

Thesis propositions

for

**Validity Maintenance in
Semantic Feature Modeling**

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May 17th, 1999

- 1** Without effective feature validity specification and maintenance, features can better be regarded as high-level geometric modeling primitives.
- 2** An evaluated *non-manifold* boundary representation of a feature model is indispensable for effectively maintaining the semantics of its features.
- 3** The exiguous accomplishments of the grand objectives once set for the so-called *Intelligent Computer-Aided Design* systems confirm the following proposition of Fred Brooks:

“The original goals of Artificial Intelligence were not merely extremely difficult, they were goals that, although glamorous and motivating, sent the discipline off in the wrong direction.”
(in *Communications of the ACM* **39**(3): 61–68)
- 4** In scientific conferences, most speakers follow a rather standard, three-phased scheme in their presentations. The first part is easily followed by the whole audience. During the second part, only a few experts can still grasp the talk. In the third part, only the author spots what is it all about.
Regrettably, still many speakers skip directly to the third part.
- 5** Pretending to stop violence by simply increasing the number of police agents on the streets, is like attempting to debug a computer program by just setting more and more trace points in it.
- 6** According to the object-oriented programming paradigm, objects can be *constructed, manipulated* at will, regarded as *parts* of other objects when convenient, and, eventually, *eliminated*.
Research on human cloning is the ultimate stadium in the modern “object-oriented view on the human person”.
- 7** If the *dignity* of a terminal patient seems threatened by lack of *quality of life*, how can the former ever be honored by fatally eliminating the remains of the latter ?

8 Among all means ever devised to stand out, such as torn jeans, piercing, colored hair, just one has *always* worked: to pass unnoticed.

9 Slaves, witches, dissidents, refugees,... have all once been the scapegoat. Nowadays, it is the smokers' turn.

10 The built-in tendency in small European countries for distinguishing themselves from their larger neighbor country, is proportional to the reluctance in the latter to speak a language other than the mother tongue.

11 The train you miss has departed sharp on schedule. The next available train will have a considerable delay.

12 In Dutch, if you don't know idioms inside out, you haven't got a snowflake's chance in hell.

13 Powerpoint is used worldwide:

- ⇨ presentations in conferences
- ⇨ didactic transparencies at college
- ⇨ laptop-centered meetings in companies

Drawbacks:

- ☞ overused style and clipart
 - creativity ↘
 - stress on form, not on contents
- ☞ presentations like C©MICS
 - disperse attention ↗
 - saturation ↗
- ☞ language → cryptic
- ☞ contrived indented reasoning
 - everything into bullets