

# Floyd-Hoare Logic

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# Axiomatic Semantics

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1. Language for making **assertions** about programs
2. **Rules** for establishing, i.e. proving the assertions

Typical kinds of **assertions**:

- This program terminates.
- During execution if var **z** has value 0, then **x** equals **y**
- All array accesses are within array bounds

Some typical **languages** of assertions:

- **First-order logic**
- Other logics (e.g., temporal logic)

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## TODAY'S PLAN

1. **Define** a small language
2. **Define** a logic for verifying assertions

## IMP: An Imperative Language

syntax and operational  
semantics

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# IMP Syntactic Entities

- Int integer literals  $n$
- Bool booleans  $\{\text{true}, \text{false}\}$
- Loc locations  $x, y, z, \dots$
- Aexp arithmetic expressions  $e$
- Bexp boolean expressions  $b$
- Comm commands  $c$

# Abstract Syntax: Arith Expressions (Aexp)

- $e ::=$
- $n$  for  $n \in \text{Int}$
  - $x$  for  $x \in \text{Loc}$
  - $e_1 + e_2$  for  $e_1, e_2 \in \text{Aexp}$
  - $e_1 - e_2$  for  $e_1, e_2 \in \text{Aexp}$
  - $e_1 * e_2$  for  $e_1, e_2 \in \text{Aexp}$

Note:

- Variables are *not declared*
- All variables have *integer type*
- There are *no side-effects*

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# Abstract Syntax: Bool Expressions (Bexp)

- $\text{true} ::=$
- $\text{true}$
  - $\text{false}$
  - $e_1 = e_2$  for  $e_1, e_2 \in \text{Aexp}$
  - $e_1 < e_2$  for  $e_1, e_2 \in \text{Aexp}$
  - $!b$  for  $b \in \text{Bexp}$
  - $b_1 || b_2$  for  $e_1, e_2 \in \text{Bexp}$
  - $b_1 \& b_2$  for  $e_1, e_2 \in \text{Bexp}$

# Abstract Syntax: Commands (Comm)

- $c ::=$
- $\text{skip}$
  - $x := e$  for  $x \in L \ \& \ e \in \text{Aexp}$
  - $c_1 ; c_2$  for  $c_1, c_2 \in \text{Comm}$
  - $\text{if } b \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2$  for  $b \in \text{Bexp} \ \& \ c_1, c_2 \in \text{Comm}$
  - $\text{while } b \text{ do } c$  for  $c \in \text{Comm} \ \& \ b \in \text{Bexp}$

Note:

- *Typing rules embedded in syntax definition*
  - Other checks may *not be context-free*
  - need to be specified separately (e.g., variables are declared)
- Commands contain all the side-effects in the language

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## Semantics of IMP : States

- Meaning of IMP expressions depends on the values of variables
- A state  $\sigma$  is a function from **Loc** to **Int**
  - Value of variables at a given moment
  - Set of all states is  $\Sigma = \text{Loc} \rightarrow \text{Int}$

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## Operational Semantics of IMP

Evaluation judgment for expressions:

- Ternary relation on **expression**, a **state**, and a **value**:
- We write:  $\langle e, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow n$   
 “Expression  $e$  in state  $\sigma$  evaluates to  $n$ ”

**Q:** Why no state on the right ?

- Evaluation of expressions has **no side-effects**:
- i.e., state unchanged by evaluating an expression

**Q:** Can we view judgment as a function of 2 args  $e, \sigma$  ?

- Only if there is a unique derivation ...

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## Operational Semantics of IMP

Evaluation judgement for commands

- Ternary relation on **expression**, **state**, and a **new state**
- We write:  $\langle c, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \sigma'$   
 “Executing cmd  $c$  from state  $\sigma$  takes system into state  $\sigma'$ ”
- Evaluation of a command has **effect**
  - but no direct **value**
  - So, “result” of a command is a **new state**  $\sigma'$

**Note:** evaluation of a command may not terminate

**Q:** Can we view judgment as a function of 2 args  $e, \sigma$  ?

- Only if there is a unique successor state ...

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## Evaluation Rules (for Aexp)

$$\frac{}{\langle n, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow n} \qquad \frac{}{\langle x, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \sigma(x)}$$

$$\frac{\langle e_1, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow n_1 \quad \langle e_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow n_2}{\langle e_1 + e_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow n_1 + n_2} \qquad \frac{\langle e_1, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow n_1 \quad \langle e_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow n_2}{\langle e_1 - e_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow n_1 - n_2}$$

$$\frac{\langle e_1, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow n_1 \quad \langle e_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow n_2}{\langle e_1 * e_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow n_1 * n_2}$$

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## Evaluation Rules (for Bexp)

$$\frac{}{\langle \text{true}, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \text{true}}$$

$$\frac{}{\langle \text{false}, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \text{false}}$$

$$\frac{\langle e_1, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow n_1 \quad \langle e_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow n_2 \quad p \text{ is } n_1 = n_2}{\langle e_1 = e_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow p}$$

$$\frac{\langle e_1, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow n_1 \quad \langle e_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow n_2 \quad p \text{ is } n_1 < n_2}{\langle e_1 < e_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow p}$$

$$\langle e_1 = e_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow p$$

$$\langle e_1 < e_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow p$$

$$\frac{\langle b_1, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow p_1 \quad \langle b_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow p_2}{\langle b_1 \wedge b_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow p_1 \wedge p_2}$$

$$\frac{\langle b_1, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow p_1 \quad \langle b_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow p_2}{\langle b_1 \vee b_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow p_1 \vee p_2}$$

$$\langle b_1 \wedge b_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow p_1 \wedge p_2$$

$$\langle b_1 \vee b_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow p_1 \vee p_2$$

$$\frac{\langle b, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow p}{\langle !b, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow !p}$$

