

# Koch Trainer: A Z Specification

Formal Model of Morse Code Learning Progress

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# 1 Introduction

Koch Trainer teaches Morse code using the *Koch method*—a proven technique developed by German psychologist Ludwig Koch in the 1930s. Rather than learning Morse at slow speeds and gradually increasing, students learn characters at full speed (20 words per minute) from the start, adding one new character at a time after achieving 90% accuracy.

## 1.1 Design Philosophy

The application follows four core principles:

1. **Audio-first:** Morse code is fundamentally an auditory skill. Visual aids support learning, but audio remains primary.
2. **Spaced repetition:** Practice intervals adapt to performance, maximizing long-term retention while minimizing daily time commitment.
3. **Separate skills:** Receiving (copying audio to text) and sending (keying Morse from text) are distinct skills that progress independently.
4. **Realistic simulation:** QSO practice mirrors real amateur radio operation with authentic timing and protocols.

## 1.2 Scope of This Specification

This formal specification models the stateful components of the learning system:

- Student progress through 26 Koch-ordered characters
- Per-character accuracy statistics by training direction
- Spaced repetition scheduling with adaptive intervals
- Streak tracking for consecutive practice days

We do not model audio generation, UI state, or real-time session mechanics—only the persistent state that survives between sessions.

# 2 Basic Types

We introduce given sets for entities whose internal structure is irrelevant to the learning model.

$[SESSIONID, TIMESTAMP]$

$SESSIONID$  uniquely identifies completed training sessions.  $TIMESTAMP$  represents points in time for scheduling and history tracking.

Note: We do not model individual Morse characters as a given set. The 26 letters follow a fixed Koch order (K M R S U A P T L O W I N J E F Y V G Q Z H B C D X), and level numbers 1–26 implicitly identify the character set unlocked at each level.

# 3 Free Types

## 3.1 Training Direction

Training occurs in two distinct directions, each developing a different skill:

$Direction ::= receive \mid send$

In *receive* mode, the student hears Morse audio and types the corresponding letter—training auditory pattern recognition. In *send* mode, the student sees a letter and keys the Morse pattern using dit/dah inputs—training motor memory and timing.

These skills progress independently. A student may excel at receiving while struggling with sending, or vice versa. Separate tracking prevents frustration and allows focused practice on weaker skills.

## 3.2 Boolean Type

We define a boolean type for input flags, using names that avoid conflicts with ProB's reserved keywords:

$$ZBOOL ::= ztrue \mid zfalse$$

## 4 Global Constants

The Koch method uses exactly 26 letters introduced in a specific order based on Ludwig Koch's research on optimal learning sequences. Characters are introduced one at a time: level 1 unlocks only K, level 2 adds M, and so on.

```
maxLevel : N
minLevel : N
maxInterval : N
minInterval : N
advanceThreshold : N

maxLevel = 26
minLevel = 1
maxInterval = 30
minInterval = 1
advanceThreshold = 90
```

The advancement threshold of 90% accuracy over a minimum of 20 attempts ensures students have truly mastered current characters before encountering new ones. This high bar is intentional: the Koch method's effectiveness depends on learning characters correctly at full speed from the start.

## 5 Character Statistics

The system tracks per-character accuracy separately for each training direction. This granular tracking serves multiple purposes:

- Identify specific characters that need more practice
- Display proficiency indicators (color-coded rings) on the character grid
- Enable future features like adaptive character selection

```
CharacterStat
receiveAttempts : N
receiveCorrect : N
sendAttempts : N
sendCorrect : N
earAttempts : N
earCorrect : N

receiveCorrect ≤ receiveAttempts
sendCorrect ≤ sendAttempts
earCorrect ≤ earAttempts
receiveAttempts ≤ 10000
sendAttempts ≤ 10000
earAttempts ≤ 10000
```

The invariants ensure that correct counts never exceed attempt counts—a fundamental data integrity property. Upper bounds support finite model checking.

The *earAttempts* and *earCorrect* fields track ear training mode, where students reproduce heard patterns rather than identify letters.

