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Demonstrando teoremas em Lean por meio da reconstrução de provas em SMT

Belo Horizonte
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Versão Final

Dissertação apresentada ao Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ciência da Computação da Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, como requisito parcial à obtenção do título de Mestre em Ciência da Computação.

Orientador: Haniel Barbosa

Belo Horizonte
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Tomaz Gomes Mascarenhas

Proving Lean theorems via reconstructed SMT proofs

Final Version

Thesis presented to the Graduate Program in Computer Science of the Federal University of Minas Gerais in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master in Computer Science.

Advisor: Haniel Barbosa

Belo Horizonte
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"Só quem sonha acordado vê o sol nascer."
(Unkown)

Resumo

Apesar de sua expressividade e robustez, assistentes de demonstração podem ser proibitivamente custosos para serem usados em formalizações de grande escala, dada a dificuldade de produzir as demonstrações interativamente. Atribuir a responsabilidade de demonstrar algumas das proposições a provadores automáticos de teoremas, como solucionadores de satisfatibilidade modulo teorias (SMT), é um jeito reconhecido de melhorar a usabilidade de assistentes de demonstração. Essa dissertação descreve uma nova integração entre o assistente de demonstração Lean 4 e o solucionador SMT cvc5.

Dada uma codificação de um teorema declarado em Lean como um problema de SMT e uma demonstração provida pelo cvc5 para o problema codificado, nós mostramos como traduzir essa demonstração para uma que certifique o teorema original em Lean. Para isso é necessário demonstrar a corretude, em Lean, dos passos lógicos tomados pelo solucionador. Desse modo, o verificador de demonstrações de Lean aceitará a demonstração em SMT do teorema original, caso o processo seja bem sucedido.

Essa ferramenta é parte do projeto em conjunto Lean-SMT, que tem como objetivo criar uma tática em Lean que implemente o processo completo, isto é, a pártir de um teorema em Lean, traduzi-lo para um problema formulado na linguagem SMT-Lib, invocar um solucinador SMT para tentar resolvê-lo e produzir uma demonstração, e, caso ele seja bem-sucedido, traduzi-la para certificar o teorema original em Lean (o que é feito por nossa ferramenta). Todas as etapas desse processo estão em estado avançado de desenvolvimento.

Palavras-chave: Verificação Formal, Lean, SMT

Abstract

Despite their expressivity and robustness, interactive theorem provers (ITPs) can be prohibitively costly to use in large-scale formalizations due to the burden of interactively proving goals. Discharging some of these goals via automatic theorem provers, such as satisfiability modulo theories (SMT) solvers, is a known way of improving the usability of ITPs. This thesis describes a novel integration between the ITP Lean 4 and the SMT solver cvc5.

Given the encoding of some Lean goal as an SMT problem and a proof from cvc5 of the encoded problem, we show how to lift this proof into a proof of the original goal. This requires proving the correctness, inside Lean, of the steps taken by the solver. Thus Lean's proof checker will accept the SMT proof as a proof of the original goal, in case this process is successful.

This tool is part of the joint project Lean-SMT, which aims to create a tactic in Lean that implements the whole pipeline, that is, from a goal in Lean, translate it into a query in SMT-Lib format, try to prove it using a SMT solver and, in case it is successful, lift the proof produced, closing the original goal in Lean (which is done by our tool). All the steps of the pipeline are in an advanced stage of development.

Keywords: Formal Verification, Lean, SMT

List of Figures

List of Tables

Lista de Algoritmos

Contents

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Context

The process of generating mechanized proofs, for example for the correctness of a given program according to a specification, can be divided into two categories: interactive and automatic.

Interactive theorem provers (ITPs) are mainly represented by proof assistants, in which, after defining a theorem, the user attempts to manually write a proof for it, relying on the tool to organize the set of hypothesis and how the goal changed step-wisely through the proof, as well as to ensure the correctness of each step according to a small, trusted kernel. Each logic step must be explicitly stated by the user, which makes the tool costly to be used.

Automatic theorem provers (ATPs), on the other hand, only require the user to define a conjecture, proceeding automatically to determine whether there exists a proof for it, or possibly providing a counter-example if there is one. Although they are easier to use, ATPs require a large codebase to implement all the algorithms necessary to execute the search for a proof, making them more susceptible to errors and harder to be trusted, since the larger is the codebase, the more susceptible it is to bugs and the more complicated it is to verify it. Besides that, once it is verified, it's development becomes freezed (otherwise it would have to be verified again).

A common approach to address the trust issue for ATPs is to have them provide a proof to support their results, so that it can be independently verified whether it indeed proves the theorem in question. Via these proofs the automatic proving performed by ATPs can be leveraged by ITPs, since their requirement to accepting a proof, i.e. that each step is correct according to its internal logic, can be applied to the ATP proof. By connecting these systems, the user could have all the freedom to use its own creativity and expertise in writting proofs that the ITPs offer, while delegating the burden of proofs that are long and monotonous to ATPs. Indeed, this connection is so important that there are projects like Hammering Towards QED [7] that outline all the efforts that were already made in order to integrate interactive and automatic theorem provers.

1.2 Related Work

1.2.1 SMTCoq

As previously mentioned, there have been efforts towards integrating SMT solvers with other proof assistants.

For instance, the ITP Coq [6] has the SMTCoq [12] plug-in, which can be used as a tactic to prove theorems via their encoding into SMT and by lifting proofs produced by the SMT solvers veriT [9] and CVC4 [3]. The tool relies on a preprocessor written in OCaml to transform proof witnesses coming from different solvers into certificates in the Coq language. The system has a set of checkers for each theory in SMT, each one of them consisting of theorems asserting the validity of certain transformations in the SMT terms. All those checkers are connected by the main checker, that is essentially a theorem stating that if all the transformations resulted in an empty clause, then the lifting of the original term is false, for any instantiation of its free variables. This kind of reasoning is known as proof by computational reflection which is an instance of Certified Transformations, described in the previous section.

1.2.2 Sledgehammer

1.3 Contributions

Given this context, our goal is to implement a tool that would be an essential part of the integration between the ITP Lean 4 [11] and the satisfiability modulo theories (SMT) [5] solver cvc5 [1]. Our motivation to use an SMT solver as the automatic prover in this effort is their success as widely used backbones of formal methods tools in a variety of applications, besides having been central in previous integrations with ITPs [8, 12]. Specifically, we aim to build a system that takes proofs of the unsatisfiability of SMT queries produced by cvc5 and reconstructs and checks them using Lean. The main motivation of this project is that despite the fact that Lean is emerging as a promising programming language and proof assistant and being widely used by mathematicians in large-scale formalizations [13, 10], there is currently no way to interact with SMT solvers from it. The contribution of the present work would enable a faster development of this kind of project using Lean.

We use the cvc5 solver because it already has a module for exporting proofs as Lean scripts [2], using a representation of the SMT terms [1] as an inductive type in the proof assistant.

[1]For more details about the SMT term language, see SMT-LIB [4].

Chapter 2

Formal Preliminaries

2.1 Satisfiability Modulo Theories

2.2 Lean's Type Theory

2.3 Lean's Framework for Metaprogramming

Chapter 3

Certifying Reconstruction of SMT Proofs in Lean

3.1 Certified vs Certifying

3.2 Tactics

3.3 The Complete Architecture

3.4 Skipping the Parser

Chapter 4

Evaluation

Chapter 5

Future Work

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