

# Towards Language-Oriented Modeling

*Habilitation à Diriger des Recherches*  
*Université de Rennes 1*  
*December 4, 2015*

**Benoit Combemale (Inria & Univ. Rennes 1)**

<http://people.irisa.fr/Benoit.Combemale>

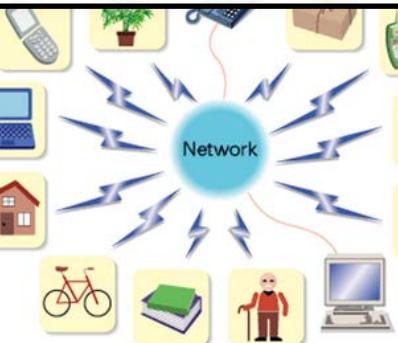
[benoit.combemale@irisa.fr](mailto:benoit.combemale@irisa.fr)

[@bcombemale](https://twitter.com/bcombemale)

# Complex Software-Intensive Systems



- Multi-engineering approach
- Some forms of domain-specific modeling
- Software as integration layer
- Openness and dynamicity



# Multiple concerns, stakeholders, tools and methods

# Aerodynamics

# Propulsion System

# Communications

## Avionics

# Mechanical Structure

## Airlines

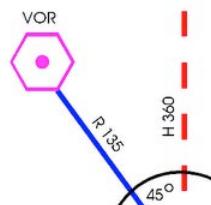
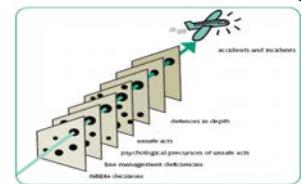
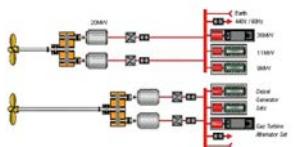
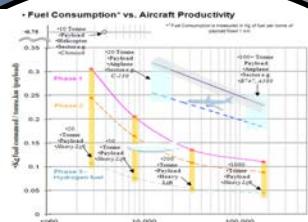
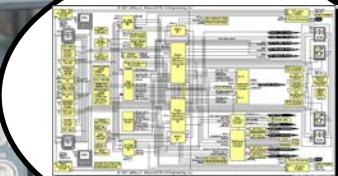
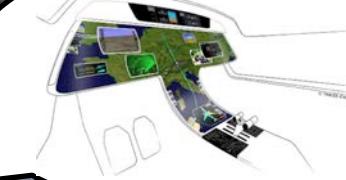
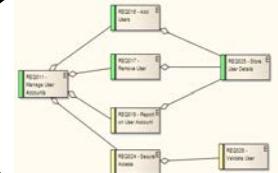
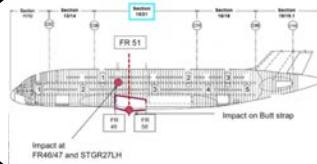
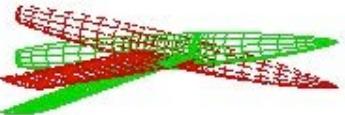
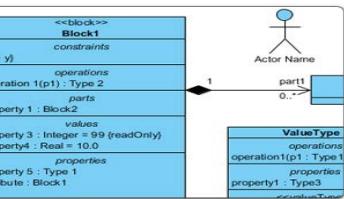
# Human Machine Interaction

# Environment Impact

# Safety Regulations

## Navigation

# Heterogeneous Modeling

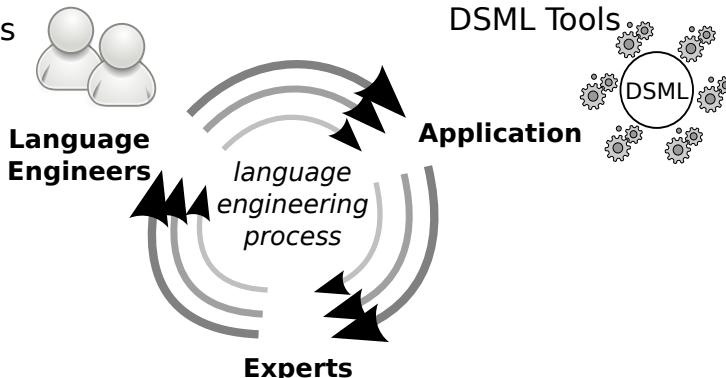


***"the majority of MDE examples in our study followed domain-specific modeling paradigms"***

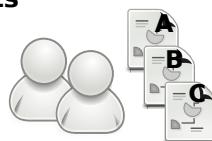
J. Whittle, J. Hutchinson, and M. Rouncefield, “*The State of Practice in Model-Driven Engineering*,” IEEE Software, vol. 31, no. 3, 2014, pp. 79–85.

# Model-Driven Engineering (MDE)

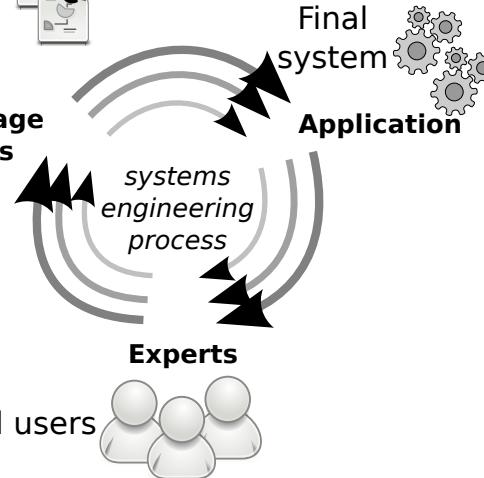
Tools & Methods  
Engineers



Systems  
engineers



Language  
Users



Final users

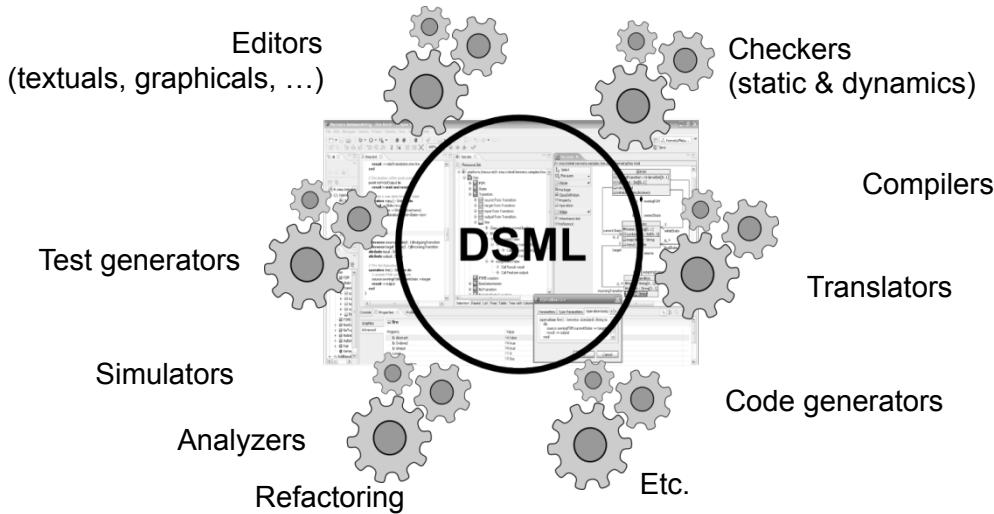


Leverage on domain  
specific experience

Development of a  
system in the context  
of a given domain

Jean-Marc Jézéquel, Benoît Combemale et Didier Vojtisek, "Ingénierie Dirigée par les Modèles : des concepts à la pratique," Ellipses édition, février 2012

# Model-Driven Engineering (MDE)



Jean-Marc Jézéquel, Benoît Combemale et Didier Vojtisek, "Ingénierie Dirigée par les Modèles : des concepts à la pratique," Ellipses édition, février 2012

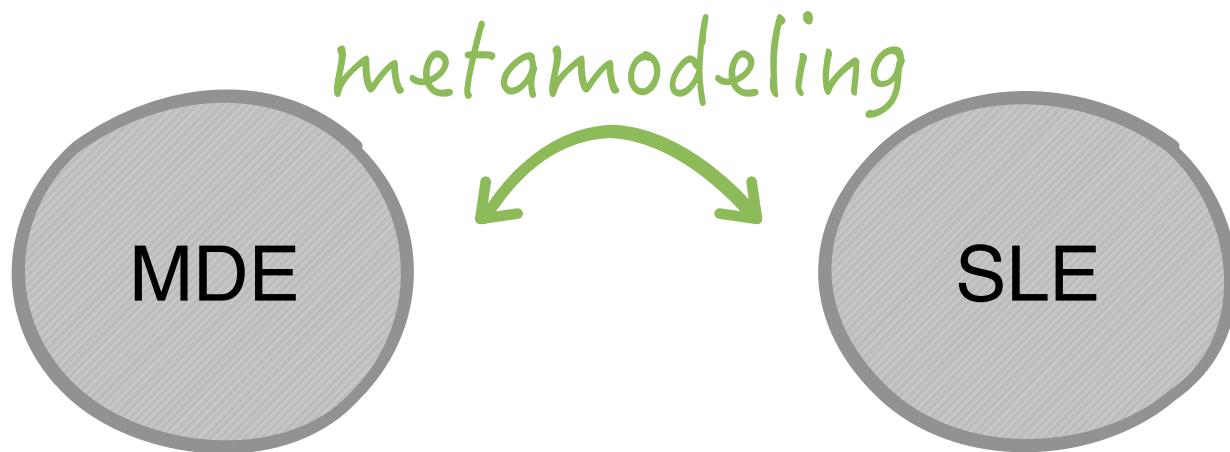
# ***"Software languages are software too"***

J-M. Favre, D. Gasevic, R. Lämmel, and E. Pek. "Empirical language analysis in software linguistics," In Software Language Engineering, volume 6563 of LNCS, pages 316–326. Springer, 2011.

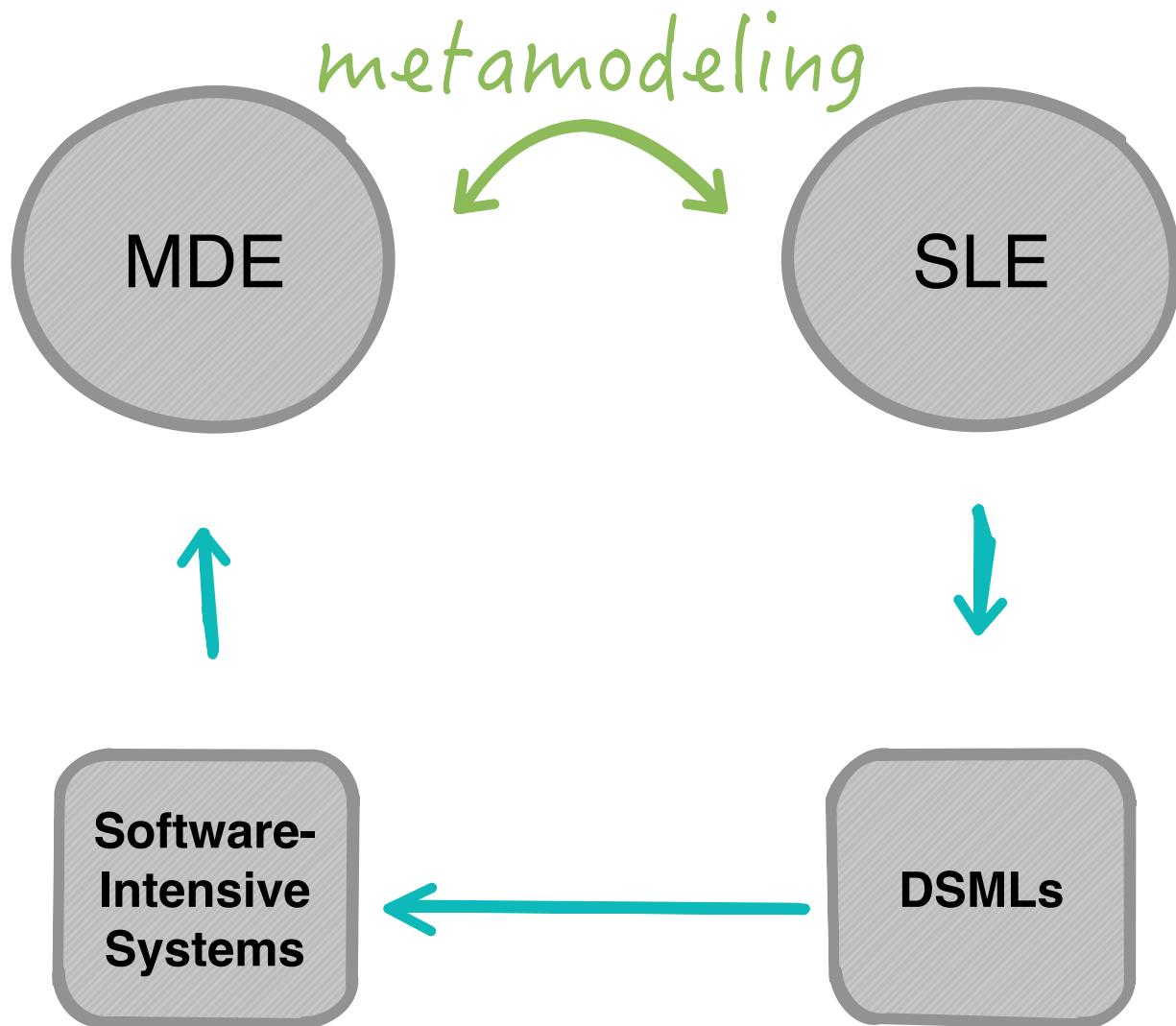
# Software Language Engineering (SLE)

- Application of systematic, disciplined, and measurable approaches to the development, deployment, use, and maintenance of software languages
- Supported by various kind of "**language workbench**"
  - Eclipse EMF, xText, Sirius, GEMOC, Papyrus
  - Jetbrain's MPS
  - MS DSL Tools
  - Etc.
- Various shapes and ways to implement software languages
  - External, internal or embedded DSLs, Profile, etc.
  - Grammar, metamodel, ontology, etc.
- More and more literature, a dedicated Intl. conference (ACM SLE, cf. <http://www.sleconf.org>)...

