

Why "Flyweight" Pattern?

Etymology & Boxing Connection

The term "flyweight" comes from **boxing weight classes**, where flyweight is the **lightest category** (under 112 pounds/51kg). This metaphor perfectly captures the pattern's essence:

Boxing Flyweight = Minimal weight, maximum efficiency

Design Flyweight = Minimal memory, maximum sharing

The Naming Logic

Core Concept: Objects become "lightweight" by sharing heavy data

```
// Heavy object (heavyweight boxer)
class HeavyGraphic {
    private String content;      // 1KB
    private byte[] imageData;    // 5MB
    private RenderingRules rules; // 2MB
    private Position position;   // 8 bytes
}

// Flyweight object (flyweight boxer)
class GraphicFlyweight {
    private String content;      // 1KB (shared)
    private byte[] imageData;    // 5MB (shared)
    private RenderingRules rules; // 2MB (shared)
    // Position stored externally – only 8 bytes per instance
}
```

Memory Weight Comparison

| Scenario | Without Flyweight | With Flyweight |
|-------------------|---|--|
| 1000 text objects | $1000 \times 7\text{MB} = \mathbf{7GB}$ | $1 \times 7\text{MB} + 1000 \times 8\text{B} = \mathbf{7MB}$ |
| Memory "weight" | Heavy (7GB) | Flyweight (7MB) |
| Reduction | - | 99.9% lighter |

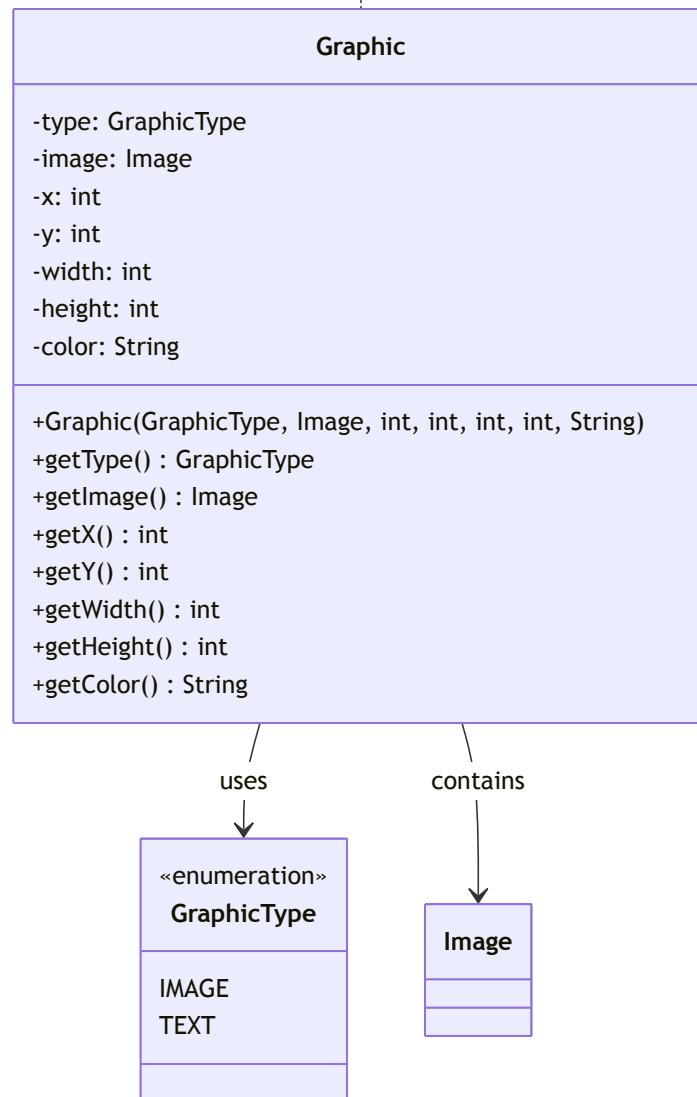
Important Note: The pattern makes objects "lightweight" in memory consumption, not functionality. Full capabilities are preserved through the intrinsic/extrinsic state separation.

