

## Introduction



EECS4315 Z:  
Mission-Critical Systems  
Winter 2025

CHEN-WEI WANG

## Learning Outcomes



This module is designed to help you understand:

- **Mission**-Critical Systems vs. **Safety**-Critical Systems
- **Code of Ethics** for Professional Engineers
- What a **Formal Method** Is
- **Verification** vs. **Validation**
- Catching **Defects**: When?
- **Model**-Based Development: EECS3342 vs. EECS4315

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## What is a Safety-Critical System (SCS)?



- A **safety-critical system (SCS)** is a system whose **failure** or **malfunction** has one (or more) of the following consequences:
  - death or serious injury to **people**
  - loss or severe damage to **equipment/property**
  - harm to the **environment**
- Based on the above definition, do you know of any systems that are **safety-critical**?

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## Professional Engineers: Code of Ethics



- **Code of Ethics** is a basic guide for **professional conduct** and imposes duties on practitioners, with respect to **society**, **employers**, **clients**, **colleagues** (including employees and subordinates), the **engineering profession** and him or herself.
- It is the duty of a practitioner to act at all times with,
  1. **fairness** and **loyalty** to the practitioner's associates, employers, clients, subordinates and employees;
  2. **fidelity** (i.e., dedication, faithfulness) to public needs;
  3. devotion to **high ideals** of personal honour and professional integrity;
  4. **knowledge** of developments in the area of professional engineering relevant to any services that are undertaken; and
  5. **competence** in the performance of any professional engineering services that are undertaken.
- Consequence of misconduct?
  - **suspension** or **termination** of professional licenses
  - civil **law suits**

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Source: PEO's Code of Ethics

## Developing Safety-Critical Systems



**Industrial standards** in various domains list **acceptance criteria** for **mission-** or **safety-**critical systems that practitioners need to comply with: e.g.,

**Aviation** Domain: **RTCA DO-178C** "Software Considerations in Airborne Systems and Equipment Certification"

**Nuclear** Domain: **IEEE 7-4.3.2** "Criteria for Digital Computers in Safety Systems of Nuclear Power Generating Stations"

Two important criteria are:

1. System **requirements** are precise and complete
2. System **implementation** conforms to the requirements

But how do we accomplish these criteria?

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## Safety-Critical vs. Mission-Critical?



- **Critical:**  
A task whose successful completion ensures the success of a larger, more complex operation.  
e.g., Success of a pacemaker  $\Rightarrow$  Regulated heartbeats of a patient
- **Safety:**  
Being free from danger/injury to or loss of human lives.
- **Mission:**  
An operation or task assigned by a higher authority.  
Q. Formally relate being **safety-**critical and **mission-**critical.  
A.
  - **safety-**critical  $\Rightarrow$  **mission-**critical
  - **mission-**critical  $\nRightarrow$  **safety-**critical
- Relevant industrial standard: **RTCA DO-178C** (replacing RTCA DO-178B in 2012) "Software Considerations in Airborne Systems and Equipment Certification"

Source: [Article from OpenSystems](#)

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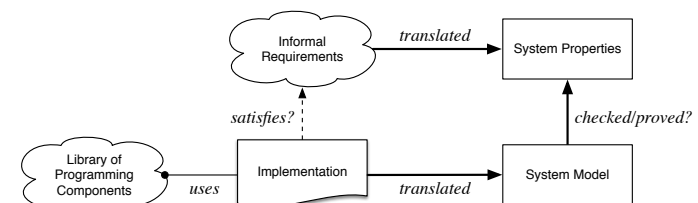
## Using Formal Methods for Certification



- A **formal method (FM)** is a **mathematically rigorous** technique for the specification, development, and verification of software and hardware systems.
- **DO-333** "Formal methods supplement to DO-178C and DO-278A" advocates the use of formal methods:  
The use of **formal methods** is motivated by the expectation that, as in other engineering disciplines, performing appropriate **mathematical analyses** can contribute to establishing the **correctness** and **robustness** of a design.
- FMs, because of their mathematical basis, are capable of:
  - **Unambiguously** describing software system requirements.
  - Enabling **precise** communication between engineers.
  - Providing **verification (towards certification) evidence** of:
    - A **formal** representation of the system being **healthy**.
    - A **formal** representation of the system **satisfying safety properties**.

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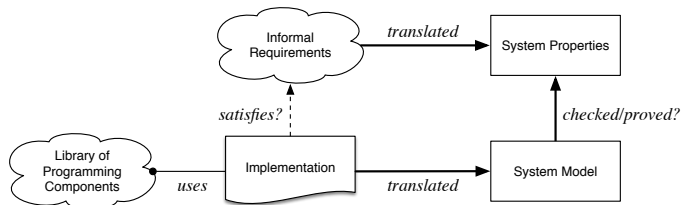
## Verification: Building the Product Right?



- **Implementation** built via **reusable programming components**.
- **Goal:** **Implementation Satisfies Intended Requirements**
- To verify this, we **formalize** them as a **system model** and a set of (e.g., safety) **properties**, using the specification language of a theorem prover (EECS3342) or a model checker (EECS4315).
- Two Verification Issues:
  1. Library components may **not behave as intended**.
  2. Successful checks/proofs ensure that we **built the product right**, with respect to the informal requirements. **But...**

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## Validation: Building the Right Product?



- Successful checks/proofs  $\nRightarrow$  We **built the right product**.
- The target of our checks/proofs may not be valid:  
The requirements may be **ambiguous**, **incomplete**, or **contradictory**.
- Solution: **Precise Documentation** [EECS4312]

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## Model-Based Development in EECS3342



- Modelling** and **formal reasoning** should be performed **before** implementing/coding a system.
  - A system's **model** is its **abstraction**, filtering irrelevant details.  
A system **model** means as much to a software engineer as a **blueprint** means to an architect.
  - A system may have a list of **models**, "sorted" by **accuracy**:  

$$\langle m_0, m_1, \dots, m_i, m_j, \dots, m_n \rangle$$
    - The list starts by the most **abstract** model with least details.
    - A more **abstract** model  $m_i$  is said to be **refined by** its subsequent, more **concrete** model  $m_j$ .
    - The list ends with the most **concrete/refined** model with most details.
  - It is far easier to reason about:
    - a system's **abstract** models (rather than its full **implementation**)
    - refinement** **steps** between subsequent models
- The final product is **correct by construction**.

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## Catching Defects – When?



- To minimize **development costs**, minimize **software defects**.
- Software Development Cycle:  
Requirements  $\rightarrow$  **Design**  $\rightarrow$  **Implementation**  $\rightarrow$  Release
- Q.** Design or Implementation Phase?  
Catch defects **as early as possible**.

Design and architecture	Implementation	Integration testing	Customer beta test	Postproduct release
1X*	5X	10X	15X	30X

- $\therefore$  The cost of fixing defects **increases exponentially** as software progresses through the development lifecycle.
- Discovering **defects** after **release** costs up to 30 times more than catching them in the **design** phase.
- Choice of a **design language**, amendable to **formal verification**, is therefore critical for your project.

Source: IBM Report

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## Model-Based Development in EECS4315



- Modelling** and **formal reasoning** should be performed **before** implementing/coding a system.
  - A system's **model** is its **abstraction**, filtering irrelevant details.  
A system **model** means as much to a software engineer as a **blueprint** means to an architect.
  - A design **model**  $m$  specified at the "right" level of **abstraction**:  
**State space not** causing a **state explosion**.
    - $m$  is checked against **invariant** and **temporal** properties.
    - $m$  may be added with more details (e.g., variables) to result in a more "refined" model  $m'$ .
    - $m'$  is **consistent** with (or "refines")  $m$  as long as:
      - No combinatorial explosion** from variable ranges
      - All** properties that  $m$  passes also pass in  $m'$ .

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## TLA+: An Industrial Strength Toolbox



From <https://lamport.azurewebsites.net/tla/tla.html>:

**TLA+** (**Temporal Logic of Actions**) is a **high-level language** for modeling programs and systems—especially concurrent and distributed ones. It's based on the idea that the best way to describe things precisely is with **simple mathematics**.

TLA+ and its tools are useful for eliminating fundamental **design errors**, which are hard to find and expensive to correct in code.

TLA+ is a language for modeling **software** above the code level and **hardware** above the circuit level.

It has an **IDE** (Integrated Development Environment) for writing models and running tools to check them. The tool most commonly used by engineers is the **TLC model checker**, but there is also a proof checker.

TLA+ is based on mathematics and does not resemble any programming language. Most engineers will find **PlusCal**, described below, to be the easiest way to start using TLA+.

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## Beyond this lecture ...



- The **TLA+ toolbox** has been report about its use in industry: <https://lamport.azurewebsites.net/tla/industrial-use.html>
- Two papers have been made available on eClass:
  - Newcombe, C. **Why Amazon Chose TLA+**. In *Abstract State Machines, Alloy, B, TLA, VDM, and Z*, pp 25 – 39. Springer (2014).
  - Newcombe, C., Rath, T., Zhang, F., Munteanu, B., Brooker, M., Deardeuff, M. **How Amazon Web Services Uses Formal Methods**. In *Communications of the ACM*, 58(4), pp 66 – 73. ACM (2015).
- You're encouraged to read them first: we will guide you through some highlights later in the course (after you've gained experience on the TLA+ toolbox).

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## Index (1)



### Learning Outcomes

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Safety-Critical vs. Mission-Critical?

