Proving Programs Correct

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About This Talk

Part 1: The Verification Renaissance
Part 2: `versat`, a Verified Modern SAT Solver
Ad: *U. Iowa CS grad programs*

Verification Reborn

Language-Based Verification Will Change the World,
T. Sheard, A. Stump, S. Weirich, FoSER 2010.

Computing systems are doing so much:

Why can't we guarantee they work?

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Why not just use testing?

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– Difficult to assess coverage
– Cannot demonstrate absence of bugs
– No guarantees for safety-critical systems

Alternative: Formal Verification

Instead of tests, use proofs

- Deduction and proof provide universal guarantees
- Prove that software has specified properties
- From this...

"seL4: formal verification of an OS kernel", Klein et al., SOSP 2009

To this:

"Astrée: From Research to Industry", D. Delmas et al., SAS 2007

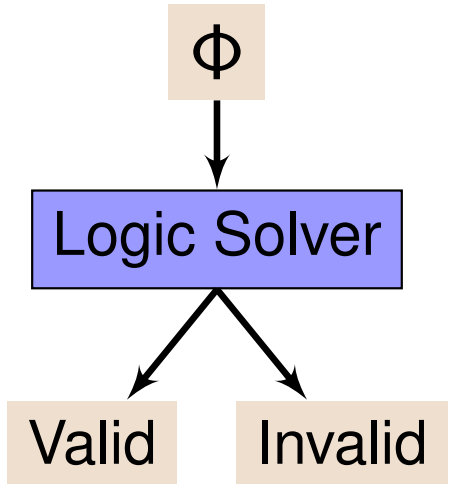
Proofs and Size of Systems

- seL4 microkernel (mobile phones):
  - Around 9,000 lines of code
  - 200,000 lines of computer-checked proof, written by hand
  - Isabelle proof tool
- Airbus A380:
  - Millions of lines of code
  - cf. Mercedes S-class: 100M lines of code
  - Astrée can analyze 100Kloc programs

Why the difference in scale?

Two Kinds of Computer Proof

1. Automated Theorem Proving (Astrée)
   - Fully automatic
   - Shallow reasoning, but
   - Large formulas



2. Computer-Checked Manual Proof (Isabelle)
   - Written by hand
   - Needed for deep reasoning
   - Use solvers to fill in easy parts

Large formulas: megabytes

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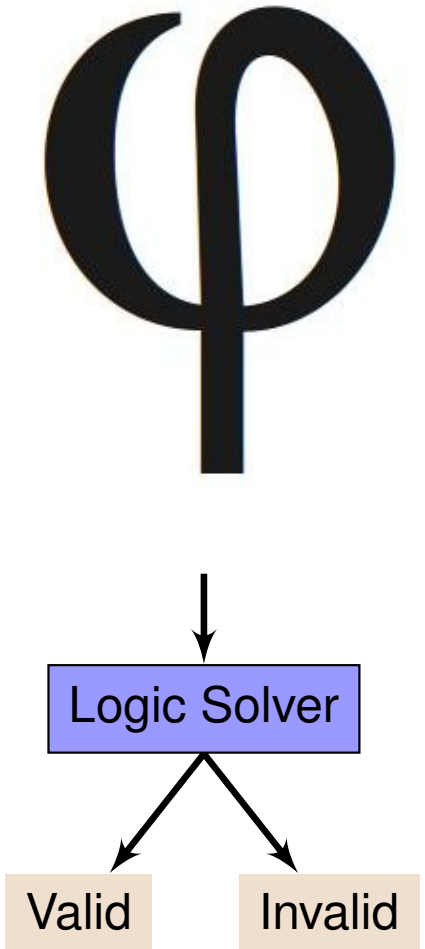

Programs as Proofs?

- Solvers test huge formulas
  - $\Rightarrow$ solvers must be very efficient
  - $\Rightarrow$ solvers must be complicated
- What if the solver is wrong?
- Who watches the watchers?

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`versat`

A Verified Modern SAT Solver

versat: A Verified Modern SAT Solver,
D. Oe, A. Stump, C. Oliver, K. Clancy, VMCAI 2012.

SAT: Propositional Satisfiability

- Given a propositional formula, test *satisfiability*
  - Propositional: and ($\wedge$), or ($\vee$), not ($\neg$), variables (p, q, r)
  - Satisfiable: boolean values for variables exist making formula true
- Examples:
  - Satisfiable: $p \wedge (q \vee \neg p)$
    Set $p = \texttt{true}$ and $q = \texttt{true}$
  - Unsatisfiable: $(p \rightarrow q) \wedge (q \rightarrow r) \wedge p \wedge \neg r$
- Many optimizations for SAT solvers in last 15 years
  - Solvers can handle huge formulas (100k vars, 1M clauses)
- Validating answers:
  - When satisfiable, can check assignment
  - When unsatisfiable, some solvers dump proofs

`versat` Overview

- SAT solver with modern optimizations
- Implemented in GURU
  - Research language developed in my group
  - Used for verified programming
  - Combine rich types with inductive proofs
- Statically verified `unsat`-soundness
  - If `versat` says `unsat`
  - Then input formula is contradictory
- `sat`-soundness not verified
- Efficiency:
  - Uses standard efficient data structures
  - Can handle formulas on modern scale
- Around 2kloc code, 8kloc proofs

