

COMP2111 Week 9

Term 1, 2024

Hoare Logic

Summary

- \mathcal{L} : A simple imperative programming language
- Hoare triples (SYNTAX)
- Hoare logic (PROOF)
- Semantics for Hoare logic
- Handling termination
- Adding non-determinism

Aims

We've seen how to use Hoare logic to verify programs.

But how do we know that Hoare logic *works*? Do we need to take the rules on faith? Or can we prove that it works?

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We've already asked (and answered) a similar question about a different logic (natural deduction).

Informal semantics

Hoare logic gives a proof of $\{\varphi\} P \{\psi\}$, that is: $\vdash \{\varphi\} P \{\psi\}$
(axiomatic semantics)

What does it mean for $\{\varphi\} P \{\psi\}$ to be **valid**, that is:
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We need a *semantics* for \mathcal{L} .

We *could* use the LTS semantics of \mathcal{L} from Week 8. We will use a *denotational* style instead, similar to Assignment 1 Problem 1 but systematic.

Informal semantics: Programs

We know (from Assignment 1 Problem 1) that programs can be modelled as *relations* between initial and final states.

Informal semantics: States

What is a state?

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What is a state?

Two approaches:

- Concrete: from a physical perspective
- Abstract: from a mathematical perspective

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 - The pre-/postcondition predicates *hold* in a state
 - ⇒ States are **logical interpretations** (Model + Environment)
 - There is only one model of interest: standard interpretations of arithmetical symbols
 - ⇒ States are fully determined by **environments**
 - ⇒ States are functions that map variables to values

Informal semantics: **States**

State space (ENV)

$x \leftarrow 0$
 $y \leftarrow 0$
 $z \leftarrow 0$

$x \leftarrow 3$
 $y \leftarrow 2$
 $z \leftarrow 1$

$x \leftarrow 1$
 $y \leftarrow 1$
 $z \leftarrow 1$

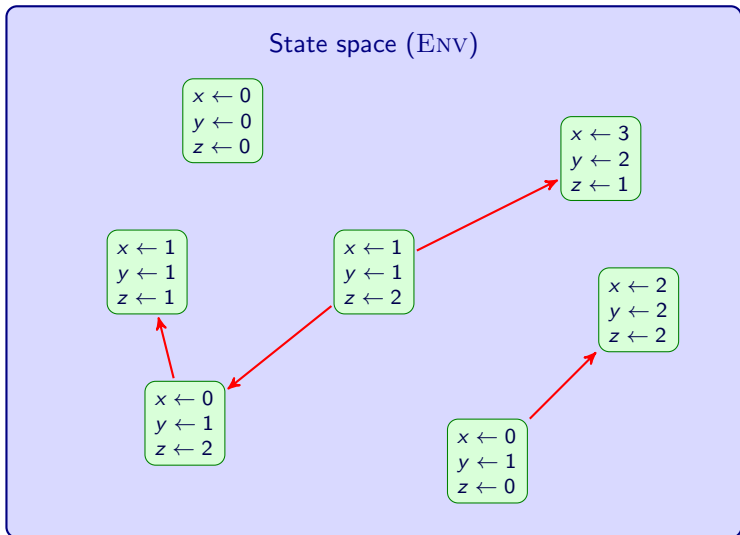
$x \leftarrow 1$
 $y \leftarrow 1$
 $z \leftarrow 2$

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 $z \leftarrow 2$

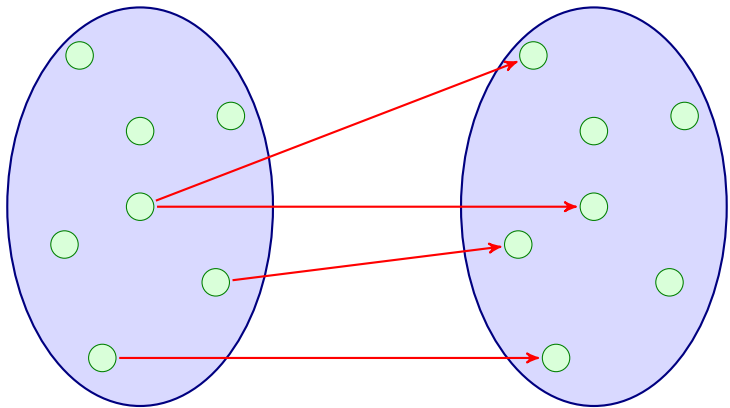
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Informal semantics: **States** and **Programs**



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Semantics for \mathcal{L}

An **environment** or **state** is a function from variables to (numeric) values. We denote by ENV the set of all environments.

