

A Multi-Level Slow Intelligence System for Visualizing Personal Health Care

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Abstract: This paper describes the design of an experimental multi-level slow intelligence system for visualizing personal health care, called the TDR system, consisting of interacting super-components each with different computation cycles specified by an abstract machine model. The TDR system has three major super-components: Tian (Heaven), Di (Earth) and Ren (Human), which are the essential ingredients of a human-centric psycho-physical system following the Chinese philosophy. Each super-component further consists of interacting components supported by an SIS server. This experimental TDR system provides a platform for exploring, visualizing and integrating different applications in personal health care, emergency management and social networking.

Keywords: slow intelligence system, distributed sensor networks, component-based software engineering, visual computing, visualization.

1. Introduction

Recently there are growing interests in human-centric psycho-physical systems, especially in health care applications. Such human-centric psycho-physical systems have two common characteristics. From the decision-theoretic viewpoint these systems usually have multiple decision cycles such that the actions of slow decision cycle(s) may override the actions of quick decision cycle(s), resulting in poorer performance in the short run but better performance in the long run. From the architectural viewpoint these systems usually have multiple levels to monitor, control and manage many sensors and actuators.

The slow intelligence system is an approach to design such human-centric psycho-physical systems. A slow intelligence system (SIS) is a system that (i) solves problems by trying different solutions, (ii) is context-aware to adapt to different situations and to propagate knowledge, and (iii) may not perform well in the short run but continuously learns to improve its performance over time. The general characteristics of a slow intelligence system include enumeration, propagation, adaptation, elimination, concentration and multiple decision cycles [1]. In our previous work, an experimental test bed was implemented that allows designers to specify interacting components for slow intelligence systems [2].

To facilitate the design of complex slow intelligence systems such as human-centric psycho-physical systems, the concept of super-components is formulated [3]. A complex slow intelligence system basically consists of interacting super-components, which further consists of many interacting components supported by an SIS server. Communications in SIS are through the SIS server and the messages are *layered*, i.e., each message type has its hierarchical *scope*. A super-component can thus be viewed as a collection of components interacting by messages within the same scope. From an architectural viewpoint the result is a multi-level slow intelligence system as illustrated by Figure 1.1.

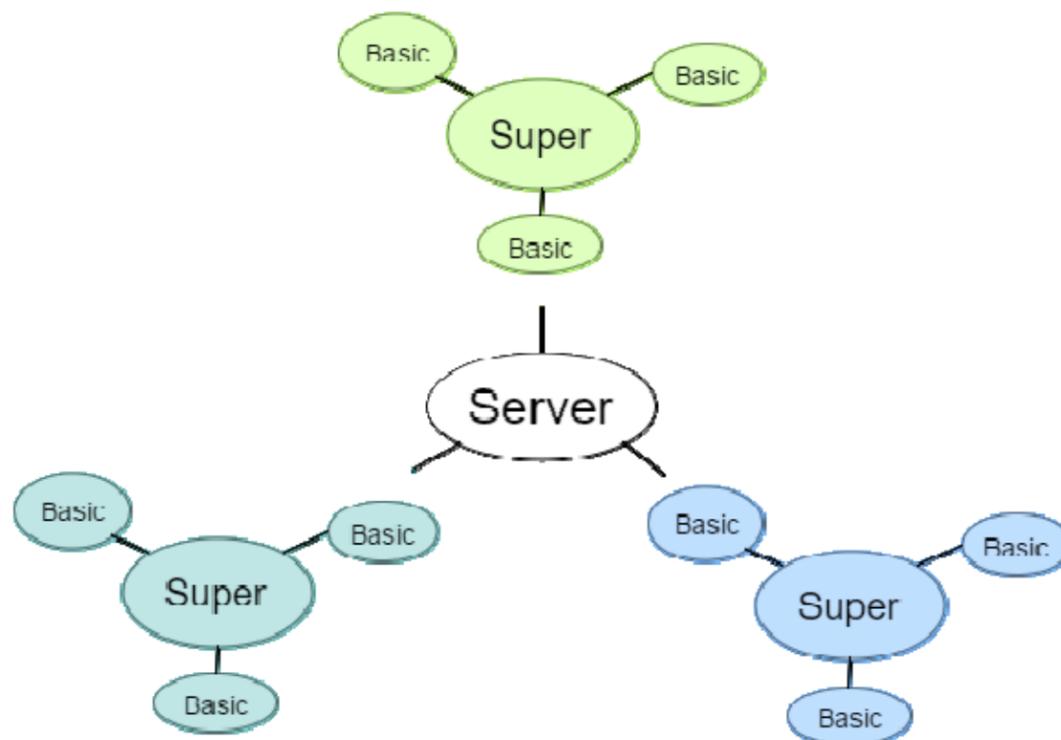


Figure 1.1. A multi-level slow intelligence system.

This paper describes the design of an experimental multi-level slow intelligence system for visualizing personal health care, called the TDR system, which mainly consists of three super components: Tian, Di and Ren. According to the Chinese philosophy these three super-components are the essential ingredients of a human-centric psycho-physical system. They can be thought of as human beings (Ren) interacting with the environment consisting of heaven (Tian) and earth (Di). Decision making in TDR system is through multiple computation cycles involving the super components to increase the chances of survival of human beings. Any action based on only one aspect of the environment without considering the other aspects could reduce the chances of survival, thus iterative, multiple computation cycles are crucial for the TDR system.

The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 presents an abstract machine model for the computation cycles. The TDR system architecture is described in Section 3. The two super-components Tian and Di are each described in detail in Section 4 and 5, respectively. Since the Ren super-component has been described in the first author's previous paper on slow intelligence system for health care [4], it will not be repeated here. A user-friendly GUI for the TDR system to visualize personal

healthcare is described in Section 6. This GUI can run on multiple devices such as PCs, notebooks or smart phones. Section 7 describes the TDR system for Chi. The TDR system was implemented in Java and GUI written in PHP. This test bed for TDR system thus offers an experimental platform for exploring, visualizing and integrating different applications in personal health care, emergency management and social networking, some of which will be discussed in Section 8.

2. The Abstract Machine Model for Computation Cycles

As mentioned in Section 1 an SIS typically possesses at least two decision cycles. The first one, the *quick decision cycle*, provides an instantaneous response to environmental changes. The second one, the *slow decision cycle*, tries to follow the gradual changes in the environment and analyze the information acquired from the environments or peers or past experiences. The slow/quick decision cycles enable the SIS to both cope with the environment and meet long-term goals.

Complex SISs may possess multiple slow decision cycles and quick decision cycles. Most importantly, actions of slow decision cycle(s) may override actions of quick decision cycle(s), resulting in poorer performance in the short run but better performance in the long run.

To model such decision cycles we introduce an abstract machine model of multiple computation cycles in Section 2.1, and then specify the computation cycles for the TDR system in Section 2.2. In Section 2.3 we describe the steps to compile the abstract machine model into working components of the TDR system.

2.1. The Abstract Machine Model

The Abstract Machine Model is specified by: $(P, S, P_0, \text{Cycle}^1, \dots, \text{Cycle}^n)$, where

P is the non-empty problem set,

S is the non-empty solution set, which is a subset of P ,

P_0 is the initial problem set, which is a subset of P ,

$\text{Cycle}^1, \dots, \text{Cycle}^n$ are the computation cycles.

Each computation cycle will start from an initial problem set and apply different operators such as $+adap_{Aij}$, $-enum<$, $>elim-$, $=prop_{Aij}+$ and $>conc$ successively to generate new problem sets from old problem sets, until a non-empty solution set is found. If a non-empty solution set is found, the cycle is completed and later the same computation cycle can be repeated. If on the other hand no solution set is found, a different computation cycle is entered.

As an example the problem set P consists of problem elements $p_1, p_2, p_3, \dots, p_n$, and each problem element p_j is specified by a vector consisting of attributes A_{ij} . A computation cycle x will attempt to find a solution set by first adapting based upon input from the environment:

$P^x_0 +adap_{Aij} = P^x_1$ is to adapt based on attribute A_{ij} , for example, by appending A_{ij} to each element in P^x_0 to form P^x_1

Then it may try to find related problem elements:

$P^x_1 -enum< P^x_2$ where $P^x_2 = \{y: y \text{ is related to some } x \text{ in } P^x_1, \text{ e.g. } d(x,y) < D\}$

Next it may try to eliminate the non-solution elements:

$P^x_2 >elim- P^x_3$ where $P^x_3 = \{x: x \text{ is in } P^x_2 \text{ and } x \text{ is in } S\}$

Finally the solution elements (or alert messages if there are no solutions) may be propagated to peers:

$P^x_3 =prop_{Aij}+ P^x_4$ is to export/propagate attribute A_{ij} to peers

Therefore this computation cycle can be specified succinctly as follows:

$\text{Cycle}^x [\text{guard } x,y]: P^x_0 +adap_{Aij} = P^x_1 -enum< P^x_2 >elim- P^x_3 =prop_{Aij}+ P^x_4$

The above expression is a specification of the computation cycle, not a mathematical equation. This expression should be read and interpreted from left to right.

