The RISC ProgramExplorer A First Status Report

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1. Background

2. Programming and Specification Language

3. The Software

Goals



An integrated program reasoning environment that provides insight into the semantic essence of a program.

- Is based on the concept of programs as state relations.
 - A program implements a relation on states.
 - A specification describes a relation on states.
 - The program relation must imply the specification relation.
- Addresses various semantic questions.
 - Is a specification trivial or not implementable?
 - What is the state relation described by a command/method?
 - What state condition is known at a particular program point?
 - Are methods only called in states that satisfy the methods' preconditions?
 - Assuming that loop invariants hold and termination terms for loops and recursive methods are appropriate, does the method meet its specification?
 Do the invariants indeed hold?
 - Are the termination terms indeed appropriate?
- Provides a state-of-the-art graphical user interface.
 - Tight links between syntactic source code and semantic essence.
 - Helps to gain insight as much as possible.

History



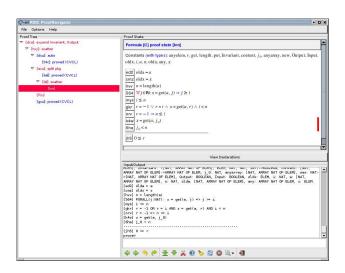
- 2005-2006: The RISC ProofNavigator.
 - Computer-aided proving assistant based on an SMT solver (CVCL) resulting from previous experience with PVS, Isabelle, Coq,
 - Proving conditions that are manually derived from the verification of sequential programs and concurrent systems.

Wolfgang Schreiner. The RISC ProofNavigator: A Proving Assistant for Program Verification in the Classroom. Formal Aspects of Computing, Springer, April 2008.

- 2006-2008: Programs as State Relations.
 - Program semantics, specification semantics, reasoning calculus, soundness proof of calculus with respect to semantics.
 - Consideration of control flow interruptions and undefined expressions.
 Wolfgang Schreiner. A Program Calculus. Technical Report, Research Institute for Symbolic Computation (RISC), Johannes Kepler University, Linz, Austria, September 2008.
- 2008–: The RISC ProgramExplorer.
 - Software framework prepared to accommodate the calculus.
 Technical report to be prepared.







Programs as State Relations



Hoare calculus: two formulas.

$${x = a} = x+1$$
 ${x = a+1}$

Dynamic logic: one formula with modalities.

$$\forall a: x = a \Rightarrow [x=x+1] x = a+1$$

Relational approach: one formula with primed variables.

$$x=x+1: x' = x+1$$

Core idea: translate programs to state relations described by formulas in (essentially) classical predicate logic with classical rules of reasoning.

Example



Program

```
x=x+1; if (x == 0) return 1; else y = x*x
```

Formula

```
x' = ADD32(x,1) AND
IF x' = 0
   THEN next.returns AND next.value = 1 AND y' = y
ELSE next.executes AND y' = MULT32(x,x)
```

Effect of command fully described in a classical logical framework.

Semantics of Commands



Take command C, context c, states s and s'.

■ Transition relation [_]:

$$[\![C \,]\!]^c(s,s') \Leftrightarrow \ldots$$

- $[C]^c$ defines a relation on states.
- Which state transitions are possible by execution of C in c?
- Termination condition 《 》:

$$\langle\!\langle C \rangle\!\rangle^c(s) \Leftrightarrow \dots$$

- $(C)^c$ defines a condition on states.
- \blacksquare For which prestates must the execution of C yield a poststate?
- Constraint:

$$\forall s: \langle\!\langle C \rangle\!\rangle^c(s) \Rightarrow \exists s': [\![C]\!]^c(s,s').$$

A command is translated to a state relation and a state condition.

Semantics of Formulas



Take logical formula F, context c, environment e, states s and s'

■ Binary formula semantics [_]:

$$[F]_{\mathfrak{a}}^{\mathfrak{c}}(s,s') \Leftrightarrow \dots$$

- $\llbracket F \rrbracket_{a}^{c}$ defines a relation on states.
- Unary formula semantics [_]:

$$\llbracket F \rrbracket_{\mathbf{e}}^{c}(s) \Leftrightarrow \llbracket F \rrbracket_{\mathbf{e}}^{c}(s,s)$$

 \blacksquare $\llbracket F \rrbracket_a^c$ defines a condition on states.

