

A Practical Overview of Deductive Program Synthesis

Alexander D. Weinert

RWTH Aachen University

Spring School on Program Synthesis
Papenburg 2012

Another Point of View

Traditional Programming

Specify *how* to do something

Program Synthesis

Specify *what* to do

Another Point of View

Traditional Programming

Specify *how* to do something

Program Synthesis

Specify *what* to do

Our task

Define methods for

- Specification
- Transformation of specification to program

Specification

Prerequisite

- Only consider side-effect-free programs
 - ▶ No GUI, no persistence, ...

Criteria

User-oriented

- Easy to write
- Oriented on well-known languages

Tool-oriented

- Unambiguous

⇒ Logic

Specifications in Logic

Natural formulation

Find a program $\text{prog}(x)$ with output y , such that $\text{post}(x,y)$ holds.
I assure that $\text{pre}(x)$ holds.

Specifications in Logic

Natural formulation

Find a program $\text{prog}(x)$ with output y , such that $\text{post}(x,y)$ holds.
I assure that $\text{pre}(x)$ holds.

Mathematical notation

$\text{prog}(x) \Leftarrow$ Find y , such that $\text{post}(x,y)$,
where $\text{pre}(x)$

Specifications in Logic

Natural formulation

Find a program $\text{prog}(x)$ with output y , such that $\text{post}(x,y)$ holds.
I assure that $\text{pre}(x)$ holds.

Mathematical notation

$$\text{prog}(x) \Leftarrow \text{Find } y, \text{ such that } \text{post}(x,y),$$

where $\text{pre}(x)$

Background theories

Integers, Strings, Sets, ...

Expressions in logic

- Basic propositions: `true`, `false`, `a|b`, `char(x)`, `a ∈ X`, ...

Expressions in logic

- Basic propositions: `true`, `false`, `a|b`, `char(x)`, `a ∈ X`, ...
- Basic functions: `gcd(x,y)`, `head(a)`, `union(X,Y)`, ...

Expressions in logic

- Basic propositions: `true`, `false`, `a|b`, `char(x)`, `a ∈ X`, ...
- Basic functions: `gcd(x,y)`, `head(a)`, `union(X,Y)`, ...
- Equality: `x=y`, `last(a)=head(b)`, `union(X,Y)=union(A,B)`, ...

Expressions in logic

- Basic propositions: `true`, `false`, `a|b`, `char(x)`, `a ∈ X`, ...
- Basic functions: `gcd(x,y)`, `head(a)`, `union(X,Y)`, ...
- Equality: `x=y`, `last(a)=head(b)`, `union(X,Y)=union(A,B)`, ...
- Boolean connectives: $\neg\varphi_1$,
 ↑
 “not”

Expressions in logic

- Basic propositions: true , false , $a|b$, $\text{char}(x)$, $a \in X$, ...
- Basic functions: $\text{gcd}(x,y)$, $\text{head}(a)$, $\text{union}(X,Y)$, ...
- Equality: $x=y$, $\text{last}(a)=\text{head}(b)$, $\text{union}(X,Y)=\text{union}(A,B)$, ...
- Boolean connectives: $\neg\varphi_1$, $\varphi_1 \wedge \varphi_2$, $\varphi_1 \vee \varphi_2$, $\varphi_1 \xrightarrow{\uparrow} \varphi_2$
"if, then"

Specification of a square root program

Square root

$\text{sqrt}(x, \epsilon) \Leftarrow$ Find y , such that
 $y^2 \leq x \wedge x < (y + \epsilon)^2$,
where $\epsilon > 0$

Specification of a square root program

Square root

$\text{sqrt}(x, \epsilon) \Leftarrow$ Find y , such that
 $y^2 \leq x \wedge x < (y + \epsilon)^2$,
where $\epsilon > 0$

$\text{post}(x, \epsilon, y) := y^2 \leq x \wedge x < (y + \epsilon)^2$
 $\text{pre}(x, \epsilon) := \epsilon > 0$

Front and last element of lists

Front and last element

$\langle \text{front}(s), \text{last}(s) \rangle \Leftrightarrow$ Find $\langle y, z \rangle$, such that
 $\text{char}(z) \wedge s = y \cdot z$,
where $\neg(s = \epsilon)$

Front and last element of lists

Front and last element

$\langle \text{front}(s), \text{last}(s) \rangle \Leftarrow$ Find $\langle y, z \rangle$, such that
 $\text{char}(z) \wedge s = y \cdot z$,
where $\neg(s = \epsilon)$

$\text{post}(s, y, z) := (\text{char}(z) \wedge s = y \cdot z)$
 $\text{pre}(s) := s \neq \epsilon$

The method

General idea

We want to show:

The method

General idea

We want to show: There exists a program fulfilling the specification

Proof has to be “sufficiently constructive”

Reminder

$\text{prog}(x) \Leftarrow \text{Find } y, \text{ such that } \text{post}(x, y),$
where $\text{pre}(x)$

Reminder

$\text{prog}(x) \Leftarrow \text{Find } y, \text{ such that } \text{post}(x,y),$
where $\text{pre}(x)$

To Show

If $\text{pre}(x)$ holds, then $\text{post}(x,y)$ holds for some y .

