



Introduction to the Object Constraint Language (OCL)

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Motivation for Formal Model-Based Specification

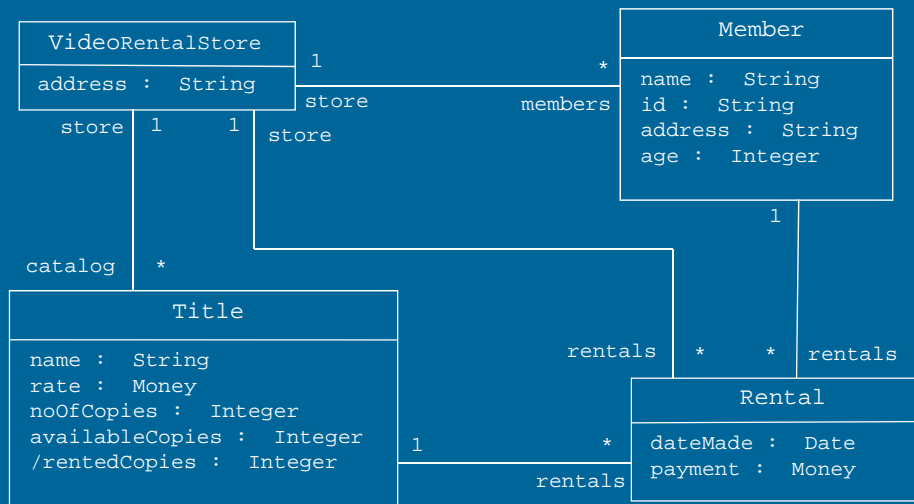
- UML (Unified Modeling Language) 2.5 is a (semi-formal) modeling language proposed by the OMG (Object Management Group)¹.
- UML is the de facto *industry standard* notation to model software analysis and design artifacts.
- UML Superstructure specification 2.5² describes 14 (semi-) formal diagram types, e.g., class and use-case diagrams.
- Limits:
 - *not precise* and automatic verification hardly possible
 - *weak code generation capabilities* (usually only code skeletons, not fully functional code)

¹<http://www.omg.org/>

²<http://www.omg.org/spec/UML/2.5/>

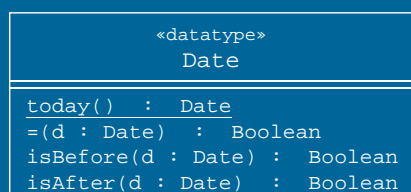
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Example: Video Store Class Diagram

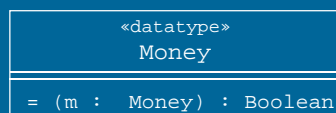


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Auxiliary Types



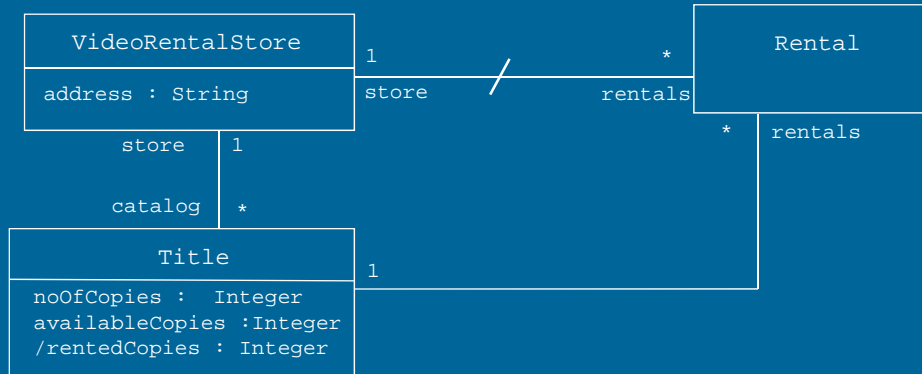
Date is a utility class for representing date values



Money is a class for representing currency values

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Derived Attributes/Associations



- Derived attributes and associations are sometimes added to help readers understand the diagram
- Derived attributes and associations are marked with “/”

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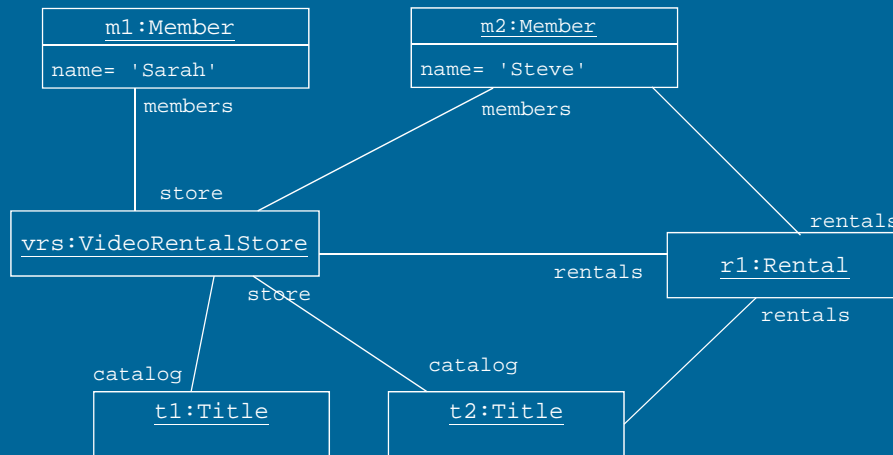
Instance Diagram (snapshot)



- An instance diagram is used to show the state of a system at a point in time
- An object is represented as a rectangle
- If two objects are associated, a line is drawn between the objects, which is called a *link*
- Interesting properties of objects are described inside the rectangle and called attributes

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Instance Diagram from Video Store



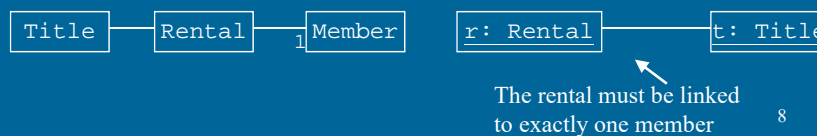
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Consistency between Class and Instance Diagrams

- The class diagram and instance diagrams must be consistent
- Some simple tests can be performed to verify consistency:
 - Every link in the instance diagram must correspond to an association in the type diagram, e.g.:



- An object in the instance diagram can not be linked up to more or fewer objects of another type than specified by the multiplicity of association in the type diagram. E.g.:



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Expressions in the Class Diagram



- The vocabulary defined in the class diagram provides the means for forming precise expressions (formal queries)
 - Example: *what are all the rentals a title has?*
- To check that a query is supported by the diagram:
 - The diagram can be informally inspected
 - or a formal query can be written
- A formal definition of “*what are all the rentals a title has?*” would be written like this (OCL notation):

```
context VideoRentalStore::allRentals(t:Title):Set(Rental)
def: t.rentals
```
- Expressions are essential when high confidence in the model is required
- The OCL will be used for writing precise expressions

