

11. Bridging the Technical Spaces Grammarware and EMOFware using EMFText

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Version WS 17-1.1, 10/22/12

- 1) What is a DSL?
- 2) How to build a DSL
 - 1) Defining/Using a Metamodel
 - 2) Syntax Definition
 - 1) Generating an initial syntax (HUTN)
 - 3) Refining the syntax
 - 3) Advanced features of EMFText
 - 1) Mapping text to data types
 - 2) Reference resolving
 - 3) Syntax modules (Import and Reuse)
 - 4) Interpretation vs. Compilation
 - 4) Integrating DSLs and GPLs
 - 5) Other DSL examples in the Zoo
 - 6) Conclusion

Obligatory Literature

- ▶ Florian Heidenreich, Jendrik Johannes, Sven Karol, Mirko Seifert, and Christian Wende. Model-based language engineering with EMFText. In Ralf Lämmel, João Saraiva, and Joost Visser, editors, GTTSE, volume 7680 of Lecture Notes in Computer Science, pages 322-3411. Springer, 2011.

Recommended Literature

EMFText is used by our start-up, DevBoost
www.devboost.de

3 Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)

- ▶ <http://www.emftext.org>
 - ▶ http://www.emftext.org/index.php/EMFText_Publications
 - ▶ Florian Heidenreich, Jendrik Johannes, Sven Karol, Mirko Seifert and Christian Wende. Derivation and Refinement of Textual Syntax for Models. In Proc. of the 5th European Conference on Model-Driven Architecture Foundations and Applications (ECMDA-FA 2009).
 - ▶ Mirko Seifert and Christian Werner. Specification of Triple Graph Grammar Rules using Textual Concrete Syntax. 7th International Fujaba Days, 2009
 - ▶ Florian Heidenreich, Jendrik Johannes, Mirko Seifert and Christian Wende. Construct to Reconstruct - Reverse Engineering Java Code with JaMoPP. In Proc. of the International Workshop on Reverse Engineering Models from Software Artifacts (R.E.M.'09).
 - ▶ Florian Heidenreich, Jendrik Johannes, Mirko Seifert and Christian Wende. Closing the Gap between Modelling and Java Tool demonstration at the 2nd International Conference on Software Language Engineering (SLE'09).
 - ▶ Florian Heidenreich, Jendrik Johannes, Mirko Seifert, Christian Wende and Marcel Böhme. Generating Safe Template Languages. In Proc. of the 8th International Conference on Generative Programming and Component Engineering (GPCE 2009).
 - ▶ Christian Wende and Florian Heidenreich. A Model-based Product-Line for Scalable Ontology Languages. In Proc. of the 1st International Workshop on Model-Driven Product-Line Engineering (MDPLE 2009) collocated with ECMDA-FA 2009. Enschede, The Netherlands, June 2009.
 - ▶ Mirko Seifert and Roland Samlaus. Static Source Code Analysis using OCL. In Proc. of OCL Workshop 2008 at MODELS 2008
 - ▶ Jakob Henriksson, Florian Heidenreich, Jendrik Johannes, Steffen Zschaler and Uwe Aßmann. Extending Grammars and Metamodels for Reuse -- The Reuseware Approach. IET Software Journal 2008.

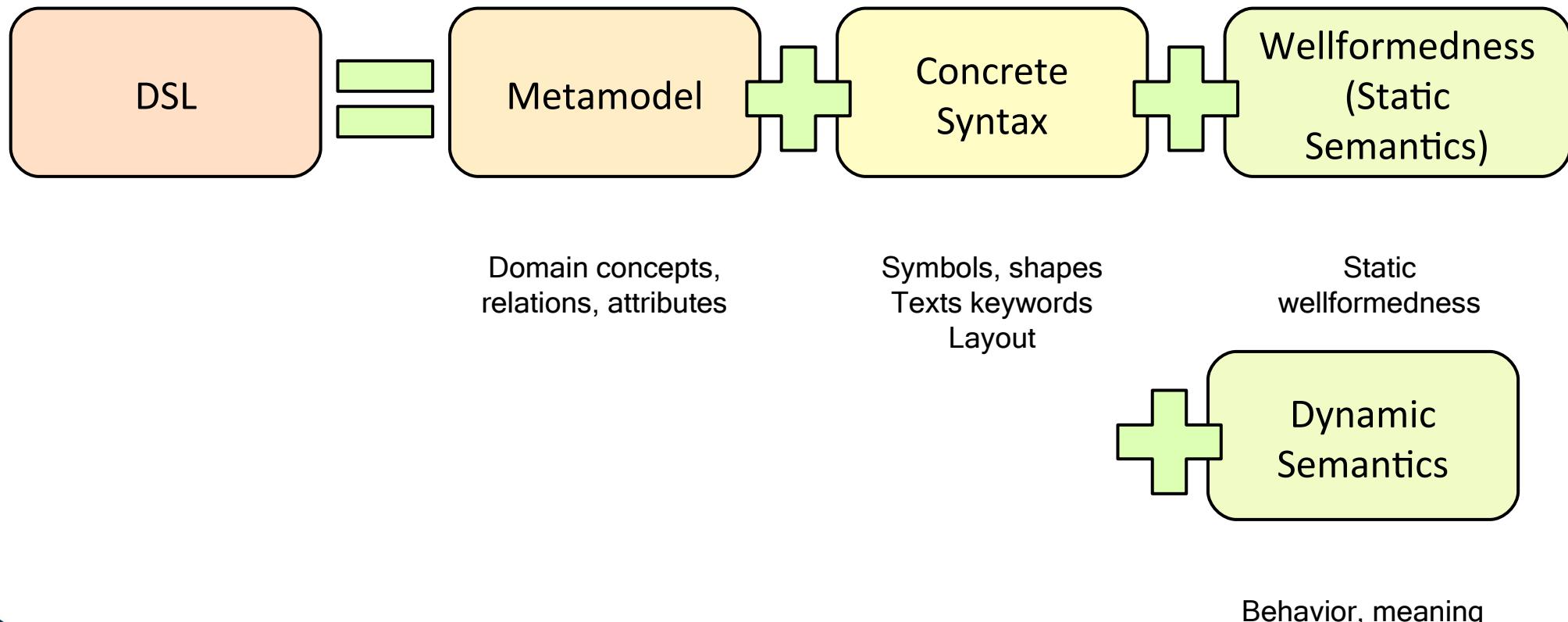
11.1 What is a Domain-Specific Language (DSL)?

What's in a Domain-Specific Language (DSL)?

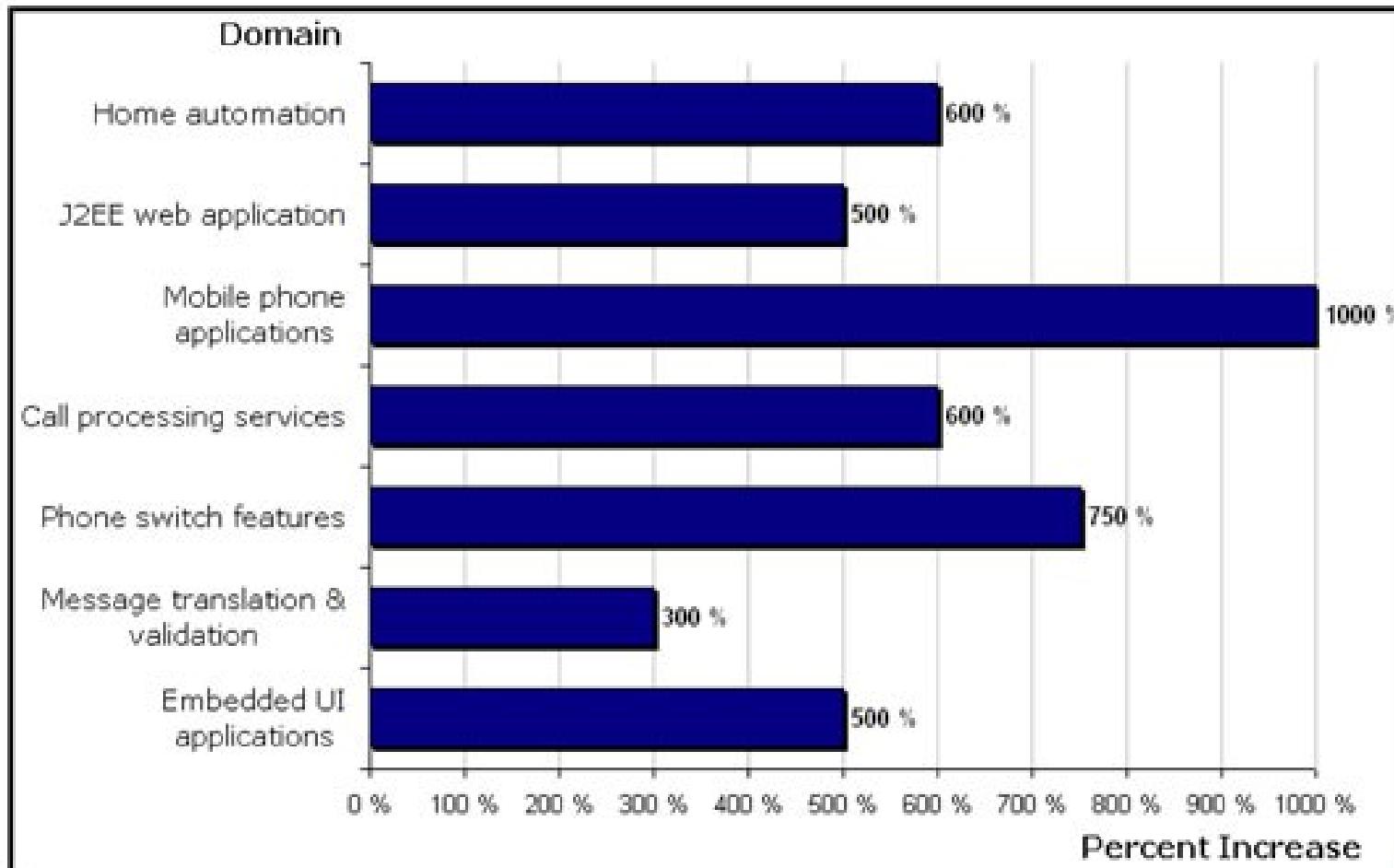
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Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)

- ▶ The core of a DSL is a metamodel on M2 derived from the lifted core metamodel (e.g., EMOF)



Productivity Gains with DSL



Juha-Pekka Tolvanen. Domain-Specific Modeling for Full Code Generation. January 2010. Vol. 12, Number 4.
<http://journal.thedacs.com/issue/52/144>

Motivation – Why DSLs?

- + Can enhance productivity, reliability, maintainability and portability
- + Use the concepts and idioms of a domain
 - Domain experts can understand, validate and modify DSL programs
 - Higher level of abstraction
- + Concise and self-documenting
- + Embody domain knowledge, enabling the conservation and reuse of this knowledge

But:

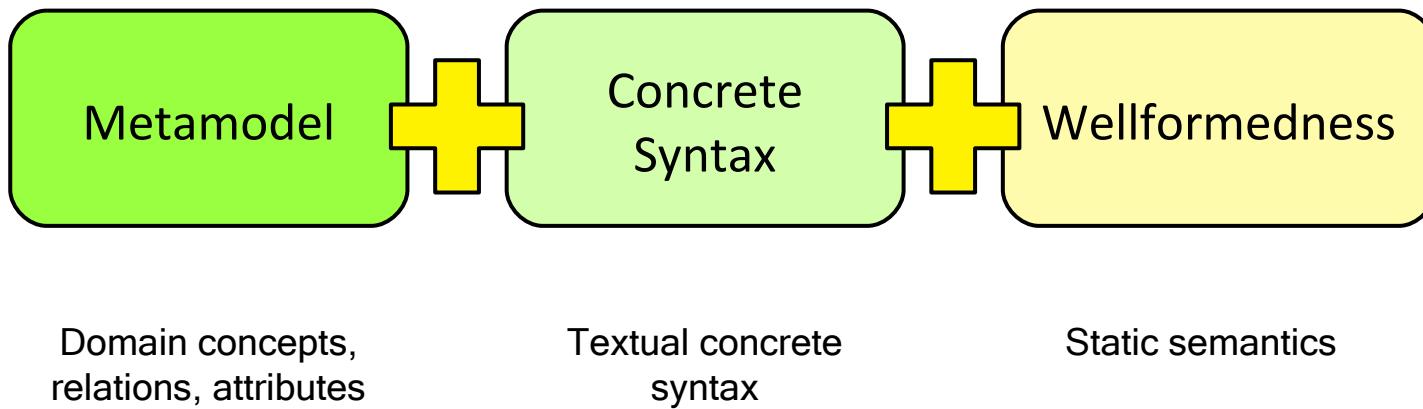
- Costs of design, implementation and maintenance
- Costs of education for users
- Limited availability of DSLs

