Case-Study: Modelling a Library System

This case-study involves modelling an information system to support a simple Lending Library Service. This will be approached as an exercise in Requirements Engineering where the aim is to develop a model, capturing high-level requirements for such a system to produce an agreed formal specification. We make use of Formal Methods, exploiting the power of discrete mathematics to model, and to reason, abstractly over a succession of separate levels producing a modular de-composition of the system.

Membership Class: LM

We begin by defining an invariant for a simple membership class. Members belong to a finite, initially-empty, set named *Member* and each member has some associated *information*:

```
LM
Member : \mathbf{set} \ \mathbb{M}
info : Member \to \mathbb{I}
Member' = \emptyset
```

The types for both a member identifier and its associated information are specified here as two given, fully-abstract, sets named \mathbb{M} and \mathbb{I} ; the definition of their concrete data-representations is left to later refinements. The initial-condition for class LM, together with its invariant, imply that all components are empty when the class is first instantiated.

A *query* is an operation that provides information about the state of objects in the system. In this class, we can define a query that shows the information associated with a member:

```
LM?showInfo(m \to i) \\ \hline i := info(m) \\ \hline m : Member ; i : \mathbb{I} \\ i = info(m)
```

and another that lists all the members, together with their information:

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|} LM?showMembers(\rightarrow M) \\ \hline M:=info \end{array} & \equiv LM?showMembers(\rightarrow M) \\ \hline M:Member \rightarrow \mathbb{I}\,;\; M=info \end{array}$$

In both cases their *pre-conditions* have been expanded to clarify these specifications by providing type information implicit from the invariant.

An *event* is an operation that changes the state of the system. We obviously require at least one event for this class, an operation to 'enrol' a new member, since the set *Member* is initially empty:

```
LM!NewMember(i \to m)
i: \mathbb{I}; m: \mathbb{M}; m \notin Member
m \in Member'; info'(m) = i
```

An operation to 'update' the recorded information for existing members can also be defined:

```
LM! UpdateInfo(m, i)
m : Member ; i : \mathbb{I} ; i \neq info(m)
info'(m) = i
```

Exercise 1

Provide a *simple* specification of an operation to 'remove' a current member.

Catalog Class: LT

The library's catalog can be modelled as an initially-empty set of *titles*, where each title has an associated *description*:

```
LT
Title : set \mathbb{T}
desc : Title \to \mathbb{D}
Title' = \emptyset
```

Observe that class LT has a specification that is very similar to the class LM – only the names differ. The operations we need for LT are also similar to those provided for LM.

We can provide a query that shows the description of a particular title:

$$LT?showDesc(t \to d)$$
$$d := desc(t)$$

and one that lists the full catalog of titles together with their descriptions:

```
T:=desc
T:=desc
```

We require at least one event for LT – an operation to 'enter' a new title into the system, since the set Title is initially empty:

```
LT!NewTitle(d \to t)
d: \mathbb{D}; \ t: \mathbb{T}; \ t \notin Title
t \in Title'; \ desc'(t) = d
```

Exercise 2

Suppose that an operation to 'update' the description for a known title along with one to 'remove' such a title were required at the level of class LT. Give a simple specification for each event.

Collection Class: LC

We model a library's 'collection' (of hard copies) by extending the catalog class. We add a function nc to record the current 'number of copies' for every title and define a partition over the set of such titles, based on the value of nc; titles are in-collection if there are copies of the title in the collection, otherwise they are ex-collection:

```
 \begin{array}{c} LC \\ LT \\ nc: \mathit{Title} \to \mathsf{NAT} \\ \{\mathit{InColl}, \mathit{ExColl}\}: \mathsf{part} \; \mathit{Title} \\ \mathit{InColl} := \{t: \mathit{Title} \bullet \mathit{nc}(t) > 0\} \\ \hline \\ \mathit{ExColl} := \{t: \mathit{Title} \bullet \mathit{nc}(t) = 0\} \\ \hline \\ \mathit{Title}' = \emptyset \\ \end{array}
```

Other state-components, and the initial-condition, are "inherited" from LT. That (intermediate) class specification is said to be *imported* into class LC: its invariant must always hold there, but this may be consistently extended; the operations it provides may also be applied or extended in such contexts. Required queries at this level might be similar to those provided for a catalog. Indeed, we will directly promote the query showDesc from class LT:

```
LC?showDesc(t \to d) LT?showDesc(t \to d)
```

and add a query showing the number of copies for a given title:

```
LC?showNoCopies(t \to n)n := nc(t)
```

