
Formal Specification of Software

**The Object Constraint Language
by Example**

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The Classifier Context

context (*c* :)? **typeName**

inv **expressionName?** : **OclExpression**

context (*c* :)? **typeName**

inv **expressionName₁?** : **OclExpression₁**

...

...

inv **expressionName_{*n*}?** : **OclExpression_{*n*}**

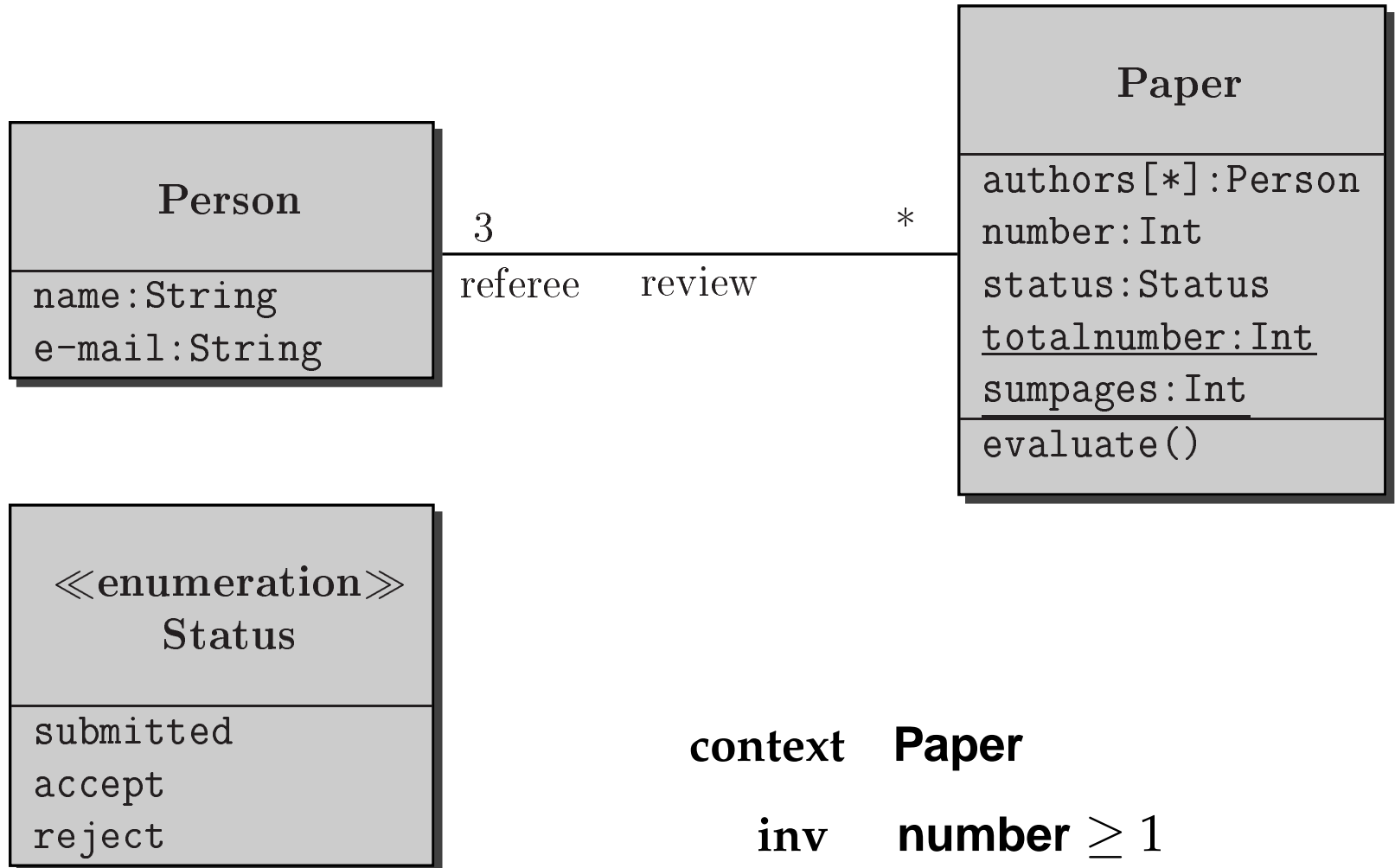
The Operator Context

context (*c* :)?

