# DRAFT::::: Annotating public bugs with ACSL: Experience report<sup>1</sup>

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# 1 Introduction

To verify that software behaves as desired, one must have a description of the intended behavior. If the verification of the software is to be automated, then that description must be machine readable, in an unambiguous logical representation. Such a representation is typically called the specification or software annotations.

One goal of software verification using behavioral specifications is that if the software is properly specified and the specifications and implementation are proved consistent, then the implementation is correct. In actual practice, behavioral specifications are not widely used and bugs in implementations are common. An interesting question is this: if specifications had been used would the bugs have been found? This is, of course, an after-the-fact determination. Just because, knowing the bug now and being able to write specifications that demonstrate the error does not mean that a regimen of specification at the time would have prevented it. However, if a bug cannot be identified even after-the-fact, then the software verification approach would need some rethinking.

This paper is an experience report in this regard. We identified several publicly reported bugs in commonly used Linux utilities for which we could obtain the code (from source code repositories) just before and just after the bug fix. We then included behavioral annotations in the code and demonstrated that the relevant tools pointed out that the code was faulty before the fix and the same annotations were consistent with the code after the fix.

The next section gives some background on the tools we used. The subsequent sections present the various bugs we analyzed, and the last section presents some observations.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. ACI-1314674. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

# 2 ACSL and Frama-C

For C programs, there are a variety of annotation systems. However most are fairly rudimentary, in that they only describe limited aspects of the program, such as that some variables are not null pointers, or that some assertion holds at a given program point. Other annotations systems are proprietary.

One system that seeks to be a language that can describe full behavioral requirements and be used for verifying, by proof, the correctness of a piece of software, is the ANSI-C Specification Language (ACSL) [https://frama-c.com/acsl.html]. This language is in turn based on other specification languages for other source programming languages, such as JML for Java and Spec# for C#; these are all in a family known as Behavioral Interface Specification Languages.

ACSL is a specification language. The Frama-C framework is a tool suite that performs various analyses on (ANSI-C) software and corresponding ACSL specifications. For this project we used Frama-C with its wp plugin, which performs static, proof-based checking that the implementation and the specifications are consistent.

Most software makes heavy use of libraries. For verification systems to work, those libraries must also have behavioral specifications. Lack of library specifications is in fact one of the impediments to wider use of specification-based software verification. In a companion report that is part of the same NSF project that supported the work reported here, we describe our work to expand the available specifications for C system libraries. In this work we simply use those specifications.

# 3 Demo bugs

Each of the following sections describes a particular publicly reported bug in Linux or busybox utilities.

# 4 Bug in pr

Pr is a Unix text processing tool

#### 4.1 Revisions Used

Repository: git://git.sv.gnu.org/coreutils.git

Version with bug

- Version 6.10
- Commit: 1440ca24fd216bb3a4d7c388b23a9512a4585508
- Mon, 21 Jan 2008 23:31:02 +0000 (00:31 +0100)

First presence

**Commented [DRC1]:** This one needs some source code snippets to be more understandable

- Initial commit of file
- Commit: b25038ce9a234ea0906ddcbd8a0012e917e6c661
- Sun, 8 Nov 1992 02:50:43 +0000 (02:50 +0000)

#### Initial fix

- Commit: 6856089f7bfaca2709b303f01dae001a30930b61
- Sat, 19 Apr 2008 11:34:38 +0000 (13:34 +0200)

#### 4.2 Description of Bug

A global variable *input\_position* is used to track the horizontal position in a file. This position is used to convert special characters such as tabs, which represent multiple spaces, and backspaces, which have a negative space. However, because *input\_position* represents the position in a file, it does not make sense for the value to be less than zero, and the bug occurs when this variable is negative.

The code fails when, before a tab (\t), the number of backspaces (\b) exceeds the number of characters that can be removed. The failure happens on line 2693 when the macro TAB\_WIDTH gets a negative value for the input\_position variable (the position for the next character to be written). Thus, the macro returns a value that is larger than the size of array clump\_buff and the variable width (gets its value from the macro) exceeds the size of the buffer. This bug can be found at version 6.10.

