CHAPTER 2 Z Specification Language



Chapter Outline

- Z Language
- Z Fundamental Concepts
- Z Types Declaration
- * Z Schema





- Pronounced as "Zed".
- A set of conventions for presenting mathematical text.
- Based on set theory and first-order predicate logic.
- Semi-graphical notation for writing formal specifications based on typed sets, relations, and functions to express:
 - What are the functionalities of the system
 - And what the desired results are
 - But without stating the "how" part.



- It is a model-based notation.
- Usually model a system by representing its state (a collection of state variables and their values) and some operations/functions that can change its state.
- Organised behaviour by:
 - Describing possible states
 - Describing initial states
 - Describing states changes
 - Describing states queries



- Makes use of a graphical construction known as a schema
 - provide an effective low level structuring facility
 - are useful as specification building blocks
 - can be understood fairly easily
 - Allow modularity
 - Improve readability
- The most widely-used formal specification language.



Z Fundamental Concepts



- Formal Z is based on Zermelo-Frankel set theory.
- The consequence is that everything in Z is a set.
- A set to be any well-defined collection of distinct objects.
 - There is no ambiguity in deciding whether or not a given object belongs to a set.
 - The objects in a set must be distinguishable from each other.
- The objects in a set are called its elements or members.



Example: Four oceans of the world can be defined by :

Oceans == {Atlantic, Arctic, Indian, Pacific}

== means "defined as"

Other examples:

Odds == {1, 3, 5, 7,...} Colors == {red, green, blue, yellow} Vowels == {a, e, i, o, u}



- Members of set
 - * If x is a set and s is a member of x, then we write s \in x.
 - * If x is a set and s is not a member of x, then we write s $\not\in$ x.
- Empty set (a.k.a null set)
 - A set that has no elements, Ø
 - on_loan = Ø

- Singleton set
 - Contain only one single element/member
 - For example: {a}, with brackets, is a singleton set
 - * a, without brackets, is an element of the set {a}
 - ♦ Note the subtlety in $\emptyset \neq \{\emptyset\}$
 - The left-hand side is the empty set
 - The right hand-side is a singleton set, and a set containing a set

- Subsets
 - $\Leftrightarrow \subseteq$
 - * A is said to be a **subset** of B, and we write A \subseteq B, if and only if every element of A is also an element of B.
 - * That is, we have the equivalence:

$$A \subseteq B \iff \forall x (x \in A \Rightarrow x \in B)$$

* E.g. $\{1,2\} \subseteq \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ $\{1, 2, 3, 4\} \subseteq \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$

- Proper subsets

 - * A set A that is a subset of a set B is called a **proper subset** if $A \neq B$.
 - * We write: $A \subset B$
 - * E.g. $\{1,2\} \subset \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ $\{4\} \subset \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$

- Power sets
 - * P
 - Considering all possible combinations of elements of a set
 - * Given a set A, the **power set** of A, denoted $\mathbb{P}(A)$, is the set of all subsets of A.
 - Example:
 - * Let A = $\{x, y, z\}$ $\mathbb{P}(A) = \{\emptyset, \{x\}, \{y\}, \{z\}, \{x, y\}, \{x, z\}, \{y, z\}, \{x, y, z\}\}$
 - \diamond Note: the empty set \varnothing and the set itself are always elements of the power set.

