# Formal Validation of Data-Parallel Programs : a Two-Component Assertional Proof System for a Simple Language

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INSTITUT NATIONAL DE RECHERCHE EN INFORMATIQUE ET EN AUTOMATIQUE

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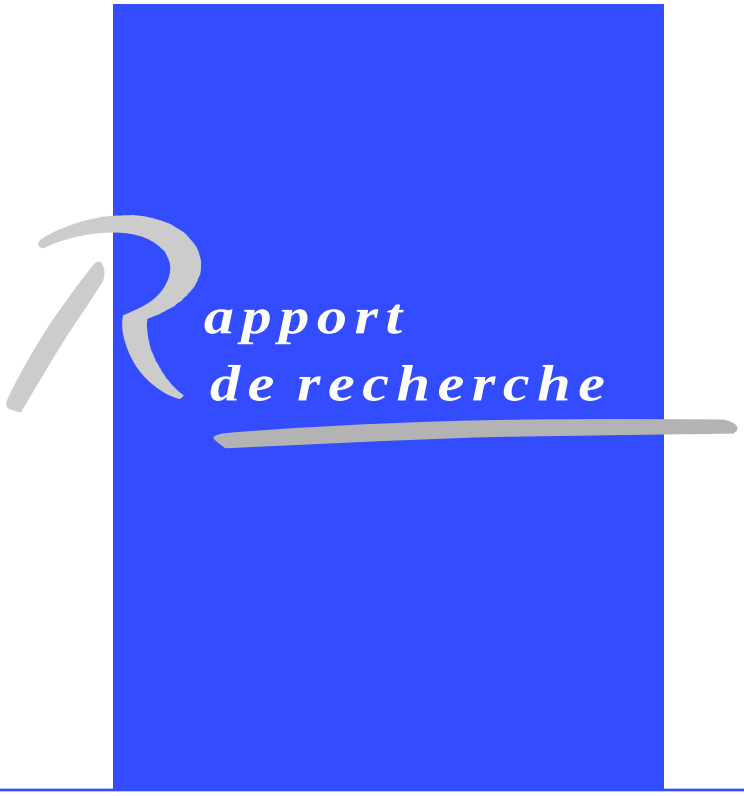


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# Formal validation of data-parallel programs: a two-component assertional proof system for a simple language

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**Abstract:** We present a proof system for a simple data-parallel kernel language called $\mathcal{L}$. This proof system is based on a two-component assertion language. We define a weakest preconditions calculus and analyse its definability properties. This calculus is used to prove the completeness of the proof system. We also present a two-phase proof methodology, yielding proofs similar to those for scalar languages. We finally discuss other approaches.

**Key-words:** Concurrent programming, specifying and verifying and reasoning about programs, semantics of programming languages, data-parallel languages, proof system, Hoare logic, weakest preconditions.

*(Résumé : tsvp)*

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# Validation formelle de programmes data-parallèles: un système de preuve par assertions à deux composantes pour un langage simple

**Résumé :** Nous présentons un système de preuve pour un langage data-parallèle simple, le langage L. Ce système de preuve est fondé sur un langage d'assertions à deux composantes. Nous définissons un calcul des plus faibles préconditions et analysons ses propriétés de définissabilité. Nous utilisons ce calcul pour prouver la complétude du système de preuve. Nous présentons également une méthodologie de preuve en deux phases. Les preuves obtenues sont semblables à celles données pour les langages scalaires. Nous discutons finalement d'autres approches.

**Mots-clé :** Programmation parallèle, spécification et validation de programmes, sémantique des langages de programmation, langages data-parallèles, système de preuve, logique de Hoare, plus faibles préconditions.

# 1 Introduction

Data-parallel languages have recently emerged as a major tool for large scale parallel programming. An impressive effort is currently being put on developing efficient compilers for High Performance Fortran (HPF). DPCE [14], a data-parallel extension of C primarily influenced by Thinking Machine's C*, is currently under standardization. Our goal is to provide all these new developments with the necessary semantic bases. These bases are crucial to design safe and optimized compilers, and programming environments including parallelizing, data-distributing and debugging tools. They are also the way to safer programming techniques, so as to avoid the common waste of time and money spent in debugging.

Existing data-parallel languages, such as HPF, C*, HyperC or MPL, include a similar core of data-parallel control structures. In previous papers, we have shown that it is possible to define a simple but representative data-parallel kernel language (the $\mathcal{L}$ language) and to give it a formal operational [4] and denotational semantics [3].

In this paper, we define a proof system for this language, in the style of the usual Hoare's logic approach [12]. The originality of our approach lies in the treatment of the *extent of parallelism*, that is, the subset of currently active indices at which a vector instruction is to be applied. Previous approaches led to manipulate lists of indices explicitly (either by manipulating sets of active processors [18, 19] or by specifying an access sequence for each parallel variable [7]), or to consider context expressions as assertions modifiers [8]. In contrast, our proof system for $\mathcal{L}$ describes the activity context by a vector boolean expression distinct from the usual predicates on program variables. The use of such two-component assertions is particularly well-suited to an intuitive understanding of the assertions and provides a basis for a two-phase "proof by annotations" method.

In section 2, we give a description of the $\mathcal{L}$ language, together with its natural semantics. Section 3 describes a sound proof system based on our two-component assertions. Section 4 deals with the definition of a weakest preconditions calculus and with the associated definability question. This weakest preconditions calculus is the key to establish the completeness of our proof system, which is treated in Section 5. A two-phase proof methodology, yielding readable and structured proofs, is described in Section 6. As a conclusion, we present a discussion and some perspectives.

# 2 A simple data-parallel language and its semantics

## 2.1 The $\mathcal{L}$ language

In the data-parallel programming model, the basic objects are arrays with parallel access, also called *vectors*. Two kinds of actions can be applied to these objects: *componentwise* operations, or global *rearrangements*. A program is a sequential composition of such actions. Each action is associated with the set of array indices at which it is applied. An index at which an action is applied is said to be *active*. Other indices are said to be *idle*. The set of active indices is called the *activity context* or the *extent of parallelism* following the term coined for the Actus language [17]. It can be seen as a boolean array where *true* denotes activity and *false* idleness.

Observe that all usual data-parallel languages such as Actus, C*, MPL or HPF are deterministic. Though they specify parallel accesses to data whose scheduling may be non-deterministic, the resulting semantics *is* deterministic. We are only of two exceptions: a rather special use of the send operator in C* where the receiver may require a non-deterministic combining operator; some technical issues connected with parameter passing in idle contexts. However, we are not concerned with this level of detail in this paper, and we consider only deterministic data-parallel constructs.

The $\mathcal{L}$ language is designed as a common kernel of data-parallel languages like C* [20], HyperC [16] or MPL [13]. We do not consider the scalar part of these languages, mainly imported from the C language. Then, as far as this paper is concerned, we can assume that scalar values are replicated at

all locations, so that we can identify a scalar variable with a vector having the same value replicated at all components.

Also, for the sake of simplicity, we only consider integer and boolean values here in this paper, and we consider that all parallel arrays share a unique geometry. This is reminiscent of the MPL language, where the common geometry of the plural variables is the physical geometry of the underlying architecture. Multiple geometries, as allowed by the shapes of C* or the collections of HyperC, could easily be handled at the price of extra notation and case analysis. This unique geometry is captured here through a *finite* domain of indices $\mathcal{D}$ equipped with a set of geometric operators such as shift, rotate, etc. For instance, in MPL, $\mathcal{D}$ would be a square $[0..1023] \times [0..1023]$, and the associated geometric operators would be toroidal translations along the axes. The precise structure of the geometric domain $\mathcal{D}$ and the detailed definition of the geometric operators are of little relevance here. In the examples of this paper, a one-dimensional or two-dimensional domain will be assumed. The only important point is that we assume the existence of two conversion functions:

- $x = \mathsf{itos}(u)$ maps an index $u$ into a scalar value $x$;
- $u = \mathsf{stoi}(x)$ maps a scalar value into an index value.

These functions are reminiscent of the pcoord functions in C*, or the iproc function in MPL. The only hypothesis is that $(\mathsf{stoi} \circ \mathsf{itos})$ is the identity function on indices: $u = \mathsf{stoi}(\mathsf{itos}(u))$. If $\mathcal{D}$ is $[0..N-1]$, then think of itos as embedding $[0..N-1]$ into the integers and stoi as the mod $(N)$ operator.

All the variables of $\mathcal{L}$ are parallel, and all the objects are vectors of scalars, with one component at each index. As a convention, the parallel objects are denoted with uppercase initial letters: $X$, $Y$, etc. Indices are denoted $u$, $v$, etc. The component of a parallel object $X$ located at index $u$ is denoted $X|_u$.

A *vector expression* $E$ can be of the following forms.

- A vector variable $X$.
- A vector constant of integer or boolean type. Constant 1 denotes the vector whose all components have value 1, *True* and *False* denote the vectors whose all components are respectively true and false. Constant expression *This* denotes the vector whose value at index $u$ is $\mathsf{itos}(u)$: this is the iproc of MPL, the . operator of C*.
- A componentwise combination of vector expressions: for instance, $X + Y$. All usual scalar operators are overloaded with their respective vector extension.
- It is useful to define an additional type of vector expressions: *conditional vector expressions*. $(C?E{:}F)$ denotes the vector whose component at index $u$ is $E|_u$ if boolean vector expression $C$ is true at index $u$, and $F|_u$ otherwise.
- A *fetch* expression: $E|_A$. Consider a fixed index $u$. First, the vector expression $A$ is evaluated, then the vector expression $E$. Finally, the result is rearranged so that the value at index $u$ is fetched at the index which is the value of $A$ at $u$ (converted through function stoi): $(E|_A)|_u = E|_{\mathsf{stoi}(A|_u)}$. In particular, $E|_{This}$ is merely $E$. In MPL, this is denoted router[A].E. In C* and HyperC, this is denoted [A]E.

As an example, consider a typical fragment of a one-dimensional convolution code:

$$(2 * X + X|_{This+1} + X|_{This-1})/4$$

Note that, strictly speaking, the $+$ of $This + 1$ is *not* the same as the outer $+$, as it acts on the index domain $\mathcal{D}$. But there is no real reason to stress this difference any longer, and we will identify both operators in most cases. Note also that all constructs in $\mathcal{L}$, including communications (fetch), are *deterministic*. We can now list the instructions of $\mathcal{L}$.

**Assignment:** $X := E$. At each active index $u$, component $X|_u$ is updated with the local value of vector expression $E$. Observe that $E$ may be a fetch expression, in which case we obtain a **get** communication: **get** $E$ **from** $A$ **into** $X$ is the same as $X := E|_A$. Observe also that we cannot express **send** communications in this simple model.

**Sequencing:** $S;T$. On the termination of the last action of $S$, the execution of the actions of $T$ starts.

**Iteration:** **loop** $B$ **do** $S$ **end**. The actions of $S$ are repeatedly executed with the current extent of parallelism, until boolean vector expression $B$ evaluates to false at each currently active index. Observe that the activity context is not modified on executing the body, in contrast with the parallel **while** of MPL and the **whilesomewhere** of C*. These constructs can be expressed in $\mathcal{L}$ by a **where** nested in a **loop**. Our form is therefore more general [4].

**Conditioning:** **where** $B$ **do** $S$ **end**. The active indices whose local value of the boolean vector expression $B$ evaluates to false become idle during the execution of $S$. The other ones remain active. The initial activity context is restored on the termination of $S$.

The $\mathcal{L}$ language is quite simple, but it is sufficient to express usual data-parallel algorithms. Consider for instance a *scan*, that is, a prefixed sum, using a classical logarithmic method [11]. The domain is $\mathcal{D} = [1..N]$. Initially, the component at index $u$, $1 \leq u \leq N$, holds an initial value $V|_u$, and we compute $S$ such that $\forall u : S|_u = \sum_{k=1}^{k=u} V|_k$. The program in MPL-like syntax is displayed below. The XnetW[i] construct expresses a fetch of indices at distance $i$ towards low indices.

```
S=V; i=1;
while (i < N) do {                  /*scalar while*/
  if (iproc > i)                    /*plural if*/
    S += XnetW[i].S;
  i *= 2;
}
```

Its translation in $\mathcal{L}$ is displayed in Figure 1. As $\mathcal{L}$ has no scalar variables, we translate the MPL scalar variable $i$ into a vector variable $I$ whose all components hold the common value $i$. The execution trace shows the successive values of the vector $S$ during the computation, surrounded by its input and output value. Crossed values tag components inactive in the inner **where** construct. Arrows denote fetched values.

