

Fakultät Informatik - Institut Software- und Multimediatechnik - Softwaretechnologie

41. Role-Based (Meta-)Modeling

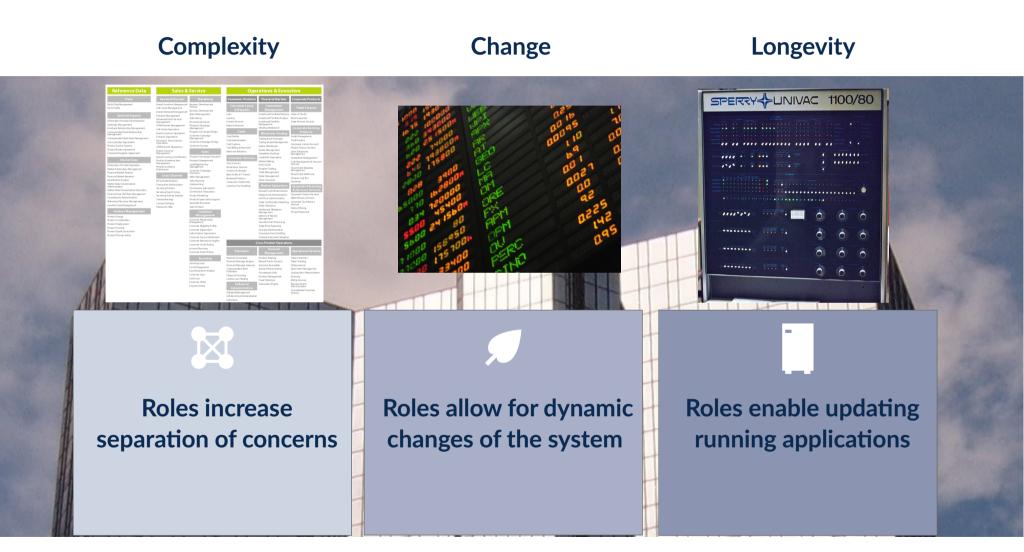
in the Research Training School on Role-oriented Software Infrastructures (RoSI)

- 1. A Primer on Roles
- 2. Role-based Modeling and Programming Languages
- 3. The Compartment Role Object Model (CROM)



Challenges of Software Systems

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



19 https://bian.org/assets/bian-standards/bian-service-landscape-3-0/

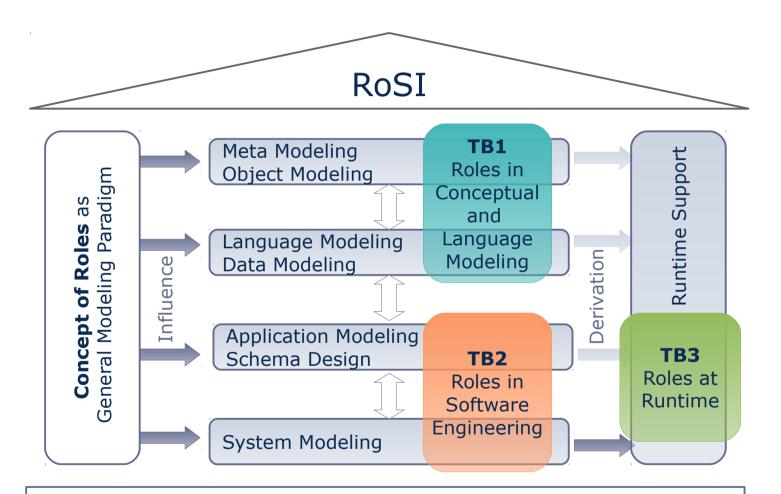
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Katrina Tuliao (CC-SA 2.5) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Frankfurt_Deutsche_Bank.jpg

