

SONNXWG

Towards an ONNX profile for critical systems

Eric JENN⁽¹⁾, Jean SOUYRIS⁽²⁾, Mohammed BELCAID⁽³⁾, Henri BELFY⁽⁴⁾, Sebastian BOBLEST⁽⁵⁾, Jean-Loup FARGES⁽⁶⁾, Cong LIU⁽⁷⁾, Eduardo MANINO⁽⁸⁾, Salomé MARTY-LAURENT⁽²⁾, Dumitru POTOP-BUTUCARU⁽⁹⁾, Jean-Baptiste ROUFFET⁽¹⁰⁾, Mariem TURKI⁽¹⁾, Nicolas VALOT⁽¹¹⁾, Franck VEDRINF⁽¹²⁾

(1) IRT Saint Exupery, (2) Airbus, (3) CS Sopra-Steria, (4) Thales AVS, (5) BOSCH, (6) ONERA, (7) Collins Aerospace, (8) U of Manchester, (9) INRIA, (10) Airbus Protect, (11) Airbus Helicopter, (12) CEA LIST



Agenda

- Our objectives
- Our organization
- Some issues addressed by the WG
- Some results
- Next...



Objectives of the SONNX WG Towards a safe profile...

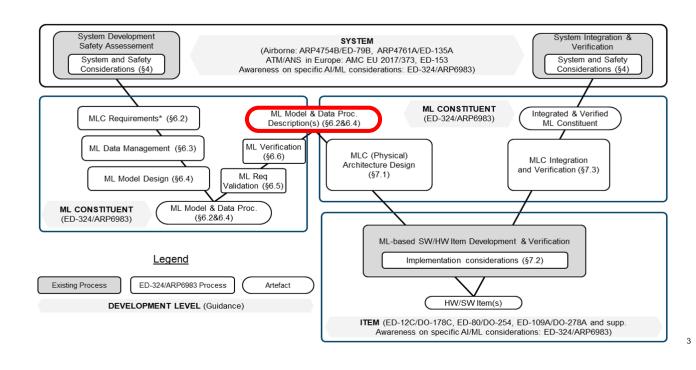


General objective

Provide a language to describe
 ML models

SONNX objectives

- Complete ONNX standard
 - Clarify semantics of operators and graph...
 - Remove ambiguities...
- Restrict the ONNX standard
 - To simplify compliance demonstration with respect to standards (esp. aero standards)
- Provide a simple reference implementation compliant with the standard





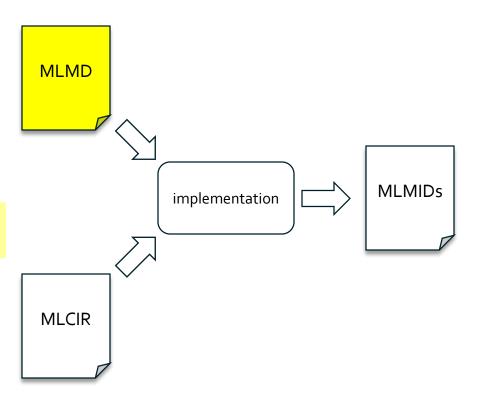
Expectations The ARP 6983 MLMD

Table D3 - ML Model Design process

	Objective	Activity	Applicability by Assurance Level					Output	Control Category by Assurance Level						
	Description	Ref	Ref	A AL1 SWAL1	B AL2 N/A	C AL3 SWAL2	N/A AL4 SWAL3	D AL5 SWAL4	Data Item	Ref	A AL1 SWAL1	B AL2 N/A	C AL3 SWAL2	N/A AL4 SWAL3	D AL5 SWAL4
5	The ML Model description is developed.	5.4.1.g	5.4.3.6				o	0	MLMD	7.4.7			1	1	1

In §5.4.3.6 "ML Model Description"

- a. The ML model logical architecture is described
- b. The ML model hyperparameters are described
- c. The ML model parameters are described
- d. The analytical/algorithmic syntax and semantics of the ML Model [...] are described in an unambiguous manner in the ML Model description to facilitate [allow?] their implementation.
- e. The replication criterion (either exact or approximated) is defined from the MLC requirements and if applicable from the ML Model requirements:
- f. The execution environment of the ML Model is described.
- g. Any necessary dependence on the learning environment (e.g., library, format) is explicitly mentioned.
- h. Any information that should not be part of the implemented ML Model is removed or explicitly identified as "not part of the ML Model description".





Why ONNX?

- Are there other candidate "standards"?
 - Vendor-neutral standards
 - Neural Network Exchange Format (NNEF) from Khronos Group (https://www.khronos.org/nnef)
 - Pretty good, but not really supported by tool vendors...
 - PMML
 - Not for deep neural networks
 - Non vendor-neutral standard
 - TensorFlow saved model
 - Torchscript
 - Core ML
 - Etc.

By definition: not cross-platform...