$S := V; I := 1;$
**loop** $I < N$ **do**
  **where** $This > I$ **do**
    $S := S + S|_{This-I}$
  **end**;
  $I := 2 * I$
**end**

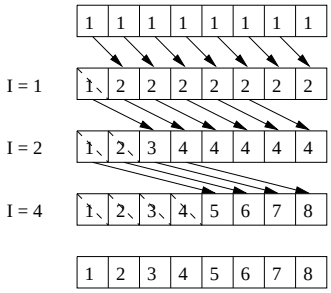


Figure 1: The scan $\mathcal{L}$-program and an execution trace.

## 2.2 A natural semantics for $\mathcal{L}$

We describe the semantics of $\mathcal{L}$ in the style of the natural semantics by induction on the syntax of $\mathcal{L}$ programs.

An *environment* $\sigma$ is a function from identifiers to vector values. The set of environments is denoted by $Env$. For convenience, we extend the environment functions to the parallel expressions: $\sigma(E)$ denotes the value obtained by evaluating parallel expression $E$ in environment $\sigma$. Here are the most interesting rules:

- $\sigma(This)|_u = \mathsf{itos}(u)$
- $\sigma(E+F)|_u = \sigma(E)|_u + \sigma(F)|_u$
- $\sigma(C?E{:}F)|_u = \begin{cases} \sigma(E)|_u & \text{if } \sigma(C)|_u \text{ is true} \\ \sigma(F)|_u & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$
- $\sigma(E|_A)|_u = \sigma(E)|_{\mathsf{stoi}(\sigma(A)|_u)}$

Let $\sigma$ be an environment, $X$ a vector variable and $V$ a vector value. We denote by $\sigma[X \leftarrow V]$ the new environment $\sigma'$ where $\sigma'(X) = V$ and $\sigma'(Y) = \sigma(Y)$ for all $Y \neq X$.

A *context* $c$ is a boolean vector. It specifies the activity at each index. We distinguish a particular context denoted by *True* where all components have the boolean value true. For convenience, we define the activity predicate $active_c$: $active_c(u) \equiv c|_u$.

A *state* $s$ is a pair $(\sigma, c)$ made of an environment $\sigma$ and a context $c$. We distinguish an additional special state, $\perp$, to denote non-termination.

The semantics $[\![S]\!]$ of a program $S$ is a *strict* function from states to states: $[\![S]\!](\perp) = \perp$. We extend the function $[\![S]\!]$ to sets of states as usual. Observe there would not be difficult to extend this work to non-deterministic programs by defining $[\![S]\!]$ to be a function from states to sets of states. As we are only concerned with deterministic data-parallel languages, we disregard this extension in this paper.

**Assignment.** At each active index, the component of the parallel variable is updated with the new value.

$$[\![X := E]\!](\sigma, c) = (\sigma', c),$$

with $\sigma' = \sigma[X \leftarrow V]$ where $V|_u = \sigma(E)|_u$ if $active_c(u)$, and $V|_u = \sigma(X)|_u$ otherwise. The activity context is preserved.

**Sequencing.** Sequential composition is functional composition.

$$[\![S\ ;\ T]\!](\sigma, c) = [\![T]\!]([\![S]\!](\sigma, c)).$$

**Iteration:** Iteration is expressed by classical loop unfolding. It terminates when the boolean expression $B$ evaluates to false at each active index. We have the relation

$$[\![\mathsf{loop}\ B\ \mathsf{do}\ S\ \mathsf{end}]\!](\sigma, c) = \begin{cases} [\![\mathsf{loop}\ B\ \mathsf{do}\ S\ \mathsf{end}]\!]([\![S]\!](\sigma, c)) \\ \qquad \text{if } \exists u : (active_c(u) \wedge \sigma(B)|_u) \\ (\sigma, c) \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$$

If the unfolding does not terminates, then we take the usual convention:

$$[\![\mathsf{loop}\ B\ \mathsf{do}\ S\ \mathsf{end}]\!](\sigma, c) = \perp.$$

To see that this is well-defined, we can proceed exactly as in the usual case. Define $\phi_k(\sigma, c)$ to be the final state of $\mathsf{loop}\ B\ \mathsf{do}\ S\ \mathsf{end}$ after evaluating at most $k$ times the test. We have $\phi_0(\sigma, c) = \perp$, and

$$\phi_{k+1}(\sigma, c) = \begin{cases} \phi_k([\![S]\!](\sigma, c)) \text{ if } \exists u : (active_c(u) \wedge \sigma(B)|_u) \\ (\sigma, c) \quad \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

It is easy to show that if $\phi_k(\sigma, c) \neq \perp$, then $\phi_{k+1}(\sigma, c) = \phi_k(\sigma, c)$. Then, we can define

$$[\![\textsf{loop } B \textsf{ do } S \textsf{ end}]\!](\sigma, c) = \bigsqcup_k \phi_k(\sigma, c)$$

where $\bigsqcup_k$ denotes the least upper bound for the flat partial order ($\perp \leq x$, $x \not\leq y$), which clearly satisfies the relation above.

**Conditioning.** The denotation of a **where** construct is the denotation of its body with a new context. The new context is the conjunction of the previous one with the value of the conditioning expression $B$.

$$[\![\textsf{where } B \textsf{ do } S \textsf{ end}]\!](\sigma, c) = (\sigma', c),$$

with $[\![S]\!](\sigma, c \wedge \sigma(B)) = (\sigma', c')$. The value of $c'$ is ignored here.

**Remark.** In this language, the activity context is preserved by terminating executions: for any program $S$ such that $[\![S]\!](\sigma, c) = (\sigma', c')$, we have $c = c'$. It is no longer true for the extended version of $\mathcal{L}$ defined in [4], which includes a data-parallel **break**-like construct.

# 3 A two-component assertional proof system for $\mathcal{L}$ programs

## 3.1 Why do we need two components?

We define a proof system for the partial correctness of $\mathcal{L}$ programs in the lines of [1]. A specification is denoted by a formula $\{Pre\}\ S\ \{Post\}$ where $S$ is the program text, and *Pre* and *Post* are logical assertions on variables of $S$. This formula means that, if precondition *Pre* is satisfied in the initial state of program $S$, and if $S$ terminates, then postcondition *Post* is satisfied in the final state. A proof system gives a formal method to derive such specification formulas by syntax-directed induction on programs. Axioms correspond to statements, and inference rules to control structures. Then, proving that a program meets its specification is equivalent to derive the specification formula $\{Pre\}$ $S$ $\{Post\}$ in the proof system. A crucial property of axiomatic semantics in the usual sequential case is *compositionality*. To achieve this goal, the assertion language has to include sufficient information on variable values. Similarly, our assertion language has to include some information about the current activity context as well as variable values.

Our proposition is to define two-component assertions $\{P, C\}$, where $P$ is a predicate on the vector variables of the program, and $C$ is a boolean vector expression which evaluates into the current activity context. To see the benefits of this approach, consider a typical $\mathcal{L}$ program and its annotation whose as shown on Figure 2. Assertion $\{..., true\}$ means that all indices are active. Assertion $\{..., B_1 \wedge B_2\}$ means that the active indices are precisely those indices $u$ such that $B_1|_u \wedge B_2|_u$ is true. We will show in this paper that such an annotation is always valid if no variable of the context expressions $B_i$ are modified by the program. The proof of a data-parallel program with our method can thus be factorized into two phases:

1. partially annotate with context expressions;
2. complete each annotation with its predicate component.

Part 1 is mostly straightforward up to variable conflicts. Part 2 is very similar to proving sequential programs. Proving a data-parallel program in our approach looks thus very much like proving ordinary scalar programs. In particular, the complexity of the proof does not depend on the size of the underlying domain.

```
...                                    {..., true}
where B1 do                            ...
  ...                                  where B1 do
  where B2 do                            {..., B1}
    ...                                  ...
  end                                    where B2 do
  ...                                      {..., B1 ∧ B2}
  where B3 do                              ...
    ...                                  end
  end                                    ...
  ...                                    where B3 do
end                                        {..., B1 ∧ B3}
...                                        ...
                                       end
                                       {..., B1}
                                       ...
                                     end
                                     {..., true}
                                     ...
```

Figure 2: A typical $\mathcal{L}$ program and its annotation by two-component assertions.

### 3.2 Vector predicates and assertions

The structure of predicates on vector variables has to be made precise here.

- ▷ An *index expression* is either an index variable ($u$, $v$, etc), or an index constant (0, 1, etc, if a one-dimensional domain is assumed for instance), or a combination of index expressions with a geometric operator ($u+1$, $u-1$ in the one-dimensional case), or the function stoi applied to a scalar expression.
- ▷ A *scalar expression* is either a scalar variable ($x, y, \ldots$), or a scalar constant (0, *true*, *false*, etc.), or a combination of scalar expressions with some scalar operator, or a vector expression of the programming language subscripted by an index expression $E|_u$, or the function itos applied to an index expression.
- ▷ A *formula* is either a scalar expression of boolean type, or the combination of formulas with logical operators, or a formula quantified on a scalar variable, or an index variable (in this last case, the quantification implicitly ranges on the index domain $\mathcal{D}$).
- ▷ A (vector) predicate is a formula which is closed with respect to all index and scalar variables. External universal quantification is sometimes left implicit.

For instance, the following are vector predicates:

| | |
|---|---|
| $\forall u : X\|_u = 0$ | All components of $X$ have value 0 |
| $\forall u : \forall v : X\|_u = X\|_v$ | All components of $X$ are equal |
| $\forall u : X\|_u = Y\|_u$ | $X$ and $Y$ have the same value at each index |
| $\forall u : even(u) \Rightarrow (X\|_{u+1} = X\|_u)$ | At all even indices, the right component is the same as the local one |
| $\exists i : \forall u : X\|_u = i$ | $X$ is a constant vector |

Observe there is no quantification on vector variables in vector predicates. Observe also that $X = Y$ is *not* a predicate, but a boolean vector expression defined pointwise. The usual equality predicate is $\forall u : X|_u = Y|_u$, which we denote by $X \equiv Y$.

Because a vector predicate is a formula closed with respect to index and scalar variables, we can define its truth value with respect to an environment in the usual way. Observe that scalar variables range over integers or booleans, whereas index variables range over $\mathcal{D}$. If the predicate $P$ is true in the environment $\sigma$, then we write $\sigma \models P$. We are now in position to define the validity of an assertion in a program state.

**Definition 1 (Satisfiability)** *Let $(\sigma, c)$ be a state, $\{P, C\}$ an assertion. We say that the state $(\sigma, c)$ satisfies the assertion $\{P, C\}$, and write $(\sigma, c) \models \{P, C\}$, if $\sigma \models P$ and $\sigma(C) = c$. By convention, $\perp$ satisfies any assertion. The set of states satisfying $\{P, C\}$ is denoted by $[\![\{P, C\}]\!]$.*

Consider two assertions $\{P, C\}$ and $\{Q, D\}$. We say that $\{P, C\} \Rightarrow \{Q, D\}$ if for a state $(\sigma, c)$, $\{Q, D\}$ holds as soon as $\{P, C\}$ holds:

1. if $\sigma \models P$, then $\sigma \models Q$;
2. if $\sigma \models P$ and $\sigma(C) = c$, then $\sigma(D) = c$.

**Definition 2 (Assertion implication)** *Let $\{P, C\}$ and $\{Q, D\}$ be two assertions. We say that assertion $\{P, C\}$ implies assertion $\{Q, D\}$ w.r.t. context, written $\{P, C\} \Rightarrow \{Q, D\}$, if for any environment $\sigma$, $\sigma \models P \Rightarrow Q$ and $\sigma \models P \Rightarrow \forall u : (C|_u = D|_u)$.*

**Proposition 1** *Let $\{P, C\}$ and $\{Q, D\}$ be two assertions. Then, $\{P, C\} \Rightarrow \{Q, D\}$ iff $[\![\{P, C\}]\!] \subseteq [\![\{Q, D\}]\!]$.*

We introduce a substitution mechanism for vector variables. Let $P$ be a predicate or any vector expression, $X$ a vector variable, and $E$ a vector expression. $P[E/X]$ denotes the predicate, or expression, obtained by substituting all the occurrences of $X$ in $P$ with $E$. Note that all vector variables are free by definition of our assertion language. The key result is that the usual substitution lemma [1] extends to this new setting.