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## Evaluation Rules (for Comm)

$$\frac{}{\langle \text{skip}, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \sigma}$$

$$\frac{\langle c_1, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \sigma' \quad \langle c_2, \sigma' \rangle \Downarrow \sigma''}{\langle c_1; c_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \sigma''}$$

$$\langle c_1; c_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \sigma''$$

Define  $\sigma[x := n]$  as:

$$\sigma[x := n](x) = n$$

$$\sigma[x := n](y) = \sigma(y)$$

$$\langle e, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow n$$

$$\langle x := e, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \sigma[x := n]$$

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## Evaluation Rules (for Comm)

$$\frac{\langle b, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \text{true} \quad \langle c_1, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \sigma'}{\langle \text{if } b \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \sigma'}$$

$$\frac{\langle b, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \text{false} \quad \langle c_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \sigma'}{\langle \text{if } b \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \sigma'}$$

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## Axiomatic Semantics

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2. **Rules** for establishing, i.e. proving the assertions

Typical kinds of **assertions**:

- This program terminates.
- During execution if var **z** has value 0, then **x** equals **y**
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# Axiomatic Semantics

# History : Program Verification

- Turing 1949: Checking a large routine
- Floyd 1967: Assigning meaning to programs
- Hoare 1971: An "axiomatic basis for computer programming"<sup>1)</sup>

- Program Verifiers (70's - 80's)
- PREFIX: Symbolic Execution for bug-hunting (WinXP)
- Software Validation tools

## Foundation for Software Verification

- Deductive Verifiers: ESCJava, Spec#, Verifast, Y0, ...
- Model Checkers: SLAM, BLAST, ...
- Test Generators: DART, CUTE, EXE, ...

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# Hoare Triples

- Partial correctness assertion:  $\{A\} c \{B\}$   
If  $A$  holds in state  $\sigma$  and exists  $\sigma'$  s.t.  $\langle c, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \sigma'$   
then  $B$  holds in  $\sigma'$
- Total correctness assertion:  $[A] c [B]$   
If  $A$  holds in state  $\sigma$   
then there exists  $\sigma'$  s.t.  $\langle c, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \sigma'$  and  $B$  holds in  $\sigma'$
- $[A]$  is called precondition,  $[B]$  is called postcondition
- Example:  $\{y=x\} z := x; z := z+1 \{y < z\}$

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# The Assertion Language

- Arith Exprs + First-order Predicate logic

$A ::= \text{true} \mid \text{false}$   
 $\mid e_1 = e_2 \mid e_1, e_2$   
 $\mid \neg A \mid A_1 \ \&\& \ A_2 \mid A_1 \ \|\ \ A_2 \mid A_1 \Rightarrow A_2$   
 $\mid \backslash \text{exists } x.A \mid \backslash \text{forall } x.A$

- IMP boolean expressions are assertions

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## Semantics of Assertions

- Judgment  $\sigma \models A$  means assertion holds in given state

|   |  |
|---|--|
| $\sigma \models \text{true}$                    | always   |
| $\sigma \models e_1 = e_2$                      | iff $\langle e_1, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow n_1$ , $\langle e_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow n_2$ and $n_1 = n_2$    |
| $\sigma \models e_1 \leq e_2$                   | iff $\langle e_1, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow n_1$ , $\langle e_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow n_2$ and $n_1 \leq n_2$ |
| $\sigma \models A_1 \ \&\& \ A_2$               | iff $\sigma \models A_1$ and $\sigma \models A_2$  |
| $\sigma \models A_1 \    \ A_2$                 | iff $\sigma \models A_1$ or $\sigma \models A_2$   |
| $\sigma \models A_1 \Rightarrow A_2$            | iff $\sigma \models A_1$ implies $\sigma \models A_2$  |
| $\sigma \models \backslash \text{exists } x. A$ | iff for <i>some</i> $n$ in $\mathbb{Z}$ . $\sigma[x := n] \models A$   |
| $\sigma \models \backslash \text{forall } x. A$ | iff for <i>all</i> $n$ in $\mathbb{Z}$ . $\sigma[x := n] \models A$  |

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## Semantics of Assertions

Formal definition of **partial correctness assertion**:

$\models \{A\} c \{B\}$

iff

forall  $\sigma$  in  $\Sigma$ .  $\sigma \models A$

implies [forall  $\sigma'$  in  $\Sigma$ .  $\langle c, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \sigma'$  implies  $\sigma' \models B$ ]

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## Semantics of Assertions

- **Total correctness assertion**:

$\models [A] c [B]$

iff

$\models \{A\} c \{B\}$

and

forall  $\sigma$  in  $\Sigma$ .

