# Verification of complex systems in Stainless

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Abstract

(TODO: Abstract)

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# Contents

# 1 Introduction

(TODO: Introduction)

## 2 Program verification with Stainless

(TODO: Describe Stainless/Inox pipeline)

## 3 Symbolic Evaluation of Inox Programs

#### 3.1 Motivation

While one would expect the following program to successfully verify in a fair amount of time, Stainless is actually unable to automatically prove the verification condition corresponding to test's postcondition.

```
def foldLeft[A](list: List[A], z: B)(f: (B, A) => B): B = list match {
    case Nil() => z
    case Cons(x, xs) => foldLeft(xs, f(z, x))(f)
}

def insert[A, B](values: List[(A, B)], map: Map[A, B]) = {
    foldLeft(xs, map) {
        case (acc, (k, v)) => acc.updated(k, v)
    }
}

def test(map: Map[String, Int]): Boolean = {
    val xs = List("a" -> 1, "b" -> 2, "c" -> 3, "d" -> 4)
    val res = insert(xs, map)
    res("b") == 2
}.holds
```

On the other hand, if one were to manually unfold insert, then unfold foldLeft as much as possible in the program above, one would end up with the following definition for the test function, the postcondition of which would then promptly verify.

```
def test(map: Map[String, Int]): Boolean = {
   val res = map.updated("a", 1).updated("b", 2).updated("c", 3).updated("d", 4)
   res("b") == 2
}.holds
```

Indeed, while the map variable is kept abstract, the list of values xs we want to insert is not, and it is thus possible to simplify the initial program, yielding to a much simpler verification condition.

It is of course unreasonable to ask users to manually perform such a transformation, especially with large programs, hence why we decided to investigate a way to do so automatically, as part of the verification pipeline.

```
(TODO: ...)
```

Let's first take a look at how the *PureScala* program above looks when expressed in Inox' input language:

```
| def foldLeft[A](list: List[A], z: B)(f: (B, A) => B): B =
```

```
if (list.isInstanceOf[Nil[A]]) {
    z
} else {
    val x = list.asInstanceOf[Cons[A]].head
    val xs = list.asInstanceOf[Cons[A]].tail
    foldLeft(xs, f(z, x))(f)
}

def insert[A, B](values: List[(A, B)], map: Map[A, B]) = {
    foldLeft(xs, map, (acc: Map[A, B], kv: (A, B)) => acc.updated(kv._1, kv._2))
}

def test(map: Map[String, Int]): Boolean = {
    val xs = List("a" -> 1, "b" -> 2, "c" -> 3, "d" -> 4)
    val res = insert(xs, map)
    res("b") == 2
}.holds
```

#### 3.2 Semantics

The symbolic evaluator keeps track of the current path condition, denoted by  $\Delta$ . Figure 1 lists the evaluation rules for the symbolic evaluator. Since most of those are fairly straightforward, we will only focus on rules (21), (22) and (23), which pertain to functions invocations.

#### 3.3 Case Studies

(TODO: Case Studies)

#### 3.4 Conclusion

(TODO: Conclusion)

$$\begin{array}{c} e \in \Delta \\ \hline [e;\Delta] \longrightarrow \text{true} \end{array} \\ \hline (e;\Delta] \longrightarrow \text{true} \end{array} \\ \hline (e;\Delta] \longrightarrow \text{false} \end{array} \\ \hline (2) \\ \hline [[\lambda x_1,\ldots,x_n.e;\Delta] \longrightarrow \lambda[x_1;\Delta],\ldots,[x_n;\Delta].[e;\Delta] \end{array} \\ \hline (3) \\ \hline [[l] ==> r;\Delta] \longrightarrow [-l+l+r;\Delta] \\ \hline (4) \\ \hline [[l] (e) t \text{ else } e;\Delta] \longrightarrow [l+r;\Delta] \\ \hline (b) \\ \hline [[l] (e) t \text{ else } e;\Delta] \longrightarrow [l+r;\Delta] \\ \hline (c;\Delta] \longrightarrow \text{false} \\ \hline [[l] (e) t \text{ else } e;\Delta] \longrightarrow [e;\Delta] \\ \hline [[l] (e) t \text{ else } e;\Delta] \longrightarrow t' \rightarrow t' \rightarrow t' \rightarrow t' \rightarrow t' \rightarrow t' \rightarrow t' \rightarrow$$

