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# Software Architecture

## Lecture 11

### Program Correctness

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# Programmer's Major Concerns

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1. Mathematical **Correctness** Concern
  - Whether the program defines a proper relation between an **initial state** and a **final state**
2. Engineering concerns about **efficiency**
  - They are only defined in relation to an implementation

# Correctness

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- We are interested in mechanisms that, when started in an initial state, will end up in a final state which, as a rule, depends on the choice of the initial state

# Deterministic Mechanisms

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- Result depends on the choice of the input

# Non-Deterministic Mechanisms

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- **Choice of the input** will produce **one** of the possible outputs
- The input only fixes the **class** of possible outputs

# The Idea

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- We would like to know the set of **initial states** such that the use of the **mechanism** will result in a **final state** satisfying a so-called **post-condition**

# The Idea

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- For example, we would like to know the set of initial states such that executing  $x := x + 5$  will result in a final state satisfying the post-condition  $x \geq 13$

# The Weakest PreCondition

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- The condition that characterizes the set of all **initial states** such that the use of the mechanism will leave the system in a state satisfying the post-condition is called the **Weakest PreCondition** for that **post-condition**



# The Weakest PreCondition

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- We call it **weakest** because the weaker a condition **the more states** satisfy it and we are aim here at characterizing **all** possible starting states that lead to a desired state

# Weaker Conditions

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- $c1$  is weaker than  $c2$  if  $c2$  implies  $c1$ 
  - $x > 0$  is weaker than  $x > 5$

# Correctness Formula

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- Let `prog` be program code.  
A **correctness formula** is an expression of the form

$$\{P\} \text{ prog } \{Q\}$$

“Any execution of `prog` starting in a state where **P** holds, will terminate in a state where **Q** holds”.

# Correctness Formula

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- $\{P\} \text{ prog } \{Q\}$ 
  - $\text{prog}$  is program code
  - $P$  is a PreCondition
  - $Q$  is a post-condition

$\{x \geq 7\} \ x := x + 5 \ \{x \geq 13\}$

# Correctness Formula

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- Is this formula correct ?

$$\{x \geq 10\} \quad x := x + 5 \quad \{x \geq 13\}$$

# Correctness Formula

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- Is this formula correct ?

$\{x \geq 10\} \quad x := x + 5 \quad \{x \geq 13\}$

- The formula holds whenever  $x \geq 10$  is true before  $x := x + 5$  is executed, the condition  $x \geq 13$  holds after

# Correctness Formula

---

- When is this formula correct ?

$$\{P\} \ x := x + 5 \ \{x \geq 13\}$$

# Correctness Formula

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- When is this formula correct ?

$$\{P\} \ x := x + 5 \ \{x \geq 13\}$$

- It is correct if and only if

$$P \implies x \geq 8$$



# Correctness Formula

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- When is this formula correct ?

$$\{P\} \ x := x + 5 \ \{Q\}$$

# Correctness Formula

---

- When is this formula correct ?

$$\{P\} \ x := x + 5 \ \{Q\}$$

- the formula is correct when

$$P \implies Q[x \setminus x + 5]$$

# Weakest Precondition

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- What is the weakest precondition  $P$  making the following formula true ?

$$\{P\} \ x := x + 5 \ \{x \geq 13\}$$

# Weakest Precondition

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- What is the weakest precondition  $P$  making the following formula true ?

$$\{P\} \ x := x + 5 \ \{x \geq 13\}$$
$$(x \geq 13) \ [x \ \backslash \ x + 5]$$

# Weakest Precondition

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- The condition characterizing all the initial states so that executing a program **prog** will result in a final state satisfying a post-condition **Q**, will be called the **weakest PreCondition**, denoted by

$WP(\text{prog}, Q)$

## A Remark

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- We are sometimes not interested in finding the exact form of  $WP(\text{prog}, Q)$  but would be content with a stronger condition  $C$ , that is, a condition for which

$$C \implies WP(\text{prog}, Q)$$

# Weakest Precondition Calculus

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$$\{P\} \ x := x + 5 \ \{x \geq 13\}$$

# Weakest Precondition Calculus

---

$$\{P\} \ x := x + 5 \ \{x \geq 13\}$$
$$(x \geq 13) \ [x \ \backslash \ x + 5]$$