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Formal Models



- (Semi-formal) visual models can be enriched with formal specification of
 - *state constraints* (with invariants)
 - *operation semantics* (with pre- and post-conditions)
- UML defines a language that can be used with this goal: Object Constraint Language (OCL)
- Advantages:
 - UML diagrams enriched with OCL expressions lead to precise specifications that can be verified automatically
 - formal specifications remove the ambiguity that characterizes informal specifications
 - formal specifications can be automatically verified
 - tools exist that generate code and assertions in Java from OCL specifications of state invariants and operations' pre and post conditions

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The Object Constraint Language (OCL)



- A formal specification language for specifying additional constraints on UML models
- A precise and unambiguous language that can be read and understood by object modelers and software engineers
- OCL is not a programming language; therefore, it is not possible to write program logic or flow control in OCL.
- A *purely* declarative language – i.e. it has *no side-effects* (in other words its expressions do not change the state of the system; it describes *what* rather than *how*)
- A language that is based on predicate calculus and on textual syntax rather symbolic syntax (easy to read!)
- A strongly typed language – every expression must have a type

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OCL: Basic Concepts



- OCL is a rich language that offers a predefined mechanism for:
 - Retrieving the values of an object
 - Navigating through a set of related objects
 - Iterating over a collection of objects (e.g. `select`, `forAll`, `exists`)
- OCL includes a predefined standard library: set of types + operations on them
 - Primitive types: `Boolean`, `Integer`, `Real`, `String`
 - Collection types: `Set`, `Bag`, `OrderedSet` and `Sequence`
 - Tuple types
- Classes from UML model are also types in OCL, e.g. `Member`, `Title`, enumeration classes, etc

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Primitive Types



Type	Values	Operators and operations
Boolean	true, false	=, <>, and, or, xor, not, implies, if-then-else-endif
Integer	-3, 0, 6, ...	=, <>, >, <, >=, <=, *, +, -(unary), -(binary), /(real), abs(), max(b), min(b), mod(b), div(b)
Real	-1.2, 0.0, ...	=, <>, >, <, >=, <=, *, +, -(unary), -(binary), /, abs(), max(b), min(b), round(), floor()
String	'hello world'	=, <>, size(), concat(s2), substring(lower, upper) (1<=lower<=upper<=size), toReal(), toInteger()

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Collection and Tuple Types



Description	Syntax	Examples
Abstract collection of elements of type T	Collection(T)	
Unordered collection, no duplicates	Set(T)	Set{1, 2}
Ordered collection, duplicates allowed	Sequence(T)	Sequence{1, 2, 1} Sequence{1..4} (same as Sequence{1, 2, 3, 4})
Ordered collection, no duplicates	OrderedSet(T)	OrderedSet {2, 1}
Unordered collection, duplicates allowed	Bag(T)	Bag{1, 1, 2}
Tuple (with named parts)	Tuple(field1:T1, ..., fieldn: Tn)	Tuple{age: Integer = 5, name: String = 'Joe'} Tuple{name='Joe', age=5}

Note 1: They are value types: “=” and “<>” compare values and not references.

Note 2: Tuple components can be accessed with “.” as in “t1.name”

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Operations on Collection(T)



Operation	Description
<code>size():Integer</code>	the number of elements in the collection
<code>count(o:T) : Integer</code>	the number of occurrences of object <code>o</code> in the collection
<code>includes(o:T): Boolean</code>	true if object <code>o</code> is an element of the collection
<code>includesAll(c :Collection(T)) : Boolean</code>	true if all the element in collection <code>c</code> are present in the current collection
<code>excludes(o : T) : Boolean</code>	true if object <code>o</code> is not an element of the collection
<code>excludesAll(c:Collection(T)): Boolean</code>	true if all the element in collection <code>c</code> are not present in the current collection
<code>isEmpty() : Boolean</code>	true if the collection contains no elements
<code>notEmpty(): Boolean</code>	true if the collection contains one or more elements
<code>sum() : T</code>	the addition of all the elements in the collection

Note: Operations on collections are applied with “->” and not “.”

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Operations on Set(T)



Operation	Description
<code>=(s:Set(T)):Boolean</code>	Do <code>self</code> and <code>s</code> contain the same elements?
<code>union(s: Set(T)): Set(T)</code>	The union of <code>self</code> and <code>s</code> .
<code>union(b: Bag(T)): Bag(T)</code>	The union of <code>self</code> and bag <code>b</code> .
<code>intersection(s:Set(T)):Set(T)</code>	The intersection of <code>self</code> and <code>s</code> .
<code>intersection(b:Bag(T)):Set(T)</code>	The intersection of <code>self</code> and <code>b</code> .
<code>-(s: Set(T)) : Set(T)</code>	The elements of <code>self</code> , which are not in <code>s</code> .
<code>including(object: T): Set(T)</code>	The set containing all elements of <code>self</code> plus <code>object</code> .
<code>excluding(object: T): Set(T)</code>	The set containing all elements of <code>self</code> minus <code>object</code> .
<code>symmetricDifference(s:Set(T)) :Set(T)</code>	The set containing all the elements that are in <code>self</code> or <code>s</code> , but not in both.

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Operations on Set(T)



Operation	Description
<code>flatten() : Set(T2)</code>	If <code>T</code> is a collection type, the result is the set with all the elements of all the elements of <code>self</code> ; otherwise, the result is <code>self</code> .
<code>asOrderedSet() : OrderedSet(T)</code>	<code>OrderedSet</code> with elements from <code>self</code> in undefined order.
<code>asSequence() : Sequence(T)</code>	<code>Sequence</code> with elements from <code>self</code> in undefined order.
<code>asBag() : Bag(T)</code>	<code>Bag</code> with all the elements from <code>self</code> .

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Operations on Bag(T)



Operation	Description
<code>=(b: Bag(T)) : Boolean</code>	True if <code>self</code> and <code>bag</code> contain the same elements, the same number of times.
<code>union(b: Bag(T)) : Bag(T)</code>	The union of <code>self</code> and <code>b</code> .
<code>union(s: Set(T)) : Bag(T)</code>	The union of <code>self</code> and set <code>s</code> .
<code>intersection(b: Bag(T)) : Bag(T)</code>	The intersection of <code>self</code> and <code>b</code> .
<code>intersection(s: Set(T)) : Set(T)</code>	The intersection of <code>self</code> and <code>s</code> .
<code>including(object: T) : Bag(T)</code>	The bag with all elements of <code>self</code> plus <code>object</code> .
<code>excluding(object: T) : Bag(T)</code>	The bag with all elements of <code>self</code> minus <code>object</code> .

