

# Deductive Verification of Programs

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# Outline

Introduction

Small Imperative Language IMP

# Computer Systems and Correctness

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**Deductive verification of programs**

# A Small Example

Consider the following program:

```
int* allocateArray(int length)
{
    int i;
    int* array;
    array = malloc(sizeof(int)*length);

    for (i = 0; i <= length; i++)
        array[i] = 0;
    return array;
}
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Is this program correct?

**Hardly: it writes into memory that has not been allocated.**

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    int* array;
    array = malloc(sizeof(int)*length); // may return 0!

    for (i = 0; i < length; i++)
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    return array;
}
```

Is this program correct?

**No: it may write to the null address.**

# A Small Example

Consider the following program:

```
int* allocateArray(int length)
{
    int i;
    int* array;
    array = malloc(sizeof(int)*length);
    if (!array) return 0;
    for (i = 0; i < length; i++)
        array[i] = 0;
    return array;
}
```

Is this program correct?

# A Small Example

Consider the following program:

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/* Returns a new array of integers of a given
   length initialised by a non-zero value */
int* allocateArray(int length)
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Is this program correct?

**No: it initialises the array by zeros**

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We discussed **correctness** of a program without defining what it means.

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```

We discussed **correctness** of a program without defining what it means.

So what is correctness?

# Notes

- ▶ We could spot the first two errors without knowing anything about the **intended meaning** of the program. But we had to understand the meaning of the program in general and some specific properties of programming in C-like languages (or other programming languages).



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- ▶ We could spot the first two errors without knowing anything about the **intended meaning** of the program. But we had to understand the meaning of the program in general and some specific properties of programming in C-like languages (or other programming languages).
- ▶ To understand the last “error” we had to know something about the **intended behaviour of the program**.

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- ▶ Consider the program/system as a **mathematical object**.  
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This language must have a **semantics** that explains what are possible interpretations of the sentences of the formal language.

The semantics is normally based on notions **is true**, **is false**, **satisfies**.

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**First-Order Logic (FOL)**,  
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- ▶ Consider the program/system as a **mathematical object**.  
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- ▶ Write a **specification**, that is, intended properties of the system in this language.

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Deductive verification,  
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# Deductive Verification of Programs

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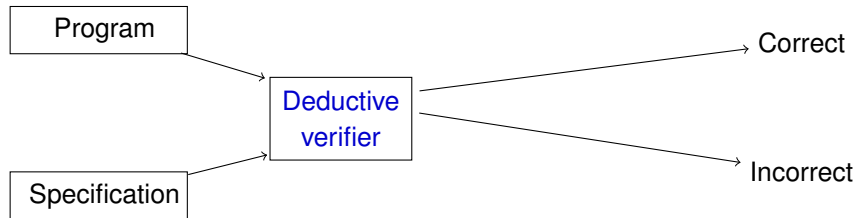
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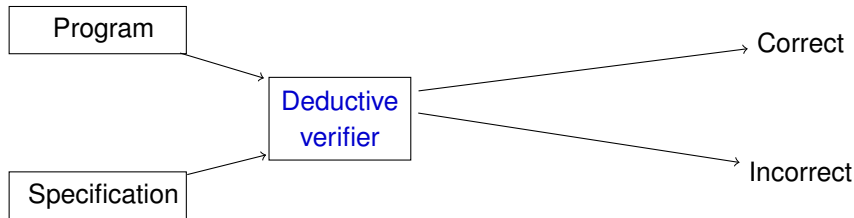
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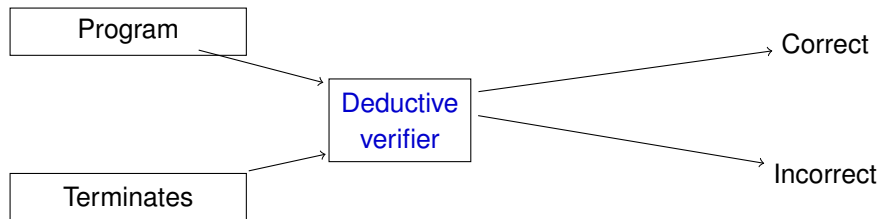


