

Objekt Algebra - Ein Lösungsansatz für das Expression Problem

Marco Buchholz, Max Golubew, and Florian Winzek

Institute for Software Engineering and Programming Languages, Universität zu
Lübeck

`marco.buchholz@student.uni-luebeck.de`

`max.golubew@student.uni-luebeck.de`

`f.winzek@student.uni-luebeck.de`

Abstract. The expression problem is a known problem in practical computer science where the goal is to define types of data and extend them with new types or functions neither with recompiling the code nor retaining static type safety [1]. This paper is about a new approach of dealing with this problem. We will introduce and discuss a new pattern called object algebra and use Linear Temporal Logic (LTL) formulas as examples. We will build a core set of LTL and show how easily new formulas and functions can be added.

1 Einleitung

The expression problem is about handling programs and algorithms which includes different types of data structures or functions/operations. Especially when you want to extend your program and including more operations or another type of data structure you have to rewrite complex code structures. There are several approaches how you can avoid this by using programming patterns and paradigms. We will introduce the common interpreter and visitor pattern discuss them and show an alternative way to handle the expression problem.

2 Lösungsansätze

2.1 Interpreter Pattern

2.2 Visitor Pattern

2.3 Objekt Algebra

3 Implementation

4 Zusammenfassung

References

1. Wadler, P.: The Expression Problem. E-Mail Discussion (1998), <http://homepages.inf.ed.ac.uk/wadler/papers/expression/expression.txt>

2. Odersky, M., Zenger, M.: Independently Extensible Solutions to the Expression Problem. In FOOL'05
3. Pnueli, A.: The temporal logic of programs. In 18th Annual Symposium on Foundations of Computer Science, Providence, Rhode Island, USA, 31 October - 1 November 1977, pages 46-57, IEEE Computer Society, 1977
4. Gamma, E., Helm R., Johnson R. and Vlissides J.: Design Patterns: Elements of Reusable Object-Oriented Software. Addison-Wesley Professional Computing Series, Pearson Education, 1994
5. Parr, T.: Language Implementation Patterns: Create Your Own Domain-Specific and General Programming Languages. Pragmatic Bookshelf, 2009
6. Oliveira, B., Cook, W.: Extensibility for the Masses - Practical Extensibility with Object Algebras. In ECOOP 2012 – Object-Oriented Programming: 26th European Conference, Beijing, China, June 11-16, 2012, pages 2-27, Springer Berlin Heidelberg
7. Guttag, J., Horning, J.: The algebraic specification of abstract data types. In Acta Informatica Vol. 10, pages 27-52, March 1978