

CHAMELEON

New Object Oriented Solution for Adaptive Control Systems

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Abstract: The paper deals with a new Object Oriented Solution for Adaptive Control Systems having as name CHAMELEON. The CHAMELEON system provides more flexibility and a gain in memory compared to the Classical Oriented Object Approach. Firstly, we give a formalization of the solution. Then, we propose a CHAMELEON meta-model and a sequence diagram to emphasize the dynamic aspects. Finally, an evaluation is done in order to highlight the performance of the proposed approach.

1 INTRODUCTION

Embedded systems are playing an increasing role in our daily life. They also affect different economic areas such as transport, telecommunications, avionics, etc. These systems are characterized by rigorous functional and performance constraints which are mainly imposed by their changing operational environment. Thanks to the control theory, many advances have been accomplished yet in the streamline of the mastery of the specification and the implementation of both functional and reactive aspects of embedded and real-time systems. However, the changing requirements of the context and the variation of execution environments invoke the need to develop adaptive control systems. An adaptive control system is a system that is able to reconfigure its behavior or its architecture at runtime in order to meet (or to adapt to) the context change. Several research studies have focused on the development of reconfigurable control systems (Zhuo and Prasanna, 2008), (O. Lysne and Skeie, 2008), (W. Jigang and Wang, 2007). These studies have dealt with many kinds of reconfiguration such as static and dynamic configurations. None of those works, to our best knowledge, has addressed the problem of building an adaptive and dynamically reconfigurable architecture framework for real-time systems at runtime. Our contribution consists of designing CHAMELEON which a new Object Oriented infrastructure for the design and the implementation of control systems. CHAMELEON shifts the classi-

cal object oriented paradigm to allow extreme flexible way of defining objects, their behavior and collaboration, thereby reducing memory consumption. The paper is structured as follows: Section II deals with the state of the art. The Case study is mentioned in section III. Section IV presents our contribution which consists in modeling the reconfigurable embedded systems by chameleon system. Section V describes the meta-model and the sequence diagramme of CHAMELEON system. We evaluate our proposition in section VI.

2 STATE OF THE ART

Nowadays, several research approaches have been studied for the implementation of adaptive control software: J. Cobleigh and Al. Wise proposes a hierarchical self- adaptive software model for robot systems with fault tolerances (Cobleigh and al, 2002). D. Garlan, B. Schmerl, and P proposes Rainbow that consists of a two layer framework with an external fixed control loop for architecture based adaptation using utility theory (Garlan and Steenkiste, 2004). Other approaches focus on component adaptations such that K-components (Dowling and Cahill, 2004). Many works has been done in order to develop extending middlewares with self-adaptation capabilities. Adaptive CORBA Template (Sadjadi and McKinley, 2004) focuses on CORBA applications transparently weav-

ing adaptive behavior into object request brokers at runtime. Zhang and Cheng (Zhang and Cheng, 2006) introduced an approach to create formal models of adaptive programs behavior for analysis and implementation synthesis. Their approach separates specifications of adaptive and non-adaptive behavior by simplifying their use. Using models as formal specifications of self-adaptive software systems has been also proposed. Genie (N. Bencomo and Blair, 2008) uses architectural models to support generation and execution of adaptive systems for component-based middlewares.

Although these contributions are interesting, we believe they are limited when real-time configuration becomes a requirement for the adaptation of the system to its environment. The current paper proposes an original CHAMELEON-based solution for a required flexibility of the software as well as the optimal management of the used memory.

3 CASE STUDY: FESTO MPS

We present in this section the Benchmark Production System FESTO (J.F. Zhang and Mosbahi, 2012) (Khalgui, 2010) developed at Martin Luther University in Germany. Festo MPS is a platform used by different universities for research and education goals. Its platform is composed of three units (Figure 1): (i) Distribution Unit: composed of Pneumatic Feeder and Converter to forward Cylindrical Workpieces from Stack to Testing Unit. (ii) Testing Unit: composed of Detector, Elevator and Shift-Out Cylinder. It performs the checking of Workpieces for their Height, Material Type, and Color. (iii) Processing Unit: Workpieces that pass Testing Unit successfully are forwarded to Rotating Disk of this unit for drilling.