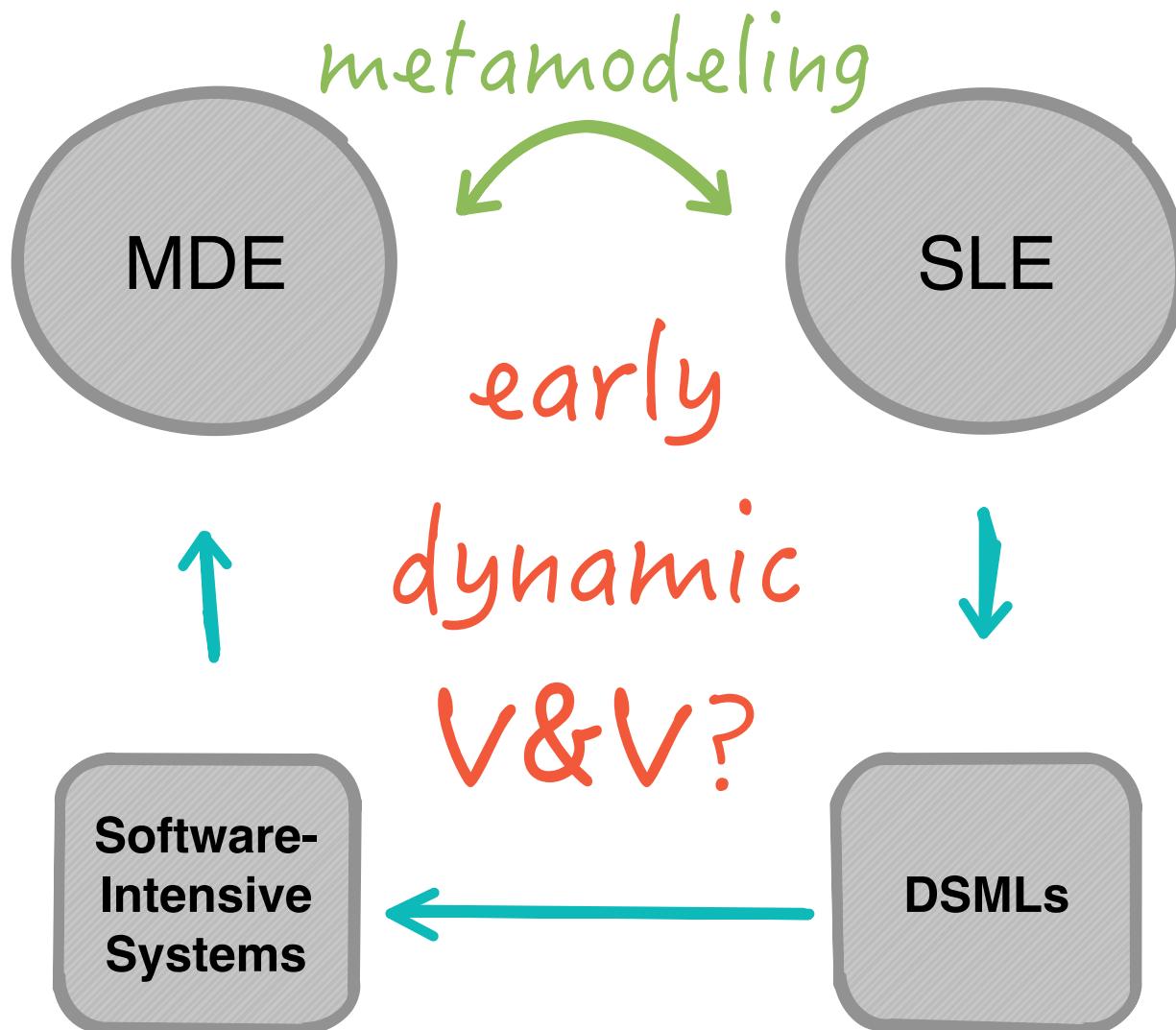
# Scientific Context



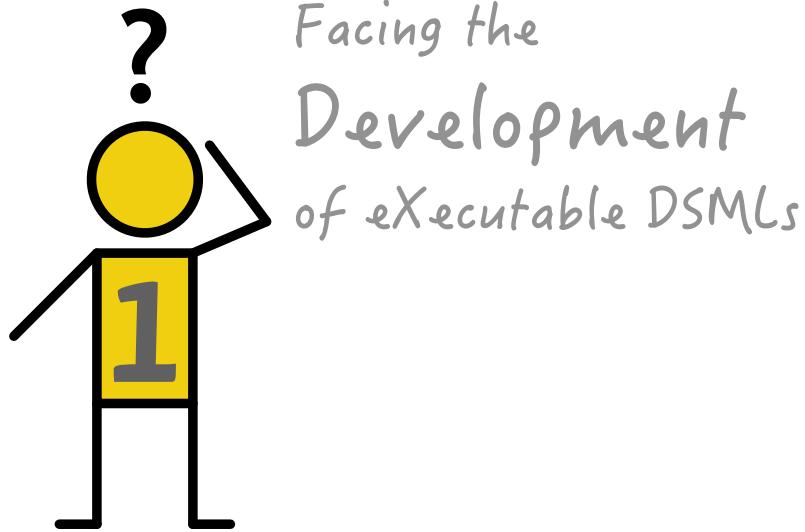
# Scientific Context



# Scientific Context



# Research Statement, Challenges and Contributions

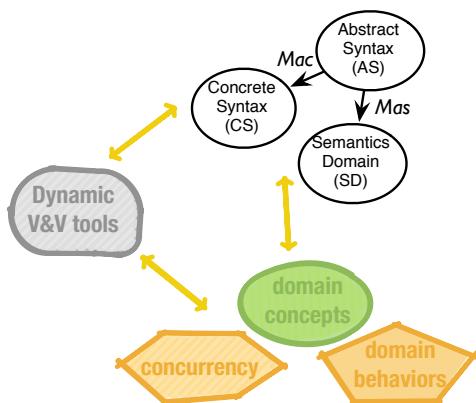


Facing the  
Development  
of eXecutable DSMs

# Research Statement, Challenges and Contributions



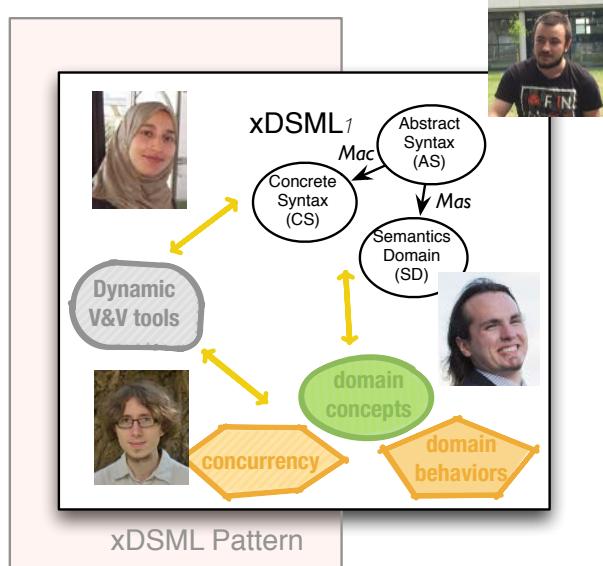
Facing the  
Development  
of eXecutable DSMs



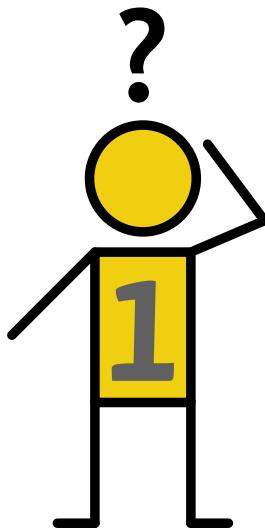
# Research Statement, Challenges and Contributions



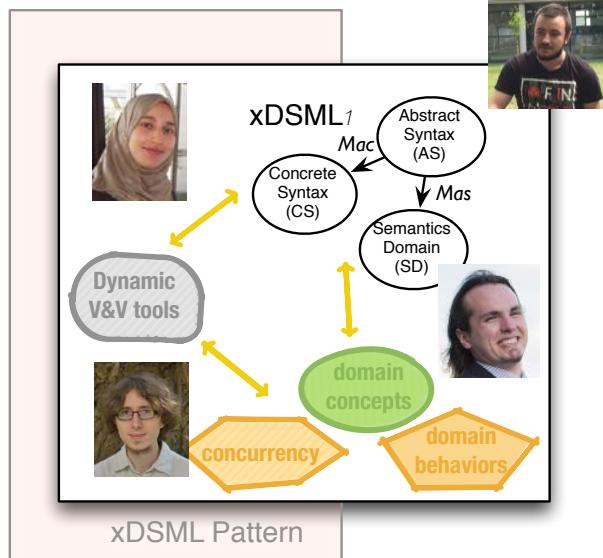
Facing the  
Development  
of eXecutable DSMs



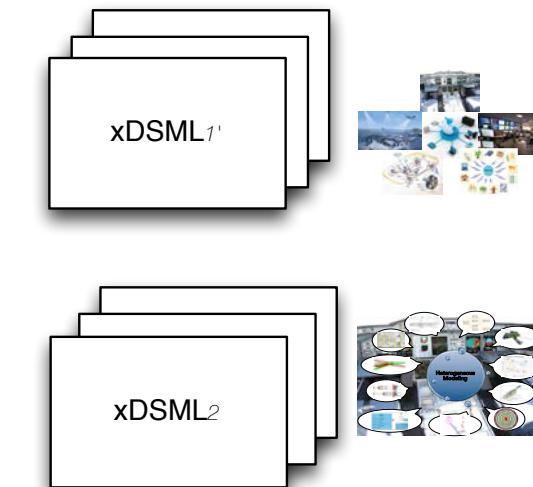
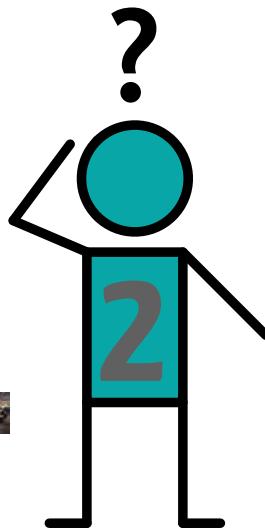
# Research Statement, Challenges and Contributions



Facing the  
Development  
of eXecutable DSMLs



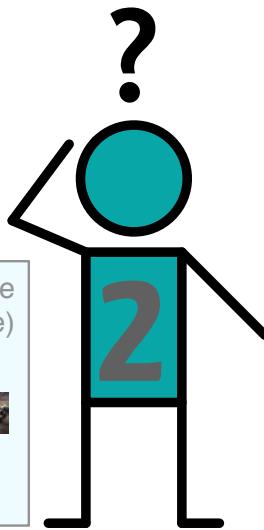
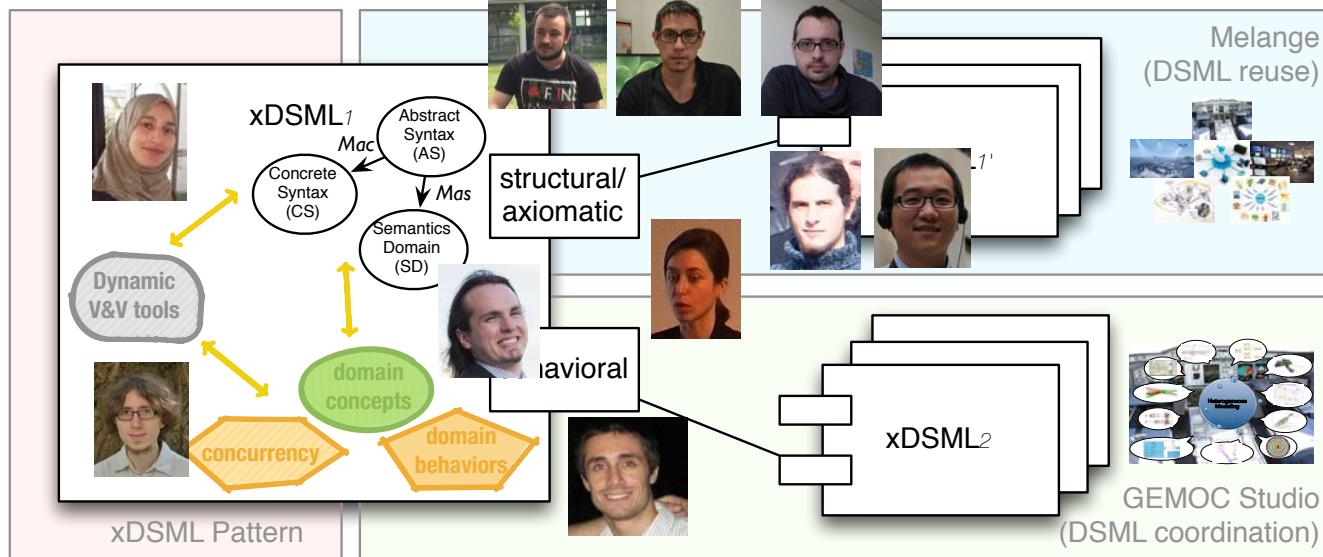
Facing the  
Multiplication  
of eXecutable DSMLs



# Research Statement, Challenges and Contributions



Facing the  
Development  
of eXecutable DSMLs



Facing the  
Multiplication  
of eXecutable DSMLs

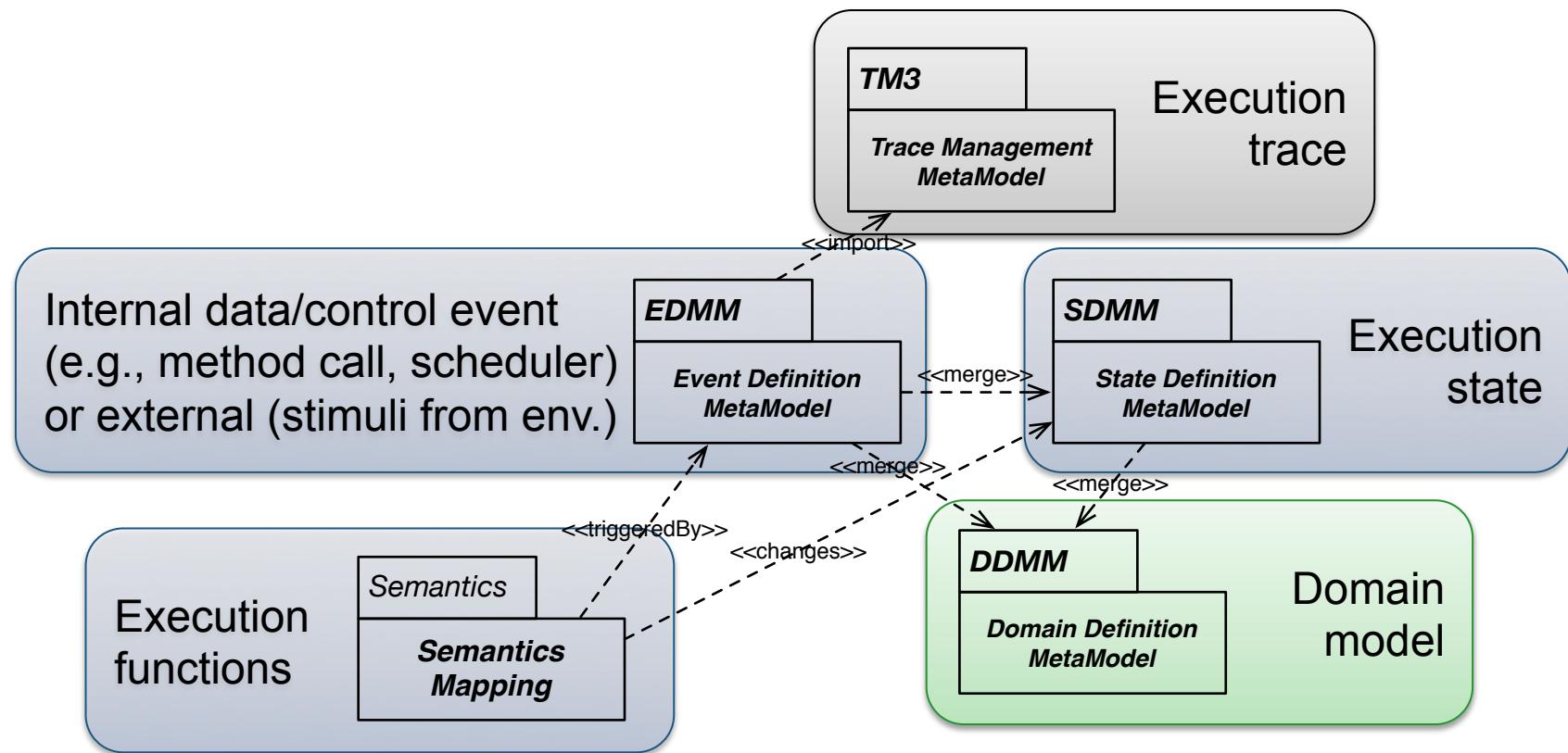
# Outline

1. Tools and methods for xDSML design and implementation
2. Language globalization for reuse and coordination



# THE XDSML PATTERN FOR EXECUTABLE METAMODELING

# The xDSML Pattern

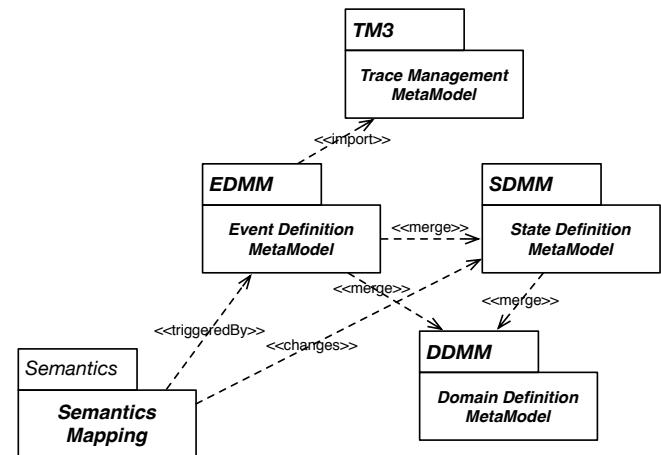


Benoit Combemale, Xavier Crégut, Marc Pantel, "A Design Pattern to Build Executable DSMLs and associated V&V tools", In APSEC 2012

