Mastering Alloy

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Overloading

Overloading

- Fields in disjoint signatures can be overloaded (have the same name)
- Ambiguity errors may occur

Overloading example

```
abstract sig Object {}
sig Dir extends Object {
  contains : set Entry
sig File extends Object {}
one sig Root extends Dir {}
sig Entry {
  contains : one Object,
  has : one Name
sig Name {}
```

Constraints

```
fact {
  // All directories are referred to in at most one entry
  all d : Dir | lone contains.d
   // The root is not referred in any entry
  no contains. Root
  // All objects except the root are referred to in at least one entry
  Object - Root in Entry.contains
  // Different entries in a directory must have different names
  all d: Dir, n: Name | lone (d.contains & has.n)
```

Constraints

```
fact {
    // A directory cannot be contained in itself
    all d : Dir | d not in d.^(contains.contains)
}
```

Ambiguity errors

```
run { some contains }
```

```
A type error has occurred:
This name is ambiguous due to multiple matches:
field this/Dir <: contains
field this/Entry <: contains
```

Resolving ambiguities

```
run { some d : Dir | some d.contains }
run { some contains & Dir->Entry }
run { some Dir <: contains }</pre>
```

Predicates and functions

Predicates

- In Alloy predicates are parametrized reusable constraints
 - Can also be derived propositions (without arguments)
 - Parameters can be arbitrary relations
- Only hold when invoked in a fact, command, or other predicates
- Recursive definitions are not allowed
- Run commands can directly ask for an instance satisfying a predicate
 - Atoms instantiating the parameters are shown in the visualizer

Predicate example

```
pred isreachable [d : Dir, o : Object] {
   o in d.^(contains.refersTo)
}

fact {
   // A directory cannot be contained in itself
   all d : Dir | not isreachable[d,d]
}
```

Higher-order predicate example

```
pred acyclic [r : univ -> univ] {
   no ^r & iden
}

fact {
   // A directory cannot be contained in itself
   acyclic[contains.refersTo]
}
```

Functions

- Functions are parametrized reusable expressions
 - Parameters can be arbitrary relations
- Functions without parameters can be used to define derived relations
 - These show up in the visualizer
- Recursive definitions are not allowed

Function example

```
fun descendants [d : Dir] : set Object {
   d.^(contains.refersTo)
}

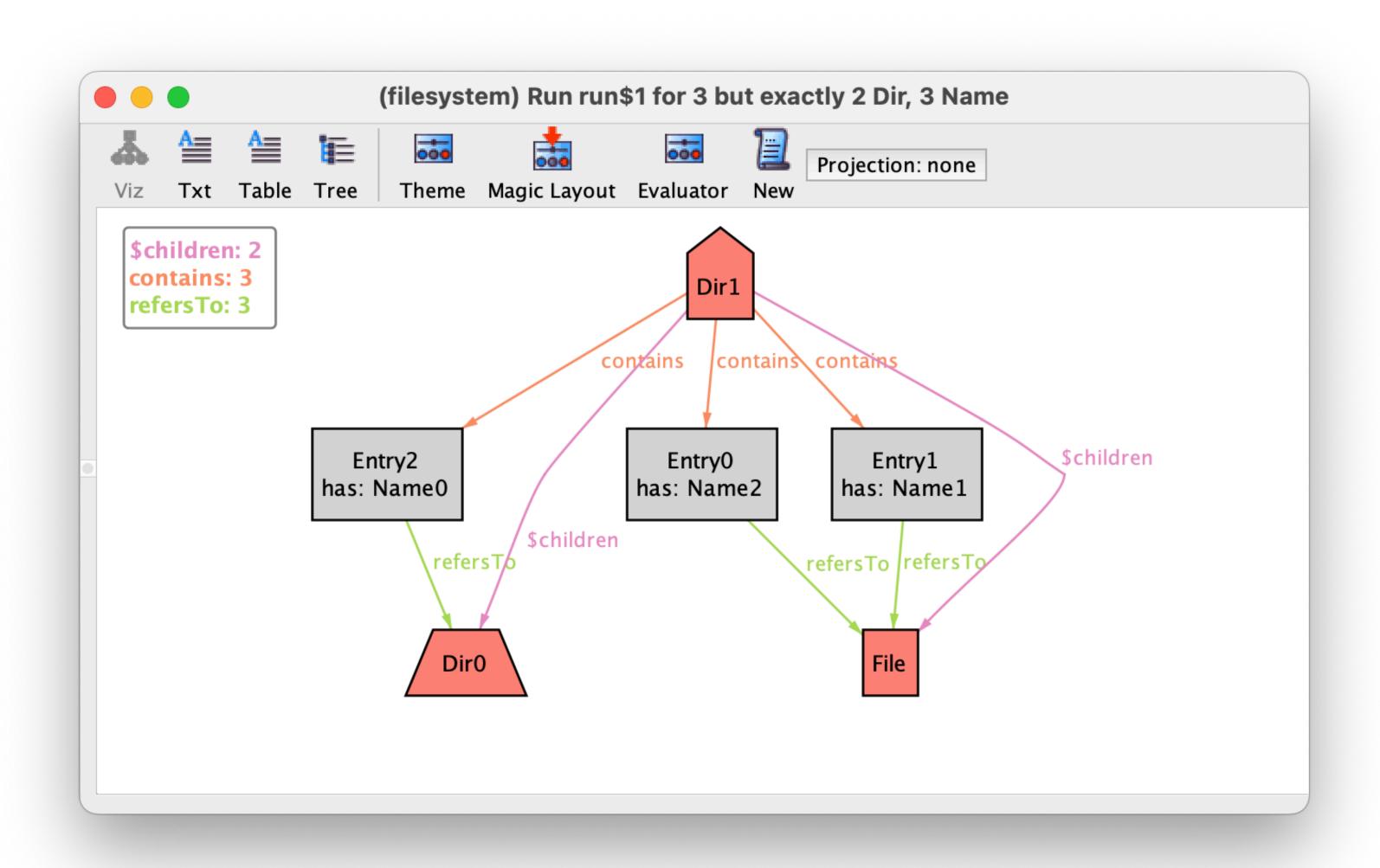
fact {
   // A directory cannot be contained in itself
   all d : Dir | d not in descendants[d]
}
```