typeName :: **opName**(p_1 : **type**₁; ... ; p_k : **type**_{*k*}):**rtype**

{**pre** , **post** } **expressionName?** : **OclExpression**

Constraints with Attributes



Equivalent notational variations

context **Paper**

inv **self.number \geq 1**

Equivalent notational variations

context **Paper**

inv **self.number** ≥ 1

context **c:Paper**

inv **c.number** ≥ 1

Equivalent notational variations

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inv **self.number** ≥ 1

context **c:Paper**

inv **c.number** ≥ 1

context **c:Paper**

inv **startCount : c.number** ≥ 1

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inv **self.number ≥ 1**

context **c:Paper**

inv **c.number ≥ 1**

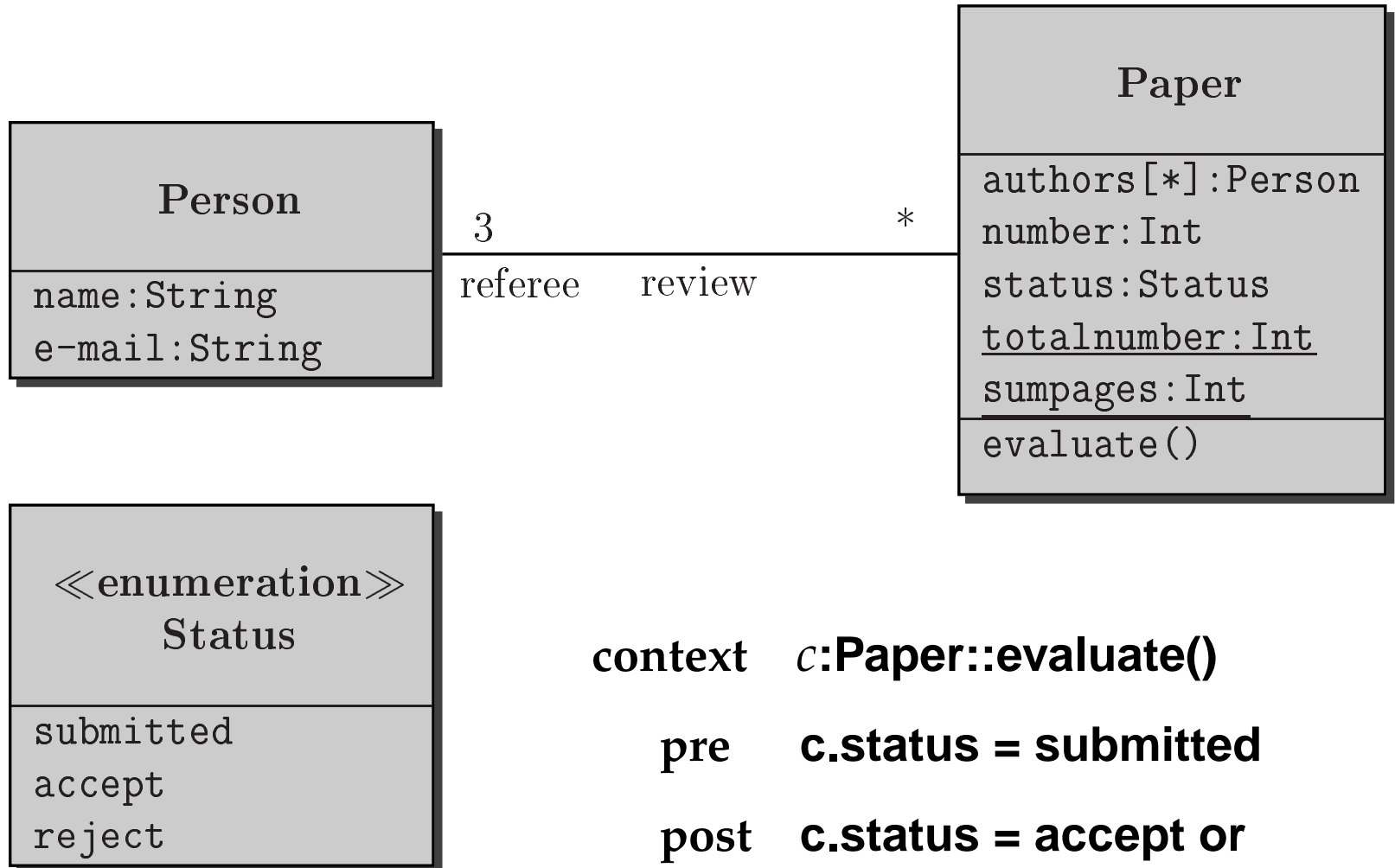
context **c:Paper**

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Operator Constraint



Types

Model types

The classes form the context diagram of an OCL constraint

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Basic types

Integer, Real, Boolean **and** *String*

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Special types

e.g. *OclAny, OclType*

Subtyping

• T_1, T_2 model types:

$T_1 < T_2$ holds exactly if T_1 is a subclass of T_2

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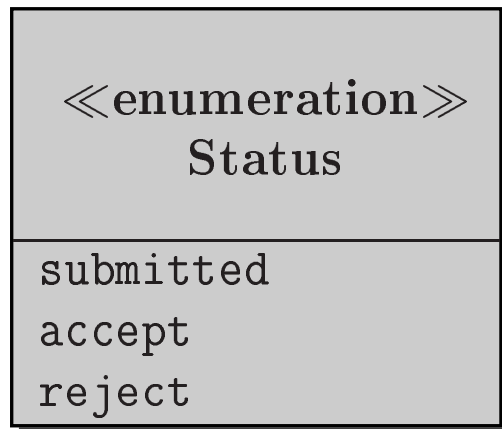
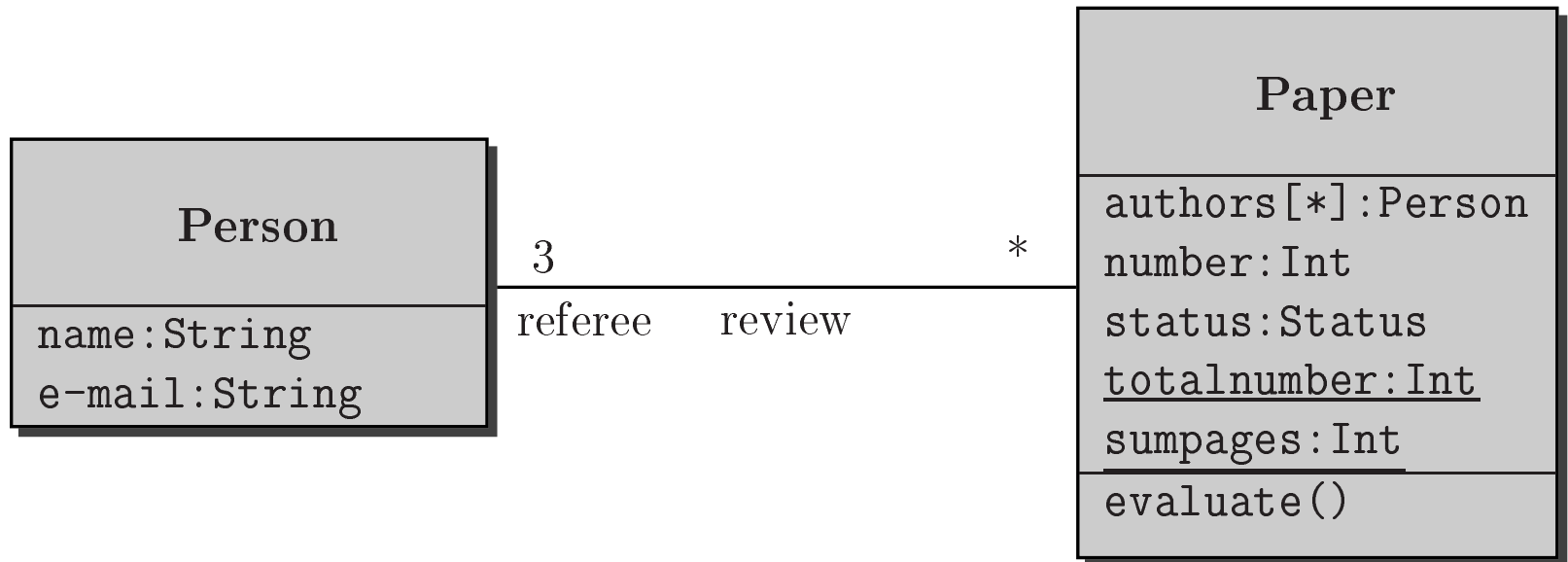
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- If T is a model, basic, or enumeration type: $T < OCLAny$

