



**SWAT**

# Rascal

# The Metaprogramming Language

Summer School on Software Technologies and Software Languages

**Vadim Zaytsev, SWAT, CWI**

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# RASCAL

*Joint work with (amongst others):*

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Davy Landman, Arnold Lankamp, Bert Lisser, Atze van der Ploeg,  
Michael Steindorfer, **Tijs van der Storm**, **Jurgen Vinju**.



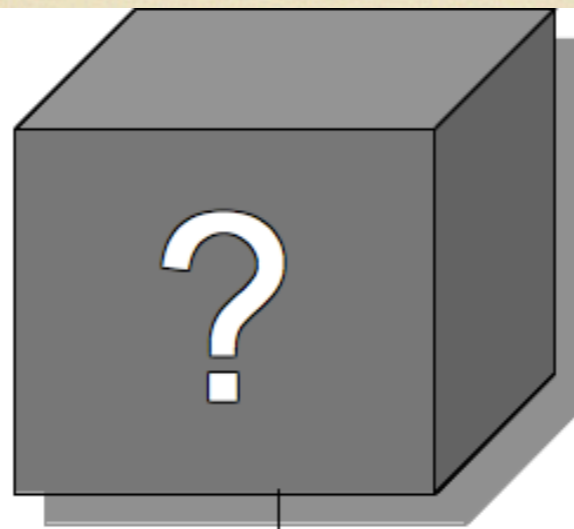
# Technical challenges

- How to parse source code/data files/models?
- How to extract facts from them?
- How to perform computations on these facts?
- How to generate new source code (transform, refactor, compile)?
- How to synthesize other information?

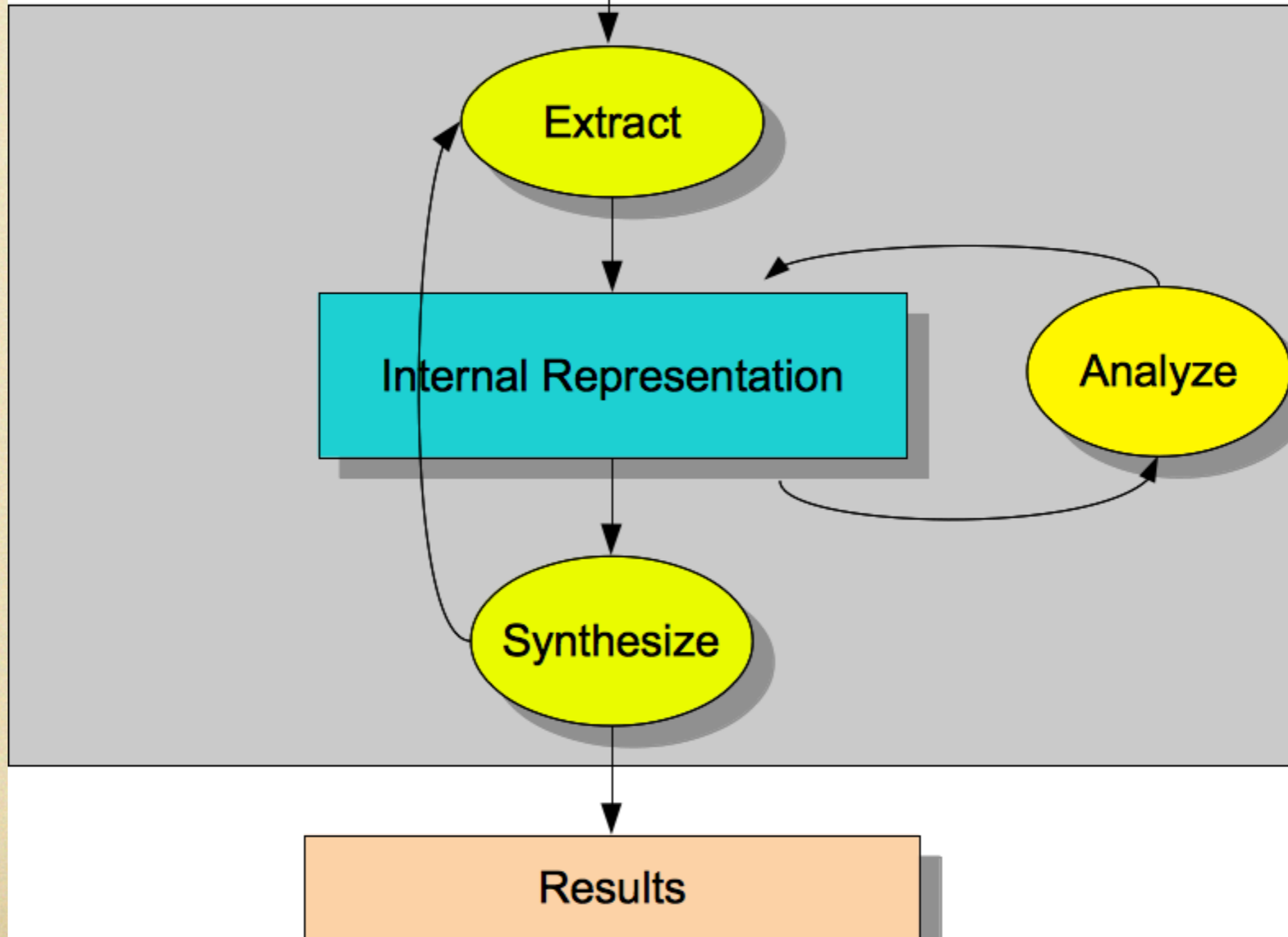
**EASY**: Extract-Analyze-SYnthesize Paradigm