# 4.3 Annotations

A predicate was defined to represent an invariant for input\_position.

```
/*@ predicate valid_input_position = (input_position > 0); */
```

This predicate was then added as a pre and post condition to the function *char\_to\_clump*, which is responsible for converting characters to the proper format, and incrementing or decrementing *input\_position* by the width.

```
/*@
    requires valid_input_position;
    ensures valid_input_position;
*/
```

Noting that the function *read\_line* also modifies *input\_position*, and makes calls to *char\_to\_clump*, the same contract was added to *read\_line* to show it preserves the invariant.

## 4.4 Results

With the annotations applied on version 6.10, the only goal which is not validated is the post-condition of *char\_to\_clump*. Validation of the function *read\_line* show that it both preserves the

invariant, and makes valid calls to *char\_to\_clump*. However, failing to validate *char\_to\_clump* indicates the function may not preserve the invariant.

After applying the fix in commit 6856089f7bfaca2709b303f01dae001a30930b61, all of the goals are validated.

# 4.5 Modifications & Mitigations

The c11 feature \_Static\_assert is used, but frama-c only supports c99. The statement using this feature was removed from the file lib/verify.h.

A global invariant would have been used to check valid\_input\_position, but the feature is not well supported. Instead, the invariant was added to the pre and post condition of functions being analyzed.

# 5 Bug in arp

Running busybox arp -Ainet in version 1.6.2 results in Segmentation fault.

#### 5.1 Version used

Version with bug

- Version 1.6.2
- Available at http://www.busybox.net/downloads/

# 5.2 Description of Bug

Below is a section of code from arp\_main. The error is in the second conditional, which should be checking ARP\_OPT\_H, and ARP\_OPT\_t. As is, the call to get\_hwtype may have a null argument. When corrected, hw\_type is known to be valid, because of the relationship defined by getopt32\_arp. The error originates from a copy-paste error: the two if conditions are identical and should not be.

```
hw_set = 1;
```

The bug can be found on the line marked A in the int *arp\_main* method. Since neither the H nor t option was given in the command line, *hw\_type* was set to Null. Thus, at line B we have a Null passed to *get\_hwtype*. This value is then used in a call to *strcmp*. The behaviour of *strcmp* is not defined for invalid strings, so this call should be avoided.

# 5.3 Annotations

No annotations are required for the function *arp\_main*, which contains the error.

The function *get\_hwtype* was annotated with a pre-condition to require a valid argument.

```
/*@ requires valid name: \valid(name); */
```

Additionally, a loop inside *get\_hwtype* was annotated with invariants and a variant to show calls to *strcmp* satisfy its pre-condition.

```
//@ ghost const struct hwtype *const *hwp_orrig = hwp;
//@ ghost int hwp_offset = 0;
/*@
    loop assigns hwp, hwp_offset;
    loop invariant \valid(name);
    loop invariant hwp == hwp_orrig + hwp_offset;
    loop invariant 0 <= hwp_offset <= hwtypes_size;
    loop variant hwp_orrig+hwtypes_size - hwp;
*/
while (*hwp != NULL) {
    if (!strcmp((*hwp)->name, name))
        return (*hwp);
    hwp++;
    //@ ghost hwp_offset++;
}
```

Annotations relating to the global variable *hwtypes[]* were added. First, a logical integer was declared setting the known size.

```
/*@
    axiomatic HWTypes {
    logic integer hwtypes_size{L};
    axiom hwtypes_const_len{L}: hwtypes_size == 5;
}
*/
```

Next, a global invariant was defined showing some properties of the structure.

```
/*@
  global invariant hwtype_structure:
    \valid(hwtypes+(0..hwtypes_size))
```

Minimal contracts were added for functions called in arp\_main.

