



# Semantics and Verification of Software

Summer Semester 2019

Lecture 9: Axiomatic Semantics of WHILE I (Hoare Logic)

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<https://moves.rwth-aachen.de/teaching/ss-19/sv-sw/>

# Recap: Equivalence of Operational and Denotational Semantics

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## Outline of Lecture 9

Recap: Equivalence of Operational and Denotational Semantics

The Axiomatic Approach

The Assertion Language

Semantics of Assertions

Partial Correctness Properties

A Valid Partial Correctness Property

Proof Rules for Partial Correctness

# Recap: Equivalence of Operational and Denotational Semantics

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## Equivalence of Semantics I

**Remember:** in Definition 4.1,  $\mathcal{D}[\cdot] : Cmd \rightarrow (\Sigma \dashrightarrow \Sigma)$  was given by

$$\mathcal{D}[c](\sigma) = \sigma' \iff \langle c, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma'$$

### Theorem (Coincidence Theorem)

For every  $c \in Cmd$ ,

$$\mathcal{D}[c] = \mathcal{E}[c],$$

i.e.,  $\langle c, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma'$  iff  $\mathcal{E}[c](\sigma) = \sigma'$ , and thus  $\mathcal{D}[\cdot] = \mathcal{E}[\cdot]$ .

# Recap: Equivalence of Operational and Denotational Semantics

## Equivalence of Semantics II

Proof (Theorem 8.5).

We have to show that

$$\langle c, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma' \iff \mathcal{E}[[c]](\sigma) = \sigma'$$

- $\Rightarrow$  by structural induction over the derivation tree of  $\langle c, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma'$  (as seen)
- $\Leftarrow$  by structural induction over  $c$ . We only consider  $c = \text{while } b \text{ do } c_0 \text{ end}$ . Since  $\mathcal{E}[[c]](\sigma) = \sigma'$ , according to Cor. 8.3 there exists  $n \geq 1$  such that  $\Phi^n(f_\emptyset)(\sigma) = \sigma'$  where  $\Phi(f) = \text{cond}(\mathcal{B}[[b]], f \circ \mathcal{E}[[c_0]], \text{id}_\Sigma)$ . We show  $\langle c, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma'$  by complete induction on  $n$ :

$n = 1$ : (note that  $n = 0$  is excluded as  $\Phi^n(f_\emptyset)(\sigma)$  always undefined)

$$\Phi(f_\emptyset)(\sigma) = \sigma'$$

$\Rightarrow \mathcal{B}[[b]]\sigma = \text{false}$  and  $\sigma' = \sigma$  (def.  $\Phi$ ,  $\text{graph}(f_\emptyset) = \emptyset$ )

$\Rightarrow \langle b, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \text{false}$  (Lemma 8.6(2))

$\Rightarrow \langle c, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma = \sigma'$  (rule (wh-f))

# Recap: Equivalence of Operational and Denotational Semantics

## Equivalence of Semantics III

Proof (Theorem 8.5; continued).

[remember:  $\Phi(f) = \text{cond}(\mathfrak{B}[[b]], f \circ \mathfrak{C}[[c_0]], \text{id}_\Sigma)$ ]

$n \rightsquigarrow n + 1$ : here,  $\Phi^{n+1}(f_\emptyset)(\sigma) = \Phi^n(\Phi(f_\emptyset))(\sigma) = \sigma'$ .

The following cases are possible:

- $\mathfrak{B}[[b]]\sigma = \text{true}$ : due to the definition of  $\Phi$ ,  $\sigma' = \Phi^n(f_\emptyset)(\sigma'')$  for  $\sigma'' := \mathfrak{C}[[c_0]]\sigma$ .

Moreover,

- $\langle b, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \text{true}$  (Lemma 8.6(2))
- $\langle c_0, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma''$  (induction hypothesis for  $c_0$ )
- $\langle c, \sigma'' \rangle \rightarrow \sigma'$  (induction hypothesis for  $n$ )

such that  $\langle c, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma'$  (rule (wh-t)).

