Kappa

Juri Kolčák

Formal Languages

Formal languages are defined on strings, but the same **rule-based transformation** approach can be applied to different structures.



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Kappa

Kappa is a relatively young method, although graph transformation itself is much older. 21st cen. ~ 2010 ~1973

Applied to a special category of graphs, called site graphs.

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Type Graph signature / contact map

Effectively the "alphabet" of the model, specifying all types of nodes (agents), their interaction sites, activation and binding states.



Patterns

A pattern is a site graph for which the unique function mapping the pattern into the type graph is a homomorphism.

Patterns can also map into each other, these mappings are called **embeddings**.

The maximal, fully specified, patterns in which all nodes specify all the interaction sites given by the type graph, and each interaction site specifies a binding state as well as an activation state if the type graph specifies any activation states for said site, as called **complexes** and make up the states of the model.

Rules

A rule is defined as a left and right pattern, with an implicit identity of the nodes between the two patterns.



A rule application consists of embedding the left pattern in a complex and then replacing it with the right pattern, thus creating a new complex.





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Semantics

The underlying expanded network is the "explicit" representation of graph transformation model semantics.

In principle, there are multiple ways to interpret a Kappa model:

Qualitative;



Differential;

Simulation

In a given state, all embeddings of all rules give the possible transitions. The rates are specified per rule.

E) & for SSA

The states are generally much larger than left patterns of the rule. It is inefficient to recompute all the embeddings after each rule application.



Static Analysis

Identify (non-)reachability of a pattern without expanding the space.