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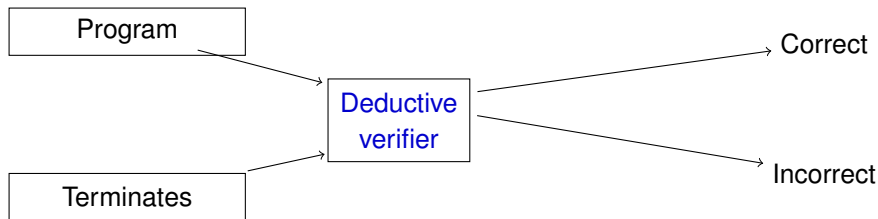


- ▶ Statically reason about program behavior without executing the program: consider all possible program executions under all inputs
- ▶ Examples of specifications: absence of arithmetic overflow, array is sorted, program terminates ...

# Deductive Verification of Programs

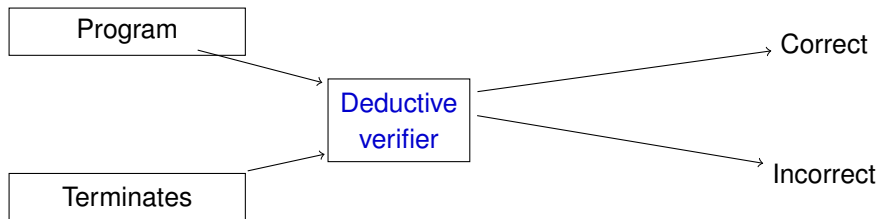


# Deductive Verification of Programs



## The Halting Problem

# Deductive Verification of Programs



## The Halting Problem: Undecidable

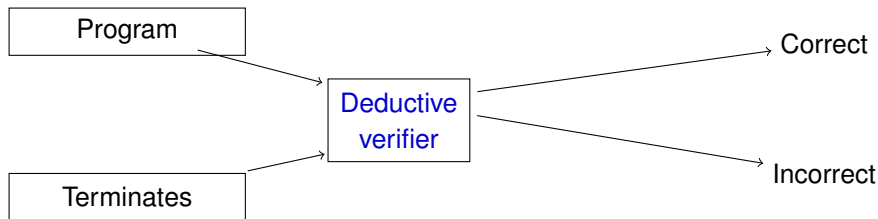
- ▶ A problem is undecidable if there does not exist a Turing machine that can solve it



Alan Turing, 1936



# Deductive Verification of Programs



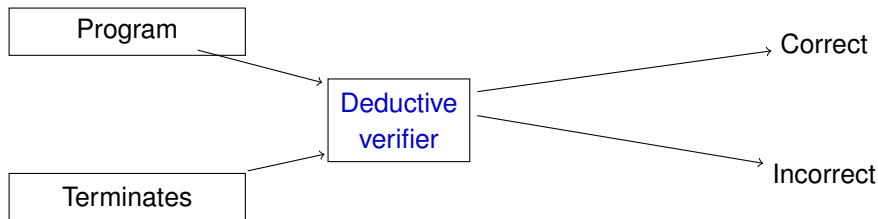
## The Halting Problem: Undecidable

- ▶ A problem is undecidable if there does not exist a C/Java program that can solve it



Alan Turing, 1936

# Deductive Verification of Programs



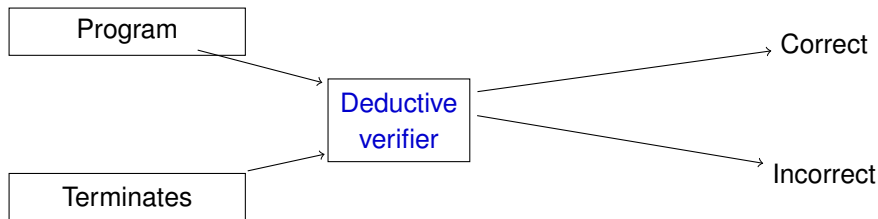
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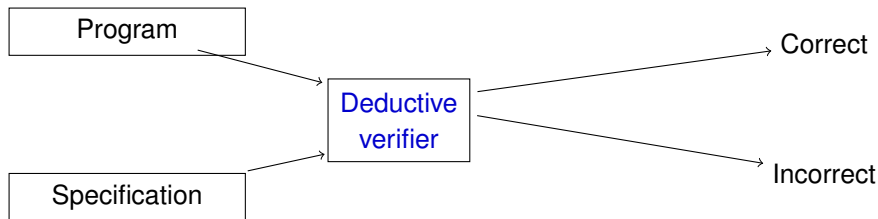


