

# Model Engineering for Software Modernization

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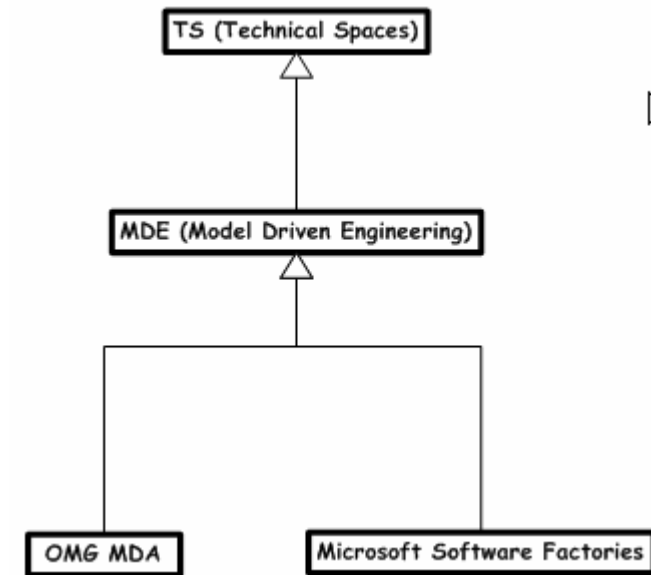
ATLAS Group (INRIA & LINA),

University of Nantes, France

<http://www.sciences.univ-nantes.fr/lina/atl/>

## Agenda

- The industrial evolution (OMG MDA™, IBM EMF, Microsoft Software factories) and the MDE trend
- The need for sound principles (models as first class entities)
- Technology spaces or why MDE is not sufficient
- Why OT is not sufficient and what did we learn?
- Towards an open MDE platform
- Applications of MDE to Software modernization
- Conclusions & Perspectives



# The industrial evolution (OMG, IBM, Microsoft)

## MDA™: OMG's new vision

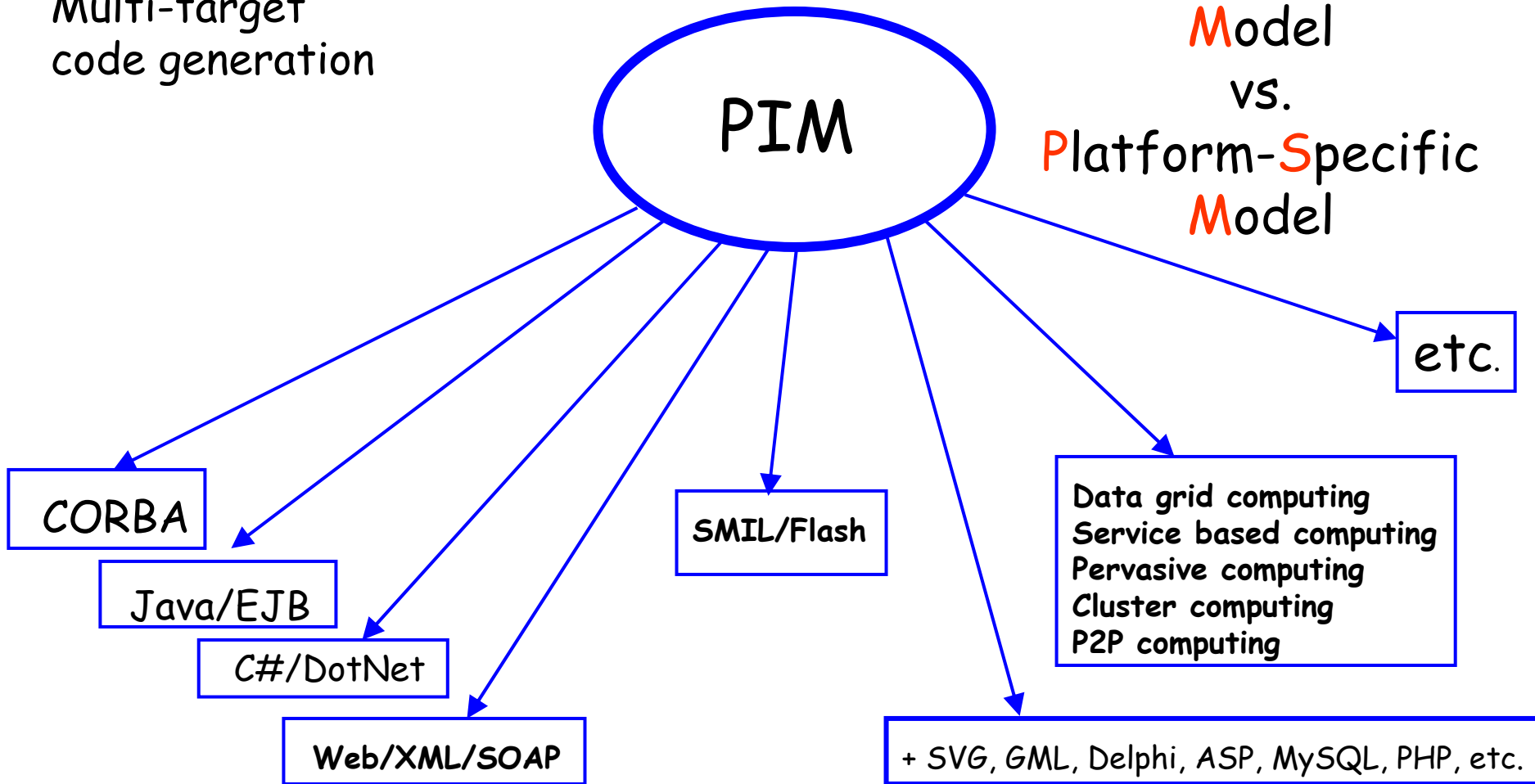
"OMG is in the ideal position to provide the model-based standards that are necessary to extend integration beyond the middleware approach... Now is the time to put this plan into effect. Now is the time for the Model Driven Architecture."

*Richard Soley and the OMG staff,  
MDA Whitepaper Draft 3.2  
November 27, 2000*

~~Write Once, Run Anywhere~~  
Model Once, Generate Anywhere

Multi-target  
code generation

Platform-Independent  
Model  
vs.  
Platform-Specific  
Model

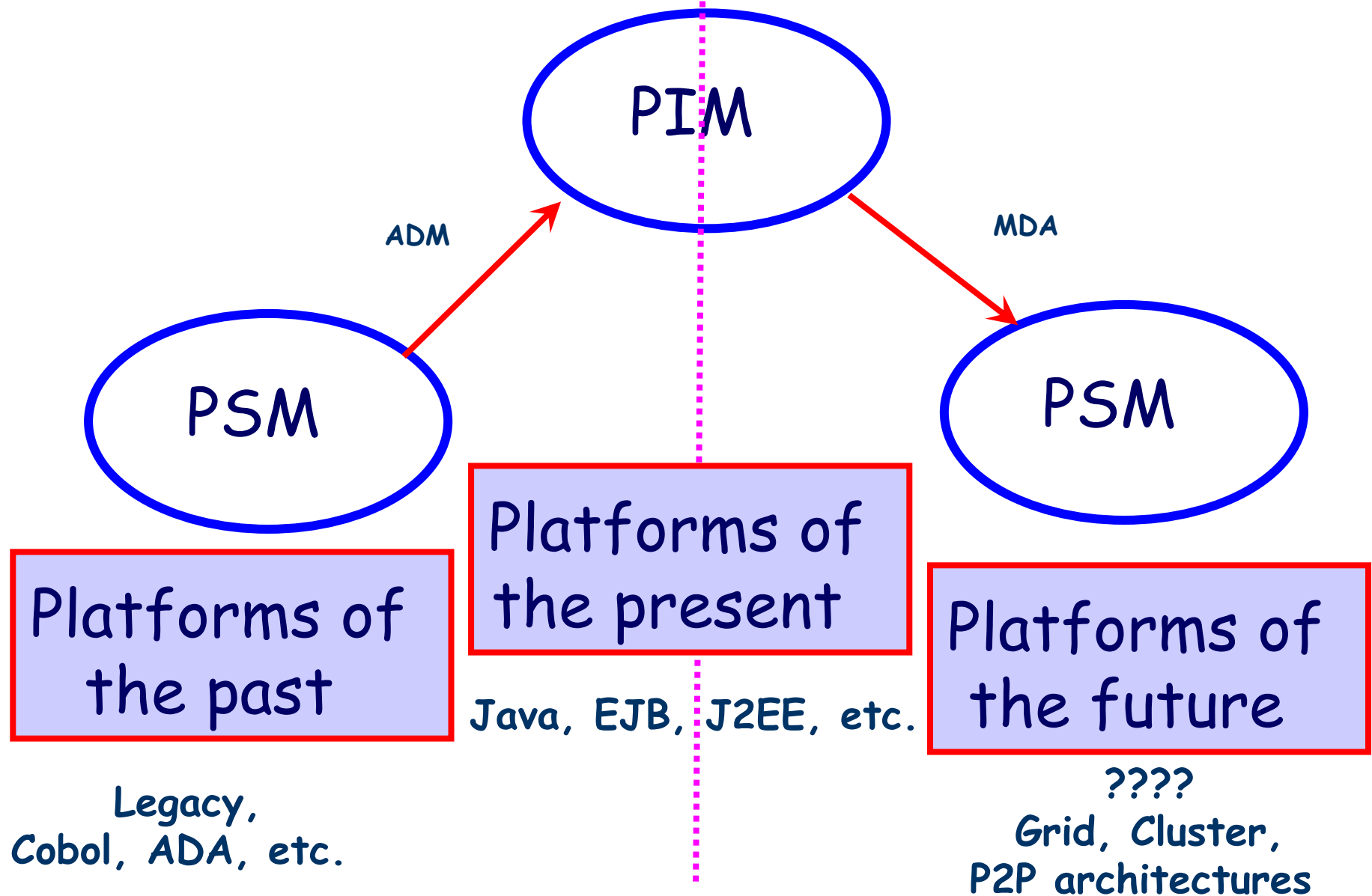


Suggests that MDA proponents fall into the following three camps:

1. The UML PIM camp: MDA involves the use of UML to build Platform Independent Models (PIMs) which are transformed into Platform Specific Models (PSMs) from which code is generated.
2. The MOF camp: MDA does not involve the use of UML, but instead the crucial technology is MOF, and the definition of modelling languages and language transformations using MOF.
3. The Executable UML camp: MDA involves building a UML compiler, making it a first class programming language.

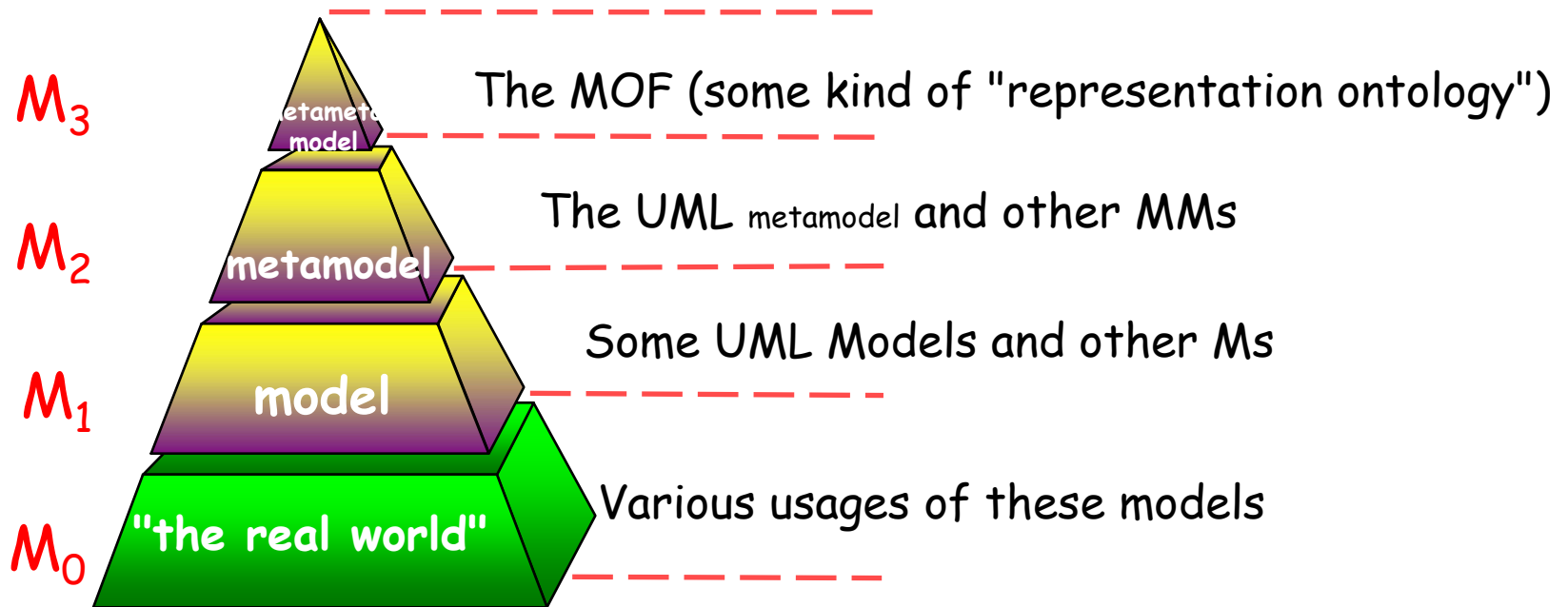
Ref: Steve Cook Blog @: <http://blogs.msdn.com/stevecook>

But also backward (Architecture-driven Modernization)



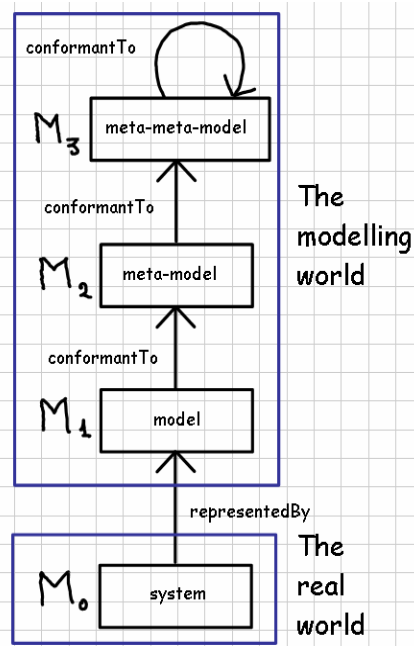
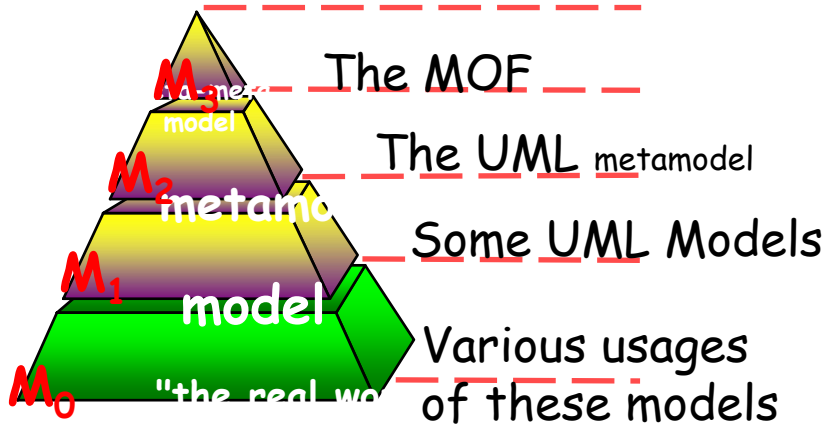
## The metamodeling stack

- UML
- CWM
- SPEM
- EDOC
- QVT
- MDA is based on a coordinated set of metamodels

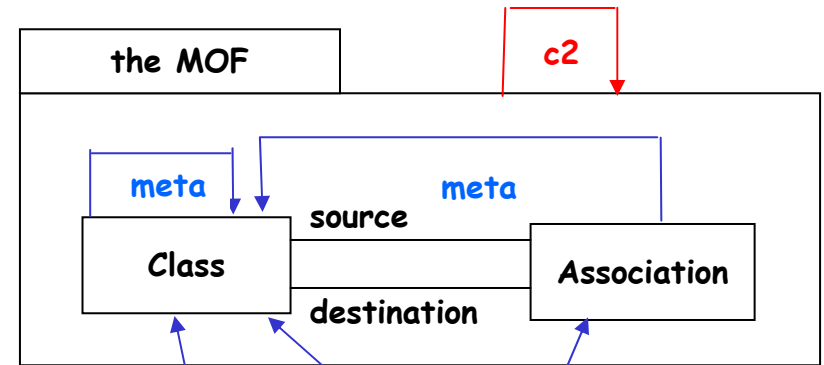




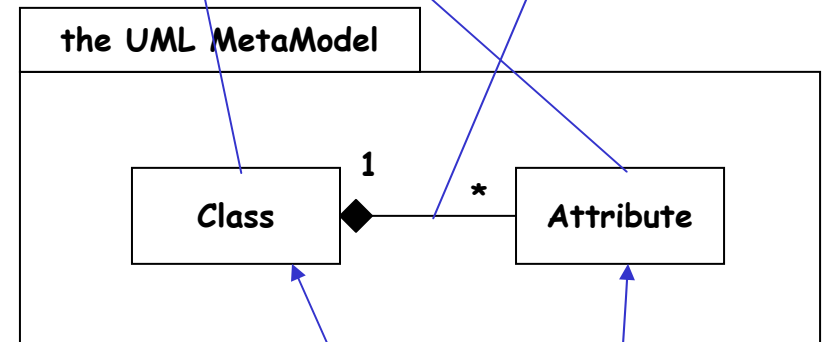
## Coordinated metamodels (conformance)



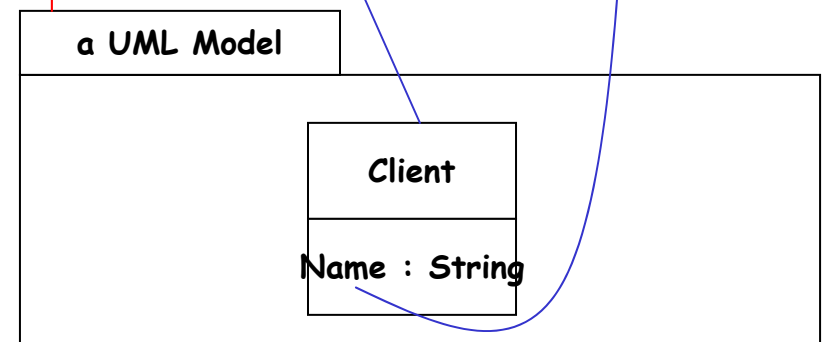
$M^3$



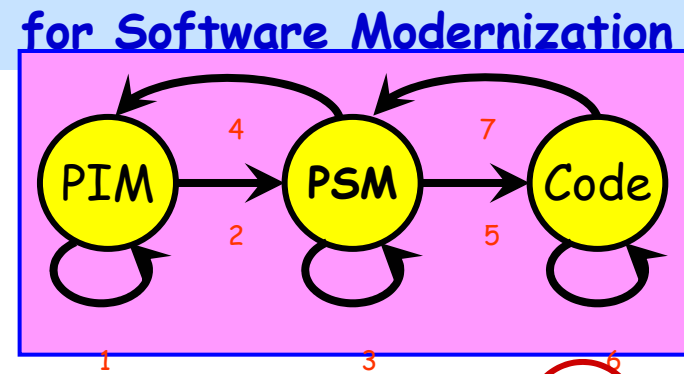
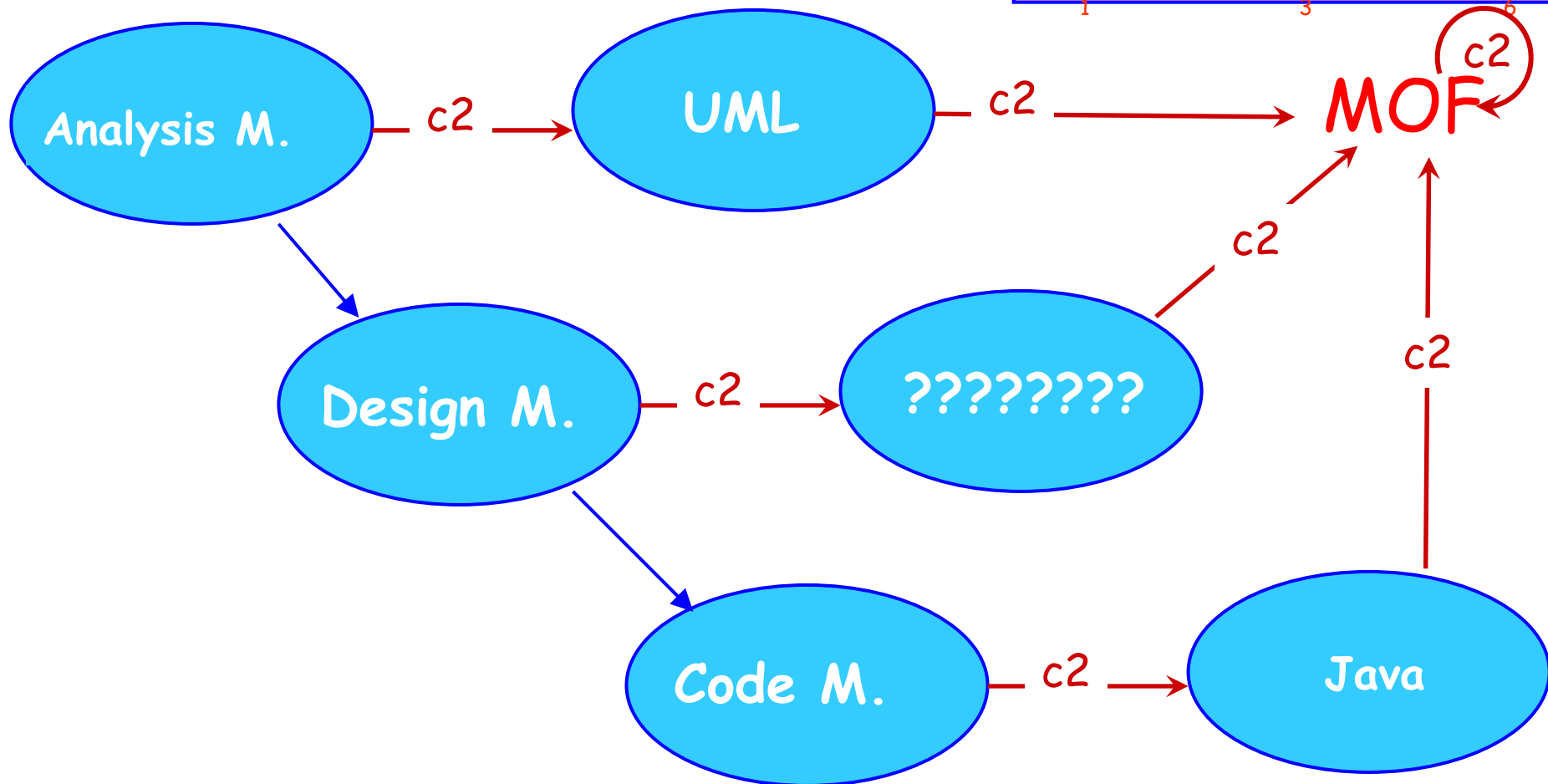
$M^2$



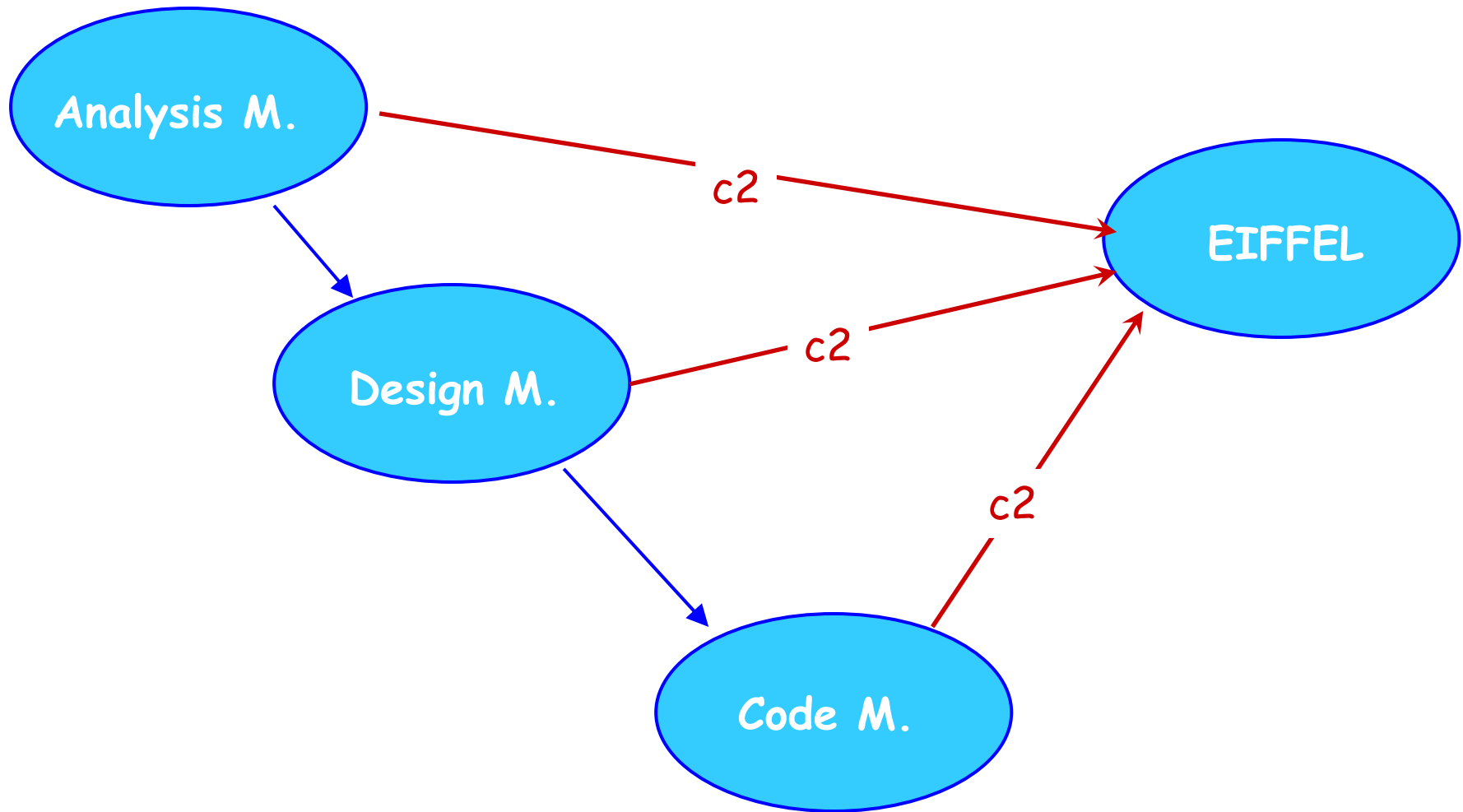
$M^1$



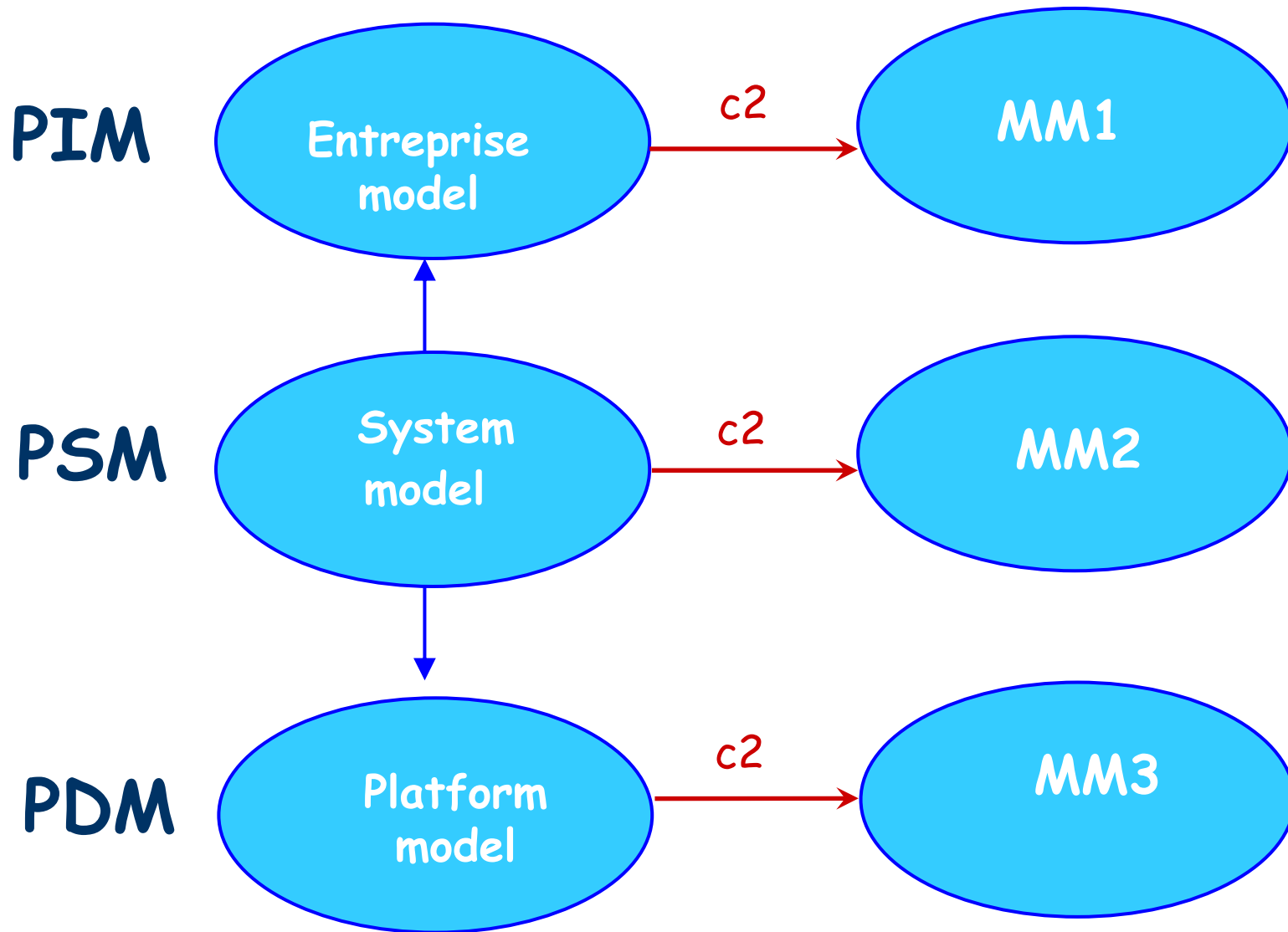
## MDA general organization



## Simplified vision of the world



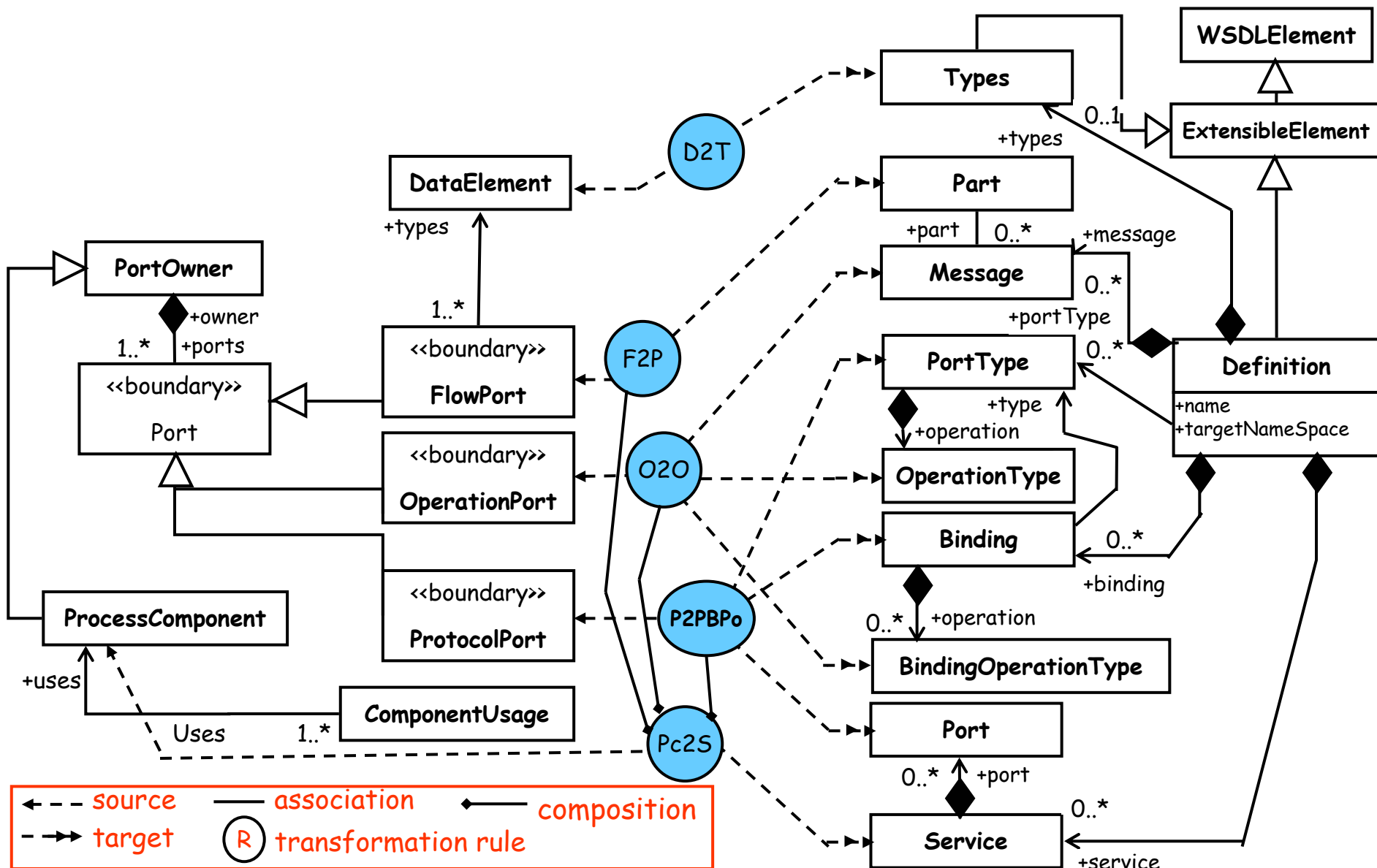
## General case



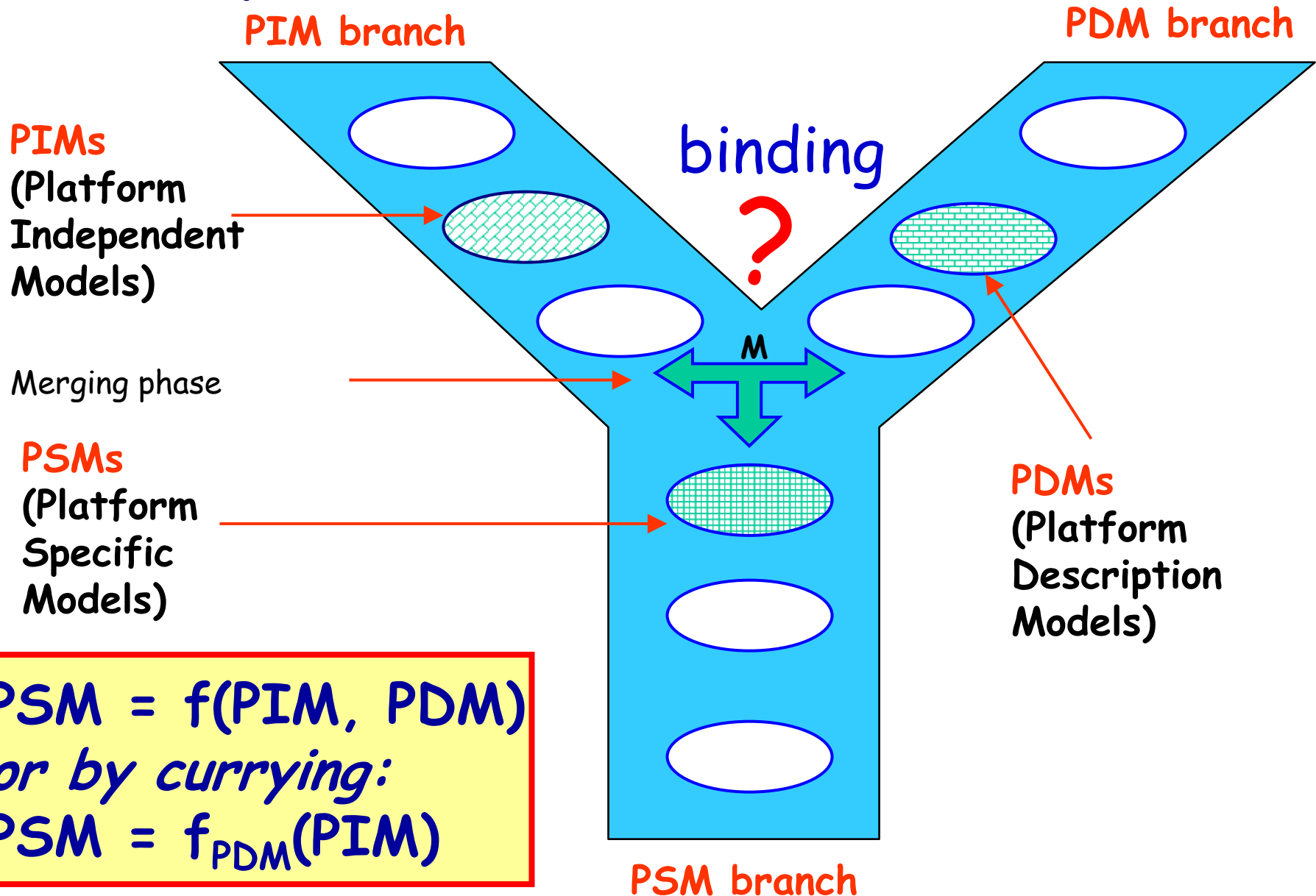
PIM=EDOC; PSM=WSDL  
EDOC meta-model

Mapping

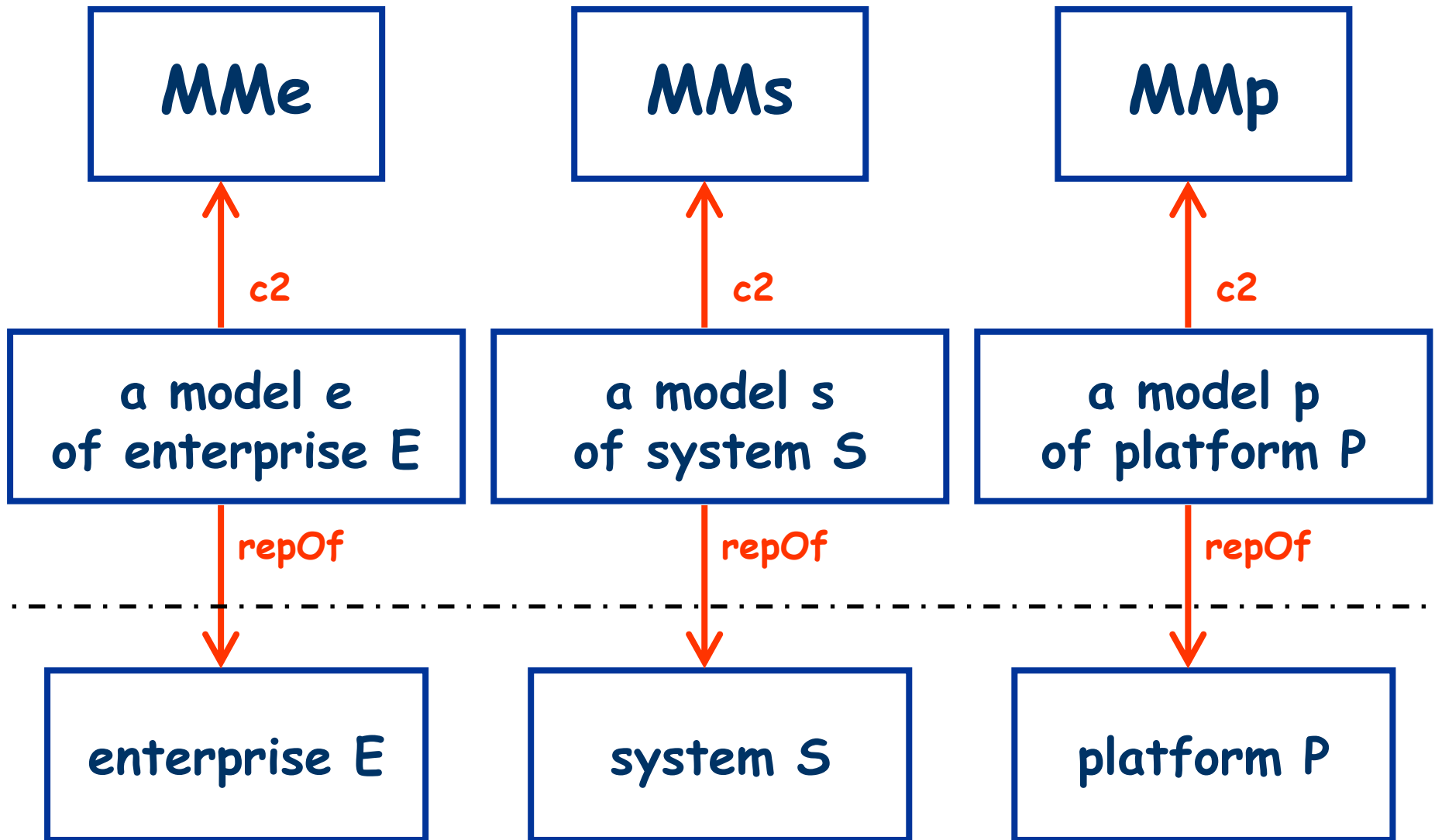
WSDL meta-model



The initial Y conjecture :  $PSM = f(PIM, PDM)$

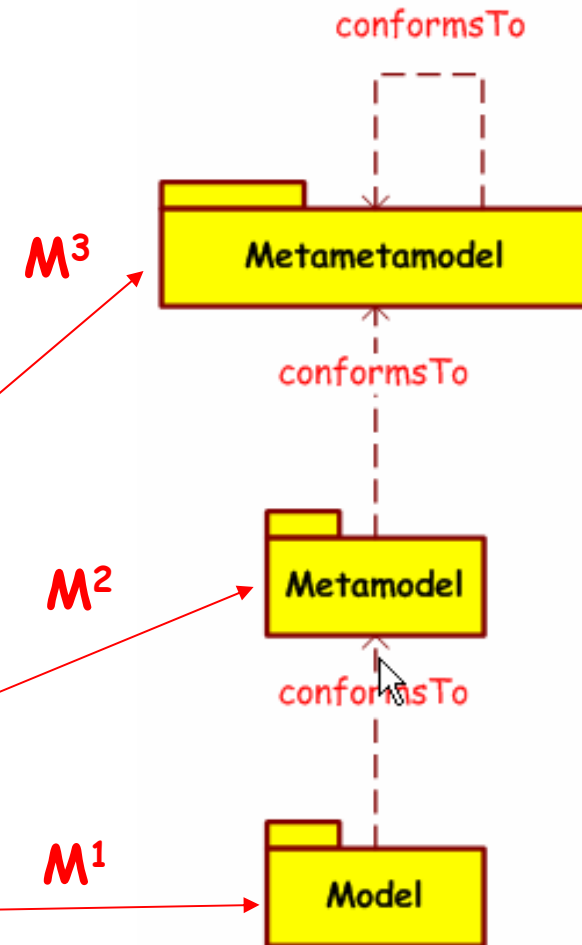
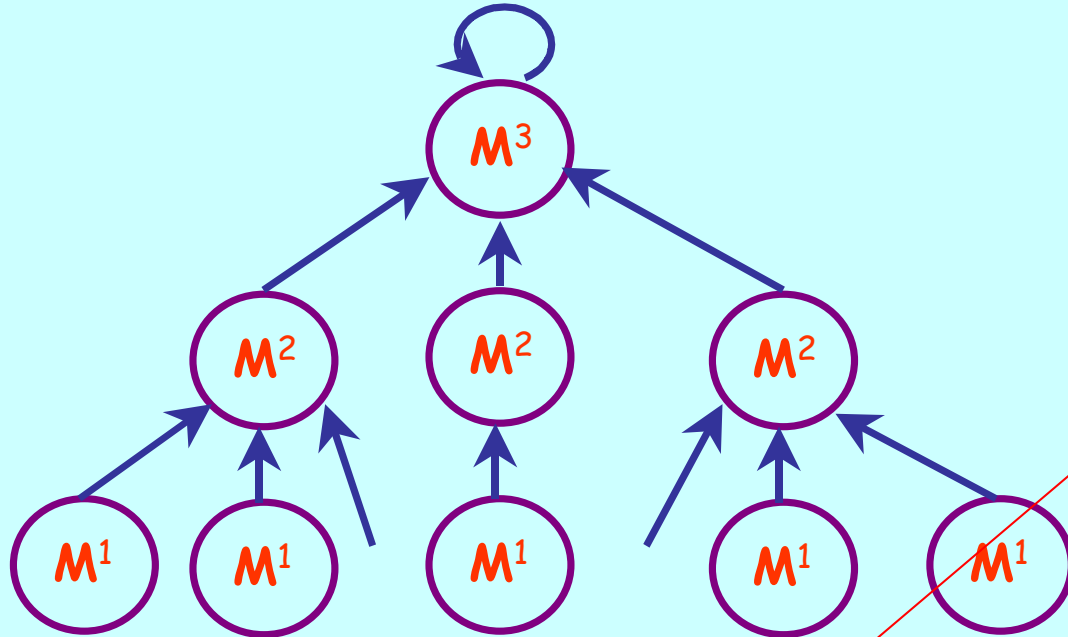


