

# CS477 Formal Software Dev Methods

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Slides based in part on previous lectures  
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- Also called **Axiomatic Semantics**
- Based on formal logic (first order predicate calculus)
- Logical system built from **axioms** and **inference rules**
- Mainly suited to simple imperative programming languages
- Ideas applicable quite broadly

- Used to formally prove a property (**post-condition**) of the **state** (the values of the program variables) after the execution of program, assuming another property (**pre-condition**) of the state holds before execution

- Goal: Derive statements of form

$$\{P\} \ C \ \{Q\}$$

- $P$ ,  $Q$  logical statements about state,  $P$  precondition,  $Q$  postcondition,  $C$  program
- Example:

$$\{x = 1\} \ x := x + 1 \ \{x = 2\}$$

# Floyd-Hoare Logic

- **Approach:** For each type of language statement, give an axiom or inference rule stating how to derive assertions of form

$$\{P\} \ C \ \{Q\}$$

where  $C$  is a statement of that type

- Compose axioms and inference rules to build proofs for complex programs

# Partial vs Total Correctness

- An expression  $\{P\} C \{Q\}$  is a **partial correctness** statement
- For **total correctness** must also prove that  $C$  terminates (i.e. doesn't run forever)
  - Written:  $[P] C [Q]$
- Will only consider partial correctness here

# Simple Imperative Language

- We will give rules for simple imperative language

$\langle \text{command} \rangle ::= \langle \text{variable} \rangle := \langle \text{term} \rangle$   
|  $\langle \text{command} \rangle; \dots; \langle \text{command} \rangle$   
| *if*  $\langle \text{statement} \rangle$  *then*  $\langle \text{command} \rangle$  *else*  $\langle \text{command} \rangle$   
| *while*  $\langle \text{statement} \rangle$  *do*  $\langle \text{command} \rangle$

- Could add more features, like for-loops

# Substitution

- Notation:  $P[e/v]$  (sometimes  $P[v \rightarrow e]$ )
- Meaning: Replace every  $v$  in  $P$  by  $e$
- Example:

$$(x + 2)[y - 1/x] = ((y - 1) + 2)$$



# The Assingment Rule

$$\frac{}{\{P[e/x]\} \ x := e \ \{P\}}$$

Example:

$$\frac{}{\{ \quad ? \quad \} \ x := y \ \{ x = 2 \}}$$

# The Assingment Rule

$$\frac{}{\{P[e/x]\} \ x := e \ \{P\}}$$

Example:

$$\frac{}{\{\square = 2\} \ x := y \ \{\boxed{x} = 2\}}$$

# The Assignment Rule

$$\frac{}{\{P[e/x]\} \ x := e \ \{P\}}$$

Example:

$$\frac{}{\{ \boxed{y} = 2 \} \ x := y \ \{ \boxed{x} = 2 \}}$$

# The Assingment Rule

$$\frac{}{\{P[e/x]\} \ x := e \ \{P\}}$$

Examples:

$$\frac{}{\{y = 2\} \ x := y \ \{x = 2\}}$$

$$\frac{}{\{y = 2\} \ x := 2 \ \{y = x\}}$$

$$\frac{}{\{x + 1 = n + 1\} \ x := x + 1 \ \{x = n + 1\}}$$

$$\frac{}{\{2 = 2\} \ x := 2 \ \{x = 2\}}$$

# The Assignment Rule – Your Turn

- What is the weakest precondition of

$$x := x + y \{ x + y = wx \}?$$

$$\{ \quad ? \quad \}$$
$$x := x + y$$
$$\{ x + y = wx \}$$

# The Assignment Rule – Your Turn

- What is the weakest precondition of

$$x := x + y \{ x + y = wx \}?$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \{ (x + y) + y = w(x + y) \} \\ & \quad x := x + y \\ & \quad \{ x + y = wx \} \end{aligned}$$

# Precondition Strengthening

$$\frac{(P \Rightarrow P') \quad \{P'\} \text{ C } \{Q\}}{\{P\} \text{ C } \{Q\}}$$

