

Verification with Z3

COMPSCI 631

University of Massachusetts Amherst

October 31, 2017

Recap: Calculating Weakest Preconditions

Goal: Answer the question, “does $\{P\}_c\{Q\}$ hold”?

Approach: (1) Calculate $wp(c, Q)$ and (2) verify that $P \Rightarrow wp(c, Q)$.

$$\begin{aligned}wp(\text{skip}, Q) &= Q \\wp(x := a, Q) &= Q[x/a] \\wp(c_1; c_2, Q) &= wp(c_1, wp(c_2, Q)) \\wp(\text{if } (b) \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2, Q) &= b \Rightarrow wp(c_1, Q) \wedge \neg b \Rightarrow wp(c_2, Q) \\wp(\text{while } b \text{ invariant } I \text{ do } c, Q) &= I \wedge (\forall x \dots . \neg b \wedge I \Rightarrow Q) \wedge (\forall x \dots . b \wedge I \Rightarrow wp(c, I))\end{aligned}$$

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Example Is $\{y > 15\}_x := y + 10\{x > 20\}$ verifiable?

1. Calculate $wp(x := y + 10, x > 20) = y > 10$
2. Verify $\forall y. y > 15 \Rightarrow y > 10$

Satisfiability vs. Validity

The formula $\phi(x)$ is *valid* if it is true for all values of x . We write $\forall x.\phi(x)$ to mean “Is $\phi(x)$ valid?”.

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When we say “verify that $y > 15 \Rightarrow y > 10$ ” we mean “is $y > 15 \Rightarrow y > 10$ valid?”.

Validity and Unsatisfiability

Observation: $\forall x.\phi(x)$ holds if and only if $\exists x.\neg\phi(x)$ does not hold.

Example 1: $\forall y.y > 15 \Rightarrow y > 10$ is valid if and only if $\exists y.\neg(y > 15 \Rightarrow y > 10)$ is unsatisfiable.

Example 2: Let $\phi(x) = x > 10 \Rightarrow x > 20$:

- ▶ $\exists x.\phi(x)$ is satisfiable:
 - ▶ $\phi(11)$ is true
 - ▶ $\phi(0)$ is true (why?)
- ▶ $\forall x.\phi(x)$ is not valid. For example, $\phi(11)$ is false.
- ▶ $\exists x.\neg\phi(x)$ is satisfiable. For example, $\neg\phi(11)$ is true.

Alternatively, if $\exists x.\neg\phi(x)$ holds, then the value of x that makes $\neg\phi(x)$ true is a *counterexample* that contradicts a claim that $\forall x.\phi(x)$ holds.

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Goal: Answer the question, “does $\{P\}_c\{Q\}$ hold”?

Approach:

1. Calculate $wp(c,Q)$ and
2. Instead of verifying that $P \Rightarrow wp(c,Q)$, show that $\neg(P \Rightarrow wp(c,Q))$ is unsatisfiable.
3. We will check (un-)satisfiability using the Z3 SMT Solver.

Do the Z3 Tutorial (sections 1–4): <https://rise4fun.com/z3/tutorial>

Z3 OCaml API: For the verification assignment, we’ve written an OCaml library to help you work with Z3. Documentation:

<https://github.com/plasma-umass/ocaml-z3/blob/master/lib/Smtlib.mli>