Figure 1: Operational semantics of the symbolic evaluator

$$\frac{\text{(TODO: This is overly simplistic)}}{\text{[let x:T = }v \text{ in }e;\Delta\text{]} \longrightarrow \text{[}e[x/v];\Delta\text{]}}$$
(17)

$$\frac{\llbracket f ; \Delta \rrbracket \longrightarrow \lambda \mathsf{x}_1 \colon \mathsf{T}_1, \dots, \mathsf{x}_n \colon \mathsf{T}_n \cdot b \qquad \llbracket e_i ; \Delta \rrbracket \longrightarrow \llbracket e_i' ; \Delta \rrbracket, i \in \{1 \dots n\}}{\llbracket f(e_1, \dots, e_n) ; \Delta \rrbracket \longrightarrow \llbracket b[\mathsf{x}_1/e_1', \dots, \mathsf{x}_n/e_n'] ; \Delta \rrbracket}$$
(19)

$$\frac{\llbracket f ; \Delta \rrbracket \longrightarrow f' \qquad \llbracket e_i ; \Delta \rrbracket \longrightarrow \llbracket e'_i ; \Delta \rrbracket, i \in \{1 \dots n\}}{\llbracket f(e_1, \dots, e_n) ; \Delta \rrbracket \longrightarrow f'(e'_1, \dots, e'_n)}$$
(20)

$$\frac{\neg \, \mathsf{isRecursive(id)} \quad \mathsf{id.params} = \langle \mathsf{x}_1, \dots, \mathsf{x}_n \rangle \quad \llbracket \, e_i \, ; \, \Delta \, \rrbracket \longrightarrow \llbracket \, e_i' \, ; \, \Delta \, \rrbracket, \, i \in \{1 \dots n\}}{\llbracket \, \mathsf{id}(e_1, \dots, e_n) \, ; \, \Delta \, \rrbracket \longrightarrow \llbracket \, \mathsf{id.body}[\mathsf{x}_1/e_1', \dots, \mathsf{x}_n/e_n'] \, ; \, \Delta \, \rrbracket} \quad (21)$$

$$\frac{\operatorname{id.body} \Downarrow \Delta \uplus \{ \mathsf{x}_i \mapsto e_i' | 1 \leq i \leq n \} \quad \operatorname{id.params} = \langle \mathsf{x}_1, \dots, \mathsf{x}_n \rangle \quad \llbracket e_i ; \Delta \rrbracket \longrightarrow \llbracket e_i' ; \Delta \rrbracket, \ i \in \{1 \dots n\}}{\llbracket \operatorname{id}(e_1, \dots, e_n) ; \Delta \rrbracket \longrightarrow \llbracket \operatorname{id.body}[\mathsf{x}_1/e_1', \dots, \mathsf{x}_n/e_n'] ; \Delta \rrbracket}$$

$$\frac{ \llbracket e_i \, ; \, \Delta \, \rrbracket \longrightarrow \llbracket e_i' \, ; \, \Delta \, \rrbracket, \, i \in \{1 \dots n\} }{ \llbracket \operatorname{id}(e_1, \dots, e_n) \, ; \, \Delta \, \rrbracket \longrightarrow \operatorname{id}(e_1', \dots, e_n') }$$

Figure 1: Operational semantics of the symbolic evaluator

## 4 Verifiying Actor Systems

#### 4.1 Motivation

(TODO: Motivation)

### 4.2 The Actor Model

(TODO: Actor Model)