$\sigma \models A$  implies [exists  $\sigma'$  in  $\Sigma$ .  $\langle c, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \sigma'$ ]

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## Deriving Assertions

- Formal  $\models \{A\} c \{B\}$  hard to use
- Defined in terms of the op-semantics
- Next, **symbolic technique (logic)**
- for deriving valid triples  $\vdash \{A\} c \{B\}$

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## Derivation Rules for Hoare Triples

- Write  $\vdash \{A\} c \{B\}$  when we can derive the triple using derivation rules
- One rule per command
- Plus, the rule of consequence:

$$\frac{A' \Rightarrow A \quad \vdash \{A\} c \{B\} \quad B \Rightarrow B'}{\vdash \{A'\} c \{B'\}}$$

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## Deriv. Rules for Hoare Logic $\vdash \{A\} c \{B\}$

Rules for each language construct

$$\frac{}{\vdash \{A\} \text{skip} \{A\}} \quad \frac{\vdash \{A\} c_1 \{B\} \quad \vdash \{B\} c_2 \{C\}}{\vdash \{A\} c_1; c_2 \{C\}}$$
$$\frac{\vdash \{A \ \&\& \ b\} c_1 \{B\} \quad \vdash \{A \ \&\& \ !b\} c_2 \{B\}}{\vdash \{A\} \text{if } b \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2 \{B\}}$$
$$\frac{\vdash \{A \ \&\& \ b\} c \{A\}}{\vdash \{A\} \text{while } b \text{ do } c \{A \ \&\& \ !b\}} \quad \frac{}{\vdash \{[e/x]A\} x := e \{A\}}$$

And the rule of consequence...

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## Free and Bound Variables

Key idea in logic/PL: scoping & substitution

- Assertions are equivalent up to renaming of bound variables (a.k.a. alpha-renaming)
- Examples:

$\forall x. x = x$  is the same as  $\forall y. y = y$

- Rename bound  $x$  with  $y$

$\forall x. \forall y. x = y$  is the same as  $\forall z. \forall x. z = x$

- Rename bound  $x$  with  $z$  and  $y$  with  $x$

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## Substitution

- $[e'/x] e$  is substituting  $e'$  for  $x$  in  $e$ 
  - Also written as  $e[e'/x]$
  - Note: only substitute the free occurrences
- Alpha-rename bound variables to avoid conflicts
  - To subst.  $[e'/x]$  in  $\forall y. x = y$  rename  $y$  if it occurs in  $e'$
  - Result of alpha-renaming:  $\forall z. e' = z$
- We say that substitution avoids variable capture
  - $[x/z] \forall x. z = x$  is ?
    - $\forall x. x = x$  Wrong
    - $\forall y. x = y$  Correct

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## Example: Assignment

Assume  $x$  does not appear in  $e$

Prove  $\vdash \{\text{true}\} x := e \{x = e\}$

Note  $[e/x](x = e) = e = [e/x]e = e = e$

Use assignment rule ... then conseq. rule

$$\frac{\text{true} \Rightarrow e = e \quad \frac{\text{\textit{x} does not appear in e}}{\vdash \{e = e\} x := e \{x = e\}}}{\vdash \{\text{true}\} x := e \{x = e\}}$$

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## Example: Conditional

Prove:  $\{\text{true}\} \text{if } y \leq 0 \text{ then } x := 1 \text{ else } x := y \{x > 0\}$

$\text{true} \ \& \ y \leq 0 \Rightarrow 1 > 0 \quad \vdash \{1 > 0\} x := 1 \{x > 0\} \quad \text{true} \ \& \ y > 0 \Rightarrow y > 0 \quad \vdash \{y > 0\} x := y \{x > 0\}$

$$\frac{\vdash \{\text{true} \ \& \ y \leq 0\} x := 1 \{x > 0\} \quad \vdash \{\text{true} \ \& \ y > 0\} x := y \{x > 0\}}{\vdash \{\text{true}\} \text{if } y \leq 0 \text{ then } x := 1 \text{ else } x := y \{x > 0\}}$$

- Rule for if-then-else
- Rule for assignment + consequence

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## Example: Loop

- Prove  $\vdash \{x \leq 0\} \text{while } x \leq 5 \text{ do } x := x + 1 \{x = 6\}$
- Use the rule for while with invariant  $x \leq 6$ :

$$\frac{x \leq 6 \ \& \ x \leq 5 \Rightarrow x + 1 \leq 6 \quad \vdash \{x + 1 \leq 6\} x := x + 1 \{x \leq 6\}}{\vdash \{x \leq 6 \ \& \ x \leq 5\} x := x + 1 \{x \leq 6\}}$$

$$\vdash \{x \leq 6\} \text{while } x \leq 5 \text{ do } x := x + 1 \{x \leq 6 \ \& \ x > 5\}$$

- Finish off with consequence rule:

$$\frac{x \leq 0 \Rightarrow x \leq 6 \quad \vdash \{x \leq 6\} \text{w } \{x \leq 6 \ \& \ x > 5\} \quad x \leq 6 \ \& \ x > 5 \Rightarrow x = 6}{\vdash \{x \leq 0\} \text{w } \{x = 6\}}$$

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## Soundness of Axiomatic Semantics

Formal Statement of Soundness:

If  $\vdash \{A\} c \{B\}$  then  $\models \{A\} c \{B\}$

Equivalently

If  $H:: \vdash \{A\} c \{B\}$  then

forall  $\sigma$  if  $\sigma \models A$  and  $D:: \langle c, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \sigma'$  then  $\sigma' \models B$

Proof:

Simultaneous induction on structure of  $D$  and  $H$

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# Algorithmic Verification

Hoare rules mostly *syntax directed*, but:

1. When to apply the rule of *consequence* ?
2. What *invariant* to use for while ?
3. How to *prove implications* (conseq. rule)?

**Hint:**

- (3) involves ... SMT
- (2) *invariants* are the hardest problem
- (1) lets see how to deal with ...

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## Making Floyd-Hoare Algorithmic: Predicate Transformers

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### Technique: Weakest Preconditions

$$\begin{aligned} &|- \{y > 10\} \mathbf{x} := \mathbf{y} \{x > 0\} \\ &|- \{y > 100\} \mathbf{x} := \mathbf{y} \{x > 0\} \\ &|- \{x=2 \ \& \ y=5\} \mathbf{x} := \mathbf{y} \{x > 0\} \end{aligned}$$

After what preconditions does postcond.  $x > 0$  hold?