Undecidable: **Verifier** cannot exist



Alan Turing, 1936

# Deductive Verification of Programs



## Undecidable: Verifier cannot exist

- ▶ There is no computer program that can always decide whether a computer program satisfies a non-trivial specification (Rice Theorem)



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if (x-100<=0)
  if (y-100<=0)
    if (x+y-200==0)
      crash();
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▶  $1/2^{64}$

Testing is hard!

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- ▶ Abstractions
  - ▶ **Model checking**: verify a superset of program executions

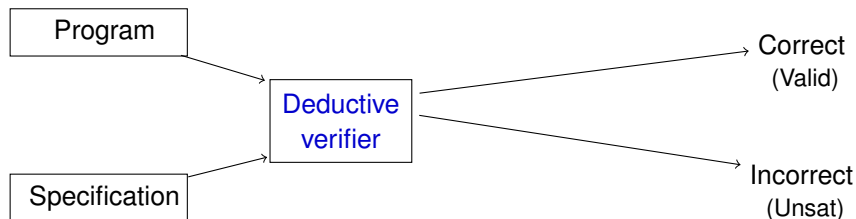
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- ▶ User assistance
  - ▶ **Deductive verification**: using program annotations (e.g. loop invariants)

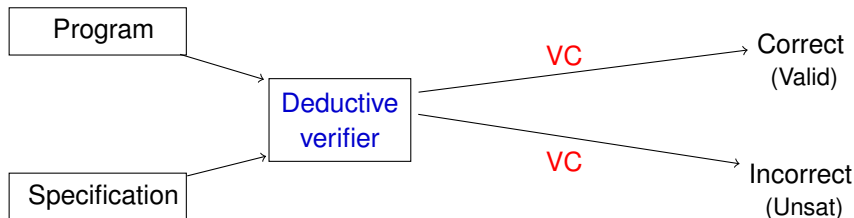
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  - ▶ **Model checking**: verify a superset of program executions
- ▶ User assistance
  - ▶ **Deductive verification**: using program annotations (e.g. loop invariants)
  - Algorithmic approach to deductive verification**: (my research area)
    - ▶ automate the generation of annotations,
    - ▶ fully automatic, push-button verification for classes of programs

# Deductive Verification of Programs



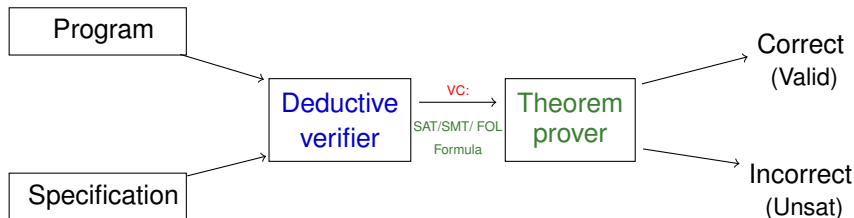
# Deductive Verification of Programs in Practice



- **Verification condition (VC):** A logical formula  $\phi$  s.t. the program is correct iff  $\phi$  is valid



# Deductive Verification of Programs in Practice



- ▶ **Verification condition (VC):** SAT/SMT/FOL formula  $\phi$  s.t. the program is correct iff  $\phi$  is valid
- ▶ Available tools: Dafny (Microsoft), Why3, KeY, ESC/Java, ...

# Deductive Verification of Programs in Dafny

Revisiting our `allocateArray` example

# Deductive Verification of Programs in Dafny

```
method allocateArray(a:array<int>, length:int)
```

```
{
  var i:int;
  i:=0;
  while (i<length)

    {
      a[i]:=1; i:=i+1;
    }
}
```

# Deductive Verification of Programs in Dafny

```
method allocateArray(a:array<int>, length:int)
  requires 0<=length<a.Length
  modifies a

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{
  var i:int;
  i:=0;
  while (i<length)
    invariant (forall k::0<=k<i&& k<length==>a[k]!=0);
    {
      a[i]:=1; i:=i+1;
    }
}
```

# Deductive Verification of Programs

- ▶ Living with undecidability;
- ▶ Algorithmic approach, using Hoare logic;
- ▶ Automated approach, thanks to SAT/SMT solving and theorem proving.