- Finite sets
 - * F
 - ❖ If there are exactly n distinct elements in a set S, with n a nonnegative integer, we say that S is a finite set.
- Cardinality
 - ***** #
 - \diamond The **number of elements** in the set. Use with \mathbb{P} and \mathbb{F}

 - * #{1, 2, 4} = 3

- Infinite sets
 - A set that is not finite is said to be infinite.
 - * The sets \mathbb{N} , \mathbb{Z} , \mathbb{Q} , \mathbb{R} are all infinite
 - * N, Natural numbers = $\{0, 1, 2, 3, ...\}$
 - * **Z**, Integers = {...,-2, -1, 0, 1, 2, ...}
 - $* \mathbb{Q}$, Rational numbers = $\{p/q \mid p \in Z, q \in Z, q \neq 0\}$
 - * R, Real numbers

- Equality of sets
 - Two sets, A and B, are equal is they contain the same elements. We write A = B
 - * {2,3,5,7} = {3,2,7,5}
 - $\{2,3,5,7\} \neq \{2,3\}$
 - * {2,3,5,7} = {2,2,3,5,3,7} because a set contains unique elements

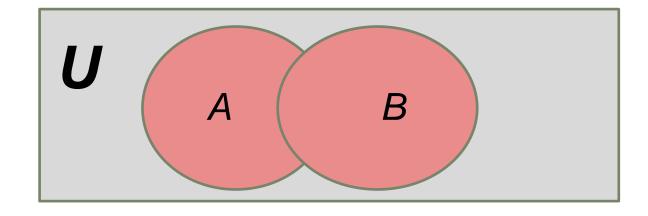
Set Operations

- Arithmetic operators (+, -, *, mod, div) can be used on pairs of numbers to give us new numbers.
- Similarly, set operators exist and act on two sets to give us new sets
 - Union, U
 - ♦ Intersection, ∩
 - Set difference, \
 - Set complement, —



Union

- The union of two sets A and B is the set that contains all elements in A, B, or both.
- * We write: $A \cup B = \{x \mid (a \in A) \lor (b \in B)\}$

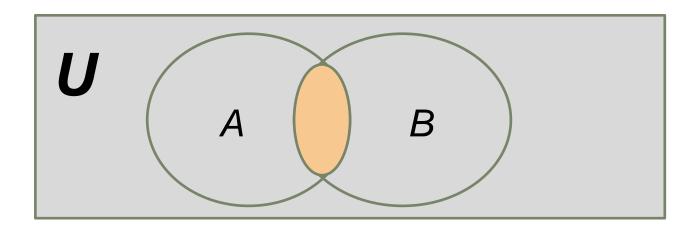


Intersection

- The intersection of two sets A and B is the set that contains all elements that are element of both A and B.
- * We write: $A \cap B = \{x \mid (a \in A) \land (b \in B)\}$

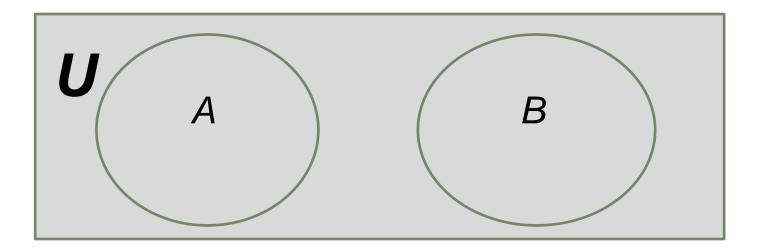
$$A = \{a, b\}, B = \{b, c, d\}$$

 $A \cap B = \{b\}$



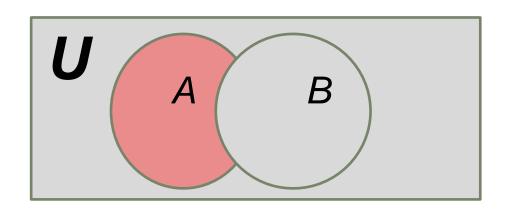
Disjoint Sets

- Two sets are said to be disjoint if their intersection is the empty set:
- $A \cap B = \emptyset$



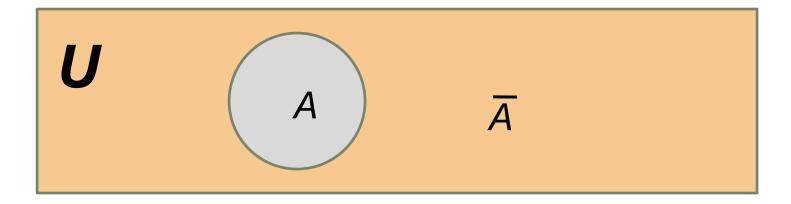
Set Difference (\)

