
CSE 331

Software Design & Implementation

Spring 2022

Section 1 – Code Reasoning

Administrivia

- HW1 due next Wednesday.
 - Last two questions have loops: covered tomorrow in lecture.
- Any questions before we dive in?
 - What are the most interesting/confusing/puzzling things so far in the course?

Agenda

- Introductions?
- Review logical reasoning about code with Floyd Logic
- Practice both forward and backward modes
 - Just assignment, conditional (“if-then-else”), and sequence
 - Logical rules from yesterday’s lecture/notes
- Review logical strength of assertions (weaker vs. stronger)
- Practice determining stronger/weaker assertions

Why reason about code?

- Prove that code is correct
- Understand *why* code is correct
- Diagnose why/how code is *not* correct
- Specify code behavior

Logical reasoning about code

- Determine facts that hold of program state between statements
 - “Fact” ~ assertion (logical formula over program state, informally “value(s) of some/all program variables)
 - Driven by assumption (precondition) or goal (postcondition)
- Forward reasoning
 - What facts follow from initial assumptions?
 - Go from precondition to postcondition
- Backward reasoning
 - What facts need to be true to reach a goal?
 - Go from postcondition to precondition

Hoare Logic: Validity by Reasoning

- Checking validity of $\{\{P\}\} S \{\{Q\}\}$
 - Valid iff, starting from any state satisfying P , executing S results in a state satisfying Q
- Forward reasoning:
 - Reason from P to strongest postcondition $\{\{P\}\} S \{\{R\}\}$
 - Check that R implies Q (i.e., Q is weaker)
- Backward reasoning:
 - Reason from Q to get weakest precondition $\{\{R\}\} S \{\{Q\}\}$
 - Check that P implies R (i.e., P is stronger)

Implication (\Rightarrow)

- Logic formulas with *and* (&, &&, or \wedge), *or* (|, ||, or \vee) and *not* (! or \neg) have the same meaning they do in programs
- Implication might be a bit new, but the basic idea is pretty simple. Implication $p \Rightarrow q$ is true as long as q is always true whenever p is

p	q	$p \Rightarrow q$
T	T	T
T	F	F
F	T	T
F	F	T

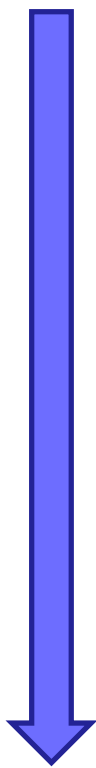
Assignment Statements

- Reasoning about $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y};$
- Forward reasoning:
 - add “ $x = y$ ” as a new fact
 - (also rewrite any existing references to “ x ” to use new value)
- Backward reasoning:
 - replace all instances of “ x ” in the postcondition with “ y ”

Conditionals, more closely

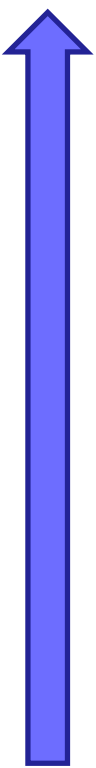
Forward reasoning

```
{{P}}  
if (b)  
    {{P ∧ b}}  
    S1  
    {{Q1}}  
else  
    {{P ∧ !b}}  
    S2  
    {{Q2}}  
{{Q1 ∨ Q2}}
```



Backward reasoning

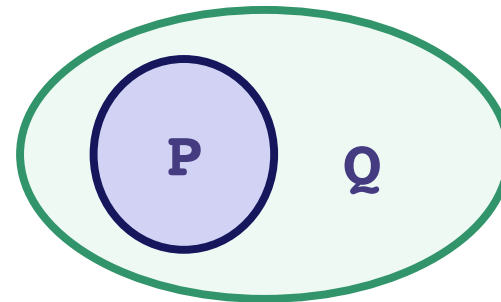
```
{{ (b ∧ P1) ∨ (!b ∧ P2) }}  
if (b)  
    {{P1}}  
    S1  
    {{Q}}  
else  
    {{P2}}  
    S2  
    {{Q}}  
{{Q}}
```



Weaker vs. stronger

Formal definition:

- If $P \Rightarrow Q$, then
 - Q is weaker than P
 - P is stronger than Q



Intuitive definition:

- “Weak” means unrestrictive; a weaker assertion has a larger set of possible program states (e.g., $x \neq 0$)
- “Strong” means restrictive; a stronger assertion has a smaller set of possible program states (e.g., $x = 1$ or $x > 0$ are both stronger than $x \neq 0$).

