

FlexiSketch



Liberating Software Engineers from the Tyranny of Strict Modeling Languages

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University of
Zurich^{UZH}

Department of Informatics

1st Modelling For Sustainability
Workshop @ Bellairs

Requirements
Engineering
Research
Group



The FlexiSketch Team



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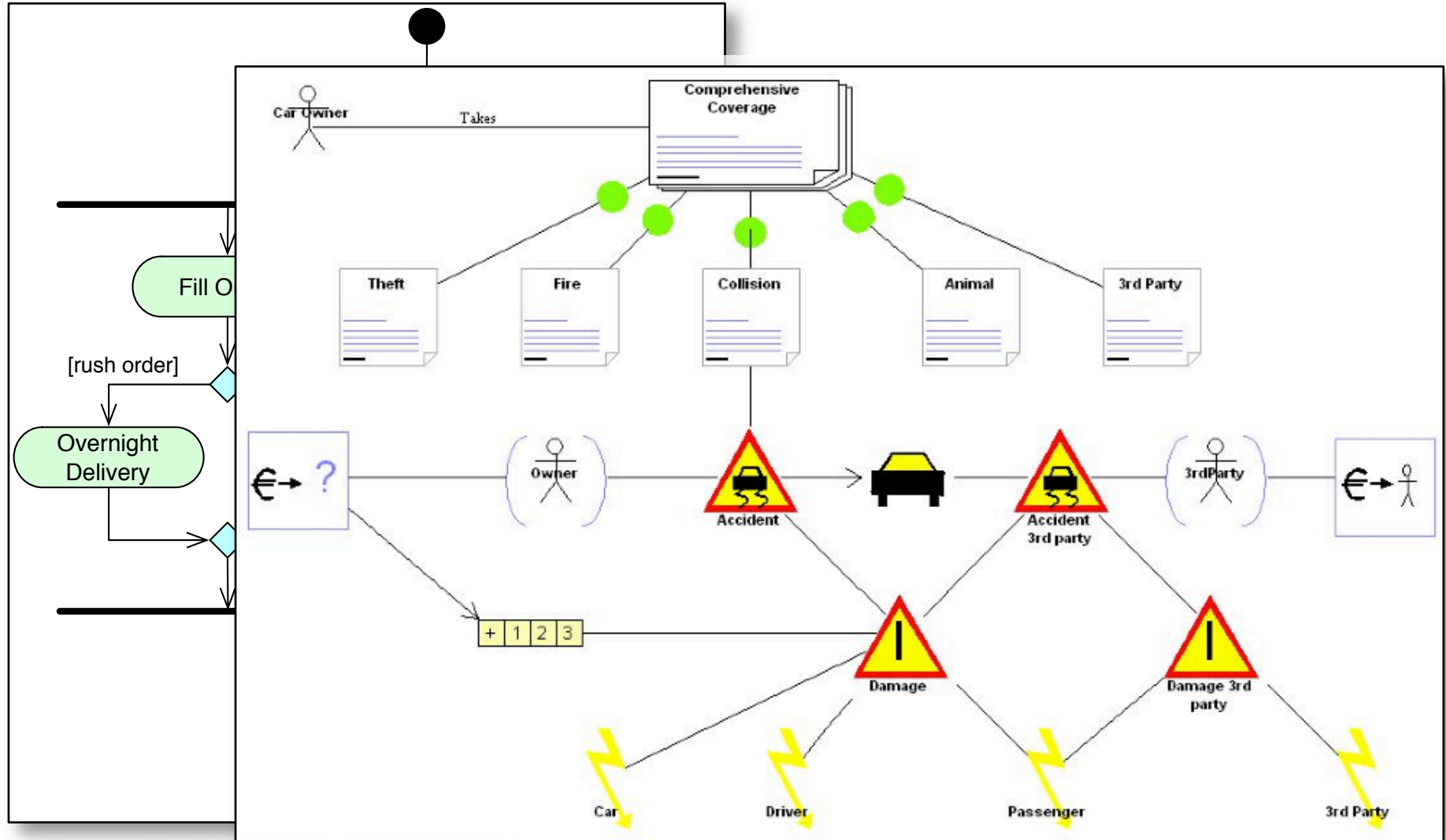
University of
Zurich^{UZH}

