

# Program Correctness

OOSC2 Chapter 11



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## Motivating Examples (1)



Is this feature correct?

```
class FOO
  i: INTEGER
  increment_by_9
  require
    i > 3
  do
    i := i + 9
  ensure
    i > 13
  end
end
```

**Q:** Is  $i > 3$  is too weak or too strong?

**A:** Too weak

$\therefore$  assertion  $i > 3$  allows value 4 which would fail postcondition.

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## Weak vs. Strong Assertions



- Describe each assertion as **a set of satisfying value**.
  - $x > 3$  has satisfying values  $\{ x \mid x > 3 \} = \{ 4, 5, 6, 7, \dots \}$
  - $x > 4$  has satisfying values  $\{ x \mid x > 4 \} = \{ 5, 6, 7, \dots \}$
- An assertion  $p$  is **stronger** than an assertion  $q$  **if**  $p$ 's set of satisfying values is a subset of  $q$ 's set of satisfying values.
  - Logically speaking,  $p$  being stronger than  $q$  (or,  $q$  being weaker than  $p$ ) means  $p \Rightarrow q$ .
  - e.g.,  $x > 4 \Rightarrow x > 3$
- What's the weakest assertion? [ TRUE ]
- What's the strongest assertion? [ FALSE ]
- In **Design by Contract** :
  - A **weaker invariant** has more acceptable object states e.g.,  $balance > 0$  vs.  $balance > 100$  as an invariant for ACCOUNT
  - A **weaker precondition** has more acceptable input values
  - A **weaker postcondition** has more acceptable output values

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## Motivating Examples (2)



Is this feature correct?

```
class FOO
  i: INTEGER
  increment_by_9
  require
    i > 5
  do
    i := i + 9
  ensure
    i > 13
  end
end
```

**Q:** Is  $i > 5$  too weak or too strong?

**A:** Maybe too strong

$\therefore$  assertion  $i > 5$  disallows 5 which would not fail postcondition.  
Whether 5 should be allowed depends on the requirements.

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## Software Correctness



- Correctness is a **relative** notion: **consistency** of **implementation** with respect to **specification**.  
 $\Rightarrow$  This assumes there is a specification!
- We introduce a formal and systematic way for formalizing a program **S** and its **specification** (pre-condition **Q** and post-condition **R**) as a **Boolean predicate**:  $\{Q\} S \{R\}$ 
  - e.g.,  $\{i > 3\} i := i + 9 \{i > 13\}$
  - e.g.,  $\{i > 5\} i := i + 9 \{i > 13\}$
  - If  $\{Q\} S \{R\}$  **can** be proved **TRUE**, then the **S** is **correct**.  
 e.g.,  $\{i > 5\} i := i + 9 \{i > 13\}$  **can** be proved **TRUE**.
  - If  $\{Q\} S \{R\}$  **cannot** be proved **TRUE**, then the **S** is **incorrect**.  
 e.g.,  $\{i > 3\} i := i + 9 \{i > 13\}$  **cannot** be proved **TRUE**.

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## Hoare Logic and Software Correctness



Consider the **contract view** of a feature  $f$  (whose body of implementation is **S**) as a **Hoare Triple**:

$$\{Q\} S \{R\}$$

**Q** is the **precondition** of  $f$ .  
**S** is the implementation of  $f$ .  
**R** is the **postcondition** of  $f$ .

- $\{true\} S \{R\}$   
 All input values are valid [ Most-user friendly ]
- $\{false\} S \{R\}$   
 All input values are invalid [ Most useless for clients ]
- $\{Q\} S \{true\}$   
 All output values are valid [ Most risky for clients; Easiest for suppliers ]
- $\{Q\} S \{false\}$   
 All output values are invalid [ Most challenging coding task ]
- $\{true\} S \{true\}$   
 All inputs/outputs are valid (No contracts) [ Least informative ]

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## Hoare Logic



- Consider a program **S** with precondition **Q** and postcondition **R**.
  - $\{Q\} S \{R\}$  is a **correctness predicate** for program **S**
  - $\{Q\} S \{R\}$  is **TRUE** if program **S** starts executing in a state satisfying the precondition **Q**, and then:
    - The program **S** terminates.
    - Given that program **S** terminates, then it terminates in a state satisfying the postcondition **R**.
- Separation of concerns
  - requires a proof of **termination**.
  - requires a proof of **partial correctness**.
 Proofs of (a) + (b) imply **total correctness**.