Using Formal Methods to for Certification

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Validation: Building the Right Product?

Catching Defects – When?

Model-Based Development in EECS3342

Model-Based Development in EECS4315

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TLA+: An Industrial Strength Toolbox

Beyond this lecture ...

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## Review of Math



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## Learning Outcomes of this Lecture



This module is designed to help you review:

- Propositional Logic
- Predicate Logic

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## Propositional Logic (1)



- A **proposition** is a statement of claim that must be of either **true** or **false**, but not both.
- Basic logical operands are of type Boolean: **true** and **false**.
- We use logical operators to construct compound statements.
  - Unary logical operator: negation ( $\neg$ )

$p$	$\neg p$
true	false
false	true

- Binary logical operators: conjunction ( $\wedge$ ), disjunction ( $\vee$ ), implication ( $\Rightarrow$ ), equivalence ( $\equiv$ ), and if-and-only-if ( $\Leftrightarrow$ ).

$p$	$q$	$p \wedge q$	$p \vee q$	$p \Rightarrow q$	$p \Leftrightarrow q$	$p \equiv q$
true	true	true	true	true	true	true
true	false	false	true	false	false	false
false	true	false	true	true	false	false
false	false	false	false	true	true	true

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## Propositional Logic: Implication (1)



- Written as  $p \Rightarrow q$  [pronounced as “p implies q”]
  - We call  $p$  the antecedent, assumption, or premise.
  - We call  $q$  the consequence or conclusion.
- Compare the **truth** of  $p \Rightarrow q$  to whether a contract is **honoured**:
  - antecedent/assumption/premise  $p \approx$  promised terms [e.g., salary]
  - consequence/conclusion  $q \approx$  obligations [e.g., duties]
- When the promised terms are met, then the contract is:
  - **honoured** if the obligations fulfilled. [  $(true \Rightarrow true) \Leftrightarrow true$  ]
  - **breached** if the obligations violated. [  $(true \Rightarrow false) \Leftrightarrow false$  ]
- When the promised terms are not met, then:
  - Fulfilling the obligation ( $q$ ) or not ( $\neg q$ ) does **not breach** the contract.

$p$	$q$	$p \Rightarrow q$
false	true	true
false	false	true

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## Propositional Logic: Implication (2)



There are alternative, equivalent ways to expressing  $p \Rightarrow q$ :

- **$q$  if  $p$**   
 $q$  is *true* if  $p$  is *true*
- **$p$  only if  $q$**   
 If  $p$  is *true*, then for  $p \Rightarrow q$  to be *true*, it can only be that  $q$  is also *true*.  
 Otherwise, if  $p$  is *true* but  $q$  is *false*, then  $(\text{true} \Rightarrow \text{false}) \equiv \text{false}$ .
- Note.** To prove  $p \equiv q$ , prove  $p \iff q$  (pronounced: "p if and only if q"):  
  - **$p$  if  $q$**  [ $p \leftarrow q \equiv q \Rightarrow p$ ]
  - **$p$  only if  $q$**  [ $p \Rightarrow q$ ]
- $p$  is **sufficient** for  $q$  [similar to  $q$  if  $p$ ]  
 For  $q$  to be *true*, it is sufficient to have  $p$  being *true*.
- $q$  is **necessary** for  $p$  [similar to  $p$  only if  $q$ ]  
 If  $p$  is *true*, then it is necessarily the case that  $q$  is also *true*.  
 Otherwise, if  $p$  is *true* but  $q$  is *false*, then  $(\text{true} \Rightarrow \text{false}) \equiv \text{false}$ .
- $q$  **unless**  $\neg p$  [When is  $p \Rightarrow q$  *true*?]  
 If  $q$  is *true*, then  $p \Rightarrow q$  *true* regardless of  $p$ .  
 If  $q$  is *false*, then  $p \Rightarrow q$  cannot be *true* unless  $p$  is *false*.

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## Propositional Logic: Implication (3)



Given an implication  $p \Rightarrow q$ , we may construct its:

- **Inverse:**  $\neg p \Rightarrow \neg q$  [negate antecedent and consequence]
- **Converse:**  $q \Rightarrow p$  [swap antecedent and consequence]
- **Contrapositive:**  $\neg q \Rightarrow \neg p$  [inverse of converse]

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## Propositional Logic (2)



- **Axiom:** Definition of  $\Rightarrow$

$$p \Rightarrow q \equiv \neg p \vee q$$

- **Theorem:** Identity of  $\Rightarrow$

$$\text{true} \Rightarrow p \equiv p$$

- **Theorem:** Zero of  $\Rightarrow$

$$\text{false} \Rightarrow p \equiv \text{true}$$

- **Axiom:** De Morgan

$$\neg(p \wedge q) \equiv \neg p \vee \neg q$$

$$\neg(p \vee q) \equiv \neg p \wedge \neg q$$

- **Axiom:** Double Negation

$$p \equiv \neg(\neg p)$$

- **Theorem:** Contrapositive

$$p \Rightarrow q \equiv \neg q \Rightarrow \neg p$$

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## Predicate Logic (1)



- A **predicate** is a **universal** or **existential** statement about objects in some universe of discourse.
- Unlike propositions, predicates are typically specified using **variables**, each of which declared with some **range** of values.
- We use the following symbols for common numerical ranges:
  - $\mathbb{Z}$ : the set of integers [ $-\infty, \dots, -1, 0, 1, \dots, +\infty$ ]
  - $\mathbb{N}$ : the set of natural numbers [ $0, 1, \dots, +\infty$ ]
- Variable(s) in a predicate may be **quantified**:
  - **Universal quantification**:  
**All** values that a variable may take satisfy certain property.  
 e.g., Given that  $i$  is a natural number,  $i$  is **always** non-negative.
  - **Existential quantification**:  
**Some** value that a variable may take satisfies certain property.  
 e.g., Given that  $i$  is an integer,  $i$  **can be** negative.

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## Predicate Logic (2.1): Universal Q. ( $\forall$ )

- A **universal quantification** has the form  $(\forall X \bullet R \Rightarrow P)$ 
  - $X$  is a comma-separated list of variable names
  - $R$  is a **constraint on types/ranges** of the listed variables
  - $P$  is a **property** to be satisfied
- For all** (combinations of) values of variables listed in  $X$  that satisfies  $R$ , it is the case that  $P$  is satisfied.
  - $\forall i \bullet i \in \mathbb{N} \Rightarrow i \geq 0$  [true]
  - $\forall i \bullet i \in \mathbb{Z} \Rightarrow i \geq 0$  [false]
  - $\forall i, j \bullet i \in \mathbb{Z} \wedge j \in \mathbb{Z} \Rightarrow i < j \vee i > j$  [false]
- Proof Strategies**
  - How to prove  $(\forall X \bullet R \Rightarrow P)$  **true**?
    - Hint.** When is  $R \Rightarrow P$  **true**? [true  $\Rightarrow$  true, false  $\Rightarrow$  -]
    - Show that for all instances of  $x \in X$  s.t.  $R(x)$ ,  $P(x)$  holds.
    - Show that for all instances of  $x \in X$  it is the case  $\neg R(x)$ .
  - How to prove  $(\forall X \bullet R \Rightarrow P)$  **false**?
    - Hint.** When is  $R \Rightarrow P$  **false**? [true  $\Rightarrow$  false]
    - Give a **witness/counterexample** of  $x \in X$  s.t.  $R(x)$ ,  $\neg P(x)$  holds.

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## Predicate Logic (3): Exercises

- Prove or disprove:  $\forall x \bullet (x \in \mathbb{Z} \wedge 1 \leq x \leq 10) \Rightarrow x > 0$ .  
All 10 integers between 1 and 10 are greater than 0.
- Prove or disprove:  $\forall x \bullet (x \in \mathbb{Z} \wedge 1 \leq x \leq 10) \Rightarrow x > 1$ .  
Integer 1 (a witness/counterexample) in the range between 1 and 10 is **not** greater than 1.
- Prove or disprove:  $\exists x \bullet (x \in \mathbb{Z} \wedge 1 \leq x \leq 10) \wedge x > 1$ .  
Integer 2 (a witness) in the range between 1 and 10 is greater than 1.
- Prove or disprove that  $\exists x \bullet (x \in \mathbb{Z} \wedge 1 \leq x \leq 10) \wedge x > 10$ ?  
All integers in the range between 1 and 10 are **not** greater than 10.

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## Predicate Logic (2.2): Existential Q. ( $\exists$ )

- An **existential quantification** has the form  $(\exists X \bullet R \wedge P)$ 
  - $X$  is a comma-separated list of variable names
  - $R$  is a **constraint on types/ranges** of the listed variables
  - $P$  is a **property** to be satisfied
- There exist** (a combination of) values of variables listed in  $X$  that satisfy both  $R$  and  $P$ .
  - $\exists i \bullet i \in \mathbb{N} \wedge i \geq 0$  [true]
  - $\exists i \bullet i \in \mathbb{Z} \wedge i \geq 0$  [true]
  - $\exists i, j \bullet i \in \mathbb{Z} \wedge j \in \mathbb{Z} \wedge (i < j \vee i > j)$  [true]
- Proof Strategies**
  - How to prove  $(\exists X \bullet R \wedge P)$  **true**?
    - Hint.** When is  $R \wedge P$  **true**? [true  $\wedge$  true]
    - Give a **witness** of  $x \in X$  s.t.  $R(x)$ ,  $P(x)$  holds.
  - How to prove  $(\exists X \bullet R \wedge P)$  **false**?
    - Hint.** When is  $R \wedge P$  **false**? [true  $\wedge$  false, false  $\wedge$  -]
    - Show that for all instances of  $x \in X$  s.t.  $R(x)$ ,  $\neg P(x)$  holds.
    - Show that for all instances of  $x \in X$  it is the case  $\neg R(x)$ .

