

# A Summary of the Event-B Modeling Notation

Jean-Raymond Abrial (ETHZ)

March 2008

- Showing the structure of the **Event-B notation**
- **Machines, contexts, and events**
- Presenting a **small example**

- Event-B is not a programming language (even very abstract)
- Event-B is a notation used for developing mathematical models of discrete transition systems
- Event-B is to be used together with the Rodin Platform

- Such **models**, once finished, can be used to **eventually construct**:
  - **sequential** programs,
  - **distributed** programs,
  - **concurrent** programs,
  - **electronic circuits**,
  - **large systems** involving a possibly **fragile environment**,
  - etc.
- The underlined statement is an **important** case.
- In this presentation, we shall construct a **small sequential program**.

- A **model** is made of several **components**
- A component is either a **machine** or a **context**:

## **Machine**

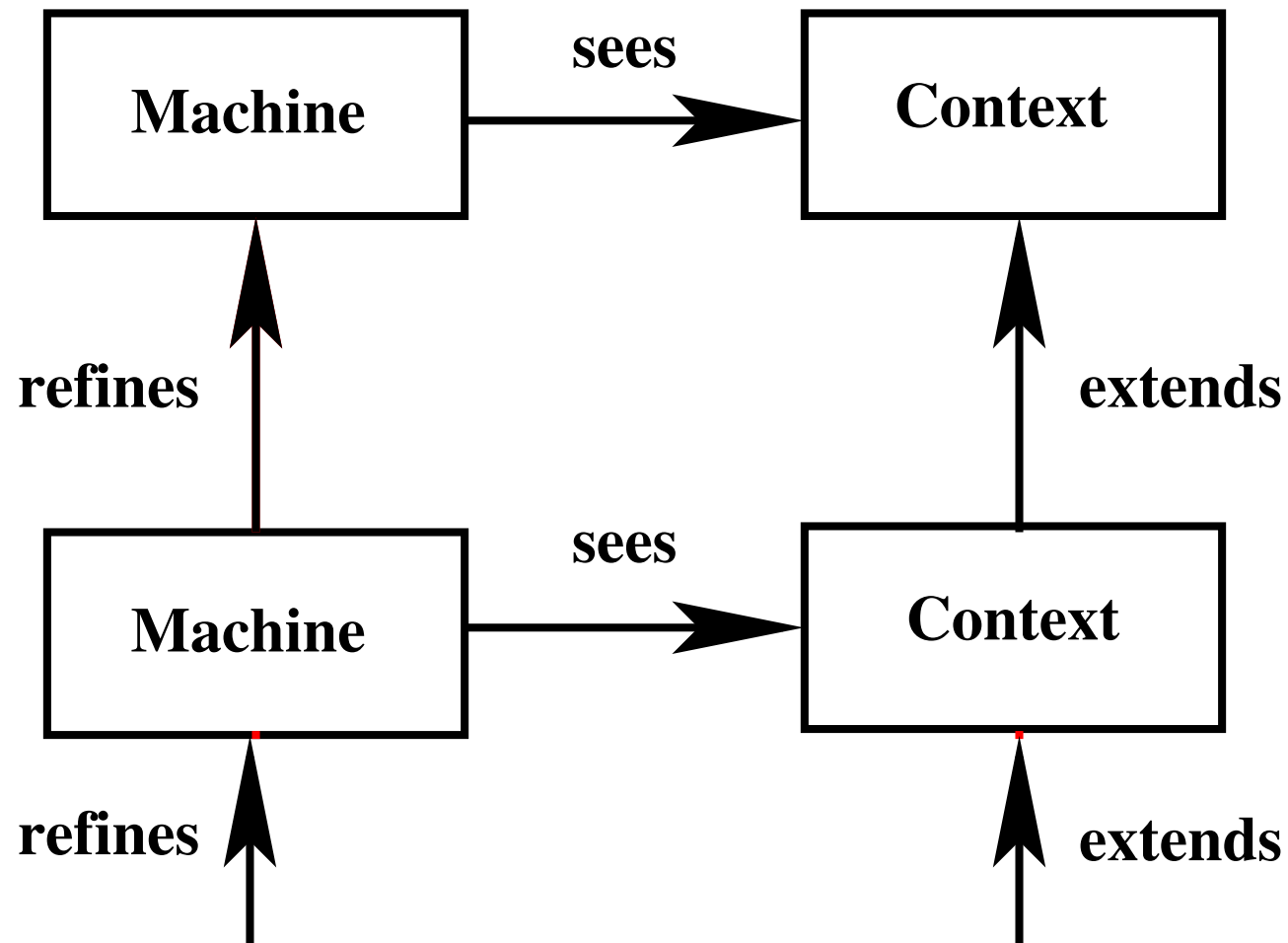
**variables**  
**invariants**  
**theorems**  
**events**  
**variant**

