

Interaction Trees and Verified Compilation

Paolo Torrini and Benjamin Gregoire

INRIA Sophia-Antipolis

Rocqshop'25, Reykjavik 27.09.2025

Well-established: operational semantics (CompCert, CakeML)

- weak wrt compositionality
- small-step (CompCert): not directly executable
- big-step (CakeML): need clocks to deal with divergence

Newer: Interaction Trees (ITrees)

- denotational: compositional wrt the language syntax, executable
- coinductive (OK with divergence)
- computations represented as trees, interpreted as monads
- ITrees as free monads: side effects, modularly
- facilitate coinductive reasoning:
 - relying on PACO (parameterized coinduction)
 - supporting effectively equational reasoning

Interaction Trees (simplified)

CoInductive itree (E: Type → Type) (V: Type) :=
 Ret (v: V) | Tau (t: itree E V)
 | Vis (A: Type) (e: E A) (k: A → itree E V).

Event handler (basic one, no dependencies, no transformers):

$$h_i : \forall \{E\} V, E_i V \rightarrow \text{itree } E V$$

Monadic interpreter (folding the handler on the tree):

$$\text{Intr}_{h_i} : \forall \{E\} V, \text{itree } (E_i +' E) V \rightarrow \text{itree } E V$$

Layered interpretation:

$$t : \text{itree } (E_2 +' E_1 +' E_0) V \implies \text{Intr}_{h_1} \circ \text{Intr}_{h_2} t : \text{itree } E_0 V$$

<https://github.com/jasmin-lang/jasmin>

- Low-level language for cryptographic applications
- formalized in Rocq: semantics and verified compiler
- old verification using unclocked inductive big-step semantics: terminating programs only
- lifting the restriction using ITrees
- front-end made of ca 20 passes (incl. constant propagation, dead code elimination, inlining, stack allocation)
- concrete memory model

Compiler verification

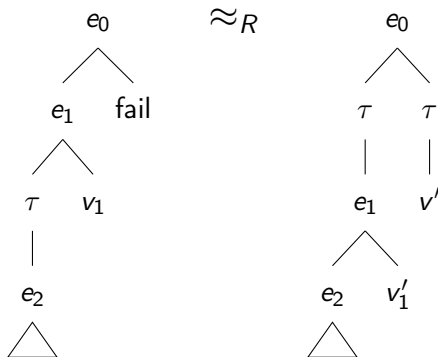
- p_1, p_2 programs (resp. source and target), with $p_2 := \text{Comp } p_1$
- $\llbracket p \rrbracket_s$: itree $E \ S$ executable semantic interpretation of p in $s : S$
- R : here a relation between source and target states
($?R$ between optional ones, to take divergence into account)

$$\begin{array}{ccc} s_1 & \xrightarrow{R} & s_2 \\ \downarrow \llbracket p_1 \rrbracket & & \downarrow \llbracket p_2 \rrbracket \\ ?s'_1 & \xrightarrow{?R} & ?s'_2 \end{array} \quad \forall s_1 s_2, s_1 R s_2 \rightarrow \llbracket p_1 \rrbracket_{s_1} \approx_R \llbracket p_2 \rrbracket_{s_2}$$

- Deterministic semantics: no substantial difference between forward and backward simulation
- yet difference between forward and backward reasoning (resp. inductively on the source or on the target)

Equivalence up-to-tau

R : in general, relation between values (possibly of different types)



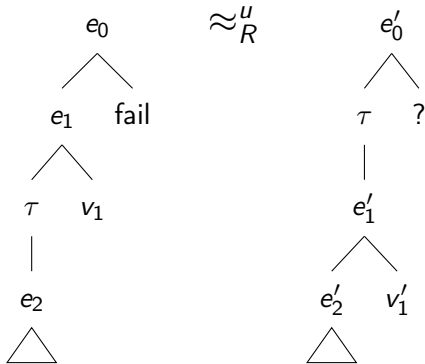
assuming :

- $v_i R v_i'$
- $\forall v, k_i \ v \approx_R k_i' \ v$

Relaxing equivalence: heterogeneous events and cutoffs

Φ : precondition between events (possibly of different types)

Ψ : postcondition between event answers



assuming :

- $v_i R v'_i$
- $e_i \Phi e'_i$
- $\forall v v', (e_i, v) \Psi (e'_i, v') \rightarrow k_i v \approx_R^u k'_i v'$
- fail is a left cutoff

Equivalence up-to-cutoff

Coinductive-inductive definition, with cutoff Boolean predicates (C^l, C^r).

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{v_1 R v_2}{\frac{}{\text{Ret}(v_1) \overset{u}{\approx} \text{Ret}(v_2)}} \text{Ret} \qquad \frac{t_1 \overset{u}{\approx} t_2}{\frac{}{\text{Tau}(t_1) \overset{u}{\approx} \text{Tau}(t_2)}} \text{Tau} \\
 \\
 \frac{e_1 \Phi e_2 \quad \forall v_1 v_2. (e_1, v_1) \Psi (e_2, v_2) \implies k_1(v_1) \overset{u}{\approx} k_2(v_2)}{\frac{}{\text{Vis}(e_1, k_1) \overset{u}{\approx} \text{Vis}(e_2, k_2)}} \text{Vis} \\
 \\
 \frac{C^l(e_1)}{\frac{}{\text{Vis}(e_1, k_1) \overset{u}{\approx} t_2}} \text{Cut}_l \qquad \frac{C^r(e_2)}{\frac{}{t_1 \overset{u}{\approx} \text{Vis}(e_2, k_2)}} \text{Cut}_r \\
 \\
 \frac{t_1 \overset{u}{\approx} t_2}{\text{Tau}(t_1) \overset{u}{\approx} t_2} \text{Tau}_l \qquad \frac{t_1 \overset{u}{\approx} t_2}{t_1 \overset{u}{\approx} \text{Tau}(t_2)} \text{Tau}_r
 \end{array}$$