Main Specification

- The `solve` function has type:

```
Fun(F:formula)(...).<answer F>
```

- `answer` records proof for `unsat` case:

```
Inductive answer : Fun(F:formula).type :=
  sat : Fun(spec F:formula).<answer F>
| unsat : Fun(spec F:formula)(spec p:<pf F False>).
            <answer F>
```

- `pf` is an indexed datatype of propositional proofs
- Data of type `<pf F1 F2>` are proofs that `F1` entails `F2`
- We have proved that a propositional proof exists
- Not constructed at run-time
  - Some solvers actually emit such proofs
  - Requires much extra time, space

Results: `versat` vs. proof checking

The Certified Track benchmarks of SAT Competition 2007

- 16 benchmarks (believed to be UNSAT)
- System: Intel Core 2 Duo 2.40GHz w/ 3GB of memory
- One hour timeout for solving and checking, individually

Systems	#Solved	#Certified
versat	6	6
picosat + RUP	14	4
picosat + TraceCheck	14	12

Trusted Base:

- `versat`: GURU compiler + 259 lines of GURU code
- checker3 (RUP checker): 1,538 lines of C code
- tracecheck (TraceCheck checker): 2,989 lines of C code + `boolforce` library (minisat-2.2.0 is ≈2,500 lines of C++)

The Broken-Window Theory

- Fix broken windows and the neighborhood improves
- Verify some properties and others hold, too

$\Longrightarrow$

- For `versat`:
  - We proved unsat-soundness
  - What about sat-soundness?

Fuzzing `versat`

- `cnfuzz` generates random instances [Brummayer+2010]
- Used to find bugs in competition SAT solvers (2007, 2009)
- Applied to `versat`:
  - Generated 10,000 random formulas
  - 54% satisfiable
  - Compare `versat` and MiniSat 2.2.0, 60 second timeout
  - `versat` timed out on 27 formulas
  - Otherwise, complete agreement

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Wow!

Conclusion

- Verification: prove properties of programs
- Case study: `versat`
  - First verification of efficient modern SAT solver
- Slides online at my blog, QA9:

`http://queuea9.wordpress.com`

Graduate Study in CS at U. Iowa

U. Iowa CS Grad Programs

- MCS: Master of Computer Science
  - Course-based program
  - Deepen CS knowledge beyond undergraduate curriculum
  - Basically: 10 CS graduate courses
  - No guarantees, but many TAships available
  - Strengthen credentials for industry
- PhD: Doctor of Philosophy
  - Research-based program
  - Develop students into independent researchers
    - ★ Building systems, designing algorithms, proving theorems, etc.
  - Minimal, flexible course requirements
  - Funding through RAships, TAships, fellowships
  - Leads to careers in academics, research labs, and industry

Research Areas

- Algorithms (Pemmaraju, Varadarajan)
  - Computational Geometry, Approximation and Randomization
- Computational Logic (Stump, Tinelli, Zhang)
  - Verification, Programming Languages, Automated Theorem Proving
- Graphics, HCI (Cremer, Hourcade, Kearney, Wyman)
  - Interactive Rendering, Virtual Environments, Assistive Technologies
- Informatics (Segre, Srinivasan)
  - Text/Web Mining, Social Network Analysis, Comp. Epidemiology
- Distributed Systems (Chipara, Gosh, Herman)
  - Sensor Networks, Fault Tolerance, Distributed Algorithms
- Numerical Methods (Oliveira)
- Voting Technology (Jones)

Informatics at U. Iowa

- Research Topics:
  - Text and web mining (e.g., analysis of health beliefs, political sentiment, etc. on Twitter)
  - Social network analysis
  - Math modeling, optimization
  - Computational epidemiology
- Funding from NIH, NSF
- Recent graduates:
  - Donald Curtis 2011, (Faculty, Coe College)
  - Viet Ha-Thuc 2011 (Yahoo! Labs)
  - Chris Hlady 2011 (Amazon.com)
  - Yelena Majova 2012 (Post-doc, Yahoo! Research)

Prof. Alberto Segre

Prof. Padmini Srinivasan

Yelena Majova, PhD 2012 (Advisor: Srinivasan)

"My PhD research was on opinion extraction and sentiment analysis of social media text."

"I am a post-doc at Yahoo! Research in Barcelona, working on semantic entity, relationship, and property extraction from free text and image collections, serendipitous search, user behavior tracking using web data, and continuing political speech analysis."

Tyler Jensen, MCS 2012

- Did combined BS/MCS.
- Supported as TA/RA for Master's year.
- Internship at Microsoft, then hired.
- Currently working on Windows Mobile.

Duckki Oe, PhD 2012 (Advisor: Stump)

Started postdoc at MIT August 2012.

What are your career plans after MIT?

"I'd certainly want to research and apply formal verification methods. My first choice would be a faculty position (preferably in Korea).

How do you feel about your time at Iowa CS?

"I feel very grateful that I had a very supportive advisor (mentally and financially) and other professors who are respected in my field. [...] Studying and raising children at the same time wasn't easy. But, it was easier at Iowa because of child-friendly environment, low child care expenses and subsidy from the school."

Thanks for listening!