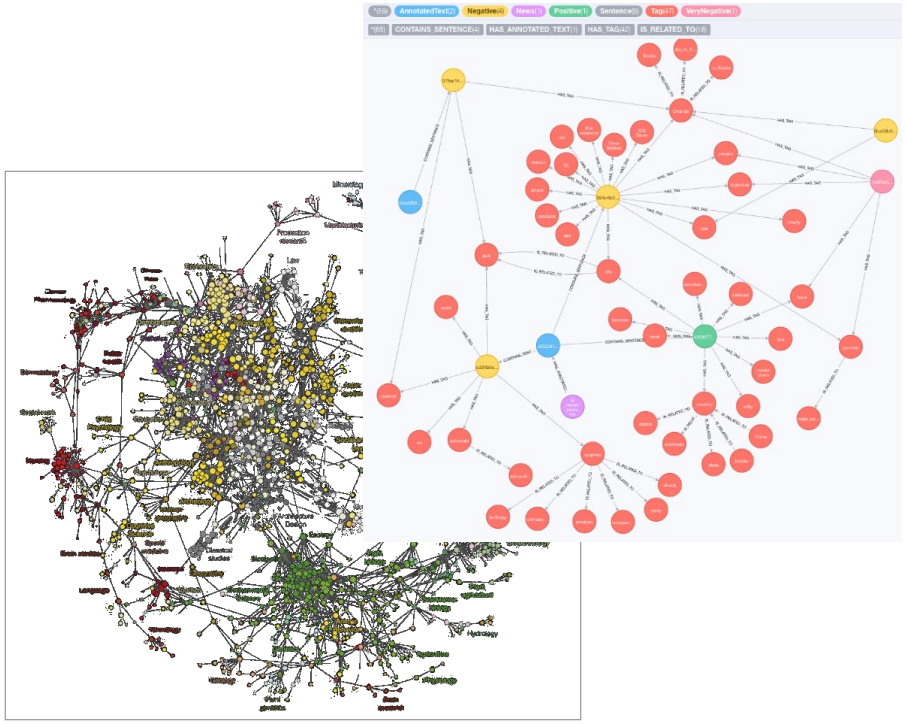
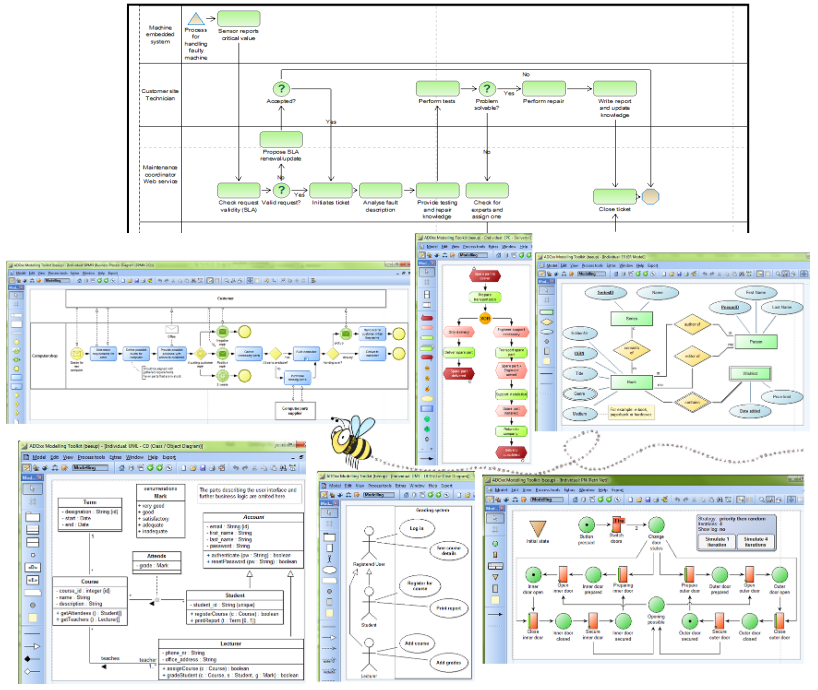
Conceptual Modelling

Knut Hinkelmann

Knowledge Graphs



Conceptual (graphcial) Models



Modeling using predefined *concepts*

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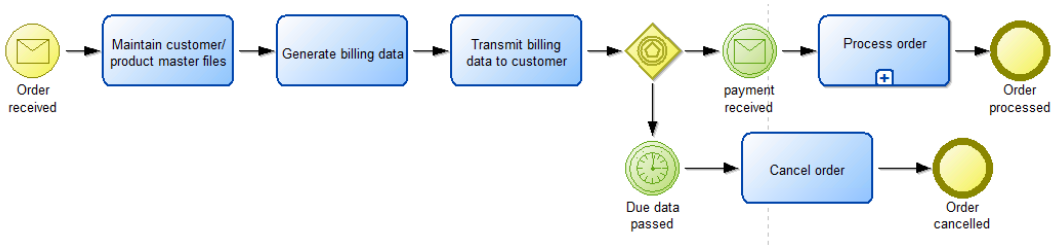
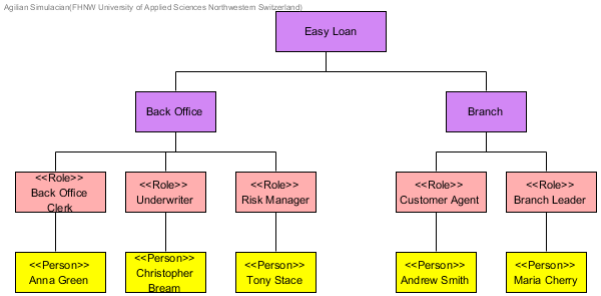
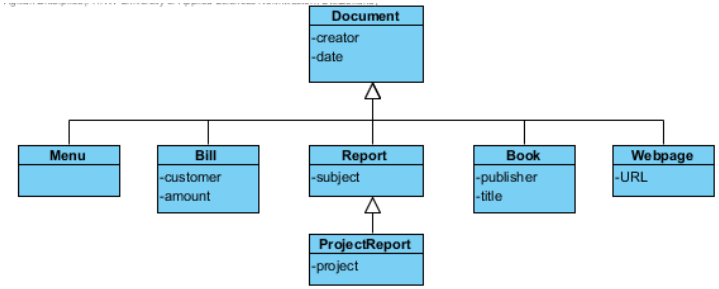
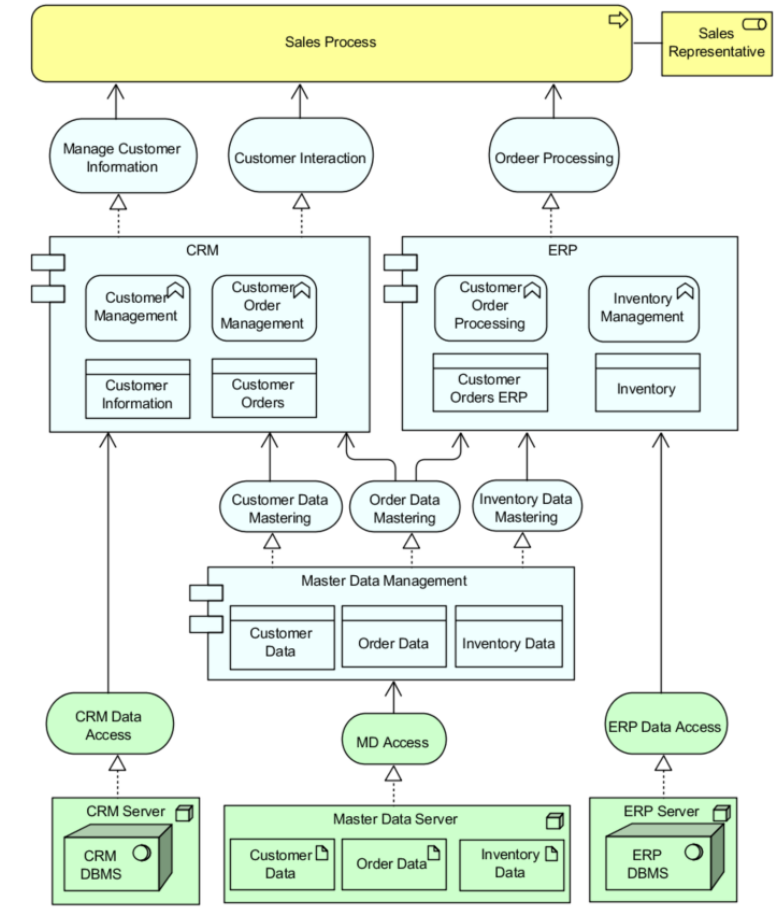
Enterprise Models









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General-purpose Modelling Languages vs. Domain-specific Modelling Languages

- ***General-purpose*** modelling languages can be used to represent any kind of knowledge
  - Examples: Class diagrams, Knowledge graphs (RDFS)
  - Concepts: Classes, Properties
- ***Domain-specific*** languages have *predefined* concepts (modeling elements and relationships) that are specific for a domain
  - Examples of domain-specific modelling languages:
    - **BPMN** for business processes
      - Elements: task, event, gateway, ….
      - Relationships: sequence flow, message flow, association, …
    - **ArchiMate** for enterprise architectures
      - Elements: process, actor, role, business object, …
      - Relationships: uses, realizes, …

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Strengths and Weaknesses of Domain-specfic Modelling Languages

- Strengths
  - ♦ Comprehensibility of models
    - Concepts are adequate for stakeholders
  - ♦ Guidance for modelers
    - Predefined concepts determine what is relevant for a model
    - Modeling language determines correct usage of elements
  - ♦ Standardisation: Reuse of models
    - Common concepts for a domain (e.g. BPMN, ArchiMate)
- Weaknesses
  - ♦ Restricted to a specific domain
    - Only what can be expressed with the modelling elements can be modeled

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Conceptual Modeling and Metamodelling

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Models, Modelling, Modeling Language

Model

A reproduction of the part of reality which contains the essential aspects to be investigated.

Conceptual Modelling

Creating models using predefinded concepts.

Meta Model

The concepts of the modeling language are predefined in a so-called meta model

Modelling Language

Notation/Visualization of the concepts that can be used for modeling

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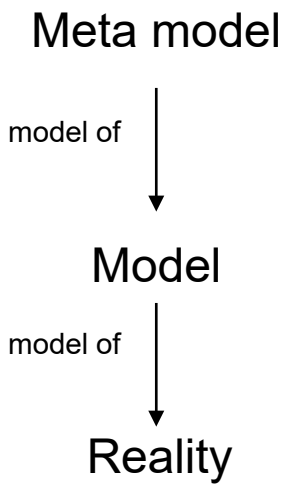
Meta-model



- A meta-model defines ...
  - … Concepts that can be used to create a model
  - … Attributes of concepts
  - … Rules to combine concepts
- The meta-model represents the general knowledge about the domain

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Concepts for Business Process Models

Metamodel:

Concepts which can be used to create models.

Example: A process model consists of concepts for

- Model elements: event, task, subprocess, gateway, data object
- Relationships: sequence flow, data association.

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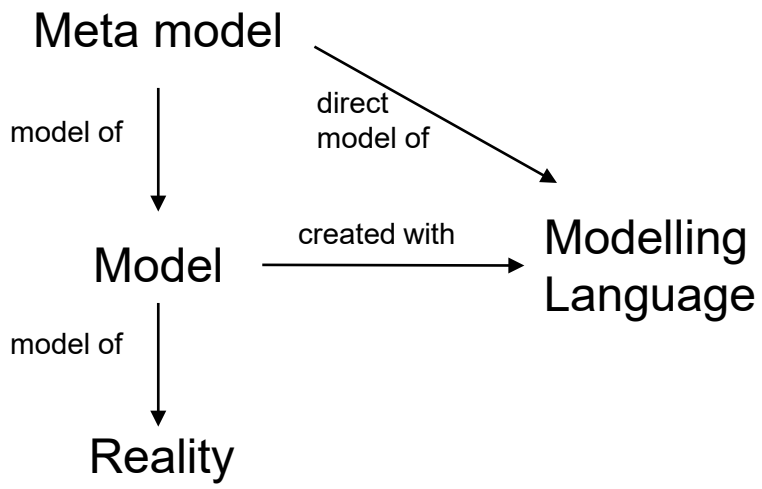
Modelling Language



- A **modelling language** specifies the notation for the concepts, from which a model can be made.
- There are different kinds of notations
  - For graphical models the notation consists of *visualization* of the concepts
  - Textual models consist of words
  - Mathematical models use symbols
  - physical model are composed of physical elements

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Illustration: Modeling Language for Business Processes

Meta model:

Concepts which can be used to create models.

Example: A process model consists of concepts for

- Model elements: event, task, subprocess, gateway, data object
- Relationships: sequence flow, data association.

Modelling Language:

Notation/appearance of meta-model concept

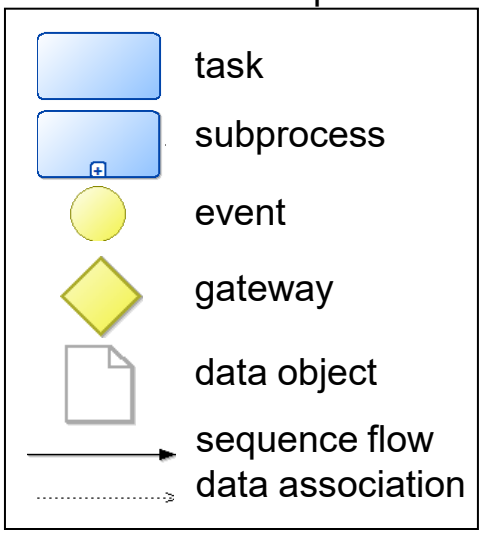

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Illustration: Modeling Language for Business Processes

Metamodel:

Concepts which can be used to create models.

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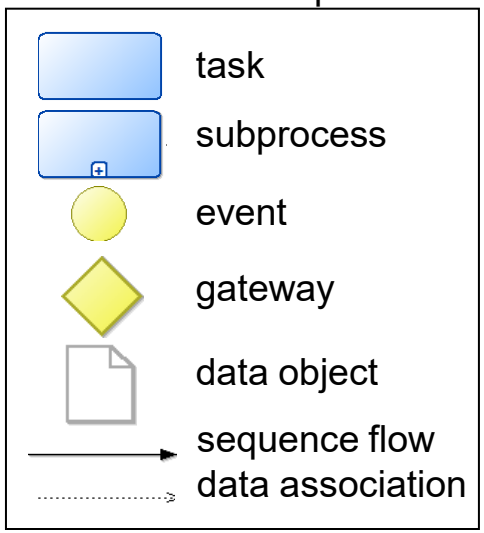
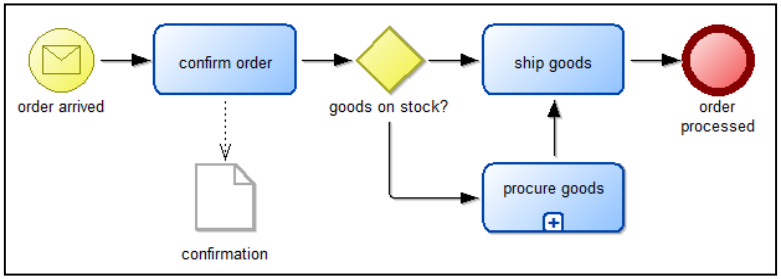


Model:



A model contains instances of the concepts defined in the meta-model. The object „confirm order“ represents a real entity; it is an instance of the concept «task"

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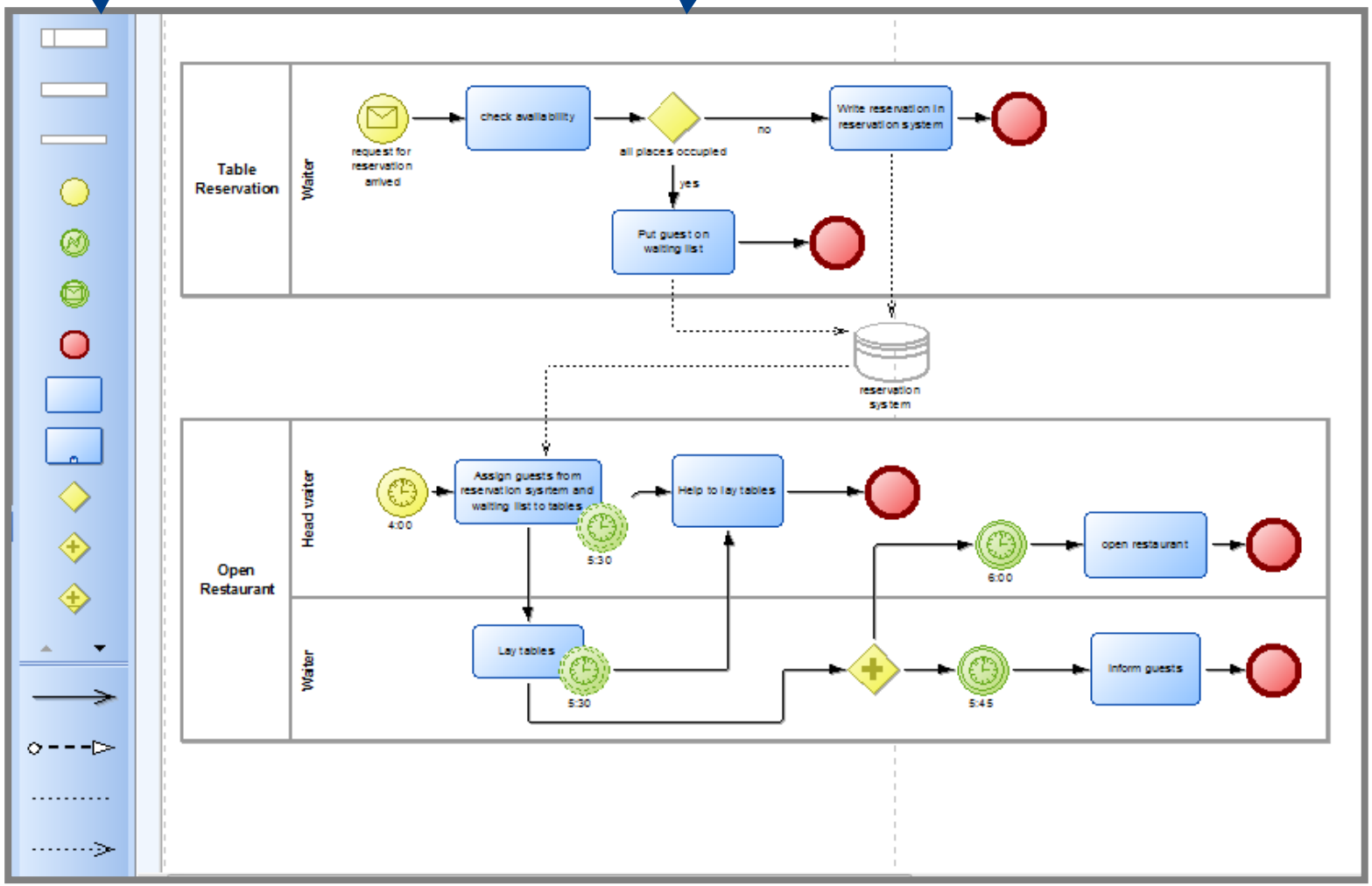
Modelling Language

Model



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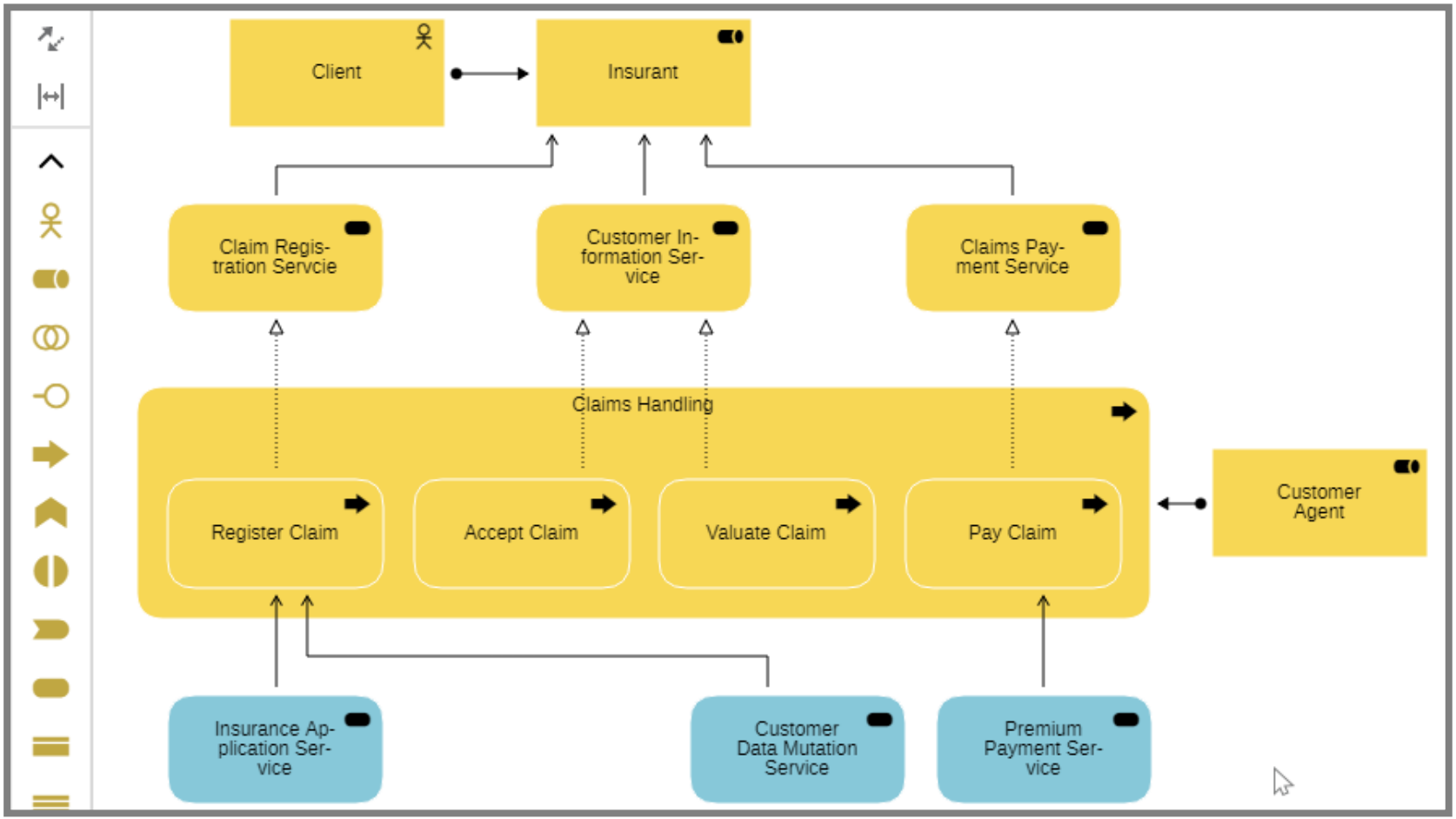
Modelling Language

