jInfer Architecture

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Target audience: developers willing to extend jInfer.

Note: we use the term *inference* for the act of creation of schema throughout this and other jInfer documents.

The description of jInfer architecture will commence by describing the data structures, namely representations of regular expressions and XML elements, attributes and simple data.

Afterwards the interfaces of basic inference modules - *Initial Grammar Generator*, *Simplifier* and *Schema Generator* - will be explained.

Finally, the process of inference will be described.

1 Package naming conventions

All packages start with cz.cuni.mff.ksi.jinfer. Afterwards is the short, normalized name of the NetBeans module (e.g. base) and finally the package structure in this module (e.g. objects.utils). All in all, a package in the Base module could look like cz.cuni.mff.ksi.jinfer.base.objects.utils.

2 Data structures

2.1 Regular expressions

For general information on regular expressions, please refer to [?], [?]. All classes pertaining to regular expressions can be found in the package cz.cuni.mff.ksi.jinfer.base.regexp. In jInfer, we use extended regular expressions as they give us nicer syntax (and easier programming).

Regular expression is implemented as class Regexp<T> with supplementing classes RegexpInterval and RegexpType. Each Regexp<T> instance has one of the enum RegexpType type:

- Lambda (λ) empty string (also called ϵ in literature),
- Token a letter of the alphabet,
- Concatenation one or more regular expression in an ordered sequence. Eg. (a, b, c, d),
- Alternation a choice between one or more regular expressions. Eg. (a|b|c|d),
- Permutation shortcut for all possible permutations of regular expressions. Our syntax to write down permutation is (a&b&c&d).

Type of regexp is held in type member in class Regexp<T> and can be tested by calling methods isLambda(), isToken() etc.

Each Regexp<T> instance has one instance of RegexpInterval as member. Class RegexpInterval represents POSIX-like intervals for expression:

- $a\{m,n\}$ means a at least m-times, at most n-times,
- $a\{m,\}$ means at least m-times (unbounded).

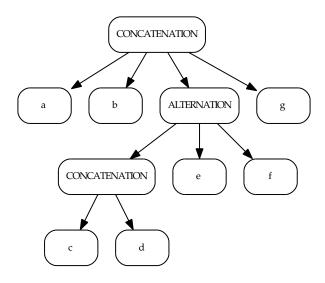


Figure 1: Example tree for regular expression (a, b, ((c|d), e), f)

Interval can be either bounded (you have to set both lower and upper bound integers), or unbounded (you have to set only lower bound). Testing interval value commonly follows routine:

```
RegexpInterval i = r.getInterval();
if (i.isUnbounded()) {
  print(i.getMin());
} else {
  print(i.getMin(), i.getMax());
}
```

That is, first check interval for being unbounded, only if it is bounded, you can ask for maximum.

Class Regexp<T> can represent regular expression over any alphabet. This is done by using java generics. Only token regexps hold instance of type T in member content.

Regular expression is in fact n-ary tree, for example expression (a,b,((c|d),e),f) can be viewed as in fig. 1. We implement this tree by member of Regexp<T> class called children, which is of type List<Regexp<T>>. List contains children of regexp in means of regexp tree.

Regexp has to obey constraits:

- type, children and interval have to be non-null references,
- when type is lamba, content and interval has to be null,
- when type is token, content has to be non-null,
- when type concatenation, alternation or permutation, content has to be null.

These constraits are checked by constructors, so the best way to construct new regexps is by using methods getToken(), getConcatenation() etc.