Combined accuracy for display purposes is computed as:

$$\text{accuracy} = \frac{\text{receiveCorrect} + \text{sendCorrect}}{\text{receiveAttempts} + \text{sendAttempts}}$$

## 6 Session Result

Each completed training session produces an immutable result record.

```
SessionResult _____  
sessionId : SESSIONID  
direction : Direction  
totalAttempts : N  
correctCount : N  
timestamp : TIMESTAMP  
  
correctCount ≤ totalAttempts  
totalAttempts ≤ 1000
```

Session results form the historical record used for:

- Calculating streak continuity (did the student practice yesterday?)
- Tracking long-term progress trends
- Supporting future analytics features

Only *learn mode* sessions (not custom practice or vocabulary drills) affect level advancement and spaced repetition intervals.

## 7 Student Progress

The central state schema captures all persistent student progress. We flatten the schedule fields into the main state for ProB animation compatibility.

```
State _____  
receiveLevel : N  
sendLevel : N  
earLevel : N  
sessionCount : N  
receiveInterval : N  
sendInterval : N  
currentStreak : N  
longestStreak : N  
  
receiveLevel ≥ minValue  
receiveLevel ≤ maxValue  
sendLevel ≥ minValue  
sendLevel ≤ maxValue  
earLevel ≥ 1  
earLevel ≤ 5  
sessionCount ≤ 10000  
receiveInterval ≥ minInterval  
receiveInterval ≤ maxInterval  
sendInterval ≥ minInterval  
sendInterval ≤ maxInterval  
currentStreak ≤ longestStreak  
longestStreak ≤ 365
```

### 7.1 Level Semantics

Each level  $n$  unlocks the first  $n$  characters in Koch order:

- Level 1: K
- Level 2: K, M

- Level 3: K, M, R
- :
- Level 26: All 26 letters

Receive and send levels progress independently. A student at receive level 15 and send level 8 can copy 15 characters but only send 8.

## 7.2 Interval Semantics

The *receiveInterval* and *sendInterval* fields represent the number of days until the next scheduled practice for each direction. These intervals adapt based on performance, implementing a simplified spaced repetition algorithm.

## 7.3 Streak Semantics

The streak tracks consecutive *calendar days* with at least one completed session (either direction counts). The longest streak persists as a personal record for motivation.

# 8 Initialization

A new student begins at level 1 in all directions with 1-day intervals and no streak history.

---

<i>Init</i>	_____
<i>State'</i>	_____
<i>receiveLevel'</i> = <i>minLevel</i>	
<i>sendLevel'</i> = <i>minLevel</i>	
<i>earLevel'</i> = 1	
<i>sessionCount'</i> = 0	
<i>receiveInterval'</i> = <i>minInterval</i>	
<i>sendInterval'</i> = <i>minInterval</i>	
<i>currentStreak'</i> = 0	
<i>longestStreak'</i> = 0	

---

# 9 Operations

## 9.1 Level Advancement

The Koch method's core progression: when a student achieves  $\geq 90\%$  accuracy over at least 20 attempts in a session, they advance to the next level, unlocking one additional character.

---

<i>AdvanceReceiveLevel</i>	_____
<i>ΔState</i>	_____
<i>accuracy?</i> : $\mathbb{N}$	_____
<i>accuracy? <math>\geq</math> advanceThreshold</i>	
<i>accuracy? <math>\leq 100</math></i>	
<i>receiveLevel &lt; maxLevel</i>	
<i>receiveLevel' = receiveLevel + 1</i>	
<i>sendLevel' = sendLevel</i>	
<i>earLevel' = earLevel</i>	
<i>sessionCount' = sessionCount</i>	
<i>receiveInterval' = receiveInterval</i>	
<i>sendInterval' = sendInterval</i>	
<i>currentStreak' = currentStreak</i>	
<i>longestStreak' = longestStreak</i>	

---

---

*AdvanceSendLevel* \_\_\_\_\_

---

$\Delta State$

$accuracy? : \mathbb{N}$

---

$accuracy? \geq advanceThreshold$   
 $accuracy? \leq 100$   
 $sendLevel < maxLevel$   
 $sendLevel' = sendLevel + 1$   
 $receiveLevel' = receiveLevel$   
 $earLevel' = earLevel$   
 $sessionCount' = sessionCount$   
 $receiveInterval' = receiveInterval$   
 $sendInterval' = sendInterval$   
 $currentStreak' = currentStreak$   
 $longestStreak' = longestStreak$

---

The precondition  $receiveLevel < maxLevel$  (or  $sendLevel < maxLevel$ ) ensures we cannot advance beyond the 26 available characters.