The RoSI Research Training Group

Software Development for continuous-context-sensitive Systems

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



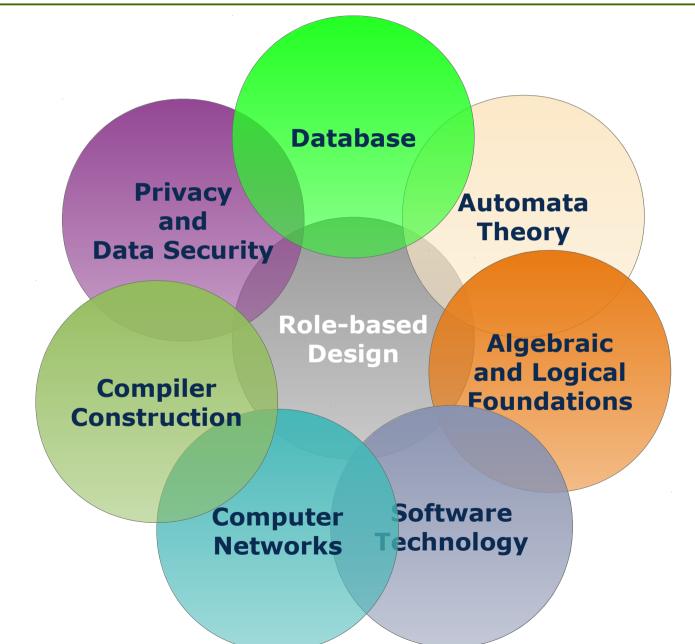
Foundation

Data Modeling, Logics, Programming Systems, Software Engineering



The RoSI Research Training Group Research Areas

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





41.1. A Primer on Roles

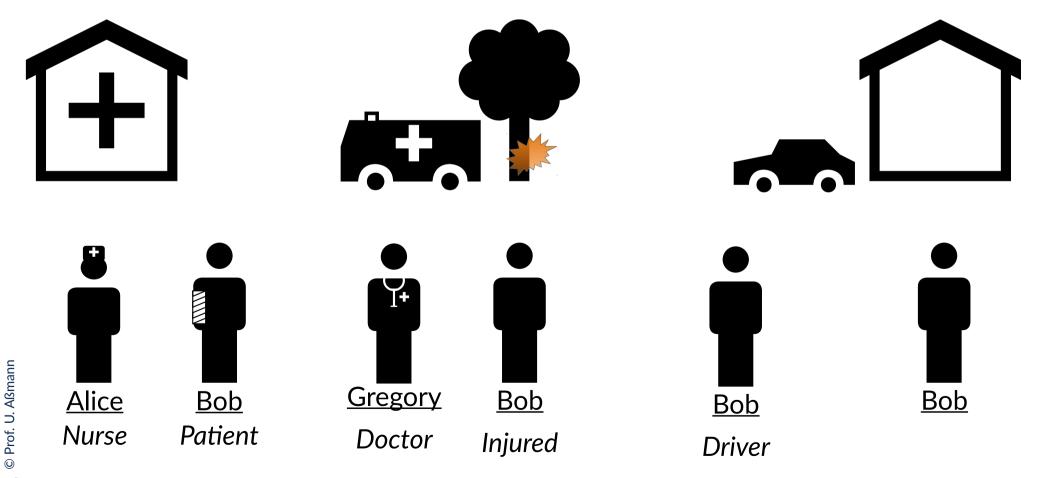
Prof. Dr. Uwe Aßmann Dr.-Ing. Thomas Kühn Technische Universität Dresden Institut für Software- und Multimediatechnik http://st.inf.tu-dresden.de /teaching/most Version 16-1.0, 18.12.17



A Primer on Roles Basic Roles

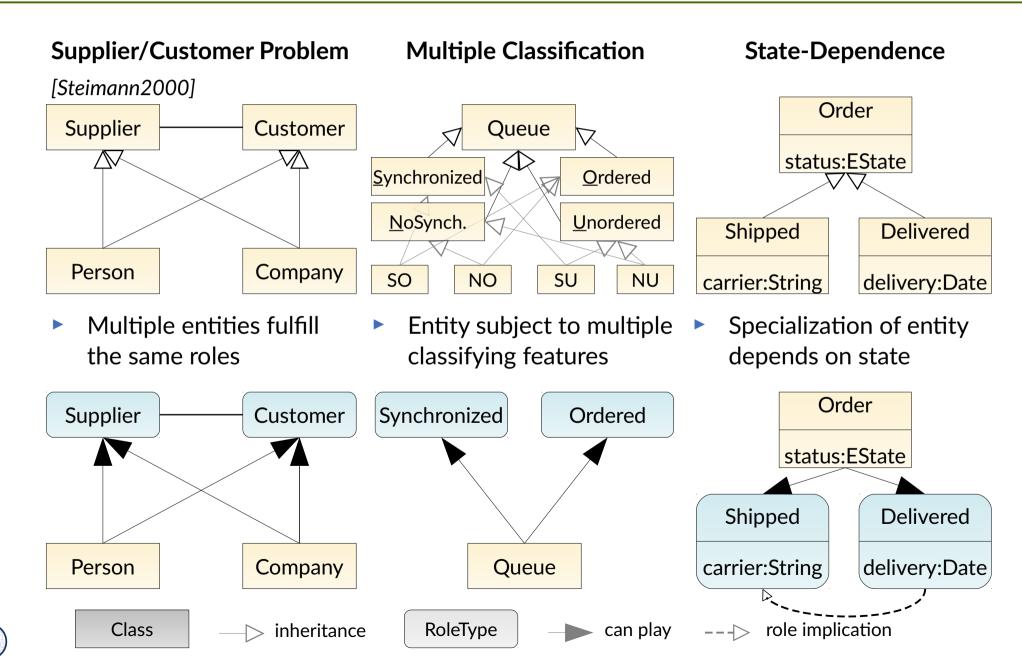
6 Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)

Entities play multiple Roles during their lifetime Examples: Driver, Doctor, Patient, Student, ...



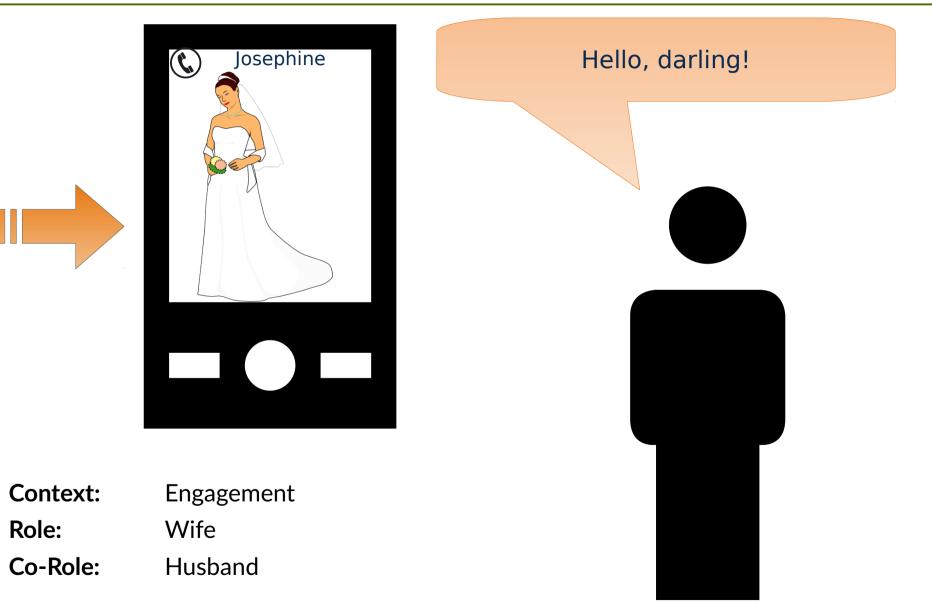
A Primer on Roles Limitations of Object-Oriented Design

Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)



