

INTRODUCTION TO Z SPECIFICATIONS

Formal Methods

BCS 2213

Semester 2 Session 2013/2014

What is Z

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- First off – its pronounced Zed
 - ▣ After the Zermelo-Fränkel set theory
- Z is based on the mathematical notation used in axiomatic set theory, lambda calculus and first order predicate logic.
- It has been developed by the Programming Research Group at the Oxford University Computing Laboratory and elsewhere since the middle of 1980.

What is Z

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- *Z – is a modelling notation.*
- Can be used to model the behavior of a system.
- Model the system by representing its *state* (a collection of *state variables* and their values) and *operations* that may change the state.
- Z is just a notation, it is not a method.
- Can support many different methods.

Z is....

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- Z is not software or executable code.
- Describe “what” the system must do without saying “how” it is to be done.
- Can be used to represent structure of software code: data types, procedures, functions, modules, classes, objects etc.
- Z is suitable for
 - ▣ Procedural programming language
 - ▣ Functional approach
 - ▣ Object-oriented programming. There are some object oriented languages that extend Z (Object-Z, Z++)

Z is...

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- Designed for people not machines
- Z Notation is a mixture of boxes, text, Greek letters and invented pictorial symbols.
- Includes two notations
 - ▣ Notation to express ordinary discrete mathematics
 - ▣ Notation to structure mathematical text (*schema*).
- Problems with Z notation
 - ▣ Z notation uses many non-ASCII symbols
 - ▣ The specification includes suggestions for rendering the Z notation symbols in ASCII as well as LaTeX.

Z Mathematical tool-kit

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- Consist of a small core, supplemented by large collection of useful objects and operators.
- Collection of mathematical theories: definitions and laws concerning objects such as sets, tuples, relations, functions, sequences and their operators.
- Plays the same role as standard library of types and functions in programming.
- Sample of Z Mathematical tool-kit :
<http://staff.washington.edu/jon/z/toolkit.html>

How To Model A System

- Explicitly describes behavior in terms of mathematical types (set, sequences, relations, functions) & defines operations
- Z specification includes
 - types - syntax of object being specified
 - invariants - properties of modeled object
 - pre/post conditions – semantics of operations
- Z decomposes specifications into manageably sized module's, called schemas. Schemas are divided into 3 parts:
 - A State
 - A collection of *state variables* and their values
 - There are also *operations* that can change its state

How To Model Static and Dynamic Aspects

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□ Static aspects

- ▣ The *states* that a system can occupy.
- ▣ The *invariant relationships* that are maintained as the system moves from state to state.

□ Dynamic aspects

- ▣ The *operations* that are possible.
- ▣ The *relationship* between their inputs and outputs.
- ▣ The *changes* of state that happen.

How to Specify Static Aspects?

Use *schemas* - math in a box with a name - to describe the state space (state variables and invariants).

_____ Name of schema _____

Declaration of state variables.

_____ Invariant relationship between values of the variables _____

The Birthday Book Example

- This example will allow you to do 3 things:
 - ▣ Add a person's name and birthday
 - ▣ Store that information
 - ▣ Find a birthday by name
 - ▣ Find a name by given date of birthday
- One possible state of the system has three people in the set **known**, with their birthdays recorded by the function **birthday**:
 - known = { John, Mike, Susan }
 - birthday = { John → 25-Mar,
Mike → 20-Dec,
Susan → 20-Dec }

Example: Birthday Book

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- BirthdayBook schema for recording people's birthdays
 - ▣ known: set of names with birthdays recorded
 - ▣ birthday: function from names to birthdays
 - ▣ Q: What does the **invariant** say?

BirthdayBook _____

known : $\mathbb{P} \text{ NAME}$

birthday : $\text{NAME} \rightarrow \text{DATE}$

known = dom *birthday*

[NAME; DATE] are basic types of the specification

Example: Birthday Book

□ One possible state

$known = \{\text{John, Mike, Susan}\}$
 $birthday = \{\text{John} \mapsto \text{25-Mar},$
 $\text{Mike} \mapsto \text{20-Dec},$
 $\text{Susan} \mapsto \text{20-Dec}\}$

<i>BirthdayBook</i>	
$known : \mathbb{P} \text{ NAME}$	
$birthday : \text{NAME} \leftrightarrow \text{DATE}$	
$known = \text{dom } birthday$	

□ Stated properties

- ▣ No limit on the number of birthdays recorded
- ▣ No premature decision about the format of names and dates
- ▣ Q: How many birthday can a person have?
- ▣ Q: Does everyone have a birthday?
- ▣ Q: Can two persons share the same birthday?

