



24. Trustworthy Framework Instantiation

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Prof. Dr. Uwe Aßmann
TU Dresden
Institut für Software– und
Multimediatechnik
Lehrstuhl Softwaretechnologie
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- 1) The framework instantiation problem
- 2) Remedies



Obligatory Literature

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- ▶ Uwe Aßmann, Andreas Bartho, Falk Hartmann, Ilie Savga, Barbara Wittek. Trustworthy Instantiation of Frameworks. In *Trustworthy Components*, Reussner, Ralf and Szyperski, Clemens (ed.), Jan. 2006. LNCS 3938, Springer. Available at <http://www.springerlink.com/index/104074p5h8581115.pdf>

24.1 The Framework Instantiation Problem

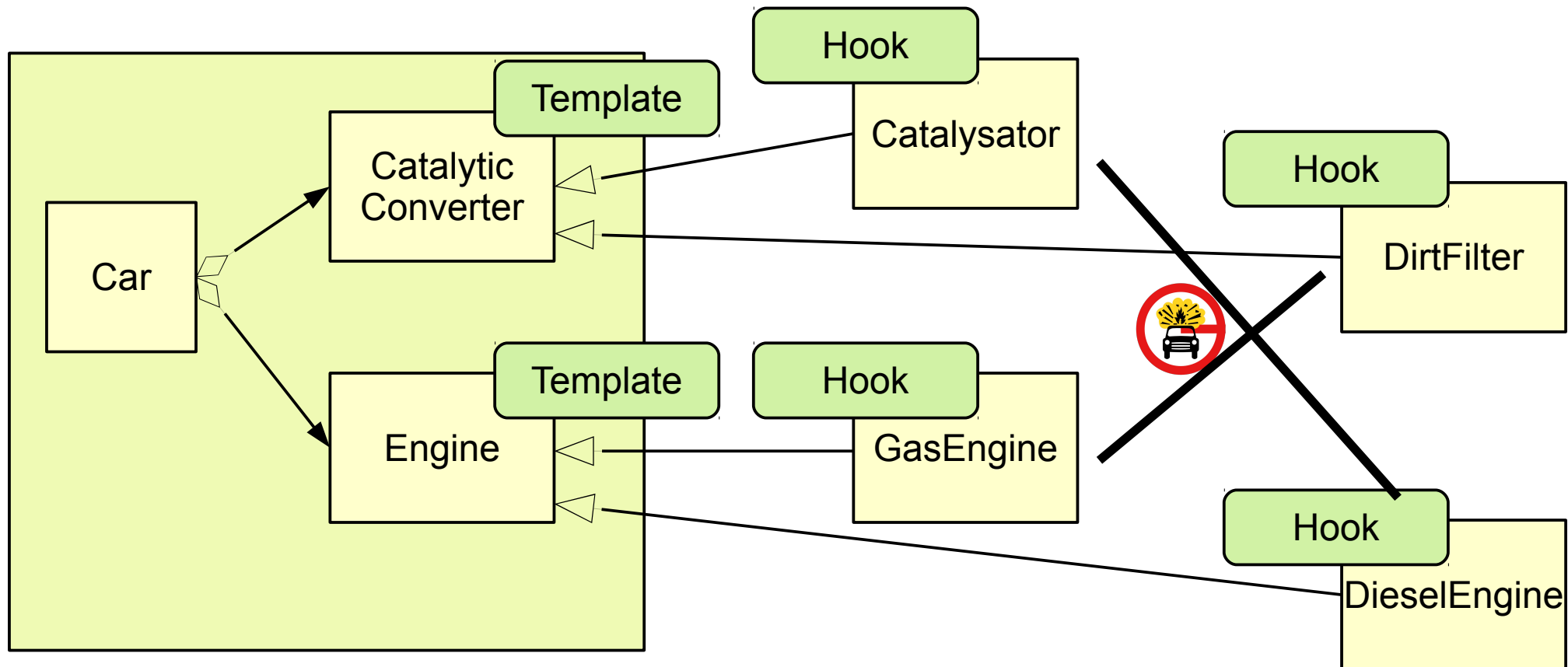
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- ▶ Frameworks are often hard to instantiate
- ▶ Framework instantiation relies on **framework contracts**
 - ensuring typing on plugins
 - Whitebox frameworks are often instantiated with non-conformant subclasses
- ▶ Frameworks have many extension and variation points
 - and dependencies between them
 - Blackbox frameworks are often instantiated with non-fitting classes (*multi-point dependencies*)
- ▶ Some constraints cannot be checked statically, but must use dynamic contract checking

Problem 1: A Car Configurator

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- ▶ How to instantiate two 1-T-H hooks, if there are dependencies between them (multi-point constraints)?
- ▶ Static constraint, domain-specific



