

Software Engineering using Formal Methods

Reasoning about Programs with Loops and Method Calls

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Program Logic Calculus – Repetition

Calculus realises **symbolic interpreter**:

- ▶ works on **first active statement**

$$\Gamma \Rightarrow \langle \mathbf{i=j++}; \mathbf{if(isValid)\{ok=true;\}} \dots \rangle \phi$$

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'branch1' $\Gamma, \{U\}(\text{isValid} = \text{TRUE}) \Rightarrow \{U\}\langle\{\text{ok}=\text{true};\}\dots\rangle\phi$

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- ▶ **control flow branching** induces proof splitting
- ▶ application of update computes **weakest precondition** of \mathcal{U}' wrt. ϕ

$$\Gamma' \Rightarrow \{\mathcal{U}'\}\phi \quad \dots$$

...

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An Example

```
\javaSource "src/";

\programVariables{
  Person p;
  int j;
}

\problem {
  (\forall int i;
    (!p=null ->
      ({j := i}\<p.setAge(j);}\>(p.age = i))))
}
```

Method Calls

Method Call with actual parameters arg_0, \dots, arg_n

$$\langle \pi \text{ o.m}(arg_0, \dots, arg_n); \omega \rangle \phi$$

where m declared as `void m(τ_0 p0, ..., τ_n pn)`

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Actions of rule **methodCall**

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if implementation cannot be uniquely determined
(necessitated by **dynamic dispatch** in general)

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if implementation cannot be uniquely determined
(necessitated by **dynamic dispatch** in general)
3. Create statically resolved **method invocation** $\text{o.m}(p\#0, \dots, p\#n)@C$

Method Calls Cont'd

Method Body Expand

1. Execute code that binds actual to formal parameters $\tau_i \ p\#i = arg_i$;
2. Call rule **methodBodyExpand**

$$\frac{\Gamma \Rightarrow \langle \pi \text{ method-frame}(\text{source}=\text{C}, \text{this}=\text{o})\{ \text{body} \} \omega \rangle \phi, \Delta}{\Gamma \Rightarrow \langle \pi \text{ o.m}(p\#0, \dots, p\#n) @ \text{C}; \omega \rangle \phi, \Delta}$$

2.1 Rename p_i in body to $p\#i$

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Method frames:

Required in calculus to mirror call stack

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Demo

```
methods/instanceMethodInlineSimple.key  
methods/inlineDynamicDispatch.key
```


JAVA has complex rules for **localisation** of fields and method implementations

- ▶ Polymorphism
- ▶ Late binding (dynamic dispatch)
- ▶ Scoping (class vs. instance)
- ▶ Visibility (private, protected, public)

Proof split into cases when implementation not statically determined

Object initialization

JAVA has complex rules for object initialization

- ▶ Chain of constructor calls until **Object**
- ▶ Implicit calls to `super()`
- ▶ Visibility issues
- ▶ Initialization sequence

Coding of initialization rules in methods `<createObject>()`, `<init>()`, ... which are then symbolically executed

Limitations of Method Inlining: `methodBodyExpand`

- ▶ Source code might be **unavailable**
 - ▶ source code often unavailable for commercial APIs, even for some JAVA API methods (& implementation vendor-specific)
 - ▶ method implementation deployment-specific
- ▶ Method is invoked **multiple times** in a program
 - ▶ avoid multiple symbolic execution of identical code
- ▶ Cannot handle **unbounded recursion**
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Use **method contract** instead of method implementation

1. Show that **requires** clause is satisfied
2. Continue after method call
 - ▶ 'Ignoring' earlier values of **modifiable** locations
 - ▶ assuming **ensures** clause