- $\mathfrak{B}[[b]]\sigma = \text{false}$ : due to the definition of  $\Phi$ ,  $\sigma' = \sigma$ . Moreover,  $\langle b, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \text{false}$  (Lemma 8.6(2)) such that  $\langle c, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \sigma = \sigma'$  (rule (wh-f)).

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# The Axiomatic Approach

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# The Axiomatic Approach

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## The Axiomatic Approach I

### Example 9.1

- Let  $c \in \text{Cmd}$  be given by

```
s := 0; n := 1; while  $\neg(n > N)$  do s := s+n; n := n+1 end
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$s := 0; n := 1; \text{while } \neg(n > N) \text{ do } s := s+n; n := n+1 \text{ end}$

- How to show that, after termination of  $c$ ,

$$\sigma(s) = \sum_{k=1}^{\sigma(N)} k \quad ?$$



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- “Running”  $c$  according to the operational semantics is insufficient: every change of  $\sigma(N)$  requires a **new proof**

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- How to show that, after termination of  $c$ ,

$$\sigma(s) = \sum_{k=1}^{\sigma(N)} k \quad ?$$

- “Running”  $c$  according to the operational semantics is insufficient: every change of  $\sigma(N)$  requires a **new proof**
- Wanted: a more abstract, “**symbolic**” way of reasoning

# The Axiomatic Approach

## The Axiomatic Approach II

### Example 9.1 (continued)

Obviously  $c$  satisfies the following **assertions** (after execution of the respective statement):

