Deductive Verification

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How to write software that is correct?

- First approach
 - **1** First, write the software.
 - 2 Then, whack it with whatever you can find (verify & test it, burn it) until no bugs.
- Second approach
 - Verified Programming: programming + deductive verification
 - i.e., writing codes with annotations

cautionary tale: binary search

- algorithm first published in 1946, but first correct version didn't appear until 1962
- in 1988, a survey of 20 textbooks on algorithms found that at least 15 of them had errors
- Bentley reports giving it as a programming problem to over 100 professional programmers from Bell Labs and IBM, with 2 hours to produce a correct program. At least 90% of the solutions were wrong. Dijkstra reported similar statistics in experiments he performed at many institutions.
- Bentley published a CACM "programming pearl" on binary search and proving it correct, expanded to 14 pages in "Programming Pearls" (1986).
- Joshua Bloch used Bentley's code as a basis for the binary search implementation in the JDK, in 1997.
- in 2006, a bug was found in the JDK code, the same bug that was in Bentley's code, which nobody had noticed for 20 years. The same bug was in the C code Bentley published for the second edition of his book in 2000.
- these are not exactly your average programmers

[from slides of Ernie Cohen]

Deductive Verification

- the system is accompanied by specification
- these are converted into proof obligations (program invariant—a big formula)
- the truth of proof obligations imply correctness of the system
 - this is discharged by different methods:
 - SMT solvers (Z3, STP, CVC4, ...)
 - automatic theorem provers (Vampire, Prover9, E, ...)
 - interactive theorem provers (Coq, Isabelle, PVS, ...)
- Pros:
 - strong correctness guarantees (e.g., program correct "up to bugs in the solver")
 - modularity; can be quite general
- Cons:
 - quite manual ~> expensive, high user expertise needed
 - garbage in, garbage out
 - not always easy to get counterexamples
 - not so strong tool support

A Bit of History ...

- 1949: Alan Turing: Checking a Large Routine.
- 1969: Tony Hoare: An Axiomatic Basis for Computer Programming.
 - a formal system for rigorous reasoning about programs
 - ► Floyd-Hoare triples {pre} stmt {post}
 - 1967: Robert Floyd: Assigning Meaning to Programs
- 1971: Tony Hoare: Proof of a Program: FIND
- 1976: E. Dijkstra: A Discipline of Programming.
 - weakest-precondition calculus
- 2000: efficient tool support starts

Floyd-Hoare Logic

Let us consider the following imperative programming language:

- Expression: $E ::= n | x | E_1 + E_2 | E_1 \times E_2$ for $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $x \in \mathbb{X}$ (set of program variables)
- \blacksquare Conditional: $C ::= \texttt{true} \mid \texttt{false} \mid E_1 = E_2 \mid E_1 \leq E_2 \mid E_1 < E_2$

Statement:

A program is a statement.

Partial correctness of programs in Hoare logic is specified using Hoare triples:

 $\{P\} \ S \ \{Q\}$

where

- $\blacksquare~S$ is a statement of the programming language
- P and Q are formulae in a suitable fragment of logic (usually first-order logic or SMT)
 - P is called precondition
 - \blacktriangleright Q is called postcondition

Meaning:

- if S is executed from a state (program configuration) satisfying formula P
- and the execution of S terminates,
- \blacksquare then the program state after S terminates satisfies formula Q.

Example

I Is
$$\{x = 0\}$$
 x := x + 1 $\{x = 1\}$ a valid Hoare triple?

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Example

1 Is
$$\{x = 0\}$$
 x := x + 1 $\{x = 1\}$ a valid Hoare triple?
2 $\{x = 0 \land y = 1\}$ x := x + 1 $\{x = 1 \land y = 2\}$?

Partial correctness of programs in Hoare logic is specified using Hoare triples:

 $\{P\} \ S \ \{Q\}$

where

- \blacksquare S is a statement of the programming language
- P and Q are formulae in a suitable fragment of logic (usually first-order logic or SMT)
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Meaning:

- if S is executed from a state (program configuration) satisfying formula P
- and the execution of S terminates,
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Example

1 Is $\{x = 0\}$ x := x + 1 $\{x = 1\}$ a valid Hoare triple? **3** $\{x = 0\}$ x := x + 1 $\{x = 1 \lor y = 2\}$? **2** $\{x = 0 \land y = 1\}$ x := x + 1 $\{x = 1 \land y = 2\}$?

Partial correctness of programs in Hoare logic is specified using Hoare triples:

 $\{P\} \ S \ \{Q\}$

where

- \blacksquare S is a statement of the programming language
- P and Q are formulae in a suitable fragment of logic (usually first-order logic or SMT)
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Meaning:

- if S is executed from a state (program configuration) satisfying formula P
- and the execution of S terminates,
- \blacksquare then the program state after S terminates satisfies formula Q.

Example

1 Is $\{x = 0\}$ x := x + 1 $\{x = 1\}$ a valid Hoare triple? **2** $\{x = 0 \land y = 1\}$ x := x + 1 $\{x = 1 \land y = 2\}$? **3** $\{x = 0\}$ x := x + 1 $\{x = 1 \lor y = 2\}$? **4** $\{x = 0\}$ while true do x := 0 $\{x = 1\}$?

Total Correctness

- $\{P\} S \{Q\}$ does not require S to terminate (*partial correctness*).
- Hoare triples for total correctness:

$[P] \ S \ [Q]$

Meaning:

- if S is executed from a state (program configuration) satisfying formula P,
- then the execution of S terminates and
- \blacktriangleright the program state after S terminates satisfies formula Q.

Example

Is [x=0] while true do $\mathbf{x} := \mathbf{0} \ [x=1]$ valid?

In the following we focus only on partial correctness.

Example

What are the meanings of the following Hoare triples? $\blacksquare \ \{true\} \ S \ \{Q\}$

Example

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Example

What are the meanings of the following Hoare triples?

{true} S {Q}
 {P} S {true}
 [P] S [true]
 {true} S {false}

Example

What are the meanings of the following Hoare triples?

Example

What are the meanings of the following Hoare triples?

Example

Are the following Hoare triples valid or invalid? 1 $\{i = 0 \land n \ge 0\}$ while i<n do i++ $\{i = n\}$

Example

What are the meanings of the following Hoare triples?