Regexp instance is by default created as immutable, that is, once instantiated, you cannot add more children to list of children, cannot change type, content etc. It is to prevent missuse. In special circumstances, one does not know future children of regexp in time of creation. This occurs mainly in input modules, where by parsing XML data sequentially, one does not know contents of element in time of handling start element event. For these cases, special getMutable() method is implemented to obtain regexp with none of members set. One has to fill in all properties carefully and call setImmutable() aftewards. Proper usage should be one of following:

```
Regexp<T> r = Regexp.<T>getMutable();
r.setInterval(...);
r.setType(RegexpType.LAMBDA);
r.setImmutable();cz.cuni.mff.ksi.jinfer.base
```

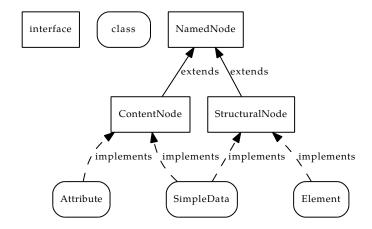


Figure 2: How should interfaces and classes for XML representation look like in theory

```
Regexp<T> r = Regexp.<T>getMutable();
r.setInterval(...);
r.setType(RegexpType.TOKEN);
r.setContent(...)
r.setImmutable();

Regexp<T> r = Regexp.<T>getMutable();
r.setInterval(...);
r.setType(RegexpType.CONCATENATION);
r.addChild(...);
r.addChild(...);
r.addChild(...);
r.setImmutable();
```

Finally, regexp contain one useful method for obtaining all leaves in the regexp tree, it is called getTokens() and it recursively traverses tree returning list of leaves (token type regexps).

2.2 XML representation

XML data basically contains elements, text nodes (characters inside elements) and attributes. For maximum generality, we decided to break apart theese objects. We define three basic interfaces: NamedNode, StructuralNode and ContentNode (see package cz.cuni.mff.ksi.jinfer.base.interfaces.nodes).

The first stands for bare node in XML document tree, it has its name and context withing the tree (path from root). The latter two extends NamedNode interface. StructuralNode is for nodes, which form structure of XML document tree: elements and text nodes. ContentNode is for nodes, that have content in XML documents: text nodes and attributes. We have three classes: Element for elements, SimpleData for text nodes, Attribute for attributes (see package cz.cuni.mff.ksi.jinfer.base.objects.nodes). In theory, the classes and interfaces would be layed out as on fig. 2

For even more generality in design, we decided to implement abstract classes in midlevel:

- AbstractNamedNode, which implements methods from NamedNode interface to handle context, name and metadata (will discuss later in section 3.1),
- AbstractStructuralNode, which implements only task of deciding if instance is Element or SimpleData actually.

As practice showed, for methods handling and infering structural properties, it is important to recognize whether structural node on input is element or text node. However methods for content devising don't need to know, if they are working on infering model for content of attribute or text node.

Finally, our interface/class model for representing XML nodes is drafted on fig. 3. Those, who are brave enough, can look on fig. 4.

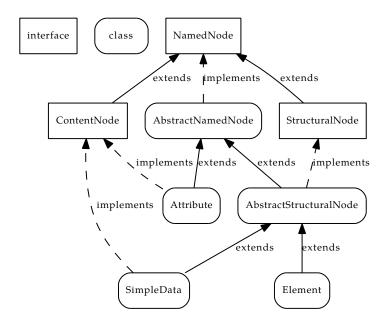


Figure 3: How are interfaces and classes for XML representation arranged in practice

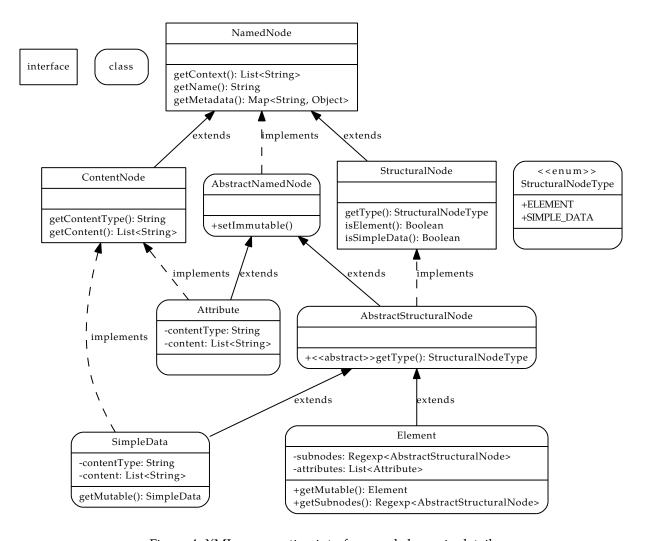


Figure 4: XML representing interfaces and classes in detail

In result, Element and SimpleData have method getType() to devise type of AbstractStructuralNode variables. And SimpleData and Attribute have methods getContentType() and getContent() to work with content model. Class Element has two important members of course:

- Regexp<AbstractStructuralNode> subnodes for representing right side of grammar rule in resulting infered schema,
- List<Attribute> attributes for representing all attributes in resulting infered schema.

Theese two are filled by import modules, processed further by infering (simplifying) modules and finally exported by exporter modules.

As in regular expressions, classes pertaining XML nodes are by default immutable. For elements, it means no adding of attributes and changing regexp reference (regexp instance itself is immutable as well). Same getMutable() principles and good usage practises as for regexps, hold for theese classes.

Let's take an example, the following XML document would be represented as tree on fig. 5.

Although in example we present whole document tree, input modules produce slightly different format (consisting of rules).

2.3 Rules and grammars

¡Infer and its documentation uses extended context-free grammars[?]. Rules in such grammar are in the form

Left Hand Side (LHS) \rightarrow Right Hand Side (RHS)

where LHS is a letter of the alphabet (token), RHS is a regular expression over this alphabet. Example would be

$$a \rightarrow b, (c|d)*$$

In jInfer each such rule is represented with an Element instance. In this representation, the Element itself is the LHS, its subnodes are the RHS.

Another important notion is a *grammar*. A grammar consists of its rules, so in jInfer a grammar is just a collection of Elements. Closely related term is *Initial Grammar*, which for us is a grammar consisting of rules with *simple* right hand sides, i.e. just concatenations of tokens (even with no children, see fig. 5 again). Initial Grammar is produced by *Initial Grammar Generator*.

2.4 Nondeterministic Finite Automaton

We recommend skipping this section in first read as it describes advanced features. For all inference algorithms based on merging states of NFA's, our implementation of nondeterministic finite automaton might be interesting. Implementation consists of 4 classes: Automaton<a href="Automaton<a href="AutomatonCloner<">And AutomatonCloner<AutomatonCloner<Automaton Cloner<Automaton ClonerAutomaton Cloner<Automaton Cloner<a href

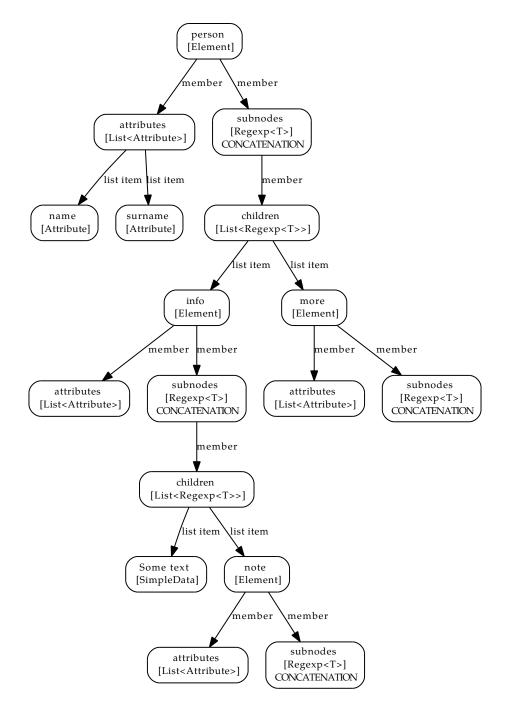


Figure 5: XML document representation

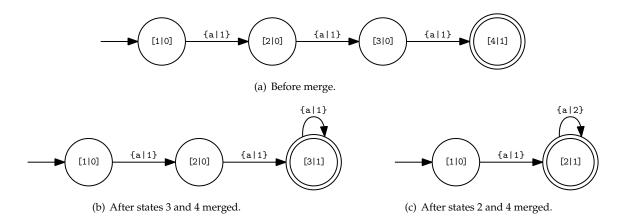


Figure 6: Sample automaton.