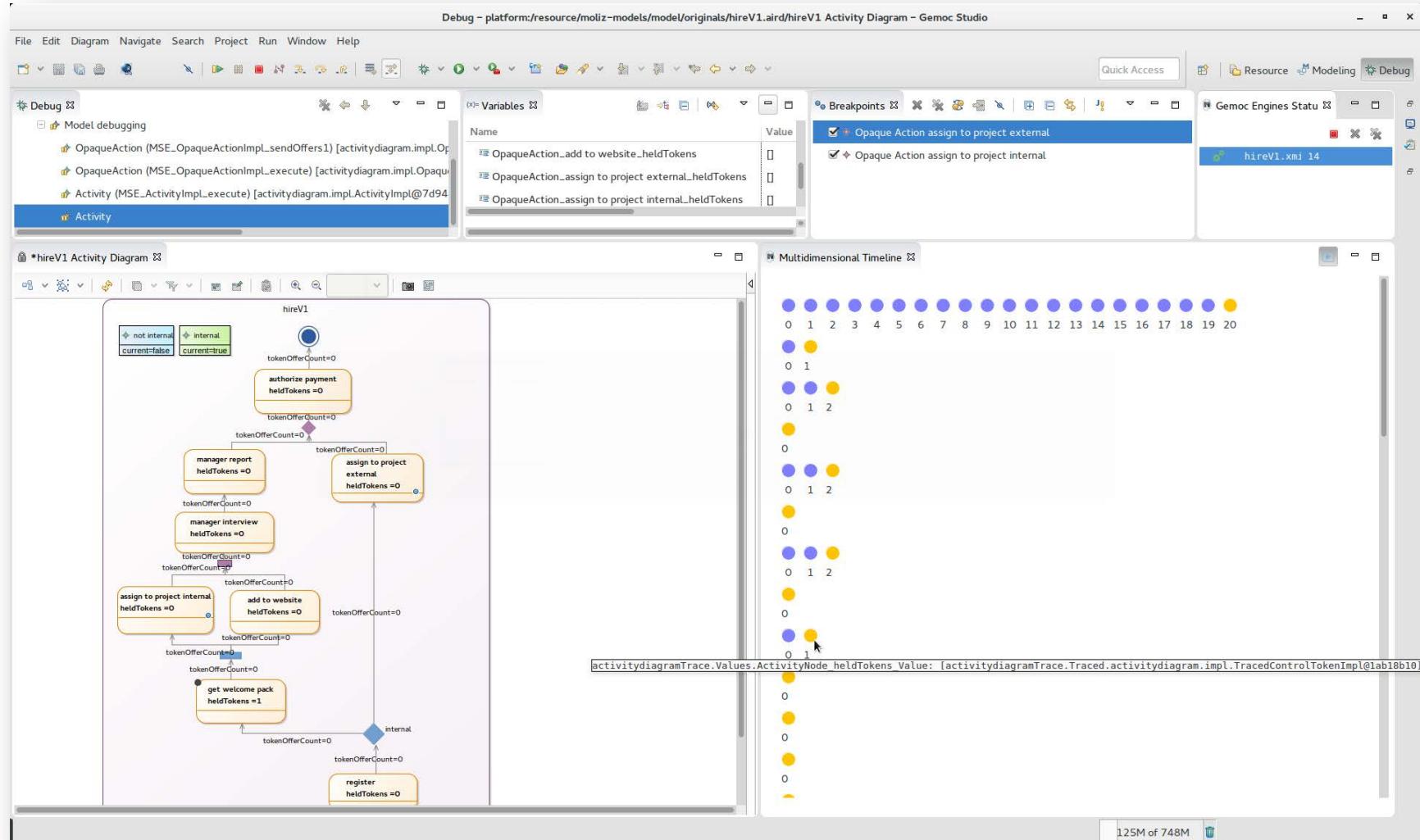
Benoît Combemale, Xavier Crégut, Pierre-Loïc Garoche, Xavier Thirioux, "Essay on Semantics Definition in MDE - An Instrumented Approach for Model Verification," In Journal of Software (JSW), 2009

# The xDSML Pattern

- Mashup of metalanguages (Ecore, OCL, Kermeta) [Jézéquel *et al.*, SoSyM'14]
- Efficient OCL checking [Sun *et al.*, JOT'15]
- Domain-specific execution trace management [Bousse *et al.*, MODELS'14, ECMFA'15]
- Omniscient and multi-dimensional model debugging [Bousse *et al.*, SLE'15]
- Tracing executions back to a xDSML [Combemale *et al.*, ECMFA'11]



# Activity Diagram Debugger



<https://github.com/gemoc/activitydiagram>

# Arduino Designer (& Debugger)

The screenshot displays the Arduino Designer & Debugger interface. On the left, the **Hardware** tab shows a DFRduino Uno R3 board connected to four external components: Red LED, Blue LED, Push button 1, and White LED. On the right, the **Sketch** tab shows a state transition diagram for an **If** block with a **Repeat 2** condition. The diagram illustrates a sequence of states involving three LEDs and a push button. A callout bubble highlights the **Debugger** view, which shows:

- Graphical animation
- Breakpoint definition on model element
- Multi-dimensional and efficient trace management
- Model debugging facilities (incl., timeline, step backward, stimuli management, etc.)

The **Debugger** view also shows a timeline with multiple traces for variables like DigitalPin00\_level, DigitalPin02\_level, and DigitalPin04\_level.

<https://github.com/gemoc/arduinomodeling>



# Arduino Designer (& Debugger)

The screenshot shows the Gemoc Studio interface with several windows:

- Debug**: Shows a tree view of configurations and a project named "Project (MSE\_ProjectImpl\_setup)".
- Hardware**: Displays a DFRduino Uno R3 board with numbered pins (11, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) connected to a digital pin.
- Sketch**: Shows a code editor with an *If* block and a *Repeat 2* block. Below the code, there are three small circuit diagrams involving resistors and LEDs.
- Variables**: A list of variables with their values, including *DigitalPin00\_level*, *DigitalPin01\_level*, *DigitalPin02\_level*, *DigitalPin03\_level*, and *DigitalPin04\_level*.
- Multidimensional Timeline**: A timeline visualization with multiple vertical tracks and colored dots representing data over time.

**Key Features (highlighted in the timeline window):**

- Graphical animation
- Breakpoint definition on model element
- Multi-dimensional and efficient trace management
- Model debugging facilities (incl., timeline, step backward, stimuli management, etc.)
- Concurrency simulation and formal analysis

**Textual Annotations:**

- Modern platforms are highly parallel (e.g., many-core, GPGPU, distributed platform).
- Complex software systems are highly concurrent systems per se (e.g., IoT, CPS).

<https://github.com/gemoc/arduinomodeling>

# Reifying Concurrency in xDSML: Limitations

- Concurrency remains implicit and ad-hoc in language design and implementation:
  - Design: implicitly inherited from the meta-language used
  - Implementation: mostly embedded in the underlying execution environment
- The lack of an explicit concurrency specification in language design prevents:
  - leveraging the concurrency concern of a particular domain or platform
  - a complete understanding of the behavioral semantics
  - effective concurrency-aware analysis techniques
  - effective techniques for producing semantic variants
  - analysis of the deployment on parallel architectures

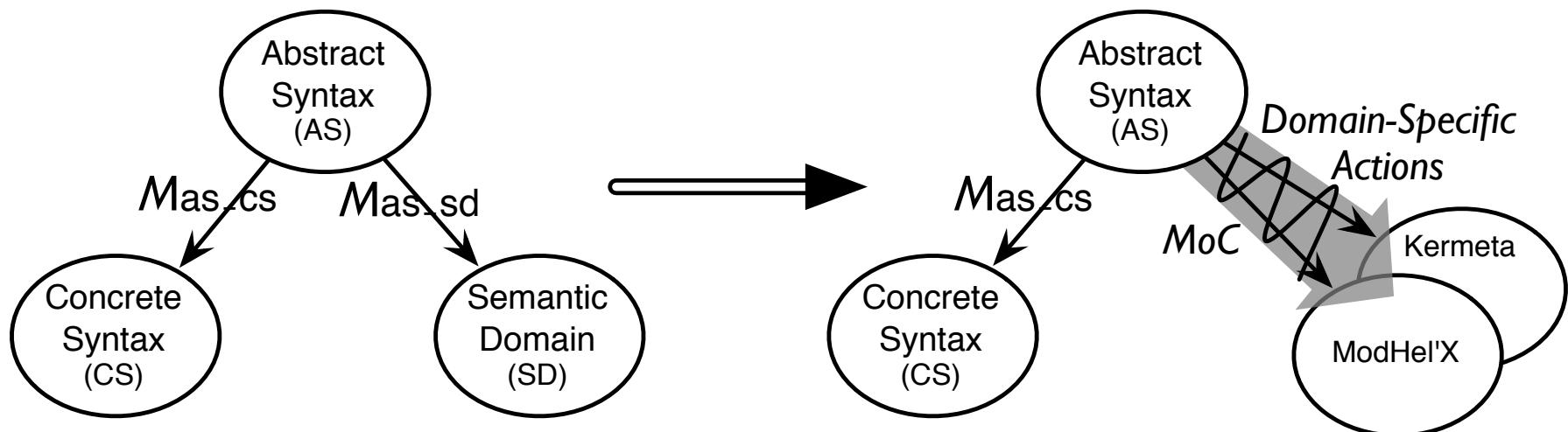
# Reifying Concurrency in xDSML: Grand Challenge

## Cross fertilization in languages of the **algorithm** theory and the **concurrency** theory

*"Concurrency models were generally event-based, and avoided the use of state. They did not easily describe algorithms or the usual way of thinking about them based on the standard model."*

Leslie Lamport, "Turing Lecture: *The Computer Science of Concurrency: The Early Years*," Com. ACM, vol. 58, no. 6, 2015, pp. 71–76.

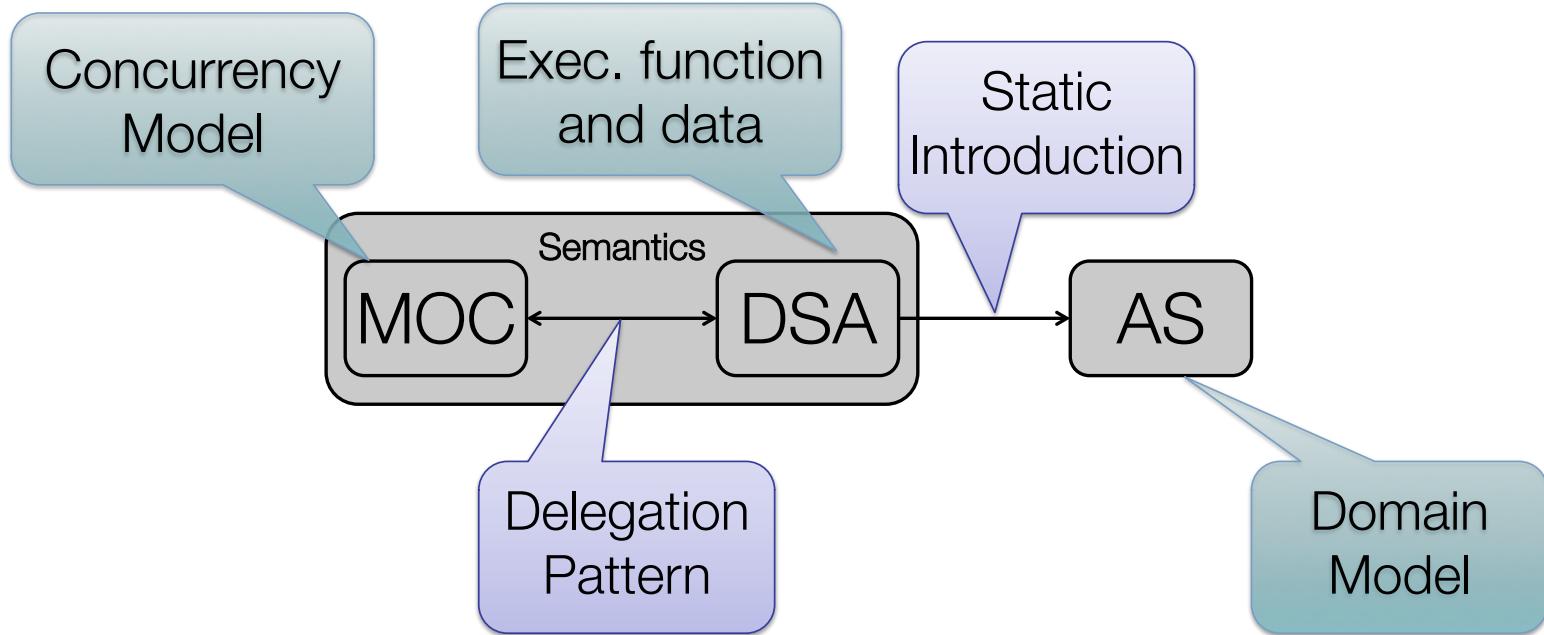
# Reifying Concurrency in xDSML: Approach



Benoit Combemale, Cécile Hardebolle, Christophe Jacquet, Frédéric Boulanger, Benoit Baudry, "Bridging the Chasm between Executable Metamodeling and Models of Computation," In Software Language Engineering (SLE), 2012.

# Reifying Concurrency in xDSML: Approach

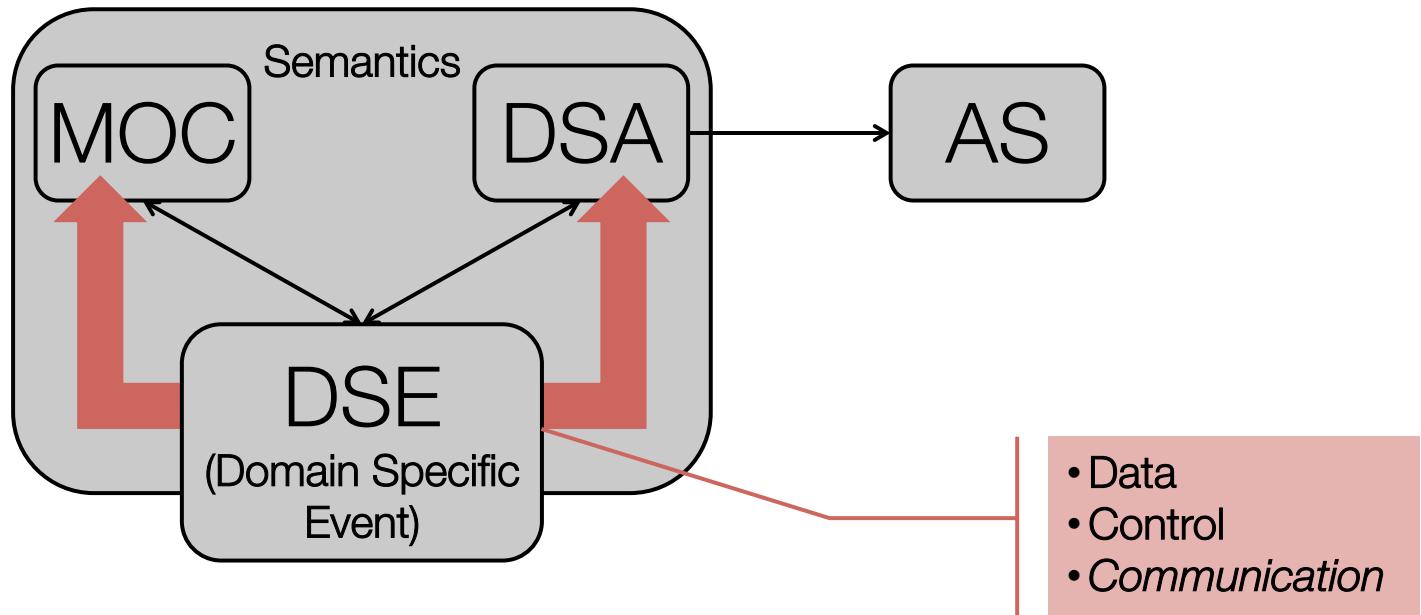
The MoCC serves as a (family of) scheduler(s) of the execution functions that manipulate the execution data (i.e. program state)



Benoit Combemale, Cécile Hardebolle, Christophe Jacquet, Frédéric Boulanger, Benoit Baudry, "Bridging the Chasm between Executable Metamodeling and Models of Computation," In Software Language Engineering (SLE), 2012.