## Abstract models of Platforms and Enterprises



## MDA in a nutshell

$M^1$ ,  $M^2$  &  $M^3$  spaces



- One unique Metamamamodel (the MOF)
- An important library of compatible Metamodels, each defining a DSL
- Each of the models is defined in the language of its unique metamodel



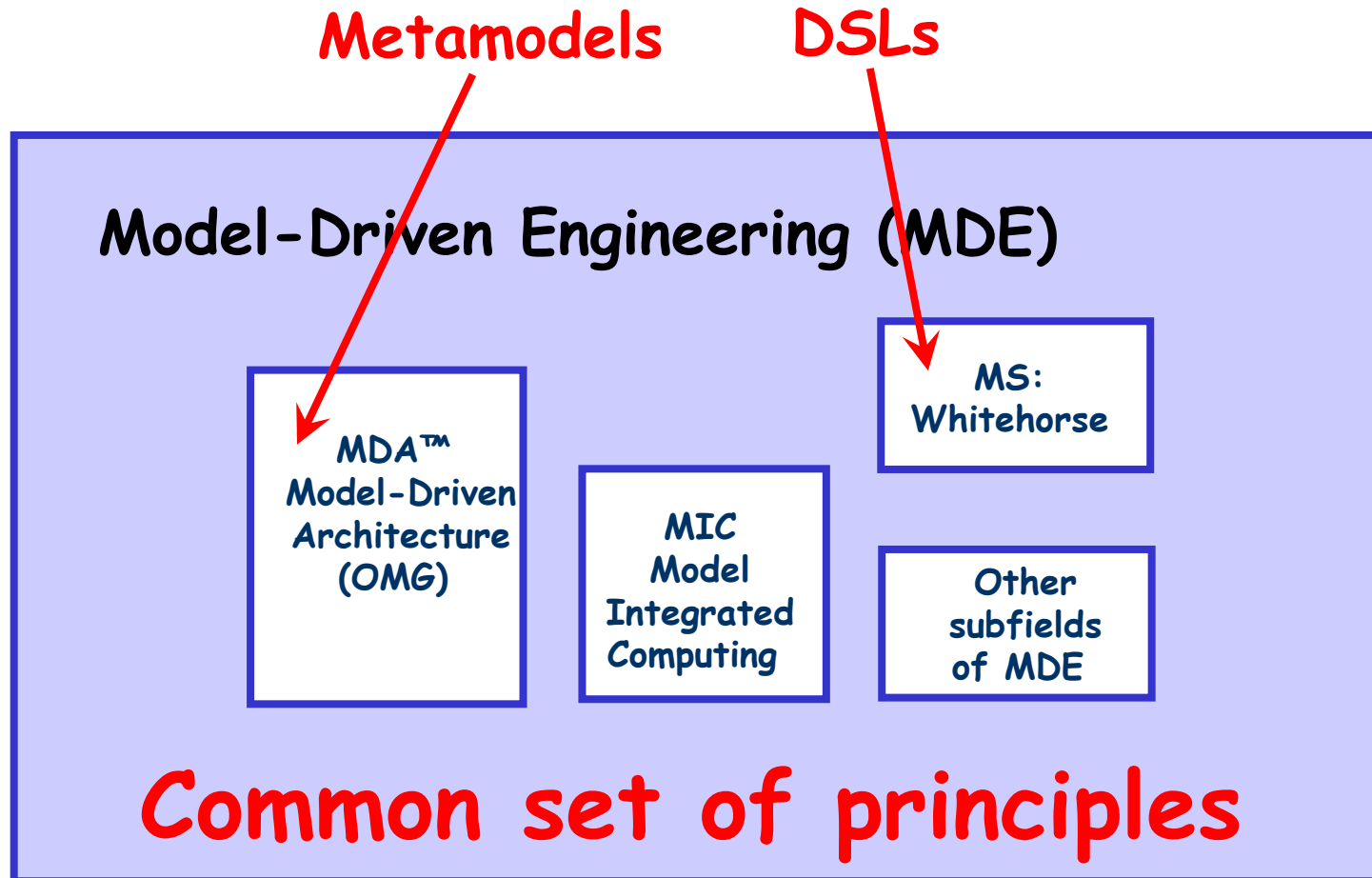
## A definition of MDA

OMG/ORMSC/2004-06-01 (The OMG MDA Guide): A Definition of MDA (The following was approved unanimously by 17 participants at the ORMSC plenary session, meeting in Montreal on 23 August 26, 2004. The stated purpose of these two paragraphs was to provide principles to be followed in the revision of the MDA Guide.)

- MDA is an OMG initiative that proposes to define a set of non-proprietary standards that will specify interoperable technologies with which to realize model-driven development with automated transformations. Not all of these technologies will directly concern the transformations involved in MDA.
- MDA does not necessarily rely on the UML, but, as a specialized kind of MDD (Model Driven Development), MDA necessarily involves the use of model(s) in development, which entails that at least one modeling language must be used.
- Any modeling language used in MDA must be described in terms of the MOF language, to enable the metadata to be understood in a standard manner, which is a precondition for any ability to perform automated transformations.

## MDE and the MDA™

"MDA™ is a specific MDD™ deployment effort around such industrial standards as MOF, UML, CWM, QVT, etc." (from OMG/MDA guide).



Terminological note: MDA and MDD are trademarks of OMG; MDE is not.

### Principles

## Model-Driven Engineering (MDE)

### Standards

MDA™  
Model-Driven  
Architecture  
(OMG)

MIC  
Model  
Integrated  
Computing

Software  
Factories  
(MS)

Other  
Standards

### Tools

Eclipse  
EMF

GME

Microsoft  
Whitehorse  
Visual studio  
Support  
for DSLs

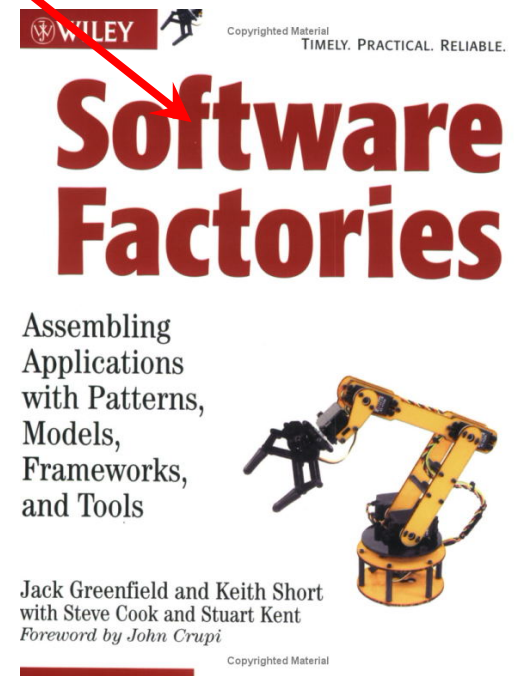
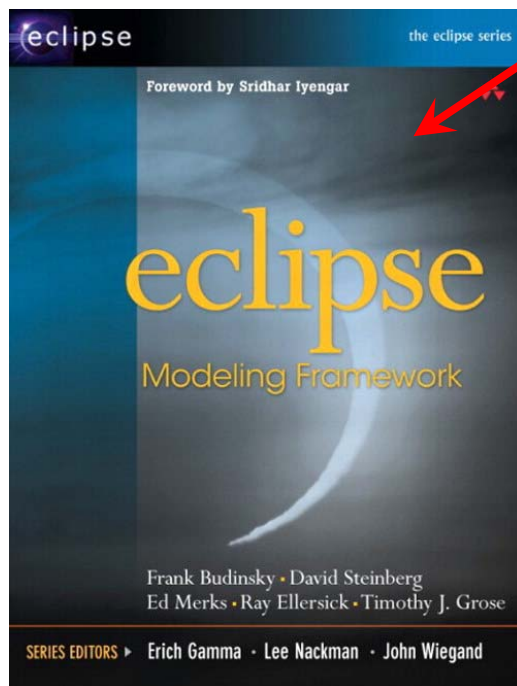
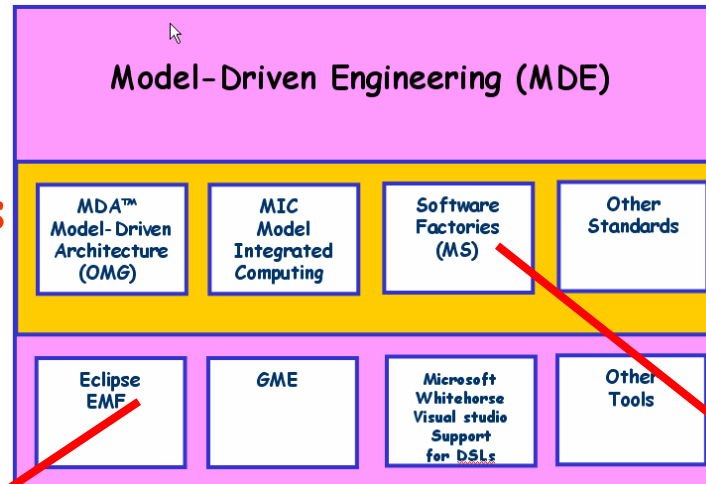
Other  
Tools

A very active industrial development area

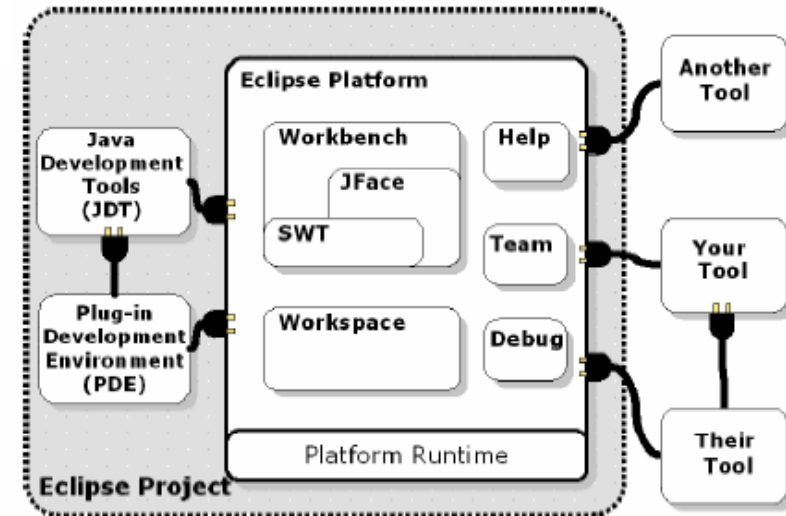
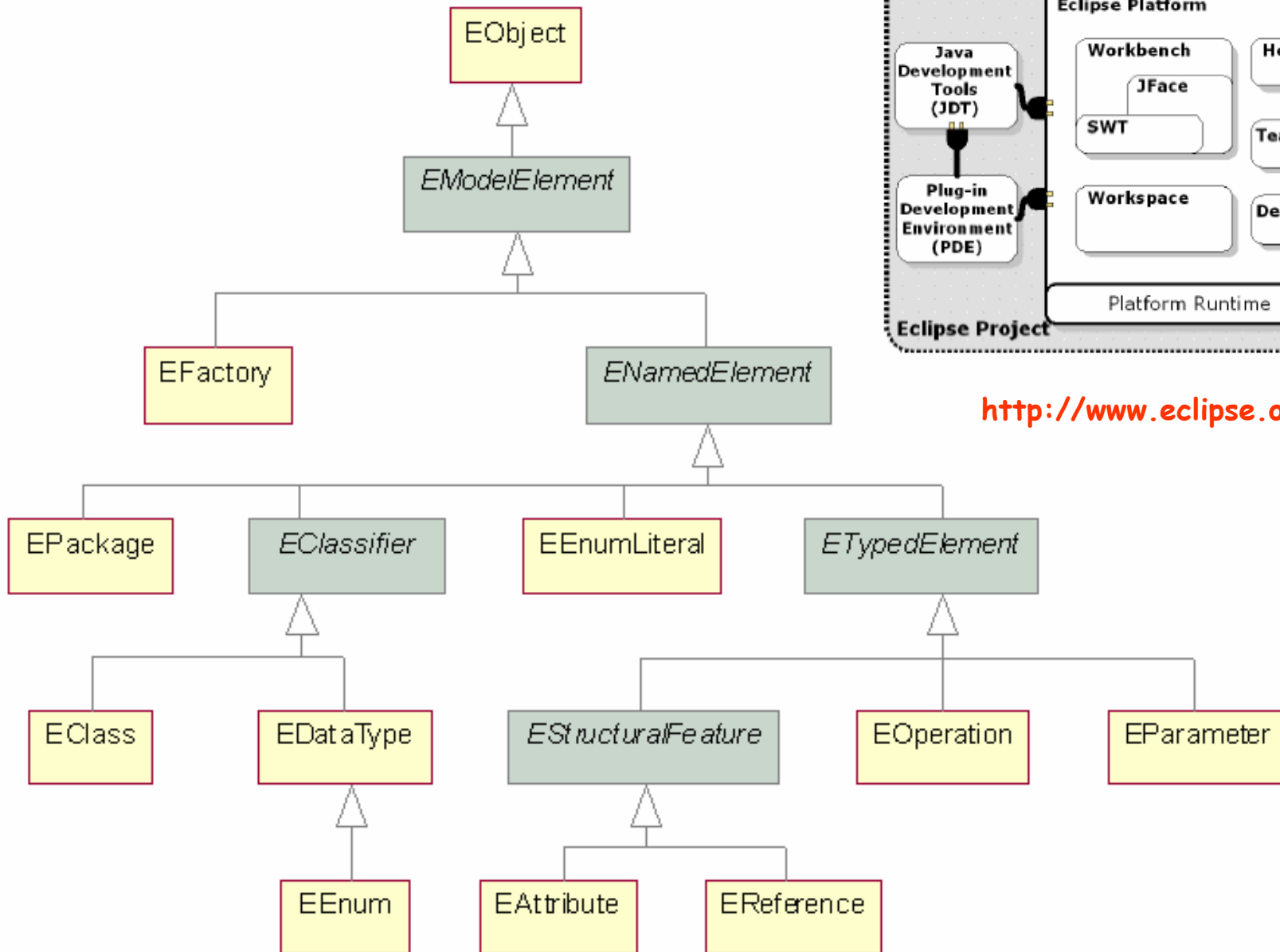
Principles

Standards

Tools



## EMF: The ECORE metamodel



<http://www.eclipse.org/emf/>

Microsoft Whitehorse, etc.

- SDK to be released in late 2005
  - First presentation at OOPSLA, Vancouver, Oct. 2004
  - See S. Cook, S. Kent and K. Short Blogs
- Aims to be closer to a metaCASE tool than Eclipse
- Not UML-based
- Models strongly tied to code
  - Reverse engineering/synchronization
  - Reliance on Microsoft's platforms (Visual studio)

**... Modeling is the future ...**

Bill Gates

# Whitehorse : Bill Gates on models

... Modeling is the future ...

You know UML [Unified Modeling Language] made the meta-models a little complex, so I don't think UML alone is the answer ...

And the promise here is that you write a lot less code, that you have a model of the business process. And you just look at that visually and say here is how I want to customize it ...

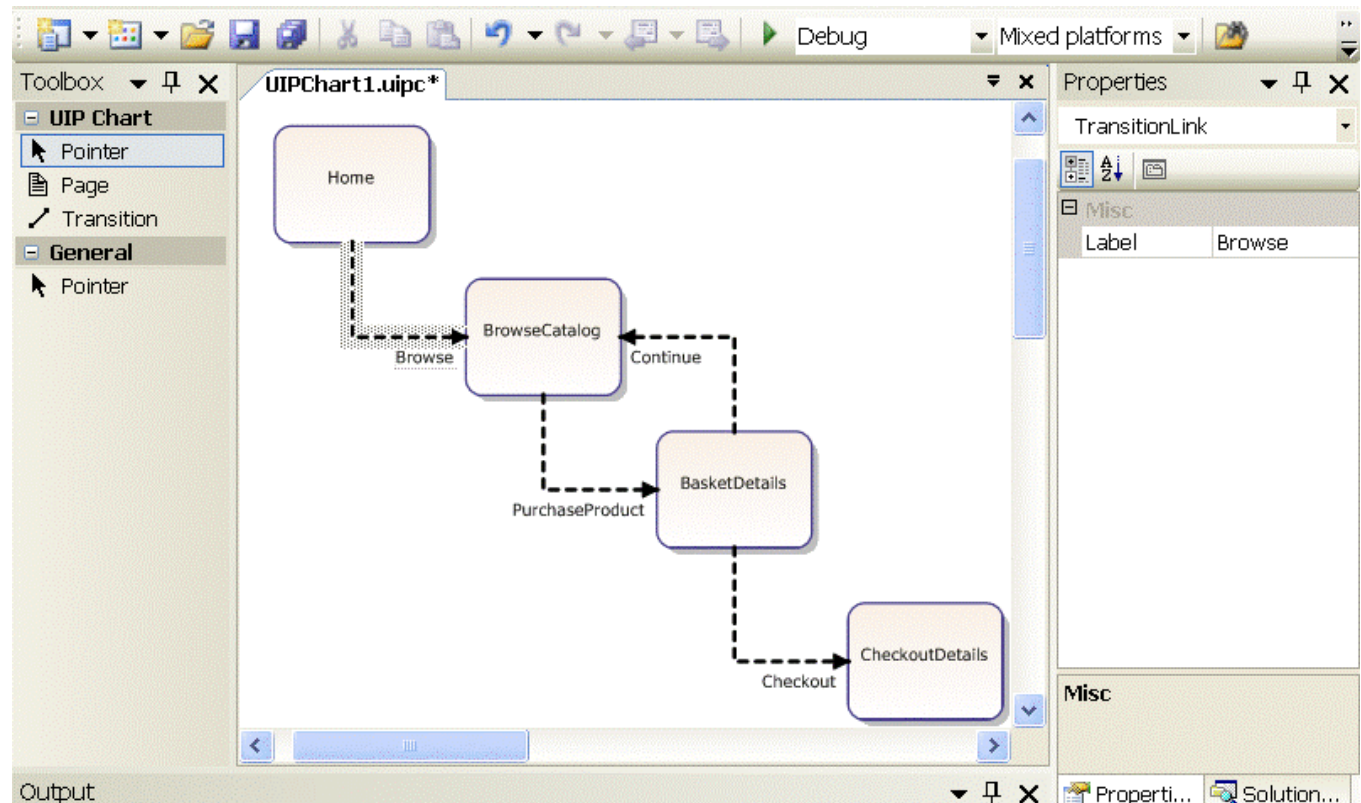
So even a business could express in a formal, modeled way, not just scribbling on paper, how the business process is changing over time or how it's different from other companies. So instead of having lots of code behind that, you just have visual, essentially model, customization ...

So, I think we believe that. There are certainly some people from IBM who have that same vision, and I think it'll be healthy competition between the two of us because today's modeling products fall short. That's one part of Visual Studio 2005, that we do have some neat things coming along that will be part of it that we haven't shown completely ...

So, modeling is pretty magic stuff, whether it's management problems or business customization problems or work-flow problems, visual modeling. Even the Office group now really gets that for document life-cycle rights management, that this visual modeling will be key to them. Business intelligence, where you let people navigate through things, is another area where modeling could be used. It's probably the biggest thing going on. And both Visual Studio and Office need to be on top of that ...



- Microsoft is releasing a suite of tools to make it easy to construct graphical designers hosted in Visual Studio for editing domain specific languages (DSL).





## IBM on MDA : Three complementary ideas



**MDA Journal**

May 2004

**Grady Booch**

**Alan Brown**

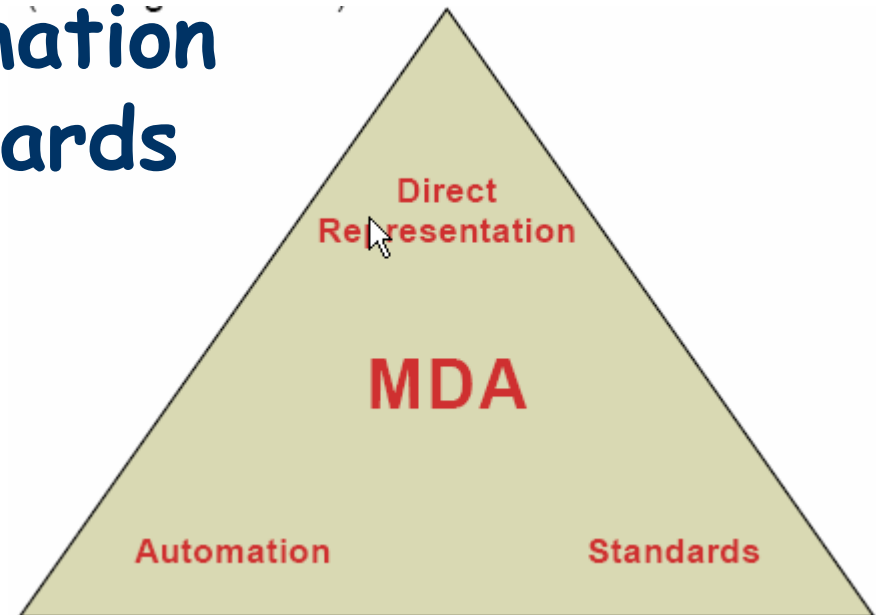
**Sridhar Iyengar**

**James Rumbaugh**

**Bran Selic**

**IBM Rational Software**

# 1. Direct representation 2. Automation 3. Standards



Direct representation => multiple languages

Danger of fragmentation

Need coordination

How to coordinate?

Short answer: metamodel

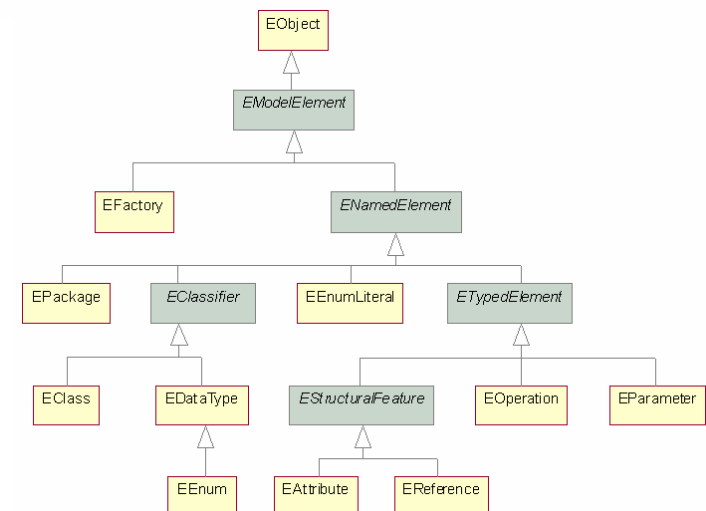
But what is a metamodel?

## Just an academic issue anyway?

The model used to represent models in EMF is called Ecore. Ecore is itself an EMF model, and thus is its own metamodel. You could say that makes it also a meta-metamodel. People often get confused when talking about meta-metamodels (metamodels in general, for that matter), but the concept is actually quite simple. **A metamodel is simply the model of a model**, and if that model is itself a metamodel, then the metamodel is in fact a meta-metamodel.<sup>4</sup> Got it? If not, I wouldn't worry about it, since it's really just an academic issue anyway.

---

4. This concept can recurse into meta-meta-metamodels, and so on, but we won't go there.



## Enter the "metamuddle"

production. diagrams, similar to UML models, may be described by means of a support the design of models, i.e. a metamodel is a model of a n defined the Meta Object Facility (MOF) [2] as a language for it describes. The term metamodel here is used in the same way the UML does it specification, as a model of model defining some aspects of the structure. The metamodel itself is formulated re-using the language for our case UML.

A metamodel is a model of a model. the reusable process components development processes. As illustrated

A metamodel is at a higher level of abstraction than a model. It is often called "a model of a model". It provides the rules/grammar for the modelling language (ML) itself. The ML consists of instances of concepts in the metamodel.

### Glossary

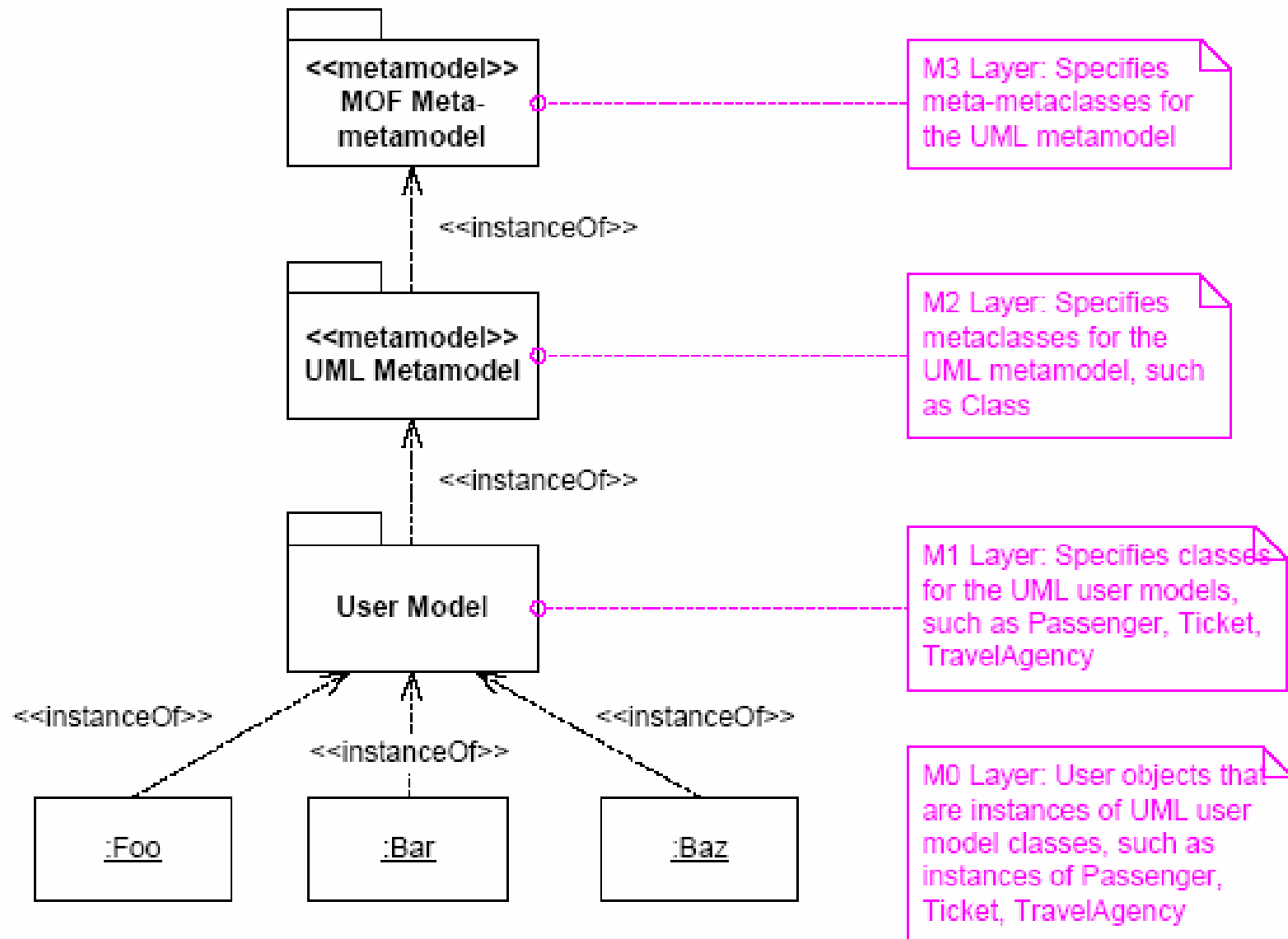
Metamodel: model of a model. The UML metamodel, as implemented by Objecteering/UML, is defined using this metamodel.

Metaclass: a class which represents an element of a metamodel. For example, "Component" is a metaclass. Every component in a UML model is an instance of this metaclass. Metaclasses are defined using meta-attributes, meta-associations, etc.

showing or-specific model models

A metamodel is a model of a model  
The concept can be recursively applied to itself  
• a meta-metamodel is a model of a metamodel  
• a meta-meta-metamodel is a model of a meta-metamodel ...  
and so on  
"A Model is an instance of a Metamodel"

## The standard "official" OMG stack (mimicking OT)



## The metamuddle

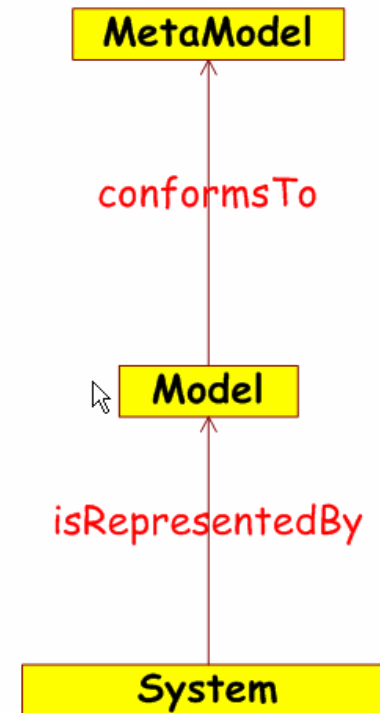
- A very rapidly growing industrial application field since november 2000,
- ... but ...
- We badly need a unifying theory of models

# In search of sound principles for MDE

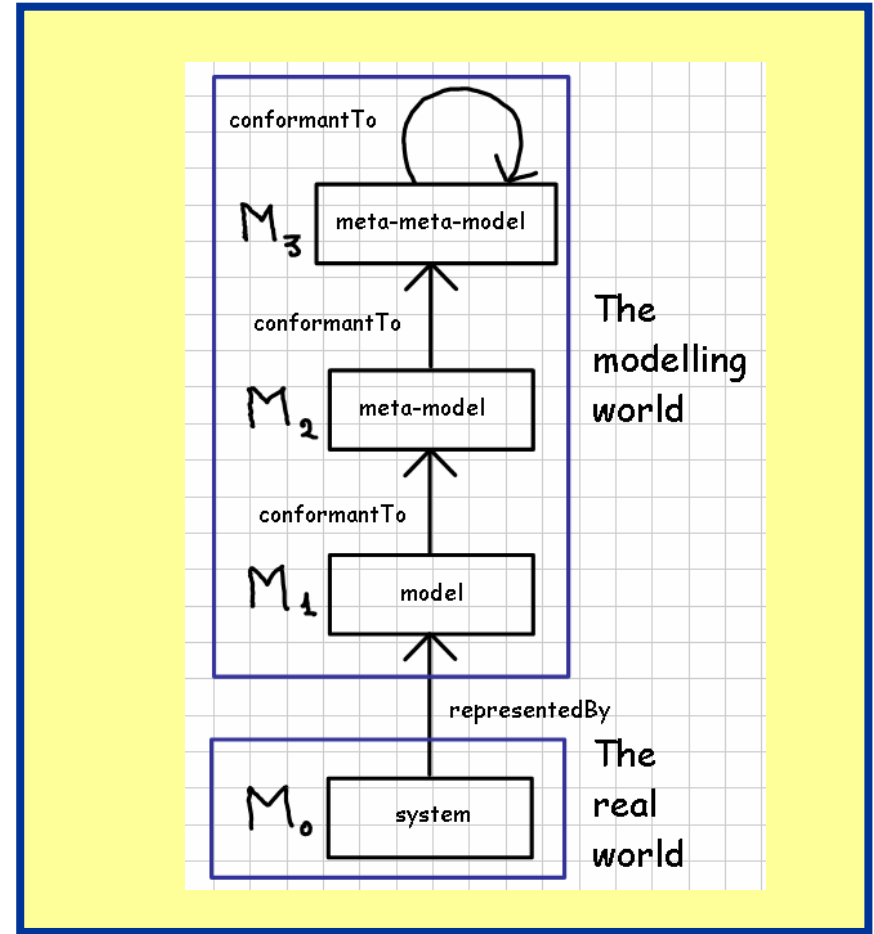
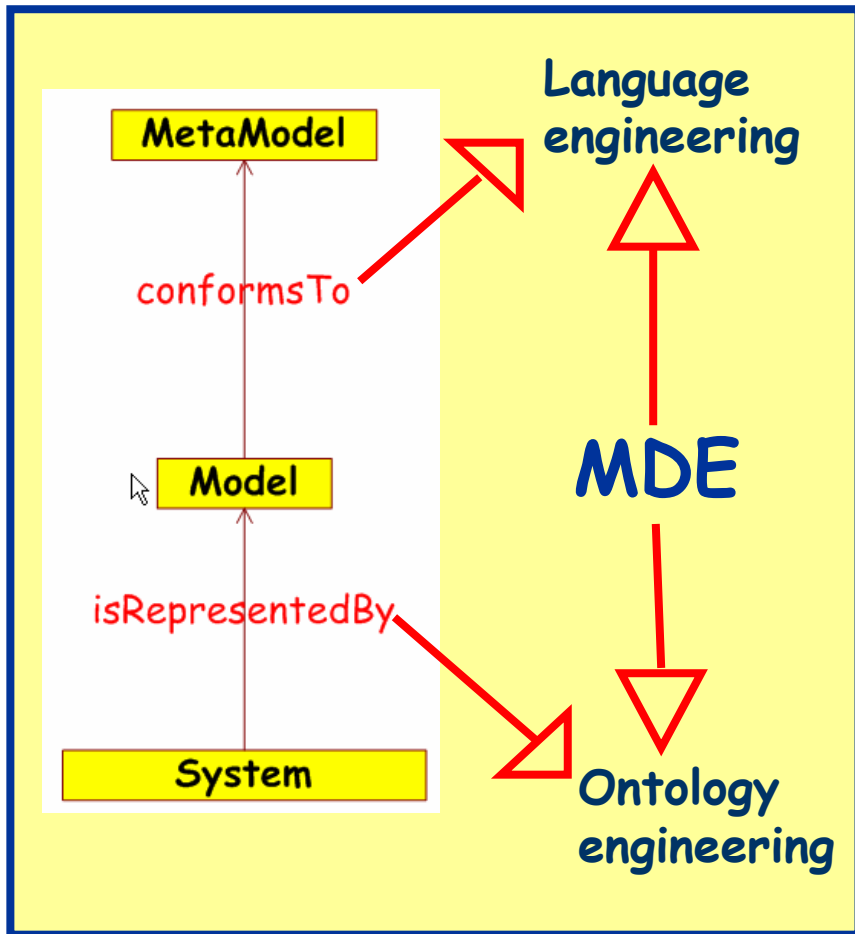
## The basic assumptions

# The basic assumptions

- Models as first class entities
- MDA as a special case of MDE
- **Conformance** and **Representation** as kernel relations, central to MDE

