Software Modelling

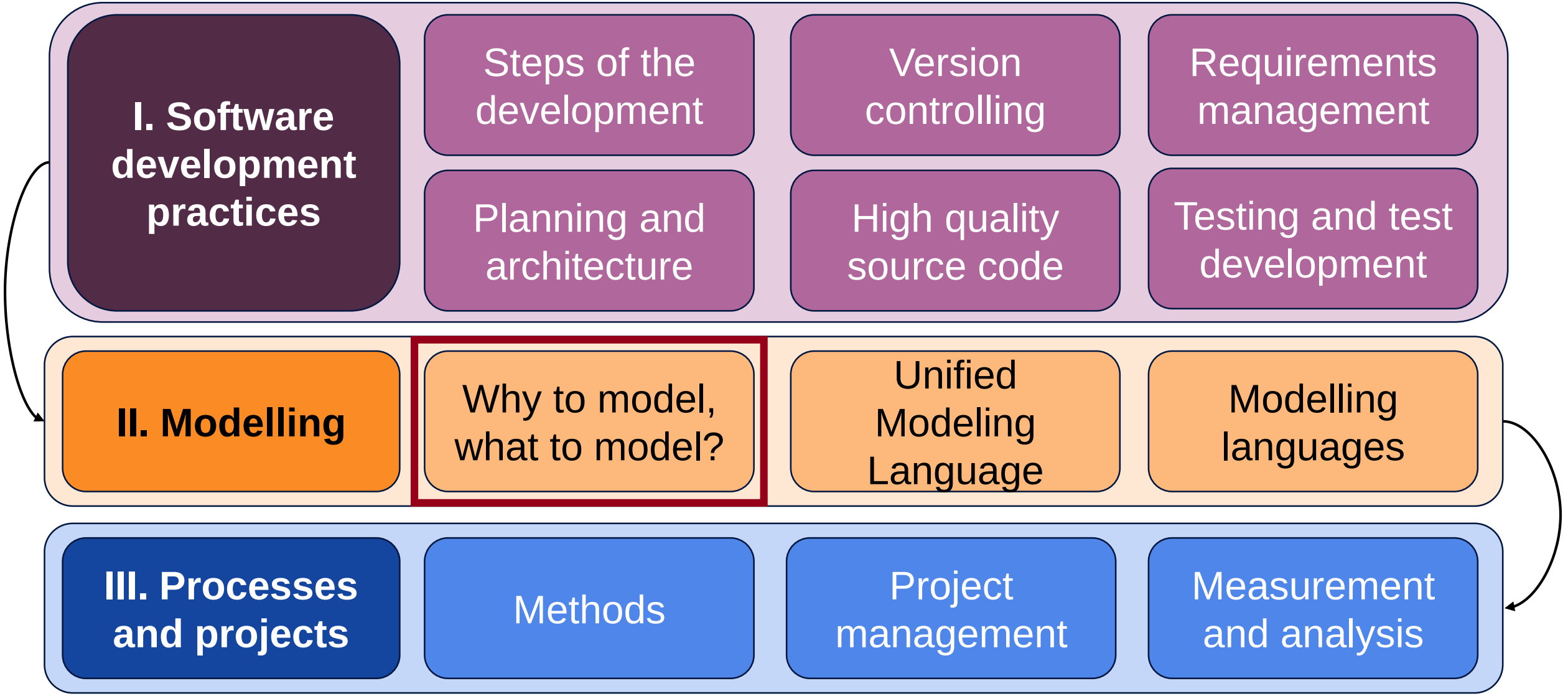
HUSZERL Gábor
huszerl@mit.bme.hu

MŰEGYETEM 1782
BME VILLAMOSMÉRNÖKI ÉS INFORMATIKAI KAR
Méréstechnika és Információs Rendszerek Tanszék
ftsrg Critical Systems Research Group

Learning Outcomes

- At the end of the lecture the students are expected to be able to
- (K2) summarize the purpose and characteristics of the models,
- (K1) list modelling languages in computer engineering.

Further Topics of the Subject



Modelling Basics

Why? How? When?

What Modelling Languages Do You Know?

- Already known modelling languages:
  - Final state machines
  - Verilog
  - Graphs
  - Flow charts
  - E-R diagrams
  - Class diagrams
  - …

What Is a Model?

- Model is a partial and simplified depiction of the real or a hypothetical world (the „system”), of which can be substituted for specific viewpoints
- Decisions:
  - Which part of the world?
  - What is simplified?
  - How can it be mapped to the world?
- Benefits
  - Smaller (finite)
  - Clearer

When is it possible or recommended to use?

