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**COMP 4161**  
NICTA Advanced Course

**Advanced Topics in Software Verification**

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**Binary Search** (`java.util.Arrays`)

```
1: public static int binarySearch(int[] a, int key) {
2:     int low = 0;
3:     int high = a.length - 1;
4:
5:     while (low <= high) {
6:         int mid = (low + high) / 2;
7:         int midVal = a[mid];
8:
9:         if (midVal < key)
10:             low = mid + 1;
11:         else if (midVal > key)
12:             high = mid - 1;
13:         else
14:             return mid; // key found
15:     }
16:     return -(low + 1); // key not found.
17: }
```

6: `int mid = (low + high) / 2;`

<http://googleresearch.blogspot.com/2006/06/extra-extra-read-all-about-it-nearly.html>

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**Organisatorials**

**When** Tue 9:00 – 10:30  
Thu 9:00 – 10:30

**Where** Tue: Law 163 (F8-163)  
Thu: Australian School Business 205 (E12-205)

<http://www.cse.unsw.edu.au/~cs4161/>

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**About us**

**Members of the seL4 verification team**

- Functional correctness of a C microkernel  
`Isabelle/HOL model ↔ Haskell model ↔ C code`
- 10 000 LOC / 300 000 lines of proof script (!)
- 25 person years / \$6 million

<http://ertos.nicta.com.au/research/l4.verified/>

**We are always embarking on exciting new projects.**

**We offer**

- summer student scholarship projects
- honours and PhD theses
- research assistant and verification engineer positions

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## What you will learn



- how to use a theorem prover
- background, how it works
- how to prove and specify
- how to reason about programs

## Health Warning

### Theorem Proving is addictive

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## Content — Using Theorem Provers



Rough timeline

- Intro & motivation, getting started [today]
- Foundations & Principles
  - Lambda Calculus, natural deduction [1,2]
  - Higher Order Logic [3<sup>a</sup>]
  - Term rewriting [4]
- Proof & Specification Techniques
  - Inductively defined sets, rule induction [5]
  - Datatypes, recursion, induction [6<sup>b</sup>, 7]
  - Code generation, type classes [7]
  - Hoare logic, proofs about programs, refinement [8,9<sup>c</sup>,10<sup>d</sup>]
  - Isar, locales [11,12]

<sup>a</sup>a1 due; <sup>b</sup>a2 due; <sup>c</sup>session break; <sup>d</sup>a3 due

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## What you should do to have a chance at succeeding



- attend lectures
- try Isabelle early
- redo all the demos alone
- try the exercises/homework we give, when we do give some
- DO NOT CHEAT
  - Assignments and exams are take-home. This does NOT mean you can work in groups. Each submission is personal.
  - For more info, see Plagiarism Policy<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup><http://www.cse.unsw.edu.au/people/studentoffice/policies/yellowform.html#assign>

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## Credits



some material (in using-theorem-provers part) shamelessly stolen from



Tobias Nipkow, Larry Paulson, Markus Wenzel



David Basin, Burkhardt Wolff

**Don't blame them, errors are mine**

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## What is a proof?



### to prove

(Merriam-Webster)

- from Latin probare (test, approve, prove)
- to learn or find out by experience (archaic)
- to establish the existence, truth, or validity of (by evidence or logic)  
*prove a theorem, the charges were never proved in court*

### pops up everywhere

- politics (weapons of mass destruction)
- courts (beyond reasonable doubt)
- religion (god exists)
- science (cold fusion works)

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## What is a mathematical proof?



In mathematics, a proof is a demonstration that, given certain axioms, some statement of interest is necessarily true. (Wikipedia)

**Example:**  $\sqrt{2}$  is not rational.

Proof: assume there is  $r \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that  $r^2 = 2$ .

Hence there are mutually prime  $p$  and  $q$  with  $r = \frac{p}{q}$ .

Thus  $2q^2 = p^2$ , i.e.  $p^2$  is divisible by 2.

2 is prime, hence it also divides  $p$ , i.e.  $p = 2s$ .

Substituting this into  $2q^2 = p^2$  and dividing by 2 gives  $q^2 = 2s^2$ . Hence,  $q$  is also divisible by 2. Contradiction. Qed.

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## Nice, but..



- still not rigorous enough for some
  - what are the rules?
  - what are the axioms?
  - how big can the steps be?
  - what is obvious or trivial?
- informal language, easy to get wrong
- easy to miss something, easy to cheat

**Theorem.** A cat has nine tails.

**Proof.** No cat has eight tails. Since one cat has one more tail than no cat, it must have nine tails.

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## What is a formal proof?



