

# Chapter 3

## Application Structure

Yii applications are organized according to the model-view-controller (MVC) architectural pattern. Models represent data, business logic and rules; views are output representation of models; and controllers take input and convert it to commands for models and views.

Besides MVC, Yii applications also have the following entities:

**entry scripts**: they are PHP scripts that are directly accessible by end users. They are responsible for starting a request handling cycle.

**applications**: they are globally accessible objects that manage application components and coordinate them to fulfill requests.

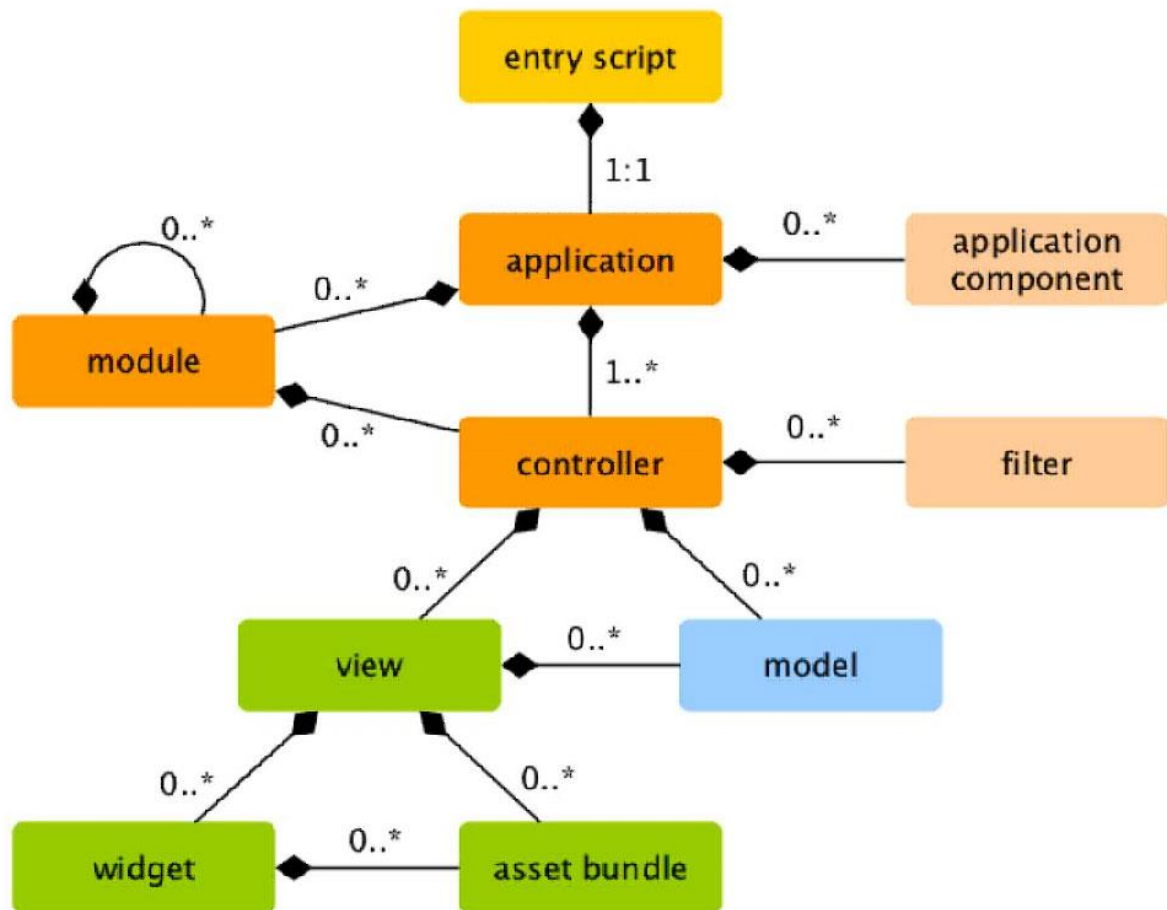
**application components**: they are objects registered with applications and provide various services for fulfilling requests.

**modules**: they are self-contained packages that contain complete MVC by themselves. An application can be organized in terms of multiple modules.

**filters**: they represent code that need to be invoked before and after the actual handling of each request by controllers.

**widgets**: they are objects that can be embedded in views. They may contain controller logic and can be reused in different views.

The following diagram shows the static structure of an application:



## CHAPTER 3. APPLICATION STRUCTURE

### Entry Scripts

Entry scripts are the first step in the application bootstrapping process. An application (either Web application or console application) has a single entry script. End users make requests to entry scripts which instantiate application instances and forward the requests to them.

Entry scripts for Web applications must be stored under Web accessible directories so that they can be accessed by end users. They are often named as `index.php`, but can also use any other names, provided Web servers can locate them.

Entry scripts for console applications are usually stored under the basepath of applications and are named as `yii` (with the `.php` suffix). They should be made executable so that users can run console applications through the command

```
./yii <route> [arguments] [options].
```

Entry scripts mainly do the following work:

Define global constants;

Register Composer autoloader;

Include the Yii class file;

Load application configuration;

Create and configure an application instance;

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= END

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