We assume in this research work two drilling machines Drill1 and Drill2. Drill1 performs a simple piercing whereas Drill2 performs a tapped piercing of workpieces. Depending on the workpieces type, the rotation of the Wick is equal to 15 rotations/s for aluminum one and 20 rotations/s for bronze and steel one. The result of the drilling operation is next checked by a checker and finally the finished product is removed from the system by an evacuator. To implement actions performed by the drilling machines Drill1 and Drill2, we propose the following set of action methods: (i) **On**: to activate Drill1 or Drill2, (ii) **DownDo**: to pierce a simple hole using the Drill1 Wick, (iii) **DownT**: to pierce a tapped hole using the Drill2 Wick, (iv) **Up**: to elevate the Drill1 Wick or Drill2 Wick after piercing, (v) **Trans**: to translate the workpiece in order to drill a second hole, (vi) **Of**:

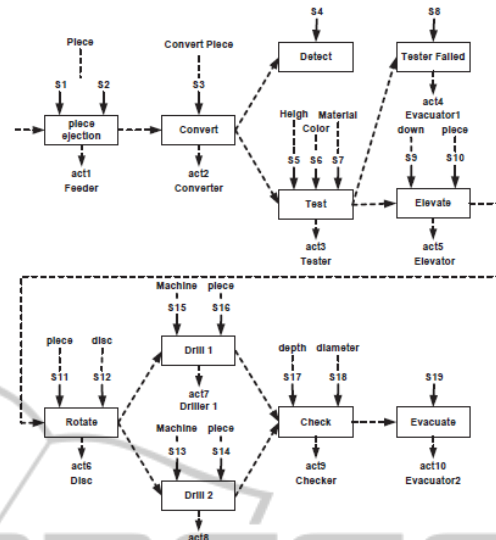


Figure 1: Operation of system FESTO. (M. Khalgui, 2010).

to deactivate Drill1 or Drill2. We use the attributes: (i) **Nbtour** to indicates the number of Wick tour per second which depends on Type of the workpiece, (ii) **Depth** to indicate the depth of the hole pierced.

In our case study, 27 production modes of FESTO MPS are considered according to Color c , Height h and Types t of pieces. We cite the following cases:

- **Case1:** If $c = \text{"red"}$, $10 \leq h \leq 20$ and $t = \text{"steel"}$ then, the drilling machine **Drill2** is used with a rotation equal to 20 rotations/s to do a tapped hole having a depth of 5 cm in a single pass,
- **Case2:** If $c = \text{"blue"}$, $h > 30$ and $t = \text{"aluminum"}$ then, **Drill1** and **Drill2** are used with a rotation equal to 15 rotations/s to do the piercing. In the first time, Drill1 does a simple hole having a depth of 10 cm in two passes.

The trivial implementation of the 27 production modes requires logically 27 software classes with a valuable number of attributes and constants. Since we are dealing with embedded systems with limited frequency of processor and size of memory, the implementation of these 27 classes is not an easy solution to deploy: this is the real-time problem that the current paper deals with. All these problems lead us to propose an optimal solution that reduces the complexity of the system by representing it with a one reconfigurable class that will cover all system configurations and minimize the memory consumption besides the number of context switching: It is the CHAMELEON class that will be presented in the next section. Note that the CHAMELEON class is an original concept for reconfigurable software systems which is not proposed in related works, and presents today a new

challenge for the optimal implementation of reconfigurable systems.

4 CHAMELEON META MODEL

4.1 A Paradigm Shift in Modeling Run-time Reconfiguration

Among the criteria that we must ensure for a reconfigurable embedded system is the flexibility and also the reduction of the memory consumption since embedded systems have a reduced memory size. To solve these problems, we propose to present reconfigurable embedded real-time systems by a new type of class to be named CHAMELEON class. CHAMELEON is a class that changes automatically its behavior from a mode to another. It contains all the common methods for different execution modes and a set of specific methods for each configuration. Instead of loading the system by many objects representing the different configurations, we create one object related to the CHAMELEON class which reduces certainly the memory consumption compared to the oriented objected approach. When we switch from a configuration to another one, we just activate the specific methods of the new configuration and deactivate those of the previous one. This reduces the number of context switching and gives more flexibility for the system. A CHAMELEON class inherits from the Thread class. To handle all possible reconfiguration forms, the CHAMELEON class has three tables allowing the run-time reconfigurations of its methods as well as attributes for a flexible adaptation to changes in the environment according to user requirements.

