



# Lessons Learned in Model-Based Design: Semantics is Important

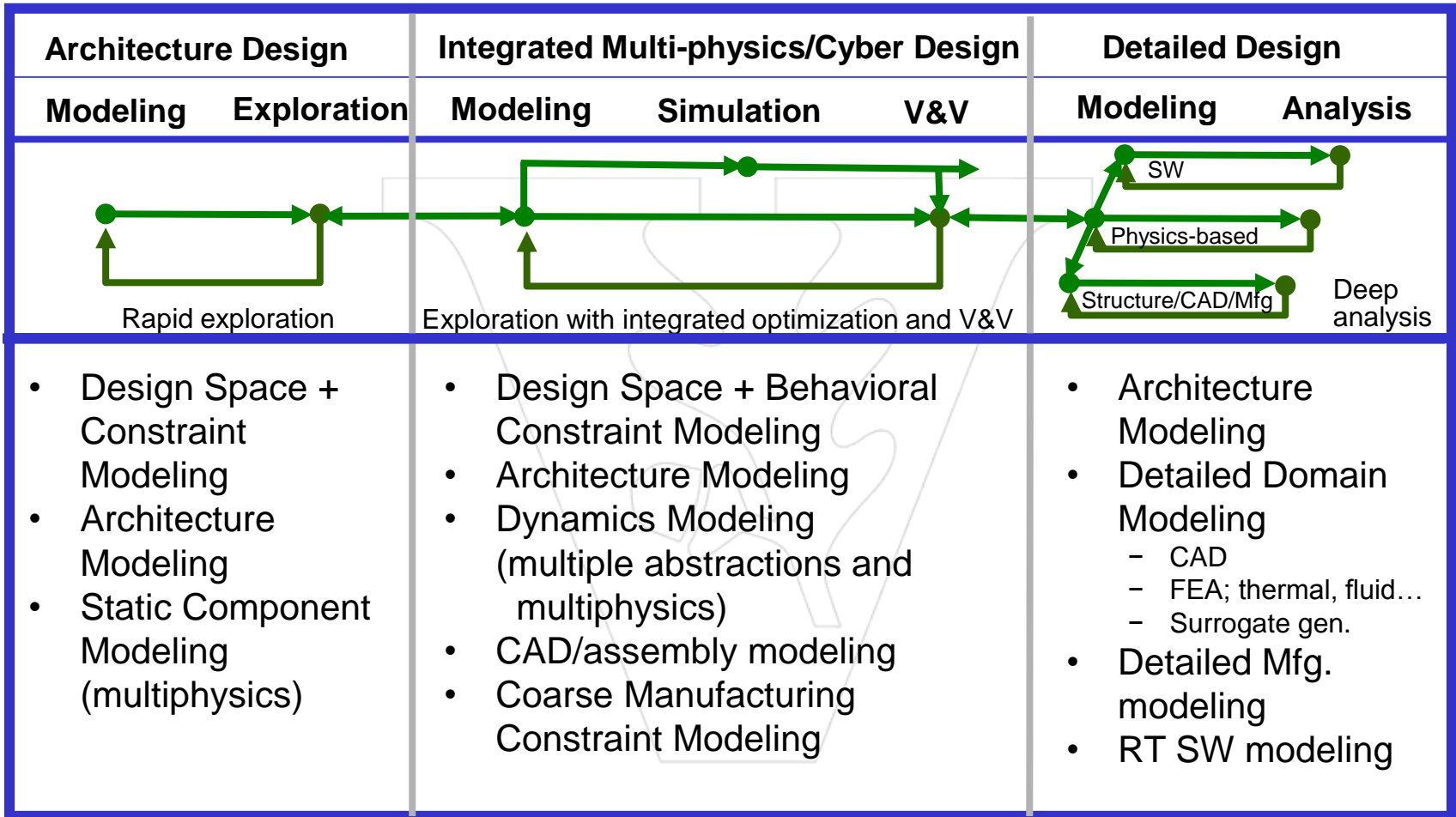
**Janos Sztipanovits and  
Tihamer Levendovszky**

