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# 软件演化过程建模

An Approach  
to Modelling  
Software Evolution  
Processes

Tong Li



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Springer

Tong Li

**An Approach to Modelling Software Evolution Processes**

An Approach to Modelling Software Evolution Processes describes formal software processes that effectively support software evolution. The importance and popularity of software evolution increase as more and more successful software systems become legacy systems. For one thing, software evolution has become an important characteristic in the software life cycle; for another, software processes play an important role in increasing efficiency and quality of software evolution. Therefore, the software evolution process, the inter-discipline of software process and software evolution, becomes a key area in software engineering.

The book is intended for software engineers and researchers in computer science.

**Prof. Tong Li** earned his Ph.D. in Software Engineering at De Montfort University, U.K.; he has published five monographs and over one hundred papers.

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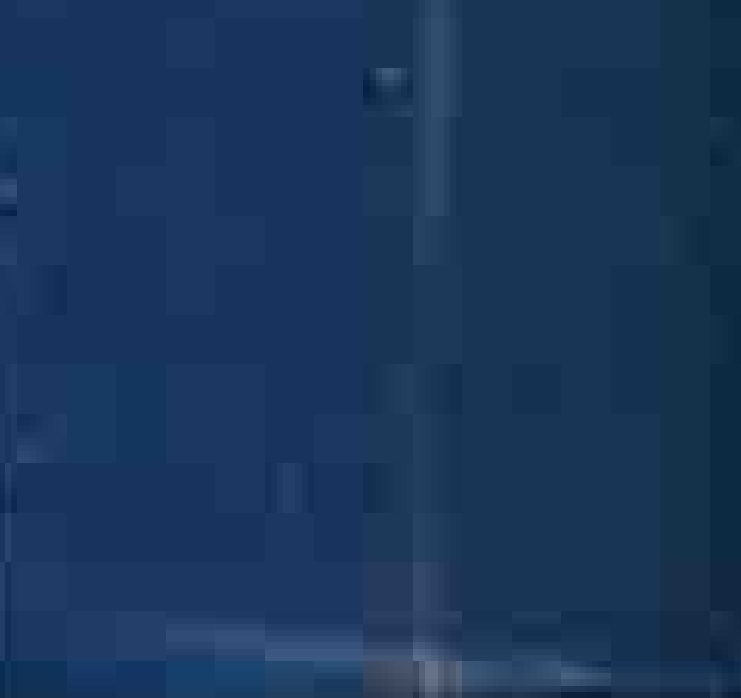
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Tong Li

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## An Approach to Modelling Software Evolution Processes

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## 内 容 简 介

软件演化是近年来软件工程领域正逐步受到重视的研究方向,并将得到越来越多的关注。本书从软件演化管理的角度,较为系统地讨论了软件演化过程的相关问题,包括软件演化过程元模型、软件演化过程描述语言、软件演化过程框架、软件演化过程建模方法、软件演化过程改进等。本书还给出了一个软件演化过程的支撑工具,并提供了多个案例研究。

本书可以作为计算机专业研究生和高年级本科生的教材和教学参考书,也可供从事软件工程的科技人员使用和参考。

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*To my daughter, Yixiao, my wife, Lixia and my parents with all my love.*



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# Preface

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The importance and popularity of software evolution increase as more and more successful software systems become legacy systems. For one thing, software evolution has become an important characteristic in the software life cycle; for another, software process plays an important role in increasing efficiency and quality of software evolution. Therefore, the software evolution process, the inter-discipline of software process and software evolution, becomes a key area in software engineering. A well-managed software evolution process can effectively support a successful software evolution; however, a poor software evolution process will lead to the failure of the corresponding software evolution.

## What Is the Uniqueness of This Book?

This book aims to model and describe formal software processes that effectively support software evolution. For this purpose, progress has been made in the following aspects:

Firstly, five important properties of software evolution processes are analysed. It is indicated that iteration, concurrency, interleaving of continuous and discontinuous change, feedback-driven systems and multi-level frameworks play important roles in software evolution processes.

Secondly, a Petri Net is extended with object-oriented technology and Hoare Logic. Based on the extended Petri Net and according to the preceding properties, a formal evolution process meta-model EPMM is designed. EPMM can define software evolution process models with a four-level framework and can embody some important properties, such as iteration, concurrency, interleaving of continuous and discontinuous change and feedback-driven systems.

Thirdly, based on EPMM, an object-oriented evolution process description language EPDL is designed. It is more detailed and easier to implement in computers than EPMM.



