

Reusable Textual Styles for Domain-Specific Modeling Languages

Patrick Neubauer¹, Robert Bill², Dimitris Kolovos¹, Richard Paige³, Manuel Wimmer⁴

¹ University of York, UK

² Technische Universität Wien, Austria

³ McMaster University, Canada

⁴ Johannes Kepler Universität, Austria

19th International Workshop in OCL and Textual Modeling, 2019, Munich, Germany

Roadmap

- Introduction and Background
 - Domain-Specific (Modeling) Languages
 - Grammar-first approach
 - Model-first approach
- Example Scenario
 - Language Structure
 - Language Style
- Approach
 - Style Specification Language
 - Style Modeling
- Conclusion and Future Work

Introduction and Background

- Domain-Specific Languages
 - Context-Free Grammar
 - Extended Backus-Naur Form (structure + representation)
- Domain-Specific Modeling Languages
 - OMG Meta Object Facility
 - Ecore for structural semantics (+ annotations for representation)
- Language Workbenches and Related Work
 - **Xtext** framework by Eysholdt et al.
 - **Spoofax** by Kats et al.
 - Model-Based Language Engineering with **EMFText** by Heidenreich et al.
 - **Textual Concrete Syntax** (TCS) by Jounault et al.
 - **Textual Concrete Syntax Specification Language** (TCSSL) by Fondement et al.
 - **Textual Editing Framework** (TEF) by Scheidgen et al.
 - **SugarJ**: library-based syntactic language extensibility by Erdweg et al.
 - Classification of Concrete Textual Syntax Mapping Approaches by Goldschmidt et al.

Eysholdt, M., Behrens, H.: Xtext: implement your language faster than the quick and dirty way. SPLASH/OOPSLA 2010.

Kats, L.C.L., Visser, E.: The spoofax language workbench: rules for declarative specification of languages and ides. SPLASH/OOPSLA 2010.

Heidenreich, F., Johannes, J., Karol, S., Seifert, M., Wende, C.: Derivation and refinement of textual syntax for models. ECMDA-FA 2009.

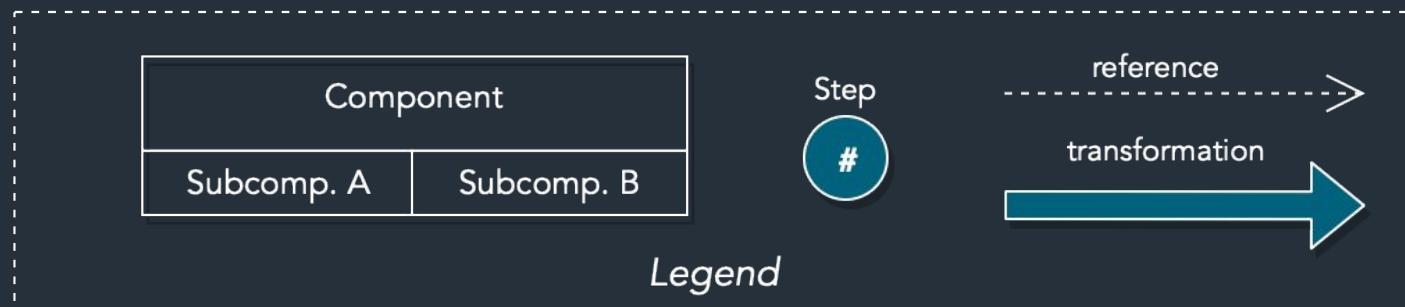
Jounault, F., Bézivin, J., Kurtev, I.: TCS: a DSL for the specification of textual concrete syntaxes in model engineering. GPCE 2006.

Scheidgen, M.: Textual modelling embedded into graphical modelling. ECMDA-FA 2008.



Grammar-first Approach

How to construct DSMLs by applying *grammar-first* approach?

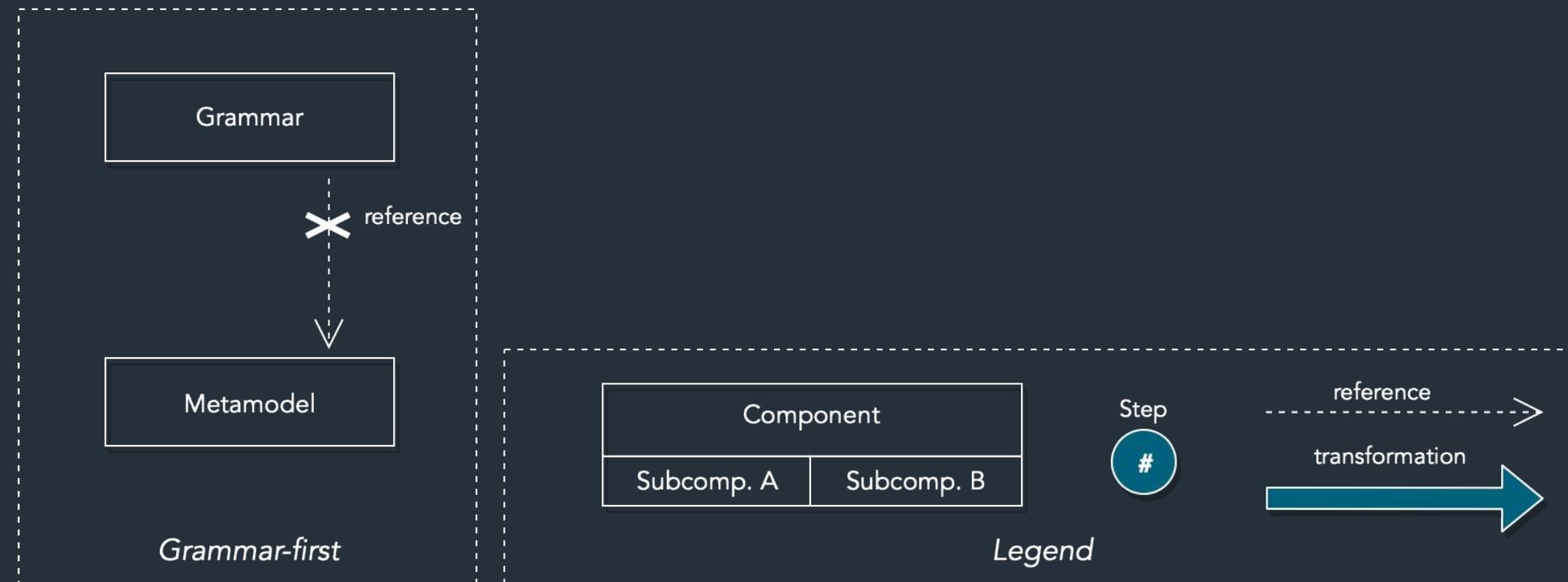


Grammar-first Approach



UNIVERSITY
of York

Grammar does *not* reference metamodel

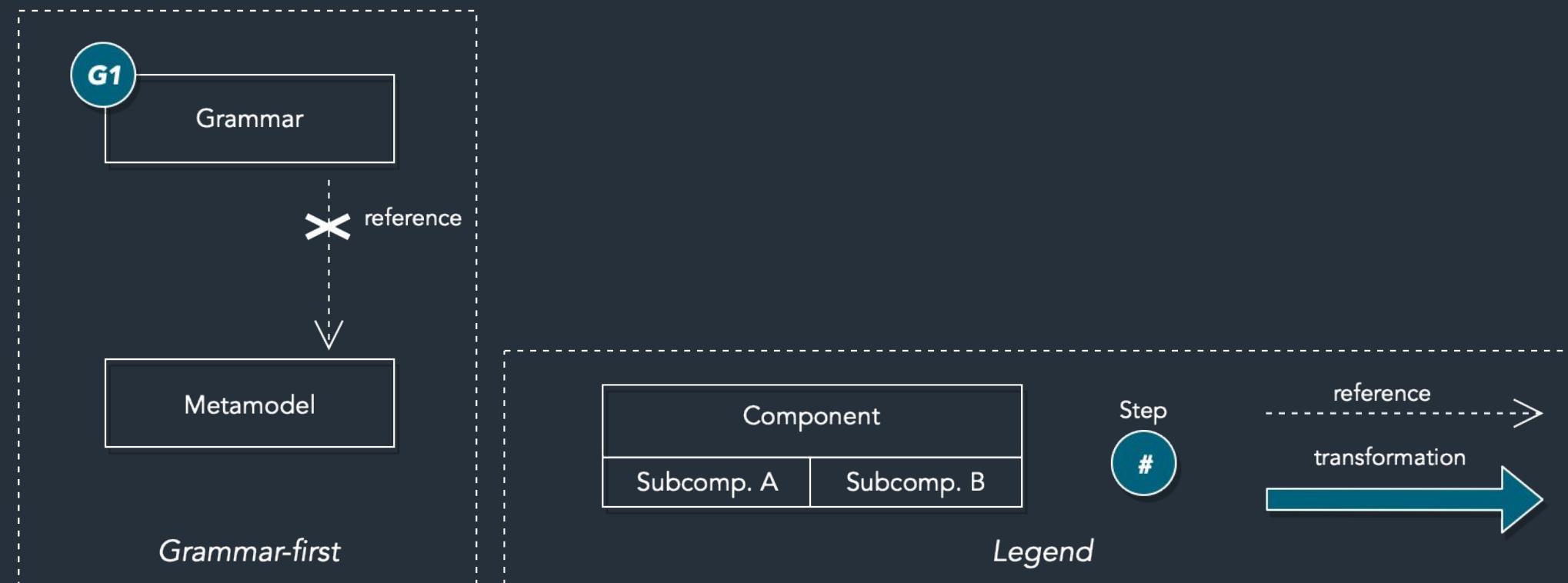


Grammar-first Approach

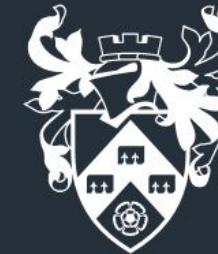


UNIVERSITY
of York

Create grammar

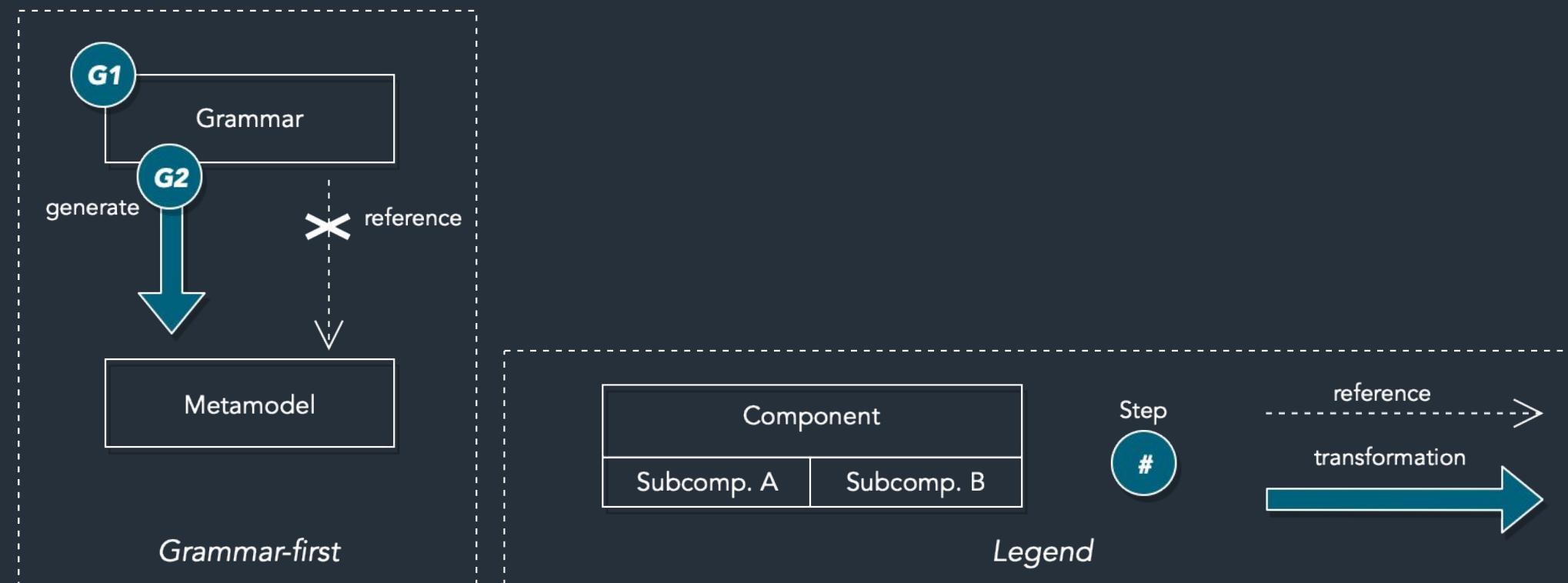


Grammar-first Approach



UNIVERSITY
of York

Derive metamodel from grammar



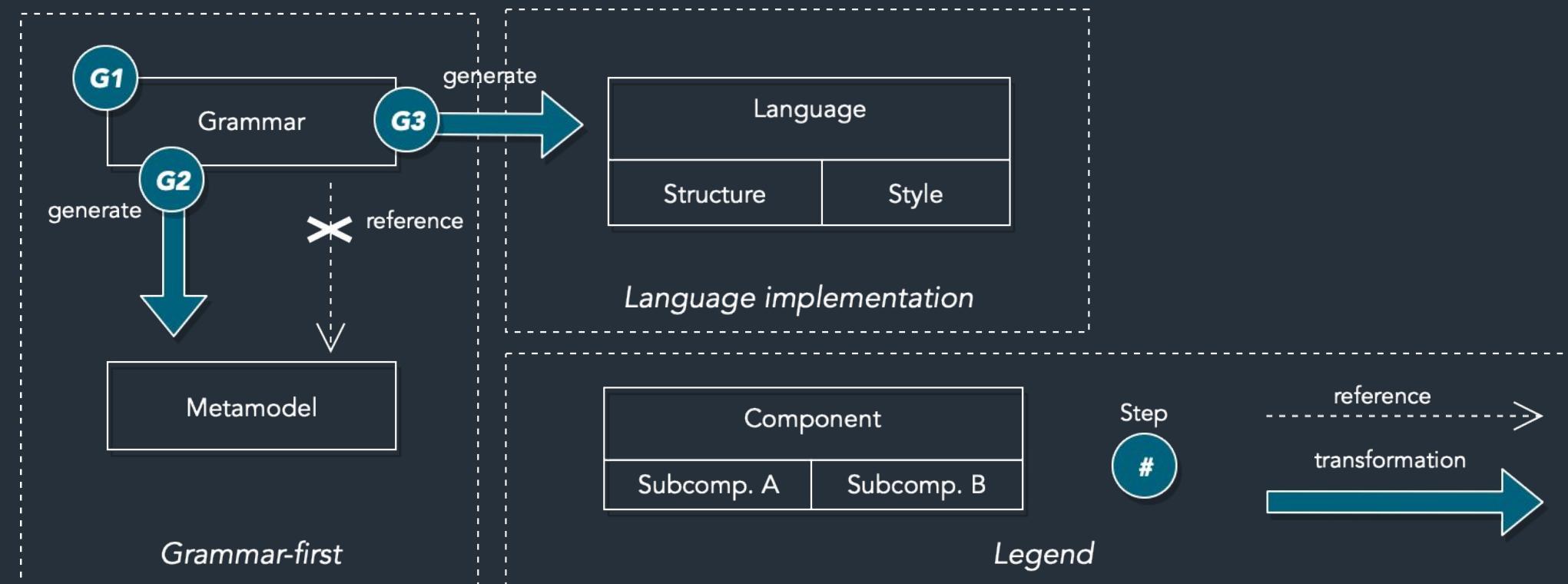
Grammar-first Approach



UNIVERSITY
of York

Generate language implementation from grammar

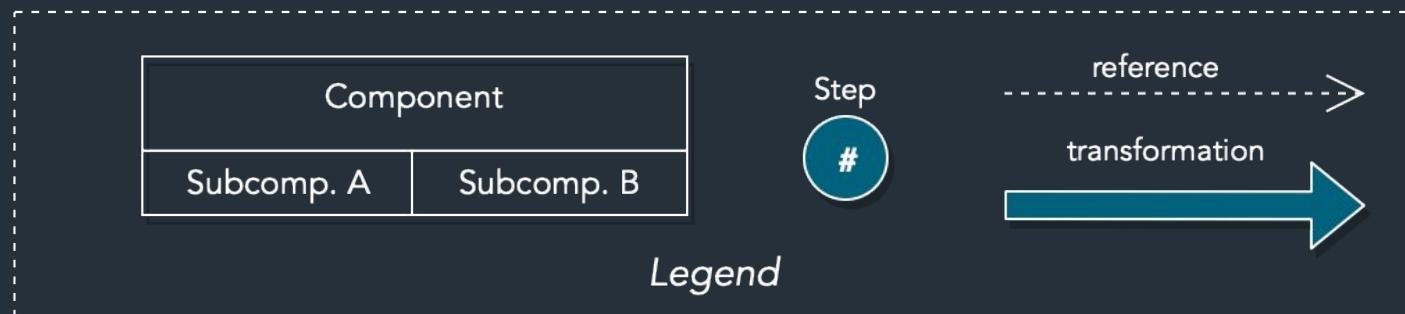
- Generated tooling employs *derived metamodel*





Model-first Approach

How to construct DSMLs by applying *model-first* approach?