- ❖ The difference of two sets A and B, denoted A\B or A−B, is the set containing those elements that are in A but not in B.
- It has two arguments both of the same type. It forms the set which is its first argument with elements of the second argument removed.
- * E.g. $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9\} \setminus \{1, 2, 3\} = \{4, 8, 9\}$ $\{1, 2, 3\} \setminus \{1, 2, 3\} = \emptyset$



Set Complement

The complement of a set A, denoted A, consists of all elements not in A. That is the difference of the universal set and U: U\A



$$A = A^C = \{x \mid x \notin A \}$$

- Enumerating all of the elements of a set is NOT always possible
- Simple form of set comprehension:

$$\{x:S\mid P(x)\}$$

"The set of all x in S that satisfy P(x)", OR "The set of all x in S such that P(x)"

Example:

"Natural number less that 20"

$${x : \mathbb{N} \mid x < 20}$$



- Sometimes it is helpful to specify a pattern for the elements
- We will use the form:

$$\{x: S \bullet f(x)\}$$

where f is some function defined on elements of S

Example:

squares :
$$\{x : \mathbb{N} \cdot x^2\}$$

Most general form combines the two forms:

$$\{x: S \mid P(s) \cdot f(x) \}$$

→ {set : range | condition • function}

In notational form (aka comprehensive specification):

$$\{x: X | P(x) \cdot E(x)\}$$

Examples:

Squares of integers less than 20

$$\{ x: \mathbb{N} \mid x < 20 \bullet x^2 \}$$

Squares of even numbers

$$\{x: \mathbb{Z} \mid (\exists y: \mathbb{Z} \bullet x = 2y) \bullet x^2\}$$

Squares of multiples of 4 (excluding zero)

$$\{x : \mathbb{Z} \mid (x \mod 4 = 0) \land (x > 0) \bullet x * x \}$$

Alternate even numbers = {0,4,8,12,16,...}

$$\{x : \mathbb{N} \mid x \mod 2 = 0 \bullet 2 * x\}$$

- We use quantifiers to express general truths
- For example:
 - ❖ To assert 'for all x, x + 1 > 1', we use a universal or for all quantifier : ∀

$$\forall x : \mathbb{N} \bullet (x+1>1)$$

* To assert 'there exists an x, x + 1 > 1', we use an existential or there exists quantifier : \exists

 $\exists x : \mathbb{N} \bullet (x+1>1)$

❖ The syntax :
∀ (name) : (type) [| (constraint)] • (predicate)]
This is read as:
"For all (name) of type (type) [such that (constraint)], it is true that (predicate)."
| is read as "such that"



The syntax :

```
∃ (name) : (type) [ | (constraint)] • (predicate) ]
```

This is read as:

"There exists a (name) of type (type) [such that (constraint)], for which it is true that (predicate)."



Universal Quantification

$\forall n : \mathbb{N} \mid n \leq 10 \bullet n^2 \leq 100$

$$\forall n: \mathbb{N} \bullet (n \leq 10 \Rightarrow n^2 \leq 100)$$

$$\forall n: \mathbb{Z} \mid n \geq 0 \bullet (n \leq 10 \Rightarrow n^2 \leq 100)$$

$$\forall n: \mathbb{Z} \bullet ((n \geq 0 \land n \leq 10) \Rightarrow n^2 \leq 100)$$

$$\forall n: \mathbb{Z} \mid n \leq 10 \bullet (n \geq 0 \Rightarrow n^2 \leq 100)$$