Individual Configurators are a Big Business

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► www.myboshi.net

The screenshot displays the myboshi.net website's product configurator for a beanie. The browser address bar shows the URL www.myboshi.net/Konfigurator/Itami.html. The page features a navigation menu with links for Konfigurator, Gutscheine, Story, Blog, Presse, Produktinfo, and Teamrider. A social media widget shows 'Gefällt mir 21'. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Design | Itami:** A 3D rendering of a green beanie with a colorful patterned band. Below the image is the text 'Abbildung Ähnlich'.
- Bommel:** A selection box with nein and ja +5,00 €.
- Größen:** A selection box with M (52-56 cm) and L (57-60 cm).
- Erstfarbe:** A color palette with the instruction 'wähle hier deine Erstfarbe..'
- Zweitfarbe:** A color palette with the instruction 'wähle hier deine Zweitfarbe..'
- Drittfarbe:** A color palette with the instruction 'wähle hier deine Drittfarbe..'
- Price and Description:** The price is 40,00 € (inkl. 19% MwSt., zzgl. Versand). The description includes 'Lieferzeit: 3 - 4 Wochen' and 'Zusammensetzung: 30% Schurwolle (Merino), 70% Acryl'. A quantity selector shows '1' and a 'Warenkorb' button.

On the right side, there are two circular logos: 'SUPPORTED PROTECTED DESIGN' and 'MADE IN GERMANY'.

Individual Configurators are a Big Business

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▶ www.shirtalarm.de

The screenshot shows the website www.shirtalarm.de with a browser window. The page features a navigation bar with links like 'Home', 'Grossauflagen', 'Kollektionen', 'Artikelübersicht', 'Motivgalerie', 'Druckverfahren', and 'Bestellinfo'. A search bar is present with a 'OK' button. The main content area is a T-shirt configurator for a red 'XX-Large Shirt von Anvil'. It includes a 'VERSAND 0,- EURO' banner, a 'DHL' logo, and promotional text: 'GESTALTEN SIE IHR EIGENES "/>

Shirtalarm bietet hochwertigen, günstigen T-Shirt Druck. Im T-Shirt Shop einfach mit Ihren Motiven Ihr persönliches T-Shirt bedrucken. Egal ob Kinder T-Shirts, lustige T-Shirt Motive, Funshirts oder T-Shirts mit Foto – wir drucken Ihr T-Shirt! Gestalten Sie selbst Ihr eigenes T-Shirt und heben Sie sich von der Masse ab. Auch als Geschenk oder zu besonderen Anlässen eignen sich bedruckte T-Shirts perfekt. Beim T-Shirt Druck steht Shirtalarm für höchste Qualität. Sie können Ihr T-Shirt drucken als Einzelstück oder in Großaufgabe – zu besonders günstigen Konditionen. Wir führen rund 100 verschiedene Artikel (T-Shirt, Tasse, Kissen, Jacken, Hoody...) und unzählige Motive für Ihren T-Shirt Druck. Falls Sie sich inspirieren lassen wollen, stöbern Sie doch mal durch unsere Kollektionen zum T-Shirt Druck. Hier bieten wir Ihnen alles von Fußball- über Tier- bis hin zu lustigen Kinder-Motiven. Wenn Sie Ihr individuelles T-Shirt bedrucken wollen und das zum günstigen Preis, dann sind Sie bei Shirtalarm also genau an der richtigen Adresse!

The screenshot shows a Windows taskbar with several open PDF files: 'Pongratz_Tramm_Wilb...', 'faulty_epcs_in_the_sa...', 'lamsweerde-goal-orie...', and 'lamsweerde-04RE-rea...'. The system tray on the right shows 'Alle einblenden'.