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Operations on Bag(T)



Operation	Description
<code>flatten(): Bag(T2)</code>	If <code>T</code> is a collection type: bag with all the elements of all the elements of <code>self</code> ; otherwise: <code>self</code> .
<code>asOrderedSet(): OrderedSet(T)</code>	<code>OrderedSet</code> with elements from <code>self</code> in undefined order, without duplicates.
<code>asSequence(): Sequence(T)</code>	Seq. with elements from <code>self</code> in undefined order.
<code>asSet(): Set(T)</code>	Set with elements from <code>self</code> , without duplicates.

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Operations on Sequence(T)



Operation	Description
<code>=(s: Sequence(T)): Boolean</code>	True if <code>self</code> contains the same elements as <code>s</code> , in the same order.
<code>union(s: Sequence(T)): Sequence(T)</code>	The sequence consisting of all elements in <code>self</code> , followed by all elements in <code>s</code> .
<code>flatten(): Sequence(T2)</code>	If <code>T</code> is a collection type, the result is the set with all the elements of all the elements of <code>self</code> ; otherwise, it's <code>self</code> .
<code>append(object: T): Sequence(T)</code>	The sequence with all elements of <code>self</code> , followed by <code>object</code> .
<code>prepend(obj: T): Sequence(T)</code>	The sequence with <code>object</code> , followed by all elements in <code>self</code> .
<code>insertAt(index: Integer, object: T): Sequence(T)</code>	The sequence consisting of <code>self</code> with <code>object</code> inserted at position <code>index</code> ($1 \leq \text{index} \leq \text{size} + 1$)
<code>subSequence(lower: Integer, upper: Integer): Sequence(T)</code>	The sub-sequence of <code>self</code> starting at index <code>lower</code> , up to and including index <code>upper</code> ($1 \leq \text{lower} \leq \text{upper} \leq \text{size}$)

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Operations on Sequence (T)



Operation	Description
<code>at(i:Integer): T</code>	The i-th element of <code>self</code> ($1 \leq i \leq \text{size}$)
<code>indexOf(object:T): Integer</code>	The index of <code>object</code> in <code>self</code> .
<code>first(): T</code>	The first element in <code>self</code> .
<code>last(): T</code>	The last element in <code>self</code> .
<code>including(object:T): Sequence(T)</code>	The sequence containing all elements of <code>self</code> plus <code>object</code> added as last element
<code>excluding(object: T): Sequence(T)</code>	The sequence containing all elements of <code>self</code> apart from all occurrences of <code>object</code> .
<code>asBag(): Bag(T)</code>	The Bag containing all the elements from <code>self</code> , including duplicates.
<code>asSet(): Set(T)</code>	The Set containing all the elements from <code>self</code> , with duplicates removed.
<code>asOrderedSet(): OrderedSet(T)</code>	An <code>OrderedSet</code> that contains all the elements from <code>self</code> , in the same order, with duplicates removed.

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Operations on OrderedSet (T)



Operation	Description
<code>append(object:T): OrderedSet(T)</code>	The set of elements, consisting of all elements of <code>self</code> , followed by <code>object</code> .
<code>prepend(object:T): OrderedSet(T)</code>	The sequence consisting of <code>object</code> , followed by all elements in <code>self</code> .
<code>insertAt(index:Integer, object:T): OrderedSet(T)</code>	The set consisting of <code>self</code> with <code>object</code> inserted at position <code>index</code> .
<code>subOrderedSet(lower: Integer, upper:Integer): OrderedSet(T)</code>	The sub-set of <code>self</code> starting at number <code>lower</code> , up to and including element number <code>upper</code> ($1 \leq \text{lower} \leq \text{upper} \leq \text{size}$).
<code>at(i:Integer): T</code>	The i-th element of <code>self</code> ($1 \leq i \leq \text{size}$).
<code>indexOf(object:T): Integer</code>	The index of <code>object</code> in the sequence.
<code>first(): T</code>	The first element in <code>self</code> .
<code>last(): T</code>	The last element in <code>self</code> .

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Operations Defined in OclAny



Operation	Description
<code>= (object2:OclAny):Boolean</code>	True if <code>self</code> is the same object as <code>object2</code> .
<code><> (object2:OclAny):Boolean</code>	True if <code>self</code> is a different object from <code>object2</code> .
<code>oclIsNew():Boolean</code>	Only used in a postcondition. True if <code>self</code> was created during the operation execution.
<code>oclAsType(t:OclType):T</code>	Cast (type conversion) operation. Useful for downcast.
<code>oclIsTypeOf(t:OclType):Boolean</code>	True if <code>self</code> is of type <code>t</code> .
<code>oclIsKindOf(t:OclType):Boolean</code>	True if <code>self</code> is of type <code>t</code> or a subtype of <code>t</code> .
<code>oclIsInState(s:OclState):Boolean</code>	True if <code>self</code> is in state <code>s</code> .
<code>oclIsUndefined(): Boolean</code>	True if <code>self</code> is equal to null or invalid.
<code>oclIsInvalid(): Boolean</code>	True if <code>self</code> is equal to invalid.
<code>allInstances(): Set(T)</code>	Static operation that returns all instances of a classifier.

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Operations Defined in OclMessage



Operation	Description
<code>hasReturned(): Boolean</code>	True if type of template parameter is an operation call, and the called operation has returned a value.
<code>result()</code>	Returns the result of the called operation, if type of template parameter is an operation call, and the called operation has returned a value.
<code>isSignalSent():Boolean</code>	Returns true if the <code>OclMessage</code> represents the sending of a UML Signal.
<code>isOperationCall():Boolean</code>	Returns true if the <code>OclMessage</code> represents the sending of a UML Operation call.

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OCL Type Hierarchy



- Type conformance relation \leq
 - $\text{OclVoid}, \text{OclInvalid} \leq T$ for all types T
 - $\text{Integer} \leq \text{Real}$
 - $T \leq T' \Rightarrow C(T) \leq C(T')$ for collection type C
 - $C(T) \leq \text{Collection}(T)$ for collection type C
 - $B \leq \text{OclAny}$ for all primitives and classifiers B
 - Generalization hierarchy from UML model
- Examples
 - $\text{String} \leq \text{OclAny}$
 - $\text{Set}(\text{Integer}) \leq \text{Set}(\text{Real})$

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Quantification Expressions: forAll



- The `forAll` operation can be used to specify that a certain condition must hold for all elements of a collection.
- The `forAll` operation takes an OCL expression as parameter.
- This operation is used when there already is a (sub)set of all instances of a class, and the elements of that (sub)set should be checked.
- The result of the operation is a boolean value:
 - true if the expression evaluates to true for all elements in the collection
 - otherwise false
- Syntax: `c->forAll(e : T | exp)`
- Example:
`Set{1,2,3}->forAll(n:Integer | n > 3)`
evaluates to false

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Quantification Expressions: exists



- The `exists` operation can be used to specify that a certain condition must hold for at least one element of a collection.
- The `exists` operation takes an OCL expression as parameter.
- This operation is used when there already is a (sub)set of all instances of a class, and some elements of that (sub)set should be checked.
- The result of the operation is a boolean value:
 - true if the expression evaluates to true for some elements in the collection
 - otherwise false
- Syntax: `c->exists(e : T | exp)`
- Example:
`Set{-1,5,8}->exists(n:Integer | n+1>10)`
evaluates to false