System Under Investigation (SUI)



# EASY Paradigm





# Why a new language?

- No current technology spans the full range of **EASY** steps
- There are many fine technologies but they are
  - highly specialized with steep learning curves
  - hard to learn unintegrated technologies
  - not integrated with a standard IDE
  - hard to extend
- Goal: keep all benefits of **ASF+SDF** and **Rscript**
  - in a new, *unified, extensible, teachable* framework



# Rascal keywords

- Complex built-in data types
- Immutable data
- Static safety
- Generic types
- Local type inference
- Pattern matching
- Syntax definitions & parsing
- Concrete syntax
- Visiting/traversal
- Comprehensions
- Higher-order
- Familiar syntax
- Java and Eclipse integration
- Read-Eval-Print (REPL)



# Rascal design

- Java-like syntax presumably familiar
- Embedded in Eclipse
- Layered design
- Syntax analysis
- Term rewriting
- Relational calculus



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installs as a plugin





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low barrier to entry,  
learn features as you go



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concrete syntax matching



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traversals, matching, ...



# Rascal design

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relations for sharing/merging of facts for different languages



Rascal features



# Rich (immutable) data

- Built-in sophisticated types:
  - lists
  - sets
  - maps
  - tuples
  - relations
- with comprehensions and many operators

```
rascal> [1..10]
```

```
list[int]: [1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10]
```

```
rascal> [x/2 | x <- [1..10]]
```

```
list[int]: [0,1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4,5]
```

```
rascal> {x/2 | x <- [1..10]} + {4,5,6}
```

```
set[int]: {6,5,4,3,2,1,0}
```



# Syntax definitions

- Define lexical syntax
- Define context-free syntax
- Define whitespace/layout/...
- Get GLL parser for free
- Define an algebraic data type
- Automatically implode parse trees to ASTs



# Syntax definitions

**lexical** Id = [A-Za-züäöß]+ !>> [A-Za-züäöß];

**lexical** Num = [0-9]+ !>> [0-9];

- Define lexical syntax
- Define context-free syntax
- Define whitespace/layout/...
- Get GLL parser for free
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# Syntax definitions

```
start syntax System = Line+;  
syntax Line = Num ":" {Id ","}+ "." ;
```

- Define lexical syntax
- Define context-free syntax
- Define whitespace/layout/...
- Get GLL parser for free
- Define an algebraic data type
- Automatically implode parse trees to ASTs



# Syntax definitions

- Define lexical syntax **layout**  $WS = [\ \backslash\ t\ n\ r]^* \ !>> [\ \backslash\ t\ n\ r];$
- Define context-free syntax
- Define whitespace/layout/...
- Get GLL parser for free
- Define an algebraic data type
- Automatically implode parse trees to ASTs



# Patterns

- Pattern matching
  - on concrete syntax
  - on lists
  - on sets
  - on trees
  - ...
- Pattern-driven dispatch

```
rascal> {int x, str y} := {2}
```

```
bool: false
```

```
rascal> {int x, str y} := {2,"3"}
```

```
bool: true
```

```
rascal> {int x, *y, str z} := {2,2,2,"3",4,"2"}
```

```
bool: true
```



