Interactive Theorem Proving and Program Verification Lecture 3

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Based on slides by Thomas Tuerk



Part VII

Backward Proofs



Motivation I



• let's prove !A B. A /\ B <=> B /\ A

```
(* Show \mid - A / \setminus B ==> B / \setminus A *)
val thm1a = ASSUME ''A /\ B'':
val thm1b = CONJ (CONJUNCT2 thm1a) (CONJUNCT1 thm1a):
val thm1 = DISCH ''A /\ B'' thm1b
(* Show \mid - B \mid A ==> A \mid B *)
val thm2a = ASSUME ''B /\ A'';
val thm2b = CONJ (CONJUNCT2 thm2a) (CONJUNCT1 thm2a):
val thm2 = DISCH ''B /\ A'' thm2b
(* Combine to get |-A| \setminus B \iff B \setminus A *)
val thm3 = IMP_ANTISYM_RULE thm1 thm2
(* Add quantifiers *)
val thm4 = GENL [''A:bool'', ''B:bool''] thm3
```

- this is how you write down a proof you already know
- for finding a proof it is however often useful to think backwards

Motivation II - thinking backwards



- we want to prove
 - ▶ !A B. A /\ B <=> B /\ A
- all-quantifiers can easily be added later, so let's get rid of them
 - ▶ A /\ B <=> B /\ A
- now we have an equivalence, let's show 2 implications
 - ► A /\ B ==> B /\ A
 - ▶ B /\ A ==> A /\ B
- we have an implication, so we can use the precondition as an assumption
 - ▶ using A /\ B show B /\ A
 - ► A /\ B ==> B /\ A

Motivation III - thinking backwards



- we have a conjunction as assumption, let's split it
 - ▶ using A and B show B /\ A
 - ▶ A /\ B ==> B /\ A
- we have to show a conjunction, so let's show both parts
 - using A and B show B
 - using A and B show A
 - ► A /\ B ==> B /\ A
- the first two proof obligations are trivial
 - ▶ A /\ B ==> B /\ A
- . . .
- we are done

Motivation IV



- common practise
 - think backwards to find proof
 - write found proof down in forward style
- often switch between backward and forward style within a proof Example: induction proof
 - backward step: induct on . . .
 - forward steps: prove base case and induction case
- whether to use forward or backward proofs depend on
 - support by the interactive theorem prover you use
 - ★ HOL4 and close family: emphasis on backward proof
 - ★ Isabelle/HOL: emphasis on forward proof
 - ★ Coq : emphasis on backward proof
 - your way of thinking
 - the theorem you try to prove

HOL4 Implementation of Backward Proofs



- in HOL4
 - proof tactics / backward proofs used for most user-level proofs
 - forward proofs used usually for writing automation
- backward proofs are implemented by tactics in HOL4
 - decomposition into subgoals implemented in SML
 - SML data structures used to keep track of all open subgoals
 - forward proof used to construct theorems
- to understand backward proofs in HOL4 we need to look at
 - ▶ goal SML datatype for proof obligations
 - ▶ goalStack library for keeping track of goals
 - ▶ tactic SML type for functions performing backward proofs

Goals



- goals represent proof obligations, i.e. theorems we need/want to prove
- the SML type goal is an abbreviation for term list * term
- the goal ([asm_1, ..., asm_n], c) records that we need/want to prove the theorem {asm_1, ..., asm_n} |- c

Example Goals

Goal

```
([''A'', ''B''], ''A /\ B'')
([''B'', ''A''], ''A /\ B'')
([''B /\ A''], ''A /\ B'')
```

Theorem

Tactics



- the SML type tactic is an abbreviation for the type goal -> goal list * validation
- validation is an abbreviation for thm list -> thm
- given a goal, a tactic
 - decides into which subgoals to decompose the goal
 - returns this list of subgoals
 - returns a validation that
 - ★ given a list of theorems for the computed subgoals
 - ★ produces a theorem for the original goal
- special case: empty list of subgoals
 - ▶ the validation (given []) needs to produce a theorem for the goal
- notice: a tactic might be invalid

