

Soundness and Completeness of Hoare Logic

(Based on [Apt, de Boer, and Olderog 2009])

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Overview



- Given an adequate semantics for the programming language under consideration, the validity of a Hoare triple $\{p\}$ S $\{q\}$ can be precisely defined.
- A Hoare Logic for a programming language is sound if every Hoare triple proven by the logic is valid.
- A Hoare Logic for a programming language is complete if every valid Hoare triple can be proven by the logic.
- We shall develop these results for a very simple deterministic programming language.

A Simple Programming Language



• We will consider a Hoare Logic for the following simple (deterministic) programming language:

$$S ::=$$
 skip $| u := t$ $| S_1; S_2$ $|$ **if** B **then** S_1 **else** S_2 **fi** $|$ **while** B **do** S **od**

Note: here t is an expression (first-order term) of the same type as variable u; B is a boolean expression.

• We consider only programs that are free of syntactical or typing errors.

Proof Rules of Hoare Logic



Proof Rules of Hoare Logic (cont.)



$$\frac{\{p \land B\} \ S \ \{p\}}{\{p\} \ \text{while } B \ \text{do} \ S \ \text{od} \ \{p \land \neg B\}}$$

$$\frac{p \rightarrow p' \qquad \{p'\} \ S \ \{q'\} \qquad q' \rightarrow q}{\{p\} \ S \ \{q\}}$$
(Consequence)

We will refer to this proof system as System PD.

Operational Semantics



- A program/statement with a start state is seen as an abstract machine.
- (1) The part of program that remains to be executed and (2) the current state constitute the configuration of the abstract machine.
- By executing the program step by step, the machine transforms from one configuration to another.
- A transition relation naturally arises between configurations.
- The (input/output) semantics $\mathcal{M}[S]$ of a program S can then be defined with the help of the above transition relation.

Operational Semantics (cont.)



- At a high level, a configuration is a pair $\langle S, \sigma \rangle$ where S is a program and σ is a "proper" state (which essentially is a value assignment).
- 😚 A transition

$$\langle S, \sigma \rangle \to \langle R, \tau \rangle$$

means "executing S one step in state σ leads to state τ with R as the remainder of S to be executed."

- Let E denote the empty program. When the remainder R equals E, it means that S has terminated.
- \odot The transition relation \rightarrow can be defined inductively (in the form of axioms and rules) over the structure of a program.

Semantics of the Simple Language



To give an operational semantics of the simple language, we postulate the following transition axioms and rules:

- 1. $\langle \mathsf{skip}, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \langle E, \sigma \rangle$
- 2. $\langle u := t, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \langle E, \sigma[u := \sigma(t)] \rangle$
- 3. $\frac{\langle S_1, \sigma \rangle \to \langle S_2, \tau \rangle}{\langle S_1; S, \sigma \rangle \to \langle S_2; S, \tau \rangle}$
- 4. (if *B* then S_1 else S_2 fi, σ) \rightarrow (S_1 , σ), when $\sigma \models B$
- 5. (if *B* then S_1 else S_2 fi, σ) \rightarrow (S_2 , σ), when $\sigma \models \neg B$
- 6. (while *B* do *S* od, σ) \rightarrow (*S*; while *B* do *S* od, σ), when $\sigma \models B$
- 7. (while *B* do *S* od, σ) \rightarrow (*E*, σ), when $\sigma \models \neg B$

Transition Systems



- The preceding set of transition axioms and rules can be seen as a formal proof system, called a transition system.
- A transition $\langle S, \sigma \rangle \to \langle R, \tau \rangle$ is possible if it can be deduced in the transition system.
- This semantic is "high level", as assignments and evaluations of Boolean expressions are done in one step.

Transition Sequences and Computations



 \bullet A transition sequence of S starting in σ is a finite or infinite sequence of configurations

$$\langle S_0, \sigma_0 \rangle (= \langle S, \sigma \rangle) \rightarrow \langle S_1, \sigma_1 \rangle \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow \langle S_i, \sigma_i \rangle \rightarrow \cdots$$

- A computation of S starting in σ is a transition sequence of S starting in σ that cannot be extended.
- A computation of *S* terminates in τ if it is finite and its last configuration is $\langle E, \tau \rangle$.
- A computation of S diverges if it is infinite.

