CoCoViLa Compiler-Compiler for Visual Languages

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Final Workshop of CDC 2002-2007 22 January 2008

Introduction

CoCoViLa¹ is a visual programming framework for rapid design and implementation of domain specific visual languages.

It is being developed in Software Department of Institute of Cybernetics since 2003.

Implemented techniques (visual programming, automatic program synthesis) have previously been used in NUT, Priz, etc.

CoCoViLa is Open Source, Java based, platform independent and extendable system that is able to perform large-scale simulation tasks.

¹http://cs.ioc.ee/~cocovila

Introduction

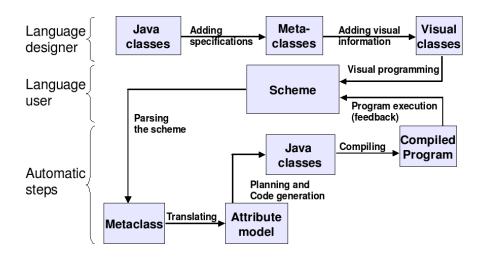
- A. Saabas "A Framework for Design and Implementation of Visual Languages" (master thesis) – 2004
- P. Grigorenko "Program Synthesis in Java Environment" (bachelor thesis)
 2004
- P. Grigorenko "Attribute Semantics of Visual Languages" (master thesis)
 2006
- Andres Ojamaa "Modulaarne simuleerimisplatvorm" (master thesis) 2007
- Riina Maigre "Visuaalse kasutaja-liidesega veebiteenuste tarkvara" (master thesis) – 2007

Supervisor: Enn Tyugu

Outline

- Programming Technology
- 2 Components
 - Metaclasses and Metainterfaces
 - Visual Classes and Schemes
 - Specification Language
 - Automatic Program Synthesis
- Runnables
 - Class Editor
 - Scheme Editor

Programming Technology



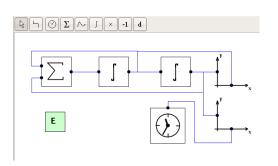
Metaclasses and Metainterfaces

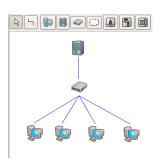
- Metaclass is a Java class supplied with metainterface
- Metainterface is a specification of an object representing its usability as a component in terms of a problem domain

```
public class Resistor {
   /*@ specification Resistor {
    double r, u, i;
    u = r*i;
   } @*/
   ...
}
```

Visual Classes and Schemes

- Metaclasses have visual representations visual classes.
- Visual class contains:
 - Icon (Toolbar)
 - Image (Scheme)
- Visual classes can be connected using ports.
- Schemes are visual specifications of problems to solve.





Specification Language

Variable declarations

```
<type> <identifier>
```

Bindings

```
\langle var \rangle = \langle var \rangle
```

Valuations

```
<var> = <constant>
```

Inheritance

```
super <name>
```

Axioms

```
precondition -> postcondition(impl)
```

Equations

$$=$$

Aliases

```
alias [\langle type \rangle] \langle name \rangle = (\langle var \rangle, \langle var \rangle, ...)
```

8 / 15

Example

```
class Factorial {
  /*@ specification Factorial {
    double n, f, arg, val;
    n = 10;
    [ arg -> val ], n -> f, (java.lang.Exception) { fact };
    val = arg - 1;
   n \rightarrow f:
  } @*/
  double fact( Subtask s, double n ) throws Exception {
    if( n == 0 ) return 1;
    Object[] in = new Object[]{ n };
    Object[] out = s.run(in);
    return n * fact( s, ((Double)out[0]).doubleValue() );
```

Automatic Program Synthesis

Automatic synthesis of programs is a technique for the automatic construction of programs from the knowledge available in specifications of classes. Having a specification of a class, we are, in general, interested in solving the following problem: find an algorithm for computing the values of components $y_1, ..., y_n$ from the values of components $x_1, ..., x_m$. The automatic synthesis of programs is based on Structural Synthesis of Programs (SSP).

Specification

- Description of problem area (model, scheme, specification)
- Known values $x_1,...,x_m$ (constants, initial values of components)
- Unknown values $y_1, ..., y_n$ (components to be computed)

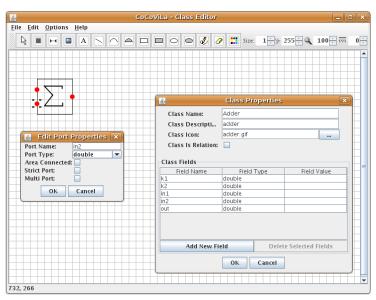
Computational tasks

- Compute required values of components
- Compute all the values of components that is possible to compute

CoCoViLa Runnables

- The Class Editor is used for developing visual languages for different problem domains. This is done by defining metainterfaces of language components as well as their visual and interactive aspects.
- The Scheme Editor is a tool for creating schemes, compiling and running programs defined by a scheme and a goal. Algorithms of automatic program synthesis are embedded into the Scheme Editor and are not visible to the user.

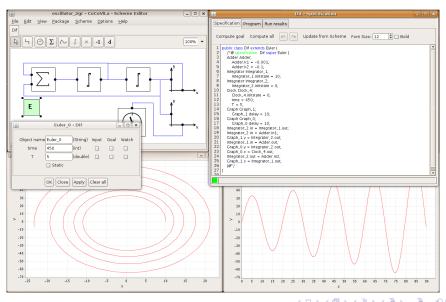
Class Editor



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Scheme Editor



Scheme Editor