## **Context**

**carrier sets**  
**constants**  
**axioms**  
**theorems**

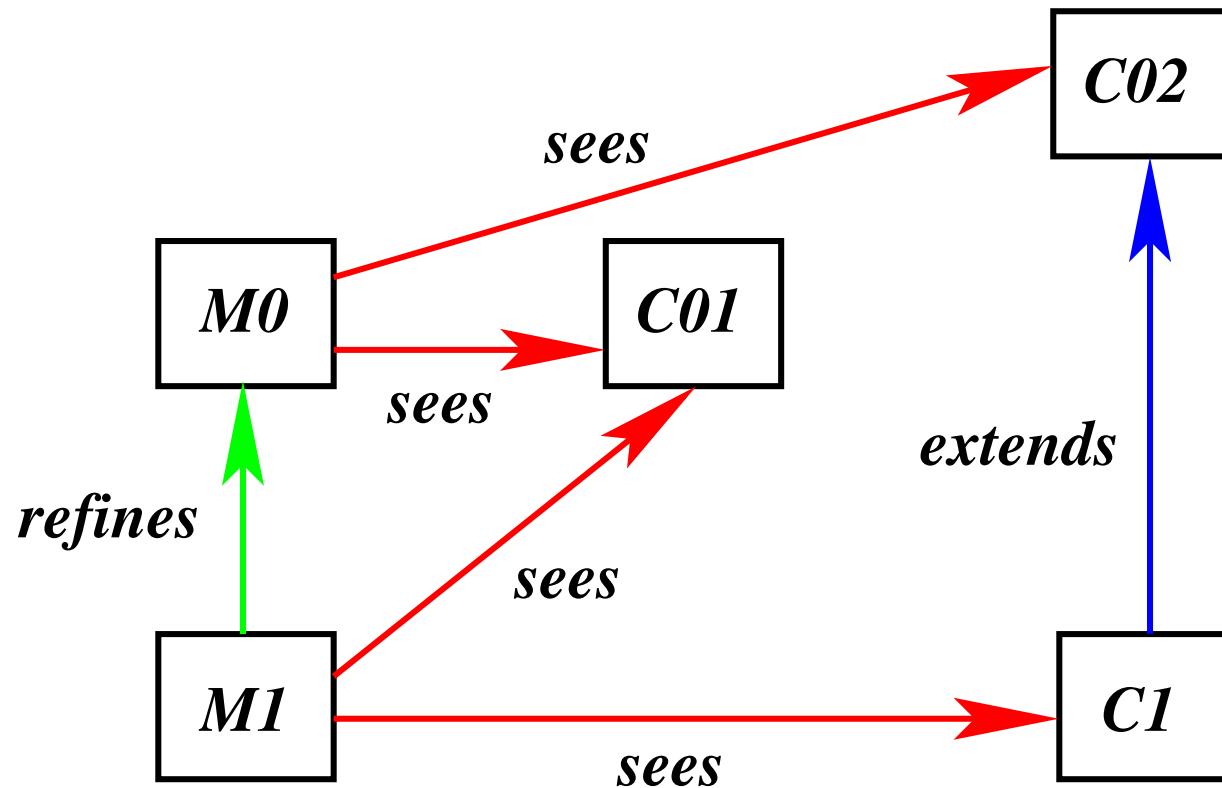
- Machines and contexts have **names**
- Such names must be **distinct** in a given model

