

**DESIGN STRUCTURE MATRIX : MODELS, APPLICATIONS AND DATA  
EXCHANGE FORMAT**

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**Dedication**

To

My Loving Parents

## **Abstract**

The *Design Structure Matrix* model has facilitated the study of design structure and architectural complexity of complex systems by analyzing dependencies between system's elements. There exists examples and applications of different DSM types highlighting real world engineered systems in the literature provided by the researchers and authors. Unfortunately, there does not exist any specialized digital format that can make those DSM examples data accessible to public for further analysis. Having said this, in this thesis, we propose a Data Exchange file format suitable for Design Structure Matrix (DSM) models. The DSM Data Exchange (DSMDE) file format can be considered as a common file format that supports DSM data to be exchanged in an organized manner. Thus, we (more) formally propose an extension to an existing "appropriate" exchange file format instead of creating a new one. We choose "Matrix Market (MM) file format" for extension to store DSM information. As DSM techniques are playing a vital role to model and analyze complex network in the area of product development, we believe that our DSMDE file format will contribute to establish a common standard of exchanging DSM data to the researchers and developers.

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## **Chapter 1**

### **Introduction**

The complexity of today's product design structure is determined by its architecture where there exists complex interactions between design components. The *Design Structure Matrix* modeling technique is known as a special tool to model these design complexities based on interactions. Many real world examples of DSM matrices remain scattered in the literature. These practical DSM examples from different application areas establish an important database of scientific knowledge. But most of these examples can not be retrieved easily in a digital form. Therefore, there is a need of having a standardized file format that makes DSM data publicly available. Our aim is to identify "suitable" existing data exchange format and extend it to incorporate DSM data.

#### **1.1 Study of Complex Software Architecture**

The complexity in a software architecture is established by its components and their interaction [27]. Certain techniques are needed for mastering these large amount of system's activities and their interconnections which also includes understanding, designing and improving systems. For example, an advanced complex software architecture requires a design architecture that is easily accessible to any changes in functions and re-development of any parts of the system [18]. From an engineering perspective, a modularized design of a product makes complexity manageable, enables parallel work and accommodates future uncertainty. The elements of modular product design can be easily divided and assigned to different modules representing the interdependence within modules and independence between modules. In 2000, the authors Baldwin and Clark [22] have incorporated two ideas about modularity: the need for carrying out a specific work on the given module with-

out causing any changes to other modules in the design, and the need for well-designed interfaces between these modules.

## 1.2 Scientific Software

Computer software can be viewed as a network of interacting modules. Poor software designs are designs that are hard to modify and reuse. Improper dependencies of software modules are another main cause of a poorly structured design. Changes are made when the initial design can not predict certain requirements of overall design of the product. As a result, design degrades and those changes introduce new and unplanned dependencies between the modules of the system. *Scientific software* are made up of large numbers of modules that are being developed to perform large-scale simulation run [7]. They are designed and developed in such a way that any part of it can be modified if changes in requirements are made [19, 23]. Thus, the major properties we expect to be displayed by general software and scientific software in particular, are reusability, extendibility, correctness, verifiability, robustness, efficiency and portability.

In this thesis, we discuss the DSM modeling as it applies to the product, process and organization design architecture. Furthermore, we evaluate tool to extract dependency information/data from scientific software code and generate their DSMs. We propose a data exchange format to facilitate the exchange of dependency data.

## 1.3 Complex Networks

The term network implies different interpretations in different areas. In the social sciences, the term 'network' is formally studied as 'graphs'. Graphs are referred to a set of nodes or vertices which may have links or edges with one another. The most common form of matrix in social network analysis is a 'square matrix' with rows and columns. The cells of the matrix record information about each pair of nodes such as their weights. That is, if the value of the cell is 1, it represents the presence of an edge; otherwise, it is 0. This kind

of matrix is called 'adjacency matrix'. It is a powerful tool to conduct several analyses of graphs [17]. In our thesis, the study of dependency structure of design structure matrix (DSM) model can be viewed as complex network.

#### 1.4 Design Structure Matrix

The DSM is a network modeling tool that highlights the inherent structure of a design. A DSM model displays the dependencies that exist between system components and highlights the types and sources of such dependencies concisely. Many alternative terms have been applied such as *Dependency Structure Matrix*, *Dependency System Model*, and *Deliverable Source Map* to emphasize particular aspects of DSM models [15]. This model provides some advantages for system architecture modeling such as conciseness (representing fairly large and complex systems in a relatively small space), visualization (provides a system level view), intuitive understanding (understanding a basic structure of a complex system easily), analysis (applies powerful analyses in graph theory and linear algebra), and flexibility (modification and extension the basic DSM with helpful graphics etc.) [15].

#### 1.5 Contribution of the thesis

A DSM is much more than an adjacency matrix representation of a graph. A project may involve interactions that are far more complex than simple binary interactions. In an application described in Eppinger and Browning [15], there are three different sources of interactions where each interaction can be one of three different types. Thus, different choices for system elements and interaction categories yield alternative contextual models for the same modeling exercise.

In Chapters 2 and 3, we have reviewed DSM techniques that are relevant and useful in analyzing complex software architecture. We have employed the dependency extraction tool **Understand** [28] to construct DSM models for three important scientific software applications: ADOL-C, CPPAD, and CSparse. The resulting DSMs can display dependency

information at different level of granularity: from file-level dependencies to object-use dependencies.

In Chapter 4 we have proposed a new file format for the exchange of DSM data. Currently there does not exist any standard way to exchange DSM data. The proposed DSMDE exchange format fills this void. The DSMDE exchange format is derived from the widely used Matrix Market (MM) file format. The new format is quite flexible in that both single-domain and multi-domain (MDM) information can be stored in the same file. For MDM models, the data are organized in a block triangular configuration where the diagonal blocks correspond to the DSMs and the off-diagonal blocks represent domain mapping matrices (DMMs). Thus the DSMDE format can handle complex DSM and MDM models in a uniform manner.

## Chapter 2

### The Design Structure Matrix

In this chapter, we study the importance of design structure matrix, illustrate different types of DSMs with corresponding examples and their applications.

#### 2.1 What is DSM?

The *Design Structure Matrix (DSM)* is a network modeling technique to represent the components of a system and the relationships among them [15]. A system model can be considered as a graph where a node represents a system element and an edge represents the relationship between two elements. In case of directed graph(digraph), an arrow between two elements shows the impact from one element to another. The DSM emerged as a concise matrix representation of digraphs. The approach has become widespread for analyzing complex system models. It is a square adjacency matrix containing identical row and column captions. The diagonal cells depict the components of a system and off-diagonal cells depict the dependency among these components [15]. In terms of advantages, the DSMs provide more visual advantages including compactness and clear representation of essential patterns. On the other hand, as the graph becomes larger with nodes and edges, it gets more difficult to understand the overall representation of the network.

Several earlier project management tools named PERT (Program Evaluation and Review Technique) and CPM (Critical Path Method) methods [5] lack managing a common phenomenon of complex product development, that is 'interdependency' (iterations) [30]. The DSM tool overcomes this shortfall.

## 2.2 Brief History of DSM

The use of matrices and graph theory for modeling large and complex engineering projects has been found in the work of Warfield and Steward respectively in the 1970s and 1980s [26]. In 1981, Don Steward first came up with the design structure matrix as a network representation where he explained how design tasks interact with each other [9]. Later on, in the 1990s, this method caught the attention of large number of design developers and became widespread. MIT researchers applied DSM since the 1990s in their research work on product and system development [4].

In 2012, Eppinger et al. expanded this model to capture more ideas about relationships between product elements.

*“Engineering work can be procedural and systematic,” says Eppinger. “People think of engineering as a matter of always developing something new, unlike business operations, where you do something over and over again. But we’ve learned that while you may repeat engineering work five or 20 times in your career instead of 100 times a day, there is a process there. And if you can capture that process, you can improve it.”*

### **Example of a graph and its corresponding DSM:**

Consider the graph in Figure 2.1. A static call graph is displayed where functions are represented as nodes and a directed edge between two nodes represents a function call. Here, function 1 calls functions 3 and 4. Thus, there is an edge from function 1 to functions 3 and 4. A corresponding DSM is displayed in Figure 2.2. Marks on cells 3 and 4 in row 1 depict element 1 requires information from elements 3 and 4.

If component A requires information (represented by a mark on off-diagonal cell) from component B, such information depicts the input for component A. On the other hand, if component A provides information to component B, such information represents the output for component A.

There are two conventions for reading an element’s inputs and outputs in the DSM [15].

1. **IR/FAD:** The off-diagonal mark in IR depicts **I**nter in **R**ow and output in column.

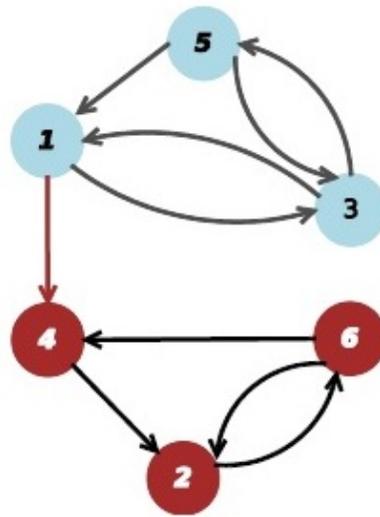


Figure 2.1: A static call graph [31]

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Task 1	1	x		x	x	
Task 2	2		x	x		X
Task 3	3	x		x		X
Task 4	4		X		x	
Task 5	5	x		X		X
Task 6	6		x	X		x

Figure 2.2: Corresponding DSM for the call graph [31]

With IR in a process DSM, “feedback” is depicted as a mark above the main diagonal(FAD).

2. **IC/FBD:** The off-diagonal mark in IC depicts Input in Column and output in Row. With IC in a process DSM, “feedback” is depicted as a mark below the main diagonal(FBD).

To indicate the presence or absence of a dependency in the off-diagonal cell, there are two types of DSMs [15].

1. The *binary DSM* is represented putting dots or marks in the off-diagonal cell that shows a direct relationship between two elements.

2. The *numerical DSM* consists of numbers, colors, shades or symbols in the off-diagonal cell to show the dependency intensity and strength between two elements.

### 2.3 System Architecture and DSM

A *system's architecture* describes system components and their interactions as a structure that can be designed and developed over time [15].

Here we present Eppinger's [15] modified IEEE definition of *system architecture*.

**Definition 2.1.** The structure of a system is embodied in its elements, their relationships to each other (and to the system's environment), and the principles guiding its design and evolution- that gives rise to its functions and behaviors.

Products, processes and organizations can be viewed as complex system architectures. The design structure matrix (DSM) model gives a concise and simple representation of system architecture.

#### **Classic DSM Approach to System Architecture Modeling:**

In 2012, Eppinger et al. [15] mentioned five step approach to model and analyze each of the DSM applications. The steps are:

1. Decompose: Breaking a system into several subsystems.
2. Identify: Recording all the interactions among the system's components.
3. Analyze: Reorganizing the components and their interactions (integration) in order to get the precise idea of system behavior.
4. Display: Visual graphical representation of the DSM model focusing on important features.
5. Improve: Actions taken during the analysis of DSM improving the system as a whole.

## 2.4 Classification of DSM Models

DSMs can be modeled based on various types of system architecture. There are two main classes of DSMs according to Browning (2001) [12]: static architecture-based and temporal flow-based DSMs. Static architecture models include *product-based DSM* and *organization-based DSM* whereas time-based DSMs include *process architecture DSM*. Figure 2.3 shows all of these classes.

### Static-Based DSM:

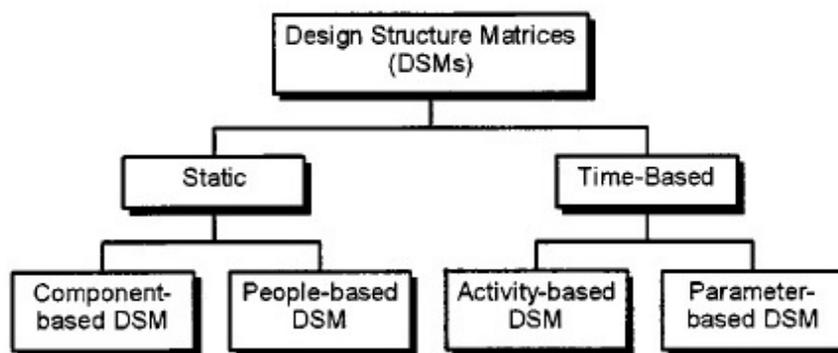


Figure 2.3: **Hierarchy of DSMs** [12]

A static-based DSM consists of elements that exist simultaneously, in other words, not dependent on time [15]. Components of a system and people in a team represent the nodes in static-based DSMs. The rows and columns in static DSMs are ordered in such a way that it indicates groupings instead of time flow. Clustering algorithm [15] is used to analyze static-based DSMs.