Subtyping

- T_1, T_2 model types:
 $T_1 < T_2$ holds exactly if T_1 is a subclass of T_2
- $Integer < Real$
- For all type expressions T , not denoting a collection type:
 - $Set(T) < Collection(T)$
 - $Bag(T) < Collection(T)$
 - $Sequence(T) < Collection(T)$
- If T is a model, basic, or enumeration type: $T < OCLAny$
- If $T_1 < T_2$ and C is any of the type constructors $Collection, Set, Bag, Sequence$:
 $C(T_1) < C(T_2)$.

Typing Examples



constraint p:Person

p.name, p.e-mail have type String.

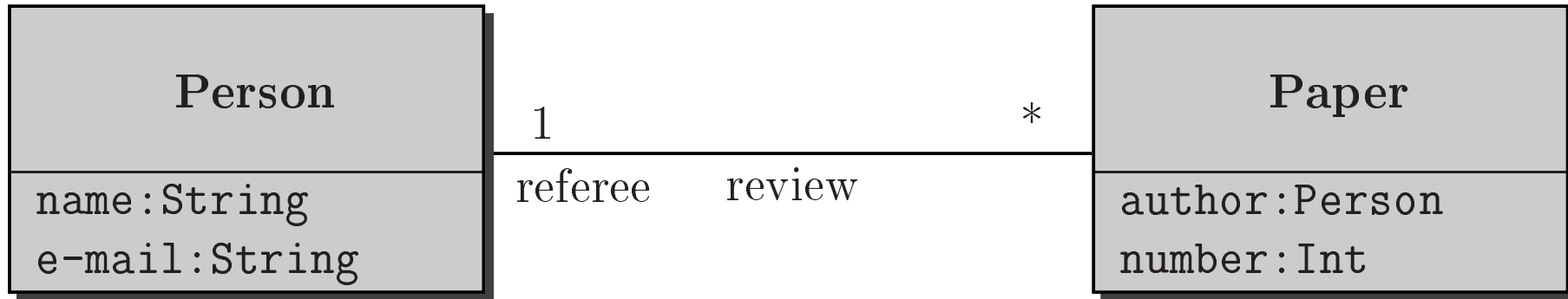
constraint c:Paper

c.number has type Integer,

c.status has type Status,

c.authors has type Set(Person)

