Object Constraint Language (OCL)

- A UML diagram (e.g., a class diagram) does not provide all relevants aspects of a specification
- It is necessary to describe additional constraints about the objects in the model
- Constraints specify invariant conditions that must hold for the system being modeled
- Constraints are often described in natural language and this always result in ambiguities
- Traditional formal languages allow to write unambiguous constraints, but they are difficult for the average system modeler
- OCL: Formal language used to express constraints, that remains easy to read and write



Where to Use OCL

- To specify invariants on classes and types in the class model
- To specify type invariants for stereotypes
- To describe pre- and post-conditions on operations and methods
- To describe guards
- As a navigation language
- To specify constraints on operations
- OCL is used to specify the well-formedness rules of the UML metamodel

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	Basic	Values and Types	
A number o	f basic types are	predefined in OCL	
Examples of	basic types and	their values	
	Type	Values	
	Boolean	true, false	
	Integer	1, -5, 2564,	
		1.5, 3.14,	
	String	'To be or not to be',	
A number o	f operations are o	defined on the predefined types	
Type	Operations		
Boolean	and, or , xor, not, implies, if-then-else-endif		
Integer			
Real	+, -, *, /, abs, floor, round, max, min, <, >, <=, >=		
String	size, concat, substring, toInteger, toReal		



Con	nmon Operations for All Collections	
	alues of type Collection(t), v is a value of type	· +
C, C_1, C_2 are va	alles of type $\operatorname{correction}(t)$, v is a value of type	; L
	Signature	Semantics
size	$Collection(t) \rightarrow Integer$	
count	$Collection(t) \times t \rightarrow Integer$	$ C \cap \{v\} $
includes	$Collection(t) \times t \rightarrow Boolean$	$v \in C$
excludes	$Collection(t) \times t \rightarrow Boolean$	$v \not\in C$
includesAll	$Collection(t) \times Collection(t) \rightarrow Boolean$	$C_2 \subseteq C_1$
excludesAll	$Collection(t) \times Collection(t) \rightarrow Boolean$	$C_2 \cap C_1 =$
isEmpty	$\texttt{Collection}(\texttt{t}) \rightarrow \texttt{Boolean}$	$C = \emptyset$
notEmpty	$Collection(t) \rightarrow Boolean$	$C \neq \varnothing$
sum	$Collection(t) \rightarrow t$	$\sum_{i=1}^{ C } v_i$



 \Rightarrow Result contains the elements of the source set in arbitrary order

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	Bag Operations	
B_2 are values of ty	vpe $Bag(t)$, S is a value of type	s Set(t), v is
	Signature	Semantics
union	$Bag(t) \times Bag(t) \rightarrow Bag(t)$	$B_1 \cup B_2$
union	$Bag(t) \times Set(t) \rightarrow Bag(t)$	$B \cup S$
intersection	$Bag(t) \times Bag(t) \rightarrow Bag(t)$	$B_1 \cap B_2$
intersection	$Bag(t) \times Set(t) \rightarrow Set(t)$	$B \cap S$
including	$Bag(t) \times t \rightarrow Bag(t)$	$S \cup \{\{v\}\}$
excluding	$Bag(t) \times t \rightarrow Bag(t)$	$S - \{\{v\}\}$
asSet	$Bag(t) \rightarrow Set(t)$	
asOrderedSet	$Bag(t) \rightarrow OrderedSet(t)$	
asBag	$Bag(t) \rightarrow Bag(t)$	
asSequence	$Bag(t) \rightarrow Sequence(t)$	

Sequence Operations

• S, S_1, S_2 are values of type **Set(t)**, v is a value of type **t**, operator \circ denotes the concatenation of lists, $\pi_i(S)$ projects the *i*th element of a sequence $S, \pi_i^j(S)$ is the subsequence of S from the *i*th to the *j*th element

	Signature	Semantics
union	$Sequence(t) \times Sequence(t) \rightarrow Sequence(t)$	$S_1 \circ S_2$
append	$Sequence(t) \times t \rightarrow Sequence(t)$	$S \circ \langle v \rangle$
prepend	$Sequence(t) \times t \rightarrow Sequence(t)$	$\langle v \rangle \circ S$
subSequence	$Sequence(t) \times Integer \times Integer$	$\pi_i^j(S)$
	\rightarrow Sequence(t)	
at	$Sequence(t) \times Integer \rightarrow Sequence(t)$	$\pi_i(S)$
first	$Sequence(t) \rightarrow t$	$\pi_1(S)$
last	$Sequence(t) \rightarrow t$	$\pi_{ S }(S)$
including	$Sequence(t) \times t \rightarrow Sequence(t)$	$S \circ \langle v \rangle$
excluding	$Sequence(t) \times t \rightarrow Sequence(t)$	$S - \{v\}$
asSet	$Sequence(t) \rightarrow Set(t)$	
asOrderedSet	$Sequence(t) \rightarrow OrderedSet(t)$	
asBag	$Sequence(t) \rightarrow Bag(t)$	
asSequence	$Sequence(t) \rightarrow Sequence(t)$	

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Type Conformance

- OCL is a typed language, the basic value types are organized in a type hierarchy
- The hierarchy determines conformance of the different types to each other
- Type type1 conforms with type type2 when an instance of type1 can be substituted at each place where an instance of type2 is expected
- Valid expression: OCL expression in which all types conform













Object and Properties

- All **properties** (attributes, association ends, methods and operations without side effects) defined on the types of a UML model can be used in OCL expressions
- The value of a property of an object defined in a class diagram is specified by a dot followed by the name of the property
- If the context is Person, self.age denotes the value of attribute age on the instance of Person identified by self
- The type of the expression is the type of attribute age, i.e., Integer
- If the context is Company, self.stockPrice() denotes the value of operation stockPrice on the instance identified by self
- Parentheses are mandatory for operations or methods, even if they do not have parameters











Definition Expressions

- Enable to reuse variables or operations over multiple expressions
- Must be attached to a classifier and may only contain variable and/or operation definitions

```
context Person
def: name: String = self.firstName.concat(' ').concat(lastName)
def: hasTitle(t: String): Boolean = self.job->exists(title = t)
```

• Names of the attributes/operations in a **def** expression must not conflict with the names of attributes/association ends/operations of the classifier







Undefined Values

- One or more subexpressions in an OCL expression may be undefined
- In this case, the complete expression will be undefined
- Exceptions for Boolean operators
 - \diamond true or anything is true
 - \diamond false and anything is false
 - ♦ false implies anything is true
 - ♦ anything implies true is true
- The first two rules are valid irrespective of the order of the arguments and whether or not the value of the other sub-expression is known
- Exception for if-then-else expression: it will be valid as long as the chosen branch is valid, irrespective of the value of the other branch



































- Specifies a Boolean expression that must be true for **at least one element** in a collection
- Alternative expressions for the **exists** operation
 - ♦ collection->exists(Boolean-expression)
 - ◇ collection->exists(v | Boolean-expression-with-v)
 - ◇ collection->exists(v: Type | Boolean-expression-with-v)
- The firstName of at least one employee is equal to 'Jack'

```
context Company
inv: self.employee->exists(firstName = 'Jack')
inv: self.employee->exists(p | p.firstName = 'Jack')
inv: self.employee->exists(p: Person | p.firstName = 'Jack')
```





















