

Behavioural Synchronization Pattern

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Design Defects and Restructuring SE-4031



RESEARCH PAPER

Behavioural Synchronization Design Pattern

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SUBMITTED ON:

6th May 2024 at 11 AM

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Term Paper Proposals – Section 8B

Design Defects and Refactoring, Spring 2024

Date assigned: 15-02-2024, Due dates (idea registration): 18-02-2024 & (1 page proposal) : 19-02-2024



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Following are the guidelines for the term paper proposal.

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9. **Final Research Paper :** You have to write a research paper of min. 15-20 pages (excluding references), which may contain:
 - (A) Customization of the existing design patterns, with examples and scenarios.
 - (B) Creating a new design pattern, with examples and scenarios.
 - (C) Introducing a new design principle that will help in software implementation with examples and scenarios.
 - (D) customizing an existing design principle, with examples and scenarios.
 - (E) Customization of Refactoring techniques, with examples and scenarios.
 - (F) Introducing a new refactoring technique, with examples and scenarios.
 - (G) Innovative way of removing a bad smell from code, with examples and scenarios.
 - (H) Identification and solution of a new bad smell in code, with examples and scenarios.
 - (J) Any innovative software architectural improvement, with examples and scenarios.
 - (i) for all of the above types of research work, include:
 - (a) Abstract
 - (b) Introduction (Sub headings: Problem Statement, Research Questions, Research Objectives, Research Hypothesis)
 - (c) Tabular Literature review of **3-5** related papers (sample: <https://tinyurl.com/SLRTabular>)
 - (c-1) Research Gap of above papers in Tabular Literature Review - Comparison of your idea with the existing solution presented in that paper
 - (d) Methodology
 - (d-1) Architecture / class diagram of the solution
 - (d-2) core solution to the problem in terms of a description of the design apart implementation details
 - (d-3) sample code
 - (d-4) document few case studies on how to use your technique/solution.
 - (e) Results.
 - (e-1) Performance benchmarking or analysis with graphs of your proof of concept.
 - (f) Discussion/conclusion.
 - (f-1) Recommendations
 - (g) References/bibliography. (At least 10-12 papers references)
 - (h) use this format as a template for your final research paper (no need to submit it now, its submission will be opened again on 14th week of the semester before presentations starts):
<http://lifesciences.ieee.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/53/2016/10/JTEHM-Template.doc>
 - (i) In research paper all citations must be in IEEE citation format.

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Submit following deliverables in final project submission:

1. Final research paper. 15-20 pages (excluding references)
2. Sample source code
3. Graphical and tabular results data.

Term Paper Proposals – Section 8B

Design Defects and Refactoring, Spring 2024

Date assigned: 15-02-2024, Due dates (idea registration): 18-02-2024 & (1 page proposal) : 19-02-2024



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4. binaries / implementation of the research paper in java language only.
5. Turnitin Plagiarism Report.

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1. Date assigned: 15-02-2020.
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Behavioural Synchronization Design Pattern

Insha Samnani, Anjiya Muhammad Ali, and Ismail Ahmed Ansari

Abstract In the dynamic landscape of modern software systems, achieving consistent and synchronized behavior across diverse services stands as a pivotal challenge. This research paper delves into the deficiencies of conventional object synchronization methodologies and Observer design patterns within concurrent systems, shedding light on their adverse effects on code structure, modularity, and scalability. Through a thorough exploration of prevalent synchronization mechanisms and patterns like semaphores, monitors, and aspect-oriented programming, this study pinpoints their limitations and proposes innovative remedies to overcome these obstacles. Specifically, it introduces the Object Synchronizer pattern, scrutinizing its capability to disentangle synchronization from functionality, bolster modularity, and foster code reusability. Furthermore, the paper delves into the potential of aspect-oriented programming in refining synchronization strategies, with the aim of optimizing system scalability, responsiveness, and adaptability in multi-threaded environments.