$WP(\mathbf{c}, B)$ : weakest predicate s.t.  $\{WP(\mathbf{c}, B)\} \mathbf{c} \{B\}$

- For any  $A$  we have  $\{A\} \mathbf{c} \{B\}$  iff  $A \Rightarrow WP(\mathbf{c}, B)$

How to verify  $|- \{A\} \mathbf{c} \{B\}$  ?

1. **Compute:**  $WP(\mathbf{c}, B)$
2. **Prove:**  $A \Rightarrow WP(\mathbf{c}, B)$

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### Weakest Preconditions

Define  $wp(\mathbf{c}, B)$  using Hoare rules

$$\begin{array}{l} wp(\mathbf{c}_1; \mathbf{c}_2, B) \\ = wp(\mathbf{c}_1, wp(\mathbf{c}_2, B)) \end{array} \quad \frac{|- \{A\} \mathbf{c}_1 \{B\} \quad |- \{B\} \mathbf{c}_2}{|- \{A\} \mathbf{c}_1; \mathbf{c}_2 \{C\}}$$
$$\begin{array}{l} wp(\mathbf{x} := \mathbf{e}, B) \\ = [e/x]B \end{array} \quad \frac{}{|- \{[e/x]A\} \mathbf{x} := \mathbf{e} \{A\}}$$
$$\begin{array}{l} wp(\text{if } \mathbf{e} \text{ then } \mathbf{c}_1 \text{ else } \mathbf{c}_2, B) \\ = \mathbf{e} \Rightarrow wp(\mathbf{c}_1, B) \ \&\& \ !\mathbf{e} \Rightarrow wp(\mathbf{c}_2, B) \end{array} \quad \frac{|- \{A \ \& \ b\} \mathbf{c}_1 \{B\} \quad |- \{A \ \& \ !b\} \mathbf{c}_2 \{B\}}{|- \{A\} \text{if } \mathbf{b} \text{ then } \mathbf{c}_1 \text{ else } \mathbf{c}_2 \{B\}}$$

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## Weakest Preconditions for Loops

Start from the equivalence

```
while b do c =  
  if b then (c; while b do c) else skip
```

Let  $W = wp(\text{while } b \text{ do } c, B)$

It must be that:  $W = [b \Rightarrow wp(c, W) \ \& \ !b \Rightarrow B]$

But this is a recursive equation! How to compute?!

- We'll return to finding loop WPs later ...

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## Technique: Strongest Postconditions

$$\vdash \{y > 100\} x := y \{x > 10\}$$
$$\vdash \{y > 100\} x := y \{x > 20\}$$
$$\vdash \{y > 100\} x := y \{x > 100\}$$

What postcond. is guaranteed after prec.  $y > 100$ ?

$SP(c, A)$ : strongest predicate s.t.  $\{A\} c \{SP(c, A)\}$

- For any  $B$  we have  $\{A\} c \{B\}$  iff  $SP(c, A) \Rightarrow B$

How to verify  $\{A\} c \{B\}$ ?

1. Compute:  $SP(c, A)$
2. Prove:  $SP(c, A) \Rightarrow B$

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## Strongest Postconditions

Define  $sp(c, B)$  following Hoare rules

$$sp(c_1; c_2, A) = \frac{\vdash \{A\} c_1 \{B\} \quad \vdash \{B\} c_2}{\vdash \{A\} c_1; c_2 \{B\}}$$

$$sp(x := e, A) = \frac{\vdash \exists x_0. [x_0/x]A \ \&\& \ x = [x_0/x]e}{\vdash \{[e/x]A\} x := e \{A\}}$$

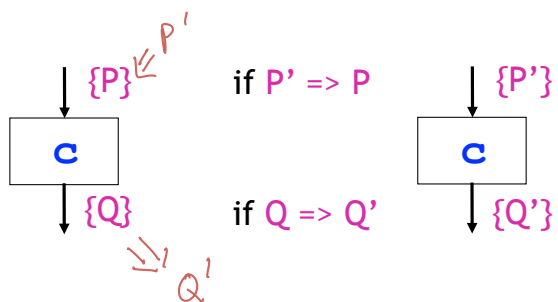
$$sp(\text{if } e \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2, A) = \frac{\vdash \{A \ \&\& \ b\} c_1 \{B\} \quad \vdash \{A \ \&\& \ !b\} c_2 \{B\}}{\vdash \{A\} \text{if } b \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2 \{B\}}$$

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## Axiomatic Semantics on Flow Graphs Floyd's Original Formulation

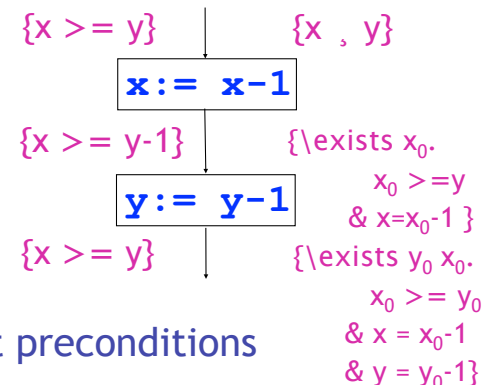
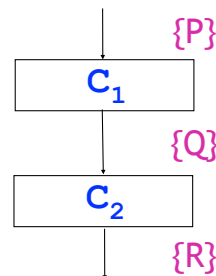
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# Axiomatic Semantics over Flow Graphs