Organizational designers and system engineers use the static-based DSM for recording communication network and representing complex architectural products [12]. The static DSM can be classified into two types: Product-architecture and Organizational architecture DSM [15].

### Product Architecture DSM:

Product architecture is the complete representation of elements of a product interacting

to perform specified functions [15]. The product development firms now greatly rely on product architectures because of its revolutionary features and advantages.

Product architecture DSM is a mapping of the network of interactions among a product's components/elements [15]. It is also known as product DSM, system architecture DSM, Component DSM.

System Engineers follow three major steps for every complex system development project [15]:

1. Decompose the system into elements;
2. Understand and record the interactions between the elements (i.e., their integration);
3. Analyze potential reintegration of the elements via clustering (integration analysis).

**Example 2.2.** Pimmler and Eppinger [15] used component-based DSMs to exhibit alternative architectures at Ford Motor Company [12]. Their goal was to improve the quality of the resulting product design at Ford Motor Company. Figures 2.5 and 2.6 show the materials-type interaction for an automotive climate control system, where numeric value quantifies the importance/strength of that specific interaction type. In Figure 2.6, three groups/modules/clusters have been identified considering only the materials-type interactions. Components within a cluster have many strong interactions (intra-group interactions). Components among three clusters have relatively few interactions (inter-group interactions). For instance, there exists strong interactions among components of front-end air cluster while there exists few interactions between components of cluster front-end air and cluster refrigerant.

In 2012, Eppinger et al. [9] provided more component-based DSM examples in their book that include building construction, semiconductor, photographic, aerospace, electronics, and telecom industries.

### **Organizational Architecture DSM:**

Required	+2	Physical adjacency is necessary for functionality
Desired	+1	Physical adjacency is beneficial, but not necessary for functionality
Indifferent	0	Physical adjacency does not affect functionality
Undesired	-1	Physical adjacency causes negative effect but does not prevent functionality
Detrimental	-2	Physical adjacency must be prevented to achieve functionality

Figure 2.4: Quantification scheme [24]

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
Radiator	A	2														
Engine Fan	2	B			2											
Heater Core			C													2
Heater Hoses				D												
Condenser		2			E	2		2								
Compressor					2	F		2	2							
Evaporator Case							G									2
Evaporator Core					2	2		H	2							2
Accumulator						2		2	I							
Refrigeration Controls										J						
Air Controls											K					
Sensors												L				
Command Distribution													M			
Actuators														N		
Blower Controller															O	2
Blower Motor			2				2	2							2	P

Figure 2.5: Component-based original DSM of automobile climate control system [24]

Organization is one of the most complex systems. Communication among different groups/teams within the organization is the crucial part of complex organizational system development. Organization DSMs analyze an organization, capture the structure of organizational units and design it according to the communication flow among organizational units such as individuals, teams, groups, departments etc. It specially focuses on information flow interactions [15]. The individual group/team member or groups/teams within the organization are considered to be the *nodes* (the diagonal cells of the DSM) and the communication flow between nodes represent *interactions* (the off-diagonal cells) [9]. This DSM is also known as organization DSM, people-based DSM, team-based DSM.

To build an organizational DSM as system model, it requires the following three steps [15]:

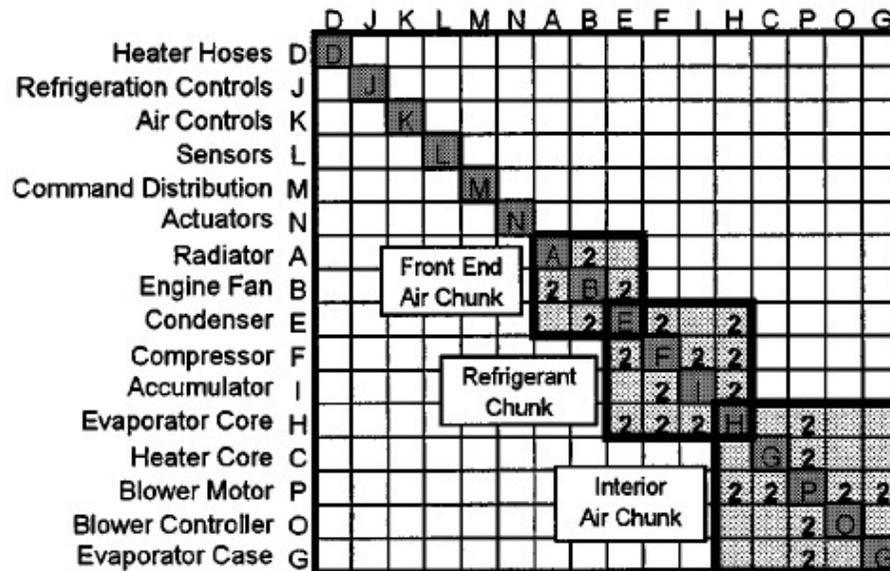


Figure 2.6: Clustered DSM [24]

1. Decompose the organization into elements (e.g., teams) with specific functions, roles, or assignments;
2. Record the interactions between (the integration of) the teams;
3. Apply clustering analysis(assigning organizational units to teams). Interactions between clusters or metateams are to be minimized [12].

**Example 2.3.** McCord and Eppinger [15] applied the team-based DSM to analyze an automobile engine (General Motors) development project. They encapsulated the communication frequency between the component development teams (CDTs) (Figure 2.7). Figure 2.7 shows the DSM that decomposes the organization into 22 CDTs and records the frequency (daily, weekly, monthly) of communications between the teams.

In the next step, the DSM is restructured through clustering analysis by assigning CDTs into more groups/subsystem teams based on the reported frequency of their interactions as shown in the Figure 2.8. The resultant DSM consists of five groups. First four groups/subsystem teams represent a formal organization structure of higher level groupings [15]. Two component development teams B and K are shown twice since they are assigned to

two or three subsystem teams; each participating in three subsystem teams.

The five CDTs H, S, T, U and V at the bottom of the matrix do not fit systematically into the four subsystem teams since they need to merge with all of the four subsystem teams. Therefore, these five CDTs form another integration team. For instance, one representative from each CDT of this integration team will attend each of the four subsystem team meetings [12].

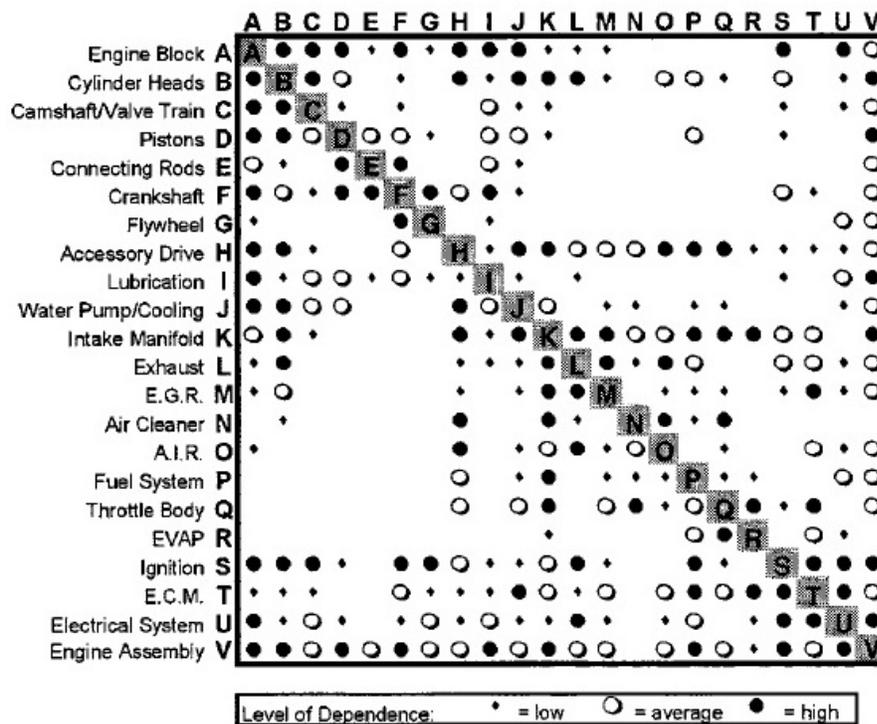


Figure 2.7: Team-based original DSM of product development teams [14]

Several other researchers Browning and Danilovic [9] applied organizational DSM to the aerospace and automotive industries.

### Temporal-Flow DSM:

Unlike static DSMs, the nodes in temporal flow DSMs are time dependent [15]. Thus, the ordering of rows and columns in such DSMs depict time sequence or activity flow through time [9]. Time-based DSM includes architecture of processes; represented as activity/task based process models and low-level parameter based models [15].

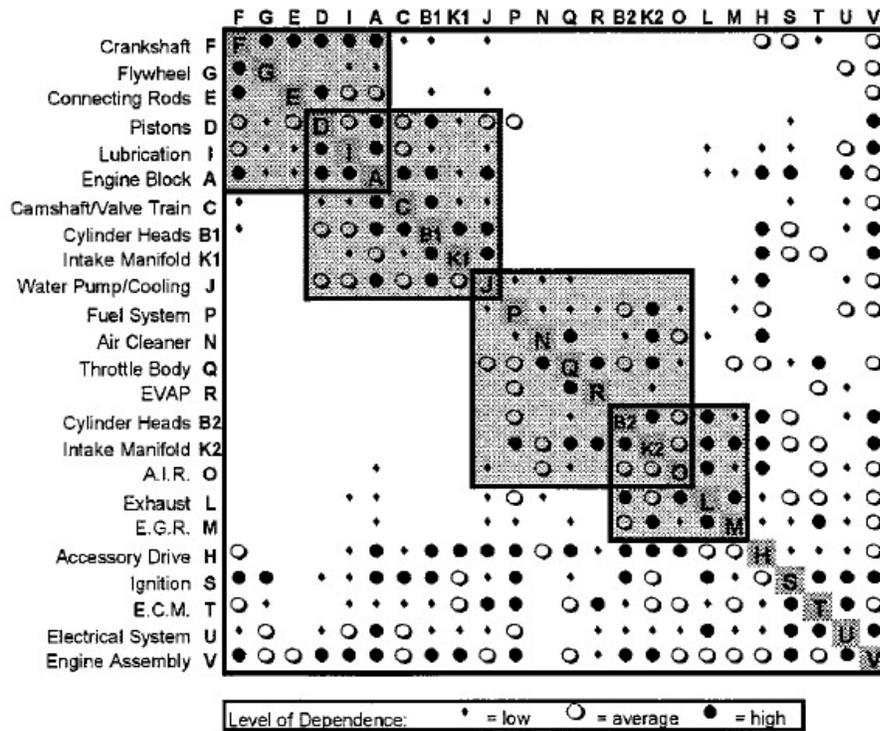


Figure 2.8: DSM after clustering [14]

The time-based DSM is analyzed using partitioning process (will be discussed later in this chapter). The feedback marks are reduced or eliminated using this process [30]. Once the partitioning process is done, three types of activities are identified in the restructured process DSM. These activities include-

- Sequential: One element influences the behavior of another element. For example, project task A has to be performed first before task B can start.
- Parallel: System elements do not interact with each other. For example, task A is independent of task B. There is no information exchange between two tasks.
- Coupled: The flow of information is interdependent. For example, design parameter A can not be determined without first knowing parameter B and B could not be determined without knowing A.

**Activity-based DSM:**

A process refers to a project/system that is comprised of a set of activities/tasks and their interactions (input-output relationships). To represent such system, we can use the matrix approach with the DSM methodology. These DSMs are called process architecture DSMs. It is a mapping of the network of interactions among tasks/activities in a process [15]. Such DSMs are also known as task-based DSM, process DSM. They are used to depict the dependency of one activity on another, more precisely, to identify activities that are required to be finished first for other activities to start [9]. The rows and columns of such DSMs are the lists of tasks/activities to be performed. Information based interactions among tasks/activities are represented as marks in the matrix. Marks below the diagonal are known as forward marks that transfers forward information to later tasks. Marks above the diagonal are known as feedback marks that feeds back information to earlier tasks [30]. Three steps are required to model process DSM [15]:

1. Decompose the process into activities;
2. Document the information flow among the activities (their integration);
3. Analyze the sequencing of the activities.