State Schema: More Examples

- Simple text editor with limited memory
- Editor state modeled by two state variables, the texts to the left and right of the cursor

[CHAR]

TEXT == seq CHAR

maxsize: \mathbb{N}
maxsize ≤ 65535

Editor
left, right: TEXT
(left \frown right) \leq maxsize

How to Specify Dynamic Aspects?

- Use schemas to describe operations, *relationship* between their inputs (?) and outputs (!), *changes* of state that happen.
- Example: AddBirthday
 - ▣ Q: What're inputs, outputs, and the state components?
 - ▣ Q: What's the pre and post-conditions?
 - ▣ Q: What's the meaning of operations?

AddBirthday

$\Delta BirthdayBook$

name? : *NAME*

date? : *DATE*

name? \notin *known*

birthday' = *birthday* \cup $\{name? \mapsto date?\}$

Δ And Ξ Notations

- ▣ Δ *BirthdayBook* state change of *BirthdayBook*
- ▣ Ξ *BirthdayBook* no state change of *BirthdayBook*

AddBirthday

Δ *BirthdayBook*

name? : *NAME*

date? : *DATE*

name? \notin *known*

birthday' = *birthday* \cup {*name?* \mapsto *date?*}

BirthdayBook

known : \mathbb{P} *NAME*

birthday : *NAME* \leftrightarrow *DATE*

known = dom *birthday*

More Example: *FindBirthday*

- Use of \exists notation
- Specify no state change

FindBirthday

\exists *BirthdayBook*

name? : *NAME*

date! : *DATE*

name? \in *known*

date! = *birthday*(*name?*)

More Example: *Remind*

- Use of set comprehension notation
 - ▣ Selection ($|$) vs. collection (\bullet)
- Q: What does it return?

Remind

\exists *BirthdayBook*

today? : *DATE*

cards! : \mathbb{P} *NAME*

$cards! = \{ n : known \mid birthday(n) = today? \}$

More Example: *InitBirthdayBook*

- Describes the *initial state* of the system
- By convention, use *Init* as prefix

InitBirthdayBook

BirthdayBook

known = \emptyset

Stating and Proving Properties

□ E.g., $\text{known}' = \text{known} \cup \{\text{name?}\}$

known'
 $= \text{dom } \text{birthday}'$ (invariant after)
 $= \text{dom}(\text{birthday} \cup \{\text{name?} \mapsto \text{date?}\})$
 (specification of *AddBirthday*)
 $= \text{dom } \text{birthday} \cup \text{dom } \{\text{name?} \mapsto \text{date?}\}$
 (fact about 'dom')
 $= \text{dom } \text{birthday} \cup \{\text{name?}\}$ (fact about 'dom')
 $= \text{known} \cup \{\text{name?}\}$ (invariant before)

BirthdayBook

$\text{known} : \mathbb{P} \text{ NAME}$
 $\text{birthday} : \text{NAME} \leftrightarrow \text{DATE}$

$\text{known} = \text{dom } \text{birthday}$

AddBirthday

$\Delta \text{BirthdayBook}$
 $\text{name?} : \text{NAME}$
 $\text{date?} : \text{DATE}$

$\text{name?} \notin \text{known}$
 $\text{birthday}' = \text{birthday} \cup \{\text{name?} \mapsto \text{date?}\}$

Operators

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Λ (Conjunction of the two predicate parts) – any common variables of the two schemas are merged

\mathbf{V} (the effect of the schema operator is to make a schema in which the predicate part is the result of joining the predicate parts of its two arguments with the logical connective \mathbf{V}).

Logical Conjunction Operator

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The conjunction operator \wedge of the schema calculus allows us to combine this description with our previous description of *AddBirthday*

AddBirthday \wedge *Success*

This describes an operation which, for correct input, both acts as described by *AddBirthday* and produces the result *ok*.

More Examples

- Strengthening specifications by making partial operations total.
- Q: How to make *AddBirthday* total?