Worksheet

- Take ~10 minutes to get where you can
- Find a partner and work with them
- Let me know if you feel stuck
- We'll walk through some solutions afterwards

Worksheet – problem 2

```
{{ true }}
if (x>0) {
  {{ x > 0 }}
  y = 2*x;
  {{ x > 0 ∧ y = 2x }}
} else {
  {{ x ≤ 0 }}
  y = -2*x;
  {{ x ≤ 0 ∧ y = -2x }}
}
{{ (x > 0 ∧ y = 2x) ∨ (x ≤ 0 ∧ y = -2x) }}
⇒ {{ y = 2|x| }}
```

Worksheet – problem 4

```
{{ y > 15 ∨ (y ≤ 5 ∧ y + z > 17) }}  
if (y > 5) {  
    {{ y > 15 }}  
    x = y + 2  
    {{ x > 17 }}  
} else {  
    {{ y + z > 17 }}  
    x = y + z;  
    {{ x > 17 }}  
}  
{{ x > 17 }}
```

Worksheet – problem 6 (forward)

```
{{ true }}  
if (x < y) {  
  {{ true  $\wedge$  x < y }}  
  m = x;  
  {{ x < y  $\wedge$  m = x }}  
} else {  
  {{ true  $\wedge$  x  $\geq$  y }}  
  m = y;  
  {{ x  $\geq$  y  $\wedge$  m = y }}  
}  
{{ (x < y  $\wedge$  m = x)  $\vee$  (x  $\geq$  y  $\wedge$  m = y) }}  
 $\Rightarrow$  {{ m = min(x, y) }}
```

Worksheet – problem 6 (backward)

```
{{ true }} ⇔
{{ (x ≤ y ∧ x < y) ∨ (y ≤ x ∧ x ≥ y) }}
if (x < y) {
  {{ x = min(x, y) }} ⇔ {{ x ≤ y }}
  m = x;
  {{ m = min(x, y) }}
} else {
  {{ y = min(x, y) }} ⇔ {{ x ≥ y }}
  m = y;
  {{ m = min(x, y) }}
}
{{ m = min(x, y) }}
```

Worksheet – problem 7

`{{ y > 23 }}`

`{{ y >= 23 }}`

`{{ y = 23 }}`

`{{ y >= 23 }}`

`{{ y < 0.23 }}`

`{{ y < 0.00023 }}`

`{{ x = y * z }}`

`{{ y = x / z }}`

`{{ is_prime(y) }}`

`{{ is_odd(y) }}`

Worksheet – problem 7

`{{ y > 23 }}`

is stronger than

`{{ y >= 23 }}`

`{{ y = 23 }}`

`{{ y >= 23 }}`

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Worksheet – problem 7

`{{ y > 23 }}` is stronger than `{{ y >= 23 }}`

`{{ y = 23 }}` is stronger than `{{ y >= 23 }}`

`{{ y < 0.23 }}` is weaker than `{{ y < 0.00023 }}`

`{{ x = y * z }}` is **incomparable** with `{{ y = x / z }}`

`{{ is_prime(y) }}` `{{ is_odd(y) }}`

Worksheet – problem 7

`{{ y > 23 }}` is stronger than `{{ y >= 23 }}`

`{{ y = 23 }}` is stronger than `{{ y >= 23 }}`

`{{ y < 0.23 }}` is weaker than `{{ y < 0.00023 }}`

`{{ x = y * z }}` is **incomparable** with `{{ y = x / z }}`

`{{ is_prime(y) }}` is **incomparable** with `{{ is_odd(y) }}`

Questions?

- What is the most surprising thing about this?
- What is the most confusing thing?
- What will need a bit more thinking to digest?