

DSL: The Art Of Domain-Specific Languages: Let's Hack Our Own Languages!

(or: Why I'd like write program that write programs rather than write programs)

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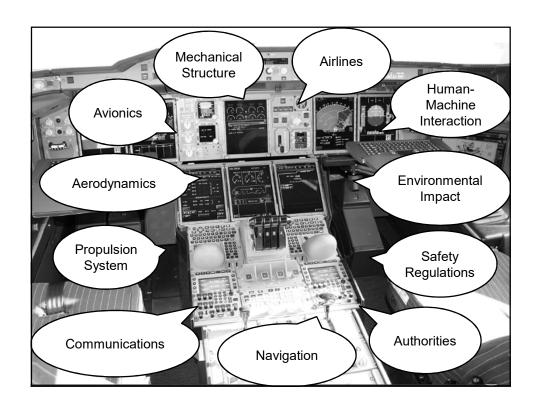


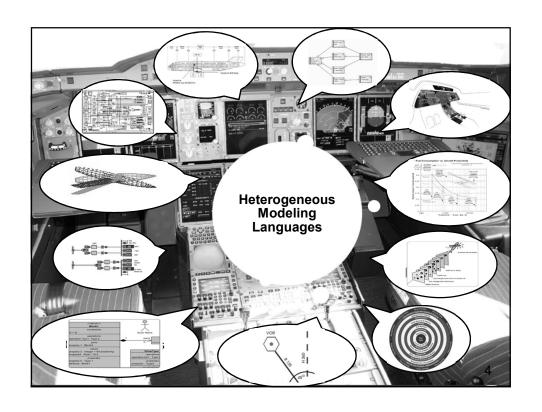
Triskell Metamodeling Kernel Servel S

Outline

- Introduction to Model Driven Engineering
- Designing Meta-models: the LOGO example
- Static Semantics with OCL
- Operational Semantics with Kermeta
- Building a Compiler: Model transformations
- Conclusion and Wrap-up

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Complex Software Intensive Systems

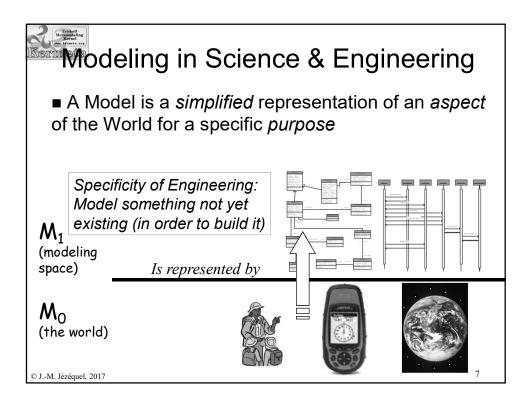
- > Multiple concerns
- > Multiple viewpoints & stakeholders
- > Multiple domains of expertise
- > => Need languages to express them!
 - In a meaningful way for experts
 - With tool support (analysis, code gen., V&V..) » Which is still costly to build
 - At some point, all these concerns must be integrated

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Why modeling: master complexity

- Modeling, in the broadest sense, is the *cost-effective use of* something in place of something else for some cognitive purpose. It allows us to use something that is simpler, safer or *cheaper* than reality instead of reality for some purpose.
- A model represents reality for the given purpose; the model is an abstraction of reality in the sense that it cannot represent all aspects of reality. This allows us to deal with the world in a simplified manner, avoiding the complexity, danger and irreversibility of reality.

Jeff Rothenberg.



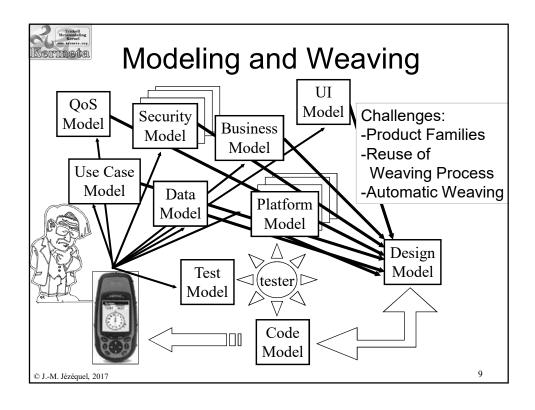
Model and Reality in Software

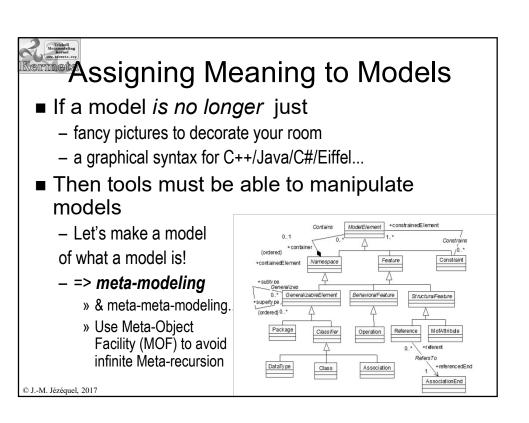
- Sun Tse: Do not take the map for the reality
- Magritte

