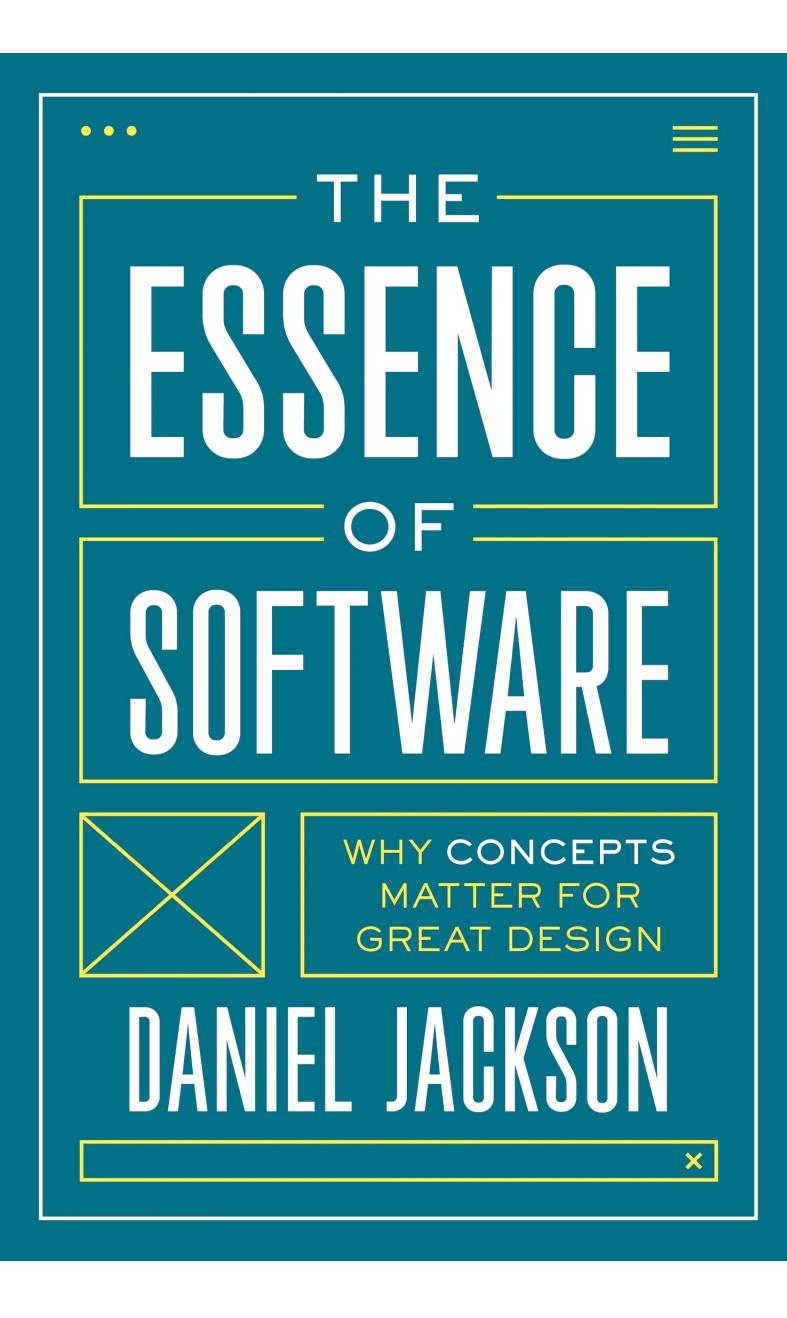
App design with Alloy Alcino Cunha

"I mean 'design' here in the same sense that the word is used in other design disciplines: **the shaping of some artifact to meet a human need**. [...] For software, that means determining what the behavior of the software should be: what controls it will offer, and what responses it will provide in return."

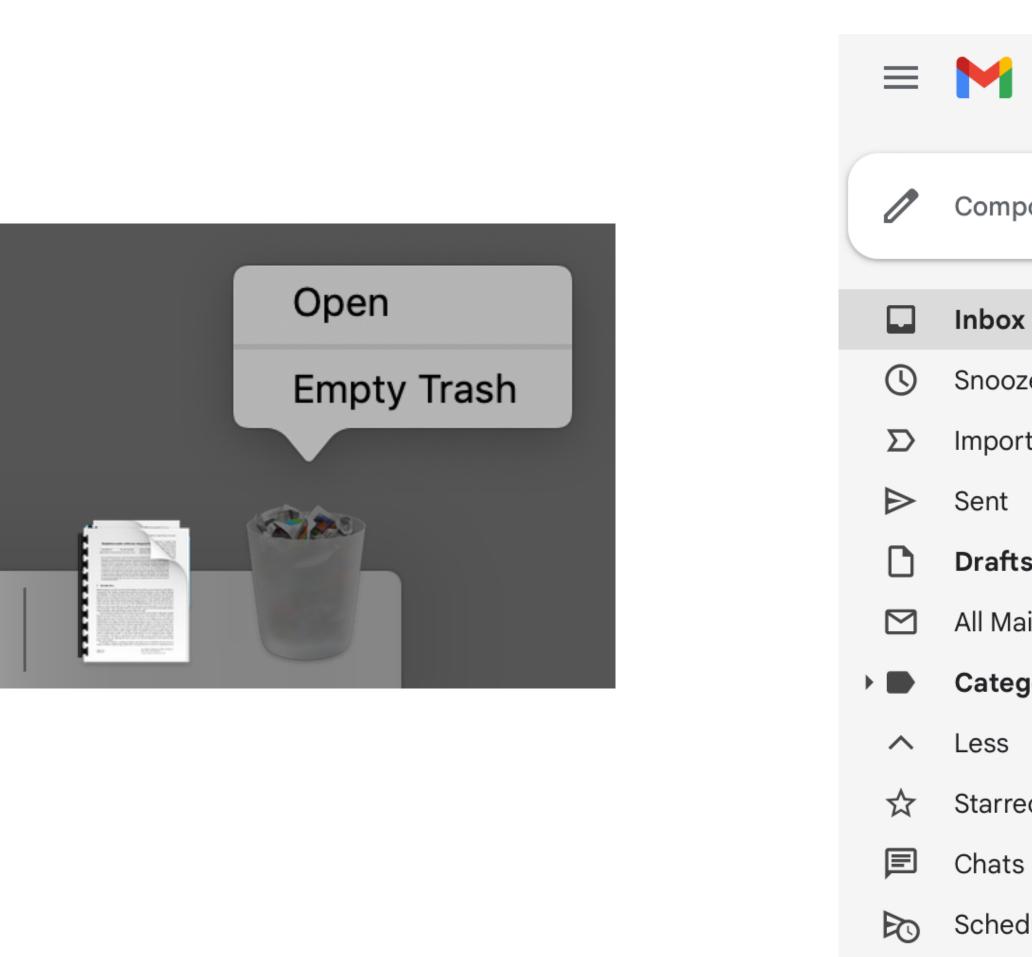


-Daniel Jackson



Concepts

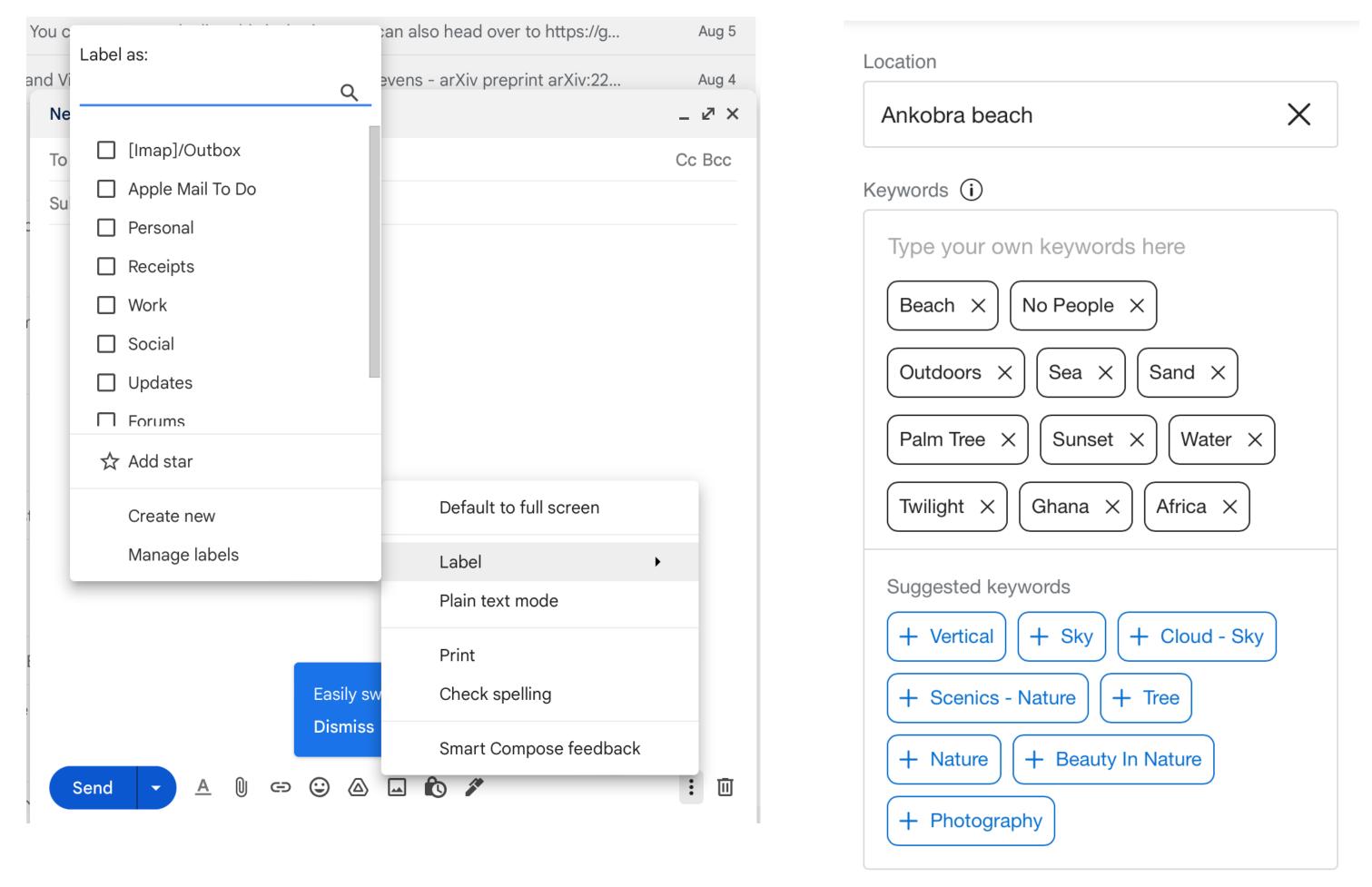
- Apps are made of concepts
- Each concept is a self-contained unit of functionality with a clear purpose
- Concepts work together to provide the app overall functionality
- But can be understood independently of one another



Trash

	M Gmail	III Stropbox
1	Compose	Home
	Inbox	> All files
()	Snoozed	Recents
Σ	Important	
\triangleright	Sent	Starred
D	Drafts 77	Photos
\square	All Mail	
	Categories	Shared
^	Less	File requests
☆	Starred	
F	Chats	Deleted files
Ð	Scheduled	
(!)	Spam 3	
	Trash	