Flyweight Pattern for Graphic Elements

Without Flyweight Pattern

Without Flyweight Pattern (BAD DESIGN)

MEMORY WASTE - Every graphic object stores all data - Same type/color/image duplicated - No sharing of common attributes



```
// BAD – Multiple objects with duplicate data
public class GraphicsEditor {
    public void createDocument() {
        // Multiple text graphics with same style – wasteful! ✗
        Graphic text1 = new Graphic(GraphicType.TEXT, textImage, 10, 20, 100, 30, "red"
        Graphic text2 = new Graphic(GraphicType.TEXT, textImage, 50, 60, 150, 25, "red"
        Graphic text3 = new Graphic(GraphicType.TEXT, textImage, 80, 90, 200, 35, "red"

        // Each object stores complete state independently ✗
        // type="TEXT", image=textImage, color="red" repeated 3 times
        // Memory: 3 complete objects = 3x memory usage
    }
}
```

SOLID Principles Violated Without Flyweight Pattern

● Single Responsibility Principle (SRP)

- Graphic class handles both shared attributes and positioning
- Mixed concerns: content management + spatial positioning

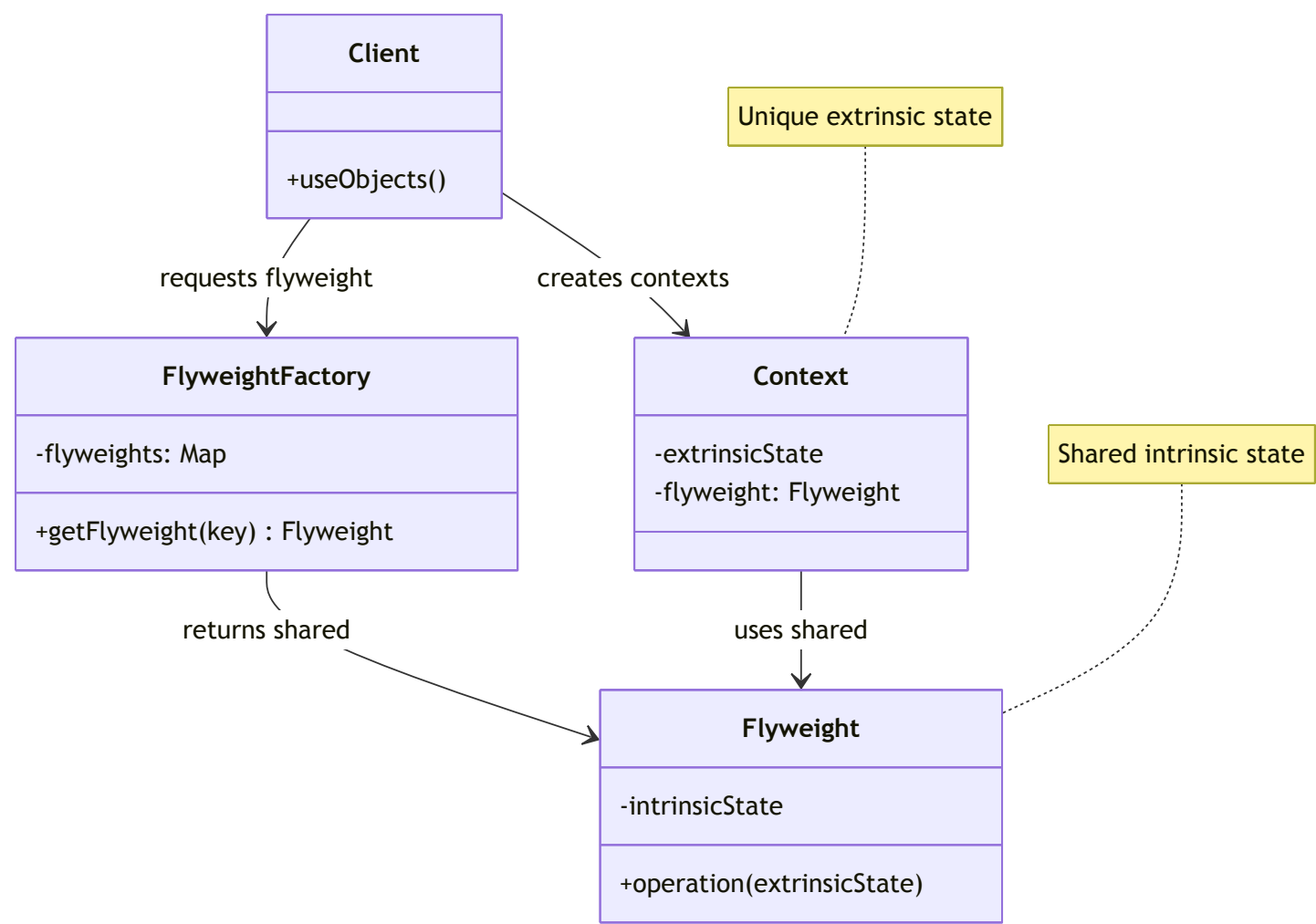
● Open/Closed Principle (OCP)

