

Model-Based Software Engineering

Lecture 02 – Metamodeling

Prof. Dr. Joel Greenyer



April 12, 2016



Learning Objectives

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- Understanding the principle of metamodeling

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- Understanding the principles of creating modeling languages

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 - other relationships between models
- Application of metamodeling techniques in metamodeling frameworks

2.1. Formal languages and metamodeling

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 - A metamodel defines a formal modeling language

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 - (sometimes also) the **serialization syntax**: how are sentences of the language stored or exchanged by tools

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 - in the form of a **context-free grammar**
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- BNF is a **meta-language**, a language for defining languages

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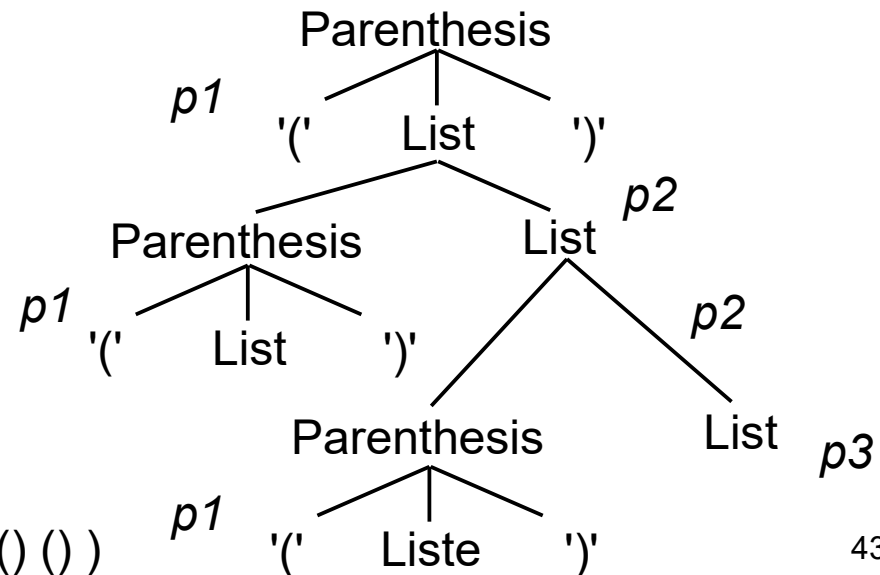
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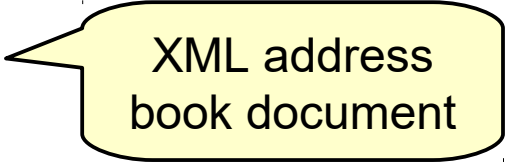
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```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1"?>
<!DOCTYPE adressBuch SYSTEM "adressBuch.dtd">
<?xml-stylesheet type="text/xsl" href="adressBuch.xsl"?>
<adressBuch>
  <adresse>
    <name vorname="Joel" nachname="Greenyer"/>
    <anschrift art="dienstlich">
      <strasse>Welfengarten 1</strasse>
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XML address
book document

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DTD defining valid
address book
documents

XML address
book document

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!ELEMENT adressBuch (adresse)*>
<!ELEMENT adresse (name, anschrift)>
<!ELEMENT name EMPTY>
<!ATTLIST name vorname CDATA #IMPLIED
              nachname CDATA #REQUIRED>
<!ELEMENT anschrift (strasse, ort, plz)>
<!ATTLIST anschrift art
              (privat|dienstlich) #REQUIRED>
<!ELEMENT strasse (#PCDATA)>
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- **Metamodeling** uses **rich techniques** based on **object-oriented modeling concepts** (related to UML)

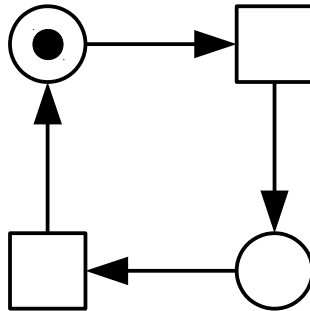
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- **Metamodeling** uses **rich techniques** based on **object-oriented modeling concepts** (related to UML)
- Modern metamodeling techniques were developed also in the effort to give a formal language definition for UML

2.2. Metamodels by example

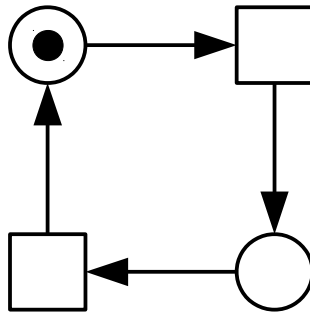
Metamodeling Example: Define a Petri Net Language

- How would you define a model for modeling Petri nets?
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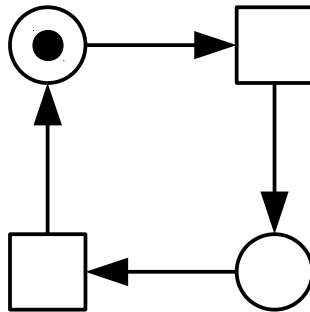
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The Petri Net example on the following slides is based on the lecture “Course on Advanced Topics in Software Engineering” by Prof. Dr. Ekkart Kindler, Denmark Technical University, 2015.

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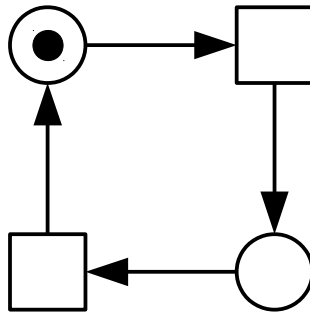
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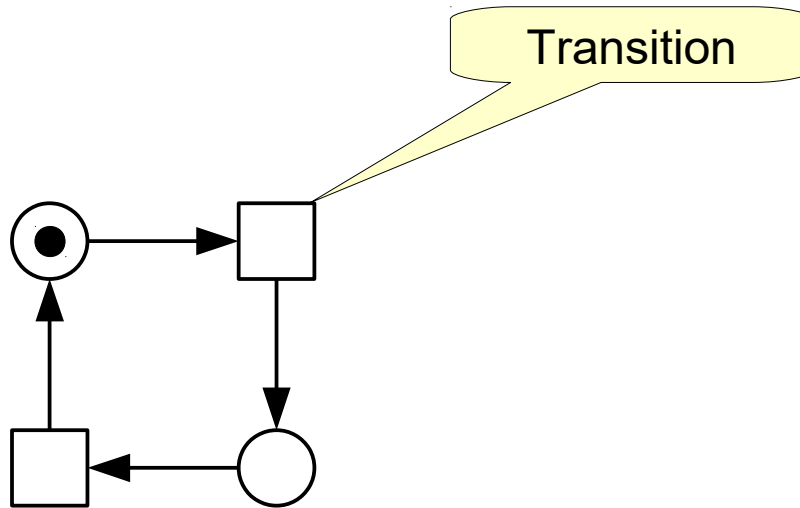
Object-Oriented Modeling Approach

- What are the objects that we see here?



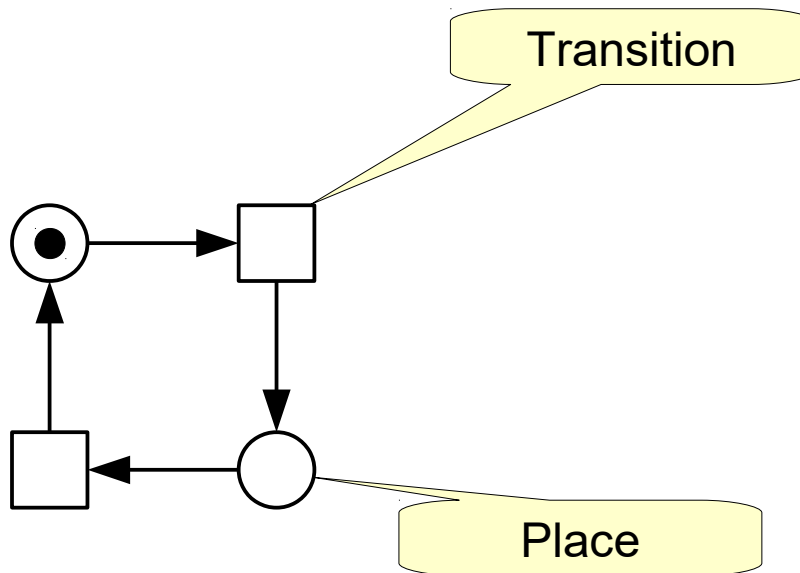
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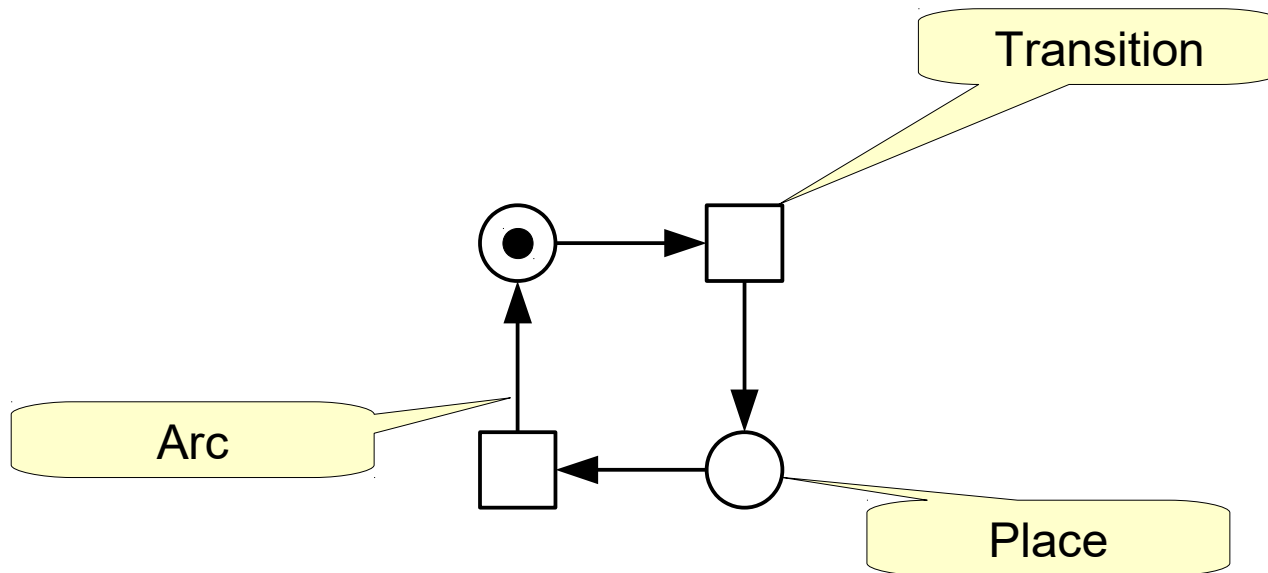
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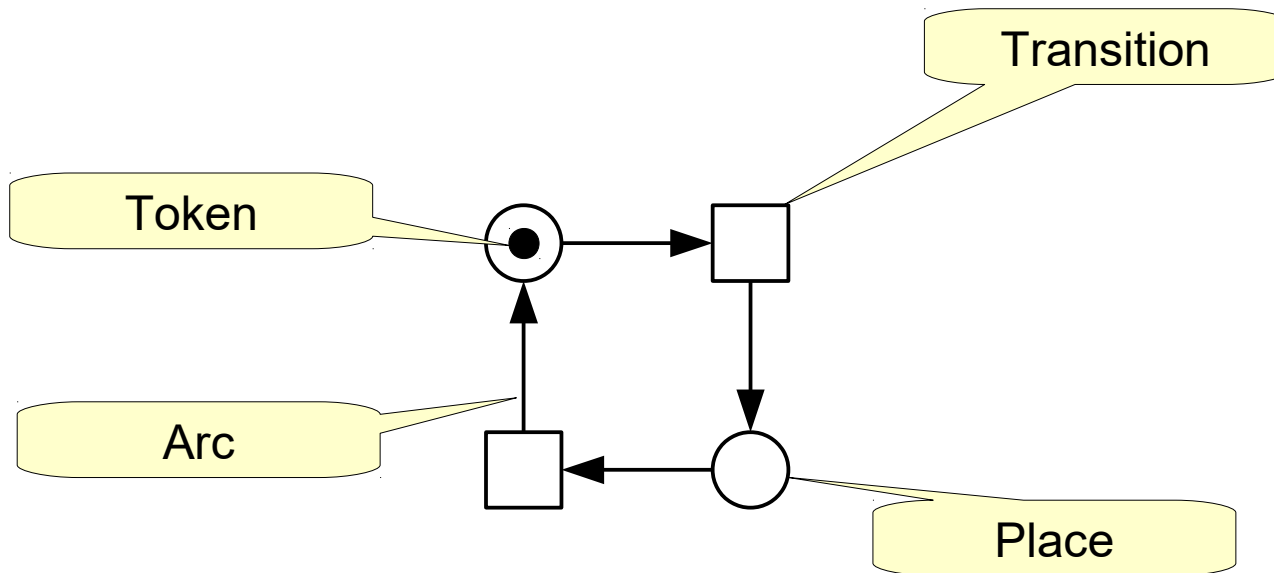
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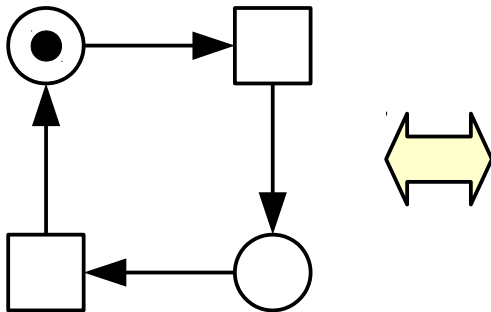
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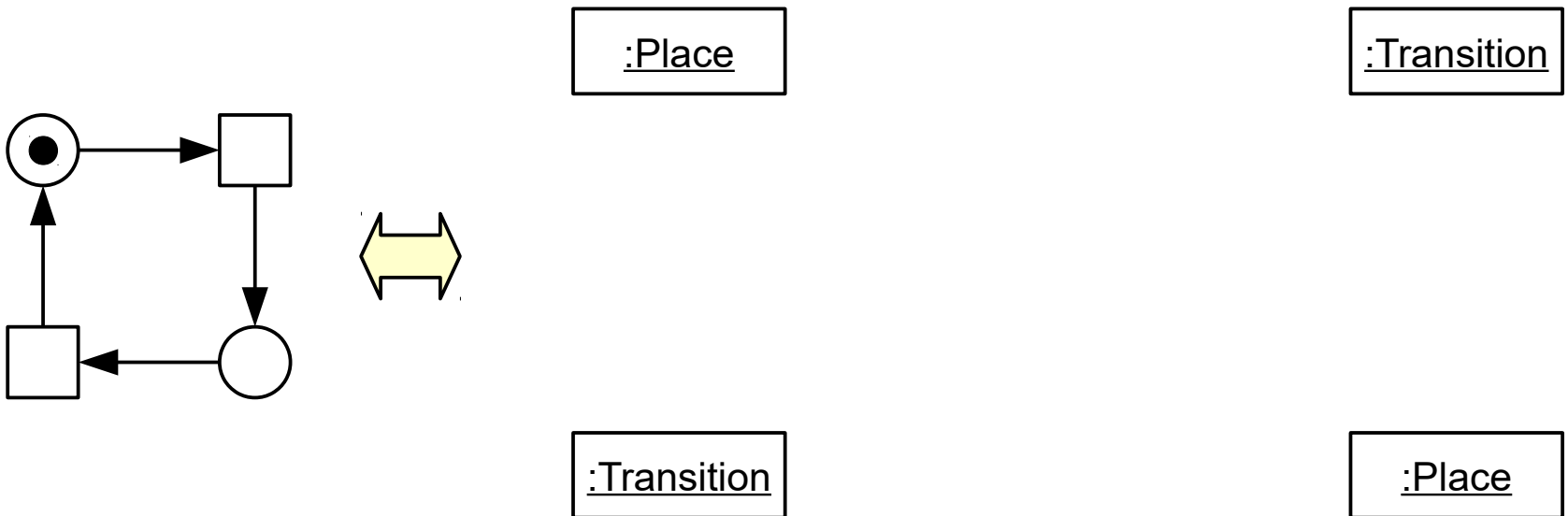
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- **Step 1:** Understand a model as a **structure of objects**
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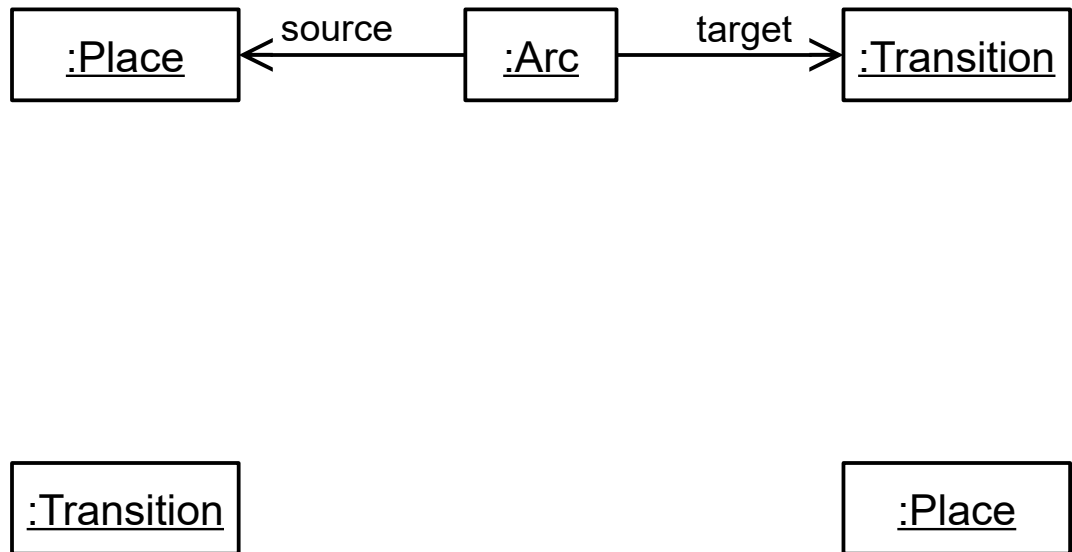
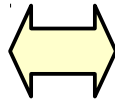
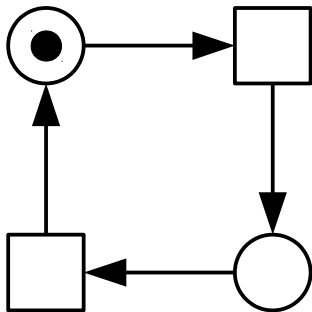
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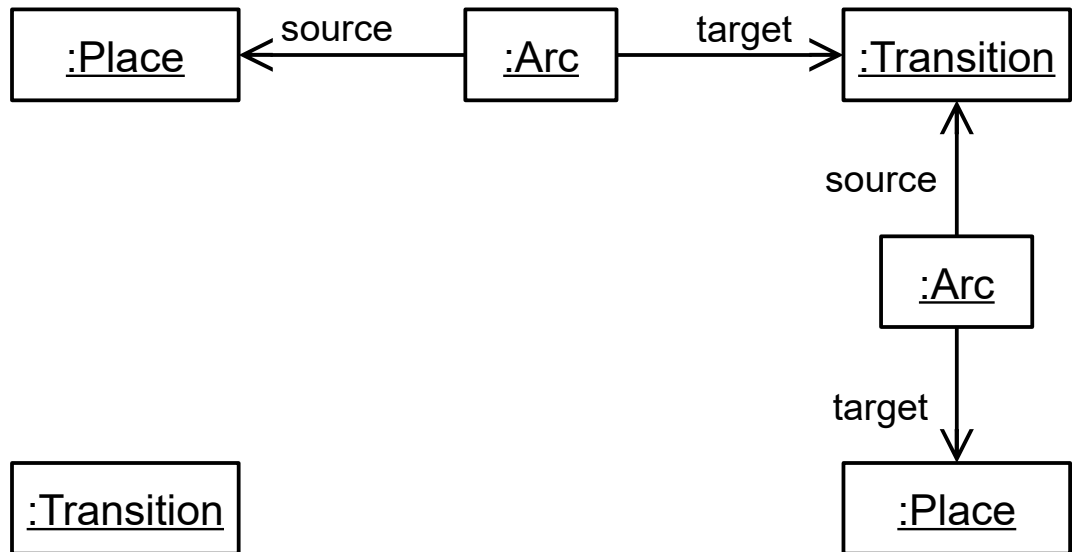
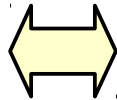
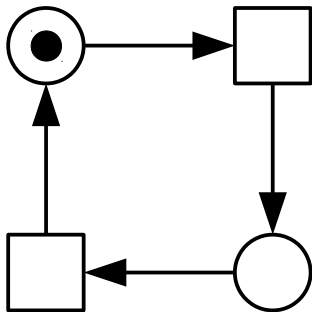
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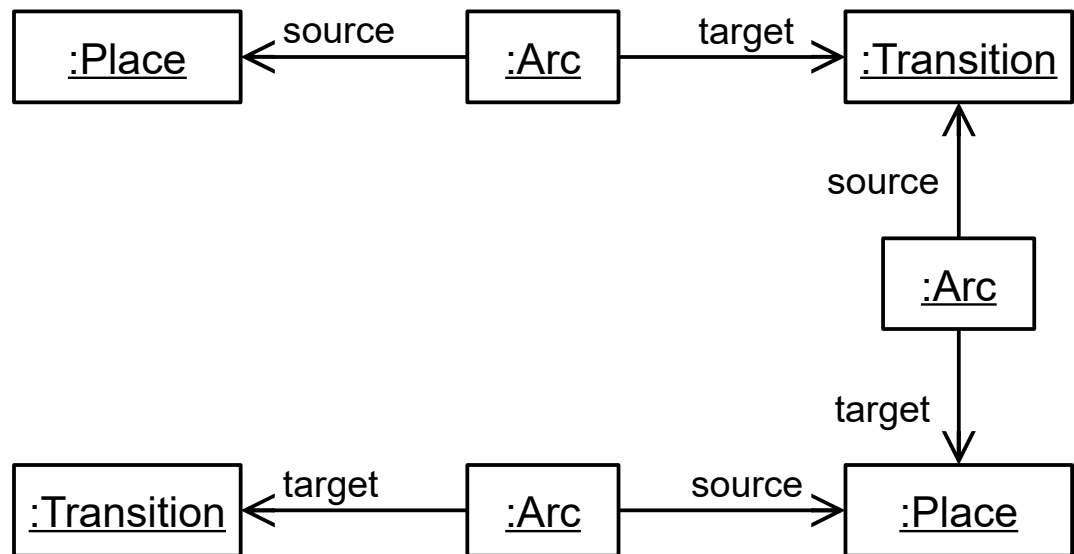
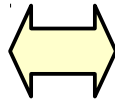
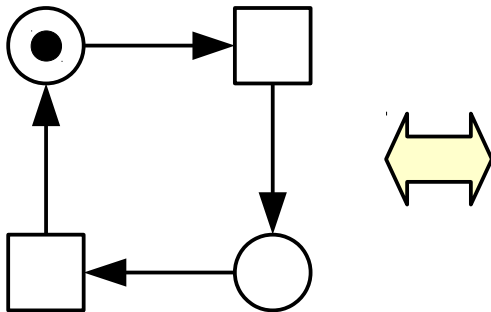
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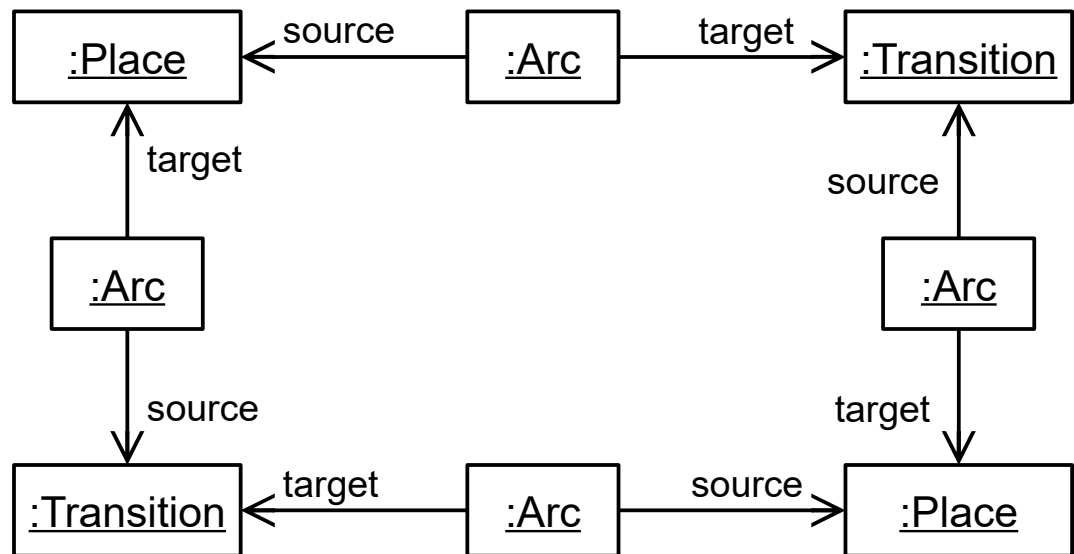
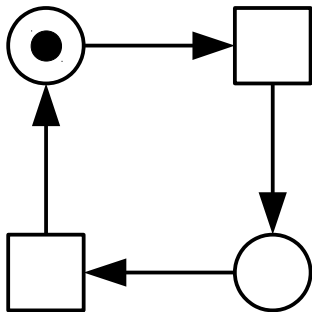
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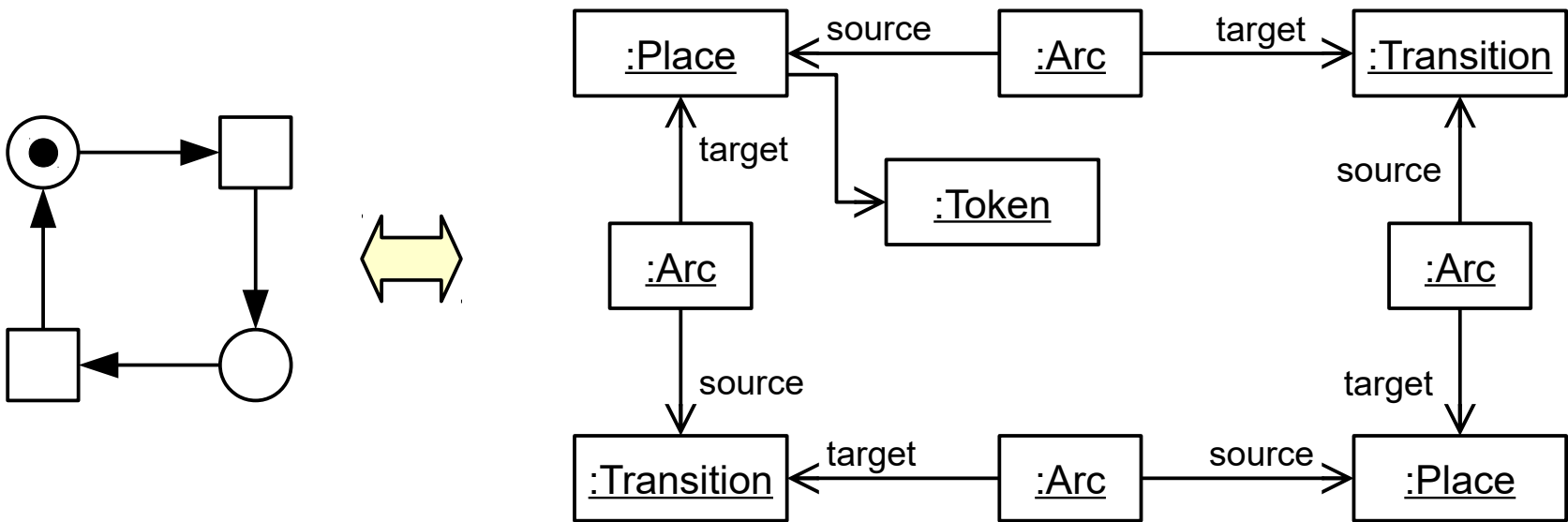
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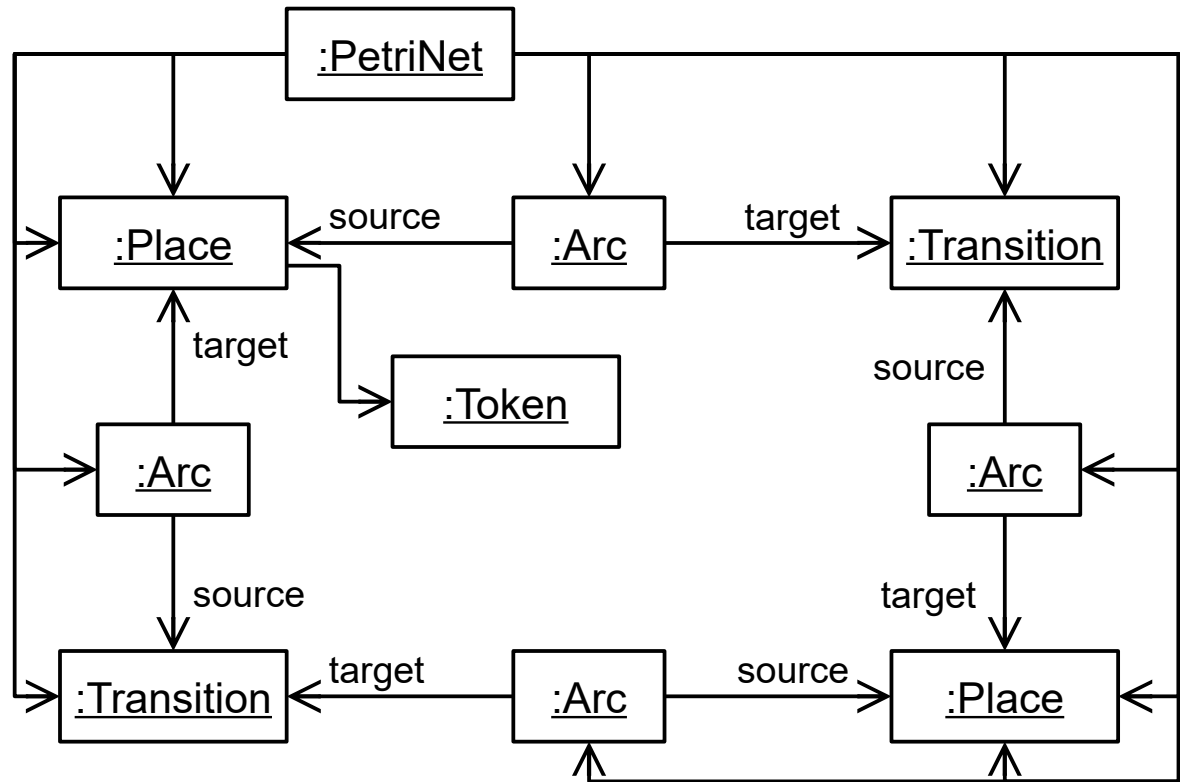
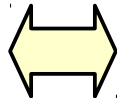
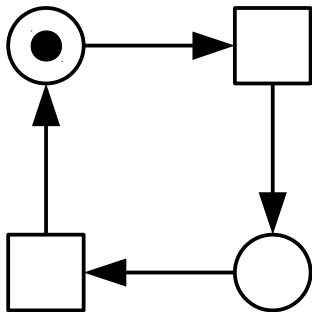
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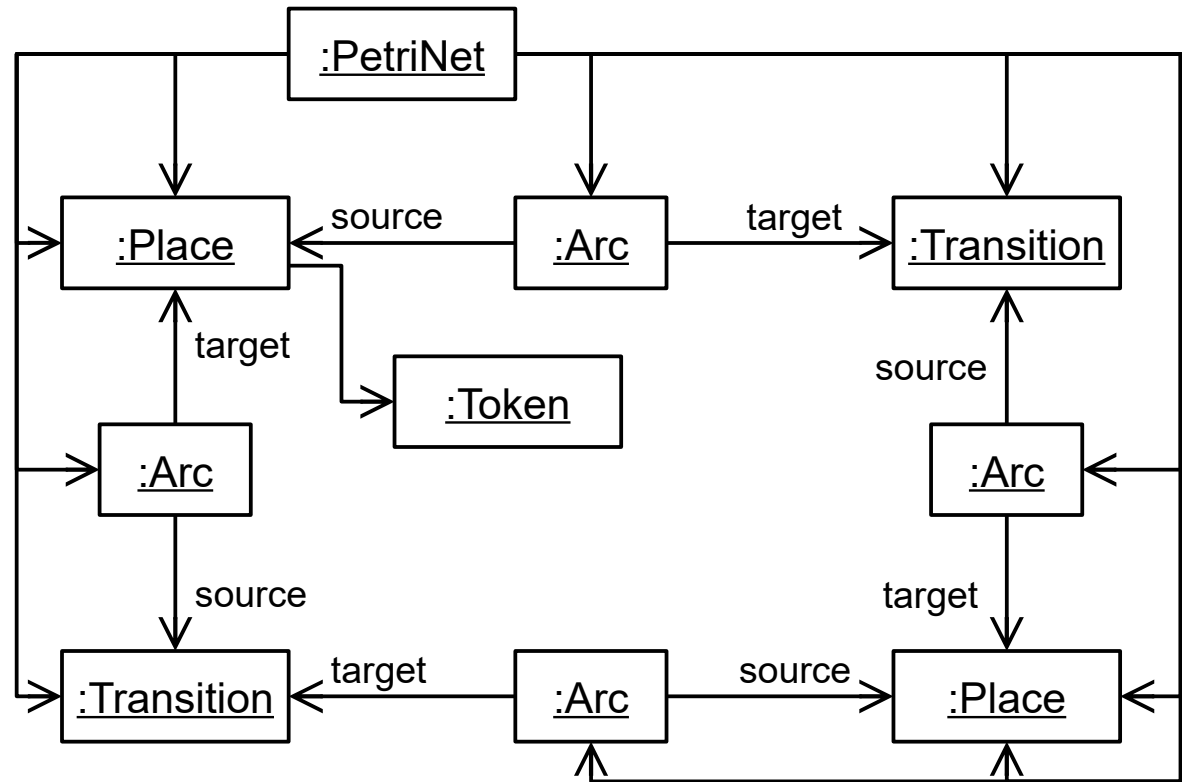
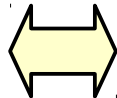
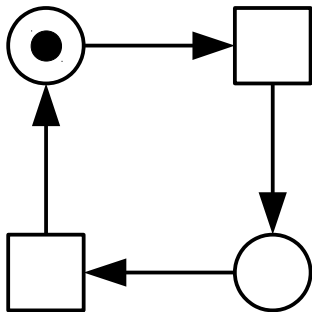
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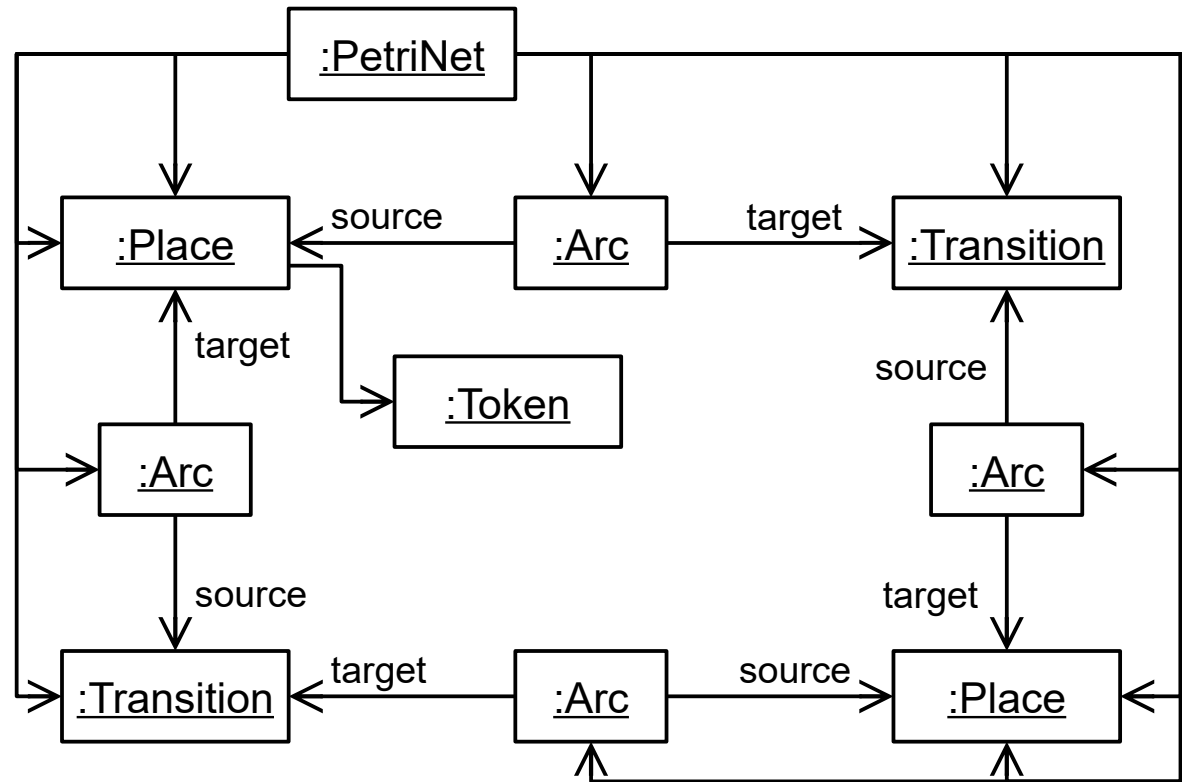
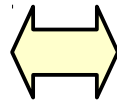
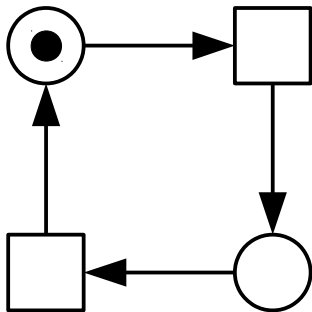
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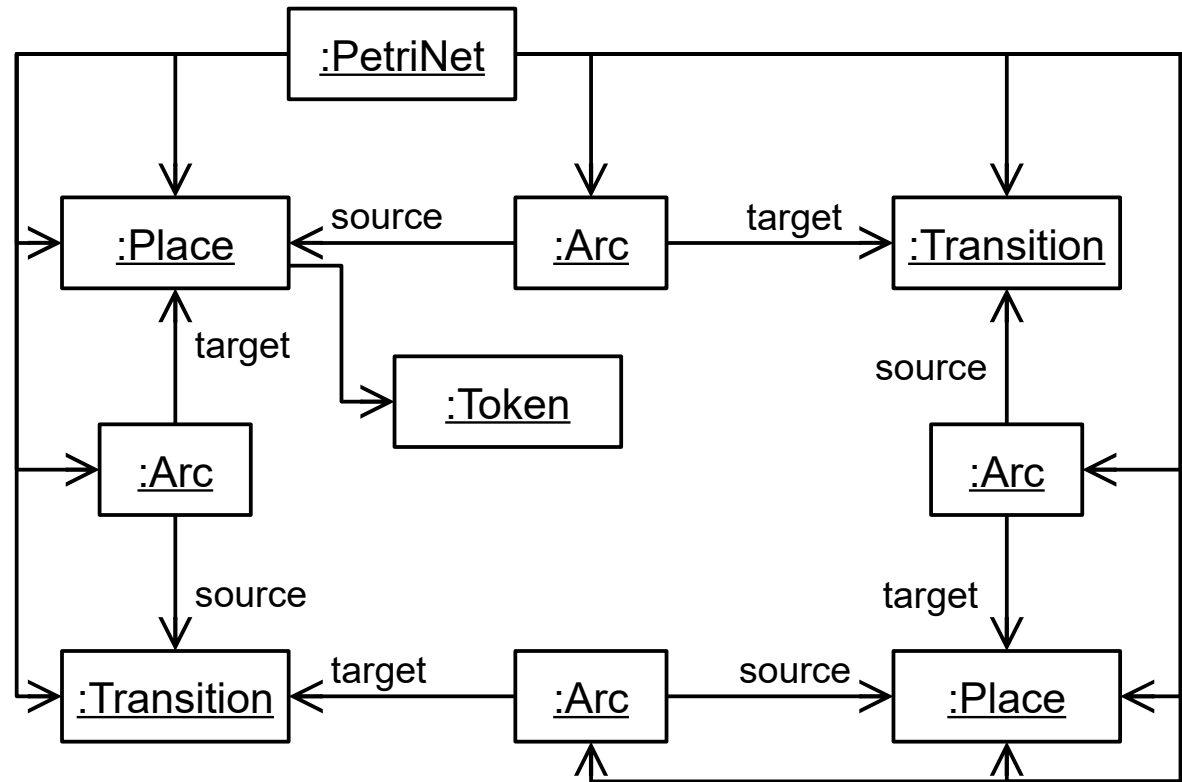
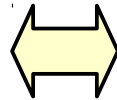
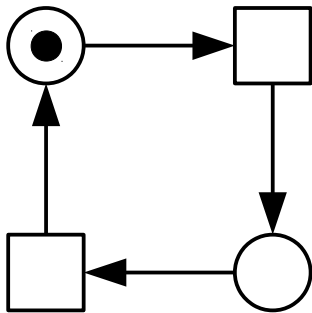