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## Proof of Hoare Triple using $wp$



$$\{Q\} S \{R\} \equiv Q \Rightarrow wp(S, R)$$

- $wp(S, R)$  is the **weakest precondition for S to establish R**.
- S** can be:
  - Assignments ( $x := y$ )
  - Alternations (**if ... then ... else ... end**)
  - Sequential compositions ( $S_1 ; S_2$ )
  - Loops (**from ... until ... loop ... end**)
- We will learn how to calculate the **wp** for the above programming constructs.

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## Hoare Logic A Simple Example



Given  $\{??\}n := n + 9\{n > 13\}$ :

- $n > 4$  is the **weakest precondition (wp)** for the given implementation ( $n := n + 9$ ) to start and establish the postcondition ( $n > 13$ ).
- Any precondition that is **equal to or stronger than** the wp ( $n > 4$ ) will result in a correct program.  
e.g.,  $\{n > 5\}n := n + 9\{n > 13\}$  can be proved **TRUE**.
- Any precondition that is **weaker than** the wp ( $n > 4$ ) will result in an incorrect program.  
e.g.,  $\{n > 3\}n := n + 9\{n > 13\}$  cannot be proved **TRUE**.  
Counterexample:  $n = 4$  satisfies precondition  $n > 3$  but the output  $n = 13$  fails postcondition  $n > 13$ .

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## Denoting New and Old Values



In the **postcondition**, for a program variable  $x$ :

- We write  $x_0$  to denote its **pre-state (old)** value.
- We write  $x$  to denote its **post-state (new)** value.  
Implicitly, in the **precondition**, all program variables have their **pre-state** values.  
e.g.,  $\{b_0 > a\} b := b - a \{b = b_0 - a\}$
- Notice that:
  - We may choose to write “ $b$ ” rather than “ $b_0$ ” in preconditions  
∴ All variables are pre-state values in preconditions
  - We don’t write “ $b_0$ ” in program  
∴ there might be **multiple intermediate values** of a variable due to sequential composition

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## wp Rule: Assignments (1)



$$wp(x := e, R) = R[x := e]$$

$R[x := e]$  means to substitute all **free occurrences** of variable  $x$  in postcondition  $R$  by expression  $e$ .

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## wp Rule: Assignments (2)



Recall:

$$\{Q\} S \{R\} \equiv Q \Rightarrow wp(S, R)$$

How do we prove  $\{Q\} x := e \{R\}$ ?

$$\{Q\} x := e \{R\} \iff Q \Rightarrow \underbrace{R[x := e]}_{wp(x := e, R)}$$

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## wp Rule: Assignments (3) Exercise

What is the weakest precondition for a program  $x := x + 1$  to establish the postcondition  $x > x_0$ ?

$$\{??\} x := x + 1 \{x > x_0\}$$

For the above Hoare triple to be **TRUE**, it must be that  $?? \Rightarrow wp(x := x + 1, x > x_0)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} & wp(x := x + 1, x > x_0) \\ &= \{Rule\ of\ wp:\ Assignment\} \\ & \quad x > x_0[x := x_0 + 1] \\ &= \{Replacing\ x\ by\ x_0 + 1\} \\ & \quad x_0 + 1 > x_0 \\ &= \{1 > 0\ always\ true\} \\ & \quad True \end{aligned}$$

Any precondition is OK. **False** is valid but not useful.

## wp Rule: Assignments (4) Exercise

What is the weakest precondition for a program  $x := x + 1$  to establish the postcondition  $x = 23$ ?

$$\{??\} x := x + 1 \{x = 23\}$$

For the above Hoare triple to be **TRUE**, it must be that  $?? \Rightarrow wp(x := x + 1, x = 23)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} & wp(x := x + 1, x = 23) \\ &= \{Rule\ of\ wp:\ Assignment\} \\ & \quad x = 23[x := x_0 + 1] \\ &= \{Replacing\ x\ by\ x_0 + 1\} \\ & \quad x_0 + 1 = 23 \\ &= \{arithmetic\} \\ & \quad x_0 = 22 \end{aligned}$$

Any precondition weaker than  $x = 22$  is not OK.