An Example



Consider the following program

$$S \equiv a[0] := 1$$
; $a[1] := 0$; while $a[x] \neq 0$ do $x := x + 1$ od

- igoplus Let σ be a state in which x is 0.
- igoplus Let σ' stand for $\sigma[a[0]:=1][a[1]:=0].$
- lacktriangle The following is the computation of S starting in σ :

$$\langle S, \sigma \rangle$$

$$\langle a[1] := 0; \text{ while } a[x] \neq 0 \text{ do } x := x + 1 \text{ od}, \sigma[a[0] := 1] \rangle$$

$$\langle \text{ while } a[x] \neq 0 \text{ do } x := x + 1 \text{ od}, \sigma' \rangle$$

$$\langle x := x + 1; \text{ while } a[x] \neq 0 \text{ do } x := x + 1 \text{ od}, \sigma' \rangle$$

$$\langle \text{ while } a[x] \neq 0 \text{ do } x := x + 1 \text{ od}, \sigma'[x := 1] \rangle$$

$$\langle E, \sigma'[x := 1] \rangle$$

Finite Transition Sequences



- For partial correctness of sequential programs, we will need only to talk about finite transition sequences.
- \odot To that end, we take the reflexive transitive closure \to^* of \to .
- So, $\langle S, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow^* \langle R, \tau \rangle$ holds when
 - 1. $\langle R, \tau \rangle = \langle S, \sigma \rangle$ or
 - 2. $\langle S_0, \sigma_0 \rangle (= \langle S, \sigma \rangle) \rightarrow \langle S_1, \sigma_1 \rangle \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow \langle S_n, \sigma_n \rangle (= \langle R, \tau \rangle)$ is a finite transition sequence.

Input/Output Semantics



- \bigcirc Let Σ be the set of all proper states.
- The partial correctness semantics is a mapping $\mathcal{M}[\![S]\!]: \Sigma \to \mathcal{P}(\Sigma)$ with $\mathcal{M}[\![S]\!](\sigma) = \{\tau \mid \langle S, \sigma \rangle \to^* \langle E, \tau \rangle \}.$
- \bullet Extensions of $\mathcal{M}[S]$

 - $\red{\hspace{-0.1cm}}$ For $X\subseteq\Sigma\cup\{\bot\}$, $\mathcal{M}\llbracket S\rrbracket(X)=\bigcup_{\sigma\in X}\mathcal{M}\llbracket S\rrbracket(\sigma)$.

Validity of a Hoare Triple



- **•** Let [p] denote $\{\sigma \in \Sigma \mid \sigma \models p\}$, i.e., the set of states where p holds.
- The Hoare triple $\{p\}$ S $\{q\}$ is valid in the sense of partial correctness, written $\models \{p\}$ S $\{q\}$, if