# Deductive Verification of Programs

## Tentative list of topics to be addressed:

- ▶ Small imperative language IMP
  - ▶ Syntax and semantics
- ▶ Hoare logic: basis of all deductive verification techniques
- ▶ Deductive verification of IMP
  - ▶ Axiomatic Semantics
  - ▶ Predicate transformers - for algorithmic verification
- ▶ Inferring loop invariants automatically



# Outline

Introduction

Small Imperative Language **IMP**

# Small Imperative Language IMP – Syntax

We consider a small imperative language IMP.

## Syntactic Sets of IMP

- Int positive and negative (integer) numerals  $n, m, \dots$  (e.g.  $-5, 0, 10$ )
- Loc locations  $x, y, z, \dots$
- AExp arithmetic expressions  $a$
- BExp boolean expressions  $b$
- P programs  $p$

# Small Imperative Language IMP – Syntax

## Abstract Syntax of IMP: Arithmetic Expressions AExp

$a ::=$

- $n$  for  $n \in \text{Int}$
- $| x$  for  $x \in \text{Loc}$
- $| a_1 + a_2$  for  $a_1, a_2 \in \text{AExp}$
- $| a_1 - a_2$  for  $a_1, a_2 \in \text{AExp}$
- $| a_1 * a_2$  for  $a_1, a_2 \in \text{AExp}$
- $| a_1 / a_2$  for  $a_1, a_2 \in \text{AExp}$

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- In the abstract syntax, we omit parentheses.

$$2 + 3 * 4 - 5$$

can be parsed as  $2 + ((3 * 4) - 5)$  or as  $(2 + 3) * (4 - 5)$ , depending on the *concrete syntax* (e.g. using operator precedence).

# Small Imperative Language IMP – Syntax

## Abstract Syntax of IMP: Arithmetic Expressions AExp

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can be parsed as  $2 + ((3 * 4) - 5)$  or as  $(2 + 3) * (4 - 5)$ , depending on the *concrete syntax* (e.g. using operator precedence).

- $3 + 5$  is not syntactically identical to  $5 + 3$ .  
But,  $(3 + 5)$  is syntactically identical to  $3 + 5$ .

# Small Imperative Language IMP – Syntax

## Abstract Syntax of IMP: Boolean Expressions BExp

$b ::=$

- $\text{true}$
- $| \text{false}$
- $| a_1 \mathcal{AOP} a_2 \quad \text{for } a_1, a_2 \in \text{AExp and } \mathcal{AOP} \in \{=, <, >, \leq, \geq\}$
- $| \neg b \quad \text{for } b \in \text{BExp}$
- $| b_1 \mathcal{BOP} b_2 \quad \text{for } b_1, b_2 \in \text{BExp and } \mathcal{BOP} \in \{\wedge, \vee\}$

# Small Imperative Language IMP – Syntax

## Abstract Syntax of IMP: Programs $P$

$p ::=$

- skip
- | abort
- |  $x := a$                       for  $x \in \text{Loc}$  and  $a \in \text{AExp}$
- |  $p_1; p_2$                       for  $p_1, p_2 \in P$
- | if  $b$  then  $p_1$  else  $p_2$     for  $b \in \text{BExp}$  and  $p_1, p_2 \in P$
- | while  $b$  do  $p$  od            for  $b \in \text{BExp}$  and  $p \in P$

# Small Imperative Language IMP – Syntax

## Example of an IMP Program

$p$

$\Rightarrow^* \quad x := 10; y := 0; \text{ while } x > 0 \text{ do } y := y + x; x := x - 1 \text{ od}$



# Small Imperative Language IMP – Syntax

## Example of an IMP Program

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$\implies^* x := 10; y := 0; \text{ while } a_1 > a_2 \text{ do } p_6; p_7 \text{ od}$

$\implies^* x := 10; y := 0; \text{ while } x > 0 \text{ do } y := y + x; x := x - 1 \text{ od}$

# Small Imperative Language IMP – Semantics

- ▶ Meaning of IMP programs and expressions depends on the values of variables in locations.