---

*AdvanceEarLevel* \_\_\_\_\_

---

$\Delta State$

$accuracy? : \mathbb{N}$

---

$accuracy? \geq advanceThreshold$   
 $accuracy? \leq 100$   
 $earLevel < 5$   
 $earLevel' = earLevel + 1$   
 $receiveLevel' = receiveLevel$   
 $sendLevel' = sendLevel$   
 $sessionCount' = sessionCount$   
 $receiveInterval' = receiveInterval$   
 $sendInterval' = sendInterval$   
 $currentStreak' = currentStreak$   
 $longestStreak' = longestStreak$

---

Ear training levels (1–5) correspond to pattern length: level 1 covers single-element patterns (E, T), level 5 includes 5-element patterns like digits. Unlike receive/send, ear training does not affect spaced repetition scheduling or streaks.

## 9.2 Session Recording

Each completed session increments the session count for analytics.

---

*RecordSession* \_\_\_\_\_

---

$\Delta State$

---

$sessionCount' = sessionCount + 1$   
 $receiveLevel' = receiveLevel$   
 $sendLevel' = sendLevel$   
 $earLevel' = earLevel$   
 $receiveInterval' = receiveInterval$   
 $sendInterval' = sendInterval$   
 $currentStreak' = currentStreak$   
 $longestStreak' = longestStreak$

---

## 9.3 Spaced Repetition

The interval algorithm adapts practice frequency based on performance:

Accuracy	Interval Change
$\geq 90\%$	Double interval (max 30 days)
$70\%-89\%$	No change
$< 70\%$	Reset to 1 day

High accuracy indicates mastery, so we increase the interval to avoid over-practice. Low accuracy signals struggle, so we reset to daily practice. The middle range maintains the current schedule.

<i>UpdateReceiveIntervalHigh</i>
$\Delta State$
$accuracy? : \mathbb{N}$
$accuracy? \geq advanceThreshold$
$accuracy? \leq 100$
$(receiveInterval * 2 \leq maxInterval \wedge receiveInterval' = receiveInterval * 2) \vee (receiveInterval * 2 > maxInterval \wedge sendInterval' = sendInterval)$
$currentStreak' = currentStreak$
$longestStreak' = longestStreak$
$receiveLevel' = receiveLevel$
$sendLevel' = sendLevel$
$earLevel' = earLevel$
$sessionCount' = sessionCount$

<i>UpdateReceiveIntervalLow</i>
$\Delta State$
$accuracy? : \mathbb{N}$
$accuracy? < 70$
$accuracy? \leq 100$
$receiveInterval' = minInterval$
$sendInterval' = sendInterval$
$currentStreak' = currentStreak$
$longestStreak' = longestStreak$
$receiveLevel' = receiveLevel$
$sendLevel' = sendLevel$
$earLevel' = earLevel$
$sessionCount' = sessionCount$

Note: The implementation includes additional rules not modeled here:

- First 14 days: intervals capped at 2 days (habit formation period)
- Missed  $> 2 \times$  interval: reset to 1 day (skill decay)

## 9.4 Streak Tracking

Streaks measure consecutive calendar days with at least one completed session. They provide motivation through gamification without affecting learning outcomes.

