



# Language Levels for the Universal Variability Language: An Extension Mechanism and Conversion Strategies

Stefan Vill | March 09, 2023



Software Engineering  
Programming Languages



universität  
**uulm**

# Software Product Line

## Display / Bildschirm

Details zu Pixelfehlerklassen finden Sie [hier](#).

Full-HD (1920 x 1080) IPS matt | 100% sRGB | Low-Power



## Arbeitsspeicher (DDR4 SO-DIMM)

8 GB (1x 8GB) 3200Mhz verlötet on board



## Prozessor | Grafikchip

Intel Core i5-1135G7 (15W TDP) | Intel Iris Xe Graphics G7 (80EUs)



## Festplatte M.2 SSD

250 GB Samsung 980 (NVMe PCIe 3.0)



## Tastaturlayout

Informationen zu Tastaturlayouts finden Sie [hier](#). Weitere Sprachen und individuelle Tastaturlayouts finden Sie [hier](#).

DEUTSCH (DE-DE) beleuchtet mit TUX Super-Taste



## UMTS / LTE 4G Modul

ohne UMTS / LTE Modul



## WLAN & Bluetooth

Intel Wi-Fi 6 AX201 (802.11ax | 2,4 & 5 GHz | Bluetooth 5.2)



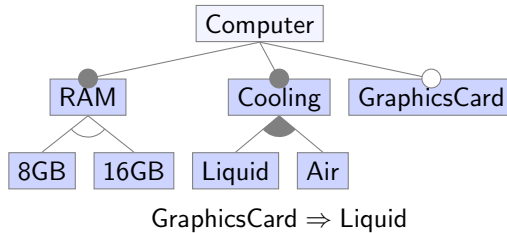
# Feature Modelling

**Natural Language?** "Every notebook needs either 8 GB of RAM or 16 GB ..."

**Enumerating?**  $\{\{FullHD, 8GBRAM, \dots\}, \{FullHD, 16GBRAM, \dots\}, \dots\}$

**Propositional Formula?**  $\dots(8GBRAM \vee 16GBRAM) \wedge \neg(8GBRAM \wedge 16GBRAM)\dots$

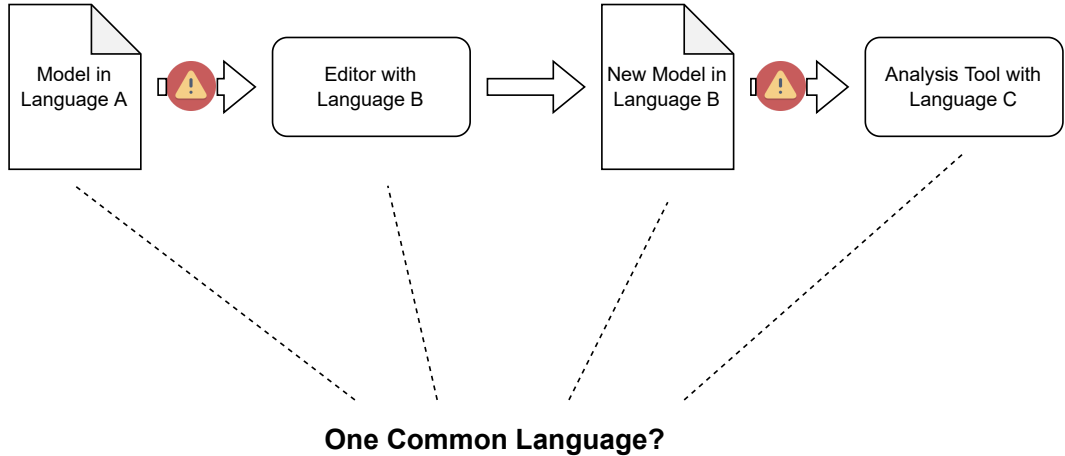
# Feature Diagrams



## Legend:

- Abstract Feature
- Concrete Feature
- Mandatory
- Optional
- ▲ Or Group
- △ Alternative Group