Institute for Software Integrated Systems  
Vanderbilt University

Email: [janos.sztipanovits@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:janos.sztipanovits@vanderbilt.edu)



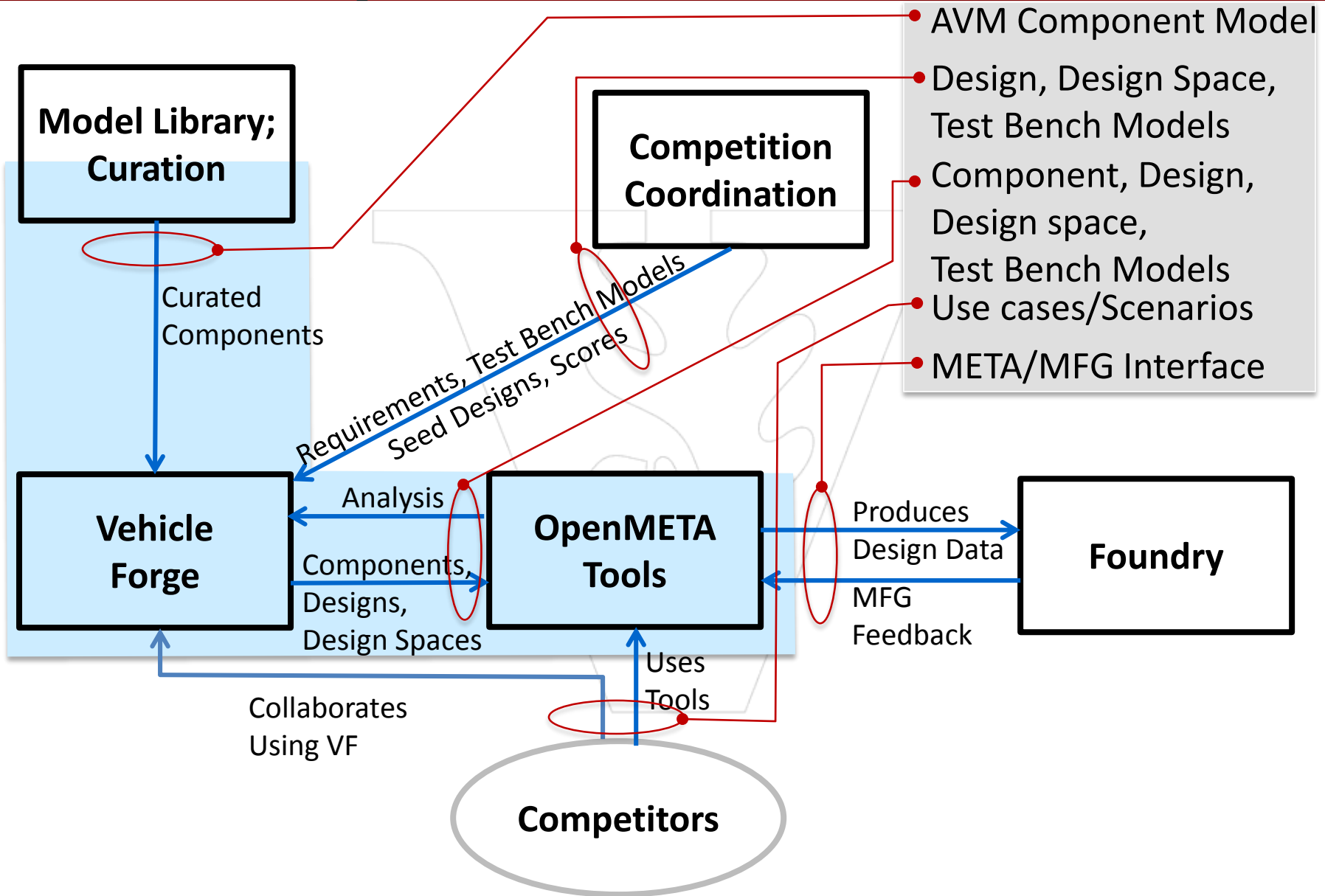
# Design Flow Requires Model Interchange