Individual Configurators are Frameworks

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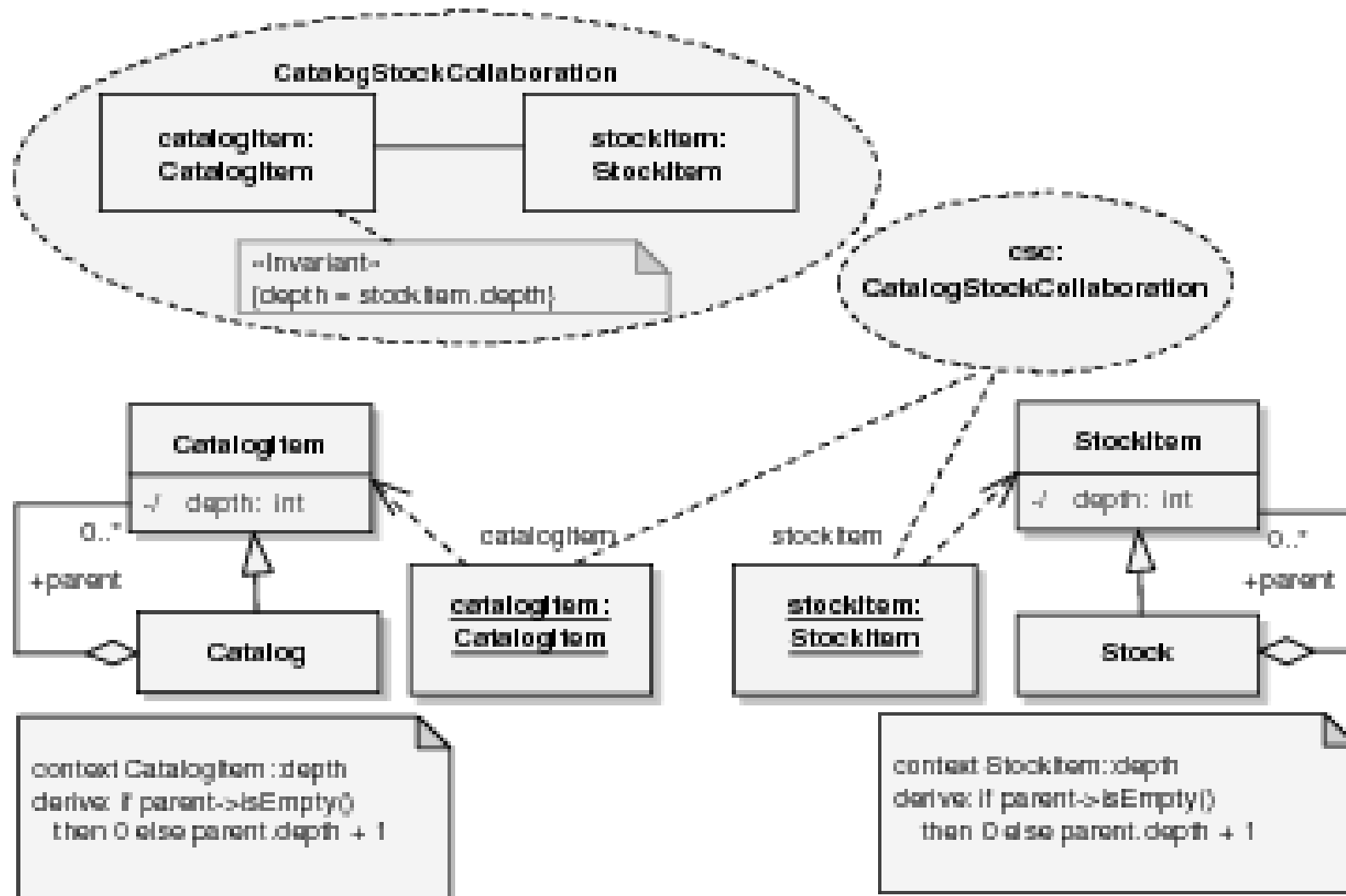
- ▶ Nowadays, you can buy the framework software for Individual Configurator Web Sites, e.g., <http://www.shirt-software.de/>
- ▶ The configurator frameworks must be adapted to a domain (which domain is not yet covered?) and to a company (individualization)

The screenshot displays the website for 'Shirt-Software' by 'tuffi Internet Vertriebs GmbH'. The page features a navigation menu with links for 'Startseite', 'Bestseller', 'Registrieren', 'Anmelden', 'Ihr Konto', 'Kontakt', and 'News'. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area is titled 'Katalog' and features a prominent red banner for the 'NEUE VERSION' (New Version) of the 'Shirt-Software v2.0'. The banner includes a gold seal with the text 'Shirt-Software 2.0' and a small image of the software box. Below the banner, there is a paragraph of text describing the interactive product designer and its capabilities. The footer of the page indicates 'Professional Edition (v1.3)' and 'Shirt-Software Version 2'. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'www.shirt-software.de/?gclid=CN7mxo...4rQCFQHwzAodNnQA_g'.

