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Methods for Testing and Specification (MTS); The Testing and Test Control Notation version 3; TTCN-3 Language Extensions: Object-Oriented Features

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Foreword

This final draft ETSI Standard (ES) has been produced by ETSI Technical Committee Methods for Testing and Specification (MTS), and is now submitted for the ETSI standards Membership Approval Procedure.

The use of underline (additional text) and strike through (deleted text) highlights the differences between base document and extended documents.

The present document relates to the multi-part standard ETSI ES 201 873 covering the Testing and Test Control Notation version 3, as identified in ETSI ES 201 873-1 [1].

Modal verbs terminology

In the present document "**shall**", "**shall not**", "**should**", "**should not**", "**may**", "**need not**", "**will**", "**will not**", "**can**" and "**cannot**" are to be interpreted as described in clause 3.2 of the ETSI Drafting Rules (Verbal forms for the expression of provisions).

"**must**" and "**must not**" are **NOT** allowed in ETSI deliverables except when used in direct citation.

1 Scope

The present document defines the support for object-oriented features in TTCN-3. TTCN-3 can be used for the specification of all types of reactive system tests over a variety of communication ports. Typical areas of application are protocol testing (including mobile and Internet protocols), service testing (including supplementary services), module testing, testing of OMG CORBA based platforms, APIs, etc. TTCN-3 is not restricted to conformance testing and can be used for many other kinds of testing including interoperability, robustness, regression, system and integration testing. The specification of test suites for physical layer protocols is outside the scope of the present document.

TTCN-3 packages are intended to define additional TTCN-3 concepts, which are not mandatory as concepts in the TTCN-3 core language, but which are optional as part of a package which is suited for dedicated applications and/or usages of TTCN-3.

While the design of TTCN-3 package has taken into account the consistency of a combined usage of the core language with a number of packages, the concrete usages of and guidelines for this package in combination with other packages is outside the scope of the present document.

2 References

2.1 Normative references

References are either specific (identified by date of publication and/or edition number or version number) or non-specific. For specific references, only the cited version applies. For non-specific references, the latest version of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

Referenced documents which are not found to be publicly available in the expected location might be found at https://docbox.etsi.org/Reference/.

NOTE: While any hyperlinks included in this clause were valid at the time of publication, ETSI cannot guarantee their long term validity.

The following referenced documents are necessary for the application of the present document.

[1] ETSI ES 201 873-1: "Methods for Testing and Specification (MTS); The Testing and Test Control Notation version 3; Part 1: TTCN-3 Core Language".

[2] ETSI ES 201 873-4: "Methods for Testing and Specification (MTS); The Testing and Test Control Notation version 3; Part 4: TTCN-3 Operational Semantics".

[3] ETSI ES 201 873-5: "Methods for Testing and Specification (MTS); The Testing and Test Control Notation version 3; Part 5: TTCN-3 Runtime Interface (TRI)".

[4] ETSI ES 201 873-6: "Methods for Testing and Specification (MTS); The Testing and Test Control Notation version 3; Part 6: TTCN-3 Control Interface (TCI)".

2.2 Informative references

References are either specific (identified by date of publication and/or edition number or version number) or non-specific. For specific references, only the cited version applies. For non-specific references, the latest version of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

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The following referenced documents are not necessary for the application of the present document but they assist the user with regard to a particular subject area.

[i.1] ETSI ES 201 873-7: "Methods for Testing and Specification (MTS); The Testing and Test Control Notation version 3; Part 7: Using ASN.1 with TTCN-3".

[i.2] ETSI ES 201 873-8: "Methods for Testing and Specification (MTS); The Testing and Test Control Notation version 3; Part 8: The IDL to TTCN-3 Mapping".

[i.3] ETSI ES 201 873-9: "Methods for Testing and Specification (MTS); The Testing and Test Control Notation version 3; Part 9: Using XML schema with TTCN-3".

[i.4] ETSI ES 201 873-10: "Methods for Testing and Specification (MTS); The Testing and Test Control Notation version 3; Part 10: TTCN-3 Documentation Comment Specification".