## wp Rule: Alternations (1)

$$wp(\text{if } B \text{ then } S_1 \text{ else } S_2 \text{ end}, R) = \left( \begin{array}{l} B \Rightarrow wp(S_1, R) \\ \wedge \\ \neg B \Rightarrow wp(S_2, R) \end{array} \right)$$

The wp of an alternation is such that **all branches** are able to establish the postcondition **R**.

## wp Rule: Alternations (2)

Recall:  $\{Q\} S \{R\} \equiv Q \Rightarrow wp(S, R)$

How do we prove that  $\{Q\} \text{if } B \text{ then } S_1 \text{ else } S_2 \text{ end } \{R\}$ ?

```
{Q}
if B then
  {Q ∧ B} S1 {R}
else
  {Q ∧ ¬B} S2 {R}
end
{R}
```

$$\begin{aligned} & \{Q\} \text{if } B \text{ then } S_1 \text{ else } S_2 \text{ end } \{R\} \\ & \iff \left( \begin{array}{l} \{Q \wedge B\} S_1 \{R\} \\ \wedge \\ \{Q \wedge \neg B\} S_2 \{R\} \end{array} \right) \iff \left( \begin{array}{l} (Q \wedge B) \Rightarrow wp(S_1, R) \\ \wedge \\ (Q \wedge \neg B) \Rightarrow wp(S_2, R) \end{array} \right) \end{aligned}$$

## wp Rule: Alternations (3) Exercise



Is this program correct?

```
{x > 0 ∧ y > 0}
if x > y then
  bigger := x ; smaller := y
else
  bigger := y ; smaller := x
end
{bigger ≥ smaller}
```

$$\left( \begin{array}{l} \{(x > 0 \wedge y > 0) \wedge (x > y)\} \\ \text{bigger := x ; smaller := y} \\ \{bigger \geq smaller\} \end{array} \right) \wedge \left( \begin{array}{l} \{(x > 0 \wedge y > 0) \wedge \neg(x > y)\} \\ \text{bigger := y ; smaller := x} \\ \{bigger \geq smaller\} \end{array} \right)$$

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## wp Rule: Sequential Composition (1)



$$wp(S_1 ; S_2, R) = wp(S_1, wp(S_2, R))$$

The *wp* of a sequential composition is such that the **first phase** establishes the *wp* for the **second phase** to establish the postcondition *R*.

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## wp Rule: Sequential Composition (2)



Recall:

$$\{Q\} S \{R\} \equiv Q \Rightarrow wp(S, R)$$

How do we prove  $\{Q\} S_1 ; S_2 \{R\}$ ?

$$\{Q\} S_1 ; S_2 \{R\} \iff Q \Rightarrow \underbrace{wp(S_1, wp(S_2, R))}_{wp(S_1 ; S_2, R)}$$

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## wp Rule: Sequential Composition (3) Exercise



Is  $\{True\} \text{tmp} := x ; x := y ; y := \text{tmp} \{x > y\}$  correct?  
If and only if  $True \Rightarrow wp(\text{tmp} := x ; x := y ; y := \text{tmp}, x > y)$

$$\begin{aligned} & wp(\text{tmp} := x ; \boxed{x := y ; y := \text{tmp}}, x > y) \\ &= \{wp \text{ rule for seq. comp.}\} \\ & wp(\text{tmp} := x, wp(x := y ; \boxed{y := \text{tmp}}, x > y)) \\ &= \{wp \text{ rule for seq. comp.}\} \\ & wp(\text{tmp} := x, wp(x := y, wp(y := \text{tmp}, x > \boxed{y}))) \\ &= \{wp \text{ rule for assignment}\} \\ & wp(\text{tmp} := x, wp(x := y, \boxed{x} > \text{tmp})) \\ &= \{wp \text{ rule for assignment}\} \\ & wp(\text{tmp} := x, y > \boxed{\text{tmp}}) \\ &= \{wp \text{ rule for assignment}\} \\ & y > x \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore True \Rightarrow y > x$  does not hold in general.

$\therefore$  The above program is not correct.