- Adding new shared attributes requires modifying all graphic instances
- No separation between shared and instance-specific data

With Flyweight Pattern

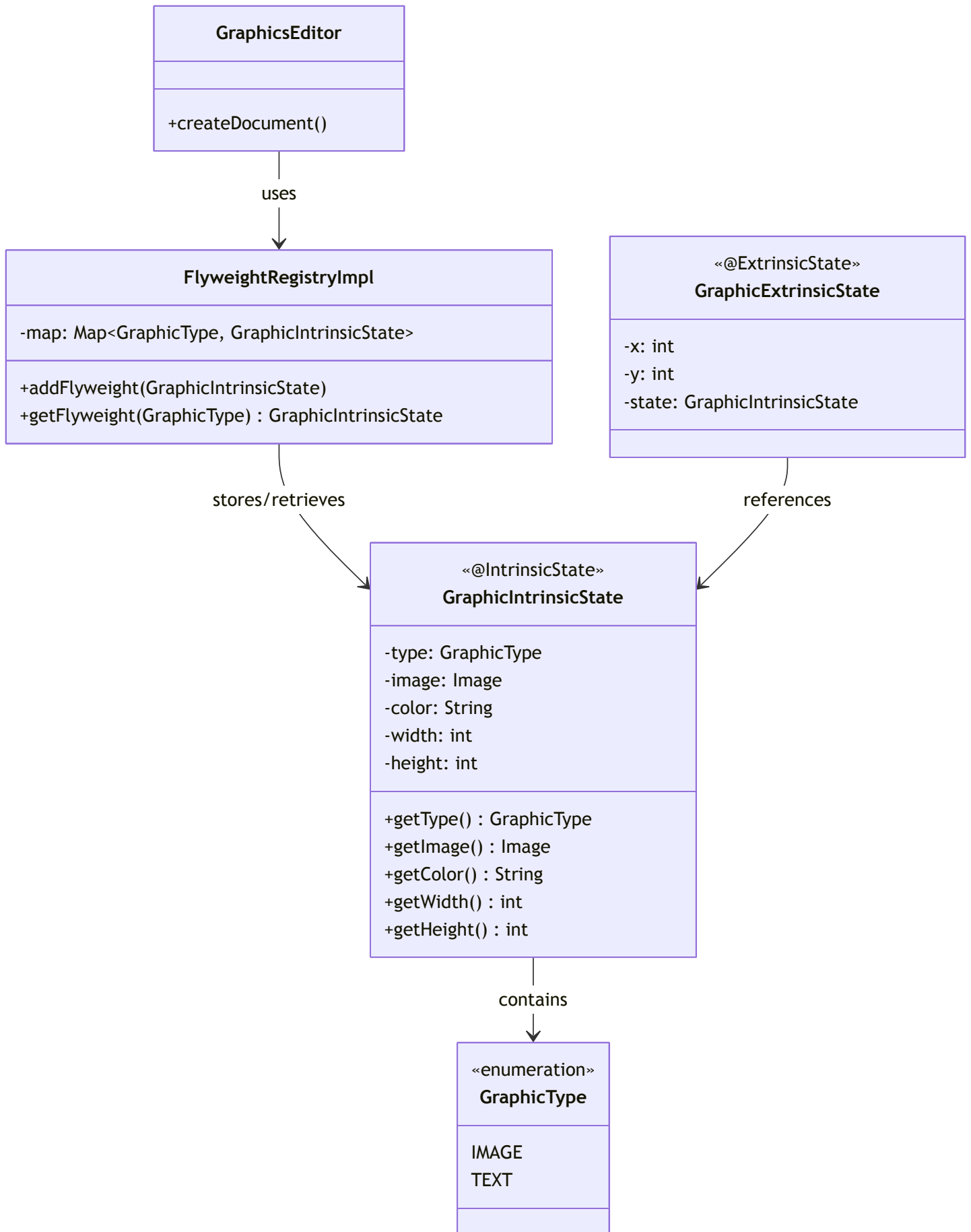
Generic Diagram

Generic Flyweight Pattern



Specific Diagram

Graphic Elements Flyweight Implementation



How Flyweight Pattern Helps Here

Key Benefits:

- **Memory Optimization:** Shared intrinsic state across multiple graphics of same type
- **Reduced Object Creation:** Only one intrinsic state per graphic type/style combination
- **State Separation:** Clear distinction between shared (intrinsic) and unique (extrinsic) data
- **Registry Management:** Centralized storage and retrieval of flyweight objects
- **Scalability:** Memory usage grows with unique types, not total instances

Usage Examples

```
// Create shared intrinsic states
GraphicIntrinsicState textState = new GraphicIntrinsicState(GraphicType.TEXT, image, "r
GraphicIntrinsicState imageState = new GraphicIntrinsicState(GraphicType.IMAGE, photo,

// Store in registry
registry.addFlyweight(textState);
registry.addFlyweight(imageState);

// Create multiple graphics with shared states
GraphicExtrinsicState text1 = new GraphicExtrinsicState(10, 20, textState);
GraphicExtrinsicState text2 = new GraphicExtrinsicState(50, 60, textState);
GraphicExtrinsicState image1 = new GraphicExtrinsicState(0, 0, imageState);

// Memory saved: Instead of 3 complete objects, only 2 flyweights + 3 contexts
```

Memory Optimization Example

For 100 text graphics with same style:

- **Without Flyweight:** 100 complete objects
- **With Flyweight:** 1 shared intrinsic state + 100 lightweight position contexts
- **Memory Savings:** ~80-90% reduction in shared data storage

The pattern efficiently handles scenarios where many objects share common attributes while maintaining individual positioning and context data.