State relations and state conditions can be specified in classical logic.

Reasoning Calculus



Various kinds of judgements that describe properties of commands.

. .

We have a calculus for deriving only true judgements.

Theoretical Framework



Formal syntax and semantics of various languages.

- An abstract imperative programming language.
 - Commands operating on states.
 - =, var, if, while, continue, break, return, throw, try.
 - Methods with results, (direct and indirect) recursion.
- An abstract logic formula language.
 - Predicate logic formulas with functions and predicates on states.
- A program specification language based on the formula language.
 - Assertions, loop invariants, termination terms.
 - Method specifications with preconditions, postconditions, frame conditions, exception conditions, recursion measures.

The formal reasoning calculus was elaborated and its soundness was proved within this framework.



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The Concrete Programming Language



A subset of Java ("MiniJava") that can be mapped to the abstract programming language in a rather straight-forward way.

- Classes as modules with class variables and class methods.
 - Treatment as global variables and methods of the basic calculus.
- Classes as types with object variables, constructors, object methods.
 - Object functions receive the this object as an additional argument and return it as an additional result.
- Value semantics for arrays and objects.

Type checker prevents aliasing (i.e. that different variables refer to same object) and thus hides difference to reference semantics.

- Assignment to variable only from a constructor call.
- Return as function result only from locally owned object.
- Passing as an argument only from a constructor call or from a local variable that does not appear as another argument.
- No (directly or indirectly) recursive class references.

Classes as modules and types, no inheritance, no reference semantics.

Example



```
class Record {
 String key; int value;
 Record(String k, int v) { key = k; value = v; }
 boolean equals(String k) { boolean e = key.equals(k); return e; }
 public static int search(Record[] a, String key) {
   int n = a.length;
   for (int i=0; i<n; i++) {
     Record r = new Record(a[i].key, a[i].value); // copy of a[i]
     boolean e = r.equals(key);
                                                   // a[i].equals(key) illegal
     if (e) return i;
   return -1;
 public static void main() {
   Record[] a = new Record[10];
   for (int i=0; i<10; i++) a[i] = new Record("abc", i);
   int i = search(a, "abc"):
   System.out.println(i);
```

The Concrete Specification Language



- Typed higher-order predicate logic.
 - ProofNavigator syntax (inherited from CVS/PVS).

```
FORALL(i:INT): 0 \le i AND i \le n \implies a0[i].key /= k0
```

- Program variables
 - $x \rightsquigarrow \text{old } x, x' \rightsquigarrow \text{var } x.$
- State types, constants functions, predicates.
 - STATE(T), now, next, executes@s, value@s, ...
- Method specifications
 - assignable ...signals ...requires ...ensures ...decreases
- Code annotations
 - Loops: invariant ... decreases ...
 - Statements: assert ...

Tradition of JML et al, extended by an explicit notion of states.

Example



```
public static int search(Record[] a, String key) /*@
  requires var a /= Record.nullArray;
  ensures executes@next_AND
    (LET result=value@next, a0=var a, n=Record.length(a0), k0=var key IN
      IF result = -1 THEN
        FORALL(i:INT): 0 \le i AND i \le n \Longrightarrow a0[i].key /= k0
      ELSE
        0 <= result AND result < n AND a0 [result].key = k0
      ENDIF):
@*/
  int n = a.length;
  for (int i=0; i<n; i++)
    Record r = new Record(a[i].key, a[i].value);
    boolean e = r.equals(key);
    if (e) return i:
```

Theories



- Automatically generated theories.
 - lacksquare class $\mathcal{C} \leadsto ext{theory } \mathcal{C}$.
 - Classes as types.
- Named theories
 - File Theory. theory.
 - Abstract datatypes etc.
- Local theories.
 - /*@ theory { ...} @*/ class C
 - Local definitions inside a class.

Building blocks for specifications.