#### 4.3 Our Framework

#### Message

In our framework, messages are modelled as constructors of the Msg abstract class.

```
abstract class Msg
case class Hello(name: String) extends Msg
```

#### Actor Reference

Each actor is associated with a unique and persistent reference, modelled as an instance of the ActorRef abstract class.

```
abstract class ActorRef
case class Primary() extends ActorRef
```

## In-flight Messages

In-flight messages are represented as a product of the ActorRef of the destination actor, and the message itself.

```
case class Packet(dest: ActorRef, payload: Msg)
```

#### Actor Context

When a message is delivered to an actor, the latter is provided with a context, which holds a reference to itself, and a mutable list of Packets to send.

```
case class ActorContext(
  self: ActorRef,
  var toSend: List[Packet]
)
```

#### Behavior

A behavior specifies both the current state of an actor, and how this one should process the next incoming message. In our framework, these are modelled as a subclass of the abstract class <code>Behavior</code>, which defines a single abstract method <code>processMsg</code>, to be overriden for each defined behavior.

Using the provided ActorContext, the implementation of the processMsg method can both access its own reference, and register messages to be sent after the execution of the method is complete. It is also required to return a new Behavior

```
abstract class Behavior {
  def processMsg(msg: Msg)(implicit ctx: ActorContext): Behavior
}
```

#### Actor System

The state of the Actor system at a given point in time is modelled as a case class, holding the behavior associated with each actor reference, and the list of in-flight messages between any two actors.

```
case class ActorSystem(
  behaviors: CMap[ActorRef, Behavior],
  inboxes: CMap[(ActorRef, ActorRef), List[Msg]]
)
```

The ActorSystem class is equipped with a step method, which takes a pair of ActorRef as arguments, and is in charge of delivering the oldest message found in the corresponding inbox, and which returns the new state of the system after the aforementioned message has been processed.

```
def step(from: ActorRef, to: ActorRef): ActorSystem
```

## 4.4 Operational Semantics

We formulate the small-step operational semantics of our Actor model in Figure 2, where s: ActorSystem is an Actor system, m: Msg is a message,  $n, n_{to}, n_{from}$ : ActorRef are references, b, b': Behavior are behaviors, ps: List[Packet] a list of packets to send, c: ActorContext is a context, and  $\emptyset_n$ : ActorContext is the empty context for an actor whose self-reference is n, defined as  $\emptyset_n$ : = ActorContext(n, Nil).

### 4.5 Proving Invariants

After having defined an Actor system with our framework, one might want to verify that this system preserves some invariant between each step of its execution. That is to say, for an ActorSystem s, any two ActorRef n, m, and an invariant inv: ActorSystem  $\to$  Boolean, if inv(s) holds, then inv(s.step(n, m)) should hold as well. We express this property more formally in Figure 3. This property can be easily expressed in PureScala, as shown in Listing 1.

When encoutering such a definition, Stainless will generate a verification condition equivalent to Figure 3, which will then be discharged to Inox and the underlying SMT solver.

$$\frac{\exists m \in s. \mathsf{inboxes}(n_{from}, n_{to})}{\langle s. \mathsf{step}(n_{from}, n_{to}) \rangle \longrightarrow \mathsf{s}} \qquad (\mathsf{STEP-NOMSG})$$

$$\frac{\exists m \in s. \mathsf{inboxes}(n_{from}, n_{to}) \quad \langle s. \mathsf{deliverMsg}(n_{to}, n_{from}, m) \rangle \Rightarrow (b, ps, t)}{\langle s. \mathsf{step}(n_{from}, n_{to}) \rangle \longrightarrow \mathsf{s} \uplus (n_{to} \mapsto b, \dots, t)} \qquad (\mathsf{STEP})$$

