



**BITS Pilani**  
Pilani Campus



# CS/IS F214 Logic in Computer Science

## MODULE: **PROGRAM VERIFICATION**

### **Floyd-Hoare Logic: Verifying Loops: Loop Invariants**

# Hoare Logic – Basic Method

- Hoare Logic reduces basic correctness argument for a program

/\* Precondition: Input x satisfies some properties \*/

A(x)

/\* Postcondition: Running A on x results in ... \*/

- to each statement in a program:

/\* p0 \*/

S1

/\* p1 \*/

S2

/\* p2 \*/

...

/\* pN \*/

•How would this approach work for iterative statements (i.e. loops)?

•How many iterations will one go through?

such that pN is the required post-condition and p0 is the given precondition.



# Hoare Logic – Rule for Iterations – Invariants

- Rule for Iterative Statement

$$\langle \phi \wedge B, S, \phi \rangle$$

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$$\langle \phi, \text{while } B \text{ do } \{ S \}, \phi \wedge \neg B \rangle$$

This premise states that  $\phi$  remains invariant (i.e. unchanged) over one iteration.

- Alternatively

/\* Precondition:  $\phi$  \*/

while (B) do { /\*  $\phi \wedge B$  \*/ S /\*  $\phi$  \*/ }

/\* Postcondition:  $\phi \wedge \neg B$  \*/

Therefore, by induction,  $\phi$  remains *invariant over any number of iterations*.

## Hoare Logic – Iterations - Example

/\* Pre-condition:

$\text{gcd}(x,y) = \text{gcd}(A,B)$ \*/

while (y != 0) do {

/\*  $\text{gcd}(x,y) = \text{gcd}(A,B) \wedge \neg(y = 0)$

\*/

t = x % y;

x = y;

y = t;

/\*  $\text{gcd}(x,y) = \text{gcd}(A,B)$ \*/

}

/\* Post-condition:

$\text{gcd}(x,y) = \text{gcd}(A, B) \wedge y=0$ \*/

## Hoare Logic – Invariant - Example

/\* Pre-condition:

$\text{gcd}(x, y) = \text{gcd}(A, B)$  \*/

while (y != 0) do {

/\*  $\text{gcd}(x, y) = \text{gcd}(A, B) \wedge \neg(y = 0)$  \*/

t = x % y;

x = y;

y = t;

/\*  $\text{gcd}(x, y) = \text{gcd}(A, B)$  \*/

}

/\* Post-condition:

$\text{gcd}(x, y) = \text{gcd}(A, B) \wedge y = 0$  \*/

/\*  $\text{gcd}(y, x \% y) = \text{gcd}(A, B)$  \*/

t = x % y;

/\*  $\text{gcd}(y, t) = \text{gcd}(A, B)$  \*/

x = y;

/\*  $\text{gcd}(x, t) = \text{gcd}(A, B)$  \*/

y = t;

/\*  $\text{gcd}(x, y) = \text{gcd}(A, B)$  \*/

## Hoare Logic – Invariant - Example

/\* Pre-condition:

$\text{gcd}(x,y) = \text{gcd}(A,B)$  \*/

while (y != 0) do {

/\*  $\text{gcd}(x,y) = \text{gcd}(A,B) \wedge \neg(y = 0)$  \*/

t = x % y;

x = y;

y = t;

/\*  $\text{gcd}(x,y) = \text{gcd}(A,B)$  \*/

}

/\* Post-condition:

$\text{gcd}(x,y) = \text{gcd}(A,B) \wedge y=0$  \*/

/\*  $\text{gcd}(x,y) = \text{gcd}(A,B) \wedge \neg(y = 0)$  \*/



because  
 $\text{gcd}(x,y) = \text{gcd}(x-y,y)$

/\*  $\text{gcd}(x\%y,y) = \text{gcd}(A,B)$  \*/



because  
 $\text{gcd}$  is *commutative*

/\*  $\text{gcd}(y,x\%y) = \text{gcd}(A,B)$  \*/

t = x % y;

/\*  $\text{gcd}(y,t) = \text{gcd}(A,B)$  \*/

x = y;

/\*  $\text{gcd}(x,t) = \text{gcd}(A,B)$  \*/

y = t;

/\*  $\text{gcd}(x,y) = \text{gcd}(A,B)$  \*/

This remains invariant!

# Floyd-Hoare Logic: Loop Invariants

- A *loop invariant* is a condition that
  - is true before the loop statement (i.e. *is the pre-condition*)
  - remains invariant over one (arbitrary) iteration of the loop
  - is true after the loop statement (i.e. *is the post-condition*)
- If the condition is invariant over one (arbitrary) iteration,
  - then the proof (of correctness of the statement) is
    - *not dependent on the number of iterations* of the loop

# Floyd-Hoare Logic: Correctness of Loops

- Given the Hoare-triple
  - $\langle \phi, \text{while } B \text{ do } S, \psi \rangle,$
- the proof (i.e. the verification) for partial correctness proceeds as follows:
  - guess a loop invariant condition, say,  $\iota$
  - and verify the following:
    - $\vdash \phi \wedge B \rightarrow \iota$
    - $\langle \iota \wedge B, S, \iota \rangle$
    - $\vdash \iota \wedge \neg B \rightarrow \psi$