# Feature Diagrams



# Current Version of UVL

- Groups
- Cross-Tree Constraints
- Feature Attributes
- Decomposition

```
1 namespace computer_model
2
3 imports
4     cpu_model
5
6 features
7     Computer
8         mandatory
9             RAM
10            or
11                RAM8
12                RAM16
13            cpu_model.CPU
14        optional
15            SATA-Devices {abstract}
16                [1..2]
17                DVD-drive {power 10}
18                Card-reader {power 7}
19                Blu-ray-drive {power 15}
20        alternative
21            strong_PSU
22            weak_PSU
23
24 constraints
25     Blu-ray-drive => strong_PSU
```

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- **Feature Attributes**
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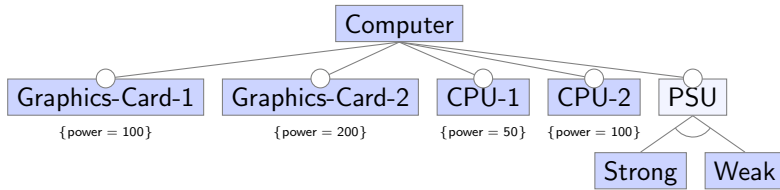
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- Cross-Tree Constraints
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- **Decomposition**

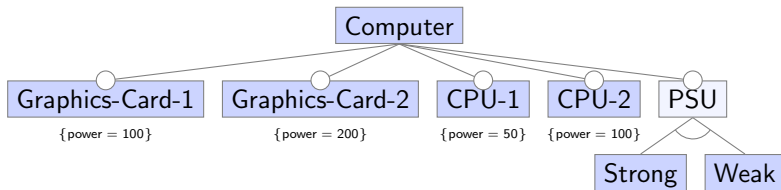
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# Feature Attribute Constraints



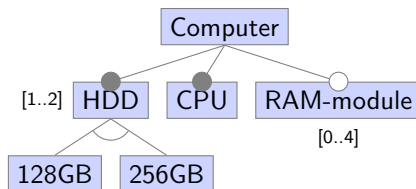
Graphics-Card-1.power + Graphics-Card-2.power  
+ CPU-1.power + CPU-2.power > 230  $\Rightarrow$  Strong

# Aggregate Function



$sum(power) > 230 \Rightarrow \text{Strong}$

# Feature Cardinality



# Why Language Levels?

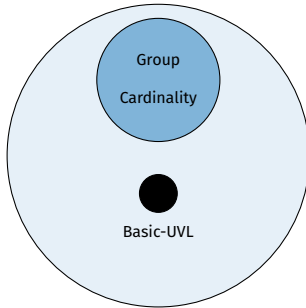
- Simple UVL  $\Rightarrow$  Limited Use Cases
- Complex UVL  $\Rightarrow$  Complex Tool Integration
  - UVL supports Group Cardinality  $\Rightarrow$  Tool must handle Group Cardinality
  - UVL supports Attribute Constraints  $\Rightarrow$  Tool must handle Attribute Constraint
  - ...

**Solution:** Different levels of UVL  $\Rightarrow$  Tools can integrate UVL partially

# Language Levels

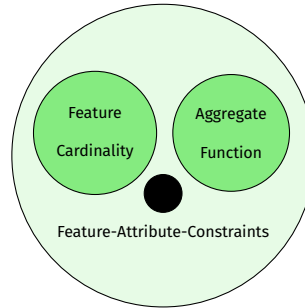
- A Language Level encapsulates optional UVL features
- Different types of Language Levels (major and minor) based on idea from Thüm et al.
  - Major: Based on solving techniques
  - Minor: Based on use-cases and assigned to major level
- Adopt popular language features from other feature-modelling languages and tools

# Language Level Overview



SAT-level

SAT: e.g.  $A \wedge B$  satisfiable?

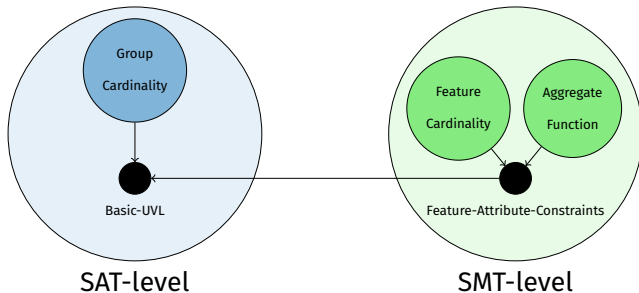


SMT-level

SMT: e.g.  $A + B < 7$  satisfiable?