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## Predicate Logic (4): Switching Quantifications

Conversions between  $\forall$  and  $\exists$ :

$$(\forall X \bullet R \Rightarrow P) \iff \neg(\exists X \bullet R \wedge \neg P)$$

$$(\exists X \bullet R \wedge P) \iff \neg(\forall X \bullet R \Rightarrow \neg P)$$

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Learning Outcomes of this Lecture

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Propositional Logic: Implication (1)

Propositional Logic: Implication (2)

Propositional Logic: Implication (3)

Propositional Logic (2)

Predicate Logic (1)

Predicate Logic (2.1): Universal Q. ( $\forall$ )

Predicate Logic (2.2): Existential Q. ( $\exists$ )

Predicate Logic (3): Exercises

Predicate Logic (4): Switching Quantifications

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## Verification by Model Checking



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## Motivation for Formal Verification

- **Safety-Critical Systems**  
e.g., shutdown system of a nuclear power plant
- **Mission-Critical Systems**  
e.g., mass-produced computer chips
- **Formal verification** of the **correctness** of critical systems can prevent loss of fortune or even lives.
- Formal verification consists of:
  1. **Systems:**  
Need a **specification** language for modelling abstractions.
  2. **Properties:** Need a **specification** language for expressing (e.g., safety, temporal) concerns.
  3. **Verification:** Need a **systematic method** for establishing that a system satisfies the desired properties.
- The **earlier** errors are caught in the course of system development, the **cheaper** it is to rectify.
  - e.g., Much cheaper to catch an error in the design phase than recalling defected products after release.

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## Example of Formal Verification



Pentium FDIV bug: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentium\\_FDIV\\_bug](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentium_FDIV_bug)

The Pentium FDIV bug is a hardware bug affecting the **floating-point unit (FPU)** of the early Intel Pentium processors. Because of the bug, the processor would return **incorrect** binary floating point results when dividing certain pairs of high-precision numbers.

In December 1994, Intel **recalled** the defective processors ... In its 1994 annual report, Intel said it incurred "**a \$475 million pre-tax charge** ... to recover replacement and write-off of these microprocessors."

In the aftermath of the **bug** and subsequent **recall**, there was a marked **increase in the use of formal verification** of hardware floating point operations across the **semiconductor industry**. Prompted by the discovery of the bug, a technique ... called "**word-level model checking**" was developed in 1996. Intel went on to use **formal verification** extensively in the development of later CPU architectures. In the development of the Pentium 4, symbolic trajectory evaluation and **theorem proving** were used to **find a number of bugs that could have led to a similar recall incident** had they gone undetected.

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## Classification of Verification Methods

- **Degree of Automation:** Automatic, Interactive, or Manual
- **ModelCheck-based vs. Proof-based**
  - **Proof-based:**
    - The **system** (abstractly) described as a set of formulas  $\Gamma$
    - **Properties** specified as a set of formulas  $\phi$
    - **Prove** (automatically or interactively) that  $\Gamma \vdash \phi$  [undecidable]  
i.e.,  $\Gamma$  can be derived to  $\phi$  (via **inference rules**).
  - **Check-based:**
    - The **system** (abstractly) described as a **finite** model  $M$
    - **Properties** specified as a set of formulas  $\phi$
    - **Decide** (automatically) that  $M \models \phi$  [decidable, algorithmic]  
i.e., Traversing  $M$ 's **state/reachability graph** decides if  $\phi$  is satisfied.
- **Domain of Application**
  - Hardware vs. Software
  - Sequential vs. Concurrent
  - Reactive (e.g., bridge controller) vs. Terminating (e.g., sorting alg.)
- **Pre-development vs. Post-development**

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## Model Checking: Temporal Logic

- **System**
  - A system model  $M$  is a **labeled transition system (LTS)** with a (large) number of states and transitions between states.
  - A **model** of an actual physical system **abstracts away** details that are irrelevant to the **properties** to be checked.
- **Properties**
  - **Temporal logic (TL)** incorporates the notion of **timing**.
  - A TL formula  $\phi$  is **not** statically true or false.
  - Instead, the truth of a TL formula  $\phi$  depends on where the SUV **dynamically** evolves into (by following transitions).
- **Verification**
  - A computer program, called a **model checker**, takes as inputs  $M$  and  $\phi$ , and **decides** if  $M \models \phi$ 
    - **Yes**  $\Rightarrow$  All **reachable** states of  $M$  satisfy  $\phi$ .
    - **No**  $\Rightarrow$  An **error trace**, leading to a state satisfying  $\neg\phi$ , is generated. This facilitates debugging through reproducing a problematic scenario.
    - **Unknown**  $\Rightarrow$  The checker runs out of memory due to **state explosion**.

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## Verification via Model Checking

- Automatic, Check-based
- Intended for **reactive, concurrent** systems
  - **Reactivity:**  
**Continuous** reaction to stimuli from the environment  
e.g., communication protocols, operating systems, embedded systems, etc.
  - **Concurrency:**  
**Simultaneous** execution of (independent or inter-dependent) system units, each of which evolving its own states
- **Testing** of concurrent, reactive systems is hard:
  - Many scenarios are **non-reproducible**.
  - Hard to **systematically** cover all important interactions
  - E. W. Dijkstra: **Program testing can be used to show the presence of bugs, but never to show their absence!**
- Originated as a **post**-development method
- But should be used as **pre**-development method to save cost

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## Linear-Time Temporal Logic (LTL)

- **LTL (Linear-time Temporal Logic)** has connectives/operators which allow us to refer to the **future**.
- Two features of **LTL**:
  - **(Computation) Path:**  
**Time** is modelled as an **infinite** sequence of states.
  - **Undetermined Future:**  
**Alternative** paths exist, one of which being the “actual” path.

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## LTL: Syntax in CFG (1)



$\phi ::=$	$\top$	[ true ]
	$\perp$	[ false ]
	$p$	[ propositional atom ]
	$(\neg\phi)$	[ logical negation ]
	$(\phi \wedge \phi)$	[ logical conjunction ]
	$(\phi \vee \phi)$	[ logical disjunction ]
	$(\phi \Rightarrow \phi)$	[ logical implication ]
	$(X\phi)$	[ neXt state ]
	$(F\phi)$	[ some FUTURE state ]
	$(G\phi)$	[ all future states (GLOBally) ]
	$(\phi U \phi)$	[ U ntil ]
	$(\phi W \phi)$	[ Weak-until ]
	$(\phi R \phi)$	[ Release ]

$p$  denotes **atomic**, propositional statements

e.g., Printer 1tr2 is available.

e.g., Reading of sensor s3 exceeds some threshold.

e.g., The sudoku board is filled out with a correct solution.

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## LTL: Syntax in CFG (3)



$\phi ::=$	$\top$	[ true ]
	$\perp$	[ false ]
	$p$	[ propositional atom ]
	$(\neg\phi)$	[ logical negation ]
	$(\phi \wedge \phi)$	[ logical conjunction ]
	$(\phi \vee \phi)$	[ logical disjunction ]
	$(\phi \Rightarrow \phi)$	[ logical implication ]
	$(X\phi)$	[ neXt state ]
	$(F\phi)$	[ some FUTURE state ]
	$(G\phi)$	[ all future states (GLOBally) ]
	$(\phi U \phi)$	[ U ntil ]
	$(\phi W \phi)$	[ Weak-until ]
	$(\phi R \phi)$	[ Release ]

• **Temporal** connectives bind **tighter** than **logical** ones.

• **Unary temporal** connectives bind **tighter** than **binary** ones.

◦ Use parentheses to force the intended order of evaluation.

◦ Use a **parse tree**, a **LMD**, or a **RMD** to verify the order of evaluation.

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## LTL: Syntax in CFG (2)



$\phi ::=$	$\top$	[ true ]
	$\perp$	[ false ]
	$p$	[ propositional atom ]
	$(\neg\phi)$	[ logical negation ]
	$(\phi \wedge \phi)$	[ logical conjunction ]
	$(\phi \vee \phi)$	[ logical disjunction ]
	$(\phi \Rightarrow \phi)$	[ logical implication ]
	$(X\phi)$	[ neXt state ]
	$(F\phi)$	[ some FUTURE state ]
	$(G\phi)$	[ all future states (GLOBally) ]
	$(\phi U \phi)$	[ U ntil ]
	$(\phi W \phi)$	[ Weak-until ]
	$(\phi R \phi)$	[ Release ]

$\forall$  and  $\exists$  are embedded in defining the **temporal** connectives.