**Example 2.4.** In 1993, Kusiak and Wang [9] applied an activity-based DSM to a simple automobile design process. In this example, the design tasks represent the nodes of the system; the interaction (information flow/input-output) between activities are represented as relations in the system (Figure 2.9). In the Figure 2.9, the DSM contains 11 feedback marks. Figure 2.10 displays the resequenced DSM after implementing a block diagonalization algorithm [15]. In the resequenced DSM (Figure 2.10), feedback marks are reduced to 5 and two coupled tasks are identified.

**Parameter-based DSM:**

A parameter-based DSM is constructed from a "bottom-up" approach to identify the low

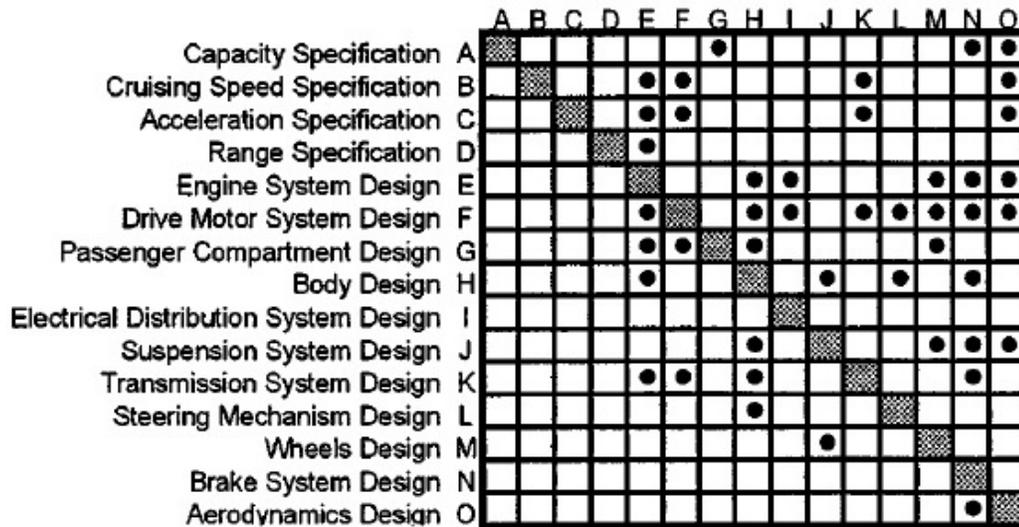


Figure 2.9: Activity-based original DSM of automobile design process [20]

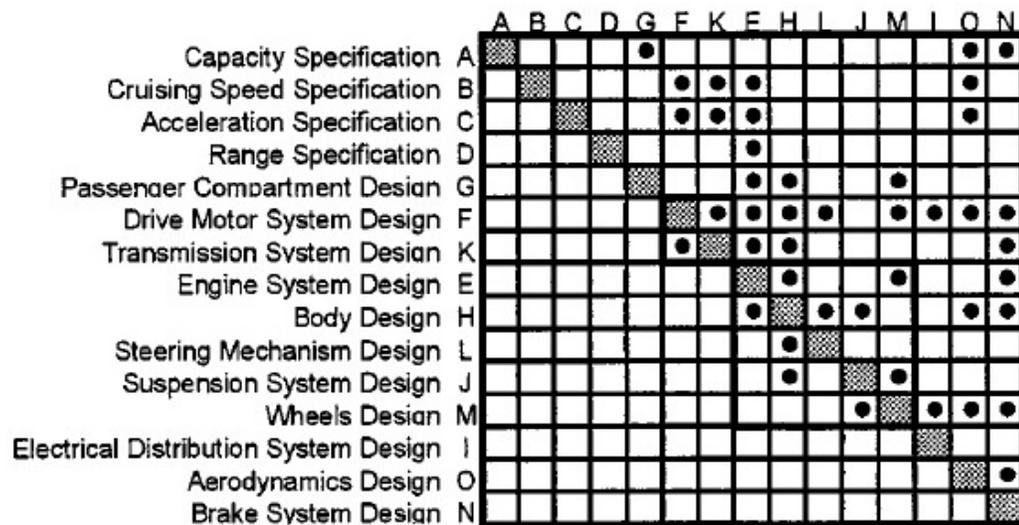


Figure 2.10: Resequenced DSM [20]

level parameters that determine the design. The nodes of such DSMs represent system activities which may include tasks describing how the physical system works. While an activity-based DSM might include tests, reviews etc. within the system, a parameter-based DSM determines tasks that highlight the physical relationships between parameters [9]. The methods used for modeling a parameter-based DSM are very identical to the methods used in an activity-based DSM. Parameter based DSMs are the least documented in the

literature.

**Example 2.5.** Rask and Sunnersjo [25] in 1998 applied a parameter-based DSM to demonstrate the relationships between design variables of a robot arm and its housing (Figure 2.11). In the Figure 2.11, two system components “robotic housing” and “robotic arm” are

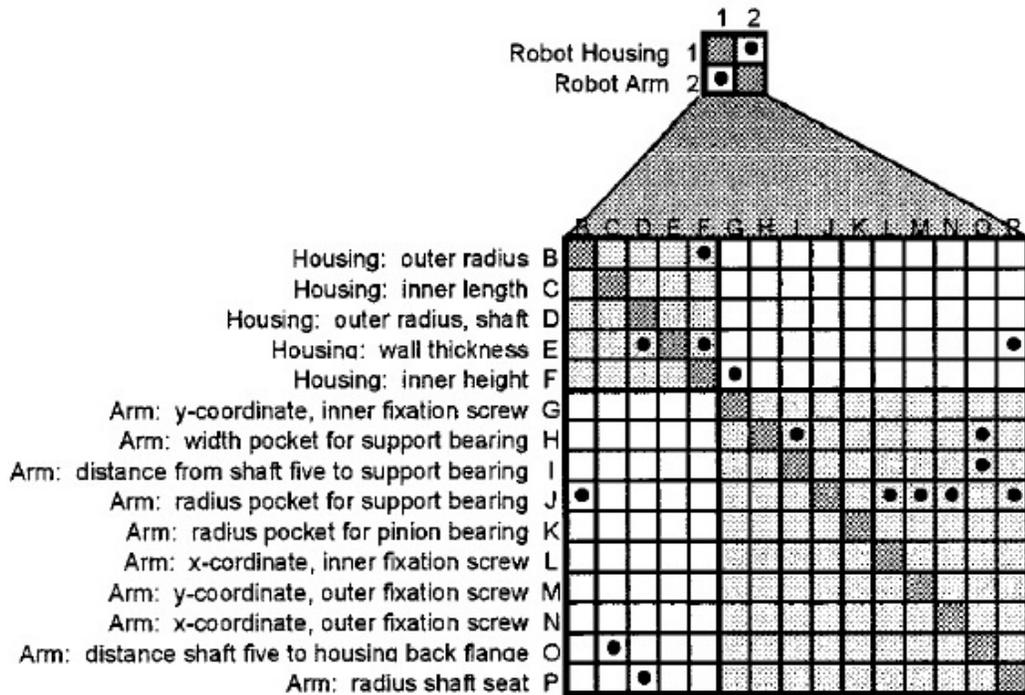


Figure 2.11: Parameter-based original DSM of robot arm design [25]

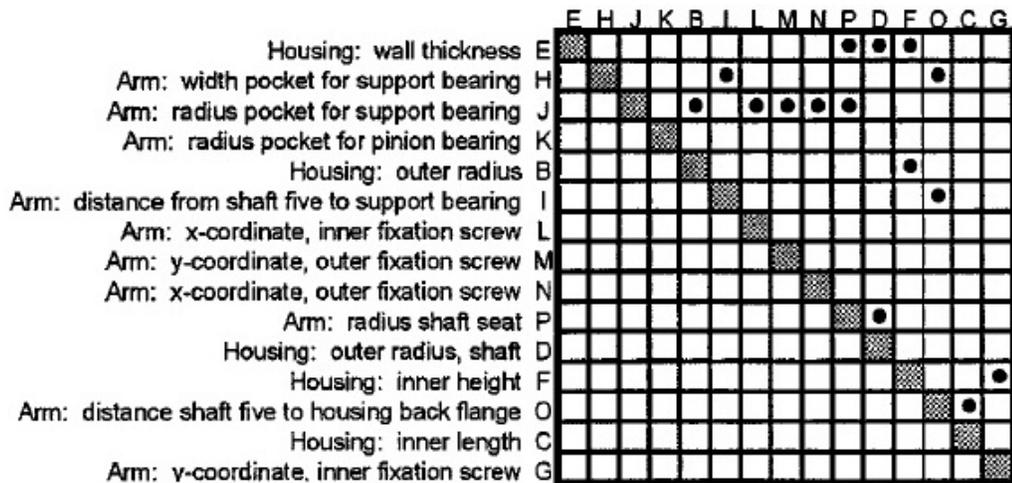


Figure 2.12: Resequenced DSM [25]

decomposed into their design parameters and have been isolated into two coupled activities [9]. In the second Figure 2.12, sequencing is applied and two coupled activities have been combined into one single activity. The restructured DSM allowed all of the low level parameters to be determined sequentially [12].

## 2.5 Existing DSM Analysis Techniques

The following table in Figure 2.13 displays classical DSM techniques for all types of DSMs.

### Partitioning / Sequencing:

DSM Data Types	Representation	Application	Analysis Method
Task-based	Task/Activity input/output relationships	Project scheduling, activity sequencing, cycle time reduction	Partitioning, Tearing, Banding
Parameter-based	Parameter decision points and necessary precedents	Low level activity sequencing and process construction	Partitioning, Tearing, Banding
Team-based	Multi-team interface characteristics	Organizational design, interface management, team integration	Clustering
Component-based	Multi-component relationships	System architecting, engineering and design	Clustering

Figure 2.13: Classical DSM techniques for types of DSMs [9]

Compared to graphs, it is much easier to find out and analyze feedback relationships in DSM models [30]. Feedback marks in DSMs correspond to those inputs that are not available at the time of executing a task. Partitioning/Sequencing is one of the most common methods of analysis in time-based DSM models that deals with feedback marks in the DSM matrices. With IR convention, feedback marks exist above the main diagonal. With IC convention, feedback marks exist below the main diagonal.

Partitioning is the procedure of reordering DSM rows and columns to reduce/eliminate feedback marks; thus altering the DSM into a block diagonal/lower triangular form [9]. Three tasks can be identified after sequencing.

**Example 2.6.** In the example DSM in Figure 2.14, B feeds C, F, G, J and K and D is fed by E, F and L [30]. All marks above the diagonal are feedback marks. Applying sequencing in the original DSM, the feedback marks are reduced to 4 and three tasks are identified.

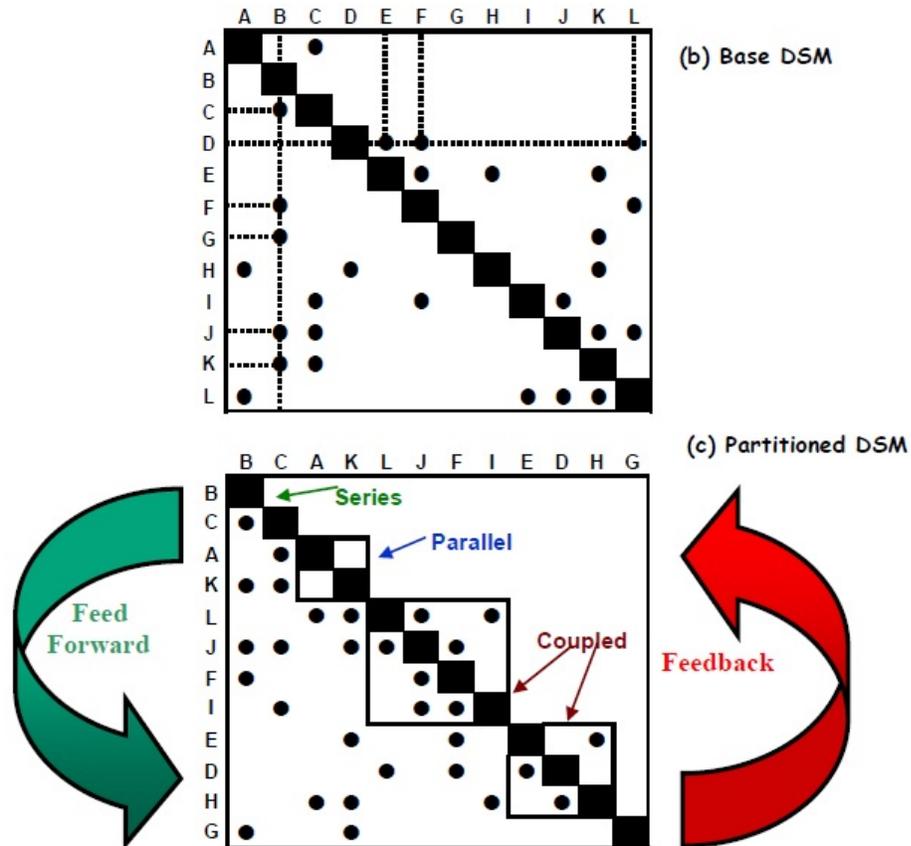


Figure 2.14: DSM after partitioning [30]

### Application:

The following Figure 2.15 is an example application of parameter based DSM before sequencing and after sequencing.