Reminder

$\text{prog}(x) \Leftarrow \text{Find } y, \text{ such that } \text{post}(x, y),$
where $\text{pre}(x)$

To Show

If $\text{pre}(x)$ holds, then $\text{post}(x, y)$ holds for some y .

Tableau notation

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$\text{pre}(x)$		

Reminder

$\text{prog}(x) \Leftarrow \text{Find } y, \text{ such that } \text{post}(x, y),$
where $\text{pre}(x)$

To Show

If $\text{pre}(x)$ holds, then $\text{post}(x, y)$ holds for some y .

Tableau notation

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$\text{pre}(x)$		
	$\text{post}(x, y)$	y

Reminder

$\text{prog}(x) \Leftarrow \text{Find } y, \text{ such that } \text{post}(x,y),$
where $\text{pre}(x)$

To Show

If $\text{pre}(x)$ holds, then $\text{post}(x,y)$ holds for some y .

Tableau notation

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$\text{pre}(x)$		
	$\text{post}(x,y)$	y

Output some y that fulfills the postcondition

General tableaux

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$A_{c,1}(x)$		$t_{c,1}(x)$
$A_{c,2}(x)$		$t_{c,2}(x)$
\vdots		\vdots
$A_{c,m}(x)$		$t_{c,m}(x)$

General tableaux

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$A_{c,1}(x)$		$t_{c,1}(x)$
$A_{c,2}(x)$		$t_{c,2}(x)$
\vdots		\vdots
$A_{c,m}(x)$		$t_{c,m}(x)$
	$G_{c,1}(x)$	$t_{c,m+1}(x)$
	$G_{c,2}(x)$	$t_{c,m+2}(x)$
	\vdots	\vdots
	$G_{c,n}(x)$	$t_{c,m+n}(x)$

General tableaux

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$A_{c,1}(x)$		$t_{c,1}(x)$
$A_{c,2}(x)$		$t_{c,2}(x)$
\vdots		\vdots
$A_{c,m}(x)$		$t_{c,m}(x)$
	$G_{c,1}(x)$	$t_{c,m+1}(x)$
	$G_{c,2}(x)$	$t_{c,m+2}(x)$
	\vdots	\vdots
	$G_{c,n}(x)$	$t_{c,m+n}(x)$

Associated Sentence

If for all x : $A_{c,1}(x)$ and $A_{c,2}(x)$ and \dots $A_{c,m}(x)$
then there exists some x : $G_{c,1}(x)$ or $G_{c,2}(x)$ or \dots $G_{c,n}(x)$

Steps of Deduction

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$\text{pre}(x)$		
	$\text{post}(x, y)$	y

Steps of Deduction

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
pre(x)		
	post(x,y)	y

⋮

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	true	...

Steps of Deduction

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
pre(x)		
	post(x,y)	y

⋮

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	true	...

or

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
false		...

Steps of Deduction

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
pre(x)		
	post(x,y)	y

⋮

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	true	... ← generated program

or

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
false		... ← generated program

Steps of Deduction

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
pre(x)		
	post(x,y)	y

⇓ ⇐ Deduction Rules

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	true	... ← generated program

or

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
false		... ← generated program

General Form

	Assertions	Goals	Outputs
Prerequisite	$A_{c,1}(x)$		$t_{c,1}(x)$
	\vdots		\vdots
	$A_{c,m}(x)$		$t_{c,m}(x)$
		$G_{c,1}(x)$	$t_{c,m+1}(x)$
		\vdots	\vdots
		$G_{c,n}(x)$	$t_{c,m+n}(x)$

General Form

	Assertions	Goals	Outputs
Prerequisite	$A_{c,1}(x)$		$t_{c,1}(x)$
	\vdots		\vdots
	$A_{c,m}(x)$		$t_{c,m}(x)$
		$G_{c,1}(x)$	$t_{c,m+1}(x)$
		\vdots	\vdots
		$G_{c,n}(x)$	$t_{c,m+n}(x)$
<hr/>			
	Assertions	Goals	Outputs
Deduction	$A'_{c,1}(x)$		$t'_{c,1}(x)$
	\vdots		\vdots
	$A'_{c,m'}(x)$		$t'_{c,m'}(x)$
		$G'_{c,1}(x)$	$t'_{c,m'+1}(x)$
		\vdots	\vdots
		$G'_{c,n'}(x)$	$t'_{c,m'+n'}(x)$

