

NOTE: next lecture, Nov 11th, in the odd' room 51-0-0034

Software Design, Modelling and Analysis in UML

Lecture 03: Object Diagrams, OCL Consistency

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Contents & Goals

Last Lecture:
 • OCL Semantics

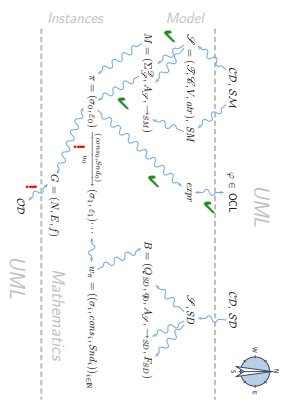
- This Lecture:**
- Educational Objectives: Capabilities for following tasks/questions.
 - What is an object diagram? What are object diagrams good for?
 - When is an object diagram called partial? What are partial ones good for?
 - When is an object diagram an object diagram (vmt, what)?
 - Is this an object diagram vmt to that other thing?
 - How are system states and object diagrams related?
 - What does it mean that an OCL expression is satisfiable?
 - When is a set of OCL constraints said to be consistent?
 - Can you think of an object diagram which violates this OCL constraint?
- **Content:**
- Object Diagrams
 - Example: Object Diagrams for Documentation
 - OCL: consistency, satisfiability

2/11

Where Are We?

3/11

You Are Here.



4/11

Object Diagrams

5/11

Graph

Definition. A node labelled graph is a triple

$$G = (N, E, f)$$

consisting of

- vertices N ,
- edges E ,
- node labelling $f : N \rightarrow X$, where X is some label domain.

6/11

OCL Consistency

Definition (Consistency). A set $Inv = \{i_1, \dots, i_n\}$ of OCL constraints over \mathcal{S} is called **consistent** (or **satisfiable**) if and only if there exists a system state of \mathcal{S} wrt. \mathcal{S} which satisfies all of them, i.e. if

$$\exists \sigma \in \Sigma_{\mathcal{S}}^{\mathcal{S}} : \sigma \models i_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \sigma \models i_n$$

and **inconsistent** (or **unrealizable**) otherwise.

OCL Satisfaction Relation

In the following, \mathcal{S} denotes a signature and \mathcal{D} a structure of \mathcal{S} .

Definition (Satisfaction Relation).
Let φ be an OCL constraint over \mathcal{S} and $\sigma \in \Sigma_{\mathcal{S}}^{\mathcal{D}}$ a system state. We write

- $\sigma \models \varphi$ if and only if $I[\varphi](\sigma, \emptyset) = true$
- $\sigma \not\models \varphi$ if and only if $I[\varphi](\sigma, \emptyset) = false$

Note: In general we can't conclude from $\neg(\sigma \models \varphi)$ to $\sigma \not\models \varphi$ or vice versa.

Object Diagrams and OCL

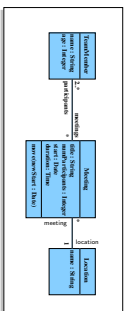
- Let G be an object diagram of signature \mathcal{S} wrt. structure \mathcal{D} . Let $expr$ be an OCL expression over \mathcal{S} .
- We say G **satisfies** $expr$, denoted by $G \models expr$, if and only if $\forall \sigma \in G^{-1} : \sigma \models expr$.
- If G is **complete**, we can also talk about " $\sigma \models expr$ ". (Otherwise better not to avoid confusion: G^{-1} could comprise different system states in which $expr$ evaluates to true, false, and \perp .)
- Example:** (complete — what if not complete wrt. object/attribute/both?)



- context C inv : n -> isEmpty()
- context C inv : m -> isEmpty()
- context D inv : x ≠ 0

OCL Consistency

OCL Inconsistency Example



- context **Location** inv :
name = Lobby implies meeting -> isLobby()
- context **Meeting** inv :
title = "Reception" implies location . name = "Lobby"
- allInstances **meeting** -> exists(w : Meeting | w . title = Reception)

Deciding OCL Consistency

- Whether a set of OCL constraints is satisfiable or not is in general **not** as obvious as in the made-up example.
- Wanted:** A procedure which decides the OCL satisfiability problem.
- Unfortunately:** in general **undecidable**.
Otherwise we could, for instance, solve **diophantine equations**

$$c_1 x^{a_1} + \dots + c_n x^{a_n} = d$$

Encoding in OCL:

$$allInstances \rightarrow exists(w : C | c_1 * w.x^{a_1} + \dots + c_n * w.x^{a_n} = d)$$

- And now?** Options:
- Constrain OCL, use a **less rich** fragment of OCL.
- Revert to **finite domains** — basic types vs. number of objects.

[Cabot and Christó, 2008]

- **Expressive Power:**
 - "Pure OCL expressions only compute primitive recursive functions, but not recursive functions in general." [Cengstle and Knapp, 2001]
 - Evolution over Time: "Finally $\text{set}(x > y)$ "
 - Proposals for fixes e.g. [Flake and Müller, 2003]. (Or: sequence diagrams)
 - **Reach Time:** "Objects respond within 10s"
 - Proposals for fixes e.g. [Cengstle and Knapp, 2002]
 - **Reachability:** "After insert operation, node shall be reachable."
- Fix: add transitive closure.
- **Concrete Syntax**
 - "The syntax of OCL has been criticized – e.g., by the authors of Catalysis [...] – for being hard to read and write."
 - OCL's expressions are stacked in the style of Smalltalk, which makes it hard to see the scope of quantified variables.
 - Navigations are applied to atoms and not sets of atoms, although there is a context operation that maps a function over a set.
 - Attributes, [...], are partial functions in OCL, and result in expressions with undefined value. [Jackson, 2002]

29

References

30

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31