Problem 2: SalesPoint Framework

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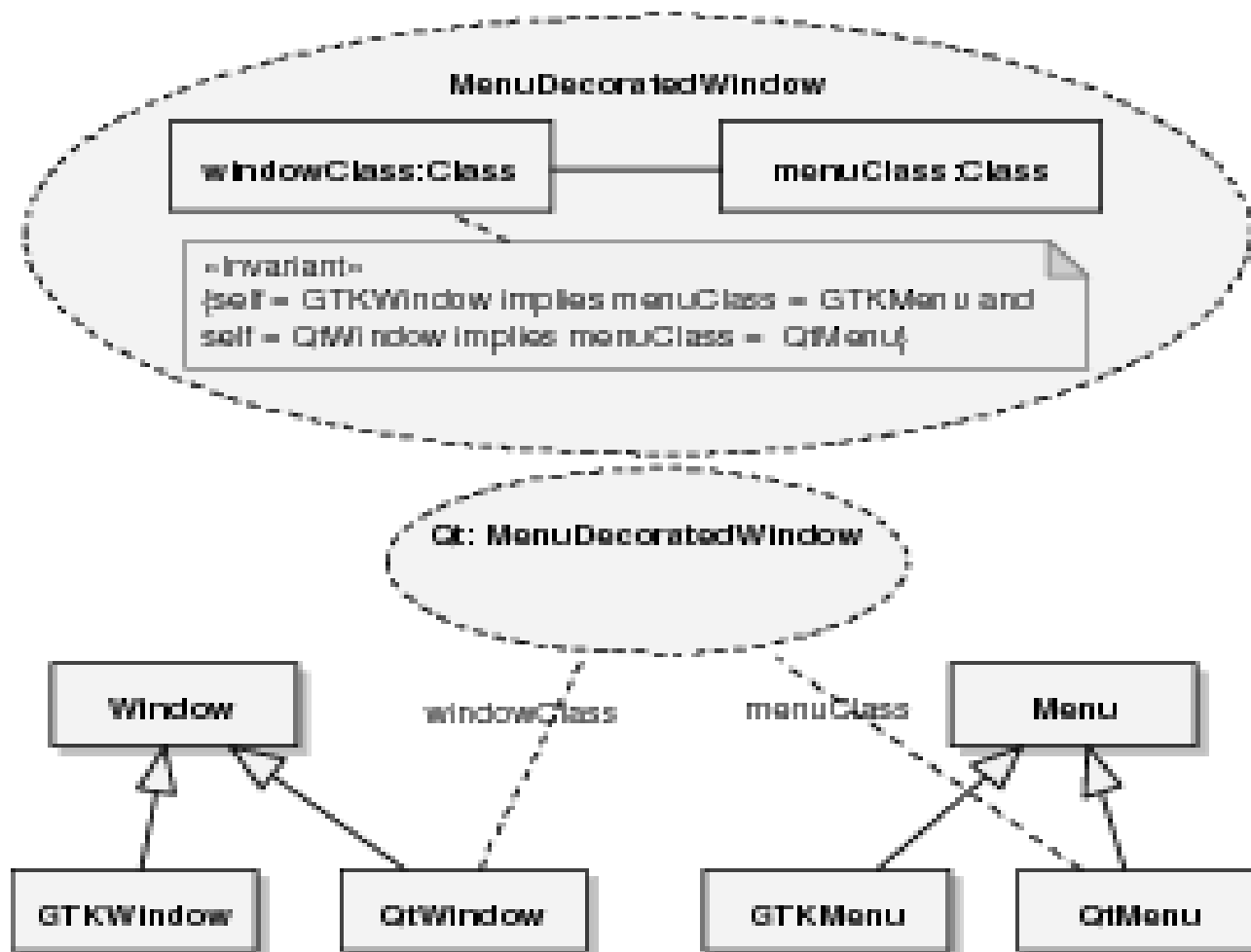
- ▶ Catalog and Stock hierarchies must be isomorphic
- ▶ Dynamic constraint; domain-specific



Problem 3: Parallel Hierarchies

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- ▶ Window types must be varied parallelly
- ▶ Static constraint, but technical



Problem 4: Dynamic Assumptions

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- ▶ Other dynamic contract checks

Null-checks
Range checks
Sortedness of ordered collections

Dynamic technical constraints

Classification of Instantiation Constraints

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Facet 1: Stage		Facet 2: Cause	
		Static	Dynamic
Domain-specific (analysis-related)	Car configurator multi-point constraint	SalesPoint isomorphic hierarchies of Catalogs and Stocks	
Technical (design-related)	Windows parallel hierarchies	Dynamic assumptions Dynamic contracts	



