

XL language: Introduction

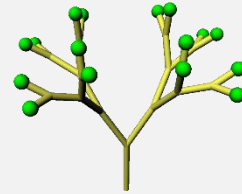
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FSPM & GroIMP Workshop

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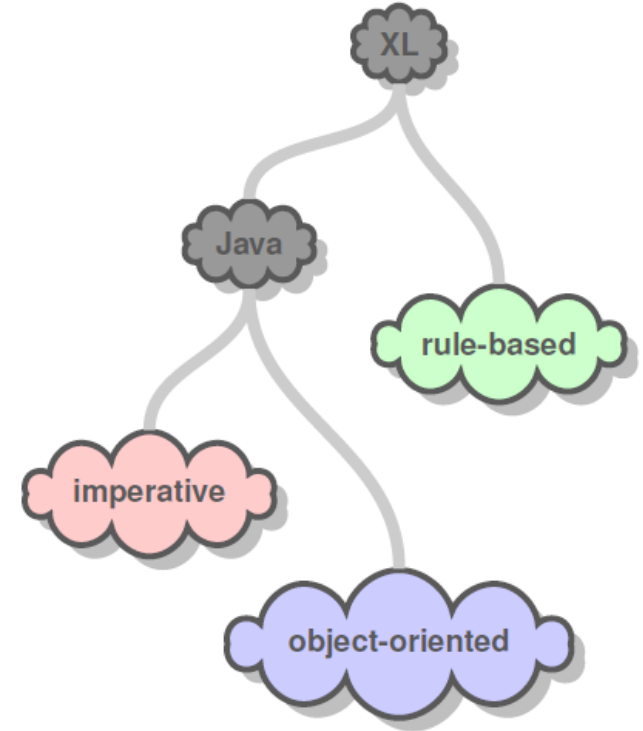
November 1, 2025

```
module A(float len) extends Sphere(0.1);  
  
int time;  
  
protected void init()  
[  
    { time = 0; }  
  
    Axiom ==> A(1);  
]  
  
public void run()  
[  
    {  
        time++;  
        println("time: " + time);  
    }  
  
    A(x) ==> F(x) [RU(30) RH(90) A(x*0.8)] [RU(-30) RH(90) A(x*0.8)];  
]
```



XL modelling language

- **XL**: e**X**tended **L**-system language
- Combines multiple programming paradigms (ways of structuring code)
- Extension of **Java**
 - Imperative & object-oriented
- Implements L-systems and graph grammars
 - Rule-based



