

Encoding Hoare Logic in Typed Certified Code

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Outline

Motivation

- Hoare logic

- Typed certified code

- Can we combine the two?

Our approach

- The type language

- The computation language

- Encoding Hoare logic

- Problems with Hoare Logic

- And their Solution

- Example

Conclusions

Hoare Logic (i)

- ▶ Introduced the strength of **formal logic** in **computer programming**
- ▶ A tool to:
 - ▶ reason about program properties and prove correctness
 - ▶ derive programs from their specifications

 C. A. R. Hoare, “An axiomatic basis for computer programming”, *Communications of the ACM*, vol. 12, no. 10, pp. 576–585, 1969.

Hoare Logic (ii)

- ▶ Hoare triples represent program specifications
 $\{P\} \text{ program } \{Q\}$

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$\{P\}$ program $\{Q\}$

- ▶ Example: greatest common divisor

$\{n + m > 0\}$

$a := n; b := m;$

while $a > 0$ and $b > 0$ do

 if $a > b$ then $a := a \bmod b$

 else $b := b \bmod a;$

$r := a + b$

$\{r > 0 \wedge r \setminus n \wedge r \setminus m \wedge (\forall r' \in \mathbb{N}. r' \setminus n \wedge r' \setminus m \Rightarrow r' \leq r)\}$

Typed Certified Code (i)

Methodology:

- ▶ a sound **formal logic** is used
- ▶ combined with the programming language
- ▶ program specifications are expressed as **propositions** in this logic
- ▶ **proofs** of these propositions are embedded in programs
 - ▶ either explicitly given by the programmer
 - ▶ or automatically constructed by the compiler

Typed Certified Code (ii)

Proposed solutions:

- ▶ *Typed Intermediate Language* (TIL); Harper and Morrisett, 1995
- ▶ *Typed Assembly Language* (TAL); Morrisett, Walker, Crary and Glew, 1998
- ▶ *Proof-Carrying Code* (PCC); Necula, 1998
- ▶ *Foundational Proof-Carrying Code*, Appel, 2001
- ▶ Shao, Saha, Trifonov and Papaspyrou, 2002, 2005
- ▶ Crary and Vanderwaart, 2002

Typed Certified Code (iii)

- ▶ **Example:** greatest common divisor
 - ▶ $\text{gcd} : \text{nat} \rightarrow \text{nat} \rightarrow \text{nat}$

“A function taking two naturals and returning some natural.”

Typed Certified Code (iii)

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- “A function taking two naturals and returning some natural.”

- ▶ $\text{gcd} : \forall n:\text{Nat}.\forall m:\text{Nat}.\forall p^*:(n+m > 0).$
 $\text{snat } n \rightarrow \text{snat } m \rightarrow \text{nat}$

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- A data type whose elements are representations of the single integer value $n : \text{Nat}$

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- ▶ **(Syntactic sugar)**

- $\text{nat} \equiv \exists r:\text{Nat}.\text{snat } r$

Typed Certified Code (iv)

- ▶ Example (continued)

- ▶ $\text{gcd} : \forall n:\text{Nat}.\forall m:\text{Nat}.\forall p^*:(n+m > 0).$
 $\text{snat } n \rightarrow \text{snat } m \rightarrow$
 $\exists r:\text{Nat}.$
 $\exists q^*:(r > 0).$
 $\text{snat } r$

“The result shall not be zero.”

Typed Certified Code (iv)

▶ Example (continued)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{▶ gcd} & : \forall n:\text{Nat}.\forall m:\text{Nat}.\forall p^*:(n+m > 0). \\ & \quad \text{sNat } n \rightarrow \text{sNat } m \rightarrow \\ & \quad \exists r:\text{Nat}. \\ & \quad \exists q^*:(r > 0). \\ & \quad \text{sNat } r \end{aligned}$$

“The result shall not be zero.”

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“The result shall not be zero and shall divide both arguments.”

Typed Certified Code (v)

▶ Example (continued)

▶ `gcd` : $\forall n:\text{Nat}.\forall m:\text{Nat}.\forall p^*:(n+m > 0).$

`sNat` $n \rightarrow$ `sNat` $m \rightarrow$

$\exists r:\text{Nat}.$

$\exists q_1^*:(r > 0 \wedge r \setminus n \wedge r \setminus m).$

$\exists q_2^*:(\prod r':\text{Nat}.r' \setminus n \wedge r' \setminus m \rightarrow r' \leq r).$

`sNat` r

“The result shall be the greatest common divisor of the two arguments.”

Can we combine the two?