Universe of discourse: Set of alternative (computation) **paths**

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## LTL: Symbols of Unary Temporal Operators



Temporal Connective	Letter	Symbol
Next	<b>X</b>	$\bigcirc$
Future/Eventually	<b>F</b>	$\diamond$
Global/Henceforth	<b>G</b>	$\square$

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## Practical Knowledge about Parsing



- A **context-free grammar (CFG)**  $g$ 
  - defines, **recursively**, **all** (typically an **infinite** number of) possible strings that can be **derived** from it.
  - contains both **terminals/tokens** (base cases) and **non-terminals/variables** (recursive cases)
- Given an input string  $s$ , to show that  $s \in L(g)$ , we can either:
  - **Draw** a **parse tree (PT)** of  $s$ , based on  $g$ , where:
    - All **internal nodes** (i.e., roots of subtrees) are  $\phi$  (non-terminals).
    - All **external nodes** (a.k.a. leaves) are characters of  $s$ .
  - **Perform** a **left-most derivation (LMD)**, by starting with  $\phi$  (the **start variable**) and continuing to substitute the **leftmost** non-terminal, until **no** non-terminals remain.
  - **Perform** a **right-most derivation (RMD)**, by starting with  $\phi$  (the **start variable**) and continuing to substitute the **rightmost** non-terminal, until **no** non-terminals remain.
- PTs, LMDs, and RMDs are legitimate, and equivalent, ways for showing **interpretations** of a valid LTL formula string.

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## LTL Formulas: More Exercises



Draw the **parser trees** for:

$$(F(p \Rightarrow Gr) \vee ((\neg q)Up))$$

$$\text{vs. } Fp \Rightarrow Gr \vee \neg qUp$$

$$\text{vs. } F((p \Rightarrow Gr) \vee (\neg qUp))$$

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## LTL: Exercises on Parsing Formulas



- Draw and compare the **parse trees** of:
 
$$F p \wedge G q \Rightarrow pUr$$

$$\text{vs. } F(p \wedge G q \Rightarrow pUr)$$

$$\text{vs. } F p \wedge (G q \Rightarrow pUr)$$

$$\text{vs. } F p \wedge ((G q \Rightarrow p)Ur)$$
- The above formulas are all **derivable** from the grammar of LTL.
  - Show using the **LMD** (Left-Most Derivations)
  - Show using the **RMD** (Right-Most Derivations)

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## LTL Formulas: Subformulas



Given an LTL formula  $\phi$ , its **subformulas** are all those whose **parse trees (rooted at  $\phi$ )** are **subtrees** of  $\phi$ 's parse tree.

e.g., Enumerate all subformula of  $(F(p \Rightarrow Gr) \vee ((\neg q)Up))$ .

1.  $p$
  2.  $r$
  3.  $Gr$
  4.  $p \Rightarrow (Gr)$
  5.  $F(p \Rightarrow (Gr))$
  6.  $q$
  7.  $\neg q$
  8.  $p$
  9.  $(\neg q)Up$
  10.  $(F(p \Rightarrow Gr) \vee ((\neg q)Up))$
- [ appearing twice in the parse tree ]

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## LTL Semantics: Labelled Transition Systems (LTS)

- **Definition.** Given that  $P$  is a set of atoms/propositions of concern, a **transition system**  $\mathbb{M}$  is a **formal model** represented as a triple  $\mathbb{M} = (S, \longrightarrow, L)$ :
  - $S$   
A **finite** set of **states**
  - $\longrightarrow: S \leftrightarrow S$   
A **transition relation** on  $S$
  - $L: S \rightarrow \mathbb{P}(P)$   
A **labelling function** mapping each state to its satisfying atoms

**Assumption.** No state of the system can **deadlock**:

From any state, it's always possible to make progress (by taking a transition).

$$\forall s \bullet s \in S \Rightarrow (\exists s' \bullet s' \in S \wedge (s, s') \in \longrightarrow)$$

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## Background for Self-Study

- Topics of **sets** and **relations** were covered in EECS3342.
- Slide 18 to Slide 28 contain what you should recall.

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## Set of Tuples

Given  $n$  sets  $S_1, S_2, \dots, S_n$ , a **cross/Cartesian product** of these sets is a set of  $n$ -tuples.

Each  **$n$ -tuple**  $(e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n)$  contains  $n$  elements, each of which a member of the corresponding set.

$$S_1 \times S_2 \times \dots \times S_n = \{(e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n) \mid e_i \in S_i \wedge 1 \leq i \leq n\}$$

e.g.,  $\{a, b\} \times \{2, 4\} \times \{\$, \&\}$  is a set of triples:

$$\begin{aligned} & \{a, b\} \times \{2, 4\} \times \{\$, \&\} \\ = & \{ (e_1, e_2, e_3) \mid e_1 \in \{a, b\} \wedge e_2 \in \{2, 4\} \wedge e_3 \in \{\$, \&\} \} \\ = & \left\{ \begin{array}{l} (a, 2, \$), (a, 2, \&), (a, 4, \$), (a, 4, \&), \\ (b, 2, \$), (b, 2, \&), (b, 4, \$), (b, 4, \&) \end{array} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

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## Relations (1): Constructing a Relation

A **relation** is a set of mappings, each being an **ordered pair** that maps a member of set  $S$  to a member of set  $T$ .

e.g., Say  $S = \{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $T = \{a, b\}$

- $\emptyset$  is the **minimum** relation (i.e., an empty relation).
- $S \times T$  is the **maximum** relation (say  $r_1$ ) between  $S$  and  $T$ , mapping from each member of  $S$  to each member in  $T$ :

$$\{(1, a), (1, b), (2, a), (2, b), (3, a), (3, b)\}$$

- $\{(x, y) \mid (x, y) \in S \times T \wedge x \neq 1\}$  is a relation (say  $r_2$ ) that maps only some members in  $S$  to every member in  $T$ :

$$\{(2, a), (2, b), (3, a), (3, b)\}$$

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## Relations (2.1): Set of Possible Relations



- We use the **power set** operator to express the set of **all possible relations** on  $S$  and  $T$ :

$$\mathbb{P}(S \times T)$$

Each member in  $\mathbb{P}(S \times T)$  is a relation.

- To declare a relation variable  $r$ , we use the colon ( $:$ ) symbol to mean **set membership**:

$$r : \mathbb{P}(S \times T)$$

- Or alternatively, we write:

$$r : S \leftrightarrow T$$

where the set  $S \leftrightarrow T$  is synonymous to the set  $\mathbb{P}(S \times T)$

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## Relations (2.2): Exercise



Enumerate  $\{a, b\} \leftrightarrow \{1, 2, 3\}$ .

### Hints:

- You may enumerate all relations in  $\mathbb{P}(\{a, b\} \times \{1, 2, 3\})$  via their **cardinalities**:  $0, 1, \dots, |\{a, b\} \times \{1, 2, 3\}|$ .
- What's the **maximum** relation in  $\mathbb{P}(\{a, b\} \times \{1, 2, 3\})$ ?

$$\{(a, 1), (a, 2), (a, 3), (b, 1), (b, 2), (b, 3)\}$$

- The answer is a set containing **all** of the following relations:

- Relation with cardinality 0:  $\emptyset$
- How many relations with cardinality 1?  $\left[ \binom{|\{a, b\} \times \{1, 2, 3\}|}{1} \right] = 6$
- How many relations with cardinality 2?  $\left[ \binom{|\{a, b\} \times \{1, 2, 3\}|}{2} \right] = \frac{6 \times 5}{2!} = 15$

...

- Relation with cardinality  $|\{a, b\} \times \{1, 2, 3\}|$ :

$$\{(a, 1), (a, 2), (a, 3), (b, 1), (b, 2), (b, 3)\}$$

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## Relations (3.1): Domain, Range, Inverse



Given a relation

$$r = \{(a, 1), (b, 2), (c, 3), (a, 4), (b, 5), (c, 6), (d, 1), (e, 2), (f, 3)\}$$

- domain** of  $r$ : set of first-elements from  $r$ 
  - Definition:  $\text{dom}(r) = \{d \mid (d, r') \in r\}$
  - e.g.,  $\text{dom}(r) = \{a, b, c, d, e, f\}$
- range** of  $r$ : set of second-elements from  $r$ 
  - Definition:  $\text{ran}(r) = \{r' \mid (d, r') \in r\}$
  - e.g.,  $\text{ran}(r) = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$
- inverse** of  $r$ : a relation like  $r$  with elements swapped
  - Definition:  $r^{-1} = \{(r', d) \mid (d, r') \in r\}$
  - e.g.,  $r^{-1} = \{(1, a), (2, b), (3, c), (4, a), (5, b), (6, c), (1, d), (2, e), (3, f)\}$

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## Relations (3.2): Image



Given a relation

$$r = \{(a, 1), (b, 2), (c, 3), (a, 4), (b, 5), (c, 6), (d, 1), (e, 2), (f, 3)\}$$

**relational image** of  $r$  over set  $s$ : sub-range of  $r$  mapped by  $s$ .

- Definition:  $r[s] = \{r' \mid (d, r') \in r \wedge d \in s\}$
- e.g.,  $r[\{a, b\}] = \{1, 2, 4, 5\}$

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## Relations (3.3): Restrictions



Given a relation

$$r = \{(a, 1), (b, 2), (c, 3), (a, 4), (b, 5), (c, 6), (d, 1), (e, 2), (f, 3)\}$$

- **domain restriction** of  $r$  over set  $ds$ : sub-relation of  $r$  with domain  $ds$ .
  - Definition:  $ds \triangleleft r = \{(d, r') \mid (d, r') \in r \wedge d \in ds\}$
  - e.g.,  $\{a, b\} \triangleleft r = \{(a, 1), (b, 2), (a, 4), (b, 5)\}$
- **range restriction** of  $r$  over set  $rs$ : sub-relation of  $r$  with range  $rs$ .
  - Definition:  $r \triangleright rs = \{(d, r') \mid (d, r') \in r \wedge r' \in rs\}$
  - e.g.,  $r \triangleright \{1, 2\} = \{(a, 1), (b, 2), (d, 1), (e, 2)\}$