NB

An environment, η , assigns a numeric value $\llbracket e \rrbracket^\eta$ to all expressions e , and a boolean value $\llbracket b \rrbracket^\eta$ to all boolean expressions b .

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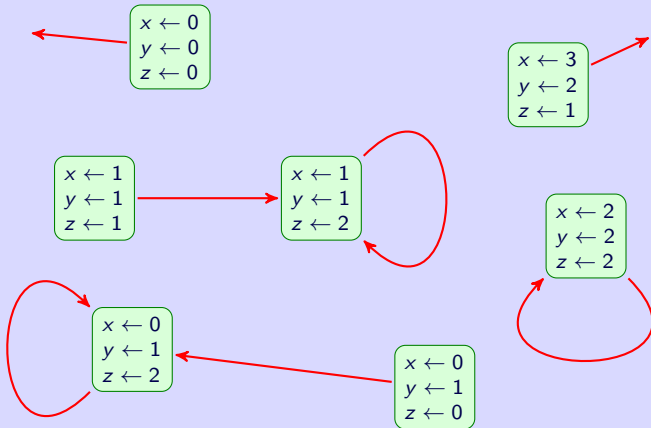
Given a program P of \mathcal{L} , we define $\llbracket P \rrbracket$ to be a **binary relation** on ENV in the following manner...

Assignment

$(\eta, \eta') \in \llbracket x := e \rrbracket$ if, and only if $\eta' = \eta[x \mapsto \llbracket e \rrbracket^\eta]$

Assignment: $\llbracket z := 2 \rrbracket$

State space (ENV)



Recall

If R and S are binary relations, then the **relational composition** of R and S , $R; S$ is the relation:

$$R; S := \{(a, c) : \exists b \text{ such that } (a, b) \in R \text{ and } (b, c) \in S\}$$

If $R \subseteq A \times B$ is a relation, and $X \subseteq A$, then the **image of X under R** , $R(X)$ is the subset of B defined as:

$$R(X) := \{b \in B : \exists a \in X \text{ such that } (a, b) \in R\}.$$

Sequencing

$$\llbracket P; Q \rrbracket = \llbracket P \rrbracket; \llbracket Q \rrbracket$$

where, on the RHS, ; is relational composition.

Conditional, first attempt

$$\llbracket \text{if } b \text{ then } P \text{ else } Q \text{ fi} \rrbracket = \begin{cases} \llbracket P \rrbracket & \text{if } \llbracket b \rrbracket^\eta = \text{true} \\ \llbracket Q \rrbracket & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

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We'd like to avoid mentioning η on the LHS, so this won't do.

Detour: Predicates as programs

A boolean expression b defines a subset (or unary relation) of ENV :

$$\langle b \rangle = \{\eta : \llbracket b \rrbracket^\eta = \text{true}\}$$

This can be extended to a binary relation (i.e. a program):

$$\llbracket b \rrbracket = \{(\eta, \eta) : \eta \in \langle b \rangle\}$$

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Intuitively, b corresponds to the program

if b then skip else abort fi

Conditional, better attempt

$$\llbracket \text{if } b \text{ then } P \text{ else } Q \text{ fi} \rrbracket = \llbracket b; P \rrbracket \cup \llbracket \neg b; Q \rrbracket$$

While

while b do P od

- Do 0 or more executions of P while b holds
- Terminate when b does not hold

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How to do “0 or more” executions of $(b; P)$?

Reflexive and transitive closure

Given a binary relation $R \subseteq E \times E$, the *transitive closure* of R , R^* is defined inductively by the following rules:

$$\frac{x \in E}{x R^* x}$$

$$\frac{x R y \quad y R^* z}{x R^* z}$$

NB

- $R; R^* \subseteq R^*$.