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The select Operation



- The `select` operation takes an OCL expression as parameter.
- The result of `select` is a subcollection of the collection on which it is applied.
- `select` selects all elements from the collection for which the expression evaluates to *true*.
- Syntax: `c->select(e : T | exp)`
- Example
`Set{1,2,3}->select(n:Integer | n >= 2)`
evaluates to `Set{2, 3}`

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The reject Operation



- The `reject` operation is analogous to `select`.
- `reject` selects all elements from the collection for which the expression evaluates to *false*.
- Syntax: `c->reject(e : T | exp)`
- Example
`Set{1,2,3}->reject(n:Integer | n >= 2)`
evaluates to `Set{1}`

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The collect Operation



- The operation can be used to collect attribute values
- The operation also can be used to build a new collection from the objects held by association ends.
- Syntax: `c->collect(e : T | exp)`
collection of elements with `exp` applied to each element of `c`
- Example
`Set{1,2,3}->collect(n:Integer | n + 1)`
`members->collect(name)`

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The collect Operation



- The resulting collection contains different objects from the original collection.
- When the source collection is a `Set` the resulting collection is not a `Set` but a `Bag`.
- If the source collection is a `Sequence` or an `OrderedSet`, the resulting collection is a `Sequence`.
- The dot notation is an abbreviation for applying the `collect` operation:
 - `members.name`
 - `catalog.rentals`

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Other Iterator Expressions



- Uniqueness
`c->isUnique(e : T | exp)`
true if `exp` has a unique value for all elements in the collection
- Sorting
`c->sortedBy(e : T | exp)`
Sequence of all the elements in the collection in the order specified (< must be defined on `exp`)
- Iteration
`c->iterate(e : T1; result : T2 = exp1 | exp2)`
Iterates over all the elements of the collection and accumulates the result in the variable `result`.
 - Example:
`Set{1,2,3}->iterate(i:Integer;sum:Integer=0 | sum+i)` evaluates to 6.
 - All other collection operations can be defined in terms of `iterate`

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Constraints in OCL



- Constraints that can be expressed include:
 - *invariants* on classes,
 - *preconditions* and *postconditions* of operations/methods
- An *invariant* on class is an assertion about the class which must *always* be true for all instances of the class in any public and visible state.
- A *precondition* of an operation/method is an assertion that states what must be true in order to meaningfully invoke the operation/method.
- A *postcondition* of an operation/method is an assertion that states what must hold after execution of the operation/method.

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Constraints in OCL



- An *invariant* in OCL is expressed as follows:

```
context ClassName
inv: OCL-invariant
```

- context: keyword indicating the context of the invariant `ClassName`
- inv: keyword indicating an invariant
- OCL-invariant: boolean expression describing the invariant

- An operation specification in OCL is expressed as follows:

```
context ClassName::operationName(arg:Type):Type
pre: OCL-precondition
post: OCL-postcondition
```

- pre: keyword indicating a precondition
- OCL-precondition: boolean expression describing the precondition
- post: keyword indicating a postcondition
- OCL-postcondition: boolean expression describing the postcondition

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Other Constraints in OCL



- An *initial value constraint* is a rule that states the initial value for an attribute or association end. It is expressed as:

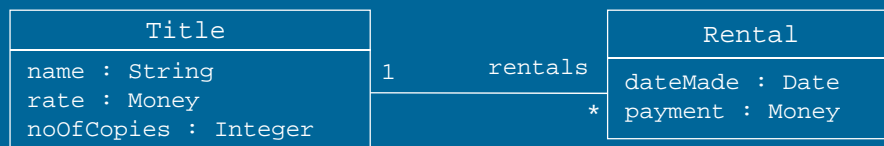
```
context className::propertyName
init: initialValue
```

- A *derivation rule* states how a derived attribute or association end is calculated from other properties. It is expressed as:

```
context className::propertyName
derive: derivedValue
```

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Expressions from the Video Store

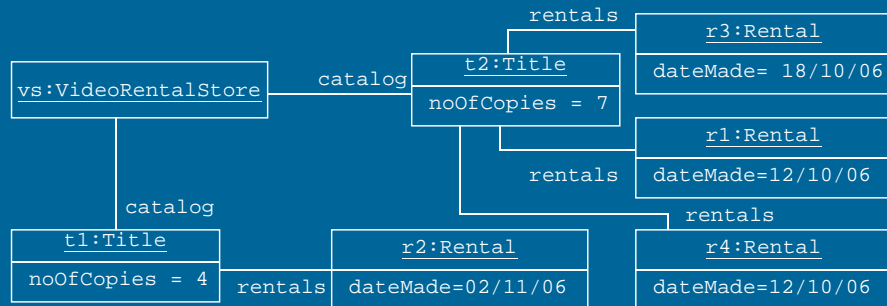


t : Title, r : Rental

- t.name : String -- name of title t
- t.rate : Money -- rate of title t
- t.noOfCopies : Integer -- number of copies for t
- t.rentals : Set(Rental) -- all rentals for title t
- r.Title : Title -- title for rental r
- t.rentals->size(): Integer -- number of rentals for t
- t.rentals.dateMade:Bag(Date) -- dates for rentals of t

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Evaluating Expressions



```

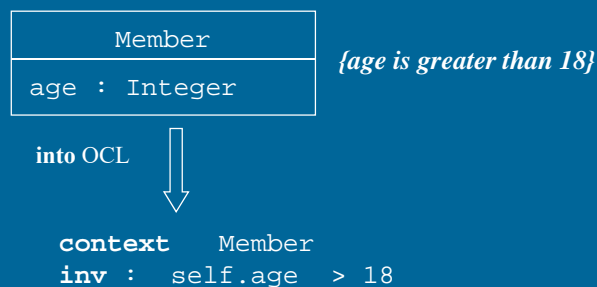
t1.noOfCopies = 4
r2.Title = t1
t2.rentals = Set{r1, r3, r4}
t2.rentals->size() = 3
t2.rentals.dateMade = Bag{18/10/06, 12/10/06, 12/10/06}
    
```

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Invariants on Attributes



- The class to which the invariant refers is the context of the invariant.
- It is followed by a boolean expression that states the invariant.
- All attributes of the context class may be used in this invariant.



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Usage of *self*



- The following invariant notations are equivalent:

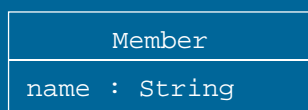
```
context Member
inv: self.age > 18
```

```
context Member
inv: age > 18
```



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Invariants on Attributes



{name is not the empty string}

into OCL
↓

```
context Member
inv : self.name <> ''
```

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Invariants on Attributes



Rental
dateMade : Date dueDate : Date

{date made is before due date}

into OCL



```
context Rental
inv: dateMade.isBefore(dueDate)
```

- If the type of the attribute is a class, the attributes or query operations defined on that class can be used to write the invariant (using a dot notation).
- Query operation:
An operation that does not change the value of any attributes.