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## Relations (3.4): Subtractions



Given a relation

$$r = \{(a, 1), (b, 2), (c, 3), (a, 4), (b, 5), (c, 6), (d, 1), (e, 2), (f, 3)\}$$

- **domain subtraction** of  $r$  over set  $ds$ : sub-relation of  $r$  with domain not  $ds$ .
  - Definition:  $ds \triangleleft r = \{(d, r') \mid (d, r') \in r \wedge d \notin ds\}$
  - e.g.,  $\{a, b\} \triangleleft r = \{(c, 3), (c, 6), (d, 1), (e, 2), (f, 3)\}$
- **range subtraction** of  $r$  over set  $rs$ : sub-relation of  $r$  with range not  $rs$ .
  - Definition:  $r \triangleright rs = \{(d, r') \mid (d, r') \in r \wedge r' \notin rs\}$
  - e.g.,  $r \triangleright \{1, 2\} = \{(c, 3), (a, 4), (b, 5), (c, 6), (f, 3)\}$

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## Functions (1): Functional Property



- A **relation**  $r$  on sets  $S$  and  $T$  (i.e.,  $r \in S \leftrightarrow T$ ) is also a **function** if it satisfies the **functional property**:  

$$\text{isFunction}(r)$$

$\iff$

$$\forall s, t_1, t_2 \bullet (s \in S \wedge t_1 \in T \wedge t_2 \in T) \Rightarrow ((s, t_1) \in r \wedge (s, t_2) \in r \Rightarrow t_1 = t_2)$$

- That is, in a **function**, it is forbidden for a member of  $S$  to map to more than one members of  $T$ .
- Equivalently, in a **function**, two distinct members of  $T$  cannot be mapped by the same member of  $S$ .
- e.g., Say  $S = \{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $T = \{a, b\}$ , which of the following **relations** satisfy the above **functional property**?
  - $S \times T$  [ No ]  
 $\text{Witness 1: } (1, a), (1, b); \text{Witness 2: } (2, a), (2, b); \text{Witness 3: } (3, a), (3, b).$
  - $(S \times T) \setminus \{(x, y) \mid (x, y) \in S \times T \wedge x = 1\}$  [ No ]  
 $\text{Witness 1: } (2, a), (2, b); \text{Witness 2: } (3, a), (3, b)$
  - $\{(1, a), (2, b), (3, a)\}$  [ Yes ]
  - $\{(1, a), (2, b)\}$  [ Yes ]

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## Functions (2.1): Total vs. Partial



Given a **relation**  $r \in S \leftrightarrow T$

- $r$  is a **partial function** if it satisfies the **functional property**:

$$r \in S \rightharpoonup T \iff (\text{isFunction}(r) \wedge \text{dom}(r) \subseteq S)$$

**Remark.**  $r \in S \rightharpoonup T$  means there may (or may not) be  $s \in S$  s.t.  $r(s)$  is **undefined** (i.e.,  $r[\{s\}] = \emptyset$ ).

- e.g.,  $\{(2, a), (1, b)\}, \{(2, a), (3, a), (1, b)\} \subseteq \{1, 2, 3\} \rightharpoonup \{a, b\}$
- $r$  is a **total function** if there is a mapping for each  $s \in S$ :

$$r \in S \rightarrow T \iff (\text{isFunction}(r) \wedge \text{dom}(r) = S)$$

**Remark.**  $r \in S \rightarrow T$  implies  $r \in S \rightharpoonup T$ , but not vice versa. Why?

- e.g.,  $\{(2, a), (3, a), (1, b)\} \in \{1, 2, 3\} \rightarrow \{a, b\}$
- e.g.,  $\{(2, a), (1, b)\} \notin \{1, 2, 3\} \rightarrow \{a, b\}$

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## Functions (2.2): Relation Image vs. Function Application

- Recall: A **function** is a **relation**, but a **relation** is not necessarily a **function**.
- Say we have a **partial function**  $f \in \{1, 2, 3\} \rightarrow \{a, b\}$ :  

$$f = \{(3, a), (1, b)\}$$
  - With  $f$  wearing the **relation** hat, we can invoke **relational images**:

$$\begin{aligned} f[\{3\}] &= \{a\} \\ f[\{1\}] &= \{b\} \\ f[\{2\}] &= \emptyset \end{aligned}$$

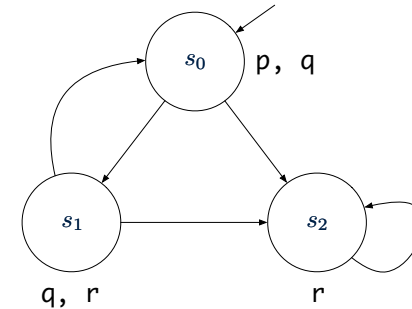
**Remark.**  $\Rightarrow |f[\{v\}]| \leq 1 \therefore$

- each member in  $\text{dom}(f)$  is mapped to at most one member in  $\text{ran}(f)$
- each input set  $\{v\}$  is a **singleton** set
- With  $f$  wearing the **function** hat, we can invoke **functional applications**:

$$\begin{aligned} f(3) &= a \\ f(1) &= b \\ f(2) &\text{ is } \textbf{undefined} \end{aligned}$$

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## LTL Semantics: More Example of LTS



$\mathbb{M} = (S, \longrightarrow, L)$ :

- $S = \{s_0, s_1, s_2\}$
- $\longrightarrow = \{(s_0, s_1), (s_0, s_2), (s_1, s_2), (s_2, s_2)\}$
- $L = \{(s_0, \{p, q\}), (s_1, \{q, r\}), (s_2, \{r\})\}$

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## LTL Semantics: Example of LTS

- We may visual a transition system  $\mathbb{M}$  using a **directed graph**:
  - Nodes/Vertices denote **states**.
  - Edges/Arcs denote **transitions**.
- Exercises** Consider the system with a counter  $c$  with the following assumption:

$$0 \leq c \leq 3$$

Say  $c$  is initialized 0 and may be incremented (via a transition *inc*, enabled when  $c < 3$ ) or decremented (via a transition *dec*, enabled when  $c > 0$ ).

- Draw** a **state graph** of this system.
- Formulate** the state graph as an **LTS** (via a triple  $(S, \longrightarrow, L)$ ).

Assume: Set  $P$  of atoms is:  $\{c \geq 1, c \leq 1\}$

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## LTL Semantics: Paths

**Definition.** A **path** in a model  $\mathbb{M} = (S, \longrightarrow, L)$  is an **infinite sequence of states**  $s_i \in S$ , where  $i \geq 1$ , such that  $s_i \longrightarrow s_{i+1}$ .

- We write the path, starting at the **initial state**  $s_1$ , as

$$s_1 \longrightarrow s_2 \longrightarrow \dots$$

- Note.**  $s_1$  in the above path pattern denotes the first, initial state of the path, but in general, the actual name of the initial state may cause confusion, e.g.,  $s_0$ .
- A **path**  $\pi = s_1 \longrightarrow s_2 \longrightarrow \dots$  represents a **possible future** of  $\mathbb{M}$ .
- We write  $\pi^i$  for the **suffix** of path  $\pi$ : a path starting from state  $s_i$ .  
 e.g.,  $\pi^3 = s_3 \longrightarrow s_4 \longrightarrow \dots$   
 e.g.,  $\pi^1 = \pi$

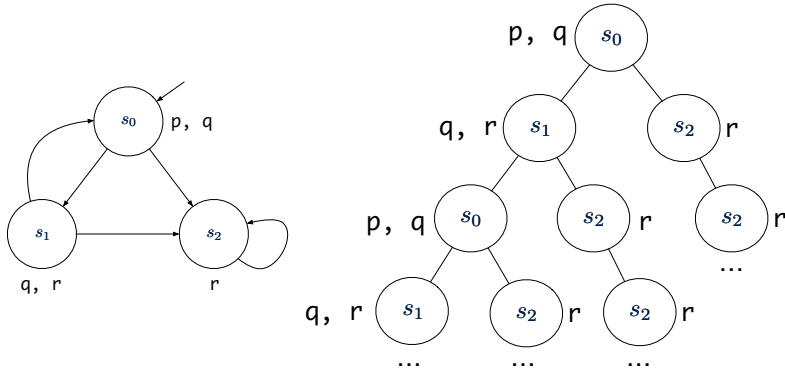
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## LTL Semantics: All Possible Paths



Given a state  $s$ , we represent **all** possible (**computation**) **paths** as a **computation tree** by **unwinding** the transitions.  
e.g.