▶ Hoare Logic

- + long studied, large body of scientific knowledge
- + simple axioms and rules
- + works with variables and destructive update
- does not work well with (higher-order) functions
- proofs of specifications cannot be automatically verified

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▶ Typed Certified Code

- relatively new approach
- highly complex type system
- does not work well with variables and destructive update
- + works well with (higher-order) functions
- + proofs of specifications can be automatically verified

Overview of the Type Language

- ▶ A variation of the **Calculus of Inductive Constructions**
- ▶ Incorporates **higher-order predicate logic**
- ▶ Complete grammar:

$$A, B ::= \text{Set} \mid \text{Type} \mid \text{Ext} \mid X \mid \Pi X:A. B \mid \lambda X:A. B \mid AB \\ \mid \text{Ind}(X:A)\{\vec{A}\} \mid \text{Constr}(n,A) \mid \text{Elim}[A'](A:BB)\{\vec{A}\}$$
$$A \rightarrow B \equiv \Pi X_{\text{new}}:A. B$$

-  Papaspyrou, Vytiniotis and Koutavas, “Logic-Enhanced Type Systems”, *PLS 4*, 2003.
-  Shao, Trifonov, Saha and Papaspyrou, “A Type System for Certified Binaries”, *ACM TOPLAS*, vol. 27, no. 1, pp. 1-45, 2005.

The Computation Language

(i)

- ▶ The simple imperative language **WHILE**

$x : \mathbf{Var}$ *variables*

$e : \mathbf{Expr}$::= $n \mid b \mid x \mid \diamond e \mid e \star e$

$c : \mathbf{Comm}$::= $\text{skip} \mid x := e \mid c; c$
 | $\text{if } e \text{ then } c \text{ else } c$
 | $\text{while } e \text{ do } c$

$\diamond : \mathbf{UnOp}$::= $- \mid \neg$

$\star : \mathbf{BinOp}$::= $+ \mid - \mid * \mid \text{div} \mid \text{mod}$
 | $= \mid \neq \mid < \mid > \mid \leq \mid \geq$
 | $\text{and} \mid \text{or}$

The Computation Language

(ii)

Typing

- ▶ Types
- ▶ Type environments
- ▶ Typing of expressions
- ▶ Typing of commands

$$\tau : \Omega ::= \text{int} \mid \text{bool}$$
$$\Gamma : \text{Env} = \text{Var} \rightarrow \Omega$$
$$\Gamma \vdash e : \tau$$
$$\Gamma \vdash c$$

The Computation Language

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Semantics

- ▶ Meaning of types
- ▶ Stores
- ▶ Meaning of expressions
- ▶ Meaning of commands

$$\llbracket \text{int} \rrbracket = \text{Int}, \llbracket \text{bool} \rrbracket = \text{Bool}$$
$$s : \text{Store} \Gamma = \prod x : \text{Var}. \llbracket \Gamma x \rrbracket$$
$$\llbracket e \rrbracket s \Downarrow v$$
$$\llbracket c \rrbracket s \Downarrow s'$$

Encoding Hoare Logic (i)

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- ▶ **Specification of commands** $\{P\} c \{Q\}$
 $\Gamma \vdash c \quad P, Q : \text{Pred}\Gamma$
- ▶ $\{P\} c \{Q\}$ is **valid** if for all $s : \text{Store}\Gamma$,
if $P s$ and $\llbracket c \rrbracket s \Downarrow s'$, for some $s' : \text{Store}\Gamma$,
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- ▶ **Specification of expressions** $\{P\} e \{F\}$
 $\Gamma \vdash e : \tau \quad P : \text{Pred}\Gamma \quad F : \llbracket \tau \rrbracket \rightarrow \text{Pred}\Gamma$
- ▶ $\{P\} e \{F\}$ is **valid** if for all $s : \text{Store}\Gamma$,
if $P s$ and $\llbracket e \rrbracket s \Downarrow v$ for some $v : \llbracket \tau \rrbracket$,
then $F v s$

Encoding Hoare Logic (ii)

- ▶ Hoare logic axioms and inference rules

$$\{P\} \text{ skip } \{P\} \quad \frac{\{P\} e \{\lambda v. \lambda s. Qs\{x \mapsto v\}\}}{\{P\} x := e \{Q\}}$$

$$\frac{\{P\} c_1 \{R\} \quad \{R\} c_2 \{Q\}}{\{P\} c_1; c_2 \{Q\}}$$

$$\frac{\{P\} e \{F\} \quad \{F \text{ true}\} c_1 \{Q\} \quad \{F \text{ false}\} c_2 \{Q\}}{\{P\} \text{ if } e \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2 \{Q\}}$$

