

Exercise 4F-2. VCGen for Let

The bug in the verification condition for let is because we are not allocating a new location in the let expression.

Fixed rules

To address the shadowing of variables we will replace all new bindings in let expressions with fresh variables.

$$\begin{aligned} VC(c_1; c_2, B) &= VC(c_1, VC(c_2, B)) \\ VC(x := e, B) &= [e/x]B \\ VC(\text{let } x = e \text{ in } c, B) &= [e/\alpha]VC([\alpha/x]c, B) \text{ where } \alpha \text{ is a fresh variable} \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 4F-3. VCGen Mistakes

We will demonstrate the bug in VCGen for let with the following demonstration of unsoundness.

Let c be the following command:

$(\text{let } x = 2 \text{ in skip}); y := x * 2$

Let B be a post-condition $y = 4$ and let the state $\sigma = \{x \mapsto 0, y \mapsto 0\}$.

Now we will calculate the verification condition of c with regards to B .

$$\begin{aligned} &VC((\text{let } x = 2 \text{ in skip}); y := x * 2, y = 4) \\ &= VC((\text{let } x = 2 \text{ in skip}), VC(y := x * 2, y = 4)) && \text{(Definition of VC on sequencing)} \\ &= VC(\text{let } x = 2 \text{ in skip}, 4 = x * 2) && \text{(Definition of VC on assignment)} \\ &= VC(\text{skip}, 4 = 4) && \text{(Definition of VC on Let)} \\ &= 4 = 4 && \text{(Definition of VC on skip)} \\ &= \text{true} \end{aligned}$$

Since $VC(c, B)$ is true, $\sigma \models VC(c, B)$ is vacuous.

Now to evaluate c using IMP's operational semantic we get

$$\begin{aligned} &\langle (\text{let } x = 2 \text{ in skip}); y := x * 2, \{x \mapsto 0, y \mapsto 0\} \rangle \\ &\Downarrow \{x \mapsto 0, y \mapsto 0\} \end{aligned}$$

The full derivation is elided as it follows the normal large step rules.

Given $\sigma' = \{x \mapsto 0, y \mapsto 0\}$ it follows that $\sigma' \not\models y = 4$. Therefore, the verification condition is unsound.

Exercise 4F-4. Axiomatic Do-While

$$\frac{\vdash \{A\} c \{C\} \quad \vdash \{C\} \text{while } b \text{ do } c \{B\}}{\vdash \{A\} \text{do } c \text{ while } b \{B\}}$$

The rule is sound and complete since our existing rules for commands and while are also sound and complete. We also have the rule of consequence which can extend/relax pre/post-conditions as appropriate to prove true statements in our system.