State Let's begin by smallest of the classes, the State<T>. It represents automaton state, it has two integer members: name and finalCount. Name clearly serves as name of state in visualization and to string conversion. Final count is for representing whether the state is final in automaton. The field is not true/false but integral to help algorithms use stastistics over automatons (how many times in XML input is this state final?).

Step Next we have Step<T> which stands for automaton transition. It has its source and destination states references. Symbol accepted by using this transition is stored in acceptsSymbol member of generic type T. And finally member useCount, which is integer stating how many times the transition was used when constructing prefix tree automaton from input data. Simplifying algorithm can use this number for statistic purposes.

Automaton Automaton

Automaton

Automaton

Automaton

Automaton

T> class puts theese together into nondeterministic finite automaton. It has reference to initial

State, it has new

StateName integer value to assure unique state names inside one automaton (incrementing every time new state is created). We use two maps to implement transition function (δ -function). One map of type Map

State<T>, Set<Step<T>>> called delta represents mapping from state into set of all outgoing transitions from state. Second is just reversed map, called reverseDelta, which holds all incoming transitions into state (for better perfomance). There exist only one instance of each step from one state to another. That instance is referenced in delta map (on place of source state), and in reverse delta map (on place of destination state). Loops are no speciality, just source = destination.

Automaton supports creating of automaton as a copy of another one (not reference copy, but deep copy expect of symbols), this can be used when searching solution space to create more versions of automaton to edit. We implemented building of prefix-tree automaton (PTA) in buildPTAOnSymbol() method. Create empty automaton and then call this method for every input string of language. You will get PTA with useCounts and finalCounts set properly on steps/states.

The biggest thing we offer to scientists is state merging by simply calling mergeStates (state1, state2) method. Method merges second state given into first one (or an overloaded version - all states in list into first one in list). All $\{in \mid out\}$ -transitions are redirected properly (or discarted as needed). Variables useCount and finalCount are updated to sums of values from merged transitions/states. One can ask for merging states, that are merged out from automaton already. Lets take example automaton of fig. 6(a) (states are labeled [name | finalCount], steps by $\{symbol \mid useCount\}$). One asks to merge states 3 and 4. State 3 then becomes final state with loop and state 4 disappears (fig. 6(b)). If then one ask to merge states 2 and 4, automaton properly handles situation by knowing, that old state 4, was merged into state 3, and merges states 2 and 3 (see fig. 6(c)). This can be useful in k, k – context and k0 and k1 state in the state k2 and k3 states to merge and don't bother with state names updates).

AutomatonCloner Class AutomatonCloner<A, B> has one overloaded method convertAutomaton(). First version accepts automaton and class implementing AutomatonClonerSymbolConverter<A, B> interface, and returns new automaton with same structure, but with symbols on transitions from alphabet of java type B. Second version takes two automatons, second one has to be empty (without initial state created), and symbol converter. It fills in second automaton to have same structure as first one, but with symbols of type B.

To fulfill symbol conversion, one have to provide imlementation of AutomatonClonerSymbolConverter<A, B> interface. Interface has one method:

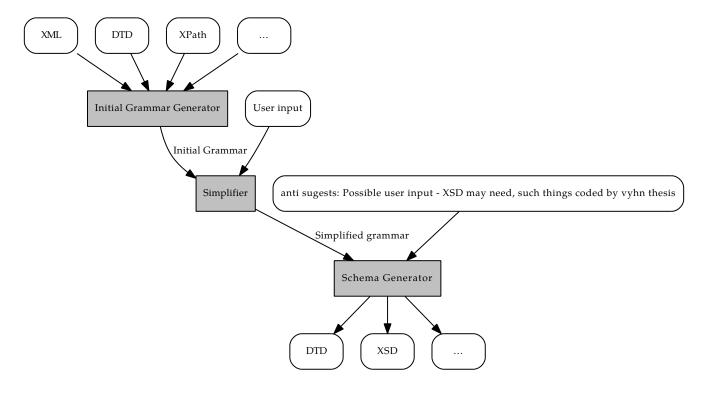


Figure 7: High-level view of the inference process

B convertSymbol(final A symbol);