# Reifying Concurrency in xDSML: Approach

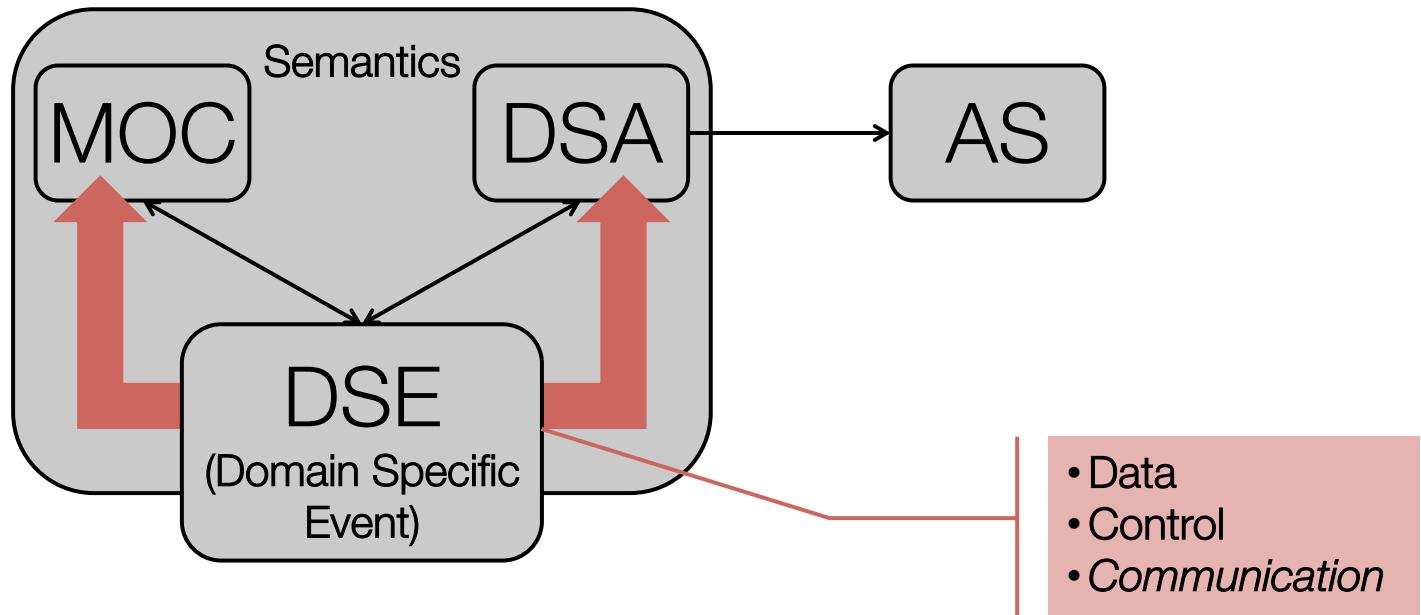
The DSE serve as a mapping from the MOC to the DSA



Benoit Combemale, Julien Deantoni, Matias Vara Larsen, Frédéric Mallet, Olivier Barais, Benoit Baudry, Robert France, "Reifying Concurrency for Executable Metamodeling," In Software Language Engineering (SLE), 2013

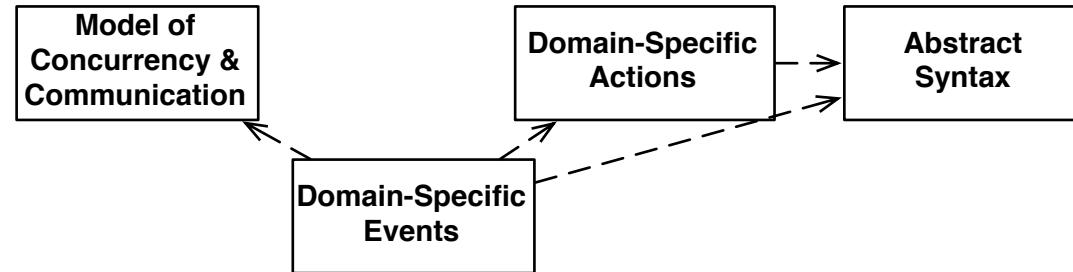
# Reifying Concurrency in xDSML: Approach

The DSEs serve as a protocol between the MOC and the DSA

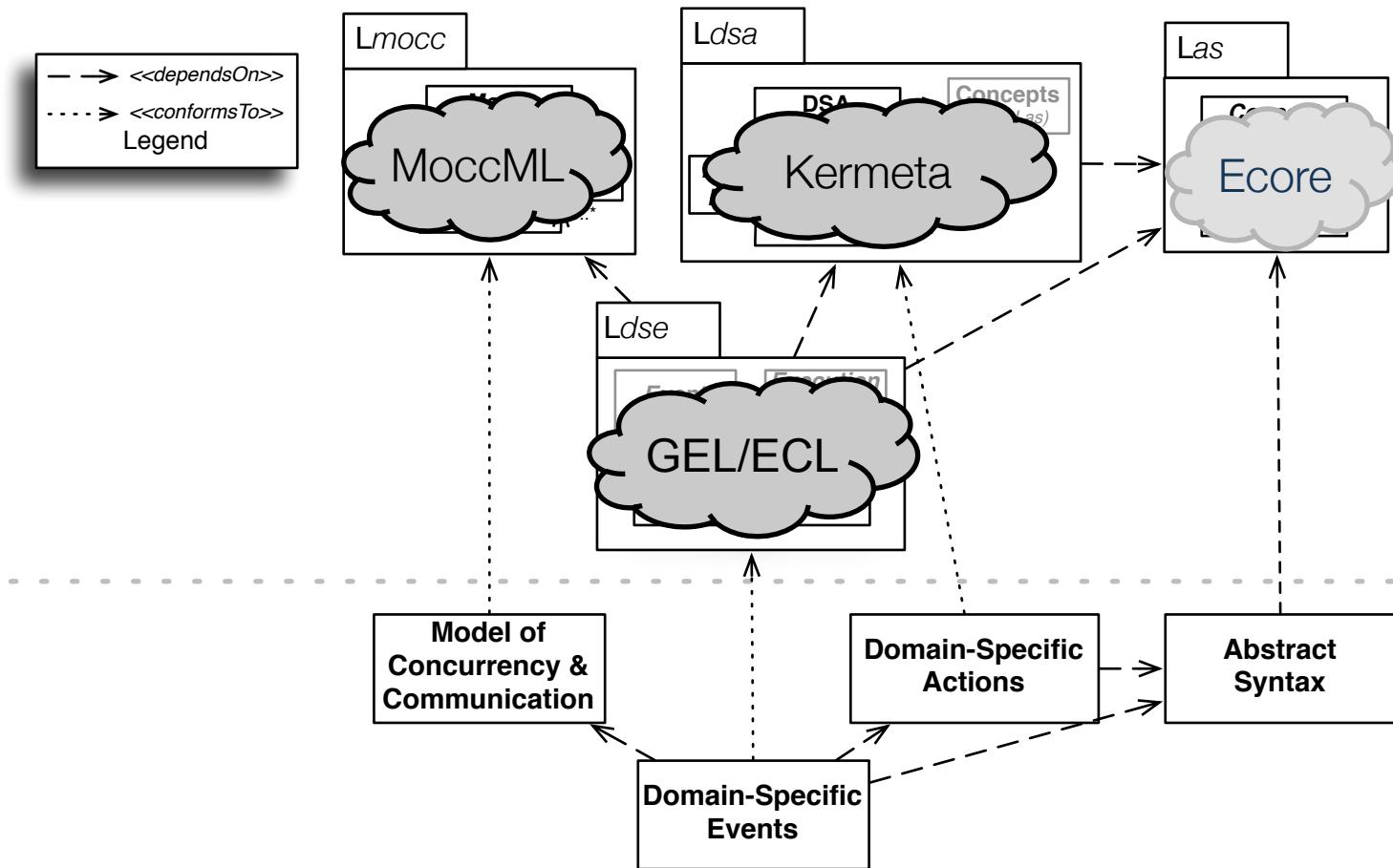


Florent Latombe, Xavier Crégut, Benoît Combemale, Julien DeAntoni, Marc Pantel, "Weaving concurrency in executable domain-specific modeling languages," In Software Language Engineering (SLE), 2015

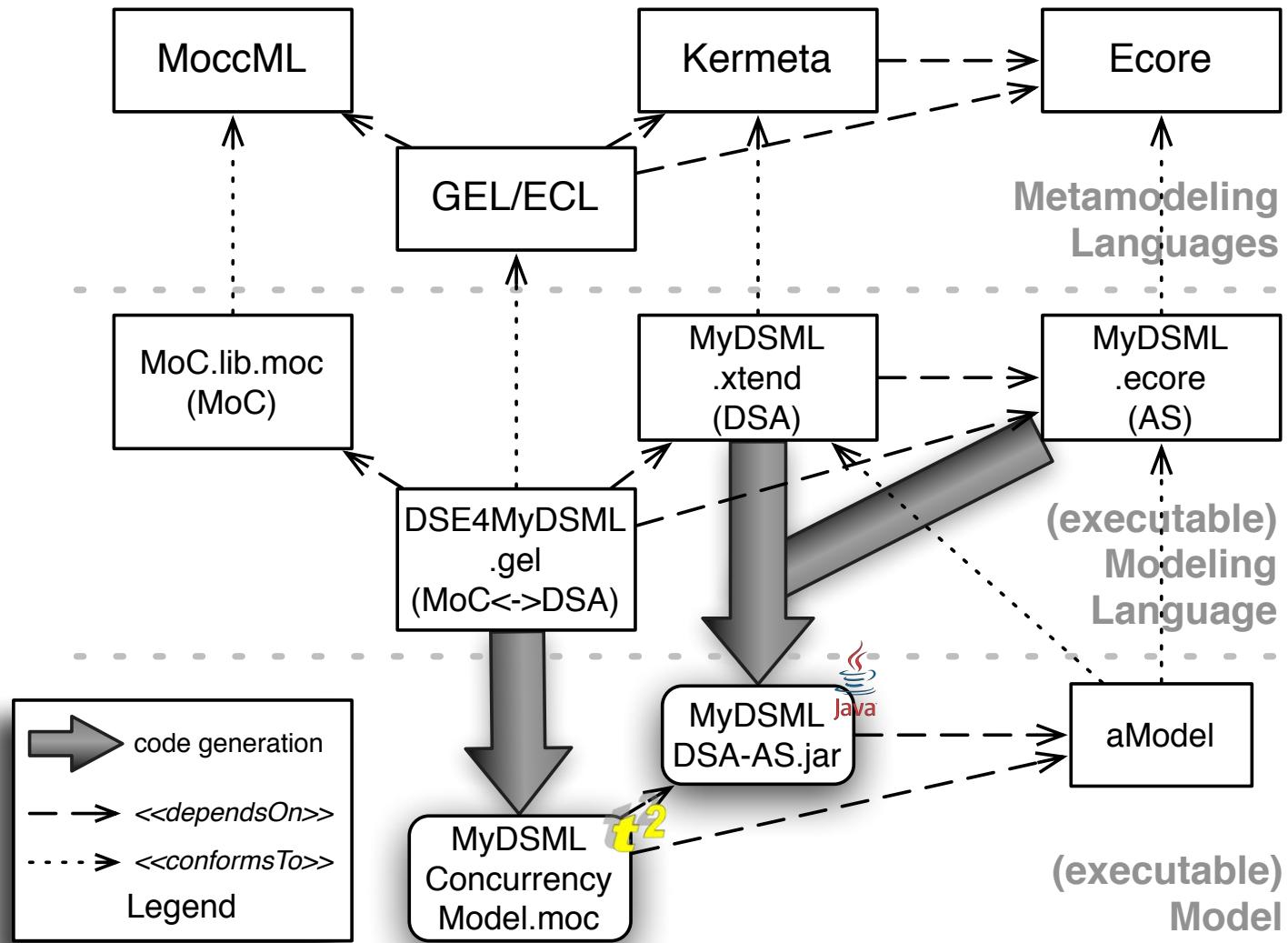
# Reifying Concurrency in xDSML: Contribution



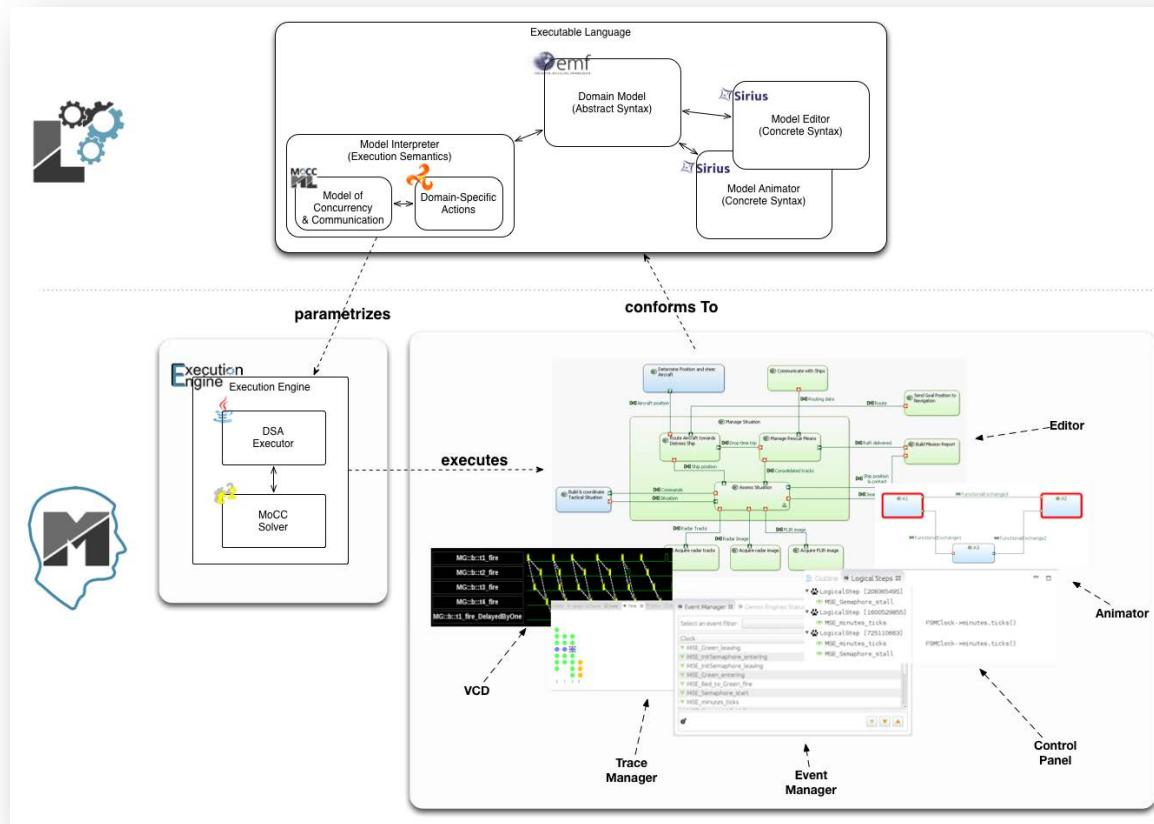
# Reifying Concurrency in xDSML: Contribution



