

Deductive Program Verification with WHY3

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<http://why3.lri.fr/ejcp-2018>

ÉJCP 2018

1. A quick look back

Software is hard. — DONALD KNUTH

...

- 1996: *Ariane 5* explosion — an erroneous *float-to-int* conversion
- 1997: *Pathfinder* reset loop — priority inversion
- 1999: *Mars Climate Orbiter* explosion — unit error

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...

- 2006: *Debian SSH bug* — predictable RNG (fixed in 2008)
- 2012: *Heartbleed* — buffer over-read (fixed in 2014)
- **1989**: *Shellshock* — insufficient input control (fixed in **2014**)

...

A simple algorithm: Binary search

Goal: find a value in a sorted array.

First algorithm published in 1946.

First **correct algorithm** published in 1960.

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2006: *Nearly All Binary Searches and Mergesorts are Broken*

([Joshua Bloch](#), Google, a blog post)

The code in JDK:

```
int mid = (low + high) / 2;  
int midVal = a[mid];
```

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The code in JDK:

```
int mid = (low + high) / 2;  
int midVal = a[mid];
```

Bug: addition may exceed $2^{31} - 1$, the maximum **int** in Java.

One possible solution:

```
int mid = low + (high - low) / 2;
```

Ensure the absence of bugs

Several approaches exist: model checking, abstract interpretation, etc.

In this lecture: **deductive verification**

1. provide a program with a **specification**: a mathematical model
2. build a formal **proof** showing that the code respects the specification

Ensure the absence of bugs

Several approaches exist: model checking, abstract interpretation, etc.

In this lecture: **deductive verification**

1. provide a program with a **specification**: a mathematical model
2. build a formal **proof** showing that the code respects the specification

First proof of a program: **Alan Turing**, 1949

```
u := 1
for r = 0 to n - 1 do
  v := u
  for s = 1 to r do
    u := u + v
```

Ensure the absence of bugs

Several approaches exist: model checking, abstract interpretation, etc.

In this lecture: **deductive verification**

1. provide a program with a **specification**: a mathematical model
2. build a formal **proof** showing that the code respects the specification

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First theoretical foundation: **Floyd-Hoare logic**, 1969

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First grand success in practice: **metro line 14**, 1998

tool: **Atelier B**, proof by refinement

Other major success stories

- **Flight control software in A380**, 2005
 - safety proof: the absence of execution errors
 - tool: **Astrée**, abstract interpretation

 - proof of functional properties
 - tool: **Caveat**, deductive verification

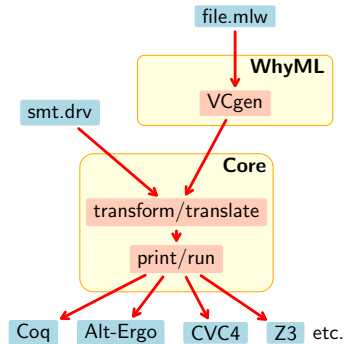
- **Hyper-V** — a native hypervisor, 2008
 - tools: **VCC** + automated prover **Z3**, deductive verification

- **CompCert** — certified C compiler, 2009
 - tool: **Coq**, generation of the correct-by-construction code

- **seL4** — an OS micro-kernel, 2009
 - tool: **Isabelle/HOL**, deductive verification

2. Tool of the day

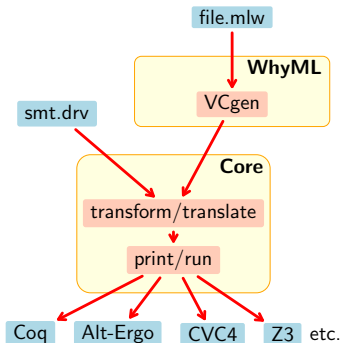
WHY3 in a nutshell



WHY3 in a nutshell

WHYML, a [programming language](#)

- type polymorphism • variants
- limited support for higher order
- pattern matching • exceptions
- `break`, `continue`, and `return`
- ghost code and ghost data ([CAV 2014](#))
- mutable data with controlled aliasing
- contracts • loop and type invariants



WHY3 in a nutshell

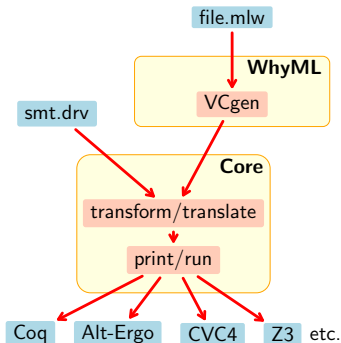
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WHYML, a specification language

- polymorphic & algebraic types
- limited support for higher order
- inductive predicates

(FroCos 2011) (CADE 2013)



WHY3 in a nutshell

WHYML, a programming language

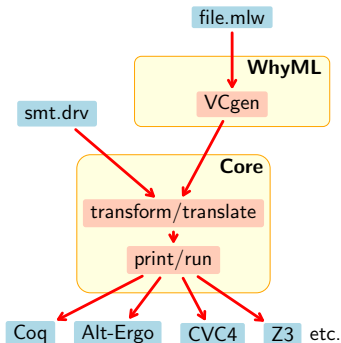
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- variants
- limited support for higher order
- pattern matching
- exceptions
- `break`, `continue`, and `return`
- ghost code and ghost data (CAV 2014)
- mutable data with controlled aliasing
- contracts
- loop and type invariants

WHY3, a program verification tool

- VC generation using WP or fast WP
- 70+ VC transformations (\approx tactics)
- support for 25+ ATP and ITP systems
(Boogie 2011) (ESOP 2013) (VSTTE 2013)

WHYML, a specification language

- polymorphic & algebraic types
- limited support for higher order
- inductive predicates
(FroCos 2011) (CADE 2013)



Three different ways of using WHY3

- as a logical language
 - a convenient front-end to many theorem provers
- as a programming language to prove algorithms
 - see examples in our gallery
<http://toccata.lri.fr/gallery/why3.en.html>
- as an intermediate verification language
 - Java programs: Krakatoa (Marché Paulin Urbain)
 - C programs: Frama-C (Marché Moy)
 - Ada programs: SPARK 2014 (Adacore)
 - probabilistic programs: EasyCrypt (Barthe et al.)