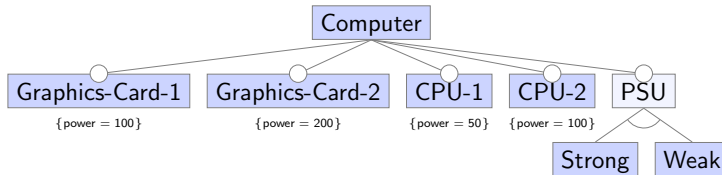
# Conversion Strategy Architecture



←: Conversion Strategy

- One conversion strategy per language level
- Transitive conversion from every level to Basic-UVL possible
- Tools can use UVL models with language levels they do not support

# Example Conversion - Aggregate Function



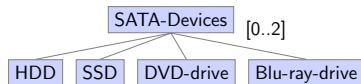
$$\text{sum}(\text{power}) > 230 \Rightarrow \text{Strong}$$



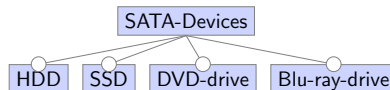
**SMT-Level**

$$\text{Graphics-Card-1.power} + \text{Graphics-Card-2.power} + \text{CPU-1.power} + \text{CPU-2.power} > 230 \Rightarrow \text{Strong}$$

# Example Conversion - Group Cardinality

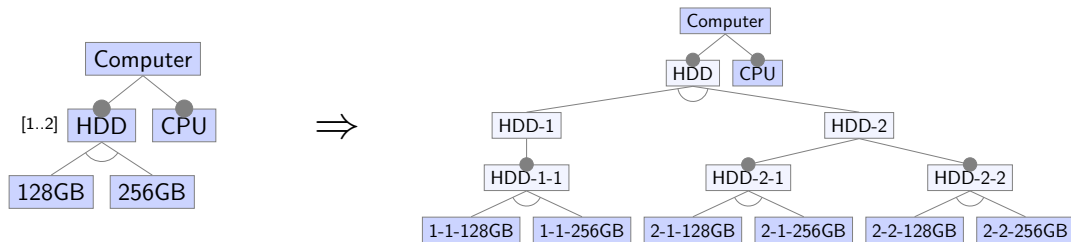


$\Rightarrow$   
SAT-Level



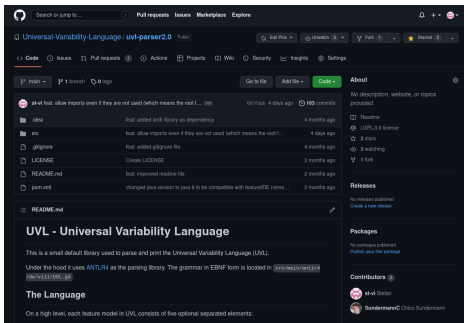
(  
 $\neg$ HDD  $\wedge$   $\neg$ SSD  $\wedge$   $\neg$ DVD-drive  $\wedge$   $\neg$ Blu-ray-drive  
 $\vee$  HDD  $\wedge$   $\neg$ SSD  $\wedge$   $\neg$ DVD-drive  $\wedge$   $\neg$ Blu-ray-drive  
 $\vee$   $\neg$ HDD  $\wedge$  SSD  $\wedge$   $\neg$ DVD-drive  $\wedge$   $\neg$ Blu-ray-drive  
 $\vee$   $\neg$ HDD  $\wedge$   $\neg$ SSD  $\wedge$  DVD-drive  $\wedge$   $\neg$ Blu-ray-drive  
 $\vee$   $\neg$ HDD  $\wedge$   $\neg$ SSD  $\wedge$   $\neg$ DVD-drive  $\wedge$  Blu-ray-drive  
 $\vee$  HDD  $\wedge$  SSD  $\wedge$   $\neg$ DVD-drive  $\wedge$   $\neg$ Blu-ray-drive  
 $\vee$  HDD  $\wedge$   $\neg$ SSD  $\wedge$  DVD-drive  $\wedge$   $\neg$ Blu-ray-drive  
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 $\vee$   $\neg$ HDD  $\wedge$   $\neg$ SSD  $\wedge$  DVD-drive  $\wedge$  Blu-ray-drive)  
 )