Derived relation example

```
fun children : Dir -> Object {
   contains.refersTo
}

fact {
   // A directory cannot be contained in itself
   all d : Dir | d not in d.^children
}
```

Visualizing derived relations



Modules

Modules

- A specification can be split into modules
- The module name is declared in the first line with keyword module
- A module can be imported with an open statement
 - The imported model name must match the path of the corresponding file
 - To disambiguate a call to an entity, the module name can be prepended
 - An alias can be given with the as keyword
- A module can be parametrised by one or more signatures

Module example

```
module relation

pred acyclic [r : univ -> univ] {
   no ^r & iden
}
```

Module example

```
open relation

fact {
    // A directory cannot be contained in itself
    acyclic[contains.refersTo]
}
```

Parametrized module example

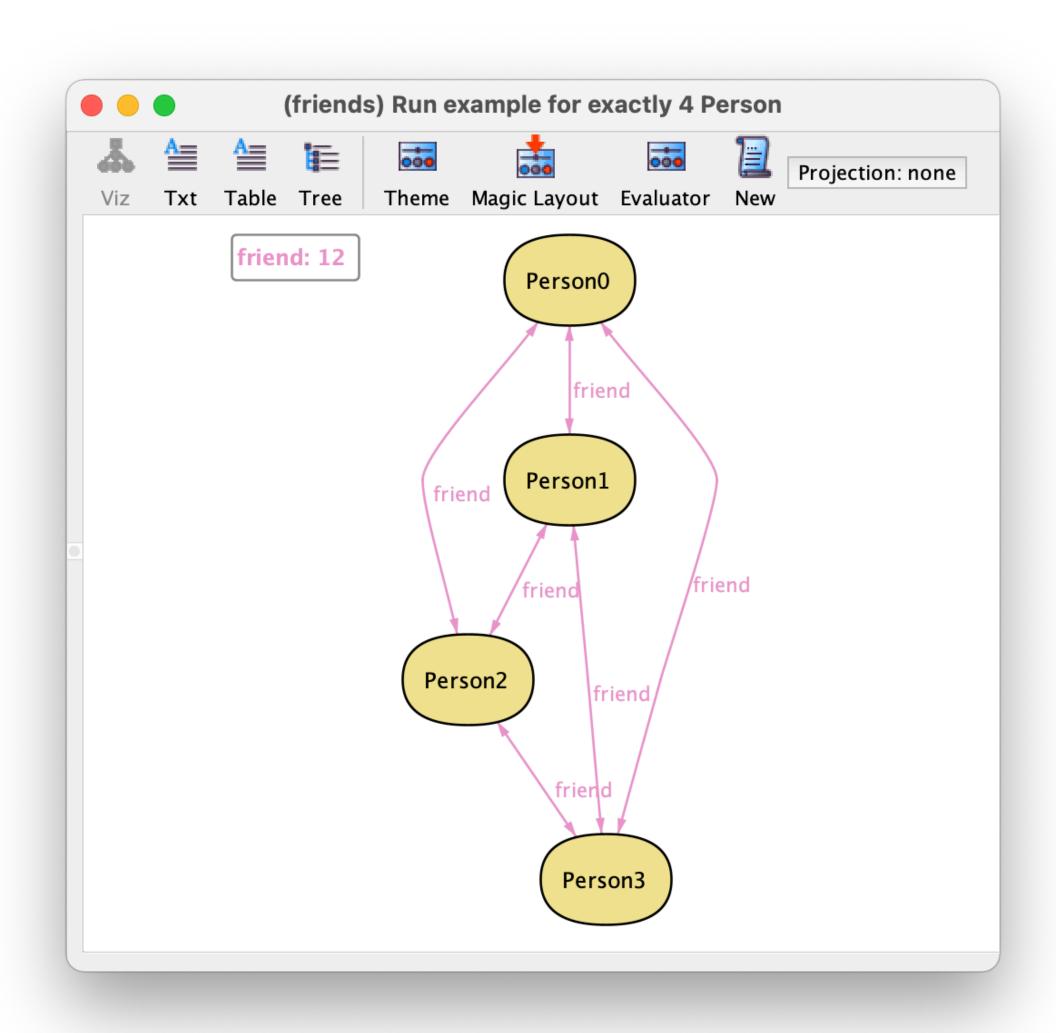
```
module graph[node]

pred complete[adj : node -> node] {
   all n : node | n.adj = node-n
}
```

Parametrized module example

```
open graph[Person]
sig Person {
  friend : set Person
}
fact { complete[friend] }
```

We are all friends



Predefined modules

util/graph[A] Useful functions and predicates for graphs with nodes from signature A