Model



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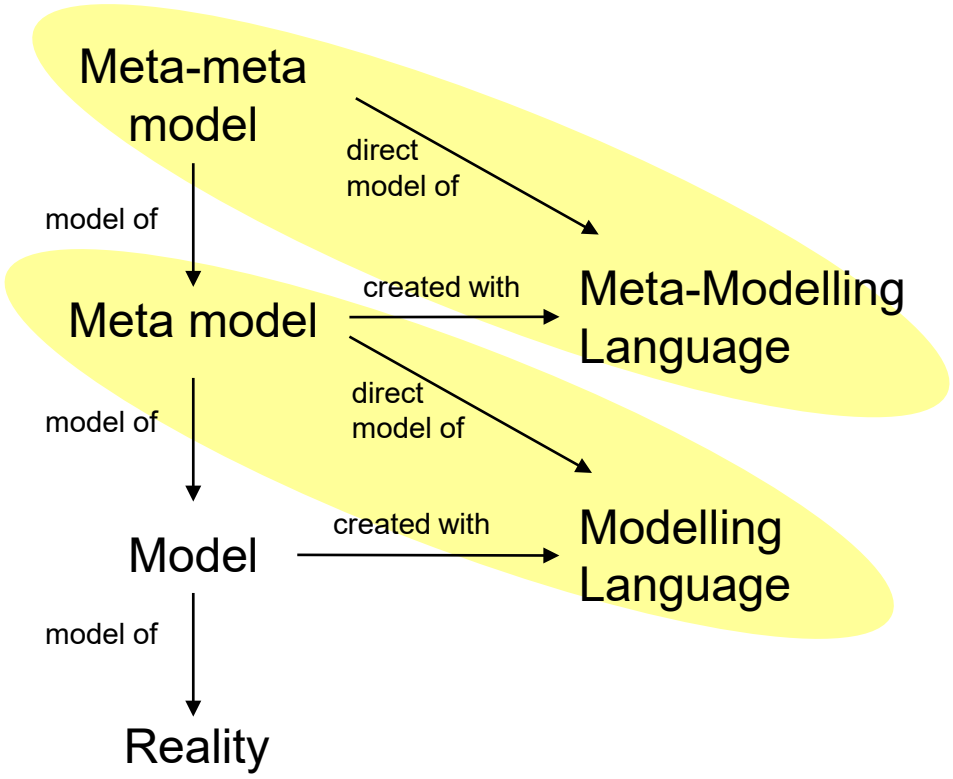
Meta-meta model



- The meta model must again be described in some language, which is specified in a meta-meta model
- A **meta-meta model** defines the concepts for describing a meta model
- Graphical models usually have to kinds of concepts
  - Modeling elements
  - Relationships
- Examples for meta-modeling languages are
  - class diagrams.
  - Knowledge graphs
- Note: Meta-modeling languages are general-purpose modeling languages

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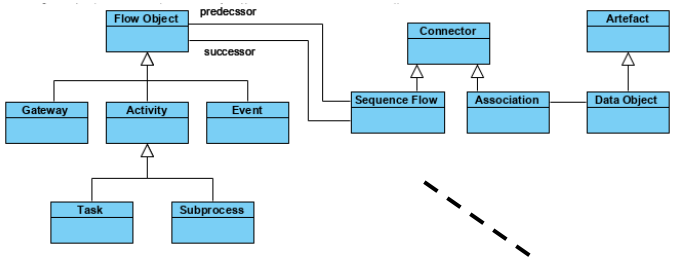
Metamodels can be defined as Class Diagrams

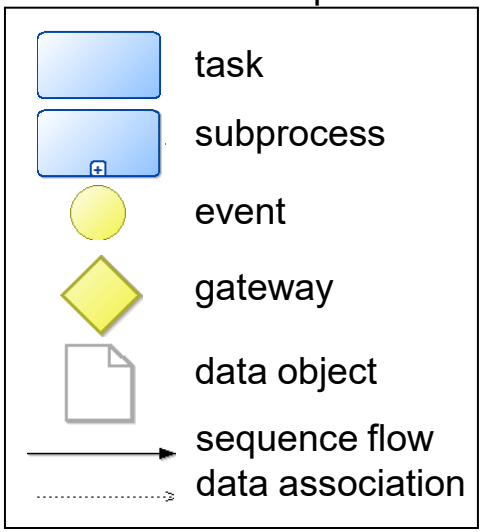
Metamodel:

Concepts which can be used to create models.

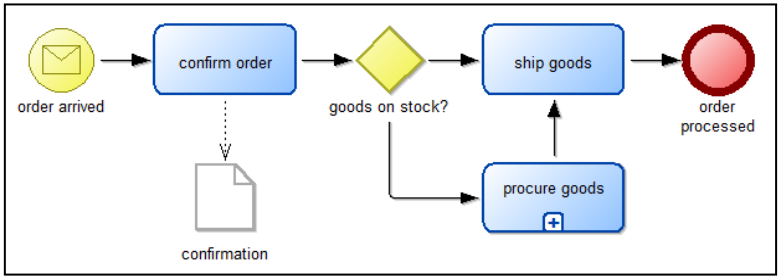


Modelling Language:

Notation/appearance of meta-model concept



Model:



A model contains instances of the concepts defined in the meta-model. The object „confirm order“ represents a real entity; it is an instance of the concept «task"

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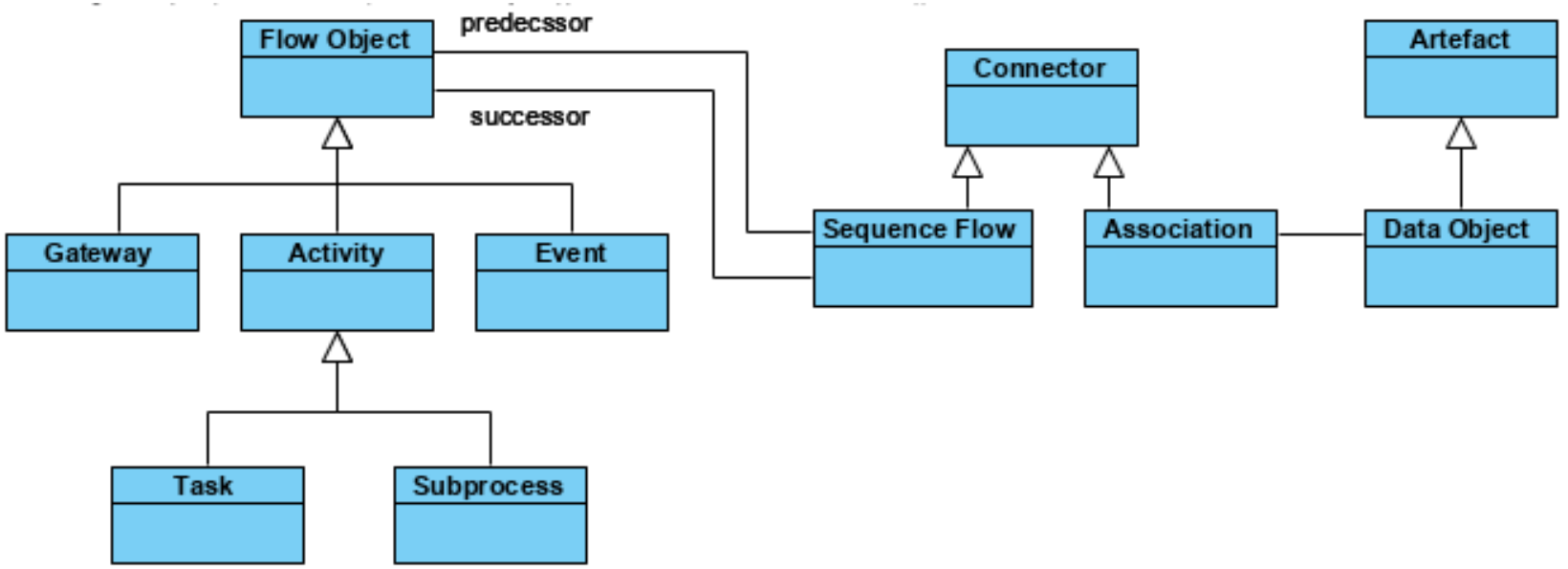
Metamodels can be defined as Class Diagrams

A Metamodeling language one can describe meta models
Metamodel corresponds to a knowledge base
Metamodels can be represented as class diagrams



(UML Class diagrams where originally designed for modelling in object-oriented programming. This is why they contain operations and other features, which are not relevant for most modelling languages)

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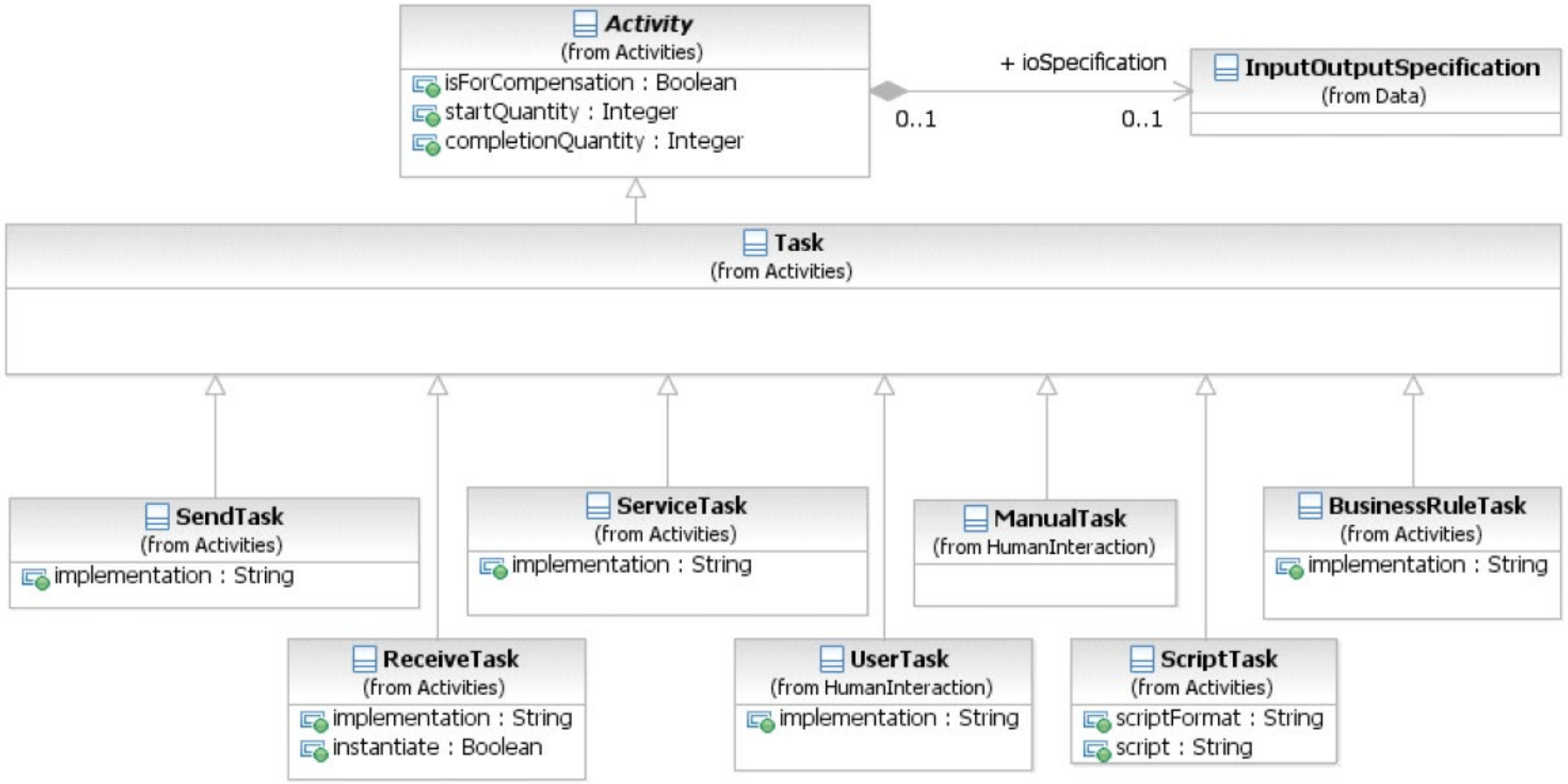
Subset of the BPMN Metamodel as UML Class Diagram



Source: BPMN 2.0 specification

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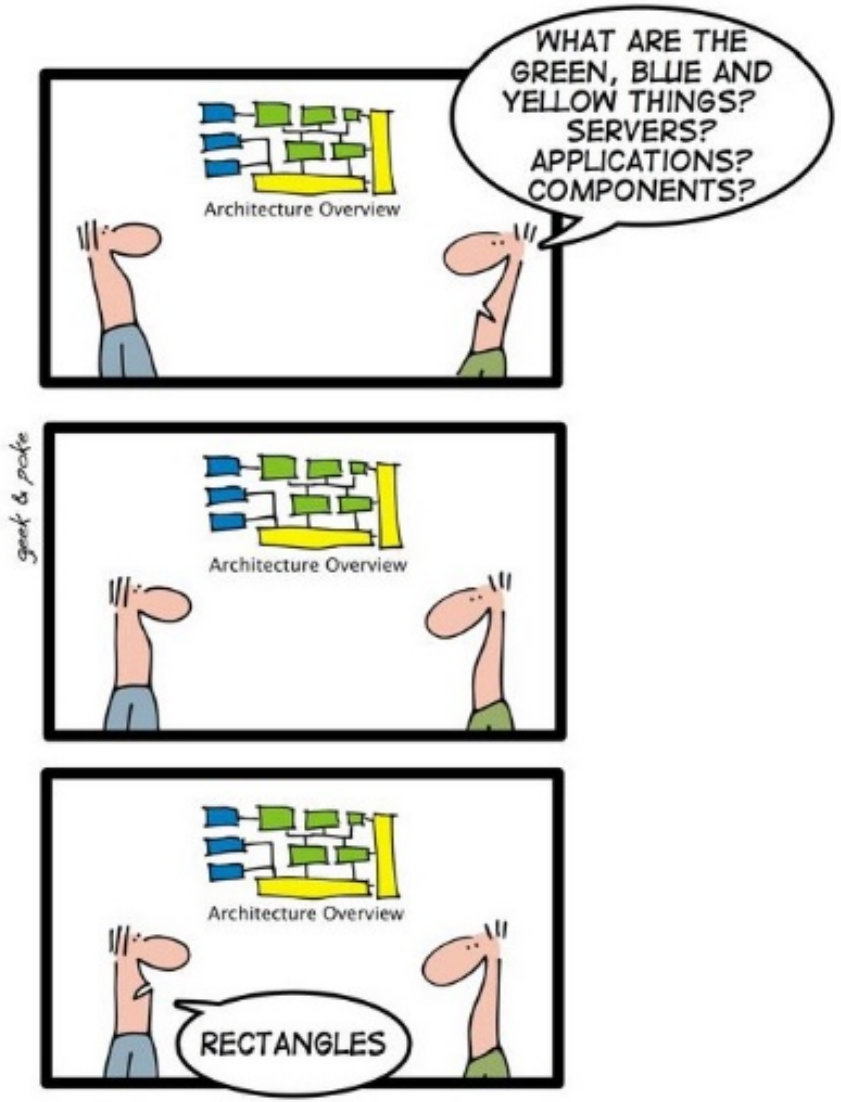
Knowledge in Models

Models

- Models are not mere pictures; rather, they
  - provide a precise, meaningful description that can be visualized in different ways for different stakeholders;
  - can also be used to analyze the impact of changes, cost, risk, security, compliance and other relevant KPIs.

http://blog.bizzdesign.com/how-to-not-fail-when-implementing-strategy

Interpretation of Models



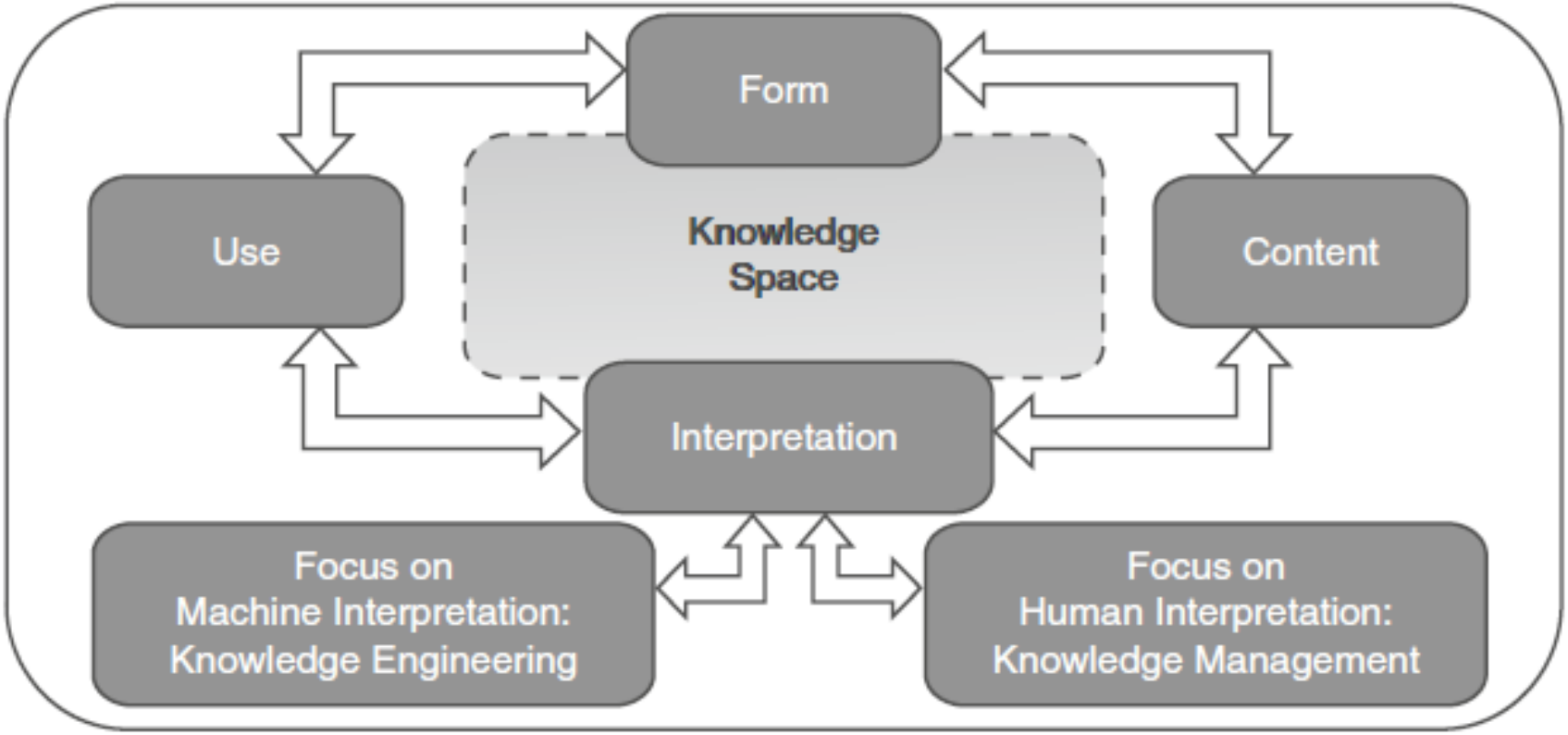
Making the Knowledge in Models explicit

- Humans «know» the meaning of the modeling objects.
  - Meta model: Concepts of the model language
  - Application: Labels/names of the model elements
- Examples:

  - Meta model: Application Component
  - Application: «ERP System» is business software

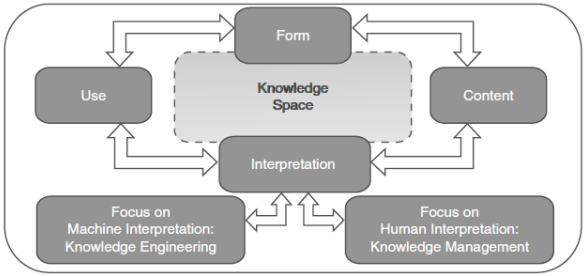
  - Meta model: Task
  - Application: «Cook pasta» is about preparing food
- The objective is to represent the knowledge so that it can be interpreted by a system for decision making and problem solving

Dimensions of a Knowledge Space



Karagiannis, D., & Woitsch, R. (2010). Knowledge Engineering in Business Process Management. In *Handbook on Business Process Management 2* (pp. 463–485). Springer.