### Clustering:

Clustering analysis is a useful procedure for analyzing component-based and organization-based DSMs. Clustering is the process of reordering DSM rows and columns to group components into a different set of modules/clusters in order to perform specific functions [15]. The most notable objective of applying clustering into DSMs is to maximize interactions between elements within clusters (modules) and to minimize interactions between

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Customer_Requirements	1	1											
Wheel Torque	2		2	X									
Pedal Mech. Advantage	3	X		3	X	X		X		X			X
System Level Parameters	4	X			4								
Rotor Diameter	5	X	X	X	X	5		X	X		X	X	X
ABS Modular Display	6		X				6		X				
Front Lining Coef. of Friction	7			X	X	X		7	X		X		X
Piston-Rear Size	8		X		X				8		X		
Calliper Compliance	9			X	X					9	X		X
Piston- Front Size	10		X		X				X		10		
Rear Lining Coef of Friction	11			X	X	X			X		X	11	X
Booster - Max. Stroke	12												12
Booster Reaction Ratio	13		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X

	1	4	2	10	8	3	11	7	13	5	12	9	6
Customer_Requirements	1	1											
System Level Parameters	4	X	4										
Wheel Torque	2		X	2									
Piston- Front Size	10		X	X	10	X							
Piston-Rear Size	8		X	X	X	8							
Pedal Mech. Advantage	3	X	X		X	X	3			X	X		
Rear Lining Coef of Friction	11		X		X	X	X	11		X	X		
Front Lining Coef. of Friction	7		X		X	X	X		7	X	X		
Booster Reaction Ratio	13		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	13	X		
Rotor Diameter	5	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	5		
Booster - Max. Stroke	12									X		12	
Caliper Compliance	9		X		X	X			X				9
ABS Modular Display	6											X	6

Figure 2.15: Original DSM and partitioned DSM of a brake example [30]

clusters [9].

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1						X	
2	X		X	X			X
3				X			X
4		X	X		X		X
5	X			X		X	
6	X				X		
7		X	X	X			

Figure 2.16: Original DSM [21]

Team 1		participants 1, 5 and 6
Team 2		participants 4 and 5
Team 3		participants 2, 3, 4 and 7

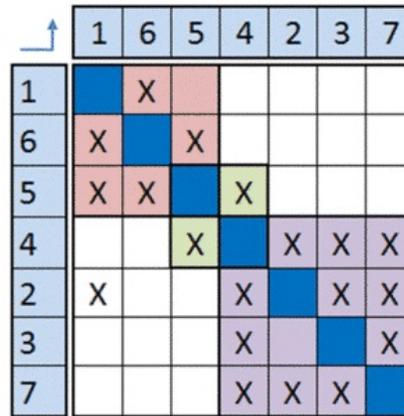


Figure 2.17: Clustered DSM [21]

**Example 2.7.** In Figure 2.17, the original DSM has been clustered into two groups. It indicates that interactions among the teams within cluster are most frequent and essential.

**Application:**

A DSM application (before and after clustering) has been shown in Figures 2.5 and 2.6. In a development process, if it is required to make several development teams within the project, clustering can be used to make teams and assign members in each team [21].

**2.6 Brief Introduction to Domain Mapping Matrix(DMM)**

A DSM represents single-domain interaction patterns. To analyze multidomain interactions, *Domain Mapping Matrix(DMM)* technique is used. It defines a mapping two or more domains at once. The rows in DMM represent elements of one domain and the columns represent elements of another domain. Thus a DMM is an  $m \times n$  rectangular matrix whereas, a DSM contains identical rows and columns.

Eppinger [9] and several other researchers recognized that the analysis of single-domain

interaction pattern guides to study about a particular product and its improvement, while the analysis of multi-domain interaction pattern allows assessment of “effectiveness of the process and organization to develop the particular product.”

**Example 2.8.** In 2007, Danilovic and Browning [9] modeled an MDM framework (Figure 2.18).

In the Figure 2.18, An MDM model has been displayed. This is an MDM model com-

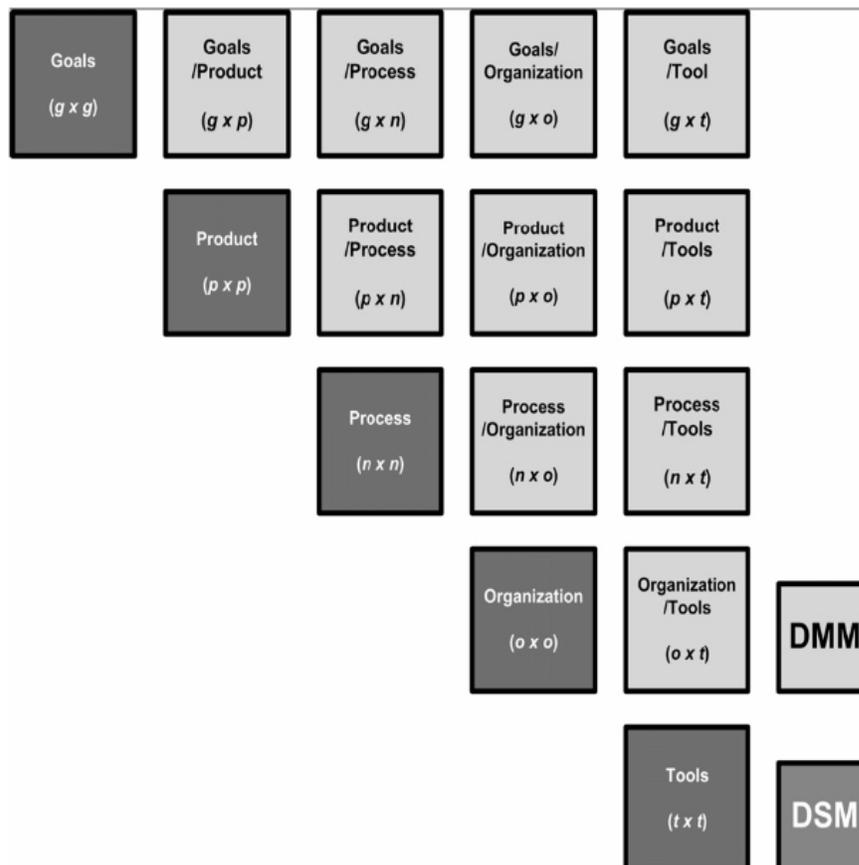


Figure 2.18: **DSM and DMM modeling framework [9]**

prised of five DSMs and their corresponding DMMs. An MDM model can be viewed as lower/upper triangular matrix. The diagonal blocks of the model correspond to DSMs interacting within each of the five domains and the off-diagonal blocks correspond to DMMs that define a mapping between domains [9].

## Chapter 3

### Dependency Analysis Using Understand Tool

In this chapter, the use of an existing tool to create/extract static dependency graph/data is elaborated. It also provides a discussion on the procedure to construct DSMs from dependency data generated by the tool.

#### 3.1 Code Analysis Tools

In this section, we briefly describe the notion of code analysis, importance of certain code analysis tools and the tool we used for our work.

##### 3.1.1 Importance of Code Analysis Tools

Code analysis is a significant process to achieve clear understanding of the source code. An effective code analysis tool can provide more accuracy in source code analysis of software. Using the tool, we can measure the quality of a software by the *code metrics* it provides [8]. Code metrics are a set of software measures such as: number of lines, number of statements, number of functions etc.

##### 3.1.2 Types of Code Analysis

There are typically two kinds of code analysis: static analysis and dynamic analysis [8]. The static code analysis provides code metrics for all programs in a project without executing the code. Some of the metrics include the number of lines of code, file volume (the number of files in the program, i.e. code files and header files) etc. On the other hand, the dynamic code analysis computes the metrics while executing the program. In this thesis, we focus on the static code analysis for large software projects in C/C++ programming

languages.

### 3.1.3 Unit of Analysis

In our work, we mainly examine the source code dependencies based on “function calls”. However, as we discuss in the later point of the thesis, our analysis can be generalized to different level of granularity. For our work, we have used a commercial code analysis tool “Understand version 3.1”. It has many features that will be described in later sections.

### 3.1.4 Introduction to “Understand”

The tool *Understand* focuses on source code comprehension and metrics. It provides the ability to browse any information about files, classes, methods and “entities” (variables, functions, files, etc) of software projects. Using the dependency browser of *Understand*, we can find out the dependencies between different entities of the project. An entity depends on another one if it includes, calls, uses, sets, modifies or refers to that item. For example, file A depends on file B if a function of file A calls a function of file B. An information browser provides any information about the entities of the source code such as files, classes, members, functions, return type and parameters. The dependencies between files, classes etc. can be displayed graphically.

### 3.1.5 Specifics of the tool

*Understand* provides many features such as: it can be used for different operating systems [8]; it supports source codes of 17 programming languages C, C++, C#, Objective C/Objective C++, Ada, Java, Pascal/Delphi, COBOL, JOVIAL, VHDL, Fortran, PL/M, Python, PHP, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and XML; it calculates more than 50 metrics for function, class, file, and project level and provides over 20 different graphs [8]; it generates the dependencies of large source code and outputs a variety of reports.

### 3.1.6 Projects Analyzed

The projects we analyzed in *Understand* are as follows: one small-sized project, one mid-sized project and two large projects.

#### **Small-sized project:**

Scanner: We took a small project *Scanner* to check the tool's behavior in a boundary case. The project contained 563 lines of code.

Then we analyzed the following three scientific software libraries. Two of them are large-sized and one is mid-sized.

#### **Mid-sized Project:**

CSparse: CSparse is a scientific software library that implements a number of direct methods for sparse linear systems, by Timothy Davis [3]. It contains 2383 lines of code.

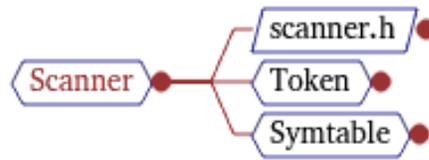
#### **Large Projects:**

1. Adol-C: Adol-C (Automatic Differentiation by Overloading in C++) is an open source package that facilitates the evaluation of first and higher derivatives of vector functions that are defined by computer programs written in C or C++ [16]. It is developed by a team of researchers from Argonne National Lab, Dresden University of Technology, and Humboldt University over a period of 20+ years [29]. It contains 15,804 lines of code.
2. CppAD: CppAD (C plus plus Algorithmic Differentiation) is another Automatic differentiation software that generates an algorithm computing corresponding derivative values [10]. It is developed as a one-person effort at the University of Washington, Seattle [31]. It contains 23269 lines of code.

### 3.1.7 Six Types of Dependencies

In this section, we discuss about our dependency analysis of the small project *scanner* using *Understand*.

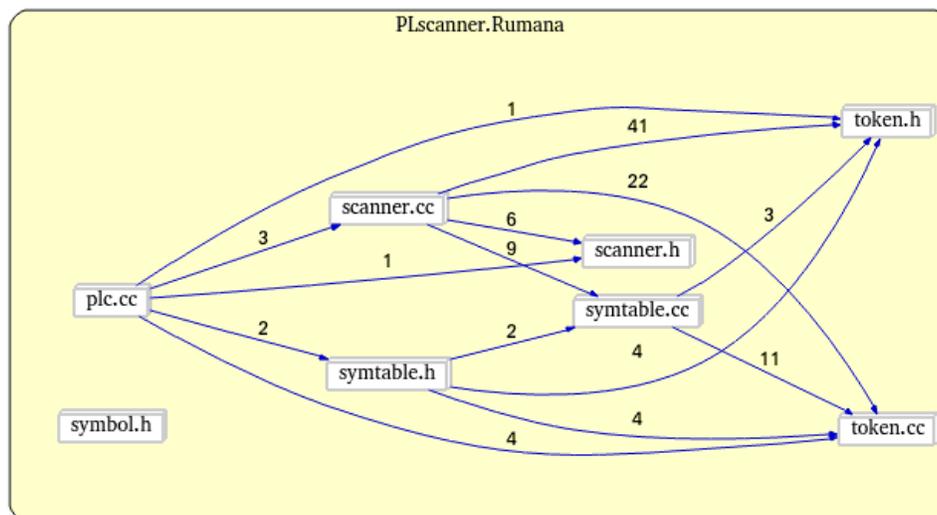
Class *scanner* depends on six files (Figure: 3.1): *token.h*, *token.cc*, *symbol.h*, *symtable.h*,

Figure 3.1: **File dependency graph of Scanner**

symtable.cc, scanner.h.