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## LTL Semantics: Path Satisfaction (2.1)



**Definition.** Given a **model**  $\mathbb{M} = (S, \longrightarrow, L)$  and a **path**  $\pi = s_1 \longrightarrow \dots$  in  $\mathbb{M}$ , whether or not path  $\pi$  satisfies an **LTL formula** is defined by the **satisfaction relation**  $\models$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \pi &\models \mathbf{X}\phi &\iff \pi^2 &\models \phi \\ \pi &\models \mathbf{G}\phi &\iff (\forall i \bullet i \geq 1 \Rightarrow \pi^i &\models \phi) \\ \pi &\models \mathbf{F}\phi &\iff (\exists i \bullet i \geq 1 \wedge \pi^i &\models \phi) \end{aligned}$$

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## LTL Semantics: Path Satisfaction (1)



**Definition.** Given a **model**  $\mathbb{M} = (S, \longrightarrow, L)$  and a **path**  $\pi = s_1 \longrightarrow \dots$  in  $\mathbb{M}$ , whether or not path  $\pi$  satisfies an **LTL formula** is defined by the **satisfaction relation**  $\models$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \pi &\models p &\iff p &\in L(s_1) \\ \pi &\models \top \\ \pi &\not\models \perp \\ \pi &\models \neg\phi &\iff \neg(\pi &\models \phi) \\ \pi &\models \phi_1 \wedge \phi_2 &\iff \pi &\models \phi_1 \wedge \pi &\models \phi_2 \\ \pi &\models \phi_1 \vee \phi_2 &\iff \pi &\models \phi_1 \vee \pi &\models \phi_2 \\ \pi &\models \phi_1 \Rightarrow \phi_2 &\iff \pi &\models \phi_1 \Rightarrow \pi &\models \phi_2 \end{aligned}$$

**Tips.** To evaluate  $\pi \models \phi_1 \wedge \phi_2$  (and similarly for  $\neg$ ,  $\vee$ ,  $\Rightarrow$ ):

- If  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$  are sophisticated, decompose it to  $\pi \models \phi_1$  and  $\pi \models \phi_2$ .
- Otherwise, directly evaluate  $\phi_1 \wedge \phi_2$  on  $s_1$ .

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## LTL Semantics: Model Satisfaction (1)



• **Definition.** Given:

- a model  $\mathbb{M} = (S, \longrightarrow, L)$
- a state  $s \in S$
- an LTL formula  $\phi$

$\boxed{\mathbb{M}, s \models \phi}$  if and only if for **every** path  $\pi$  of  $\mathbb{M}$  starting at  $s$ ,  $\pi \models \phi$ .

$$\mathbb{M}, s \models \phi \iff (\forall \pi \bullet (\pi = s \longrightarrow \dots) \Rightarrow \pi \models \phi)$$

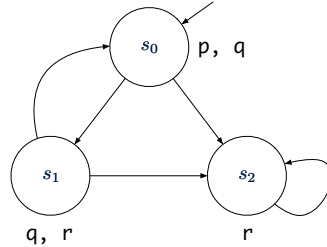
• When the model  $\mathbb{M}$  is clear from the context, we write:  $\boxed{s \models \phi}$ .

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## LTL Semantics: Model Satisfaction (2.1)



Consider the following system model:



- $s_0 \models \top$
- $s_0 \not\models \perp$
- $s_0 \models p \wedge q$
- $s_0 \models r$

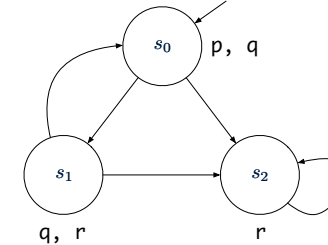
[ true ]  
[ true ]  
[ true ]  
[ false ]

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## LTL Semantics: Model Satisfaction (2.3)



Consider the following system model:



- $s_0 \models \mathbf{G} \neg(p \wedge r)$
- $s \models \mathbf{G} \phi \iff \phi$  holds on all *reachable* states from  $s$ .
- $s_0 \models \mathbf{G} r$
- Witness Path:  $s_0 \rightarrow s_2 \rightarrow s_2 \dots \not\models \mathbf{G} r$
- $s_2 \models \mathbf{G} r$

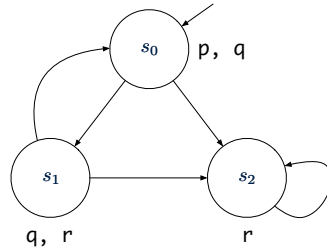
[ true ]  
[ false ]  
[ true ]

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## LTL Semantics: Model Satisfaction (2.2)



Consider the following system model:



- $s_0 \models \mathbf{X} q$
- Witness Path:  $s_0 \rightarrow s_2 \rightarrow s_2 \dots \not\models \mathbf{X} q$
- $s_0 \models \mathbf{X} r$
- $s_0 \models \mathbf{X}(q \wedge r)$
- Witness Path:  $s_0 \rightarrow s_2 \rightarrow s_2 \dots \not\models \mathbf{X}(q \wedge r)$
- $s_0 \models \mathbf{X}(q \Rightarrow r)$

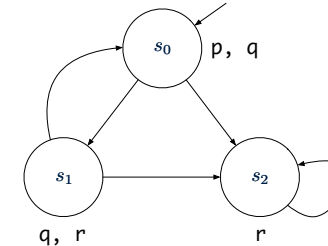
[ false ]  
[ true ]  
[ false ]  
[ true ]

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## LTL Semantics: Model Satisfaction (2.4)



Consider the following system model:



- $s_0 \models \mathbf{F} \neg(p \wedge r)$
- $s_0 \models \mathbf{F} r$
- $s_0 \models \mathbf{F}(q \wedge r)$ 
  - Is it the case that  $q \wedge r$  is *eventually* satisfied on *every* path?
  - No. Witness Path:  $s_0 \rightarrow s_2 \rightarrow s_2 \rightarrow \dots$
- $s_2 \models \mathbf{F} r$

[ true ]  
[ true ]  
[ false ]  
[ true ]

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## LTL Semantics: Nested G and F (1)



Given a model  $M = (S, \longrightarrow, L)$  and a state  $s \in S$ :

$s \models FG\phi$  means that:

- **Each** path  $\pi$  starting with  $s$  is such that **eventually**,  $\phi$  holds **continuously**.
- For **all** paths  $\pi$  starting with  $s$  (i.e.,  $\pi = s \longrightarrow l \dots$ ):  

$$\exists i \bullet i \geq 1 \wedge (\forall j \bullet j \geq i \Rightarrow \pi^j \models \phi)$$
- **Q.** How to **prove** and **disprove** the above formula pattern?
- **Hint.** Structure of pattern:  $\forall \pi \bullet \dots \Rightarrow (\exists i \bullet \dots \wedge (\forall j \bullet j \geq i \Rightarrow \phi))$

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## LTL Semantics: Nested G and F (2)



Given a model  $M = (S, \longrightarrow, L)$  and a state  $s \in S$ :

$s \models F\phi_1 \Rightarrow FG\phi_2$  means that:

- **Each** path  $\pi$  starting with  $s$  is such that if  $\phi_1$  **eventually** holds on  $\pi$ , then  $\phi_2$  **eventually** holds **continuously** on the same  $\pi$ .

$$\forall \pi \bullet \pi = s \longrightarrow \dots \Rightarrow \left( \begin{array}{l} (\exists i \bullet i \geq 1 \wedge \pi^i \models \phi_1) \\ \Rightarrow \\ (\exists i \bullet i \geq 1 \wedge (\forall j \bullet j \geq i \Rightarrow \pi^j \models \phi_2)) \end{array} \right)$$

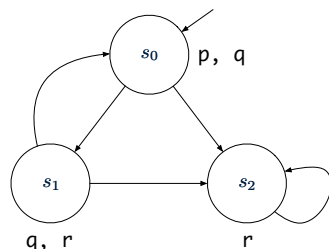
- **Q.** How to **disprove** the above formula pattern?
- **A.** Find a witness path  $\pi$  which makes the “inner” implication **false**.

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## LTL Semantics: Model Satisfaction (2.5.1)



Consider the following system model:



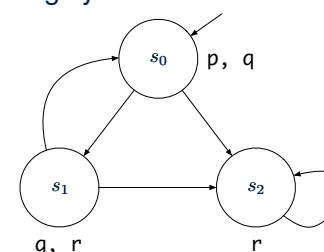
- $s_0 \models FG r$  [ false ]  
Witness:  $s_0 \longrightarrow s_1 \longrightarrow s_0 \longrightarrow s_1 \longrightarrow \dots$
- $s_0 \models FG(p \vee q)$  [ false ]  
Witness:  $s_0 \longrightarrow s_1 \longrightarrow s_2 \longrightarrow s_2 \longrightarrow \dots$
- $s_0 \models FG(p \vee r)$  [ true ]  
Justification: All possible paths from  $s_0$  involve  $s_0, s_1$ , and  $s_2$ , all of which satisfying  $p \vee r$ .

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## LTL Semantics: Model Satisfaction (2.5.2)



Consider the following system model:



- $s_0 \models F(\neg q \wedge r) \Rightarrow FG r$  [ true ]  
Justification:
  - $s_0 \longrightarrow s_1 \longrightarrow s_0 \longrightarrow \dots$  never satisfies  $\neg q \wedge r$ .
  - $s_0 \longrightarrow s_1 \longrightarrow s_2 \longrightarrow s_2 \longrightarrow \dots$  eventually satisfies  $\neg q \wedge r$  continuously.
  - $s_0 \longrightarrow s_2 \longrightarrow s_2 \longrightarrow \dots$  eventually satisfies  $\neg q \wedge r$  continuously.
- $s_0 \models F(\neg q \vee r) \Rightarrow FG r$  [ false ]  
Witness:  $s_0 \longrightarrow s_1 \longrightarrow s_0 \longrightarrow \dots$  eventually satisfies  $\neg q \vee r$ , but there is no point in this path where  $r$  holds continuously.

