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Model Evolution Towards Live Domain-Specific Languages

IPA Fall Days – Garderen, Friday November 2nd 2018 Riemer van Rozen^{1,2,3} @rvrozen joint work with Tijs van der Storm^{2,4} @tvdstorm

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Textual Models

- Models encoded as text
 - Textual DSLs
 - Programming Languages
- DSL for the Game Domain: Micro-Machinations is a language and library that enables game designers to modify a game's rules at run-time.

source kill income: kill -10-> gold pool gold is "\$" at 20 cost: gold -10-> buyHp user converter buyHp benefit: buyHp -20-> hp pool hp is "+" at 100 damage: hp -10-> hit drain hit



• Example: Johnny Jetstream



Step2: Re-design



Step 3: Play Test v2



Textual Models

- Evolution perspective
 - Changes between different versions of a program
 - Live DSLs modify running programs
- How to (1) determine the difference between two textual models and (2) evolve running programs?

source kill

income: kill -10-> gold
pool gold is "\$" at 20
cost: gold -10-> buyHp
user converter buyHp
benefit: buyHp -20-> hp
pool hp is "+" at 100
damage: hp -10-> hit
drain hit



Step 1: Play Test v1



Step2: Re-design



Step 3: Play Test v2



Live Modeling aims to bridge the *"gulf* of evaluation" (D. Norman 1988)

EXECUTION BRIDGE



Live Programming

- Live programming aims to bridge the gulf of evaluation by shortening the feed-back loop between editing a program's textual source code and observing its behavior.
- In a live programming environment, the running program is updated instantly after every change in the code.
 - see the behavioral effects of actions immediately
 - learn predicting how the program adapts to targeted improvements to the code
- **Question**: how to bridge the gap between running programs and textual DSLs?





Suggestion: Not State Machines

- Games Research
 - ``Applications to games other than Super Mario Bros are especially welcome" – Call for papers of the Procedural Content Generation in Games Workshop.
- Language Research
 - ``Applications to languages other than State Machines are especially welcome" – future call for papers
- Suggested Alternatives
 - Behavior Trees
 <u>http://aigamedev.com/open/article/b</u>
 <u>ehavior-trees-part1/</u>
 - PuzzleScript https://www.puzzlescript.net
 - Machinations



Pros: state machines are simple, explainable, research can be compared

Cons: state machines may not be representative, tedious repetition

Problem Statement and Objectives

- **Challenge:** How to build DSLs for live programming?
- **Objective:** provide generic language technology for constructing DSLs for live programming
- Question: How can a textual difference between successive source code versions and origin tracking be leveraged for obtaining a run-time difference in behavior?



Approach

- Approach: Apply Textual Model Differencing (TMDiff) to obtain model-based deltas and Runtime Model Patching (RMPatch) to migrate models at run time.
 - Program migrations as part of the language semantics
 - One correct result of a state migration is assumed





Background: Difference and Union of Models

UML, 2003

Marcus Alanen and Ivan Porres

Model Differencing

- Difference and Union of Models ۲
 - **Context**: version control
 - **Motivation:** Two designers ____ make separate changes to a model. How to merge the two models?



Source: Marcus Alanen and Ivan Porres. Difference and union of models. UML 2003.

Source: Ivan Porres, Difference and Union of Models, 10 years later

Fig. 1. Example of the Union of Two Versions of a Model (invited presentation). MODELS 2013

Model Differencing

- Difference and Union of Models
 - **Difference.** calculate the difference between two models. $M_2 M_1 = \Delta$
 - Union. merging two models by applying the difference. $M_1 + \Delta = M_2$



Figure 2: Example of the Difference of Models



Figure 3: Example of the Union Based on Differences

Source: Marcus Alanen and Ivan Porres. Difference and union of models. UML 2003.