While

$$\llbracket \text{while } b \text{ do } P \text{ od} \rrbracket = \llbracket b; P \rrbracket^*; \llbracket \neg b \rrbracket$$

- Do 0 or more executions of $(b; P)$
- Conclude with an execution of $\neg b$

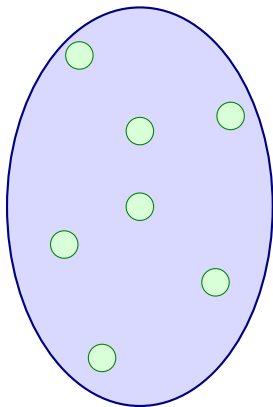
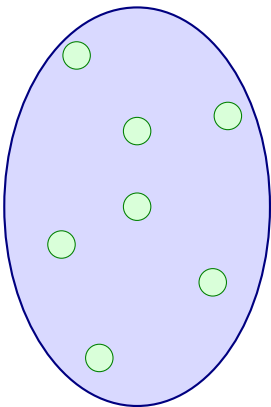
Validity

A Hoare triple is **valid**, written $\models \{\varphi\} P \{\psi\}$ if

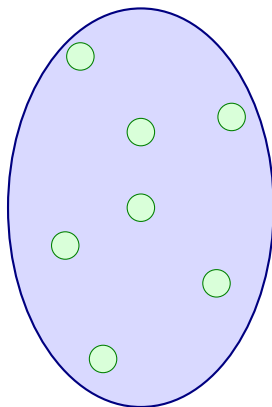
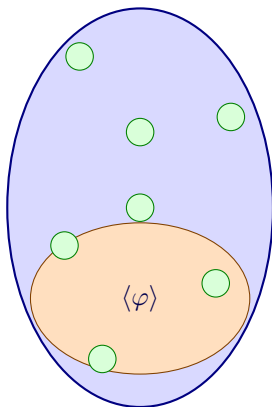
$$\llbracket P \rrbracket(\langle \varphi \rangle) \subseteq \langle \psi \rangle.$$

That is, the relational image under $\llbracket P \rrbracket$ of the set of states where φ holds is contained in the set of states where ψ holds.

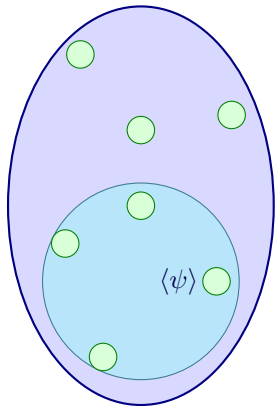
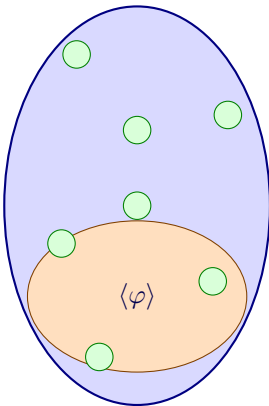
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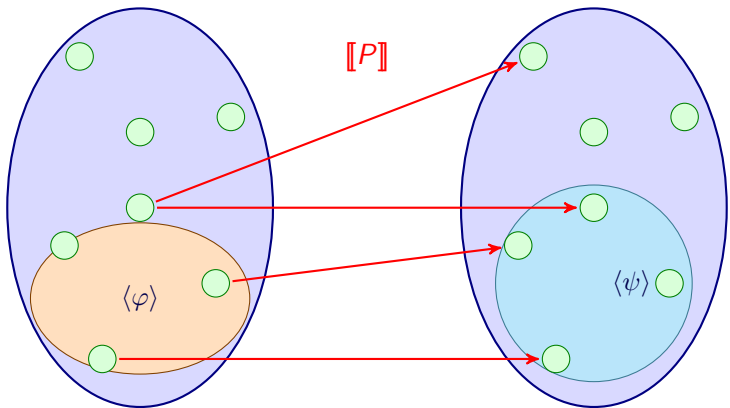
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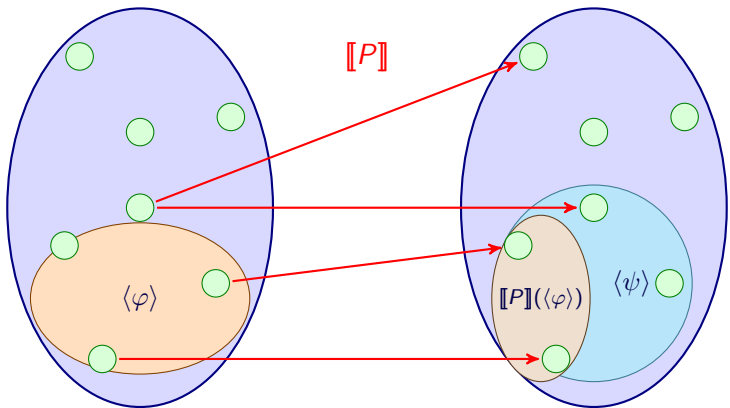
Validity