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





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

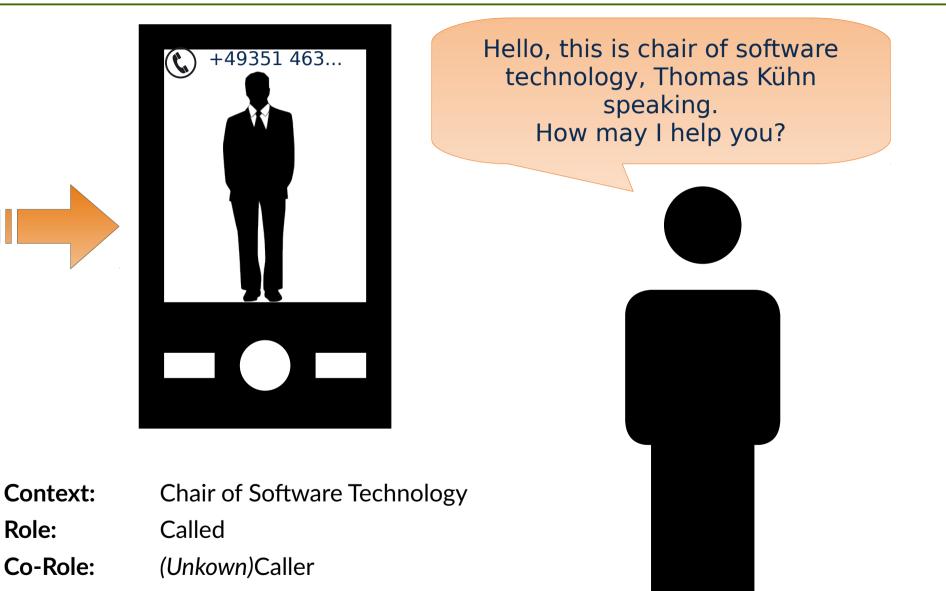


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Role:



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



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



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A Primer on Roles Summary

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

- Role activation depends on context of both Caller and Called
- Roles can denote places in a relationship
- Each role is **bound** to context (instance)
- Contexts are hierarchically decomposable
 - May contain contexts, but
 - May overlap
- In the literature a context can be:
 - Relationship,
 - Process,
 - Social Individual,
 - Social Institution or
 - Ontology



41.2. Roles in Modeling and Programming Languages

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Roles in Modeling and Programming Languages History

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

"All the world's a **stage**, and all the men and women merely **players**: they have their **exits** and their **entrances**; and one man in his time **plays many parts**, his acts being seven ages." – William Shakespeare

The Role Concept

- Relatively old, e.g. Bachman and Daya [Bachmann1977]
- Since then many different approaches emerged [Kühn2017]
- No common understanding (or formalism) for roles

Each approach can be classified along design decisions



Roles in Modeling and Programming Languages Initial Classifying Features of Roles

18	Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)		
	Feature	Metalevel	
Sehavioral	(1) Roles have properties and behaviors	(M1,M0)	
	(2) Roles depend on relationships	(M1,M0)	
	(3) An object may play different roles simultaneously	(M1,M0)	
	(4) An object may play the same role (type) several times	(MO)	
	(5) An object may acquire and abandon roles dynamically	(MO)	
	(6) Sequence of role acquisition and removal may be restricted	(M1,M0)	
	(7) Unrelated objects can play the same role	(M1)	
	(8) Roles can play roles	(M1,M0)	
	(9) Roles can be transferred between objects	(MO)	
Relational	(10)The state of an object can be role-specific	(MO)	
	(11)Features of an object can be role-specific	(M1)	
	(12)Roles restrict access	(MO)	
	(13)Different roles may share structure and behavior	(M1)	
	(14)An object and its roles share identity	(MO)	
	(15)An object and its roles have different identities	(MO)	
)	– Friedrich Steimann [Steimann2000]		

Roles in Modeling and Programming Languages Additional Classifying Features of Roles

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

Feature	Metalevel
(16)Relationships between Roles can be constrained	(M1)
(17)There may be constraints between relationship	(M1)
(18)Roles can be grouped and constrained together	(M1)
(19)Roles depend on contexts	(M1,M0)
(20)Contexts have properties and behaviors	(M1,M0)
(21)A role can be part of several contexts	(M1,M0)
(22)Contexts may play roles like objects	(M1,M0)
(23)Contexts may play roles which are part of themselves	(M1,M0)
(24)Contexts can contain other contexts	(M1,M0)
(25)Different contexts may share structure and behavior	(M1)
(26)Contexts have their own identity	(M0)
(27)The number of roles occurring in a context can be constrain	ned (M1)
-	- Kühn et al. [Kühn2000]

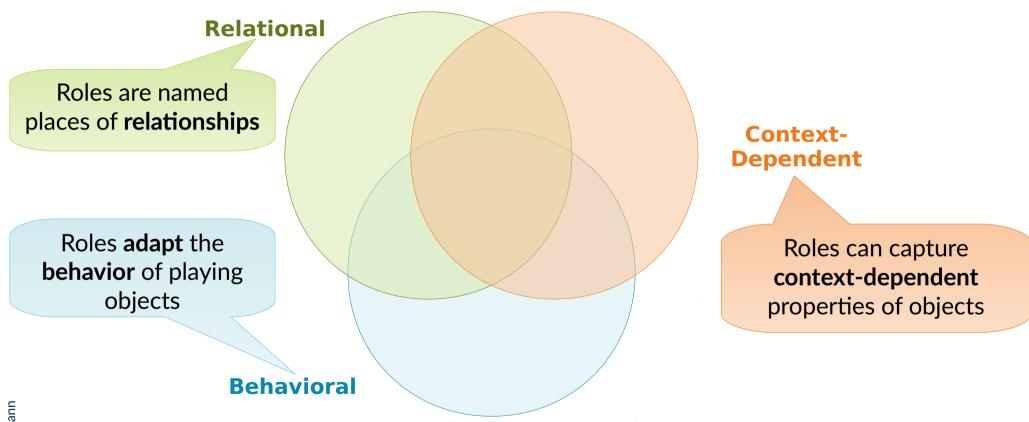


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Roles in Modeling and Programming Languages Natures of Roles



Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)