AddBirthday

$\Delta BirthdayBook$

name? : *NAME*

date? : *DATE*

name? \notin *known*

birthday' = *birthday* \cup {*name?* \mapsto *date?*}

Strengthening *AddBirthday*

$REPORT ::= ok \mid already_known$

$Success$	$result! : REPORT$
	$result! = ok$
$AlreadyKnown$	$\exists BirthdayBook$
	$name? : NAME$
	$result! : REPORT$
	$name? \in known$
	$result! = already_known$

$RAddBirthday \triangleq$
 $(AddBirthday \wedge Success) \vee AlreadyKnown$

RAddBirthday

$RAddBirthday \triangleq$
 $(AddBirthday \wedge Success) \vee AlreadyKnown$

$RAddBirthday$ _____

$\Delta BirthdayBook$

$name? : NAME$

$date? : DATE$

$result! : REPORT$

$(name? \notin known \wedge$
 $birthday' = birthday \cup \{name? \mapsto date?\} \wedge$
 $result! = ok) \vee$
 $(name? \in known \wedge$
 $birthday' = birthday \wedge$
 $result! = already_known)$

Notice the framing
constraint. Why?

Strengthening *FindBirthday* and *Remind*

FindBirthday

$\exists \text{BirthdayBook}$

$\text{name?} : \text{NAME}$

$\text{date!} : \text{DATE}$

$\text{name?} \in \text{known}$

$\text{date!} = \text{birthday}(\text{name?})$

Remind

$\exists \text{BirthdayBook}$

$\text{today?} : \text{DATE}$

$\text{cards!} : \mathbb{P} \text{ NAME}$

$\text{cards!} = \{ n : \text{known} \mid \text{birthday}(n) = \text{today?} \}$

RFindBirthday and *RRemind*

$REPORT ::= ok \mid already_known \mid not_known$

<i>NotKnown</i>	_____
$\exists BirthdayBook$	
$name? : NAME$	
$result! : REPORT$	
$name? \notin known$	
$result! = not_known$	

$RFindBirthday \triangleq (FindBirthday \wedge Success) \vee NotKnown$

$RRemind \triangleq Remind \wedge Success$

Schema Calculus

- Modularize specifications by building large schemas from smaller ones, e.g.,
 - ▣ Separating normal operations from error handling
 - ▣ Separating access restrictions from functional behaviors
 - ▣ Promoting and framing operations, e.g., reading named a file from reading a file
 - ▣ ...
- => Separation of concerns

□ How?

Provide operations for combining schemas, e.g.,

$$S_1 \wedge S_2$$

where S_1 and S_2 are schemas

Schema Calculus

- Schema operator for every logical connective and quantifier
- Conjunction and disjunction are most useful
- Merge declarations and combine predicates,