Its purpose is to give mapping from symbol over one domain to new symbols. Implementation have to be equals consistent, if in first automaton are two transitions with symbols a, b such that a.equals(b) == true, convertor has to produce new symbols that are equal.

3 Inference process

The process by which jInfer infers the resulting schema from various inputs (inference process) is summarized by fig. 7. From the high-level viewpoint, it consists of three consecutive steps carried out by three different modules:

1. Initial Grammar (IG) generation: done by the *Initial Grammar Generator* (IGG) module, this is the process of converting all of the inputs to IG representation. All documents, schemas and queries selected as input are evaluated, simple rules are extracted and in the end sent to the next step. For example, a trivial XML document

will translate into the following IG rules

 $person \rightarrow info, more, more, more, more$

```
\begin{array}{cccc} info & \rightarrow & simple\_data, note \\ note & \rightarrow & empty\_concatenation \\ more & \rightarrow & empty\_concatenation \\ person & \rightarrow & more, more, more \\ more & \rightarrow & empty\_concatenation \\ more & \rightarrow & empty\_concatenation \\ more & \rightarrow & empty\_concatenation \\ \end{array}
```

2. Simplification: done by the *Simplifier* module, this is the process of simplifying, compressing or somehow compactly describing the IG by a smaller number of (more complex) rules (exactly one rule for each element). User interaction might be used in this step to help achieve better simplification. At the end of this step, all rules are sent to the export step.

For example, previous rules for element person could be simplified to a single rule

```
person \rightarrow info?, more\{1,3\}
```

Rules for elements info, more and note after simplification will be:

```
info \rightarrow simple\_data, note
note \rightarrow \lambda
more \rightarrow \lambda
```

Note the lambda regular expressions for note and more. In Initial Grammar, all regexps are concatenations (even empty), but in simplified grammar, if element have to be empty in schema, it has to have lambda regular expression as subnodes.

3. Schema export: done by the *Schema Generator (SchemaGen)* module, this is the process of actually creating the resulting schema file from the simplified rules. Result of this step is a string representation of the schema, which is sent back to the framework (and later displayed, saved, etc). For previous simplifier rules, the resulting DTD would be:

```
<!ELEMENT person (info?, more, more?, more?)>
<!ELEMENT info (#PCDATA | note)*>
<!ELEMENT note EMPTY>
<!ELEMENT more EMPTY>
+ attributes
```

For element person, even when simplified grammar specifies its occurence to at least once, at most 3 times, as DTD has no such construct, export module have to do some magic. Situation is even worse for elements that contain simple data inside simplified rule. Only way to express mixed content in DTD is to use (#PCDATA | note)* construct. Even if regular expression is complicated, export module has to do this "flattening". Lets look on XSD output of same rules:

Important thing to note here is that all these steps are executed consecutively. That means, *Simplifier* is only started *after* the *IGG* completely finished its work and returned IG to be simplified. Similarly, *SchemaGen* gets all the rules to export at once, in one list.

This modular architecture means that it is possible to replace any and/or all of these modules with *something* else that does similar job. In practice, scientists will probably implement new *Simplifier* modules, while using our implementation of BasicIGG and export modules. This modular scheme is used inside our modules to divide them into submodules. It is possible to add new file format processing to import/export. One can extend automaton merging state algorithm of our implementation of [?] in TwoStepSimplifier module by replacing submodules.

3.1 Node metadata

To allow simple extensibility of rules, class AbstractNamedNode contains a string-addressed map called metadata that can contain arbitrary object values.

