Grammar Inference Technology Applications in Software Engineering

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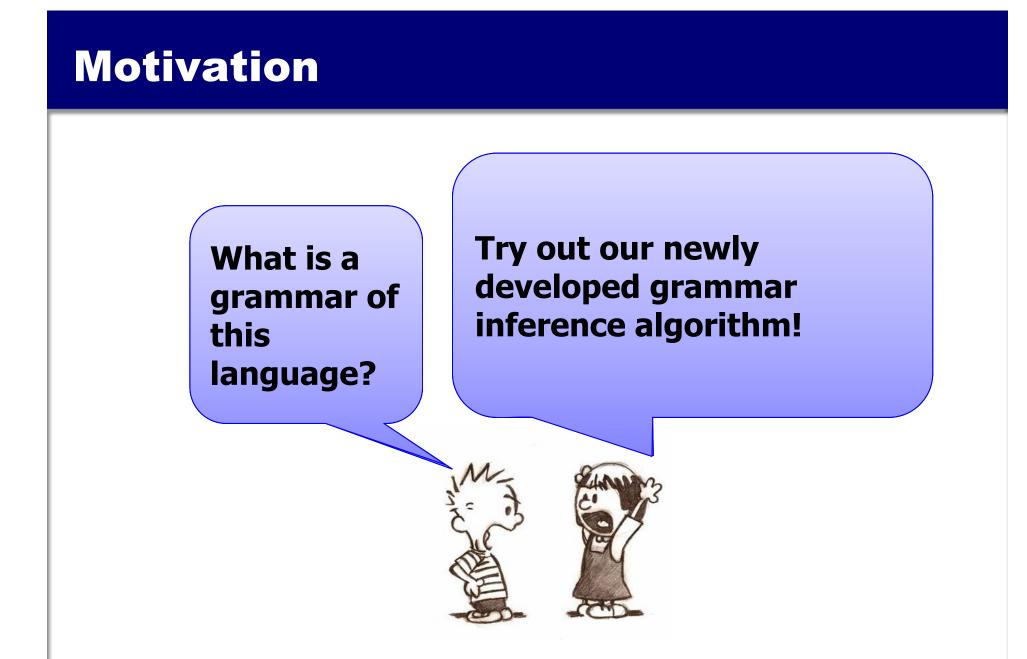


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Outline of the Presentation

- Motivation
- Background
- Context-free grammar inference
- Metamodel inference
- Graph grammar inference
- Conclusion



- Some years ago interesting questions were posted on the Usenet group comp.compilers:
- "I am looking for an algorithm that will generate context-free grammar from given set of strings. For example, given a set $L = \{aaabbbbb, aab\}$ one of the grammar is $G \rightarrow AB, A \rightarrow aA \mid a, B \rightarrow b \mid bB$ "

"I'm working on a project for which I need information about some reverse engineering method that would help me extract the grammar from a set of programs (written in any language). A sufficient grammar will be the one which is able to parse all the programs ..."

- Those questions triggered some interesting responses:
- "Unfortunately, there are infinitely many context-free grammars for any given set of strings (Consider for example adding $A \rightarrow C$, $C \rightarrow D$, ..., $Y \rightarrow Z$, $Z \rightarrow A$ to the above grammar. You can obviously add as many pointless rules as you want this way, and the string set doesn't change) ..."

"Within machine learning there is a subfield called Grammatical Inference. They have demonstrated a few practical successes mostly at the level of recognizing regular languages or subsets thereof ..."

"There are formal theories that address this. However, their results are far from encouraging. The essential problem is that given a finite set of programs, there is a trivial regular expression which recognizes exactly those set of programs and no others

"There is a way to deal with this issue. Let us assume for the moment that the program is compiled by a compiler. Then the grammar knowledge that you need resides in that compiler. What you do is write a parser that parses the part of the compiler containing the grammar knowledge. If you are lucky this is easy and you recover the BNF in a snippet. If ... and it is not possible to obtain the source code of the grammar there is another option. You can extract the grammar from the manual."

- **Grammatical inference** is a process of learning the grammar from positive (and negative) language samples.
- Grammatical inference attracts researchers from different fields such as pattern recognition, computational linguistic, natural language acquisition, software engineering, ...



- Context-Free Grammar G=<N, T, P, S>
- $L(G) = \{ w \mid S \Rightarrow^* w, w \in T^* \}$
- Given a sentence ps and CFG G we can tell whether ps belongs to L(G) (ps ∈ L(G)).
 Such sentence is called positive sample.
- A set of positive samples is denoted with S⁺. Conversely, a negative sample belongs to Ł (G) = {w| w not ∈ L(G)}. A set of negative samples is denoted with S⁻.