# Reifying Concurrency in xDSML: Contribution



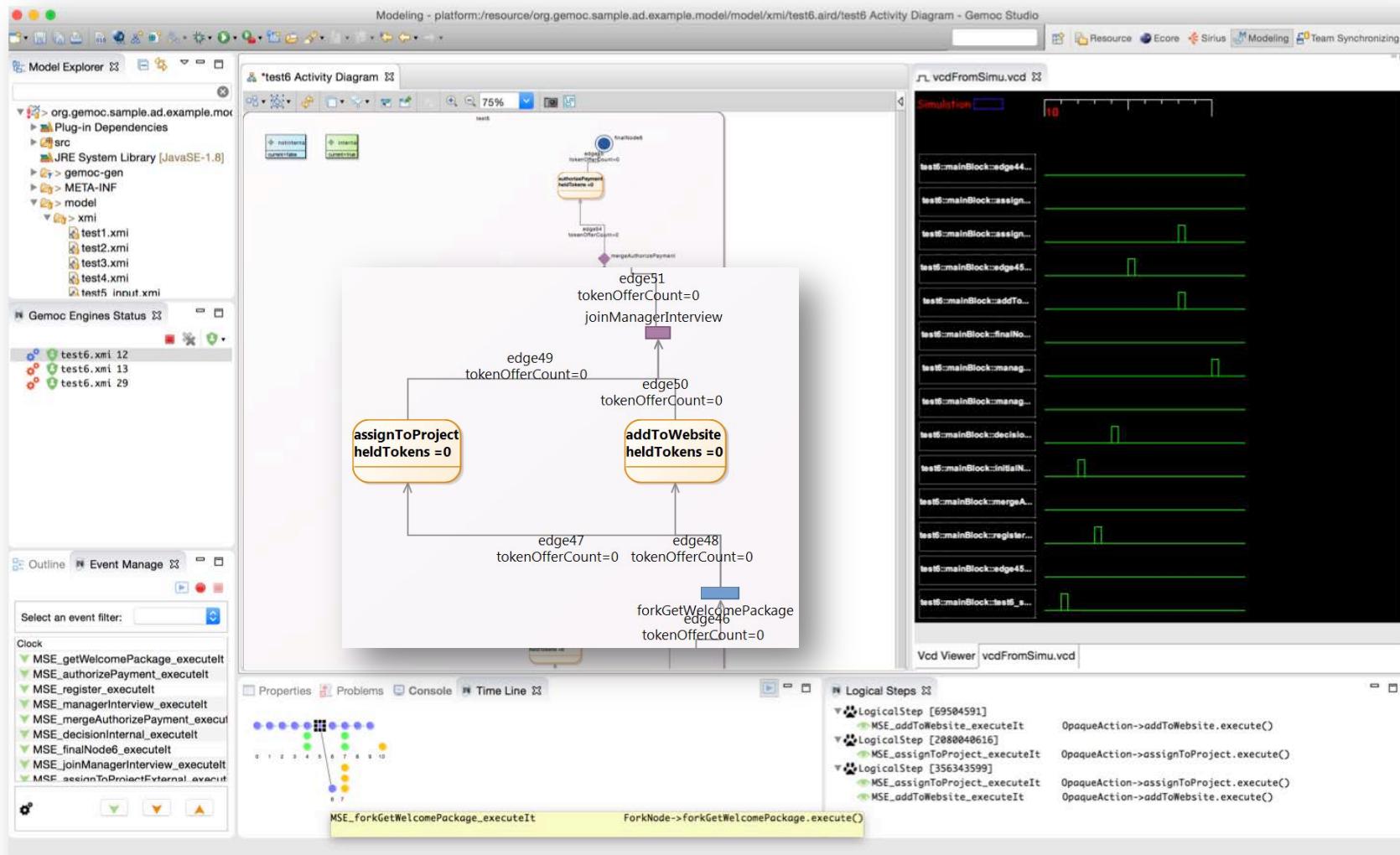
# The GEMOC Studio



Benoit Combemale, Julien Deantoni, Olivier Barais, Arnaud Blouin, Erwan Bousse, Cédric Brun, Thomas Degueule and Didier Vojtisek, "A Solution to the TTC'15 Model Execution Case Using the GEMOC Studio," In 8th Transformation Tool Contest (TTC), 2015. **Overall Winner**

<http://gemoc.org/studio/>

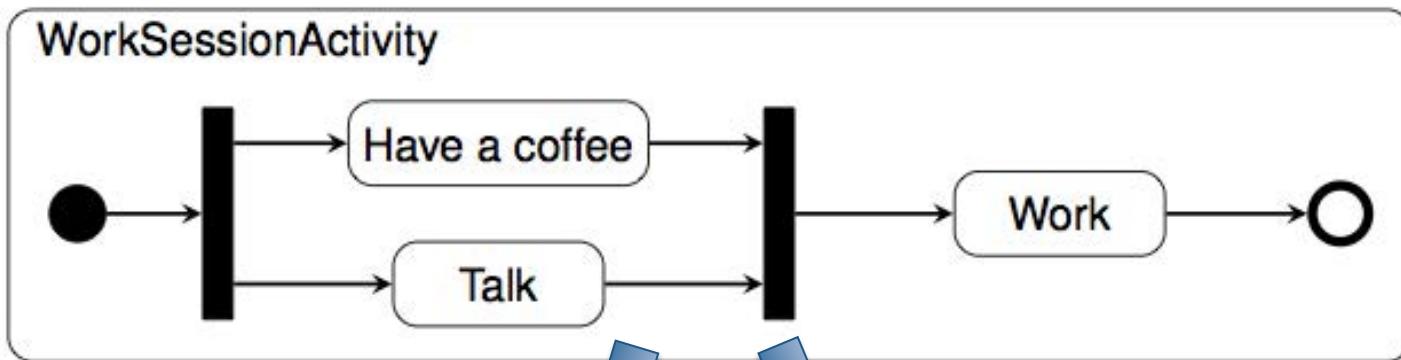
# Activity Diagram Debugger



<https://github.com/gemoc/activitydiagram>

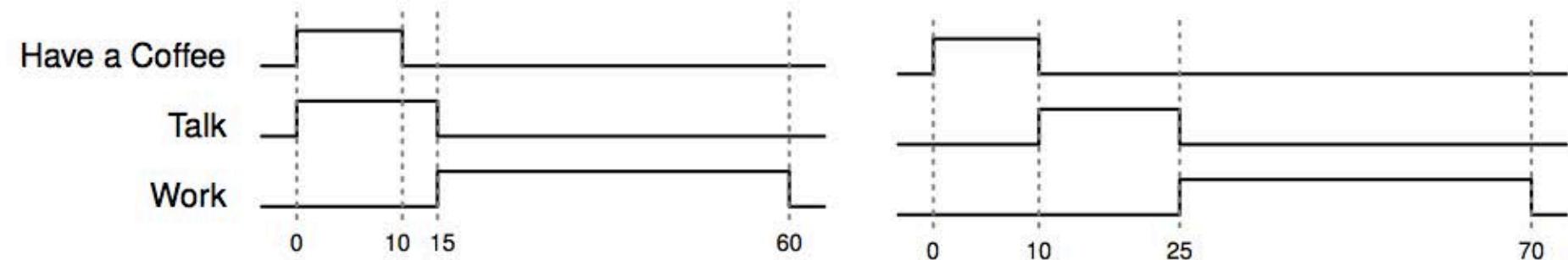


# Coping with Semantic Variation Points



Concurrent DE

## Sequential DE



Florent Latombe, Xavier Crégut, Julien Deantoni, Marc Pantel, Benoit Combemale, "Coping with Semantic Variation Points in Domain-Specific Modeling Languages", In EXE@MoDELS 2015.

***"A clear challenge, then,  
is how to integrate  
multiple DSLs."***

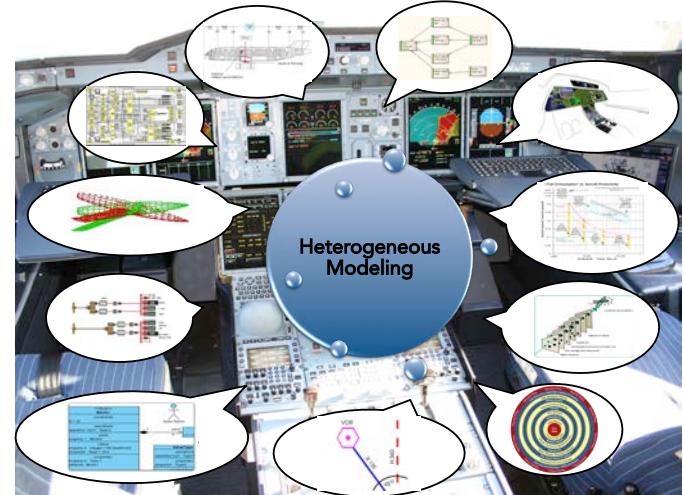
J. Whittle, J. Hutchinson, and M. Rouncefield, “*The State of Practice in Model-Driven Engineering*,” IEEE Software, vol. 31, no. 3, 2014, pp. 79–85.

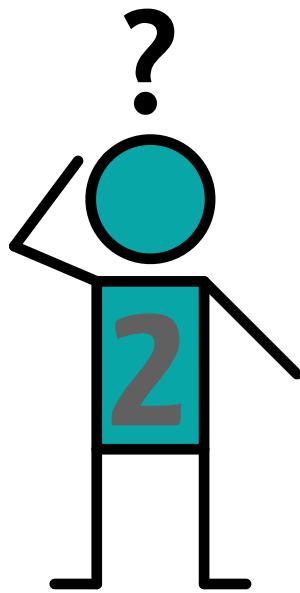
# Multiplication of DSMLs

Increasing number of application domains



Increasing number of stakeholders and concerns





# ON THE GLOBALIZATION OF MODELING LANGUAGES

# Globalization of Modeling Languages

- DSMLs are developed in an independent manner to meet the specific needs of domain experts,
- DSMLs should also have an associated framework that regulates interactions needed to support collaboration and work coordination across different system domains.



Benoit Combemale, Julien DeAntoni, Benoit Baudry, Robert B. France, Jean-Marc Jezequel, Jeff Gray, "Globalizing Modeling Languages," Computer, vol. 47, no. 6, pp. 68-71, June, 2014

# Globalization of Modeling Languages

*Supporting coordinated use of modeling languages leads to what we call the globalization of modeling languages, that is, the use of multiple modeling languages to support coordinated development of diverse aspects of a system.*



Benoit Combemale, Julien DeAntoni, Benoit Baudry, Robert B. France, Jean-Marc Jezequel, Jeff Gray, "Globalizing Modeling Languages," Computer, vol. 47, no. 6, pp. 68-71, June, 2014

# Globalization of Modeling Language

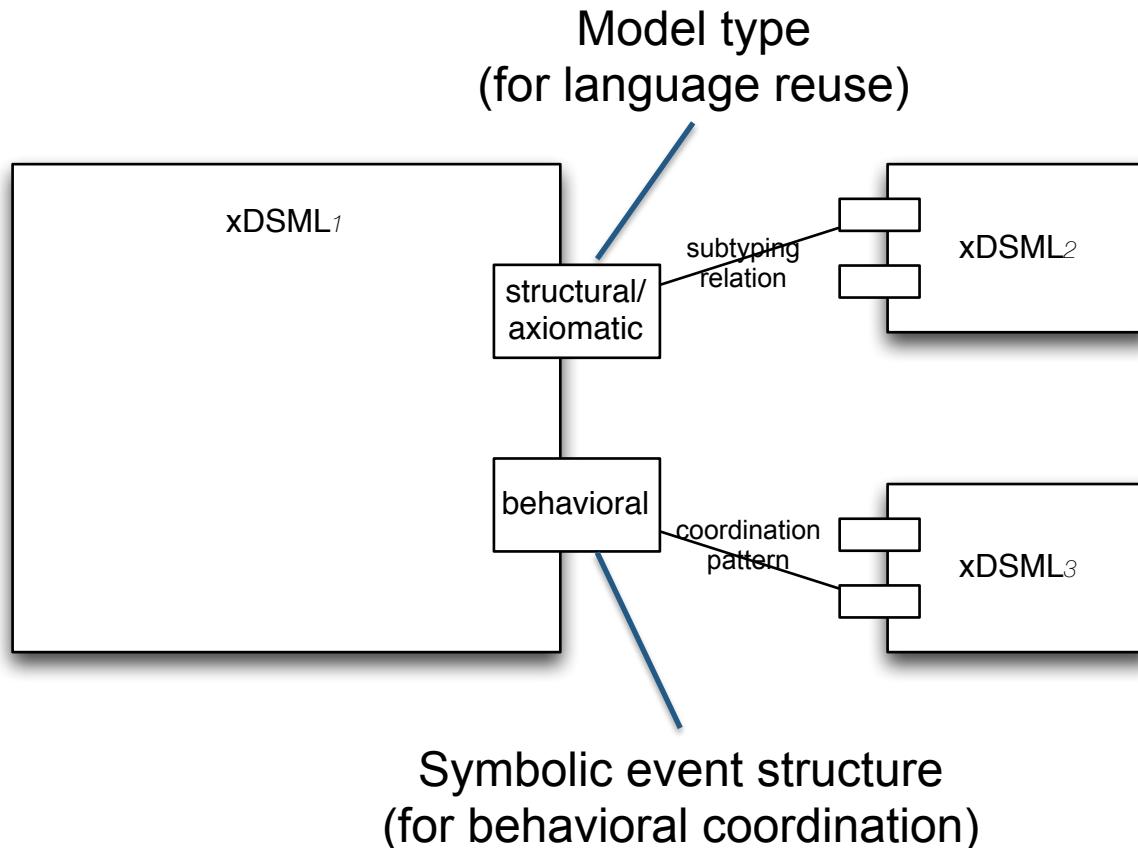
- Context: new emerging DSML in **open world**
  - ⇒ impossible *a priori* unification
  - ⇒ require *a posteriori* globalization
- Objective: socio-technical coordination to support interactions across different system aspects
  - ⇒ Language-based support **for technical integration** of multiples domains
  - ⇒ Language-based support **for social translucence**
- Community: the GEMOC initiative (cf. <http://gemoc.org>)

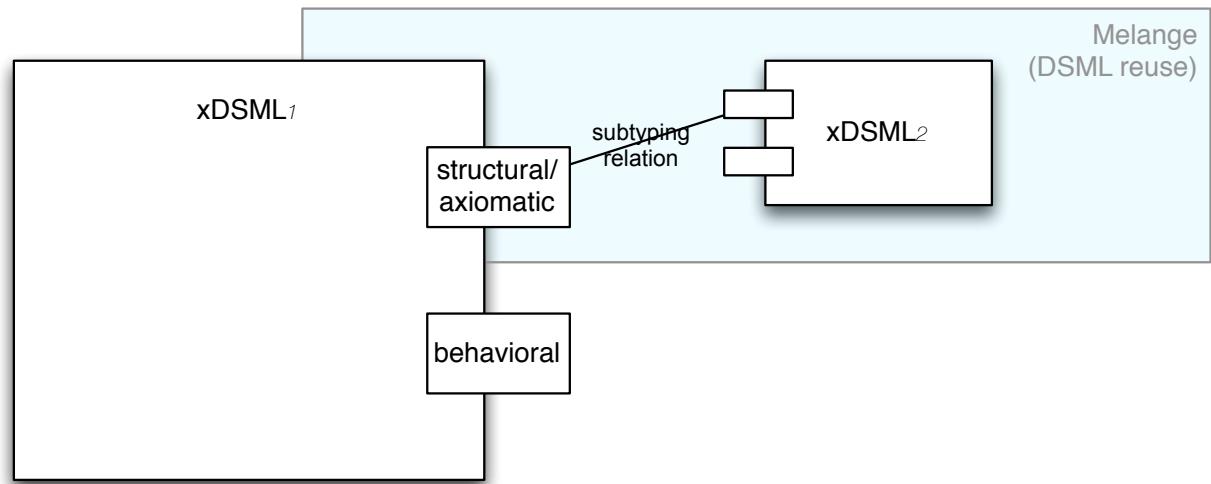


"*Globalizing Domain-Specific Languages*," Combemale, B., Cheng, B.H.C., France, R.B., Jézéquel, J.-M., Rumpe, B. (Eds.). Springer, Programming and Software Engineering, Vol. 9400, 2015.

