UNIVERSITÉ DE NANTES

Report from Case Studies in Model-Driven Reverse Engineering

Modelsward 2019

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Outline of the talk

- Context and Problem statement
- MDRE Case studies
- Discussion
- Conclusion

! This is not a systematic study
Share issues/principles raised from my own experience

Outline of the talk

- Context and Problem statement

  MDRE for software maintenance
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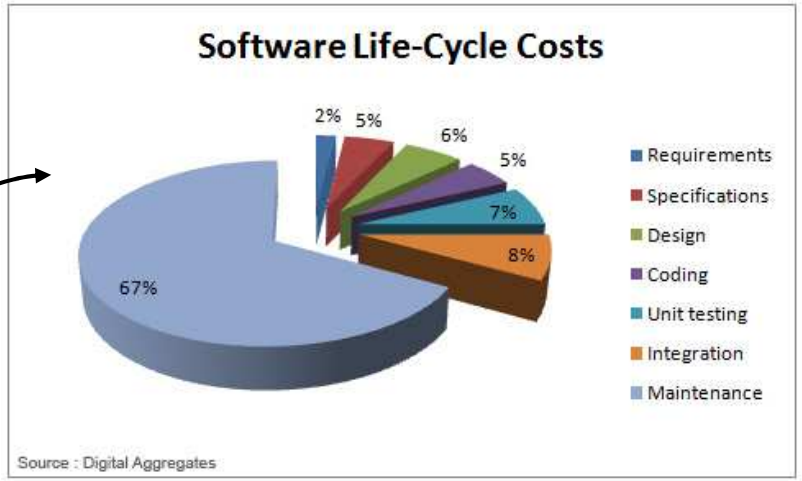
Context and Problem Statement

software maintenance

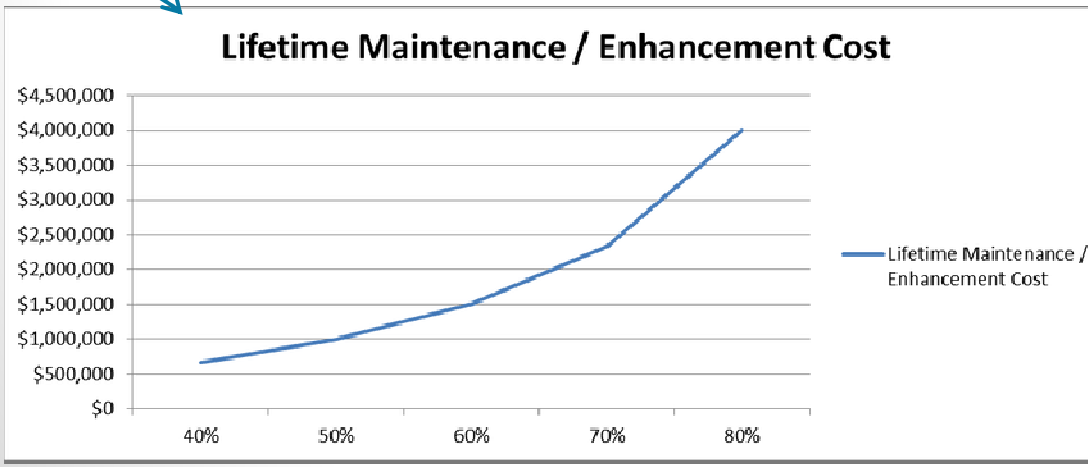
key values findings

- ~ 70% of the software cost
- Increases with time
- Increases with complexity

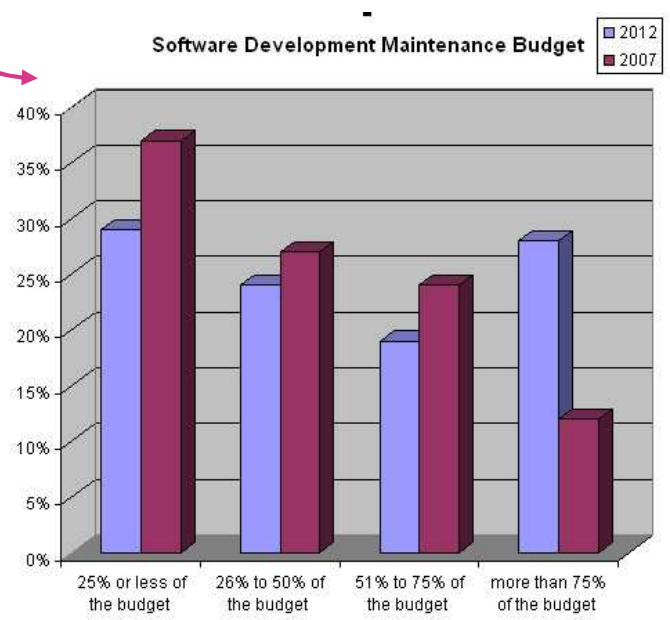


http://thibautvs.com/blog/?tag=maintenance

old legacy applications have higher technical debt



https://dotnetsilverlightprism.wordpress.com/2012/02/19/the-relationship-between-software-structure-and-the-softwares-value-to-a-business/



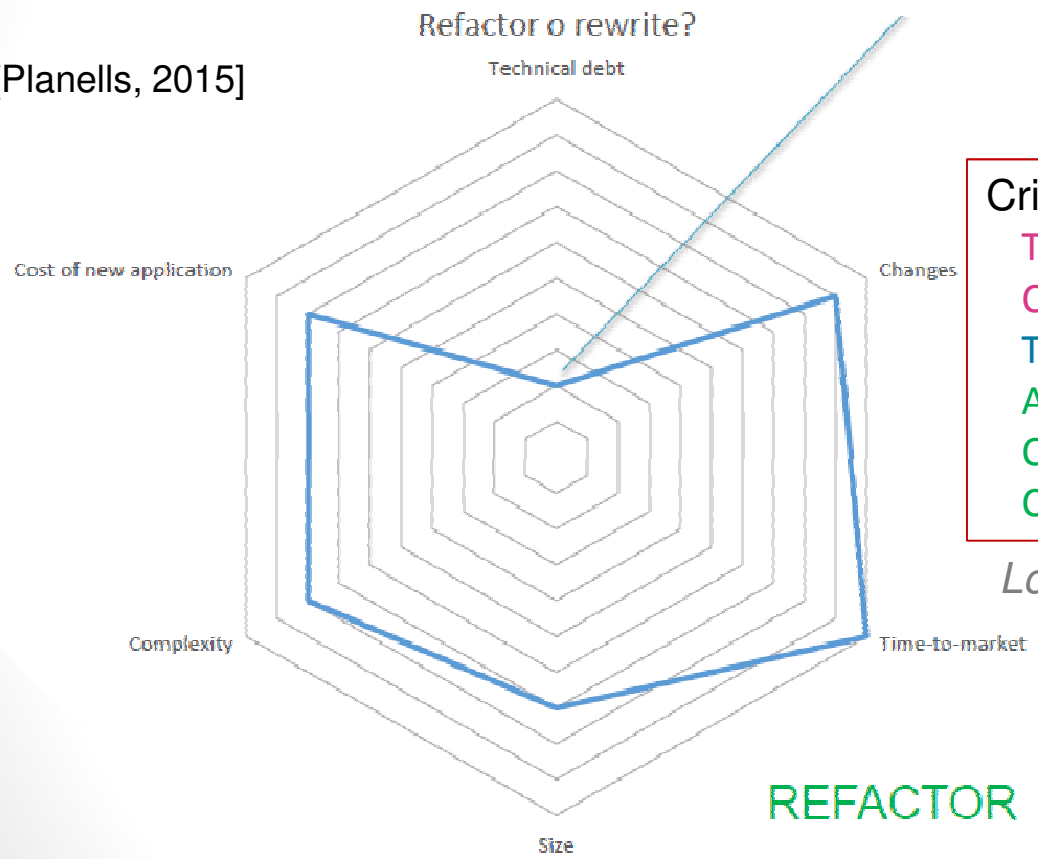
http://blog.martinig.ch/numbers/increased-software-development-maintenance-costs/

Context and Problem Statement

Software maintenance

Refactor or Rewrite??

[Planells, 2015]



Criteria
- Time to market
- Continuous changes
- Technical debt
- Application size
- Complexity
- Cost of (new) application redesign

Lost Design decision traceability

REFACTOR

https://www.slideshare.net/JorgeCapelPlanells/presentation-refactoring-large-legacy-applications