Label



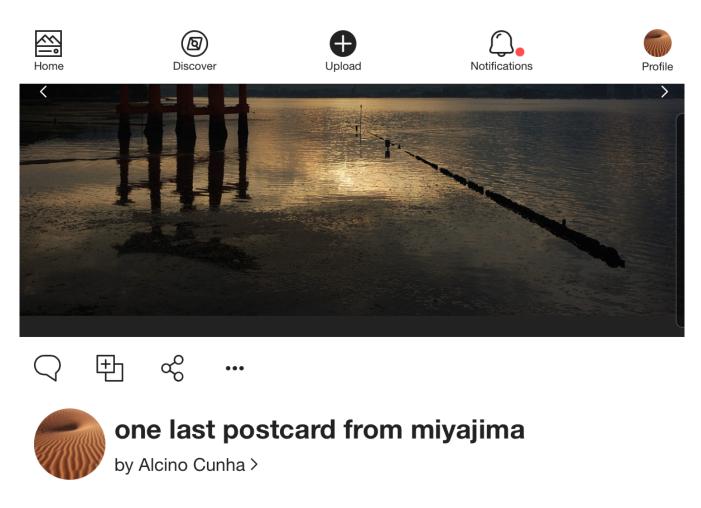
Edit 1 photo

This photo is in 1 album



Japan 377 items

Tags ? Add ta					
Japan	Т	Tokina AT-X 124			
Miyajima		torii	sunset		



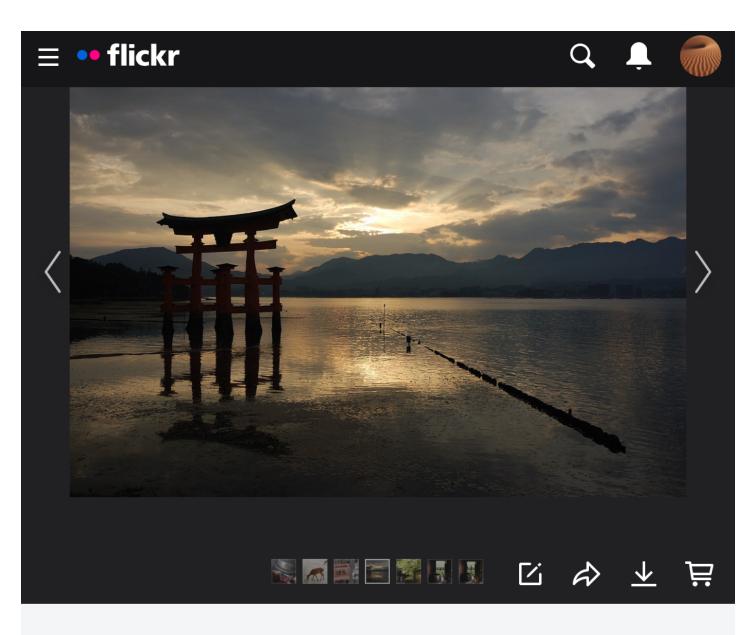
Taken: Aug 17, 2008Uploaded: almost 11 yrs ago

Miyajima, Japan [2008]

Fresh (i) Impressions (i) Pulse (i) 47.4 9.1K

63 people liked this photo >







Like

from miyajima	
08]	

<u>8</u> 6	Despertar						
	Distance 30.01 km	Elev Gain 794 m	Time 1h 18m	Achievements			
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Lamaçães

Fraião

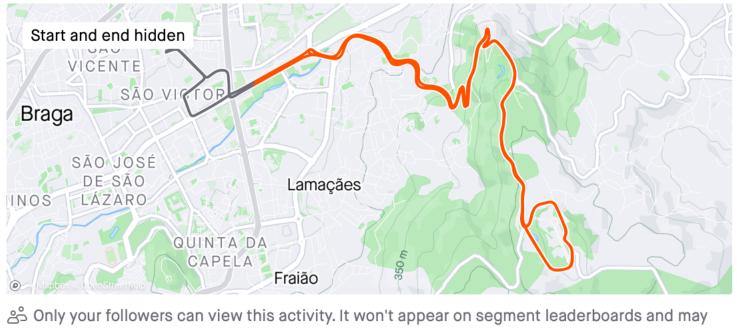
QUINTA DA CAPELA

not count toward some challenges.



SÃO JOSÉ DE SÃO INOS LÁZARO

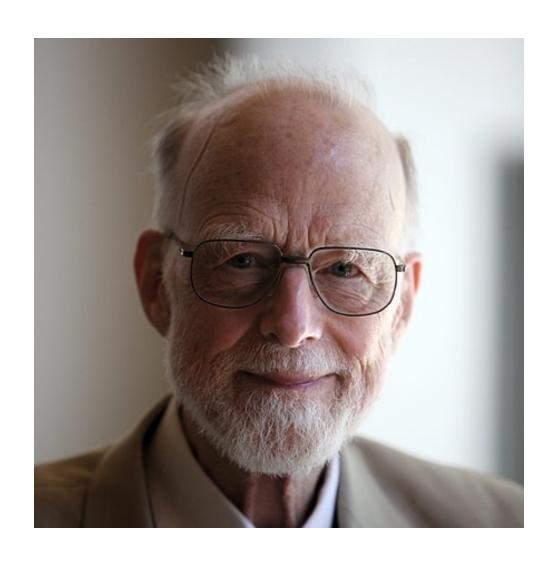






Concept design

- Identify a clear purpose
- Choose the appropriate state and actions to fulfill that purpose
- The focus is on ensuring correctness and reusability



"There are two ways of constructing a software design: One way is to make it so simple that there are obviously no deficiencies, and the other way is to make it so complicated that there are no obvious deficiencies. The first method is far more difficult."

–Tony Hoare

- Identify the core concepts
- Compose them, maybe providing new functionality
- The focus is on exploration

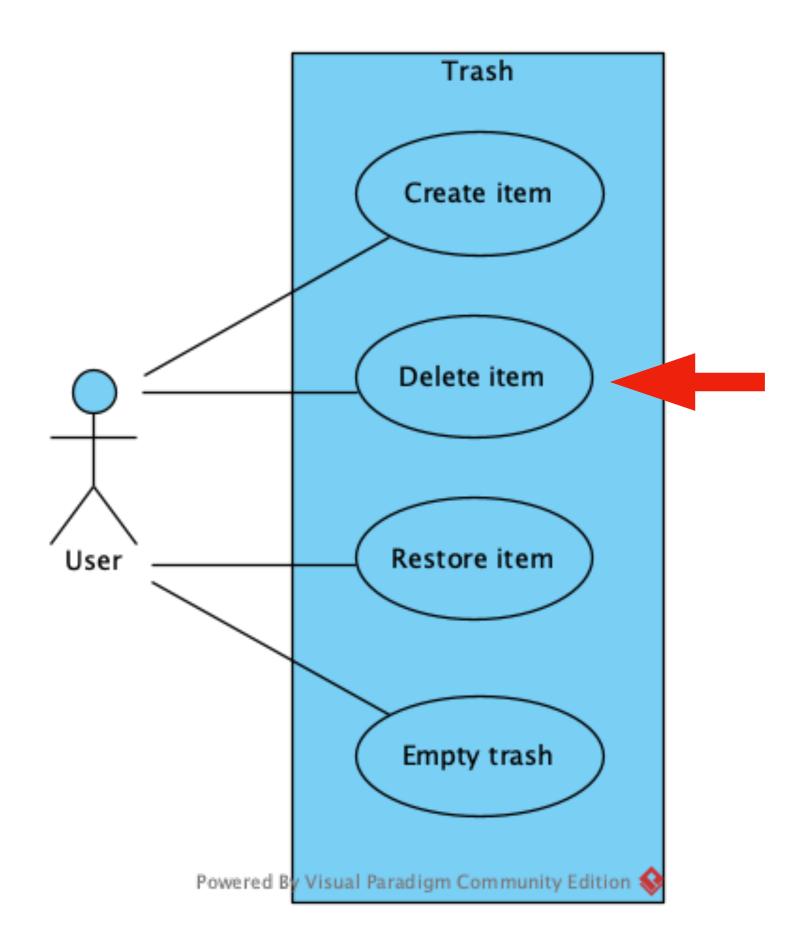
App design

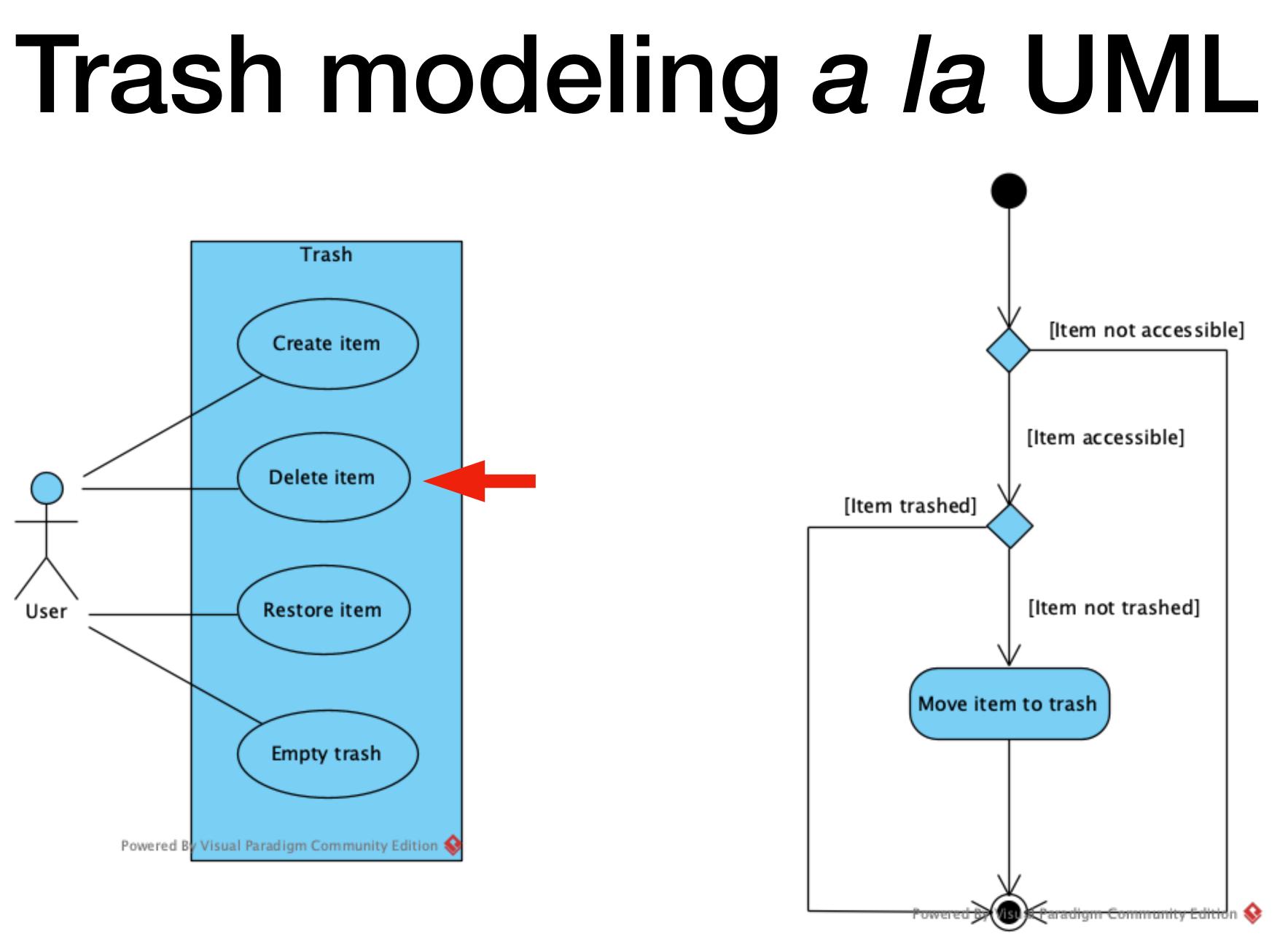


-Daniel Jackson

"[...] For software, that means determining what the behavior of the software should be: what controls it will offer, and what responses it will provide in return. These questions have no right or wrong answers, only better or worse ones."

Modeling concepts



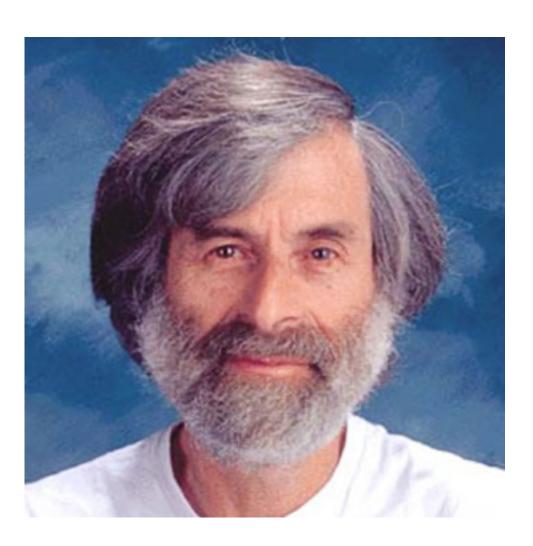


Trash "modeling" with code

```
class Trash<Item> {
```

```
private HashSet<Item> accessible;
private HashSet<Item> trashed;
void delete(Item i) throws Exception {
  if (!accessible.contains(i)) {
    throw new Exception("Item not accessible");
  if (trashed.contains(i)) {
    throw new Exception("Item already trashed");
  trashed.add(i);
  accessible.remove(i);
}
• • •
```

"If you're not writing a program, don't use a programming language."