From: <http://homepages.cwi.nl/~arie/papers/dslbib/>



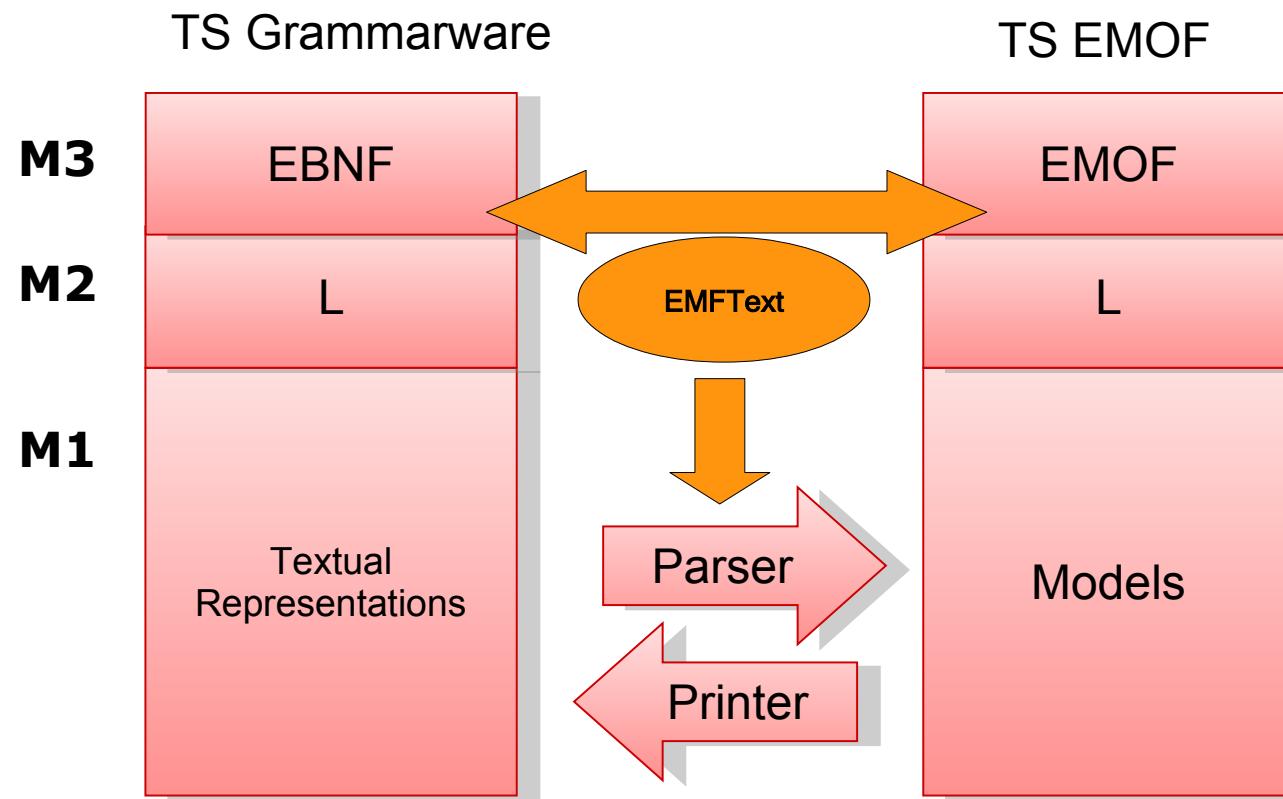
What is a Textual Domain-Specific Language (DSL)?

- ▶ EMFText relates a concrete syntax specification (grammar in EBNF) to a EMOF/Ecore-based metamodel.
- ▶ From this language mapping, printers, parsers and editors for a DSL can be generated



Textual DSL rely on a Transformation Bridge between the Technical Spaces EMOF and Grammarware

- ▶ The **EMFText tool suite** relates a concrete syntax specification (grammar in EBNF) to a EMOF/Ecore-based metamodel.
- ▶ From this language mapping, printers (unparsers), parsers and editors are generated
- ▶ EMFText can be used to produce normative concrete syntax for exchange formats



EMFText Motivation – Why Textual syntax?

Why use textual syntax for models?

- Readability
- Diff/Merge/Version Control
- Evolution
- Tool autonomy
- Quick model instantiation

Why create models from text?

- Tool reuse (e.g., to perform transformations (ATL) or analysis (OCL))
- Know-how reuse
- Explicit representation of text document structure
- Tracing software artifacts
- Graphs instead of strings

Be aware: exchange syntax is like a textual DSL

EMFText Philosophy and Goals

Design principles:

- Convention over Configuration
- Provide defaults wherever possible
- Allow customization for all parts of a syntax

Syntax definition should be

- Simple and easy for small DSLs
- Yet powerful for complex languages



EMFText Features

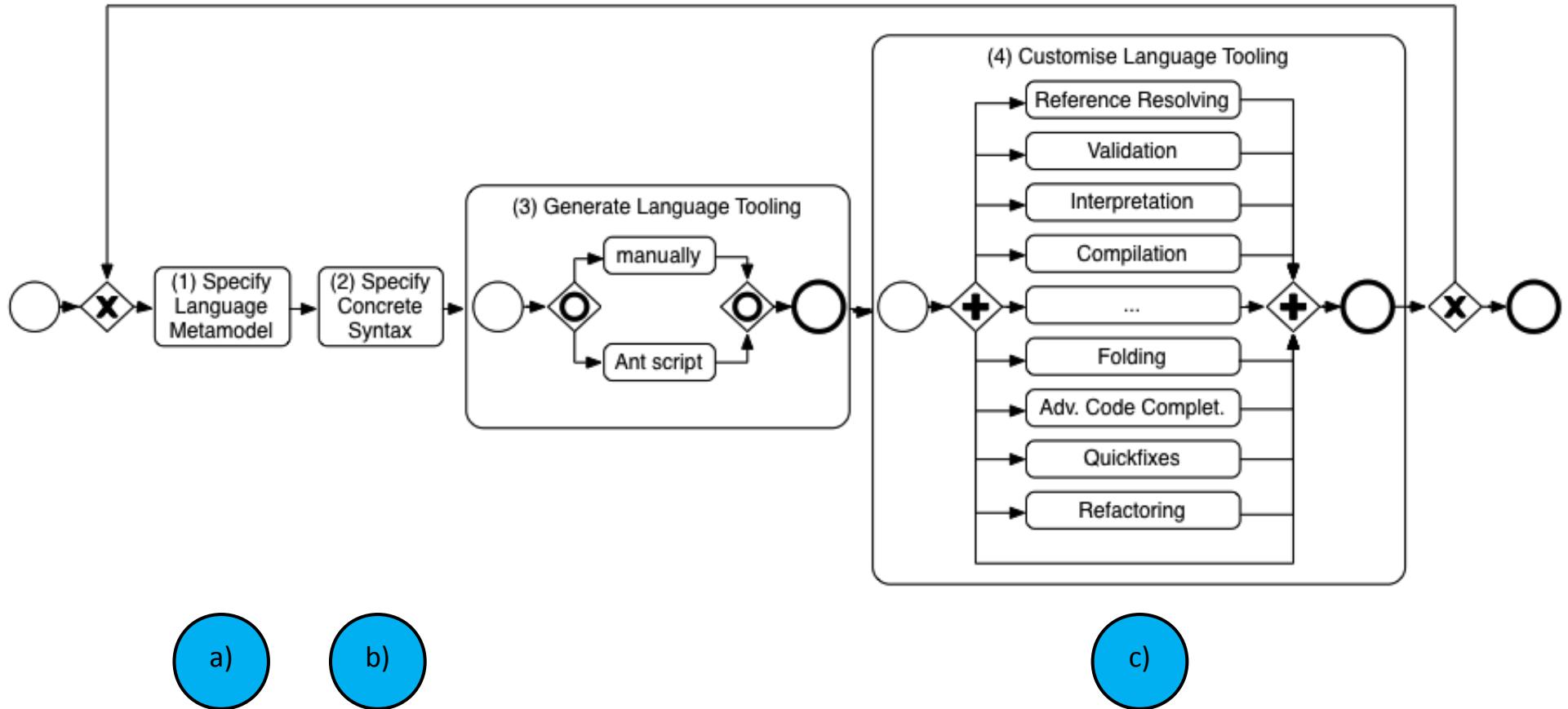
- ▶ **Generation Features**
 - Generation of independent code
 - Generation of Default Syntax Grammar (via default language mapping)
 - Customizable Code Generation
- ▶ **Specification Features**
 - Modular Specification
 - Default Reference Resolving
 - Comprehensive Syntax Analysis
- ▶ **Editor Features**
 - Code Completion, Customizable Syntax and Occurrence Highlighting, Code Folding, Error Marking, Hyperlinks, Text Hovers, Outline View, ...
- ▶ **Other Highlights**
 - ANT Support, Post Processors, Builder, Interpreter and Debugger Stubs, Quick Fixes
 - Full Java support (JaMOPP)

11.2 How to Build a DSL with EMFText

EMFText Language Development Process

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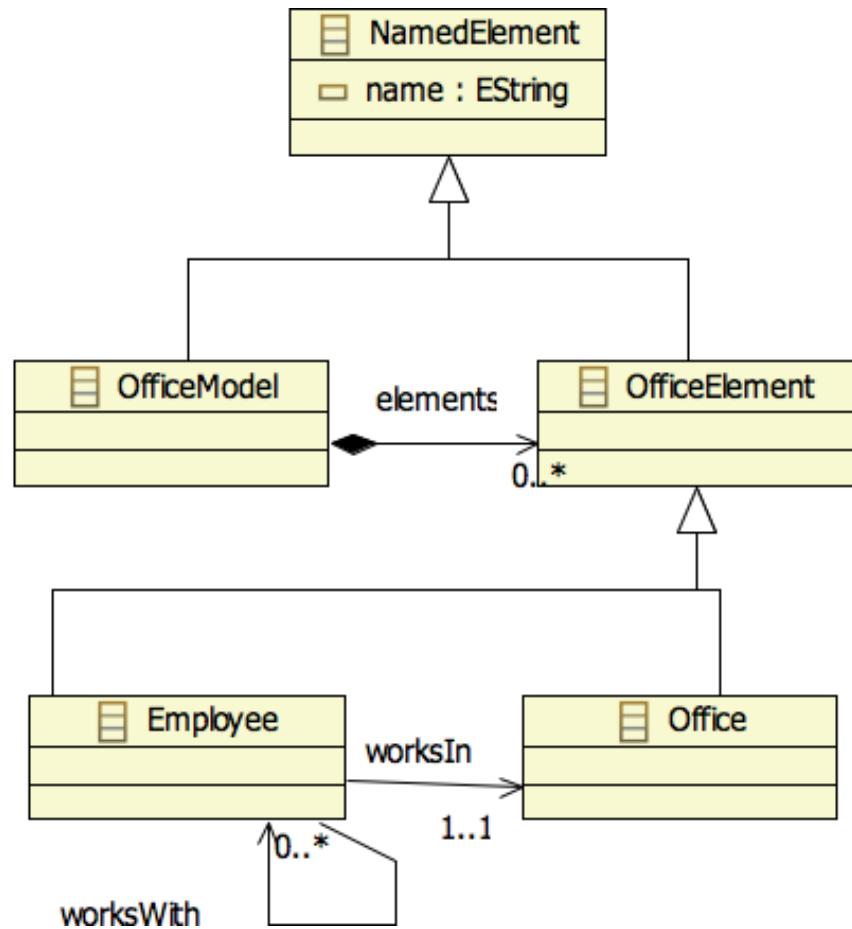
Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)



How to build a DSL – Metamodel

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Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)



Creating a new Metamodel:

- ▶ Define concepts, relations and properties in an Ecore model
- ▶ Existing Metamodels can be imported (e.g., UML, Ecore, ...)

a)

How to build a DSL – Metamodel

a)

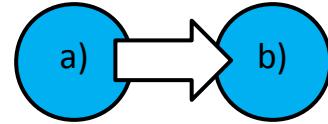
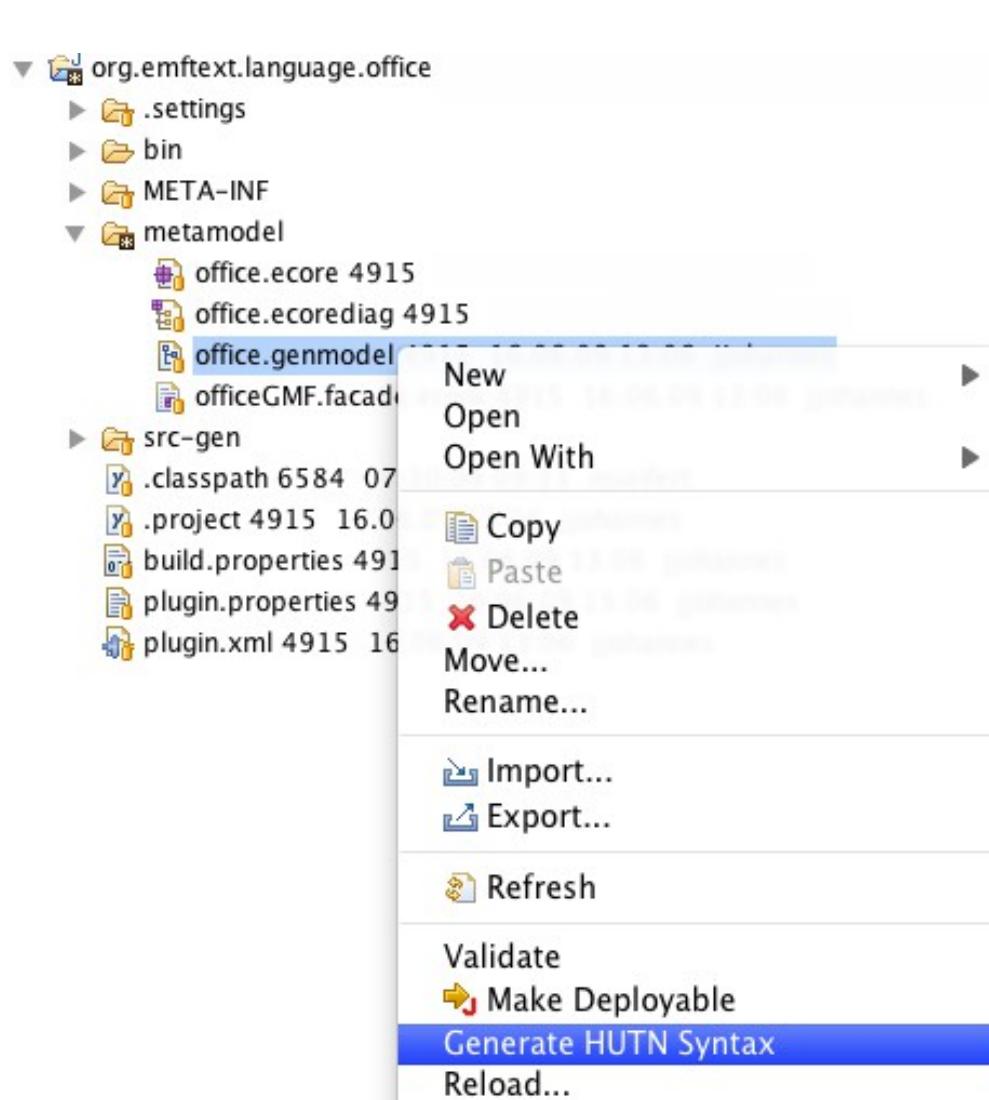
Metamodel elements (EMF concepts):