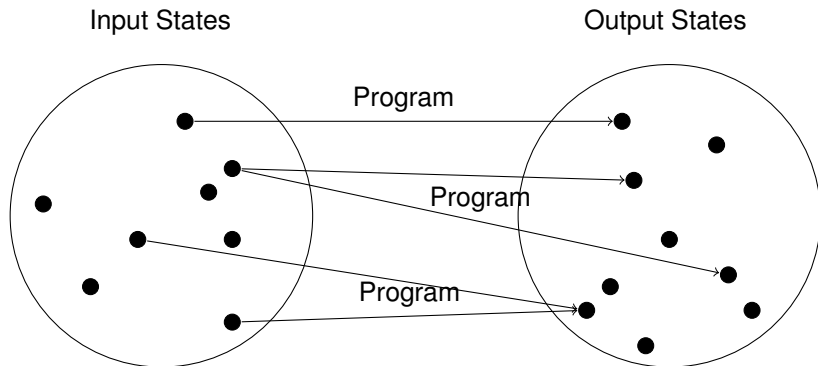
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- ▶ Meaning of IMP programs and expressions depends on the values of variables in locations.
- ▶ A state  $\sigma$  is a function from Loc to Int.
  - ▶  $\sigma(x)$  is the value/content of locations  $x$  in state  $\sigma$

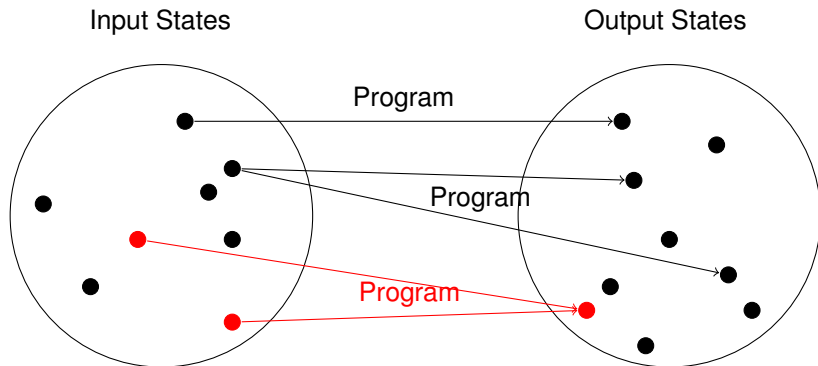
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  - ▶  $\sigma(x)$  is the value/content of locations  $x$  in state  $\sigma$
  - ▶ the set of states  $\Sigma = \{\sigma \mid \sigma : \text{Loc} \rightarrow \text{Int}\}$

# Programs as State Transformers



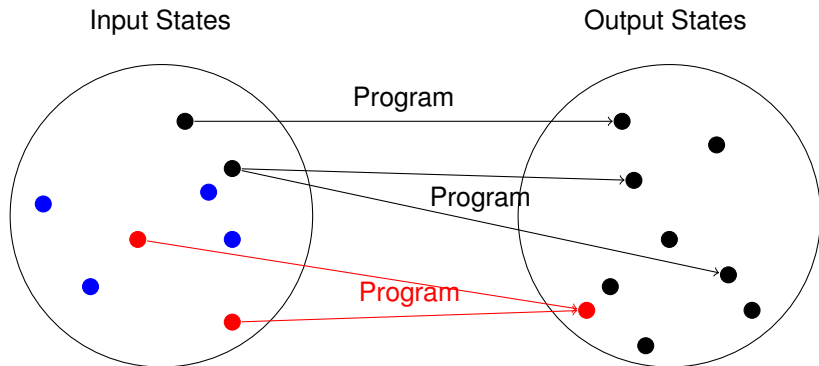
# Programs as State Transformers



- Several inputs may be mapped to the same output.