**Lemma 1** *Let $P$ be a predicate on vector variables, $X$ a vector variable, and $E$ a vector expression.*

$$\sigma \models P[E/X] \qquad \textit{iff} \qquad \sigma[X \leftarrow \sigma(E)] \models P$$

**Proof** *This is easily proved by induction on the structure of vector predicates and vector expressions. The crucial point is that we only consider here the substitution of* a vector $X$ *as a whole, in contrast with [1] where the substitution of* a particular component $X[u]$ *is supported.* ❑

### 3.3 Proof system

We can define the validity of a specification of a $\mathcal{L}$ program with respect to its natural semantics. Because $\perp$ satisfies any assertion, our definition of validity is relative to partial correctness, i.e. we are not concerned by the proof of the program termination.

**Definition 3 (Validity)** *Let $S$ be a $\mathcal{L}$ program, $\{P, C\}$ and $\{Q, D\}$ two assertions. We say that the specification $\{P, C\}\ S\ \{Q, D\}$ is valid, denoted by $\models \{P, C\}\ S\ \{Q, D\}$, if, for any state $(\sigma, c)$,*

$$(\sigma, c) \models \{P, C\} \qquad \Rightarrow \qquad [\![S]\!](\sigma, c) \models \{Q, D\}$$

Our goal is to catch valid formulas through a finite set of simple axioms and inference rules. Unfortunately, this turns out to be more difficult than in the usual case.

Consider the assignment statement $x := e$ of usual sequential languages. The associated *backward* axiom is $\{P[e/x]\}\ x := e\ \{P\}$. A direct generalization to the $\mathcal{L}$ language should be

$$\{P[(C?E{:}X)/X], C\}\ X := E\ \{P, C\}.$$

In this axiom, we express that the local assignment $X|_u := E|_u$ is carried out only at the *active* indices, that is those indices where $C$ evaluates to true. Thus, the former value of $X|_u$ is $E|_u$ if $C|_u$ is true, and it is left unchanged otherwise. This is exactly $(C?E{:}X)|_u$ according to our definition in Section 2.1.

Unfortunately, this generalization is not correct in all cases. The specification

$$\{true, Y = 2\}\ X := 1\ \{true, Y = 2\}$$

is valid. Yet,

$$\{true, X = 2\}\ X := 1\ \{true, X = 2\}$$

is not valid: the (unchanged) activity context is no longer described by the boolean expression $X = 2$ after the assignment $X := 1$, since variable $X$ has been modified. This generalization is correct *only* if the variables of the current context expression $C$ are not modified by executing the assignment $X := E$.

Following the notation of [1], let $Var(S)$ be the set of variables appearing in the program $S$. Let $Change(S)$ be the set of variables appearing on the left hand side of assignments in the program $S$. Only these variables can have their values changed by executing $S$. Let $Var(C)$ be the set of variables appearing in the expression $C$. The value of $C$ depends on these variables only. We describe below a restricted proof system where we always assume that context expressions are not modified by program bodies: $Change(S) \cap Var(C) = \emptyset$.

**Rule 1 (Assignment: $X := E$)** *We extend the usual backward axiom by taking into consideration that the vector variable $X$ is modified only at the active indices.*

$$\frac{X \notin Var(C)}{\{P[(C?E{:}X)/X], C\}\ X := E\ \{P, C\}}$$

For instance, consider the postcondition $\{\forall u : (Y|_u = X|_u), Y = 2\}$: vectors $X$ and $Y$ have all their components equal, and the active indices are precisely those such that the component of $Y$ has value 2. The following specification is valid:

$$\begin{array}{c}\{\forall u : (Y|_u = ((Y|_u = 2)?1{:}X|_u), Y = 2\}\\ X := 1\\ \{\forall u : (Y|_u = X|_u), Y = 2\}\end{array}$$

It boils down to:

$$\begin{array}{c}\{\forall u : (Y|_u = 2 \Rightarrow Y|_u = 1) \wedge (Y|_u \neq 2 \Rightarrow Y|_u = X|_u), Y = 2\}\\ X := 1\\ \{\forall u : (Y|_u = X|_u), Y = 2\}\end{array}$$

that is

$$\begin{array}{c}\{\forall u : (Y|_u \neq 2) \wedge (Y|_u = X|_u), Y = 2\}\\ X := 1\\ \{\forall u : (Y|_u = X|_u), Y = 2\}\end{array}$$

**Rule 2 (Sequencing: $S;T$)** *It is a straightforward generalization of the usual case.*

$$\frac{\{P,C\}\ S\ \{R,C\},\ \{R,C\}\ T\ \{Q,C\}}{\{P,C\}\ S;T\ \{Q,C\}}$$

**Rule 3 (Iteration: loop $B$ do $S$ end)** *The usual loop invariant assertion has here to be invariant with respect to both the variables values and the activity context.*

$$\frac{\{I \wedge \exists u : (C|_u \wedge B|_u), C\}\ S\ \{I, C\}}{\{I, C\}\ \mathsf{loop}\ B\ \mathsf{do}\ S\ \mathsf{end}\ \{I \wedge \forall u : (C|_u \Rightarrow \neg B|_u), C\}}$$

**Rule 4 (Conditioning: where $B$ do $S$ end)** *Following the natural semantics, the context part is the conjunction of the previous context expression and the condition of the conditioning construct.*

$$\frac{\{P, (C \wedge B)\}\ S\ \{Q, D\},\ \mathit{Change}(S) \cap \mathit{Var}(C) = \emptyset}{\{P, C\}\ \mathsf{where}\ B\ \mathsf{do}\ S\ \mathsf{end}\ \{Q, C\}}$$

Consider for instance the following valid specification:

$$\{\forall u : X|_u \geq 0, X \geq 1\}\ X := X + 1\ \{\forall u : X|_u \geq 0, X \geq 2\}$$

The rule above applies and yields:

$$\begin{array}{c}\{\forall u : X|_u \geq 0, \mathit{True}\} \\ \mathsf{where}\ X \geq 1\ \mathsf{do}\ X := X + 1\ \mathsf{end} \\ \{\forall u.\, X|_u \geq 0, \mathit{True}\}\end{array}$$

Observe that the resulting activity context expression $D$ is ignored, very much like the resulting activity context $c'$ in the natural semantics (Section 2.2) and that we do not need to assume $\mathit{Change}(S) \cap \mathit{Var}(B) = \emptyset$.

**Rule 5 (Consequence rule)** *Following Definition 2, we can state the consequence rule.*

$$\frac{\{P,C\} \Rightarrow \{P_1,C_1\},\ \{P_1,C_1\}\ S\ \{Q_1,D_1\},\ \{Q_1,D_1\} \Rightarrow \{Q,D\}}{\{P,C\}\ S\ \{Q,D\}}$$

This rule allows us to strengthen preconditions, and to weaken postconditions of specifications.

If a specification $\{P,C\}\ S\ \{Q,D\}$ can be derived in this proof system, we write

$$\vdash \{P,C\}\ S\ \{Q,D\}$$

**Proposition 2 (Soundness)** *This proof system is* sound*: if* $\vdash \{P,C\}\ S\ \{Q,D\}$ *then* $\models \{P,C\}\ S\ \{Q,D\}$.

### 3.4 Example

Let us prove the correctness of the small program given on section 2.1.

$$\begin{array}{l} S := V; I := 1; \\ \mathsf{loop}\ I < N\ \mathsf{do} \\ \quad \mathsf{where}\ \mathit{This} > I\ \mathsf{do} \\ \quad\quad S := S + S|_{\mathit{This}-I} \\ \quad \mathsf{end}; \\ \quad I := 2 * I \\ \mathsf{end} \end{array}$$

To find an invariant assertion, we express that only those components whose index $u$ is greater than scalar value $i$ can fetch an additional value $S|_{u-i}$. The other components already hold the final result. Let us define the following vector predicate: *Const* expresses that vector $I$ is a constant vector whose value is $i$; *Inv* expresses that the partial sum is already computed from index 1 to $i$. The predicate part of the invariant assertion is $Const \wedge Inv$. For the sake of conciseness, $V|_u^v$ denotes $\sum_{k=u}^{k=v} V|_k$, $i$ denotes $I|_1$, and we drop all stoi/itos conversions for simplicity.

$$\begin{array}{rcl} Const & \equiv & \forall u : (I|_u = i) \\ Inv & \equiv & \forall u : (1 \leq u \leq i \Rightarrow S|_u = V|_1^u) \\ & & \wedge \quad (i < u \leq N \Rightarrow S|_u = V|_{u-i+1}^u) \\ Pred & \equiv & Const \wedge Inv \end{array}$$

The sketch of the partial correctness proof is expressed by the program annotated with assertions shown on Figure 3. The steps of the proof derivation are to check the *correctness* of invariant assertion $\{Pred, True\}$: $(b) \Rightarrow (c)$, and that it *implies* the final specification: $(j) \Rightarrow (k)$. In assertion $(e)$, note how context expression $This > I$ is generated by the conditioning expression of the enclosing **where** block. Assertion $(e)$ is obtained from assertion $(f)$ by substituting $S$ with $(This > I?(S + S|_{This-I}):S)$. That is, $S_u$ is substituted with $S|_u + S|_{u-i}$ if $u > i$. The new boundary $2 * i$ (that is, $2 * I|_1$) substituted in the invariant comes from the assignment statement for counter $I$ in context *True*.

# 4 Weakest preconditions of $\mathcal{L}$ programs

The *weakest liberal precondition* of a program $S$ with respect to a set of states $\mathcal{E}$, $wlp(S, \mathcal{E})$, is the set of all the states $s$ such that, whenever $S$ is activated in $s$ and *properly terminates*, the resulting state is in $\mathcal{E}$. In contrast, the *weakest strict precondition* of $S$ with respect to $\mathcal{E}$, (or *weakest precondition* for short when no confusion may arise), $wp(S, \mathcal{E})$, is the set of all the states $s$ such that whenever $S$ is activated in $s \neq \perp$, it is guaranteed *to terminate* and the final state is in $\mathcal{E}$. For the sake of conciseness, we define the *convergence predicate* $conv(S, s)$ by

$$conv(S, s) \quad \equiv \quad s \neq \perp \Rightarrow [\![S]\!](s) \neq \perp.$$

**Definition 4 (Weakest preconditions)** *Let $\mathcal{E}$ be a set of states, $S$ a $\mathcal{L}$-program. We define the* weakest liberal preconditions *as*

$$wlp(S, \mathcal{E}) = \{s \mid [\![S]\!](s) \in \mathcal{E} \cup \{\perp\}\}$$

*and the* weakest (strict) preconditions *as*

$$wp(S, \mathcal{E}) = wlp(S, \mathcal{E}) \cap \{s \mid conv(S, s)\}$$

**Lemma 2 (Consequence Lemma)**

$$\models \{P, C\}\ S\ \{Q, D\} \quad \textit{iff} \quad [\![\{P, C\}]\!] \subseteq wlp(S, \{Q, D\}).$$

**Proof** *Assume $\models \{P, C\}\ S\ \{Q, D\}$. Then, for all $(\sigma, c) \in [\![\{P, C\}]\!]$, we have $[\![S]\!](\sigma, c) \models \{Q, D\}$. Thus, $[\![\{P, C\}]\!] \subseteq wlp(S, \{Q, D\})$.*

*Conversely, let us assume $[\![\{P, C\}]\!] \subseteq wlp(S, \{Q, D\})$. Consider $(\sigma, c) \in [\![\{P, C\}]\!]$. By hypothesis, $(\sigma, c) \in wlp(S, \{Q, D\})$. Thus, $[\![S]\!](\sigma, c) \models \{Q, D\}$.* ❑

