Software Engineering Lecture 04: The B Specification Method

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SS 2014

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The B specification method

- B-Method: formal approach to specification and development of software systems
- Developed by Jean-Raymond Abrial, late 1980es
- Definitive reference: The B-Book, Cambridge University Press
- Supports all phases of software development
- Emphasis on simplicity
- Amenable to formal verification
- ► Tool support: Atelier-B, B-Toolkit
- Industrial use
- Syntax http://www.stups.uni-duesseldorf.de/ProB/index.php5/Summary_of_B_Syntax

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Abstract Machines

Abstract Machines

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Abstract Machines

Central concept: Abstract Machine

Example: The Ticket Dispenser



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```
Ticket Dispenser in B
Abstract Machine Notation (AMN)
```

```
MACHINE Ticket
VARIABLES serve, next
INVARIANT serve : NAT & next : NAT & serve <= next
INITIALISATION serve, next := 0, 0
OPERATIONS
  ss <-- serve_next =
    PRE serve < next
    THEN ss, serve := serve + 1, serve + 1
    END ;
  tt <-- take ticket =
    PRE
       true
    THEN tt, next := next, next + 1
```

END

END

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MACHINE, VARIABLES, INVARIANT

MACHINE name

uniquely names a machine in a project

VARIABLES name, ...

- components of local machine state space
- all distinct names

INVARIANT formula

Conjunction of

- type of each variable, e.g., serve : NAT
- relations between variables, e.g., serve <= next</p>

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OPERATIONS

List of operation definitions

```
output, ... <-- name (input, ...) =

PRE precondition

THEN statement

END
```

- name: name of operation
- input, outputs: names of input and output parameters
- PRE precondition
 - Formula that must be true to invoke
 - May be dropped if true
- ▶ THEN *statement*: *body* of the operation
 - Must specify each output variable
 - May update the machine state

Statement / Assignment

Simple Assignment

name := expression

Multiple Assignment

name, ... := expression, ...

- all distinct names on left hand side
- simultaneous assignment evaluate all right hand sides, then assign to left hand sides all at once

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Abstract Machines

INITIALISATION

INITIALISATION statement

- defines a set of possible initial states
- all variables of the machine state must be assigned

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Sets and Logic

Sets and Logic

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Sets

- B builds on typed set theory
- Standard mathematical notation for set operations is ok, but we use the syntax of the tools
- Predefined sets:
 - ▶ BOOL = { TRUE, FALSE }
 - ▶ INT, NAT, NAT1 machine integers and natural numbers (without 0)
 - STRING with elements of the form "string content"
- Types of variables are defined by predicates
 - v:S the value of v is an element of set S
 - $v \le S$ the value of v is a subset of set S

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Set Formation

SETS declaration; ...

- another MACHINE clause
- declaration can be
 - set-name: set with unspecified elements
 - set-name = { element-name, ...}: set with named elements
- example