```
s := 0;  
{s = 0}  
n := 1;  
{s = 0 ∧ n = 1}  
while ¬(n>N) do s := s+n; n := n+1 end  
{s =  $\sum_{k=1}^N k$  ∧ n > N}
```

where, e.g., “ $s = 0$ ” means “ $\sigma(s) = 0$  in the current state  $\sigma \in \Sigma$ ”

# The Axiomatic Approach

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## The Axiomatic Approach III

How to prove the **validity** of assertions?

- Assertions following **assignments** are evident (“ $s = 0$ ”)

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- Answer: after every loop iteration, the **invariant**  $s = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} k$  is satisfied

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- But how to obtain the final value of  $s$ ?
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- Our proof system employs **partial correctness properties** of the form  $\{A\} c \{B\}$  with assertions  $A, B$  and  $c \in \text{Cmd}$



# The Axiomatic Approach

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## The Axiomatic Approach III

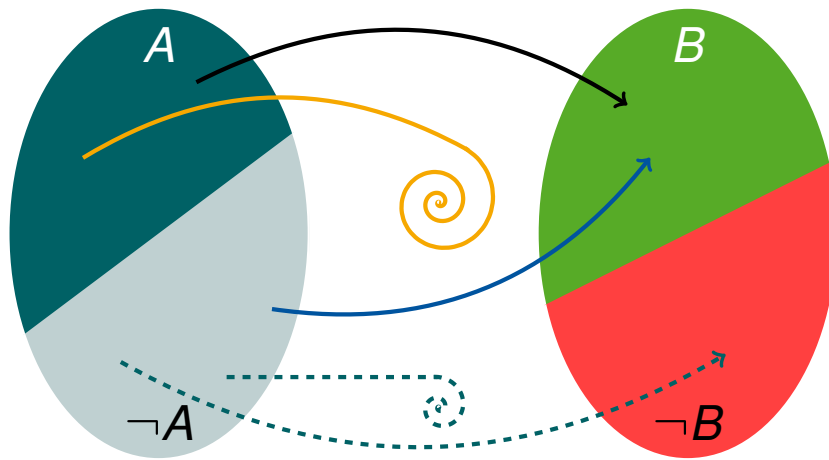
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- Assertions following **assignments** are evident (“ $s = 0$ ”)
- Also, “ $n > N$ ” follows directly from the loop’s **execution condition**
- But how to obtain the final value of  $s$ ?
- Answer: after every loop iteration, the **invariant**  $s = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} k$  is satisfied
- Our proof system employs **partial correctness properties** of the form  $\{A\} c \{B\}$  with assertions  $A, B$  and  $c \in \text{Cmd}$
- Interpretation depends on expected termination behaviour of  $c$ :  
**partial correctness**: nothing is said about  $c$  if it fails to terminate  
**total correctness**:  $c$  terminates on all inputs satisfying  $A$

# The Axiomatic Approach

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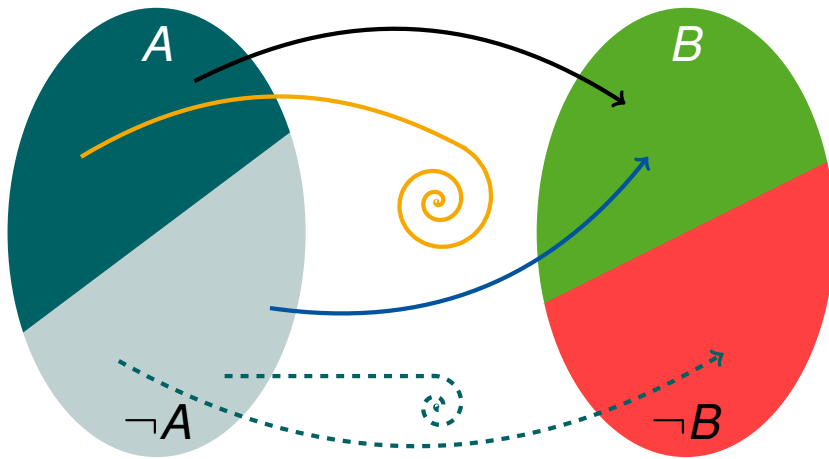
## The Axiomatic Approach IV



(picture courtesy of C. Matheja)

# The Axiomatic Approach

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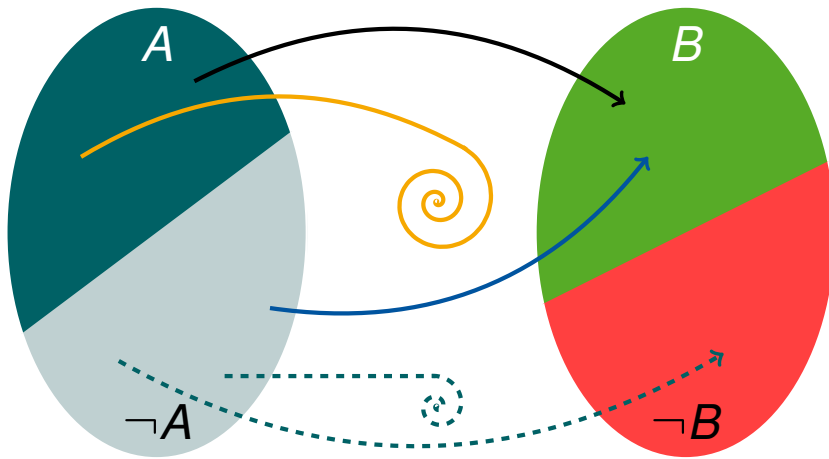
### Partial correctness properties

$\{A\} c \{B\}$  is **valid** if for all states  $\sigma \in \Sigma$  which satisfy  $A$ :  
if the execution of  $c$  in  $\sigma$  **terminates** in  $\sigma' \in \Sigma$ , then  $\sigma'$  satisfies  $B$ .

In particular,  $\{\text{true}\} c \{\text{false}\}$  is **valid**  
for  $c = \text{while true do skip end}$

# The Axiomatic Approach

## The Axiomatic Approach IV



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### Partial correctness properties

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### Total correctness properties

$\{A\} c \{\downarrow B\}$  is **valid** if for all states  $\sigma \in \Sigma$  which satisfy  $A$ :  
the execution of  $c$  in  $\sigma$  **terminates** and yields a state which satisfies  $B$ .

# The Assertion Language

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# The Assertion Language

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## Syntax of the Assertion Language I

**Assertions** = Boolean expressions + **logical variables**

- to memorize previous values of program variables
- to formulate more involved state properties

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**Syntactic categories:**

Category	Domain	Meta variable(s)
Logical variables	<i>LVar</i>	<i>i</i>
Arithmetic expressions with logical variables	<i>LExp</i>	<i>a</i>
Assertions	<i>Assn</i>	<i>A, B, C</i>