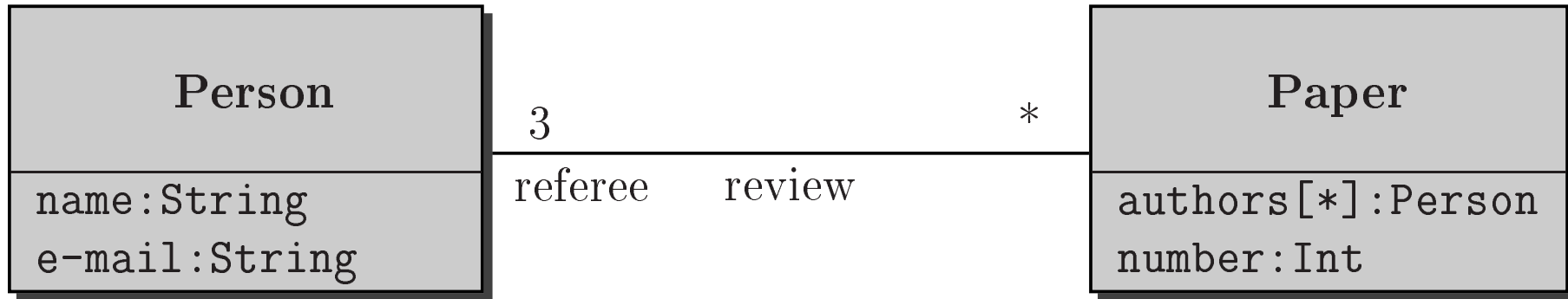
Constraints with Associations



context **c:Paper**

inv **c.author <> c.referee**

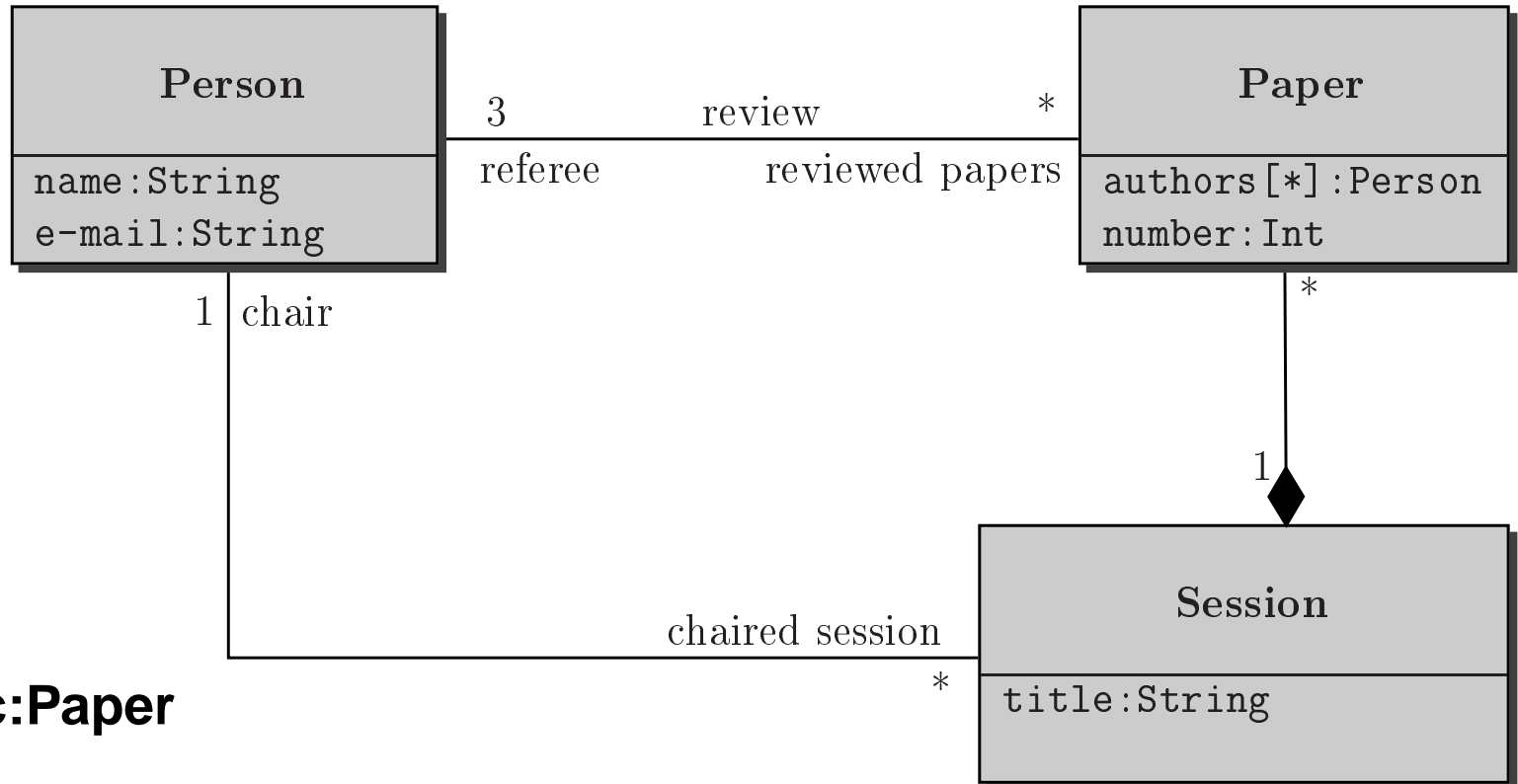
Constraints with Associations



context **c:Paper**

inv **c.authors** \rightarrow **intersection(c.referee)** \rightarrow **isEmpty**