Method Contract Rule: Normal Behavior Case

Warning: Simplified version

```
/*@ public normal_behavior
   @ requires preNormal;
   @ ensures postNormal;
   @ assignable mod;
   @*/ // implementation contract of m()
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- ▶ $\mathcal{F}(\cdot)$: translation from JML to Java DL

JML Method Contracts Revisited

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Implicit Preconditions and Postconditions

- ▶ The object referenced by `this` is not null: `this!=null` (precondition only; `this` cannot be changed by method)

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- ▶ Invariant for 'this': `\invariant_for(this)`

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- ▶ \mathcal{V}_{mod} : anonymising update,
forgetting pre-values of modifiable locations

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- ▶ How to erase all values of **assignable** locations in state \mathcal{U} ?
- ▶ **Anonymising updates** \mathcal{V} erase information about modified locations

Anonymising Heap Locations

Define anonymising function $\text{anon}: \text{Heap} \times \text{LocSet} \times \text{Heap} \rightarrow \text{Heap}$

The resulting heap $\text{anon}(\dots)$ coincides with the first heap on all locations except for those specified in the location set. Those locations attain the value specified by the second heap.

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Definition:

$$\text{select}(\text{anon}(h1, \text{locs}, h2), o, f) = \begin{cases} \text{select}(h2, o, f) & \text{if } (o, f) \in \text{locs} \\ \text{select}(h1, o, f) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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Effect: After \mathcal{V}_{mod} , modified locations have unknown values

Anonymising Heap Locations: Example

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@ assignable o.a, this.*;
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To erase all knowledge about the values of the locations of the assignable expression:

- ▶ anonymise the current heap on the designated locations:

$$\text{anon}(\text{heap}, \{(o, a)\} \cup \text{allFields}(\text{this}), h_a)$$

- ▶ assign the current heap the new value

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Method Contract Rule: Exceptional Behavior Case

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Method Contract Rule: Example

```
class Person {
  private /*@ spec_public @*/ int age;
  /*@ public normal_behavior
    @ requires age < 29;
    @ ensures age == \old(age) + 1;
    @ assignable age;
    @ also
    @ public exceptional_behavior
    @ requires age >= 29;
    @ signals_only ForeverYoungException;
    @ assignable \nothing;
    @//allows object creation (else use \strictly_nothing)
  @*/
  public void birthday() {
    if (age >= 29) throw new ForeverYoungException();
    age++;
  }
}
```


Method Contract Rule: Example Cont'd

Demo

`methods/useContractForBirthday.key`

- ▶ Proof without contracts (all except object creation)
 - ▶ Method treatment: Expand
- ▶ Proof with contracts (until method contract application)
 - ▶ Method treatment: Contract
- ▶ Proof contracts used
 - ▶ Method treatment: Expand
 - ▶ Select contracts for `birthday()` in `src/Person.java`
 - ▶ Prove both specification cases

Verification of Loops

Symbolic execution of loops: unwind

$$\text{unwindLoop} \frac{\Gamma \Rightarrow \mathcal{U}[\pi \text{ if}(b) \{p; \text{ while}(b) p\} \omega] \phi, \Delta}{\Gamma \Rightarrow \mathcal{U}[\pi \text{ while}(b) p \omega] \phi, \Delta}$$

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How to handle a loop with...

- ▶ 0 iterations?

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$$\text{unwindLoop} \frac{\Gamma \Rightarrow \mathcal{U}[\pi \text{ if}(b) \{p; \text{ while}(b) p\} \omega] \phi, \Delta}{\Gamma \Rightarrow \mathcal{U}[\pi \text{ while}(b) p \omega] \phi, \Delta}$$

How to handle a loop with...

- ▶ 0 iterations? Unwind 1×

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How to handle a loop with...

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- ▶ 10 iterations?

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How to handle a loop with...

- ▶ 0 iterations? Unwind 1×
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We need an **invariant rule** (or some form of induction)

Loop Invariants

Idea behind loop invariants

- ▶ A formula *Inv* whose validity is **preserved** by loop guard and body

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How to Derive Loop Invariants Systematically?

Example (First active statement of symbolic execution is loop)

```
n >= 0 & wellFormed(heap) ->
{i := 0} \[ {
  while (i < n) {
    i = i + 1;
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Is ($i <= n$) established at beginning and preserved?

Yes! We have found a suitable loop invariant!

