

A Declarative Semantics for SNOMED CT Expression Constraints

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1 Axiomatic Data Types

1.1 Atomic Data Types

This section identifies the atomic data types that are assumed for the rest of this specification, specifically:

- **SCTID** – a SNOMED CT identifier
- **TERM** – a fully specified name, preferred term or synonym for a SNOMED CT Concept
- **REAL** – a real number
- **STRING** – a string literal
- **GROUP** – a role group identifier
- \mathbb{N} – a non-negative integer
- \mathbb{Z} – an integer

We also introduce several synonyms for *SCTID*:

- **SUBJECT** – a *SCTID* that appears in the *sourceId* position of a relationship.
- **ATTRIBUTE** – a *SCTID* that appears in the *typeId* position of a relationship.
- **OBJECT** – a *SCTID* that appears in the *destinationId* position of a relationship.
- **REFSETID** – a *SCTID* that identifies a reference set

[*SCTID*, *TERM*, *REAL*, *STRING*, *GROUP*]

SUBJECT == *SCTID*

ATTRIBUTE == *SCTID*

OBJECT == *SCTID*

REFSETID == *SCTID*

1.2 Composite Data Types

While we can't fully specify the behavior of the concrete data types portion of the specification at this point, it is still useful to spell out the anticipated behavior on an abstract level.

- **CONCRETEVALUE** – a string, integer or real literal
- **TARGET** – the target of a relationship that is either an OBJECT or a CONCRETEVALUE

$CONCRETEVALUE ::= string\langle\langle STRING \rangle\rangle \mid integer\langle\langle Z \rangle\rangle \mid real\langle\langle REAL \rangle\rangle$
 $TARGET ::= object\langle\langle OBJECT \rangle\rangle \mid concrete\langle\langle CONCRETEVALUE \rangle\rangle$

2 The Substrate

A substrate represents the context of an interpretation. A substrate consists of:

- **c** The set of *SCTIDs* (concepts) that are considered valid in the context of the substrate. **References to any *SCTID* that is not a member of this set MUST be treated as an error.**
- **a** The set of *SCTIDs* that are considered to be valid attributes in the context of the substrate. **Reference to any *ATTRIBUTE* that is not a member of this set MUST be treated as an error.**
- **r** A set of relationship quads (subject, attribute, target, group)
- **descs** The subsumption (ISA) closure from general to specific (descendants)
- **ancs** The subsumption (ISA) closure from specific to general (ancestors)
- **refset** The reference sets within the context of the substrate whose members are members are concept identifiers (i.e. are in *c*). While not formally spelled out in this specification, it is assumed that the typical reference set function would be returning a subset of the *refsetId/referencedComponentId* tuples represented in one or more RF2 Refset Distribution tables.

Issue: this is currently the simplest possible kind of Substrate; it represents the DNF form of SNOMED CT with concepts only (i.e., *Expressions* and *Expression Libraries* are not supported).

Issue: this is a *flat* representation (fixed to 1 level of nesting corresponding to role grouping) and does not properly handle Concrete Domains (which almost always involve additional nesting)

Open questions: While the Core will not contain cycles, and probably NRC Extensions will not, arbitrary extensions (e.g. as a result of handling Expression libraries) may involve cycles (or at least equivalent concepts).

- **Resolution:** A reflexive, symmetric equivalence relationship (*equiv*) was added to the substrate. How it is determined is left unspecified, but a rule was added saying that an equivalent concept can not be a descendant of its equivalence.
- Is it correct to interpret the transitive closure directly against the substrate relationships (*r*) set or is there an implication of a reasoner being invoked somewhere, which could potentially render the transitive closure as logically derived from (*r*). **Answer:** If substrate includes postcoordinated expressions then subsumption would need to be calculated. **Followup:**

How does one know whether it includes postcoordinated expressions? How do we express this decision formally?

- Do we want to assert that it is an error to use a non-attribute concept in a attribute position? If not, should we explicitly include a formal definition of the attribute set? **Answer:** Because the ECL doesn't declare this as an error condition, we shouldn't assert in the Z spec. **Resolution:** $a = \text{descs linkage_concept}$ assertion pulled from the substrate declaration.

2.1 Substrate Components

Quad Relationships in the substrate are represented a 4 element tuples or "Quads", which consist of a subject, attribute, target and role group identifier.

<i>Quad</i>
$s : SUBJECT$
$a : ATTRIBUTE$
$t : TARGET$
$g : GROUP$

We will also need to recognize some "well known" identifiers: the *is_a* attribute, the *zero_group* and *linkage_concept*, the parent of all attributes

$is_a : ATTRIBUTE$
$zero_group : GROUP$
$linkage_concept : SCTID$

2.2 Substrate

The formal definition of substrate follows, where *c* and *r* are given and the remainder are derived. The expressions below assert that:

1. All subjects and attributes and targets of type *object* in *r* must be members of the set of concepts, *c*. All attributes are also members of *a*.
2. The is_a relation is irreflexive.
3. *childOf* is a function from a concept in *c* to the set of concepts that are the source of *c* in an *is_a* relationship in the *zero_group*
4. *parentOf* is a function from a concept *c* to the set of concepts that are the target of *c* in an *is_a* relationship in the *zero_group*
5. *parentOf* and *childOf* are irreflexive.
6. The *equiv* relationship is symmetric and reflexive.
7. The ancestors function, *ancs*, is the *irreflexive* transitive closure of the *childOf* relationship.