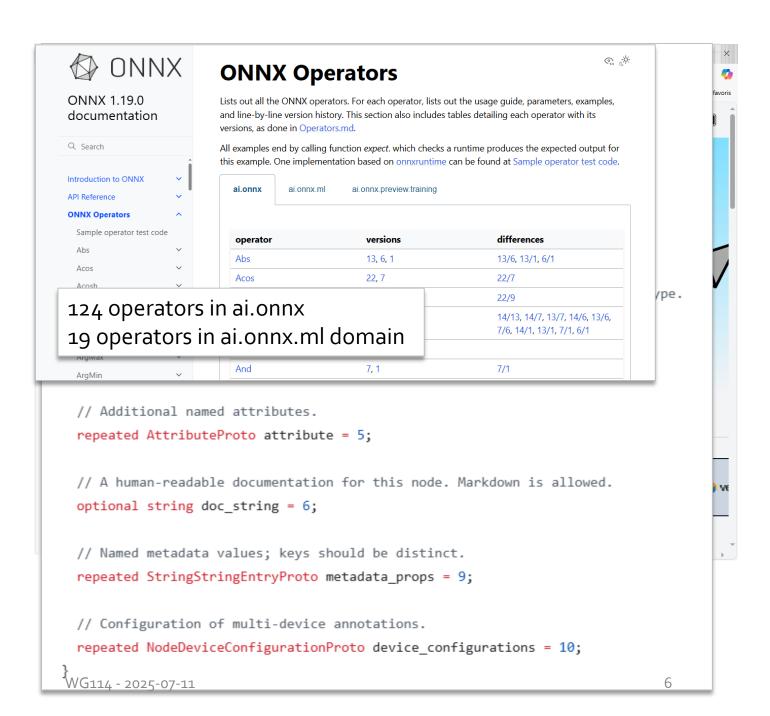
 ONNX is supported by a large set of tools (see https://onnx.ai/supported-tools.html)





What is ONNX?

- A set of operators
- An API
- An Intermediate Representation (IR) described using Protobuf
- A "reference implementation" coded in Python
- A runtime (ONNXruntime)
 [managed as a separate project in ONNX Runtime | Home





SONNX Meetings and attendance

- ☐ 15 bi-weekly meetings (see minutes at https://github.com/ericjenn/working-groups/blob/ericjenn-srpwg-wg1/safety-related-profile/meetings/minutes.md)
- 2 workshops on formal methods
- Actual participation
 - Between 6-15 people per meeting

CEA, INRIA, IRT
Saint-Exupery, ISAE
SupAero, ONERA,
TUM

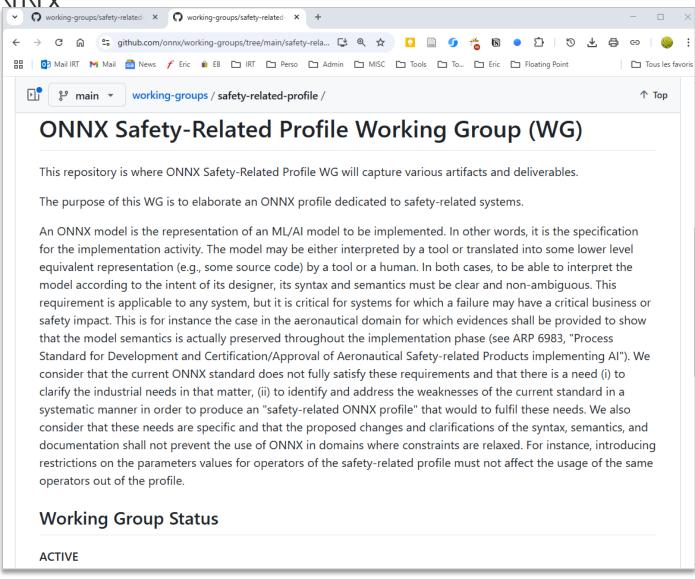


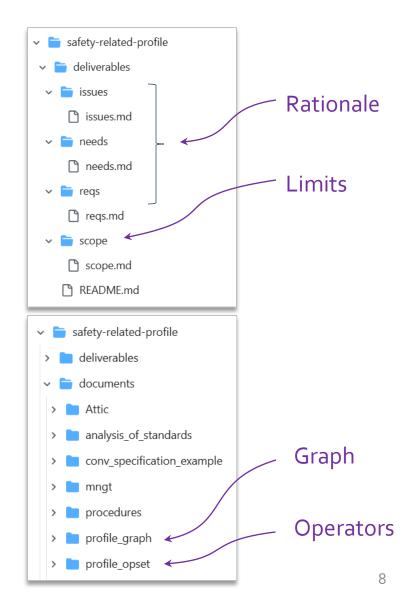


- Space : Airbus Defence and Space
- Automotive : Bosch, Ampere
- Naval: Naval Group
- Industry : Trumpf, Crosscontrol
- Energy: ARCYS
- Other: SopraSteria, Mathworks, Infineon, ANSYS (discussion)



https://github.com/onnx/working-groups/tree/main/safety-related-profile (latest) https://github.com/ericjenn/working-groups/tree/ericjenn-srpwg-wg1/safety-related-profile







Challenges for ONNX

- Provide an accurate description of the ML model, leaving no room to interpretation and approximations covering
 - The operator semantics (for all datatypes)
 - The graph semantics
 - The ONNX abstract (metamodel) and concrete (format) syntax





Fine.

But is there anything to improve?

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ONNX "issues" ONNX failed conversion survey

- Are there empirical evidences of incompleteness, inconsistencies, etc.?
- Converters fail...
 - See Wenxin Jiang, Arav Tewari, et al, <u>Interoperability in Deep Learning: A User Survey and Failure Analysis of ONNX Model Converters</u>, Proceedings of the 33rd ACM SIGSOFT International Symposium on Software Testing and Analysis, pp. 1466–1478, Vien 2024
- ... often with the bad mode...
- ... but no root cause leading to the spec...