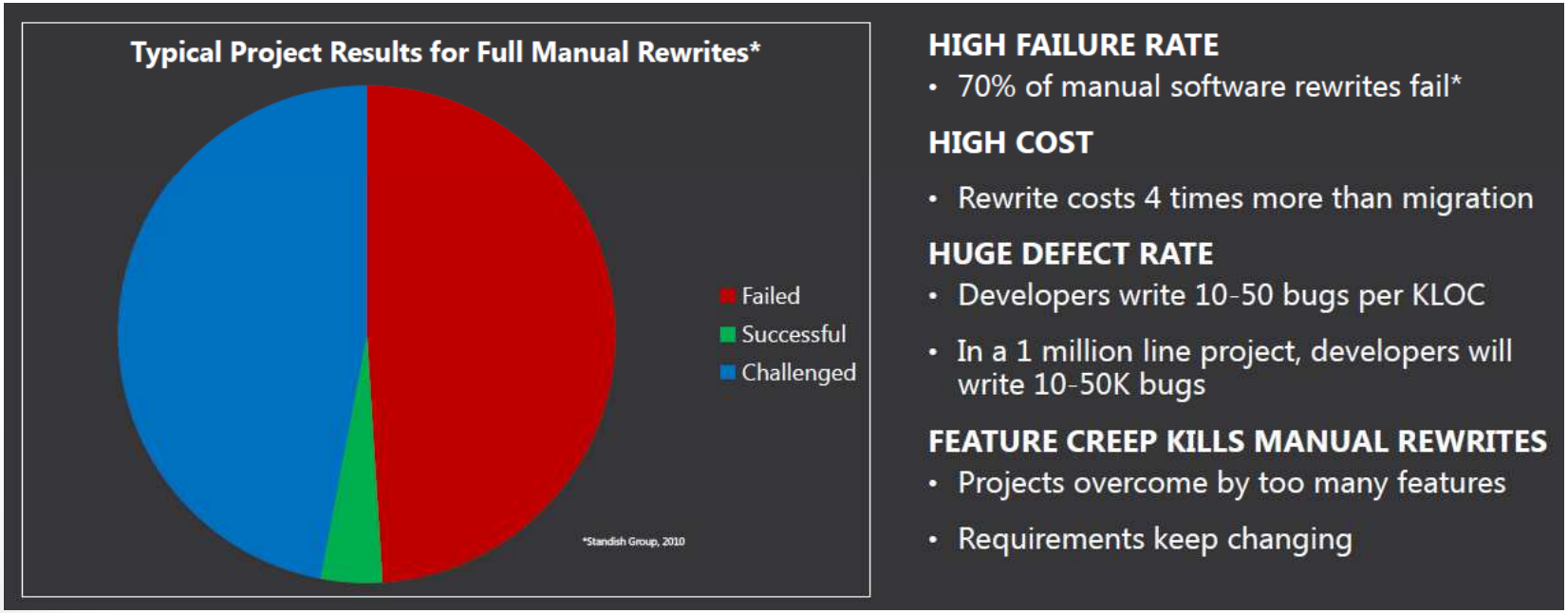
☞ Need abstractions (models)

Context and Problem Statement

Software maintenance

Automated or manual ??

The problem with manual rewrite…



https://www.slideshare.net/ddskier/calculating-the-cost-of-manual-rewrites

☞ Need automation (Model driven)

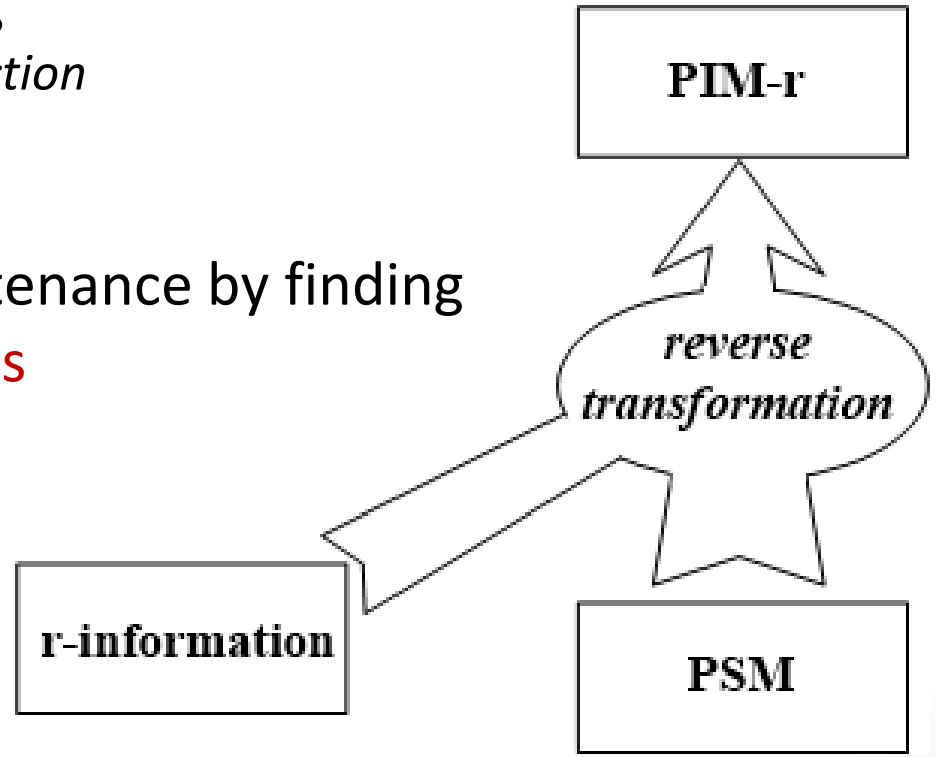
Motivations

In summary

Concepts are more resilient than implementations

- Model Driven
  enforce automation
- Reverse Engineering
  raise the level of abstraction

MDRE – assisting maintenance by finding the missing abstractions



Outline

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- MDRE Case studies
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MDRE for software maintenance

3 situations

- Extract information of lost or deprecated design documentation.
- Understand an existing software solution with missing documents.
- Align business processes with legacy applications. ← 1
- Improve genericity by replacing hard coded information by configuration files.
- Extract software components to put on the shelf. ← 2
- Upgrade technical framework releases or updating technical components.
- Re-factor application to improve the quality or follow new coding standards. ← 3
- Modify the presentation layer or the persistence layer in n-tier web applications.
- Change the programming languages (e.g. from Cobol to Java).

MDRE for software maintenance

3 case studies

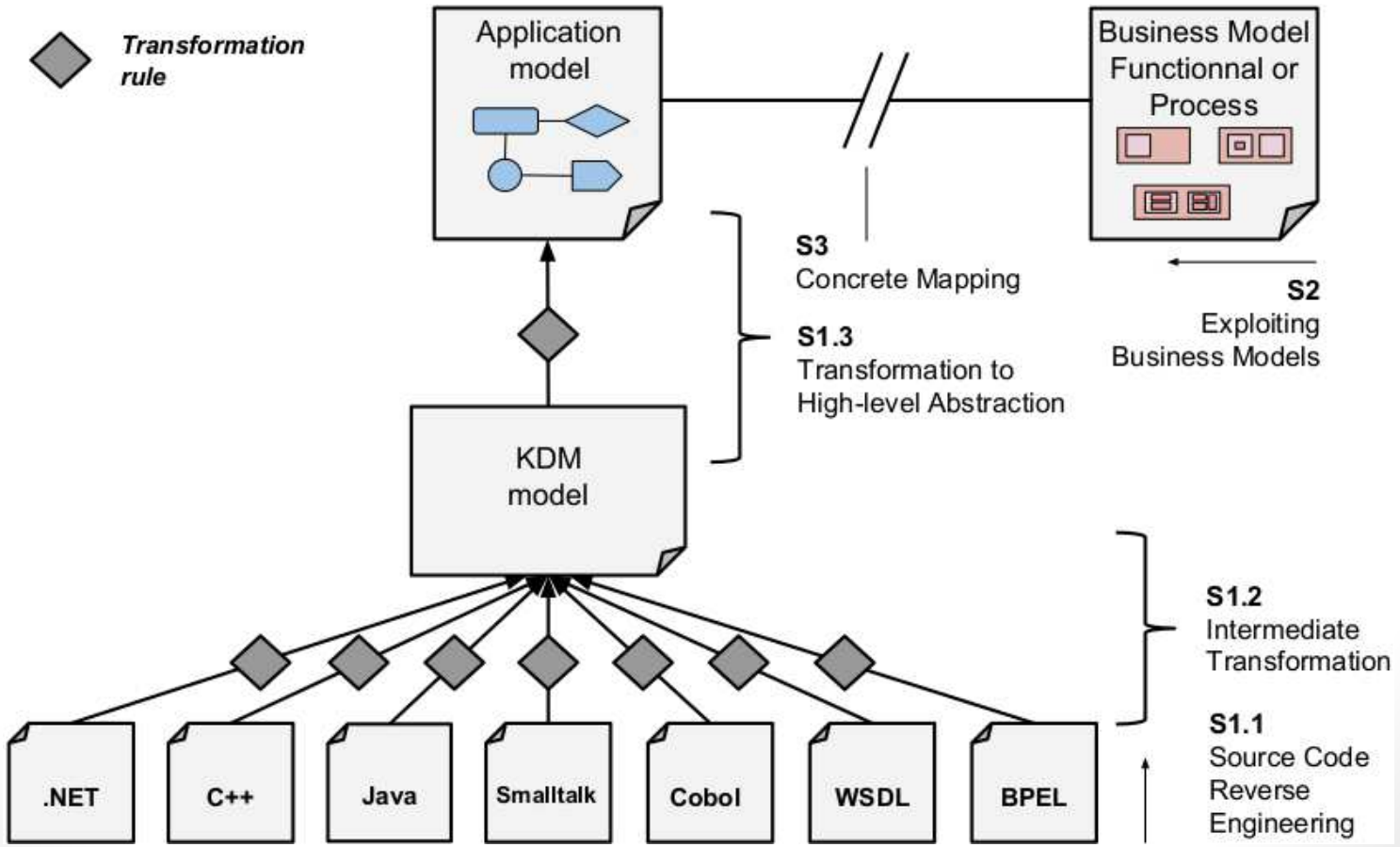
	1 Information system	2 Component	3 Manufacturing
Domain	Information system	Software Architecture	Manufacturing
Maintenance operation	Application cartography	Verification, refactoring	refactoring / rewrite
	BITA alignment	Model extraction	MDE initialization
Context	Industrial	Research	Applied research
Models	KDE, EMF, App…	Sofa, Fractal, Kmelia…	UML like
MDRE	build the IT architecture view in order to compare to business models	Component extraction (structure, behaviour) for model verification	Third party discovering to refactor (code and process)
Tool / process	General purpose	Dedicated	General purpose
	Tool chain application	Tool box, iterative process	Two-way process (engineering/reverse)
Case studies	Insurance real case	CoCoME benchmark	SOFAL product line

Overview, few details

MDRE Case study 1

Align business processes with legacy applications.

