The Ptolemy II Framework for Visual Languages

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Ptolemy II - Heterogeneous Modeling and Design in Java

The Ptolemy project studies modeling, simulation, and design of concurrent, real-time, embedded systems. The focus is on assembly of concurrent components. The key underlying principle in the project is the use of well-defined models of computation that govern the interaction between components.

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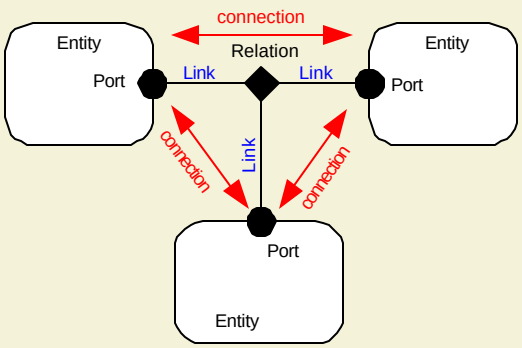
Approach to Visual Modeling

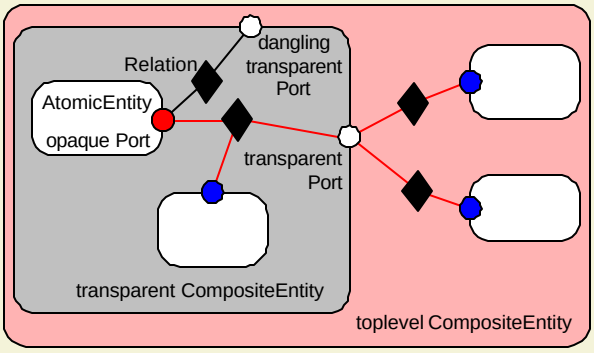
- Abstract syntax: clustered graph of *entities* and *relations.*
- Executable entities and execution control: *actors* communicate with each other through message passing under the control of a *director.*
- Domains: implementation of semantics for component interaction.
- *charts: mixing finite state machine (FSM) with other domains.
- System-level types: formal framework to study the dynamic properties of component interaction.

Abstract Syntax



Clustered graphs well-suited to a wide range of domains, ranging from state machines to process networks

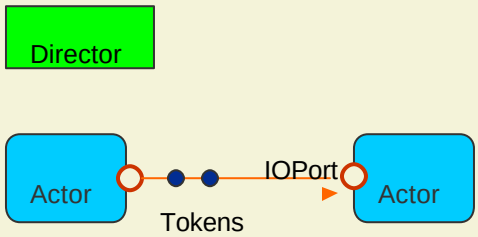
Clustering



Composite entities and ports provide a simple and powerful, domain-independent abstraction mechanism

The ports deeply connected to the red port are the blue ones.

Executable Entities and Execution Control

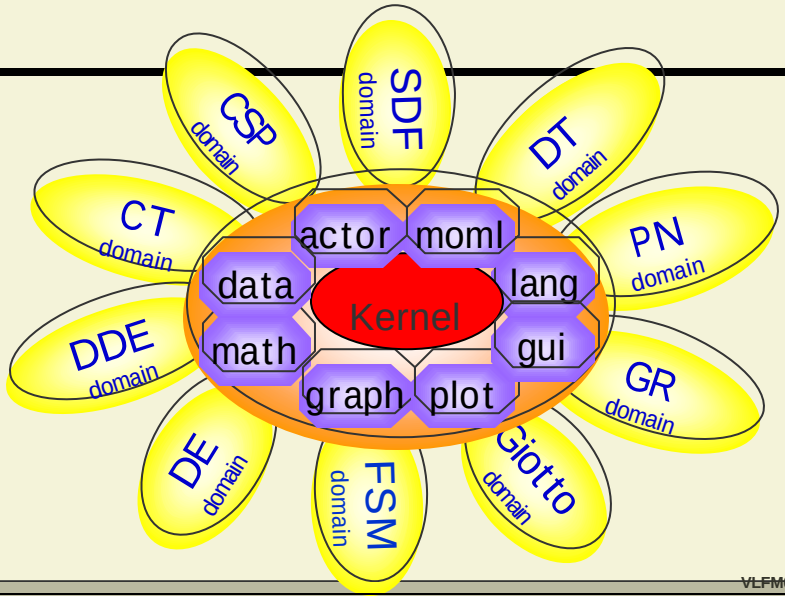


Actors communicate with each other through message passing. *Directors* control the execution of actors.

Domain Examples

- Continuous Time (CT): actors interact via continuous-time signals.
- Discrete Event (DE): actors communicate via events placed on a real time line.
- Synchronous Dataflow (SDF): actors perform regular computations on data streams.
- Synchronous Reactive (SR): actors interact through signals whose values are aligned with global clock ticks.