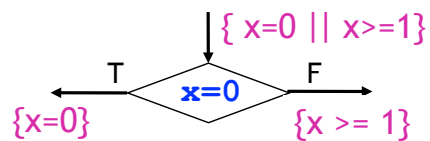
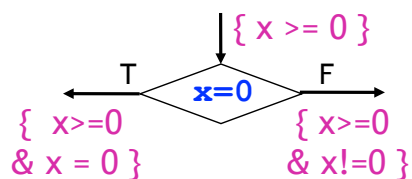
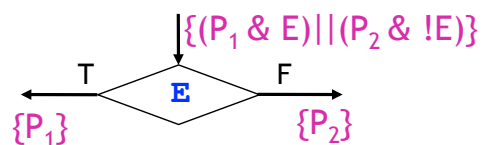
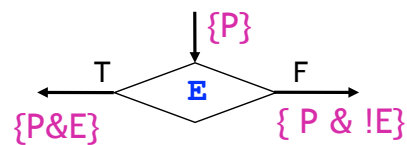
Relaxing Specifications via Consequence  
Will revisit later as subtyping

# Sequential Composition



Backwards using weakest preconditions  
Forwards using strongest postconditions

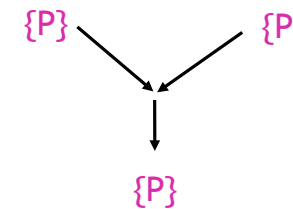
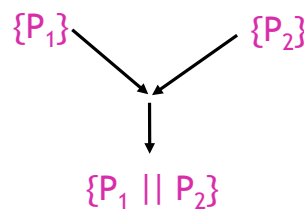
# Conditionals



Forwards

Backwards

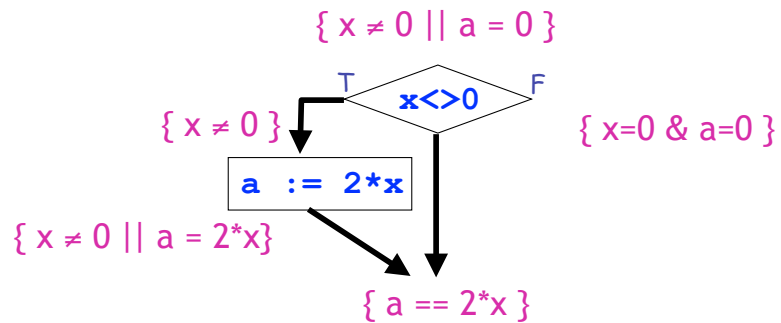
# Joins



Forwards

Backwards

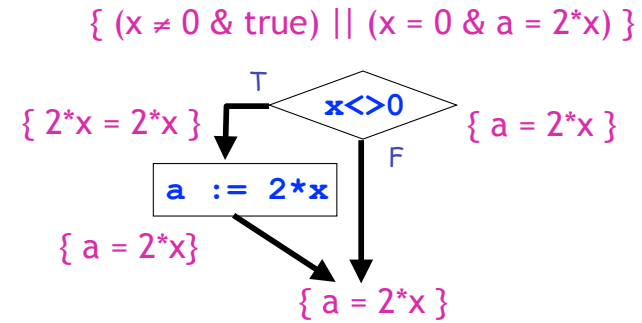
## Conditional+Join: Forward



- Check the implications (simplifications)

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## Conditionals+Joins: Backward



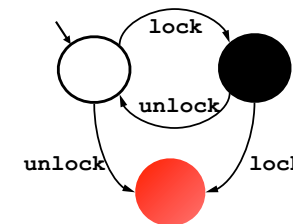
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## Forward or Backward ?

- Forward reasoning
  - Know the precondition
  - Want to know what postcond the code guarantees
- Backward reasoning
  - Know what we want to code to establish
  - Want to know under what preconditions this happens

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## Another Example: Double Locking



“An attempt to re-acquire an acquired lock or release a released lock will cause a **deadlock**.”

Calls to **lock** and **unlock** must **alternate**.

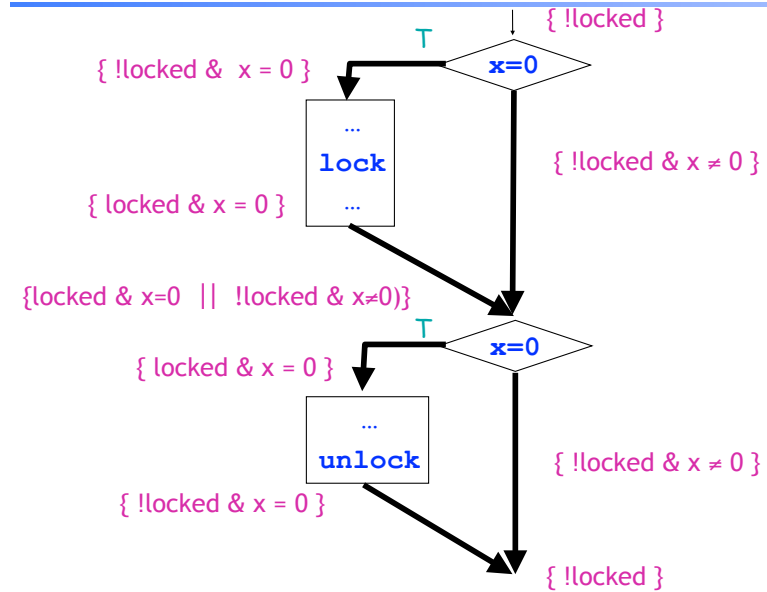
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# Locking Rules