Constraints and Navigation



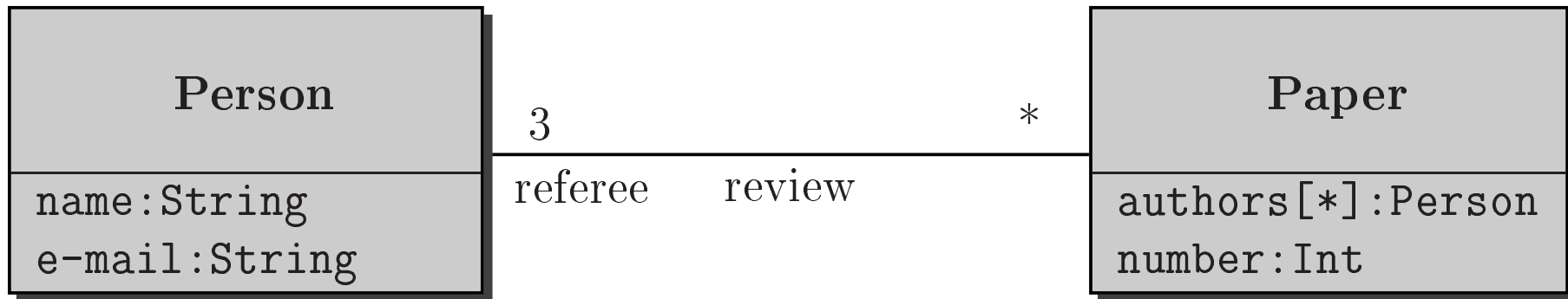
context **c:Paper**

inv **not(c.authors -> includes(c.session.chair))**

context **p:Person**

inv **p.reviewed_papers.session.chair -> includes(p)**

allInstances



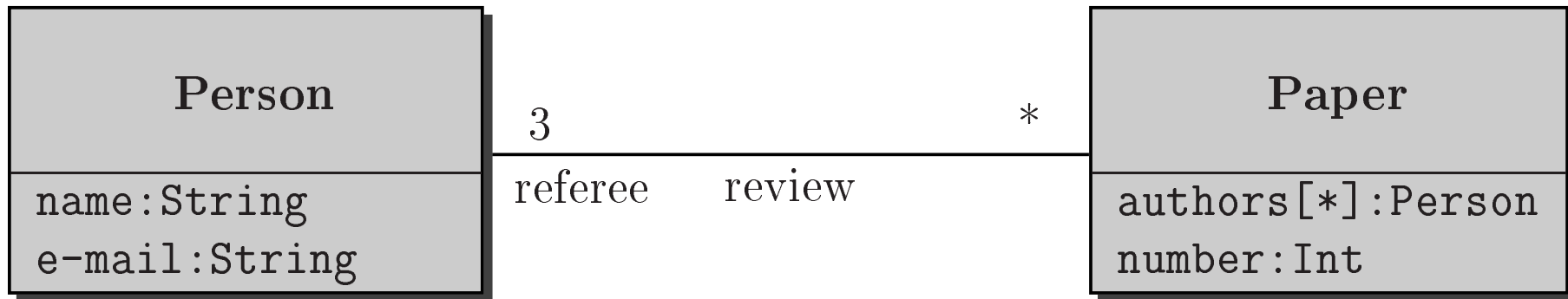
context **Person**

inv **Person.allInstances \rightarrow forAll(p | p.e-mail.size \geq 3)**

context **Paper**

inv **Paper.allInstances \rightarrow forAll(p1, p2 |
p1 $\langle \rangle$ p2 implies p1.number $\langle \rangle$ p2.number)**

Avoiding *allInstances*



context **Person**

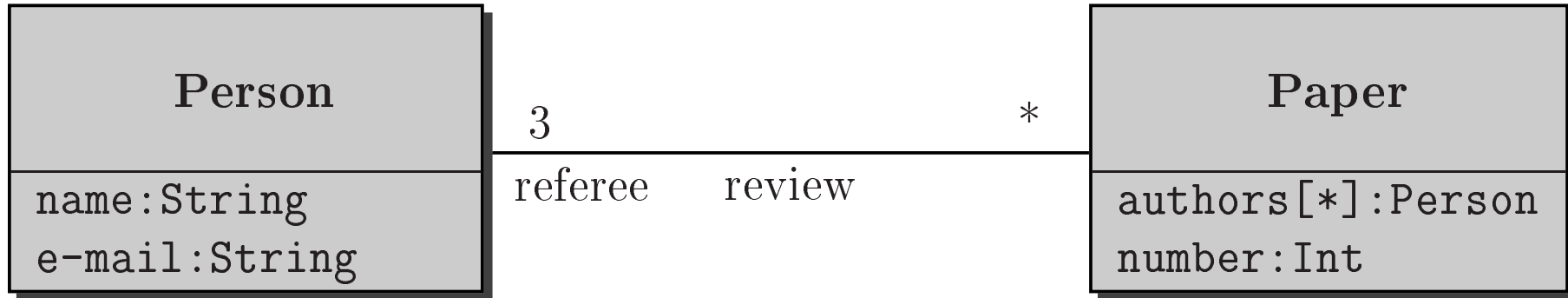
inv **Person.allInstances \rightarrow forAll(p | p.e-mail.size \geq 3)**

Can be equivalently replaced by:

context **p:Person**

inv **p.e-mail.size \geq 3**

Avoiding *allInstances*



context **Paper**

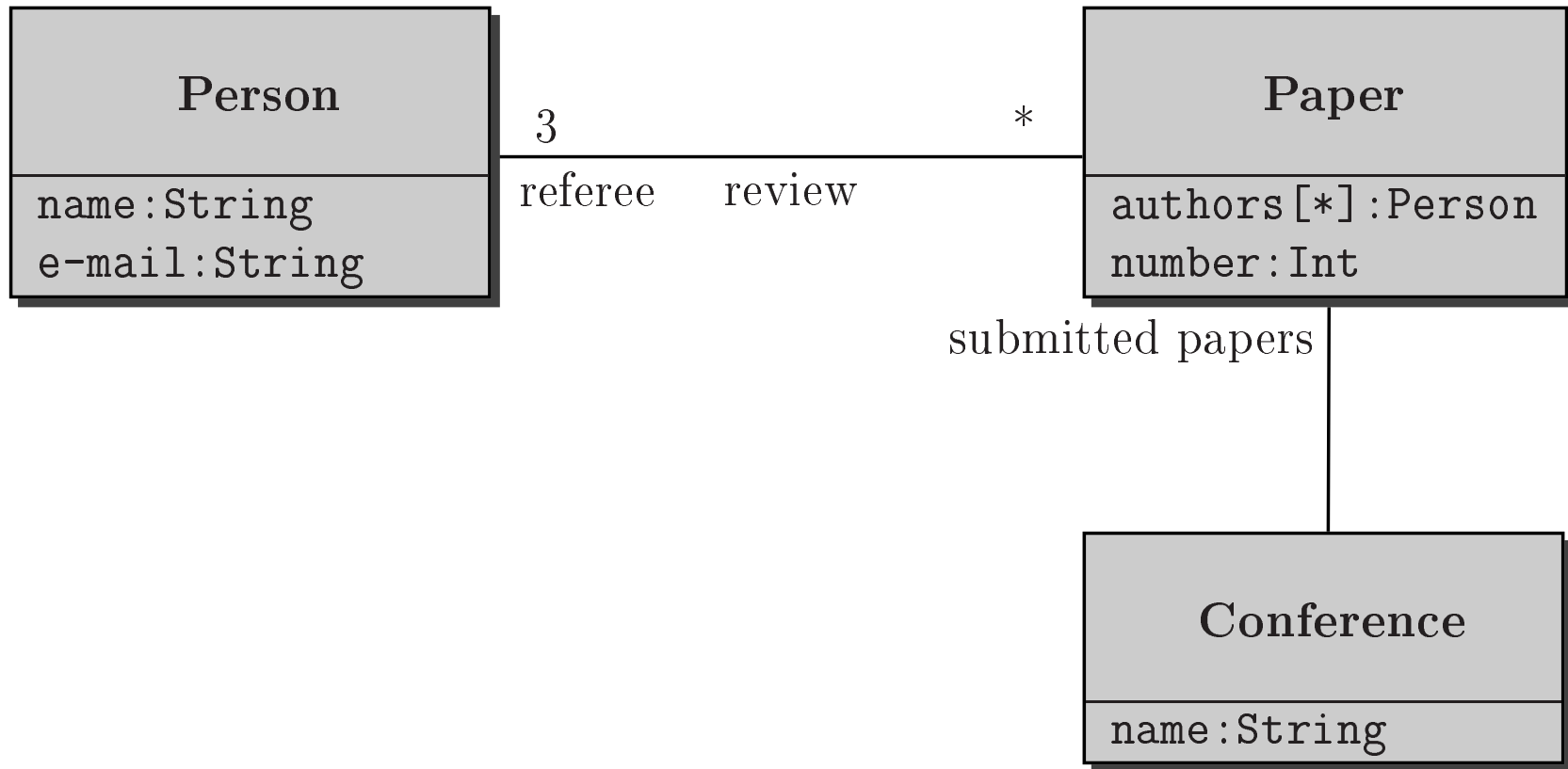
inv **Paper.allInstances \rightarrow forAll(p1, p2 |
p1 $\langle \rangle$ p2 implies p1.number $\langle \rangle$ p2.number)**