The research endeavors to provide actionable insights into improving synchronization efficiency, scalability, and modularity in multi-threaded environments. Through empirical studies, the paper explores various synchronization mechanisms and design patterns, evaluating their effectiveness and applicability in contemporary software development contexts. By dissecting existing prototypes and implementations, the study aims to bridge the gap between theoretical understanding and practical implementation, offering developers a comprehensive understanding of efficient synchronization techniques tailored for concurrent applications. Furthermore, the paper proposes the Behavioral Synchronization Pattern as a promising alternative, highlighting its potential to address data synchronization concerns while preserving modularity and scalability in modern software systems.

Through rigorous experimental assessments and meticulous comparisons with established methodologies, this research paper contributes significantly to advancing the comprehension and implementation of efficient synchronization techniques tailored for concurrent applications. By combining theoretical analysis with practical examination, the study offers developers valuable insights and practical solutions for designing resilient and adaptable concurrent systems in the contemporary software landscape.

Index Terms— *Asynchronous Method Invocation, Behavioral Synchronization pattern, Concurrency Patterns, Thread Safety*

I. INTRODUCTION

Problem Statement: In contemporary software development, the demand for robust and scalable concurrent systems is ubiquitous. However, traditional approaches to object synchronization, exemplified by mechanisms such as semaphores and monitors, and reliance on design patterns like the Observer pattern, often fall short in meeting the evolving requirements of modern applications.

One significant challenge arises from the inherent complexity of managing synchronization within concurrent systems. The use of low-level synchronization primitives like semaphores and monitors can lead to code tangling, where synchronization logic becomes interspersed with core application logic. This tangling not only hinders code readability and maintainability but also complicates debugging and testing processes. Furthermore, such tightly coupled synchronization mechanisms hinder the scalability

of concurrent systems, as they impose rigid control flow and inhibit the efficient utilization of system resources.

Moreover, encapsulating synchronization within objects, as commonly practiced in traditional Object-Oriented Programming (OOP) paradigms, introduces additional complexities. While this approach aims to localize synchronization logic within individual objects, it often leads to entangled dependencies between objects, compromising modularity and hindering code reuse. This undermines the fundamental principles of OOP, such as encapsulation and abstraction, and makes it challenging to evolve and extend concurrent systems over time.

Additionally, the conventional use of design patterns, such as the Observer pattern, exacerbates code scattering and coupling concerns in concurrent systems. The Observer pattern, while effective in facilitating communication between components, often results in tight coupling between observers and subjects, making it difficult to modify or extend the system without affecting its overall structure. This tight coupling not only impedes code

maintainability but also inhibits the adoption of alternative concurrency strategies or architectural changes.

These limitations underscore the pressing need for novel synchronization strategies and concurrency patterns capable of mitigating code entanglement, promoting modular design, and enhancing system scalability and responsiveness in multi-threaded environments. Exploring innovative solutions that decouple synchronization concerns from core application logic, foster code modularization, and facilitate seamless integration of concurrent components is essential to meet the challenges posed by modern software development paradigms.

Research Questions:

1. How does the traditional approach to object synchronization, relying on mechanisms such as semaphores and monitors, contribute to code tangling and hinder the scalability of concurrent applications?
2. What are the drawbacks of encapsulating synchronization within objects themselves, and how does this approach impact modularity, extensibility, and code reusability in object-oriented systems?
3. How does the traditional Observer design pattern contribute to code scattering and coupling between Subject and Observer objects, particularly in terms of data synchronization concerns?
4. What are the limitations of existing as pectized versions of the Observer design pattern, and how can aspect-oriented programming be further leveraged to address data synchronization concerns while maintaining the intent of the original pattern?
5. How can the inherent limitations of traditional concurrency control mechanisms be addressed to enhance system scalability and responsiveness in multi-threaded environments?
6. What strategies can be employed to optimize the coordination and communication between concurrent processes or threads, thereby mitigating contention issues and improving overall system performance?

Research Objectives:

1. Investigate the efficiency and scalability of the current synchronization mechanism in concurrent systems, focusing on its ability to handle high contention scenarios and its impact on overall system performance.
2. Evaluate the maintainability and flexibility of the existing synchronization approach in terms of code modularity, extensibility, and reusability,

particularly in the context of evolving system requirements and changing concurrency patterns.