```
SETS COLOR = {red, green, blue}; KEY; PERSON
```

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Set Expressions (Part I) Excerpt

If S and T are sets, then so are ...

{}, {E}, {E, ...} empty set, singleton set, set enumeration
{x | P} comprehension (set of all x such that P holds)
S\/T, S/\T, S-T set union, set intersection, set difference
S*T Cartesian product
(set of all pairs (s,t) where s:S and t:T)
POW(S), POW1(S) power set, set of non-empty subsets
union(S) generalised union over sets of sets
inter(S) generalised intersection over sets of sets

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Sets and Logic

Set Expressions (Part II) Excerpt

Properties of sets

E:S, E/:S	element of, not element of
S<:T, S/<:T	subset of, not subset of
S<<:T, S/<<:T	strict subset of, not strict subset of
card(S)	cardinality

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Types for Set Expressions

- Every type in B is a set, but not vice versa
- Types ensure consistency and the absence of paradoxa
- Types are generated by the grammar

 $A, B ::= \mathbb{N} \mid \mathbb{M} \mid A \times B \mid \mathbb{P}(A) \mid \text{Prop}$

- M is an abstract set defined in a SETS clause
- PROP is the type of propositions (outcomes of predicates)
- Write E :: A to indicate that set expression E has type A

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Sets and Logic

Rules for Typed Set Expressions (Part I)

$$1 :: \mathbb{N} \quad \text{NAT} :: \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{N}) \quad \frac{\text{SETS } \mathbb{M} \dots}{\mathbb{M} :: \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{M})} \quad \frac{\text{SETS } \mathbb{M} = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}}{x_i :: \mathbb{M}}$$
$$\{\} :: \mathbb{P}(A) \quad \frac{E_i :: A}{\{E_1, \dots\} :: \mathbb{P}(A)} \quad \frac{[x :: A] \ P :: \operatorname{Prop}}{\{x \mid P\} :: \mathbb{P}(A)}$$
$$\frac{E :: A \quad S :: \mathbb{P}(A)}{E : S :: \operatorname{Prop}} \quad \frac{S :: \mathbb{P}(A)}{S <: T :: \operatorname{Prop}} \quad \frac{S :: \mathbb{P}(A)}{\operatorname{card}(S) :: \mathbb{N}}$$

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Sets and Logic

Rules for Typed Set Expressions (Part II)

$$\begin{array}{c} S :: \mathbb{P}(A) & T :: \mathbb{P}(A) \\ \hline S \cup T :: \mathbb{P}(A) & S \cap T :: \mathbb{P}(A) & S \setminus T :: \mathbb{P}(A) \\ \hline S :: \mathbb{P}(A) & T :: \mathbb{P}(B) \\ \hline S * T :: \mathbb{P}(A \times B) & \hline POW(S) :: \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{P}(A)) & \hline S :: \mathbb{P}(A) \\ \hline OW1(S) :: \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{P}(A)) \\ \hline \hline union(S) :: \mathbb{P}(A) & inter(S) :: \mathbb{P}(A) \end{array}$$

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Examples

- $\{1, 2, 3\} :: \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{N})$ because $1, 2, 3 :: \mathbb{N}$
- ► {1,2, {}} not well typed because 1, 2 :: N but {} :: P(A)
- ▶ 1:{}

well typed expression because $\{\}::\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{N})\ /\ wrong\ proposition$

- ▶ NAT \cup {} :: $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{N})$
- ▶ NAT \cup M not well typed because NAT :: $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{N})$ but M :: $\mathbb{P}(M)$
- NAT $\cup S * T$ not well typed
- $union(POW(\{1,2,3\})) :: \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{N})$

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First-Order Predicate Logic

- ► Atoms are expressions of type PROP
- Standard connectives

P & Q	conjunction
P or Q	disjunction
P => Q	implication
P <=> Q	equivalence
not P	negation
!(x).(P => Q)	universal quantification
#(x).(P & Q)	existential quantification

- \blacktriangleright In quantification, predicate P must fix the type of x
- Example

!(m).(m:NAT => #(n).(n:NAT & m < n))

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Weakest Preconditions

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- State space of a B machine = type of its variables restricted by invariant I
- Specification of operation = relation on state space
- Questions
 - 1. Is an operation executable?
 - 2. Does an operation preserve the invariant?

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 - 1. Is an operation executable?
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- ► Formalized for operation PRE P THEN S END
 - 1. Executable: I & P
 - 2. Preservation: if executable, does I hold after S?

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 - 1. Is an operation executable?
 - 2. Does an operation preserve the invariant?
- ▶ Formalized for operation PRE *P* THEN *S* END
 - 1. Executable: I & P
 - 2. Preservation: if executable, does I hold after S?
- ► Tool: Weakest Precondition (WP) [S] Q (a predicate)
 - If [S] Q holds before executing S, then Q holds afterwards
 - For all R that hold before S and guarantee that Q holds afterwards, R => [S] Q

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 - 1. Executable: I & P
 - 2. Preservation: if executable, does I hold after S?
- ► Tool: Weakest Precondition (WP) [S] Q (a predicate)
 - If [S] Q holds before executing S, then Q holds afterwards
 - For all R that hold before S and guarantee that Q holds afterwards, R => [S] Q
- WP can be calculated for each statement of the AMN

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Example

VARIABLES x, y
INVARIANT x:{0,1,2} & y:{0,1,2}
OPERATIONS
f =
 y := max { 0, y - x }
END

Weakest precondition

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Calculation of the Weakest Precondition WP for Assignment

$$[x := E]P = P[E/x]$$

Example

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Calculation of the Weakest Precondition WP for skip

[skip] P = P

The skip statement has no effect on the state.

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Calculation of the Weakest Precondition

WP for conditional

- Syntax: IF E THEN S ELSE T END for statements S and T
- Weakest precondition

[IF E THEN S ELSE T END]P = (E&[S]P) or ((not E)&[T]P)

Example