Existential Quantification

$$\exists n: \mathbb{N} \mid n \leq 10 \bullet n^2 = 64$$

$$\exists n : \mathbb{N} \bullet (n \leq 10 \wedge n^2 = 64)$$

$$\exists n: \mathbb{Z} \mid n \geq 0 \bullet (n \leq 10 \land n^2 = 64)$$

$$\exists n: \mathbb{Z} \bullet (n \geq 0 \land n \leq 10 \land n^2 = 64)$$

$$\exists n: \mathbb{Z} \mid n \leq 10 \bullet (n \geq 0 \land n^2 = 64)$$

$$\exists n: \mathbb{Z} \mid (n \leq 10 \land n \geq 0) \bullet n^2 = 64$$

$$\exists n: \mathbb{Z} \mid n^2 = 64 \bullet (n \leq 10 \land n \geq 0)$$

Existential Quantifier

⋄ ∃₁ means 'there exists a unique'

$$\exists_1 x : \mathbb{N} \mid x < 10 \bullet x + 9 > 12$$

may be read as "There exists precisely one natural number x such that x is less than 10, for which it is true that x + 9 > 12"

- Example:
 - * $\exists_1 x : \mathbb{N} \bullet x = 25$ is true
 - * $\exists_1 x : \mathbb{Z} \bullet x^2 = 25$ is false

Z Types Declaration



Z Types

- When people use set theory to specify software systems, they often include some notion of types.
- Every object belongs to a set called its type.
- Z is "strongly" typed that is , every identifier must be declared.
- Z has 3 types:
 - Built-in
 - * Basic
 - Free type



Built-in Types

- In Z, the TWO built-in types used are:
 - * The set of all whole numbers (integers), \mathbb{Z} (...,-3,-2,-1,0,1,2,3,...)
 - * The set of all natural numbers, \mathbb{N} (0, 1, 2, 3, ...)
- Example:
 - $N == \{n : \mathbb{Z} \mid n \ge 0\}$ (positive integers)
 - * $\mathbb{N}_1 == \{n : \mathbb{Z} \mid n > 0\}$ (positive, non-zero, integers)
 - $* \{1, 2, 3\} \in \mathbb{P} \mathbb{Z}$

Basic Types

- A.k.a "given sets", is a basic type is a set whose internal structure is invisible.
- We may introduce elements of such a set, and associate properties with them, but we can assume nothing about the set itself.
- To represent global variables (sets) for the system without having to specify the details of those sets.
- May be written in bracket, []



Basic Types

- Can include indefinitely many elements.
- Basic types are constructed from characters with no length restriction.
 - Characters must be ALL capital letters
 - NO "_", digits, space and other symbols are allowed.
 - Use singular word, if more than one word are used, combine as one
- Example:
 - ⋄ [NAME]
 - ❖ [STUDENTNAME, STUDENTID]



Free Types

- May be written as enumerations.
- Use the symbol
 - ::= , data type definition symbol
 - , branch separator
- Example:
 - STUDENT ::= william | shilpa | harish | carolyn | amed | joel
 - COLOUR ::= violet | indigo | blue | green | yellow | orange | red
 - * POSITION ::= off | on



- * Z identifiers are constructed from letters, digits, and the "_" characters.
 - Upper and lower case are distinct
 - No length restriction
- Rules for Z identifiers:
 - * First word must be lower case letters. If combine more than one word, the rest of the words must start with upper case letters.
 - Can separate more than one words with underscores.
 - Cannot start with a digit
 - No other symbols can be used other than underscore.



Valid Z Identifiers

student

studentName

student_name

student_Name

student999

Invalid Z Identifiers

Student

STUDENT

999student

student@

StudentName



- Identifiers followed by a prime 'indicate the values of objects after the action has taken place.
- * Identifiers followed by a question mark? indicate the input values identifiers.
- * Identifiers followed by a exclamation! indicate the output values identifiers.

Type **Decoration**

Input

student?

name1?

icNo?

emailAdd?

phone?

Output

price!

total!

phone!

emailAdd!

student!