Imperative programming in XL

- Explicit statements
- Code controls execution flow
- Tasks performed step-by-step
- E.g. photosynthesis calculation

```
// Non-rectangular hyperbola as described by Thornley
// ppfd - photosynthetic photon flux density (umol photons m-2 s-1)
// (absorbed radiation per unit area)
// amax - max photosynthesis rate (umol CO2 m-2 s-1)
// alpha - leaf photosynthetic efficiency (umol CO2 umol-1 photons)
// A - rate of photosynthesis (umol CO2 m-2 s-1)
static double calculatePS_Thornley(double ppfd, double amax,
    double alpha, double theta) {

    double a = theta;
    double b = alpha*ppfd + amax;
    double c = alpha*ppfd * amax;

    double fn = b - Math.sqrt(Math.pow(b,2) - 4*a*c);
    double A = fn / (2*a);

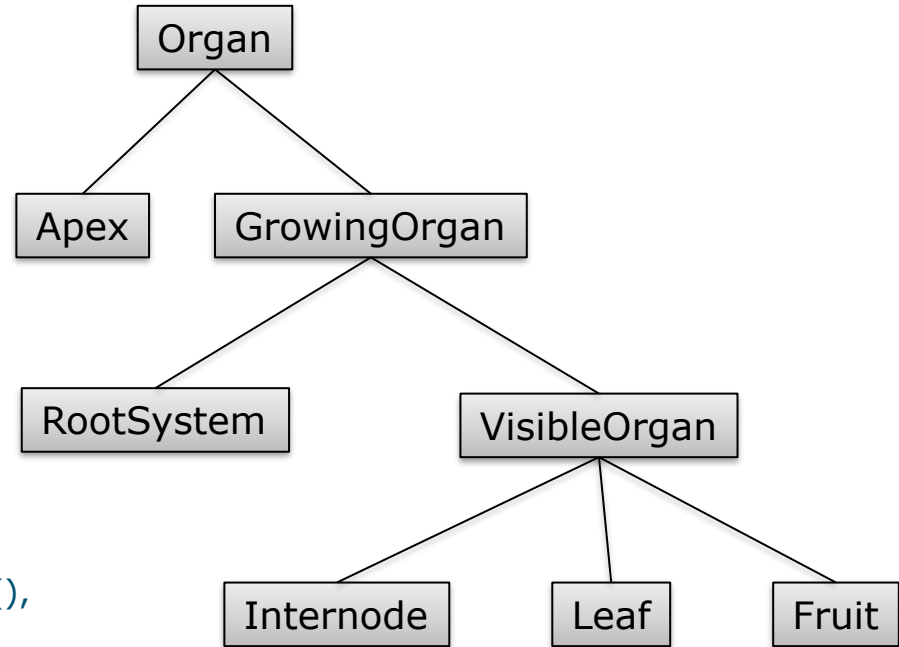
    return A;
}
```

Object-oriented programming in XL

- Code organised around objects (with data and behaviour)
- Supports inheritance
- E.g. organ modules