Dimensions of the Knowledge Space



Use:
- process optimization requires knowledge about time and costs
- selection of a cloud service require knowledge about data and functionality

Form: modeling language

Content: Instantiation of concepts

- ***Use***: Stakeholders and their concerns determine the relevant subset of the knowledge
- ***Form***: Syntax and semantic of *meta model concepts*.
- ***Content***: *Instantiation* of meta model concepts for a specific *application* (represented in the labels)
- ***Interpretation***: Giving meaning to a model:
  - Graphical models are cognitively adequate for human
  - Machines need more formal representation

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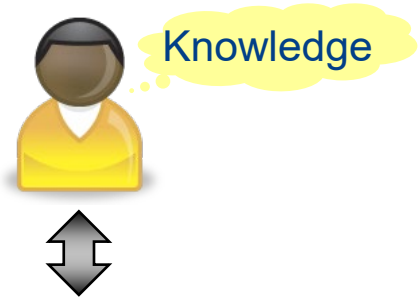
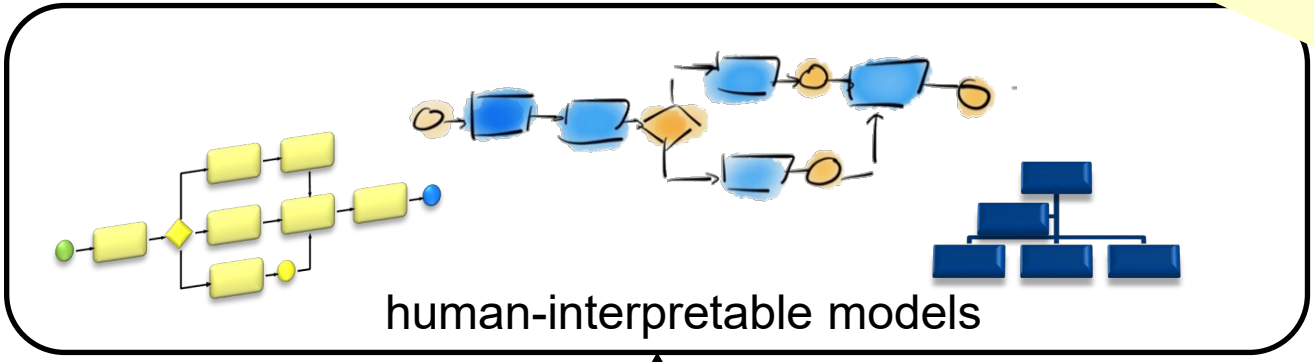
Graphical Models are appropriate for Humans

Communication/
Analysis/
Decision Making

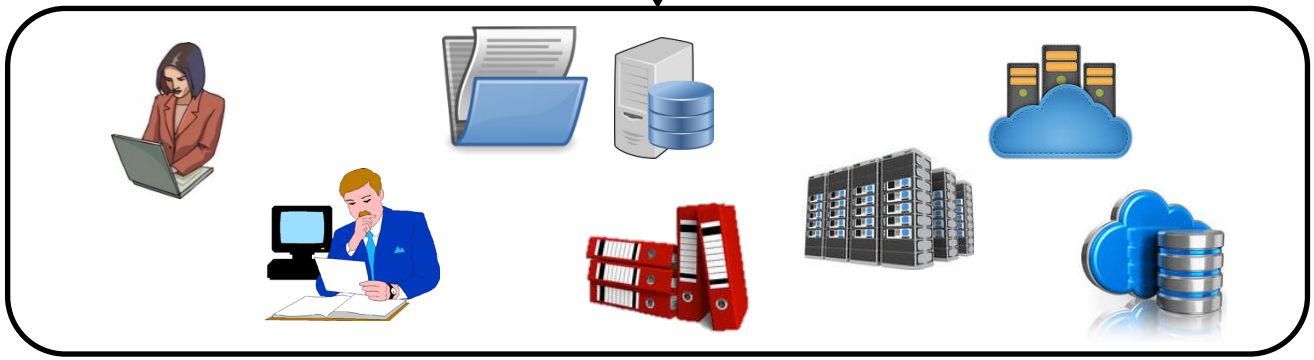


Example: Visio

Models

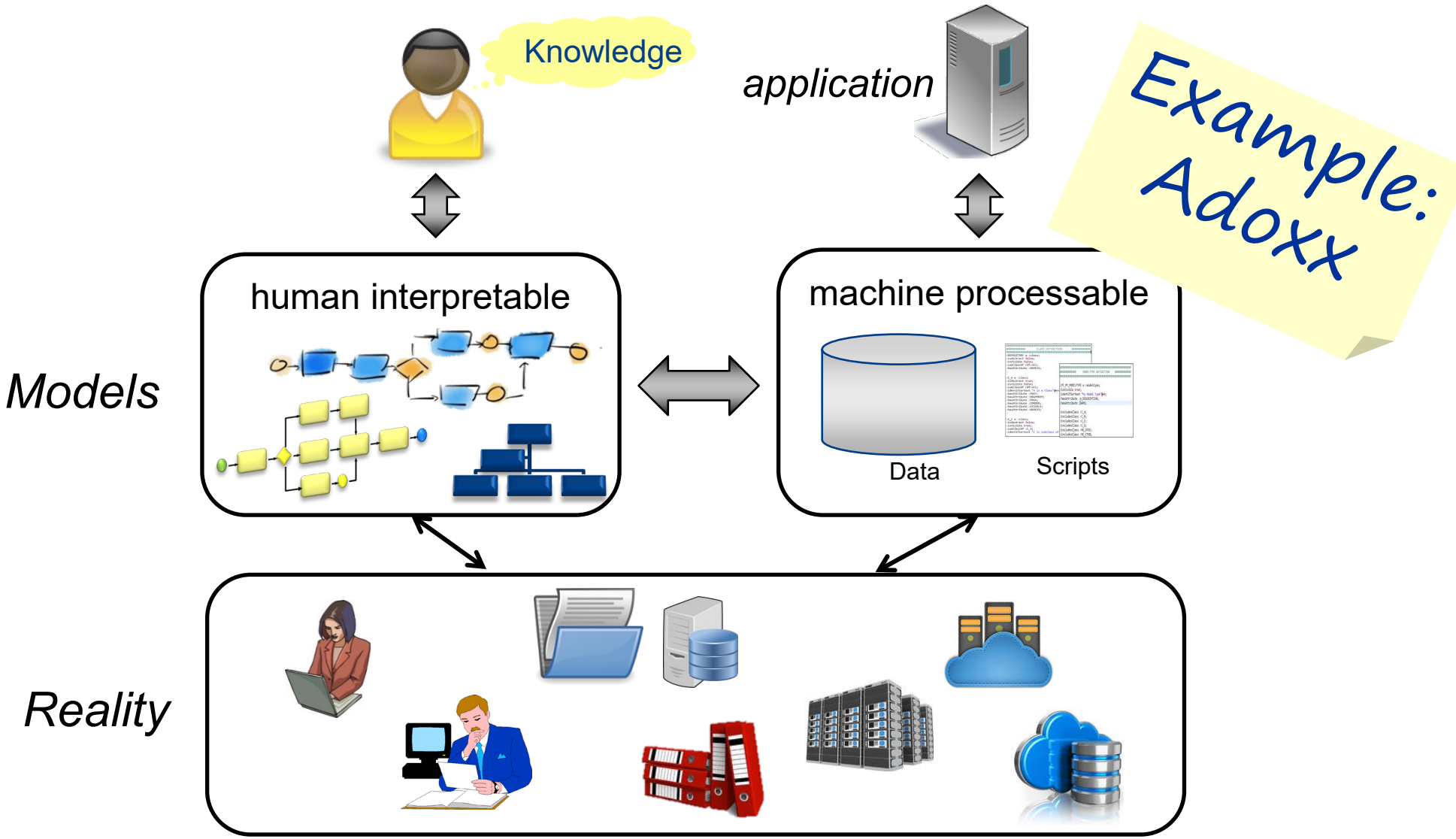


Reality



Models should allow automated analysis, decision making and digitalization

Graphical Models are Represented in a Database



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Metamodelling with ADOxx

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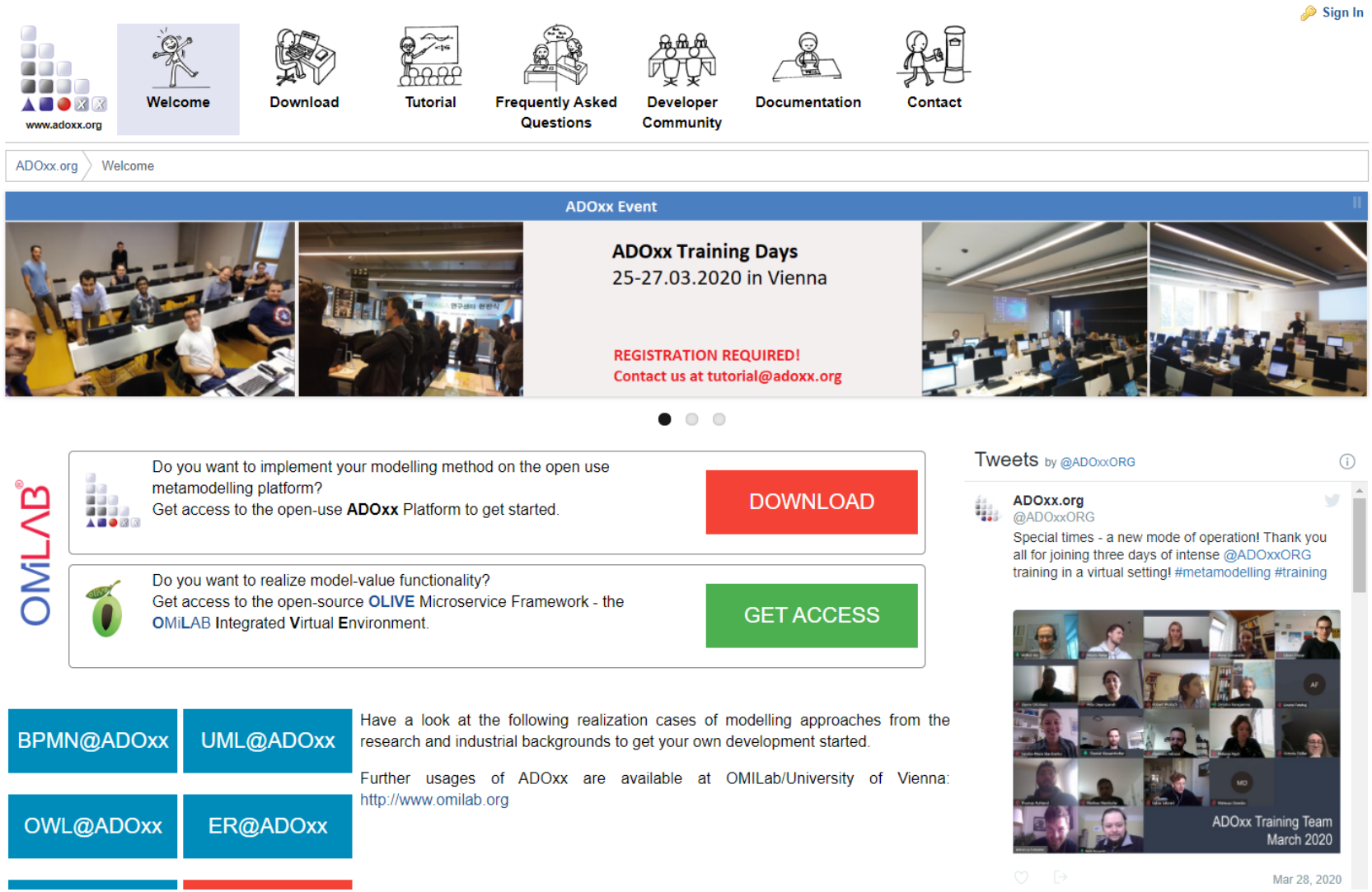
adoxx.org – Download, Tutorials, Community



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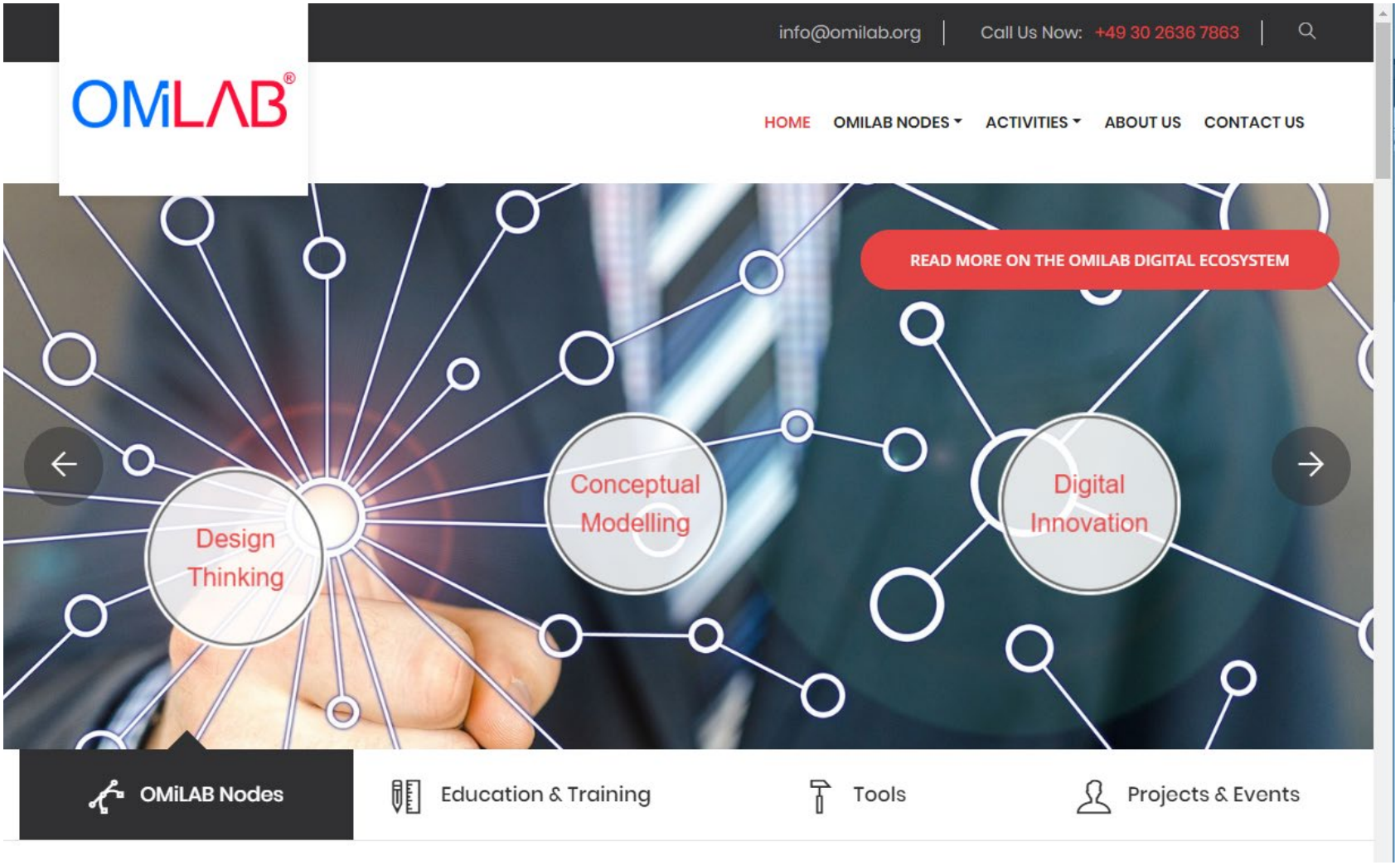
OMiLAB – A Conceptual Modelling Commnity

ADOxx is the basis for OMiLAB



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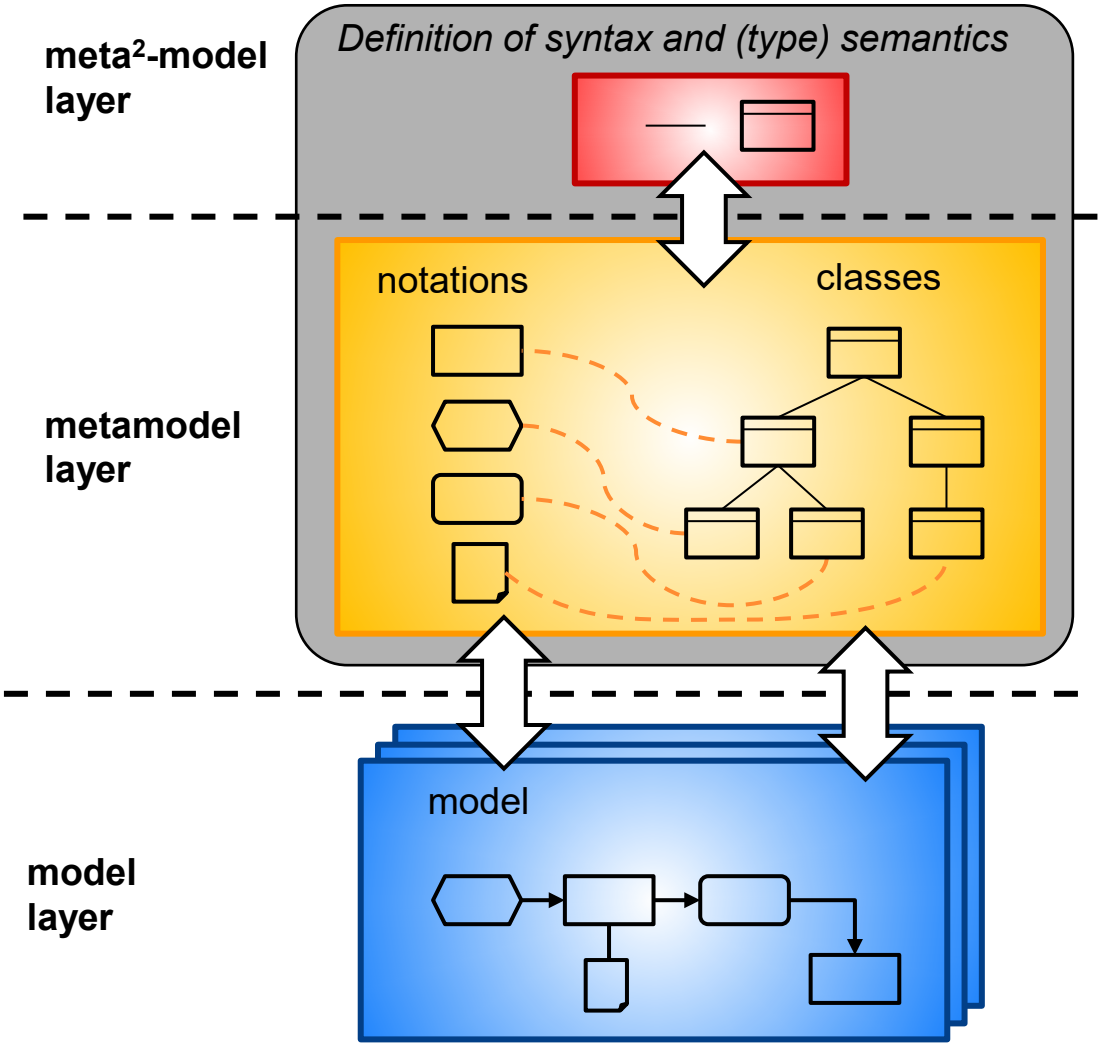
The ADOxx Environment

- ADOxx consists of …
  - ADOxx Development Toolkit
    - Defining Modelling languages – Library Management
    - Administration of users, models, components
  - ADOxx Modelling Toolkit
    - Creating models

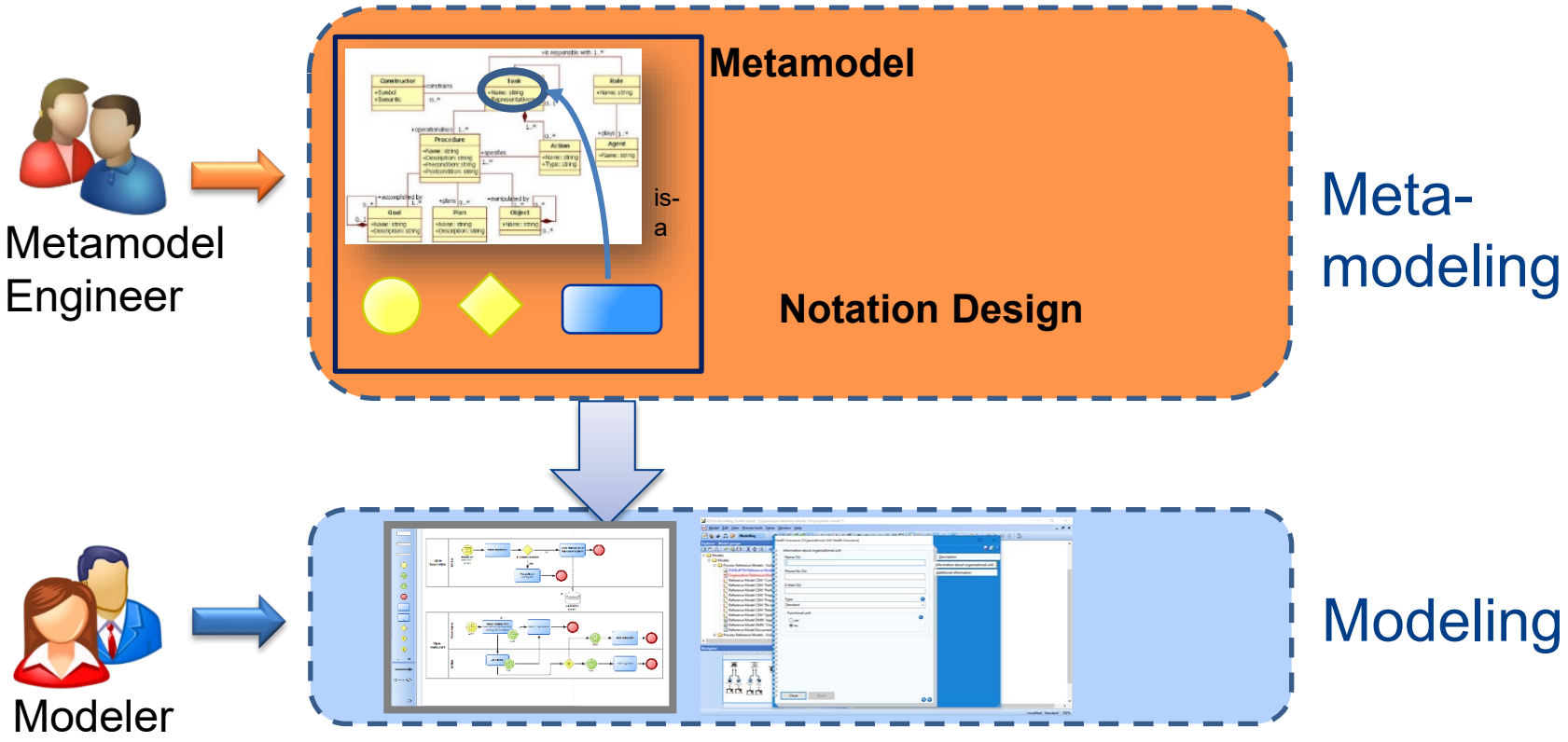
Modeling Environment



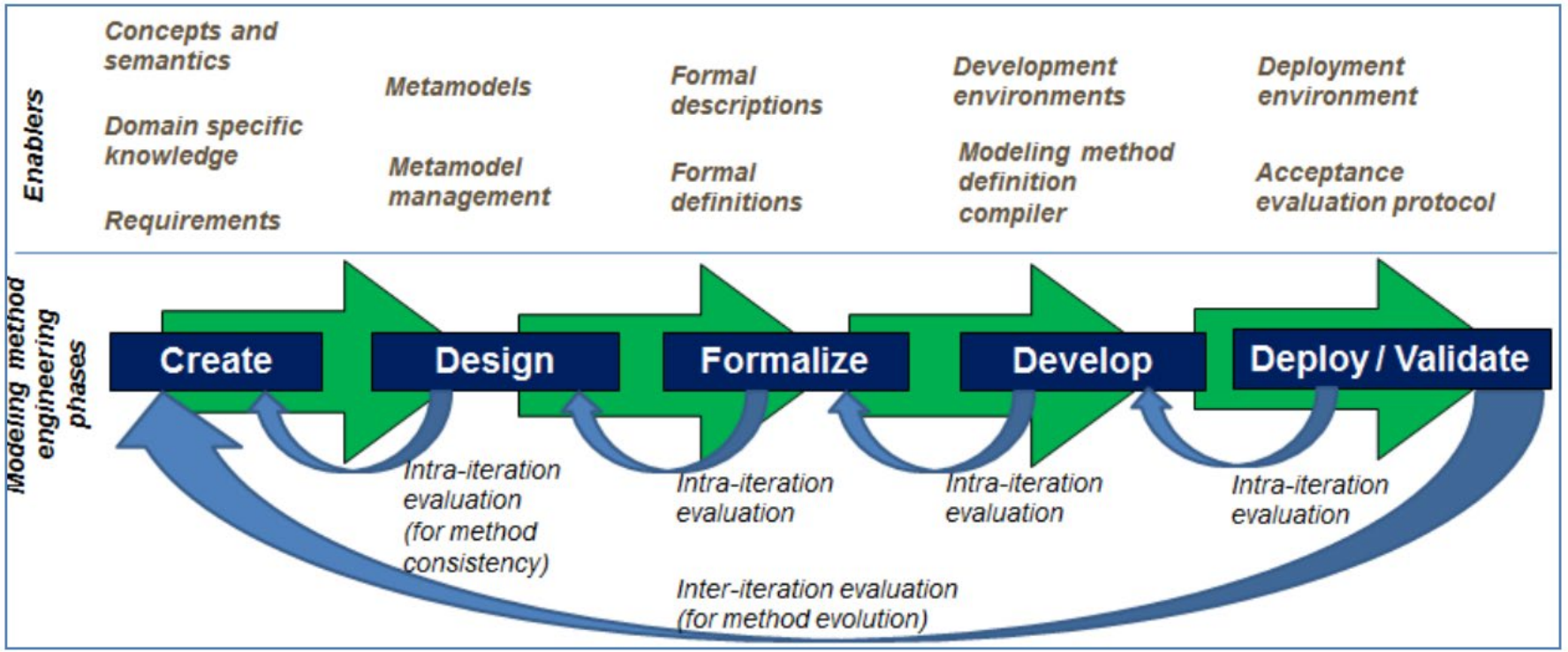
ADOxx Development Toolkit

ADOxx Modeling Toolkit

Modeling and Metamodeling



The AMME LifeCycle
Agile Modeling Method Engineering



(Karagiannis 2015)