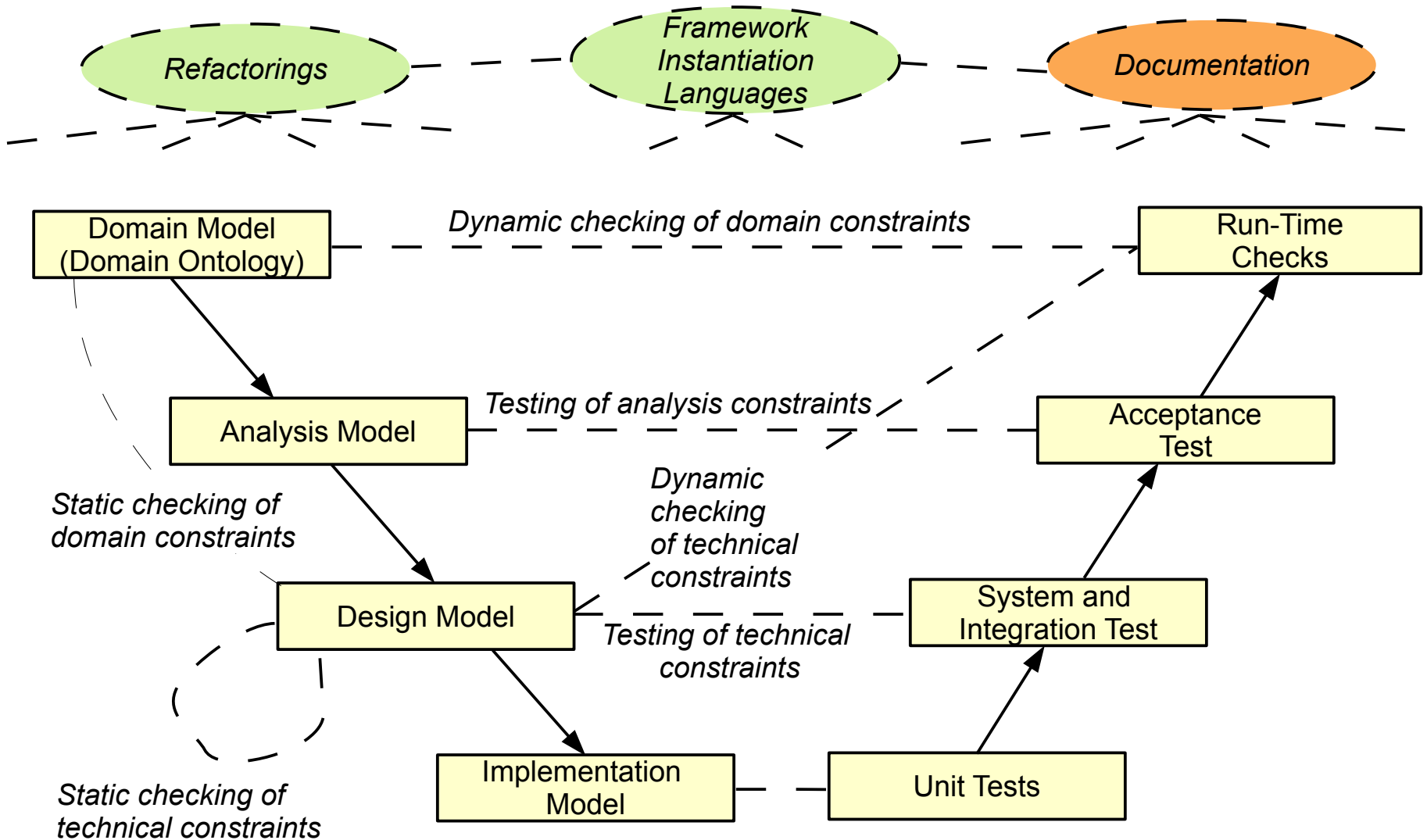
24.2 Remedies for Trustworthy Instantiation

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Checking Mechanisms in All Phases of the Life Cycle