Demo loops/simple.key (auto after inv)

Obtaining Invariants by Strengthening

Example (Slightly changed loop)

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- ▶ If we know that ($n = m$) then ($i <= n$) suffices
- ▶ Strengthen the invariant candidate to: ($i <= n \ \& \ n = m$)

Generalization

Example (Addition: x, y program variables, x_0, y_0 rigid constants)

```
x = x0 & y = y0 & y0 >= 0 & wellFormed(heap) ==>
\[{
  while (y > 0) {
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First attempt: use postcondition $x = x_0 + y_0$

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Finding the invariant

First attempt: use postcondition $x = x_0 + y_0$

- ▶ Not true at start whenever $y_0 > 0$
- ▶ Not preserved by loop, because x is increased

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Finding the invariant

What stays invariant?

- ▶ The **sum** of x and y : $x + y = x_0 + y_0$ “Generalization”
- ▶ Can help to think of “ δ ” between x and $x_0 + y_0$

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Is $x + y = x_0 + y_0$ a good invariant?

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- ▶ But postcondition not achieved by $x + y = x_0 + y_0 \ \& \ y \leq 0$

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Strengthening the invariant

Postcondition holds if $y = 0$

- ▶ Sufficient to add $y >= 0$ to $x + y = x_0 + y_0$

Demo [loops/simple3.key](#)

Basic Loop Invariant: Context Loss

Basic Invariant Rule: a Problem

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(initially valid)
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- ▶ Context $\Gamma, \Delta, \mathcal{U}$ must be omitted in 2nd and 3rd premise:

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- ▶ **But:** context contains (part of) precondition and class invariants
- ▶ Required context information must be added to loop invariant Inv

Example

```
int i = 0;
while(i < a.length) {
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Precondition: $a \neq \text{null}$

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- ▶ How to erase all values of **assignable** locations?
- ▶ **Anonymising updates** \forall erase information about modified locations

Anonymising JAVA Locations

```
@ assignable i, a[*];
```

To erase all knowledge about the values of the locations of the assignable expression:

- ▶ introduce a new (not yet used) constant of type `int`, e.g., `c`
- ▶ introduce a new (not yet used) constant of type `Heap`, e.g., `ha`
 - ▶ anonymise the current heap: `anon(heap, allFields(this.a), ha)`
- ▶ compute anonymizing update for assignable locations

$$\mathcal{V} = \{i := c \parallel \text{heap} := \text{anon}(\text{heap}, \text{allFields}(\text{this.a}), h_a)\}$$

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For local program variables (e.g., `i`) KeY computes assignable clause automatically

Loop Invariants Cont'd

Improved Invariant Rule

$$\frac{}{\Gamma \Rightarrow \mathcal{U}[\pi \text{ while } (b) \text{ p } \omega] \phi, \Delta}$$

Loop Invariants Cont'd

Improved Invariant Rule

$\Gamma \Rightarrow \mathcal{U}Inv, \Delta$ (initially valid)

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Loop Invariants Cont'd

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- ▶ Context is kept as far as possible:
 - ▶ \mathcal{V} wipes out only information in locations assignable in loop
- ▶ Invariant Inv does not need to include unmodified locations
- ▶ For **assignable \everything** (the default):
 - ▶ $\text{heap} := \text{anon}(\text{heap}, \text{allLocs}, h_a)$ wipes out **all** heap information
 - ▶ Equivalent to basic invariant rule
 - ▶ **Avoid this!** Always give a specific **assignable** clause

Example with Improved Invariant Rule

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int i = 0;
while(i < a.length) {
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Postcondition: $\forall \text{int } x; (0 \leq x \ \& \ x < a.length \rightarrow a[x] = 1)$

Loop invariant: $0 \leq i \ \& \ i \leq a.length$
 $\ \& \ \forall \text{int } x; (0 \leq x \ \& \ x < i \rightarrow a[x] = 1)$

```
public int[] a;
/*@ public normal_behavior
   @ ensures (\forall int x; 0<=x && x<a.length; a[x]==1);
   @ diverges true;
   @*/
public void m() {
  int i = 0;
  /*@ loop_invariant
     @ 0 <= i && i <= a.length &&
     @ (\forall int x; 0<=x && x<i; a[x]==1);
     @ assignable a[*];
     @*/
  while(i < a.length) {
    a[i] = 1;
    i++;
  }
}
```


Example from a Previous Lecture

```
∀ int x;  
  (x = n ∧ x ≥ 0 →  
    [ i = 0; r = 0;  
      while (i < n) { i = i + 1; r = r + i; }  
      r = r + r - n;  
    ] (r = x * x))
```

How can we prove that the above formula is valid
(i.e., satisfied in all states)?