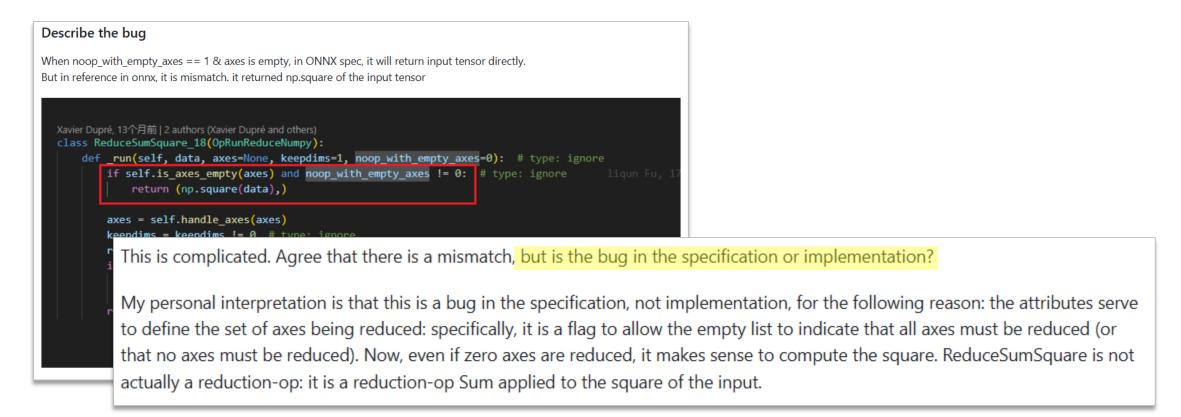
Finding 4. Location: Most failures are in Node Conversion (74%).

Finding 5. Symptom: The most common symptoms in DL model converters are *Crash* (56%) and *Wrong Model* (33%).

Finding 6. Causes: Crashes are largely due to Incompatibilities and Type Problems. Wrong models are largely due to Type Problems and Algorithmic Errors.



- See discussion https://github.com/onnx/onnx/issues/3651
- See issues labelled topic: spec clarification





Rounding and numerical precision



- Cast operator rounding (#3876, #5004)
 - No mention to truncation or rounding...
- DequantizeLinear (#6132)



• $y = (x - x_zero_point) * x_scale$, with x and x_zero_point with the same dtype. What happens if $x - x_zero_point$ is outside the range of dtype?

The <u>onnxrutime</u> and <u>reference implementation</u> behave differently.

Operator semantics

RandomNormal, RandomUniform (# 6408)

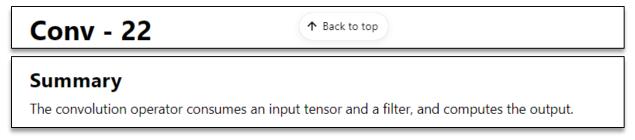


- The operator mentions a seed attribute, but doesn't said anything about its behavior. If the operator is stateless, the same value will be generated each time it is called. If it is state full, it'll generate different values, but according to the same sequence.
- The onnxruntime and reference implementation behave differently.



ONNX "issues" Laconic and lacunar documentation

Problem: what is a convolution?



(Excerpt of ONNX doc.)

Problem: What is the value used for padding in a convolution?

Uhhh... zero?





Problem: ONNX operators use attributes that have default values

Attributes

auto_pad - STRING (default is 'NOTSET'):
 auto_pad must be either NOTSET, SAME_UPPER, SAME_LOWER or VALID. Where default value is NOTSET, which means explicit padding is used.

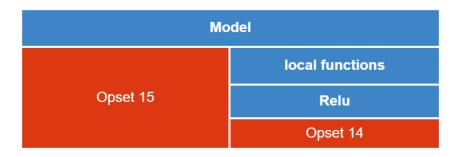
Conv operator



ONNX "issues" Opset resolution, naming ambiguity

Problem: *ambiguity in opset resolution*

- An ONNX Function is a design artefact used to:
 - 1. define a composition of operators (ex: Relu Function is defined through Max Operator)
 - 2. define a composition of Nodes in the Graph as a reusable sub-graph (local function)
- Opsets are referenced in the Model element, and in each Function definition.
- Ex: Model import Opset v15,
 Model local function Relu import Opset v14.



The Opset resolution is not specified:

// The (domain, name, overload) tuple must be unique across the function protos in this list.

// In case of any conflicts the behavior (whether the model local functions are given higher priority,

// or standard operator sets are given higher priotity or this is treated as error) is defined by

// the runtimes.

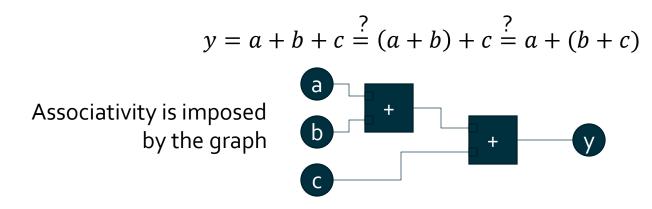
From onnx/onnx-ml.proto at main · onnx/onnx · GitHub , line 498-501



ONNX "issues" Graph execution order

Problem: "ambiguity" in operator execution

In what order are the operators of a graph executed?



ONNX runtime

- Default execution order uses Graph::ReverseDFS() to generated topological sort
- Priority-based execution order uses Graph::KahnsTopologicalSort with per-node priority



Other aspects

- Also consider other features to...
 - Facilitate traceability
 - Improve understandability
 - Etc.

For instance...