$(a)$ $\{true, True\}$

$S := V;\ I := 1;$

$(b)$ $\{Pred, True\}$

loop $I < N$ do

$(c)$ $\{Pred \wedge i < N, True\}$

$(d)$ $\{Const \wedge$

$$\begin{aligned} \forall u: \quad & (1 \leq u \leq i \Rightarrow S|_u = V|_1^u) \\ \wedge \quad & (i < u \leq 2 * i \Rightarrow S|_u + S|_{u-i} = V|_1^u) \\ \wedge \quad & (2 * i < u \leq N \Rightarrow S|_u + S|_{u-i} = V|_{u-i*2+1}^u), \end{aligned}$$

$True\}$

where $This > I$ do

$(e)$ $\{Const \wedge$

$$\begin{aligned} \forall u: \quad & (1 \leq u \leq i \Rightarrow S|_u = V|_1^u) \\ \wedge \quad & (i < u \leq 2 * i \Rightarrow S|_u + S|_{u-i} = V|_1^u) \\ \wedge \quad & (2 * i < u \leq N \Rightarrow S|_u + S|_{u-i} = V|_{u-i*2+1}^u), \end{aligned}$$

$This > I\}$

$S := S + S|_{This-I}$

$(f)$ $\{Const \wedge$

$$\begin{aligned} \forall u: \quad & (1 \leq u \leq i * 2 \Rightarrow S|_u = V|_1^u) \\ \wedge \quad & (i * 2 < u \leq N \Rightarrow S|_u = V|_{u-i*2+1}^u), \end{aligned}$$

$This > I\}$

end;

$(g)$ $\{Const \wedge$

$$\begin{aligned} \forall u: \quad & (1 \leq u \leq i * 2 \Rightarrow S|_u = V|_1^u) \\ \wedge \quad & (i * 2 < u \leq N \Rightarrow S|_u = V|_{u-i*2+1}^u), \end{aligned}$$

$True\}$

$I := 2 * I$

$(h)$ $\{Const \wedge$

$$\begin{aligned} \forall u: \quad & (1 \leq u \leq i \Rightarrow S|_u = V|_1^u) \\ \wedge \quad & (i < u \leq N \Rightarrow S|_u = V|_{u-i+1}^u), \end{aligned}$$

$True\}$

$(i)$ $\{Pred, True\}$

end

$(j)$ $\{Pred \wedge i \geq N, True\}$

$(k)$ $\{\forall u : 1 \leq u \leq N \Rightarrow S|_u = V|_1^u, True\}$

Reminder: We write $i$ for $I|_1$ as *Const* expresses that $I$ is a constant vector. We drop all stoi/itos conversions.

Figure 3: The annotated *scan* program

### 4.1 The definability problem

We restrict our study of the weakest preconditions to those subsets of states which can be described by some assertion. In classical Hoare's logic, the *Definability* Property states that the weakest preconditions of a program, with respect to a set of states described by some assertion, can itself be described by some assertion. In our framework, the Definability Problem can be stated as follows.

> *Given a program $S$ and an assertion $\{Q, D\}$, does there exist any assertion $\{P, C\}$ such that*
>
> $$wlp(S, \{Q, D\}) = \{P, C\} \quad (\textit{resp. } wp(S, \{Q, D\}) = \{P, C\})$$
>
> *If so, can it be expressed from $S$, $Q$, $D$?*

It can be shown [1] that this properties holds for the classical Hoare's logic under some assumptions on the expressivity of the assertion language. In our setting, the form of the assertions introduces a limitation on their expressive power. Specifying the context by an additional independent component lets it depend functionally on the variable values. The price to pay for simpler proofs is a more complex theory. Alternative approaches are discussed in Section 4.5.

**Fact 1 (Restricted expressive power of assertions)** *Let $\{P, C\}$ be an assertion. For any environment $\sigma$, there exists at most* one *activity context $c$ such that $(\sigma, c) \in [\![\{P, C\}]\!]$, namely $c = \sigma(C)$.*

An easy consequence is that the weakest liberal preconditions of some $\mathcal{L}$ programs cannot be defined by any assertion. This is a major difference with the usual case. Consider for instance

$$S \equiv \mathsf{loop}\ \mathit{True}\ \mathsf{do}\ X := X\ \mathsf{end}$$

Consider postcondition $\{\mathit{true}, \mathit{True}\}$. This postcondition is satisfied either if $S$ terminates with context *True* or if $S$ diverges. The former cannot occur because of the semantics of the loop construct. The latter occurs if and only if there is at least one active index, that is, context $c$ may satisfy the condition $\exists u : c|_u = \mathit{true}$. We have thus

$$wlp(S, \{\mathit{true}, \mathit{True}\}) = \{(\sigma, c) \mid \exists u : c|_u = \mathit{true}\} \cup \{\bot\}$$

As two different activity contexts $c$ may produce a *divergence* for the same environment $\sigma$, this set of states cannot be defined by any assertion by the fact above. In contrast, the weakest strict preconditions exclude divergence, and one can check that

$$wp(S, \{\mathit{true}, \mathit{True}\}) = \{\bot\}$$

Now, the set of states $\{\bot\}$ can be for instance defined as $[\![\{\mathit{false}, \mathit{False}\}]\!]$.

Unfortunately, the definability property does not hold for the weakest preconditions either. Let

$$S \equiv X := X + 1$$

Consider $wp(S, \{Q, D\})$, with

$$Q \equiv (\forall u : X|_u = 1) \vee (\forall u : X|_u = 2) \quad \text{and} \quad D \equiv (X = 2)$$

Let $\sigma$ be an initial state such that $\forall u : \sigma(X)|_u = 1$. Let $\sigma'$ be the corresponding final state. If all indices are active, then the assignment occurs everywhere, and $\forall u : \sigma'(X)|_u = 2$. Thus $D$ evaluates to *True* in $\sigma'$ and the final state satisfies $\{Q, D\}$. If all indices are idle, then nothing changes: $\forall u : \sigma'(X)|_u = 1$. Thus $D$ evaluates to *False* in $\sigma'$ and the final state satisfies $\{Q, D\}$, too. We thus have

$$(\sigma, \mathit{True}) \in wp(S, \{Q, D\}) \text{ and } (\sigma, \mathit{False}) \in wp(S, \{Q, D\})$$

If $wp(S, \{Q, D\})$ was described by some assertion $\{P, C\}$, then $\sigma(C)$ should be equal both to *True* and to *False*. This is thus impossible. However, we shall see that a suitable restriction on the syntax of context expressions yields the definability property for weakest preconditions.

### 4.2 Discussion

These preliminary remarks show that our choice of two-component assertions $\{P, C\}$ leads to difficulties when the variables of $C$ are modified by the program

$$wlp(X := X + 1, \{Q, X = 2\})$$

with $Q \equiv (\forall u : X|_u = 1) \vee (\forall u : X|_u = 2)$ is not definable whereas

$$wlp(Y := Y + 1, \{Q, X = 2\})$$

is definable, as shown later.

Two alternatives can be considered here.

1. Change the assertion language to support more general dependencies between $\sigma$ and $c$. In our setting, we consider explicit functional dependencies only:

   $$(\sigma, c) \models \{P, C\} \quad \text{iff} \quad \sigma \models P \quad \text{and} \quad c = \sigma(C)$$

   A possible extension would be to consider implicit logical dependency: introduce a new name, say $\sharp$ along the Actus terminology [7], to denote the current context as a value in the environment. We then can consider generalized assertions of the form $\mathcal{P}(\sharp)$, with

   $$(\sigma, c) \models \mathcal{P}(\sharp) \quad \text{iff} \quad \sigma[\sharp \leftarrow c] \models \mathcal{P}(\sharp)$$

   This supports sets of context: take for instance

   $$\mathcal{P}(\sharp) = \forall u : (\sharp|_u = true) \vee \forall u : (\sharp|_u = false)$$

   A two-component assertion $\{P, C\}$ is nothing more than the special case

   $$\mathcal{P}(\sharp) \equiv P \wedge \forall u : (\sharp|_u = C|_u).$$

   This direction has been explored by Le Guyadec and Virot in [10]. We discuss its relationship with our work in Section 4.5. The main drawback is that it does not support a two-phase proof methodology any more.

2. Keep this assertion language and improve the proof system to circumvent this lack of definability. This is done in Section 5, using an additional rule to handle hidden variables in assertions. We show in Section 6 that it actually leads to a two-phase proof methodology where context expressions and predicates on vector variables are handled separately.

### 4.3 Definability of the weakest strict preconditions of linear programs

For now on, we restrict ourselves to the most basic case, which consists in $\mathcal{L}$ programs without loops, and context expressions not modified by programs. The extension to the general case is discussed in the end of this section. The following notion will be useful in this section.

**Definition 5 (Linear $\mathcal{L}$ programs)** *A $\mathcal{L}$ program $S$ is* linear *if it is made of assignments, sequencing and conditioning only.*

Note that a linear program may not diverge, and that its weakest liberal preconditions are thus identical to its weakest strict preconditions. We can thus safely drop the distinction.

**Definition 6 (Plain specification)** *A pair $(S, \{Q, D\})$ is said to be* plain *if we have $Var(D) \cap Change(S) = \emptyset$. A specification formula $\{P, C\}\ S\ \{Q, D\}$ is said to be* plain *if $(S, \{Q, D\})$ is plain.*

We call the weakest preconditions of a plain pair $(S, \{Q, D\})$ a *plain weakest precondition.*

**Weakest preconditions of basic constructs**

Let us first consider the weakest precondition of assignment and sequential composition.

**Proposition 3 (Assignment)** *If $X \notin Var(D)$, then*

$$wp(X := E, \{Q, D\}) = \{Q[(D?E{:}X)/X], D\}$$

**Proof** *Let $(\sigma, c) \in wlp(X := E, \{Q, D\})$. Assume, $[\![X := E]\!](\sigma, c) = (\sigma', c)$. Then, $(\sigma', c) \in [\![\{Q, D\}]\!]$. As $X \notin Var(D)$, we have $\sigma(D) = \sigma'(D) = c$. By definition, $\sigma' = \sigma[X \leftarrow \sigma(D?E{:}X)] \models Q$. By the Substitution Lemma, we deduce $\sigma \models Q[(D?E{:}X)/X]$.*

*Conversely, let $(\sigma, c) \in [\![\{Q[(D?E{:}X)/X], D\}]\!]$. By definition, we have $\sigma \models Q[(D?E{:}X)/X]$ and $\sigma(D) = c$. Let $(\sigma', c) = [\![X := E]\!](\sigma, c)$. By definition, $\sigma' = \sigma[X \leftarrow \sigma(D?E{:}X)]$. By the Substitution Lemma, as $\sigma \models Q[(D?E{:}X)/X]$, we deduce $\sigma' \models Q$. As above, $\sigma'(D) = \sigma(D) = c$ and $(\sigma', c) \in [\![\{Q, D\}]\!]$.* ❑

**Proposition 4 (Sequential composition)**

$$wp(S; T, \{Q, D\}) = wp(S, wp(T, \{Q, D\}))$$

**Proof** *By definition*

$$\begin{aligned} wp(S; T, \{Q, D\}) &= \{s \mid [\![S; T]\!](s) \in [\![\{Q, D\}]\!]\} \\ &= \{s \mid [\![T]\!]([\![S]\!](s)) \in [\![\{Q, D\}]\!]\} \\ &= \{s \mid [\![S]\!](s) \in \{s' \mid [\![T]\!](s') \in [\![\{Q, D\}]\!]\}\} \\ &= \{s \mid [\![S]\!](s) \in wp(T, \{Q, D\})\} \\ &= wp(S, wp(T, \{Q, D\})) \end{aligned}$$

❑

**Weakest preconditions of a conditioning construct**

We now turn to the conditioning construct. We start with the easy case where the conditioned body does not modify the context expressions.

**Proposition 5** *Assume $(S, \{Q, D \wedge B\})$ is plain. If*

$$wp(S, \{Q, D \wedge B\}) = \{P, C\}$$

*then*

$$wp(\mathsf{where}\ B\ \mathsf{do}\ S\ \mathsf{end}, \{Q, D\}) = \{P, D\}$$

The proof uses an additional technical lemma. It expresses that the activity context is left unchanged by a program. It may thus be captured by the same boolean vector expression as soon as its variables are not changed by the program.