3 Definition of terms, symbols and abbreviations

3.1 Terms

For the purposes of the present document, the terms given in ETSI ES 201 873-1 [1], ETSI ES 201 873-4 [2], ETSI ES 201 873-5 [3] and ETSI ES 201 873-6 [4] apply.

3.2 Symbols

Void.

3.3 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the abbreviations given in ETSI ES 201 873-1 [1], ETSI ES 201 873-4 [2], ETSI ES 201 873-5 [3] and ETSI ES 201 873-6 [4] apply.

4 Package conformance and compatibility

The package presented in the present document is identified by the package tag:

`"TTCN-3:2018 Object-Oriented features"` - to be used with modules complying with the present document.

For an implementation claiming to conform to this package version, all features specified in the present document shall be implemented consistently with the requirements given in the present document and in ETSI ES 201 873-1 [1] and ETSI ES 201 873-4 [2].

The package presented in the present document is compatible to:

- ETSI ES 201 873-1 [1], version 4.10.1;
- ETSI ES 201 873-4 [2], version 4.6.1;
- ETSI ES 201 873-5 [3], version 4.8.1;
- ETSI ES 201 873-6 [4], version 4.9.1;
- ETSI ES 201 873-7 [i.1];
- ETSI ES 201 873-8 [i.2];
- ETSI ES 201 873-9 [i.3];
- ETSI ES 201 873-10 [i.4].

If later versions of those parts are available and should be used instead, the compatibility to the package presented in the present document has to be checked individually.

5 Package Concepts for the Core Language

5.0 General

This package defines object-oriented features for TTCN-3, i.e. it extends the TTCN-3 core language (ETSI ES 201 873-1 [1]) with well-known concepts from object-oriented programming and modelling languages. This package realizes the following concepts:

- classes (i.e. class definition, scope rules, abstract and external classes, refinement, constructors, destructors, methods, visibility, and built-in classes);
- objects (i.e. ownership, object references, select class-statement, dynamic class discrimination and casting); and
- exception handling (i.e. ability to define exception handling for functions, external functions, altsteps and test cases).

5.1 Classes and Objects

5.1.0 General

This clause introduces the concepts of class types and their values, called objects as well as the operations allowed to be applied to these objects.

5.1.1 Classes

5.1.1.0 General

Syntactical Structure


```
[public | private]
type [external] class [@final | @abstract | @trait]
Identifier [extends ClassType {"," Identifier}]
[runsOnSpec] [systemSpec] [mtcSpec]
"{" {ClassMember} "}"
[finally StatementBlock]
```

Semantic Description

A class is a type where the values are called objects. A class can declare fields (variables, constants, templates, timers, classes), methods and properties as its members. Each member name inside the class shall be unique, there is no overloading. The private and protected fields and methods are only accessible by the methods of the class, while the public members of the class can be accessed also from behaviour not defined in the class. The private members of the class can be accessed directly only by members of the class itself. All members which are neither private nor public are protected and can also be accessed by members of subclasses.

All fields may be declared without initializer, even const and template fields.

A class can be declared with the @trait modifier. Such a class is called a trait class. Other classes are called normal classes. A trait class is an abstract class and can not be instantiated. It also shall only declare methods without function bodies as members and no constructor.

A normal class can extend at most one other normal class and also any number of trait classes. The extended normal class is called the superclass, the extended trait classes are called the supertraits, while the extending class is called the subclass of all the classes it extends. Trait classes can only extend trait classes but not normal classes. The resulting type of a class definition is the set of object instances of the class itself and all instances of its direct or indirect subclasses. A subclass is a subtype of its direct and indirect superclasses and supertraits and its object instances are type compatible with them. If a class does not explicitly extend another class type, it implicitly extends the root class type **`object`**. Thus, all classes are directly or indirectly extensions of the **`object`** class.

A class inherits all members of its superclass and its supertraits that it does not override in its own class body. A non-private non-abstract member from the superclass can always be accessed inside the class body by using the dotted notation on the keyword **`super`**. Non overridden non-private members can be accessed without any dotted notation before the member name.

