

# Program correctness

## Proof Outlines

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# Proof outlines

- Formal proofs are long and tedious to follow.
- It is better to organize the proof in small local isolated steps
- We can use the structure of the program to structure our proof!



# The idea

- For the program  $P = c_1; c_2; c_3; \dots c_n$  we want to show

$$\vdash_{\text{par}} \{\phi_0\} P \{\phi_n\}$$

- We can split the problem into smaller ones if we find formulas  $\phi_i$ 's such that

$$\vdash_{\text{par}} \{\phi_i\} c_i \{\phi_{i+1}\}$$



# The idea (cont.d)

- Thus we have to find a calculus for presenting a proof  $\vdash_{\text{par}} \{\phi_0\} P \{\phi_n\}$  by interleaving formulas with code

$\{\phi_0\}$   
 $C_1;$   
 $\{\phi_1\}$       justification (i.e. skip, ass, if, while, implied)  
 $C_2;$   
 $\{\phi_2\}$       justification  
 $C_3;$   
 $\vdots$   
 $\{\phi_{n-1}\}$     justification  
 $C_n$   
 $\{\phi_n\}$

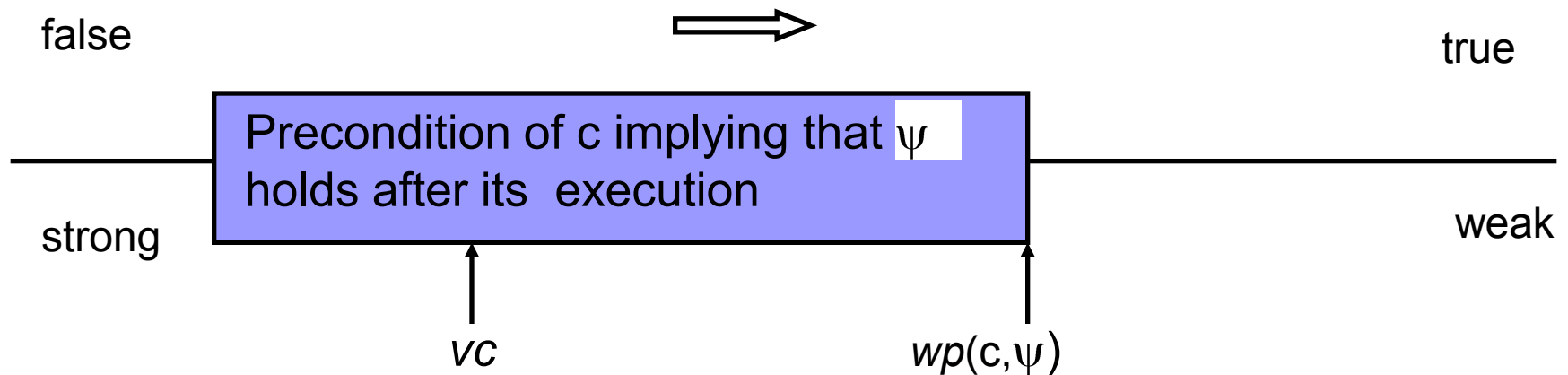
Composition is implicit !



# Verification condition

Problem: How can we find the  $\phi_i$ 's ?

Solution: Use Hoare rules and calculate verification conditions, i.e. conditions needed to establish the validity of certain assertions.



# Skip, assignment, implied

- $$\frac{}{\{\phi\} \text{ skip } \{\phi\}}$$
 skip
- $$\frac{}{\{\phi[a/x]\} x := a \{\phi\}}$$
 assignment
- $$\frac{\vdash \phi \Rightarrow \psi}{\{\phi\} \{\psi\}}$$
 implied

# Example

- To prove  $\vdash_{\text{par}} \{y = 5\} x := y + 1 \{x = 6\}$

$\{y = 5\}$

$\{y+1 = 6\}$

$x := y + 1$

$\{x = 6\}$

implied

assignment

we only need to prove the verification  
condition  $y = 5 \Rightarrow y+1 = 6$



# Composition, conditional

$$\frac{\{\phi\} c_1 \{\psi\} \quad \{\psi\} c_2 \{\phi\}}{\{\phi\} c_1; \{\psi\} c_2 \{\phi\}} \quad \text{seq}$$

$$\frac{\{\phi_1\} c_1 \{\psi\} \quad \{\phi_2\} c_2 \{\psi\}}{\{b \Rightarrow \phi_1 \wedge \neg b \Rightarrow \phi_2\} \text{if } b \text{ then } \{ \phi_1 \} c_1 \{ \psi \} \text{ else } \{ \phi_2 \} c_2 \{ \psi \} \text{ fi } \{ \psi \}} \quad \text{if}$$