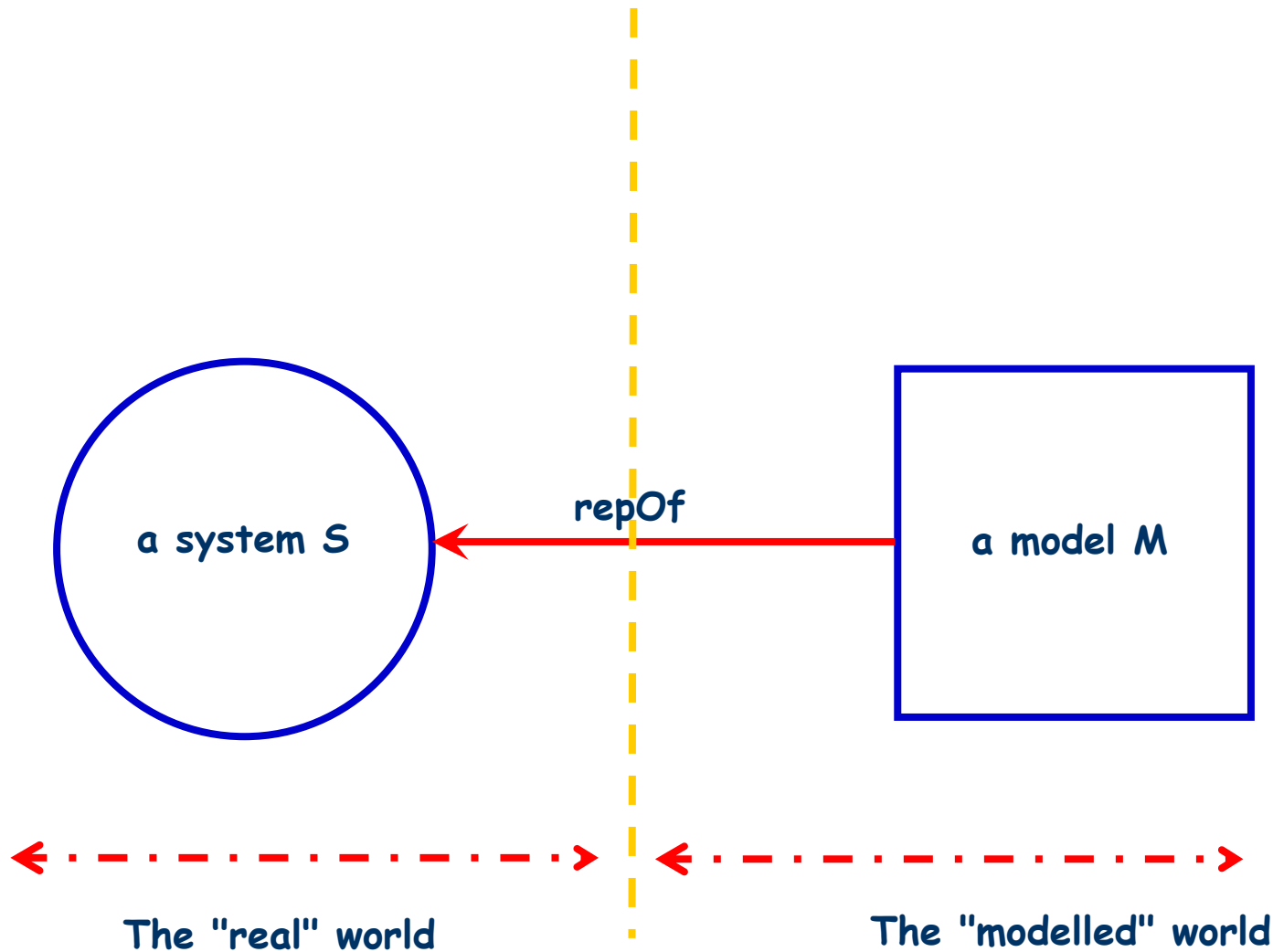


## Credits and MDA compliance





## Systems and models

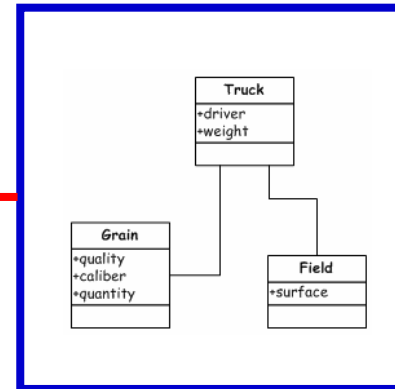


## A model of a system

a system *S*  
e.g. agricultural business



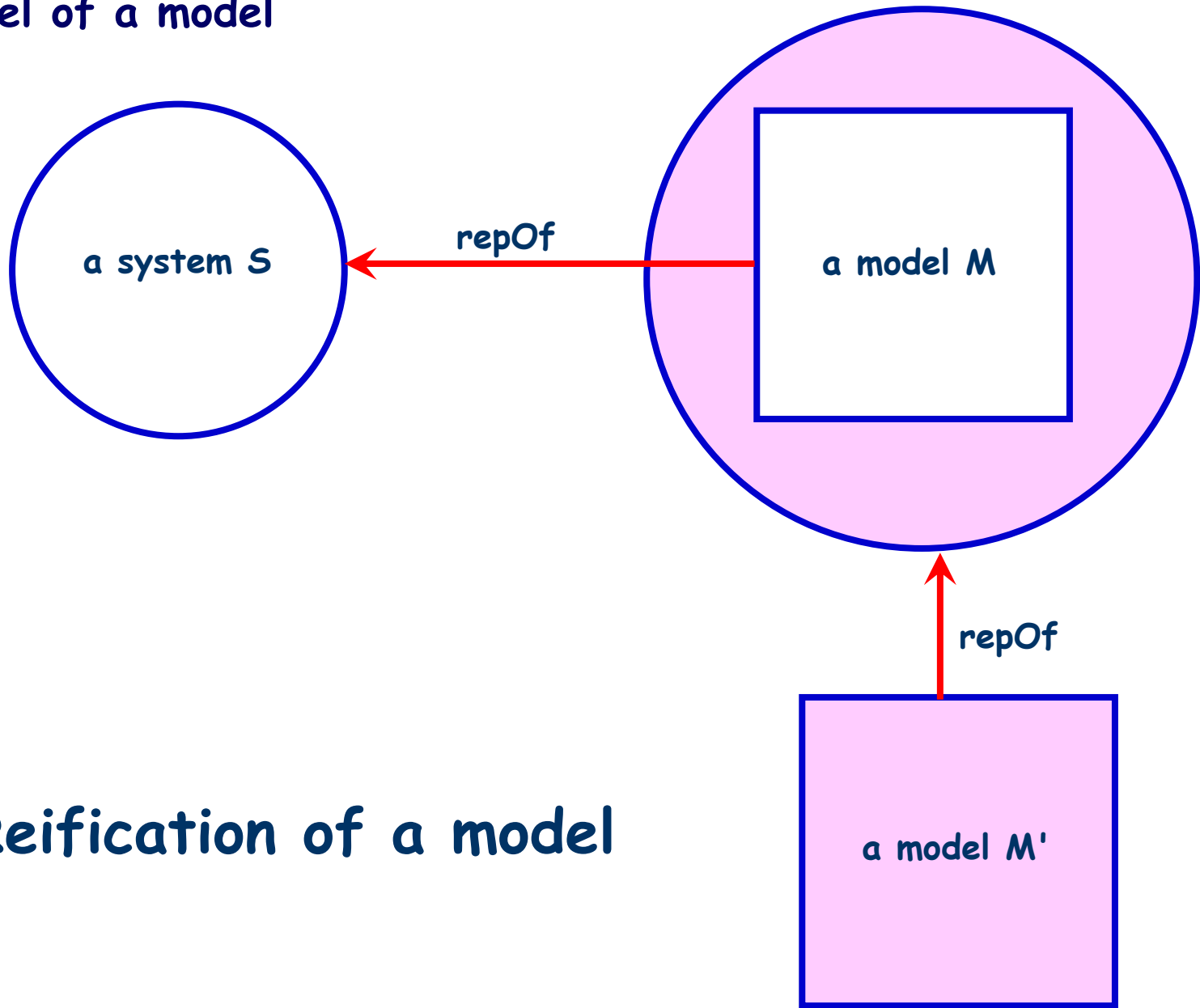
a model *M*



repOf

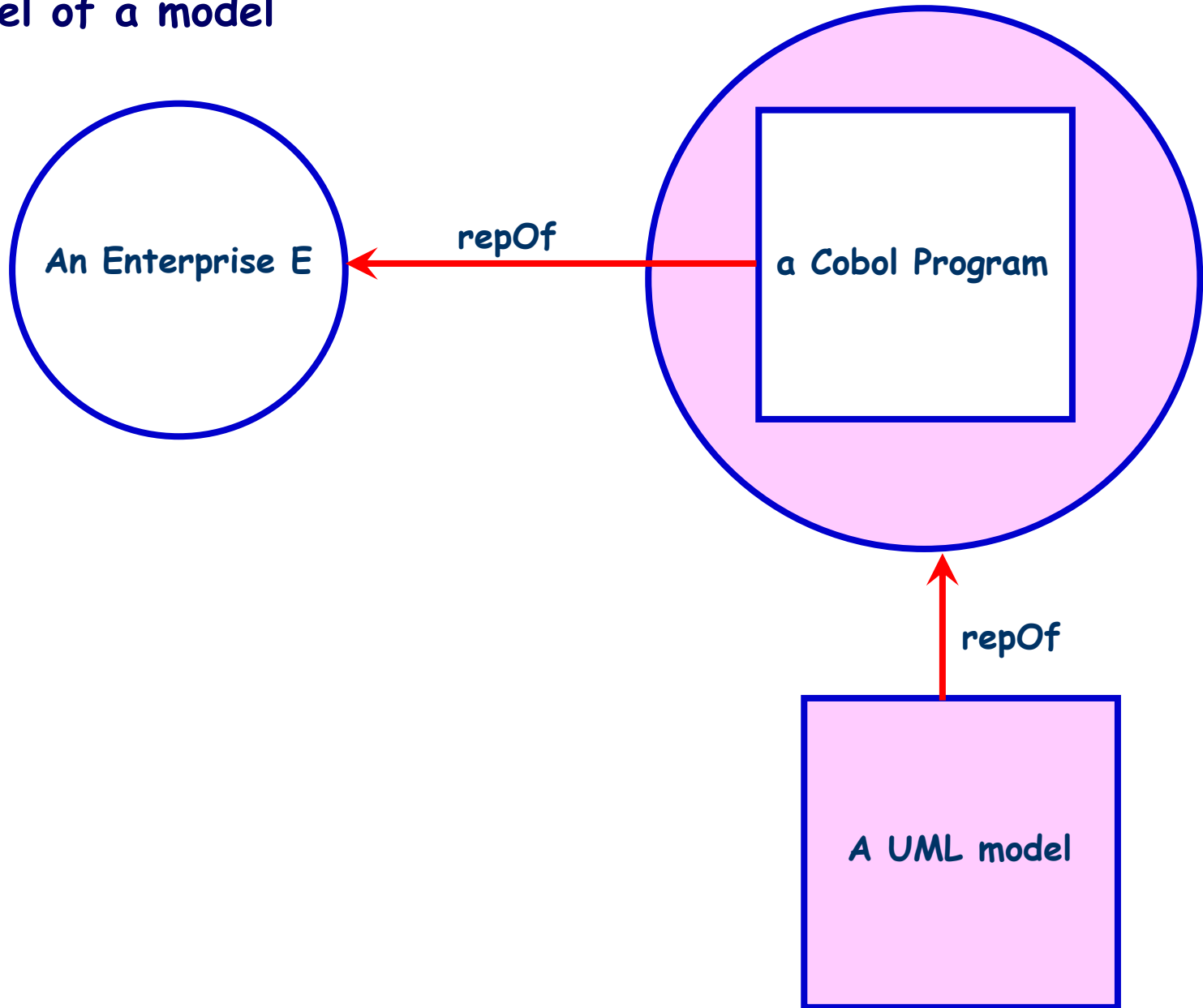


## A model of a model



Reification of a model

## A model of a model



## A model of a model

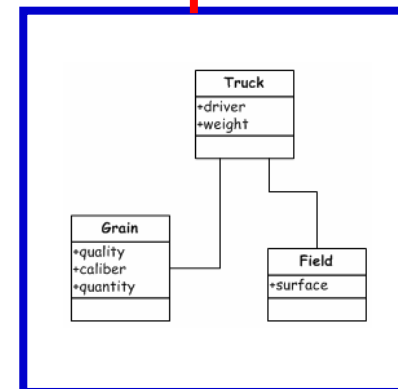


repOf

```

351  ENTRANCE SECTION.
352  P-BEGIN.
353  *
354      ACCEPT W-DATE1 FROM DATE.
355      ACCEPT W-DATE FROM DATE.
356      MOVE SPACE TO ZZ-PARAM.
357      MOVE ZERO TO Z-RET I-CALL.
358      MOVE ZERO TO FIND-FLAG.
359  *-----*
360  *  MODULE DE CONTROLE DE Z-PARAM.
361  *-----*
362  Z-PARAM-CONTROL SECTION.
363  *
364  *  *-----*
365  *  *  EXISTENCE DE LA TABL
366  *  *  VALIDITE DE LA FONCTI
367  *  *-----*
368  *
369  P-TABLE.
370  *
371  MOVE "P-TABLE" TO W-PAR.
372  IF (Z-TAB = SPACE OR = LOW-VALUE
373      GO TO P-EXIT-PGM.
374  MOVE Z-TAB TO EDTACO.
375  MOVE ZERO TO FIND-FLAG.
376  FIND ANY EDTA.
377  IF OK GET EDTA.
378  IF INEX MOVE "01" TO Z-RET
379      GO TO P-EXIT-PGM.
    
```

repOf

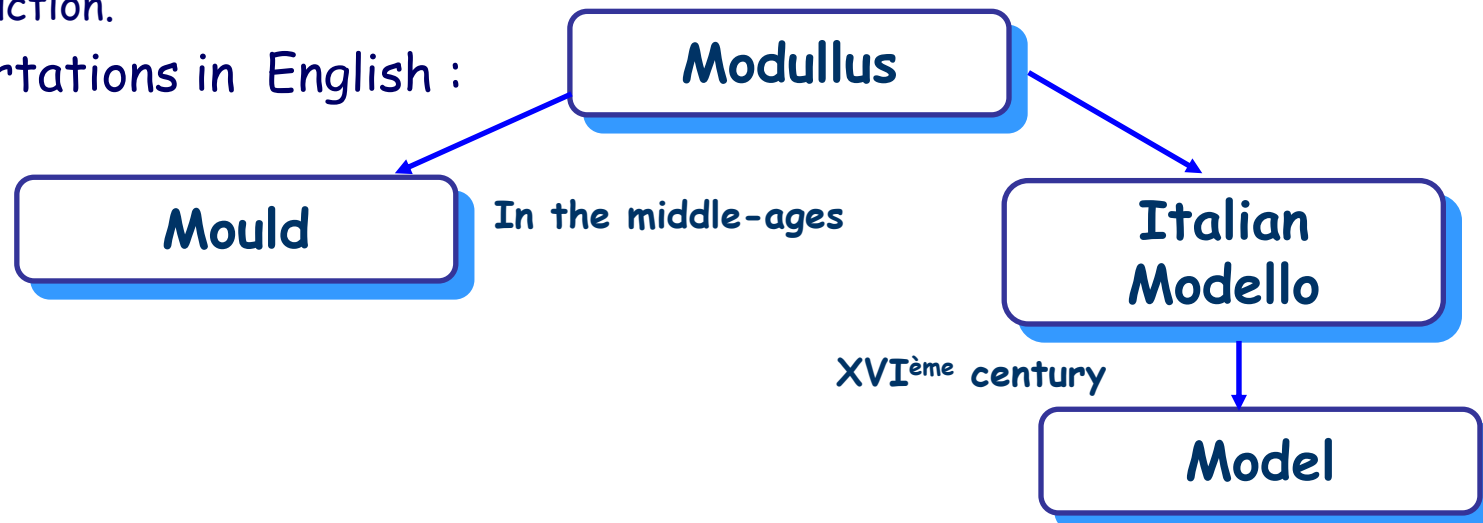


But- what is a model?

## Definitions



- A **model** is the simplified **image** of a **system**
  - This short definition should be completed
- What is a system ?
  - "A system is a set of elements in interaction " (von Bertalanffy)
  - The word system comes from the Greek "sun-istémi" (I compose)
- Model comes from the Latin "modulus", diminutive of "modus" (measure)
  - Initially it was an architectural term meaning an arbitrary measure used for establishing various ratios between different parts of a building in construction.
- Two importations in English :



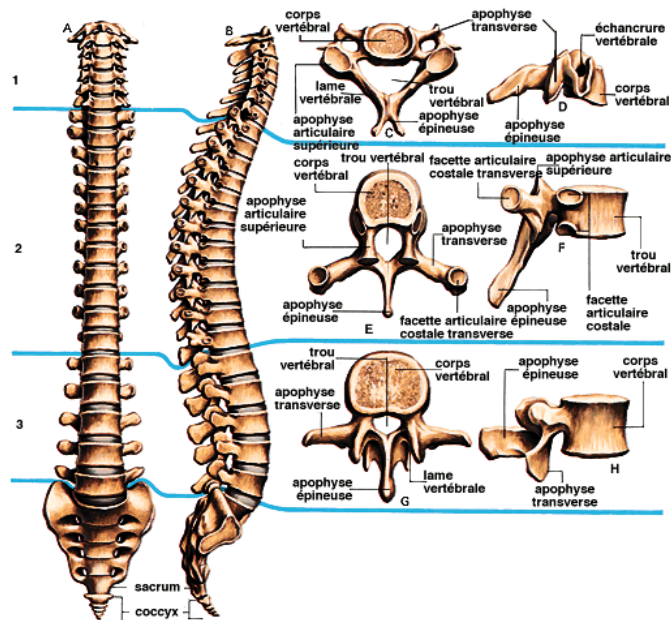
The word is recent, the idea is old



Plato (427-347 before JC), in *Timeus* compares **vertebras** to **door hinges** (74a) or **blood vessels** to **irrigation channels**.

This idea will be used again later by the english physiologist William Harvey (1578-1657) who will discover the blood circulation principle:

"de ce que, dans le cœur des vivants, les valvules semblent être des soupapes ou des portes d'écluse".



System

repOf

Model

## Model: multiple definitions

**mod·el** [módd'l] noun (plural **mod·els**)

1. **copy of an object:** a copy of an object, especially one made on a smaller scale than the original (*often used before a noun*)
2. **particular version of manufactured article:** a particular version of a manufactured article  
*had traded in her car for the latest model*
3. **something copied:** something that is copied or used as the basis for a related idea, process, or system
4. **somebody paid to wear clothes:** somebody who is paid to wear clothes and demonstrate merchandise as a profession, for example, in fashion shows and photographs for magazines and catalogues
5. **simplified version:** a simplified version of something complex used, for example, to analyze and solve problems or make predictions *a financial model*

6. **perfect example:** an excellent example that deserves to be imitated
7. **artist's subject:** somebody who poses for a painter, sculptor, photographer, or other artist
8. **zoology animal copied by another animal:** an animal species repellent to predators which another animal mimics for protection
9. **logic interpretation:** an interpretation of a theory arrived at by assigning referents in such a way as to make the theory true
10. **U.K. fashion exclusive garment:** the first sewn example of a couturier's or clothing manufacturer's design, from which a new line of garments is produced



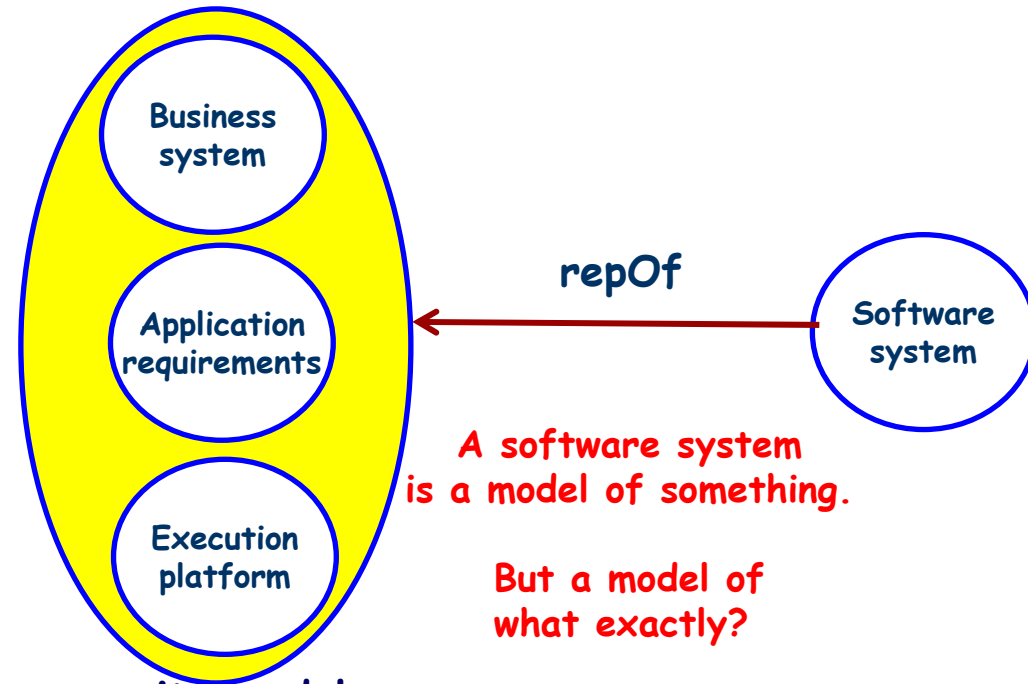
## Different kinds of models

- Numerous examples

- Mathematical models
- Hydrological models
- Biological models
- Ecological models
- Economical models
- Meteorological models
- Simulation models
- Descriptive or predictive models
- etc.

- Software are models:

- **A software is a complex and composite model**
- **But a model of what?**
  - Of the organization where it is supposed to function?
  - Of the architecture (hardware/software platform ) on top of which it is supposed to function?
  - Of the applicative requirements it is supposed to satisfy ?
  - Of the team that elaborated the software in a given process?
- **Expressed in which language?**
  - Until now software was mainly written in so-called programming languages like C# or Java
  - ... but things are rapidly changing (code-centric to model-centric, DSLs)

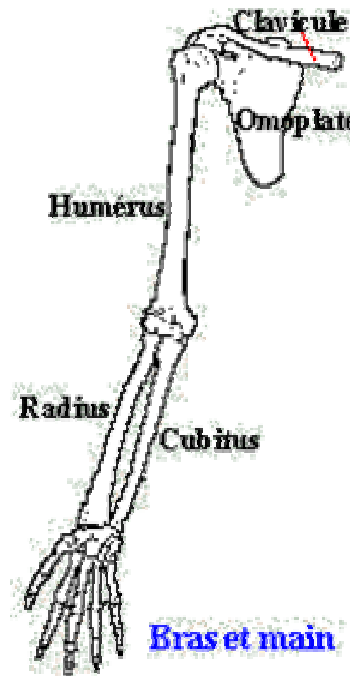
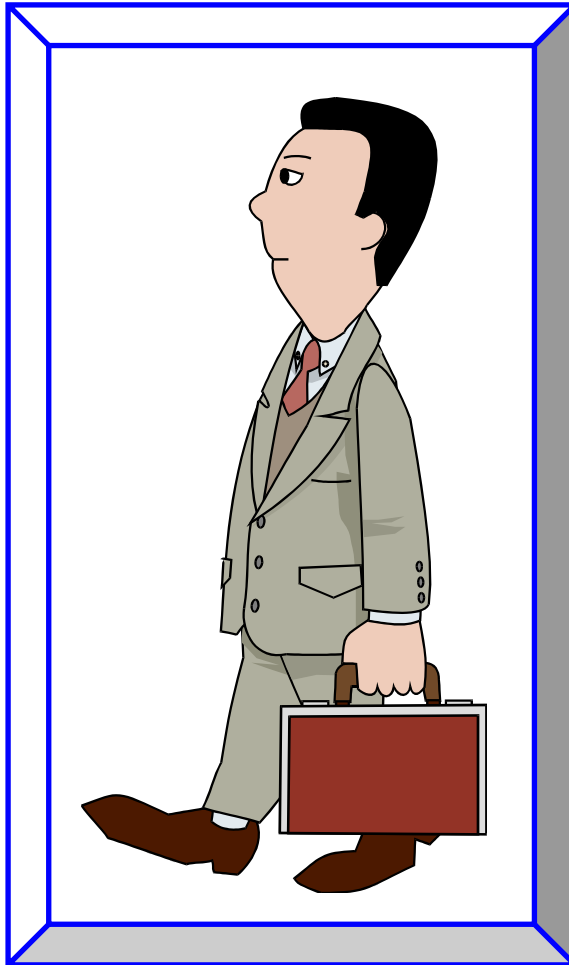


A model is a view on a system

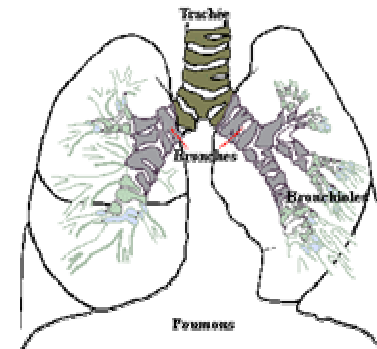
**A system**

repOf

**Several models  
of this system  
(partial views)**



Skeleton model

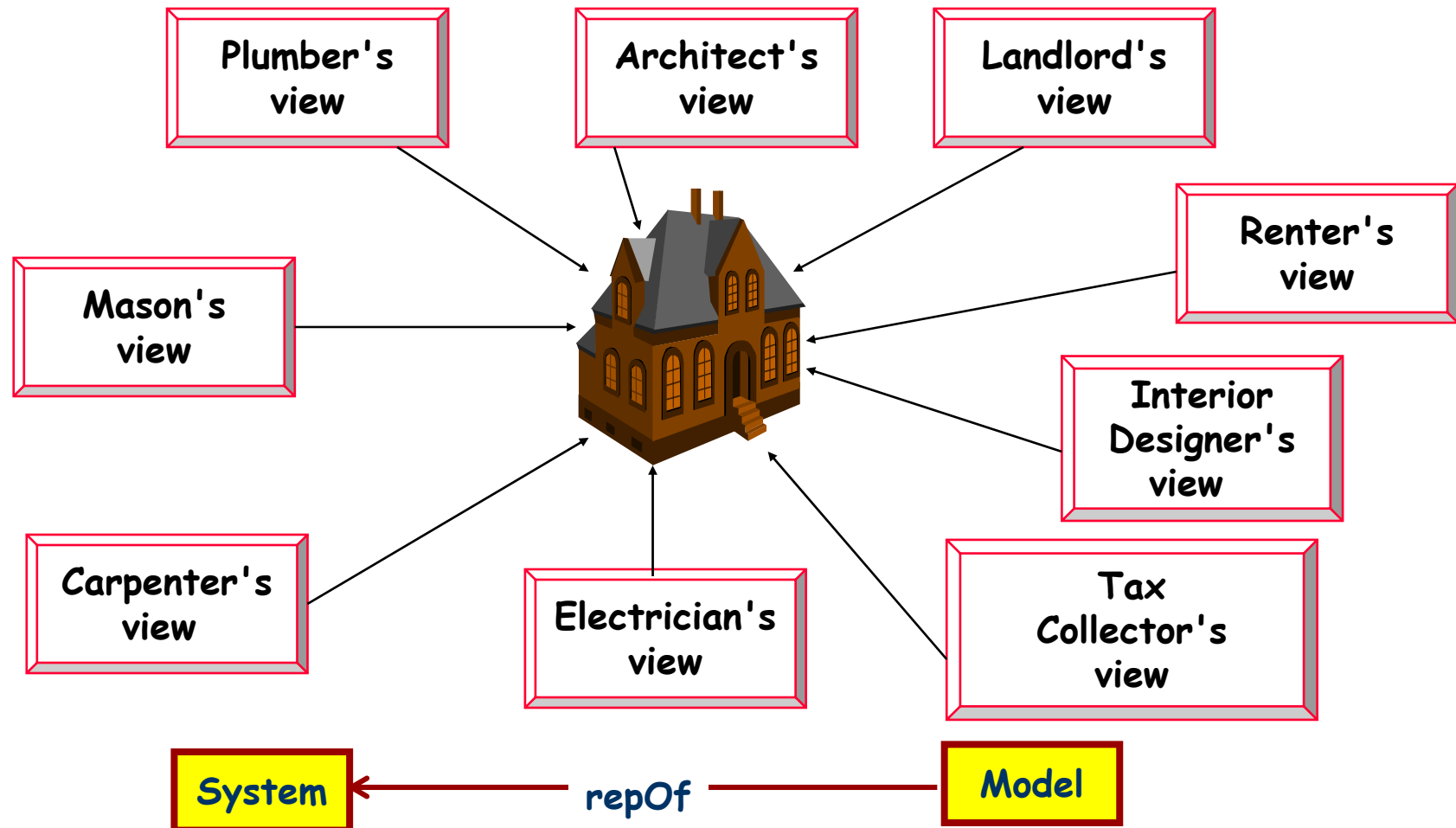


Respiratory model

Other  
Models  
muscular,  
nervous,  
circulatory,  
digestive,  
endocrinous,  
etc.

## Multiple views and **coordinated** DSLs

Each view is expressed in a given domain language;  
Vocabularies of different corporations are different;  
However they allow talking about a common building.



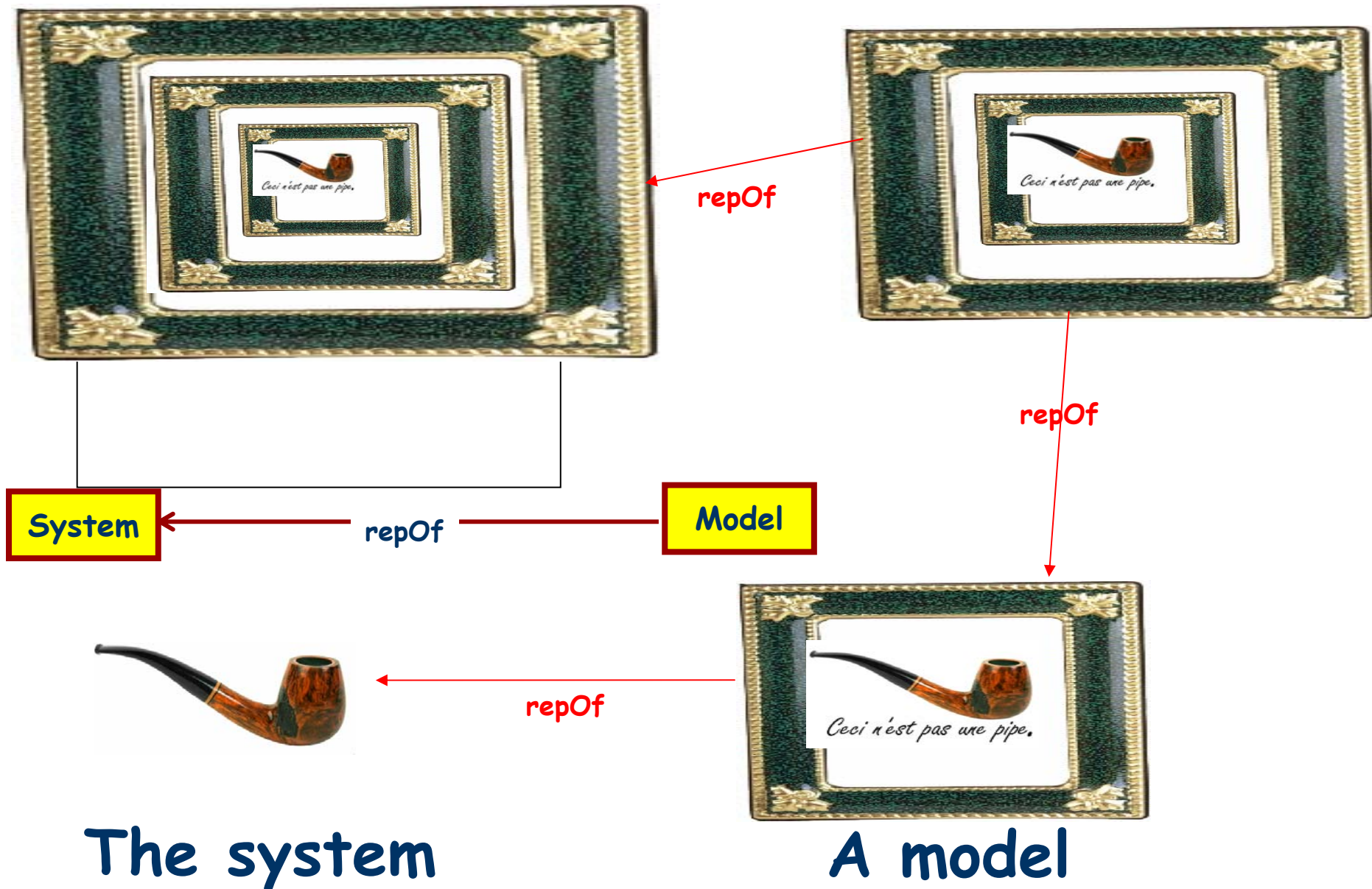
Don't confuse the model and the system

# This is not a pipe by Magritte



*Ceci n'est pas une pipe.*

## Don't confuse the model and the system



## Model of a model

# *The Correspondence Continuum*

## I Consider:

*A photo of a landscape is a model with the landscape (its subject matter);*

*A photocopy of the photo is a **model of a model** of the landscape;*

*A digitization of the photocopy is a model of the model of the model of the landscape... etc.*

## I Meaning is rarely a simple mapping from symbol to object; instead, it often involves a **continuum of (semantic) correspondences** from symbol to (symbol to) \* object [Smith87]

*Data Semantics Revisited:  
Databases and the Semantic Web*

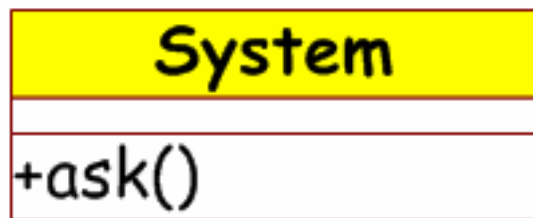
*John Mylopoulos  
University of Toronto*

*DASFAA'04, March 17-19, 2004  
Jeju Island, Korea*

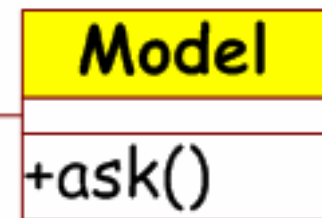
The globe is a model of the earth



repOf



repOf





## The globe is a model of the earth

- Allowing to ask certain questions ...

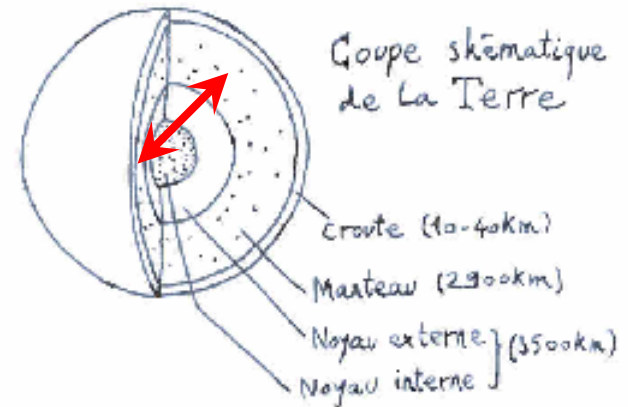
Could I walk from  
Brest to San Francisco  
without using a boat?



- But not others

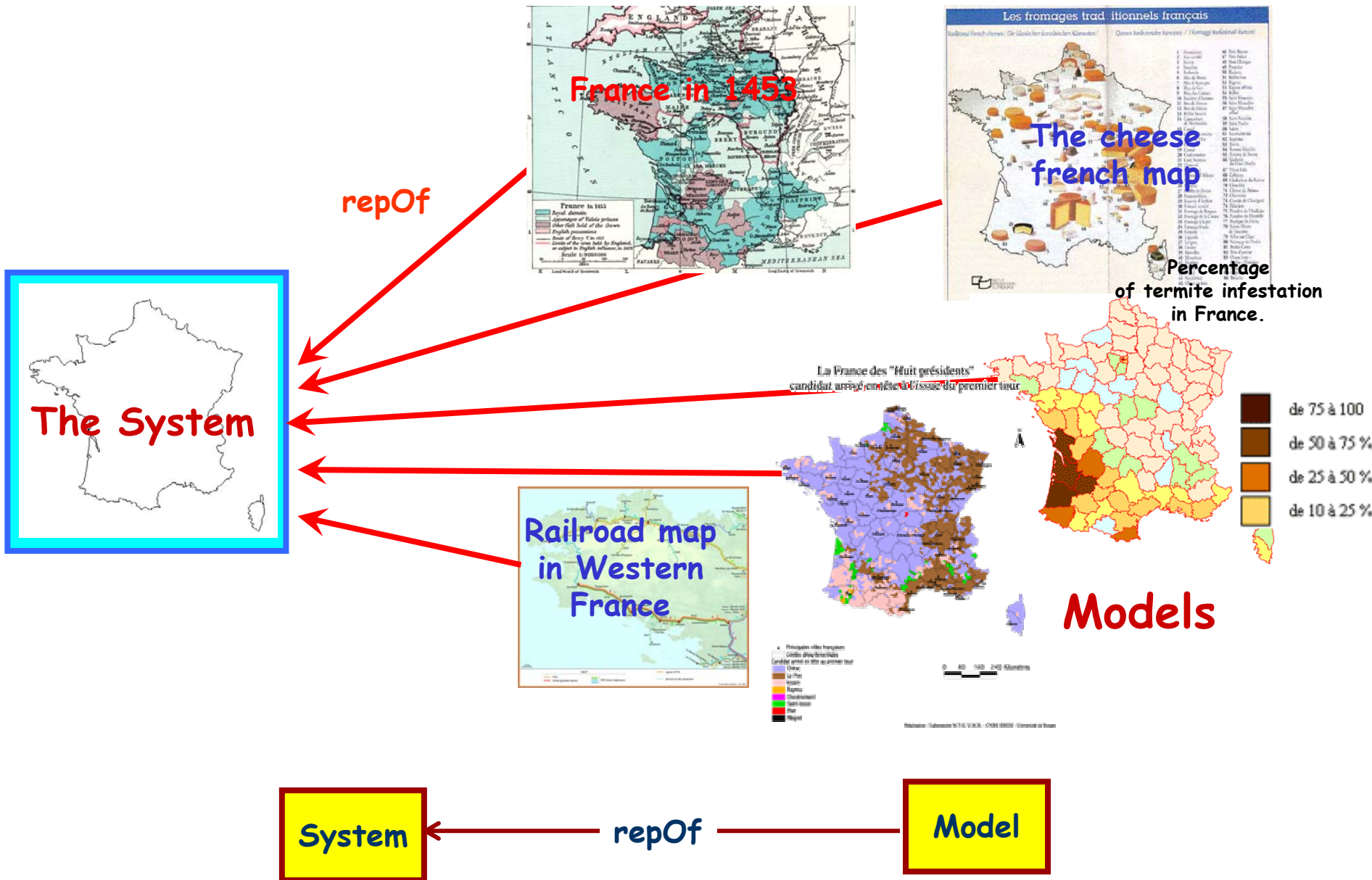


What is the  
temperature  
at the bottom  
if a dig a  
100 km deep hole  
at the surface of  
the earth ?