4.2 Formalization of CHAMELEON Class

CHAMELEON is a new type of Object Oriented Classes for flexible systems that should be reconfigured at run-time. Three possible reconfiguration forms can be applied on CHAMELEON: (i) Method reconfiguration: activation or deactivation of methods at run-time, (ii) Scheduling reconfiguration: modification of the execution orders of methods inside the CHAMELEON object, (iii) Attribute-Constant reconfiguration: the modification of values according to user requirements.

4.2.1 Method Reconfiguration

The different possible reconfigurations of methods can be represented in the specification level by a finite

state machine FSM_{meth} . A FSM_{meth} is composed of n states such that each one represents a subset of methods to be active for the implementation of the class at a particular time t . Each transition in this state machine represents a reconfiguration scenario allowing the addition-removal of methods. We implement this finite state machine FSM_{meth} by an architecture Table to be denoted by AT. AT is a matrix (n,p) of integers where n is the number of system configurations and p is the number of all its methods (active and deactive). AT is formed from the finite state machine FSM_{meth} , such that each state represents a row in the table AT. The method reconfiguration is applied according to the table AT, which is given by:

$$AT[i][j] = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } M_j \in A_i, \\ 0, & \text{if } M_j \notin A_i \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

Where:

- M_j : the j^{th} method of the system, $j=1..p$,
- A_i : the i^{th} configuration of the system (e.g. a set of active methods), $i=1..n$.

Note that an object is attached to each method M_j ($j=1..p$). When a method is activated by a given configuration A_i ($i=1..n$), the corresponding cell in the table AT takes 1 and its corresponding object is instantiated. When a method is deactivated, the corresponding cell in the table AT takes the value 0 and the corresponding object is deleted. Finally, we denote by $A_i(t)$ the i^{th} implementation of the system at a particular time t .

Running Example 1. To simplify, We assume that the Festo MPS system does three types of piercing (e.g. three configurations). We suppose that the system runs at a particular time t_1 with the configuration $A_1(t_1)$ such that :

$$A_1(t_1) = \{On, Downt, Up, Of\}$$

when a new reconfiguration scenario is applied at time t_2 , the system changes to a new configuration $A_2(t_2)$ such that:

$$A_2(t_2) = \{On, Down, Up, Trans, Of\}$$

The corresponding state machine is composed of three states as follows (Figure 2):

Since FSM_{Meth} contains three states, AT is composed also of three rows (Table 1).

Table 1: Architecture table for FESTO MPS.

M	on	down	downt	up	trans	of
A1	1	0	1	1	0	1
A2	1	1	1	1	1	1
A3	1	1	0	1	1	1

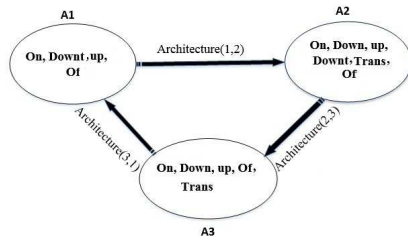


Figure 2: FSM of method reconfiguration for FESTO MPS.

Each state in the FSM_{meth} and its corresponding row in AT, is a configuration of the system FESTO MPS. At a time t , if the system is in architecture A_3 , only the methods **On**, **Down**, **Up** and **Case1** are activated and its corresponding cells in the table AT takes the value 1 whereas the other cells takes 0. When the system changes from the architecture A_3 to A_1 , the method **Downt** is activated and its corresponding cell in AT takes the value 1 whereas the method **Down** and **Trans** are deactivated and their corresponding cells in AT take 0.

