

Incremental Transformation for XML Document Manipulation

Lionel Villard
lionel.villard@inrialpes.fr

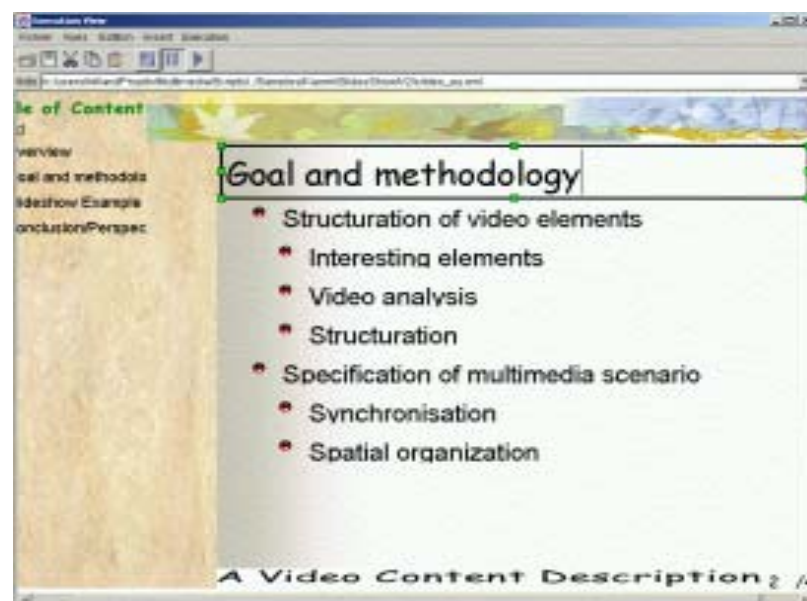
Opéra Project – INRIA Grenoble - France
<http://www.inrialpes.fr/opera>