- Meaning: If we can show that  $P$  implies  $P'$  (i.e.  $(P \Rightarrow P')$  and we can show that  $\{P'\} \text{ C } \{Q\}$ , then we know that  $\{P\} \text{ C } \{Q\}$
- $P$  is **stronger** than  $P'$  means  $P \Rightarrow P'$

# Precondition Strengthening

- Examples:

$$\frac{x = 3 \Rightarrow x < 7 \quad \{x < 7\} \ x := x + 3 \ \{x < 10\}}{\{x = 3\} \ x := x + 3 \ \{x < 10\}}$$

$$\frac{True \Rightarrow (2 = 2) \quad \{2 = 2\} \ x := 2 \ \{x = 2\}}{\{True\} \ x := 2 \ \{x = 2\}}$$

$$\frac{x = n \Rightarrow x + 1 = n + 1 \quad \{x + 1 = n + 1\} \ x := x + 1 \ \{x = n + 1\}}{\{x = n\} \ x := x + 1 \ \{x = n + 1\}}$$



# Which Inferences Are Correct?

$$\frac{\{x > 0 \wedge x < 5\} \ x \ := \ x * x \ \{x < 25\}}{\{x = 3\} \ x \ := \ x * x \ \{x < 25\}}$$

$$\frac{\{x = 3\} \ x \ := \ x * x \ \{x < 25\}}{\{x > 0 \wedge x < 5\} \ x \ := \ x * x \ \{x < 25\}}$$

$$\frac{\{x * x < 25\} \ x \ := \ x * x \ \{x < 25\}}{\{x > 0 \wedge x < 5\} \ x \ := \ x * x \ \{x < 25\}}$$

# Which Inferences Are Correct?

$$\frac{\{x > 0 \wedge x < 5\} \ x \ := \ x * x \ \{x < 25\}}{\{x = 3\} \ x \ := \ x * x \ \{x < 25\}} \text{ YES}$$

$$\frac{\{x = 3\} \ x \ := \ x * x \ \{x < 25\}}{\{x > 0 \wedge x < 5\} \ x \ := \ x * x \ \{x < 25\}}$$

$$\frac{\{x * x < 25\} \ x \ := \ x * x \ \{x < 25\}}{\{x > 0 \wedge x < 5\} \ x \ := \ x * x \ \{x < 25\}}$$

# Which Inferences Are Correct?

$$\frac{\{x > 0 \wedge x < 5\} \ x \ := \ x * x \ \{x < 25\}}{\{x = 3\} \ x \ := \ x * x \ \{x < 25\}} \text{ YES}$$

$$\frac{\{x = 3\} \ x \ := \ x * x \ \{x < 25\}}{\{x > 0 \wedge x < 5\} \ x \ := \ x * x \ \{x < 25\}} \text{ NO}$$

$$\frac{\{x * x < 25\} \ x \ := \ x * x \ \{x < 25\}}{\{x > 0 \wedge x < 5\} \ x \ := \ x * x \ \{x < 25\}}$$

# Which Inferences Are Correct?

$$\frac{\{x > 0 \wedge x < 5\} \ x \ := \ x * x \ \{x < 25\}}{\{x = 3\} \ x \ := \ x * x \ \{x < 25\}} \text{ YES}$$

$$\frac{\{x = 3\} \ x \ := \ x * x \ \{x < 25\}}{\{x > 0 \wedge x < 5\} \ x \ := \ x * x \ \{x < 25\}} \text{ NO}$$

$$\frac{\{x * x < 25\} \ x \ := \ x * x \ \{x < 25\}}{\{x > 0 \wedge x < 5\} \ x \ := \ x * x \ \{x < 25\}} \text{ YES}$$

# Post Condition Weakening

$$\frac{\{P\} \ C \ \{Q'\} \quad Q' \Rightarrow Q}{\{P\} \ C \ \{Q\}}$$

- Example:

$$\frac{\{x + y = 5\} \ x := x + y \ \{x = 5\} \quad (x = 5) \Rightarrow (x < 10)}{\{x + y = 5\} \ x := x + y \ \{x < 10\}}$$