Tactic Example — CONJ_TAC



$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash p \qquad \Delta \vdash q}{\Gamma \cup \Delta \vdash p \ \land \ q} \ \mathrm{CONJ}$$

```
\frac{\texttt{t} \equiv \texttt{conj1} \ / \setminus \texttt{conj2}}{\frac{\texttt{asl} \vdash \texttt{conj1} \quad \texttt{asl} \vdash \texttt{conj2}}{\texttt{asl} \vdash \texttt{t}}}
```

```
val CONJ_TAC: tactic = fn (asl, t) =>
  let
    val (conj1, conj2) = dest_conj t
in
    ([(asl, conj1), (asl, conj2)],
    fn [th1, th2] => CONJ th1 th2 | _ => raise Match)
end
handle HOL_ERR _ => raise ERR "CONJ_TAC" ""
```

Tactic Example — EQ_TAC



```
\frac{\Gamma \vdash p \Longrightarrow q}{\Delta \vdash q \Longrightarrow p} \\
\frac{\Gamma \cup \Delta \vdash p = q}{\Gamma \cup \Delta \vdash p = q}

IMP_ANTISYM_RULE
```

```
t \equiv lhs = rhs
asl \vdash lhs ==> rhs
asl \vdash rhs ==> lhs
asl \vdash t
```

proofManagerLib / goalStack



- the proofManagerLib keeps track of open goals
- it uses goalStack internally
- important commands
 - ▶ g set up new goal
 - ▶ e expand a tactic
 - ▶ p print the current status
 - ▶ top_thm get the proved thm at the end

Tactic Proof Example I



Previous Goalstack

-

User Action

g '!A B. A /\ B <=> B /\ A';

New Goalstack

Initial goal:

!A B. A /\ B <=> B /\ A

Tactic Proof Example II



Previous Goalstack

Initial goal:

!A B. A /\ B <=> B /\ A

: proof

User Action

- e GEN_TAC;
- e GEN_TAC;

New Goalstack

A /\ B <=> B /\ A

Tactic Proof Example III



Previous Goalstack

A /\ B <=> B /\ A

: proof

User Action

e EQ_TAC;

New Goalstack

B / A ==> A / B

 $A / B \Longrightarrow B / A$

Tactic Proof Example IV



Previous Goalstack

B / A ==> A / B

 $A / B \Longrightarrow B / A : proof$

User Action

e STRIP_TAC;

New Goalstack

B /\ A

- O. A
- 1. E

Tactic Proof Example V



Previous Goalstack

B /\ A

O. A

1. E

User Action

e CONJ_TAC;

New Goalstack

A

0. A

1. B

В

0. A

1. B

Tactic Proof Example VI



Previous Goalstack

A _____

O. A

1. B

B ----

0. A

User Action

- e (ACCEPT_TAC (ASSUME ''B:bool''));
- e (ACCEPT_TAC (ASSUME ''A:bool''));

New Goalstack

B / A ==> A / B

Tactic Proof Example VII



Previous Goalstack

B / A ==> A / B

: proof

User Action

- e STRIP_TAC;
- e (ASM_REWRITE_TAC[]);

New Goalstack

Initial goal proved.

|- !A B. A /\ B <=> B /\ A:

proof

Tactic Proof Example VIII



Previous Goalstack

```
Initial goal proved.
|- !A B. A /\ B <=> B /\ A:
    proof
```

User Action

```
val thm = top_thm();
```

Result

```
val thm =
    |- !A B. A /\ B <=> B /\ A:
    thm
```

Tactic Proof Example IX



Combined Tactic

```
val thm = prove (''!A B. A /\ B <=> B /\ A'',
    GEN_TAC >> GEN_TAC >>
    EQ_TAC >| [
    STRIP_TAC >>
    STRIP_TAC >| [
        ACCEPT_TAC (ASSUME ''B:bool''),
        ACCEPT_TAC (ASSUME ''A:bool'')
    ],
    STRIP_TAC >>
    ASM_REWRITE_TAC[]
]);
```

Result

```
val thm =
    |- !A B. A /\ B <=> B /\ A:
    thm
```

Tactic Proof Example X



Cleaned-up Tactic

```
val thm = prove (''!A B. A /\ B <=> B /\ A'',
   REPEAT GEN_TAC >>
   EQ_TAC >> (
      REPEAT STRIP_TAC >>
      ASM_REWRITE_TAC []
));
```