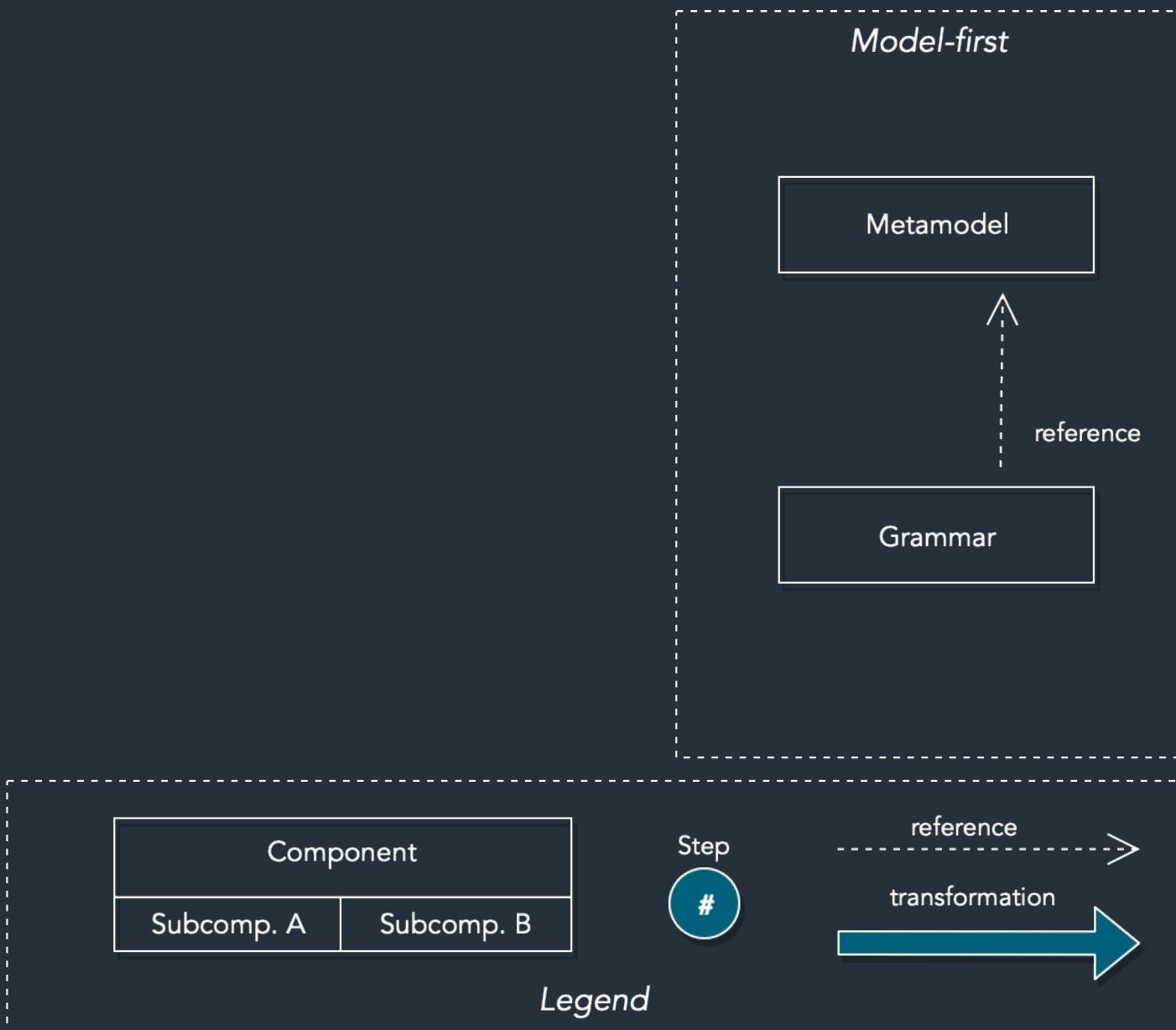


Model-first Approach



UNIVERSITY
of York

Grammar *does* reference metamodel

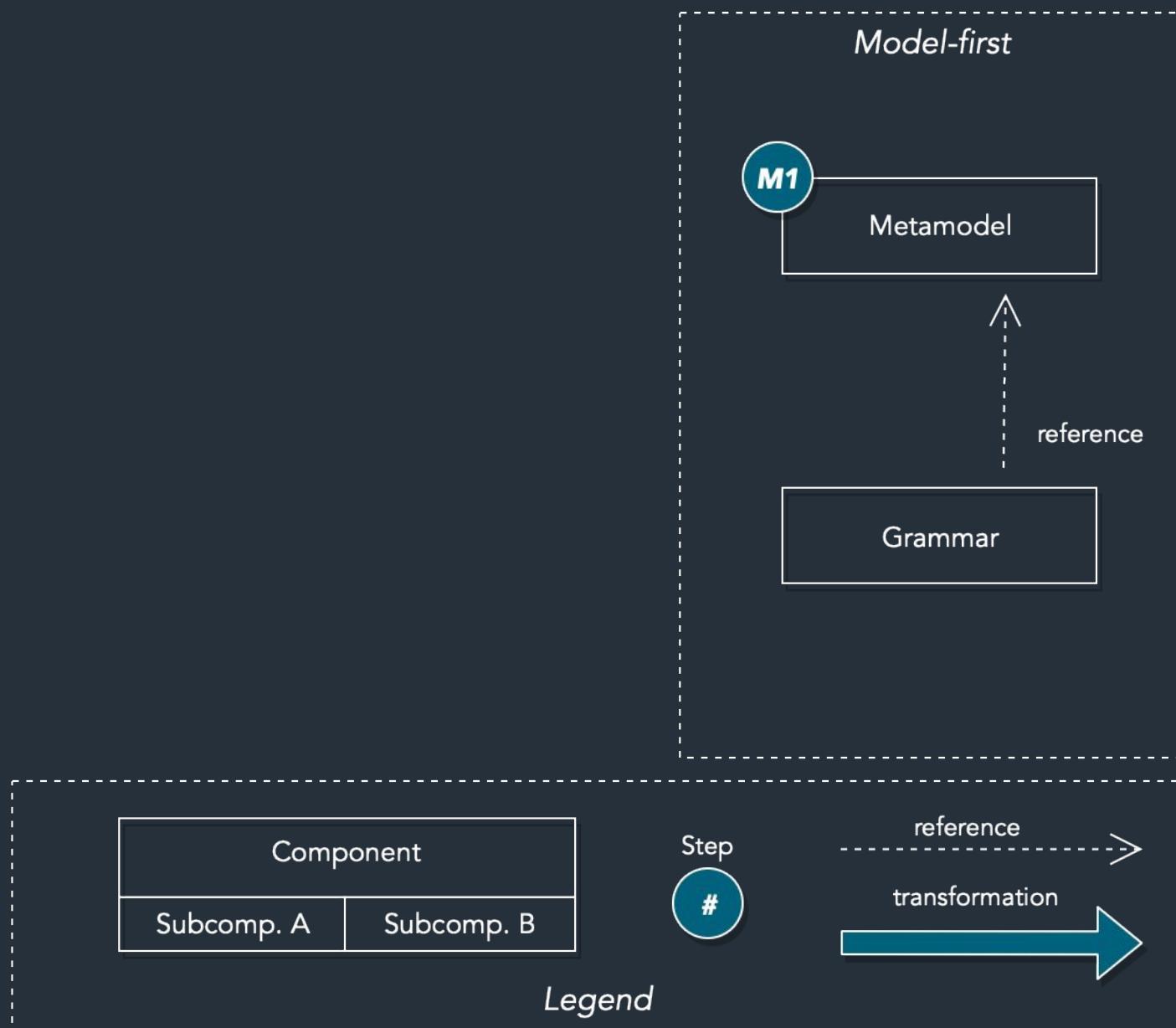


Model-first Approach



UNIVERSITY
of York

Create metamodel

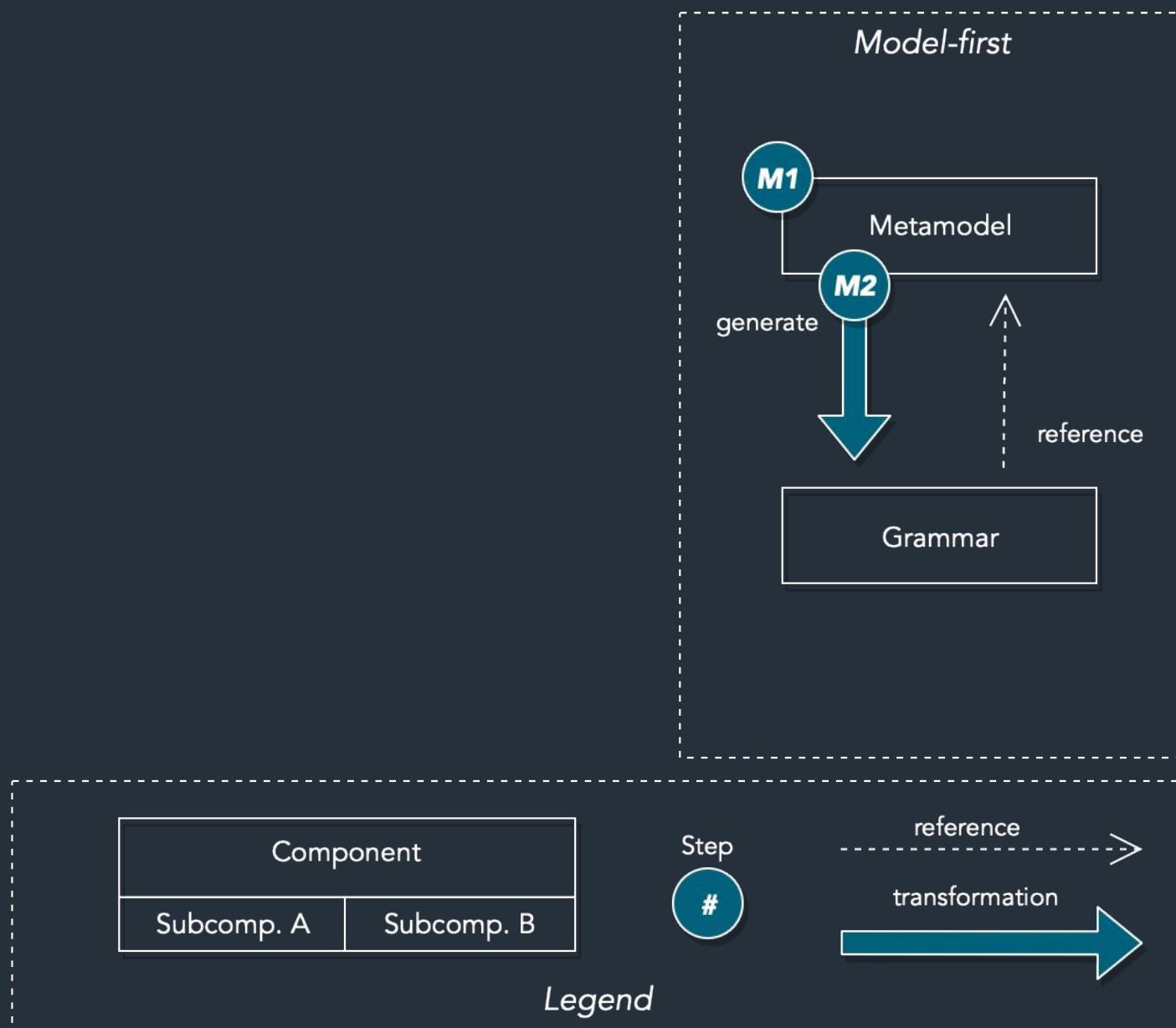


Model-first Approach



UNIVERSITY
of York

Generate grammar from metamodel

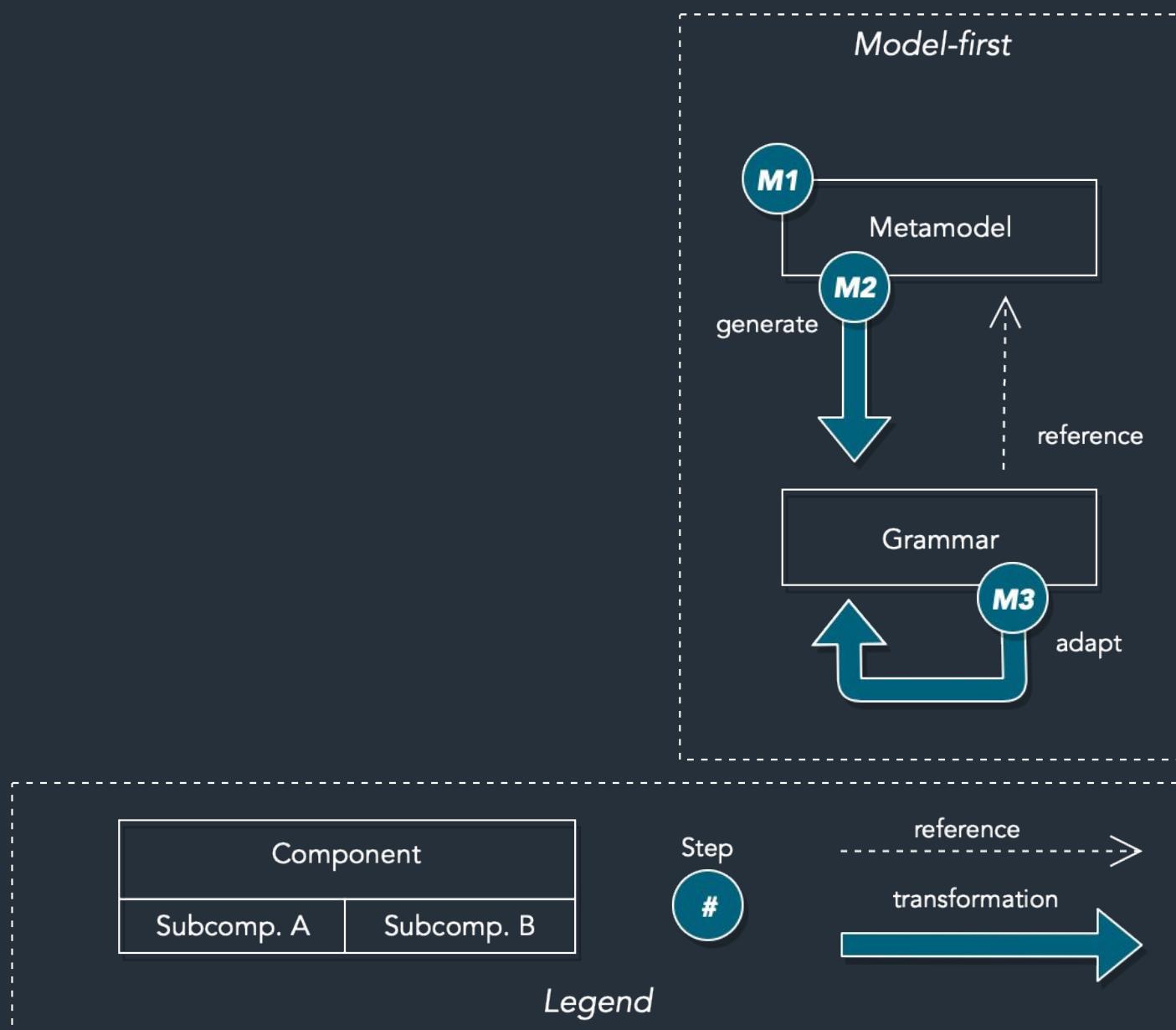


Model-first Approach



UNIVERSITY
of York

Adapt generated grammar to reflect desired representation



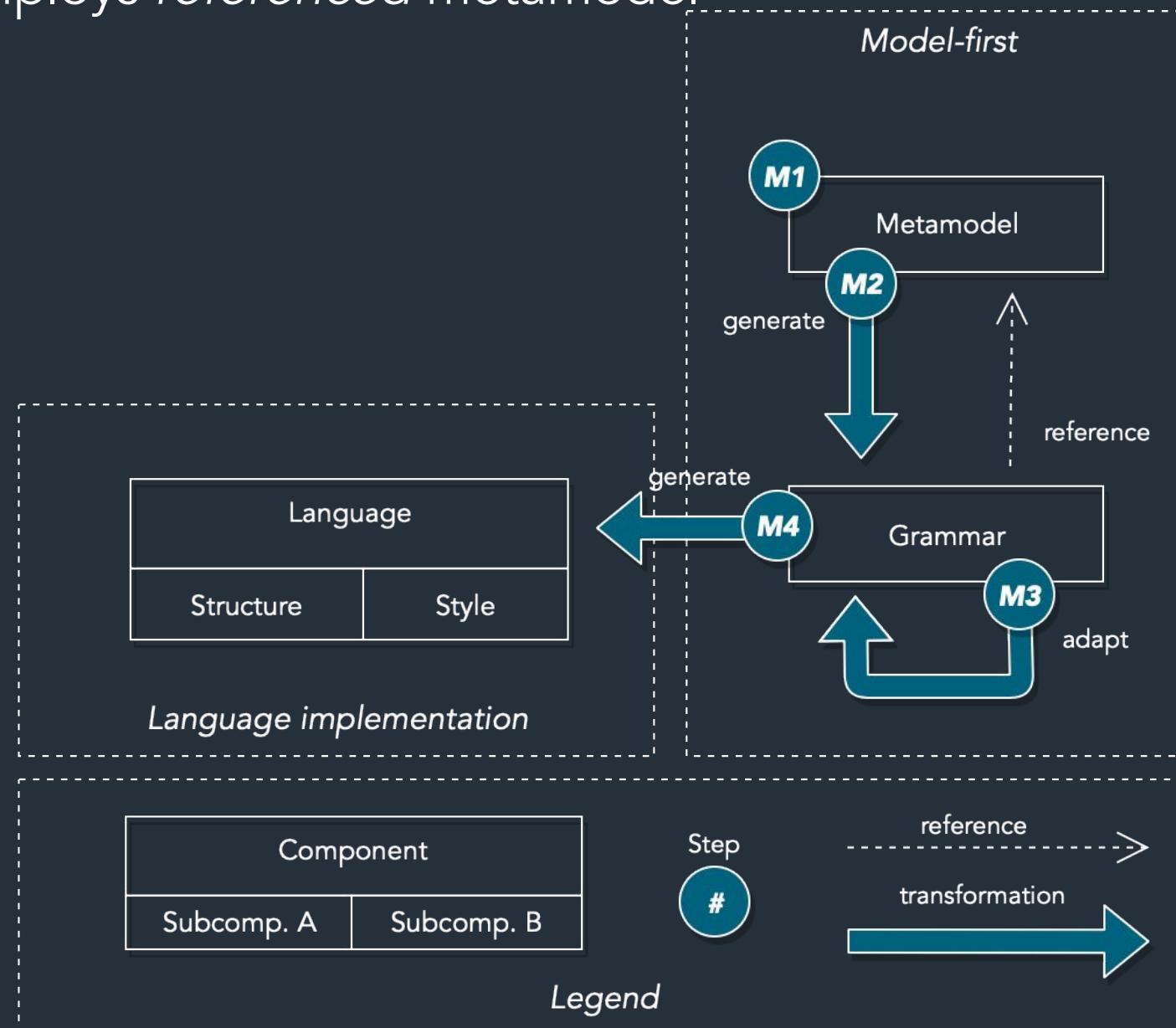
Model-first Approach



UNIVERSITY
of York

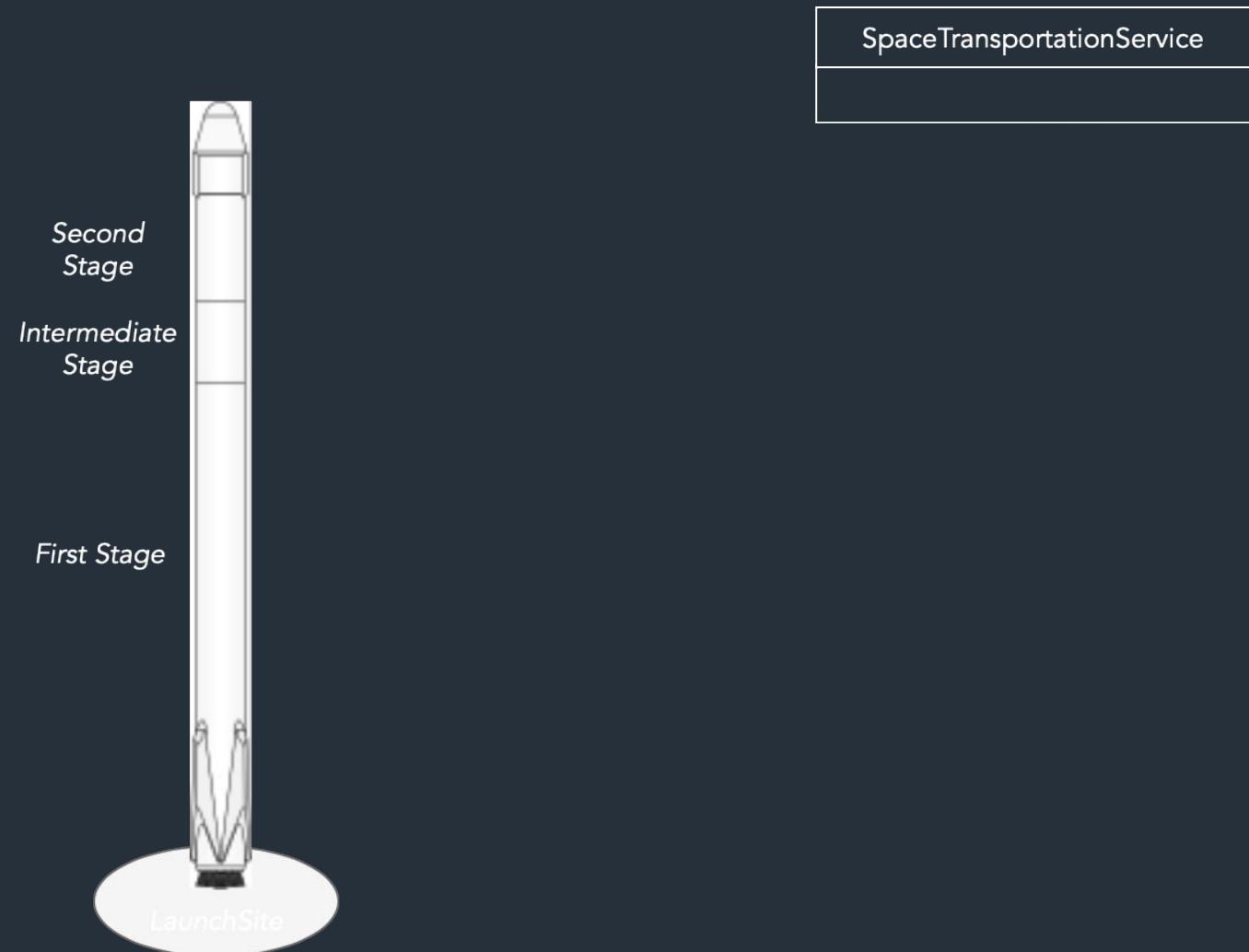
Generate language implementation from metamodel-based grammar

- Generated tooling employs *referenced* metamodel



Example Scenario: Structure

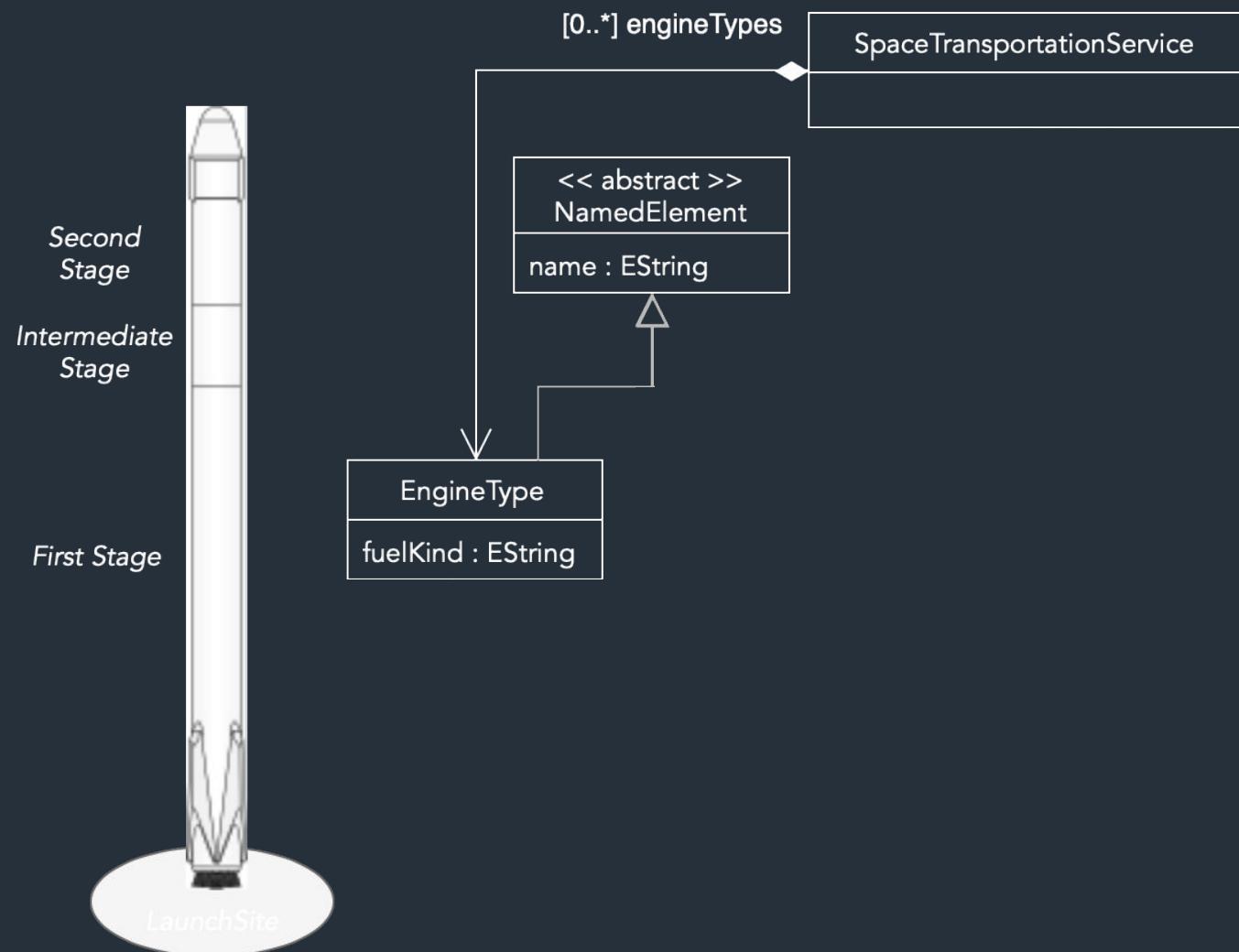
SpaceTransportationService (STS, root element)





