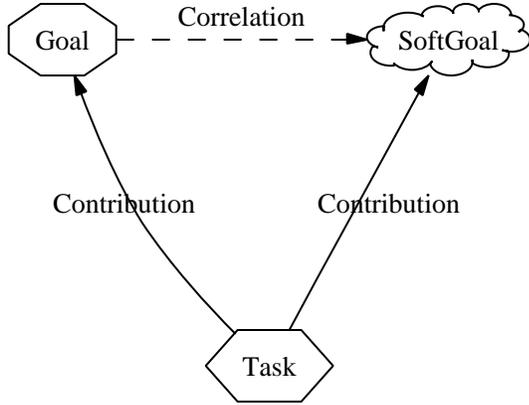


Figure 3. A V shape goal graph links a task of the goal hierarchy to a softgoal as its operationalization. In the paper, we represent softgoals in Cloud shape, goals in Octagon shape and tasks in Hexagon shape.

describes a generic non-functional requirement (quality attribute), such as performance, safety, security, and traceability. In the V-graph model, topics also confine the pointcut links between functional goals/tasks and non-functional softgoals.

Figures 4 depicts two generic decomposition goal/softgoal hierarchies, with contribution and correlation links between them.

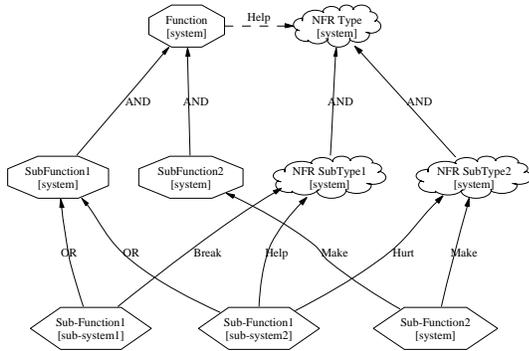


Figure 4. Decomposition of the goal and softgoals following type and topic taxonomy.

Of course, in order to produce a V-graph we need an integrated process of elicitation, modeling and analysis. The focus of this paper is on modeling and analysis, with the help of a goal analysis tool [9].

4. Building V-graphs and discovering aspects

The (manual) process we are proposing constitutes a systematic way for the refinement of a V-graph. The process ends when all root goals are satisfied and all softgoals are satisfied³. At this stage, we are able to identify candidate aspects by identifying tasks that have a high fan-in. The resulting graph can be further refined if candidate aspects are grouped into what we call goal aspects.

The process of building V-graphs is iterative. During each step, the goal analysis tool is used to detect conflicts and deteriorations. A conflict occurs in a goal model when a given labeling of leaf goals as satisfied or denied leads to other goals being labeled both satisfied and denied. A deterioration occurs when the labeling of softgoals during one step of the iteration is weaker (lower) than during the previous step of the iteration.

Below we present the proposed process using a programming language-like notation.

```

procedure AspectFinder
input  $r$ : node /* root goal */,  $s$ : {node} /* softgoals */
output  $a$ : {aspect} and  $g$ : graph<node, link>
pre-condition  $\{r\} \cup s$  are named nodes,
     $a = \phi$  and  $g = \langle \phi, \phi \rangle$ 
post-condition IsSatisfied( $g, r$ ) and IsSatisfied( $g, s$ ),
     $a \neq \phi$  and  $g \neq \langle \phi, \phi \rangle$ 
begin
   $g \leftarrow \text{Correlate}(r, s, g)$ 
  while (not (IsSatisfied( $g, r$ ) and IsSatisfied( $g, s$ ))
    or NodeToDecompose( $g$ )  $\neq \phi$ )
     $g, \text{conflict} \leftarrow \text{Decompose}(g)$ 
    if  $\text{conflict}$  then
       $g \leftarrow \text{ResolveConflict}(g)$ 
    end while
   $a \leftarrow \text{ListAspects}(g)$ 
end

```

AspectFinder is the root procedure. Some clarifications are need here:

1. $node$ denotes a graph node, can be a goal, a task or a softgoal;
2. $\{node\}$ denotes a set of nodes;
3. $\{aspect\}$ denotes a set of aspects;

³Herbert Simon [20] used the term *satisfice* to denote the idea of “good enough” solutions to an untractable problem. The NFR framework [5] is founded on the premise that non-functional requirements (softgoals) are “satisfied” when they admit a partial, but good enough solution.

