



Tutorial on the Universal Variability Language

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ABSTRACT

The multitude of formats for specifying variability models induces additional effort for researchers and practitioners and hinders exchange. The Universal Variability Language (UVL) is a community effort towards a unified format. Over the last two years, several tools integrated UVL allowing a wide usage. This tutorial consists of three major parts, where we showcase (1) the basics of UVL and how to use it for modeling within FEATUREIDE, (2) how to transform other formats to UVL and back with TRAVART, and (3) how to perform feature-model analyses on UVL models with FLAMA.

CCS CONCEPTS

• **Software and its engineering** → **Software product lines; System modeling languages.**

KEYWORDS

variability modeling, product line, feature modeling, UVL

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EXTENDED ABSTRACT

Variability models are commonly used to specify commonalities and variabilities of software product lines. In variability modeling literature, a large variety of textual formats has been proposed and used. The multitude of formats results in additional effort for researchers and practitioners as models cannot be easily exchanged.

The Universal Variability Language (UVL) arose from joined effort from researchers and practitioners within the MODEVAR [1] community. With UVL, the community aims to provide a variability language with broad and continuously growing tool support to be then widely adopted by academia and industry. We presented a

first version of UVL and our approach for continued development with the community at SPLC'21 [3]. This initial version has been integrated in a variety of tools allowing the usage of UVL in many layers of variability modeling, such as specification of models or analysis. In this tutorial, we guide participants through the basics of UVL and showcase tools supporting the usage of UVL. The tutorial is targeted towards all researchers and practitioners that are involved or interested in variability modeling.

Tutorial Overview. The tutorial is planned as half-day event consisting of four 45 minute slots, starting with three main sessions and ending with an open discussion on future directions of UVL.

Session 1: Modeling with UVL. In the first session, we introduce the UVL syntax and present the publicly available parser library. Then, we showcase how to integrate UVL into other tools by using it in FEATUREIDE [4] to view and edit UVL models. Both steps consist of an introduction into the topic and a hands-on part.

Session 2: Transforming UVL Models. In the second session, we present the transformation approach TRAVART [2], which uses UVL as a pivot language. We provide participants multiple models of different type and let them transform the models between each other. Finally, we discuss the differences of the approaches and the issue of information loss.

Session 3: Analyzing UVL Models. In the third session, we will cover how UVL can be integrated as a language to analyze variability using the Python-based framework FLAMA. We will present how the framework has been designed having UVL in mind and how easy it is to integrate it with analysis support such as SAT, BDD, SMT, or other complementary tools that enable, for instance, transformations to other variability representations.

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