The Java Modeling Language (Part 1)

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Overview



- Since 1999 by Gary T. Leavens et al. (Iowa State University). http://www.jmlspecs.org https://www.openjml.org
- A behavioral interface specification language.
 - Syntactic interface and visible behavior of a Java module (interface/class).
 - Tradition of VDM, Eiffel, Larch/C++.
- Fully embedded into the Java language.
 - Java declaration syntax and (extended) expression syntax.
 - Java types, name spaces, privacy levels.
- JML annotations disguised as Java comments.

```
//@ ... (no space between // and @)
/*@ ... (no space between /* and @)
@ ... @*/
```

JAL I

https://www.cs.ucf.edu/~leavens/JML/refman/jmlrefman.pdf http://www.openjml.org/documentation/JML_Reference_Manual.pdf

Related Work



Related to/influenced by/derived from JML (selection).

- C#: Spec# (Spec Sharp).
 - http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/projects/specsharp
 - Plugin for Microsoft Visual Studio 2010.
 - Static checking (non-null types), runtime assertion checking.
 - Verification condition generator (Boogie) for various prover backends.
- C: VCC and ACSL (ANSI C Specification Language).

http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/projects/vcc http://frama-c.com/acsl.html

- Microsoft VCC with SMT solver Z3 as backend.
- Frama-C ACSL framework with various prover backends.
- Ada: SPARK.

http://www.adacore.com/sparkprohttps://alire.ada.dev

VC generator and prover (GNATprove with cvc5, Z3, and others).



1. Basic JML

2. JML Tools

3. More Realistic JML

Basic JML



JML as required for the basic Hoare calculus.

Assertions.

assume, assert.

Loop assertions.

loop_invariant, decreases.

Method contracts.

requires, ensures.

The JML expression language.

\forall, \exists, ...

Specifying simple procedural programs.

Assertions



Definition:

An assertion is a command that specifies a property which should always hold when execution reaches the assertion.

- JML: two kinds of assertions.
 - assert P: P needs verification.
 - assume P: P can be assumed.
 - Makes a difference for reasoning tools.
 - A runtime checker must test both kinds of assertions

```
//@ assume n != 0;
int i = 2*(m/n);
//@ assert i == 2*(m/n);
```

Low-level specifications.

Loop Assertions



```
int i = n;
int s = 0;
//@ loop_invariant i+s == n;
//@ decreases i+1;
while (i >= 0)
{
    i = i-1;
    s = s+1;
}
```

- loop_invariant specifies a loop invariant, i.e. a property that is true before and after each iteration of the loop.
- decreases specifies a termination term, i.e. an integer term that decreases in every iteration but does not become negative.

Assertions in Methods



```
static int isqrt(int y)
{
   //@ assume y >= 0;
   int r = (int) Math.sqrt(y);
   //@ assert r >= 0 && r*r <= y && y < (r+1)*(r+1);
   return r;
}</pre>
```

- assume specifies a condition P on the pre-state.
 - Pre-state: the program state before the method call.
 - The method requires P as the method's precondition.
- assert specifies a condition Q on the post-state.
 - Post-state: the program state after the method call.
 - \blacksquare The method ensures Q as the method's postcondition.

Low-level specification of a method.

Design by Contract



Pre- and post-condition define a contract between a method (i.e. its implementor) and its caller (i.e. the user).

- The method (the implementor) may assume the precondition and must ensure the postcondition.
- The caller (the user) must ensure the precondition and may assume the postcondition.
- Any method documentation must describe this contract (otherwise it is of little use).

The legal use of a method is determined by its contract (not by its implementation)!

Method Contracts



```
/*@ requires y >= 0;
  @ ensures \result >= 0
  @ && \result*\result <= y
  @ && y < (\result+1)*(\result+1); @*/
static int isqrt(int y)
{
  return (int) Math.sqrt(y);
}</pre>
```

- requires specifies the method precondition
 - May refer to method parameters.
- ensures specifies the method postcondition
 - May refer to method parameters and to result value (\result).

Higher-level specification of a method.