<i>IncrementStreak</i>
$\Delta State$
$currentStreak' = currentStreak + 1$
$(currentStreak + 1 > longestStreak \wedge longestStreak' = currentStreak + 1) \vee (currentStreak + 1 \leq longestStreak \wedge receiveInterval' = receiveInterval)$
$sendInterval' = sendInterval$
$receiveLevel' = receiveLevel$
$sendLevel' = sendLevel$
$earLevel' = earLevel$
$sessionCount' = sessionCount$

The streak increments when the student practices on the calendar day following their last practice. The longest streak updates if the current streak exceeds it.

---

<i>ResetStreak</i>	<hr/>
$\Delta State$	
$currentStreak' = 0$	
$longestStreak' = longestStreak$	
$receiveInterval' = receiveInterval$	
$sendInterval' = sendInterval$	
$receiveLevel' = receiveLevel$	
$sendLevel' = sendLevel$	
$earLevel' = earLevel$	
$sessionCount' = sessionCount$	

---

The streak resets to zero when a calendar day passes without any practice. Note that the longest streak is preserved—it represents the all-time record.

## 9.5 Attempt Recording

During training, each character attempt updates the per-character statistics.

---

<i>RecordReceiveAttempt</i>	<hr/>
$\Delta CharacterStat$	
$correct? : ZBOOL$	
$receiveAttempts' = receiveAttempts + 1$	
$(correct? = ztrue \wedge receiveCorrect' = receiveCorrect + 1) \vee (correct? = zfalse \wedge receiveCorrect' = receiveCorrect)$	
$sendAttempts' = sendAttempts$	
$sendCorrect' = sendCorrect$	
$earAttempts' = earAttempts$	
$earCorrect' = earCorrect$	

---



---

<i>RecordSendAttempt</i>	<hr/>
$\Delta CharacterStat$	
$correct? : ZBOOL$	
$sendAttempts' = sendAttempts + 1$	
$(correct? = ztrue \wedge sendCorrect' = sendCorrect + 1) \vee (correct? = zfalse \wedge sendCorrect' = sendCorrect)$	
$receiveAttempts' = receiveAttempts$	
$receiveCorrect' = receiveCorrect$	
$earAttempts' = earAttempts$	
$earCorrect' = earCorrect$	

---



---

<i>RecordEarAttempt</i>	<hr/>
$\Delta CharacterStat$	
$correct? : ZBOOL$	
$earAttempts' = earAttempts + 1$	
$(correct? = ztrue \wedge earCorrect' = earCorrect + 1) \vee (correct? = zfalse \wedge earCorrect' = earCorrect)$	
$receiveAttempts' = receiveAttempts$	
$receiveCorrect' = receiveCorrect$	
$sendAttempts' = sendAttempts$	
$sendCorrect' = sendCorrect$	

---

## 10 System Invariants

The following properties hold for any reachable state:

1. **Level bounds:**  $1 \leq receiveLevel \leq 26$  and  $1 \leq sendLevel \leq 26$
2. **Correctness bounds:** For any character,  $receiveCorrect \leq receiveAttempts$  and  $sendCorrect \leq sendAttempts$
3. **Streak monotonicity:**  $currentStreak \leq longestStreak$
4. **Interval bounds:**  $1 \leq interval \leq 30$  for both directions
5. **Non-negative counts:** All attempt and session counts are non-negative natural numbers

These invariants are encoded directly in the schema predicates, ensuring type-correct operations preserve them.

## 11 Properties Not Modeled

This specification focuses on persistent state. The following aspects are intentionally omitted:

- **Audio timing:** Dit/dah durations (60ms/180ms at 20 WPM), Farnsworth spacing adjustments
- **Session flow:** Introduction phase, training phase, pause/resume, timeout handling
- **QSO simulation:** Virtual station exchanges, protocol phases, message templates
- **UI state:** Current screen, selected characters, input buffers
- **Notifications:** Practice due reminders, streak alerts, anti-nag policies

These could be modeled in future extensions or separate specifications.

## 12 Validation

This specification has been validated with:

- **fuzz:** Type-checking passes with no errors
- **probcli -init:** Initialization succeeds
- **probcli -animate:** All operations covered

The flattened state schema and bounded inputs ensure ProB can explore the state space without unbounded enumeration warnings.