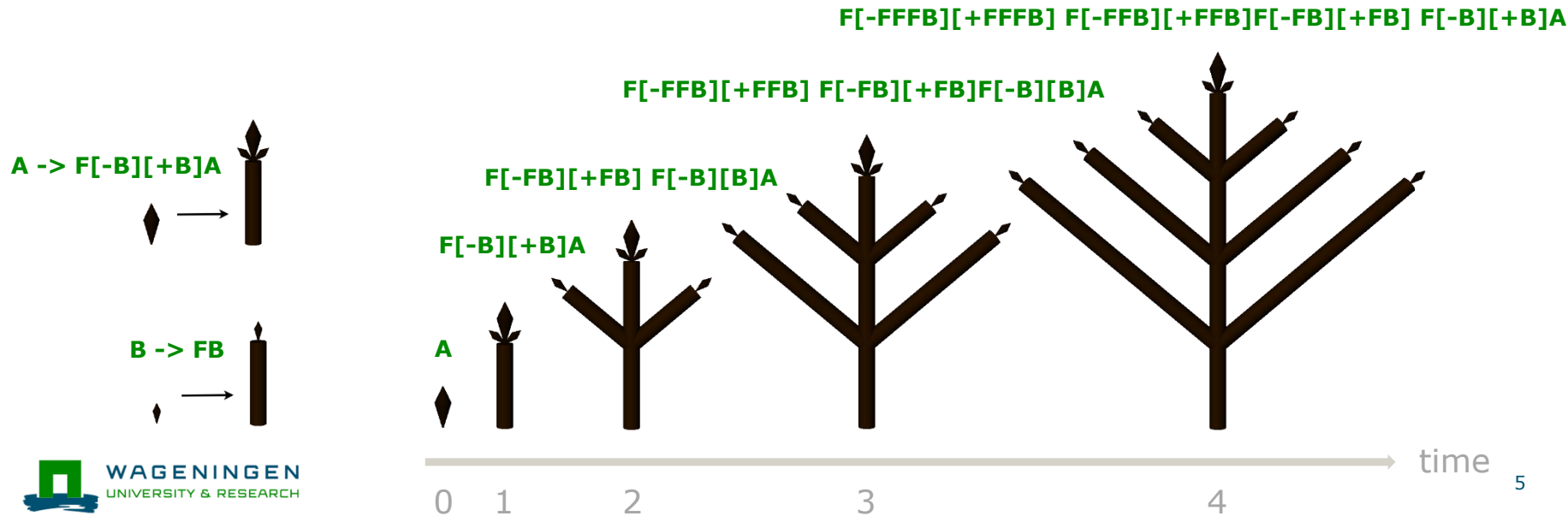
VisibleOrgan

- attributes: `absRadiation`, `assimilates`
- methods: `calcLight()`, `calcPhotosynthesis()`, `calcDimensions()`



Rule-based programming in XL

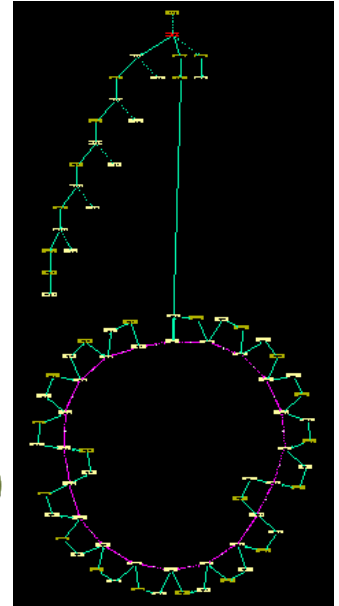
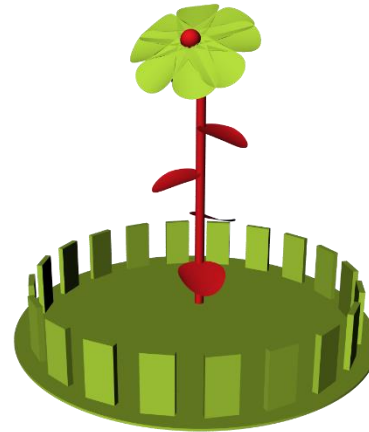
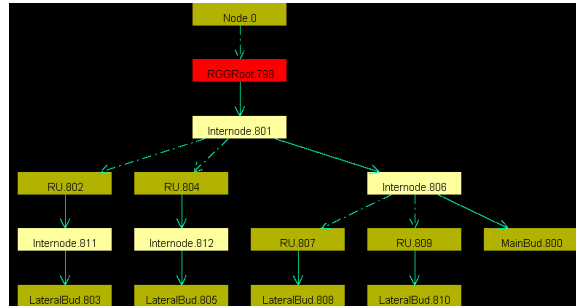
- Knowledge represented in form of rules; rules define what to do
- Rules applied as long as possible: *matching & rewriting* process



XL implements relational graph grammars

- **RGG** - relational growth grammars

allow for the definition of L-system style rewriting rules on a *graph* structure and new type of *relations*



Use of imperative code in XL

Try this out

- XL rules and Java code can be mixed and nested

rule-based blocks: `[ ... ]`

imperative blocks: `{ ... }`

```
module A(float len) extends Sphere(0.1);

int time;

protected void init()
[
    { time = 0; }

    Axiom ==> A(1);
]

public void run()
[
    {
        time++;
        println("time: " + time);
    }

    A(x) ==> F(x) [RU(30) RH(90) A(x*0.8)] [RU(-30) RH(90) A(x*0.8)];
]
```

```
// Alternatively:
{
    time = 0;
    [
        Axiom ==> A(1);
    ]
}
```

Some useful operators and methods

Comparison operators:

```
==          // equal to
!=          // not equal to
>           // greater than
<           // less than
>=          // greater than or equal to
<=          // less than or equal to
```

Logical operators:

```
&&          // logical AND
||          // logical OR
!           // logical NOT
```

Mathematical constants:

```
Math.PI      // the value of pi
Math.E       // Euler's number
```