Domain Specific Modeling Languages



# Example: AVM Systems Require Complex Information Flows

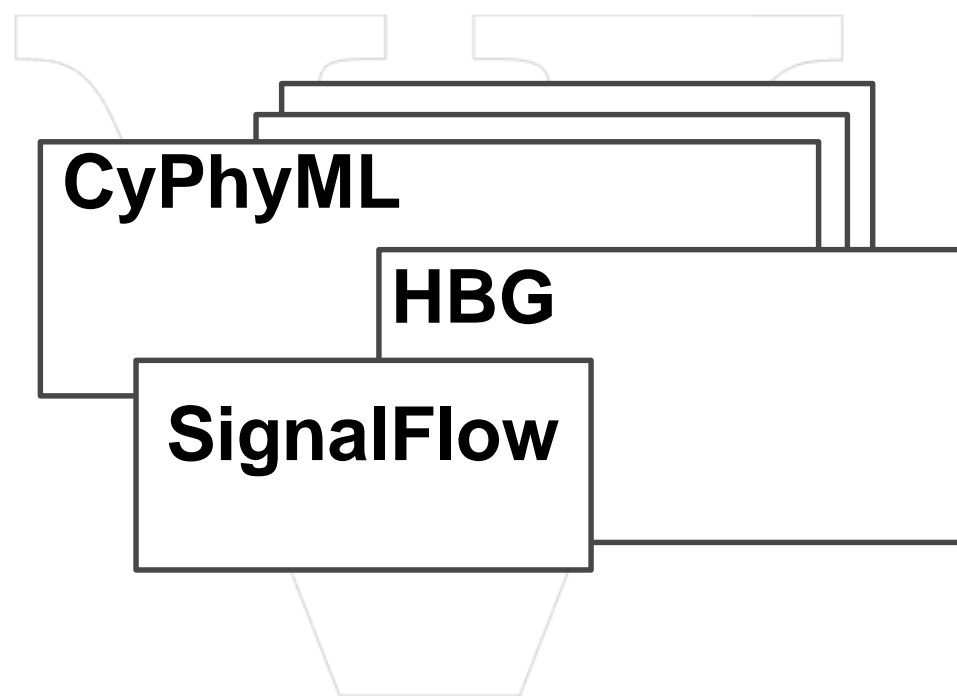




# OpenMETA Information Architecture



## Epistemic Semantics (Vocabularies)



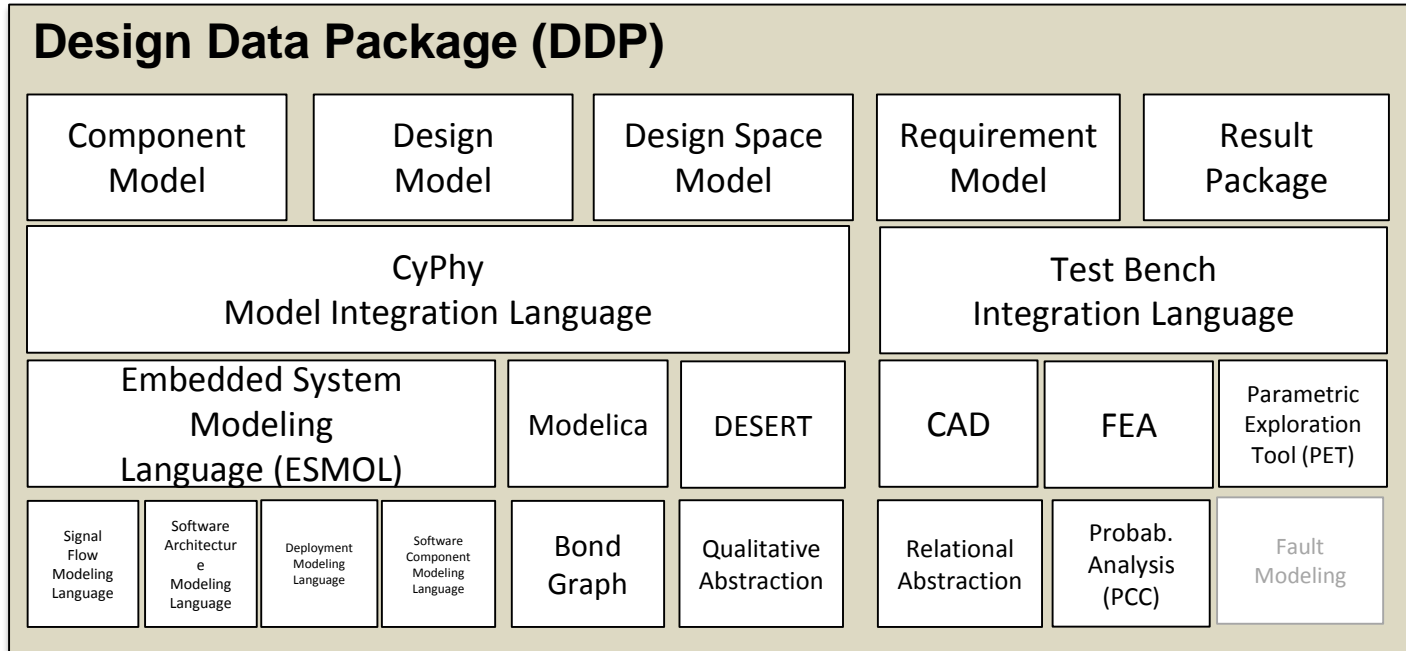
## Modeling Language Semantics (Metamodels)