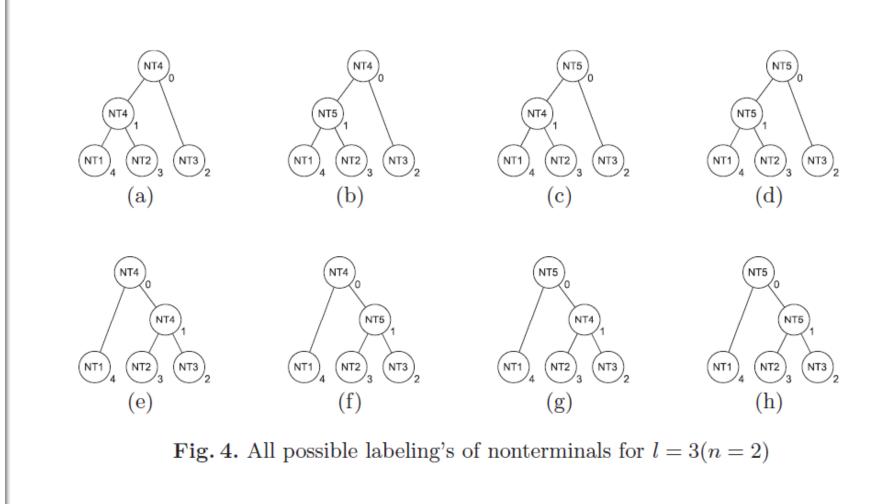
- Given a set S⁺ and S⁻, which might be also empty, the task of context-free grammar inference is to find at least one context-free grammar G such that S⁺⊆L(G) and S⁻⊆Ł(G).
- A set of positive samples S⁺ of a L(G) is structurally complete if each grammar production is used in the generation of at least one sentence in S⁺.

 Gold Theorem (1967) - it is impossible to identify any of the four classes of languages in the Chomsky hierarchy in the limit using only positive samples. Using both negative and positive samples, the Chomsky hierarchy languages can be identified in the limit.

- Intuitively, Gold's theorem can be explained by recognizing the fact that the final generalization of positive samples would be an automation that accept all strings.
- Singular use of positive samples results in an uncertainty as to when the generalization steps should be stopped. This implies the need for some restrictions or background knowledge on the generalization process.

 A lot of research has been done on extraction of context-free grammars, but the problem is still not solved sufficiently mainly due to immense search space.

	n Number of full binary trees (Catalan numbers)
	1 1
2	$ \begin{array}{ccc} 2 & & & 2 \\ 3 & & & 5 \end{array} $
	5 42
	6 132
	7 429
	8 1430
2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	$\begin{array}{c} 9 \\ 10 \\ \end{array} \begin{array}{c} 4862 \\ 16796 \\ \end{array}$
	10 10750 11 58786
	12 208012
Fig. 3. All full binary trees for $l = 5$ $(n = 4)$	13 742900
	14 2674440



	of full binary an numbers)	Search space	
1	1	1	1
2	2	4	8
3	5	27	135
4	14	256	3584
5	42	3125	131250
6	132	46656	6158592
7	429	823543	3.53299947 E8
8	1430	1.6777216 E7	2.399141888 E10
9	4862	3.87420489 E8	1.883638417518 E12
10	16796	1.0 E10	1.6796 E14
11	58786	2.85311670611 E11	1.6772331868538246 E16
12	208012	8.916100448256 E12	1.85465588644262707 E18
13	742900	3.02875106592253 E14	2.2500591668738474 E20
14	2674440	$1.1112006825558016 \ \mathrm{E16}$	2.9718395534545382 E22

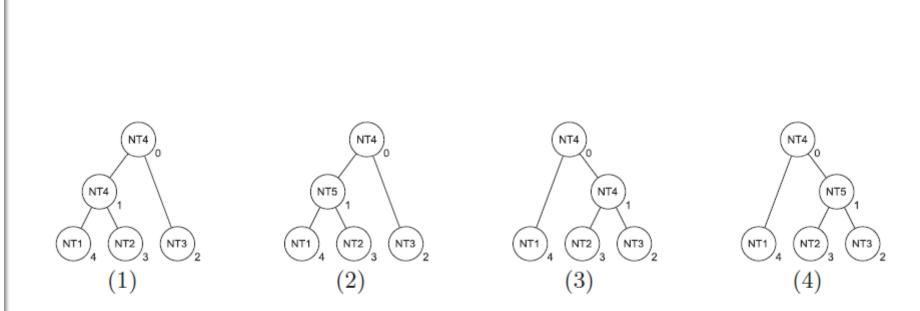


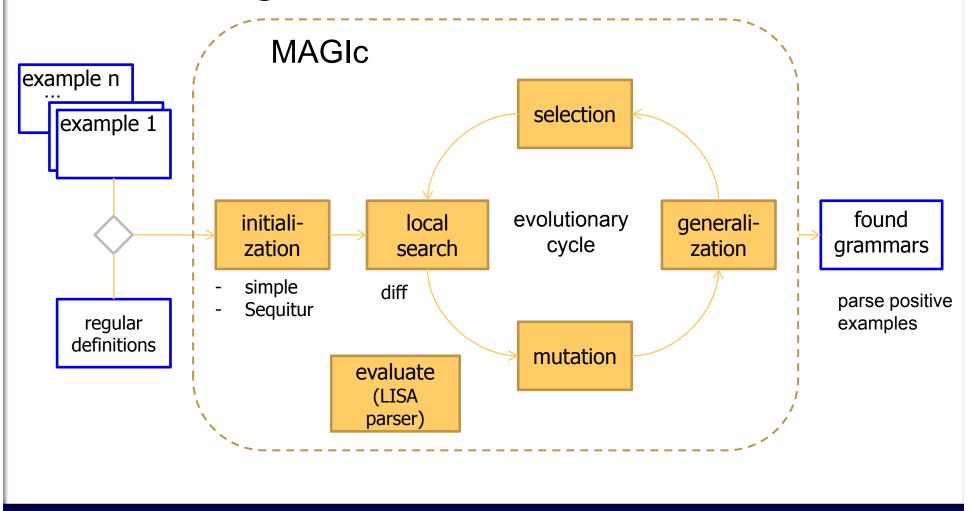
Fig. 5. All distinct labeling's of nonterminals when l = 3(n = 2)



n t	Number of full binary crees (Catalan numbers)	Distinct labelling of nonterminals (Bell numbers)	Search space	Search space before
1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	4	8
3	5	5	25	135
4	14	15	210	3584
5	42	52	2184	131250
6	132	203	26796	6158592
7	429	877	376233	3.53299947 E8
8	1430	4140	5920200	
9	4862	21147	1.02816714 E8	1.883638417518 E12
10	16796	115975	1.9479161 E9	1.6796 E14
11	58786	678570	3.989041602 E10	1.6772331868538246 E16
12	208012	4213597	8.76478739164 E11	1.85465588644262707 E18
13	742900	27644437		2.2500591668738474 E20
14	2674440	190899322		2.9718395534545382 E22