Duality

Duality

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$\neg\varphi$		t

}

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	φ	t

Duality

Duality

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$\neg\varphi$		t

}

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	φ	t

$\dots \wedge \forall x. \neg\varphi(x)$

$\Leftrightarrow \dots \wedge \neg\exists x. \varphi(x)$

$\Leftrightarrow \dots \vee \exists x. \varphi(x)$

Duality: Example

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$s \neq \epsilon$		

Duality: Example

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$s \neq \epsilon$		

\Downarrow

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$s \neq \epsilon$		
	$\neg(s \neq \epsilon)$	

Duality: Example

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$s \neq \epsilon$		

\Downarrow

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$s \neq \epsilon$		
	$s = \epsilon$	

Splitting Rules

AND-Splitting

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$\varphi \wedge \psi$		t

\Downarrow

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
φ		t
ψ		t

Splitting Rules

AND-Splitting

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$\varphi \wedge \psi$		t

⇓

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
φ		t
ψ		t

OR-Splitting

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	$\varphi \vee \psi$	t

⇓

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	φ	t
	ψ	t

Splitting Rules

AND-Splitting

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$\varphi \wedge \psi$		t

⇓

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
φ		t
ψ		t

OR-Splitting

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	$\varphi \vee \psi$	t

⇓

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	φ	t
	ψ	t

Recall:

If for all x all assertions hold,
then there exists some x , such that some goals hold.

Splitting Rules

IF-Splitting

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	If φ , then ψ	t

Splitting Rules

IF-Splitting

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	If φ , then ψ	t

\Downarrow

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	$\neg\varphi \vee \psi$	t

Splitting Rules

IF-Splitting

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	If φ , then ψ	t

\Downarrow

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	$\neg\varphi \vee \psi$	t

\Downarrow

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
φ		t
	ψ	t

Splitting: Example

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	if $s \neq \epsilon$, then $s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	

Splitting: Example

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	if $s \neq \epsilon$, then $s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	

⋮

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	if $s \neq \epsilon$, then $s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	
$s \neq \epsilon$		
	$s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	

Splitting: Example

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	if $s \neq \epsilon$, then $s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	

⋮

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	if $s \neq \epsilon$, then $s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	
Disprove this $\rightarrow s \neq \epsilon$		
	$s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	

Splitting: Example

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	if $s \neq \epsilon$, then $s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	

⋮

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	if $s \neq \epsilon$, then $s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	
Disprove this $\rightarrow s \neq \epsilon$		or show
	$s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	\leftarrow this

Simplification

Let $\varphi \equiv \psi$

Simplification

Let $\varphi \equiv \psi$

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
φ		t

\Downarrow

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
ψ		t

Simplification

Let $\varphi \equiv \psi$

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
φ		t

\Downarrow

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
ψ		t

Example

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$\neg(a \wedge b)$		a

\Downarrow

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$\neg a \vee \neg b$		a

Equality

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$\phi(\tau = \sigma)$		s
$\psi(\tau)$		t

Equality

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$\phi(\tau = \sigma)$		s
$\psi(\tau)$		t

⇕

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$\phi(\text{false})$		if($\tau = \sigma$)
\vee		then t
$\psi(\sigma)$		else s

Equality: Example

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$x = 5 \wedge y = 2$		
$x \cdot y = 10$		

Equality: Example

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$x = 5 \wedge y = 2$		
$x \cdot y = 10$		

⋮

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$x = 5 \wedge y = 2$		
$x \cdot y = 10$		

Equality: Example

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$x = 5 \wedge y = 2$		
$x \cdot y = 10$		

↕

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$x = 5 \wedge y = 2$		
$5 \cdot y = 10$		

Equality: Example

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$x = 5 \wedge y = 2$		
$x \cdot y = 10$		

⋮

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$false \wedge y = 2$		
$5 \cdot y = 10$		

GG-Resolution

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	$\varphi(\tau)$	s
	$\psi(\tau)$	t

Resolution

GG-Resolution

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	$\varphi(\tau)$	s
	$\psi(\tau)$	t

\Downarrow

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	$\varphi(\text{true}) \wedge \psi(\text{false})$	if τ then s else t

AA-Resolution

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$\varphi(\tau)$		s
$\psi(\tau)$		t

AA-Resolution

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$\varphi(\tau)$		s
$\psi(\tau)$		t

}

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$\varphi(\text{true}) \vee \psi(\text{false})$		if τ then s else t