Example

Are the following Hoare triples valid or invalid? $\{i = 0 \land n \ge 0\} \text{ while } i < n \text{ do } i + \{i = n\}$ $\{i = 0 \land n \ge 0\} \text{ rhile } i < n \text{ do } i + \{i \ge n\}$

2 $\{i=0 \wedge n \geq 0\}$ while i<n do i++ $\{i \geq n\}$

Example

What are the meanings of the following Hoare triples?

Example

Are the following Hoare triples valid or invalid? $\{i = 0 \land n \ge 0\}$ while i<n do i++ $\{i = n\}$ $\{i = 0 \land n \ge 0\}$ while i<n do i++ $\{i \ge n\}$ $\{i = 0 \land j = 0 \land n \ge 0\}$ while i<n do {i++; j+=i} $\{2j = n(1+n)\}$

Inference Rules

We write proof rules in Hoare logic as inference rules:

$$\frac{\vdash \{P_1\} S_1 \{Q_1\} \dots \vdash \{P_n\} S_n \{Q_n\}}{\vdash \{P\} S \{Q\}}$$

Meaning:

If all Hoare triples $\{P_1\}$ S_1 $\{Q_1\}$, ..., $\{P_n\}$ S_n $\{Q_n\}$ are provable, then $\{P\}$ S $\{Q\}$ is also provable.

In general, inference rules have the format $\frac{premises}{deductions}$ NAME. A rule with no premises is an axiom.

The proof system will have one rule for every statement of our language:

- an axiom for *atomic* statements: assignments,
- inference rules for *composite* statements: sequence, if, while
- auxiliary "helper" rules

For assignment x := E, we have the following proof rule:

$$\overline{\vdash \{Q[E/x]\} \ x := E \ \{Q\}} \ \text{Assgn}$$

where Q[E/x] denotes the formula obtained from Q by substituting all free occurrences of x by E

Example

1
$$\{y = 4\}$$
 x := 4 $\{y = x\}$

For assignment x := E, we have the following proof rule:

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Example

1 {
$$y = 4$$
} x := 4 { $y = x$ }
2 { $x = n - 1$ } x := x+1 { $x = n$]

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Example

$$\{y = 4\} x := 4 \{y = x\}$$

$$\{x = n - 1\} x := x + 1 \{x = n\}$$

3
$$\{y = x\}$$
 y := 2 $\{y = x\}$

For assignment x := E, we have the following proof rule:

$$\overline{\vdash \{Q[E/x]\} \ x := E \ \{Q\}} \ \text{Assgn}$$

where Q[E/x] denotes the formula obtained from Q by substituting all free occurrences of x by E

Example

1 {
$$y = 4$$
} x := 4 { $y = x$ }
2 { $x = n - 1$ } x := x+1 { $x = n$ }
3 { $y = x$ } y := 2 { $y = x$ }
4 { $z = 3$ } y := x { $z = 3$ }

For assignment x := E, we have the following proof rule:

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where Q[E/x] denotes the formula obtained from Q by substituting all free occurrences of x by E

Example

1
$$\{y = 4\}$$
 x := 4 $\{y = x\}$
2 $\{x = n - 1\}$ x := x+1 $\{x = n\}$
3 $\{y = x\}$ y := 2 $\{y = x\}$
4 $\{z = 3\}$ y := x $\{z = 3\}$
5 $\{z = 3\}$ y := x $\{x = y\}$

Strengthening/Weakening

Strengthening/weakening might be necessary in order to be able to apply some rules

Precondition Strengthening	Postcondition Weakening
$\frac{\vdash \{P'\} \ S \ \{Q\}}{\vdash \{P\} \ S \ \{Q\}} \xrightarrow{P \Rightarrow P'} \text{Strength}$	$\frac{\vdash \{P\} \ S \ \{Q'\}}{\vdash \{P\} \ S \ \{Q\}} \frac{Q' \Rightarrow Q}{WEAK}$
Precondition can be always tightened to something stronger.	Postcondition can be always relaxed to something weaker.

Conclusion (generalisation of the two above rules)

$$\frac{P \Rightarrow P' \qquad \vdash \{P'\} \ S \ \{Q'\} \qquad Q' \Rightarrow Q}{\vdash \{P\} \ S \ \{Q\}} \text{ Concl}$$

Example

We can now prove the following: $\{z=3\}$ y $\,:=\,\mathbf{x}\,\,\{x=y\}$

Example

We can now prove the following: $\{z = 3\}$ y := x $\{x = y\}$

$$\frac{-\{(x=y)[x/y]\} \ \mathbf{y} \ := \ \mathbf{x} \ \{x=y\}}{\vdash \{true\} \ \mathbf{y} \ := \ \mathbf{x} \ \{x=y\}} \frac{ASSGN}{z=3 \Rightarrow true}$$

$$\frac{z=3 \Rightarrow true}{\vdash \{z=3\} \ \mathbf{y} \ := \ \mathbf{x} \ \{x=y\}}$$
STRENGTH

Example

We can now prove the following: $\{z=3\}$ y $\,:=\,{\bf x}\,\,\{x=y\}$

$$\frac{-\{(x=y)[x/y]\} \mathbf{y} := \mathbf{x} \{x=y\}}{\vdash \{true\} \mathbf{y} := \mathbf{x} \{x=y\}} \xrightarrow{ASSGN} z = 3 \Rightarrow true} z = 3 \Rightarrow true}{\vdash \{z=3\} \mathbf{y} := \mathbf{x} \{x=y\}} STRENGTH}$$

Example

Assume $\vdash \{true\} S \{x = y \land z = 2\}$. Which of the following can we prove? [] $\{true\} S \{x = y\}$

Example

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Example

Assume $\vdash \{true\} S \{x = y \land z = 2\}$. Which of the following can we prove? 1 $\{true\} S \{x = y\}$ 2 $\{true\} S \{z = 2\}$