A contract was added to *get\_aftype* showing it does not have any side effects.

```
/*@ assigns \nothing; */
```

A post-condition of false was added to *bb\_error\_msg\_and\_die*, which exits, and does not return from the function in any case.

```
/*@ ensures \false; */
```

#### 5.4 Results

A precondition required by get\_hwtype in arp\_main fails, indicating the possible error. The bug exists because incorrect flags are being checked. By fixing this error, arp\_main is validated completely.

The function get\_hwtype is validated completely, when assuming the correct properties of hwtypes[].

#### 5.5 Modifications & Mitigations

The definition of *strlen* provided by frama-c's libc headers while correct, was too difficult to be proven in several instances. To have a useable definition, the specification was weakened by changing the pre-condition from the *valid\_string* predicate, to the built in \*valid*.

String literals were refactored as needed to instead use a temporary variable, because  $\$  was incorrectly failing.

Added function *getopt32\_arp* which proxies to *getopt32* specifically for the *arp\_main* function, because *getopt32* uses a variable argument list. Because of the setup, the annotations are not proven, but provides a contract which can be assumed.

```
/*@
   ensures \result == option_mask32;
   ensures (option_mask32 & (0x1)) <==> \valid(*protocol); // ARP_OPT_A
   ensures (option_mask32 & (0x2)) <==> \valid(*protocol2); // ARP_OPT_P
   ensures (option_mask32 & (0x4)) <==> \valid(*hw_type); // ARP_OPT_H
   ensures (option_mask32 & (0x8)) <==> \valid(*hw_type2); // ARP_OPT_t
```

Because global invariants are not well supported, the property was simply asserted at the beginning of get hwtype.

```
//@ assert \valid(hwtypes+(0..hwtypes_size));
//@ assert \forall integer i; (0 <= i < hwtypes_size) ==>
(\valid(*(hwtypes+i)));
//@ assert \forall integer i; (0 <= i < hwtypes_size) ==>
(\valid((*(hwtypes+i))->name));
//@ assert *(hwtypes+hwtypes_size) == 0;

5.6 References
@inproceedings{ray2011debugging,
title={Debugging memory issues in embedded linux: a case study},
author={Ray, Partha Pratim and Banerjee, Ansuman},
booktitle={Students' Technology Symposium (TechSym), 2011 IEEE},
pages={23--28},
year={2011},
organization={IEEE}
}
```

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# 6 Bug in cut

The cut utility performs editing on lines of text, removing specified portions of the line according to instructions given in the command-line options.

#### 6.1 Description of Bug Behavior

The bug is described at this web page:

http://debbugs.gnu.org/cgi/bugreport.cgi?msg=5;att=0;bug=13627

It is interesting to note that the bug was fixed, introducing a second bug. When the second bug was fixed, the first was reintroduced. The bug can be reproduced with the command:

```
echo '' | ./src/cut --output-d=: -b1,1234567890-
```

## 6.2 Revisions Used

Repository: git://git.sv.gnu.org/coreutils.git

Version with bug

- Commit: d57ebc45ba4c59cc6f8bb0e9a435ecbddc84b982
- Fri, 1 Feb 2013 21:33:21 +0000

#### Introduced

- Commit: ec48beadfa0ae1216788eaf6bf558ee2013eac18
- Thu, 6 Dec 2012 18:29:23 +0000

#### Initial fix

- Commit: be7932e863de07c4c7e4fc3c1db3eb6d04ba9af5
- Mon, 4 Feb 2013 13:55:01 +0000

# 6.3 Description of Bug

The function set\_fields allocates the printable\_field array. This function calls is\_printable\_field which assumes the argument refers to a valid location in printable\_field. However this precondition cannot be guaranteed, and the test case will cause a segmentation fault due to attempting to access a value past the array bounds.