Source: Ivan Porres, Difference and Union of Models, 10 years later (invited presentation). MODELS 2013

Edit Script Operations

- Edit script operations
 - Differences or deltas are expressed as a sequence of operations, the definition of Δ.
- Element creation and deletion
 - new(e, t) : Create a new element of type t with UUID e.
 By default, a new element has all its features set to their default values.
 - del(e, t) : Delete an element of type t with UUID e. An element may only be deleted if all its features are set to their default values.

Operation O	Dual operation \tilde{O}
$\operatorname{new}(e,t)$	del(e,t)
del(e,t)	new(e,t)
$set(e, f, v_o, v_n)$	$set(e, f, v_n, v_o)$
$insert(e, f, e_t)$	$remove(e, f, e_t)$
$remove(e, f, e_t)$	$insert(e, f, e_t)$
insertAt (e, f, e_t, i)	removeAt (e, f, e_t, i)
removeAt (e, f, e_t, i)	insertAt (e, f, e_t, i)

Table 1: The Map Between Operations and Dual Operations.

Source: Marcus Alanen and Ivan Porres. Difference and union of models. UML 2003.

Edit Script Operations

- Modification of a feature of type *f* of an element with UUID *e*.
 Where necessary, *et* refers to another element.
 - set(e, f, vo, vn): Set the value of e.f from vo to vn for an attribute of primitive type.
 - insert(e, f, et): Add a link from e.f
 to et, for an unordered feature.
 - *insertAt(e, f, et, i):* Add a link
 from *e.f* to *et*, at index *i*, for an
 ordered feature.
 - removeAt(e, f, et, i): Remove a link from e.f to et, which is at index i, for an ordered feature.

Operation O	Dual operation \tilde{O}
$\operatorname{new}(e,t)$	del(e,t)
del(e,t)	new(e,t)
$set(e, f, v_o, v_n)$	$set(e, f, v_n, v_o)$
$insert(e, f, e_t)$	$remove(e, f, e_t)$
$remove(e, f, e_t)$	$insert(e, f, e_t)$
insertAt (e, f, e_t, i)	removeAt (e, f, e_t, i)
removeAt (e, f, e_t, i)	insertAt (e, f, e_t, i)

Table 1: The Map Between Operations and Dual Operations.

Source: Marcus Alanen and Ivan Porres. Difference and union of models. UML 2003.

Edit Script Example

```
AClass
```

```
\Delta = [[ \text{ new}(\text{Class}, u_2),
         new(Generalization, u_3)],
         insert(u_3, namespace, u_0),
         insert(u_3, parent, u_1),
         insert(u_3, child, u_2),
         insert(u_1, specialization, u_3),
         insert(u_0, ownedElement, u_2),
         insert(u_0, ownedElement, u_3),
         insert(u_2, namespace, u_0),
         insert(u_2, generalization, u_3),
         set(u_2, name, "", "Sub")],
```



Figure 4: Difference Between Two Simple Models.

Source: Marcus Alanen and Ivan Porres. Difference and union of models. UML 2003.

Implications, Benefits and Limitations

- Differences can be
 - Programmed manually
 - Leveraged for algorithms and modeling tools
 - Generated from DSLs
 - Recorded, played back
 - Applied on systems and rolled back
 - Analyzed formally for predicting results
 - Used for understanding the evolution of models

- Main limitations of A&P approach.
 - Requires unique, stable, universal model element identifiers across model revisions.
 - Metamodel is assumed to be static.
- In addition: Encode history, NOT scripts! (operations go stale)

Source: Ivan Porres, Difference and Union of Models, 10 years later (invited presentation). MODELS 2013

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Origin Tracking + Text Differencing = Textual Model Differencing

Theory and Practice of Model Transformations, 2015

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Problem: Differencing with identity

Doors Model (v1):

Doors Model (v2):



- Problem
 - We cannot simply apply model differencing to models encoded as text.

Problem: Textual Model Differencing

- What are the entities?
 - First parse to obtain a tree
 - Referential structure is determined by scoping rules
 - Definitions: machine, state
 - Uses: transition



Textual model elements have no stable identity across source versions.