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# Loops



- A loop is a way to compute a certain result by *successive approximations*.  
e.g. computing the maximum value of an array of integers
- Loops are needed and powerful
- But loops **very hard** to get right:
  - Infinite loops [ termination ]
  - “off-by-one” error [ partial correctness ]
  - Improper handling of borderline cases [ partial correctness ]
  - Not establishing the desired condition [ partial correctness ]

# Correctness of Loops



How do we prove that the following loops are correct?

```
{Q}
from
  S_init
until
  B
loop
  S_body
end
{R}
```

```
{Q}
S_init
while (¬ B) {
  S_body
}
{R}
```

- In case of C/Java,  $\neg B$  denotes the *stay condition*.
- In case of Eiffel,  $B$  denotes the *exit condition*.  
There is native, syntactic support for checking/proving the **total correctness** of loops.

# Loops: Binary Search



BS1	BS2
<pre>from   i := 1; j := n until i = j loop   m := (i + j) // 2   if t @ m &lt;= x then     i := m   else     j := m   end end Result := (x = t @ i)</pre>	<pre>from   i := 1; j := n; found := false until i = j and not found loop   m := (i + j) // 2   if t @ m &lt; x then     i := m + 1   elseif t @ m = x then     found := true   else     j := m - 1   end end Result := found</pre>
BS3	BS4
<pre>from   i := 0; j := n until i = j loop   m := (i + j) // 2   if t @ m &lt;= x then     i := m + 1   else     j := m   end end if i &gt;= 1 and i &lt;= n then   Result := (x = t @ i) else   Result := false end</pre>	<pre>from   i := 0; j := n + 1 until i = j loop   m := (i + j) // 2   if t @ m &lt;= x then     i := m + 1   else     j := m   end end if i &gt;= 1 and i &lt;= n then   Result := (x = t @ i) else   Result := false end</pre>

4 implementations for binary search: published, but *wrong!*

See page 381 in *Object Oriented Software Construction*

# Contracts for Loops: Syntax



```
from
  S_init
invariant
  invariant_tag: I -- Boolean expression for partial correctness
until
  B
loop
  S_body
variant
  variant_tag: V -- Integer expression for termination
end
```

## Contracts for Loops

- Use of **loop invariants (LI)** and **loop variants (LV)**.
  - Invariants:** Boolean expressions for **partial correctness**.
    - Typically a special case of the postcondition.
      - e.g., Given postcondition "Result is maximum of the array":
        - LI can be "Result is maximum of the part of array scanned so far".
    - Established before the very first iteration.
    - Maintained TRUE after each iteration.
  - Variants:** Integer expressions for **termination**
    - Denotes the **number of iterations remaining**
    - Decreased** at the end of each subsequent iteration
    - Maintained **non-negative** at the end of each iteration.
    - As soon as value of **LV** reaches **zero**, meaning that no more iterations remaining, the loop must exit.
- Remember:

**total correctness** = **partial correctness** + **termination**

## Contracts for Loops: Runtime Checks (2)

```

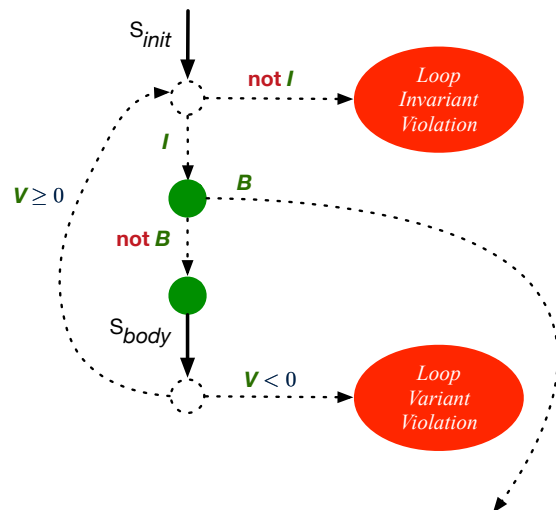
1 test
2 local
3   i: INTEGER
4 do
5   from
6     i := 1
7   invariant
8     1 <= i and i <= 6
9   until
10    i > 5
11 loop
12   io.put_string ("iteration " + i.out + "%N")
13   i := i + 1
14 variant
15   6 - i
16 end
17 end
  