- **Contexts** contain the **static structure** of a discrete system  
(constants and axioms)
- **Machines** contain the **dynamic structure** of a discrete system  
(variables, invariants, and events)
- Machines **see** contexts
- Contexts can be **extended**
- Machines can be **refined**



- A machine **can see several contexts** (or no context at all).
- A context may **extend several contexts** (or no context at all).
- A machine **implicitly sees** all contexts extended by a seen context.
- A machine only sees a context either **explicitly** or **implicitly**.
- A machine only **refines at most one** other machine.
- **No cycle** in the "refines" or "extends" relationships.





*M0 sees C01 and C02 explicitly*

*M1 sees C01 and C1 explicitly*

*M1 sees C02 implicitly*

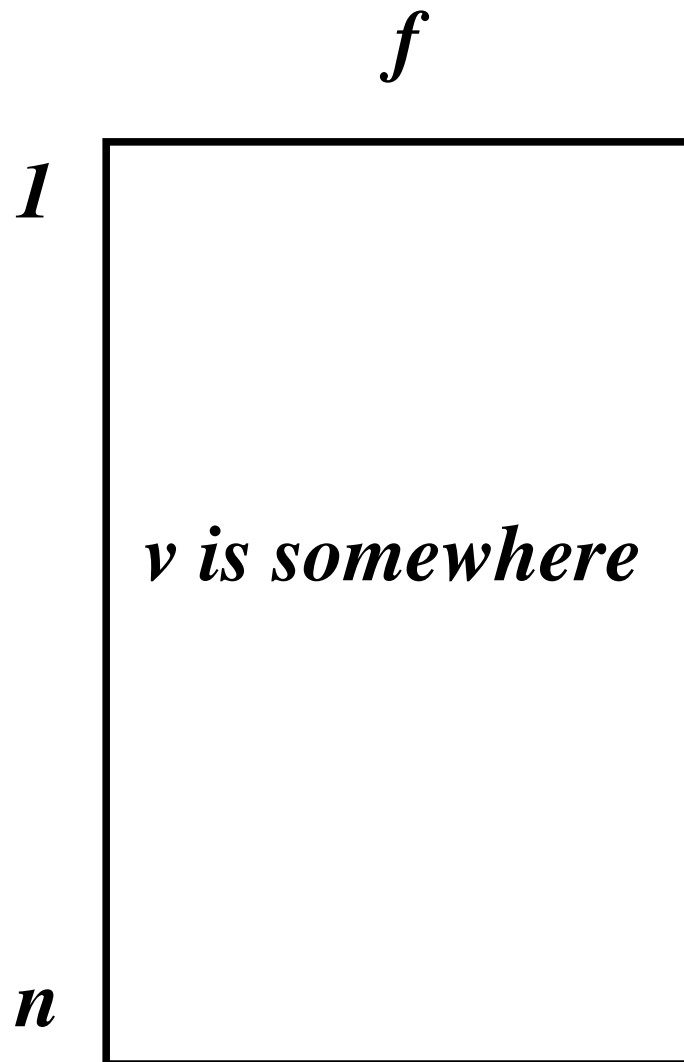
```
context
  < context_identifier >
extends *
  < context_identifier >
  ...
sets *
  < set_identifier >
  ...
constants *
  < constant_identifier >
  ...
axioms *
  < label >: < predicate >
  ...
theorems *
  < label >: < predicate >
  ...
end
```

- Sections with "\*" might be empty
- All keyword sections are predefined in the Rodin Platform
- All labels are generated automatically by the Rodin Platform (but can be modified)