- Memetic algorithms are evolutionary algorithms with local search operator
 - use of evolutionary concepts (population, evolutionary operators)
 - improves the search for solutions with local search.

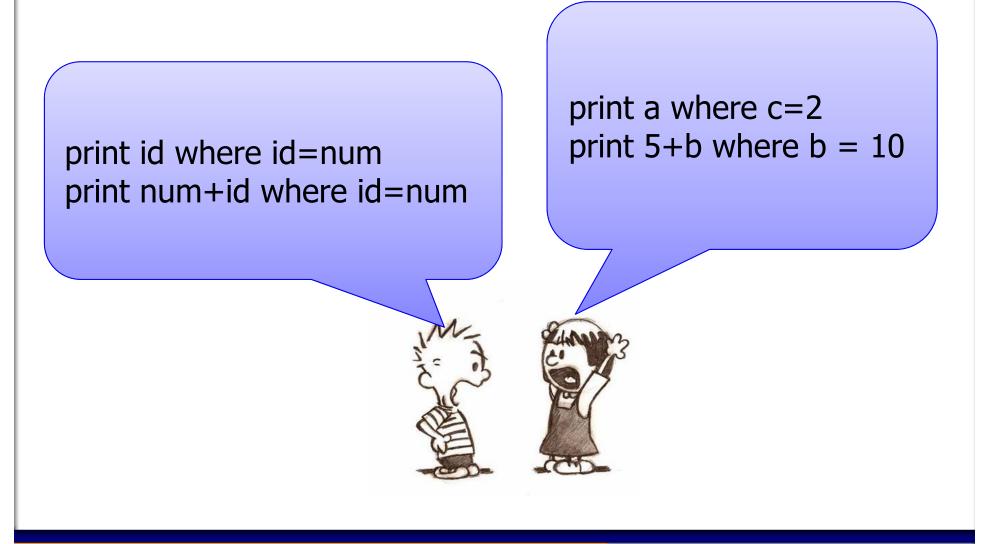
• Memetic Algorithm for Grammatical Inference



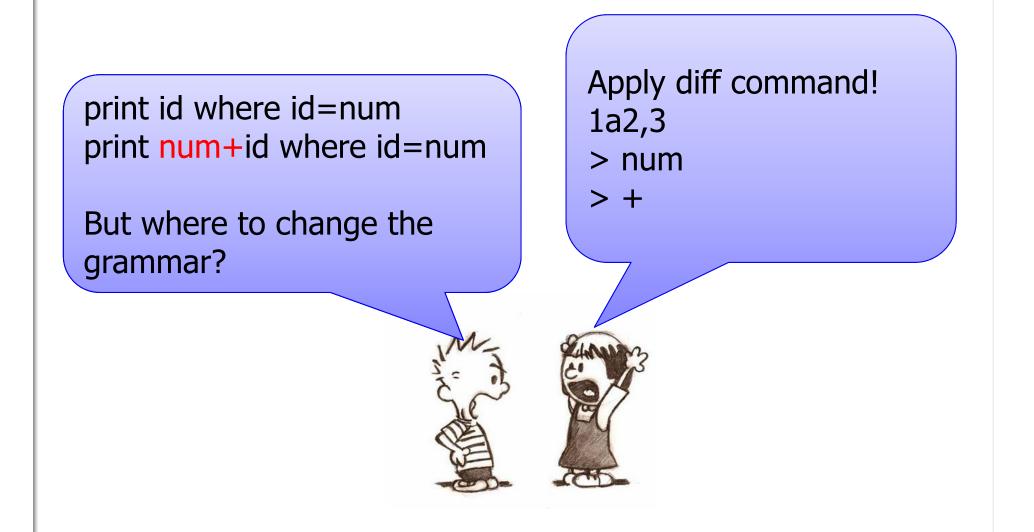
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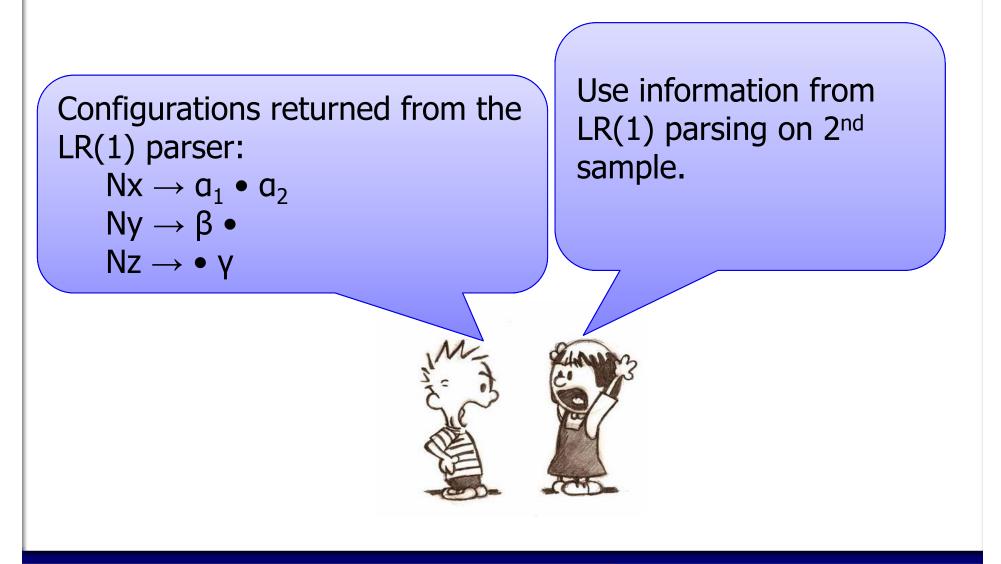
- Sequitur: http://sequitur.info/
- abcabdabcabd
- $0 \rightarrow 1 1$
- $1 \rightarrow 2 c 2 d$
- $2 \rightarrow a b$
- p i w i=n, i=n // print id where id=n, id=n $0 \rightarrow p 1 w 2, 2$ $1 \rightarrow i$ $2 \rightarrow 1 = n$