Example from a Previous Lecture

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∀ int x;  
  (x = n ∧ x ≥ 0 →  
    [ i = 0; r = 0;  
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@ loop_invariant  
@   i ≥ 0  && i ≤ n  && 2*r == i*(i + 1);  
@ assignable \nothing; // no heap locations changed
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```

Demo [Loop2.java](#)

Proving assignable

- ▶ Invariant rule above **assumes** that **assignable** is correct
E.g., possible to prove nonsense with incorrect
assignable \nothing;
- ▶ Invariant rule of KeY generates **proof obligation** that ensures correctness of **assignable**
This proof obligation is part of (Body preserves invariant) branch

Hints

Proving assignable

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E.g., possible to prove nonsense with incorrect **assignable \nothing;**
- ▶ Invariant rule of KeY generates **proof obligation** that ensures correctness of **assignable**
This proof obligation is part of (Body preserves invariant) branch

Setting in the KeY Prover when proving loops

- ▶ Loop treatment: **Invariant**
- ▶ Quantifier treatment: **No Splits with Progs**
- ▶ If program contains *, /: Arithmetic treatment: **DefOps**
- ▶ Is search limit high enough (time out, rule apps.)?
- ▶ When proving partial correctness, add **diverges true;**

What is still missing?

Is the sequent

$$\Rightarrow [i = -1; \text{while } (\text{true})\{\}]i = 4711$$

provable?

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Yes, e.g.,

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@ loop_invariant true;  
@ assignable \nothing;
```


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@ loop_invariant true;
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@ assignable \nothing;
```

Possible to prove correctness of **non-terminating** loop

- ▶ Invariant trivially initially valid and preserved \Rightarrow
Initial Case and **Preserved Case** immediately closable
- ▶ Loop condition never false: **Use case** immediately closable

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Possible to prove correctness of **non-terminating** loop

- ▶ Invariant trivially initially valid and preserved \Rightarrow
Initial Case and **Preserved Case** immediately closable
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But need a method to prove **termination** of loops

Mapping Loop Execution to Well-Founded Order

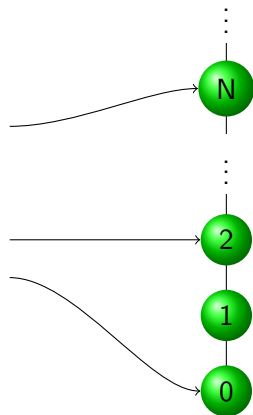
```
while (b) {  
  body  
}
```

```
  if (b) { body }1
```

```
  ⋮
```

```
  if (b) { body }17
```

```
  if (b) { body }18
```



Need to find expression getting smaller wrt \mathbb{N} in each iteration

Such an expression is called a **decreasing term** or **variant**

Total Correctness: Decreasing Term (Variant)

Find a decreasing integer term v (called **variant**)

Add the following premisses to the invariant rule:

- ▶ $v \geq 0$ is initially valid
- ▶ $v \geq 0$ is preserved by the loop body
- ▶ v is strictly decreased by the loop body

Total Correctness: Decreasing Term (Variant)

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Proving termination in JML/JAVA

- ▶ Remove directive **diverges true;** from contract
- ▶ Add directive **decreasing v;** to loop invariant
- ▶ KeY creates suitable invariant rule and PO (with $\langle \dots \rangle \phi$)

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Example (The array loop)

@ decreasing

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Example (The array loop)

```
@ decreasing a.length - i;
```

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Example (The array loop)

```
@ decreasing a.length - i;
```

Files:

- ▶ LoopT.java
- ▶ Loop2T.java

Final Example: Computing the GCD

```
public class Gcd {
  /*@ public normal_behavior
     @ requires _small>=0 && _big>=_small;
     @ ensures _big!=0 ==>
     @   (_big % \result == 0 && _small % \result == 0 &&
     @     (\forall int x; x>0 && _big % x == 0
     @       && _small % x == 0; \result % x == 0));
     @ assignable \nothing;
  @*/
  private static int gcdHelp(int _big, int _small) {
    int big = _big; int small = _small;
    while (small != 0) {
      final int t = big % small;
      big = small;
      small = t;
    }
    return big;
  }
}
```