Update

login'

enrolled'

student'

price'

phone'



- In Z, the starting point of a specification is to define the basic types (given sets)
- The next step will be to define:
 - Free types
 - General rules (axiom) (called Axiomatic definition) related to the system to be specified.

- Define any global variables for the whole specification and can include optional constraints.
- Consists of two parts:

Declaration

Predicate

Example:

maxStudent: N

maxStudent = 100



If there is NO constraining predicate:

Declaration

Example:

maxQuantity: N

- Also can be used to declare global constant.
- Constants are variables that are constrained to one value.

```
minimum: N
minimum = 0
```

Global constant also can be declared with the abbreviation definition "==" symbol:

minimum == 0

Z Declaration

- Every type in Z must be introduced in a declaration.
- A name (variable) is assigned a type when it is declared.
- A variable is a name for an object: its value.
- Example:
 - stud1:STUDENT

 - jane : PERSON
 - studName : NAME



Z Declaration

[NAME]

[ID]

POSITION

- the set of all staff names in the system

- the set of all staff IDs in the system

::= admin | staff | customer

name: NAME

id: ID

pos: POSITION

price: N

(basic type – one record)

(basic type – one record)

(free type – one record)

(built-in type)

→ name: P NAME

 \rightarrow id: \mathbb{P} ID

→ pos: P POSITION

 \rightarrow price: N





- Z specifies a system using
 - 1) Mathematically defined data types (given sets), to model the data in a system.
 - Decompositions of a specification into small pieces called schemas (a boxed notation or graphical representation).
- Schema is manageably sized module where it allows the specification of:
 - a) Data that shows the representation of data in the system
 - operations that access that data



- A schema describes both static and dynamic aspects of a system.
- Static aspects include:
 - The states (or variables and constants) that a system can occupy (Individual states) - model a state as an assignment of values to a collection of named variables.
 - The invariant /constraint relationships (requirements) that are maintained as the system moves from state to state.
 - In Z, static aspects is normally shown through State space schema.



- Dynamic aspects include:
 - The operations (functions/methods) that are possible (Events)
 - The relationship between their inputs and outputs (Transformations)
 - The changes of state that happen (State Transitions) in terms of "pre" (assumptions) and "post" conditions (results/goals).
 - In Z, dynamic aspects is normally shown through Operation schema.

- Z schema consists of:
 - Abstract state schema describing the major components (state space schema).
 - 2) Schemas for initialisation
 - Operation schema describing aspects of the normal operations of the system.
- Three basic structures/elements of Z Schemas:
 - Declarations introduce variables.
 - Expressions describe values that variables can assume.
 - Predicates place constraints on the values that variables do assume.



- Each schema will be divided into 3 parts:
 - Schema Name always starts with Capital letter
 - Declaration/Signature part
 - A collection of state variables and their values (declarations)
 - Predicate/Logical part
 - Some operations that can change its state (predicates)



- The Z schema can be displayed in two ways:
 - Text form

Graphical form

_SchemaName	
Declarations	
Predicates	



Schema Name

- Always starts with Capital letter
- If two words or more are used, combine these words as one word but every word must start with a capital letter
- No symbols, no digit, no space, no underscore is allowed
 Valid Schema Name
 Invalid Schema Name
 - AddCustomer
 - Customer

- AddCustomer999
- ADDCUSTOMER
- Add_Customer



Schema Declaration / Signature

- Introduces the identifiers (or variables) and assigns them the set type
- Each line statement is "assumed" to be terminated with;
- Contains a list of variable declarations; as well as references to other schemas (this is called schema inclusion /state transitions).
- Example:
 - student : STUDENT
 - ⋄ price : N



Schema Predicate / Logical

- Refers to the identifiers in the declaration part or some global identifier in other schemas
- ❖ The predicates, when there is more than one, are logical "conjunctions", ∧, of the predicates.
- Relationship between the values of the variables
- Schema predicates are always TRUE.