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(representation to the user)

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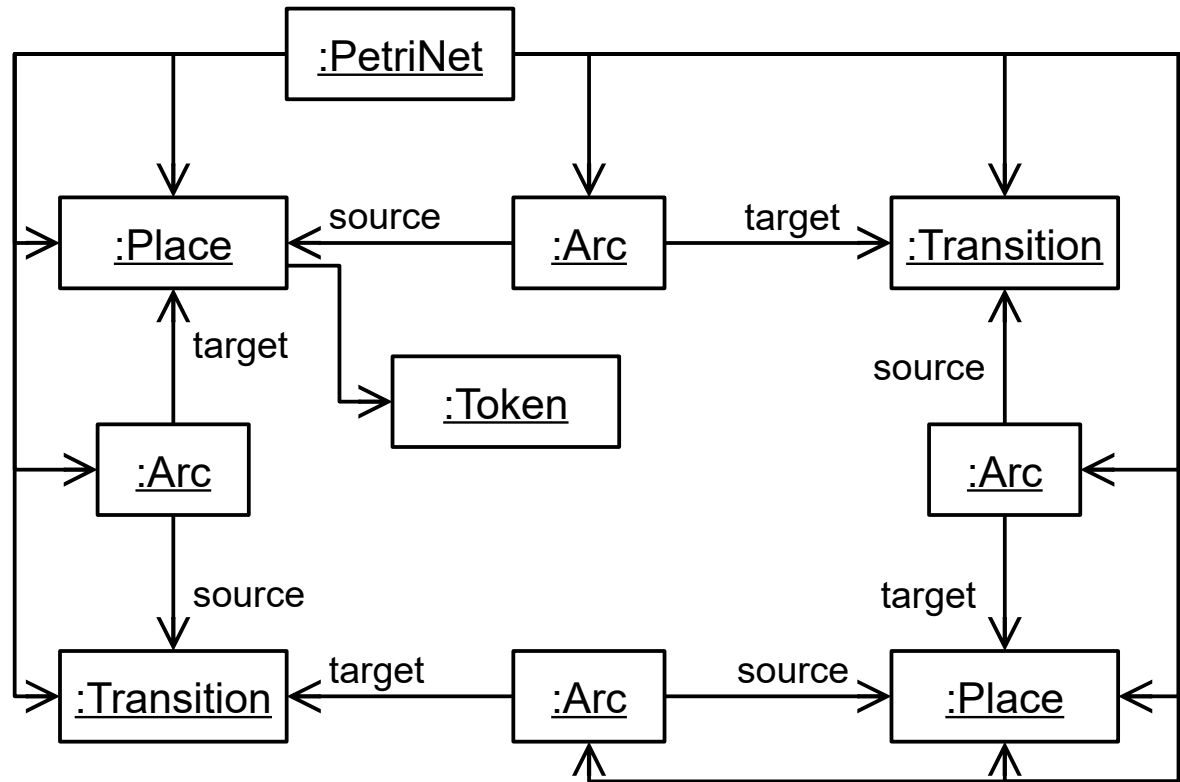
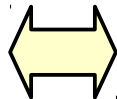
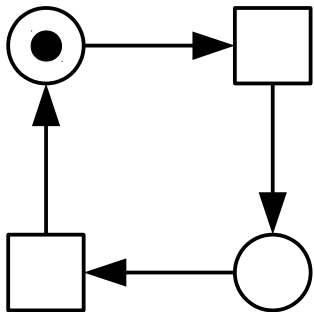
concrete syntax

abstract syntax

(representation to the user)

Object-Oriented Modeling Approach

- **Step 1:** Understand a model as a **structure of objects**
- For the example:



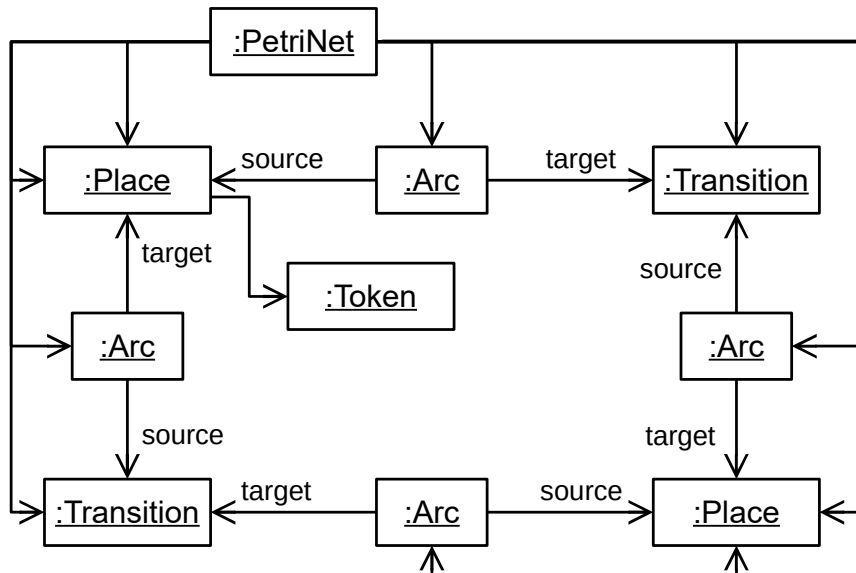
concrete syntax

(representation to the user)

abstract syntax

(internal structure, occurrences of language constructs and their relationships)

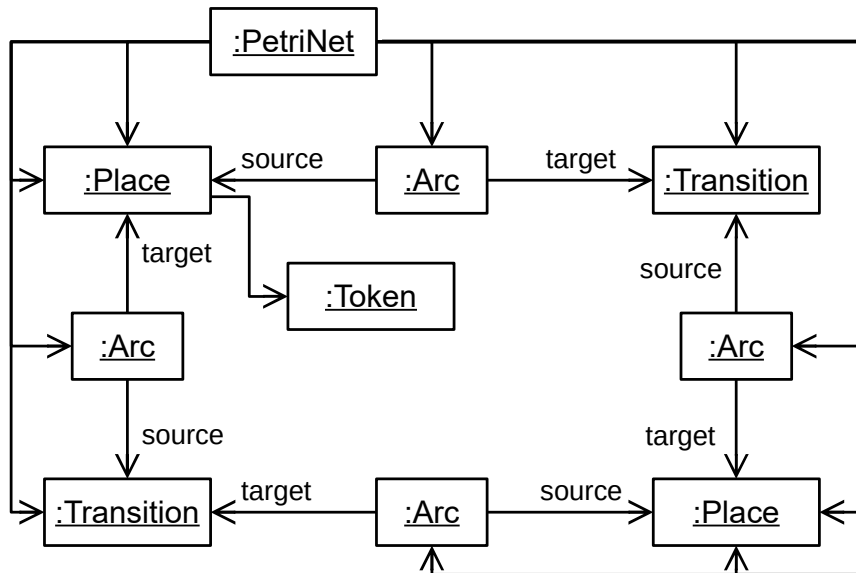
- **Step 2:** Create a model for all valid Petri nets (all object structures that represent valid Petri nets)



object model

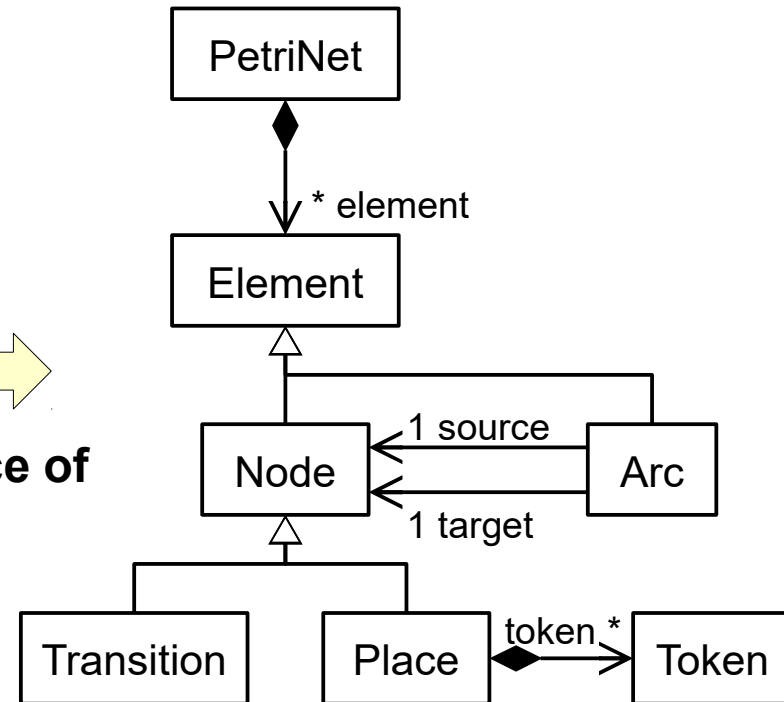
Object-Oriented Modeling Approach

- Step 2:** Create a model for all valid Petri nets (all object structures that represent valid Petri nets)



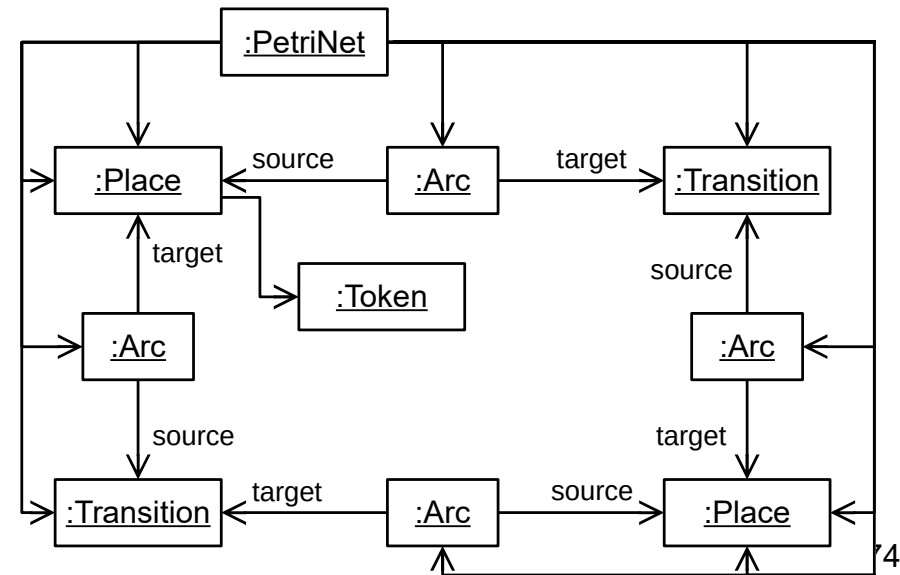
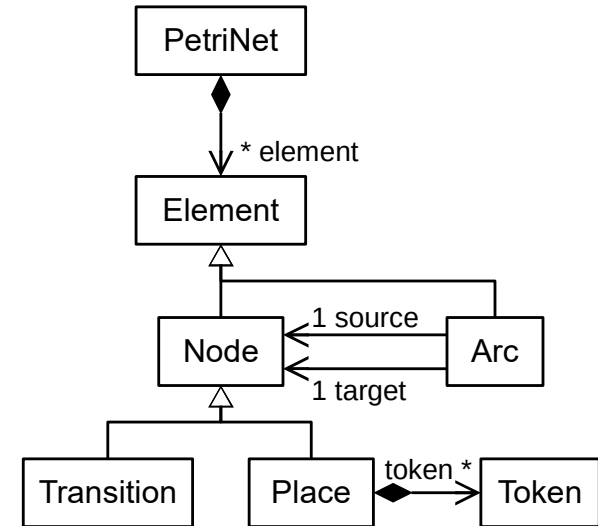
object model

instance of

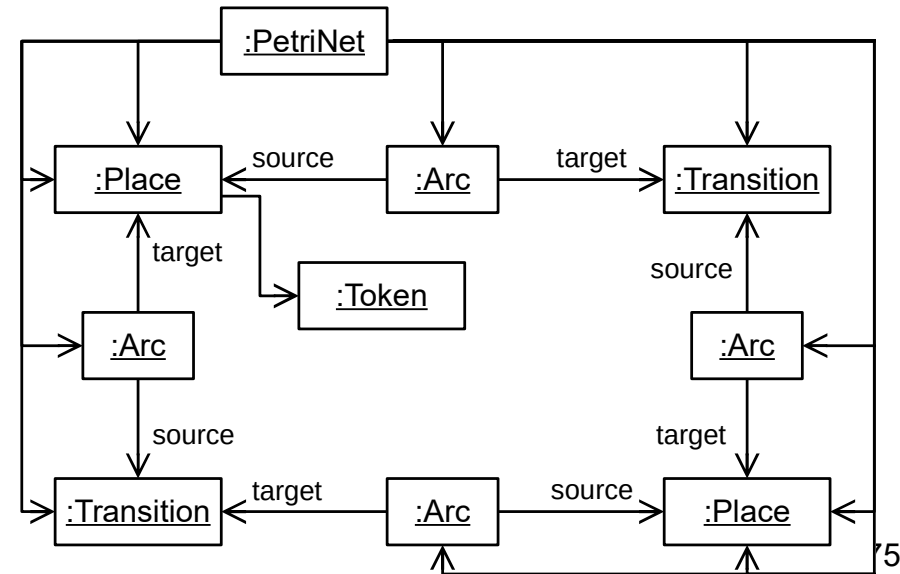
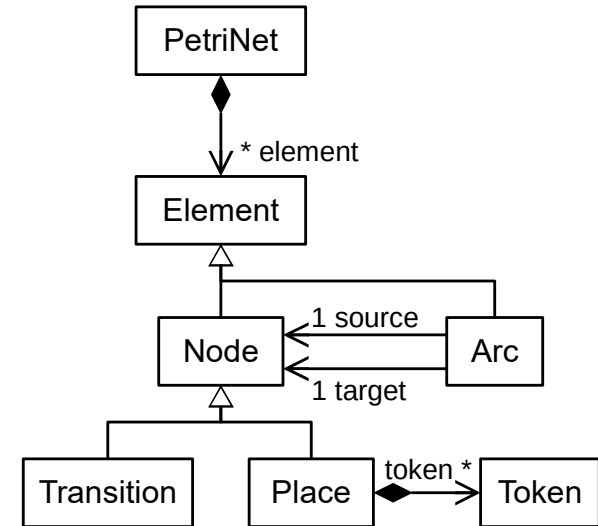


class model

Model and Metamodel



Model and Metamodel



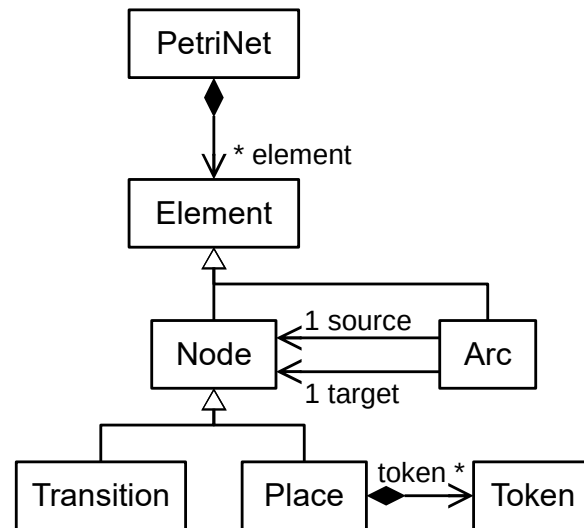
model

(model expressed in the language)