If P^x_4 is non-empty, the Abstract Machine will complete this cycle of computation and terminate at the end of Cycle^x , and it may later resume at the beginning of Cycle^x . Otherwise P^x_4 is empty and the Abstract Machine will jump to a different Cycle^y . This is specified by $[\text{guard } x,y]$ where x is the current computation cycle if a solution set is found (P^x_4 is non-empty), and y is the computation cycle to enter if no solution set is found (P^x_4 is empty). Before an Abstract Machine completes its current computation cycle, it will propagate the solution set (or alert messages) to its peers.

In the above, the elimination operator can be replaced by the concentration operator, whenever the solution set is not known a priori. The concentration operator applies a predefined threshold to filter out problem elements below the threshold.

$P^x_1 >conc = P^x_2$ where $P^x_2 = \{x: x \text{ is in } P^x_1 \text{ and } th(x) \text{ above a predefined threshold } t\}$

2.2. Multiple Computation Cycles of the TDR system

For the TDR system, a problem element is a combination of Tian, Di and Ren attributes. Those problem elements that are favorable for human survival are in the solution set S . The problem set P consists of problem elements $p_1, p_2, p_3, \dots, p_n$, and each problem element is specified by a vector consisting of the attributes from Tian (heaven), Di (earth) and Ren (human being), i.e.,

$p_j = (t1j, t2j, \dots, d1j, d2j, \dots, r1j, r2j, \dots)$

For example, the Tian attributes t_{ij} are atmospheric variables such as amount of sunlight and water level, the Di attributes d_{ij} are residential variables such as ambient temperature and humidity, and the Ren attributes r_{ij} are personal health indicators such as blood pressure, spo2 value, heart rate, etc.

$$p_j = (\text{sunlight}_j, \text{waterlevel}_j, \text{temp}_j, \text{humidity}_j, \text{bloodpressure}_j, \text{spo2value}_j, \text{heartrate}_j)$$

Initially some attributes may not be assigned any value and some may already have pre-assigned values. After most attributes have been assigned values one can decide whether the problem element is in the solution set. (The simplest case is that each attribute A_{ij} has a solution range R_j , and if every attribute A_{ij} falls within the solution range R_j then the problem element p_j is in the solution set S).

In the TDR system, there are continuous interactions among the three super-components Tian, Di and Ren. Each super-component has its own computation cycle, which is basically the following: Starting from some problem set P_0 , the super-component first adapts to the input from the environment as well as from other peer super-components. It then tries to find related problem elements by enumeration. After those problem elements not in the solution set have been eliminated either using the elimination operator or using the concentration operator, the termination condition can be tested. The termination condition is expressed by $[\text{guard } x, y]$ where Cycle x is the current cycle and Cycle y is the cycle to jump to. Whenever one super-component completes its computation cycle, if a solution is found the computation ends, otherwise the control is transferred to the next super-component. Since there are three super-components, we will have three computation cycles.

The Tian super-component has computation Cycle1:

$$\text{Cycle1} [\text{guard}_{1,2}]: P^1_0 + \text{adap}_{A_{ij}} = P^1_1 - \text{enum} < P^1_2 > \text{elim} - P^1_3 = \text{prop}_{A_{ij}} + P^1_4$$

Likewise, the Di super-component has computation Cycle2:

$$\text{Cycle2} [\text{guard}_{2,3}]: P^2_0 + \text{adap}_{A_{ij}} = P^2_1 - \text{enum} < P^2_2 > \text{elim} - P^2_3 = \text{prop}_{A_{ij}} + P^2_4$$

Finally, the Ren super-component has computation Cycle3:

$$\text{Cycle3} [\text{guard}_{3,1}]: P^3_0 + \text{adap}_{A_{ij}} = P^3_1 - \text{enum} < P^3_2 > \text{elim} - P^3_3 = \text{prop}_{A_{ij}} + P^3_4$$

Notice the three computation cycles together form a higher-level computation cycle. High-level computation cycles are essential for a complex human-centric psycho-physical system such as the TDR system. In Section 7 we will discuss applications to personal health care.

2.3. A Compiler for the Abstract Machine Model

The Abstract Machine Model is a formal specification of the computation cycles of a slow intelligence system. Once the abstract machine model is provided, a compiler can be constructed to generate the components. In what follows we describe the major steps of the generic Abstract Machine Compiler (AMC) and the components it generated in pseudo codes.

Abstract Machine Compiler AMC

Step 1: Adapt input from the environment

The AMC will first generate the Basic Component to gather input from the environment (see box below):

```

Basic Component:

//initialize
threshold = user input();

while (true) {
    //adapt input from environment
    currentData = collectEnvironmentData();

    if (currentData exceed threshold) {
        send alert message to Controller and/or Advertiser;
    } else {
        send normal message to Controller on demand
    }
}

```

AMC Controller maintains the state and makes decisions based upon different states (see box below).

```

Controller:

//maintain the state within controller. Make decision based on different state.
create and run stateMachine;

while (true) {
    msg = getMsgFromSocket();

    do something that is not related to state machine

    stateMachine.perform(msg); //based on different states, perform differently when given input
}

```

For each Controller, when given some input, the State Machine will determine the action and the output. It may give several tries. For example, two solutions can be applied to one certain state when given certain input (see box below).

```

State Machine:

//define the states
enum Status {
    State0,
    State1,
    ...;
}

Status currentState = State0;//initial state

void perform(Message msg) {
    //based on different states, perform differently when given input
    switch (currentState) {
        case 'State0':
            based on message type and purpose, perform action or change state
            break;
        case 'State1':
            based on message type and purpose, perform action or change state
            break;
        ....
    }
}

```

Step 2: Enumerate and find related problem elements

For Step 2 and Step 3 the AMC is custom designed to handle different patterns from a pattern knowledge-base. For example, if the pattern is “picnic” the initial problem set P0 may be as follows:

$$P0 = \{([0,10], [0,10], [10,20], [60,120], [60,80], [50,80])\}$$

where $p_j = (flower1_j, flower2_j, temp_j, bp_j, spoj, ek_j)$

To answer the question “Is today good for picnic?” the temp sensor is first used to measure temp. Depending on the results of the measurement, either enumeration operator or elimination operator can be applied.

Suppose the temp is 25. Since the temp is normal it cannot be used to eliminate other problem elements and therefore after enumeration $P1 = \{([0,10], [0,10], 25, [60,120], [60,80], [50,80])\}$. More computation is needed.

Step 3: Eliminate non-solution elements

Suppose the temp is 40. Since the temp is too hot, other problem vectors are eliminated and therefore after elimination P1 is empty. Either the conclusion is “today is not a good day for picnic” or another computation cycle may be entered (to find an indoor location for picnic, for example).

Step 4: Propagate solution elements to peers and color-code the current component

Once a solution is obtained, the abstract machine will propagate the solution to its peers. For example, several components may do the work at the same time. Once one component gets the solution, the rest of them can stop working. An Advertiser will color-code this component in a tranquil color such as “blue” and inform the other components. If no solution is found, this component is color-coded “red” and control is switched to a new computation cycle (see box below).

```

Advertiser pseudo code:

while (true) {
    msg = getMsgFromSocket();
    switch (msg.type) {
        case 'Alert':{
            uploadAlert(); //upload alert message to database
            propagateAlert(); //propagate alert message to its peers }
        ...
    };
    if( solution_set != null )
        {color-code(“blue”); //this component is color-coded “blue”
        propagateSolution(); //propagate solution to its peers
        terminateCycle(); //terminate computation cycle}
    else {color-code(“red”); //this component is color-coded “red”
        switchCycle(); //switch to a new computation cycle }
}

```

3. The TDR System Architecture

As mentioned in Section 1, the TDR system is a multi-level slow intelligence system consisting mainly of three super-components: the Tian super-component, the Di super-component and the Ren super-component. The TDR System architecture is illustrated by Figure 3.1. Although only a few sensors are included in the TDR system for experimental purpose, in practice more sensors can be added.

