

# THÈSE DE DOCTORAT DE

L'ÉCOLE NATIONALE SUPÉRIEURE  
MINES-TÉLÉCOM ATLANTIQUE BRETAGNE  
PAYS DE LA LOIRE – IMT ATLANTIQUE

ÉCOLE DOCTORALE 648  
*Sciences pour l'Ingénieur et le Numérique*  
Spécialité : *Sciences et technologies de l'information et de la communication*

Par

**Matthew COYLE**

## Exploration d'ensembles de modèles II

Object Oriented Constraint Programming

Thèse présentée et soutenue à IMT Atlantique Nantes, le « date »

Unité de recherche : « voir README et le site de de votre école doctorale »

### Rapporteur·trice·s avant soutenance :

Prénom NOM Fonction et établissement d'exercice

Prénom NOM Fonction et établissement d'exercice

Prénom NOM Fonction et établissement d'exercice

### Composition du Jury :

*Attention, en cas d'absence d'un-e des membres du Jury le jour de la soutenance, la composition du jury doit être revue pour s'assurer qu'elle est conforme et devra être répercutée sur la couverture de thèse*

Président·e : Prénom NOM Fonction et établissement d'exercice (*à préciser après la soutenance*)

Examinateur·trice·s : Prénom NOM Fonction et établissement d'exercice

                          Prénom NOM Fonction et établissement d'exercice

                          Prénom NOM Fonction et établissement d'exercice

                          Prénom NOM Fonction et établissement d'exercice

Dir. de thèse : Samir LOUDNI Fonction et établissement d'exercice

Co-dir. de thèse : Massimo TISI Fonction et établissement d'exercice (*si pertinent*)

Co-dir. de thèse : Théo LE CALVAR Fonction et établissement d'exercice (*si pertinent*)

### Invité·e·s :

Prénom NOM Fonction et établissement d'exercice



# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

---

Je tiens à remercier

I would like to thank. my parents..

J'adresse également toute ma reconnaissance à ....

....



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>1 Model Driven Engineering: a model modeling modeling</b>	<b>15</b>
1.1 Fundamentals of Formal Modeling . . . . .	16
1.1.1 Object Models . . . . .	16
1.1.2 Metamodels . . . . .	18
1.1.3 Model Validation and Transformation . . . . .	21
1.2 The Unified Modeling Language . . . . .	21
1.2.1 Meta-Object Facility . . . . .	22
1.2.2 Class Diagrams . . . . .	22
1.2.3 Object Diagrams . . . . .	23
1.3 The Object Constraint Language . . . . .	24
1.3.1 Quick introduction to OCL . . . . .	24
1.3.2 Query: getting and inferring ints and objects from the model . . . . .	25
1.3.3 Constraint: constraining the model . . . . .	25
1.4 EMF and ATL: State-of-the-Art . . . . .	26
1.4.1 Eclipse Modeling Framework . . . . .	26
1.4.2 Atlas Transformation Language . . . . .	28
1.5 Examples of Metamodels used in this Thesis . . . . .	28
1.5.1 Generic Example . . . . .	29
1.5.2 Graphical User-Interface Example . . . . .	30
1.5.3 Reconfigurable Manufacturing Example . . . . .	31
1.5.4 Zoo Example . . . . .	32
1.5.5 Scheduling Example . . . . .	33
<b>2 Constrain Programming: an exact and explainable Artificial Intelligence</b>	<b>34</b>
2.0.1 Constraint Satisfaction Problems . . . . .	34
2.0.2 Global Constraints . . . . .	34
2.0.3 CP Solvers . . . . .	36

---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

2.0.4	Boolean Satisfiability . . . . .	36
<b>3</b>	<b>Model Search using Artificial Intelligence:<u>Object Oriented Constraint Programming</u></b>	<b>37</b>
3.1	Model Search . . . . .	37
3.1.1	Model Search . . . . .	37
3.1.2	Applications of Model Search . . . . .	38
3.2	State of the Art . . . . .	39
3.2.1	ATL <sup>c</sup> . . . . .	39
3.2.2	Alloy & Kodkod . . . . .	39
3.2.3	Grimm . . . . .	41
<b>4</b>	<b>Contribution : OCL Variable Declaration VarOperationExpression</b>	<b>43</b>
4.1	Problem . . . . .	43
4.2	Denoting Variables . . . . .	46
4.2.1	Base Syntax . . . . .	46
4.2.2	Parameters to guide modeling and search . . . . .	46
4.2.3	Vocabulary for Annotated Expressions . . . . .	47
4.3	Refactoring OCL around annotations . . . . .	48
4.3.1	Annotation in the OCL Abstract Syntax Tree . . . . .	48
4.3.2	Refactoring OCL Around Annotations . . . . .	49
4.4	Discussions . . . . .	50
<b>5</b>	<b>Contribution : UML CSP</b>	<b>53</b>
5.1	Encoding Properties . . . . .	53
5.1.1	Encoding References . . . . .	54
5.2	Constraint Models for UML Reference Types . . . . .	55
5.3	Constraint Models for UML Collection Types . . . . .	55
5.4	Using information from Variable Annotations . . . . .	57
<b>6</b>	<b>Contribution : OCL Navigation</b>	<b>59</b>
6.1	CP model for OCL queries on the instance . . . . .	59
6.2	NavCSP experimentation . . . . .	61
<b>7</b>	<b>Contribution : OCL CSP</b>	<b>65</b>
7.1	CP Models for OCL Integer and Boolean Operations . . . . .	65

---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

7.2	CP Models for OCL Collection Type Casting Operations . . . . .	65
7.2.1	asBag() . . . . .	65
7.2.2	asSet() . . . . .	66
7.2.3	asSequence() . . . . .	67
7.2.4	asOrderedSet() . . . . .	69
7.2.5	Filtering Dummy Values in OCL Collection Operations . . . . .	70
7.3	CP Models for OCL Collection Operations . . . . .	72
7.4	CP Models for OCL Sequence Operations . . . . .	72
7.4.1	Prepend . . . . .	72
7.4.2	Append . . . . .	72
7.4.3	Insert At . . . . .	72
7.4.4	Ordered Sub-Set . . . . .	72
7.4.5	At . . . . .	72
7.4.6	Index Of . . . . .	72
7.4.7	First . . . . .	72
7.4.8	Last . . . . .	72
7.4.9	Reverse . . . . .	72
7.5	CP Models for OCL Set Operations . . . . .	72
7.5.1	Union . . . . .	72
7.5.2	Intersection . . . . .	72
7.5.3	Difference . . . . .	72
7.5.4	Symmetric Difference . . . . .	72
7.5.5	including . . . . .	72
7.5.6	excluding . . . . .	72
7.6	CP Models for OCL Bag Operations . . . . .	72
7.7	CP Models for OCL Ordered Set Operations . . . . .	72
7.7.1	Prepend . . . . .	72
7.7.2	Append . . . . .	72
7.7.3	Insert At . . . . .	72
7.7.4	Ordered Sub-Set . . . . .	72
7.7.5	At . . . . .	72
7.7.6	Index Of . . . . .	72
7.7.7	First . . . . .	72
7.7.8	Last . . . . .	72

---

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

---

7.7.9	Reverse . . . . .	72
7.8	CP Models for Class Functions and Global Functions . . . . .	72
7.8.1	Prepend . . . . .	72
7.8.2	Append . . . . .	72
7.8.3	Insert At . . . . .	72
7.8.4	Ordered Sub-Set . . . . .	72
7.8.5	At . . . . .	72
7.8.6	Index Of . . . . .	72
7.8.7	First . . . . .	72
7.8.8	Last . . . . .	72
7.8.9	Reverse . . . . .	72
<b>8</b>	<b>Towards Enforcing Structural OCL Constraints using Constraint Programming</b>	<b>73</b>
8.1	Introduction . . . . .	73
8.2	Background and Running Case . . . . .	74
8.2.1	Reconfigurable Manufacturing Systems . . . . .	74
8.2.2	Constraint Programming . . . . .	76
8.3	Denoting CP Variables in OCL Expressions . . . . .	78
8.3.1	Annotation in the OCL Abstract Syntax Tree . . . . .	79
8.3.2	Refactoring OCL Around Annotations . . . . .	80
8.4	Modeling Annotated OCL Constraints using Constraint Programming . . . . .	82
8.4.1	References in CP . . . . .	82
8.4.2	OCL Expressions in CP . . . . .	83
8.4.3	Translation . . . . .	86
8.5	Evaluation . . . . .	86
8.5.1	NavCSP . . . . .	87
8.5.2	RMS use-case . . . . .	89
8.6	Limitations and Future Work . . . . .	90
8.7	Related Work . . . . .	92
8.8	Conclusion . . . . .	93
<b>9</b>	<b>Modeling OCL Collection Types and Type Casting using Constraint Programming</b>	<b>97</b>
9.1	Introduction . . . . .	97

---

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

9.2 Context: UML & CP . . . . .	98
9.3 CP Models for UML Instances and OCL Queries . . . . .	103
9.4 CP Models for UML Collection Types . . . . .	105
9.5 CP Models for OCL Collection Type Casting Operations . . . . .	107
9.6 Experimental Results . . . . .	113
9.7 Conclusions . . . . .	115
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>117</b>
Première section de l'intro . . . . .	118
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>121</b>



# INTRODUCTION

---

The Object Constraint Language (OCL)<sup>1</sup> is a popular language in Model-Driven Engineering (MDE) to define constraints on models and metamodels. OCL invariants are commonly used to express and validate model correctness. For instance, logical solvers have been leveraged to validate UML models against OCL constraints, used by tools like Viatra [?], EMF2CSP [?] and Alloy [?]. However several problems in MDE require a way to automatically enforce constraints on models that do not satisfy them, e.g. to complete such models or repair them. Because of its combinatorial nature, the problem of enforcing constraints can be computationally hard even for small models.

Constraint Programming (CP) aims to efficiently prune a solution space by providing tailored algorithms. Such algorithms are made available in constraint solvers like Choco [?] in the form of global constraints. Leveraging such global constraints would potentially increase the performance of constraint enforcement on models. However, mapping OCL constraints to global constraints is not trivial. Previous work [?] has started to bridge from arithmetic OCL constraints to arithmetic CP models, but it exclusively focused on constraints over attributes.

In this paper we focus instead on structural constraints, i.e. OCL constraints that predicate on the links between model elements. In detail, we present a method in two steps: 1) we provide an in-language solution for users to denote CP variables in OCL constraints; 2) we describe a general CP pattern for enforcing annotated structural OCL constraints, i.e. constraints predicated on navigation chains. To evaluate the effectiveness of the method, we discuss the size of the Constraint Satisfaction Problems (CSPs) it produces, and the resolution time in some examples.

In the context of Model-Driven Engineering (MDE), models represent structured data, and the model of the data structure is known as a metamodel. The Unified Modeling Language (UML)<sup>2</sup> provides visual languages, such as class and object diagrams, to define both models and meta-models. The Object Constraint Language (OCL)<sup>3</sup> complements UML by enabling the specification of constraints over models, based on the underlying

<sup>1</sup><https://www.omg.org/spec/OCL/2.4/>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.omg.org/spec/UML/2.4>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.omg.org/spec/OCL/2.4>

metamodel concepts. The Eclipse Modeling Framework (EMF)<sup>4</sup> supports UML and OCL, enabling validation of models against their meta-models and associated constraints. It also includes model transformation tools such as ATL [?, ?], an OCL-based language that expresses mappings between meta-models. ATLC [?] extends ATL by introducing model space exploration capabilities to facilitate transformation specification. It leverages constraint solvers to generate and visualize model instances, which users can then adjust or repair using solver feedback. The primary use of ATLC is to create a Graphical User Interface for a model, allowing the user to easily edit the model. This generally breaks some of the user defined OCL constraints, and our work hopes to provide a way to repair the models around the user’s choices. The core problem is: given a metamodel, a partial model and model constraints as input, the objective is to find model instances that satisfy the metamodel and model constraints. ATLC does so by interpreting part of their OCL expressions upon an instance as a constraint satisfaction problem (CSP), which can be solved by engines like Cassowary (for linear programming) or Choco (for constraint programming). However, ATLC is currently limited to single-valued model attributes, using integers or reals. Our work seeks to generalize this approach to support collection-valued properties: attributes and relations.

Among existing tools, Alloy [?] stands out as a tool offering a dedicated language for defining meta-models and constraints. Alloy is often used for specification testing—such as verifying security protocols or code—by searching for models that satisfy given constraints. It can also be used for checking specifications by searching for valid instances or counterexamples. Alloy has also been applied to model transformation and model repair [?], with some approaches translating UML/OCL into Alloy specifications [?, ?]. The core difference with our approach lies in the underlying solving technique: Alloy is based on SAT solving, while we use Constraint Programming (CP). Choosing between SAT and CP for model search tasks is not straightforward, and through our experimentation, we aim to shed some light on that choice in the context of model search. Related work leveraging CP, global constraints and similar models also exists [?], however UML/OCL coverage doesn’t include the general case of collection properties discussed in this paper, and required for the experimentation.

---

<sup>4</sup><https://projects.eclipse.org/projects/modeling.emf.emf>

**Model Driven Engineering**

**Artificial Intelligence**

**Problem to solve**



# MODEL DRIVEN ENGINEERING: A MODEL MODELING MODELING

---

Model Driven Engineering (MDE) has emerged as a central paradigm in software development. Its history is intertwined with that of Object Oriented Programming (OOP). Where the OOP paradigm can be summarized as *everything is an object*, MDE is similarly described as the paradigm where *everything is a model*. Two of the longest standing actors are the Object Management Group (OMG) which notably provides specifications for both the Unified Modeling Language and the Object Constraint Language, and Eclipse providing the Eclipse Modeling Framework (EMF). EMF allows for the generation and testing of code using UML specifications, the design and use domain specific languages, and the manipulation of data by means of model transformation. More recent efforts include JetBrains' Meta Programming System (MPS) which focuses on providing tools to develop and use Domain Specific Languages.

Models are used because they are: cheaper, safer, easier to manipulate and learn from. For software development, software engineers build models of the desired software. Such models allow the engineers to quickly iterate and test their design, but also serve as a language to communicate with the software developers who will implement the software. Beyond software development, models are similarly used: scaled-down models of buildings are easier to make and iterate upon and can be used to communicate with stakeholders, weather models provide forecasts which are crucial to farming, digital-twins allow for the monitoring and interaction with complex systems.

All of these efforts rely on the same theoretical foundations, which is outlined in the first section. In the following sections we'll present the modeling languages UML and OCL. We'll then present the state-of-the-art for MDE, and the tools we are building upon.

## 1.1 Fundamentals of Formal Modeling

In this section we present formal foundations the MDE framework required for the problem of model search. The concepts in this section are primarily distilled from the Object Management Group's Meta-Object Facility.

### 1.1.1 Object Models

At the center of Model Driven Engineering is the concept of *model*. Models represent *systems under study*. This relation between model and system under study, is named *represents* and is given the symbol  $\mu$ .

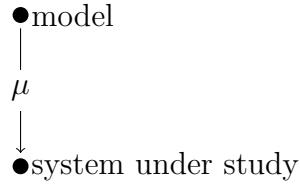


Figure 1.1:  $\mu$ : a model represents a system under study

Models often represent only part of the system under study, especially when the system under study is very complex.

### Definitions

**Object:** an object is an entity that identifies information. Objects can represent things from the real world, or abstract concepts. Objects are uniquely identifiable. Objects can be associated, composed or otherwise linked. For instance, an object can be used to represent a person: with properties such as their name or age, or their links to other people.