# Weakest Precondition Calculus

---

$$\{P\} \ x := x + 5 \ \{x \geq 13\}$$
$$(x \geq 13) \ [x \ \backslash \ x + 5]$$
$$x + 5 \geq 13$$

# Weakest Precondition Calculus

---

$$\{P\} \ x := x + 5 \ \{x \geq 13\}$$
$$(x \geq 13) \ [x \ \backslash \ x + 5]$$
$$x + 5 \geq 13$$
$$x \geq 8$$

## Key Remark

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- $x \geq 8$  is the **weakest** condition  $P$  such that the following correctness formula holds

$$\{P\} \ x := x + 5 \ \{x \geq 13\}$$

- In particular
  - $x \geq 10 \implies x \geq 8$
  - $x \geq 15 \implies x \geq 8$

# Results On WP

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## Results On WP

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1.  $WP(\text{prog}, \text{false}) = \text{false}$
2.  $Q1 \implies Q2$  then  
 $WP(\text{prog}, Q1) \implies WP(\text{prog}, Q2)$
3.  $WP(\text{prog}, Q) \text{ and } WP(\text{prog}, R)$   
 $= WP(\text{prog}, Q \text{ and } R)$
4.  $WP(\text{prog}, Q) \text{ or } WP(\text{prog}, R)$   
 $\implies WP(\text{prog}, Q \text{ or } R)$

# WP Calculus → Assignment Rule

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$$\text{WP} (x := E, Q) = Q[x \setminus E]$$

# WP Calculus → Assignment Rule

---

$$\text{WP}(x := E, Q) = Q[x \backslash E]$$

$$\{P\} \quad x := x + 5 \quad \{x \geq 13\}$$

# WP Calculus → Assignment Rule

---

$$\text{WP} (x := E, Q) = Q[x \backslash E]$$

$$\{P\} \ x := x + 5 \ \{x \geq 13\}$$

$$\text{WP} (x := x + 5, x \geq 13) = (x \geq 13) [x \backslash x + 5]$$



# WP Calculus → Assignment Rule

---

$$\text{WP} (x := E, Q) = Q[x \backslash E]$$

$$\{P\} \ x := x + 5 \ \{x \geq 13\}$$

$$\text{WP} (x := x + 5, x \geq 13) = (x \geq 13) [x \backslash x + 5]$$

$$x \geq 8$$

# WP Calculus → Composition Rule

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$$WP(S;T, Q) = WP(S, WP(T, Q))$$

# WP Calculus → Composition Rule

$$\text{WP}(S;T,Q) = \text{WP}(S, \text{WP}(T,Q))$$

$\{P\} \quad x:=z+1; \quad y:=x+y \quad \{y > 5\}$

# WP Calculus → Composition Rule

$$WP(S;T,Q) = WP(S,WP(T,Q))$$

$\{P\} \ x:=z+1; \ y:=x+y \ \{y > 5\}$

$WP(x:=z+1; \ y:=x+y, \ y > 5)$

# WP Calculus → Composition Rule

$$WP(S;T, Q) = WP(S, WP(T, Q))$$

$\{P\} \ x:=z+1; \ y:=x+y \ \{y > 5\}$

$WP(x:=z+1; \ y:=x+y, \ y > 5)$

$WP(x:=z+1, \ WP(y:=x+y, \ y > 5))$

# WP Calculus → Composition Rule

$$WP(S;T,Q) = WP(S,WP(T,Q))$$

$\{P\} \ x:=z+1; \ y:=x+y \ \{y > 5\}$

$WP(x:=z+1; \ y:=x+y, \ y > 5)$

$WP(x:=z+1, \ x+y > 5)$

# WP Calculus → Composition Rule

$$WP(S;T,Q) = WP(S,WP(T,Q))$$

$\{P\} \ x:=z+1; \ y:=x+y \ \{y > 5\}$

$WP(x:=z+1; \ y:=x+y, \ y > 5)$

$z+1+y > 5$

# WP Calculus → Composition Rule

$$WP(S;T,Q) = WP(S,WP(T,Q))$$

$\{P\} \ x:=z+1; \ y:=x+y \ \{y > 5\}$

$WP(x:=z+1; \ y:=x+y, \ y > 5)$

$z+y > 4$



# WP Calculus → Implication Rule

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$$\text{WP}(\text{if } (C) \text{ } S \text{ else } T, Q) =$$