$$\frac{\langle s. \mathsf{behaviors}(n_{to}) . \mathsf{processMsg}(m, \emptyset_{n_{to}}) \rangle \longrightarrow (b, c)}{\langle s. \mathsf{deliverMsg}(n_{to}, n_{from}, m) \rangle \longrightarrow (b, c. \mathsf{toSend}, t)} \qquad (\mathsf{DELIVER-MSG})$$

$$\frac{b. \mathsf{processMsg}(m, \emptyset_{n_{to}}) = [i_1, \dots, i_n, b'] \quad \emptyset_{n_{to}} \vdash \langle [i_1, \dots, i_n] \rangle \Rightarrow c}{\langle b. \mathsf{processMsg}(m, \emptyset_{n_{to}}) \rangle \longrightarrow (b', c)} \qquad (\mathsf{PROCESS-MSG})$$

$$\frac{\langle b. \mathsf{processMsg}(m, \emptyset_{n_{to}}) \rangle \longrightarrow (b', c)}{\langle i:: is, c \rangle \Rightarrow c'} \qquad (\mathsf{I-NIL})$$

$$\frac{\langle i, c \rangle \Rightarrow c'}{\langle i:: is, c \rangle \Rightarrow \langle is, c' \rangle} \qquad (\mathsf{I-CONS})$$

$$\frac{\langle i. \mathsf{PROCESS-MSG}(m, m) \rangle \otimes \langle is, c' \rangle}{\langle i:: is, c \rangle \Rightarrow \langle is, c' \rangle} \qquad (\mathsf{I-SEND})$$

Figure 2: Operational semantics

```
\forall s : \mathsf{ActorSystem}, \ n : \mathsf{ActorRef}, \ m : \mathsf{ActorRef}. \ \mathsf{inv}(s) \implies \mathsf{inv}(s.\mathsf{step}(n,m)) Figure 3: Invariant preservation property
```

```
def inv(s: ActorSystem): Boolean = {
    /* ... */
}

def preserveInv(s: ActorSystem, n: ActorRef, m: ActorRef): Boolean = {
    require(inv(s))
    inv(s.step(n, m))
} holds
```

Listing 1: Invariant preservation theorem in PureScala

#### 4.6 Case studies

#### Replicated Counter 1

As a first and very simple case study, we will study an Actor system which models a replicated counter, which can only be incremented by one unit. This system is composed of two actors, a primary counter whose reference is Primary(), and a backup counter whose reference is Backup(). Each of these reference is associated with a behavior: the primary counter reference with an instance of PrimaryB, and the backup counter reference with an instance of BackupB, both of which hold a positive integer, representing the value of the counter. Whenever the primary actor receives a message Inc(), it forwards that message to the backup actor, and returns a new instance of PrimaryB with the counter incremented by one. When the backup actor receives an Inc() message, it just returns a new instance of BackupB with the counter incremented by one. The corresponding PureScala implementation can be found in Listing 2.

```
case class Primary() extends ActorRef
case class Backup() extends ActorRef
case class Inc() extends Msg
case class PrimaryB(counter: BigInt) extends Behavior {
  require(counter >= 0)
  def processMsg(msg: Msg)(implicit ctx: ActorContext): Behavior = msg match {
    case Inc() =>
      Backup() ! Inc()
      PrimaryB(counter + 1)
  }
}
case class BackupB(counter: BigInt) extends Behavior {
  require(counter >= 0)
  def processMsq(msq: Msq)(implicit ctx: ActorContext): Behavior = msq match {
    case Inc() => BackupB(counter + 1)
  }
```

Listing 2: Replicated counter implementation (increment)

Given such a system, one might want to prove that the following invariant is preserved between each step of its execution:

This invariant specifies that the Backup() actor does not send itself any messages, that both actors have the proper corresponding behavior, and that, last but not least, the value of the primary counter is equal to the value of the backup counter added to the number of messages that are yet to be delivered to the backup actor.