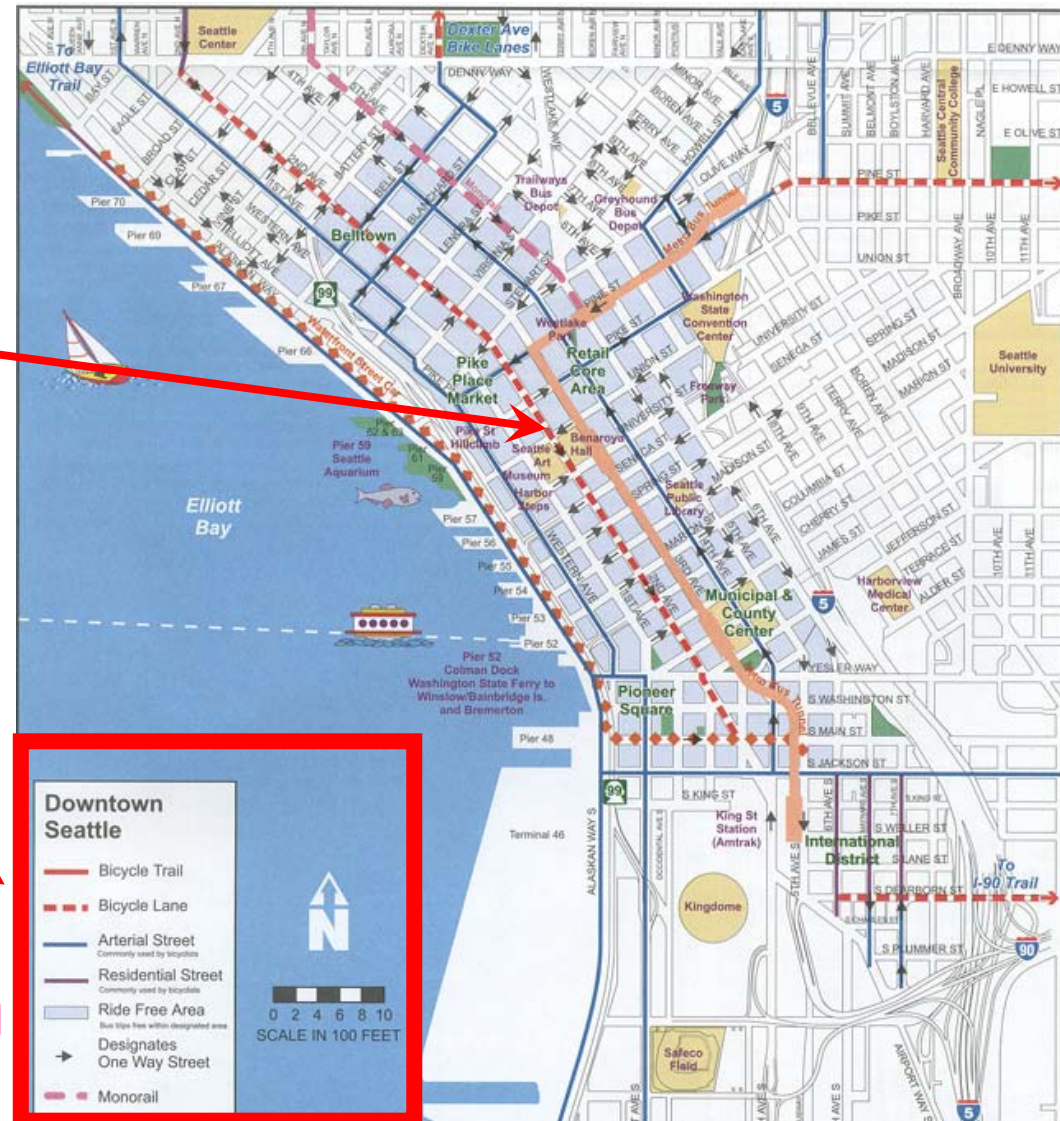
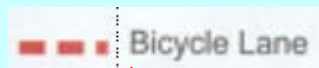


## A very popular model: geographical maps



## Every map has a legend (implicit or explicit)

Same visual notation,  
different context,  
different meaning  
(Thick red  
dotted lines  
for bicycle lanes)

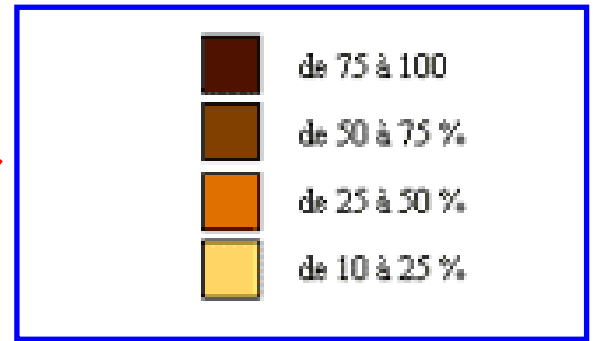
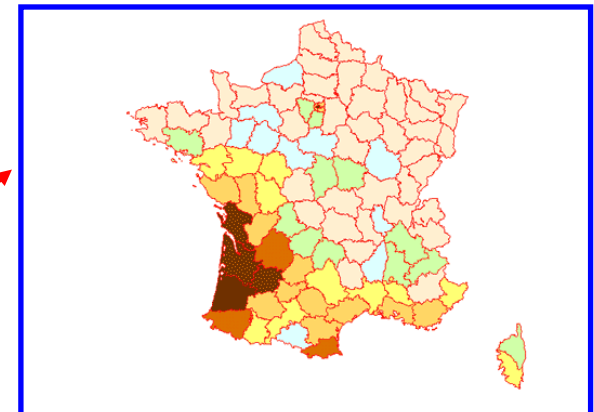
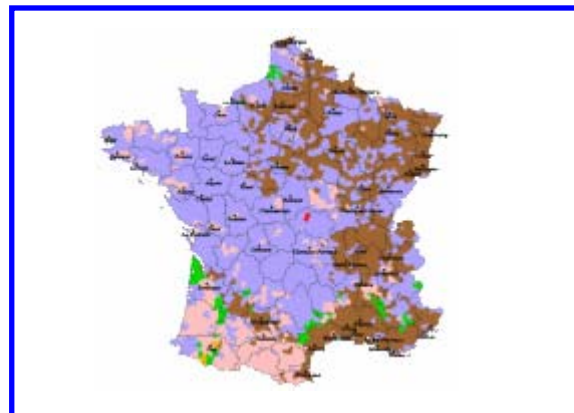


The legend  
is the metamodel

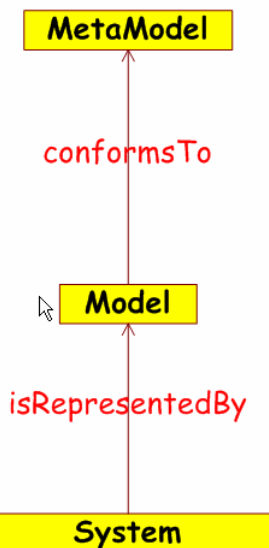
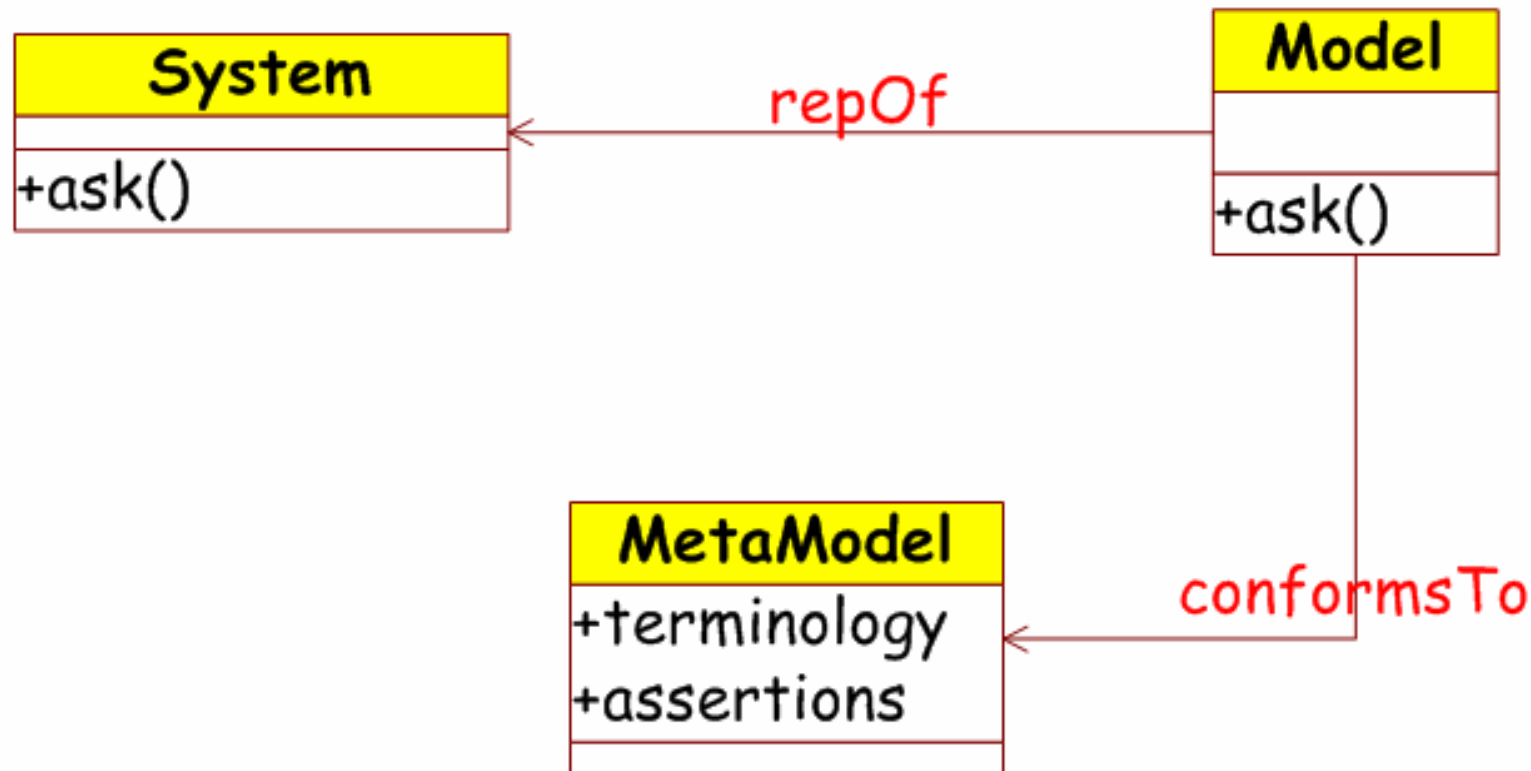
a Model has no meaning when separated from its metamodel

First round of political election in France in 2002.

Percentage of places infested by termites in France.

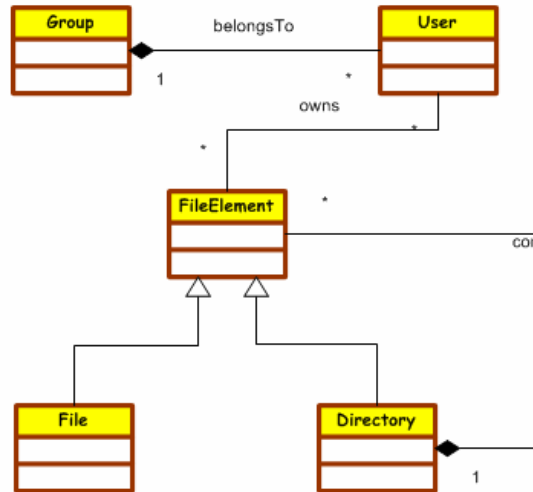


The legend is a metamodel



```

class(Group);
class(User);
class(FileElement);
class (File);
class (Directory);
association(belongsTo,User*,Group)
association(owns,User,FileElement*)
association(contains,Directory,FileElement*)
inherits(File,FileElement);
inherits(Directory,FileElement);
    
```



```

meta(Student,Group);
meta(Teacher,Group);
meta(Bob,User);
meta(Jim,User);
meta(Esther,User);
meta(Mary,User);
meta(F1,File);
meta(F2,File);
meta(F3,File);
meta(F4,File);
meta(F5,File);
meta(D1,Directory);
meta(D2,Directory);
meta(D3,Directory);
    
```

```

belongsTo(Esther,Teacher);
belongsTo(Mary,Teacher);
belongsTo(Jim,Student);
belongsTo(Bob,Student);
owns(Esther,D1);
owns(Esther,F1);
contains(D1,F1);
owns(Mary,D2);
owns(Mary,F2);
contains(D2,F2);
owns(Bob,D3);
owns(Bob,F3);
contains(D3,F3);
contains(D2,D3);
owns(Jim,F4);
owns(Jim,F5);
contains(D1,F4);
contains(D2,F5);
    
```

**The Metamodel**

**A Model**



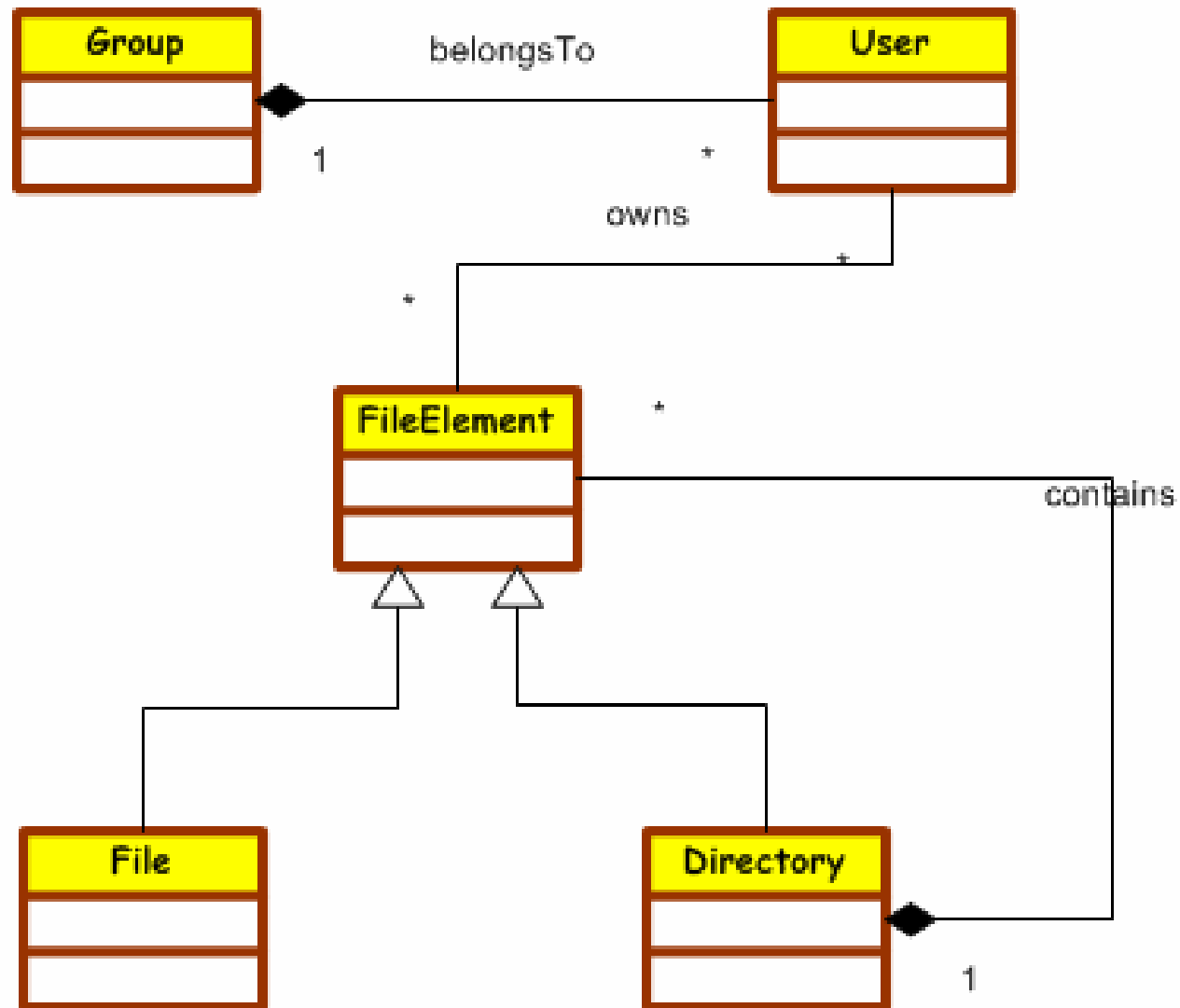
**The System S**



## The metamodel

```
class (Group);  
class (User);  
class (FileElement);  
class (File);  
class (Directory);  
association (belongsTo, User*, Group)  
association (owns, User, FileElement*)  
association (contains, Directory, FileElement*)  
inherits (File, FileElement);  
inherits (Directory, FileElement);
```

## The metamodel (another representation)



## Limited Substitutability Principle

- The purpose of a model is always to be able to answer some specific sets of questions in place of the system, exactly in the same way the system itself would have answered similar questions.

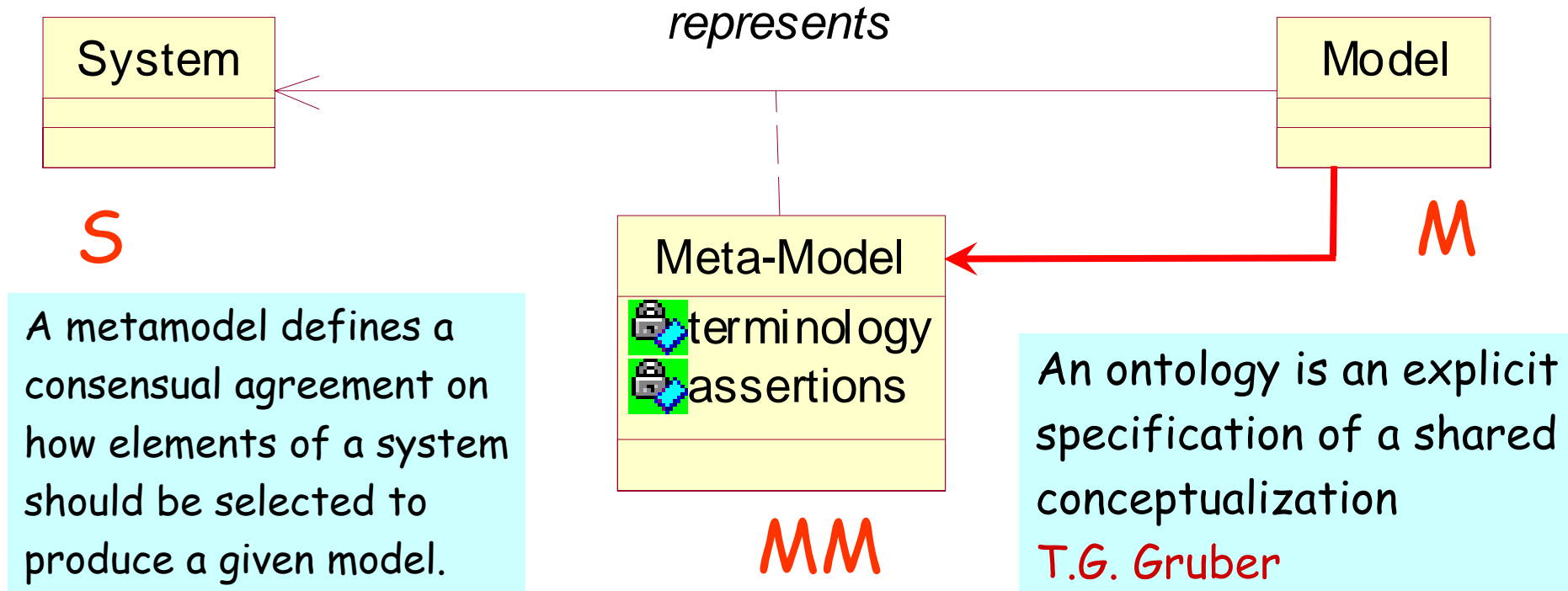


- A model represents certain specific aspects of a system and only these aspects, for a specific purpose.



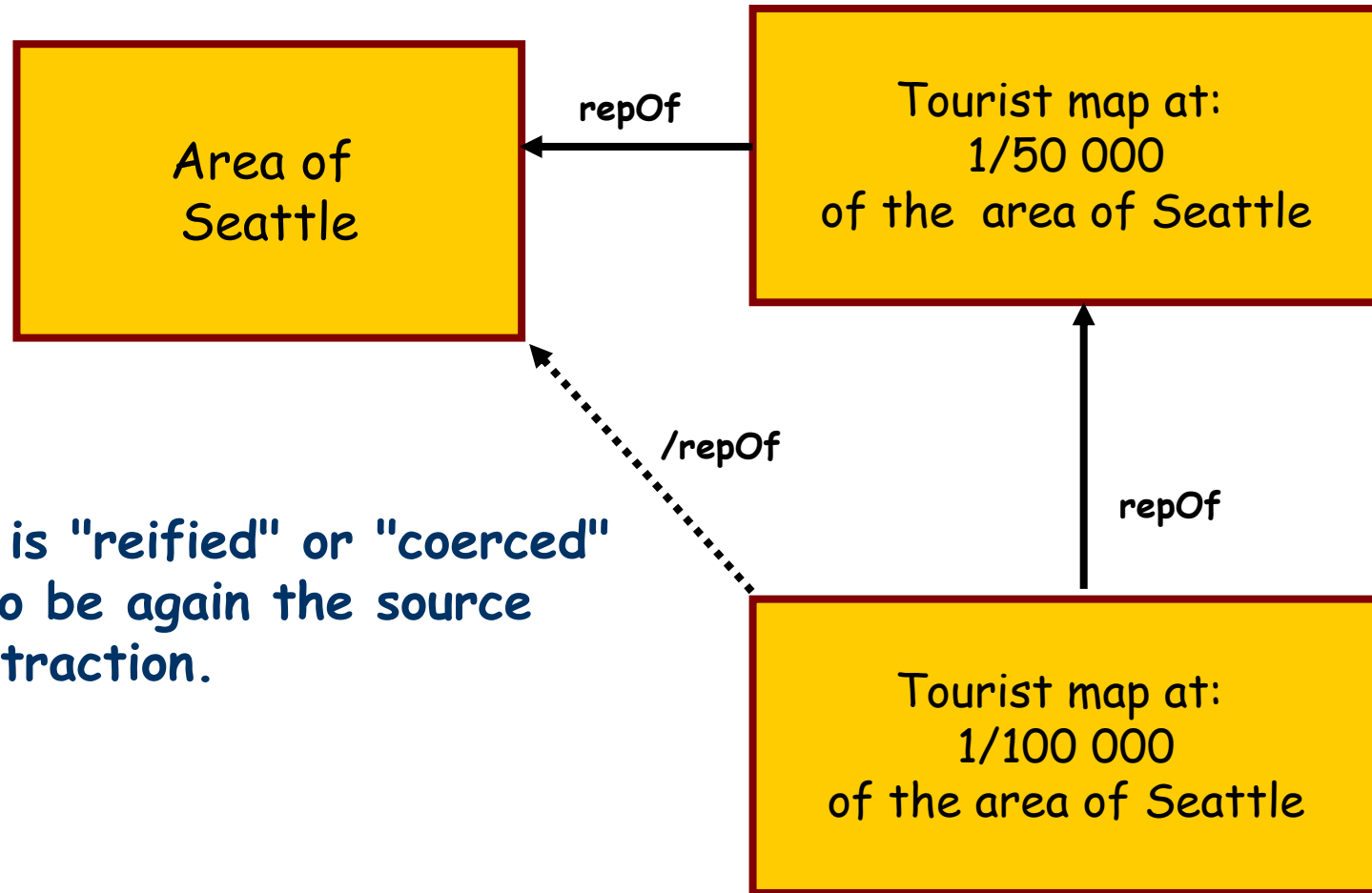
## Metamodels as simple ontologies

- Metamodels as precise abstraction filters.
- Each metamodel defines a DSL.
- Each metamodel is used to specify which particular "aspect" of a system should be considered to constitute the model.



The correspondence between a system and a model is precisely and computationally defined by a metamodel.

The model of a model is **not** a metamodel



Here a model is "reified" or "coerced" as a system to be again the source of a model extraction.

A map may represent a given territory with a **certain perspective**.

It has a certain scale, for example the map A of the Seattle area at 1/50 000.

If we take a map of the same area at a different scale, this may be considered either as a map B of the same Seattle territory or alternatively as a model of map A.

As illustrated, a model of a model may be thus apparently be a model.

## Lewis Carroll and the 1:1 map

"That's another thing we've learned from *your* Nation," said Mein Herr, "map-making. But we've carried it much further than you. What do you consider the *largest* map that would be really useful?"

"About six inches to the mile."

"Only *six inches!*" exclaimed Mein Herr. "We very soon got to six *yards* to the mile. Then we tried a *hundred* yards to the mile. And then came the grandest idea of all! We actually made a map of the country, on the scale of *a mile to the mile!*"

"Have you used it much?" I enquired.

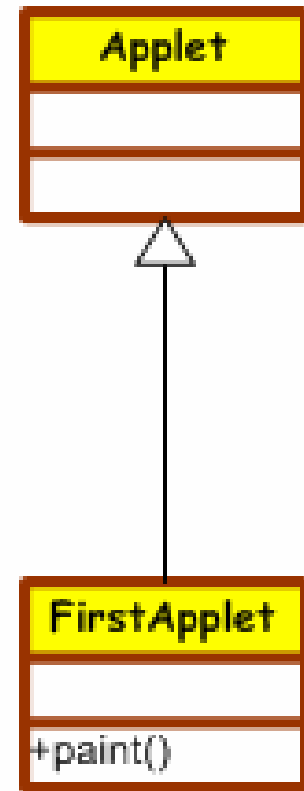
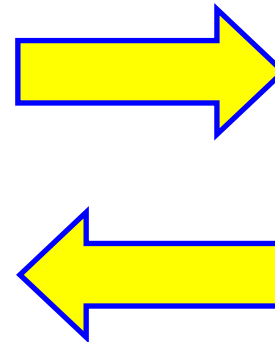
"It has never been spread out, yet," said Mein Herr: "the farmers objected: they said it would cover the whole country, and shut out the sunlight! So we now use the country itself, as its own map, and I assure you it does nearly as well."

Lewis Carroll, *Sylvie and Bruno concluded* (London, 1893)

See also J.-L. Borges, J. François, and more recently Umberto Eco.

# UML is not a graphical syntax for C++ or Java

```
import java.applet.*;  
import java.awt.*;  
  
public class FirstApplet extends Applet {  
    public void paint (Graphics g) {  
        g.drawString("Hello World",25, 50);  
    }  
}
```



There is no one to one canonical correspondence.

## Lewis Carroll and the blank map

He had bought a large map representing the sea,  
Without the least vestige of land:  
And the crew were much pleased when they found it to be  
A map they could all understand.  
"What's the good of Mercator's North Poles and Equators,  
Tropics, Zones, and Meridian Lines?"  
So the Bellman would cry: and the crew would reply  
"They are merely conventional signs!  
"Other maps are such shapes, with their islands and capes!  
But we've got our brave Captain to thank:  
(So the crew would protest) "that he's bought us the best--  
A perfect and absolute blank!"

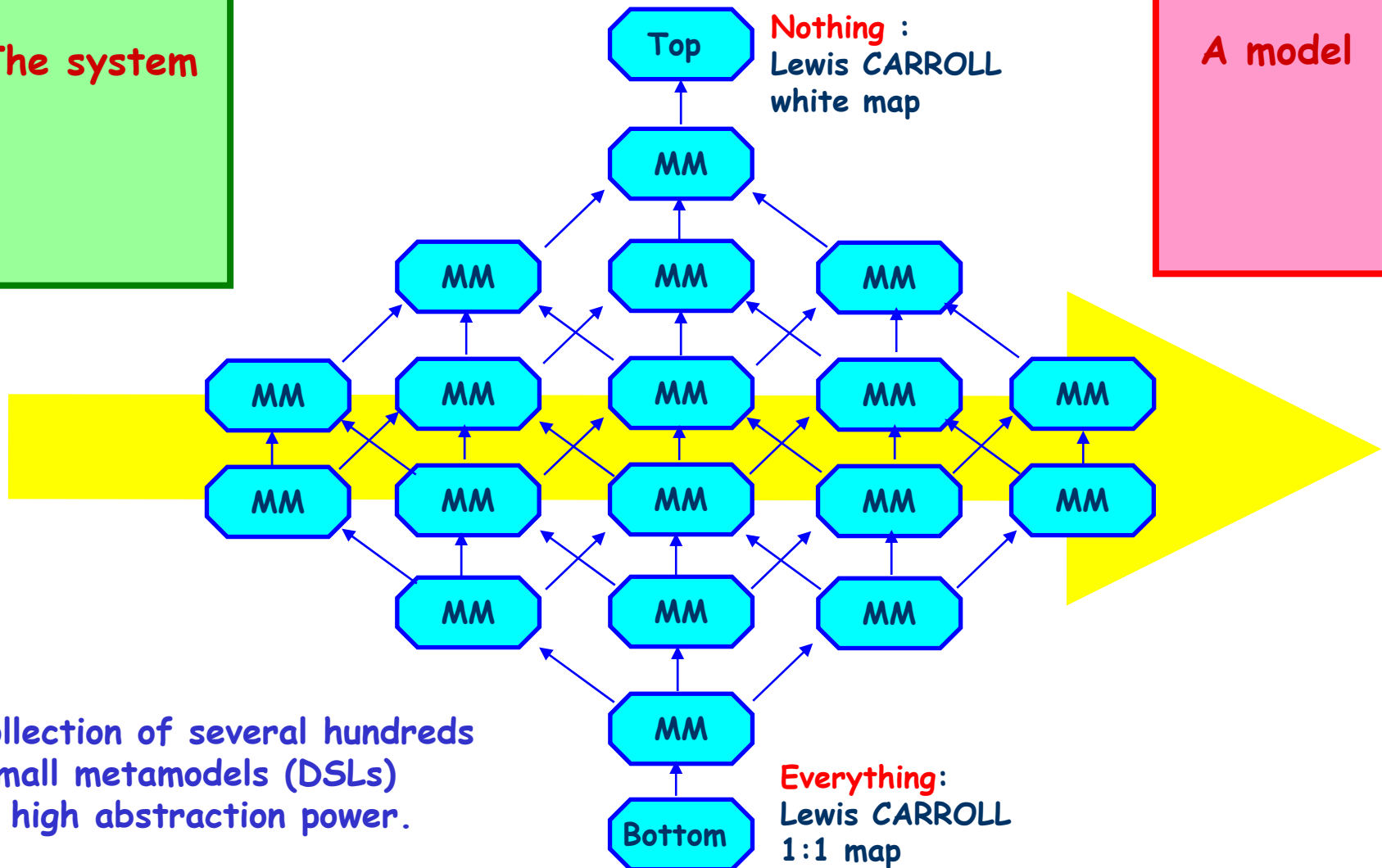


THE HUNTING OF THE SNARK  
an Agony in Eight Fits by Lewis Carroll

## A "lattice" of metamodels

The system

A model



A collection of several hundreds  
of small metamodels (DSLs)  
with high abstraction power.

Small is beautiful

"Inside every large metamodel  
is a small metamodel  
struggling to get out"

Paraphrasing Tony Hoare

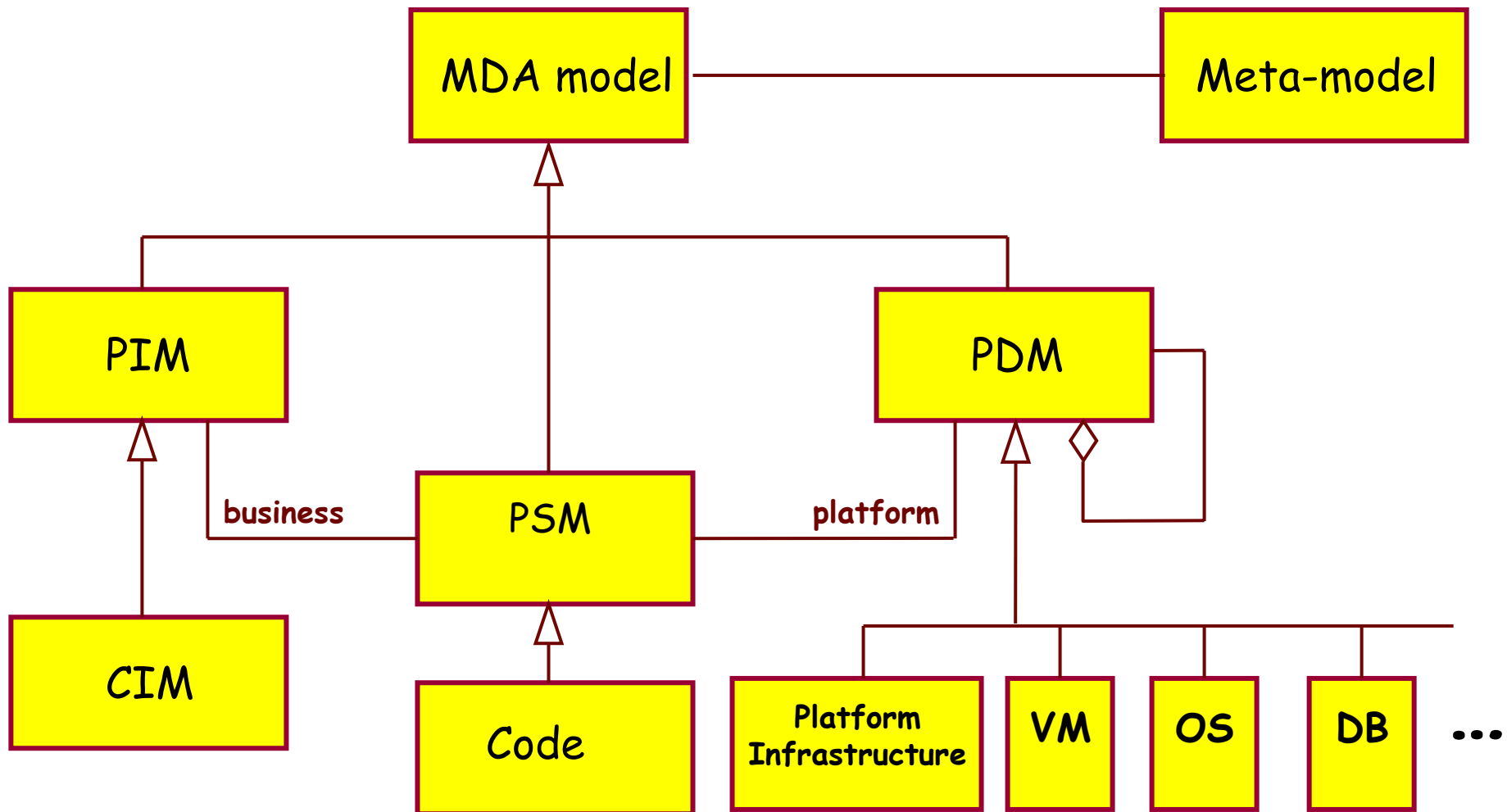
[Compare to UML 2.0 approach]

Research agenda: Everything is a model

- What is a model?
  - A model is a representation of a system
  - A model is written in the language of its unique metamodel
  - A metamodel is written in the language of its unique metamodel
    - The unique MMM of the MDA is the MOF
  - A model is a constrained directed labeled graph
  - A model may have a visual representation
- Where do models come from?
- What are the various kinds of models?

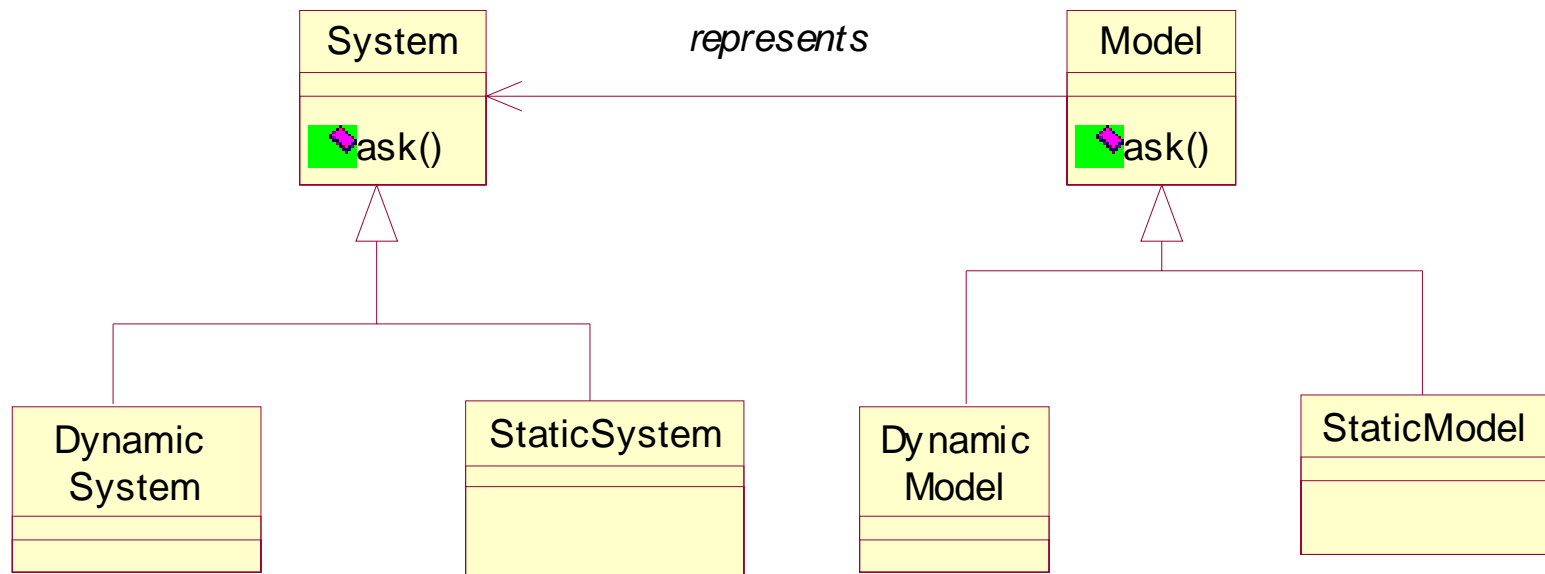


## A classification of explicit models (incomplete)



## Various kinds of models

- Products and processes
- Legacy and components
- Static and dynamic
- Functional and non-functional aspects
- Executable and non executable
- etc.

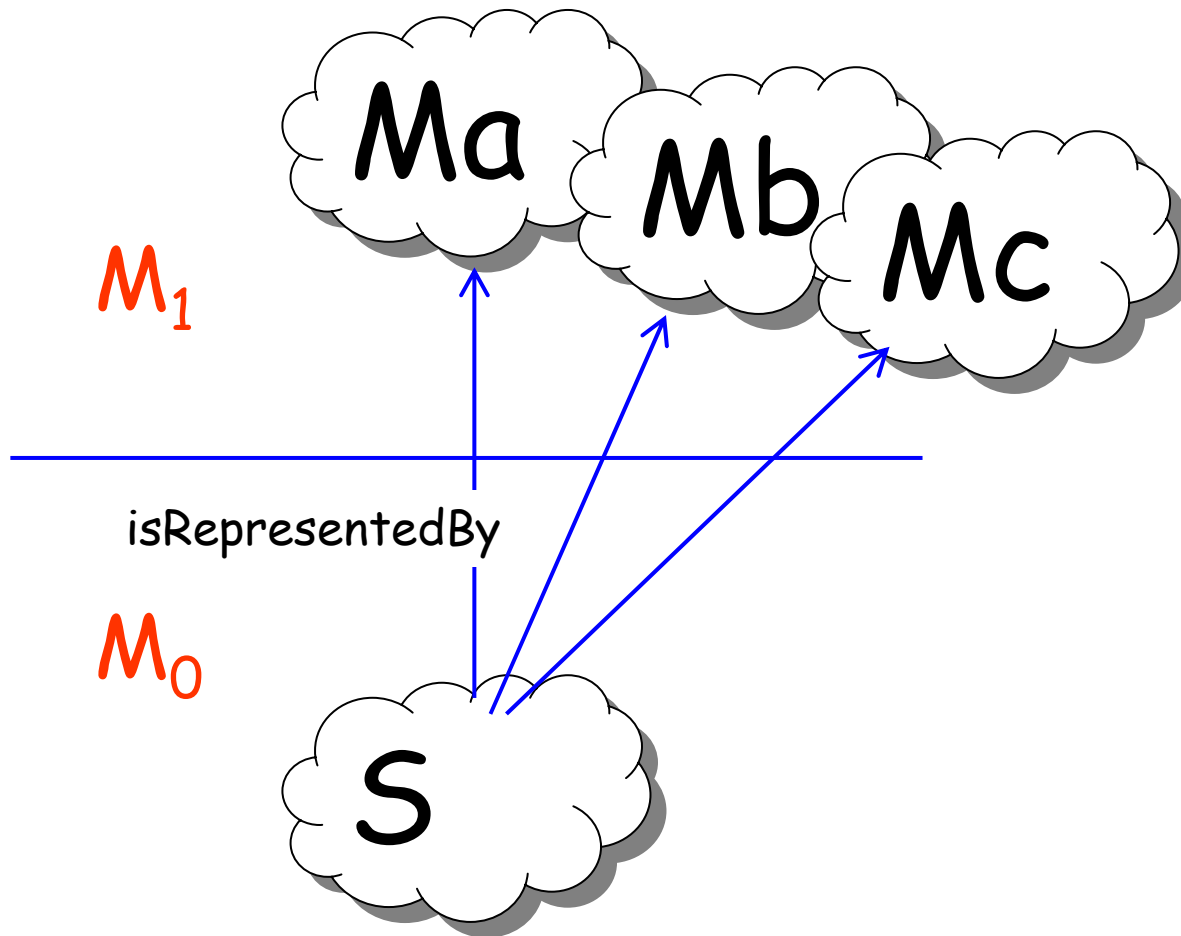


## MDA proposed R&D Agenda : "Everything is a model ..."

... (or may be converted into a model, or represents a model, or refers to a model, etc. ), not only PIMs and PSMs

1. A process is a model
2. A platform is a model
3. A transformation is a model
4. A system is a model
5. A metamodel is a model
6. A model-element is a model
7. A program is a model
8. An execution trace is a model
9. A measure is a model
10. A test is a model
11. A decoration is a model
12. An aspect is a model
13. A pattern is a model
14. A legacy system is a model
15. etc.