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Soundness of Hoare Logic

Theorem

If $\vdash \{\varphi\} P \{\psi\}$ then $\models \{\varphi\} P \{\psi\}$

Incompleteness

Theorem (Gödel's Incompleteness Theorem)

There is no proof system that can prove every valid first-order sentence about arithmetic over the natural numbers.

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- ⇒ There are true statements that do not have a proof.
- ⇒ Because of (cons) there are valid triples that result from valid, but unprovable, consequences.
- ⇒ Hoare Logic is not complete.

Relative completeness of Hoare Logic

Theorem (Relative completeness of Hoare Logic)

With an oracle that decides the validity of predicates,

$$\text{if } \models \{\varphi\} P \{\psi\} \text{ then } \vdash \{\varphi\} P \{\psi\}.$$

Intuitively: Hoare logic is no more incomplete than the logic used to express the pre- and postconditions.

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Termination

Hoare triples for partial correctness:

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Asserts ψ holds *if* P terminates.

That's just a safety property. Let's add liveness!

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Hoare triples for total correctness:

$$[\varphi] P [\psi]$$

Asserts:

If φ holds at a starting state, and P is executed;
then P will terminate and ψ will hold in the resulting state.

Warning

Termination is hard!

- Algorithmic limitations (e.g. Halting problem)

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- Mathematical limitations

Example

COLLATZ

while $n > 1$ do

 if $n \% 2 = 0$

 then

$n := n / 2$

 else

$n := 3 * n + 1$

 fi

od

Total correctness

How can we show:

$$[(m \geq 0) \wedge (n > 0)] \text{Pow } [r = n^m]?$$

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Use **Hoare Logic for total correctness**:

- (ass), (seq), (cond), and (cons) rules all the same
- Modified (loop) rule

Rules for total correctness

$$\frac{}{[\varphi[e/x]] \ x := e \ [\varphi]} \quad (\text{ass})$$

$$\frac{[\varphi] \ P \ [\psi] \quad [\psi] \ Q \ [\rho]}{[\varphi] \ P; Q \ [\rho]} \quad (\text{seq})$$

$$\frac{[\varphi \wedge g] \ P \ [\psi] \quad [\varphi \wedge \neg g] \ Q \ [\psi]}{[\varphi] \ \text{if } g \text{ then } P \text{ else } Q \ \text{fi} \ [\psi]} \quad (\text{if})$$

$$\frac{\varphi' \rightarrow \varphi \quad [\varphi] \ P \ [\psi] \quad \psi \rightarrow \psi'}{[\varphi'] \ P \ [\psi']} \quad (\text{cons})$$

Terminating while loops

$\{\varphi\}$ while b do P od $\{\psi\}$

Partial correctness:

Find an invariant I such that:

- $\varphi \rightarrow I$ (establish)
- $\{I \wedge b\} P \{I\}$ (maintain)
- $(I \wedge \neg b) \rightarrow \psi$ (conclude)

Terminating while loops

$[\varphi] \text{ while } b \text{ do } P \text{ od } [\psi]$

Partial correctness:

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Show termination:

Find a **variant** v such that:

- $(I \wedge b) \rightarrow v > 0$ (positivity)
- $[I \wedge b \wedge v = N] P [v < N]$ (progress)

Loop rule for total correctness

$$\frac{[\varphi \wedge g \wedge (v = N)] \textcolor{blue}{P} [\varphi \wedge (v < N)] \quad (\varphi \wedge g) \rightarrow (v > 0)}{[\varphi] \textcolor{blue}{\text{while } g \text{ do } P \text{ od } [\varphi \wedge \neg g]}} \quad (\text{loop})$$