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• Input samples:

 s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n (true positive) $s_1, s_2, \dots, s_k, a_1, \dots, a_m, s_{k+1}, \dots, s_n$ (false negative)

– difference: a₁,...,a_m

•
$$Nx \rightarrow d_1 \bullet d_2$$

- if $s_{k+1} \in FIRST(\alpha_2)$
 $Nx ::= a_1 N1 a_2$
 $N1 ::= a_{i+1} \dots a_m$
 $N1 ::= \epsilon$
- if $s_{k+1} \notin FIRST(\alpha_2) \land s_{k+1} \in FOLLOW(Nx)$
 $Nx ::= a_1 N1$
 $N1 ::= a_2$
 $N1 ::= a_{i+1} \dots a_m$
- if $s_{k+1} \notin FIRST(\alpha_2) \land s_{k+1} \notin FOLLOW(Nx)$
change in this configuration can't be made

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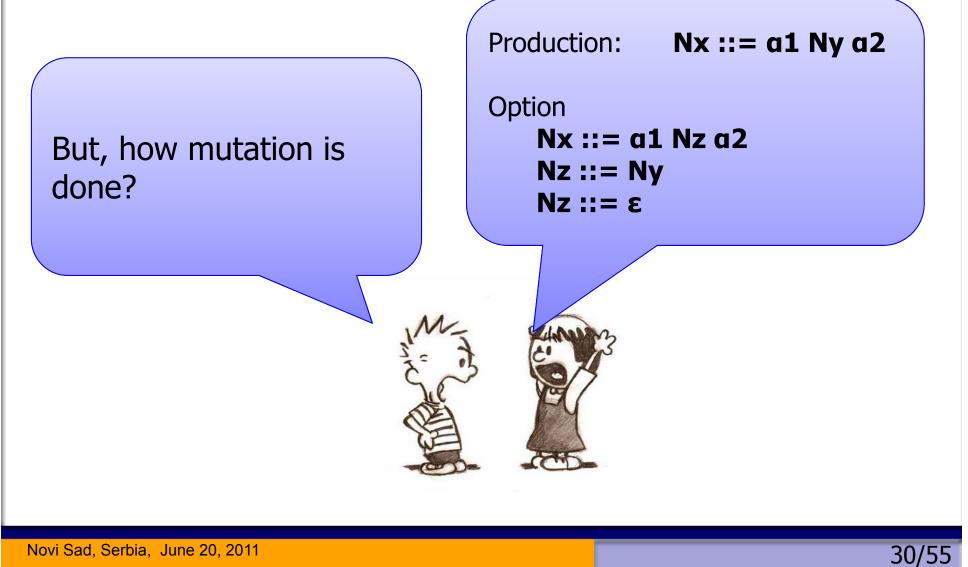
```
N1 ::= print N3 N2 where id = num
N2 ::= id
N3 ::= num +
N3 ::= \epsilon
```

```
print a where c=2
print 5+b where b = 10
```

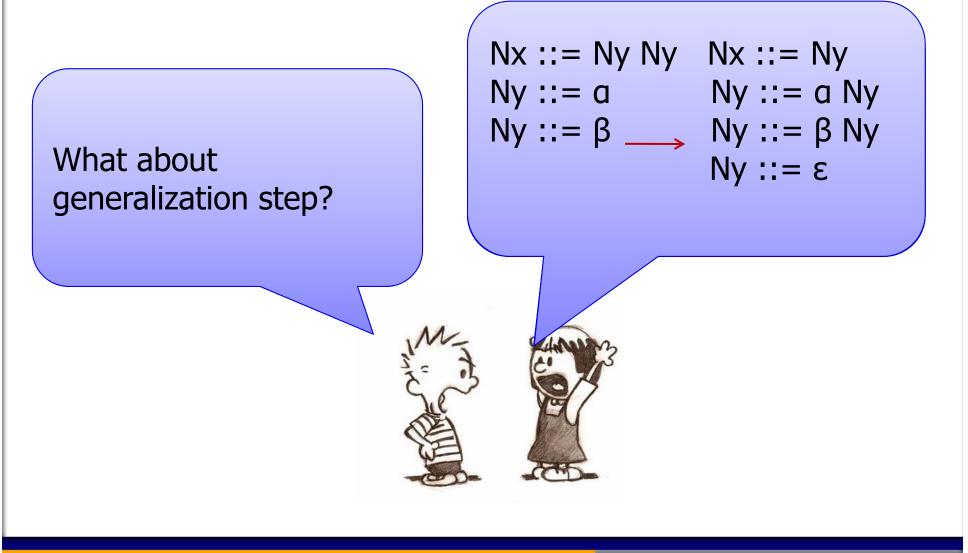
 $N1 \rightarrow print \bullet N2$ where id = num

