Winter Semester 16/17

Software Engineering Design & Construction

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Interface Segregation Principle

I*nterface* ***S****egregation* ***P****rinciple*

Clients should not be forced to depend on methods that they do not use.

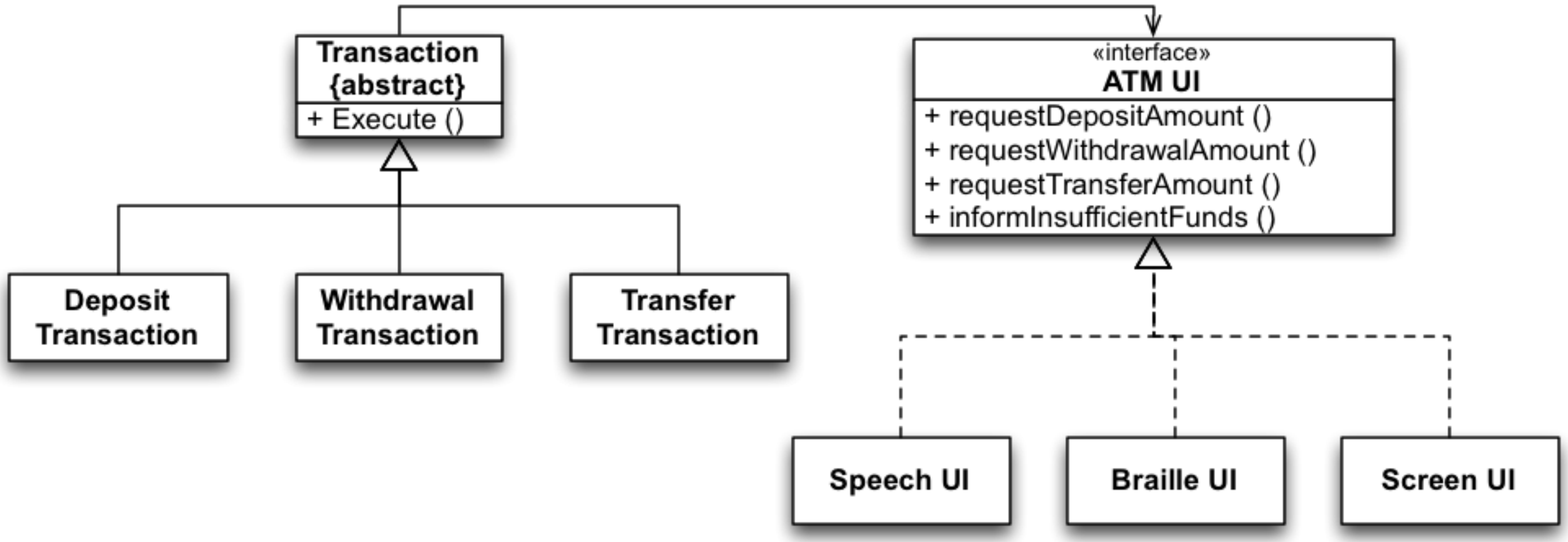
–Agile Software Development; Robert C. Martin; Prentice Hall, 2003

Introduction by Example

- Consider the development of software for an automated teller machine (ATM):
  - Support for the following types of transactions is required: **withdraw**, **deposit**, and **transfer**.
  - Support for different **languages** and support for different **kinds of UIs** is also required
  - Each transaction class needs to call methods on the GUI
    E.g., to ask for the amount to deposit, withdraw, transfer.

Introduction by Example

- Initial design of a software for an automatic teller machine (ATM):

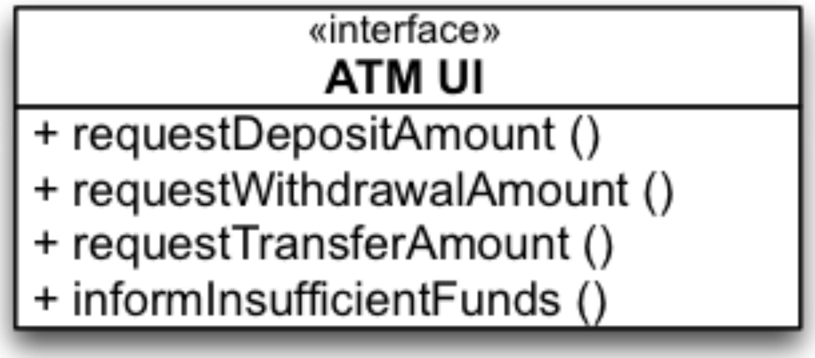


What do you think?