8. The descendants function, *descs*, is the *irreflexive* transitive closure of the inverse of the *parentOf* relationship.
9. The descendants relationship must not contain any concepts that are declared as equivalent to the root.
10. The reference set function is a function from *subset of c* to set of SCTID's in *c*. A SCTID that is not in the domain of *refset* cannot appear as the target of a *memberOf* function

<i>Substrate</i>
$c : \mathbb{P} \text{ SCTID}$ $r : \mathbb{P} \text{ Quad}$ $a : \mathbb{P} c$ $descs : c \rightarrow \mathbb{P} c$ $ancs : c \rightarrow \mathbb{P} c$ $equiv : c \leftrightarrow c$ $refset : \text{REFSETID} \rightarrow \mathbb{P} c$ $childOf : c \rightarrow \mathbb{P} c$ $parentOf : c \rightarrow \mathbb{P} c$
$\forall rel : r \bullet rel.s \in c \wedge rel.p \in c \wedge object\ rel.t \in c \wedge rel.p \in a$ $\forall conc : c; g : \text{GROUP} \bullet (c, is_a, c, g) \notin r$ $\forall s : c; d : \mathbb{P} c \bullet childOf\ s = \{d : c \mid (s, is_a, d, zero_group) \in r\}$ $\forall d : c; s : \mathbb{P} c \bullet parentOf\ d = \{s : c \mid (s, is_a, d, zero_group) \in r\}$ $\forall x : c \bullet (x \mapsto x) \in equiv$ $\forall x_1, x_2 : c \bullet x_1 \mapsto x_2 \in equiv \Leftrightarrow x_2 \mapsto x_1 \in equiv$ $descs = childOf^+$ $ancs = parentOf^+$ $\forall r : equiv \bullet first\ r \in \text{dom}\ descs \Rightarrow second\ r \notin descs\ r$ $\text{dom}\ refset \subseteq c$

3 Result

The result of applying a query against a substrate is either a (possibly empty) set of SCTID's or an *ERROR*.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{ERROR} &::= \text{unknownOperation} \mid \text{unknownConceptReference} \mid \\
 &\quad \text{unknownPredicate} \mid \text{unknownRefsetId} \\
 \text{Result} &::= ok \langle \mathbb{P} \text{ SCTID} \rangle \mid error \langle \text{ERROR} \rangle
 \end{aligned}$$

4 Interpretation of Intermediate Constructs

This section carries the interpretation of the intermediate constructs – the various forms of expressions and their combinations.

4.1 expressionConstraint

```
expressionConstraint =
  ( refinedExpressionConstraint / unrefinedExpressionConstraint )
```

4.1.1 Interpretation

The interpretation of `expressionConstraint` the interpretation of the `refinedExpressionConstraint` or the `unrefinedExpressionConstraint`.

```
expressionConstraint ::=
  ecrec⟨⟨refinedExpressionConstraint⟩⟩ |
  ecurec⟨⟨unrefinedExpressionConstraint⟩⟩
```

```
i_expressionConstraint :
  Substrate → expressionConstraint → Result

∀ ss : Substrate; ec : expressionConstraint • i_expressionConstraint ss ec =
  if ecrec~ec ∈ refinedExpressionConstraint
  then i_refinedExpressionConstraint ss (ecrec~ec)
  else if ecurec~ec ∈ unrefinedExpressionConstraint
  then i_unrefinedExpressionConstraint ss (ecurec~ec)
  else error unknownOperation
```

4.1.2 unrefinedExpressionConstraint

An `unrefinedExpressionConstraint` is either a `compoundExpressionConstraint` or a `simpleExpressionConstraint`

```
unrefinedExpressionConstraint =
  compoundExpressionConstraint / simpleExpressionConstraint
```

```
unrefinedExpressionConstraint ::=
  ucec⟨⟨compoundExpressionConstraint⟩⟩ |
  usec⟨⟨simpleExpressionConstraint⟩⟩
```

$i_unrefinedExpressionConstraint :$ $Substrate \rightarrow unrefinedExpressionConstraint \rightarrow Result$
$\forall ss : Substrate; uec : unrefinedExpressionConstraint \bullet$ $i_unrefinedExpressionConstraint ss uec =$ if $uec \sim uec \in compoundExpressionConstraint$ then $i_compoundExpressionConstraint ss (uec \sim uec)$ else if $uec \sim uec \in simpleExpressionConstraint$ then $i_simpleExpressionConstraint ss (uec \sim uec)$ else $error\ unknownOperation$

4.1.3 refinedExpressionConstraint

```
refinedExpressionConstraint =
    unrefinedExpressionConstraint ":" refinement /
    "(" refinedExpressionConstraint ")"
```

The interpretation of **refinedExpressionConstraint** is the intersection of the interpretation of the **unrefinedExpressionConstraint** and the **refinement**, both of which return a set of SCTID's or an error.

The interpretation of the second option adds no value.

$$refinedExpressionConstraint == unrefinedExpressionConstraint \times refinement$$

$i_refinedExpressionConstraint :$ $Substrate \rightarrow refinedExpressionConstraint \rightarrow Result$
$\forall ss : Substrate; rec : refinedExpressionConstraint \bullet$ $i_refinedExpressionConstraint ss rec =$ $intersect (i_unrefinedExpressionConstraint ss (first\ rec))(i_refinement ss (second\ rec))$

4.2 simpleExpressionConstraint

The interpretation of **simpleExpressionConstraint** is the application of an optional constraint operator to the interpretation of **focusConcept**, which returns a set of SCTID's or an error. The interpretation of an error is the error.

```
simpleExpressionConstraint =
    [constraintOperator ] focusConcept
```

$$constraintOperator ::= descendantOrSelfOf \mid descendantOf \mid ancestorOrSelfOf \mid ancestorOf$$

$$simpleExpressionConstraint == constraintOperator[0..1] \times focusConcept$$

$i_simpleExpressionConstraint :$ $Substrate \rightarrow simpleExpressionConstraint \rightarrow Result$
$\forall ss : Substrate; sec : simpleExpressionConstraint \bullet$ $i_simpleExpressionConstraint ss sec =$ $i_constraintOperator ss (first sec) (i_focusConcept ss (second sec))$