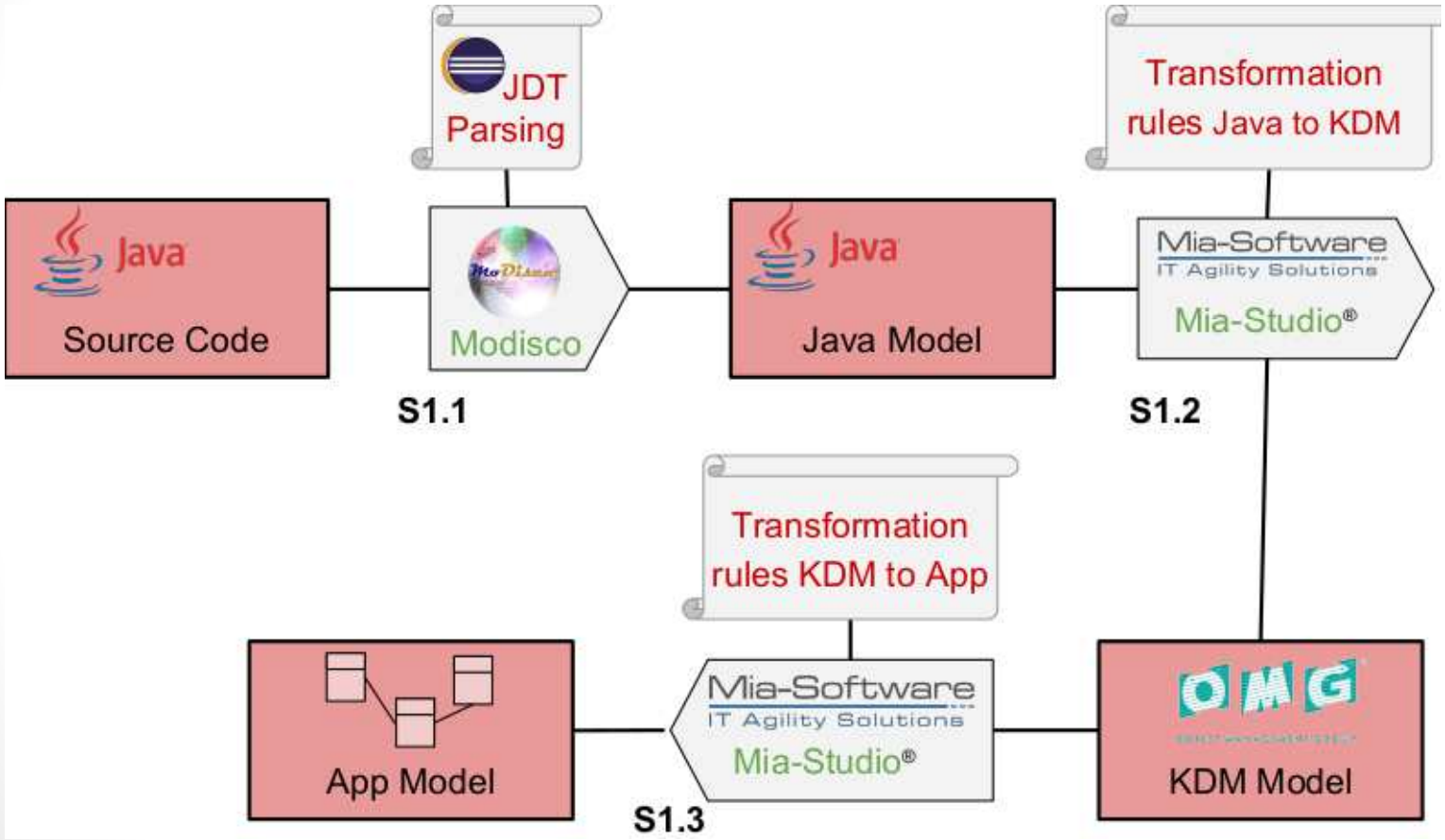
- Goal: reduce the Business-IT misalignment between the Information Technology (IT) and Business viewpoints
- MDRE: build the IT architecture view



MDRE Case study 1

Align business processes with legacy applications.