Example Scenario: Structure

STS *engineTypes*

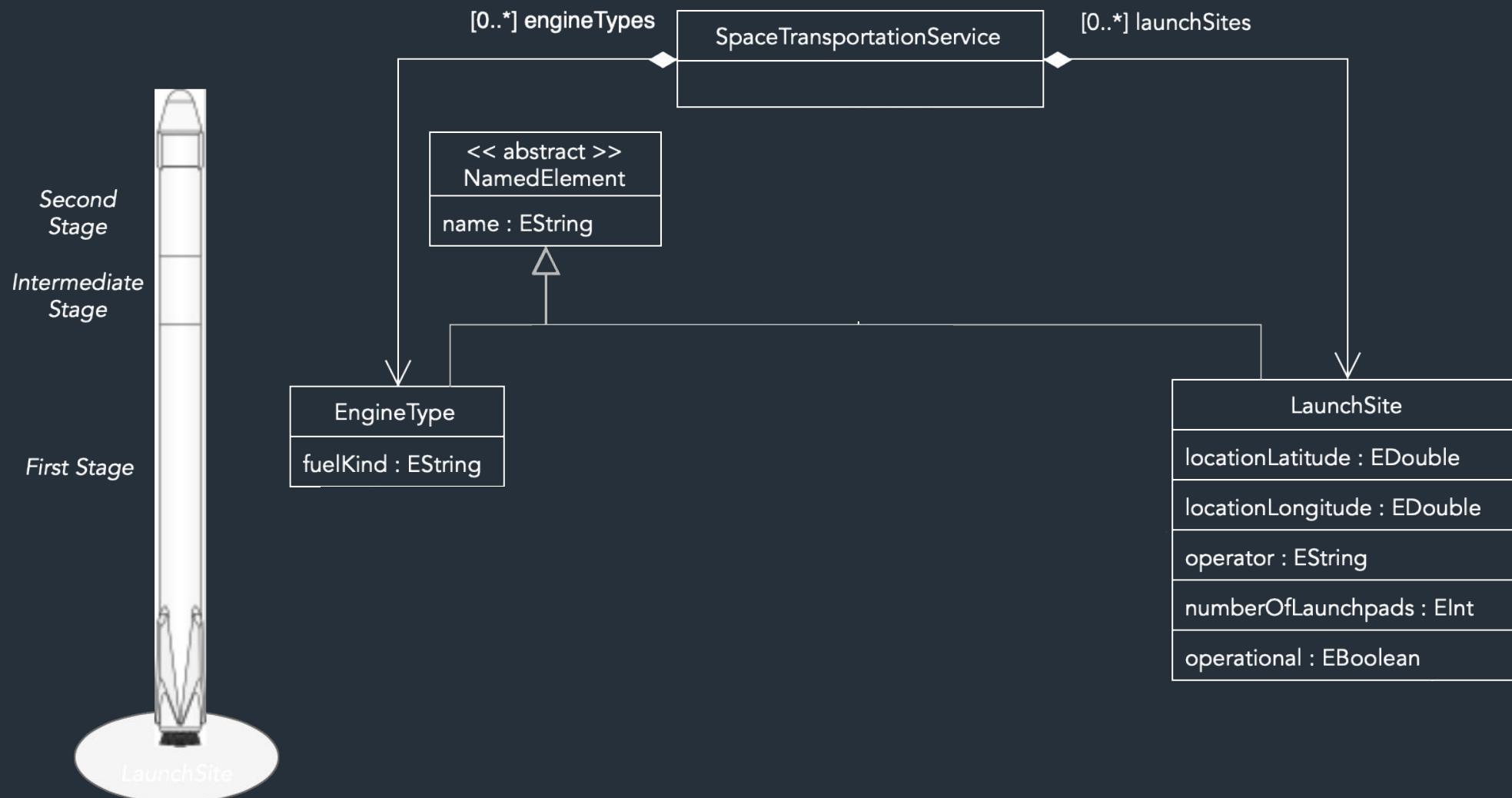


Example Scenario: Structure



UNIVERSITY
of York

STS *launchSites*

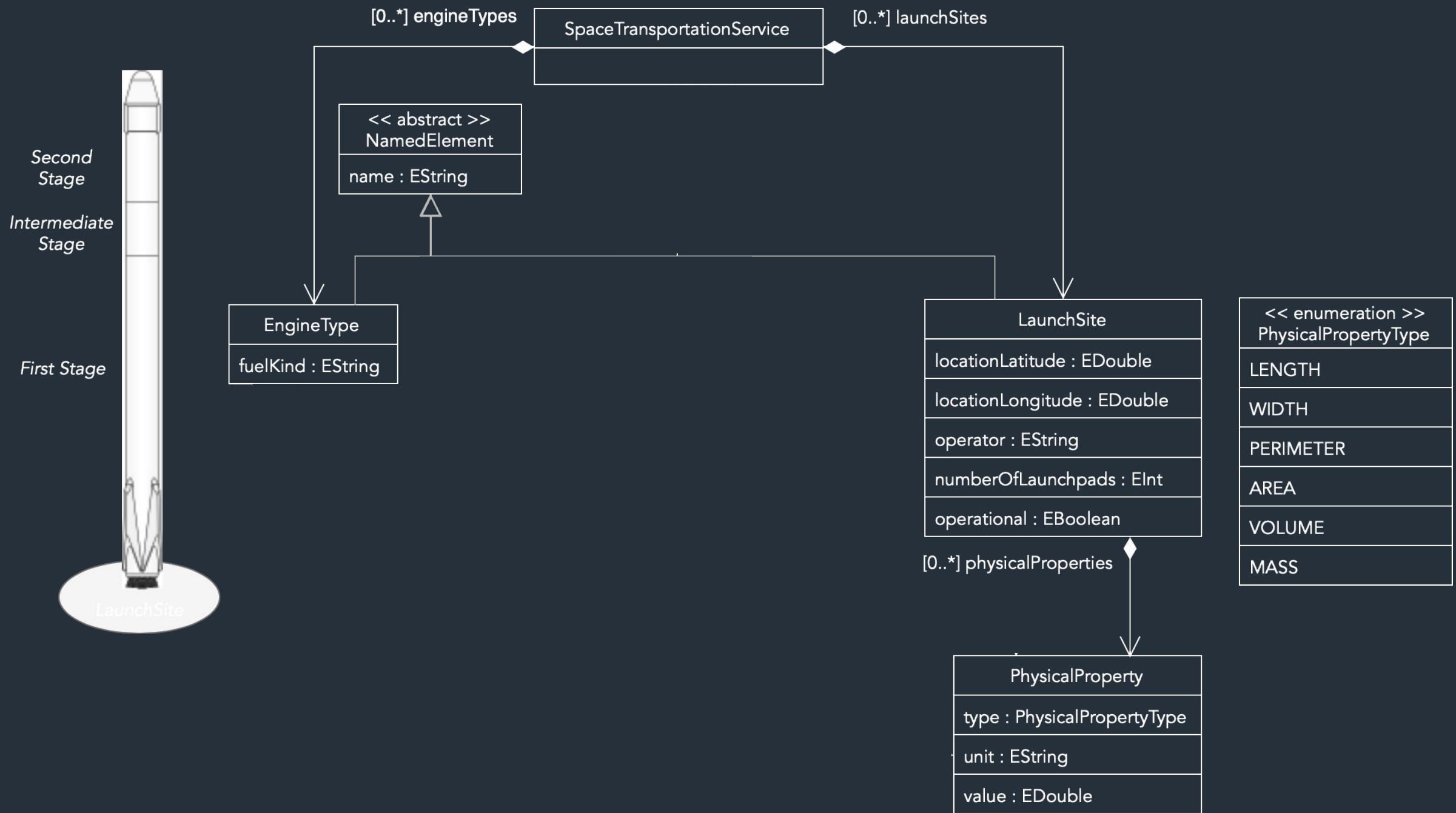


Example Scenario: Structure



UNIVERSITY
of York

LaunchSite *physicalProperties*

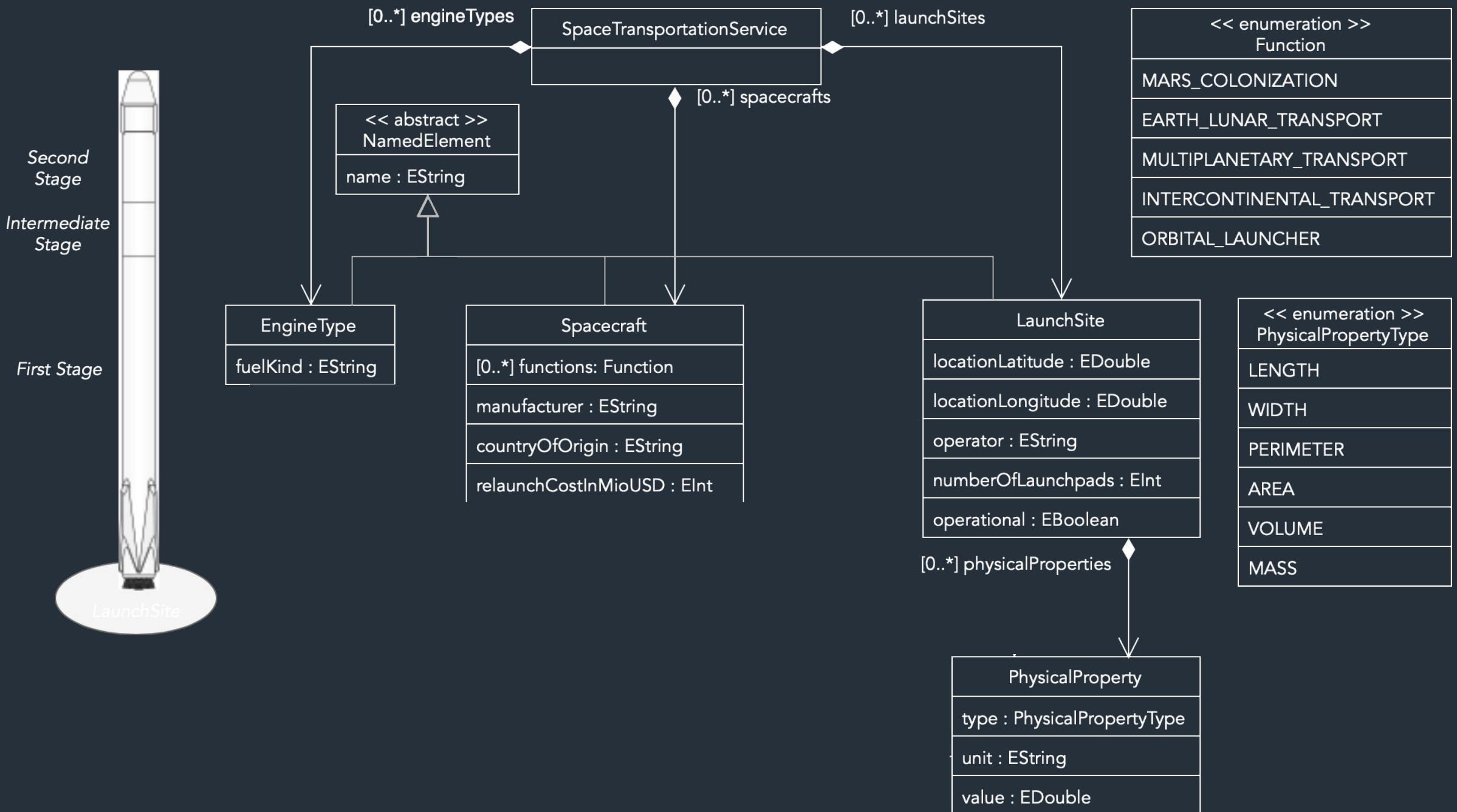


Example Scenario: Structure



UNIVERSITY
of York

STS spacecrafts

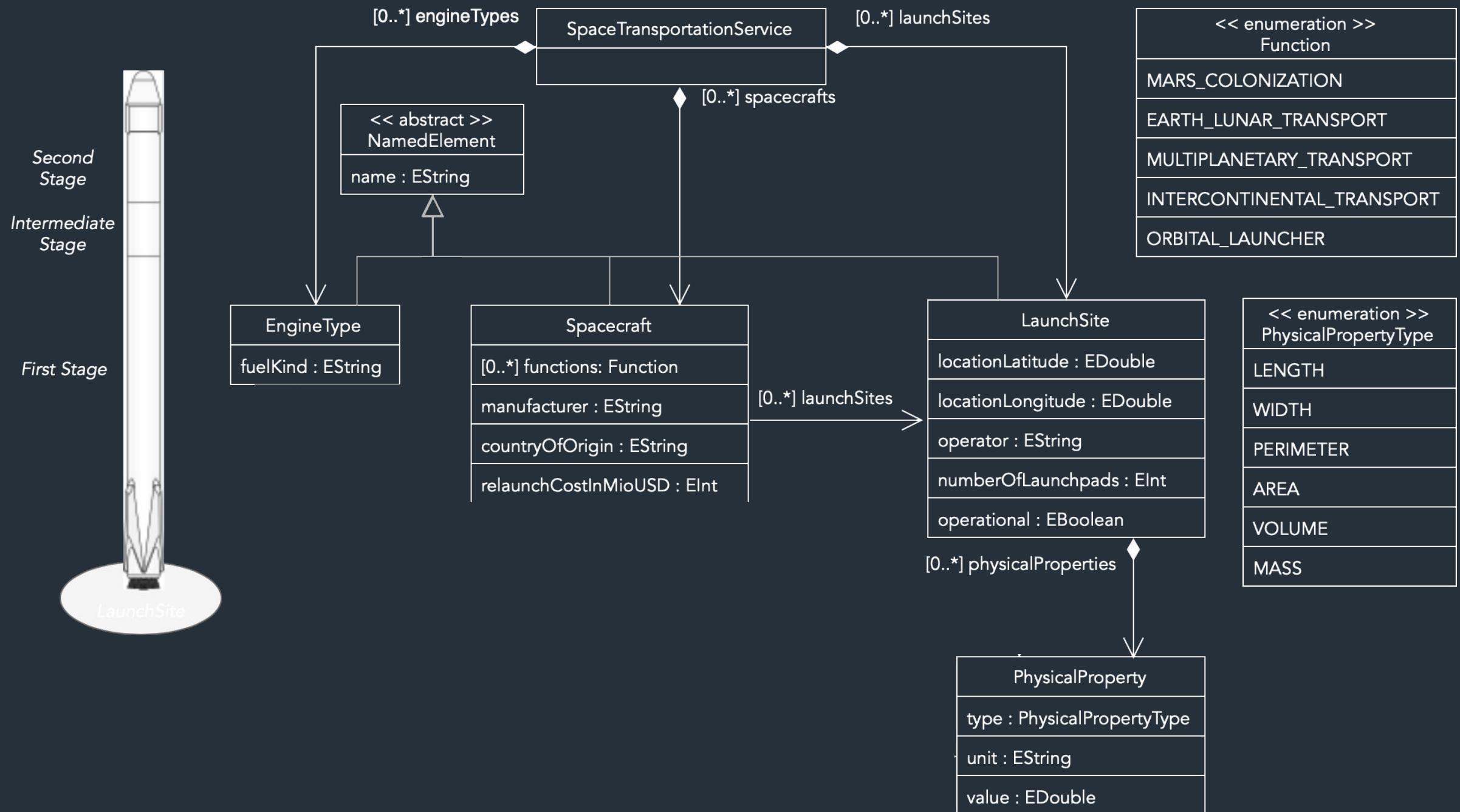


Example Scenario: Structure



UNIVERSITY
of York

Spacecraft → *launchSites*

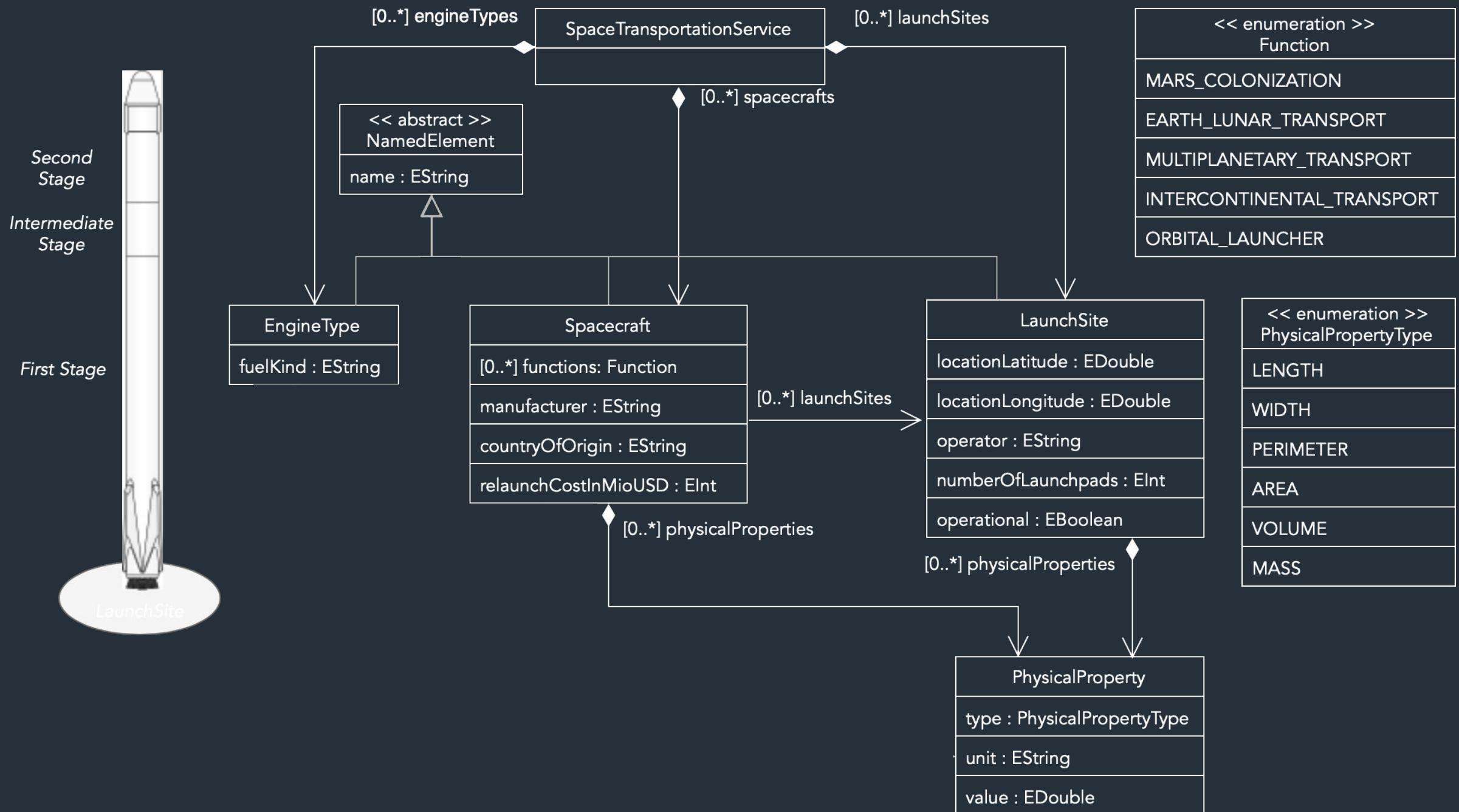


Example Scenario: Structure



UNIVERSITY
of York

Spacecraft *physicalProperties*

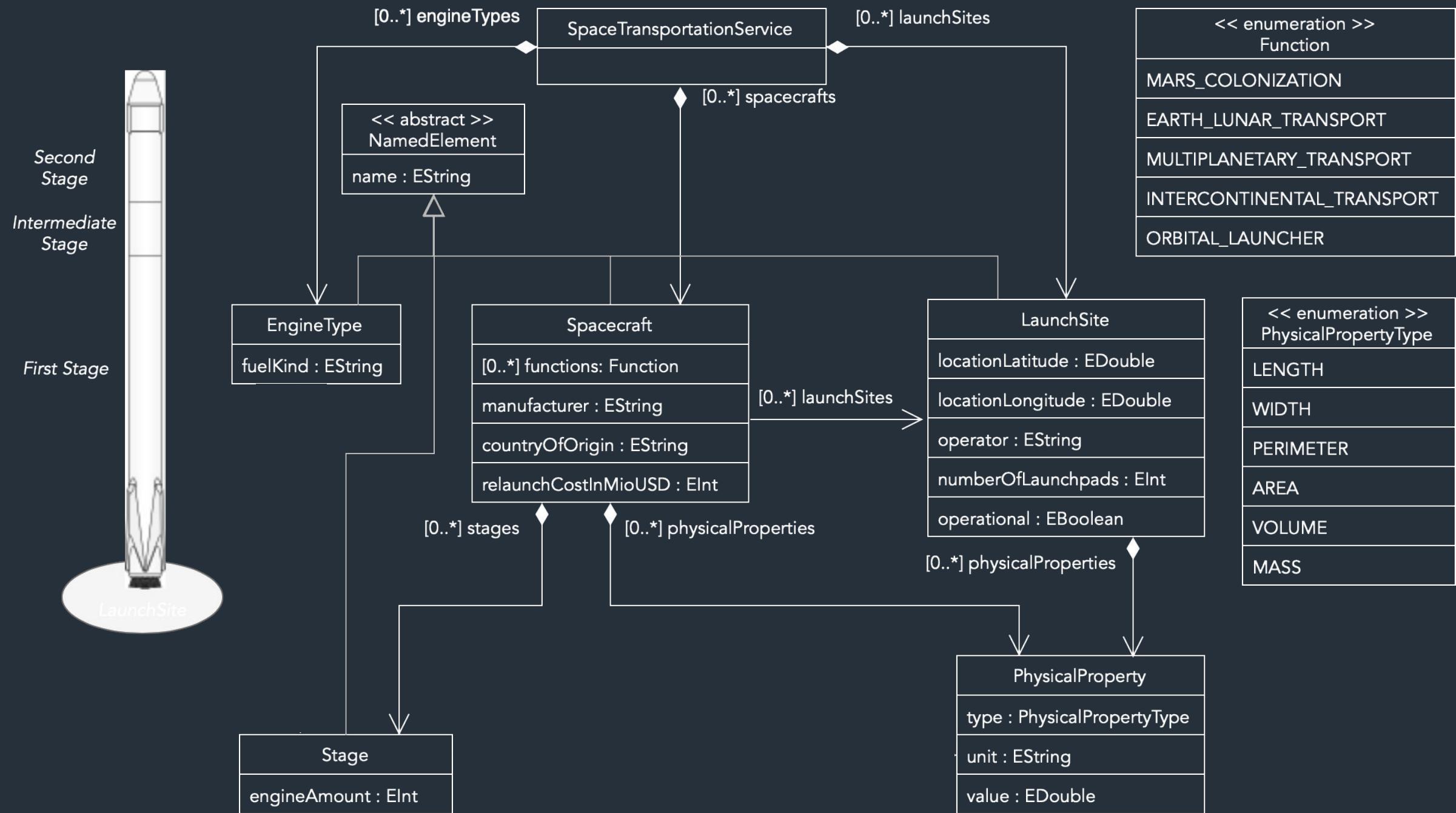


Example Scenario: Structure



UNIVERSITY
of York

Spacecraft stages

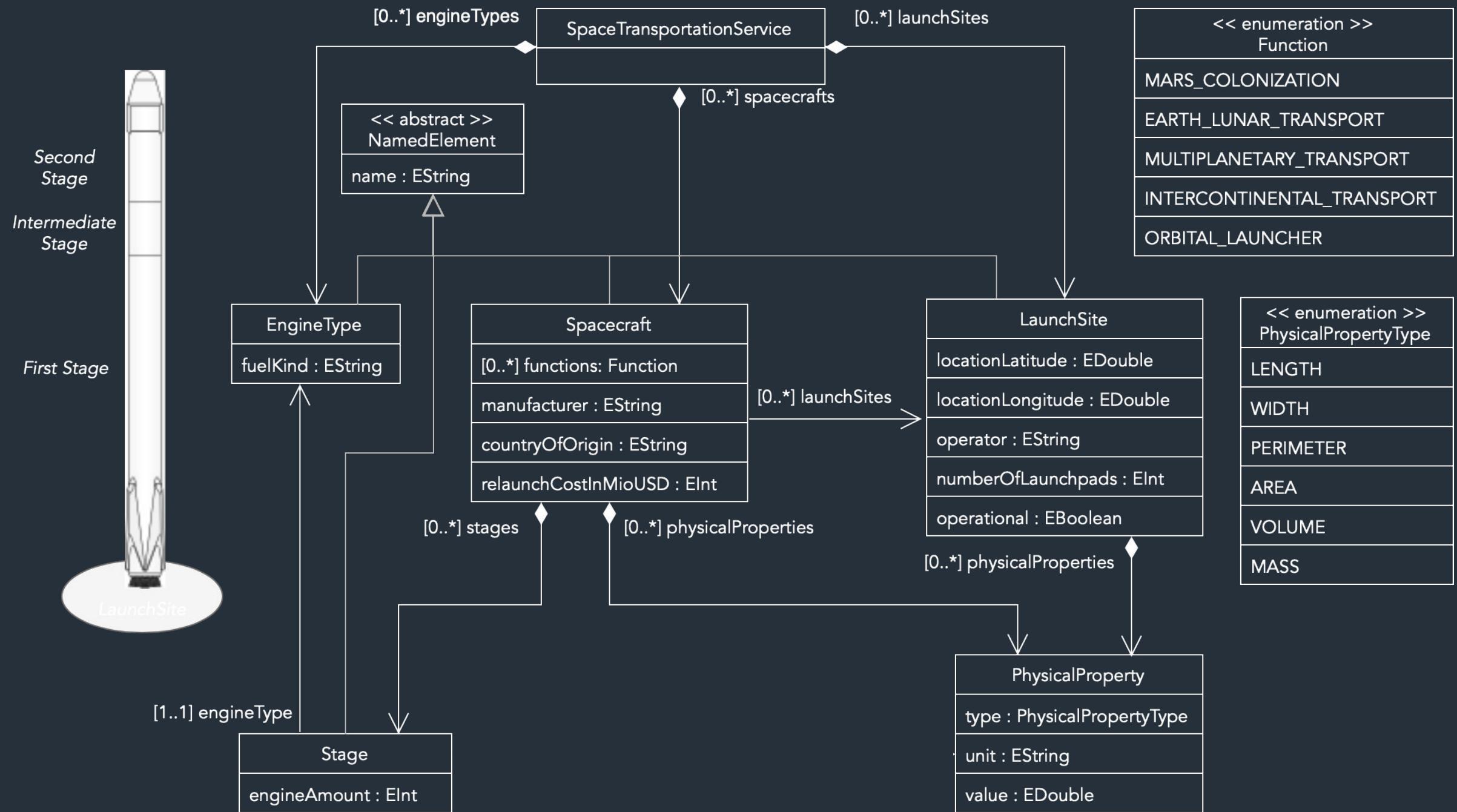


Example Scenario: Structure



UNIVERSITY
of York

Stage → *engineType*

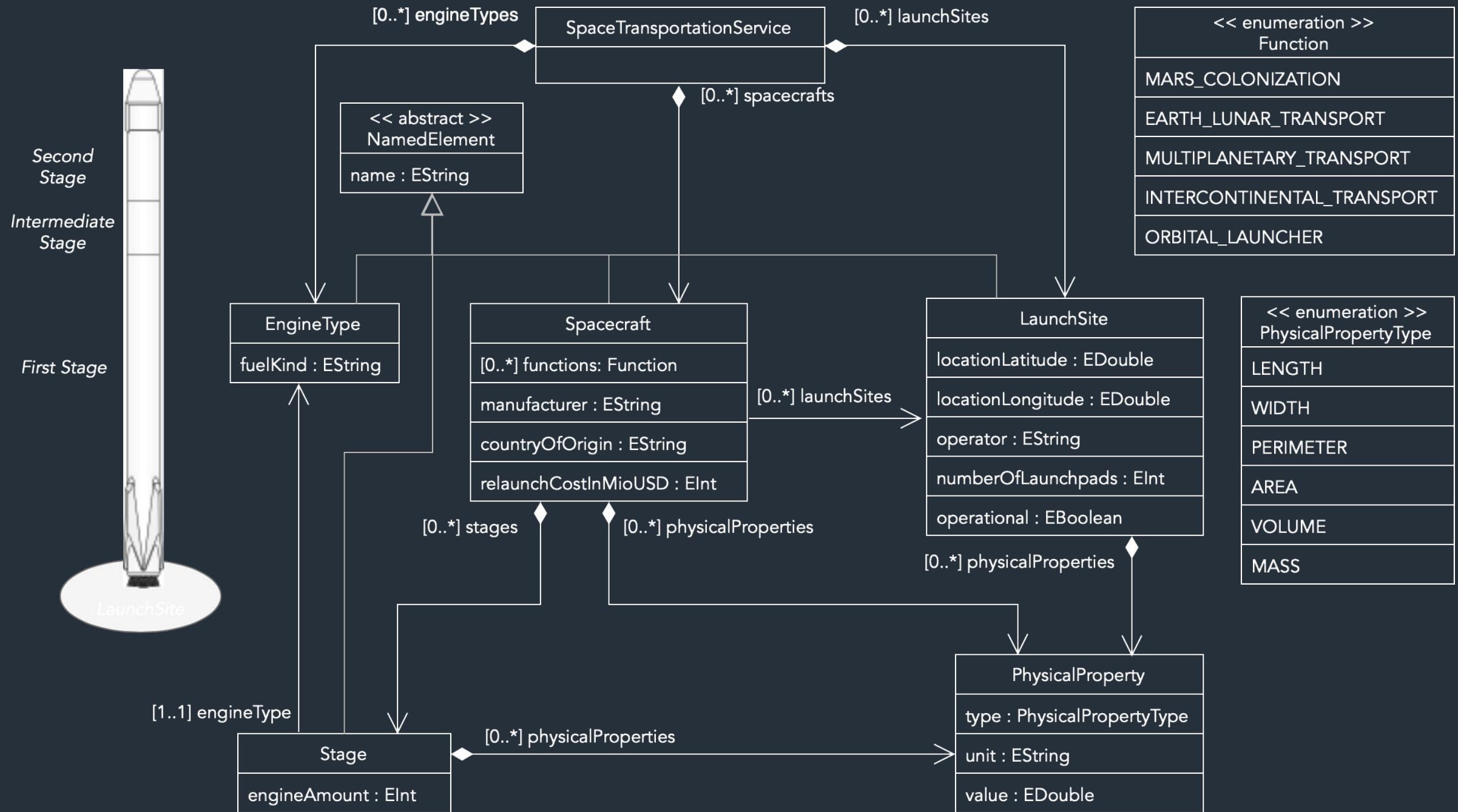


Example Scenario: Structure



UNIVERSITY
of York

Stage *physicalProperties*





Example Scenario: Style

Example Scenario: Style

Curly bracket-based layout

```
SpaceTransportationService {  
    launchSites {  
        operational LaunchSite KennedySpaceCenter {  
            locationLatitude 28.524058  
            locationLongitude -80.65085  
            operator NASA  
            numberOfLaunchpads 3  
        }  
        ...  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

Example Scenario: Style

Curly bracket-based layout