Example: maximum subarray problem

```
let maximum_subarray (a: array int): int
  ensures { forall l h: int. 0 <= l <= h <= length a -> sum a l h <= result }
  ensures { exists l h: int. 0 <= l <= h <= length a /\ sum a l h = result }
```


Kadane's algorithm

```
(* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | *)  
(* .....|##### max #####|..... *)  
(* .....|### cur ### ..... *)
```

```
let maximum_subarray (a: array int): int  
  ensures { forall l h: int. 0 <= l <= h <= length a -> sum a l h <= result }  
  ensures { exists l h: int. 0 <= l <= h <= length a /\ sum a l h = result }  
  =  
  let max = ref 0 in  
  let cur = ref 0 in  
  let ghost cl = ref 0 in  
  
  for i = 0 to length a - 1 do  
    invariant { forall l: int. 0 <= l <= i -> sum a l i <= !cur }  
    invariant { 0 <= !cl <= i /\ sum a !cl i = !cur }  
  
    cur += a[i];  
    if !cur < 0 then begin cur := 0; cl := i+1 end;  
    if !cur > !max then      max := !cur  
  done;  
  !max
```


Kadane's algorithm

```
use ref.Refint
use array.Array
use array.ArraySum

let maximum_subarray (a: array int): int
  ensures { forall l h: int. 0 <= l <= h <= length a -> sum a l h <= result }
  ensures { exists l h: int. 0 <= l <= h <= length a /\ sum a l h = result }
=
  let max = ref 0 in
  let cur = ref 0 in
  let ghost cl = ref 0 in
  let ghost lo = ref 0 in
  let ghost hi = ref 0 in
  for i = 0 to length a - 1 do
    invariant { forall l: int. 0 <= l <= i -> sum a l i <= !cur }
    invariant { 0 <= !cl <= i /\ sum a !cl i = !cur }
    invariant { forall l h: int. 0 <= l <= h <= i -> sum a l h <= !max }
    invariant { 0 <= !lo <= !hi <= i /\ sum a !lo !hi = !max }
    cur += a[i];
    if !cur < 0 then begin cur := 0; cl := i+1 end;
    if !cur > !max then begin max := !cur; lo := !cl; hi := i+1 end
  done;
  !max
```

Why3 proof session

The screenshot displays the Why3 IDE interface. The left pane shows a tree of theories and goals for the file `./maxsum_solution.mlw`. The tree is as follows:

- ./maxsum_solution.mlw
 - Kadane
 - VC maximum_subarray [VC for maxim]
 - split_vc
 - 0 [loop invariant init]
 - 1 [loop invariant init]
 - 2 [loop invariant init]
 - 3 [loop invariant init]
 - 4 [index in array bounds]
 - 5 [loop invariant preservation]
 - 6 [loop invariant preservation]
 - 7 [loop invariant preservation]
 - 8 [loop invariant preservation]
 - 9 [loop invariant preservation]
 - 10 [loop invariant preservation]
 - CVC4 1.5 0.03
 - Alt-Ergo 1.30 0.01 (steps: 31)
 - 11 [loop invariant preservation]
 - 12 [loop invariant preservation]
 - 13 [loop invariant preservation]
 - 14 [loop invariant preservation]
 - 15 [loop invariant preservation]
 - 16 [loop invariant preservation]
 - 17 [loop invariant preservation]
 - 18 [loop invariant preservation]
 - 19 [loop invariant preservation]
 - 20 [loop invariant preservation]
 - 21 [postcondition]
 - 22 [postcondition]
 - 23 [out of loop bounds]

The right pane shows the Coq code for the `maximum_subarray` function. The code is as follows:

```
25
26 let maximum_subarray (a: array int): int
27 ensures { forall l h: int. 0 <= l <= h <= length a -> sum a l h <= result }
28 ensures { exists l h: int. 0 <= l <= h <= length a /\ sum a l h = result }
29 =
30 let maxsum = ref 0 in
31 let curmax = ref 0 in
32 let ghost lo = ref 0 in
33 let ghost hi = ref 0 in
34 let ghost cl = ref 0 in
35 for i = 0 to a.length - 1 do
36   invariant { forall l: int. 0 <= l <= i -> sum a l i <= !curmax }
37   invariant { 0 <= !cl <= i /\ sum a !cl i = !curmax }
38   invariant { forall l h: int. 0 <= l <= h <= i -> sum a l h <= !maxsum }
39   invariant { 0 <= !lo <= !hi <= i /\ sum a !lo !hi = !maxsum }
40   curmax += a[i];
41   if !curmax < 0 then begin curmax := 0; cl := i+1; end;
42   if !curmax > !maxsum then begin maxsum := !curmax; lo := !cl; hi := i+1; end
43 done;
44 !maxsum
45
46 end
47
```

The bottom pane shows the status of the proof session, with tabs for Messages, Log, Edited proof, Prover output, and Counterexample. The status bar indicates 0/0/0.

3. Program correctness

$t ::=$	$\dots, -1, 0, 1, \dots, 42, \dots$	integer constants
	true false	Boolean constants
	v	immutable variable
	x	dereferenced pointer
	$t \text{ op } t$	binary operation
	$\text{op } t$	unary operation
$\text{op} ::=$	+ - *	arithmetic operations
	= \neq < > \leq \geq	arithmetic comparisons
	\wedge \vee \neg	Boolean connectives

- two data types: mathematical integers and Booleans
- well-typed terms evaluate without errors (no division)
- evaluation of a term does not change the program memory

Program expressions

$e ::=$	<code>skip</code>	do nothing
	<code>t</code>	pure term
	<code>x := t</code>	assignment
	<code>e ; e</code>	sequence
	<code>let v = e in e</code>	binding
	<code>let x = ref e in e</code>	allocation
	<code>if t then e else e</code>	conditional
	<code>while t do e done</code>	loop

- three types: integers, Booleans, and `unit`
- references (pointers) are not first-class values
- expressions can allocate and modify memory
- well-typed expressions evaluate without errors

<code>skip</code>	<code>:</code>	<code>unit</code>
<code>t_τ</code>	<code>:</code>	<code>τ</code>
<code>x_τ := t_τ</code>	<code>:</code>	<code>unit</code>
<code>e_{unit} ; e_ς</code>	<code>:</code>	<code>ς</code>
<code>let v_τ = e_τ in e_ς</code>	<code>:</code>	<code>ς</code>
<code>let x_τ = ref e_τ in e_ς</code>	<code>:</code>	<code>ς</code>
<code>if t_{bool} then e_ς else e_ς</code>	<code>:</code>	<code>ς</code>
<code>while t_{bool} do e_{unit} done</code>	<code>:</code>	<code>unit</code>