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## LTL Semantics: Nested G and F (3)



Given a model  $\mathbb{M} = (S, \longrightarrow, L)$  and a state  $s \in S$ :

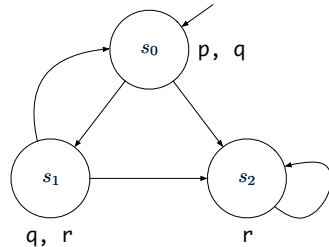
- $s \models \mathbf{GF}\phi$  means that:
  - **Each** path starting with  $s$  is such that **continuously**,  $\phi$  holds **eventually**.  
 $\Rightarrow \phi$  holds **infinitely often**!
  - For **all** paths  $\pi$  starting with  $s$  (i.e.,  $\pi = s \longrightarrow l \dots$ ):  
 $\forall i \bullet i \geq 1 \Rightarrow (\exists j \bullet j \geq i \wedge \pi^j \models \phi)$
  - **Q.** How to **prove** and **disprove** the above formula pattern?
  - **Hint.** Structure of pattern:  $\forall \pi \bullet \dots \Rightarrow (\forall i \bullet \dots \Rightarrow (\exists j \bullet \dots \wedge \phi))$

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## LTL Semantics: Model Satisfaction (2.6)



Consider the following system model:



- $s_0 \models \mathbf{GF}p$  [ false ]  
 Witness: In  $s_0 \longrightarrow s_2 \longrightarrow \dots$ ,  $p$  is not satisfied **infinitely often**.
- $s_0 \models \mathbf{GF}(p \vee r)$  [ true ]
- $s_0 \models \mathbf{GF}p \Rightarrow \mathbf{GF}r$  [ true ]  
 Hint: Consider paths making the antecedent  $\mathbf{GF}p$  **true**.
- $s_0 \models \mathbf{GF}r \Rightarrow \mathbf{GF}p$  [ false ]  
 Witness:  $s_0 \longrightarrow s_2 \longrightarrow \dots$  [ Why? ]

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## LTL Semantics: Path Satisfaction (2.2)



**Definition.** Given a **model**  $\mathbb{M} = (S, \longrightarrow, L)$  and a **path**  $\pi = s_1 \longrightarrow \dots$  in  $\mathbb{M}$ , whether or not path  $\pi$  satisfies an **LTL formula** is defined by the **satisfaction relation**  $\models$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \pi \models \phi_1 \mathbf{U} \phi_2 &\iff \left( \exists i \bullet i \geq 1 \wedge \left( \begin{array}{l} \pi^i \models \phi_2 \\ \wedge \\ (\forall j \bullet 1 \leq j \leq i-1 \Rightarrow \pi^j \models \phi_1) \end{array} \right) \right) \\ \pi \models \phi_1 \mathbf{W} \phi_2 &\iff \left( \begin{array}{l} \phi_1 \mathbf{U} \phi_2 \\ \vee \\ (\forall k \bullet k \geq 1 \Rightarrow \pi^k \models \phi_1) \end{array} \right) \\ \pi \models \phi_1 \mathbf{R} \phi_2 &\iff \left( \begin{array}{l} \left( \exists i \bullet i \geq 1 \wedge \left( \begin{array}{l} \pi^i \models \phi_1 \\ \wedge \\ (\forall j \bullet 1 \leq j \leq i \Rightarrow \pi^j \models \phi_2) \end{array} \right) \right) \\ \vee \\ (\forall k \bullet k \geq 1 \Rightarrow \pi^k \models \phi_2) \end{array} \right) \end{aligned}$$

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## LTL Semantics: Recall Model Satisfaction



- **Definition.** Given:

- a model  $\mathbb{M} = (S, \longrightarrow, L)$
- a state  $s \in S$
- an LTL formula  $\phi$

$\mathbb{M}, s \models \phi$  if and only if for **every** path  $\pi$  of  $\mathbb{M}$  starting at  $s$ ,  $\pi \models \phi$ .

$$\mathbb{M}, s \models \phi \iff (\forall \pi \bullet (\pi = s \longrightarrow \dots) \Rightarrow \pi \models \phi)$$

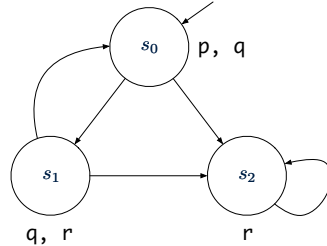
- When the model  $\mathbb{M}$  is clear from the context, we write:  $s \models \phi$ .

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## LTL Semantics: Model Satisfaction (3.1)



Consider the following system model:



- $s_0 \models p \mathbf{U} r$  [ true ]  
 $s_0$  (satisfying  $p$ ) branches out to  $s_1$  or  $s_2$  (both both satisfying  $r$ ).
- $s_0 \models p \mathbf{W} r$  [ true ]  
 $\phi_1 \mathbf{U} \phi_2 \Rightarrow \phi_1 \mathbf{W} \phi_2$
- $s_0 \models r \mathbf{R} p$  [ false ]  
Witness: Say  $\pi = s_0 \rightarrow s_1 \rightarrow s_0 \rightarrow s_1 \dots : \pi \not\models p \wedge r$  and  $\pi \not\models \mathbf{G} p$ .

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## Clarification on the “Until” Connective



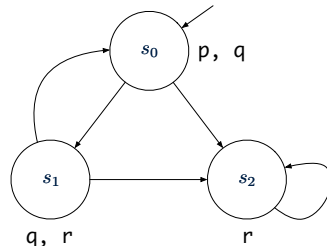
- $\phi_1 \mathbf{U} \phi_2$  requires that:
  - $\phi_2$  must eventually become **true**.
  - Before  $\phi_2$  becomes **true**,  $\phi_1$  must hold.
- **Exercise.** Say:
  - Atom  $t$ : I was 22.
  - Atom  $s$ : I smoke.
 Formulate “I had smoked until I was 22” using LTL.
  - $s \mathbf{U} t$  [ inaccurate ]
  - $\phi_1 \mathbf{U} \phi_2$  does not insist  $\neg \phi_1$  after  $\phi_2$  eventually becomes **true**.
  - “I smoked both before and after I was 22” satisfies  $s \mathbf{U} t$ .
  - Solution? [  $s \mathbf{U} ( t \wedge (\mathbf{G} \neg s) )$  ]

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## LTL Semantics: Model Satisfaction (3.2)



Consider the following system model:



- $s_0 \models (p \vee r) \mathbf{U} (p \wedge r)$  [ false ]  
Witness: In  $s_0 \rightarrow s_1 \rightarrow s_0 \rightarrow s_1 \dots$ ,  $p \wedge r$  never holds.
- $s_0 \models (p \vee r) \mathbf{W} (p \wedge r)$  [ true ]  
 It is the case that:  $s_0 \models \mathbf{G} (p \vee r)$ .
- $s_0 \models (p \wedge r) \mathbf{R} (p \vee r)$  [ true ]  
 It is the case that:  $s_0 \models \mathbf{G} (p \vee r)$ .

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## Formulating English as LTL Formulas (1)



- Assume the following atomic propositions:  
 $busy, requested, acknowledged, enabled, floor2, floor5, directionUp, buttonPressed5$ .
- It is impossible to reach a state where the system is started but not ready.
  - $\mathbf{G} \neg (started \wedge \neg ready)$  [  $\neg ( \mathbf{F} (started \wedge \neg ready) )$  ]
- Whenever a request is made, it will be eventually be acknowledged.
  - $\mathbf{G} ( requested \Rightarrow \mathbf{F} acknowledged )$
- A certain process will always be enabled.
  - $\mathbf{G} enabled$
- An upwards travelling lift at the second floor does not change its direction when it has passengers wishing to go to the fifth floor.
  - $$\mathbf{G} \left( \begin{array}{l} floor2 \wedge directionUp \wedge buttonPressed5 \\ \Rightarrow ( directionUp \mathbf{U} floor5 ) \end{array} \right)$$
  - Is it ok to change from **U** to **W**?

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## Formulating English as LTL Formulas (2)



Assume the following atomic propositions:

*requested, waiting, granted, noOneInCS*

Whenever a process makes a request, it starts waiting. As soon as no other process is in the critical section, the process is granted access to the critical section.

$G (requested \Rightarrow (noOneInCS \ R \ waiting))$

**Q.** Does the above formulation guarantee *no starvation*?

**Hint.** Check the formal definition of **R**.

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## Formulating English as LTL Formulas (3)



Assume the following atomic propositions:

*degReqFulfilled, allowedForGraduation*

Until a student fulfils all their degree requirements, their academic status remains “not allowed for graduation”. The change of status, when qualified, may not be instantaneous to account for human/manual processing.