State Schema

- A.k.a. State Space Schema
- The starting state where the first aspect of the system to describe is its state space.
- Refers to a minimum set of variables, known as state variables, that fully describe the system and its response to any given set of inputs.
- Describes the logic of the overall state of the system.

Initial State

- What state the system is in when it is first started.
- This is the initial state of the system, and it also is specified by a schema.
- Normally shows the initiliased values for all variables from the state space.

Z Example

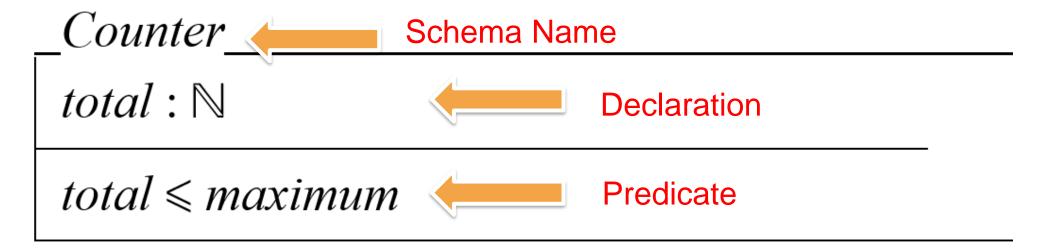
- Assume we are going to model a simple system called Counter where Counter is used to count the number of customers entering a shop for one whole day.
- The is a limit of customers who can enter the shop where the value is represented as maximum. This can be represented as a constant value.
- A Counter has one variable named as total. The variable total can be equal, but never exceed the maximum value.

Step 1: As the Counter has a constant value, we can define using Axiomatic definition. Assume that the initial value for maximum is 100.

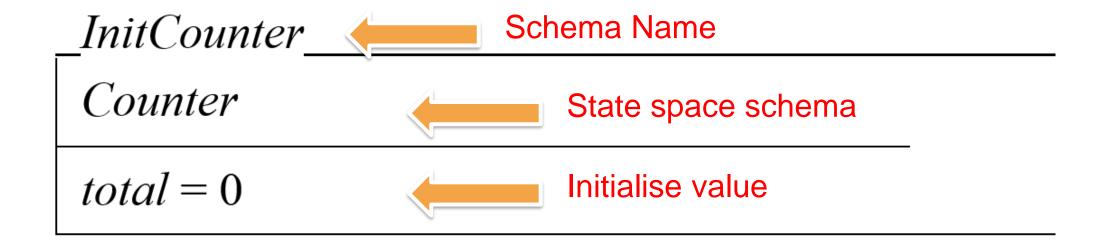
 $maximum: \mathbb{N}$

maximum = 100

Step 2: Then, create the Z state space schema for the Counter system.



 Step 3: Create the Initial state of the Counter schema called e.g. InitCounter where the initial value for total is 0.



Operation Schema

- Shows the transition/change of state that happen in terms of "pre" (assumptions) and "post" conditions (results/goals).
- Also shows remain unchanged states.
- Can be:
 - Query State operation schema
 - Change State operation schema

Query State

- Provides information about the state of the system, without changing the state.
- Shows the output of the current value (that stored data is not affected). All values remain unchanged.
- ♦ Use "Xi", denoted by the Greek literal (Ξ)

Change State

- Used to extend the schema components to indicate update operations, i.e. changes in state variables.
- At least one value will have an update/change in this operation schema.
- * Use "Delta", denoted by the Greek literal (Δ)

Pre- and Post- Conditions

- Pre-conditions are statements that must be true for the operation to be successful and post-conditions specify the result of the operation.
- A pre-condition is a predicate describing the state before.
- A post-condition is a predicate describing the state after.
- These conditions are predicates over the inputs (?) and outputs
 (!) of a function.