Use doc string to

- enforce the documentation of the meaning of each dimensions of tensors...
- add traceability data



Deliverables Status

(D1.a) Safety-related Profile **Scope** Definition (2024/11/01)

(D1.b.x) End users **needs** for domain \times (2024/12/01)

(D1.c) Consolidated needs for all industrial domains (2025/01/01)

(D2.a) ONNX safety-related Profile requirements (2025/02/01)

(D3.a) ONNX Safety-related profile - proof of concept (2024/12/01)

(D3.b) ONNX Safety-related profile – graph (2025/05/01)

(D3.c) ONNX Safety-related profile – operators (2025/12/31)

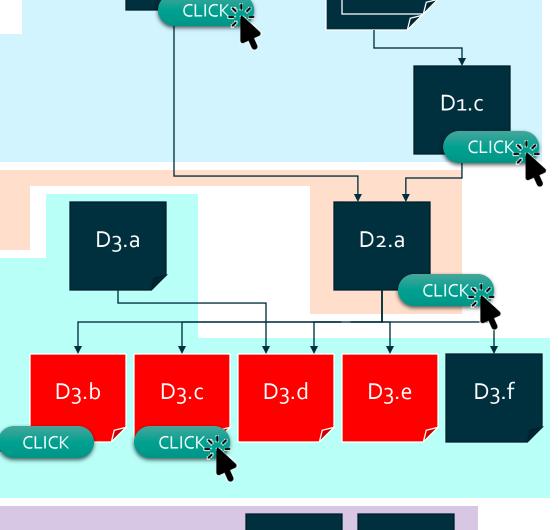
(D3.d) ONNX Safety-related profile – format (2025/12/31)

(D3.e) ONNX Safety-related profile reference implementation (2025/12/3

(D3.f) ONNX Safety-related profile rules (2025/01/31)

(D4.a) ONNX Safety-related profile **verification** report

(D4.b) ONNX Safety-related profile validation report



D4.a

D4.b

D1.a

D1.b.1

2025/07/11 WG114 - 2025-07-11 (detailed WP is available at https://github.com/ericjenn/working-groups/blob/main/safety-related-profile/documents/sow.md)

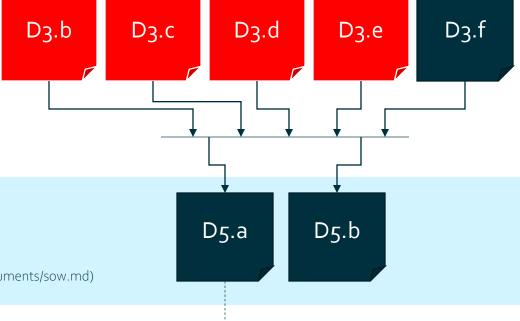


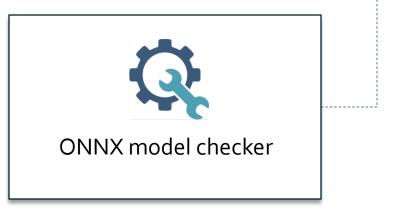
Deliverables Status

(D₅.a) Expression of the **needs** / tool list (2025/01/31)

(D₅.b) **Requirements** of tool <tool>(2025/12/31)

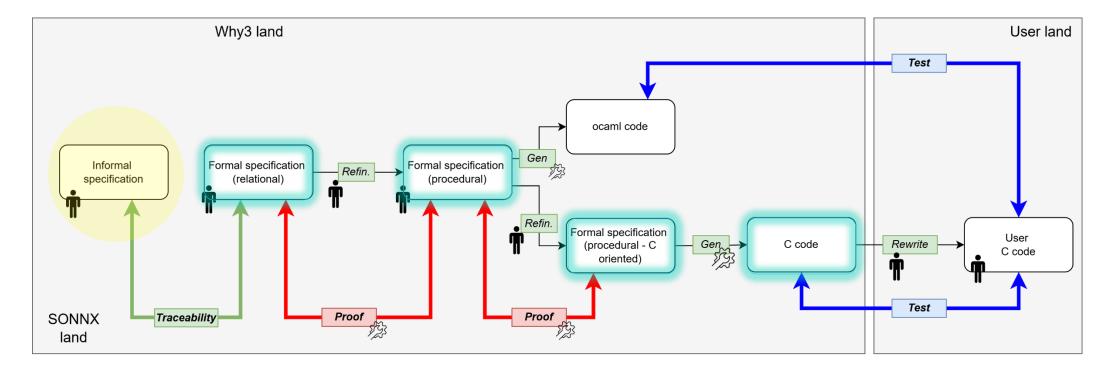
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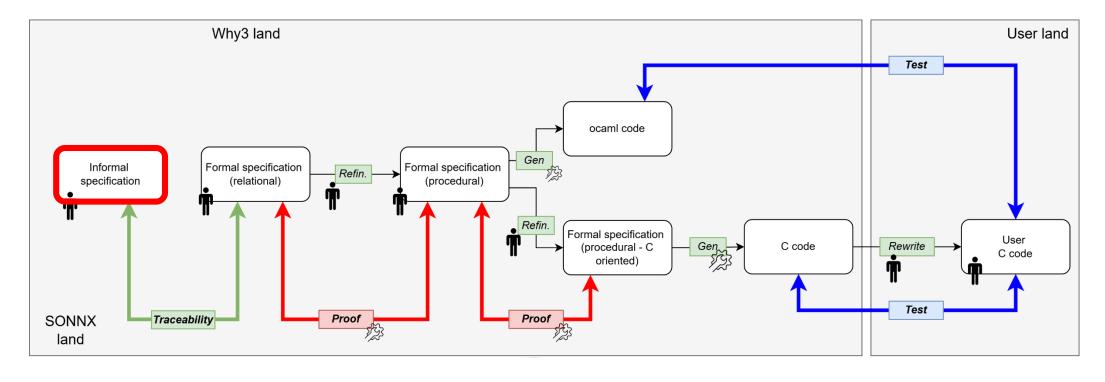