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Enumeration Types



- Enumeration uses datatype followed by :: and the value

Passenger
age : Integer needsAssistance : Assistance

«enumeration» Assistance
wheelChair fullAssistance noAssistance

- The constraint that each passenger with an age above 95 needs assistance by a wheelchair, can be expressed as follows.

```
context Passenger
inv : self.age > 95 implies
      self.needsAssistance = Assistance::wheelChair
```

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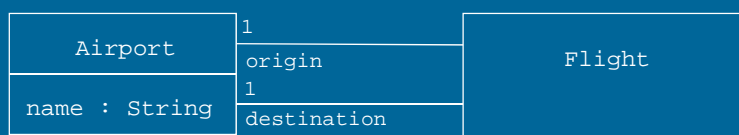
Associations and Navigation



- Every association is a navigation path.
- The context of the expression is the starting point.
- Role names (or association ends) are used to identify the navigated associations.

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Associations and Navigation: Example



```
context Flight
inv: origin <> destination
```

- The origin of each flight is unequal to the destination.

```
context Flight
inv: origin.name = 'Gatwick'
```

- The origin of each flight is Gatwick.

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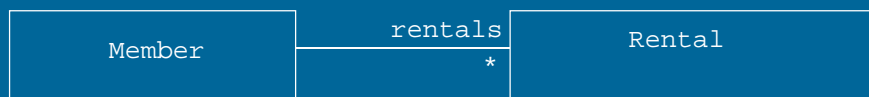
Associations and Navigation



- Often associations are one-to-many or many-to-many, which means that constraints on a collection of objects are necessary.
- OCL expressions either state a fact about all objects in the collection or states facts about the collection itself.

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Invariant with the size operation



{A member cannot have more than 10 rentals }

into OCL ↓

```
context Member
inv : self.rentals->size() <= 10
```

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Invariant with the select operation



{number of titles with no copies is less than 5 }

into OCL ↓

```
context VideoRentalStore
inv : self.catalog->select(t:Title|t.noOfCopies=0)
    -> size() < 5
```

This can also be written as:

```
context VideoRentalStore
inv : self.catalog->select(noOfCopies =0)-> size()< 5
```

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Invariant with forAll Operation



{each member of the video store has a unique id}

into OCL ↓

```
context VideoRentalStore
inv : self.members->forAll(m1,m2:Member |
    m1.id=m2.id implies m1=m2)
```

Alternatively:

```
context VideoRentalStore
inv : self.members->isunique(id)
```

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Using allInstances Operation



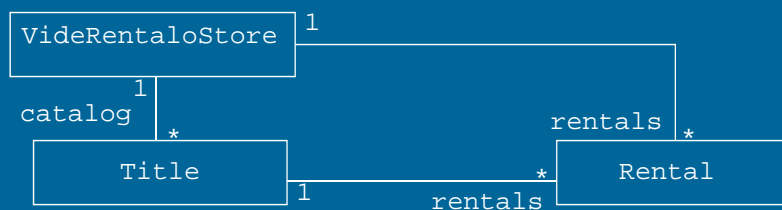
{each member of the video store has a unique id}

into OCL ↓

```
context VideoRentalStore
inv : Member.allInstances->isUnique(id)
```

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Invariant with collect Operation



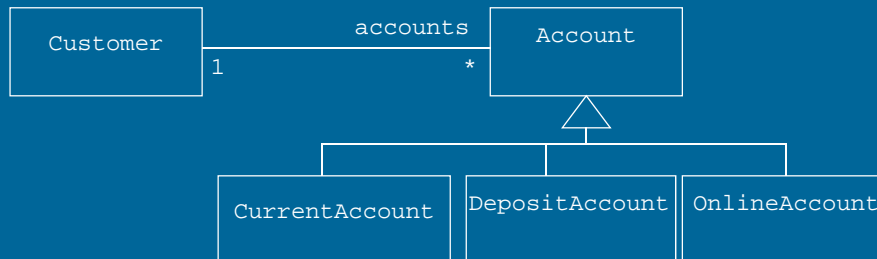
{the rentals of the video store are the rentals of all titles in the store}

into OCL ↓

```
context VideoRentalStore
inv: self.rentals=self.catalog.rentals->asSet()
```

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Invariant with oclIsKindOf Operation

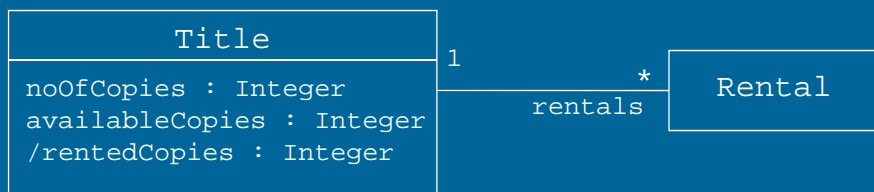


```
context Customer
inv: accounts->select(a |
    a.ocIsKindOf(CurrentAccount))->size() >= 1
```

Meaning: Every customer has a least one current account

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Initial values and Derivation Rules



-- initially the number of copies is zero

```
context Title::noOfCopies
init: 0
```

-- initially the set of rentals is empty

```
context Title::rentals
init: set{}
```

-- derivation rule for the number of rented copies

```
context Title::rentedCopies
derive: noOfCopies - availableCopies
```

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Context of an Invariant



- If the invariant restricts the value of attribute of a type, then that type is a candidate.
- If the invariant restricts the value of attributes of more than one type, the types containing any of the attributes are candidates.
- If a class is responsible for maintaining the constraint that class should be the context.
- Any invariant should navigate through the smallest possible number of associations.
- Choose an invariant which simple to read and write.

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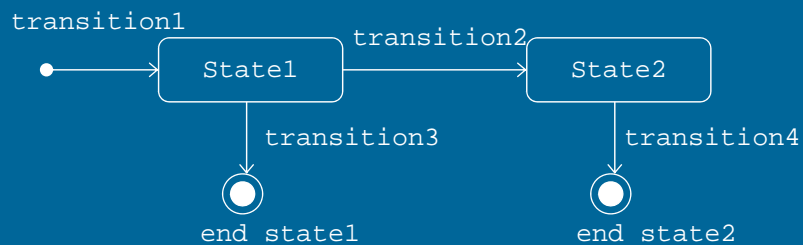
State Models







- Objects have states:
 - Title:
 - AvailableForRent
 - UnavailableForRent
 - Member:
 - Active
 - Banned
- A state model specifies:
 - the states an object may have
 - the order in which objects change states
 - events that can cause the object to change state
e.g. a return event changes state from UnavailableForRent to availableForRent

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State Models Notation



- Notation:

- The states are shown as 
- The possible transition path are indicated as 
- End states are shown as 
- The initial state is indicated with 

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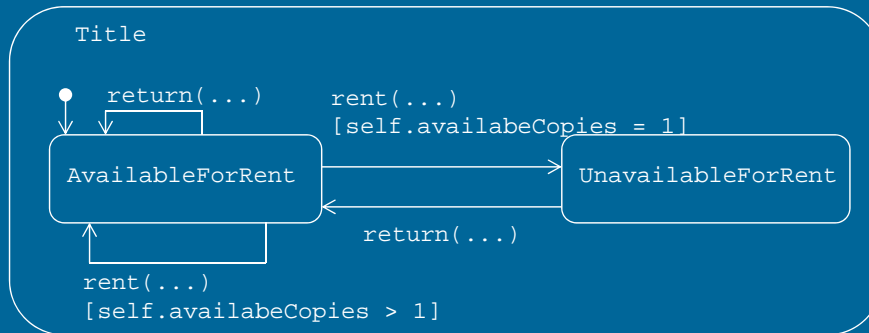
Rules for State Diagrams



- The states in a simple state diagram are mutually exclusive - an object can be in only one state at a time
- Every state must be related to attributes and associations on a type diagram
- We should be able to define the relationship between states, attributes and associations using invariants
- Every transition should map to a system operation

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State Model for Title



Dictionary

Type	States	Description
Title	AvailableForRent	Title has copies available for rent
	UnavailableForRent	All copies of title are rented

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Connecting State models to Type Model



```
context Title
inv: self.oclInState(AvailableForRent) =
    self.availabeCopies > 0

inv: self.oclInState(UnavailableForRent) =
    self.availabeCopies = 0
```

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Operation Specifications



- An operation can be specified using a *precondition* and *postcondition* pair. Such pair is called a *contract*.
- A *precondition* states the condition under which it is appropriate to invoke the operation.
- A *postcondition* states the conditions that must hold after the operation is complete, under the assumption that the precondition holds.
- OCL will be used for specifying operations.

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Specification of rent: Precondition



The precondition of operation **rent** is informally specified as follows:

context

```
VideoRentalStore::rent(m:Member,t:Title,  
                        p:Money,d : Date)
```

-- rents a copy of title *t* to member *m* with payment *p* and date *d*

pre :

- *m* is member of the store
- and *t* is a title of the store
- and *t* has copies available for rent
- and *m* is not currently renting a copy of *t*
- and the payment *p* is sufficient

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Specification of rent: Postcondition



The postcondition of operation `rent` is informally specified as follows:

```
VideoRentalStore::rent(m:Member,t:Title,  
                        p:Money,d : Date)
```

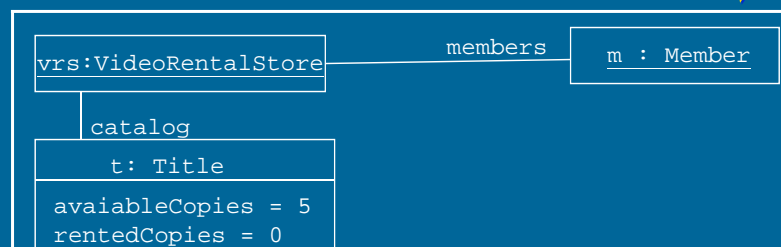
post: -- a new rental object was created
 -- and is associated with the current video rental store
 -- and is linked to member `m`
 -- and is linked to title `t`
 -- and the payment is equal to `p`
 -- and its made at date is equal to `d`
 -- and the number of available copies of `t` is reduced by 1
 -- and the number of rented copies of `t` is increased by 1

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Illustration of rent

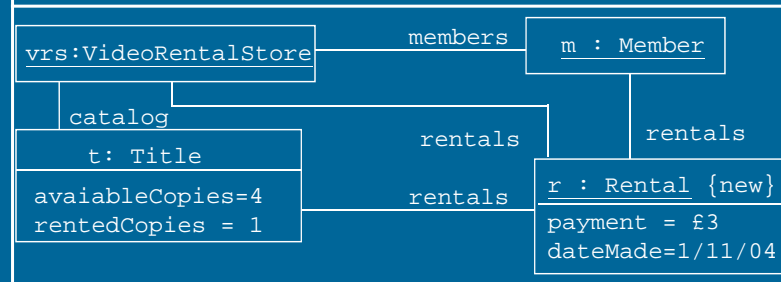


Before



`vrs.rent(m,t,£3, 1/11/04)`

after



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Specification of rent: Precondition



The formal precondition of `rent` is given as follows:

```
VideoRentalStore::rent(m:Member,t:Title,  
                        p:Money,d:Date)  
-- rents a copy of title t to member m with payment p and date d
```

```
pre:  self.members->includes(m)  
       and self.catalog->includes(t)  
       and t.availableCopies > 0  
       and m.rentals.title->excludes(t)  
       and t.rate = p
```

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Specification of rent: Postcondition



The formal postcondition of `rent` is given as follows:

```
VideoRentalStore::rent(m:Member,t:Title,  
                        p:Money,d:Date)  
  
post: self.rentals->exists(r:Rental|  
                                r.ocIsNew()  
                                and r.member = m  
                                and r.title = t  
                                and r.dateMade = d  
                                and r.payment = p)  
       and t.availableCopies =t.availableCopies@pre-1  
       and self.rentals->size()==self.rentals@pre->size()+1
```

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Query Operation Specification: Example

- The operation `getMembers` returns all the members of a video rental store. The following is a formal specification:

```
context VideoRentalStore::getMembers():Set(Member)
-- returns all the members of the current video rental store
pre: true
post: result = self.members
```

- If the precondition is `true` the operation can be invoked in any state. In such case the precondition can be omitted
- The variable `result` is used to hold the result of the operation

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Query Operation Specification: Example

- The operation `membersOver50` returns those members over the age of 50. The following is a formal specification:

```
context VideoRentalStore::
    membersOver50():Set(Member)
pre: true
post: result = self.members->select(age>50)
```

- With omitted precondition:

```
context VideoRentalStore::
    membersOver50():Set(Member)

post: result = self.members->select(age>50)
```

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Query Operation Specification: Example



- The operation `getMember` returns the member given the member's id. The following is a formal specification:

```
context VideoRentalStore::  
    getMember(i:String):Member  
-- returns the member with the id equal to i  
pre: members->exists(m:Member | m.id=i)  
post: result.id = i
```

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Specification of `getNames()`



- The operation `getNames` returns a list of members names of a video rental store. The following is a formal specification:

```
context VideoRentalStore::  
    getNames(): Sequence(String)  
-- returns all the members of the current video rental store  
pre: true  
post: result = self.members.name->asSequence()
```

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Operation Specifications



- Steps for specifying an operation:
 - provide an informal description of the operation together with its signature and a precondition and postcondition
 - use instance diagrams to illustrate the behaviour of the operation
 - translate the precondition and postcondition to OCL using the language provided by the type diagram and OCL operations