$$S_1 \triangleq [D_1 \mid C_1]$$

$$S_2 \triangleq [D_2 \mid C_2]$$

$$S_1 \wedge S_2 \equiv [D_1; D_2 \mid C_1 \wedge C_2]$$

Example

Quotient

$n, d, q, r: \mathbb{N}$

$d \neq 0$

$n = q * d + r$

Remainder

$r, d: \mathbb{N}$

$r < d$

Division \triangleq Quotient \wedge Remainder

Division

$n, d, q, r: \mathbb{N}$

$d \neq 0$

$r < d$

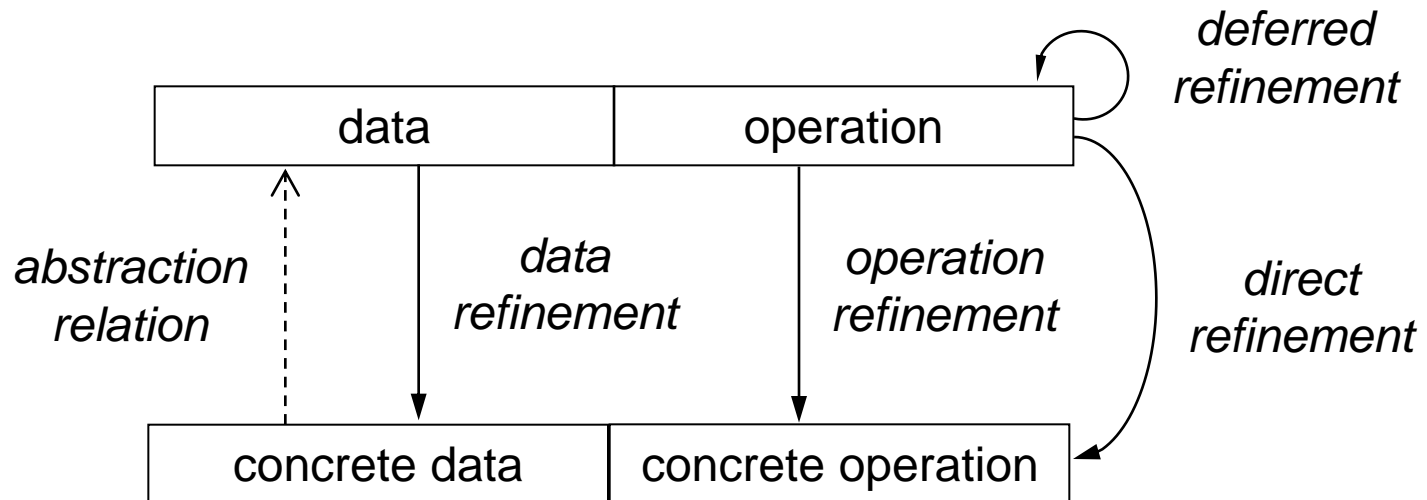
$n = q * d + r$

Refinement---From Specification to Designs and Implementation

- Previously, Z to specify a software module
- Now, Z to document the design of a programs
- Key idea: *data refinement*
 - ▣ Describe concrete data structures (\leftrightarrow abstract data in specification)
 - ▣ Derive descriptions of operations in terms of concrete data structures
 - ▣ Often data refinement leads to *operation refinement* or *algorithm development*

Specification Refinement

- Done in a single or multiple steps
- Referred to as direct refinement and deferred refinement



Implementation of Birthday Book

- Expressive clarity in abstract data structure
- Efficiency and representation in concrete data structure
- One possible representation

NAME[] names;

DATE[] dates;

- Q: Any better representation in Java?

BirthdayBook

known : \mathbb{P} *NAME*

birthday : *NAME* \leftrightarrow *DATE*

known = dom *birthday*

Concrete State Model, *BirthdayBook1*

- Arrays modeled mathematically modeled as functions:

$names : \mathbb{N}_1 \rightarrow NAME$

$dates : \mathbb{N}_1 \rightarrow DATE$

- I.e., $names[i]$ as $names(i)$ and $names[i] = v$ as

$$names' = names \oplus \{i \mapsto v\}$$

<i>BirthdayBook1</i>
$names : \mathbb{N}_1 \rightarrow NAME$
$dates : \mathbb{N}_1 \rightarrow DATE$
$hwm : \mathbb{N}$
$\forall i, j : 1..hwm \bullet$
$i \neq j \Rightarrow names(i) \neq names(j)$

Abstraction Relation, *Abs*

- Relation between abstract state space and concrete state space, e.g., *BirthdayBook* and *BirthdayBook1*
- Q: Why abstract relation?

<i>Abs</i>	
<i>BirthdayBook</i>	
<i>BirthdayBook1</i>	
<hr/>	
$known = \{ i : 1..hwm \bullet names(i) \}$	
$\forall i : 1..hwm \bullet$	
$birthday(names(i)) = dates(i)$	

<i>BirthdayBook</i>
$known : \mathbb{P} NAME$
$birthday : NAME \leftrightarrow DATE$
<hr/>
$known = \text{dom } birthday$

<i>BirthdayBook1</i>
$names : \mathbb{N}_1 \rightarrow NAME$
$dates : \mathbb{N}_1 \rightarrow DATE$
$hwm : \mathbb{N}$
<hr/>
$\forall i, j : 1..hwm \bullet$
$i \neq j \Rightarrow names(i) \neq names(j)$