Postcondition and Pre-State



```
// swap a[i] and a[j], leave rest of array unchanged
/*@ requires
@ a != null &&
@ 0 <= i && i < a.length && 0 <= j && j < a.length;
@ ensures
@ a[i] = \old(a[j]) && a[j] == \old(a[i]) &&
@ (* all a[k] remain unchanged where k != i and k != j *) @*/
static void swap(int[] a, int i, int j)
{ int t = a[i]; a[i] = a[j]; a[j] = t; }</pre>
```

- Variable values in postconditions:
 - x ... value of x in the post-state (after the call).
 - Except for parameters which are always evaluated in the pre-state.
 - \bullet \old(x) ... value of x in the pre-state (before the call).
 - old(E) ... value of expression E in the pre-state (in particular, the value of every variable x in E comes from the pre-state).

Variable values may change by the method call.

Data Structures in Postconditions



If we want to derereference in a postcondition the pre-state version of a data structure (i.e., if we want to read some element in it), we must write the complete dereferencing expression E in the form $\old(E)$.

- Hidden store s: $a[i] \rightsquigarrow a[i]_s$
 - Pointer a is evaluated, some offset $i \cdot K$ is added.
 - The memory cell at the resulting address is read from store s.
- Correct: \old(a[i]) \infty \old(a[i]₅).
 - The memory cell is read from the pre-state store s.
- Incorrect: \old(a) [\old(i)] \widethind \old(a) [\old(i)]_s
 - The memory cell is read from the post-state store s.

We have to consider Java's "pointer semantics" of data structures (arrays and objects).

The JML Expression Language



- Atomic Formulas
 - Any Java expression of type boolean: a+b == c
 - Primitive operators and pure program functions (later).
 - Informal property expression: (* sum of a and b equals c *)
 - Does not affect truth value of specification.
- Connectives: !P, P&& Q, P | | Q, P==> Q, P<== Q, P<==> Q, P<=!=> Q
 - $P, P \land Q, P \lor Q, P \Rightarrow Q, Q \Rightarrow P, P \Leftrightarrow Q, \neg (P \Leftrightarrow Q).$
- Universal quantification: (\forall T x; P; Q)
 - $\forall x \in T : P \Rightarrow Q$
- Existential quantification: (\exists T x; P; Q)
 - $\exists x \in T : P \land Q$

Strongly typed first-order predicate logic with equality.

The JML Expression Language (Contd)



- Sum: (\sum T x; P; U)
 - $\sum_{(x \in T) \wedge P} U$
- Product: (\product T x; P; U)
 - $\blacksquare \prod_{(x \in T) \land P} U$
- Minimum: (\min T x; P; U)
 - $\min\{U:x\in T\wedge P\}$
- Maximum: (\max T x; P; U)
 - $\max\{U:x\in T\wedge P\}$
- Number: (\num_of T x; P; Q)
 - $|\{x \in T : P \land Q\}|$
- Set: new JMLObjectSet $\{T x \mid P\}$

Examples



```
// sort array a in ascending order
/*@ requires a != null;
  @ ensures (* a contains the same elements as before the call *)
  @ && (\forall int i; 0 <= i && i < a.length-1; a[i] <= a[i+1]);</pre>
  @*/
static void sort(int[] a) { ... }
// return index of first occurrence of x in a, -1 if x is not in a
/*@ requires a != null;
 @ ensures
    (\text{result} == -1)
        && (\forall int i; 0 <= i && i < a.length; a[i] != x)) ||
  0 (0 <= \result && \result < a.length && a[\result] == x</pre>
        && (\forall int i; 0 <= i && i < \result; a[i] != x));
  0*/
static int findFirst(int[] a, int x) { ... }
```

Examples



```
// swap a[i] and a[j], leave rest of array unchanged
/*@ requires
@ a != null &&
@ 0 <= i && i < a.length && 0 <= j && j < a.length;
@ ensures
@ a[i] = \old(a[j]) && a[j] == \old(a[i]) &&
@ (\forall int k; 0 <= k && k < a.length;
@ (k != i && k != j) ==> a[k] == \old(a[k]));
@*/
static void swap(int[] a, int i, int j) { ... }
```



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Common JML Tools (Old)



- Static checker jml
 - Checks syntactic and type correctness.
- Runtime assertion checker compiler jmlc
 - Generates runtime assertions from (some) JML specifications.
- Executable specification compiler jmle
 - Generates executable code from (some) JML specifications.
- JML skeleton specification generator jmlspec
 - Generates JML skeleton files from Java source files.
- Document generator jmldoc
 - Generates HTML documentation in the style of javadoc.
- Unit testing tool junit
 - Generates stubs for the JUnit testing environment using specifications as test conditions.