# Other pattern kinds

- **Regular:** grep/Perl like regular expressions
  - `/^<before:\W*><word:\w+><after:.*$/`
- **Abstract:** match data types
  - `whileStat(Exp, Stats*)`
- **Concrete:** match parse trees
  - `` while <Exp> do <Stats*> od ``



# Pattern-directed invocation

Prolog?

```
bool eqfp(fpnt(), fpnt()) = true;  
bool eqfp(fpopt(), fpopt()) = true;  
bool eqfp(fpplus(), fpplus()) = true;  
bool eqfp(fpstar(), fpstar()) = true;  
bool eqfp(fpempty(), fpempty()) = true;  
bool eqfp(fpmany(L1), fpmany(L2)) = multiseteq(L1,L2);  
default bool eqfp(Footprint pi, Footprint xi) = false;
```

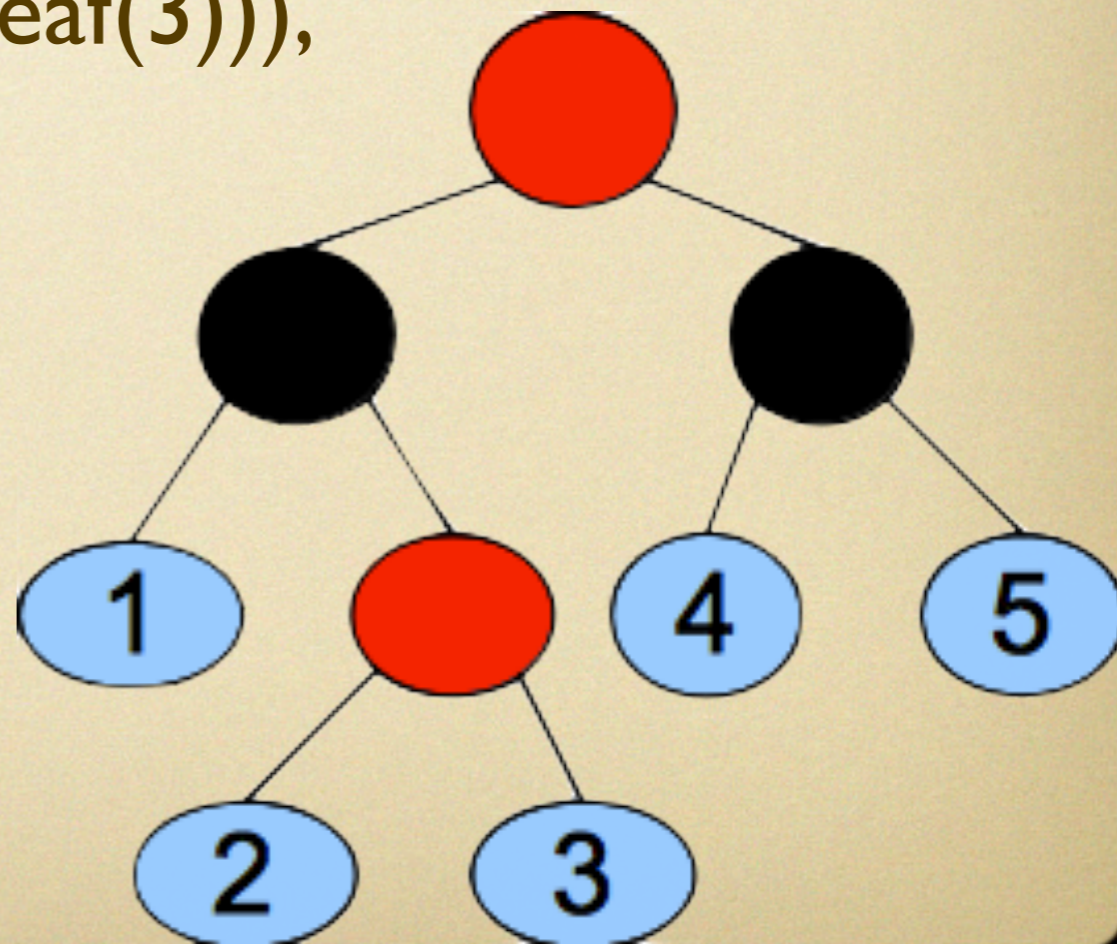


# ADTs and visitors

```
data CTree = leaf(int N)
           | red(CTree left, CTree right)
           | black(CTree left, CTree right) ;
```

```
rb = red(black(leaf(1), red(leaf(2), leaf(3))),
         black(leaf(4), leaf(5)));
```

```
public int cntRed(CTree t) {
  int c = 0;
  visit(t){case red(_, _): c += 1;};
  return c;
}
```