Failure interpreter (using ExecT as error monad transformer):

$$\text{Intr}_{h_F} : \forall \{E\} V, \text{itree } (F +' E) V \rightarrow \text{ExecT } (\text{itree } E) V$$

Recursive call interpreter (depending on F):

$$\text{Intr}_{h_{\text{Rec}}} : \forall \{E\} \{F \sqsubseteq E\} V, \text{itree } (\text{Rec} +' E) V \rightarrow \text{itree } E V$$

Modular interpretation:

$$t : \text{itree } (\text{Rec} +' F +' E) V \implies \text{Intr}_{h_F} \circ \text{Intr}_{h_{\text{Rec}}} t : \text{itree } E (\text{Exec } V)$$

Semantics excerpts

Definition while_round IS (c1 c2: list instr) (e : expr) (s : S)
: itree E (S + S) := ...

Definition while_loop IS (c1 c2: list instr) (e: expr) (s : S)
: itree E S := ITree.iter (while_round c1 c2 e) s.

Fixpoint instr_sem (p : prog) (i : instr) (s : S)
: itree E S := match i with ...
| Cwhile c1 e c2 =>
 while_loop instr_sem c1 c2 e s
| Ccall xs fn args =>
 vargs <- eval_exprs args s;;
 fs <- trigger (fun_call fn (mk_fun_state vargs s)) ;;
 opt_update_state xs fs s
end.

Modular verification

Compiler correctness:

$$\forall s_i s_j, s_i R s_j \rightarrow [p_i]_{s_i} \approx_{R\Phi\Psi C_F C_\emptyset}^u [p_j]_{s_j}$$

In general:

- correctness of individual compiler passes proved inductively on the syntax of the source program
- single-pass proofs composed together by transitivity

$$\frac{\vdash_{\Gamma} [p_0]_{s_0} \approx_{R_1\Phi_1\Psi_1 C_F C_\emptyset}^u [p_1]_{s_1} \quad \vdash_{\Gamma} [p_1]_{s_1} \approx_{R_2\Phi_2\Psi_2 C_F C_\emptyset}^u [p_2]_{s_2}}{\vdash_{\Gamma} [p_0]_{s_0} \approx_{(R_1 \circ R_2)(\Phi_1 \circ \Phi_2)(\Psi_1 \circ \Psi_2) C_F C_\emptyset}^u [p_2]_{s_2}}$$

- use of relational Hoare logic

Further work: generalized transitivity

$$e_0 (\Phi_1 \circ \Phi_2) e_2 := \exists \{V_1\} (e_1 : E_1 \ V_1), e_0 \Phi_1 e_1 \wedge e_1 \Phi e_2$$

$$\begin{aligned} (e_0, v_0) (\Psi_1 \circ \Psi_2) (e_2, v_2) &:= \forall \{V_1\} (e_1 : E_1 \ V_1), \\ &e_0 \Phi_1 e_1 \wedge e_1 \Phi_2 e_2 \rightarrow \\ &\exists v_1, (e_0, v_0) \Psi_1 (e_1, v_1) \wedge (e_1, v_1) \Psi_2 (e_2, v_2) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \vdash_{\Gamma} \forall e, \neg(C_1^r e \wedge C_2^l e) \\ \vdash_{\Gamma} \forall ee', e \Phi_1 e' \wedge C_2^l e' \rightarrow C_1^l e \\ \vdash_{\Gamma} \forall ee', e \Phi_2 e' \wedge C_1^r e \rightarrow C_2^r e' \\ \vdash_{\Gamma} t \approx_{R_1 \Phi_1 \Psi_1 C_1^l C_1^r}^u t' \qquad \vdash_{\Gamma} t' \approx_{R_2 \Phi_2 \Psi_2 C_2^l C_2^r}^u t'' \\ \hline \vdash_{\Gamma} t \approx_{(R_1 \circ R_2)(\Phi_1 \circ \Phi_2)(\Psi_1 \circ \Psi_2) C_1^l C_2^r}^u t'' \end{array}$$

Layering

Generalized layering with monad transformers (MT):

$$h_i : \forall \{E\} V, E_i V \rightarrow MT_i (\text{itree } E) V$$

$$\text{Intr}_{h_i} : \forall \{F\} \{E\} V, F (\text{itree } (E_i +' E)) V \rightarrow F (MT_i (\text{itree } E)) V$$

$$t : \text{itree } (E_2 +' E_1 +' E_0) R \implies \text{Intr}_{h_1} \circ \text{Intr}_{h_2} t : MT_2 (MT_1 (\text{itree } E_0)) R$$

Some problems (in our experience):

- disjoint union modulo AC (minor snags)
- matching interpreters with MT (not generalized)
- universe inconsistencies popping up (panic)

Conclusions and future work

- Done: verified the Jasmin compiler front-end
- probabilistic semantics
- To do: verify the backend
 - Jasmin FE \implies Linear \implies ASM
 - Various backends: x86, ARM, RISC5
- compare with fuel-based inductive techniques and step-indexing
- integration with safety analysis

<https://github.com/jasmin-lang/jasmin>