It contains seven functions: `init()`, `processComment()`, `recognizeDigit()`, `recognizeWordsymbol()`, `recognizeSpecialsymbol()`, `nextToken()` and constructor function `Scanner()`.

**Includes dependency:**

Figure 3.2: **Call dependency of Scanner**

Class scanner includes scanner.h, token.h, symbol.h, symtable.h at scanner.cc file.

**Call dependency:**

Four private member functions of scanner class: `isalpha()`, `iscom()`, `isws()` and `isnum()` are called by `recognizewordsymbol()` and `nextToken()` at scanner.cc (Figure 3.2).

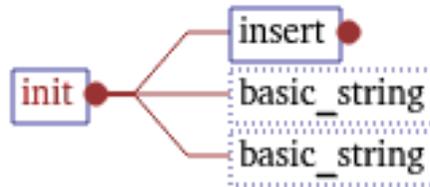
**Call dependency between functions of different classes:**

Function `init()` of class Scanner calls `insert()` function of class Symtable in line 348 at scanner.cc (Figure 3.4).

```

346
347 void Scanner::init(){
348     symtableptr->insert("if");
349     symtableptr->insert("do");
350     // symtableptr->insert("fi");
351     // symtableptr->insert("od");
352     symtableptr->insert("begin");
353     symtableptr->insert("end");
354     symtableptr->insert("const");
355     symtableptr->insert("integer");
356

```

Figure 3.3: `init()` calls `insert()`Figure 3.4: Call dependency of `init()`**Set dependency:**

Scanner sets three objects at scanner.cc (Figure 3.5): `inputfileptr` in line 25), `symtableptr` in line 26), `lookahead` in line 27.

Object `lookahead` is set by `processComment()`, `recognizedigit()`, `recongizespecialsym-`

```

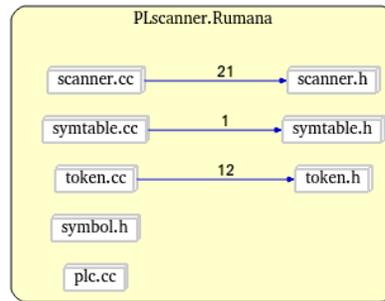
24 private:
25 istream *inputfileptr;
26 Symtable *symtableptr;
27 char lookahead;
28

```

Figure 3.5: Scanner sets three objects

`bol()`, `recognizewordsymbol()` and `processwhitespace()` at scanner.cc. These three objects are set 21 times by the scanner class (Figure 3.6).

**Modify dependency:**

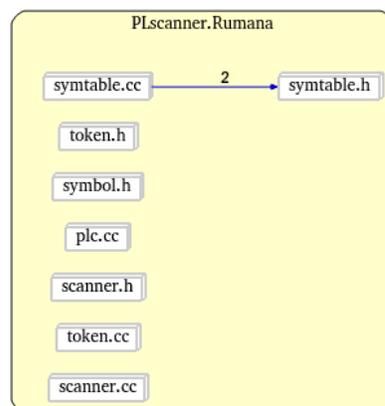
Figure 3.6: **Set dependency of Scanner**

The insert() function of Sub-class 'Symtable' modifies its object 'numEntries' by incrementing its value at symtable.cc in line 124 (Figure:3.7). Class Symtable modifies its object 2 times at Symtable.cc (Figure 3.8).

```

120
121
122     if ( sn=="noname"){
123         Token t(ID,location,spelling);
124         wordtable[location] = t;
125         numEntries++;
126         return t;
127     }

```

Figure 3.7: **'Symtable' modifies its object 'numEntries'**Figure 3.8: **Modify dependency of Scanner**

**Uses dependency:**

All six functions of Scanner class use three objects lookahead in line 23, inputfileptr in line 24 and symtableptr in line 36 at scanner.cc (Figure 3.9). Class Scanner uses these three objects 75 times (Figure 3.10).

```

22     char c ;
23     str.push_back(lookahead);
24     c = inputfileptr->get();
25     cout << c << endl; int i=0;
26
27     while (isal(c) || isnum(c) || c=='_' ){
28         str.push_back(c);
29         c = inputfileptr->get();
30     }
31
32
33     lookahead = c;
34     cout <<str << endl;
35
36     int searchvalue = symtableptr->search(str);
37

```

Figure 3.9: Scanner uses three objects

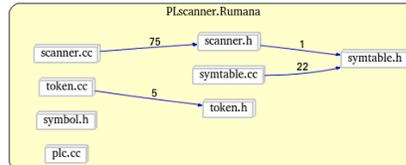


Figure 3.10: Uses dependency of Scanner

**Inits dependency:**

Class Token inits its object 'svalue' in line 9 and 15 (Figure:3.11). File token.cc inits token.h 2 times (Figure 3.12).

```

9     Token::Token(){
10         sname = NONAME;
11         svalue.value = -1;
12         svalue.lexeme = "noname";
13     }
14
15     Token::Token(Symbol s, int v, string l){
16         sname = s; svalue.value = v; svalue.lexeme = l;
17     }

```

Figure 3.11: Token inits object

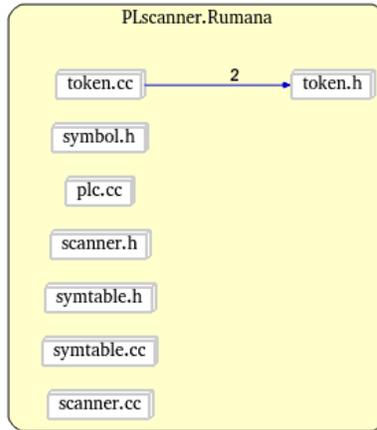


Figure 3.12: Inits dependency of Scanner

### 3.1.8 Overall Dependency Graph of Scanner

While analyzing the overall dependency of scanner (Figure 3.13), we find a red line between two files, symtable.h and symtable.cc. This red line indicates a cycle, in other words, these two files depend on each other.

#### Symtable.cc ↔ Symtable.h

symtable.h: symtable.cc includes symtable.h

symtable.h: symtable.h depends on the function of symtable.cc

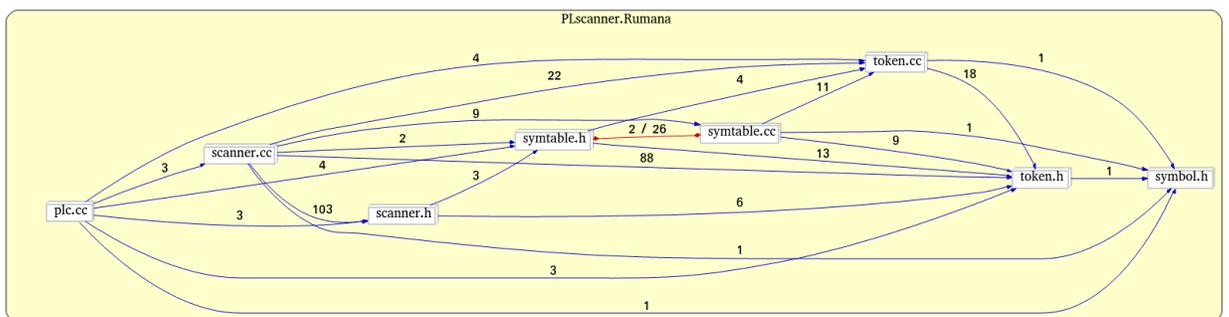


Figure 3.13: Overall dependency of class Scanner

#### 3.2 Generation of DSMs for the Three Scientific Software

Using *Understand*, we extracted all dependency types (*call, set, use, modify and init*) between files of *ADOL-C, CppAD and CSparse*. The main reason of our analysis is to create the DSMs representing each type of dependency of these three scientific software libraries. The data generated from the tool is processed to construct the DSMs.

We followed the following procedure to construct the DSMs.

1. *Exporting dependency metrics to CSV file* option of *Understand* tool lists pairs of files for which the file in column A is dependent upon the file in column B. Column C lists the number of dependencies for each pair.
2. To extract call dependencies between functions, we went through each file from the dependency browser.
3. We indexed all functions that were responsible for the dependency between files.
4. We then created a single CSV file that lists pairs of functions for which the function (of one file) in column A is dependent upon the function (of another file) in column B. The number of dependencies for each pair is listed in column C.
5. Finally, we wrote a program that read data from our processed CSV file and generated an output text file representing the DSM.

#### 3.3 Evaluation of “Understand” Based on Analysis

We evaluate *Understand* both quantitatively, by measuring some of its characteristics, and qualitatively, by discussing the code analysis features that the tool provides.

##### **Quantitative Evaluation:**

1. Number of Dependencies: We took a small project “Scanner” (as discussed earlier) to check the correctness of the dependencies the tool generated. We followed the following process.

- We computed function call dependencies of “Scanner” by hand.
- Then we used the tool to generate dependencies.
- Finally, we compared the result of hand-computed dependencies against that of the tool-generated dependencies.

The tool correctly identified call dependencies for “Scanner”. We followed this process only for this small project. We did not perform this process for mid-sized and large-sized projects : ADOL-C, CppAD and CSparse due to limited time.

2. Metrics: *Understand* provides a number of important metrics information/statistics about the entities of a project. The *Project Metrics Summary* provides metric information about the entire project. It includes: the total number of classes, files, functions, lines of source code, comment lines, blank lines.
3. Time: The time *Understand* took to load a project was less than 20 seconds even for the large and complex projects.

**Qualitative Evaluation:** It mentions how the different kind of browsers in understand tool work to find out all dependencies of software projects.

1. Context Menu : Clicking on any entity at anytime from the information browser points that entity everywhere in the source code. Right-clicking on a specific entity provides a list of options that contain all information about the entity.
2. Information Browser : Information about an entity of the project can be learned from the information browser. Information is shown in a tree which can be expanded. It includes information such as kind and name of the entity, location or path of the entity in the source code, relationship tree, references (where it is used), statistics for this entity and so on.
3. Dependency Browser : The Dependency Browser shows which items/entities are dependent on others. It has the following options: Dependency kind (depends on and

depended on by), group by (files, classes and entities), and dependency types (calls, uses, modifies, includes, inits, sets etc.)

4. Graphical View : Understand analyzes source and creates a graphical view containing information about the entities and the relations between entities. The graphical views consist of two kinds [28]:

Hierarchy views show relations between entities. For example: calls(calls or calls by) relation.

Structure views show the structure of an entity vertically. For instance: declarations graph of a file or a package.

5. Search Options : Understand provides some efficient searching features of entities in the source code. These include the Filter Area, the Entity Locator, and the Find in Files dialog.

#### 3.3.1 Benefits and Weakness of the Tool

##### **Strength:**

One of the important strengths of *Understand* is the speed. From our analysis, we have observed that loading and analyzing a project into *Understand* does not take much time. Even the larger projects took less than twenty seconds to be loaded into the tool. Another strength of this tool is its *flexibility*. This tool can cope up well with the size of the project. Finally, the different browsers of the tool enables dependencies to be displayed in a very clear and clean manner, even if the project gets very large and complex.

**Weaknesses:** While analyzing six types of dependency between *functions*, we observed that *Understand* only provides the graphical view of *file* dependency rather than the dependencies that exist between *functions*. Also, it exports CSV file that contains only the dependency information between two files. For instance, in order to come up with a *Call DSM*, we had to go through each file in the information browser to find out each function call. If it would have provided a graphical view of dependence based on functions and

### 3.3. EVALUATION OF “UNDERSTAND” BASED ON ANALYSIS

---

exported CSV files containing functional dependency information, we could have created our DSMs in less time.

