

Semantics and Verification of Software

Lecture 9: Axiomatic Semantics of WHILE

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- 1 Repetition: Assertions and Partial Correctness Properties
- 2 A Valid Partial Correctness Property
- 3 Proof Rules for Partial Correctness
- 4 Soundness of Hoare Logic

Definition (Syntax of assertions)

The **syntax of *Assn*** is defined by the following context-free grammar:

$$\begin{aligned} a &::= z \mid x \mid i \mid a_1 + a_2 \mid a_1 - a_2 \mid a_1 * a_2 \in LExp \\ A &::= t \mid a_1 = a_2 \mid a_1 > a_2 \mid \neg A \mid A_1 \wedge A_2 \mid A_1 \vee A_2 \mid \forall i. A \in Assn \end{aligned}$$

Definition (Semantics of *LExp*)

An **interpretation** is an element of the set

$$Int := \{I \mid I : LVar \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}\}.$$

The **value of an arithmetic expressions with logical variables** is given by the functional

$$\mathcal{L}[\![\cdot]\!] : LExp \rightarrow (Int \rightarrow (\Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}))$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}[\![z]\!]I\sigma &:= z & \mathcal{L}[\![a_1 + a_2]\!]I\sigma &:= \mathcal{L}[\![a_1]\!]I\sigma + \mathcal{L}[\![a_2]\!]I\sigma \\ \mathcal{L}[\![x]\!]I\sigma &:= \sigma(x) & \mathcal{L}[\![a_1 - a_2]\!]I\sigma &:= \mathcal{L}[\![a_1]\!]I\sigma - \mathcal{L}[\![a_2]\!]I\sigma \\ \mathcal{L}[\![i]\!]I\sigma &:= I(i) & \mathcal{L}[\![a_1 * a_2]\!]I\sigma &:= \mathcal{L}[\![a_1]\!]I\sigma * \mathcal{L}[\![a_2]\!]I\sigma \end{aligned}$$

Definition (Semantics of assertions)

Let $A \in \text{Assn}$, $\sigma \in \Sigma_{\perp}$, and $I \in \text{Int}$. The relation “ σ satisfies A in I ” (notation: $\sigma \models^I A$) is inductively defined by:

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma &\models^I \text{true} \\ \sigma &\models^I a_1 = a_2 && \text{if } \mathcal{L}[[a_1]]I\sigma = \mathcal{L}[[a_2]]I\sigma \\ \sigma &\models^I a_1 > a_2 && \text{if } \mathcal{L}[[a_1]]I\sigma > \mathcal{L}[[a_2]]I\sigma \\ \sigma &\models^I \neg A && \text{if not } \sigma \models^I A \\ \sigma &\models^I A_1 \wedge A_2 && \text{if } \sigma \models^I A_1 \text{ and } \sigma \models^I A_2 \\ \sigma &\models^I A_1 \vee A_2 && \text{if } \sigma \models^I A_1 \text{ or } \sigma \models^I A_2 \\ \sigma &\models^I \forall i. A && \text{if } \sigma \models^{I[i \mapsto z]} A \text{ for every } z \in \mathbb{Z} \\ \perp &\models^I A\end{aligned}$$

Furthermore σ satisfies A ($\sigma \models A$) if $\sigma \models^I A$ for every interpretation $I \in \text{Int}$, and A is called **valid** ($\models A$) if $\sigma \models A$ for every state $\sigma \in \Sigma$.

Definition (Extension)

Let $A \in \text{Assn}$ and $I \in \text{Int}$. The **extension** of A with respect to I is given by

$$A^I := \{\sigma \in \Sigma_{\perp} \mid \sigma \models^I A\}.$$

Definition (Partial correctness properties)

Let $A, B \in \text{Assn}$ and $c \in \text{Cmd}$.

- An expression of the form $\{A\} c \{B\}$ is called a **partial correctness property** with **precondition** A and **postcondition** B .
- Given $\sigma \in \Sigma_{\perp}$ and $I \in \text{Int}$, we let

$$\sigma \models^I \{A\} c \{B\}$$

if $\sigma \models^I A$ implies $\mathfrak{C}[\![c]\!]\sigma \models^I B$
(or equivalently: $\sigma \in A^I \implies \mathfrak{C}[\![c]\!]\sigma \in B^I$).

- $\{A\} c \{B\}$ is called **valid in I** (notation: $\models^I \{A\} c \{B\}$) if $\sigma \models^I \{A\} c \{B\}$ for every $\sigma \in \Sigma_{\perp}$ (or equivalently: $\mathfrak{C}[\![c]\!]A^I \subseteq B^I$).
- $\{A\} c \{B\}$ is called **valid** (notation: $\models \{A\} c \{B\}$) if $\models^I \{A\} c \{B\}$ for every $I \in \text{Int}$.

