

Programming of Autonomous Vehicles with Static Guarantees

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June 17, 2011
Scottish Theorem Proving Meeting
Dundee

Autonomous systems must have a very high reliability

Important: guarantees on maximum time / resource consumption

Solution: Programming in a DSL with dependent types

- Time, fuel, location etc. become part of the operational semantics of the programming language
- User-defined types specify important system properties
 - programs which do not meet these properties simply do not compile and are never executed
- Advantages to a separate analysis
 - certificates come automatically with the program
 - compositionality of the design: trust that available components are sufficient to build a system which meets the requirements
 - properties to verify might be so sophisticated that the design of the program needs to support their proofs

Layers

- ① Strategic layer: instructions part of a global plan, interpreted by each AV and translated to programs at the execution layer
- ② Execution layer: instructions interpreted by controllers of the AV, e.g. for motors and sensors
- ③ Operational layer: instructions are atomic device operations with a clear operational semantics: e.g. make a step or a turn

Usage

- Mission programs
 - written or generated at the strategic layer
 - high-level view of properties, no details
- Translation between the layers certified to preserve properties

Methodology and prototype implementation

- Domain-specific language (layers) embedded into Agda
- Bottom-up construction of operational behaviour with the according proofs of state changes (time, location)
- Translation between the layers

Technical challenges

- Verification of properties
 - with non-polynomial expressions
 - in several unbounded variables
 - for systems with an infinite state space
- Compile-time guarantees for choices depending on run-time values

Vector definition

```
data Vec (a : Set) : ℕ → Set where  
  [] : Vec a zero  
  _::_ : { n : ℕ} → a → Vec a n → Vec a (suc n)
```

Note

- Arguments of `Vec a n`
 - `a` is a polymorphic type variable, same for all elements of the data structure
 - `n` is an index, can vary from element to element
- Underscore denotes argument position of infix/mixfix operators
- Curly braces embrace implicit arguments (e.g. for declaration of type variables)



Implementation

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{!} : \{n : \mathbb{N}\} \{a : \text{Set}\} \rightarrow \text{Vec } a \ n \rightarrow \text{Fin } n \rightarrow a \\ & [] \text{! } () \\ & (x :: xs) \text{! } \text{zero} = x \\ & (x :: xs) \text{! } (\text{suc } i) = xs \text{! } i \end{aligned}$$

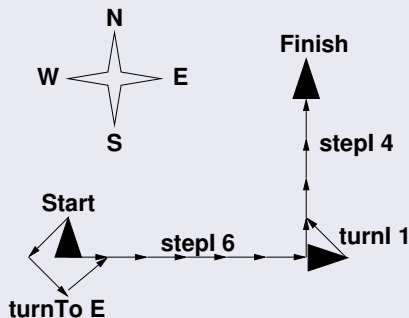
Note

- *Index out of bounds* not possible, because index must be in $\text{Fin } n$: numbers $\{0, \dots, n-1\}$
- $()$: absurd pattern (roughly: no inhabitant for $\text{Fin } n$)

Setting

Vehicles can only be located at points of a 2D integer grid

Example tour



Operations

- Initialisation: the vehicle is dropped at a particular location
- Step: the vehicle can move to the next grid point
- Turn: the vehicle can change orientation by turning left, i.e. (N \rightarrow W, W \rightarrow S, S \rightarrow E, E \rightarrow N).
- Wait: the vehicle can wait for a given number of time units

Enumeration type for directions

```
data Direction : Set where  
  N W S E : Direction
```

Record type for AV state

```
record AV : Set where  
  constructor mkAV  
  field  
    time :  $\mathbb{N}$   
    dir  : Direction  
    px  :  $\mathbb{Z}$   
    py  :  $\mathbb{Z}$ 
```


Turn operations

Turn operation

$\text{turn} : \text{Direction}$
 $\rightarrow \text{Direction}$
 $\text{turn N} = \text{W}$
 $\text{turn W} = \text{S}$
 $\text{turn S} = \text{E}$
 $\text{turn E} = \text{N}$

Enumerating directions

$\text{dirNo} : \text{Direction}$
 $\rightarrow \text{Fin } 4$
 $\text{dirNo N} = \# 0$
 $\text{dirNo W} = \# 1$
 $\text{dirNo S} = \# 2$
 $\text{dirNo E} = \# 3$

Repeated turn operation

$\text{turnN} : \{n : \mathbb{N}\} \rightarrow \text{Fin } n \rightarrow \text{Direction} \rightarrow \text{Direction}$
 $\text{turnN zero } d = d$
 $\text{turnN (suc } n) d = \text{turn (turnN } n d)$



Calculation of the number of turns with a proof

```
turnProof : { from to : Direction }  
  → Σ (Fin 4) (λ c → to ≡ turnN c from)  
turnProof { N } { N } = (turnCount N N, refl)  
turnProof { N } { W } = (turnCount N W, refl)
```

... and 14 more combinations

Note

- Σ delivers a dependent pair of the number of turns (\in Fin 4) and a certificate that this number satisfies the requirement
- `refl` constructs a trivial equation, tells us that Agda can prove the equation by evaluation of the two sides
- The 16 `refl`'s are internally different and must be listed separately even if the cases are enumerated automatically.