3. How does the traditional Observer design pattern contribute to code scattering and coupling between Subject and Observer objects, particularly in terms of data synchronization concerns?
4. What are the limitations of existing as pectized versions of the Observer design pattern, and how can aspect-oriented programming be further leveraged to address data synchronization concerns while maintaining the intent of the original pattern?
5. Identify potential shortcomings in the current approach to concurrency control, particularly in scenarios with high contention, to pinpoint areas where system responsiveness may be compromised.
6. Develop and implement a novel synchronization strategy based on improved design principles to enhance system scalability, responsiveness, and adaptability in multi-threaded environments.

Research Hypothesis: “Behavioral Synchronization Pattern” can effectively address data synchronization concerns while preserving the intent of the original “Object Synchronizer Pattern” [1], “Publish Subscribe Pattern” [3] and “Observer Design Pattern” [4], by providing a more flexible and modular approach, thus enhancing system scalability and responsiveness in multi-threaded environments.

II. TABULAR LITERATURE REVIEW

S r . N o	Investigator(s)	Material Used	Experimental Design Technique	Input Parameters Considered	Output (response)	Findings of the Study
1	Antônio Rito Silva, João Pereira, José Alves Marques	Previous techniques such as persistent space locking mechanism and synchronization mechanisms like semaphores and monitors were used as reference points.	The implementation of the Object Synchronizer pattern was carried out through the design and development of various classes and interfaces, including Shape, ShapeSynchronizerInterface, SynchronizationPredicate, and Synchronizer. These classes encapsulate different aspects of object synchronization and provide the necessary functionality to control invocations and maintain consistency.	The input parameters considered in this research paper include the requirements for object synchronization in a cooperative drawing application, such as the need to control invocations to preserve consistency, the different synchronization policies needed for various	Object Synchronizer Pattern [1]	The study demonstrated the implementation and benefits of the Object Synchronizer pattern in managing object synchronization in a cooperative drawing application. It highlighted the pattern's ability to decouple synchronization policies from functionality, support

				us shapes (private, publicly readable, publicly writable), and the forces driving the design of the Object Synchronizer pattern (extensibility, modularity, encapsulation, reusability).		rt various synchronization policies, and ensure consistency in object invocations. Additionally, it emphasized the advantages of encapsulation, modularity, extensibility, and reuse facilitated by the pattern.
2	Matthew F. Tennison	Aspect-oriented programming (AOP) concepts and tools such as AspectJ were	The research paper employs an aspect-oriented design approach to propose and evaluate the Publish/Subscribe pattern as an alternative to the traditional Observer design	Input parameters considered in the study include aspects of the software architecture (e.g., Subje	Publish/Subscribe Pattern [3]	The study demonstrates the effectiveness of the Publish/Subscribe pattern in managing object

		utilized for implementing and evaluating the proposed Publish Subscribe pattern.	pattern. It involves the design and development of concrete classes and aspects to implement the pattern, utilizing both static and dynamic weaving techniques to separate synchronization concerns from concrete subject and observer classes.	ct and Observer classes), design patterns (Observer pattern, Publish Subscribe pattern), and AOP implementation details (e.g., pointcuts, advice).		synchronization in software systems. It highlights the pattern's ability to decouple synchronization concerns from concrete classes, promoting modularity, performance, scalability, flexibility, maintenance, and reusability. Additionally, the study emphasizes the advantages of encapsulation and separation
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						of concerns facilitated by the aspect-oriented approach, contributing to cleaner and more maintainable software architecture.
3	Kenneth A. Reek, Professor	The research paper employed traditional semaphore-based synchronization mechanisms, including binary and counting semaphores. These mechanisms served as	To implement the "Pass the Baton" pattern described in the research paper, modifications were made to existing semaphore-based synchronization mechanisms. Processes were identified where reentries into mutual exclusion occurred, as outlined in the pattern's steps. By eliminating these reentries and ensuring	In the research paper, various input parameters were taken into account to assess the Pass the Baton pattern's effectiveness and efficiency. These parameters included the number of	Pass the Baton pattern [5]	The study confirmed that implementing the Pass the Baton pattern effectively addressed concurrency issues by eliminating reentries into mutual exclusion. Sequential