Fourthly, based on EPMM, the framework of software evolution processes is discussed. According to the framework, a semi-formal approach to modelling and describing software evolution processes is proposed. The approach is used to design software evolution processes at the global level (designing global models), at the process level (designing software processes), at the activity level (designing activities) and at the task level (designing tasks), each corresponding to the levels in the framework. At the process level, the approach supports top-down white box modelling and top-down black box modelling, which are proved to preserve the interface consistency over refinement hierarchies. The approach also supports process reuse by means of three different reuse methods. At the task level, by repeatedly decomposing the function of a task into one of three basic control structures, the function can be decomposed into a code segment consisting of finer functions, which can be easily realised. If the executions of all the decomposed finer functions terminate, the decomposition is proved to be totally correct. Using EPDL, software evolution processes can be described in detail.

Fifthly, according to the dependence analysis between activities and between tasks, an approach is proposed to capture and extend concurrency in an inefficient process segment dug down from an evolution process model. After its efficiency is improved, the process segment is put back into the original model to improve the efficiency of the corresponding evolution process.

Sixthly, a CASE environment EPT that supports the proposed approach is designed and a prototype system of EPT is also implemented.

Finally, four case studies of various complexities and scales indicate that the proposed approach is feasible and effective.

In summary, a semi-formal approach is proposed to construct formal software evolution process models and the corresponding descriptions to effectively support software evolution.

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This book is based on my Ph.D. thesis accomplished in February 2007 at De Montfort University, U.K. I would like to thank all the people who have helped me in different ways since I undertook the work described in this book.

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research project. I feel so lucky to have so many opportunities to discuss with him.

I am very happy that I have had the chance to research on software evolution processes in the Software Technology Research Laboratory at De Montfort University, U.K. The laboratory has such a unique academic atmosphere that I had numerous opportunities to interact with many excellent staff and Ph.D. students. My thanks must go to Professor Hussein Zedan, the Director of the laboratory, for this atmosphere, his valuable advice and the experienced guidance that he had provided along the way. In addition, I would like to thank Professor Hong Zhu, Oxford Brookes University, U.K., Dr. Martin Ward and Dr. Antonio Cau, De Montfort University, U.K. for their valuable suggestions concerning my research work.

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Tong Li  
January, 2008



# List of Figures and Tables

|             |                                                        |     |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Figure 2.1  | Levels of modelling.....                               | 11  |
| Figure 4.1  | Iteration in software evolution processes .....        | 53  |
| Figure 4.2  | Example of sub-cycles in a cycle .....                 | 54  |
| Figure 4.3  | Version concurrency.....                               | 55  |
| Figure 4.4  | Process concurrency.....                               | 55  |
| Figure 4.5  | Sub-process concurrency.....                           | 56  |
| Figure 4.6  | Phase concurrency.....                                 | 56  |
| Figure 4.7  | Activity concurrency.....                              | 57  |
| Figure 4.8  | A task.....                                            | 58  |
| Figure 4.9  | An activity.....                                       | 59  |
| Figure 4.10 | An activity refined by a process .....                 | 60  |
| Figure 4.11 | A software process.....                                | 61  |
| Figure 4.12 | A workflow of prototype evolution.....                 | 62  |
| Figure 4.13 | A prototype evolution process model.....               | 62  |
| Figure 4.14 | A global model .....                                   | 63  |
| Figure 4.15 | Interaction between software processes .....           | 65  |
| Figure 4.16 | A software process with cycles .....                   | 65  |
| Figure 4.17 | An execution record of a software process .....        | 65  |
| Figure 5.1  | EPDL program structure .....                           | 73  |
| Figure 5.2  | Modifying a software process .....                     | 82  |
| Figure 6.1  | Framework of software evolution processes .....        | 87  |
| Figure 6.2  | Steps for modelling software evolution processes ..... | 89  |
| Figure 6.3  | Initial block .....                                    | 91  |
| Figure 7.1  | Sequence block.....                                    | 97  |
| Figure 7.2  | Concurrency block .....                                | 97  |
| Figure 7.3  | Selection block.....                                   | 97  |
| Figure 7.4  | Iteration block .....                                  | 98  |
| Figure 7.5  | Activity refinement .....                              | 100 |
| Figure 7.6  | Situations of inheritance.....                         | 102 |
| Figure 7.7  | Reuse of a sequence block .....                        | 103 |
| Figure 7.8  | Reuse of a concurrency block .....                     | 104 |
| Figure 7.9  | Reuse of a selection block.....                        | 104 |
| Figure 7.10 | Reuse of an iteration block.....                       | 105 |
| Figure 7.11 | Simplifying an iteration block.....                    | 105 |
| Figure 7.12 | Reuse of a software process package .....              | 106 |
| Figure 8.1  | Basic control structures of 2-assertions.....          | 112 |