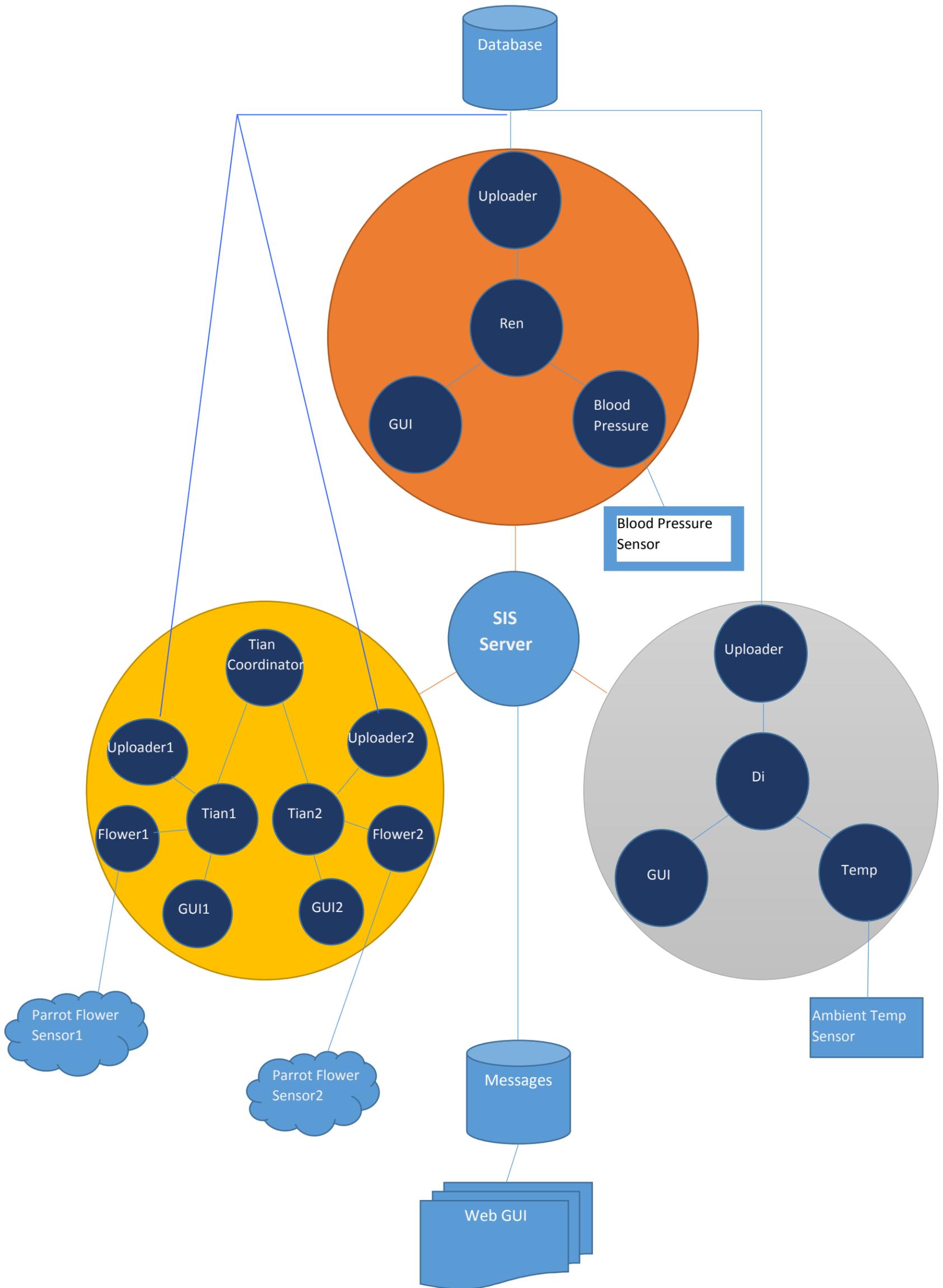


Figure 3.1. The TDR system architecture.

The TDR system has a common SIS server to support multi-level messaging. There is an integrated database to store TDR records, and a web GUI that supports the reception and sending of messages. Each super-component has its own sensor(s) to collect information from the environment. For example as shown in Figure 3.1 the Tian super-component has two plant sensors: Parrot Flower 1 and Parrot 2, the Di super-component has an ambient temperature sensor, and the Ren component has a blood pressure sensor. Each super-component furthermore consists of the following components: a monitor component to make sure the information collected by the sensor(s) is within certain acceptable range, a GUI component to interact with the user, an Uploader component to upload the collected information to the next higher level and last but not least a controller component to control the activities of the various components to realize the computation cycles described in the previous section.

When there are multiple controllers in a super-component such as the Tian super-component, a coordinator component can be introduced to coordinate the activities of the controllers and collect the information provided by the controllers. Generally speaking both the controller component and the coordinator component are essentially controllers, which should possess both the abilities to coordinate and to control the sub-components.

In the experimental test bed, the following functionalities are provided:

3.1 Define a Component

A component should have predefined scope, predefined role and unique name within its predefined scope, these can be described in the component's Register message, which is stored as an XML document under xml/InitXML. All parameters are defined as Key-Value pairs. The scope defines where outgoing messages from this component can go and the scope of incoming messages this component can receive. Role defines the type of component that can only handle certain types of incoming/outgoing messages. Among all components with the same name within a certain scope, only one of them can be active, i.e., the component name must be unique. There are currently six predefined roles: Basic, Monitor, Advertiser, Controller, Coordinator and Debugger.

3.2 Create a Component

Once the designer knows how a component should behave, he can start to implement it under the Components folder. Components with all kinds of roles have similar templates for implementation. There are two places containing information that the designer should pay attention to: (i) xml/initXML where all predefined Register messages for all available components are stored. (ii) For new components the designer should use the same scope and name in both XML definition and for constants in codes under Components / NEW_COMPONENT_NAME_HERE folder (SCOPE, NAME). The implementation of each role is far from being different from each other. As long as the designer doesn't add extra message types to the collection of acceptable incoming messages, he can simply replace all scopes and names (folder name, SCOPE, NAME, class name, java source code CreateXXX, XML under initXML folder) and create a new working component almost immediately. The six different roles of components are as follows:

3.2.1 Basic Component

For a Basic component such as Blood Pressure in Figure 3.1, no changes are necessary for main method. Method "initRecord" is provided as a place for putting initialization code. Method "componentTask" is provided as a place for putting periodically executed code, such as collecting data. Method "ProcessMsg" is provided as a place for handling different types of messages. Other variables can be added if needed, but the framework should suit the general purpose for implementing a Basic component that sends out Readings collected from a data source.

3.2.2 Monitor Component

For a Monitor component such as any GUI in Figure 3.1, it can be designed as a general monitor or a visual console to display data. Other variables can be added if needed.

3.2.3 Advertiser Component

For an Advertiser component such as any Uploader in Figure 3.1, it can be designed as a tool to process the Readings and send anything outside the system via emails, sockets, etc.

3.2.4 Controller Component

For a Controller component such as Ren in Figure 3.1 to process combination of TempBloodPressure measurements, it can be broken down into code segments similar to the TempBloodPressure code segment. Five types of code segments are under the ControllerComponents/TempBloodPressure folder: "initial.java" contains all initialization code of extra variables, "helper.java" contains all helper methods used, and "helperClass.java" contains all user defined classes. By default Controller components only process Alert messages from Basic components, Alert messages must have unique names. The same names are used to create code snippets under the TempBloodPressure folder.

3.2.5 Coordinator Component

The Coordinator component such as Tian Coordinator in Figure 3.1 processes the messages from controller components and other components and coordinates the activities of controller components and other components.

3.2.6 Debugger Component

The default Debugger is the PrjRemote.exe tool. It can be replaced by a customized Debugger. However, when a component is assigned the Debugger role, it will get a copy of all messages within the scope that it is in.

3.3 How to Run a Component

Scripts for the Controller component will be automatically generated. For all other roles customized scripts must be provided under the Scripts folder. For Basic or Monitor or Advertiser component, one can simply copy the BloodPressure or the GUI or the Uploader component, respectively, and do some name replacement.

3.4 Scoping

There can be multilevel scopes, each of which contains components that collaborate with each other or are related to each other. Scoping provides a way to further divide the components. By default messages will only be sent within current scope, but one can add (“Broadcast”, “True”) and (“Direction”, “[Up/Down]”) to enable broadcast of messages.