A class can have optional runs on, mtc and system clauses. This restricts the type of component context that can create objects of that class and all methods of this class. If a class does not have one of these clauses, it inherits it from its superclass, if the superclass has one. If the superclass has or inherits a runs on, mtc or system clause, the subclass may declare each of these clauses with a more specific component type than the one inherited. The function members of classes shall not have runs on, system or mtc classes but inherit them from their surrounding class or its superclasses.

Classes can be used as field or element types of structured types.

Restrictions

a) Void.

b) Passing of object references and structured types containing fields or elements of class type to the create operation of a component type or a function started on another component is not allowed.

c) No subtyping definition is allowed for class types via the normal subtype definition.

d) No local/global constants or module parameters of class type or structured types containing fields or elements of class type are allowed.

e) Class type cannot be the contained value of an any type value.

f) The functions of a class shall not have a runs on, mtc or system clause.

g) The runs on type of a class shall be runs on compatible with the runs on type of the behaviour creating a class.

h) The runs on type of a class shall be runs on compatible with the runs on type of the superclass and the supertraits.

i) The mtc and system type of a class shall be mtc and system compatible with the mtc and system types of the superclass and the supertraits, respectively.

j) Class extension shall not contain cycles such that a class directly or indirectly extends itself.

k) Reference to a class shall not occur more than once in the list of classes being extended.

l) Neither fields not non-abstract methods shall be declared in trait classes.

m) Trait classes shall not define a constructor and shall not define a finally block.

n) A class shall extend at most one normal class.

o) If a structured type contains a field of a class type, this type is not seen as a data type and its values cannot be used for encoding or decoding, sending or receiving and neither used as an actual parameter (or part thereof) to a function started on another component.

Examples

EXAMPLE 1:

```
external function newGlobalId() return charstring;

type class @trait Identifiable {
    public function @abstract setId(charstring id);
    public function @abstract getId() return charstring;
}

type class MyIdentifiableClass extends Identifiable {
    create() {
        setId(newGlobalId());
    }

    var charstring id;
```

```
    public function setId(charstring id) { this.id := id }
    public function getId() return charstring { return id }
}

var Identifiable v_idObj := MyIdentifiableClass.create();
var charstring v_id := v_idObj.getId();
```

EXAMPLE 2: parallel inheritance

```
type class @trait A {
    function @abstract f();
}

type class @trait B {
    function @abstract f();
}

type class C extends A, B {
    // legal, as it inherits A.f() and B.f() and they have the same parameters and return clause
}

type class @trait B2 extends A {
    function @abstract f(); // overrides A.f()
}

type class C2 extends A, B2 { // legal, as B2 does not clash with A
    function f() { ... } // implements A.f() and B2.f()
}

type class C3 extends A {
    function f() { ... } // implements A.f()
}

type class D extends C2, C3 {
    // illegal, as it only one non-trait class can be inherited
}

type class E extends A, C2 {
    // legal, but inheriting A is redundant
}
```


5.1.1.1 Scope rules

Class constitutes a scope unit. For the uniqueness of identifiers, the rules specified in clause 5.2.2 of ETSI ES 201 873-1 [1] apply with the following exceptions:

a) Identifiers from the higher scope can be reused for member declarations. A reference to a reused identifier without a prefix occurring inside a class scope shall be resolved as a reference to the class member. In order to refer to the declaration on the higher scope, the identifier shall be preceded with a module name and a dot (".").

b) Identifiers of member declarations can be reused inside methods for formal parameter and local declarations. A reference to a reused identifier without a prefix occurring inside a class method shall be resolved as a reference to the formal parameter or local declaration. In order to refer to the member declaration, the identifier shall be preceded with the `this` keyword and a dot.

c) Reusing identifiers of members of the component type specified in the runs on clause of the class for members and inside methods for formal parameters and local declarations is not allowed.