However, we will redefine the query *showCatalog* to include information only about titles that are in-collection and extend the query to include the number of copies for each title as well as its description:

 $LC?showCollection(\rightarrow C)$

$$C: \mathit{Title} \nrightarrow \mathsf{POS} \times \mathbb{D} \\ C = \{(t, n, d): \mathit{InColl} \times \mathsf{POS} \times \mathbb{D} \bullet n = \mathit{nc}(t) \land d = \mathit{desc}(t)\}$$

We extend the NewTitle event from LT, so as to 'fix' (as zero) an initial number of copies:

When a new title is added it is ex-collection. We then clearly need some way to 'modify' the number of copies as well

$$LC!AddCopies(t, n)$$
 $LC!RemoveCopy(t)$ $t: Title; n: POS$ $t: InColl$ $nc'(t) = nc(t) + n$ $nc'(t) = nc(t) - 1$

The operations specified at this level involve modelling choices. These decisions should satisfy the relevant requirements of our intended *client*.

Exercise 3

Expand the LC events AddCopies and RemoveCopy to show all changes-of-state imposed by the state-invariant.

Exercise 4

Suppose that operations for class LC do not fully satisfy requirements of a client. Explore some possible alternatives, then specify that query or event:

- 1. there should be a way to show descriptions for titles having no copies;
- 2. it should be possible to fix the initial number of copies for a new title;
- 3. it should be possible to remove more than one copy at the same time;
- 4. one operation should serve to *increase* or *decrease* the number of copies.

Loan Class: LL

LL

We model a simple loan class by *composing* the classes LM and LC. These two classes are independent so composing them will produce a consistent invariant. We then extend their combined state, to define the set of all current 'loans', which is expressed mathematically as a *relation* (loan), and the numbers of 'available' and 'loaned' copies (the functions na and nl, respectively) for each title:

```
LM; LC
     loan: Title \nleftrightarrow Member
     na, nl: Title \rightarrow NAT
     \forall t: Title \bullet
          nc(t) = na(t) + nl(t) \wedge
          nl(t) = \#\{m : Member \bullet t \mapsto m \in loan\}
\equiv LL
      Member : \mathsf{set} \ \mathbb{M}
      info: Member \rightarrow \mathbb{I}
      Title: \mathsf{set} \ \mathbb{T}
      desc: Title \rightarrow \mathbb{D}
     loan: Title \leftrightarrow Member
     nc, na, nl: Title \rightarrow NAT
     InColl := \{t : Title \bullet nc(t) > 0\}
     ExColl := \{t : Title \bullet nc(t) = 0\}
     \forall t: Title \bullet
          nc(t) = na(t) + nl(t) \wedge
          nl(t) = \#\{m : Member \bullet t \mapsto m \in loan\}
      Member' = \emptyset; Title' = \emptyset
```

Class LL embodies a significant assumption: a member may borrow at most one copy of any particular title at the same time.

The membership queries are needed at this level so they are directly *promoted*, as are two of the collection queries:

```
LL?showInfo(m \rightarrow i) \\ LM?showInfo(m \rightarrow i) \\ LM?showMembers(\rightarrow M) \\ LL?showDesc(t \rightarrow d) \\ LC?showDesc(t \rightarrow d) \\ LC?showNoCopies(t \rightarrow n) \\ LC?showNoCopi
```

We add a query to show the number of available copies for a given title:

$$LL?availableCopies(t \to n)$$
$$n := na(t)$$

and update the *showCollection* query from the collection class:

 $LL?showCollection(\rightarrow C)$

```
\begin{split} C: \mathit{Title} & \nrightarrow \mathsf{POS} \times \mathsf{NAT} \times \mathbb{D} \\ C = & \{(t, n, l, d): \mathit{InColl} \times \mathsf{POS} \times \mathsf{NAT} \times \mathbb{D} \bullet \\ n = \mathit{nc}(t) \wedge l = \mathit{nl}(t) \wedge d = \mathit{desc}(t) \} \end{split}
```