Example

We can now prove the following: $\{z=3\}$ y $\,:=\,{\bf x}\,\,\{x=y\}$

$$\frac{-\{(x=y)[x/y]\} \mathbf{y} := \mathbf{x} \{x=y\}}{\vdash \{true\} \mathbf{y} := \mathbf{x} \{x=y\}} \xrightarrow{ASSGN} z = 3 \Rightarrow true} z = 3 \Rightarrow true}{\vdash \{z=3\} \mathbf{y} := \mathbf{x} \{x=y\}} STRENGTH}$$

Example

Assume $\vdash \{true\} S \{x = y \land z = 2\}$. Which of the following can we prove? $\{true\} S \{x = y\}$ $\{true\} S \{z = 2\}$ $\{true\} S \{z > 0\}$

Example

We can now prove the following: $\{z=3\}$ y $\,:=\,{\bf x}\,\,\{x=y\}$

$$\frac{-\{(x=y)[x/y]\} \mathbf{y} := \mathbf{x} \{x=y\}}{\vdash \{true\} \mathbf{y} := \mathbf{x} \{x=y\}} \xrightarrow{ASSGN} z = 3 \Rightarrow true} z = 3 \Rightarrow true} + \{z=3\} \mathbf{y} := \mathbf{x} \{x=y\}} STRENGTH}$$

Example

Assume $\vdash \{true\} S \{x = y \land z = 2\}$. Which of the following can we prove? $\{true\} S \{x = y\}$ $\{true\} S \{z = 2\}$ $\{true\} S \{z > 0\}$ $\{true\} S \{\forall u(x = u)\}$

Example

We can now prove the following: $\{z=3\}$ y $\,:=\,{\bf x}\,\,\{x=y\}$

$$\frac{-\{(x=y)[x/y]\} \mathbf{y} := \mathbf{x} \{x=y\}}{\vdash \{true\} \mathbf{y} := \mathbf{x} \{x=y\}} \xrightarrow{ASSGN} z = 3 \Rightarrow true} z = 3 \Rightarrow true} + \{z=3\} \mathbf{y} := \mathbf{x} \{x=y\}} STRENGTH}$$

Example

Assume $\vdash \{true\} S \{x = y \land z = 2\}$. Which of the following can we prove? $\{true\} S \{x = y\}$ $\{true\} S \{z = 2\}$ $\{true\} S \{z > 0\}$ $\{true\} S \{\forall u(x = u)\}$ $\{true\} S \{\exists u(x = u)\}$

Proof Rule (Sequence)

For a sequence of two statements $S_1; S_2$, we have the following proof rule:

$$\frac{\vdash \{P\} S_1 \{R\} \vdash \{R\} S_2 \{Q\}}{\vdash \{P\} S_1; S_2 \{Q\}}$$
SEQ

Often, we need to find an appropriate R.

Example

Prove the correctness of $\{true\}$ x := 2; y := x $\{x = 2 \land y = 2\}$:

Proof Rule (Sequence)

For a sequence of two statements $S_1; S_2$, we have the following proof rule:

$$\frac{\vdash \{P\} S_1 \{R\} \vdash \{R\} S_2 \{Q\}}{\vdash \{P\} S_1; S_2 \{Q\}}$$
SEQ

Often, we need to find an appropriate R.

Example

Prove the correctness of $\{true\} \ge 2$; $y := \ge \{x = 2 \land y = 2\}$:

$$\frac{}{\vdash \{true\} \mathbf{x} := 2 \{x = 2\}} \xrightarrow{\text{Assgn}} \quad \frac{}{\vdash \{x = 2\} \mathbf{y} := \mathbf{x} \{x = 2 \land y = 2\}} \xrightarrow{\text{Assgn}} \\ \quad \vdash \{true\} \mathbf{x} := 2; \mathbf{y} := \mathbf{x} \{x = 2 \land y = 2\}} \xrightarrow{\text{Seq}}$$

Proof Rule (If)

For if C then S_1 else S_2 we have the following proof rule:

$$\vdash \{P \land C\} S_1 \{Q\} \qquad \vdash \{P \land \neg C\} S_2 \{Q\} \\ \vdash \{P\} \text{ if } C \text{ then } S_1 \text{ else } S_2 \{Q\} \text{ IF }$$

Example

Prove the correctness of $\{true\}$ if x > 0 then y := x else y := -x $\{y \ge 0\}$.

Proof Rule (If)

For if C then S_1 else S_2 we have the following proof rule:

$$\vdash \{P \land C\} S_1 \{Q\} \qquad \vdash \{P \land \neg C\} S_2 \{Q\} \\ \vdash \{P\} \text{ if } C \text{ then } S_1 \text{ else } S_2 \{Q\} \text{ IF }$$

Example

Prove the correctness of $\{true\}$ if x > 0 then y := x else y := -x $\{y \ge 0\}$.

$$\begin{array}{c|c} \hline + \{x \ge 0\} \ \mathbf{y} \ := \ \mathbf{x} \ \{y \ge 0\} \\ \hline + \{x > 0\} \ \mathbf{y} \ := \ \mathbf{x} \ \{y \ge 0\} \end{array} \xrightarrow{\text{ASSGN}} & \hline + \{-x \ge 0\} \ \mathbf{y} \ := \ -\mathbf{x} \ \{y \ge 0\} \xrightarrow{\text{ASSGN}} \\ \hline + \{x \ge 0\} \ \mathbf{y} \ := \ -\mathbf{x} \ \{y \ge 0\} \xrightarrow{\text{ASSGN}} \\ \hline + \{true\} \ \text{if} \ \mathbf{x} > 0 \ \text{then} \ \mathbf{y} \ := \ \mathbf{x} \ \text{else} \ \mathbf{y} \ := \ -\mathbf{x} \ \{y \ge 0\} \xrightarrow{\text{IF}} \\ \end{array}$$

Consider the following code:

```
i := 0; j := 0; n := 10;
while i < n do {
    i := i + 1;
    j := i + j;
}
```

Which of the following formulae are loop invariants?

$$i \le n$$
 $i < n$ $j \ge 0$

For while C do S we have the following proof rule:

Consider the following code:

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i := 0; j := 0; n := 10;
while i < n do {
    i := i + 1;
    j := i + j;
}
```

Which of the following formulae are loop invariants?

$$i \le n$$
 $i < n$ $j \ge 0$

For while C do S we have the following proof rule:

$$\frac{\vdash \{P \land C\} \ S \ \{P\}}{\vdash \{P\} \text{ while } C \text{ do } S \ \{P \land \neg C\}} \text{ While }$$

"If P is a loop invariant, then $P \wedge \neg C$ must hold after the loop terminates."

Example

Prove the correctness of $\{x \le n\}$ while x < n do x := x+1 $\{x \ge n\}$.

Example

Prove the correctness of $\{x \le n\}$ while x < n do x := x+1 $\{x \ge n\}$.

Exercise

Prove partial correctness of the program below

```
/* { y = 12 } */
x := y;
while (x < 30) {
    x := x * 2;
    x := x - 2;
}
/* { x = 42 } */</pre>
```

Hint: a suitable candidate for the loop invariant might be the formula $(\exists n \in \mathbb{N} \colon x = 2^n(y-2) + 2) \land (x \leq 42).$

How does it work in practice?

In the following, we will be using VCC (A Verifier for Concurrent C):

- available at https://github.com/microsoft/vcc
- can run as a MS Visual Studio plugin (needs older VS)
- currently somewhat orphaned and not industrial-strong
- but used to verify MS Hyper-V hypervisor
 - ▶ 60 KLOC of operating system-level concurrent C and x64 assembly code
- interactive web interface: https://rise4fun.com/Vcc
- other systems exist (Frama-C, OpenJML, ...)

Let's start with something simple

#include <vcc.h>

```
unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y)
{
    unsigned w = x + y;
    return w;
}
```

VCC Research

Does this C program always work?

```
1 #include <vcc.h>
2
3 unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y)
4 {
5 unsigned w = x + y;
6 return w;
7 }
```

		Description	Line	Column
\otimes	1	x + y might overflow.	5	16

```
Verification of add failed. [1.83]
snip(5,16) : error VC8004: x + y might overflow.
Verification errors in 1 function(s)
Exiting with 3 (1 error(s).)
```

```
Fix attempt #1:
```

#include <vcc.h>

```
unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y)
_(requires x + y <= UINT_MAX) // <-- added precondition
{
    unsigned w = x + y;
    return w;
}</pre>
```

VCC Research

Does this C program always work?

```
1 #include <vcc.h>
2
3 unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y)
4 _(requires x + y <= UINT_MAX)
5 {
6 unsigned w = x + y;
7 return w;
8 }</pre>
```

Verification of add succeeded. [1.83]

VCC Research

Does this C program always work?

```
1 #include <vcc.h>
2
3 unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y)
4 _(requires x + y <= UINT_MAX)
5 {
6 unsigned w = x + y;
7 return w;
8 }</pre>
```

Verification of add succeeded. [1.83]

verifies, but what?

```
Fix attempt #2:
#include <vcc.h>
unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y)
_(requires x + y <= UINT_MAX)
_(ensures \result == x + y) // <-- added postcondition
{
    unsigned w = x + y;
    return w;
}</pre>
```

VCC Research

Does this C program always work?

```
1 #include <vcc.h>
2
3 unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y)
4 _(requires x + y <= UINT_MAX)
5 _(ensures \result == x + y)
6 {
7 unsigned w = x + y;
8 return w;
9 }</pre>
```

Verification of add succeeded. [1.88]

verifies wrt the specification \o/

Example 1 — post mortem

What did we do?

- **1** First, we tried to verify a code with no annotations
 - VCC has a set of default correctness properties
 - e.g. no NULL pointer dereference, (over/under)-flows, 0-division, ...
 - one property was violated
- 2 We fixed the violation using a _(requires φ) annotation
 - **precondition**: formula φ holds on entry to to the function (extended C syntax)

3 We provided an _(ensures ψ) annotation to define what we expect as a result

postcondition: formula ψ holds on return from the function (\result is the output)

preconditions + postconditions = function contract

Example 1 — post mortem

What happened behind the scenes?

the function and its specification were converted into a formula of the form

 $(pre \land \varphi_P) \rightarrow (post \land safe_P)$

```
> pre is the precondition

> post is the postcondition

> \varphi_P is a formula representing the function

> safe_P represents implicit safety conditions on P

• no overflows, no out-of-bounds array accesses, ...

(x_0+y_0 \leq \text{UINT}_MAX \land w_1 = x_0+y_0 \land res = w_1) \rightarrow (res = x_0+y_0 \land x_0+y_0 \leq \text{UINT}_MAX)
```

#include <vcc.h>

the formula is tested for validity with an SMT solver (Z3) that supports the theories unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y)

 $(requires x + y \le UINT_MAX)$

WE NEED TO GO

DEEPER

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Deductive Verification

troll-face.ru

Suppose we don't believe our compiler's implementation of "+": let's write our own!

#include <vcc.h>

```
unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y)
  (requires x + y \le UINT MAX)
 (ensures \result == x + y)
 unsigned i = x; // ORIGINAL CODE:
 unsigned j = y; // unsigned w = x + y;
                    // return w:
 while (i > 0)
   --i:
   ++j;
  }
```

return j;

3

VCC

Does this C program always work?

```
1
  #include <vcc.h>
 2
   unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y)
 3
 4
     _(requires x + y \le UINT_MAX)
 5
     _(ensures \result == x + y)
 6
 7
     unsigned i = x;
 8
     unsigned j = y;
 9
10
     while (i > 0)
11
12
       --i:
13
      ++j;
14
15
16
     return i:
17
```

VCC

Does this C program always work?

```
#include <vcc.h>
 1
 2
   unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y)
 3
     _(requires x + y \le UINT_MAX)
 4
 5
     _(ensures \result == x + y)
 6
 7
     unsigned i = x;
 8
     unsigned j = y;
 9
10
     while (i > 0)
11
     Ł
12
       --i:
13
       ++j;
14
     }
15
16
     return j;
17 }
```

		Description	Line	Column
\otimes	1	++j might overflow.	13	5
\propto	2	Post condition '\result == x + y' did not verify.	16	3
\propto	3	(related information) Location of post condition.	5	13

VCC

Does this C program always work?