Table 2. Combinations of goal labels.

	label name	satisfice (s), denial(d)
S	satisfied	$s = 1$ and $d = 0$
D	denied	$s = 0$ and $d = 1$
U	undetermined	$s = 0$ and $d = 0$
FS	fully satisfice	$s = 1$ and $d = 0$
PS	partially satisfice	$0.5 < s < 1$ and $s + d = 1$
UN	undetermined	$s + d < 1$
PD	partially denial	$0 < s < 0.5$ and $s + d = 1$
FD	fully denial	$s = 0$ and $d = 1$
CF	conflicting	$s + d > 1$

4. and $graph<node, link>$ is a graph template type in C++ terminology instantiated with $node$ and $link$.

The stop condition for the iteration is defined in terms of the following predicates:

- $IsSatisfied(g, r)$ tests if a goal r is satisfied in goal graph g , i.e., returns one of the following labels [9]: {S, D, U } and $IsSatisfied(g, s)$ tests if softgoal s is satisficed in the goal graph g , i.e., returns one of {FS, PS, UN, PD, FD, CF } as explained in Table 2.
- $NodeToDecompose(g)$ finds out the subset of nodes of g that are either undetermined or unsatisfied goals/tasks, or unsatisfied softgoals.

The *Correlate* procedure is defined as follows.

```

procedure Correlate
input  $r$ : node,  $s$ : {node},  $g$ : graph<node, link>
output  $g$ : graph<node, link>
pre-condition  $g = < \phi, \phi >$ 
post-condition  $g = < \{r\} \cup s, L >$  where
   $L: \{link\} \neq \phi$  and  $\forall t \in s$  such that  $< r, t > \in L$ .
begin
  for each  $t$  in  $s$ 
     $g \leftarrow AddLink(g, < r, t >)$  /*correlation link */
  end
   $g \leftarrow MarkSatisfied(g, RootGoal(g))$ 
   $g \leftarrow LabelPropagation(g)$ 
end Correlate

```

Correlate establishes an initial relationship between root functional goals and softgoals. This relationship is represented by one or more correlation links. *Correlate* uses procedures that are defined below:

- $AddLink(g, < n_1, n_2 >)$ will place a link between nodes n_1, n_2 in g ;

- $MarkSatisfied(g, RootGoal(g))$ will mark a root goal of g satisfied;
- $LabelPropagation(g)$ is an algorithm described in [9] that propagates the truth labels of the leaf nodes upward to the top-level nodes according to the types of goal dependency links.

```

procedure Decompose
input  $g$ : graph<node, link>
output  $g$ : graph<node, link>,  $conflict$ : boolean
pre-condition  $g$  is consistent
post-condition  $g$  is consistent,  $g$  has more nodes
begin
   $g_{pre} \leftarrow g$ 
  for each  $t$ : node in  $NodeToDecompose(g)$ 
     $subnodes \leftarrow CreateNodes(g, t)$ 
    for each  $s$  in  $subnodes$ 
       $g \leftarrow AddNode(g, s)$ 
      if not  $s \in NodeToDecompose(g)$  then
         $g \leftarrow MarkAsTask(s, g)$ 
         $g \leftarrow AddLink(g, < s, t >)$  /*contribution link*/
      end
       $g, conflict \leftarrow CorrelationDecompose(g_{pre}, g)$ 
    end
  end

```

Decompose refines the V-graph, using the following procedures:

- *CreateNodes* creates a set of new nodes in the graph by the human;
- *AddNode(g, s)* inserts a s into graph g ;
- *NodeToDecompose(g)* gathers the goals and sub-goals that have not been decomposed, or dealt with in terms of a task.

```

procedure ResolveConflict
input  $g$ : graph<node, link>
output  $g'$ : graph<node, link>
pre-condition  $g$  is consistent,  $g$  has conflicts
post-condition  $g'$  is consistent,  $g$  has no conflict
begin
   $g_{pre} \leftarrow g$ 
   $g \leftarrow RemoveConflictingLinks(g)$ 
   $conflict \leftarrow True$ 
  repeat
     $g, conflict \leftarrow CorrelationDecompose(g_{pre}, g)$ 
  until !  $conflict$ 
   $g' \leftarrow g$ 
end