# Example Conversion - Feature Cardinality



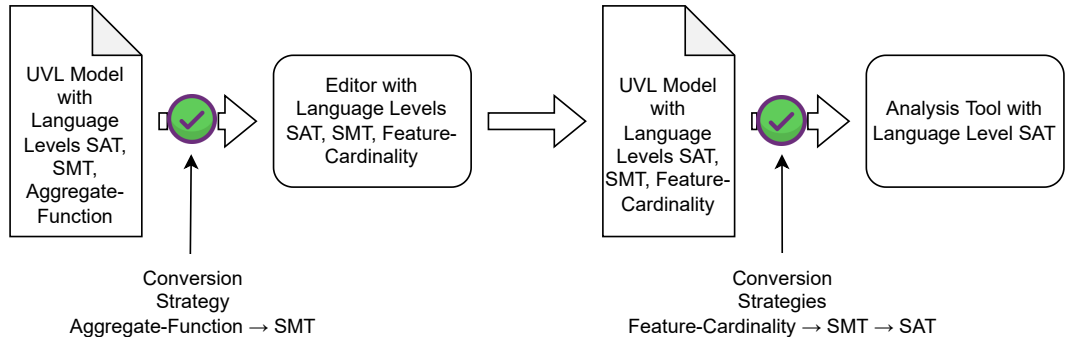
# Implementation

- Java library “uvl-parser2.0” supporting this UVL draft
- Parsing, Printing, Automatic transitive conversion
- Published on GitHub under LGPL-3.0 license
- Already used by FeatureIDE and TraVarT



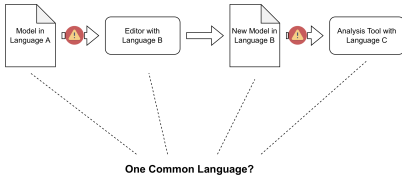
<https://github.com/Universal-Variability-Language/uvl-parser2.0>

# Conclusion



**New use case?** ⇒ New language level + one conversion strategy

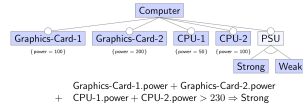
## Feature Diagrams



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## Feature Attribute Constraints



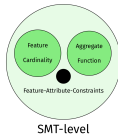
Stefan Vill | Language Levels for the Universal Variability Language: An Extension Mechanism and Conversion Strategies – 2. Examples for Missing Concepts in UML

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## Language Level Overview



SAT: e.g.  $A \wedge B$  satisfiable?

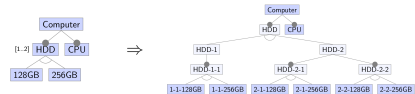


SMT: e.g.  $A + B < 7$  satisfiable?

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## Example Conversion - Feature Cardinality



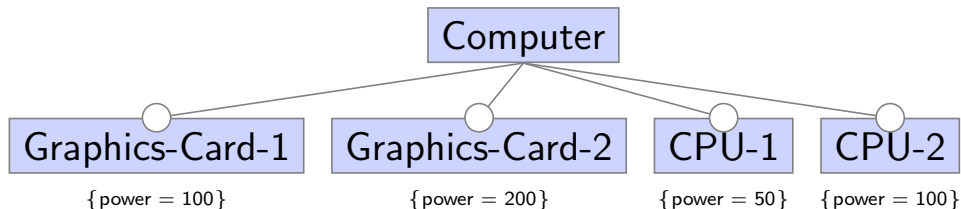
Stefan Vill | Language Levels for the Universal Variability Language: An Extension Mechanism and Conversion Strategies – 4. Conversion Strategies between Language Levels