Finally, we add a query that shows the set of members borrowing copies of a given title:

$$LL?showLoans(t \to M)$$

$$M := \{m : Member \bullet t \mapsto m \in loan\}$$

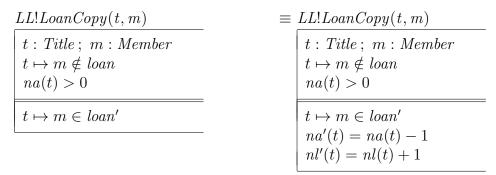
Many of the events at this level are also promotions:

$$\begin{array}{c} LL!NewMember(i \rightarrow m) \\ \hline LM!NewMember(i \rightarrow m) \\ \hline \\ LL!NewTitle(d \rightarrow t) \\ \hline \\ LC!NewTitle(d \rightarrow t) \\ \hline \\ d: \mathbb{D} \; ; \; t: \mathbb{T} \; ; \; t \notin Title \\ \hline \\ t \in Title' \cap ExColl'; \; desc'(t) = d \\ nc'(t) = na'(t) = nl'(t) = 0 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

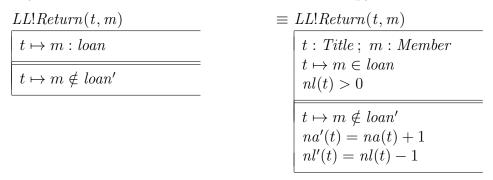
The NewTitle event has been expanded to show that the number of available and loaned copies is initially zero. AddCopies is also promoted but expanded to show how the number of available copies is increased:

RemoveCopy is extended to clarify the pre-condition; the removed copy must be an available copy:

We require an event to allow members to make loans:



Finally at this level, we define an event to return a copy:



The expanded versions of *LoanCopy* and *Return* show how the numbers of available and loaned copies change.

Throughout this specification we have defined *minimal* versions of the operations. We are able to do this because of the assumption that "the rest remains unchanged". In some cases we used expansion to explicitly present interesting derived properties.

Exercise 5

Show that the assumption a member may borrow at most one copy of any particular title at the same time is implicit from the invariant of class LL.

Exercise 6

Define a query to show titles borrowed by a member.

Exercise 7

Suppose that operations to 'remove' members or titles were provided for class LL. Specify these events, which are applicable only when the respective member or title does not figure in any current loan.

Reservation Class: LR

We specify LR as a class parallel to LL to allow titles to be reserved. Eventually we will compose LL and LR to specify a library system able to provide both loans and reservations. To specify LR, we again export and compose LM and LC as we did for LL. We define a 'request queue' (requestQ) to be a function that delivers, for each title t, the sequence of members currently requesting a copy of t. Similarly to loans in class (LL), we define the current reservations as a relation (reserve). We also define the number of requests (nQ) for each title.

$\equiv LR$

```
\begin{array}{l} \textit{Member}: \mathsf{set} \ \mathbb{M} \\ \textit{info}: \textit{Member} \to \mathbb{I} \\ \textit{Title}: \mathsf{set} \ \mathbb{T} \\ \textit{desc}: \textit{Title} \to \mathbb{D} \\ \textit{request}Q: \textit{Title} \to \mathsf{inj} \cdot \mathsf{seq} \ \textit{Member} \\ \textit{reserve}: \textit{Title} \leftrightarrow \textit{Member} \\ \textit{nc}, \textit{nQ}: \textit{Title} \to \mathsf{NAT} \\ \textit{InColl}:= \{t: \textit{Title} \bullet \textit{nc}(t) > 0\} \\ \textit{ExColl}:= \{t: \textit{Title} \bullet \textit{nc}(t) = 0\} \\ \forall t: \textit{Title} \bullet \\ \{m: \textit{Member} \bullet t \mapsto m \in \textit{reserve}\} = \{m: \textit{Member} \bullet m \in \mathsf{cod} \ \textit{request}Q(t)\} \land \\ \textit{nQ}(t) = \#\{m: \textit{Member} \bullet t \mapsto m \in \textit{reserve}\} \land \\ \textit{nQ}(t) = \#\textit{request}Q(t) \\ \\ \textit{Member'} = \emptyset; \ \textit{Title'} = \emptyset \\ \end{array}
```

Class LR embodies another significant assumption: a member may have at most one request for every title outstanding at the same time.