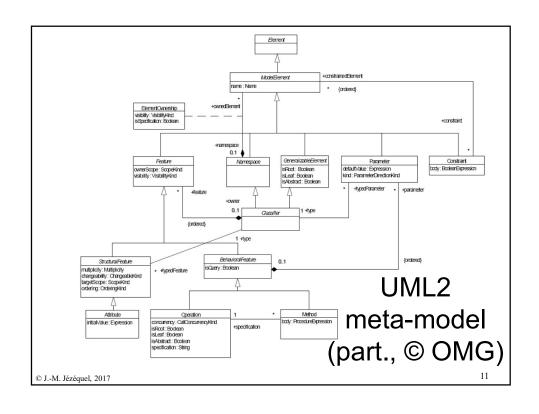


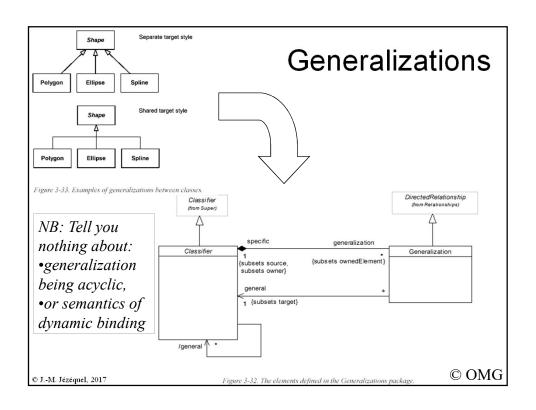
■ Software Models: from contemplative to productive

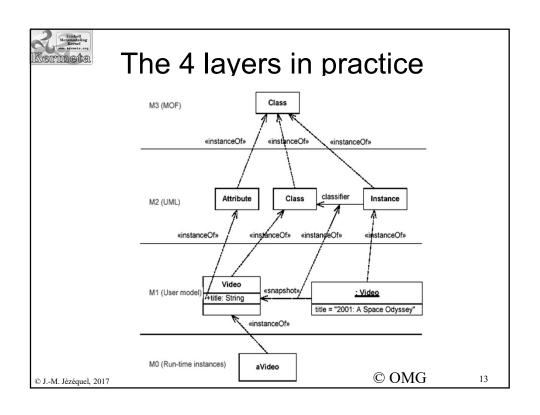
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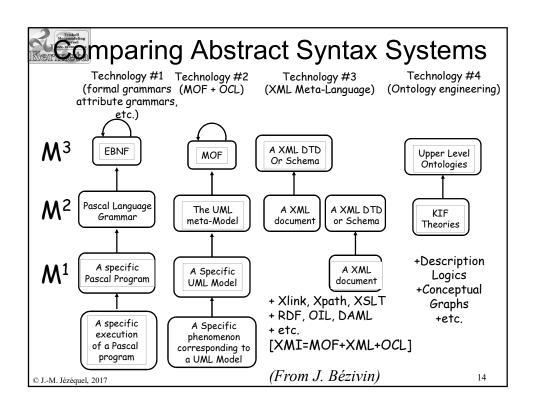












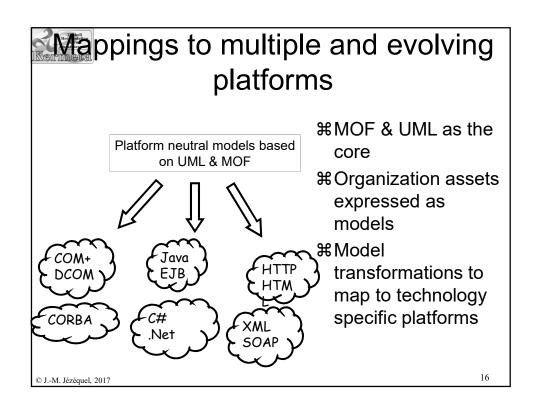


MDA: the OMG vision

"OMG is in the ideal position to provide the modelbased standards that are necessary to extend integration beyond the middleware approach... Now is the time to put this plan into effect. Now is the time for the Model Driven Architecture."