Operation Refinement, *AddBirthday1*

- Manipulate *names* and *dates* arrays

AddBirthday1

$\Delta \text{BirthdayBook1}$

$\text{name?} : \text{NAME}$

$\text{date?} : \text{DATE}$

$\forall i : 1..hwm \bullet \text{name?} \neq \text{names}(i)$

$hwm' = hwm + 1$

$\text{names}' = \text{names} \oplus \{hwm' \mapsto \text{name?}\}$

$\text{dates}' = \text{dates} \oplus \{hwm' \mapsto \text{date?}\}$

BirthdayBook1

$\text{names} : \mathbb{N}_1 \rightarrow \text{NAME}$

$\text{dates} : \mathbb{N}_1 \rightarrow \text{DATE}$

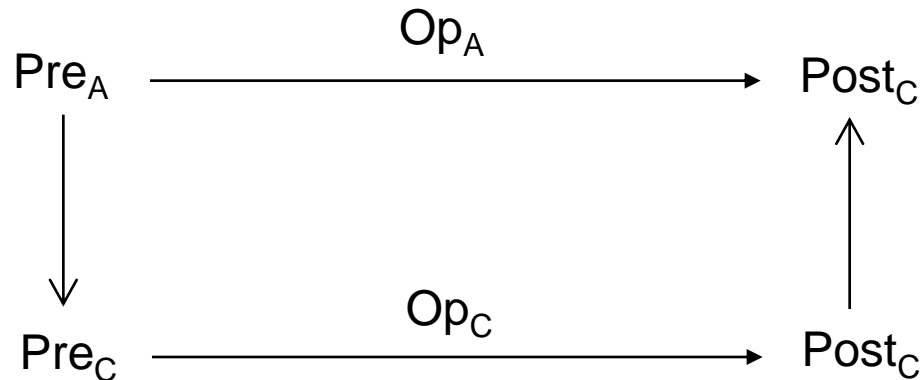
$hwm : \mathbb{N}$

$\forall i, j : 1..hwm \bullet$

$i \neq j \Rightarrow \text{names}(i) \neq \text{names}(j)$

Correctness of Operation Refinement

- Whenever *AddBirthday* is legal in some abstract state, the implementation *AddBirthday1* is legal in any corresponding concrete state, i.e., $\text{Pre}_A \Rightarrow \text{Pre}_C$
- The final state which results from *AddBirthday1* represents an abstract state which *AddBirthday* could produce, i.e., $\text{Post}_C \Rightarrow \text{Post}_A$



Correctness of *AddBirthday1*

- $\text{Pre}_A \Rightarrow \text{Pre}_C$, i.e., $\text{name?} \notin \text{known} \quad \forall i:1..hwm \bullet \text{name?} \neq \text{names}(i)$
- Does this hold? Yes, because:

$$\text{known} = \{ i:1..hwm \bullet \text{names}(i) \}$$

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"><i>AddBirthday</i></div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">$\Delta \text{BirthdayBook}$</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">$\text{name?} : \text{NAME}$</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">$\text{date?} : \text{DATE}$</div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;">$\text{name?} \notin \text{known}$</div> <div style="margin-top: 5px;">$\text{birthday}' = \text{birthday} \cup \{ \text{name?} \mapsto \text{date?} \}$</div> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"><i>AddBirthday1</i></div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">$\Delta \text{BirthdayBook1}$</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">$\text{name?} : \text{NAME}$</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">$\text{date?} : \text{DATE}$</div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;">$\forall i:1..hwm \bullet \text{name?} \neq \text{names}(i)$</div> <div style="margin-top: 5px;">$hwm' = hwm + 1$</div> <div style="margin-top: 5px;">$\text{names}' = \text{names} \oplus \{ hwm' \mapsto \text{name?} \}$</div> <div style="margin-top: 5px;">$\text{dates}' = \text{dates} \oplus \{ hwm' \mapsto \text{date?} \}$</div> </div>
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Correctness of *AddBirthday1*

- $\text{Post}_C \Rightarrow \text{Post}_A$
 - Read the proof (p. 46)
- $\text{Abs}(\text{Post}_C) \Rightarrow \text{Post}_A$

AddBirthday
$\Delta \text{BirthdayBook}$ $name? : NAME$ $date? : DATE$
$name? \notin \text{known}$ $\text{birthday}' = \text{birthday} \cup \{name? \mapsto date?\}$

AddBirthday1
$\Delta \text{BirthdayBook1}$ $name? : NAME$ $date? : DATE$
$\forall i : 1..hwm \bullet name? \neq \text{names}(i)$ $hwm' = hwm + 1$ $\text{names}' = \text{names} \oplus \{hwm' \mapsto name?\}$ $\text{dates}' = \text{dates} \oplus \{hwm' \mapsto date?\}$

Implementation of *AddBirthday1*

```
void addBirthday(NAME name, DATE date) {  
    hwm++;  
    names[hwm] = name;  
    dates[hwm] = date;  
}
```