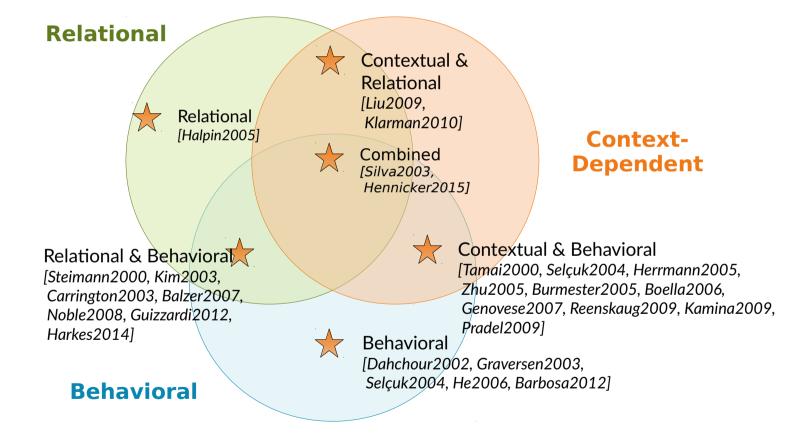




Roles in Modeling and Programming Languages Literature Survey [Kühn2014,Kühn2017]

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

- Structured Literature Review of publications since 2000
- Published by the big four (i.e., Springer, IEEE, ACM, Science Direct)



Research Field suffers from *fragmentation* and *discontinuity*



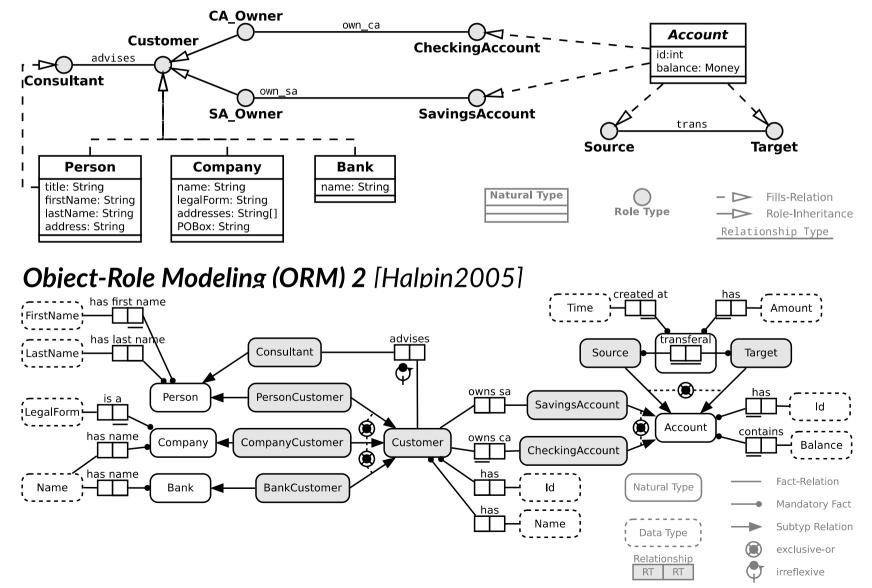
Roles in Modeling and Programming Languages Selected Relational Modeling Languages

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

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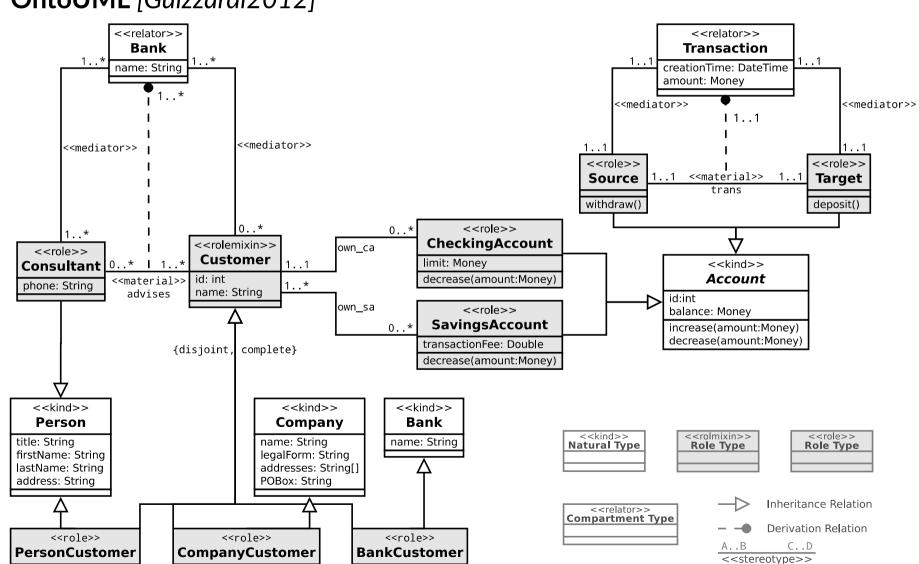
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LODWICK's UML Notation [Steimann2000]



Roles in Modeling and Programming Languages Selected Relational and Behavioral Modeling Languages

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



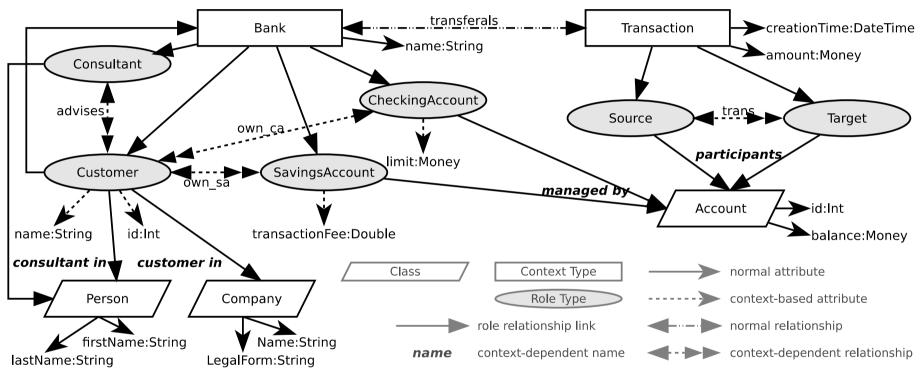
OntoUML [Guizzardi2012]