Also: AG-Resolution, GA-Resolution

Resolution: Example

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	$\text{Integer}(x)$	true
	$\neg \text{Integer}(x)$	false

Resolution: Example

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	$\text{Integer}(x)$	true
	$\neg \text{Integer}(x)$	false

⋮

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
		if $\text{Integer}(x)$,

Resolution: Example

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	$\text{Integer}(x)$	true
	$\neg \text{Integer}(x)$	false

⋮

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
		if $\text{Integer}(x)$, then true else false

Resolution: Example

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	$\text{Integer}(x)$	true
	$\neg \text{Integer}(x)$	false

⋮

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	$\text{true} \wedge \neg \text{false}$	if $\text{Integer}(x)$, then true else false

Resolution: Example

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	$\text{Integer}(x)$	true
	$\neg \text{Integer}(x)$	false

⋮

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	true	if $\text{Integer}(x)$, then true else false

Conditional Substitution

$$r \Rightarrow s \text{ if } C$$

Conditional Substitution

$$r \Rightarrow s \text{ if } C$$

Example

$$n|0 \Rightarrow \text{true if } \text{integer}(n) \wedge n \neq 0$$

Conditional Substitution

$$r \Rightarrow s \text{ if } C$$

Example

$$n|0 \Rightarrow \text{true if integer}(n) \wedge n \neq 0$$

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$\varphi(r)$		$t(r)$

⋮

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
if C then $\varphi(s)$		$t(s)$

Conditional Substitution

$$r \Rightarrow s \text{ if } C$$

Example

$$n|0 \Rightarrow \text{true if integer}(n) \wedge n \neq 0$$

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
$\varphi(r)$		$t(r)$

\Downarrow

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
if C then $\varphi(s)$		$t(s)$

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	$\varphi(r)$	$t(r)$

\Downarrow

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	$C \wedge \varphi(s)$	$t(s)$

Conditional Substitution: Example

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	$(1 < x \wedge x < 2) \vee (x 0)$	x

Example

$n|0 \Rightarrow \text{true if integer}(n) \wedge n \neq 0$

Conditional Substitution: Example

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	$(1 < x \wedge x < 2) \vee (x 0)$	x

Example

$n|0 \Rightarrow \text{true if integer}(n) \wedge n \neq 0$

\Downarrow

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	$(1 < x \wedge x < 2) \vee (\text{integer}(n) \wedge x \neq 0 \wedge \text{true})$	x

Conditional Substitution: Example

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	$(1 < x \wedge x < 2) \vee (x 0)$	x

Example

$n|0 \Rightarrow \text{true if integer}(n) \wedge n \neq 0$

\Downarrow

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
	$(1 < x \wedge x < 2) \vee (\text{integer}(n) \wedge x \neq 0 \wedge \text{true})$	x
	$(1 < x \wedge x < 2) \vee (\text{integer}(n) \wedge x \neq 0)$	x

Induction \leftrightarrow Recursion

Mathematical Induction

- Start of induction
- Induction Hypothesis
- Induction step

Induction \leftrightarrow Recursion

Mathematical Induction

- Start of induction
- Induction Hypothesis
- Induction step

Recursion

- Ground case
- Recursive call
- Use of recursive result

Induction \leftrightarrow Recursion

Mathematical Induction

- Start of induction
- Induction Hypothesis
- Induction step

Recursion

- Ground case
- Recursive call
- Use of recursive result

Observation

Induction $\hat{=}$ Recursion

Recursion rule

Assumption

$<$ is a well-founded relation

Assertions	Goals	$f(\text{in})$
$\text{pre}(\text{in})$		
	$\text{post}(\text{in}, \text{out})$	out

Recursion rule

Assumption

$<$ is a well-founded relation

Assertions	Goals	f(in)
pre(in)		
	post(in, out)	out

\Downarrow

Assertions	Goals	f(in)
If $z < in$, then if pre(z), then post(z, f(z))		

Recursion: Example

Assertions	Goals	last(s)
$s \neq \epsilon$		
	$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	t_2

Recursion: Example

Assertions	Goals	last(s)
$s \neq \epsilon$		
	$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	t_2

⋮

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
if $s' < s \wedge s' \neq \epsilon,$		

Recursion: Example

Assertions	Goals	$\text{last}(s)$
$s \neq \epsilon$		
	$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	t_2

\Downarrow

Assertions	Goals	Outputs
if $s' < s \wedge s' \neq \epsilon$, then $\text{char}(\text{last}(s'))$ $\wedge s' = t'_1 \cdot \text{last}(s')$		