As we plan to compose this class with LL, we won't promote or extend any of the existing queries to this level. However, we will define a query to show the queue of requests for a particular title:

```
LR?showRequests(t \to Q)Q := requestQ(t)
```

We need to extend the collection event *NewTitle* at this level, to create a new (initially-empty) request queue for the title that is introduced:

$$LR!NewTitle(d \to t)$$

$$LC!NewTitle(d \to t)$$

$$requestQ'(t) = \langle \rangle$$

$$t \in Title' \cap ExColl'$$

$$desc'(t) = d; requestQ'(t) = \langle \rangle$$

$$nc'(t) = nQ'(t) = 0$$

Further events will be required in this context to update the pending requests for some particular title. An event to allow a member to reserve a particular title:

```
LR!Reserve(t, m \to p)
t: Title; m: Member; p: POS
t \mapsto m \notin reserve; p = nQ(t) + 1
requestQ'(t) = (requestQ(t))\langle m \rangle
nQ'(t) = p
t \mapsto m \in reserve'
```

and an event to cancel such a reservation:

```
LR! Cancel(t, m \to p)
t : Title; m : Member; p : POS
t \mapsto m \in reserve
Q_1 \langle m \rangle Q_2 := requestQ(t)
p = \# Q_1 + 1
requestQ'(t) = Q_1 \langle \rangle Q_2
nQ'(t) = nQ(t) - 1
t \mapsto m \notin reserve'
```

These two events preserve the *relative* ordering of all other pending requests whenever one for title t and member m is either 'reserved' or 'cancelled'; they also give its new or previous position p in the queue.

Exercise 8

Show that the assumption a member may have at most one request for every title outstanding at the same time is implicit from the invariant of class LR.

Exercise 9

Were we to remove a member, we'd need to consider their requests as well. Would an event to remove a title need to consider requests for that title? Develop specifications of these two events (remove member, remove title) in this class.

Simple Library Class: LS

We model a simple library class by *composing* the loan (LL) and reservation (LR) classes. The composed specification must be consistent:

```
LS
     LL; LR
     loan \cap reserve = \emptyset
\equiv LS
     Member : set M
     info: Member \rightarrow \mathbb{I}
     Title: \mathsf{set} \ \mathbb{T}
     desc: Title \rightarrow \mathbb{D}
     requestQ: Title \rightarrow inj \cdot seq Member
     loan, reserve: Title \leftrightarrow Member
     cf reserve = cod \circ requestQ
     loan \cap reserve = \emptyset
     nc, na, nl, nQ: Title \rightarrow NAT
     InColl := \{t : Title \bullet nc(t) > 0\}
     ExColl := \{t : Title \bullet nc(t) = 0\}
     \forall t: Title \bullet
         nc(t) = na(t) + nl(t) \wedge
         nl(t) = \#\{m : Member \bullet t \mapsto m \in loan\} \land
         \{m: Member \bullet t \mapsto m \in reserve\} = \{m: Member \bullet m \in \operatorname{\mathsf{cod}} request Q(t)\} \land A
         nQ(t) = \#\{m : Member \bullet t \mapsto m \in reserve\} \land
         nQ(t) = \#requestQ(t)
     Member' = \emptyset; Title' = \emptyset
```

To maintain consistency, we have imposed a further constraint at this level: for each title, a member may have at most one loan or one reservation at the same time.

Most required queries are now direct promotions:

```
LS? showInfo(m \rightarrow i) \\ LM? showInfo(m \rightarrow i) \\ ES? showMembers( \rightarrow M) \\ LM? showMembers( \rightarrow M) \\ LM? showMembers( \rightarrow M) \\ ES? showDesc(t \rightarrow d) \\ LS? showDesc(t \rightarrow d) \\ LT? showDesc(t \rightarrow d) \\ ES? showDesc(t \rightarrow d) \\ CS? showDesc(t
```

$$LS? showNoCopies(t \to n) \\ LC? showNoCopies(t \to n) \\ LS? showLoans(t \to M) \\ LL? showLoans(t \to M) \\ LS? showLoans(t \to M) \\ LS? showRequests(t \to Q) \\ LR? showRequests(t \to Q) \\ UR? showRequests(t \to Q) \\$$

Finally we'll update the *showCollection* query from the loan class to include the number of reservations for each title in the collection:

$LS?showCollection(\rightarrow C)$ $C: Title \rightarrow \mathsf{POS} \times \mathsf{NAT} \times \mathsf{NAT} \times \mathbb{D}$ $C = \{(t, n, l, q, d) : InColl \times \mathsf{POS} \times \mathsf{NAT} \times \mathsf{NAT} \times \mathbb{D} \bullet$ $n = nc(t) \land l = nl(t) \land q = nQ(t) \land d = desc(t)\}$

Most events are also direct promotions:

$$LS!NewMember(i \rightarrow m) \\ LM!NewMember(i \rightarrow m) \\ \hline\\ LM!NewMember(i \rightarrow m) \\ \hline\\ LS!UpdateInfo(m,i) \\ \hline\\ LS!UpdateInfo(m,i) \\ \hline\\ LS!AddCopies(t,n) \\ \hline\\ LL!AddCopies(t,n) \\ \hline\\ LS!RemoveCopy(t) \\ \hline\\ LL!RemoveCopy(t) \\ \hline\\ LL!Remov$$

We inherit versions of NewTitle from both loan and reservation classes and combine them:

Stronger constraints are imposed for making a reservation, to preserve the invariant:

$$LS!Reserve(t, m \to p)$$

$$LR!Reserve(t, m \to p)$$

$$t \mapsto m \notin loan$$

$$= LS!Reserve(t, m \to p)$$

$$t : Title ; m : Member ; p : POS$$

$$t \mapsto m \notin reserve \cup loan$$

$$p = nQ(t) + 1$$

$$requestQ'(t) = (requestQ(t))\langle m \rangle$$

$$nQ'(t) = p$$

$$t \mapsto m \in reserve'$$

The event *cancel* is just a promotion from the reservation class:

$$LS!Cancel(t, m \to p)$$

$$LR!Cancel(t, m \to p)$$

$$t : Title ; m : Member ; p : POS$$

$$t \mapsto m \in reserve$$

$$Q_1 \langle m \rangle Q_2 := request Q(t)$$

$$p = \# Q_1 + 1$$

$$request Q'(t) = Q_1 \langle \rangle Q_2$$

$$nQ'(t) = nQ(t) - 1$$

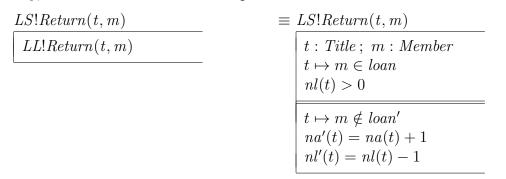
$$t \mapsto m \notin reserve'$$

The LoanCopy event becomes interesting when reservations are taken into account. There are two cases: the member has reserved the title or not. If not then the member can borrow a copy if there are more available copies than the number of reservations. Otherwise, that is the member has reserved the title, the member can borrow a copy if there are more available copies than the number of reservations prior to the member in the queue. In this case, the member's reservation is cancelled when the copy is loaned.

LS!LoanCopy(t, m) $\equiv LS!LoanCopy(t, m)$ t: Title; m: Member; n: NATLL!LoanCopy(t, m) $t \mapsto m \notin loan; \ na(t) > n$ n: NAT; na(t) > n $t \mapsto m \notin reserve; \ n = nQ(t)$ $t \mapsto m \notin reserve; \ n = nQ(t)$ $t\mapsto m\in \mathit{reserve}$ $LR!Cancel(t, m \rightarrow p)$ $Q_1\langle m\rangle Q_2 := requestQ(t)$ n = p - 1 $n = \# Q_1$ $requestQ'(t) = Q_1\langle\rangle Q_2$ nQ'(t) = nQ(t) - 1 $t \mapsto m \notin reserve'$ $t \mapsto m \in loan'$

na'(t) = na(t) - 1nl'(t) = nl(t) + 1

Finally, the event *Return* is a direct promotion from the loan class:



Exercise 10

We have promoted or re-defined all queries at this level; was it *necessary* to specify them earlier?

Exercise 11

Explain the extended LoanCopy event as specified for class LS, saying how its local variable n corresponds to the number of prior reservations in both sub-cases.

Exercise 12

Suggest ways in which the current Simple Library class can be extended or refined. (This is a very open-ended question.)