Not any more distributed but available in the course VM.

OpenJML (New)



- > openjml ...
 - No option: syntax and type checker.
 - Replaces jml.
 - Option -rac: runtime assertion checker compiler.
 - Replaces jmlc.
 - Course VM: commands openjmlrac and openjmlrun.
 - Option -esc: a program verifier (requires loop invariants).
 - Replaces escjava2 (extended static checking without invariants).
 - Course VM: command openjmlesc.

https://www.openjml.org

Other JML Tools



Various other tools use/support JML.

- ESC/Java2
 - https://github.com/GaloisInc/ESCJava2
 - An extended static checker.
 - Not any more distributed but available in the course VM.
- KeY
 - https://www.key-project.org
 - Computer-assisted verification.
 - Symbolic execution and debugging.

http://www.jmlspecs.org/download.shtml

Runtime Assertion Checking



```
public class Account {
  private /*@ spec_public @*/ int bal;
  //@ public invariant bal >= 0;
  /*@ requires amt > 0 && amt <= bal;</pre>
    @ assignable bal;
    @ ensures bal == \old(bal) - amt; @*/
  public void withdraw(int amt) {
    bal -= amt:
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    Account acc = new Account(100);
    acc.withdraw(150);
    System.out.println("Balance after withdrawal: " + acc.balance());
```

Runtime Assertion Checking



Common JML tools.

Violation is reported by throwing an exception.

Runtime Assertion Checking



OpenJML.

```
> openjml Account.java
> openjmlrac Account.java
> openjmlrun Account
Account.java:48: verify: JML precondition is false
        acc.withdraw(150):
Account.java:30: verify: Associated declaration: Account.java:48:
  public void withdraw(int amt) {
Account.java:27: verify: JML precondition is false
  /*@ requires amt > 0 && amt <= bal;
Balance after withdrawal: -50
```

Violatation is reported by a message without aborting the program.

Practical Use



Recommended use with JML-annotated Java files.

- First compile with javac.
 - Check syntactic and type correctness of Java source.
- Then compile with jml (or openjml).
 - Check syntactic and type correctness of JML annotations.
- Then compile with escjava2 (or openjml -esc).
 - Check semantic consistency of JML annotations.
 - More on ESC/Java2 later.

Errors can be made at each level.



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More Realistic JML



JML for procedural programs with side-effects and errors.

- Side-effects
 - assignable, pure
- Exceptions
 - signals

We also have to deal with the less pleasant aspects of programs.

Side Effects



```
static int q, r, x;

/*@ requires b != 0;
  @ assignable q, r;
  @ ensures a == b*q + r && sign(r) == sign(a) &&
  @ (\forall int r0, int q0; a == b*q0+r0 && sign(r0) == sign(a);
  @ abs(r) <= abs(r0)) @*/
static void quotRem(int a, int b)
{ q = a/b; r = a%b; }</pre>
```

- assignable specifies the variables that method may change.
- Default: assignable \everything.
 - Method might change any visible variable.
- Possible: assignable \nothing.
 - No effect on any variable.

Pure Program Functions



```
static /*@ pure @*/ int sign(int x)
{
   if (x == 0)
     return 0;
   else if (x > 0)
     return 1;
   else
     return -1;
}
static /*@ pure @*/ int abs(int x)
{ if (x >= 0) return x; else return -x; }
```

- Pure program functions may be used in specification expressions.
 - pure implies assignable \nothing.

JML considers pure program functions as mathematical functions.

Arrays and Side Effects



```
int[] a = new int[10]:
assignable a;
     The pointer a may change.
             a = new int[20]:
assignable a[*];
     The content of a may change.
             a[1] = 1;
  // swap a{i] and a[j], leave rest of array unchanged
  /*@ requires
    0 a != null &&
    0 <= i && i < a.length && 0 <= j && j < a.length;
    @ assignable a[*];
    @ ensures
        a[i] = \operatorname{old}(a[j]) \&\& a[j] == \operatorname{old}(a[i]) \&\&
    0 (\forall int k; 0 <= k && k < a.length;</pre>
          (k != i \&\& k != j) ==> a[k] == \old(a[k]));
    0*/
  static void swap(int[] a, int i, int j) { ... }
```

Exceptions



```
static int balance;

/*@ assignable balance;
@ ensures \old(balance) >= amount
@ && balance = \old(balance)-amount;
@ signals(DepositException e) \old(balance) < amount
@ && balance == \old(balance); @*/
static void withdraw(int amount) throws DepositException
{
  if (balance < amount) throw new DepositException();
  balance = balance-amount;
}</pre>
```

- This method has two ways to return.
 - Normal return: the postcondition specified by ensures holds.
 - Exceptional return: an exception is raised and the postcondition specified by signals holds.