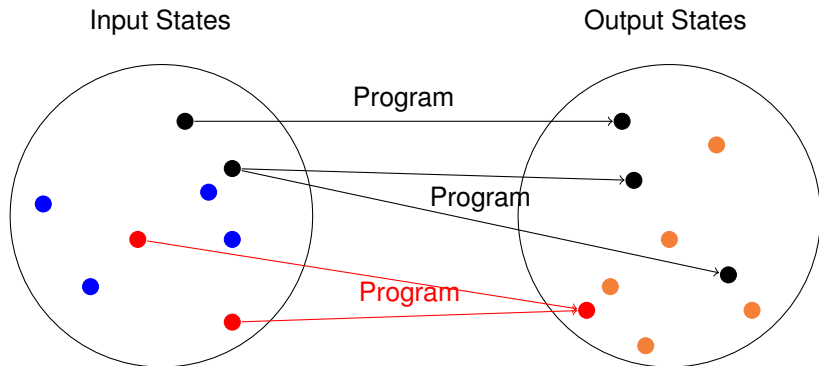


# Programs as State Transformers



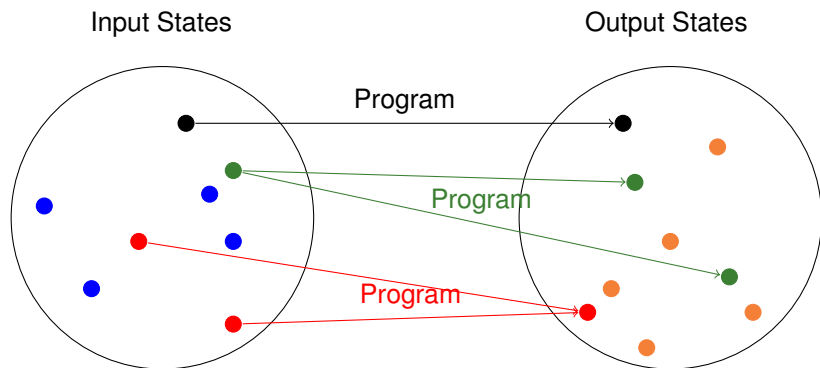
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# Programs as State Transformers



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# Programs as State Transformers



- ▶ **Several inputs** may be mapped to the **same output**.
- ▶ **Some inputs** are not mapped to any output.  
(Program aborts or loops.)
- ▶ **Some outputs** are not reached from any input.
- ▶ **One input** may be mapped to **several outputs** (non-determinism).

# Small Imperative Language IMP – Semantics

- ▶ **Evaluation** of IMP expressions:
  - ▶ Ternary relation on an AExp/BExp expression, a state  $\sigma$  and a value  $v$
  - ▶ Denoted as  $\langle exp, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow v$ , where  $exp \in \text{AExp}$  or  $exp \in \text{BExp}$ :  
“Expression  $exp$  in state  $\sigma$  evaluates to value  $v$ ”.

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- ▶ Why no state on the right of  $\rightarrow$ ?

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Only if there is a unique value  $v$  for  $\langle \text{exp}, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow v$



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- Operational semantics:** “mapping of expressions to values”
- ▶ The pair  $\langle \text{exp}, \sigma \rangle$  is:
  - ▶ an arithmetic expression **configuration**, for  $\text{exp} \in \text{AExp}$ ;
  - ▶ a boolean expression **configuration**, for  $\text{exp} \in \text{BExp}$ ;

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- ▶ **Evaluation** of IMP programs:
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  - ▶ **may terminate** in a final state
  - ▶ **may diverge** and never yield a final state

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Only if there is a unique successor state

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- ▶ **Transition relation**  $\implies$  of IMP programs is a relation over  $\mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{C}$

- ▶  $\langle p, \sigma \rangle \implies \langle p', \sigma' \rangle$  intermediate step of program execution

- ▶  $\langle p, \sigma \rangle \implies \sigma'$  last step of program execution

# Small Imperative Language IMP – Operational Semantics

Evaluation Rule Notation:

$$\frac{F_1 \quad \dots \quad F_k}{G} ,$$

to denote “if  $F_1, \dots, F_k$ , then  $G$ ”.

When  $k = 0$ , then  $G$  is an axiom:

$$\overline{G} .$$

# Small Imperative Language IMP – Operational Semantics

Note: In  $\langle a, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow v$ , the value  $v$  is an integer value.