-Leslie Lamport

Trash modeling a la Jackson

```
concept trash [Item]
```

purpose

to allow undoing of deletions

state

accessible, trashed : set Item

actions

create (x : Item) when x not in accessible or trashed add x to accessible delete (x : Item) when x in accessible but not trashed move x from accessible to trashed restore (x : Item) when x in trashed move x from trashed to accessible empty () when some item in trashed remove every item from trashed operational principle after delete(x), can restore(x) and then x in accessible after delete(x), can empty() and then x not in accessible or trashed

Concept modeling a la Jackson

- Name
 - Optionally parametrized by types that can be specialized when composing
- Purpose
 - A clear reason why you might want it
- State + Actions
 - A description of the concept behavior using a *transition* system
- Operational principle
 - Archetypical scenarios that show how the concept is fulfilled by the actions

Transition systems

Transition systems

- A popular model to describe the behavior of a system
- In some areas a *model* is a synonym for a transition system
- There are many variants and related formalisms
 - Labeled transition systems
 - Kripke structures

- ...

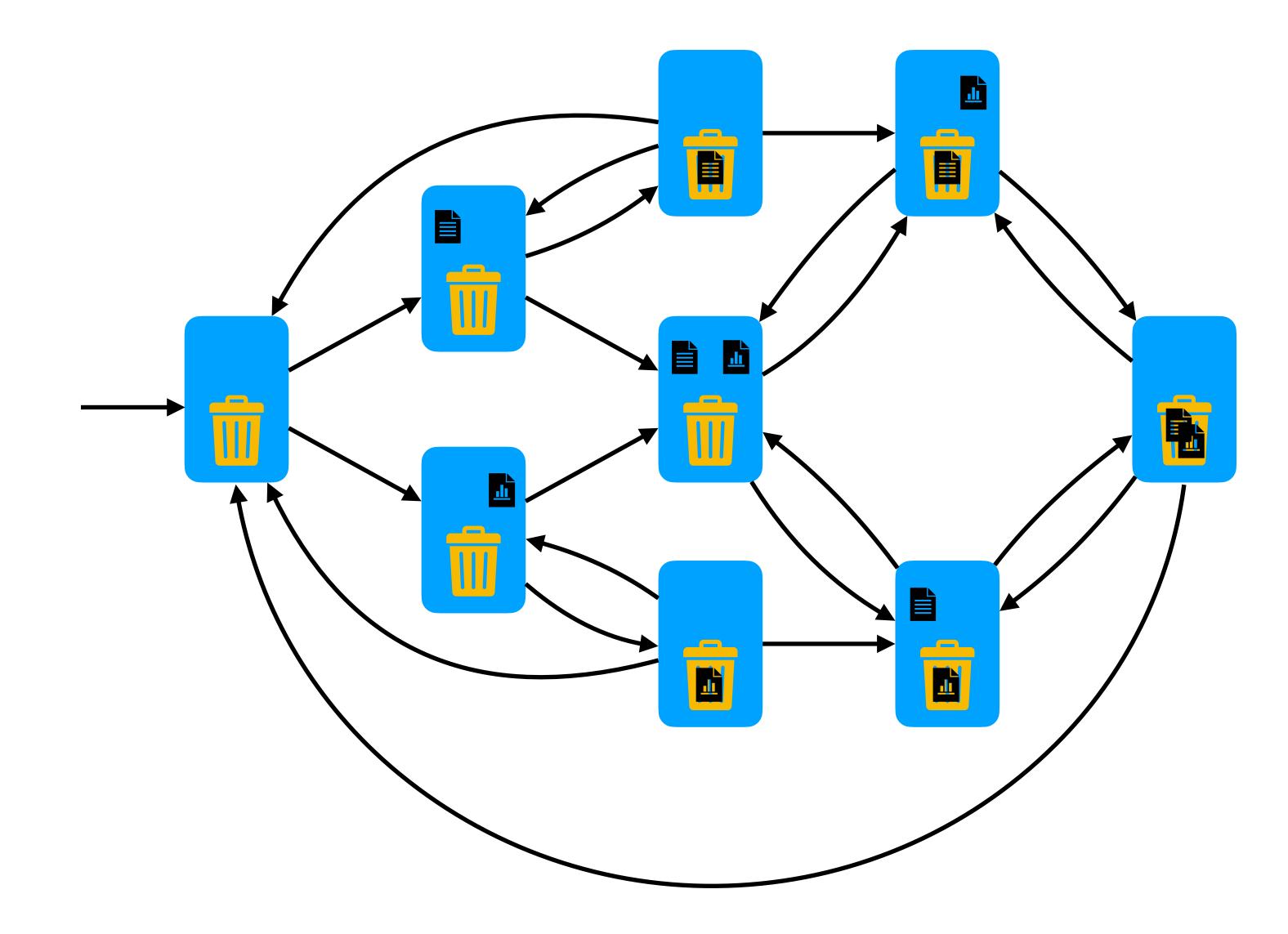
- Finite state machines
- Hybrid and timed automata

Transition system = States + Transitions

- States
 - A state is a possible valuation to the structures of the system
 - *Initial* states describe how the system starts
- Transitions
 - A *transition* is a possible evolution between states
 - Transitions originate from actions of the system or the environment
- Traces \bullet

- A trace is a valid path (a sequence of states) in the transition system, starting in an initial state

Trash transition system

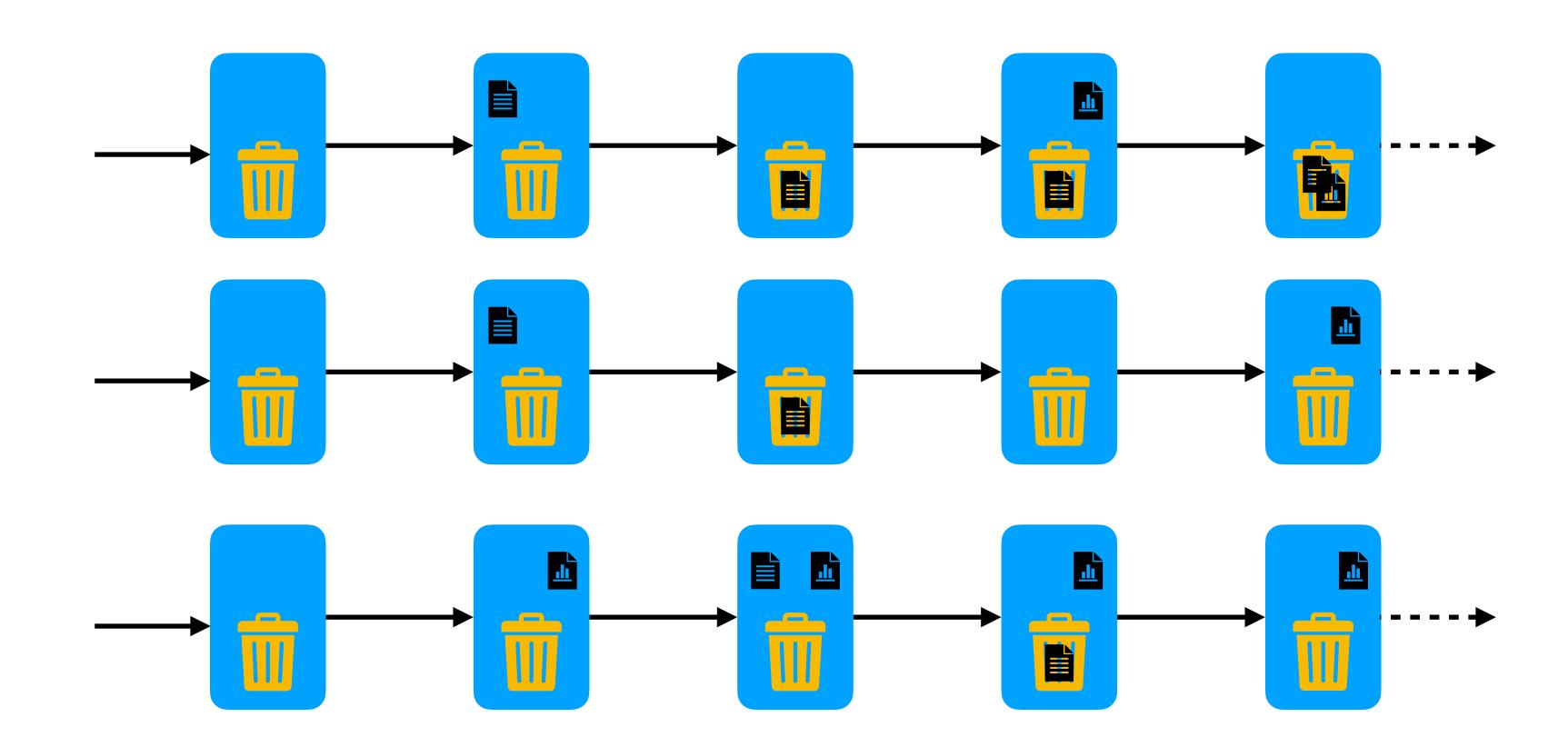


Declarative modeling

- are valid
- single state
- And thus requires some sort of *temporal logic*

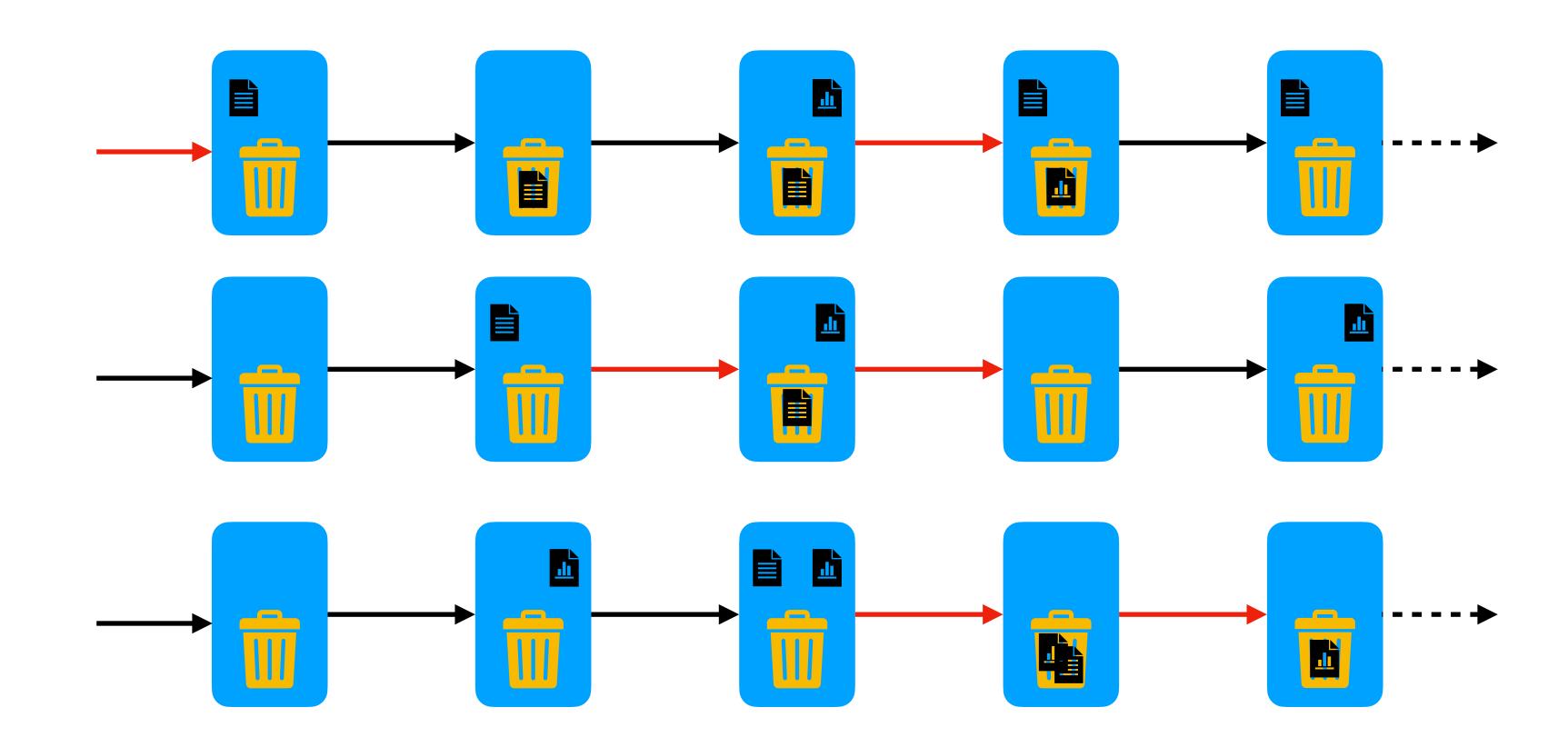
• It is possible to describe a transition system by specifying which traces