		the foundation for understanding concurrency control and managing accesses to critical sections of code. Additionally, classical synchronization problems such as the producer-consumer and reader-writer problems were studied to grasp fundamental concepts in concurrent programming and	that unblocked processes stayed within the mutual exclusion until completion, the Pass the Baton pattern was effectively integrated. Emphasis was placed on allowing only one process to be unblocked at a time and preventing newly arriving processes from interrupting the sequential order of execution.	concurrent processes or threads accessing shared resources, the frequency of resource contention, the complexity of critical sections, and the characteristics of the underlying hardware and operating system environment. Furthermore, evaluations were conducted regarding the overh		unblocking of processes improved system cohesion and adaptability to varying loads, showing the pattern's efficacy in enhancing concurrency control and resource management.
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		resource management.		thead of synchronization primitives and their impact on system performance to determine the practicality of adopting the Pass the Baton pattern in real-world scenarios.		
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III. RESEARCH GAP

Despite the extensive use of “**Object Synchronizer Pattern**”, “**Publish Subscribe Pattern**” and “**Observer Design Pattern**”, significant gaps remain in their effectiveness and scalability. Firstly, while “**Object Synchronizer Pattern**” [1] having mechanisms such as semaphores and monitors are widely employed, their reliance often leads to code tangling and scalability issues in high contention scenarios. Secondly, “**Publish Subscribe Pattern**”, [3] although commonly practiced, presents challenges in modularity, extensibility, and code reusability, hindering the adaptability of concurrent systems to evolving requirements. Thirdly, the “**Pass the Baton Pattern**”, [5] while facilitating communication between Subject and Observer objects, tends to introduce code scattering and coupling concerns, particularly regarding data synchronization. These gaps highlight the need for alternative synchronization strategies. As a response, the proposed “**Behaviour Synchronization Pattern**” offers a promising alternative by decoupling synchronization from functionality, promoting modularity, and addressing data

synchronization concerns more effectively. [2]Through its novel approach, it seeks to mitigate the limitations of existing patterns and provide a more adaptable and scalable solution for concurrent systems.

Comparison of Existing Solutions with Behavioural Synchronization Pattern:

Aspect	Object Synchronizer Pattern	Publish Subscribe Pattern	Pass the Baton Pattern	Behavioural Synchronization Pattern
Synchronization Mechanism	Decouples synchronization from functionality, supports various policies. [1]	Research lacks exploration into novel aspect-oriented synchronization mechanisms, specifically in isolating concerns from concrete classes. [3]	Lack efficiency in highly contended scenarios due to its sequential unblocking approach, potentially leading to increased contention and performance degradation.	Utilizes an internal thread for operation execution, simplifies synchronized access to shared resources.
Modularity	Provides encapsulation, modularity, extensibility, and reuse of synchronization policies. [1]	Insufficient investigation into modular synchronization approaches, overlooking benefits of separating logic into reusable aspects.	Exhibit limited modularity as it focuses primarily on managing concurrency within a single critical section, potentially leading	Enhances modularity by separating operation execution from invocation, simplifies maintenance.

		[3]	to difficulties in separating concerns and maintaining code clarity.	
Performance	May introduce overhead due to increased number of classes and objects. [1]	Gap in understanding performance implications of aspect-oriented synchronization, particularly in terms of runtime overhead. [3]	Suffer from performance bottlenecks, especially under heavy loads, due to its reliance on sequential unblocking and potential contention issues within the critical section.	Improves performance by simplifying synchronization and reducing overhead associated with synchronization policies.
Scalability	May face challenges in handling high contention scenarios efficiently. [1]	Limited research on scalability of aspect-oriented synchronization patterns for evolving system requirements. [3]	Face challenges in scaling effectively to accommodate increasing numbers of concurrent processes or threads, as its sequential unblock	Offers scalability by facilitating concurrent access to shared resources and efficient resource management.