Richard Soley & OMG staff, MDA Whitepaper Draft 3.2 November 27, 2000





The core idea of MDA: PIMs & PSMs

- MDA models
 - **PIM**: Platform Independent Model
 - » Business Model of a system abstracting away the deployment details of a system
 - » Example: the UML model of the GPS system
 - PSM: Platform Specific Model
 - » Operational model including platform specific aspects
 - » Example: the UML model of the GPS system on .NET
 - Possibly expressed with a UML profile (.NET profile for UML)
 - Not so clear about platform models
 - » Reusable model at various levels of abstraction
 - CCM, C#, EJB, EDOC, ...

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Model Driven

Engineering: Summary

- Modeling to master complexity
 - Multi-dimensional and aspect oriented by definition
- Models: from contemplative to productive
 - Meta-modeling tools, meta-models used to define languages
- Model Driven Engineering
 - Weaving aspects into a design model
 - » E.g. Platform Specificities
- Model Driven Architecture (PIM / PSM): just a special case of Aspect Oriented Design
- Related: Generative Prog, Software Factories

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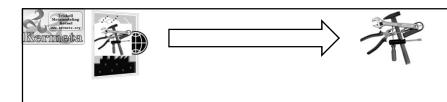


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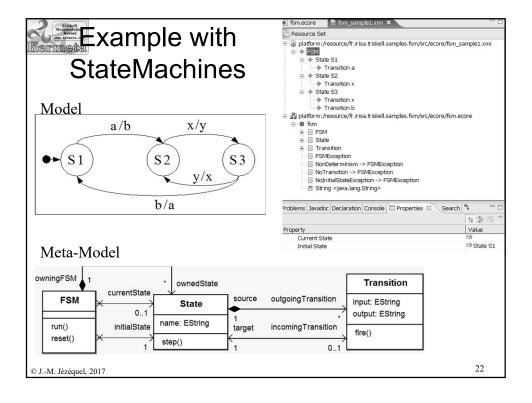


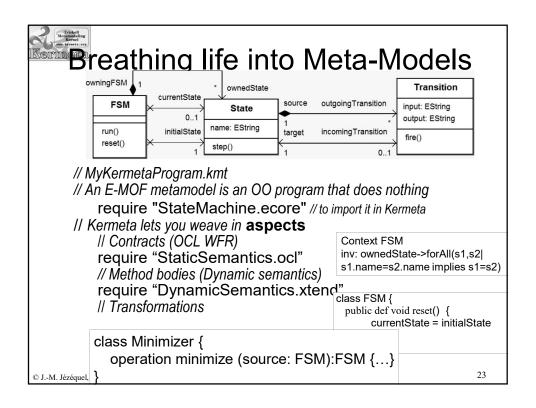
Eclipse Modeling Project

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Meta-Models as Shared Knowledge

- Definition of an Abstract Syntax in E-MOF
 - Repository of models with EMF
 - Reflexive Editor in Eclipse
 - JMI for accessing models from Java
 - XML serialization for model exchanges
- Applied in more and more projects
 - SPEEDS, OpenEmbedd, DiVA...