# Example

- To prove  $\vdash_{\text{par}} \{\text{true}\} z:=x; z:=z+y; u:=z \{u = x+y\}$ 
  - $\{\text{true}\}$
  - $\{x+y = x+y\}$                       **implied**
  - $z:=x;$
  - $\{z+y = x+y\}$                       assignment
  - $z:=z+y;$
  - $\{z = x+y\}$                       assignment
  - $u:=z$
  - $\{u = x+y\}$                       assignment

we only need to prove the verification condition  
 $\text{true} \Rightarrow x+y = x+y$



# Example

Suppose we want to prove

{true}

a := x+1;

if a = 1 then y := 1 else y := a fi

{y = x+1}



# Example

{ true }

{ $x+1=1 \Rightarrow 1=x+1 \wedge x+1 \neq 1 \Rightarrow x+1=x+1$ } **implied**

a := x+1;

{ $a=1 \Rightarrow 1=x+1 \wedge a \neq 1 \Rightarrow a=x+1$ }

assignment

if a = 1

then {1 = x+1}  
y := 1

{ y = x+1 }

assignment

else

{ a = x+1 }

y := a

{ y = x+1 }

assignment

fi

{ y = x+1 }

if-then-else



# While statement

$$\frac{\{I \wedge b\} c \{I\}}{\{I\} \underline{\text{while}} b \underline{\text{do}} \{I \wedge b\} c \{I\} \underline{\text{od}} \{I \wedge \neg b\}} \text{while}$$

- We must **discover** an **invariant**  $I$ 
  - $I$  need not hold during the execution of  $c$
  - if  $I$  holds before  $c$  is executed then it holds if and when  $c$  terminates.



# Invariant

- For any while b do c od these are invariants

- true
- false
- $\neg b$

because  $\{I \wedge b\} c \{I\}$  is valid. However they are useless to prove

$$\phi \Rightarrow I \quad \text{or} \quad I \wedge \neg b \Rightarrow \psi$$

when considering the while in a context.

- To find a useful invariant it may help to look at the execution of the while and at the relationships among the variables manipulated by the while-body



# Example

- Let  $W = \underline{\text{while}}\ x > 0\ \underline{\text{do}}\ y := x*y;\ x := x-1\ \underline{\text{od}}$
- To prove  $\{x = n \wedge n \geq 0 \wedge y=1\} W \{y = n!\}$

iteration	x	y	x > 0 ?
0	6	1	true
1	5	6	true
2	4	30	true
3	3	120	true
4	2	360	true
5	1	720	true
6	0	720	false



# Example I

- Invariant Hypothesis  $y * x! = n!$

$\{y * x! = n!\}$

while  $x > 0$  do

$\{y * x! = n! \wedge x > 0\}$

$\{x * y * (x-1)! = n!\}$

$y := x * y;$

$\{y * (x-1)! = n!\}$

$x := x-1$

$\{y * x! = n!\}$

od

$\{y * x! = n! \wedge \neg x > 0\}$

invariant and guard  
implied

assignment

assignment

while

correct !!!



# Example II

- Since  $y * x! = n!$  is an invariant we have

$$\{x = n \wedge n \geq 0 \wedge y = 1\}$$

$$\{y * x! = n!\}$$

implied

W

$$\{y * x! = n! \wedge \neg x > 0\}$$

while

$$\{y * x! = n! \wedge x \leq 0\}$$

implied

$$\{y = n!\}$$

implied??

The invariant is too weak!





# Example III

- Another invariant hypothesis  $y * x! = n! \wedge x \geq 0$

$\{y * x! = n! \wedge x \geq 0\}$

while  $x > 0$  do

$\{y * x! = n! \wedge x \geq 0 \wedge x > 0\}$

$\{x * y * (x-1)! = n! \wedge x \geq 1\}$

$y := x * y;$

$\{y * (x-1)! = n! \wedge x-1 \geq 0\}$

$x := x-1$

$\{y * x! = n! \wedge x \geq 0\}$

od

$\{y * x! = n! \wedge x \geq 0 \wedge \neg x > 0\}$

Inv. Hyp. and guard  
implied

assignment

assignment

while

correct !!!



# Example IV

- With the new invariant we have

$$\{x = n \wedge n \geq 0 \wedge y=1 \}$$

$$\{y*x! = n! \wedge x \geq 0 \}$$

implied

W

$$\{ y*x! = n! \wedge x \geq 0 \wedge \neg x > 0 \}$$

while

$$\{ y*x! = n! \wedge x = 0 \}$$

implied

$$\{ y = n! \}$$

implied

Yes!