3.5 Trouble-Shooting

If a component cannot be connected to the SISServer, one should check SCOPE and NAME in both code and xml definition. If a message is not delivered, check if the message is sent to a target that does not process this type of message. It is also possible that one forgets to add certain parameters to the message such as valid Scope, Sender, Purpose, etc.

3.6 Automatic Message Routing

The following table summarizes message routing among different type of components except the debugger component, which by design receives all messages.

	Basic (Receiver)	Monitor (Receiver)	Advertiser (Receiver)	Controller (Receiver)	Coordinator (Receiver)
Basic (Sender)	Setting	Reading/Alert	Alert	Alert	
Monitor (Sender)	Setting		Setting	Setting	
Advertiser (Sender)					
Controller (Sender)			Emergency		Emergency
Coordinator (Sender)				Emergency	

4. The Tian Super-component

A plant is heavily dependent on the environment. According to Chinese philosophy, we may consider the plants’ status as Tian (heaven), which will indicate environmental status to some degree. The plant sensors made by Parrot are used in our experiment, which can gather such data as amount of sunshine, moisture, temperature and amount of fertilizer in a plant’s environment (see Figure 4.1). In practice more sensors can be added to the Tian super-component.



Fig 4.1. The plant sensor Parrot Flower Power.

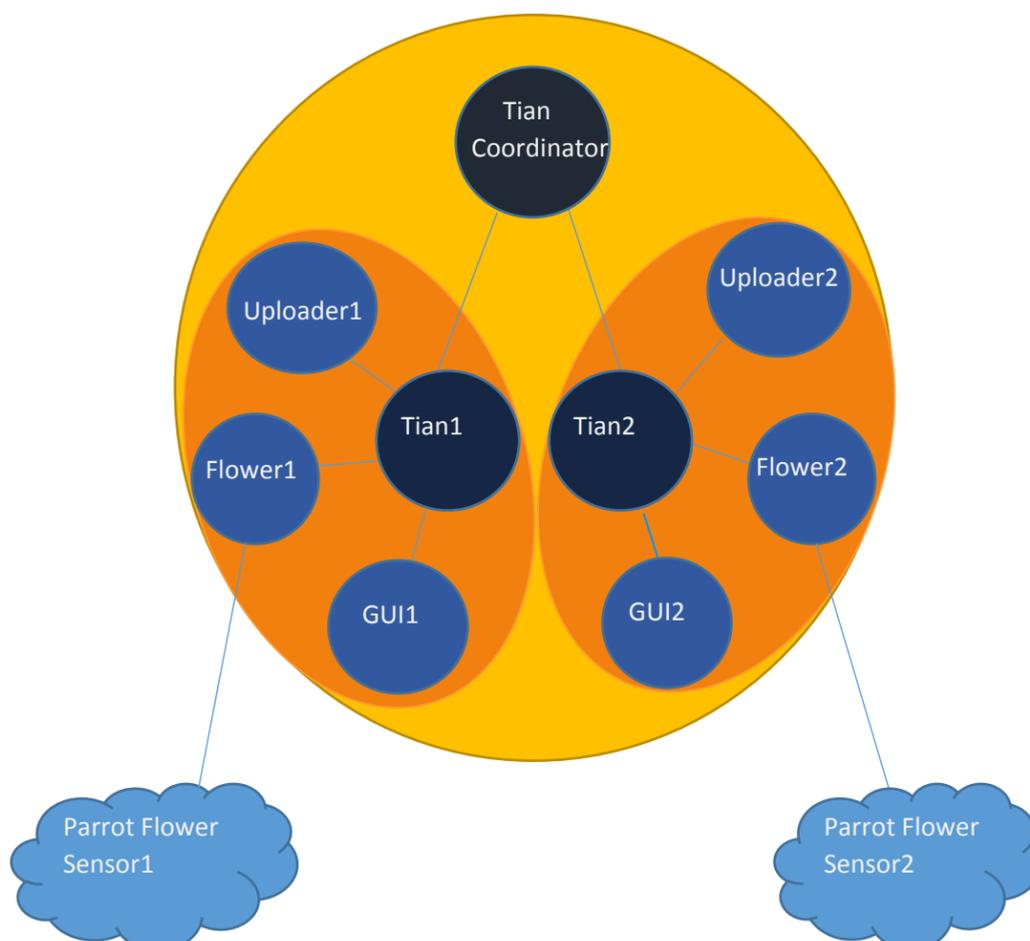


Figure 4.2. The Tian Super-component.

In Tian super-component, we include two different parrot-flower-sensors for plants in different locations. Since they are located in different places, they can gather data from two different environments. Figure 4.2 illustrates the interactive Tian super-component. Notice there are two Tian controllers coordinated by the Tian coordinator.

4.1 Components and Responsibilities

Name	Component Type	Scope	Duty
Tian Coordinator	Coordinator	SIS.Tian	Aggregate messages from both Tian1 sub system and Tian2 sub system. For future work, we will compare different environment data inside controller; we will communicate between Tian, Di and Ren based on the collected data.
Tian1	Controller	SIS.Tian.1	Aggregates messages from Flower1 component and sends information to Tian Controller, and maintains a state machines, receives the message from web GUI and performs different actions based on different states. E.g. Activate/Deactivate Flower1 according to Server message
Tian2	Controller	SIS.Tian.2	Aggregates messages from Flower2 component and sends information to Tian Controller, and maintains a state machines, receives the message from web GUI and performs different actions based on different states. E.g. Activate/Deactivate Flower2 according to Server message
Flower1	Basic	SIS.Tian.1	A basic component that using API to read Parrot-Flower-Sensor-1 data from cloud database. It sends out the message of its read-in data.
Flower2	Basic	SIS.Tian.2	A basic component that using API to read Parrot-Flower-Sensor-2 data from cloud database. It sends out the message of its read-in data.
GUI1	Monitor	SIS.Tian.1	Display the components status and data under Tian1 sub system.
GUI2	Monitor	SIS.Tian.2	Display the components status and data under Tian2 sub system.
Uploader1	Advertiser	SIS.Tian.1	Aggregates all the alert messages under Tian1 sub system, and upload them to database
Uploader2	Advertiser	SIS.Tian.2	Aggregates all the alert messages under Tian2 sub system, and upload them to database

4.2 System Structure

Thus the Tian Super-component has three layers:

- **Top Layer:** Tian coordinator
- **Middle Layer:** Tian1/Tian2 controllers
- **Bottom Layer:** Flower1/Flower2, GUI1/GUI2, Uploader1/Uploader2

Bottom layer is in charge of getting data from the sensor, displaying data to user, and uploading the data to database. Middle layer is in charge of logically activating/deactivating bottom layer components based on instructions from higher level. Top layer is in charge of aggregating data from lower layers. Top layer coordinator will also communicate with other super-components' top-layer.

4.3 Data Path

There are two paths for the data. One is for data going upwards, which is done through Uploader1 and Uploader2. The other is for data going downwards, which is handled by Tian1 and Tian2. Tian1 and Tian2 are both controllers and can make their own decisions such as activate or deactivate the corresponding Flower1 and Flower2 components.

4.4 Control Message Definition

1. Activate all components
Sender: Web GUI
Receiver: Tian1/Tian2
Purpose: activate all components under Tian1/Tian2 sub-system
2. Deactivate all components
Sender: Web GUI
Receiver: Tian1/Tian2
Purpose: deactivate all components under Tian1/Tian2 sub-system
3. Active Flower1/Flower2 component
Sender: Tian1/Tian2
Receiver: Flower1/Flower2 component
Purpose: activate Flower1/Flower2 component
4. Deactivate Flower1/Flower2 component
Sender: Tian1/Tian2
Receiver: Flower1/Flower2 component
Purpose: deactivate Flower1/Flower2 component

4.5 AMC Compiler Steps for Tian

Compared to the generic Abstract Machine Compiler AMC described into Section 2.3, the Tian Compiler has these following steps: Step 1 and Step 4. The other two steps do not exist. In what follows we describe how the Compiler generates the various components in pseudo codes.

In Tian compiler, there are two alert states and four inputs Alert Flower1, Alert Flower2, Activate all components and Deactivate all components. Since the problem vector will have one and only one state element to be 1 and one and only one input element to be 1, so there are a total of $C(1, 2) * C(1, 4) = 8$ different problem vectors.