4.2.2 Scheduling Reconfiguration

The scheduling reconfiguration is a reconfiguration allowing the modification of the methods scheduling according to configuration requirements. For each state of FSM_{meth} in the method reconfiguration level. We define down a new nested state machine NSM_{sched}^h , ($h=1..n$) in the scheduling reconfiguration level to show all possible scheduling of active methods in the upper level. We suppose that each NSM_{sched}^h is composed of k_h states. Each state of NSM_{sched}^h is a finite state machine FSM_{sched}^{hi} , $i = 1..k_h$ that is composed of q_h states such that each one is relative to an active method. FSM_{sched}^{hi} represents a possible scheduling of the active methods relative to a configuration in FSM_{meth} (Figure 3). We implement NSM_{sched}^h by a scheduling table to be denoted by ST_h such as a state in the first is a row in the second. ST_h is a matrix (k_h, q_h) of integers such that q_h is the number of activated methods and k_h is the number of all possible scheduling for q_h activated methods. The values in the table ST_h indicate the execution order of methods. Indeed, each box in ST_h indicates the order of each call for an activated method. For each configuration, we have a set of methods to be executed. The scheduling table shows all the possible execution orders of these methods. If a method is called more than one time, then ST_h indicates the order of each call. The scheduling reconfiguration is applied according to the table ST_h given by:

$$\forall 1 \leq i \leq k_h, 1 \leq j \leq q_h, 1 \leq h \leq n : \quad (2)$$

$$ST_h[i][j] = \{a_0..a_x\}$$

where:

- $a_0..a_x$: the set of the execution order of the method M_j , $j = 1..q_h$ for the i^{th} scheduling of FSM_{sched}^h .

We denote by $S_{hi}(t)$ the i^{th} scheduling of the active methods relative to the h^{th} architecture $A_h(t)$ at a particular time t .

Running Example 2. At time t_1 , if the configuration $A_1(t_1)$ is loaded, then the activated methods are **On**, **Downt**, **Up**, **Of**. The scheduling in this case is assumed to be:

$$S_{11}(t_1) = \{\{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \{4\}\}$$

Indeed, 1, 2, 3 and 4 indicates respectively the execution order of **On**, **Downt**, **Up** and **Of**. At time t_2 , if the configuration $A_2(t_2)$ is loaded, then the activated methods are **On**, **Down**, **Downt**, **Up**, **Trans**, **Of**. For this configuration, there are two scheduling for FESTO MPS which are:

$$S_{21}(t_2) = \{\{1, 7\}, \{2, 4\}, \{8, 10\}, \{3, 5, 9, 11\}, \{6\}, \{12, 13\}\}$$

$$S_{22}(t_2) = \{\{1, 5\}, \{2\}, \{6\}, \{3, 7\}, \{4\}, \{8, 9\}, \{8, 9\}\}$$

For example, the method **Up** is called 4 times to do two holes having a depth equal to 10 cm in two passes. The values 3, 5 indicate the execution order of **Up** to do the first hole for the first pass and the second one. The values 9, 11 are the execution orders of **Up** to do the second hole for the first pass and the second one. The table ST_2 is formed from the NSM_{sched}^2 . It is composed of 6 columns which are the number of active method and two rows that indicate the possible schedulings for the architecture A_2 (Table 2).

 Table 2: Scheduling table ST_2 for FESTO MPS.

on	down	downt	up	trans	of
1,7	2,4	8,10	3,5,9,11	6	12,13
1,5	2	6	3,7	4	8,9

4.2.3 Data Reconfiguration

The data reconfiguration is a reconfiguration allowing the modification of values of attributes according to configuration requirements. The data configuration represents all the data values related to active methods for a given configuration. It is given by the table named Data table DT_{hi} , $h=1..n$ and $1 \leq i \leq k_h$. DT_{hi} corresponds to a particular architecture table AT and scheduling table ST_h . It is a matrix (l_h, t_h) of integers such that l_h is the number of elements in a subset

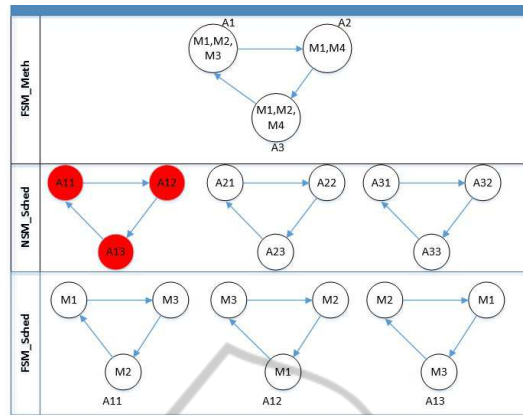


Figure 3: states machines for CHAMELEON system.