#### 6.4 Annotations

Contracts were added to required functions from gnulib by adding headers.

```
/*@ requires s>0;
    ensures \valid((unsigned char *)\result+(0..(s-1)));
*/
extern void *xzalloc(size_t s);
/*@ assigns *table; */
extern void *hash_insert (Hash_table *table, void const *entry);
```

Minimal contracts were added to some functions used by set\_fields.

```
/*@ assigns *range_start_ht; */
static inline void mark_range_start (size_t i)

/*@ assigns printable_field[i/8]; */
static inline void mark_printable_field (size_t i)

/*@ requires \valid(printable_field+(i/8));
    assigns \nothing;
*/
static inline bool is_printable_field (size_t i)
```

In the function *set\_fields*, properties of the variable *max\_range\_endpoint* are discovered through a loop invariant.

It is now known that at the end of the loop,  $max\_range\_endpoint$  holds the maximum hi value from the rp array.

Additional annotations are added to later loops to show variable *max\_range\_endpoint* is unchanged, and maintains the relationship with *printable\_field*.

```
/*@ loop assigns i, *range_start_ht, printable_field[0 ..
(max_range_endpoint/8)]; */
/*@ loop assigns j, printable_field[0 .. (max_range_endpoint/8)]; */
```

The attempt to validate the pre-condition to *is\_printable\_field*, wp was having difficulty, so a lemma was added. The lemma validates, indicating it is always true.

#### 6.5 Results

Earlier in the function, a relationship is formed between *max\_range\_endpoint* and the allocated size of *printable\_field*.

```
if (max_range_endpoint)
  printable_field = xzalloc (max_range_endpoint / CHAR_BIT + 1);
```

The later loops are annotated with assigns to preserve this property. The code below shows the error.

```
if (output_delimiter_specified
   && !complement
   && eol_range_start
   && max_range_endpoint
   && !is_printable_field (eol_range_start))
        mark_range_start (eol_range_start);
```

Even though <code>max\_range\_endpoint</code> is checked, the restrictions are not strong enough. The call to <code>is\_printable\_field</code> requires the parameter to reference a valid index of <code>printable\_field</code>, and we have insufficient information on <code>eol\_range\_start</code> to make that claim. The fix adds a condition relating <code>eol\_range\_start</code> to <code>max\_range\_endpoint</code>, which we have already established is related to the size of <code>printable\_field</code>.

As expected, the precondition on *is\_printable\_field* in the original code does not validate, but does validate once the fix is applied. Furthermore, when assuming the contracts provided for the functions in gnulib, the contracts for *mark\_range\_start*, *mark\_printable\_field*, and *is\_printable\_field* validate. Additionally, all but one of the loops validates.

The code above does not validate with frama-c, but is true. Adding the invariant j >= 0 validates, so the loop variable range is 0 <= j <= rp[i].hi, where  $0 <= i < n_rp$  from an outer loop. Additionally, the previous loop held the invariant

\forall integer idx; (0 <= idx < n\_rp) ==> (max\_range\_endpoint >= rp[idx].hi), or max\_range\_endpoint is the largest hi value in rp. Therefore, the largest possible range for j is 0 <= j <= max\_range\_endpoint. The single function called in this loop with argument arg assigns printable\_field[arg/8]. Therefore, the worst case assignments from this loop is  $printable\_field$  with indexes j/8, which is bounded by 0 <= j/8 <= max\_range\_endpoint/8. This is written as printable\_field[0 ... (max\_range\_endpoint/8)].

## 6.6 Modifications & Mitigations

- Removed \_Static\_assert calls from gnulib/lib/verify.h to comply with C99.
- Used Typed+cast model because of the pointer type conversions required.

#### 6.7 Expected Failures

Some goals do not prove:

 typed\_cast\_set\_fields\_loop\_assign\_3\_part3: This loop assignment is valid, but cannot be proven.