EXAMPLE:

```
module ClassModule {
    const integer a := 1;

    type class MyClass() {
        const integer a := 2;
        function doSomething (integer a := 3) {
            log(a); // logs 3 (for the default value)
            log(this.a); // logs 2
            log(ClassModule.a); // logs 1
        }
        function doSomethingElse () {
            log(a); // logs 2
            log(this.a); // also logs 2
            log(ClassModule.a); // logs 1
```

```
        }
    }

}
```

5.1.1.2 Abstract classes

A class can be declared as @abstract. In that case, it is allowed that it also declares abstract member functions, abstract properties or properties with abstract getters or setters who shall be defined by all non-abstract subclasses. An abstract method function has no function body but can be called in all concrete instances of subclasses of the abstract class declaring it. Other members of the abstract class or its subclasses may use the abstract functions as if it was concrete where at runtime the concrete overriding definition will be used.

Abstract getters and setters have no body but the properties containing them can be referenced in all concrete instance of subclasses of the abstract class declaring them. Other members of the abstract class or its subclasses may reference abstract properties as if they were concrete. At runtime the concrete overriding definition will always be used.

NOTE 1: Abstract classes are only useful as superclasses of concrete classes.

Restrictions

a) Abstract classes cannot be explicitly instantiated.

b) If a class that is not declared abstract extends an abstract class, all methods, property getters and setters that have no implementation in the superclass shall be implemented in this class.

NOTE 2: Variables of an abstract class type can only contain references to instances of non-abstract subclasses.

5.1.1.3 External classes

A class may also be declared as external. In that case, it may declare external member functions without a function body. It is allowed to omit the external keyword from these function declarations. External classes can extend non-external classes but classes not declared as external shall not extend from external classes. External classes may also define other members like normal classes. When instantiating an external class, the external object being created is provided by the platform adapter and the external method calls to the external object are delegated via the platform adapter to the corresponding method of the external object.

NOTE 1: External classes are a way to use object-oriented library functionality in TTCN-3 while still remaining abstract and independent of actual implementation. Libraries for common constructs like stacks, collections, tables can be defined or automatic import mechanisms could be provided.

If an object of an external class is instantiated, it implicitly creates an external object and the internal object has a handle to the external one. The reference to the external object is called a handle. When an external method is invoked on the internal object, the call is delegated to the handle.

NOTE 2: External objects are possibly shared between different parts of the test system. Therefore, racing conditions and deadlocks have to be avoided by the external implementation.

Restrictions

a) Void

b) Void

c) Void

d) An internal class shall not extend an external class

EXAMPLE:

```
type class @abstract Collection {
  function @abstract size() return integer;
  // internal default implementation
  function isEmpty() return boolean {
    return size() == 0
  }
}
```

```
type external class Stack extends Collection {
  function push(integer v);
  function pop() return integer;
  function isEmpty() return boolean; // external implementation overrides internal
  function size() return integer; // external implementation of abstract function}
```

5.1.1.4 Final Classes

If a class shall not be subclassed, it may be declared as `@final`. Final classes cannot be abstract.

5.1.1.5 Constructors

Syntactic Structure

```
create "(" { FormalParameter , }* ")"
[ external "(" { FormalParameter , }* ")" ]
[":" ClassType "(" { ActualParameter , }+ ")" ]
[ StatementBlock ]
```

Semantic Description

A class may define a constructor called `create`.

If no constructor is defined inside a class body, an implicit default constructor is provided where the formal parameters of the constructor are the parameters of the (implicit or explicit) constructor of the direct superclass and one additional formal **`in`** parameter for each declared **`var`** and **var template** field or automatic property of the class itself unless they are declared with the **`@internal`** modifier and also all **`const`** or **`template`** fields with no initializer in their order of declaration with the same type as in the declaration. If a **var** or **var template** field has an initializer, the additional formal **in** parameter created for it, for the implicit constructor, shall have the initializer value as the default value of the formal parameter.

NOTE: Having a default value in the implicit constructor for the **var** and **var template** fields with initializer, makes it possible to skip that parameter when invoking the implicit constructor, or to override it with another value if explicitly provided.