- `τ ::= int | bool` and `ς ::= τ | unit`
- references (pointers) are not first-class values
- expressions can allocate and modify memory
- well-typed expressions evaluate without errors

`x := e` \equiv `let v = e in x := v`

`if e then e1 else e2` \equiv `let v = e in if v then e1 else e2`

`if e1 then e2` \equiv `if e1 then e2 else skip`

`e1 && e2` \equiv `if e1 then e2 else false`

`e1 || e2` \equiv `if e1 then true else e2`

```
let sum = ref 1 in
let count = ref 0 in
while sum ≤ n do
  count := count + 1;
  sum := sum + 2 * count + 1
done;
count
```

What is the result of this expression for a given n ?

```
let sum = ref 1 in
let count = ref 0 in
while sum ≤ n do
  count := count + 1;
  sum := sum + 2 * count + 1
done;
count
```

What is the result of this expression for a given n ?

Informal specification:

- at the end, `count` contains the truncated square root of n
- for instance, given $n = 42$, the returned value is 6

A statement about program correctness:

$$\{P\} e \{Q\}$$

P precondition property

e expression

Q postcondition property

What is the meaning of a Hoare triple?

$\{P\} e \{Q\}$ if we execute e in a state that satisfies P ,
then the computation either diverges
or terminates in a state that satisfies Q

This is **partial correctness**: we do not prove termination.

Examples of valid Hoare triples for partial correctness:

- $\{x = 1\} \ x := x + 2 \ \{x = 3\}$
- $\{x = y\} \ x + y \ \{\text{result} = 2 * y\}$
- $\{\exists v. x = 4 * v\} \ x + 42 \ \{\exists w. \text{result} = 2 * w\}$
- $\{\text{true}\} \ \text{while true do skip done} \ \{\boxed{\text{false}}\}$

Examples of valid Hoare triples for partial correctness:

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 - ergo: not proving termination can be fatal

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In our square root example:

$$\{?\} \text{ISQRT } \{?\}$$

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In our square root example:

$$\{n \geq 0\} \text{ISQRT } \{?\}$$

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 - after this loop, *everything* is trivially verified
 - ergo: not proving termination can be fatal

In our square root example:

$\{n \geq 0\} \text{ISQRT} \{\text{result} * \text{result} \leq n < (\text{result} + 1) * (\text{result} + 1)\}$

4. Weakest precondition calculus

How can we establish the correctness of a program?

One solution: Edsger Dijkstra, 1975

Predicate transformer $WP(e, Q)$

e expression

Q postcondition

computes the **weakest precondition** P such that $\{P\} e \{Q\}$

$$\text{WP}(\text{skip}, Q) \equiv Q$$

$$\text{WP}(t, Q) \equiv Q[\text{result} \mapsto t]$$

$$\text{WP}(x := t, Q) \equiv Q[x \mapsto t]$$

$$\text{WP}(e_1 ; e_2, Q) \equiv \text{WP}(e_1, \text{WP}(e_2, Q))$$

$$\text{WP}(\text{let } v = e_1 \text{ in } e_2, Q) \equiv \text{WP}(e_1, \text{WP}(e_2, Q)[v \mapsto \text{result}])$$

$$\text{WP}(\text{let } x = \text{ref } e_1 \text{ in } e_2, Q) \equiv \text{WP}(e_1, \text{WP}(e_2, Q)[x \mapsto \text{result}])$$

$$\text{WP}(\text{if } t \text{ then } e_1 \text{ else } e_2, Q) \equiv (t \rightarrow \text{WP}(e_1, Q)) \wedge (\neg t \rightarrow \text{WP}(e_2, Q))$$

Swimming up the waterfall

```
if odd  $q$  then  $r := r + p$ ;  
 $p := p + p$ ;  
 $q := \text{half } q$ 
```

Swimming up the waterfall

```
if odd  $q$  then
```

```
     $r := r + p$ 
```

```
else
```

```
    skip;
```

```
 $p := p + p$ ;
```

```
 $q := \text{half } q$ 
```

Swimming up the waterfall

```
if odd  $q$  then
```

```
     $r := r + p$ 
```

```
else
```

```
    skip;
```

```
 $p := p + p$ ;
```

```
 $q := \text{half } q$ 
```

```
 $Q[p, q, r]$ 
```

Swimming up the waterfall

if odd q then

$r := r + p$

else

skip;

$p := p + p$;

$Q[p, \text{half } q, r]$

$q := \text{half } q$

$Q[p, q, r]$

Swimming up the waterfall

if odd q then

$r := r + p$

else

skip;

$Q[p + p, \text{half } q, r]$

$p := p + p;$

$Q[p, \text{half } q, r]$

$q := \text{half } q$

$Q[p, q, r]$

Swimming up the waterfall

if odd q then

$r := r + p$

$Q[p + p, \text{half } q, r]$

else

skip;

$Q[p + p, \text{half } q, r]$

$p := p + p;$

$Q[p, \text{half } q, r]$

$q := \text{half } q$

$Q[p, q, r]$

Swimming up the waterfall

```
if odd  $q$  then
   $Q[p + p, \text{half } q, r + p]$ 
   $r := r + p$ 
   $Q[p + p, \text{half } q, r]$ 
else
   $Q[p + p, \text{half } q, r]$ 
  skip;
   $Q[p + p, \text{half } q, r]$ 
 $p := p + p;$ 
 $Q[p, \text{half } q, r]$ 
 $q := \text{half } q$ 
 $Q[p, q, r]$ 
```

Swimming up the waterfall

$(\text{odd } q \rightarrow Q[p + p, \text{half } q, r + p]) \wedge$
 $(\neg \text{odd } q \rightarrow Q[p + p, \text{half } q, r])$

if $\text{odd } q$ **then**

$Q[p + p, \text{half } q, r + p]$

$r := r + p$

$Q[p + p, \text{half } q, r]$

else

$Q[p + p, \text{half } q, r]$

skip;

$Q[p + p, \text{half } q, r]$

$p := p + p$;