Model and Metamodel

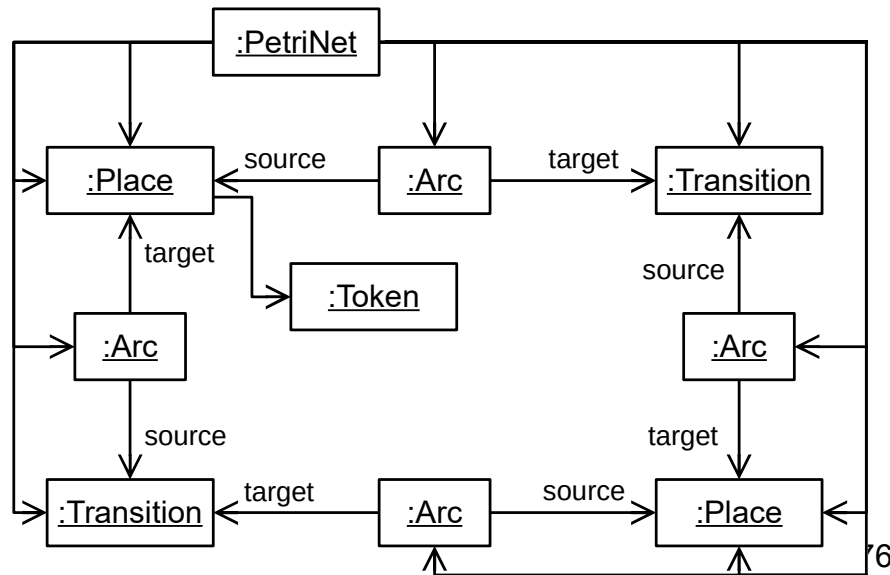
metamodel

(language definition)



model

(model expressed in the language)



Model and Metamodel

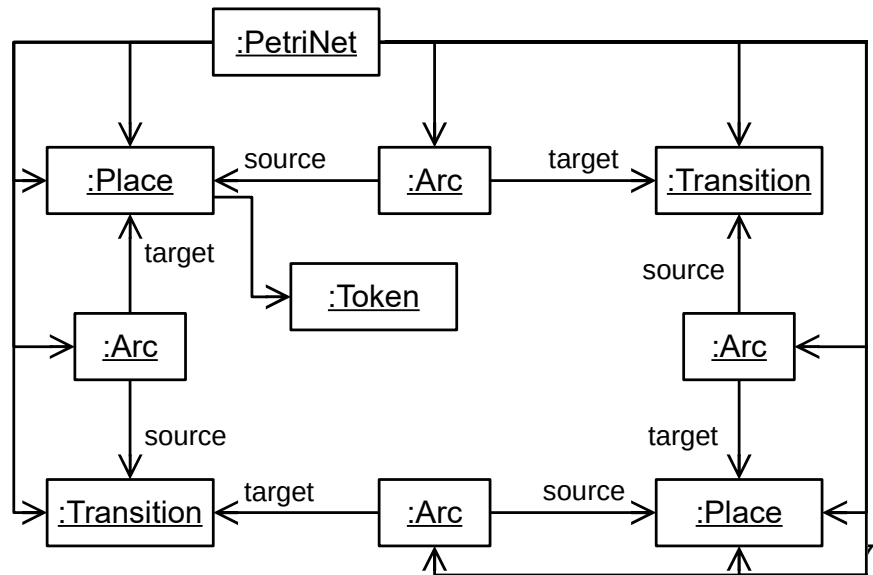
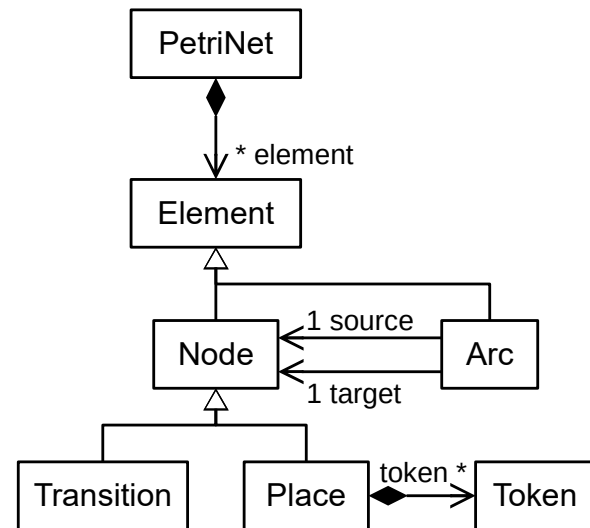
metamodel

(language definition)

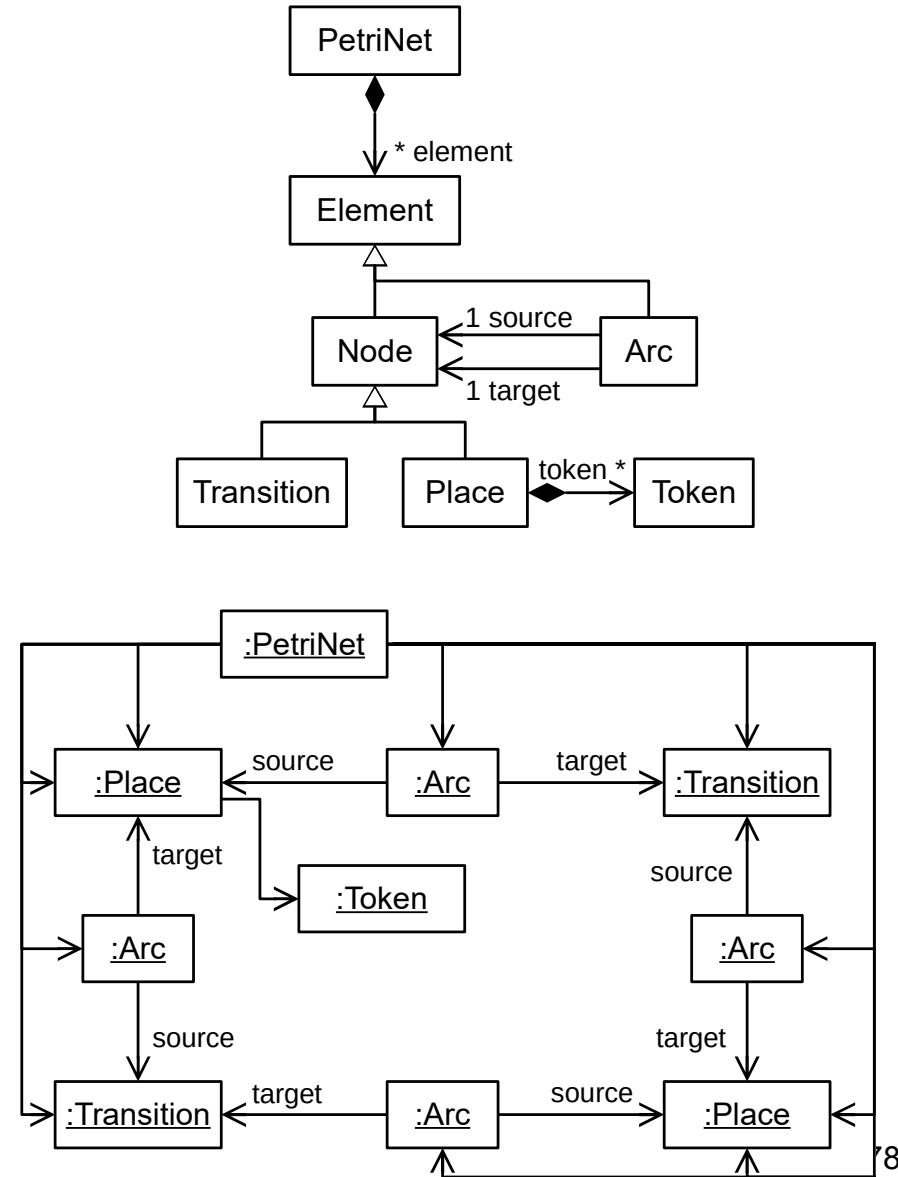
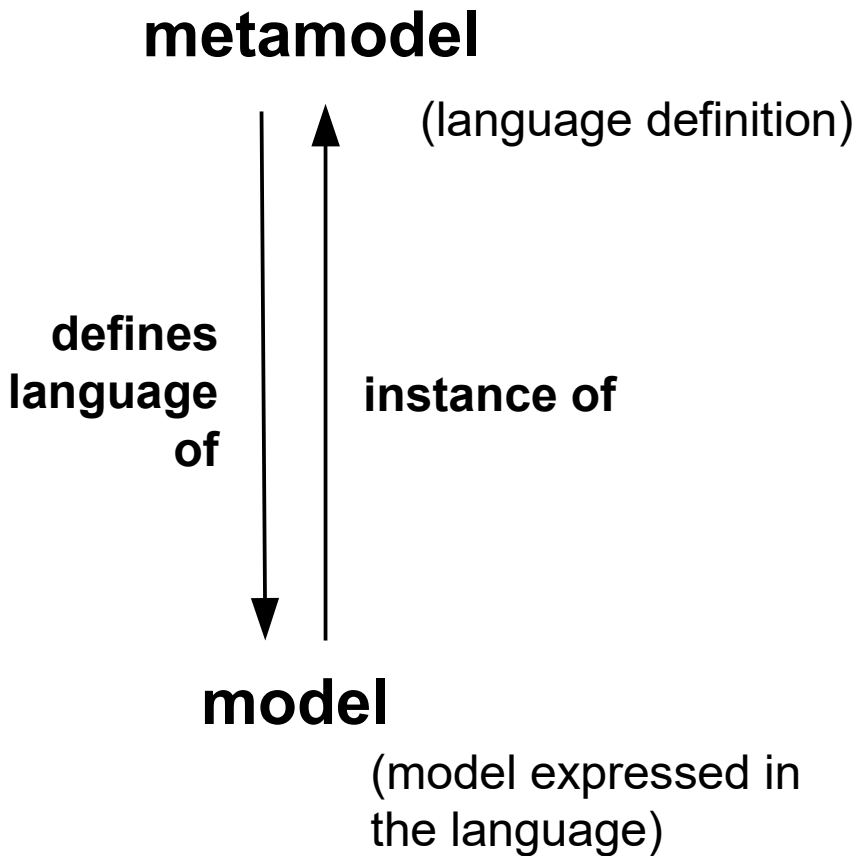
instance of

model

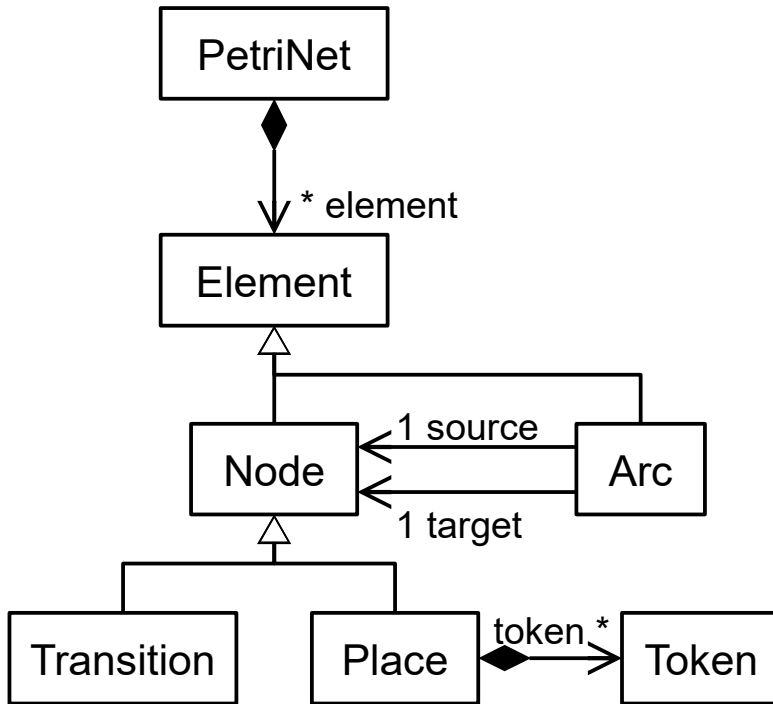
(model expressed in the language)



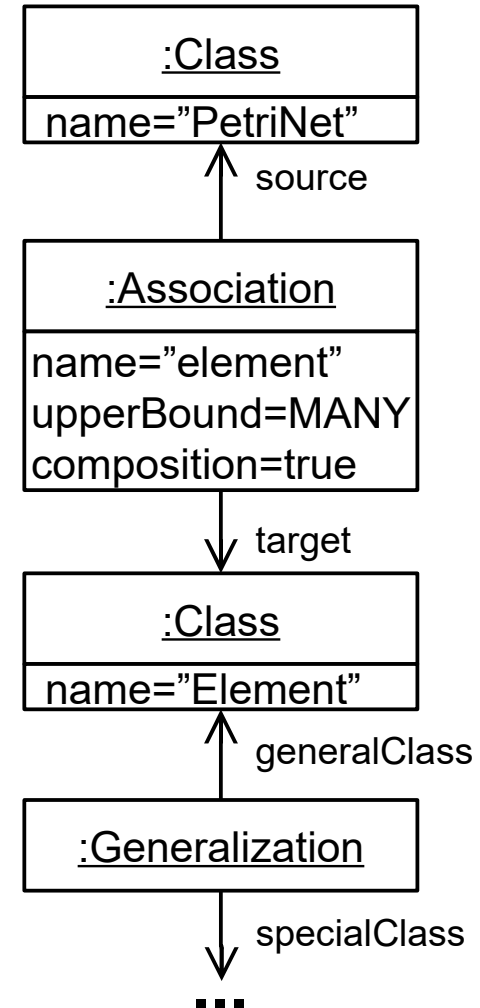
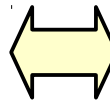
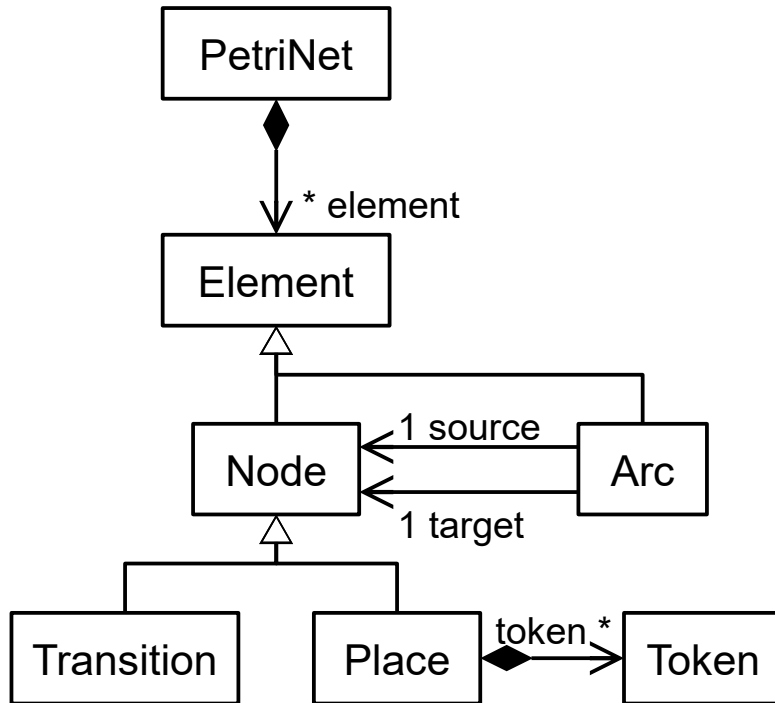
Model and Metamodel



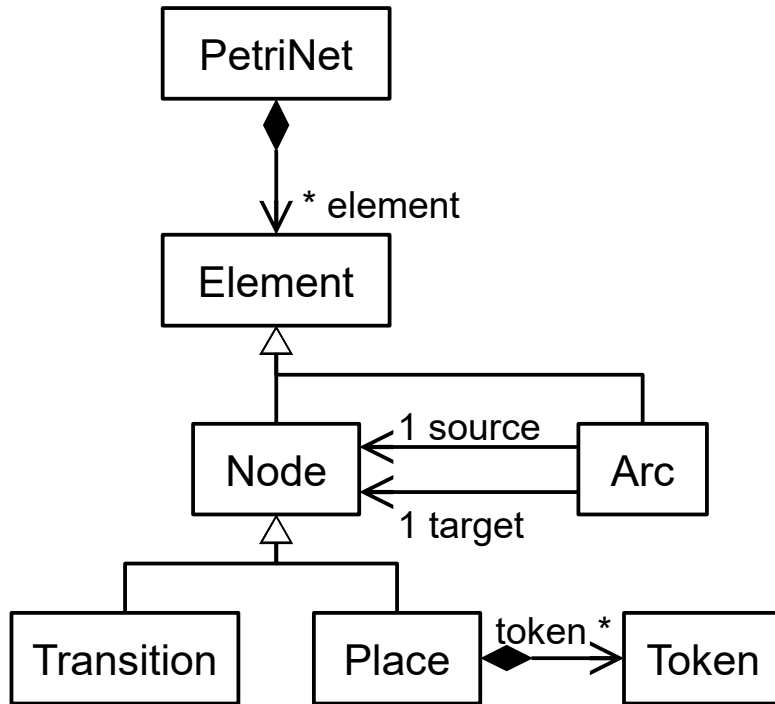
Class models are models, too!



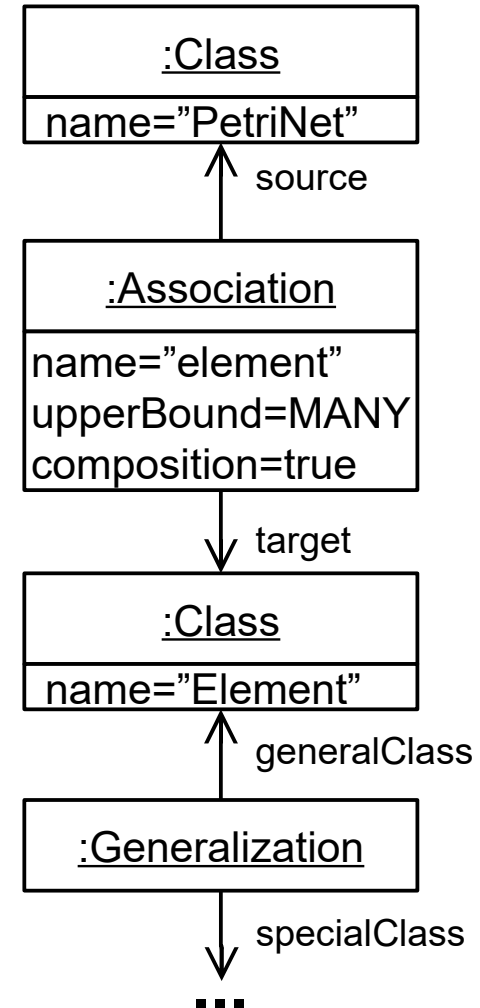
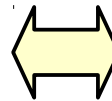
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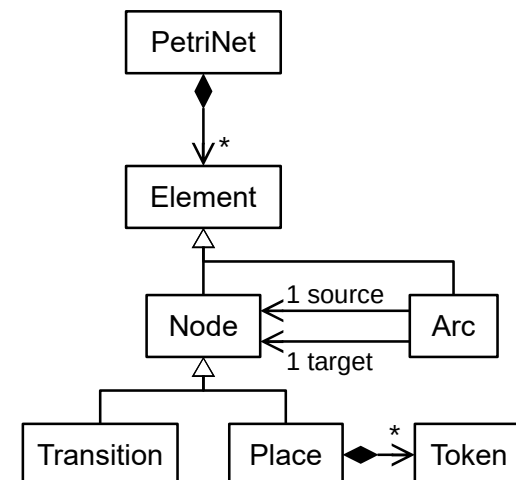
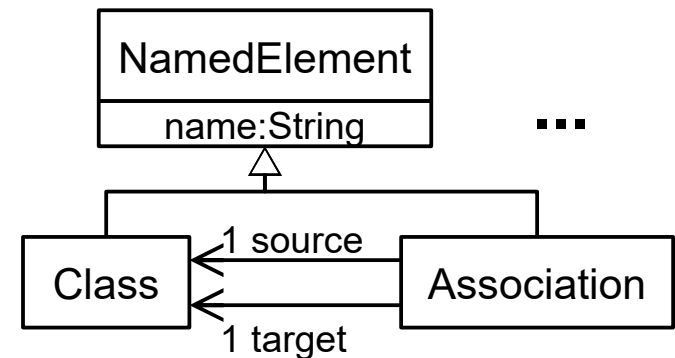
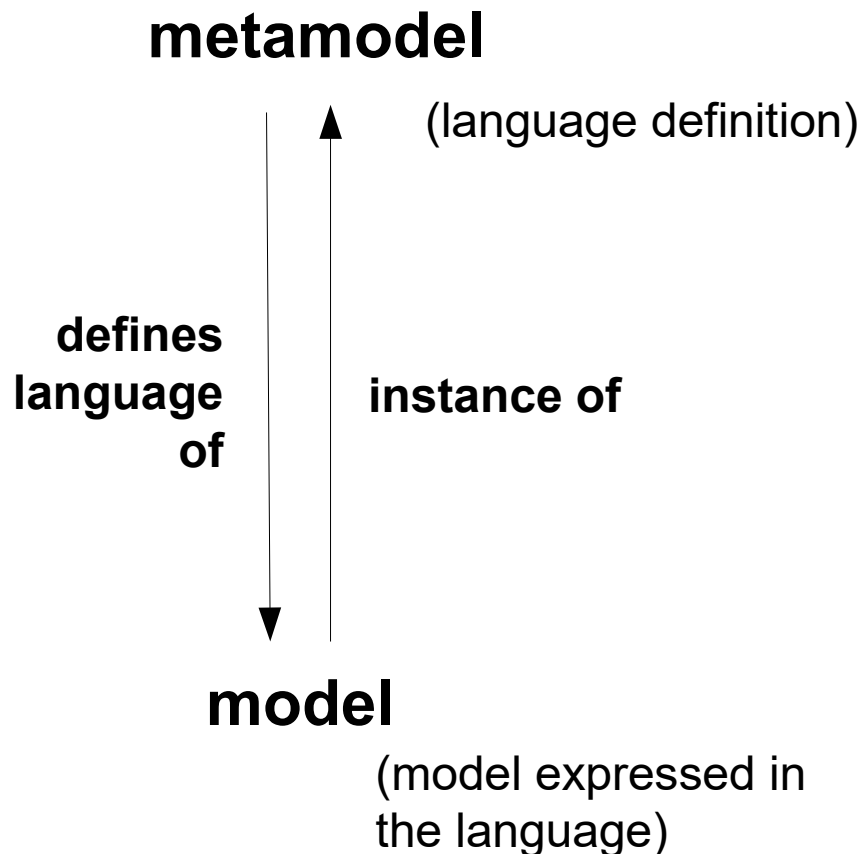


concrete syntax

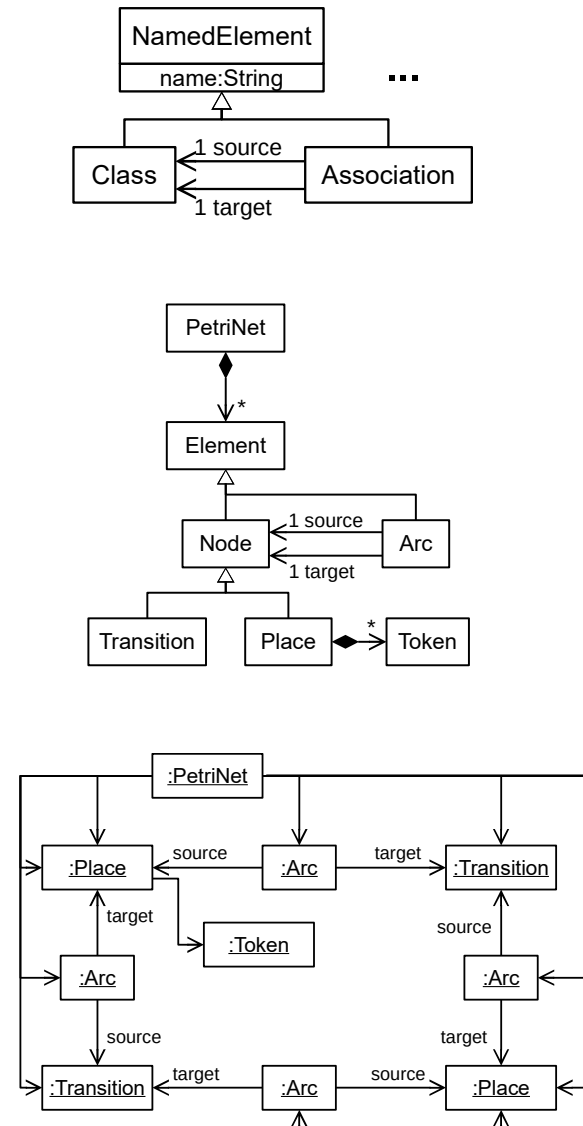
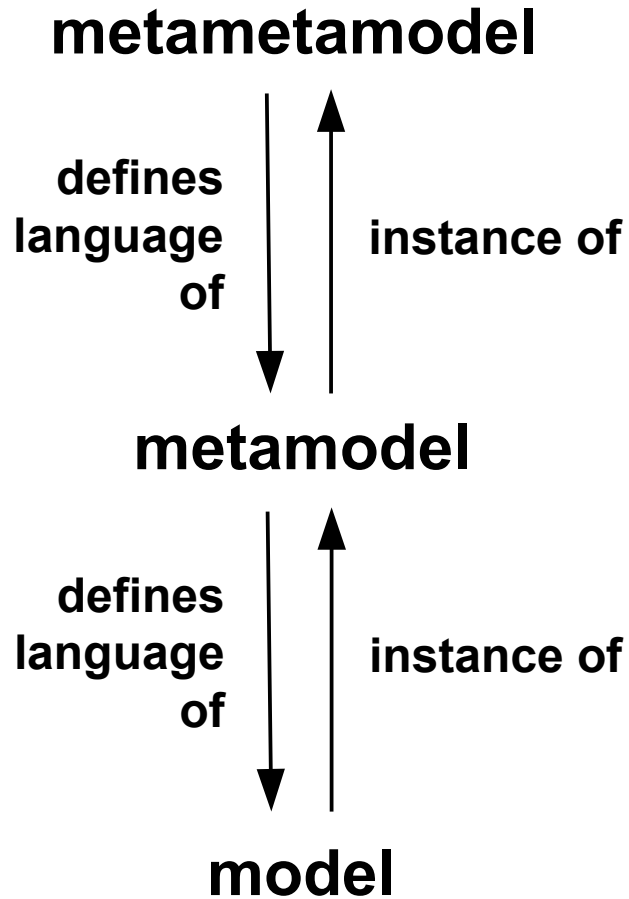


abstract syntax

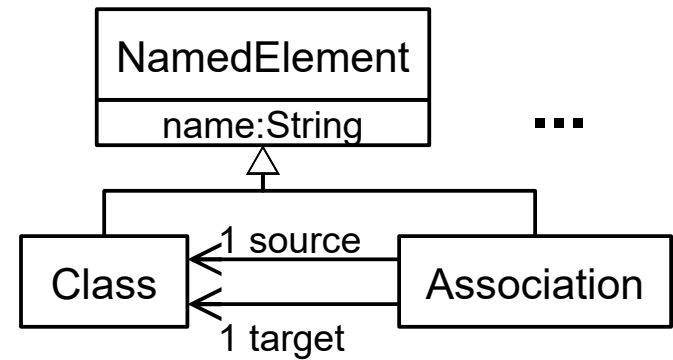
Model and Metamodel (Class models are models, too!)