Exceptions



- Default: signals(Exception e) true;
 - Instead of a normal return, method may also raise an exception without any guarantee for the post-state.
 - Even if no throws clause is present, runtime exceptions may be raised.
- Consider: signals(Exception e) false;
 - If method returns by an exception, false holds.
 - Thus the method must not raise an exception (also no runtime exception).

We also have to take care to specify the exceptional behavior of a method!

Preconditions versus Exceptions



```
/*@ requires (\exists int x; ; a == x*b);
  @ ensures a == \result*b; @*/
static int exactDivide1(int a, int b) { ... }

/*@ ensures (\exists int x; ; a == x*b) && a == \result*b;
  @ signals(DivException e) !(\exists int x; ; a == x*b) @*/
static int exactDivide2(int a, int b) throws DivException { ... }
```

- exactDivide1 has precondition $P : \Leftrightarrow \exists x : a = x \cdot b$.
 - Method must not be called, if P is false.
 - It is the responsibility of the caller to take care of P.
- exactDivide2 has precondition true.
 - Method may be also called, if P is false.
 - Method must raise DivException, if P is false.
 - It is the responsibility of the method to take care of P.

Different contracts!

Lightweight Specifications



This is the contract format we used up to now.

```
/*@ requires ...;
  @ assignable ...;
  @ ensures ...;
  @ signals ...; @*/
```

- Convenient form for simple specifications.
- If some clauses are omitted, their value is unspecified.

So what does a (partially) unspecified contract mean?

Method Underspecification



If not specified otherwise, client should assume weakest possible contract:

- requires false;
 - Method should not be called at all.
- assignable \everything;
 - In its execution, the method may change any visible variable.
- ensures true;
 - If the method returns normally, it does not provide any guarantees for the post-state.
- signals(Exception e) true;
 - Rather than returning, the method may also throw an arbitrary exception; in this case, there are no guarantees for the post-state.

Defensive programming: for safety, client should avoid implicit assumptions.

Method Underspecification



If not specified otherwise, method should implement strongest possible contract:

- requires true;
 - Method might be called in any pre-state.
- assignable \nothing;
 - In its execution, the method must not change any visible variable.
- signals(Exception e) false;
 - Method should not throw any exception.

Defensive programming: for safety, method should satisfy implicit client assumptions (as far as possible).

Heavyweight Specifications



```
/*@ public normal_behavior
@ requires ...;
@ assignable ...;
@ ensures ...;
@ also public exceptional_behavior
@ requires ...;
@ assignable ...;
@ signals(...) ...; @*/
```

- A normal behavior and (one or multiple) exceptional behaviors.
 - Method must implement all behaviors.
- Each behavior has a separate precondition.
 - What must hold, such that method can exhibit this behavior.
 - If multiple hold, method may exhibit any corresponding behavior.
 - If none holds, method must not be called.
- For each behavior, we can specify
 - the visibility level (later), the assignable variables, the postcondition.

Heavyweight Specification Defaults



If not specified otherwise, we have the following defaults:

- requires true;
 - Method may be called in any state.
- assignable \everything;
 - In its execution, the method may change every visible variable.
- ensures true;
 - After normal return, no guarantees for the post-state.
- signals(Exception e) true;
 - Rather than returning, the method may also throw an arbitrary exception; then there are no guarantees for the post-state.

Method must not make assumptions on the pre-state, caller must not make assumptions on the method behavior and on the post-state.

Example



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```
static int balance;
/*@ public normal_behavior
      requires balance >= amount;
  @
  0
      assignable balance;
      ensures balance = \old(balance)-amount;
    also public exceptional_behavior
      requires balance < amount;
  0
      assignable \nothing;
  @
  0
      signals(DepositException e) true;
  @*/
static void withdraw(int amount) throws DepositException
  if (balance < amount) throw new DepositException();</pre>
  balance = balance-amount:
```

Clearer separation of normal behavior and exceptional behavior.