# Rule of Consequence

$$\frac{P \Rightarrow P' \quad \{P'\} C \{Q'\} \quad Q' \Rightarrow Q}{\{P\} C \{Q\}}$$

- Logically equivalent to the combination of **Precondition Strengthening** and **Postcondition Weakening**
- Uses  $P \Rightarrow P$  and  $Q \Rightarrow Q$

$$\frac{\{P\} \ C_1 \ \{Q\} \quad \{Q\} \ C_2 \ \{R\}}{\{P\} \ C_1; C_2 \ \{R\}}$$

- Example:

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} \{z = z \wedge z = z\} \ x := z \ \{x = z \wedge z = z\} \\ \{x = z \wedge z = z\} \ y := z \ \{x = z \wedge y = z\} \end{array}}{\{z = z \wedge z = z\} \ x := z; y := z \ \{x = z \wedge y = z\}}$$

$$\frac{\{P \wedge B\} \ C_1 \ \{Q\} \quad \{P \wedge \neg B\} \ C_2 \ \{Q\}}{\{P\} \ \text{if } B \text{ then } C_1 \text{ else } C_2 \ \{Q\}}$$

- Example:

$\{y = a\} \ \text{if } x < 0 \text{ then } y := y - x \text{ else } y := y + x \ \{y = a + |x|\}$

By If\_Then\_Else Rule suffices to show:

- (1)  $\{y = a \wedge x < 0\} \ y := y - x \ \{y = a + |x|\}$  and
- (4)  $\{y = a \wedge \neg(x < 0)\} \ y := y + x \ \{y = a + |x|\}$



$$(1) \{y = a \wedge x < 0\} \quad y := y - x \quad \{y = a + |x|\}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} (3) \quad (y = a \wedge x < 0) \Rightarrow (y - x = a + |x|) \\ (2) \quad \{y - x = a + |x|\} \quad y := y - x \quad \{y = a + |x|\} \end{array}}{(1) \quad \{y = a \wedge x < 0\} \quad y := y - x \quad \{y = a + |x|\}}$$

- (1) reduces to (2) and (3) by Precondition Strengthening
- (2) instance of Assignment Axiom
- (3) holds since  $x < 0 \Rightarrow |x| = -x$

$$(4) \{y = a \wedge \neg(x < 0)\} \ y := y + x \ \{y = a + |x|\}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} (6) \ (y = a \wedge \neg(x < 0)) \Rightarrow (y + x = a + |x|) \\ (5) \ \{y + x = a + |x|\} \ y := y + x \ \{y = a + |x|\} \end{array}}{(4) \ \{y = a \wedge \neg(x < 0)\} \ y := y + x \ \{y = a + |x|\}}$$

- (4) reduces to (5) and (6) by Precondition Strengthening
- (5) Follows from Assignment Axiom
- (6) since  $\neg(x < 0) \Rightarrow |x| = x$

# If Then Else

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} (1) \quad \{y = a \wedge x < 0\} \quad y := y - x \quad \{y = a + |x|\} \\ (4) \quad \{y = a \wedge \neg(x < 0)\} \quad y := y + x \quad \{y = a + |x|\} \end{array}}{\{y = a\} \quad \text{if } x < 0 \text{ then } y := y - x \text{ else } y := y + x \quad \{y = a + |x|\}}$$

by the If\_Then\_Else Rule

# While

We need a rule to be able to make assertions about *while* loops.