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Example 9.1

- Let $x \in Var$ and $i \in LVar$. We have to show:

$$\models \{i \leq x\} x := x+1 \{i < x\}$$

- According to Def. 8.8, this is equivalent to

$$\sigma \models^I \{i \leq x\} x := x+1 \{i < x\}$$

for every $\sigma \in \Sigma_{\perp}$ and $I \in Int$

- For $\sigma = \perp$ this is trivial. So let $\sigma \in \Sigma$:

$$\begin{aligned} & \sigma \models^I (i \leq x) \\ \Rightarrow & \mathfrak{L}[\![i]\!]I\sigma \leq \mathfrak{L}[\![x]\!]I\sigma \quad (\text{Def. 8.5}) \\ \Rightarrow & I(i) \leq \sigma(x) \quad (\text{Def. 8.3}) \\ \Rightarrow & I(i) < \sigma(x) + 1 \\ & = (\mathfrak{C}[\![x := x+1]\!]\sigma)(x) \\ \Rightarrow & \mathfrak{C}[\![x := x+1]\!]\sigma \models^I (i < x) \\ \Rightarrow & \text{claim} \end{aligned}$$

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Hoare Logic I

Goal: syntactic derivation of valid partial correctness properties

Definition 9.2 (Hoare Logic)

The **Hoare rules** are given by

$$\begin{array}{c} \frac{}{\{A\} \text{skip} \{A\}} \text{(skip)} \qquad \frac{}{\{A[x \mapsto a]\} x := a \{A\}} \text{(asgn)} \\[10pt] \frac{\{A\} c_1 \{C\} \quad \{C\} c_2 \{B\}}{\{A\} c_1; c_2 \{B\}} \text{(seq)} \qquad \frac{\{A \wedge b\} c_1 \{B\} \quad \{A \wedge \neg b\} c_2 \{B\}}{\{A\} \text{if } b \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2 \{B\}} \text{(if)} \\[10pt] \frac{\{A \wedge b\} c \{A\}}{\{A\} \text{while } b \text{ do } c \{A \wedge \neg b\}} \text{(while)} \\[10pt] \frac{\models (A \implies A') \quad \{A'\} c \{B'\} \models (B' \implies B)}{\{A\} c \{B\}} \text{(cons)} \end{array}$$

A partial correctness property is **provable** (notation: $\vdash \{A\} c \{B\}$) if it is derivable by the Hoare rules. In case of (while), A is called a **(loop) invariant**.

Here $A[x \mapsto a]$ denotes the syntactic replacement of every occurrence of x by a in A .

Example 9.3

Proof of $\{A\} y:=1; c \{B\}$ where

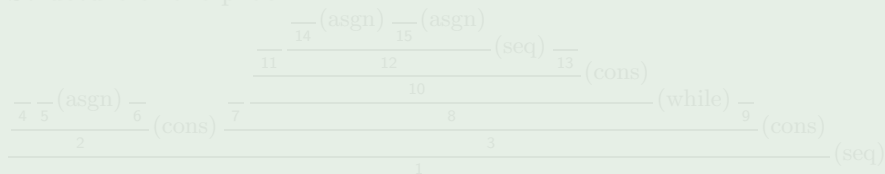
$c := (\text{while } \neg(x=1) \text{ do } (y:=y*x; x:=x-1))$

$A := (x = i)$

$B := (y = i!)$

(on the board)

Structure of the proof:



Example 9.3

Proof of $\{A\} y:=1;c \{B\}$ where

$$c := (\text{while } \neg(x=1) \text{ do } (y:=y*x; x:=x-1))$$
$$A := (\mathbf{x} = i)$$
$$B := (\mathbf{y} = i!)$$

(on the board)

Structure of the proof:

[illegible]

Example 9.3 (continued)

Here the single propositions are given by:

- ① $\{A\} y := 1; c \{B\}$
- ② $\{A\} y := 1 \{C\}$
- ③ $\{C\} c \{B\}$
- ④ $\models (A \implies C[y \mapsto 1])$
- ⑤ $\{C[y \mapsto 1]\} y := 1 \{C\}$
- ⑥ $\models (C \implies C)$
- ⑦ $\models (C \implies C)$
- ⑧ $\{C\} c \{\neg(\neg(x = 1)) \wedge C\}$
- ⑨ $\models (\neg(\neg(x = 1)) \wedge C \implies B)$
- ⑩ $\{\neg(x = 1) \wedge C\} y := y * x; x := x - 1 \{C\}$
- ⑪ $\models (\neg(x = 1) \wedge C \implies C[x \mapsto x - 1, y \mapsto y * x])$
- ⑫ $\{C[x \mapsto x - 1, y \mapsto y * x]\} y := y * x; x := x - 1 \{C\}$
- ⑬ $\models (C \implies C)$
- ⑭ $\{C[x \mapsto x - 1, y \mapsto y * x]\} y := y * x \{C[x \mapsto x - 1]\}$
- ⑮ $\{C[x \mapsto x - 1]\} x := x - 1 \{C\}$

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Soundness: no wrong propositions can be derived, i.e., every (syntactically) provable partial correctness property is also (semantically) valid

For the corresponding proof we use:

Lemma 9.4 (Substitution lemma)

For every $A \in Assn$, $x \in Var$, $a \in AExp$, $\sigma \in \Sigma$, and $I \in Int$:

$$\sigma \models^I A[x \mapsto a] \iff \sigma[x \mapsto \mathcal{A}[[a]]\sigma] \models^I A.$$

Proof.

by induction over $A \in Assn$ (omitted) □

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by induction over $A \in Assn$ (omitted) □

Theorem 9.5 (Soundness of Hoare Logic)

For every partial correctness property $\{A\} c \{B\}$,
$$\vdash \{A\} c \{B\} \implies \models \{A\} c \{B\}.$$

Proof.

Let $\vdash \{A\} c \{B\}$. By induction over the structure of the corresponding proof tree we show that, for every $\sigma \in \Sigma$ and $I \in \text{Int}$ such that $\sigma \models^I A$, $\mathcal{E}[c]\sigma \models^I B$ (on the board).

(If $\sigma = \perp$, then $\mathcal{E}[c]\sigma = \perp \models^I B$ holds trivially.) □

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