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Summary



- **The OCL has been introduced as a specification language for:**
 - Specifying additional constraints on the properties of objects in the form of invariants.
 - Specifying the behaviour of operations in terms of preconditions and postconditions.
- **A declarative language**

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Operation Design

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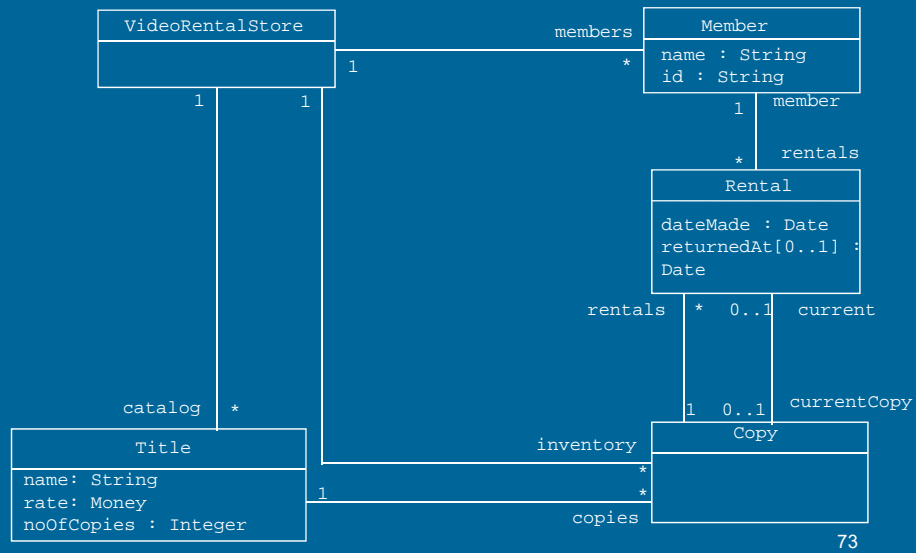


Objective

- To show how an operation specification can be refined at the design stage
- The obtained design can then be mapped into code

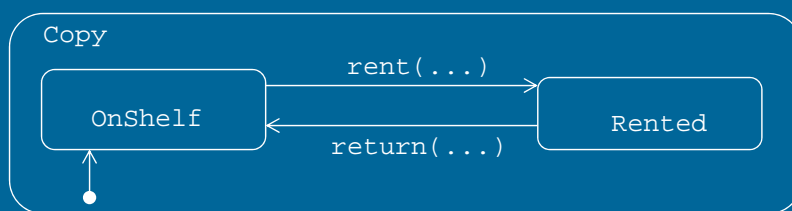
72

Class Diagram for Video Store [includes Copy class]



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State Model for Copy

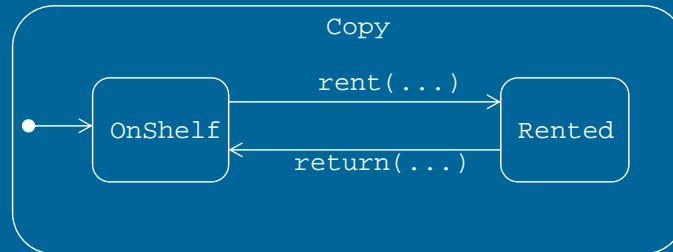


Dictionary

Type	States	Description
Copy	OnShelf	the copy is on the shelf and available for rent
	Rented	the copy is rented

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States and Type Model



context Copy

inv: self.oclInState(OnShelf) = self.current->isEmpty

inv: self.oclInState(Rented) = self.current->notEmpty

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Specification of rent



- The operation `rent` is informally specified as follows:

context VideoRentalStore::

`rent(c : Copy, m : Member, out : Date)`

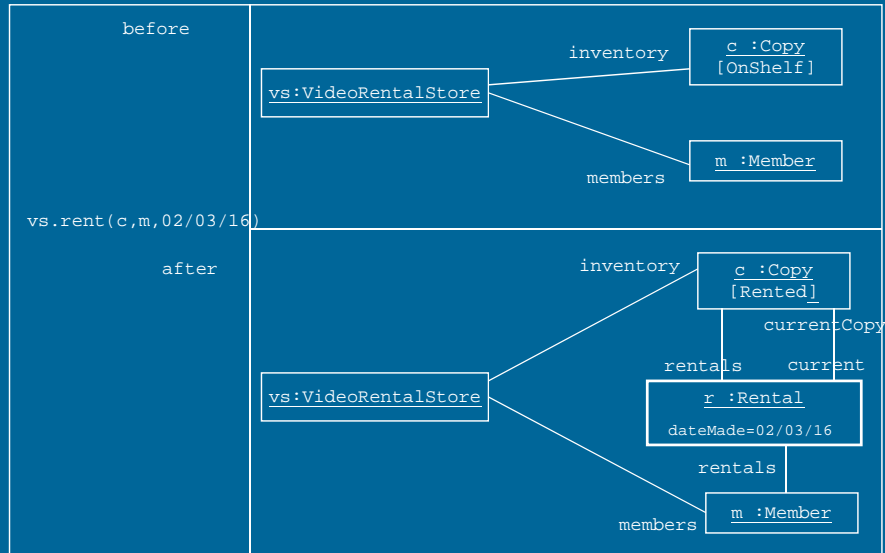
-- rents a copy *c* from the video store to member *m*

pre: the copy *c* is in the inventory of the store
and *m* is member of the store
and the copy *c* is on shelf

post: a new rental object is created
and is associated with member *m*
and associated with copy *c*
and the rented at date is set to *out*
and the copy is rented

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Specification of rent



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Specification of rent



```

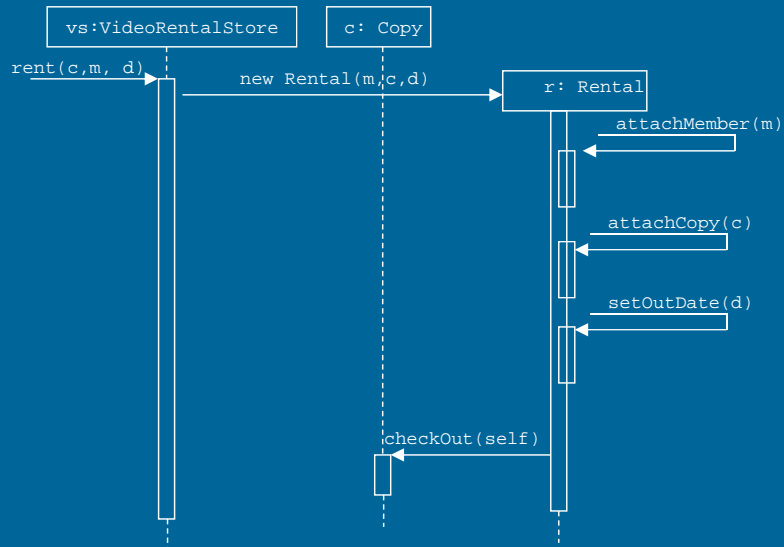
context VideoRentalStore::
    rent(c : Copy, m: Member, out : Date)

pre:
    -- m is one of the members of the store
    self.members->includes(m)
    -- c is part of the inventory of the store
    and self.inventory->includes(c)
    -- c is on shelf
    and c.oclInState(OnShelf)

post:
    -- a new rental object is created
    Rental.allInstances->exists(r:Rental | r.oclIsNew()
    -- which is a rental for member m and copy c
    and r.member = m
    and r.copy = c
    and c.current = r
    -- the rented at date is set to out
    r.dateMade = out
    -- and copy c is rented
    and c.oclInState(Rented)
    
```