Department of Informatics

Requirements
Engineering
Research
Group **RE**
RG



Our Daily Work: Requirements Modeling

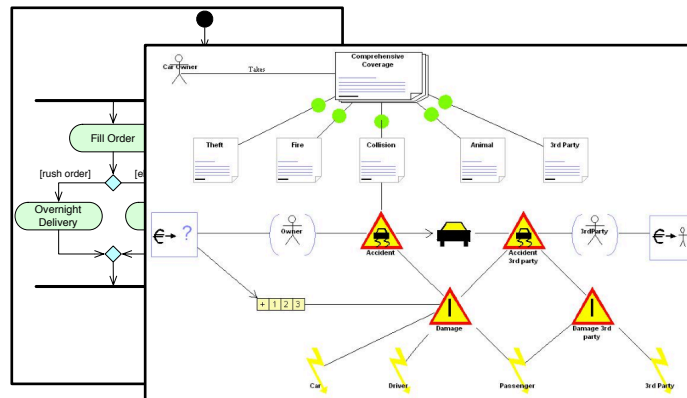


Source: <http://atlas.kennesaw.edu/~dbraun/csis4650/A&D/>

Source: <http://www.metacase.com/>



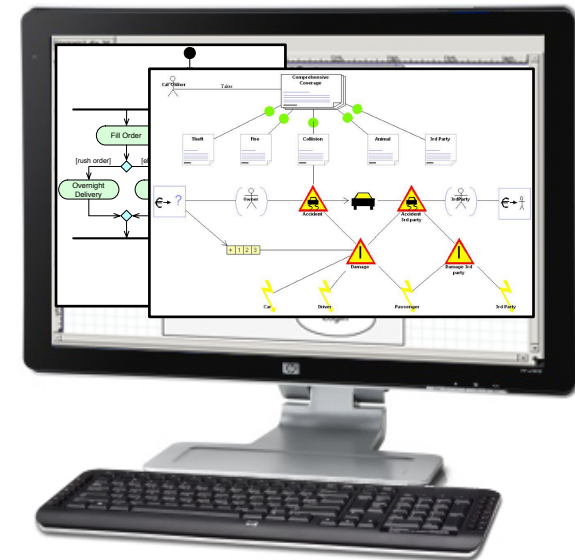
Our Daily Work: Requirements Modeling



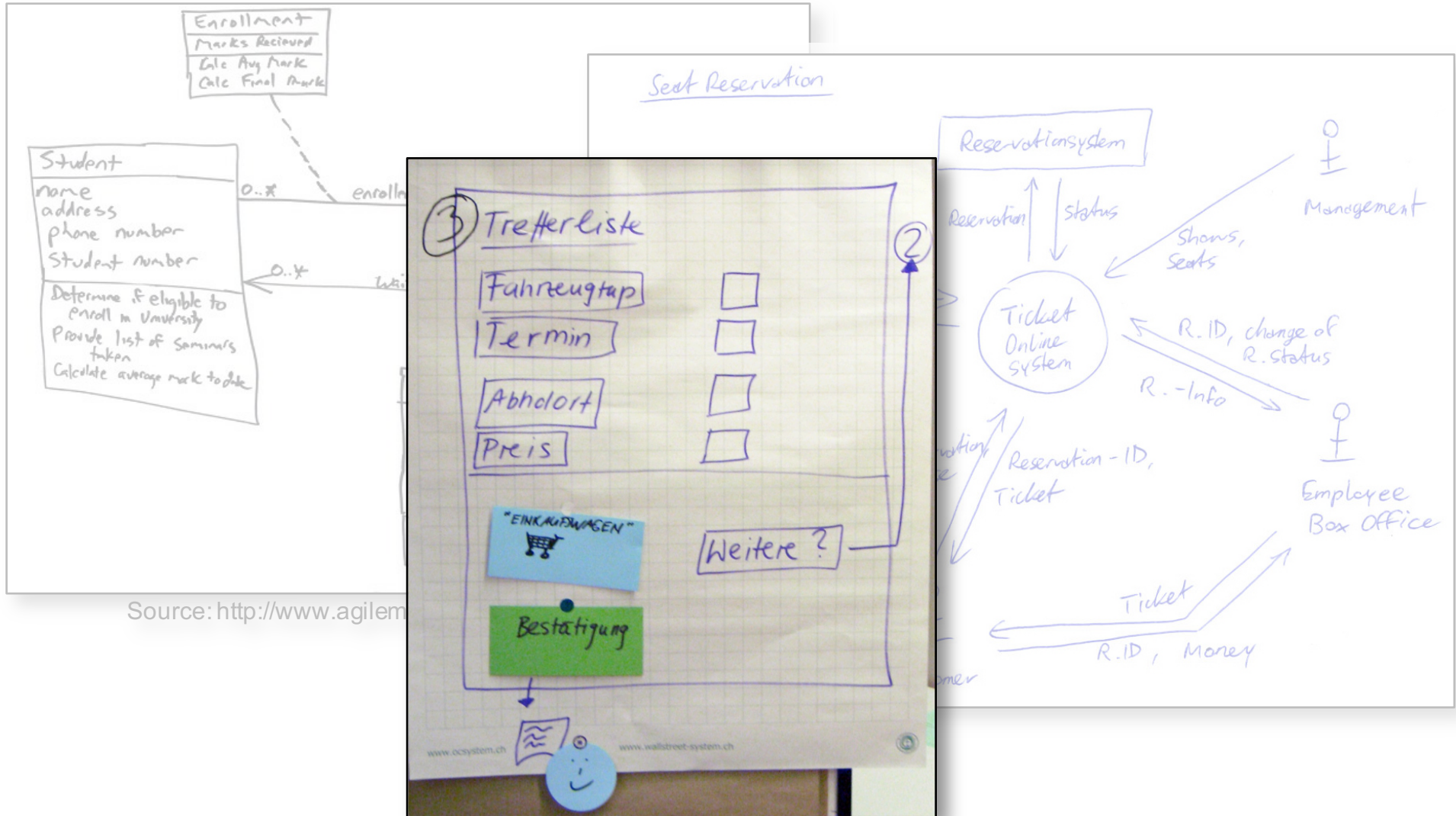
Our Daily Work: Requirements Modeling