```
SpaceTransportationService {  
    launchSites {  
        operational LaunchSite KennedySpaceCenter {  
            locationLatitude 28.524058  
            locationLongitude -80.65085  
            operator NASA  
            numberOfLaunchpads 3  
        }  
        ...  
    }  
    ...  
}
```



Default layout



Example Scenario: Style

Curly bracket-based layout

```
SpaceTransportationService {  
    launchSites {  
        operational LaunchSite KennedySpaceCenter {  
            locationLatitude 28.524058  
            locationLongitude -80.65085  
            operator NASA  
            numberOfWorkstations 3  
        }  
        ...  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

Single order of declaration

```
SpaceTransportationService {  
    launchSites {  
        operational LaunchSite KennedySpaceCenter {  
            locationLatitude 28.524058  
            locationLongitude -80.65085  
            operator NASA  
            numberOfWorkstations 3  
        }  
        ...  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

Example Scenario: Style

Curly bracket-based layout

```
SpaceTransportationService {  
    launchSites {  
        operational LaunchSite KennedySpaceCenter {  
            locationLatitude 28.524058  
            locationLongitude -80.65085  
            operator NASA  
            numberOfLaunchpads 3  
        }  
        ...  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

Single order of declaration

```
SpaceTransportationService {  
    launchSites {  
        operational LaunchSite KennedySpaceCenter {  
            locationLatitude 28.524058  
            locationLongitude -80.65085  
            operator NASA  
            numberOfLaunchpads 3  
        }  
        ...  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

Default order of declaration

Example Scenario: Style



Default Grammar (excerpt)

```
grammar spacetransportationservice.MyDefaultSts with org.eclipse.xtext.common.Terminals

import "http://cs.york.ac.uk/ecss/examples/spacetransportationservice"
import "http://www.eclipse.org/emf/2002/Ecore" as ecore

...

LaunchSite returns LaunchSite:
    operational?= 'operational'
    'LaunchSite'
    name=EString
    '{'
        'locationLatitude' locationLatitude=EDouble
        'locationLongitude' locationLongitude=EDouble
        ('operator' operator=EString)?
        'numberOfLaunchpads' numberOfLaunchpads=EInt
        ('physicalProperties' '{' physicalProperties+=PhysicalProperty ( "," physicalProperties+=PhysicalProperty)* '}' )?
    physicalProperties+=PhysicalProperty)* '}'
    '};'

...
```

Single order of declaration

Curly bracket-based layout

Example Scenario: Style

Curly bracket-based layout (default)

```
SpaceTransportationService {  
    launchSites {  
        operational LaunchSite KennedySpaceCenter {  
            locationLatitude 28.524058  
            locationLongitude -80.65085  
            operator NASA  
            numberOfLaunchpads 3  
        }  
        ...  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

Indentation-based layout

Single order of declaration (default)

```
SpaceTransportationService {  
    launchSites {  
        operational LaunchSite KennedySpaceCenter {  
            locationLatitude 28.524058  
            locationLongitude -80.65085  
            operator NASA  
            numberOfLaunchpads 3  
        }  
        ...  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

Example Scenario: Style

Curly bracket-based layout (default)

```
SpaceTransportationService {
    launchSites {
        operational LaunchSite KennedySpaceCenter {
            locationLatitude 28.524058
            locationLongitude -80.65085
            operator NASA
            numberOfWorkstations 3
        }
        ...
    }
    ...
}
```

Indentation-based layout

```
SpaceTransportationService
    launchSites
        operational LaunchSite KennedySpaceCenter
            locationLatitude 28.524058
            locationLongitude -80.65085
            operator NASA
            numberOfWorkstations 3
        ...
        ...
    ...
}
```

Single order of declaration (default)

```
SpaceTransportationService {
    launchSites {
        operational LaunchSite KennedySpaceCenter {
            locationLatitude 28.524058
            locationLongitude -80.65085
            operator NASA
            numberOfWorkstations 3
        }
        ...
    }
    ...
}
```

Example Scenario: Style

Curly bracket-based layout (default)

```
SpaceTransportationService {
    launchSites {
        operational LaunchSite KennedySpaceCenter {
            locationLatitude 28.524058
            locationLongitude -80.65085
            operator NASA
            numberOfWorkstations 3
        }
        ...
    }
    ...
}
```

Indentation-based layout

```
SpaceTransportationService
    launchSites
        operational LaunchSite KennedySpaceCenter
            locationLatitude 28.524058
            locationLongitude -80.65085
            operator NASA
            numberOfWorkstations 3
        ...
        ...
    ...
}
```

Single order of declaration (default)

```
SpaceTransportationService {
    launchSites {
        operational LaunchSite KennedySpaceCenter {
            locationLatitude 28.524058
            locationLongitude -80.65085
            operator NASA
            numberOfWorkstations 3
        }
        ...
    }
    ...
}
```

Arbitrary order of declaration

Example Scenario: Style



Curly bracket-based layout (default)

```
SpaceTransportationService {  
    launchSites {  
        operational LaunchSite KennedySpaceCenter {  
            locationLatitude 28.524058  
            locationLongitude -80.65085  
            operator NASA  
            numberOfLaunchpads 3  
        }  
        ...  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

Indentation-based layout

```
SpaceTransportationService  
    launchSites  
        operational LaunchSite KennedySpaceCenter  
            locationLatitude 28.524058  
            locationLongitude -80.65085  
            operator NASA  
            numberOfLaunchpads 3  
        ...  
    ...
```

Single order of declaration (default)

```
SpaceTransportationService {  
    launchSites {  
        operational LaunchSite KennedySpaceCenter {  
            locationLatitude 28.524058  
            locationLongitude -80.65085  
            operator NASA  
            numberOfLaunchpads 3  
        }  
        ...  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

Arbitrary order of declaration

```
SpaceTransportationService  
    ...  
    launchSites  
        operational LaunchSite KennedySpaceCenter  
            operator NASA  
            numberOfLaunchpads 3  
            locationLatitude 28.524058  
            locationLongitude -80.65085  
        ...
```

Example Scenario: Style

```
SpaceTransportationService
...
launchSites
    operational LaunchSite KennedySpaceCenter
        operator NASA
    numberOfLaunchpads 3
    locationLatitude 28.524058
    locationLongitude -80.65085
...
...
```

Indentation-based layout

Arbitrary order of declaration



Example Scenario: Style

```
SpaceTransportationService
...
launchSites
    operational LaunchSite KennedySpaceCenter
        operator NASA,
        numberOfWorksites 3,
        locationLatitude 28.524058,
        locationLongitude -80.65085
...
...
```

Indentation-based layout

Arbitrary order of declaration

Features separated by comma



Example Scenario: Style

```
SpaceTransportationService
...
launchSites
    operational LaunchSite KennedySpaceCenter
        operator NASA,
        numberOfWorkstations 3,
        locationLatitude 28.524058,
        locationLongitude -80.65085
...
...
```

Indentation-based layout

Arbitrary order of declaration

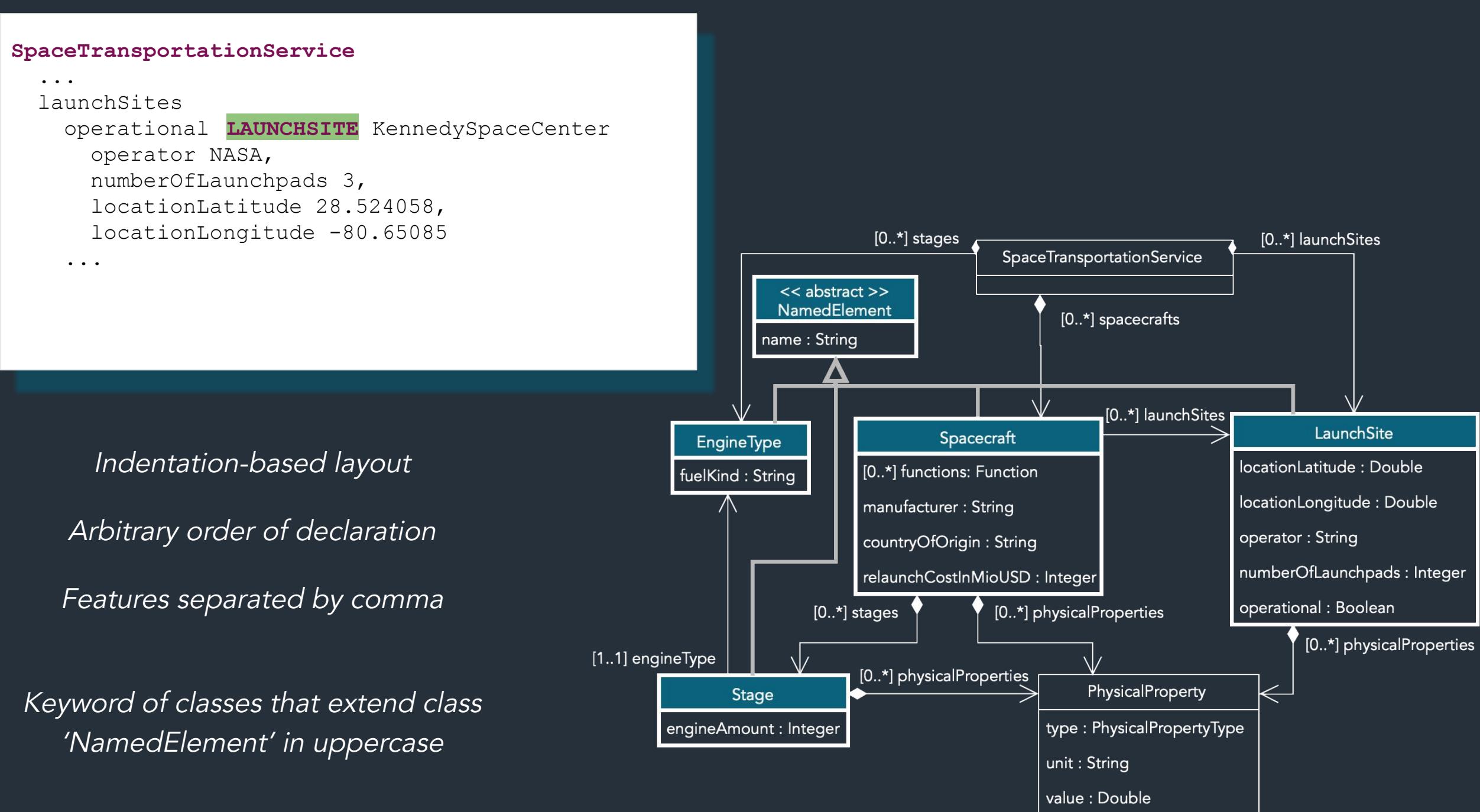
Features separated by comma

Metamodel-agnostic

Example Scenario: Style



UNIVERSITY
of York





Example Scenario: Style