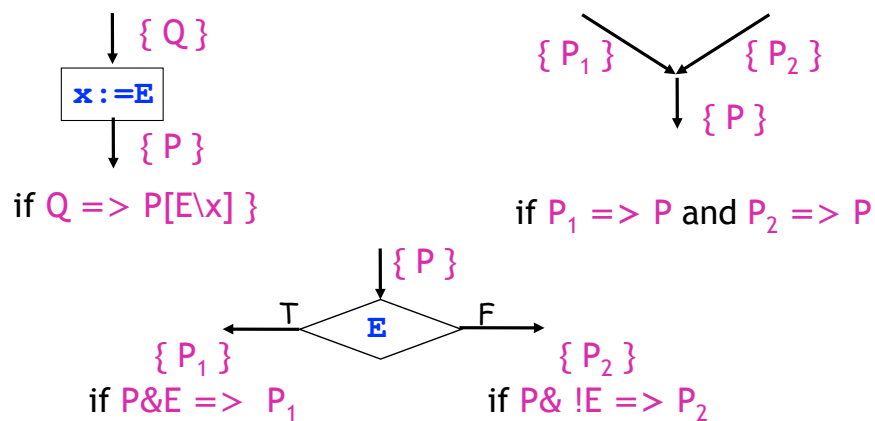
Boolean variable **locked** states if lock is held or not

- $\{ \text{!locked} \ \& \ P[\text{true/locked}] \}$  **lock**  $\{ P \}$   
**lock** behaves as `assert(!locked); locked:=true`
- $\{ \text{locked} \ \& \ P[\text{false/locked}] \}$  **unlock**  $\{ P \}$   
**unlock** behaves as `assert(locked); locked:=false`

# Locking Example



# Review



Implication is always in the direction of the control flow

# What about real languages ?

- Loops
- Function calls
- Pointers

# Reasoning about loops: Rules

$$\frac{|- \{A \ \& \ b\} \ c \ \{A\}}{|- \{A\} \ \text{while } b \ \text{do } c \ \{A \ \& \ !b\}}$$

Rewrite A with I : Loop Invariant

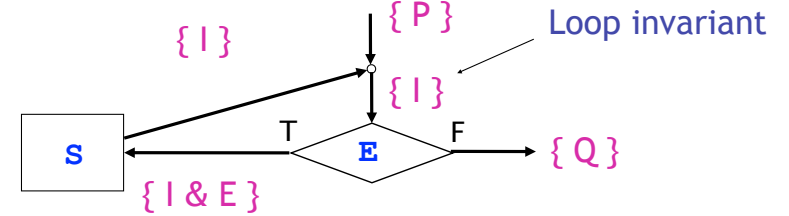
$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} |- \{I \ \& \ b\} \ c \ \{I\} \\ P \Rightarrow I \quad |- \{\} \ \text{while } b \ \text{do } c \ \{I \ \& \ !b\} \quad I \ \& \ !b \Rightarrow Q \end{array}}{|- \{P\} \ \text{while } b \ \text{do } c \ \{Q\}}$$

Rule of Consequence

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# Reasoning about loops: Flow Graphs

- Loops can be handled using conditionals and joins
- Consider the `while b do S` statement



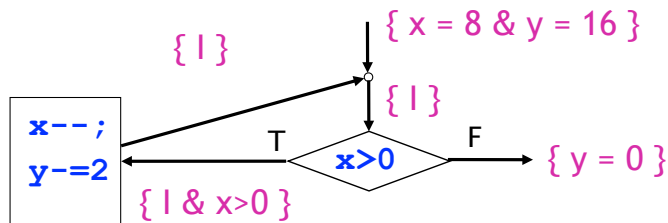
- if  $P \Rightarrow I$  (loop invariant holds initially)
- and  $I \ \& \ !b \Rightarrow Q$  (loop establishes the postcondition)
- and  $\{I \ \& \ b\} \ S \ \{I\}$  (loop invariant is preserved)

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# Loop Example

Verify:

$\{x=8 \ \& \ y=16\} \ \text{while } (x>0) \ \{x--; \ y-=2; \} \ \{y=0\}$



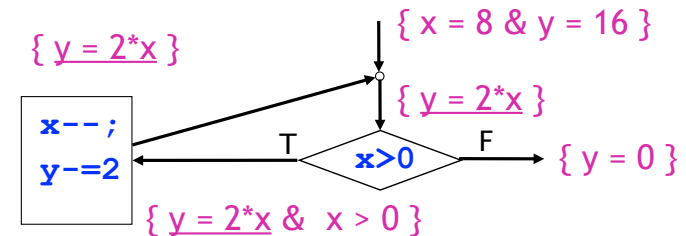
Find an appropriate invariant I

- Holds initially  $x = 8 \ \& \ y = 16$
- Holds at end  $y == 0$

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# Loop Example (II)

Guess invariant  $y = 2*x$



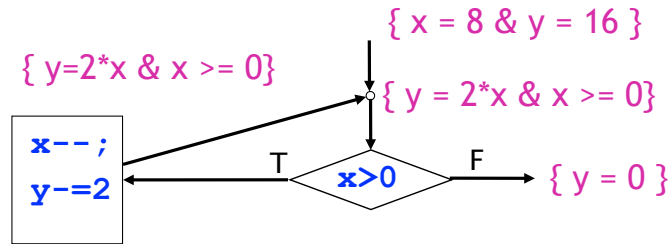
Check :

- Initial:  $x = 8 \ \& \ y = 16 \Rightarrow y = 2*x$
- Preservation:  $y = 2*x \ \& \ x>0 \Rightarrow y-2 = 2*(x-1)$
- Final:  $y = 2*x \ \& \ x \leq 0 \Rightarrow y = 0$  **Invalid**

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# Loop Example (III)