Termination for Pow

Pow	
	$\{\text{init}: (m \geq 0) \wedge (n > 0)\}$
	$\{(1 = n^0) \wedge (0 \leq m) \wedge \text{init}\}$
$r := 1;$	$\{(r = n^0) \wedge (0 \leq m) \wedge \text{init}\}$
$i := 0;$	
	$\{\text{Inv}\}$
while $i < m$ do	$\{\text{Inv} \wedge (i < m)$
	$\{(r * n = n^{i+1}) \wedge (i + 1 \leq m) \wedge \text{init}\}$
$r := r * n;$	$\{(r = n^{i+1}) \wedge (i + 1 \leq m) \wedge \text{init}\}$
$i := i + 1$	$\{\text{Inv}$
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Additional proof obligations

init: $(m \geq 0) \wedge (n > 0)$

Inv: $(r = n^i) \wedge (i \leq m) \wedge \text{init}$

$v : m - i$

- $\text{Inv} \wedge (i < m) \rightarrow (v > 0)$
- $[v = N] i := i + 1 [v < N]$

Additional proof obligations

Total correctness Hoare logic is designed to prove partial correctness and termination at the same time.

You can also do them separately:

- 1 Prove a partial correctness Hoare triple.
- 2 Find a variant for every loop.

Doing it completely separate isn't always possible: sometimes, termination depends on the invariant.

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Non-determinism

Non-determinism involves the computational model branching into one of several directions.

Any branch can happen (decision is not under our control).

Non-determinism

Why add non-determinism?

- More general than deterministic behaviour
- Sometimes useful for modelling interaction (c.f. coffee machines).
- Useful for abstraction (abstracted code is easier to reason about)

\mathcal{L}^+ : a simple language with non-determinism

We relax the Conditional and Loop commands in \mathcal{L} to give us non-deterministic behaviour.

The programs of \mathcal{L}^+ are defined as:

Assign: $x := e$, where x is a variable and e is an expression

Predicate: φ , where φ is a predicate

Sequence: $P; Q$, where P and Q are programs

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$$P :: (x := e) \mid \varphi \mid P_1; P_2 \mid P_1 + P_2 \mid P_1^*$$

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NB

\mathcal{L} can be defined in \mathcal{L}^+ by defining:

- if b then P else Q od $= (b; P) + (\neg b; Q)$
- while b do P od $= (b; P)^*; \neg b$

Example

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A program in \mathcal{L}^+ that non-deterministically checks if $(x \vee y) \wedge (\neg x \vee \neg z) \wedge (\neg y \vee z)$ is satisfiable:

SAT
$(x := 0) + (x := 1);$ $(y := 0) + (y := 1);$ $(z := 0) + (z := 1);$

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The formula is satisfiable if SAT *could* set r to 1.

Proof rules

Hoare logic rules are cleaner:

$$\frac{\{\varphi\} P \{\psi\} \quad \{\varphi\} Q \{\psi\}}{\{\varphi\} P + Q \{\psi\}} \quad (\text{choice})$$

$$\frac{\{\varphi\} P \{\varphi\}}{\{\varphi\} P^* \{\varphi\}} \quad (\text{loop})$$

Semantics

Semantics is as for \mathcal{L} , except:

$$\llbracket P + Q \rrbracket = \llbracket P \rrbracket \cup \llbracket Q \rrbracket \qquad \llbracket P^* \rrbracket = \llbracket P \rrbracket^*$$

Bonus slides

What follows is a proof that Hoare logic is sound.

We most likely won't have time to do any of this in the lectures.