util/natural Natural numbers, including some arithmetic operations

util/boolean Boolean type, including common logical connectives

util/ordering[A] Imposes a total order on signature A

util/ordering

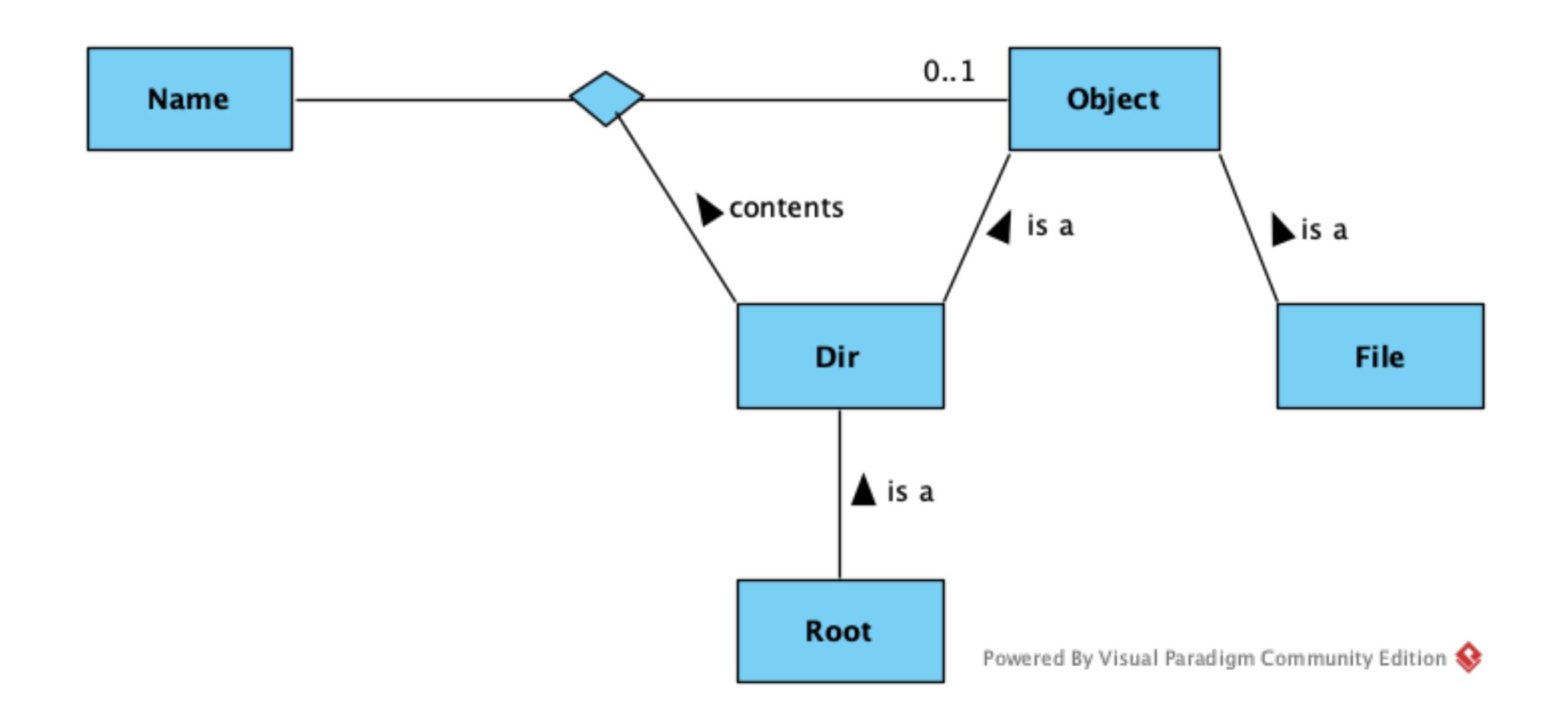
- Imposes a total order on the parameter signature
- For efficiency reasons the scope on that signature becomes exact
- Visualiser attempts to name atoms according to the order
- Many useful functions and relations, including
 - next and prev binary relations
 - first and last singleton sets
 - lt, lte, gt, and gte comparison predicates

util/ordering example

```
open util/ordering[Date]
sig Date {}
sig Entry {
  refersTo : one Object,
  has : one Name,
  date : one Date
fact {
  // A directory cannot be contained in itself
  all e : Entry, c : e.refersTo.contains | lt[e.date, c.date]
```

N-ary relations

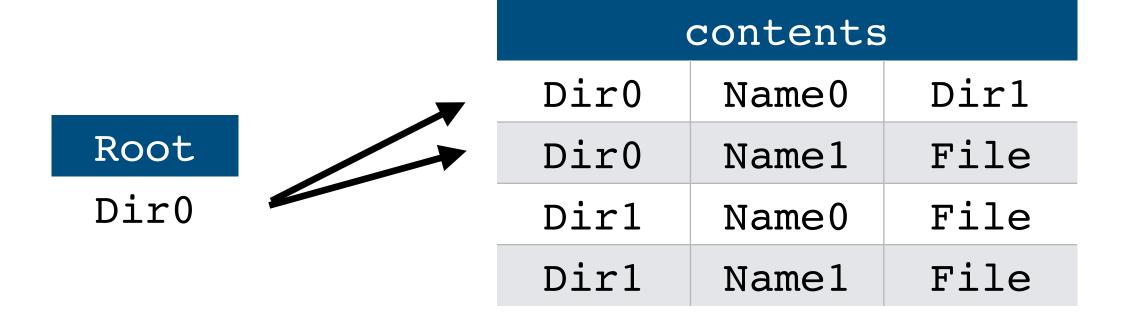
N-ary relationships a la UML



Ternary relation example

```
abstract sig Object {}
sig Dir extends Object {
  contents : Name -> lone Object
}
sig File extends Object {}
one sig Root extends Dir {}
sig Name {}
```

Composition



Root .	contents
Name0	Dir1
Name1	File

Constraints

```
fact {
  // All directories are referred to in at most one entry
  all d: Dir | lone contents.d
   // The root is not referred in any entry
  no contents.Root
  // All objects except the root are referred to in at least one entry
  Object - Root in Name. (Dir. contents)
```