Derivation of Front and Last

Basic proposition: $\text{char}(x)$

Basic functions: Concatenation (\cdot) , $\text{head}(x)$, $\text{tail}(x)$

Derivation of Front and Last

Basic proposition: $\text{char}(x)$

Basic functions: Concatenation (\cdot) , $\text{head}(x)$, $\text{tail}(x)$

$\langle \text{front}(s), \text{last}(s) \rangle \Leftarrow$ Find $\langle t_1, t_2 \rangle$, such that
 $\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_1 \cdot t_2$,
where $\neg(s = \epsilon)$

Derivation of Front and Last

Basic proposition: $\text{char}(x)$

Basic functions: Concatenation (\cdot) , $\text{head}(x)$, $\text{tail}(x)$

$\langle \text{front}(s), \text{last}(s) \rangle \Leftarrow$ Find $\langle t_1, t_2 \rangle$, such that
 $\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_1 \cdot t_2$,
where $\neg(s = \epsilon)$

\Downarrow

No.	Assertions	Goals	$\text{front}(s)$	$\text{last}(s)$
1.	$\neg(s = \epsilon)$			
2.		$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	t_1	t_2

Derivation of Front and Last

Basic proposition: $\text{char}(x)$

Basic functions: Concatenation (\cdot) , $\text{head}(x)$, $\text{tail}(x)$

$\langle \text{front}(s), \text{last}(s) \rangle \Leftarrow$ Find $\langle t_1, t_2 \rangle$, such that
 $\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_1 \cdot t_2$,
where $\neg(s = \epsilon)$

\Downarrow

No.	Assertions	Goals	$\text{front}(s)$	$\text{last}(s)$
1.	$\neg(s = \epsilon)$			
2.		$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	t_1	t_2

Variables: t_1, t_2

Constants: s

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
1.	$\neg(s = \epsilon)$			
2.		$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	t_1	t_2

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
1.	$\neg(s = \epsilon)$			
2.		$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	t_1	t_2

Target

- Recursive program

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
1.	$\neg(s = \epsilon)$			
2.		$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	t_1	t_2

Target

- Recursive program
 - ▶ Base case: only one character

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
1.	$\neg(s = \epsilon)$			
2.		$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	t_1	t_2

Target

- Recursive program
 - ▶ Base case: only one character
 - ▶ Recursive case: more than one character

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
1.	$\neg(s = \epsilon)$			
2.		$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	t_1	t_2

Target

- Recursive program
 - ▶ Base case: only one character
 - ▶ Recursive case: more than one character

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
3.		$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	t_1	t_2

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
1.	$\neg(s = \epsilon)$			
2.		$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	t_1	t_2

Target

- Recursive program
 - ▶ Base case: only one character
 - ▶ Recursive case: more than one character

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
3.		$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = \epsilon \cdot t_2$	ϵ	t_2

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
1.	$\neg(s = \epsilon)$			
2.		$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	t_1	t_2

Target

- Recursive program
 - ▶ Base case: only one character
 - ▶ Recursive case: more than one character

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
3.		$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_2$	ϵ	t_2

Resolution

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
1.	$\neg(s = \epsilon)$			
2.		$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	t_1	t_2
3.		$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_2$	ϵ	t_2
	$x = x$			
		$\neg(x = x)$		

Resolution

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
1.	$\neg(s = \epsilon)$			
2.		$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	t_1	t_2
3.		$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_2$	ϵ	t_2
	$x = x$			
		$\neg(x = x)$		

$$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_2 \quad \neg(x = x)$$

Resolution

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
1.	$\neg(s = \epsilon)$			
2.		$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	t_1	t_2
3.		$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_2$	ϵ	t_2
	$x = x$			
		$\neg(x = x)$		

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_2 & \neg(x = x) \\ \downarrow t_2 := s & \downarrow x := s \end{array}$$

Resolution

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
1.	$\neg(s = \epsilon)$			
2.		$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	t_1	t_2
3.		$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_2$	ϵ	t_2
	$x = x$			
		$\neg(x = x)$		

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_2 & \neg(x = x) \\ \downarrow t_2 := s & \downarrow x := s \\ \text{char}(s) \wedge s = s & \neg(s = s) \end{array}$$

Resolution

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
1.	$\neg(s = \epsilon)$			
2.		$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	t_1	t_2
3.		$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_2$	ϵ	t_2
	$x = x$			
		$\neg(x = x)$		

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_2 & \neg(x = x) \\
 \downarrow t_2 := s & \downarrow x := s \\
 \text{char}(s) \wedge \mathbf{s = s} & \neg(\mathbf{s = s})
 \end{array}$$

Resolution

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
1.	$\neg(s = \epsilon)$			
2.		$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	t_1	t_2
3.		$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_2$	ϵ	t_2
	$x = x$			
		$\neg(x = x)$		