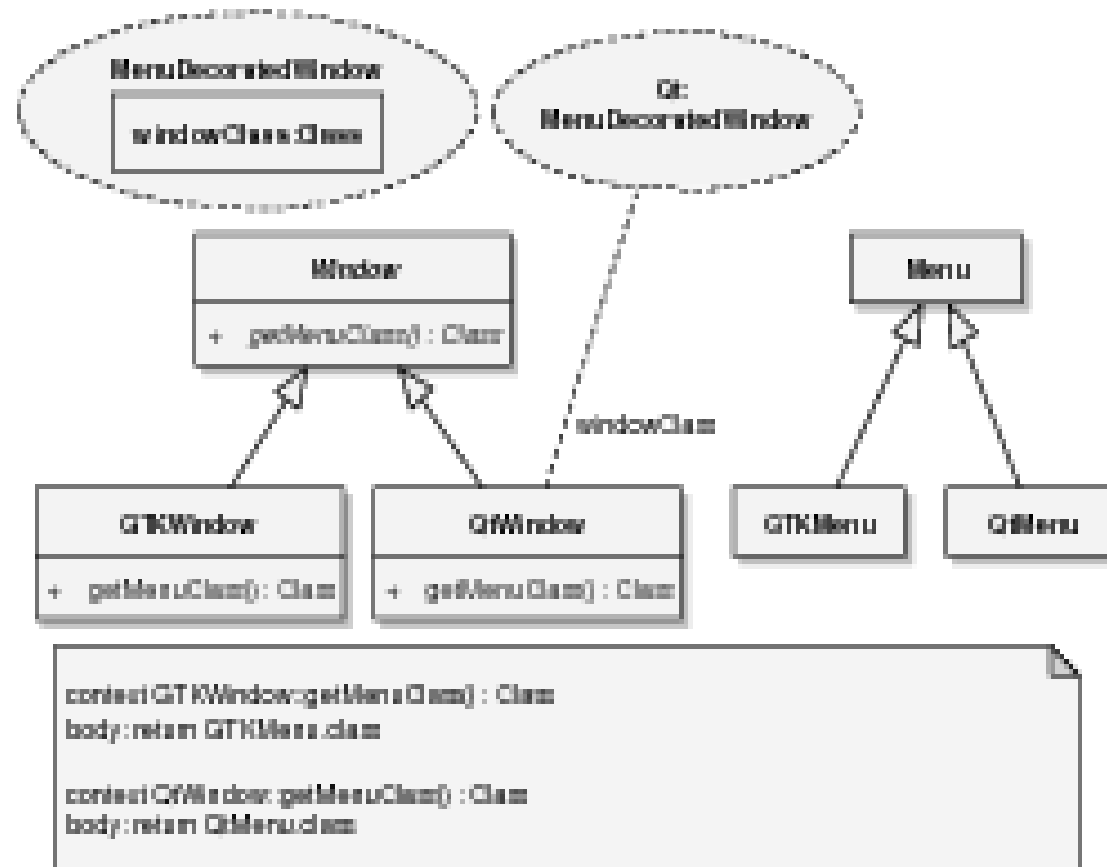
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Remedy 1: Refactoring of Multi-Point Constraints

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- ▶ Multi-point constraints can be refactored such that the constraint moves inside the framework
 - One point is removed
- ▶ Advantage: Framework can control itself

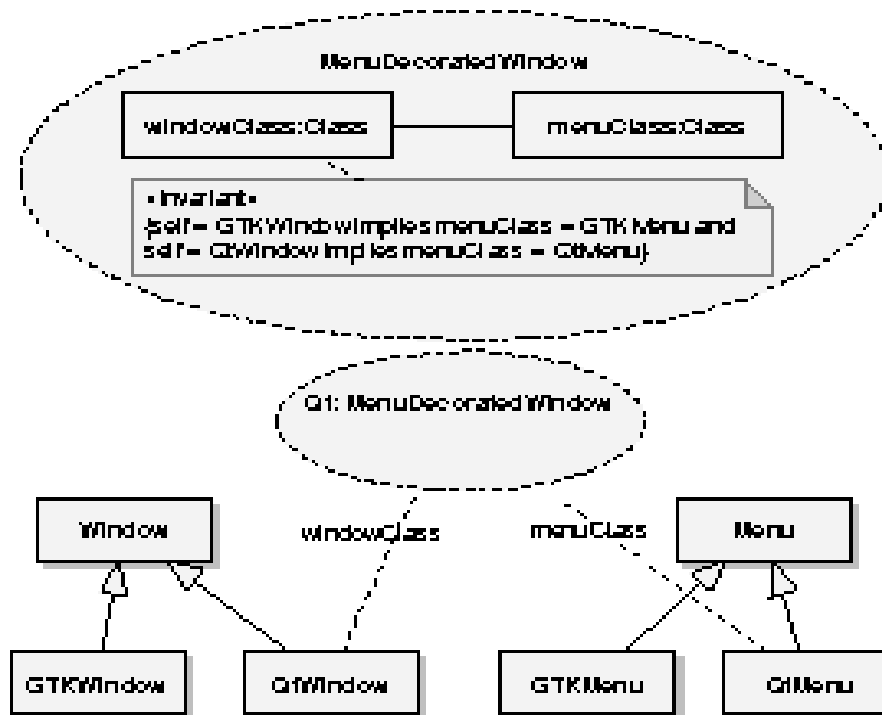


Remedy 2:

Static Verification of Static Constraints

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- ▶ *UML collaborations* are appropriate to describe static (technical and domain-specific) instantiation constraints.
 - OCL specifies static invariants of the framework, instantiation preconditions and postconditions
 - OCL can reason over types, hence, instantiations or extensions of the framework can be analyzed and verified