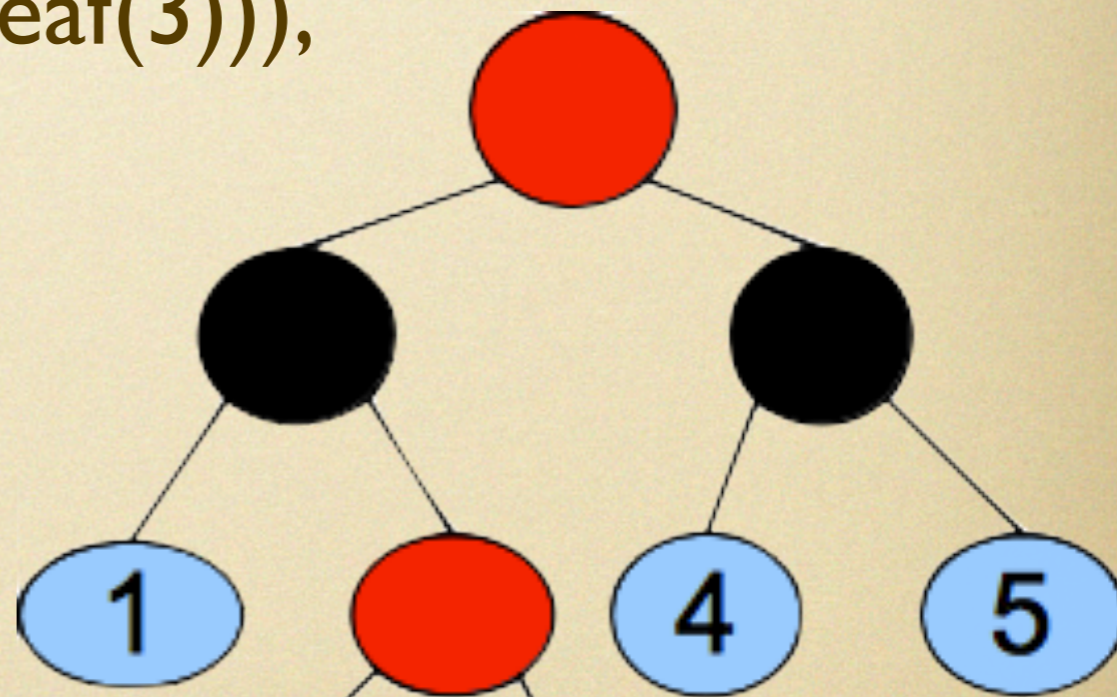


# ADTs and visitors

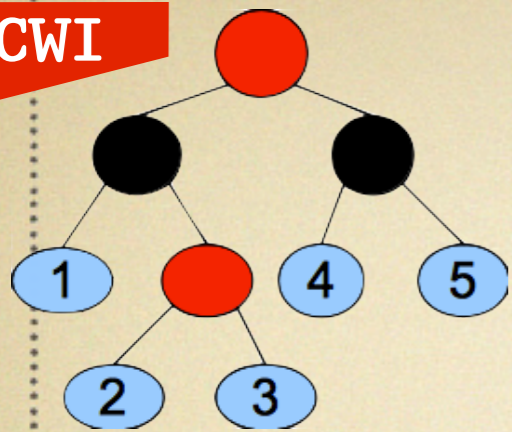
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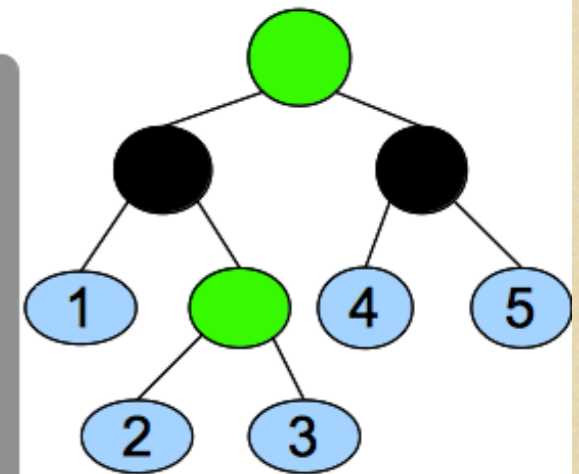


```
public int cnt2(CTree t) = size([b | /b:red(_,_) := t]);
```