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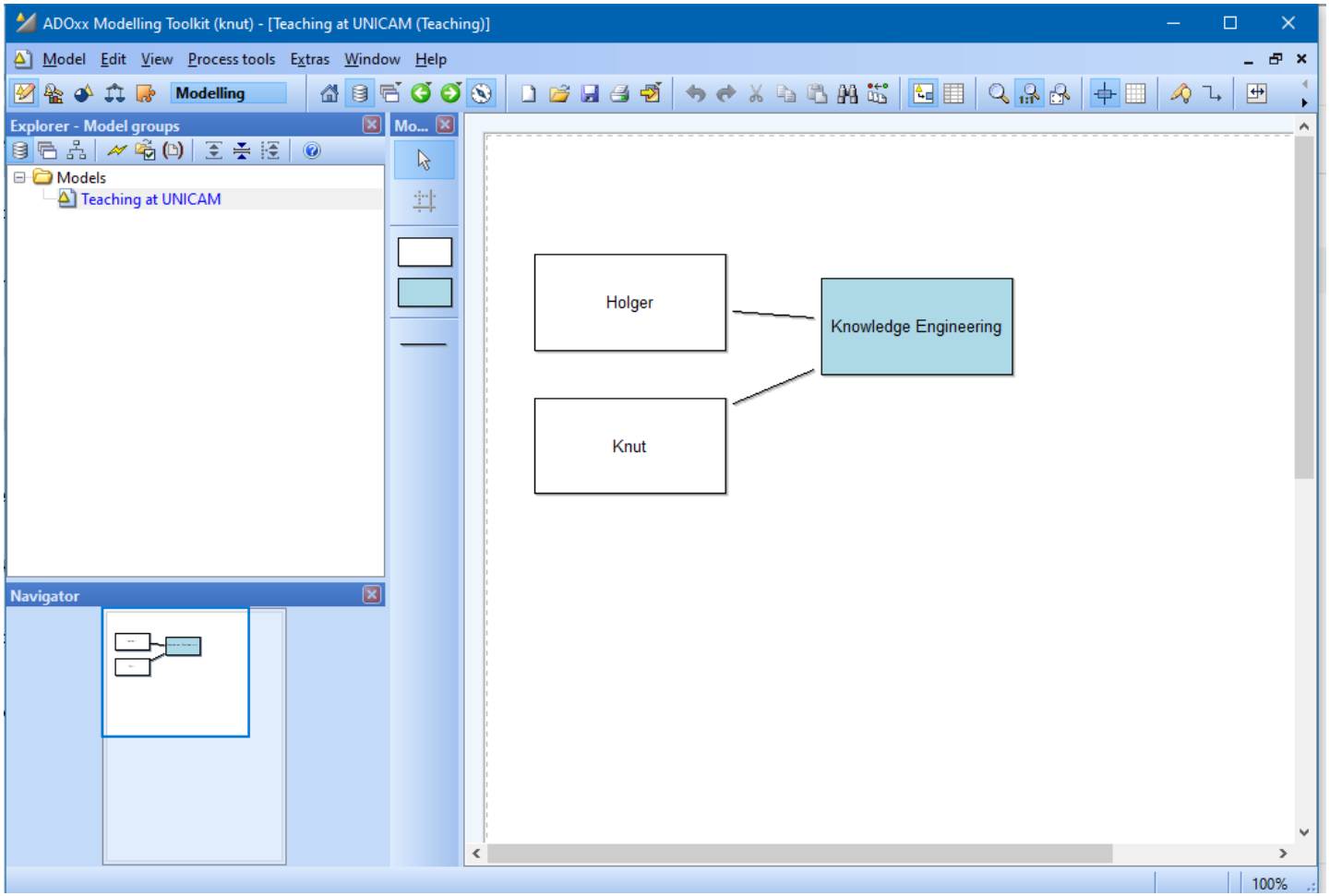
Example: Create a Modeling Language for Teaching



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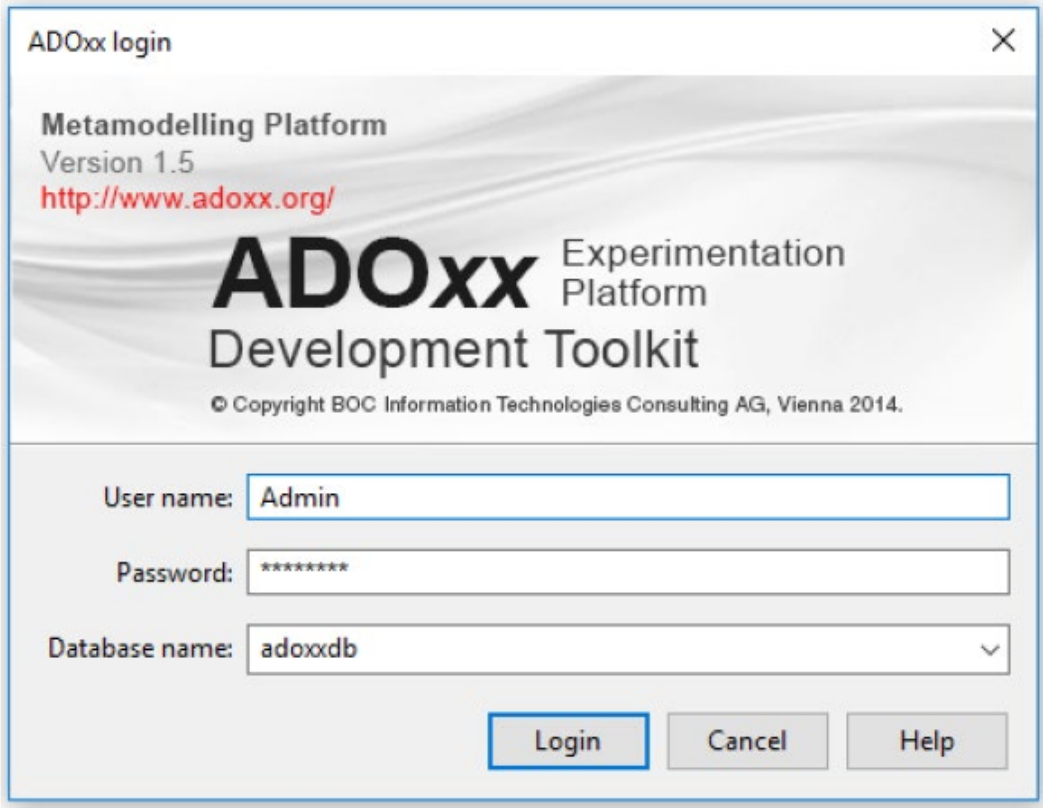
Development Toolkit

- Start Development Toolkit
- Login
  - Username: Admin
  - Password: password
  - DB: adoxxdb
    (or the one you created during installation)



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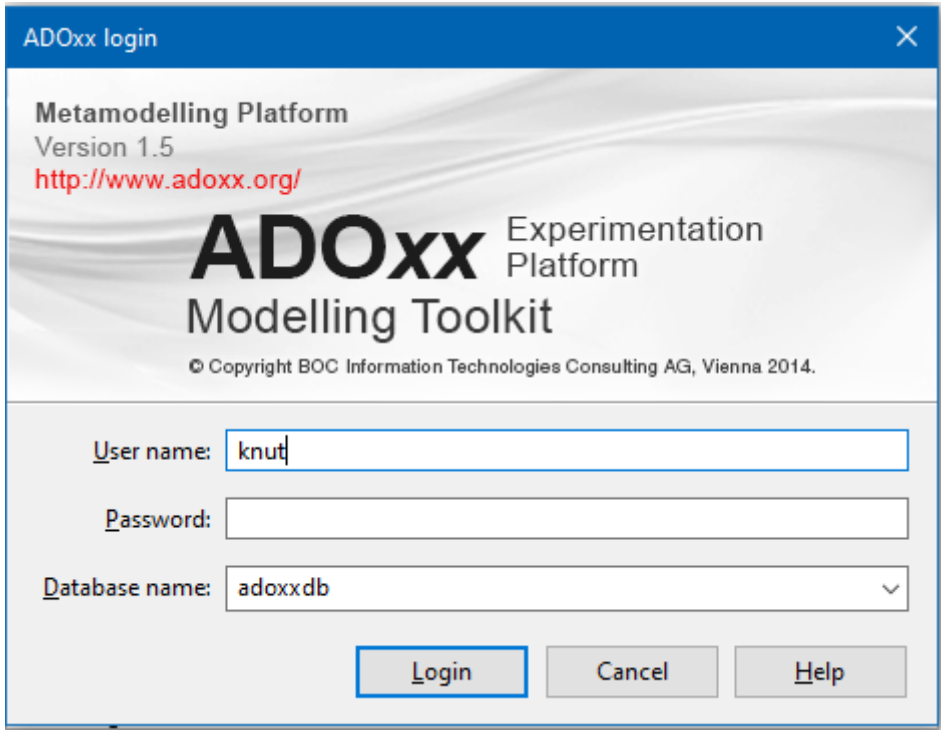

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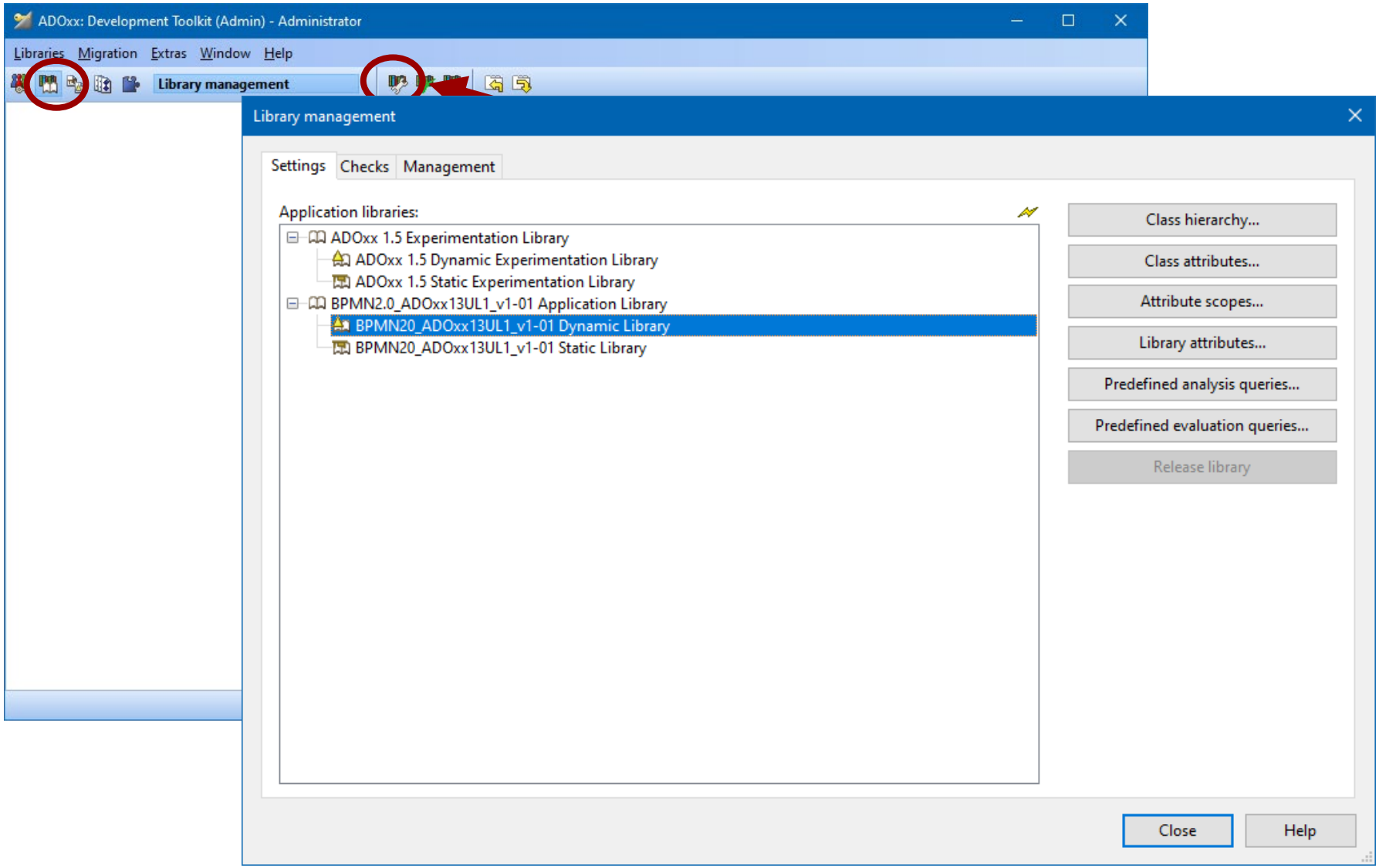
Metamodelling with ADOxx



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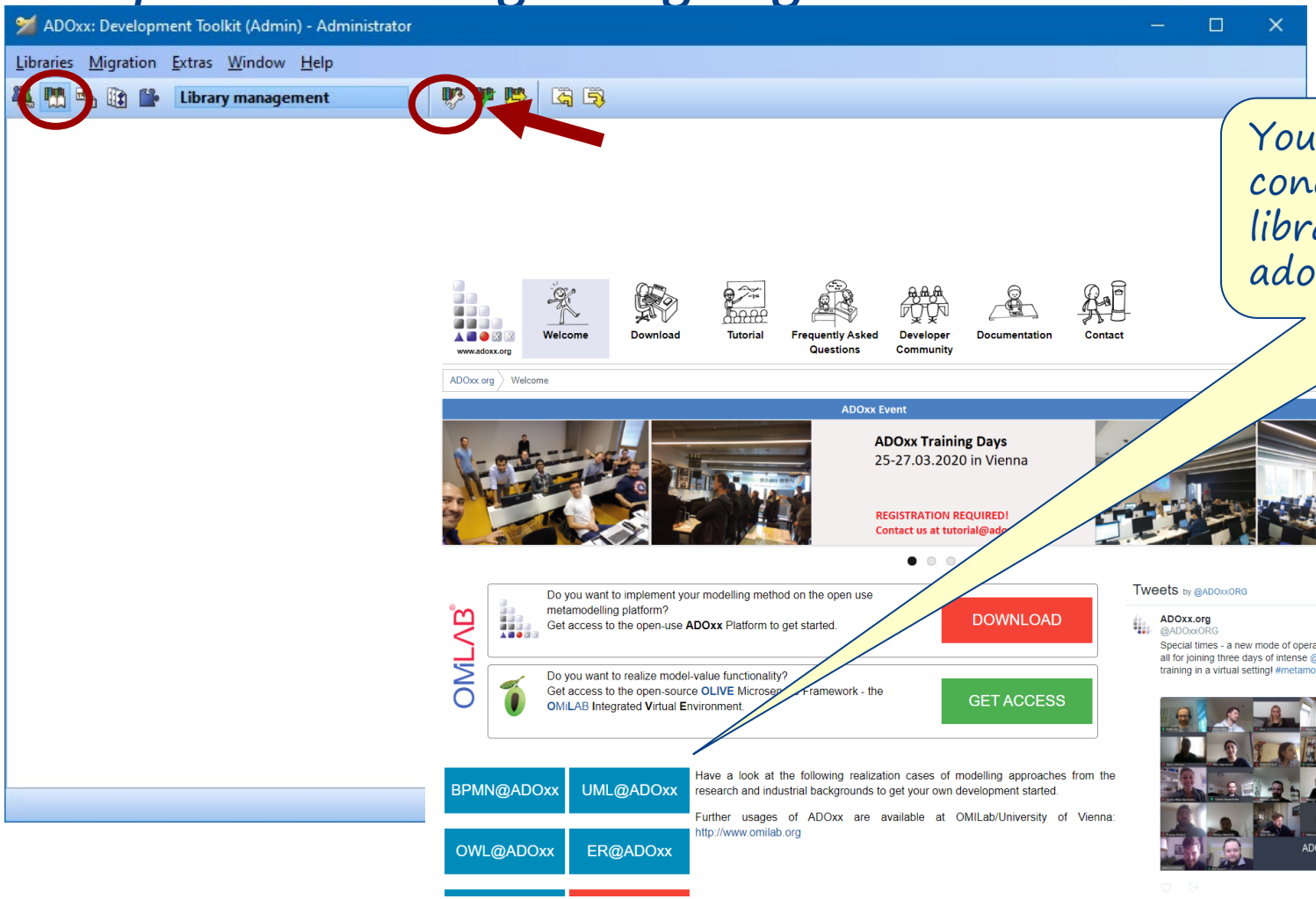
Import Modeling Language Libraries



You can download conceptual modeling libraries from adoxx.org, e.g. BPMN,

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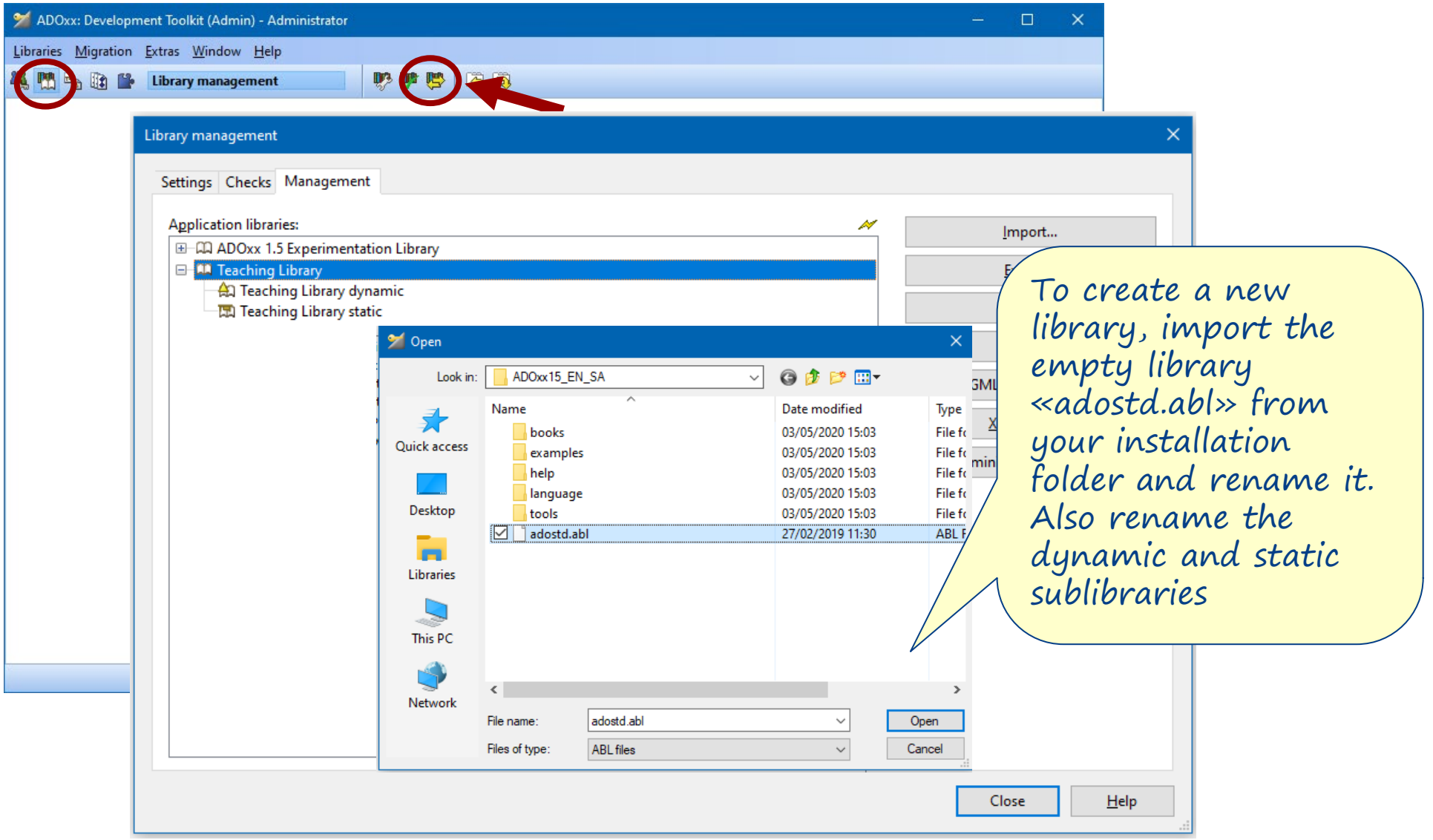
Create a new Modeling Language Library