```
SpaceTransportationService
...
launchSites
    operational LAUNCHSITE KennedySpaceCenter
        operator NASA,
        numberOfWorkstations 3,
        locationLatitude 28.524058,
        locationLongitude -80.65085
...
...
```

Indentation-based layout

Arbitrary order of declaration

Features separated by comma

*Keyword of classes that extend class
'NamedElement' in uppercase*

Metamodel-dependent

Design principles and goals

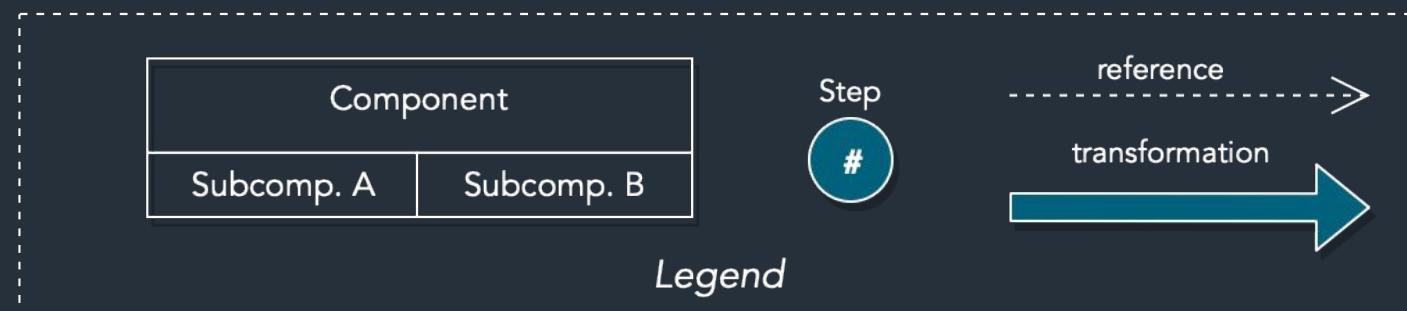
- Language aims to enable expression of common textual representations
 - For example: YAML, JSON, and XML
- Inspired by Cascading Style Sheets (CSS)
 - Composition (enable reuse and extension) and ability of parameterization
- Framework targets the ability to generate *styled* grammar for combinations of metamodel and style model
 - Based on grammar rule templates and injection-based property selection

ECSS Approach



UNIVERSITY
of York

How to construct DSMLs by applying *ECSS* approach?

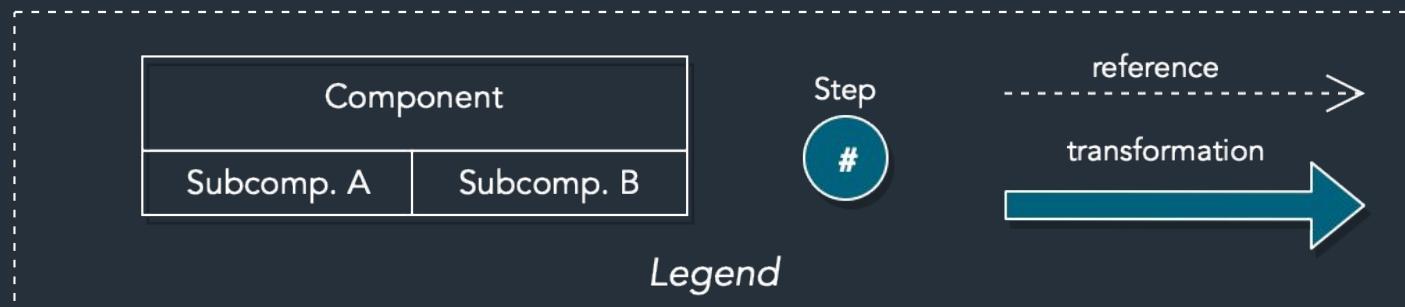
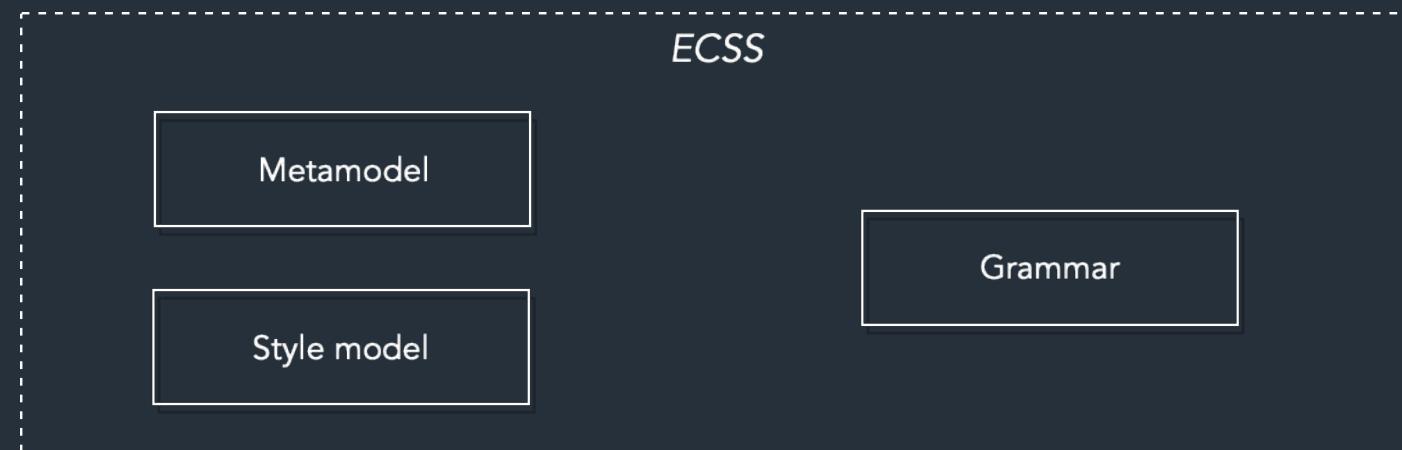


ECSS Approach



UNIVERSITY
of York

Based on model-first approach

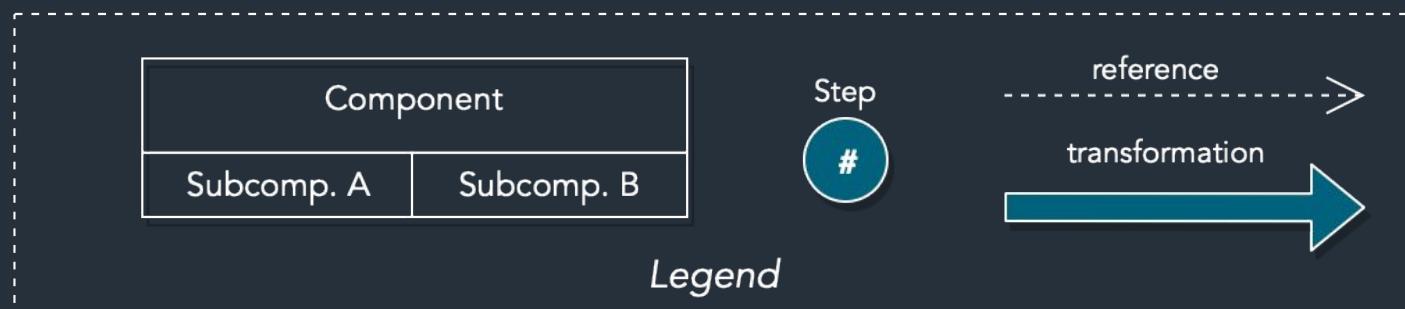
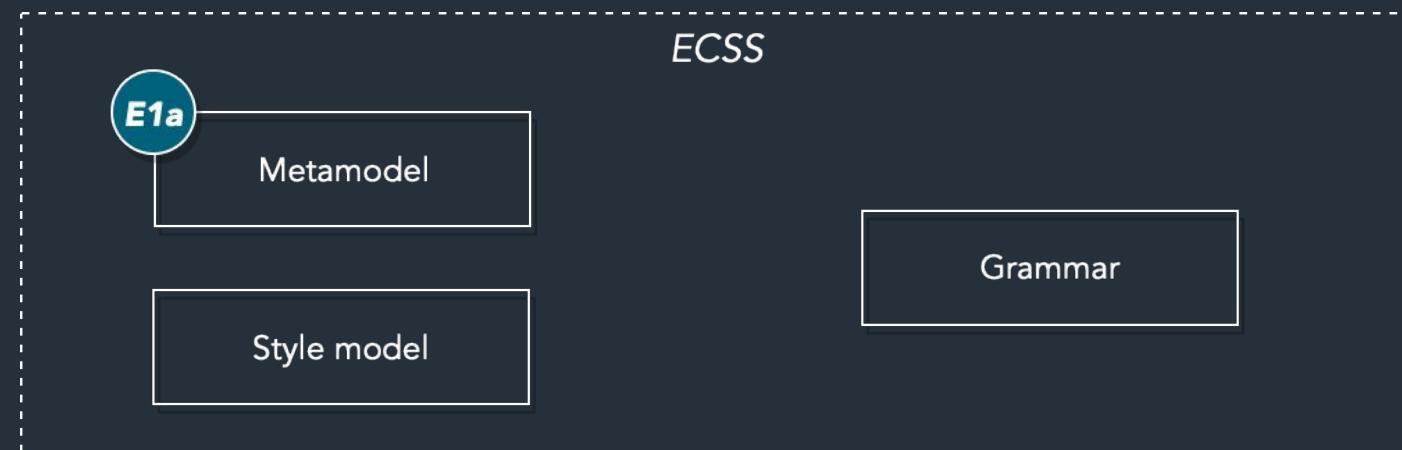


ECSS Approach



UNIVERSITY
of York

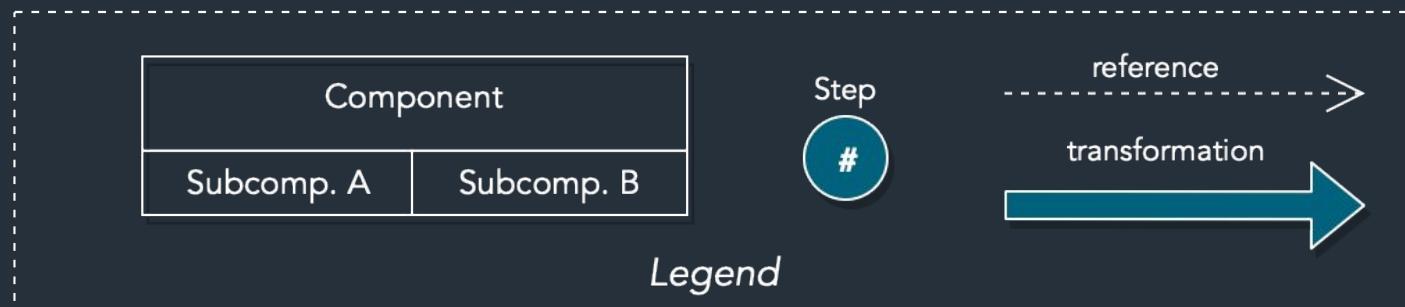
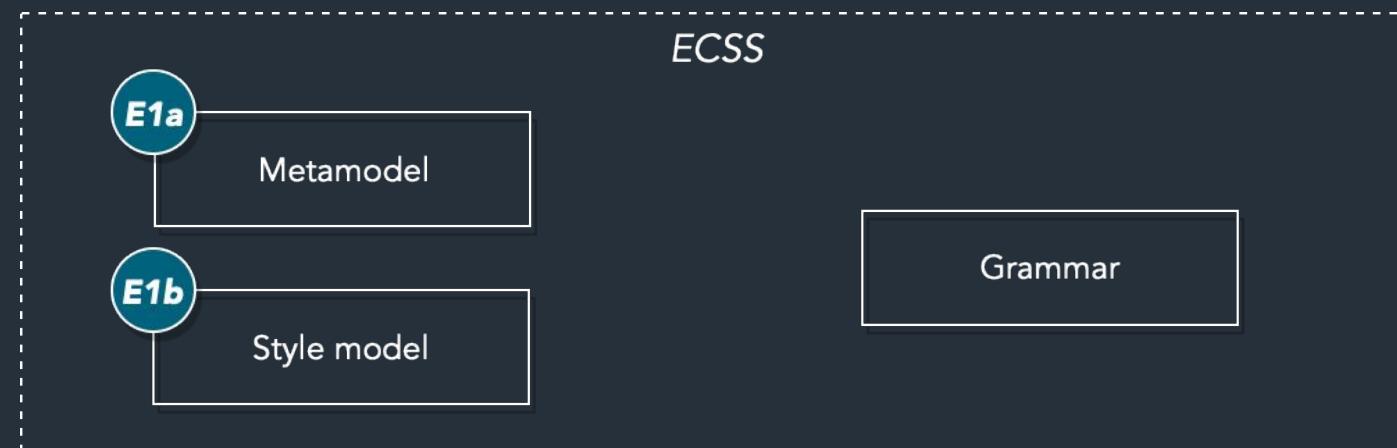
Create metamodel



ECSS Approach



Create style model

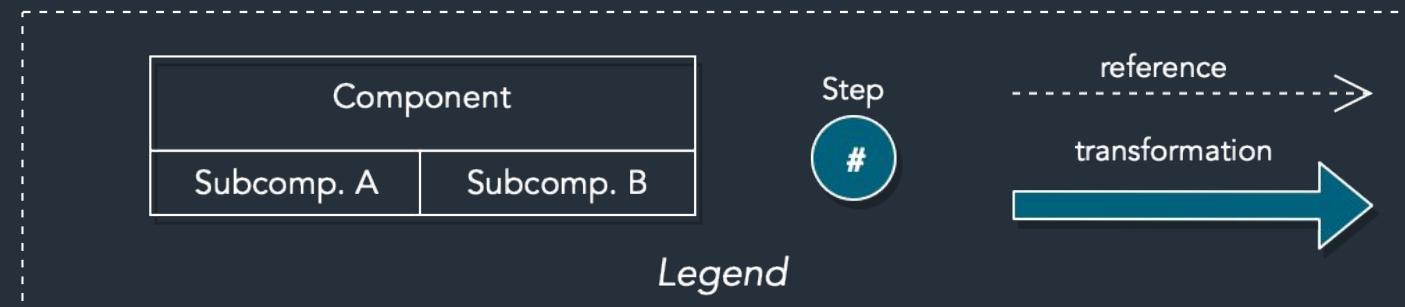
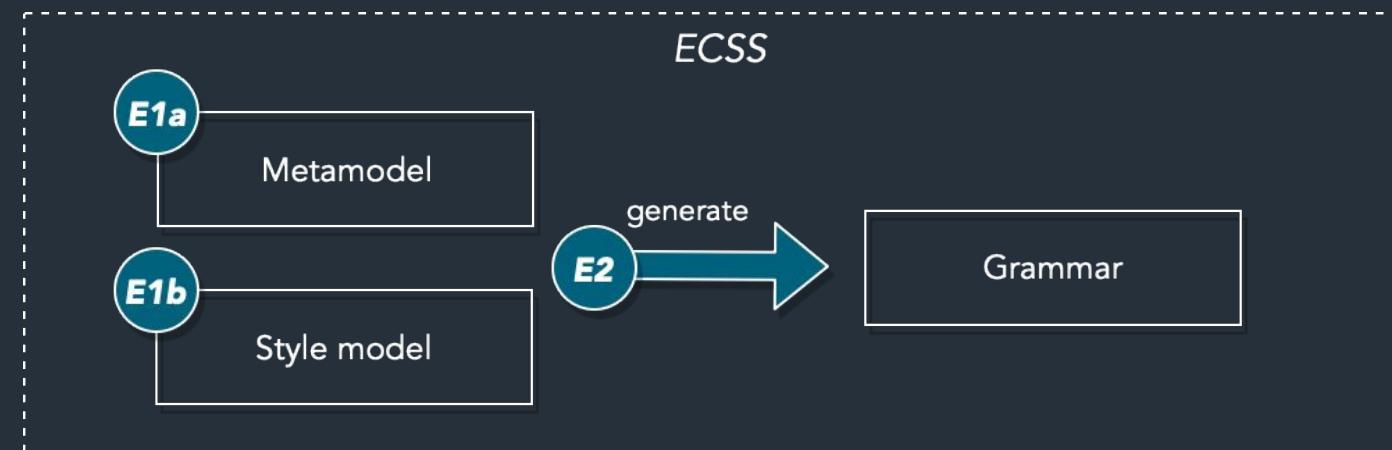


ECSS Approach



UNIVERSITY
of York

Generate *styled* grammar

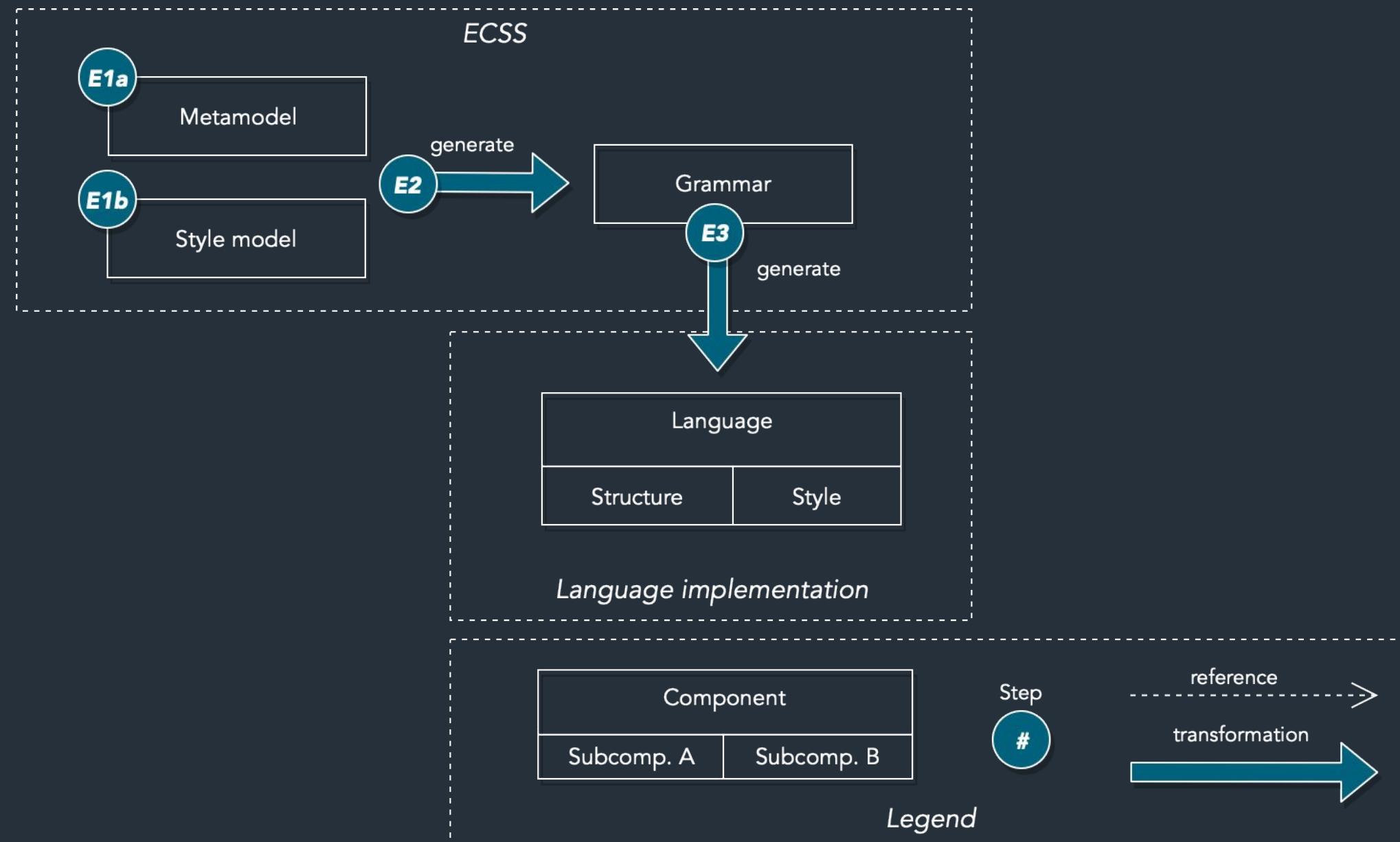


ECSS Approach