**Lemma 3** *Let $(S, \{Q, D\})$ be plain. Assume*

$$\models \{P, C\}\ S\ \{Q, D\}\ \textit{and}\ \forall s \in [\![\{P, C\}]\!] : conv(S, s)\,.$$

*Then $[\![\{P, C\}]\!] = [\![\{P, D\}]\!]$. In particular, we have*

$$\models \{P, D\}\ S\ \{Q, D\}\ \textit{and}\ \forall s \in [\![\{P, D\}]\!] : conv(S, s)$$

**Proof** *Assume $\sigma \models P$. Let $c = \sigma(C)$ and $c' = \sigma(D)$. By hypothesis, we have $conv(S,(\sigma,c))$ and $[\![S]\!](\sigma,c) = (\sigma',c) \in [\![\{Q,D\}]\!]$. We deduce $\sigma'(D) = c$. Since $Var(D) \cap Change(S) = \emptyset$, we have $c' = \sigma(D) = \sigma'(D) = c$, too. We deduce $\{P,C\} \Leftrightarrow \{P,D\}$, and thus $[\![\{P,C\}]\!] = [\![\{P,D\}]\!]$.* ❑

Without the above assumption of convergence, this lemma is not true. Consider for instance

$$S \equiv \mathsf{loop}\ X = 0\ \mathsf{do}\ Y := Y\ \mathsf{end}$$

We have

$$\models \{\exists u :\ X|_u = 0, X = 0\}\ S\ \{\forall u :\ X|_u \neq 0, X \neq 0\}$$

but

$$\not\models \{\exists u :\ X|_u = 0, X \neq 0\}\ S\ \{\forall u :\ X|_u \neq 0, X \neq 0\}$$

As an important consequence of the preceding lemma, we obtain the following result.

**Lemma 4 (Extension Lemma)** *Assume $(S,\{Q,D\})$ is plain. If*

$$wp(S,\{Q,D\}) = \{P,C\},$$

*then*

$$wp(S,\{Q,D\}) = \{P,D\}.$$

We can now give the proof of Proposition 5.

**Proof** *Let $(\sigma,c) \in wp(\mathsf{where}\ B\ \mathsf{do}\ S\ \mathsf{end},\{Q,D\})$. By definition,*

$$[\![\mathsf{where}\ B\ \mathsf{do}\ S\ \mathsf{end}]\!](\sigma,c) = (\sigma',c) \in [\![\{Q,D\}]\!],$$

*with $\sigma'$ such that $(\sigma', c \wedge \sigma(B)) = [\![S]\!](\sigma, c \wedge \sigma(B))$. As $(Var(D) \cup Var(B)) \cap Change(S) = \emptyset$, we have*

$$\sigma'(D) = \sigma(D) = c \text{ and } \sigma'(B) = \sigma(B).$$

*Thus, $c \wedge \sigma(B) = \sigma'(D \wedge B)$, and $(\sigma', c \wedge \sigma(B)) \in [\![\{Q, D \wedge B\}]\!]$. By assumption, we have $(\sigma, c \wedge \sigma(B)) \in [\![\{P,C\}]\!]$, and $\sigma \models P$. Thus, $(\sigma,c) \in [\![\{P,D\}]\!]$ as wanted.*

*Conversely, let $(\sigma,c) \in [\![\{P,D\}]\!]$. Observe first that, by Lemma 4,*

$$wp(S,\{Q,D \wedge B\}) = \{P,C\} = \{P, D \wedge B\}.$$

*Thus, $[\![S]\!](\sigma, c \wedge \sigma(B)) = (\sigma', c') \in [\![\{Q, D \wedge B\}]\!]$, and $\sigma' \models Q$. Thus, $[\![\mathsf{where}\ B\ \mathsf{do}\ S\ \mathsf{end}]\!](\sigma,c) = (\sigma',c)$. As $Var(D) \cap Change(S) = \emptyset$, $\sigma'(D) = \sigma(D) = c$, and we have $(\sigma',c) \in [\![\{Q,D\}]\!]$ as wanted.* ❑

To remove the restriction on variables in expression $B$, let us consider cases where $Var(B) \cap Change(S) \neq \emptyset$. We can then introduce a new variable $Tmp$ and transform program $\mathsf{where}\ B\ \mathsf{do}\ S\ \mathsf{end}$ into

$$Tmp := B; \mathsf{where}\ Tmp\ \mathsf{do}\ S\ \mathsf{end}$$

Assume $wp(S,\{Q, D \wedge Tmp\}) = \{P,C\}$. Then, using the preceding results, we can see that

$$\begin{aligned} &wp(Tmp := B; \mathsf{where}\ Tmp\ \mathsf{do}\ S\ \mathsf{end}, \{Q,D\}) \\ &= \{P[(D?B{:}Tmp)/Tmp], D\} \end{aligned}$$

This transformation can in fact be encapsulated in a single rule for $wp$.

**Proposition 6** *Assume $(S, \{Q, D\})$ is plain and let Tmp be a (new) variable such that $Tmp \notin (Var(Q) \cup Var(S) \cup Var(D))$. If*

$$wp(S, \{Q, D \wedge Tmp\}) = \{P, C\}$$

*then*

$$wp(\textsf{where } B \textsf{ do } S \textsf{ end}, \{Q, D\}) = \{P[B/Tmp], D\}$$

**Proof** *Let $(\sigma, c) \in wp(\textsf{where } B \textsf{ do } S \textsf{ end}, \{Q, D\})$. By definition,*

$$[\![\textsf{where } B \textsf{ do } S \textsf{ end}]\!](\sigma, c) = (\sigma', c) \in [\![\{Q, D\}]\!],$$

*with $\sigma'$ such that*

$$[\![S]\!](\sigma, c \wedge \sigma(B)) = (\sigma', c \wedge \sigma(B)).$$

*We have $\sigma' \models Q$, and $\sigma'(D) = c$. As $Var(D) \cap Change(S) = \emptyset$, $\sigma(D) = \sigma'(D) = c$.*

*Let $\sigma_1 = \sigma[Tmp \leftarrow \sigma(B)]$ and $\sigma'_1 = \sigma'[Tmp \leftarrow \sigma(B)]$.*

*By definition, we have $\sigma_1(Tmp) = \sigma(B) = \sigma'_1(Tmp)$. As $Tmp \notin Var(D)$, $\sigma_1(D) = \sigma(D) = c$, and $\sigma'_1(D) = \sigma'(D) = c$. As $Tmp \notin Var(Q)$ and $\sigma' \models Q$, $\sigma'_1 \models Q$, too.*

*As $Tmp \notin Var(S)$,*

$$[\![S]\!](\sigma_1, c \wedge \sigma(B)) = (\sigma'_1, c \wedge \sigma(B)) = (\sigma'_1, \sigma'_1(D \wedge Tmp)) .$$

*As $(\sigma'_1, \sigma'_1(D \wedge Tmp)) \in [\![\{Q, D \wedge Tmp\}]\!]$, $(\sigma_1, c \wedge \sigma(B)) \in [\![\{P, C\}]\!]$. Thus, $\sigma_1 \models P$. By the Substitution Lemma, $\sigma \models P[B/Tmp]$, and $(\sigma, c) \in [\![\{P[B/Tmp], D\}]\!]$.*

*Conversely, let $(\sigma, c) \in [\![\{P[B/Tmp], D\}]\!]$. Let $\sigma_1 = \sigma[Tmp \leftarrow \sigma(B)]$. By the Substitution Lemma, $\sigma_1 \models P$. Also, as Tmp does not appear in D, $\sigma_1(D) = \sigma(D) = c$. Thus,*

$$(\sigma_1, c \wedge \sigma_1(Tmp)) \models \{P, D \wedge Tmp\} .$$

*By Lemma 4, we have $wp(S, \{Q, D \wedge Tmp\}) = \{P, C\} = \{P, D \wedge Tmp\}$. Thus, there exists some $\sigma'_1$ such that*

$$[\![S]\!](\sigma_1, c \wedge \sigma_1(Tmp)) = (\sigma'_1, c \wedge \sigma_1(Tmp)) \models \{Q, D \wedge Tmp\} .$$

*In particular, $\sigma'_1 \models Q$. As Tmp does not appear in S, we have*

$$[\![S]\!](\sigma, c \wedge \sigma(B)) = (\sigma', c \wedge \sigma(B)) ,$$

*too, with $\sigma' = \sigma'_1[Tmp \leftarrow \sigma(Tmp)]$. As $\sigma'_1 \models Q$, and Tmp does not appear in Q, we have $\sigma' \models Q$ as well. By the semantics of the conditioning construct, we deduce finally*

$$[\![\textsf{where } B \textsf{ do } S \textsf{ end}]\!](\sigma, c) = (\sigma', c) \in \{Q, D\}$$

*as wanted.* □

**Theorem 1 (Plain WP for linear $\mathcal{L}$-programs are definable)** *Let S be a linear $\mathcal{L}$ program (that is, without loop construct), and let $(S, \{Q, D\})$ be plain. Then, there exists a predicate P such that $wp(S, \{Q, D\}) = \{P, D\}$.*

**Proof** *By induction on the structure of S. The case of assignment and sequential composition are trivial. Let $S \equiv \textsf{where } B \textsf{ do } T \textsf{ end}$. Let Tmp be a new variable not in $Var(Q) \cup Var(D) \cup Var(S)$. By induction hypothesis, there exists an assertion $\{P, C\}$ such that $wp(T, \{Q, D \wedge Tmp\}) = \{P, C\}$. By Proposition 6, we have $wp(S, \{Q, D\}) = \{P[B/Tmp], D\}$.* □

The example at the end of section 4.1 shows that the theorem is no longer true if the restriction $Var(D) \cap Change(S) = \emptyset$ is removed. In this case, the set $wp(S, \{Q, D\})$ cannot be defined by any assertion $\{P, C\}$ in general.

Yet, we can obtain a *weaker* result as follows. Let $\sharp$ be a new variable. We can observe that

$$(\sigma, c) \in [\![\{Q, D\}]\!] \text{ iff } (\sigma[\sharp \leftarrow c], c) \in [\![\{Q \wedge \sharp = D, D\}]\!]$$

Note then that

$$[\![\{Q \wedge \sharp = D, D\}]\!] = [\![\{Q \wedge \sharp = D, \sharp\}]\!] .$$

As $\sharp$ is a *new* variable, we are able to apply the previous theorem to $wp(S, \{Q \wedge \sharp = D, \sharp\})$. It yields some assertion $\{P, C\}$ which defines this set (observe $\sharp$ may occur in $P$). By the Extension Lemma, it is described by $\{P, \sharp\}$ as well.

**Theorem 2** *Let $\{Q, D\}$ be an assertion, and $S$ be a linear $\mathcal{L}$ program. Let $\sharp$ be a* new *variable not in $Var(D) \cup Var(S) \cup Var(Q)$. Then, there exists a predicate $P$ such that*

$$wp(S, \{Q, D\}) = \{(\sigma, c) \mid \sigma[\sharp \leftarrow c] \models P\}$$

**Proof** *Let $\{P, \sharp\} = wp(S, \{Q \wedge \sharp = D, \sharp\})$. Consider a state $(\sigma, c)$ such that $\sigma[\sharp \leftarrow c] \models P$. Let $\sigma_1 = \sigma[\sharp \leftarrow c]$. Then $\sigma_1 \models P$. Also, $\sigma_1(\sharp) = c$. Thus $(\sigma_1, c) \in [\![\{P, \sharp\}]\!]$. Let $(\sigma_1', c) = [\![S]\!](\sigma_1, c)$. We have $(\sigma_1', c) \in [\![\{Q \wedge \sharp = D, \sharp\}]\!]$. It is then routine to show that $[\![S]\!](\sigma, c) \in [\![\{Q, D\}]\!]$. The converse proof is of the same vein.* ❑

It is interesting to notice that Theorem 1 is a special case of Theorem 2. Actually, assume that $Var(D) \cap Change(S) = \emptyset$. Consider $wp(S, \{Q, D\})$, and apply Theorem 2. We have

$$wp(S, \{Q, D\}) = \{(\sigma, c) \mid \sigma[\sharp \leftarrow c] \models P\}$$

where $\sharp$ is a new variable. As $Var(D) \cap Change(S) = \emptyset$, $\sigma(D) = c$. This set of states is thus equal to

$$\{(\sigma, c) \mid \sigma[\sharp \leftarrow \sigma(D)] \models P \wedge \sigma(D) = c\}$$

that is

$$\{(\sigma, c) \mid \sigma \models P[D/\sharp] \wedge \sigma(D) = c\}$$

that is precisely $[\![\{P[D/\sharp], D\}]\!]$, as announced in Theorem 1.