|             |                                                        |     |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Figure 8.2  | A decomposition tree.....                              | 120 |
| Figure 8.3  | Decomposition process .....                            | 122 |
| Figure 9.1  | Four types of dependences .....                        | 128 |
| Figure 9.2  | Localising dependences .....                           | 132 |
| Figure 9.3  | Preprocessing a well-controlled <i>SADG</i> .....      | 135 |
| Figure 9.4  | Preprocessing a well-cyclic <i>SADG</i> .....          | 136 |
| Figure 9.5  | Transformation of data dependences.....                | 137 |
| Figure 9.6  | Transformation of control dependences .....            | 137 |
| Figure 9.7  | A process segment constructed from Fig. 9.2(b).....    | 139 |
| Figure 9.8  | An activity dependence graph .....                     | 139 |
| Figure 9.9  | A process segment constructed from Fig. 9.8 .....      | 139 |
| Figure 9.10 | Preprocessing a well-cyclic <i>SADG</i> .....          | 140 |
| Figure 9.11 | A process segment constructed from Fig. 9.10 (b) ..... | 140 |
| Figure 9.12 | Refining an activity into concurrent activities .....  | 142 |
| Figure 9.13 | A concurrency bottleneck.....                          | 142 |
| Figure 9.14 | Extending concurrency.....                             | 145 |
| Figure 9.15 | Concurrency extended from Fig. 9.13(b) .....           | 146 |
| Figure 9.16 | Reconstructing a software process .....                | 148 |
| Figure 10.1 | Architecture of EPT .....                              | 153 |
| Figure 10.2 | Data structure of a software process.....              | 156 |
| Figure 10.3 | Screenshot of Modelling Tool .....                     | 158 |
| Figure 10.4 | Screenshot of Process Improver.....                    | 159 |
| Figure 10.5 | Screenshot of Process Component Manager .....          | 160 |
| Figure 10.6 | Screenshot of Decomposer.....                          | 160 |
| Figure 10.7 | Architecture of EPDL Compiler.....                     | 161 |
| Figure 10.8 | Screenshot of Process Engine .....                     | 162 |
| Figure 10.9 | Screenshot of Process Analyser.....                    | 163 |
| Figure 11.1 | Waterfall model .....                                  | 168 |
| Figure 11.2 | A software evolution process .....                     | 170 |
| Figure 11.3 | Sub-process SEP1 .....                                 | 172 |
| Figure 11.4 | Modelling a software evolution process.....            | 177 |
| Figure 11.5 | Activity dependence graph of Design Evolution.....     | 180 |
| Figure 11.6 | Process segment .....                                  | 180 |
| Figure 11.7 | Capturing concurrency within activities.....           | 181 |
| Figure 11.8 | Extending concurrency.....                             | 182 |
| Figure 11.9 | ISO/IEC 12207 software maintenance process .....       | 184 |
| Table 6.1   | Comparison with software development .....             | 92  |
| Table 8.1   | Structure of the sequence case base .....              | 118 |
| Table 8.2   | Structure of the selection case base.....              | 118 |
| Table 8.3   | Structure of the repetition case base .....            | 118 |
| Table 8.4   | Structure of the segment base .....                    | 119 |
| Table 8.5   | Structure of the rule base .....                       | 119 |