```

**L8:** Change to  $1 \leq i$  and  $i \leq 5$  for a **Loop Invariant Violation**.

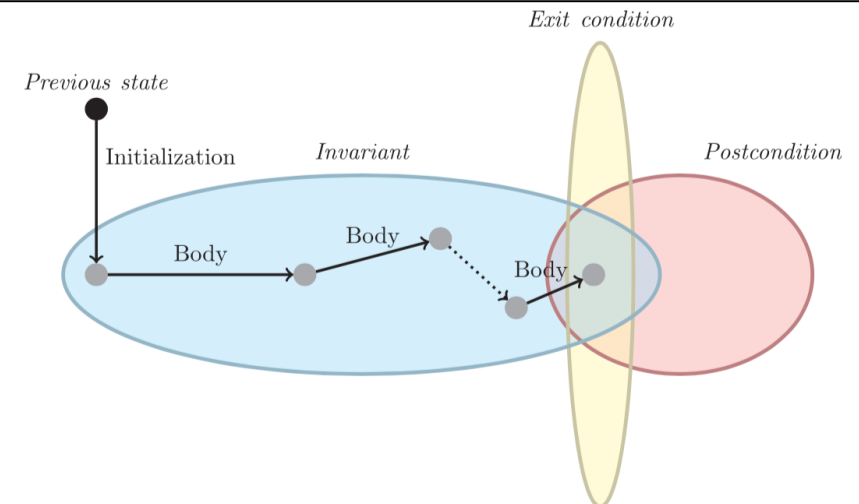
**L10:** Change to  $i > 0$  to bypass the body of loop.

**L15:** Change to  $5 - i$  for a **Loop Variant Violation**.

## Contracts for Loops: Runtime Checks (1)



## Contracts for Loops: Visualization



Digram Source: page 5 in *Loop Invariants: Analysis, Classification, and Examples*

## Contracts for Loops: Example 1.1



```

find_max (a: ARRAY [INTEGER]): INTEGER
local i: INTEGER
do
  from
    i := a.lower ; Result := a[i]
  invariant
    loop_invariant: --  $\forall j | a.lower \leq j \leq i \bullet Result \geq a[j]$ 
    across a.lower |..| i as j all Result >= a [j.item] end
  until
    i > a.upper
  loop
    if a [i] > Result then Result := a [i] end
    i := i + 1
  variant
    loop_variant: a.upper - i + 1
  end
ensure
  correct_result: --  $\forall j | a.lower \leq j \leq a.upper \bullet Result \geq a[j]$ 
  across a.lower |..| a.upper as j all Result >= a [j.item]
end
end
    
```

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## Contracts for Loops: Example 2.1



```

find_max (a: ARRAY [INTEGER]): INTEGER
local i: INTEGER
do
  from
    i := a.lower ; Result := a[i]
  invariant
    loop_invariant: --  $\forall j | a.lower \leq j < i \bullet Result \geq a[j]$ 
    across a.lower |..| (i - 1) as j all Result >= a [j.item] end
  until
    i > a.upper
  loop
    if a [i] > Result then Result := a [i] end
    i := i + 1
  variant
    loop_variant: a.upper - i
  end
ensure
  correct_result: --  $\forall j | a.lower \leq j \leq a.upper \bullet Result \geq a[j]$ 
  across a.lower |..| a.upper as j all Result >= a [j.item]
end
end
    
```

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## Contracts for Loops: Example 1.2



Consider the feature call `find_max(⟨⟨20, 10, 40, 30⟩⟩)`, given:

- **Loop Invariant:**  $\forall j | a.lower \leq j \leq i \bullet Result \geq a[j]$
- **Loop Variant:**  $a.upper - i + 1$

AFTER ITERATION	i	Result	LI	EXIT ( $i > a.upper$ )?	LV
Initialization	1	20	✓	×	–
1st	2	20	✓	×	3
2nd	<b>3</b>	20	×	–	–

**Loop invariant violation** at the end of the 2nd iteration:

$$\forall j | a.lower \leq j \leq \boxed{3} \bullet \boxed{20} \geq a[j]$$

evaluates to **false**  $\because 20 \not\geq a[3] = 40$

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## Contracts for Loops: Example 2.2



Consider the feature call `find_max(⟨⟨20, 10, 40, 30⟩⟩)`, given:

- **Loop Invariant:**  $\forall j | a.lower \leq j < i \bullet Result \geq a[j]$
- **Loop Variant:**  $a.upper - i$

AFTER ITERATION	i	Result	LI	EXIT ( $i > a.upper$ )?	LV
Initialization	1	20	✓	×	–
1st	2	20	✓	×	2
2nd	3	20	✓	×	1
3rd	4	40	✓	×	0
4th	5	40	✓	✓	<b>-1</b>

**Loop variant violation** at the end of the 2nd iteration

$\because a.upper - i = 4 - 5$  evaluates to **non-zero**.