Roles in Modeling and Programming Languages Selected Contextual and Relational Modeling Languages

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

Information Network Model (INM) [Liu2009]

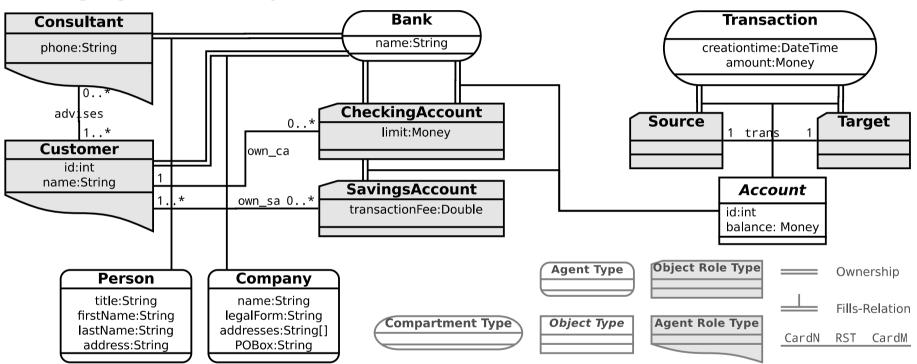




Roles in Modeling and Programming Languages Selected Combined Modeling Languages

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

Taming Agents and Objects (TAO) [Silva2003]



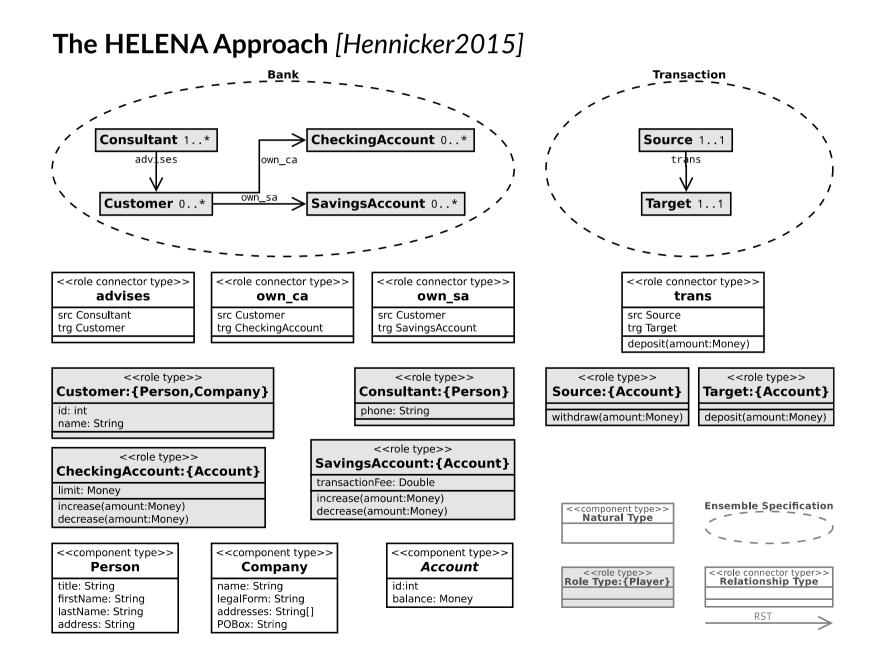


Roles in Modeling and Programming Languages Selected Combined Modeling Languages

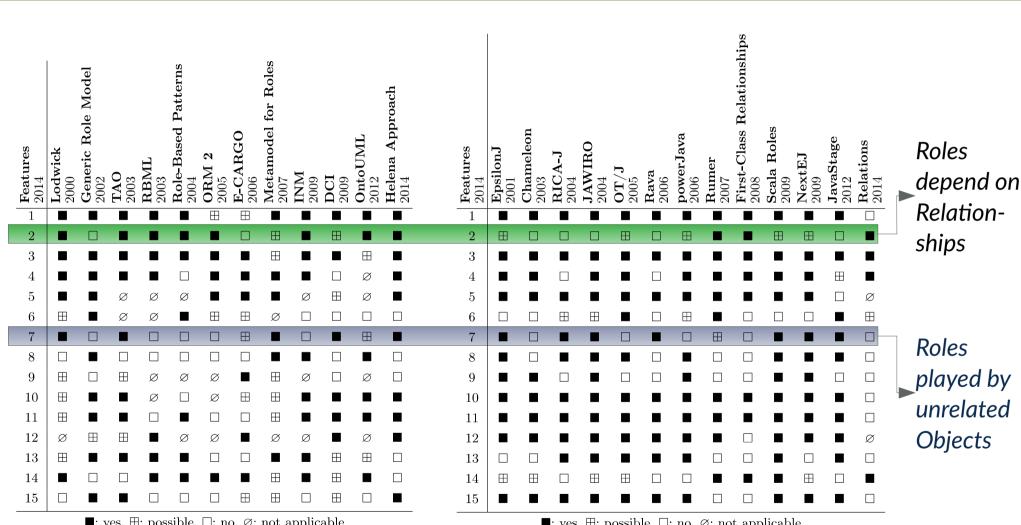
26 Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)

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Roles in Modeling and Programming Languages Comparison (1)



 \blacksquare : yes, \boxplus : possible, \Box : no, \emptyset : not applicable **Role-Based Modeling Languages**

Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)