Semi-formal Modeling

- Predefined notations (e.g., UML)
- Specialized tool support
- Support of model modifications and structured information re-use (e.g., MDA)



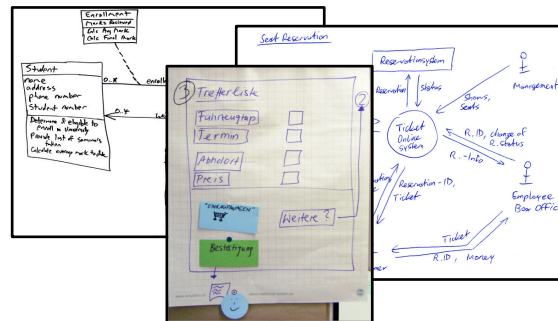
Our Daily Work II: Requirements Sketching



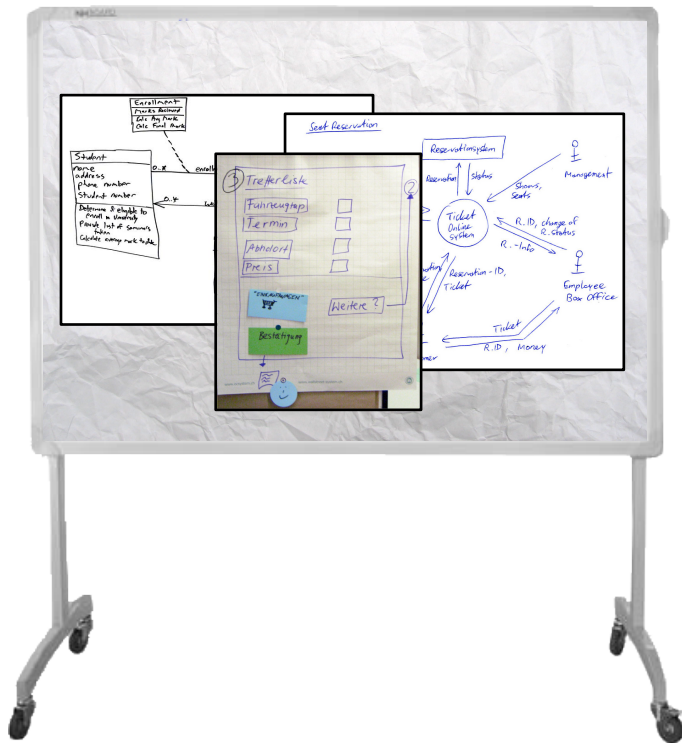
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Our Daily Work II: Requirements Sketching