Summary

- Set theory revisited
- Soundness of Hoare Logic
- Completeness of Hoare Logic

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Some results on relational images

Lemma

For any binary relations $R, S \subseteq X \times Y$ and subsets $A, B \subseteq X$:

- Ⓐ *If $A \subseteq B$ then $R(A) \subseteq R(B)$*
- Ⓑ *$R(A) \cup S(A) = (R \cup S)(A)$*
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Proof (a):

$$\begin{aligned} y \in R(A) &\Leftrightarrow \exists x \in A \text{ such that } (x, y) \in R \\ &\Rightarrow \exists x \in B \text{ such that } (x, y) \in R \\ &\Leftrightarrow y \in R(B) \end{aligned}$$

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Proof (b):

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Proof (b):

$$\begin{aligned} y \in R(A) \cup S(A) &\Leftrightarrow y \in R(A) \text{ or } y \in S(A) \\ &\Leftrightarrow \exists x \in A \text{ s.t. } (x, y) \in R \text{ or } \exists x \in A \text{ s.t. } (x, y) \in S \\ &\Leftrightarrow \exists x \in A \text{ s.t. } (x, y) \in R \text{ or } (x, y) \in S \\ &\Leftrightarrow \exists x \in A \text{ s.t. } (x, y) \in (R \cup S) \\ &\Leftrightarrow y \in (R \cup S)(A) \end{aligned}$$

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Proof (c):

$$\begin{aligned} z \in R(S(A)) &\Leftrightarrow \exists y \in S(A) \text{ s.t. } (y, z) \in R \\ &\Leftrightarrow \exists x \in A, y \in S(A) \text{ s.t. } (x, y) \in S \text{ and } (y, z) \in R \\ &\Leftrightarrow \exists x \in A \text{ s.t. } (x, z) \in (S; R) \\ &\Leftrightarrow z \in (S; R)(A) \end{aligned}$$

Some results on relational images

Corollary

If $R(A) \subseteq A$ then $R^(A) \subseteq A$*

Reformulated: assuming $R(A) \subseteq A$, $x \in A$, and $x R^* y$, prove $y \in A$.

Proof is by induction on the derivation of $x R^* y$.

- (B) Trivial when $x = y$.
- (I) We know that $x \in A$, $x R y$ and $y R^* z$. Because $R(A) \subseteq A$, we have $y \in A$. By the induction hypothesis, $z \in A$.

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Soundness of Hoare Logic

Theorem

If $\vdash \{\varphi\} P \{\psi\}$ then $\models \{\varphi\} P \{\psi\}$

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If $\vdash \{\varphi\} P \{\psi\}$ then $\models \{\varphi\} P \{\psi\}$

Proof:

By induction on the structure of the proof.

Base case: Assignment rule

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Recall: $(\eta, \eta'') \in \llbracket x := e \rrbracket$ if and only if $\eta'' = \eta[x \mapsto \llbracket e \rrbracket^\eta]$,

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So: $\llbracket Q \rrbracket(\llbracket P \rrbracket(\langle \varphi \rangle)) \subseteq \llbracket Q \rrbracket(\langle \psi \rangle) \subseteq \langle \rho \rangle$ (see Lemma 1(a))

Two more useful results

Lemma

For $R \subseteq \text{ENV} \times \text{ENV}$, predicates φ and ψ , and $X \subseteq \text{ENV}$:

- a) $\llbracket \varphi \rrbracket(X) = \langle \varphi \rangle \cap X$
- b) $R(\langle \varphi \wedge \psi \rangle) = (\llbracket \varphi \rrbracket; R)(\langle \psi \rangle)$

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$$\begin{aligned}\eta' \in \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket(X) &\Leftrightarrow \exists \eta \in X \text{ s.t. } (\eta, \eta') \in \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket \\ &\Leftrightarrow \exists \eta \in X \text{ s.t. } \eta = \eta' \text{ and } \eta \in \langle \varphi \rangle \\ &\Leftrightarrow \eta' \in X \cap \langle \varphi \rangle\end{aligned}$$

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Proof (b):

$$\langle \varphi \wedge \psi \rangle = \langle \varphi \rangle \cap \langle \psi \rangle = \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket(\langle \psi \rangle)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{So } R(\langle \varphi \wedge \psi \rangle) &= R(\llbracket \varphi \rrbracket(\langle \psi \rangle)) \\ &= (\llbracket \varphi \rrbracket; R)(\langle \psi \rangle) \quad (\text{see Lemma 1(b)}) \end{aligned}$$

Inductive case 2: Conditional rule

$$\frac{\{\varphi \wedge g\} P \{\psi\} \quad \{\varphi \wedge \neg g\} Q \{\psi\}}{\{\varphi\} \text{if } g \text{ then } P \text{ else } Q \text{ fi } \{\psi\}} \quad (\text{if})$$