Scientific vs. Engineering Models

Scientific model
descriptive

- Made to understand the real world („the system”)
- Value: How well the model fits to the modelled system
- The Newtonian Laws do not apply inside a black hole

  → the model is wrong

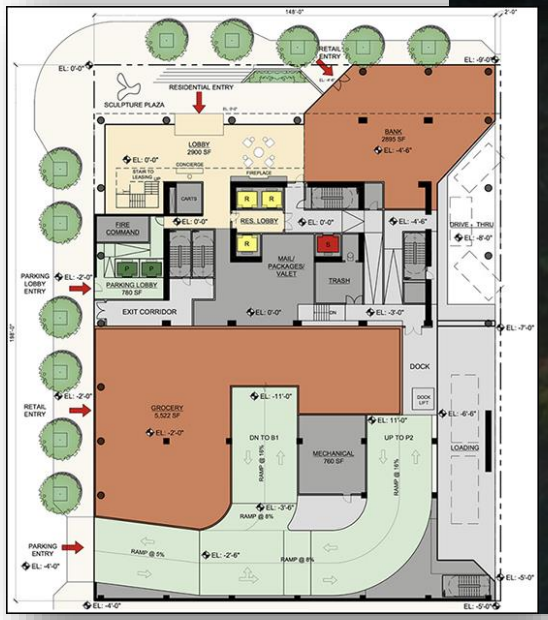
Engineering (design) model
prescriptive

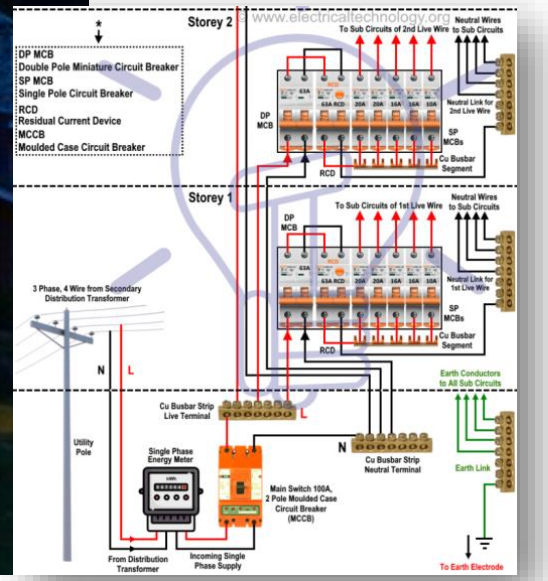
- Made to specify, design a system
- Value: How well the implemented system fits to the model
- The implemented PCB does not fit to the design (to the model)

  → the „system" is wrong

E. A. Lee. Modeling in engineering and science. DOI

Creating and Using Engineering Models



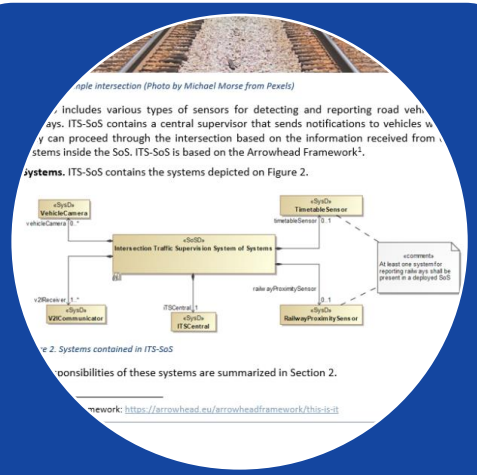


What Is the Point of Modelling?

- I am developing software. Should I do modelling?
  - Yes! In fact, you already do!
    - (The source code is a kind of model…)
    - Most importantly: **mental models**
- When should be these models documented?
  - The role of the model: **communication**
    - Human → Human
    - Human → Machine
    - Machine → Machine
    - Human → Human (themselves in the future)
      - E.g. Why we have designed/implemented this algorithm this way some years ago?