$$\mathcal{M}[S]([p]) \subseteq [q].$$

About the While Loop



- igoplus Let Ω be a program such that $\mathcal{M}[\![\Omega]\!](\sigma)=\emptyset$, for any σ .
- Define the following sequence of deterministic programs:

```
(while B do S od)<sup>0</sup> = \Omega

(while B do S od)<sup>k+1</sup> = if B then S; (while B do S od)<sup>k</sup> else skip fi
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- ightharpoonup For example, (**while** B **do** S **od**)²
 - = if B then S; (while B do S od)¹ else skip fi
 - = if B then S; if B then S; (while B do S od)⁰ else skip fi
 - else skip fi
 - = if B then S; if B then S; Ω else skip fi

else skip fi



Lemmas for $\mathcal{M}[S]$



- 1. $\mathcal{M}[S]$ is monotonic, i.e., $X \subseteq Y \subseteq \Sigma \cup \{\bot\}$ implies $\mathcal{M}[S](X) \subseteq \mathcal{M}[S](Y)$.
- 2. $\mathcal{M}[S_1; S_2](X) = \mathcal{M}[S_2](\mathcal{M}[S_1](X)).$
- 3. $\mathcal{M}[[(S_1; S_2); S_3]](X) = \mathcal{M}[[S_1; (S_2; S_3)]](X).$
- 4. $\mathcal{M}[\![\mathbf{if}\ B\ \mathbf{then}\ S_1\ \mathbf{else}\ S_2\ \mathbf{fi}]\!](X) = \mathcal{M}[\![S_1]\!](X \cap [\![B]\!]) \cup \mathcal{M}[\![S_2]\!](X \cap [\![\neg B]\!]).$
- 5. $\mathcal{M}[\![$ while B do S od $\!]\!] = \bigcup_{k=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{M}[\![$ (while B do S od) $\![$ $\![$].

Soundness



Theorem (Soundness): The proof system *PD* is sound for partial correctness of programs in the simple programming language, i.e.,

$$\vdash_{PD} \{p\} \ S \ \{q\} \text{ implies } \models \{p\} \ S \ \{q\}.$$

The proof is by induction, i.e., by proving that (1) the Hoare triples in all axioms of PD are valid and (2) all proof rules of PD are sound.

Note: a proof rule is sound if the validity of the Hoare triples in the premises implies the validity of the Hoare triple in the conclusion.



 \P skip: $\mathcal{M}[\![skip]\!]([\![p]\!]) \subseteq [\![p]\!]$

$$\mathcal{M}[\![\mathbf{skip}]\!]([\![p]\!]) = \bigcup_{\sigma \in [\![p]\!]} \{\tau \mid \langle \mathbf{skip}, \sigma \rangle \to^* \langle E, \tau \rangle \}$$
$$= \bigcup_{\sigma \in [\![p]\!]} \{\sigma\} = [\![p]\!] \subseteq [\![p]\!].$$

 $igcolon{@}{\bullet}$ Assignment: $\mathcal{M} \llbracket u := t
rbracket (\llbracket p \llbracket t/u
rbracket
rbracket) \subseteq \llbracket p
rbracket$

It can be shown that (1)
$$\sigma(s[u:=t]) = \sigma[u:=\sigma(t)](s)$$
 and (2) $\sigma \models p[t/u]$ iff $\sigma[u:=\sigma(t)] \models p$.

Let $\sigma \in \llbracket p[t/u] \rrbracket$.

From the transition axiom for assignment,

$$\mathcal{M}\llbracket u := t \rrbracket(\sigma) = \{\sigma[u := \sigma(t)]\}.$$

Since $\sigma \models p[t/u]$ iff $\sigma[u := \sigma(t)] \models p$, we have

$$\mathcal{M}\llbracket u := t \rrbracket (\sigma) \subseteq \llbracket p \rrbracket$$
 and hence $\mathcal{M}\llbracket u := t \rrbracket (\llbracket p \llbracket t/u \rrbracket \rrbracket) \subseteq \llbracket p \rrbracket$.





Composition: $\mathcal{M}[S_1]([p]) \subseteq [r]$ and $\mathcal{M}[S_2]([r]) \subseteq [q]$ imply $\mathcal{M}[S_1; S_2]([p]) \subseteq [q]$.

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From the monotonicity of \mathcal{M}[S_2], \mathcal{M}[S_2](\mathcal{M}[S_1]([p])) \subseteq \mathcal{M}[S_2]([r]) \subseteq [q].
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By an earlier lemma, $\mathcal{M}[S_2](\mathcal{M}[S_1]([p])) = \mathcal{M}[S_1; S_2]([p]).$

⊙ Conditional: $\mathcal{M}[S_1]([p \land B]) \subseteq [q]$ and $\mathcal{M}[S_2]([p \land \neg B]) \subseteq [q]$ imply $\mathcal{M}[if B \text{ then } S_1 \text{ else } S_2 \text{ fi}]([p]) \subseteq [q].$

This follows from an earlier lemma, $\mathcal{M}[\![\mathbf{if}\ B\ \mathbf{then}\ S_1\ \mathbf{else}\ S_2\ \mathbf{fi}]\!](X) = \mathcal{M}[\![S_1]\!](X \cap [\![B]\!]) \cup \mathcal{M}[\![S_2]\!](X \cap [\![\neg B]\!]).$



While: $\mathcal{M}[S]([p \land B]) \subseteq [p]$ implies $\mathcal{M}[\text{while } B \text{ do } S \text{ od}]([p]) \subseteq [p \land \neg B].$

From Lemma 5 for $\mathcal{M}[\![\cdot]\!]$, it boils down to show that $\bigcup_{k=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{M}[\![(\mathbf{while}\ B\ \mathbf{do}\ S\ \mathbf{od})^k]\!]([\![p]\!]) \subseteq [\![p \land \neg B]\!].$

We prove by induction that, for all $k \ge 0$,

$$\mathcal{M}[\![(\mathbf{while}\ B\ \mathbf{do}\ S\ \mathbf{od})^k]\!]([\![p]\!]) \subseteq [\![p \land \neg B]\!].$$

The base case k = 0 is clear.