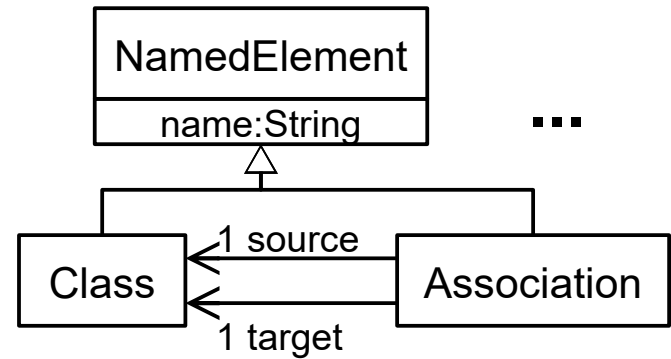
Multiple Meta-Levels



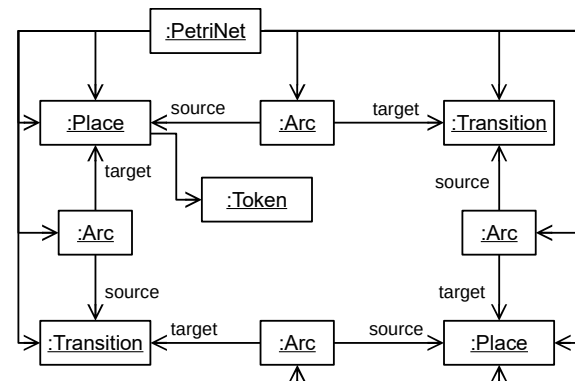
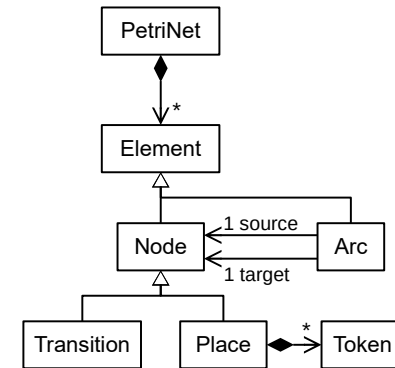
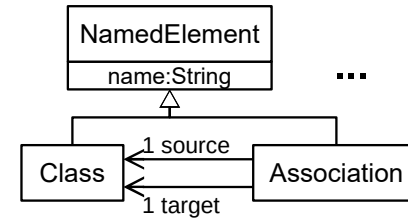
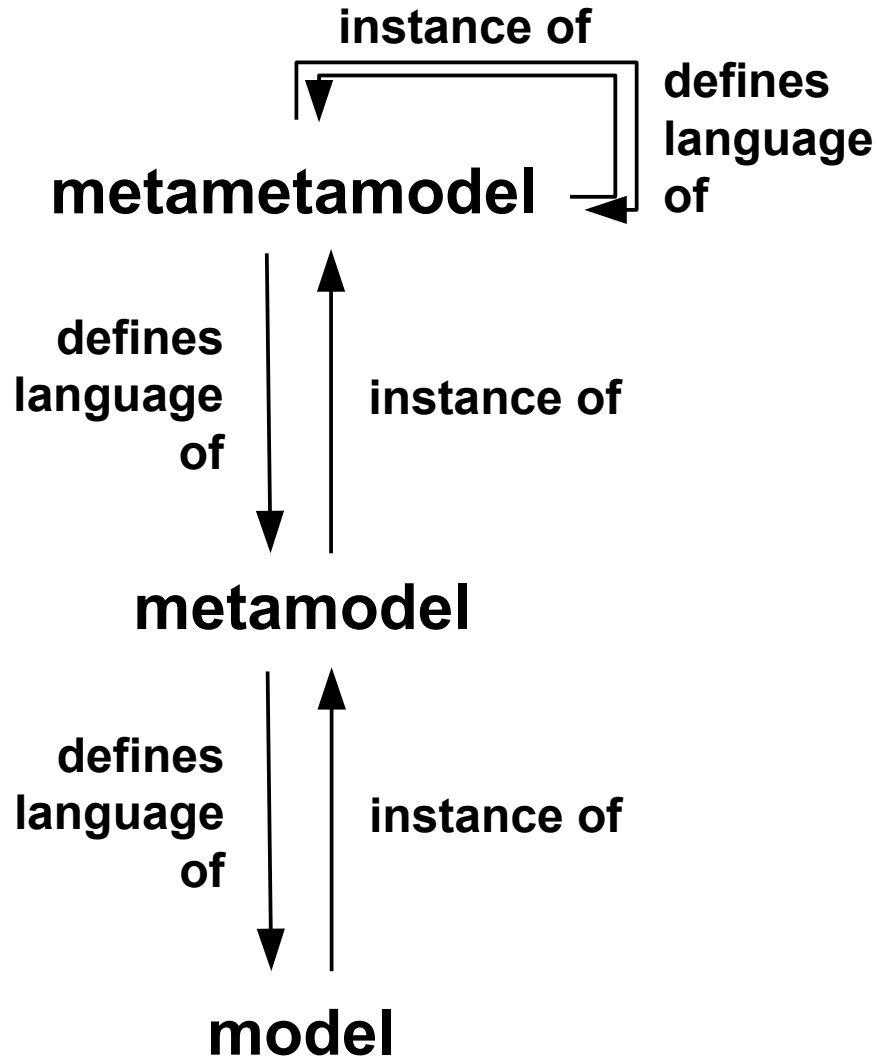
- Is there also a metamodel for this model?



- Is there also a metamodel for this model?
- **It can describe itself!**



Meta-Levels



2.3. Meta-levels

Typical Meta-Level Descriptions

- Sometimes, we refer to the **four meta-levels** (M0-M3) originally defined by the MOF standard
 - MOF: Meta-Object Efacility, standard by the OMG (see <http://www.omg.org/mof/>)

M3	meta-metamodel to define metamodels on M2, also describes itself
M2	metamodels , for defining a modeling language on M1
M1	models of data or processes
M0	instance-model , concrete data

Meta-Levels for UML

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Dog

dog class

:Dog

dog object

Meta-Levels for UML

M3	meta-metamodel to define metamodels on M2, also describes itself
M2	metamodels , for defining a modeling language on M1
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M0	instance-model , concrete data

Class

**class
of class**

Dog

dog class

:Dog

dog object

Meta-Levels for UML

M3	meta-metamodel to define metamodels on M2, also describes itself
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Class

class
of class

Class

class
of class

Dog

dog class

:Dog

dog object

Meta-Levels for UML

This seems a bit weird...

M3	meta-metamodel to define metamodels on M2, also describes itself
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M1	models of data or processes
M0	instance-model , concrete data

Class class
 of class

Class class
 of class

Dog dog class

:Dog dog object

Meta-Object Facility (MOF)

- The MOF standard defines a meta-metamodel that is used to define UML as well as other languages defined by the OMG

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 - UML also defines Activity Diagrams, Sequence Diagrams, ...
 - this is not necessary to define other meta-models

Taking a quick look at the OMG standards: MOF

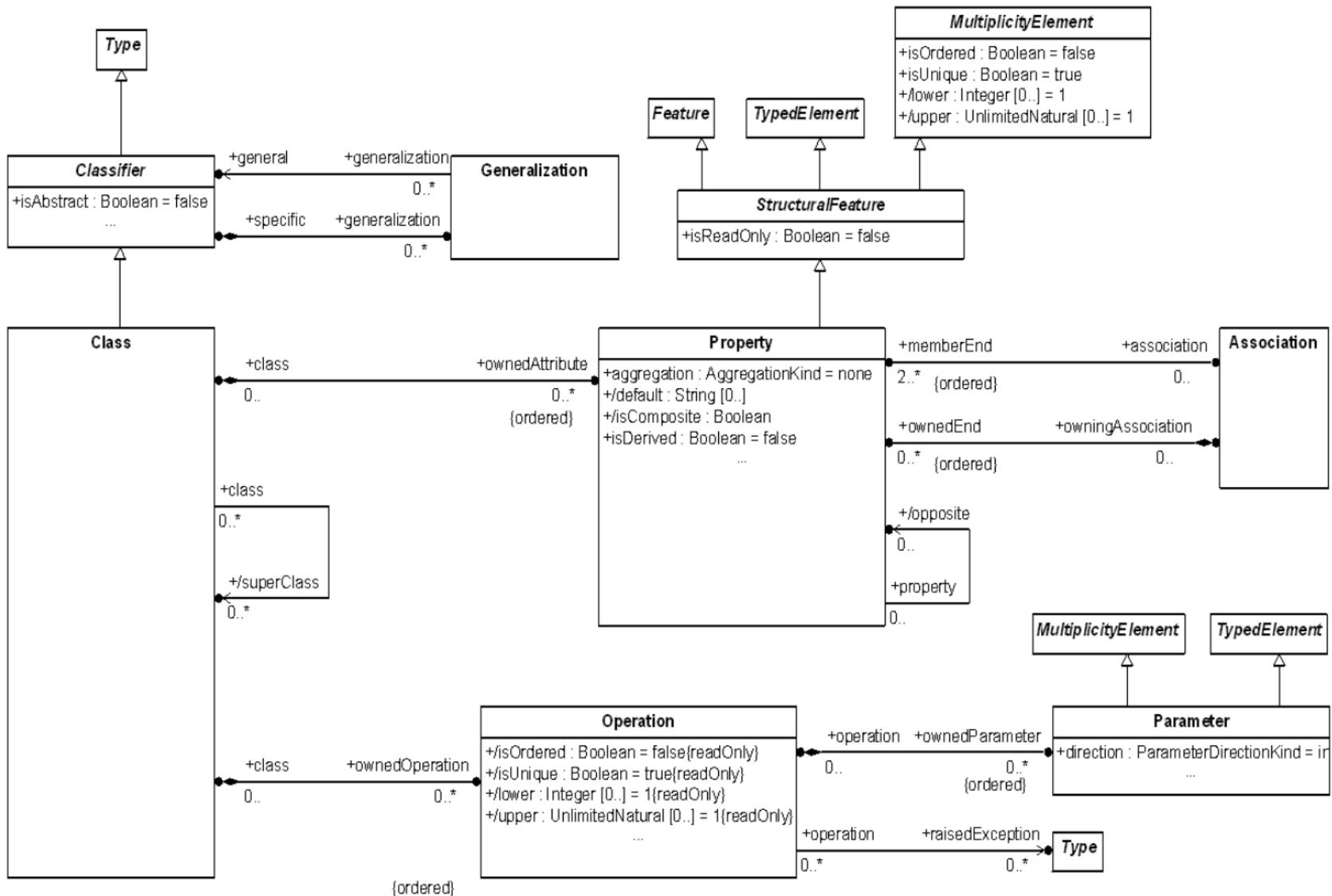


Figure 12.2 - EMOF Classes

(from <http://www.omg.org/spec/MOF/2.5/PDF>)

Taking a quick look at the OMG standards: UML

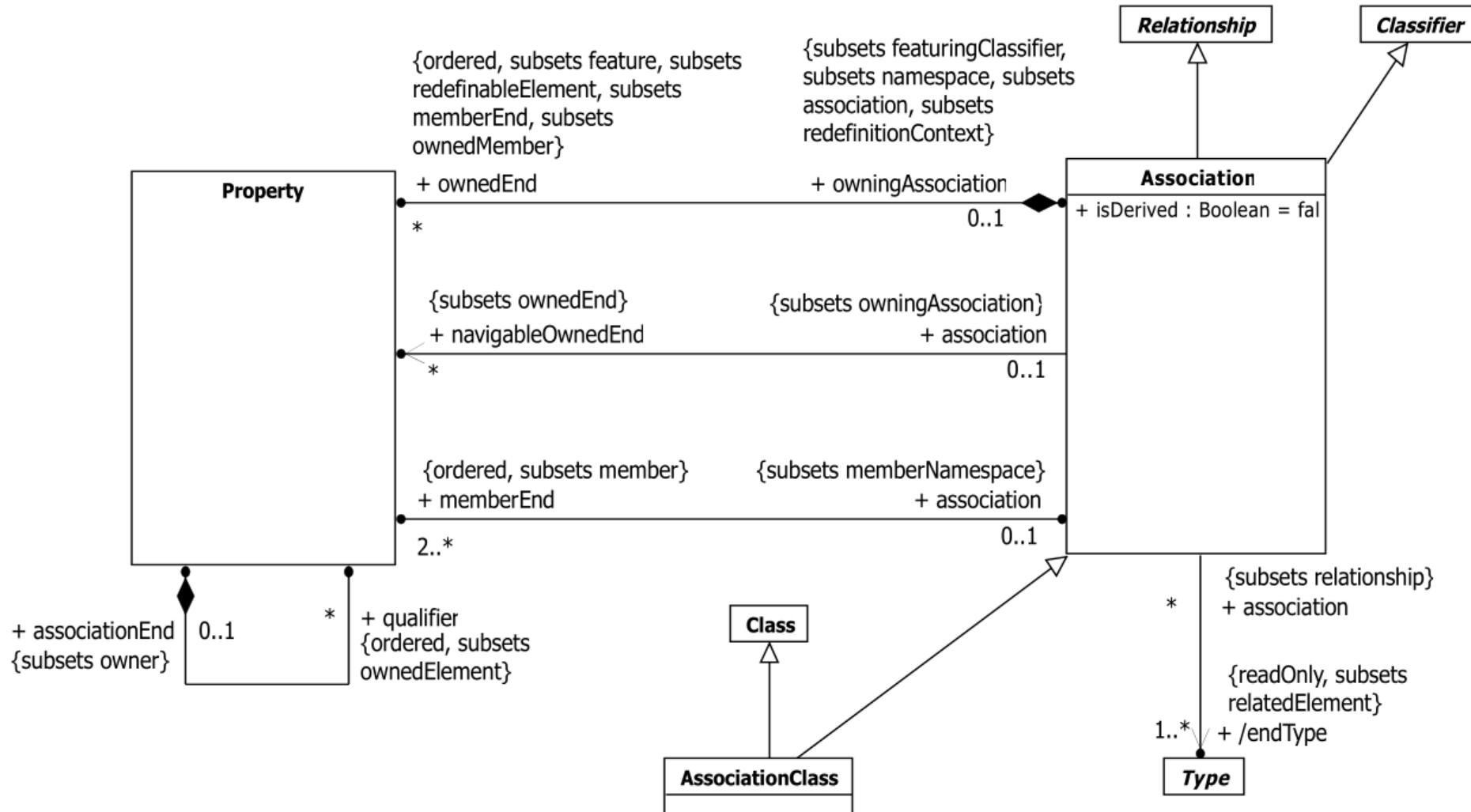
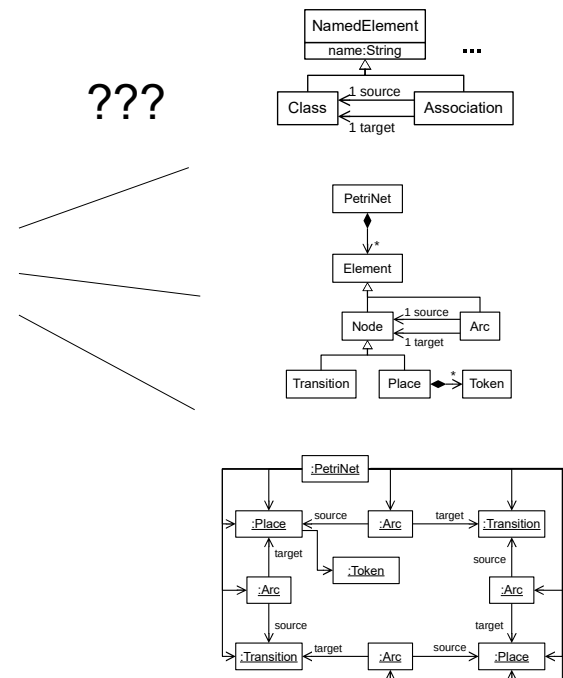


Figure 11.25 Associations

Meta-Levels for the Petri net

- sometimes it is difficult to allocate models and metamodels to the “four” meta-levels

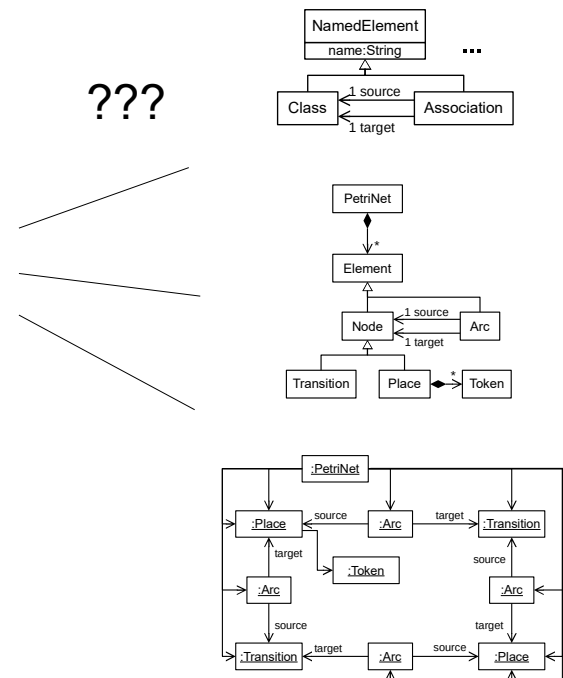
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Meta-Levels for the Petri net

- sometimes it is difficult to allocate models and metamodels to the “four” meta-levels
 - sometimes there are more, sometimes less levels

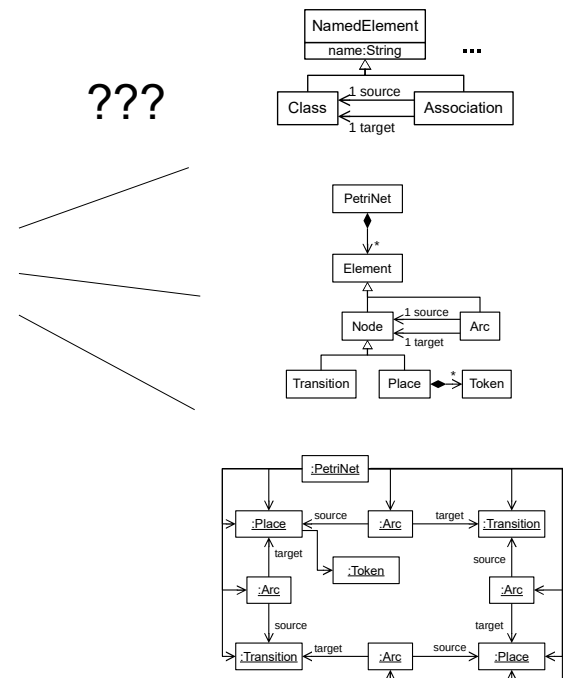
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Meta-Levels for the Petri net

- sometimes it is difficult to allocate models and metamodels to the “four” meta-levels
 - sometimes there are more, sometimes less levels
 - this was reason for A LOT of discussions already!

M3	meta-metamodel to define metamodels on M2, also describes itself
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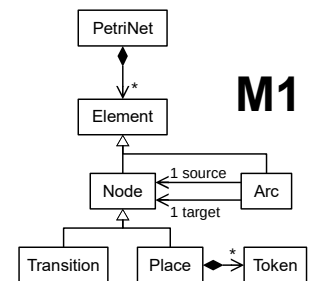


Meta-Levels for the Petri net

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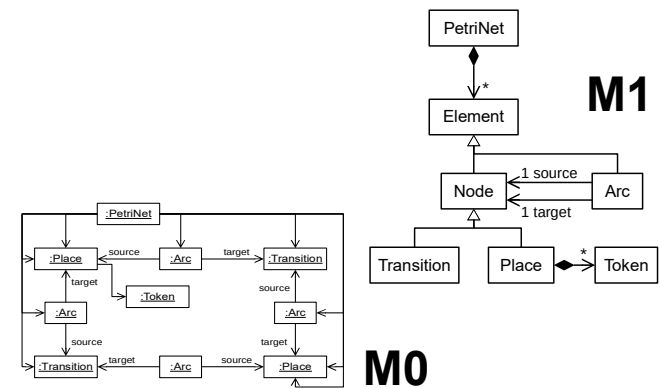
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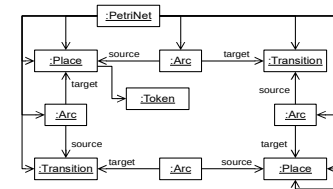
Meta-Levels for the Petri net

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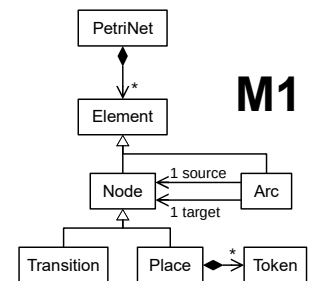


Meta-Levels for the Petri net

M3	meta-metamodel to define metamodels on M2, also describes itself
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M0

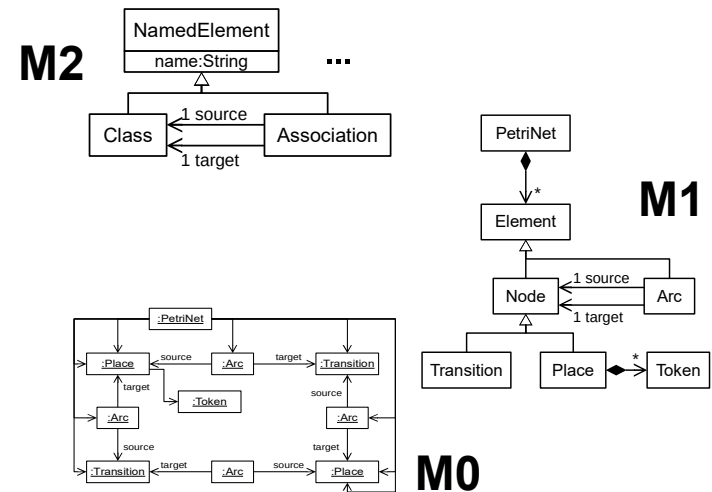


M1

concrete instance of a Petri net
(e.g. diagram in an editor)

Meta-Levels for the Petri net

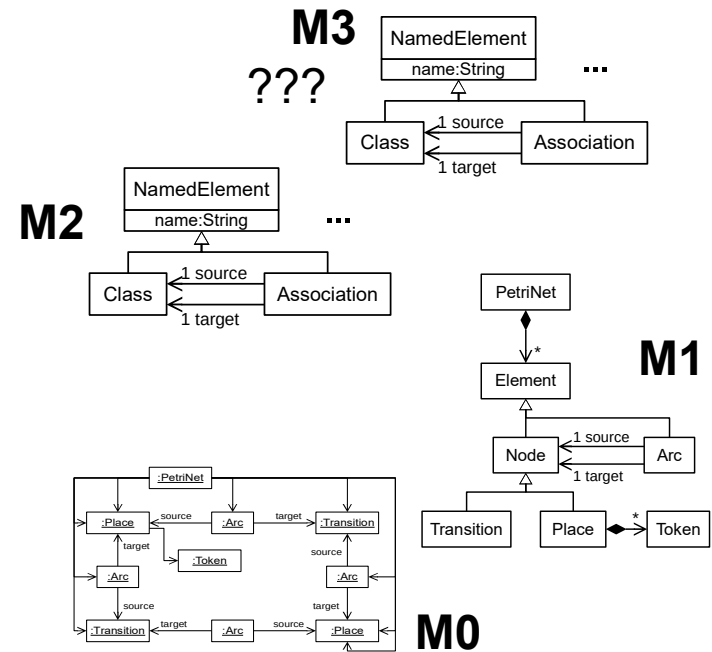
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concrete instance of a Petri net
(e.g. diagram in an editor)

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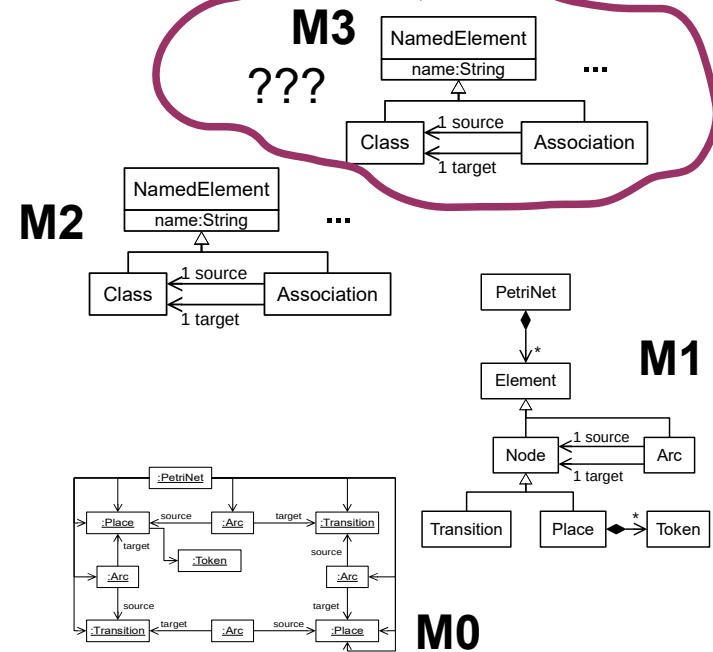


concrete instance of a Petri net
(e.g. diagram in an editor)

Meta-Levels for the Petri net

M3	meta-metamodel to define metamodels on M2, also describes itself
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This seems artificial...

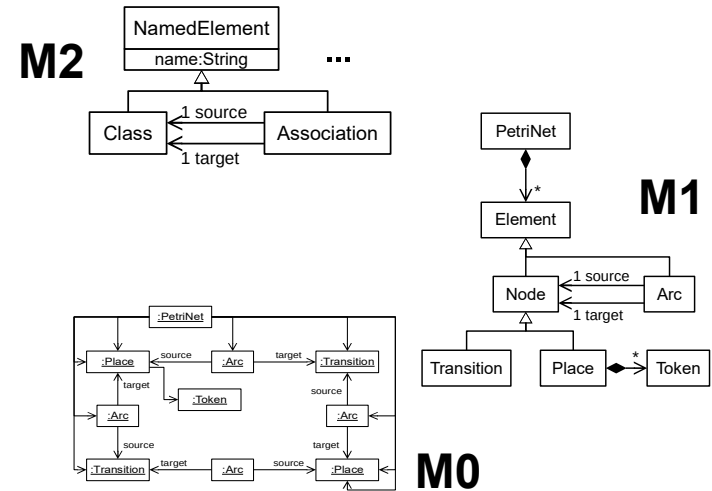


concrete instance of a Petri net
(e.g. diagram in an editor)

Meta-Levels for the Petri net

Maybe three meta levels are sufficient here...