Ptolemy II Infrastructure

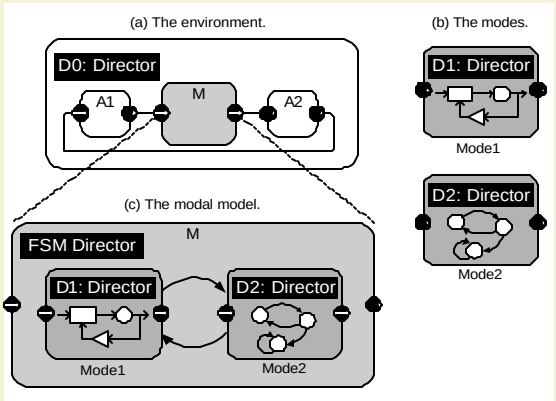


*charts (Girault, Lee and Lee)

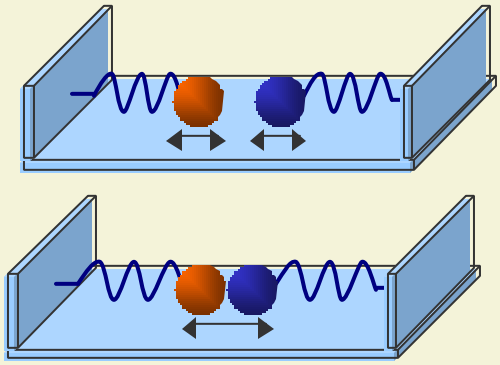
- Motivated by Statecharts and hybrid systems.
- Allows nesting FSMs with a variety of models of computation.
- Nesting can happen at any level in a heterogeneous model.
- Decouples the concurrency model from the hierarchical FSM semantics.

*charts – Ptolemy II Implementation

- FSMActor
- Modal Model

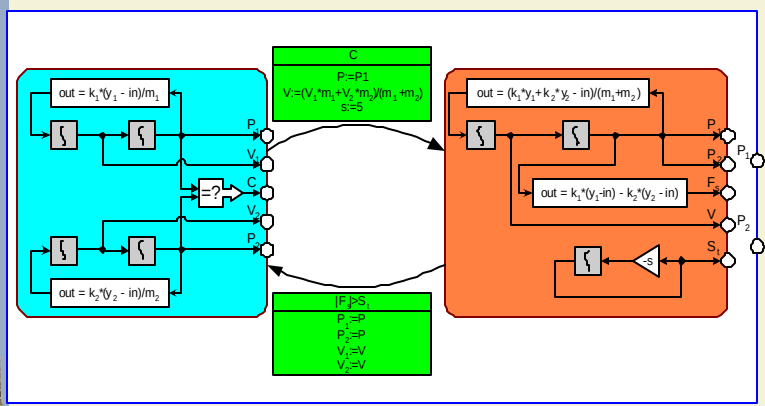


Example: Sticky Masses

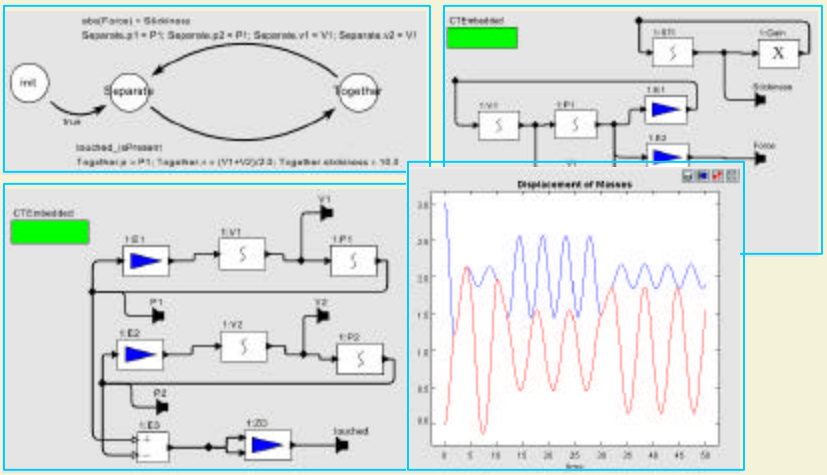


The stickiness is exponentially decaying with respect to time.

Sticky Masses: Block Diagram



Sticky Masses: Simulation



Created by Jie Liu, Xiaojun Liu and Yuhong Xiong.

Formal Framework for Component Interaction

- Treat different communication protocols in Ptolemy II domains as types: interaction types or *system-level types.*
- Type signature and component behavior described by interface automata (de Alfaro and Henzinger).
- Compatibility of components with an interaction type checked through automata composition.
- Simulation relation captures subtyping of interaction types.
- Components may be polymorphic: compatible with multiple interaction types.

Conclusion

- Visual models in Ptolemy II are built on 3 layers: abstract syntax, executable entities, domains.
- Implemented *charts formalism: nesting FSMs with a variety of models of computation.
- Developed a formal framework to study component interaction.

- For more information:

http://ptolemy.eecs.berkeley.edu

Release 1.0.1 available for download