# WP Calculus → Implication Rule

---

$WP(\text{if } (C) \text{ } S \text{ else } T, Q) =$

$C \Rightarrow WP(S, Q) \ \&\&$   
 $\neg C \Rightarrow WP(T, Q)$

# WP Calculus → Implication Rule

---

$$\text{WP}(\text{if } (C) \text{ } S, Q)$$

# WP Calculus → Implication Rule

---

$$\text{WP}(\text{if } (C) \text{ } S, Q)$$
$$C \Rightarrow \text{WP}(S, Q)$$

# WP Calculus

```
{P}  if (x>y)  z:=x  else  z:=y  {z>0}
```

# WP Calculus

```
{P}  if (x>y)  z:=x  else  z:=y  {z>0}
```

```
x>y => WP (z:=x, z>0)  &&  
x≤y => WP (z:=y, z>0)
```

# WP Calculus

```
{P}  if (x>y)  z:=x  else  z:=y  {z>0}
```

```
x>y => x>0  &&
```

```
x≤y => y>0
```

# WP Calculus → Implication Rule

---

$$\text{WP}(\text{skip}, Q) = Q$$



# WP Calculus → Abort Rule

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$$\text{WP}(\text{abort}, Q) = \text{false}$$

# When a while loop is Correct?

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```
B  
while( C ) {  
    prog  
}
```

# When a while loop is Correct?

B  
while( C ) {  
 prog  
}

Post-condition Q  
Loop-Invariant I  
Variant V

# When a while loop is Correct?

```
B  
while( C ) {  
    prog  
}
```

```
Post-condition Q  
Loop-Invariant I  
Variant V
```

1. The Loop-Invariant holds initially

# When a while loop is Correct?

```
B  
while( C ) {  
    prog  
}
```

```
Post-condition Q  
Loop-Invariant I  
Variant V
```

1. The Loop-Invariant holds initially

```
{true} B {I}
```

# When a while loop is Correct?

```
B  
while( C ) {  
    prog  
}
```

Post-condition  $Q$   
Loop-Invariant  $I$   
Variant  $V$

1. The Loop-Invariant holds initially

$WP(B, I) = \text{true}$

# When a while loop is Correct?

B  
`while( C ) {`  
    `prog`  
`}`

Post-condition  $Q$   
Loop-Invariant  $I$   
Variant  $V$

2. Program `prog` maintains the Loop-Invariant  $I$  provided that the guard  $C$  holds as well

$\{I \wedge C\} \text{ prog } \{I\}$

# When a while loop is Correct?

```
B  
while( C ) {  
    prog  
}
```

Post-condition  $Q$   
Loop-Invariant  $I$   
Variant  $V$

2. Program **prog** maintains the Loop-Invariant **I** provided that the guard **C** holds as well

$$(I \wedge C) \Rightarrow WP(\text{prog}, I)$$



# When a while loop is Correct?

```
B  
while( C ) {  
    prog  
}
```

```
Post-condition Q  
Loop-Invariant I  
Variant V
```

3. The **Variant** is strictly decreased by the execution of **prog** provided that the invariant **I** and the guard **C** hold

$$\{I \wedge C\} \text{ prog } \{0 \leq V < V_0\}$$

# When a while loop is Correct?

B  
`while( C ) {`  
    `prog`  
`}`

Post-condition  $Q$   
Invariant  $I$   
Variant  $V$

3. The **Variant**  $V$  is  $v$  before executing `prog`  
the execution of `prog` decreases the invariant  $I$

## Remark!

$\{I \wedge C\} \text{ prog } \{0 \leq V < V_0\}$

# When a while loop is Correct?

```
B  
while( C ) {  
    prog  
}
```

Post-condition  $Q$   
Invariant  $I$   
Variant  $V$

3. The **Variant** is strictly decreased by the execution of **prog** provided that the invariant **I** and the guard **C** hold

$$(I \wedge C) \Rightarrow WP(\text{prog}, 0 \leq V < V_0)$$

# When a while loop is Correct?

```
B  
while( C ) {  
    prog  
}
```

Post-condition  $Q$   
Invariant  $I$   
Variant  $V$

4. The post-condition holds after the loop ends

$$(I \wedge \neg C) \Rightarrow Q$$

# Is this Program Correct?

```
x := M;  
y := N;  
z := 0;  
while( x ≥ y ) {  
    z := z + 1;  
    x := x - y;  
}
```

# Is this Program Correct?