4.3 compoundExpressionConstraint

The interpretation of a *compoundExpressionConstraint* is the interpretation of its corresponding component.

```
compoundExpressionConstraint = conjunctionExpressionConstraint |
disjunctionExpressionConstraint | exclusionExpressionConstraint |
"(" compoundExpressionConstraint ")"
```

```
compoundExpressionConstraint ::=
cecConj⟨⟨conjunctionExpressionConstraint⟩⟩ |
cecDisj⟨⟨disjunctionExpressionConstraint⟩⟩ |
cecExc⟨⟨exclusionExpressionConstraint⟩⟩
```

$i_compoundExpressionConstraint :$ $Substrate \rightarrow compoundExpressionConstraint \rightarrow Result$
$\forall ss : Substrate; cec : compoundExpressionConstraint \bullet$ $i_compoundExpressionConstraint ss cec =$ $\text{if } cec \sim cecConj \in conjunctionExpressionConstraint$ $\quad \text{then } i_compoundExpressionConstraint ss (cecConj \sim cec)$ $\text{else if } cec \sim cecDisj \in disjunctionExpressionConstraint$ $\quad \text{then } i_compoundExpressionConstraint ss (cecDisj \sim cec)$ $\text{else if } cec \sim cecExc \in exclusionExpressionConstraint$ $\quad \text{then } i_compoundExpressionConstraint ss (cecExc \sim cec)$ $\text{else } error\ unknownOperation$

4.4 conjunctionExpressionConstraint

conjunctionExpressionConstraint is interpreted the conjunction (intersection) of the interpretation of two or more *subExpressionConstraints*

```
conjunctionExpressionConstraint =
subExpressionConstraint 1*(conjunction subExpressionConstraint)
```

```
conjunctionExpressionConstraint == subExpressionConstraint  $\times$  seq(subExpressionConstraint)
```


$i_conjunctionExpressionConstraint :$ $Substrate \rightarrow subExpressionConstraint \rightarrow seq(subExpressionConstraint) \rightarrow Result$
$\forall ss : Substrate; sec : subExpressionConstraint; secs : seq(subExpressionConstraint) \bullet$ $i_conjunctionExpressionConstraint ss sec secs =$ if $tail\ secs = \langle \rangle$ then $intersect\ (i_subExpressionConstraint\ ss\ sec)$ $(i_subExpressionConstraint\ ss\ (head\ secs))$ else $intersect\ (i_subExpressionConstraint\ ss\ sec)$ $(i_conjunctionExpressionConstraint\ ss\ (head\ secs)\ (tail\ secs))$

4.5 disjunctionExpressionConstraint

disjunctionExpressionConstraint is interpreted the disjunction (union) of the interpretation of two or more *subExpressionConstraints*

`disjunctionExpressionConstraint =`
`subExpressionConstraint 1*(disjunction subExpressionConstraint)`

$disjunctionExpressionConstraint ==$
 $subExpressionConstraint \times seq(subExpressionConstraint)$

$i_disjunctionExpressionConstraint :$ $Substrate \rightarrow subExpressionConstraint \rightarrow seq(subExpressionConstraint) \rightarrow Result$
$\forall ss : Substrate; sec : subExpressionConstraint; secs : seq(subExpressionConstraint) \bullet$ $i_disjunctionExpressionConstraint ss sec secs =$ if $tail\ secs = \langle \rangle$ then $union\ (i_subExpressionConstraint\ ss\ sec)$ $(i_subExpressionConstraint\ ss\ (head\ secs))$ else $union\ (i_subExpressionConstraint\ ss\ sec)$ $(i_disjunctionExpressionConstraint\ ss\ (head\ secs)\ (tail\ secs))$

4.6 exclusionExpressionConstraint

exclusionExpressionConstraint is interpreted the result of removing the members of the second *subExpressionConstraint* from the first

`exclusionExpressionConstraint =`
`subExpressionConstraint exclusion subExpressionConstraint`

exclusionExpressionConstraint ==
subExpressionConstraint × *subExpressionConstraint*

<i>i_exclusionExpressionConstraint</i> : <i>Substrate</i> → <i>subExpressionConstraint</i> → <i>subExpressionConstraint</i> → <i>Result</i>
$\forall ss : \text{Substrate}; sec1, sec2 : \text{subExpressionConstraint} \bullet$ <i>i_exclusionExpressionConstraint</i> <i>ss</i> <i>sec1</i> <i>sec2</i> = <i>minus</i> (<i>i_subExpressionConstraint</i> <i>ss</i> <i>sec1</i>) (<i>i_subExpressionConstraint</i> <i>ss</i> <i>sec2</i>)

4.7 subExpressionConstraint

subExpressionConstraint is interpreted as the interpretation of either a *simpleExpressionConstraint* or a *compoundExpressionConstraint*

subExpressionConstraint =
simpleExpressionConstraint | "(" *compoundExpressionConstraint* ")

subExpressionConstraint ::=
secSec(*simpleExpressionConstraint*) |
secCec(*compoundExpressionConstraint*)