$Q[p, \text{half } q, r]$

$q := \text{half } q$

$Q[p, q, r]$

Definition of WP: loops

$\text{WP}(\text{while } t \text{ do } e \text{ done}, Q) \equiv$

$\exists J : \text{Prop.}$

$J \wedge$

$\forall x_1 \dots x_k.$

$(J \wedge t \rightarrow \text{WP}(e, J)) \wedge$

$(J \wedge \neg t \rightarrow Q)$

some *invariant property* J

that holds at the loop entry

and is preserved

after a single iteration,

is strong enough to prove Q

$x_1 \dots x_k$ references modified in e

We cannot know the values of the modified references after n iterations

- therefore, we prove preservation and the post for arbitrary values
- the invariant must provide all the needed information about the state

Definition of WP: annotated loops

Finding an appropriate invariant is **difficult** in the general case

- this is equivalent to constructing a proof of Q by induction

We can ease the task of automated tools by providing **annotations**:

$\text{WP}(\text{while } t \text{ invariant } J \text{ do } e \text{ done}, Q) \equiv$ the given invariant J
 $J \wedge$ holds at the loop entry,
 $\forall x_1 \dots x_k.$ is preserved after
 $(J \wedge t \rightarrow \text{WP}(e, J)) \wedge$ a single iteration,
 $(J \wedge \neg t \rightarrow Q)$ and suffices to prove Q

$x_1 \dots x_k$ references modified in e

Russian Peasant Multiplication

```
let  $p = \text{ref } a$  in
let  $q = \text{ref } b$  in
let  $r = \text{ref } 0$  in
while  $q > 0$  invariant  $J[p, q, r]$  do
  if odd  $q$  then  $r := r + p$ ;
   $p := p + p$ ;
   $q := \text{half } q$ 
done;
 $r$ 
result =  $a * b$ 
```

Russian Peasant Multiplication

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let  $p = \text{ref } a$  in
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   $q := \text{half } q$ 
done;
 $r = a * b$ 
 $r$ 
```

Russian Peasant Multiplication

```
let  $p = \text{ref } a$  in
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let  $r = \text{ref } 0$  in
while  $q > 0$  invariant  $J[p, q, r]$  do
  if odd  $q$  then  $r := r + p$ ;
   $p := p + p$ ;
   $q := \text{half } q$ 
   $J[p, q, r]$ 
done;
 $r = a * b$ 
 $r$ 
```

Russian Peasant Multiplication

```
let p = ref a in
let q = ref b in
let r = ref 0 in
while q > 0 invariant J[p, q, r] do
  (odd q → J[p + p, half q, r + p]) ∧
  (¬ odd q → J[p + p, half q, r])
  if odd q then r := r + p;
  p := p + p;
  q := half q
  J[p, q, r]
done;
r = a * b
r
```

Russian Peasant Multiplication

```
let p = ref a in
let q = ref b in
let r = ref 0 in
J[p, q, r] ∧
∀pqr. J[p, q, r] →
  (q > 0 →
    (odd q → J[p + p, half q, r + p]) ∧
    (¬ odd q → J[p + p, half q, r])) ∧
  (q ≤ 0 →
    r = a * b)
while q > 0 invariant J[p, q, r] do
  if odd q then r := r + p;
  p := p + p;
  q := half q
done;
r
```

Russian Peasant Multiplication

$J[a, b, 0] \wedge$
 $\forall pqr. J[p, q, r] \rightarrow$
 $(q > 0 \rightarrow$
 $(\text{odd } q \rightarrow J[p + p, \text{half } q, r + p]) \wedge$
 $(\neg \text{odd } q \rightarrow J[p + p, \text{half } q, r])) \wedge$
 $(q \leq 0 \rightarrow$
 $r = a * b)$
let $p = \text{ref } a$ **in**
let $q = \text{ref } b$ **in**
let $r = \text{ref } 0$ **in**
while $q > 0$ **invariant** $J[p, q, r]$ **do**
 if $\text{odd } q$ **then** $r := r + p;$
 $p := p + p;$
 $q := \text{half } q$
done ;
 r

Theorem

For any e and Q , the triple $\{\text{WP}(e, Q)\} e \{Q\}$ is valid.

Can be proved by induction on the structure of the program e
w.r.t. some reasonable semantics (axiomatic, operational, etc.)

Corollary

To show that $\{P\} e \{Q\}$ is valid, it suffices to prove $P \rightarrow \text{WP}(e, Q)$.

This is what WHY3 does.

5. Run-time safety

Some operations can **fail** if their **safety preconditions** are not met:

- arithmetic operations: division par zero, overflows, etc.
- memory access: NULL pointers, buffer overruns, etc.
- assertions

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A correct program must not fail:

$\{P\} e \{Q\}$ if we execute e in a state that satisfies P ,
then the computation either diverges
or **terminates normally** in a state that satisfies Q

A new kind of expression:

$$e ::= \dots$$

$$| \text{assert } R \quad \text{fail if } R \text{ does not hold}$$

The corresponding weakest precondition rule:

$$\text{WP}(\text{assert } R, Q) \equiv R \wedge Q \equiv R \wedge (R \rightarrow Q)$$

The second version is useful in practical deductive verification.

We could add other partially defined operations to the language:

$e ::=$	\dots	
	$t \text{ div } t$	Euclidean division
	$a[t]$	array access
	\dots	

and define the WP rules for them:

$$\text{WP}(t_1 \text{ div } t_2, Q) \equiv t_2 \neq 0 \wedge Q[\text{result} \mapsto (t_1 \text{ div } t_2)]$$

$$\text{WP}(a[t], Q) \equiv 0 \leq t < |a| \wedge Q[\text{result} \mapsto a[t]]$$

\dots

But we would rather let the programmers do it themselves.

6. Functions and contracts

We may want to delegate some functionality to **functions**:

let $f (v_1 : \tau_1) \dots (v_n : \tau_n) : \zeta \mathcal{C} = e$ defined function

val $f (v_1 : \tau_1) \dots (v_n : \tau_n) : \zeta \mathcal{C}$ abstract function

Function behaviour is specified with a **contract**:

$\mathcal{C} ::=$ **requires** P precondition
 writes $x_1 \dots x_k$ modified global references
 ensures Q postcondition

Postcondition Q may refer to the initial value of a global reference: x°

