

Proof Rules for Probabilistic Loops

Seminar on Probabilistic Programs

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Outline

- 1 Introduction
 - Predicate Transformers
 - Expectation Transformers
- 2 Invariants for Probabilistic Loops
 - Partial Correctness
 - Total Correctness
 - Example
- 3 Variants
- 4 Conclusion

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Programs

Program Syntax

- atomic: `skip` | `abort` | `x := E`
- sequential execution: `prog1; prog2`
- probabilistic choice: `{prog1} [p] {prog2}`
- nondeterministic choice: `{prog1} □ {prog2}`
- branching: `if(cond){prog1}else{prog2}`
- loops: `while(cond){prog}`

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State Space and Predicates

State Space

set of all valuations of the program variables

Standard Predicate

A standard predicate is a set of states

Predicates can be defined by boolean expressions over program variables.

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Standard Predicate Transformers

Question: From which (initial) states are we guaranteed to establish a given *postcondition*?

Definition: The **weakest precondition** of the postcondition:
wp.prog.(post)

A program is a *predicate transformer*, it transforms a predicate, the postcondition, into another predicate, the weakest precondition.

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Weakest Precondition

- $wp.abort.g := false$
- $wp.skip.g := g$
- $wp.(x := expr).g := g[x \mapsto expr]$
- $wp.(prog; prog').g := wp.prog.(wp.prog'.g)$
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Example: Weakest Precondition

Faulty Addition

```

1 if(x < 0) {
2     result := x + y □ result := (x + y) * 2
3 }
4 else {
5     result := x + y
6 }

```

Postcondition: $result = x + y$

Weakest Precondition: $x \geq 0 \wedge x = -y$

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From Standard to Probabilistic Predicates

Requirements for probabilistic predicates:

- standard predicates must be usable in combination with probabilistic predicates
- we can get more precise information than just “good” or “bad” from probabilities
- idea of predicate transformer: predicates have to work with stepwise backward reasoning

We use **expected values**:

- *true* has expected worth 1, *false* 0
- expected value reflects the worth of a state
- expectations work well with the stepwise reasoning

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Probabilistic Predicates: Expectations

Standard Case:

“good” and “bad” states

sets of states

or functions from states to $\{0, 1\}$

Probabilistic Case:

“probably/often good” or

“probably/often bad”

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Probabilistic Predicate

A *probabilistic predicate* is a function from the state space to $[0, 1]$.

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Question: What is the expected value for $post$ in the initial states?

Definition

The **weakest preexpectation** $wp.prog.(post)$ is the expected value of $post$ in the worst case.

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post-predicate: $result = x + y$

weakest preexpectation:

- 1 if $x = -y$
- 0.999 if $x \geq 0 \wedge x \neq -y$
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Notation

- g, h, \dots are probabilistic predicates
- $\langle G \rangle$ standard predicate as probabilistic predicate
- \Rightarrow “everywhere less or equal”
- \Leftarrow “everywhere greater or equal”
- \equiv “everywhere equal”
- \sqcap, \sqcup, \bar{g} as $min, max, 1 - g$

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- $wp.(prog[p]prog').g := p \cdot wp.prog.g + \bar{p} \cdot wp.prog'.g$
- $wp.loop.g := \mu h . (\langle G \rangle \sqcap wp.body.h) \sqcup (\overline{\langle G \rangle} \sqcap g)$

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Standard Loops

For standard loops we use *invariants*:

$$G \wedge I \Rightarrow wp.body.I$$

For an invariant holds:

$$I \Rightarrow wp.loop.(\neg G \wedge I)$$

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Weakest Liberal Preexpectation

Wie “ignore” nontermination:

- $wlp.abort.g := 1$
- $wlp.loop.g := \eta h . (\langle G \rangle \sqcap wlp.body.h) \sqcup (\overline{\langle G \rangle} \sqcap g)$,
 η largest fixed point
- everything else: $wlp.prog.g := wp.prog.g$

Expectation Invariants

for standard Programs:

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Instead of strict invariance, we require:

$$\langle G \rangle \sqcap I \Rightarrow wlp.body.I$$

The value of an *expectation invariant* may not decrease if the loop guard holds

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Rule for Partial Correctness

for standard Programs:

$$I \Rightarrow wp.loop.(\neg G \wedge I)$$

Lemma 1

Let I be a wlp-invariant of $loop$, then:

$$I \Rightarrow wlp.loop.(\overline{\langle G \rangle} \sqcap I)$$

Proof Idea:

Use properties of largest fixed points:

$$x \leq f(x) \text{ implies } x \leq \eta f.$$

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Notations

- $T := wp.loop.1$ the “termination expectation”
- $g \& h := (g + h - 1) \sqcup 0$
stronger “and” than \sqcap
 $wp.prog.(g \& h) \Leftarrow wlp.prog.(g) \& wp.prog.(h)$

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Rule 1 for Total Correctness

Lemma 1: $I \Rightarrow wp.loop.(\overline{\langle G \rangle} \sqcap I)$

Lemma 2

Let I be a wp-invariant for $loop$. Then

$$I \& T \Rightarrow wp.loop.(\overline{\langle G \rangle} \sqcap I)$$

Proof Idea:

- split wp in $wp \& T$
- apply Lemma 1

Useful if I or T is standard.

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Rule 2 for Total Correctness

for standard Programs:

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Lemma 2: *wlp*-invariant I

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Theorem 3

If I is a *wp*-invariant of *loop*, then

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Proof Idea:

- Construct *wlp* invariant $I' := I + 1 - T$
- apply Lemma 2

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- apply Lemma 2

Example: Uniform Selection

Uniform Selection

```

1  init:
2      ℓ := 0;
3      h := N;
4  loop:
5      while ( ℓ + 1 ≠ h ) {
6          p := ⌊(ℓ+h)/2⌋;
7          ℓ := p ⌊ $\frac{h-p}{h-\ell}$ ⌋ h := p
8      }

```

$post := \langle \ell = C \rangle$

$wp.init(wp.loop.post) \equiv \frac{1}{N} ?$

$I := \langle \ell \leq C < h \rangle / (h - \ell)$

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- $I := \langle \ell \leq C < h \rangle / (h - \ell)$
- show $I \sqcap \langle \ell + 1 \neq h \rangle \Rightarrow wp.body.(I)$
- show termination using standard variant.
- apply Theorem 3 for total correctness
 $I \Rightarrow wp.loop.(\langle \ell + 1 = h \rangle \sqcap I) \equiv$
 $wp.loop.(\langle \ell = C \rangle)$
- wp of the whole program:
 $\langle 0 \leq C < N \rangle / N \equiv wp.init.(I) \Rightarrow$
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4 loop:
5   while (ℓ+1≠h) {
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- $I := \langle \ell \leq C < h \rangle / (h - \ell)$
- show $I \sqcap \langle \ell + 1 \neq h \rangle \Rightarrow wp.body.(I)$
- show termination using standard variant.
- apply Theorem 3 for total correctness
 $I \Rightarrow wp.loop.(\langle \ell + 1 = h \rangle \sqcap I) \equiv wp.loop.(\langle \ell = C \rangle)$
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- 3 Variants
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Standard Variants

Termination for standard programs using **variants**: If for integer expression V holds:

- V decreases in every iteration and
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For every subset of the state space holds:
the infimum over the escape probabilities is 0 or 1

- trap state / bottom scc
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Variant Rule

For probabilistic programs:

- V decreases with at least $p > 0$ in each iteration
- V is between L and H for all states in the loop

If such V , L , H and p exist, then the loop terminates almost surely.

Proof Idea:

Use the 0-1 law; $L \leq V < H$ defines the subset of the state space and p is less or equal to the infimum of the termination probabilities.

Complete for finite programs:

V as “distance to terminal state” and p as probability to move on the shortest path out of the loop.

$L = 0$, $H = |\text{Statespace}|$

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Thank you for your attention!

Questions?

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