```

ResolveConflict uses the procedure, *RemoveConflictingLinks(g)*, that removes links from a source node that has been labelled "denied" by the label propagation algorithm

```

procedure CorrelationDecompose
input  $g_{pre}, g$ : graph<node, link>
output  $g$ : graph<node, link>, conflict: boolean
pre-condition  $g_{pre}$  is consistent
post-condition  $g$  is consistent
begin
   $g \leftarrow \text{MarkGoalGraph}(g, \{U, S, D\})$ 
  while ( $\text{CorrelationLinkToDecompose}(g_{pre}) \neq \phi$ 
    or  $\text{Deteriorating}(g_{pre}, g)$ )
     $l \leftarrow \text{GetACorrelationLink}(g_{pre}, l)$ 
     $g \leftarrow \text{RemoveLink}(g, l)$ 
     $g \leftarrow \text{AddLinks}(g, \text{CreateLinks}(l))$ 
     $g \leftarrow \text{LabelPropagation}(g)$ 
  end
   $g, \text{conflict} \leftarrow \text{LabelPropagation}(g)$ 
end

```

CorrelationDecomposition uses the procedures that are, briefly, described below:

- *MarkGoalGraph(g, ...)* initializes task nodes (associated to leaf goal nodes) with a satisfied/denied label specified by the user, and all other goal nodes as undetermined to facilitate the label propagation algorithm.
- *CreateLinks(l)* where $l = \langle r, s \rangle$ creates new links between subgoals of r and subsoftgoals of s specified by the user;
- *CorrelationLinkToDecompose* looks for all the correlation links except for those from tasks to leaf softgoals.

```

procedure Deteriorating
input  $g_{pre}, g$ : graph<node, link>
output deteriorate: boolean
begin
   $r_0, s_0 \leftarrow \text{RootGoal}(g_{pre}), \text{Softgoals}(g_{pre})$ 
   $r, s \leftarrow \text{RootGoal}(g), \text{Softgoals}(g)$ 
  consistency  $\leftarrow \text{IsSatisfied}(g_{pre}, r_0)$ 
  and  $\text{IsSatisfied}(g, r)$  and  $\forall n \in s_0 \cap s$ :
   $\text{LessThan}(\text{IsSatisfied}(g_{pre}, n), \text{IsSatisfied}(g, n))$ 
  deteriorate  $\leftarrow$  not consistency
end

```

Within the *Deteriorating* procedure, *LessThan(label₁, label₂)* compares two labels according to the label order (FD < PD < UN < PS < FS).

```

procedure ListAspects( $g$ )
input  $g$ : graph<node, link>
output as: {aspect}
pre-condition In the goal graph  $g$ , all goals are
  satisfied and all softgoals are satisfied.
  There is no conflict and all correlation links
  are consistently decomposed into contribution
  links from tasks to softgoals.
post-condition  $as \neq \phi$  and
 $\forall a \in as \forall f \in \text{Pointcuts}(a)$ :
  ( $\forall t_f \in \text{SubGoals}(g, f) \forall t_a \in \text{Advices}(a)$ :
   $\text{IsSatisfied}(g, t_f)$  and  $\text{IsSatisfied}(g, t_a)$ )
   $\Rightarrow (\text{IsSatisfied}(g, \text{SoftGoal}(a))$  and  $\text{IsSatisfied}(g, f))$ )
begin
   $as \leftarrow \phi$ 
  for each  $n$  in  $\text{Softgoals}(g)$  such that
     $n$  is the direct parent of a task
   $a$ : aspect  $\leftarrow \text{CreateAspect}(n)$ 
  for each  $\langle t, n \rangle \in \text{Links}(g)$  where  $t \in \text{Tasks}(g)$ 
     $a \leftarrow \text{AddAdvice}(t, a)$ 
    for each  $f \in \text{CrosscuttingGoals}(t, g)$ 
       $a \leftarrow \text{AddToPointcuts}(f, a)$ 
    end
  end
   $as \leftarrow as \cup \{a\}$ 
end