**Object Property:** a named collection of elements, representing information from the system under study. Depending on the type of elements, a property is either an attribute or a reference.

**Property Access:** the process of access the information identified by an object. These kind of functions are often called *getters* and *setters*:

$$get(o, p) : \text{Object} \times \text{Property} \rightarrow \text{Collection}$$

$$set(o, p, c) : \text{Object} \times \text{Property} \times \text{Collection} \rightarrow \emptyset$$

**Object Model:** (or simply **model** through this thesis) is a set of objects that maybe linked to one another. Such models can also be described as directed multigraphs  $G = \langle V, E \rangle$ , where the vertices  $V$  are associated with objects and the edges  $E$  with the links between them. MOF provides a specification for the serialization of Object Models based on XML called XMI.

### Simple Example : Family Tree

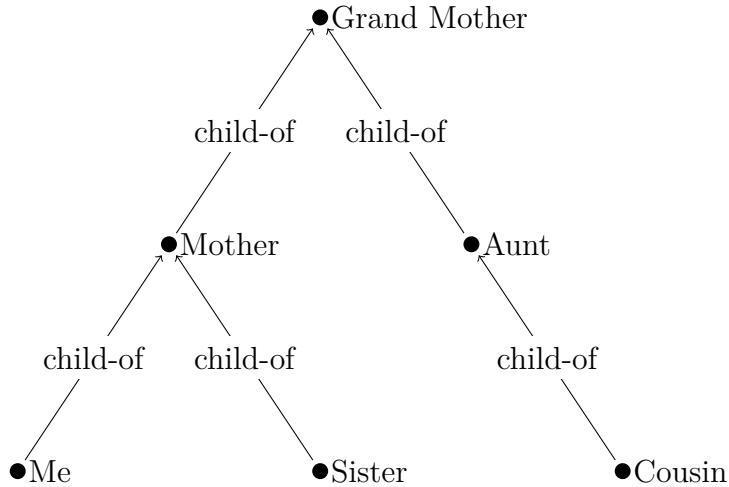


Figure 1.2: **Simple family tree:** a basic hierarchical representation.

An illustrative example for models as graphs are family trees. A family tree represents people and their familial connections. Each node of a family tree corresponds to a person, and is labeled with their name. Each vertex is an instance of the relation *is a child of*.

Being able to model expressions and languages is a powerful and fundamental feature of object models. This graph describes the structure of the expression: *this is an expression*. Here objects represent syntactic structures, such as N noun, Det determinants, V verb, NP noun phrase, and VP verb phrase. Here we have two NP, one composed of only a Det, and another composed of a Det followed by a N.

Formal languages are commonly manipulated as Abstract Syntax Trees. In this figure we see the AST for the expression:  $2 + 2 = 4$ . Here the objects correspond to the different symbols of the expression, and the links show how the symbols are organised.

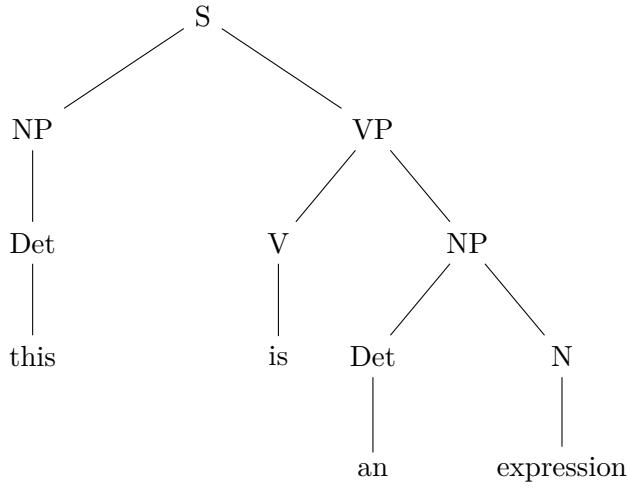


Figure 1.3: Syntactic Tree of *this is an expression*

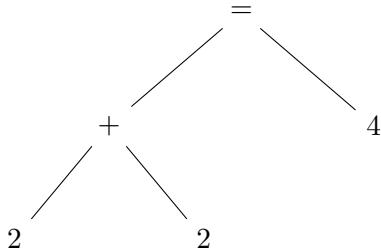


Figure 1.4: AST of the expression  $2 + 2 = 4$

### 1.1.2 Metamodels

Metamodels are arguably the most important type of model for model driven engineering. A metamodel is a model that represents a set of models. A model from that set is said to *conform to* the metamodel.

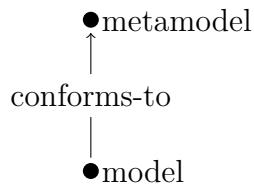


Figure 1.5: *a model conforms to a metamodel*

Metamodels can be formalised with many different languages. This current section is a simplified metamodel for object and class based modeling, and the following sections are summaries of the UML and OCL metamodels. For our use-cases, metamodels will come in

two parts: a collection of class specifications, and model constraints. Class specifications define the classes of objects that can be used to make a model and define for each class their properties: their attributes and their relations. Model constraints are used to limit the combinations of objects and the values of their properties. Model constraints therefore rely on language to query the model.

## Definitions

**Metamodel:** A metamodel is a tuple  $\langle M, C \rangle$  where  $M$  is a classification model and  $C$  is a set of model constraints.

**Conformity:** A model which conforms to a metamodel.

**Classification Model:** Classification models, are a set of classes that maybe be linked to one another. They are object models representing classification systems: their objects called classes and take a specific form.

**Class:** Classes represent sets of objects, naming them and listing their properties. For instance, a class can represent and name the concept of a *person*, objects representing people are part of the set the class represents. The list of properties describe the form objects can take in conforming models. Classes come in the form of named list of property specifications.

**Property:** a name, type, and collection cardinality. They specify the information that can be associated with objects.

**Attribute:** named collection of integers associated to an object.

**Reference:** named collection of objects of the model linked to an object.

**Model Constraint:** a constraint expression identifying objects and stating invariants about their combinations or the combination of their properties. Model constraints are expressions which predicate on the structure of models conforming to the metamodel. These expressions rely on the vocabulary introduced by the classes and their properties. Model constraint languages may also provide syntax to navigate a model

**Meta-Metamodel:** Metamodels can also be an element of the set they represent, meaning they conform to themselves. Metamodels can conform to meta-metamodels.

Using the intuition of metamodels as languages: Using the English language, we can describe the English language.

**Domain Specific Language:** Domain specific languages are a practical and powerful application of metamodeling. A powerful intuition for metamodels is that of *metamodels are languages*. This sentence is an expression which conforms to the vocabulary and the

grammar of the English language. English can be described as a set of words (or bits of words), and rules to combine them. Expressions in English can represent parts of the real world or abstract ideas. Domain specific languages leverage this equivalence between metamodels and languages, and use metamodeling frameworks to assist in their development. In contrast to general purpose languages (GPL), such as C++, python and Java, DSLs are less expressive but simpler for their given domain.

## Simple Examples of inline notation

Through out the thesis we'll use inline notation for simple models. As described above, classes often take the form of named lists of properties. Taking inspiration from C-like languages, we first name the class, then list the properties between brackets:

```
CLASS_NAME {...}
```

Properties are named collections of at least m and at most n elements, of which the elements are typed:

```
PROPERTY_NAME : TYPE[m,n]
```

Type in our notation is similarly taken from UML standard: (:Type). Cardinality is noted using intervals: [m,n], where m is minimum cardinality, and n maximum cardinality.

```
Object {att : Int[m,n], ref : Object[m',n']}
```

This simple metamodel show the general shape of metamodels. Here we have one class named **Object** representing *objects*. This class lists two properties: **att** an attribute, and **ref** a reference to other objects in the **Object** class. Properties being collections, this metamodel also specifies their minimum **m** and maximum **n** number of elements.

```
Person {age : Int[1,1], children : Person[0,*]}
```

```
∀p,q ∈ Person, p ∈ q.children ⇒ p.age < q.age
```

This simple metamodel describes the person object we've used in previous examples.

### 1.1.3 Model Validation and Transformation

**Model Validation:** the process of checking a model conforms to a metamodel. Models can have errors, because of this modeling tools generally provide a means to leverage the metamodel to check for them.

**Model Transformation:** Model Transformation is the core operation on models. Model Transformation refers to both the process of transforming models to conform to a new metamodel, and the model of the process. Model Transformation Execution, generates a target model from a source model according to the MTspec. Model Transformation Specifications, link classes and properties across metamodels, written in a Model Transformation Language. Model Transformation Language, generally a super-set of a model constraint language, using query expressions to connect properties and classes.

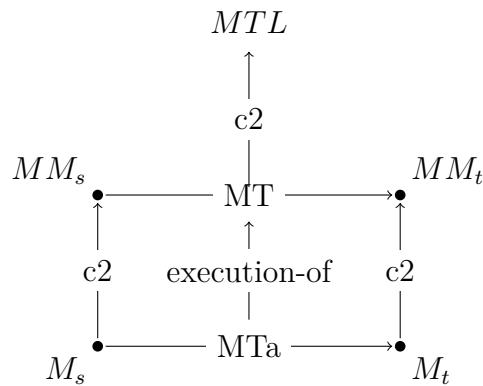


Figure 1.6: Transformation Pattern

A notable group of model transformations includes those which generate code in a programming language. From a UML Class Diagram, one can generate a Java Class Specification.

## 1.2 The Unified Modeling Language

UML provides a range of languages for modeling purposes. We need languages to describe metamodels and models. For models, UML provides Object Diagrams, and for metamodels, Class Diagrams and the Object Constraint Language. Additionally, we will use C-like syntax for Class specifications.

### 1.2.1 Meta-Object Facility

The Unified Modeling language is build ontop of the Meta-Object Facility standard. Formally: the UML metamodel conforms to MOF meta-metamodel. MOF provides a meta-metamodel similar to that presented in the previous section.

The MOF standard also describes a four layer model hierarchy illustrating its application. The MOF meta-metamodel exists as the top layer of abstraction in the MOF architecture, the M3 layer. The MOF architecture has three lower layers of abstraction, the lowest being that of the system under study, the M0 layer. UML exists at the M2 layer, and the M1 layer contains the UML conforming models and metamodels created by the user to represent the system under study.

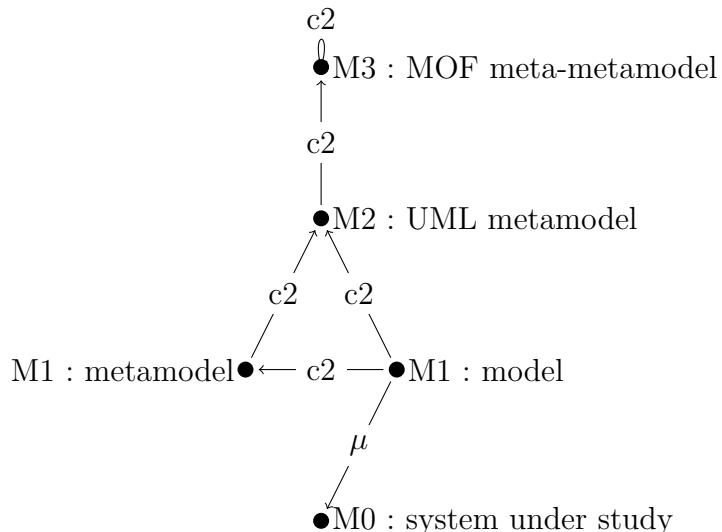


Figure 1.7: Meta-Object Facility model hierarchy

### 1.2.2 Class Diagrams

Class Diagrams identify concepts and their properties. In a family tree for instance, the core concept is Person, with attributes such as age and references such as parent (or its opposite, child) to express relationships between people.

Figure 9.1 present a generic metamodel. It describes a class named `Object`, which has two properties: `attribute`: a collection of integers, with at least one and at most  $m$  elements, `reference`: a collection of up to  $n$  references to other `Object` instances. These illustrate the two main types of properties in object-oriented modeling: Attributes, which

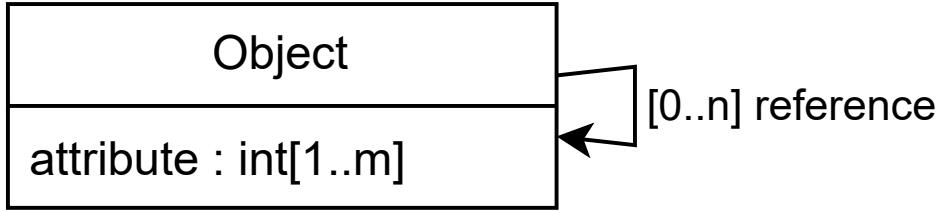


Figure 1.8: UML Class Diagram as Metamodel

store intrinsic data values (e.g., numbers or strings), References, which define relationships between objects in the model.

### UML Collection Types

UML allows properties to be collections, and distinguishes four standard collection types, based on two dimensions: order and uniqueness.

- **Sequence**: ordered, allows duplicates – e,g., [2,3,1,1],
- **Bag**: unordered, allows duplicates – e.g., [1,1,2,3],
- **Set**: unordered, unique elements only – e.g., [1,2,3],
- **OrderedSet**: ordered, unique elements – e.g., [2,3,1].

An important note is that ordered doesn't pertain to the values. In [2,3,1,1]: 2 is the first value, and 1 is the last value. The intended collection type can be indicated in the class diagram using annotations such as **ordered**, **unique**, or **seq** (for sequences).

### 1.2.3 Object Diagrams

describe instances of the classes defined in a class diagram. For example, Figure 9.2 shows an instance conforming to the class diagram in Figure 9.1. It includes three objects, each identified by a unique ID (e.g., **o1**, **o2**, **o3**). For instance, object **o1** has as attribute a collection of 3 integers and is connected to other objects (e.g., **o2** and **o3**).

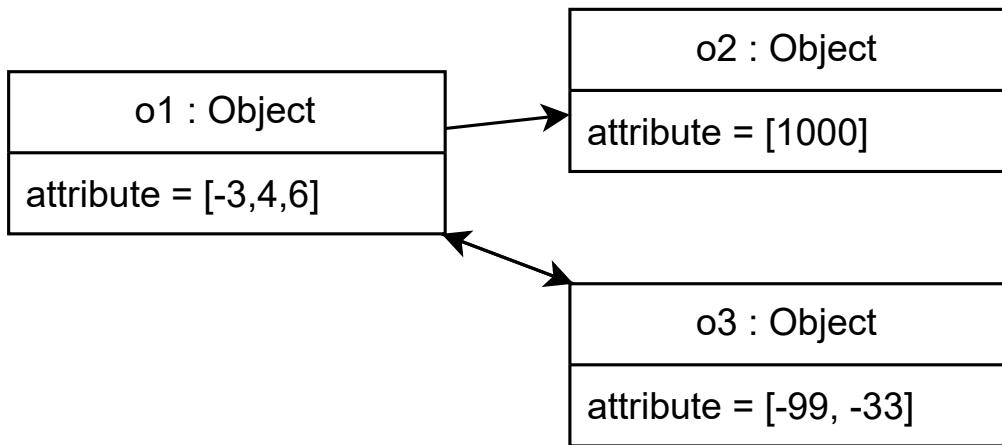


Figure 1.9: UML Instance Diagram as Model

## 1.3 The Object Constraint Language

The Object Constraint Language (OCL) is a declarative language used to specify additional rules and constraints on UML models that cannot be expressed using diagrams alone. It enables the formalization of conditions that instances of the model must satisfy, serving as a powerful complement to class and object diagrams.

OCL is designed to be easy to read and write.