```
let incr_r (v: int): int writes x
    ensures result = x◦ ∧ x = x◦ + v
= let u = x in x := u + v ; u
```


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Postcondition Q may refer to the initial value of a global reference: x°

Verification condition (\vec{x} are all global references mentioned in f):

$$\text{VC}(\text{let } f \dots) \equiv \forall \vec{x} \vec{v}. P \rightarrow \text{WP}(e, Q)[\vec{x}^\circ \mapsto \vec{x}]$$

One more expression:

$$e ::= \dots$$

$$\quad | \quad f \ t \ \dots \ t \quad \text{function call}$$

and its weakest precondition rule:

$$\text{WP}(f \ t_1 \ \dots \ t_n, Q) \equiv P_f[\vec{v} \mapsto \vec{t}] \wedge$$

$$(\forall \vec{x} \forall \text{result}. Q_f[\vec{v} \mapsto \vec{t}, \vec{x}^\circ \mapsto \vec{w}] \rightarrow Q)[\vec{w} \mapsto \vec{x}]$$

P_f precondition of f

\vec{x} references modified in f

Q_f postcondition of f

\vec{x} references used in f

\vec{v} formal parameters of f

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P_f	precondition of f	\vec{x}	references modified in f
Q_f	postcondition of f	\vec{x}	references used in f
\vec{v}	formal parameters of f	\vec{w}	fresh variables

Modular proof: when verifying a function call, we only use the function's contract, not its code.

```
let max (x y: int) : int
  ensures { result >= x /\ result >= y }
  ensures { result = x \/ result = y }
= if x >= y then x else y
```

```
val r : ref int (* declare a global reference *)

let incr_r (v: int) : int
  requires { v > 0 }
  writes { r }
  ensures { result = old !r /\ !r = old !r + v }
= let u = !r in
  r := u + v;
  u
```

7. Total correctness: termination

Problem: prove that the program terminates for every initial state that satisfies the precondition.

It suffices to show that

- every loop makes a finite number of iterations
- recursive function calls cannot go on indefinitely

Solution: prove that every loop iteration and every recursive call decreases a certain value, called **variant**, with respect to some well-founded order.

For example, for signed integers, a practical well-founded order is

$$i \prec j = i < j \wedge 0 \leq j$$

A new annotation:

$$e ::= \dots$$

$$| \text{ while } t \text{ invariant } J \text{ variant } t \cdot \prec \text{ do } e \text{ done}$$

The corresponding weakest precondition rule:

$$\text{WP}(\text{while } t \text{ invariant } J \text{ variant } s \cdot \prec \text{ do } e \text{ done}, Q) \equiv$$

$$J \wedge$$

$$\forall x_1 \dots x_k.$$

$$(J \wedge t \rightarrow \text{WP}(e, J \wedge s \prec w)[w \mapsto s]) \wedge$$

$$(J \wedge \neg t \rightarrow Q)$$

$x_1 \dots x_k$ references modified in e

w a fresh variable (the variant at the start of the iteration)

Termination of recursive functions

A new contract clause:

```
let rec  $f$  ( $v_1 : \tau_1$ ) ... ( $v_n : \tau_n$ ) :  $\zeta$   
  requires  $P_f$   
  variant  $s \cdot \prec$   
  writes  $\vec{x}$   
  ensures  $Q_f$   
=  $e$ 
```

For each recursive call of f in e :

$$\text{WP}(f \ t_1 \ \dots \ t_n, Q) \equiv P_f[\vec{v} \mapsto \vec{t}] \wedge s[\vec{v} \mapsto \vec{t}] \prec s[\vec{x} \mapsto \vec{x}^\circ] \wedge \\ (\forall \vec{x} \forall \text{result} t. Q_f[\vec{v} \mapsto \vec{t}, \vec{x}^\circ \mapsto \vec{w}] \rightarrow Q)[\vec{w} \mapsto \vec{x}]$$

$s[\vec{v} \mapsto \vec{t}]$	variant at the call site	\vec{x}	references used in f
$s[\vec{x} \mapsto \vec{x}^\circ]$	variant at the start of f	\vec{w}	fresh variables

Mutually recursive functions must have

- their own variant terms
- a **common** well-founded order

Thus, if f calls $g\ t_1 \dots t_n$, the variant decrease precondition is

$$s_g[\vec{v}_g \mapsto \vec{t}] \prec s[\vec{x} \mapsto \vec{x}^\circ]$$

\vec{v}_g the formal parameters of g

s_g the variant of g

8. Exceptions

Exceptions as destinations

Execution of a program can lead to

- **divergence** — the computation never ends
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 - the contract should also cover exceptional termination
 - each potential exception E gets its own postcondition Q_E
 - partial correctness: *if E is raised, then Q_E holds*

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- **divergence** — the computation never ends
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 - partial correctness ensures conformance to the contract
- **exceptional termination** — produces *a different kind of result*

```
exception Not_found
```

```
let binary_search (a: array int) (v: int) : int  
  requires { forall i j. 0 ≤ i ≤ j < length a → a[i] ≤ a[j] }  
  ensures { 0 ≤ result < length a ∧ a[result] = v }  
  raises { Not_found → forall i. 0 ≤ i < length a → a[i] ≠ v }
```

Our language keeps growing:

$e ::=$	\dots	
	<code>raise E</code>	raise an exception
	<code>try e with E \rightarrow e</code>	catch an exception

WP handles two postconditions now:

$$\text{WP}(\text{skip}, Q, Q_E) \equiv Q$$

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$$\text{WP}(\text{try } e_1 \text{ with } E \rightarrow e_2, Q, Q_E) \equiv \text{WP}(e_1, Q, \text{WP}(e_2, Q, Q_E))$$

Exceptions can carry data:

$e ::= \dots$	
<code>raise E t</code>	raise an exception
<code>try e with E v → e</code>	catch an exception

Still, all needed mechanisms are already in WP:

$$\text{WP}(t, Q, Q_E) \equiv Q[\text{result} \mapsto t]$$

$$\text{WP}(\text{raise } E t, Q, Q_E) \equiv Q_E[\text{result} \mapsto t]$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{WP}(\text{let } v = e_1 \text{ in } e_2, Q, Q_E) &\equiv \\ &\text{WP}(e_1, \text{WP}(e_2, Q, Q_E)[v \mapsto \text{result}], Q_E) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{WP}(\text{try } e_1 \text{ with } E v \rightarrow e_2, Q, Q_E) &\equiv \\ &\text{WP}(e_1, Q, \text{WP}(e_2, Q, Q_E)[v \mapsto \text{result}]) \end{aligned}$$

A new contract clause:

```

let f (v1 : τ1) ... (vn : τn) : ζ
  requires Pf
  writes  $\vec{x}$ 
  ensures Qf
  raises E → QEf
= e
    
```

Verification condition for the function definition:

$$\text{VC}(\text{let } f \dots) \equiv \forall \vec{x} \vec{v}. P_f \rightarrow \text{WP}(e, Q_f, Q_{E_f})(\vec{x}^\circ \mapsto \vec{x})$$

Weakest precondition rule for the function call:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{WP}(f \ t_1 \dots t_n, Q, Q_E) &\equiv P_f[\vec{v} \mapsto \vec{t}] \wedge \\ &(\forall \vec{x} \forall \text{result}. Q_f[\vec{v} \mapsto \vec{t}, \vec{x}^\circ \mapsto \vec{w}] \rightarrow Q)[\vec{w} \mapsto \vec{x}] \wedge \\ &(\forall \vec{x} \forall \text{result}. Q_{E_f}[\vec{v} \mapsto \vec{t}, \vec{x}^\circ \mapsto \vec{w}] \rightarrow Q_E)[\vec{w} \mapsto \vec{x}] \end{aligned}$$

9. WHYML types

WHYML supports most of the OCaml types:

- polymorphic types

```
type set 'a
```

- tuples:

```
type poly_pair 'a = ('a, 'a)
```

- records:

```
type complex = { re : real; im : real }
```

- variants (sum types):

```
type list 'a = Cons 'a (list 'a) | Nil
```

To handle algebraic types (records, variants):

- access to record fields:

```
let get_real (c : complex) = c.re
let use_imagination (c : complex) = im c
```

- record updates:

```
let conjugate (c : complex) = { c with im = - c.im }
```

- pattern matching (no `when` clauses):

```
let rec length (l : list 'a) : int variant { l } =
  match l with
  | Cons _ ll -> 1 + length ll
  | Nil -> 0
  end
```

Abstract types must be axiomatized:

```

theory Map
  type map 'a 'b

  function ([]) (a: map 'a 'b) (i: 'a): 'b
  function ([<-]) (a: map 'a 'b) (i: 'a) (v: 'b): map 'a 'b

  axiom Select_eq:
    forall m: map 'a 'b, k1 k2: 'a, v: 'b.
      k1 = k2 -> m[k1 <- v][k2] = v

  axiom Select_neq:
    forall m: map 'a 'b, k1 k2: 'a, v: 'b.
      k1 <> k2 -> m[k1 <- v][k2] = m[k2]
end

```

Abstract types must be axiomatized:

```

theory Set
  type set 'a
  predicate mem 'a (set 'a)

  predicate (==) (s1 s2: set 'a) =
    forall x: 'a. mem x s1 <-> mem x s2
  axiom extensionality:
    forall s1 s2: set 'a. s1 == s2 -> s1 = s2

  predicate subset (s1 s2: set 'a) =
    forall x: 'a. mem x s1 -> mem x s2
  lemma subset_refl: forall s: set 'a. subset s s

  constant empty : set 'a
  axiom empty_def: forall x: 'a. not (mem x empty)
  ...

```

- the same types are available in the logical language
- `match-with-end`, `if-then-else`, `let-in` are accepted both in terms and formulas
- functions et predicates can be defined recursively:

```
predicate mem (x: 'a) (l: list 'a) = match l with
  Cons y r -> x = y \/ mem x r | Nil -> false end
```

no `variants`, WHY3 requires structural decrease

- `inductive predicates` (useful for transitive closures):

```
inductive sorted (l: list int) =
  | SortedNil: sorted Nil
  | SortedOne: forall x: int. sorted (Cons x Nil)
  | SortedTwo: forall x y: int, l: list int.
    x <= y -> sorted (Cons y l) ->
      sorted (Cons x (Cons y l))
```

10. Ghost code

Compute a Fibonacci number using a recursive function in $O(n)$:

```

let rec aux (a b n: int): int
  requires { 0 <= n }
  requires {
  ensures {
  variant { n }
= if n = 0 then a else aux b (a+b) (n-1)

```

```

let fib_rec (n: int): int
  requires { 0 <= n }
  ensures { result = fib n }
= aux 0 1 n

```

(* fib_rec 5 = aux 0 1 5 = aux 1 1 4 = aux 1 2 3 =
 aux 2 3 2 = aux 3 5 1 = aux 5 8 0 = 5 *)

Compute a Fibonacci number using a recursive function in $O(n)$:

```
let rec aux (a b n: int): int
  requires { 0 <= n }
  requires { exists k. 0 <= k /\ a = fib k /\ b = fib (k+1) }
  ensures { exists k. 0 <= k /\ a = fib k /\ b = fib (k+1) /\
          result = fib (k+n) }

  variant { n }
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```
let fib_rec (n: int): int
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```

(* fib_rec 5 = aux 0 1 5 = aux 1 1 4 = aux 1 2 3 =
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Instead of an existential we can use a **ghost parameter**:

```
let rec aux (a b n: int) (ghost k: int): int
  requires { 0 <= n }
  requires { 0 <= k /\ a = fib k /\ b = fib (k+1) }
  ensures  { result = fib (k+n) }
  variant  { n }
= if n = 0 then a else aux b (a+b) (n-1) (k+1)
```

```
let fib_rec (n: int): int
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  ensures  { result = fib n }
= aux 0 1 n 0
```

The spirit of ghost code

Ghost code is used to facilitate specification and proof

⇒ the principle of **non-interference**:

We must be able to **eliminate** the ghost code
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 - if k is ghost, then $(k + 1)$ is ghost, too

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- ghost code **cannot alter** the control flow of visible code
 - if c is ghost, then `if c then ...` and `while c do ... done` are ghost
- ghost code **cannot diverge**
 - we can prove `while true do skip done ; assert false`

Can be declared ghost:

- function parameters

```
val aux (a b n: int) (ghost k: int): int
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Can be declared ghost:

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```
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- record fields and variant fields