For example,

$$p_0 = (1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0).$$

p_0 specifies when in normal state, given input Alert Flower1, how the abstract machine should perform.

Step 1: Create flower component to adapt input from the environment

The Flower1 and Flower2 monitors will gather environmental data (Sunlight, Moisturizer, Temperature, and Fertilizer) stored in parrot cloud which is updated by parrot sensors. The Flower1 and Flower2 monitors will generate alert message when new environmental data come in. These components are described below:

```
Flower1 Component:

//initialize
while (true) {
    //adapt input from environment
    currentData1 = collectDataFromSensor1();

    //send alert message if exceed threshold
    if (currentData1!=nulls) {
        sendAlertMsgTo(Controller);//inform Controller that new data comes in
        sendAlertMsgTo(Advertiser);//inform Advertiser to propagate new data
    } else {
        //no new data comes in
    }
}
```

Flower2 Component:

```
//initialize
while (true) {
    //adapt input from environments
    currentData2 = collectDataFromSensor2();

    //send alert message if exceed threshold
    if (currentData1!=null||currentData2!=null) {
        sendAlertMsgTo(Controller);//inform Controller that new data comes in
        sendAlertMsgTo(Advertiser);//inform Advertiser to propagate new data
    } else {
        //no new data comes in
    }
}
```

Tian1:

```
//maintain the status within controller. Make decision based on different status.
//create and run stateMachine;
msg = getMsgFromSocket();
switch (msg.type) {
    case 'Alert:
        if(msg.sender == "Flower1"){
            Tian1dataArray.add(msg);
            sendEmergencyMessageTo("Tian Coordinator");
        }
        break;
    case 'Setting':
        stateMachine.perform(msg);
        break;
}
```

Tian2:

```
//maintain the status within controller. Make decision based on different status.
//create and run stateMachine;
msg = getMsgFromSocket();
switch (msg.type) {
    case 'Alert:
        if(msg.sender == "Flower2"){
            Tian2dataArray.add(msg);
            sendEmergencyMessageTo("Tian Coordinator");
        }
        break;
    case 'Setting':
        stateMachine.perform(msg);
        break;
}
```

State Machine:

```
Status currentState = ALERT;//initial state
void perform(Message msg) {
    //There are two kinds of messages:
    //a). environment data message from Tian Components, including alert flower
    //b). control message from WebGUI, including activate and deactivate all components

    switch (currentState) {
        case ALERT:
            switch (msg.type) {
                case 'Setting'://control message from webGUI
                    switch (purpose) {
                        case 'Activate':
                            activate Tian components.s
                        case 'Deactivate':
                            deactivate Tian components
                    }
                    break;
            }
            break;
    }
}
```

Coordinator:

```
switch (msg.type) {
  case 'Emergency':
    if(msg.sender == "Tian1"){
      Tian1Array.add(msg);
    }
    if(msg.sender == "Tian2"){
      Tian2Array.add(msg);
    }
    break;
}
```

Step 2: (does not exist)

Step 3: (does not exist)

Step 4: Create upload component to propagate solution elements to peers.

The upload and propagate components can upload necessary messages to the database and propagate to its peers. For example when new environmental data is received an alert message will be sent to database.

Advertiser pseudo code:

```
while (true) {
  msg = getMsgFromSocket();
  switch (msg.type) {
    case 'NewFlower':{
      uploadAlert(); //upload alert message to database
      propagateAlert(); //propagate alert message to its peers }
    ...
  };
  if( solution_set != null )
    {color-code("blue"); //this component is color-coded "blue"
    propagateSolution(); //propagate solution to its peers
    terminateCycle(); //terminate computation cycle }
  else {color-code("red"); //this component is color-coded "red"
    switchCycle(); //switch to a new computation cycle }
}
```

5. The Di Super-component

The Di super-component has a temperature sensor to gather ambient temperature information from the environment. Figure 5.1. illustrates the interacting components of the Di super-component. In practice more sensors can be added.

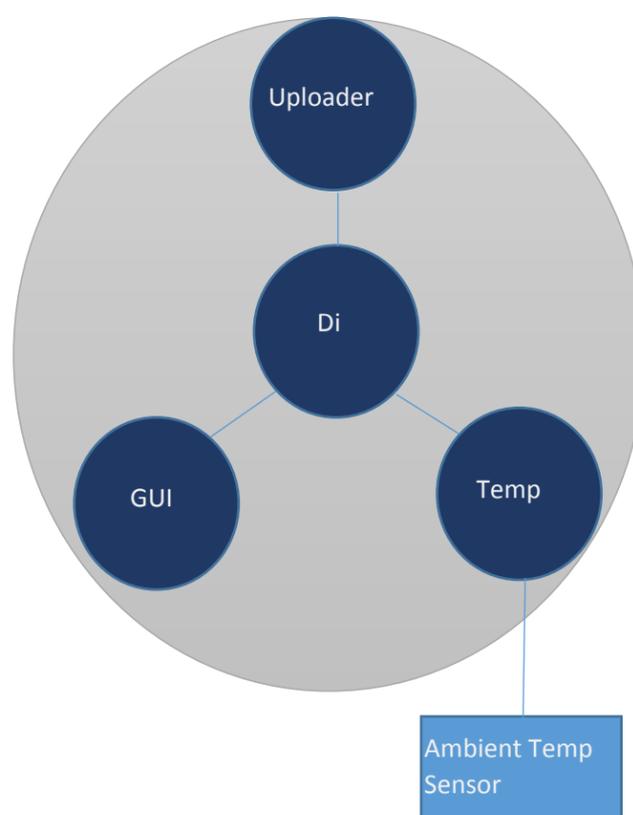


Figure 5.1. The Di super-component.

5.1 Components and Responsibilities

The Di sub-system runs in 'SIS.Di' scope. It consists of four components: Di controller, Di GUI, Di Uploader and Temp component. As a sub-system, the Di super-component interacts with SIS server, database, web GUI and may also interact with other sub-systems. Within the Di sub-system, it also has its own controller. No coordinator is needed because there is only one controller.

For each component, their responsibilities are listed below:

1. Di Controller: aggregates messages from Temp component and maintains a state machine, receives the message from web GUI and performs different actions based on different states.
2. Di GUI: displays the components status and data under Di sub-system.
3. Temp: gets ambient temperature and sends it to Di Controller. When the temperature exceeds a threshold it will send alert message to Uploader.
4. Di Uploader: aggregates all the alert messages under Di sub-system and uploads them to database.

5.2 Data Path

There are two paths for the data. One is for data going upwards, which is done through Di Uploader. The other is for data going downwards, which is handled by Di Controller. Di Controller can make its own decisions such as activate or deactivate the Temp component.

5.3 Advanced Controller Algorithm

Di Controller maintains a state machine, which can help decide whether to perform an action. If the DI Controller is in an Alert state, the Temp component cannot be de-activated.

The Controller can be specified as an active index [5]:

$ic = (X, Y, S, so, A, tmax, f, g).$

X: {m1, m3, m5, m7}

m1: alert temp

m3: normal temp

m5: activate all components

m7: deactivate all components

Y: {m2, m4, m6, m8, m9}

m2: state changed from normal to alert

m4: state changed from alert to normal

m6: is able to activate temp

m8: can not deactivate temp under alert state

m9: is able to deactivate temp

S: {s0, s1}

s0 = Normal

s1 = Alert

A: {a1, a2, a3, a4, a5}

a1 = change state to alert

a2 = change state to normal

a3 = send activate message to temp

a4 = do nothing

a5 = send deactivate message to temp

f:

$f\{\{m1, m5, m7\}, s0\} = 1;$

$f\{\{m3, m5, m7\}, s1\} = 1;$

g:

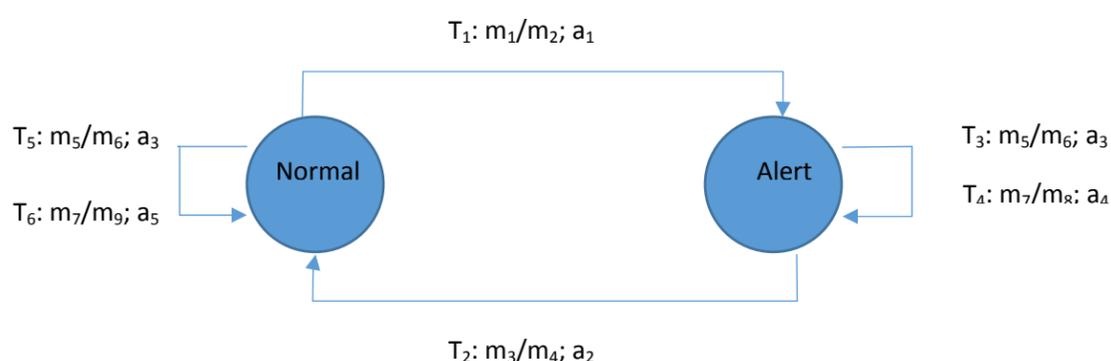
$g\{\{m1\}, s0\} = m2;$

$g\{\{m3\}, s1\} = m4;$

$g\{\{m5\}, s0/s1\} = m6;$

$g\{\{m7\}, s0\} = m9;$

$g\{\{m7\}, s1\} = m8;$



5.4 Control Message Definition

1. Activate all components
 - Sender: Web GUI
 - Receiver: Di Controller
 - Purpose: activate all components under Di sub system

2. Deactivate all components
Sender: Web GUI
Receiver: Di Controller
Purpose: deactivate all components under Di sub system
3. Active Temp component
Sender: Di Controller
Receiver: Temp component
Purpose: activate Temp component
4. Deactivate Temp component
Sender: Di Controller
Receiver: Temp component
Purpose: deactivate Temp component

5.5 AMC Compiler Steps for Di

Compared to the generic Abstract Machine Compiler described in Section 2.3, This Di Compiler has only two steps: Step 1 and Step 4. The other two steps do not exist. In what follows we describe how the Di Compiler generates the various components in pseudo codes.

In Di compiler, there are two states Normal and Alert, and four inputs Normal temp, Alert temp, Activate all components and Deactivate all components. Since the problem vector will have one and only one state element to be 1, and one and only one input element to be 1, so there are a total of $C(1, 2) * C(1, 4) = 8$ different problem vectors.

For example,

$$p_0 = (1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0).$$

p_0 specifies when in normal state, given input Alert temp, how the abstract machine should perform.

Step 1: Create temp component to adapt input from the environment

The temp component will gather ambient temperature and generate normal temp message or alert temp message based on the predefined threshold. For example, the temp component detects temp that exceeds threshold and generates alert temp message and sends it to the Controller. The Controller will adjust its status to Alert. Similarly, if the Controller receives normal temp message, it will change the status back to Normal.

Temp Component pseudo code:

```
//initialize
tempThreshold = setting by user;

while (true) {
    //adapt input from environment
    currentTemp = collectTemp();

    //send alert message if exceed threshold
    if (currentTemp > tempThreshold) {
        sendAlertMsgTo(Controller); //inform Controller to maintain new status
        sendAlertMsgTo(Advertiser); //inform Advertiser to propagate message
    } else {
        sendNormalMsgTo(Controller); //normal message will only be needed for
        maintaining status, it won't be propagated out of the current scope.
    }
}
```

Controller pseudo code:

```
//maintain the status within controller. Make decision based on different status.
create and run stateMachine;

while (true) {
    msg = getMsgFromSocket();
    stateMachine.perform(msg);
}
```

State Machine pseudo code:

```
//define the states
enum State {
    NORMAL,
    ALERT;
}

Status currentState = NORMAL;//initial state

void perform(Message msg) {
    //based on different states, perform differently when given input

    //There are two kinds of messages:
    //a). environment data message from tempComp, including normal and alert temp
    //b). control message from WebGUI, including activate and deactivate all components

    switch (currentState) {
        case NORMAL:
            switch (msg.type) {
                case 'Alert': //data message from Temp
                    currentState = ALERT;//change state to alert
                    break;
                case 'Setting': //control message from webGUI
                    switch (purpose) {
                        case 'Activate':
                            activate Temp component.
                        case 'Deactivate':
                            deactivate Temp component.
                    }
                    break;
            }
            break;
        case ALERT:
            switch (msg.type) {
                case 'Reading': //data message from Temp
                    currentState = NORMAL;
                    break;
                case 'Setting': //control message from webGUI
                    switch (purpose) {
                        case 'Activate':
                            activate Temp component.
                        case 'Deactivate':
                            forbid deactivation. //when under ALERT
                            state, it cannot deactivate components
                    }
                    break;
            }
            break;
    }
}
```

Step 2: (does not exist)

Step 3: (does not exist)

Step 4: Create upload component to propagate solution elements to peers.

The upload and propagate components upload necessary messages to the database and propagate to its peers. For example if the temperature exceeds threshold an alert message will be sent to database. The alert message may also affect the Ren super-component, so that alert message can be propagated to Ren scope and used in its computation.

Advertiser pseudo code:

```
while (true) {
  msg = getMsgFromSocket();
  switch (msg.type) {
    case 'HighTemperature':{
      uploadAlert(); //upload alert message to database
      propagateAlert(); //propagate alert message to its peers }
    ...
  };
  if( solution_set != null )
    {color-code("blue"); //this component is color-coded "blue"
    propagateSolution(); //propagate solution to its peers
    terminateCycle(); //terminate computation cycle}
  else {color-code("red"); //this component is color-coded "red"
    switchCycle(); //switch to a new computation cycle }
}
```

6. The Web GUI

The dashboard is the main interface of the TDR system. As illustrated by Figure 6.1. it provides a high-level overview of the data in the system. Regular user can only see his/her own data after login. The super user and the admin user have the ability to send messages to the TDR system, while a regular user can only view existing data without sending actual messages. The Web GUI also provides options for the user to only display records from one day/week/month ago, or all of the records at once.



Figure 6.1. The dashboard.

Referring to Figure 6.1, on the left side of the dashboard, there is menu panel that contains all the actions the user can perform, including activating and deactivating components. For the super user, this menu will also include addition, deletion and modification of regular users. The activation and deactivation messages are sent utilizing a message database (MDB) and the TDR components will actively fetch the incoming messages from the MDB (see Figure 3.1).

There is a carousel panel in the middle part of the page, as shown in Figure 6.2. The carousel displays all the components of a super-component in rotation, four at a time for the PC screen and only one for the smart phone screen. This vividly demonstrates the idea of computation cycles in the TDR system. A component's banner is in *tranquil* state (blue color) until an alert is received and then it changes to red color. Below the carousel panel, a table will be displaying all records that belong to the current user. For each entry, it contains the date and time of a record, the sensor type, the data type, the actual reading of the data and the originator. This scheme allows flexibility and scalability, as in the future there might be more and more sensors added to the TDR system.