```
\mathcal{M}[(\mathbf{while}\ B\ \mathbf{do}\ S\ \mathbf{od})^{k+1}]([p])
= { definition of (while B do S od)^{k+1} }
       \mathcal{M}[\mathbf{if} \ B \ \mathbf{then} \ S; (\mathbf{while} \ B \ \mathbf{do} \ S \ \mathbf{od})^k \ \mathbf{else} \ \mathbf{skip} \ \mathbf{fi}[([p]])
= \{ \text{Lemma 4 for } \mathcal{M} \llbracket \cdot \rrbracket \}
       \mathcal{M}[S]; (while B do S od)^k[([p \land B]]) \cup \mathcal{M}[skip]([p \land \neg B]])
= { Lemma 2 for \mathcal{M}[\cdot] and semantics of skip }
       \mathcal{M}[(\mathbf{while}\ B\ \mathbf{do}\ S\ \mathbf{od})^k](\mathcal{M}[S][p \land B]) \cup [p \land \neg B]
\subseteq { the premise and monotonicity of \mathcal{M}\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket }
       \mathcal{M}[\![(\mathbf{while}\ B\ \mathbf{do}\ S\ \mathbf{od})^k]\!]([\![p]\!]) \cup [\![p\land \neg B]\!]
\llbracket p \land \neg B \rrbracket \ (\cup \llbracket p \land \neg B \rrbracket)
```



⋄ Consequence: $p \to p'$, $\mathcal{M}[S]([p']]) \subseteq [q']$, and $q' \to q$ imply $\mathcal{M}[S]([p]]) \subseteq [q]$.

First of all, $\llbracket p \rrbracket \subseteq \llbracket p' \rrbracket$ and $\llbracket q' \rrbracket \subseteq \llbracket q \rrbracket$.

From the monotonicity of $\mathcal{M}[S]$, $\mathcal{M}[S]([p]) \subseteq \mathcal{M}[S]([p']) \subseteq [q'] \subseteq [q]$.

About Completeness



- Assertions that we use for a programming language often involve numbers/integers.
- According to Gödel's First Incompleteness Theorem, there is no complete proof system (that is consistent/sound) for the first-order theory of arithmetic.
- We therefore assume that all true assertions are given (as axioms).
- The completeness of Hoare Logic then is actually relative to the truth of all assertions.

Weakest Liberal Precondition



- Let S be a program in the simple programming language.
- For a set Φ of states, we define

$$wlp(S, \Phi) = \{ \sigma \mid \mathcal{M}[S](\sigma) \subseteq \Phi \}.$$

- $wlp(S, \Phi)$ is called the weakest liberal precondition of S with respect to Φ .
- Informally, $wlp(S, \Phi)$ is the set of all states σ such that whenever S is activated in σ and properly terminates, the output state is in Φ .

Definability of $wlp(S, \Phi)$



- An assertion p defines a set Φ of states if $\llbracket p \rrbracket = \Phi$.
- Assuming that the assertion language includes addition and multiplication of natural numbers, there is an assertion p defining $wlp(S, \llbracket q \rrbracket)$, i.e., with $\llbracket p \rrbracket =$

there is an assertion p defining wlp(S, [q]), i.e., with [p] = wlp(S, [q]).

- Proof of the above statement requires a technique called *Gödelization* and will not be given here.
- We will write wlp(S, q) to denote the assertion p such that $[\![p]\!] = wlp(S, [\![q]\!])$.

Lemmas for wlp



- 1. $wlp(\mathbf{skip}, q) \leftrightarrow q$.
- 2. $wlp(u := t, q) \leftrightarrow q[t/u]$.
- 3. $wlp(S_1; S_2, q) \leftrightarrow wlp(S_1, wlp(S_2, q))$.
- 4. $wlp(\mathbf{if}\ B\ \mathbf{then}\ S_1\ \mathbf{else}\ S_2\ \mathbf{fi},q)\leftrightarrow (B\wedge wlp(S_1,q))\vee (\neg B\wedge wlp(S_2,q)).$
- 5. $wlp(\textbf{while } B \textbf{ do } S_1 \textbf{ od}, q) \land B \rightarrow wlp(S_1, wlp(\textbf{while } B \textbf{ do } S_1 \textbf{ od}, q)).$
- 6. $wlp(\mathbf{while}\ B\ \mathbf{do}\ S_1\ \mathbf{od},q) \land \neg B \to q.$
- 7. $\models \{p\} \ S \ \{q\} \ (i.e., \mathcal{M}\llbracket S \rrbracket (\llbracket p \rrbracket) \subseteq \llbracket q \rrbracket) \ iff \ p \rightarrow wlp(S,q).$

Completeness



Theorem (Completeness): The proof system *PD* is complete for partial correctness of programs in the simple programming language, i.e.,

$$\models \{p\} \ S \ \{q\} \text{ implies } \vdash_{PD} \{p\} \ S \ \{q\}.$$

- We first prove a special case of the theorem: for all S and q, $\models \{wlp(S,q)\}\ S\ \{q\}\ \text{implies}\ \vdash_{PD} \{wlp(S,q)\}\ S\ \{q\}.$
- As $\models \{wlp(S,q)\}\ S\ \{q\}\ (i.e.,\ \mathcal{M}[S]([wlp(S,q)])\subseteq [q])$ always holds, the case simplifies to $\vdash_{PD} \{wlp(S,q)\}\ S\ \{q\}$, for all S and q.
- This is done by induction.
- The base cases (**skip** and assignment) are trivial.



• Conditional: $S \equiv \mathbf{if} \ B \ \mathbf{then} \ S_1 \ \mathbf{else} \ S_2 \ \mathbf{fi}$.

To prove $\vdash_{PD} \{wlp(S,q)\}\ S\ \{q\}$ via the conditional rule, we need

- $(1) \vdash_{PD} \{wlp(S,q) \land B\} S_1 \{q\} \text{ and }$
- $(2) \vdash_{PD} \{ wlp(S,q) \land \neg B \} S_2 \{q\}.$

From the induction hypothesis, we have

- $(3) \vdash_{PD} \{wlp(S_1, q)\} S_1 \{q\} \text{ and }$
- $(4) \vdash_{PD} \{wlp(S_2,q)\} S_2 \{q\}.$

Applying the consequence rule, we are done if

- (5) $wlp(S,q) \wedge B \rightarrow wlp(S_1,q)$ and
- (6) $wlp(S, q) \land \neg B \rightarrow wlp(S_2, q)$.
- (5) and (6) follows from Lemma 4 for wlp.



A proof of (5) $wlp(S,q) \wedge B \rightarrow wlp(S_1,q)$:

```
wlp(S,q) \wedge B
\leftrightarrow { definition of S }
       wlp(\mathbf{if}\ B\ \mathbf{then}\ S_1\ \mathbf{else}\ S_2\ \mathbf{fi},q)\wedge B
\leftrightarrow { Lemma 4 for wlp }
       ((B \land wlp(S_1, q)) \lor (\neg B \land wlp(S_2, q))) \land B
\leftrightarrow { distribute \land over \lor }
       ((B \land wlp(S_1, q)) \land B) \lor ((\neg B \land wlp(S_2, q)) \land B)
\leftrightarrow { commutativity of \land, B \land B \leftrightarrow B, and \neg B \land B \leftrightarrow false }
       (B \wedge wlp(S_1, q)) \vee false
\leftrightarrow { A \lor false \leftrightarrow A }
       B \wedge wlp(S_1, q)
\rightarrow { B \land A \rightarrow A }
       wlp(S_1, q)
```



• While: $S \equiv$ while B do S_1 od.

To prove $\vdash_{PD} \{ wlp(S,q) \} S \{q\}$, we apply Lemma 6 for wlp and the consequence rule to reduce the goal to $\vdash_{PD} \{ wlp(S,q) \} S \{ wlp(S,q) \land \neg B \}$.

Using the while rule, the goal is further reduced to $\vdash_{PD} \{wlp(S,q) \land B\} S_1 \{wlp(S,q)\}.$

From Lemma 5 for wlp and the consequence rule, we need $\vdash_{PD} \{wlp(S_1, wlp(S, q))\}\ S_1 \{wlp(S, q)\}.$

This follows from the induction hypothesis, which states that $\vdash_{PD} \{wlp(S_1, q')\} S_1 \{q'\}$, for all q'.





- Now suppose $\models \{p\} \ S \ \{q\}$.
- **•** From Lemma 7 for wlp, $p \rightarrow wlp(S, q)$.
- **⋄** From $\vdash_{PD} \{wlp(S,q)\}$ S $\{q\}$ and the consequence rule, $\vdash_{PD} \{p\}$ S $\{q\}$.

References



K.R. Apt, F.S. de Boer, and E.-R. Olderog. Verification of Sequential and Concurrent Programs, Third Edition, Springer, 2009.