Mathematical functions:

```
Math.sin(x)      // the sine of x (in radians)
Math.cos(x)      // the cosine of x (in radians)
Math.tan(x)      // the tangent of x (in radians)
Math.toDegrees(radians) // converts an angle from radians to degrees
Math.toRadians(deg) // converts an angle from degrees to radians
Math.sqrt(x)     // the square root of x
Math.exp(x)      // e raised to the power of x  $e^x$ 
Math.pow(x, y)   // x raised to the power of y  $x^y$ 
Math.log(x)      // the natural logarithm (base e) of x
Math.abs(x)      // the absolute value of x
Math.min(x, y)   // the smaller of two values
Math.max(x, y)   // the larger of two values
Math.round(x)    // rounds x to the nearest integer
```

XL functions for pseudorandom numbers

probability(x) - returns 1 with probability x , and 0 with probability $1-x$

random(a, b) - generates a uniformly distributed pseudorandom number between a and b

irandom(a, b) - generates a uniformly distributed integral pseudorandom number between a and b

normal(mu, sigma) - generates a normally distributed pseudorandom number with mean μ and standard deviation σ

setSeed(s) - sets a starting value for the pseudorandom number generator (to produce identical sequences of pseudorandom numbers)

Math.random() - generates a pseudorandom double number between 0.0 and 1.0

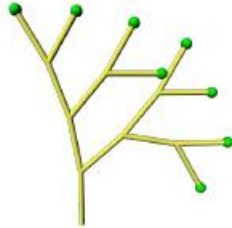
Adding randomness to XL models

Try this out

```
module A extends Sphere(0.1)
{
  { setShader(GREEN); }
}

protected void init()
[
  Axiom ==> A;
]

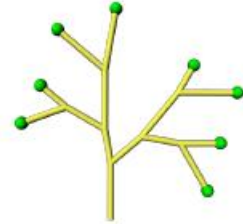
public void run()
[
  A ==>
    F(1, 0.1)
    [RU(50) A] [RU(-10) A]
  ;
]
```



```
module A extends Sphere(0.1)
{
  { setShader(GREEN); }
}

protected void init()
[
  Axiom ==> A;
  { setSeed(10); }
]

public void run()
[
  A ==>
    F(random(0.5, 1), 0.1)
    if (probability(0.5)) (
      [RU(50) A] [RU(-10) A]
    ) else (
      [RU(-50) A] [RU(10) A]
    )
  ;
]
```



RGG rule

- RGG – relational growth grammars - define rules for graph transformations

Essential RGG rule:

left hand side ==> right hand side

Complete RGG rule (5 parts):

(* context *), left hand side, (condition)

==>

right hand side { imperative code };

Types of rules

- 3 different types of rules

==> L-system rule

```
BudT ==> Internode(1) [RU(-30) BudL] [RU(30) BudL] BudT;
```

```
BudL ==> Internode(1) BudL;
```

::> Execution rule (no changes on the graph structure)

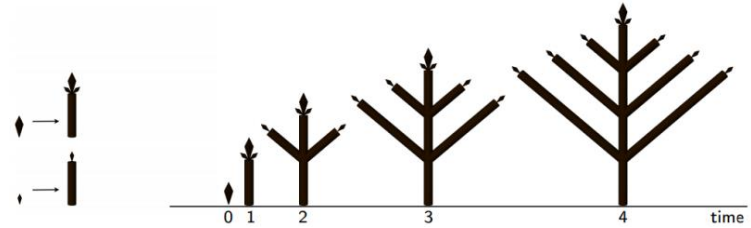
```
ModuleName ::> { imperative_code; }
```

```
i:Internode ::> { i[length] += 0.1; }
```

```
i:Internode ::> { i[age]++; }
```

==>> General graph-rewriting rule

```
b1:BudL, b2:BudL, ((b1 != b2) && (distance(b1, b2) < 0.5 )) ==>> b1 -c-> b2;
```





wiki.grogra.de



fspm.discourse.group

