

Coq tutorial

Program verification using Coq

Jean-Christophe Filliâtre

CNRS – Université Paris Sud

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Introduction

This lecture: how to use Coq to verify **purely functional** programs

Thursday's lecture: verification of **imperative** programs (using Coq and other provers)

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The goal

To get a purely functional (ML) program which is **proved correct**

There are mostly two ways:

1. define your ML function in Coq and prove it correct
2. give the Coq function a richer type (= the specification) and get the ML function via **program extraction**

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Program extraction

Two sorts:

Prop : the sort of **logic** terms

Set : the sort of **informative** terms

Program extraction turns the informative contents of a Coq term into an ML program while removing the logical contents

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Outline

1. Direct method (ML function defined in Coq)
2. Use of Coq dependent types
3. Modules and functors

Running example

Finite sets library implemented with balanced binary search trees

1. useful
2. complex
3. purely functional

The Ocaml library `Set` was verified using Coq

One (balancing) bug was found (fixed in current release)

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Direct method

Most ML functions can be defined in Coq

$$f : \tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2$$

A specification is a relation $S : \tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2 \rightarrow \text{Prop}$
 f verifies S if

$$\forall x : \tau_1. (S x (f x))$$

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Binary search trees

The type of trees

```
Inductive tree : Set :=
  | Empty
  | Node : tree → Z → tree → tree.
```

The membership relation

```
Inductive In (x:Z) : tree → Prop :=
  | In_left : ∀ l r y, In x l → In x (Node l y r)
  | In_right : ∀ l r y, In x r → In x (Node l y r)
  | Is_root : ∀ l r, In x (Node l x r).
```

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  | Is_root : ∀ l r, In x (Node l x r).
```

The function `is_empty`

ML

```
let is_empty = function Empty → true | _ → false
```

Coq

```
Definition is_empty (s:tree) : bool := match s with
  | Empty ⇒ true
  | _ ⇒ false end.
```

Correctness

Theorem `is_empty_correct` :

$$\forall s, (\text{is_empty } s) = \text{true} \leftrightarrow (\forall x, \neg(\text{In } x \text{ } s)).$$

Proof.

```
destruct s; simpl; intuition.
```

```
...
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Theorem is_empty_correct :
  ∀s, (is_empty s)=true ↔ (∀x, ¬(In x s)).
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The function `mem`

ML

```
let rec mem x = function
| Empty →
  false
| Node (l, y, r) →
  let c = compare x y in
  if c < 0 then mem x l
  else if c = 0 then true
  else mem x r
```

The function mem

Coq

```

Fixpoint mem (x:Z) (s:tree) {struct s} : bool :=
  match s with
  | Empty =>
    false
  | Node l y r => match compare x y with
    | Lt => mem x l
    | Eq => true
    | Gt => mem x r
  end
end.

```

assuming

```

Inductive order : Set := Lt | Eq | Gt.
Hypothesis compare : Z → Z → order.

```


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Inductive order : Set := Lt | Eq | Gt.

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Hypothesis compare : Z → Z → order.

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Correctness of the function `mem`

to be a **binary search tree**

```

Inductive bst : tree → Prop :=
  | bst_empty :
    bst Empty
  | bst_node :
    ∀ x l r,
    bst l → bst r →
    (∀ y, In y l → y < x) →
    (∀ y, In y r → x < y) → bst (Node l x r).
  
```

```

Theorem mem_correct :
  ∀ x s, bst s → ((mem x s)=true ↔ In x s).
  
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specification S has the shape $P\ x \rightarrow Q\ x\ (f\ x)$

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Modularity

To prove `mem` correct requires a property for `compare`

```
Hypothesis compare_spec :
  ∀ x y, match compare x y with
    | Lt ⇒ x < y
    | Eq ⇒ x = y
    | Gt ⇒ x > y
end.
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Theorem mem_correct :
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`Proof.`

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induction s; simpl.
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generalize (compare_spec x y); destruct (compare x y).
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  induction s; simpl.
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Partial functions

If the function f is partial, it has the Coq type

$$f : \forall x : \tau_1. (P\ x) \rightarrow \tau_2$$

Example: `min_elt` returning the smallest element of a tree

$$\text{min_elt} : \forall s : \text{tree}. \neg s = \text{Empty} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$$

specification

$$\forall s. \forall h : \neg s = \text{Empty}. \text{bst } s \rightarrow \\ \text{In } (\text{min_elt } s\ h) s \wedge \forall x. \text{In } x\ s \rightarrow \text{min_elt } s\ h \leq x$$

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Even the **definition** of a partial function is not easy

ML

```
let rec min_elt = function
  | Empty → assert false
  | Node (Empty, x, _) → x
  | Node (l, _, _) → min_elt l
```

Coq

1. `assert false` \Rightarrow elimination on a proof of **False**
2. recursive call requires a proof that `l` is not empty

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min_elt: a solution

```

Fixpoint min_elt (s:tree) (h:¬s=Empty) { struct s } : Z :=
  match s
    with
    | Empty =>

    | Node l x _ =>
      match l
      with
      | Empty => x
      | _ => min_elt l
      end
    end
  end .