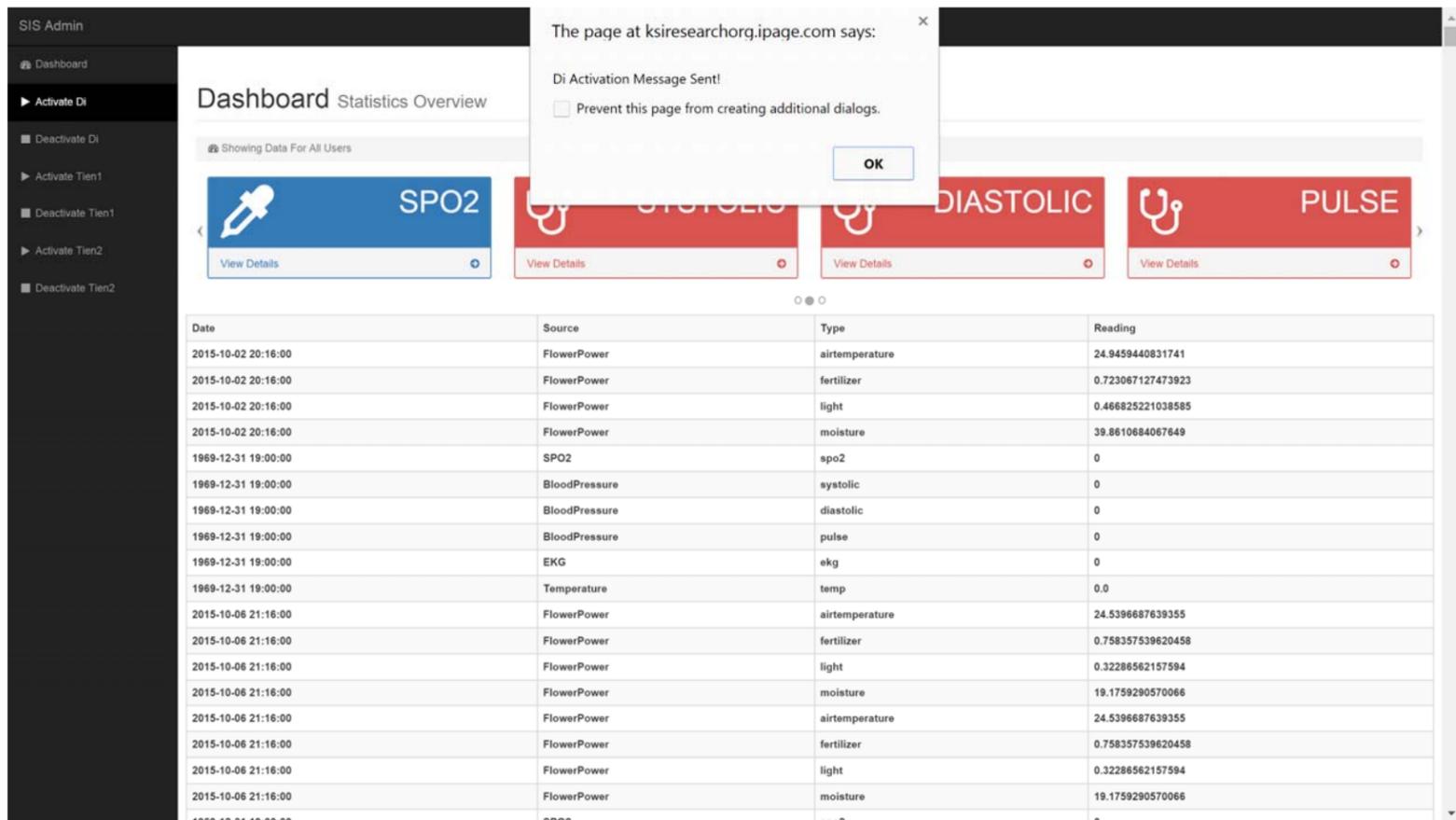


Figure 6.2. The carousel.

As shown in Figure 6.1, by clicking the “find similar” button at the lower right part of the dashboard, messages such as M3 will be sent to the MDB to be fetched by the similarity retrieval component, which will find other users’ records similar to that of the current user. As shown in Figure 6.3, by clicking the “display messages” button on the left panel, the recent messages in the message database can be displayed. The messages sent are exactly the same as the ones used in the TDR system, hence the web interface can be viewed as one remote component of the TDR system. Therefore complex systems with distributed components can be specified and prototyped with ease.



Figure 6.3. Invoking similarity retrieval component through messages.

After clicking one specific component on the carousel panel, it will show a detailed list of records that are from the component. If the user is communicating remotely with his/her doctor, a user might want to specify the record ID so that the doctor knows exactly what entry he/she is referring to. A graph showing the data-to-day changes of a selected data item can also be displayed by the GUI for visualization purpose. An example is illustrated in Figure 6.4, where changes in the *fatigue factor* for Chi are plotted against time.

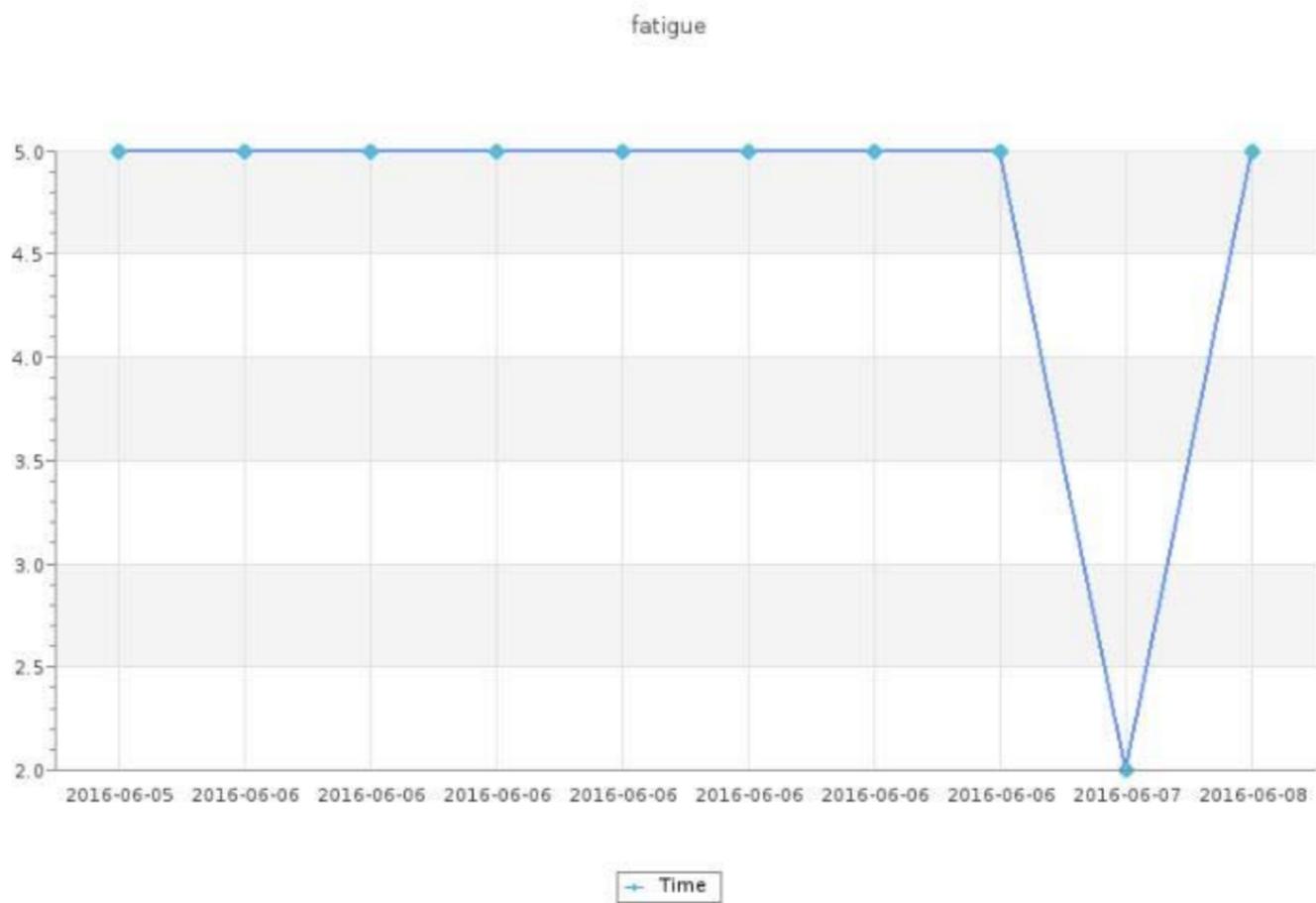


Figure 6.4. A graph showing the fatigue subjective evaluation factor for Chi.