```
type queue 'a = { head: list 'a; (* get from head *)  
                  tail: list 'a; (* add to tail *)  
                  ghost elts: list 'a; (* logical view *) }  
invariant { elts = head ++ reverse tail }
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- program expressions

```
let x = ghost qu.elts in ...
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modified references

raised exceptions

divergence

`r := ...`, `let r = ref ... in`

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g — is the expression visible or ghost?

m — is the expression's result visible or ghost?

Who's ghost and who's not?

Any variable or reference is considered ghost

- if explicitly declared ghost: `let ghost vg = 6 * 6 in ...`
- if initialised with a ghost value: `let rg = ref (vg + 6) in ...`
- if declared inside a `ghost` block: `ghost (let xg = 42 in ...)`

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2. $r := t$ is ghost $\equiv r$ is a ghost reference (Q: what about t ?)
3. `skip` is not ghost

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2. $r := t$ is ghost $\equiv r$ is a ghost reference (Q: what about t ?)
3. `skip` is not ghost
4. `raise E` is not ghost

Who's ghost and who's not?

Any variable or reference is considered ghost

- if explicitly declared ghost: `let ghost vg = 6 * 6 in ...`
- if initialised with a ghost value: `let rg = ref (vg + 6) in ...`
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unless we pass a ghost value with `E`: `raise E vg`

unless `E` is expected to carry ghost values: `exception E (ghost int)`

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An expression e has a **visible effect** iff

- e modifies a visible reference
- e diverges (= not proved to terminate)
- e is not ghost and raises an exception

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- e_2 is ghost and e_1 has no visible effects (Q: what if it has some?)
- e_1 or e_2 is ghost and raises an exception (Q: why does it matter?)

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- e_2 is ghost and e_1 has no visible effects (Q: what if it has some?)
- e_1 or e_2 is ghost and raises an exception (Q: why does it matter?)

6. $\text{try } e_1 \text{ with } E \rightarrow e_2$ / $\text{try } e_1 \text{ with } E v \rightarrow e_2$ is ghost \equiv

- e_1 is ghost
- e_2 is ghost and raises an exception

Who's ghost and who's not?

An expression e has a **visible effect** iff

- e modifies a visible reference
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7. **if t then e_1 else e_2** is ghost \equiv

- t is ghost (unless e_1 or e_2 is **assert false**)
- e_1 is ghost and e_2 has no visible effects
- e_2 is ghost and e_1 has no visible effects
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Who's ghost and who's not?

An expression e has a **visible effect** iff

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7. **if** t **then** e_1 **else** e_2 is ghost \equiv

- t is ghost (unless e_1 or e_2 is **assert false**)
- e_1 is ghost and e_2 has no visible effects
- e_2 is ghost and e_1 has no visible effects
- e_1 or e_2 is ghost and raises an exception

8. **while** t **do** e **done** is ghost $\equiv t$ or e is ghost

Who's ghost and who's not?

9. function call $f t_1 \dots t_n$ is ghost \equiv
- function f is ghost or some argument t_i is ghost
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Erasure $[\cdot]$ erases ghost data and turns ghost code into **skip**.

Theorem*: Erasure preserves the visible program semantics.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} e \cdot \mu & \xrightarrow{*} & c \cdot \mu' & e \cdot \mu & \Longrightarrow & \infty \\ \Downarrow & & \Downarrow & \Downarrow & & \Downarrow \\ [e] \cdot [\mu] & \xrightarrow{*} & [c] \cdot [\mu'] & [e] \cdot [\mu] & \Longrightarrow & \infty \end{array}$$

General idea: a function $f \vec{x}$ requires P_f ensures Q_f that

- returns `unit`
- has no side effects
- terminates

provides a constructive proof of $\forall \vec{x}. P_f \rightarrow Q_f$

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\Rightarrow a pure recursive function simulates a **proof by induction**

```
function rev_append (l r: list 'a): list 'a = match l with  
  | Cons a ll -> rev_append ll (Cons a r) | Nil -> r end
```

```
let rec lemma length_rev_append (l r: list 'a) variant {l}  
  ensures { length (rev_append l r) = length l + length r }  
=  
  match l with Cons a ll -> length_rev_append ll (Cons a r)  
    | Nil -> () end
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- by the postcondition of the recursive call:

$$\text{length (rev_append ll (Cons a r))} = \text{length ll} + \text{length (Cons a r)}$$

- by definition of `rev_append`:

$$\text{rev_append (Cons a ll) r} = \text{rev_append ll (Cons a r)}$$

- by definition of `length`:

$$\text{length (Cons a ll)} + \text{length r} = \text{length ll} + \text{length (Cons a r)}$$

11. Mutable data

Records with mutable fields

```
module Ref
  type ref 'a = { mutable contents : 'a } (* as in OCaml *)
  function (!) (r: ref 'a) : 'a = r.contents
  let ref (v: 'a) = { contents = v }
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 - `val gr : ref int`

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- can hold ghost data
 - `let ghost r := ref 42 in ... ghost (r := -!r) ...`
- **cannot** be stored in recursive structures: no `list (ref 'a)`
- **cannot** be stored under abstract types: no `set (ref 'a)`

The problem of alias

```
let double_incr (s1 s2: ref int): unit writes {s1,s2}
  ensures { !s1 = 1 + old !s1 /\ !s2 = 2 + old !s2 }
= s1 := 1 + !s1; s2 := 2 + !s2
```

```
let wrong () =
  let s = ref 0 in
  double_incr s s;   (* write/write alias *)
  assert { !s = 1 /\ !s = 2 }   (* in fact, !s = 3 *)
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```

```
val g : ref int
```

```
let set_from_g (r: ref int): unit writes {r}
  ensures { !r = !g + 1 }
= r := !g + 1
```

```
let wrong () =
  set_from_g g;   (* read/write alias *)
  assert { !g = !g + 1 }   (* contradiction *)
```

The standard WP rule for assignment:

$$\text{WP}(x := 42, Q[x, y, z]) = Q[42, y, z]$$

But if x and z are two names for the same reference

$$\text{WP}(x := 42, Q[x, y, z]) \quad \text{should be} \quad Q[42, y, 42]$$

Problem: Know, *statically*, when two values are aliased.

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Problem: Know, *statically*, when two values are aliased.

Solution: Tweak the type system and use **inference** (of course!)