Tool

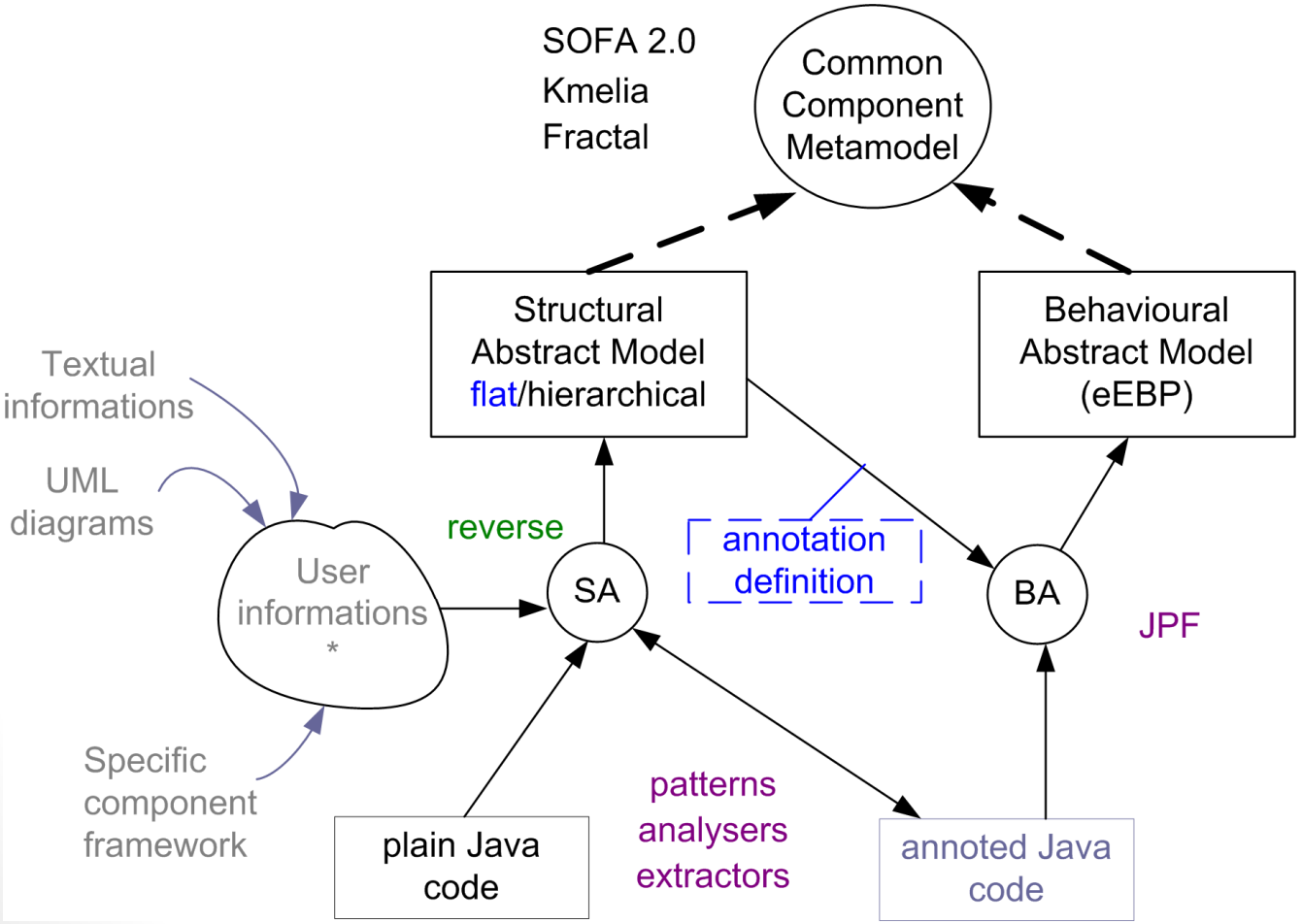


Reverse engineering process with general purpose tooling

MDRE Case study 2

Software Architecture Extraction

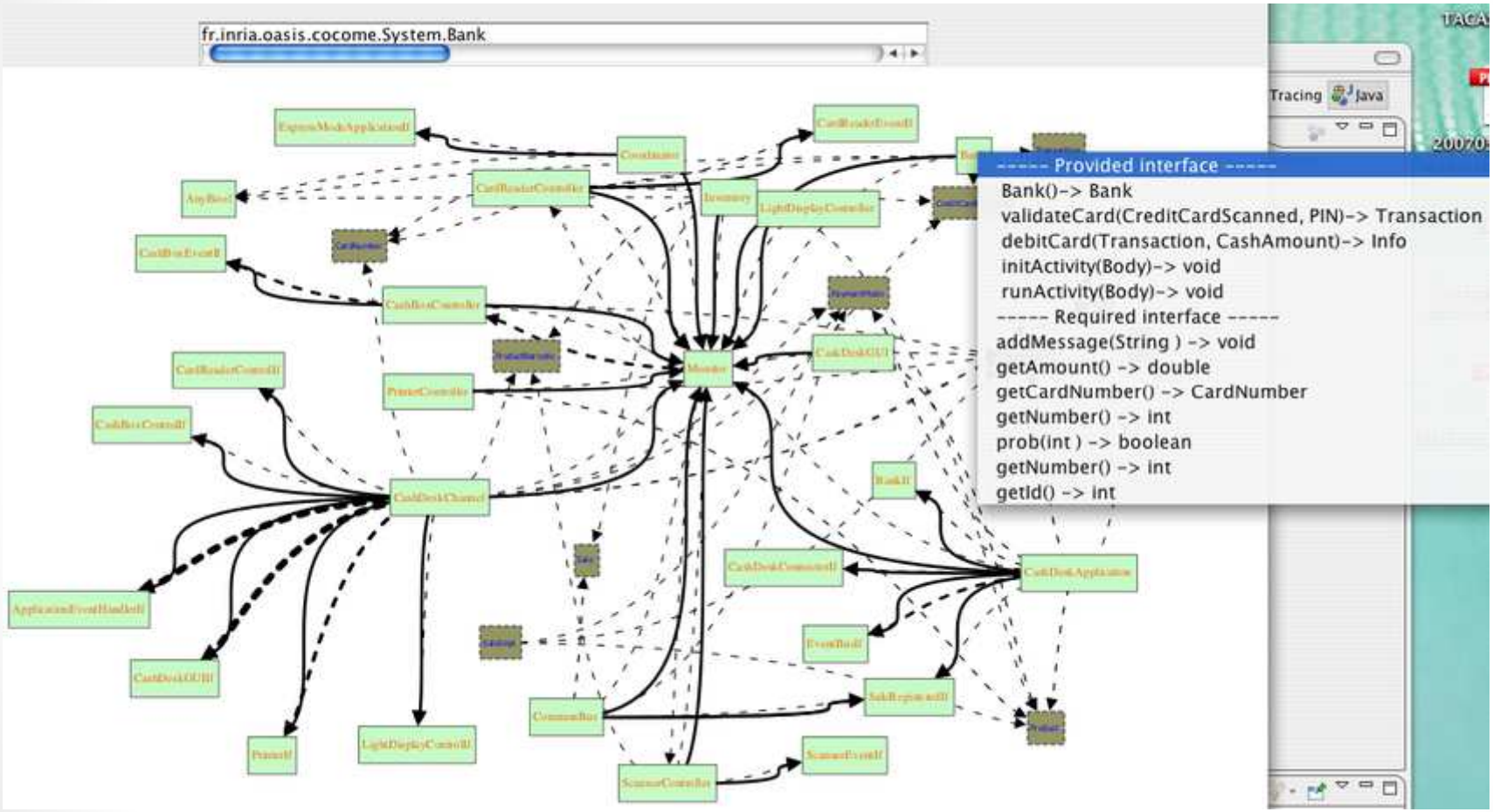
- Goal: reduce the architecture erosion, software verification
- MDRE: extract components (structure/behaviour)



MDRE Case study 2

Software Architecture Extraction

Tool



Javacompext : classify Java classes into Data types, components

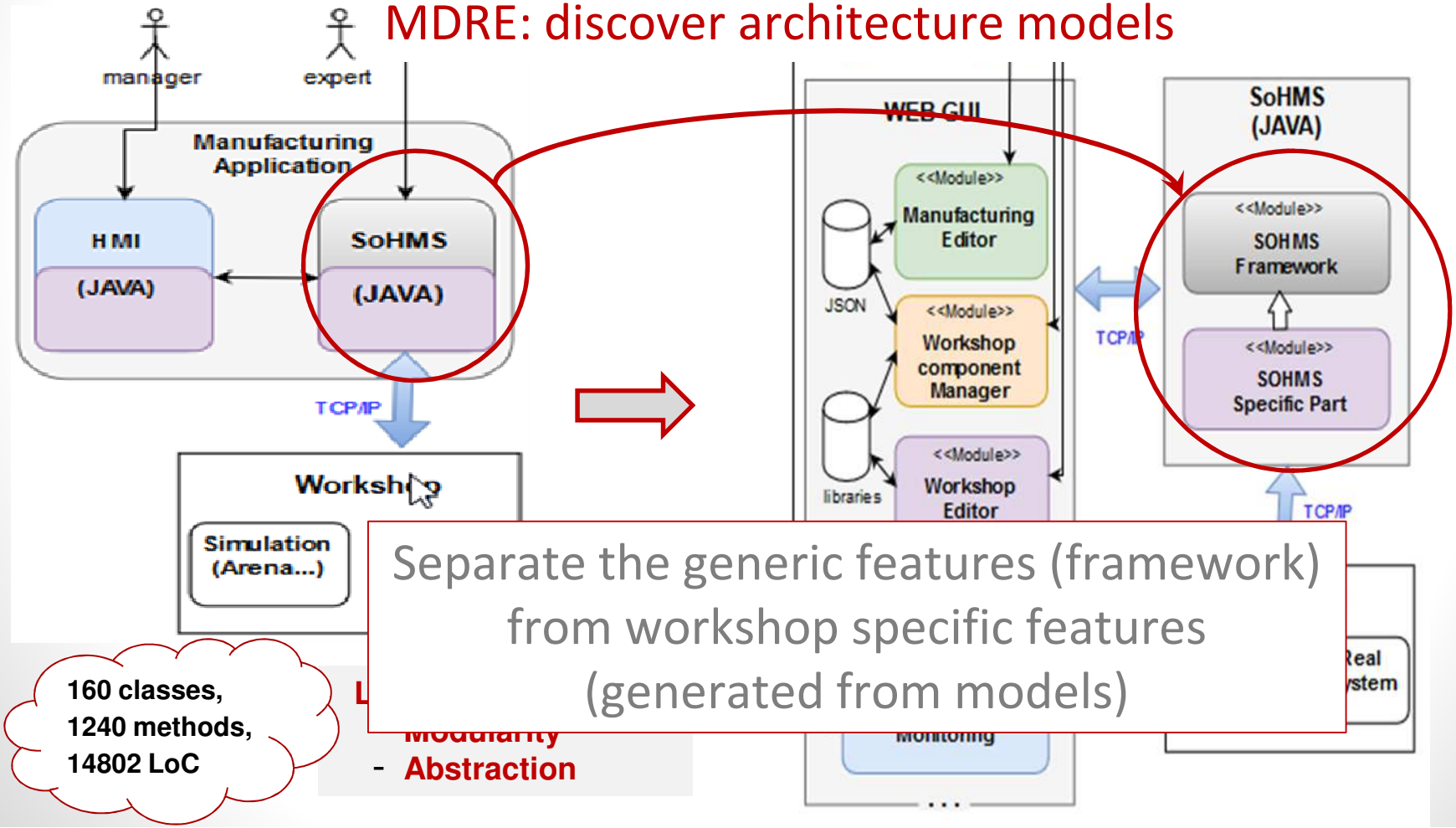
Dependency / inheritance / communication

MDRE Case study 3

Re-engineering a Manufacturing application

- Goal: improve the software quality for better maintenance and verification, revisit the software process

MDRE: discover architecture models



Separate the generic features (framework) from workshop specific features (generated from models)