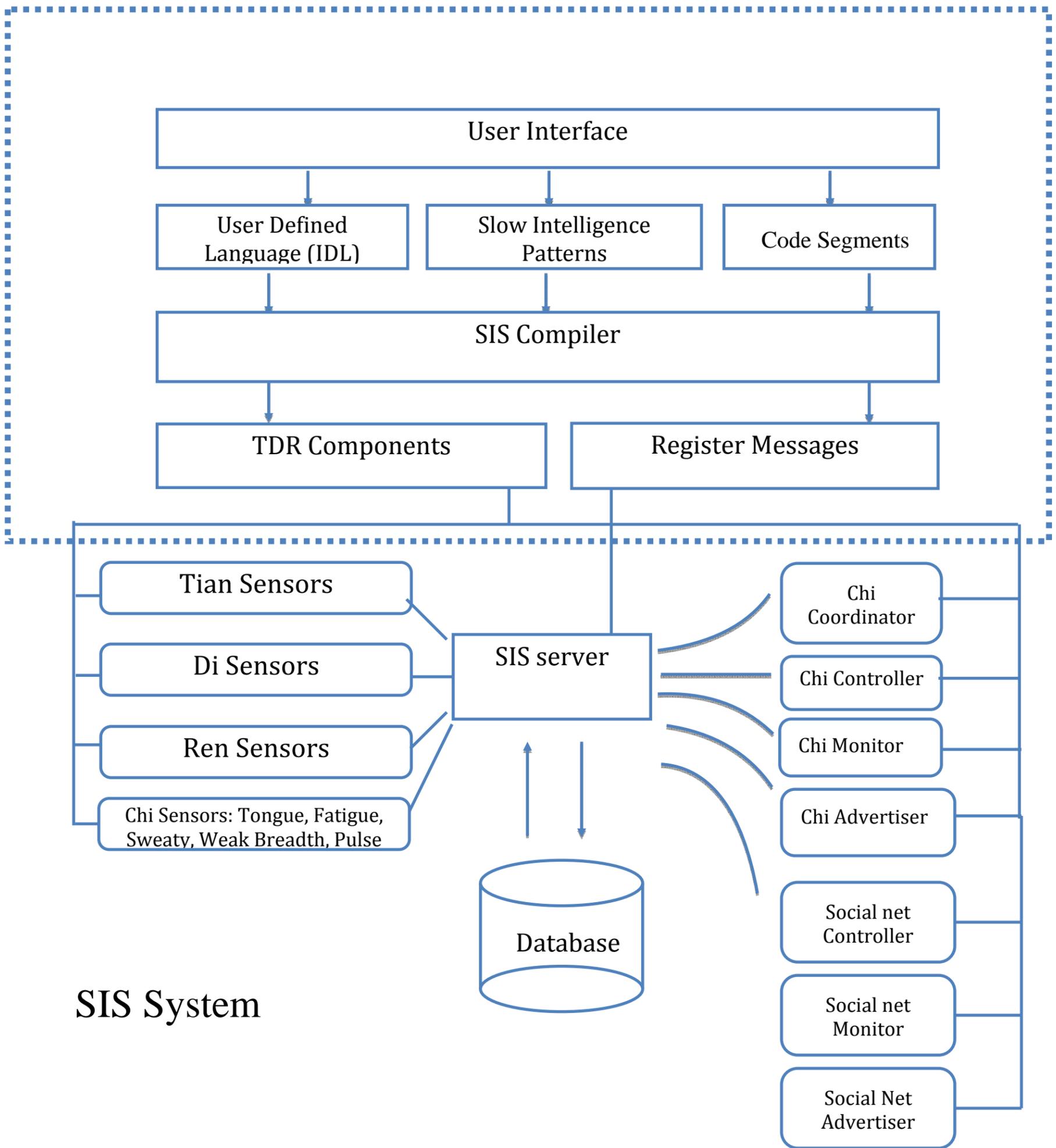
To enhance the mobility of the system, the page is responsive to client's screen size and automatically adjusts its content to fit the viewpoint's width. The carousel reduces the number of items from 4 to 1 to fit in smaller screens. This will allow users to look at his/her data on the go using a smart phone without having to carry a special device.

7. The TDR System for Chi

One of our main goals is to develop a customized TDR system for the computation of Chi (also spelled as Qi in Chinese transliteration system HanYu PinYin). The TDR System for Chi is shown in Figure 7.1. There are now four super-components: the Chi super-component and the Tian, Di and Ren super-components.

The Chi super-component has attributes including both objective measurements and subjective evaluations. Some researchers propose to employ electrical measurements to estimate Chi [6]. Such measurements can be included in the sensor input for Ren, Tian and Di super-components. Other researchers propose to combine objective measurements with subjective evaluation into an evaluation matrix to estimate Chi [7]. In subjective evaluation, five Chi factors are usually identified: Tongue, Fatigue, Sweaty, Weak Breadth and Pulse. The TDR System for Chi includes both objective measurements and subjective Chi factors, making the system both pro-active and adaptive at multiple levels.

SIS Compiler



SIS System

Figure 7.1. The TDR System for Chi

As shown in Figure 7.1, the TDR system consists of two sub-systems: the off-line SIS Compiler and the on-line SIS System. The SIS Compiler generates the TDR components from user input specified in IDL, slow intelligence patterns to identify the purpose of the component, and code segments written in Java.

As shown in Figure 7.2, the user will input various parameters to generate IDL. In this example the scope is Chi, the component is ChiController, the purpose is ChiController, and two ChiFlowerControllers will be created.

The slow intelligence pattern name identifies the code segments to be used. In this example, the pattern name is the same as the purpose, i.e., it is also ChiController.

The generated TDR components are then registered with the SIS Server so that they can be referenced and used.

```

$ java TDRCompiler
Please choose which to generate: 1.ChiSensor, 2.ChiMonitor, 3.ChiController, 4.ChiUploader
3
Please Enter Scope:
Chi
Please Enter Source:
ChiController
Please Enter Purpose:
ChiController
ChiController is selected
Please Enter Number Component
2
Please Enter Component Name
ChiFlowerController1
Please Enter Component Name
ChiFlowerController2
Generating IDL file...
/Users/drzzh/template/Util.s

```

Figure 7.2. User input to generate IDL file.

The on-line SIS system deals with the Tian sensors, Di sensors, Ren sensors and Chi sensors. It manages the Chi Coordinator, the Chi Controller, the Chi Monitor, the Chi Advertiser, the Social Net Controller, the Social Net Monitor and Social Net Advertiser. Its overall goal is to provide information about Chi to the end user.

The experimental TDR system was implemented in Java and the web GUI written in PHP. The experimental system is available at: <http://ksiresearch.ipage.com/tdr/>

At that website, there are links to (1) a tutorial on how to use the on-line TDR system, (2) an explanation of the concept of Chi, (3) exercises on how to evaluate oneself according to the five subjective evaluation Chi factors, and (4) portal to the on-line TDR system. In what follows we will concentrate on explaining some of the design concepts of the TDR System for Chi.

The TDR dashboard for Chi is shown in Figure 6.1. When the user clicks on “view details” for the Chi super-component, a list of attributes for Chi is shown. The objective measurements in this list are filled by the multi-level computation cycles based upon actual measurements. The subjective evaluation Chi factors are entered by the principal user himself/herself based upon his/her subjective feelings. For example if he/she feels “sweaty at night”, he/she will enter a value close to 10 (on a scale of 1 to 10) for the “sweaty-at-night” attribute. The user can then gradually learn from his/her experience.

Furthermore the components can be color-coded. A component’s banner is in *tranquil* color (such as blue color) until that component cannot find a solution and then its banner changes to red color. Therefore the user knows the system is in *harmony* when all components’ banners are in tranquil color. Two users know they are in *resonance* when their carousels are identical or very similar in color combination. More specifically, a “student user” would like to be in resonance with the “master user”.

The TDR system can be expanded to include a social net to estimate Chi. Other human observers who are “friends” of the principal user can also fill in the subjective Chi attributes. A social network of human observers can vote on updating the Chi attributes for the current user under observation. These human observers may also be allowed to fill in the objective Chi attributes as if they were sensors.

8. Discussion

The sentient net supporting the interactions among social networks, personal healthcare systems and plant care systems share some common characteristics with the general TDR system consisting of Heaven, Human and Earth. In fact, the advances in sensor technology would make the realization of such general TDR systems feasible. We can readily introduce super-components supporting the interactions of plant (Earth) with user (Human) and user’s friends (Heaven), and investigate the design of such iterative slow intelligence systems.

In the formulation of the computation cycles for the TDR system, one can start with the computation cycle of any one of the three super-components. For example the TDR system may start with Ren, i.e., the human conditions are first taken into consideration. Then the atmospheric environmental attributes from Tian and surrounding residential attributes from Di are considered so that an overall solution can be found to enhance the chances of survival of the human being. In other words, in the vector p_j consisting of the attributes from Tian (heaven), Di (earth) and Ren (human being),

$$p_j = (t_{1j}, t_{2j}, \dots, d_{1j}, d_{2j}, \dots, r_{1j}, r_{2j}, \dots)$$

the Ren attributes r_{ij} representing personal health indicators such as blood pressure and heart rate, etc. are assigned values first. The TDR system then tries to find appropriate Tian attributes t_{ij} representing atmospheric environmental variables such as sunlight and water level, etc. and Di attributes d_{ij} representing surrounding residential variables such as ambient temperature and humidity, etc.

Alternately the TDR system may also start with the Tian or the Di computation cycles. Different constrained optimization algorithms can be formulated depending on the structure of multi-level computation cycles for Tian, Di and Ren to obtain the “best” solution, i.e., the solution that increase the probability of human survival the most. Finally instead of (or in addition to) constrained optimization algorithms we can also manually set certain variables by human-centric interactions or through social interactions.

The experimental TDR system provides a versatile platform for exploring, visualizing and integrating applications such as personal health care, emergency management and social networking, etc. These applications are currently being investigated at our research laboratory, with major emphasis on an experimental TDR system to estimate Chi. We will further investigate the theoretical issue to formally define and characterize the *harmony* state and *resonance* state of a system with multiple, multi-level computation cycles.

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