

# Program correctness

# Program verification and operational semantics

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# System verification

- Model checking verification is

- model based

$$M, s \models \phi$$

- fully automatic

- intended for hardware or software systems with **finitely many states**

- control is the main issue

- no complex data

- mainly reactive

- reaction-> computation -> reaction -> ...

- not intended to terminated



# System verification

## ■ Program verification:

□ Proof based  $\Gamma \vdash \phi$

- It is impossible to check infinite states !

□ Semi-automatic

□ intended for software systems with possibly  
**infinite states**

- mainly sequential

- transformational

□ input -> computation -> output

□ like methods of an object



# Program verification

The verification framework:

1. Convert an informal specification  $S$  in an 'equivalent' formula  $\phi$  of some logic
2. Write a program  $P$  realizing  $\phi$  (or  $S$ )
3. **Prove** that  $P$  satisfies the formula  $\phi$



# A simple language

- Syntactic sets associated to the language:
  - N positive and negative integers  $n, \dots$
  - B truth values true, false
  - Var program variables  $x, \dots$
  - Aexp arithmetic expressions  $a, \dots$
  - Bexp boolean expressions  $b, \dots$
  - Com commands  $c, \dots$



# Arithmetic expressions

- $A ::= n \mid x \mid (A+A) \mid (A-A) \mid (A*A)$

where  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $x \in \text{Var}$

- Here  $*$  binds more tightly than  $-$  and  $+$
- Examples:

$$2 + 3 * 4 - 5 \quad \text{is} \quad (2 + 3) * (4 - 5)$$

$$- 3 \quad \text{is} \quad (0 - 3)$$

$$- -5 \quad \text{is} \quad (0 - -5)$$

$$2 + x + 5 \quad \text{is} \quad (2 + x) + 5$$



# Boolean expressions

■  $B ::= \text{true} \mid \text{false} \mid \neg B \mid B \wedge B \mid B \vee B \mid A < A$

■ Examples:

$A_1 = A_2$  is  $\neg(A_1 < A_2) \wedge \neg(A_2 < A_1)$

$A_1 \neq A_2$  is  $\neg(A_1 = A_2)$

■ Boolean expressions are built on top of arithmetic expressions

■  $3+5 < 9$

■  $4 = 5$  is a correct boolean expression !!!

■  $\text{true} < 10$  is not a boolean expression



# Commands

- $C ::=$  skip |  
x := A |  
C;C |  
if B then C else C fi |  
while B do C od

- Example (Fact1)

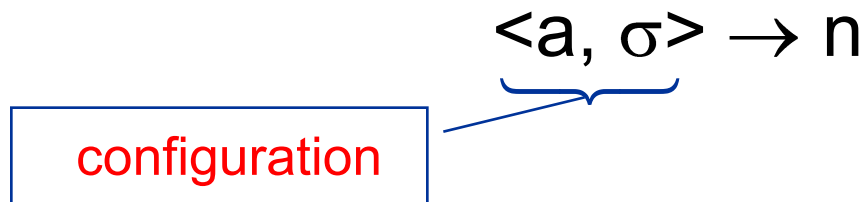
```
y := 1;  
z := 0;  
while z ≠ 0 do  
    z := z + 1;  
    y := y*z  
od
```





# The behaviour

- We need a formal model to understand correctly the behavior of a program
- **State**  $\sigma : \text{Var} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$
- An arithmetic expression  $a$  in a state  $\sigma$  **evaluates** to an integer  $n$



# Evaluating arithmetic expressions

- $\langle n, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n$
- $\langle x, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma(x)$
- If  $n$  is the sum of  $n_1$  and  $n_2$

$$\frac{\langle a_1, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_1 \quad \langle a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_2}{\langle a_1 + a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n}$$

- If  $n$  is the subtraction of  $n_2$  from  $n_1$

$$\frac{\langle a_1, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_1 \quad \langle a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_2}{\langle a_1 - a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n}$$

- If  $n$  is the product of  $n_1$  and  $n_2$

$$\frac{\langle a_1, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_1 \quad \langle a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_2}{\langle a_1 * a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n}$$



# An Example Derivation

- What is the  $n$  such that

$$\langle (3+4)-(x^*2), \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n ?$$



# Semantics of arithmetic expressions

- Two arithmetic expressions are **equivalent** if they evaluate to the same value in all states

$$a_1 \approx a_2$$

iff

$$(\forall n \in \mathbb{N}. \forall \sigma. \langle a_1, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n \Leftrightarrow \langle a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n)$$

- Examples:
  - $\langle 2+3, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow 5$  and  $\langle 3+2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow 5$  thus  $(2+3) \approx (3+2)$
  - $2+x$  is not equivalent to  $2+3$  because there are states in which  $x$  evaluates to an integer different from 3