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# Backup-Slides

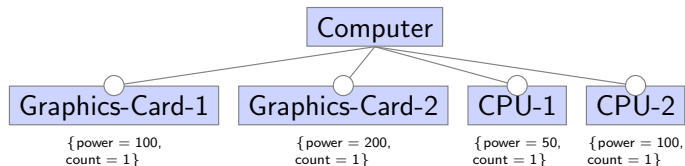


## Example Conversion - Average Aggregate Before



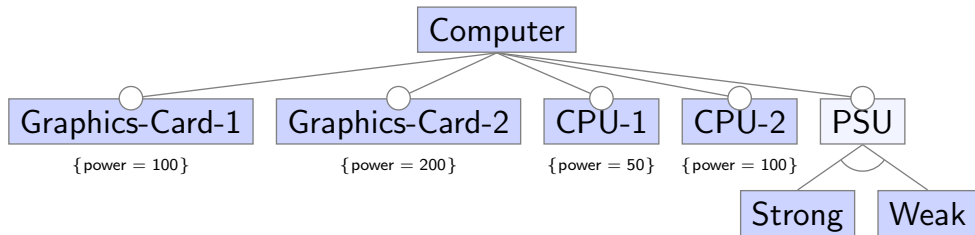
$$\text{avg}(\text{power}) < 100$$

## Example Conversion - Average Aggregate After



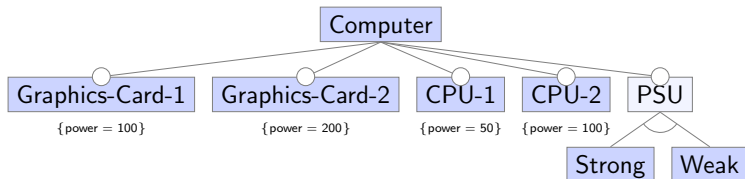
$$\frac{((\text{Graphics-Card-1.power} + \text{Graphics-Card-2.power} + \text{CPU-1.power} + \text{CPU-2.power})}{(\text{Graphics-Card-1.count} + \text{Graphics-Card-2.count} + \text{CPU-1.count} + \text{CPU-2.count}))} < 100$$

## Example Conversion - Feature Attribute Constraint Before



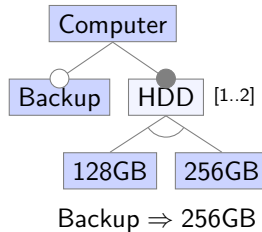
Graphics-Card-1.power + Graphics-Card-2.power  
+ CPU-1.power + CPU-2.power  
+ Integrated.power + BluRay.power > 230  $\Rightarrow$  Strong

# Example Conversion - Feature Attribute Constraint After

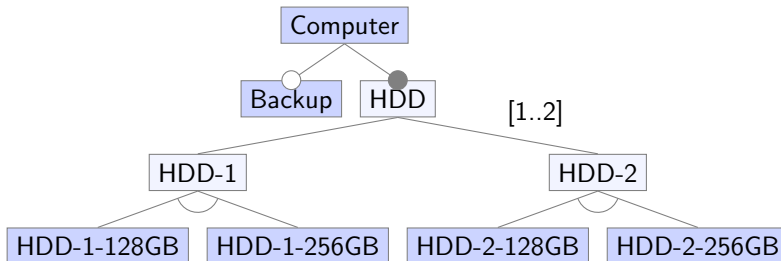


$$\begin{aligned}
 & ((\neg \text{Graphics-Card-1} \wedge \text{Graphics-Card-2} \wedge \neg \text{CPU-1} \wedge \text{CPU-2}) \\
 \vee & (\neg \text{Graphics-Card-1} \wedge \text{Graphics-Card-2} \wedge \text{CPU-1} \wedge \neg \text{CPU-2}) \\
 \vee & (\neg \text{Graphics-Card-1} \wedge \text{Graphics-Card-2} \wedge \text{CPU-1} \wedge \text{CPU-2}) \\
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 \vee & (\text{Graphics-Card-1} \wedge \text{Graphics-Card-2} \wedge \text{CPU-1} \wedge \neg \text{CPU-2}) \\
 \vee & (\text{Graphics-Card-1} \wedge \text{Graphics-Card-2} \wedge \text{CPU-1} \wedge \text{CPU-2})) \\
 \Rightarrow & \text{Strong}
 \end{aligned}$$