Guess invariant  $y = 2*x \ \& \ x \geq 0$



Check

- Initial :  $x = 8 \ \& \ y = 16 \Rightarrow y = 2*x \ \& \ x \geq 0$
- Preserv:  $y = 2*x \ \& \ x \geq 0 \ \& \ x > 0 \Rightarrow y-2 = 2*(x-1) \ \& \ x-1 \geq 0$
- Final:  $y = 2*x \ \& \ x \geq 0 \ \& \ x \leq 0 \Rightarrow y = 0$

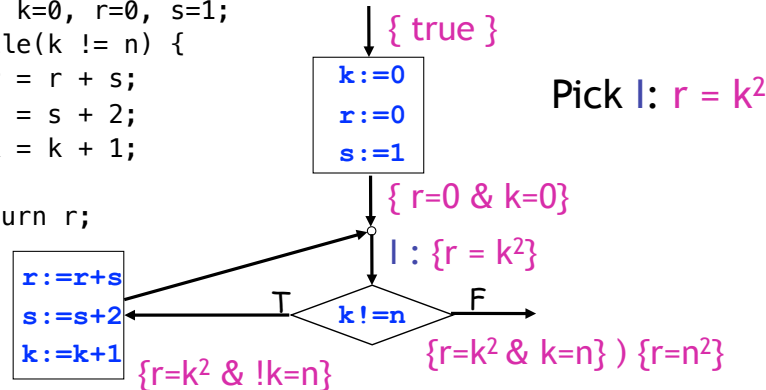
# Loops Discussion

- Simple forward/backward propagation fails
- Require loop invariants
  - Hardest part of program verification
  - Guess the invariants (existing programs)
  - Write the invariants (new programs)

**Note: Invariant depends on your proof goal!**

# Verification Example

```
int square(int n) {
  int k=0, r=0, s=1;
  while(k != n) {
    r = r + s;
    s = s + 2;
    k = k + 1;
  }
  return r;
}
```

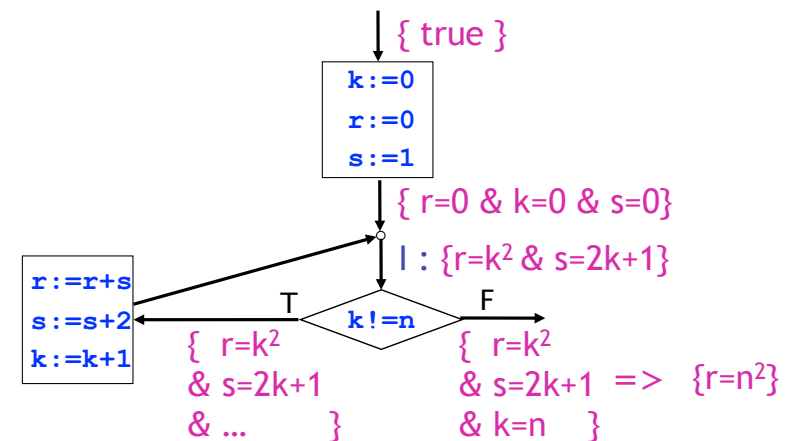


- Need:  $\{r=k^2 \ \& \ !k=n\} \text{ c } \{r=k^2\}$   
 i.e.  $\{r=k^2 \ \& \ !k=n\} \Rightarrow \text{WP}(c, \{r=k^2\})$   
 i.e.  $\{r=k^2 \ \& \ !k=n\} \Rightarrow \{r+s=(k+1)^2\}$

**Invalid**

# Verification Example

- Need:  $\{r=k^2 \ \& \ s=2k+1 \ \& \ \dots\} \text{ c } \{r=k^2 \ \& \ s=2k+1\}$   
 i.e.  $\{r=k^2 \ \& \ s=2k+1 \ \dots\} \Rightarrow \text{WP}(c, \{r=k^2 \ \& \ s=2k+1\})$   
 i.e.  $\{r=k^2 \ \& \ s=2k+1 \ \dots\} \Rightarrow \{r+s=(k+1)^2 \ \& \ (s+2) = 2(k+1)+1\}$  **Valid**



## What about real languages ?

- Loops
- Function calls
- Pointers

## Functions are big instructions

Suppose we have verified `bsearch`

```
int bsearch(int a[], int p) {  
    { sorted(a) } ← Precondition  
    ...                               “Requires”  
    { r=-1 || (r>=0 & r < a.length & a[r]=p) } ← Postcondition  
    return r;                          “Ensures”  
}
```

- Function spec = precondition + postcondition
- Also called a contract

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## Function Calls

- Consider a call to function  $y := f(e)$ 
  - return variable  $r$
  - precondition  $Pre$ , postcondition  $Post$
- Rule for function call:

$$\frac{|- P \Rightarrow Pre[e/x] \quad |- \{Pre\} f \{Post\} \quad |- Post[e/x, y/r] \Rightarrow Q}{|- \{P\} y := f(e) \{Q\}}$$

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## Function Calls

- Consider a call to function  $y := f(e)$ 
  - return variable  $r$
  - precondition  $Pre$ , postcondition  $Post$
- Rule for function call:

$$\frac{\downarrow \{P\} \quad \text{if } P \Rightarrow Pre[E/x]}{\boxed{y := f(e)}} \downarrow \{Q\} \quad \text{and } Post[E/x, y/r] \Rightarrow Q$$

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## Function Call: Example

Consider the call

```
{sorted(arr) }
y:=bsearch(arr,5)
{y=-1 || arr[y]=5}
if (y!=-1) {
  {y!=-1 & (y=-1 || arr[y]=5)}
  {arr[y]=5}
```

```
int bsearch(int a[],int p) {
  {sorted(a) }
  ...
  { r=-1 || (r>=0 & r<a.length & a[r]=p)}
  return r;
}
```

- $\text{sorted}[\text{array}] \Rightarrow \text{Pre}[\text{a} := \text{arr}]$
- $\text{Post}[\text{y}/\text{r}, \text{arr}/\text{a}, 5/\text{p}] \Rightarrow (\text{y}=-1 \parallel \text{arr}[\text{y}]=5)$

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## What about real languages ?

