INTRODUCTION TO DAFNY

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DAFNY

Dafny is an imperative programming language with built-in annotations to prove correctness of code.

- Dafny is built on Boogie, a intermediate verification language.
- Boogie generates verification conditions, which are passed to an SMT solver (Z3 by default).

BASIC SYNTAX

METHODS

`method`s are functions in typical imperative languages.

```
method Abs(x: int) returns (y: int)
{
   if x < 0
     { return -x; }
   else
     { return x; }
}
```

The input parameters are read only, and an implicit `return` is added automatically at the end of a method, where the current values of return parameters are returned as-is.

METHODS

There can be multiple return values.

```
method MultipleReturns(x: int, y: int)
returns (more: int, less: int)
{
   more := x + y;
   less := x - y;
   // comments.
}
```

Pre- and postconditions

`ensures` annotates postconditions of a method for Dafny to check its correctness.

```
method MultipleReturns(x: int, y: int)
returns (more: int, less: int)
   ensures less < x
   ensures x < more
{
   more := x + y;
   less := x - y;
}
```

Dafny rejects this program.

PRE- AND POSTCONDITIONS

`requires` annotates preconditions. It is the programmer's job to establish them.

```
method MultipleReturns(x: int, y: int)
returns (more: int, less: int)
   requires 0 < y
   ensures less < x < more
{
   more := x + y;
   less := x - y;
}
```

Dafny verifies this program successfully.

PRE- AND POSTCONDITIONS

We can check by ourselves that postcondition above holds under given precondition. But how does Dafny know that?

Pre- and Postconditions are translated to the following formula, which is passed to an SMT solver, ($\rightarrow$ represents implication.)

$$(0 < y) \rightarrow ((more = x + y) \wedge (more > x)) \\ \wedge((less = x - y) \wedge (less < x))$$

which can also be checked by hand.

PRE- AND POSTCONDITIONS

- While an SMT solver cannot directly prove that a proposition always hold, the problem can be translated to verify negations/conjunction of negations of above formulas,
- such that if they are unsatisfiable, there is no program state that could violates given pre- and postconditions:

$$\neg((0 < y) \rightarrow ((x + y > x) \wedge (x - y < x)))$$

ASSERTIONS

`assert` is a keyword to place assertions in the moddle of a method.

```
// use definition of Abs() from before.
method Testing()
{
   var v := Abs(3);
   assert 0 <= v;
}
```

ASSERTIONS

The program:

```
var v := Abs(3);
assert v == 3;
```

would not be verified, because Dafny only knows the postconditions of `Abs`, but nothing more.

ASSERTIONS

To prove the assertion above, we can modify `Abs` to provide more information.

```
method Abs(x: int) returns (y: int)
   ensures 0 <= y
   ensures 0 <= x ==> x == y
{
   // body as before
}
```

FUNCTIONS

```
function abs(x: int): int
{
   if x < 0 then -x else x
}
```

Unlike a method, which can have all sorts of statements in its body, a function body must consist of exactly one expression, with the correct return type.

FUNCTIONS

The power of functions comes from the fact that they can be used directly in specifications. So we can write:

```
assert abs(3) == 3;
```

without explicitly writing pre- and postconditions.

LOOP INVARIANTS

To pre- and postconditions of a loop, We would want to konw what always hold for each loop iteration.

```
var i := 0;
while i < n
   invariant 0 <= i
{
   i := i + 1;
}
```

When you specify an invariant, Dafny proves two things:

- the invariant holds upon entering the loop, and
- it is preserved by the loop.

LOOP INVARIANTS

Assuming the invariant holds at the beginning of the loop, Dafny checks that executing the loop body once makes the invariant hold again:

$$(0 \leq i_0) \rightarrow (i_1 = i_0 + 1) \wedge (0 \leq i_1)$$

, as mentioned, to verify above formula, the problem is equivalent to unsatisfiability of the negation of the formula.

LOOP TERMINATION

A `decreases` annotation, as its name suggests, gives Dafny and expression, called measure, that strictly decreases with every loop iteration or recursive call.

```
while 0 < i
   invariant 0 <= i
   decreases i
{
   i := i - 1;
}
```

Combining with the requirement that it must be an integer, the measure will reach zero in finite number of iterations, thus ensures termination.

LOOP INVARIANTS

A `decreases` is automatically added if not given by the user, so an addition formula is added to verification condition whenerver a loop is present, in this case:

$$(i_1 = i_0 - 1) \wedge (i_1 < i_0)$$

LOOP INVARIANTS

Excercise: Write down the `fib` function.

```
method ComputeFib(n: nat) returns (b: nat)
   ensures b == fib(n)
{
   if n == 0 { return 0; }
   var i: int := 1;
   var a := 0;
       b := 1;
   while i < n
      invariant 0 < i <= n
      invariant a == fib(i - 1)
      invariant b == fib(i)
   {
      a, b := b, a + b;
      i := i + 1;
   }
}
```

ARRAYS

- `array<T>` is the type of array of type `T`.
- `array<T>` is always non-empty, while `array?<T>` can be `null`.
- An array have a built-in length field, `a.Length`.
- All array accesses must be proven to be within bounds.

This program can be successfully verified, but what does it mean?

```
method Find(a: array<int>, key: int) returns (index: int)
   ensures 0 <= index ==> index < a.Length && a[index] == key
{
  return -1;
}
```

QUANTIFIERS

A `forall` quantifier can be added in a proposition.

```
method Find(a: array<int>, key: int) returns (index: int)
   ensures 0 <= index ==> index < a.Length && a[index] == key
   ensures index < 0 ==> forall k :: 0 <= k < a.Length ==> a[k] != key
{
   index := 0;
   while index < a.Length
      invariant 0 <= index <= a.Length
      invariant forall k :: 0 <= k < index ==> a[k] != key
   {
      if a[index] == key { return; }
      index := index + 1;
   }
   index := -1;
}
```

Excercise: write down the verification condition(s) of the program above.

PREDICATES

A predicate is a `function` which returns a boolean.

```
predicate sorted(a: array<int>)
   requires a != null
{
   forall j, k :: 0 <= j < k < a.Length ==> a[j] <= a[k]
}
```

Note that

- there is no return type, because predicates always return a boolean.
- Dafny rejects this code as given, claiming that the predicate cannot read a.
- Fixing this issue requires the `reads` annotation.

FRAMING

- The sorted predicate is not able to access the array because the array was not included in the function's reading frame.
- The reading frame of a function (or predicate) is all the memory locations that the function is allowed to read.

```
predicate sorted(a: array<int>)
   requires a != null
   reads a
{
   forall j, k :: 0 <= j < k < a.Length ==> a[j] <= a[k]
}
```

EXAMPLE: BINARY SEARCH

```
predicate sorted(a: array<int>)
   requires a != null
   reads a
{
   forall j, k :: 0 <= j < k < a.Length ==> a[j] <= a[k]
}
method BinarySearch(a: array<int>, value: int) returns (index: int)
   requires a != null && 0 <= a.Length && sorted(a)
   ensures 0 <= index ==> index < a.Length && a[index] == value
   ensures index < 0 ==> forall k :: 0 <= k < a.Length ==> a[k] != value
{
   var low, high := 0, a.Length;
   while low < high
      invariant 0 <= low <= high <= a.Length
      invariant forall i ::
         0 <= i < a.Length && !(low <= i < high) ==> a[i] != value
   {
      var mid := (low + high) / 2;
      if a[mid] < value
      {
         low := mid + 1;
      }
      else if value < a[mid]
      {
         high := mid;
      }
      else
      {
         return mid;
      }
   }
   return -1;
}
```