of the active methods, $l_h = 1..q_h$, t_h is the number of active attribute related to these methods. This table contains the set of values of each active attributes for a given scheduling. The data reconfiguration is applied according to the table DT_{hi} , which is given by:

$$\forall 1 \leq i \leq q_h, 1 \leq j \leq t_h, h = 1..n, \\ 1 \leq l \leq k_h \\ DT_{hi}[i][j] = \{v_0..v_y\} \quad (3)$$

Where:

- y : the executions number of each activated method,
- $v_0..v_y$: indicate the different value of the attribute j for the different executions of the method i in the same fixed scheduling (e.g. the method i is executed y times in this scheduling).

Note that an object is attached to each variable. When a variable is activated by a given configuration A_h and a scheduling S_{hi} , it will be mentioned in the table DT_{hi} with its values for each activated method according to the fixed scheduling. In fact, when the system changes from a configuration to another, we activate a set of variables and deactivate others. we denote by $D_{hi}(t)$ the data configuration relative to the i^{th} scheduling $S_{hi}(t)$ of the h^{th} architecture $A_h(t)$ at a particular time t .

Running Example 3: When the Festo MPS is running in the architecture A_2 and in the first corresponding scheduling S_{21} , the corresponding Data Table DT_{21} is as follow (Table 3):

Table 3: Scheduling table ST2 for FESTO MPS.

Method \ variable	depth	nb tour
down	5, 10	15, 15
downt	5, 10	15, 15

This table gives the values of variables **depth** and **nbtour** when calling the method **Down** and **Downt**. In this configuration, the drilling machine makes the piercing of two holes for aluminum workpieces, the first is a simple hole and the second is tapped. Firstly, the method **Down** is called to do the first pass of the simple hole with a depth equals to 5 and a number of wick rotation equals to 20. In the second time, the method **Down** is called for the second pass with a depth of 10 and a number of rotation equal to 20. The same is repeated for the second drill hole by calling **Downt**.

The data configuration in this case is as follows:

$$D_{21}(t_2) = \{ \{ \{ 5, 10 \}, \{ 15, 15 \} \}, \{ \{ 5, 10 \}, \{ 15, 15 \} \} \}$$

Note that this classification covers all possible reconfigurations form that we can apply to adapt a chameleon class to its environment: (i):additional/remove and modification of execution order of methods,(ii) update of attributes. So, the i^{th} configuration ($i=1..n$) of the CHAMELEON class CH at time t is given by:

$$CH(t) = \{ A_i(t), S_{ij}(t), D_{ij}(t), AT, ST_i, DT_{ij} \} \quad (4)$$

- j : the number of the schedulings relative to the configuration i , $j = 1..k_h$

5 UML BASED DESIGN

5.1 Meta-model Characterisation

Based on the formalization done in the previous section, we elaborate the CHAMELEON meta-model given by Figure 4.

The CHAMELEON is composed of one architecture table AT which is composed of n architecture configuration (.e.g a set of active methods). For each