# Contents

**Preface** ..... ix

**List of Figures and Tables** ..... xiii

**1 Introduction** ..... 1

1.1 Motivation ..... 1

1.2 Contributions ..... 3

1.3 Research Methods ..... 4

1.4 Success Criteria ..... 5

1.5 Validation Methods ..... 5

1.6 Outline ..... 6

References ..... 7

**2 Overview of Software Processes and Software Evolution** ..... 8

2.1 Introduction ..... 9

2.2 Software Processes ..... 9

2.2.1 Concepts of Software Process ..... 9

2.2.2 Software Process Modelling and Descriptions ..... 11

2.2.3 Software Process Modelling and Description Languages ..... 13

2.2.4 Software Process Improvement and CMM ..... 16

2.2.5 Software Process Reuse ..... 19

2.2.6 Process-Centred Software Engineering Environments ..... 20

2.3 Software Evolution ..... 21

2.3.1 Concepts of Software Evolution ..... 21

2.3.2 Software Reengineering ..... 22

2.3.3 Software Evolution ..... 25

2.4 Summary ..... 27

References ..... 27

**3 Related Work** ..... 34

3.1 Introduction ..... 35

3.2 Software Evolution Process ..... 35

3.3 Concurrency in the Software Life Cycle ..... 38

3.4 Petri Nets ..... 39

3.5 Dependence Analysis ..... 43

3.6 Formal Functional Decomposition ..... 44

|          |                                                                   |           |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 3.7      | Summary.....                                                      | 46        |
|          | References .....                                                  | 46        |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Software Evolution Process Meta-Model EPMM.....</b>            | <b>50</b> |
| 4.1      | Introduction .....                                                | 51        |
| 4.2      | Properties of Software Evolution Processes.....                   | 52        |
| 4.3      | Iteration in Software Evolution Processes.....                    | 52        |
| 4.4      | Concurrency in Software Evolution Processes.....                  | 54        |
| 4.4.1    | Version Concurrency .....                                         | 54        |
| 4.4.2    | Process Concurrency.....                                          | 55        |
| 4.4.3    | Sub-Process Concurrency .....                                     | 55        |
| 4.4.4    | Phase Concurrency .....                                           | 56        |
| 4.4.5    | Activity Concurrency.....                                         | 56        |
| 4.4.6    | Task Concurrency.....                                             | 57        |
| 4.5      | Static Component Definitions of EPMM .....                        | 57        |
| 4.5.1    | Task.....                                                         | 58        |
| 4.5.2    | Activity .....                                                    | 59        |
| 4.5.3    | Software Process.....                                             | 60        |
| 4.5.4    | Example: Prototype Evolution Process Model .....                  | 61        |
| 4.5.5    | Global Model.....                                                 | 63        |
| 4.6      | Dynamic Component Definitions of EPMM.....                        | 64        |
| 4.7      | Supports for Software Evolution Processes.....                    | 66        |
| 4.8      | Summary.....                                                      | 67        |
|          | References .....                                                  | 68        |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Software Evolution Process Description Language EPDL .....</b> | <b>70</b> |
| 5.1      | Introduction .....                                                | 71        |
| 5.2      | Survey of EPDL .....                                              | 71        |
| 5.2.1    | Design Goals.....                                                 | 71        |
| 5.2.2    | Characteristics.....                                              | 72        |
| 5.2.3    | Program Structure .....                                           | 73        |
| 5.3      | Task .....                                                        | 74        |
| 5.4      | Activity.....                                                     | 76        |
| 5.5      | Software Process .....                                            | 77        |
| 5.6      | Global Model.....                                                 | 80        |
| 5.7      | EPDL Program .....                                                | 80        |
| 5.8      | Example.....                                                      | 81        |
| 5.9      | Summary.....                                                      | 82        |
|          | References .....                                                  | 83        |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Framework of Software Evolution Processes.....</b>             | <b>85</b> |
| 6.1      | Introduction .....                                                | 86        |
| 6.2      | Framework of Software Evolution Processes.....                    | 86        |