We can now define the actual theorem we want Stainless to prove for us:

```
(TODO: Rep Counter Inc Result)
```

Listing 3: Replicated counter invariant (increment)

```
def preserveInv(s: ActorSystem, n: ActorRef, m: ActorRef): Boolean = {
    require(invariant(s))
    invariant(s.step(n, m))
} holds
```

Listing 4: Replicated counter theorem (increment)

#### Replicated Counter 2

Listing 5 shows a variant of the previous case study, where instead of having the primary actor forward the Inc() message to the backup actor, it instead delivers it with its new value.

```
case class Primary() extends ActorRef
case class Backup() extends ActorRef
case class Inc() extends Msg
case class Deliver(c: BigInt) extends Msg
case class PrimaryB(counter: BigInt) extends Behavior {
 def processMsg(msg: Msg)(implicit ctx: ActorContext): Behavior = msg match {
    case Inc() =>
     Backup() ! Deliver(counter + 1)
     PrimaryB(counter + 1)
    case _ => Behavior.same
 }
}
case class BackupB(counter: BigInt) extends Behavior {
 def processMsg(msg: Msg)(implicit ctx: ActorContext): Behavior = msg match {
   case Deliver(c) => BackupB(c)
                    => Behavior.same
    case _
 }
}
```

Listing 5: Replicated counter implementation (deliver)

The invariant now reads slightly differently, as can be seen in Listing 6, and can no longer be proven automatically by Stainless on its own. Listing 5 shows the full proof.

```
def invariant(s: ActorSystem): Boolean = {
  validBehaviors(s)
                                               &&
  noMsqsToSelf(Primary()).isEmpty
                                               &&
 noMsqsToSelf(Backup()).isEmpty
  noMsqsToSelf(Backup() -> Primary()).isEmpty && {
   val PrimBehav(p) = s.behaviors(Primary())
   val BackBehav(b) = s.behaviors(Backup())
                     = s.inboxes(Primary() -> Backup())
   val bInbox
   p.value >= b.value && isSorted(bInbox) && bInbox.forall {
      case Deliver(Counter(i)) => p.value >= i
                               => true
      case _
   }
 }
```

Listing 6: Replicated counter implementation (deliver)

(TODO: Rep Counter Del Result)

#### 4.7 Spawning Actors

#### (TODO: Name uniqueness)

Up until now, our framework has only been able to model Actor systems with a static topology, ie. systems where no new actors besides the ones that are statically defined can be spawned. Let's now attempt to enrich our model to account for dynamic topologies.

To this end, we modify the ActorRef definition to include both a name and an optional field holding a reference to its parent ActorRef if any. We also add a new constructor of the ActorRef data type, which will be assigned to actors spawned from another actor.

```
abstract class ActorRef(
  name: String,
  parent: Option[ActorRef]
)

case class Child(name: String, getParent: ActorRef)
  extends ActorRef(name, Some(getParent))
```

In order for actors to spawn other actors, by specifying their name and associated initial behavior, we modify the ActorContext class as follows:

```
case class ActorContext(
  self: ActorRef,
  var toSend: List[Packet],
  var toSpawn: List[(ActorRef, Behavior)]
) {
  def spawn(behavior: Behavior, name: String): ActorRef = {
```

```
val id: ActorRef = Child(name, self)
  toSpawn = toSpawn :+ (id, behavior)
  id
  }
  /* ... */
}
```

As can be seen in the listing above, the context now keeps track of the names and behaviors of the actors to be spawned, and provides a spawn method which is in charge of constructing the ActorRef of the spawned actor, storing it along with the behavior within the context, and returning the newly generated reference.

Let's now update the case study in Listing 2 to accommodate these changes, while noting that we are not making use of this new feature yet. Only the two ActorRef definitions need to be touched, becoming:

```
case class Primary() extends ActorRef("primary", None())
case class Backup() extends ActorRef("backup", None())
```

Unfortunately, when we now feed the updated benchmark to Stainless, the latter is be unable to prove the very same theorem it previously had no issue whatsoever with. All is not lost though, as turning on the symbolic evaluator described in Section 3 enables Stainless to verify the program in less than 10 seconds.