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_2 \quad \neg(x = x) \\
 \downarrow t_2 := s \quad \downarrow x := s \\
 \text{char}(s) \wedge \mathbf{s = s} \quad \neg(\mathbf{s = s}) \\
 \text{char}(s) \wedge \mathbf{true} \quad \wedge \quad \neg(\mathbf{false})
 \end{array}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{char}(s)$$

Recursion

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
1.	$\neg(s = \epsilon)$			
2.		$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	t_1	t_2
4.		$\text{char}(s)$	ϵ	s

Recursion

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
1.	$\neg(s = \epsilon)$			
2.		$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	t_1	t_2
4.		$\text{char}(s)$	ϵ	s
5.		$\text{char}(u) \wedge \text{char}(t_2)$ $\wedge s = u \cdot t_1 \cdot t_2$	$u \cdot t_1$	t_2

Recursion

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
1.	$\neg(s = \epsilon)$			
2.		$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	t_1	t_2
4.		$\text{char}(s)$	ϵ	s
5.		$\text{char}(u) \wedge \text{char}(t_2)$ $\wedge s = u \cdot t_1 \cdot t_2$	$u \cdot t_1$	t_2

Recursion

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
1.	$\neg(s = \epsilon)$			
2.		$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	t_1	t_2
4.		$\text{char}(s)$	ϵ	s
5.		$\text{char}(u) \wedge \text{char}(t_2)$ $\wedge s = u \cdot t_1 \cdot t_2$	$u \cdot t_1$	t_2

Induction Hypothesis

Recursion

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
1.	$\neg(s = \epsilon)$			
2.		$\text{char}(t_2) \wedge s = t_1 \cdot t_2$	t_1	t_2
4.		$\text{char}(s)$	ϵ	s
5.		$\text{char}(u) \wedge \text{char}(t_2)$ $\wedge s = u \cdot t_1 \cdot t_2$	$u \cdot t_1$	t_2

Induction Hypothesis

If $x < s$, then

if $\neg(x = \epsilon)$, then

$\text{char}(\text{last}(x)) \wedge x = \text{front}(x) \cdot \text{last}(x)$

Recursion (cont.)

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$\text{char}(u) \wedge \text{char}(t_2)$ $\wedge s = u \cdot t_1 \cdot t_2$	$u \cdot t_1$	t_2

Induction Hypothesis

If $x < s \wedge \neg(x = \epsilon)$, then $\text{char}(\text{last}(x)) \wedge x = \text{front}(x) \cdot \text{last}(x)$

Recursion (cont.)

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$\text{char}(u) \wedge \text{char}(t_2)$ $\wedge s = u \cdot t_1 \cdot t_2$	$u \cdot t_1$	t_2

Induction Hypothesis

If $x < s \wedge \neg(x = \epsilon)$, then $\text{char}(\text{last}(x)) \wedge x = \text{front}(x) \cdot \text{last}(x)$

Recursion (cont.)

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$\text{char}(u) \wedge \text{char}(t_2)$ $\wedge s = u \cdot t_1 \cdot t_2$	$u \cdot t_1$	t_2

Induction Hypothesis

If $x < s \wedge \neg(x = \epsilon)$, then $\text{char}(\text{last}(x)) \wedge x = \text{front}(x) \cdot \text{last}(x)$

$$t_1 := \text{front}(x), t_2 := \text{last}(x)$$

Recursion (cont.)

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$\text{char}(u) \wedge \text{char}(t_2)$ $\wedge s = u \cdot t_1 \cdot t_2$	$u \cdot t_1$	t_2

Induction Hypothesis

If $x < s \wedge \neg(x = \epsilon)$, then $\text{char}(\text{last}(x)) \wedge x = \text{front}(x) \cdot \text{last}(x)$

$$t_1 := \text{front}(x), t_2 := \text{last}(x)$$

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$x < s \wedge \neg(x = \epsilon)$ $\text{char}(u) \wedge \text{char}(\text{last}(x))$ $\wedge s = u \cdot x$	$u \cdot \text{front}(x)$	$\text{last}(x)$

Recursion (simplification)

Induction Hypothesis

If $x < s \wedge \neg(x = \epsilon)$, then $\text{char}(\text{last}(x)) \wedge x = \text{front}(x) \cdot \text{last}(x)$

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$x < s \wedge \neg(x = \epsilon)$ $\text{char}(u) \wedge \text{char}(\text{last}(x))$ $\wedge s = u \cdot x$	$u \cdot \text{front}(x)$	$\text{last}(x)$

Recursion (simplification)