Example



```
theory Record uses java.lang.String, Base { // generated from class Record
  Record: TYPE = [#key: java.lang.String.String, value: Base.int#];
  null: Record; nullArray: ARRAY Base.int OF Record;
  length: (ARRAY Base.int OF Record) -> Base.nat:
theory Stack {
                                             // file Stack.theory
  Elem: TYPE = INT; Stack: TYPE;
  empty: Stack; cons: (Elem, Stack) -> Stack;
  isempty: PREDICATE(Stack);
  IE: AXIOM FORALL(s: Stack): isempty(s) <=> s=empty;
/*@
theory uses Record, java.lang.String { // file Record.java
  Record: TYPE = Record.Record:
  String: TYPE = java.lang.String.String;
  notFound: PREDICATE(ARRAY INT OF Record, INT, STRING) =
    PRED(a: ARRAY INT OF Record, i:INT, key: String):
      (FORALL(i:INT): 0 <= i AND i < Record.length(a) => a[i].key /= key);
} @*/
class Record { . . . }
```



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The Software

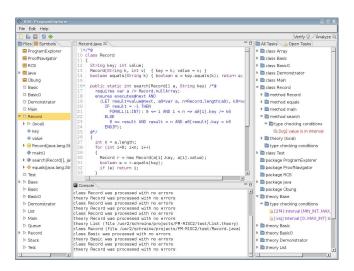


- Integrated environment built on top of the Eclipse SWT.
 - Provides graphical user interface and editing framework.
- Analyze view.
 - Source code editor.
 - Syntax highlighting.
 - Specification text folding.
 - Error annotations.
 - Active identifiers.
 - Console.
 - Files.
 - Symbols.
 - Tasks.
 - Symbols and tasks linked to source code.
- Verify view.
 - Embedding of the RISC ProofNavigator.

More views to be added on demand.

The Software





Core Functionality



Constructing/maintaining the internal model of the program/specification.

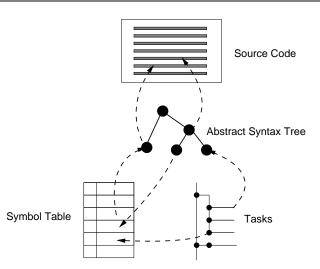
- Annotated abstract syntax trees.
 - Nodes linked to source code positions.
 - Identifiers linked to symbols.
 - Terms linked to types.
- Symbol tables.
 - Collections of symbols introduced in same scope.
 - Symbols linked to abstract syntax tree nodes.
- Proving tasks.
 - Organized in nested folders, linked to abstract syntax tree nodes.
 - Currently: type-checking tasks.
 - Later: various reasoning tasks.

Parsing, type checking, semantic processing; linking source code to model and vice versa; propagating information from model to source code.

Internal Model



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Tight integration of the various elements.

Task Management



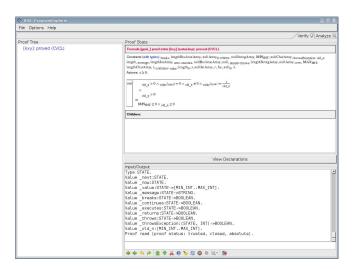
Framework for generation and maintenance of tasks.

- Tasks organized in nested folders.
 - Corresponding to source code structure.
 - Linked to source code positions.
- Strategies may be associated to tasks.
 - Currently: automatic decision by CVCL and manual verification.
- Tasks may be translated to proving problems.
 - Type-checking task → state logic problem → classical logic problem → RISC ProofNavigator problem.
- Proofs are persistent.
 - Stored in RISC ProofNavigator format.
 - Reused in new RISC ProgramExplorer invocations.
 - RISC ProofNavigator dependence control maintains trust status.

Subsequent reasoning/verification tasks will be built upon this framework.

Generated Proving Problem





Current State and Further Work



- Software in alpha status.
 - Reasonably stable (tested with toy examples only).
 - Classes: ca. 80 ProgramExplorer, 100 ProofNavigator, 300 syntax.
 - Lines of code: about 116K with comments (perhaps 40-50K without).
- User manual.
 - Documenting the languages and the software.
- Reasoning calculus.
 - Integration of the various kinds of formal judgements.
 - Generation of the various kinds of verification conditions.

Next prototype with some elements of the calculus by the end of 2010.