Constraints

```
fun children : Dir -> Object {
    ???
}

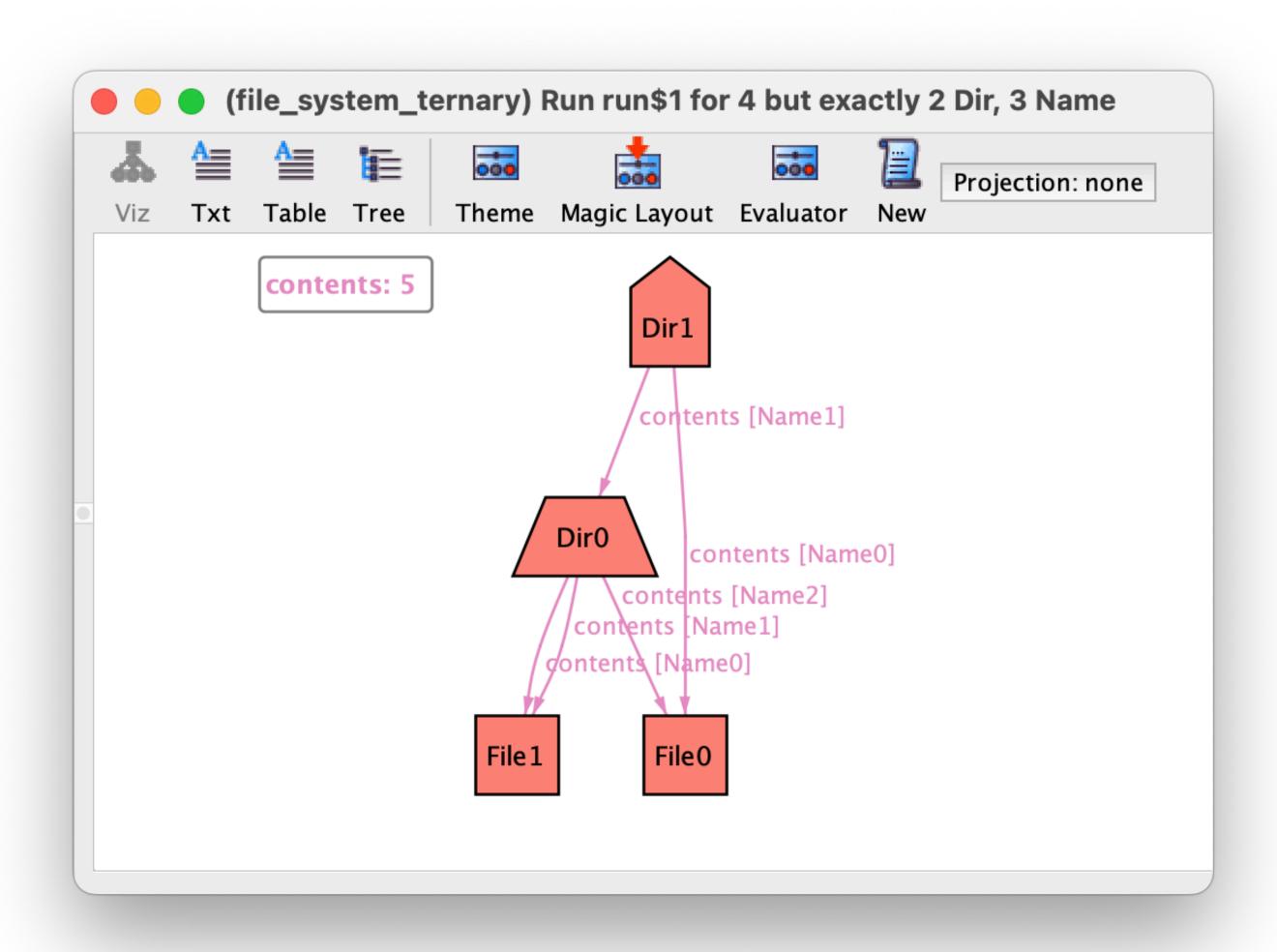
fact {
    // A directory cannot be contained in itself
    all d : Dir | d not in d.^children
}
```