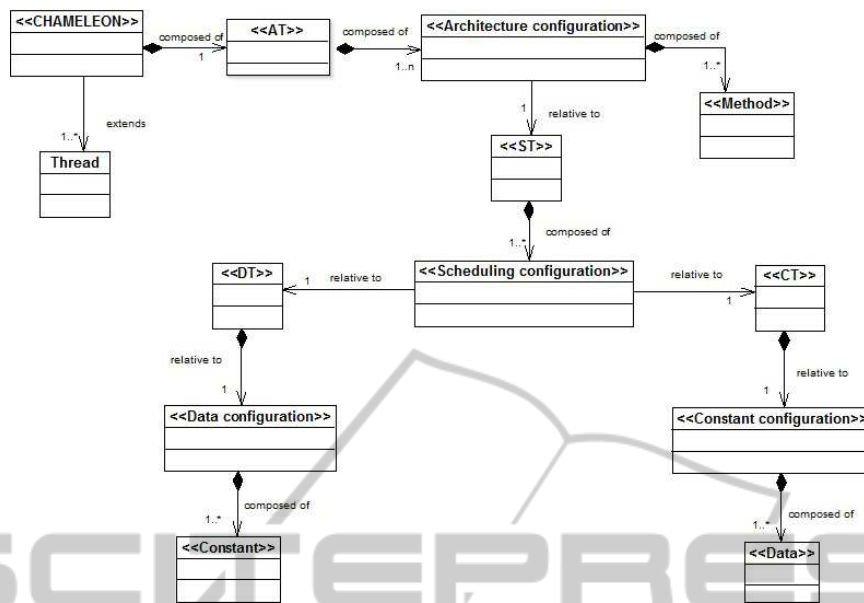


Figure 4: Meta-model of CHAMELEON system.



Figure 5: Sequence diagram for initialisation of system tables.

architecture configuration, there is n scheduling tables ST. Each table ST contains all possible scheduling for the active methods. For each scheduling is related one data table DT that represents a data configuration (e.g a set of active data).

5.2 Sequence Diagram

To illustrate the dynamic aspect and all the possible reconfiguration, we detail in this section the sequence diagrams. At the first time, the user calls **initmethod-table()**, **initschedulingtable()**, **initdatatable()** and to initialize respectively AT, ST, DT (Figure 5). when an event happens, the system will pass from an architecture i to a another j. The CHAMELEON method calls the method architecture(i,j). Architecture(i,j) consults the table AT and points to the next row to determine which methods should be activated (Figure 6).

The CHAMELEON method calls data(j) that will do the data reconfiguration. Data(j) points to the data table DT and activates the attributes related to activated methods.(Figure 7). Then the CHAMELEON

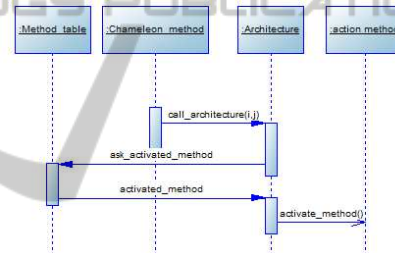


Figure 6: sequence diagram of architecture configuration for CHAMELEON system.

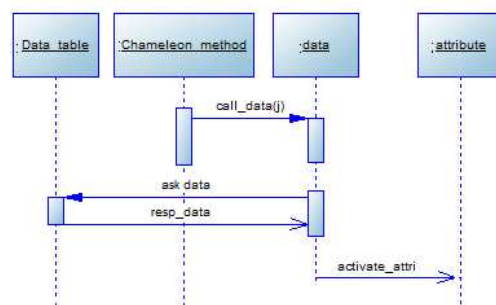


Figure 7: sequence diagram of data configuration for CHAMELEON system.

methods call the method scheduling(j) which consults the scheduling table ST relative to the current architecture configuration and calls the action methods in the execution order mentioned in ST (Figure 8).

Once the configuration is done, the method architecture(i,j) deactivates the action methods previously activated, the method data(j) deactivates the attributes.(Figure 9).

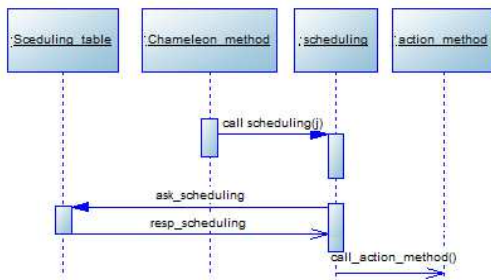


Figure 8: sequence diagram of scheduling for CHAMELEON system.

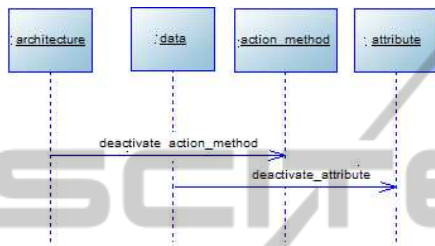


Figure 9: sequence diagram of method and data deactivation in the CHAMELEON system.