M2	metamodel/meta-metamodel
M1	models of data or processes
M0	instance-model , concrete data



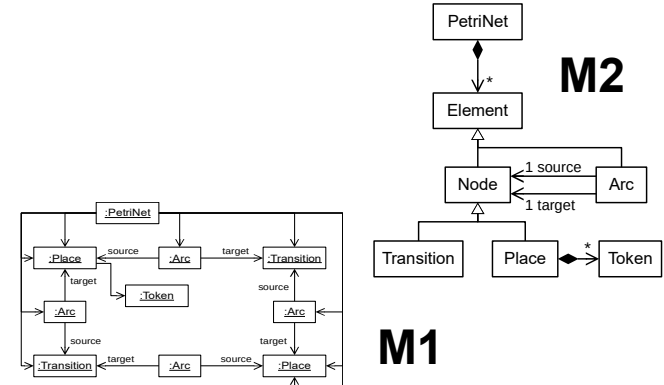
Meta-Levels for the Petri net

M3	meta-metamodel to define metamodels on M2, also describes itself
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M0	instance-model , concrete data

11
6

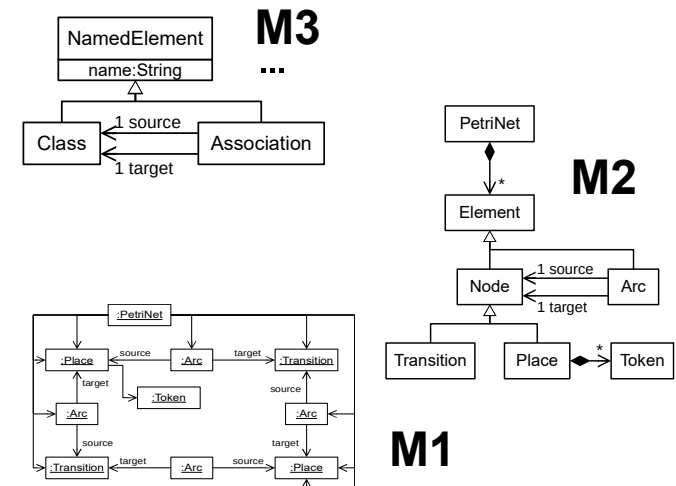
Meta-Levels for the Petri net

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Meta-Levels for the Petri net

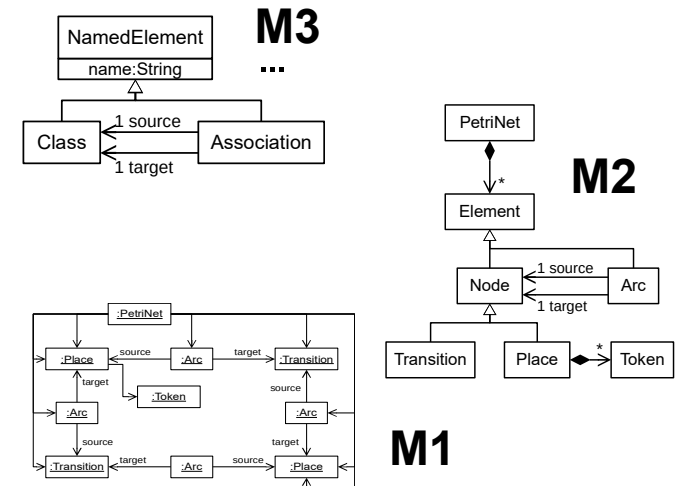
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Meta-Levels for the Petri net

Fits better into M1-M3

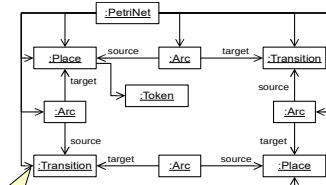
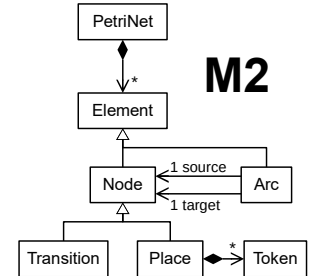
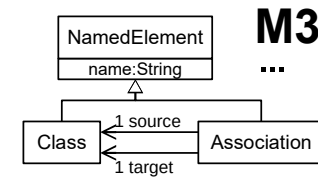
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Meta-Levels for the Petri net

Fits better into M1-M3

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M0	instance-model , concrete data

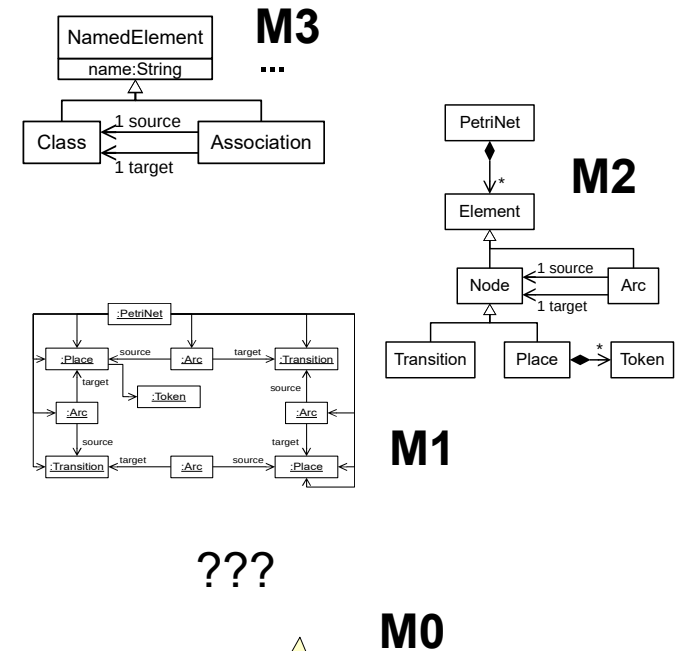


Especially: a Petri net is a *model of a process* – so, by definition of M1, it fits nicely in M1!

Meta-Levels for the Petri net

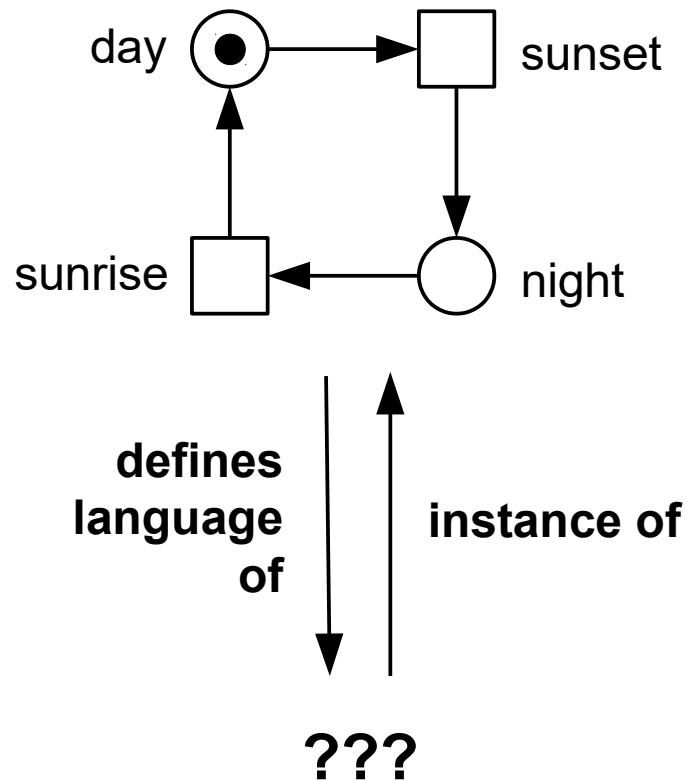
Fits better into M1-M3

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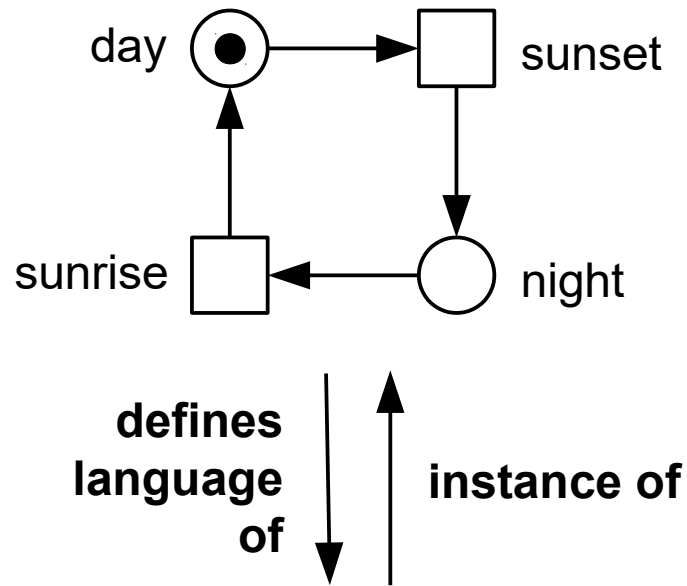
Meta-Levels for the Petri net

- If a Petri net is a model of a process..
- ... then what is the instance of that model?



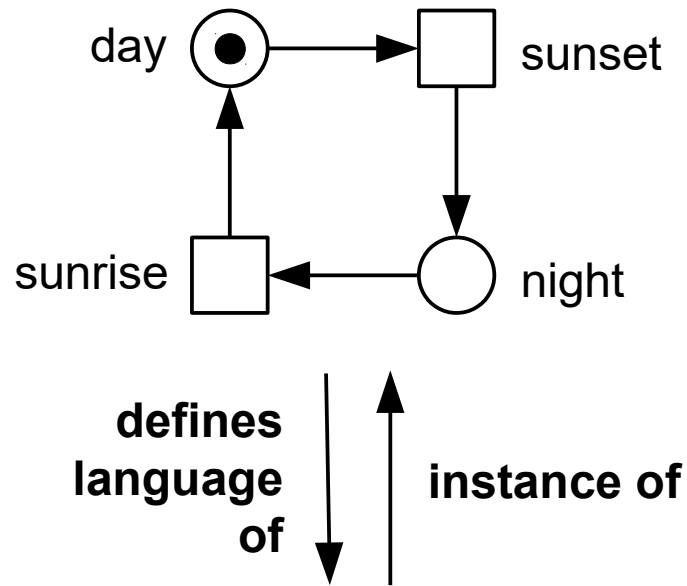
Meta-Levels for the Petri net

- What is the **language defined by** a Petri net?



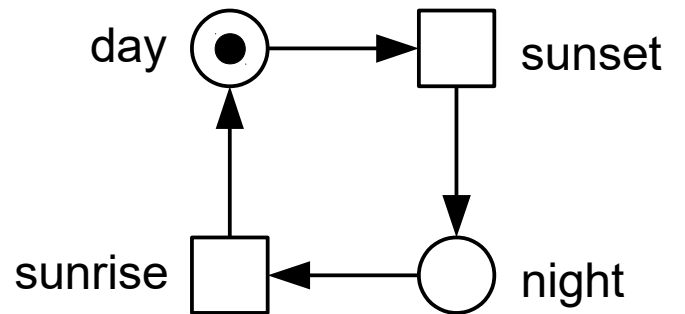
Meta-Levels for the Petri net

- What is the language defined by a Petri net?
 - the set of all its executions!



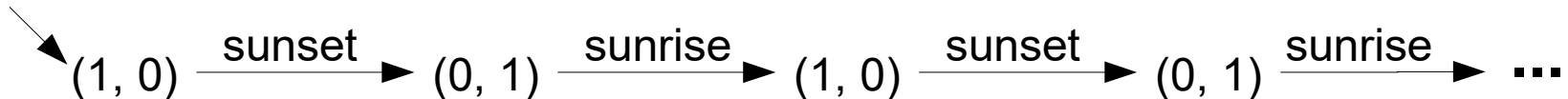
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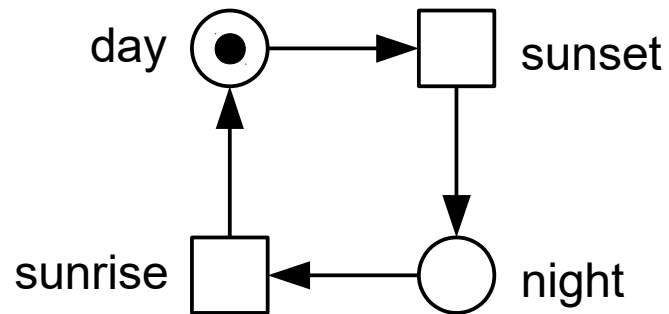
defines
language
of

instance of



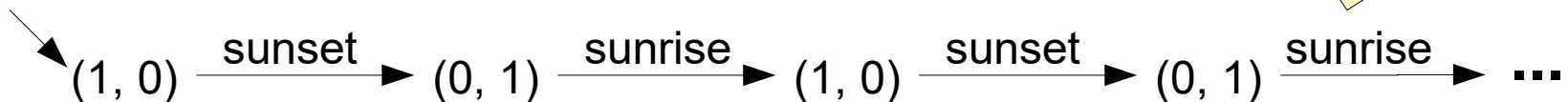
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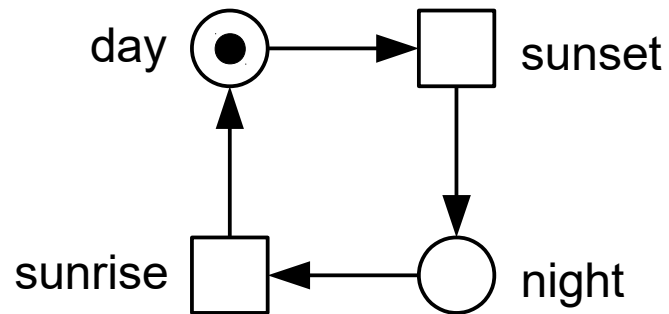
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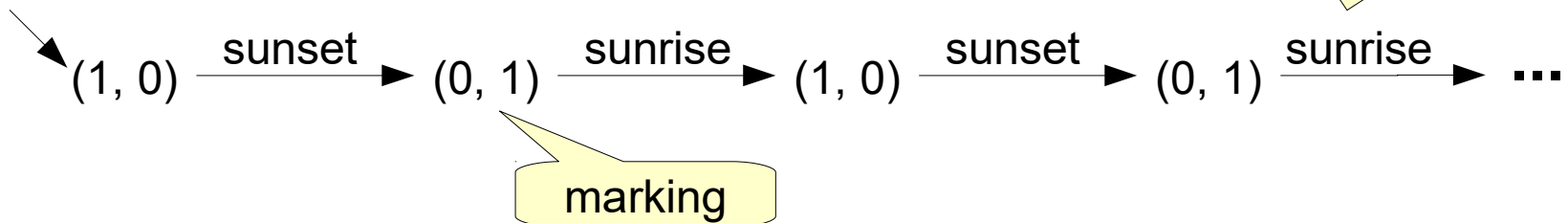
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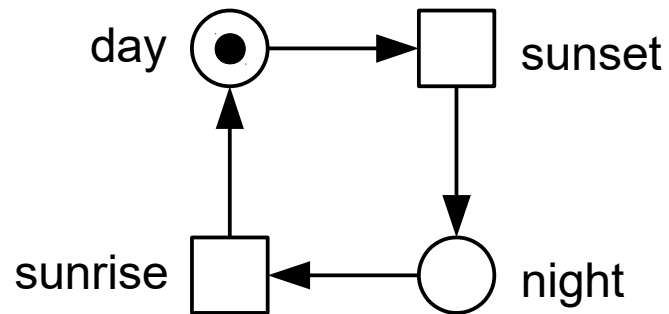
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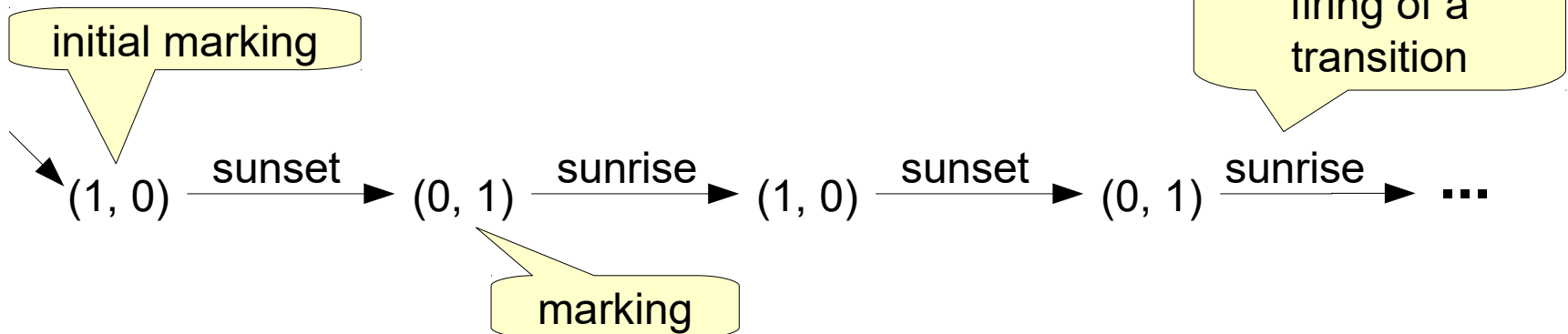
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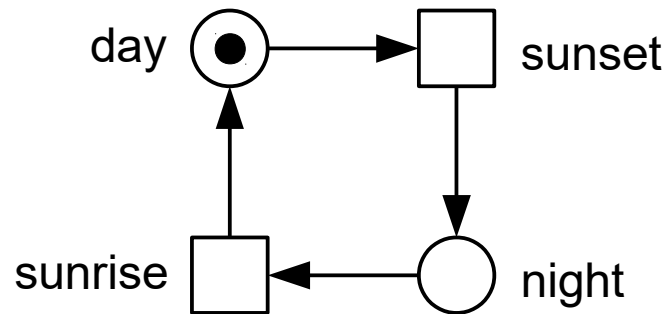
defines
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Meta-Levels for the Petri net

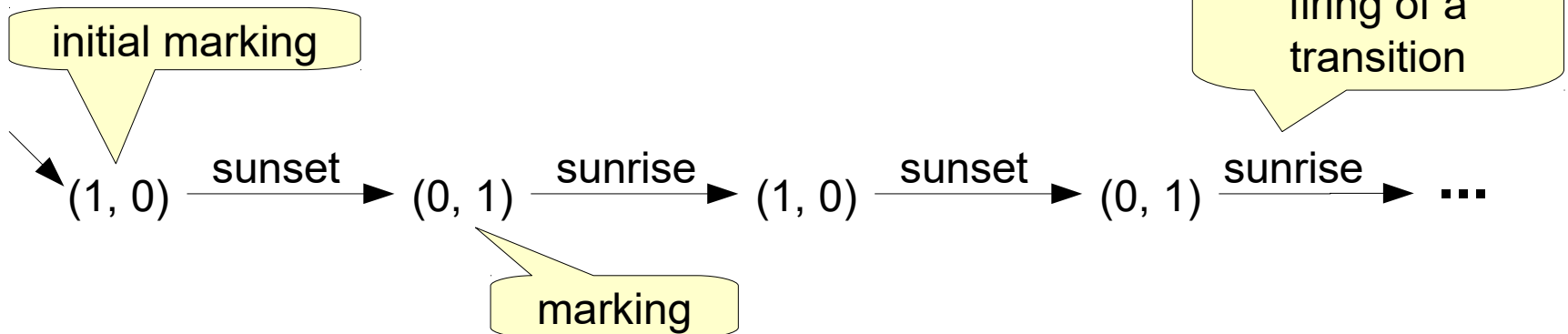
- What is the language defined by a Petri net?
 - the set of all its executions!



in this case,
there is only
one execution

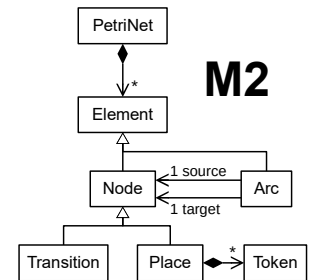
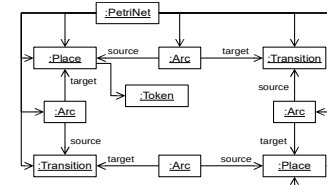
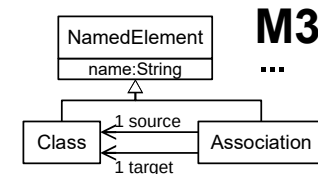
defines
language
of

instance of



Meta-Levels for the Petri net

M3	meta-metamodel to define metamodels on M2, also describes itself
M2	metamodels , for defining a modeling language on M1
M1	models of data or processes
M0	instance-model , concrete data



$(1, 0) \xrightarrow{\text{sunset}} (0, 1) \xrightarrow{\text{sunrise}} (1, 0) \xrightarrow{\text{sunset}} (0, 1) \xrightarrow{\text{sunrise}} \dots$

M0

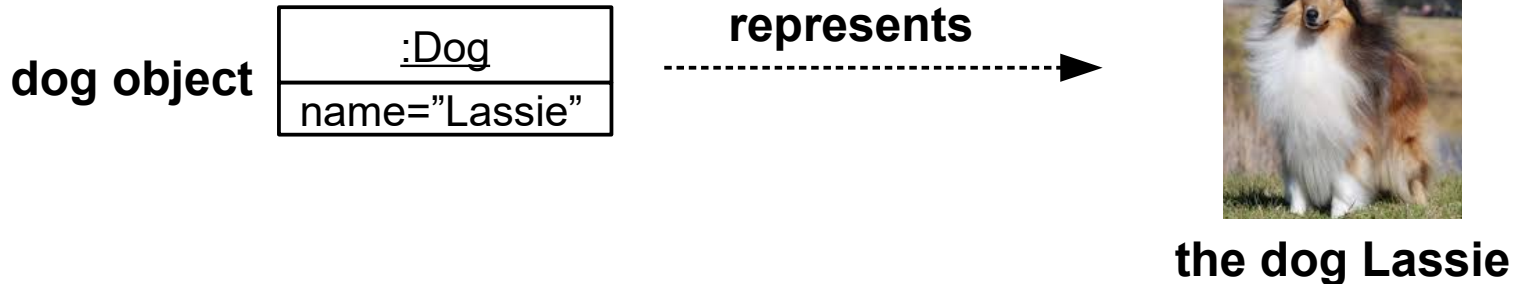
exections of Petri nets

“Instance-of” vs. “Represents” Relationship

- A model **represents** an original

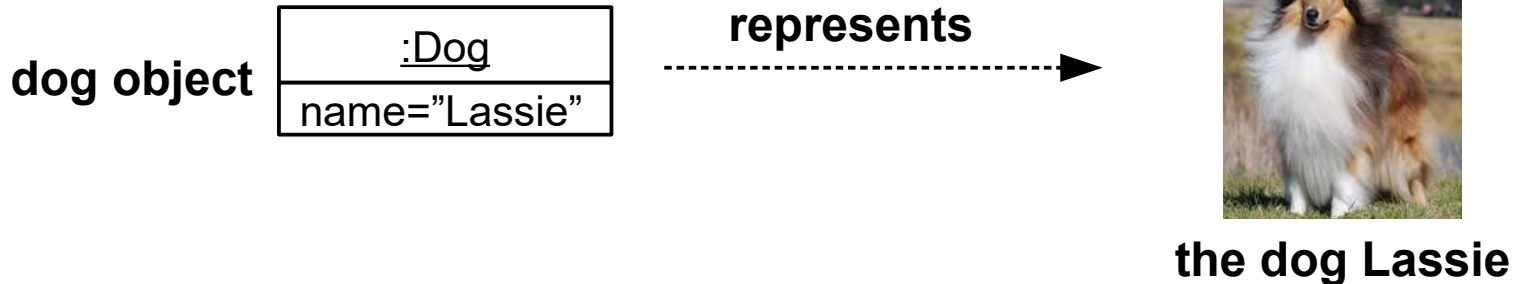
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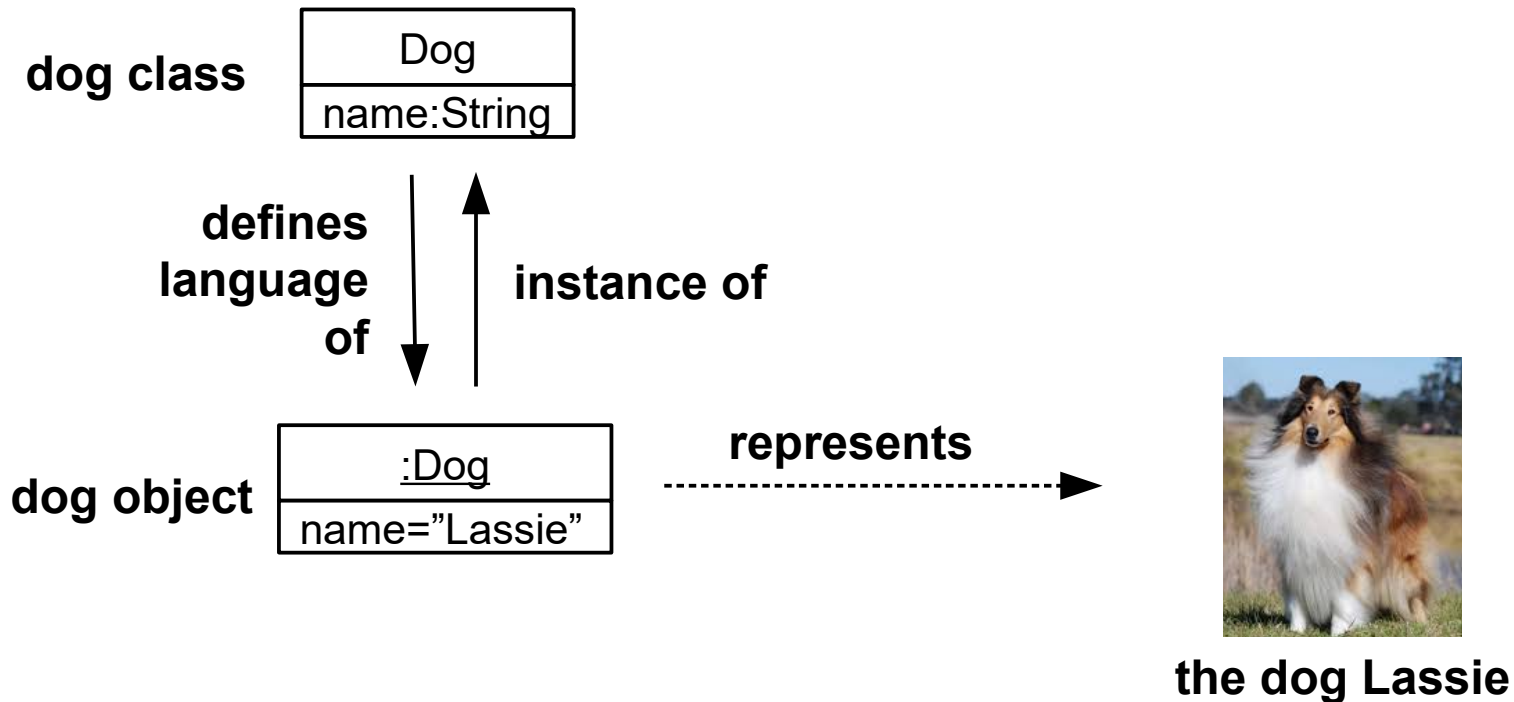
“Instance-of” vs. “Represents” Relationship

