Discussion on Executable Modeling

Plenary Discussion at EXE 2016

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How is the state of an (f)UML model represented? (objects, state of activity executions, …)

- Can we build on instance modeling (object diagrams)?
  - No, an instance specification is a MODEL of an instance
  - I.e., an instance specification is an assertion of a runtime state

- fUML provides an own metamodel for representing the state of an executing model
  - When an activity is executed, it is instantiated; such instances are represented by the class Activity Execution
  - Same for statemachine: statemachine execution, region activation, transition activation, etc.
Ed explaining the execution model of fUML
Should the next generation of UML be an entirely executable modeling language?

- UML Version 1.1 - November 1997
- xUML (Shlaer Mellor OOA) - 2002
- UML Version 1.5 (with action semantics) - March 2003
- fUML Version 1.0 - January 2011
  - Semantics of a foundational subset for executable UML models
- PSCS Version 1.0 - October 2015
  - Precise semantics of composite structures
- PSSM Version 1.0 - underway and expected for December 2016
  - Precise semantics of state machines
- Next: Interactions?
Could more research results be shared between model interpretation and model compilation?

- Case of fUML
  - fUML is currently specified interpretative
  - This should not prevent an alternative generative implementation
  - fUML defines conformance test cases to show that both provide the same behavior

- Case of xtUML
  - Transformation language and interpreting language are the same language
What’s Next for Executable Modeling?

- We need many kinds of tools for our modeling languages (model checking, debugging, animation, testing, ...)

  → specify semantics once, exploit it for the different analyses
Further Questions

● Are executable models and model transformations fundamentally different?

● What is the nature of an executable model?
  o Behavior, state, step
  o ?

● Which executability concerns do comprise an executable modeling language?
  o States, steps, concurrency
  o ?