<i>i_subExpressionConstraint</i> : <i>Substrate</i> → <i>subExpressionConstraint</i> → <i>Result</i>
$\forall ss : \text{Substrate}; sec : \text{subExpressionConstraint} \bullet$ <i>i_subExpressionConstraint</i> = if <i>sec</i> ~ <i>secSec</i> ∈ <i>simpleExpressionConstraint</i> then <i>i_simpleExpressionConstraint</i> <i>ss</i> (<i>secSec</i> ~ <i>sec</i>) else if <i>sec</i> ~ <i>secCec</i> ∈ <i>compoundExpressionConstraint</i> then <i>i_compoundExpressionConstraint</i> <i>ss</i> (<i>secCec</i> ~ <i>sec</i>) else <i>error unknownOperation</i>

4.8 refinement

refinement is the interpretation of one or more *attribute* or *attributeGroups* joined by *compoundOperators*

compoundOperator = *conjunction* / *disjunction* / *minus*
refinement = (*attribute* / *attributeGroup* / "(" *refinement* ")")
[*compoundOperator* *refinement*]

refTarget ::= *att*(*attribute*) | *attg*(*attributeGroup*)
refinement == *refTarget* × *seq*(*compoundOperator* × *refTarget*)

$i_refTarget : Substrate \rightarrow refTarget \rightarrow Result$ $i_refinement : Substrate \rightarrow refinement \rightarrow Result$
$\forall ss : Substrate; rt : refTarget \bullet i_refTarget\ ss\ rt =$ if $att \sim rt \in attribute$ then $i_attribute\ ss\ (att \sim rt)$ else if $attg \sim rt \in attributeGroup$ then $i_attributeGroup\ ss\ (attg \sim rt)$ else $error\ unknownOperation$
$\forall ss : Substrate; ref : refinement \bullet$ $i_refinement\ ss\ ref =$ $evalRefinement\ ss\ (i_refTarget\ ss\ (first\ ref))\ (second\ ref)$

$evalRefinement :$ $Substrate \rightarrow Result \rightarrow seq(compoundOperator \times refTarget) \rightarrow Result$
$\forall ss : Substrate; r : Result; opt : seq(compoundOperator \times refTarget) \bullet$ $evalRefinement\ ss\ r\ opt =$ if $opt = \langle \rangle$ then r else if $first\ (head\ opt) = conjunction$ then $evalRefinement\ ss\ (intersect\ r\ (i_refTarget'\ ss\ (second\ (head\ opt))))\ (tail\ opt)$ else if $first\ (head\ opt) = disjunction$ then $evalRefinement\ ss\ (union\ r\ (i_refTarget'\ ss\ (second\ (head\ opt))))\ (tail\ opt)$ else if $first\ (head\ opt) = difference$ then $evalRefinement\ ss\ (minus\ r\ (i_refTarget'\ ss\ (second\ (head\ opt))))\ (tail\ opt)$ else $error\ unknownOperation$

$i_refTarget' : Substrate \rightarrow refTarget \rightarrow Result$
--

4.9 expressionConstraintValue

```
expressionConstraintValue = simpleExpressionConstraint /
    "(" (refinedExpressionConstraint /
        compoundExpressionConstraint) ")"
```

```
expressionConstraintValue ::= ecvsec⟨⟨simpleExpressionConstraint⟩⟩ |
    ecvrec⟨⟨refinedExpressionConstraint'⟩⟩ |
    ecvcec⟨⟨compoundExpressionConstraint⟩⟩
[refinedExpressionConstraint']
```

$i_expressionConstraintValue : Substrate \rightarrow$ $expressionConstraintValue \rightarrow Result$
$\forall ss : Substrate; ecv : expressionConstraintValue \bullet$ $i_expressionConstraintValue ss ecv =$ $\text{if } ecvsec \sim ecv \in simpleExpressionConstraint$ $\text{then } i_simpleExpressionConstraint ss (ecvsec \sim ecv)$ $\text{else if } ecvrec \sim ecv \in refinedExpressionConstraint'$ $\text{then } i_refinedExpressionConstraint' ss (ecvrec \sim ecv)$ $\text{else if } ecvcec \sim ecv \in compoundExpressionConstraint$ $\text{then } i_compoundExpressionConstraint ss (ecvcec \sim ecv)$ $\text{else } error\ unknownOperation$

$i_refinedExpressionConstraint' :$ $Substrate \rightarrow refinedExpressionConstraint' \rightarrow Result$

4.10 Attributes and Attribute Groups

The interpretation of an attribute. `attributeOperator` and `attributeName` determines the set of possible attributes in the substrate relationship table. `reverseFlag` and `expressionConstraintValue` determine the set of candidate targets (if `reverseFlag` is absent) or subjects (if `reverseFlag` is present).

`cardinality` determines the minimum and maximum matches. In all cases, only a subset of the subjects (targets if `reverseFlag` is present) in the substrate relationship table will be returned in the interpretation.

```
attribute = [cardinality] [reverseFlag] [attributeOperator] attributeName
            (comparisonOperator concreteValue / "=" expressionConstraintValue )
attributeGroup = "{" attributeSet "}"
attributeSet = attribute [compoundOperator attributeSet] / "(" attributeSet ")"
cardinality = "[" nonNegativeIntegerValue to (nonNegativeIntegerValue / many) "]"
constraintOperator = descendantOrSelfOf / descendantOf / ancestorOrSelfOf / ancestorOf
attributeOperator = descendantOrSelfOf / descendantOf
comparisonOperator = "=" / "!=" ws "=" /
                    ("n"/"N") ("o"/"O") ("t"/"T") ws "=" / "<=" / "<" / ">=" / ">"
```

4.11 AttributeName and AttributeSubject

`i_attributeName` verifies that `conceptReference` is a valid concept in the substrate and interprets it as a set of (exactly one) *ATTRIBUTE*

`i_attributeSubject` interprets the `constraintOperator`, if any in the context of the attribute name and interprets it as a set of *ATTRIBUTEs*

Question: Should we add any additional validation checks?

