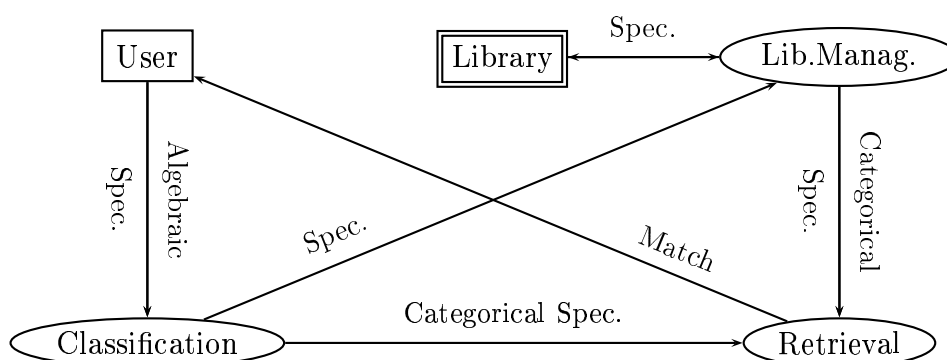


CATEGORY THEORY BASED IDENTIFICATION OF REUSABLE COMPONENTS THROUGH FORMAL SPECIFICATIONS

Francisco Moreira Couto
Dept. of Informatics Engineering
E-mail: fjmc@rnl.ist.utl.pt

Rui Gustavo Crespo
Dept. of Electrical Engineering
E-mail: rgc@digitais.ist.utl.pt

Technical University of Lisbon



Software reuse can only be implemented in an efficient way if it is practised systematically. Our purpose is the development of a computer application that automates the process of software reuse through formal specifications.

The component functionality is expressed through single-sort algebraic specifications, which later are translated, automatically by the application, to categorical specifications. Categorical specifications were selected as a new way of reducing the matching methods complexity. The application makes the selection of reusable components from a library through isomorphic and compositional matching of the categorical specifications.

We also made a complexity analysis of the methods implemented. This way, it was possible to show their feasibility when applied to large amounts of information.