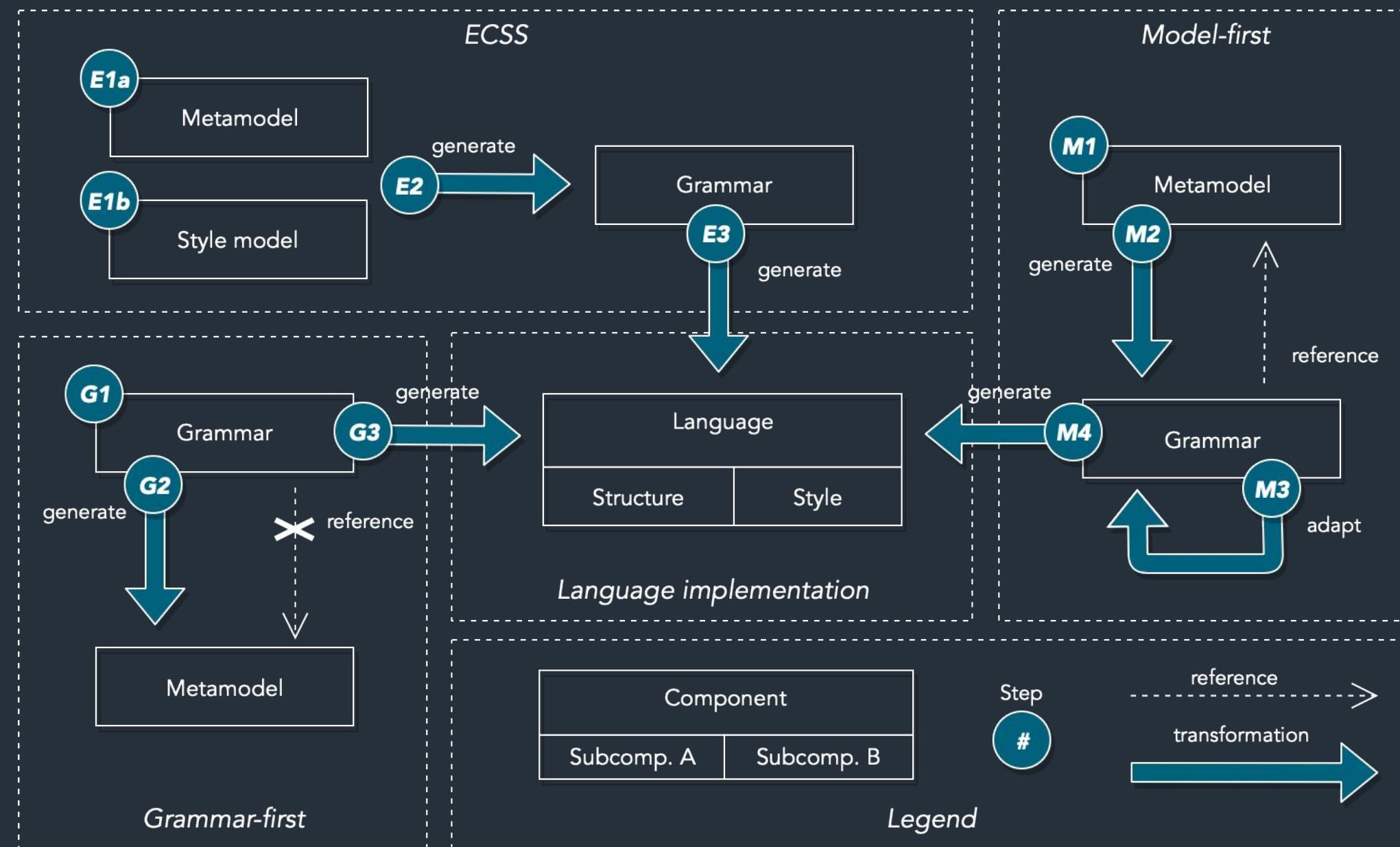
UNIVERSITY
of York

Generate language implementation from *styled* grammar



Summary of Approaches

- Grammar-first, Model-first, and ECSS



ECSS Language



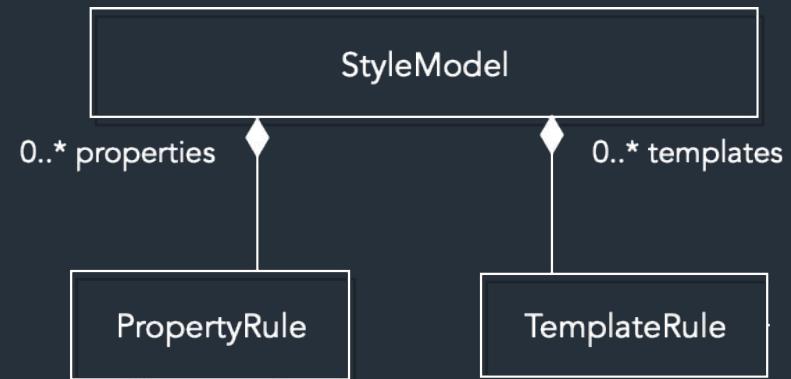
StyleModel (root)

StyleModel

ECSS Language



StyleModel *properties* and *templates*

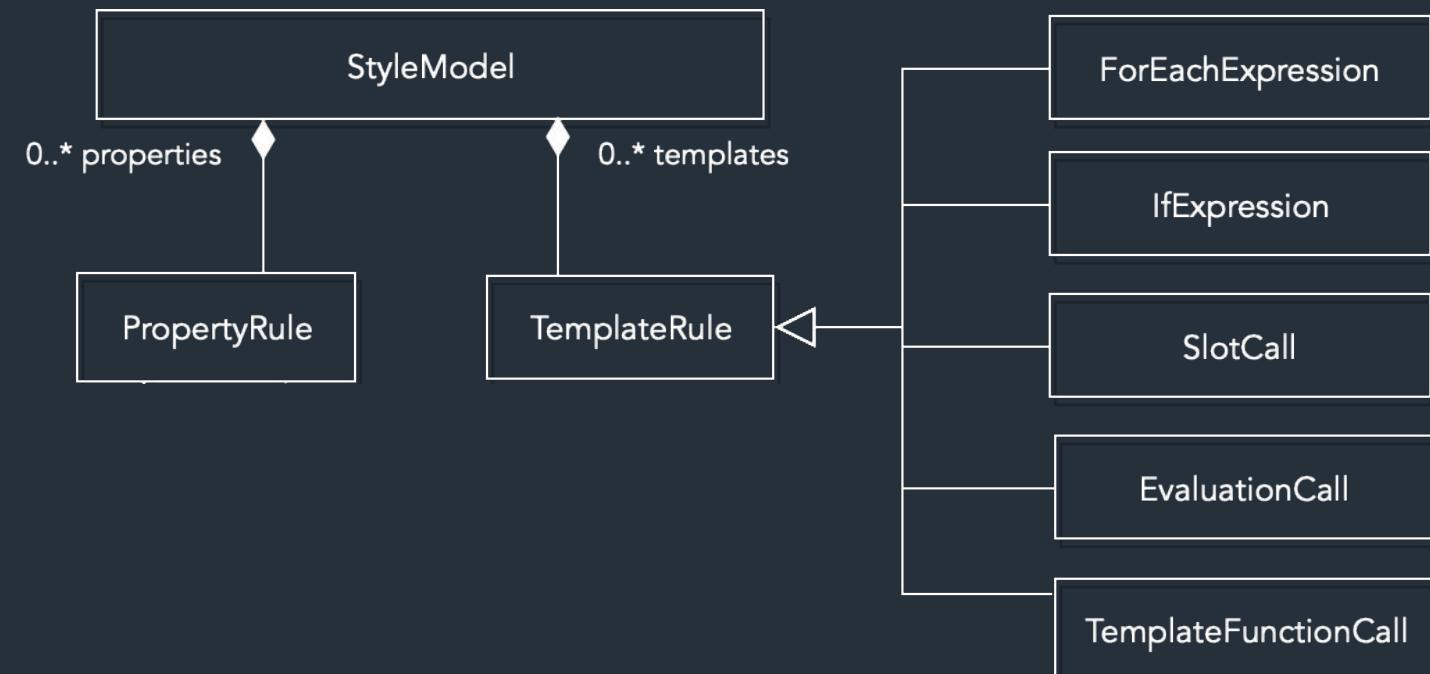


ECSS Language



UNIVERSITY
of York

TemplateRule *manifestations*

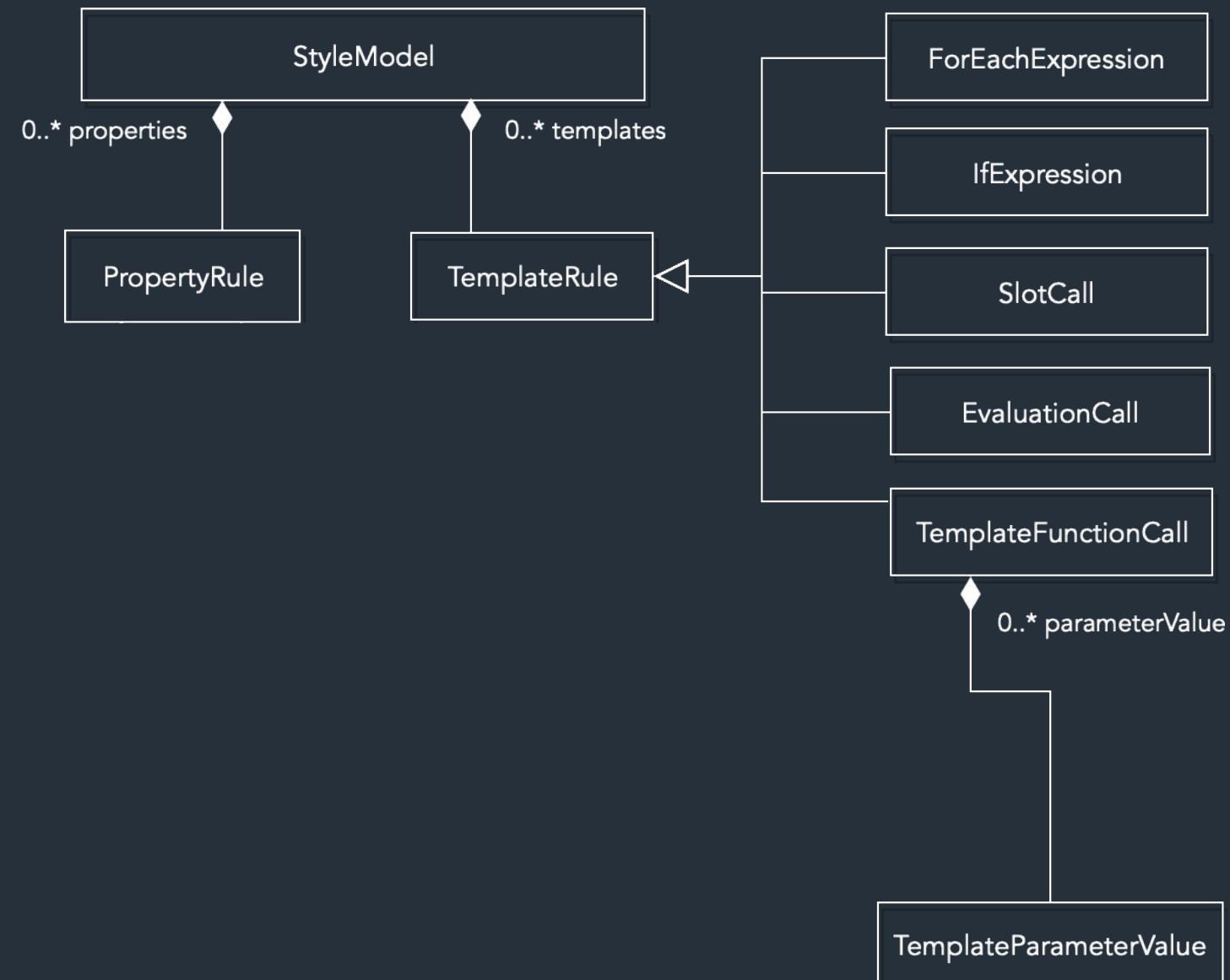


ECSS Language



UNIVERSITY
of York

TemplateFunctionCall *parameterValue*

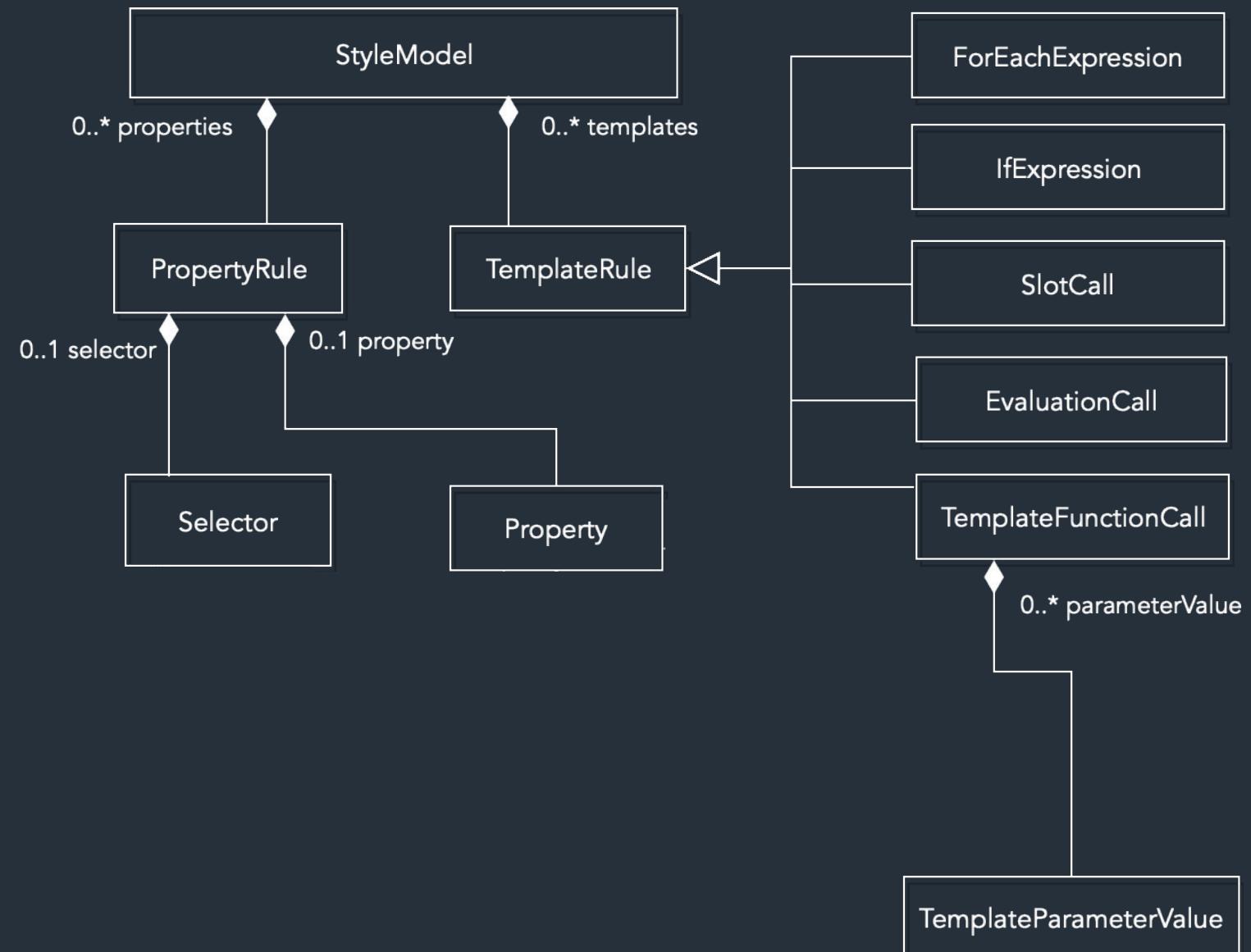


ECSS Language



UNIVERSITY
of York

PropertyRule *selector* and *property*

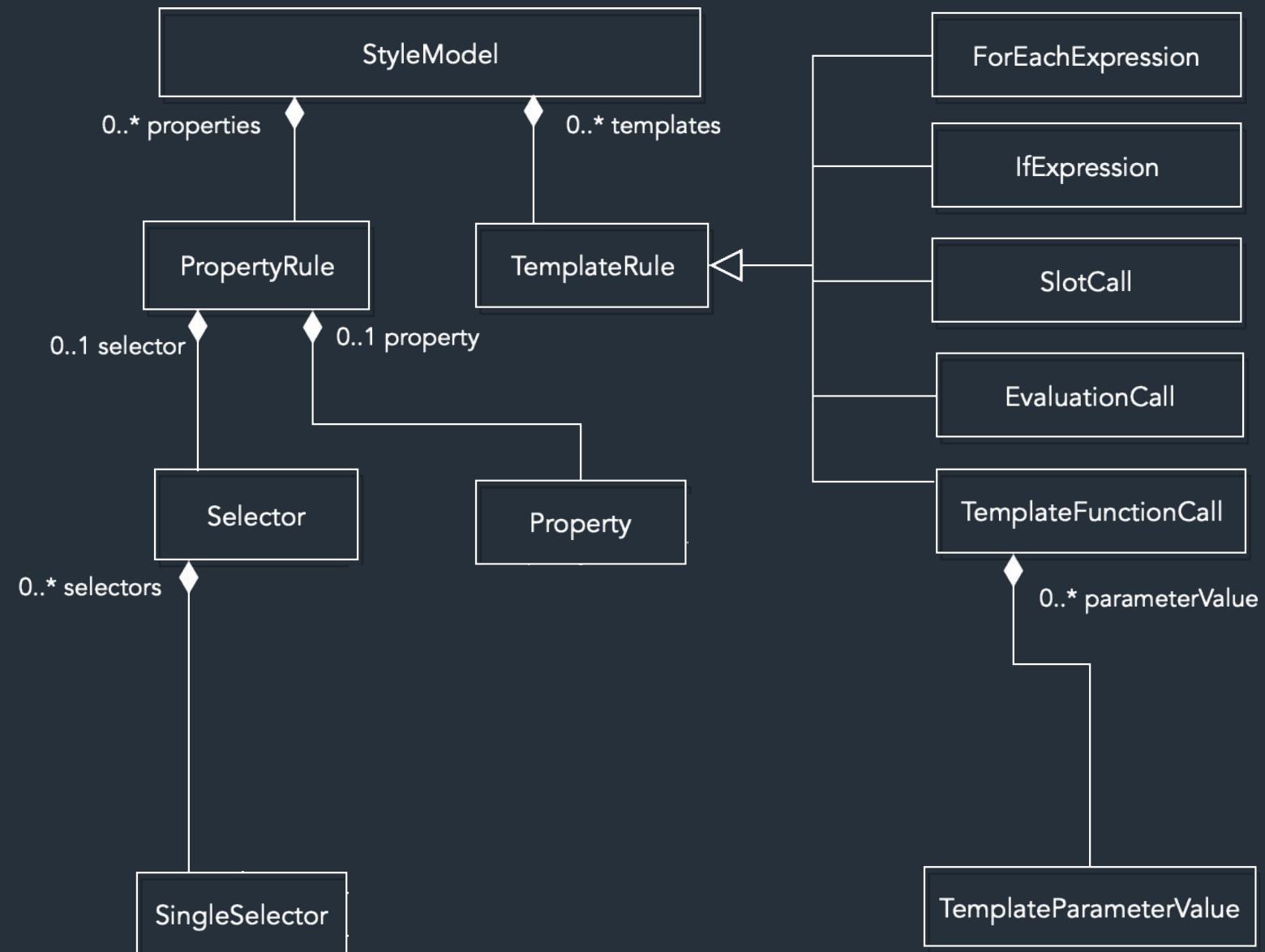


ECSS Language



UNIVERSITY
of York

Selector *selectors* (SingleSelector)

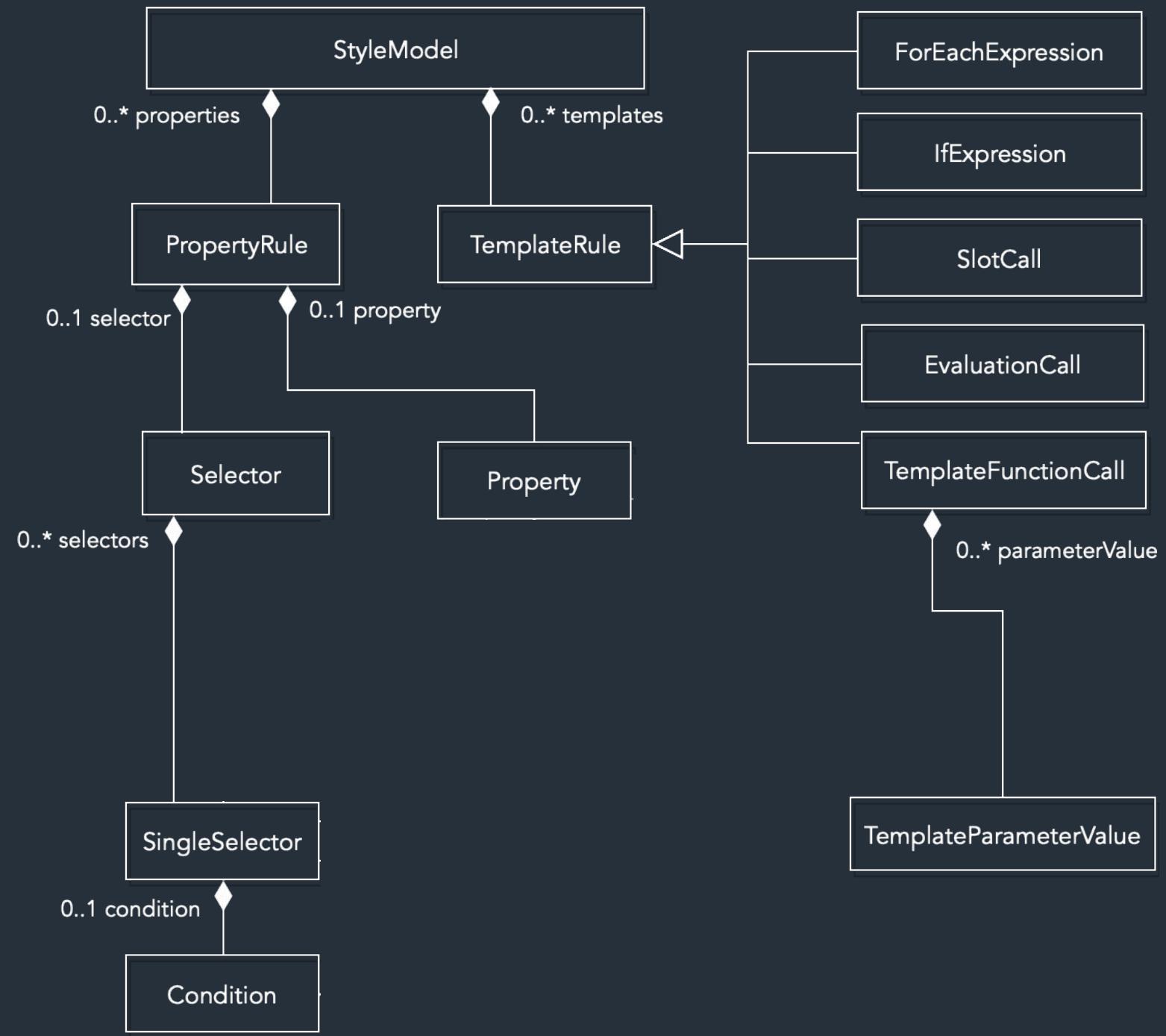


ECSS Language



UNIVERSITY
of York

SingleSelector *condition*

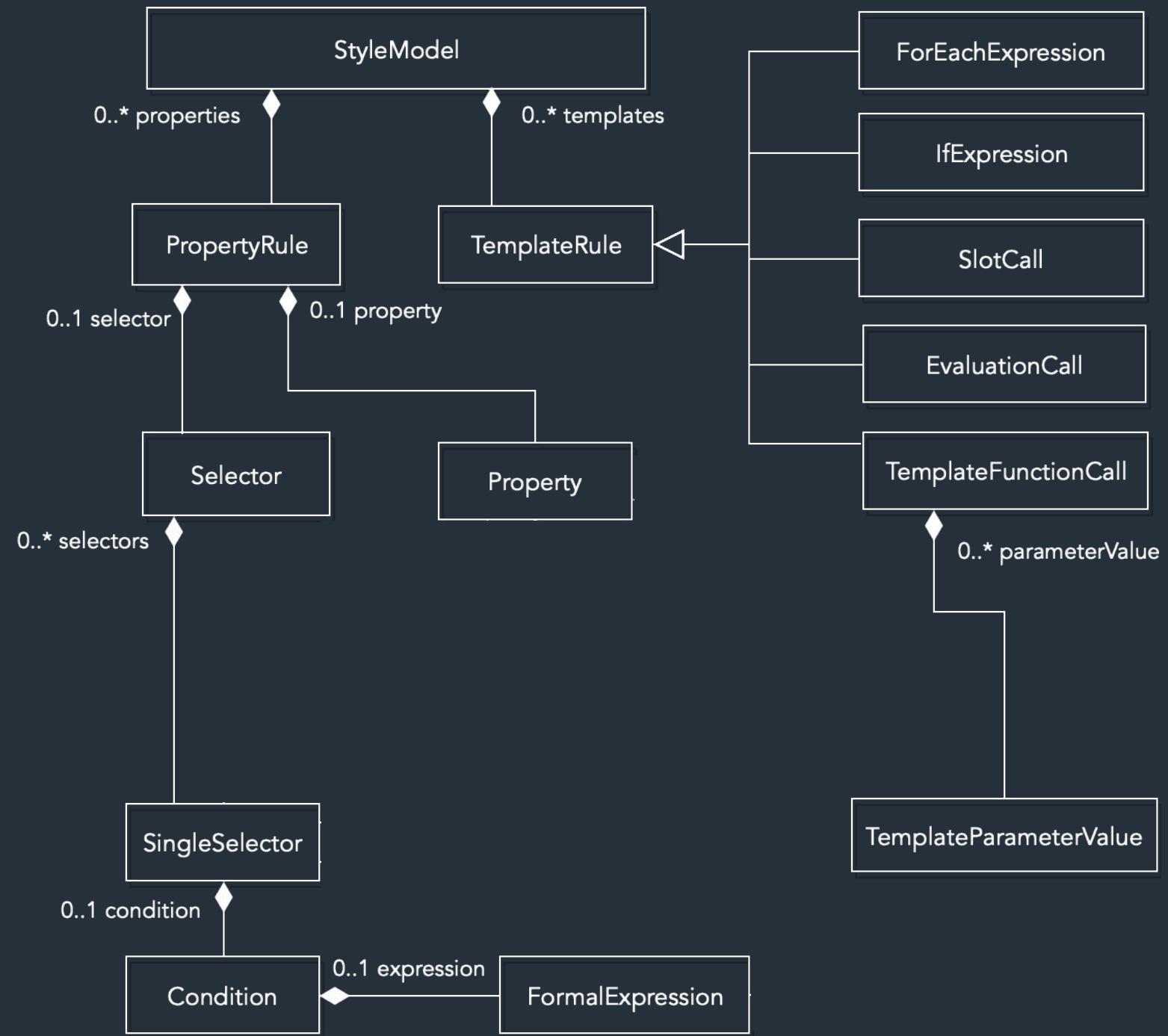


ECSS Language



UNIVERSITY
of York

Condition expression (FormalExpression)

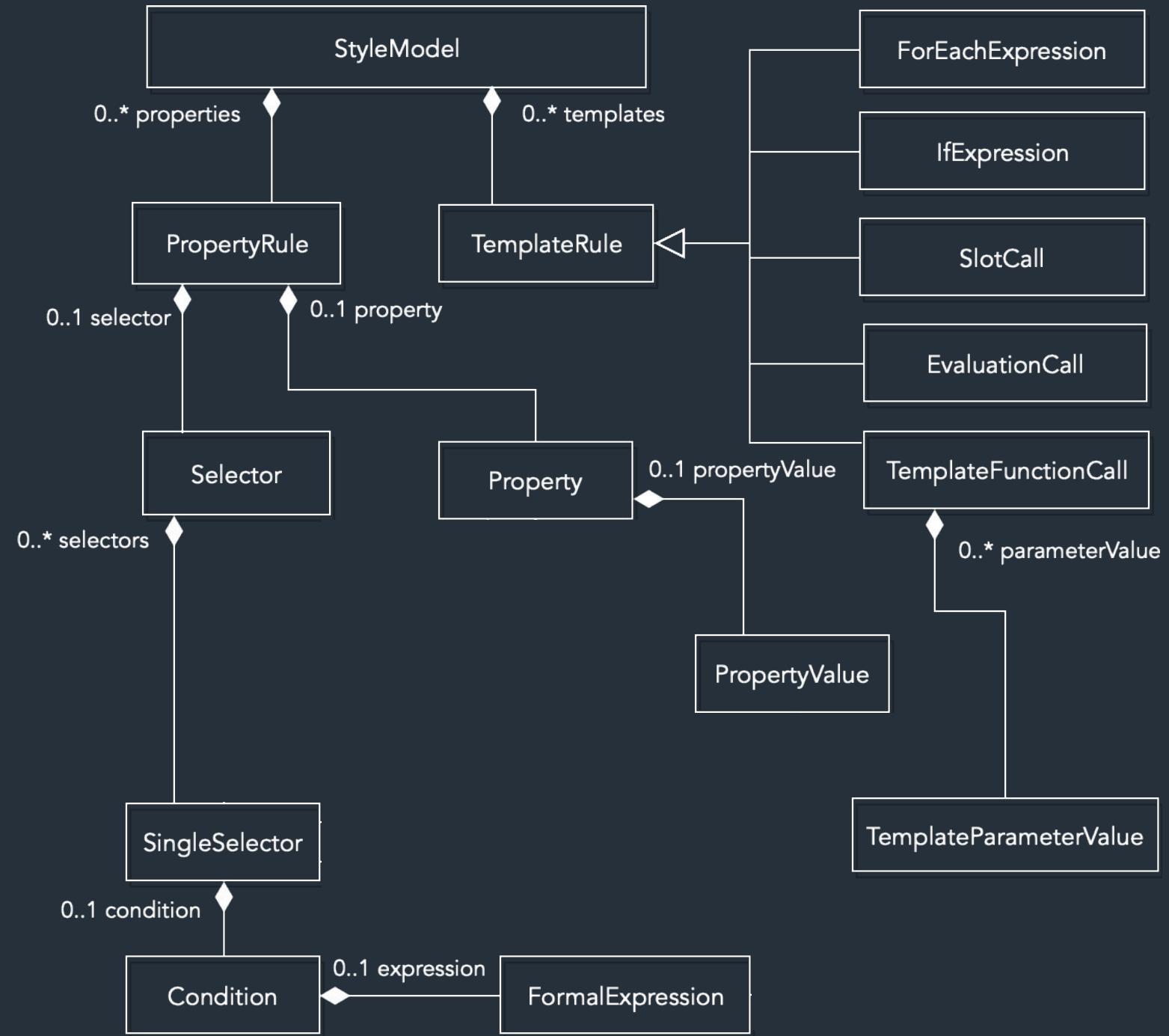


ECSS Language



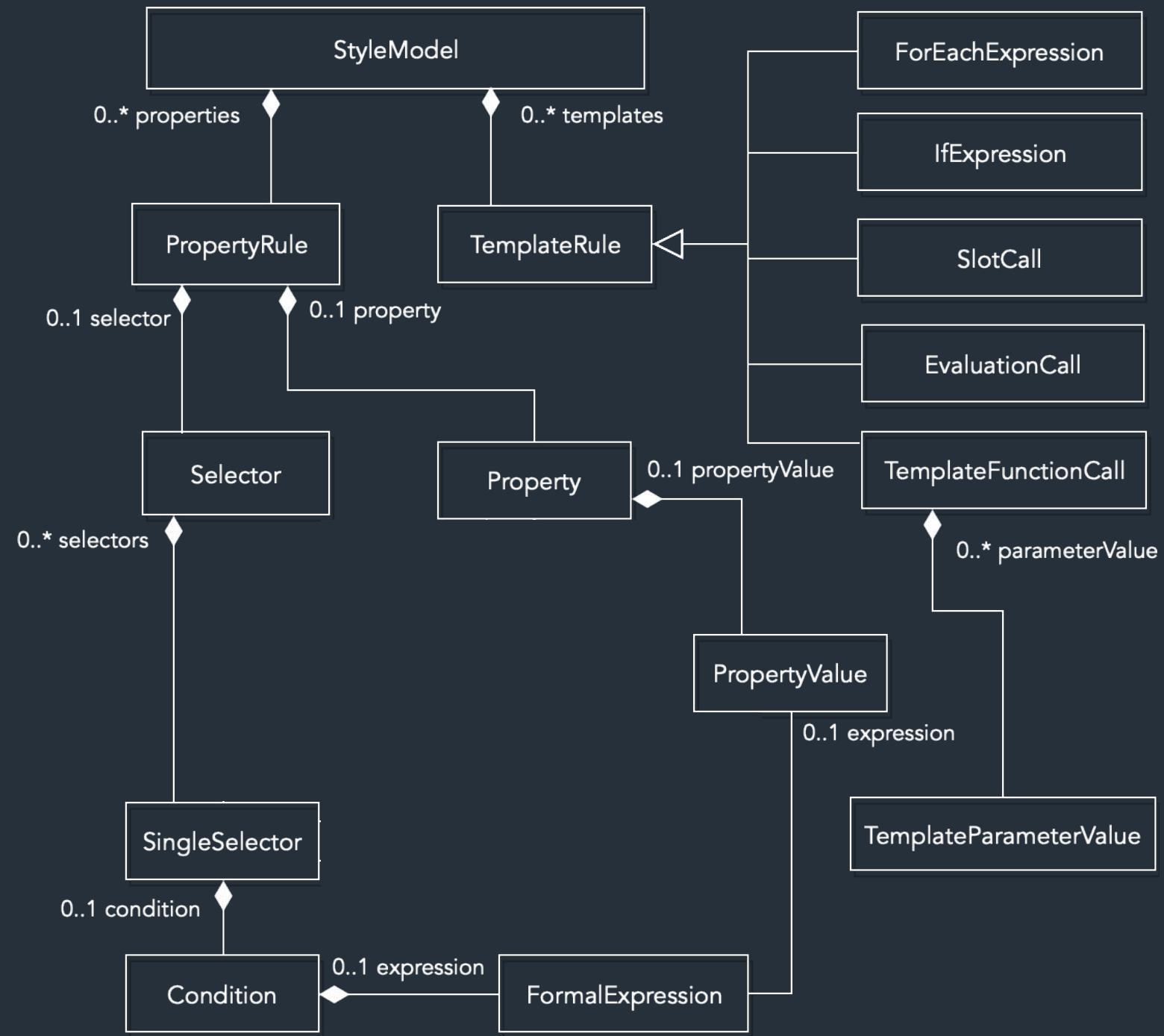
UNIVERSITY
of York

Property *propertyValue*





PropertyValue expression (FormalExpression)



ECSS Language



UNIVERSITY
of York

Property *templateMatch*

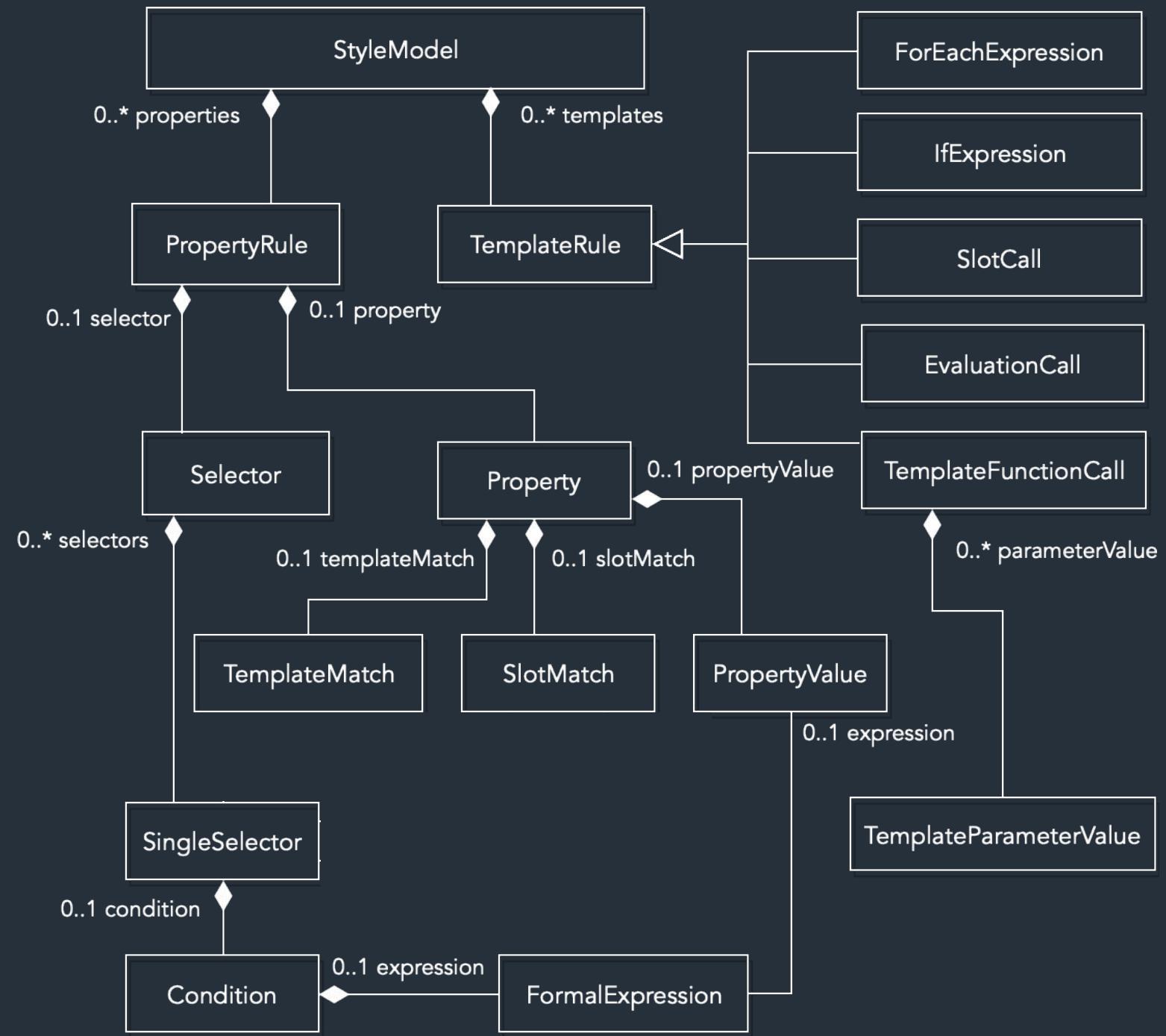


ECSS Language



UNIVERSITY
of York

Property *slotMatch*

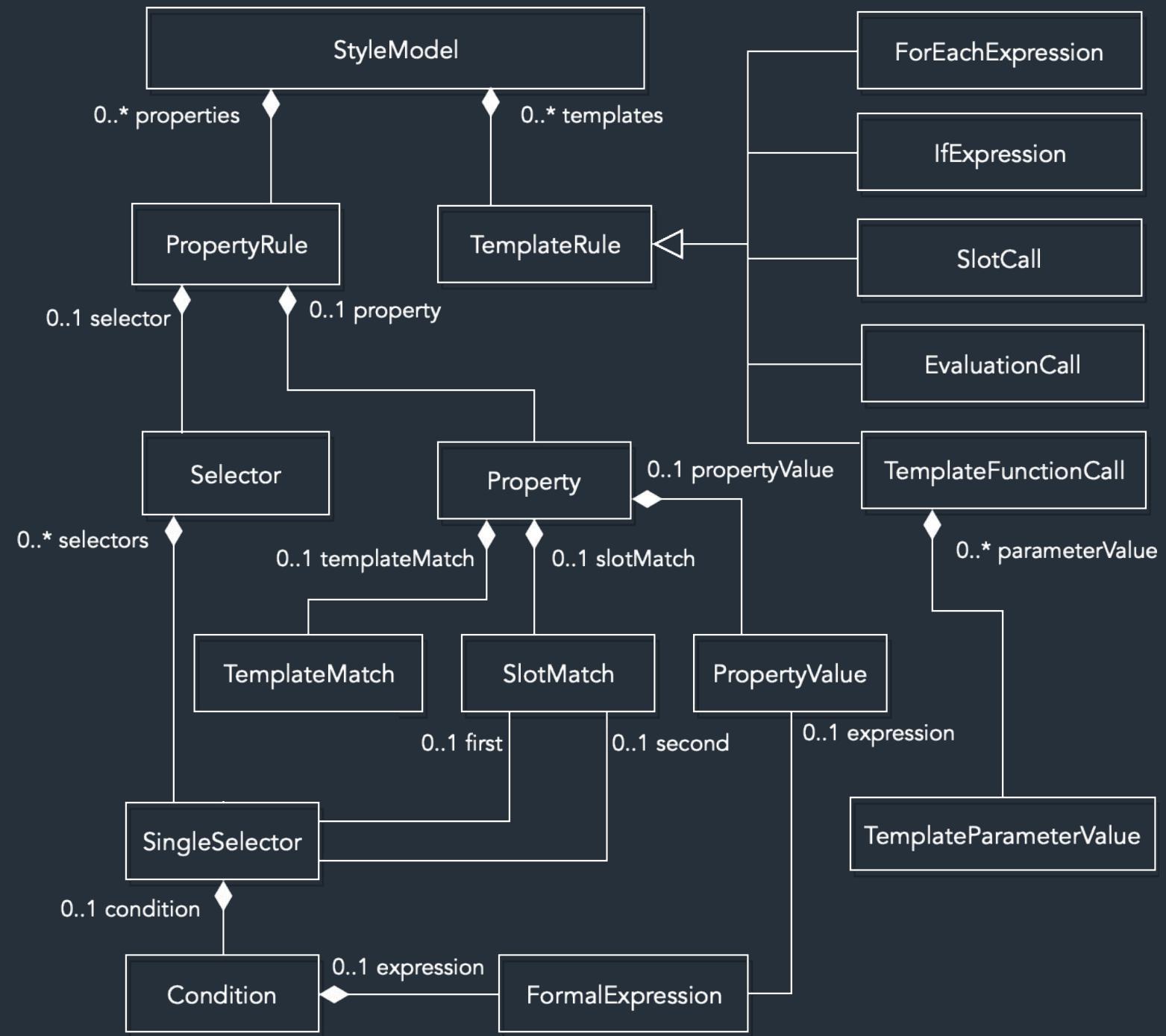


ECSS Language



UNIVERSITY
of York

SlotMatch *first* and *second*



Style Modeling



Requirement #1: indentation-based layout

- *ws-aware.ecss*