- "sets" lists various sets, which define pairwise disjoint types
- The only property we can assume about a set is that it is not empty
- "constants" lists the different constants introduced in the context
- "axioms" defines the main properties of the constants
- "theorems" denotes properties to be proved from the axioms

```
context
  ctx_0
sets
   $D$ 
constants
   $n$ 
   $f$ 
   $v$ 
axioms
  axm1 :  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ 
  axm2 :  $f \in 1..n \rightarrow D$ 
  axm3 :  $v \in \text{ran}(f)$ 
theorems
  thm1 :  $n \in \mathbb{N}1$ 
end
```

- A set  $D$  is defined in context **ctx\_0**
- Moreover, three constants,  $n$ ,  $f$ , and  $v$ , are defined in this context:
  - $n$  is a **natural number** (**axm1**)
  - $f$  is a **total function** from the **interval  $1 .. n$**  to the set  $D$  (**axm2**)
  - $v$  is supposed to belong to the **range of  $f$**  (**axm3**)
- A **theorem** is proposed:  $n$  is a **positive number** (**thm1**)



```
machine
  < machine_identifier >
  refines *
    < machine_identifier >
  sees *
    < context_identifier >
  ...
  variables
    < variable_identifier >
  ...
  invariants
    < label >: < predicate >
  ...
  theorems *
    < label >: < predicate >
  ...
  events
    initialisation ...
  ...
  variant *
    < variant >
end
```

- Each machine has exactly one **initialisation event**
- **All keyword sections are predefined** in the Rodin Platform
- All **labels are generated automatically** by the Rodin Platform (but **can be modified**)

- "**variables**" lists the **state variables** of the machine
- "**invariants**" states the **properties** of the variables
- **Invariants** are defined in terms the seen **sets** and **constants**
- "**theorems**" are provable from **invariants** and seen **axioms** and **thms**
- "**events**" defines the **dynamics** of the transition system (slide 16)
- "**variant**" is explained later (slide 28)

```
machine
  m_0a
sees
  ctx_0
variables
  i
invariants
  inv1 : i ∈ 1 .. n
events
  ...
end
```

```
context
  ctx_0
sets
  D
constants
  n
  f
  v
axioms
  axm1 : n ∈ ℕ
  axm2 : f ∈ 1..n → D
  axm3 : v ∈ ran(f)
axioms
  thm1 : n ∈ ℕ1
end
```

- Machine **m\_0a** sees the previously defined context **ctx\_0**
- A variable *i* is defined
- *i* is a member of the interval **1 .. n** (**inv1**)
- **events**: next slide



```
< event_identifier > ≐
  status
    {ordinary, convergent, anticipated}
  refines *
    < event_identifier >
    ...
  any *
    < parameter_identifier >
    ...
  where *
    < label >: < predicate >
    ...
  with *
    < label >: < witness >
    ...
  then *
    < label >: < action >
    ...
end
```

- Notice that keyword "**where**" becomes "**when**" in the **Rodin Platform Pretty Print** when there is no "**any**".
- Again, **all keyword sections are predefined** in the Rodin Platform.
- All **labels are generated automatically** by the Rodin Platform (but **can be modified**)

- An event is a **state transition** in a discrete **dynamic system**.
- "**refines**" contains the **name(s)** of the **refined event(s)** (if any)
- **Can be skipped at first reading:**
  - Several refined events are possible in case of a **merging refining event** concentrating **more than one refined event**
  - **Merged events** must have the **same actions**

- "**status**" is either:
  - **ordinary**,
  - **convergent**: it has to **decrease the variant** (slide 28),
  - **anticipated**: to be **convergent later** in a refinement.
- "**any**" contains the **parameters** of the event (might be empty)
- "**where**" (or "**when**") contains the various **guards** of the event
- A **guard** is a **necessary condition** for an event to be **enabled**
- "**actions**" see next slide