## 4.4 Definability of weakest liberal preconditions

Except for the **where** construct, the basic definability properties of weakest strict preconditions for assignment and sequencing still hold for the weakest liberal preconditions with similar proofs. We concentrate here on the case of the conditioning construct, and we show that no result analogous to Theorem 1 may be expected. Of course, this only concerns non-linear programs. With the two-component assertional proof system, the data-parallel case turns out to be much more complex than the usual sequential one.

The difficulty to be addressed is the following. In presence of divergence, we cannot infer the initial activity contexts from postassertions. We could expect a property of the form:

If

$$\{P, C \wedge B\} = wlp(S, \{Q, D \wedge B\}),$$

then

$$\{P, C\} = wlp(\textsf{where } B \textsf{ do } S \textsf{ end}, \{Q, D\}).$$

An easy partial result is given by the proof rule for the **where** construct.

**Proposition 7** *Assume* $change(S) \cap var(C) = \emptyset$. *If*

$$\{P, C \wedge B\} \subseteq wlp(S, \{Q, D \wedge B\}),$$

*then*

$$\{P, C\} \subseteq wlp(\textsf{where } B \textsf{ do } S \textsf{ end}, \{Q, C\}).$$

Unfortunately, the preceding proposition does not hold if we replace inclusions by equalities, as shown by the following example.

Consider the following program $S$ over a one-dimensional domain $\mathcal{D} = [1..M]$. Intuitively, the value of $X|_u$ is initially set to false at each active index. Then, the values of $X|_1$, $X|_2$, etc. are repeatedly fetched, until the value false is found. Remember that we assume that function **stoi** is defined everywhere, so that fetching makes sense for any address (think for instance of some cyclic numbering scheme as in MPL).

```
X := False;
where This = 1 do
  N := 1; X := True;
  loop X|_N do
    N := N + 1
  end
end
```

Define

$$P \equiv (\forall u \neq 1 : X|_u = true) \qquad \text{and} \qquad C \equiv (This = 1)$$

**Fact 2** *S diverges from* $(\sigma, c)$ *iff* $(\sigma, c) \in [\![\{P, C\}]\!]$.

**Proof** *S diverges iff index 1 is active on entering the loop and no* $X|_u$, *is spotted to be false. Because of the initial assignment* $X :=$ *False,* $X|_u$ *is false iff index* $u$ *is initially active. Thus, all indices* $u \neq 1$ *have to be idle initially for divergence to occur. That is, the initial context is described by* $This = 1$. *Also, each* $X|_u$ *has to be true initially (except for* $u = 1$*).* ❑

The first crucial observation is now that the value of $C$ does not depend on the environment.

**Fact 3** *wlp(S,{true, C})={true, C}.*

**Proof** *Assume* $(\sigma, c) \in [\![\{true, C\}]\!]$. *If S diverges from this state, then we are done. If S converges, then the final context is the same as the initial one, and we are done again.*

*Conversely, let s such that* $[\![S]\!](s) \in [\![\{true, C\}]\!]$. *If S diverges from this state, then* $s \in [\![\{P, C\}]\!] \subseteq [\![\{true, C\}]\!]$. *If it converges, then its context is still described by C, as C does not depend on the environment.* ❑

The second crucial observation is that the context described by $C$ is not identically active.

**Fact 4** *wlp(***where** $C$ **do** $S$ **end**,*{true, True}) is not definable by any assertion.*

**Proof** *Fix an environment* $\sigma \models P$. *Then both* $(\sigma, True)$ *and* $(\sigma, \sigma(C))$ *belong to* $wlp(\textsf{where } C \textsf{ do } S \textsf{ end}, \{true, True\})$. *As* $\sigma(C) \neq True$, *this set cannot be described by any assertion, as remarked in Section 4.1.* ❑

Yet, the definability property holds for the weakest liberal preconditions of the **where** construct, *modulo* the set of divergent states.

**Proposition 8** *Assume* $Var(D) \cap Change(S) = \emptyset$ *and let* $Tmp$ *be a (new) variable such that* $Tmp \notin (Var(Q) \cup Var(S) \cup Var(D))$. *If*

$$wp(S, \{Q, D \wedge Tmp\}) \subseteq [\![\{P, D \wedge Tmp\}]\!] \subseteq wlp(S, \{Q, D \wedge Tmp\})$$

*then*

$$\begin{array}{rl} & wp(\mathsf{where}\ B\ \mathsf{do}\ S\ \mathsf{end}, \{Q, D\}) \\ \subseteq & [\![\{P[B/Tmp], D\}]\!] \\ \subseteq & wlp(\mathsf{where}\ B\ \mathsf{do}\ S\ \mathsf{end}, \{Q, D\}) \end{array}$$

**Proof** *The first inclusion is a part of Proposition 5.*

*The proof of the second inclusion is very similar to the corresponding proof for the weakest preconditions.*

*Consider a state* $(\sigma, c) \models \{P[B/Tmp], D\}$. *Let* $\sigma_1 = \sigma[Tmp \leftarrow \sigma(B)]$. *By the Substitution Lemma,* $\sigma_1 \models P$. *If* $S$ *diverges from the state* $(\sigma, c \wedge \sigma(B))$, *then the result trivially holds. Otherwise, let* $c_1 = c \wedge \sigma(B)$. *There exists an environment* $\sigma'$ *such that* $[\![S]\!](\sigma, c_1) = (\sigma', c_1)$. *As* $Tmp$ *does not appear in* $S$, *we have* $[\![S]\!](\sigma_1, c_1) = (\sigma'_1, c_1)$ *too, with* $\sigma'_1 = \sigma'[Tmp \leftarrow \sigma(Tmp)]$. *By definition, we have* $\sigma(B) = \sigma_1(Tmp)$. *As* $Tmp$ *does not appear in* $D$, $\sigma_1(D) = \sigma(D) = c$. *Thus,*

$$(\sigma_1, c_1) \models \{P, D \wedge Tmp\}.$$

*We deduce* $[\![S]\!](\sigma_1, c_1) \models \{Q, D \wedge Tmp\}$. *In particular,* $\sigma'_1 \models Q$. *As* $Tmp$ *does not appear in* $Q$, $\sigma' \models Q$ *as well. As* $Var(D) \cap Change(S) = \emptyset$, $\sigma'(D) = \sigma(D) = c$. *By the semantics of the conditioning construct, we finally have*

$$[\![\mathsf{where}\ B\ \mathsf{do}\ S\ \mathsf{end}]\!](\sigma, c) = (\sigma', c) \models \{Q, D\}.$$

❑

## 4.5 Discussion: extending the assertion language?

So far, we have shown that plain weakest preconditions of linear programs are always definable by some two-component assertion, but that weakest liberal preconditions of non-linear program are not in general. The two-component assertion language is not expressive enough to denote its own weakest preconditions.

In Theorem 2, we have shown an alternative to the description of weakest preconditions. By the introduction of some auxiliary variable $Aux$, which denotes the context, we can find a predicate $P$ which denotes the weakest preconditions. This auxiliary variable $Aux$ is precisely the counterpart of the symbol $\sharp$ introduced by Le Guyadec and Virot in citeLG.VI.95.1. In [21], it is shown this theorem is true in all cases, including weakest liberal preconditions of non-linear programs (this uses a Gödel encoding of computations, very much as in the completeness proof of the classical Hoare's logic in [1]).

Going back to the counterexamples of Section 4.1, reconsider the first program

$$S_1 \equiv \mathsf{loop}\ \mathit{True}\ \mathsf{do}\ X := X\ \mathsf{end}$$

we have

$$wlp(S_1, \{true, True\}) = \{(\sigma, c) \mid \sigma[Aux \leftarrow c] \models \exists u : Aux|_u = true\}$$

For the second program, let

$$\begin{array}{rcl} S_2 & \equiv & X := X + 1, \\ Q & \equiv & (\forall u : X|_u = 1) \vee (\forall u : X|_u = 2), \\ D & \equiv & (X = 2). \end{array}$$

We have

$$wlp(S_2, \{Q, D\})$$
$$=$$
$$\{(\sigma, c) \mid \sigma[Aux \leftarrow c] \models Q \wedge [(\forall u : Aux|_u = true) \vee (\forall u : Aux|_u = false)]\}$$

Moreover, we have a logical link between valid specifications and weakest preconditions denoted by a predicate with some auxiliary variable. It is stated in the following property (see [21] for further details), which generalizes the Consequence Lemma 2.

**Proposition 9** *Let $S$ be a $\mathcal{L}$-program, $\{Q, D\}$ be an assertion. Let $W$ be a predicate and $Aux$ be a new variable not in $Var(S) \cup Var(Q) \cup Var(D)$, such that*

$$wlp(S, \{Q, D\}) = \{(\sigma, c) \mid \sigma[Aux \leftarrow c] \models W\}$$

*For any assertion $\{P, C\}$ such that*

$$\models \{P, C\}\ S\ \{Q, D\}$$

*we have*

$$\models (P \wedge (\forall u : C|_u = Aux|_u)) \Rightarrow W$$

This direction has been explored by Cachera and Utard in [6].

## 5 Completeness of the proof system

We now want to establish the completeness for our proof system. We restrict ourself to linear $\mathcal{L}$-programs. It is well-known that proving completeness in presence of a loop requires some complex machinery: invariant predicates, variant expressions, etc. (see [1] for instance), which would obscure the main line of our work at this point.

The proof of the completeness is constructed in an incremental way. We start from a basic case: completeness for a restricted form of specification (restrictions on the program and on the assertions.) We introduce *auxiliary variables* and a rule to handle them, which allow us to remove step by step all restrictions. The following notion is the restricted form of programs we first consider.

**Definition 7 (Regular program)** *A program $P$ is* regular *if, for any subprogram of $P$ of the form* where $B$ do $S$ end, *we have $Var(B) \cap Change(S) = \emptyset$.*

The results of the previous section can be restated as follows. As we assume the specifications to be plain and the programs to be regular, we call it *restricted* definability.

**Proposition 10 (Restricted definability of WP for regular programs)** *Let $S$ be a regular, linear $\mathcal{L}$ program, and let $(S, \{Q, D\})$ be plain. Then, there exists an assertion $\{P, C\}$ such that*

$$[\![\{P, C\}]\!] = wp(S, \{Q, D\})$$

*In particular, $\models \{P, C\}\ S\ \{Q, D\}$.*

We aim at proving the following theorem.