- Inference rule because we can only draw conclusions if we know something about the body
- Lets start with:

$$\frac{\{ ? \} C \{ ? \}}{\{ ? \} \text{ while } B \text{ do } C \{ P \}}$$

# While

- Loop may never execute
- To know  $P$  holds after, it had better hold before
- Second approximation:

$$\frac{\{ ? \} C \{ ? \}}{\{P\} \text{ while } B \text{ do } C \{P\}}$$

# While

- Loop may execute  $C$ ; enf of loop is of  $C$
- $P$  holds at end of *while* means  $P$  holds at end of loop  $C$
- $P$  holds at start of *while*; loop taken means  $P \wedge B$  holds at start of  $C$
- Third approximation:

$$\frac{\{P \wedge B\} C \{P\}}{\{P\} \text{ while } B \text{ do } C \{P\}}$$

# While

- Always know  $\neg B$  when *while* loop finishes
- Final *While* rule:

$$\frac{\{P \wedge B\} C \{P\}}{\{P\} \text{ while } B \text{ do } C \{P \wedge \neg B\}}$$

# While

$$\frac{\{P \wedge B\} \ C \ \{P\}}{\{P\} \ \text{while } B \text{ do } C \ \{P \wedge \neg B\}}$$

- $P$  satisfying this rule is called a **loop invariant**
- Must hold before and after the each iteration of the loop



# While

- **While** rule generally used with precondition strengthening and postcondition weakening
- **No** algorithm for computing  $P$  in general
- Requires intuition and an understanding of why the program works

# Example

Prove:

```
 $\{n \geq 0\}$   
 $x := 0; y := 0;$   
while  $x < n$  do  
   $(y := y + ((2 * x) + 1);$   
     $x := x + 1)$   
 $\{y = n * n\}$ 
```

# Example

- Need to find  $P$  that is true **before** and **after** loop is executed, such that

$$(P \wedge \neg(x < n)) \Rightarrow y = n * n$$

# Example

- First attempt:

$$y = x * x$$

- Motivation:
- Want  $y = n * n$
- $x$  counts up to  $n$
- **Guess:** Each pass of loop calculates next square

# Example

By Post-condition Weakening, suffices to show:

(1)  $\{n \geq 0\}$   
   $x := 0; y := 0;$   
  *while*  $x < n$  *do*  
     $(y := y + ((2 * x) + 1); x := x + 1)$   
   $\{y = x * x \wedge \neg(x < n)\}$

and

(2)  $(y = x * x \wedge \neg(x < n)) \Rightarrow (y = n * n)$

## Problem with (2)

- Want (2)  $(y = x * x \wedge \neg(x < n)) \Rightarrow (y = n * n)$
- From  $\neg(x < n)$  have  $x \geq n$
- Need  $x = n$
- Don't know this; from this could have  $x > n$
- Need **stronger invariant**
- Try adding  $x \leq n$
- Then have  $((x \leq n) \wedge \neg(x < n)) \Rightarrow (x = n)$
- Then have  $x = n$  when loop done

# Example

Second attempt:

$$P = ((y = x * x) \wedge (x \leq n))$$

Again by Post-condition Weakening, suffices to show:

(1)  $\{n \geq 0\}$   
     $x := 0; y := 0;$   
    *while*  $x < n$  *do*  
         $(y := y + ((2 * x) + 1); x := x + 1)$   
     $\{(y = x * x) \wedge (x \leq n) \wedge \neg(x < n)\}$

and

(2)  $((y = x * x) \wedge (x \leq n) \wedge \neg(x < n)) \Rightarrow (y = n * n)$

# Proof of (2)

- $(\neg(x < n)) \Rightarrow (x \geq n)$
- $((x \geq n) \wedge (x \leq n)) \Rightarrow (x = n)$
- $((x = n) \wedge (y = x * x)) \Rightarrow (y = n * n)$



# Example

- For (1), set up While Rule using Sequencing Rule
- By Sequencing Rule, suffices to show

$$(3) \{n \geq 0\} \ x := 0; \ y := 0 \ \{(y = x * x) \wedge (x \leq n)\}$$

and

$$(4) \ \{(y = x * x) \wedge (x \leq n)\}$$

*while*  $x < n$  *do*

$$(y := y + ((2 * x) + 1); \ x := x + 1)$$
$$\{(y = x * x) \wedge (x \leq n) \wedge \neg(x < n)\}$$