### A derivation in a formal calculus

**Example:**  $A \wedge B \longrightarrow B \wedge A$  derivable in the following system

**Rules:**  $\frac{X \in S}{S \vdash X}$  (assumption)     $\frac{S \cup \{X\} \vdash Y}{S \vdash X \longrightarrow Y}$  (impl)  
 $\frac{S \vdash X \quad S \vdash Y}{S \vdash X \wedge Y}$  (conjI)     $\frac{S \cup \{X, Y\} \vdash Z}{S \cup \{X \wedge Y\} \vdash Z}$  (conjE)

### Proof:

1.  $\{A, B\} \vdash B$  (by assumption)
2.  $\{A, B\} \vdash A$  (by assumption)
3.  $\{A, B\} \vdash B \wedge A$  (by conjI with 1 and 2)
4.  $\{A \wedge B\} \vdash B \wedge A$  (by conjE with 3)
5.  $\{\} \vdash A \wedge B \longrightarrow B \wedge A$  (by impl with 4)

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## What is a theorem prover?



### Implementation of a formal logic on a computer.

- fully automated (propositional logic)
- automated, but not necessarily terminating (first order logic)
- with automation, but mainly interactive (higher order logic)
  
- based on rules and axioms
- can deliver proofs

There are other (algorithmic) verification tools:

- model checking, static analysis, ...
- usually do not deliver proofs

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## Why theorem proving?



- Analysing systems/programs thoroughly
- Finding design and specification errors early
- High assurance (mathematical, machine checked proof)
- it's not always easy
- it's fun

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## Main theorem proving system for this course



Isabelle

- used here for applications, learning how to prove

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## What is Isabelle?



### A generic interactive proof assistant

- **generic:**  
not specialised to one particular logic  
(two large developments: HOL and ZF, will mainly use HOL)
- **interactive:**  
more than just yes/no, you can interactively guide the system
- **proof assistant:**  
helps to explore, find, and maintain proofs

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## Why Isabelle?

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- free
- widely used systems
- active development
- high expressiveness and automation
- reasonably easy to use
- (and because we know it best ;-))

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## If I prove it on the computer, it is correct, right?

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### No, because:

- ① hardware could be faulty
- ② operating system could be faulty
- ③ implementation runtime system could be faulty
- ④ compiler could be faulty
- ⑤ implementation could be faulty
- ⑥ logic could be inconsistent
- ⑦ theorem could mean something else

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## If I prove it on the computer, it is correct, right?

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### No, but:

#### probability for

- OS and H/W issues reduced by using different systems
- runtime/compiler bugs reduced by using different compilers
- faulty implementation reduced by right architecture
- inconsistent logic reduced by implementing and analysing it
- wrong theorem reduced by expressive/intuitive logics

**No guarantees, but assurance immensely higher than manual proof**

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If I prove it on the computer, it is correct, right?



**Soundness architectures**

careful implementation	PVS
LCF approach, small proof kernel	HOL4 Isabelle
explicit proofs + proof checker	Coq Twelf Isabelle HOL4

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Meta Logic



**Meta language:**

The language used to talk about another language.

**Examples:**

English in a Spanish class, English in an English class

**Meta logic:**

The logic used to formalize another logic

**Example:**

Mathematics used to formalize derivations in formal logic

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Meta Logic – Example



Formulae:  $F ::= V \mid F \rightarrow F \mid F \wedge F \mid False$

**Syntax:**  $V ::= [A - Z]$

Derivable:  $S \vdash X$   $X$  a formula,  $S$  a set of formulae

logic / meta logic

$$\frac{X \in S}{S \vdash X} \qquad \frac{S \cup \{X\} \vdash Y}{S \vdash X \rightarrow Y}$$
$$\frac{S \vdash X \quad S \vdash Y}{S \vdash X \wedge Y} \qquad \frac{S \cup \{X, Y\} \vdash Z}{S \cup \{X \wedge Y\} \vdash Z}$$

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Isabelle's Meta Logic



$\wedge \quad \Rightarrow \quad \lambda$

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$\wedge$



**Syntax:**  $\wedge x. F$  ( $F$  another meta level formula)  
in ASCII: `!!x. F`

- universal quantifier on the meta level
- used to denote parameters
- example and more later