**Theorem 3 (Restr. completeness, plain specif., reg., lin. programs)** *Let $\{P, C\}\ S\ \{Q, D\}$ be a plain specification, where $S$ is a regular, linear program. If*

$$\models \{P, C\}\ S\ \{Q, D\}$$

*then*

$$\vdash \{P, C\}\ S\ \{Q, D\}$$

**Proof** *The proof of this theorem follows the lines of [1]. It uses the weakest preconditions calculus. For any regular, linear program $S$ and any plain pair $(S, \{Q, D\})$, there exists some assertion $\{P', C'\}$ such that $[\![\{P', C'\}]\!] = wp(S, \{Q, D\})$. Using the Consequence Rule, it suffices to demonstrate that $\vdash \{wp(S, \{Q, D\})\}\ S\ \{Q, D\}$.*

*The proof is done by induction on the structure of the regular, linear program $S$, using the definability properties of Section 4.3.*

*The cases of the assignment and sequencing constructs are straightforward. Let us consider in more detail the case of the conditioning construct, with $S \equiv$ where $B$ do $T$ end. As $S$ is regular by hypothesis, we have $Change(T) \cap Var(B) = \emptyset$. As the specification is plain, we have $Change(S) \cap Var(D) = \emptyset$. As $Change(T) = Change(S)$, we also have $Change(T) \cap Var(D) = \emptyset$. The Definability Property yields an assertion $\{P, C\}$ such that $\{P, C\} = wp(T, \{Q, D \wedge B\})$. By the Extension Lemma, we get $wp(T, \{Q, D \wedge B\}) = \{P, D \wedge B\}$.*

*Program $T$ is regular and linear as $S$ is so. Specification $\{P, D \wedge B\}\ T\ \{Q, D \wedge B\}$ is plain. Thus, the induction hypothesis yields*

$$\vdash \{P, D \wedge B\}\ T\ \{Q, D \wedge B\}$$

*As $(Var(B) \cup Var(D)) \cap Change(T) = \emptyset$, the* where *Rule of the proof system applies, and we get*

$$\vdash \{P, D\}\ \textsf{where}\ B\ \textsf{do}\ T\ \textsf{end}\ \{Q, D\}.$$

*Furthermore, the Definability Property gives*

$$wp(\textsf{where}\ B\ \textsf{do}\ T\ \textsf{end}, \{Q, D\}) = \{P, D\}.$$

*Hence the desired result:*

$$\vdash \{wp(\textsf{where}\ B\ \textsf{do}\ T\ \textsf{end}, \{Q, D\})\}\ \textsf{where}\ B\ \textsf{do}\ T\ \textsf{end}\ \{Q, D\}.$$

*Consider now a plain specification $\models \{P, C\}\ S\ \{Q, D\}$, with $S$ being a regular, linear program. By the Definability Property, there exists some assertion $\{P', C'\}$ such that $\{P', C'\} = wp(S, \{Q, D\})$. By the above result, we know that $\vdash \{P', C'\}\ S\ \{Q, D\}$. By Consequence Lemma 2, we get that $\{P, C\} \Rightarrow \{P', C'\}$. We can thus apply the Consequence Rule of the proof system. It yields $\vdash \{P, C\}\ S\ \{Q, D\}$ as wanted.* ❑

This demonstrates the completeness of the proof system for plain specifications and regular, linear programs.

## 5.1 Extending the proof of completeness to non-regular, linear programs

In the presence of non-regular programs, we are no longer able to find any assertion that expresses the weakest preconditions. Thus, we first have to transform a non-regular program into a regular one. This can be done by introducing an *auxiliary variable*, which stores the value of the vector boolean expression: program

$$\textsf{where}\ B\ \textsf{do}\ S\ \textsf{end}$$

is transformed into

$$Tmp := B; \textsf{where}\ Tmp\ \textsf{do}\ S\ \textsf{end}$$

Using such a variable, can be interpreted as keeping track of the nested activity context in a stack. Each new variable *Tmp* is a frame of the stack.

But, instead of transforming programs in order to be able to prove them, we claim that it is possible *to encapsulate* this transformation into the proof system itself. The notion corresponding to the syntactic *auxiliary* variable is that of a semantic *hidden* variable in assertions.

**Rule 6 (Elimination of hidden variables)** *Let $E$ be any vector expression.*

$$\frac{\{P,C\}\ S\ \{Q,D\}, \quad Tmp \notin Var(S) \cup Var(Q) \cup Var(D)}{\{P[E/Tmp], C[E/Tmp]\}\ S\ \{Q,D\}}$$

We denote by $\vdash^* \{P,C\}\ S\ \{Q,D\}$ that a specification formula is derivable in the $\vdash$ proof system augmented with this new rule.

The soundness of the extended proof system $\vdash^*$ is expressed by the following proposition.

**Theorem 4 (Soundness of $\vdash^*$)** *The $\vdash^*$ proof system is sound: if*

$$\vdash^* \{P\}\ S\ \{Q\}$$

*then*

$$\models \{P\}\ S\ \{Q\}$$

**Proof** *As $\vdash^*$ is an extension of $\vdash$ with the Elimination Rule, it suffices to check the following fact. Let us consider $Tmp \notin Var(S) \cup Var(Q) \cup Var(D)$ and $E$ an expression. If $\models \{P,C\}\ S\ \{Q,D\}$, then $\models \{P[E/Tmp], C[E/Tmp]\}\ S\ \{Q,D\}$.*

*Assume $\models \{P,C\}\ S\ \{Q,D\}$.*

*Let us consider $(\sigma, c) \models \{P[E/Tmp], C[E/Tmp]\}$. In particular, $\sigma \models P[E/Tmp]$. Let $\sigma_1 = \sigma[Tmp \leftarrow \sigma(E)]$. By the Substitution Lemma, $\sigma_1 \models P$. Moreover, $\sigma_1(C) = \sigma(C[E/Tmp]) = c$. Thus, $(\sigma_1, c) \models \{P,C\}$.*

*By hypothesis, we have $[\![S]\!](\sigma_1, c) = (\sigma'_1, c)$, with $(\sigma'_1, c) \models \{Q,D\}$.*

*Finally, let $(\sigma', c) = [\![S]\!](\sigma, c)$. As $Tmp \notin Var(S)$, we have $\sigma'_1 = \sigma'[Tmp \leftarrow \sigma(E)]$. What is more, $\sigma'_1 \models Q$ and $Tmp \notin Var(Q)$, so $\sigma' \models Q$, and $\sigma'_1(D) = c$ with $Tmp \notin Var(D)$, so $\sigma'(D) = c$. Thus, we have $(\sigma', c) \models \{Q,D\}$. Thus, $\models \{P[E/Tmp], C[E/Tmp]\}\ S\ \{Q,D\}$.* ❑

We now want to establish the following completeness theorem.

**Theorem 5 (Restricted completeness, plain specif., linear program)** *Let $\{P,C\}\ S\ \{Q,D\}$ be a plain specification, with $S$ a linear program. If*

$$\models \{P,C\}\ S\ \{Q,D\}$$

*then*

$$\vdash^* \{P,C\}\ S\ \{Q,D\}$$

Note that Proposition 6 already used new "hidden" variables to guarantee the definability of the weakest preconditions of any plain specification, as expressed in Theorem 1. We can now prove Completeness Theorem 5 for non-regular programs.

**Proof** *The proof is similar to the one of the Completeness Theorem 3 for regular programs. It uses a structural induction on $S$. The only new case to consider is $S \equiv$ where $B$ do $T$ end, with $Var(B) \cap Change(S) \neq \emptyset$. Pick up a "new" variable $Tmp$ such that $Tmp \notin Var(S) \cup Var(Q) \cup Var(D)$. Such a variable exists because the expressions from the program and from the assertion language are finite terms. By Theorem 1, we know there exists some assertion*

$$\{P,C\} = wp(T, \{Q, D \wedge Tmp\})$$

*We have* $Var(D \wedge Tmp) \cap Change(S) = \emptyset$ *by the choice of* $Tmp$. *Thus,* $wp(T, \{Q, D \wedge Tmp\}) = \{P, D \wedge Tmp\}$ *by the Extension Lemma. By the induction hypothesis, we have*

$$\vdash^* \{P, D \wedge Tmp\}\ T\ \{Q, D \wedge Tmp\}$$

*We also have* $\{P \wedge B = Tmp, D \wedge B\} \Rightarrow \{P, D \wedge Tmp\}$. *We can thus apply the Consequence Rule. This yields*

$$\vdash^* \{P \wedge B = Tmp, D \wedge B\}\ T\ \{Q, D \wedge Tmp\}$$

*Then, we apply the* where *Rule, and we get*

$$\vdash^* \{P \wedge B = Tmp, D\}\ \mathsf{where}\ B\ \mathsf{do}\ T\ \{Q, D\}$$

*Thanks to the Consequence Rule, this rewrites into*

$$\vdash^* \{P[B/Tmp] \wedge B = Tmp, D\}\ \mathsf{where}\ B\ \mathsf{do}\ T\ \{Q, D\}$$

*Finally, applying the Elimination Rule with* $E \equiv B$ *yields*

$$\vdash^* \{P[B/Tmp], D\}\ \mathsf{where}\ B\ \mathsf{do}\ T\ \{Q, D\}$$

*According to Proposition 6,* $wp(S, \{Q, D\}) = \{P[B/Tmp], D\}$. *Thus*

$$\vdash^* wp(S, \{Q, D\})\ S\ \{Q, D\}.$$

*As before, we conclude the proof with Lemma 2, the Consequence Rule and the Definability Property.* ❑

## 5.2 Extending the proof of completeness to non-plain specifications

We now focus on general specifications, where $Var(D) \cap Change(S)$ may be not empty. Surprisingly enough, the Elimination Rule is sufficient to prove the completeness in this case, and there is no need of any other additional rule.

**Theorem 6 (Completeness, linear programs)** *Let* $S$ *be a linear program. If*

$$\models \{P, C\}\ S\ \{Q, D\}$$

*then*

$$\vdash^* \{P, C\}\ S\ \{Q, D\}$$

**Proof** *Assume* $\models \{P, C\}\ S\ \{Q, D\}$. *As expressions of the assertion language are finite terms, there exists a "new" hidden variable* $Tmp$ *such that* $Tmp \notin Var(S) \cup Var(Q) \cup Var(D)$. *Let us show that*

$$\models \{P \wedge Tmp = C, C\}\ S\ \{Q \wedge Tmp = D, Tmp\}$$

*Let* $(\sigma, c)$ *be in* $[\![\{P \wedge Tmp = C, C\}]\!]$. *We have in particular* $(\sigma, c) \models \{P, C\}$. *By hypothesis, we thus get* $[\![S]\!](\sigma, c) = (\sigma', c) \models \{Q, D\}$.

*Furthermore, we have* $\sigma(Tmp) = \sigma(C) = c$. *As* $Tmp \notin Var(S)$, *we have* $\sigma'(Tmp) = \sigma(Tmp) = c$, *and* $(\sigma', c) \models \{Q, D\}$ *gives* $\sigma'(D) = c$. *We conclude that* $(\sigma', c) \models \{Q \wedge Tmp = D, Tmp\}$.

*As* $Tmp \notin Var(S)$, *we are in the case of a plain specification, so the Completeness Theorem 5 applies and yields*

$$\vdash^* \{P \wedge Tmp = C, C\}\ S\ \{Q \wedge Tmp = D, Tmp\}$$

*As* $\{Q \wedge Tmp = D, Tmp\} \Rightarrow \{Q, D\}$*, we can apply the Consequence Rule. It yields*

$$\vdash^* \{P \wedge Tmp = C, C\}\ S\ \{Q, D\}$$

*Applying then the Elimination Rule with* $E \equiv C$ *yields*

$$\vdash^* \{P \wedge C = C, C\}\ S\ \{Q, D\}$$

*Finally, as* $\{P, C\} \Rightarrow \{P \wedge C = C, C\}$*, we deduce by another application of the Consequence Rule that*

$$\vdash^* \{P, C\}\ S\ \{Q, D\}$$

---

# 6 A two-phase proof methodology for $\mathcal{L}$ programs

A crucial step remains to be made for a practical application of our results. Quoting Apt and Olderog's seminal book [1, Section 3.4]:

> *Formal proofs are tedious to follow. We are not accustomed to following a line of reasoning presented in small, formal steps [...].*
>
> *A possible strategy lies in the facts that [programs] are structured. The proof rules follow the syntax of the program, so the structure of the program can be used to structure the correctness proof. We can simply present the proof by giving a program with assertions interleaved at appropriate places [...].*
>
> *This type of proof is more simple to study and analyze than the one we used so far. Introduced by Gries and Owicki, it is called a Proof Outline.*

The presentation of Apt and Olderog focuses on control-parallel programs, that is, sequential processes composed with the || operator. We show here that the approach of Gries and Owicki can be adapted as well to data-parallel $\mathcal{L}$ programs, giving birth to a notion of data-parallel annotations. We present a simple proof method that allows, after a first step that slightly transforms the program, to handle it as an usual scalar program.

The first step consists in a labeling of the program that expresses the depth of conditioning constructs. In other words, a subprogram labeled by $i$ is executed within the scope of $i$ where constructs. This labeling follows the syntax of the program: labels are increased on entering the body of a new conditioning construct. Context expressions are saved here in a series of auxiliary variables. This allows us to alleviate any restriction on context expressions of conditioning constructs.

The second step consists in a proof method similar to that used in the scalar case, interleaving assertions and program constructs.