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## Evaluation Rules for AExp

$$\frac{}{\langle n, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \mathbf{n}} ,$$

where  $\mathbf{n} \in \mathbf{Z}$  represents the integer number corresponding to  $n \in \text{Int}$

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$$\frac{\langle a_1, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_1 \quad \langle a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_2}{\langle a_1 + a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_1 +_{\mathbf{Z}} n_2} , \quad \text{where } +_{\mathbf{Z}} \text{ is the integer sum operator}$$

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$$\frac{\langle a_1, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_1 \quad \langle a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_2}{\langle a_1 * a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_1 *_{\mathbb{Z}} n_2} , \quad \text{where } *_{\mathbb{Z}} \text{ is the integer product operator}$$

$$\frac{\langle a_1, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_1 \quad \langle a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_2}{\langle a_1 / a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_1 /_{\mathbb{Z}} n_2} , \quad \text{where } /_{\mathbb{Z}} \text{ is the integer division operator}$$

# Small Imperative Language IMP – Operational Semantics

An Example of Evaluating  $a \in \text{AExp}$

Let  $a$  be  $(x + 5) + (8 + 10)$ .

Consider the state  $\sigma_0$  with  $\sigma_0(x) = 0$ .

---

$$\langle (x + 5) + (8 + 10), \sigma_0 \rangle \rightarrow$$



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Let  $a$  be  $(x + 5) + (8 + 10)$ .

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$$\frac{\frac{\frac{}{\langle x, \sigma_0 \rangle \rightarrow 0} \text{ locations}}{\langle x + 5, \sigma_0 \rangle \rightarrow 5} \quad \frac{\frac{}{\langle 5, \sigma_0 \rangle \rightarrow 5} \text{ numbers}}{\text{sum}} \quad \frac{\frac{\frac{}{\langle 8, \sigma_0 \rangle \rightarrow 8} \text{ numbers}}{\langle 8 + 10, \sigma_0 \rangle \rightarrow 18} \text{ numbers}}{\text{sum}} \quad \frac{\frac{}{\langle 10, \sigma_0 \rangle \rightarrow 10} \text{ numbers}}{\text{sum}}}{\langle (x + 5) + (8 + 10), \sigma_0 \rangle \rightarrow 23}$$

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## An Example of Evaluating $a \in \text{AExp}$

Let  $a$  be  $(x + 5) + (8 + 10)$ .

Consider the state  $\sigma_0$  with  $\sigma_0(x) = 0$ .

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{}{\langle x, \sigma_0 \rangle \rightarrow 0} \text{ locations}}{\langle x + 5, \sigma_0 \rangle \rightarrow 5} \quad \frac{\frac{}{\langle 5, \sigma_0 \rangle \rightarrow 5} \text{ numbers}}{\text{sum}} \quad \frac{\frac{\frac{}{\langle 8, \sigma_0 \rangle \rightarrow 8} \text{ numbers}}{\langle 8 + 10, \sigma_0 \rangle \rightarrow 18} \text{ numbers}}{\text{sum}} \quad \frac{\frac{}{\langle 10, \sigma_0 \rangle \rightarrow 10} \text{ numbers}}{\text{sum}}}{\langle (x + 5) + (8 + 10), \sigma_0 \rangle \rightarrow 23} \text{ sum}$$

The above structure of evaluation rules illustrates the **derivation tree**, or simply **derivation** of  $\langle a, \sigma_0 \rangle \rightarrow 23$ .

# Small Imperative Language IMP – Operational Semantics

Note: In  $\langle b, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow v$ , the value  $v$  is a boolean value/truth value.

# Small Imperative Language IMP – Operational Semantics

## Evaluation Rules for BExp

$$\frac{}{\langle \text{true}, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \text{true}} ,$$

where **true** represents the boolean value 1 (**true**)

$$\frac{}{\langle \text{false}, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \text{false}} ,$$

where **false** represents the boolean value 0 (**false**)