Induction Hypothesis

If $x < s \wedge \neg(x = \epsilon)$, then $\text{char}(\text{last}(x)) \wedge x = \text{front}(x) \cdot \text{last}(x)$

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$x < s \wedge \neg(x = \epsilon)$ $\text{char}(u) \wedge \text{char}(\text{last}(x))$ $\wedge s = u \cdot x$	$u \cdot \text{front}(x)$	$\text{last}(x)$

Recursion (simplification)

Induction Hypothesis

If $x < s \wedge \neg(x = \epsilon)$, then $\text{char}(\text{last}(x)) \wedge x = \text{front}(x) \cdot \text{last}(x)$

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$x < s \wedge \neg(x = \epsilon)$ $\text{char}(u) \wedge \text{char}(\text{last}(x))$ $\wedge s = u \cdot x$	$u \cdot \text{front}(x)$	$\text{last}(x)$

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$x < s \wedge \neg(x = \epsilon)$ $\text{char}(u) \wedge s = u \cdot x$	$u \cdot \text{front}(x)$	$\text{last}(x)$

Recursion (simplification cont.)

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$x < s \wedge \neg(x = \epsilon)$ $\text{char}(u) \wedge s = u \cdot x$	$u \cdot \text{front}(x)$	$\text{last}(x)$

Decomposition Lemma

If $\neg(y = \epsilon)$, then $y = \text{head}(y) \cdot \text{tail}(y)$

Recursion (simplification cont.)

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$x < s \wedge \neg(x = \epsilon)$ $\text{char}(u) \wedge s = u \cdot x$	$u \cdot \text{front}(x)$	$\text{last}(x)$

Decomposition Lemma

If $\neg(y = \epsilon)$, then $y = \text{head}(y) \cdot \text{tail}(y)$

Recursion (simplification cont.)

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$x < s \wedge \neg(x = \epsilon)$ $\text{char}(u) \wedge s = u \cdot x$	$u \cdot \text{front}(x)$	$\text{last}(x)$

Decomposition Lemma

If $\neg(y = \epsilon)$, then $y = \text{head}(y) \cdot \text{tail}(y)$

$y := s, u := \text{head}(y), x := \text{tail}(y)$

Recursion (simplification cont.)

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$x < s \wedge \neg(x = \epsilon)$ $\text{char}(u) \wedge s = u \cdot x$	$u \cdot \text{front}(x)$	$\text{last}(x)$

Decomposition Lemma

If $\neg(y = \epsilon)$, then $y = \text{head}(y) \cdot \text{tail}(y)$

$y := s, u := \text{head}(y), x := \text{tail}(y)$

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$\text{tail}(s) < s \wedge$ $\neg(\text{tail}(s) = \epsilon) \wedge$ $\text{char}(\text{head}(s)) \wedge$ $\neg(s = \epsilon)$	$\text{head}(s) \cdot$ $\text{front}(\text{tail}(y))$	$\text{last}(\text{tail}(s))$

Recursion (simplification cont.)

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$\text{tail}(s) < s \wedge$ $\neg(\text{tail}(s) = \epsilon) \wedge$ $\text{char}(\text{head}(s)) \wedge$ $\neg(s = \epsilon)$	$\text{head}(s) \cdot$ $\text{front}(\text{tail}(s))$	$\text{last}(\text{tail}(s))$

Resolution

Domain knowledge: $\neg(s = \epsilon) \rightarrow \text{char}(\text{head}(s))$

Recursion (simplification cont.)

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$\text{tail}(s) < s \wedge$ $\neg(\text{tail}(s) = \epsilon) \wedge$ $\text{char}(\text{head}(s)) \wedge$ $\neg(s = \epsilon)$	$\text{head}(s) \cdot$ $\text{front}(\text{tail}(s))$	$\text{last}(\text{tail}(s))$

Resolution

Domain knowledge: $\neg(s = \epsilon) \rightarrow \text{char}(\text{head}(s))$ and
 $\neg(\text{head}(s) = \epsilon) \rightarrow \text{tail}(s) < s$.

Recursion (simplification cont.)

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$\text{tail}(s) < s \wedge$ $\neg(\text{tail}(s) = \epsilon) \wedge$ $\text{char}(\text{head}(s)) \wedge$ $\neg(s = \epsilon)$	$\text{head}(s) \cdot$ $\text{front}(\text{tail}(s))$	$\text{last}(\text{tail}(s))$

Resolution

Domain knowledge: $\neg(s = \epsilon) \rightarrow \text{char}(\text{head}(s))$ and
 $\neg(\text{head}(s) = \epsilon) \rightarrow \text{tail}(s) < s$.
Formally: Resolution

Recursion (simplification cont.)