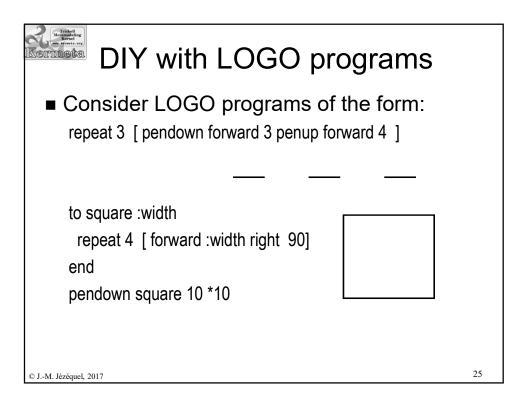


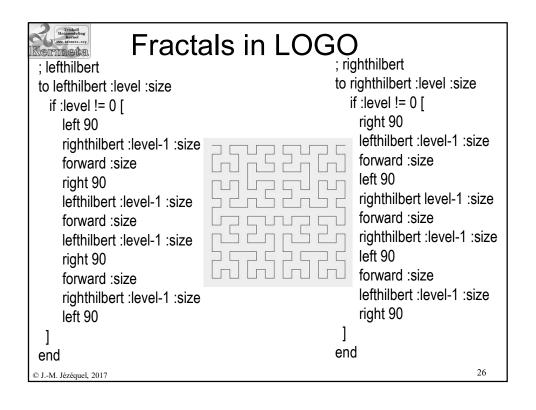
Tools built with MDE



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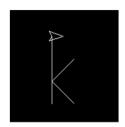
- A tool (aka Model Transformation) is just a program working with specific OO data structures (aka meta-models) representing abstract syntax trees (graphes).
 - Kermeta approach: organize the program along the OO structure of the meta-model
 - Any software engineer can now build a DSL toolset!
 » No longer just for genius...
- Product Lines of DSLs = SPL of OO programs
 - Safe reuse of the tool chains -> Static typing
 - Backward compatibility, Migration of artifacts -> Adaption

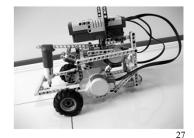




Case Study: Building a Programming Environment for Logo

- Featuring
 - Edition in Eclipse
 - On screen simulation
 - Compilation for a Lego Mindstorms robot





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Model Driven Language Engineering : the Process

- Specify abstract syntax
- Specify concrete syntax
- Build specific editors
- Specify static semantics
- Specify dynamic semantics
- Build simulator
- Compile to a specific platform

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Meta-Modeling LOGO programs

- Let's build a meta-model for LOGO
 - Concentrate on the abstract syntax
 - Look for concepts: instructions, expressions...
 - Find relationships between these concepts» It's like UML modeling!
- Defined as an ECore model
 - Using EMF tools and editors

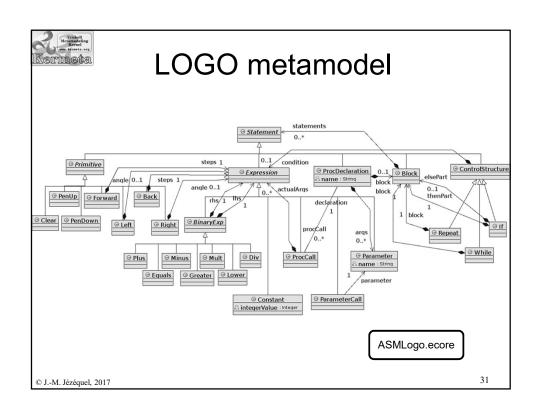
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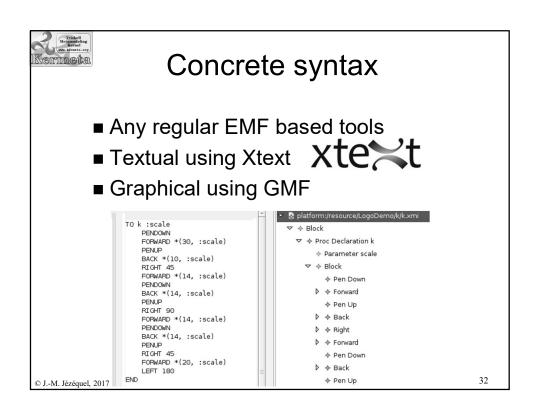


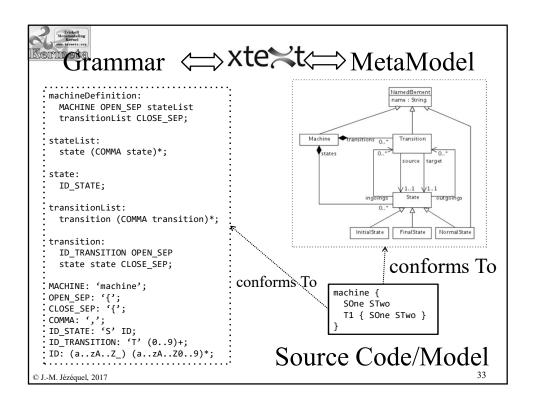
LOGO metamodel

ASMLogo.ecore

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Static Semantics with OCL

- Complementing a meta-model with Well-Formedness Rules, aka Contracts e.g.;
 - A procedure is called with the same number of arguments as specified in its declaration
- Expressed with the OCL (Object Constraint Language)
 - The OCL is a language of typed expressions.
 - A constraint is a valid OCL expression of type Boolean.
 - A constraint is a restriction on one or more values of (part of) an object-oriented model or system.