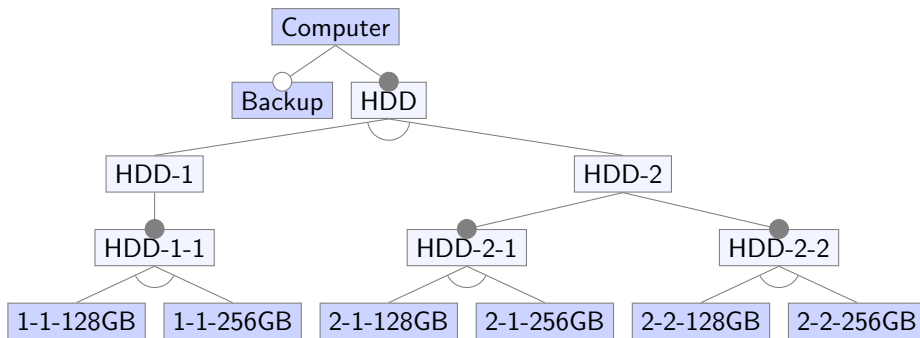
# Example Conversion - Feature Cardinality Before



## Example Conversion - Feature Cardinality After - Option 1



## Example Conversion - Feature Cardinality After - Option 2



# Example Conversion - Feature Cardinality After - Constraints

## Before:

Backup  $\Rightarrow$  256GB

## After - Option 1:

Backup  $\Rightarrow$  (HDD-1-1-256GB  $\vee$  HDD-2-1-256GB  $\vee$  HDD-2-2-256GB)

## After - Option 2:

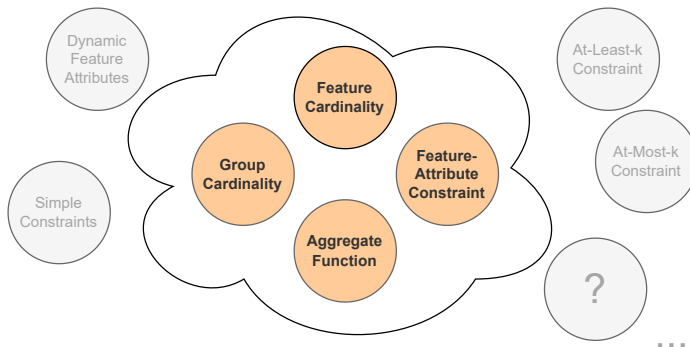
HDD-1  $\Rightarrow$  (Backup  $\Rightarrow$  HDD-1-1-256GB)

HDD-2  $\Rightarrow$  (Backup  $\Rightarrow$  HDD-2-1-256GB)

HDD-2  $\Rightarrow$  (Backup  $\Rightarrow$  HDD-2-2-256GB)