• The specification talks about a sequence of states and not just about a





Invalid trash traces



Transition systems in Alloy

Mutability

- In Alloy 6 mutable signatures and fields can be declared with keyword var
 - Previously only possible with the Electrum extension
 - It was possible to describe behavior in Alloy 5 by explicitly modeling the concept of state
 - But it was confusing and error prone
- Mixing mutable and static structures
 - Static field inside mutable signature yields a warning
 - Same for static signature extending or inside mutable one

Trash states

- sig Item {}
- var sig Accessible in Item {}
- var sig Trashed in Item {}

Instances

- When mutable structures are declared, instances are infinite traces
- Analysis commands only return traces that can be represented finitely
 - Instances are traces that loop back at some point
- Static signatures and fields have the same value in all states
- If there are mutable top-level signatures **univ** (and **iden**) are also mutable

Temporal logic

- Alloy 6 also supports linear temporal logic
- Temporal logic adds temporal operators to relational logic
- They allow us to "quantify" the validity of a formula over the different states of a trace
- A formula without temporal operators is only required to hold in the initial states
- Alloy 6 has both future and past temporal operators

Always, historically, and prime

always ϕ **historically** ϕ ϕ was always true *R* '

 ϕ will always be true The value of *R* in the next state

fact Behavior { // Initial state **no** Accessible **no** Trashed // Transitions always { // At most one item is created or deleted **lone** (Accessible - Accessible') + (Accessible' - Accessible) // All deleted items go to the trash Accessible - Accessible' = Trashed' - Trashed // If no item was deleted or created an empty must have occurred Accessible' = Accessible implies no Trashed' // ...

Trash behavior



fact Behavior { // Initial state **no** Accessible **no** Trashed // Transitions

always {

or

empty

Trash behavior

(some i : Item | create[i] or delete[i] or restore[i])

- The specification of an action is a conjunction of three kinds of formulas
 - Guards, that specify when it can occur
 - *Effects*, that specify what changes when it occurs
 - Frame conditions, special effects that specify what does not change when it occurs
- Guards usually have no temporal operators
 - But can use past temporal operators to recall something about the past
- Effects and frame conditions use the prime operator to specify the relation between the present and the next value of mutable signatures and fields
 - If nothing is specified about a mutable signature or field it can change freely

Anatomy of an action

Create item

pred create [i : Item] { // guard historically i not in Accessible // effect Accessible' = Accessible + i // frame condition Trashed' = Trashed

Delete item

pred delete [i : Item] { // guard i in Accessible // effects Accessible' = Accessible - iTrashed' = Trashed + i

Restore item

pred restore [i : Item] { // guard i in Trashed // effects Accessible' = Accessible + i Trashed' = Trashed - i

Empty trash

pred empty { // guard **some** Trashed // effect no Trashed'

// frame condition

Accessible' = Accessible

Validation

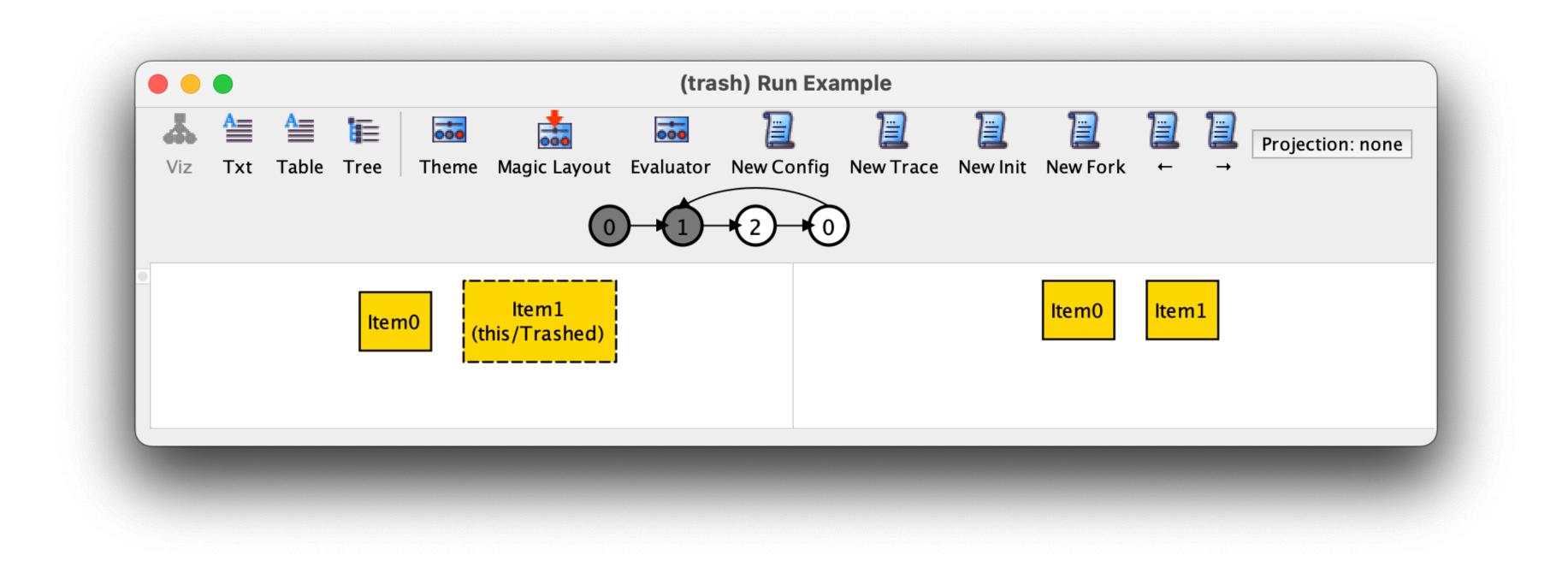
Validation

- As usual, run commands can be used to validate the model
- The scope of a mutable signature defines the maximum number of different atoms in the full trace, not a maximum per state

Trace visualization

- The visualizer depicts two consecutive states of the trace side-by-side
 - By default mutable structures are depicted with dashed lines
- A representation of the infinite trace is shown above
 - Different states have different numbers
 - The loop back is explicitly depicted
 - Clicking on a state focus on that (and the succeeding) state
 - It is possible to move forwards and backwards in the trace with \rightarrow and \leftarrow

Trace visualization



Simulation

- It possible to perform "simulation" with the New instance buttons
 - New config, returns a trace with a different configuration (a different value to the immutable structures)
 - New trace, returns any different trace with the same configuration
 - New init, returns a trace with the same config, but a different initial state
 - New fork, returns a trace with the same prefix, but a different next state

Simulation



Specifying scenarios

- A formula can be given in a **run** command to look for specific scenarios
- Keyword expect can be used to distinguish positive and negative scenarios

ϕ ; ψ

Semi-colon

 ψ is valid after ϕ

Some trash scenarios

```
run Scenario1 {
  some i : Item {
    create[i]; delete[i]; restore[i]; delete[i]; empty
  }
} expect 1
run Scenario2 {
  some disj i,j : Item {
    create[i]; delete[j]
  }
\} expect 0
run Scenario3 {
  some i : Item {
    create[i]; delete[i]; empty
 1
} for 1 Item expect 1
```

Some trash scenarios

Executing "Run Scenario1 expect 1"
Solver=sat4j Steps=1..10 Bitwidth=4 MaxSeq=4 SkolemDepth=1 Symmetry=OFF Mode=batch
2..8 steps. 17099 vars. 378 primary vars. 28707 clauses. 355ms.
Instance found. Predicate is consistent, as expected. 76ms.

Executing "Run Scenario2 expect 0"
Solver=sat4j Steps=1..10 Bitwidth=4 MaxSeq=4 SkolemDepth=1 Symmetry=20 Mode=batch
2..10 steps. 51735 vars. 998 primary vars. 86980 clauses. 496ms.
No instance found. Predicate may be inconsistent, as expected. 20ms.

Executing "Run Scenario3 for 1 Item expect 1"
Solver=sat4j Steps=1..10 Bitwidth=4 MaxSeq=4 SkolemDepth=1 Symmetry=OFF Mode=batch
2..10 steps. 74773 vars. 1322 primary vars. 121547 clauses. 199ms.
No instance found. Predicate may be inconsistent, contrary to expectation. 7ms.

3 commands were executed. The results are: #1: Instance found. Scenario1 is consistent, as expected. #2: No instance found. Scenario2 may be inconsistent, as expected. #3: No instance found. Scenario3 may be inconsistent, contrary to expectation.



Inconsistency

- This scenario is not possible because it cannot be extended to an infinite trace
- Once the trash is empty no other action is possible and we stated that at every state some action must occur
- At least a stuttering action should be possible at that point

Stuttering

A clock specification

pred clock spec { h = 0 and m = 0always { m'=(m+1)%60 and m=59 implies h'=(h+1)%12 and m!=59 implies h'=h }



Ceci n'est pas une montre?!

check clock_spec

Executing "Check clock_spec"
Solver=sat4j Steps=1..10 Bitwidth=4 MaxSeq=4 SkolemDepth=1 Symmetry=20 Mode=batch
1..2 steps. 55 vars. 12 primary vars. 59 clauses. 3ms.
Counterexample found. Assertion is invalid. 3ms.



A clock specification

pred clock spec { h = 0 and m = 0always { m'=(m+1)%60 and m=59 implies h'=(h+1)%12 and m!=59 implies h'=h or m'=m and h'=h



A clock

check clock_spec

Executing "Check clock_spec"

Solver=sat4j Steps=1..10 Bitwidth=4 MaxSeq=4 SkolemDepth=1 Symmetry=20 Mode=batch 1..10 steps. 151901 vars. 1875 primary vars. 413006 clauses. 1042ms. No counterexample found. Assertion may be valid. 298ms.