```
1 #include <vcc.h>
 2
   unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y)
 3
     (requires x + v \le UINT_MAX)
 4
 5
     _(ensures \result == x + y)
 6
 7
     unsigned i = x;
 8
     unsigned j = y;
 9
10
     while (i > 0)
11
12
        --i:
13
        <u>++j;</u>
14
15
16
     return j;
17 }
```

		Description	Line	Column
X	1	++j might overflow.	13	5
\otimes	2	Post condition '\result == $x + y'$ did not verify.	16	3
\otimes	3	(related information) Location of post condition.	5	13

doesn't verify, but the violation ++j might overflow. is spurious. How to get rid of it?



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Deductive Verification

```
Fix #1:
unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y)
 (requires x + y <= UINT_MAX)
 (ensures \result == x + y)
ł
 unsigned i = x; // ORIGINAL CODE:
 unsigned j = y; // unsigned w = x + y;
                     // return w:
 while (i > 0)
   (invariant i + j == x + y) // <-- added invariant
  {
   --i:
   ++j;
  }
 return j;
}
```

Example 2	
Research	
VCC	
Does this C program always work?	
1 #include <vcc.h></vcc.h>	
<pre>2 3 unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y) 4(requires x + y <= UINT_MAX) 5(ensures \result == x + y) 6 {</pre>	
7 unsigned i = x; 8 unsigned j = y; 9	
10 while (i > 0) 11(invariant i + j == x + y) 12 {	
13i; 14 ++j;	
15 } 16 17 return j;	
18 }	
Verification of add succeeded. [0.7	8]

\blacksquare verifies wrt the specification \o/

What did we do?

- **1** We substituted implementation of a function with a different one
 - the contract is still the same
- 2 The new implementation cannot be verified as is
 - unbounded loops cannot be easily transformed into a static formula
- **3** We needed to provide a **loop invariant**: _(invariant *I*) where *I* is a formula s.t.
 - I holds every time the loop head is reached (before evaluating the loop test)

```
Example 2 — post mortem
```

```
while (C)
  _(invariant I)
{
   // Body
}
```

We can then substitute the loop by

```
_(assert I)
_(assume I && !C)
```

but we also need to check validity of the formula

$$(I \land \varphi_B) \to (I \land safe_B)$$

 ${\scriptstyle \blacksquare } \ \varphi_B$ is a formula representing the loop body

 $\hfill safe_B$ represents implicit safety conditions on the loop body



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```
unsigned lsearch(int elt, int *ar, unsigned sz)
_(ensures \result != UINT_MAX ==> ar[\result] == elt)
_(ensures \forall unsigned i; i < sz && i < \result ==> ar[i] != elt)
{
    unsigned i;
    for (i = 0; i < sz; i = 1)
    {
        if (ar[i] == elt) return i;
    }
}</pre>
```

```
return UINT_MAX;
```

}

VCC Research

Does	this C program always work?		
1	unsigned lsearch(int elt, int *ar, unsigned sz) _(ensures \result != UINT_MAX ==> ar[\result] == elt)		
4	_(ensures \forall unsigned i; i < sz && i < \result ==> ar[i] != elt)		
5			
6	unsigned i;		
7	for $(i = 0; i < sz; i = 1)$		
8	{		
9	if Car[i] == elt) return i;		_
10	}		•
11			
12	return UINT_MAX;		
13	}		
	Description	Line	Column
🐼 1	Assertion 'ar[i] is thread local' did not verify.	9	9
2 🚫	Post condition '\forall unsigned i; i < sz && i < \result ==> ar[i] != elt)' did not verify.	9	23
🐼 3	(related information) Location of post condition.	4	13

```
Fix #1:
```

}

```
unsigned lsearch(int elt, int *ar, unsigned sz)
 (requires \thread local array(ar, sz)) // <-- added precondition
 _(ensures \result != UINT_MAX ==> ar[\result] == elt)
  (ensures \forall unsigned i; i < sz && i < \result ==> ar[i] != elt)
 unsigned i:
 for (i = 0; i < sz; i = 1)
  Ł
   if (ar[i] == elt) return i;
  }
```

return UINT_MAX;

Example 3 VCC

Does this C program always work?

```
unsigned lsearch(int elt, int *ar, unsigned sz)
     (requires \thread_local_array(ar, sz))
 2
    _(ensures \result != UINT_MAX ==> ar[\result] == elt)
 3
     _(ensures \forall unsigned i; i < sz && i < \result ==> ar[i] != elt)
 4
5 {
 6
     unsigned i:
     for (i = 0; i < sz; i = 1)
 7
8
      if (ar[i] == elt) return i;
9
10
     }
11
12
     return UINT_MAX;
13 }
   Description
                                                                                                         Line Column
   Post condition '\forall unsigned i: i < sz && i < \result ==> ar[i] != elt)' did not verify. 9
                                                                                                              23
```

(related information) Location of post condition.

4 13

Example 3 VCC

Does this C program always work?

```
unsigned lsearch(int elt, int *ar, unsigned sz)
     (requires \thread_local_array(ar, sz))
 2
    _(ensures \result != UINT_MAX ==> ar[\result] == elt)
 3
     _(ensures \forall unsigned i; i < sz && i < \result ==> ar[i] != elt)
 4
5 {
 6
     unsigned i:
     for (i = 0; i < sz; i = 1)
 7
8
9
       if (ar[i] == elt) return i;
10
     }
11
12
     return UINT_MAX:
13 }
   Description
                                                                                                         Line Column
   Post condition '\forall unsigned i: i < sz \& i < \result ==> ar[i] != elt)' did not verify.
                                                                                                        9
                                                                                                              23
```

```
    2 (related information) Location of post condition.
```

still doesn't verify

4 13

```
Fix \#2: Let's provide a loop invariant!
unsigned lsearch(int elt, int *ar, unsigned sz)
  (requires \thread local array(ar, sz))
  (ensures \result != UINT MAX ==> ar[\result] == elt)
  (ensures \forall unsigned i; i < sz && i < \result ==> ar[i] != elt)
  unsigned i;
  for (i = 0; i < sz; i = 1)
    (invariant \forall unsigned j; j < i ==> ar[j] != elt) // <-- added invariant
  Ł
    if (ar[i] == elt) return i:
  }
```

return UINT_MAX;