$\neg allowedForGraduation \ W$   
 $(degReqFulfilled \wedge G \ allowedForGraduation)$

**Q.** Does the above formulation account for situations where a student never fulfils their degree requirements?

**Hint.** Check the formal definition of **W**.

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## Program Verification

Readings: Chapter 4 of LICS2



EECS4315 Z:  
Mission-Critical Systems  
Winter 2025

CHEN-WEI WANG



## Learning Objectives



1. Motivating Examples: **Program Correctness**
2. **Hoare Triple**
3. **Weakest Precondition** (*wp*)
4. Rules of *wp Calculus*
5. Contract of Loops (**invariant** vs. **variant**)
6. **Correctness Proofs** of Loops

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## Assertions: Weak vs. Strong



- 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 **System Specification**:
  - 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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## Assertions: Preconditions



Given **preconditions**  $P_1$  and  $P_2$ , we say that

$P_2$  **requires less** than  $P_1$  **if**

$P_2$  is **less strict** on (thus **allowing more**) inputs than  $P_1$  does.

$$\{x \mid P_1(x)\} \supseteq \{x \mid P_2(x)\}$$

More concisely:

$$P_1 \Rightarrow P_2$$

e.g., For command `withdraw(amount: INTEGER)`,

$P_2: amount \geq 0$  **requires less** than  $P_1: amount > 0$

What is the **precondition** that **requires the least**? [ **true** ]

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## Assertions: Postconditions



Given **postconditions** or **invariants**  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$ , we say that

$Q_2$  **ensures more** than  $Q_1$  **if**

$Q_2$  is **stricter** on (thus **allowing less**) outputs than  $Q_1$  does.

$$\{x \mid Q_2(x)\} \subseteq \{x \mid Q_1(x)\}$$

More concisely:

$$Q_2 \Rightarrow Q_1$$

e.g., For query `q(i: INTEGER): BOOLEAN`,

$Q_2: \text{Result} = (i > 0) \wedge (i \bmod 2 = 0)$  **ensures more** than

$Q_1: \text{Result} = (i > 0) \vee (i \bmod 2 = 0)$

What is the **postcondition** that **ensures the most**? [ **false** ]

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## Motivating Examples (1)

Is this algorithm correct?

```
--algorithm increment_by_9 {
  variable i;
  {
    (* precondition *)
    assert i > 3

    (* implementation *)
    i := i + 9;

    (* postcondition *)
    assert i > 13
  }
}
```

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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## Motivating Examples (2)

Is this algorithm correct?

```
--algorithm increment_by_9 {
  variable i;
  {
    (* precondition *)
    assert i > 5

    (* implementation *)
    i := i + 9;

    (* postcondition *)
    assert i > 13
  }
}
```

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

- 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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## Hoare Logic and Software Correctness



Consider the **contract/specification** view of an algorithm  $f$  (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 specification) [Least informative]

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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  $R$** .
  - If  $Q \Rightarrow wp(S, R)$ , then **any** execution started in a state satisfying  $Q$  will terminate in a state **satisfying  $R$** .
  - If  $Q \not\Rightarrow wp(S, R)$ , then **some** execution started in a state satisfying  $Q$  will terminate in a state **violating  $R$** .
- $S$  can be:
  - Assignments [  $x := y$  ]
  - Alternations [ **if ... then ... else ... end** ]
  - Sequential compositions [  $S_1 ; S_2$  ]
  - Loops [ **while** (...) { ... } ]
- We will learn how to calculate the  **$wp$**  for the above programming constructs.

100/35

## Denoting Pre- and Post-State 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  
 $\therefore$  All variables are pre-state values in preconditions
  - We don't write “ $b_0$ ” in program  
 $\therefore$  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  $?? \Rightarrow wp(x := x + 1, x > x_0)$ .

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

Any precondition is OK.

**False** is valid but not useful.

150/35

## 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  $?? \Rightarrow wp(x := x + 1, x = 23)$ .

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

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

150/35

## wp Rule: Assignments (4) Revisit



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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## 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**.

18.03.35

## 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}
```

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

18.03.35

## 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}
```

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

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

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

$\therefore \text{True} \Rightarrow y > x$  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:
  - "off-by-one" error [ partial correctness ]
  - Not establishing the desired condition [ partial correctness ]
  - Improper handling of borderline cases [ partial correctness ]
  - Infinite loops [ termination ]

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## Correctness of Loops



How do we prove that the following loop is correct?

```
{Q}
Sinit
while (B) {
  Sbody
}
{R}
```

In case of C/Java/PlusCal,  $\boxed{B}$  denotes the **stay condition**.

- In TLA+ toolbox, there is **not** native, syntactic support for model-checking the **total correctness** of loops.
- Instead, we have to **manually** add assertions to encode:
  - LOOP INVARIANT** [ for establishing **partial correctness** ]
  - LOOP VARIANT** [ for ensuring **termination** ]

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## Specifying Loops

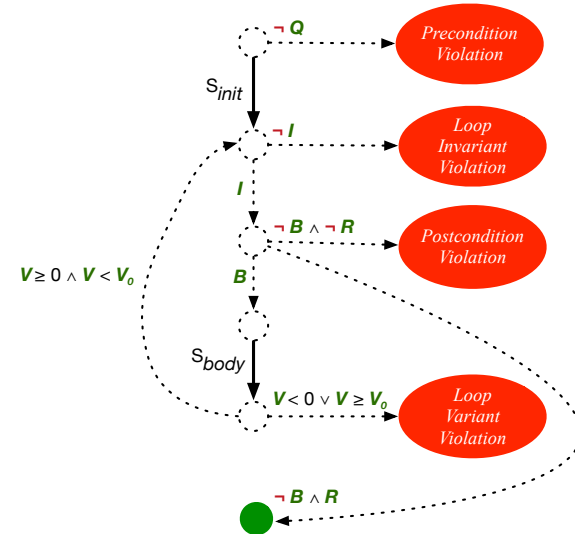


- Use of **loop invariant (LI)** and **loop variant (LV)**.
  - LI**: Boolean expression for measuring/proving **partial correctness**
    - Typically a special case of the postcondition.
      - e.g., Given postcondition "Result is maximum of the array":
        - LI** can be "Result is maximum of the **part of array scanned so far**".
    - Established** before the very first iteration.
    - Maintained** TRUE after each iteration.
  - LV**: Integer expression for measuring/proving **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**

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## Specifying Loops: Runtime Checks (1)



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## Specifying Loops: Syntax



```

CONSTANT ... (* input list *)
I(var_list) == ...
V(var_list) == ...
--algorithm MYALGORITHM {
  variables ..., variant_pre = 0, variant_post = 0;
  {
    assert Q; (* Precondition *)
    Sinit
    assert I(...); (* Is LI established? *)
    while( B ) {
      variant_pre := V(...);
      Sbody
      variant_post := V(...);

      assert variant_post >= 0;
      assert variant_post < variant_pre;
      assert I(...); (* Is LI preserved? *)
    }
    assert R; (* Postcondition *)
  }
}
    
```

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## Specifying Loops: Runtime Checks (2)



```

1  I(i) == (1 <= i) /\ (i <= 6)
2  V(i) == 6 - i
3  --algorithm loop_invariant_test
4    variables i = 1, variant_pre = 0, variant_post = 0;
5    {
6      assert I(i);
7      while (i <= 5) {
8        variant_pre := V(i);
9        i := i + 1;
10       variant_post := V(i);
11       assert variant_post >= 0;
12       assert variant_post < variant_pre;
13       assert I(i);
14     } ;
15   }
    
```

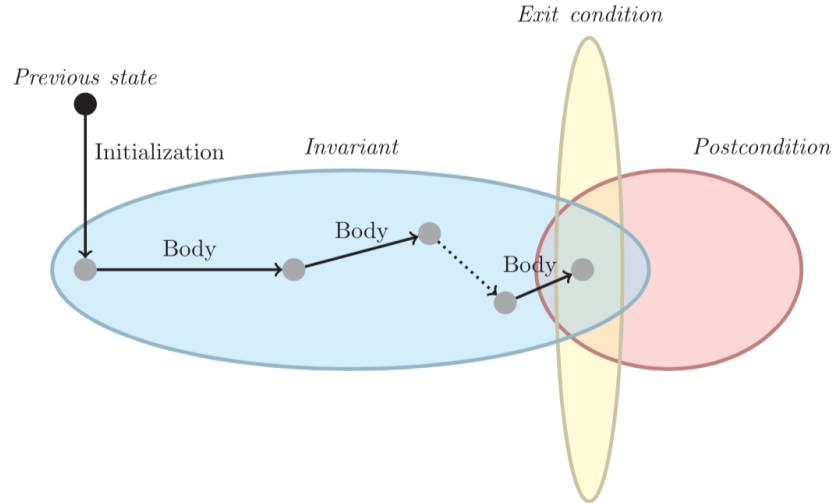
**L1**: Change to  $1 \leq i \wedge i \leq 5$  for a **Loop Invariant Violation**.

**L2**: Change to  $5 - i$  for a **Loop Variant Violation**.

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## Specifying Loops: Visualization



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

## Proving Correctness of Loops (1)



```
{Q}
Sinit
assert I(...);
while( B ) {
  variant_pre := V(...);
  Sbody
  variant_post := V(...);
  assert variant_post >= 0;
  assert variant_post < variant_pre;
  assert I(...);
}
{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  $LV$   $V$ .

## Proving Correctness of Loops (2)



- 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.  

$$\{I \wedge B\} S_{body} \{I\}$$
  - If ready to exit and  $LI$  maintained, postcondition  $R$  is established.  

$$I \wedge \neg B \Rightarrow R$$
- A loop **terminates** if:
  - Given  $LI$ , and not yet to exit,  $S_{body}$  maintains  $LV$   $V$  as non-negative.  

$$\{I \wedge B\} S_{body} \{V \geq 0\}$$
  - Given  $LI$ , and not yet to exit,  $S_{body}$  decrements  $LV$   $V$ .  

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

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