$attributeName == conceptReference$
 $attributeOperator == \{ descendantOrSelfOf, descendantOf \}$
 $attributeSubject == attributeOperator[0..1] \times attributeName$

$i_attributeName : Substrate \rightarrow attributeName \rightarrow Result$ $i_attributeSubject : Substrate \rightarrow attributeSubject \rightarrow Result$
$\forall ss : Substrate; an : attributeName \bullet i_attributeName\ ss\ an = i_conceptReference\ ss\ an$
$\forall ss : Substrate; as : attributeSubject \bullet i_attributeSubject\ ss\ as = i_constraintOperator\ ss\ (first\ as)\ (i_attributeName\ ss\ (second\ as))$

4.12 Attribute

attribute consists of an optional **cardinality** and an **attributeConstraint**.

$unlimitedNat ::= num\langle\mathbb{N}\rangle \mid many$
 $cardinality == \mathbb{N} \times unlimitedNat$

$attribute$ $card : cardinality[0..1]$ $attw : attributeConstraint$

attributeConstraint is either an attribute expression constraint or a concrete value constraint.

$attributeConstraint ::= aec\langle\langle attributeExpressionConstraint \rangle\rangle \mid$
 $acvc\langle\langle attributeConcreteValueConstraint \rangle\rangle$

attributeExpressionEonstraint is a combination of a subject constraint (target if reverse flag is true) and an expression constraint value whose interpretation yields a set of SCTID's that filter the target (subject if reverse flag).

[reverseFlag]

$attributeExpressionConstraint$ $a : attributeSubject$ $rf : reverseFlag[0..1]$ $cs : expressionConstraintValue$

A concrete value constraint is the combination of a subject constraint and a comparison operator/concrete value whose interpretation yields a set of subject

ids. The intersection of the subject and concrete value interpretation is the interpretation of **attributeConcreteValueConstraint**

$$\text{comparisonOperator} ::= eq \mid neq \mid gt \mid ge \mid lt \mid le$$

$\begin{array}{l} \text{attributeConcreteValueConstraint} \\ a : \text{attributeSubject} \\ op : \text{comparisonOperator} \\ v : \text{concreteValue} \end{array}$

The interpretation of an attribute is the interpretation of the cardinality applied against the underlying attribute constraint, producing a set of SCTID's or an error condition

The interpretation of an attribute constraint is the interpretation of either the attribute expression constraint or the concrete expression constraint that produces a set of Quads or an error condition.

The actual interpretations if attribute expression and concrete value are in Section 5

```

i_attribute :
    Substrate  $\rightarrow$  attribute  $\rightarrow$  Result
i_attributeConstraint :
    Substrate  $\rightarrow$  attributeConstraint  $\rightarrow$  Quads
i_attributeExpressionConstraint :
    Substrate  $\rightarrow$  attributeExpressionConstraint  $\rightarrow$  Quads
i_attributeConcreteValueConstraint :
    Substrate  $\rightarrow$  attributeConcreteValueConstraint  $\rightarrow$  Quads

```

```

 $\forall ss : \text{Substrate}; a : \text{attribute} \bullet$ 
    i_attribute ss a = i_cardinality a.card (i_attributeConstraint ss a.attw)

 $\forall ss : \text{Substrate}; aw : \text{attributeConstraint} \bullet$  i_attributeConstraint ss aw =
    if aec $\sim$ aw  $\in$  attributeExpressionConstraint
        then i_attributeExpressionConstraint ss (aec $\sim$ aw)
    else if acvc $\sim$ aw  $\in$  attributeConcreteValueConstraint
        then i_attributeConcreteValueConstraint ss (acvc $\sim$ aw)
    else qerror unknownOperation

 $\forall ss : \text{Substrate}; aec : \text{attributeExpressionConstraint}; eca : \text{expressionConstraintArgs} \mid$ 
    eca.atts = i_attributeSubject ss aec.p  $\wedge$ 
    eca.rf = aec.rf  $\wedge$ 
    eca.subjOrTarg = i_expressionConstraintValue ss aec.cs  $\bullet$ 
    i_attributeExpressionConstraint ss aec = i_attributeExpression ss eca

 $\forall ss : \text{Substrate}; awc : \text{attributeConcreteValueConstraint}; aca : \text{concreteConstraintArgs} \mid$ 
    aca.atts = i_attributeSubject ss awc.p  $\wedge$ 
    aca.op = awc.op  $\wedge$ 
    aca.t = awc.v  $\bullet$ 
    i_attributeConcreteValueConstraint ss awc = i_concreteAttributeConstraint ss aca

```

4.13 AttributeSet and AttributeGroup

An `attributeGroup` is an `attributeSet`. An `attributeSet` consists of a sequence of one or more attribute constraints joined by `compoundOperators`.

```

attributeGroup == attributeSet
attributeSet == attribute  $\times$  seq(compoundOperator  $\times$  attribute)

```

$i_attributeGroup : Substrate \rightarrow attributeGroup \rightarrow Result$
$i_attributeSet : Substrate \rightarrow attributeSet \rightarrow Result$
$\forall ss : Substrate; ag : attributeGroup \bullet i_attributeGroup ss ag =$ $i_attributeSet ss ag$
$\forall ss : Substrate; a : attributeSet \bullet i_attributeSet ss a =$ $result (evalCmpndAtt ss (i_groupedAttribute ss (first a)) (second a))$

4.14 Compound attribute evaluation

The left-to-right evaluation of **attributeSet**. The interpretation takes a *lhs* as a function from *SCTID* to *GROUP* and a *rhs* which is sequence of operator/attribute tuples and recursively interprets the *lhs* and interpretation of the head of the *rhs*.