```

min_elt: a solution

```

Fixpoint min_elt (s:tree) (h:¬s=Empty) { struct s } : Z :=
  match s return ¬s=Empty → Z with
  | Empty ⇒
    (fun (h:¬Empty=Empty) ⇒
      False_rec _ (h (refl_equal Empty)))
  | Node l x _ ⇒
    (fun h ⇒ match l as a return a=l → Z with
      | Empty ⇒ (fun _ ⇒ x)
      | _ ⇒ (fun h ⇒ min_elt l
                (Node_not_empty _ _ _ _ h))
      end (refl_equal l))
    end h.

```


Definition by proof

Idea: use the proof editor to build the whole definition

Definition `min_elt` : $\forall s, \neg s = \text{Empty} \rightarrow Z$.

Proof.

```
induction s; intro h.
elim h; auto.
destruct s1.
exact z.
apply IHs1; discriminate.
```

Defined.

But did we define the right function?

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But did we define the right function?

Definition by proof (cont'd)

We can check the extracted code:

```
Extraction min_elt.
```

```
(** val min_elt : tree → z **)
```

```
let rec min_elt = function
  | Empty → assert false (* absurd case *)
  | Node (t0, z0, t1) →
      (match t0 with
       | Empty → z0
       | Node (s1_1, z1, s1_2) → min_elt t0)
```

The refine tactic

Definition min_elt : $\forall s, \neg s = \text{Empty} \rightarrow Z$.

Proof.

```
refine
```

```
  (fix min (s:tree) (h:¬s=Empty) { struct s } : Z :=
```

```
  match s return ¬s=Empty → Z with
```

```
  | Empty =>
```

```
    (fun h => _)
```

```
  | Node l x _ =>
```

```
    (fun h => match l as a return a=l → Z with
```

```
      | Empty => (fun _ => x)
```

```
      | _ => (fun h => min l _)
```

```
    end _)
```

```
  end h).
```

...

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Proof.

`refine`

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```
| Empty ⇒
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```
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```

```
  (fun h ⇒ match l as a return a=l → Z with
```

```
    | Empty ⇒ (fun _ ⇒ x)
```

```
    | _ ⇒ (fun h ⇒ min l _)
```

```
  end _)
```

```
end h).
```

...

A last solution

To make the function total

```
Fixpoint min_elt (s:tree) : Z := match s with
| Empty => 0
| Node Empty z _ => z
| Node l _ _ => min_elt l
end.
```

Correctness theorem almost unchanged:

```
Theorem min_elt_correct :
  ∀ s, ¬s=Empty → bst s →
    In (min_elt s) s ∧
    ∀ x, In x s → min_elt s <= x.
```


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```

Functions that are not structurally recursive

One solution is to use a **well-founded induction** principle such as

```
well_founded_induction
  :  $\forall (A : \text{Set}) (R : A \rightarrow A \rightarrow \text{Prop}),$ 
    well_founded R  $\rightarrow$ 
     $\forall P : A \rightarrow \text{Set},$ 
     $(\forall x : A, (\forall y : A, R\ y\ x \rightarrow P\ y) \rightarrow P\ x) \rightarrow$ 
     $\forall a : A, P\ a$ 
```

Defining the function requires to build proof terms (of $R\ y\ x$)
similar to partial functions \Rightarrow similar solutions

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     $\forall a : A, P\ a$ 
```

Defining the function requires to build proof terms (of $R\ y\ x$) similar to partial functions \Rightarrow similar solutions

Example: the subset function

```
let rec subset s1 s2 = match (s1, s2) with
| Empty, _ →
  true
| _, Empty →
  false
| Node (l1, v1, r1), Node (l2, v2, r2) →
  let c = compare v1 v2 in
  if c = 0 then
    subset l1 l2 && subset r1 r2
  else if c < 0 then
    subset (Node (l1, v1, Empty)) l2 && subset r1 s2
  else
    subset (Node (Empty, v1, r1)) r2 && subset l1 s2
```

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```

Induction over two trees

```

Fixpoint cardinal_tree (s:tree) : nat := match s with
  | Empty  $\Rightarrow$ 
    0
  | Node l _ r  $\Rightarrow$ 
    (S (plus (cardinal_tree l) (cardinal_tree r)))
end.

```

```

Lemma cardinal_rec2 :
   $\forall$  (P:tree $\rightarrow$ tree $\rightarrow$ Set),
  ( $\forall$  (x x':tree),
    ( $\forall$  (y y':tree),
      (lt (plus (cardinal_tree y) (cardinal_tree y'))
          (plus (cardinal_tree x) (cardinal_tree x'))))  $\rightarrow$ 
       $\rightarrow$  (P x x'))  $\rightarrow$ 
   $\forall$  (x x':tree), (P x x').

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   $\forall$  (x x':tree), (P x x').

```


Defining the subset function

Definition subset : tree → tree → bool.

Proof.

