

9

## *Ten Pounds in a Five-Pound Sack*

## *Ten Pounds in a Five-Pound Sack*

- Program Space as Cost
- Size Control
- Space Techniques
- Representation Is the Essence of Programming

## *Program space as cost*

- Brooks' applications quantified costs as rental on capital-intensive infrastructure
- Space, time and bandwidth are the fundamental “physical” quantities in software design
  - I.e., execution time v. storage cost v. bus speed
- Some applications emphasize the constraints
  - E.g. Mobile applications
  - CPU and memory trade against battery life

## *Size control*

- Partly technical and partly managerial job
- Size targets should be based upon the applications and users
- System should be subdivided and each component should have a size target
- Program size and speed tradeoffs need to be considered

### *Size control (cont.)*

- The exact functionality of a module must be identified when its size specification done
- Apart from optimizing each component, total effect on the system should also be considered
- System integrity has to be maintained
- Total-system and user-oriented attitude is the most important function of the programming manager

### *Space techniques*

- More function means implies more space
- Trading function for size: How much choice to be given to the (programming) user?
  - Program with many optional features, each of which takes little space
  - For any particular set of options the program takes less space
  - Designer should decide on the granularity of the options available to the users

### *Space techniques (cont.)*

- Range of suitability cannot be made arbitrarily wide even with fine-grained modularity
- Breaking functions into small modules costs both performance and space
- For deciding the modularity of a function the above factors need to be considered

### *Space-time tradeoffs*

- More space usually means faster execution
- Space budgets need to consider this as well
- Manager should ensure that the team is trained in the techniques for a new language and platform
- Dedicated subroutines for performing commonly used functions should be developed
- At least two programs for the above functions; one which is fast and the other which is small

## *Representation is the essence of programming*

- Strategic breakthroughs will improve upon both the space and the performance of the programs
  - E.g. New algorithms
- Brooks suggests that often strategic breakthroughs will come from reworking of the data and/or tables
- E.g. Digitek's Fortran compiler uses a very dense specialized representation for the compiler code, so that external storage is not needed.
- Time lost in decoding is gained in back in avoiding input-output

## *Hierarchies*