- Loops
- Function calls
- Pointers

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## Assignment and Aliasing

Does assignment rule work with aliasing ?

If  $*x$  and  $*y$  are aliased then:

```
{x=y} *x:=5 { *x + *y=10 }
```

## Hoare Rules: Assignment and References

- When is the following Hoare triple valid?

```
{A} *x := 5 { *x + *y = 10 }
```

- A should be “  $*y = 5$  or  $x = y$  ”

- but Hoare rule for assignment gives:

```
[5/*x](*x + *y = 10)
```

```
= 5 + *y = 10
```

```
= *y = 5
```

(uh oh! we lost one case! What happened?)

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## Hoare Rules: Assignment and References

Modeling writes with memory expressions

- Treat memory as a **whole** with memory variables ( $M$ )
- $\text{upd}(M, E_1, E_2)$  : update  $M$  at address  $E_1$  with value  $E_2$
- $\text{sel}(M, E_1)$  : read  $M$  at address  $E_1$

Reason about memory expressions with McCarthy's rule

$$\text{sel}(\text{upd}(M, E_1, E_2), E_3) = \begin{cases} E_2 & \text{if } E_1 = E_3 \\ \text{sel}(M, E_3) & \text{if } E_1 \neq E_3 \end{cases}$$

Assignment (update) changes the value of memory

$$\{B[\text{upd}(M, E_1, E_2)/M]\} * \mathbf{E_1 := E_2} \{B\}$$

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## Memory Aliasing

- Consider again:  $\{A\} * \mathbf{x := 5} \{ *x + *y = 10 \}$

$$\begin{aligned} A &= [\text{upd}(M, x, 5)/M] (*x + *y = 10) \\ &= [\text{upd}(M, x, 5)/M] (\text{sel}(M, x) + \text{sel}(M, y) = 10) \\ &= \text{sel}(\text{upd}(M, x, 5), x) + \text{sel}(\text{upd}(M, x, 5), y) = 10 \\ &= 5 + \text{sel}(\text{upd}(M, x, 5), y) = 10 \\ &= \text{sel}(\text{upd}(M, x, 5), y) = 5 \\ &= (x = y \ \& \ 5 = 5) \ || \ (x \neq y \ \& \ \text{sel}(M, y) = 5) \\ &= x = y \ || \ *y = 5 \end{aligned}$$

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## Program Verification Tools

- Semi-automated
  - You write some invariants and specifications
  - Tool **tries** to fill in the other invariants
  - And to **prove** all implications
  - Explains when implication is invalid:  
**counterexample** for your specification
- ESC/Java is one of the best tools
- ... Spec#, Verifast, VCC

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## Algorithmic Program Verification

...or how does ESC/Java work ?

Q: How to algorithmically prove  $\{P\} \mathbf{c} \{Q\}$  ?

If no loops:

1. Compute:  $\text{WP}(\mathbf{c}, Q)$
2. Prove:  $P \Rightarrow \text{WP}(\mathbf{c}, Q)$

Verification Condition

Proved By SMT Solver

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# VC Generation for Loops

Suppose all loops annotated with Invariant

```
whileI b do c
```

Compute VC:

SMTValid(VC) implies  $\vdash \{P\} c \{Q\}$

Q: Why not iff ?

1. Loop invariants may be bogus...
2. SMT solver may not handle logic...

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# VCGen

We will write a function

```
vcgen :: Pred -> Com -> (Pred, [Pred])
```

Suppose  $(Q', L') = \text{VCG}(c, (Q, L;))$

Then VC for  $\{P\} c \{Q\}$  is:  $P \Rightarrow Q' \ \&\&_{\{f \text{ in } L'\}} f$

- $L'$ : the set of conditions that must be true
  - From loops (init, preservation, final)
- $Q'$ : “precondition” modulo invariants...

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# VCGen

```
-----  
verify      :: Pred -> Com -> Pred -> Bool  
-----  
  
-- | The top level verifier, takes:  
-- in : pre `p`, command `c` and post `q`  
-- out: True iff {p} c {q} is a valid Hoare-Triple  
  
verify      :: Pred -> Com -> Pred -> Bool  
verify p c q = all smtValid queries  
  where  
    (q', conds) = runState (vcgen q c) []  
    queries     = p `implies` q' : conds
```

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# VCGen

```
vcgen :: Pred -> Com -> VC Pred  
  
vcgen (Skip) q  
  = return q  
  
vcgen (Asgn x e) q  
  = return $ q `subst` (x, e)  
  
vcgen (If b c1 c2) q  
  = do q1 <- vcgen q c1  
       q2 <- vcgen q c2  
       return $ (b `And` q1) `Or` (Not b `And` q2)  
  
vcgen (While i b c) q  
  = do q' <- vcgen i c  
       valid $ (i `And` Not b) `implies` q'  
       valid $ (i `And` b) `implies` q  
       return $ i
```

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## ESC / Java

---

### Semi-automated “Deductive Verification”

- You write the invariants
- ESC / Java:
  - VCGen
  - Simplify: SMT used to prove VC
- Explains when implication is invalid:  
**counterexample** for your specification