# The Assertion Language

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## Syntax of the Assertion Language II

### Definition 9.2 (Syntax of assertions)

The **syntax of *Assn*** is defined by the following context-free grammar:

$$\begin{aligned} a &::= z \mid x \mid i \mid a_1 + a_2 \mid a_1 - a_2 \mid a_1 * a_2 \in LExp \\ A &::= t \mid a_1 = a_2 \mid a_1 > a_2 \mid \neg A \mid A_1 \wedge A_2 \mid A_1 \vee A_2 \mid \forall i. A \in Assn \end{aligned}$$



# The Assertion Language

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- Thus:  $AExp \subsetneq LExp$ ,  $BExp \subsetneq Assn$
- The following (and other) **abbreviations** will be employed:

$$\begin{aligned} A_1 \Rightarrow A_2 &:= \neg A_1 \vee A_2 \\ \exists i. A &:= \neg(\forall i. \neg A) \\ a_1 \geq a_2 &:= a_1 > a_2 \vee a_1 = a_2 \\ &\vdots \end{aligned}$$

# Semantics of Assertions

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# Semantics of Assertions

## Semantics of $LExp$

The semantics now additionally depends on values of logical variables:

### Definition 9.3 (Semantics of $LExp$ )

An **interpretation** is an element of the set  $Int := \{I \mid I : LVar \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}\}$ . The **value of an arithmetic expressions with logical variables** is given by the functional

$$\mathcal{L}[\cdot] : LExp \rightarrow (Int \rightarrow (\Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}))$$

where

$$\begin{array}{ll} \mathcal{L}[z] l\sigma := z & \mathcal{L}[a_1 + a_2] l\sigma := \mathcal{L}[a_1] l\sigma + \mathcal{L}[a_2] l\sigma \\ \mathcal{L}[x] l\sigma := \sigma(x) & \mathcal{L}[a_1 - a_2] l\sigma := \mathcal{L}[a_1] l\sigma - \mathcal{L}[a_2] l\sigma \\ \mathcal{L}[i] l\sigma := I(i) & \mathcal{L}[a_1 * a_2] l\sigma := \mathcal{L}[a_1] l\sigma \cdot \mathcal{L}[a_2] l\sigma \end{array}$$

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Definition 6.1 (denotational semantics of arithmetic expressions) implies:

### Corollary 9.4

For every  $a \in AExp$  (without logical variables),  $I \in Int$ , and  $\sigma \in \Sigma$ :

$$\mathcal{L}[a] l\sigma = \mathcal{A}[a]\sigma.$$

# Semantics of Assertions

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## Semantics of Assertions I

- Formalized by a **satisfaction relation** of the form

$$\sigma \models A$$

(where  $\sigma \in \Sigma$  and  $A \in \text{Assn}$ )

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## Semantics of Assertions I

- Formalized by a **satisfaction relation** of the form

$$\sigma \models A$$

(where  $\sigma \in \Sigma$  and  $A \in \text{Assn}$ )

- Non-terminating computations captured by **undefined state**  $\perp$
- **Modification of interpretations** (in analogy to program states):

$$I[i \mapsto z](j) := \begin{cases} z & \text{if } j = i \\ I(j) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# Semantics of Assertions

## Semantics of Assertions II

**Reminder:**  $A ::= t \mid a_1 = a_2 \mid a_1 > a_2 \mid \neg A \mid A_1 \wedge A_2 \mid A_1 \vee A_2 \mid \forall i. A \in Assn$

### Definition 9.5 (Semantics of assertions)

Let  $A \in Assn$ ,  $\sigma \in \Sigma$ , and  $I \in Int$ . The relation “ $\sigma$  satisfies  $A$  in  $I$ ” (notation:  $\sigma \models^I A$ ) is inductively defined by:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \sigma \models^I \text{true} & \\ \sigma \models^I a_1 = a_2 & \text{if } \mathcal{L}[a_1] I \sigma = \mathcal{L}[a_2] I \sigma \\ \sigma \models^I a_1 > a_2 & \text{if } \mathcal{L}[a_1] I \sigma > \mathcal{L}[a_2] I \sigma \\ \sigma \models^I \neg A & \text{if not } \sigma \models^I A \\ \sigma \models^I A_1 \wedge A_2 & \text{if } \sigma \models^I A_1 \text{ and } \sigma \models^I A_2 \\ \sigma \models^I A_1 \vee A_2 & \text{if } \sigma \models^I A_1 \text{ or } \sigma \models^I A_2 \\ \sigma \models^I \forall i. A & \text{if } \sigma \models^{I[i \rightarrow z]} A \text{ for every } z \in \mathbb{Z} \end{array}$$

