

Structures and Processes for Managing Model-Metamodel Co-evolution

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Abstract

Software changes over time. During the lifetime of a software system, unintended behaviour must be corrected and new requirements satisfied. Because software changes are costly, tools for automatically managing change are commonplace. Contemporary development environments can automatically perform change management tasks such as impact analysis, refactoring and background compilation.

Increasingly, models and modelling languages are first-class citizens in software development. Model-Driven Engineering (MDE), a state-of-the-art approach to software engineering, prescribes the use of models throughout the software engineering process and uses automated transformations to generate code from models.

Contemporary MDE environments provide little support for managing a type of evolution termed *model-metamodel co-evolution*, in which changes to a modelling language are propagated to models. This thesis demonstrates that model-metamodel co-evolution occurs often in MDE projects, and that dedicated structures and processes for its management increase the productivity and understandability of the development process. Structures and processes for managing model-metamodel co-evolution are proposed, developed, and then evaluated by comparison to existing structures and processes with quantitative and qualitative techniques.

For my Nanna Spence

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Author Declaration

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- **The Epsilon Generation Language**, Louis M. Rose and Richard F. Paige and Dimitrios S. Kolovos and Fiona A.C. Polack in *Proc. European Conference on Model Driven Architecture – Foundations and Applications (ECMDA-FA)*, volume 5095 of LNCS, pages 1-16. Springer, 2008.
- **Constructing Models with the Human-Usable Textual Notation**, Louis M. Rose and Richard F. Paige and Dimitrios S. Kolovos and Fiona A.C. Polack in *Proc. International Conference on Model Driven Engineering Languages and Systems (MoDELS)*, volume 5301 of LNCS, pages 249-263. Springer, 2008.
- **An Analysis of Approaches to Model Migration**, Louis M. Rose and Richard F. Paige and Dimitrios S. Kolovos and Fiona A.C. Polack in *Proc. Joint Model-Driven Software Evolution and Model Co-evolution and Consistency Management (MoDSE-MCCM) Workshop*, co-located with MoDELS 2009.
- **Enhanced Automation for Managing Model and Meta-model Inconsistency**, Louis M. Rose and Dimitrios S. Kolovos and Richard F. Paige and Fiona A.C. Polack in *Proc. International Conference on Automated Software Engineering (ASE)*, pages 545-549, ACM Press, 2009.
- **Concordance: An Efficient Framework for Managing Model Integrity**, Louis M. Rose, Dimitrios S. Kolovos, Nicholas Drivalos, James. R. Williams, Richard F. Paige, Fiona A.C. Polack, and Kiran J. Fernandes in *Proc. European Conference on Modelling Foundations and Applications*

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- **Model Migration with Epsilon Flock**, Louis M. Rose, Dimitrios S. Kolovos, Richard F. Paige, and Fiona A.C. Polack in *Proc. International Conference on the Theory and Practice of Model Transformations (ICMT)*, volume 6142 of LNCS, pages 184-198. Springer, 2010.
- **Model Migration Case**, Louis M. Rose, Dimitrios S. Kolovos, Richard F. Paige, and Fiona A.C. Polack in *Proc. Transformation Tools Contest (TTC)*, co-located with TOOLS 2010.
- **Migrating Activity Diagrams with Epsilon Flock**, Louis M. Rose, Dimitrios S. Kolovos, Richard F. Paige, and Fiona A.C. Polack in *Proc. Transformation Tools Contest (TTC)*, co-located with TOOLS 2010.

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