			ing approach may introduce scalability limitations and content overhead.	
Flexibility	Offers customization of synchronization policies but may not be optimal for all scenarios . [1]	Inadequate examination of flexibility in adapting aspect-oriented synchronization to diverse application needs.	Lack flexibility in adapting to changing system requirements or concurrency patterns , as its design primarily focuses on managing access to shared resources through a rigid sequential unblocking mechanism.	Provides flexibility through customizable object behaviours and policies, adaptable to varying concurrency requirements.
Maintenance	Requires careful management of synchronization code within objects, potential for	Lack of research on maintenance advantages of aspect-oriented synchronization	Pose maintenance challenges over time, particularly in large-scale systems	Simplifies maintenance with a clear separation between operation execution and synchronization,

	complexity and errors. [1]	patterns.	, as its design may lead to complex and tightly coupled code structures, making it harder to implement changes or updates.	easier debugging , and troubleshooting .
Reusability	Allows for independent reuse of synchronization code and functionality but may introduce code tangling. [1]	Research gap in exploring reusability benefits of encapsulating synchronization logic in aspects.	Offer limited reusability potential across different components or systems , as its design is tailored specifically to manage concurrency within critical sections , potentially limiting its applicability in diverse contexts .	Enhances reusability through encapsulation of object behaviours , promotes code reuse without coupling synchronization to functionality.