Can be equivalently replaced by:

context **p1,p2:Papers**

inv **p1 $\langle \rangle$ p2 implies p1.number $\langle \rangle$ p2.number)**

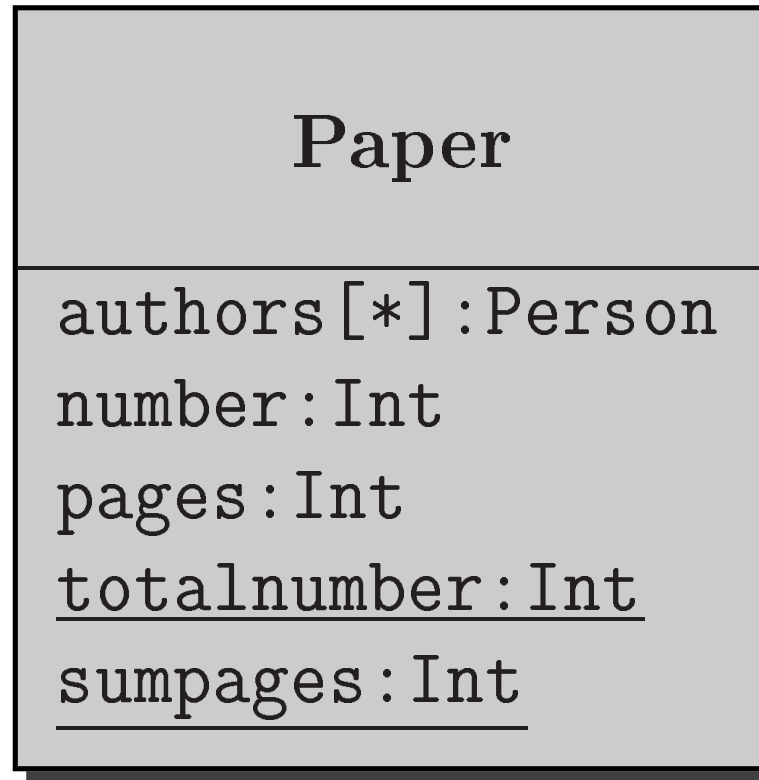
Avoiding *allInstances*



context Conference

inv **self.submitted_papers** \rightarrow **forall(p1, p2 |**
p1 <> p2 implies p1.number <> p2.number)