A Polluted Interface

ATM UI is a polluted interface!

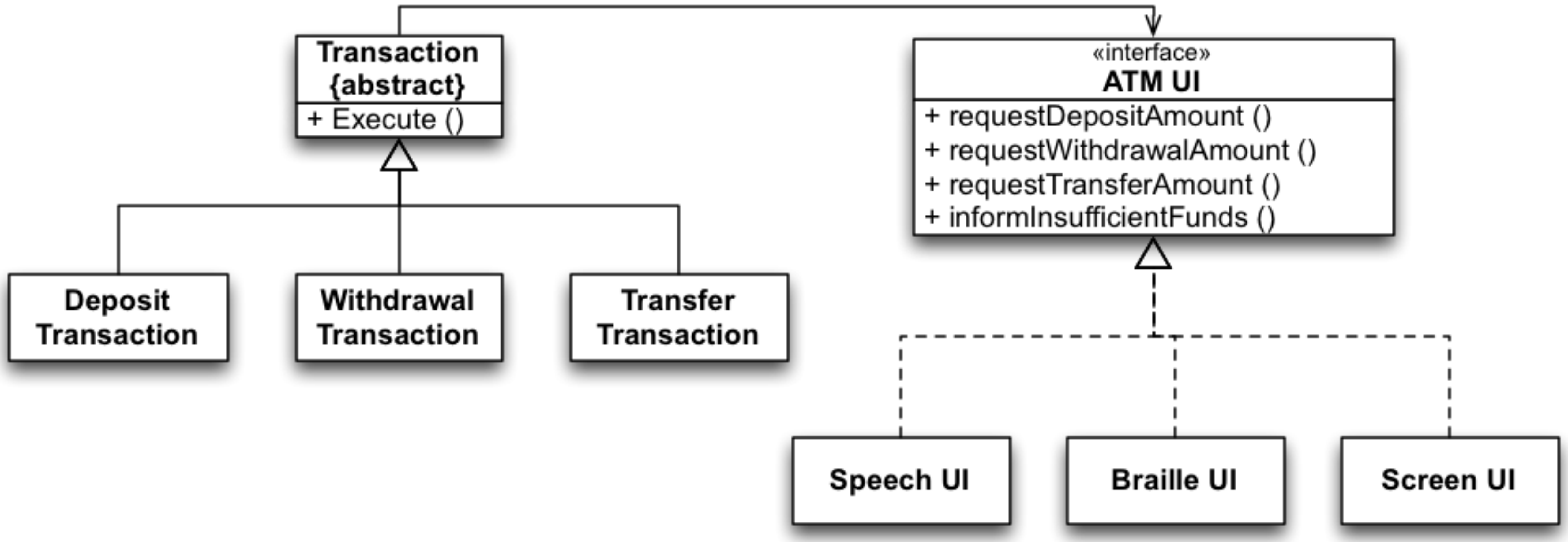
- It declares methods that do not belong together.
- It forces classes to depend on unused methods and therefore depend on changes that should not affect them.
- ISP states that such interfaces should be split.


«interface»
ATM UI
+ requestDepositAmount ()
+ requestWithdrawalAmount ()
+ requestTransferAmount ()
+ informInsufficientFunds ()