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Contracts in OO languages

- Inspired by the notion of Abstract Data Type
- Specification = Signature +
 - Preconditions
 - Postconditions
 - Class Invariants
- Behavioral contracts are inherited in subclasses



OCL

- Can be used at both
 - M1 level (constraints on Models)» aka *Design-by-Contract* (Meyer)
 - M2 level (constraints on Meta-Models)» aka Static semantics
- Let's overview it with M1 level exemples

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Simple constraints

Customer

name: String
title: String
age: Integer
isMale: Boolean

title = if isMale then 'Mr.' else 'Ms.' endif
age >= 18 and age < 66
name.size < 100</pre>



Non-local contracts: navigating associations

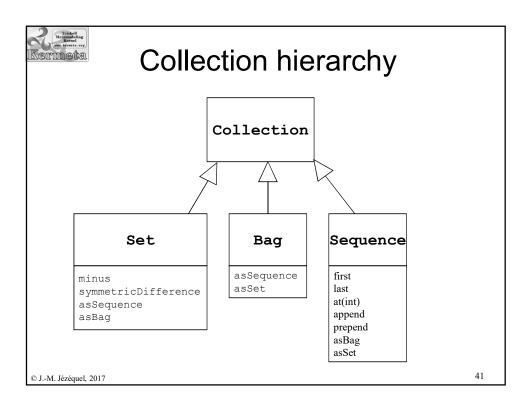
- Each association is a navigation path
 - The context of an OCL expression is the starting point
 - Role names are used to select which association is to be traversed (or target class name if only one)

Perso	n	1 owner	ownership	ownings *	- Car
ð I M Táránud 2017			kt Car inv: vner.age >= 18		

Navigation of 0..* associations

- Through navigation, we no longer get a scalar but a *collection* of objects
- OCL defines 3 sub-types of collection
 - Set : when navigation of a 0..* association
 - » Context Person inv: ownings return a Set[Car]
 - » Each element is in the Set at most once
 - Bag: if more than one navigation step
 - » An element can be present more than once in the Bag
 - Sequence : navigation of an association {ordered}
 - » It is an ordered Bag
- Many predefined operations on type *collection*

	Syntax::	
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Basic operations on collections

- isEmpty
 - true if collection has no element

Context Person inv: age<18 implies ownings->isEmpty

- notEmpty
 - true if collection has at least one element
- size
 - Number of elements in the collection
- count (elem)
 - Number of occurrences of element *elem* in the collection

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select Operation

- possible syntax
 - collection->select(elem:T | expr)
 - collection->select(elem | expr)
 - collection->select(expr)
- Selects the subset of *collection* for which property *expr* holds
- e.g.

context Person inv:

ownings->select(v: Car | v.mileage<100000)->notEmpty

■ shortcut:

context Person inv:

ownings->select(mileage<100000)->notEmpty

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forAll Operation

- possible syntax
 - collection->forall(elem:T | expr)
 - collection->forall(elem | expr)
 - collection->forall(expr)
- True iff *expr* holds for each element of the *collection*
- e.g.

context Person inv:

ownings->forall(v: Car | v.mileage<100000)

shortcut:

context Person inv:

ownings->forall(mileage<100000)

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Operations on Collections

Operation	Description	
size	The number of elements in the collection	
count(object)	The number of occurences of object in the collection.	
includes(object)	True if the object is an element of the collection.	
includesAll(collection)	True if all elements of the parameter collection are present	
	in the current collection.	
isEmpty	True if the collection contains no elements.	
notEmpty	True if the collection contains one or more elements.	
iterate(expression)	Expression is evaluated for every element in the collection.	
sum(collection)	The addition of all elements in the collection.	
exists(expression)	True if expression is true for at least one element in the	
	collection.	
forAll(expression)	True if expression is true for all elements.	

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Static Semantics for LOGO

■ No two formal parameters of a procedure may have the same name:

■ A procedure is called with the same number of arguments as specified in its declaration:

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Static Semantics for LOGO

No two formal parameters of a procedure may have the same name:

```
context ProcDeclaration
inv unique_names_for_formal_arguments :
   args -> forAll ( a1 , a2 | a1. name = a2.name
   implies a1 = a2 )
```

■ A procedure is called with the same number of arguments as specified in its declaration:

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Static Semantics for LOGO

No two formal parameters of a procedure may have the same name:

```
context ProcDeclaration
inv unique_names_for_formal_arguments :
    args -> forAll ( a1 , a2 | a1. name = a2.name
    implies a1 = a2 )
```

A procedure is called with the same number of arguments as specified in its declaration:

```
context ProcCall
inv same_number_of_formals_and_actuals :
    actualArgs -> size = declaration .args -> size
```

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Kermeta:

a Kernel metamodeling language

- Strict EMOF extension
- Statically Typed
 - Generics, Function types (for OCL-like iterators)
- Object-Oriented
 - Multiple inheritance / dynamic binding / reflection
- Model-Oriented
 - Associations / Compositions
 - Model are first class citizens, notion of model type
- Aspect-Oriented
 - Simple syntax for static introduction
 - Arbitrary complex aspect weaving as a framework
- Still "kernel" language
 - Seamless import of Java classes in Kermeta for GUI/IO etc.