- An action describes the ways one or several **state variables** are **modified** by the **occurrence** of an event
- An action might be either **deterministic** or **non-deterministic**

- Here is the form of some **deterministic actions** on variables  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $z$ :

$$\begin{aligned}x & := x + y \\ y & := y - x - z\end{aligned}$$

- Notice that  $x$  and  $y$  should be **distinct**.
- Actions are supposed to be "performed" **in parallel**
- Variables  $x$  and  $y$  are assigned to  $x + y$  and  $y - x - z$  respectively
- Variable  $z$  is **used** but **not modified** by these actions

$$x, y :| x' > x \wedge y' < x'$$

- On the LHS of operator  $:|$ , we have **two distinct variables**
- On the RHS, we have a, so-called, **before-after predicate**
- The RHS contains occurrences of  $x$  and  $y$  (**before values**) and **primed** occurrences  $x'$  and  $y'$  (**after values**)
- As a result (in this example):
  - $x$  is assigned a value **greater than its previous value**
  - $y$  is assigned a value **smaller than that,  $x'$ , assigned to  $x$**

$$x : \in \{x + 1, y - 2, z + 3\}$$

- Here  $x$  is assigned **any** value from the set  $\{x + 1, y - 2, z + 3\}$

- The **second form** of non-deterministic action is **equivalent** to the following **first form**:

$$x : | x' \in \{x + 1, y - 2, z + 3\}$$

- Likewise, a **deterministic** action has an **equivalent non-deterministic** form:

$$x, y : | x' = x + y \wedge y' = y - x - z$$

- The **non-det. first form** can thus **always be assumed** (by the tools)



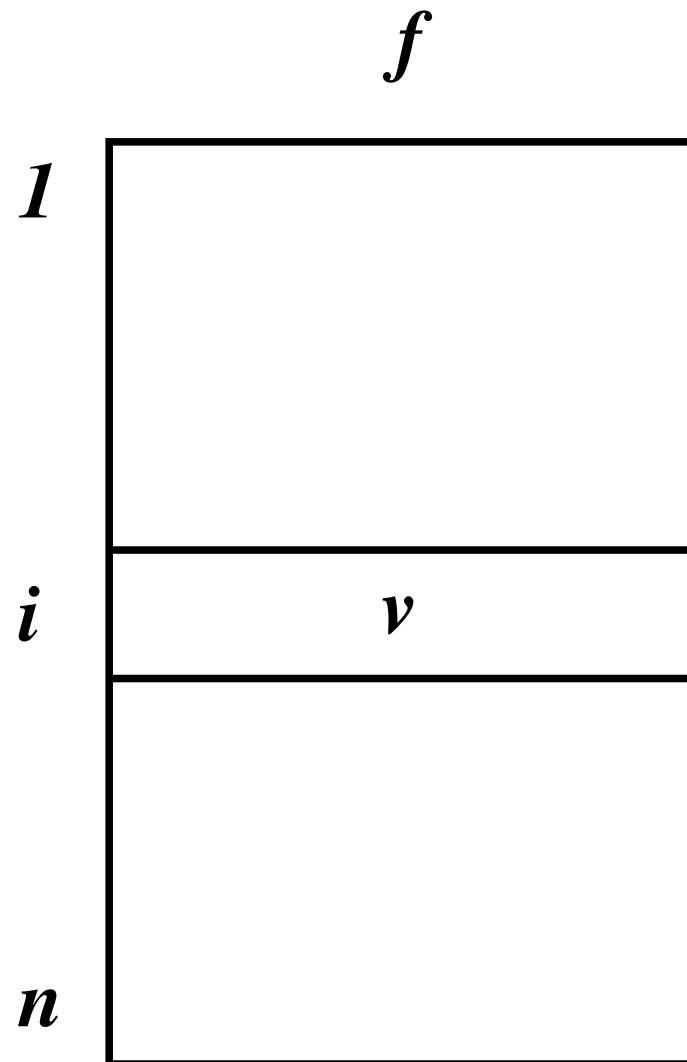
- This machine is the **model specification** of a **searching program**

```
machine
  m_0a
  sees
    ctx_0
  variables
    i
  invariants
    inv1 :  $i \in 1 .. n$ 
  events
    ...
end
```