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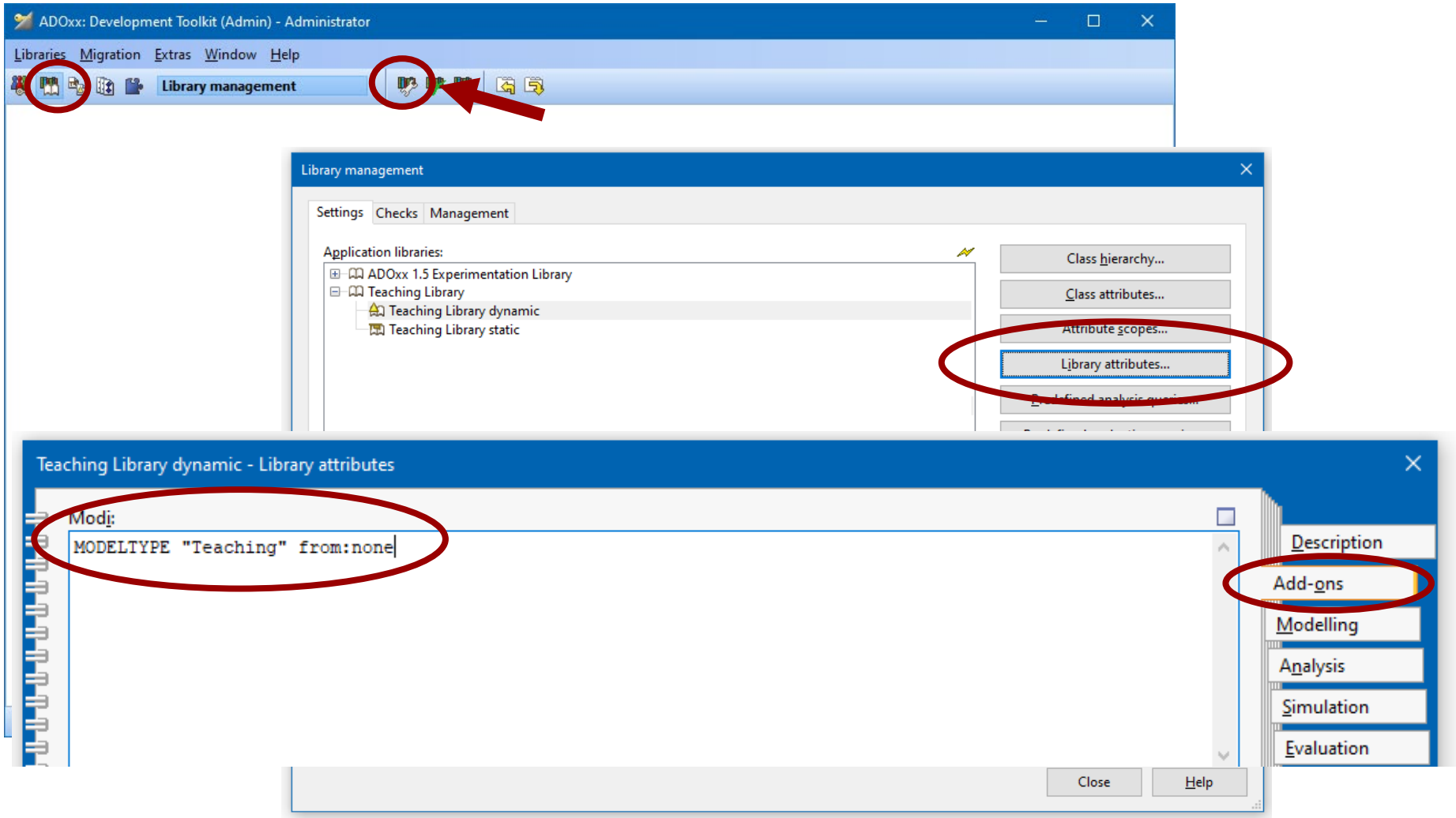

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Identified Roles	Major Tasks	Required Skills	Cases
 MM-tool User	Modelling Domain Knowledge	Domain Knowledge Method Knowledge	Established modelling tools Agile development of modelling tool in parallel to modelling tool usage . . . Agile development of ADOxx platform in parallel to modelling method development
 MM-Tool Developer	Developing an Meta Modelling Tool	Domain Knowledge Method Knowledge Platform Knowledge	
 ADOxx Developer	Implementation of tool specific and ADOxx functionality	Platform Knowledge ADOxx Technology Skills	

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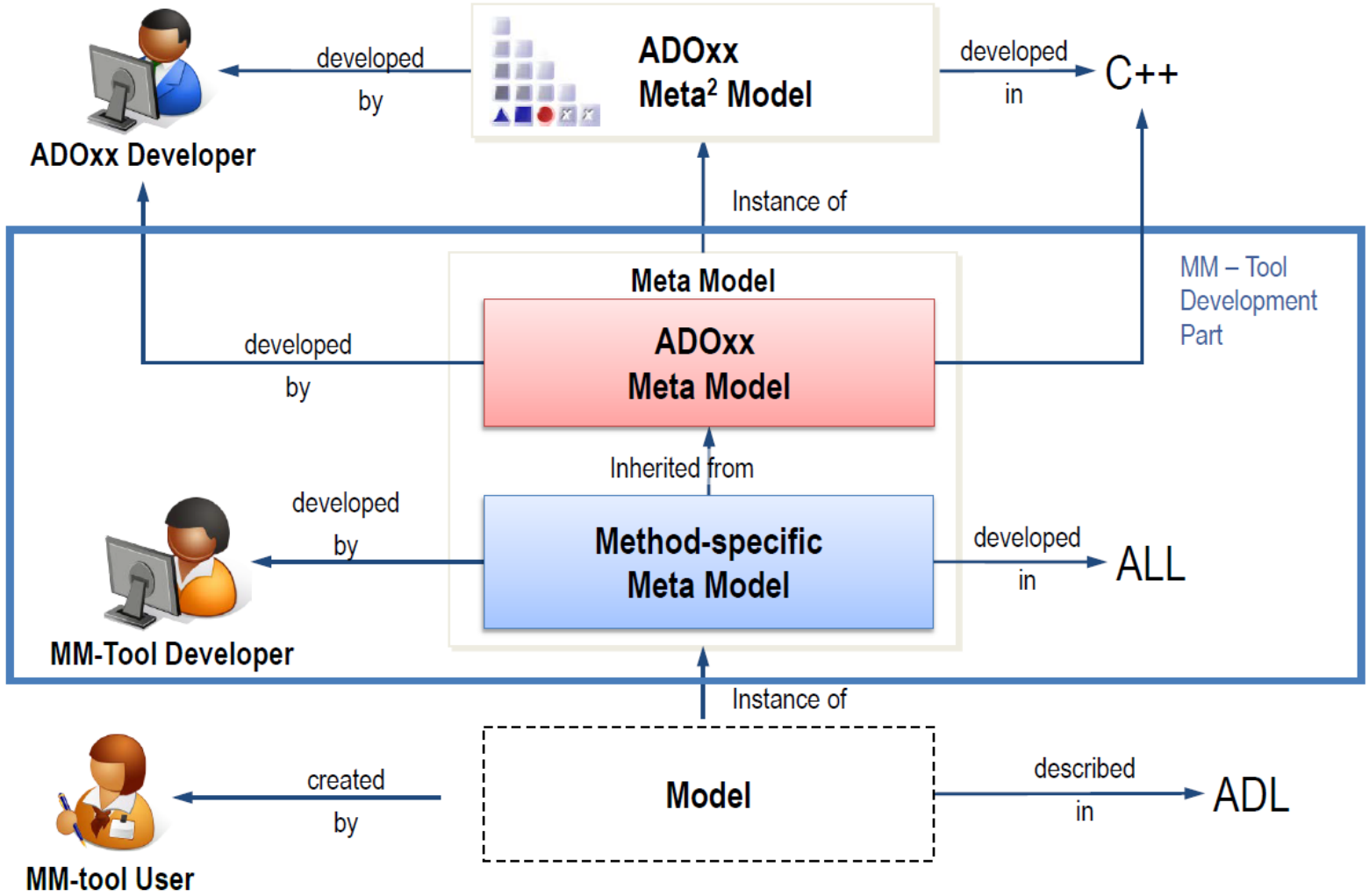
Meta Modelling Platforms Hierarchyin ADOxx



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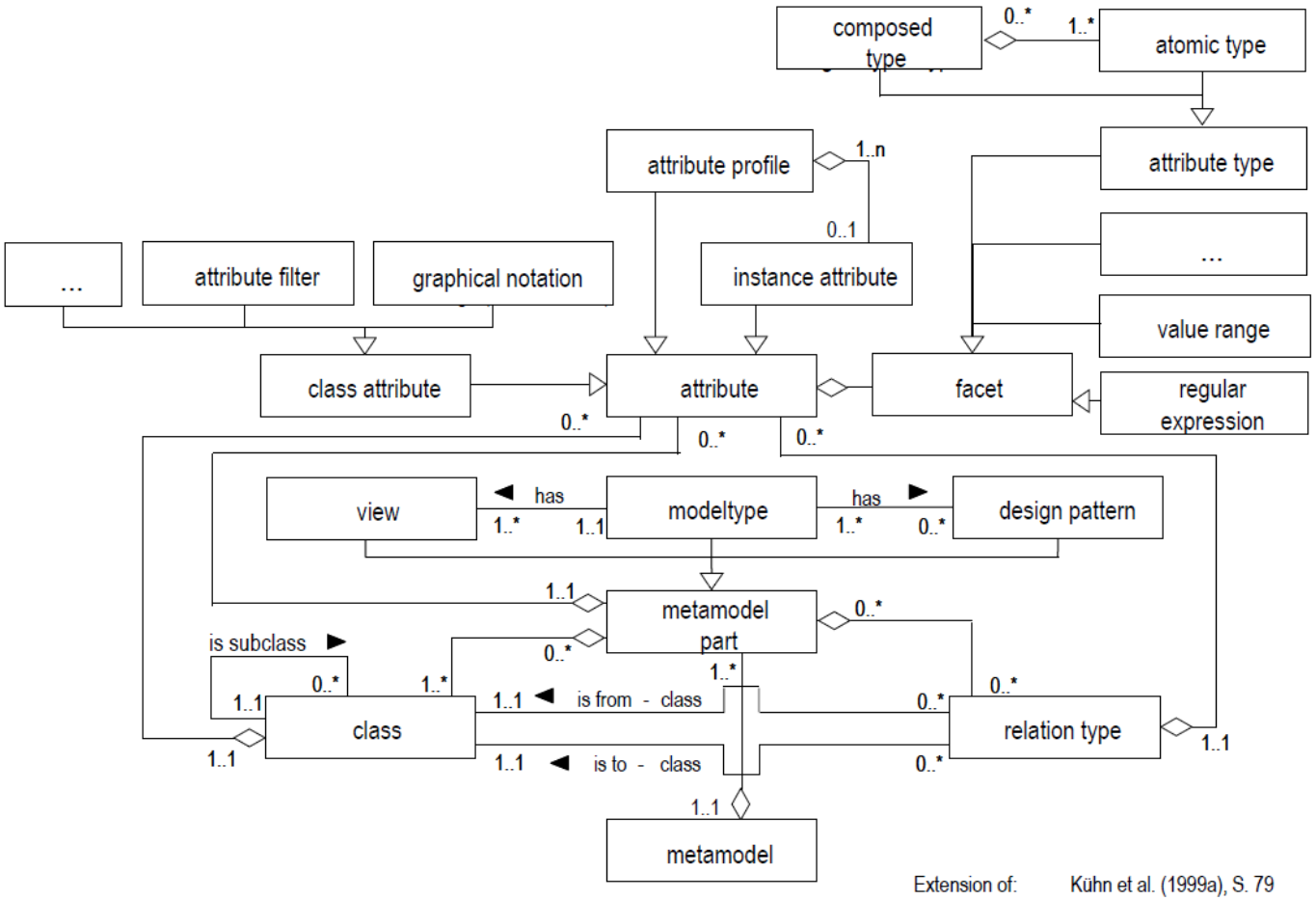
Meta² Model: Meta Model of Meta Modelling Language



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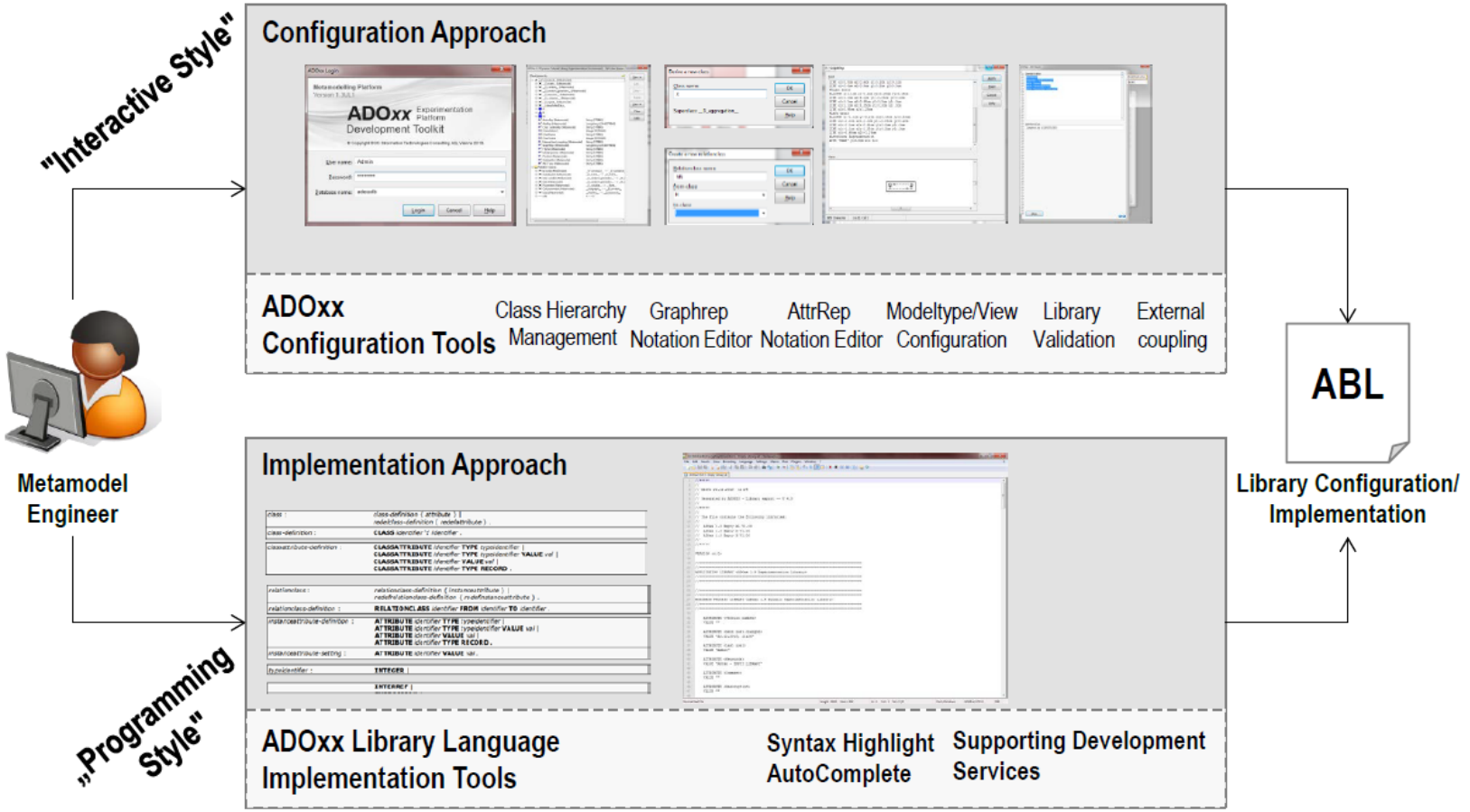
Development Approaches in ADOxx – Configuration and Implementation



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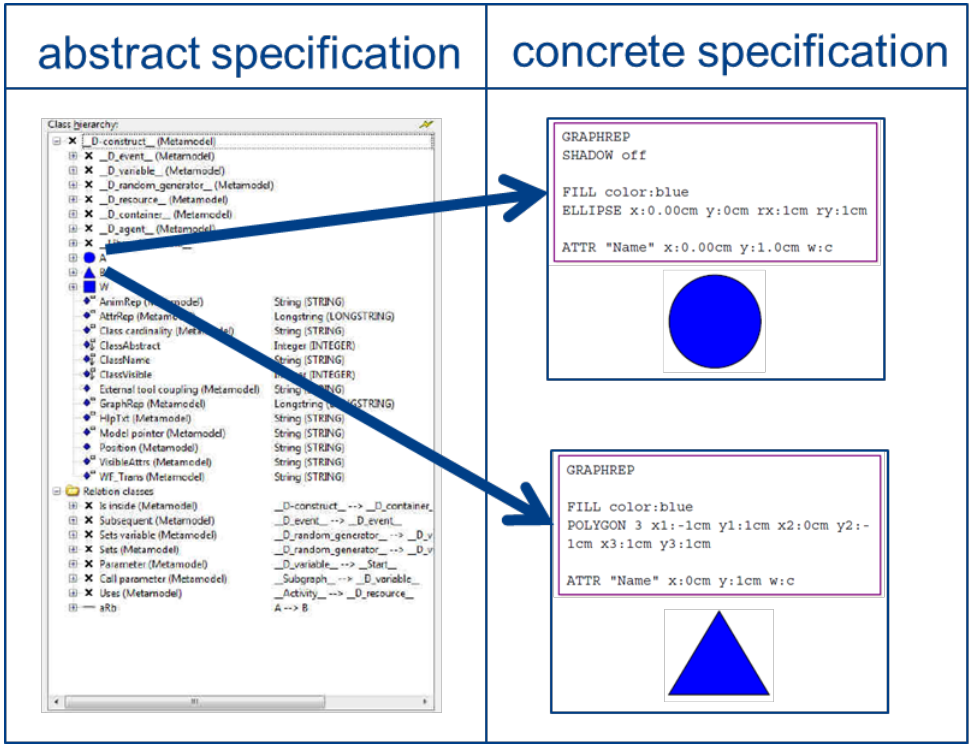
Abstract and Concrete Specification

- The Semantics of a model language is defined by
  - Classes of elements and relations
  - Class hierarchy
  - Attributes of the elements
- The Syntax is defined by
  - special attribute GraphRep



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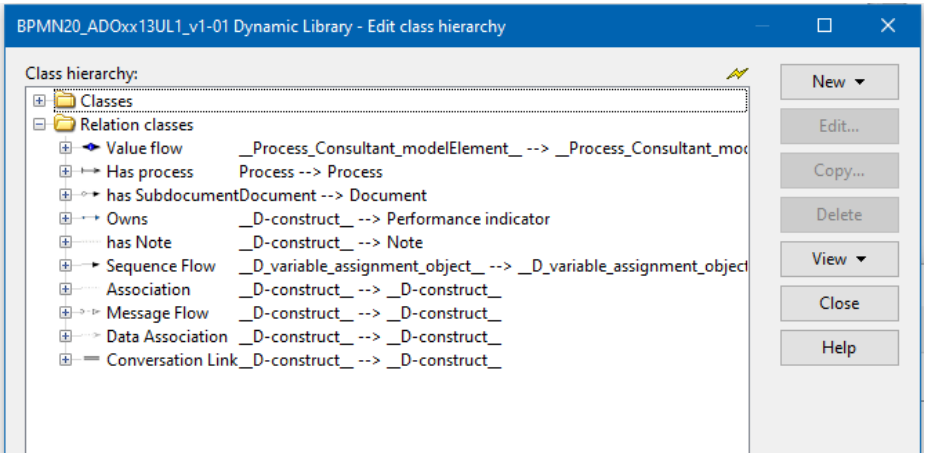
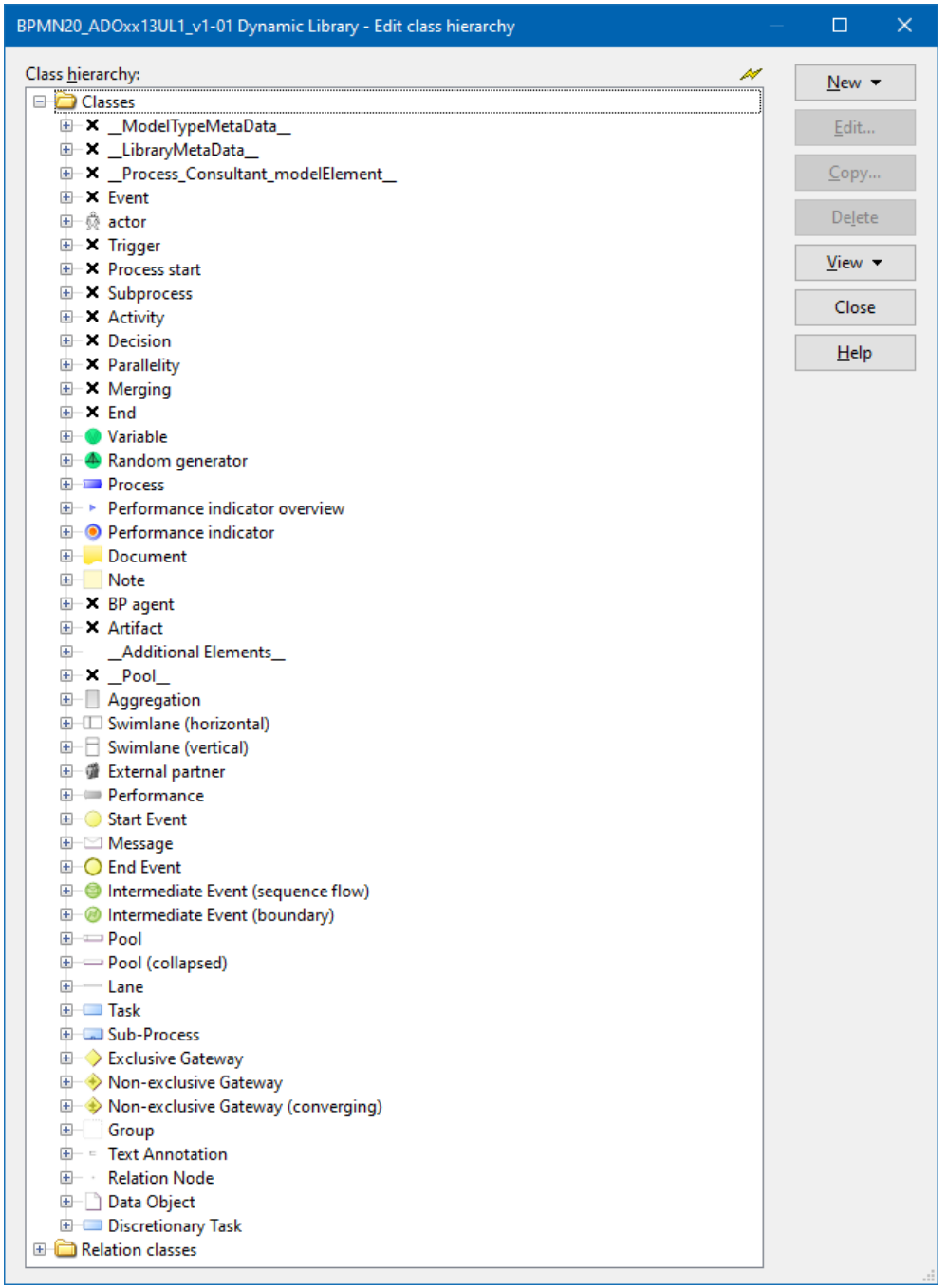
Class Hierarchies