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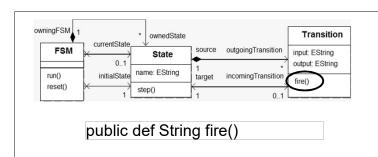
Kermeta Action Language: **XTEND**

- Xtend = Java 10, today!
 - flexible and expressive dialect of Java
 - compiles into readable Java 5 compatible source code
 - can use any existing Java library seamlessly
- Among features on top of Java:
 - Extension methods
 - » enhance closed types with new functionality
 - Lambda Expressions
 - » concise syntax for anonymous function literals (like in OCL)
 - ActiveAnnotations
 - » annotation processing on steroids
 - Properties

© J.-M. Jézéquel, 2017 shorthands for accessing & defining getters and setter (like EMF)

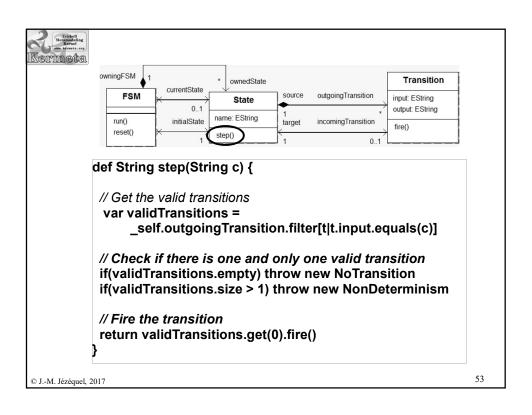


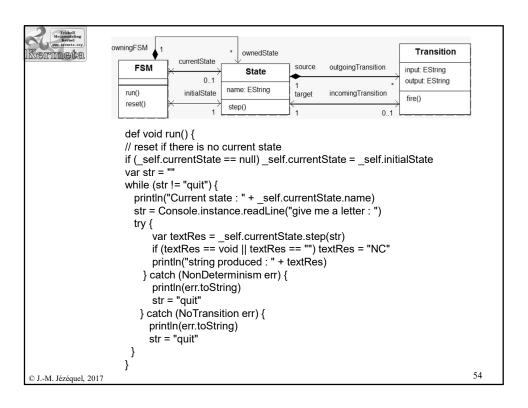
Example with Xtend



_self.source.owningFSM.currentState = _self.target return _self.output

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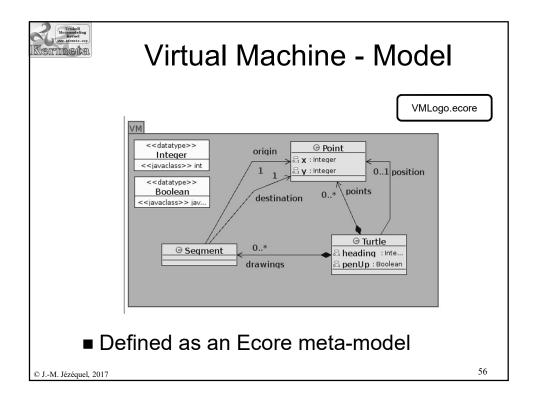




Operational Semantics for LOGO

- Expressed as a mapping from a meta-model to a virtual machine (VM)
- LOGO VM?
 - Concept of Turtle, Lines, points...
 - Let's Model it!
 - (Defined as an Ecore meta-model)

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```
Virtual Machine - Semantics

require "VMLogo.ecore"
require "TurtleGUI.kmt"

aspect class Point {
    def String toString() {
        return "[" + x.toString + "," + y.toString + "]"
    }
}

aspect class Turtle {
    def void setPenUp(b: Boolean) {
        penUp = b
    }
    def void rotate(angle: Integer) {
        heading = (heading + angle).mod(360)
    }

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**TurtleGUI.kmt"