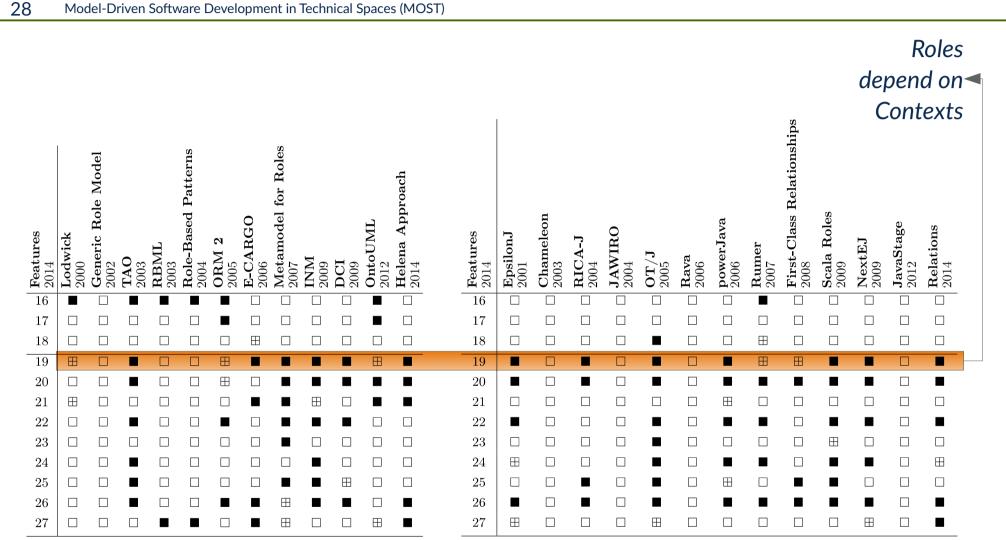
 \blacksquare : yes, \boxplus : possible, \Box : no, \emptyset : not applicable

Role-Based Programming Languages

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Roles in Modeling and Programming Languages Comparison (2)



 \blacksquare : yes, \boxplus : possible, \Box : no, \emptyset : not applicable **Role-Based Modeling Languages**

Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)

 \blacksquare : yes, \boxplus : possible, \Box : no, \emptyset : not applicable

Role-Based Programming Languages

Roles in Modeling and Programming Languages Summary

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

- Discontinuity and fragmentation of research field
- Insufficient formal foundation for role-based languages
- No language supports all features of roles and modeling constraints
- Only few languages provide tool support, most rely on UML stereotypes
- No family of role-based language for all language variants



41.3. The Compartment Role Object Model (CROM)

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The Compartment Role Object Model (CROM) Design Goals

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

Design a role-based modeling language for RoSI

- Incorporate all natures of roles and model constraints
- Develop a graphical role-based modeling language
- Provide a formal foundation for the modeling language
- Offer readily applicable tools for modeling and code generation
- Support both formal and automatic verification of role models



The Compartment Role Object Model (CROM) **Graphical Notation**

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Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)

Natural Types

Entities

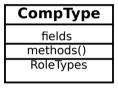
fields

methods()

Data Types



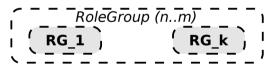
Compartment Types



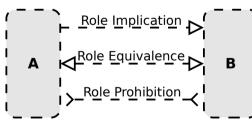


Local Role Constraints

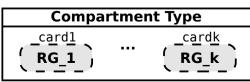
Role Groups



Role Constraints

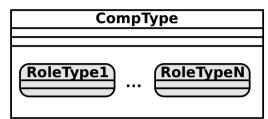


Occurence Constraints



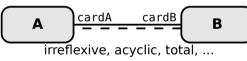
Relations

Participation (participates-Relation)

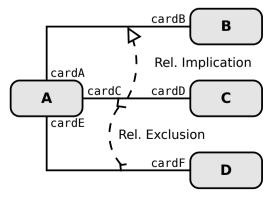


Relationship Constraints

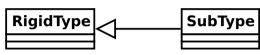
Intra-Relationship Constraints



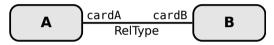
Inter-Relationship Constraints



Rigid Type Inheritance



Binary Relationship



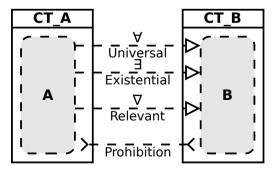
Fulfilment (fills-Relation)

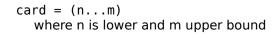


Global Role Constraints



Global Implications / Prohibition





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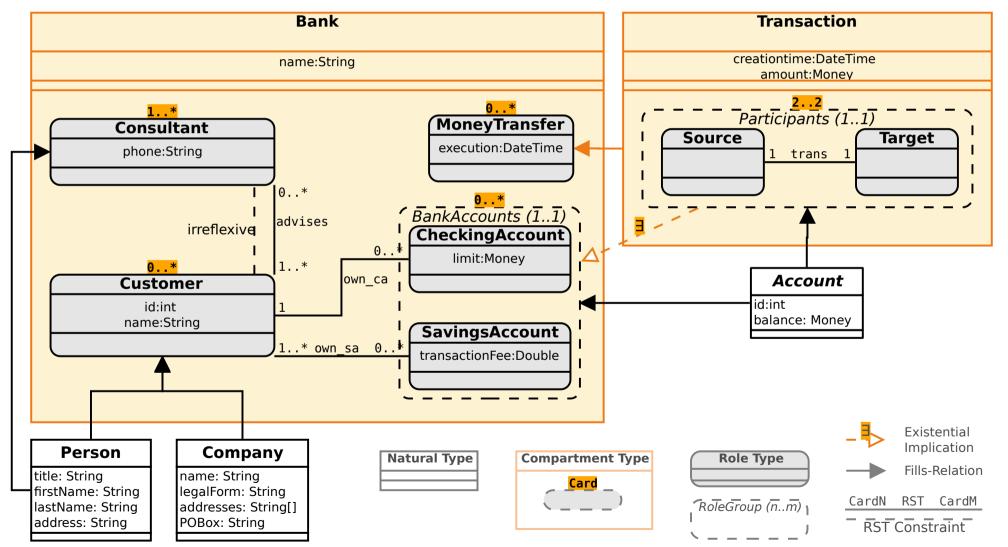