Our Daily Work II: Requirements Sketching

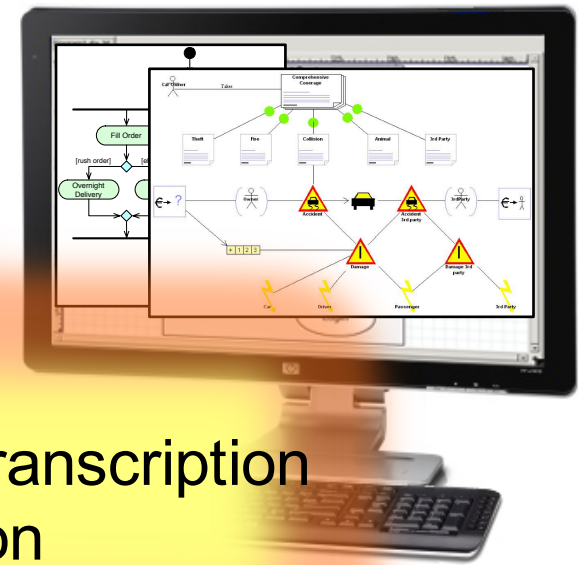
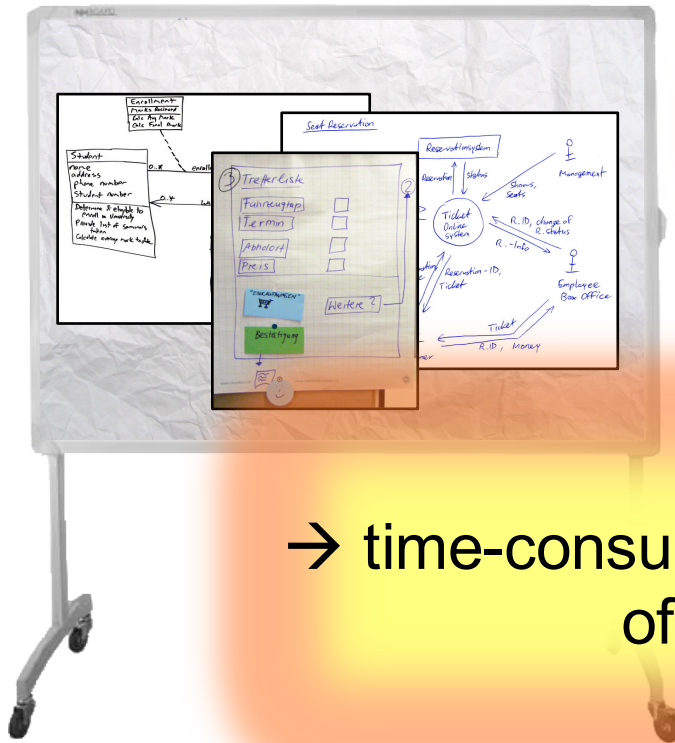


Freeform Sketching

- Arbitrary notations
- Well-known tool support (e.g., whiteboard, paper and pencil)
- Support of ad hoc, creative, collaborative modeling