Pre- and Post- Conditions

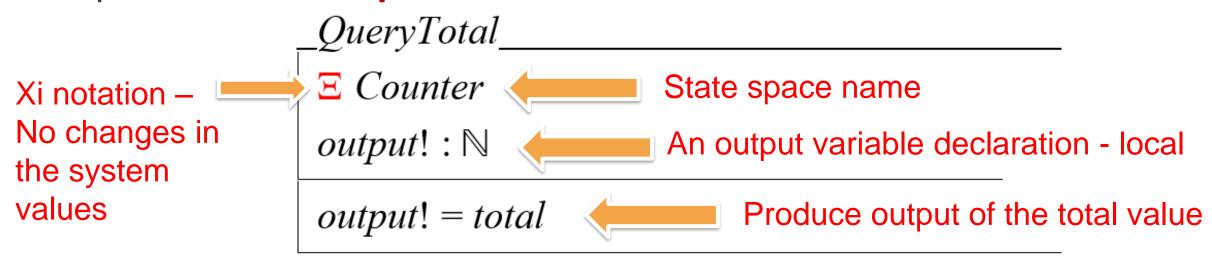
- Assume that we want to express changes to the state in one of our operation schemas.
- In order to express the changes, we need represent a state change by making two copies of the variables.
- Variables without prime symbol (') to indicate before.
- Variables with prime symbol (') to indicate after.



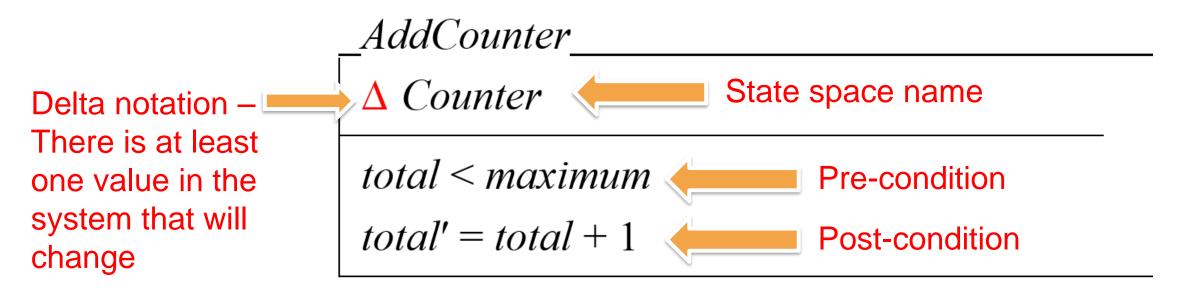
Pre- and Post- Conditions

- Predicates include:
 - * operators (such as =, >, <, not, and, or),</p>
 - * the universal and existential quantifiers, and
 - * the operator in which is used to select the range over which the quantifier applies.

- Referring to Counter system
- Step 4: Continue with the operation schema
 - Query state of the Counter schema called QueryTotal that produce the output of the current value of total.



Change state of the Counter schema called AddCounter and RemoveCounter that update the total state variable.



Z Example - Counter

Change state of the Counter schema called AddCounter and RemoveCounter that update the total state variable.

Z Exercise



- Now, let's change the Counter system so that the system can keep the customer information rather than to only count the number of customers entering a shop for one whole day.
- * Let's rename the **Counter** state space to **CountCustomer** and basic type [CUSTOMER] was defined to be used in the system.
- * A limit of customers who can enter the shop represented as maximum will still remain in the system.



Step 1: Basic type
[CUSTOMER]

Step 2: Axiomatic Definition

 $maximum: \mathbb{N}$

maximum = 100

Step 3: State Space schema called CountCustomer

 CountCustomer

 customer: \mathbb{P} CUSTOMER
 Many customers can be stored in the system

 #customer \leq maximum
 Total customers (#) cannot exceed the maximum value

Step 4: Initial state of the CountCustomer schema called InitCountCustomer where the customer is empty.