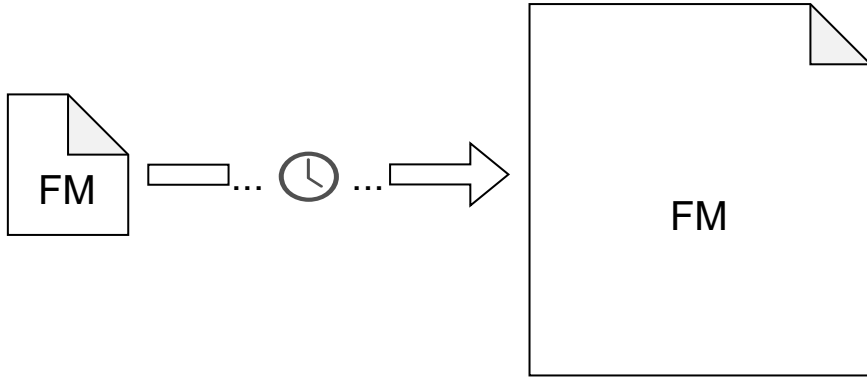


# Future Work



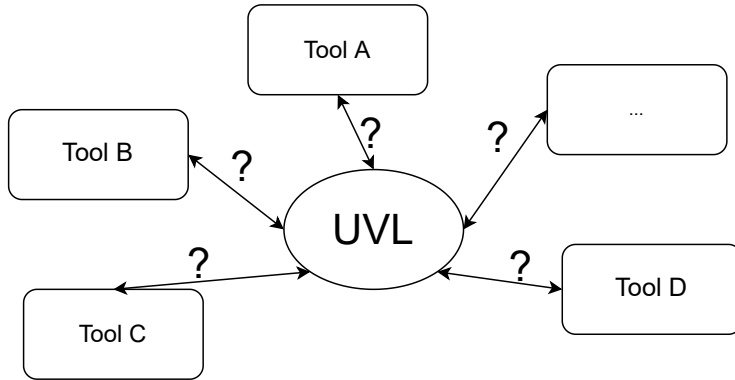
Identify and add new, useful language levels

# Future Work



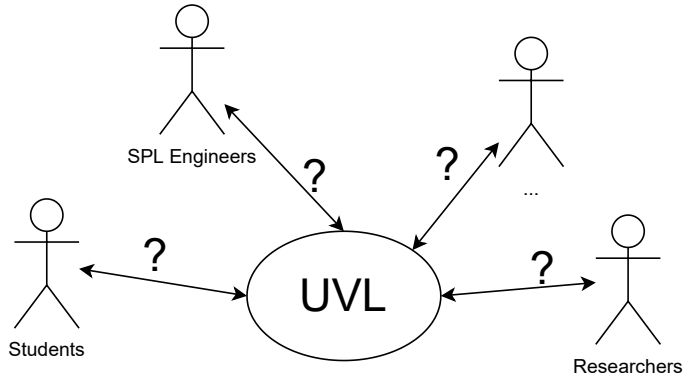
Evaluate (and improve) conversion strategy performance

# Future Work



Evaluate tool coverage of UVL

# Future Work



Gather community feedback on this UVL draft

# Language Level Detection

## Explicit enumeration (exhaustive)

```
include
  SAT-level.group-cardinality
  SMT-level.feature-cardinality
features
  Computer
    optional
      RAM-module cardinality [1..4]
    mandatory
      SATA-Devices
        [0..3]
        HDD
        SSD
        DVD-drive
        Card-reader
        Blu-ray-drive
  CPU
```

## Implicit

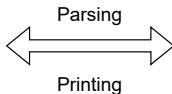
```
features
  Computer
    optional
      RAM-module cardinality [1..4]
    mandatory
      SATA-Devices
        [0..3]
        HDD
        SSD
        DVD-drive
        Card-reader
        Blu-ray-drive
  CPU
```

Detecting and checking used language levels

# Parsing and Printing

```
include
  SAT-level.group-cardinality
  SMT-level.feature-cardinality

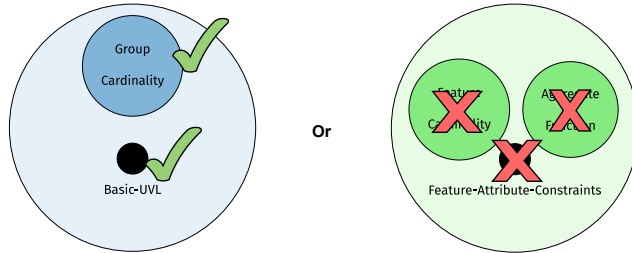
features
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    mandatory
      SATA-Devices
        [0..3]
        HDD
        SSD
        DVD-drive
        Card-reader
        Blu-ray-drive
  CPU
```



FeatureModel
namespace: String featureMap: Map<String, Feature> ...
+ decomposedModelToString(): Map<String, String> + composedModelToString(): String ...

- Same interface for basic functionality as initial UVL library
- New functionality (e.g. printing composed feature models)
- Further improvements (e.g. less restrictive feature names)

# Applying Conversion Strategies



- Set supported or unsupported language levels
- Convert or just remove language levels
- Automatic transitive conversion
- Correct order for conversion strategy application