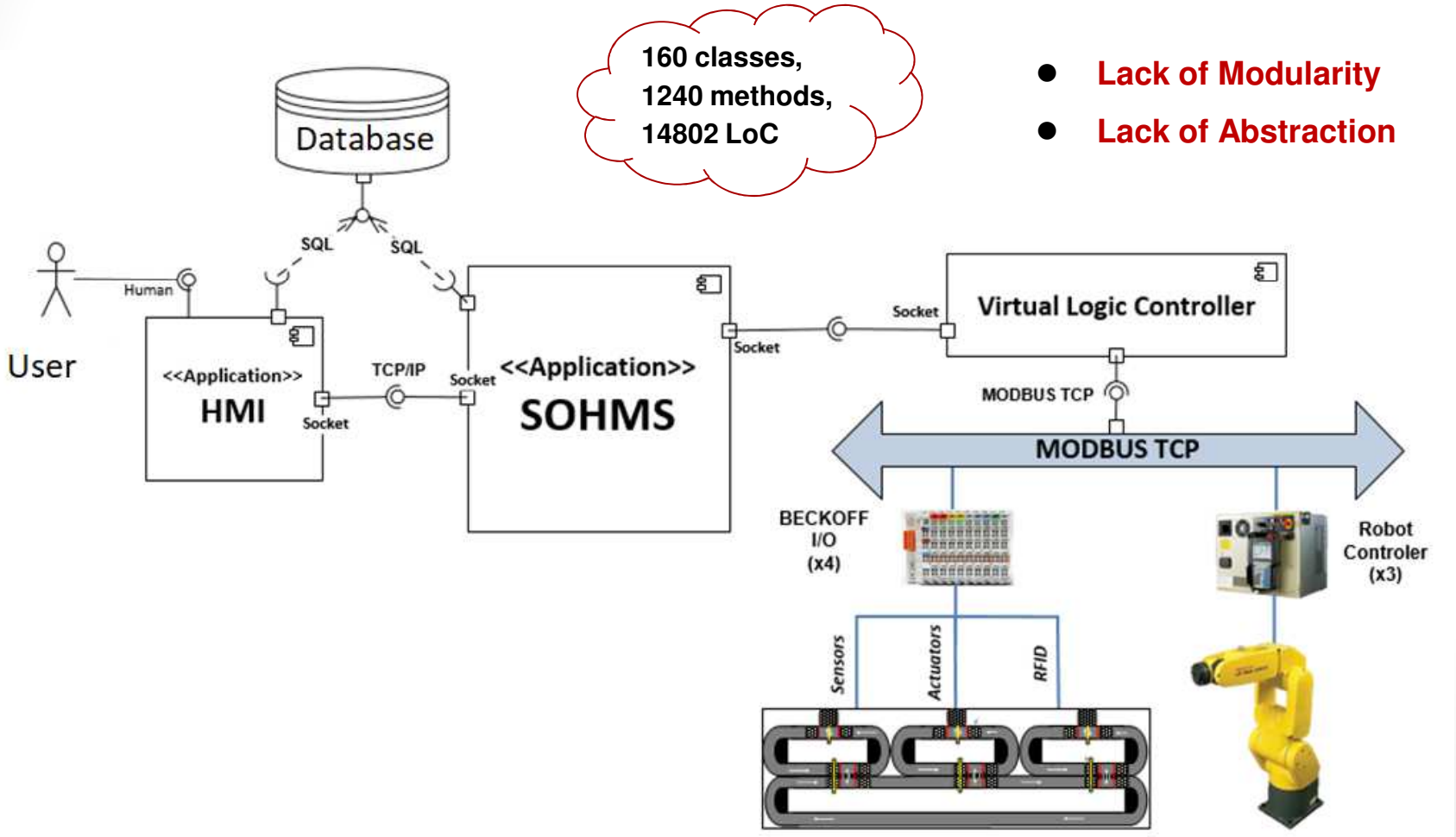
160 classes,
1240 methods,
14802 LoC

- Abstraction

MDRE Case study 3

Re-engineering a Manufacturing application

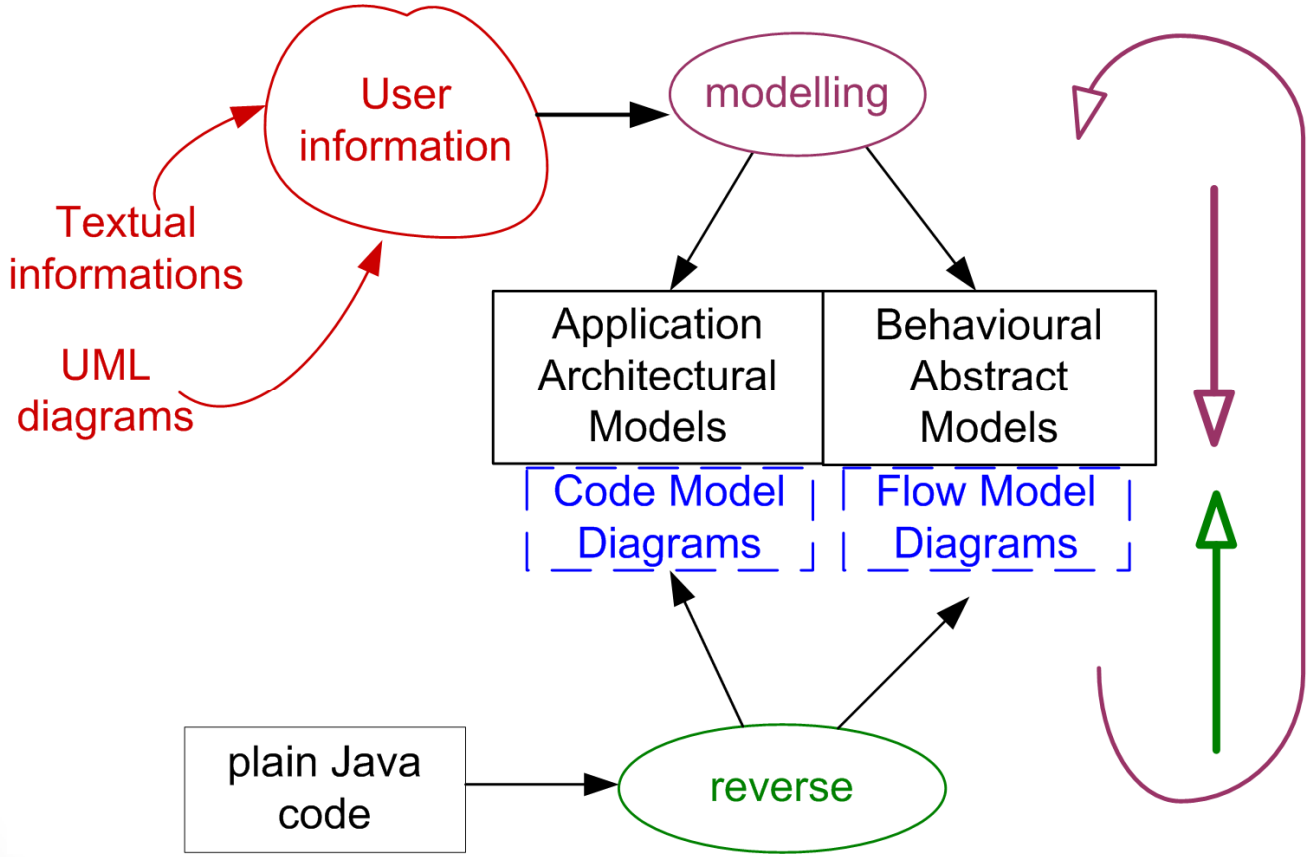
- Current SOFAL application



- **Lack of Modularity**
- **Lack of Abstraction**

MDRE Case study 3

Re-engineering a Manufacturing application



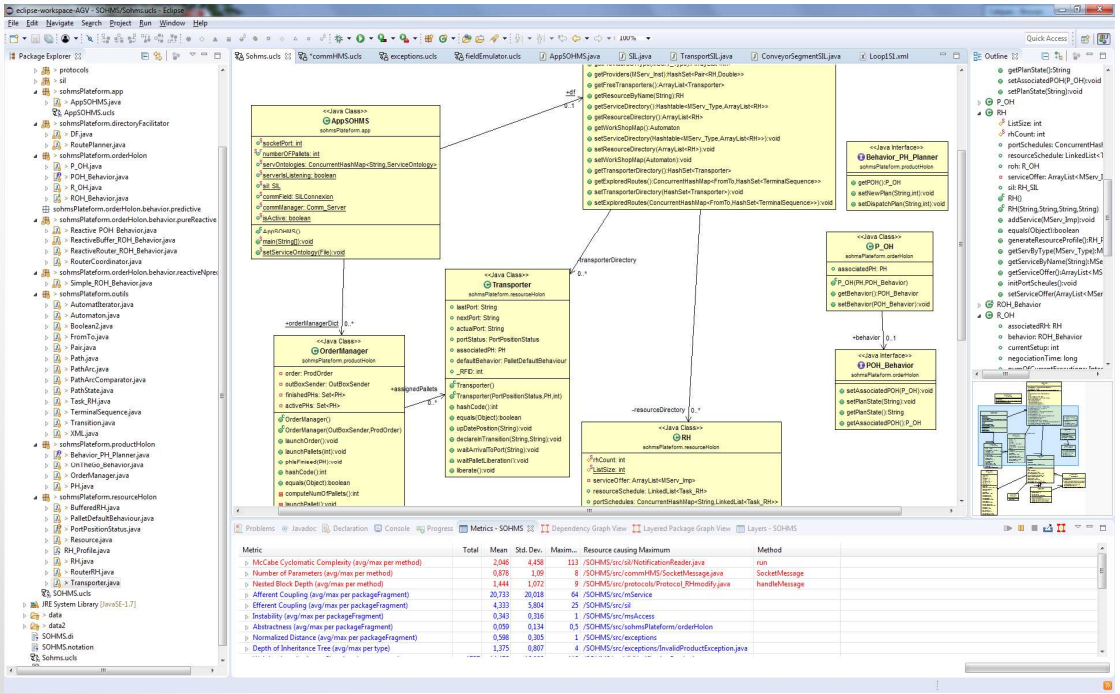
Two-way reverse engineering

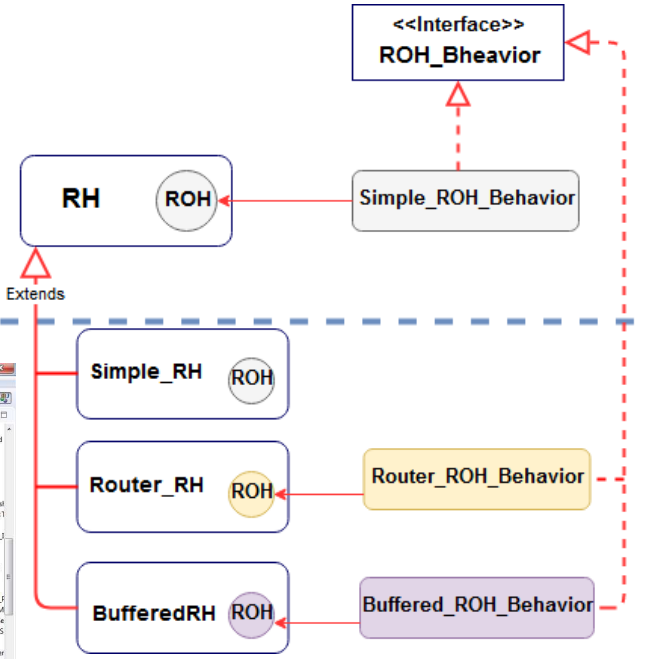
MDRE Case study 3

Re-engineering a Manufacturing application

MDRE: discover architecture models

- PHD thesis UML diagrams
- Java code (ObjectAid)