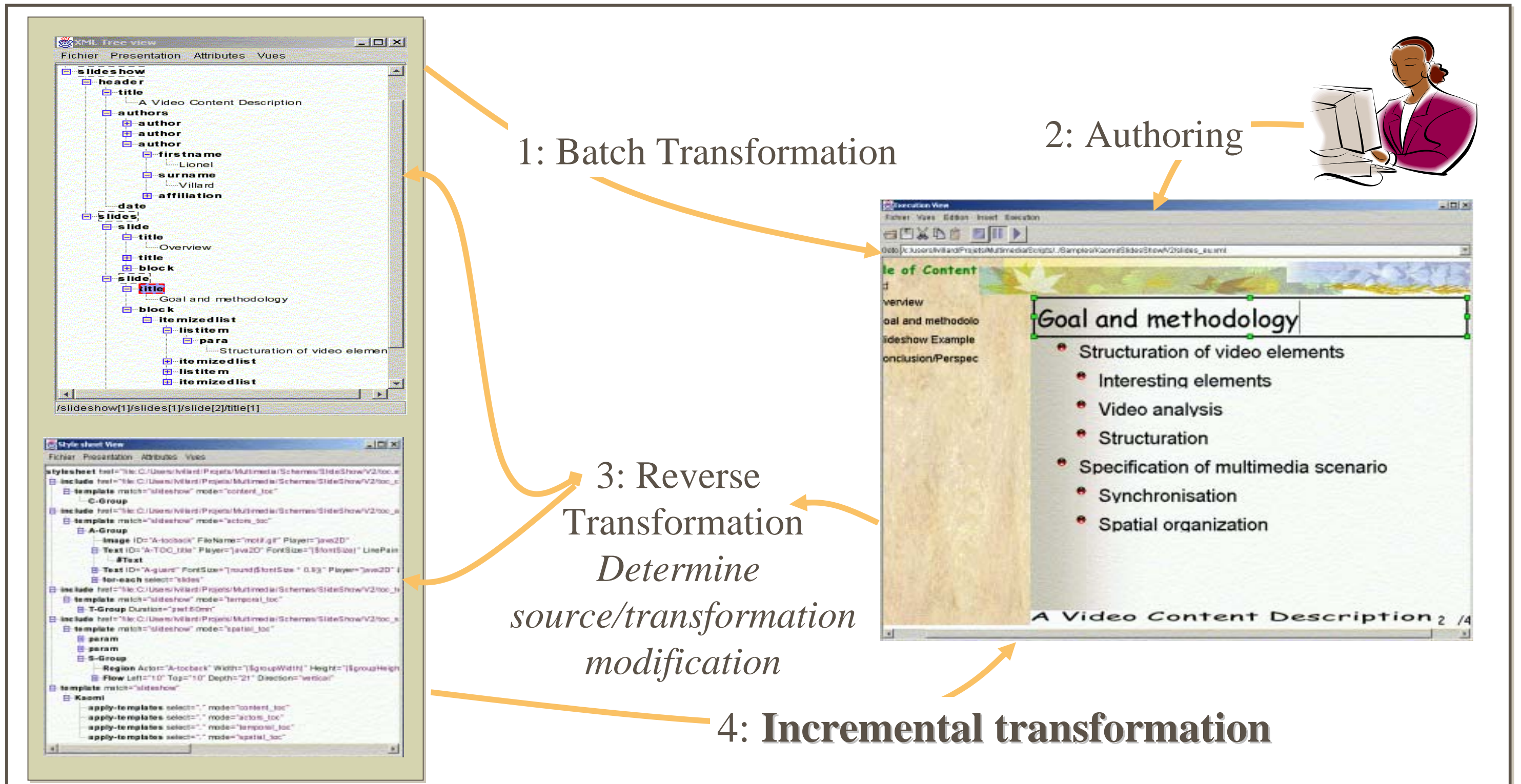
Goal: Interactive authoring of

- XML source documents
- XML presentations



through one or many presentations



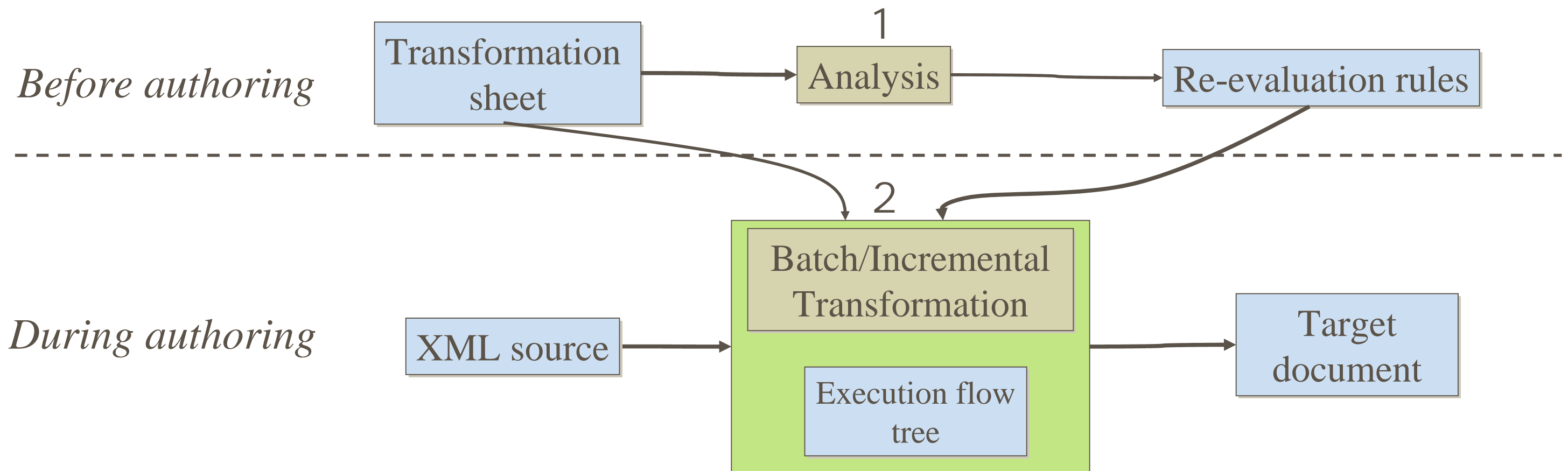


Incremental transformation

To update as fast as possible the document after modifications of:

- XML source document(s)
- Transformation sheet(s)

Incremental transformation: principles



1. Incremental transformation: static analysis of transformation sheets

Goal: determine statically which XSLT instructions need to be re-evaluated when:

The source document changes

Modification of attribute values, addition of elements, etc.