Result

```
val thm =
    |- !A B. A /\ B <=> B /\ A:
    thm
```

Summary Backward Proofs



- in HOL4 most user-level proofs are tactic-based
 - automation often written in forward style
 - ▶ low-level, basic proofs written in forward style
 - nearly everything else is written in backward (tactic) style
- there are many different tactics
- in the lecture only the most basic ones will be discussed
- you need to learn about tactics on your own
 - good starting point: Quick manual
 - learning finer points takes a lot of time
 - exercises require you to read up on tactics
- often there are many ways to prove a statement, which tactics to use depends on
 - personal way of thinking
 - personal style and preferences
 - maintainability, clarity, elegance, robustness
 - **•** . .

Part VIII

Basic Tactics



Syntax of Tactics in HOL4



- originally tactics were written all in capital letters with underscores
 Example: ALL_TAC
- since 2010 more and more tactics have overloaded lower-case syntax Example: all_tac
- sometimes, the lower-case version is shortened Example: REPEAT, rpt
- sometimes, there is special syntax
 Example: THEN, \\, >>
- which one to use is mostly a matter of personal taste
 - all-capital names are hard to read and type
 - however, not for all tactics there are lower-case versions
 - mixed lower- and upper-case tactics are even harder to read
 - often shortened lower-case name is not speaking

In the lecture we will use mostly the old-style names.



Some Basic Tactics

DISCH_TAC



GEN_TAC remove outermost all-quantifier

move antecedent of goal into assumptions

CONJ_TAC splits conjunctive goal

STRIP_TAC splits on outermost connective (combination

of GEN_TAC, CONJ_TAC, DISCH_TAC, ...)

DISJ1_TAC selects left disjunct DISJ2_TAC selects right disjunct

EQ_TAC reduce Boolean equality to implications

ASSUME_TAC thm add theorem to list of assumptions EXISTS_TAC term provide witness for existential goal

↓□▶ ◆□▶ ◆□▶ ◆□▶ □ ♥9

Tacticals



- tacticals are SML functions that combine tactics to form new tactics
- common workflow
 - develop large tactic interactively
 - using goalStack and editor support to execute tactics one by one
 - combine tactics manually with tacticals to create larger tactics
 - finally end up with one large tactic that solves your goal
 - use prove or store_thm instead of goalStack
- make sure to clearly mark proof structure by e.g.
 - use indentation
 - use parentheses
 - use appropriate connectives
 - **.** . . .
- goalStack commands like e or g should not appear in your final proof

Some Basic Tacticals



tac1 >> tac2	THEN, \\	applies tactics in sequence
tac > tacL	THENL	applies list of tactics to subgoals
tac1 >- tac2	THEN1	applies tac2 to the first subgoal of tac1
REPEAT tac	rpt	repeats tac until it fails
NTAC n tac		apply tac n times
REVERSE tac	reverse	reverses the order of subgoals
tac1 ORELSE tac2		applies tac1 only if tac2 fails
TRY tac		do nothing if tac fails
ALL_TAC	all_tac	do nothing
NO_TAC		fail

Basic Rewrite Tactics



- (equational) rewriting is at the core of HOL4's automation
- we will discuss it in detail later
- details complex, but basic usage is straightforward
 - ▶ given a theorem rewr_thm of form |- P x = Q x and a term t
 - rewriting t with rewr_thm means
 - ▶ replacing each occurrence of a term P c for some c with Q c in t
- warning: rewriting may loop
 Example: rewriting with theorem |- X <=> (X /\ T)

REWRITE TAC thms

ASM_REWRITE_TAC thms
ONCE_REWRITE_TAC thms
ONCE_ASM_REWRITE_TAC thms

rewrite goal using equations found in given list of theorems in addition use assumptions rewrite once in goal using equations rewrite once using assumptions

Case-Split and Induction Tactics



Induct_on 'term'

Induct

Cases_on 'term'