```
[IF x<5 THEN x := x+4 ELSE x := x-3 END] (x < 7)
<=>
    (x < 5) & [x := x+4] (x < 7)
    or not (x < 5) & [x := x-3] (x < 7)
<=>
        (x < 5) & (x+4 < 7)
    or (x >= 5) & (x-3 < 7)
<=>
        (x < 3)
    or (x >= 5) & (x < 10)
</pre>
```

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Machine Consistency

Machine Consistency

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Machine Consistency

INVARIANT and INITIALISATION

Objectives

- 1. The state space must not be empty
- 2. Initialization must be successful

INVARIANT I

State space is non-empty if #(v). (1)

INITIALISATION T

Success if [T] I

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INVARIANT and INITIALISATION

Objectives

- 1. The state space must not be empty
- 2. Initialization must be successful

INVARIANT *I* State space is non-empty if #(v).(*I*)

INITIALISATION T

Success if [T] I

Example: Ticket Dispenser

- 1. For serve = 0 and next = 0, serve <= next holds
- 2. [serve, next := 0, 0] I = 0:NAT & 0:NAT & 0 <= 0

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Machine Consistency

Proof Obligation for Operations

Consider

- ► INVARIANT *I*
- ▶ operation PRE *P* THEN *S* END

Consistent if

 $I \& P \Rightarrow [S]I$

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Machine Consistency

Proof Obligation for Operations

Consider

- INVARIANT I
- ▶ operation PRE *P* THEN *S* END

Consistent if

 $I \& P \Rightarrow [S]I$

Example: Ticket Dispenser serve_next

```
(serve:NAT & next:NAT & serve <= next) & (serve < next) =>
[serve := serve + 1] (serve:NAT & next:NAT & serve <= next)
<=>
(serve:NAT & next:NAT & serve < next) =>
(serve:NAT & next:NAT & serve + 1 <= next)</pre>
```

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Relations

Relations

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Printer Permissions

```
MACHINE Access
SETS USER; PRINTER; OPTION; PERMISSION = { ok, noaccess }
CONSTANTS options
PROPERTIES
  options : PRINTER <-> OPTION &
  dom( options ) = PRINTER & ran( options ) = OPTION
VARTABLES access
INVARIANT access : USER <-> PRINTER
INITIALISATION access := {}
OPERATIONS
  add (uu, pp) =
    PRE uu:USER & pp:PRINTER
    THEN access := access // \{ uu | -> pp \}
   END :
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New Machine Clauses

CONSTANTS name, ...

- name is a fixed, but unknown value
- Type determined by PROPERTIES

PROPERTIES formula

- Describes conditions that must hold for SETS and CONSTANTS
- Must specify the types of the constants
- Must not refer to VARIABLES

About clauses

- Clauses must appear in the same order as in the example!
- No forward references allowed

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Relational Operations

- Binary relation between S and T S <-> T = POW (S*T)
- Elements of a relation R : S <-> T are pairs, written as uu |-> pp, where uu:S & pp:T
- Predefined symbols for domain and range of a relation dom (R) = {s | s:S & #(t).(t:T & s |-> t :R) } ran (R) = {t | t:S & #(s).(s:S & s |-> t :R) }

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Relational Operations

- Binary relation between S and T S <-> T = POW (S*T)
- Elements of a relation R : S <-> T are pairs, written as uu |-> pp, where uu:S & pp:T
- Predefined symbols for domain and range of a relation dom (R) = {s | s:S & #(t).(t:T & s |-> t :R) } ran (R) = {t | t:S & #(s).(s:S & s |-> t :R) }
- Example: PRINTER = {PL, PLDUPLEX, PLCOLOR} options = { PL |-> ok, PLCOLOR |-> noaccess } dom (options) = {PL, PLCOLOR} ran (options) = {ok, noaccess}

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Printer Permissions (Cont'd)

```
MACHINE Access ...
OPERATIONS ...
ban (uu) =
    PRE uu:USER
    THEN access := { uu } <<| access
    END ;
    nn <-- printnumquery (pp) =
    PRE pp:PRINTER
    THEN nn := card (access |> { pp })
    END ;
```

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Relational Operations II

Domain and range restriction

Let R:S < ->T

Domain restriction: Remove elements from dom (R)