```

ListAspects(g) gathers a set of tasks that contribute to a softgoal, that is, there is a contribution link $\langle t, s \rangle$ and more than one chain of contribution links $\{t \rightarrow, \dots, \rightarrow f\}$ where t is a task, s is a softgoal, f is the functional goal crosscutted by t . The semantics of these goal aspects are specified in the post-condition: if all the advice tasks t_a of all the aspects are satisfied and all the functional tasks t_f of the pointcut goals are satisfied, then the softgoal of the aspects are also satisfied.

Figure 5 shows a pictorial view of the process of modeling V-graphs. Initially, a set of objectives including one or more functional goals and several non-functional softgoals are listed. Then requirements engineers and domain experts decompose goals (softgoals) into subgoals (subsoftgoals) or tasks, and correlate the goals/tasks from the functional perspective to the softgoals/operationalizations from the non-functional one. The refinement process must be monotonic (no dete-

riorations) and resolve conflicts through a formal goal analysis until goals are satisfied and softgoals are satisfied.

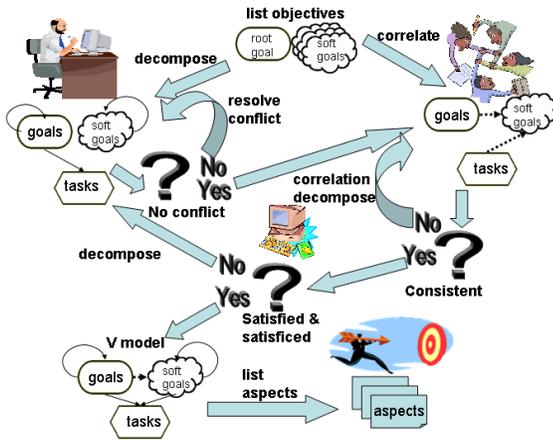


Figure 5. Discover aspects during the goal oriented requirement engineering

5. Analyzing V-graphs to discover aspects: An Example

We use the Media Shop example to illustrate the application of our procedure. The Media Shop example has been used in the context of intentional modeling [3] and is a good example to show the interplay of functional and non-functional goals. Through Figures 6 to 11 we show several steps of the *AspectFinder* process. Figure 14 presents the final goal model annotated with labels computed by the goal analysis tool. Finally, the candidate aspects can be seen in the center-right part of the final graph⁴, that is, they are the operationalizations of the softgoals and the relations to functional goals.

Once we have the elicited information regarding the goals we can start the process. We start by listing root goals and softgoals. Later we apply the *Correlate* procedure (see Section 3) to add correlation links. Figure 6 shows this for the Media Shop example.

Given this graph, we invoke the *LabelPropagation* procedure, which return FS (s=1, d=0) values for all the nodes. This means that the graph is not deteriorating and has no conflicts, as shown in the right part of Figure 7. Here we export the goal analysis result to the *graphviz* tool [8] for the layout.

However, if we decompose the goal above using *Decompose*, which propagates correlations through *Corre-*

⁴In Figure 14, they are clearly marked as hexagons with three peripheries.