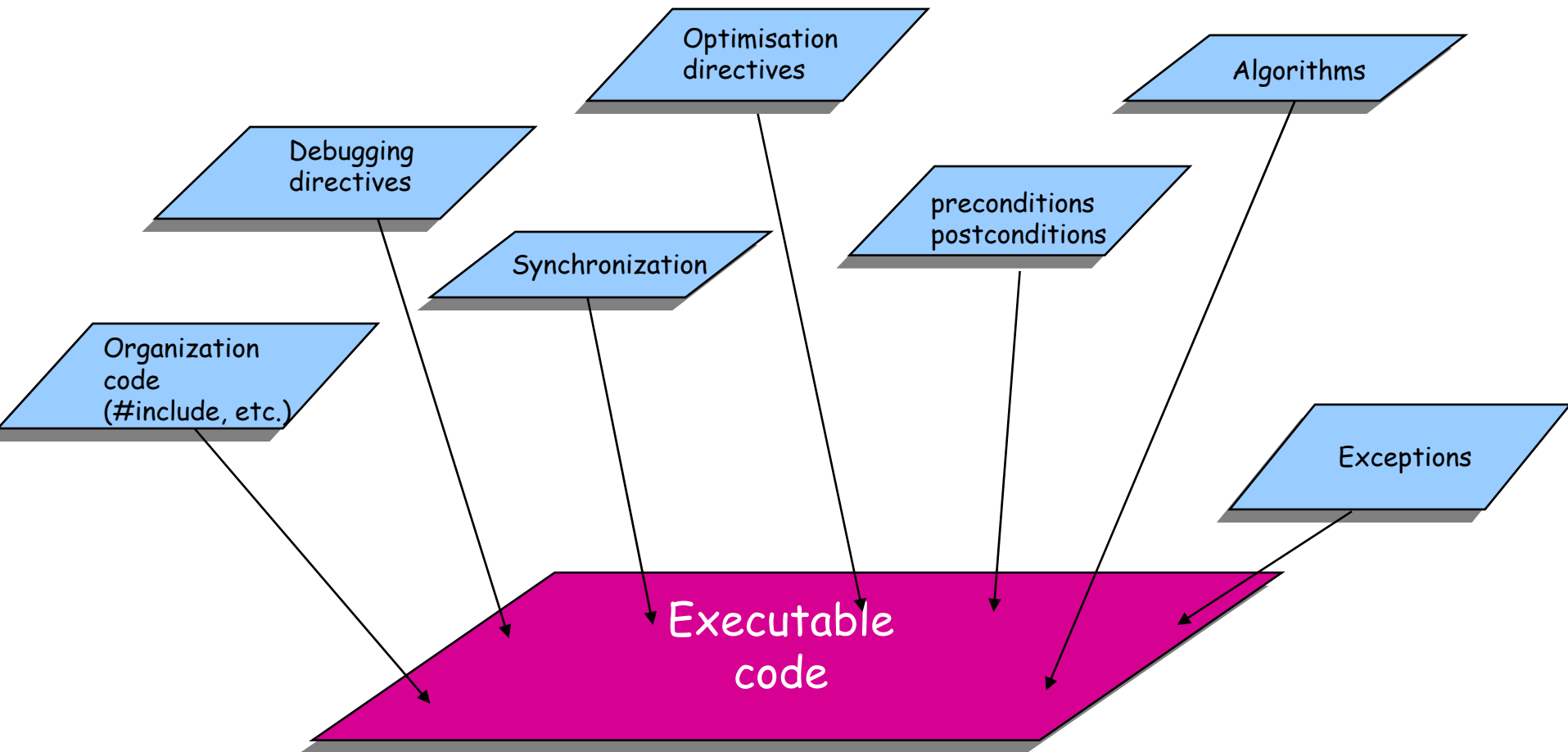
## Aspects as models



A given system may have plenty of different models.

Each model represents a given **aspect** of the system.

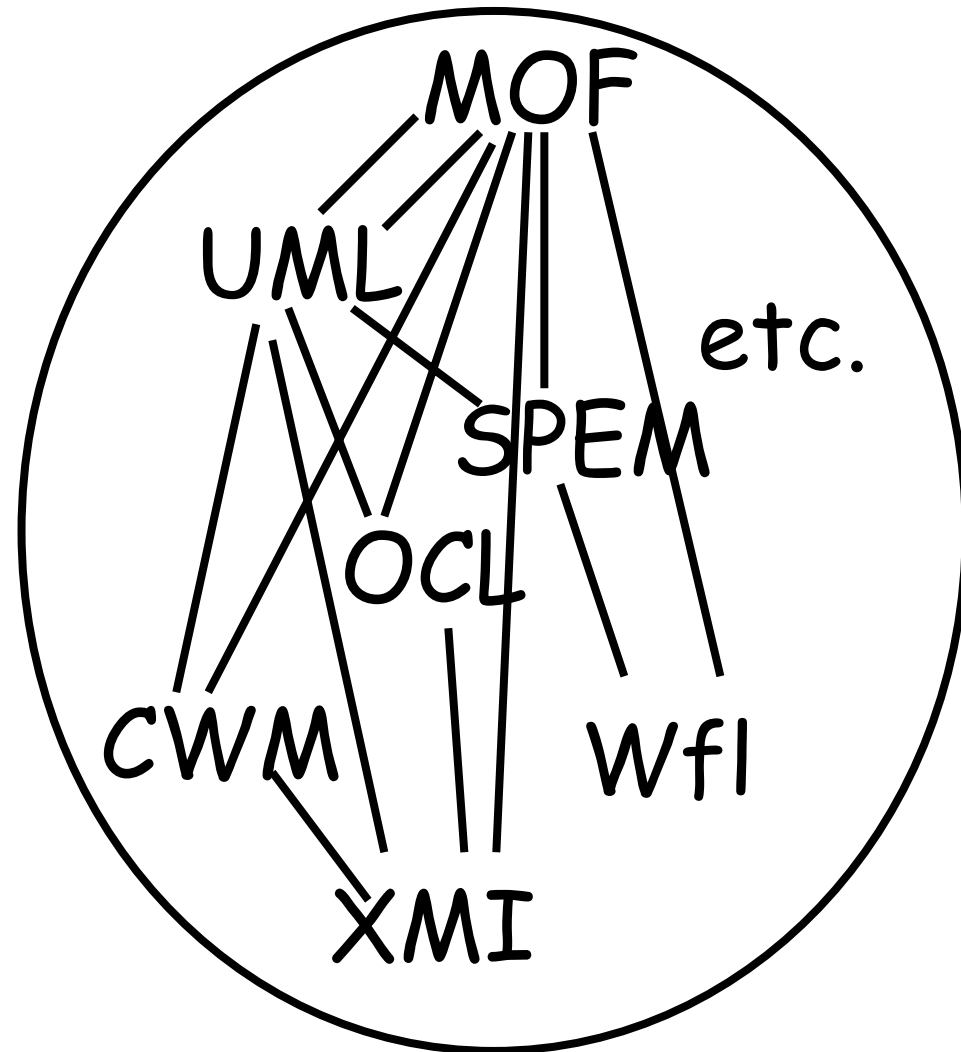
## An aspect is a model



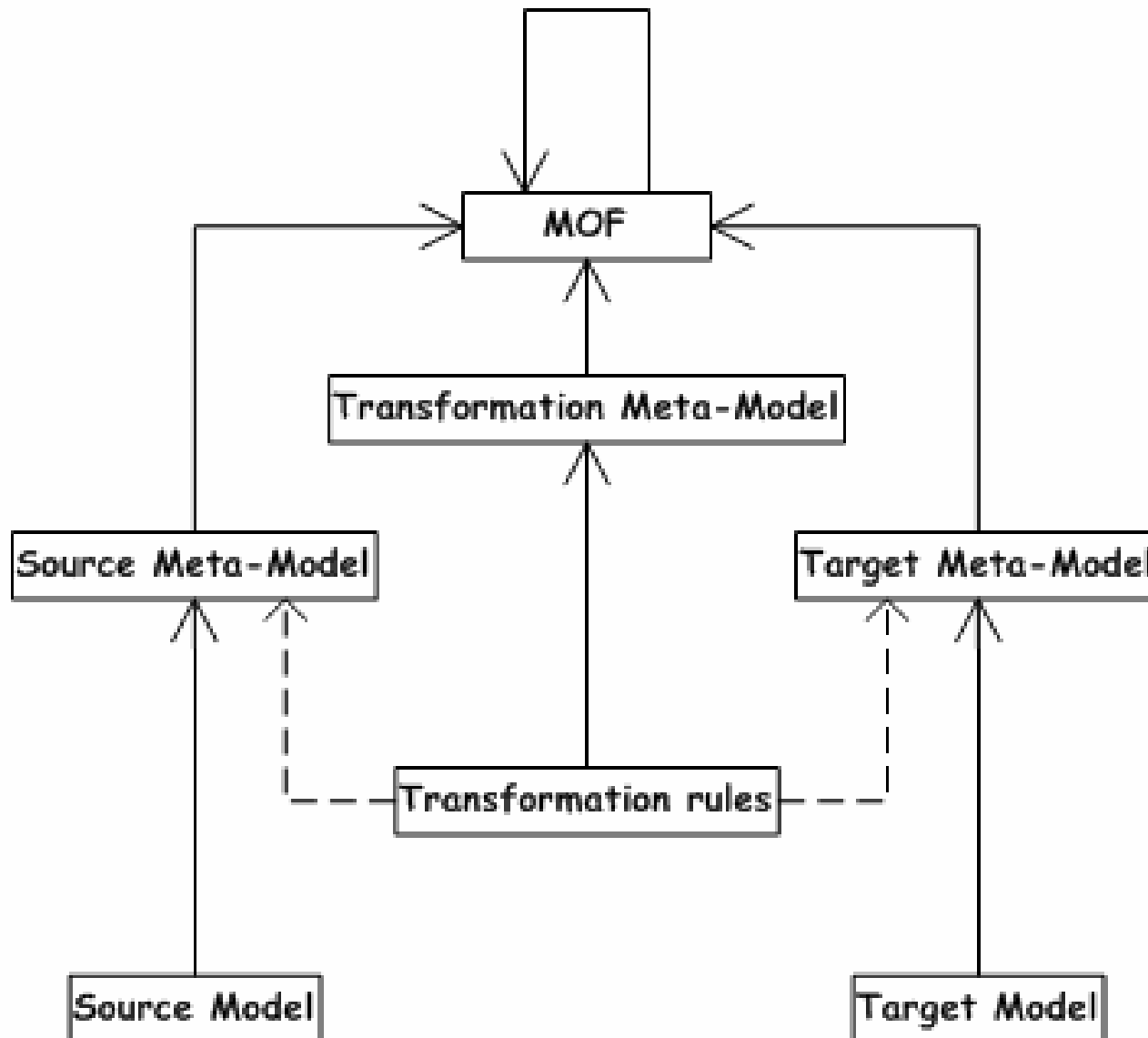
Relations between AOP and MDE mainly related to conveniency of representation systems.  
Aspect weaving and model weaving are two techniques with partially overlapping scope.

## Model elements as models

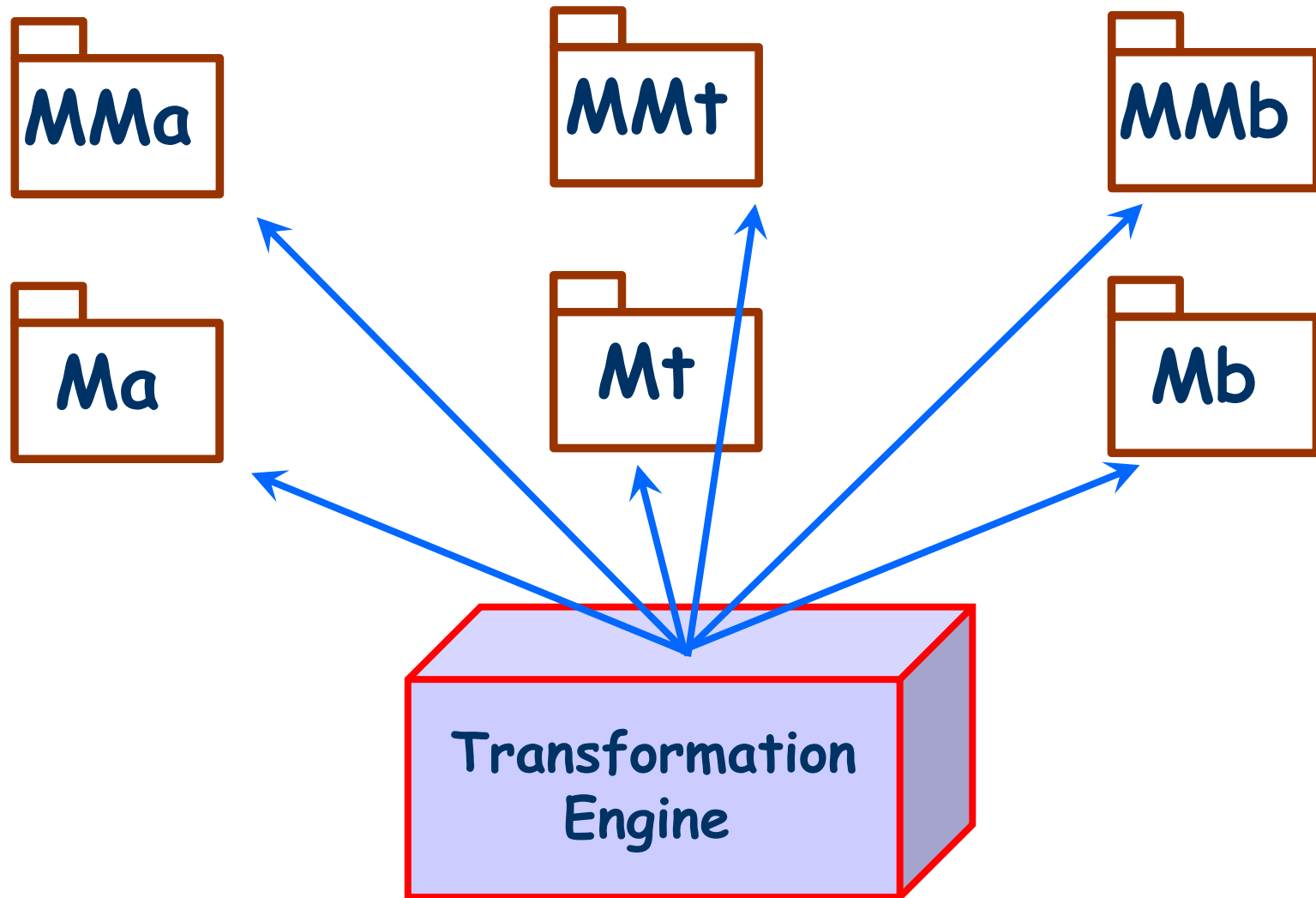
- Need global model and metamodel registries
- Need metadata on models and metamodels
- Need global view on global resources
- Modeling in the small and modeling in the large
- The notion of "megamodel"
  - Meta Object Facility (MOF)
  - Unified Modeling Language (UML)
  - XML Model Interchange (XMI)
  - Common Warehouse Meta-model (CWM)
  - Software Process Engineering Meta-model (SPEM)
  - Enterprise Distributed Object Computing (EDOC)
  - Corba Component Model (CCM)
  - Action Semantics Language (ASL)
  - Human Readable Textual Notation (HUTN)
  - Different UML profiles
  - ...



## Transformations as models



## Uniform access to models and metamodels





## ATL: a model transformation language, engine and IDE

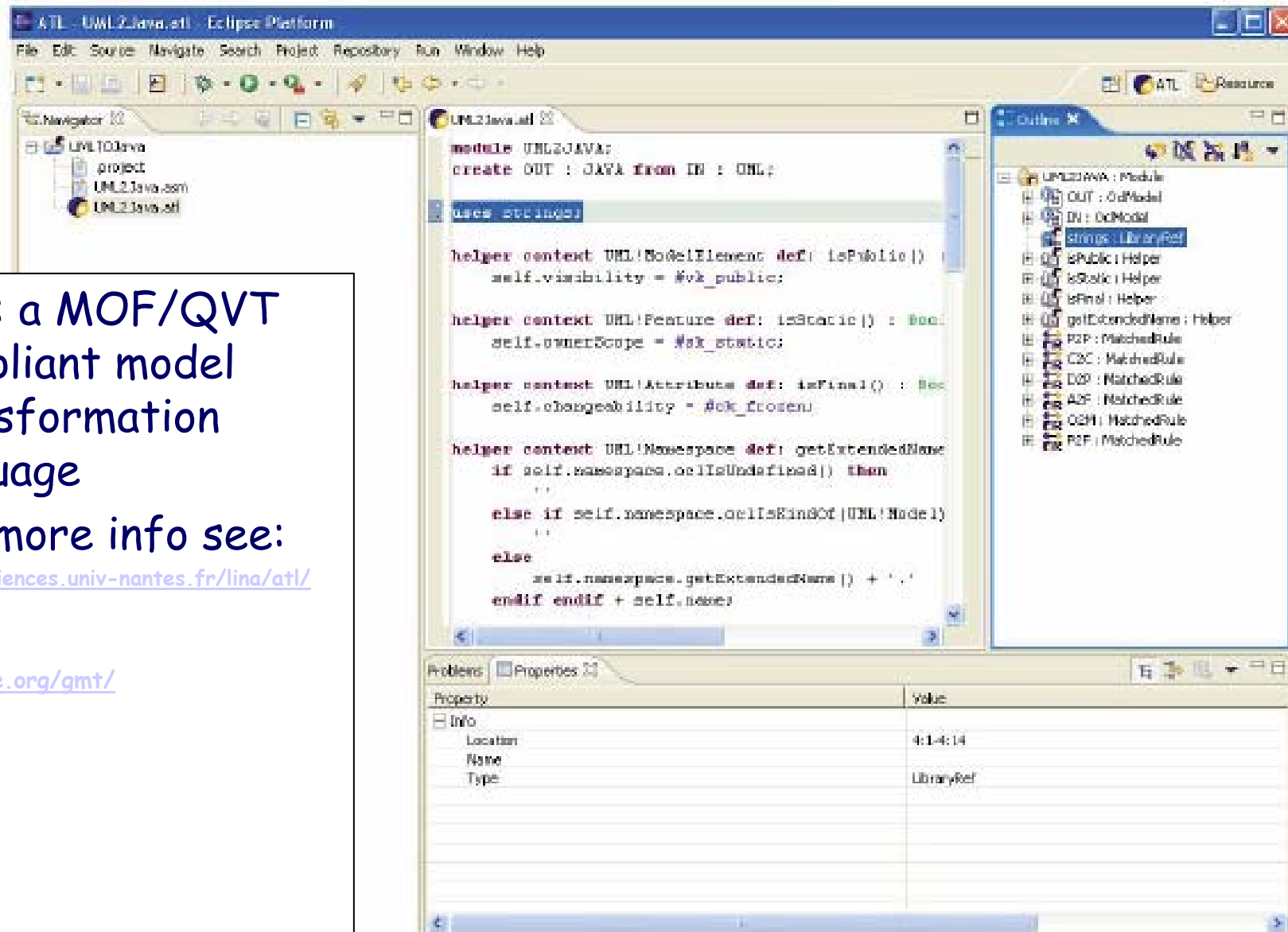
- ATL: a MOF/QVT compliant model transformation language

- For more info see:

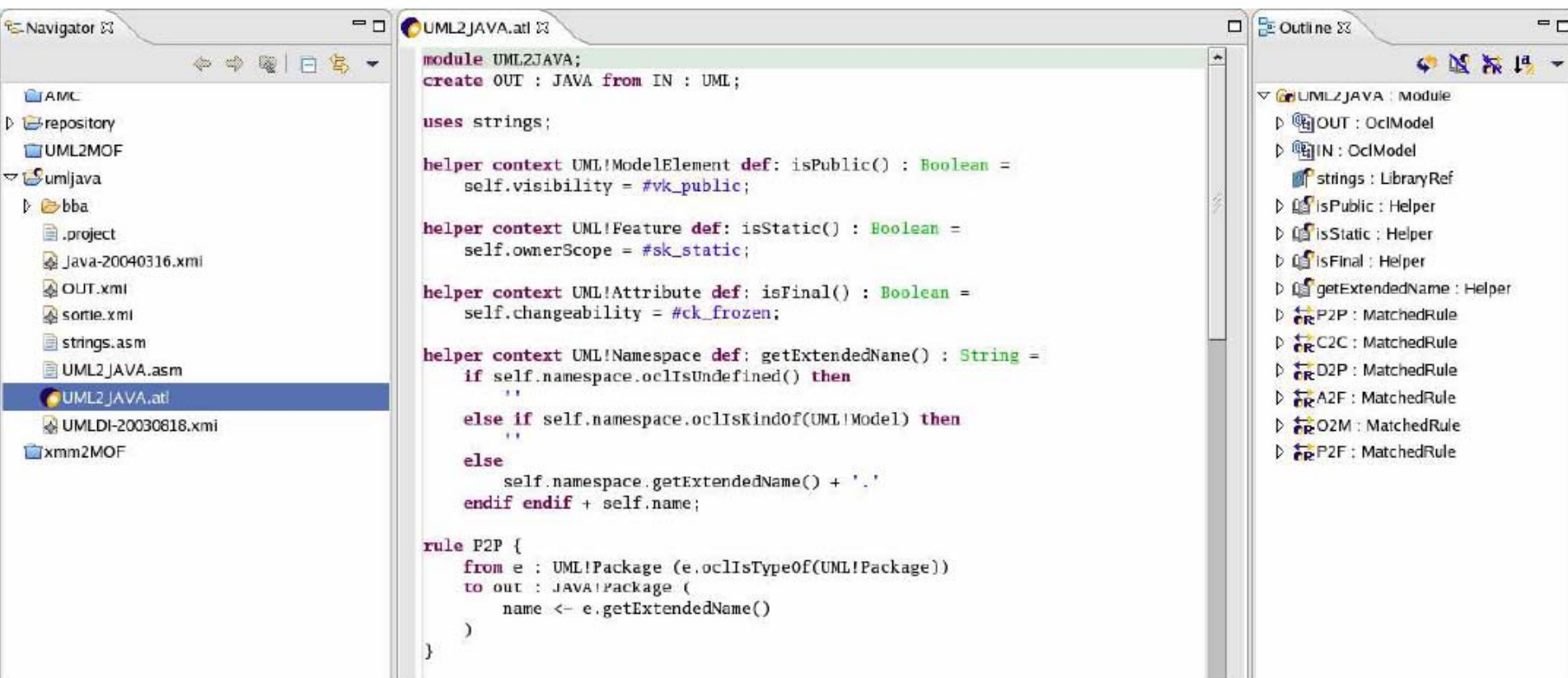
<http://www.sciences.univ-nantes.fr/lina/atl/>

- or

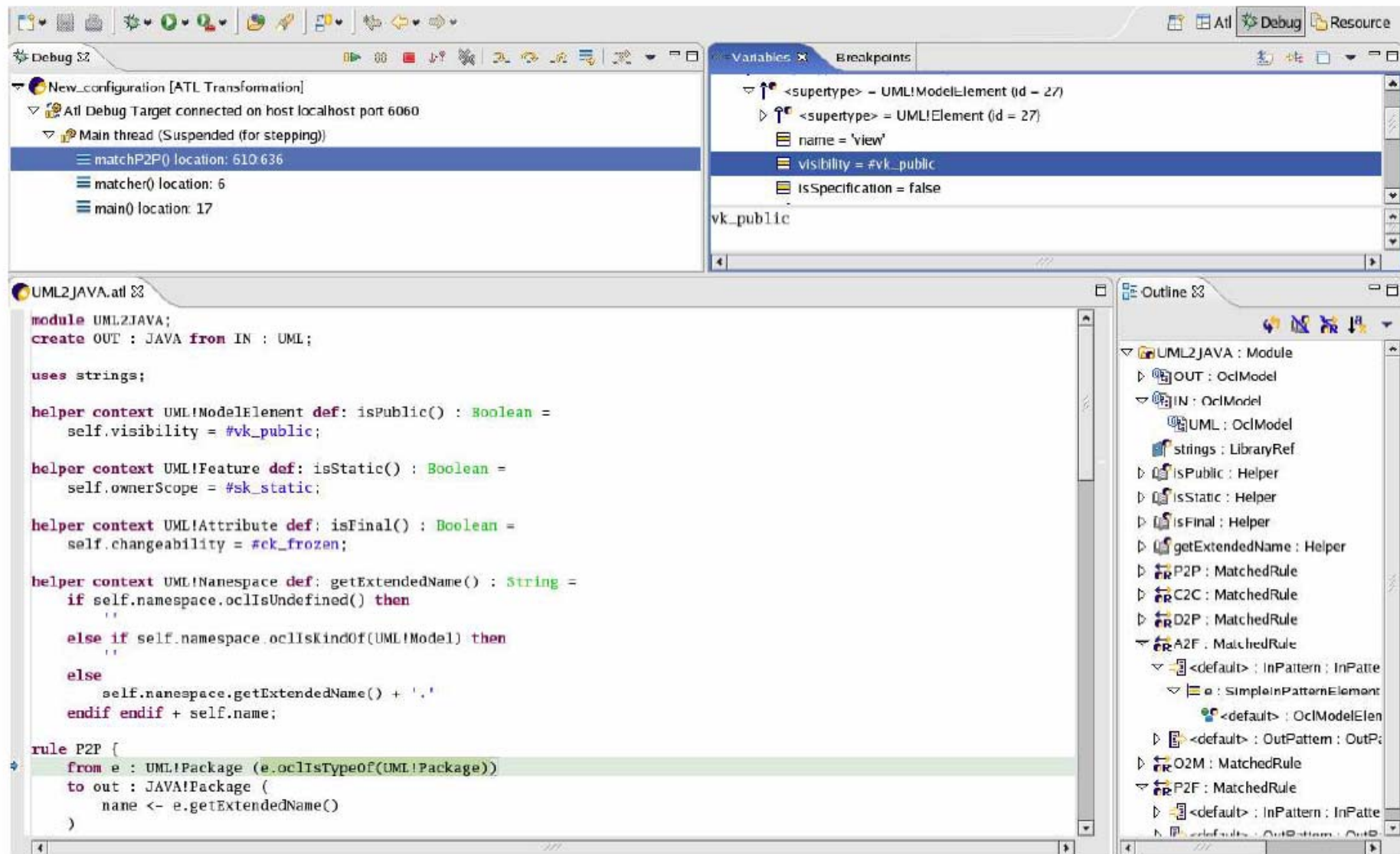
<http://eclipse.org/gmt/>



## ATL editor (part of ATL Integrated Development Environment)



ATL Editor with its content outline



ATL Debug perspective with the ATL Editor, Debug, Variable and Outline view

## A platform is a model

- It is not possible to define platform specific models without having defined precisely what a platform is.

### 2.2.7 Platform

*Examples:*

*Generic platform types*

*Object:* A platform that supports the familiar architectural style of objects with interfaces, individual requests for services, performance of services in response to those requests, and replies to the requests. [5]

*Batch:* A platform that supports a series of independent programs that each run to completion before the next starts.

*Dataflow:* A platform that supports a continuous flow of data between software parts.

*Technology specific platform types*

*CORBA:* An object platform that enables the remote invocation and event architectural styles. [formal-01-12-35]

*CORBA Components:* An object platform that enables a components and containers architectural style. [formal- - -]

*Java 2 Components:* Another platform that enables a components and containers style.

*Vendor specific platform types*

*CORBA:* Iona Orbix, Borland VisiBroker, and many others

*Java 2 Components:* BEA WebLogic Server, IBM WebSphere software platform, and many others

*Microsoft .NET*

## MDA Guide (Draft Version 0.2)

Document Number: ab/2003-01-03  
Date: 23 January, 2003

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Editors: Joaquin Miller and Jishnu Mukerji.

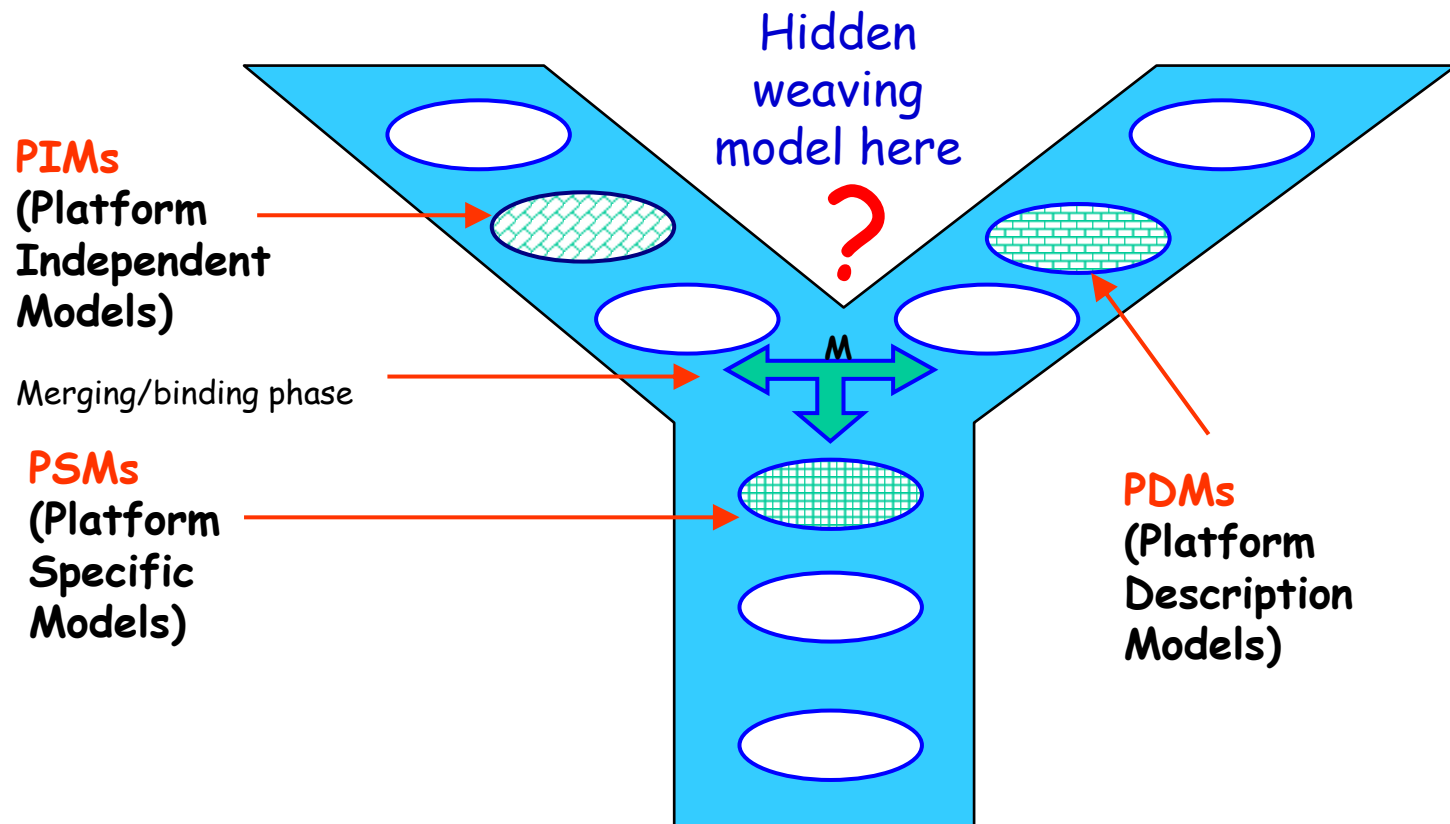


Figure 2-1 A platform

Many of the illustrations in this Guide use this icon to represent a platform.

## A correspondence is a model

- It is not possible to weave two models without having exactly defined the **weaving** model.

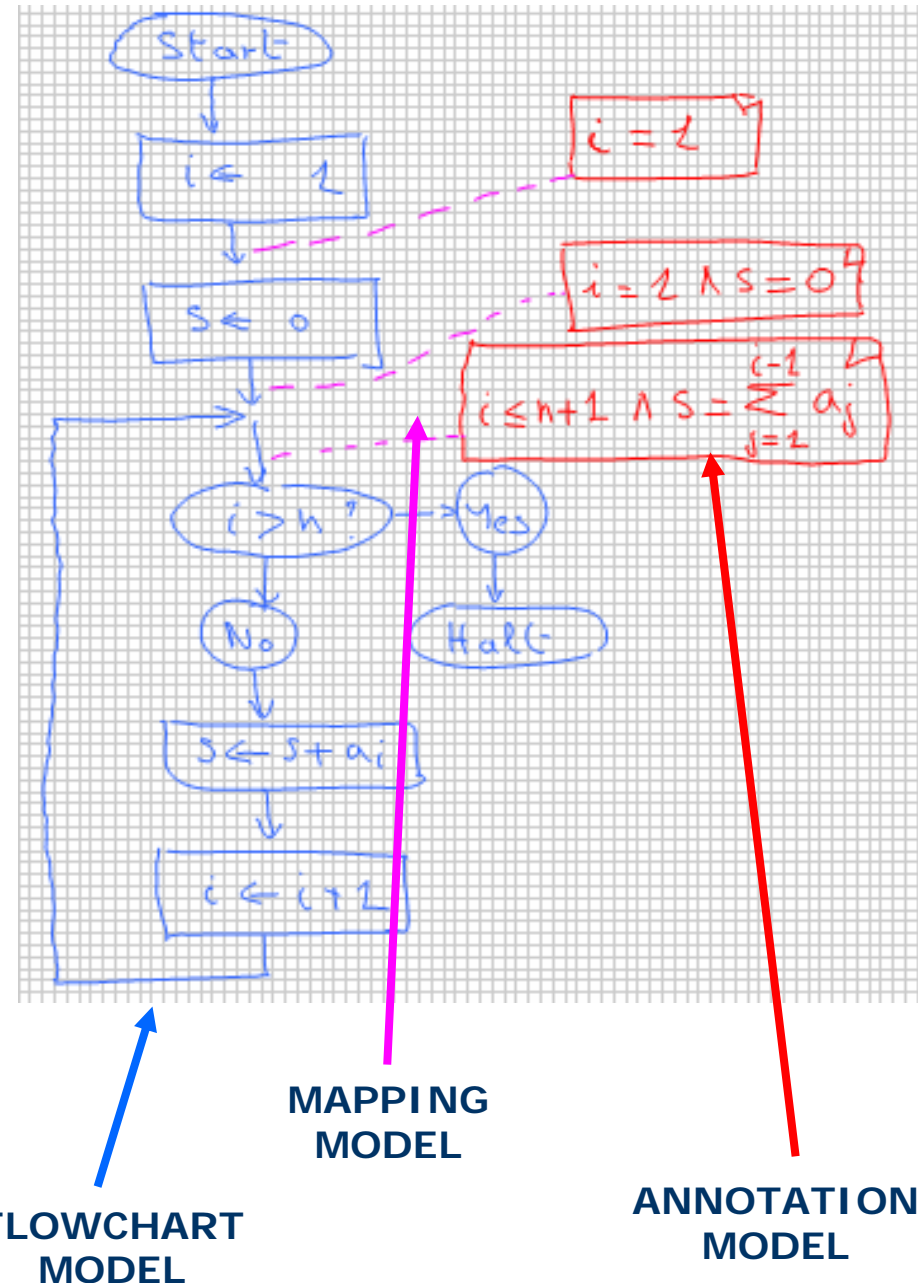


## Assigning meanings to models

- Floyd established the foundation of modern assertion techniques by proposing to decorate a program with specific annotations (pre and post conditions)
- "An interpretation  $I$  of a flowchart is a mapping of its edges on propositions"

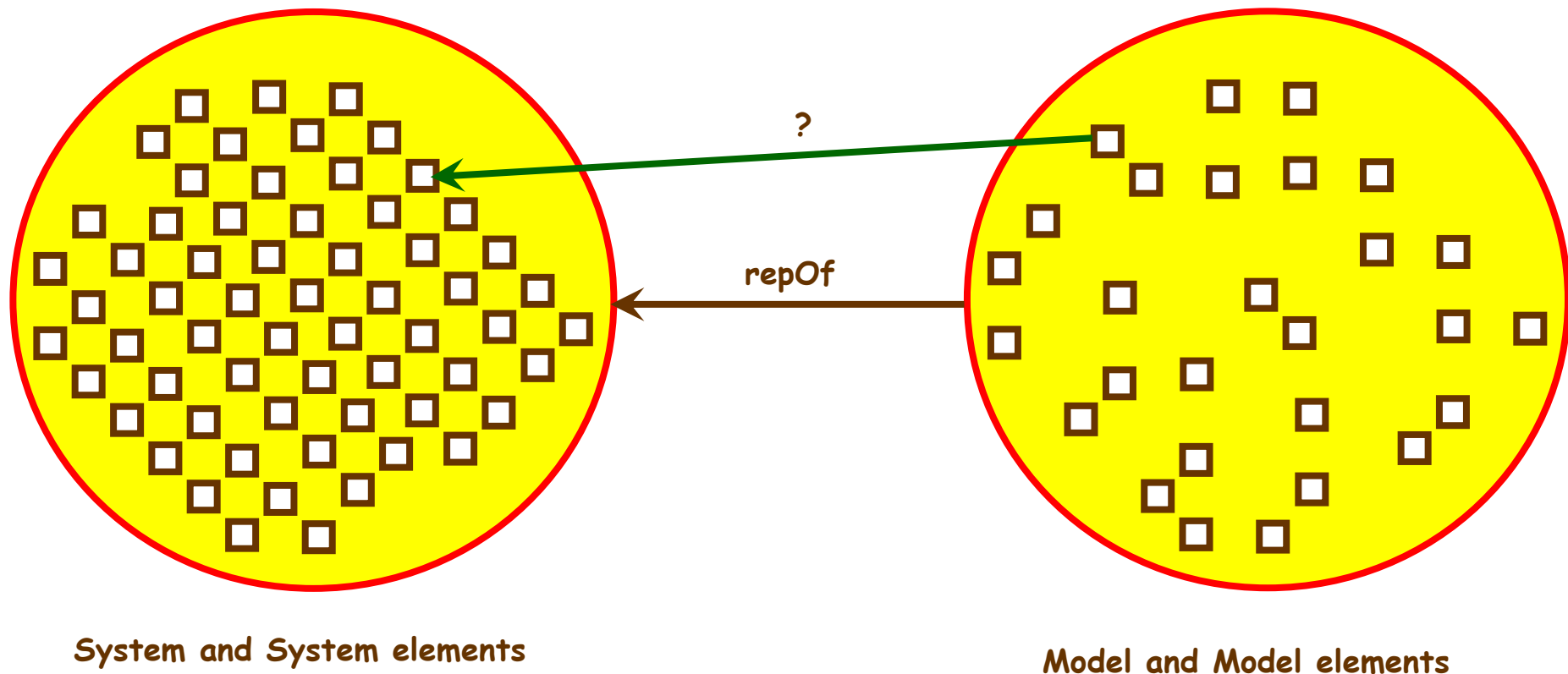
Robert W Floyd

"Assigning meanings to programs"  
Symposia in applied mathematics,  
1965





## The "representation" relation



Simple set interpretation of the *repOf* relation is probably as correct as simple set interpretation of the *instanceOf* relation in object technology.