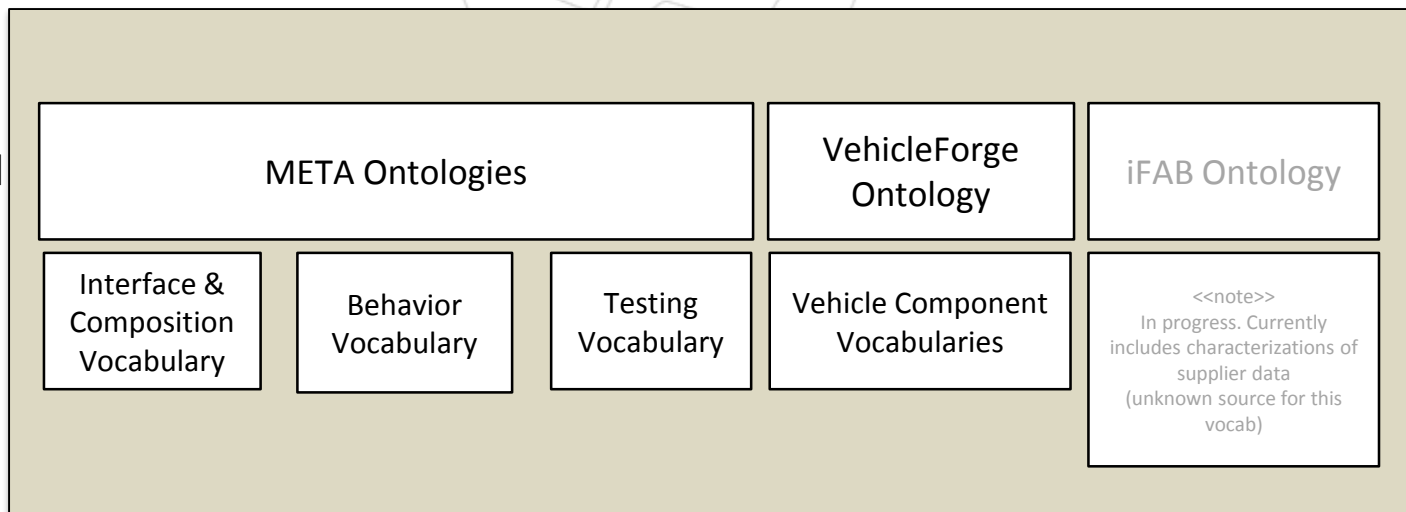
# Information Architecture



## Models and Modeling Languages

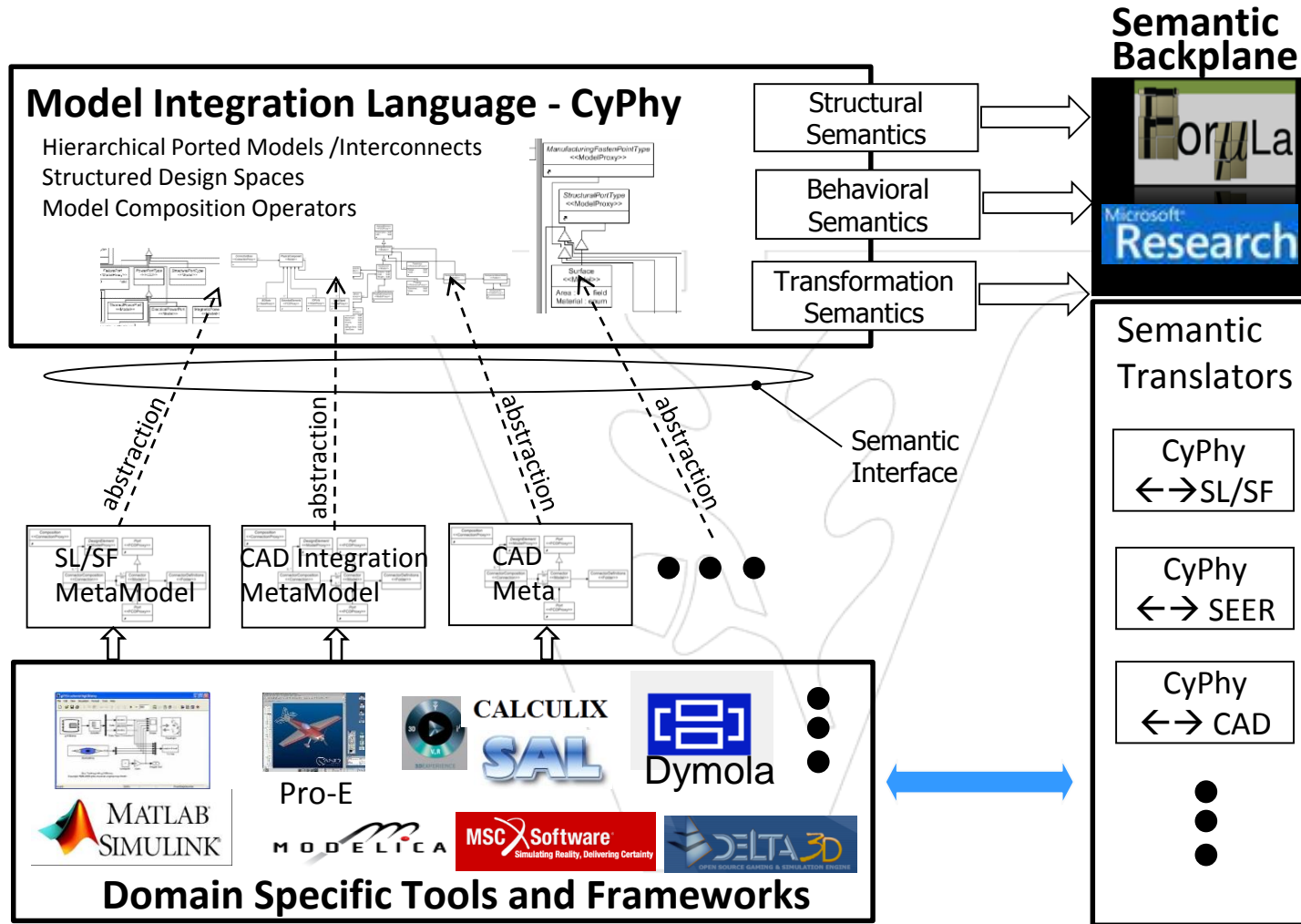


## Standardized Vocabularies and Core Types





# Case for Model Integration Languages...



**Impact:** Open Language Engineering Environment → Adaptability of Process/Design Flow → Accommodate New Tools/Frameworks , Accommodate New Languages