AddBirthday1

$\Delta BirthdayBook1$

name? : *NAME*

date? : *DATE*

$\forall i : 1..hwm \bullet name? \neq names(i)$

$hwm' = hwm + 1$

$names' = names \oplus \{hwm' \mapsto name?\}$

$dates' = dates \oplus \{hwm' \mapsto date?\}$

Refinement of *FindBirthday*

FindBirthday1

$\exists \text{BirthdayBook1}$

$\text{name?} : \text{NAME}$

$\text{date!} : \text{DATE}$

$\exists i : 1..hwm \bullet$

$\text{name?} = \text{names}(i) \wedge \text{date!} = \text{dates}(i)$

BirthdayBook1

$\text{names} : \mathbb{N}_1 \rightarrow \text{NAME}$

$\text{dates} : \mathbb{N}_1 \rightarrow \text{DATE}$

$\text{hwm} : \mathbb{N}$

$\forall i, j : 1..hwm \bullet$

$i \neq j \Rightarrow \text{names}(i) \neq \text{names}(j)$

Refinement of *Remind*

Remind1

$\exists \text{BirthdayBook1}$

$\text{today?} : \text{DATE}$

$\text{cardlist!} : \mathbb{N}_1 \rightarrow \text{NAME}$

$\text{ncards!} : \mathbb{N}$

$\{ i : 1..ncards! \bullet \text{cardlist!}(i) \}$
 $= \{ j : 1..hwm \mid \text{dates}(j) = \text{today?} \bullet \text{names}(j) \}$

AbsCards

$\text{cards} : \mathbb{P} \text{NAME}$

$\text{cardlist} : \mathbb{N}_1 \rightarrow \text{NAME}$

$\text{ncards} : \mathbb{N}$

$\text{cards} = \{ i : 1..ncards \bullet \text{cardlist}(i) \}$

Refinement of *InitBirthdayBook*

<i>InitBirthdayBook1</i>	_____
<i>BirthdayBook1</i>	
<i>hwm</i> = 0	

Race condition

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We have not handled the condition when user tries to add a birthday, which is already known to the system, or tries to find the birthday of someone not known.

Handle this by adding an extra result! To each operation.

Result := of | already_known | not_known

Success

Result! : REPORT

Result! = ok

Logical Disjunction operator

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\equiv AlreadyKnown

≡ BirthdayBook

name? : NAME

result?: REPORT

Name? \in known

Result! = already_known

This declaration specifies that if error occurs, the state of the system should not change.

Robust version of AddBirthday can be

$RAddBirthday = (AddBirthday \wedge Success) \vee Alreadyknown$

Use of Operators

— RAdd Birthday —

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Δ Birthday Book

name?: NAME

date?: DATE

result!: REPORT

$(\text{name?} \notin \text{known} \wedge$

$\text{birthday}' = \text{birthday} \cup \{\text{name?} \rightarrow \text{Date?}\} \wedge$

$\text{result!} = \text{ok}) \vee$

$(\text{name?} \in \text{known} \wedge$

$\text{birthday}' = \text{birthday} \wedge$

$\text{result!} = \text{already_known})$

From specification to design

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Data Refinement

“ to describe the concrete data structures which the program will use to represent the abstract data in the specification, and to derive description of the operation in terms of the concrete data structures”

Direct Refinement: method to go directly from abstract specification to program in one step

Data Refinement

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Data Structures:

Two arrays : names [1...] of NAME

dates [1...] of DATES

$\text{names}' = \text{names} \oplus \{i \longrightarrow v\}$; $\text{names}[i] := v$ the
right side of this equation is a function which takes
the same value as names everywhere except at the
argument i , where it takes the value 'v'.

Example(Data and Direct Refinement)

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FindBirthday1

\equiv BirthdayBook1

name?:NAME

date?:DATE

$\exists i : 1.. hwm$
 $name? = names(i) \wedge date! = dates(i)$

```
Procedure FindBirthday(name: NAME; var date : DATE);  
    var i: INTEGER;  
begin  
    i:=1;  
    while names[i]  $\neq$  name do i := i+1;  
    dates := dates[i]  
end;
```


Features Notation

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- Is used to verify the specification
- Independent of program code
- Mathematical data model
- Allow to model a specification which can directly lead to the code.
- Represent both static and dynamic aspects of a system

Features Notation

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- ❑ Decompose specification into small pieces (Schemas)
- ❑ Schemas are used to describe both static and dynamic aspects of a system
- ❑ Data Refinement
- ❑ Direct Refinement
- ❑ You can ignore details in order to focus on the aspects of the problem you are interested in
- ❑ ISO standard, ISO/IEC 13568:2002