The Compartment Role Object Model (CROM) Graphical Notation

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Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)

Example: Banking Application





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The Compartment Role Object Model (CROM) Graphical Notation

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

Context

- Prescriptive (Bottom Up)
- Have (so far) no identity
- Have no intrinsic behavior
- Indefinite lifetime
- Can not play roles
- Has no existential part

Compartments

- Descriptive (Top Down)
- Instances carry identity (Feature 26)
- Have behavior and state (*Feature 19*)
- Have a defined lifetime
- Can play roles
- Has roles as parts (Feature 20)

Compartment Types

- Denote an objectified collaboration between participants
- Declare a class of compartments (instances) with
 - Properties, behavior, role types, and relationships
- Represent processes, teams, institutions, or "context" [Kühn2014]



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

Ontological Foundation

Distinction of concepts by meta-properties:

- **Rigidity** [Steimann2000, Guizzardi2005]
 - Type is *rigid*, if its instances have this type until they die
- Foundedness (Dependence) [Steimann2000, Guizzardi2005]
 - Type is *founded*, if its instances depend on existence of other instances
- Identity [Guizzardi2005]
 - Whether identity of an instance is *unique*, *derived* or *composed* from others

Concept	Rigid	Founded	Identity	Example
Natural Types	yes	no	unique	Person, Company
Data Types	yes	no	derived	Money
Role Types	no¹	yes	derived	Consultant, Customer
Compartment Types	yes	yes	unique	Bank, Transaction
Relationship Types	yes	yes	composite	advises, owns

¹) Actual classified as **anti-rigid** by Guizzardi et.al. [Guizzardi2005]



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

Ontological Foundation

Questions to classify domain concepts:

- Rigidity
- Belong instances of the concept to this type throughout their lifetime?
- Foundedness (Dependence)
 - Depend instances of the concept on existence of another instance?
- Identity
- Carry instances of the concept a unique, derived or composite identity criterion?

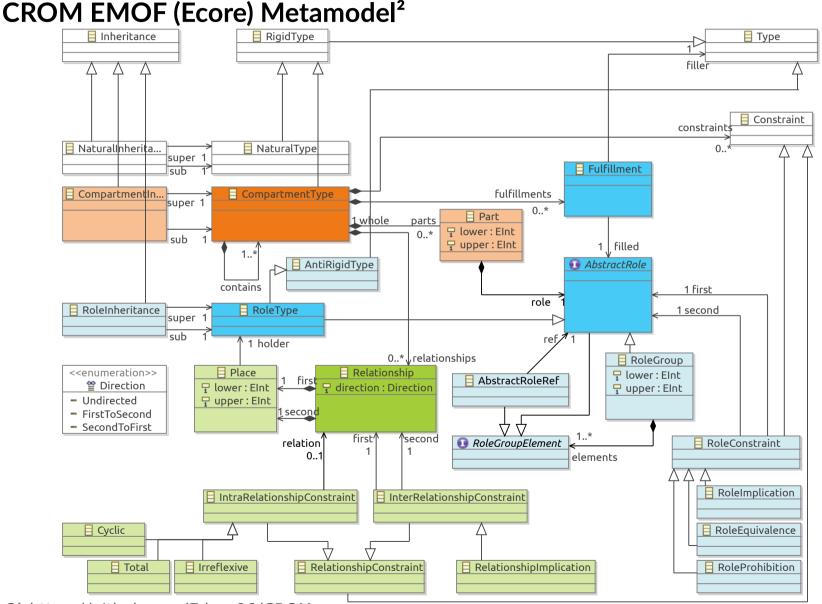
Answers are still domain-dependent





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Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)



2) https://github.com/Eden-06/CROM

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

Formal Model

Definition (Compartment Role Object Model)

 $\mathcal{M} = (NT, RT, CT, RST, \text{fills, parts, rel})$ is a Compartment Role Object Model (CROM) with:

- NT, RT, CT, and RST are mutual disjoint sets
- fills $\subseteq T \times CT \times RT$ is a relation (with $T \coloneqq NT \cup CT$) and
- rel : $RST \times CT \rightarrow (RT \times RT)$ is a partial function.

Definition (Compartment Role Object Instance)

i = (N, R, C, type, plays, links) is a Compartment Role Object Instance (CROI) of a well-formed CROM M with:

- N, R, and C are mutual disjoint sets
- type : $(N \to NT) \cup (R \to RT) \cup (C \to CT)$ is a labeling function,
- plays $\subseteq O \times C \times R$ a relation (with $O \coloneqq N \cup C$), and
- links : $RST \times C \rightarrow 2^{R \times R}$ is a total function.



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

Constraint Model

Definition (Constraint Model)

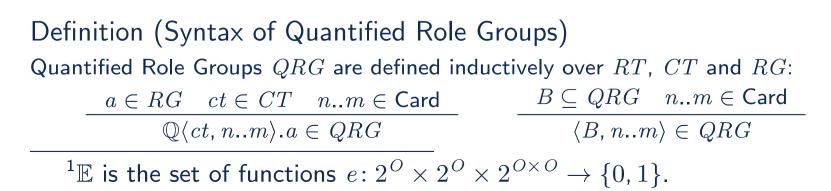
 $\mathcal{C} = (\text{rolec}, \text{card}, \text{intra}, \text{inter}, \text{grolec})$ is a Constraint Model over \mathcal{M} with:¹

- rolec: $CT \rightarrow 2^{\mathsf{Card} \times RG}$, and
- card: $RST \times CT \rightarrow (Card \times Card)$ are partial functions, as well as
- intra $\subseteq RST \times CT \times \mathbb{E}$ and
- inter $\subseteq RST \times CT \times IRC \times RST$ (with IRC := { \trianglelefteq , \otimes }) are relations.
- Additionally, grolec $\subseteq QRG$ is a finite set of quantified role groups.