Introducing the *iterate* Operation



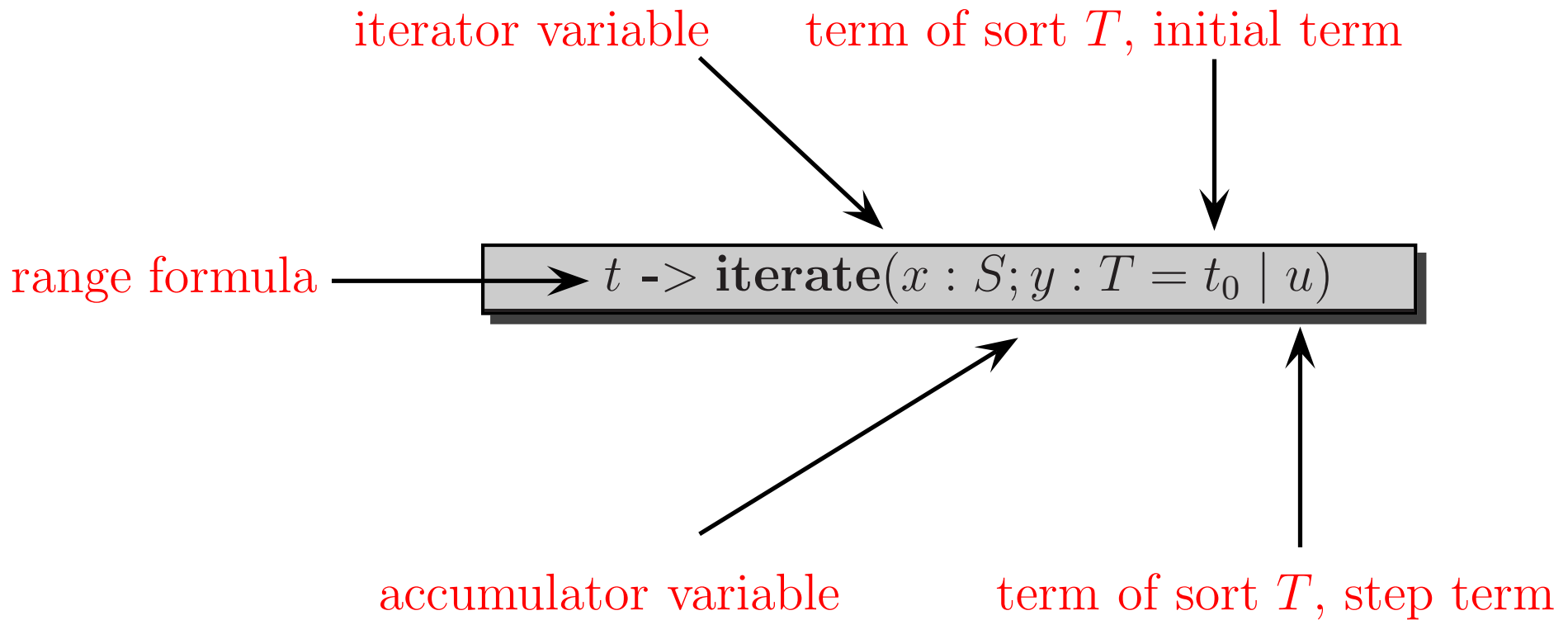
context **p:Papers**

inv **Papers.allInstances ->**

iterate(x:Paper ; y:Int = 0 | y+x.pages)

= Papers.sumpages

Syntax of the *iterate* construct



iterate: Example 1

Adding a new operation *occurrences* to the built-in OCL type *String*

`string.occurrences(string2:String):Set(Integer)` The set of positions in string where an occurrence of string2 as a substring starts. Strings start with position 0.

iterate: Example 1

Adding a new operation occurrences to the built-in OCL type *String*

string.occurrences(string2:String):Set(Integer) The set of positions in string where an occurrence of string2 as a substring starts. Strings start with position 0.

pre : string2.size =< string.size

post : result = { 0 .. (string.size - string2.size) } ->

iterate(x; y:Set(Integer)=Set{} |

if string.substring(x,x+string2.size) = string2

then y -> including(x) else y)

iterate: Example 2

Adding a new operation *substringOcc* to the built-in OCL type *String*

`string.substringOcc(string2:String):Boolean` True if `string2` occurs at least once as a substring in `string`.

iterate: Example 2

Adding a new operation *substringOcc* to the built-in OCL type *String*

`string.substringOcc(string2:String):Boolean` True if `string2` occurs at least once as a substring in `string`.

post : result = (`string2.size` =< `string.size`) and
not (`string.occurences(string2)` -> isEmpty)

Quantifiers

$t \rightarrow \text{iterate}(x; y : \text{Boolean} = \text{true} \mid y \text{ and } a)$

- t is an expression of type $\text{Set}(T)$
- x is a variable of type T
- a is an expression of type Boolean

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Can be equivalently expressed by

$t \rightarrow \text{forAll}(x \mid a)$

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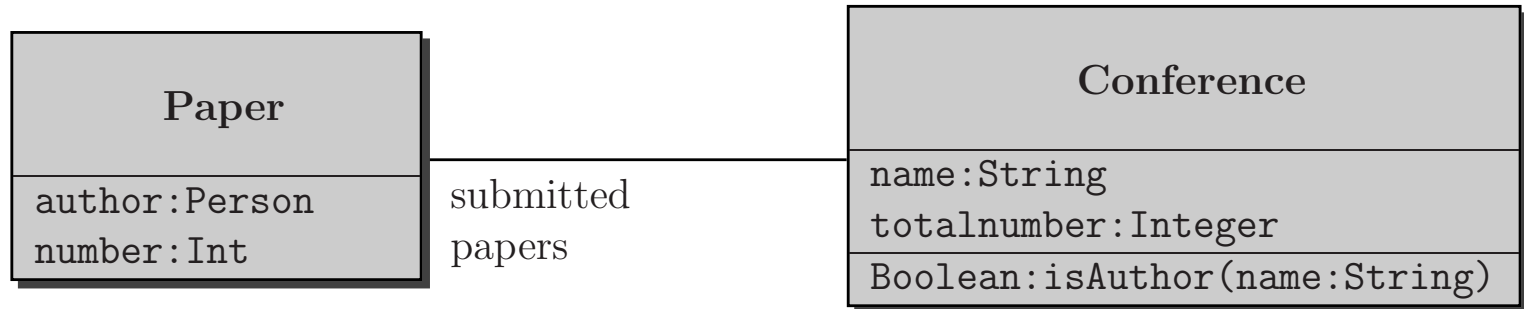
Likewise

$t \rightarrow \text{iterate}(x; y : \text{Boolean} = \text{false} \mid y \textbf{ or } a)$

Can be expressed by

$t \rightarrow \text{exists}(x \mid a)$

Collecting Elements



context $c:\text{Conference}::\text{isAuthor}(\text{name}:\text{String})$

pre **true**

post **result =**

$c.\text{sp} \rightarrow \text{collect}(p \mid p.\text{author}.\text{name}) \rightarrow \text{includes}(\text{name})$