Our Daily Problem: The Gap Between Sketches and Models



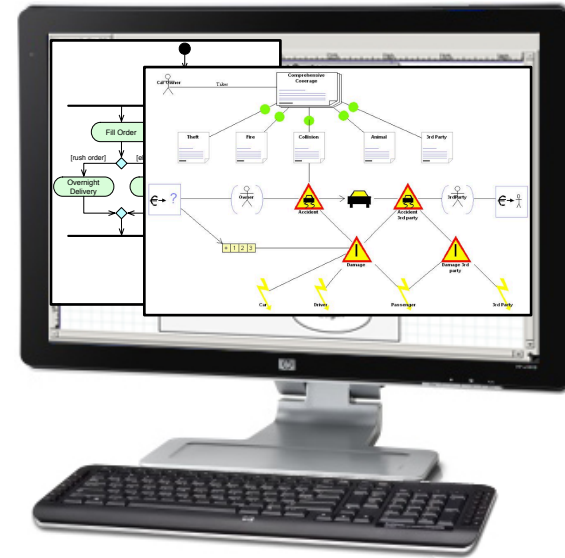
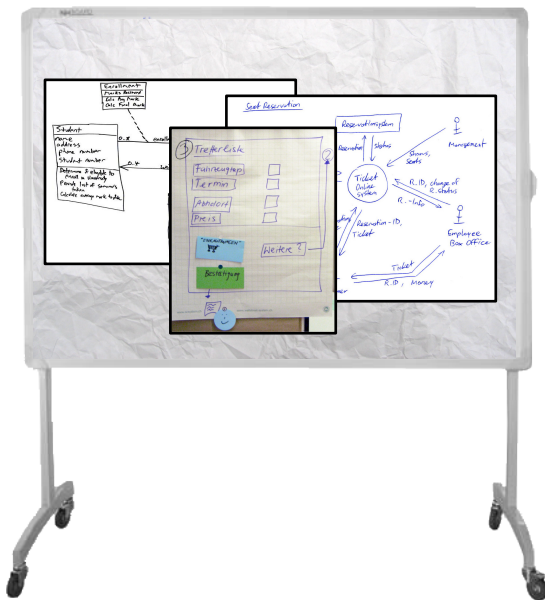
Media break

→ time-consuming and error-prone transcription
of the captured information



The Tyranny of Strict Modeling Languages

Either follow the semi-formal modeling paradigm



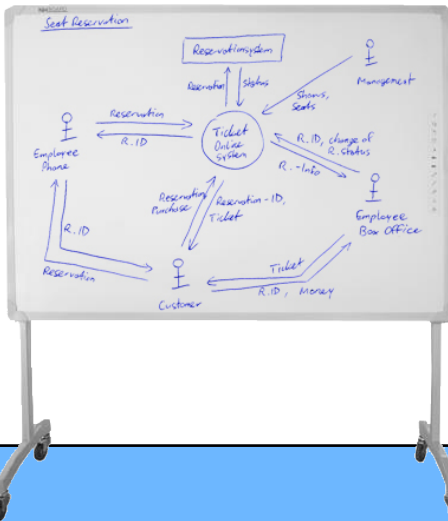
or enjoy freeform sketching and get punished with the media break



Vision

- Overcome the media break problem
- Combine strengths of freeform sketching and semi-formal modeling
 - Support a flexible sketching / modeling process
 - Allow users to define their own notations / languages on the fly