6 EVALUATION

The goal of this evaluation is to get early performance measurements of the CHAMELEON implementation impact when used in modeling a real-time application. We considered the Festo MPS benchmark production system which has been presented earlier in section III as a running example. We also chosen the Java programming language and its related performance tool-set mainly JConsole and Java VisualVM as a technical infrastructure for this evaluation.

6.1 Preparing the Testbench

In order to assess the impact of the CHAMELEON approach of FESTO MPS production system, we have produced two alternative models for the FESTO MPS system:

6.1.1 A First "CHAMELEON less" Model

This model implements the FESTO system using a classical Object Oriented approach. In this model, an abstract Java class called Drilling encapsulates the set of the methods that correspond the basic behaviors of FESTO and this class is refined in terms of more specific classes in order to enrich the basic behavior or redefine some of the polymorphic methods.

6.1.2 A Second CHAMELEON Based Model

This model implements the FESTO system using the CHAMELEON meta-model concepts presented in IV. In this model, the Drilling objects are Java objects that do not have any known methods at compile-time but those are "injected" dynamically at run-time. The dynamic configuration and reconfiguration of the objects at run-time according to the actual context is the key feature of CHAMELEON. In terms of OO programming, this feature should promote an extreme degree of behavior reuse and ensures that objects are lightweight. The CHAMELEON based model of FESTO MPS system has been written in Java.

6.2 Results

We highlight first that both the polymorphism and the CHAMELEON model of FESTO MPS system do the same functionality. Performance analysis results obtained using Java Visual VM of the two models are shown in the figures below. We focus mainly on memory consumption since CPU performance shows that there is no remarkable differences between the two models.

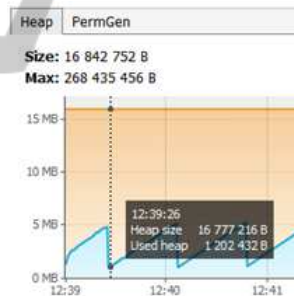


Figure 10: Consumption by FESTO MPS in the polymorphism model.

We notice that the CHAMELEON model of FESTO optimizes the memory (heap) consumption. The required heap size is only of 1202 KB (figure 10). In the case of the CHAMELEON less model the required heap size is 1341 KB (Figure 11).

The CHAMELEON model provides a minimization of memory consumption equal to 10 percent compared to the polymorphism model.

6.3 Explanation

The CHAMELEON approach optimizes the memory consumption since, unlike the OO approach, the objects does not have a set of known methods at compile time. In the OO approach, each object that is

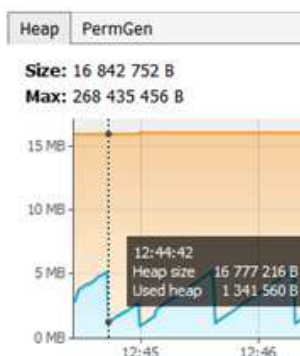


Figure 11: Memory (Heap) Consumption by FESTO MPS in the CHAMELEON model.

an instance of the Drilling class has its self copy of attributes and methods. This duplication of contexts causes extra memory consumption that may be aggravated when the application involves a large number of collaborating objects. The memory performance may also be negatively impacted by applications that involve a large number of methods or heavy processing methods. However, in the CHAMELEON system there is an additional memory footprint required for the dynamic management of object contexts (data, methods, configurations). But the memory cost of these meta data structures are insignificant when compared with the memory cost of application objects.

7 CONCLUSION

In this paper, we present a new approach for modeling reconfigurable embedded systems which is CHAMELEON meta-model. This concept covers all possible reconfiguration forms that can be applied at run-time to adapt the system to its environment and the user requirement. CHAMELEON classes can add/remove at run-time, modify their execution orders, update attributes and constants. We have proven that this approach minimizes greatly the memory consumption compared to the polymorphism approach especially when the system has many configurations. We plan in the future work to enrich this concept with several features such as real-time, memory, power, quality. We plan also to study the collaborative CHAMELEON classes that should synchronize their run-time behavior in order to prevent any incoherent configurations. Finally, we plan to new solution for optimal teste of CHAMELEON classes since this kind of verification is not exhaustive.

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