Stuttering

- It is good practice to allow the system to stutter in every state
- Stuttering can represent events by the environment or by other components of the system (not yet modeled)

Stuttering will enable the composition of concepts when specifying apps

Stuttering

pred stutter { Accessible' = Accessible Trashed' = Trashed }

Fixing the trash behavior

fact Behavior {

- // Initial state
- **no** Accessible
- **no** Trashed
- // Transitions
- always {
 - (**some** i : Item | create[i] **or** delete[i] **or** restore[i])
 - or
 - empty
 - or
 - stutter

Verification

- Model checking is the process of automatically verifying if a temporal logic specification holds in a finite transition system model of a system
 - If the specification is false a counter-example is returned
 - A finite transition system may have infinite non-looping traces
 - But every invalid specification can be falsified with a looping trace
- Complete or unbounded model checking explores all traces of the transition system
- Bounded model checking explores all traces up to a given maximum number of transitions before looping back

Model checking

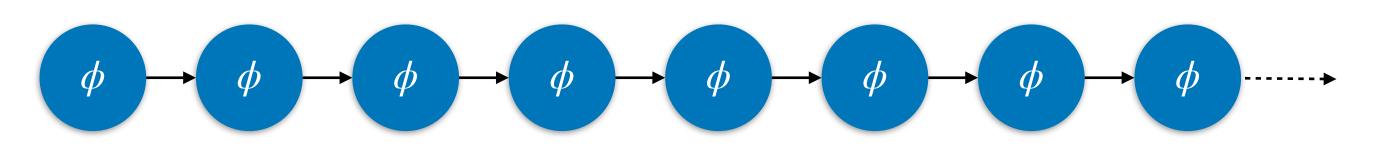
Verification

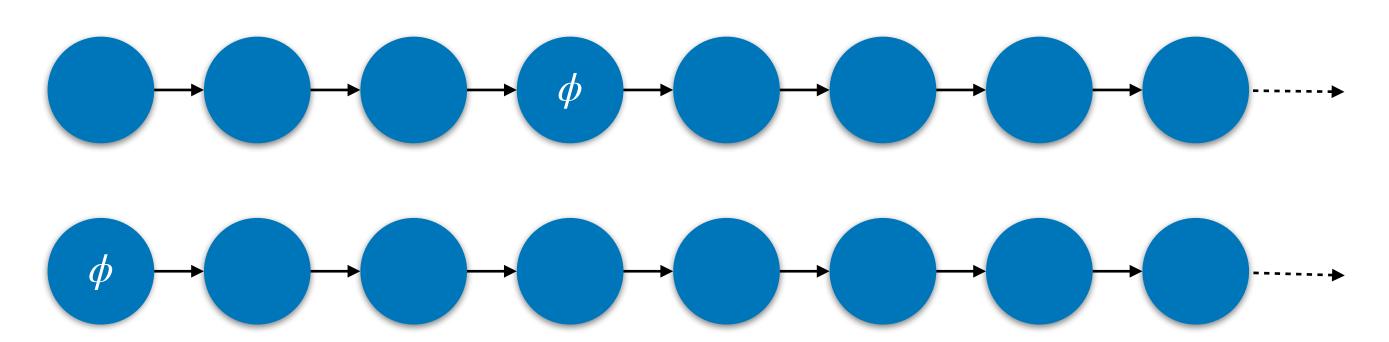
- As usual, check commands can be used to verify assertions
- The default verification mechanism is bounded model checking
 - The default maximum number of transitions is 10
 - This can be changed by setting a scope for steps
- Alloy 6 also supports unbounded model checking
 - Activated by the special scope 1.. steps
 - Requires model checkers nuXmv or NuSMV to be installed

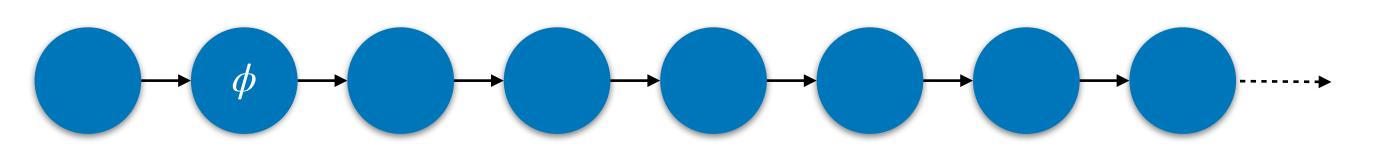
Future temporal operators

always ϕ ϕ will always be trueeventually ϕ ϕ will eventually be trueafter ϕ ϕ will be true in the next state ψ until ϕ ϕ will eventually be true and ψ is true until then ϕ releases ψ ψ can only stop being true after ϕ