|          |                                                                        |            |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 6.3      | Steps for Modelling Software Evolution Processes.....                  | 88         |
| 6.4      | Designing Global Models.....                                           | 91         |
| 6.5      | Evolution Process Descriptions.....                                    | 92         |
| 6.6      | Summary.....                                                           | 93         |
|          | References.....                                                        | 93         |
| <b>7</b> | <b>Designing Processes and Activities.....</b>                         | <b>95</b>  |
| 7.1      | Introduction.....                                                      | 96         |
| 7.2      | Designing Processes.....                                               | 96         |
| 7.2.1    | Basic Blocks.....                                                      | 96         |
| 7.2.2    | Software Process Package.....                                          | 98         |
| 7.2.3    | Procedure for Modelling Processes.....                                 | 99         |
| 7.3      | Designing Activities.....                                              | 100        |
| 7.4      | Reuse of Software Evolution Processes.....                             | 101        |
| 7.4.1    | Reuse by Inheritance.....                                              | 101        |
| 7.4.2    | Reuse of Basic Blocks.....                                             | 102        |
| 7.4.3    | Reuse of Process Packages.....                                         | 106        |
| 7.5      | Summary.....                                                           | 107        |
|          | References.....                                                        | 107        |
| <b>8</b> | <b>Designing Tasks.....</b>                                            | <b>109</b> |
| 8.1      | Introduction.....                                                      | 110        |
| 8.2      | Procedure of Designing Tasks.....                                      | 111        |
| 8.3      | Structures of Functional Decomposition.....                            | 111        |
| 8.4      | Decomposition Rules.....                                               | 113        |
| 8.4.1    | Sequence Decomposition.....                                            | 114        |
| 8.4.2    | Selection Decomposition.....                                           | 115        |
| 8.4.3    | Repetition Decomposition.....                                          | 116        |
| 8.5      | Structure of the Knowledge Base.....                                   | 117        |
| 8.5.1    | The Case Base.....                                                     | 118        |
| 8.5.2    | The Segment Base.....                                                  | 119        |
| 8.5.3    | The Rule Base.....                                                     | 119        |
| 8.6      | Decomposition.....                                                     | 119        |
| 8.6.1    | The Decomposition Tree.....                                            | 119        |
| 8.6.2    | Match Between Two 2-Assertions.....                                    | 120        |
| 8.6.3    | The Decomposition Process.....                                         | 121        |
| 8.6.4    | Supports by Modellers.....                                             | 122        |
| 8.7      | Summary.....                                                           | 123        |
|          | References.....                                                        | 124        |
| <b>9</b> | <b>Efficiency Improvement of the Software Evolution Processes.....</b> | <b>125</b> |
| 9.1      | Introduction.....                                                      | 126        |
| 9.2      | Procedure of Efficiency Improvement.....                               | 127        |



|           |                                                                                   |            |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 9.3       | Dependence Analysis Between Entities .....                                        | 130        |
| 9.3.1     | Constructing a Dependence Graph .....                                             | 130        |
| 9.3.2     | Localising Dependences .....                                                      | 131        |
| 9.4       | Reconstructing Process Segments .....                                             | 132        |
| 9.4.1     | Preprocessing an ADG.....                                                         | 133        |
| 9.4.2     | Transformation Rules .....                                                        | 136        |
| 9.4.3     | Transformation Algorithm.....                                                     | 137        |
| 9.4.4     | Examples.....                                                                     | 138        |
| 9.5       | Capturing Concurrency within an Activity.....                                     | 140        |
| 9.6       | Analysing Dependences Between Partition Blocks.....                               | 142        |
| 9.7       | Extending Concurrency .....                                                       | 144        |
| 9.8       | Reconstructing Software Processes .....                                           | 146        |
| 9.9       | Summary.....                                                                      | 149        |
|           | References .....                                                                  | 149        |
| <b>10</b> | <b>Support Environment EPT .....</b>                                              | <b>151</b> |
| 10.1      | Introduction .....                                                                | 152        |
| 10.2      | Architecture of EPT.....                                                          | 153        |
| 10.3      | File Depository .....                                                             | 154        |
| 10.3.1    | Data Structures of EPDL Object Codes.....                                         | 154        |
| 10.3.2    | Other Data Structures.....                                                        | 156        |
| 10.4      | Process Server.....                                                               | 158        |
| 10.4.1    | Modelling Manager.....                                                            | 158        |
| 10.4.2    | EPDL Compiler .....                                                               | 161        |
| 10.4.3    | Runtime Manager .....                                                             | 161        |
| 10.5      | User Interface and Message Server .....                                           | 163        |
| 10.6      | Summary.....                                                                      | 165        |
|           | References .....                                                                  | 165        |
| <b>11</b> | <b>Case Studies.....</b>                                                          | <b>166</b> |
| 11.1      | Introduction .....                                                                | 167        |
| 11.2      | First Case Study: The Waterfall Model .....                                       | 168        |
| 11.3      | Second Case Study: Three Software Processes Involved in<br>Evolution .....        | 170        |
| 11.4      | Third Case Study: An Evolution Process of an Information<br>Security System ..... | 174        |
| 11.4.1    | Background.....                                                                   | 174        |
| 11.4.2    | The Process of Modelling .....                                                    | 175        |
| 11.4.3    | EPDL Program.....                                                                 | 175        |
| 11.4.4    | White Box Approach .....                                                          | 176        |
| 11.4.5    | Black Box Approach.....                                                           | 179        |
| 11.4.6    | Efficiency Improvement .....                                                      | 180        |