```
x := M;  
y := N;  
z := 0;  
while( x ≥ y ) {  
    z := z + 1;  
    x := x - y;  
}
```

Invariant  $zy + x = M$

Post-condition  
 $zy + x = M \wedge x < y$

Variant  $x$

# Is this Program Correct?

```
x := M;  
y := N;  
z := 0;  
while( x ≥ y ) {  
    z := z + 1;  
    x := x - y;  
}
```

Invariant  $zy + x = M$

Post-condition  
 $zy + x = M \wedge x < y$

Variant  $x$

1.  $WP(B, I) = \text{true}$

# Is this Program Correct?

```
x := M;  
y := N;  
z := 0;  
while( x ≥ y ) {  
    z := z + 1;  
    x := x - y;  
}
```

Invariant  $zy + x = M$

Post-condition  
 $zy + x = M \wedge x < y$

Variant  $x$

1.  $WP(x := M; y := N; z := 0, zy + x = M) = \text{true}$



# Is this Program Correct?

$WP(x := M; y := N; z := 0, zy + x = M) =$

# Is this Program Correct?

$WP(x := M; y := N; z := 0, zy + x = M) =$

$WP(x := M; y := N, 0y + x = M) =$

# Is this Program Correct?

$WP(x := M; y := N; z := 0, zy + x = M) =$

$WP(x := M; y := N, 0y + x = M) =$

$WP(x := M, 0N + x = M) =$

# Is this Program Correct?

$WP(x := M; y := N; z := 0, zy + x = M) =$

$WP(x := M; y := N, 0y + x = M) =$

$WP(x := M, 0N + x = M) =$

$0N + M = M =$

# Is this Program Correct?

$WP(x := M; y := N; z := 0, zy + x = M) =$

$WP(x := M; y := N, 0y + x = M) =$

$WP(x := M, 0N + x = M) =$

$0N + M = M =$

true

# Is this Program Correct?

```
x := M;  
y := N;  
z := 0;  
while( x ≥ y ) {  
    z := z + 1;  
    x := x - y;  
}
```

Invariant  $zy + x = M$

Post-condition  
 $zy + x = M \wedge x < y$

Variant  $x$

2.  $(I \wedge C) \Rightarrow WP(\text{prog}, I)$

# Is this Program Correct?

```
x := M;  
y := N;  
z := 0;  
while( x ≥ y ) {  
    z := z + 1;  
    x := x - y;  
}
```

Invariant  $zy + x = M$

Post-condition  
 $zy + x = M \wedge x < y$

Variant  $x$

2.  $(zy + x = M) \wedge (x \geq y) \Rightarrow$   
 $WP(z := z + 1; x := x - y, zy + x = M)$

# Is this Program Correct?

$$(zy+x=M) \wedge (x \geq y) \Rightarrow$$
$$WP(z := z+1; x := x-y, zy+x=M)$$



# Is this Program Correct?

$$(zy+x=M) \wedge (x \geq y) \Rightarrow$$
$$WP(z := z+1; x := x-y, zy+x=M)$$
$$WP(z := z+1; x := x-y, zy+x=M) =$$

# Is this Program Correct?

$$(zy+x=M) \wedge (x \geq y) \Rightarrow$$
$$WP(z := z+1; x := x-y, zy+x=M)$$
$$WP(z := z+1; x := x-y, zy+x=M) =$$
$$WP(z := z+1, zy+x-y=M) =$$

# Is this Program Correct?

$$(zy+x=M) \wedge (x \geq y) \Rightarrow$$
$$WP(z := z+1; x := x-y, zy+x=M)$$
$$WP(z := z+1; x := x-y, zy+x=M) =$$
$$WP(z := z+1, zy+x-y=M) =$$
$$(z+1)y+x-y=M$$

# Is this Program Correct?

$(zy+x=M) \wedge (x \geq y) \Rightarrow$

$WP(z := z+1; x := x-y, zy+x=M)$

$WP(z := z+1; x := x-y, zy+x=M) =$

$WP(z := z+1, zy+x-y=M) =$

$(z+1)y+x-y=M$

$zy+x=M$

# Is this Program Correct?

$$(zy+x=M) \wedge (x \geq y) \Rightarrow \\ zy+x=M$$

# Is this Program Correct?