- ADOxx distinguishes
  - Classes
  - Relation classes





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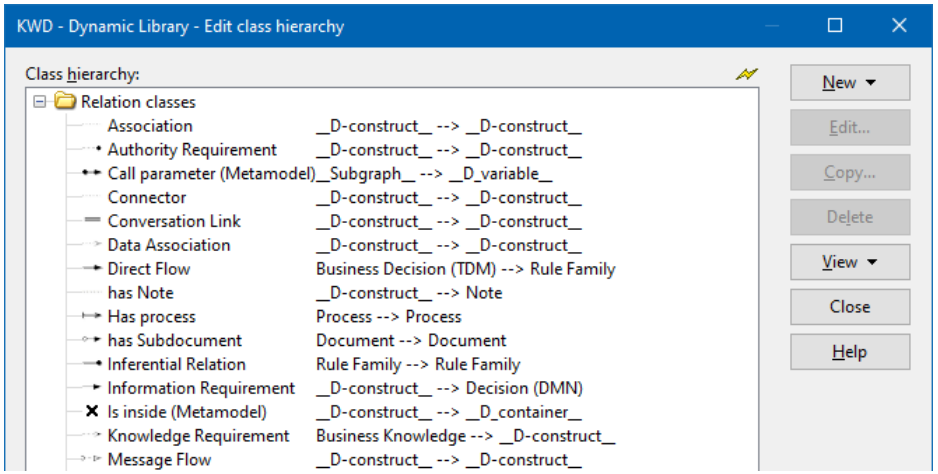
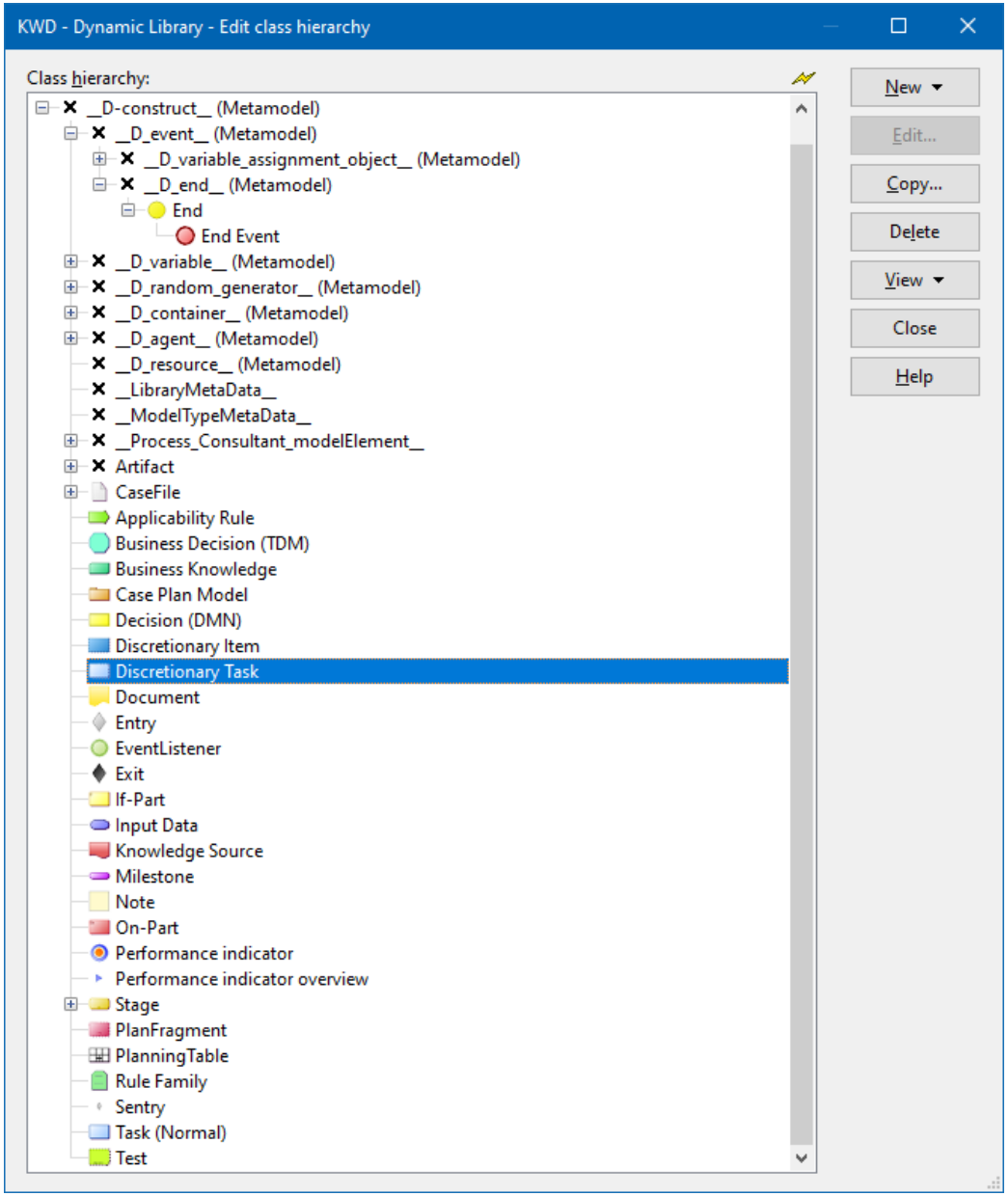
Class Hierarchies

- ADOxx distinguishes
  - Classes
  - Relation classes





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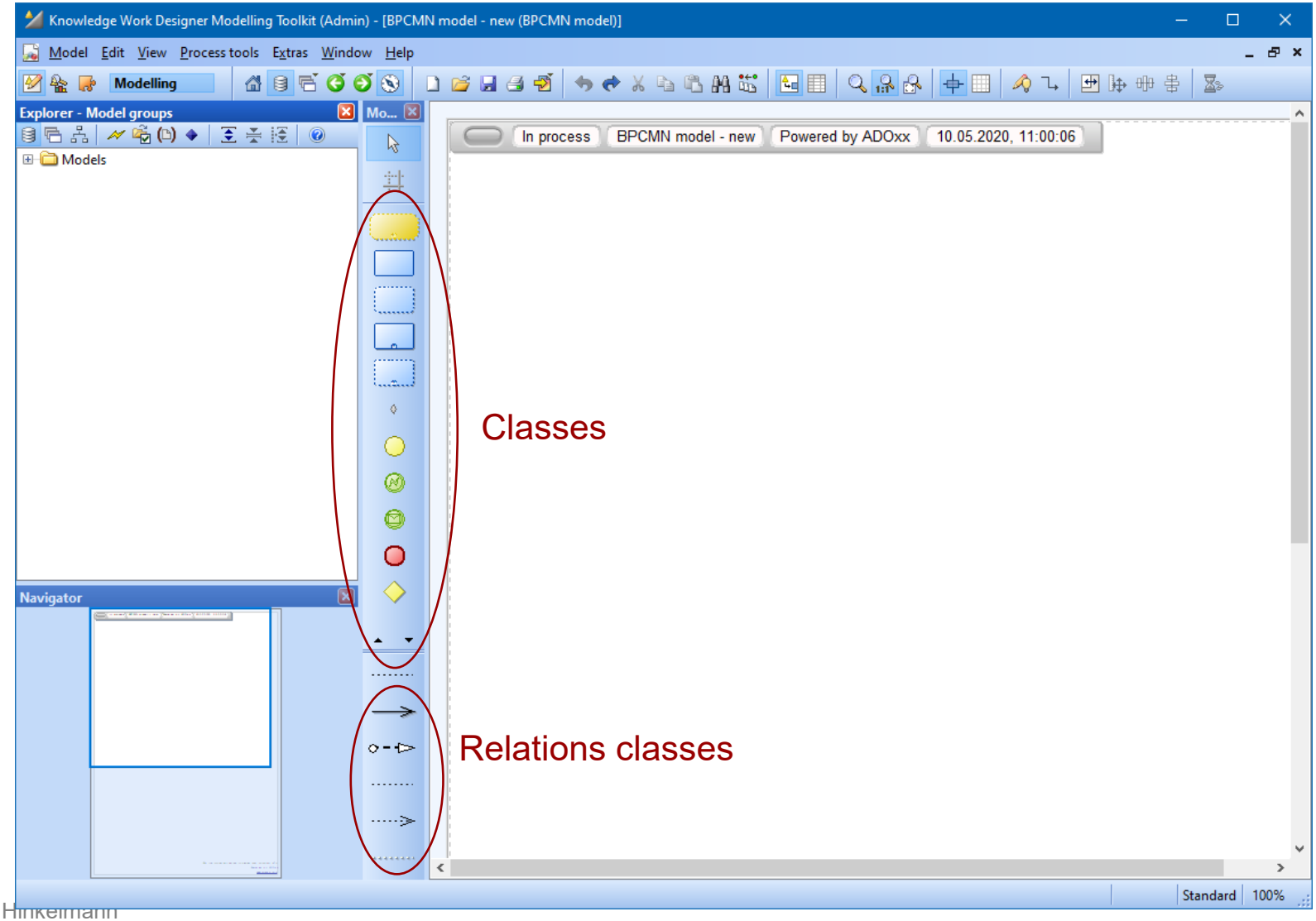
Appearance of Classes in the Modelling Toolkit



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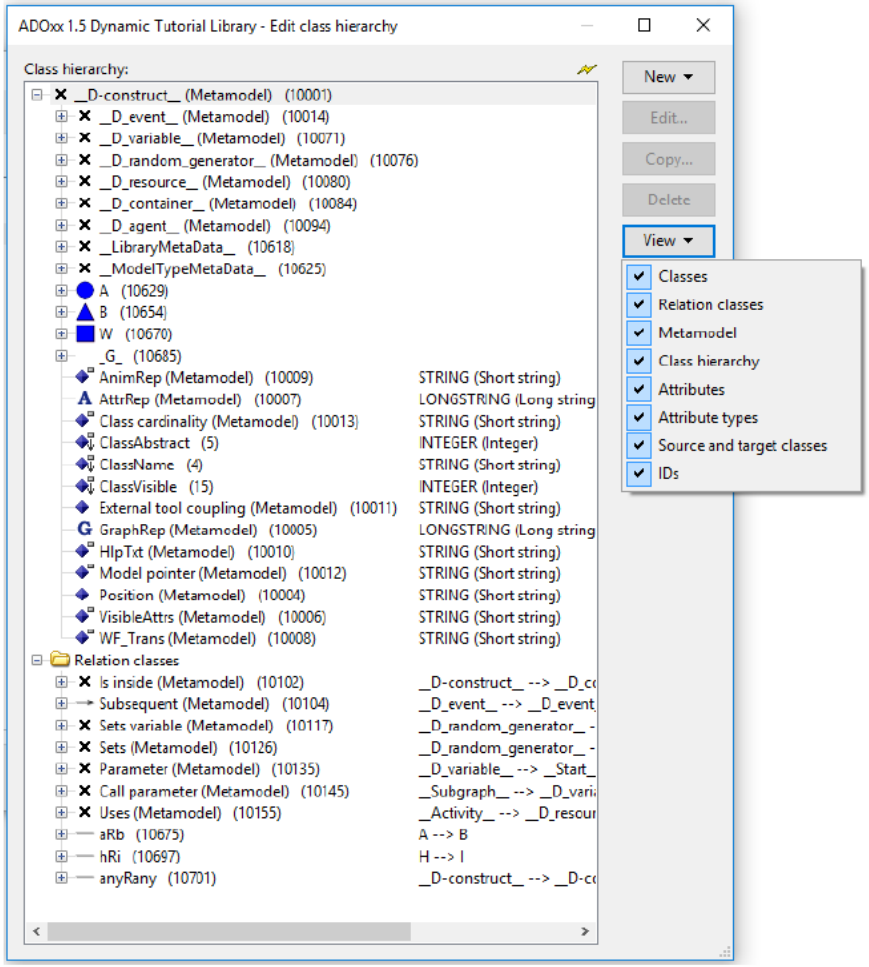
Views of the Class Hierarchy



Classes

All visible classes will be shown

Relation classes

All available relation classes will be shown

Metamodel

All classes will be shown

Class hierarchy

All classes will be shown with their inheritance in a hierarchy

Attributes

The attributes of the (relation-)classes will be shown

Attribute types

The type of each attribute will be shown

Source- and Target-classes

Shows the endpoints for each relation class, i.e. between which classes it can be used.

IDs

Shows ID numbers of classes and attributes

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Icons in Class Hierarchy

 **Class** (the icon shows the graphical definition of the object and can therefore vary)

 **Class** (without a graphical definition)

 **Attribute**

 **Attribute** (inherited from another class)

 **Class attribute**

 **Class attribute** (inherited from another class)

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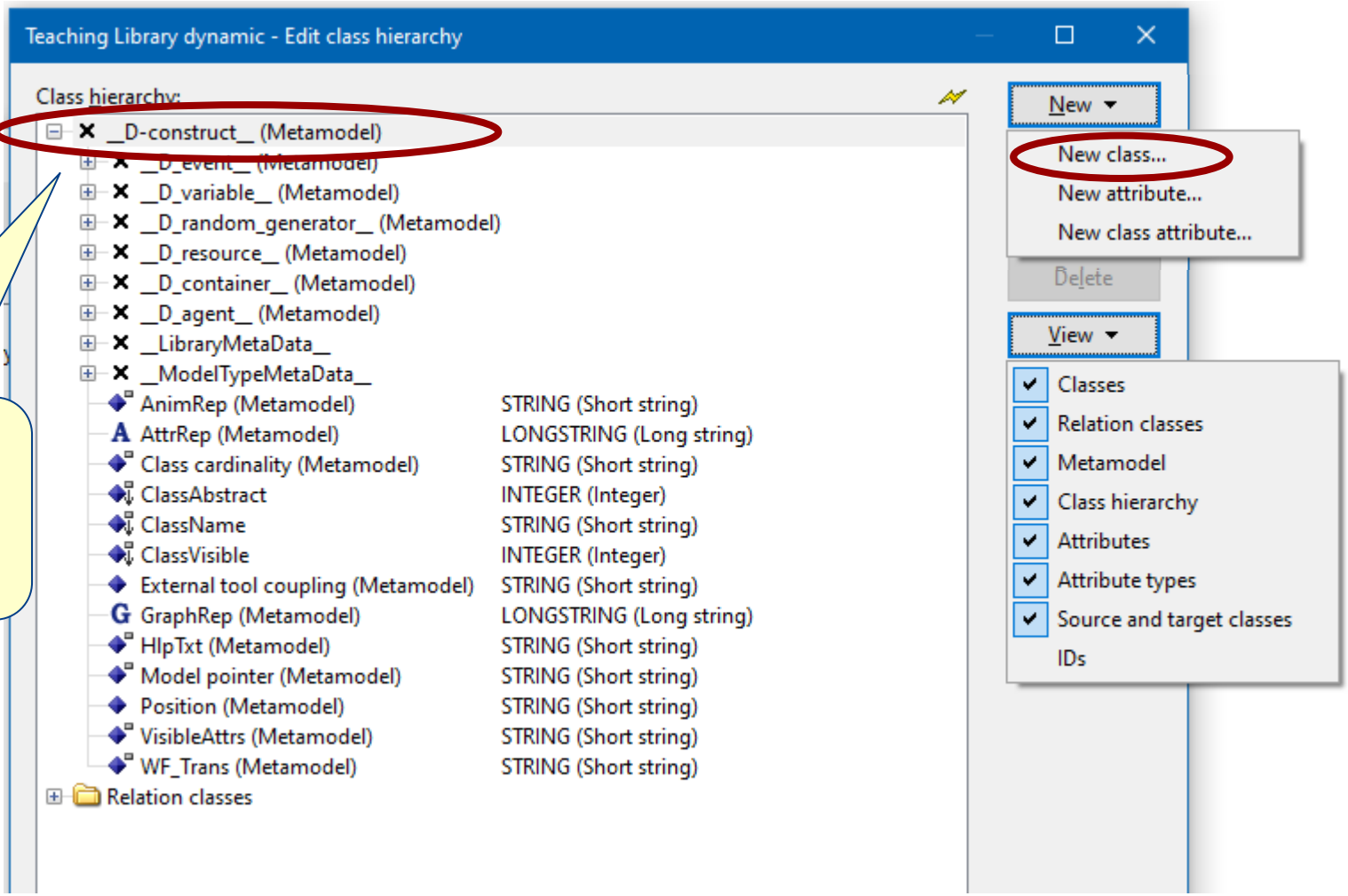
Creating new Classes



There are predefined abstract classes which have specific functionaliy

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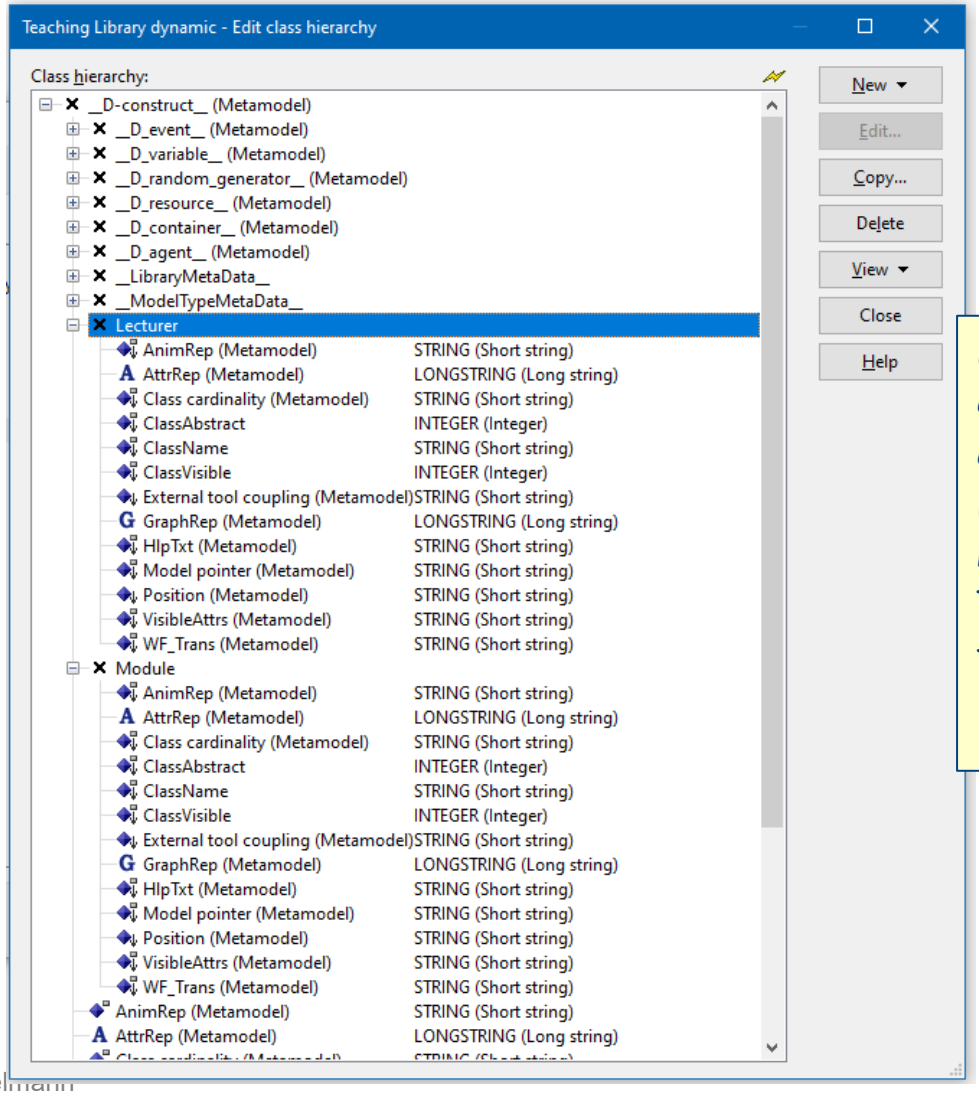
New Classes for Lecturer and Module



New classes, e.g. «Lecturer» and «Module» can be defined as subclasses of D-construct, if no specific functionality is needed.
They inherit the attributes of the superclass