Formal specification and verification Overview





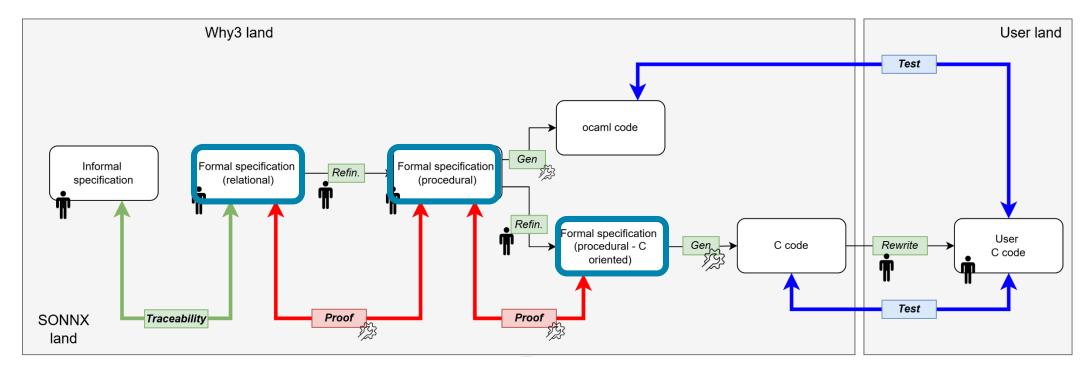
Formal specification and verification Information specification





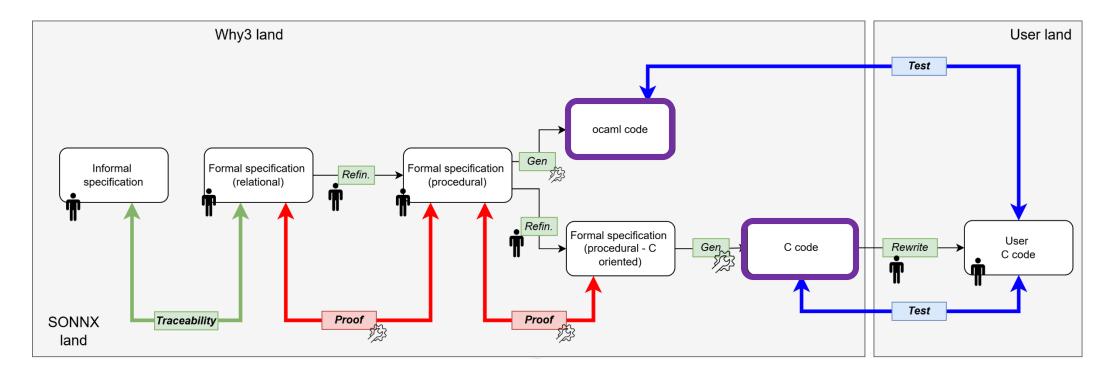
Formal specification and verification Formal specification

traceable





Deliverables Reference implementation

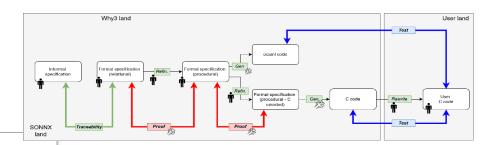


Reference implementation

- Interim ocaml code
- Final C code



For informal to formal specification: the **conv** operator



Inputs

Х

Tensor X is the input tensor on which convolution with kernel W is computed.

The shape of tensor X is $b(X) \times c(X) \times h(X) \times w(X)$.

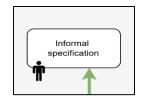
Constraints

- (C1) Number of spatial axes of tensor X
 - Statement: The number of spatial axes of tensor X is 2. [R1]
 - Rationale: This restriction is introduced to simplify the implementation considering the actual industrial use cases.
- (C2) Consistency between the number of channels of X and W
 - Statement: c(X) = fm(W)
- (C3) Consistency between the shape of tensors X , W , Y and attributes pads , dilations and strides
 - Statement:

and

- Rationale: The size of the output is determined by the number of times the kernel can be applied on a given spatial axis.
- (C4) Axis denotations
 - Statement: If axis denotation is in effect, the operation expects input data tensor to have axis denotation [DATA_BATCH , DATA_CHANNEL , DATA_FEATURE , DATA_FEATURE].
 - Rationale: Denotation convention 2025/07/11

SONNX profile





For informal to formal specification: tensors

```
Why3 land

User land

Test

Informal specification

Refer.

Formal specification

(relational)

Refer.

Proof

Proof

Proof

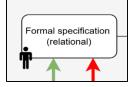
Feat

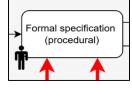
Formal specification

F
```

```
type shape = { dims : seq int }
module Tensor
                                                    invariant { forall i. 0 <= i < length dims -> 0 < dims[i] }</pre>
 use int.Int
 use map.Map
                                                    meta coercion function dims
 use utils.Product
 use sequence.Seq
 type shape = { dims : seq int }
   invariant { forall i. 0 <= i < length dims -> 0 < dims[i] }
   meta coercion function dims
 function sizeof (s : shape) : int = product 0 (length s) (fun i -> s[i])
 val sizeof (s : shape) : int
   ensures { result = sizeof s }
 type index = seq int
 predicate valid (idx : index) (s : shape) =
   length idx = length s /\
   forall i. 0 <= i < length s -> 0 <= idx[i] < s[i]
  type tensor 'a = {
                                               predicate valid (idx : index) (s : shape) =
   shape : shape ;
   value : map index 'a ;
                                                  length idx = length s /\
                                                  forall i. 0 \le i \le length s \rightarrow 0 \le length \le j \le i
  meta coercion function value
  function dim (t : tensor 'a) : int = length t.shape
```



