Lab Session 6 Loop Invariants, Searching, and Sorting

Software Verification

Nova School of Science and Technology Mário Pereira mjp.pereira@fct.unl.pt

Version of October 14, 2025

Exercise 1. Specify and write an iterative function that computes the maximum of a (non-empty) array of integers, with the following signature:

```
let max_array (arr: array int) : int WhyML
```

You will have to specify the weakest pre-condition and the strongest post-condition for the function. Use quantifiers in the post-condition and the loop invariant.

WhyML

Exercise 2. Are you sure your specification ensures the returned value is the maximum element of the array and not just a supremum of all the elements? You can determine this by checking your specification against the following implementation:

```
let supremum_array (arr: array int) : int
  requires arr.length > 0;
  ensures ...
= let ref sup = arr[0] in
  let ref i = 1 in
  while i < arr.length do
    invariant ...
    ...
  done;
  sup</pre>
```

If the function above satisfies your specification then that means your specification can be made more precise. Specifically, you must find a way of asserting (and proving) that the return value of your original function is an element of the array. Go ahead and fix your specification accordingly.

Exercise 3. It is likely you wrote your maximum function with a cursor starting at 0. Try to do it the other way around: compute the maximum element of an array, starting from the last element in the array down to the first.

Exercise 4. Write a recursive function sum n that computes the sum of all natural numbers between 0 and n, starting from n (i.e. $n+(n-1)+\cdots+1$) and then fill out the following function:

1

```
let sum_backwards (n: int) : int
  ensures { result = sum(n) }
```

WhyML

П

Exercise 5. Implement a function called search that takes an array of integers and an integer and returns either -1 if the integer is not in the array and the index into the array where the integer can be found. Try to write the strongest post-condition possible.

Exercise 6. Specify and implement function fill_k a n k c. This function returns true if and only if the first c elements, up to n, of array a are equal to k.

Define the weakest pre-condition and the strongest post-condition possible. Implement the function so that it verifies.

```
let fill_k (a: array int) (n k c: int) : bool
```

WhyML

Exercise 7. Specify and implement the function contains_sub_string. This function tests whether or not the array of characters a contains the elements of array b. If a contains b, then the function returns the offset of b in a. If a does not contain b then the function returns an illegal index (e.g. -1).

Define the weakest pre-condition and the strongest post-condition possible. Implement the function so that it verifies.

Hint: you may want to define auxiliary functions and functions (e.g. a function that tests whether the substring starting at a given index of a string is exactly another given string).

```
let contains_sub_string (a b:array char) : int
```

WhyML

Exercise 8. Specify and implement the function resize. This function returns a new array whose length is double of the length of the array given as argument (a). If the length of the array supplied as an argument is zero, then set the length of the resulting array (b) to a constant of your choice.

All the elements of array a should be inserted, in the same order, in array b.

Define the weakest pre-condition and the strongest post-condition possible. Implement the function so that it verifies.

```
let resize (a: array int) : array int
```

WhyML

П

Exercise 9. Specify and implement function reverse. This function receives an array a and returns a new array (b) in which the elements of a appear in the inverse order.

For instance, the inverse of array a == [0, 1, 5, *, *], where '*' denotes an uninitialized array position, results in b == [5, 1, 0, *, *].

Define the weakest pre-condition and the strongest post-condition possible. Implement the function so that it verifies.

let reverse (a: array int) (n: int) : array int

WhyML

Exercise 10. Specify and implement function sum_matrix. This function receives two matrices m1 and m2 of integer values and returns a new matrix that represents the sum of these two matrices.

Define the weakest pre-condition and strongest post-condition possible. Implement the function so that it verifies.

let sum_matrix (m1 m2: matrix int) : matrix int

WhyML