Comprehension

```
\{ x_1: A_1, \dots, x_n: A_n \mid \phi \}
```

Constraints

Visualizing N-ary relations



Type system

Arity error

```
run { some has & File }
```

```
A type error has occurred:

& can be used only between 2 expressions of the same arity.

Left type = {this/Entry->this/Name}

Right type = {this/File}
```

Ambiguity error

```
run { some contains }
```

```
A type error has occurred:
This name is ambiguous due to multiple matches:
field this/Dir <: contains
field this/Entry <: contains
```

Irrelevance warning

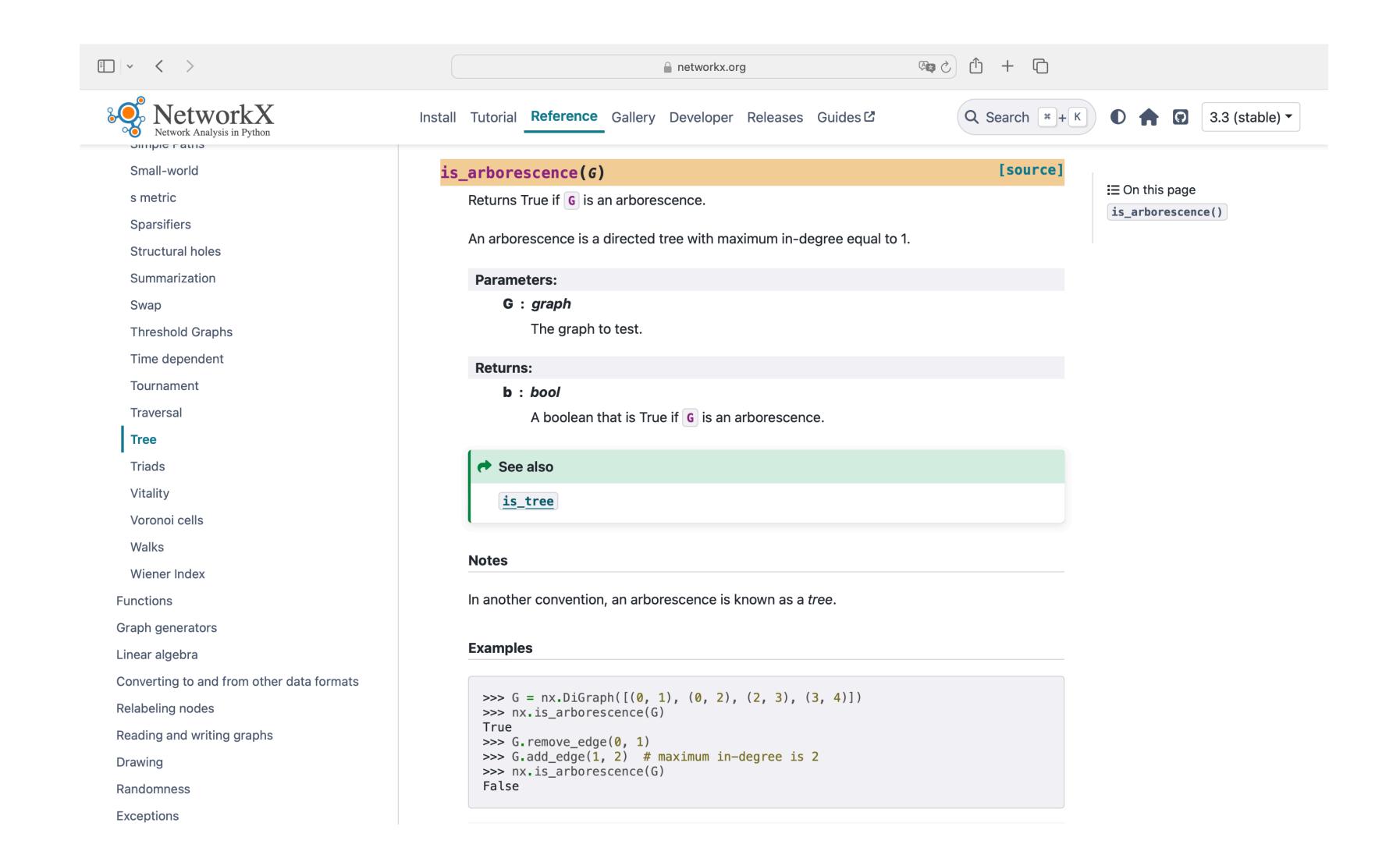
```
run { some Dir.has }
```

```
Warning #1
The join operation here always yields an empty set.
Left type = {this/Dir}
Right type = {this/Entry->this/Name}
```