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## Contracts for Loops: Example 3.1



```

find_max (a: ARRAY [INTEGER]): INTEGER
local i: INTEGER
do
  from
    i := a.lower ; Result := a[i]
  invariant
    loop_invariant: --  $\forall j | a.lower \leq j < i \bullet Result \geq a[j]$ 
    across a.lower |..| (i - 1) as j all Result >= a [j.item] end
  until
    i > a.upper
  loop
    if a [i] > Result then Result := a [i] end
    i := i + 1
  variant
    loop_variant: a.upper - i + 1
  end
ensure
  correct_result: --  $\forall j | a.lower \leq j \leq a.upper \bullet Result \geq a[j]$ 
  across a.lower |..| a.upper as j all Result >= a [j.item]
end
end
    
```

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## Contracts for Loops: Exercise



```

class DICTIONARY[V, K]
feature {NONE} -- Implementations
  values: ARRAY[K]
  keys: ARRAY[K]
feature -- Abstraction Function
  model: FUN[K, V]
feature -- Queries
  get_keys(v: V): ITERABLE[K]
  local i: INTEGER; ks: LINKED_LIST[K]
  do
    from i := keys.lower ; create ks.make_empty
  invariant ??
  until i > keys.upper
  do if values[i] ~ v then ks.extend(keys[i]) end
  end
  Result := ks.new_cursor
ensure
  result_valid:  $\forall k | k \in Result \bullet model.item(k) \sim v$ 
  no_missing_keys:  $\forall k | k \in model.domain \bullet model.item(k) \sim v \Rightarrow k \in Result$ 
end
    
```

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## Contracts for Loops: Example 3.2



Consider the feature call `find_max(⟨⟨20, 10, 40, 30⟩⟩)`, given:

- **Loop Invariant:**  $\forall j | a.lower \leq j < i \bullet Result \geq a[j]$
- **Loop Variant:**  $a.upper - i + 1$
- **Postcondition:**  $\forall j | a.lower \leq j \leq a.upper \bullet Result \geq a[j]$

AFTER ITERATION	i	Result	LI	EXIT ( $i > a.upper$ )?	LV
Initialization	1	20	✓	✗	—
1st	2	20	✓	✗	3
2nd	3	20	✓	✗	2
3rd	4	40	✓	✗	1
4th	5	40	✓	✓	0

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## Proving Correctness of Loops (1)



```

{Q}
  from
    S_init
  invariant
    I
  until
    B
  loop
    S_body
  variant
    V
  end {R}
    
```

- A loop is **partially correct** if:
  - Given precondition  $Q$ , the initialization step  $S_{init}$  establishes  $LI$ .
  - At the end of  $S_{body}$ , if not yet to exit,  $LI$  is maintained.
  - If ready to exit and  $LI$  maintained, postcondition  $R$  is established.
- A loop **terminates** if:
  - Given  $LI$ , and not yet to exit,  $S_{body}$  maintains  $LV$   $V$  as non-negative.
  - Given  $LI$ , and not yet to exit,  $S_{body}$  decrements  $LV$   $V$ .