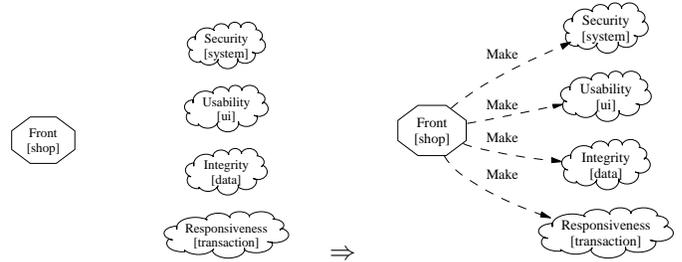


Figure 6. Correlate

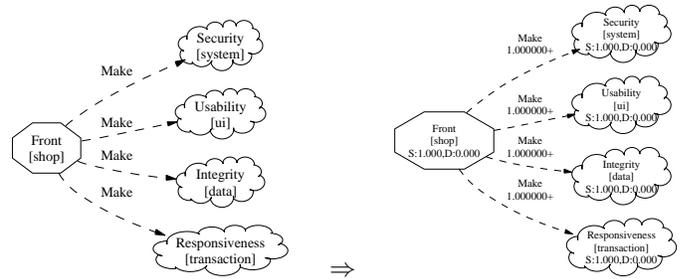


Figure 7. Consistent Graph

lationDecompose, as shown in the left part of Figure 8, this results in a deterioration, since the softgoal *Responsiveness[transaction]* becomes partially satisfied (PS) after decomposition and was previously, in Figure 7, fully satisfied (FS).

With the feedback provided by the goal analysis tool, (see Figure 5), the requirements engineer proposes a different decomposition (Figure 9) which removes the deterioration.

At the left part of Figure 10 we show a part of the Media Shop graph where the transaction goals are being decomposed into two tasks that by the contribution links are related by “make” and “hurt” to the same softgoal. The right part of the figure will show the result of the *LabelPropagation* procedure. Here we can see a conflicting label for the softgoal “Responsiveness [Transaction]”: S=1 and D=0.5.

With this feedback, the requirements engineer is able to change the graph into a well formed graph, by removing the links that caused the conflict.

As indicated earlier, Figure 14 is the V-graph for the Media Shop example⁵. We can now apply the procedure *ListAspect* presented in Section 3. Table 3 shows the aspects (the operationalized softgoals, related functional goals, as well as related functional tasks). These aspects are named after the operationalized softgoal.

⁵For space reasons, we only show part of the example.

Table 3. Candidate aspects discovered for Media Shop requirements.

Aspect softgoal	Advising task	Crossing-cutting functional goals
Responsiveness [transaction]	SessionCookie [transaction]	Preparing [cart, product], Checking Out [cart, product, account, stock]
Integrity [data]	DatabaseTable [transaction]	Checking Out [cart, product, account, stock], Managing [shop], Searching [shop], Reporting [shop]
Confidentiality [system]	Password Protection [account]	Checking Out [cart, product, account, stock]
Info. Flow Security [system]	SSL [protocol]	Checking Out [cart, product, account, stock], Managing[shop]
Usability [language]	Customizing [English]	Preparing [cart, product], Checking Out [cart, product, account, stock], Managing [shop], Searching [shop], Reporting [shop]
Usability [font]	Infobox [font]	Preparing [cart, product], Checking Out [cart, product, account, stock], Managing [shop], Searching [shop], Reporting [shop]
Usability [layout]	Page Layout [gui]	Preparing [cart, product], Checking Out [cart, product, account, stock], Managing [shop], Searching [shop], Reporting [shop]

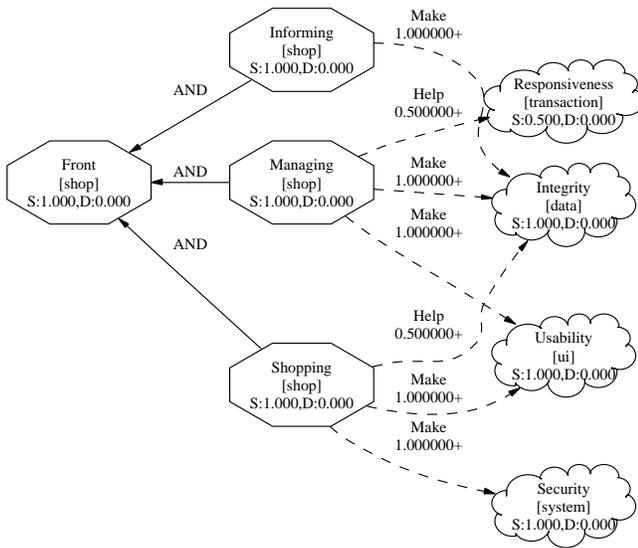


Figure 8. Detection of Inconsistent Decomposition of Correlations

6. Discussion

As shown from Table 3, the proposed process was able to identify candidate aspects. However, how can we be sure that these candidate aspects that we have listed are reasonable?