```
x := M;  
y := N;  
z := 0;  
while( x ≥ y ) {  
    z := z + 1;  
    x := x - y;  
}
```

Invariant  $zy + x = M$

Post-condition  
 $zy + x = M \wedge x < y$

Variant  $x$

3.  $(I_0 \wedge C_0) \Rightarrow WP(\text{prog}_0, 0 \leq v < V_0)$

# Is this Program Correct?

$$(I_0 \wedge C_0) \Rightarrow WP(\text{progo}, 0 \leq v < v_0)$$

# Is this Program Correct?

$$(I_0 \wedge C_0) \Rightarrow \text{WP}(\text{prog}_0, 0 \leq v < V_0)$$

$$(z_0 y + x_0 = M) \wedge (x_0 \geq y) \Rightarrow \text{WP}(\text{prog}_0, 0 \leq x < X_0)$$



# Is this Program Correct?

$$(I_0 \wedge C_0) \Rightarrow \text{WP}(\text{prog}_0, 0 \leq v < V_0)$$

$$(z_0 y + x_0 = M) \wedge (x_0 \geq y) \Rightarrow \text{WP}(\text{prog}_0, 0 \leq x < X_0)$$

$$\text{WP}(z := z_0 + 1; x := x_0 - y, 0 \leq x < X_0) =$$

# Is this Program Correct?

$$(I_0 \wedge C_0) \Rightarrow \text{WP}(\text{prog}_0, 0 \leq v < V_0)$$

$$(z_0 y + x_0 = M) \wedge (x_0 \geq y) \Rightarrow \text{WP}(\text{prog}_0, 0 \leq x < X_0)$$

$$\text{WP}(z := z_0 + 1; x := x_0 - y, 0 \leq x < X_0) =$$

$$\text{WP}(z := z_0 + 1, 0 \leq X_0 - y < X_0) =$$

# Is this Program Correct?

$$(I_0 \wedge C_0) \Rightarrow \text{WP}(\text{prog}_0, 0 \leq v < v_0)$$

$$(z_0 y + x_0 = M) \wedge (x_0 \geq y) \Rightarrow \text{WP}(\text{prog}_0, 0 \leq x < x_0)$$

$$\text{WP}(z := z_0 + 1; x := x_0 - y, 0 \leq x < x_0) =$$

$$\text{WP}(z := z_0 + 1, 0 \leq x_0 - y < x_0) =$$

$$0 \leq x_0 - y < x_0$$

# Is this Program Correct?

$$(I_0 \wedge C_0) \Rightarrow \text{WP}(\text{prog}_0, 0 \leq v < V_0)$$

$$(z_0 y + x_0 = M) \wedge (x_0 \geq y) \Rightarrow 0 \leq x_0 - y < x_0$$

# Is this Program Correct?

```
x := M;  
y := N;  
z := 0;  
while( x ≥ y ) {  
    z := z + 1;  
    x := x - y;  
}
```

Invariant  $zy + x = M$

Post-condition  
 $zy + x = M \wedge x < y$

Variant  $x$

4.  $(I \wedge \neg C) \Rightarrow Q$

# Is this Program Correct?

```
x := M;  
y := N;  
z := 0;  
while( x ≥ y ) {  
    z := z + 1;  
    x := x - y;  
}
```

Invariant  $zy + x = M$

Post-condition  
 $zy + x = M \wedge x < y$

Variant  $x$

4.  $(zy + x = M) \wedge \neg(x \geq y) \Rightarrow$   
 $zy + x = M \wedge x < y$

# What does $A(x,y)$ calculate?

---

```
function A(x, y)
  if x = 0 return y
  while y ≠ 0 {
    if x > y
      x := x - y
    else
      y := y - x
  }
  return x
```

# Example

---

- $x = 6, y = 9$
- $A(x, y) = ?$



# Example

---

- $x = 6, y = 9$
- $A(6, 9) = ?$

# Example

---

- $x = 6, y = 9$
- $A(6, 9) =$
- $A(6, 3)$

# Example

---

- $x = 6, y = 9$
- $A(6, 9) =$
- $A(6, 3) =$
- $A(3, 3)$

# Example

---

- $x = 6, y = 9$
- $A(6, 9) =$
- $A(6, 3) =$
- $A(3, 3) = 3$

# The Greatest Common Divisor

## Euclid's Algorithm

---

```
function GCD (x, y) {  
    while ! (x = y) {  
        if x > y  
            x := x - y  
        else  
            y := y - x  
    }  
    return x  
}
```