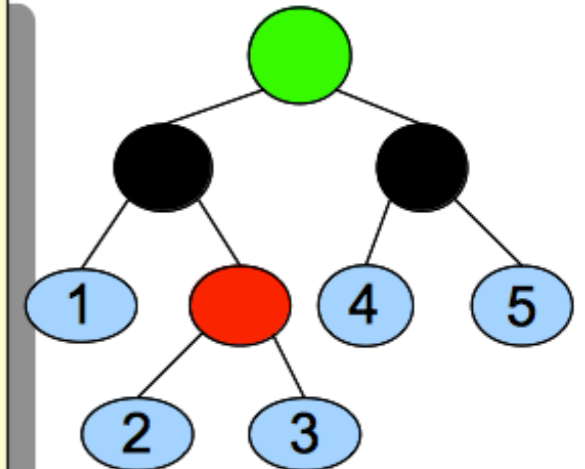


# Full/shallow/deep

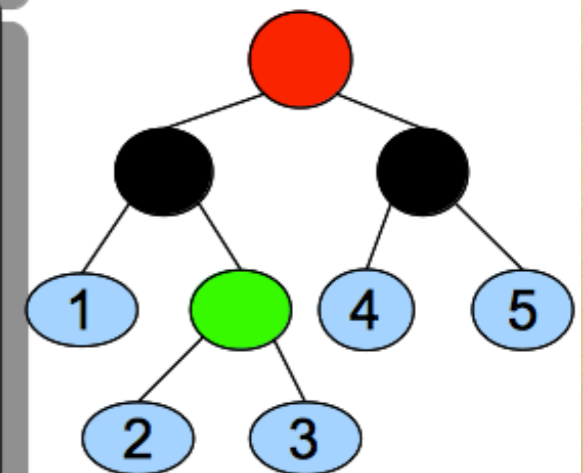
```
public CTree frepl(CTree T) {
  return visit (T) {
    case red(CTree T1, Ctree T2) => green(T1, T2)
  };
}
```



```
public Ctree srepl(CTree T) {
  return top-down-break visit (T) {
    case red(Ctree T1, CTree T2) => green(T1, T2)
  };
}
```



```
public Ctree drepl(Ctree T) {
  return bottom-up-break visit (T) {
    case red(CTree T1, CTree T2) => green(T1, T2)
  };
}
```







# Example

```
switch(p)
{
  case (DCGFun) `[]` => ["ε"];
  case (DCGFun) `` =>
    ["<n>" | "<n>"==toLowerCase("<n>")];
  case (DCGFun) `(<{DCGFun ","}* args)` =>
    [*getTags(a) | a <- args];
  case (DCGFun) `
```



# Example

```

switch(p)
{
  case (DCGFun) `[]` => ["ε"];
  case (DCGFun) `<Word n>` =>
    ["<n>" | "<n>"==toLowerCase("<n>")];
  case (DCGFun) `(<{DCGFun ","}* args>)` =>
    [*getTags(a) | a <- args];
  case (DCGFun) `<Word f> (<{DCGFun ","}* as>)` =>
    ["<f>"] + [*getTags(a) | a <- as];
  default ...
}

```



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  case (DCGFun) `[]` => ["ε"];
  case (DCGFun) `<Word n>` =>
    ["<n>" | "<n>"==toLowerCase("<n>")];
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  default ...
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```



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    [*getTags(a) | a <- args];
  case (DCGFun) `
```





# Hackathon: NCLOC

@contributor{Vadim Zaytsev - [vadim@grammarware.net](mailto:vadim@grammarware.net) - SWAT, CWI}  
**module** NCLOC

**import** IO;  
**import** ParseTree;  
**import** List;

**lexical** OneLineComment = "//" ![\n]\* >> [\n];  
**lexical** CodeLine = ![\n]\* meat OneLineComment? >> [\n];  
**start syntax** SCModel = {(OneLineComment | CodeLine) "\n"}+ "\n"?;  
**layout** WS = [\ \t]\* !>> [\ \t];

**public void** main(list[str] args)  
 = println(size([l | /CodeLine l := parse(#start[SCModel],|cwd:///|+args  
 [0]), "<l.meat>" != ""]));



# IOI companies