At the present, infer modules use the following metadata, all defined in IGGUtils class:

- from.xml, filled in by BasicIGG module: means that this rule was created (originates from) from a XML document.
- from.schema, filled in by BasicIGG and XSDImport modules: means that this rule was created (originates from) from a schema.
- from query, filled in by BasicIGG and XSDImport modules: means that this rule was created from a query.
- is.sentine1, filled in by BasicIGG and XSDImport module: when importing XML document, one can build whole tree in memory (as in fig. 5) and then construct list of rules from it (thus saving memory). With schema import however, one not only doesn't know right side of rule in advance (solved by stack in XML import), but right side can be defined anywhere in source file. To save complicated loading of whole schema, searching and pairing elements thorough rules, nodes on right side of rule are created empty holding only name of node. Fact, that this node has no more information than it's name and position on right side of rule is denominated by labeling the node as sentinel.
- schema.data, filled in by XSDImport module: TODO reseto Explain

All of these metadata are of set/not set character (using Boolean. TRUE as value, but their presence effectively mean true).

3.2 Programmatic view

From developer's point of view, inference modules are just properly annotated classes implementing one of the following interfaces (all found under cz.cuni.mff.ksi.jinfer.base.interfaces.inference)

- IGGenerator
- Simplifier
- SchemaGenerator

A nice way to name such a class is by adding -Impl to the name of implemented interface, for example SimplifierImpl.

Annotation required for the framework to recognize such a class as an inference module is the following

```
@ServiceProvider(service = <interface>.class)
for example
@ServiceProvider(service = Simplifier.class)
```

The most important method in each module is start, defined in each of the interfaces. This method is called by the framework when the respective step of inference is to be executed. It has always two parameters: the actual input data for the module, and a callback object to report to when this step is finished. We will look at both parameters now in more detail.

3.2.1 Module input

Each inference module takes the actual input data as the first parameter of its start method. The type of the argument differs based on the inference module.

Simplifier and Schema Generator take grammar, in other words a list of Elements as input. In the first case, this grammar is the Initial Grammar, in the second case it is the simplified grammar.

Initial Grammar Generator takes an object of type Input. This class encapsulates all the input files in 3 collections of File: documents, schemas and queries. Enumerating these files provides IGG with access to all data it needs to create Initial Grammar.

Initial Grammar has two formats:

• Only concatenations. This is default format. All regular expressions coming from IGG have to be concatenations, even empty. When importing XML documents, this is just fine, as document is positive example from language we are trying to identify. But even when importing schemas, queries or other stuff that can contain more information, one has to convert it somehow to concatenations. For example, when importing DTD:

```
<!ELEMENT person (info?, more, more?, more?)>
<!ELEMENT info (#PCDATA | note)*>
<!ELEMENT note EMPTY>
<!ELEMENT more EMPTY>
```

Elements note and more are empty, but we cannot use lambda regexp. Import will use empty concatenation instead. For element person, import module have to generate some positive examples of language generated by regular expression (info?, more, more?, more?). This generating is basicly done by calling cz.cuni.mff.ksi.jinfer.interface method expand(). One can implement own intelligent expander, or use our provided cz.cuni.mff.ksi.jinfer.

• Complex regular expressions. Simplifier module running in current inference can indicate support for this format by having capability called can.handle.complex.regexps. Even then, import module is not obliged to use it of course. But it is reasonable to do so, if imported file type gives more information than simple concatenations (when importing schemas). Initial Grammar can contain all regular expressions. If schema defines empty element, make its subnodes lambda regexp. If schema defines element content as (a, b){2,7}(c | d), just construct that regexp. Empty concatenations are also allowed - as they are positive examples in XML document input. Its simplifier business to divide rules by import file formats (by using metadata described in ??) and to handle empty concatenations from XML file import with complex regular expressions from other formats.

If you are writing import module, check if you can provide more information to simplifier from input file type by using complex format. This interface division allows us to plug in old methods (accepting only XML input) to the chain of inference, even with schema input files. It may be useful for method benchmarking too.