## 6.1 First step: syntactic labeling

In this step, we associate to each subprogram of the considered program an integer label that counts the number of nesting where constructs. Counting starts at 0 for the whole program. Consider for instance the program

```
where X > 0 do
  X := X + 1;
  where X > 2 do
    X := X + 1;
  end
end
```

We want to get the following labeling:

$$
\begin{array}{l}
(0)\ \textsf{where}\ X > 0\ \textsf{do} \\
\quad (1) X := X + 1; \\
\quad (1)\ \textsf{where}\ X > 2\ \textsf{do} \\
\quad\quad (2) X := X + 1 \\
\quad \textsf{end} \\
\textsf{end}
\end{array}
$$

In order to store context expressions, we distinguish particular auxiliary variables that do not appear in programs.

**Definition 8** *Variables* $\{Tmp_i \mid i \in \mathbb{N}\}$ *are such that for any program* $S$*, and for any index* $i$*,* $Tmp_i \notin Var(S)$*. They are called* auxiliary variables*.*

The conditioning construct can be seen as a stack mechanism: entering a **where** construct is the same as pushing a value on a context stack, while exiting this construct corresponds to a "pop". The label is namely the height of the stack. At a given point, the current context is corresponding to the conjunction of all the stack's values. Each auxiliary variable is used to store one frame of the context stack. Thanks to this storage, the variables appearing in context expressions may be modified. We thus can alleviate restrictions on context expressions of conditioning constructs.

For a subprogram at depth $i$, the current context is the current value of $Tmp_0, \ldots, Tmp_i$. To get a clearer presentation of this fact, we add annotations of the form $[Tmp_i \equiv B]$ to each **where** construct. The previous example is recast into

$$
\begin{array}{l}
(0)\ \textsf{where}\ X > 0\ \textsf{do}\ [Tmp_1 \equiv X > 0] \\
\quad (1) X := X + 1; \\
\quad (1)\ \textsf{where}\ X > 2\ \textsf{do}\ [Tmp_2 \equiv X > 2] \\
\quad\quad (2) X := X + 1 \\
\quad \textsf{end} \\
\textsf{end}
\end{array}
$$

Labeling is thus made by induction on the program's syntactic structure, running over the program's syntactic tree in a depth-first manner. For the entire program, counting starts at 0 for the labels and at 1 for the auxiliary variables, $Tmp_0$ denoting the initial context the program is executed in. If $T$ is a labeled subprogram of a program $S$, we denote by $Lab(T)$ the outer label associated to $T$.

## 6.2 Second step: proof outline

As we use labeled programs, and auxiliary variables to store contexts, we know the expression denoting the current context at each place in the program. We can then drop context expressions out of assertions and proceed exactly the same way as in the scalar case, with backward substitutions. The only differences are that expressions in substitutions are conditioned by a conjunction of $Tmp_k$ and that the data-parallel **where** construct adds a new substitution. The rules for inserting assertions in proof outlines are given on Figure 6.2. Contiguity between two assertions refers to the use of the Consequence Rule. If $S$ is a labeled subprogram, we denote by $S^*$ a proof outline obtained from $S$ by insertion of assertions.

Let us explain intuitively the need of restrictions of the form "$\forall j > i, Tmp_j \notin Var(Q)$". In the rule for the conditioning construct, we substitute $Tmp_{i+1}$ with $B$. We thus need that $Tmp_{i+1} \notin Var(Q)$ to respect the conditions of the Substitution Rule. But, as the postcondition $(Q)$ is the same for $S$ and for **where** $B$ **do** $S$ **end**, we need this condition to be satisfied for every nesting depth greater than $Lab(S)$.

$$\frac{\forall j > i,\ Tmp_j \notin Var(Q)}{\{Q[\bigwedge_{k=0}^{i} Tmp_k?E{:}X/X]\}\ (i)\ \ \mathsf{X} := \mathsf{E}\ \{Q\}}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c}\{P\}\ S^*\ \{R\} \quad \{R\}\ T^*\ \{Q\} \\ \forall j > Lab(S),\ Tmp_j \notin Var(R) \cup Var(Q)\end{array}}{\{P\}\ S^*\ ;\{R\}\ T^*\ \{Q\}}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c}P \Rightarrow P' \quad \{P'\}\ S^*\ \{Q'\} \quad Q' \Rightarrow Q \\ \forall j > Lab(S),\ Tmp_j \notin Var(Q) \cup Var(Q')\end{array}}{\{P\}\{P'\}\ S^*\ \{Q'\}\{Q\}}$$

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c}\{P\}\ S^*\ \{Q\} \\ Lab(S) = i+1 \\ \forall j > i,\ Tmp_j \notin Var(Q)\end{array}}{\{P[B/Tmp_{i+1}]\}\ (i)\ \ \mathsf{where\ B\ do}\ \ [Tmp_{i+1} \equiv B]\ \{P\}\ S^*\ \{Q\}\ \mathsf{end}\ \{Q\}}$$

$$\frac{\{P\}\ S^*\ \{Q\}}{\{P\}\ S^{**}\ \{Q\}}$$

where $S^{**}$ is obtained from $S^*$ by deleting any assertion.

Figure 4: Rules for annotation

$\{(Tmp_0, X > 0, (Tmp_0, X > 0?X + 1{:}X) > 2?$
$(Tmp_0, X > 0?X + 1{:}X) + 1{:}$
$(Tmp_0, X > 0?X + 1{:}X))|_u = 4\}$

(0) where X>0 do $[Tmp_1 \equiv X > 0]$

$\{(Tmp_0, Tmp_1, (Tmp_0, Tmp_1?X + 1{:}X) > 2?$
$(Tmp_0, Tmp_1?X + 1{:}X) + 1{:}$
$(Tmp_0, Tmp_1?X + 1{:}X))|_u = 4\}$

(1) X:=X+1;

$\{(Tmp_0, Tmp_1, X > 2?X + 1{:}X)|_u = 4\}$

(1) where X>2 do $[Tmp_2 \equiv X > 2]$

$\{(Tmp_0, Tmp_1, Tmp_2?X + 1{:}X)|_u = 4\}$

(2) X:=X+1

$\{X|_u = 4\}$

end

$\{X|_u = 4\}$

end

$\{X|_u = 4\}$

Figure 5: The program annotated with its proof outline

### 6.3 A simple example

We go back to our previous example. We want to prove the two following specifications.

| | |
|---|---|
| $\{X\|_u = 2, True\}$ | $\{X\|_u = 1, True\}$ |
| where X>0 do | where X>0 do |
| X:=X+1 ; | X:=X+1 ; |
| where X>2 do | where X>2 do |
| X:=X+1 | X:=X+1 |
| end | end |
| end | end |
| $\{X\|_u = 4, True\}$ | $\{X\|_u = 2, True\}$ |

These specifications mean that, if the initial value of $X$ at index $u$ is 2, then its final value after execution of the program will be 4 at the same index, and if it is 1, then the final value will be 2. The proofs are simply done by establishing the following proof outline — the result of the first step has already been given as example in the previous section.

**First proof** If we denote by $P$ the first assertion of this proof outline, we only have to prove that

$$X|_u = 2, Tmp_0 = True \Rightarrow P.$$

In other words, we prove that

$$X|_u = 2 \Rightarrow P[True/Tmp_0]$$

The predicate $P[True/Tmp_0]$ is equivalent to

$$(X > 0, (X > 0?X + 1{:}X) > 2?\\ (X > 0?X + 1{:}X) + 1:\\ (X > 0?X + 1{:}X))|_u = 4$$

Let us consider an index $u$ such that $X|_u = 2$. Then, the boolean expression $(X > 0)|_u$ is true. As $X + 1|_u > 2$, $((X > 0?X + 1 : X) > 2)|_u$ is also true.

Conditional expression

$$(X > 0, (X > 0?X + 1{:}X) > 2?\\ (X > 0?X + 1{:}X) + 1:\\ (X > 0?X + 1{:}X))|_u$$

thus simplifies into $(X > 0?X + 1 : X) + 1|_u$, which in turn simplifies into $X + 1 + 1|_u$.

Assertion $P[True/Tmp_0]$ thus simplifies into $X + 1 + 1|_u = 4$, which is true.

**Second proof.** As no simplification using the value of $X$ occurs in the first proof outline, the second is almost the same: we just replace the value 4 by the value 2. Then, if we denote by $P'$ the assertion obtained by substituting 4 by 2 in $P$, we just have to check that

$$X|_u = 1 \Rightarrow P'[True/Tmp_0]$$

Let us consider an index $u$ such that $X|_u = 1$. Then, the boolean expression $(X > 0)|_u$ is true. But this time, as $X + 1|_u = 2$, $((X > 0?X + 1 : X) > 2)|_u$ is false.

Conditional expression

$$(X > 0, (X > 0?X + 1{:}X) > 2?\\ (X > 0?X + 1{:}X) + 1:\\ (X > 0?X + 1{:}X))|_u$$

thus simplifies into $(X > 0?X + 1 : X)|_u$, which in turn simplifies into $X + 1|_u$.

Assertion $P'[True/Tmp_0]$ thus simplifies into $X + 1|_u = 2$, which is true.

# 7 Conclusion and related works

We have defined a proof system for a small data-parallel language called $\mathcal{L}$, which is designed to be a common kernel of real data-parallel languages. Our proof system is characterized by a two-component assertion language where the current extent of parallelism is explicitly described. We have studied its expressivity and we have established completeness of our proof system. We have shown our proof system is well suited for a two-phase proof methodology: the first step is a syntactic labeling related to the extent of parallelism, and the second step is a proof similar to the scalar case. Our proof method for data-parallel programs inherits both from proof methods for parallel programs and proof methods for scalar programs: a two-phase proof methodology from the former, and a *backward* methodology derived from a preconditions calculus from the latter.

As they can provide an *a priori* description of the extent of parallelism, two-component assertions yield a useful intuitive support to design proofs. However, several drawbacks arise with this structured approach. The assertion language suffers from a restricted expressive power, as it is not closed under classical propositional operations. The Definability Property does not hold for weakest preconditions if the program modifies the variables in the assertions. This syntactic problem can be circumvented by adding and removing auxiliary variables in the proof system. This leads to slightly more complex rules, but we have shown that this extended proof system is complete.

To tackle the Definability Property problem, it is possible to use a different approach. In this alternative approach, the assertion language manipulates both program variables and a distinguished

context variable describing the extent of parallelism within vector predicates. Assertions are usual predicates and constraints on context are directly handled by assertions.

- ▷ By translating the conditional constructs into *unconditioned assignment* (introduced in [5]) to a distinguished context variable (called # to follow Narayana and Clint's notation [7]), it is possible to avoid the complex manipulations of the extent of parallelism induced by the **where** construct. This technique leads to a very simple sequential-like proof system [10]. The resulting proof system is well-suited for (semi)-automatic verification of programs following the method of *verification conditions* proposed by Gordon [9].

- ▷ In Section 4, we have presented an extended notion of assertion where an additional variable $Aux$ is used to denote context. We have shown that $wlp(S, \{Q, D\})$ can always be defined by such an assertion. Moreover, it is shown in [6] that the whole approach can be reworked out with this new notion of assertion, yielding a simpler proof of completeness.

In fact, this result illustrates a well-known drawback of axiomatic semantics: this kind of semantics is not well suited to denote control flow properties of programs. For instance, Owicki and Gries introduce auxiliary variables to catch control flow information in the proof of parallel programs [15]. This cannot be avoided to prove properties like mutual exclusion.

In our work, the proof systems for data-parallel languages are quite similar to those used in the case of scalar languages: they have the same structure and respect some crucial properties such as compositionality. Yet, the parallel world induces additional complexity: introducing auxiliary variables is necessary to catch information about the control flow. In the data-parallel case, the control flow is expressed by the evolution of the extent of parallelism.

It is possible to extend this work to other data-parallel languages. An extension of the $\mathcal{L}$ language is described in [4]. It defines a *data-parallel escape construct*. This new construct extends data-parallel **break** and **continue** constructs found in real languages like HyperC [16] or MPL [13]. The natural semantics handles the activity by a *multi-context* mechanism. In [2], the two-component assertion language is extended to handle multi-context, which leads to a similar proof system for $\mathcal{L}$-programs with escape constructs. It would also be possible to extend this work to data-parallel languages that take into account notions of alignment and of mapping of the data. We are currently working in this direction.

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