

Semantics and Verification of Software

Lecture 9: Axiomatic Semantics of WHILE I (Introduction)

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(Software Modeling and Verification)



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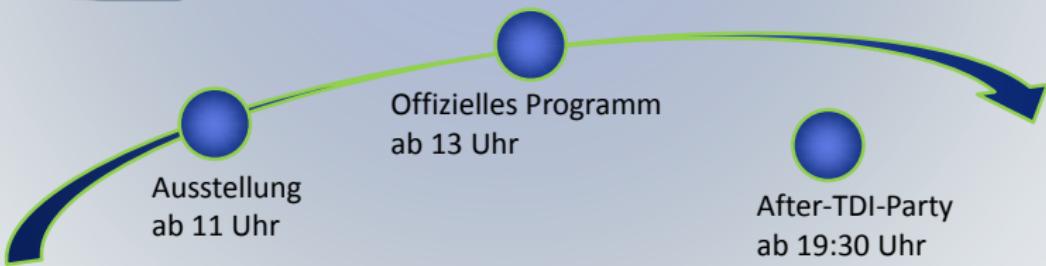
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Ahornstraße 55
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- 1 The Axiomatic Approach
- 2 The Assertion Language
- 3 Semantics of Assertions
- 4 Partial Correctness Properties
- 5 A Valid Partial Correctness Property

Example 9.1

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- “Running” c according to the operational semantics is insufficient: every change of $\sigma(N)$ requires a **new proof**
- Wanted: a more abstract, “**symbolic**” way of reasoning

Example 9.1 (continued)

Obviously c satisfies the following **assertions** (after execution of the respective statement):

```
s:=0;  
{s = 0}  
n:=1;  
{s = 0  $\wedge$  n = 1}  
while  $\neg(n > N)$  do (s:=s+n; n:=n+1)  
{s =  $\sum_{k=1}^N k$   $\wedge$  n > N}
```

where, e.g., “ $s = 0$ ” means “ $\sigma(s) = 0$ in the current state $\sigma \in \Sigma$ ”

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Validity of partial correctness property

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- “**Partial**” means that nothing is said about c if it fails to terminate
- In particular,

$\{\text{true}\} \text{while true do skip} \{\text{false}\}$

is a **valid** property

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Assertions = Boolean expressions + logical variables
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Syntactic categories:

Category	Domain	Meta variable(s)
Logical variables	$LVar$	i
Arithmetic expressions with log. var.	$LExp$	a
Assertions	$Assn$	A, B, C

Definition 9.2 (Syntax of assertions)

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

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

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Abbreviations:

$$A_1 \implies A_2 := \neg A_1 \vee A_2$$
$$\exists i. A := \neg (\forall i. \neg A)$$
$$a_1 \geq a_2 := a_1 > a_2 \vee a_1 = a_2$$
$$\vdots$$

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The semantics now additionally depends on values of logical variables:

Definition 9.3 (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

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

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Def. 5.1 (denotational semantics of arithmetic expressions) implies:

Corollary 9.4

For every $a \in AExp$ (without logical variables), $I \in Int$, and $\sigma \in \Sigma$:

$$\mathfrak{L}[a]I\sigma = \mathfrak{A}[a]\sigma.$$

- Formalized by a **satisfaction relation** of the form

$$\sigma \models A$$

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- **Modification of interpretations** (in analogy to program states):

$$I[i \mapsto z](j) := \begin{cases} z & \text{if } j = i \\ I(j) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Reminder: $A ::= t \mid a_1=a_2 \mid a_1>a_2 \mid \neg A \mid A_1 \wedge A_2 \mid A_1 \vee A_2 \mid \forall i. A \in \text{Assn}$

Definition 9.5 (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:

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

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 $\sigma \in \Sigma$.

Example 9.6

The following assertion expresses that, in the current state $\sigma \in \Sigma$, $\sigma(y)$ is the greatest divisor of $\sigma(x)$:

$$(\exists i. i > 1 \wedge i * y = x) \wedge \forall j. \forall k. (j > 1 \wedge j * k = x \implies k \leq y)$$

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In analogy to Corollary 9.4, Def. 5.2 (denotational semantics of Boolean expressions) yields:

Corollary 9.7

For every $b \in BExp$ (without logical variables), $I \in Int$, and $\sigma \in \Sigma$:

$$\sigma \models^I b \iff \mathfrak{B}[b]\sigma = \text{true}.$$

Definition 9.8 (Extension)

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

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

Note that, for every $A \in \text{Assn}$ and $I \in \text{Int}$, $\perp \in A^I$.

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Example 9.9

For $A := (\exists i. i * i = x)$ and every $I \in \text{Int}$,

$$A^I = \{\perp\} \cup \{\sigma \in \Sigma \mid \sigma(x) \in \{0, 1, 4, 9, \dots\}\}$$

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Definition 9.10 (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 .

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