Other goals cannot prove due to the use of undefined behavior when assigning to some variables:

- typed\_cast\_set\_fields\_call\_strspn\_pre\_valid\_string\_src
- typed\_cast\_set\_fields\_call\_free\_deallocation\_pre\_freeable
- · typed cast set fields call gsort pre
- typed\_cast\_set\_fields\_call\_free\_deallocation\_pre\_freeable\_2

# 7 Bug in fetchsms

Fetchsms is a

# 7.1 Source

http://www.kamailio.org/pub/openser/1.1.0/src/openser-1.1.0-tls\_src.tar.gz

#### 7.2 Description of bug

"A buffer, pdu[], is passed to fetchsms(). fetchsms() writes into pdu[] from another buffer, answer[], which it gets from the modem. fetchsms() does some heavyweight string parsing of answer[], and copies part of answer[] into pdu[]. Unfortunately, pdu[] is too small to hold this substring of answer[]."

A response string is written into *answer*, which has a size limit of 512. The function which writes the response guarantees a valid string with a null terminator will be written, and truncates the response to fit. A substring from the response is found, and written into the function argument pdu. Because it is a substring of a bounded size string, we can assert if the write into pdu is legal, if the size of pdu is known. Until this point, pdu is unmodified, so if an inadequately sized array is provided, the bug could manifest.

#### 7.3 Annotations

The libc header files from frama-c for string.h were used. Additionally, the provided contract for *sprintf* was added.

The function *put\_command* in file *modules/sms/libsms\_modem.c* writes a command to the modem *mdm*, and copies as much of the response as can fit into *answer*. The value in *answer* is always null terminated.

```
/*@
    requires \valid(answer+(0..max-1));
    assigns *(answer+(0..(max-1)));
    ensures valid_string(answer);
*/
```

Commented [DRC3]: Need a one sentence description of fetchsms, perhaps a link to it

The function *fetchsms* in file *modules/sms/libsms\_getsms.c* is where the bug occurs. The final two requires statements prevent the bug from occurring by constraining the size of *pdu*.

```
/*@
    requires \valid(mdm);
    requires \valid(pdu);
    requires \separated(mdm, pdu);

    requires \valid(pdu+(0..511));
    requires \separated(mdm, pdu+(0..511));

    */
    int fetchsms(struct modem *mdm, int sim, char* pdu)
```

Three simple loops in fetchsms were annotated with assigns statements.

```
/*@ loop assigns end; */
```

Several assertions were added into the function *fetchsms* to show the sizes of substrings are bounded, and that *pdu* remained valid.

The lemma was added to assist the prover. The lemma verifies, indicating it is a tautology.

# 7.4 Results

No fix was found to resolve this potential bug. However, there is an implicit pre-condition on *fetchsms* which prevents the scenario.

The call to strcpy on line 192 will fail the  $room\_string$  precondition if the precondition  $requires \valid(pdu+(0..511))$  on fetchsms is not present.

Additionally, it was found that there is potential for a run time error if a malformed response is received. On line 171, *position* is set to the location of "+CMGR:", which guarantees valid memory from *position* to *position*+6, for each letter and the null terminator. Later, on line 178, *beginning* is set to *position*+7, which is may not be a valid address. Then on line 184, *end* is set to *beginning*, and dereferenced.

In actuality, an error here is not observed because a well formed response in this case follows "+CMGR:" with a space, then additional information

(http://www.developershome.com/sms/cmgrCommand.asp). The potential error could be avoided by changing the search string to "+CMGR: ", with a space.

For this experiment, an annotation was added after the initial call on line 171 to assume a well formed response. The assertion (position == 0) // (6 <= strlen(position) < 512) validates, and the stronger assertion (position == 0) // (7 <= strlen(position) < 512) does not validate, as expected.

# 7.5 Modifications & Mitigations

String literals were refactored as needed to instead use a temporary array, because \valid was incorrectly failing.

There was an issue with including the libc headers provided by frama-c, causing an error in gcc.

The option -pp-annot is used to allow the use of macros in annotations. However, this causes gcc warnings.

Some properties which were valid were timing out. If given enough time, it is possible the goals would be validated. Instead, because the property was known at one point in the program, assertions were added at points between the known location, and the location where the property was utilized, to assist in showing the property held. These extra annotations allowed validation in reasonable time.

Validation on string properties are extremely slow. The option -wp-split was sufficient for most, goals, but some required an extended timeout. A full validation took over an hour.