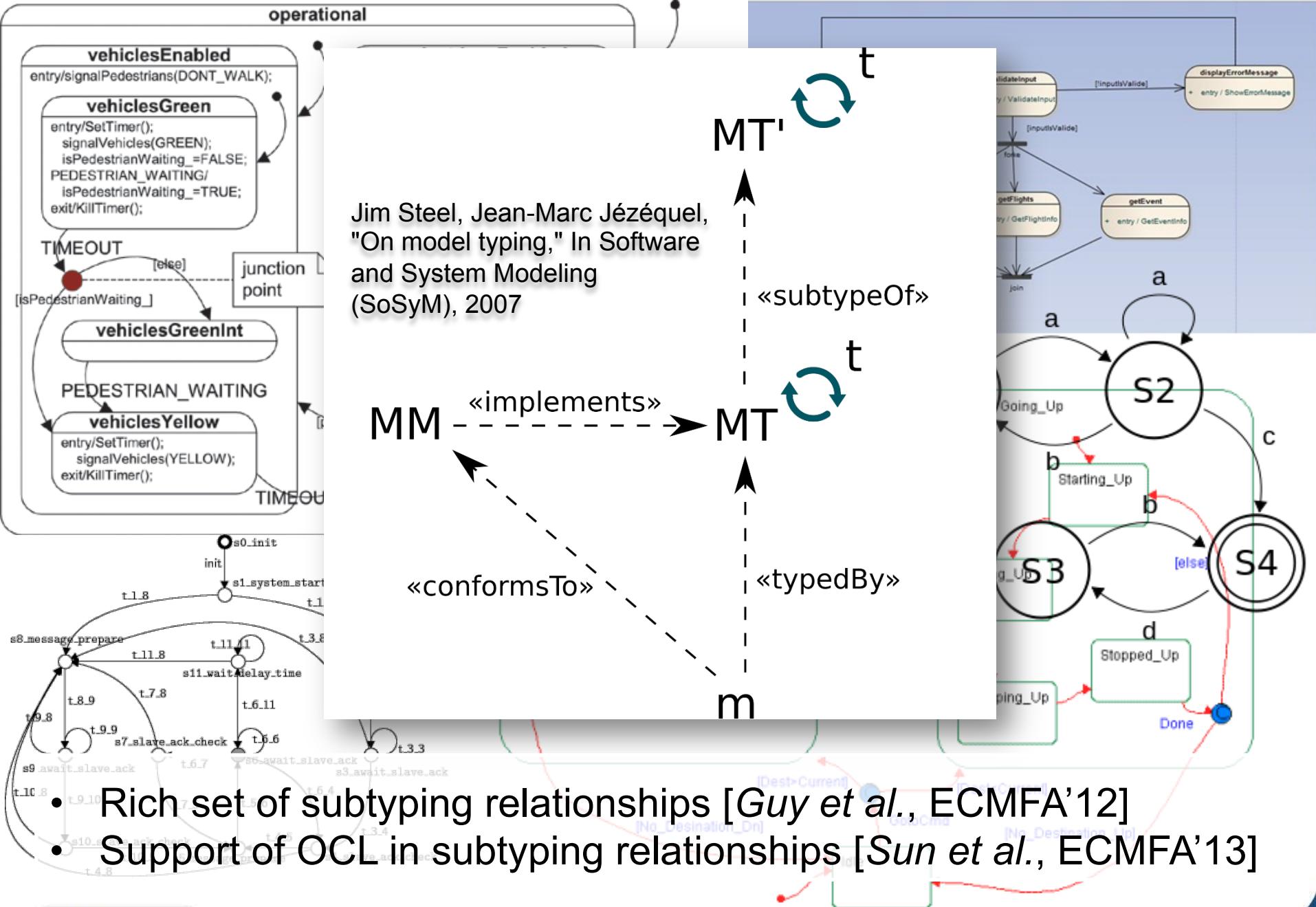
# Towards Language Interfaces

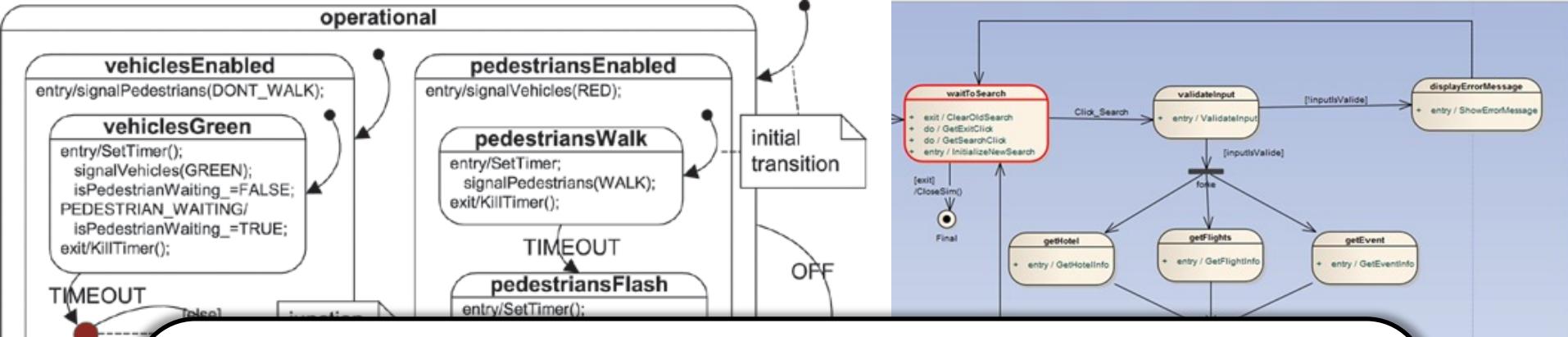
- A language interface is a contract that exhibits the relevant information for a given purpose (i.e., to support specific composition operators)





## MELANGE: MODULAR AND REUSABLE DSML DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

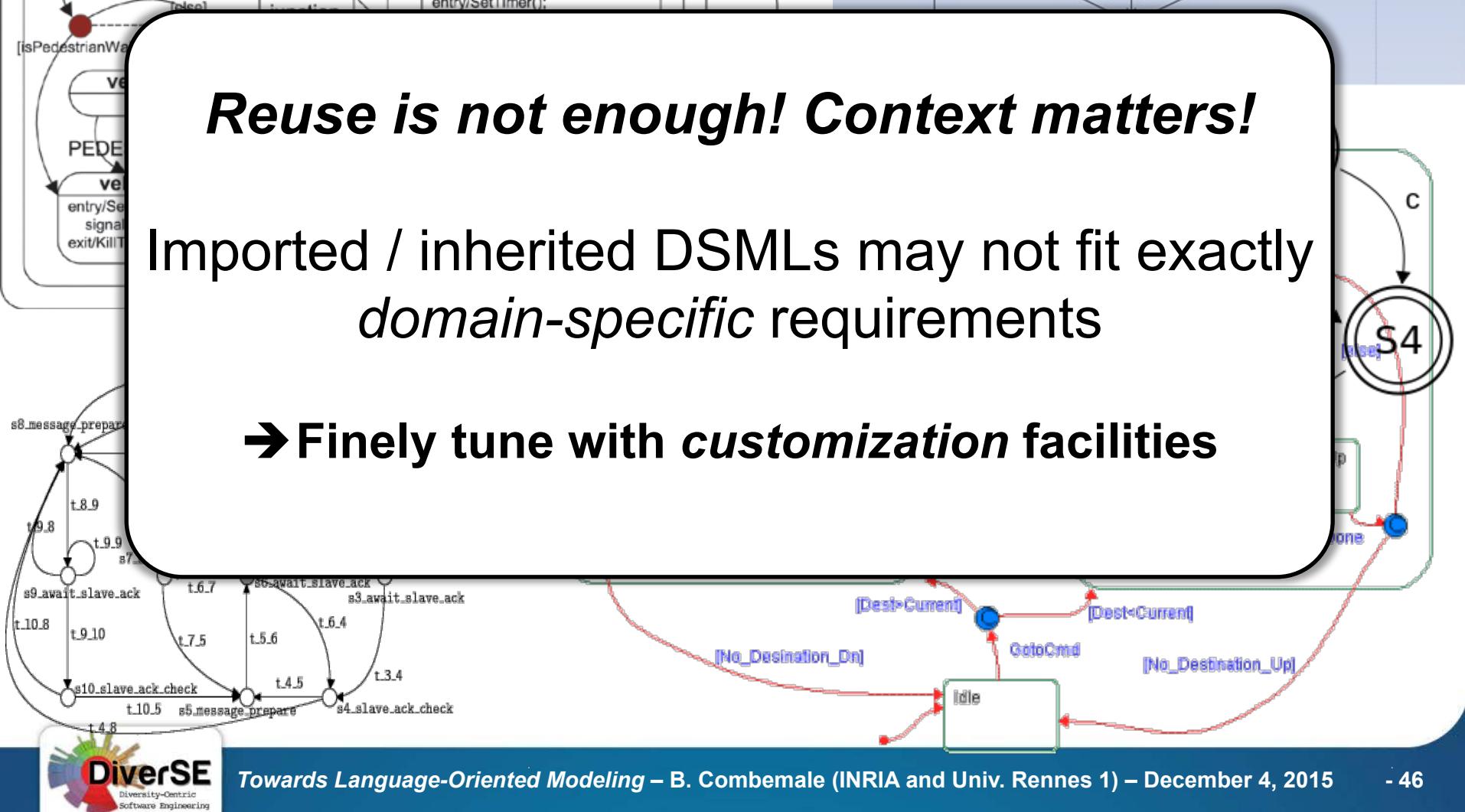




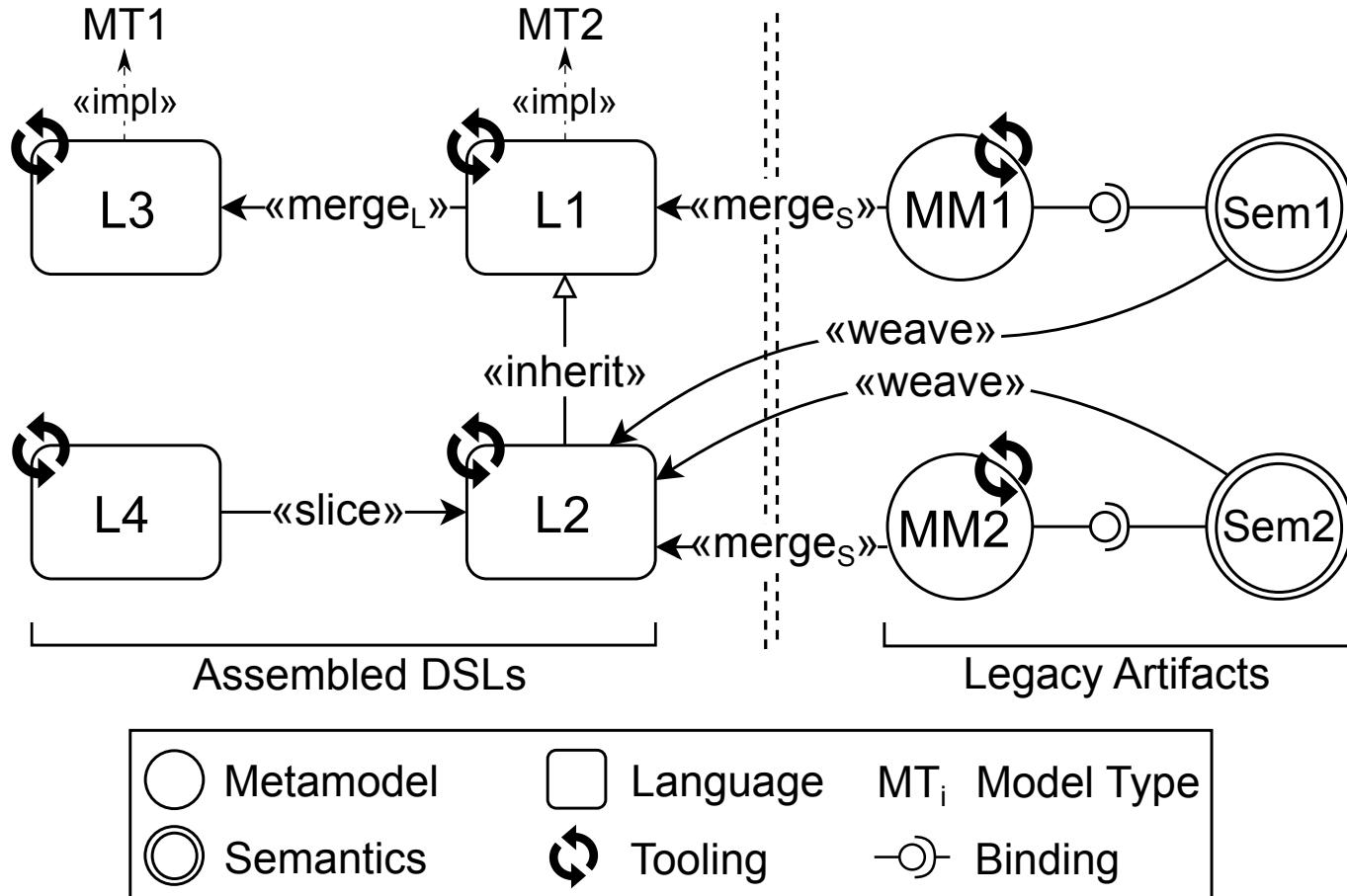
## *Reuse is not enough! Context matters!*

Imported / inherited DSMLs may not fit exactly  
*domain-specific* requirements

→ Finely tune with *customization facilities*



# Modular and Reusable xDSML Development



Thomas Degueule, Benoît Combemale, Arnaud Blouin, Olivier Barais, Jean-Marc Jézéquel, "Melange: a meta-language for modular and reusable development of DSLs," In Software Language Engineering (SLE), 2015

# MELANGE

FsmFamily.melange

```
language Fsm {
    syntax "/Metamodels/Fsm.ecore"
    exactType FsmMT
}

language ExecutableFsm inherits Fsm {
    with fsm.executionsemantics.*
    exactType ExecutableFsmMT
}

language TimedFsm inherits Fsm {
    merge TimedTransition
    with tfsm.executionsemantics.OverrideTransition
    exactType ActivityDiagramMT
}

language GuardedFsm inherits TimedFsm {
    slice ActionLanguage on ["BooleanExpression"]
    with gfsm.executionsemantics.EvaluateGuard
    exactType GuardedFsmMT
}
```

FsmFamily.melange

```
22
23@ transformation FsmMT createNewTimedFsm() {
24    val fact = TimedfsmFactory.eINSTANCE
25@    return new TimedFsm => [
26@        contents += fact.createState => [
27@            name = "S1"
28@            outgoingTransition += fact.createTransition => [
29@                input = "a"
30@            ]
31@        ]
32@    ]
33@ }
34
35@ transformation flatten(FsmMT m) { /* ... */ }
36
37@ transformation loadFsmModel() {
38    val m1 = Fsm.load("Lights.fsm")
39    val m2 = TimedFsm.load("Temporal.timedfsm")
40    flatten.call(m1)
41    flatten.call(m2)
42    val m3 = m2 as FsmMT
43    flatten.call(m3)
44 }
```