Furthermore  $\sigma$  satisfies  $A$  ( $\sigma \models A$ ) if  $\sigma \models^I A$  for every interpretation  $I \in Int$ , and  $A$  is called **valid** ( $\models A$ ) if  $\sigma \models A$  for every state  $\sigma \in \Sigma$ .



## Semantics of Assertions III

### Example 9.6

The following assertion expresses that, in the current state  $\sigma \in \Sigma$ ,  $\sigma(y)$  is the greatest divisor of  $\sigma(x)$ :

$$(\exists i. i > 1 \wedge i * y = x) \wedge \forall j. \forall k. (j > 1 \wedge j * k = x \Rightarrow k \leq y)$$

# Semantics of Assertions

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$$(\exists i. i > 1 \wedge i * y = x) \wedge \forall j. \forall k. (j > 1 \wedge j * k = x \Rightarrow k \leq y)$$

In analogy to Corollary 9.4, Definition 6.2 (denotational semantics of Boolean expressions) yields:

### Corollary 9.7

For every  $b \in BExp$  (without logical variables),  $l \in Int$ , and  $\sigma \in \Sigma$ :

$$\sigma \models^l b \iff \mathfrak{B}[[b]]\sigma = \text{true}.$$

## Semantics of Assertions IV

### Definition 9.8 (Extension)

Let  $A \in Assn$  and  $I \in Int$ . The **extension** of  $A$  with respect to  $I$  is given by

$$A' := \{\sigma \in \Sigma \mid \sigma \models' A\}.$$

## Semantics of Assertions IV

### Definition 9.8 (Extension)

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### Example 9.9

For  $A := (\exists i. i * i = x)$  and every  $I \in Int$ ,

$$A' = \{\sigma \in \Sigma \mid \sigma(x) \in \{0, 1, 4, 9, \dots\}\}$$

# Partial Correctness Properties

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## Partial Correctness Properties

### Definition 9.10 (Partial correctness properties)

Let  $A, B \in Assn$  and  $c \in Cmd$ .

- An expression of the form  $\{A\} c \{B\}$  is called a **partial correctness property (PCP)** with **precondition  $A$**  and **postcondition  $B$** .

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- Given  $\sigma \in \Sigma$  and  $I \in Int$ , we let

$$\sigma \models' \{A\} c \{B\}$$

if  $(\sigma \models' A$  and  $\mathcal{C}[[c]]\sigma \neq \perp$ ) implies  $\mathcal{C}[[c]]\sigma \models' B$   
(or equivalently:  $\sigma \in A' \Rightarrow \mathcal{C}[[c]]\sigma \in B' \cup \{\perp\}$ ).

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- $\{A\} c \{B\}$  is called **valid in**  $I$  (notation:  $\models' \{A\} c \{B\}$ ) if  $\sigma \models' \{A\} c \{B\}$  for every  $\sigma \in \Sigma$  (or equivalently:  $\mathcal{C}[[c]]A' \subseteq B' \cup \{\perp\}$ ).



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$$\models \{i \leq x\} x := x+1 \{i < x\}$$

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- According to Definition 9.10, this is equivalent to

$$\sigma \models^I \{i \leq x\} x := x+1 \{i < x\}$$

for every  $\sigma \in \Sigma$  and  $I \in \text{Int}$ , which is entailed by the following implications:

$$\sigma \models^I (i \leq x)$$

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for every  $\sigma \in \Sigma$  and  $I \in \text{Int}$ , which is entailed by the following implications:

$$\begin{aligned} & \sigma \models' (i \leq x) \\ \Rightarrow & \mathcal{L}[[i]]I\sigma \leq \mathcal{L}[[x]]I\sigma \end{aligned} \quad (\text{Definition 9.5})$$