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$$\frac{\langle a_1, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_1 \quad \langle a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_2}{\langle a_1 = a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \text{true}} ,$$

if  $n_1$  and  $n_2$  are equal

$$\frac{\langle a_1, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_1 \quad \langle a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_2}{\langle a_1 = a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \text{false}} ,$$

if  $n_1$  and  $n_2$  are not equal

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if  $n_1$  and  $n_2$  are not equal

$$\frac{\langle a_1, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_1 \quad \langle a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_2}{\langle a_1 \leq a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \text{true}} ,$$

if  $n_1$  is less than or equal to  $n_2$

$$\frac{\langle a_1, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_1 \quad \langle a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_2}{\langle a_1 \leq a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \text{false}} ,$$

if  $n_1$  is not less than or equal to  $n_2$

# Small Imperative Language IMP – Operational Semantics

## Evaluation Rules for BExp (contd)

$$\frac{\langle a_1, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_1 \quad \langle a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_2}{\langle a_1 \geq a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \mathbf{true}}, \quad \text{if } n_1 \text{ is greater than or equal to } n_2$$

$$\frac{\langle a_1, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_1 \quad \langle a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_2}{\langle a_1 \geq a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \mathbf{false}}, \quad \text{if } n_1 \text{ is not greater than or equal to } n_2$$

$$\frac{\langle a_1, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_1 \quad \langle a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_2}{\langle a_1 < a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \mathbf{true}}, \quad \text{if } n_1 \text{ is less than } n_2$$

$$\frac{\langle a_1, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_1 \quad \langle a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_2}{\langle a_1 < a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \mathbf{false}}, \quad \text{if } n_1 \text{ is not less than } n_2$$

$$\frac{\langle a_1, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_1 \quad \langle a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_2}{\langle a_1 > a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \mathbf{true}}, \quad \text{if } n_1 \text{ is greater than } n_2$$

$$\frac{\langle a_1, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_1 \quad \langle a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow n_2}{\langle a_1 > a_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \mathbf{false}}, \quad \text{if } n_1 \text{ is not greater than } n_2$$

# Small Imperative Language IMP – Operational Semantics

## Evaluation Rules for BExp (contd)

$$\frac{\langle b, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \mathbf{true}}{\langle \neg b, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \mathbf{false}} \text{ neg}$$

$$\frac{\langle b, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \mathbf{false}}{\langle \neg b, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \mathbf{true}} \text{ neg}$$

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$$\frac{\langle b, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \mathbf{false}}{\langle \neg b, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \mathbf{true}} \text{ neg}$$

$$\frac{\langle b_1, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow t_1 \quad \langle b_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow t_2}{\langle b_1 \wedge b_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow t} ,$$

where  $t$  is **true** if both  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  are **true**, and is **false** otherwise.

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## Evaluation Rules for BExp (contd)

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$$\frac{\langle b_1, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow t_1 \quad \langle b_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow t_2}{\langle b_1 \vee b_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow t} ,$$

where  $t$  is **false** if both  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  are **false**, and is **true** otherwise.

# Small Imperative Language IMP – Operational Semantics

## Evaluation Rules for P

---

 $\langle \mathbf{skip}, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow$ 

---

 $\langle \mathbf{abort}, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow$

# Small Imperative Language IMP – Operational Semantics

## Evaluation Rules for P

$$\frac{}{\langle \text{skip}, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma}$$

$$\frac{}{\langle \text{abort}, \sigma \rangle \not\rightarrow} \quad \text{undefined}$$

Evaluation of IMP programs is a **partial relation**!



# Small Imperative Language **IMP** – Operational Semantics

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$$\frac{}{\langle \mathbf{skip}, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma}$$

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$$\frac{}{\langle x := a, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow}$$

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$$\frac{}{\langle \mathbf{skip}, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma}$$

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$$\frac{\langle a, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow v}{\langle x := a, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma[x/v]}$$

**Notation:** We write  $\sigma[x/v]$  to denote the state obtained from  $\sigma$  by replacing  $x$  by  $v$ . That is:

$$\sigma[x/v](y) = \begin{cases} v, & \text{if } y = x, \\ \sigma(y), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# Small Imperative Language IMP – Operational Semantics

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# Small Imperative Language IMP – Operational Semantics

## Summary:

The operational semantics of IMP is given by:

- ▶ Evaluation rules for AExp expressions,
- ▶ Evaluation rules for BExp expressions,
- ▶ Evaluation rules for P programs expressions,

by using (partial) evaluation relations.

# Learning Objectives

- ▶ Understanding the task of deductive program verification
- ▶ Limitations and trends in deductive program verification
- ▶ Familiarize with the Dafny program verifier
- ▶ Syntax of the small imperative language **IMP**
- ▶ Operational semantics of **IMP**