Reducing *collect* to *iterate*

set \rightarrow collect(x | expr) : Bag(T)

=

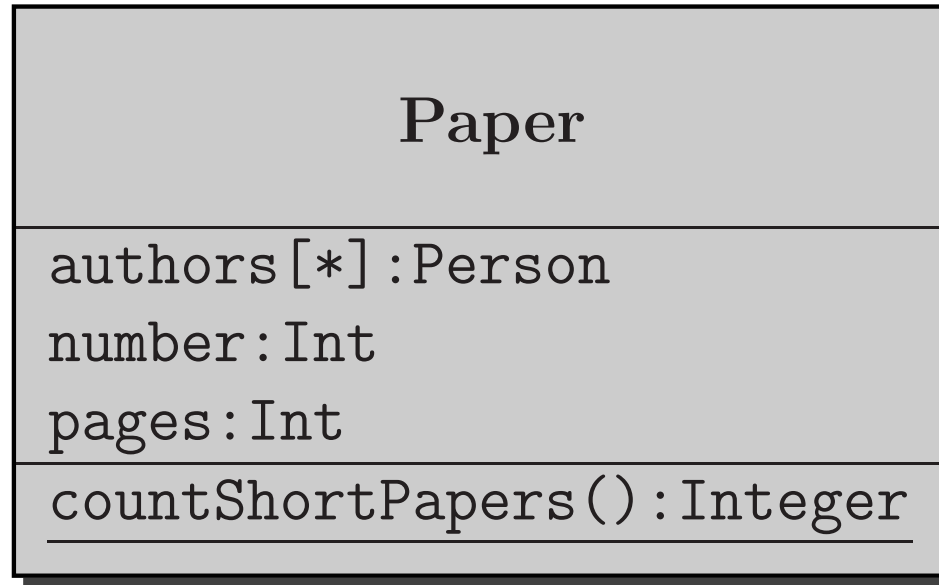
set \rightarrow iterate(x; acc : Bag(T) = Bag{ } | acc \rightarrow including(expr))

Evaluation of

c.sp \rightarrow collect(p | p.author^s.name)

involves implicit flattening.

Selecting Elements



```
context Paper::countShortPapers():Integer  
pre true  
post result =  
    Paper.allInstances ->  
        select(p | p.pages < 10) -> size
```


Reducing *select* to *iterate*

$s \rightarrow \text{select}(x \mid \text{expr}) : \text{Set}(T) =$

$s \rightarrow \text{iterate}(x; \text{acc} : \text{Set}(T) = \text{Set}\{\} \mid$
 if expr then $\text{acc} \rightarrow \text{including}(x)$
 else acc)

where

- s is of type $\text{Set}(T)$
- expr is an OCL expression of type Boolean

Referring to Previous Values

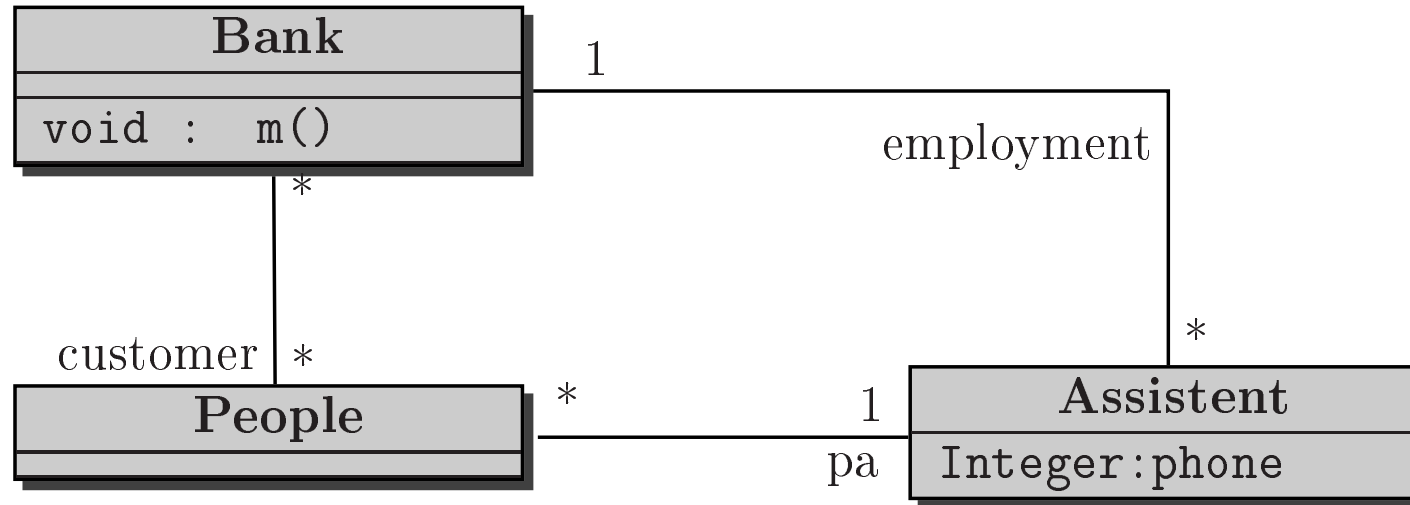


context `c:Conference::addPaper()`

pre `true`

post `totalnumber = totalnumber@pre + 1`

Multiple Occurences of @pre



c.pa.phone

the new phone number of the current p.a.

c.pa@pre.phone

the new phone number of the previous p.a.

c.pa.phone@pre

the old phone number of the current p.a.

c.pa@pre.phone@pre

the old phone number of the previous p.a.