- A model **represents** an original
- A model is an **instance of** a metamodel



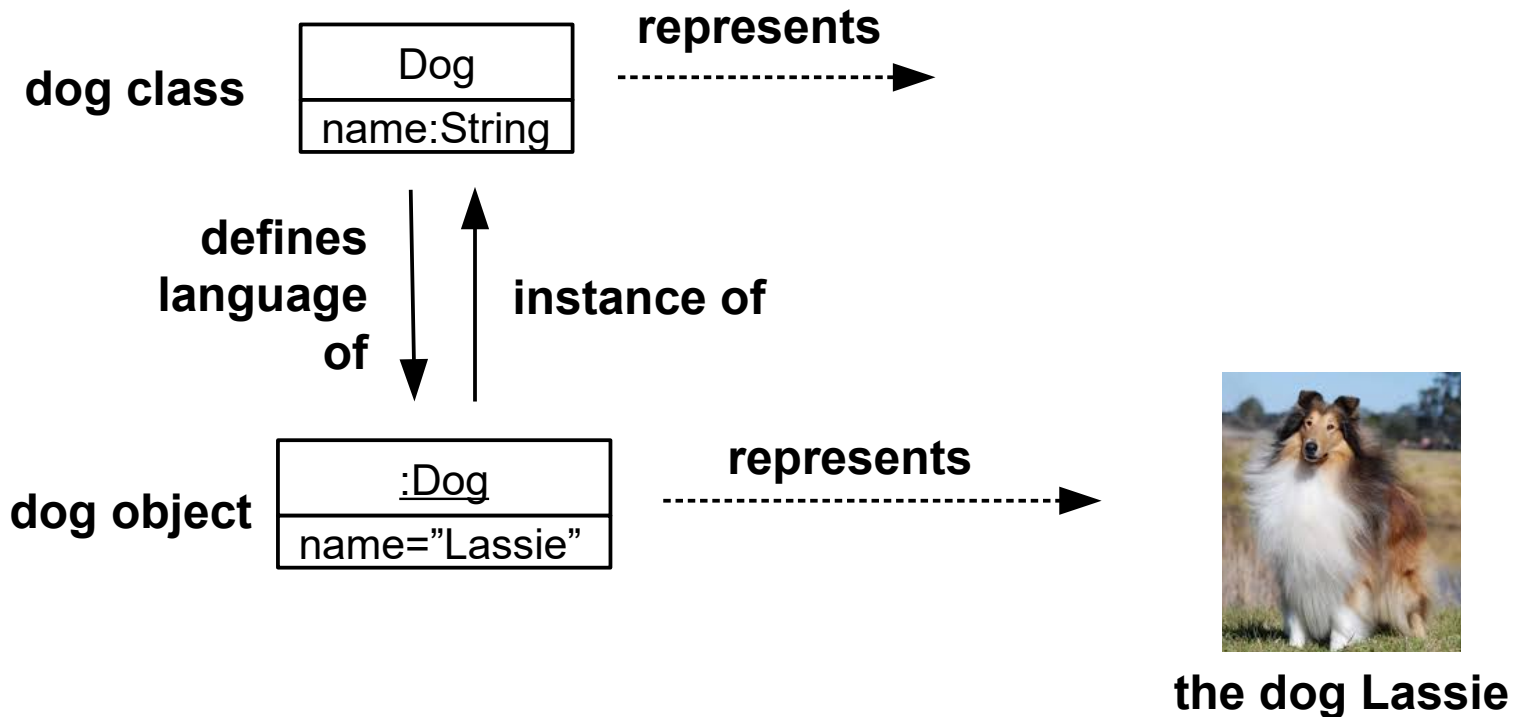
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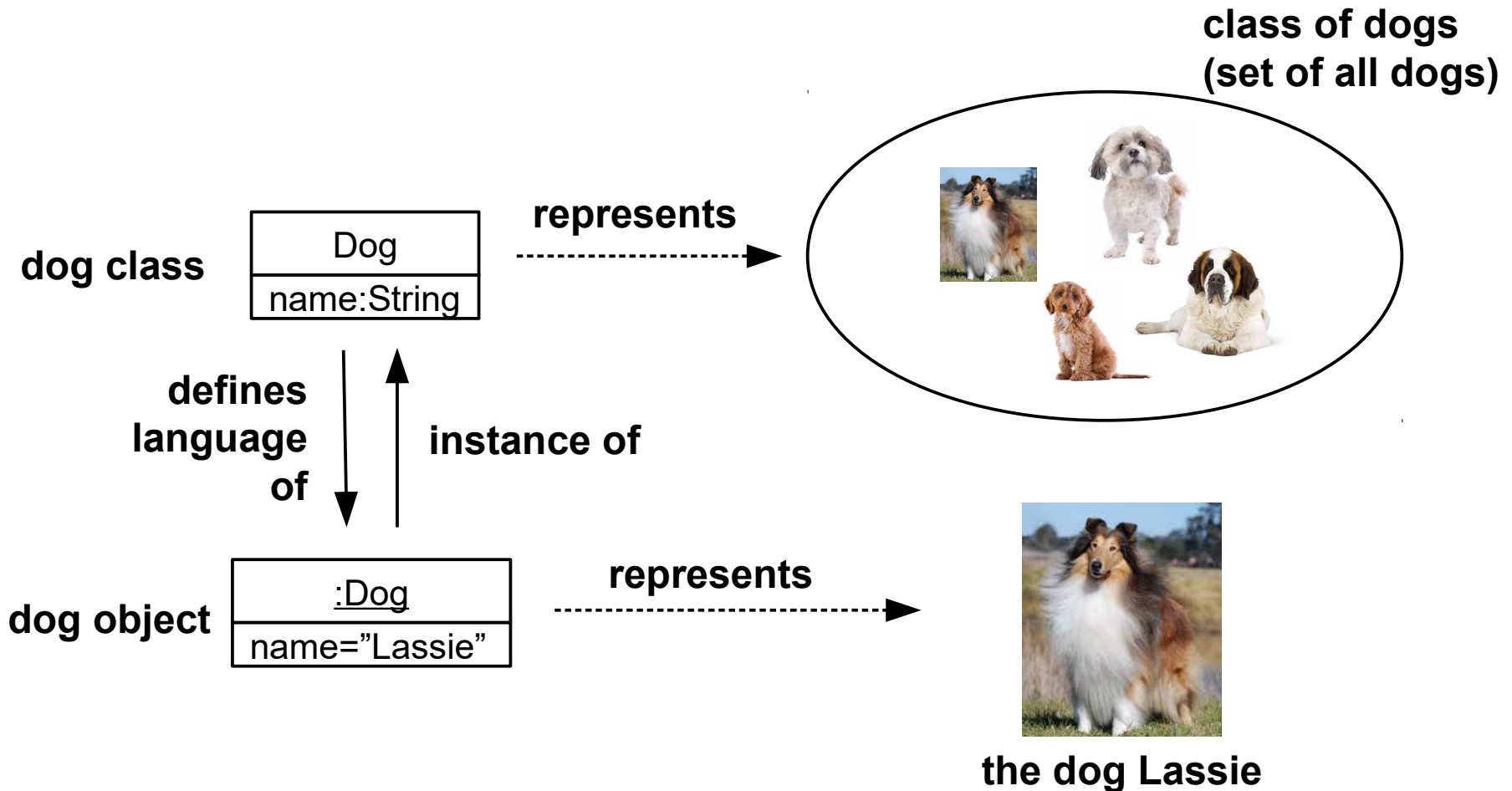
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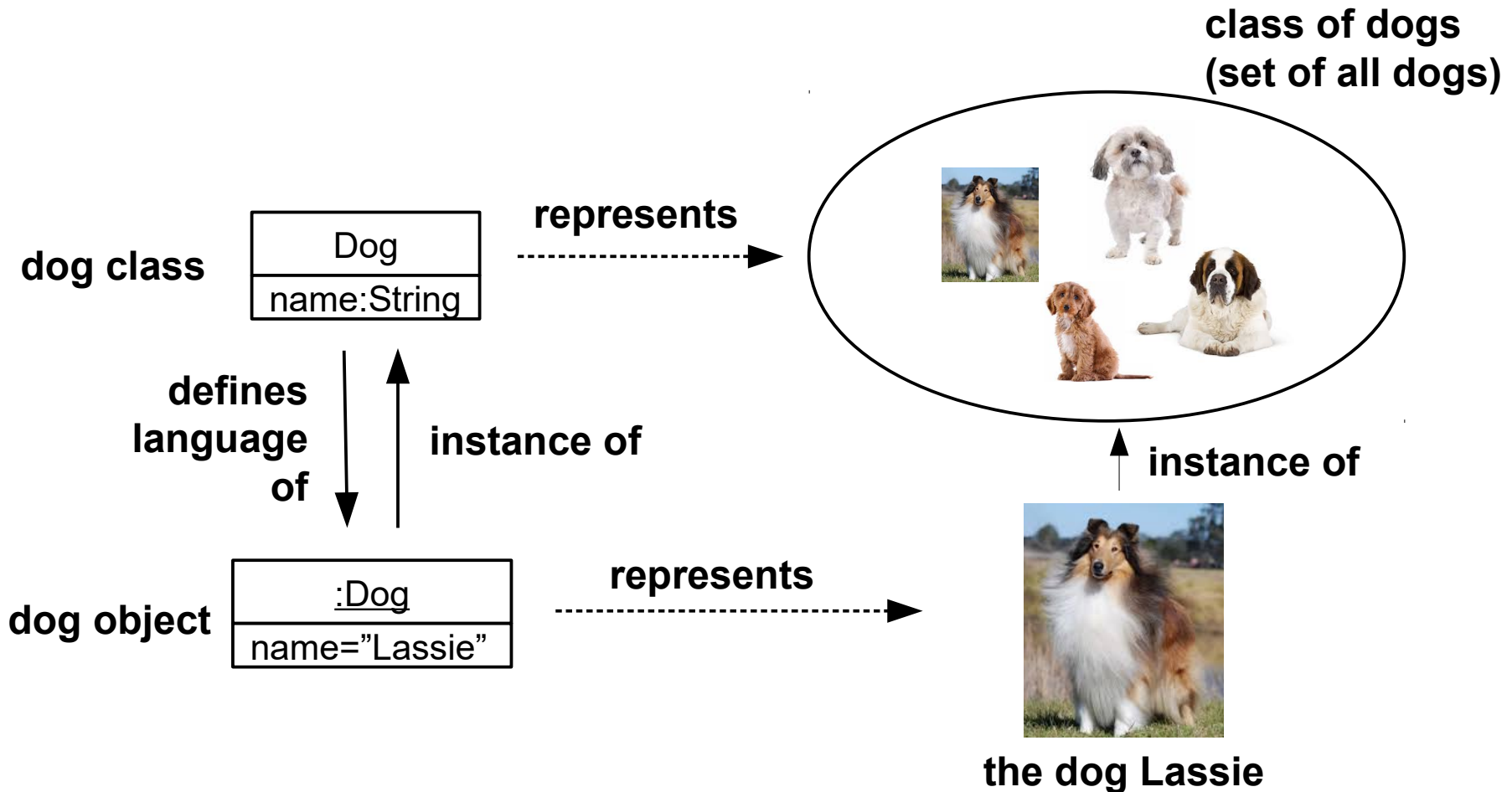
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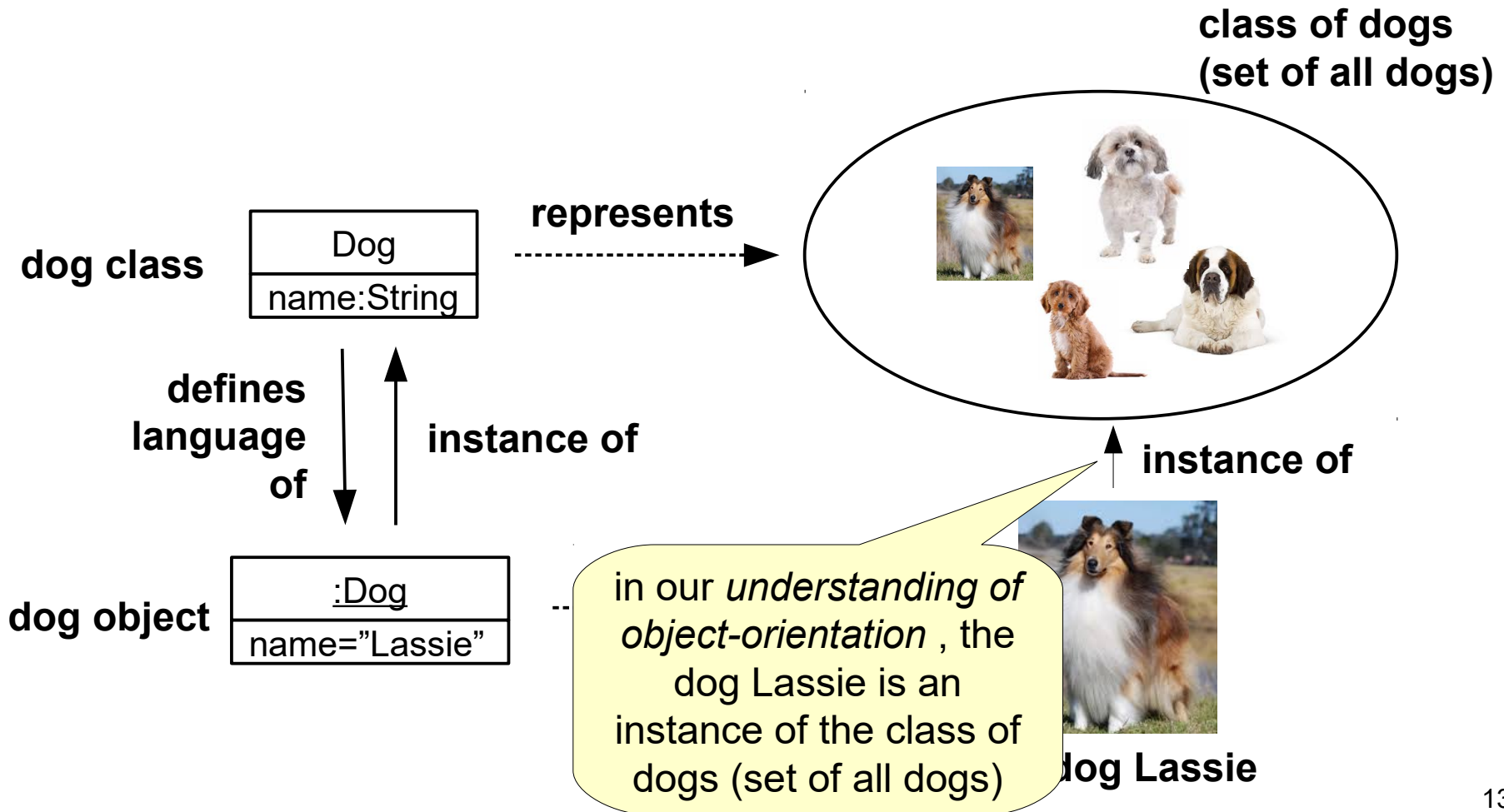
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“Instance-of” vs. “Represents” Relationship

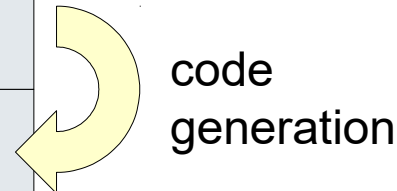
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Meta-Levels gone wrong

- One problematic interpretation of meta-levels
 - appears in some sources

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M0	generated code ???



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code generation

what is the relationship between, for example, a class diagram and code that is generated from it?

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 - appears in some sources

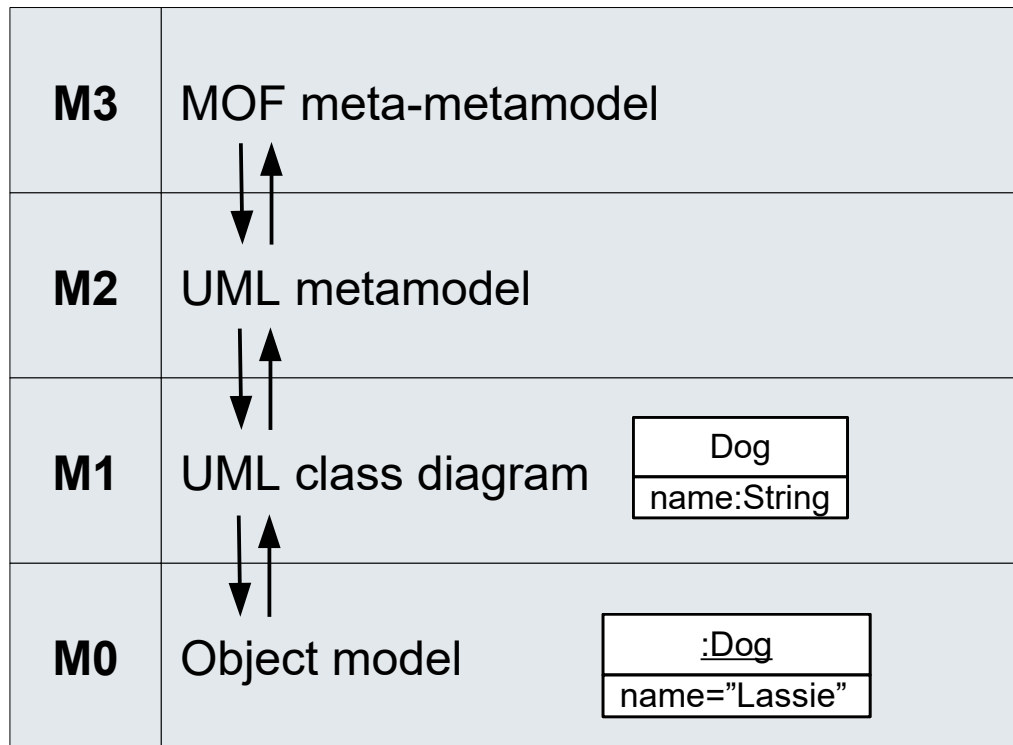
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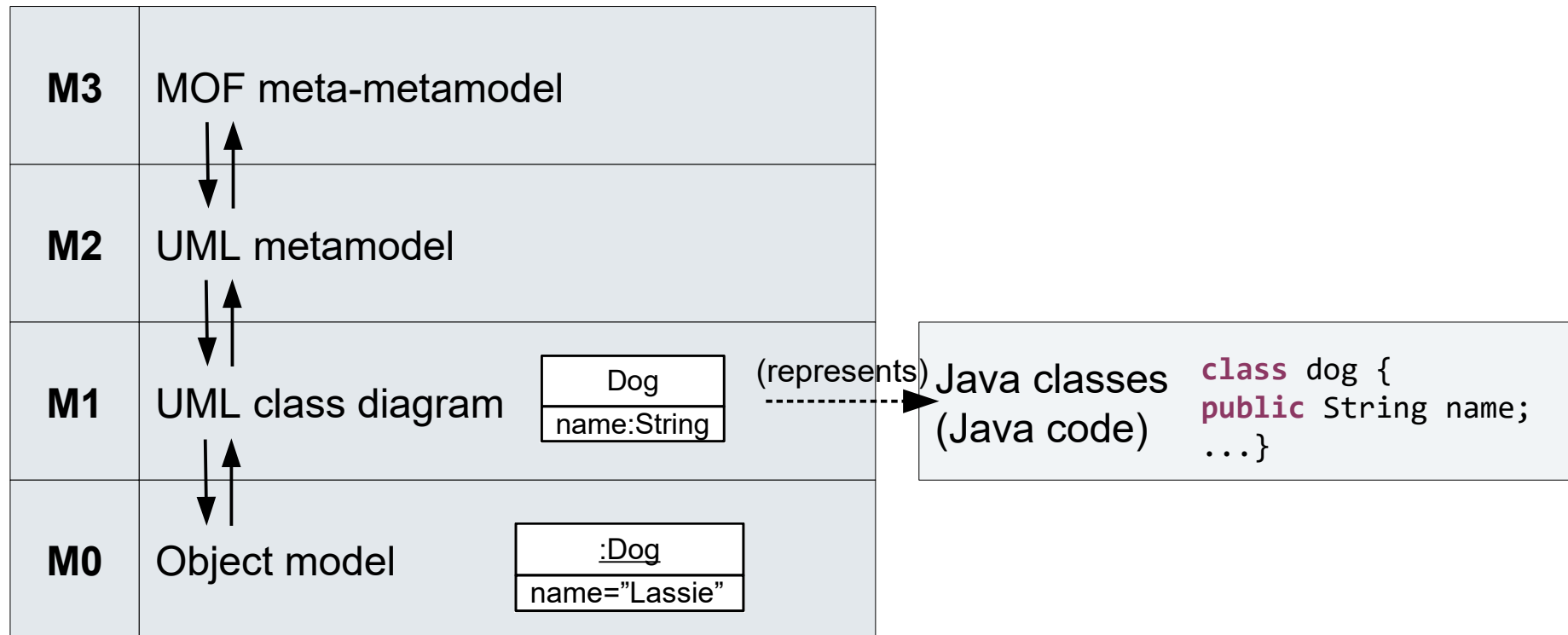
Meta-Levels done right!

- Classes in the class diagram describe Java classes



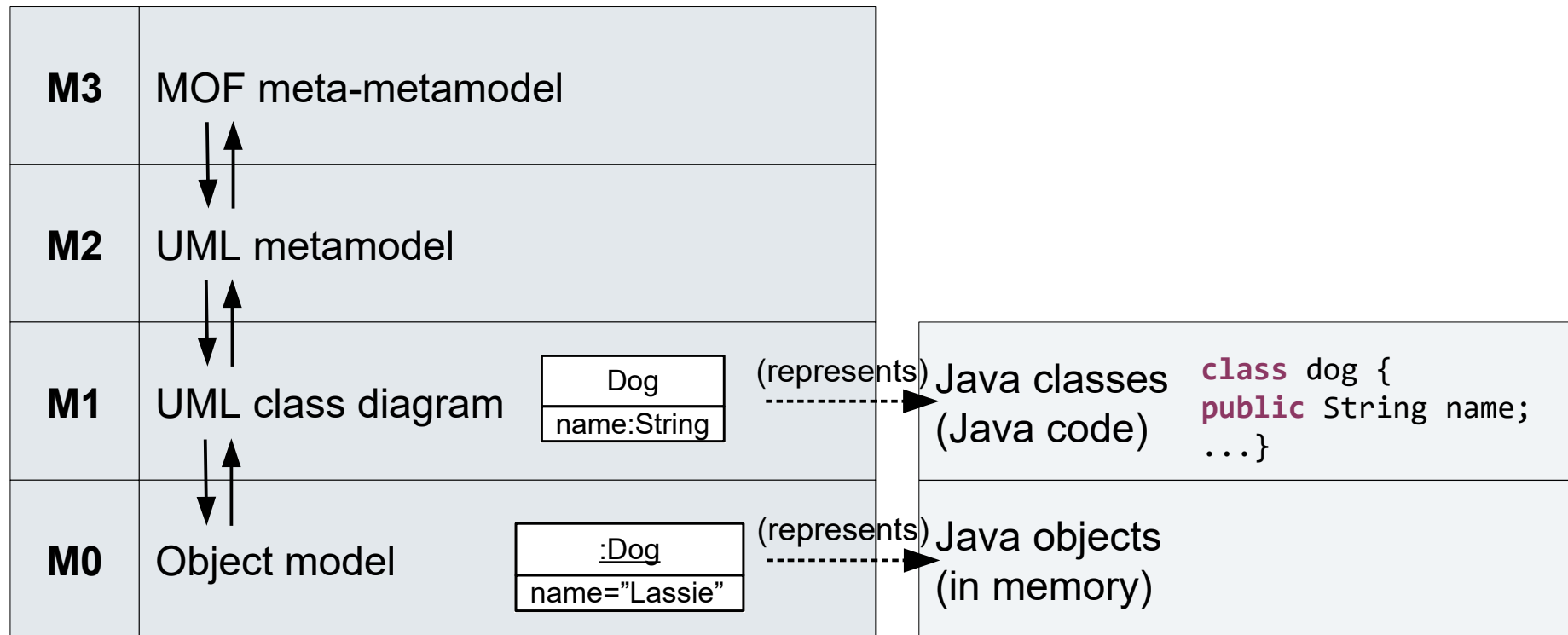
Meta-Levels done right!

- Classes in the class diagram describe Java classes



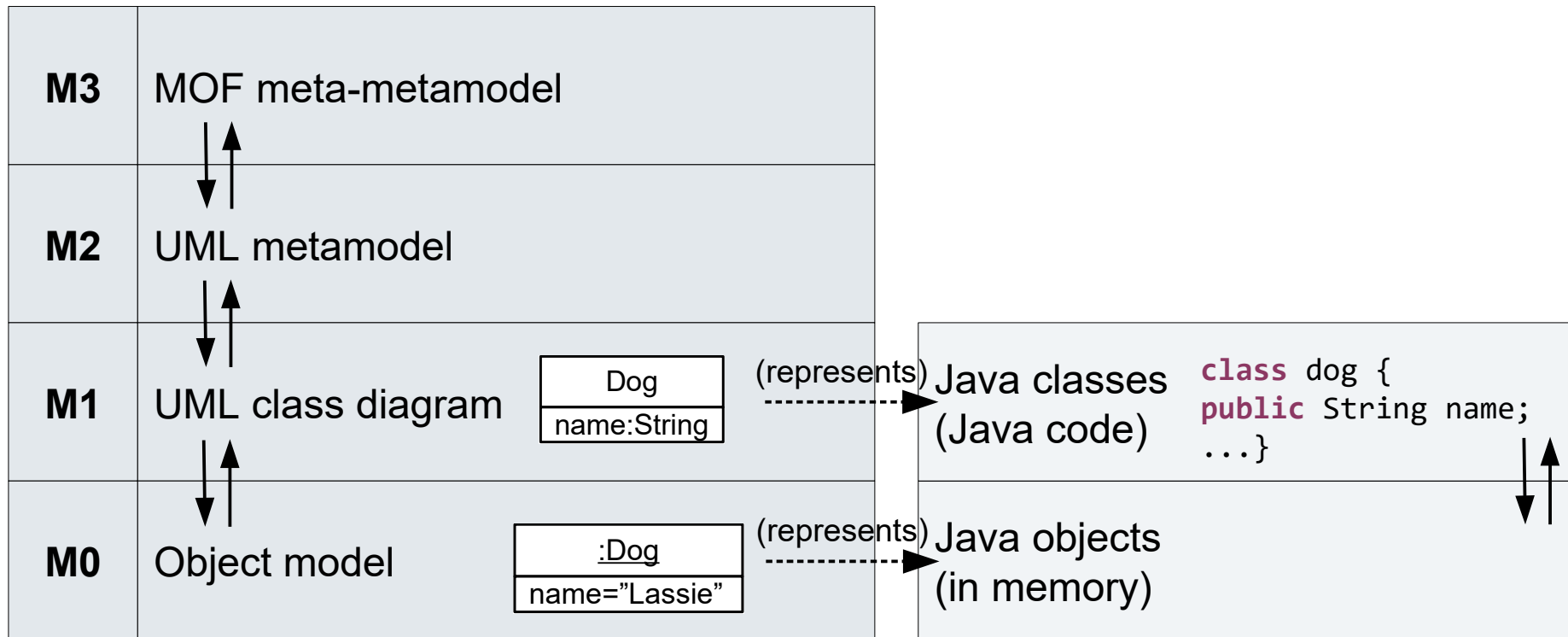
Meta-Levels done right!

- Classes in the class diagram describe Java classes



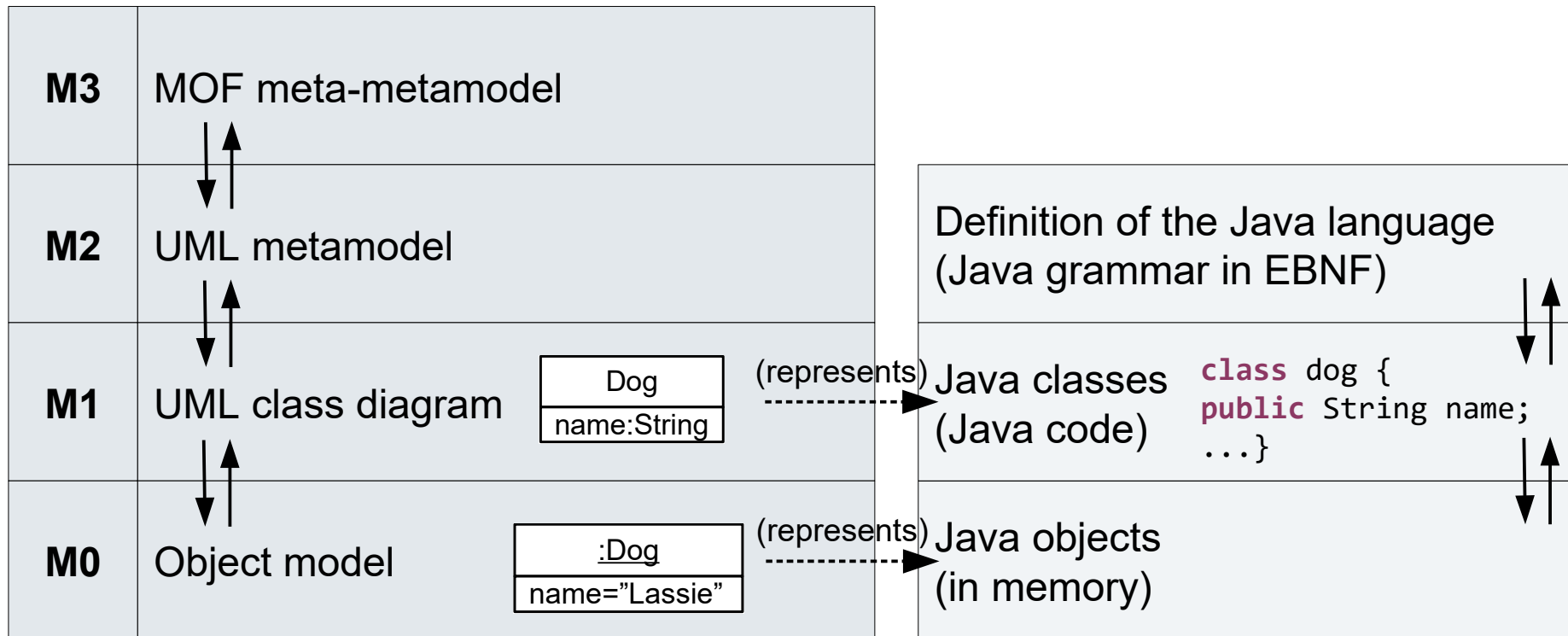
Meta-Levels done right!