## Chapter 4

### A Data Exchange Format for Design Structure Models

#### 4.1 Design Philosophy

In this chapter, we propose a Design Structure Model Data Exchange (DSMDE) file format as a common file format to promote reliable and efficient exchange of Design Structure Model (DSM) data and Multidomain Model (MDM) data. We provide the specification of our proposed format DSMDE, which is an extension of the Matrix Market (MM) file format, for exchange of DSM and MDM data. The MM exchange format is a simple but extensible file format for storing and exchanging sparse and dense matrix data. The data is stored in an ASCII text file. The MM format enables extensibility by allowing format specialization in the form of qualifier attributes and structured documentation [11]. The following properties of a common file format are also desired to be present in our DSMDE file format-

1. Supports human and machine readable storage format of DSM data.
2. Supplies precise and clear documentation that is useful to the users and researchers.
3. Provides users a scope to extend the base format by adding new properties.

There already exists a number of different file formats for the exchange of graph and matrix data. Hence, we have decided to identify an existing “suitable” format and extend it to allocate DSM/MDM data rather than creating a new one. Having said this, like other formats, the following basic features are expected in our DSMDE file format.

1. **Portability:** The format should allow the data in the file to be easily transferable between hardware and operating systems and to be displayed with general purpose

text editors such as NotePad, TextEditor, Emacs etc.

2. **Simplicity:** By simplicity we mean, the syntactic structure of the format required to describe the data needs to be simple enough not to hinder with human readability.
3. **Extensibility:** The format should be designed in such a way that it is flexible enough to allow adaptation and extension of the base format without requiring too much effort.

### **The Harwell-Boeing File Format:**

The Harwell-Boeing(HB) sparse matrix collection is one of the earliest efforts to compile and maintain a standard set of sparse matrix test problems emerging in a wide range of scientific and engineering fields [13]. The matrix is stored as a sequence of “compressed columns [2]. The two main characteristics of a HB file format are i) ASCII based file format and ii) FORTRAN programming language oriented [6]. The excessive dependence on FORTRAN’s specific input/output constructs of HB file formats makes it more complex for further extension. [11].

### **GAMFF (Graph and Matrix File Format):**

GAMFF [1] is another ASCII based file format closely similar to HB format. But GAMFF is more flexible in that it allows additional information specific to graphs and hypergraphs. Similar to HB format, GAMFF also uses ”compressed column storage (CCS)” to store non-zero entries.

The complication in extending both the HB and GAMFF format is their nature of using compressed column (CCS). The problem arises due to the ”integer index overflow” resulting from CCS (or compressed row (CRS)) in HB and GAMFF formats. For example, if we consider a  $n \times n$  sparse matrix with  $n = 2^{30}$ ; where each column contains 4 nonzero entries on average, then using CCS as in HB and GAMFF, the largest index in the auxiliary array requires to be  $nnz + 1 = 2^2 * 2^{30} + 1$ . But today’s computer involves a 32-bit encoding scheme for signed integers, where the largest positive integer it can represent, is  $2^{31} - 1$ .

On the other hand, if each nonzero entry can be indicated by a pair (row  $i$ , column  $j$ ), then the indices can be encoded in a  $2^{32}$  bit integer encoding (since,  $n = 2^{30}$ ).

As compared to above two file formats, the “Matrix Market (MM) exchange format” provides a simple but extensible file format for storing and exchanging sparse and dense matrices data (in an ASCII text file) [11]. Each nonzero entry of general sparse matrices is stored in the file with its associated row and column index. The MM format allows extensibility by allowing format specialization in the form of qualifier attributes and structured documentation [11].

## 4.2 Matrix Market Exchange File Format

In MM exchange format, the information about a matrix is represented by three sections: Header, Comment and Data [11] in order. The *Header* provides complete description of the actual matrix data in the data section. The *Comment* section contains lines of text providing any information about the matrix data. The *Data* section contains the data entries for the given matrix.

### 4.2.1 Structure of Matrix Market Exchange File Format

In this section, we briefly describe each section of MM file format.

1. **Header** is the first line and it follows the strict template as below:

*Banner Object Format Qualifiers*

*Banner* contains 15 ASCII characters `%%MatrixMarket` followed by atleast one blank. *Object* indicates which type of object (matrix, vector, graph) is stored in the file. *Format* implies in which type of format (coordinate, array) the object is stored in the file. *Qualifiers* consist of two fields that indicate special properties such as value types (real, integer, complex, pattern) and symmetry types (general, symmetric, skew-symmetric, Hermitian). An example of header in a MM file is given below:

```
%%MatrixMarket matrix coordinate pattern symmetric
```

This example indicates that the MM file has a pattern matrix which is stored in symmetric(contains symmetry properties) coordinate format.

2. **Comments** starts with a % sign and it can contain zero or more lines of comments. These are used for documentation that may describe about the data in the file. An example of a comment maintains the following structure:

```
%This is a comment
```

3. **Data** is the last part of MM file that specifies matrix data. First line consists of three integers separated by single blank: i) number of rows and ii) number of columns that contain nonzero element of the matrix, iii) number of nonzeros in the matrix. An example of Data part:

```
4 4 5
```

```
1 3 2
```

```
2 1 3
```

```
3 4 5
```

```
4 1 6
```

```
2 3 7
```

First line displays: number of rows is 4, number of columns is 4 and number of nonzeros is 5. In the next five lines, the coordinate of the each nonzero entry is provided along with its value.

For example, if we have a following 3x3 sparse matrix:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Then in the MM format, it will be represented as:

```
%%MatrixMarket matrix coordinate pattern general
```

% Generated 12-Aug-2015

3 3 4

1 3

2 1

2 2

3 2

It is an example of "pattern matrix" which only provides the coordinate of each nonzero entry, not their values.

%%MatrixMarket matrix	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{coordinate} \\ \text{array} \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{real} \\ \text{integer} \\ \text{complex} \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{general} \\ \text{symmetric} \\ \text{skew-symmetric} \end{bmatrix}$
%%MatrixMarket matrix	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{coordinate} \\ \text{array} \end{bmatrix}$	complex	Hermitian
%%MatrixMarket matrix	coordinate	pattern	$\begin{bmatrix} \text{general} \\ \text{symmetric} \end{bmatrix}$

Figure 4.1: **Header combinations of MM matrices [11]**

**Object Type:** As can be seen from the above figure 4.1, the only object type that is supported by base MM file format is *matrix*. It can be of two formats:

1. **Coordinate:** Only the general sparse matrices are stored in coordinate format. In this format, only the nonzero entries of the matrix and their coordinates are stored in the file. If  $a_{ij}$  is the nonzero entry of matrix A, its coordinate (i,j) is given by the row index i and column index j.
2. **Array:** Only the dense matrices are stored in array format where all matrix entries are stored in column major order. Array format does not give the coordinates of matrix entries. For example,

```
%%MatrixMarket matrix coordinate pattern general
```

```
% A 4x3 dense matrix
```

4 3  
 2.0  
 3.0  
 4.0  
 11.0

The first line after the comment indicates the number of rows and the number of columns of the dense matrix. The next lines display all matrix entries in the following order(column)  $a_{11}, a_{21}, \dots, a_{m1}, a_{12}, a_{22}, \dots, a_{m2}, \dots, a_{1n}, \dots, a_{mn}$ .

**Qualifiers:** The MM file format has two qualifiers: i) Field and ii) symmetry. The following figures 4.2 and 4.3 display the two qualifiers of the MM file format and their interpretation.

Code	Interpretation
Real	The matrix is real. Matrix entries are represented by a single float.
Complex	The matrix is complex. Matrix entries are represented by two floats, the first giving the real part and the second the imaginary part.
Integer	The matrix has only integer entries. Matrix entries are represented by a single integer.
Pattern	Only the matrix nonzero pattern is provided. Matrix entries are omitted (only the nonzero pattern is supplied).

Figure 4.2: **Qualifier: field [11]**

Code	Interpretation
General	The matrix has no symmetry properties, or symmetry is not used to reduce the number of matrix entries. (All non-square matrices are general.)
Symmetric	Square matrix with $a_{ij} = a_{ji}$ . Only entries on or below the matrix diagonal are provided in the file. The entries above the main diagonal are known by symmetry.
Skew-symmetric	Square matrix with $a_{ij} = -a_{ji}$ . Only entries below the main diagonal are stored in the file. The entries on the main diagonal are zero and those above the main diagonal are known by symmetry.
Hermitian	Square complex matrix with $a_{ij} = \overline{a_{ji}}$ . Only entries on or below the matrix diagonal are provided in the file. The entries above the main diagonal are known by symmetry.

Figure 4.3: **Qualifier: symmetry [11]**

There are some additional syntax rules that is maintained in a MM format [11].

1. The indexing in MM format must be 1-based indexing.
2. Each line can have at most 1024 characters.
3. Numerical data on each line must be separated by at least one blank.
4. The character strings can have either upper case or lower case strings. For example, in the header line, *matrix* can be written as *MaTriX* etc.

#### 4.3 The Extended File Format for DSM and MDM Data

In this section, we give detail specification of our proposed DSMDE format where the Matrix Market Format is extended to store DSM and MDM data.

1. **Header:** The DSMDE format views a design structure model as a matrix. Since it is not necessary to change the banner string of the base MM format, we will keep that section unchanged. To incorporate the additional features for DSM/MDM/DMM objects, we extend the remaining header part by including three objects DSM, MDM and DMM under the *ObjectType* field. Therefore, in addition to Matrix, we allow three more mathematical objects DSM, DMM and MDM into the *ObjectType* field. We do not need to extend the *FormatType* field, since the existing two data layout schemes Coordinate and Array are sufficient for the new object types. A matrix can be sparse (only nonzero entries are stored using coordinate format) or full (all matrix entries are stored explicitly). The third part of MM format header enables us to specify a list of qualifiers. The DSMDE format takes advantage of this field to add new properties that are relevant to represent DSM and MDM data. The two existing qualifiers of MM format *Field* and *Symmetry* are retained as they apply to new object types. New qualifiers for our DSMDE format are listed below. We introduce each of the following.

- (a) *Orientation*: The DSM convention (based on off diagonal marks) information is specified by this qualifier (*Orientn*). There are two orientation conventions of DSM which include: **Input in Row** and output in column (**IR**) and **Input in Column** and output in row (**IC**). In **IR**, “feedback” mark exists above the main diagonal(FAD) whereas, in **IC**, “feedback mark” exists below the main diagonal(FBD). Thus, we use the codes IR and IC to represent orientation.
- (b) *Interaction Attributes*: As mentioned in the previous chapter, the interaction between two elements in DSM model is displayed as a mark in the matrix. While for “simpler” system models, a scalar value is adequate to represent interactions, many real life “complex” models require a more elaborate interaction structure. Eppinger and Pimler (See Example 3.1 in [15]) studied the climate control systems of cars and trucks produced by Ford Motor Company. They have identified four types of interactions among the system components: spatial, energy, information, and materials. Interactions may also differ with respect to the source they emerge from. The product architecture DSM example “Building Schools for the Future” (See example 3.8 in [15]), uses three interaction sources: explicit, inferred, and perceived. In the DSM model of software library “CSparse”, for instance, dependencies (between code files) can be originated from function calls or object references. Some DSM models use colors to represent interactions. In the Helicopter Change Propagation DSM model (See example 3.6 in [15]), red, amber, and green shadings depict significant lower and small risk of change propagation. Therefore, in our DSMDE, we add a new qualifier *NAttribute* which depicts the number of interaction attributes(the integers  $1,2,\dots,n_a$ ; where  $n_a$  is the number of interaction attributes). Although we do not record the name of the interaction attributes in the header, we document them in the comment section by defining a mapping function between the set of attributes and the integers  $1,2,\dots,n_a$ ; where  $n_a$  is the number of in-

teraction attributes). This qualifier can also be useful to represent a composite DSM (composition of different instances of the same model). In example 3.7.2 [15], in the product architecture model “Johnson and Johnson Clinical Chemistry Analyzer”, the Expert DSM has been constructed using two instances of the same model: *interactions generated from two different dates*. Eppinger and Pimler [15] in their examples mentioned more than one type of interactions among the system components. In example 3.6.3 [15], a product architecture DSM of AW101 model used three interaction types: *i. impact, ii. likelihood, and iii. total area*.