### 1.3.1 Quick introduction to OCL

**self:** how ocl expressions are applied to object models

```

1   context Person inv:
2     self

```

In this listing we see a minimal OCL expression. This expression identifies the context for the constraint `context Person`. Constraints in OCL are called *invariants*, and noted `inv`. These constraints are applied to every object within the context. The objects appear in the expressions using the keyword `self`.

```

1   context Task inv:
2     Machine.allInstances()

```

We can also access all the objects of a class from within a context of another class. This returns a collection of objects that can be iterated upon. This example uses the RMS example: from within the context of this invariant on tasks, we predicate using all the

For brevity, we simplify this part of these expressions to just the class name.

### **Navigation: relation to the metamodel**

OCL provides language to navigate the model and retrieve its information.

**Property Access** OCL uses a `.property` notation for property access.

For example to access the age and the parents of a person, in ocl you can write.

`Person.age`

`Person.parents`

**Navigation** A property access applied to a reference results in a collection of objects.

`self.ref.ref.ref.att`

### **1.3.2 Query: getting and inferring ints and objects from the model**

### **1.3.3 Constraint: constraining the model**

For example, in the context of a family tree, a constraint such as “a child must be younger than their parents” cannot be represented directly in a class diagram. However, it can be expressed in OCL as follows:

```
1 context Person inv:
2   self.parents.age.forall(a | a > self.age)
```

This constraint states that for every Person instance, all of their parents must be older. The `context` keyword specifies the class to which the constraint applies, and `inv` stands for invariant, i.e., a condition that must always hold true. This invariant states that for every Person, the age of each parent must be greater than the person’s age. OCL Supports navigation expressions (e.g., `self.parents.age`) and collection operations (e.g., `forall`, `exists`, `size`) that apply to attributes and references. The expression `self` refers to the current object, `self.attribute` returns its attribute values, and `self.reference` retrieve

related objects. Chained queries like `self.reference.attribute` retrieve the attributes of referenced objects.

OCL also supports a rich set of operations on primitive types and collections. Examples include: Boolean expressions (`forall`, `exists`, `not`, `and`, `or`), Arithmetic and comparison (`+`, `-`, `>`, `<`), and Collection operations (`sum`, `size`, `includes`, `asSet`, `asSequence`, etc.). Each collection type comes with its own operations and can be explicitly cast using operations like `asSet()`.

Given an instance such as the one shown in Figure 9.2, OCL is typically used to verify whether it satisfies the specified constraints. In this work, however, we aim to use OCL as a means to guide model search, thereby enabling the completion or correction of partial or inconsistent data. To this end, we propose an approach that reformulates OCL specifications as constraint satisfaction problems (CSPs). This paper focuses on how OCL’s collection typing, defined in the Class Diagram, and type casting operations can be modeled using global constraints over bounded domains.

**Property Access:** `self.prop NavigationOrAttributeCallExp` For the object designated by `self` retrieve the collection of values named `prop`.

**Query Expression:** `self.ref.select(r | f(r)).prop` OCL expression resulting in a collection of integers or objects. Can be filtered, or merged with other queries.

**Topological Constraint:** `self.ref.prop > self.prop` Otherwise referred to as a Structural Constraint, predicates over the relations between objects with respect to their properties.

**Mini-OCL:** `context O inv : self.prop....` is often shortened to `O.prop....` We will encounter many small examples of model constraint, to save space we sometimes remove the context declaration.

## 1.4 EMF and ATL: State-of-the-Art

### 1.4.1 Eclipse Modeling Framework

The Eclipse Modeling Framework is a suite of tools for the Eclipse ecosystem, allowing users design data structures, manipulate structured data and generate code.

In this screenshot we can EMF being used to create a Class Diagram to design a zoo application. From this metamodel, we’ll be able to generate a tool to edit object models representing instances, and serialize them in XMI files.

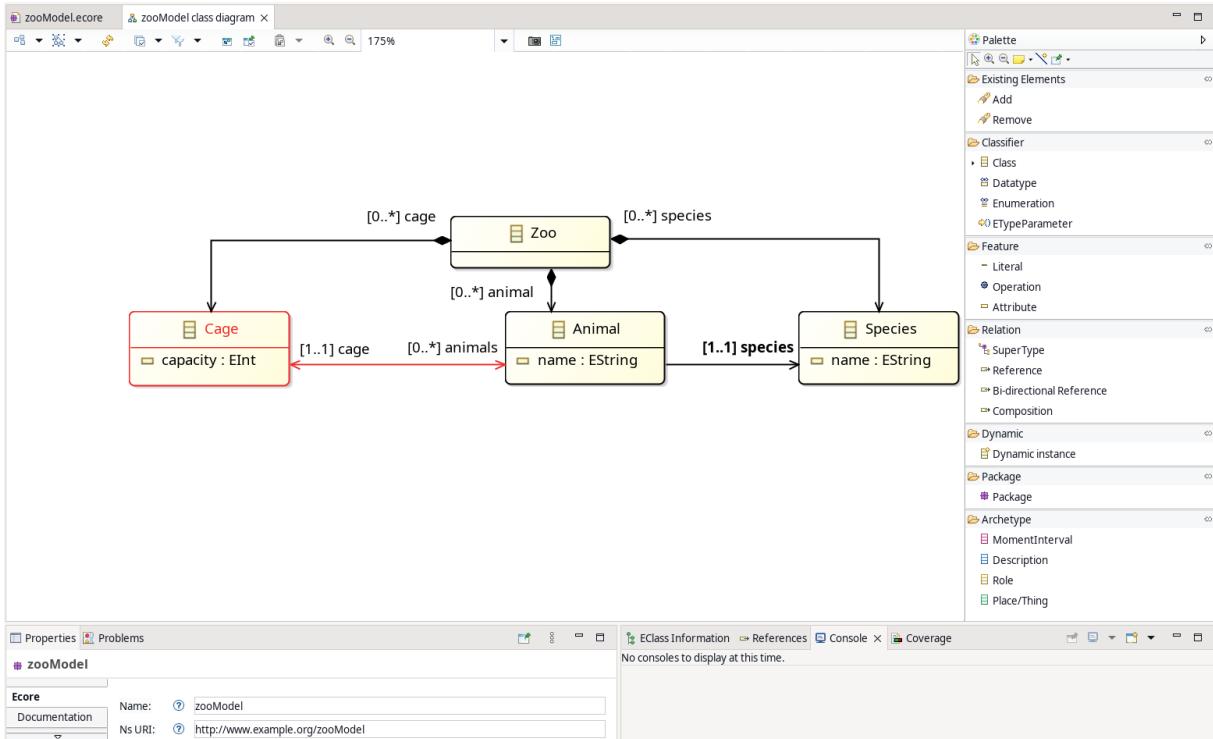


Figure 1.10: Using the Eclipse Modeling Framework to edit an Ecore metamodel using a Class Diagram editing tool

**XMI** XML Metadata Interchange, a file format specified by OMG for the serialization of MOF Models. EMF provides tools to load and save models from and to XMI files. Loading an XMI model into an EMF editor generally requires the Ecore metamodel it conforms to, and generates EObjects which can be manipulated. In this listing we see a

```

1  <Model>
2      <object att="information\u00e9ne" ref="//@object.1"/>
3      <object att="information\u00e9two" ref="//@object.0"/>
4  </Model>
```

Listing 1: Minimal Object Model in the XMI format

simple model, with two linked objects, each object holds some information.

**Ecore** is the EMF format for class models (metamodels). Ecore is an XML-like language based on XMI. Loading an Ecore file entails instantiating EObjects of type EClasses, EAttributes and EReferences corresponding to the classes of the class model and their properties, and generating code to manipulate them and their corresponding objects. EMF provides tools so visualize these metamodels as Class Diagrams.

**EObject** java interface representing objects. Provides access to the EClass it conforms to. Provides access to the information via *getters* and *setters*, and the EReference or EAttribute representing the class property.

**EClass** java interface representing classes. EClasses provide access to the properties.

**EReference** java interface representing properties of type reference. Provides access to the name, type, and collection cardinality.

**EAttribute** java interface representing properties of type attribute. Provides access to the name, type, and collection cardinality.

### 1.4.2 Atlas Transformation Language

The Atlas Transformation Language provides a means to specify model-to-model transformations in EMF. ATL extends OCL to define rules in the context of multiple Classes. These rules associate properties across the classes using OCL queries, in what is called: a binding. Just like OCL, ATL can be written declaratively, but ATL also allows for imperative sections, which are sometimes necessary to specify *steps* required to transform an object into another.

```
rule A from s:Session to r:Rectangle (r.text <- s.name)  
rule B from w:Week to r:Rectangle (r.contains <- A(w.sessions))
```

Here we see two simplified rules which describe a transformation from the Scheduling example to the GUI example. Rule A describes how to make a GUI element from a session in the schedule. Rule A shows a simple binding `r.text <- s.name` between the text of a rectangle and the name of a session. Rule B describes how to make a GUI element from a week in the schedule. `w.sessions` is the collection of sessions assigned to a week. `A(w.sessions)` is the result of rule A applied to the prior collection, which is a collection of rectangles. Finally we bind `r.contains` of the resulting rectangle to the resulting collection.

## 1.5 Examples of Metamodels used in this Thesis

### 1.5.1 Generic Example

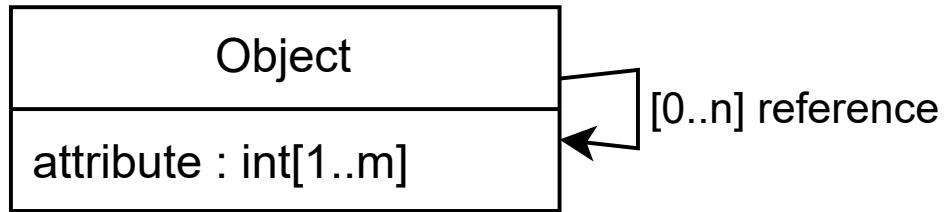


Figure 1.11: UML Class Diagram as Metamodel

This figure presents a generic class specification. It describes a class named **Object**, which has two properties: **attribute**: a collection of integers, with at least one and at most  $m$  elements, **reference**: a collection of up to  $n$  references to other **Object** instances. These illustrate the two main types of properties in object-oriented modeling: Attributes, which store intrinsic data values (e.g., numbers or strings), References, which define relationships between objects in the model.

This example presents a generic metamodel and model.

### 1.5.2 Graphical User-Interface Example

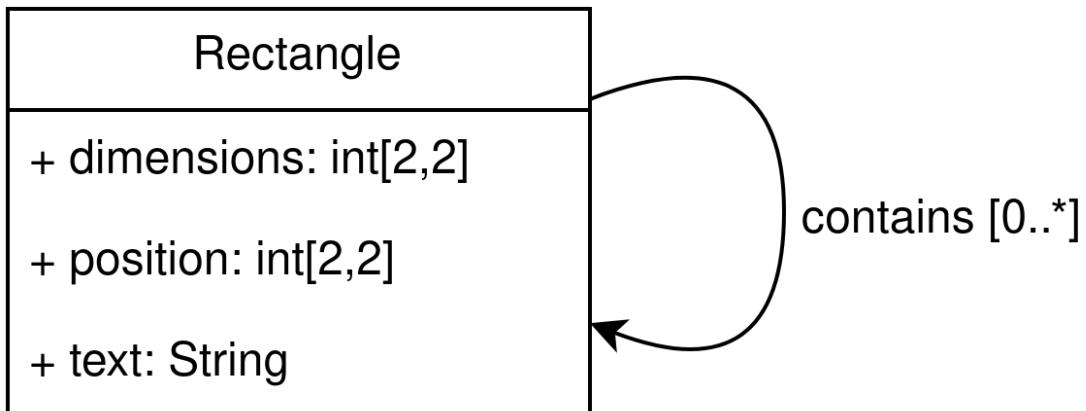


Figure 1.12: UML Instance Diagram as Model

Model Constraints:

```

Rectangle.contains.forall(r|
    r.position[0] < Rectangle.position[0]
    r.position[1] < Rectangle.position[1]
    r.position[0]+r.dimension[0] < Rectangle.position[0]+Rectangle.dimension[0]
    r.position[1]+r.dimension[1] < Rectangle.position[1]+Rectangle.dimension[1])
  
```

This metamodel serves as a simplification of a graphical user interface. The GUI is made up of rectangular shapes contained within one another (windows, widgets, buttons, etc..).

The class specification declares Rectangle as the sole type of object, and declares their properties to be integer values: x,y position, height and width. Additionally the Rectangle specification adds a text attribute, containing the text displayed in the rectangle. The model constraints predicate on the positions and dimensions of contained rectangles and their containing rectangle.

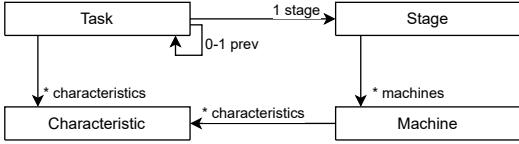


Figure 1.13: Class Diagram for RMS Task constraints  
[class diagram of RMS]

```

1 context Task inv SameCharacteristicConstraint:
2     self.stage.machines.forall(m | m.characteristics
3         -> includesAll(self.characteristics))
4
5 context Task inv PrecedenceConstraint:
6     self.stage.stageNum >= self.prev.stage.stageNum
    
```

Listing 2: RMS Task constraints in OCL.

### 1.5.3 Reconfigurable Manufacturing Example

This figure uses a class diagram to describe the concepts of an RMS, and how they relate (inspired by [?]). In this figure, we focus on the graph structure of the model (classes and references among them), omitting attributes. We use the class diagram flavor from the Eclipse Modeling Framework (EMF)<sup>1</sup>, that connects classes by unidirectional references, instead of bidirectional associations.

The two main components of a reconfigurable manufacturing system are stages, and machines which are organised into stages. A **Machine**'s property is its relation to a set of **Characteristics**. Objects of type **Task** are partially ordered, as expressed by the **prev** reference. Tasks have two other properties: a reference to a **Stage** (allocating the task to that stage), and a reference to characteristics (i.e., the machine characteristics needed to perform the task). Similarly to the example in [?], tasks and machines can be linked to any number of characteristics.

#### OCL Constraints for RMS

<sup>1</sup><https://eclipse.dev/modeling/emf/>

### 1.5.4 Zoo Example

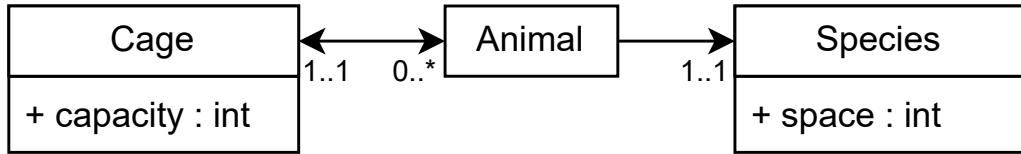


Figure 1.14: Zoo Metamodel

```
1 context Cage inv:
2     self.animals.species.asset().size() < 2
3     and self.animals.species.space.sum() <= self.capacity
```

In this example we have a simple metamodel for a Zoo.