- Classes
- Data Types
- Enumerations
- Attributes
- References (Containment, Non-containment)
- Cardinalities
- Inheritance
- The Office DSL is a *Material* metamodel, because offices are treated as data

Generate Initial Syntax (Human Usable Text Notation)

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Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)



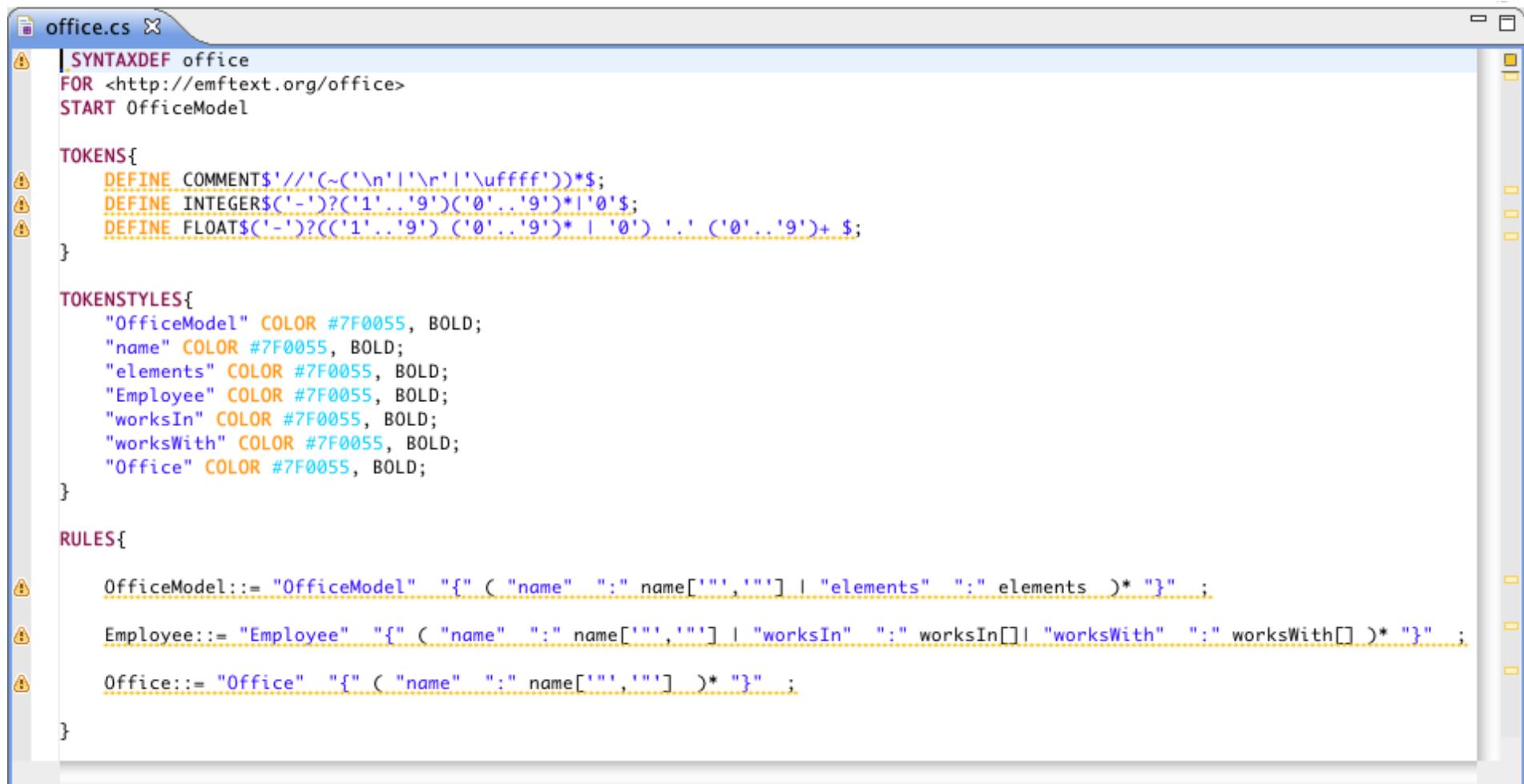
Initial HUTN Syntax – Generated Grammar

b)

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Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)

- ▶ All metaclasses of the EMOF metamodel become nonterminals in the text grammar



The screenshot shows a code editor window titled "office.cs X" containing the generated HUTN grammar. The code is color-coded with syntax highlighting. It includes sections for SYNTAXDEF, TOKENS, TOKENSTYLES, and RULES. The SYNTAXDEF section defines the namespace and starts the grammar. The TOKENS section defines three types of tokens: COMMENTS, INTEGERS, and FLOATS. The TOKENSTYLES section defines styles for various tokens. The RULES section defines the metamodel elements: OfficeModel, Employee, and Office.

```
SYNTAXDEF office
FOR <http://emftext.org/office>
START OfficeModel

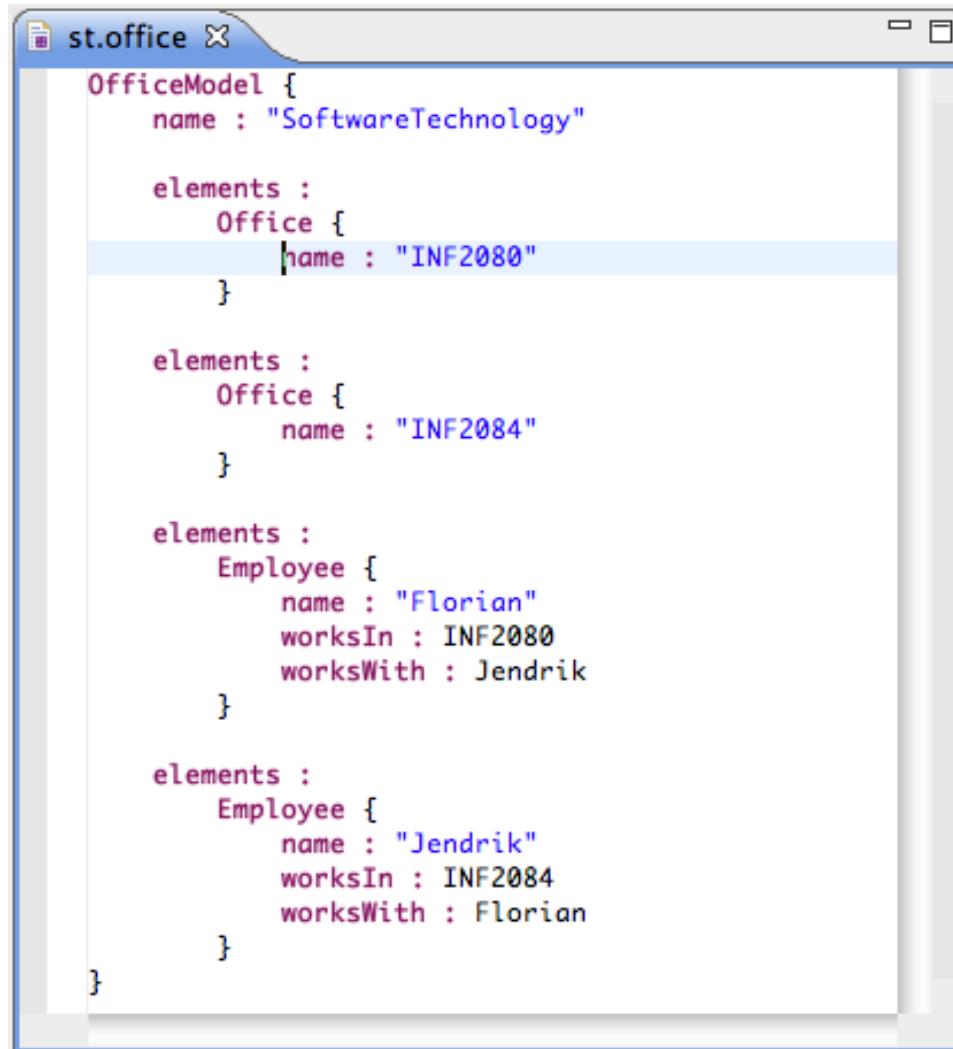
TOKENS{
    DEFINE COMMENTS$'//('(~("\n"|"`"|"\\uffff"))*$;
    DEFINE INTEGERS$('-'?)?('1'..'9')('0'..'9')*?'0'$;
    DEFINE FLOATS$('-'?)?('1'..'9')('0'..'9')*?'.' ('0'..'9')+ $;
}

TOKENSTYLES{
    "OfficeModel" COLOR #7F0055, BOLD;
    "name" COLOR #7F0055, BOLD;
    "elements" COLOR #7F0055, BOLD;
    "Employee" COLOR #7F0055, BOLD;
    "worksIn" COLOR #7F0055, BOLD;
    "worksWith" COLOR #7F0055, BOLD;
    "Office" COLOR #7F0055, BOLD;
}

RULES{
    OfficeModel ::= "OfficeModel" "{" ( "name" ":" name["`","`"] | "elements" ":" elements )* "}";
    Employee ::= "Employee" "{" ( "name" ":" name["`","`"] | "worksIn" ":" worksIn[] | "worksWith" ":" worksWith[] )* "}";
    Office ::= "Office" "{" ( "name" ":" name["`","`"] )* "}";
}
```

Initial, Generated HUTN Syntax – Example Document

b)



The screenshot shows a software window titled "st.office" containing HUTN syntax code. The code defines an "OfficeModel" with several nested "elements" sections for "Office", "Employee", and "Employee" objects. The "elements" section for the first "Office" contains an "Office" object with a name of "INF2080". The "elements" section for the second "Employee" contains an "Employee" object with a name of "Jendrik", which has relationships "worksIn" to "INF2084" and "worksWith" to "Florian". The "elements" section for the third "Employee" contains an "Employee" object with a name of "Florian", which has relationships "worksIn" to "INF2080" and "worksWith" to "Jendrik". The code uses indentation and curly braces for structure.

```
OfficeModel {  
    name : "SoftwareTechnology"  
  
    elements :  
        Office {  
            name : "INF2080"  
        }  
  
        elements :  
            Office {  
                name : "INF2084"  
            }  
  
        elements :  
            Employee {  
                name : "Florian"  
                worksIn : INF2080  
                worksWith : Jendrik  
            }  
  
        elements :  
            Employee {  
                name : "Jendrik"  
                worksIn : INF2084  
                worksWith : Florian  
            }  
}
```

Syntax Refinement: User Modifies Grammar to Remove Brackets

```
*****  
// Copyright (c) 2006-2010  
// Software Technology Group, Dresden University of Technology  
//  
// All rights reserved. This program and the accompanying materials  
// are made available under the terms of the Eclipse Public License v1.0  
// which accompanies this distribution, and is available at  
// http://www.eclipse.org/legal/epl-v10.html  
//  
// Contributors:  
//   Software Technology Group - TU Dresden, Germany  
//     - initial API and implementation  
// MODIFIED, SIMPLIFIED GRAMMAR  
*****  
SYNTAXDEF office  
FOR <http://emftext.org/office>  
START OfficeModel  
OPTIONS {  
    licenceHeader ="../../org.dropsbox/licence.txt";  
    generateCodeFromGeneratorModel = "true";  
    disableLaunchSupport = "true";  
    disableDebugSupport = "true";  
}  
RULES {  
    OfficeModel ::= "officemodel" name[]  
                  "{" elements* "}" ;  
  
    Office ::= "office" name[];  
  
    Employee ::= "employee" name[]  
                 "works" "in" worksIn[]  
                 "works" "with"  
                 worksWith[] (," worksWith[])* ;  
}
```



Syntax Refinement – The Concrete Syntax Language CS

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Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)

b)

Structure of a .cs file:

- Header
 - File extension
 - Metamodel namespace URI, *location*
 - Start element(s)
 - *Imports (Metamodels, other syntax definitions)*
- *Options*
- *Token Definitions*
- Syntax Rules

The screenshot shows a software interface with two main windows. On the left is the 'office.cs' editor window, which contains the following code:

```
SYNTAXDEF office
FOR <http://emftext.org/office>
START OfficeModel

RULES{
    OfficeModel ::= "officemodeL" ;
}
```

On the right is the 'Outline' view, which displays the structure of the 'office' metamodel:

- office : <http://emftext.org/office>
 - [ab] TEXT
 - [ab] WHITESPACE
 - [ab] LINEBREAK
 - abc officemodeL
- R OfficeModel
 - a|b Choice

Syntax Refinement – Syntax Rules in EBNF

b)

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Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)

- ▶ The structure of CS is defined in EBNF (Extended Backus-Naur Form), the dominating metalanguage of the Grammarware technical space
- ▶ **Definition elements in EBNF rules:**
 - Static strings (keywords) "public"
 - Choices a|b
 - Multiplicities +,*
 - Compounds (ab)
 - Terminals a[] (Non-containment references, attributes)
 - Non-terminals a (Containment references)
- ▶ **Language mapping:** One syntax rule per metaclass (concept mapping):
 - This defines the *language mapping* between EBNF and EMF metaclasses
 - Syntax: `MetaClassName ::= Syntax Definition ;`
- ▶ All concept mappings define a *language mapping*

