COMP4161 Advanced Topics in Software Verification



Thomas Sewell, Miki Tanaka, Rob Sison T3/2024



Content

→ Foundations & Principles	
 Intro, Lambda calculus, natural deduction 	[1,2]
 Higher Order Logic, Isar (part 1) 	[2,3 ^a]
Term rewriting	[3,4]
→ Proof & Specification Techniques	
 Inductively defined sets, rule induction 	[4,5]
 Datatype induction, primitive recursion 	[5,7]
 General recursive functions, termination proofs 	[7]
 Proof automation, Isar (part 2) 	[8 ^b]
 Hoare logic, proofs about programs, invariants 	[8,9]
C verification	[9,10]
 Practice, questions, exam prep 	[10 ^c]



^aa1 due; ^ba2 due; ^ca3 due

A CRASH COURSE IN SEMANTICS

(FOR MORE,

SEE CONCRETE SEMANTICS)

IMP - a small Imperative Language

```
Commands:
datatype com

= SKIP
| Assign vname aexp (_ := _)
Semi com com (_; _)
Cond bexp com com
While bexp com (WHILE _ DO _ OD)
```

type_synonym vname = string **type_synonym** state = vname ⇒ nat

type_synonym aexp = state \Rightarrow nat **type_synonym** bexp = state \Rightarrow bool



Example Program

Usual syntax:

$$\begin{array}{l} B := 1; \\ \text{WHILE } A \neq 0 \text{ DO} \\ B := B*A; \\ A := A-1 \\ \text{OD} \end{array}$$

Expressions are functions from state to bool or nat:

$$\begin{array}{l} B := (\lambda \sigma. \ 1); \\ \text{WHILE} \ (\lambda \sigma. \ \sigma \ A \neq 0) \ \text{DO} \\ B := (\lambda \sigma. \ \sigma \ B * \sigma \ A); \\ A := (\lambda \sigma. \ \sigma \ A - 1) \\ \text{OD} \end{array}$$

What does it do?

So far we have defined:

- → Syntax of commands and expressions
- → State of programs (function from variables to values)

Now we need: the meaning (semantics) of programs

How to define execution of a program?

- → A wide field of its own
- → Some choices:
 - Operational (inductive relations, big step, small step)
 - Denotational (map program syntax to e.g. state transformers)
 - Axiomatic (e.g. Hoare logic later this lecture)



Structural Operational Semantics

Structural Operational Semantics

$$\frac{\textit{b} \ \sigma = \mathsf{False}}{\langle \mathsf{WHILE} \ \textit{b} \ \mathsf{DO} \ \textit{c} \ \mathsf{OD}, \sigma \rangle \to \sigma}$$

$$\frac{\textit{b} \ \sigma = \mathsf{True} \quad \langle \textit{c}, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma' \quad \langle \mathsf{WHILE} \ \textit{b} \ \mathsf{DO} \ \textit{c} \ \mathsf{OD}, \sigma' \rangle \rightarrow \sigma''}{\langle \mathsf{WHILE} \ \textit{b} \ \mathsf{DO} \ \textit{c} \ \mathsf{OD}, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma''}$$

DEMO: SYNTAX AND SEMANTICS

Proofs about Programs

Now we know:

- → What programs are: Syntax
- → On what they work: State
- → How they work: Semantics

So we can prove properties about programs

Example:

Show that example program from slide 6 implements the factorial.

lemma
$$\langle \text{factorial}, \sigma \rangle \to \sigma' \Longrightarrow \sigma' B = \text{fac } (\sigma A)$$
 (where fac $0 = 1$, fac (Suc n) = (Suc n) * fac n)

DEMO: PROOF ABOUT SEMANTICS

Too tedious

Induction needed for each loop

Is there something easier?



Floyd/Hoare

Idea: describe meaning of program by pre/post conditions

Examples:

{True}
$$x := 2 \quad \{x = 2\}$$

 $\{y = 2\}$ $x := 21 * y \quad \{x = 42\}$
 $\{x = n\}$ IF $y < 0$ THEN $x := x + y$ ELSE $x := x - y \quad \{x = n - |y|\}$
 $\{A = n\}$ factorial $\{B = \text{fac } n\}$

Proofs: have rules that directly work on such triples



Meaning of a Hoare-Triple

$$\{P\}$$
 c $\{Q\}$

What are the assertions P and Q?

- → Here: again functions from state to bool (shallow embedding of assertions)
- → Other choice: syntax and semantics for assertions (deep embedding)

What does $\{P\}$ c $\{Q\}$ mean?

Partial Correctness:

$$\models \{P\} \ c \ \{Q\} \quad \equiv \quad \forall \sigma \ \sigma'. \ P \ \sigma \land \langle c, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma' \longrightarrow Q \ \sigma'$$

Total Correctness:

$$\models \{P\} \ \boldsymbol{c} \ \{Q\} \quad \equiv \quad (\forall \sigma \ \sigma'. \ P \ \sigma \land \langle \boldsymbol{c}, \sigma \rangle \to \sigma' \longrightarrow Q \ \sigma') \land \\ (\forall \sigma. \ P \ \sigma \longrightarrow \exists \sigma'. \ \langle \boldsymbol{c}, \sigma \rangle \to \sigma')$$

This lecture: partial correctness only (easier)



Hoare Rules

Hoare Rules



Are the Rules Correct?

Soundness: $\vdash \{P\} \ c \ \{Q\} \Longrightarrow \models \{P\} \ c \ \{Q\}$

Proof: by rule induction on $\vdash \{P\} \ c \ \{Q\}$

Demo: Hoare Logic in Isabelle