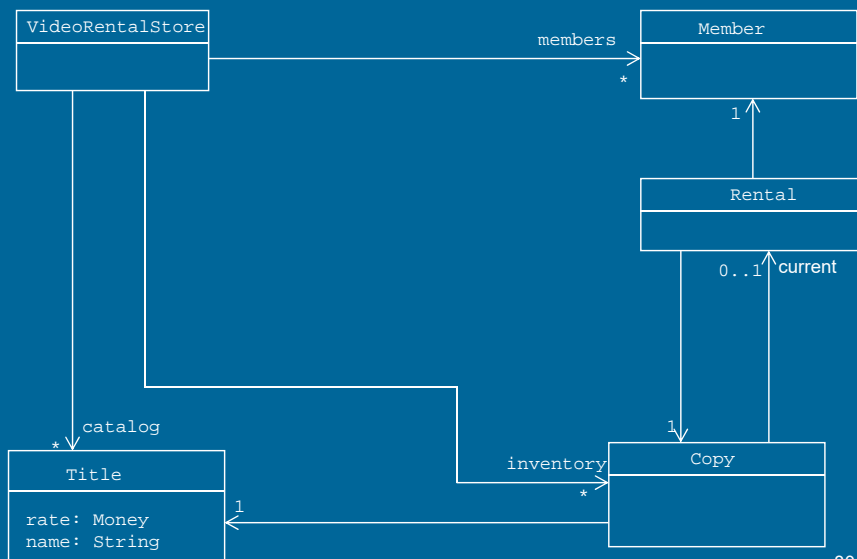
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Operation Design: rent



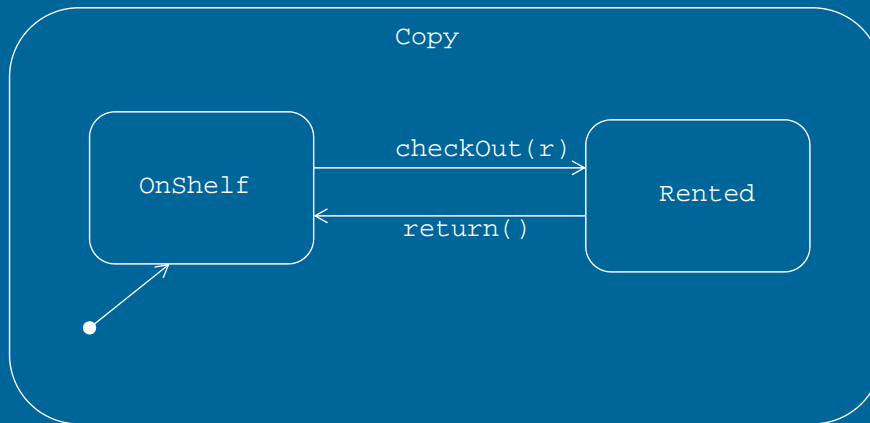
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Design Class Diagram



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State Diagram for Copy



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Operation Specification



- **context** Rental::attachMember(m : Member)
-- sets the member of the rental to m
pre: true
post: self.member = m
- **context** Rental::attachCopy(c:Copy)
-- sets the copy of the rental to c
pre: true
post: self.copy = c
- **context** Copy::checkOut(r : Rental)
-- sets the current rental of copy to r
pre: true
post: self.current = r
- **context** Rental::setOutDate(d : Date)
-- sets the out date of the rental
pre: true
post: self.dateMade = d

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Operation Specification



- **context** `Rental::Rental(m:Member, c:Copy, d: Date)`
-- creates a rental object and sets its member and copy to
-- m and c respectively

pre: `true`

post: -- a new rental object is created
 `Rental.allInstances->exists(r:Rental | r.isNew())`
 -- for member m
 and `r.member = m`
 -- and attached to copy c
 and `r.copy = c`
 -- and current loan of copy c is set to r
 and `r.copy.current = r`
 -- and rented at date is set to d
 and `dateMade = d`

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Deriving the Specification of Rental [Design]



- `Rental(m, c, d)`
 - `r.attachMember(m)`
post: `r.member = m`
 - `r.attachCopy(c)`
post: `r.copy = c`
 - `r.setOutDate(d : Date)`
post: `r.dateMade = d`
 - `(r.copy).checkOut(r)`
post: `r.copy.current = r`
- The postcondition of `Rental` is the conjunction of the postconditions of the above operations

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Conformance Checking



- We need to show that the operations introduced at the design level conform to the operations at the specification level.
- For the video store system, we need to show that the postcondition of the operation `VideoRentalStore::rent(c,m,d)` at the design stage implies the postcondition of the `VideoRentalStore::rent(c,m,d)` at the specification stage.

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Conformance Checking



```
post: (Design)
  Rental.allInstances->
    exists(r : Rental | r.ocIsNew()
  and r.member = m
  and r.copy = c
  and r.dateMade = d
  and r.copy.current = r
```

↓ implies

```
Post: (Specification)
  Rental.allInstances->
    exists(r : Rental | r.ocIsNew()
  and r.member = m
  and r.copy = c
  and c.current = r
  and r.dateMade = d
  and c.ocInState(Rented)
```

The implication follows quite easily since `r.copy=c`
implies `c.current=r`

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Mapping Design to Code



```
public class Rental {
    Date dateMade;
    Member member;
    Copy copy;

    public Rental(Member m, Copy c, Date d) {
        attachMember(m);
        attachCopy(c);
        setOutDate(d);
        c.checkOut(this);
    }
    public attachMemebr(Member m) {
        member = m;
    }
    public attachCopy(Copy c) {
        copy = c;
    }
    public setOutDate(Date d){
        dateMade = d;
    }
    ... }
```

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Mapping Design to Code



```
public class Copy {
    Rental current;
    Title title;

    public checkOut(Rental r) {
        current = r;
    }
    ...
}

public class VideoRentalStore {
    List<Member> members;

    public rent(Copy c, Member m, Date d) {
        Rental r = new Rental(c,m,d);
    }
    ...
}
```

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Summary



- We showed how an operation specification is refined into a design that conforms to the specification
- The design can be mapped to code by mapping the design class diagram and sequence diagrams.