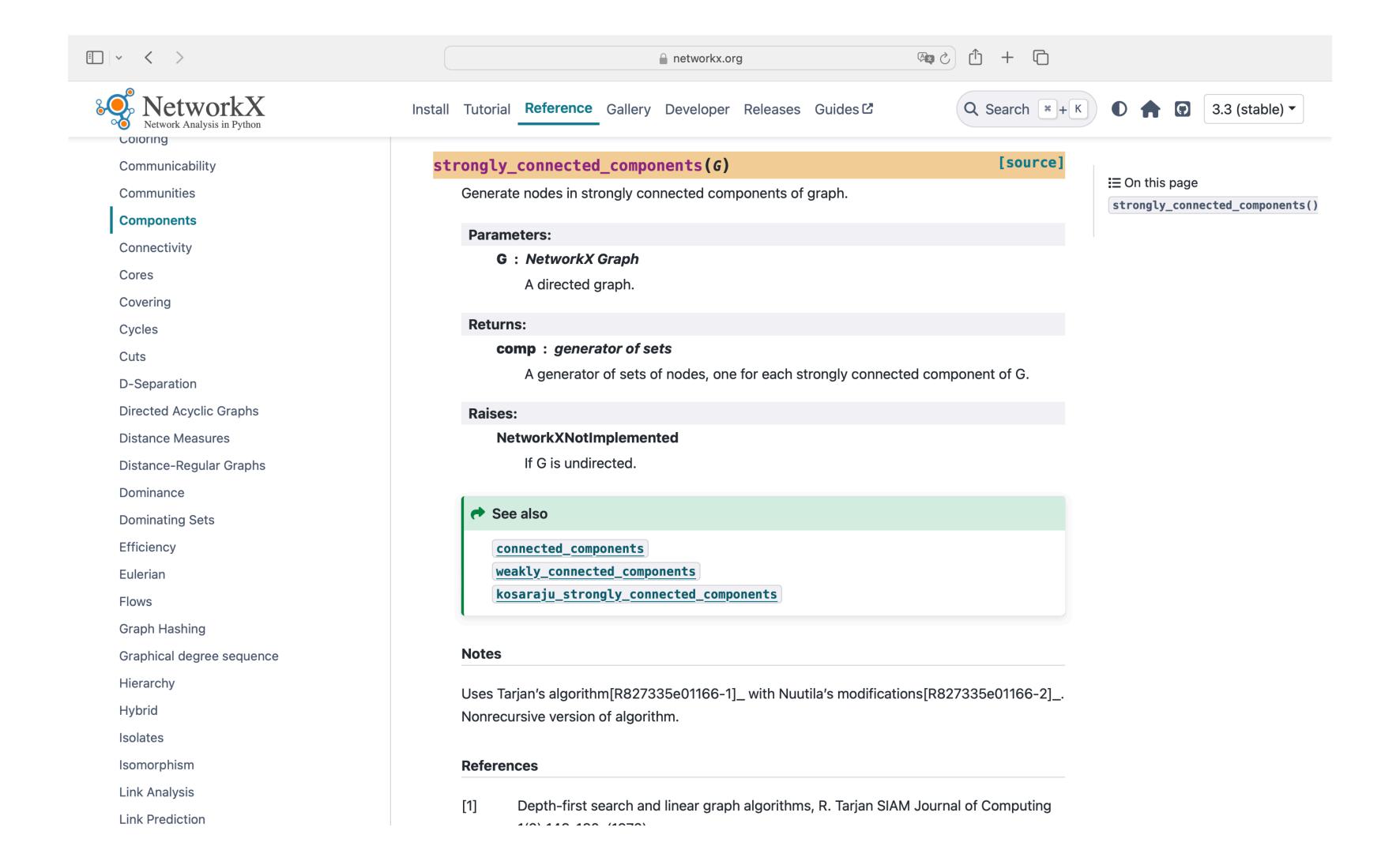


Test automation

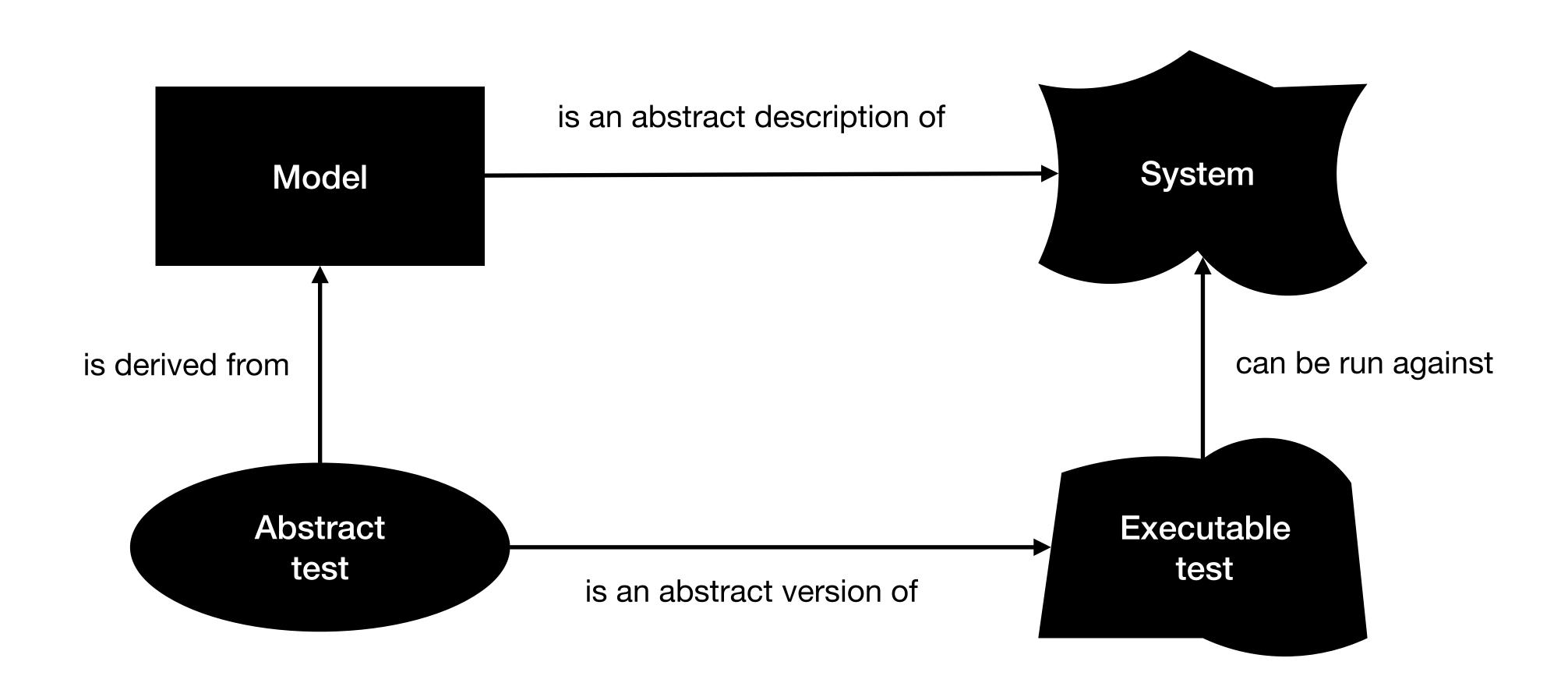
NetworkX



NetworkX



Model-based testing



Arborescence

```
some sig Node {
   adj : set Node
pred isArborescence {
   // In-degree at most one
   all n : Node | lone adj.n
   // No cycles
   all n : Node | n not in n.^adj
   // All nodes can be reached from a root
   some n : Node | Node-n in n.^adj
run {isArborescence} for 7
run {not isArborescence} for 7
```

Components

```
sig Node {
   adj : set Node,
   component : one Component
sig Component {}
fact {
  // Nodes belong to same component iff they are reachable from each other
  all x,y: Node | x.component = y.component iff <math>x in y.*adj and y in x.*adj
  // Only return necessary components
  Component = Node.component
run {} for 6
```

Let's do it with Alloy API!