$evalCmpndAtt :$ $Substrate \rightarrow IDGroups \rightarrow seq(compoundOperator \times attribute) \rightarrow IDGroups$ $gintersect, gunion, gminus, gfirstError :$ $IDGroups \rightarrow IDGroups \rightarrow IDGroups$
$\forall ss : Substrate; lhs : IDGroups; rhs : seq(compoundOperator \times attribute) \bullet$ $evalCmpndAtt ss lhs rhs =$ $\mathbf{if} \text{ } rhs = \langle \rangle$ $\quad \mathbf{then} \text{ } lhs$ $\mathbf{else if} \text{ } first(head \text{ } rhs) = conjunction$ $\mathbf{then} \text{ } evalCmpndAtt ss (gintersect lhs(i_groupedAttribute ss (second(head \text{ } rhs)))) (tail \text{ } rhs)$ $\mathbf{else if} \text{ } first(head \text{ } rhs) = disjunction$ $\mathbf{then} \text{ } evalCmpndAtt ss (gunion lhs(i_groupedAttribute ss (second(head \text{ } rhs)))) (tail \text{ } rhs)$ $\mathbf{else if} \text{ } first(head \text{ } rhs) = difference$ $\mathbf{then} \text{ } evalCmpndAtt ss (gminus lhs(i_groupedAttribute ss (second(head \text{ } rhs)))) (tail \text{ } rhs)$ $\mathbf{else} \text{ } gerror \text{ } unknownOperation$ $\forall a, b, r : IDGroups \mid$ $r = \mathbf{if} \text{ } gerror \sim a \in ERROR \vee gerror \sim b \in ERROR \mathbf{then} \text{ } gfirstError \text{ } a \text{ } b$ $\quad \mathbf{else} \text{ } gv \text{ } (gv \sim a \cap gv \sim b) \bullet$ $gintersect \text{ } a \text{ } b = r$ $\forall a, b, r : IDGroups \mid$ $r = \mathbf{if} \text{ } gerror \sim a \in ERROR \vee gerror \sim b \in ERROR \mathbf{then} \text{ } gfirstError \text{ } a \text{ } b$ $\quad \mathbf{else} \text{ } gv \text{ } (gv \sim a \cup gv \sim b) \bullet$ $gunion \text{ } a \text{ } b = r$ $\forall a, b, r : IDGroups \mid$ $r = \mathbf{if} \text{ } gerror \sim a \in ERROR \vee gerror \sim b \in ERROR \mathbf{then} \text{ } gfirstError \text{ } a \text{ } b$ $\quad \mathbf{else} \text{ } gv \text{ } (gv \sim a \setminus gv \sim b) \bullet$ $gminus \text{ } a \text{ } b = r$
$i_groupedAttribute :$ $Substrate \rightarrow attribute \rightarrow IDGroups$
$\forall ss : Substrate; a : attribute \bullet$ $i_groupedAttribute ss a = i_groupCardinality (i_attributeConstraint ss a.attw) a.card$

4.15 Group Cardinality

The interpretation of cardinality within a group impose additional constraints:

- $[0..n]$ – the set of all substrate concept codes that have at least one group (entry) in the substrate relationships and, at most n matching entries in the same group

- $[0..0]$ – the set of all substrate concept codes that have at least one group (entry) in the substrate relationships and *no* matching entries
- $[1..*]$ – (default) at least one matching entry in the substrate relationships
- $[m_1..n_1]op[m_2..n_2]...$ – set of substrate concept codes where there exists at least one group where all conditions are simultaneously true

The interpretation of a grouped cardinality is a function from a set of SC-TID's to the groups in which they were qualified.

The algorithm below partitions the input set of Quads by group and validates the cardinality on a per-group basis. Groups that pass are returned

TODO: the *gresult* function seems to express what is described below more simply

$i_groupCardinality :$ $Quads \rightarrow cardinality[0..1] \rightarrow IDGroups$
$\forall quads : Quads; oc : cardinality[0..1]; uniqueGroups : \mathbb{P} GROUP;$ $quadsByGroup : GROUP \rightarrow \mathbb{P} Quad \mid$ $uniqueGroups = \{q : qids\ quads \bullet q.g\} \wedge$ $quadsByGroup = \{g : uniqueGroups; q : \mathbb{P} Quad \mid$ $q = \{e : qids\ quads \mid e.g = g\} \bullet g \mapsto (evalCardinality\ oc\ q)\} \bullet$ $i_groupCardinality\ quads\ oc =$ $gv \{sctid : SCTID; groups : \mathbb{P} GROUP \mid sctid \in \{q : \bigcup(\text{ran}\ quadsByGroup)\} \bullet$ $\text{if } qidd\ quads = subjects \text{ then } q.s \text{ else } q.t\} \wedge$ $groups = \{g : \text{dom}\ quadsByGroup \mid (\exists q : quadsByGroup\ g \bullet$ $sctid = \text{if } qidd\ quads = subjects \text{ then } q.s \text{ else } q.t)\} \bullet$ $sctid \mapsto groups\}$

4.16 Cardinality

Interpretation: *cardinality* is tested against a set of quads with the following rules:

1. Errors are propagated
2. No cardinality or passing cardinality returns the subjects / targets of the set of quads
3. Otherwise return an empty set

$i_cardinality :$ $cardinality[0..1] \rightarrow Quads \rightarrow Result$
$\forall oc : cardinality[0..1]; qr : Quads \bullet$ $i_cardinality\ oc\ qr =$ $\text{if } qerror \sim qr \in ERROR \text{ then } result\ (gresult\ qr)$ $\text{else } result\ (gresult\ (qv\ (evalCardinality\ oc\ (qids\ qr),\ qidd\ qr)))$

evalCardinality Evaluate the cardinality of a set, returning the set if it meets the constraints, otherwise return the empty set.