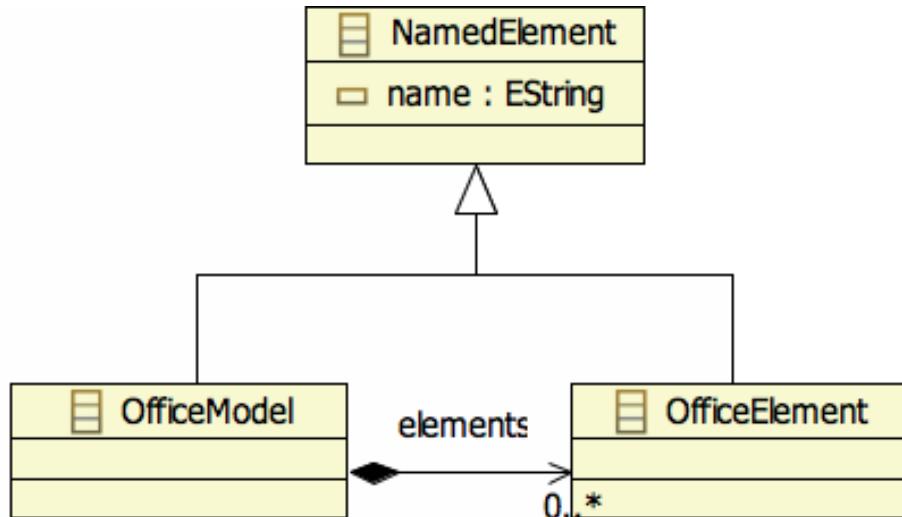
Customizing Syntax Rules - Examples

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Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)

b)

// EMOF Metamodel



// Grammar Rule

```
OfficeModel ::= "officemodel" name[]  
          "{" elements* "}" ;
```

// Textual model
officemodel SoftwareTechnology {
 ...
}

Customizing Syntax Rules - Examples

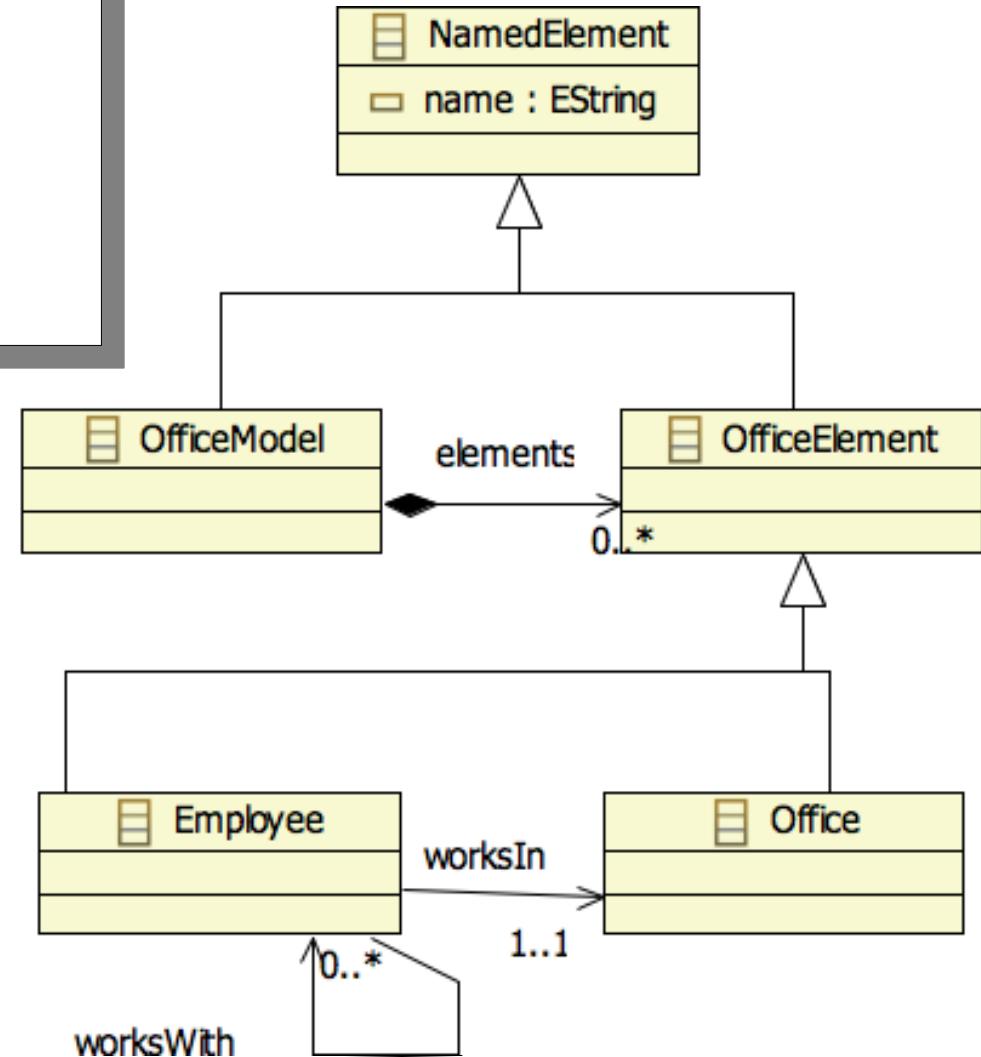
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Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)

```
RULES {
    OfficeModel ::= "officemodel" name[] "elements* " ;
    Office ::= "office" name[];
    Employee ::= "employee" name[]
        "works" "in" worksIn[]
        "works" "with"
            worksWith[] (," worksWith[])* ;
}
```

// EMOF Metamodel

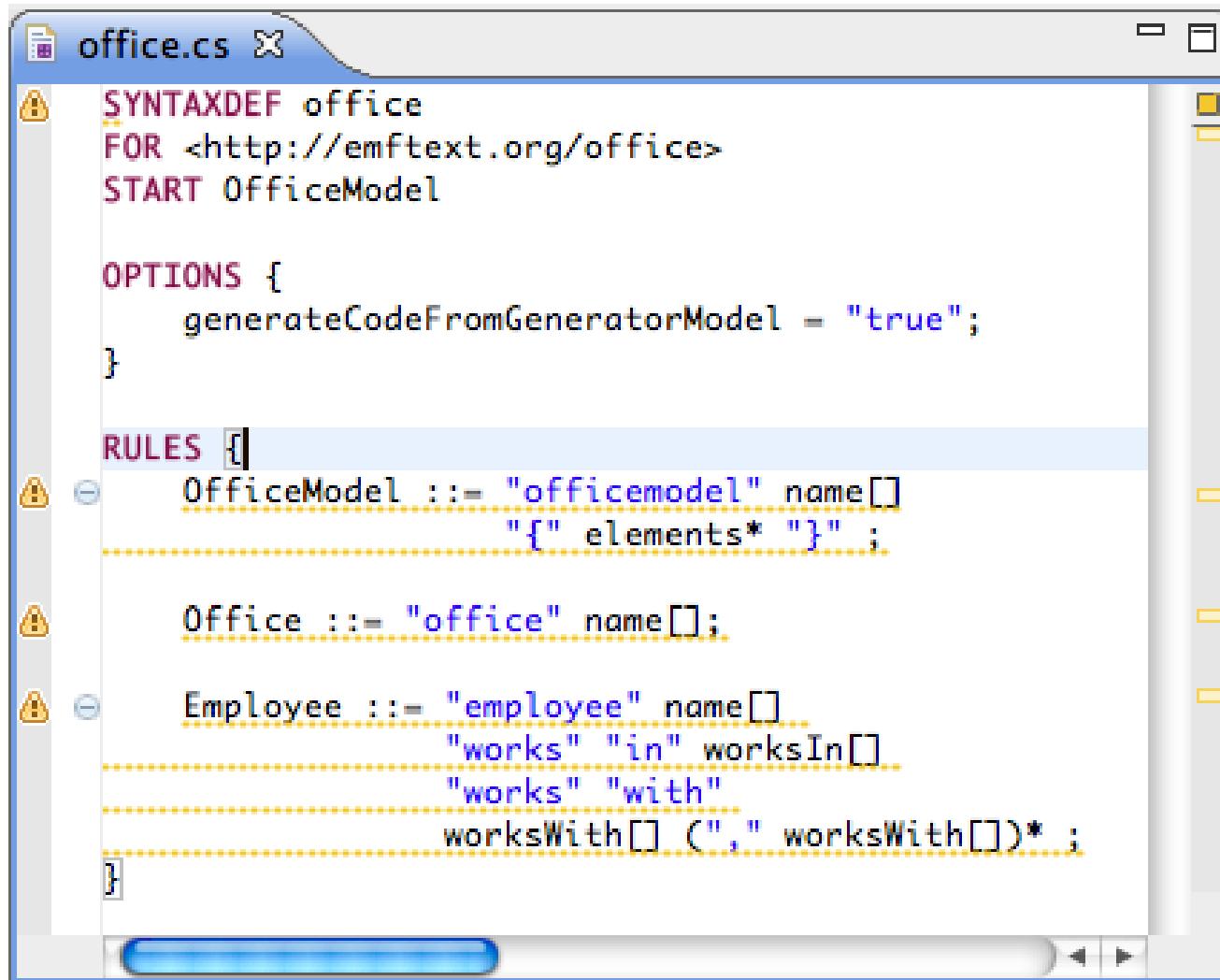
b)



```
// Text
officemodel SoftwareTechnology {
    office INF2080
    employee Florian
    works in INF2018
}
```

Grammar of Complete Customized Syntax

b)



The screenshot shows a code editor window titled "office.cs". The content is a UML-style grammar definition:

```
SYNTAXDEF office
FOR <http://emftext.org/office>
START OfficeModel

OPTIONS {
    generateCodeFromGeneratorModel = "true";
}

RULES []
OfficeModel ::= "officemodeL" name []
                "{" elements* "}";
Office ::= "office" name [];
Employee ::= "employee" name []
                "works" "in" worksIn []
                "works" "with"
                worksWith [] ("." worksWith [])*;
```

DSM: Generic Syntax vs. Custom Syntax

```
OfficeModel {
    name : "SoftwareTechnology"

    elements :
        Office {
            name : "INF2080"
        }

    elements :
        Office {
            name : "INF2084"
        }

    elements :
        Employee {
            name : "Florian"
            worksIn : INF2080
            worksWith : Jendrik
        }

    elements :
        Employee {
            name : "Jendrik"
            worksIn : INF2084
            worksWith : Florian
        }
}
```

```
st.office x
officemodel SoftwareTechnology {
    office INF2080
    office INF2084
    employee Florian
        works in INF2080
        works with Jendrik
    employee Jendrik
        works in INF2084
        works with Florian
}
```

b)

11.3. Advanced Features of EMFText

Advanced Features – Attribute Mapping



- ▶ Putting strings into EString attributes is easy
 - ▶ How about EInt, EBoolean, EFloat, ..., custom data types?
 - ▶ Solution A: Default mapping: The generated classes use the conversion methods provided by Java (java.lang.Integer, Float etc.)
 - ▶ Solution B: Customize the mapping using a token resolver

```
// resolver interface looks up a lexem in the context
// example implementation for TRUE == yes
public void resolve(String lexem,
    EStructuralFeature feature,
    ITokenResolveResult result) {
    if ("yes".equals(lexem)) result.setResolvedToken(Boolean.TRUE);
    else result.setResolvedToken(Boolean.FALSE);
}
public String deResolve(Object value,
    EStructuralFeature feature,
   EObject container) {
    if (value == Boolean.TRUE) return "yes"; else return "no";
}
```

Advanced Features – Resolving Cross References

c)

Well, quite similar to attribute mappings:

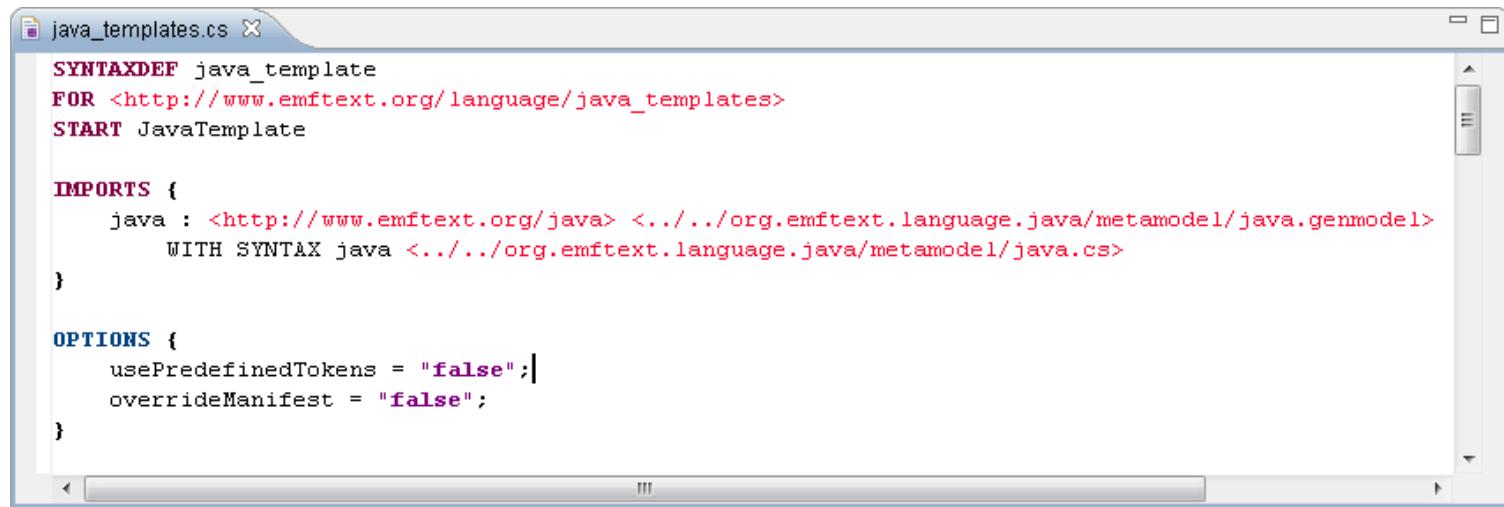
- ▶ **Solution A:** Default resolvingSearches for matching elements that have an ID attribute, a name attribute or a single attribute of type EString and picks the first
 - (Works well for simple DSLs without scoping rules)
- ▶ **Solution B:** Custom resolvingChange the generated resolver class (implements IReferenceResolver<ContainerType, ReferenceType>)
 - For examples see the resolvers for the Java language

Advanced Features – Syntax Modules for Language Composition

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Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)

c)



The screenshot shows a code editor window titled "java_templates.cs". The content of the file is a syntax module definition:

```
SYNTAXDEF java_template
FOR <http://www.emftext.org/language/java_templates>
START JavaTemplate

IMPORTS {
    java : <http://www.emftext.org/java> <../../org.emftext.language.java/metamodel/java.genmodel>
        WITH SYNTAX java <../../../org.emftext.language.java/metamodel/java.cs>
}

OPTIONS {
    usePredefinedTokens = "false";
    overrideManifest = "false";
}
```

- ▶ Import Metamodels optionally with syntax
- ▶ Extend, Combine, Compose existing DSLs
- ▶ Create embedded DSLs (e.g., for Java)
- ▶ Create a template language from your DSL
- ▶ ...