On the *repOf* relation

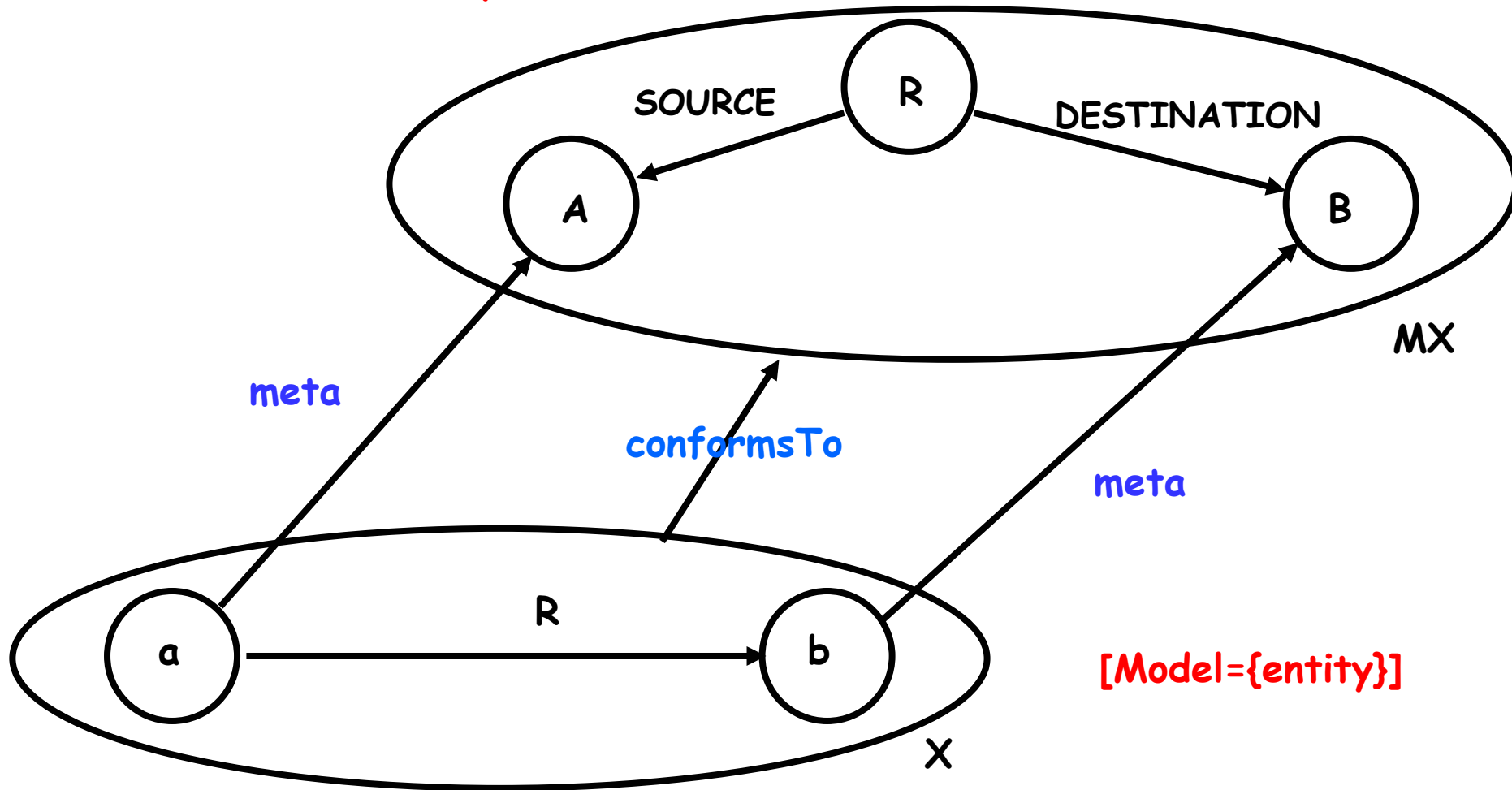
"What about the [relationship between model and real-world]? The answer, and one of the main points I hope you will take away from this discussion, is that, at this point in intellectual history, we have no theory of this [...] relationship."

Cantwell Smith, B. Limits of Correctness in Computers, Report CSLI-85-36,  
Center for the Study of Language and Information, Stanford University,  
California, October 1985.



# The "conformance" (c2) relation

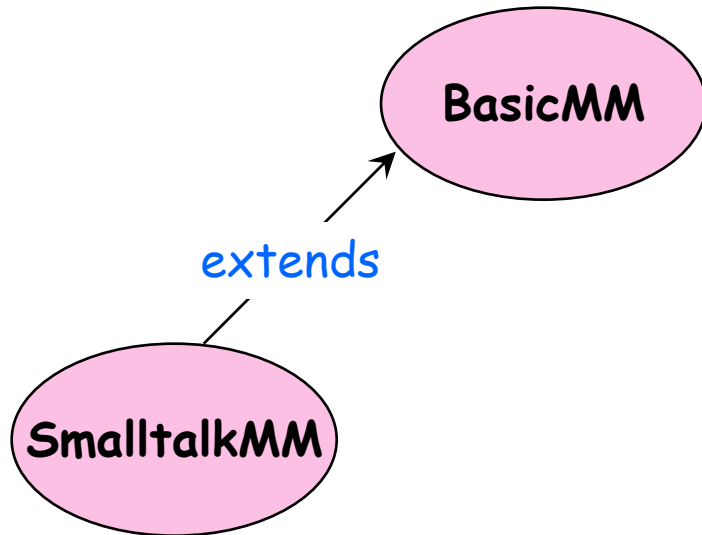
[Metamodel={metaentity}]



[Model={entity}]

$$\forall X, MX : \text{Spaces} \mid \text{conformsTo}(X, MX) \Rightarrow \forall e \in X, \exists me \in MX \mid \text{meta}(e, me)$$

## A Smalltalk metamodel



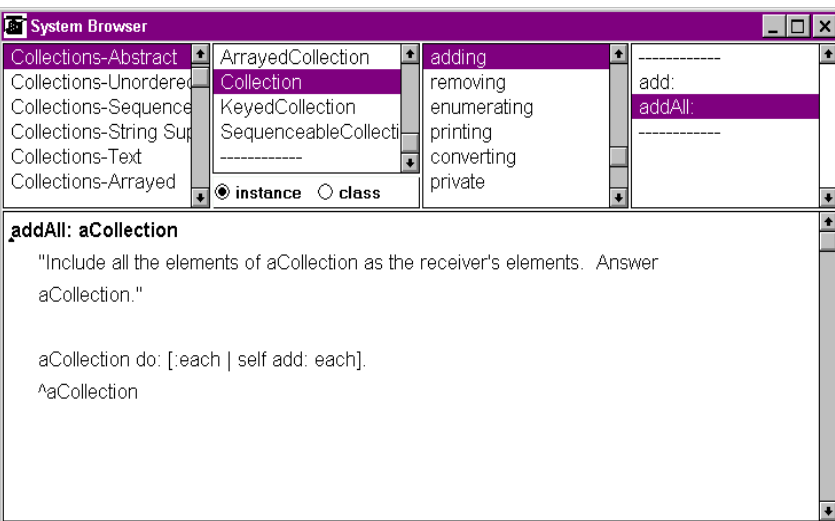
**metamodel SmalltalkMM extends BasicMM;**  
**class**

Category, Class, Protocol, Method;  
**association**

```

categoryOf (Class*, Category);
protocolOf (Protocol*, Class);
methodOf (Method*, Protocol);
textOf (Method, String);
  
```

**endOfMetamodel SmalltalkMM;**



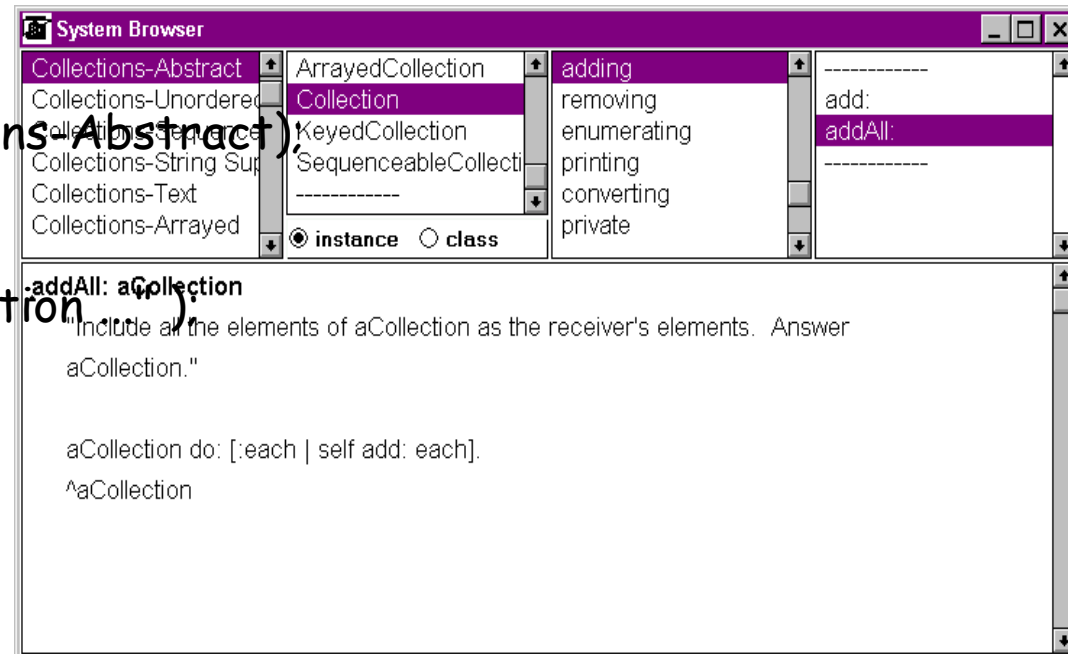
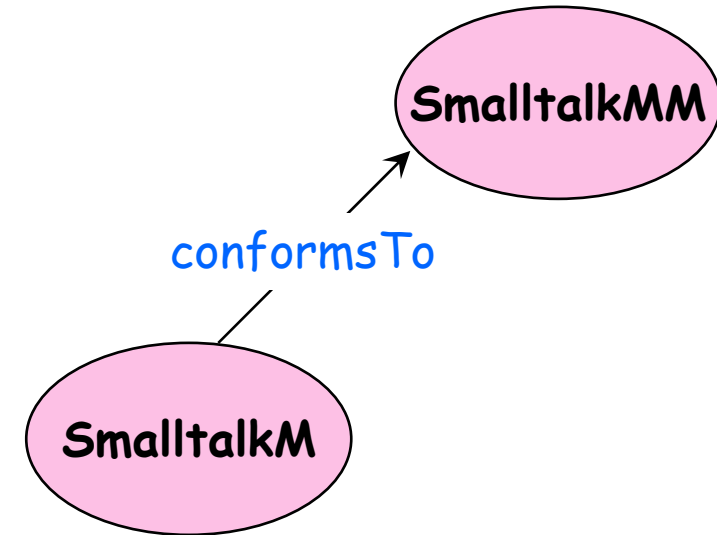
## A Smalltalk model

```
model SmalltalkM conformsTo SmalltalkMM;  
class
```

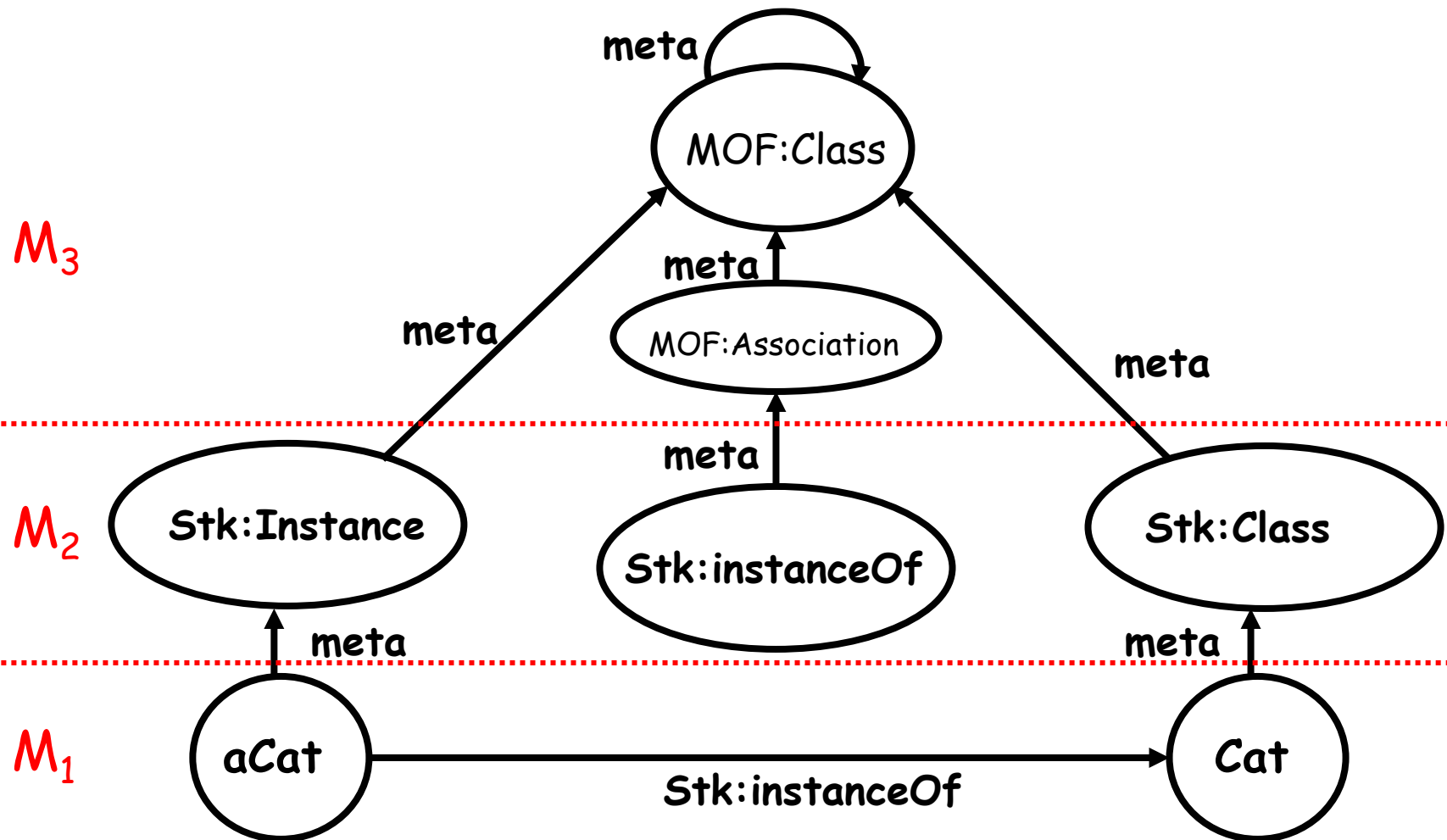
```
    Collections-Abstract:Category;  
    Collection:Class;  
    adding: Protocol;  
    addAll: Method;  
    "addAll: a Collection ..." : String;
```

### association

```
categoryOf (Collection, Collections-Abstract);  
protocolOf (adding,Collection);  
methodOf (addAll,adding);  
textOf (addAll, "addAll: a Collection ...");  
endOfModel SmalltalkM;
```

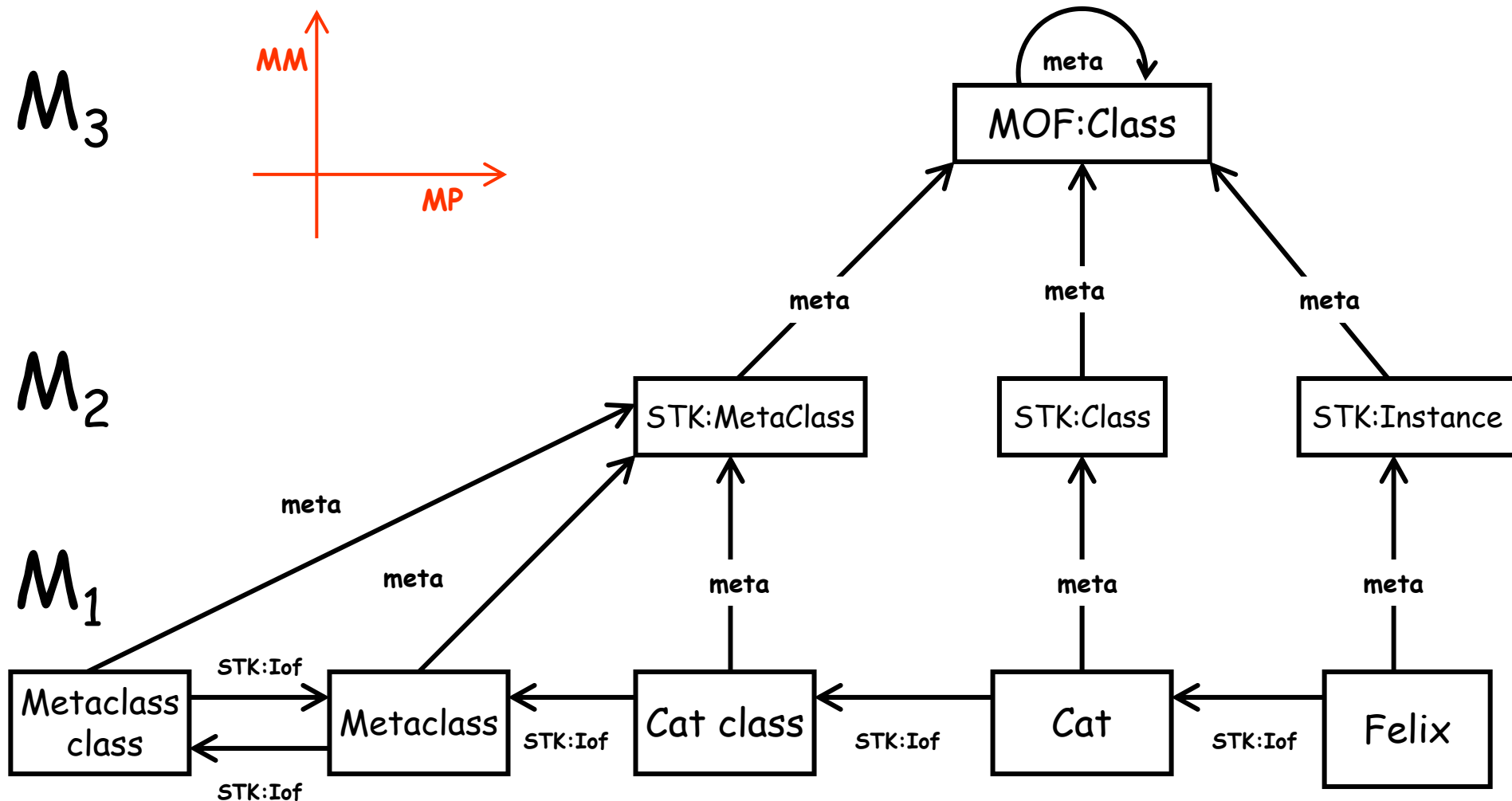


# Local and global definitions



## Metaprogramming vs. Metamodelling

(there is no unique metamodel for a given language/system/environment, etc.)



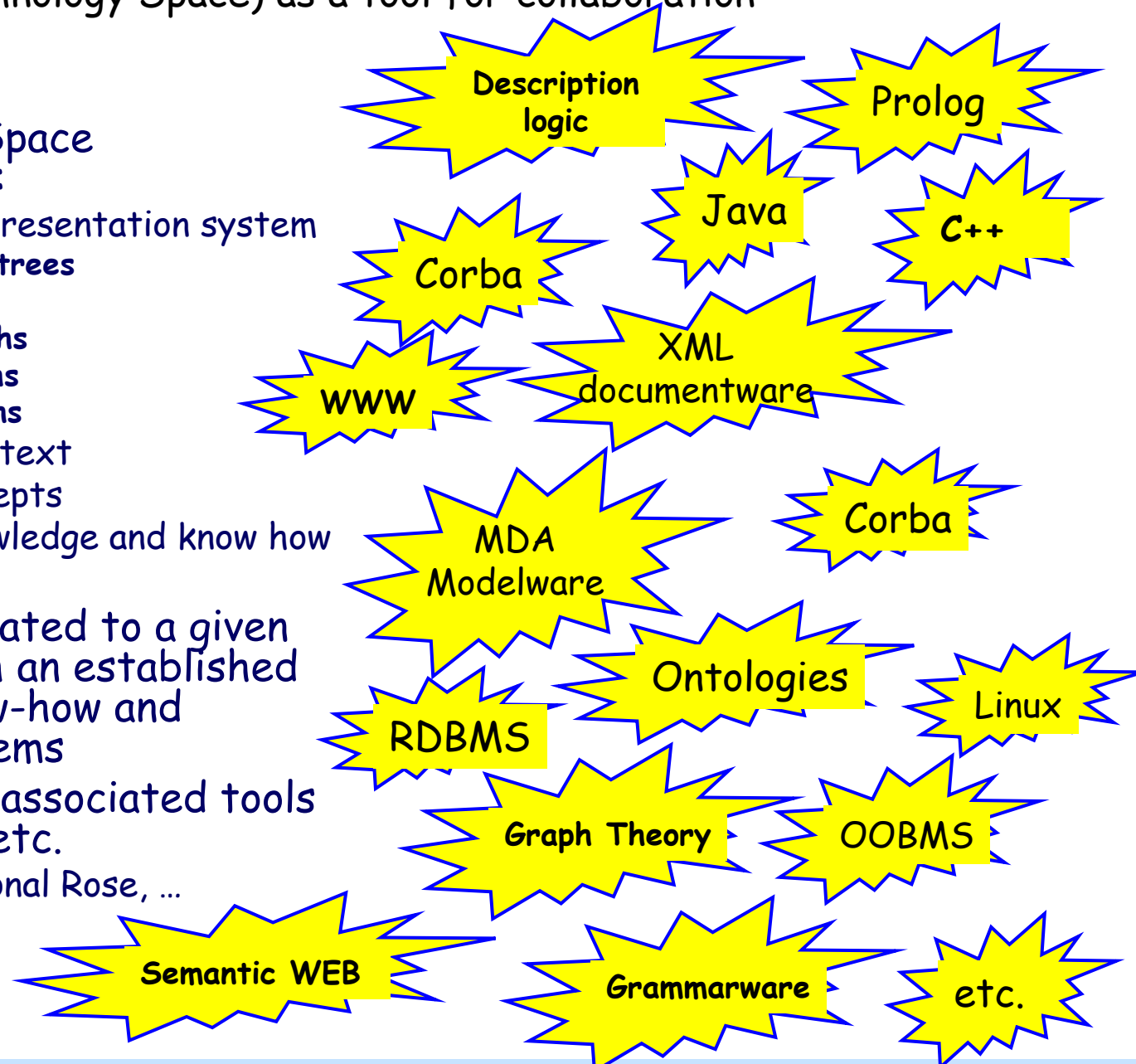
# Technology spaces

## Technical Spaces and Working Contexts

- Technical Spaces
  - Examples: MDE, EBNF, XML, DBMS, ontologies, etc.
  - Conjecture:
    - Each TS is represented by a metamodel
    - Each TS is organized in a 3 metalevel architecture
- Working contexts
  - Local
    - MM specific, e.g. UML
  - Global
    - TS specific, MM independent, e.g. MOF
  - Universal
    - Across several TSs

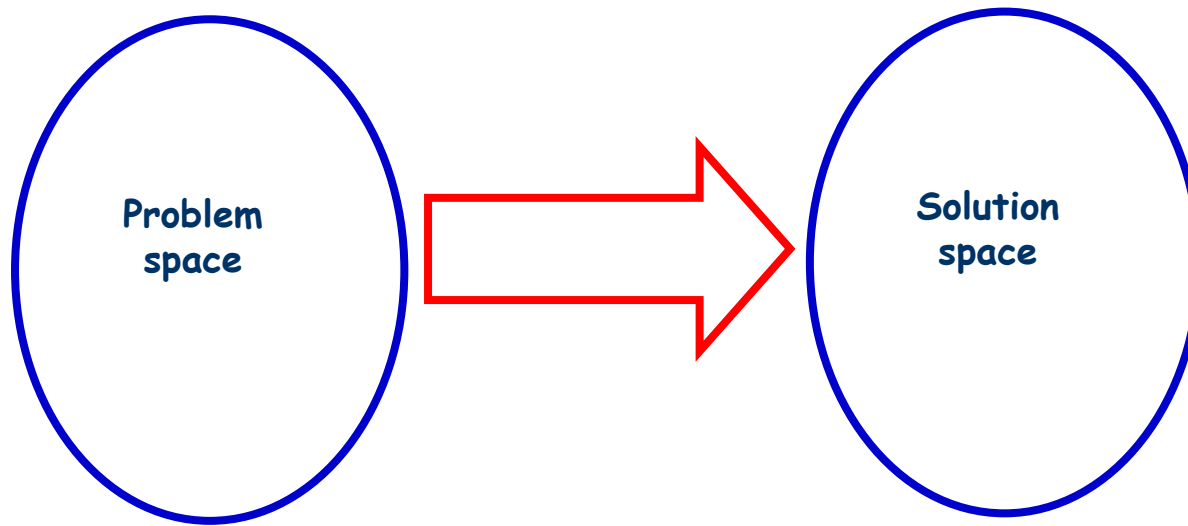
## The notion of TS (Technology Space) as a tool for collaboration

- A Technology Space corresponds to:
  - A uniform representation system
    - Syntactic trees
    - XML trees
    - Sowa graphs
    - UML graphs
    - MOF graphs
  - A working context
  - A set of concepts
  - A shared knowledge and know how
  - etc.
- It is usually related to a given community with an established expertise, know-how and research problems
- It has a set of associated tools and practices, etc.
  - Protégé, Rational Rose, ...





The solution space is multiple and complex



How to map the problem space onto the composite solution space?

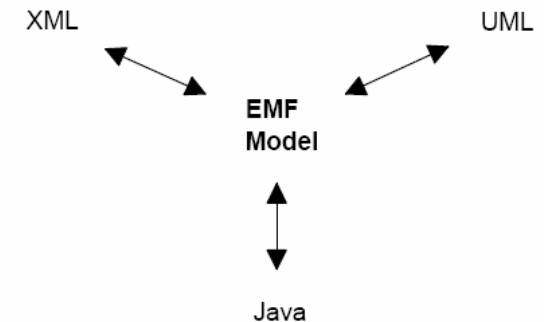
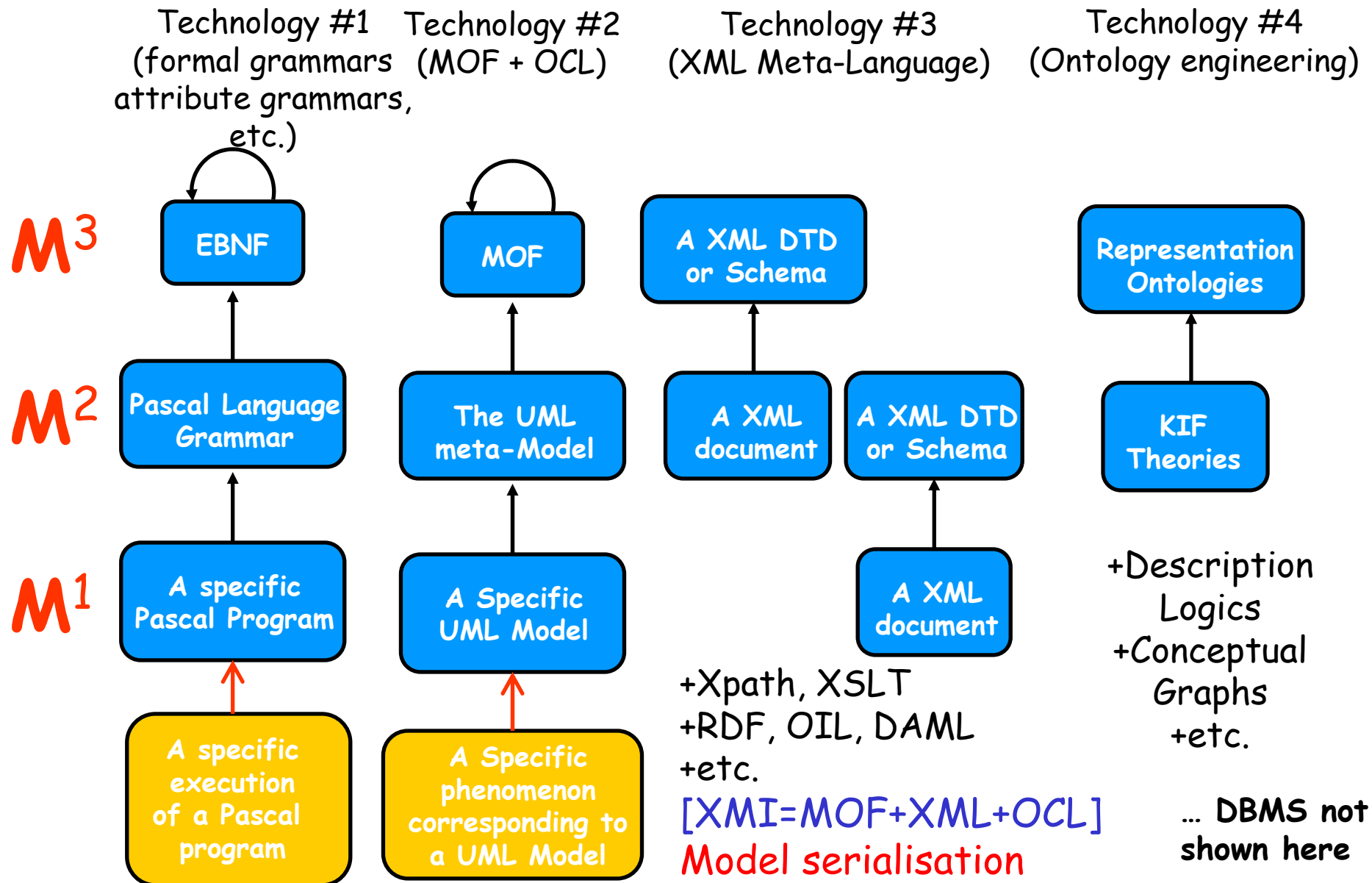


Figure 2.2 EMF unifies Java, XML, and UML.

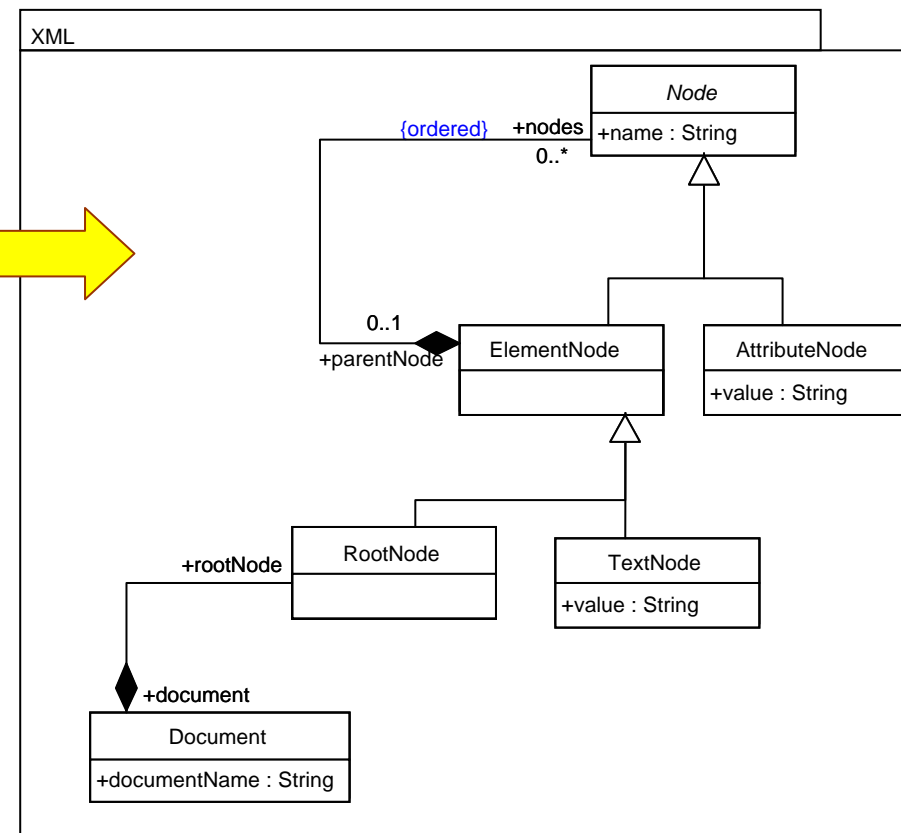
## Abstract Syntax Systems Compared



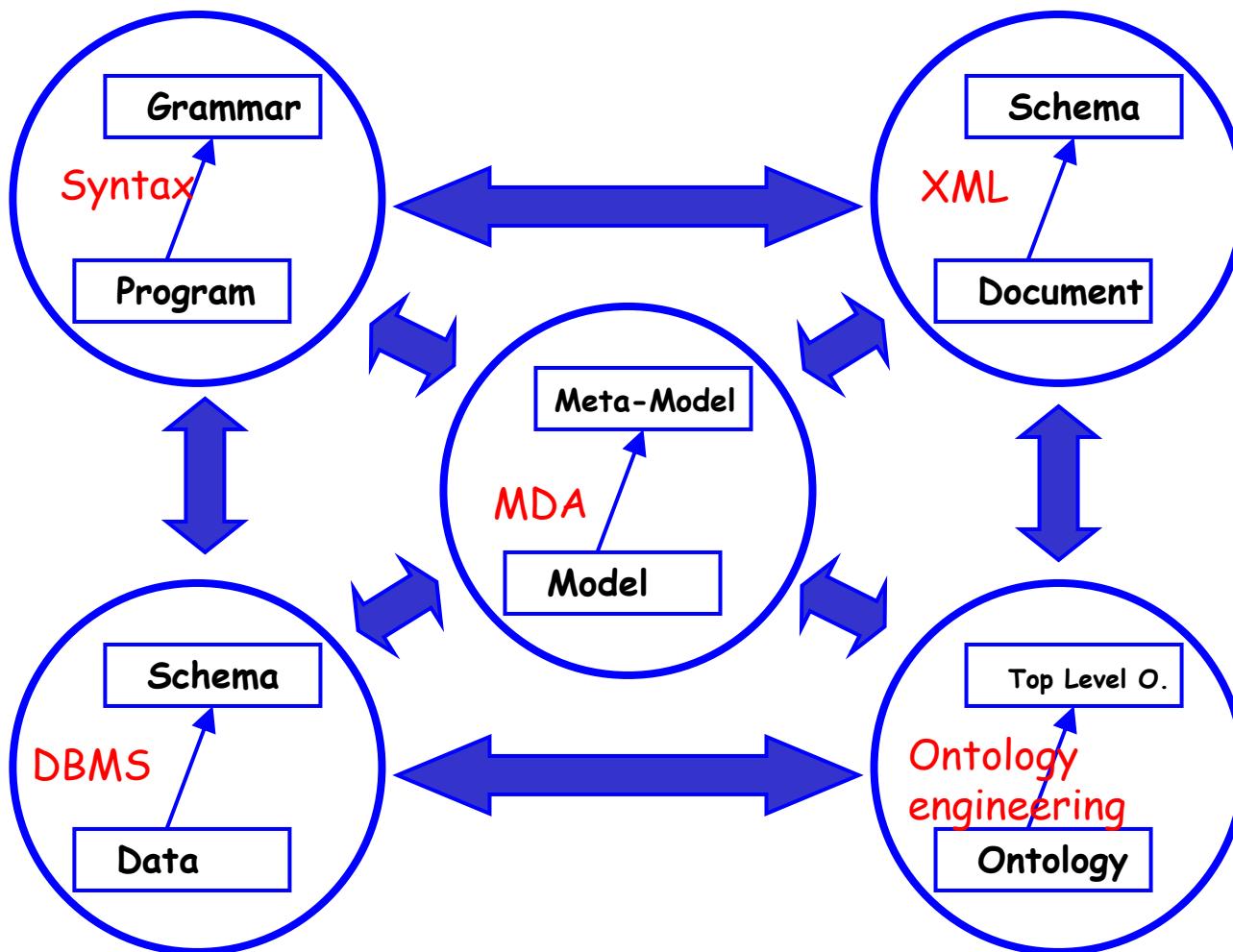
## Representation issues

- Each TSpace is rooted on a specific representation ontology (RO)
- This representation ontology is sometimes called a **metametamodel**
- For MDA people this is called the MOF
- Protégé for example is based on a specific RO
- XML is based on a specific RO describing a special kind of trees (well formed XML documents)
- Abstract syntax trees have a different RO
- MOF is a RO for a special kind of graphs
- sNets or Vanilla are other alternatives
- Some ROs use hypergraphs

## Fragment of the XML representation ontology



A technology space is organized around a set of concepts  
Spaces may be connected via bridges  
Spaces are often similarly organized



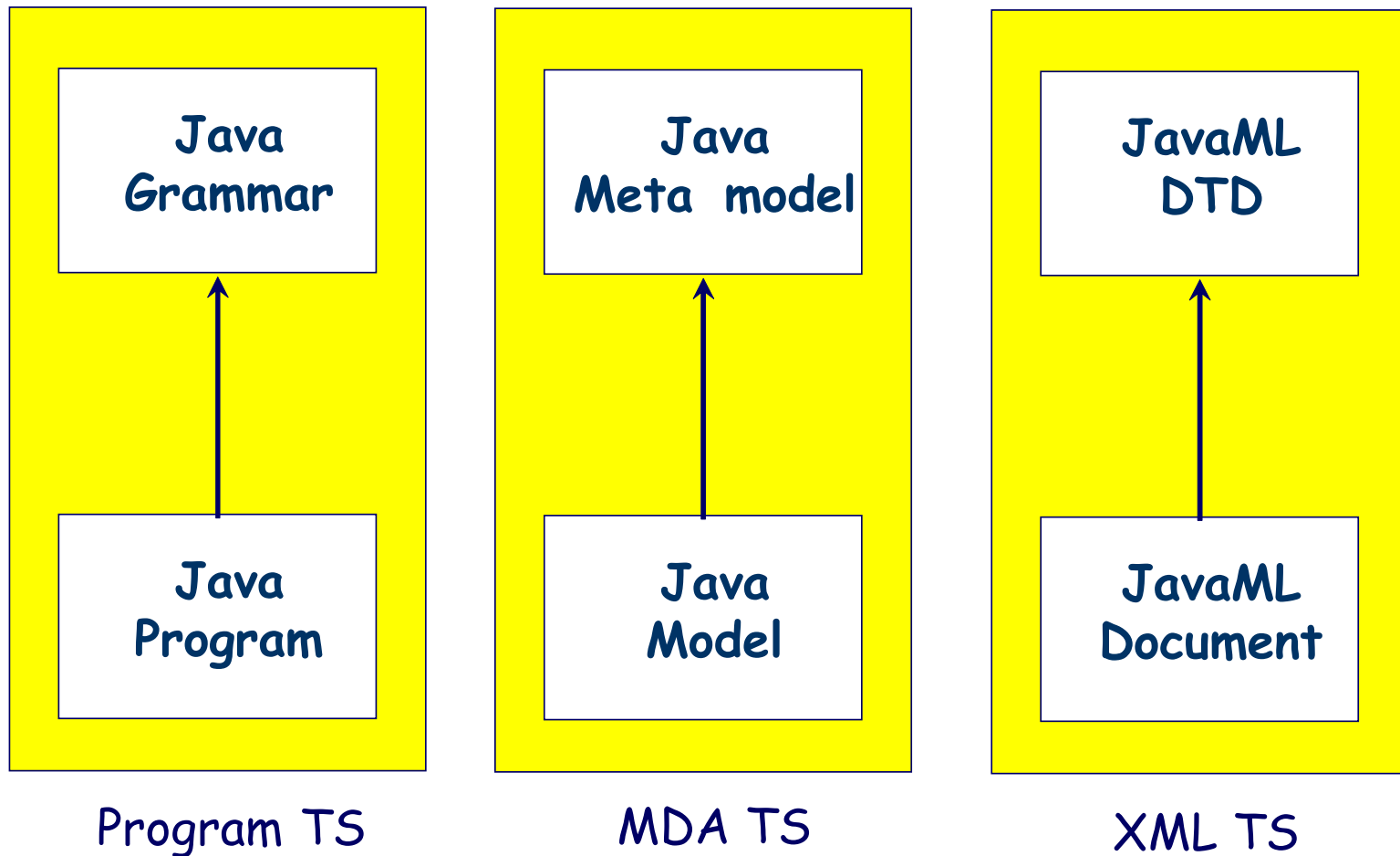
## Comparing spaces

+ stability in time

	<b>XML</b>	<b>MDA</b>	<b>Grammarware</b>	<b>Ontologies</b>
<b>Executability</b>	Poor	Poor	Excellent	Poor
<b>Aspects</b>	Good	Excellent	Poor	Fair
<b>Formalization</b>	Poor	Poor	Excellent	Fair
<b>Specialization</b>	Fair	Good	Poor	Fair
<b>Modularity</b>	Good	Good	Poor	Poor
<b>Traceability</b>	Good	Fair	Poor	Excellent
<b>Transformability</b>	Excellent	Fair	Fair	Fair