# Evaluating Boolean expressions

□  $\langle \text{true}, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow T$

□  $\langle \text{false}, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow F$

□ 
$$\frac{\langle b, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow T}{\langle \neg b, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow F}$$

$$\frac{\langle b, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow F}{\langle \neg b, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow T}$$

□ 
$$\frac{\langle b_1, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow t_1 \quad \langle b_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow t_2}{\langle b_1 \wedge b_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow t}$$

where  $t = T$  if both  $t_1 = T$  and  $t_2 = T$ , otherwise  $t = F$



# Evaluating boolean expressions

$$\square \frac{\langle b_1, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow t_1 \quad \langle b_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow t_2}{\langle b_1 \vee b_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow t}$$

where  $t = T$  if  $t_1 = T$  or  $t_2 = T$ , and  $t = F$  otherwise

□ If  $n_1$  is less than  $n_2$  then

$$\frac{\langle a_1, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_1 \quad \langle a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_2}{\langle a_1 < a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow T}$$

□ If  $n_1$  is greater than or equal to  $n_2$  then

$$\frac{\langle a_1, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_1 \quad \langle a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_2}{\langle a_1 < a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow F}$$



# Semantics of Boolean expressions

- Two Boolean expressions are **equivalent** if they evaluate to the same truth value in all states

$$b_1 \approx b_2$$

iff

$$(\forall \sigma. \langle b_1, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow T \Leftrightarrow \langle b_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow T)$$

- We could improve the evaluation of Boolean expressions using
  - a left-first sequential strategy
  - a parallel strategy



# The command behaviour

- A program may
  - **terminate** in a final state or
  - **diverge** and never yield a final state

- We denote by

$$\langle c, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma'$$

the **execution** of a command  $c$  in an initial state  $\sigma$  and terminating in a final state  $\sigma'$

- Recall:  $\sigma[n/x](y) = \begin{cases} n & \text{if } x = y \\ \sigma(y) & \text{if } x \neq y \end{cases}$





# Executing commands I

$$\square \langle \text{skip}, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma$$

$$\square \frac{\langle a, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n}{\langle x := a, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma[n/x]}$$

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

$$\square \frac{\langle b, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow T \quad \langle c_1, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma'}{\langle \underline{\text{if}} \ b \ \underline{\text{then}} \ c_1 \ \underline{\text{else}} \ c_2 \ \underline{\text{fi}}, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma'}$$

$$\square \frac{\langle b, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow F \quad \langle c_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma'}{\langle \underline{\text{if}} \ b \ \underline{\text{then}} \ c_1 \ \underline{\text{else}} \ c_2 \ \underline{\text{fi}}, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma'}$$



# Example: MAX

- What is the final state  $\sigma'$  of

$\langle \text{if } x < y \text{ then } z := y \text{ else } z := x \text{ fi, } \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma'$

for  $\sigma(x) = 2$ ,  $\sigma(y) = 1$  and  $\sigma(z) = 0$  ?



# Executing commands II

$$\square \frac{\langle b, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow F}{\langle \underline{\text{while}} \ b \ \underline{\text{do}} \ c \ \underline{\text{od}}, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma}$$

$$\square \frac{\langle b, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow T \quad \langle c, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma'' \quad \langle \underline{\text{while}} \ b \ \underline{\text{do}} \ c \ \underline{\text{od}}, \sigma'' \rangle \rightarrow \sigma'}{\langle \underline{\text{while}} \ b \ \underline{\text{do}} \ c \ \underline{\text{od}}, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma'}$$

# Semantics of commands

- Two commands are **equivalent** if when executed from the same initial state they terminate in the same final state

$$C_1 \approx C_2$$

iff

$$(\forall \sigma, \sigma'. \langle C_1, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma' \Leftrightarrow \langle C_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma')$$

- Examples

- $x := x \approx \underline{\text{skip}}$

- $\underline{\text{while}}\ b\ \underline{\text{do}}\ c\ \text{od} \approx \underline{\text{if}}\ b\ \underline{\text{then}}\ c;\ \underline{\text{while}}\ b\ \underline{\text{do}}\ c\ \text{od}$   
 $\quad \underline{\text{else}}\ \underline{\text{skip}}$

fi



# Execution of Commands

- The order of evaluation is important and explicit.
  - $c_1$  is evaluated before  $c_2$  in  $c_1; c_2$
  - $c_2$  is not evaluated in if true then  $c_1$  else  $c_2$  fi
  - $b$  is evaluated first in if  $b$  then  $c_1$  else  $c_2$  fi
  - $c$  is not evaluated in “while false do  $c$  od”
- The execution rules suggest an interpreter but abstract from a concrete one
- Execution is deterministic: only one rule can be applied at time.