Pitfalls of Language Composition (with EMFText)

Syntax and model extensions can be non-trivial

In EMFText problems may be caused by

- ▶ Unexpected inclusions between token definitions
- ▶ Intersections between token definitions (partial overlaps)
- ▶ Problems with the underlying parser generator, e.g. left-recursion or extensive backtracking
- ▶ Ambiguous grammars (may require non monotonic changes to the grammar and the metamodels)
- ▶ Interference between reference resolvers
- ▶ Different language semantics

Detected by EMFText

Avoided by extensive use of keywords

Alternative parsing technologies: Scannerless Parsing, Context-Aware Scanning, SDF/SGLR, MPS, Packrat Parsing, Parsing Expression Grammars

The EMFText Syntax Zoo (>90 residents)

- ▶ Ecore, KM3 (Kernel Meta Metamodel)
- ▶ Quick UML, UML Statemachines
- ▶ Java 5 (complete: JaMOPP), C# (in progress)

- ▶ Feature Models
- ▶ Regular Expressions
- ▶ OWL2 Manchester Syntax

- ▶ Java Behavior4UML
- ▶ DOT (Graphviz language)

...and lots of example DSLs

<http://emftext.org/zoo>

Conclusion

- Few concepts to learn before using EMFText
- Creating textual syntax for new languages is easy, for existing ones it is harder, but possible (we did Java)
- Rich tooling can be generated from a syntax definition
- Textual and graphical syntax can complement each other (e.g., to support version control)
- Semantics (Interpretation/Compilation) must be defined manually – At most it can be reused

*Language is the blood of the soul into which thoughts run
and out of which they grow.*

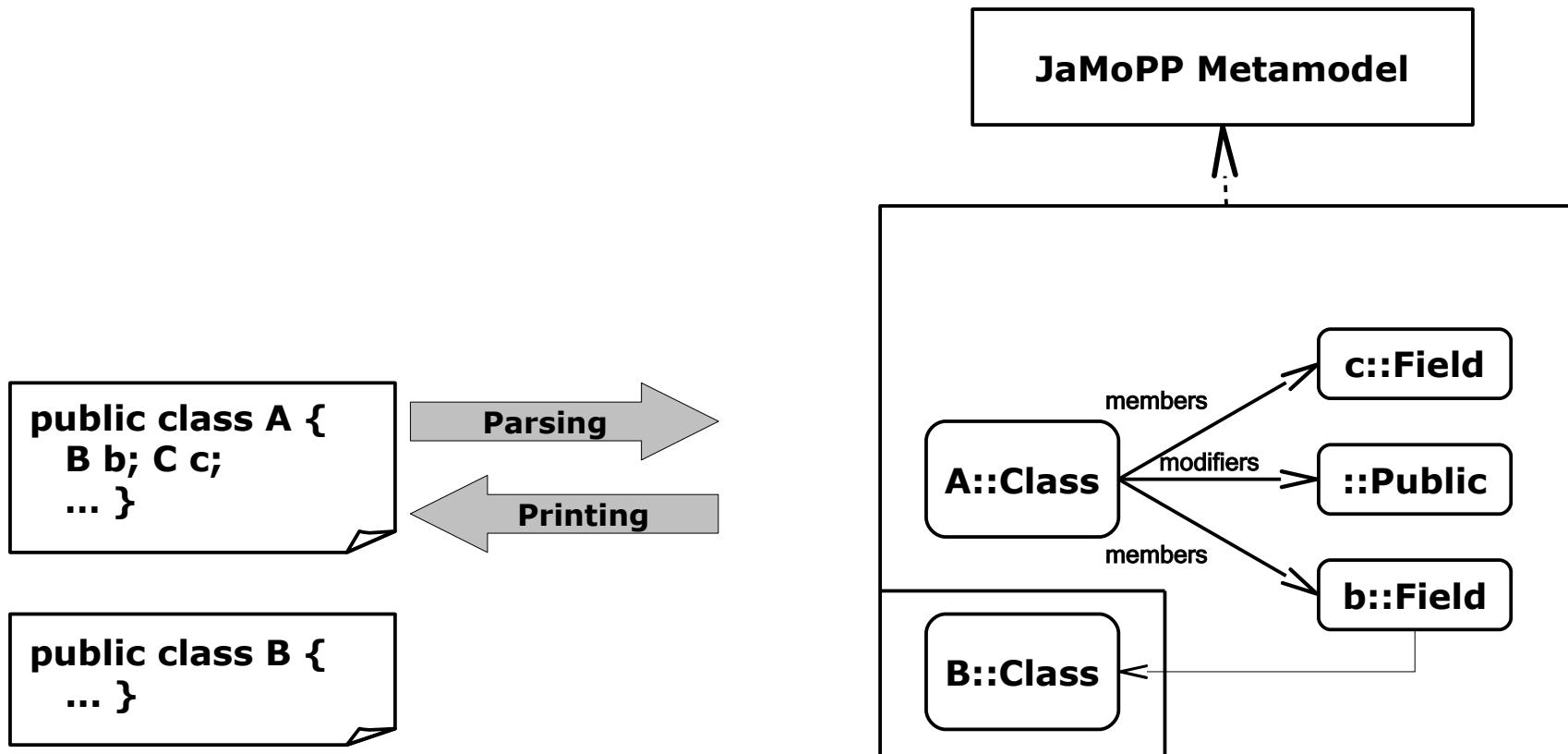
(Oliver Wendell Holmes)

11.4 Use EMFText for Embedded DSL

- ▶ Def.: An ***embedded DSL*** is a DSL extending a general-purpose language (GPL)

JaMoPP: Lifting Java to DSLs

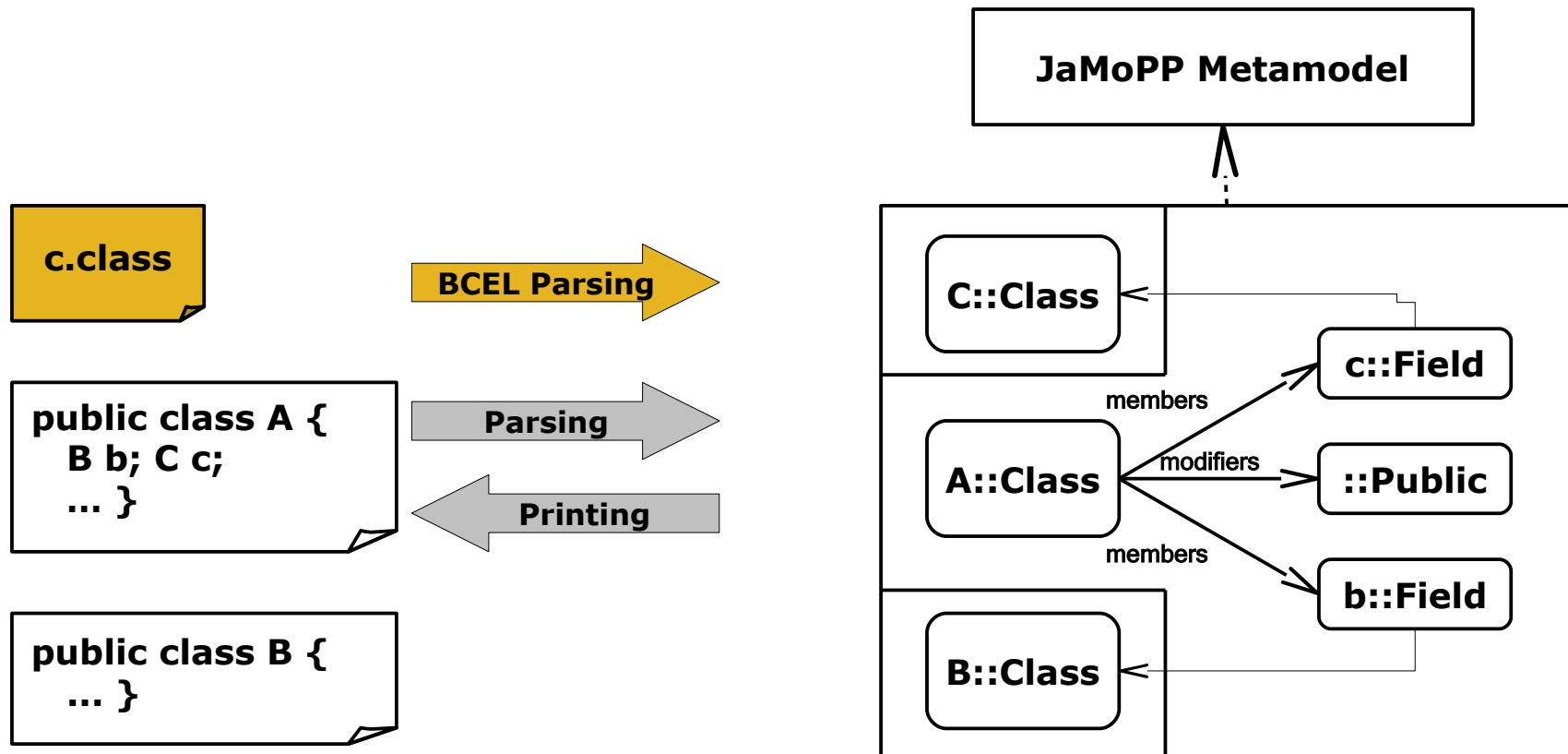
- ▶ Ingredients:
 - Ecore Metamodel for Java 5 (153 concrete, 80 abstract classes)
 - EMFText .cs definition for each concrete class



JaMoPP: Lifting Java to DSLs

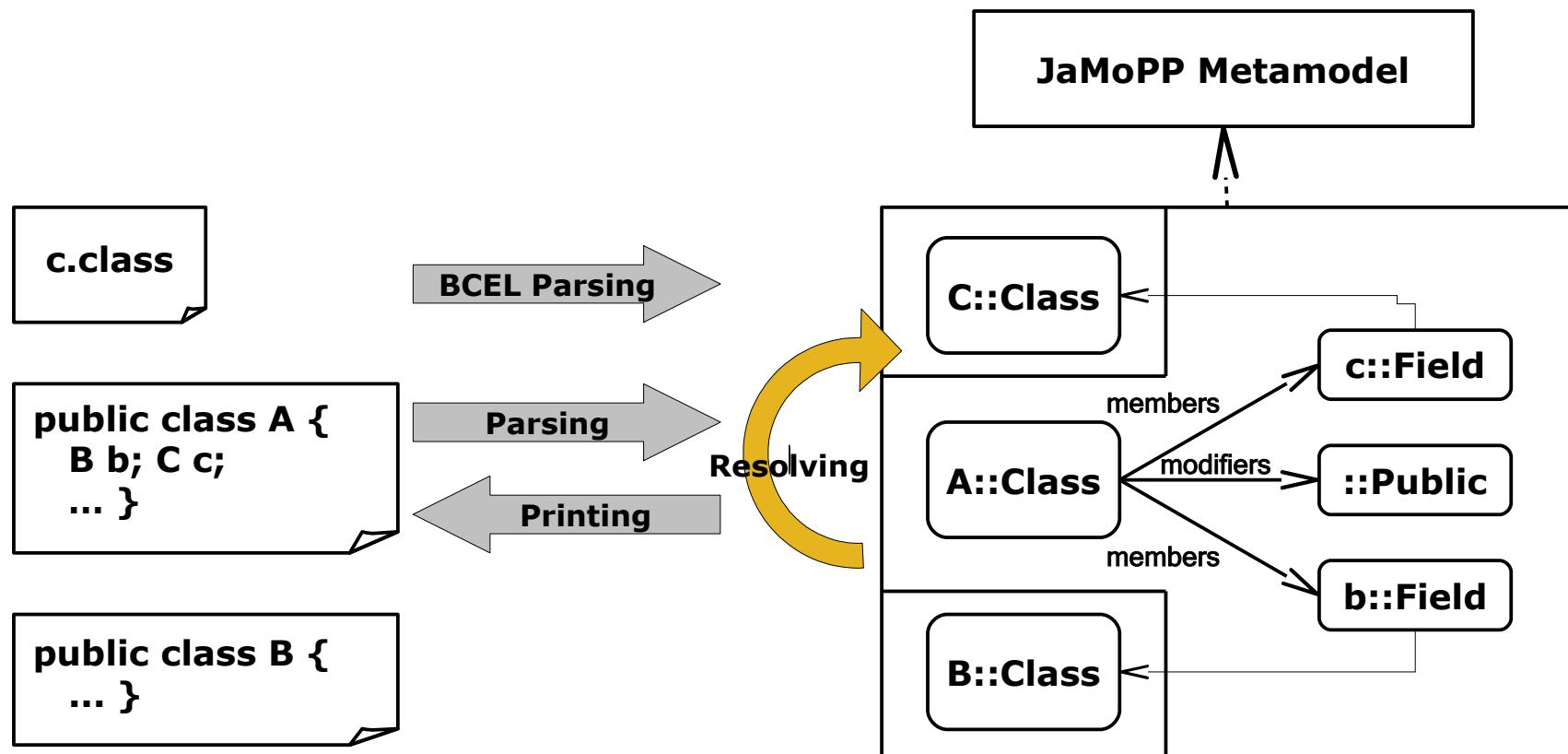
- ▶ Ingredients:

- Ecore Metamodel for Java 5 (153 concrete, 80 abstract classes)
- EMFText .cs definition for each concrete class
- BCEL Bytecode-Parser – to handle third-party libraries



JaMoPP: Lifting Java to DSLs

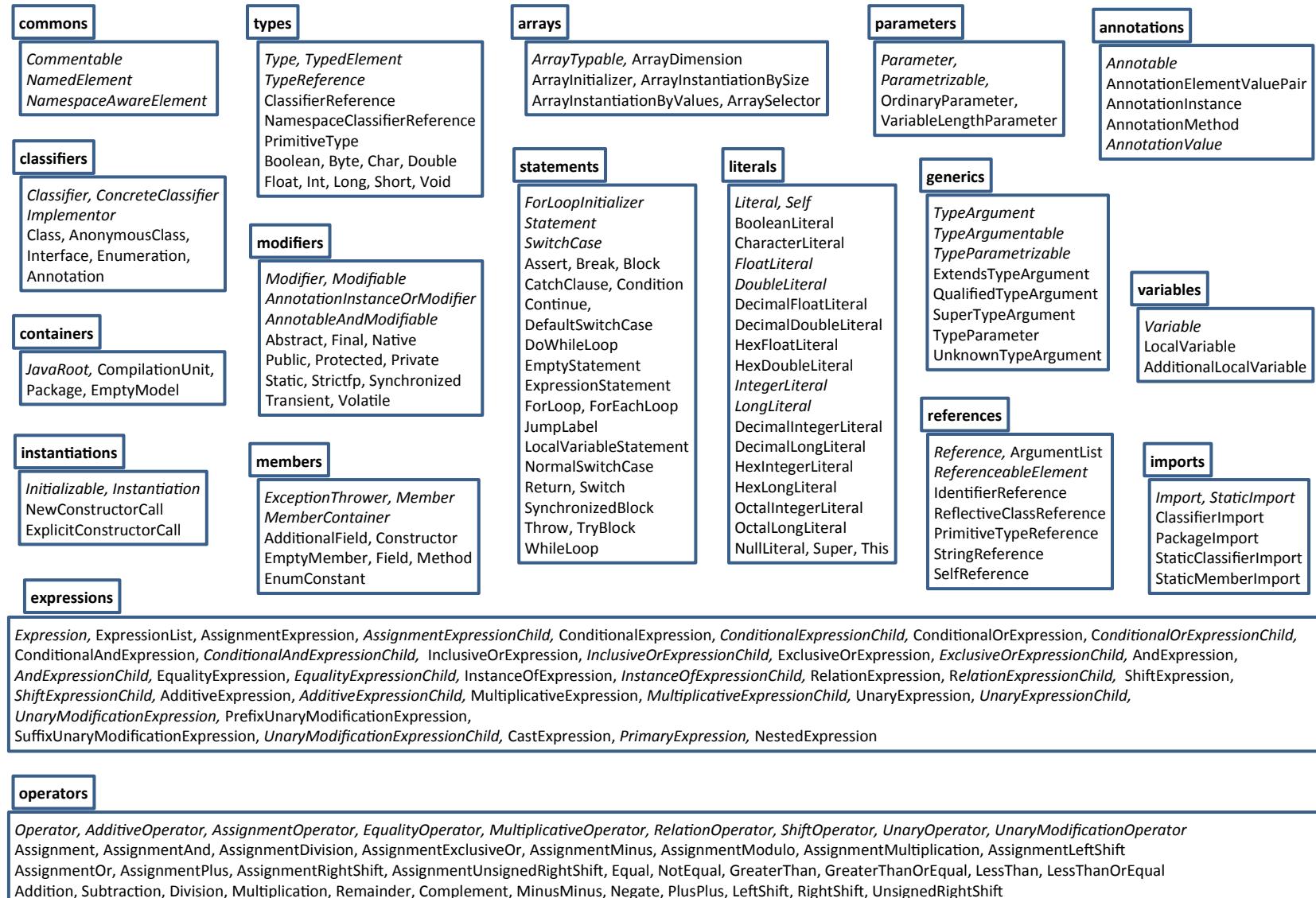
- Reference Resolvers that implement Java-specific static semantics (e.g., typing rules, scoping rules, referencing rules)



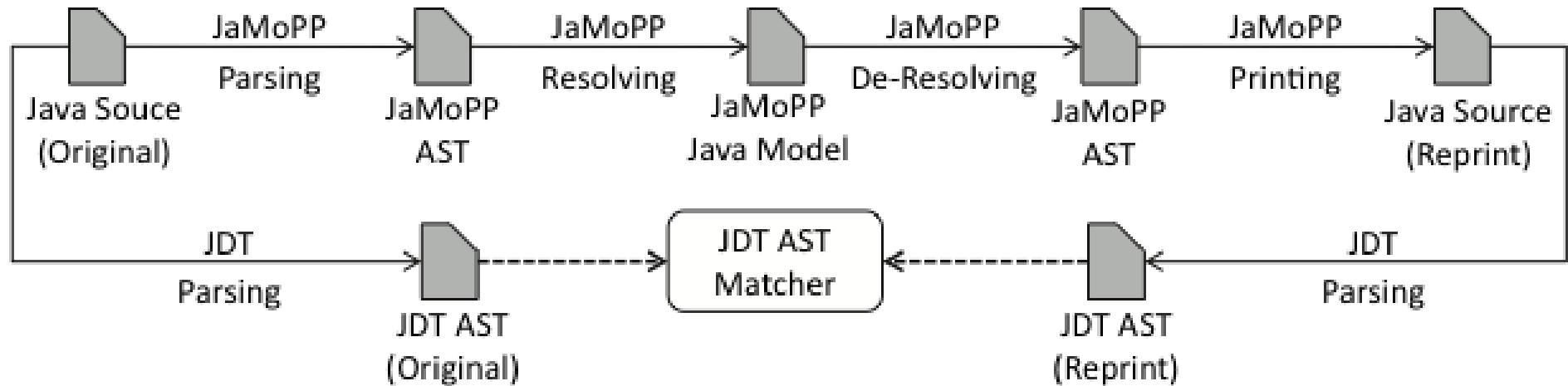
JaMoPP Metamodel

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Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)



JaMoPP Testing



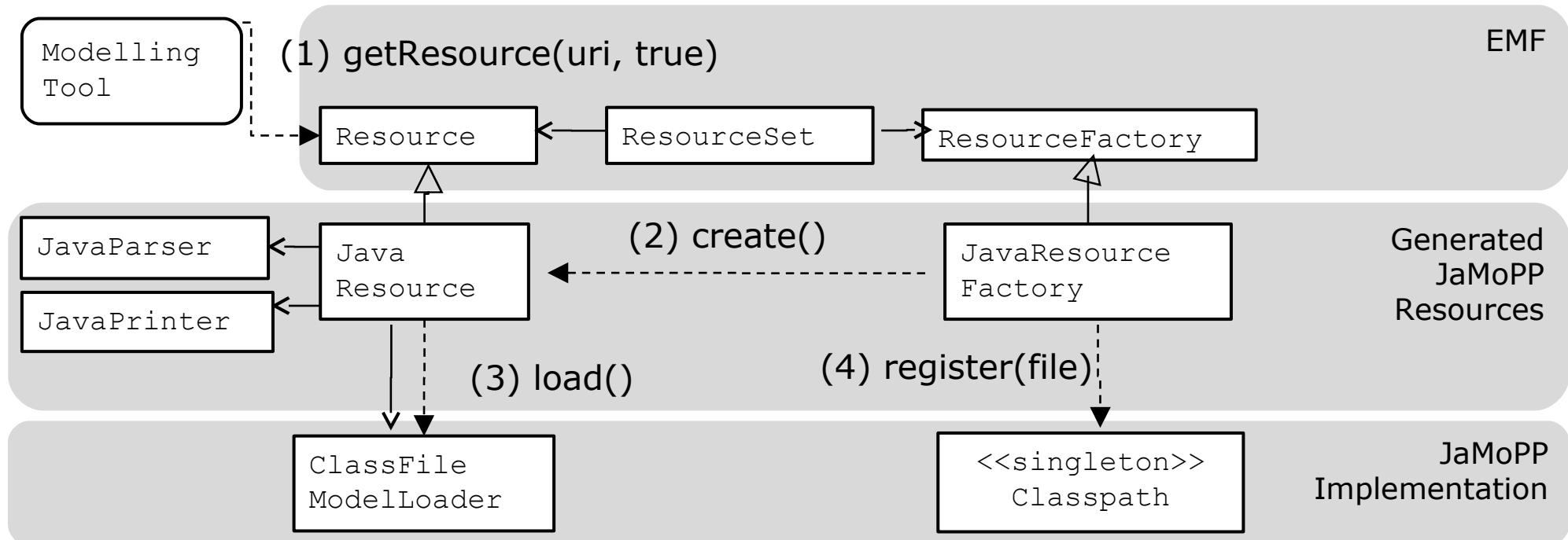
- ▶ Parsing public class A is easy, but parsing Java 5 is not (Unicode, Generics, Annotations and lots of weird things allowed by the JLS)
- ▶ JaMoPP Test suite:
 - 88.595 Java files (14.7 million non-empty lines including comments)
- ▶ Open Source projects:
 - AndroMDA 3.3, Apache Commons Math 1.2, Apache Struts 2.1.6, Apache Tomcat 6.0.18, Eclipse 3.4.1, Google Web Toolkit 1.11.3, JBoss 11.0.0 GA, Mantissa 7.2, Netbeans 6.5, Spring 3.0.0M1, Sun JDK 1.6.0 Update 7, XercesJ 2.9.1

JaMoPP Tool Integration

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Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)

- ▶ JaMoPP seamlessly and transparently integrates with arbitrary EMF-based Tools
- ▶ Parsing Java files to models and Printing Java Files is simple



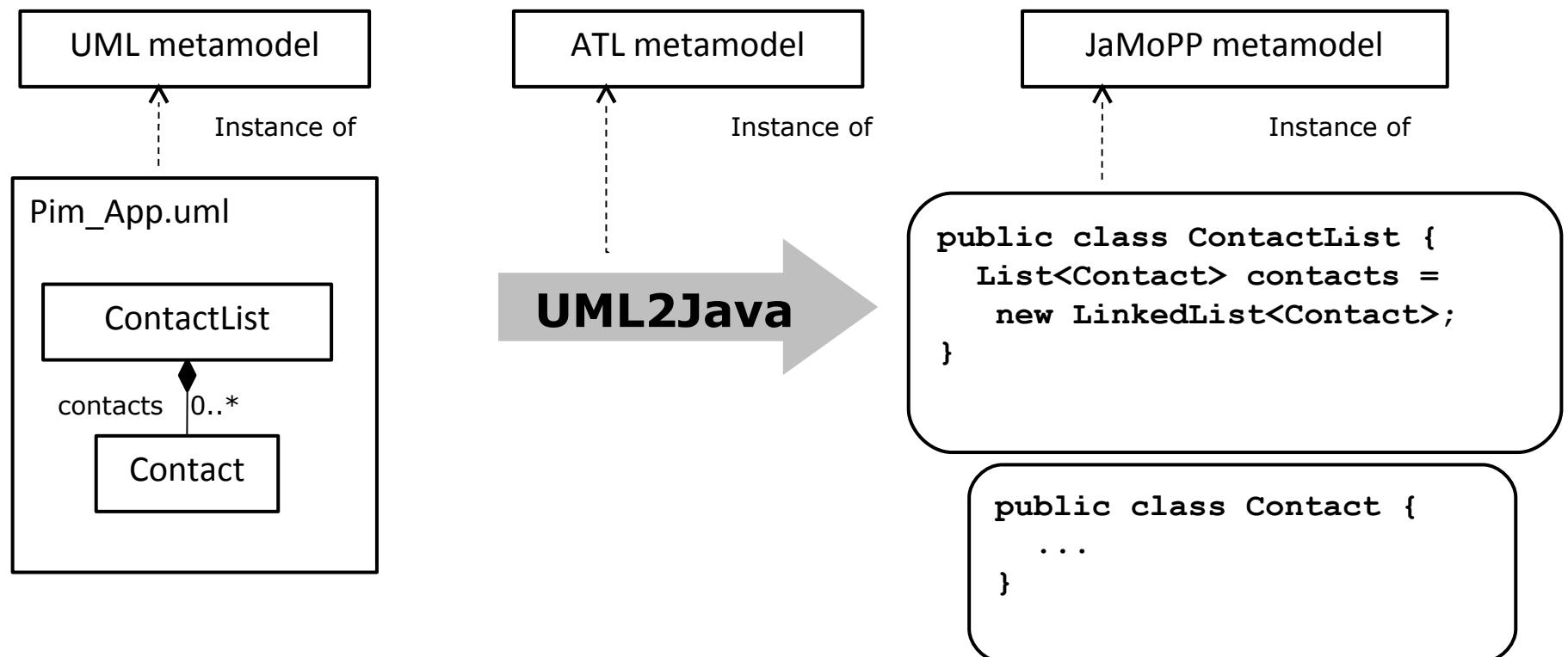
```
ResourceSet rs = new ResourceSetImpl();
Resource javaResource = rs.getResource(URI.createFileURI("A.java"),true); //parsing
javaResource.save(); // printing
```