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$\text{tail}(s) < s \wedge$ $\neg(\text{tail}(s) = \epsilon) \wedge$ $\text{char}(\text{head}(s)) \wedge$ $\neg(s = \epsilon)$	$\text{head}(s) \cdot$ $\text{front}(\text{tail}(y))$	$\text{last}(\text{tail}(s))$

Resolution

Domain knowledge: $\neg(s = \epsilon) \rightarrow \text{char}(\text{head}(s))$ and
 $\neg(\text{head}(s) = \epsilon) \rightarrow \text{tail}(s) < s$.
 Formally: Resolution

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$\neg(\text{tail}(s) = \epsilon) \wedge$ $\neg(s = \epsilon)$	$\text{head}(s) \cdot$ $\text{front}(\text{tail}(y))$	$\text{last}(\text{tail}(s))$

Simplification

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$\neg(\text{tail}(s) = \epsilon) \wedge$ $\neg(s = \epsilon)$	head(s). front(tail(y))	last(tail(s))

Simplification

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$\neg(\text{tail}(s) = \epsilon) \wedge$ $\neg(s = \epsilon)$	head(s). front(tail(y))	last(tail(s))

Trichotomy property

Domain Knowledge:

$$y = \epsilon$$

Simplification

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$\neg(\text{tail}(s) = \epsilon) \wedge$ $\neg(s = \epsilon)$	head(s). front(tail(y))	last(tail(s))

Trichotomy property

Domain Knowledge:

$$y = \epsilon \vee \text{char}(y)$$

Simplification

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$\neg(\text{tail}(s) = \epsilon) \wedge$ $\neg(s = \epsilon)$	head(s). front(tail(y))	last(tail(s))

Trichotomy property

Domain Knowledge:

$$y = \epsilon \vee \text{char}(y) \vee \neg(\text{tail}(y) = \epsilon)$$

Simplification

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$\neg(\text{tail}(s) = \epsilon) \wedge$ $\neg(s = \epsilon)$	head(s). front(tail(y))	last(tail(s))

Trichotomy property

Domain Knowledge:

$$y = \epsilon \vee \text{char}(y) \vee \neg(\text{tail}(y) = \epsilon)$$

Simplification

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$\neg(\text{tail}(s) = \epsilon) \wedge$ $\neg(s = \epsilon)$	head(s). front(tail(y))	last(tail(s))

Trichotomy property

Domain Knowledge:

$$y = \epsilon \vee \text{char}(y) \vee \neg(\text{tail}(y) = \epsilon)$$

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$\neg(s = \epsilon) \wedge$ $\neg(\text{char}(s))$	head(s). front(tail(y))	last(tail(s))

Final steps

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$\neg(s = \epsilon) \wedge$ $\neg(\text{char}(s))$	head(s). front(tail(y))	last(tail(s))

Final steps

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$\neg(s = \epsilon) \wedge$ $\neg(\text{char}(s))$	head(s). front(tail(y))	last(tail(s))
1.	$\neg(s = \epsilon)$			

Final steps

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$\neg(s = \epsilon) \wedge$ $\neg(\text{char}(s))$	head(s). front(tail(y))	last(tail(s))
1.	$\neg(s = \epsilon)$			
		$\neg(\text{char}(s))$	head(s). front(tail(y))	last(tail(s))

Final steps

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$\neg(s = \epsilon) \wedge$ $\neg(\text{char}(s))$	head(s). front(tail(y))	last(tail(s))
1.	$\neg(s = \epsilon)$			
		$\neg(\text{char}(s))$	head(s). front(tail(y))	last(tail(s))
4.		char(s)	ϵ	s

Final steps

No.	Assertions	Goals	front(s)	last(s)
5.		$\neg(s = \epsilon) \wedge$ $\neg(\text{char}(s))$	head(s). front(tail(y))	last(tail(s))
1.	$\neg(s = \epsilon)$			
		$\neg(\text{char}(s))$	head(s). front(tail(y))	last(tail(s))
4.		char(s)	ϵ	s
		true	if char(s), then ϵ , else head(s). front(tail(y))	if char(s), then s, else last(tail(s))

Final remarks

- Very good result in this case
- Efficient choice of rules by humans

Final remarks

- Very good result in this case
- Efficient choice of rules by humans
- Not clear which axioms have to be used
- Result might not always be understandable
- No specification of performance

Thank you for your attention



Manna, Z. and Waldinger, R. (1980).

A Deductive Approach to Program Synthesis.

IEEE Transactions on Programming Languages and Systems,
2(1):90–121.



Manna, Z. and Waldinger, R. (1992).

Fundamentals of Deductive Program Synthesis.

IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering, 18(8):674–702.