### 1.5.5 Scheduling Example

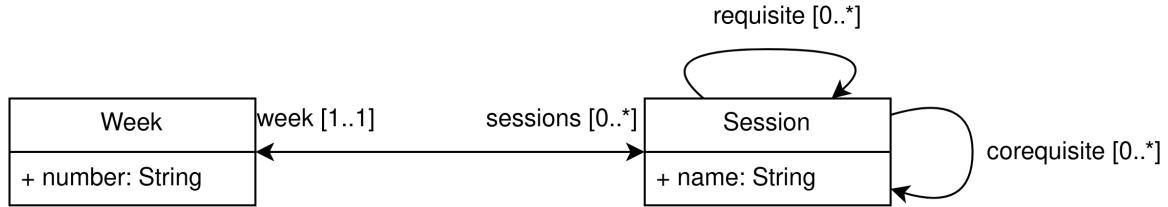


Figure 1.15: UML Instance Diagram as Model

```
Session.requisite.forall(r|r.week.number < Session.week.number)
```

```
Session.corequisite.forall(r|r.week.number = Session.week.number)
```

In → **MC** this figure we see an example metamodel for a schedule. We have as concepts sessions and weeks. Weeks are identified by a week number. Sessions are assigned to weeks, and have prerequisite sessions that must be done during a prior week, and correcquisitie sessions which must be done the same week.

# CONSTRAIN PROGRAMMING: AN EXACT AND EXPLAINABLE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

---

**Constraint Programming** [?] is a powerful paradigm that offers a generic and modular approach to modeling and solving combinatorial problems.

## 2.0.1 Constraint Satisfaction Problems

A CP model consists of a set of variables  $X = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ , a set of domains  $\mathcal{D}$  mapping each variable  $x_i \in X$  to a finite set of possible values  $dom(x_i)$ , and a set of constraints  $\mathcal{C}$  on  $X$ , where each constraint  $c$  defines a set of values that a subset of variables  $X(c)$  can take. Domains can be either bounded, defined as an interval  $\{lb..ub\}$ , or enumerated, explicitly listing all possible values (e.g., 1, 10, 100, 1000). This distinction impacts the choice of constraints: for instance, the global cardinality constraint is more effective with enumerated domains. An assignment on a set  $Y \subseteq X$  of variables is a mapping from variables in  $Y$  to values in their domains. A solution is an assignment on  $X$  satisfying all constraints.

## 2.0.2 Global Constraints

**Global constraints** provide shorthand to often-used combinatorial substructures. More precisely, a global constraint is a constraint that captures a relationship between several variables [?, ?], for which an efficient filtering algorithm is proposed to prune the search tree. In other words, the “global” qualification of the constraint is due to the efficiency of its filtering algorithm, and its capacity to filter any value that is not globally consistent relative to the constraint in question. Global constraints are thus a key component to

---

solving complex problems efficiently with CP. Some notable examples of global constraints used in this paper are:

- Element is useful when "selecting a variable from a list" is part of the problem. Let  $X = [x_1, \dots, x_n]$  be an array of integer variables,  $z \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  be an integer variable representing the index, and  $y$  be an integer variable representing the selected value.  $\text{element}(y, X, z)$  [?, ?] holds iff  $y = x_z$  and  $1 \leq z \leq n$ , this means that variable  $y$  is constrained to take the value of the  $z$ -th element of array  $X$ .
- Regular expression constraints are very expressive when describing sequences of variables, and offers powerful filtering. Let  $X = [x_1, \dots, x_n]$  be an array of integer variables and  $A$  be a finite automaton.  $\text{regular}(X, A)$  [?] enforces that the sequence of values in  $X$  must form a valid word in the language recognized by the automaton  $A$ .
- The  $\text{stable\_keysort}(X, Y, z)$  [?, ?] defined over two matrices of integer variables holds iff (1) there exists a permutation  $\pi$  s.t. each row  $y_k$  of  $Y$  is equal to the row  $x_{\pi(k)}$  of  $X$  ( $k \in \{1, \dots, i\}$ ); (2) the sequence of rows in  $Y$ , truncated to the first  $z$  columns, is lexicographically non-decreasing; (3) if two rows in  $X$  have equal key values for the first  $z$  columns, then their relative order in  $Y$  must match their original order in  $X$ . Table ?? illustrates with an instance that satisfied this constraint.
- Cumulative is generally used for scheduling tasks defined by their start time, duration and resource usage:  $< s_i, d_i, r_i >$ . It requires that at any instant  $t$  of the schedule, the summation of the amount of resource  $r$  of the tasks that overlap  $t$ , does not exceed the upper limit  $C$ . The values of  $t$  range from:  $a$  the earliest possible start time  $s_i$ , to  $b$  the latest possible end time  $s_j + d_j$ . Let  $S = [s_1, \dots, s_n]$  be the start times of  $n$  tasks,  $D = [d_1, \dots, d_n]$  their durations,  $R = [r_1, \dots, r_n]$  their resource demands, and  $C$  the total capacity of the resource (a constant).  $\text{cumulative}(S, D, R, C)$  [?, ?] holds iff  $\forall t \in [a, b], \sum_{i|s_i \leq t < s_i+d_i} r_i \leq R$  [?]. where  $a = \min(s_0, \dots, s_n)$  and  $b = \max(s_0 + d_0, \dots, s_n + d_n)$ ,

## Propagation

Propagation for a constraint is the action of updating the domains of the variables bound by that constraint. When solving, propagations will generally run when the domain of one of the variables bound by the constraint is updated.

For instance, let  $y = \{0, 1\}$ ,  $x_0 = \{0\}$ ,  $x_1 = \{2, 5\}$ ,  $z = \{-10..10\}$  be the domains of the variables given to the element constraint. The element constraint’s propagator can update the domain of  $z$  to  $\{0, 2, 5\}$ . The meaning of this propagation is, the possible values for  $z$  are a subset of the union of possibilities for  $x_y$ , here the union of  $x_0$  and  $x_1$ . If during another constraint’s propagation, or during search, 0 is removed from the domain of  $z$ , such that  $z = \{2, 5\}$ , the element constraint can update the domain of  $y$  to just  $\{1\}$ . Here, because the domains of  $x_0$  and  $z$  are disjoint, then  $z$  can not be equal to  $x_0$ , hence the element constraint propagation can remove 0 from the domain of  $y$ . Finally, if the element constraint is given the following variable instances:  $y = 0, x_0 = 0, z = 2$ , propagation for the constraint would tell us it is not satisfiable, and serve as a counter proof in model validation.

Propagation is one of the fundamental pillars of constraint programming, along with modeling and search. Global constraints spanning a large number of variables allows one to leverage propagation to the fullest. The application of propagation to the problem of OCL is our fundamental difference to much of the related work. To apply it to OCL we need a systematic way to model OCL expressions using global constraints, and particularly to model OCL query expressions.

### 2.0.3 CP Solvers

**CP solvers** use backtracking search to explore the search space of partial assignments. The main concept used to speed up the search is constraint propagation by *filtering algorithms*. At each assignment, constraint filtering algorithms prune the search space by enforcing local consistency properties like *domain consistency* (a.k.a., *Generalized Arc Consistency* (GAC)). A constraint  $c$  on  $X(c)$  is domain consistent, if and only if, for every  $x_i \in X(c)$  and every  $v \in \text{dom}(x_i)$ , there is an assignment satisfying  $c$  such that  $(x_i = v)$ .

### 2.0.4 Boolean Satisfiability

# MODEL SEARCH USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE:OBJECT ORIENTED CONSTRAINT PROGRAMMING

---

## 3.1 Model Search

Model search exists at the intersection of Model Driven Engineering and Artificial Intelligence. EMF has a need for tools assisting in the modeling process. Model search is a powerful tool with many applications. One of the open questions in MDE is *how to effectively find models that conform to a metamodel*. When the metamodel has model constraints the problem may become complex.

Because MDE leverages formal languages for modeling purposes a natural choice of AI are those solving Constraint Satisfaction Problems.

### 3.1.1 Model Search

In → [MC](#) cite Kleiner there is a formal definition for model search.

**Relaxed Metamodel** A relaxed metamodel is a metamodel for which a subset of the constraints are not enforced. These constraints include property cardinalities and model constraints.

**Partial Model** A partial model conforms to a relaxed metamodel, and partially conforms to the metamodel which was relaxed. This generally means it is populated with Objects, but missing information on the values of references and attributes.

$$\exists o \in \text{Object} | o.\text{prop} = \emptyset$$

For a **Person**, this means not having their age, name, or know which other people they

are related to.

**Partially-conforms-to** The relation between a Partial Model and the metamodel which was relaxed.

### Model Search

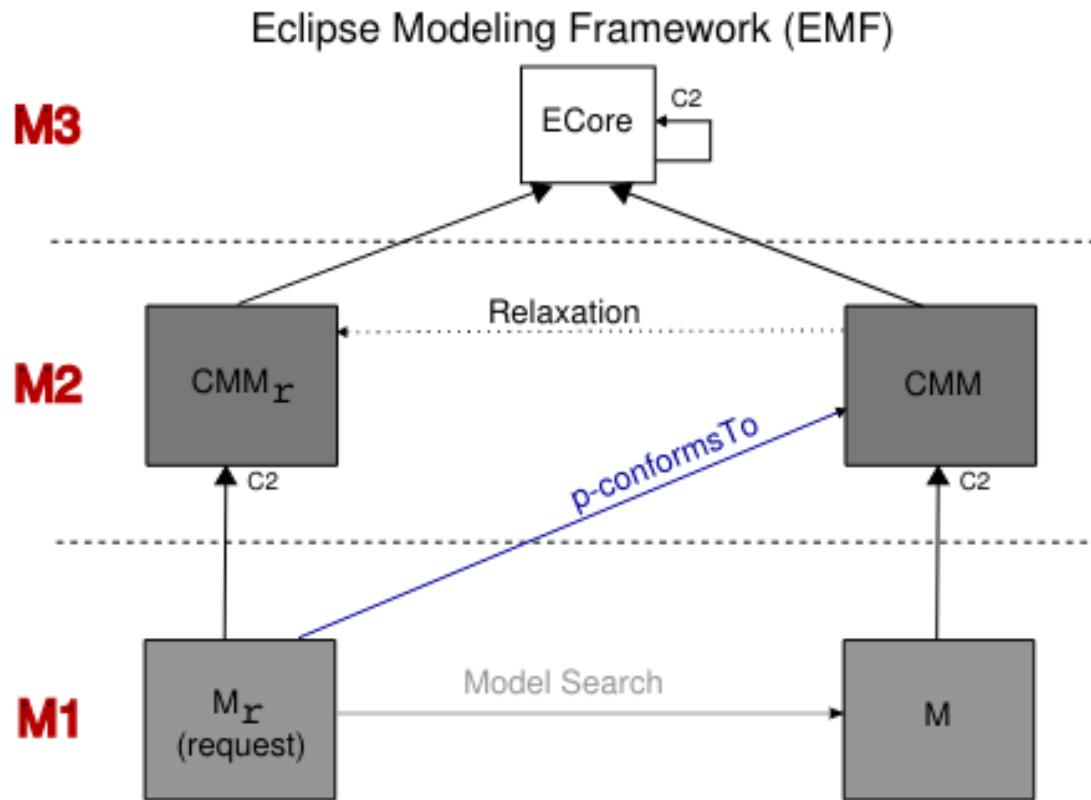


Figure 3.1: Model Search

### 3.1.2 Applications of Model Search

**Model Instantiation** is the process of generating a model that conforms to a metamodel. Generally this means providing a partial model, with all the object instances. The count of objects per class is often a parameter for model instantiation.

**Model Completion** is the process of taking a model with missing information and inferring possible information. Generally this means providing a partial model, with all

the object instances and some immutable data for the objects. The missing data is the reason the model only partially conforms.

**Model Repair** is the process of making a conforming model from a non-conforming model. Repairing a model using model search implies creating a partial model by removing information from the object properties. Automatically removing objects doesn't align with our model repair use-cases, and is generally uncommon.

**model space exploration:** classical model transformation tools associate one source model to one target model. Model space exploration involves transformations transformations towards sets of models. Domain Space Exploration describes a system of model transformations, model space exploration uses transformations over sets to model the system of model transformations.

## 3.2 State of the Art

### 3.2.1 ATL<sup>c</sup>

ATL<sup>c</sup> provides an extension to the ATL allowing users to add OCL invariants to the targets of transformation specifications. The two main model search applications of ATL<sup>c</sup>

ATL<sup>c</sup> provides a tool for Model Space Exploration.

- I. starting point of the thesis
- II. ATL is a model transformation tooling
- III. ATLc is a plugin, which allows you to gather constraint expressions from ATL code and pass it to different solvers
- IV. provides a object oriented constraint metamodel in ecore
- V. instantiates constraint models for LP and CP solvers

### 3.2.2 Alloy & Kodkod

- I. main tool from the SotA
- II. Alloy modeling language
- III. Kodkod Relation First Order Logic API, which outputs a CNF

#### IV. SAT solver (SAT4J default)

Alloy provides a framework for modeling problems and solving them using *off-the-shelf* SAT solvers. The alloy language is inspired by the Z modeling language and the Object Constraint Language. It provides both a means to specify class models and model constraints.

#### Alloy Language

```
1 sig Species {}  
2  
3 sig Animal {  
4     cage: one Cage,  
5     species: one Species  
6 }  
7  
8 sig Cage {  
9     capacity: Int,  
10    animals: seq Animal  
11 //    animals: set Animal  
12 }{  
13     #animals <= capacity  
14     #animals.species.elems <2  
15 //    one animals.species  
16 }
```

Listing 3: Minimal Object Model in the XMI-like format

In this listing we see our example zoo model. In alloy a class can be modeled using signatures. We can see, signatures are similarly named lists of properties. Properties are similarly typed using primitives for attributes, and other signatures for references. Properties in alloy hold a single value by default, but can declared to be a collection, such as set and sequence. Signatures can also be used as the context for model constraints. This is similar to how constraints are defined using OCL.

#### Kodkod

Kodkod is an API to model relational first order logic problems and translate them to Conjunctive Normal Form (CNF) model. Alloy uses this API to translate models for solving with SAT solvers.

---

```

1 sig S {R : one T}
2 sig T {}
3 run {#S=2 #T=2}

```

Listing 4: Simple Alloy model, with two related concepts, with two instances each

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \{a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4\} \\
 S :_1 & [\{a_1, a_2\}, \{a_1, a_2\}] \\
 T :_1 & [\{a_3, a_4\}, \{a_3, a_4\}] \\
 R :_2 & [\{\}, \{a_1, a_3, a_1, a_4, a_2, a_3, a_2, a_4\}] \\
 & \forall s \in S : |R.s| = 1
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

### 3.2.3 Grimm



# CONTRIBUTION : OCL VARIABLE DECLARATION VarOperationExpression

---

## 4.1 Problem

UML and OCL weren't originally designed for model search. ATLc found cases where it could work. Let's take the simple metamodel:

```
Object {att : Int[0,*]}
```

```
Object.att < 3
```

In the context of model validation this would be sufficient: given an instance of a model we can check it conforms to the metamodel. ATLc could use such a metamodel for model space exploration. However the ATLc specification makes the assumption that the last property access of queries designates the variables of the problem. From the point-of-view of the OCL AST, the highest `NavigationOrAttributeCallExp`. In this case `.att` from the end of query expression `Object.att`.