Simplified grammar has only one format and that is strict regular expression format. Empty concatenations, alternations or permutations are not allowed. If element should be exported as empty, use lambda regexp as its subnodes.

3.2.2 Module output

Second parameter of each inference module's start method is a callback object. There are 3 callback interfaces defined in the cz.cuni.mff.ksi.jinfer.base.interfaces.inference package

- IGGeneratorCallback
- SimplifierCallback
- SchemaGeneratorCallback

Each callback interface naturally belongs to the similarly named module interface. As their respective interfaces, also callbacks define one crucial method: *finished*. Each inference module is responsible for invoking this method on the callback it got as a parameter, after it has finished its work and has results to be passed on. Again, these 3 finished methods have different arguments based on the inference module.

IGGeneratorCallback.finished() and SimplifierCallback.finished() have a grammar (Initial Grammar in case of IGG) as their only argument.

SchemaGeneratorCallback.finished() has two Strings as arguments: schema is the actual string representation of the resulting schema, extension is a file extension of the result (such as "dtd" or "xsd") which the framework will use when saving the result in a file.

3.2.3 Error handling

Because the run of each inference module is encapsulated in a try-catch block by the framework, it is safe to throw any exception out of the start method: it will get logged, presented to the user and inference will stop. However, if the module uses threads that could throw an exception, it is responsible for catching these exceptions and possibly re-throwing them in the thread where start runs.

3.2.4 Interruptions

User running the inference might change his mind and try to stop this. For this reason, modules have to check for this case in every time-consuming place such as long loops with the following code:

```
for (forever) {
  if (Thread.interrupted()) {
    throw new InterruptedException();
  }
  doStuff();
}
```

3.2.5 Runner

The part of framework responsible for actually gathering user input, running all modules one after another and presenting the results is the Runner class in cz.cuni.mff.ksi.jinfer.runner package.

A new instance of Runner is constructed for each inference run. While being created, Runner loads the preferences for current project and looks up user-selected inference modules. Also, callback objects pointing back to methods in Runner are created. The inference process itself is then as follows

- 1. Selected IGG's start is encapsulated with error/interruption handling and executed, passing Input and first callback as parameters.
- 2. When IGG finishes, it invokes callback's finish method, passing the IG as parameter.
- 3. This in turn causes Runner to encapsulate and execute Simplifier's start, passing IG from the first callback and the second callback as parameters.
- 4. When Simplifier finishes, it invokes callback's finish method, passing the simplified grammar as parameter.