$evalCardinality : cardinality[0 \dots 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{P} Quad \rightarrow \mathbb{P} Quad$
$\forall oc : cardinality[0 \dots 1]; s : \mathbb{P} Quad \bullet evalCardinality oc s =$ if $\#oc = 0$ then s else if $(\#s \geq first(head\ oc)) \wedge$ $(second(head\ oc) = many \vee num^\sim(second(head\ oc)) \leq \#s)$ then s else \emptyset

5 Substrate Interpretations

This section defines the interpretations that are realized against the substrate.

5.1 AttributeExpressionConstraint

expressionConstraintArgs carries the arguments necessary to evaluate an attribute expression

- **rf** – If present, return subjects matching attribute/target subjects
- **subjOrTarg** – Set of subject or target SCTIDS (or error)
- **atts** – Set of attributes to evaluate

$expressionConstraintArgs$
$rf : reverseFlag[0 \dots 1]$ $subjOrTarg : Result$ $atts : Result$

Evaluate an attribute expression, returning the set of quads in the substrate relationship table with the supplied subject / attribute if *rf* is absent and attribute / target if *rf* is present. The interpretation returns an error there is an error in either the subject/targets or attributes.

$i_attributeExpression :$ $Substrate \rightarrow expressionConstraintArgs \rightarrow Quads$
$\forall ss : Substrate; args : expressionConstraintArgs;$ $sti : \mathbb{P} TARGET; atts : \mathbb{P} ATTRIBUTE \mid$ $sti = v \sim args.subjectOrTarg \wedge atts = v \sim args.atts \bullet$ $i_attributeExpression ss args =$ if $error \sim (bigunion\{args.subjectOrTarg, args.atts\}) \in ERROR$ then $qfirstError\{args.subjectOrTarg, args.atts\}$ else if $\neg (sti \cup atts) \subseteq ss.c$ then $qerror\ unknownConceptReference$ else if $\#args.rf = 0$ then $qv(\{s : SUBJECT; t : sti; a : atts; g : GROUP; re : ss.r \mid$ $re.t = t \wedge re.p = a \bullet re\}, subjects)$ else $qv(\{s : sti; a : atts; t : TARGET; g : GROUP; re : ss.r \mid$ $re.s = t \wedge re.p = a \bullet re\}, targets)$

5.2 ConcreteAttributeConstraint

```

concreteValue = QM stringValue QM / "#" numericValue
stringValue = 1*(anyNonEscapedChar / escapedChar)
numericValue = decimalValue / integerValue
integerValue = ( ["-"/"+"] digitNonZero *digit ) / zero

```

The mechanism for interpreting *concreteValue* is not fully specified at this point. Much of the rest of the machinery is focused around interpreting constraints in the context of quads - subject, attribute, target and group, so the function is currently defined as returning a *Quads*, but another type or interpretation may be in order.

$concreteValue ::= stringValue \mid integerValue \mid realValue$

concreteConstraintArgs The arguments to the concrete value function.

- **atts** – list of attributes to test
- **op** – operator
- **t** – value to test against

Note: *reverseFlag* has no meaning for concrete constraints.

$concreteConstraintArgs$
$atts : Result$ $op : comparisonOperator$ $t : concreteValue$

$$i_concreteAttributeConstraint : \\ Substrate \rightarrow concreteConstraintArgs \rightarrow Quads$$

5.3 ConstraintOperator

Issue: What is the behavior on a transitive closure that has a cycle? At the moment we always remove the focus concept on *descendantsOf* and *ancestorsOf*

Interpretation: Apply the substrate forward (*descs*) or reverse (*ancs*) functions to a set of SCTID's in the supplied *Result*. Error conditions are propagated.

$$i_constraintOperator : \\ Substrate \rightarrow constraintOperator[0..1] \rightarrow Result \rightarrow Result$$

$$completeFun : (SCTID \rightarrow \mathbb{P} SCTID) \rightarrow SCTID \rightarrow \mathbb{P} SCTID$$

$$\forall ss : Substrate; oco : constraintOperator[0..1]; refset : Result \bullet \\ i_constraintOperator ss oco refset = \\ \quad \text{if } error \sim refset \in ERROR \vee \#oco = 0 \\ \quad \quad \text{then } refset \\ \quad \text{else if } head\ oco = descendantOrSelfOf \\ \quad \quad \quad \text{then } v(\bigcup \{ id : ids\ refset \bullet completeFun\ ss.descs\ id \cup \{ id \} \}) \\ \quad \text{else if } head\ oco = descendantOf \\ \quad \quad \text{then } v(\bigcup \{ id : ids\ refset \bullet completeFun\ ss.descs\ id \setminus \{ id \} \}) \\ \quad \text{else if } head\ oco = ancestorOrSelfOf \\ \quad \quad \text{then } v(\bigcup \{ id : ids\ refset \bullet completeFun\ ss.ancs\ id \cup \{ id \} \}) \\ \quad \text{else if } head\ oco = ancestorOf \\ \quad \quad \text{then } v(\bigcup \{ id : ids\ refset \bullet completeFun\ ss.ancs\ id \setminus \{ id \} \}) \\ \quad \text{else } error\ unknownOperation$$

$$\forall f : (SCTID \rightarrow \mathbb{P} SCTID); id : SCTID \bullet completeFun\ f\ id = \\ \text{if } id \in \text{dom } f \text{ then } f\ id \text{ else } \emptyset$$