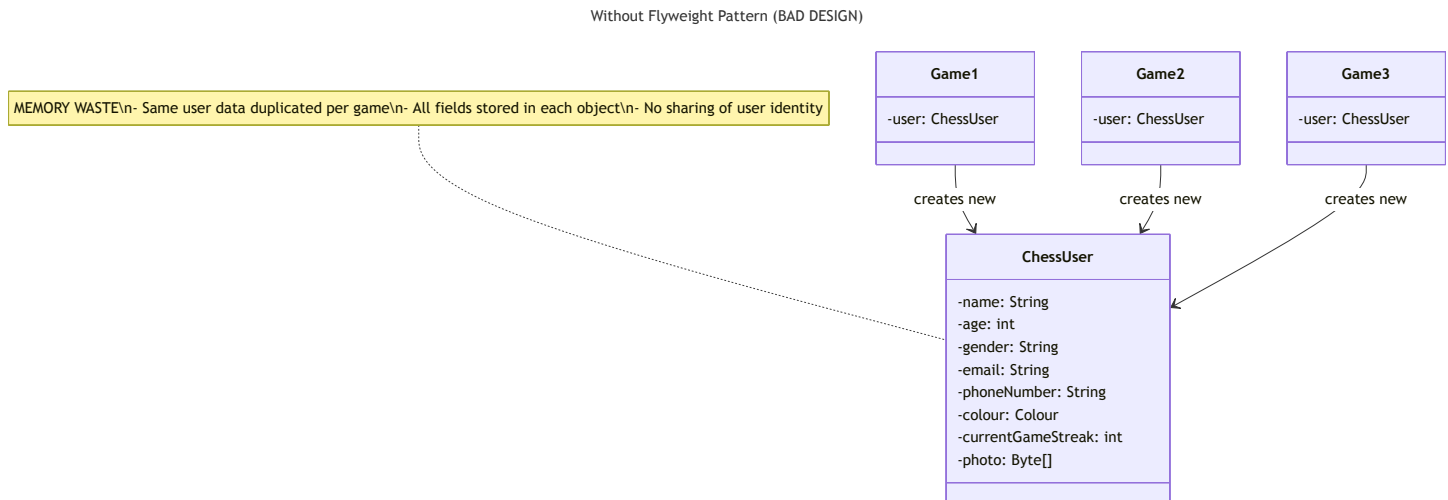
Implementation Caveats & Improvements

Current Implementation Issues:

1. **Width/Height as Intrinsic:** May limit flexibility if graphics of same type need different sizes
 - **Hint:** Consider moving to extrinsic state for variable dimensions
2. **Missing Constructors:** Classes lack proper constructors for object creation
 - **Hint:** Add `@AllArgsConstructor` or manual constructors
3. **No Getters in Extrinsic:** Missing access methods for coordinate data
 - **Hint:** Add `@Getter` `@Setter` annotations
4. **Basic Registry:** Simple map-based lookup without error handling
 - **Hint:** Add null checks and helper methods for robustness
5. **Single Flyweight per Type:** Current registry stores only one flyweight per GraphicType
 - **Hint:** Consider composite keys (type + color + image) for finer granularity

