Introduction to Formal Methods

Lecture 6

Hoare Logic

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Loop-Free Programs as Relations: Summary

command c	$R(c)$	$\rho(c)$
$(x = t)$	$x' = t \wedge \bigwedge_{v \in V \setminus \{x\}} v' = v$	
$c_1 ; c_2$	$\exists \vec{z}. R(c_1)[\vec{x'} := \vec{z}] \wedge R(c_2)[\vec{x} := \vec{z}]$	$\rho(c_1) \circ \rho(c_2)$
$c_1 \mathbin{[]} c_2$	$R(c_1) \vee R(c_2)$	$\rho(c_1) \cup \rho(c_2)$
`assume`(F)	$F \wedge \bigwedge_{v \in V} v' = v$	$\Delta_{S(F)}$

Putting Conditions on Sets Makes them Smaller

- Let P_1 and P_2 be formulas ("conditions") whose free variables are among $\vec{x}$
  (Those variables may denote program state)
- When we say "condition P_1 is stronger than condition P_2" it simply means

$$\forall \vec{x}.(P_1 \rightarrow P_2)$$

  - if we know P_1, we immediately get (conclude) P_2
  - if we know P_2, we need not be able to conclude P_1
- Stronger condition = smaller set: if P_1 is stronger than P_2 then

$$\{\vec{x} \mid P_1\} \subseteq \{\vec{x} \mid P_2\}$$

- Strongest possible condition: "false" $\equiv$ smallest set: $\emptyset$
- Weakest condition: "true" $\equiv$ biggest set: set of all tuples

About Hoare Logic

- We have seen how to translate programs into relations
- We will use these relations in a proof system called Hoare logic
- Hoare logic is a way of inserting annotations into code to make proofs about (imperative) program behavior simpler

Example proof:

```
// {0 <= y}
i = y;
// {0 <= y & i = y}
r = 0;
// {0 < = y & i = y & r = 0}
while // {r = (y − i) ∗ x & 0 <= i}
  (i > 0) {
     // {r = (y − i) ∗ x & 0 < i}
     r = r + x;
     // {r = (y − i + 1) ∗ x & 0 < i}
     i = i − 1;
     // {r = (y − i) ∗ x & 0 <= i}
}
// { r = x ∗ y}
```

Hoare Triple

$P, Q \subseteq S \qquad r \subseteq S \times S$

Hoare Triple:

$$\{P\}\ r\ \{Q\} \iff \forall s, s' \in S.\big(s \in P \land (s, s') \in r \to s' \in Q\big)$$

$\{P\}$ does not denote a singleton set containing P but is just a notation for an "assertion" around a command. Likewise for $\{Q\}$

Sir Tony Hoare

Sir Charles Antony Richard Hoare giving a conference at EPFL on 20 June 2011

Born Charles Antony Richard Hoare

Strongest postcondition:

$$sp(P, r) = \{s' \mid \exists s. s \in P \land (s, s') \in r\}$$

Weakest precondition:

$$wp(r, Q) = \{s \mid \forall s'.(s, s') \in r \to s' \in Q\}$$

Exercise

Which Hoare triples are valid?

1. $\{j = a\} \quad j := j + 1 \quad \{a = j + 1\}$
2. $\{i = j\} \quad i := j + i \quad \{i > j\}$
3. $\{j = a + b\}$ i := b; j := a $\{j = 2 * a\}$
4. $\{i > j\}$ j := i+1; i := j+1 $\{i > j\}$
5. $\{i \mathrel{!=} j\}$ `if` i > j `then` m := i - j `else` m := j - i $\{m > 0\}$
6. $\{i = 3 * j\}$ `if` i > j `then` m := i - j `else` m := j - i $\{m - 2 * j = 0\}$

Postconditions and Their Strength

What is the relationship between these postconditions?

{x = 5}   x := x + 2   {x > 0 }

{x = 5}   x := x + 2   {x = 7 }

- weakest conditions (predicates) correspond to largest sets
- strongest conditions (predicates) correspond to smallest sets

that satisfy a given property

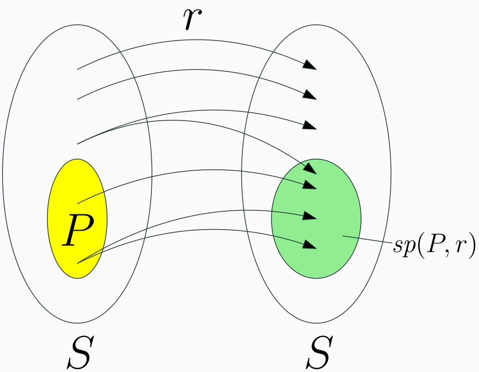
(Graphically, a stronger condition $x > 0 \wedge y > 0$ denotes one quadrant in plane,
whereas a weaker condition $x > 0$ denotes the entire half-plane.)