Doors.sml (v1):





Objectives: Computing Deltas

- Question
 - How to apply model differencing to models encoded as text?
- What are the differences?
 - Imperative edit scripts encode deltas
 - Multiple deltas can express the difference between two models
 → ambiguity
 - Deltas can capture user intent



Contributions

Question

– How can textual differencing be used to match model elements based on origin tracking?

- Contributions
 - TMDiff
 - Apply TMDiff to DSL programs

Objectives: Computing Deltas

- Origin
 - src_n has an origin relation with m_n
- Align
 - Use the text diff Δ between src₁ and src₂ to align tokens of entities.
- Objective: Identify
 - Given textual models src₁ and src₂ determine which entities in m₁ are still in m₂



Approach: TMDiff



- TMDiff steps
 - Matching: generate a tuple of added, removed and identified entities
 - Added: generate Create and SetTree operations
 - Identified: difference nodes definitions
 - Removed: generate *Delete* operations

Matching Entities: Text diff



Matching Entities: Project, Identify



- Calculate Matching
 - added, removed, identified entities

 $-M_{1,2} = \langle \{d7\}, \{\}, \{\langle d1, d4 \rangle, \langle d2, d5 \rangle, \langle d3, d6 \rangle \} \rangle$

Differencing

- We now have
 - Textual sources
 - Models
 - Origin relations
 - Matching
- We now can
 - Apply well-known model differencing algorithms.



Implementation & Evaluation

- Rascal
 - Meta-programming language and language work bench <u>http://www.rascal-mpl.org</u>
 - TMDiff
 <u>https://github.com/cwi-</u>
 <u>swat/textual-model-diff</u>
- Evaluated on Derric
 - A DSL for digital forensics
 - Describes file formats for analyzing large amounts of unstructured data.
 - File format evolution is available on GitHub. <u>https://github.com/jvdb/derric</u>

format gif extension gif

strings ascii
sign false
unit byte
size 1
type integer
endian big

Sequence

(Header87a Header89a) LogicalScreenDesc

[GraphicControlExtension? TableBasedImage CompressedDataBlock*] [GraphicControlExtension? PlainTextExtension DataBlock*] [ApplicationExtension DataBlock*] [CommentExtension DataBlock*] Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica



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Towards Live Domain-Specific Languages From Text Differencing to Adapting Models at Runtime

Journal of Software & Systems Modeling, 2017

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Case Study: Live SML

- LiveSML Metamodels
 - a) Static metamodel
 - b) Dynamic metamodel extension:
 - Machine current state
 - State count
- Note: The run-time meta-model of LiveSML "extends" its static meta-model, which is not true in general



Live SML: Components & Models

- Live SML components
 - a) programming environment
 - b) program
 execution as an
 interactive GUI
- Live SML Models
 - c) static SML model representing the textual source code
 - d) dynamic SML model that is executing at run time



Source code perspective

State Machine: doors close open State # | Events closed | 1 | [open] opened | 0 | [close] (**b**) Running *Doors*₁ state d1: Mach d2: State d3: State count: 0 count: 1 :Trans :Trans event: "open" event: "close"

Run-time perspective

(d) Runtime model of *Doors*₁

Live SML: State Migration

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18

- Creation of a new machine
 - Initially there is no machine because we start with an empty object space.
 - We store a reference to 8
 the machine when it is first 9
 created (lines 9 and 10). 10
- Creation of a new state
 - The *count* attribute is initialized to 0 (lines 12–15).

```
class MigrateSML extends ApplyDelta {
  private Mach machine; //run-time model to migrate
  @Override
  public void visit(Create create) {
    super.visit(create);
    Object x = create.getCreated(this);
    if (x instanceof Mach) { //new machine
      this.machine = (Mach) \times;
    }
    else if (x instanceof State) { //new state
      Edit e = new SetPrim(reverseLookup(x),
                   new Path(new Field("count")), 0);
      e.accept(this);
    }
  }
```