# Proof of (4)

By While Rule

$$\begin{array}{c} (5) \quad \{(y = x * x) \wedge (x \leq n) \wedge (x < n)\} \\ \quad y := y + ((2 * x) + 1); \ x := x + 1 \\ \{(y = x * x) \wedge (x \leq n)\} \\ \hline \{(y = x * x) \wedge (x \leq n)\} \\ \text{while } x < n \text{ do} \\ (y := y + ((2 * x) + 1); \ x := x + 1) \\ \{(y = x * x) \wedge (x \leq n) \wedge \neg(x < n)\} \end{array}$$

# Proof of (5)

## By Sequencing Rule

$$\begin{array}{lcl} \text{(6)} \quad \{(y = x * x) \wedge (x \leq n) & \text{(7)} \quad \{(y = (x + 1) * (x + 1)) \\ \quad \wedge (x < n)\} & \quad \wedge ((x + 1) \leq n)\} \\ y := y + ((2 * x) + 1) & x := x + 1 \\ \{(y = (x + 1) * (x + 1)) & \{(y = x * x) \wedge (x \leq n)\} \\ \quad \wedge ((x + 1) \leq n)\} & \\ \hline \{(y = x * x) \wedge (x \leq n) \wedge (x < n)\} \\ y := y + ((2 * x) + 1); x := x + 1 \\ \{(y = x * x) \wedge (x \leq n)\} \end{array}$$

(7) holds by Assignment Axiom

# Proof of (6)

## By Precondition Strengthening

$$\begin{array}{lcl} (8) & ((y = x * x) & (9) \quad \{(y + ((2 * x) + 1)) \\ & \wedge (x \leq n) \wedge (x < n)) \Rightarrow & = ((x + 1) * (x + 1))) \\ & (((y + ((2 * x) + 1)) & \wedge ((x + 1) \leq n)\} \\ & = (x + 1) * (x + 1)) & y := y + ((2 * x) + 1) \\ & \wedge ((x + 1) \leq n)) & \{(y = (x + 1) * (x + 1)) \\ & & \wedge ((x + 1) \leq n)\} \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{l} \{(y = x * x) \wedge (x \leq n) \\ \wedge (x < n)\} \\ y := y + ((2 * x) + 1) \\ \{(y = (x + 1) * (x + 1)) \\ \wedge ((x + 1) \leq n)\} \end{array}$$

Have (9) by Assignment Axiom

# Proof of (8)

- (Assuming  $x$  integer)  $(x < n) \Rightarrow ((x + 1) \leq n)$
- $(y = x * x) \Rightarrow ((y + ((2 * x) + 1))$   
     $= ((x * x) + ((2 * x) + 1))$   
     $= ((x + 1) * (x + 1)))$
- That finishes (8), and thus (6) and thus (5) and thus (4) (*while*)
- Need (3)  $\{n \geq 0\} \ x := 0; \ y := 0 \ \{(y = x * x) \wedge (x \leq n)\}$

# Proof of (3)

By Sequencing

$$\begin{array}{c} (10) \quad \{n \geq 0\} \\ \quad x := 0 \\ \quad \{(0 = x * x) \wedge (x \leq n)\} \\ (11) \quad \{(0 = x * x) \wedge (x \leq n)\} \\ \quad y := 0 \\ \quad \{(y = x * x) \wedge (x \leq n)\} \\ \hline \{n \geq 0\} \quad x := 0; y := 0 \quad \{(y = x * x) \wedge (x \leq n)\} \end{array}$$

Have (11) by Assignment Axiom

# Proof of (10)

By Precondition Strengthening

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} (12) \quad (n \geq 0) \Rightarrow ((0 = 0 * 0) \wedge (0 \leq n)) \\ (13) \quad \{(0 = 0 * 0) \wedge (0 \leq n)\} \\ \quad \quad x := 0 \\ \quad \quad \{(0 = x * x) \wedge (x \leq n)\} \end{array}}{\{n \geq 0\} \ x := 0; \ y := 0 \ \{(0 = x * x) \wedge (x \leq n)\}}$$

- For (12),  $0 = 0 * 0$  and  $(n \geq 0) \Leftrightarrow (0 \leq n)$
- Have (13) by Assignment Axiom
- Finishes (10), thus (3), thus (1)