Formal verification of Scala programs with Stainless

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About me

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- ~2 years as an engineer at LARA

Outline

- Stainless: Verification framework for Scala
- What Stainless verifies
- Termination checker
- Case study: Verifying typeclasses
- More case studies
- Bonus
- Coming soon / further work

Stainless: Verification framework for Scala

Stainless is a verification framework for higher-order programs written in a subset of Scala, named *PureScala*:

- Traits, abstract classes, case classes, implicit classes, methods
- Higher-order functions, lambdas
- Any, Nothing, co-/contra-variant type parameters
- Single inheritance
- Anonymous and local classes, inner functions

- Type members, type aliases
- GADTs
- `PartialFunctions`
- Set, Bag, List, Map, Array, Byte, Short, Int, Long, BigInt
- Local state, `while`, traits/classes with `vars`, and more...

Currently supports Scala 2.12.x.

Some Dotty-specific features:

- Intersection and union types
- Dependent function types
- Extension methods
- Opaque types

Currently only supports Dotty 0.12.0, will try to catch up.

What Stainless verifies

- **Assertions** which should hold at the place where they are stated, but are checked statically
- **Postconditions** using `ensuring` function: assertions for return values of functions
- **Preconditions** using `require` function: assertions on function parameters
- **Loop invariants**: inductive assertions that hold in each loop iteration after the while condition check passes
- **ADT/Class invariants**: assertions on constructors parameters (which remain true for all constructed values)

Stainless also automatically performs **automatic checks for the absence of runtime failures**:

- Exhaustiveness of pattern matching (taking guards into account)
- Division by zero, array bounds checks
- Map domain checks

Moreover, Stainless also checks *PureScala* programs from:

- Creating null values or unininitalized local variables or fields
- Explicitly throwing an exception
- Overflows and underflows on sized integer types

Termination checker

A *verified* function in stainless is guaranteed to never crash, however, it can still lead to an infinite evaluation.

Stainless therefore provides a termination checker that complements the verification of safety properties.

Pipeline

TODO: Image

- Scala/Dotty compiler
- Extraction
- Lowering
- Inox
- SMT solver

Case study: Verifying typeclasses

```
Seq(1, 2, 3, 4).par.fold(10)(_ - _)

// ((((10 - 1) - 2) - 3) - 4) => 0
// (10 - 1) - (2 - (3 - 4))   => 6
```

```
Seq(1, 2, 3, 4).par.fold(0)(_ + _)

// ((((10 + 1) + 2) + 3) + 4) => 10
// (10 + 1) + (2 + (3 + 4))   => 10
```

```
abstract class Semigroup[A] {
  def combine(x: A, y: A): A

  @law def law_assoc(x: A, y: A, z: A) =
    combine(x, combine(y, z)) == combine(combine(x, y), z)
}
```

```
abstract class Monoid[A]
  extends Semigroup[A] {

  def empty: A

  @law def law_leftIdentity(x: A) =
    combine(empty, x) == x

  @law def law_rightIdentity(x: A) =
    combine(x, empty) == x
}
```

```scala
case class Sum(get: BigInt)

implicit def sumMonoid = new Monoid[Sum] {
  def empty = 0
  def combine(x: Sum, y: Sum) = Sum(x.get + y.get)
}
```

```
 stainless summary

law_leftIdentity    law   valid   nativez3   0.223
law_rightIdentity   law   valid   nativez3   0.407
law_assoc           law   valid   nativez3   0.944

total: 3  valid: 3  invalid: 0  unknown: 0  time: 1.574
```

```scala
implicit def optionMonoid[A](implicit val S: Semigroup[A]) =
  new Monoid[Option[A]] {
    def empty: Option[A] = None()

    def combine(x: Option[A], y: Option[A]) =
      x match {
        case None()   => y
        case Some(xv) => y match {
          case None()   => x
          case Some(yv) => Some(S.combine(xv, yv))
        }
      }
  }
```

```scala
implicit def optionMonoid[A](implicit val S: Semigroup[A]) =
  new Monoid[Option[A]] {
    // ...

    override def law_assoc(@induct x: Option[A], y: Option[A],
      super.law_assoc(x, y, z)
  }
```

```
def foldMap[M, A](xs: List[A])(f: A => M)(implicit M: Monoid[A
  xs.map(f).fold(M.empty)(M.append)

@extern
def parFoldMap[M, A](xs: List[A])(f: A => M)(implicit M: Monoi
  xs.toScala.par.map(f).fold(M.empty)(M.append)
} ensuring { res =>
  res == foldMap(xs, f)
}
```

More case studies

Conc-Rope

Verified data-structure which provides

- Worst-case $O(logn)$ time lookup, update, split and concatenation operations
- Amortized O(1) time append and prepend operations

Very useful for efficient data-parellel operations!

[ConcRope] TODO: Ref

Parellel Map-Reduce pipeline

Fully verified implementation of the previous running example, using a Conc-Rope under the hood instead of Scala's 'par' operator.

Built by Lucien Iseli, BSc student, as a semester project. TODO: Benchmarks

Actor systems

```
case class Primary(backup: ActorRef, counter: BigInt) extends
  def processMsg(msg: Msg): Behavior = msg match {
    case Inc =>
      backup ! Inc
      PrimBehav(backup, counter + 1)

    case _ => this
  }
}
```

```
case class Backup(counter: BigInt) extends Behavior {
  def processMsg(msg: Msg): Behavior = msg match {
    case Inc => BackBehav(counter + 1)
    case _   => this
  }
}
```

```
def invariant(s: ActorSystem): Boolean =
  val primary = s.behaviors(PrimaryRef)
  val backup  = s.behaviors(BackupRef)
  val pending = s.inboxes(PrimaryRef -> BackupRef).length

  primary.counter == backup.counter + pending
}
```

```
def preserveInv(s: ActorSystem, n: ActorRef, m: ActorRef) = {
  require(invariant(s))

  val next = s.step(n, m)
  invariant(next)
}.holds
```

Smart contracts

We also maintain a fork of Stainless, called *Smart* which supports:

- Writing smart contracts in Scala
- Specifying and proving properties of such programs, including precise reasoning about the `Uint256` data type
- Generating Solidity source code from Scala, which can then be compiled and deployed using the usual tools for the Ethereum software ecosystem

[0] https://github.com/epfl-lara/smart

Bonus: Refinement types

```
type Nat = { n: BigInt => n >= BigInt(0) }
```

```
def sortedInsert(
  xs: { List[Int] => xs.nonEmpty },
  x:  { Int => x <= xs.head }
): { res: List[Int] => isSorted(res) } = {
  x :: xs // VALID
}
```

Bonus: Dependent function types

```
trait Entry {
  type Key
  val key: Key
}

def extractKey(e: Entry): e.Key = e.key

def extractor: (e: Entry) => e.Key = extractKey(_)
```

```scala
case class IntEntry() extends Entry {
  type Key = Int
  val key: Int = 42
}

assert(extractor(entry) == 42) // VALID
```

Other features

- sbt plugin + metals integration
- Ghost context
- Partial evaluation

Coming soon(ish)

- VC generator via bidirectional typechecker for *System FR* (TODO: ref)
- Indexed recursive types
- Higher-kinded types
- Better metals/IDE integration

Further work

- Scala 2.13 / latest Dotty / TASTY support
- Standalone front-end for a custom input language
- WebAssembly backend
- and more...

Learn more

- Installation
- Tutorial
- Ghost context
- Imperative features
- Working with existing code
- Proving theorems
- Stainless library
- and more...

=> stainless.epfl.ch

Acknowledgments

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References I

TODO

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