Definition (Syntax of Role Groups)

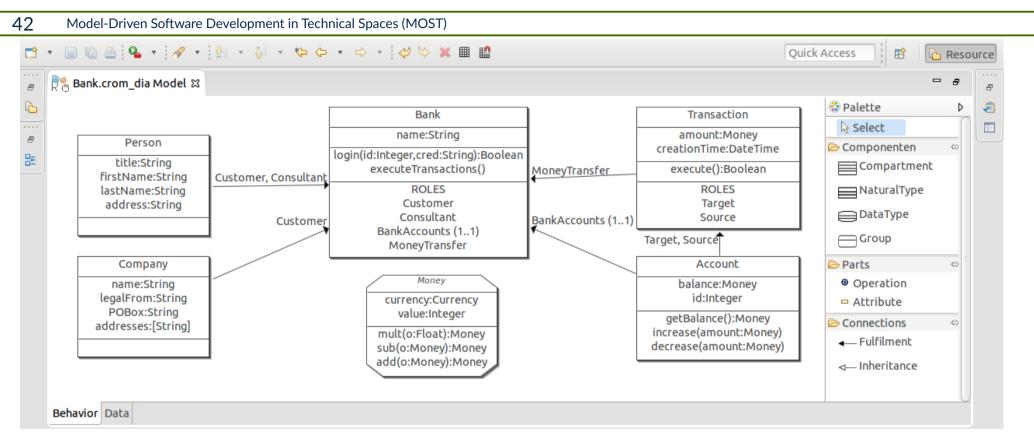
Role Groups RG are defined inductively over RT:

$rt \in RT$	$B \subseteq RG$ $nm \in Card$
$rt \in RG$	$(B, nm) \in RG$





The Compartment Role Object Model (CROM) **Tool Support**



Full-fledged Role Modeling Editor (FRaMED)³

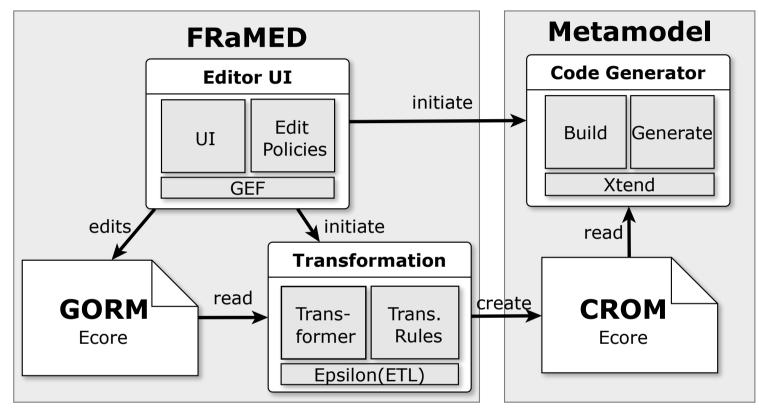
- Zoomable editor with Top-Level and Focus view for *Compartment Types*
- Top-Level view for specifying:
 - Natural, Data and Compartment Types, as well as inheritance and fulfillment
- Focus view for specifying
- Role and Relationship Type, as well as Role Groups and Constraints
 3) https://github.com/leondart/FRaMED

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The Compartment Role Object Model (CROM) Tool Support

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Model-Driven Software Development in Technical Spaces (MOST)



Full-fledged Role Modeling Editor (FRaMED)³

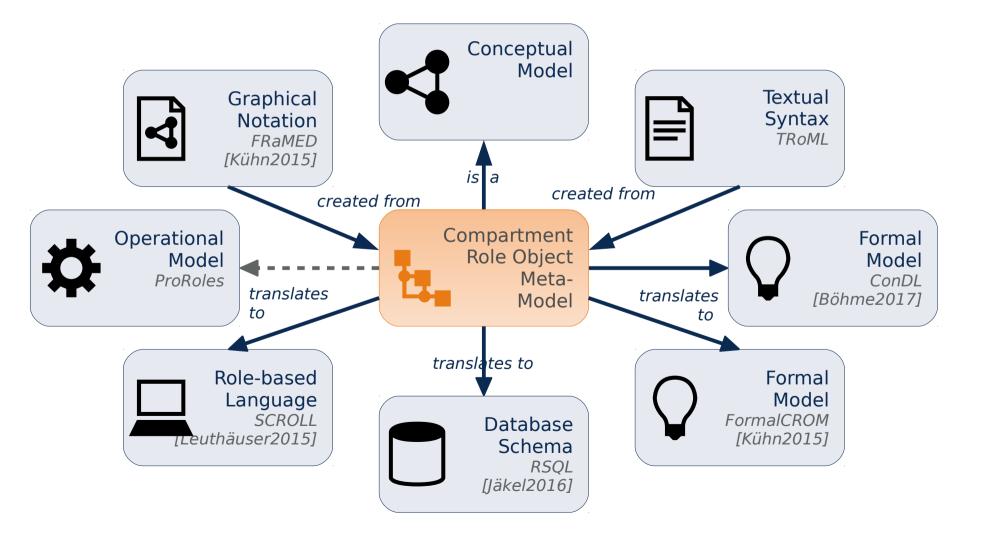
- Fully model-driven Eclispe-based editor based on:
 - Eclipse Modeling Framework (EMF), Graphical Editing Framework (GEF), Epsilon (ETL)
- Separation of Graphical Model (GORM) and Semantic Model (CROM)

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The Compartment Role Object Model (CROM) Tool Support

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

Additional tools supported by FRaMED



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The Compartment Role Object Model (CROM) Conclusion

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

- Incorporating all natures of roles and various modeling constraints
- Modeling language (formal CROM) fulfilled 22 (19) features of roles
- Introduce common graphical notation for role-based modeling languages
- CRO(meta-)Model provides its abstract syntax
- FRaMED as eclipse-based editor for modeling and code generation
- Propose CROM as formal foundation for roles

Still no common role-based modeling language supporting all language variants



The End

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

- Why is it hard to unify the role concept?
- Why are compartments necessary to group roles in metamodels?
- What was crucial for providing tool support for RoSI?

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