Outline

- fsmfamily
  - + Fsm <| FsmMT, TimedFsmMT
  - + TimedFsm ▲ Fsm <| FsmMT, TimedFsmMT
  - + ExecutableFsm <| FsmMT, TimedFsmMT, ExecutableFSMAAspect @ FSM
  - fsm
    - FSM
      - execute
      - currentState
    - State
      - ExecutableTransitionAspect @ Transition
      - ExecutableStateAspect @ State
    - fsm
      - createNewTimedFsm
      - flatten
      - loadFsmModel
  - + FsmMT <| TimedFsmMT
  - + TimedFsmMT <| FsmMT

# A language-based, model-oriented programming language

<http://melange-lang.org>



## CLOSED WORLD

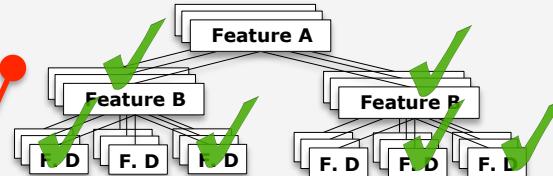


# MELANGE

## OPEN WORLD



*Variability model*



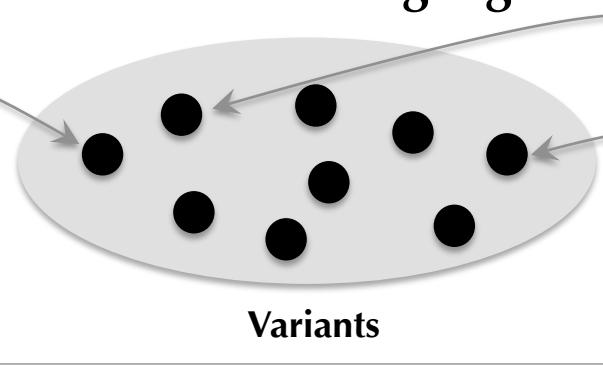
*Language derivation*



**Variability-based development model for DSLs**

- Variability modeling
- Components-based languages development

## Families of Languages

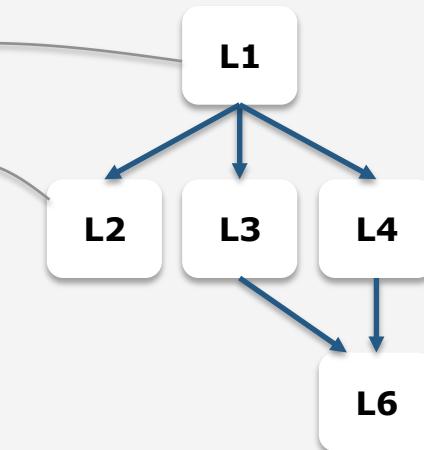


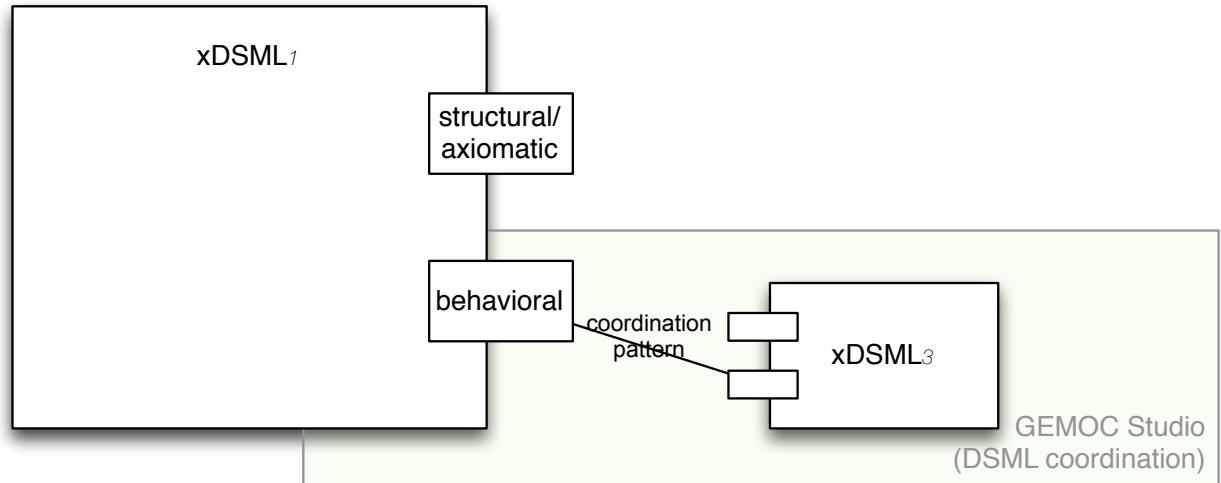
## Typing Theory for Agile Modeling

- Language interfaces
- Model polymorphism
- Viewpoints management

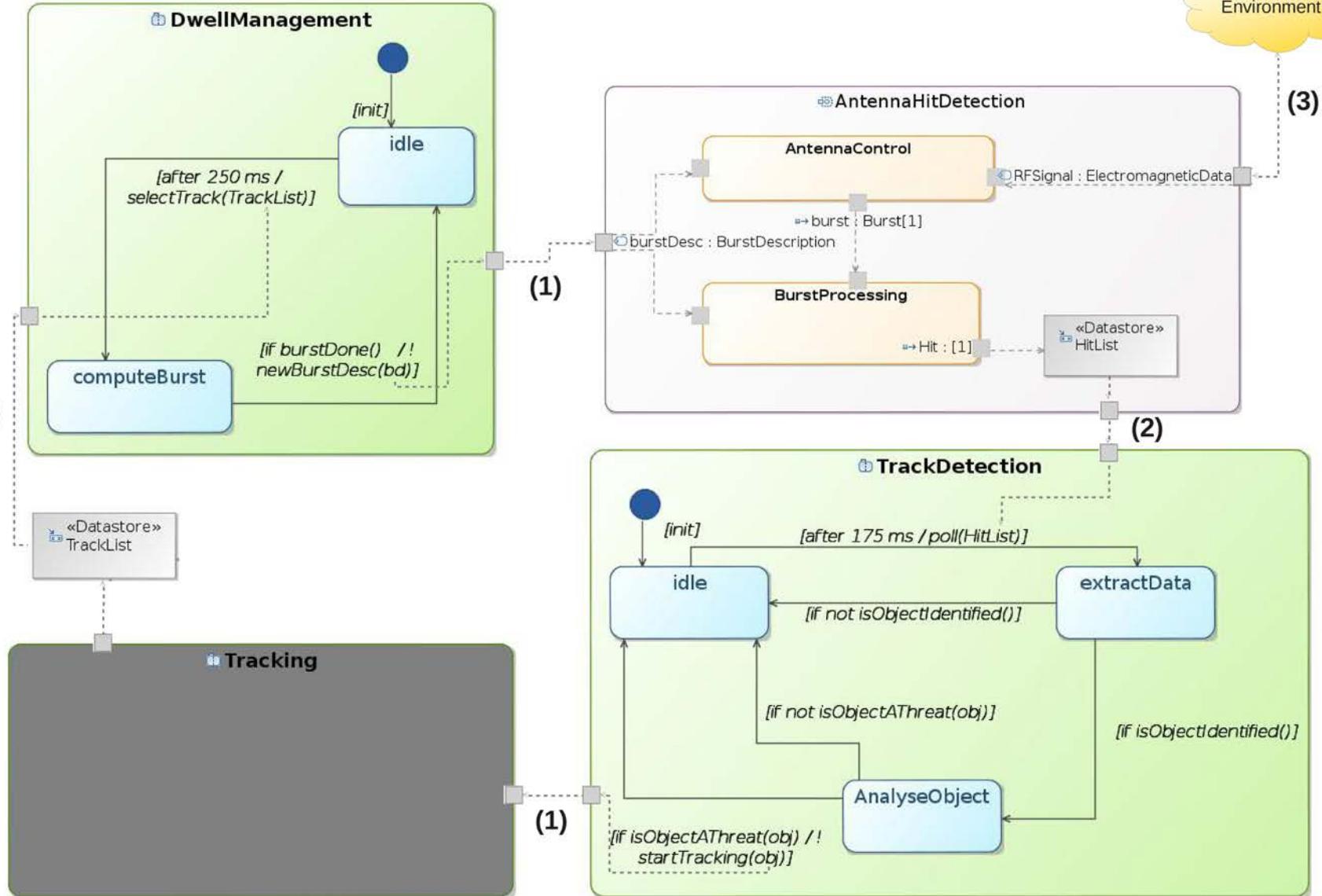
**Language Manipulation**

- Evolution
- Extension
- Restriction
- Customization
- Assembly





## B-COOL: BEHAVIORAL MODEL COORDINATION

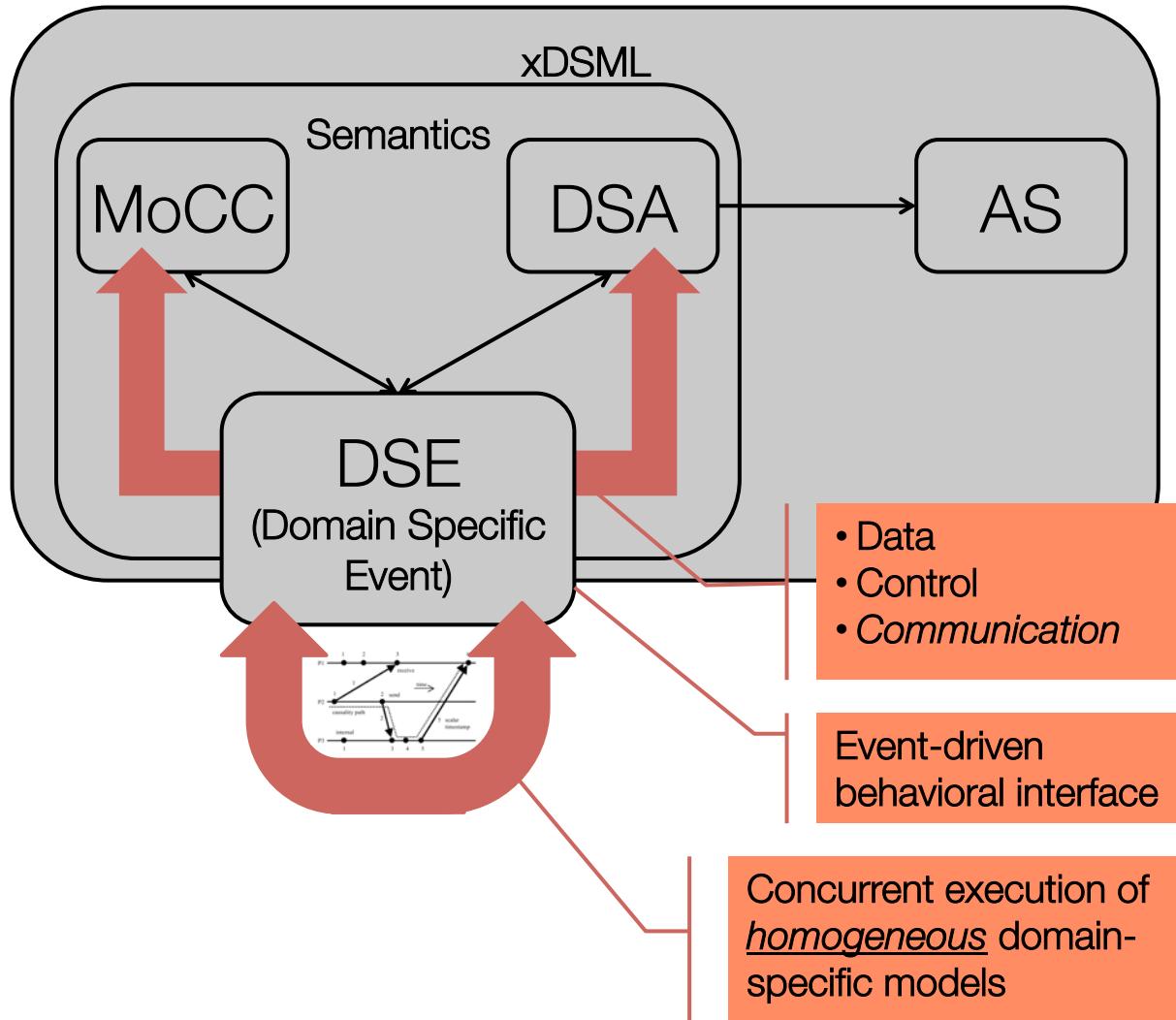


# Towards a behavioral coordination of xDSMLs

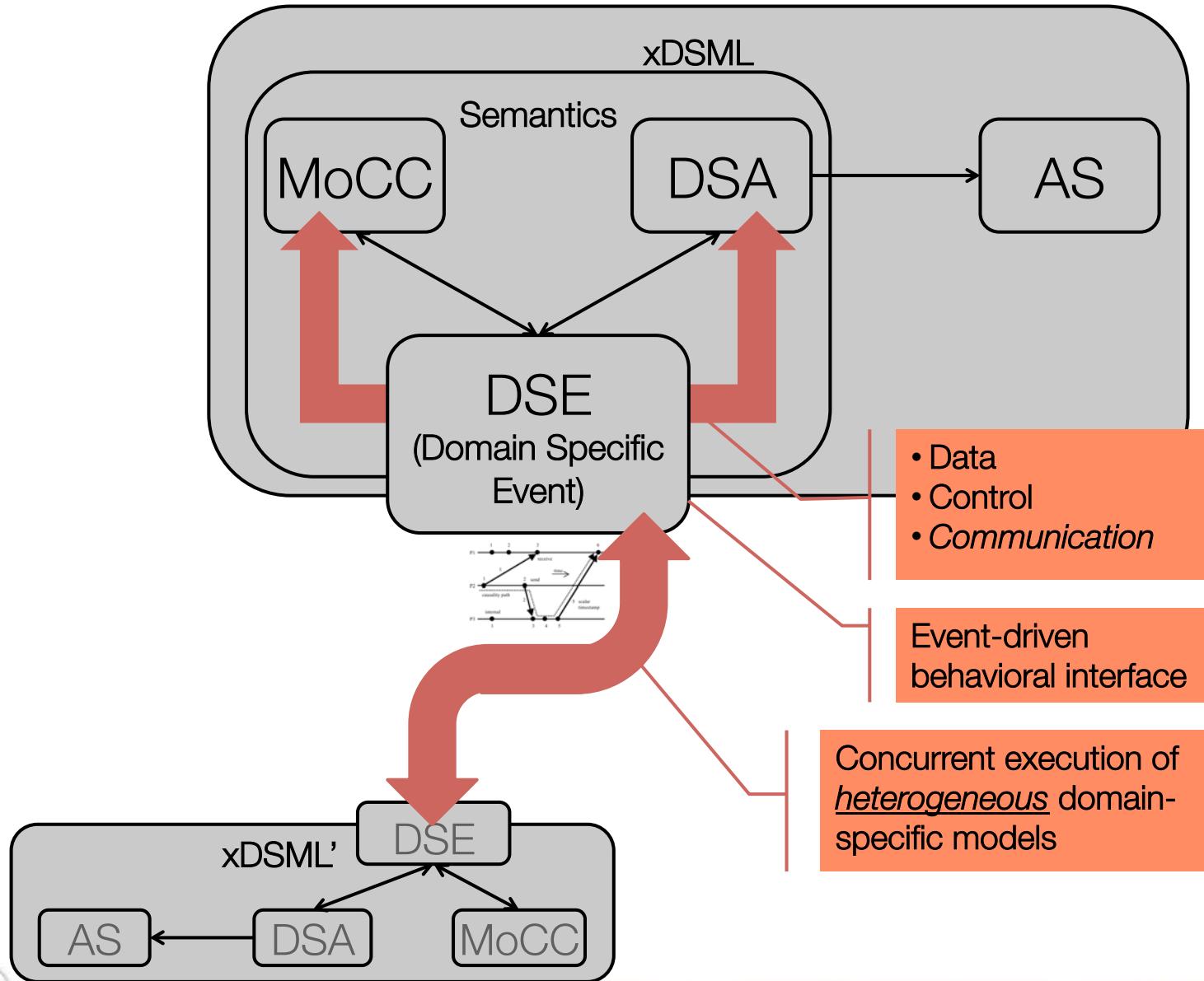
- The application of the MOC to a given model results in an event structure
  - Consequently, the MOC defines a symbolic event structure, whose some events are mapped to the DSA (i.e., the visible model state changes)
- ⇒ This mapping can serve as a behavioral language interface used to define patterns that coordinate conforming models