#### 7.6 References

http://blog.frama-c.com/public/scam09.pdf

http://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2006-6876

 $\underline{https://github.com/REMath/implementations/tree/master/tanalysis/tanalysis/verisec \% 20v1.0/Ope \\ \underline{nSER/CVE-2006-6876}$ 

# 8 Bug in seq

Seq is a Unix utility that generates a sequence of numbers. The command-line options allow different ranges of numbers and allow the numbers to be formatted in different ways.

#### 8.1 Description of Bug Behavior

The bug is that specify a floating point format with a length of zero causes an out of read:

\$ ./seq -f %0 1

#### ./seg: memory exhausted

#### 8.2 Revisions Used

Version with bug: 6.10

# 8.3 Annotations

Preconditions, and loop annotations were added to long\_double\_format to prove the generated RTE assertions.

xmalloc in xalloc.c was also annotated because it is used by long\_double\_format.

#### 8.4 Results

The invariant strlen(fmt) >= i in the second loop allows the rte assertion to validate, which checks access to fmt[i]. Without the bug fix, this invariant is not proven. However after the fix, all loop annotations, and rte assertions are proven.

# 8.5 Modifications & Mitigations

There are four cases where valid\_read\_string fails as a precondition. In all cases the parameter is a string literal, thus valid. This was left as is because the normal mitigation was too slow in proving, and these are obviously valid.

# 8.6 References

Bug report: http://lists.gnu.org/archive/html/bug-coreutils/2008-03/msg00181.html

Fix:

 $\underline{\text{http://git.savannah.gnu.org/cgit/coreutils.git/commit/?id=b8108fd2ddf77ae79cd014f4f37798a52be13fd1}$ 

# 9 Bug in iq

The jq library is a parser fof JSON input, written in C.

## 9.1 Description

The bug reported is #896 in the jq github project (<a href="https://github.com/stedolan/jq/issues">https://github.com/stedolan/jq/issues</a>). It is a use-after-free bug from short but unusual input, originally found by the AFL fuzzer (American Fuzzy Lop).

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# 9.2 Running

Not all goals will pass in the correct version. These are the ones that may fail:

- \*\_assert\_separation: Seperation logic of allocation cannot be currently expressed in Frama-C, so asserts are used instead.
- \*\_assert\_vac: The vaccuous test. If it proves, then there is a condradiction in logic allowing \false to be provable.
- \*\_assert\_bug\_correction: This is an assert to offset the bug described here.
- jv\_get\_call\_jv\_free\_pre\_6: Despite successfully asserting the preconditions for jv\_free directly above it, the preconditions for this function will not prove. Possible Frama-C bug.

All other goals are expected to pass.

#### 9.3 Details

See jv aux.c in both versions for more details about the proof.

# 10 Bug in ag

This is a proof that a bug existed in the codebase of The Silver Searcher, a filesystem searching tool written in C. The issue we are checking for is <u>fixed in this commit</u>.

# 10.1 Running

If Frama-C complains about header files missing, you probably don't have libpcre-dev or liblzma-dev installed on your system. Use apt-get to install them on Linux, or apt-cyg if on Cygwin.

All the goals are expected to pass in the fixed version of the code.

#### 10.2 Details

See src/util.c in both versions for more details about the proof.

# 11 Observations

The overall mini-project we attempted was successful:

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**Commented [DRC7]:** Ian - anything to add here (without replicating the library specification paper)

- We identified several publicly reported bugs in real code for which we could obtain the code before and after the fix
- We annotated the code without modification with specifications in ACSL.
- The Frama-C –wp tool failed to validate the code+annotations before the fix.
- The Frama-C –wp tool successfully validated the code+annotations after the fix.

We did encounter some limitations of Frama-C's current implementation which precluded validating all generated verification conditions or required small adjustments to the original C code. However these situations were well-understood from other work with Frama-C. The issues and mitigations we encountered are noted in each section above and are also summarized in a separate larger experience report about Frama-C.