Remedy 3: Framework Testing

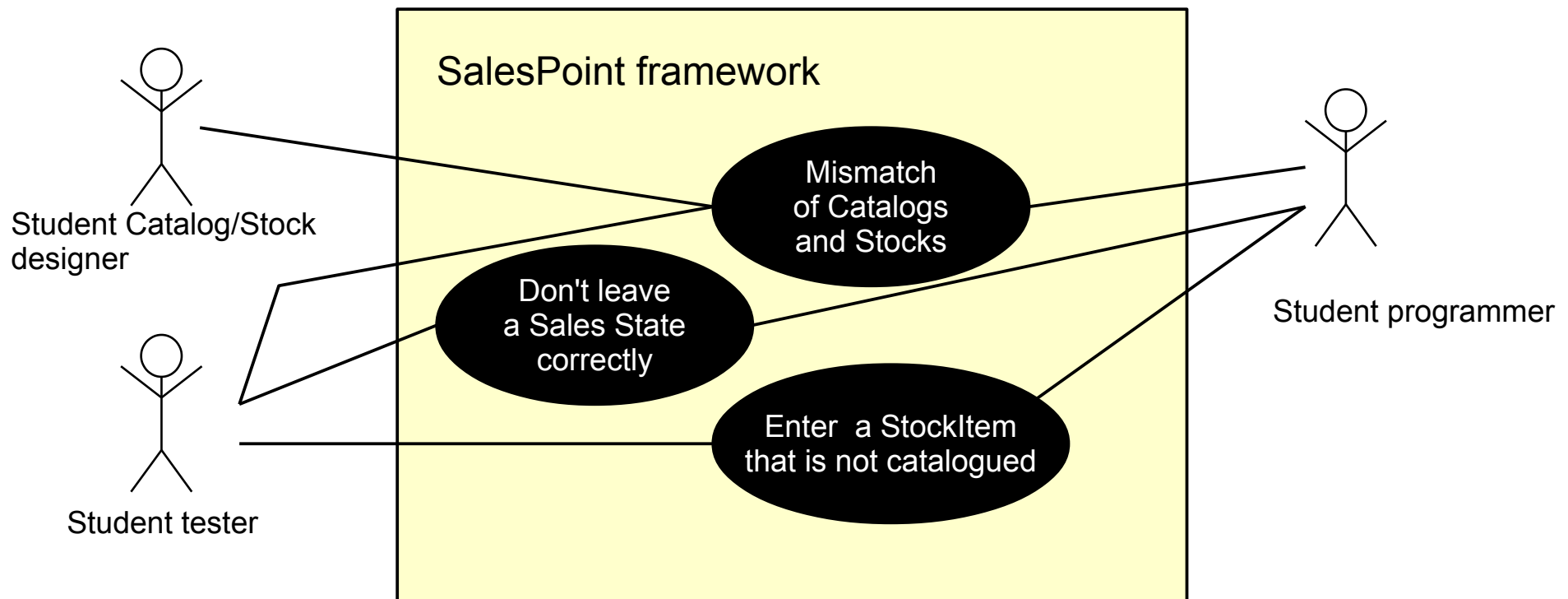
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- ▶ Frameworks must be *negatively tested*
 - Beyond functional tests (positive tests), censorious negative tests for the behavior in case of misinstantiation must be conducted
 - Negative test cases have to be derived
 - specifying ill instantiation conditions
 - and the behavior of the framework
 - Framework must react reasonably
 - NOT dump core
 - Handle exceptions appropriately
 - Emit comprehensible error messages, also to the end user

Misuse Diagrams

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- ▶ *Misuse diagrams specify misuse cases, dually to use case diagrams, which specify functional use cases*
- ▶ [Sindre, G., Opdahl, A.L. Eliciting security requirements with misuse cases. Requirements Engineering 10 (2005) 34–44]
- ▶ Used to describe system abuse (intrusion, fraud, security attacks)
- ▶ Coarse-grain technique to specify also *framework misuse*



Negative Test Table Entries

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- ▶ From use case diagrams, usually test tables are derived
 - A test table contains test case entries, describing one test case
 - Class of test case (positive, negative)
 - Onput parameters of method
 - Output parameters
 - Reaction, state afterwards

Testcase	Testclass	Input	Output	Reaction
		String date	Date d1	
			day month year	
1	positive	1. Januar 2006	1 1 2006	
2	positive	05/12/2008	5 12 2008	
3	positive	January 23, 2007	23 1 2007	
4	negative	Mak 44, 2007		failure
5	negative	March 44, 2007		failure

Negative Test Case Entries for Misuse of Frameworks

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- ▶ Input parameters must be refined
 - Dynamic constraints are tested as usual negative test cases, with input and output parameter specification
 - Static constraints, however, work on types. Hence, their test case entries are different. Negative test cases specify ill instantiations, framework error messages and exception handling