- Classes in the class diagram describe Java classes



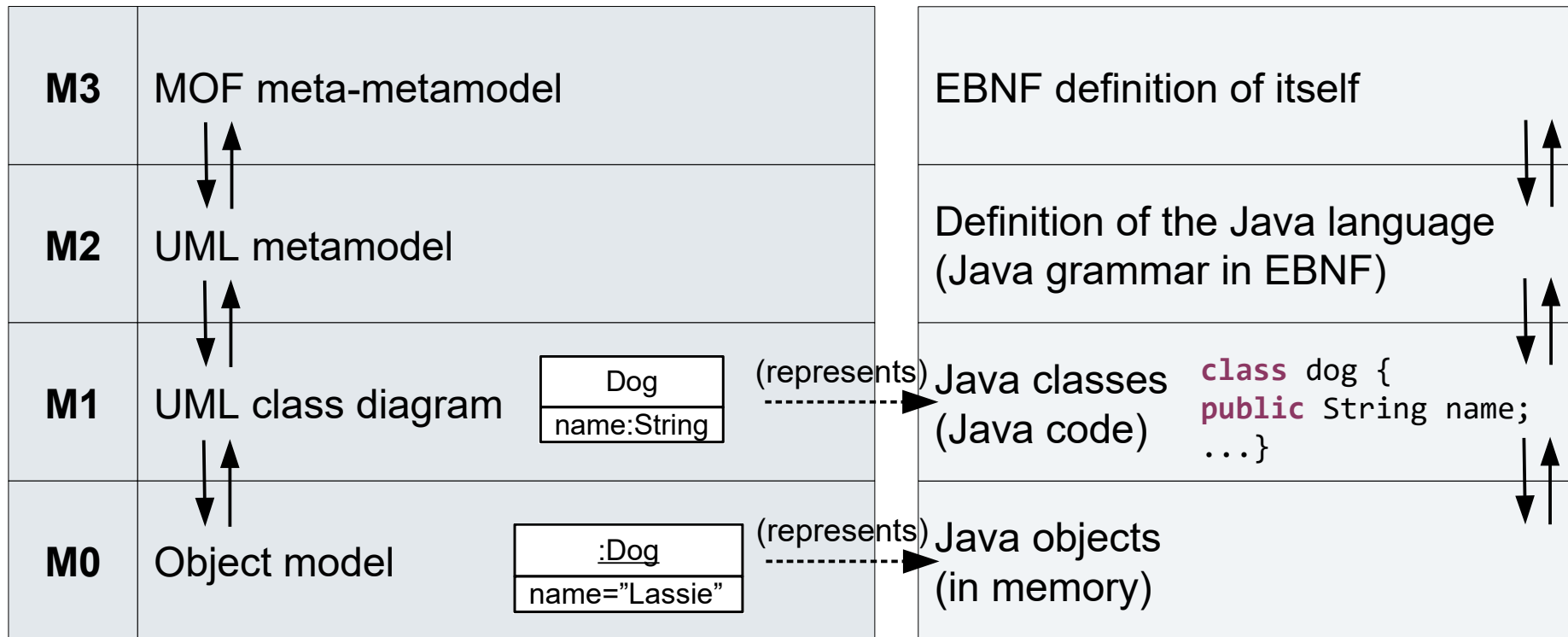
Meta-Levels done right!

- Classes in the class diagram describe Java classes



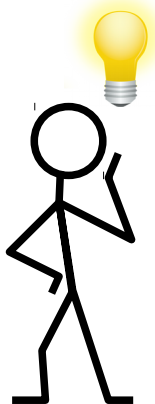
Meta-Levels done right!

- Classes in the class diagram describe Java classes



2.4. Metamodeling frameworks

Vision: Build a Petri Net Modeling Tool



Modeling - platform:/resource/de.luh.se.mbse.myfirstpetrinetdiagramproject/representations.aird/new petrinet diagram - Eclipse

File Edit Diagram Navigate Search Project Run Window Help

Quick Access

Model Explorer

type filter text

- de.luh.se.mbse.myfirstpetrinetdiag
 - Project Dependencies
 - MyPetrinet.xml
 - Petrinet
 - new petrinet diagram
 - Place idle
 - Transition start
 - Place working
 - Transition stop
 - representations.aird
 - de.luh.se.mbse.myfirstpetrinetproj
 - de.luh.se.mbse.petrinet

new petrinet diagram

Palette

Node Creation...

- Place
- Transition
- Arc

Properties

Problems

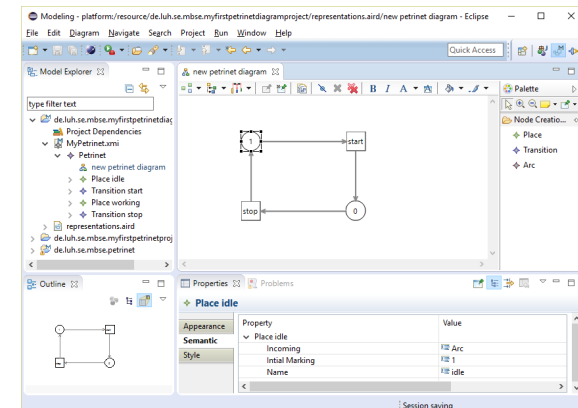
Place idle

Property	Value
Place idle	
Incoming	Arc
Initial Marking	1
Name	idle

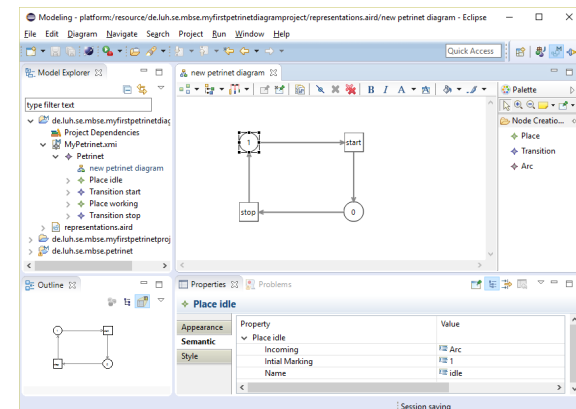
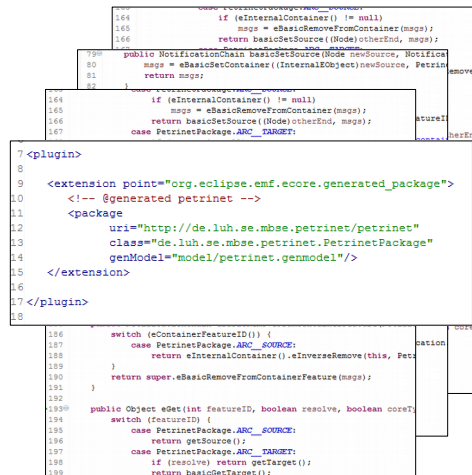
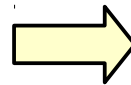
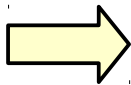
Session saving

Build a Petri Net Modeling Tool

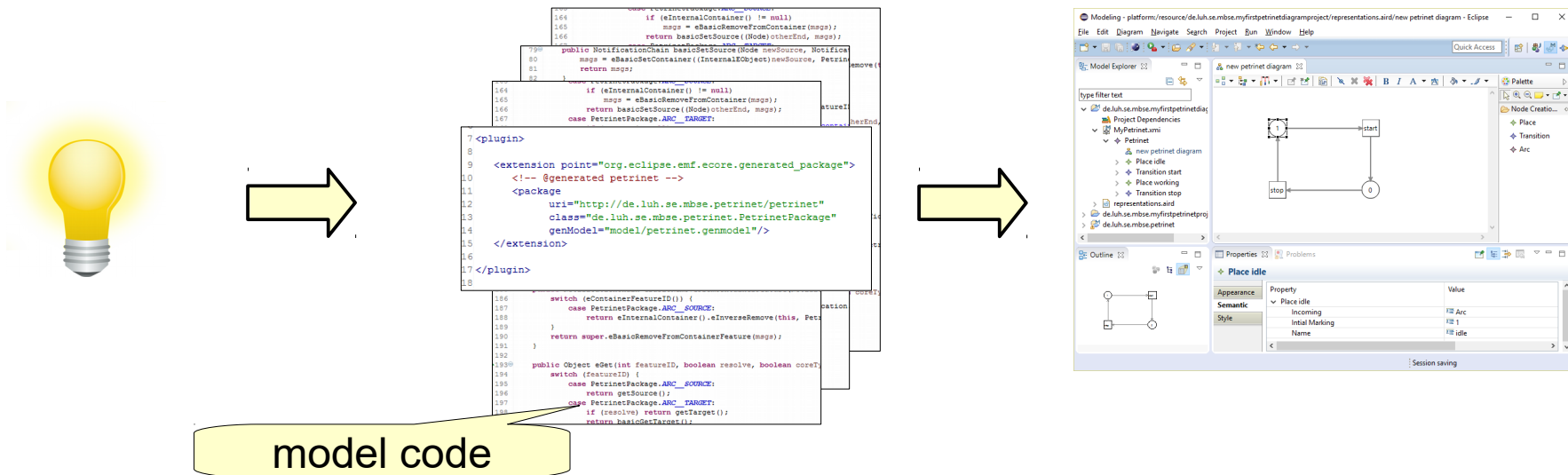
- Manual implementation: A lot of repetitive or generic code



- 

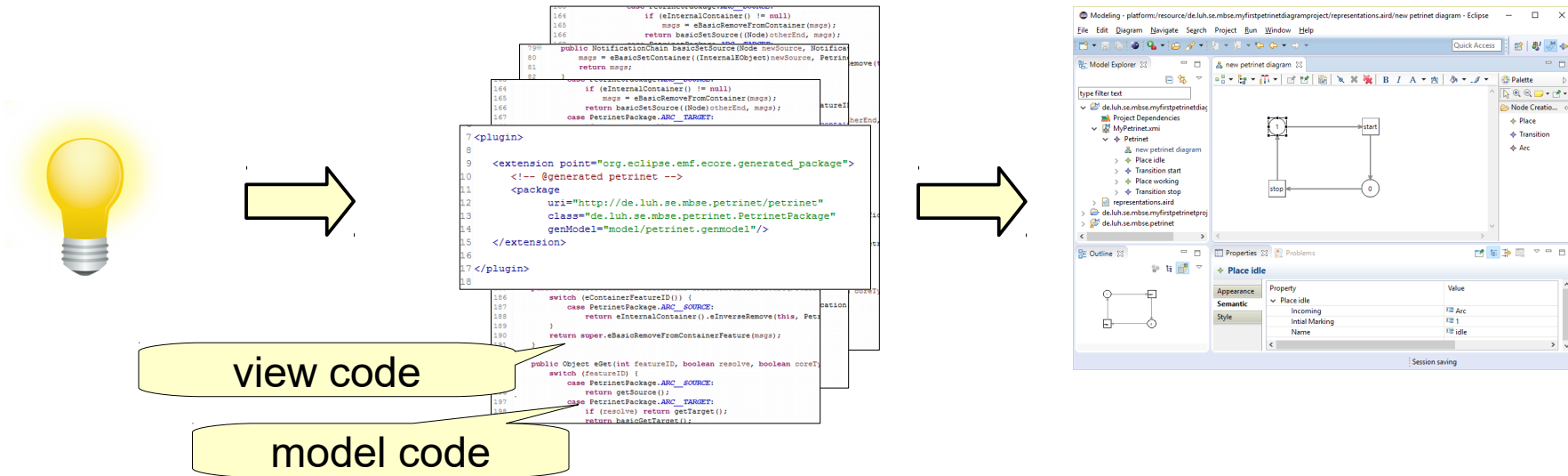


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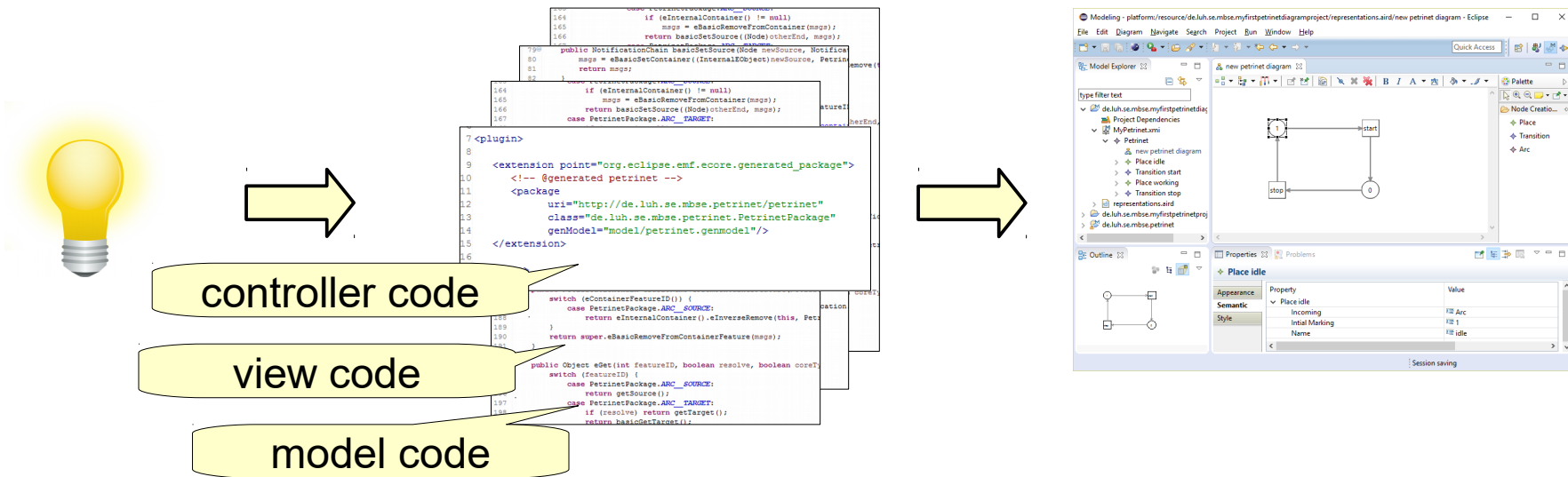
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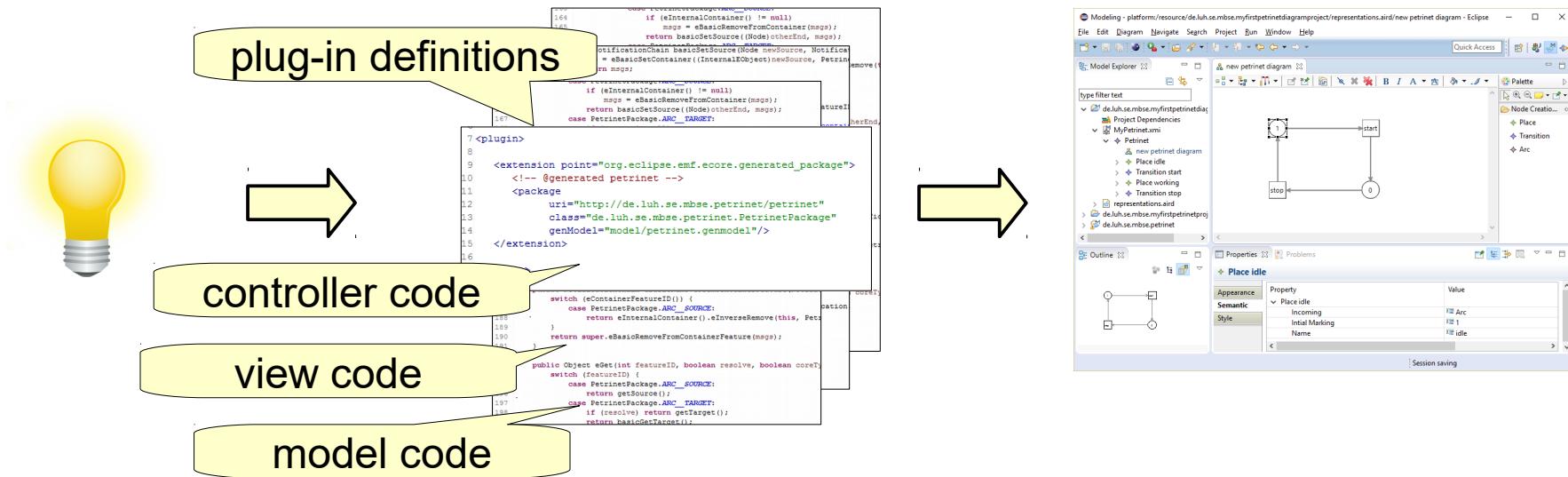
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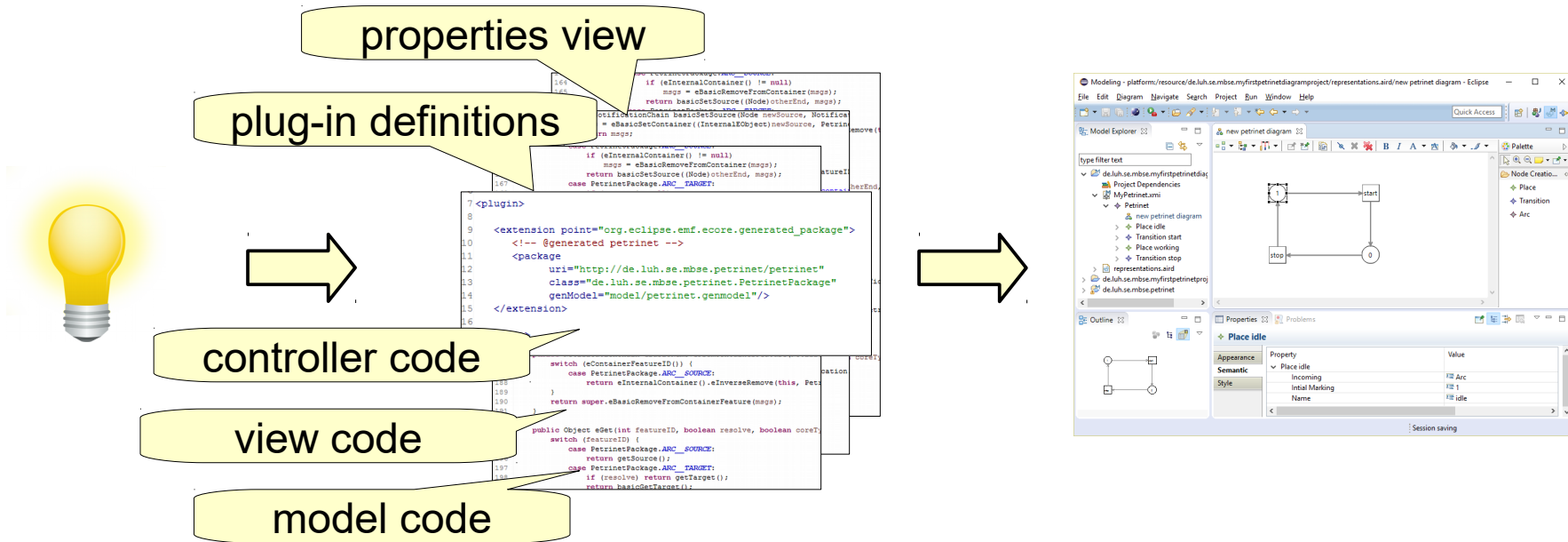
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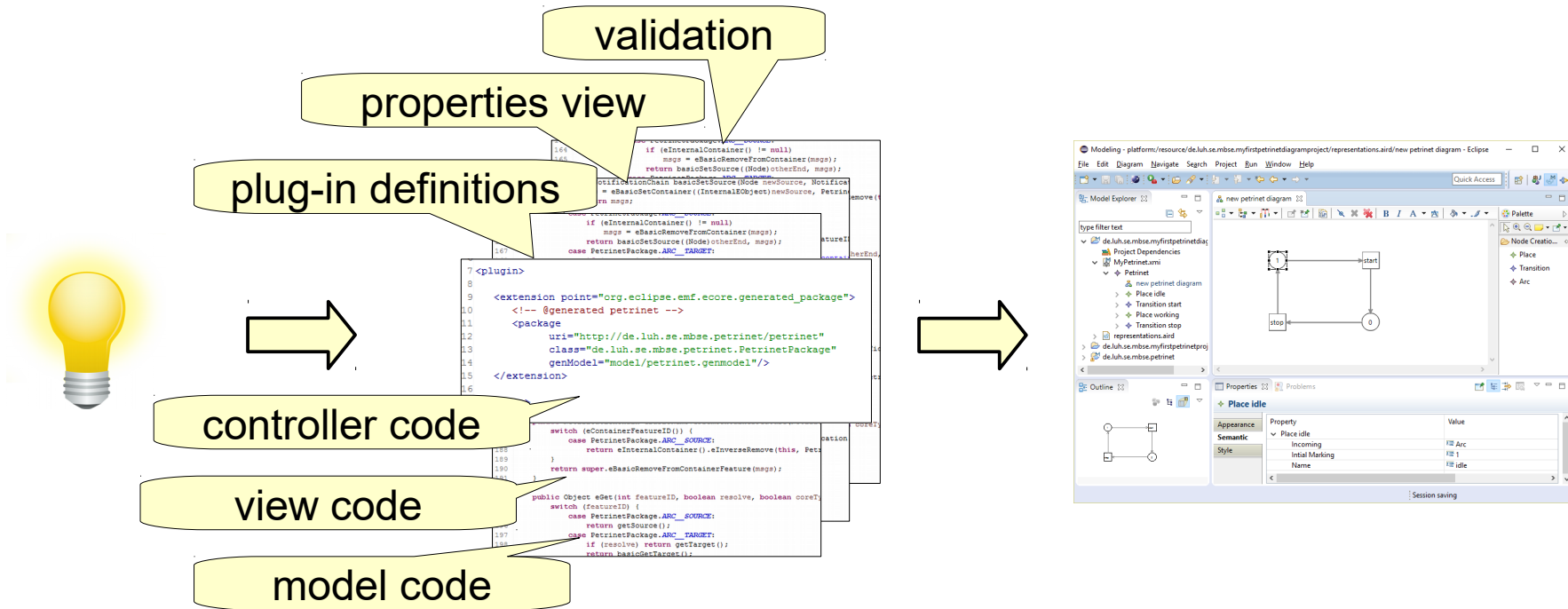
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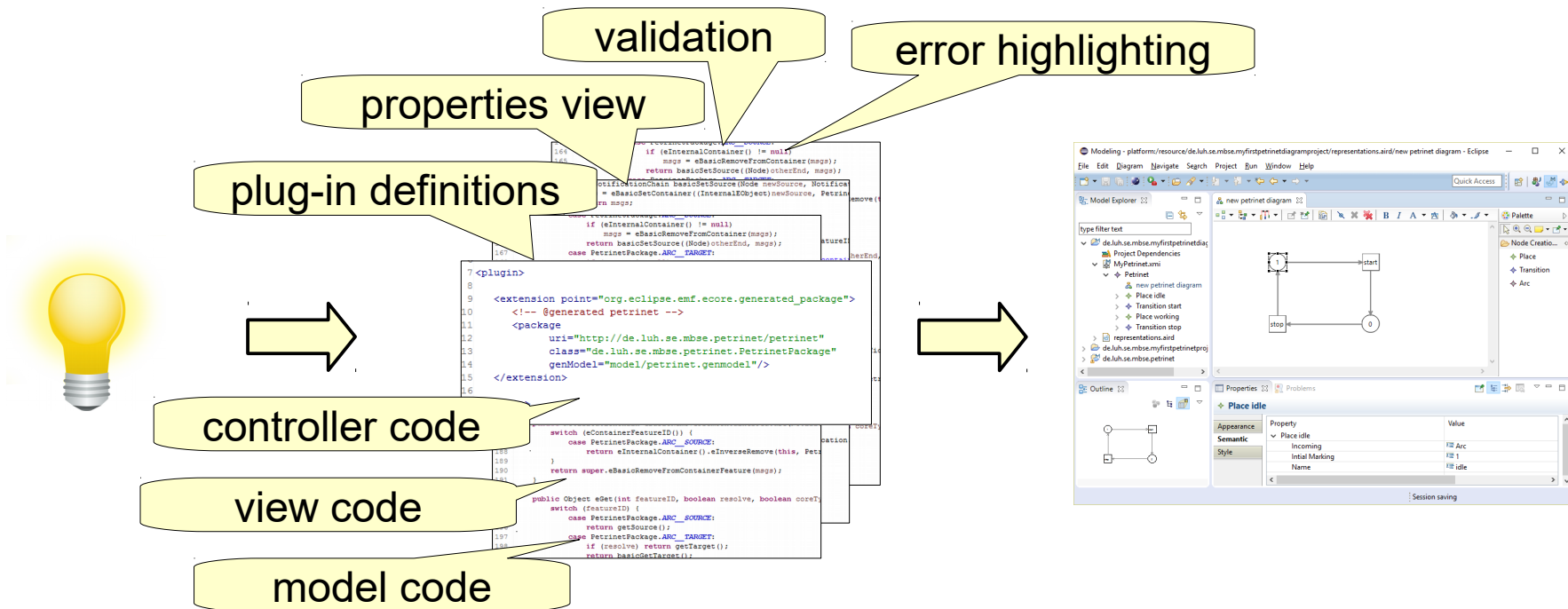
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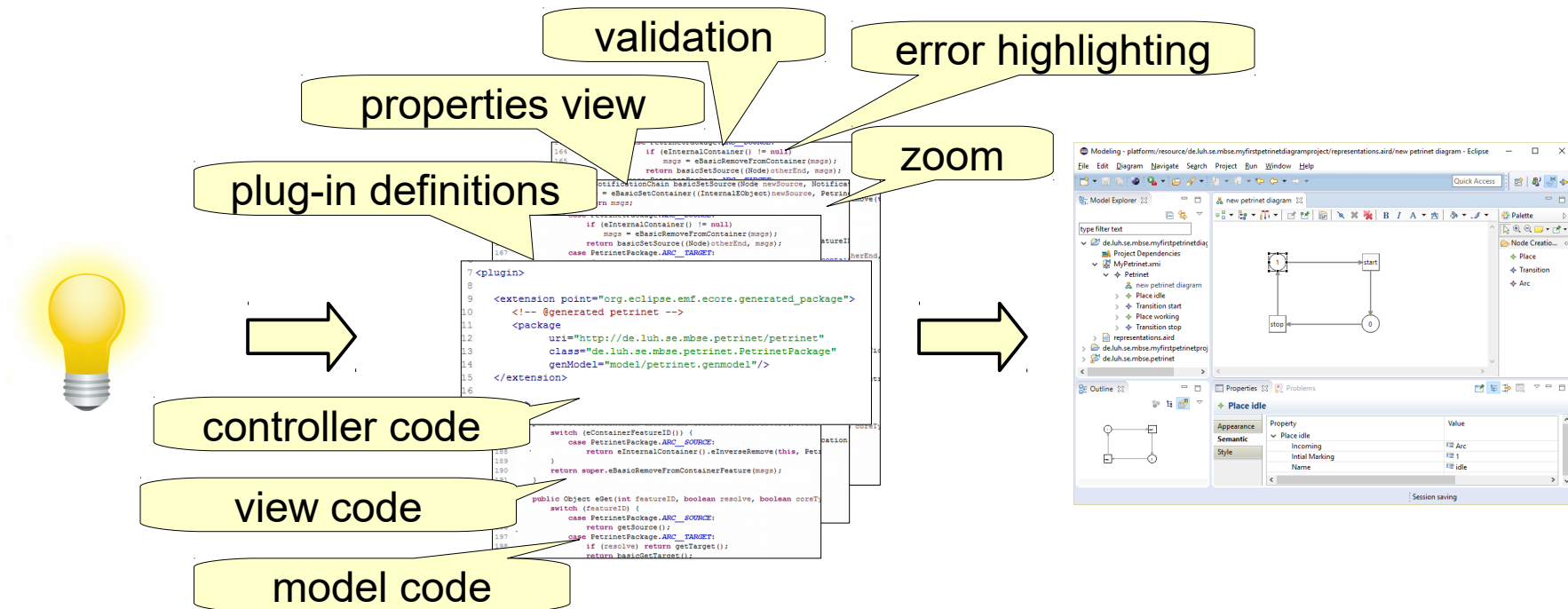
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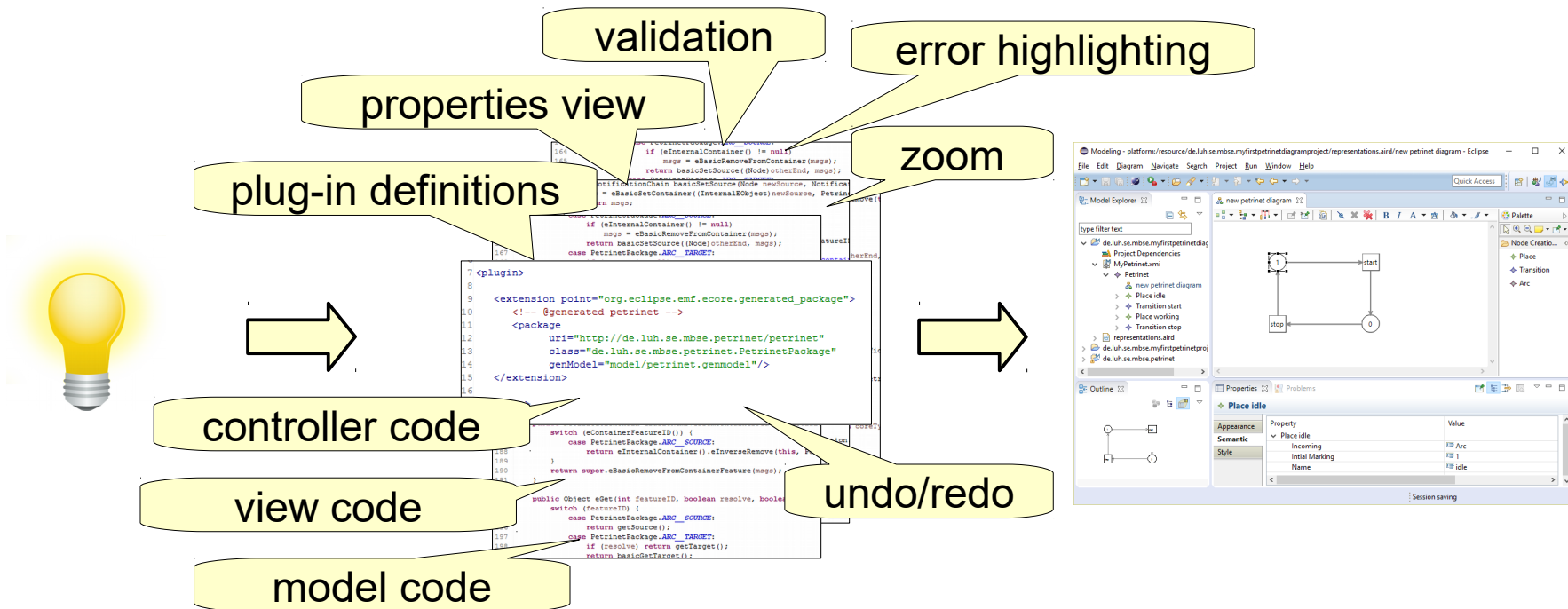
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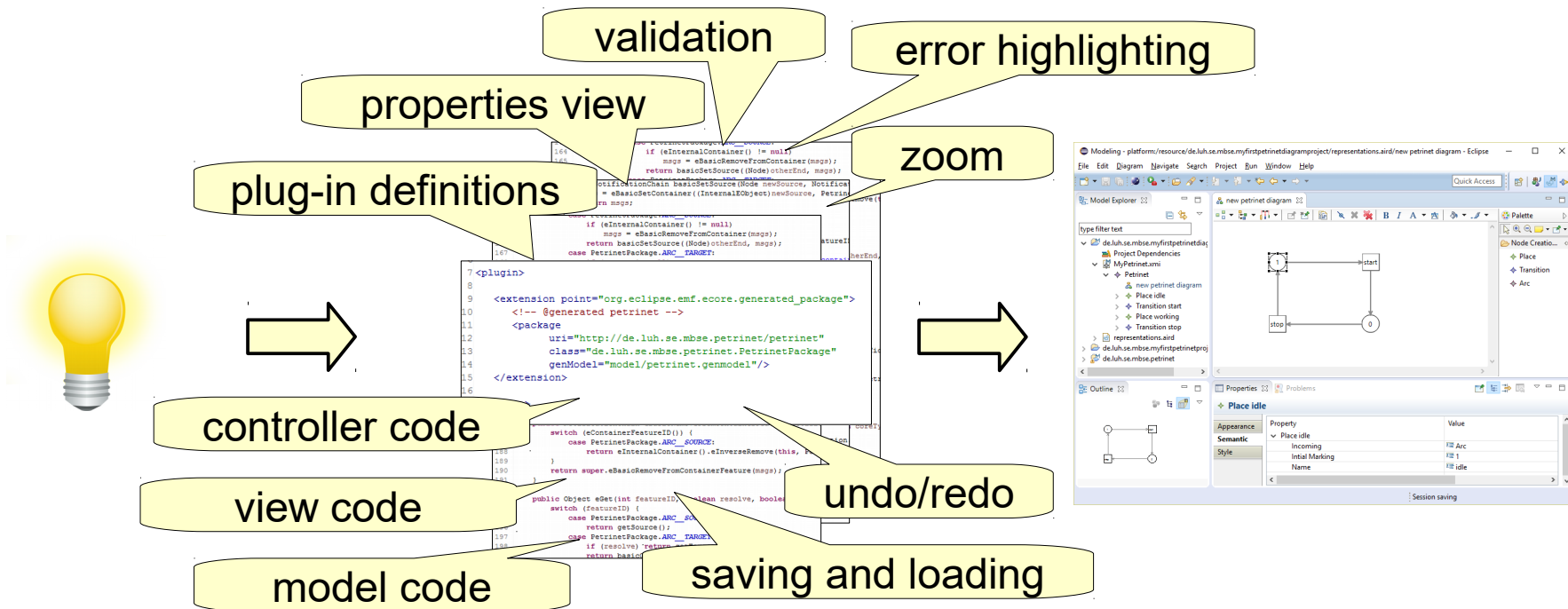
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Build a Petri Net Modeling Tool

