

Model-based Specification

- ⊗ Formal specification of software by developing a mathematical model of the system

Objectives

- ⊗ To introduce an approach to formal specification based on mathematical system models
- ⊗ To present some features of the Z specification language
- ⊗ To illustrate the usefulness of Z by describing small examples
- ⊗ To show how Z schemas may be used to develop incremental specifications

Topics covered

- ⊗ Z schemas
- ⊗ The Z specification process
- ⊗ Specifying ordered collections

Model-based specification

- ⊗ Defines a model of a system using well-understood mathematical entities such as sets and functions.
- ⊗ The state of the system is not hidden (unlike algebraic specification).
- ⊗ State changes are straightforward to define.
- ⊗ VDM and Z are the most widely used model-based specification languages.

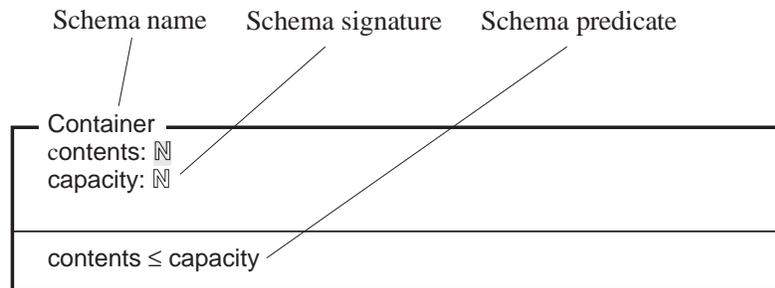
Z as a specification language

- ⊗ Based on typed set theory
- ⊗ Probably now the most widely-used specification language
- ⊗ Includes schemas, an effective low-level structuring facility
- ⊗ Schemas are specification building blocks
- ⊗ Graphical presentation of schemas make Z specifications easier to understand

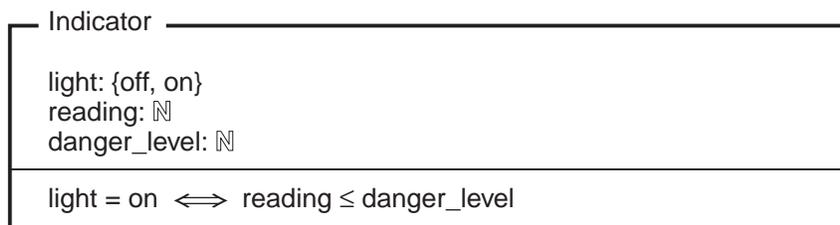
Z schemas

- ⊗ Introduce specification entities and defines invariant predicates over these entities
- ⊗ A schema includes
 - A name identifying the schema
 - A signature introducing entities and their types
 - A predicate part defining invariants over these entities
- ⊗ Schemas can be included in other schemas and may act as type definitions
- ⊗ Names are local to schemas

Z schema highlighting



An indicator specification



Storage tank specification

Storage_tank

Container
Indicator

reading = contents
capacity = 5000
danger_level = 50

Full specification of a storage tank

Storage_tank

contents: \mathbb{N}
capacity: \mathbb{N}
reading: \mathbb{N}
danger_level: \mathbb{N}
light: {off, on}

contents \leq capacity
light = on \iff reading \leq danger_level
reading = contents
capacity = 5000
danger_level = 50

Z conventions

- ⊗ A variable name decorated with a quote mark (N') represents the value of the state variable N after an operation
- ⊗ A schema name decorated with a quote mark introduces the dashed values of all names defined in the schema
- ⊗ A variable name decorated with a ! represents an output

Z conventions

- ⊗ A variable name decorated with a ? represents an input
- ⊗ A schema name prefixed by the Greek letter Xi (Ξ) means that the defined operation does not change the values of state variables
- ⊗ A schema name prefixed by the Greek letter Delta (Δ) means that the operation changes some or all of the state variables introduced in that schema

Operation specification

- ⊗ Operations may be specified incrementally as separate schema then the schema combined to produce the complete specification
- ⊗ Define the 'normal' operation as a schema
- ⊗ Define schemas for exceptional situations
- ⊗ Combine all schemas using the disjunction (or) operator

A partial spec. of a fill operation

Fill-OK

Δ Storage_tank
amount?: \mathbb{N}

contents + amount? \leq capacity
contents' = contents + amount?