5.4 FocusConcept

`focusConcept = conceptReference / (memberOf focusConcept)`

Issue: The recursive `memberOf` operator should be replaced with two options:

- One deep – return all the direct descendants of the focus concept
- Transitive Closure – return the transitive closure of the recursive evaluation of the concept

Interpretation:

1. *conceptReference* – *i_conceptReference conceptReference*

2. *memberOf conceptReference* – apply the substrate *vs* function if the SCTID of *conceptReference* is in the domain of the function, otherwise return an error.
3. *closure conceptReference* – apply the substrate *tcvs* function if the SCTID of *conceptReference* is in the domain of the function, otherwise return an error

valueSetOptions ::= *memberOf* | *closure*
focusConcept $\hat{=}$ [*opts* : *valueSetOptions*[0 .. 1]; *cr* : *conceptReference*]

$i_focusConcept : Substrate \rightarrow focusConcept \rightarrow Result$
$\forall ss : Substrate; fc : focusConcept \bullet$ $i_focusConcept\ ss\ fc =$ if $\#fc.opts = 0$ then $i_conceptReference\ ss\ fc.cr$ else (let $sctid == (toSCTID\ fc.cr)$ • if $sctid \notin \text{dom } ss.vs$ then $error\ unknownConceptReference$ else if $head\ fc.opts = memberOf$ then $v(ss.vs\ sctid)$ else $v(ss.tcvs\ sctid)$)

5.5 ConceptReference

conceptReference = *conceptId* ["|" *Term* "|"]
conceptId = *sctId*

Interpretation: *conceptReference* is interpreted as SCTID if it is in the list of concepts in the substrate, otherwise as an error.

[*conceptReference*]

$toSCTID : conceptReference \rightarrow SCTID$ $i_conceptReference : Substrate \rightarrow conceptReference \rightarrow Result$
$\forall ss : Substrate; c : conceptReference \bullet i_conceptReference\ ss\ c =$ if $(toSCTID\ c) \in ss.c$ then $v\{(toSCTID\ c)\}$ else $error\ unknownConceptReference$

6 Helper Functions

- *Quads* is either a collection of *Quads* or an error condition. If *Quads*, it also carries a direction indicator that determines whether it represents a set of subjects or targets.
- *IDGroups* is a map from SCTID's to their passing groups or an error condition

$$\begin{aligned}
direction &::= subjects \mid targets \\
Quads &::= qv\langle\mathbb{P} Quad \times direction\rangle \mid qerror\langle ERROR\rangle \\
IDGroups &::= gv\langle SCTID \rightarrow \mathbb{P} GROUP\rangle \mid gerror\langle ERROR\rangle
\end{aligned}$$

Results functions

- *ids* – return the set of scids in a result or the empty set if there is an error
- *qids* – return the set of quads in a quads result or an empty set if there is an error
- *qidd* – return the direction of a quads result. Undefined if error
- *gids* – return the scid to group map in an id group or an empty map if there is error
- *gresult* – convert a set of quads into a set of id groups
- *result* – convert a set of id groups into a simple result.

```

ids : Result →  $\mathbb{P}$  SCTID
qids : Quads →  $\mathbb{P}$  Quad
qidd : Quads → direction
gids : IDGroups → SCTID →  $\mathbb{P}$  GROUP
gresult : Quads → IDGroups
result : IDGroups → Result

```

```

∀ r : Result • ids r =
  if error~r ∈ ERROR then ∅
  else v~r

∀ q : Quads • qids q =
  if qerror~q ∈ ERROR then ∅
  else first (qv~q)

∀ q : Quads • qidd q =
  second (qv~q)

∀ g : IDGroups • gids g =
  if gerror~g ∈ ERROR then ∅
  else gv~g

∀ q : Quads • gresult q =
  if qerror~q ∈ ERROR then gerror(qerror~q)
  else if qidd q = subjects
    then gv {s : SCTID | (∃ qr : qids q • s = qr.s) •
      s ↦ {qr : qids q • qr.g}}
    else
      gv {t : SCTID | (∃ qr : qids q • t = qr.t) •
        t ↦ {qr : qids q • qr.g}}

∀ g : IDGroups • result g =
  if gerror~g ∈ ERROR then error(gerror~g)
  else v(dom(gv~g))

```

Definition of the various functions that are performed on the result type.
firstError is not fully defined – it takes a set of results with one or more errors
and returns an aggregation of all of the errors.

```

union, intersect, minus : Result → Result → Result
bigunion, bigintersect : ℙ Result → Result
firstError : ℙ Result → Result
qfirstError : ℙ Result → Quads

```

```

∀ x, y : Result • union x y =
  if error~x ∈ ERROR then x
  else if error~y ∈ ERROR then y
  else v((v~x) ∪ (v~y))

∀ x, y : Result • intersect x y =
  if error~x ∈ ERROR then x
  else if error~y ∈ ERROR then y
  else v((v~x) ∩ (v~y))

∀ x, y : Result • minus x y =
  if error~x ∈ ERROR then x
  else if error~y ∈ ERROR then y
  else v((v~x) \ (v~y))

∀ refset : ℙ Result • bigunion refset =
  if ∃ r : refset • error~r ∈ ERROR then firstError refset
  else v(⋃{r : refset • ids r})

∀ refset : ℙ Result • bigintersect refset =
  if ∃ r : refset • error~r ∈ ERROR then firstError refset
  else v(⋂{r : refset • ids r})

```

Representing optional elements of type T . Representing it as a sequence allows us to determine absence by $\#T = 0$ and the value by $\text{head } T$.

$$T[0..1] == \{s : \text{seq } T \mid \#s \leq 1\}$$