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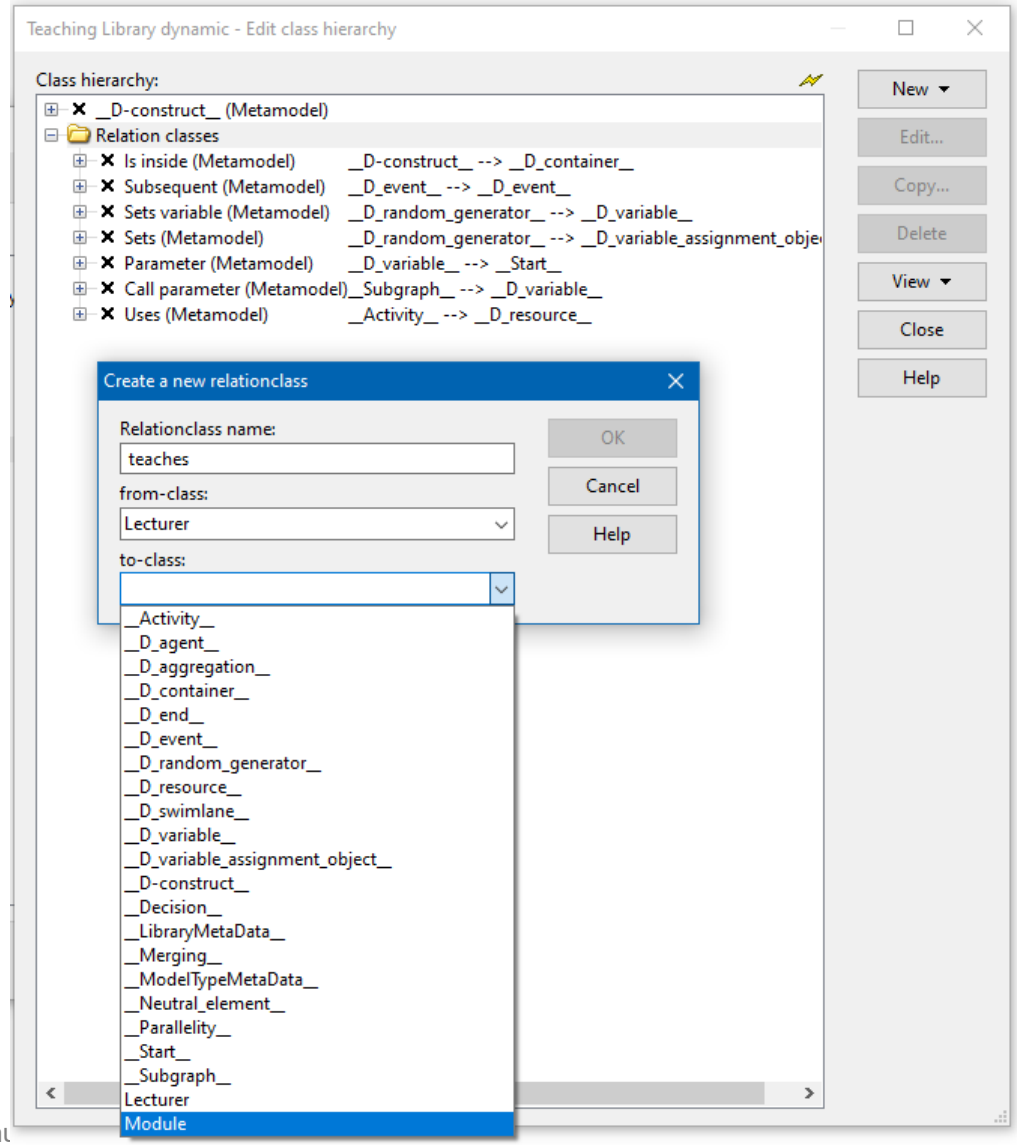
Defininig a new Relation



Example: A new relation «teaches» for elements from class «Lecturer» to class «Module»

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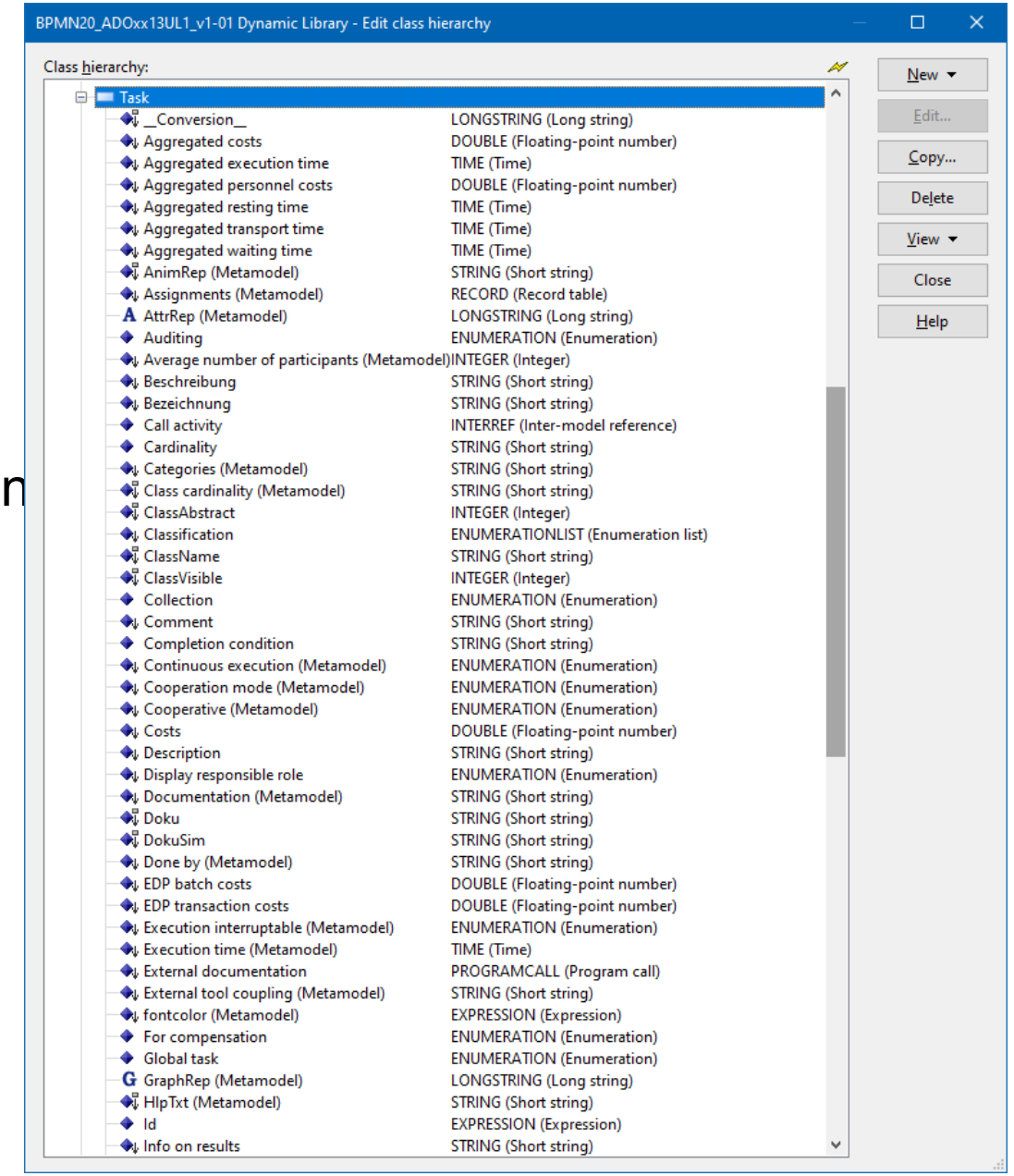
Attributes

- Kinds of Attributes
  - Properties of Models
  - Graphical Representation
  - References



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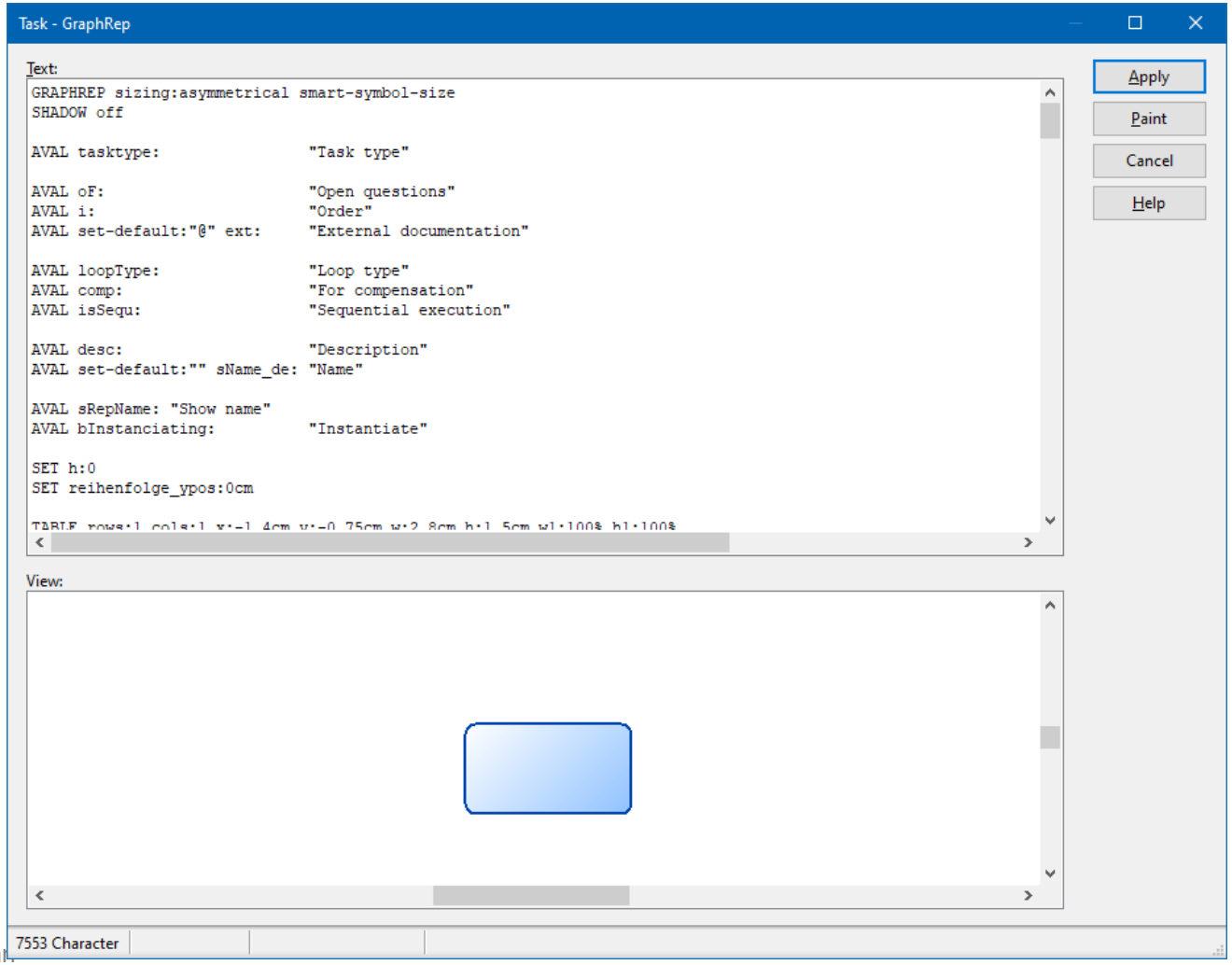
Special Attribute GraphRep

GraphRep: A script language for the graphical representation



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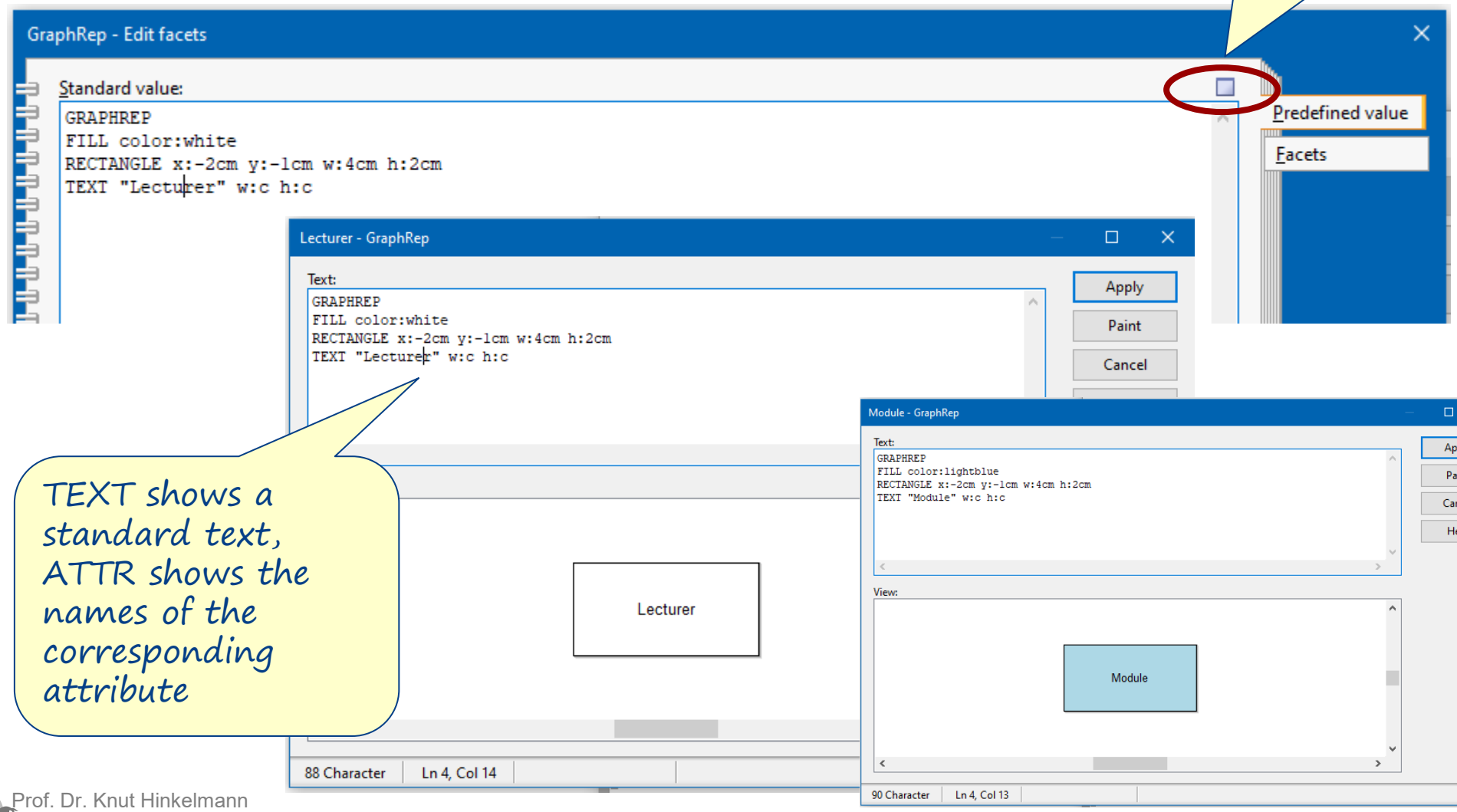
Defining a GraphRep

With the help button you can define and test the graphics



TEXT shows a standard text, ATTR shows the names of the corresponding attribute

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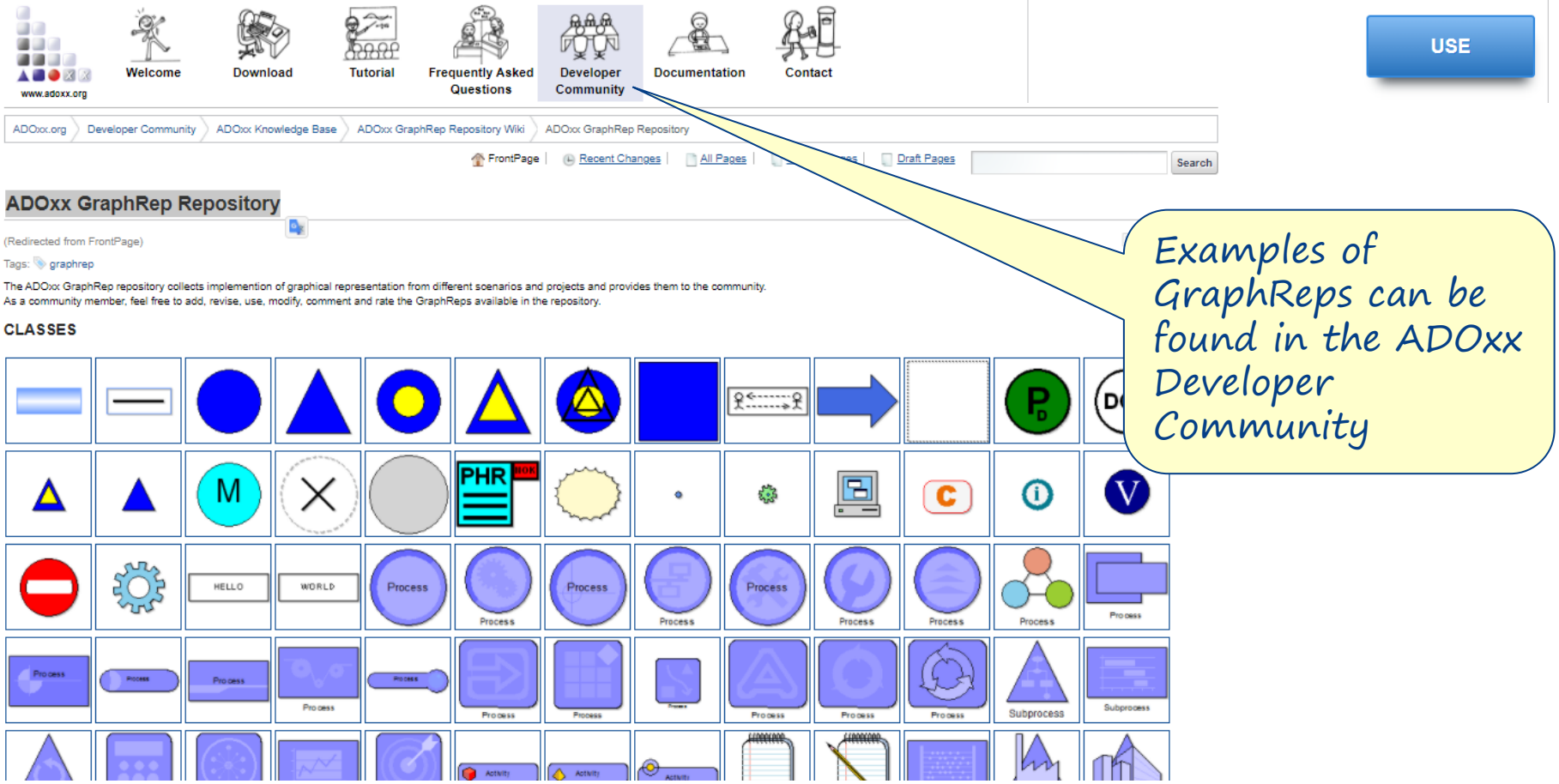
ADOxx GraphRep Repository



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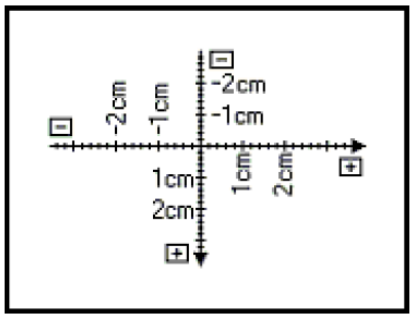
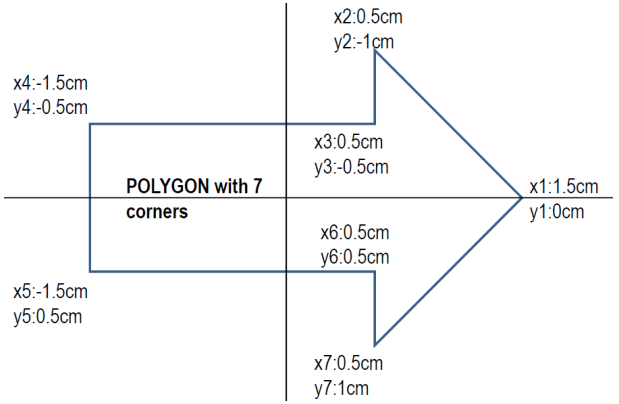
GraphRep Elements

- Types of elements
  - Style elements
  - Shape elements
  - Variable assigning elements
  - Context elements
  - Control elements

```
Edge | Start | Middle | End |
Pen | Fill | Shadow | Stretch | Map | Font |
ClipRect | ClipRoundRect | ClipPoly | ClipEllipse | ClipOff |
Point | Line | PolyLine | Arc | Bezier | Curve |
Rectangle | RoundRect | Polygon | Ellipse | Pie |
BeginPath | MoveTo | LineTo | BezierTo |
EndPath | DrawPath |
Compound | Bitmap | GradientRect | GradientTri |
Text | Attr | Hotspot |
Set | Aval | Table | TextBox | AttrBox | BitmapInfo |
IfStatement | WhileStatement |
ForNumStatement | ForTokenStatement | Execute.
```

- Elements are placed on x-y-axes





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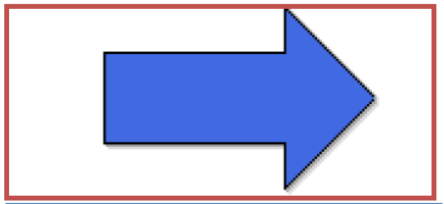
GraphRep Examples

```
GRAPHREP
SHADOW off

FILL color:blue
ELLIPSE x:0.00cm y:0cm rx:1cm ry:1cm

ATTR "Name" x:0.00cm y:1.0cm w:c
```

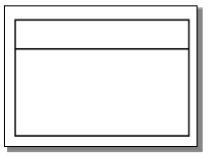
```
GRAPHREP
FILL color:royalblue
POLYGON 7 x1:1.5cm y1:0cm x2:0.5cm
y2:-1cm x3:0.5cm y3:-0.5cm x4:-1.5cm
y4:-0.5cm x5:-1.5cm y5:0.5cm
x6:0.5cm y6:0.5cm x7:0.5cm y7:1cm
ATTR "Name" y:1.4cm w:c h:c
```



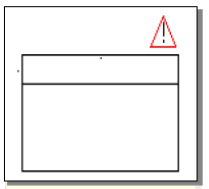
In case attribute name is available, it is shown here

Conditional Representation

```
GRAPHREP
AVAL set-default:"Modeling finished" b:"Status"
SHADOW off
FILL style:null
POLYGON 4 x1:-1.54cm y1:0.92cm x2:1.54cm y2:0.92cm
          x3:1.54cm y3:-0.98cm x4:-1.54cm y4:-0.98cm
LINE x1:-1.54cm y1:-0.50cm x2:1.54cm y2:-0.50cm
IF (b = "Modeling not finished")
  LINE x1:1.25cm y1:-1.5cm x2:1.25cm y2:-1.3cm
  LINE x1:1.25cm y1:-1.22cm x2:1.25cm y2:-1.18cm
  PEN color:red
  POLYGON 3 x1:1cm y1:-1.1cm x2:1.25cm y2:-1.6cm
            x3:1.50cm y3:-1.1cm
ENDIF
```