Matias Ezequiel Vara Larsen, Julien Deantoni, Benoit Combemale, Frédéric Mallet, "A Behavioral Coordination Operator Language (BCOoL)," In MODELS 2015

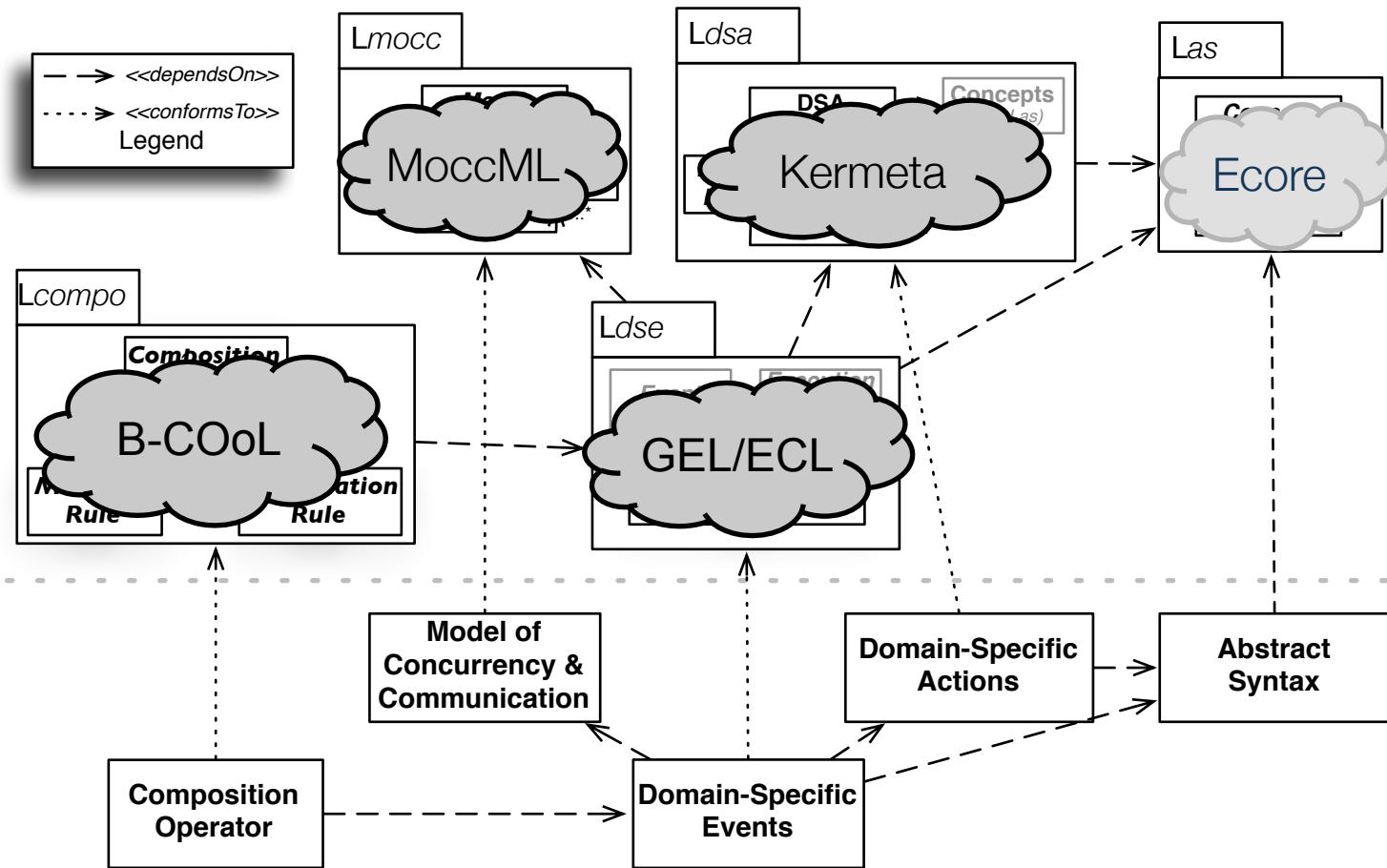
# Behavioral Coordination Operator



# Behavioral Coordination Operator

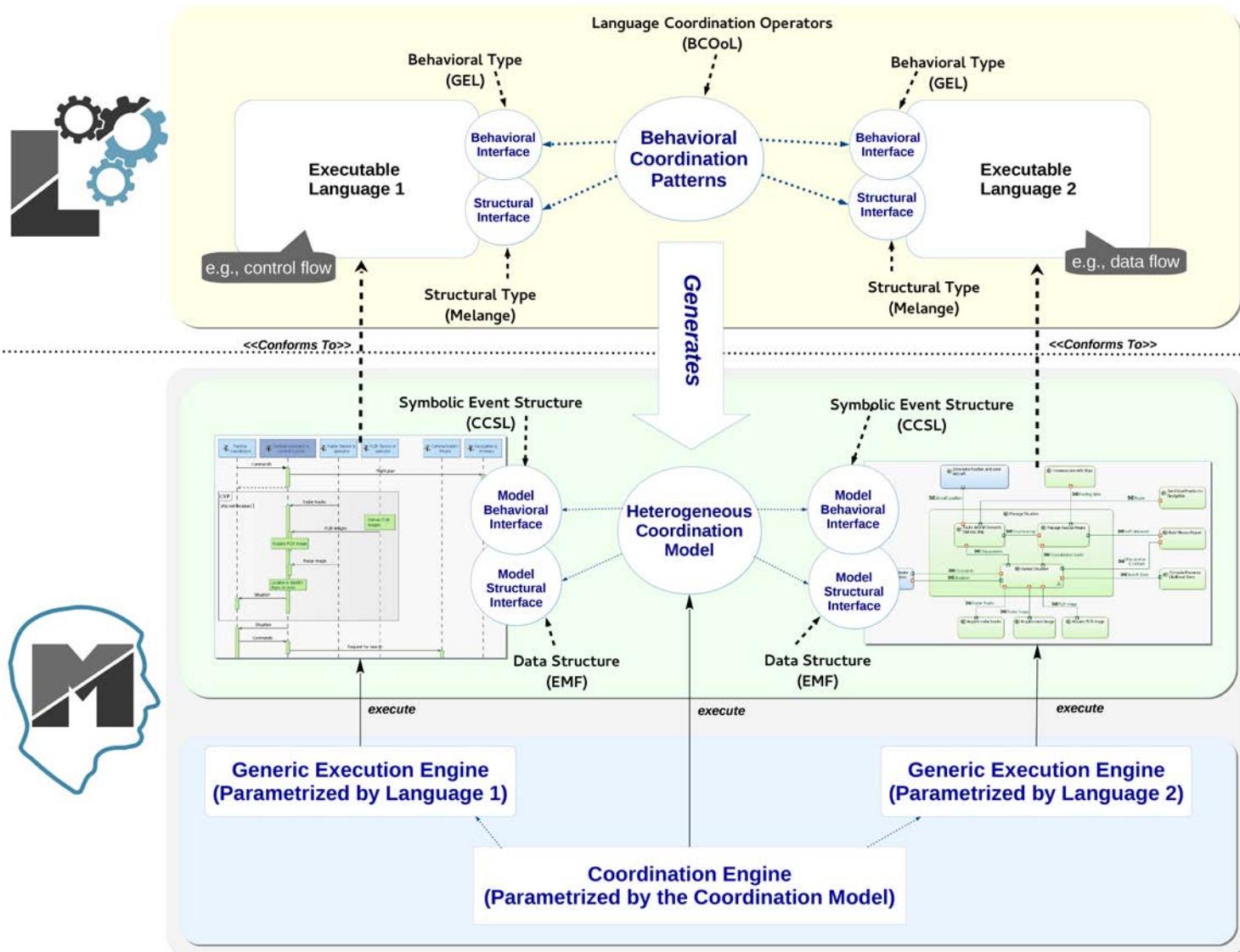


# Behavioral Coordination Operator

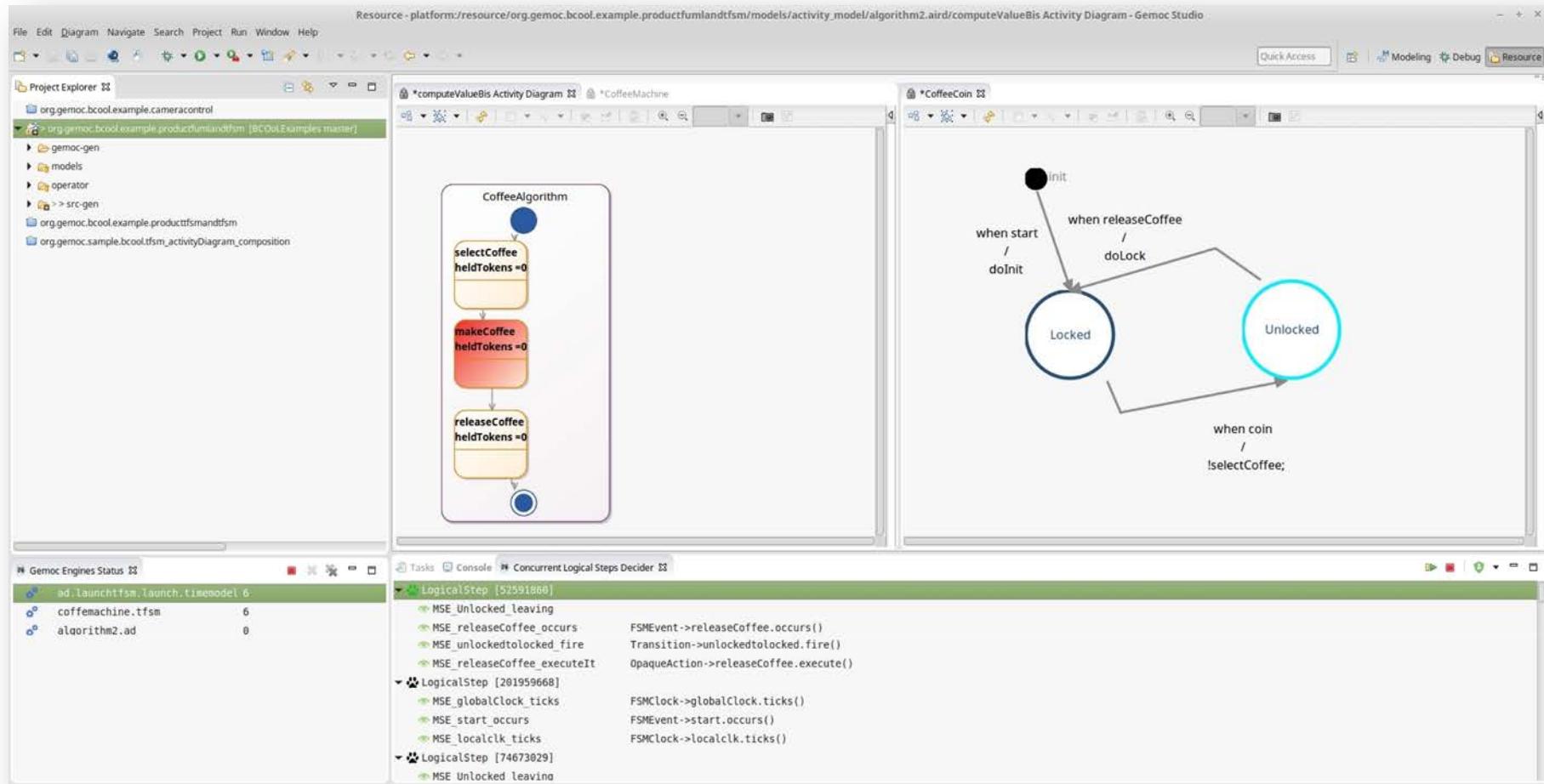


Matias Ezequiel Vara Larsen, Julien Deantoni, Benoit Combemale, Frédéric Mallet, "A Behavioral Coordination Operator Language (BCOOOL)," In MODELS 2015

# Behavioral Model Coordination



# Behavioral Model Coordination



# CONCLUSION AND PERSPECTIVES



# Conclusion

Contributions to the support of a  
**language-oriented modeling**

with

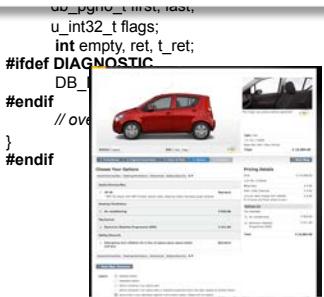
tools and methods to  
implement, reuse and coordinate  
xDSMLs and associated V&V tools

# Major breakthroughs

- Modular definition of xDSMLs
- Reification of the concurrency in xDSMLs
- Language interfaces for reuse and behavioral coordination

# Perspectives

M. Acher, B. Combemale, P. Collet,  
"Metamorphic Domain-Specific  
Languages: A Journey into the Shapes  
of a Language," Onward! Essays 2014



Metamorphic DSMLs  
for fitting user needs

DSMLs as a key pivot for  
the socio-technical coordination



Approximate DSML runtimes  
for design space exploration,  
runtime adaptation and security

B. Combemale, B. Cheng, A.  
Moreira, J.-M. Bruel, J. Gray,  
"Modeling for Sustainability,"  
SEIS@ICSE 2015 (submitted)



Model Experiencing Environments  
for informed decision and broader engagement  
in smart technologies

PhD Students:

- Clément Guy
- Emmanuelle Rouille
- Erwan Bousse
- David Mendez
- Marcelino Cancio

Software engineers:

- Vincent Fontanella
- François Tanguy
- Fabien Coulon
- Dorian Leroy

Post-doctoral researchers:

- Cédric Bouhours
- José Galindo

Papers:

- 1 book written, 2 books and 6 proceedings edited
- 4 book chapters
- 13 journal papers
- 57 conferences papers
- 20 workshop papers

Software:

- Melange
- GEMOC studio

*"If you believe that language design can significantly affect the quality of software systems, then it should follow that language design can also affect the quality of energy systems. And if the quality of such energy systems will, in turn, **affect the livability of our planet**, then it's critical that the language development community **give modeling languages the attention they deserve.**"*

– Bret Victor (Nov., 2015), <http://worrydream.com/ClimateChange>

Main projects: FUI Topcased, ITEA2 OPEES, PICS MBSAR, ANR GEMOC, BGLE CLARITY, COST MPM4CPS, Ind. contracts with Thales, Sodifrance, DGA

General co-chair MODELS'16, PC co-chair SLE'14, founding member of the GEMOC initiative, EB member of Elsevier journals SCP and COMLAN, SC member of ACM SLE, organizer of various workshops and seminars (incl. Dasgtuhl).

*Thank  
you*



Functional diversity

Language diversity

Model-driven engineering

Execution diversity

Failure diversity



# Scientific collaborations





*In memory of **Prof. Robert B. France**,  
A mentor, an academic father and far beyond.  
Rest in peace, Robert.*

<http://people.irisa.fr/Benoit.Combemale/tribute-robert-france>

TIME TO  
**DRINK**  
CHAMPAGNE  
and dance  
**ON THE**  
**table**

ILE de SEIN  
ENEZ-SUN