```
@contributor{Bas Basten - Bas.Basten@cwi.nl (CWI)}
```

```
@contributor{Mark Hills - Mark.Hills@cwi.nl (CWI)}
```

```
module Operations
```

```
import AST;
```

```
import IO;
```

```
public Company cut(Company c) {
```

```
  return visit (c) {
```

```
    case employee(name, [*ep,ip:intProp("salary",salary),*ep2])
```

```
      => employee(name, [*ep,ip[intVal=salary/2],*ep2])
```

```
  }
```

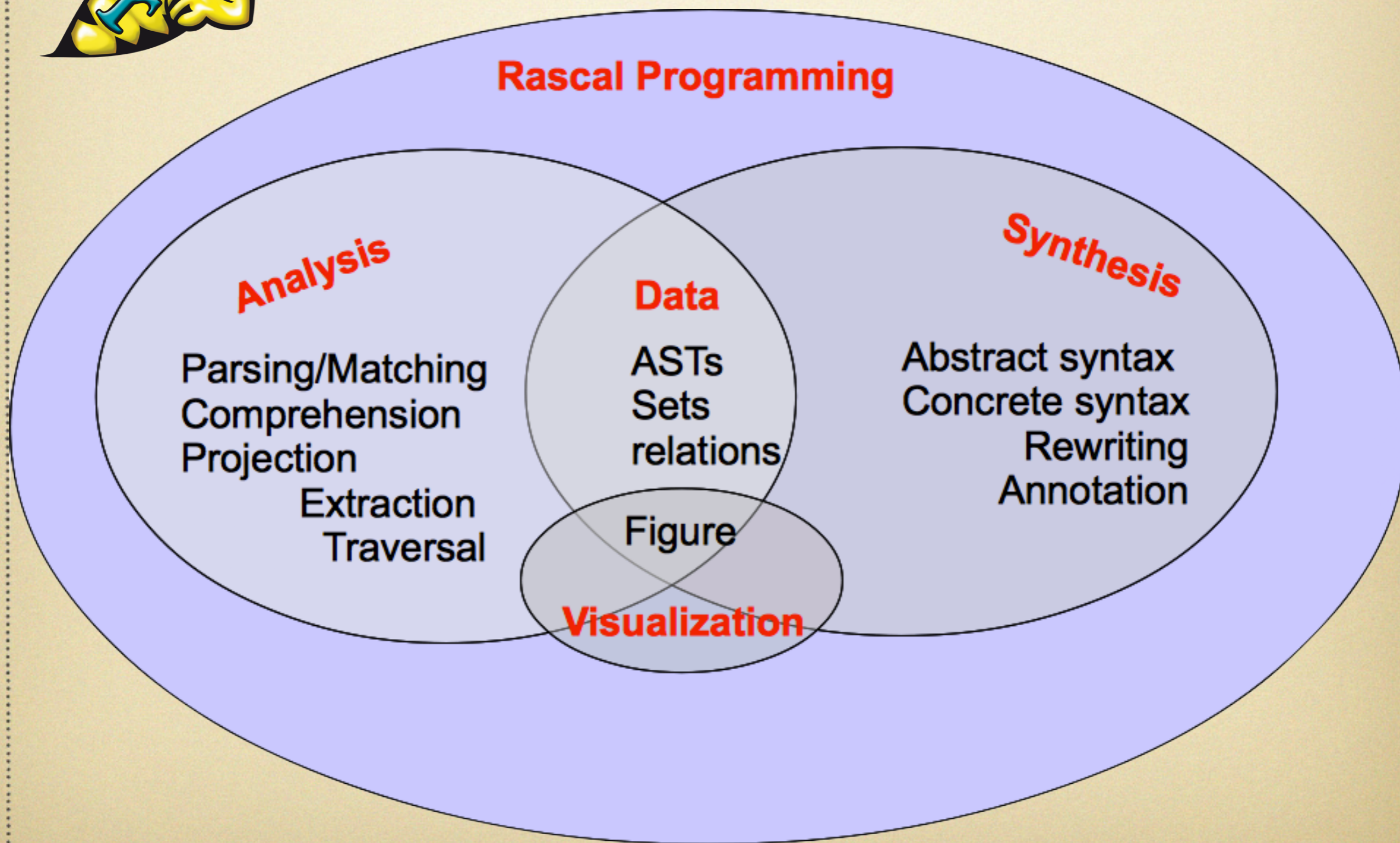
```
public int total(Company c) {
```

```
return (0 | it+salary | /employee(name, [*ep,ip:intProp("salary",salary),*ep2]) <- c);
```

```
}
```



# Bridging the gaps



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- <http://rascal-mpl.org>
- <http://ask.rascal-mpl.org>
- <http://tutor.rascal-mpl.org>



# Questions?