```
import "default.ecss";

templateGen classGenTemplate extends classTemplate;

rule whitespaceClassRule:classGenTemplate:: classRules:
    class.name " returns " class.name ":" "{"
        class.name
    }"
    [% if (slot_name.getValues().isEmpty()) { %]
        " " classname " " " ":" "
    [% } else { %]
        nameDistRules(~name[0 .. 1])
    [% } %]
    ::BEGIN()
        " (" attributeDistRules(~other[ 0 .. 99]) ")"
    ::END()
    ' ; '
;

NamedElement+ {
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name.toUpperCase()" priority(2.0);
}

* {
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name" priority(1.0);
    slot(name,name): 2.0;
}
```

Style Modeling



Requirement #1: indentation-based layout

- *ws-aware.ecss*

```
import "default.ecss";

templateGen classGenTemplate extends classTemplate;

rule whitespaceClassRule: classGenTemplate:: classRules:
    class.name " return " class.name ":" "{"
        class.name
    }"                                     Rule name
    [% if (slot_name.getValues().isEmpty()) { %]
        " " classname " " " ":" "
    [% } else { %]
        nameDistRules(~name[0 .. 1])
    [% } %]
    ::BEGIN()
        " (" attributeDistRules(~other[ 0 .. 99]) ")"
    ::END()
    ' ; '
;

NamedElement+ {
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name.toUpperCase()" priority(2.0);
}

* {
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name" priority(1.0);
    slot(name, name): 2.0;
}
```

Style Modeling



Requirement #1: indentation-based layout

- *ws-aware.ecss*

```
import "default.ecss";

templateGen classGenTemplate extends classTemplate;

rule whitespaceClassRule: classGenTemplate:: classRules:
    class.name " returns " class.name " {"  
        class.name  
    }"  
    [% if (slot_name.getValues().isEmpty()) { %]  
        " " classname " " " ":" "  
    [% } else { %]  
        nameDistRules(~name[0 .. 1])  
    [% } %]
    ::BEGIN()  
        " (" attributeDistRules(~other[ 0 .. 99]) ")"  
    ::END()  
    ';'  
;  
  
NamedElement+ {
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name.toUpperCase()" priority(2.0);
}  
  
* {
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name" priority(1.0);
    slot(name, name): 2.0;
}
```

Rule template generator

Style Modeling



Requirement #1: indentation-based layout

- *ws-aware.ecss*

```
import "default.ecss";

templateGen classGenTemplate extends classTemplate;

rule whitespaceClassRule:classGenTemplate:: classRules:
    class.name " returns " class.name ":" "{"
        class.name
    }"
    [% if (slot_name.getValues().isEmpty()) { %]
        " " classname " " " ":" "
    [% } else { %]
        nameDistRules(~name[0 .. 1])
    [% } %]
    ::BEGIN()
        " (" attributeDistRules(~other[ 0 .. 99]) ")"
    ::END()
    ' ; '
;

NamedElement+ {
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name.toUpperCase()" priority(2.0);
}

* {
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name" priority(1.0);
    slot(name,name): 2.0;
}
```

A callout bubble points to the block of rules starting with "rule whitespaceClassRule:" and contains the text "Rule group(s)".

Style Modeling



Requirement #1: indentation-based layout

- *ws-aware.ecss*

```
import "default.ecss";

templateGen classGenTemplate extends classTemplate;

rule whitespaceClassRule:classGenTemplate:: classRules:
    class.name " returns " class.name ":" "{"
        class.name
    "}"
    [% if (slot_name.getValues().isEmpty()) { %]
        " " classname " " " ":" "
    [% } else { %]
        nameDistRules(~name[0 .. 1])
    [% } %]
    ::BEGIN()
        " (" attributeDistRules(~other[ 0 .. 99]) ")"
    ::END()
    ' ; '
;

NamedElement+ {
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name.toUpperCase()" priority(2.0);
}

* {
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name" priority(1.0);
    slot(name,name): 2.0;
}
```

Defines rule *header*

Style Modeling



Requirement #1: indentation-based layout

- *ws-aware.ecss*

```
import "default.ecss";

templateGen classGenTemplate extends classTemplate;

rule whitespaceClassRule:classGenTemplate:: classRules:
    class.name " returns " class.name ":" "{"
        class.name
    }"
    [% if (slot_name.getValues().isEmpty()) { %]
        " " classname " " " ":" "
    [% } else { %]
        nameDistRules(~name[0 .. 1])
    [% } %]
    ::BEGIN()
        " (" attributeDistRules(~other[ 0 .. 99]) ")"
    ::END()
    ' ; '
;

NamedElement+ {
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name.toUpperCase()" priority(2.0);
}

* {
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name" priority(1.0);
    slot(name,name): 2.0;
}
```

If slot *name* has no associated attribute, require the class name as first content

Style Modeling



Requirement #1: indentation-based layout

- *ws-aware.ecss*

```
import "default.ecss";

templateGen classGenTemplate extends classTemplate;

rule whitespaceClassRule:classGenTemplate:: classRules:
    class.name " returns " class.name ":" "{"
        class.name
    }"
    [% if (slot_name.getValues().isEmpty()) { %]
        " " classname " " " ":" "
    [% } else { %]
        nameDistRules(~name[0 .. 1])
    [% } %]
    ::BEGIN()
        " (" attributeDistRules(~other[ 0 .. 99]) ")"
    ::END()
    ';' 
;

NamedElement+ {
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name.toUpperCase()" priority(2.0);
}

* {
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name" priority(1.0);
    slot(name,name): 2.0;
}
```

If slot named *name* has associated attributes set, start object with the definition of these attributes

Style Modeling



Requirement #1: indentation-based layout

- *ws-aware.ecss*

```
import "default.ecss";

templateGen classGenTemplate extends classTemplate;

rule whitespaceClassRule:classGenTemplate:: classRules:
    class.name " returns " class.name ":" "{"
        class.name
    }"
    [% if (slot_name.getValues().isEmpty()) { %]
        " " classname " " " ":" "
    [% } else { %]
        nameDistRules(~name[0 .. 1])
    [% } %]
    ::BEGIN()
        " (" attributeDistRules(~other[ 0 .. 99]) ")"
    ::END()
    ' ; '
;

NamedElement+ {
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name.toUpperCase()" priority(2.0);
}

* {
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name" priority(1.0);
    slot(name,name): 2.0;
}
```

Rule call to select a subrule in the rule group *nameDistRules*

Style Modeling



Requirement #1: indentation-based layout

- *ws-aware.ecss*

```
import "default.ecss";

templateGen classGenTemplate extends classTemplate;

rule whitespaceClassRule:classGenTemplate:: classRules:
    class.name " returns " class.name ":" "{"
        class.name
    }"
    [% if (slot_name.getValues().isEmpty()) { %]
        " " classname " " " ":" "
    [% } else { %]
        nameDistRules(~name[0 .. 1])
    [% } %]
    ::BEGIN()
        " (" attributeDistRules(~other[0 .. 99]) ")"
    ::END()
    ';'"

NamedElement+ {
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name.toUpperCase()" priority(2.0);
}

* {
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name" priority(1.0);
    slot(name,name): 2.0;
}
```

Create additional
indentation for object
features

Style Modeling



Requirement #1: indentation-based layout

- *ws-aware.ecss*

```
import "default.ecss";

templateGen classGenTemplate extends classTemplate;

rule whitespaceClassRule:classGenTemplate:: classRules:
    class.name " returns " class.name ":" "{"
        class.name
    }"
    [% if (slot_name.getValues().isEmpty()) { %]
        " " classname " " " ":" "
    [% } else { %]
        nameDistRules(~name[0 .. 1])
    [% } %]
    ::BEGIN()
        " (" attributeDistRules(~other[0 .. 99]) ")"
    ::END()
    ' ; '
;

NamedElement+ {
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name.toUpperCase()" priority(2.0);
}

* {
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name" priority(1.0);
    slot(name,name): 2.0;
}
```

Metamodel-dependent rule

Style Modeling



Requirement #1: indentation-based layout

- *ws-aware.ecss*

```
import "default.ecss";

templateGen classGenTemplate extends classTemplate;

rule whitespaceClassRule:classGenTemplate:: classRules:
    class.name " returns " class.name ":" "{"
        class.name
    }"
    [% if (slot_name.getValues().isEmpty()) { %]
        " " classname " " " ":" "
    [% } else { %]
        nameDistRules(~name[0 .. 1])
    [% } %]
    ::BEGIN()
        " (" attributeDistRules(~other[0 .. 99]) ")"
    ::END()
    ';' 
;

NamedElement+ {
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name.toUpperCase()" priority(2.0);
}

* {
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name" priority(1.0);
    slot(name,name): 2.0;
}
```

For subclasses of *NamedElement*, the *classname* is the name of the Ecore class in uppercase characters

Style Modeling



Requirement #1: indentation-based layout

- *ws-aware.ecss*

```
import "default.ecss";

templateGen classGenTemplate extends classTemplate;

rule whitespaceClassRule:classGenTemplate:: classRules:
    class.name " returns " class.name ":" "{"
        class.name
    }"
    [% if (slot_name.getValues().isEmpty()) { %]
        " " classname " " " ":" "
    [% } else { %]
        nameDistRules(~name[0 .. 1])
    [% } %]
    ::BEGIN()
        " (" attributeDistRules(~other[0 .. 99]) ")"
    ::END()
    ' ; '
;

NamedElement+ {
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name.toUpperCase()" priority(2.0);
}

* {
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name" priority(1.0);
    slot(name,name): 2.0;
}
```

Global rule
(star-selector)

Style Modeling



Requirement #1: indentation-based layout

- *ws-aware.ecss*

```
import "default.ecss";

templateGen classGenTemplate extends classTemplate;

rule whitespaceClassRule:classGenTemplate:: classRules:
    class.name " returns " class.name ":" "{"
        class.name
    }"
    [% if (slot_name.getValues().isEmpty()) { %]
        " " classname " " " ":" "
    [% } else { %]
        nameDistRules(~name[0 .. 1])
    [% } %]
    ::BEGIN()
        " (" attributeDistRules(~other[0 .. 99]) ")"
    ::END()
    ';' 
;

NamedElement+ {
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name.toUpperCase()" priority(2.0);
}

* {
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name" priority(1.0);
    slot(name,name): 2.0;
}
```

Lower-priority **global rule** will only be applied in case the higher-priority rule is not applicable

Style Modeling



Requirement #1: indentation-based layout

- *ws-aware.ecss*

```
import "default.ecss";

templateGen classGenTemplate extends classTemplate;

rule whitespaceClassRule:classGenTemplate:: classRules:
    class.name " returns " class.name ":" "{"
        class.name
    }"
    [% if (slot_name.getValues().isEmpty()) { %]
        " " classname " " " ":" "
    [% } else { %]
        nameDistRules(~name[0 .. 1])
    [% } %]
    ::BEGIN()
        " (" attributeDistRules(~other[0 .. 99]) ")"
    ::END()
    ' ; '
;

NamedElement+ {
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name.toUpperCase()" priority(2.0);
}

* {
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name" priority(1.0);
    slot(name,name): 2.0;
}
```

Set value of feature
classname to be the
(actual) name of the class

Style Modeling



Requirement #1: indentation-based layout

- *ws-aware.ecss*

```
import "default.ecss";

templateGen classGenTemplate extends classTemplate;

rule whitespaceClassRule:classGenTemplate:: classRules:
    class.name " returns " class.name ":" "{"
        class.name
    }"
    [% if (slot_name.getValues().isEmpty()) { %]
        " " classname " " " ":" "
    [% } else { %]
        nameDistRules(~name[0 .. 1])
    [% } %]
    ::BEGIN()
        " (" attributeDistRules(~other[0 .. 99]) ")"
    ::END()
    ';' 
;

NamedElement+ {
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name.toUpperCase()" priority(2.0);
}
*
{
    classname: ocl "rule.class.name" priority(1.0);
    slot(name,name): 2.0;
}
```

Associate features named *name* to the slot *name* with priority 2.0

Style Modeling



Requirement #2: arbitrary order of declaration

- *arbitrary-order.ecss*

```
import "ws-aware.ecss";  
  
template attributeTemplate: uk.ac.york.cs.ecss.newproc.AttributeXtendRule;  
templateGen attributeGenTemplate extends attributeTemplate;  
  
rule arbitraryAttributeDistr: attributeGenTemplate:: attributeDistRules:  
    "("  
    for esf: features join ") | (" {  
        attributeRule(esf)  
        [% List<EStructuralFeature> smallerFeatures = new ArrayList(features); %]  
        [% smallerFeatures.remove(esf); boolean first = true; %]  
        "("  
        for EStructuralFeature sub: smallerFeatures join ") & (" {  
            ", " attributeRule(sub)  
        } ")"  
    } ")"  
;
```

Import style model created to fulfil requirement #1

Style Modeling



UNIVERSITY
of York

Requirement #2: arbitrary order of declaration

- *arbitrary-order.ecss*

Define mapping of template *attributeTemplate* to Java class *AttributeXtendRule*

```
import "ws-aware.ecss";

template attributeTemplate: uk.ac.york.cs.ecss.newproc.AttributeXtendRule;
templateGen attributeGenTemplate extends attributeTemplate;

rule arbitraryAttributeDistr: attributeGenTemplate:: attributeDistRules:
    "("
    for esf: features join ") | (" {
        attributeRule(esf)
        [% List<EStructuralFeature> smallerFeatures = new ArrayList(features); %]
        [% smallerFeatures.remove(esf); boolean first = true; %]
        "("(
        for EStructuralFeature sub: smallerFeatures join ") & (" {
            ", " attributeRule(sub)
        } ") ) "
    } ")"
;
```

Style Modeling



Requirement #2: arbitrary order of declaration

- *arbitrary-order.ecss*

Define that rules of template generator
attributeGenTemplate extend Java class
AttributeXtendRule

```
import "ws-aware.ecss";

template attributeTemplate: uk.ac.york.cs...ws.newproc.AttributeXtendRule;
templateGen attributeGenTemplate extends attributeTemplate;

rule arbitraryAttributeDistr: attributeGenTemplate:: attributeDistRules:
    "("
    for esf: features join ") | (" {
        attributeRule(esf)
        [% List<EStructuralFeature> smallerFeatures = new ArrayList(features); %]
        [% smallerFeatures.remove(esf); boolean first = true; %]
    "("
    for EStructuralFeature sub: smallerFeatures join ") & (" {
        ", " attributeRule(sub)
    } ")"
} ")"
;
```

Style Modeling



UNIVERSITY
of York

Requirement #2: arbitrary order of declaration

- *arbitrary-order.ecss*

```
import "ws-aware.ecss";

template attributeTemplate: uk.ac.york.cs.ecss.newproc.AttributeXtendRule;
templateGen attributeGenTemplate extends attributeTemplate;

rule arbitraryAttributeDistr: attributeGenTemplate:: attributeDistRules:
    "("
        for esf: features join ") | (" {
            attributeRule(esf)
            [% List<EStructuralFeature> smallerFeatures = new ArrayList(features); %]
            [% smallerFeatures.remove(esf); boolean first = true; %]
            "("
                for EStructuralFeature sub: smallerFeatures join ") & (" {
                    ", " attributeRule(sub)
                } ")"
            } ")"
        }
    ;

```

Arbitrary first feature

Unordered group of remaining features, prefixed by comma

Style Modeling



Requirement #2: arbitrary order of declaration

- *arbitrary-order.ecss*

```
import "ws-aware.ecss";

template attributeTemplate: uk.ac.york.cs.ecss.newproc.AttributeXtendRule;
templateGen attributeGenTemplate extends attributeTemplate;

rule arbitraryAttributeDistr: attributeGenTemplate:: attributeDistRules:
    "("
        for esf: features join ") | (" {
            attributeRule(esf)
            [% List<EStructuralFeature> smallerFeatures = new ArrayList(features); %]
            [% smallerFeatures.remove(esf); boolean first = true; %]
        "("
            for EStructuralFeature sub: smallerFeatures join ") & (" {
                ", " attributeRule(sub)
            } ")"
        }
    )"
;
```

Allow an arbitrary feature to occur first

Style Modeling



Requirement #2: arbitrary order of declaration

- *arbitrary-order.ecss*

```
import "ws-aware.ecss";

template attributeTemplate: uk.ac.york.cs.ecss.newproc.AttributeXtendRule;
templateGen attributeGenTemplate extends attributeTemplate;

rule arbitraryAttributeDistr: attributeGenTemplate:: attributeDistRules:
    "("
    for esf: features join ") | (" {
        attributeRule(esf)
        [% List<EStructuralFeature> smallerFeatures = new ArrayList(features); %]
        [% smallerFeatures.remove(esf); boolean first = true; %]
        "(" (
            for EStructuralFeature sub: smallerFeatures join ") & (" {
                ", " attributeRule(sub)
            } ") ) "
        } ")"
    ;
}
```

Calculate remaining features
using *embedded Java code*

Style Modeling



UNIVERSITY
of York

Requirement #2: arbitrary order of declaration

- *arbitrary-order.ecss*

```
import "ws-aware.ecss";

template attributeTemplate: uk.ac.york.cs.ecss.newproc.AttributeXtendRule;
templateGen attributeGenTemplate extends attributeTemplate;

rule arbitraryAttributeDistr: attributeGenTemplate:: attributeDistRules:
    "("
    for esf: features join ") | (" {
        attributeRule(esf)
        [% List<EStructuralFeature> smallerFeatures = new ArrayList(features); %]
        [% smallerFeatures.remove(esf); boolean first = true; %]
        "(" (
            for EStructuralFeature sub: smallerFeatures join ") & (" {
                ", " attributeRule(sub)
            } ) "
        } "
    } "
;
```

Remaining features are prefixed
with ',' and of arbitrary order

Example Scenario



UNIVERSITY
of York

Styled Grammar (excerpt w/o comma-prefixed feature separation)

```
grammar spacetransportationservice.MyEcssGenSts

import "http://cs.york.ac.uk/ecss/examples/spacetransportationservice"
import "http://www.eclipse.org/emf/2002/Ecore" as ecore

...

LaunchSite: 'LAUNCHSITE' ':'
  {LaunchSite}
  'name' ':' name=IDDT
  BEGIN (
    'locationLatitude' ':' locationLatitude=EDOUBLEDT ';' &
    'locationLongitude' ':' locationLongitude=EDOUBLEDT ';' &
    ( 'operator' ':' operator=ESTRING )? ';' &
    'numberOfLaunchpads' ':' numberOfLaunchpads=EINT ';' &
    ( 'physicalProperties' ':' BEGIN
      physicalProperties+=PhysicalProperty
      physicalProperties+=PhysicalProperty * END)? ';' &
    'operational' ':' operational?=EBOOLEAN ';'
  ) END;

IDDT:
  EBOOLEAN | ID;

...

terminal BEGIN: 'synthetic:BEGIN';
terminal END: 'synthetic:END';
terminal ID: '^'? ('a'..'z' | 'A'..'Z' | '_') ('a'..'z' | 'A'..'Z' | '0'..'9' | '_')*;
```

Indentation-based layout

Arbitrary order of declaration

*Does **not** show comma-prefixed grammar (quadratically larger)*



Indentation-based layout

Comma-prefixed grammar
(quadratically larger)

```
LaunchSite : 'LAUNCHSITE' ':'
  {LaunchSite}
  'name' ':' name = IDDT
  BEGIN (
    'locationLatitude' ':' locationLatitude= EDOUBLEDT
    ('locationLongitude' ':' locationLongitude= EDOUBLEDT &
     ('operator' ':' operator= ESTRING )? &
     ('numberOfLaunchpads' ':' numberOfLaunchpads= EINT &
      ('physicalProperties' ':'
       BEGIN
         physicalProperties+= PhysicalProperty physicalProperties+= PhysicalProperty *
       END
     )? &
     ('operational' ':' operational?= EBOOLEAN ) |
     'locationLongitude' ':' locationLongitude= EDOUBLEDT (
       'locationLatitude' ':' locationLatitude= EDOUBLEDT &
       ('operator' ':' operator= ESTRING )? &
       ('numberOfLaunchpads' ':' numberOfLaunchpads= EINT &
        ('physicalProperties' ':'
         BEGIN
           physicalProperties+= PhysicalProperty physicalProperties+= PhysicalProperty *
         END
       )? &
       ('operator' ':' operational?= EBOOLEAN ) |
       ('operator' ':' operator= ESTRING )? (
         'locationLatitude' ':' locationLatitude= EDOUBLEDT &
         'locationLongitude' ':' locationLongitude= EDOUBLEDT &
         ('numberOfLaunchpads' ':' numberOfLaunchpads= EINT &
          ('physicalProperties' ':'
           BEGIN
             physicalProperties+= PhysicalProperty physicalProperties+= PhysicalProperty *
           END
         )? &
         ('operator' ':' operational?= EBOOLEAN ) |
         'numberOfLaunchpads' ':' numberOfLaunchpads= EINT (
           'locationLatitude' ':' locationLatitude= EDOUBLEDT &
           'locationLongitude' ':' locationLongitude= EDOUBLEDT &
           ('operator' ':' operator= ESTRING )? &
           ('physicalProperties' ':'
            BEGIN
              physicalProperties+= PhysicalProperty physicalProperties+= PhysicalProperty *
            END
          )? &
          ('operator' ':' operational?= EBOOLEAN ) | (
            'physicalProperties' ':'
            BEGIN
              physicalProperties+= PhysicalProperty physicalProperties+= PhysicalProperty *
            END )? (
              'locationLatitude' ':' locationLatitude= EDOUBLEDT &
              'locationLongitude' ':' locationLongitude= EDOUBLEDT &
              ('operator' ':' operator= ESTRING )? &
              ('numberOfLaunchpads' ':' numberOfLaunchpads= EINT &
               ('operator' ':' operational?= EBOOLEAN
                ) |
                ('operator' ':' operational?= EBOOLEAN (
                  'locationLatitude' ':' locationLatitude= EDOUBLEDT &
                  'locationLongitude' ':' locationLongitude= EDOUBLEDT &
                  ('operator' ':' operator= ESTRING )? &
                  ('numberOfLaunchpads' ':' numberOfLaunchpads= EINT &
                   ('physicalProperties' ':'
                    BEGIN
                      physicalProperties+= PhysicalProperty physicalProperties+= PhysicalProperty *
                    END
                  )?
                )
              )
            )
          )
        )
      )
    )
  )
END;
```

Arbitrary order of declaration

Indentation-based layout

Comma-prefixed grammar (quadratically larger)