# Convergence in Formal Framework: FORMULA



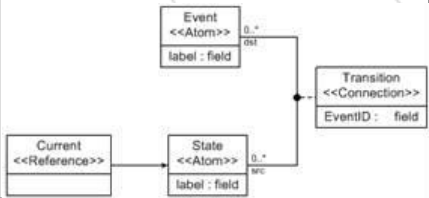
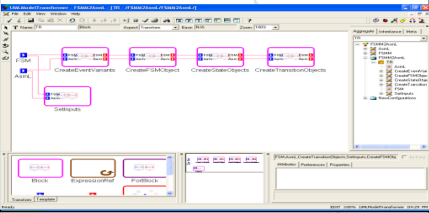
- History: Foundations for Embedded Systems ITR; Ethan Jackson at VU 2005-2008
- Microsoft Research (Bellevue & Aachen); Satisfiability Modulo Theory Solver (Z3); VS distribution
- *<http://research.microsoft.com/formula>*
- Foundation: Algebraic Data Types (ADT) and First-order logic with fixpoints (FPL)
- Parameterized with background theories (bit vectors, term algebras, etc.)
- Semantics is defined by constraint logic programming (CLP)
- Evolving structures; temporal logic



# Current Work: Semantic Backplane



The Semantic Backplane is based on a mathematical framework provided by term algebra and logics, incorporates a tool suite for specifying, validating and using formal structural and behavioral semantics of modeling languages, and includes a library of metamodels and specifications of model transformations.

Functions	(Meta)Models	Languages	Tools	Role
Metamodeling		MetaGME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GME</li> <li>MetaGME-2-Formula</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DSML spec.</li> <li>Constraint Checking</li> <li>Metaprogramming</li> </ul>
Transformation Modeling		UMTL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GReAT</li> <li>UDM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transformation spec.</li> <li>Compiling spec to transformer</li> </ul>
Formal Metamodeling	<pre> 1 domain DFA { 2   primitive Event ::= (lbl: Integer). 3   primitive State ::= (lbl: Integer). 4   [Closed(src, trg, dst)] 5   primitive Transition ::= (src: State, 6     [Closed(st)] 7   primitive Current ::= (st: State).</pre>	Formula (MSR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domain Comp.</li> <li>Trace Gen.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Metamodel checking</li> <li>Example gen.</li> <li>Semantic units</li> </ul>
Formal Transformation Modeling	<pre> 1 transform Step&lt;fire: in1.Event&gt; from DFA 2   out1.State(x) :- in1.State(x). 3   out1.Event(x) :- in1.Event(x). 4   out1.Transition(s, e, sp) :- in1.Trans 5   out1.Current(sp) :- in1.Current(s), ir 6   out1.Current(s) :- in1.Current(s), fai 7 }</pre>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Semantic Anchoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Semantics for complex DSMLs</li> <li>Composition</li> </ul>