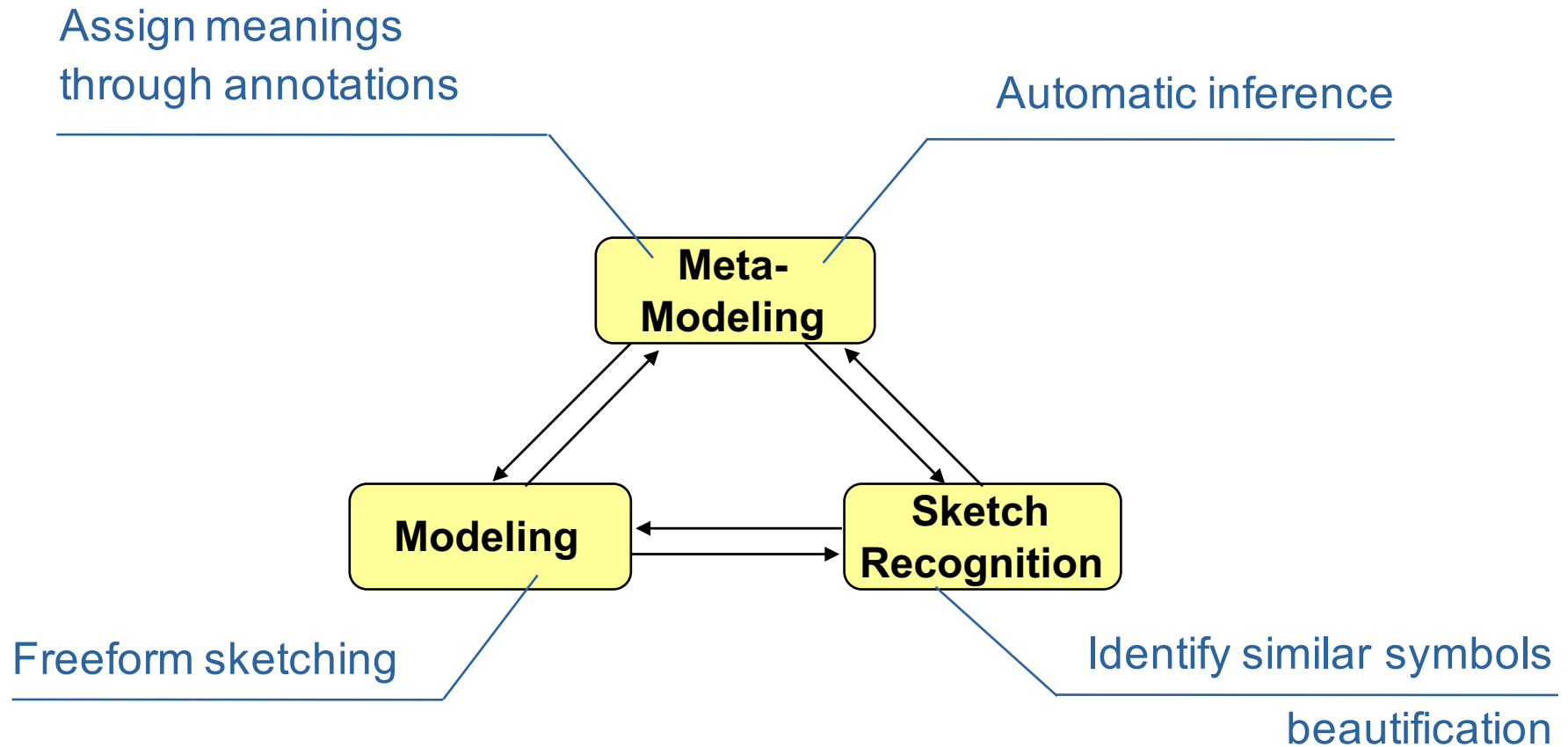
Flexibility of
unconstrained sketching



Power of
semi-formal modeling



Our Conceptual Solution



Our Tool Solution...