Testcase	Testclass	Input		Reaction	
		hook 1	hook 2		
1	pos. static	QtMenu	QtButton		
2	pos. static	GtkMenu	GtkButton		
3	neg. static	QtMenu	GtkButton	error „for multi-point, use parallel classes“	
4	neg. static	GtkMenu	QtButton	error „for multi-point, use parallel classes“	

Derivation of JUnit Test Cases

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- ▶ From every test table entry dealing with a dynamic constraint, a JUnit test case is derived (www.junit.org)
 - Test method or test class with test method, deriving from class *TestCase*
- ▶ From every test table entry dealing with a static constraint, a compilation test suite case is derived
 - Stored in a database
 - Sold with the framework to the customer of the framework
 - Helps the customer to instantiate right
- ▶ See course Softwaretechnologie II, summer semester

Remedy 4:

Framework Instantiation Languages

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- ▶ Eclipse has demonstrated that a framework extension (instantiation) language can be beneficial
 - to type variability and extension points
 - to describe not only extension points for code, but also for other resources, such as GUI elements, business objects, etc.
- ▶ Eclipse language is based on XML, thus restricted on:
 - XML tree specifications
 - XML base types

Eclipse Extension Specs

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plugin.xsd

```
<schema ...>
<element name = "plugin">
...
</element>
<element name = "extension-point">
  <attribute name="id" type="string" />
  <attribute name="name" type="string" />
  <attribute name="schema" type="string" />
</element>
</schema>
```

example.exsd

```
<schema ...>
<element name = "extension">
  <attribute name="point" type="string"
    use="required" />
  <attribute name="class" type="string"/>
</element>
</schema>
```

<<instance-of>>

<<instance-of>>

<<refers-to>>

<<instance-of>>

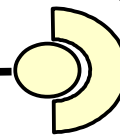
plugin.xml (extended)

```
<plugin name="extended" ...>
<extension-point
  id="example"
  name="example"
  schema="example.exsd"/>
</plugin>
```

plugin.xml (extending)

```
<plugin name="extending" ...>
  <extension point="example"
    class="package org.savga.Runner"/>
</plugin>
```

<<extends>>



Why A Framework Extension Language Should Be Based on Logic

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- ▶ Beyond XML, logic can capture context-sensitive static constraints
 - also static multi-point framework instantiation constraints
- ▶ However, the logic must be enriched with domain-specific concepts, such as framework, hook, variation point, extension point, instantiation, etc.
- ▶ Good candidates are *typed logic languages*
 - Ontology languages OWL, SWRL
 - Frame logic (F-logic, on top of XSB)
 - OCL on UML class diagrams (UML collaborations)

Remedy 5: Dynamic Contract Checking

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- ▶ Dynamic multi-point constraints must be checked at run-time
 - Mainly, this amounts to *contract checking* of the framework
- ▶ Two best practices can be applied:
 - Framework contract layers
 - Contract aspects

Framework Contract Layers

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- ▶ Best practice is to check a dynamic constraint (single- or multi-point) in a separate layer, encapsulating the *contract concern*
- ▶ The checking layer is called from outside (the application), but the inner layer from inside the framework. This is much faster than checking always!
 - When composing the framework with others, the contract layer can be wrapped around the resulting bigger framework (check effort reduced)

```
class Collection {
    public boolean sorted() { ... /* sortedness predicate */ }
    public Element searchBinary(ElementKey key) {
        // contract checking
        if(!sorted())
            sort();
        // calling the inner layer
        return searchBinaryInternal(key);
    }
    // inner layer
    protected Element searchBinaryInternal(ElementKey key) {
        .. binary search algorithm ...
    }
}
```

Remedy 6: Contract Aspects

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- ▶ Once encapsulated in a layer, contract checks can be moved into a *contract aspect*
 - Tools such as Aspect/J can weave the contract in
 - Here: methods of package *framework* that have a parameter of type *Menu* are checked on null value
- ▶ Advantage: the aspect can easily be exchanged
 - Reduces effort, in particular when the aspect is *crosscutting*

```
before(Menu m): call(* framework.*.(Menu) && args(m) {  
    if (m == null) {  
        throw new Exception ("Null Menu parameter passed when " +  
            thisJoinPoint.getThis() + " was called ");  
    }  
}
```

What Have We Learned?

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- ▶ Framework instantiation and extension is hard, because there are many constraints, both domain-specific and technical, to obey
- ▶ Multi-point constraints describe dependencies between two or several framework hooks
- ▶ Appropriate remedies against misinstantiations are:
 - Thorough documentation (well, of course with the pyramid principle)
 - Refactoring (removal) of multi-point constraints
 - Negative testing with misuse diagrams and negative test table entries
 - Using logic to verify static constraints
 - Use contract layers and contract aspects to facilitate checking of dynamic constraints

The End



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