As has been noted, an attribute may assume a numerical value (integer, real, complex) or a symbolic name (color red, color green, etc.). For symbolic names, the DSMDE requires a mapping between the names and the integers  $1, 2, \dots, n_a$  to be specified.  $n_a$  denotes the number of symbolic names that can be attribute values. The mapping can be documented under the documentation section of the DSMDE file. For a pattern DSM (Structure = pattern)  $n_a = 0$  since the type of interaction is binary. The qualifier NumericType for a DSM or a DMM object has NIattribute components. This is due to the fact that for each attribute its NumericType has to be specified. A MDM is treated as a collection of DSMs and DMMs such that the header field for a MDM has a simpler structure.

- (c) *Domain*: We require this qualifier to assimilate MDM data in our DSMDE format. *Domain* records the number of domains. We give the value 1 for DSMs and  $n_d > 1$  for MDMs which record the number of domains in the MDM model. A MDM model can also be seen as a block triangular matrix as below.

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & \cdots & A_{1n_d} \\ 0 & A_{22} & \cdots & A_{2n_d} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \cdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & A_{n_d n_d} \end{pmatrix}$$

The DSMs are identified by the diagonal cells  $A_{ii}$  where  $i=1,\dots,n_d$ . The off-diagonal cells  $A_{ij}$ ;  $i < j$ ,  $i,j= 1,\dots,n_d$  represent the interactions between elements in domains  $i \neq j$ . This type of interactions in MDMs is also called Domain Mapping Matrix(DMM). Thus, there are  $n_d$  DSMs and  $\sum_{i=1}^{n_d-1} i = \frac{n_d(n_d-1)}{2} \equiv n_{dmm}$  DMMs in a  $n_d$ -domain MDM. We modify the header section accordingly. There are  $1 + n_d + \frac{n_d(n_d-1)}{2}$  header lines where the first line consists of the banner string, MDM as object type and the number of domains; each of the first  $n_d$  lines must store the values *FormatType*, *NumericType*, *Structure*, *Nlattribute* and *Orientn* for the DSMs. Each of the next  $\frac{n_d(n_d-1)}{2}$  lines must store a value for each of *FormatType*, *NumericType*, *Structure*, *Nlattribute* for DMMs. For a DMM object, orientation information is not needed. The data for DMMs is stored as “block row-major” order(storing off diagonal blocks in the following order:  $A_{12}, \dots, A_{1n_d}, A_{23}, \dots, A_{2n_d}, \dots, A_{n_d-1n_d}$ ).

Note that when object type is DSM or MDM, the header section consists of only one line. As in the MM format it is to be emphasized that not all header field combinations are meaningful. In general, context-free grammars are not powerful enough to express context-sensitive requirements. Therefore, header field combinations are validated informally.

Table 1 shows the *Header* fields and its values.

Table 4.1: Header field and their values in DSMDE

Fields	Banner	ObjectType	Qualifier (FormatType)	Qualifier (Numerical Type)	Qualifier (Structure)	Qualifier (Ndomain)	Qualifier (Nlattribute)	Qualifier (Orientn)
Values	MatrixMarket	Matrix	Coordinate,	Pattern,	General	$n_d$	$n_{a_1}$	IC, IR
		DSM	Array	Integer	Symmetric,		$n_{a_2}$	IC, IR
		MDM		Real,	Skew-Symmetric,		$n_{a_3}$	IC, IR
		DMM		Complex	Hermetian		$n_{a_4}$	IC, IR
							:	
							$n_{a_{n_d}}$	IC, IR
							$n_{a_{n_d+1}}$	IC, IR
							:	
							$n_{a_{n_d+n_{mdm}}}$	IC, IR

2. **Comments:** As we have already observed, the header section of the DSMDE format provides a high-level specification of the DSM and MDM data contained in the file. There are still some information needed to provide, such as the name of the design elements, sources and type of dependencies of the DSM and MDM models. The comments section allows us to document such essential information about DSM and MDM data. In addition, the DSMDE comments section imposes specific syntactic rules on the text to enable automatic parsing of the information. There are two parts in the comments section: a required section and an optional section. The required section consists of four ordered subsections as described below.

- (a) **Domain:** This is a character string for DSM( $n_d=1$ ) that describe the model in one line. For MDMs, this is a list of  $n_d$  character strings( $n_d$  lines in the file) where each string describes the corresponding DSM model. In the comments section, this part can be identified by reserved words `beginDomain` `endDomain`. Any information about domain can be found in this enclosed section.
- (b) **Model Element:** For a DSM( $n_d=1$ ) model, elements are a list of n character strings(one per line) that correspond to the row and column indices  $i,j=1,\dots,n$

of the DSM matrix provided in the data section. For a MDM ( $n_d > 1$ ), it is a list of  $n_d$  lists where list  $i$  corresponds the elements of the  $i$ th DSM model. In the comment section, this part can be identified by reserved words `beginModElement` `endModElement`. All information about elements in the model can be found in this part.

- (c) **Interaction Attributes:** It refers to a list of  $n_a$  character strings that describe the interaction attributes for a DSM ( $n_d=1$ ). A mapping between the  $n_a$  names (of attributes) and the set  $1, 2, \dots, n_a$  must be provided. In the comments section, this part is enclosed in the pair of reserved words `beginAttribute` `endAttribute`.

For a MDM ( $n_d > 1$ ), the above documentation is repeated for each DSM (the diagonal blocks of the block upper triangular representation of MDM). This is followed by the documentation for each DMM in block row major order (the off-diagonal blocks of the block upper triangular representation of MDM). The optional subsection of the comments section can be used to provide additional information about the model.

3. **Data:** Similar to base MM format, the data section of DSMDE displays the actual data that represents the DSM or MDM model. The first line of the data section of DSMDE contains the same information as MM format. The remaining lines store all the data elements one per line.

One of the main characteristics of our DSMDE format specification is to “focus on the simplicity of information representation”. Each matrix/DSM/MDM data point(dependence or interaction) represents an instance of an interaction that exists between elements of the given model. An element having an interaction can be identified by its coordinate  $(i,j)$  where  $i$  and  $j$  are its row index and column index respectively. Each element can have certain attributes such as the source and type of its interaction. This can be better explained by a small example. Example 3.6.3 provides a product architec-

ture DSM model of “Aw101 change propagation” [15]. There exists three types of interaction: impact, likelihood and total area. In order to store/exchange data for this model, we just need to indicate each dependency attribute with an integer from the set 1,2,3 as discussed in the preceding section. Now if each attribute contains a value, we just need to store the value in order associated with its attribute number.

Consider the product architecture DSM example 3.8 Building Schools for the Future [15]. There are three sources of interactions: Explicit (1), Inferred (2), Perceived (3), and three types of interactions: Structural (1), Spatial (2), Service (3). In case of a *coordinate general* format, an ordered pair (Integer, Integer) where the first component is associated with the attribute interaction source and the second component is associated with the attribute interaction type, a dependency mark can now be specified with an ordered 4- tuple  $(i, j, s_{ij}, t_{ij})$  where  $i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ , indicate the row index and the column index, respectively;  $s_{ij} \in \{1, 2, 3\}$  indicates interaction source, and  $t_{ij} \in \{1, 2, 3\}$  indicates interaction type associated with the mark at location  $(i, j)$ . In DSMDE format, the data entry will be recorded on a line as follows:

$$i \quad j \quad s_{ij} \quad t_{ij}$$

Therefore, for this particular example, a tuple of the form  $(i, j, s_{ij}, t_{ij})$  is an element of the set by the Cartesian product  $\alpha \times \beta \times \gamma \times \delta$  where,

$$\alpha = \beta = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}, \gamma = \delta = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$$

If we represent the AW101 change propagation DSM model data in our DSMDE format, it will be displayed as follows.

```
%%MatrixMarket DSM Array Real General 1 1 3 IR
%Product Architecture DSM Model of AW101 Change Propagation
%beginDependType
%Impact (height)=1; Likelihood(width)=2; total area(1x2)=3
%endDependType
19 19 361
```

0.4 0.8 0.32

0.7 0.8 0.56

In this example, the first line of the data section represents number of rows, number of columns and number of nonzeros. As it is an Array General format, only the nonzero entries are given. As can be seen from the data entries, only the value associated with its attribute(numbered as 1,2,3 in the comments section) has been stored. With this, we can have a complete representation of each data point.

We note that the coordinate of a dependency in a DSM or MDM object is a  $k$ -tuple;  $k=2$  indicates a matrix object and  $k>2$  indicates a higher dimensional tensor. For a MDM object, ordering of the data is as below.

(a) DSM data.  $A_{11}, A_{22}, \dots, A_{n_d n_d}$

(b) DMM data.  $A_{12}, \dots, A_{1n_d}, A_{23}, \dots, A_{2n_d}, \dots, A_{n_d-1n_d}$

#### 4.4 DSMDE Grammar

In this section, we use Extended BNF (Backus-Naur Form) for the specification of our DSMDE exchange format. We note that there is no EBNF description in the original MM exchange format. Here, we have introduced such notations that are found in programming language textbooks to explain the syntax rules for DSMDE format. The syntactic convention is described below.

1. The string **DsmdeFormat** is the start nonterminal of the EBNF grammar for DSMDE format.
2. **Reserved words.** The following literal strings have special meaning in DSMDE format: `%%MatrixMarket`, `Matrix`, `DSM`, `MDM`, `Coordinate`, `Array`, `Integer`, `Real`, `Complex`, `Pattern`, `General`, `Symmetric`, `SkewSymmetric`, `Hermitian`, `IC`, `IR`, `beginDomain`, `endDomain`, `beginModElement`, `endModElement`, `beginAttribute`, `endAttribute`.

3. **Nonterminal.** The nonterminal symbols are the words that start with a upper-case letter.
4. **Terminal.** The terminal symbols or tokens are the words that start with a lower case letter. They describe a “lexical pattern” of strings over the set of ASCII printable characters (ASCII code 33 , . . . , 126). For example, the token named Integer matches strings defined over ASCII characters 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 . Thus, the string 311 is an Integer while the string 102a is not. The literal string %%MatrixMarket matches the token named “banner” and this is the only such string. In the EBNF syntax description, the name “charSymbol” denotes a printable ASCII symbol. Additionally, we use the following ASCII symbols.

- (a) newline (ASCII LF; value 10) to start a new line in the file
- (b) space (ASCII value 32), to separate adjacent tokens appearing in the file
- (c) tab (ASCII HT; value 9), to separate adjacent tokens or to format text strings in the documentation section

We remark that adjacent tokens in a DSMDE file must be separated by at least one separator symbol.

## 5. EBNF meta symbols

- (a) **Repetition.** There are three conventions to denote occurrences of grammar symbol:  $S^*$  = zero or more appearance of S,  $S^+$  = one or more appearance of S and  $[S]$  = zero or one occurrence of S.
- (b) **Option.**  $R|S$  indicates either R or S option but not both.
- (c) **Scope.** Grammar symbols (operands) together with the operators (option, repetition etc.) are grouped with Parentheses to indicate scope.

#### 4.4.1 EBNF Grammar for DSMDE Exchange File Format

Here is the EBNF grammar for DSMDE format.

DSMDEFORMAT	::=	Header+ Comments Data
Header	::=	banner [objectType] [Qualifiers]
banner	::=	%MatrixMarket
objectType	::=	Matrix   DSM   MDM   DMM
Qualifiers	::=	[NDomain] QualList
QualList	::=	(formatType [structure] [NIAAttribute] [numericType] [orientn] newline)+
formatType	::=	Coordinate   Array
numericType	::=	(Integer   Real   Complex   Pattern)+
structure	::=	General   Symmetric   Skew-Symmetric   Hermitian
NDomain	::=	Integer
NIAAttribute	::=	Integer
orientn	::=	IC   IR
Comments	::=	TextLine* Documentation+ TextLine*
TextLine	::=	% charSymbol* newline
Documentation	::=	[DomainNames] [ModElementNames] [InteractAttributeNames]
DomainNames	::=	beginD newline TextLine+ endD newline
ModElementNames	::=	beginME newline TextLine+ endME newline
InteractAttributeNames	::=	beginIA newline TextLine+ endIA newline
beginD	::=	%beginDomain
endD	::=	%endDomain
beginME	::=	%beginModElement
endME	::=	%endModElement
beginIA	::=	%beginAttribute
endIA	::=	%endAttribute
Data	::=	CoordData   ArrayData
CoordData	::=	NRows NCols Nnz newline CoordDataLine+
ArrayData	::=	NRows NCols newline ArrayDataLine+
CoordDataLine	::=	RowIndex ColIndex Values newline
NRows	::=	Integer
NCols	::=	Integer
Nnz	::=	Integer
RowIndex	::=	Integer
ColIndex	::=	Integer
ArrayDataLine	::=	Values newline
Values	::=	IAttribute*
IAttribute	::=	Integer   Real   Complex
Integer	::=	[sign] digit+
Real	::=	[sign] digit* . digit* [Mantissa]
Sign	::=	+   -
Mantissa	::=	E [sign] digit+
Complex	::=	Real Real
digit	::=	0   1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9
Seperator	::=	space   tab

#### 4.4.2 DSM models in DSMDE File Format

In this section, we present some DSM examples from the text book in our DSMDE format.