}

VCC

Does this C program always work?

```
1 unsigned lsearch(int elt, int *ar, unsigned sz)
 2 _(requires \thread_local_array(ar, sz))
     _(ensures \result != UINT_MAX ==> ar[\result] == elt)
 3
     _(ensures \forall unsigned i; i < sz && i < \result ==> ar[i] != elt)
 4
 5 {
     unsigned i:
 6
 7
     for (i = 0; i < sz; i = 1)
 8
       _(invariant \forall unsigned j; j < i \implies ar[j] != elt)
 9
     Ł
10
       if (ar[i] == elt) return i;
11
     }
12
13
     return UINT_MAX:
14 }
```

Verification of lsearch succeeded. [2.19]

VCC

Does this C program always work?

```
1 unsigned lsearch(int elt, int *ar, unsigned sz)
 2 _(requires \thread_local_array(ar, sz))
    _(ensures \result != UINT_MAX ==> ar[\result] == elt)
 3
     _(ensures \forall unsigned i; i < sz \& i < \result ==> ar[i] != elt)
 4
 5 {
     unsigned i:
 6
 7
     for (i = 0; i < sz; i = 1)
 8
       _(invariant \forall unsigned j; j < i \implies ar[j] != elt)
 9
     Ł
10
       if (ar[i] == elt) return i;
11
     }
12
13
     return UINT_MAX:
14 }
```

Verification of lsearch succeeded. [2.19]

■ Verifies! Great!!!! ... or is it?

```
Fix \#3: provide a termination requirement
unsigned lsearch(int elt, int *ar, unsigned sz)
  (requires \thread local array(ar, sz))
  (ensures \result != UINT MAX ==> ar[\result] == elt)
  _(ensures \forall unsigned i; i < sz && i < \result ==> ar[i] != elt)
                         // <-- added termination requirement
  (decreases 0)
  unsigned i:
  for (i = 0; i < sz; i = 1)
    (invariant \forall unsigned j; j < i ==> ar[j] != elt)
  ł
    if (ar[i] == elt) return i;
  }
```

return UINT_MAX;

}

Example 3 VCC

Does this C program always work?

```
1
  unsigned lsearch(int elt, int *ar, unsigned sz)
     (requires \ \ sz)
 2
 3
     _(ensures \result != UINT_MAX ==> ar[\result] == elt)
     _(ensures \forall unsigned i: i < sz \&\& i < \result ==> ar[i] != elt)
 4
     _(decreases 0)
 5
6 {
 7
     unsigned i;
 8
     for (i = 0; i < sz; i = 1)
 9
       _(invariant \forall unsigned j; j < i ==> ar[j] != elt)
10
11
       if (ar[i] == elt) return i;
12
     3
13
14
     return UINT_MAX:
15 }
```

	Description	Line	Column
🚫 1	the loop fails to decrease termination measure.	8	3

Ooops: the loop fails to decrease termination measure.

```
Fix #4: fix the code
unsigned lsearch(int elt, int *ar, unsigned sz)
  (requires \thread local array(ar, sz))
  (ensures \result != UINT MAX ==> ar[\result] == elt)
  _(ensures \forall unsigned i; i < sz && i < \result ==> ar[i] != elt)
  (decreases 0)
  unsigned i:
  for (i = 0; i < sz; i += 1) // <-- code fix
    (invariant \forall unsigned j; j < i ==> ar[j] != elt)
  ł
    if (ar[i] == elt) return i:
  }
```

}

Example 3 VCC

Does this C program always work?

```
1 unsigned lsearch(int elt, int *ar, unsigned sz)
     (requires \thread_local_array(ar, sz))
 3
     _(ensures \result != UINT_MAX ==> ar[\result] == elt)
 4
     _(ensures \forall unsigned i; i < sz && i < \result ==> ar[i] != elt)
 5
     _(decreases Ø)
 6
   Ł
 7
     unsigned i;
 8
     for (i = 0; i < sz; i += 1)
       _(invariant \forall unsigned j; j < i \implies ar[j] != elt)
 9
10
11
       if (ar[i] == elt) return i;
12
     3
13
14
     return UINT_MAX:
15 }
```

Verification of lsearch succeeded. [3.41]

Verifies!

Example 3 — post mortem

What did we do?

our annotations got more complex:

```
unsigned lsearch(int elt, int *ar, unsigned sz)
_(requires \thread_local_array(ar, sz))
_(ensures \result != UINT_MAX ==> ar[\result] == elt)
_(ensures \forall unsigned i; i < sz && i < \result ==> ar[i] != elt)
_(decreases 0)
```

- ==>, <==: implication, <==>: equivalence, \forall: ∀, \exists: ∃ quantifiers (typed)
- _(decreases 0): simply states that lsearch terminates
 - for more complex code, termination measure needs to be provided on loops
 - the measure should decrease in every iteration of the loop
 - for recursive procedures, termination measure should decrease in every call

Example 3 — post mortem

partial correctness: every answer returned by a program is correct
 total correctness: above + the algorithm also terminates

```
unsigned bsearch(int elt, int *ar, unsigned sz)
  (requires \thread local array(ar, sz))
  _(ensures \result != UINT_MAX ==> ar[\result] == elt)
  (ensures \forall unsigned i; i < sz && i < \result ==> ar[i] != elt)
 (decreases 0)
  if (sz == 0) return UINT MAX;
  unsigned left = 0;
  unsigned right = sz - 1;
  while (left < right) {</pre>
    unsigned mid = (left + right) / 2;
    if (ar[mid] < elt) {
     left = mid + 1;
    } else if (ar[mid] > elt) {
     right = mid -1;
   } else {
     return mid:
    }
```

```
return UINT_MAX;
```

7

VCC Research

Does this C program always work?