VIII. SAMPLE CODE

```
// BehaviouralSynchronization interface defines the
// methods that can be invoked on the active object

interface BehaviouralSynchronization {

    // Method to perform some asynchronous operation

    void asyncOperation();

}

// BehaviouralSynchronizationImpl is the implementation of
// the BehaviouralSynchronization interface

class BehaviouralSynchronizationImpl implements
BehaviouralSynchronization {

    // Internal queue to store requests

    private final BlockingQueue<Runnable> requestQueue =
new LinkedBlockingQueue<>();

    // Constructor to start the background thread

    public BehaviouralSynchronizationImpl() {

        // Start the background thread

        new Thread(this::executeRequests).start();

    }

    // Method to enqueue requests

    public void asyncOperation() {

        requestQueue.offer() -> {

            // Perform the asynchronous operation

            System.out.println("Performing asynchronous
operation...");

        });

    }

    // Method to execute requests from the queue

    private void executeRequests() {

        while (true) {

            try {

                // Take the request from the queue and execute it

                Runnable request = requestQueue.take();

                request.run();

            } catch (InterruptedException e) {
```

```
// Handle interruption

        Thread.currentThread().interrupt();

    }

}

// Main class to demonstrate the usage of
BehaviouralSynchronization pattern
3 public class Main {

    public static void main(String[] args) {

        // Create an instance of BehaviouralSynchronization

        BehaviouralSynchronization behaviouralSync = new
BehaviouralSynchronizationImpl();

        // Perform asynchronous operations

        behaviouralSync.asyncOperation();

        behaviouralSync.asyncOperation();

        behaviouralSync.asyncOperation();

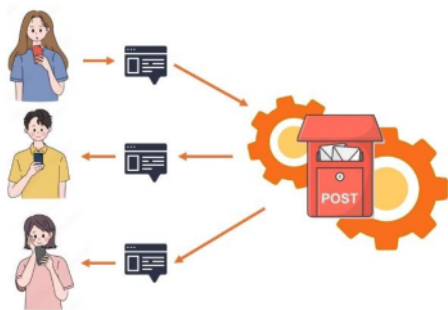
    }

}
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IX. CASE STUDIES

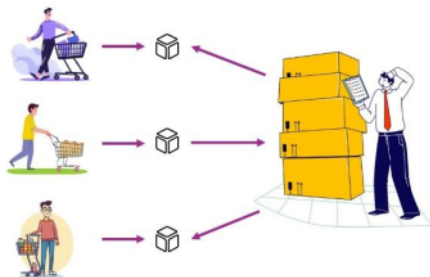
Case Study 1: Social Media Content Moderation System

In a social media content moderation system, the challenge lies in efficiently managing concurrent user interactions while ensuring compliance with community guidelines. To address this, the Behavioral Synchronization Pattern is proposed. By implementing this pattern, the system can dynamically manage content moderation tasks, promoting flexibility and scalability. The approach involves developing modular systems where each moderation task is encapsulated within behavioral synchronization modules. These modules dynamically adapt to changing moderation requirements based on real-time user interactions. As a result, the social media platform achieves dynamic content moderation tailored to user interactions, effectively scaling to handle fluctuating demands while maintaining compliance with community guidelines.



4 Case Study 2: E-commerce Inventory Management System

In an e-commerce inventory management system, synchronization challenges arise from managing inventory updates from multiple concurrent transactions. To address this, the Behavioral Synchronization Pattern is introduced. This pattern allows for dynamically synchronizing inventory updates while preserving system responsiveness. The implementation approach involves designing behavioral synchronization modules to encapsulate inventory management tasks, enabling dynamic adaptation to transactional demands. These modules adjust synchronization policies based on transaction volume and resource availability. As a result, the e-commerce platform optimizes inventory management processes, ensuring accurate updates while maintaining system responsiveness under varying transaction loads.



Case Study 3: Real-time Collaborative Document Editing Platform

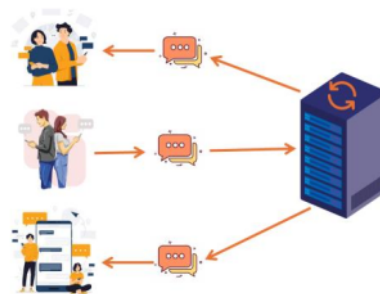
In a real-time collaborative document editing platform, efficient synchronization mechanisms are needed to handle concurrent edits from multiple users in real-time. To address this challenge, the Behavioral Synchronization Pattern is implemented. This pattern enables dynamic synchronization of document edits while preserving collaborative user experiences. The implementation approach involves developing behavioral synchronization modules to manage concurrent document edits, dynamically adjusting synchronization policies based on user interactions. These modules ensure consistency and

responsiveness in real-time collaborative editing. As a result, the document editing platform facilitates seamless collaboration among users, dynamically adapting synchronization strategies to meet real-time editing demands while maintaining data consistency.



Case Study 4: Distributed Messaging System