N1 ::= print N2 where id = num N2 ::= id





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- 12 input samples of DESK language on which the algorithm was tested:
- 1. print a
- 2. print 3
- 3. print b + 14
- 4. print a + b + c
- 5. print a where b = 14
- 6. print 10 where d = 15
- 7. print 9 + b where b = 16
- 8. print 1 + 2 where id = 1
- 9. print a where b = 5, c = 4
- 10. print 21 where a = 6, b = 5
- 11. print 5 + 6 where a = 3, c = 14
- 12. print a + b + c where a = 4, b = 3, c = 2

Original grammar:

Inferred grammar:

```
2. E ::= E + F
3. E ::= F
4. F ::= id
5. F ::= num 5: NT3 -> id NT2
7. C ::= ε
8. Ds ::= D
9. Ds ::= Ds , D 9: NT5 -> ε
10. D ::= id = num
```

1. DESK ::= print E C 1: NT1 -> print NT3 NT5 2: NT2 -> + NT3 3: NT2 -> ε 4: NT3 -> num NT2 6. C ::= where Ds 6: NT4 -> , id = num NT4 7: NT4 -> ε 8: NT5 -> where id = num NT4

Table 1. Influence of local search, mutation and generalization on MAGIc. SR - success rate, AES - average number of evaluations, GS - average number of generations to first solution, ANN - average number of different nonterminals, ANP - average number of productions, ARHS - average size of right-hand side (RHS) in inferred grammars, ANS - average number of samples needed to solution

local	mutation	generali-	SR	AES	GS	ANN	ANP	ARHS	ANS
search		zation							
no	no	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
no	yes	no	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
no	yes	yes	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
yes	no	no	1	3712.20	7.47	8.13	16.25	3.50	9.04
yes	no	yes	1	3731.03	4.63	7.48	14.27	3.39	8.07
yes	yes	no	1	4014.47	7.60	8.27	16.46	3.48	8.95
yes	yes	yes	1	4206.27	4.70	7.45	14.07	3.32	7.56

RESOLUTION 300 400 300 ITERATIONS 3000000 POINTINIT 0 0 0 TREEDEPTH 5 BRANCHDEPTH 1 HYPERVOLUME -0.6 0.6 -1 0.6 -0.6 0.6

DEPTHCOLOR 0-1 0.7+/-0.0 0.7+/-0.0 0.5+/-0.0 DEPTHCOLOR 2-5 0.25+/-0.25 0.75+/-0.25 0.25+/-0.25 TRANSFORM 1 0 TRANSLATE (0,0,0) (1,1,1) (0,0,0) SHEAR (0,0,0) (0.5,0.5,0.5) (2,2,2) SHEAR_XZ SCALE (0.3,0.3,0.3) (0.4,0.4,0.4) (0.3,0.3,0.3) ROTATE (-80,-80,-80) (0,0,0) (0,0,0) ROTATE (0,0,0) (45,45,45) (0,0,0) TRANSLATE (0,0,0) (-0.72,-0.72,-0.72) (0,0,0)

TRANSFORM 1 0 TRANSLATE (0,0,0) (1,1,1) (0,0,0) SCALE (0.6,0.6,0.6) (0.6,0.6,0.6) (0.6,0.6,0.6) ROTATE (0,0,0) (50,50,50) (0,0,0) TRANSLATE (0,0,0) (-0.4,-0.4,-0.4) (0,0,0)

TRANSFORM 1 0

TRANSLATE (0,0,0) (1,1,1) (0,0,0) SCALE (0.8,0.8,0.8) (0.8,0.8,0.8) (0.8,0.8,0.8) ROTATE (0,0,0) (150,150,150) (0,0,0) TRANSLATE (0,0,0) (-0.8,-0.8,-0.8) (0,0,0)

CONDENSATION 1 CONE -1.0 0.5 0.02 0.0 CONE Y

DSL for hypertree description



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Inferred grammar for hypertree description DSL

- NT1 -> #resolution NT2 #iterations #num NT3 NT2 #treedepth #num #branchdepth #num #hypervolume NT2 NT2 #condensation #num #cone NT2 #num #coney
- NT2 -> #num #num #num NT4
- NT3 -> #pointinit
- NT3 -> #lineinit #num #num #num #num
- NT4 -> #depthcolor #range #bpp #bpp NT4
- NT4 -> epsilon
- NT4 -> #name #progname NT4
- NT4 -> #scale #lpar #num #comma #num #comma #num #rpar #lpar #num #comma #num #comma #num #rpar #lpar #num #comma #num #comma #num #rpar NT4
- NT4 -> #rotate #lpar #num #comma #num #comma #num #rpar #lpar #num #comma #num #comma #num #rpar #lpar #num #comma #num #comma #num #rpar NT4
- NT4 -> #translate #lpar #num #comma #num #comma #num #rpar #lpar #num #comma #num #comma #num #rpar #lpar #num #comma #num #comma #num #rpar NT4
- NT4 -> #transform #num #num NT4
- NT4 -> #shear #lpar #num #comma #num #comma #num #rpar #lpar #num #comma #num #comma #num #rpar #lpar #num #comma #num #comma #num #rpar #shearxz NT4
- NT4 -> #perturb #lpar #num #comma #num #comma #num #comma #num #rpar #lpar #num #comma #num #comma #num #comma #num #rpar #lpar #num #comma #num #comma #num #comma #num #rpar #lpar #num #comma #num #comma #num #comma #num #rpar NT4