Model Constraints:

```
Rectagle.contains.forall(r|
    r.position[0] < Rectangle.position[0]
    r.position[0] < Rectangle.position[0]
    r.position[0]+r.dimension[0] < Rectangle.position[0]+Rectangle.dimension[0]
    r.position[1]+r.dimension[1] < Rectangle.position[1]+Rectangle.dimension[1])
```

ATLc is commonly used to generate visualisations. As part of a transformation specification, ATLc allows us add constraints to be added to the target model. Here the target

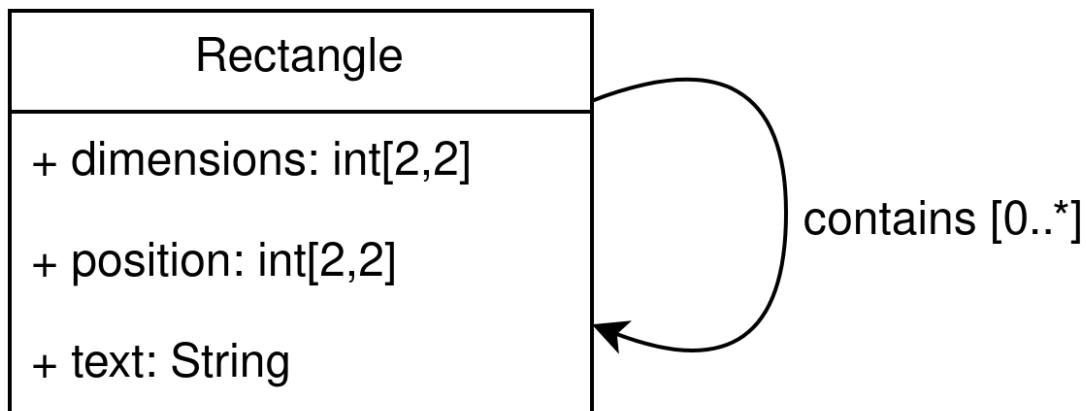


Figure 4.1: UML Instance Diagram as Model

metamodel is that of Rectangle containing text and other rectangles. The class specification declares Rectangle as the sole type of object, and declares their properties to be integer values: x,y position, height and width. Additionally the Rectangle specification adds a text attribute, containing the text displayed in the rectangle. The model constraints predicate on the positions and dimensions of contained rectangles and their containing rectangle.

In this case, we can assume the variables are the last property access of the queries point to the variables. In ATTLc this metamodel allows us to succinctly describe a set of target models which would satisfy the user, and automatically choose one of them. If the user interacts with the graphical model, the metamodel describes the limits of their interactions, such as how much they can move or resize a rectangle.

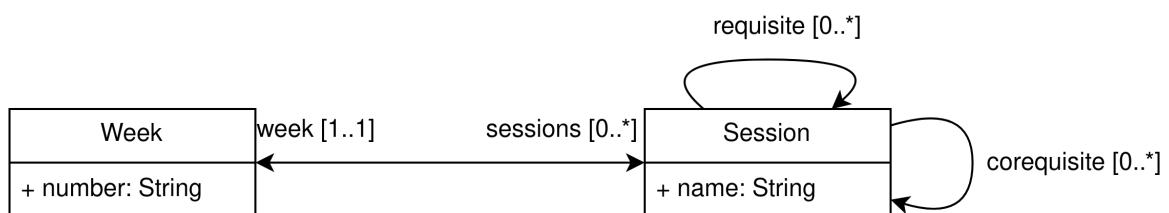


Figure 4.2: UML Instance Diagram as Model

```
Session.requisite.forall(r|r.week.number < Session.week.number)
```

---

```
Session.corequisite.forall(r|r.week.number = Session.week.number)
```

In → **MC** this figure we see an example metamodel for a schedule. We have as concepts sessions and weeks. Weeks are identified by a week number. Sessions are assigned to weeks, are have prerequisite sessions, and correcquisite sessions.

We can transform models conforming to this metamodel into graphicals models conforming to the Rectangle metamodel, with the following transformation rules:

```
rule A from Week w to Rectangle r: r.contains <- B(w.sessions)
```

```
rule B from Session s to Rectangle r: r.text <- s.name
```

Such a transformation allows the user to see the scheduling model and edit it. The user can click on a rectangle for a Session and drag it into a new rectangle representing a Week. This updates the links between Week and Session in the source model. Such an update can end up breaking one of the scheduling model constraints.

In this example the top node of the queries is the `Week.number` property access. However, for this part of the problem, the variable

Since OCL was not originally designed for enforcing constraints, it does not include primitives to drive the search for a solution that satisfies the constraints, as typical CP languages do. For instance, it does not include a way to define which properties of the model have to be considered as constants or variables, while trying to enforce the constraint. Distinguishing variables from constants has a double importance, both for correctly modeling the CP problem, and for reducing its search space to a limited number of variables.

Note that the distinction of variables from constants can not be performed automatically in general, as it depends on the user intent. For instance, in our use-case scenarios, we want to enforce the reference between `Task` and `Stage` to conform to `SameCharacteristicConstraint` of 6. To do so we annotate the references for which information is missing, but for uses such as model repair, annotations can direct where to look for fixes in the model. For instance given a factory configuration which breaks `SameCharacteristicConstraint`, we could choose between fixes reassigning tasks, or reassigning machines, or both to stages.

## 4.2 Denoting Variables

### 4.2.1 Base Syntax

To allow users to explicitly denote properties (attributes or references) in an OCL expression as variables (variable attributes or variable references), we propose the `var()` operator with the following syntax:

```
source.var('property')
```

where `source` identifies the objects resulting from the prior sub-expression, `property` is the name of one of the attributes or references of the objects.

In 7 we apply the operator to `SameCharacteristicConstraint` in 6 for each one of our three scenarios, defining the properties that we consider as variables for that scenario. All properties that are not included in a `var()` operation call are considered constant.

Notice that our in-language solution does not extend the syntax of the OCL language, but we add an operation to the OCL library: `var(propertyName: string) : OclAny`. When the OCL constraint is simply checked over a given model (and not enforced), the `var` operation simply returns the value of the named property (as a reflective navigation).<sup>1</sup> Whereas, if one wants to enforce OCL, `var` is used as a hint to build the corresponding CSP.

### 4.2.2 Parameters to guide modeling and search

We can add extra parameters to `var` to drive CP modeling, e.g. for bounding the domain for a property, or choosing a specific CSP encoding among the ones presented in the next section.

- **max\_card** allows a user to set the maximum number of elements in the property.  
Required if a property's max cardinality is set to infinite.
- **min\_card** allows a user to set the minimum number of elements in the property.
- **lb** allows a user to set a lower bound for the domain of the variables encoding the property.

---

<sup>1</sup>Look at `getRefValue` from ATL/OCL for a similar reflective operation [https://wiki.eclipse.org/ATL/User\\_Guide\\_-\\_The\\_ATL\\_Language#OclAny\\_operations](https://wiki.eclipse.org/ATL/User_Guide_-_The_ATL_Language#OclAny_operations)

- **ub** allows a user to set an upper bound for the domain of the variables encoding the property.
- **enumerate-domain** applies an encoding which enumerates the domain, allowing for additional filtering models.
- **branch-priority** make the solver prefer to branch off these variables.
- **branch-max** make the solver prefer to try large values for these variables.
- **branch-min** make the solver prefer to try small values for these variables.
- **fill** allows a user to preserve the values that may already be present for the property.
- **temp** guides model repair, positive temperatures allow for values to change, negative values allow for values to resist change.

Note that, alternatively, users can also annotate the variable references in the metamodel, instead of the constraints. In this case, we can always statically translate such variable annotations on metamodels into the variable annotations on constraints discussed here.

### 4.2.3 Vocabulary for Annotated Expressions

**Variable Property:** these imply adding variables and possibly constraints to the UML CSP. Non-annotated properties will be called constant. From annotation of the OCL we infer which properties are variable. This is the bridge between the model instance and the CSP, when we find a structure in the CSP, we will update these references.

**Variable Expression:** if an OCL expression has an annotation, it is referred to as variable. If it has none we call it constant. Expressions can be decomposed into sub-expressions, and variable expressions can be decomposed into variable and constant sub-expressions. A particular type of expression is the query, which in this paper are the primary sub-expressions of structural constraints.

**Variable Query:** variable queries are similarly any annotated query expression, but can be divided into two main parts:

1. variable property access: `src.var(prop)`
2. variable navigation: `.var(src).prop`.

Variable property access is sourced from constant (non annotated) queries, e.g. `self.prev.var(stage)`. Variable navigation is sourced from a variable query. For example in: `self.var(stage).var(machines).ch` machines and characteristics are reached through variable navigations, the first being from Stage to Machines, the second from Machines to Characteristics .

## 4.3 Refactoring OCL around annotations

### 4.3.1 Annotation in the OCL Abstract Syntax Tree

The annotated OCL is parsed in the form of an AST. Given an instance model to solve for, each object will have their own instance of the AST, where `self` resolves to said object. Figure 8.2 shows the AST of `SameCharacteristicConstraint` from 7 Scenario S3. We show `var` annotations as dotted rectangles.

Figure 8.2 illustrates a key function of `var` annotations: they define the scope of the CP problem, i.e. a frontier between what can be simply evaluated by a standard OCL evaluator, and what needs to be translated and solved by CP. In Figure 8.2, the scope defined by each `var` annotation is indicated by a dotted rounded rectangle. The `var` annotation requires everything inside the corresponding scope to be translated to CP.

For instance, since the reference between `Task` and `Stage` is annotated (`self.var('stage')`), the result of the `stage NavigationOrAttributeCallExp` needs to be found by the solver. All nodes in the scope of an annotated node will be in the CSP, as what they resolve to depends on the solution the solver is searching for. Conversely, nodes that are not in the scope of any `var` annotation do not need to be translated to CP, making the CP problem smaller.

The processing of the AST in Figure 8.2 (corresponding to Scenario S3) starts from the bottom: `self` is directly evaluated by standard OCL, as is `self.characteristics`. However we don't know the result of `self.stage`, which implies we don't know the result of `self.stage.machines`. Above, we iterate on the unknown machines and for all of them: ask what their characteristics are, and if they include the characteristics of the task. All these questions must also be answered by the solver, which means any node of the tree within the dotted box must be resolved by the solver.

In Scenario S2, `SameCharacteristicConstraint` from 7 has the same AST as in Figure 8.2, but only the `machines` node is annotated as `var`. Hence, in this case the CP scope is smaller, since `self.stage` can be directly evaluated by OCL.

```
-- Scenario S1
(*@\label{lst:ocl:var:derive:s}@*) context Task inv
    SameCharacteristicConstraint:
        inv: Stage.AllInstances()
            ->select(s|
                s.machines.forall(c | c.characteristics
                    ->includesAll(self.characteristics))
                ->includesAll(self.var(stage)))
-- Scenario S2
(*@\label{lst:ocl:var:derive:m}@*) context Task inv
    SameCharacteristicConstraint:
        inv: Machine.AllInstances()
            ->select(m| m.characteristics
                ->includesAll(self.characteristics))
                ->includesAll(self.stage.var(machines)))
-- Scenario S3
(*@\label{lst:ocl:var:derive:sm}@*) context Task inv
    SameCharacteristicConstraint:
        inv: Machine.AllInstances()
            ->select(m| m.characteristics
                ->includesAll(self.characteristics))
                ->includesAll(self.var(stage).var(machines)))
```

Listing 5: Annotated `SameCharacteristicConstraint` from Listing 7 refactored around the annotations.

### 4.3.2 Refactoring OCL Around Annotations

Given that everything above an annotated node of the AST is within the scope of the CSP, it's interesting to find strategies to reduce the scope as much as possible, as it results in a smaller CSP to solve. The annotated expressions of 7, all have their annotations low in the tree Figure 8.2. Ideally, all the annotations should be at the top of the tree. The semantics of the expression gives clues to refactor them, the expression requires that: All the machines connected to a task (via a stage), each individually match the task's characteristics this is the same as requiring that: The set of machines that match the task, includes the set of machines connected to the task.

In 8 we can see the result of this rewrite for all three scenarios. The beginning of the expressions are now constant queries, and search for all the suitable machines (or stages), here isolated as `sel`:

```
let sel = Class->AllInstances().select(...)
```

At the end of the expression we state that selection must include the result of the variable

query over the machines and/or stage of the task:

```
sel->includesAll(...)
```

In Figure 8.3 we can see the AST resulting from the parsing of the expression of 8 Scenarios 2 and 3. The AST is significantly different to the previous one, but most importantly, the number of nodes within the scope of the solver is greatly reduced, to just navigation and the top level constraint. The CSP now only models the inclusion.

We applied this strategy manually with knowledge of the context, but it is generalisable. In the case of any constant sub-expression applied to a variable query, it is possible to determine candidates, or candidate sets, for that sub-expression and enforce the result of the variable query to be among them. For example, for: `self.var(ref).attrib<3` we can find candidates which satisfy the constant sub-expression `.attrib<3`. This adds more computation ahead of building the CSP, but also allows us to leverage the OCL engine in cases where it's more efficient such as this one.

## 4.4 Discussions

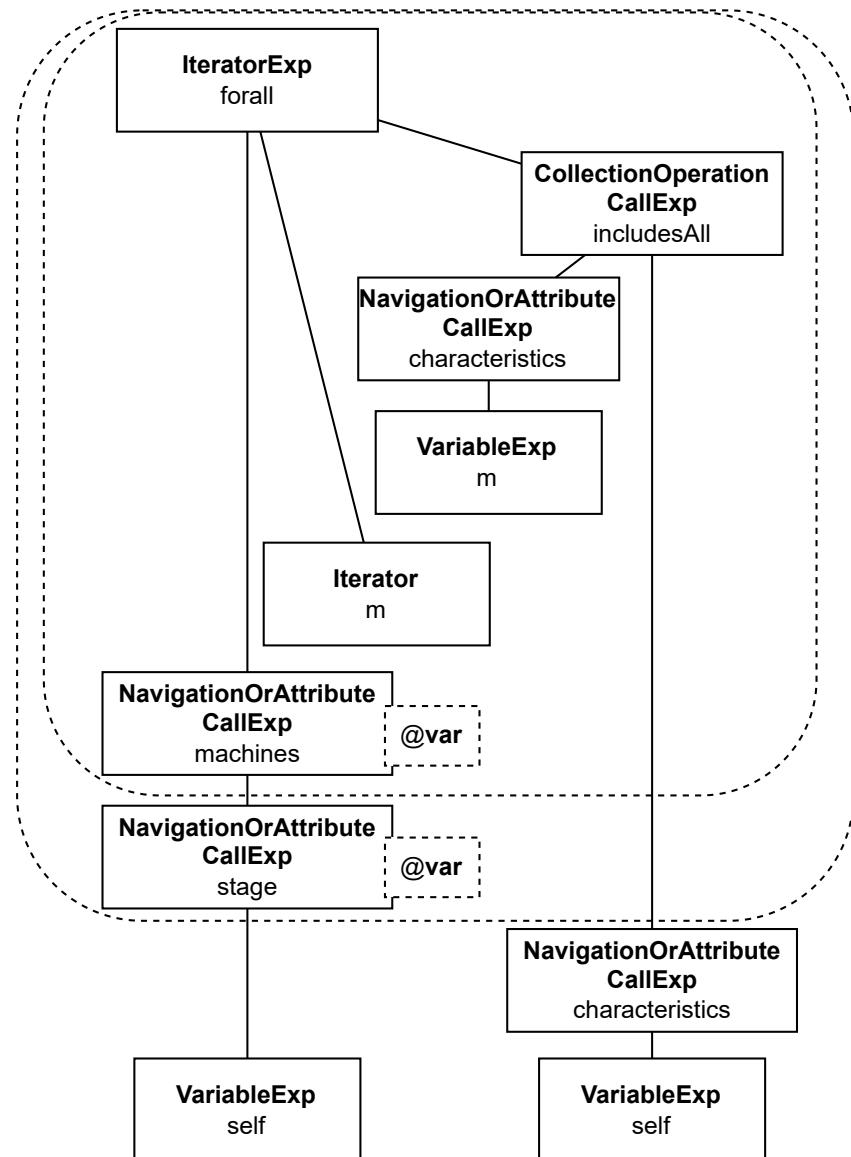


Figure 4.3: AST of `SameCharacteristicConstraint` from 7 Scenario S1, S2 & S3.  
[AST]