(NB: marks are indicative)

## Three representations for the same program



## Three representations for the same program

```

1 import java.applet.*;
2 import java.awt.*;
3
4 public class FirstApplet extends Applet {
5     public void paint(Graphics g) {
6         g.drawString("FirstApplet", 25, 50);
7     }
8 }
    
```

[1]

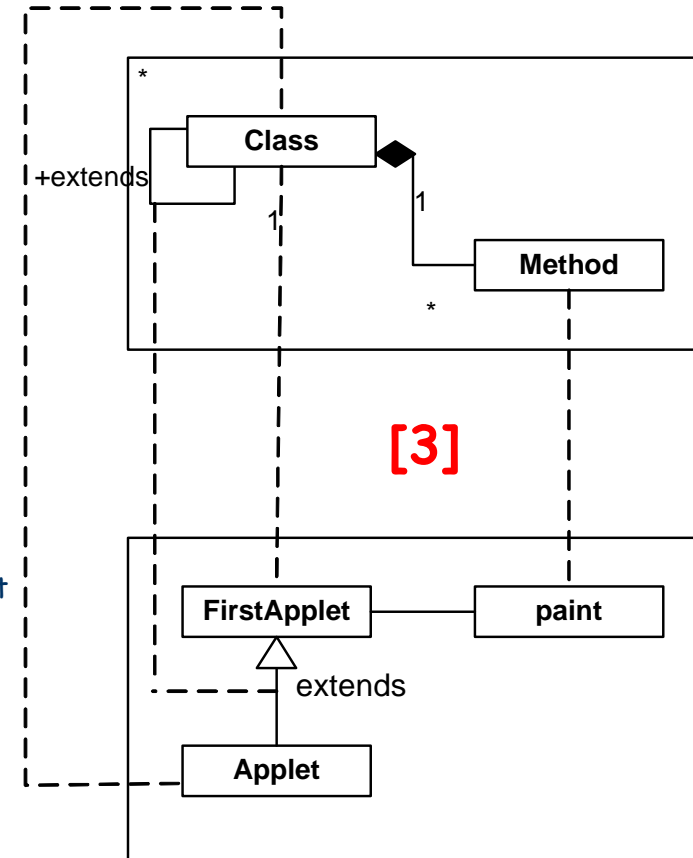
Java  
source  
code

```

1 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
2 <!DOCTYPE java-source-program SYSTEM "java-ml.dtd">
4 <java-source-program name="FirstApplet.java">
5   <import module="java.applet.*"/>
6   <import module="java.awt.*"/>
7   <class name="FirstApplet" visibility="public">
8     <superclass class="Applet"/>
9     <method name="paint" visibility="public" id="meth-15">
10       <type name="void" primitive="true"/>
11       <formal-arguments>
12         <formal-argument name="g" id="frmarg-13">
13           <type name="Graphics"/></formal-argument>
14         </formal-arguments> .....
    
```

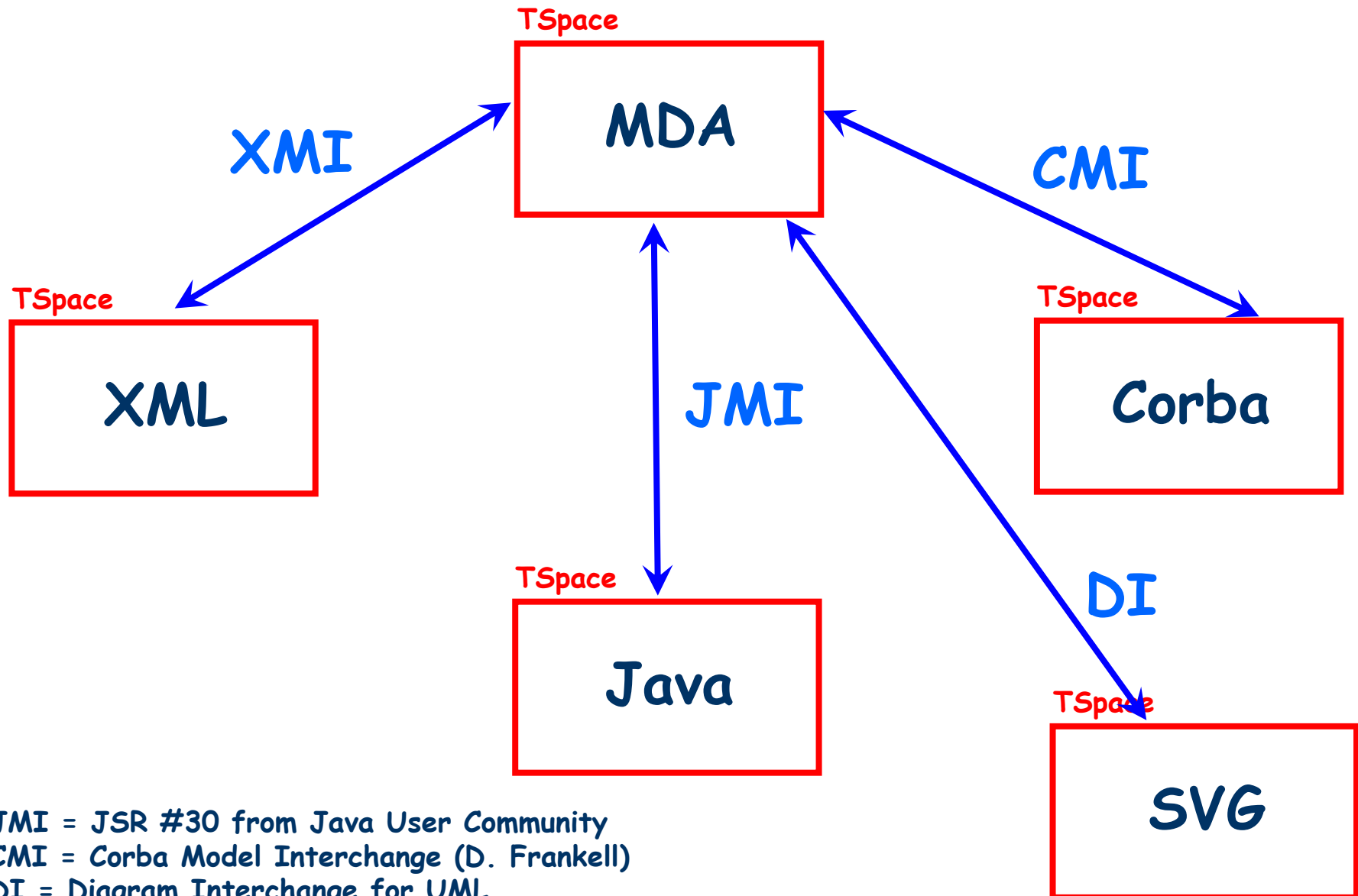
[2]

JavaML  
document



Each of these representations may be more convenient to perform some operation on the program.

## Collaborations between TSpaces: Projections





## Models revisited

- Everything is a model
  - A  $\lambda$ -model
  - $\lambda$  meaning the specific TS
  - An XML document is an XML-model
  - A Java source program is a Java-model
  - An UML model is a MDA-model
  - etc.
- Each TS is rooted in a metamodel defining its representation scheme
- Distinguish between intra-space and inter-space operations

## Example: Databases TS

"By model we mean a complex structure that represents a design artifact, such as a relational schema, object-oriented interface, UML model, XML DTD, web-site schema, semantic network, complex document, or software configuration. Many uses of models involve managing changes in models and transformations of data from one model into another. These uses require an explicit representation of mappings between models. We propose to make database systems easier to use for these applications by making model and model mapping first-class objects with special operations that simplify their use. We call this capacity model management."

P.A. Bernstein, A.L. Levy & R.A. Pottinger MSR-TR-2000-53

# What we learn from OT and why it is not the solution

## Software factories

"  
...

The software industry remains reliant on the craftsmanship of skilled individuals engaged in labor intensive manual tasks. However, growing pressure to reduce cost and time to market and to improve software quality may catalyze a **transition to more automated methods**. We look at how the software industry may be industrialized, and we describe technologies that might be used to support this vision.

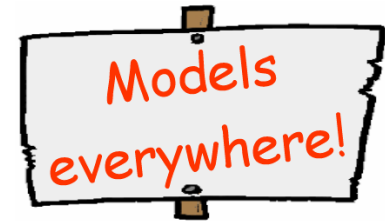
...

**We suggest that the current software development paradigm, based on object orientation, may have reached the point of exhaustion, and we propose a model for its successor.**

"  
...

J. Greenfield and K. Short

## From objects to models



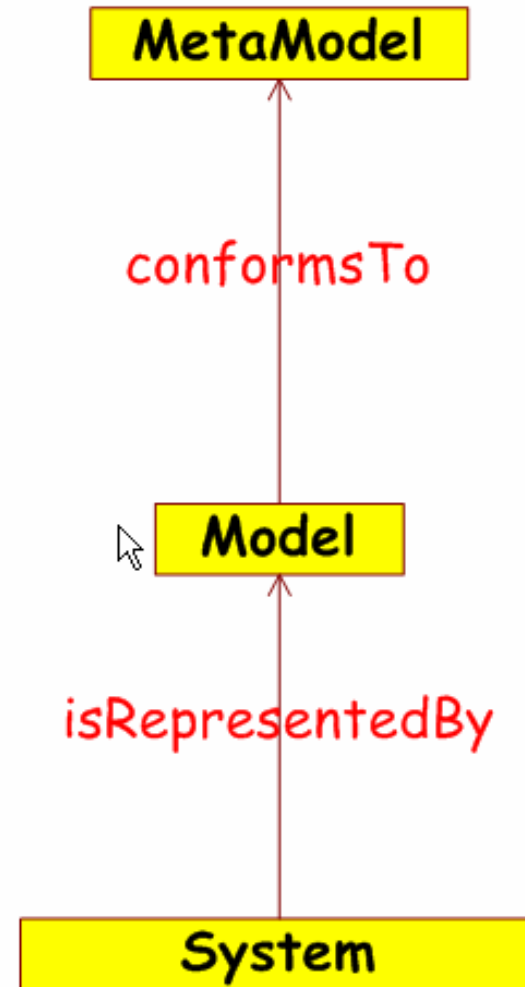
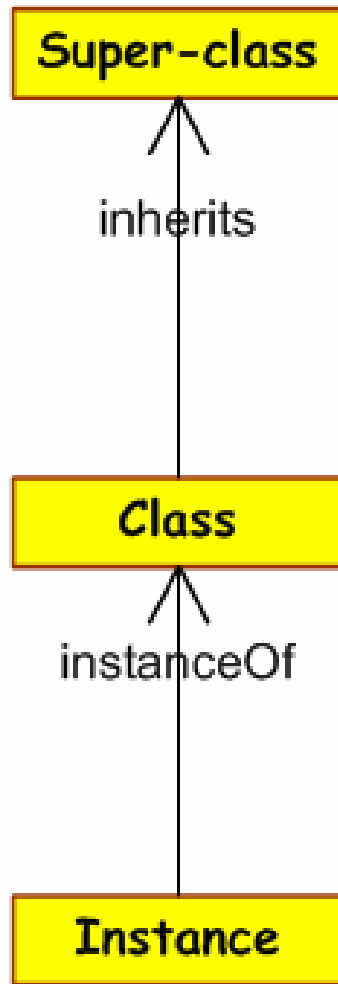
- "Everything is an object" was one of the strongest technology improvement driving principles in the last twenty years
  - As long as this principle was followed, steady progresses were achieved



- "Everything is a model" is a current driving principle for the MDE/MDA
  - As long as we follow this principle, steady progresses may be achieved



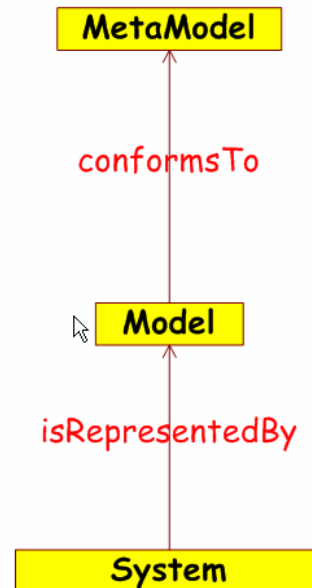
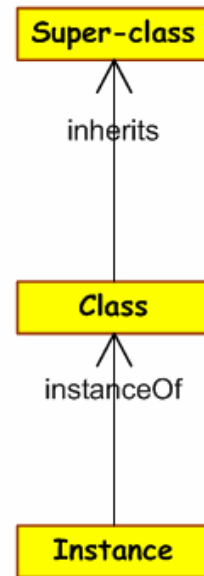
## Paradigm Change



## More precisely

- The set of central relations in model-driven engineering and object-oriented technology are basically different.

The two central relations in object-oriented technology



The two central relations in model-driven engineering

- Caution:** Trying to use one set of relations, as a central interpretation, in the wrong context, may lead to serious problems :
  - Example 1: A model being "an instance of" a metamodel
  - Example 2: A UML profile "inheriting from" the UML metamodel
  - etc.

## Unification principle

- In the 1980's: Everything is an object
- In the 2000's: Everything is a model

Both assertions are "basic engineering postulates".

The world is not constituted of objects,  
but this helps considerably when building our systems,  
that are partial images of the real or imaginary world,  
if we understand clearly what is an object  
from an engineering point of view.

The same applies now to models.

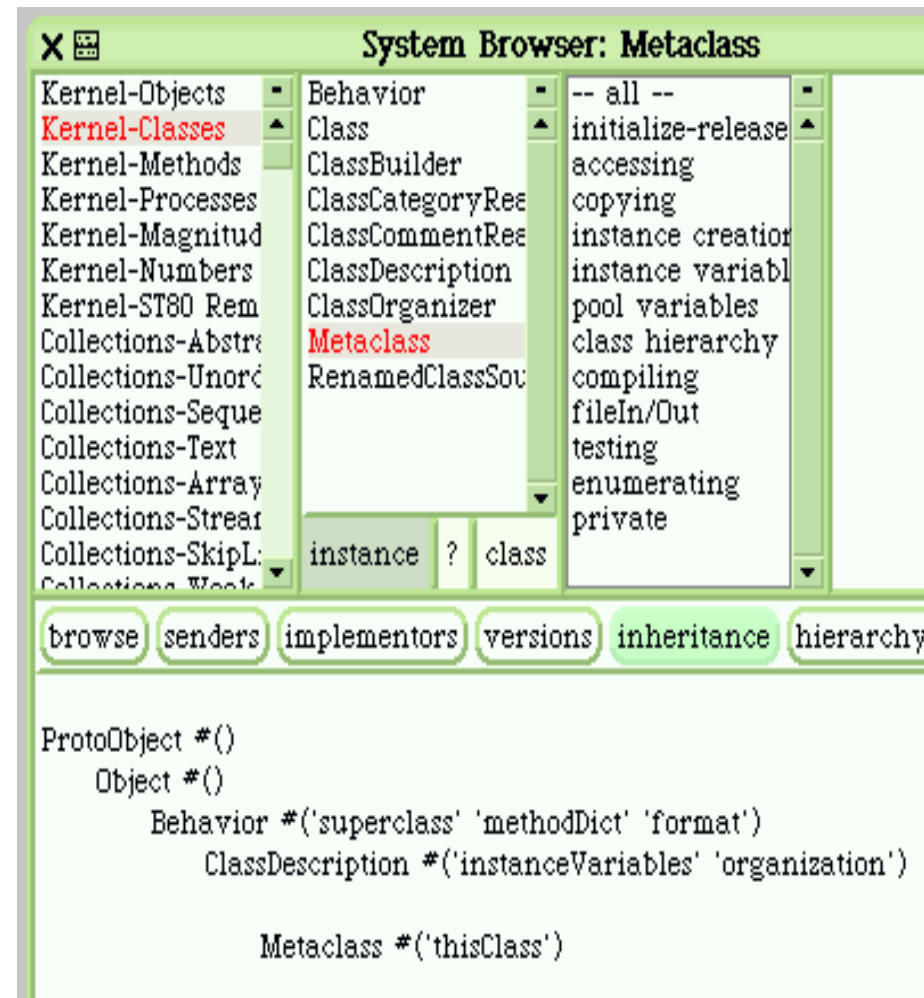


## Everything is an object?

- Everything is an object was a goal statement that was made in the 80's
- Object technology stopped making progress as soon as this objective was given up
- Three examples in Smalltalk:
  - Classes as objects
  - Messages as objects
  - Integers as objects

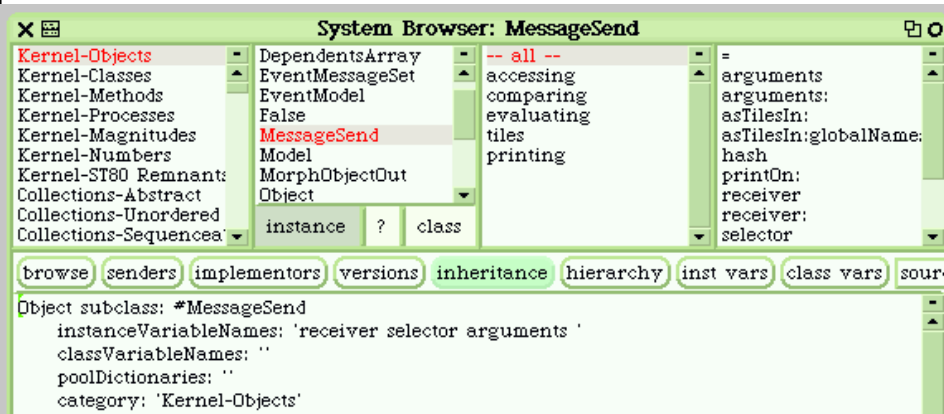
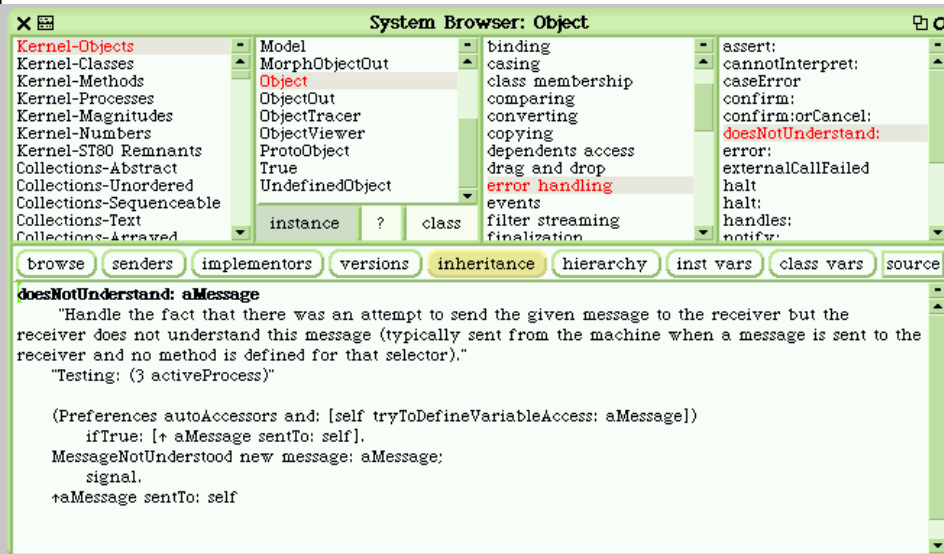
## Classes as objects

- Definition: an object is an instance of a class
- Step #1: a class is an object
- Question: what is the class of a class?
- Step #2: a class of a class is a meta-class
- Question: what is the class of a meta-class?
- Step #3: several answers
  - Smalltalk
  - CLOS
  - etc.



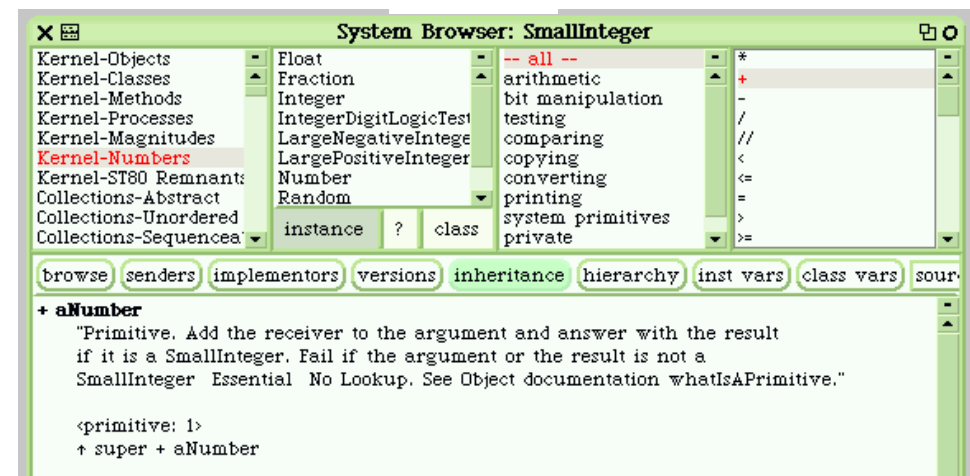
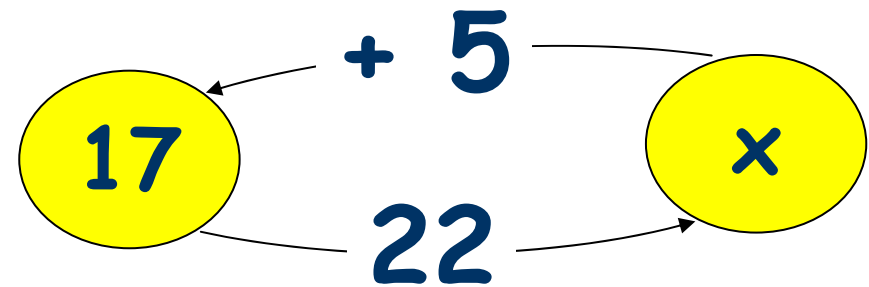
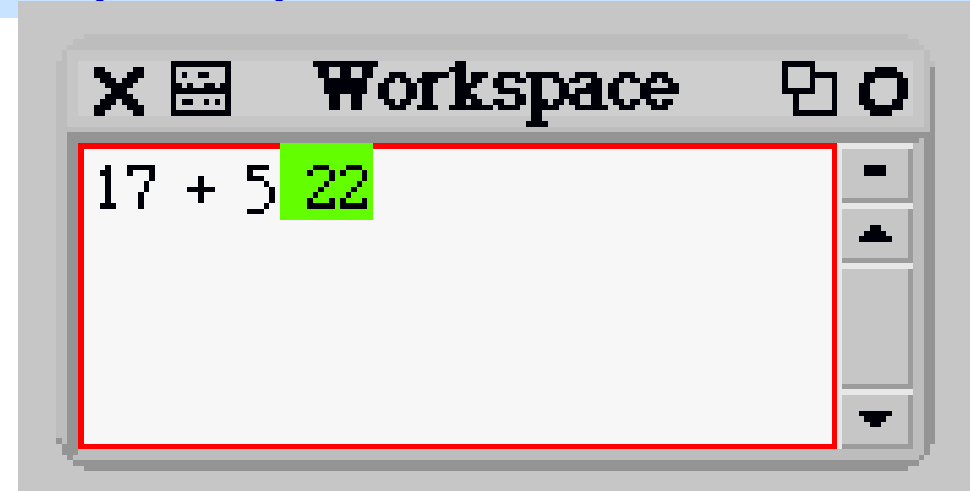
## Messages as objects

- Definition: an object communicates with other objects by sending messages
- Step #1: a message is an object
- Question: huge performance problems?
- Step #2: in certain situations, a message may be "reified" as an object
  - When a message  $m$  is sent to object  $x$ , and is not recognized by object  $x$ , then the system automatically sends a *#doesNotUnderstand:* message to object  $x$  with the original message  $m$  as an argument.
  - Such a reified message is an instance of the *MessageSend* class



# Integers as objects

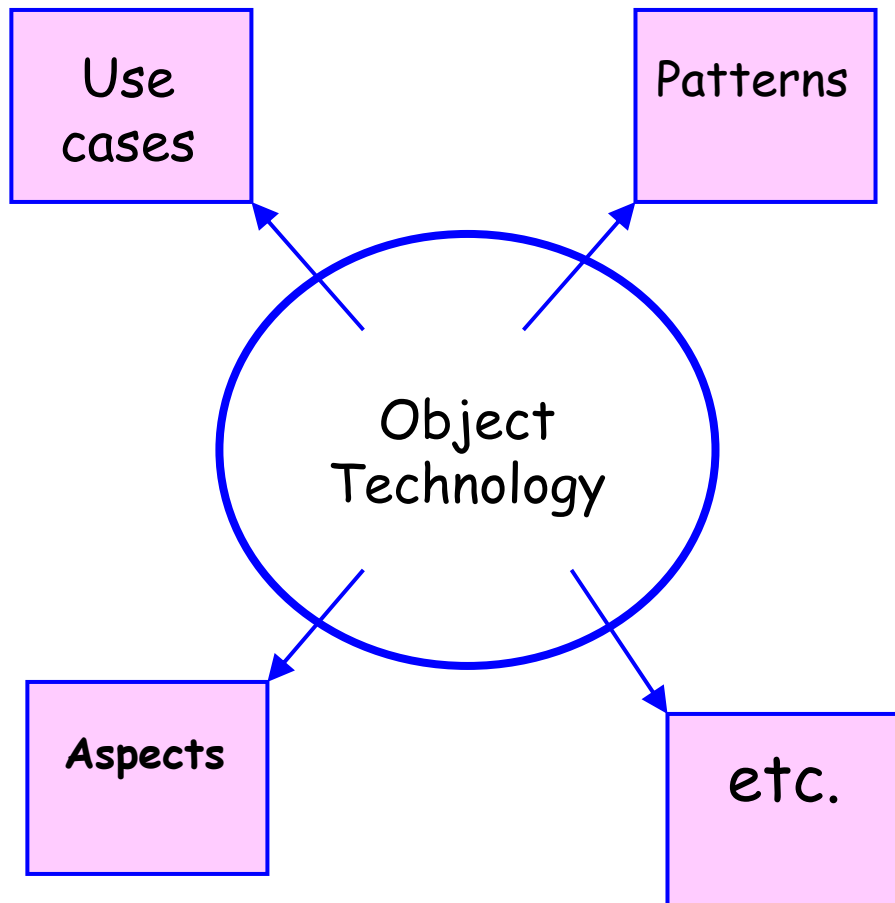
- Definition: an Integer (or a String, or a Boolean, etc.) is an object
- Question: How to implement efficiently the following situation?
  - when object 17, instance of the *SmallInteger* class, receives from object x, the message of selector #+ with argument 5 it sends backs object 22 to object x.
- Solution: method + in *SmallInteger* class will be marked as a special primitive method with direct short-circuit implementation.



## Limits of object technology

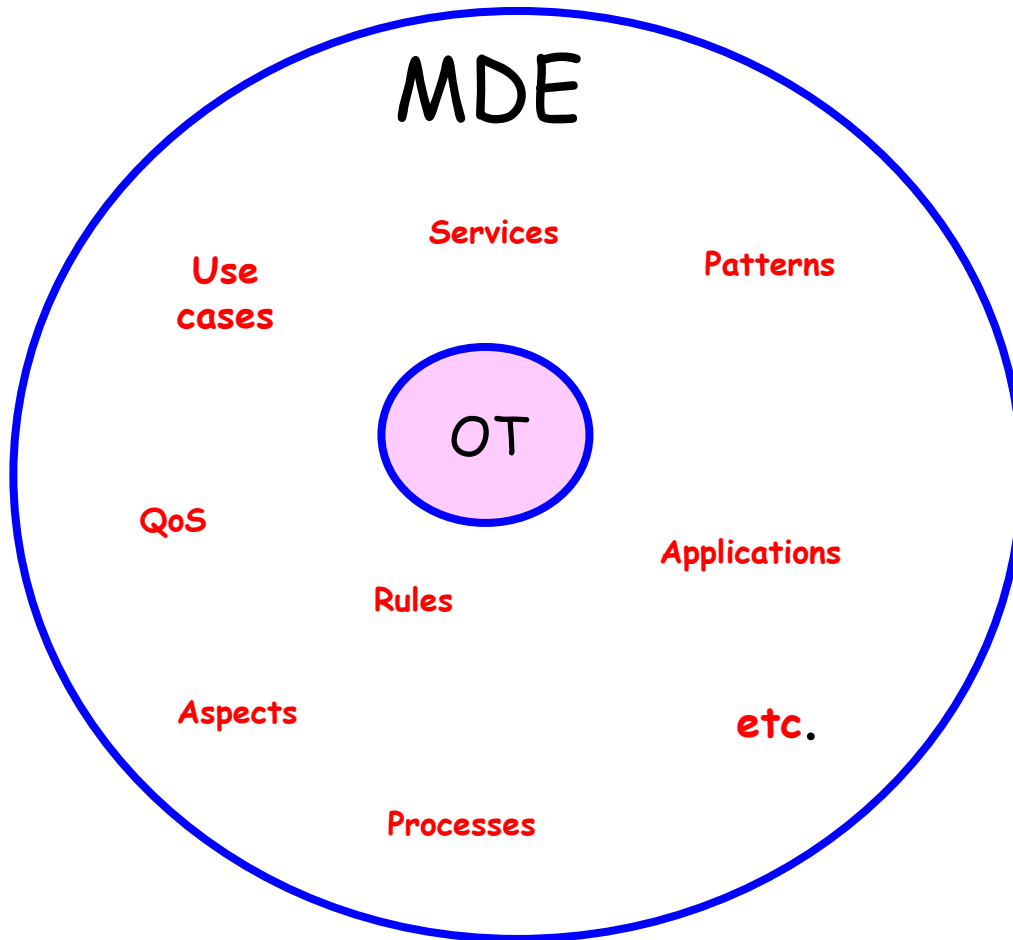
- Many problems with object technology
  - Design patterns are not objects
  - Use cases are not objects
  - Aspects are not objects
  - "Plug-ins" are not objects
  - Methods are not objects
  - etc.
- The missed marriages:
  - Objects and databases
  - Objects and processes
  - Objects and transactions
  - Objects and the Web
  - etc.

## Paradigm evolution



- OT (Object Technology) has got to answer many difficult problems since its initial industrial discovery in the 80's.
- Generally OT did not succeed very well in finding good internal solutions to these challenges.
- As a consequence, the proposed solutions are often ad-hoc, informal, and even baroque. They are difficult to generalize and hard to combine. They often don't scale up.

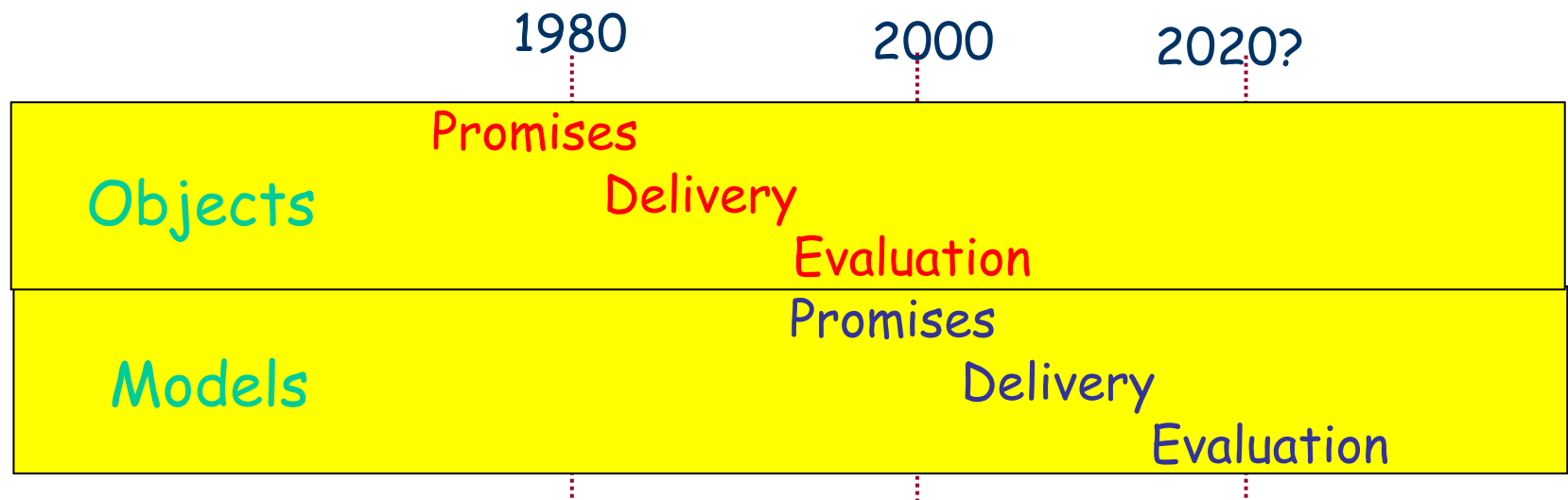
## Paradigm evolution



- MDE (Model Driven Engineering) seems to be in a position to meet some of these challenges to which OT was not able to find an internal solution.
- Among these we may quote:
  - Aspect separation
  - Homogeneous handling of functional and non-functional attributes
  - Integration of different paradigms (rules, services, processes, architecture, etc.)
- MDE seems able to subsume OT and to offer a realistic migration path from present object and component solutions to more ambitious regular, evolutive and scalable organizations.