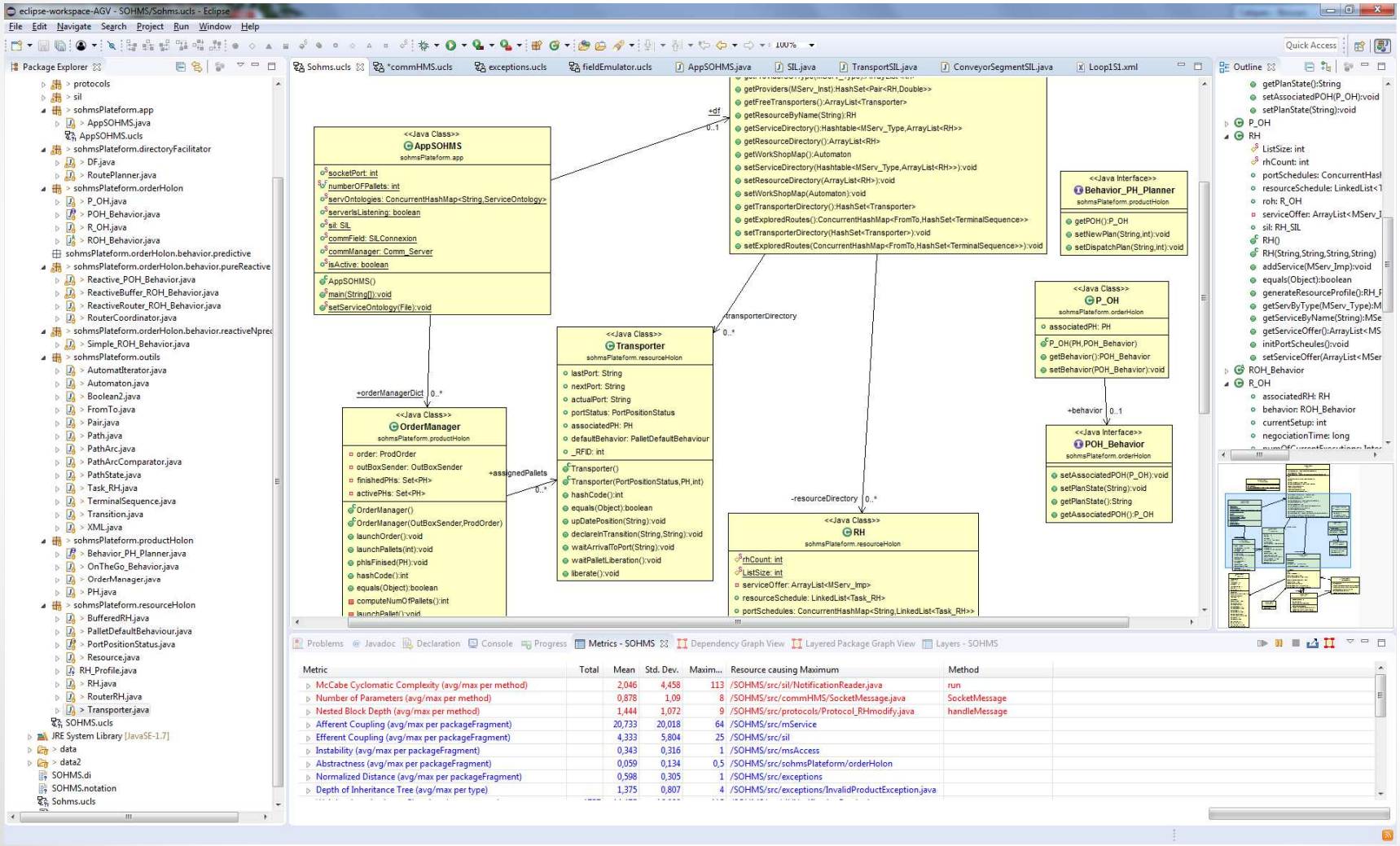


Separate the generic/specific features

MDRE Case study 3

ObjectAid

Re-engineering a Manufacturing application



Outline

- MDRE for software maintenance
- MDRE Case studies
- Discussion – return on experience
- Conclusion and perspectives

Discussion

General observations

MDRE tools provide convenient abstract views of the code

+ static representation of the code
- behavioural abstraction is complex to establish

More intelligent algorithms are required to raise in abstraction

1. Inject engineering information (design and coding rules)
2. Heuristics to separate components from or data types.
3. Iterative Roundrip for incremental discovering.

and lessons learnt from experience

Discussion

Findings and lessons

1. The process is guided by the objectives (what you look for) and the results will depend on them. — Context sensitive
2. Automatic high-level reverse-engineering for general purpose languages (even OO-only) stay a myth . — Semantic distance
3. One step reverse-engineering is impossible to raise in abstraction. — Small steps
4. There are no universal process. — Custom
5. A reverse engineering technique, designed for a given goal (lesson 1) in a given context (lesson 4), will be improved by applying it to new case studies. — Learning
6. Discovering a model is much harder than comparing a model with an implementation. — Repository
7. MDE helps in MDRE. — Reversibility /traceability
8. Never ending process — Roundtrip

Tracks for best practices

Outline

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Conclusion

Evolution in maintenance

- Business and duties
- Technical debt

Missing traceability

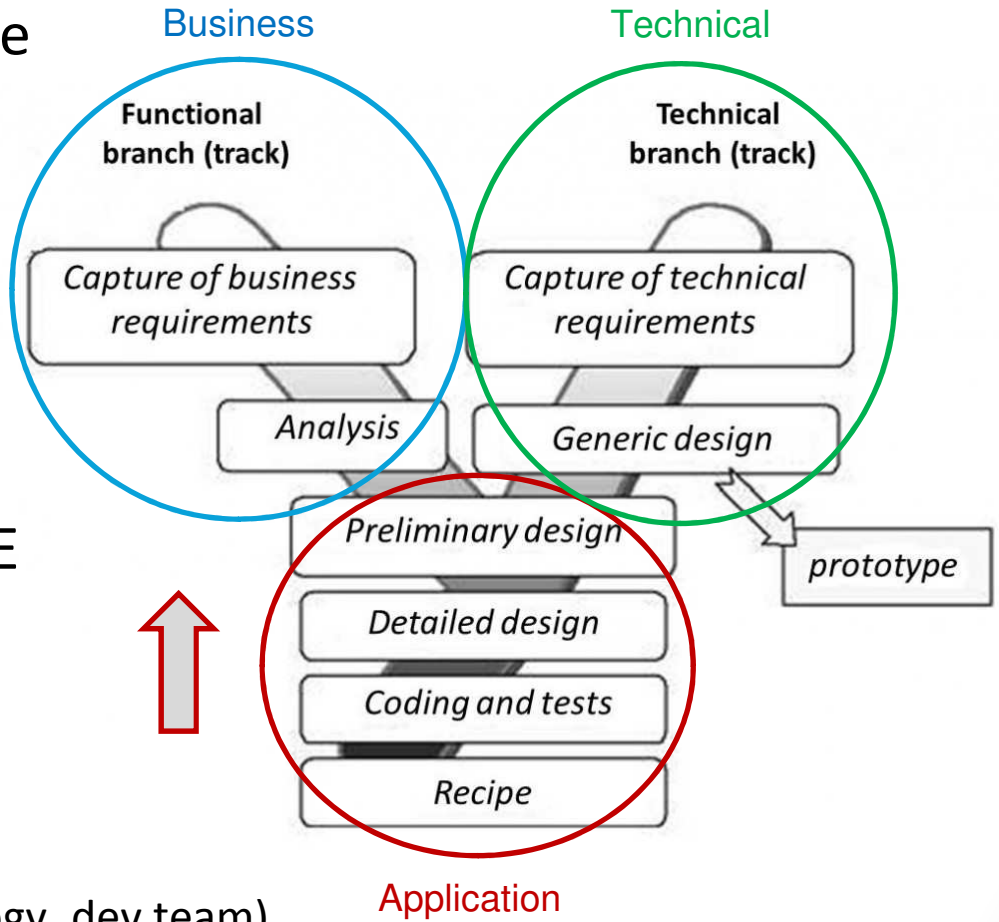
- Abstraction debt

MDRE helps in redo MDE

- Find abstractions
- Reconnect to models

Often context sensitive

- Rules and patterns (technology, dev team)
- Exceptions

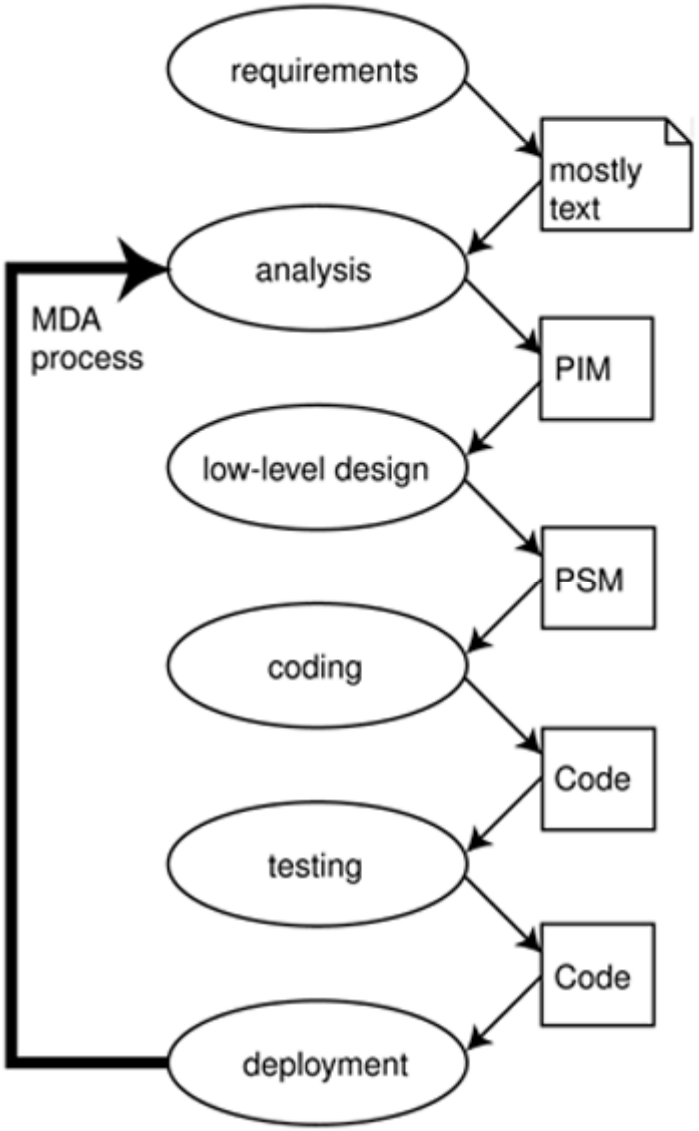


https://www.mysciencework.com/media/20151129/f72e6f12b01703ebd06f9157734b9fb6314fe11e.jpeg