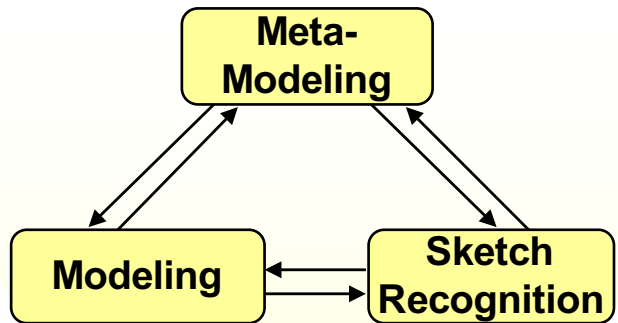
...FlexiSketch

FlexiSketch Tool – Live Demo

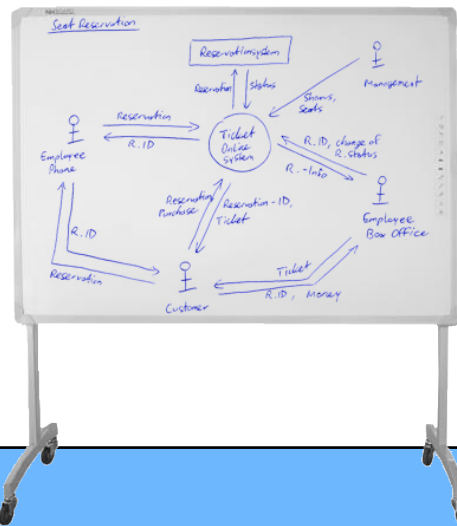
Live Demo



Take-away Message



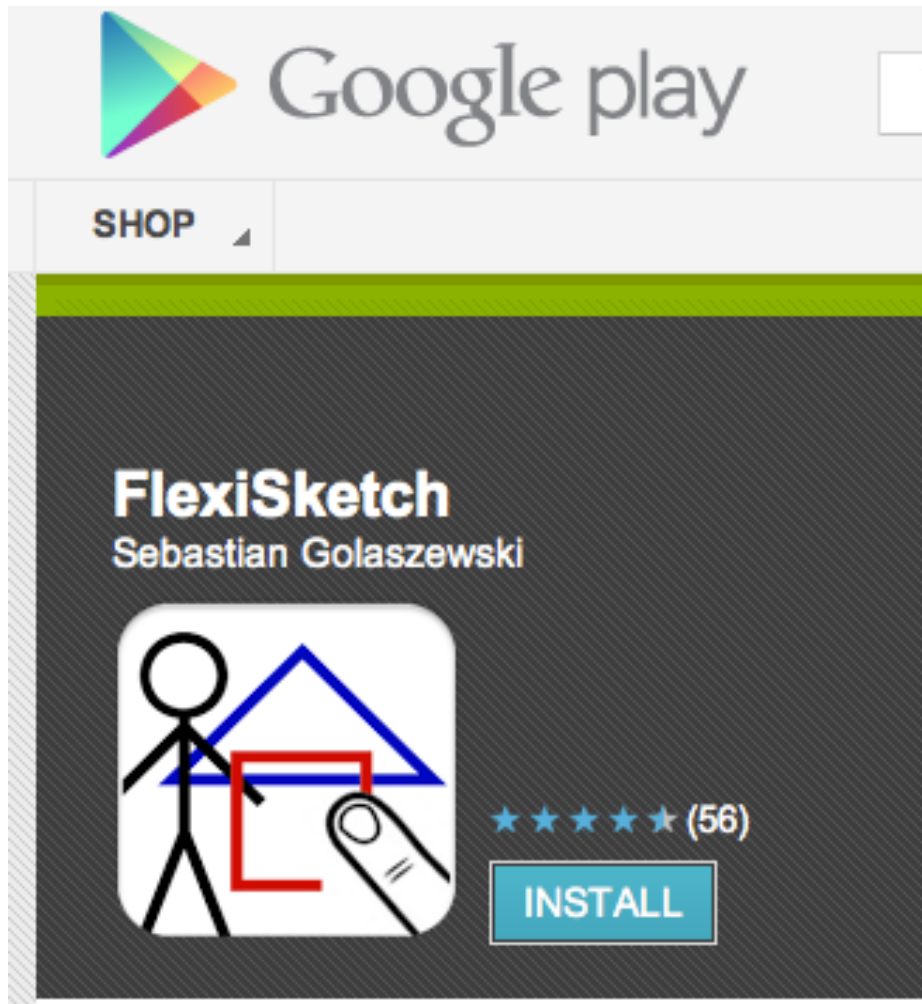
Flexibility of unconstrained sketching



Power of semi-formal modeling

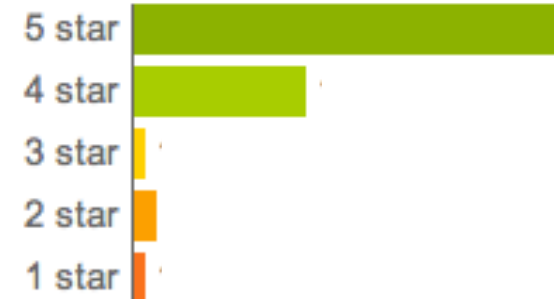


FlexiSketch



Average rating

4.5



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