- Keep domain elements in U: U <| R = { s |-> t | (s |-> t):R & s:U }
- Drop domain elements in U (anti-restriction, subtraction): U <<| R = { s |-> t | (s |-> t):R & s/:U }

Range restriction: Remove elements from ran (R)

- Keep range elements in U: R |> U = { s |-> t | (s |-> t):R & t:U }
- Drop range elements in U: R |>> U = { s |-> t | (s |-> t):R & t/:U }

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Relations

Relational Operations III

Further Relational Operations

id(S)	identity relation
R-	inverse relation
R[U]	relational image
(R1;R2)	relational composition
R1<+R2	relational overriding

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Relations

Relational Operations III

Further Relational Operations

id(S)	identity relation
R-	inverse relation
R[U]	relational image
(R1;R2)	relational composition
R1<+R2	relational overriding

Overriding ...

- R1<+R2 means R2 overrides R1</p>
- Union of R1 and R2, but in the intersection of dom (R1) and dom (R2), the elements of R2 take precedence
- R1<+R2 = (dom (R2) <<| R1) \/ R2</p>

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Functions

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Functions

- ▶ In B, a function is an unambiguous relation (i.e., a set of pairs)
- Shorthand notation to indicate properties of functions

S+->T	partial function	S>T	total function
S+->>T	partial surjection	S>>T	total surjection
S>+>T	partial injection	S>->T	total injection
S>+>>T	partial bijection	S>->>T	total bijection

Using functions

- f (E) function application
- %x.(P|E) lambda abstraction, P gives type of x

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Example: Reading Books / Declarations

```
MACHINE Reading
SETS READER; BOOK; COPY; RESPONSE = { yes, no }
CONSTANTS copyof
PROPERTIES copyof : COPY -->> BOOK
VARIABLES hasread, reading
INVARIANT
  hasread : READER <-> BOOK &
  reading : READER >+> COPY &
  (reading ; copyof) /\ hasread = {}
INITIALISATION
  hasread := \{\} || reading = \{\}
```

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Example: Reading Books / Operations (Excerpt) OPERATIONS (excerpt)

```
start (rr. cc) =
  PRE
    rr:READER & cc:COPY & copyof (cc)/:hasread(rr) &
    rr/:dom (reading) & cc/:ran (reading)
  THEN
    reading := reading \setminus / \{ rr \mid -> cc \}
  END
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,
bb < -- currentbook (rr) =
  PRE
    rr:READER & rr:dom (reading)
  THEN
    bb := copyof (reading (rr))
  END
```

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Sequences and Arrays

Sequences

- A sequence over set S is a total function from an initial segment of NAT1 to S
- ▶ seq (S) = (1..N --> S), where N:NAT
- Notation for manipulating sequences: formation, concatenation, first, last, etc

Arrays

- An array over set S is a partial function from an initial segment of NAT1 to S
- (1...N +-> S), where N:NAT
- Notation for updating arrays

a (i) :=
$$E$$
 = a := a <+ { i |-> E }

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Nondeterminism

Nondeterminism

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Nondeterminism in Specifications

Up to now: high-level programming with sets

- deterministic machines
- abstraction from particular data structures
- abstraction from realization of operations
- Further abstraction
 - specification may allow a range of acceptable behaviors
 - specification describes possible choices
 - subsequent refinement narrows down towards an implementation
- This section
 - AMN operations that exhibit nondeterminism

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Nondeterminism

Example: Jukebox / Declarations

```
MACHINE Jukebox
SETS TRACK
CONSTANTS limit
PROPERTIES limit:NAT1
VARIABLES credit, playset
INVARIANT credit:NAT & credit<=limit & playset<:TRACK
INITIALISATION credit, playset := 0, {}
```

```
OPERATIONS
  pay (cc) =
    PRE cc:NAT1
    THEN credit := min ( {credit + cc, limit}) END ;
```

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Nondeterminism

```
Example: Jukebox / Operations (excerpt) 
OPERATIONS
```

```
tt < -- play =
  PRE playset /= {}
  THEN ANY tr WHERE tr:playset
       THEN tt := tr || playset := playset - {tr}
       END
  END
;
select (tt) =
  PRE credit>0 & tt:TRACK
  THEN playset := playset \/ {tt}
    || CHOICE credit := credit - 1
       OR skip
       END
  END
```

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ANY statement

ANY x WHERE Q THEN S END

- x fresh variable, only visible in Q and S
- Q predicate; type of x; other constraints
- S the body statement
- executes S with an arbitrary value for x fulfilling Q