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- ▶ Consequence rules

$$\frac{P \Rightarrow P' \quad \{P'\} c \{Q\}}{\{P\} c \{Q\}}$$

$$\frac{\{P\} c \{Q'\} \quad Q' \Rightarrow Q}{\{P\} c \{Q\}}$$

Problems with Hoare Logic

Proof of specifications is **undecidable!**

- ▶ e.g. can we find the unknown R ?

$$\frac{\{P\} c_1 \{R\} \quad \{R\} c_2 \{Q\}}{\{P\} c_1; c_2 \{Q\}}$$

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- ▶ **Weakest preconditions**

(Dijkstra 1976)

$$R = wp[c_2](Q)$$

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- ▶ **Solution:** annotate programs with **proof hints!**

And their Solution (i)

Annotated computation language WHILE

$$e : AExpr_{\Gamma} ::= \dots \mid \text{assert } [p : P \Rightarrow Q], e$$
$$c : AComm_{\Gamma} ::= \dots \mid \text{inv } [P] \text{ while } e \text{ do } c \mid \text{assert } [p : P \Rightarrow Q]$$

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Proof hints:

- ▶ All loops have explicit invariants

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Proof hints:

- ▶ All loops have explicit **invariants**
- ▶ All uses of the consequence rules are replaced by **assert** constructs, which

- ▶ provide the **implication** involved $P \Rightarrow Q$
- ▶ provide a **proof** of this implication p

$$p : \Pi s : \text{Store } \Gamma. P s \rightarrow Q s$$

And their Solution (ii)

- ▶ Revised axioms and inference rules

$$\{P\} \text{ assert } [p : P \Rightarrow Q] \{Q\} \quad \frac{\{P\} e \{F\} \quad \{F \text{ true}\} c \{P\}}{\{P\} \text{ inv } [P] \text{ while } e \text{ do } c \{F \text{ false}\}}$$

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- ▶ Well definedness of weakest preconditions

if $c = \text{assert } [p : P \Rightarrow Q]$

then $wp[c](Q') = P$

provided $Q \Leftrightarrow Q'$

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- ▶ The relation $P \Leftrightarrow Q$ defines a decidable notion of predicate equivalence
 - ▶ We use $\alpha\beta\eta\iota$ -equality in CIC
 - ▶ A weaker notion of equivalence would result in fewer explicit assertions

And their Solution (iii)

Theorem

Annotations preserve typing, semantics and logic

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Theorem

Weakest preconditions are *correct* and *exact*

1. If $wp[c](Q)$ is defined
then $\{wp[c](Q)\} c \{Q\}$ is derivable.
2. If $\{P\} c \{Q\}$ is derivable
then $wp[c](Q)$ is defined and $P \Leftrightarrow wp[c](Q)$

And their Solution (iii)

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2. If $\{P\} c \{Q\}$ is derivable
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Theorem

Proof of specifications is *decidable*

Example

- ▶ Find the integer part of $\log_2(n)$

$\{\lambda s. sn \geq 1 \wedge sn = X\}$

$m := 0;$

while $n > 1$ do

$n := n \text{ div } 2;$

$m := m + 1$

$\{\lambda s. 2^{sm} \leq X < 2^{sm+1}\}$

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$\lambda s. X/2^{sm} = sn \wedge sn \geq 1 \wedge sm \geq 0$

- ▶ 4 assertions, of which the hardest to prove is
 $(\lambda s. X/2^{sm} = sn \wedge sn \geq 1 \wedge sm \geq 0 \wedge sn \leq 1) \Rightarrow$
 $(\lambda s. 2^{sm} \leq X < 2^{sm+1})$

Conclusions (i)

Our contribution

- ▶ Hoare logic and type certified code combined
- ▶ Certified programs can be represented in a high-level imperative language with proof hints as annotations
- ▶ Specifications are expressed as Hoare triples
- ▶ Proof checking is decidable and efficient
- ▶ The annotated language is consistent to the original in terms of typing, operational semantics and validity of specifications

Conclusions (ii)

Related work

- ▶ **Hamid and Shao (2004)**: low-level typed assembly programs, predefined safety policy
- ▶ **Franssen and de Swart (2004)**: similar, many-sorted first-order logic, differs in expressiveness and non-foundational character

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Future work

- ▶ **Fewer explicit assertions**: weaken the $P \Leftrightarrow Q$ equivalence relation
 - ▶ amounts to theorem proving

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Future work

- ▶ Fewer explicit assertions: weaken the $P \Leftrightarrow Q$ equivalence relation
 - ▶ amounts to theorem proving
- ▶ Exploit more of Hoare logic's benefits in typed certified code
 - ▶ variables and destructive update
 - ▶ pointers and dynamic variables