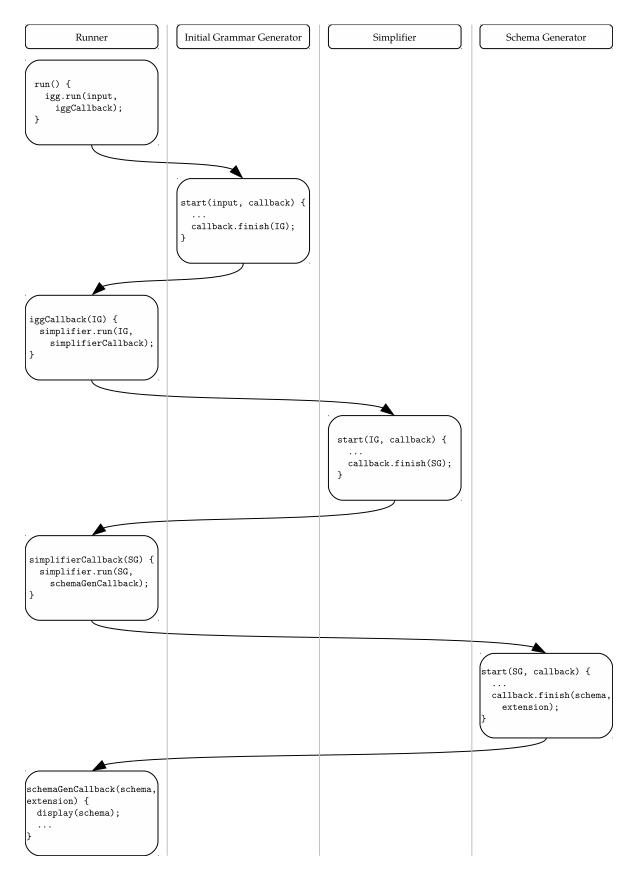


Figure 8: Runner

- 5. This again causes Runner to encapsulate and execute SchemaGen's start, passing the simplified grammar from the second callback and the third callback as parameters.
- 6. SchemaGen finishes and invokes the last callback's finish, passing the resulting schema and its extension as parameters.
- 7. Runner receives the resulting schema and based on preferences, saves it to a file, displays it, etc.

3.3 Capabilities

From time to time, modules need a flow of certain information in completely opposite way to the usual inference: they need to know what the following module can or cannot do.

For this reason, inference modules extend the Capabilities interface defining a single method: getCapabilities(). This method returns a list of strings representing the abilities, or "capabilities" of this module.

method to obtain the next module encapsulated in the Capabilities interface.

At the moment, only one capability is defined to be communicated across modules, more specifically between

An inference module can query the capabilities of the next module in the inference chain by invoking the RunningProject.ge

At the moment, only one capability is defined to be communicated across modules, more specifically between *IGGenerator* and *Simplifier*. This is Capabilities.CAN_HANDLE_COMPLEX_REGEXPS meaning whether the Simplifier accepts more complicated regular expressions than simple concatenations of tokens on its input.

Example of Capabilities usage taken from *XSDImporter* module:

4 NetBeans Modules

jInfer, being a NetBeans Platform application, is divided into multiple *NetBeans Modules*. It is very important to understand that this division is in principle orthogonal to that naturally sketched in the previous chapters - theoretically, the whole jInfer could be contained in a single NB module, because the framework uses Lookups to locate logical modules. However, for the sake of organization, jInfer is split into several modules and most of the time there is a strong correlation between logical units of jInfer and its NB modules.

A short overview of these modules and their functions follow. To get a deeper understanding of any of them, please refer to its documentation.

Base modules:

- *jInfer*: not a NBP module in fact, but rather a module suite the "root" NB project for the whole framework.
- Base: contains common data structures, interfaces and utility logic shared across all other modules.

Inference modules:

• *Runner*: as described in the section TODO anti link, this module encapsulates the inference process (including the fact that inference consists of 3 phases as described before). Most important class: Runner.

- BasicIGG: this module contains an extensible implementation of IGGenerator. Basic version handles all XML-typed input documents, DTD schemas and XPath queries. To find out more about the extensibility to handle other outputs, refer to BasicIGG's documentation.
- XSDImport: demonstrating BasicIGG's extensibility, this is a base module for XSD input.
- XSDImportSAX: XSD input handling using SAX approach.
- XSDImportDOM: XSD input handling using DOM approach.
- TwoStepSimplifier: a Simplifier implementation. TODO anti
- BasicDTDExporter: this is a SchemaGenerator implementation with output to DTD.
- BasicXSDExporter: this is a SchemaGenerator implementation with output to XSD.

Utility modules:

- RuleDisplayer: module capable of displaying a grammar in a graphical way.
- AdvancedRuleDisplayer: more advanced version of the former using JUNG's graphing capabilities.
- AutoEditor: encapsulation of an interactive finite state automaton editor.
- JUNG: wrapper module for the JUNG TODO anti link graphing library.
- Options: NBP specific: this module adds a jInfer category in NetBeans Options window.
- *ProjectType*: NBP specific: this module defines a jInfer project type, along with its input and output files, settings etc.
- XPathFileType: NBP specific: this module teaches NetBeans to recognize a .xpath file extension.

TODO vektor Lookups

To get deeper understanding of NBP modules, their versions, dependencies etc, refer to http://bits.netbeans.org/dev/javado openide-modules/org/openide/modules/doc-files/api.html . TODO anti Cite