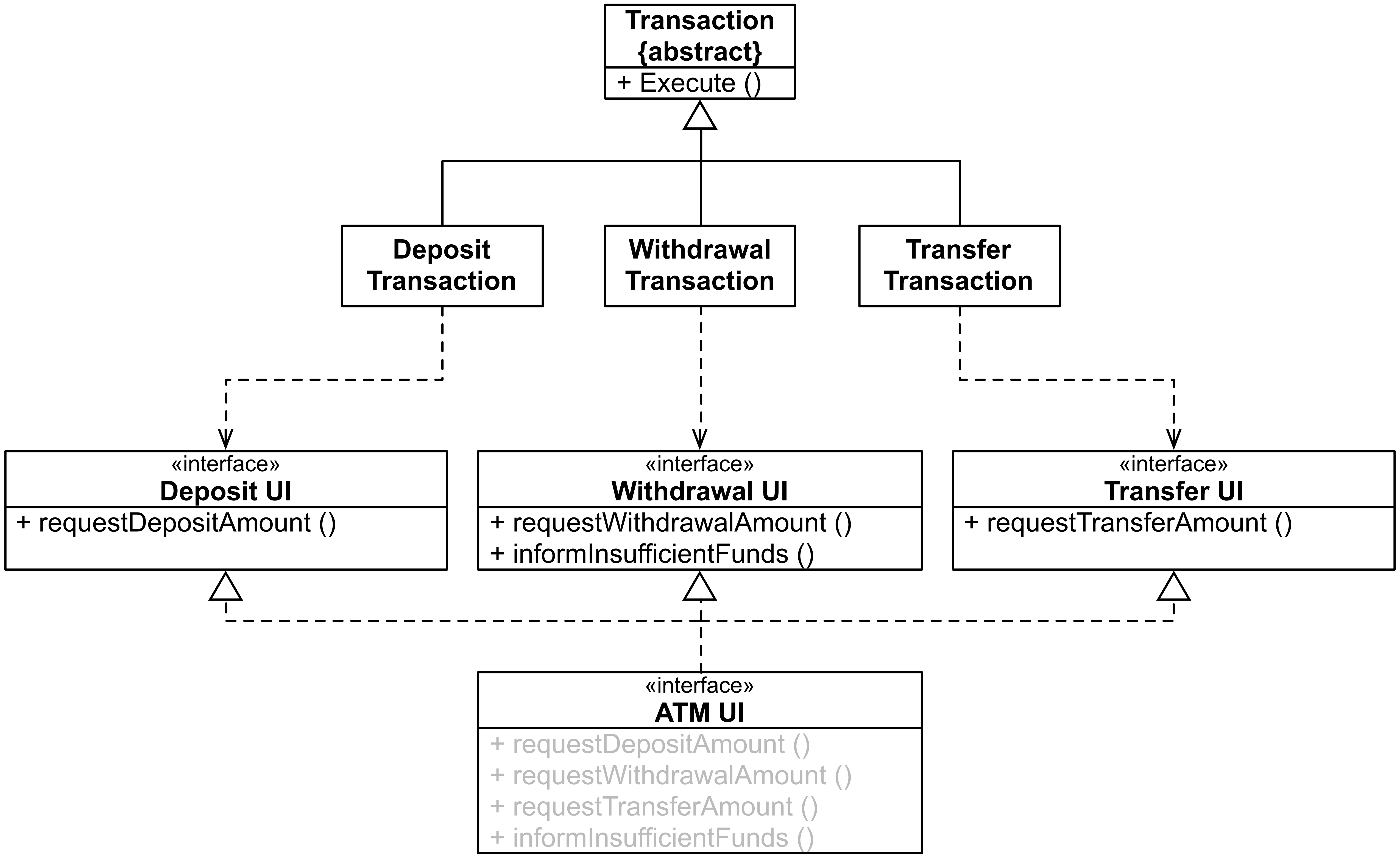
The Rationale Behind ISP

When clients depend on methods they do not use, they **become subject to changes forced upon these methods** by other clients.

How does an ISP compliant solution look like?



An ISP Compliant Solution


Transaction {abstract}
+ Execute ()
Deposit Transaction
Withdrawal Transaction
Transfer Transaction
«interface» Deposit UI
+ requestDepositAmount ()
«interface» Withdrawal UI
+ requestWithdrawalAmount ()
+ informInsufficientFunds ()
«interface» Transfer UI
+ requestTransferAmount ()
«interface» ATM UI
+ requestDepositAmount ()
+ requestWithdrawalAmount ()
+ requestTransferAmount ()
+ informInsufficientFunds ()

***I**nterface (/ **T**rait) **S**egregation **P**rinciple*
(In case of Java 8 (/ Scala).)

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General Strategy

Try to group possible clients of a class and have an interface/trait for each group.