Strongest Postcondition

Definition: For $P \subseteq S$, $r \subseteq S \times S$,

$$\mathit{sp}(P, r) = \{s' \mid \exists s. s \in P \land (s.s') \in r\}$$

This is simply the relation image of a set

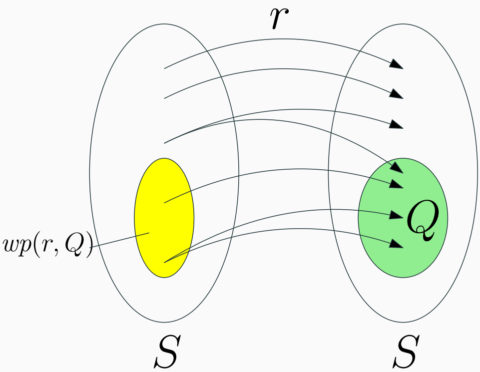


Weakest Precondition

Definition: For $P \subseteq S$, $r \subseteq S \times S$,

$$wp(r, Q) = \{s \mid \forall s'.(s.s') \in r \to s' \in Q\}$$

Note that this is in general not the same as $sp(Q, r^{-1})$ when the relation is non-deterministic or partial



Three Forms of Hoare Triple

Lemma: the following three conditions are equivalent:

- $\{P\}\ r\{Q\}$
- $P \subseteq \mathit{wp}(r, Q)$
- $\mathit{sp}(P, r) \subseteq Q$

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Proof. The three conditions expand into the following three formulas

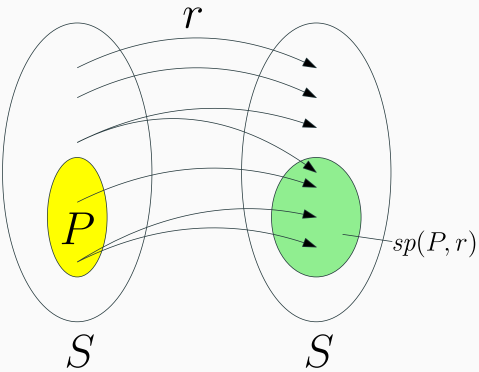
- $\forall s, s'.\big((s \in P \land (s, s') \in r) \to s' \in Q\big)$
- $\forall s.\big(s \in P \to (\forall s'.(s, s') \in r \to s' \in Q)\big)$
- $\forall s'.\big((\exists s.s \in P \land (s, s') \in P) \to s' \in Q\big)$

which are easy to show equivalent using basic first-order logic properties

Lemma: Characterization of sp

$sp(P, r)$ is the the smallest set Q such that $\{P\}\ r\ \{Q\}$, that is:

- $\{P\}\ r\ \{sp(P, r)\}$
- $\forall Q \subseteq S.\{P\}\ r\ \{Q\} \to sp(P, r) \subseteq Q$



$$\{P\}\ r\ \{Q\} \Leftrightarrow \forall s, s' \in S.(s \in P \land (s, s') \in r \to s' \in Q)$$
$$sp(P, r) = \{s' \mid \exists s.s \in P \land (s, s') \in r\}$$

Proof of Lemma: Characterization of sp

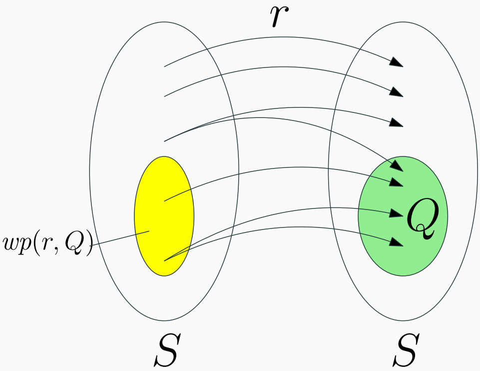
Apply Three Forms of Hoare triple. The two conditions then reduce to:

- $\textsf{sp}(P, r) \subseteq \textsf{sp}(P, r)$
- $\forall P \subseteq S.\textsf{sp}(P, r) \subseteq Q \to \textsf{sp}(P, r) \subseteq Q$

Lemma: Characterization of wp

$\mathit{wp}(r, Q)$ is the largest set P such that $\{P\}\ r\ \{Q\}$, that is:

- $\{\mathit{wp}(r, Q)\}\ r\ \{Q\}$
- $\forall P \subseteq S.\{P\}\ r\ \{Q\} \to P \subseteq \mathit{wp}(r, Q)$



$$\{P\}\ r\ \{Q\} \Leftrightarrow \forall s, s' \in S.(s \in P \land (s, s') \in r \to s' \in Q)$$
$$\mathit{wp}(r, Q) = \{s \mid \forall s'.(s, s') \in r \to s' \in Q\}$$

Exercise: Postcondition of inverse versus wp

Lemma:

$$S \backslash \textit{wp}(r, Q) = \textit{sp}(S \backslash Q, r^{-1})$$

In other words, when instead of good states we look at the

completement set of "error states", then *wp* corresponds to doing *sp* backwards.

Note that $r^{-1} = \{(y, x) \mid (x, y) \in r\}$ and is always defined

More Laws on Preconditions and Postconditions

Disjunctivity of sp

$$sp(P_1 \cup P_2, r) = sp(P_1, r) \cup sp(P_2, r)$$
$$sp(P, r_1 \cup r_2) = sp(P, r_1) \cup sp(P, r_2)$$

Conjunctivity of wp

$$wp(r, Q_1 \cap Q_2) = wp(r, Q_1) \cap wp(r, Q_2)$$
$$wp(r_1 \cup r_2, Q) = wp(r1, Q) \cap wp(r_2, Q)$$

Pointwise wp

$$wp(r, Q) = \{s \mid s \in S \wedge sp(\{s\}, r) \subseteq Q\}$$

Pointwise sp

$$sp(P, r) = \bigcup_{s \in P} sp(\{s\}, r)$$