Storage tank fill operation

OverFill

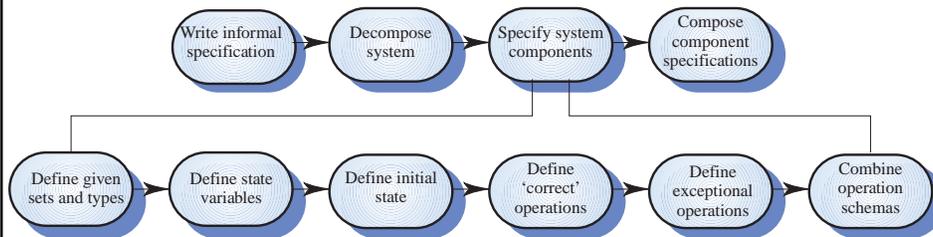
\exists Storage-tank
amount?: \mathbb{N}
r!: seq CHAR

capacity < contents + amount?
r! = "Insufficient tank capacity – Fill cancelled"

Fill

Fill-OK \vee OverFill

The Z specification process



Data dictionary specification

- ⊗ Data dictionary, introduced in Chapter 6, will be used as an example. This is part of a CASE system and is used to keep track of system names
- ⊗ Data dictionary structure
 - Item name
 - Description
 - Type. Assume in these examples that the allowed types are those used in semantic data models
 - Creation date

Given sets

- ⊗ Z does not require everything to be defined at specification time
- ⊗ Some entities may be ‘given’ and defined later
- ⊗ The first stage in the specification process is to introduce these given sets
 - [NAME, DATE]
 - We don’t care about these representations at this stage

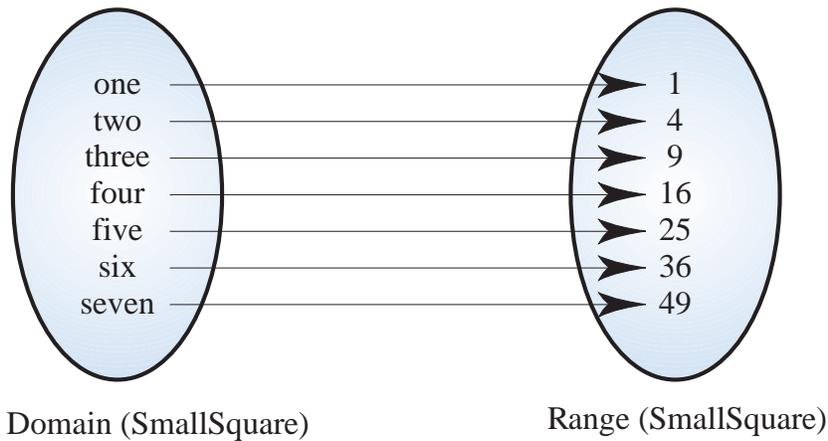
Type definitions

- ⊗ There are a number of built-in types (such as INTEGER) in Z
- ⊗ Other types may be defined by enumeration
 - Sem_model_types = { relation, entity, attribute }
- ⊗ Schemas may also be used for type definition. The predicates serve as constraints on the type

Specification using functions

- ⊗ A function is a mapping from an input value to an output value
 - SmallSquare = { 1 → 1, 2 → 4, 3 → 9, 4 → 16, 5 → 25, 6 → 36, 7 → 49 }
- ⊗ The domain of a function is the set of inputs over which the function has a defined result
 - dom SmallSquare = { 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 }
- ⊗ The range of a function is the set of results which the function can produce
 - rng SmallSquare = { 1, 4, 9, 16, 25, 36, 49 }

The function SmallSquare



Data dictionary modeling

- ⊗ A data dictionary may be thought of as a mapping from a name (the key) to a value (the description in the dictionary)
- ⊗ Operations are
 - Add. Makes a new entry in the dictionary or replaces an existing entry
 - Lookup. Given a name, returns the description.
 - Delete. Deletes an entry from the dictionary
 - Replace. Replaces the information associated with an entry

Data dictionary entry

DataDictionaryEntry

entry: NAME
desc: seq char
type: Sem_model_types
creation_date: DATE

#description ≤ 2000

Data dictionary as a function

DataDictionary

DataDictionaryEntry
ddict: NAME → {DataDictionaryEntry}

Data dictionary - initial state

Init-DataDictionary

DataDictionary'

ddict' = \emptyset

Add and lookup operations

Add_OK

Δ DataDictionary
name?: NAME
entry?: DataDictionaryEntry

name? \notin dom ddict
ddict' = ddict \cup {name? \mapsto entry?}

Lookup_OK

\exists DataDictionary
name?: NAME
entry!: DataDictionaryEntry

name? \in dom ddict
entry! = ddict (name?)

Add and lookup operations

Add_Error

\exists DataDictionary
name?: NAME
error!: seq char

name? \in dom ddict
error! = "Name already in dictionary"

Lookup_Error

\exists DataDictionary
name?: NAME
error!: seq char

name? \notin dom ddict
error! = "Name not in dictionary"

Function over-riding operator

⊗ ReplaceEntry uses the function overriding operator (written \oplus). This adds a new entry or replaces an existing entry.