Apart from appealing to common sense, we have also attempted an evaluation by matching these aspects against an open source implementation of the Media Shop example. The source code is available at *OSCommerce* [16], and its core contains about 65 KLOC in PHP.

After running Semantic Designs' clone detector

Table 4. Cloned aspects in osCommerce

name	# of clone	contributing to NFR
<code>messageStack->add(\$error)</code>	67	InfoBox
<code>require('application_top.php')</code>	10	SSL
<code>HTMLHead(CHARSET)</code>	64	LangCustom
<code>tep_set_language</code>	76	LangCustom
<code>get_browser_language</code>	75	LangCustom
<code>tep_draw_separator</code>	71	PageLayout
<code>tep_image</code>	69	Infobox
<code>tep_image_button</code>	56	InfoBox
<code>tep_session_name</code>	80	SessionCookie
<code>tep_db_query</code>	127	DatabaseTable
<code>tep_session_register</code>	56	PasswordProtect

(CloneDR) on osCommerce, 463 clone tuples were found in the source code. Since clone detection can be seen as a way of pointing out scattered and repeated code, we looked at these tuples and found out that among them there were candidate aspects; that is, code that could have been grouped together and that was scattered through the system. Out of the 52036 LOC under clone detection analysis, 16833 LOC or 19,1% of the total code are scattered clones [19].

Taking a closer look, we have found that many of the clones were of non-functional nature and contributing to the Usability, Security, Integrity and Responsiveness softgoals. Table 4 lists 10 of these clones that could have been implemented as aspects, if we were using an aspect oriented platform. In the same table we list the NFR that these aspects would be contributing to. Here is the demonstration that our proposal, of finding out aspects early on, does contribute to the identification of aspects, even if an aspect oriented language is not used in the implementation.

It is interesting to note that the goal graphs obtained from the proposed process can be simplified by

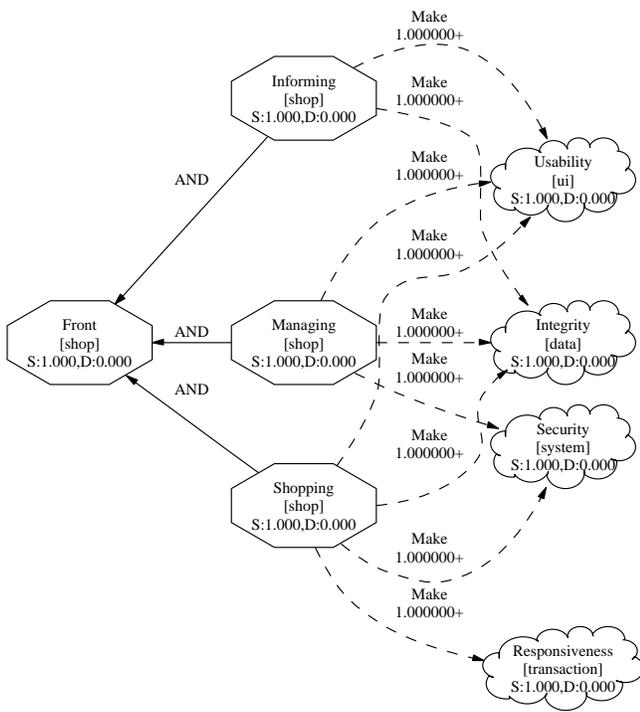


Figure 9. Decomposition without deterioration

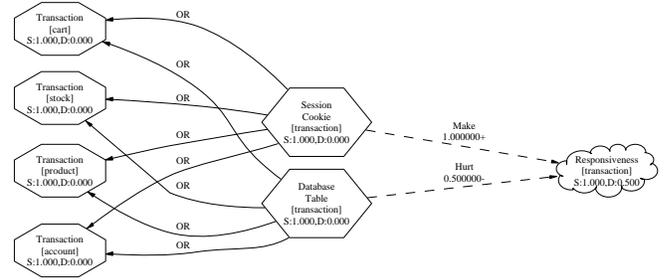


Figure 10. Conflict detection for the softgoal "Responsiveness [transaction]"

