

Formal Models of Design Patterns II

Task 1: Composite in RBML

Read and understand [1]. This paper presents RBML, a UML-like notation for representing design patterns. The formal backing of this notation (representing the design patterns' role models as extension of the meta-model) allows for formal treatment of design patterns in actual models.

1a)

Use RBML to represent the COMPOSITE design pattern.

1b)

Go back to task sheet 3 on extensibility patterns and look at your solution for task 1a). Use the RBML techniques presented in [1] to show that this is indeed a realisation of COMPOSITE.

Bibliography

1. Robert France, Dae-Kyoo Kim, Sudipto Ghosh, Eungee Song, *A UML-Based Pattern Specification Technique*. IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering, Vol 30, number 3, pp 193-206, March 2004. *This paper is available online at the IEEE digital library by visiting <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/Xplore/DynWel.jsp> and searching for it by title. You should have access to the digital library from any computer in the domain of the Computer Science Department.*

Task 2: OWL Observant

Read and understand [1]. This presents an approach that uses Semantic Web technology (in particular ontologies) to model design patterns. An ontology can be viewed (grossly simplifying) as a special kind of class diagram modelling concepts and their relations. An ontology, thus, provides vocabulary allowing to talk about a specific domain.

2a)

Use the technology from [1] to model the OBSERVER design pattern.

Bibliography

1. Jens Dietrich and Chris Elgar. *A Formal Description of Design Patterns Using OWL*. In Proc. 2005 Australian Software Engineering Conference (ASWEC'05), IEEE Press, 2005.

Task 3: ρ -calculus and Template Class

Read and understand [1]. This presents a formal approach to writing down design patterns, which allows reasoning about the patterns. To understand it properly, you will also need to read, and understand the intuition of, [2], in particular Chapter 5, and Sections 6.1, 6.2, 6.6, 7.1, 7.2, 8.1, 8.5. Don't worry, though, it's fun reading!

3a)

Use the ρ -calculus to model the TEMPLATE HOOK meta-pattern. TEMPLATE HOOK essentially proclaims that there is a template method which invokes (i.e., depends on) a hook method. The two methods may be in the same class or they may not. TEMPLATE HOOK thus is essentially a role model.

3b)

Now use the ρ -calculus to model the TEMPLATE CLASS design pattern. In this pattern there are two distinct classes, one for a template method and one for a hook method.

3c)

Can you represent TEMPLATE CLASS using TEMPLATE HOOK? What does this mean?

Bibliography

1. Jason McC. Smith, and David Stotts. *Elemental Design Patterns – A Link Between Architecture and Object Semantics*. Technical Report TR02-011, March 2002, Dept. of Computer Science, Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
2. Martin Abadi, and Luca Cardelli. *A Theory of Objects*. Monographs in Computer Science, Springer, 1996. *There are 3 exemplars in the library.*

Task 4: Discussion: Formal Representation of Design Patterns

From your experience with the pattern formalisations looked at so far, what are the benefits and drawbacks of attempts at formalising design patterns?