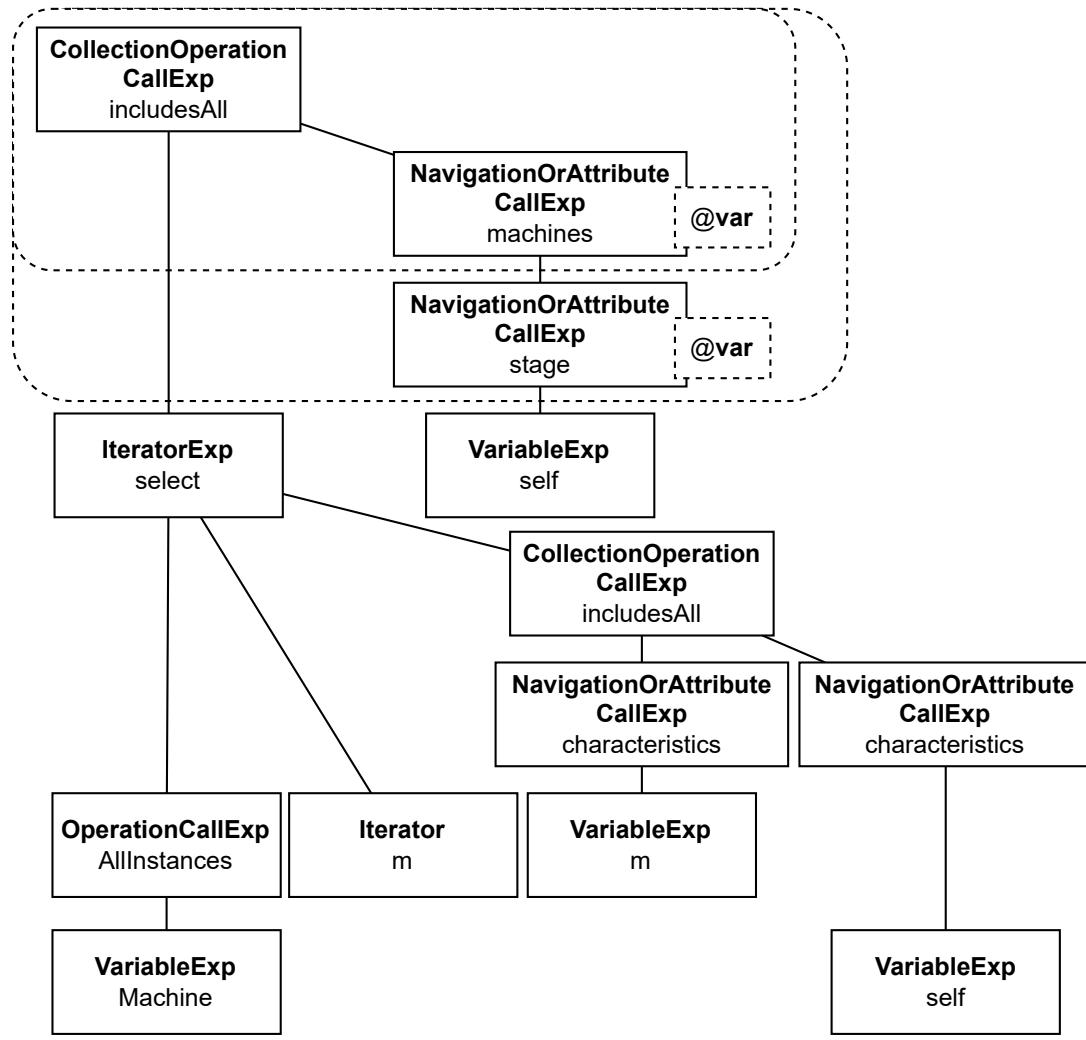


Figure 4.4: AST of SameCharacteristicConstraint from 8 Scenario S2 & S3  
[AST]

# CONTRIBUTION : UML CSP

---

- I. We can model Integer Collections type properties (it is possible to encode a lot of finite domain problems for different property types)
- II. This encoding works for both integer attributes and object references
- III. References has have extra "layers of models", leveraging the limited domains for pointer variables

## 5.1 Encoding Properties

**A. Encoding Properties.** The variables represent the properties–attributes and references–of the objects in the instance. Each class property is encoded as a matrix of integer variables, denoted  $Class.property$ . Each row in this matrix corresponds to one object of the class; for example, the  $i$ -th row is noted as  $Class_i.property$  where  $i \in [1, o]$  and  $o = |Class|$  is the number of objects of that class. The number of columns  $p$  in this table is derived from the property’s cardinality, which is given by  $n$  and  $m$  from Figure 9.1.

$$Class.property = \{x_{11}, \dots, x_{op}\}$$

$$\forall x \in Class.property, \text{domain}(x) = \{d\} \cup \{lb..ub\}$$

Each property variable  $x_{ij}$  in the matrix has a domain defined by a lower bound  $lb$ , an upper bound  $ub$ , and a special dummy value  $d$ , where we set  $d = lb - 1$ . The property type, e.g., reference or attribute, determines the specific domain bounds. Attributes with an integer type may require large ranges, making domain enumeration impractical. This limits our ability to use certain global constraints like  $\text{global\_cardinality}(c)$ onstraint, which counts the occurrences of domain values and therefore require finite, reasonably small domains. By default we chose a 16-bit range for these values:  $lb = -32768$  and  $ub = 32767$ ,

<b>Object.attribute</b>				<b>Object.reference</b>		
<i>Object<sub>i</sub></i>	<b>attribute</b>			<i>Object<sub>i</sub></i>	<b>reference</b>	
<b>0</b>	d	d	d	<b>0</b>	nullptr	nullptr
<b>1</b>	-3	4	6	<b>1</b>	3	2
<b>2</b>	1000	<i>a<sub>22</sub></i>	<i>a<sub>23</sub></i>	<b>2</b>	<i>ptr<sub>21</sub></i>	<i>ptr<sub>22</sub></i>
<b>3</b>	-99	<i>a<sub>33</sub></i>		<b>3</b>	1	<i>ptr<sub>32</sub></i>

Table 5.1: Encoding of the instance from Figure 9.2 as tables of integer variables

meaning  $d = -32769$ , but these bounds can be refined by annotating the model accordingly [?]. For reference properties, the domain is defined as  $\{1, \dots, o\} \cup \{\text{nullptr}\}$ , where  $o$  is the number of instances of the target class. These variables, named `ptr`, acts as pointers: values in  $[1, o]$  identify object rows, and 0 (i.e., dummy value `nullptr`) denotes the absence of a reference. To support `nullptr`, an extra row is added to each table to represent a dummy object.

Table 9.1 shows the encoding of the instance from Figure 9.2, assuming  $n = 2$  and  $m = 3$  from the metamodel in Figure 9.1. The left side represents attributes, while the right side represents references. Each object (plus one dummy object) gets a row. The attribute variables  $a_{ij}$  are assigned the domain  $\{lb, \dots, ub\} \cup \{d\}$ , and reference variables  $ptr_{ij}$  are assigned the domain  $\{1, \dots, o\} \cup \{\text{nullptr}\}$  with  $o = 3$ .

Model construction proceeds in two steps. First, we create matrices of variables with their full domains. Second, we instantiate some of these variables using data from the actual instance. In our current setting, we assign the exact values from the instance. Variables that remain uninstantiated may either be assigned dummy values or left free to explore during search, depending on the objective of the analysis. To choose between these behaviors and to reduce the size of the CSP, in previous work we've proposed an annotation system for OCL [?], which allows the user to identify variables. These annotations split the OCL expressions into parts which can be dispatched between our CP interpretation, and that of a standard interpreter. This reduces the scope and size of the CSP, notably in terms of modeled properties.

### 5.1.1 Encoding References

References are a special case of property, with a greatly restricted domain. The values in the domain of pointer variables identify rows of property tables. The domain of relation variables is generally small enough to be enumerated. Therefore, we give them

accompanying variables counting the occurrences for each value of the domain.

$$\begin{cases} \forall Class_o.ref \in Class.reference \\ \implies gcc(Class_o.ref, Class_o.refOcc) \end{cases} \quad (5.1)$$

$$Class.ref = \{r_{00}, \dots, r_{nm}\}$$

$$Class.refOcc = \{occ_{00}, \dots, occ_{nm}\}$$

$$\forall r \in Class.ref, \text{domain}(r) = \{0..n'\}$$

$$\forall occ \in Class.refOcc, \text{domain}(occ) = \{0..m\}$$

$$\forall n : object \in Class, gcc(Class_o.ref, Class_o.refOcc)$$

## 5.2 Constraint Models for UML Reference Types

When two references are opposites, such as child and parent, we need to do stuff.

$$\forall i, j \in \{0..n\} * \{0..n'\} A.refOcc_{ij}, \neq 0 \iff B.oppOcc_{ji} \neq 0$$

s

## 5.3 Constraint Models for UML Collection Types

As described in Section ??, properties in class diagrams (e.g., Figure 9.1) can be annotated with collection types: **Sequence**, **Bag**, **Set**, or **OrderedSet**. These types can be enforced through constraint models to ensure consistency and reduce symmetries in the data..

For **Sequence**, permutations of the same multiset (e.g.,  $\{1, 1, 2\}$ ) yield distinct sequences. However, in our encoding, sequences such as  $\{1, 2, d, 1\}$  and  $\{1, 2, 1, d\}$  are treated as equivalent, since they encode the same effective ordering of values (e.g., the position of the dummy value  $d$  is ignored). To correctly model sequences, we impose an ordering where all dummy values are grouped at the end.

Let  $X = \{x_1, \dots, x_p\}$  be the variable array for a property in the matrix =  $Class.property$ . The **Sequence** constraint is defined as:  $Sequence(X) \iff \forall i \in [1, p[, (x_i = d) \Rightarrow (x_{i+1} = d)$ . This ensures dummy values appear only at the end. We reformulate it using the

**regular** global constraint applied to a Boolean mask  $S = \{s_1, \dots, s_p\}$ :

$$Sequence(X) : \begin{cases} regular(S, DFA) \\ s_i = \llbracket x_i \neq d \rrbracket \end{cases} \quad (5.2)$$

The automaton  $DFA$  (Figure 9.3) accepts patterns of the form  $1^*0^*$ , ensuring non-dummy values precede dummy ones. Here,  $S$  acts as a mask distinguishing actual values (1) from dummies (0) while avoiding symmetry.

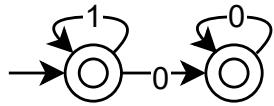


Figure 5.1: DFA packing dummy values for instance variables

For the **Bag** and **Set** types, all permutations of values are considered equivalent. To remove ordering symmetries, we sort the values in decreasing order, effectively pushing dummy values to the end:

$$Bag(X) : \left\{ \forall i \in [1, p] : x_i \geq x_{i+1} \right. \quad (5.3)$$

To model **Set**, we additionally enforce uniqueness among non-dummy values. Indeed, the sequence  $\{d, d, d\}$  would be interpreted as an empty set. To this end, we define a relaxed variant of the **alldifferent** global constraint:

$$\begin{aligned} & alldifferent\_except\_d(X) \\ \iff & \forall i, j (i < j) \in [1, |X|], (x_i \neq x_j) \vee (x_i = x_j = d) \end{aligned}$$

$$Set(X) : \begin{cases} alldifferent\_except\_d(X) \\ Bag(X) \end{cases} \quad (5.4)$$

For **OrderedSet**, both value order and uniqueness matter. We combine the constraints used for **Sequence** and **Set**: dummy values must be packed at the end, and non-dummy values must be pairwise distinct. Formally:

$$OrderedSet(X) : \begin{cases} alldifferent\_except\_d(X) \\ Sequence(X) \end{cases} \quad (5.5)$$

This ensures a well-formed sequence without repetitions, where dummy values are ignored in uniqueness checks and appear only at the end of the array. These CP encodings ensure that model properties respect their specified UML and OCL collection types, enabling correct interpretation and reducing symmetry in instance generation.

## 5.4 Using information from Variable Annotations



# CONTRIBUTION : OCL NAVIGATION

---

## 6.1 CP model for OCL queries on the instance

Querying an instance involves navigating the object graph through references and retrieving attribute values. In OCL, navigation refers to the operation that, given source collection of objects and a reference property, returns a collection of target objects through that reference. We conflate this with attribute operations—as defined in the OCL specification—which return a collection of attribute values from a source collection of objects. In our encoding, both navigation and attribute access results are uniformly represented as integer variables.

Consider an OCL expression of the form `src.property`, where `src` is itself an expression like `self.reference` or `self.reference.reference`.

Let  $Ptr = \{ptr_1, \dots, ptr_z\}$  be the variables encoding the evaluation of `src`, with  $dom(ptr_i) = \{1..o\} \cup \{nullptr\}$ . Let  $T$  be the flattened array representing the `Class.property` matrix for `property`, where `property` refers to either an attribute or reference of the referenced class. Let  $p$  be the number of columns in the matrix. Let  $Y = \{y_1, \dots, y_{z \cdot p}\}$  be the variables representing the result of `src.property`. To link  $Y$  with  $T$  and  $Ptr$ , we define the navigation constraint:

$$nav(Ptr, T, Y) \iff \forall i \in [1, z], \forall j \in [1, p] : y_{(i-1)p+j} = T_{ptr_i \times p + j}$$

This constraint links the source pointers to the appropriate rows in the property table. This is reformulated in CP as a conjunction of *element* constraints, using intermediate variables for encoding the pointer arithmetic ( $ptr_i \times p + j$ ):

$$nav(Ptr, T, Y) : \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \forall i \in [1, z], \forall j \in [1, p] : \\ \quad ptr'_{ij} = ptr_i \times p + j \\ \quad element(y_k, T, ptr'_{ij}), k = (i-1)p + j \end{array} \right. \quad (6.1)$$

The intermediate variables introduced are functionally dependent on the  $Ptr$  variables and do not require enumeration during search. Given  $Ptr$  and  $T$ , the value of  $Y$  can be

Object.reference.attribute						
Object <sub>i</sub>	reference.attribute					
<b>1</b>	-99	-33	$a'_{13}$	1000	$a'_{15}$	$a'_{16}$
<b>2</b>	$a'_{21}$	$a'_{22}$	$a'_{23}$	$a'_{24}$	$a'_{25}$	$a'_{26}$
<b>3</b>	-3	4	5	$a'_{34}$	$a'_{35}$	$a'_{36}$

Table 6.1: Encodings of `self.reference.attribute` for all objects of Figure 9.2 as a table of integer variables

determined. However, given an instantiation of  $Y$ , this model cannot fully determine  $Ptr$  and  $T$ , but it can filter to some extent. Thus, OCL query variables depend on the instance variables, and a query result may correspond to multiple instances.

It is important to note that the intermediate variables introduced by this reformulation are functionally dependent on the  $Ptr$  variables of the constraint. This means, we do not need to enumerate upon these variables during search. Similarly, given an instantiation of  $Ptr$  and  $T$ , in the context of model verification for example, we can determine  $Y$ . However, given an instantiation of  $Y$ , this model alone cannot determine  $Ptr$  and  $T$ , but it can filter to some extent. In the overall CSP this means that the variables encoding the OCL queries are all functionally dependent on the instance variables, but a query that solves the problem isn't associated with one instance.

Table 9.2 shows the results of the query `self.reference.attribute` using the navigation CP model (9.1) on the instance from Table 9.1. Result variables  $a'_{ij}$  share the same domains as  $a_{ij}$  but follow the reference and attribute order, introducing gaps due to ordering, e.g.,  $a'_{13}$  might be the third variable, but yield a different third value (e.g., 1000) if  $a'_{13} = d$ . Similar effects occur in other OCL reformulations like union and append. Despite these gaps, value order and duplicates are preserved. These outputs are interpreted using the same models used for casting to collection types, such as `asSequence()`, discussed in Section ??.