The constructor is invoked on a type reference to the class and the result of this invocation is a new instance object of the constructor's specific class. If a class is extending another class with a constructor with at least one parameter without default, that constructor shall be invoked by adding a super-constructor clause to the constructor declaration. The super-constructor clause consist of a reference to the class being extended and an actual parameter list. An implicit constructor will automatically pass the required actual parameters to the constructor of its superclass.

In the constructor, it is allowed to refer to the object being constructed as **`this`** to reference the fields of the object to be created in case that the names of the formal parameters clash with the names of those fields. They are explicitly allowed to have the same names as class members.

When an object is created via the invocation of a constructor, the fields of each class body in the class hierarchy that have initializers are initialized before the execution of that class body's constructor body. The fields of a superclass that have initializers are initialized before the fields of the subclass. Also, the constructor of the superclass is executed before the constructor body of the subclass. Thus, it is ensured that all initialization of the superclass hierarchy as well as local fields with initializers is finished before the execution of a constructor body.

Since the members of a class body can appear in any order and forward references are allowed between them, a field with an initializer which is referenced by the initializer of another field, is initialized first.

As the underlying external constructor of external classes might need additional parameters, these can be provided via the additional external formal parameter list. If no internal constructor needs to be defined, the constructor may be defined without external formal parameter list and no body. In that case, the formal parameter list defines the formal parameters passed to the external constructor.

Restrictions

a) All formal parameters of the constructor shall be **`in`** parameters.

b) The constructor body shall not assign anything to variables that are not local to the constructor body or accessible fields of the class the constructor belongs to.

c) The constructor body shall not use blocking operations.

d) The initialization of a member field shall not invoke any member function in the object being initialized.

e) The constructor body shall not invoke any member function in the object being initialized.

f) A member constant or template shall be initialized exactly once, either by its initialization part or by at most one constructor body.

g) Direct or indirect cyclic initialization is not allowed. That is the initializer of a field shall not use the same field directly or indirectly.

h) The initializer of a field shall not use a field that does not have an initializer.

EXAMPLE 1:

```
type class MyClass {
    var integer a;
    const float b;
    const float c := 7;
    template float myTemplate := ?;
    // implicit constructor:
    // only using variable fields and non-variable fields with no initializer
    //create(integer a, float b) { // no parameter for c and myTemplate
    //  this.a := a;
    //  this.b := b
    //}
}

type class MyClass2 extends MyClass {
    template integer t;
    // explicit constructor
    create(template integer t) : MyClass(2, 0.5) {
        this.t := t;
    }
}

type class MyClass3 extends MyClass {
    var float f;
    // implicit constructor:
    // create(integer a, float b, float f) : MyClass(a, b) {
    //   this.f := f;
    // }
}
```


EXAMPLE 2:

For each initialization statement it is marked with its initialization order in the comment.

```
type class MySuperClass {
    var integer a := 5; // 1
    const float b;
    create(integer a, float b) {
        this.a := a; // 3
        this.b := b; // 4
    }
}

type class MySubClass extends MySuperClass {
    var template integer t := ?; // 2
    create(template integer t) : MySuperClass(2, 0.5) {
        this.t := t; // 5
    }
}
```

EXAMPLE 3:

```
type class MySuperClass {
    var integer a := 1;
    var float b;
    // implicit constructor:
    // only using variable fields with and without initializer
    //create(integer a := 1, float b) {
    //  this.a := a;
    //  this.b := b
```

```
    //}
}

type class MySubClassWithDefault extends MySuperClass {
    var float f := 1.0;
    // implicit constructor:
    // create(integer a := 1, float b, float f := 1.0) : MySuperClass(a, b) {
    //   this.f := f;
    // }
}
```

5.1.1.6 Constructor invocation

Syntactic Structure

```
ClassReference "." create [ ActualParList ] [ external ActualParList ]
```

Semantic Description

To instantiate on object, the constructor of the class is invoked. The result of that operation is a reference to a newly constructed of the given concrete class.

If the constructor is a constructor of an external class that has an external formal parameter list, an additional external actual parameter list is given following the external keyword. If the constructor is to be invoked with a parameter list with no actual parameters, then the whole actual parameter list may be omitted.