Computing the GCD: Method Specification

```
public class Gcd {
  /*@ public normal_behavior
    @ requires _small>=0 && _big>=_small;
    @ ensures _big!=0 ==>
    @ (_big % \result == 0 && _small % \result == 0 &&
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requires normalization assumptions on method parameters
(both non-negative and $_big \geq _small$)

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- ▶ the return value $_result$ is a divider of both arguments

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    @ assignable \nothing;
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  private static int gcdHelp(int _big, int _small) {...}
```

requires normalization assumptions on method parameters
(both non-negative and $_big \geq _small$)

ensures if $_big$ positive, then

- ▶ the return value $\backslash\text{result}$ is a divider of both arguments
- ▶ all other dividers x of the arguments are also dividers of $\backslash\text{result}$ and thus smaller or equal to $\backslash\text{result}$

Computing the GCD: Specify the Loop Body

```
int big = _big; int small = _small;
while (small != 0) {
    final int t = big % small;
    big = small;
    small = t;
}
return big;
```

Which locations are changed (at most)?

Computing the GCD: Specify the Loop Body

```
int big = _big; int small = _small;
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Which locations are changed (at most)?

@ assignable \nothing; // no heap locations changed

What is the variant?

Computing the GCD: Specify the Loop Body

```
int big = _big; int small = _small;
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}
return big;
```

Which locations are changed (at most)?

@ assignable \nothing; // no heap locations changed

What is the variant?

@ decreases small;

Computing the GCD: Specify the Loop Body Cont'd

```
int big = _big; int small = _small;
while (small != 0) {
    final int t = big % small;
    big = small;
    small = t;
}
return big;
```

Loop Invariant

Computing the GCD: Specify the Loop Body Cont'd

```
int big = _big; int small = _small;
while (small != 0) {
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    big = small;
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}
return big;
```

Loop Invariant

- ▶ Order between small and big preserved by loop: $big \geq small$

Computing the GCD: Specify the Loop Body Cont'd

```
int big = _big; int small = _small;
while (small != 0) {
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return big;
```

Loop Invariant

- ▶ Order between `small` and `big` preserved by loop: `big >= small`
- ▶ Possible for `big` to become 0 in a loop iteration?

Computing the GCD: Specify the Loop Body Cont'd

```
int big = _big; int small = _small;
while (small != 0) {
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}
return big;
```

Loop Invariant

- ▶ Order between `small` and `big` preserved by loop: `big >= small`
- ▶ Possible for `big` to become 0 in a loop iteration? **No.**

Computing the GCD: Specify the Loop Body Cont'd

```
int big = _big; int small = _small;
while (small != 0) {
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    small = t;
}
return big;
```

Loop Invariant

- ▶ Order between small and big preserved by loop: $big \geq small$
- ▶ Adding $big > 0$ to loop invariant?

Computing the GCD: Specify the Loop Body Cont'd

```
int big = _big; int small = _small;
while (small != 0) {
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    big = small;
    small = t;
}
return big;
```

Loop Invariant

- ▶ Order between small and big preserved by loop: $big \geq small$
- ▶ Adding $big > 0$ to loop invariant? **No**. Not **initially** valid.

Computing the GCD: Specify the Loop Body Cont'd

```
int big = _big; int small = _small;
while (small != 0) {
    final int t = big % small;
    big = small;
    small = t;
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return big;
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Loop Invariant

- ▶ Order between small and big preserved by loop: $big \geq small$
- ▶ Weaker condition necessary: $big == 0 \implies _big == 0$

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Loop Invariant

- ▶ Order between small and big preserved by loop: $big \geq small$
- ▶ Weaker condition necessary: $big == 0 \implies _big == 0$
- ▶ What does the loop preserve?