- Event **search** assigns to  $i$
- any value  $k$  such that  $f(k) = v$
- provided  $k$  is in interval  $1 .. n$

```
initialisation  $\hat{=}$ 
  status
    ordinary
  then
    act1 :  $i := 1$ 
  end
```

```
search  $\hat{=}$ 
  status
    ordinary
  any
     $k$ 
  where
    grd1 :  $k \in 1 .. n$ 
    grd2 :  $f(k) = v$ 
  then
    act1 :  $i := k$ 
  end
```



```

machine
  m_0b
sees
  ctx_0
variables
  i
invariants
  inv1 :  $i \in 1 .. n$ 
events
  ...
end

```

```

initialisation  $\hat{=}$ 
  status
    ordinary
  then
    act1 :  $i := 1$ 
  end

```

```

search  $\hat{=}$ 
  status
    ordinary
  then
    act1 :  $i : | i' \in 1 .. n \wedge f(i') = v$ 
  end

```

- The **only difference** between m\_0a and m\_0b is in event **search**
- $i$  is assigned **non-deterministically** a values  $i'$  such that  $i' \in 1 .. n$  and  $f(i') = v$
- Notice that event **search** has **no guard**

- "**with**" contains the **witnesses** of a refining event.
- A witness has to be provided in a refining event **for each disappearing parameter** of the refined event (see example below)
- The witness for parameter  $a$  is defined as follows  $a : P(a)$  where  $P(a)$  is a predicate involving  $a$
- For a **deterministic witness**  $P(a)$  is  $a = E$  (with  $E$  free of  $a$ )

- The variant of a machine is either a **natural number** expression or a **finite set** expression
- It has to be present in **any machine with convergent events**
- A numeric variant must be **decreased by all convergent events**
- A set variant must be made **strictly included** in its previous value **by all convergent events**

```

machine
  m_1a
refines
  m_0a
sees
  ctx_0
variables
  i
  j
invariants
  inv1 :  $j \in 0..n$ 
  inv2 :  $v \notin f[1..j]$ 
theorems
  thm1 :  $v \in f[j+1..n]$ 
variant
   $n - j$ 
events
  ...
end

```

```

initialisation  $\hat{=}$ 
status
  ordinary
then
  act1 :  $i := 1$ 
  act2 :  $j := 0$ 
end