Examples

Assume total:NAT

- 1. ANY n WHERE n:NAT1 THEN total := total*n END
- 2. ANY t WHERE t:NAT & t<=total & 2*t>= total THEN total := t END

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ANY weakest precondition

[ANY x WHERE Q THEN S END] $P = !(x) . (Q \Rightarrow [S] P)$

Examples

- 1. [ANY n WHERE n:NAT1 THEN total := total*n END] (total > 1) = !(n).(n:NAT1 => [total := total*n] (total > 1)) = !(n).(n:NAT1 => (total*n > 1)) = (total > 1)
- 2. [ANY t WHERE t:NAT & t<=total & 2*t>= total ...] (total > 1) = !(t).(t:NAT & t<=total & 2*t>= total => [total := t](total > 1)) = !(t).(t:NAT & t<=total & 2*t>= total => (t > 1)) = (total > 2)

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CHOICE statement

CHOICE S_1 OR S_2 OR ... END

choice between unrelated statements S₁, S₂, ...

Example

```
Outcome of a driving test
```

```
CHOICE result := pass || licences := licences \/ {examinee}
OR result := fail
END
```

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Nondeterminism

CHOICE weakest precondition

[CHOICE S OR T END] P = [S] P & [T] P

Example

Check that all licenced persons are old enough.

```
CHOICE result := pass ||
    licences := licences \/ {examinee}
OR result := fail
    (licences<:ofAge)</pre>
         CHOICE result := pass ||
 = [ result := pass ||
    licences := licences \/ {examinee} ] (licences<:ofAge)</pre>
        & [result := fail] (licences<:ofAge)
        [licences := licences \/ {examinee}](licences<:ofAge)</pre>
        & (licences<:ofAge)
       (licences<:ofAge) & examinee:ofAge</pre>
  =
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```

Refinement

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Refinement

- Refinement formalizes design decisions
- Refinement transforms specification towards implementation
- Refinement comes with proof obligations that relate the participating machines

Data refinement

- Formalizes change of data representation
- Usually from abstract to concrete
- Example: set \rightarrow list or array

Refinement of nondeterminism

- Formalizes selection of particular behavior from a nondeterministic specification
- Refined operations are "more deterministic"

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Example: Jukebox / Declarations

```
REFINEMENT JukeboxR
REFINES Jukebox
CONSTANTS freefreq
PROPERTIES freefreq:NAT1
VARIABLES creditr, playlist, free
INVARIANT
  creditr:NAT & creditr = credit &
  playlist:iseq(TRACK) & ran (playlist) = playset &
  free:0..freefreq
INITIALISATION
  creditr:=0 ; playlist:= [] ; free:=0
```

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Example: Jukebox / Operations (excerpt)

```
select (tt) =
 BEGIN
    IF tt/:ran (playlist) THEN playlist := playlist <- tt END ;
    IF free = freefreq
    THEN CHOICE free := 0 OR creditr := creditr-1 END
    ELSE free := free+1 ; creditr := creditr-1
   END
 END
;
tt <-- play =
 PRE playlist /= []
 BEGIN tt := first (playlist) ;
        playlist := tail (playlist)
 END
```

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Proof Obligation for Refinement

- INVARIANT of the REFINEMENT specifies the *linking invariant* between state spaces of original and refinement
- ► Let INVARIANT I in original and INVARIANT IR in refinement
- For INITIALISATION T in original and INITIALISATION TR in the refinement, it must hold that

[TR] (not [T] (not IR))

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Proof Obligation for Refinement

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- ▶ Let INVARIANT I in original and INVARIANT IR in refinement
- For INITIALISATION T in original and INITIALISATION TR in the refinement, it must hold that

[TR] (not [T] (not IR))

For operation PRE P THEN S END in original and PRE PR THEN SR END in refinement, it must hold that

I & IR & P => [SR] (not [S] (not IR))

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Summary

- B an industrial strength formal method that supports all phases of software development
- Approach:
 - start with high-level spec
 - apply refinement steps until level of implementation reached
 - (code generation tools exist)
- Each refinement step results in proof obligations that must be discharged
- Tools: ProB, Rodin
- Omitted from lecture
 - structuring: machine parameters, inclusion, extension, state and type export
 - implementation machines, loops, library machines
 - more notation ...

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