JaMoPP Application: Code Generation with the Code-To-Text Transformation Tool ATL

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Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)

- Design UML model, apply M2M transformation, print JaMoPP model
- Syntactic and semantic correctness



JaMoPP Application: Code Generation with the Code-To-Text Transformation Tool ATL

- ▶ Design UML model, apply M2M transformation, print JaMoPP model

```
rule Property {
    from umlProperty : uml!Property
    to javaField : java!Field (
        name <- umlProperty.name,
        type <- typeReference
    ),
    typeReference : java!TypeReference (
        target <- if (umlProperty.upper = 1) then umlProperty.type
        else
            java!Package.allInstances() ->any(p | p.name = 'java.lang').compilationUnits->collect(
                cu | cu.classifiers)->flatten()->any(c | c.name = 'LinkedList')
        endif,
        typeArguments <- if (umlProperty.upper = 1) then
            Sequence{} -- empty type argument list
        else
            Sequence{typeArgument}
        endif
    ),
    typeArgument : java!QualifiedTypeArgument(
        target <- umlProperty.type
    )
}
```

JaMoPP Application: Code Analysis with the Query Language OCL

- ▶ Parse Java source files to model instances
 - ▶ Run OCL queries to find undesired patterns

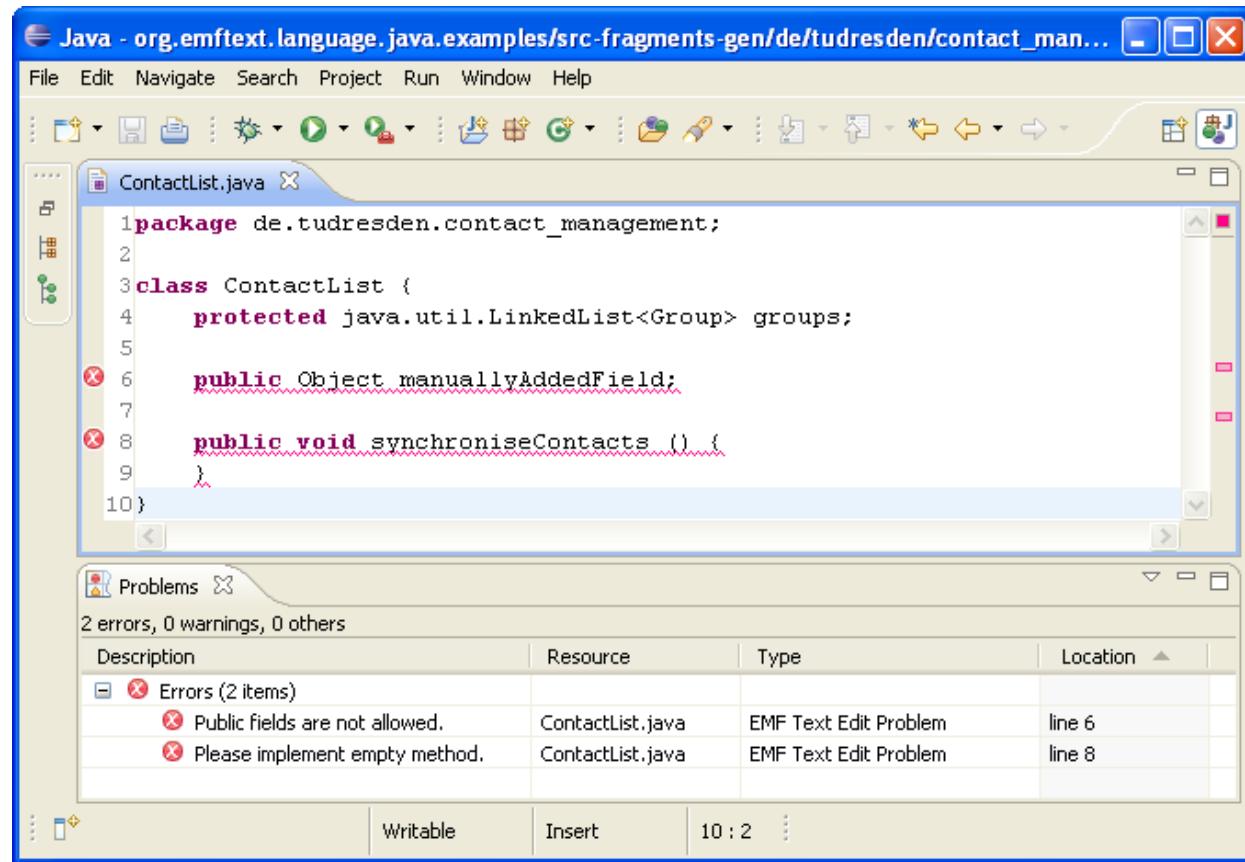
```
context members::Field inv:  
    self->modifiers->select(m|m.oclIsKindOf(modifiers::Public))->size() = 0
```

JaMoPP Application: Code Analysis (OCL)

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Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)

- ▶ Parse Java source files to model instances
- ▶ Run OCL queries to find undesired patterns



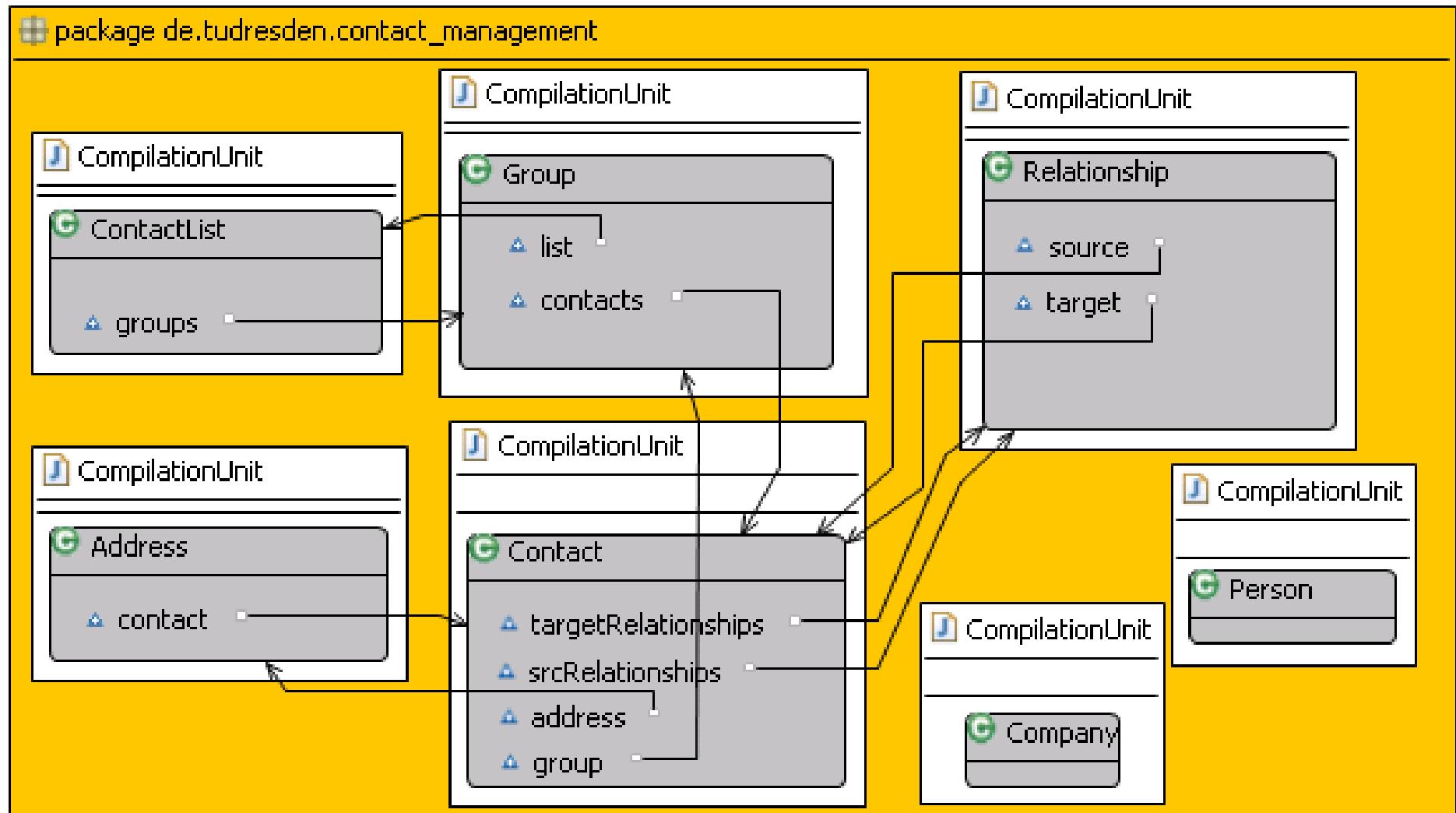
```
context members::Field inv:
    self->modifiers->select(m|m.oclIsKindOf(modifiers::Public))->size() = 0
```

JaMoPP Application: Code Visualization (via Eclipse GMF)

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Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)

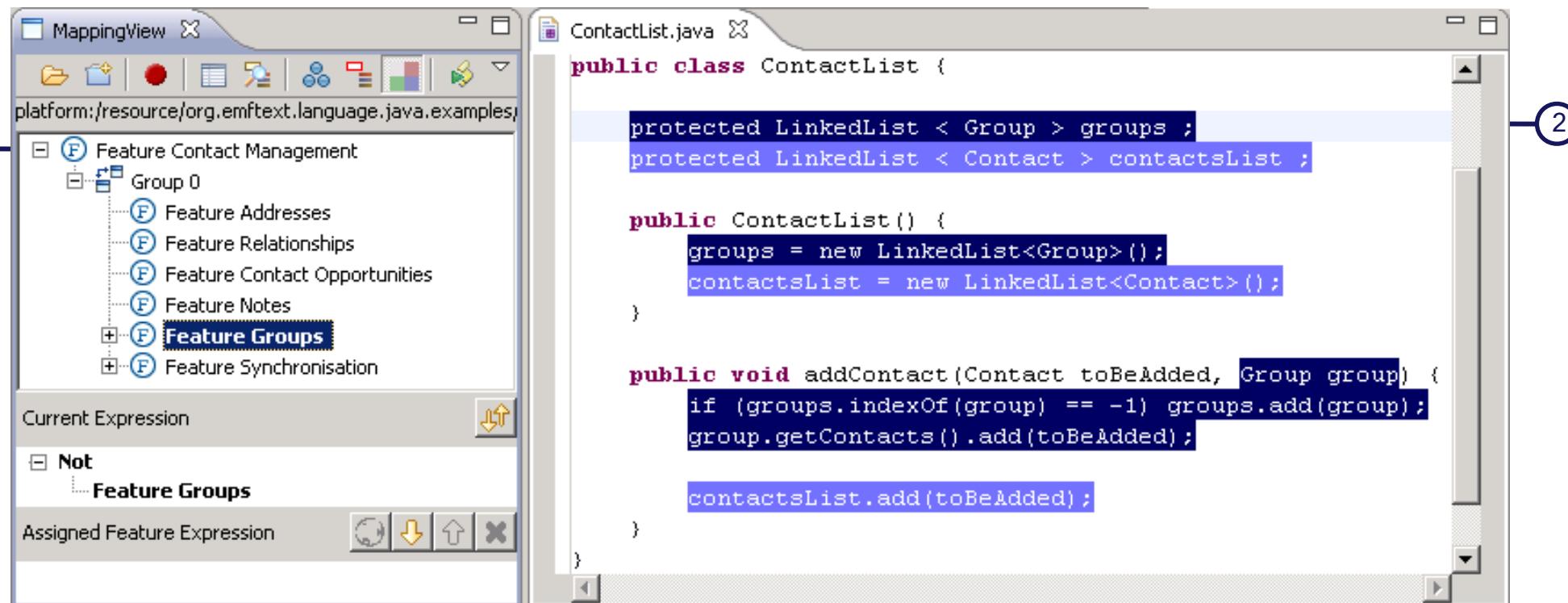
- ▶ Create .gmfgraph, gmftool, and gmfmap model
- ▶ Generate Graphical Editor for Java



JaMoPP Application: Software Product Line Engineering (FeatureMapper)

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Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)



1 – Feature Model

2 – EMFText Editor for Java (code for feature highlighted)

11.4. Integrating DSLs and GPLs (Embedded DSL)

- ▶ <http://www.jamopp.org/index.php/JaMoPP>

JaMoPP Applications: What else?

- ▶ Round-trip Support for template-based code generators
- ▶ Refactoring, Optimization using model transformations
- ▶ Traceability-related activities
 - Certification (Map code to the model elements)
 - Impact analysis (How much of the code will change if I do this?)
- ▶ Embedded DSL
- ▶ Model-based compilation to byte code

- ▶ ...