**Example 4.1.** [15]

```
%%MatrixMarket DSM 1 Array General 4 Real Real Real Integer IC
%
% Product Architecture DSM Model of AW101 Change Propagation
% Example 3.6.3; [Steven D Eppinger and Tyson R Browning;
% Design structure matrix methods and applications; MIT press, 2012]
% Number of domain: 1
% Number of Attributes: 4
% Input convention: Input in Column (IC)
%
% begin-domain
% Product Architecture DSM
% end-domain
%
% beginModElement
% 1 = air conditioning, 2 = auxillary electronics, 3 = avionics,
% 4 = bare fuselage, 5 = cabling and piping , 6 = engines,
% 7 = engine auxillaries, 8 = equipment and furnishings,
% 9 = fire protection, 10 = flight control systems, 11 = fuel,
% 12 = fuselage additional items, 13 = hydraulics,
% 14 = ice and rain protection, 15 = main rotor blades, 16 = main rotor head,
% 17 = tail rotor, 18 = transmission, 19 = weapons and defensive systems
% endModElement
%
% beginAttribute
% 1. Impact of change(height), Real;
% 2. Likelihood of change(width), Real,
```

```
% 3. Risk(height*width), Real;
% 4. Change Propagation (shade), Integer (Red (significant risk) = 3,
% Amber(lower risk) = 2, Green (small risk) = 1)
% endAttribute
```

```
19 19 361
```

```
0 0 0
```

```
0.4 0.8 0.32 2
```

```
0.7 0.8 0.56 3
```

```
0.4 0.9 0.36 2
```

```
0.3 0.9 0.27 2
```

```
0.2 0.1 0.02 1
```

```
0.8 0.1 0.08 2
```

```
0.2 0.9 0.18 2
```

```
0.1 0.8 0.08 1
```

```
0.6 0.7 0.42 2
```

```
0.2 0.9 0.18 2
```

```
0.2 0.9 0.18 2
```

```
0.2 0.9 0.18 2
```

```
0.3 0.2 0.06 1
```

```
0.9 0.1 0.09 1
```

```
0.8 0.3 0.24 2
```

```
0.5 0.3 0.15 2
```

```
0.8 0.4 0.32 2
```

```
0.1 0.8 0.08 1
```

**Example 4.2.** [15]

```
%%MatrixMarket DSM 1 Coordinate General 3 Integer Integer Integer IR
```

```

%
% Product Architecture Composite DSM Models of Experts
% Example 3.7.2; [Steven D Eppinger and Tyson R Browning;
% Design structure matrix methods and applications; MIT press, 2012]
% Number of domain: 1
% Number of interaction attributes: 3
% Input convention: Input in row (IR)
%
% beginDomain
% Product Architecture DSM
% endDomain
%
% beginModElement
% 1 = APPS, 2 = MACO, 3 = USIF, 4 = SLIN, 5 = IRME, 6= ELME, 7 = ERME,
% 8 = SAHA, 9 = SLSU, 10 = REFL, 11 = SRME, 12 = STRU,
% 13 = SAIN, 14 = ALBU, 15 = CUIN, 16 = MTLD, 17 = PHMT, 18 = RGSU,
% 19 = VTLD, 20 = POWR, 21 = CUDL, 22 = MTDL, 23 %= % RGD, 24 = SLDL,
% 25 = VTDL
% endModElement
%
% beginAttribute
% A(February DSM did not find interactions that were found later in August)= 1,
% F(August DSM did not find interactions that were found out in Feb) = 2,
% M= interactions found in both month = 3
% endAttribute

25 25 154

```

2 12 1  
2 20 3  
4 5 3  
4 6 3  
4 7 3  
4 9 3  
4 10 3  
4 11 3  
4 20 3  
4 22 2  
4 24 3  
4 25 2

**Example 4.3.** [15]

```
%MatrixMarket DSM 1 Coordinate General 0 Pattern IR
%
% UCAV Conceptual Design Process
% Example 6.3; [Steven D Eppinger and Tyson R Browning;
% Design structure matrix methods and applications; MIT press, 2012]
% Number of domain: 1
% Number of interaction attributes 0
% Input convention: Input in row (IR)
%
% beginDomain
% Process Architecture DSM
% endDomain
%
% beginModElement
```

```
% 1 = prepare UCAV conceptual DR&O, 2 = create configuration concepts,  
% 3 = prepare3-view drawing & geometry data,  
% 4 = perform propulation analysis & evaluation,  
% 5 = perform aerodynamics analyses&evaluation,  
% 6 = perform mechanical&electrical analysis & evaluation,  
% 7 = perform weights analysis & evaluation  
% 8 = perform S&C characteristics analysis & evaluation,  
% 9 = perform performance analysis & evaluation ,  
% 10 = perform multidisciplinary analysis & evaluation ,  
% 11 = make concept assessment and variant decisions,  
% 12 = prepare&distribute choice config. Data set  
% endModElement  
  
%  
% beginAttribute  
% endAttribute  
  
12 12 52  
1 2  
1 11  
2 1  
2 11  
3 1  
3 2  
3 8  
4 1  
4 2  
4 3
```

4 5

4 8

5 1

5 2

5 3

5 7

**Example 4.4.** [15]

```
%MatrixMarket DSM 1 Coordinate Symmetric 4 Integer Integer Integer Integer IR
%
% Product Architecture Composite DSM Model of an automobile climate system
% Example 3.1.1; [Steven D Eppinger and Tyson R Browning;
% Design structure matrix methods and applications; MIT press, 2012]
% Number of domain: 1
% Number of interaction attributes: 4
% Input convention: Input in row (IR)
%
% beginDomain
% Product Architecture DSM
% endDomain
%
% beginModElement
% 1 = radiator, 2 = engine fan, 3 = heater core,
% 4 = heater hoses, 5 = condenser,
% 6 = compressor, 7 = evaporator case,
% 8 = evaporator core, 9 = accumulator,
% 10 = refrigeration controls, 11 = EATC controls,
% 12 = sensors, 13 = command distribution, 14 = actuators,
```

```

% 15 = blower controller, 16 = blower motor
% endModElement
%
% beginAttribute
% Spatial,S=1; Energy,E=2; Information,I=3; Material,M=4;
% endAttribute

```

```

16 16 68
2 1 2 0 0 2
5 1 2 -2 0 0
5 2 2 0 0 2
13 2 0 2 0 2
4 3 1 0 0 0
7 3 2 0 0 0
8 3 -1 0 0 0
16 3 0 0 0 2
9 4 -1 0 0 0
6 5 0 2 0 2
8 5 -2 2 0 2
8 6 0 2 0 2

```

**Example 4.5.** [15]

```

%%MatrixMarket MDM 2
%%MatrixMarket DSM 1 Coordinate General 0 Pattern IR
%%MatrixMarket DSM 1 Coordinate Symmetric 0 Pattern IR
%%MatrixMarket DMM 1 Coordinate General 0 Pattern
%
% MDM model of BMW's hybrid vehicle starter/generator architecture

```

```
% including two DSM domains-components and functions and a DMM
% Example 8.1 ; Steven D Eppinger and Tyson R Browning;
% Design structure matrix methods and applications; MIT press, 2012]
%
% Number of domain: 2
%
% This model is a MDM (Multi-Domain Matrix) consisting of two DSM and
% One DMM (Domain Mapping Matrix) relating two DSMs.
% DMM maps the domain of one DSM to the domain of another DSM.
% The First DSM is a 19X19 matrix; The Second DSM is a 27X27 matrix;
% The resulting DMM is a 19X27 matrix in block row-major order.
%
% A = [ A11 A12;0 A22]
% A11: DSM 1
% A22: DSM 2
% A12: DMM 1
%
% Domain 1 (DSM 1):
% Number of attributes: 0
% Input convention: Input in row (IR)
%
% beginDomain
% Product-Functions DSM
% endDomain
%
% beginModElement
%
```

```
% 1 = Store Fuel, 2 = Store Electric Energy,  
% 3 = Convert Fuel into Mech. Energy,  
% 4 = Convert Mechanical into Energy,  
% 5 = Convert Electrical into Mech. Energy,  
% 6 = Deliver (Recover) torque to (from) wheels,  
% 7 = Convert Moment transferred, 8 = Equate Rotation,  
% 10 = Couple/Uncouple Moment, 11 = Release Energy as Heat,  
% 12 = Transfer Heat (to cooling system),  
% 13 = Transfer Moment to (from) the Road,  
% 14 = Slow or Stop Vehicle(recovering energy),  
% 15 =Slow or Stop Vehicle(friction), 16 = Control Energy Flow,  
% 18 = Consume EI. Energy for Auto Accessory OPS,  
% 19 = Consume Mech. Energy for Engine Accessory  
%  
% endModElement  
%  
% beginAttribute  
% endAttribute  
%  
% Domain 2 (DSM 2):  
% Number of attributes: 0  
% Input convention: Input in row (IR)  
%  
% beginDomain  
% Product-Component DSM  
% endDomain  
%
```

```
% beginModElement
%
% 1 = Fuel Tank, 2 = High Voltage Battery, 4 = Internal Combustion Engine,
% 5 = E-Motor/Generator1, 11 = Transmission, 13 = Differetial Gear,
% 18 = Clutch Direct Coupling1, 21 = Cooling System, 22 = Wheels,
% 23 = Brake-system, 24 = Power Electronics/Inverter,
% 26 = Additional Electric Accessories, 27 = Mechanical Accessories
%
% endModElement
%
% beginAttribute
% endAttribute
%
% beginDomain
% Function-Component DMM
% endDomain
% beginModElement
% DMM 1 represents mapping between DSM 1 and DSM 2
% DMM 1 has 19 Rows and 27 Columns.
% endModElement
% beginAttribute
% endAttribute
%
19 19 42
1 3
2 12
```

2 16

3 4

3 12

3 19

4 12

4 16

5 3

5 10

5 12

5 16

6 7

6 13

6 14

6 15

7 6

7 8

7 10

7 13

7 14

8 7

8 13

8 14

10 4

10 7

10 14

12 11

13 6

13 7

13 8

13 15

14 16

15 6

15 11

15 13

16 2

16 4

16 5

16 12

16 14

16 18

27 27 15

1 4

2 21

2 24

4 5

4 21

4 27

5 18

5 21

5 24

11 13

11 18

13 22

21 24

22 23

24 26

19 27 24

1 1

2 2

3 4

4 5

5 5

6 13

7 11

7 13

8 13

10 18

11 22

11 23

12 2

12 4

12 5

12 24

13 22

14 5

14 22

15 22

15 23

16 24

18 26

19 27

## Chapter 5

### Conclusion

In this thesis, we (formally) propose a Data Exchange file format that is suitable for storing DSM and MDM data. At present there does not exist a common standard to share DSM/MDM data. We believe that our standardized DSMDE format will significantly facilitate research and development of DSM modeling techniques by making data available more widely than currently possible.

In Chapter 4, we have described each section of our proposed DSMDE file format along with the existing base *Matrix Market(MM)* format. Additionally, we have provided the extended BNF (EBNF) description for the detail specification of our DSMDE format. Finally, we have presented some important DSM model examples in our file format.

In this thesis, we have also analyzed six types of dependency such as *call*, *set*, *uses*, *modifies* and *inits* of three scientific software libraries named ADOL-C, CPPAD and CSparse using the source code analysis tool *Understand* to generate DSMs for each dependency type.

**Future Research Directions:** For future work, we consider the following enhancements of the work presented in the thesis.

1. Input and Output. Although the DSMDE exchange format does not require any special software to read and write model data, in practice, some software support is typically provided to perform input and output. We are currently developing code in C++ and MATLAB that can perform simple input and output.
2. Software Tools. A powerful feature of DSM modeling techniques is the visual representation of features of the underlying model. For example, after a sequencing

analysis, the strongly connected components of the underlying directed network in a time-based DSM can be concisely displayed and easily recognized as upper triangular blocks in the matrix form of the model. Visualization tools that are easy to use and can display complex DSM data will be helpful to managers. This is an under researched but promising area for future developments.

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