Live SML – State Migration

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22 23

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39 40 41

- Insertion of an element in an uninitialized machine.
 - When a state or group is inserted into a machine that has no current state (lines 24–29), it is initialized to the *initial state* (lines 43–54).
 - The initial state is the first state in the textual model.
- Deletion of the current state
 - When a machine's current state is deleted (lines 36–37), it is reinitialized to the initial state (lines 43–54).

```
Override
public void visit(Insert insert) {
  super.visit(insert);
  Object owner = insert.getOwner(this);
  if (machine != null && machine.state == null
        && owner == machine) {
    // Added a group or state to a machine
    // without a current state.
    goToInitialState();
  }
}
@Override
public void visit(Delete delete) {
  super.visit(delete);
  Object \times = delete.getDeleted(this);
  if (machine != null && × == machine.state) {
    // Deleted the current state.
    goToInitialState();
```

Live SML – State Migration

- Insertion of an element in an uninitialized machine.
 - When a state or group is inserted into a machine that has no current state (lines 24–29), it is initialized to the *initial state* (lines 43–54).
 - The initial state is the first state in the textual model.

```
private void goToInitialState(){
   State s = machine.findInitial();
   Edit e1 = new Set(reverseLookup(machine),
        new Path(new Field("state")), s);
   e1.accept(this); //Set the current state.

if (s != null){
   Edit e2 = new Set(reverseLookup(s),
        new Path(new Field("count")), s.count+1);
   e2.accept(this); //Increment current state count.
}
```

- Deletion of the current state
 - When a machine's current state is deleted (lines 36–37), it is reinitialized to the initial state (lines 43–54).

Live State Machine Language in Rascal



Live SML: Modeling Scenario



- Interleaved coevolution of models *Doorsn* and application run-time states *Sn* over time
- Next: TMDiff deltas + migration deltas

Live SML: Modeling Scenario

Model	State	Event	Edit operation		Origin
Ø	<i>s</i> 0	Save Doors1	δ1	create State d2	TMDiff Ø <i>Doors</i> 1
			δ2	d2.count = 0	side effect
			δ3	create State d3	
			δ4	d3.count = 0	side effect
			δ5	create Mach d1	
			δ6	d2 = State(name("closed"), [Trans("open",d3)])	
			δ7	d3 = State(name("opened"), [Trans("close",d2)])	
			δ8	d1 = Mach(name("doors"), [d2,d3])	
			δ9	d1.state = d2	side effect
			δ10	d2.count = 1	side effect

At the end of this sequence we are in Model *Doors*¹ and State *s*¹.

Model	State	Event	Edit o	operation	Origin
Doors1	s1	Click open	δ11	d1.state = d3	user action
			δ12	d3.count = 1	
Doors1	s2	Click <i>close</i>	δ13	d1.state = d2	user action
			δ14	d2.count = 2	
Doors1	s3	Save Doors2	δ15	create State d7	TMDiff Doors1 Doors2
			δ16	d7.count = 0	side effect
			δ17	d7 = State(name("locked"), [Trans("unlock",d2)])	
			δ18	<pre>insert d2.transitions[1] = Trans("lock",d7)</pre>	
			δ19	<pre>insert d1.states[2] = d7</pre>	
			δ20	rekey d1 \rightarrow d4	
			δ21	rekey d2 \rightarrow d5	
			δ22	rekey d3 \rightarrow d6	
Doors2	s4	Click <i>lock</i>	δ23	d4.state = d7	user action
			δ24	d7.count = 1	