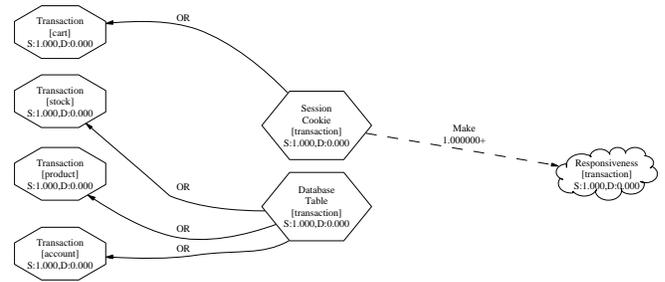


Figure 11. Resolving conflicts

factoring out candidate aspects, as per Figure 12.

In that sense, we are proposing *goal aspects* as an abstraction of aspects, intended to help requirements engineers with respect to the scalability of their models. Goal aspects may be defined in terms of a syntax such as that shown below.

```
goal aspect Responsiveness[transaction] {
  pointcut frequentTransaction():
    and(Preparing[cart,product]) ||
    and(CheckingOut[cart, product, account, stock]);
  required () by: frequentTransaction() {
    SessionCookie[transaction]();
  }
}
```

Here the goal aspect *Responsiveness[transaction]* has the advice task *SessionCookie[transaction]* that is required by the *frequentTransaction()* pointcut. In the description of this pointcut, we will look for addresses that match the two matching conditions `and(Preparing[cart,product])`, `and(CheckingOut[cart, product, account, stock])`. Note that Figure 14 is already a weaved graph. As such, the description above can be traced. However, Figure 13 shows the goal graph as if the above goal aspect was applied. The syntax of goal aspects clearly needs further research.

7. Conclusions

We have proposed a systematic process whereby aspects can be discovered by conducting goal analysis for a system-to-be. We have demonstrated the process with a case study adopted from the literature, and we have compared the resulting aspects with those found in an independently-developed open source solution.

Compared to [21], we are providing a well-defined, tool-supported process that they assume must be done by an experienced software engineer. Compared to [17], we are treating aspects at a higher level of abstraction, in terms of goals, and doing so in a systematic way based on formal analysis.

For future research, we plan to investigate further the notion of goal aspects, especially so in the context of software reusability, also in reengineering legacy code to make it aspect-oriented.

Acknowledgement

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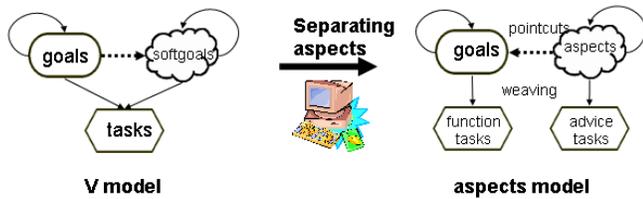


Figure 12. Separating aspects advised tasks from the functional tasks.

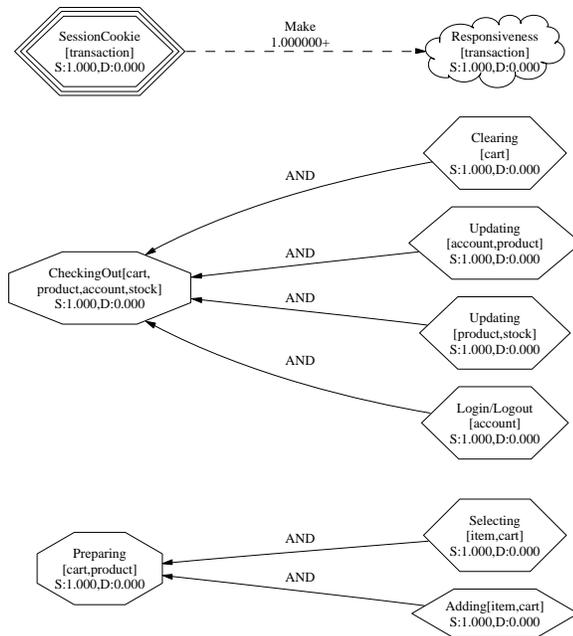


Figure 13. Separating the advising task of the goal aspect *Responsiveness[transaction]* from the functional goals in its pointcut.