Table 9.2 shows us the result of query `self.reference.attribute` using the navigation model CSP 9.1 on the instance from Table 9.1. The variables in this table, noted  $a'_{ij}$ , have the same domain as the  $a_{ij}$  variables. We also find the instantiated values, with respect to the order in the reference and the attribute: the variables of the first referred object come first, in the same order as in their original table. This introduces gaps between values, as illustrated by the first line: the third variable is  $a'_{13}$ , but if  $a'_{13} = d$  the third value is 1000. Our reformulations of other OCL operations, such as union and the sequence operation append, similarly introduce gaps. However, despite these gaps, the order and

multiplicity across values are preserved. The models to get a correct interpretation these collections are the same as the models to cast to a collection type, such as `asSequence()`, and are explored in Section ???. We will therefore need models to interpret these as the correct collection type.

## 6.2 NavCSP experimentation

Navigating a model adds a great deal of complexity. The pointer navigation Equation 9.1 is the greatest factor in that complexity. It takes effect in variable query expressions such as: `src.var(ref).prop` where we want to find a property based on variables in the scope of the solver. Whether the property is variable or not, or is an attribute or a reference, the same navCSP applies. In the case the property is a reference, we can chain the CSP, which greatly increases complexity.

### OCL Query Dimensions

To evaluate the navigation provided by Equation 9.1, we will look at the size of the CSP modeling the following OCL expression:

```
let query = self.ref.ref...ref in
```

Such that `self.ref` is reflexive variable reference, modeled with  $N$  pointer variables, identifying objects of the same type. The depth of the navigation, is noted  $d$ , with  $d = 0$  as the case of variable property access, `query = self.ref`. Adding further navigations increments  $d$ , for example  $d = 2$  corresponds to `self.ref.ref.ref`.

### OCL Query Size

In Figure 8.5 we can see the number of query atoms, meaning equally: the intermediate pointer variables, element constraints or pointer arithmetic required to model this query, which is found using the formula:

$$f(N, 0) = 0$$

$$f(N, d) = f(N, d - 1) + N^{1+d}$$

- 1) No matter the size of the `AdjList`, the first annotated reference implies no intermediate pointers, as we simply find the problem variables associated to `self`.

2) If we are to navigate deeper, we make an additional hyper-table of intermediate variables, indexed by the prior lower dimension table of pointers. To examine the formula, let's look at the case of  $d = 1$ , or `self.ref.ref`:

$$f(N, 1) = 0 + N^2$$

We have  $N$  pointers coming in from `self.ref`, and they each point to  $N$  pointers. Resulting in a table of intermediate pointer variables. If we navigate deeper, let  $d = 2$ :

$$f(N, 2) = 0 + N^2 + N^3$$

For every pointer in the previous table  $N^2$ , we associate  $N$  more pointers. Giving us now a hyper-table, cubed. If we navigate deeper, the 3D hyper-table will similarly index a 4D hyper-table.

The graph in Figure 8.5 starts at 1 on the x,y axes or  $f(1, 1)$ , which gives 1 on the z axis (log scale). For a single navigation from a single pointer variable (`AdjList` of size 1), we have a single query atom. For a single navigation from an `AdjList` of size 10 or  $f(10, 1)$ , we have 100 query atoms. For `AdjList` variables of size 1, navigating with a query depth of 10 or  $f(1, 10)$ , results in 10 query atoms.

On the left background, we can see the curve resulting from increasing `AdjList` size. While on the right, we can see the curve resulting from increasing navigation depth. We can see from this that increasing the navigation seems to increase the size of the problem logarithmically, while increasing the number of pointers for a reference is exponential.

The complete navigation model has twice as many constraints  $2f(N, d)$ , as we need both an element and some pointer arithmetic for each intermediate variable. Our implementation of the pointer arithmetic implies an additional intermediate variable, giving a total of  $2f(N, d)$  intermediate variables.

The total number of propagations required to find all counter proofs, or validate a model also aligns with the number of constraints found here  $2f(N, d)$ , validation would correspond to all the problem variables having only one possible value. While it is a large number it's still fast to run all these propagators once, and running out of memory space for the model became a more limiting factor than time in our tests.

Going beyond validation, and searching for a model fix, or completing a model such as in our use-case, means increasing the domains of the problem variables and by consequence the intermediate variables, and in the case of model completion having the full range of

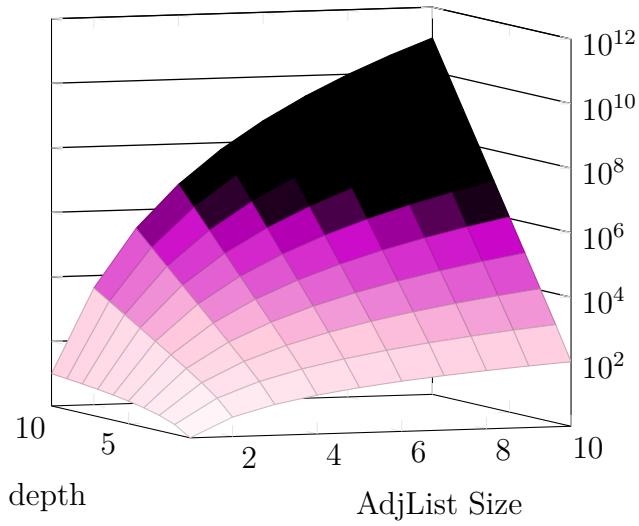


Figure 6.1: Number of query atoms in relation to `AdjList` size and navigation depth [AST]

possibilities for all these variables.

### Subset Sum Problem

<sup>1</sup> by applying the following constraints to the query from a single object (among up to 120), we can model a variation on the subset sum problem:

```
query->sum(attribute) = Target
and query->isUnique(attribute)
```

Where `self.attribute` of an object is a constant integer attribute between 10 and 29. All of them together forming a multiset, from which we'll find a subset with the right sum. Initial testing with this problem gives fast non-trivial solutions, up to a few minutes, for queries with up to around  $10^4$  intermediate variables. When no subset sums equal the target, such as finding a subset summing to 1, or when solving for trivial targets such as 0, the process takes less than a few minutes up to  $10^6$  intermediate variables. Bigger problems reached our memory limit. These results color Figure 8.5, the lightest area being quickly solvable, the darker area being quickly verifiable and the black area being too big to model.

---

<sup>1</sup>[https://github.com/ArtemisLemon/navCSP\\_SubsetSum](https://github.com/ArtemisLemon/navCSP_SubsetSum)



# CONTRIBUTION : OCL CSP

---

## 7.1 CP Models for OCL Integer and Boolean Operations

## 7.2 CP Models for OCL Collection Type Casting Operations

To illustrate OCL type casting, consider the following invariant, taken from the Zoo Model used in the experimentation:

```
1 context Cage inv:
2     self.animals.species.asSet().size < 2
```

If `self.animals.species` evaluates to the sequence  $\{1,1,1\}$ , applying `asSet()` yields the set  $\{1\}$ , indicating that the cage contains a single species of animal. In the following, we define CP models to capture such collection type conversions.

Consider an expression of the form `src.asOP()`, where `src` is a collection-valued expression such as `self.attribute`, and `asOP()` denotes a type-casting operation applied to the source collection (e.g., `asSequence()`, `asSet()`, etc.). Let  $X = \{x_1, \dots, x_z\}$  be the array of variables modeling the values of `src`, and let  $Y = \{y_1, \dots, y_z\}$  represent the resulting collection after applying `asOP()`.

### 7.2.1 `asBag()`

**A. `asBag()`:** Consider the expression `src.asBag()`, where the result is evaluated as a multiset  $Y$  that preserves all values from the source collection  $X$ , including repeated elements. Because OCL bags are insensitive to permutations, multiple orderings of the same values are semantically equivalent. To avoid such symmetries in the model, we impose a

canonical form by sorting  $Y$  in descending order. This also ensures that any dummy values  $d$  used to pad the collection appear at the end. For example, given  $X = \{1, 2, d, 1\}$ , we enforce the canonical bag representation  $Y = \{2, 1, 1, d\}$ . This transformation is modeled using the global constraint  $\text{sort}(X, Y)$ , which sorts  $X$  into  $Y$ .

$$\text{asBag}(X, Y) : \left\{ \text{sort}(X, Y^{\text{rev}}) \right. \quad (7.1)$$

$Y^{\text{rev}}$  denotes the reverse of  $Y$ , used to enforce descending order.

### 7.2.2 asSet()

**B. asSet():** Consider the expression `src.asSet()`. The `asSet()` operation removes duplicate elements from the source collection  $X$  while disregarding order. In our encoding, this corresponds to extracting the distinct values from  $X$  and placing them into the result array  $Y$  in a canonical form. Since the number of unique elements in  $X$  is not known beforehand,  $Y$  is defined with the same arity as  $X$ , and any unused positions are filled with a dummy value  $d$ . For instance, given an instantiation  $X = \{1, 2, 1, d\}$ , the result of `asSet()` would be  $Y = \{2, 1, d, d\}$ .

$$\text{asSet}(X, Y) : \begin{cases} \text{sort}(X, S^{\text{rev}}) \\ X' = S \parallel \{d\} \\ Y' = Y \parallel \{d\} \\ p_1 = 1 \\ \forall i \in ]2, z+1] : p_i = p_{i-1} + [\![x'_{i-1} \neq x'_i]\!] \\ \quad \text{element}(x'_i, Y', p_i) \\ \forall i \in [1, z] : y_i \geq y_{i+1} \end{cases} \quad (7.2)$$

To enforce the `asSet()` semantics, we first sort the source array  $X$  in descending order into an auxiliary array  $S$ . We then define an array of position variables  $P$  and compute the position  $p_i$  of each variable  $s_i$  in a new array  $Y$ , ensuring that repeated values in  $S$  map to the same position. The first occurrence of a new value increments the position counter:  $p_i = p_{i-1} + [\![s_{i-1} \neq s_i]\!]$ . To support cases where all positions in  $Y$  are filled with unique values, we append a dummy value  $d$  to  $S$ , yielding  $X' = S \parallel \{d\}$ . In the case where all values in  $X$  are distinct (e.g.,  $X = \{2, 3, 1, 4\}$ ), the dummy has no room in  $Y$ . We resolve this by appending a dummy value to  $Y$  as well, forming  $Y' = Y \parallel \{d\}$ . This dummy will occupy the first unused position in  $Y$ , and all subsequent positions are forced to  $d$  by a descending sort constraint  $y_i \geq y_{i+1}$ . The final mapping from positions  $p_i$  to  $Y'$  is enforced via an `element(c)`onstraint over  $X'$  and  $Y'$ .

Index	B	X	Sorted Index	B'	Y
1	0	1	1	0	1
2	1	d	3	0	2
3	0	2	5	0	1
4	1	d	2	1	d
5	0	1	4	1	d

Table 7.1: Example of `asSequence()` transformation using stable sort. Dummy values are in red.

### 7.2.3 `asSequence()`

C. `asSequence()`: The `asSequence` operation retains all values from the source collection, including duplicates, and reorders them such that all non-dummy values appear first in their original relative order, followed by the dummy values. For example, if  $X = \{1, d, 2, d, 1\}$ , then `asSequence` yields  $Y = \{1, 2, 1, d, d\}$ . To enforce this transformation, we introduce the following CP model:

$$asSeq_{x2y}(X, Y) : \begin{cases} stable\_keysort(\langle B, X \rangle, \langle B', Y \rangle, 1) \\ b_i = [x_i = d], \forall i \in [1, z] \\ b'_i = [y_i = d], \forall i \in [1, z] \end{cases} \quad (7.3)$$

Here,  $B$  and  $B'$  are arrays of integer variables of size  $z$ , of domain 0, 1, used as booleans indicating which variables in  $X$  and  $Y$  are equal to the dummy value  $d$ . The  $stable\_keysort(T, S, k)$  constraint takes a matrix  $T$  and produces a sorted matrix  $S$ , ordering rows based on the first  $k$  columns, which form the sort key. In our case, we construct the matrices  $\langle B, X \rangle$  and  $\langle B', Y \rangle$ , and sort on the first column, which separates dummy and non-dummy values while preserving the original order of the non-dummy elements.

To illustrate, let  $X = \{1, d, 2, d, 1\}$ , yielding  $B = \{0, 1, 0, 1, 0\}$ . We apply a stable sort to  $B$ , considering the pairs  $(b_i, x_i)$ , and sorting by the key  $b_i$ . This ensures that all 0s (non-dummy values) appear before all 1s (dummy values), and the relative order of elements with the same key (e.g., all 0s) is preserved (see Table ??). The sorted Boolean array becomes  $B' = \{0, 0, 0, 1, 1\}$ . Applying the permutation used to sort  $B$  to the array  $X$  results in  $Y = \{1, 2, 1, d, d\}$ .

One of the strategies during the search process involves enumerating the variables representing the top-level nodes in the OCL abstract syntax tree (AST). For example, in the expression `src.asSequence().sum()<3`, we explore possible values for `.sum()`, which helps filter the values of `src.asSequence`. To extend this filtering process down to `src`,

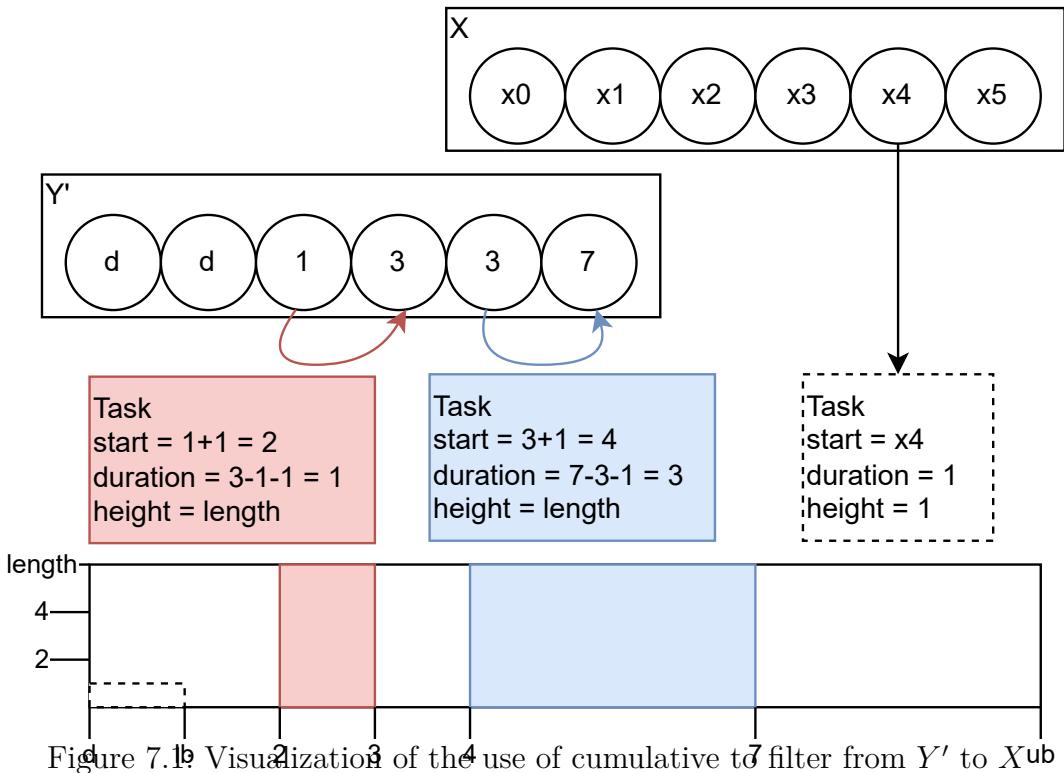
an additional model is needed to manage the refinement. To filter from  $Y$  to  $X$ , we use a cumulative constraint, commonly applied in task scheduling. In this approach, we treat the intervals between values in  $Y$  as blocking tasks that prevent certain values from  $X$  during scheduling. By scheduling the tasks derived from  $X$  around the blocking intervals from  $Y$ , we filter down the possible values for  $X$ , effectively refining the search space according to the constraints set by  $Y$ .

$$asSeq_{y2x}(X, Y) : \left\{ \begin{array}{l} sort(Y, Y') \\ \text{let } T_y \quad \text{be the set of tasks such that:} \\ \quad \forall i \in [1, z] : s_i = y'_i + 1 \\ \quad d_i = \max(0, y'_{i+1} - y'_i - 1) \\ \quad h_i = z \\ \text{let } T_x \quad \text{be the set of tasks such that:} \\ \quad \forall i \in [1, z] : s_i = x_i \\ \quad d_i = 1 \\ \quad h_i = 1 \\ cumulative(T_y \cup T_x, z) \end{array} \right. \quad (7.4)$$

Equation (9.9) defines how to filter values of  $X$  based on the sequence  $Y$  using a cumulative constraint:

1. First,  $Y$  is sorted into  $Y'$  to identify ordered non-dummy values.
2. From  $Y'$ , we define blocking tasks  $T_y$  representing disallowed intervals. Each task (associated to value  $y'_i$  in  $Y'$ ):
  - Starts at  $s_i = y'_i + 1$ ,
  - Has a duration  $d_i = \max(0, y'_{i+1} - y'_i - 1)$ ,
  - Has a height of  $h_i = z$ , fully consuming the resource and thus excluding  $X$  from that interval.
3. For each variable  $x_i \in X$ , a task is created in  $T_x$  starting at  $x_i$ , with duration 1 and height 1.
4. The cumulative constraint on  $T_y \cup T_x$  ensures tasks from  $X$  are only scheduled in the non-blocked intervals.