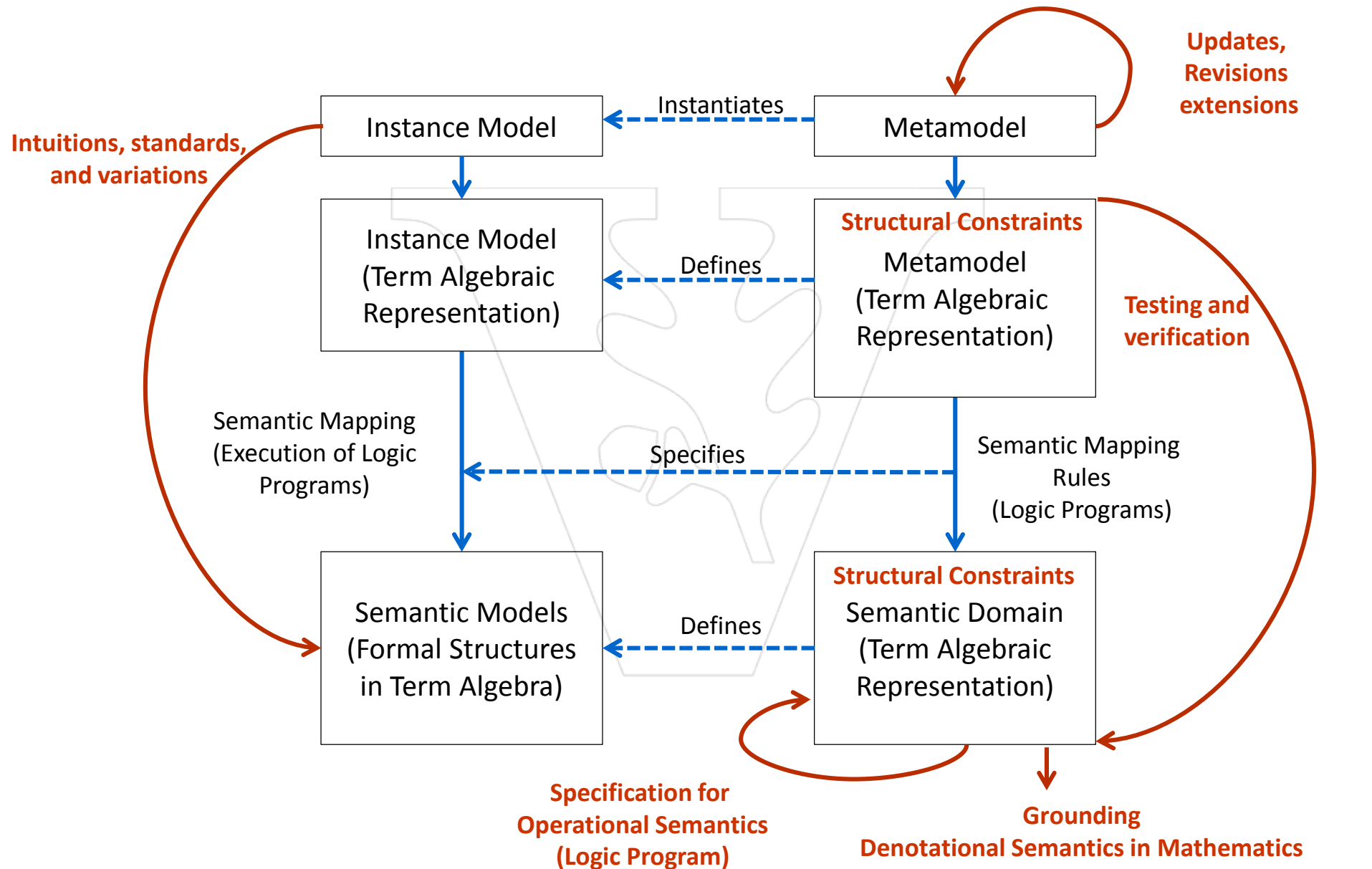
# Objectives



- A handy and intuitive modeling language
  - Constraining the Language
  - Incorporating existing semantic variations and standards (e.g. MAAB)
- Multiple Levels of Formality
  - Precise formal specification
  - Intuitive, annotated and excerpted formal specification
- Verified Formal Specification
  - Testing executable specifications
  - Bounded model checking on specifications
- Supporting Iterative Development Model
  - Regular updates, revisions, and extensions to the integration language



# Semantic Anchoring Dissected





# Examples



- A handy and intuitive modeling language
  - MAAB
- Multiple Levels of Formality: Electrical Power Port
  - HLE
  - HLE Explained
- Supporting Iterative Development Model
  - Metamodeling mathematics for denotational semantics (HLE, Stateflow)
  - Specifying operational semantics (Stateflow)
- Verified Formal Specification
  - Stateflow