- phone = { Ian \rightarrow 3390, Ray \rightarrow 3392, Steve \rightarrow 3427 }
- The domain of phone is {Ian, Ray, Steve} and the range is {3390, 3392, 3427}.
- newphone = {Steve \rightarrow 3386, Ron \rightarrow 3427 }
- phone \oplus newphone = { Ian \rightarrow 3390, Ray \rightarrow 3392, Steve \rightarrow 3386, Ron \rightarrow 3427 }

Replace operation

Replace_OK

Δ DataDictionary
name?: NAME
entry?: DataDictionaryEntry

name? \in dom ddict
ddict' \oplus {name? \mapsto entry?}

Deleting an entry

⊗ Uses the domain subtraction operator (written **4**) which, given a name, removes that name from the domain of the function

- phone = { Ian \rightarrow 3390, Ray \rightarrow 3392, Steve \rightarrow 3427 }
- {Ian} **4** phone
- {Ray \rightarrow 3392, Steve \rightarrow 3427 }

Delete entry

Delete_OK

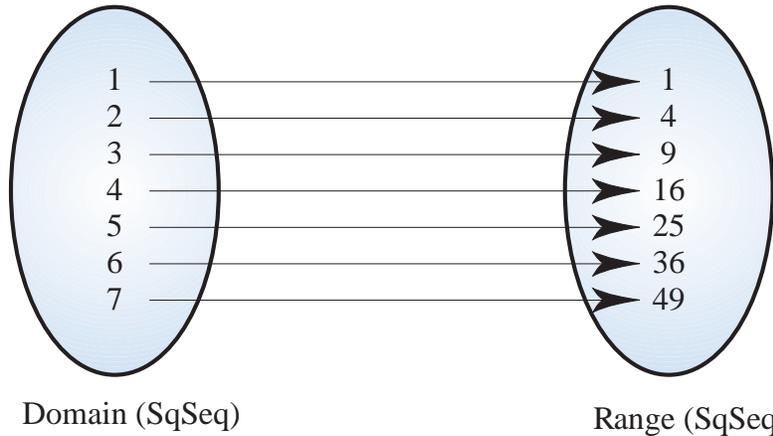
Δ DataDictionary
name?: NAME

name? \in dom ddict
ddict' = {name?} \triangleleft ddict

Specifying ordered collections

- ⊗ Specification using functions does not allow ordering to be specified
- ⊗ Sequences are used for specifying ordered collections
- ⊗ A sequence is a mapping from consecutive integers to associated values

A Z sequence



Data dictionary extract operation

- ⊗ The Extract operation extracts from the data dictionary all those entries whose type is the same as the type input to the operation
- ⊗ The extracted list is presented in alphabetical order
- ⊗ A sequence is used to specify the ordered output of Extract

The Extract operation

Extract

DataDictionary
rep!: seq {DataDictionaryEntry}
in_type?: Sem_model_types

$$\begin{aligned} &\forall n : \text{dom ddict} \bullet \text{ddict}(n). \text{type} = \text{in_type?} \Rightarrow \text{ddict}(n) \in \text{rng rep!} \\ &\forall i : 1 \leq i \leq \#\text{rep!} \bullet \text{rep!}(i). \text{type} = \text{in_type?} \\ &\forall i : 1 \leq i \leq \#\text{rep!} \bullet \text{rep!}(i) \in \text{rng ddict} \\ &\forall i, j : \text{dom rep!} \bullet (i < j) \Rightarrow \text{rep.name}(i) <_{\text{NAME}} \text{rep.name}(j) \end{aligned}$$

Extract predicate

- ⊗ For all entries in the data dictionary whose type is in_type?, there is an entry in the output sequence
- ⊗ The type of all members of the output sequence is in_type?
- ⊗ All members of the output sequence are members of the range of ddict
- ⊗ The output sequence is ordered

Data dictionary specification

The_Data_Dictionary

DataDictionary
Init-DataDictionary
Add
Lookup
Delete
Replace
Extract

Key points

- ⊗ Model-based specification relies on building a system model using well-understood mathematical entities
- ⊗ Z specifications are made up of mathematical model of the system state and a definition of operations on that state
- ⊗ A Z specification is presented as a number of schemas
- ⊗ Schemas may be combined to make new schemas

Key points

- ⊗ Operations are specified by defining their effect on the system state. Operations may be specified incrementally then different schemas combined to complete the specification
- ⊗ Z functions are a set of pairs where the domain of the function is the set of valid inputs. The range is the set of associated outputs. A sequence is a special type of function whose domain is the consecutive integers