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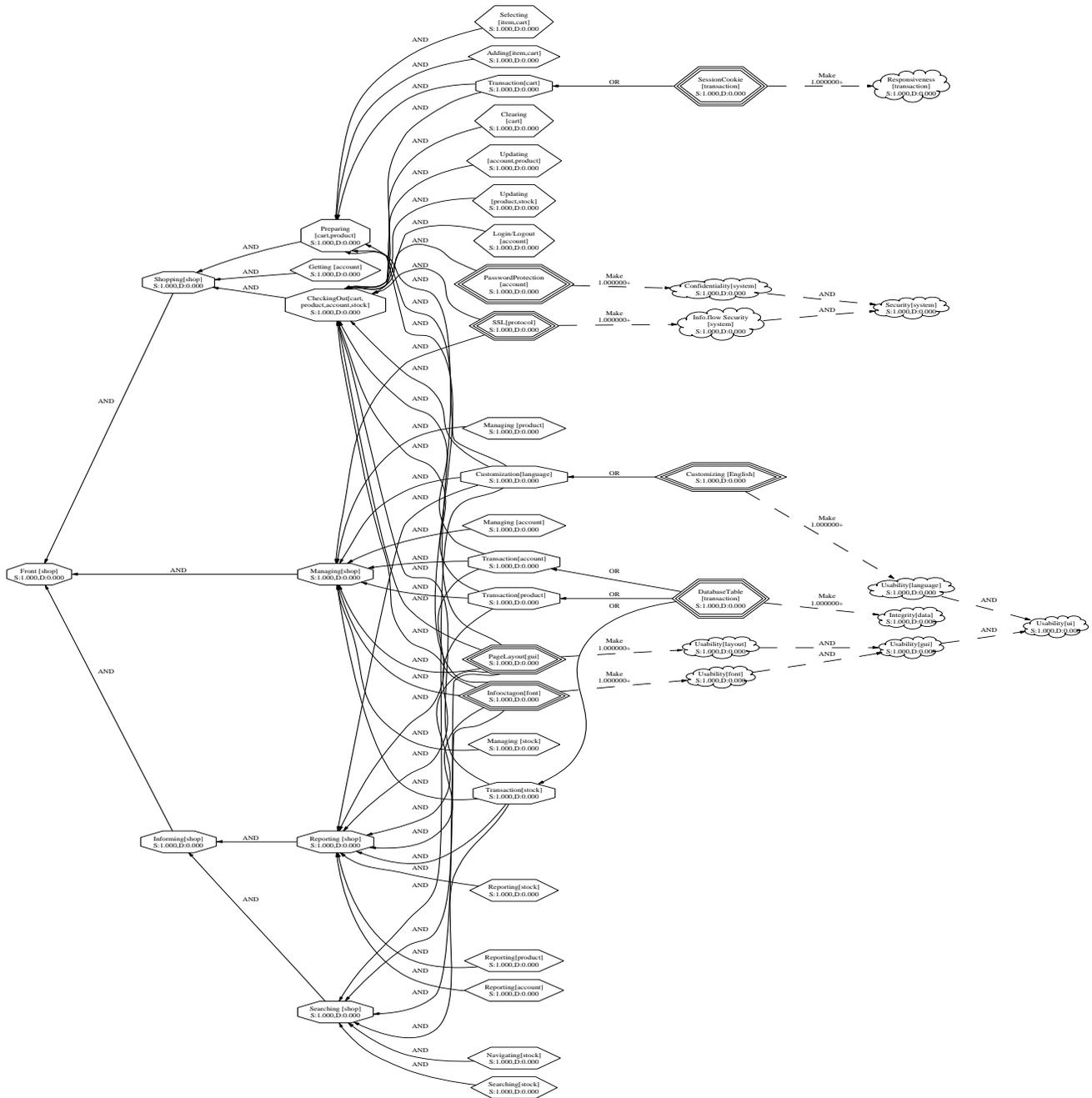


Figure 14. The evaluation result of the goal model. All goals/tasks are satisfied and all softgoals and operationalizations are satisfied and there are no conflicts. The tasks hexagon with three peripheries are identified advising tasks for candidate aspects.