- Our approach can be used also for syntax extensions and for DSL embedding
 - To embed domain-specific language (e.g, SQL) into another programming language (GPL or DSL)

• Initial grammar (ANSI C):

1. translation unit ::= external decl 91. initializer ::= initializer list 2. translation unit ::= translation unit external decl 93. initializer list ::= initializer 3. external decl ::= function denition 94. initializer list ::= initializer list , initializer 4. external decl ::= decl 110. stat ::= labeled stat / exp stat / compound stat / selection stat 6. function denition ::= declarator decl list compound stat 114. stat ::= iteration stat / jump stat 9. decl ::= decl specs init declarator list ; 116. labeled stat ::= id : stat 117. labeled stat ::= case const exp : stat 10. decl ::= decl specs ; 11. decl list ::= decl 118. labeled stat ::= default : stat 12. decl list ::= decl list decl 119. exp stat ::= exp ; 15. decl specs ::= type spec decl specs 120. exp stat ::= ; 121. compound stat ::= decl list stat list 27. **type spec** ::= int /long /... 45. init declarator list ::= init declarator 125. stat list ::= stat 126. stat list ::= stat list stat 46. init declarator list ::= init declarator list , init declarator 47. init declarator ::= declarator 127. selection stat ::= if (exp) stat 64. enumerator ::= id 129. selection stat ::= switch (exp) stat 65. enumerator ::= id = const exp 130. iteration stat ::= while (exp) stat 67. declarator ::= direct declarator 131. iteration stat ::= do stat while (exp); 68. direct declarator ::= id 132. iteration stat ::= for (exp ; exp ; exp) stat 69. direct declarator ::= (declarator) 140. jump stat ::= goto id ; / continue ; / break ; / return exp ; 70. direct declarator ::= direct declarator [const exp] 145. exp ::= assignment exp 71. direct declarator ::= direct declarator [] 146. exp ::= exp , assignment exp 72. direct declarator ::= direct declarator (param type list) 147. assignment exp ::= conditional exp 73. direct declarator ::= direct declarator (id list) 148. assignment exp ::= conditional exp assignment operator assignment exp 74. direct declarator ::= direct declarator () 205. **const** ::= int const / char const / oat const 88. id list ::= id 89. id list ::= id list , id

90. initializer ::= assignment exp

• Initial grammar (ANSI C):

true positive sample

```
int main() {
    char str[][];
    int i;
    printf("Students:");
    for(i = 0; i < str.length; i++) {
        printf(str[i]);
    }
    return 0;
}</pre>
```

false negative samples:

```
int main() {
    char str[][] = { SELECT Name FROM
         Students };
    int i;
    printf("Students:");
    for(i = 0; i < str.length; i++) {
         printf(str[i]);
     }
    return 0;
}
 int main() {
      char str[][] = { SELECT Name, Surname
          FROM Students, Professors };
      int i:
      printf("Students and Professors:");
      for(i = 0; i < str.length; i++) {
          printf(str[i]);
      }
      return 0;
```

}



• Inferred Grammar:

1. translation unit ::= external decl 2. translation unit ::= translation unit external decl 3. external decl ::= function denition 4. external decl ::= decl 6. function denition ::= declarator decl list compound stat 9. decl ::= decl specs init declarator list ; 10. **decl** ::= **decl specs** ; 11. decl list ::= decl 12. decl list ::= decl list decl 15. decl specs ::= type spec decl specs 27. **type spec** ::= int / long / ... 45. init declarator list ::= init declarator 46. init declarator list ::= init declarator list , init declarator 47. init declarator ::= declarator 64. enumerator ::= id 65. enumerator ::= id = const exp 67. declarator ::= direct declarator NT1 68. direct declarator ::= id 69. direct declarator ::= (declarator) 70. direct declarator ::= direct declarator [const exp] 71. direct declarator ::= direct declarator [] 72. direct declarator ::= direct declarator (param type list) 73. direct declarator ::= direct declarator (id list) 74. direct declarator ::= direct declarator () 88. **id list** ::= id 89. **id list** ::= **id list** , id 90. initializer ::= assignment exp

91. initializer ::= initializer list 93. initializer list ::= initializer 94. initializer list ::= initializer list , initializer 110. stat ::= labeled stat / exp stat / compound stat / selection stat 114. stat ::= iteration stat / jump stat 116. labeled stat ::= id : stat 117. labeled stat ::= case const exp : stat 118. labeled stat ::= default : stat 119. exp stat ::= exp ; 120. exp stat ::= ; 121. compound stat ::= decl list stat list 125. stat list ::= stat 126. stat list ::= stat list stat 127. selection stat ::= if (exp) stat 129. selection stat ::= switch (exp) stat 130. iteration stat ::= while (exp) stat 131. iteration stat ::= do stat while (exp); 132. iteration stat ::= for (exp ; exp ; exp) stat 140. jump stat ::= goto id ; / continue ; / break ; / return exp ; 145. exp ::= assignment exp 146. exp ::= exp , assignment exp 147. assignment exp ::= conditional exp 148. assignment exp ::= conditional exp assignment operator assignment exp 205. **const** ::= int const / char const / oat const 208. *NT1* ::= = SELECT id **NT2** FROM id **NT2** / ϵ 210. *NT2* ::= , id **NT2** / ε