_InitCountCustomer		
CountCustomer		State space name
customer = Ø		Customer record is empty

- Step 5 : Operation Schema
 - Query state of the CountCustomer schema called QueryCustomer that produce the output of the current total of customers in the shop.

QueryCustomer

ECountCustomer

total!: N

- Change state of the CountCustomer schema called
 - * AddCustomer
 - UpdateCustomer
 - RemoveCustomer

that update the *CountCustomer* system state variable.

AddCustomer △ CountCustomer cust? : CUSTOMER Input of the new customer The new customer must not exist in cust? ∉ customer the system Total customers (#) must be less #customer < maximum than the maximum value Add the new customer $customer' = customer \cup \{cust?\}$ into the system



UpdateCustomer ∆CountCustomer

cust? : CUSTOMER



Input of the customer

cust? ∈ *customer*



The customer must exist in the system

Update the record of $customer' = customer \oplus \{cust?\}$ the customer



RemoveCustomer

△ CountCustomer

cust? : CUSTOMER



Input of the customer

cust? ∈ *customer*



The customer must exist in the system

 $customer' = customer \setminus \{cust?\}$ Remove the record of the customer



Consider a scenario concerning recording the passengers boarding an aircraft. There are NO seat numbers allocated and passengers are allowed to board on a first-come-first-served basis. The only basic type involved is the set of all possible passengers, *PERSON*:

[PERSON]

The aircraft has a fixed capacity:

 \mid capacity: \mathbb{N}



Given to you the state of the set of passengers on board the aircraft where the number of passengers on board must never exceed the capacity.

State space schema:

_Aircraft_____

 $onboard: \mathbb{P}\ PERSON$

 $\#onboard \leq capacity$

Write the initial state for the system where the aircraft is empty.

Write the boarding state for the system called *BoardAircraft* to allow a passenger p? to board the aircraft where p? is of type PERSON.

Write the disembarking state called *DisembarkAircraft* to allow a passenger p? to disembark from the aircraft where p? is of type PERSON.

Write a query state for the system called *TotalOnboard* to discover the total number of passengers who are on board.

- Consider a specification of a system used to record staff members who go inside and outside of a building.
- We are given a basic type called STAFF.

[STAFF]

There is a limit of staff who can be in the building, where this will be represented as capacity.

 $capacity: \mathbb{N}$

- The state space schema called LogStaff consists of three variables:
 - user the set of all staff members in the system
 - * in the set of staff members who are currently inside the building
 - out the set of staff members who are currently outside the building
 - The predicate part (invariants) of the system where:
 - No staff member can be simultaneously inside and outside the building
 - *The set of users of the system is exactly the union of those who are inside and those who are outside.
 - *Those who are inside the building cannot exceed the capacity.



State space schema:

LogStaff $user, in, out : \mathbb{P} STAFF$

$$in \cap out = \emptyset$$

$$in \cup out = user$$

The system would be initialised so that all sets are empty.

InitLogStaff LogStaff

$$user = \emptyset$$

$$in = \emptyset$$

$$out = \emptyset$$

InitLogStaff LogStaff

 $user = \emptyset$

- Write an operation called ReportIn to report a staff member goes inside the building where:
 - The staff member to be reported in must be currently outside.
 - The total number of staff inside the building must be lesser that the limit.
 - The staff member will be added to the set in
 - The staff member will be removed from the set out
 - The overall set of users remains unchanged



- Write an operation called ReportOut to report a staff member goes outside the building where:
 - The staff member to be reported out must be currently inside the building.
 - The staff member will be added to the set out
 - The staff member will be removed from the set in
 - The overall set of users remains unchanged



Summary

- In conclusion, this lecture described about Z language and the fundamental concepts of Z using sets.
- Z identifiers also was explained in this lecture.
- Furthermore, Z specification including the Z declarations, Z predicates and Z schemas was discussed in detailed.

THANK YOU!!