Conclusion

Vision and Perspectives

1. Maintenance is a continuous [incremental] development

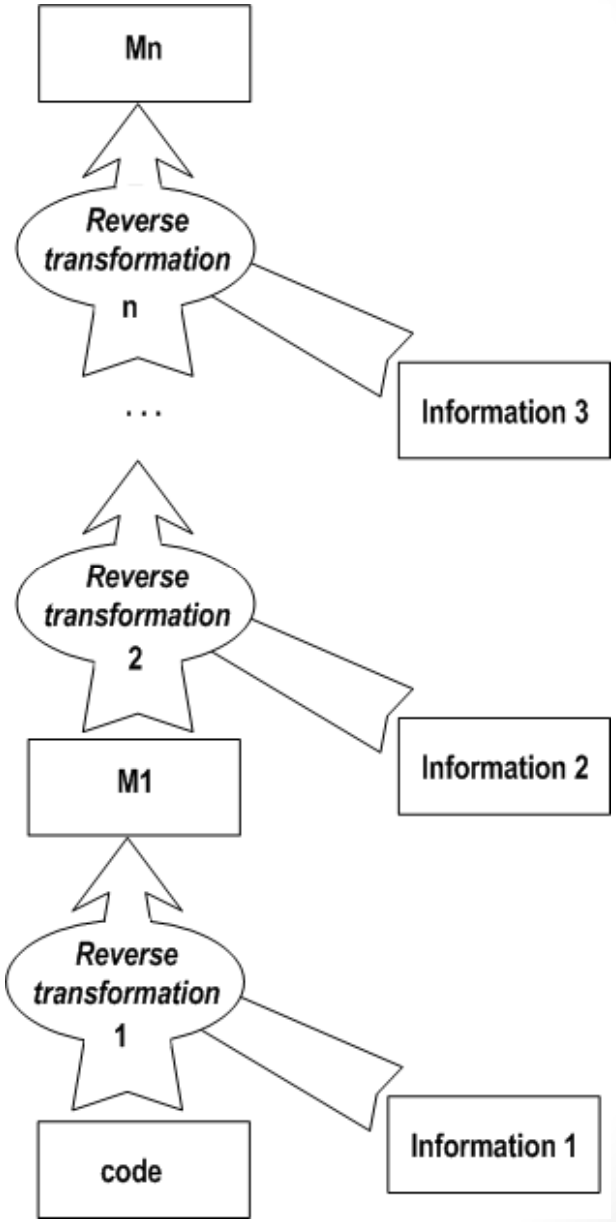


[Kleppe et al. 2003]

Conclusion

Vision and Perspectives

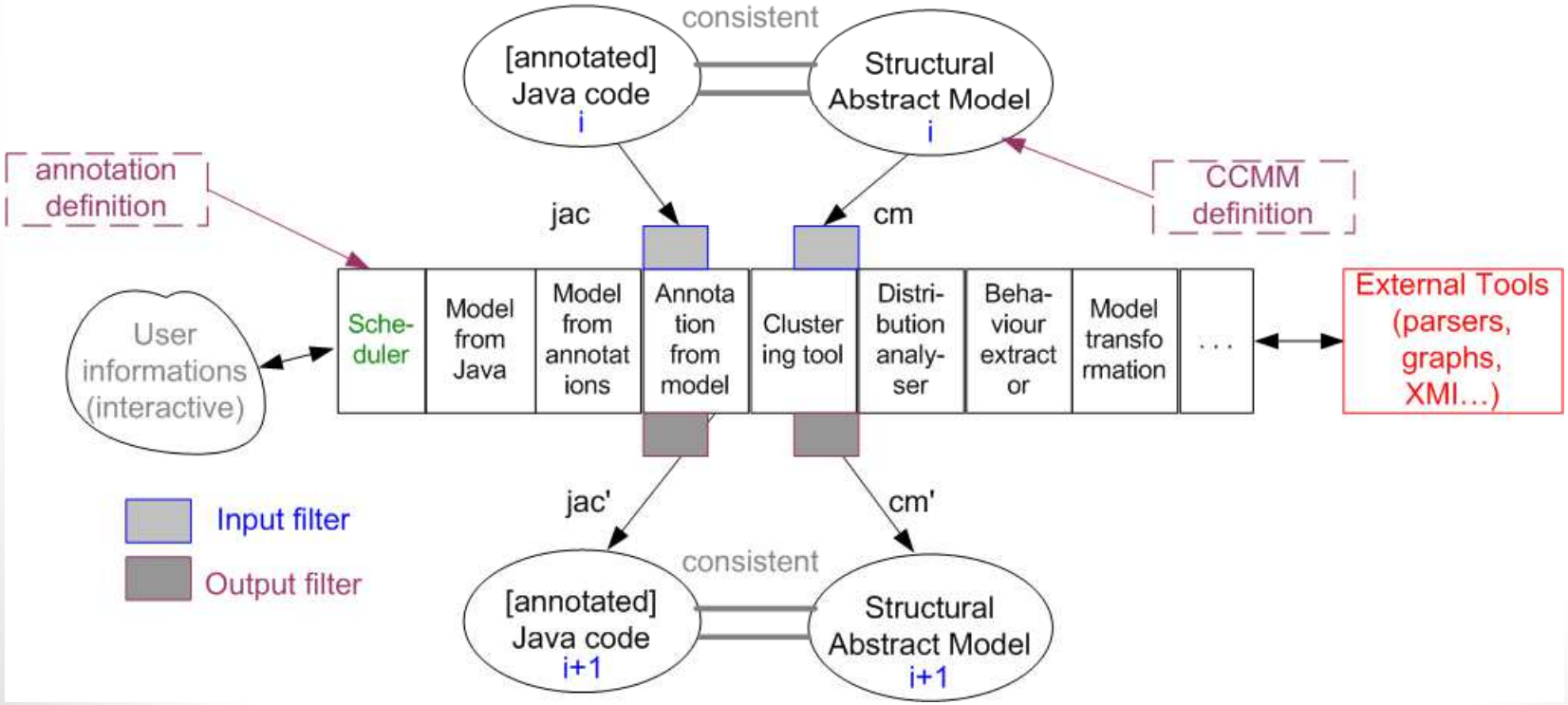
1. Maintenance is a continuous [incremental] development
2. MDRE transformation process with small step transformations



Conclusion

Vision and Perspectives

1. Maintenance is a continuous [incremental] development
2. MDRE transformation process with small step transformations
3. Each transformation picks from MDRE toobox - customization



Conclusion

Vision and Perspectives

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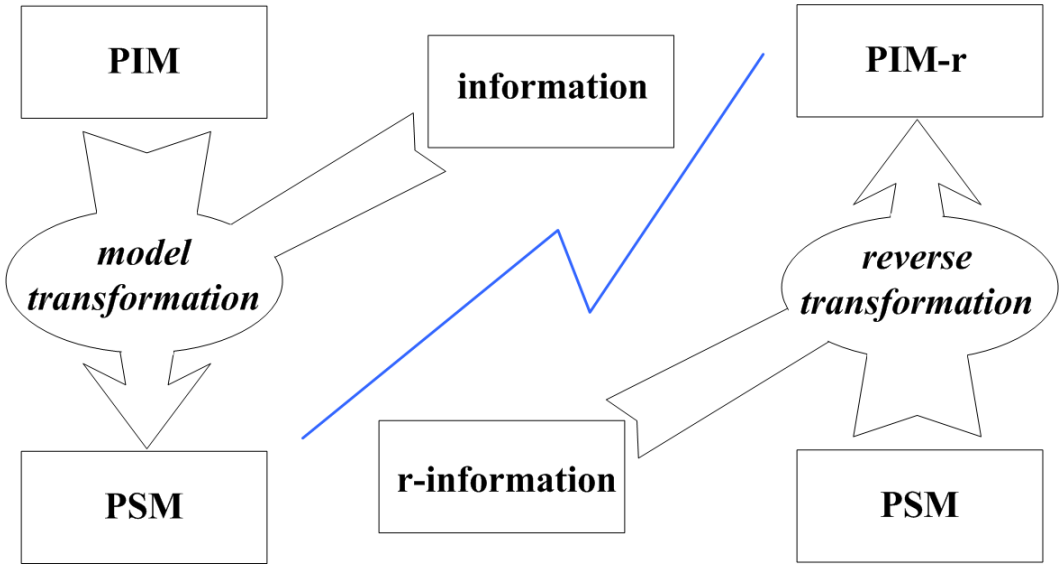
4. MD(R)E is an iterative and round trip process = connect code to models



Conclusion
Vision and Perspectives

1. Maintenance is a continuous [incremental] development
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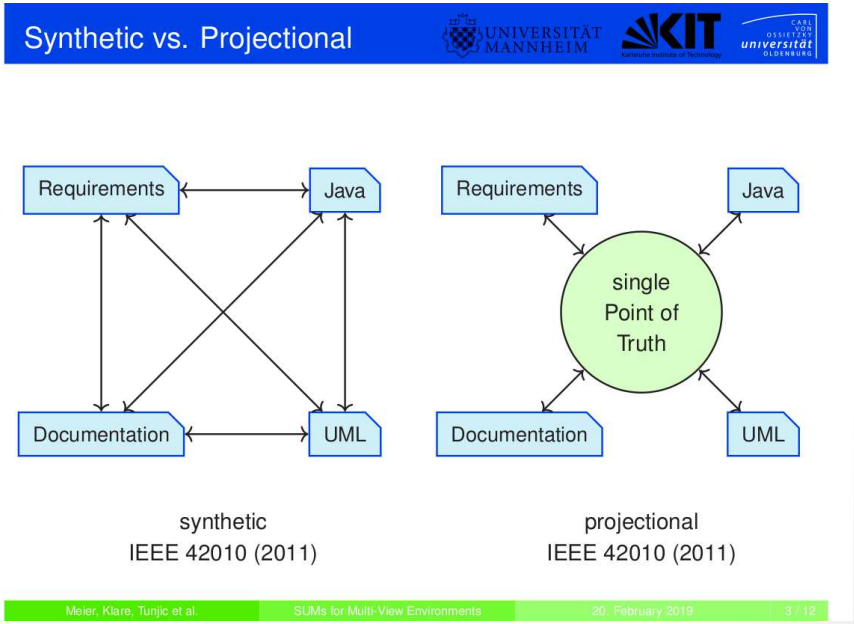
4. MD(R)E is an iterative and round trip process = connect code to models
5. Consistency