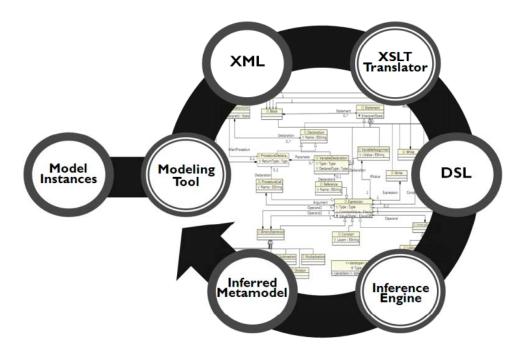


- As a model conforms to a metamodel in a similar manner to how a program conforms to a grammar, the metamodel inference can be defined as follows.
- The set of all models that conform to a given metamodel MM will be called the language of the metamodel and denoted L(MM). Given a model instance m and a metamodel MM we can tell whether m conforms to MM (m ∈ L(MM)).

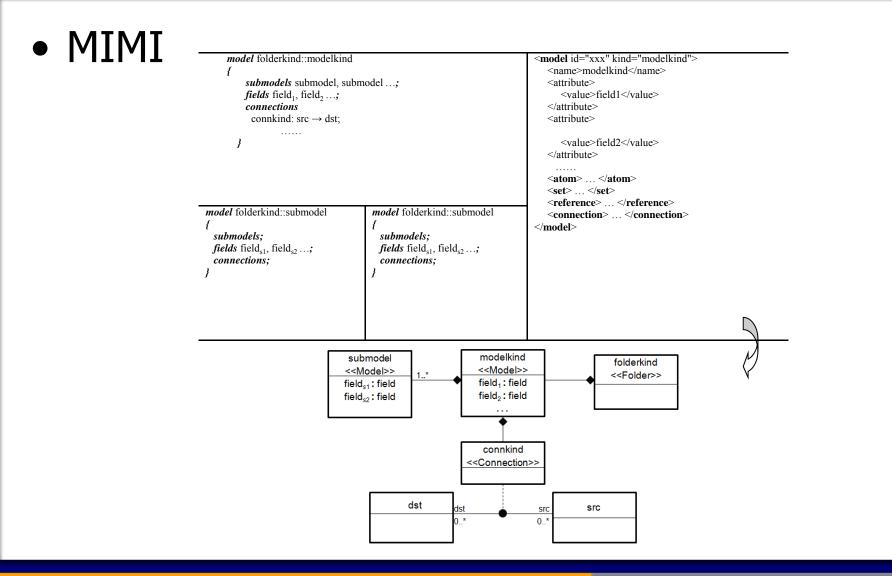
- A set of positive samples is denoted with S⁺. Conversely, a negative sample belongs to L(MM), which denotes a set of all models that do not conform to metamodel MM. A set of negative samples is denoted with S⁻.
- A set of positive samples S⁺ of a metamodel MM is structurally complete if each metamodel element appears in at least one model in S⁺.

 Given a set of positive samples S⁺ and set of negative samples S⁻, which might be also empty, the task of metamodel inference is to find at least one metamodel MM such that S⁺⊆L(MM) and S⁻⊆ Ł(MM).

• Metamodel Inference from Model Instances (MIMI)

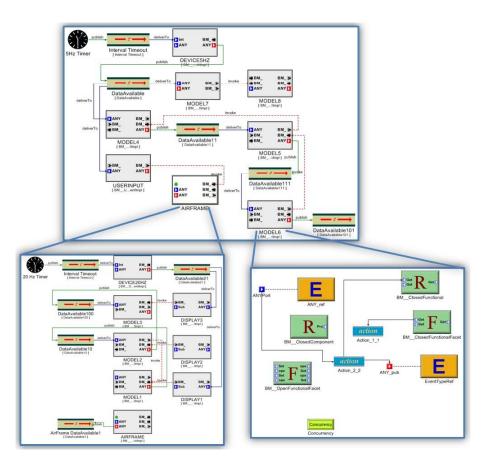






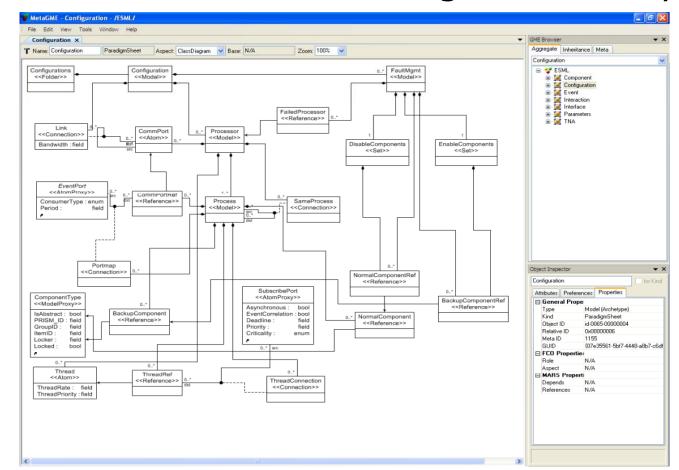


• ESML (Embedded System Modeling Language)