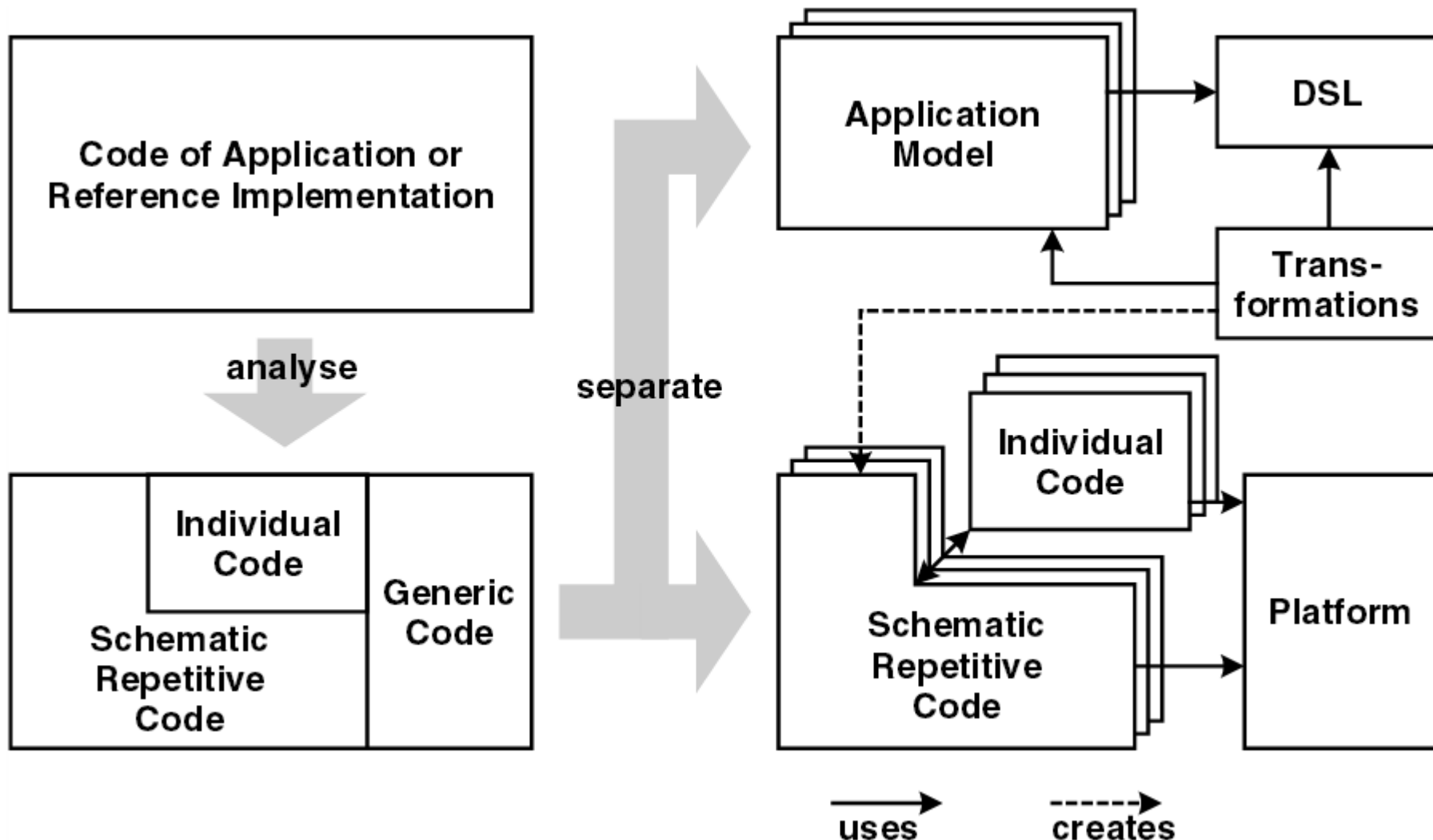
- Manual implementation: A lot of repetitive or generic code



-
- The diagram illustrates the PetriNet IDE architecture, centered around a code editor window. The architecture is composed of several key components, each represented by a callout bubble:
- validation**: A callout bubble pointing to the top of the code editor.
 - error highlighting**: A callout bubble pointing to the top right of the code editor.
 - zoom**: A callout bubble pointing to the top right of the code editor.
 - plugin definitions**: A callout bubble pointing to the left side of the code editor.
 - properties view**: A callout bubble pointing to the top left of the code editor.
 - controller code**: A callout bubble pointing to the left side of the code editor.
 - view code**: A callout bubble pointing to the left side of the code editor.
 - model code**: A callout bubble pointing to the bottom left of the code editor.
 - undo/redo**: A callout bubble pointing to the bottom right of the code editor.
 - saving and loading**: A callout bubble pointing to the bottom right of the code editor.
- To the left of the code editor is a lightbulb icon, and to the right is a screenshot of the Eclipse IDE showing the PetriNet diagram and its properties.

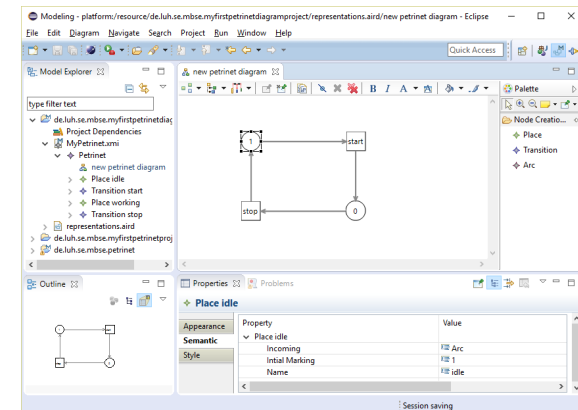
The idea of MBSE/MDSD in a bit more detail

in the last lecture...



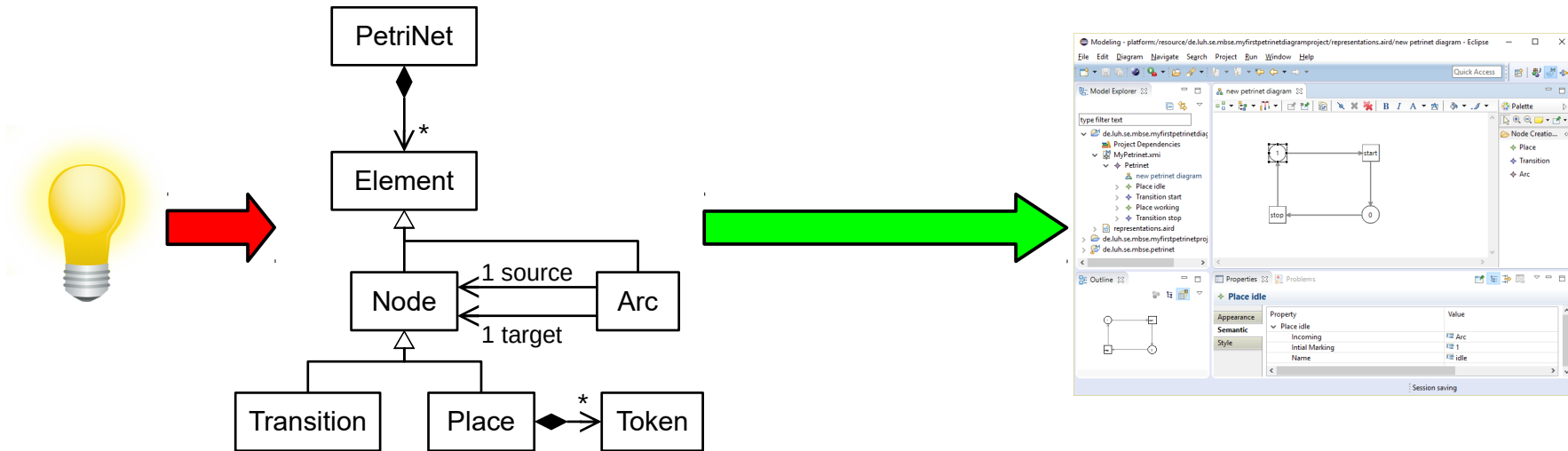
Build a Petri Net Modeling Tool

- Model-based approach for building modeling tools: Provide only a few conceptual models and generate tool automatically



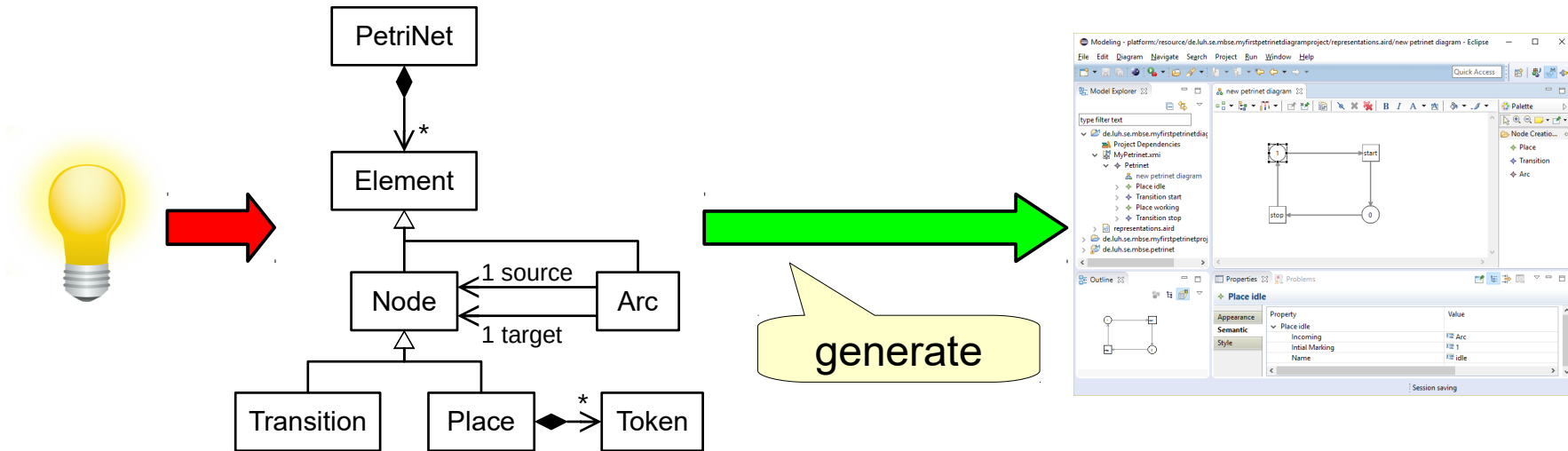
Build a Petri Net Modeling Tool

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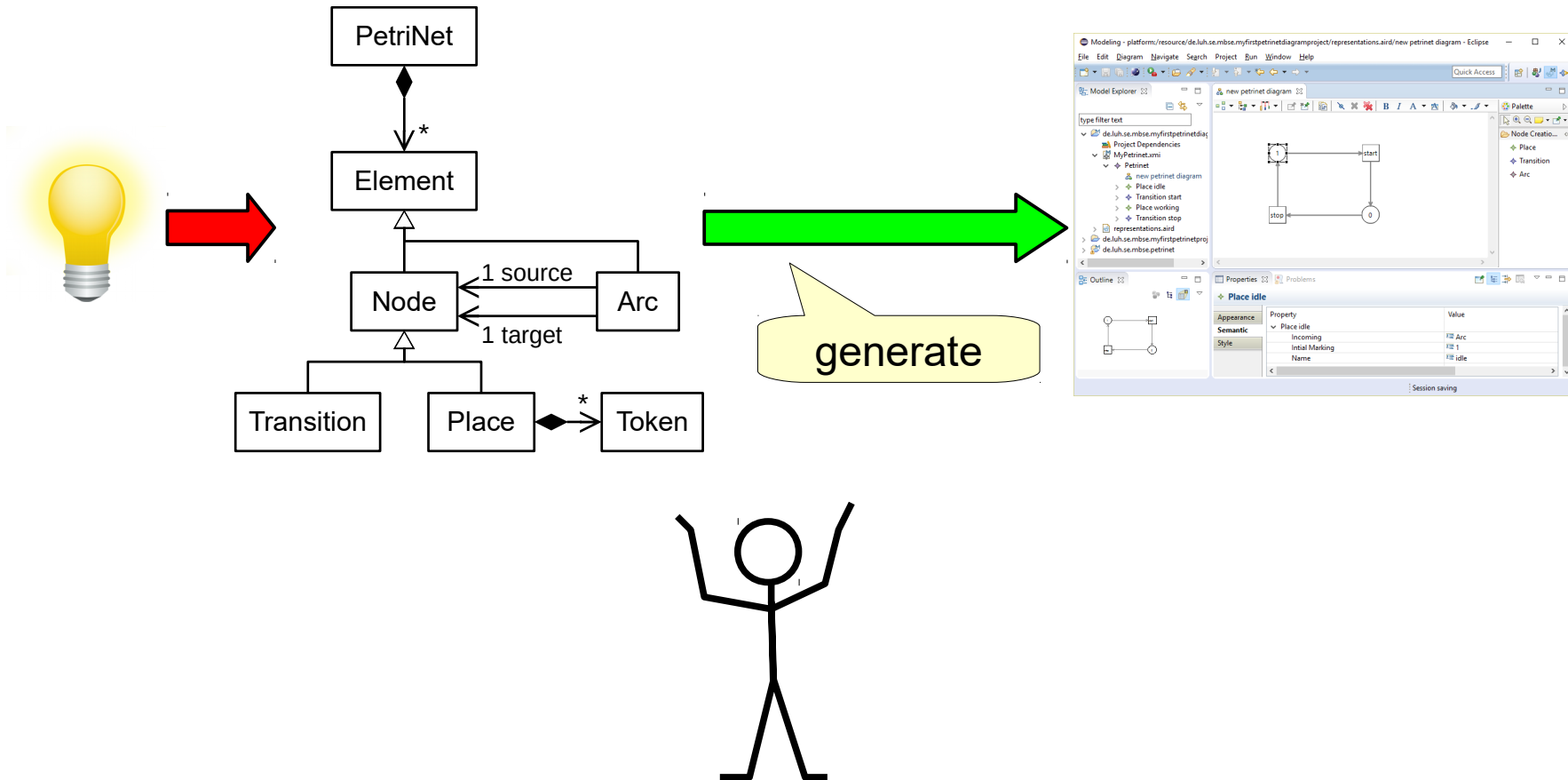
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Build a Petri Net Modeling Tool

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Eclipse Modeling Framework

- The Eclipse Modeling Framework (EMF) is a metamodeling framework for Eclipse



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- It allows us to build modeling tools inside Eclipse
 - but it can also be used outside of Eclipse



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 - ...



Eclipse Modeling Framework (Modeling a Petri Net Metamodel)

Modeling - platform:/resource/de.luh.se.mbse.petrinet/model/petrinet.aird/petrinet - Eclipse

File Edit Diagram Navigate Search Project Run Window Help

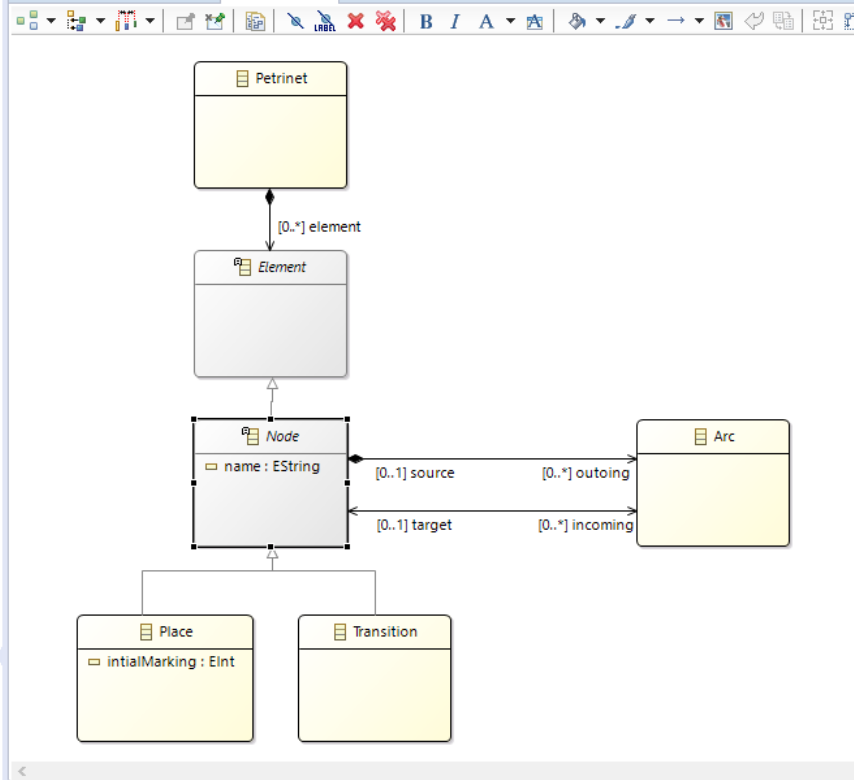
Model Explorer

type filter text

- de.luh.se.mbse.myfirstpetrinetdiagramproject
 - Project Dependencies
 - MyPetrinet.xmi
 - representations.aird
- de.luh.se.mbse.myfirstpetrinetproject
 - Project Dependencies
- de.luh.se.mbse.petrinet
 - Project Dependencies
 - src
 - JRE System Library [jre1.8.0_73]
 - Plug-in Dependencies
 - META-INF
 - model
 - petrinet.aird
 - Design
 - Entities
 - petrinet
 - petrinet.ecore
 - petrinet.genmodel
 - Petrinet
 - petrinet.odesign
 - build.properties
 - plugin.properties
 - plugin.xml

new petrinet diagram

petrinet



Palette

Existing Elem...

Add

Remove

Classifier

- Class
- Datatype
- Enumeration
- ETypeParameter

Feature

- Literal
- Operation
- Attribute

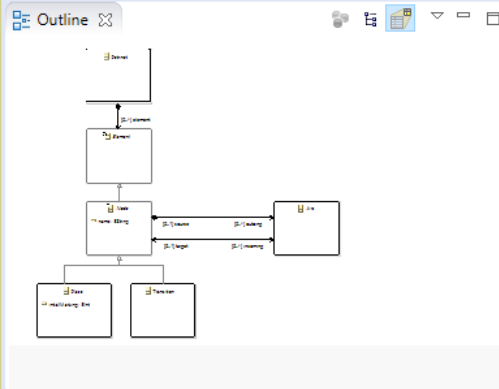
Relation

- SuperType
- Reference
- Bi-directional Reference
- Composition

Dynamic

Package

Package



Properties Problems

Node -> Element

Model

Instantiation

Annotation

Extended Metadata

GenModel Doc

Properties

Name: Node

☒ Abstract ☐ Interface

Inheritance

Eclipse Modeling Framework (Modeling a Petri Net Metamodel)

Modeling - platform:/resource/de.luh.se.mbse.petrinet/model/petrinet.aird/petrinet - Eclipse

File Edit Diagram Navigate Search Project Run Window Help

Model Explorer

type filter text

- de.luh.se.mbse.myfirstpetrinetdiagramproject
 - Project Dependencies
 - MyPetrinet.xmi
 - representations.aird
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- de.luh.se.mbse.petrinet
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 - petrinet.ecore
 - petrinet.genmodel
 - Petrinet
 - petrinet.odesign
 - build.properties
 - plugin.properties
 - plugin.xml

Outline

new petrinet diagram petrinet

Diagram showing the Petri Net Metamodel structure:

```

classDiagram
    class Petrinet
    class Element
    class Node {
        name : EString
    }
    class Arc
    class Place {
        initialMarking : EInt
    }
    class Transition
    class Petrinet --> "0..*" Element : element
    class Element <|-- Node
    class Node --> "0..1" Arc : source
    class Node --> "0..1" Arc : target
    class Arc --> "0..*" Node : outgoing
    class Arc --> "0..*" Node : incoming
    class Node <|-- Place
    class Node <|-- Transition
  
```

Properties

Problems

Node -> Element

Model

Instantiation

Annotation

Extended Metadata

GenModel Doc

Properties

Name: Node

☒ Abstract ☐ Interface

Inheritance

we will look at that in the tutorial

Graphical Editors (for example with Sirius)

Modeling - de.luh.se.mbse.petrinet/model/petrinet.odesign - Eclipse

File Edit Navigate Search Project Viewpoint Specification Editor Run Window Help

Model Explorer

type filter text

- de.luh.se.mbse.myfirstpetrinetdiagramproject
 - Project Dependencies
 - MyPetrinet.xml
 - representations.aird
 - petrinet
- de.luh.se.mbse.myfirstpetrinetproject
- de.luh.se.mbse.petrinet
 - Project Dependencies
 - src
 - JRE System Library [jre1.8.0_73]
 - Plug-in Dependencies
 - META-INF
 - model
 - petrinet.aird
 - Design
 - Entities
 - petrinet
 - petrinet.ecore
 - petrinet.genmodel
 - Petrinet
 - petrinet.odesign
 - build.properties
 - plugin.properties
 - plugin.xml

petrinet.odesign

Sirius Specification Editor

- platform:/resource/de.luh.se.mbse.petrinet/model/petrinet.odesign
 - petrinet
 - petrinet diagram
 - Default
 - Place Node
 - Ellipse white
 - Square white
 - Transition Node
 - Square white
 - Arc
 - Edge Style solid
 - Section Node Creation Tools
 - Node Creation Place
 - Node Creation Transition
 - Edge Creation Arc

new petrinet diagram

Palette

 - Node Creation...
 - Place
 - Transition
 - Arc

Diagram:

```

graph LR
    1((1)) --> start[start]
    start --> 0((0))
    0 --> stop[stop]
    stop --> 1
  
```

Properties

Problems

Properties are not available.

Selected Object: platform:/resource/de.luh.se.mbse.petrinet/model/petrinet.odesign

Session saving

Graphical Editors (for example with Sirius)

The screenshot displays the Eclipse IDE interface with the Sirius Specification Editor open. The editor shows a hierarchical tree structure for a Petri net diagram, including nodes for Place, Transition, and Arc. The main canvas displays a Petri net diagram with four nodes: a place labeled '1', a transition labeled 'start', a place labeled '0', and a transition labeled 'stop'. The diagram shows a flow from '1' to 'start', 'start' to '0', '0' to 'stop', and 'stop' back to '1'.

On the right side, a palette titled 'Node Creation...' lists the available node types: Place, Transition, and Arc. The bottom status bar indicates 'Selected Object: platform:/resource/de.luh.se.mbse.petrinet/model/petrinet.odesign' and 'Session saving'.

defining a graphical
concrete syntax
(for example with Sirius)

Graphical Editors (for example with Sirius)

The screenshot displays the Eclipse IDE with the Sirius graphical editor. The top menu bar includes File, Edit, Navigate, Search, Project, Viewpoint Specification Editor, Run, Window, and Help. The toolbar contains various icons for file operations and editing. The Model Explorer on the left shows a project structure with folders like 'de.luh.se.mbse.myfirstpetrinetdiagramproject' and 'de.luh.se.mbse.petri-net'. The Sirius Specification Editor in the center shows a tree view of the Petri net diagram, including elements like 'Place Node', 'Transition Node', and 'Arc'. The diagram canvas on the right shows a Petri net with places (circles) and transitions (squares). A speech bubble points to the diagram with the text 'defining a graphical concrete syntax (for example with Sirius)'. Another speech bubble points to the bottom of the IDE with the text 'no programming required to build a graphical editor! (we will look at that next week)'. The bottom status bar shows 'Selected Object: platform:/resource/de.luh.se.mbse.petri-net/model/petrinet.odesign' and 'Session saving'.