Cases

MATCH_MP_TAC thm

IRULE_TAC thm

induct on term

induct on all-quantifier

case-split on term

case-split on all-quantifier

apply rule

generalised apply rule

Assumption Tactics



POP_ASSUM thm-tac

PAT_ASSUM term thm-tac also PAT_X_ASSUM term thm-tac

WEAKEN_TAC term-pred

use and remove first assumption common usage POP_ASSUM MP_TAC

use (and remove) first assumption matching pattern

removes first assumption satisfying predicate

Decision Procedure Tactics



- decision procedures try to solve the current goal completely
- they either succeed or fail
- no partial progress
- decision procedures vital for automation

TAUT_TAC propositional logic tautology checker

DECIDE_TAC linear arithmetic for num

METIS_TAC thms first order prover

numLib.ARITH_TAC Presburger arithmetic

intLib.ARITH_TAC uses Omega test

Subgoal Tactics



- it is vital to structure your proofs well
 - improved maintainability
 - improved readability
 - improved reusability
 - ▶ saves time in medium-run
- therefore, use many small lemmata
- also, use many explicit subgoals

'term-frag' by tac show term with tac and

add it to assumptions

'term-frag' suffices_by tac show it suffices to prove term

Term Fragments / Term Quotations



- notice that by and suffices_by take term fragments
- term fragments are also called **term quotations**
- they represent (partially) unparsed terms
- parsing takes place during execution of tactic in context of goal
- this helps to avoid type annotations
- however, this means syntax errors show late as well
- the library Q defines many tactics using term fragments

Importance of Exercises and Homeworks



- here many tactics are presented in a short amount of time
- there are many, many more tactics out there
- few people can learn a programming language just by reading manuals
- similarly, few people can learn HOL4 just by reading and listening
- you should write your own proofs and play around with these tactics

Tactical Proof - Example I - Slide 1



- we want to prove !1. LENGTH (APPEND 1 1) = 2 * LENGTH 1
- first step: set up goal on goalStack
- at same time start writing proof script

Proof Script

```
val LENGTH_APPEND_SAME = prove (
    ''!1. LENGTH (APPEND 1 1) = 2 * LENGTH 1'',
```

Actions

- run g ''!1. LENGTH (APPEND 1 1) = 2 * LENGTH 1''
- this is done by hol-mode
- move cursor inside term and press M-h g
 (menu-entry HOL Goalstack New goal)



Current Goal

```
!1. LENGTH (1 ++ 1) = 2 * LENGTH 1
```

- the outermost connective is an all-quantifier
- let's get rid of it via GEN_TAC

Proof Script

```
val LENGTH_APPEND_SAME = prove (
    ''!1. LENGTH (1 ++ 1) = 2 * LENGTH 1'',
GEN_TAC
```

- run e GEN_TAC
- this is done by hol-mode
- mark line with GEN_TAC and press M-h e (menu-entry HOL - Goalstack - Apply tactic)



Current Goal

```
LENGTH (1 ++ 1) = 2 * LENGTH 1
```

- LENGTH of APPEND can be simplified
- let's search an appropriate lemma with DB.match

- run DB.print_match [] ''LENGTH (_ ++ _)''
- this is done via hol-mode
- press M-h m and enter term pattern (menu-entry HOL - Misc - DB match)
- this finds the theorem listTheory.LENGTH_APPEND
 - |- !11 12. LENGTH (11 ++ 12) = LENGTH 11 + LENGTH 12



Current Goal

```
LENGTH (1 ++ 1) = 2 * LENGTH 1
```

• let's rewrite with found theorem listTheory.LENGTH_APPEND

```
Proof Script
```

```
val LENGTH_APPEND_SAME = prove (
    ''!1. LENGTH (APPEND 1 1) = 2 * LENGTH 1'',
GEN_TAC >>
REWRITE_TAC[listTheory.LENGTH_APPEND]
```

- connect the new tactic with tactical >> (THEN)
- use hol-mode to expand the new tactic



Current Goal

```
LENGTH 1 + LENGTH 1 = 2 * LENGTH 1
```

- let's search a theorem for simplifying 2 * LENGTH 1
- prepare for extending the previous rewrite tactic

Proof Script

```
val LENGTH_APPEND_SAME = prove (
    ''!1. LENGTH (APPEND 1 1) = 2 * LENGTH 1'',
GEN_TAC >>
REWRITE_TAC[listTheory.LENGTH_APPEND]
```

- DB.match finds theorem arithmeticTheory.TIMES2
- press M-h b and undo last tactic expansion (menu-entry HOL - Goalstack - Back up)