1	unsigned bsearch(int elt, int *ar, unsigned sz)		
2	_(requires \thread_local_array(ar, sz))		
3	_(ensures \result != UINT_MAX ==> ar[\result] == elt)		
4	_(ensures \forall unsigned i; i < sz && i < \result ==> ar[i] != elt)		
5	_(decreases 0)		
6	< Contract of the second s		
7	if (sz == 0) return UINT_MAX;		
8	unsigned left = 0;		
9	unsigned right = $sz - 1$;		
10			
11	while (left < right) {		
12	unsigned mid = (left + right) / 2;		
13	if [ar[mid] < elt) {		
14	left = mid + 1;		
15	} else if (ar[mid] > elt) {		
16	right = mid - 1; Description	Line	Column
17	} else { 🔞 1 left + right might overflow.	12	21
18	return mid; 🕺 Assertion 'ar[mid] is thread local' did not verify.	13	9
19	a mid - 1 might overflow.	16	15
20	4 the loop fails to decrease termination measure.	11	3
21	return UINT_MAX; 05 Post condition '\forall unsigned i; i < sz & i < \result ==> ar[i] != elt)' did not verify.	18	7
22		4	13

```
unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y)
_(ensures \result == x + y);
```

```
unsigned super_add(unsigned x, unsigned y, unsigned z)
_(ensures \result == x + y + z)
{
    unsigned w = add(x, y);
    w = add(w, z);
    return w;
}
```

VCC

Does this C program always work?

```
1 unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y)
2 __(ensures \result == x + y);
3
4 unsigned super_add(unsigned x, unsigned y, unsigned z)
5 __(ensures \result == x + y + z)
6 {
7 unsigned w = add(x, y);
8 w = add(w, z);
9 return w;
10 }
```

Verification of super_add succeeded. [2.88]

Verifies!

How about when we add an implementation of add?

```
unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y)
_(ensures \result == x + y);
```

```
unsigned super_add(unsigned x, unsigned y, unsigned z)
  (ensures \ | z = x + y + z)
  unsigned w = add(x, y);
  w = add(w, z);
  return w:
}
unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y) // <-- added implementation
{
  return x + y;
}
```

VCC

Does this C program always work? unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y) 1 _(ensures \result == x + y); З unsigned super_add(unsigned x, unsigned y, unsigned z) 4 _(ensures \result == x + y + z) 6 { 7 unsigned w = add(x, y);w = add(w, z);8 9 return w: 10 } 11 12 unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned v) 13 { 14 return x + y: 15 } Description Line Column 🚫 1 x + y might overflow. 14 10

VCC

Does this C program always work? unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y) 1 _(ensures \result == x + y); З unsigned super_add(unsigned x, unsigned y, unsigned z) 4 _(ensures \result == x + y + z) 6 { 7 unsigned w = add(x, y); w = add(w, z);8 9 return w: 10 } 11 12 unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned v) 13 { 14 return x + y: 15 } Description Line Column 🐼 1 x + y might overflow. 14 10

Ouch!

```
unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y)
_(requires x + y <= UINT_MAX) // <-- added precondition
_(ensures \result == x + y);</pre>
```

```
unsigned super add(unsigned x, unsigned y, unsigned z)
  (ensures \result == x + y + z)
  unsigned w = add(x, y);
 w = add(w, z):
  return w:
}
unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y)
{
  return x + y;
}
```

	mple 5 CC		
V			
Does	this C program always work?		
1 2 3 4	unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y) _(requires <u>x + y <= UINT_MAX)</u> _(ensures \result == x + y);		
5	unsigned super_add(unsigned x, unsigned y, unsigned z)		
6	_(ensures \result == $x + y + z$)		
7	{		_
8	unsigned $w = add(x, y);$		
9	w = add(w, z);		- C.
10 11	return w;		
11	3		
	unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y)		
14			
15	return x + y;		
16	}		
	Description	Line	Column
🐼 1	Call 'add(x, y)' did not verify.	8	16
2 🚫	(related information) Precondition: 'x + y <= 0xffffffff'.	2	14
🐼 3	Call 'add(w, z)' did not verify.	9	7
🐼 4	(related information) Precondition: 'x + y <= $0xffffffff'$.	2	14

Exa	mple 5 Research		
V			
Does	this C program always work?		
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	<pre>unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y) _(requires x + y <= UINT_MAX) _(ensures \result == x + y); unsigned super_add(unsigned x, unsigned y, unsigned z) _(ensures \result == x + y + z) { unsigned w = add(x, y); }</pre>		-
9	w = add(w, z);		- C.
10 11 12	return w; }		
13	unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y)		
14	•		
15 16	return x + y;		
10	pescription	line	Column
31	Call 'add(x, y)' did not verify.	8	16
2 🚫	(related information) Precondition: 'x + y <= 0xffffffff'.	2	14
3	Call 'add(w, z)' did not verify.	9	7
34	<pre>(related information) Precondition: 'x + y <= 0xffffffff'.</pre>	2	14

■ Not enough...

```
unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y)
  (requires x + y \le UINT_MAX)
  (ensures \result == x + y);
unsigned super_add(unsigned x, unsigned y, unsigned z)
  _(requires x + y + z <= UINT_MAX) // <-- added precondition
  (ensures \result == x + y + z)
  unsigned w = add(x, y);
  w = add(w, z);
  return w:
}
unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y)
Ł
  return x + y;
}
```

Example 5 Research

VCC

Does this C program always work?

```
unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y)
     _(requires x + y \le UINT_MAX)
     _(ensures \result == x + y);
  unsigned super_add(unsigned x, unsigned y, unsigned z)
 5
     _(requires x + y + z \le UINT_MAX)
 6
     _(ensures \result == x + y + z)
 7
 8 {
     unsigned w = add(x, y):
 9
10
     w = add(w, z);
11
     return w:
12 }
13
14 unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned v)
15 {
16
    return x + y;
17 }
```

Verification of add succeeded. [1.81] Verification of super_add succeeded. [0.00]

Example 5 VCCC Does this C program always work? 1 unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y) 2 _(requires x + y <= UINT_MAX) 3 _(ensures \result == x + y); 4 5 unsigned super_add(unsigned x, unsigned y, unsigned z) 6 _(requires x + y + z <= UINT_MAX) 7 _(ensures \result == x + y + z)

```
9 unsigned w = add(x, y);
10 w = add(w, z);
11 return w;
12 }
13
14 unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y)
15 {
16 return x + y;
17 }
```

Verification of add succeeded. [1.81] Verification of super_add succeeded. [0.00]

Verifies!

8 {

Example 5 — post mortem

What happened?