If the constructor of an external class is invoked, first the external object is created using the given external formal parameters, then the internal constructor is evaluated to initialize the internal part of the object.

EXAMPLE:

```
type class Named {
  var charstring name;
}

type external class Address extends Named {
    create(charstring name)
    external (charstring host, int portNr)
    : Named(name){}
}

type external class UnnamedAddress {
    create (charstring host, int portNr);
}

var Address v_addr := Address.create("Connection 1") external ("127.0.0.1", 555);
var UnnamedAddress := UnnamedAddress.create("127.0.0.1", 555);
var Stack v_stack := Stack.create(); // only implicit external constructor without parameters

// calling implicit constructor with default values
var MySubClassWithDefault v_mysub1 := MySubClassWithDefault.create(1, 1.0, 1.0);
var MySubClassWithDefault v_mysub2 := MySubClassWithDefault.create(1, 1.0);
var MySubClassWithDefault v_mysub3 := MySubClassWithDefault.create(b := 1.0);
```


5.1.1.7 Destructors

Syntactic Structure

```
        finally StatementBlock
```

Semantic Description

A destructor may be provided using a finally declaration following the class body. This destructor will be invoked automatically at the latest before the system deallocates an object instance (which is tool specific and out of the scope of the present document) or when the owning component is terminates. The *StatementBlock* has access to all members accessible to the class. The *StatementBlock* is semantically a function body of a function without return clause.

When deallocating the object instance, the destructor of the associated class is invoked first, followed by the destructor of all parent classes in the reverse order of superclass hierarchy.

5.1.1.8 Methods

A method is a function defined inside the class body. It has the same properties and restrictions as any normal function, but it is invoked in an object which can be referred to by the `this` object reference. A method invocation can access the class's own fields and also the inherited protected fields and methods of its superclasses.

A method inherited from a superclass can be overridden by the subclass by redefining a function of the same name and with the same formal parameter list. When a method is called in an object, the version of the most specific class of the super class hierarchy of the concrete class that defines the method in its body will be invoked. The overridden method can be invoked from the overriding class by using the keyword `super` as the object reference of the invocation. If a method shall not be overridden by any subclass, it can be declared as `@final`.

Public methods, if not overridden by the subclass, are inherited from the superclasses. If a public method is declared in a class, it can be invoked also in all objects of its direct or indirect subclasses.

If a public method is overridden, the overriding method shall have the same formal parameters in the same order as the overridden method. Public methods shall be overridden only by public methods. Protected methods may be overridden by public or protected methods.

The return type of an overriding function shall be the same as the return type of the overridden function with the same template restrictions and modifiers.

Methods shall have no `runs on`, `system` or `mtc` clause directly attached to them. However, they inherit these clauses from their surrounding class.

5.1.1.9 Method invocation

Syntactical Structure

```
[(ObjectInstance | "super") "."] Identifier "(" FunctionActualParList ")"
```

A method invocation is a function call associated with a certain object defined in the class of that object.

Methods are invoked using the dotted notation on an object reference. Inside the scope of a class, methods of the same class or any visible inherited methods can be invoked without the *ObjectInstance* prefix if the object the method shall be invoked in is the same object as the one invoking it. The usual restrictions on actual parameters, as well as runs on, mtc and system types apply also on method invocations. All other restrictions that apply to called functions also apply to method invocation.

The super keyword shall only be used from inside a class member definition to access one of the accessible methods inherited from the super class of the member's containing class.

5.1.1.10 Visibility

Fields can be declared as private or protected. Methods can be declared as private, public or protected. If no visibility is given then the default modifier protected is assumed.

Private member functions are not visible and can be present in multiple classes of the same hierarchy with different parameter lists and return values.

Public member functions can be called from any behaviour running on the object's owner component.

Restrictions

a) A field of any visibility cannot be overridden by a subclass.

b) A public member function can only be overridden by another public member function.

c) Private members can only be accessed directly from inside their surrounding class's scope.