In Figure 9.4, blocking tasks (highlighted in red and blue) are created from the intervals between values in  $Y'$ , representing values that are prohibited for  $X$ . The white space represents the available slots for scheduling tasks from  $X$ . This model effectively restricts the possible values for  $X$  by ensuring that certain values, determined by the sorted sequence  $Y'$ , are "blocked" from being selected, refining the search space. Combining both



the  $X$  to  $Y$  and  $Y$  to  $X$  models give us the complete model for `asSequence`.

$$\text{asSequence}(X, Y) : \begin{cases} \text{asSeq}_{x2y}(X, Y) \\ \text{asSeq}_{y2x}(X, Y) \end{cases} \quad (7.5)$$

#### 7.2.4 `asOrderedSet()`

**D. `asOrderedSet()`:** Consider the expression `src.asOrderedSet()`. The `asOrderedSet()` operation removes duplicates from  $X$  while preserving the relative order of first occurrences. Unused positions in  $Y$  are filled with dummy values  $d$ . For example if  $X = \{1, 2, d, 1\}$ , then `asOrderedSet` returns the array  $Y = \{1, 2, d, d\}$ . To enforce this be-

havior, we use the following CP model:

$$asOrdSet(X, Y) : \begin{cases} stable\_keysort(< X, Y' >, < S, T >, 1) \\ t_1 = s_1 \\ \forall i \in ]1, z] : t_i = \begin{cases} s_i & \text{if } s_i \neq s_{i-1} \\ d & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ asSequence(Y', Y) \end{cases} \quad (7.6)$$

The idea is to sort  $X$  into  $S$  to group identical values. We build  $T$  by keeping the first occurrence of each value in  $S$  and replacing subsequent duplicates with the dummy value  $d$ . We then invert the sort to obtain  $Y'$ , restoring the original structure. Finally, we apply `asSequence` to push all dummy values to the end, yielding the final ordered set  $Y$ .

Given  $X = \{2, 1, 2, 3\}$ , sorting yields  $S = \{1, 2, 2, 3\}$ , filtering gives  $T = \{1, 2, d, 3\}$ , reversing the sort results in  $Y' = \{2, 1, d, 3\}$ , and packing dummies yields  $Y = \{2, 1, 3, d\}$ .

### 7.2.5 Filtering Dummy Values in OCL Collection Operations

**E. Filtering Dummy Values in OCL Collection Operations** For many OCL collection operations, the filtering process from  $X$  to  $Y$  can be enhanced by introducing a dedicated constraint to handle dummy values. This filtering mechanism can be integrated into models such as 9.6, 9.7, 9.10, and 9.11. The filtering approach is inspired by the strategy used in Equation (9.2), employing a *regular* constraint over a masked array:

$$dChannel(X, Y) : \begin{cases} regular(S, NFA) \\ \text{where } s_i = \llbracket s'_i \neq d \rrbracket, i \in [1, z] \\ \text{with } S' = X \parallel c \parallel Y^{\text{rev}} \end{cases} \quad (7.7)$$

The mask encodes non-dummy values with 1s and dummy values with 0s. The *regular* constraint is applied over the concatenated sequence  $S' = X \parallel c \parallel Y^{\text{rev}}$ , where  $c$  is a counter variable ranging from 0 to  $z$ . The non-deterministic finite automaton (NFA), shown in Figure 9.5, ensures that the number of 0s (i.e., dummies) in  $X$  is matched by the same number of leading 0s in  $Y^{\text{rev}}$ .

Given a partial instantiation such as  $X = \{x_1, d, x_3, d, x_5\}$ , this constraint allows filtering to deduce  $Y = \{y_1, y_2, y_3, d, d\}$ .

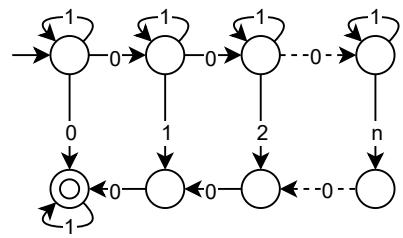


Figure 7.2: Non-Deterministic Finite Automaton accepting strings where  $Y$  starts with the same number of 0 found in  $X$ .

## 7.3 CP Models for OCL Collection Operations

## 7.4 CP Models for OCL Sequence Operations

7.4.1 Prepend

7.4.2 Append

7.4.3 Insert At

7.4.4 Ordered Sub-Set

7.4.5 At

7.4.6 Index Of

7.4.7 First

7.4.8 Last

7.4.9 Reverse

## 7.5 CP Models for OCL Set Operations

7.5.1 Union

7.5.2 Intersection

7.5.3 Difference

7.5.4 Symetric Difference

7.5.5 including

7.5.6 excluding

## 7.6 CP Models for OCL Bag Operations

## 7.7 CP Models for OCL Ordered Set Operations

7.7.1 Prepend 72

7.7.2 Append

7.7.3 Insert At

# CONCLUSION

---

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, « consectetur » adipiscing elit. Maecenas fermentum, elit non lobortis cursus, orci velit suscipit est, id mollis turpis mi eget orci. Ut aliquam sollicitudin metus. Mauris at sapien sed sapien congue iaculis. Nulla lorem urna, bibendum id, laoreet iaculis, nonummy eget, massa. Phasellus ullamcorper commodo velit. Class aptent taciti sociosqu ad litora torquent per « conubia nostra », per inceptos hymenaeos. Phasellus est. Maecenas felis augue, gravida quis, porta adipiscing, iaculis vitae, felis. Nullam ipsum. Nulla a sem ac leo fringilla mattis. Phasellus egestas augue in sem. Etiam ac enim non mauris ullamcorper scelerisque. In wisi leo, malesuada vulputate, tempor sit amet, facilisis vel, velit. Mauris massa est, sodales placerat, luctus id, hendrerit a, urna. Nullam eleifend pede eget odio. Duis non erat. Nullam pellentesque.

Maître Corbeau, sur un arbre perché,  
Tenait en son bec un fromage.  
Maître Renard, par l'odeur alléché,  
Lui tint à peu près ce langage :  
« Hé ! bonjour, Monsieur du Corbeau.  
Que vous êtes joli ! que vous me semblez beau !  
Sans mentir, si votre ramage  
Se rapporte à votre plumage,  
Vous êtes le Phénix des hôtes de ces bois. »

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Maecenas fermentum, elit non lobortis cursus, orci velit suscipit est, id mollis turpis mi eget orci. Ut aliquam sollicitudin metus. Mauris at sapien sed sapien congue iaculis. Nulla lorem urna, bibendum id, laoreet iaculis, nonummy eget, massa<sup>1</sup>. Phasellus ullamcorper commodo velit. Class aptent taciti sociosqu ad litora torquent per conubia nostra, per inceptos hymenaeos. Phasellus est. Maecenas felis augue, gravida quis, porta adipiscing, iaculis vitae, felis. Nullam ipsum. Nulla a sem ac leo fringilla mattis. Phasellus egestas augue in sem. Etiam ac enim non mauris ullamcorper scelerisque. In wisi leo, malesuada vulputate, tempor sit amet, facilisis vel, velit. Mauris massa est, sodales placerat, luctus id, hendrerit a, urna. Nullam eleifend pede eget odio. Duis non erat. Nullam pellentesque.

---

<sup>1</sup>Pierre1901.

---

## Première section de l'intro

  Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, « consectetuer » adipiscing elit. Maecenas fermentum, elit non lobortis cursus, orci velit suscipit est, id mollis turpis mi eget orci. Ut aliquam sollicitudin metus. Mauris at sapien sed sapien congue iaculis. Nulla lorem urna, bibendum id, laoreet iaculis, nonummy eget, massa. Phasellus ullamcorper commodo velit. Class aptent taciti sociosqu ad litora torquent per « conubia nostra », per inceptos hymenaeos. Phasellus est. Maecenas felis augue, gravida quis, porta adipiscing, iaculis vitae, felis. Nullam ipsum. Nulla a sem ac leo fringilla mattis. Phasellus egestas augue in sem. Etiam ac enim non mauris ullamcorper scelerisque. In wisi leo, malesuada vulputate, tempor sit amet, facilisis vel, velit. Mauris massa est, sodales placerat, luctus id, hendrerit a, urna. Nullam eleifend pede eget odio. Duis non erat. Nullam pellentesque.

**Une boite magique :**

### Titre de la boite

Praesent placerat, ante at venenatis pretium, diam turpis faucibus arcu, nec vehicula quam lorem ut leo. Sed facilisis, augue in pharetra dapibus, ligula justo accumsan massa, eu suscipit felis ipsum eget enim.

Laoreet iaculis, nonummy eget, massa. Phasellus ullamcorper commodo velit. Class aptent taciti sociosqu ad litora torquent per « conubia nostra », per inceptos hymenaeos. Phasellus est. Maecenas felis augue, gravida quis, porta adipiscing, iaculis vitae, felis. Nullam ipsum. Nulla a sem ac leo fringilla mattis. Phasellus egestas augue in sem. Etiam ac enim non mauris ullamcorper scelerisque. In wisi leo, malesuada vulputate, tempor sit amet, facilisis vel, velit. Mauris massa est, sodales placerat, luctus id, hendrerit a, urna. Nullam eleifend pede eget odio. Duis non erat. Nullam pellentesque.

**Une boite simple :**

Mauris lorem quam, tristique sollicitudin egestas sed, sodales vel leo. In hac habitasse platea dictumst. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed sed lorem lacus, at venenatis elit. Pellentesque nisl arcu, blandit ac eleifend non, sodales a quam.

---

Laoreet iaculis, nonummy eget, massa. Phasellus ullamcorper commodo velit. Class aptent taciti sociosqu ad litora torquent per « conubia nostra », per inceptos hymenaeos. Phasellus est. Maecenas felis augue, gravida quis, porta adipiscing, iaculis vitae, felis. Nullam ipsum. Nulla a sem ac leo fringilla mattis. Phasellus egestas augue in sem. Etiam ac enim non mauris ullamcorper scelerisque. In wisi leo, malesuada vulputate, tempor sit amet, facilisis vel, velit. Mauris massa est, sodales placerat, luctus id, hendrerit a, urna. Nullam eleifend pede eget odio. Duis non erat. Nullam pellentesque.





## Titre : Exploration d'Ensembles de Modèles II

**Mot clés :** Ingénierie Dirigée par les Modèles, Programmation par Contraintes, Exploration d'Ensembles de Modèles

**Résumé :** Eius populus ab incunabulis primis ad usque pueritiae tempus extremum, quod annis circumcluditur fere trecentis, circummu-rana pertulit bella, deinde aetatem ingressus adultam post multiplices bellorum aerum-nas Alpes transcendit et fretum, in iuvenem erectus et virum ex omni plaga quam orbis ambit inmensus, reportavit laureas et triumphos, iamque vergens in senium et nomine solo aliquotiens vincens ad tranquilliora vitae discessit. Hoc inmaturo interitu ipse quoque sui pertaesus excessit e vita aetatis nono anno atque vicensimo cum quadriennio imperasset. natus apud Tuscos in Massa Veternensi, patre Constantio Constantini fratre imperatoris, matreque Galla. Thalassius vero

ea tempestate praefectus praetorio praesens ipse quoque adrogantis ingenii, considerans incitationem eius ad multorum augeri dis-crmina, non maturitate vel consiliis mitiga-bat, ut aliquotiens celsae potestates iras prin-cipum molliverunt, sed adversando iurgan-doque cum parum congrueret, eum ad rabiem potius evibrabat, Augustum actus eius exaggerando creberrime docens, idque, incer-tum qua mente, ne lateret adfectans. quibus mox Caesar acrius efferatus, velut contuma-ciae quoddam vexillum altius erigens, sine re-spectu salutis alienae vel suae ad vertenda opposita instar rapidi fluminis irrevocabili im-petu ferebatur. Hae duae provinciae bello quondam piratico catervis mixtae praedonum.

## Title: Model Space Exploration II

**Keywords:** Model Driven Engineering, Constraint Programming, Model Space Exploration

**Abstract:** Eius populus ab incunabulis primis ad usque pueritiae tempus extremum, quod annis circumcluditur fere trecentis, circummu-rana pertulit bella, deinde aetatem ingressus adultam post multiplices bellorum aerum-nas Alpes transcendit et fretum, in iuvenem erectus et virum ex omni plaga quam orbis ambit inmensus, reportavit laureas et triumphos, iamque vergens in senium et nomine solo aliquotiens vincens ad tranquilliora vitae discessit. Hoc inmaturo interitu ipse quoque sui pertaesus excessit e vita aetatis nono anno atque vicensimo cum quadriennio imperasset. natus apud Tuscos in Massa Veternensi, patre Constantio Constantini fratre imperatoris, matreque Galla. Thalassius vero

ea tempestate praefectus praetorio praesens ipse quoque adrogantis ingenii, considerans incitationem eius ad multorum augeri dis-crmina, non maturitate vel consiliis mitiga-bat, ut aliquotiens celsae potestates iras prin-cipum molliverunt, sed adversando iurgan-doque cum parum congrueret, eum ad rabiem potius evibrabat, Augustum actus eius exaggerando creberrime docens, idque, incer-tum qua mente, ne lateret adfectans. quibus mox Caesar acrius efferatus, velut contuma-ciae quoddam vexillum altius erigens, sine re-spectu salutis alienae vel suae ad vertenda opposita instar rapidi fluminis irrevocabili im-petu ferebatur. Hae duae provinciae bello quondam piratico catervis mixtae praedonum.