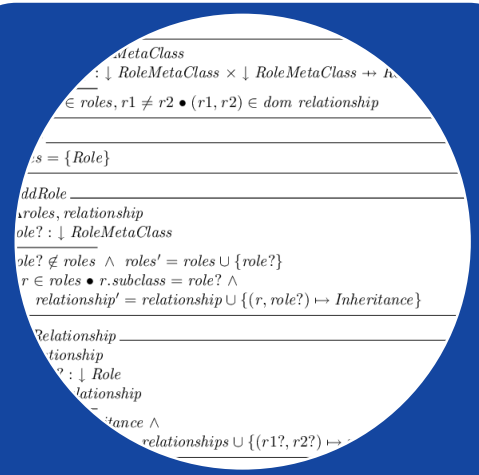
Styles of Modelling

Brainstorming



Illustration

Detailed specification



Formal model

Increasingly precise models and modelling languages

Basic Concepts: Refinement and Abstraction

- *Refinement*: adding further details to the model …

  e.g. breaking down the system into subsystems

  … while keeping the input model an abstraction of it

  e.g. the subsystems together meet the same requirements

- Its inverse: *abstraction*

  e.g. merging subsystems

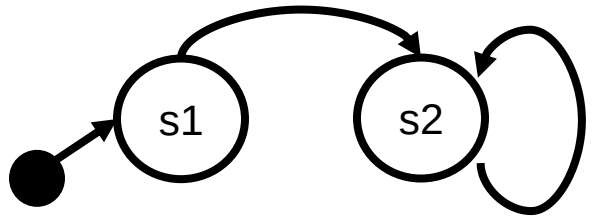
- Different kinds of refinement, e.g.
  - Hierarchical refinement: „ unpacking the boxes”
  - Set refinement: partitioning of a set (variable domain refinement)
    - **good / bad → fast / average / slow / incomplete / dangerous**

Modelling Language

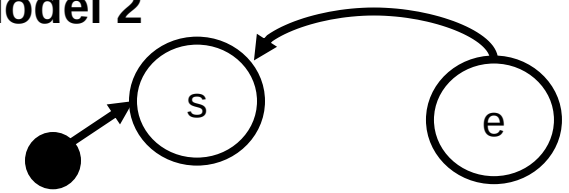
- Defines what are the well-formed models

- Required to define a language:
  - **Syntax**: what rules can be used to build a valid model?
  - **Semantics**: what does the model mean? What domain can we map it to?

Model 1



Model 2

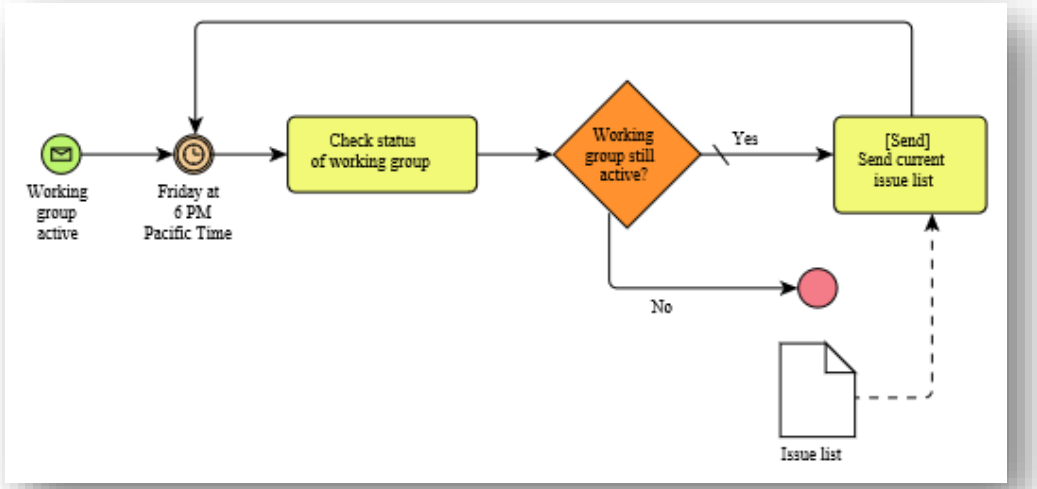


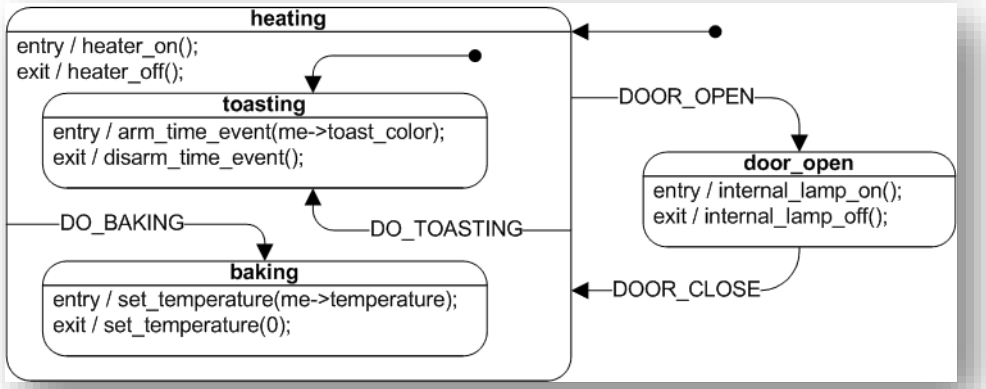
Modelling language

Syntax
- Transition (arrow) connects source and target states (circle).
- The source and target states can be the same.