Current Goal

```
LENGTH (1 ++ 1) = 2 * LENGTH 1
```

- extend the previous rewrite tactic
- finish proof

Proof Script

```
val LENGTH_APPEND_SAME = prove (
    ''!1. LENGTH (APPEND 1 1) = 2 * LENGTH 1'',
GEN_TAC >>
REWRITE_TAC[listTheory.LENGTH_APPEND, arithmeticTheory.TIMES2]);
```

- add TIMES2 to the list of theorems used by rewrite tactic
- use hol-mode to expand the extended rewrite tactic
- goal is solved, so let's add closing parenthesis and semicolon



- we have a finished tactic proving our goal
- notice that GEN_TAC is not needed
- let's polish the proof script

```
Proof Script
val LENGTH_APPEND_SAME = prove (
    ''!1. LENGTH (APPEND 1 1) = 2 * LENGTH 1'',
GEN_TAC >>
REWRITE_TAC[listTheory.LENGTH_APPEND, arithmeticTheory.TIMES2]);
```

```
Polished Proof Script
val LENGTH_APPEND_SAME = prove (
    ''!1. LENGTH (APPEND 1 1) = 2 * LENGTH 1'',
REWRITE_TAC[listTheory.LENGTH_APPEND, arithmeticTheory.TIMES2]);
```



- let's prove something slightly more complicated
- drop old goal by pressing M-h d (menu-entry HOL - Goalstack - Drop goal)
- set up goal on goalStack (M-h g)
- at same time start writing proof script



Current Goal

```
!x1 x2 x3 11 12 13.

(MEM x1 11 /\ MEM x2 12 /\ MEM x3 13) /\

x1 <= x2 /\ x2 <= x3 /\ x3 <= SUC x1 ==>

~ALL_DISTINCT (11 ++ 12 ++ 13)
```

let's strip the goal



Current Goal

```
!x1 x2 x3 l1 l2 l3.

(MEM x1 l1 /\ MEM x2 l2 /\ MEM x3 l3) /\
x1 <= x2 /\ x2 <= x3 /\ x3 <= SUC x1 ==>
~ALL_DISTINCT (l1 ++ l2 ++ l3)
```

let's strip the goal

Proof Script

```
val LENGTH_APPEND_SAME = prove (
    ''!1. LENGTH (APPEND 1 1) = 2 * LENGTH 1'',
REPEAT STRIP_TAC
```

- add REPEAT STRIP_TAC to proof script
- expand this tactic using hol-mode



Current Goal

F

- 0. MEM x1 11 4. $x2 \le x3$
- 1. MEM x2 12 5. x3 <= SUC x1
- 2. MEM x3 13 6. ALL_DISTINCT (11 ++ 12 ++ 13)
- 3. x1 <= x2
- oops, we did too much, we would like to keep ALL_DISTINCT in goal

Proof Script

```
val NOT_ALL_DISTINCT_LEMMA = prove (''...',
REPEAT GEN_TAC >> STRIP_TAC
```

- undo REPEAT STRIP_TAC (M-h b)
- expand more fine-tuned strip tactic



Current Goal

```
~ALL_DISTINCT (11 ++ 12 ++ 13)
```

- 0. MEM x1 11 3. x1 <= x2 1. MEM x2 12 4. x2 <= x3
- 2. MEM x3 13 5. x3 <= SUC x1
- now let's simplify ALL_DISTINCT
- search suitable theorems with DB.match
- use them with rewrite tactic

```
val NOT_ALL_DISTINCT_LEMMA = prove (''...'',
REPEAT GEN_TAC >> STRIP_TAC >>
REWRITE_TAC[listTheory.ALL_DISTINCT_APPEND, listTheory.MEM_APPEND]
```



Current Goal

~((ALL_DISTINCT 11 /\ ALL_DISTINCT 12 /\ !e. MEM e 11 ==> ~MEM e 12) /\ ALL_DISTINCT 13 /\ !e. MEM e 11 \/ MEM e 12 ==> ~MEM e 13)

```
-----
```