LogoVMSemantics.kmt

**LogoVMSemantics.kmt

**Supplies the properties of the proper
```

Map Instructions to VM Actions

- Weave an interpretation aspect into the meta-model
 - add an eval() method into each class of the LOGO MM

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Meta-level Anchoring

- Simple approach using the Kermeta VM to « ground » the semantics of basic operations
- Or reify it into the LOGO VM
 - Using eg a stack-based machine
 - Ultimately grounding it in kermeta though

```
...
aspect class Add {
  def int eval (ctx: Context) {
    return lhs.eval(ctx)
    + rhs.eval(ctx)
}
```

```
aspect class Add {
    def void eval (ctx: Context) {
        lhs.eval(ctx) // put result
        // on top of ctx stack
        rhs.eval(ctx) // idem
        ctx.getMachine().add()
```

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Handling control structures

- Block
- Conditional
- Repeat
- While

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```
require "ASMLogo.ecore"
require "LogoVMSemantics.kmt"

aspect class If {
    def int eval(context : Context) {
        if (condition.eval(context) != 0)
            return thenPart.eval(context)
        else return elsePart.eval(context)
    }

aspect class Right {
    def int eval(context : Context) {
        return context.turtle.rotate(angle.eval(context))
    }
}
```

Triskell Metamodeling Kernel over, Mermeta, org

Handling function calls

- Use a stack frame
 - Owned in the Context
- Bind formal parameters to actual
- Push stack frame
- Execute method body
- Pop stack frame

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Getting an Interpreter

- Glue that is needed to load models
 - ie LOGO programs
- Vizualize the result
 - Print traces as text
 - Put an observer on the LOGO VM to graphically display the resulting figure

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Simulator ■ Execute the operational semantics TO k :scale PENDOWN FORWARD *(30, :scale) PENUP BACK *(10, :scale) RIGHT 45 FORWARD *(14, :scale) PENDOWN
BACK *(14, :scale) RIGHT 90 Problems Javadoc Declaration 🖳 Console 🕱 🔾 Pro FORWARD *(14, :scale) PENDOWN
BACK *(14, :scale) KM Logo Console Launching logo interpreter on file : /home/ Tortue trace vers [0,120] Tortue se deplace en [0,80] RIGHT 45 FORWARD *(20, :scale) Tortue se deplace en [39,119] Tortue trace vers [0,80] LEFT 180 FND Tortue se deplace en [39,41] Tortue trace vers [0,80] Tortue se deplace en [0,0] Execution terminated successfully. CLEAR \$k(4) 64 © J.-M. Jézéquel, 2017



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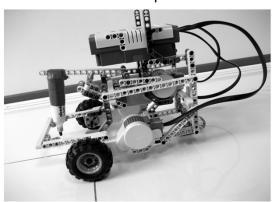
Implementing a model-driven compiler

- Map a LOGO program to Lego Mindstroms
 - The LOGO program is like a PIM
 - The target program is a PSM
 - => model transformation
- Kermeta to weave a « compilation » aspect into the logo meta-model



Specific platform

- Lego Mindstorms Turtle Robot
 - Two motors for wheels
 - One motor to control the pen



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Model-to-Text vs. Model-to-Model

- Model-to-Text Transformations
 - For generating: code, xml, html, doc.
 - Should be limited to syntactic level transcoding
- Model-to-Model Transformations
 - To handle more complex, semantic driven transformations

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Model-to-Text Approaches

- For generating: code, xml, html, doc.
 - Visitor-Based Approaches:
 - » Some visitor mechanisms to traverse the internal representation of a model and write code to a text stream
 - » Iterators, Write ()
 - Template-Based Approaches
 - » A template consists of the target text containing slices of metacode to access information from the source and to perform text selection and iterative expansion
 - » The structure of a template resembles closely the text to be generated
 - » Textual templates are independent of the target language and simplify the generation of any textual artefacts

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Model to Text in practice

- For simple cases, use the template mecanism of Xtend
 - Output = ``` template expression'''
- Many template generators for MDE do exist
 - E.g. Acceleo (from Obeo) is quite popular in industry
 - » a pragmatic implementation of the <u>Object Management Group</u> (<u>OMG</u>) <u>MOF Model to Text Language (MTL)</u> standard
 - » http://www.eclipse.org/acceleo/