Using the DSL – Interpretation vs. Compilation

EMFText provides an extension point to perform interpretation (or compilation) whenever DSL documents change

To use the DSL we need to assign meaning by

- ▶ **Interpretation:** Traverse the DSL model and perform appropriate actions
- ▶ **Compilation:** Translate the DSL constructs to another (possibly executable) language
 - In principle compilation is an interpretation where the appropriate action is to emit code of the target language

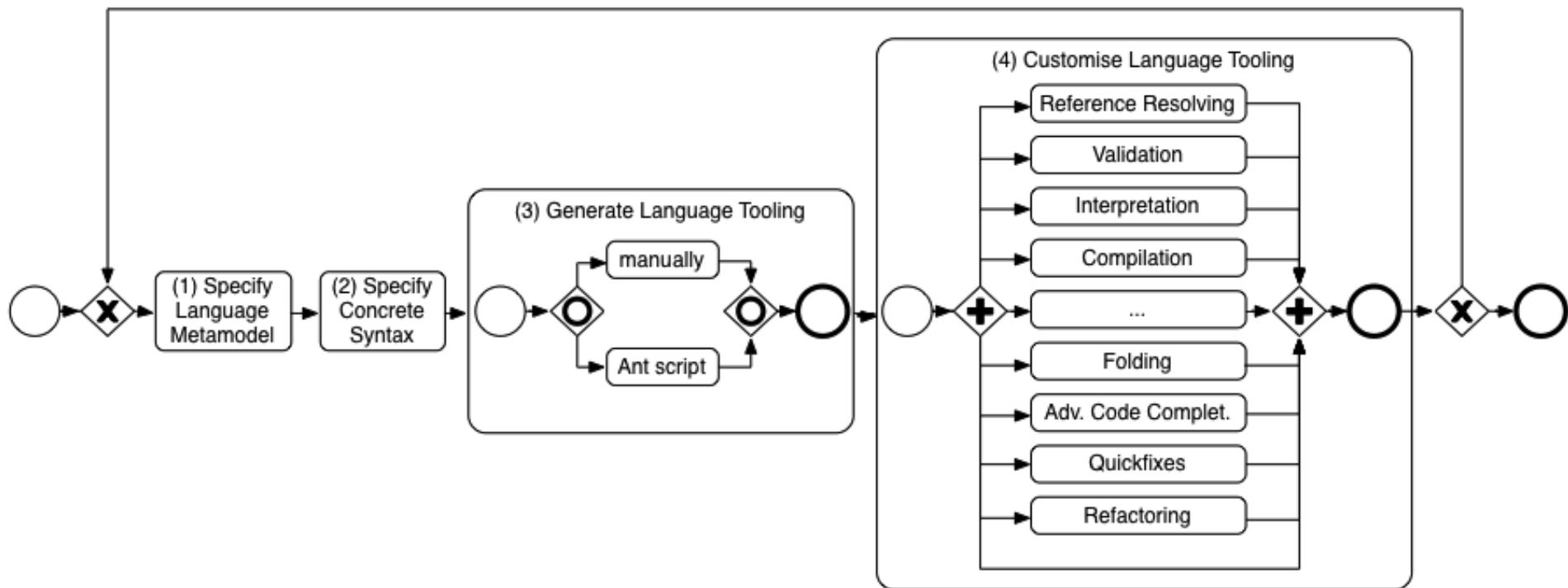
Challenges for DSL Development in MDSD

- ▶ Developers are required to use different tool machinery for DSLs and General Purpose Programming Languages (GPL)
- ▶ Explicit references between DSL and GPL code are not supported. Their relations are, thus, hard to track and may become inconsistent
- ▶ DSLs can not reuse (parts of) the expressiveness of GPLs
- ▶ Naive embeddings of DSL code (e.g., in Strings) do not provide means for syntactic and semantic checking
- ▶ Interpreted DSL code is hard to debug
- ▶ Generated GPL code is hard to read, debug and maintain

Using the DSL – Interpretation vs. Compilation

- ▶ Create an interpreter/compiler in Java
 - Initially easy, but hard to maintain
- ▶ Use a model transformation tool
 - ATL, Epsilon, Viatra...
- ▶ Use a template engine
 - DSL documents are the parameter (models)

Integrating DSLs and GPLs

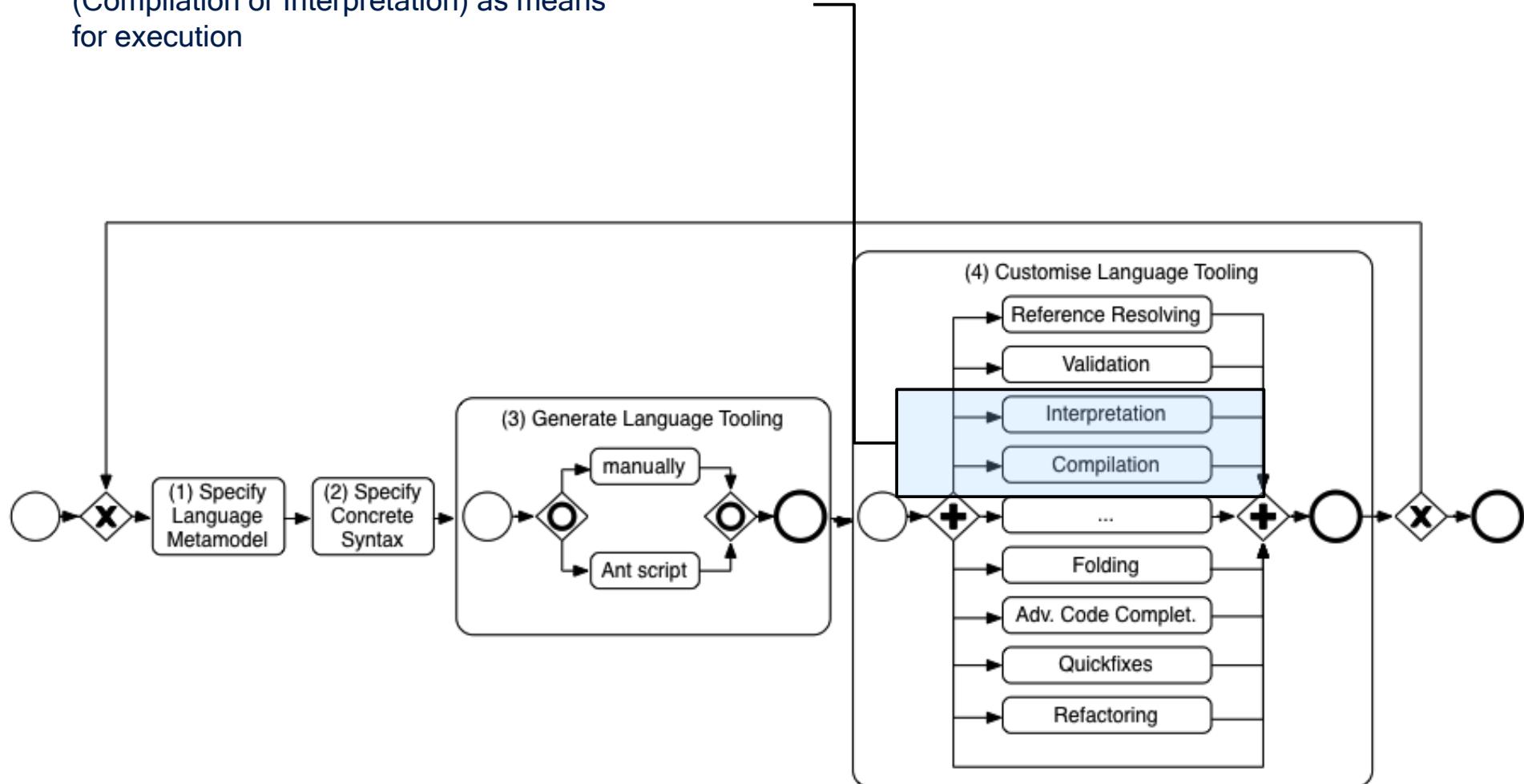


Integrating DSLs and GPLs

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Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)

- **Technical Gap:** Mapping DSLs to GPLs (Compilation or Interpretation) as means for execution



Embedded DSL “Embedded DieSeL”

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Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)

- ▶ An embedded domain-specific language (embedded DSL) is a language extension of a general-purpose language (GPL), the base language
- ▶ An embedded DSL can be *interpreted or reduced (compiled to the core language)*
- ▶ Typesafe Template Languages
 - Same syntax as string-based templates
 - http://emftext.org/index.php/EMFText_Concrete_Syntax_Zoo_Java_Templates

The screenshot shows an IDE interface with two main windows. The top window is titled "SandwichMaker.java_template" and contains Java code with embedded DSL template directives. The bottom window is titled "Problems" and lists three errors found in the code.

SandwichMaker.java_template

```
1 <%TEMPLATE INPUT=
2   "http://www.emftext.org/language/sandwich::Recipe" %>
3
4 public class SandwichMaker {
5   private class Instr {};
6   public Instr <%= "instructions" %> = new Instr();
7
8   private boolean cleanIngredients();
9   private void addSingleIngredient();
10
11  public void addIngredients() {
12    <%FOR "engredients" %> // typo 'ingredients'
13      addSingleIngredient();
14    <%ENDFOR%>
15  }
16
17  public void makeSandwich() {
18    <%IF "instructions->exists(i|i.oclIsKindOf(Clean))" %>
19      boolean success = cleanIngredients();
20    <%ENDIF%>
21
22    if (!success) return; // May not be available
23    addIngredients();
24  }
25}
```

Problems

3 errors, 0 warnings, 0 others

Description	Loc...
Errors (3 items)	
The expression in the placeholder has wrong type (was org.eclipse.ocl.ecore.impl.Order	line 6
The expression "engredients" is invalid (Unrecognized variable: (engredients)).	line 12
ReferenceableElement 'success' not declared	line 22

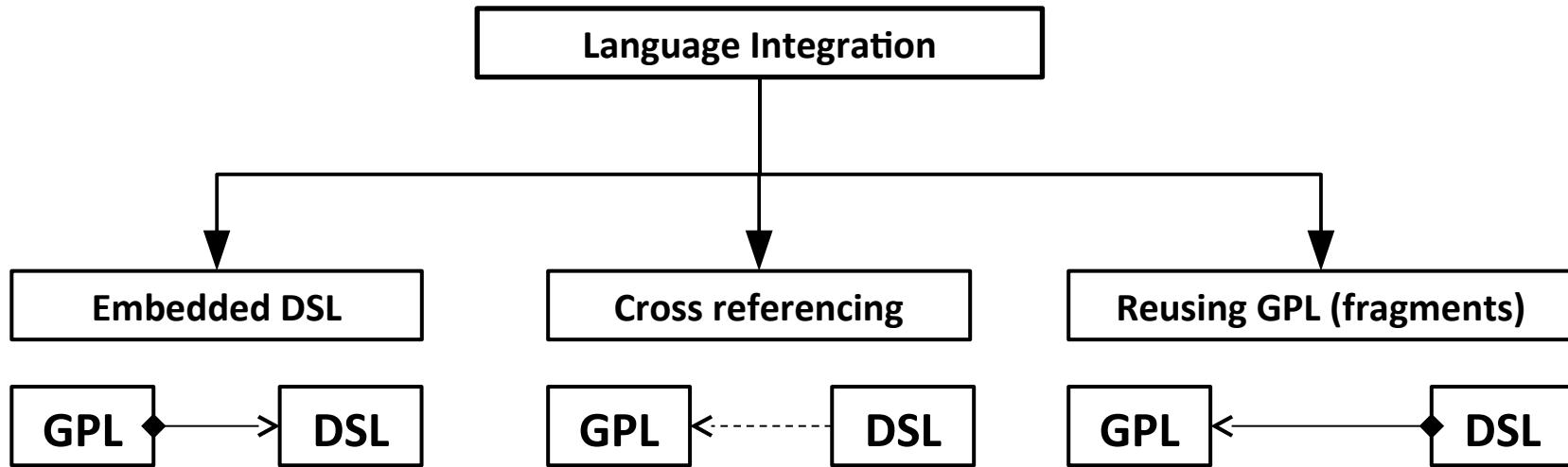
Extended Code Generation for a Embedded DSL

- ▶ An **Reducer** for an **embedded DSL** is a set of additional code generation rules
 - extending the rule set of the code generation of the base language
- ▶ Reducers should be composed modularly with the modules of the base language

11.4.2 Language Integration by Metamodel and Grammar Inheritance

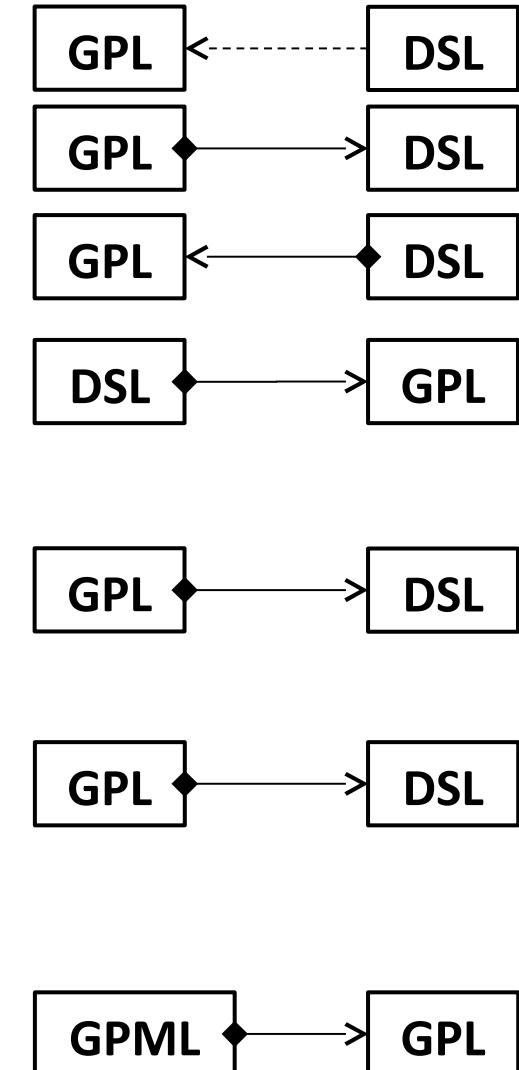
Integrating DSLs and GPLs

- ▶ Different integration scenarios



Language Integration Examples

- ▶ FormsExtension
- ▶ FormsEmbedded
- ▶ JavaForms
- ▶ eJava
 - Provides metamodels with Eoperations
 - implementations without touching the generated java files
- ▶ JavaTemplate
 - Syntax safe templates with JaMoPP
- ▶ PropertiesJava
 - Experimental extension for Java to define C# like properties
- ▶ JavaBehaviour4UML
 - An integration of JaMoPP and the UML
 - Methods can be directly added to Classes in class diagrams



Thank you!

Questions?

<http://www.emftext.org>

emftext