```

intros s1 s2; pattern s1, s2; apply cardinal_rec2.
destruct x. ... destruct x'. ...
intros; case (compare z z0).
(* z < z0 *)
refine (andb (H (Node x1 z Empty) x'2 _)
             (H x2 (Node x'1 z0 x'2) _)); simpl; omega.
(* z = z0 *)
refine (andb (H x1 x'1 _) (H x2 x'2 _)); simpl ; omega.
(* z > z0 *)
refine (andb (H (Node Empty z x2) x'2 _)
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Defined.

Defining the subset function

Definition subset : tree \rightarrow tree \rightarrow bool.

Proof.

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intros s1 s2; pattern s1, s2; apply cardinal_rec2.
destruct x. ... destruct x'. ...
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Extraction well_founded_induction.  
  let rec well_founded_induction x a =  
    x a (fun y _ → well_founded_induction x y)
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gives the expected ML code

To sum up, defining an ML function in Coq and prove it correct seems the obvious way, but it can be rather **complex** when the function

- ▶ is **partial**, and/or
- ▶ is **not structurally recursive**

Use of dependent types

Instead of

1. defining a pure function, and
2. proving its correctness

let us do both at the same time

We can give Coq functions richer types that are specifications

Example

$$f : \{n : \mathbb{Z} \mid n \geq 0\} \rightarrow \{p : \mathbb{Z} \mid \text{prime } p\}$$

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The type $\{x : A \mid P\}$

Notation for $\text{sig } A \text{ (fun } x \Rightarrow P)$ where

```
Inductive sig (A : Set) (P : A → Prop) : Set :=
  exist : ∀x:A, P x → sig P
```

In practice, we adopt the more general specification

$$f : \forall x : \tau_1, P x \rightarrow \{y : \tau_2 \mid Q x y\}$$

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Example: the `min_elt` function

Definition `min_elt` :

$$\forall s, \neg s = \text{Empty} \rightarrow \text{bst } s \rightarrow \{ m : \mathbb{Z} \mid \text{In } m \ s \wedge \forall x, \text{In } x \ s \rightarrow m \leq x \}.$$

We usually adopt a **definition-by-proof** (which is now a **definition-and-proof**)

Still the same ML program

```
Coq < Extraction sig.
type 'a sig = 'a
  (* singleton inductive, whose constructor was exist *)
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Specification of a boolean function: $\{A\} + \{B\}$

Notation for `sumbool A B` where

```
Inductive sumbool (A : Prop) (B : Prop) : Set :=
  | left  : A → sumbool A B
  | right : B → sumbool A B
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this is an **informative disjunction**

Example:

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Definition is_empty : ∀ s, { s=Empty } + { ¬ s=Empty }.
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Variant sumor $A + \{B\}$

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Inductive sumor (A : Set) (B : Prop) : Set :=
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Extracts to an **option type**

Example:

Definition min_elt :

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  ∀ s, bst s →
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$$\forall s, \text{bst } s \rightarrow \{ m:Z \mid \text{In } m \ s \wedge \forall x, \text{In } x \ s \rightarrow m \leq x \} + \{ s = \text{Empty} \}.$$

The mem function

Hypothesis compare : $\forall x y, \{x < y\} + \{x = y\} + \{x > y\}$.

Definition mem : $\forall x s, \text{bst } s \rightarrow \{ \text{In } x s \} + \{ \neg(\text{In } x s) \}$.

Proof.

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induction s; intros.
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To sum up, using **dependent types**

- ▶ we replace a definition and a proof by **a single proof**
- ▶ the ML function is still available using **extraction**

On the contrary, it is more difficult to prove **several properties** of the same function

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Modules and functors

Coq has a **module system** similar to Objective Caml's one

Coq modules can contain definitions but also proofs, notations, hints for the auto tactic, etc.

As Ocaml, Coq has **functors** i.e. functions from modules to modules

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ML modules

```
module type OrderedType = sig
  type t
  val compare: t → t → int
end
```

```
module Make(Ord: OrderedType) : sig
  type t
  val empty : t
  val mem : Ord.t → t → bool
  ...
end
```

Coq modules

```
Module Type OrderedType.
```

```
Parameter t : Set.
```

```
Parameter eq : t → t → Prop.
```

```
Parameter lt : t → t → Prop.
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```
Parameter compare : ∀ x y, {lt x y}+{eq x y}+{lt y x}.
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Axiom eq_refl : ∀ x, eq x x.
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```
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The Coq functor for binary search trees

```

Module BST (X: OrderedType).
  Inductive tree : Set :=
  | Empty
  | Node : tree → X.t → tree → tree.

  Fixpoint mem (x:X.t) (s:tree) {struct s} : bool := ...

  Inductive In (x:X.t) : tree → Prop := ...
  Hint Constructors In.

  Inductive bst : tree → Prop :=
  | bst_empty : bst Empty
  | bst_node : ∀ x l r, bst l → bst r →
    (∀ y, In y l → X.lt y x) → ...

```

Conclusion

Coq is a tool of choice for the verification of purely functional programs, up to modules

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