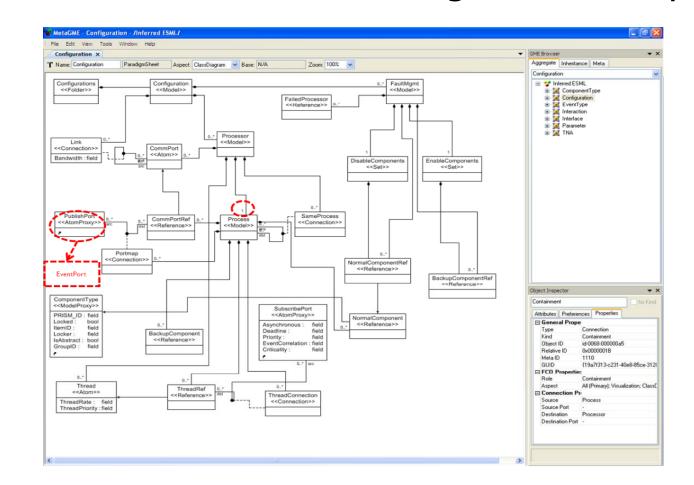




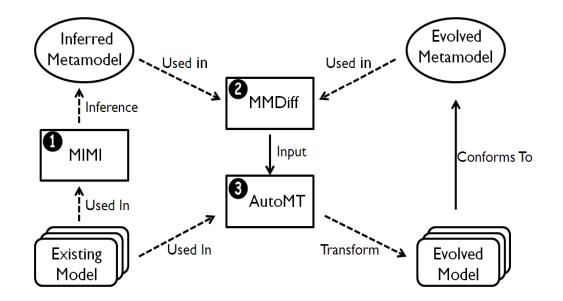
• Original ESML metamodel - Configuration viewpoint



• Inferred ESML metamodel - Configuration viewpoint

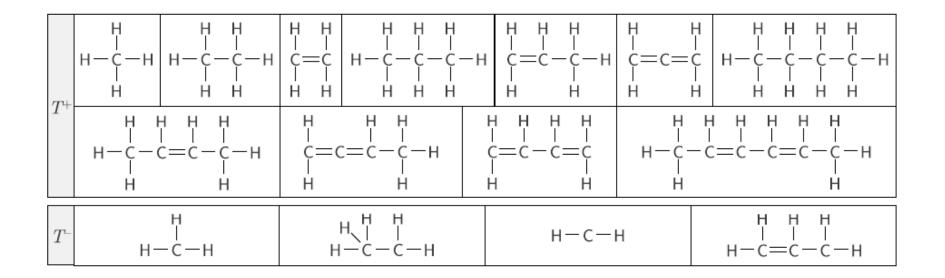


• Our approach to model evolution using metamodel inference



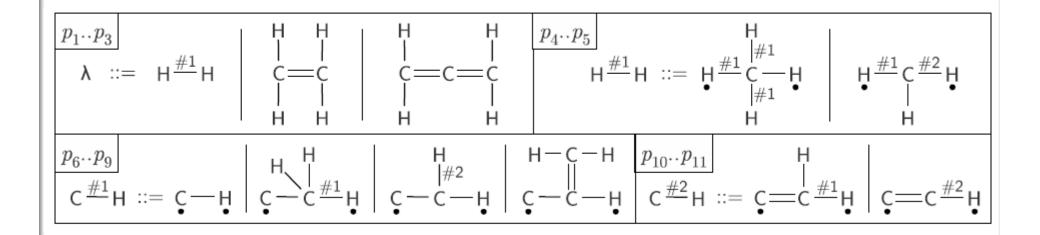


Positive and negative samples for hydrocarbons with single and double bonds

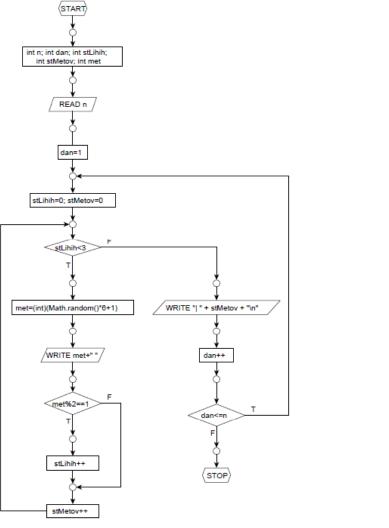


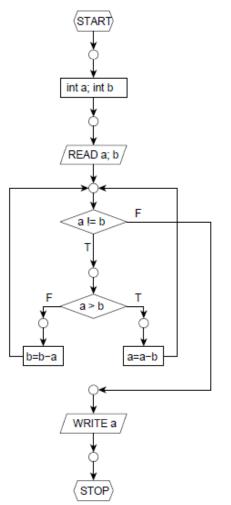


Inferred graph grammar



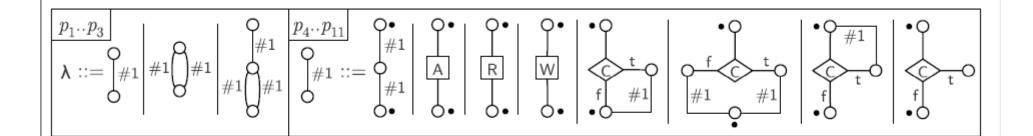
Positive samples for statecharts







Inferred graph grammar



Conclusion

Yes, I will used in my current project on spam filtering. Hope that I convinced you that grammatical inference is interesting and useful.





Conclusion

More information at: http://www.cis.uab.edu/softcom/GrammarInference/

Sent comments/questions to: marjan.mernik@uni-mb.si; mernik@cis.uab.edu





Javna agencija za raziskovalno dejavnost Republike Slovenije

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