Condition fulfilled



Condition not fulfilled

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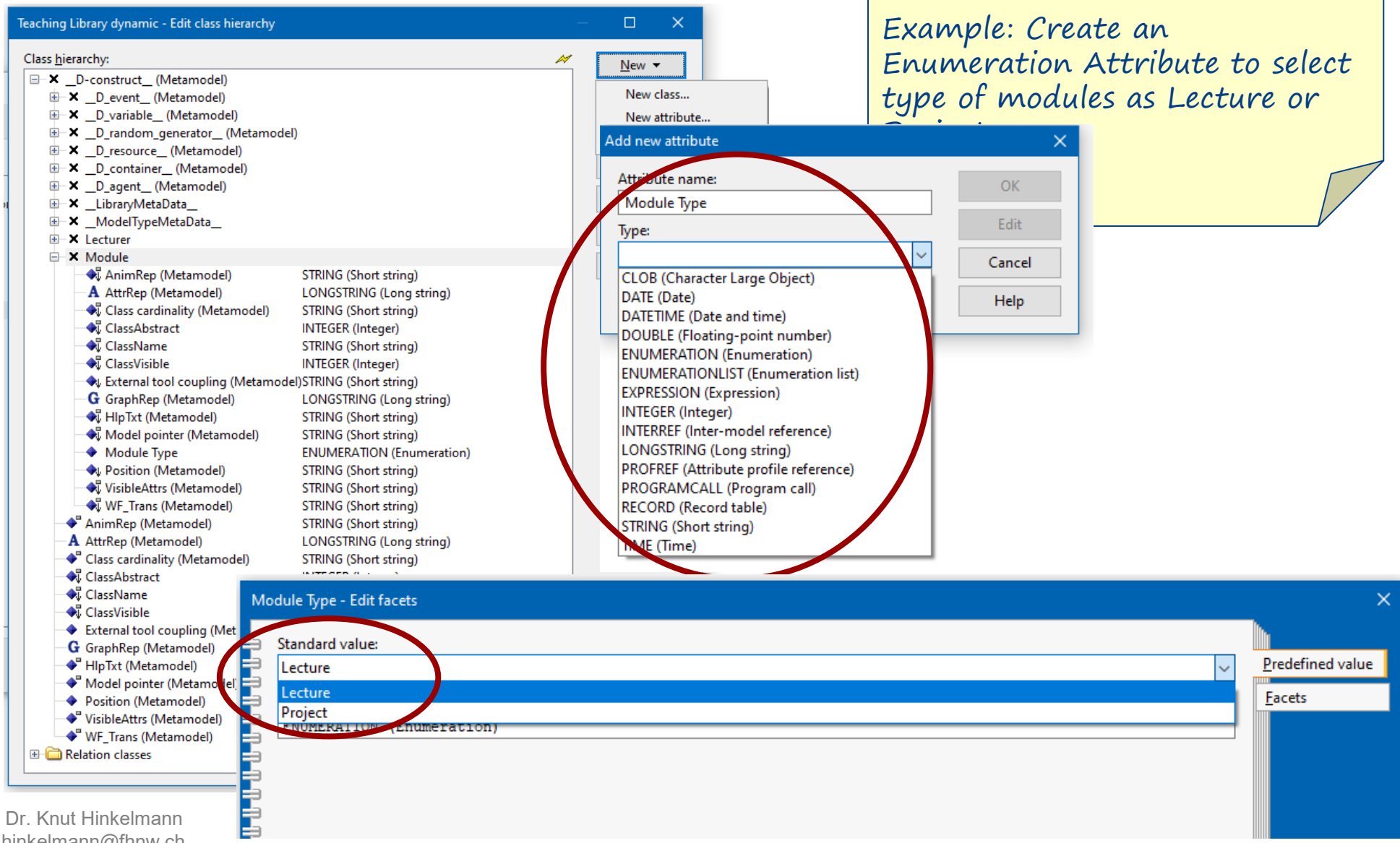
Defining a new Attribute

1. Select Class
2. Right Click or select «New Attribute ...»
3. Define Attribute

Example: Create an Enumeration Attribute to select type of modules as Lecture or



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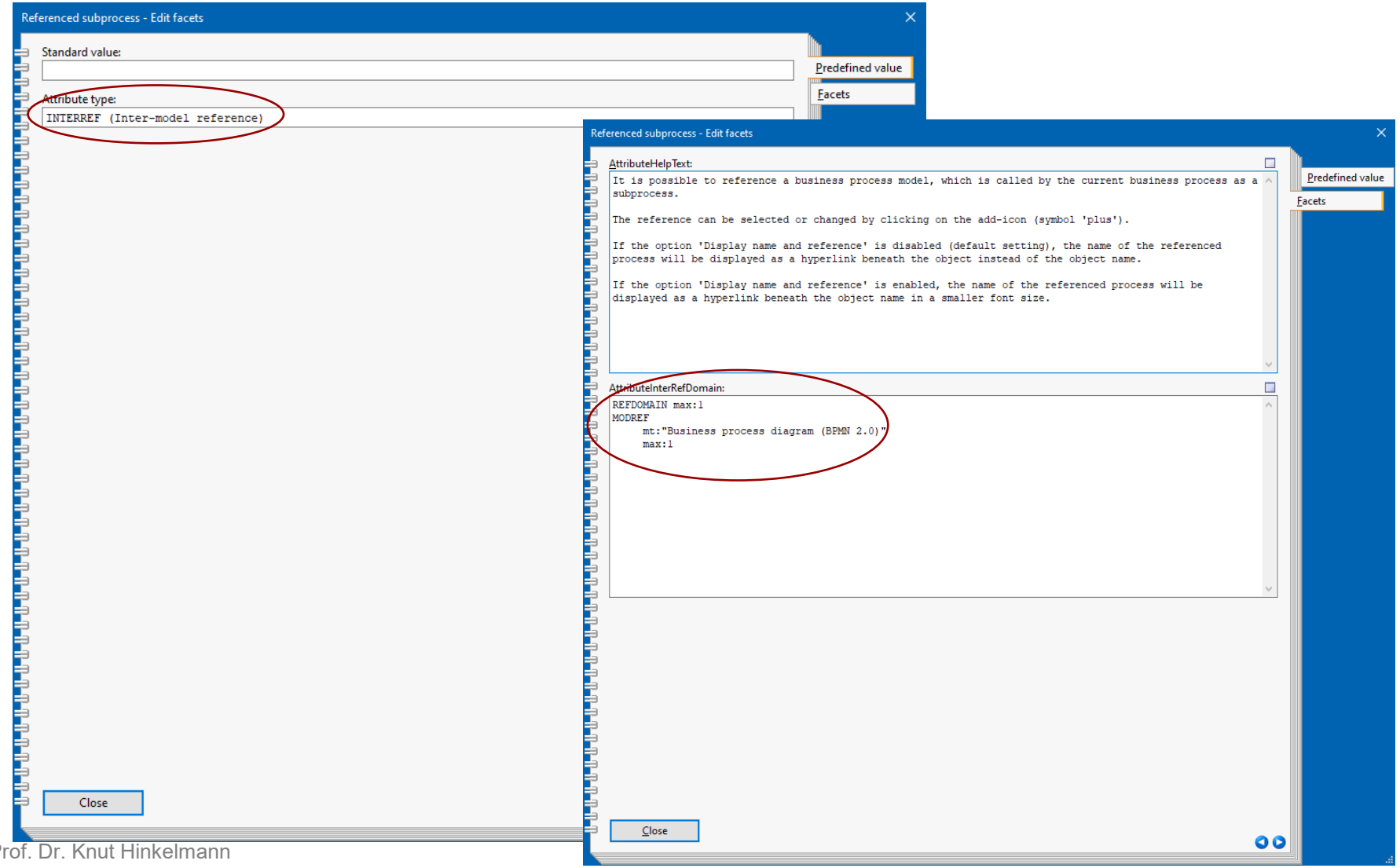
References

Referencing a Subprocess



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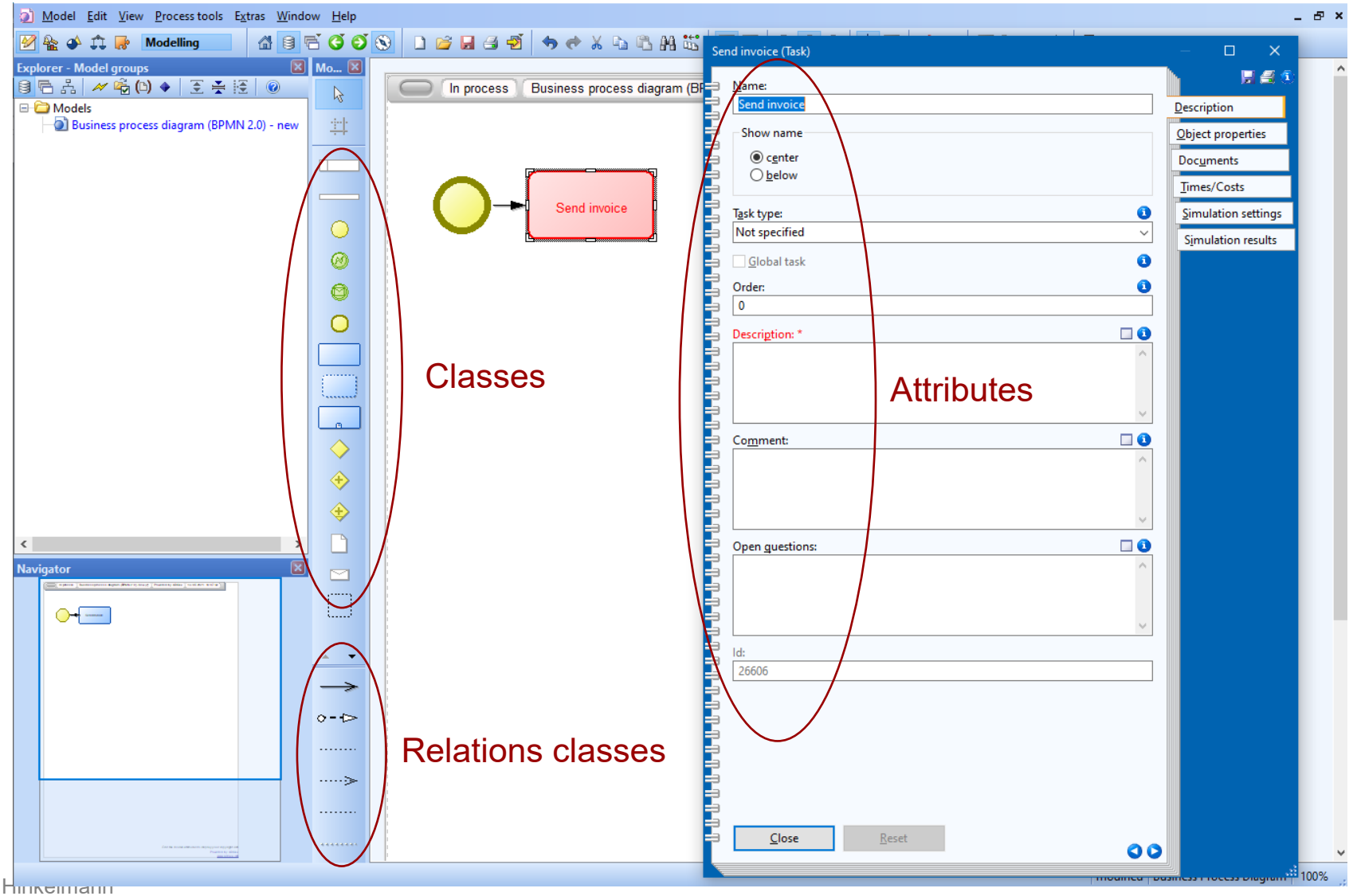
Appearance of Classes in the Modelling Toolkit



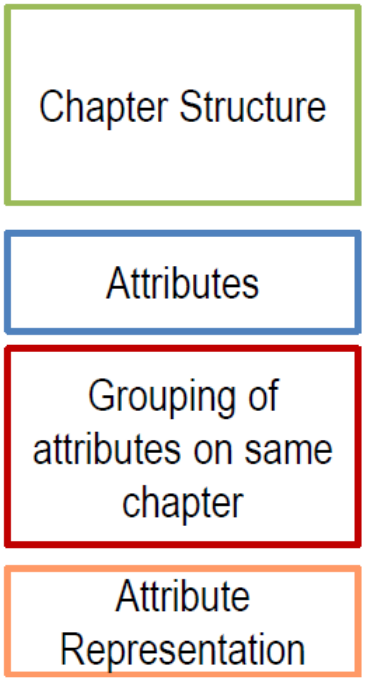
AttrRep

The class attribute „AttrRep“ controls the structure of the ADOxx-Notebook.

```
NOTEBOOK
CHAPTER "Definition"
ATTR "Name"
GROUP "Definition"
ATTR "Description"
ATTR "External content"
ENDGROUP
```

```
NOTEBOOK
CHAPTER "Definition"
ATTR "Name"
ATTR "Description"
CHAPTER "Dialectic Influence"
ATTR "Influencing dialectics" lines:10
```

```
NOTEBOOK
CHAPTER "Definition"
ATTR "External graphic"
```



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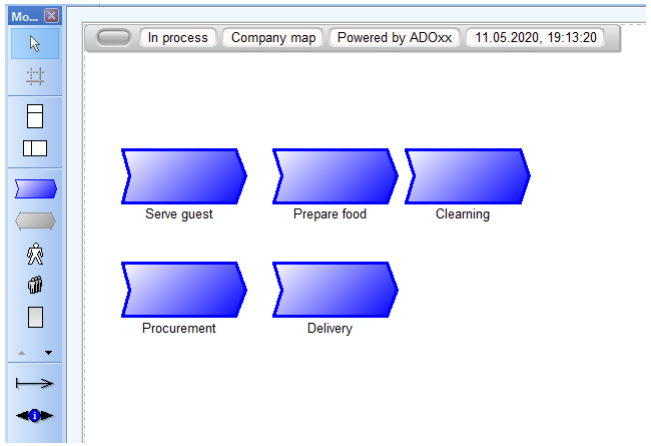
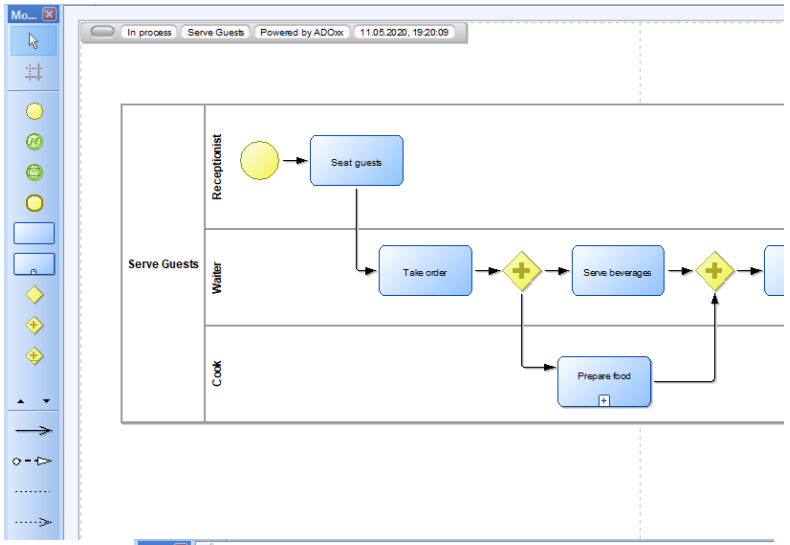
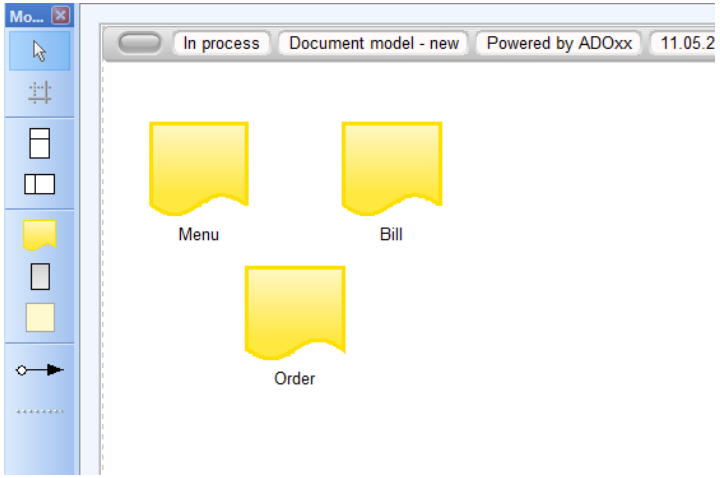
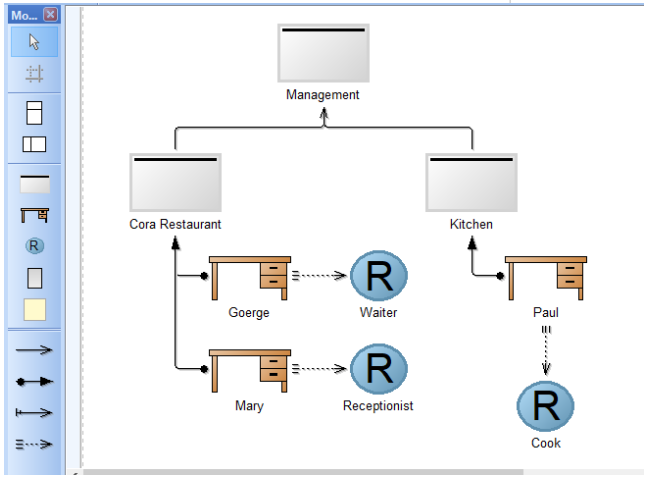
Model Types: Represention Views on the Knowledge









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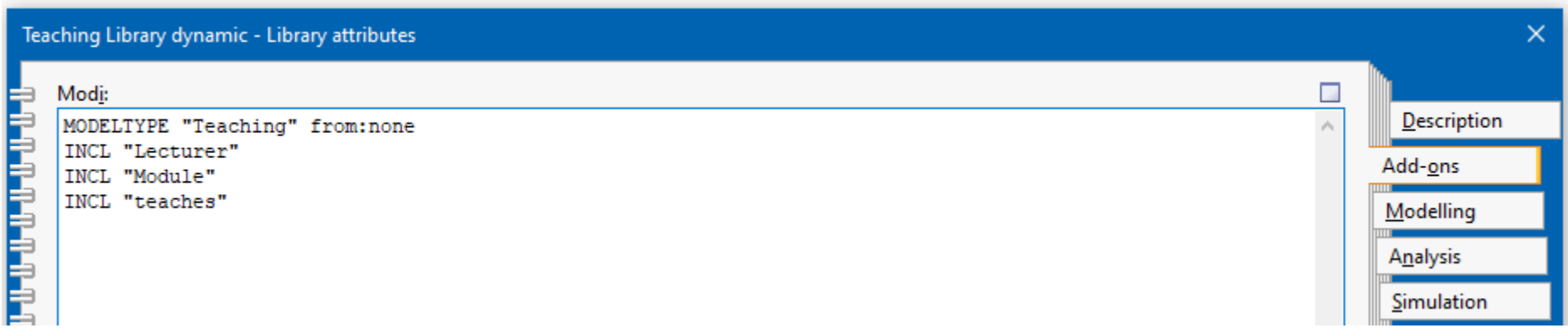
Example



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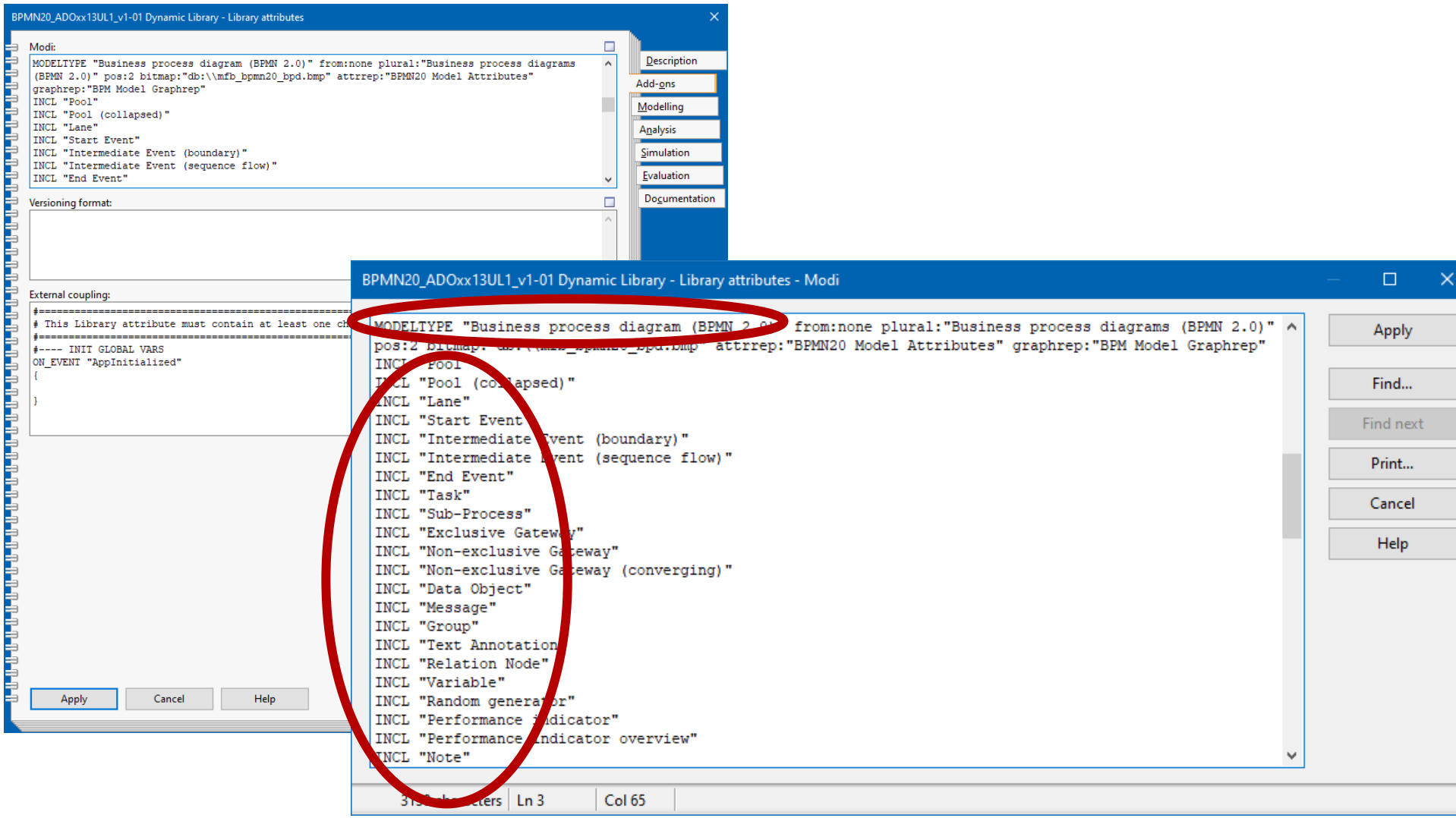
Classes are assigned to Model Types



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Change of Metamodel

- Example: new task type Cloud Task