```

```

search  $\hat{=}$ 
status
  ordinary
refines
  search
when
  grd1 :  $f(j+1) = v$ 
with
  k :  $j+1 = k$ 
then
  act1 :  $i := j+1$ 
end

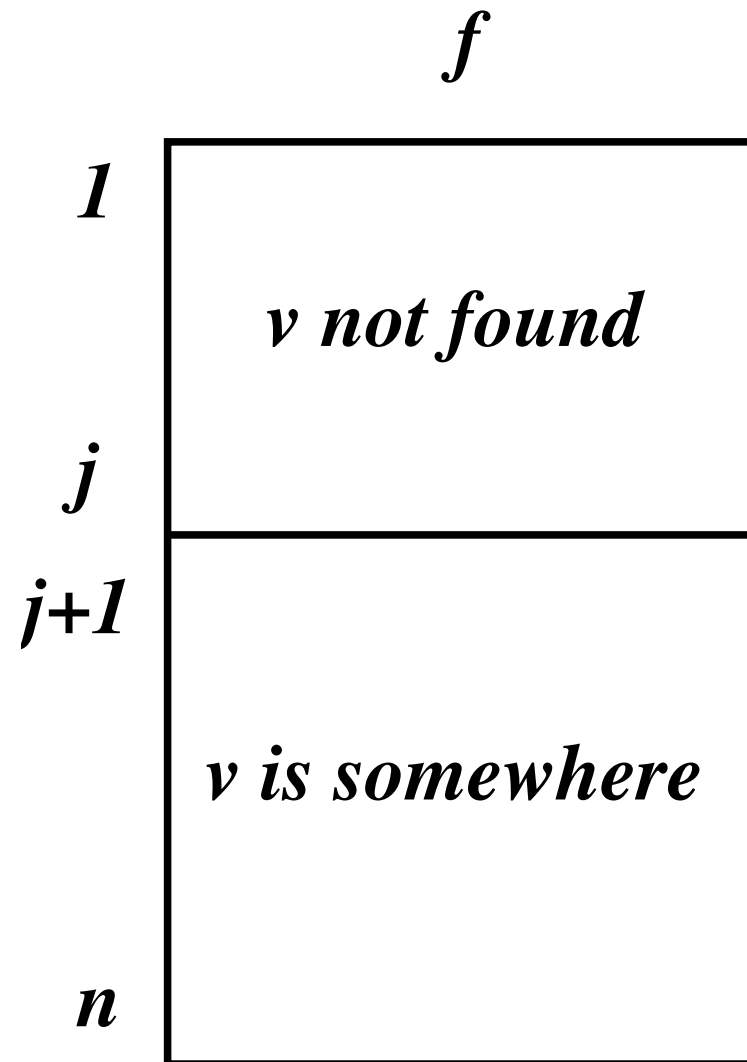
```

- A new variable  $j$  is introduced
- Notice invariant **inv2** and theorem **thm1**
- Notice the **with** section in event **search**
- A new **convergent** event **progress** is introduced
- Notice the numeric **variant**  $n - j$

```

progress  $\hat{=}$ 
status
  convergent
when
  grd1 :  $f(j+1) \neq v$ 
then
  act1 :  $j := j+1$ 
end

```



```

machine
  m_1b
refines
  m_0b
sees
  ctx_0
variables
  i
  j
invariants
  inv1 :  $j \in 0 .. n$ 
  inv2 :  $v \notin f[i .. j]$ 
theorems
  thm1 :  $v \in f[j + 1 .. n]$ 
variant
  j .. n
events
  ...
end

```

- The **with** section in event **search** is not needed
- Notice the finite set **variant**  $j .. n$
- These are the **only differences** with refining machine **m\_1a**

```

initialisation  $\hat{=}$ 
  status
    ordinary
  then
    act1 :  $i := 1$ 
    act2 :  $j := 0$ 
  end

```

```

search  $\hat{=}$ 
  status
    ordinary
  refines
    search
  when
    grd1 :  $f(j + 1) = v$ 
  then
    act1 :  $i := j + 1$ 
  end

```

```

progress  $\hat{=}$ 
  status
    convergent
  when
    grd1 :  $f(j + 1) \neq v$ 
  then
    act1 :  $j := j + 1$ 
  end

```



- A **sequential program** can be constructed from **m\_1a** (or **m\_1b**)
- This is done by applying a number of event **merging rules**  
(**NOT DEFINED HERE**)
- The application of these rules yields the following program:

$i, j := 1, 0 ;$	<b>initialisation</b>
<b>while</b> $f(j + 1) \neq v$ <b>do</b>	
$j := j + 1$	<b>progress</b>
<b>end ;</b>	
$i := j + 1$	<b>search</b>

- Modify refinement **m\_1a** (or **m\_1b**) in order to obtain the following final program from the **same specification m\_0a** (or **m\_0b**):

$i, j := 1, n + 1 ;$	<b>initialisation</b>
<b>while</b> $f(j - 1) \neq v$ <b>do</b>	
$j := j - 1$	<b>progress</b>
<b>end ;</b>	
$i := j - 1$	<b>search</b>