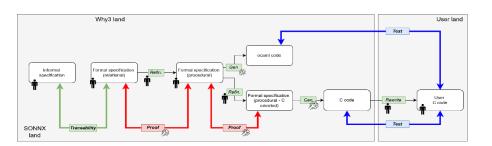




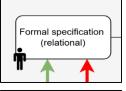


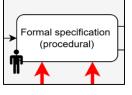
For informal to formal specification: the **conv** operator

```
let function conv2d_int (x: tensor int) (w: tensor int) (b: option (tensor int))
                         (strides pads dilations: seq int)
                         (group_val: int)
                         (auto_pad_is_not_set: bool)
                         : tensor int
  (* --- Core Tensor Dimension Requirements --- *)
  requires { dim x = 4 / \dim w = 4 }
  requires { Ops4D.c_dim x = Ops4D.c_dim w }
  requires { Ops4D.c_dim x > 0 }
  requires { Ops4D.h_dim w > 0 /\ Ops4D.w_dim w > 0 }
  requires { Ops4D.n dim w > 0 }
  requires { Ops4D.n dim x > 0 }
  (* --- Attribute Sequence Length Requirements --- *)
  requires { Seq.length strides = 2 }
  requires { Seq.length pads = 4 }
  requires { Seq.length dilations = 2 }
  (* --- Attribute Value Domain Requirements --- *)
  requires { Ops4D.stride_h strides > 0 /\ Ops4D.stride_w strides > 0 }
  requires { Ops4D.pad h begin pads >= 0 /\ Ops4D.pad w begin pads >= 0 /\
             Ops4D.pad_h_end pads >= 0 /\ Ops4D.pad_w_end pads >= 0 }
  requires { Ops4D.dilation h dilations > 0 /\ Ops4D.dilation w dilations > 0 }
  (* --- ONNX Profile Restrictions --- *)
  requires { group_val = 1 }
  requires { auto_pad_is_not_set }
```



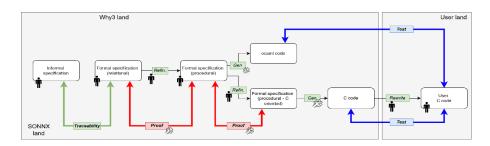




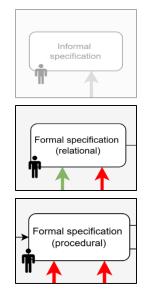




For informal to formal specification: the **conv** operator

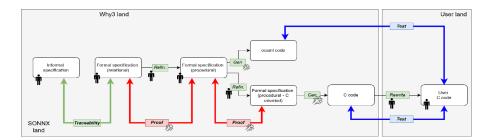


```
requires {
           let h_out_calc = calculate_H_out (Ops4D.h_dim x) (Ops4D.h_dim w)
                                            (Ops4D.pad h begin pads) (Ops4D.pad h end pads)
                                            (Ops4D.dilation h dilations) (Ops4D.stride h strides) in
           let w out calc = calculate W out (Ops4D.w dim x) (Ops4D.w dim w)
                                            (Ops4D.pad w begin pads) (Ops4D.pad w end pads)
                                            (Ops4D.dilation w dilations) (Ops4D.stride w strides) in
           h out calc > 0 / \ w out calc > 0
                                                                                     The shape
let res_shape = conv2d_output_shape x w strides pads dilations in
let res_value_func = conv2d_output_value x w b strides pads dilations res_shape in •
{ shape = res shape; value = res value func }
                                                                                                The value
```





For informal to formal specification: the **concat** operator



Let a be the concatenation axis and $d_{k,a}$ (T2) the dimension of the X_k input tensor k along the axis a.

Let s_k be the cumulative offset along axis before input X_k as:

T2:
$$s_k = \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} d_{j,a}$$
 Traceability link

Let i_a be the global index along dimension a, and let i'_a be the corresponding local within a local tensor X_k . This relationship can be defined as follows:

T3:
$$i'_a = i_a - s_k$$

If the global index i_a satisfies the condition:

T4:
$$s_k \le i_a < s_k + d_{k,a}$$

then the relationship holds:

T5:
$$\forall i_0, \dots, i_{r-1}$$
. $Y[i_0, \dots, i_{r-1}] = X_k[i_0, \dots, i'_a, \dots, i_{r-1}]$

With i_0 and i_{r-1} are the indices which access respectively the first and last dimensions of a **r-dimensional** tensor. i_0, \ldots, i_{r-1} represent a set of indices that uniquely identify an element within an **r-dimensional** tensor.