Every mutable type carries an *invisible identity token* — a **region**:

$x : \text{ref } \rho \text{ int}$ $y : \text{ref } \pi \text{ int}$ $z : \text{ref } \rho \text{ int}$

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ML-style type inference reveals the identity of each subexpression

- formal parameters and global references are assumed to be separated

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ML-style type inference reveals the identity of each subexpression

- formal parameters and global references are assumed to be separated

Revised WP rule for assignment: $\text{WP}(x_\tau := t, Q) = Q\sigma$

where σ replaces in Q each variable $y : \pi[\tau]$ with an **updated value**

- an alias of x can be stored inside a reference inside a record inside a tuple

Poor man's resizable array:

```
let resa = ref (Array.make 10 0) in
(* resa : ref  $\rho$  (array  $\rho_1$  int) *)
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Let's resize it:

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let olda = !resa (* olda : array  $\rho_1$  int *) in
let newa = Array.make (2 * length olda) 0 in
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Change the type of **resa**? What about **if ... then** `resa := newa`?

Let everybody keep their type:

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`newa`, `olda` — the witnesses of the type system corruption

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What do we do with undesirable witnesses? — A.G. CAPONE

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Type-changing expressions have a special effect:

writes ρ · resets ρ_1, ρ_2

$e_1 ; e_2$ is well-typed \Rightarrow in every free variable of e_2 ,
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every region reset by e_1 occurs under a region written by e_1

Thus: `resa` and its aliases survive, but `olda` and `newa` are invalidated.

$e_1 ; e_2$ is well-typed \Rightarrow in every free variable of e_2 ,
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The **reset** effect also expresses **freshness**:

If we create a fresh mutable value and give it region ρ ,
we invalidate all existing variables whose type contains ρ .

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Effect union (for sequence or branching):

x_τ survives $\mathcal{E}_1 \sqcup \mathcal{E}_2 \iff x_\tau$ survives both \mathcal{E}_1 and \mathcal{E}_2 .

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Thus:

- the **reset** regions of \mathcal{E}_1 and \mathcal{E}_2 are added together,
- the **written** regions of \mathcal{E}_i **invalidated** by \mathcal{E}_{2-i} are ignored.

The standard WP calculus **requires the absence of aliases!**

- at least for modified values
- WHY3 relaxes this restriction using **static control of aliases**

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The user must indicate the external dependencies of abstract functions:

- `val set_from_g (r: ref int): unit writes {r} reads {g}`
- otherwise the static control of aliases does not have enough information

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- otherwise the static control of aliases does not have enough information

For programs with arbitrary pointers we need more sophisticated tools:

- memory models (for example, “address-to-value” arrays)
- handle aliases in the VC: separation logic, dynamic frames, etc.

Aliasing restrictions in WHYML

⇒ certain structures cannot be implemented

Still, we can specify them and verify the client code

```
type array 'a = private { mutable ghost elts: map int 'a;  
                           length: int }  
  
invariant { 0 <= length }
```

- all access is done via abstract functions (**private type**)
- the type invariant is expressed as an axiom
 - but can be temporarily broken inside a program function

Abstract specification

```
type array 'a = private { mutable ghost elts: map int 'a;  
                           length: int }
```

```
invariant { 0 <= length }
```

```
val ([]) (a: array 'a) (i: int): 'a  
  requires { 0 <= i < a.length }  
  ensures { result = a.elts[i] }
```

```
val ([])<- (a: array 'a) (i: int) (v: 'a): unit  
  requires { 0 <= i < a.length }  
  writes { a }  
  ensures { a.elts = (old a.elts)[i <- v] }
```

```
function get (a: array 'a) (i: int): 'a = a.elts[i]
```

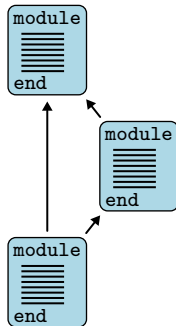
- the immutable fields are preserved — implicit postcondition
- the logical function `get` has no precondition
 - its result outside of the array bounds is undefined

12. Modular programming considered useful

- types
 - abstract: `type t`
 - synonym: `type t = list int`
 - variant: `type list 'a = Nil | Cons 'a (list 'a)`
- functions / predicates
 - uninterpreted: `function f int: int`
 - defined: `predicate non_empty (l: list 'a) = l <> Nil`
 - inductive: `inductive path t (list t) t = ...`
- axioms / lemmas / goals
 - `goal G: forall x: int, x >= 0 -> x*x >= 0`
- program functions (*routines*)
 - abstract: `val ([]) (a: array 'a) (i: int): 'a`
 - defined: `let mergesort (a: array elt): unit = ...`
- exceptions
 - `exception Found int`

Declarations are organized in **modules**

- purely logical modules are called **theories**

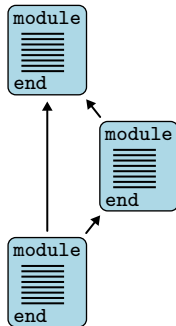


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A module M_1 can be

- used (**use**) in a module M_2
 - symbols of M_1 are **shared**
 - axioms of M_1 remain axioms
 - lemmas of M_1 become axioms
 - goals of M_1 are ignored

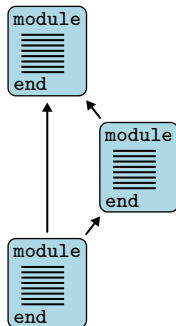


Declarations are organized in **modules**

- purely logical modules are called **theories**

A module M_1 can be

- used (**use**) in a module M_2
- cloned (**clone**) in a module M_2
 - declarations of M_1 are **copied** or **instantiated**
 - axioms of M_1 remain axioms or become lemmas
 - lemmas of M_1 become axioms
 - goals of M_1 are ignored



Declarations are organized in **modules**

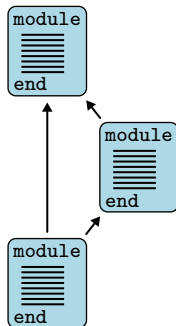
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- an abstract type with a defined type
- an uninterpreted function with a defined function
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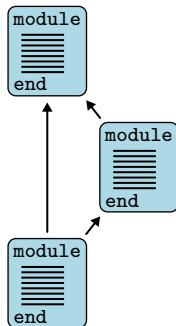
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Cloning can instantiate

- an abstract type with a defined type
- an uninterpreted function with a defined function
- a **val** with a **let**

One missing piece coming soon:

- instantiate a used module with another module



Exercises

<http://why3.lri.fr/ejcp-2018>