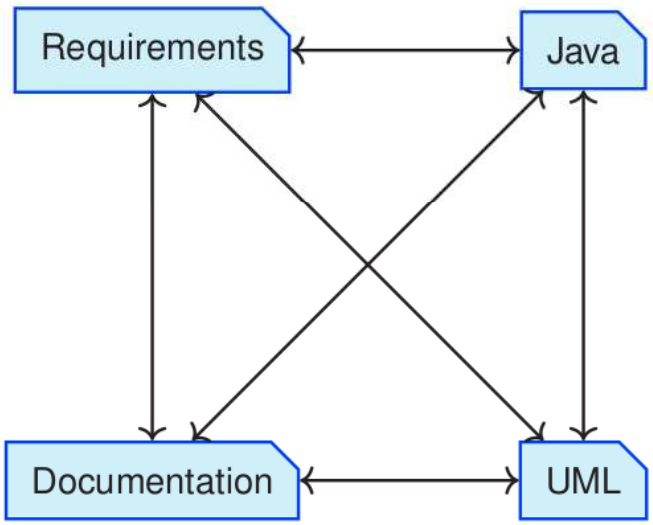


See presentation of Johannes Meier (MW2019)

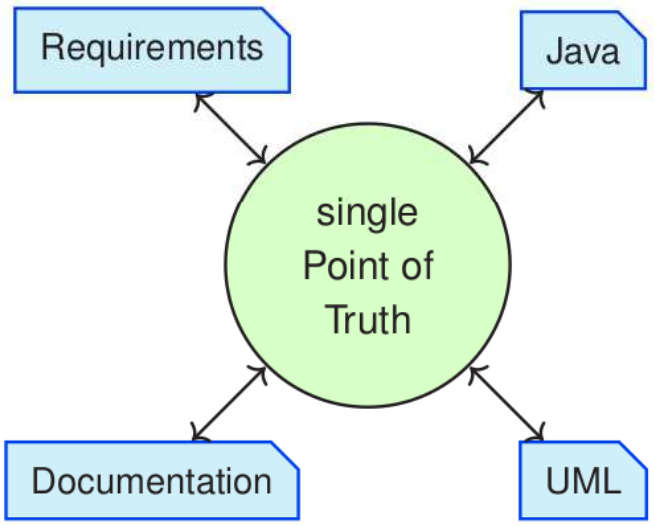
Conclusion

Vision and Perspectives

Synthetic vs. Projectional



synthetic
IEEE 42010 (2011)



projectional
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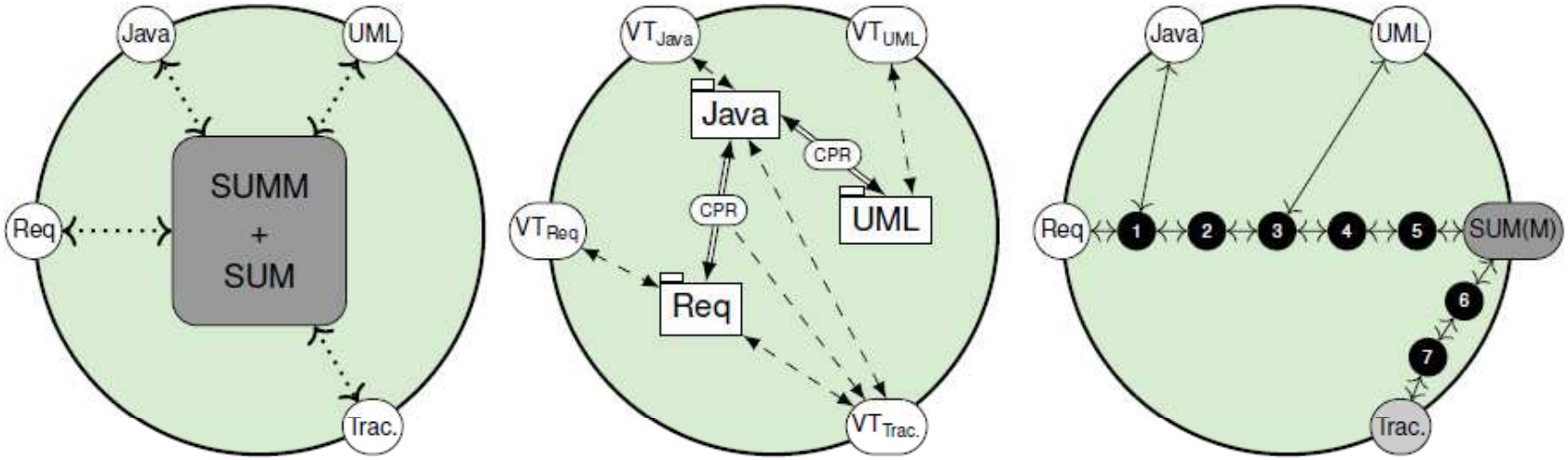
Conclusion

Vision and Perspectives



Criterion		OSM	VITRUVIUS	MOCONSEMI
C1	Construction Process	top-down	bottom-up	bottom-up
C2	Pureness	essential	pragmatic	pragmatic → essential
E1	Metamodel Reusability	hard	easy	easy
E2	Model Reusability	hard	middle	easy
E3	Viewtype Definability	easy	hard	middle
E4	Language Evolvability	middle	easy	middle
E5	SUMM Reusability	middle	easy	middle

See presentation of Johannes Meier (MW2019)

Thank you for your attention

Any Questions ?!

MDRE Case study 3

Re-engineering a Manufacturing application

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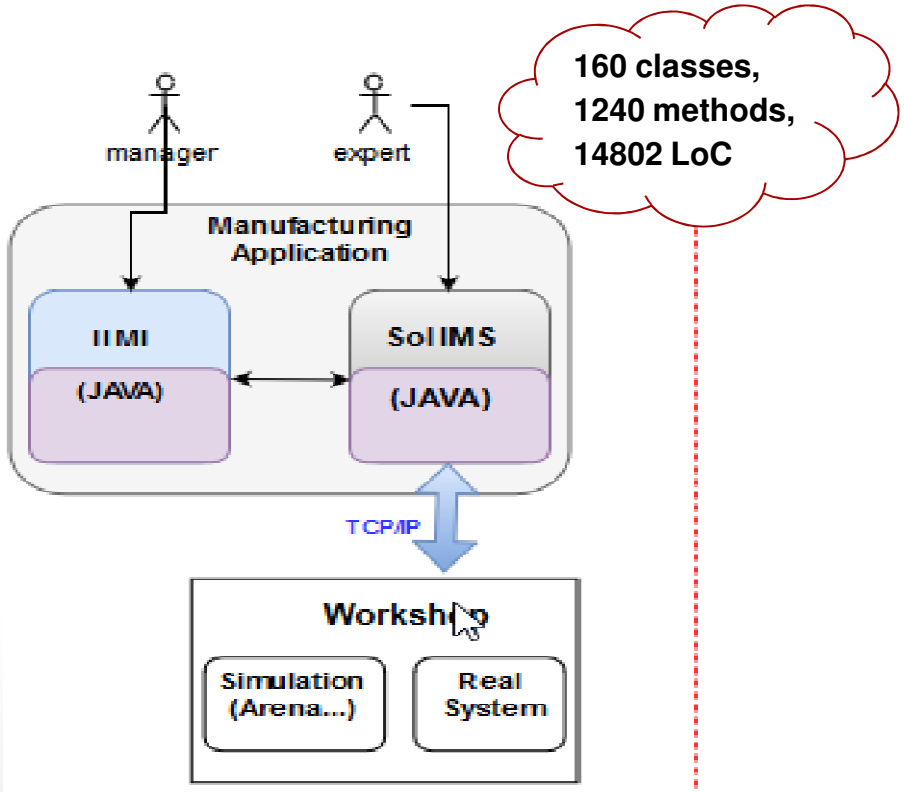
- MDRE: discover architecture models



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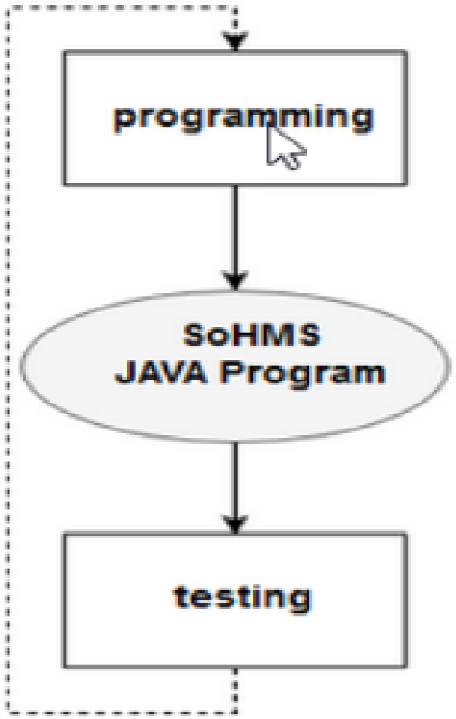

Application Architecture

Software Construction Process

MDRE Case study 3

New Vision

Re-engineering a Manufacturing application