Listing ?? defines a simple system with a dynamic topology, where one actor, deemed Primary, waits for a Spawn message to spawn a child actor, and change its behavior from BeforeB to AfterB in order to keep track of the reference to the child. The invariant we would to verify holds here, states that, if the Primary actor has behavior BeforeB(), then the behavior associated with the ActorRef of its child actor must be Stopped. On the other hand, if the Primary actor has behavior AfterB(child), then the behavior associated with child must be ChildB. This test case verifies promptly, provided the symbolic evaluator is enabled.

### 4.8 Executing an Actor System with Akka

While the verification of Actor systems is in itself an interesting endeavour, it is not of much use unless one is able to run these systems, potentially in a distributed environment. In the Scala ecosystem, the most widely used real-world Actor system is Akka (TODO: REF). Listing 7 shows a shallow shim which allows to run an Actor system developed with our framework within Akka, with only a few alterations to the original program.

```
(TODO: Explain shim)
```

To this end, one must define a subclass of ActorSystem, and provide an implementation of its run method. Within this method, one can spawn new top-level actors, get a reference to those, and send them messages. Listing 8 shows such an implementation for the replicated counter described in Section 4.6.

## 5 Strong Eventual Consistency with CRDTs

(TODO: Strong Eventual Consistency with CRDTs)

```
case object Primary extends ActorRef("primary")
case object Spawn extends Msg
case class BeforeB() extends Behavior {
 def processMsg(msg: Msg)(implicit ctx: ActorContext): Behavior = msg match {
   case Spawn =>
     val child = ctx.spawn(ChildB(), "child")
     AfterB(child)
 }
}
case class AfterB(child: ActorRef) extends Behavior {
 def processMsg(msg: Msg)(implicit ctx: ActorContext): Behavior = msg match {
   case _ => Behavior.same
}
case class ChildB() extends Behavior {
 def processMsg(msg: Msg)(implicit ctx: ActorContext): Behavior = msg match {
   case _ => Behavior.same
}
def invariant(s: ActorSystem): Boolean = {
 s.behaviors(Primary) match {
    case BeforeB() =>
      s.isStopped(Child("child", Primary()))
    case AfterB(child) =>
     s.behaviors(child) == ChildB()
    case _ => false
 }
}
def theorem(s: ActorSystem, from: ActorRef, to: ActorRef): Boolean = {
  require(invariant(s))
  invariant(s.step(from, to))
} holds
```

## 6 Biparty Communication Protocols

(TODO: Biparty Communication Protocols)

## 7 Conclusion

(TODO: Conclusion)

```
import akka.actor
type ActorRef = actor.ActorRef
case class ActorContext(self: actor.ActorRef, ctx: actor.ActorContext)
class Wrapper(var behavior: Behavior)
 extends actor.Actor with actor.ActorLogging {
  implicit val ctx = ActorContext(self, context)
 def receive = {
   case msg: Msg =>
     log.info(s"${behavior}: ${msg}")
     behavior = behavior.processMsg(msg)
    case _ => ()
 }
}
abstract class ActorSystem(val name: String) {
 lazy val system = actor.ActorSystem(name)
 def spawn(behavior: Behavior, name: String): actor.ActorRef = {
   system.actorOf(actor.Props(new Wrapper(behavior)), name = name)
  def run(): Unit
```

Listing 7: Akka shim for our Actor system framework

```
@extern
object System extends ActorSystem("rep-counter-sys") {
    def run(): Unit = {
        val backup = spawn(BackupB(0), "backup")
        val primary = spawn(PrimaryB(0, backup), "primary")

        primary ! Inc()
    }
}

@extern
def main(args: Array[String]): Unit = {
        System.run()
}
```

Listing 8: Akka shim for our Actor system framework

## 8 Future Work

(TODO: Future Work)

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