Example with Acceleo

A template that prints the class name, its comments and attributes

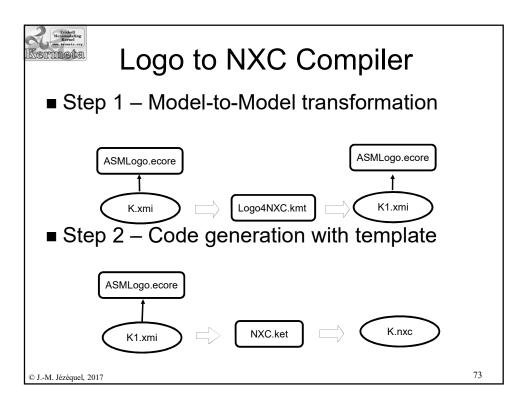
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Classification of Model-to-Model Transformation Techniques

- 1. General purpose programming languages
 - Java/C#...
- 2. Generic transformation tools
 - Graph transformations, XSLT...
- CASE tools scripting languages
 - Objecteering, Rose...
- 4. Dedicated model transformation tools
 - OMG QVT style
- 5. Meta-modeling tools
 - Metacase, Xactium, Kermeta...

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Step 1: Model-to-Model

- Goal: prepare a LOGO model so that code generation is a simple traversal
 - => Model-to-Model transformation
- Example: local2global
 - In the LOGO meta-model, functions can be declared anywhere, including (deeply) nested, without any impact on the operational semantics
 - for NXC code generation, all functions must be declared in a "flat" way at the beginning of the outermost block.
 - => implement this model transformation as a local-toglobal aspect woven into the LOGO MM

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Step 1: Model-to-Model example

```
// aspect local-to-global
aspect class Statement {
  def void local2global(rootBlock: Block) {
    }
}
aspect class ProcDeclaration
  def void local2global(rootBlock: Block) {
    ...
}
}
aspect class Block
  def void local2global(rootBlock: Block) {
    ...
}
...
}
...

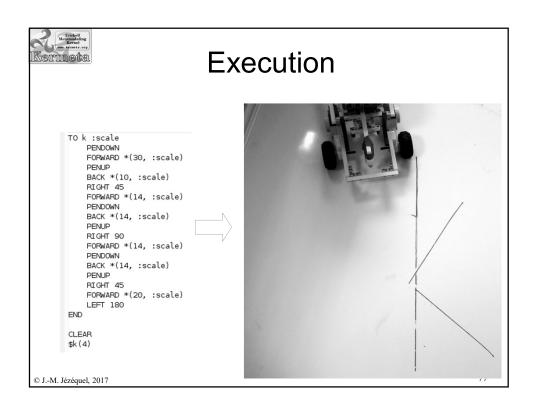
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```

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Step 2: Kermeta Emitter Template

- NXC Code generation using a template
 - Left as an exercise

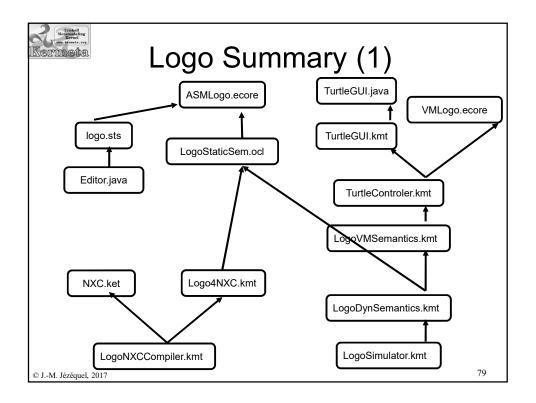
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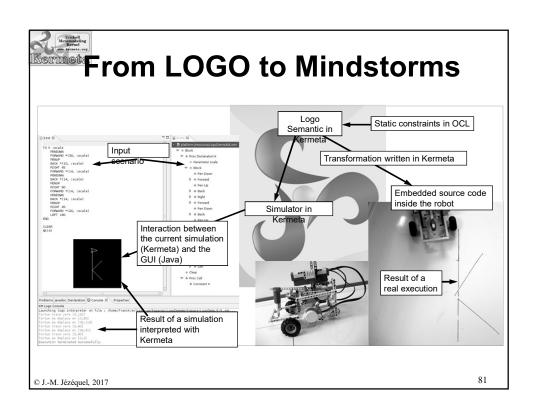




Logo Summary (2)

- Integrate all aspects coherently
 - syntax / semantics / tools
- Use appropriate languages
 - MOF for abstract syntax
 - OCL for static semantics
 - Kermeta for dynamic semantics
 - Java for simulation GUI
 - **–** ...
- Keep separation between concerns
 - For maintainability and evolutions

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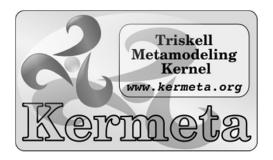






Thank you!

■ Questions?



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