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$$\frac{\{\varphi \wedge g\} P \{\varphi\}}{\{\varphi\} \text{ while } g \text{ do } P \text{ od } \{\varphi \wedge \neg g\}} \quad (\text{loop})$$

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Inductive case 3: While rule

$$\frac{\{\varphi \wedge g\} P \{\varphi\}}{\{\varphi\} \text{ while } g \text{ do } P \text{ od } \{\varphi \wedge \neg g\}} \quad (\text{loop})$$

Assume $\{\varphi \wedge g\} P \{\varphi\}$ is valid. Need to show that $\{\varphi\} \text{ while } g \text{ do } P \text{ od } \{\varphi \wedge \neg g\}$ is valid.

Recall: $\llbracket \text{while } g \text{ do } P \text{ od} \rrbracket = \llbracket g; P \rrbracket^*; \llbracket \neg g \rrbracket$

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket g; P \rrbracket(\langle \varphi \rangle) &= \llbracket P \rrbracket(\langle g \wedge \varphi \rangle) && (\text{see Lemma 2(b)}) \\ &\subseteq \langle \varphi \rangle && (\text{IH}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{So } \llbracket g; P \rrbracket^*(\langle \varphi \rangle) \subseteq \langle \varphi \rangle \quad (\text{see Corollary})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{So } \llbracket g; P \rrbracket^*; \llbracket \neg g \rrbracket(\langle \varphi \rangle) &= \llbracket \neg g \rrbracket(\llbracket g; P \rrbracket^*(\langle \varphi \rangle)) && (\text{see Lemma 1(c)}) \\ &\subseteq \llbracket \neg g \rrbracket(\langle \varphi \rangle) && (\text{see Lemma 1(a)}) \\ &= \langle \neg g \wedge \varphi \rangle && (\text{see Lemma 2(a)}) \end{aligned}$$

Inductive case 4: Consequence rule

$$\frac{\varphi' \rightarrow \varphi \quad \{\varphi\} \textcolor{blue}{P} \{\psi\} \quad \psi \rightarrow \psi'}{\{\varphi'\} \textcolor{blue}{P} \{\psi'\}} \quad (\text{cons})$$

Inductive case 4: Consequence rule

$$\frac{\varphi' \rightarrow \varphi \quad \{\varphi\} P \{\psi\} \quad \psi \rightarrow \psi'}{\{\varphi'\} P \{\psi'\}} \quad (\text{cons})$$

Assume $\{\varphi\} P \{\psi\}$ is valid and $\varphi' \rightarrow \varphi$ and $\psi \rightarrow \psi'$. Need to show that $\{\varphi'\} P \{\psi'\}$ is valid.

Inductive case 4: Consequence rule

$$\frac{\varphi' \rightarrow \varphi \quad \{\varphi\} P \{\psi\} \quad \psi \rightarrow \psi'}{\{\varphi'\} P \{\psi'\}} \quad (\text{cons})$$

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Observe: If $\varphi' \rightarrow \varphi$ then $\langle \varphi' \rangle \subseteq \langle \varphi \rangle$

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$$\llbracket P \rrbracket(\langle \varphi' \rangle) \subseteq \llbracket P \rrbracket(\langle \varphi \rangle) \quad (\text{see Lemma 1(a)})$$

Inductive case 4: Consequence rule

$$\frac{\varphi' \rightarrow \varphi \quad \{\varphi\} P \{\psi\} \quad \psi \rightarrow \psi'}{\{\varphi'\} P \{\psi'\}} \quad (\text{cons})$$

Assume $\{\varphi\} P \{\psi\}$ is valid and $\varphi' \rightarrow \varphi$ and $\psi \rightarrow \psi'$. Need to show that $\{\varphi'\} P \{\psi'\}$ is valid.

Observe: If $\varphi' \rightarrow \varphi$ then $\langle \varphi' \rangle \subseteq \langle \varphi \rangle$

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket P \rrbracket(\langle \varphi' \rangle) &\subseteq \llbracket P \rrbracket(\langle \varphi \rangle) \quad (\text{see Lemma 1(a)}) \\ &\subseteq \langle \psi \rangle && (\text{IH}) \\ &\subseteq \langle \psi' \rangle \end{aligned}$$