- super add was using add in its body
- during verification of super_add, the call to add was substituted by its contract:

(assert add requires) // precondition

(assume add ensures) // postcondition

validity of all asserts and super add's postcondition needed to be checked:

1 for add(x, y):

$$(x+y+z \leq \texttt{UINT_MAX}) \rightarrow (x+y \leq \texttt{UINT_MAX})$$

2 for add (w, z):

```
(x+y+z \leq \text{UINT MAX} \land w_1 = x+y) \rightarrow (w_1+z \leq \text{UINT MAX})
```

3 super_add's postcondition:

```
(x+y+z \leq \text{UINT} \text{ MAX} \land w_1 = x+y \land w_2 = w_1+z) \rightarrow (w_2 = x+y+z)
```

```
Ondřej Lengál (SAV'23, FIT VUT v Brně)
```

unsigned super_add(unsigned x, unsigned y, (requires x + y + z <= UINT_MAX)

unsigned add(unsigned x, unsigned y) (requires x + y <= UINT MAX)

(ensures \result == x + y);

```
w = add(w, z):
return w:
```

unsigned

```
void swap(int* x, int* y)
_(ensures *x == \old(*y) && *y == \old(*x))
{
    int z = *x;
    *x = *y;
    *y = z;
}
```

VCC Research

Does this C program always work? 1 void swap(int* x, int* y) _(ensures $*x == \old(*y) \& *y == \old(*x))$ 2 3 ł int z = *x;4 5 *x = *y; 6 *y = z;7 } Line Column Description Assertion 'x is thread local' did not verify. 12 4 Assertion 'x is writable' did not verify. 5 4 Assertion 'y is thread local' did not verify. 5 9 Assertion 'v is writable' did not verifv. 6 4

VCC Research

Does this C program always work? 1 void swap(int* x, int* y) _(ensures $*x == \old(*y) \& *y == \old(*x))$ 2 3 ł int z = *x;4 5 *x = *y; 6 *y = z;7 } Line Column Description Assertion 'x is thread local' did not verify. 12 4 Assertion 'x is writable' did not verify. 5 4 Assertion 'y is thread local' did not verify. 5 9 Assertion 'v is writable' did not verifv. 6 4

side effect

```
void swap(int* x, int* y)
_(writes x)
_(writes y)
_(ensures *x == \old(*y) && *y == \old(*x))
{
    int z = *x;
    *x = *y;
    *y = z;
}
```

Example 6 VCC

Does this C program always work?

```
1 void swap(int* x, int* y)
2
   _(writes x)
3
   _(writes v)
4
    _(ensures *x = \old(*y) \& *y = \old(*x))
5
  ł
6
   int z = *x;
   *x = *v:
7
8
    *y = z;
9 }
```

Verification of swap succeeded. [2.64]

Example 6 VCC

Does this C program always work?

```
1 void swap(int* x, int* y)
2
   _(writes x)
3
   _(writes y)
4
   _(ensures *x = \old(*y) \& *y = \old(*x))
5
  {
6
   int z = *x;
   *x = *v:
7
8
    *y = z;
9 }
```

Verification of swap succeeded. [2.64]

_(writes x) talks about a side-effect

```
#define RADIX ((unsigned)(-1) + ((\natural)1))
#define LUINT MAX ((unsigned)(-1) + (unsigned)(-1) * ((unsigned)(-1) + ((\natural)1)))
typedef struct LongUint {
  _(ghost \natural val)
  unsigned low, high;
  (invariant val == low + high * RADIX) // coupling invariant
} LongUint:
void luint inc(LongUint* x)
  (maintains \wrapped(x))
  (writes x)
  (requires x \rightarrow val + 1 < LUINT MAX)
  (ensures x \rightarrow val == \old(x \rightarrow val) + 1)
  _(unwrapping x) {
    if (x \rightarrow low == UINT MAX) {
      ++(x->high):
      x - > 1 ow = 0:
    } else {
      ++(x->low):
    7
    (ghost x -> val = x -> val + 1)
```

VCC

Does this C program always work?

```
1 #define RADIX ((unsigned)(-1) + ((\natural)1))
    2 #define LUINT_MAX ((unsigned)(-1) + (unsigned)(-1) * ((unsigned)(-1) + ((\natural)1)))
    3 typedef struct LongUint {
        _(ghost \natural val)
    5 unsigned low, high;
   6 _(invariant val == low + high * RADIX) // coupling invariant
    7 } LonaUint:
   9 void luint_inc(LongUint* x)
        (maintains \wrapped(x))
   10
        _(writes x)
   12
        (requires x \rightarrow val + 1 < LUINT MAX)
   13
        _(ensures x->val == old(x-val) + 1)
   14 {
   15
        (unwrapping x) 
          if (x \rightarrow 1 \text{ ow} == \text{UINT MAX}) {
   16
          ++(x->hiah);
           x \rightarrow 1ow = 0:
   18
   19
          } else {
   20
            ++(x->low);
   21
          3
   22
          _(ahost x -> val = x -> val + 1)
Verification of LongUint#adm succeeded. [2.39]
```

Verification of luint_inc succeeded. [0.03]

Example 7 — post mortem

What did we do?

- we needed to provide a data structure invariant via _(invariant Inv)
 - it describes what need to hold about the data structure in a consistent state
 - the invariant talks about a ghost variable
 - helps with verification but is not part of the compiled program
 - can have an *"ideal"* type (e.g., \natural, \integer, ...)
 - or can also be an inductive (functional-style) data type, e.g.

_(datatype List { case nil(); case cons(int v, List l); })

we needed to use _(unwrapping x) { ... } for the block of code where the invariant is temporarily broken

- concurrency (atomic actions, shared state)
- hardware
- assembly code (need to model instructions using function contract)
- talking about memory (possible aliasings)

Other Tools

- Dafny: a full programming language with support for specifications
- Why3: a programming language (WhyML) + specifications
- **Frama-C** (Jessie plug-in): deductive verification of C + ACSL annotations
- KeY: Java + JML annotations
- Prusti: Rust
- **IV**y: specification and implementation of protocols
- Ada, Eiffel, ...: programming languages with in-built support for specifications

Used materials from

Ernie Cohen, Amazon (former Microsoft)
Işıl Dillig, University of Texas, Austin