Flyweight Pattern for Chess User Optimization

Without Flyweight Pattern

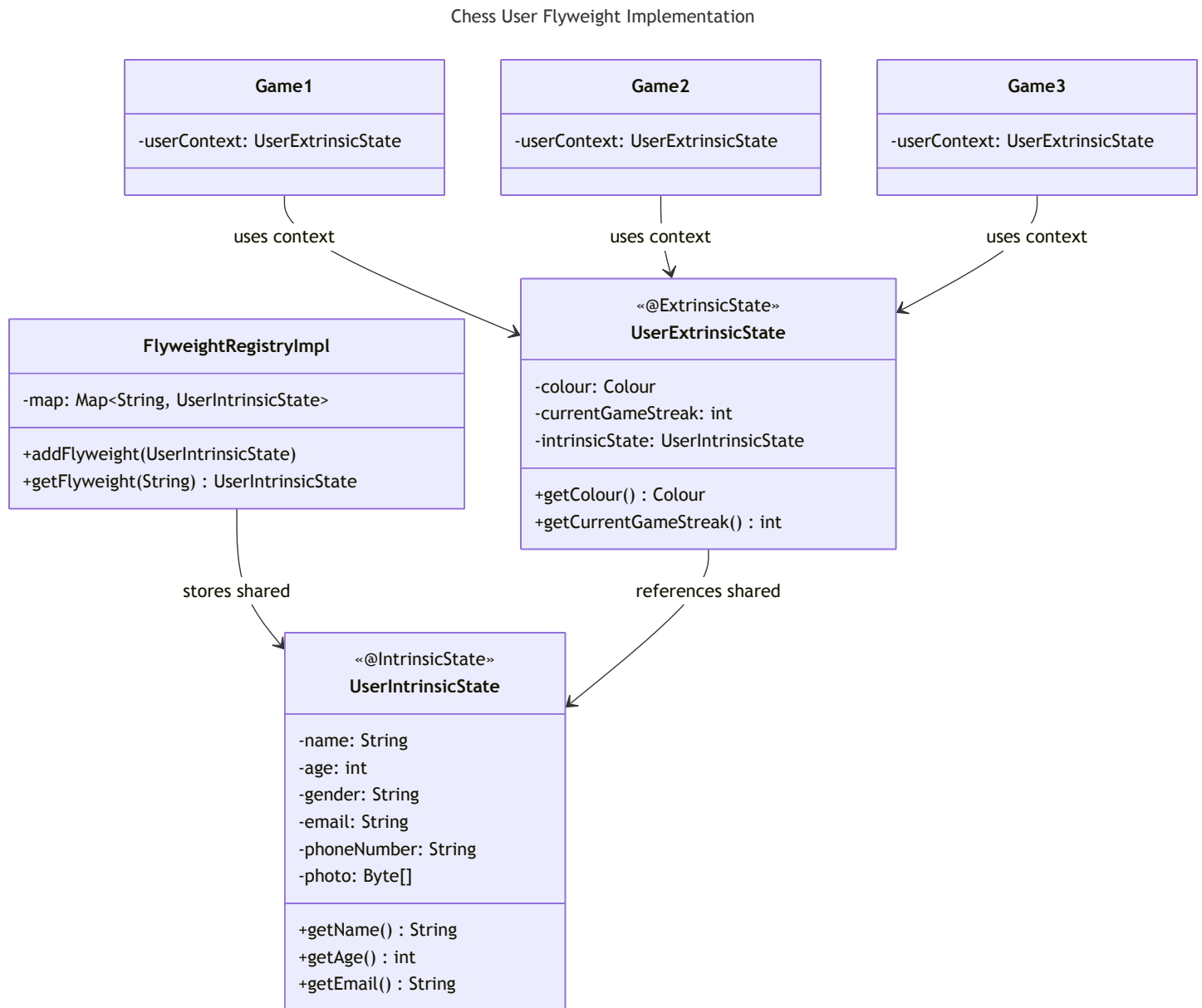


```
// BAD – Same user, multiple complete objects
public class ChessApplication {
    public void startGames() {
        // Alice plays 3 games – creates 3 complete user objects ✗
        ChessUser alice1 = new ChessUser("Alice", 25, "Female", "alice@email.com",
                                           "123-456-7890", Colour.WHITE, 5, photo);
        ChessUser alice2 = new ChessUser("Alice", 25, "Female", "alice@email.com",
                                           "123-456-7890", Colour.BLACK, 3, photo);
        ChessUser alice3 = new ChessUser("Alice", 25, "Female", "alice@email.com",
                                           "123-456-7890", Colour.WHITE, 7, photo);

        // User identity data (name, age, email, photo) duplicated 3 times ✗
    }
}
```

With Flyweight Pattern

Specific Diagram



How Flyweight Pattern Helps Here

Key Benefits:

- **Memory Optimization:** User identity data shared across multiple games
- **State Separation:** Fixed user data vs variable game data clearly separated
- **Registry Management:** Centralized storage using email as unique key

- **Context Flexibility:** Each game has independent colour and streak data

State Classification

Intrinsic (Shared): name, age, gender, email, phoneNumber, photo

- User identity that never changes

Extrinsic (Variable): colour, currentGameStreak

- Game-specific data that varies per session

Usage Examples

```
// Alice plays 10 games
UserIntrinsicState alice = registry.getFlyweight("alice@email.com");

// Each game has different context
UserExtrinsicState[] games = {
    new UserExtrinsicState(Colour.WHITE, 5, alice),
    new UserExtrinsicState(Colour.BLACK, 3, alice),
    new UserExtrinsicState(Colour.WHITE, 8, alice),
    // ... 7 more games
};

// Memory: 1 shared Alice identity + 10 lightweight contexts
// vs 10 complete ChessUser objects
```

Memory Benefits

Same user playing multiple games:

- **Without Flyweight:** N complete user objects
- **With Flyweight:** 1 shared intrinsic state + N lightweight contexts
- **Memory Savings:** ~85% reduction in user identity data duplication

The pattern optimizes chess applications where users participate in multiple simultaneous games, eliminating redundant storage of unchanging user identity information.