Future operators





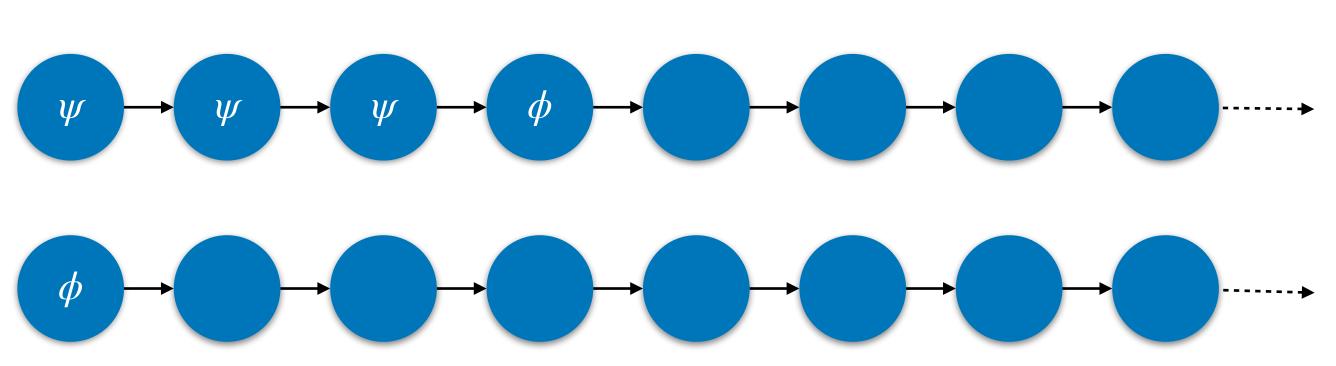


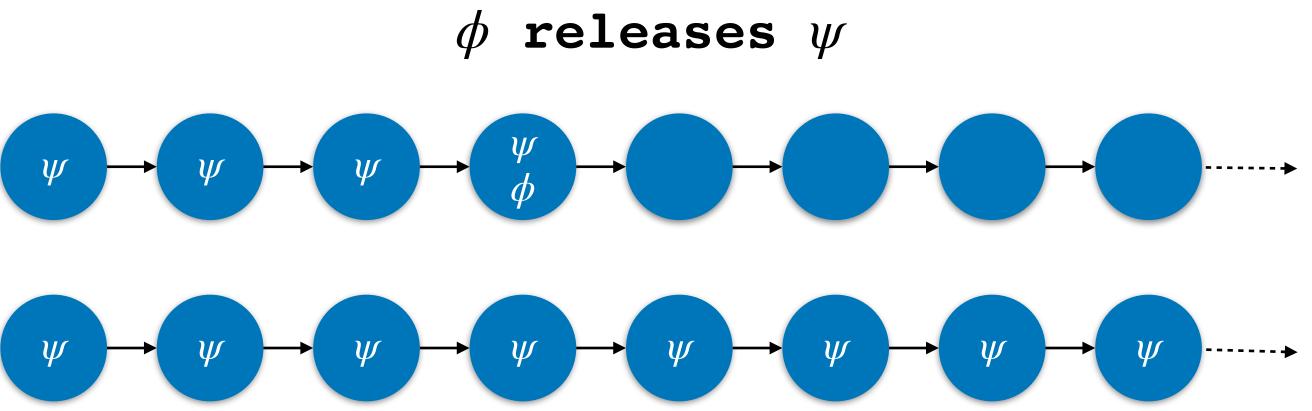
always ϕ

eventually ϕ

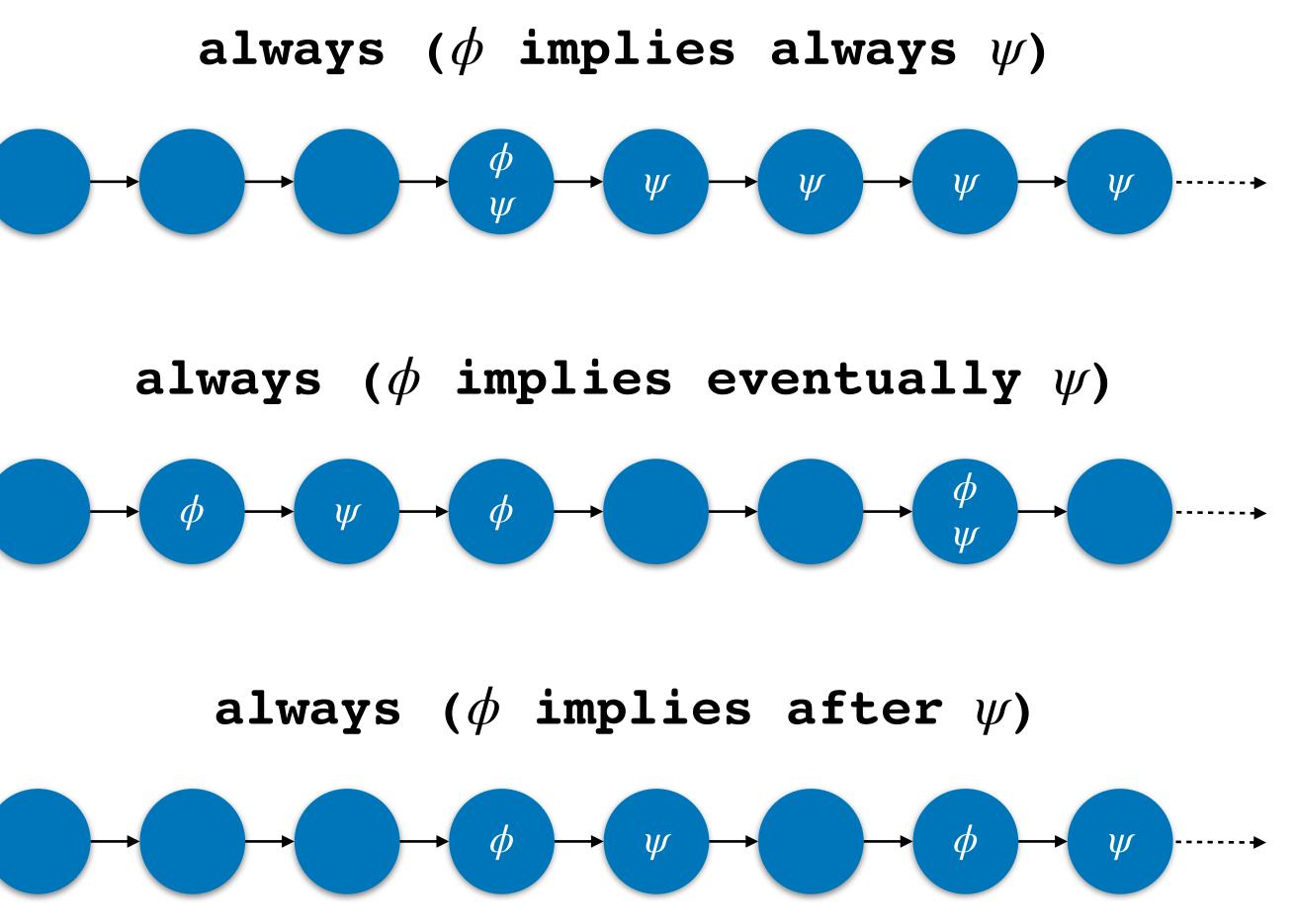
after ϕ

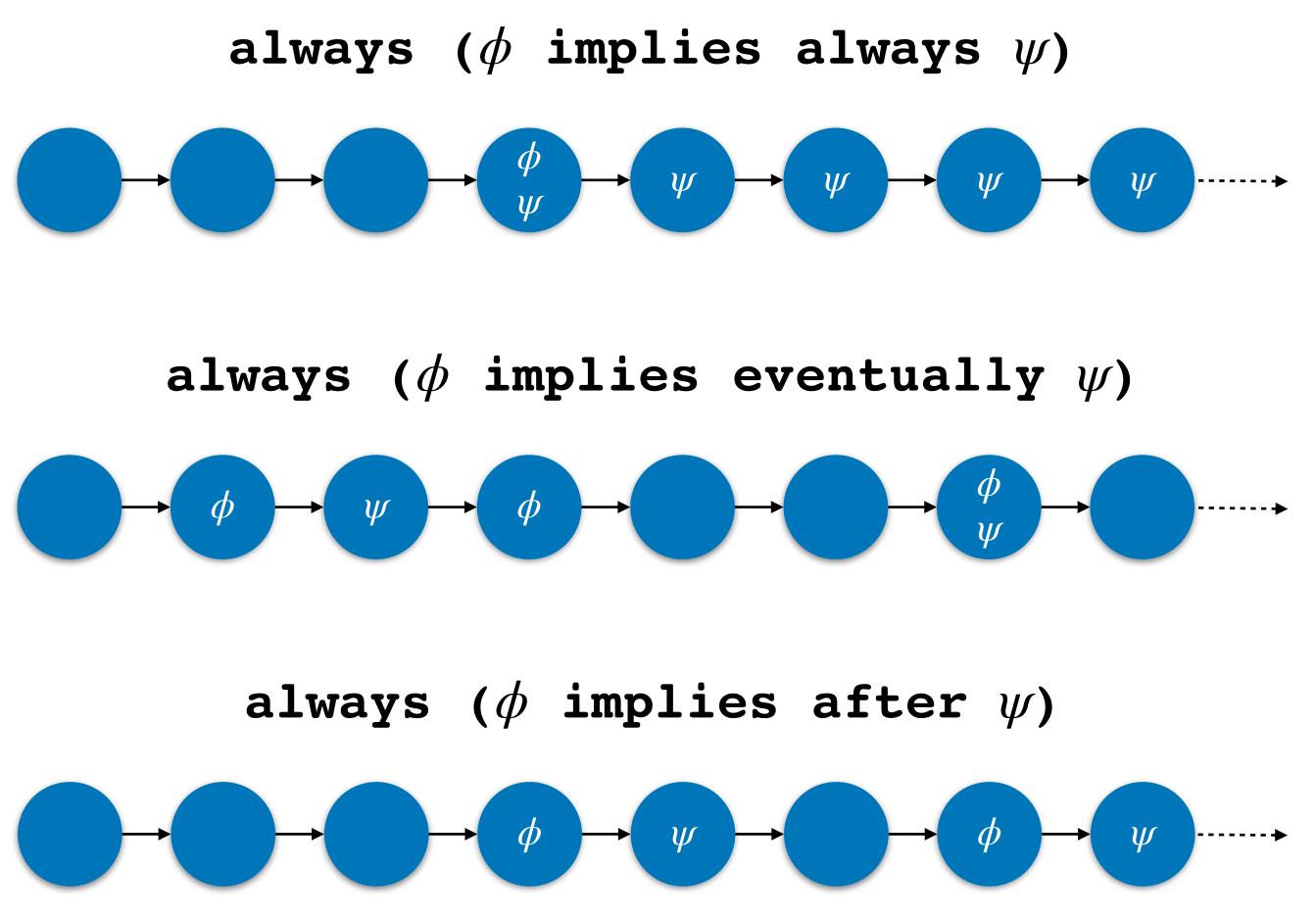
Future operators

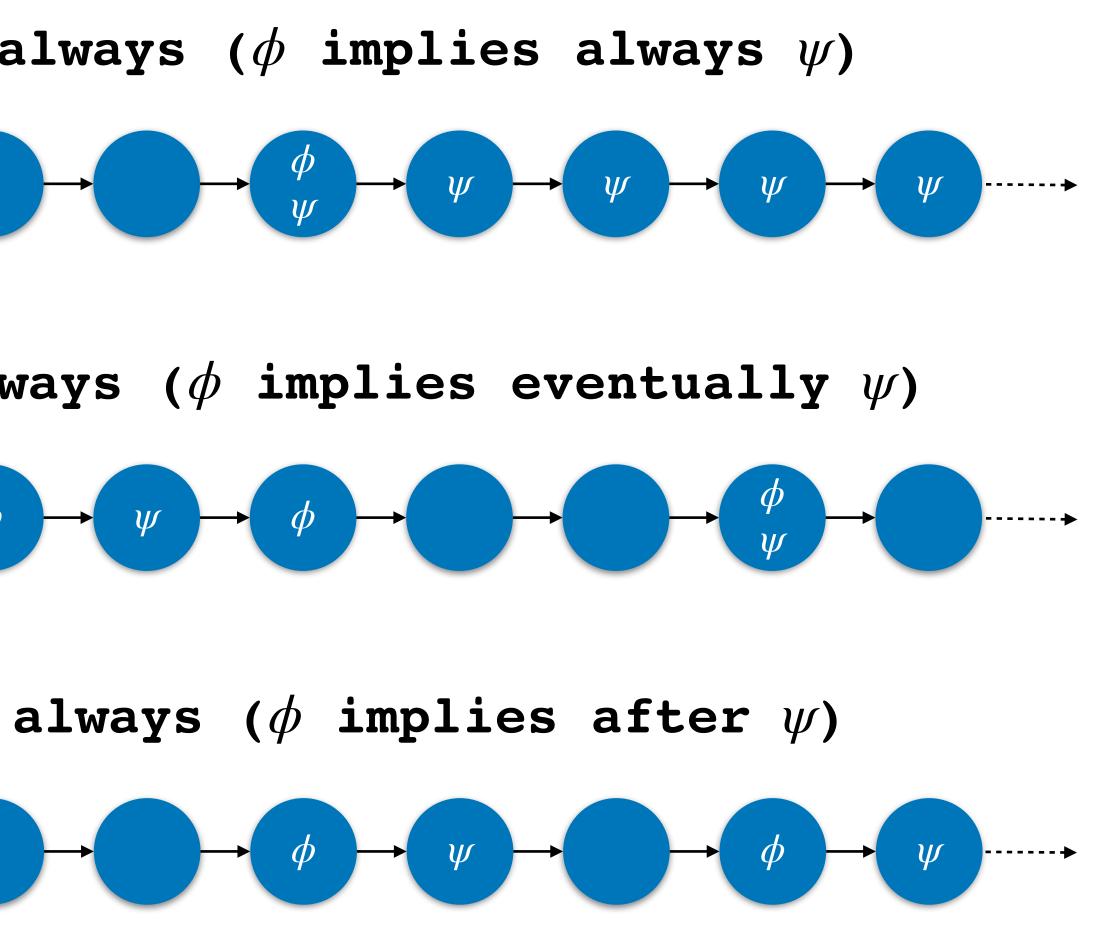


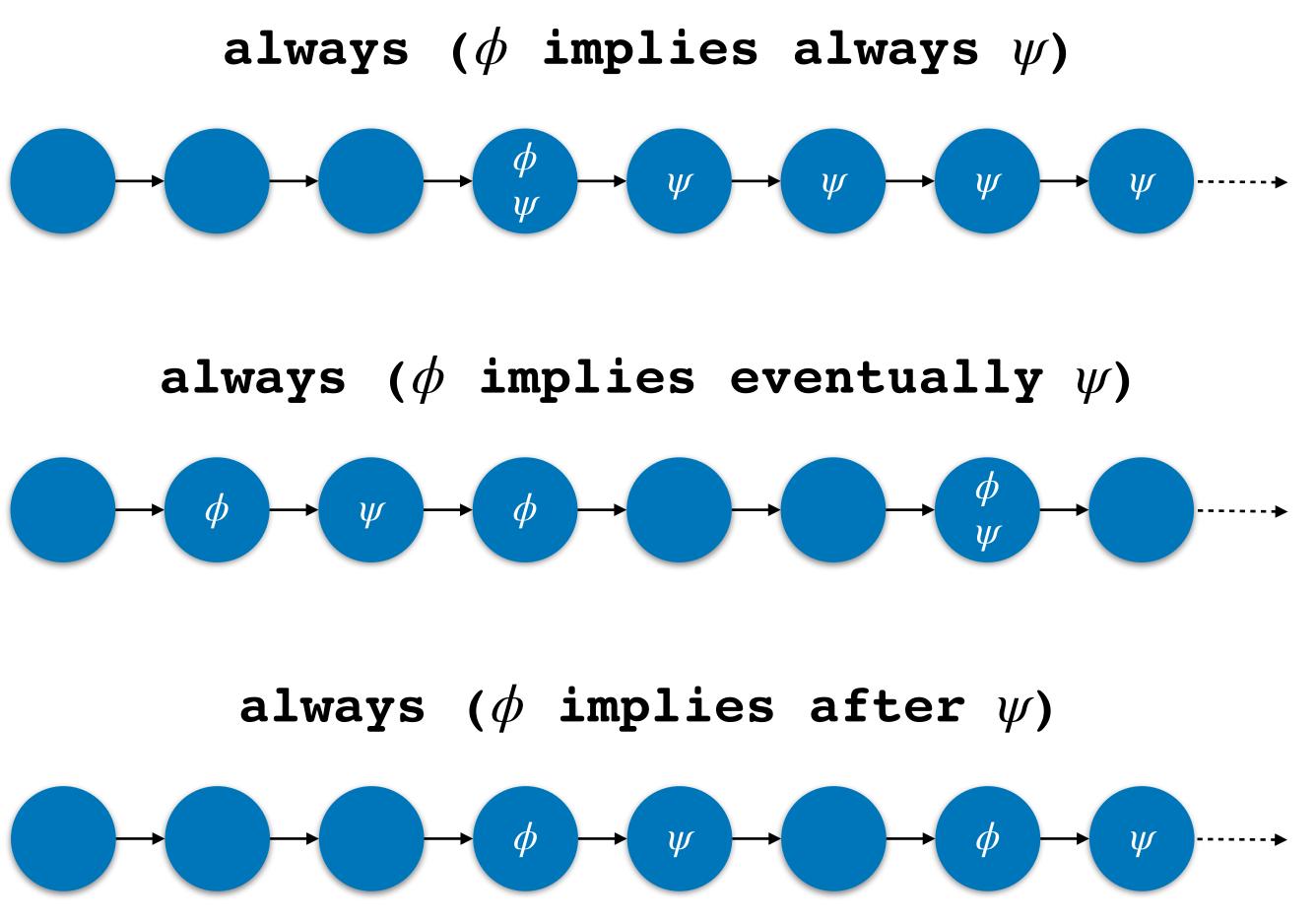


 ψ until ϕ

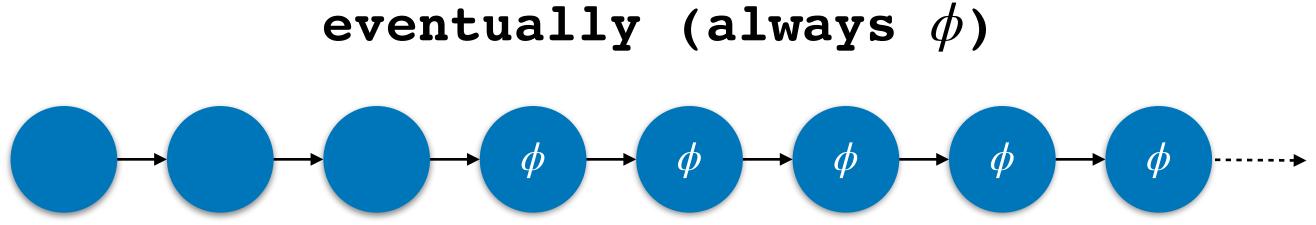


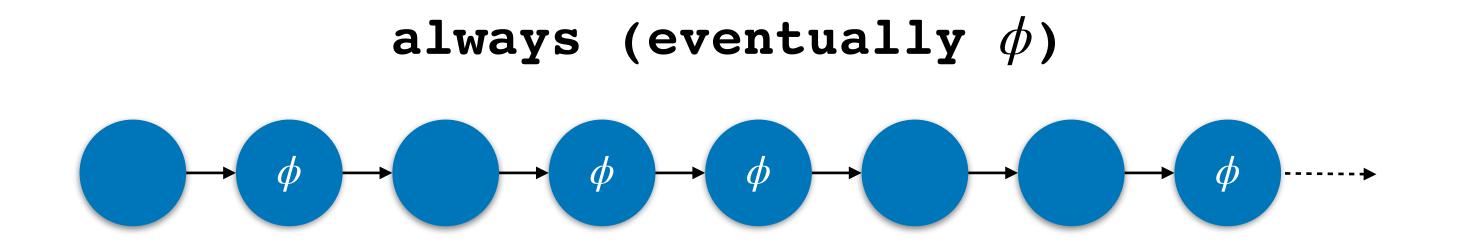






Mixing operators





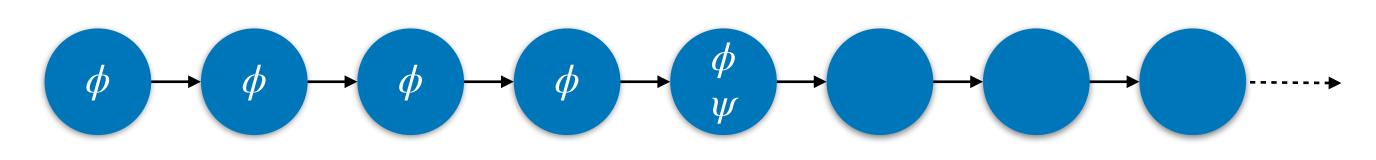
Mixing operators

Past temporal operators

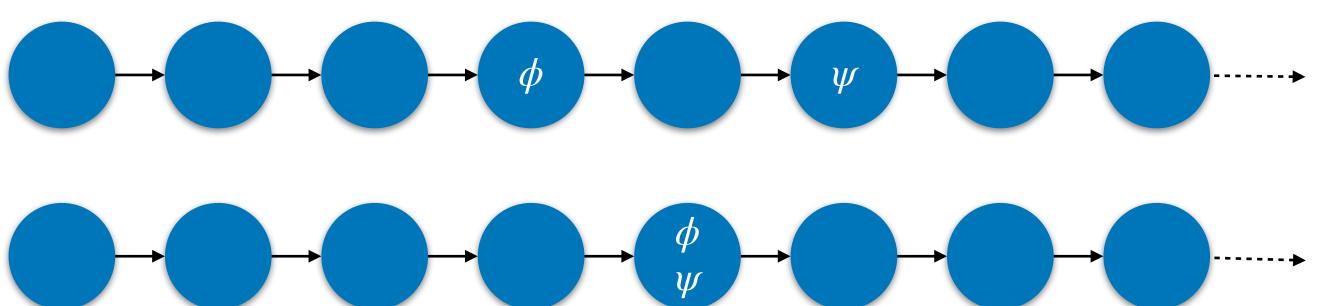
- ϕ was always true historically ϕ ϕ was once true once ϕ before ϕ ψ since ϕ ϕ triggered ψ
- - ϕ was true in previous state
 - ϕ was once true and ψ was true since then
 - ψ was always true back to the point where ϕ was true