```

LaunchSite : 'LAUNCHSITE' ::*
{LaunchSite}
'name' :: name = IDDT
BEGIN (
  'locationLatitude' :: locationLatitude= EDOUBLEDT
  ('locationLongitude' :: locationLongitude= EDOUBLEDT &
   ('operator' :: operator= ESTRING )? &
   ('numberOfLaunchpads' :: numberOfLaunchpads= EINT &
    ('physicalProperties' ::*
     BEGIN
       physicalProperties+= PhysicalProperty physicalProperties+= PhysicalProperty *
     END
    )? &
    ('operational' :: operational?= EBOOLEAN ) |
    'locationLongitude' :: locationLongitude= EDOUBLEDT (
      'locationLatitude' :: locationLatitude= EDOUBLEDT &
      ('operator' :: operator= ESTRING )? &
      ('numberOfLaunchpads' :: numberOfLaunchpads= EINT &
       ('physicalProperties' ::*
        BEGIN
          physicalProperties+= PhysicalProperty physicalProperties+= PhysicalProperty *
        END
      )? &
      ('operational' :: operational?= EBOOLEAN ) |
      ('operator' :: operator= ESTRING )? (
        'locationLatitude' :: locationLatitude= EDOUBLEDT &
        'locationLongitude' :: locationLongitude= EDOUBLEDT &
        ('numberOfLaunchpads' :: numberOfLaunchpads= EINT &
         ('physicalProperties' ::*
          BEGIN
            physicalProperties+= PhysicalProperty physicalProperties+= PhysicalProperty *
          END
        )? &
        ('operational' :: operational?= EBOOLEAN ) |
        ('numberOfLaunchpads' :: numberOfLaunchpads= EINT (
          'locationLatitude' :: locationLatitude= EDOUBLEDT &
          'locationLongitude' :: locationLongitude= EDOUBLEDT &
          ('operator' :: operator= ESTRING )? &
          ('physicalProperties' ::*
           BEGIN
             physicalProperties+= PhysicalProperty physicalProperties+= PhysicalProperty *
           END
         )? &
         ('operational' :: operational?= EBOOLEAN ) | (
           'physicalProperties' ::*
            BEGIN
              physicalProperties+= PhysicalProperty physicalProperties+= PhysicalProperty *
            END )? (
              'locationLatitude' :: locationLatitude= EDOUBLEDT &
              'locationLongitude' :: locationLongitude= EDOUBLEDT &
              ('operator' :: operator= ESTRING )? &

```

Arbitrary order of declaration

Conclusion

Reusable Textual Styles for Domain-Specific Modeling Languages

- Extends model-first approach with style models
- Style language for modeling of textual representation of structural (meta-)language components
 - Supports metamodel-agnostic and metamodel-dependent styles

Future Work

- Modeling of styles for open-source DSMs
 - Comparison of expressiveness and conciseness of grammar and style model
- Extension and adaptation of ECSS language in regards to findings (previous point)
- Empirical user study on usability of proposed approach

Reusable Textual Styles for Domain-Specific Modeling Languages

Patrick Neubauer¹, Robert Bill², Dimitris Kolovos¹, Richard Paige³, Manuel Wimmer⁴

¹ University of York, UK

² Technische Universität Wien, Austria

³ McMaster University, Canada

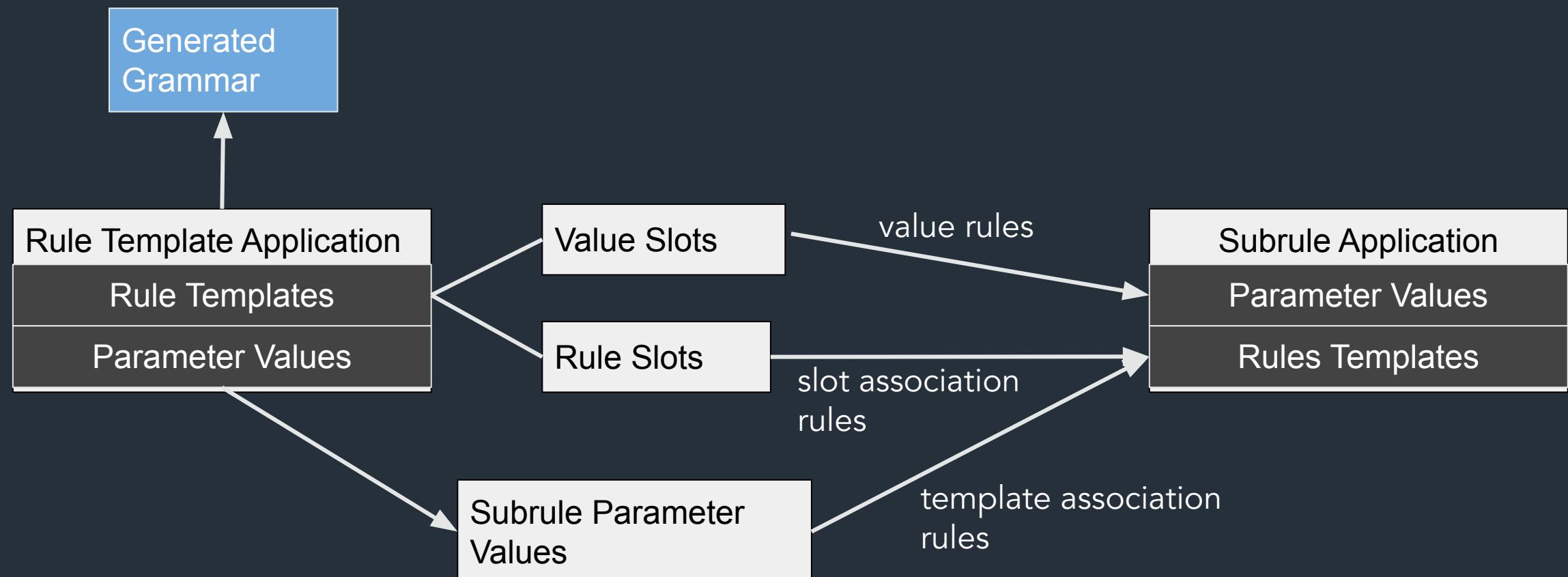
⁴ Johannes Kepler Universität, Austria

19th International Workshop in OCL and Textual Modeling, 2019, Munich, Germany

Grammar and Language Generation



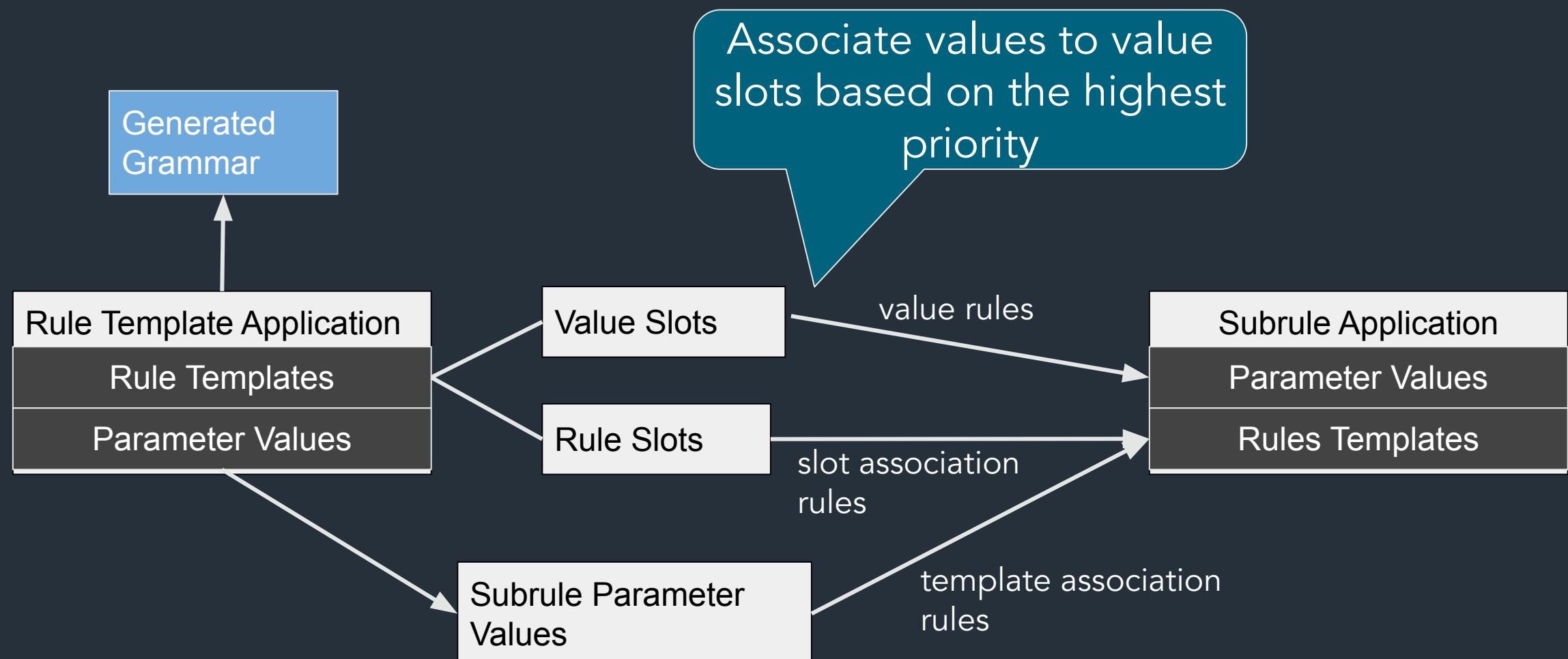
Rule value assignment process and grammar rule generation



Grammar and Language Generation



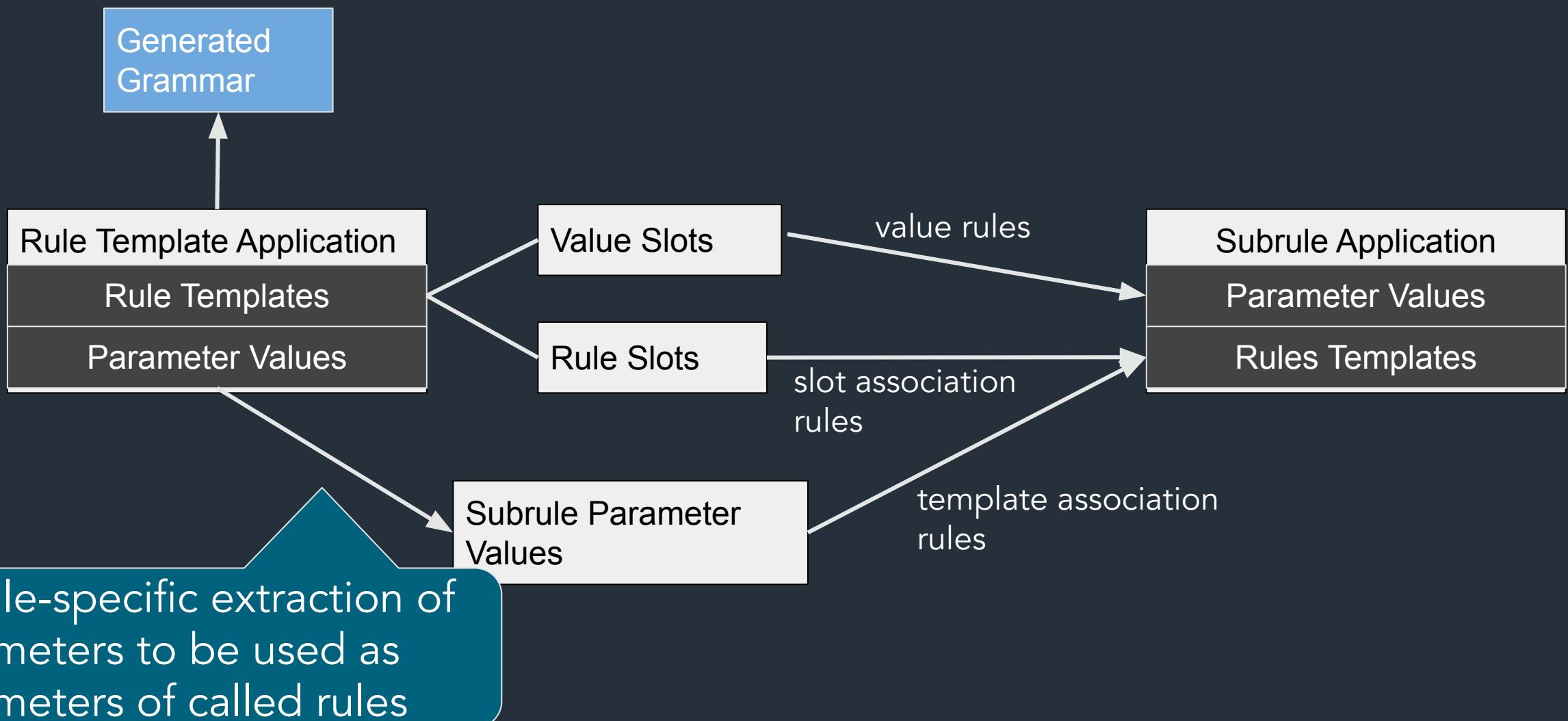
Rule value assignment process and grammar rule generation



Grammar and Language Generation



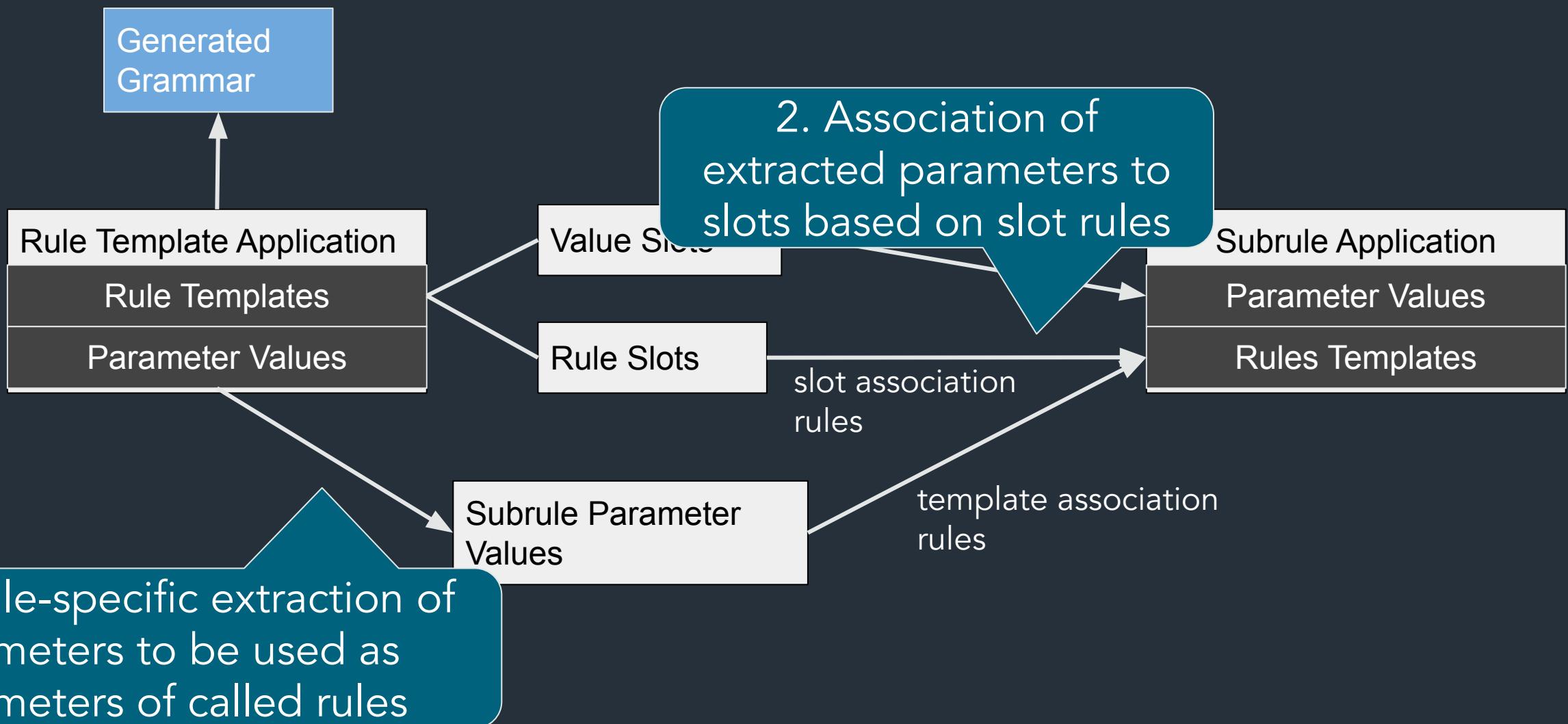
Rule value assignment process and grammar rule generation



Grammar and Language Generation



Rule value assignment process and grammar rule generation

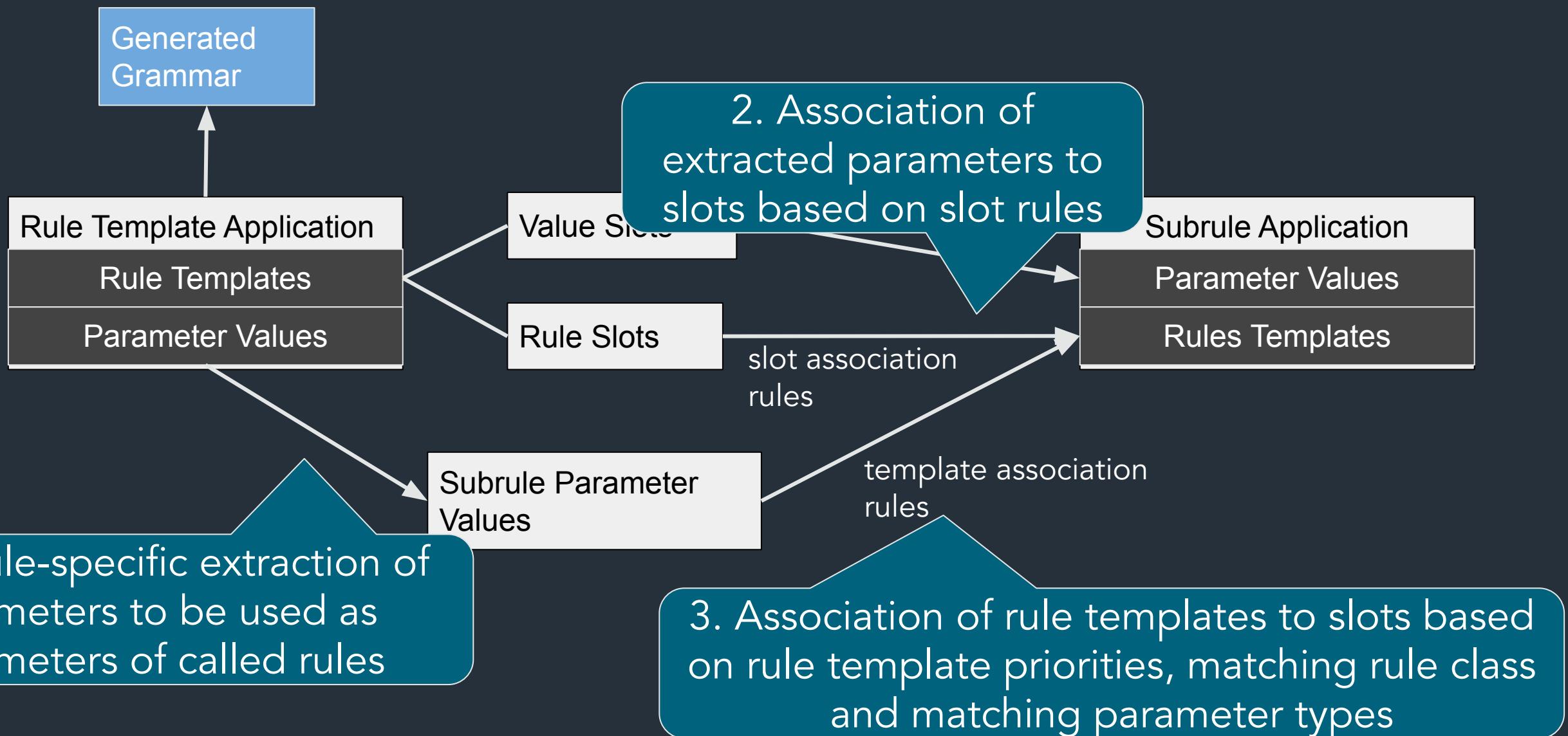


Grammar and Language Generation



UNIVERSITY
of York

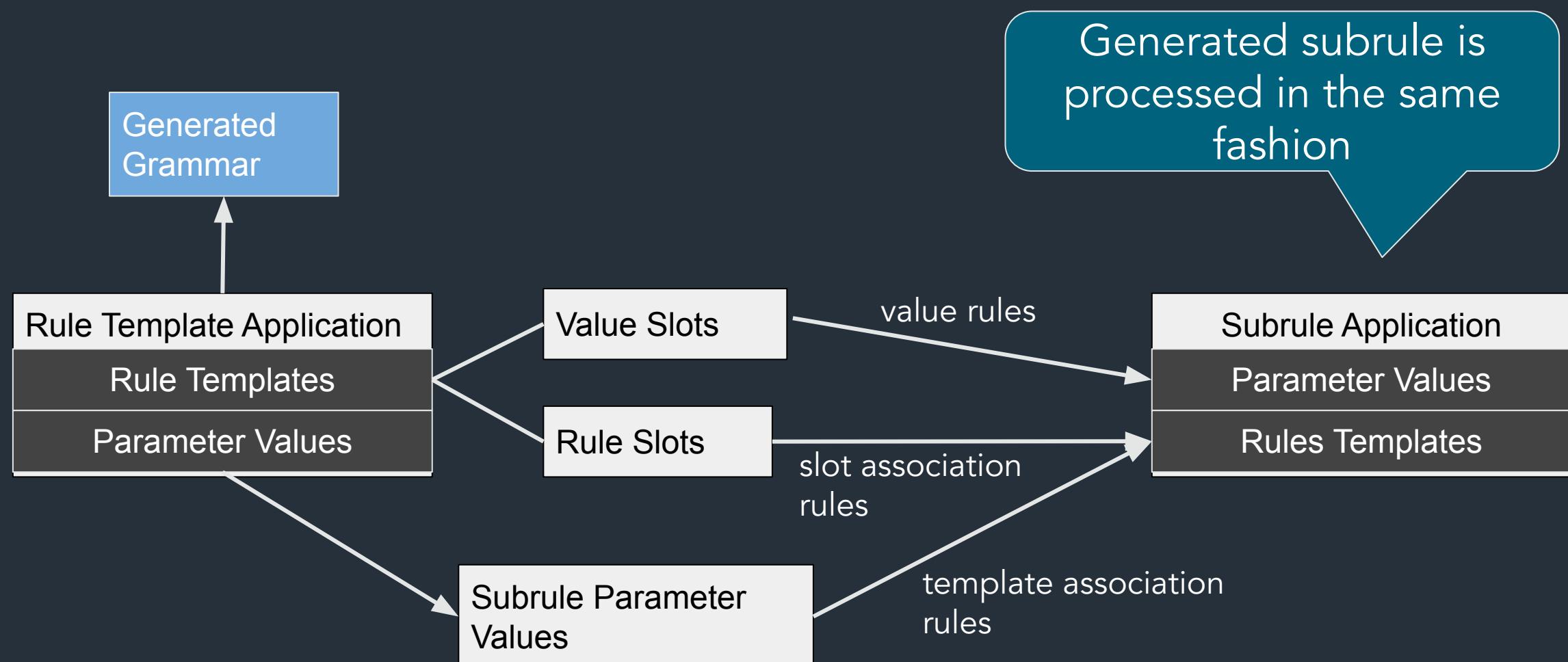
Rule value assignment process and grammar rule generation



Grammar and Language Generation



Rule value assignment process and grammar rule generation



Grammar and Language Generation



Rule value assignment process and grammar rule generation