Computing the GCD: Specify the Loop Body Cont'd

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Loop Invariant

- ▶ Order between small and big preserved by loop: $big \geq small$
- ▶ Weaker condition necessary: $big == 0 \implies _big == 0$
- ▶ What does the loop preserve? The set of dividers!
All common dividers of $_big$, $_small$ are also dividers of big , $small$

Computing the GCD: Specify the Loop Body Cont'd

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All common dividers of $_big$, $_small$ are also dividers of big , $small$

```
(\forall int x; x > 0;
  (_big%x == 0 && _small%x == 0) <==>
  (big%x == 0 && small%x == 0));
```

Computing the GCD: Final Specification

```
int big = _big; int small = _small;
/*@ loop_invariant small >= 0 && big >= small &&
    @ (big == 0 ==> _big == 0) &&
    @ (\forall int x; x > 0; (_big % x == 0 && _small % x == 0)
    @ <==>
    @ (big % x == 0 && small % x == 0));
    @ decreases small;
    @ assignable \nothing;
*/
while (small != 0) {
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return big; // assigned to \result
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Why does `big` divides `_small` and `_big` follow from the loop invariant?

Computing the GCD: Final Specification

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    big = small;
    small = t;
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```

Why does **big** divides **_small** and **_big** follow from the loop invariant?

If **big** is positive, one can instantiate **x** with it, and use **small == 0**

Computing the GCD: Demo

Demo loops/Gcd.java

1. Show Gcd.java and gcd(a,b)
2. Ensure that “DefOps” and “Contracts” is selected, $\geq 10,000$ steps
3. Proof contract of gcd(), using contract of gcdHelp()
4. Note KeY check sign in parentheses:
 - 4.1 Click “Proof Management”
 - 4.2 Choose tab “By Proof”
 - 4.3 Select proof of gcd()
 - 4.4 Select used method contract of gcdHelp()
 - 4.5 Click “Start Proof”
5. After finishing proof obligations of gcdHelp() parentheses are gone

Some Hints On Finding Invariants

General Advice

- ▶ Invariants must be **developed**, they don't come out of thin air!
- ▶ Be as **systematic** in deriving invariants as when debugging a program
- ▶ Don't forget: the program or contract (more likely) can be **buggy**
 - ▶ In this case, you won't find an invariant!

Some Hints On Finding Invariants, Cont'd

Technical Hints

- ▶ The desired **postcondition** is a good starting point
 - ▶ What, in addition to negated loop guard, is needed for it to hold?

Some Hints On Finding Invariants, Cont'd

Technical Hints

- ▶ The desired **postcondition** is a good starting point
 - ▶ What, in addition to negated loop guard, is needed for it to hold?
- ▶ If the invariant candidate is **not preserved** by the loop body:
 - ▶ Can you add stuff from the precondition?
 - ▶ Does it need strengthening?
 - ▶ Try to express the relation between partial and final result

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- ▶ Simulate a few loop body executions to discover invariant **patterns**

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 - ▶ Can it be weakened such that the postcondition still follows?
 - ▶ Did you forget an assumption in the requires clause?

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 - ▶ Can it be weakened such that the postcondition still follows?
 - ▶ Did you forget an assumption in the requires clause?
- ▶ Several “rounds” of weakening/strengthening might be required
- ▶ Use the **KeY tool** for each premiss of invariant rule
 - ▶ After each change of the invariant make sure all cases are ok
 - ▶ Interactive dialogue: previous invariants available in “Alt” tabs

Understanding Unclosed Proofs

Reasons why a proof may not close

- ▶ Buggy or incomplete specification
- ▶ Bug in program
- ▶ Maximal number of steps reached: restart or increase # of steps
- ▶ Automatic proof search fails: manual rule applications necessary

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Understanding open proof goals

- ▶ Follow the control flow from the proof root to the open goal
- ▶ Branch labels give useful hints
- ▶ Identify unprovable part of post condition or invariant
- ▶ Sequent remains always in “pre-state”
Constraints on program variables refer to value at start of program
(exception: formula is behind update or modality)
- ▶ NB: $\Gamma \Rightarrow o = \mathbf{null}, \Delta$ is equivalent to $\Gamma, o \neq \mathbf{null} \Rightarrow \Delta$

Literature for this Lecture

Essential

KeY Book Verification of Object-Oriented Software (see course web page), Chapter 10: **Using KeY**

KeY Book Verification of Object-Oriented Software (see course web page), Chapter 3: **Dynamic Logic**, Sections 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6.1, 3.6.2, 3.6.3, 3.6.4, 3.6.5, 3.6.7, 3.7