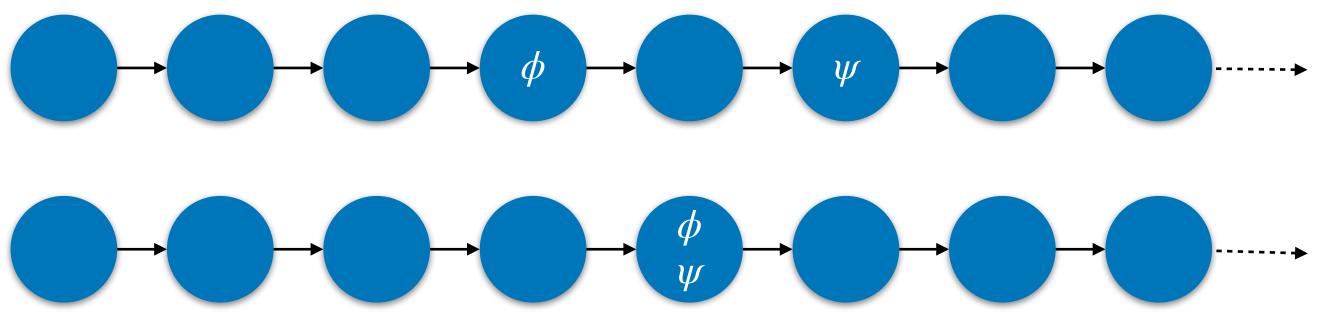
Past operators

always (ψ implies historically ϕ)

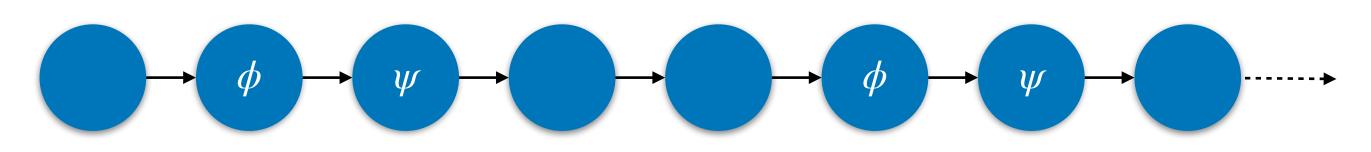








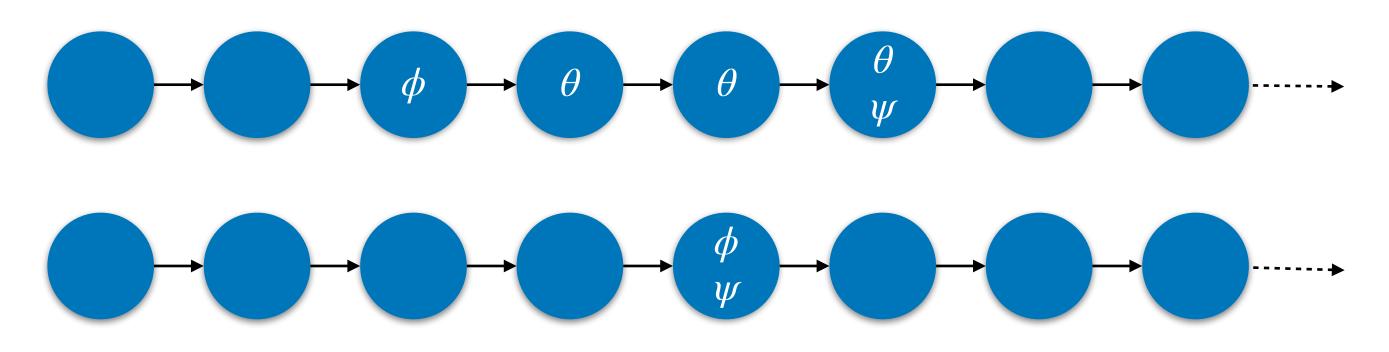


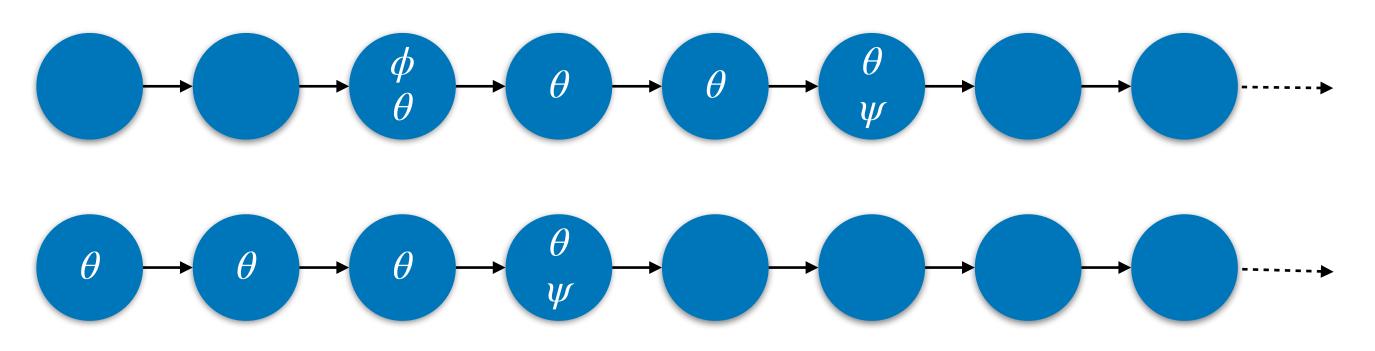


always (ψ implies once ϕ)

always (ψ implies before ϕ)

Past operators





always (ψ implies θ since ϕ)

always (ψ implies ϕ triggered θ)

Safety vs Liveness

- Safety properties prevent some undesired behaviors from happening

 - It is irrelevant what happens afterwards, and any continuation leads to a counter-example
 - The archetypal safety property is **always** ϕ
- *Liveness* properties force some desired behaviors to happen
 - behavior never happened

 - The archetypal liveness property is **eventually** ϕ
- In this course we will focus only on safety properties

- Easier to model check, since it suffices to search for a finite sequence of steps that leads to a bad state

- Harder to model check, since it is necessary to search for a complete infinite trace where the desired

- Harder to specify, since they require fairness assumptions that prevent the system from stuttering forever

Some operational principles

assert Properties {

// No item can simultaneously be accessible and trashed always no Accessible & Trashed // A restore is only possible after a delete **all** x : Item | **always** (restore[x] **implies** once delete[x]) // If all items are in the trash and the trash is emptied no more items will exist always (Item in Trashed and empty implies always no Accessible) // After deleting an item only leaves the trash after an empty or a restore all x : Item | always (delete[x] implies after ((empty or restore[x]) releases x in Trashed)) // A restore undos a delete

check Properties

Executing "Check Properties" 1..10 steps. 79912 vars. 560 primary vars. 189949 clauses. 3388ms. No counterexample found. Assertion may be valid. 2295ms.

all x : Item | **always** ((delete[x]; restore[x]) **implies** Accessible'' = Accessible **and** Trashed'' = Trashed)

```
Solver=minisat(jni) Steps=1..10 Bitwidth=4 MaxSeq=4 SkolemDepth=1 Symmetry=20 Mode=batch
```

The main operational principle

assert OperationalPrinciple { all x : Item | always { // after delete(x), can restore(x) and then x in accessible delete[x] implies after (x in Trashed and (restore[x] implies after x in Accessible)) // after delete(x), can empty() and then x not in accessible or trashed delete[x] implies after (some Trashed and (empty implies after x not in Trashed+Accessible))

check OperationalPrinciple for 4 Item, 20 steps

Executing "Check OperationalPrinciple for 20 steps, 4 Item" Solver=minisat(jni) Steps=1..20 Bitwidth=4 MaxSeq=4 SkolemDepth=1 Symmetry=20 Mode=batch 1..20 steps. 60638 vars. 2260 primary vars. 102411 clauses. 463ms. No counterexample found. Assertion may be valid. 7ms.



Another concept

The label

concept label [Item]

purpose

organize items into overlapping categories state

labels : Item -> set Label

actions

affix (i : Item, l : Label)

add 1 to the labels of i

detach (i : Item, l : Label)

remove 1 from the labels of 1

find (l : Label) : set Item

return the items labelled with 1

clear (i : Item)

remove item i and all its labels operational principle

after affix(i,l) and no detach(i,l), i in find(l) if no affix(i,l), or detach(i,l), i not in find(l)

The label in Alloy

```
sig Item {
 var labels : set Label
}
sig Label {}
fun find [l : Label] : set Item { labels.l }
fact Behavior {
  no labels
  always {
    (some i : Item, l : Label | affix[i,l] or detach[i,l])
    or
    (some i : Item | clear[i])
   or
    stutter
  1
```

pred affix [i : Item, l : Label] { // guard

i not in find[1] // effect

i.labels' = i.labels + l // frame condition

all j : Label - i | j.labels' = j.labels



pred affix [i : Item, l : Label] { // guard i not in find[1] // effect labels' = labels + i -> l}



Detach label

pred detach [i : Item, l : Label] { // guard i in find[1] // effect labels' = labels - i -> l}

Clear item

pred clear [i : Item] { // effect labels' = labels - i->Label }

Label scenarios

- run Scenario1 { some i : Item, disj l,m : Label { affix[i,l]; affix[i,m]; clear[i]
- $\}$ expect 1
- run Scenario2 { some i : Item, l : Label { affix[i,l]; affix[i,l] } expect 0

Label operational principle

assert OperationalPrinciple {
 all i : Item, l : Label {
 // after affix(i,l) and no detach(i,l), i in find(l)
 always (affix[i,l] implies after ((detach[i,l] or clear[i]) releases i in find[l]))
 // if no affix(i,l), or detach(i,l), i not in find(l)
 all i : Item, l : Label | affix[i,l] releases i not in find[l]
 always ((clear[i] or detach[i,l]) implies after (affix[i,l] releases i not in find[l]))
 }
}

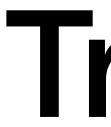
check OperationalPrinciple

Concept composition

Modularizing concepts

- To enable reuse and instantiation each concept should be in a parametrized module
- The module can still be used on its own, as Alloy implicitly declares parameter signatures
- trick might be necessary to declare them