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for every  $\sigma \in \Sigma$  and  $l \in \text{Int}$ , which is entailed by the following implications:

$$\begin{aligned} & \sigma \models^l (i \leq x) \\ \Rightarrow & \mathcal{L}[[i]]l\sigma \leq \mathcal{L}[[x]]l\sigma && \text{(Definition 9.5)} \\ \Rightarrow & l(i) \leq \sigma(x) && \text{(Definition 9.3)} \end{aligned}$$

# A Valid Partial Correctness Property

## A Valid Partial Correctness Property

### Example 9.11

- Let  $x \in \text{Var}$  and  $i \in \text{LVar}$ . We have to show:

$$\models \{i \leq x\} x := x+1 \{i < x\}$$

- According to Definition 9.10, this is equivalent to

$$\sigma \models^I \{i \leq x\} x := x+1 \{i < x\}$$

for every  $\sigma \in \Sigma$  and  $I \in \text{Int}$ , which is entailed by the following implications:

$$\begin{aligned} & \sigma \models^I (i \leq x) \\ \Rightarrow & \mathcal{L}[[i]]I\sigma \leq \mathcal{L}[[x]]I\sigma && \text{(Definition 9.5)} \\ \Rightarrow & I(i) \leq \sigma(x) && \text{(Definition 9.3)} \\ \Rightarrow & I(i) < \sigma(x) + 1 \\ & = (\mathcal{C}[[x := x+1]]\sigma)(x) \end{aligned}$$

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# A Valid Partial Correctness Property

## A Valid Partial Correctness Property

### Example 9.11

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- According to Definition 9.10, this is equivalent to

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for every  $\sigma \in \Sigma$  and  $l \in \text{Int}$ , which is entailed by the following implications:

$$\begin{aligned} & \sigma \models^l (i \leq x) \\ \Rightarrow & \mathcal{L}[[i]]l\sigma \leq \mathcal{L}[[x]]l\sigma && \text{(Definition 9.5)} \\ \Rightarrow & l(i) \leq \sigma(x) && \text{(Definition 9.3)} \\ \Rightarrow & l(i) < \sigma(x) + 1 \\ & = (\mathcal{C}[[x := x+1]]\sigma)(x) \\ \Rightarrow & \mathcal{C}[[x := x+1]]\sigma \models^l (i < x) \\ \Rightarrow & \text{claim} \end{aligned}$$

# Proof Rules for Partial Correctness

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## Outline of Lecture 9

Recap: Equivalence of Operational and Denotational Semantics

The Axiomatic Approach

The Assertion Language

Semantics of Assertions

Partial Correctness Properties

A Valid Partial Correctness Property

**Proof Rules for Partial Correctness**

# Proof Rules for Partial Correctness

## Hoare Logic

**Goal:** syntactic derivation of valid partial correctness properties.  
Here  $A[x \mapsto a]$  denotes the syntactic replacement of every occurrence of  $x$  by  $a$  in  $A$ .



Tony Hoare (\* 1934)

### Definition 9.12 (Hoare Logic)

The **Hoare rules** are given by

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{(skip)} \frac{}{\{A\} \text{ skip } \{A\}} \\ \text{(seq)} \frac{\{A\} c_1 \{C\} \quad \{C\} c_2 \{B\}}{\{A\} c_1 ; c_2 \{B\}} \\ \text{(while)} \frac{\{A \wedge b\} c \{A\}}{\{A\} \text{ while } b \text{ do } c \text{ end } \{A \wedge \neg b\}} \\ \text{(asgn)} \frac{}{\{A[x \mapsto a]\} x := a \{A\}} \\ \text{(if)} \frac{\{A \wedge b\} c_1 \{B\} \quad \{A \wedge \neg b\} c_2 \{B\}}{\{A\} \text{ if } b \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2 \text{ end } \{B\}} \\ \text{(cons)} \frac{\models (A \Rightarrow A') \quad \{A'\} c \{B'\} \quad \models (B' \Rightarrow B)}{\{A\} c \{B\}} \end{array}$$

A partial correctness property is **provable** (notation:  $\vdash \{A\} c \{B\}$ ) if it is derivable by the Hoare rules. In (while),  $A$  is called a **(loop) invariant**.