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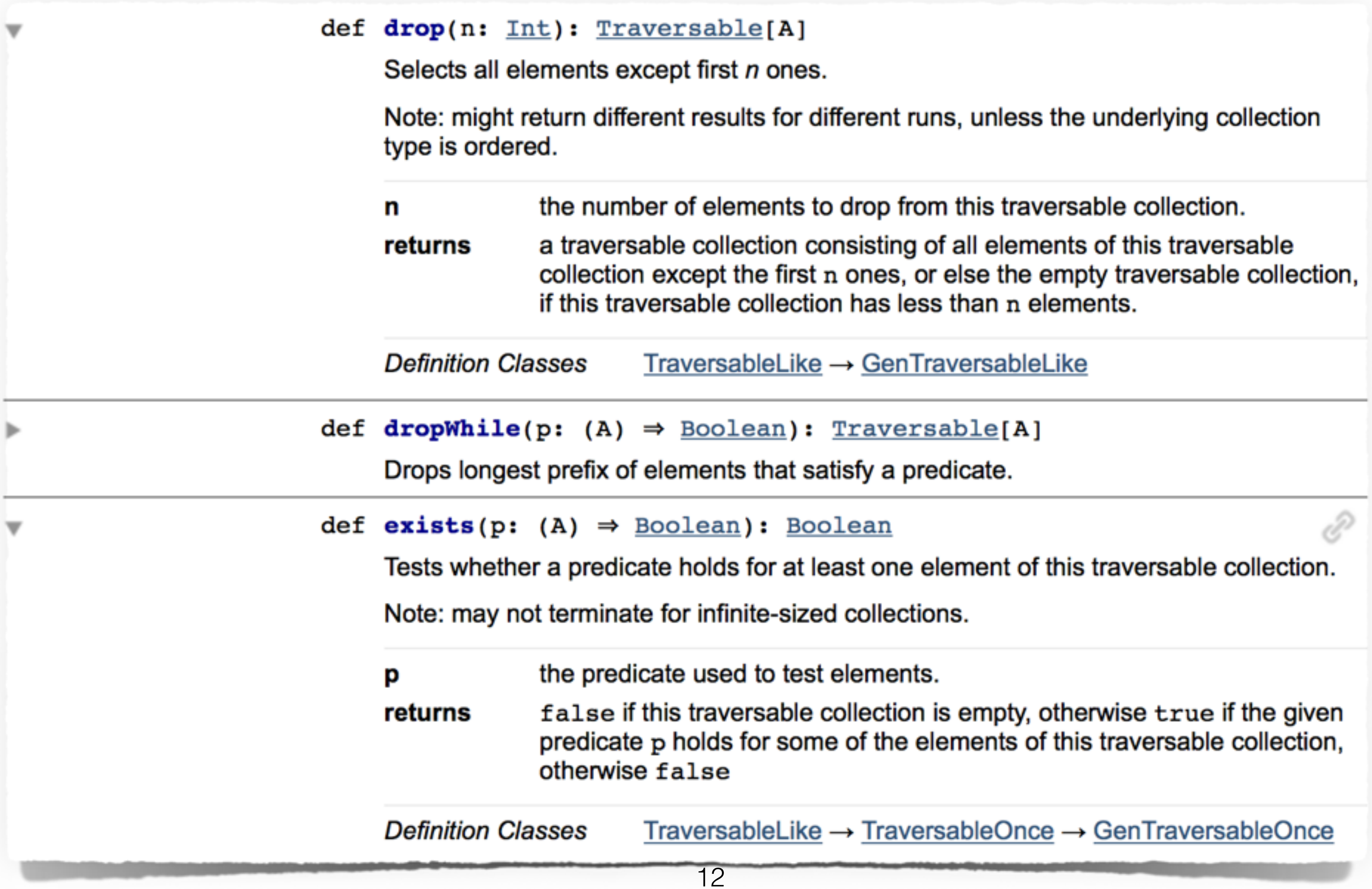
Proliferation of Interfaces/Traits

Do we have an ISP violation?

scala.collection.Traversable (excerpt)



```
def drop(n: Int): Traversable[A]
```

Selects all elements except first *n* ones.

Note: might return different results for different runs, unless the underlying collection type is ordered.

n	the number of elements to drop from this traversable collection.
returns	a traversable collection consisting of all elements of this traversable collection except the first `n` ones, or else the empty traversable collection, if this traversable collection has less than `n` elements.

Definition Classes TraversableLike → GenTraversableLike

```
def dropWhile(p: (A) ⇒ Boolean): Traversable[A]
```

Drops longest prefix of elements that satisfy a predicate.

```
def exists(p: (A) ⇒ Boolean): Boolean
```

Tests whether a predicate holds for at least one element of this traversable collection.

Note: may not terminate for infinite-sized collections.

p	the predicate used to test elements.
returns	`false` if this traversable collection is empty, otherwise `true` if the given predicate `p` holds for some of the elements of this traversable collection, otherwise `false`

Definition Classes TraversableLike → TraversableOnce → GenTraversableOnce

I*nterface (/* ***T****rait)* ***S****egregation* ***P****rinciple*

(In case of Java 8 (/ Scala).)

Clients should not be forced to depend on methods that they do not use.

Subtypes should not be forced to inherit methods which have a specific semantics.

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