Model	State	Event	Edit o	operation	Origin
Doors2	s5	Save Doors3	δ25	create Group d11	TMDiff Doors2 Doors3
			δ26	d11 = Group("locking",[d6])	
			δ27	remove d4.states[2]	
			δ28	<pre>insert d4.states[2] = d0</pre>	
			δ29	rekey d4 \rightarrow d8	
			δ30	rekey d5 \rightarrow d9	
			δ31	rekey d6 \rightarrow d10	
			δ32	rekey d7 \rightarrow d12	
Doors3	s6	Save Doors1	δ33	remove d8.states[2]	TMDiff Doors3 Doors1
			δ34	remove d9.transitions[1]	
			δ35	delete d11	
			δ36	delete d12	
			δ37	d13.state = d9	Side effect
			δ38	d9.count = 3	Side effect
			δ39	rekey d8 \rightarrow d13	
			δ40	rekey d9 \rightarrow d14	
			δ41	rekey d10 \rightarrow d15	

Discussion, Benefits and Limitations

Feature / benefit	Trade-off / limitation	Mitigating argument
Edit operations: record history as edit scripts for do, undo, replay	Large memory foot print, a potential memory leak	Recording differences can be turned off or limited
TMDiff is language- parametric (needs name resolution) and calculates model-based deltas "for free"	The results of the differencing algorithm bleed into the language semantics (which entities live and die)	Facilitates rapid Live prototyping of DSLs for live and textual modeling. The default is usually OK due to small incremental changes
RMPatch helps construct DSL interpreters for live programming	High implementation effort. The granularity of edit scripts operations is too fine (does not scale).	Some languages require exact state migrations and precise steering

Conclusions and Future Work

- Questions
 - How can textual differencing be used to match model elements based on origin tracking?
 - How can "Live DSL" construction be supported with generic reusable frameworks?
- Contributions
 - TMDiff and RMPatch
 - Apply TMDiff to DSL programs
 - LiveSML illustrative example
- Current work
 - Modeling extensible state migrations that scale to larger DSLs
 - Live Machinations

Source code perspective



Run-time perspective



References

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 "Origin Tracking + Text Differencing = Textual Model Differencing." *International Conference on Theory and Practice of Model Transformations*. Springer, 2015.
- Riemer van Rozen and Tijs van der Storm.
 "Toward Live Domain-Specific Languages: From Text Differencing to Adapting Models at Runtime" *Software & Systems Modeling*(2017): 1-18.

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Modeling with Side-Effects

current work

in the context of the Live Game Design RAAK-MKB project

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Machinations Evolution & Approach



Machinations Evolution & Approach



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 Game Mechanics: Advanced Game
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Live Machinations: Model + State



Live Machinations: Model + State

🖲 😑 🍙 rozen — Xamarin Studio I	External Console — mono32debugdebugger-agent=tr				
Micro-Machinations Design Space Navigator v0.01					
МИНИМАНИАМИМИМАМИМИАМИМИАМИ	аааммимимимамиамиамимимамиааамимимимамиами				
[Model]	[State]				
pool fork at 1	pool fork = 1				
Philosopher	pool spoon = 1				
{	pool Jan = 1				
ref spoon	<pre>[0]: Philosopher hildDefinition];</pre>				
user pool righthand at 0 eleme	nts.removpoolerighthand = 0				
s0: spoon>spoon viewM	ap. remove source leatSource				
ref fork	drain eatDrain				
push source eatSource	converter eat				
all drain eatDrain	<pre>nid onDepoolElefthand = 0e</pre>				
eatDrain.*.>eatDrain	pool Hans = 1				
user all converter eat	[0]: Philosopher				
s1: righthand>righthand	pool righthand = 0				
s2: eat>eat	source eatSource				
user pool lefthand at 0	drain eatDrain				
f1: lefthand>lefthand	converter eat				
f2: eat>eat	pool lefthand = 0				
f0: fork>fork	<pre>void onDeleteInstance(Instance instance)</pre>				
}					
pool spoon at 1					
pool Jan of Philosopher at 1					
fork.=.>fork					
spoon.=.>spoon					
pool Hans of Philosopher at 1					
spoon.=.>spoon					
fork.=.>fork					

sublic void onDeleteNode(Node node)