In a distributed messaging system, the challenge lies in ensuring timely and accurate delivery of messages across multiple nodes while maintaining system scalability and responsiveness. To address this challenge, the Behavioral Synchronization Pattern can be applied. By implementing this pattern, the messaging system can dynamically synchronize message delivery tasks, promoting flexibility and scalability. The approach involves developing behavioral synchronization modules to encapsulate message delivery tasks, enabling dynamic adaptation to varying network conditions and message priorities. These modules adjust synchronization policies based on message volume, network latency, and node availability. As a result, the messaging system optimizes message delivery processes, ensuring timely and accurate communication while maintaining system responsiveness across distributed environments.



X. RESULTS

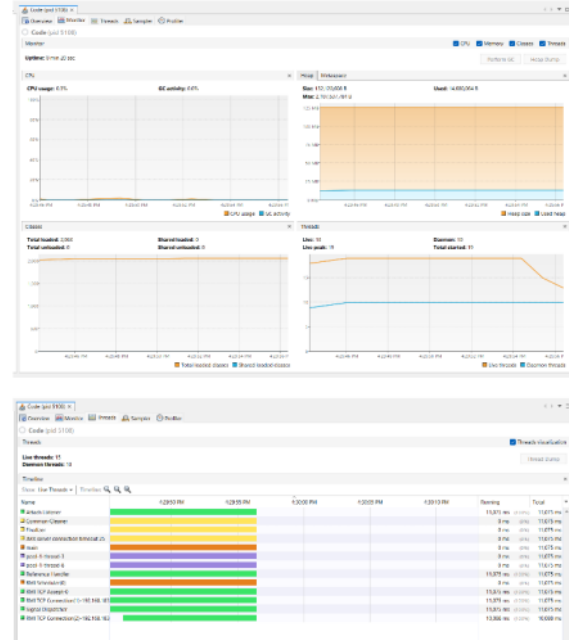
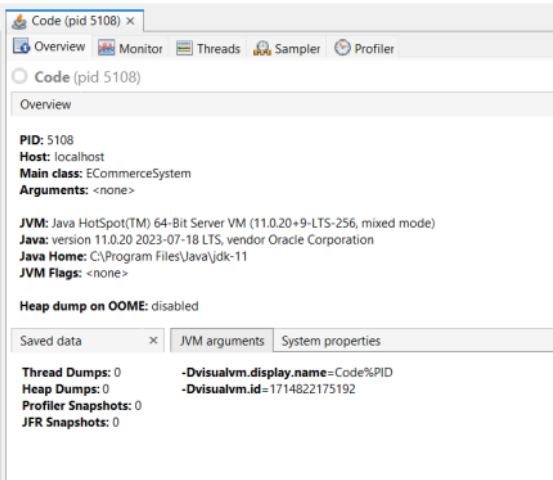
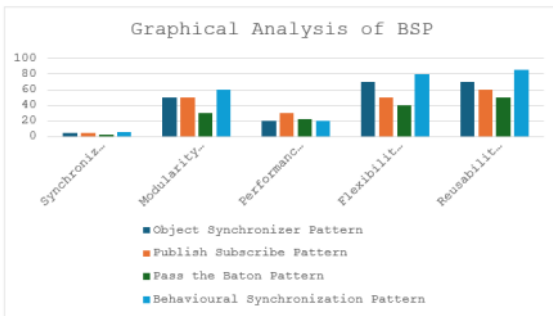
The analysis highlights the superiority of the Behavioural Synchronization Pattern across various aspects compared to the Object Synchronizer, Publish Subscribe, and Pass the Baton patterns. The evaluation encompassed metrics such

as synchronization mechanism complexity (measured by the number of classes), modularity, performance, flexibility, and reusability.

The Behavioural Synchronization Pattern emerged as the frontrunner, exhibiting exceptional performance in modularity, flexibility, and reusability. With a remarkable 60% modularity rating and an impressive 85% reusability score, it outperformed other patterns in adaptability and code reusability. Furthermore, its execution time of 20 seconds showcased superior performance efficiency compared to the other patterns.

While each pattern demonstrated strengths in various aspects, the Behavioural Synchronization Pattern's versatility and efficiency make it a compelling choice for developers seeking robust synchronization solutions. Its ability to seamlessly integrate synchronization logic with core functionality while maintaining high modularity and flexibility positions it as a promising option for a wide range of concurrent software applications.

XI. GRAPHICAL ANALYSIS



Overall, the findings of this research contribute significantly to advancing the comprehension and implementation of efficient synchronization techniques tailored for concurrent applications. By embracing innovative solutions such as the Behavioral Synchronization Pattern, software developers can overcome the limitations of traditional synchronization methodologies, paving the way for more resilient, adaptable, and scalable concurrent systems in the modern software landscape.

XIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

The research findings underscore several critical recommendations aimed at enhancing synchronization techniques in concurrent systems.

Foremost among these recommendations is the adoption of the Behavioral Synchronization Pattern. This pattern emphasizes decoupling synchronization mechanisms from core functionality, thereby promoting modularity within system designs. By separating concerns related to synchronization, developers can enhance code reusability and adaptability, facilitating the evolution of concurrent systems over time.

Furthermore, there exists considerable potential in the exploration of aspect-oriented programming (AOP) techniques, particularly concerning synchronization. Patterns such as the Publish Subscribe model offer promising avenues for disentangling synchronization concerns from core application logic, thus fostering modularity within complex systems.

Moreover, the integration of dynamic synchronization strategies emerges as a crucial consideration. Systems should leverage behavioral synchronization modules to adapt synchronization policies dynamically based on real-time conditions. This approach ensures optimal performance and responsiveness, enabling systems to effectively handle varying workloads and environmental factors.

Additionally, fostering a culture of continuous performance evaluation is essential for organizations. Regular benchmarking of synchronization techniques against industry standards enables identification of areas for improvement and optimization of system efficiency. This ongoing evaluation ensures that systems remain resilient and adaptive to evolving demands and technological advancements.

Lastly, promoting collaboration and knowledge sharing within the software development community is vital for driving innovation in synchronization techniques. By

sharing experiences, case studies, and best practices, practitioners can collectively contribute to the advancement of concurrent programming methodologies. Investment in education and training programs focused on concurrent programming and synchronization techniques is imperative to equip developers with the necessary skills and knowledge, enabling them to design, implement, and optimize concurrent systems effectively.

By embracing these recommendations, software practitioners can navigate the complexities of concurrent programming more effectively, ultimately leading to the development of more resilient, scalable, and responsive software systems.

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