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## Proving Correctness of Loops (2)



$\{Q\}$  from  $S_{init}$  invariant  $I$  until  $B$  loop  $S_{body}$  variant  $V$  end  $\{R\}$

o A loop is **partially correct** if:

- Given precondition  $Q$ , the initialization step  $S_{init}$  establishes  $LI$ .

$$\{Q\} S_{init} \{I\}$$

- At the end of  $S_{body}$ , if not yet to exit,  $LI$  is maintained.

$$\{I \wedge \neg B\} S_{body} \{I\}$$

- If ready to exit and  $LI$  maintained, postcondition  $R$  is established.

$$I \wedge B \Rightarrow R$$

o A loop **terminates** if:

- Given  $LI$ , and not yet to exit,  $S_{body}$  maintains  $LV$   $V$  as non-negative.

$$\{I \wedge \neg B\} S_{body} \{V \geq 0\}$$

- Given  $LI$ , and not yet to exit,  $S_{body}$  decrements  $LV$   $V$ .

$$\{I \wedge \neg B\} S_{body} \{V < V_0\}$$

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## Proving Correctness of Loops: Exercise (1.2)



Prove that each of the following **Hoare Triples** is TRUE.

1. Establishment of Loop Invariant:

```
{ True }
  i := a.lower
  Result := a[i]
  { (∀j | a.lower ≤ j < i • Result ≥ a[j]) }
```

2. Maintenance of Loop Invariant:

```
{ (∀j | a.lower ≤ j < i • Result ≥ a[j]) ∧ ¬(i > a.upper) }
  if a[i] > Result then Result := a[i] end
  i := i + 1
  { (∀j | a.lower ≤ j < i • Result ≥ a[j]) }
```

3. Establishment of Postcondition upon Termination:

$$(\forall j | a.lower \leq j < i \bullet Result \geq a[j]) \wedge i > a.upper \\ \Rightarrow \forall j | a.lower \leq j \leq a.upper \bullet Result \geq a[j]$$

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## Proving Correctness of Loops: Exercise (1.1)



Prove that the following program is correct:

```
find_max (a: ARRAY [INTEGER]): INTEGER
  local i: INTEGER
  do
    from
      i := a.lower ; Result := a[i]
    invariant
      loop_invariant: (∀j | a.lower ≤ j < i • Result ≥ a[j])
    until
      i > a.upper
    loop
      if a[i] > Result then Result := a[i] end
      i := i + 1
    variant
      loop_variant: a.upper - i + 1
    end
  ensure
    correct_result: (∀j | a.lower ≤ j ≤ a.upper • Result ≥ a[j])
  end
end
```

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## Proving Correctness of Loops: Exercise (1.3)



Prove that each of the following **Hoare Triples** is TRUE.

4. Loop Variant Stays Non-Negative Before Exit:

```
{ (∀j | a.lower ≤ j < i • Result ≥ a[j]) ∧ ¬(i > a.upper) }
  if a[i] > Result then Result := a[i] end
  i := i + 1
  { a.upper - i + 1 ≥ 0 }
```

5. Loop Variant Keeps Decrementing before Exit:

```
{ (∀j | a.lower ≤ j < i • Result ≥ a[j]) ∧ ¬(i > a.upper) }
  if a[i] > Result then Result := a[i] end
  i := i + 1
  { a.upper - i + 1 < (a.upper - i + 1)0 }
```

where  $(a.upper - i + 1)_0 \equiv a.upper_0 - i_0 + 1$

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## Proof Tips (1)



$$\{Q\} S \{R\} \Rightarrow \{Q \wedge P\} S \{R\}$$

In order to prove  $\{Q \wedge P\} S \{R\}$ , it is sufficient to prove a version with a **weaker** precondition:  $\{Q\} S \{R\}$ .

### Proof:

- Assume:  $\{Q\} S \{R\}$   
It's equivalent to assuming:  $\boxed{Q} \Rightarrow wp(s, R)$  **(A1)**
- To prove:  $\{Q \wedge P\} S \{R\}$ 
  - It's equivalent to proving:  $Q \wedge P \Rightarrow wp(s, R)$
  - Assume:  $Q \wedge P$ , which implies  $\boxed{Q}$
  - According to **(A1)**, we have  $wp(s, R)$ . ■

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## Proof Tips (2)



When calculating  $wp(s, R)$ , if either program  $s$  or postcondition  $R$  involves array indexing, then  $R$  should be augmented accordingly.

e.g., Before calculating  $wp(s, a[i] > 0)$ , augment it as

$$wp(s, a.lower \leq i \leq a.upper \wedge a[i] > 0)$$

e.g., Before calculating  $wp(x := a[i], R)$ , augment it as

$$wp(x := a[i], a.lower \leq i \leq a.upper \wedge R)$$

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