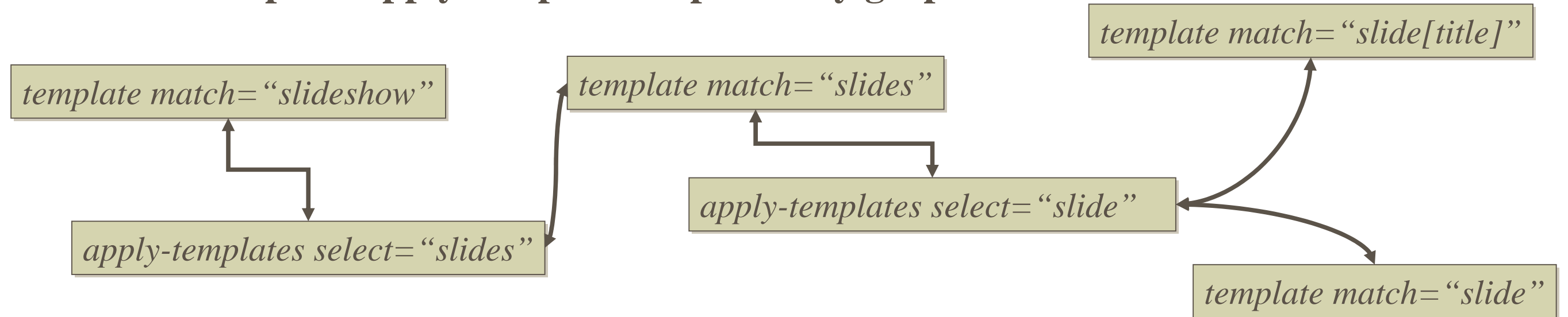
A transformation sheet change

Input parameters, addition/removal of template, addition/removal of instruction

Result of the analysis: set of re-evaluation rules (pattern, XSLT instructions)

Main steps of analysis

A. Creation of template/apply-templates dependency graph



B. For each instruction with expression:

identify the re-evaluation conditions and express them as a pattern

template match="slides"
value-of select=" ../header[1]/title[count(../slides/slide[\$cnd])>=5]"

/slideshow/header/title
/slideshow/header/title/descendant::text()
/slideshow/header
/slideshow/slides/slide

1: Extract expressions

../header[1]/title
../slides/slide[\$cnd]

2: Remove dynamic context references

../header/title
../slides/slide

4: Use instruction declaration context

../header/title
../header/title/descendant::text()
../header
../slides/slide

3: Determine patterns

2. Incremental transformation: execution step

Standard transformation execution with:

- Only a **subset** of instructions are executed (thanks to re-evaluation rules)
- Compute processor context **as needed**
- Use the **minimal** execution flow tree
- **Incremental** execution of XSLT instructions:

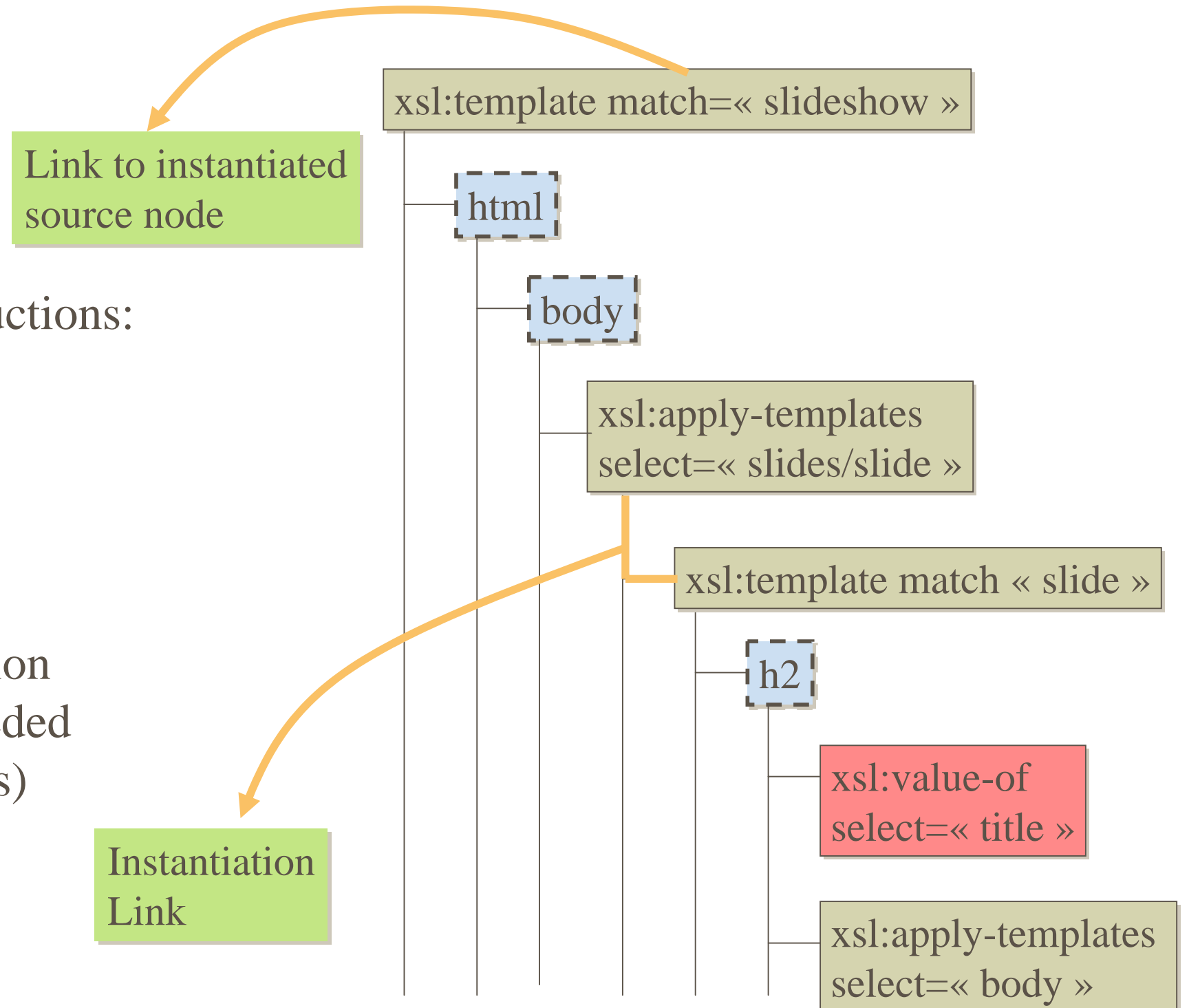
value-of: replace characters

apply-templates:

- use execution flow tree for retrieving template instantiation
- re-instantiation is done if needed (thanks to re-evaluation rules)

Example: insert a title in slide

only the red instruction is re-evaluated



Experimentation / Evaluation

- Implementation of a WYSIWYG docbook editor
- Incremental transformation processor implemented in Xalan 2.0 (AFS)
- First evaluation results

	Batch		Dummy		Change title		Insert section	
Number of instruction to re-execute	N/A		0		795		819	
Time to get instruction to re-execute	N/A		0		80ms		80ms	
Variables value computed	6572		6572		6572		6572	
Variable access count	10279		6899		6899		6983	
Overall timing / ratio	4,5s	1	2,8s	0.6	2,8s	0.62	2,9s	0.64

Speed costs of the transformations applied to Norman Walsh's docbook transformations sheets (2219 instructions and 1200 templates)

Interpretation

- Incremental transformation is half time as batch transformation
- But it is still too slow partly because all variables are evaluated (to be done)