Graph

- [T01a] A graph contains a set of nodes
- [T01b] A graph contains a set of tensors that are inputs and outputs of the nodes
 - Some of those tensors are inputs (resp. outputs) of the graph, i.e, their values are set (resp. returned) before (resp. after) executing the graph

Nodes

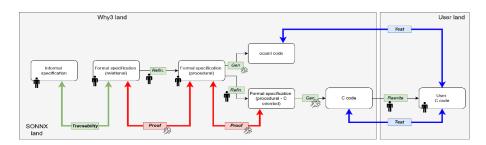
- [T03a] A node refers to an operator
 - An operator may be referred to by multiple nodes
- [T03b] There is a 1-to-1 mapping between the set of inputs and outputs of a node and the set of inputs and outputs of its associated operator [R1].
 - Note that is is a restriction with respect to the ONNX standard that allows fewer inputs or outputs when the omitted input or output is optional.

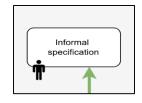
Tensors

- [T02b] A tensor is an object that can hold a value or be uninitialized
- [T02a] A tensor is identified by a unique identifier within a graph

Operators

- [T04a] An operator specifies a relation (a function) between a set of input parameters and a set of outputs parameters.
 - Input and output parameters (resp. output) are free variables that can be bound to tensors using nodes
 - o An operator has at least one output





Execution Semantics

- [T05a] A node is executable if all its input tensors are initialized
- [T05b] Executing a node means assigning values to output tensors such that the inputsoutputs relation specified by the operator holds
- [T05c] All executable nodes are executed
- [T05d] An executable node is executed only once
- [T05e] A tensor is assigned at most once (Single Assignment)

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Why3 land User land Formal specification (relational) Formal specification (relational) Formal specification (recordural) Formal specification (procedural - C code (procedural - C code)