• Since a parameter signature cannot be extended with new fields, some



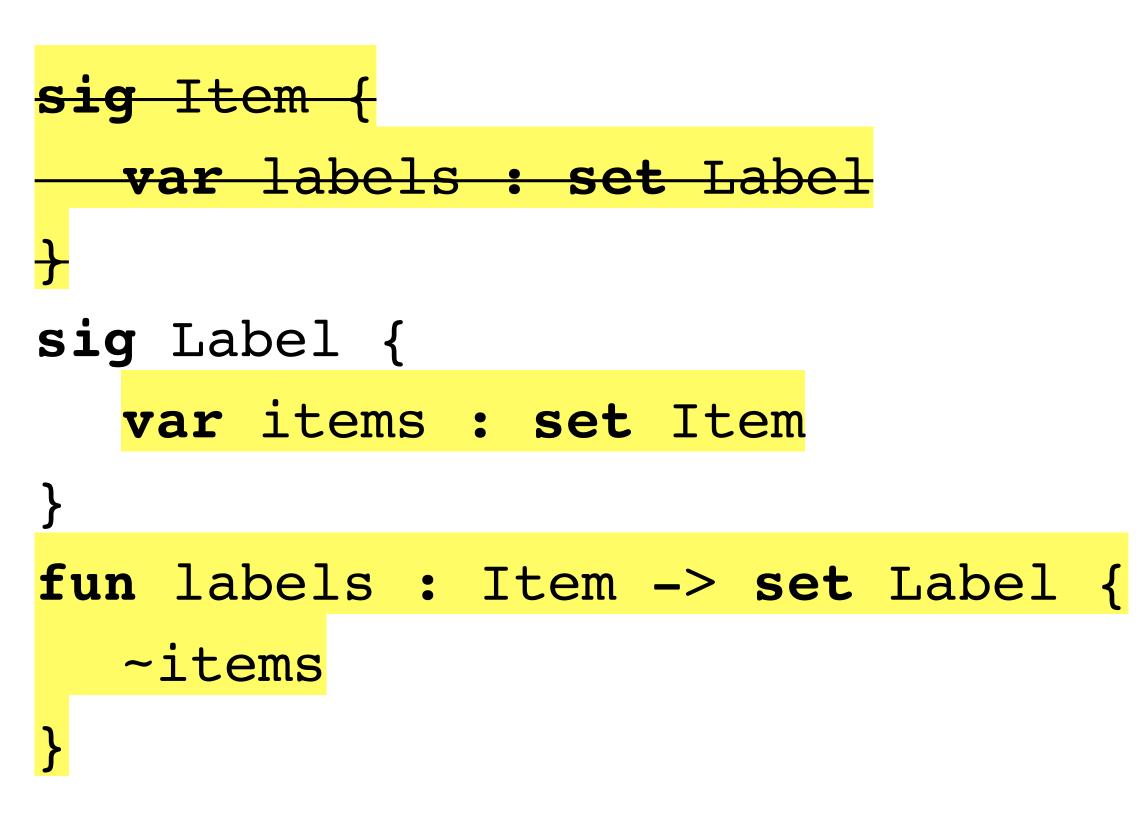
module Trash [Item]

sig Item {}

var sig Accessible in Item {} var sig Trashed in Item {}

Trash

module Label [Item]



• • •

Label

Specifying apps

- Import the required concepts, instantiating parameter signatures as needed
- Compose the concepts

 - Synchronize actions as needed
- Validate, validate, validate
- Check some expected properties

- Enforce interleaving, by requiring at most one concept not to stutter

A filesystem

- Composed of trash and label
- Many options to explore
 - When to allow affixing labels?
 - When to delete labels?
 - Whether to use special labels?

Free composition

- **open** Trash[File] **as** trash
- open Label[File] as label

sig File {}

```
fact Interleave {
  always {
     trash/stutter or
     label/stutter
```

run Example {}

Simulation



- Allow labelling only when accessible
- Clear labels when file is deleted

pred labelled [f : File] {
 some l : Label | f in find[l]
}

fact Synchronization {
 // Allow affixing only if file is accessible
 all f : File, l : Label | always (affix[f,l] implies f in Accessible)

// Clear all labels after file is deleted
all f : File | always (delete[f] and labelled[f] implies after clear[f])

- run Scenario1 { some f : File, l : Label { create[f]; affix[f,l]; delete[f] }
- $\}$ expect 1
- run Scenario2 { some f : File, l : Label { create[f]; delete[f]; affix[f,l] } expect 0

- Allow labelling when accessible or trashed
- Clear labels when file is permanently deleted

```
pred labelled [f : File] {
  some l : Label | f in find[1]
}
```

```
pred exists [f : File] {
  f in Accessible+Trashed
}
```

```
fact Synchronization {
  // Allow affixing only if file is exists
  all f : File, l : Label | always (affix[f,l] implies f in Accessible exists[f])
  // Clear all labels after file is permanently deleted
  all f : File | always {
    delete[f] f in Trashed and empty and labelled[f] implies after clear[f]
  า
```

```
run Scenario1 {
  some f : File, l : Label | create[f]; affix[f,l]; delete[f]
} expect 1
run Scenario2 {
  some f : File, l : Label | create[f]; delete[f]; affix[f,l]
} expect 1
     Executing "Run Scenario4 expect 1"
run Sc
  some
         2..10 steps. 72419 vars. 1791 primary vars. 158243 clauses. 453ms.
} expe
         No instance found. Predicate may be inconsistent, contrary to expectation. 16ms.
run Scenario4 {
```

```
} expect 1
```

```
run Scenario5 {
  some disj f1,f2 : File, 1 : Label | create[f1]; delete[f1]; affix[f1,1]; empty; create[f2]
} expect 0
```

Solver=minisat(jni) Steps=1..10 Bitwidth=4 MaxSeq=4 SkolemDepth=1 Symmetry=OFF Mode=batch

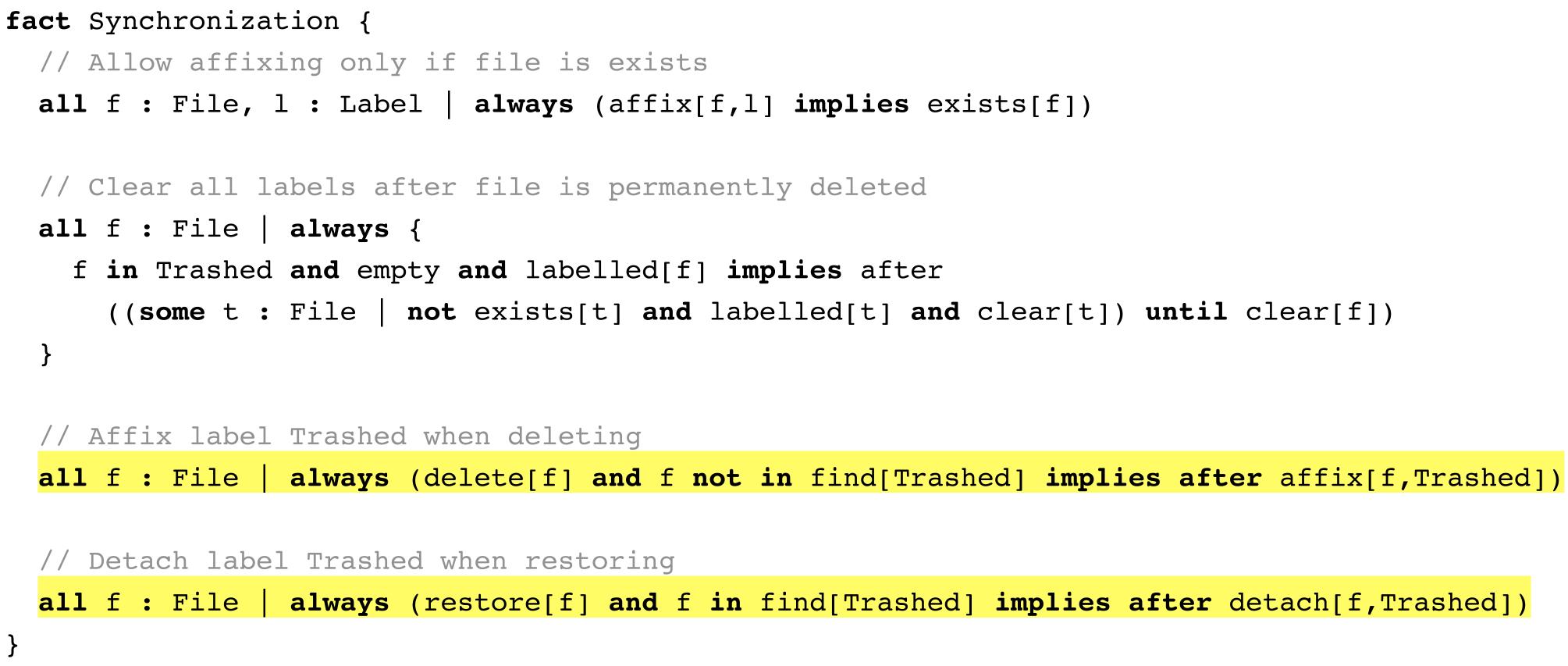
some disj f1,f2 : File, 1 : Label | create[f1]; create[f2]; delete[f1]; affix[f2,1]; delete[f2]; affix[f1,1]; empty

```
pred labelled [f : File] {
  some l : Label | f in find[1]
}
pred exists [f : File] {
  f in Accessible+Trashed
fact Synchronization {
  // Allow affixing only if file is exists
  all f : File, l : Label | always (affix[f,l] implies exists[f])
  // Clear all labels after file is permanently deleted
  all f : File | always {
    f in Trashed and empty and labelled[f] implies after clear[f]
      ((some t : File | not exists[t] and labelled[t] and clear[t]) until clear[f])
```



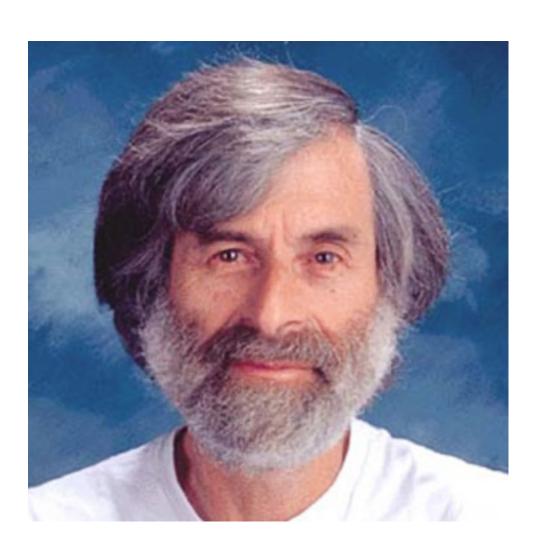
- Allow labelling when accessible or trashed
- Clear labels when file is permanently deleted
- Affix special label Trashed when file is deleted
- Detach special label Trashed when file is restored

one sig Trashed extends Label {}

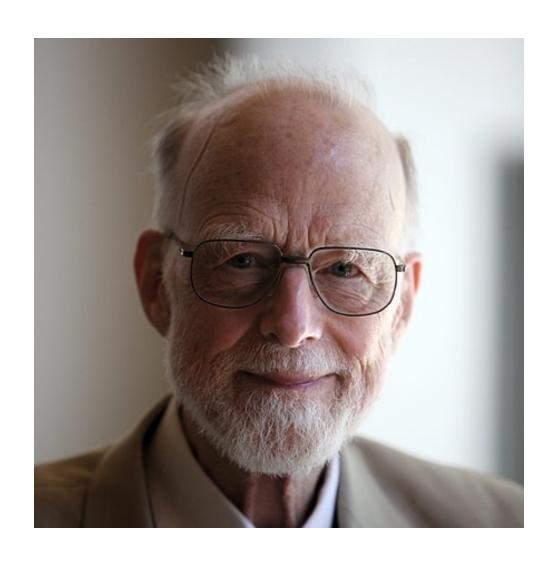


Epilogue

"A specification is an *abstraction*. It describes some aspects of the system and ignores others. [...] But I don't know how to teach you about abstraction. A good engineer knows how to abstract the essence of a system and suppress the unimportant details when specifying and designing it. The art of abstraction is learned only through experience."



-Leslie Lamport



"There are two ways of constructing a software design: One way is to make it so simple that there are obviously no deficiencies, and the other way is to make it so complicated that there are no obvious deficiencies. The first method is far more difficult."

–Tony Hoare

Epigram 31 "Simplicity does not precede complexity, but follows it."



-Alan Perlis