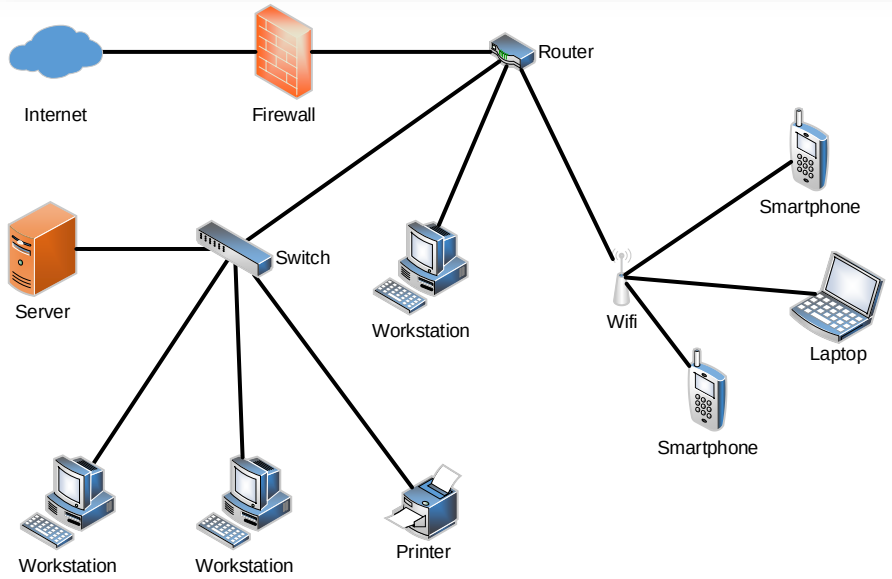
Semantics
- Transitions represent state changes in response to events
- Model's meaning is a sequence of state changes

Typical Models and Languages in Comp.Eng.






```
1   EXTENDS Integers, TLC, Sequences
2   CONSTANTS Devices
3
4   (* --algorithm BatchInstall
5   variables
6     AppScope \in [Devices -> {0, 1}];
7     Installs \in [Devices -> BOOLEAN];
8     batch_pool = {};
9
10  define
11    PoolNotEmpty == batch_pool # {}
12  end define;
```



We use both textual and graphical languages.

Summary

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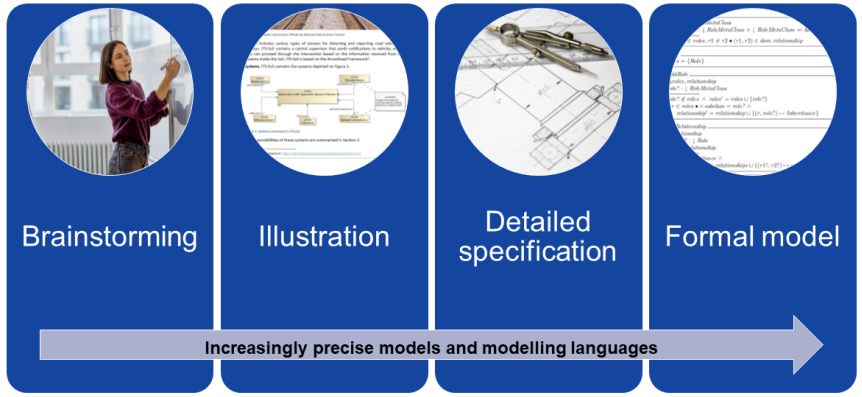

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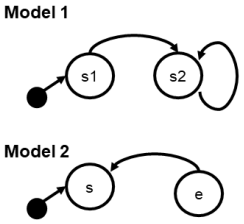

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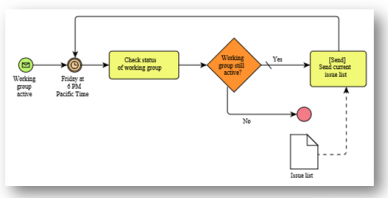

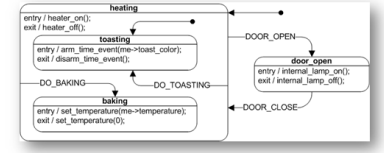


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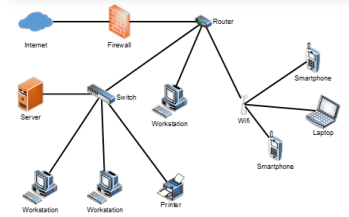

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