Graph

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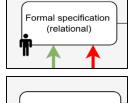
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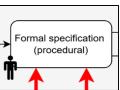
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```
type node = {
    ope: operator; (* The operator referred to by the node *)
    oi: list tensor_id; (* Input tensors, position-wise *)
    ou: list tensor_id; (* Output tensors, position-wise *)
}
invariant {
    length oi = length ope.opi /\
    length ou = length ope.opo
}
by
{
    ope= { name = ""; opi = Nil; opo = Nil };
    oi = Nil;
    ou = Nil;
}
```

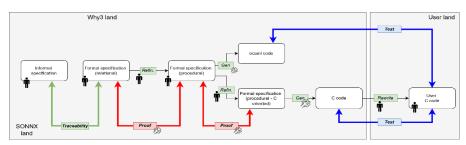
```
type operator = {
   name: string; (* name of the operator *)
   opi: list shape; (* input shapes *)
   opo: list shape; (* output shapes *)
}
```



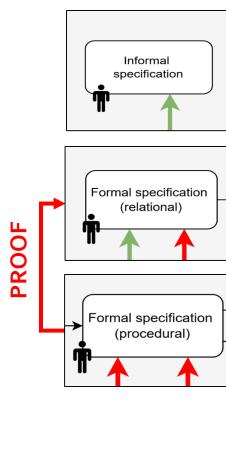




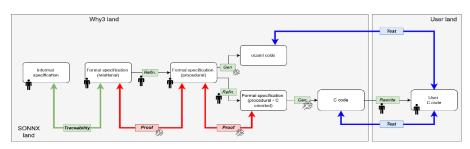


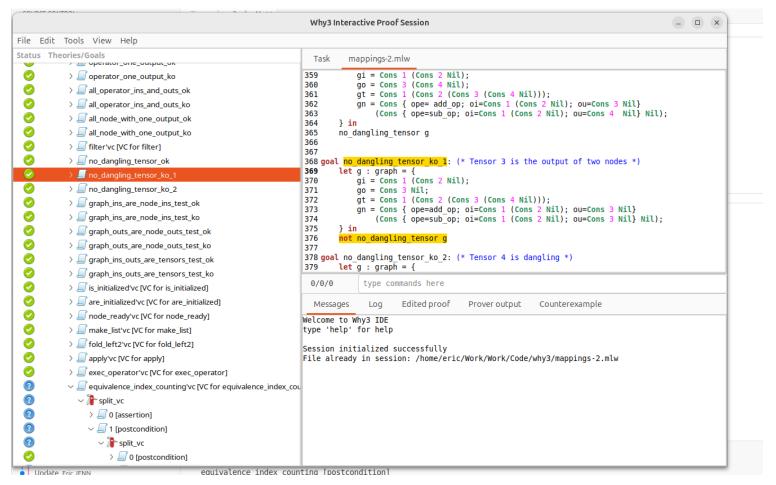


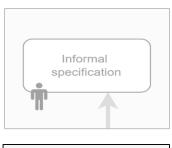
```
Partial (4/5) (23ms) (alt-ergo 4) (split_vc 2) (depth 2)
let rec assign list (s: graph state) (l: lis map) : graph state
    (* A tensor shall only appear once in the state *)
    (* A tensor shall only appear once in an assignment *)
    requires { forall t: tensor id. t appears at most once t l }
    (* The assignment is correct *)
    ensures { forall t, v . Mem.mem (t, v) l ->
        my map get logic result t = v }
    variant { l }
    match l with
    | Nil -> s (* Nothing to assign, the state does not change *)
     | Cons (t, v) xs ->
        (* Assign the value and continue with the rest of the assignment list *)
        let s' = my map set s t v in
            (* Tensor t is correctly assigned *)
            assert { my map get logic s' t = v };
            assume { NumOcc.num occ t (project xs) = 0 };
            assume { forall t'. t appears at most once t' xs };
            let s'' = assign list s' xs in
                assume { forall t'', v'' . Mem.mem (t'', v'') xs -> my map get logic s' t'' = v'' };
                SII
    end
```

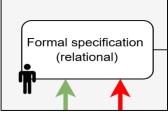


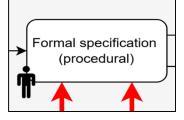














Numerical errors Approach

- Thou shall not overspecify...
- Errors depend on method and computation error)
- No specification of errors

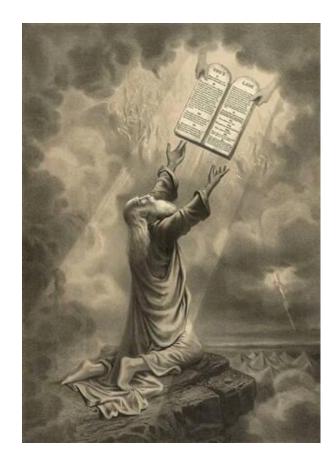




- Empirical (incomplete)
- Formal via abstract interpretation (e.g., fluctuat)
- Formal via axiomatic proof









Numerical errors Approach

- We propose a lower bound on the error for any value in the input domain, for any implementation complying with IEEE 754
 - This is not necessarily the smallest error but
 - The effort to express the formula remains acceptable
 - The complexity of the formula remains tractable
 - The verification of the property remains achievable
- For a restriction of the input domain, the error may be smaller
- The SONNX reference implementation will (?) comply with this constraint
- More efficient implementations may violate this constraint. In that case, the implementer has to provide its own precision requirement, following the structure of the provided formula.
- A tool will be used to demonstrate that the accuracy constraint is satisfied



Numerical errors

Example: the **add** operator

Numerical Accuracy

If tensor $A_{\rm err}$ is the numerical error of A , tensor $B_{\rm err}$ is the numerical error of B , let us consider $C_{\rm err}^{\rm propag}$ the propagated error of Add and $C_{\rm err}^{\rm intro}$ the introduced error of Add . Hence the numerical error of C , $C_{\rm err} = C_{\rm err}^{\rm propag} + C_{\rm err}^{\rm intro}$.

Error propagation

For every indexes $I = (i_0, i_1, \dots, i_n)$ over the axes,

• $C_{\text{err}}^{\text{propag}}[I] = A_{\text{err}}[I] + B_{\text{err}}[I]$

Error introduction - floating-point IEEE-754 implementation

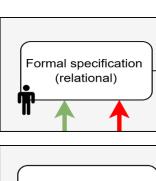
The error introduced by the Add operator shall be bound by the semi-ulp of the addition result for every tensor component for a normalized result. For a hardware providing m bits for floating-point mantissa, the semi-ulp of 1.0 is $2^{-(m+1)}$. Hence, for every indexes $I=(i_0,i_1,\ldots,i_n)$ over the axes,

•
$$\left| C_{\text{err}}^{\text{intro}}[I] \right| \leq \max \left(\left| A[I] + B[I] + A_{\text{err}}[I] + B_{\text{err}}[I] \right| \times 2^{-(m+1)}, \frac{\text{denorm-min}}{2} \right)$$

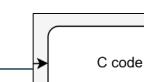
•
$$\left| C_{\text{err}}^{\text{intro}}[I] \right| \le \max \left(\left| A_{\text{float}}[I] + B_{\text{float}}[I] \right| \times 2^{-(m+1)}, \frac{\text{denorm-min}}{2} \right)$$

$$\left| C_{\text{err}}^{\text{intro}}[I] \right| \leq \max \left(\left| A[I] + B[I] \right| \times \frac{2^{-(m+1)}}{1 - 2^{-(m+1)}}, \frac{\text{denorm-min}}{2} \right)$$

Static unit checker







assertion



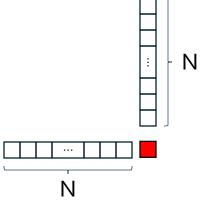
Error conditions

- How to specify error conditions
- Examples

y=Add (a: int32, b: int32)
$$-2^{32} \le a+b \le 2^{32}-1$$
 Or, more conservatively,
$$-2^{31}+1 \le a < 2^{31} \text{ and } -2^{31}+1 \le b < 2^{31}$$

 For matrix multiplication (e.g., MatMulInteger), a precondition can be expressed on the shape of the tensors

$$N > \frac{2^{32} - 1}{128^2} \approx 133141.5$$





Conclusion Where are we? What's next?

Where are we:

First drafts to be consolidate / completed...

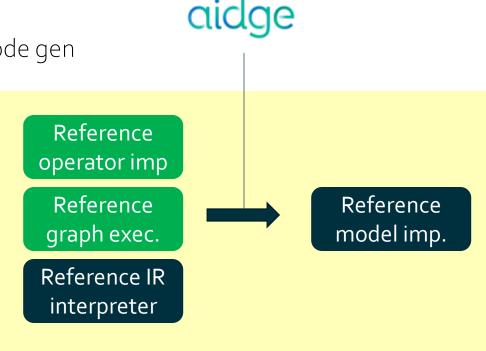
What's next:

Completion of operator informal and formal spec + proof + code gen

Completion graph spec + proof + code gen

- **■** |R
- Generation of C implementations
- Compliance with ARP
- Integration to the Aldge platform

- Collaboration with ONNX infra on testing...
- Actual integration in the ONNX ecosystem...









Contacts

- Eric JENN (<u>eric.jenn@irt-saintexupery.com</u>)
- Jean SOUYRIS (jean.souyris@airbus.com)
- To join the mailing list, send a message to: onnx-sonnx-workgroup+subscribe@lists.lfaidata.foundation