## Summary

- Object technology realized some promises but failed to achieve others
  - Stopping the search for generality by unification may be one of the causes for this
- Model engineering is making many promises today
  - Will it be able to deliver correspondingly?
  - Sticking with the principle that "everything is a model" seems a good way to make progresses

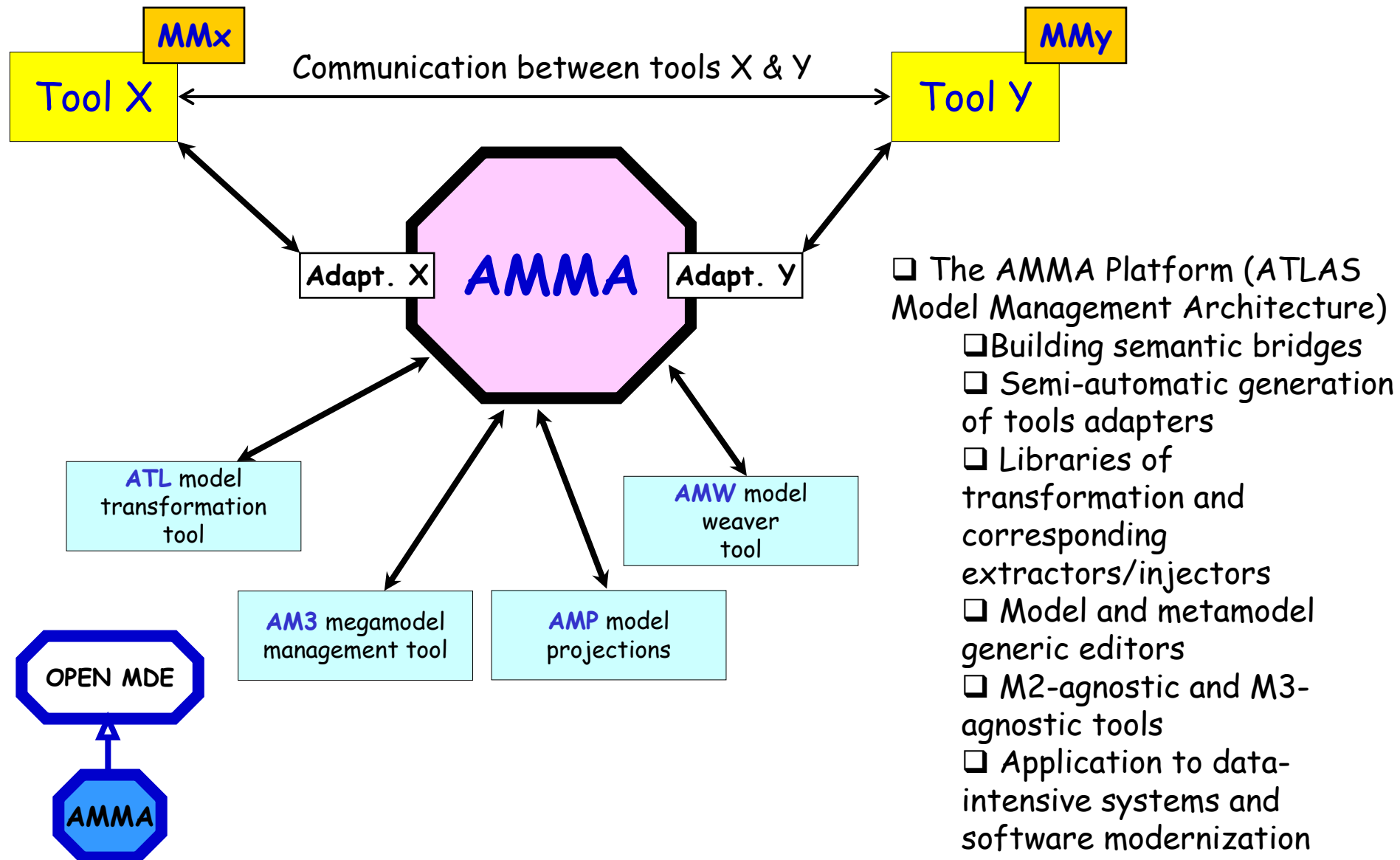




# Towards an open MDE platform?



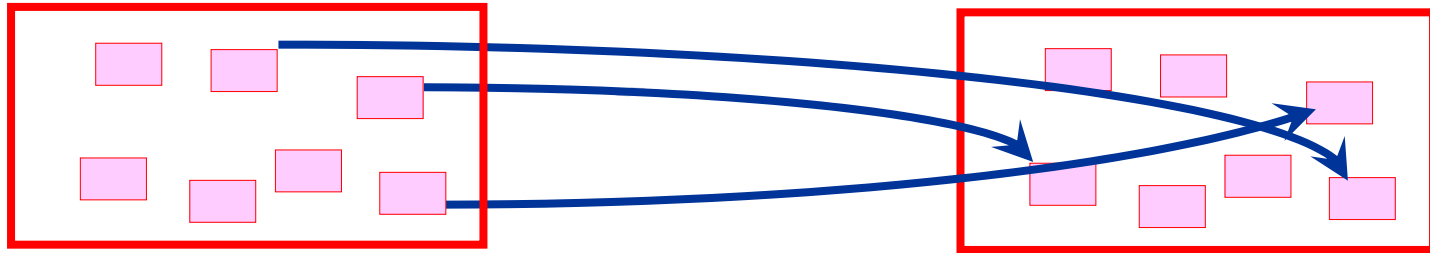
## Many groups building Open MDE platforms



## Atlas Model Management Architecture

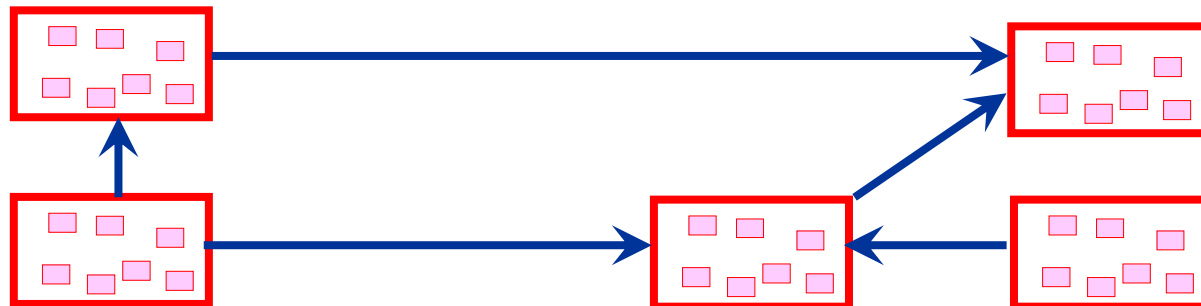
- Modeling in the small

- Working at the level of model and metamodel elements

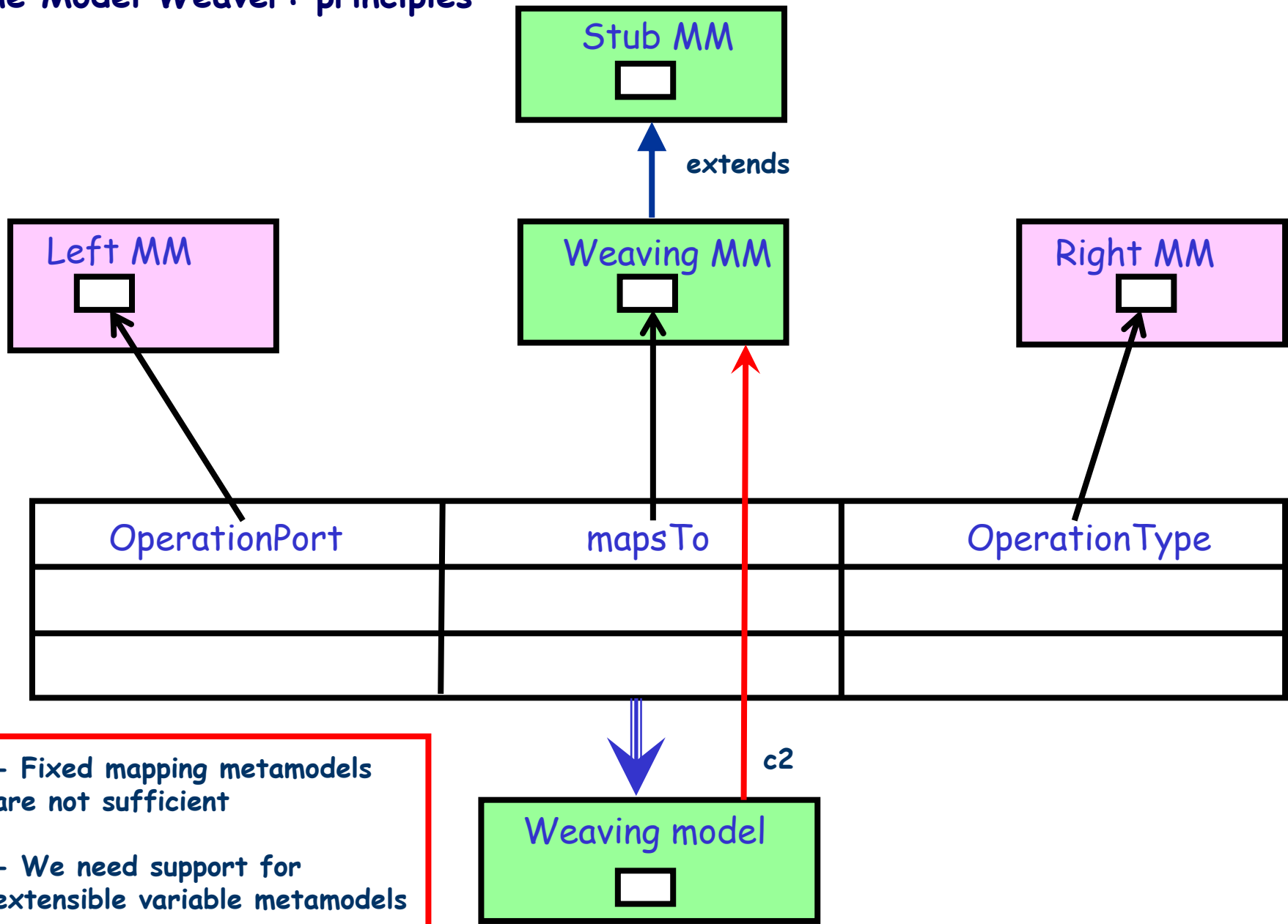


- Modeling in the large

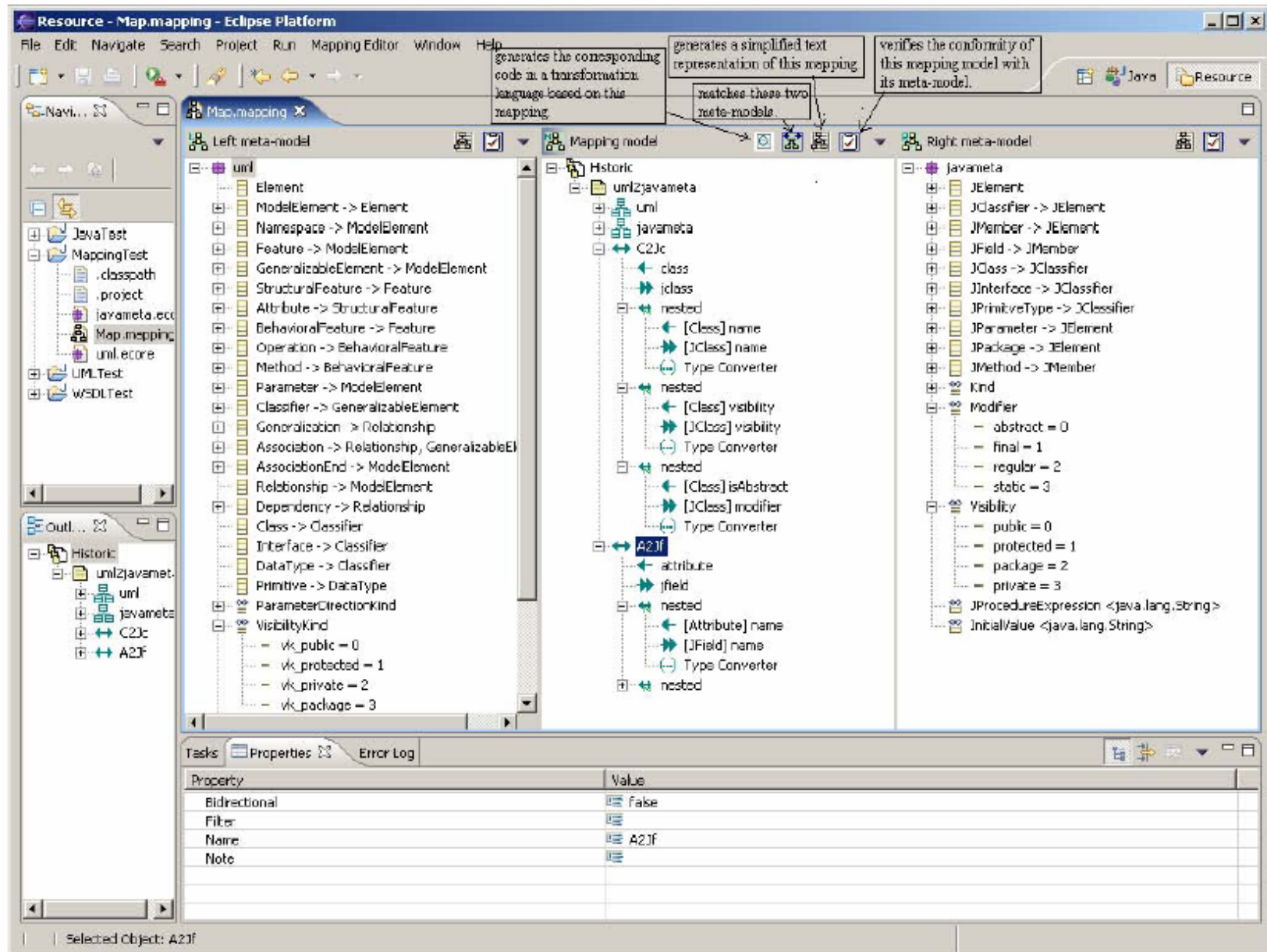
- Working with models and metamodels as global entities, for what they represent, and their mutual relations, independently of their content
- A megamodel is a model which elements represents models, metamodels and other global entities (ako model registry with metadata on models and metamodels). A megamodel has a metamodel.



## The Model Weaver: principles

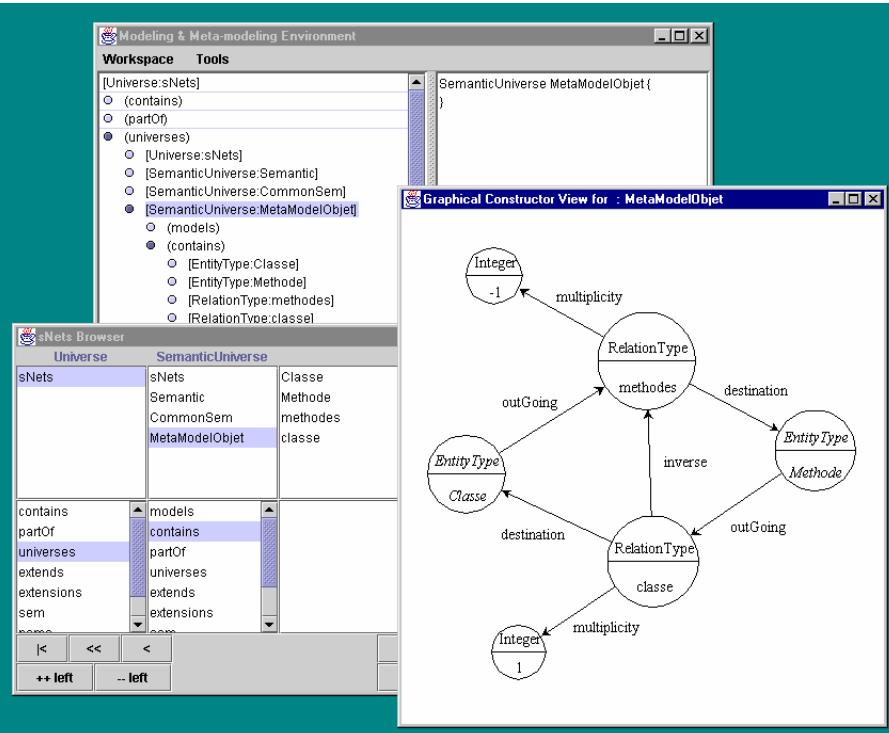


## The Model Weaver: first prototype



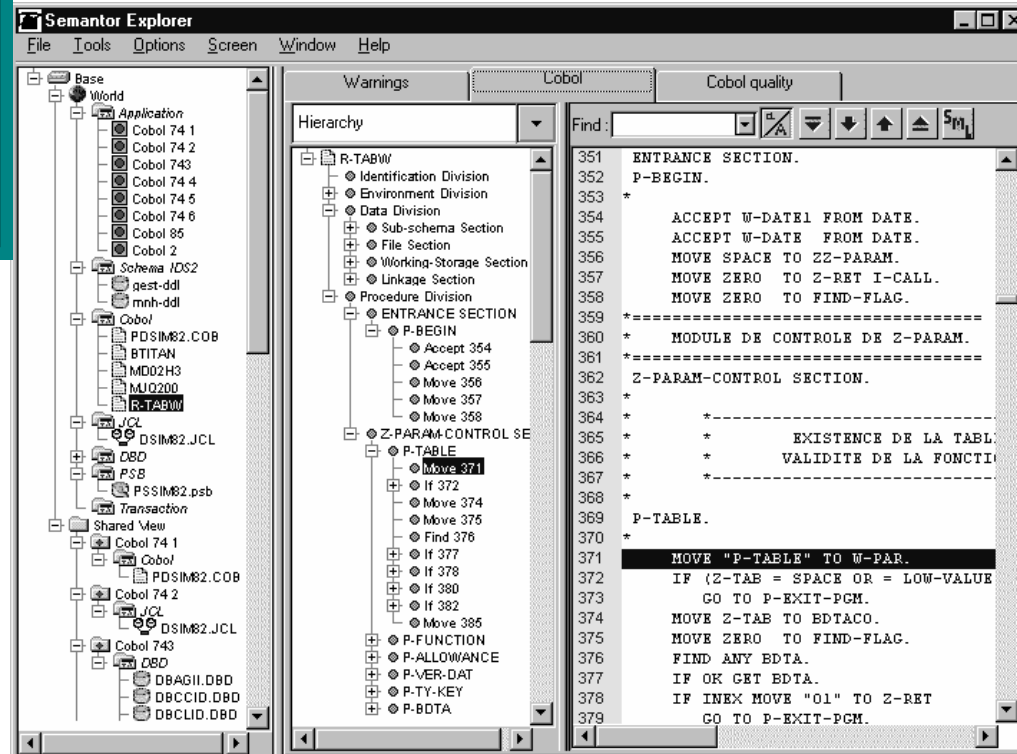
# Applications of MDE to software modernization

## The starting point: Semantor Explorer (©Sodifrance)

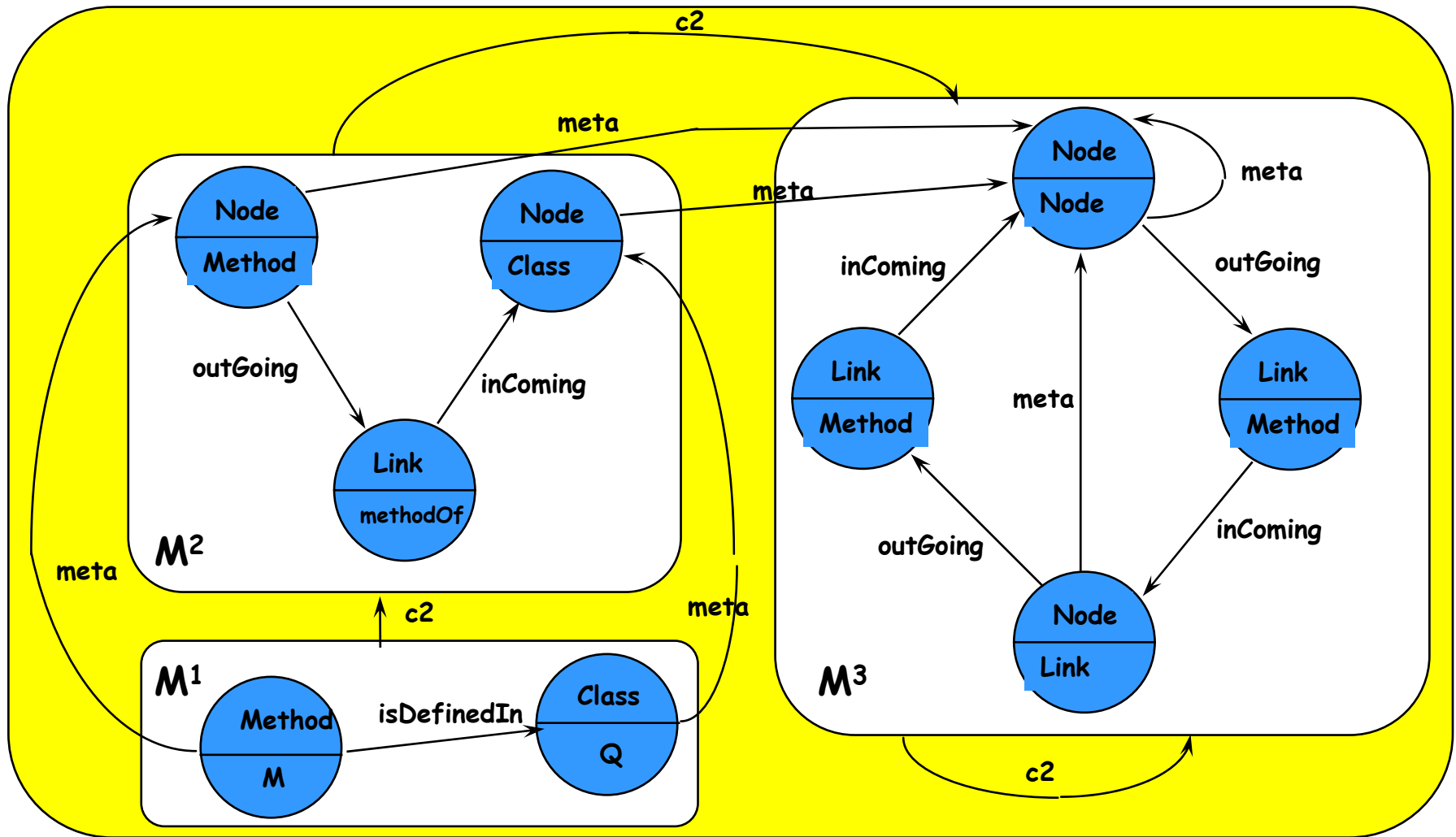


Technical view (sNets)

User view (COBOL)



## M1, M2 and M3 spaces in sNets





## Multiple views on the homogeneous representation system of sNets



## OMG ADM (from goal statement)

There is a vast amount of highly functional, operational software representing enormous commercial value deployed in organizations around the globe. To be precise, existing “systems are defined as any production-enabled software, regardless of the platform it runs on, language it’s written in, or length of time it has been in production”<sup>1</sup>. These entrenched software systems often resist evolution because their strategic value and ability to adapt has diminished through factors not exclusively related to its functionality. Common examples of such factors are a system’s inability to be understood or maintained cost-effectively, inability to interoperate or dependence on undesired technologies or architectures. There is, therefore, a *need* to understand and evolve existing software assets for the purpose of:

- Software improvement
- Modifications
- Interoperability
- Refactoring
- Restructuring
- Reuse
- Porting
- Migration
- Translation
- Integration
- Service-oriented architecture deployment

Collectively, these activities can be defined as Architecture-Driven Modernization—or ADM. ADM is the process of understanding and evolving existing software assets. ADM restores the value of existing applications because it extracts and leverages the investment in the intellectual property of entrenched software to deliver new solutions that address changing business requirements. ADM is used when existing IT practices fail to deliver against business objectives.

## OMG ADM

The proposed standardization initiative will leverage OMG's existing standards and the Model Driven Architecture approach for:

- Model(s) to support the ADM process
  - Model to represent software assets at different levels of abstraction
  - Model to represent target architectures
  - Model to represent transformations to improve and target architectures
- The modernization process and required steps
  - Knowledge discovery at various levels:
    - Language syntax
    - Design
    - Architecture
    - Functionality (Business logic, scenarios, use cases)
  - Identifying anomalies in existing application
  - Improving existing systems
  - Migrating

# ADM Roadmap

1. Knowledge Discovery MM
2. Knowledge Discovery MM extension
3. Analysis package
4. Metrics Package
5. Vizualization Package
6. Refactoring Package
7. Target Mapping and Transformation Package

## RFP #1: ADM: Knowledge Discovery Meta-Model Package

The KDM Package establishes an initial meta-model that allows modernization tools to exchange application meta-data across applications, languages, platforms and environments. This initial meta-model provides a comprehensive view of application structure and data, but does not represent software below the procedural level. This RFP has been issued and six companies have submitted a total of four responses. Work will continue on this effort working towards a second quarter 2005 adoption date.

## RFP #2: ADM: Knowledge Discovery Meta-Model Extension Package

This KDM Extension Package builds upon the KDM Package in order to represent software below the procedural level. This effort will allow the KDM to fully represent applications and facilitate the exchange of granular meta-data across multiple languages. This version of the KDM establishes the foundation for subsequent analysis, visualization and transformation standards. The task force intends to issue this RFP in first quarter of 2005.

## RFP #3: ADM: Analysis Package

The Analysis Package creates a standard that facilitates the examination of structural meta-data with the intent of deriving behavioral meta-data about systems. This behavioral meta-data may take the form of business rules or other aspects of a system that are not part of the structure of the system, but are rather semantic derivations of that structure and the data. Work on a white paper and subsequent RFP will begin in the second quarter of 2005.

## RFP #4: ADM: Metrics Package

The focus of the Metrics Package is to derive metrics from the KDM that can describe various system attributes. These metrics convey technical, functional and architectural issues for the data and the procedural aspects of the applications of interest. These metrics support planning and estimating, ROI analysis and the ability of analysts to maintain application and data quality. The task force envisions gaining validation for the metrics package by working with industry and academic resources. Work on this RFP is likely to begin in the second half of 2005.

## RFP #5: ADM: Visualization Package

The Visualization Package focuses on ways to depict application meta-data stored within the KDM. This may include any variety of views as may be appropriate or useful for planning and managing modernization initiatives. Examples include the use of graphs or charts, metric summaries or standardized development models. There is no target date for this work, but it would likely begin as the Metrics Package RFP is readied for submission.

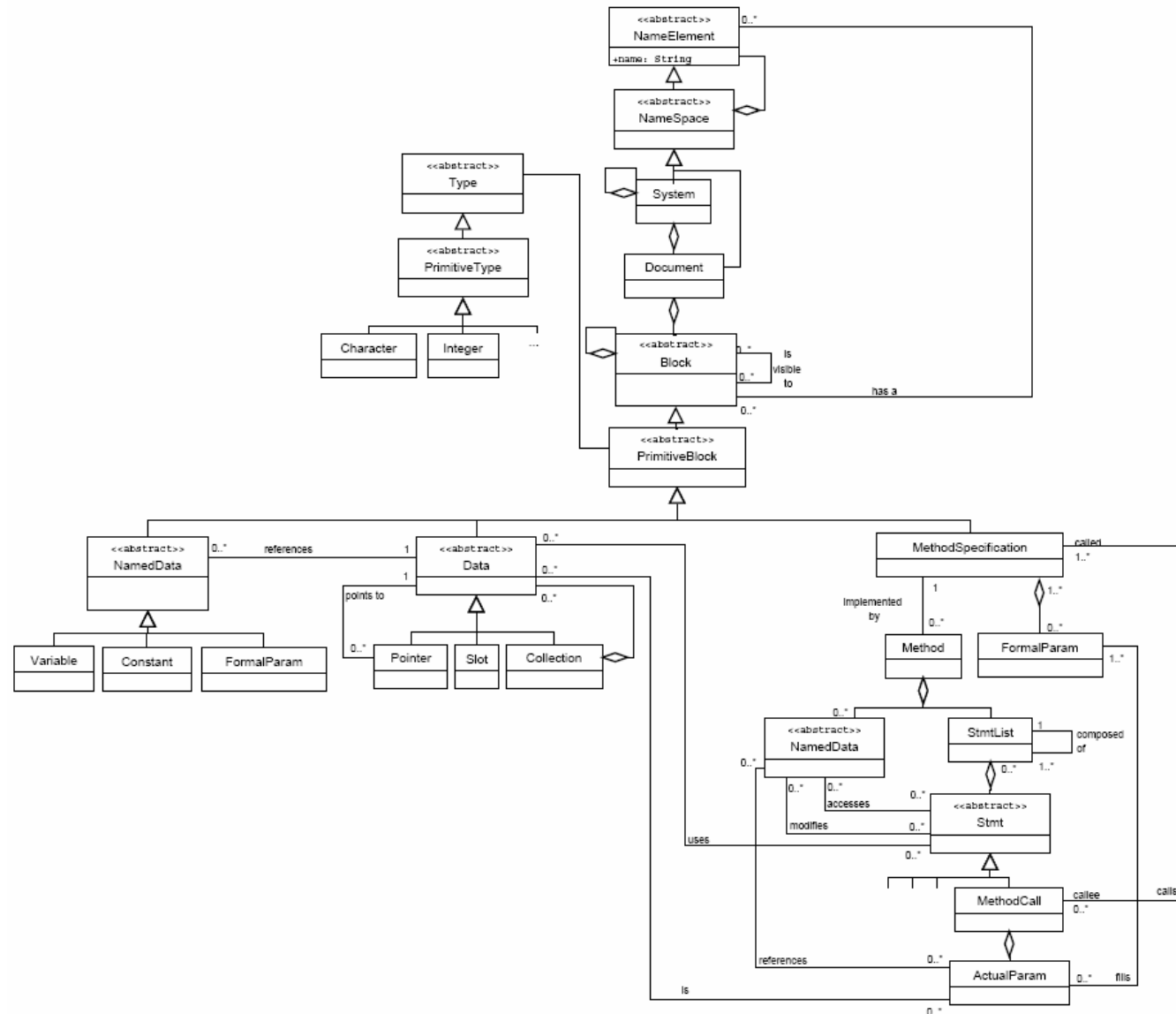
## RFP #6: ADM: Refactoring Package

The Refactoring Package defines ways in which the KDM can be used to refactor applications. This includes structuring, rationalizing, modularizing and in other ways improving existing applications without redesigning those systems or otherwise deriving model-driven views of those systems. Work on the Refactoring Package RFP will begin after issuance of the Visualization Package RFP.

## RFP #7: ADM: Target Mapping & Transformation Package

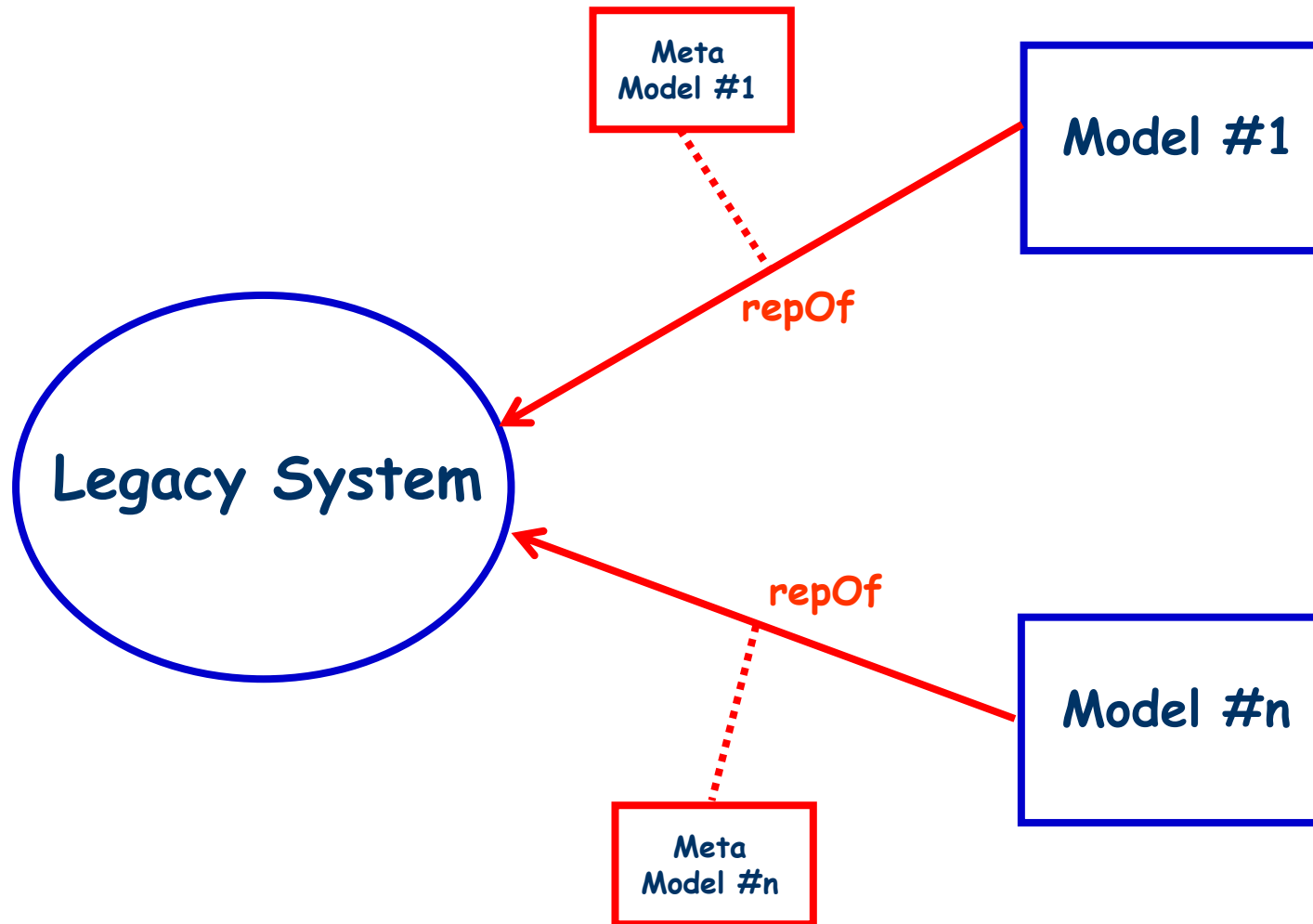
The Target Mapping & Transformation Package defines mappings between the KDM and target models. This standard defines the mappings and transformations that may occur between existing applications and top down, target models. Development paradigms may vary, but will include MDA as a target. This standard will complete ADM task force efforts in providing a transformational bridge between existing systems and target architectures.

## General Static Metamodel (DSTC proposal)

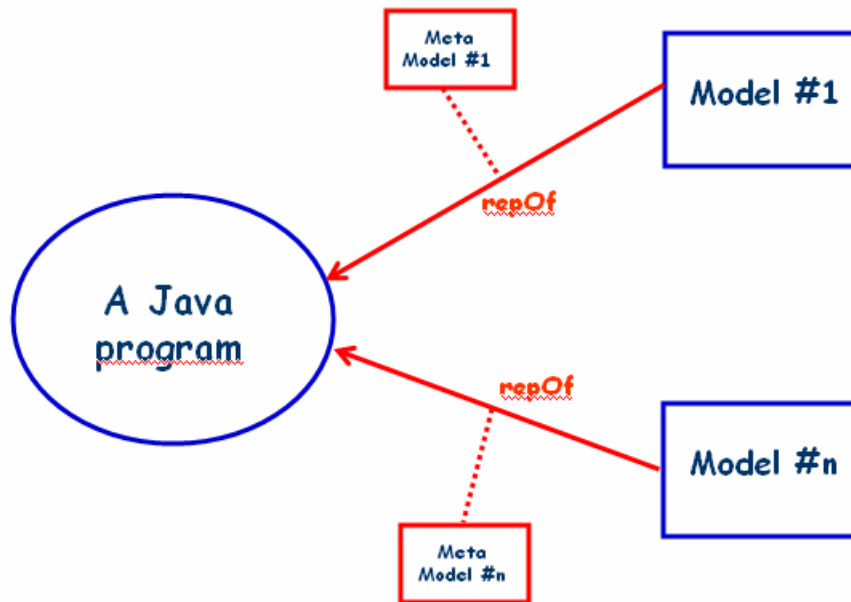




## Metamodel-Driven Aspect extraction



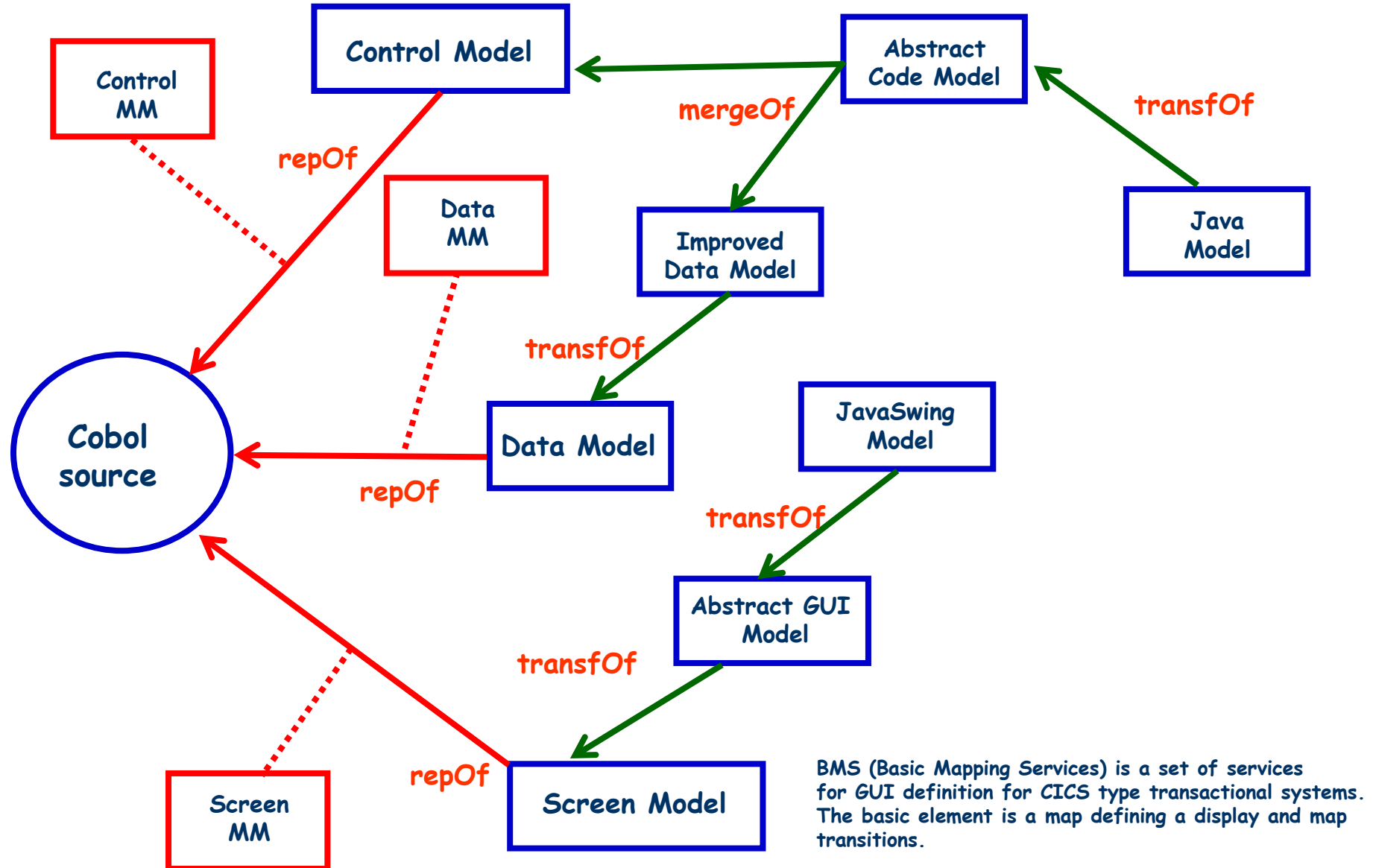
## Metamodel-Driven aspect extraction from source code



- There is no unique extraction metamodel
- Example of model extraction from a source Java or Cobol program.
  - 100% syntactic extraction if  $MM = Grammar$  (reversible)
  - $<100\%$  if  $MM < grammar$
  - $>100\%$  if  $MM > Grammar$ 
    - need heuristics
    - e.g. pattern discovery

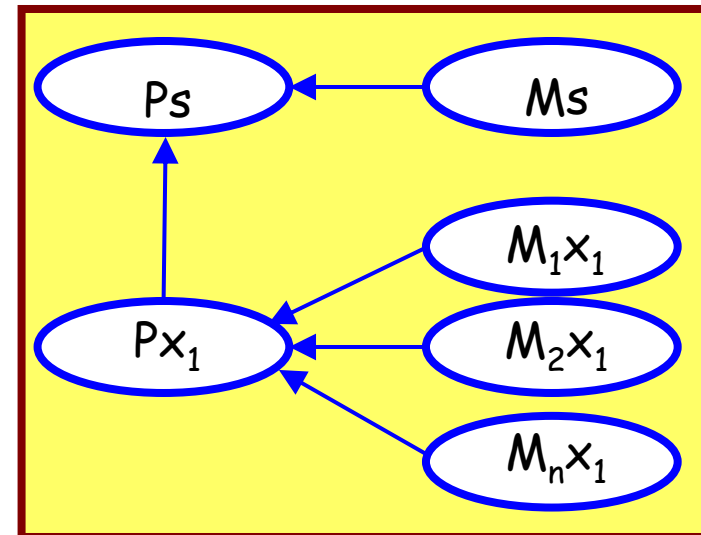
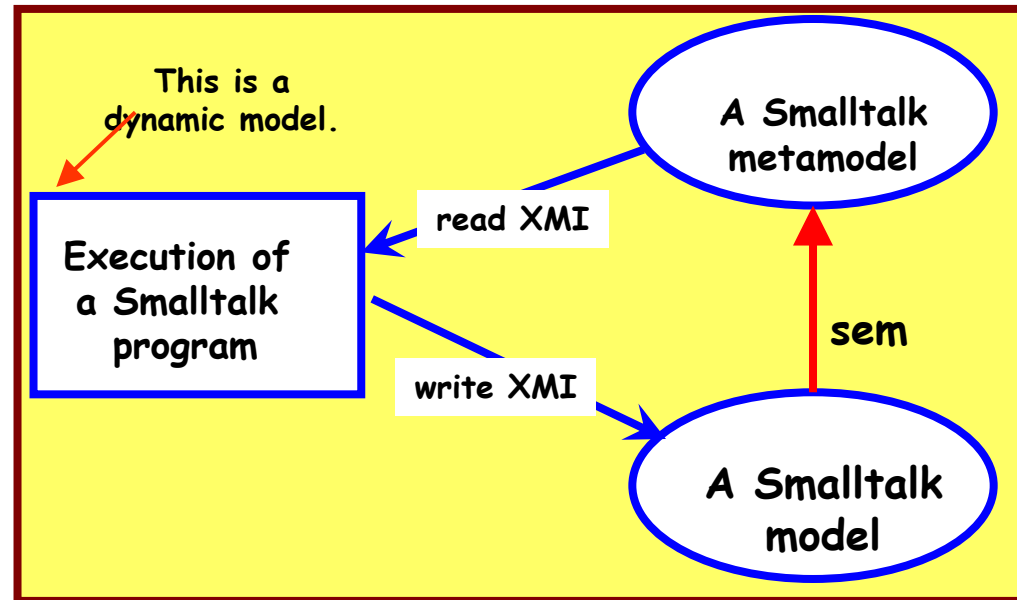


## Cobol to Java extraction: Principle transformation chain



## Just in time model production (an execution trace is a model)

- A program execution may produce at any time a model of itself, based on a given metamodel.
- This model may correspond to an instantaneous state of its execution, including instances.
- It may also correspond to a history of its execution states: a trace is a model.
- Model production may be periodical, or on demand, or on specific events.
- The produced model may be either directly used or serve to produce in terms other models, possibly by model combination.
- All MDA models and metamodels conform to the XMI format.
- From internal to external reflection.
- Variable metamodel handling is possible by decorating the metamodel with reflective API discovery code (aka model weaving operation).



# Conclusions and perspectives

## Conclusions

- **Model engineering is the future of object technology**
  - As object and classes were seen in the 80's as "first class entities", with libraries of several hundred of classes hierarchically organized, models and metamodels are beginning to be considered alike in the 2000's.
  - Libraries of hundreds of domain specific models and metamodels of high abstraction are beginning to appear. Each such metamodel contains a number of concepts and relations.
  - Tools will be needed to work with these vast libraries of models and metamodels. These tools will be much different of present CASE tools and class browsers. They will interoperate on open platforms (EMF or VisualStudio based). Many of them will be partially automatically generated from metamodels.

## Conclusions

- The problems of understanding what is a good metamodel for a PIM, a PSM or a PDM may take longer to settle than initially planned. The concept of PSM itself may be questionable and is probably still ill-defined.
- The model transformation operation is beginning to be understood (QVT++). Other operations like model weaving still need research work. The global relations between models should be considered.

## Conclusions

- What could kill the MDE? Only two things:
  - Lack of modesty
    - Overselling
    - Hiding difficult open problems
    - Claiming that everything is simple and under control
    - etc.
  - Lack of ambition
    - Ad-hoc solutions
    - No research or insufficient research.
    - "UML case tool vendor" restricted
    - If the MDE does not fly, then other technology spaces will harbor similar ideas

## Main messages of the presentation



- Model Driven Engineering (i.e. the consideration of models as first class entities) and its various variants are changing the landscape of software engineering and data engineering.
- Software modernization is more demanding than plain forward engineering, but could benefit as well from the application of model engineering. Many well established software modernization practices may be revisited in the unifying context of MDE.
- However the more urgent need is to define the foundations for model engineering. MDE is presently industry-driven and still lacks solid conceptual basis.
- The relations of **conformance** and **representation** lies at the hearth of these conceptual foundations. Model engineering is presently in the state of object technology in the 80's.

Thanks



- Questions?
- Comments?

<http://www.sciences.univ-nantes.fr/lina/atl/>

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