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$\implies$



**Syntax:**  $A \implies B$  ( $A, B$  other meta level formulae)  
in ASCII: `A ==> B`

**Binds to the right:**

$$A \implies B \implies C = A \implies (B \implies C)$$

**Abbreviation:**

$$[A; B] \implies C = A \implies B \implies C$$

- read:  $A$  and  $B$  implies  $C$
- used to write down rules, theorems, and proof states

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Example: a theorem



**mathematics:** if  $x < 0$  and  $y < 0$ , then  $x + y < 0$

**formal logic:**  $\vdash x < 0 \wedge y < 0 \implies x + y < 0$

variation:  $x < 0; y < 0 \vdash x + y < 0$

**Isabelle:** **lemma** " $x < 0 \wedge y < 0 \implies x + y < 0$ "

variation: **lemma** " $[x < 0; y < 0] \implies x + y < 0$ "

variation: **lemma**

assumes " $x < 0$ " and " $y < 0$ " shows " $x + y < 0$ "

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Example: a rule



**logic:**  $\frac{X \quad Y}{X \wedge Y}$

**variation:**  $\frac{S \vdash X \quad S \vdash Y}{S \vdash X \wedge Y}$

**Isabelle:**  $[X; Y] \implies X \wedge Y$

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Example: a rule with nested implication



logic: 
$$\frac{X \vee Y \quad \frac{X \quad Y}{Z}}{Z}$$

variation: 
$$\frac{S \cup \{X\} \vdash Z \quad S \cup \{Y\} \vdash Z}{S \cup \{X \vee Y\} \vdash Z}$$

Isabelle:  $[X \vee Y; X \implies Z; Y \implies Z] \implies Z$

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$\lambda$



Syntax:  $\lambda x. F$  ( $F$  another meta level formula)  
in ASCII:  $\%x . F$

- lambda abstraction
- used for functions in object logics
- used to encode bound variables in object logics
- more about this in the next lecture

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ENOUGH THEORY!  
GETTING STARTED WITH ISABELLE



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System Architecture



Proof General – user interface

HOL, ZF – object-logics

Isabelle – generic, interactive theorem prover

Standard ML – logic implemented as ADT

User can access all layers!

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## System Requirements



- **Linux, Windows, or MacOS X**
- **Standard ML**  
(PolyML fastest, SML/NJ supports more platforms)
- **Emacs** (for ProofGeneral) or **Java** (for jEdit)

Premade packages for Linux, Mac, and Windows + info on:

<http://mirror.cse.unsw.edu.au/pub/isabelle/download.html>

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## Documentation



Available from <http://isabelle.in.tum.de>

- Learning Isabelle
  - Tutorial on Isabelle/HOL (LNCS 2283)
  - Tutorial on Isar
  - Tutorial on Locales
- Reference Manuals
  - Isabelle/Isar Reference Manual
  - Isabelle Reference Manual
  - Isabelle System Manual
- Reference Manuals for Object-Logics

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## jEdit/PIDE



```
text (*  
Note that free variables (eg x), bound variables (eg ln) and  
constants (eg Suc) are displayed differently. *)  
term "x"  
term "Suc x"  
term "Suc x"  
term "Suc x = Succ y"  
term "M" constant "Nat.Suc"  
text (* To display more types inside terms: *)  
declare [[show_types]]  
term "Suc x = Succ y"  
text (* To switch off again: *)  
declare [[show_types=false]]  
term "Suc x = Succ y"  
text (* 0 and = are overloaded: *)  
term "0 = 0"  
term "0 = 0"  
*)  
"Suc x"  
:: "nat"
```

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## jEdit/PIDE



```
text (*  
Note that free variables (eg x), bound variables (eg ln) and  
constants (eg Suc) are displayed differently. *)  
term "x"  
term "Suc x"  
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term "Suc x = Succ y"  
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term "Suc x = Succ y"  
text (* 0 and = are overloaded: *)  
term "0 = 0"  
term "0 = 0"  
*)  
"Suc x"  
:: "nat"
```

Theory File

Isabelle Output

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LaTeX Comment

logic terms go in quotes: "x + 2"

Commands

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Command click jumps to definition

Command + hover for popup info

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Scroll through Prover Session/README for tips and instructions

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processed

error

unprocessed

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## DEMO

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#### Exercises



- Download and install Isabelle from  
<http://mirror.cse.unsw.edu.au/pub/isabelle/>
- Step through the demo files from the lecture web page
- Write your own theory file, look at some theorems in the library, try 'find\_theorems'
  
- How many theorems can help you if you need to prove something like "Suc(Suc x)"?
- What is the name of the theorem for associativity of addition of natural numbers in the library?

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