- 0. MEM x1 11 3. $x1 \le x2$
- 1. MEM x2 12 4. x2 <= x3
- 2. MEM x3 13 5. x3 <= SUC x1
- from assumptions 3, 4 and 5 we know $x2 = x1 \ / \ x2 = x3$
- let's deduce this fact by DECIDE_TAC

```
val NOT_ALL_DISTINCT_LEMMA = prove (''...',
REPEAT GEN_TAC >> STRIP_TAC >>
REWRITE_TAC[listTheory.ALL_DISTINCT_APPEND, listTheory.MEM_APPEND] >>
'(x2 = x1) \/ (x2 = x3)' by DECIDE_TAC
```



Current Goals — 2 subgoals, one for each disjunct

- both goals are easily solved by first-order reasoning
- let's use METIS_TAC[] for both subgoals

```
Proof Script

val NOT_ALL_DISTINCT_LEMMA = prove (''...'',
    REPEAT GEN_TAC >> STRIP_TAC >>
    REWRITE_TAC[listTheory.ALL_DISTINCT_APPEND, listTheory.MEM_APPEND] >>
    '(x2 = x1) \/ (x2 = x3)' by DECIDE_TAC >> (
    METIS_TAC[]
));
```



Finished Proof Script

- notice that proof structure is explicit
- parentheses and indentation used to mark new subgoals

Part IX

Induction on Numbers and Lists



Mathematical Induction (on Natural Numbers)



- mathematical (a. k. a. natural) induction principle: If a property P holds for 0 and P(n) implies P(n+1) for all n, then P(n) holds for all n.
- HOL4 is expressive enough to encode this principle as a theorem.

```
|-!P.P0/\ (!n.Pn ==> P(SUCn)) ==> !n.Pn
```

 Performing mathematical induction in HOL4 means applying this theorem (e. g. via HO_MATCH_MP_TAC)

Induction on Lists



HOL4 lists are defined similarly to in SML:

```
list = NIL | CONS of 'a => list
```

list induction principle is similar to that of natural numbers:

```
|- !P. P [] /\ (!t. P t ==> !h. P (h::t)) ==> !1. P 1
```

• fair warning: these are the **default**, not the only possible induction principles/theorems for numbers and lists

Induction (and Case-Split) Tactics



- the tactic Induct (or Induct_on) is usually used to start induction proofs
- it looks at the type of the quantifier (or its argument) and applies the default induction theorem for this type
- this is usually what one needs
- similarly, Cases_on picks and applies default case-split theorems (e.g., for bool)

List Induction Proof - Example I - Slide 1



- let's prove via induction
 - !11 12. REVERSE (11 ++ 12) = REVERSE 12 ++ REVERSE 11
- we set up the goal and start an induction proof on 11

```
val REVERSE_APPEND = prove (
''!11 12. REVERSE (11 ++ 12) = REVERSE 12 ++ REVERSE 11'',
Induct
```

List Induction Proof - Example I - Slide 2



- the induction tactic produced two cases
- base case:

```
!12. REVERSE ([] ++ 12) = REVERSE 12 ++ REVERSE []
```

induction step:

both goals can be easily proved by rewriting

```
Proof Script
```

```
val REVERSE_APPEND = prove (''
!11 12. REVERSE (11 ++ 12) = REVERSE 12 ++ REVERSE 11'',
Induct >| [
   REWRITE_TAC[REVERSE_DEF, APPEND, APPEND_NIL],
   ASM_REWRITE_TAC[REVERSE_DEF, APPEND, APPEND_ASSOC]
]);
```

List Induction Proof - Example II - Slide 2



- let's prove via induction
 - !1. REVERSE $(REVERSE \ 1) = 1$
- we set up the goal and start an induction proof on 1

```
val REVERSE_REVERSE = prove (
''!1. REVERSE (REVERSE 1) = 1'',
Induct
```

List Induction Proof - Example II - Slide 2



- the induction tactic produced two cases
- base case:

```
REVERSE (REVERSE []) = []
```

• induction step:

again both goals can be easily proved by rewriting

```
val REVERSE_REVERSE = prove (
''!1. REVERSE (REVERSE 1) = 1'',
Induct >| [
   REWRITE_TAC[REVERSE_DEF],
   ASM_REWRITE_TAC[REVERSE_DEF, REVERSE_APPEND, APPEND]
]);
```