Object Constraint Language 1

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Incompleteness and Ambiguities

- UML (class) schemas typically do not provide all relevant details (e.g., constraints, pre-conditions, post-conditions)
- more information is required, it can be specified in a form of
  - notes/documentation in natural language
    - ambiguities but easy to understand by average business people or software engineers
  - formal languages
    - unambiguous but usable only to persons with strong mathematical background
Incompleteness and Ambiguities

- What is on your mind when you see this UML class diagram? I.e.:
  - What constraints apply?
  - What constraints are already unambiguously expressed in the diagram?
  - What constraints are not expressed?
    - How would you express them?
Incompleteness and Ambiguities

- The start date of a project must be before the end date.
- A document with less than 8 estimated working hours can not have more than 1 author.
- A person can be either an author or reviewer of a single document but not both.
- A person can be an author of a document only if that document is an output of his or her project.
- The serial number of a document must be unique in a project.
- A document can be published only when it is finished.
Constraints in UML

- UML constraint is a condition or restriction attached to one or more elements expressed in a natural language or machine readable notation
  - boolean expression that restricts the extension of the associated elements beyond what is imposed by the other UML constructs applied to that elements
Constraint Formal Model

- **constraint context**
  - the constraint is evaluated in a given context
  - determines when the constraint is evaluated
    - e.g., operation pre and post conditions

- **constrained elements**
  - all elements constrained by the constraint

- **name**
  - optional
Constraints in UML – Example

«invariant»
{The start date of a project must be before the end date.}

«invariant»
{A document with less than 8 estimated working hours can not have more than 1 author.}

- name: String
- number: String
- salary: Int

Project
- name: String
- startDate: Date
- endDate: Date
+ publishDocument(Document) : void

Document
- serialNumber: Int
- pages: Int
- title: String
- estimatedWorkHours: Int
- status: DocStatus

Person
- name: String
- number: String
- salary: Int
+ worker 1..*

Project
+ project 0..*

Document
+ authoredDoc 0..*
+ reviewedDoc 0..*
+ author
1..*
+ reviewer 0..2
+ project 0..*
+ output 0..*

+project 0..*
+output 0..*
+reviewedDoc 0..*
+author 1..*
+reviewer 0..2
Object Constraint Language (OCL)

- not a procedural language
  - specification and declarative language
- extension to UML
- strongly typed language
  - types defined by UML diagrams
  - predefined types:
    - Integer, Boolean, String, Real, UnlimitedInteger
    - Set, OrderedSet, Bag, Sequence
Kinds of Expressions

- initial values
- derivation rules
- operation pre-conditions, post-conditions, bodies
- invariants
Initial Values

context TypeName::PropertyName: Type
init: -- Expression representing the initial value

- declares that the initial value of TypeName::PropertyName is equal to the value of the Expression
  - the initial value is the value being assigned at the moment of the creation
  - the type of the initial value must conform to Type
- PropertyName is an attribute or association end
  - if attribute then it must be owned by TypeName
  - if association end then it must be owned by TypeName, or TypeName must be the context of PropertyName

- NOTE: What is context?
context Document::status
init: DocStatus::New
context Project::output : Set(Document)
init: Set{ }
Derivation Rules

class context
type Name::PropertyName: Type
derive: -- Expression representing the derivation rule

defines that the value of
  Name::PropertyName should always be
  equal to the value of the Expression
  - the derivation rule is a kind of invariant
  - the type of the derived value must conform to Type

PropertyName is an attribute or association end
  - if attribute then it must be owned by Name
  - if association end then it must be owned by Name, or Name must be the context of PropertyName
**Derivation Rules**

**context** Project::teamSize

**derive:** self.worker->size()
Derivation Rules

**context** Project:::currentReviewer : Set(Person)

**derive:** output->select(status = DocStatus:::Review)

```java
.output .reviewer->asSet()
```
Operation Pre- and Post-conditions

context TypeName::OperName(p1 : Type1, ...): ReturnType
pre: -- pre-condition Expression
post: -- post-condition Expression

- pre-condition must be true when the operation starts its execution
  - otherwise the operation will not be executed
- post-condition must be true when the operation ends its execution
  - otherwise the operation has not executed correctly
- result – reserved word representing the result of executing the operation
- @pre – reserved property suffix representing the previous value of the property
context Project::publishDocument(d:Document)
pre: self.output->includes(d) and d.status = DocStatus::Finished
post: d.status = DocStatus::Published
context Person:::reviewDocument(d:Document)
pre: self.reviewedDoc->excludes(d) and self.project.output->includes(d) and d.status = DocStatus:::ToReview and d.reviewer->size()<2
post: self.reviewedDoc->includes(d) and d.status = DocStatus:::UnderReview
**Operation Pre- and Post-conditions**

```plaintext
context Person:::increaseSalary(s:Integer): void
pre:   -- none
post:  salary = salary@pre + s
```
Operation Pre- and Post-conditions

**context** Person::$_isReviewer(): Boolean

**pre:** -- none

**post:** result = (selfReviewedDoc->size() > 0)
Operation Bodies

context TypeName::OperName(p1 : Type1, ...):
ReturnType

body: -- body Expression

- query operations can be fully declared by specifying their result in a single expression
  - query operation = does not have any side effect, no change to the extension
context Person::getCurrentWork(k: KindOfWork) : Set(Document)

body: if k = KindOfWork::Writting
    then self.authoredDoc->select(status = DocStatus::InProgress)
    else self.reviewedDoc->select(status = DocStatus::Review)
Invariants

context TypeName

inv: -- invariant Expression

- invariant declares a condition which must be true upon completion of the constructor and completion of every public operation
- not necessarily true during the execution of the operations
context Project
inv: self.startDate -> isBefore(endDate)
context Document

inv: self.estimatedWorkHours <= 8 implies self.author->size() <= 1
context Person
inv: self.authoredDoc -> excludesAll (self.reviewedDoc)
context Person

inv: self.authoredDoc.project
    ->excludesAll(self.reviewedDoc.project)