Single turn

$\text{turnAV} : AV \rightarrow AV$

$\text{turnAV} (\text{mkAV } t \ d \ x \ y) = \text{mkAV} (\text{succ } t) (\text{turn } d) \ x \ y$

The turnAV operation necessarily increments the time counter

Iteration of turns

$\text{turnAVI} : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow AV \rightarrow AV$

$\text{turnAVI } \text{zero } x = x$

$\text{turnAVI} (\text{succ } n) x = \text{turnAV} (\text{turnAVI } n \ x)$

These functions lift the semantics between the layers, they are not (necessarily) evaluated during the operation of the system.



Effect on location

step : Direction $\rightarrow (\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow (\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z})$

step N $(x, y) = (x, y +^{\mathbb{Z}} (+1))$

step W $(x, y) = (x -^{\mathbb{Z}} (+1), y)$

step S $(x, y) = (x, y -^{\mathbb{Z}} (+1))$

step E $(x, y) = (x +^{\mathbb{Z}} (+1), y)$

Note: representation of integers

- let $n \in \mathbb{N}$
- $(+ n)$ lifts n
- $(- [1 + n])$ represents $-(\text{suc } n)$

Lifting it to AV state

```
stepAV : AV → AV
stepAV (mkAV t d x y) with step d (x, y)
... | (x1, y1) = mkAV (suc t) d x1 y1
```

Note

- **with** permits pattern matching after evaluation
- Pattern matching is the principal way to gain type information

Repeated step operations

```
stepAVI : ℕ → AV → AV
stepAVI zero x = x
stepAVI (suc n) x = stepAV (stepAVI n x)
```



Encapsulation to achieve safety

- So far there was no protection against arbitrary changes of state entries
- Encapsulation into a data type with state changes associated with constructor application achieves consistency

data OpLang : AV → AV → Set **where**

Id : { s : AV } → OpLang s s

Wait : { t : ℕ } { d : Direction } { x y : ℤ } (k : ℕ)
→ OpLang (mkAV t d x y) (mkAV (k +^ℕ t) d x y)

Turn : { s : AV } → OpLang s (turnAV s)

Step : { s : AV } → OpLang s (stepAV s)

->>=_ : { s1 s2 s3 : AV }
→ OpLang s1 s2 → OpLang s2 s3 → OpLang s1 s3

IfDir : { s1 s2 : AV } (d : Direction) → OpLang s1 s2
→ OpLang s1 s2 → OpLang s1 s2

$\text{interp} : \{s1\ s2 : AV\} \rightarrow \text{OpLang } s1\ s2 \rightarrow AV \rightarrow AV$
 $\text{interp } \text{Id } x = x$
 $\text{interp } (\text{Wait } _) x = x$
 $\text{interp } \text{Turn } x = \text{turnAV } x$
 $\text{interp } \text{Step } x = \text{stepAV } x$
 $\text{interp } (r \gg= f) x = \text{interp } f (\text{interp } r x)$
 $\text{interp } (\text{IfDir } d\ x\ y) s \text{ with } \text{eqDir } (AV.\text{dir } s) d$
... | $\text{true} = \text{interp } x\ s$
... | $\text{false} = \text{interp } y\ s$

Note

- Here all information is already available in the state changes, but one could imagine that extended behaviour is implemented which does not need static guarantees
- Likewise code (e.g. in C) could be generated for **OpLang** programs



```
data ExLang : AV → AV → Set where
  Emb      : {s1 s2 : AV} → OpLang s1 s2 → ExLang s1 s2
  ->>>=_  : {s1 s2 s3 : AV}
            → ExLang s1 s2 → ExLang s2 s3 → ExLang s1 s3
  Step1    : {s : AV} (n : ℕ) → ExLang s (stepAVI n s)
  Turn1    : {s : AV} (k : ℕ) → ExLang s (turnAVI k s)
  TurnTo   : {t : ℕ} {from : Direction} (to : Direction) {x y : ℤ}
            → ExLang (mkAV t from x y) (mkAV (3 +ℕ t) to x y)
```

Note

- **TurnTo** gives a static guarantee in presence of a dynamic argument (*to*)
- The semantics will be defined by a translation to **OpLang**
- It makes sense to generate code from this language directly, provided the specified behaviour (which is still simple) is established



Auxiliary functions

$\text{genNSteps} : \{s : AV\} (n : \mathbb{N}) \rightarrow \text{OpLang } s \text{ (stepAVI } n \text{ } s)$

$\text{genNSteps } \text{zero} = \text{Id}$

$\text{genNSteps (suc } n) = \text{genNSteps } n \gg \text{Step}$

$\text{genNTurns} : (n : \mathbb{N}) \{s : AV\} \rightarrow \text{OpLang } s \text{ (turnAVI } n \text{ } s)$

$\text{genNTurns } \text{zero} = \text{Id}$

$\text{genNTurns (suc } n) = \text{genNTurns } n \gg \text{Turn}$

Translation

$\text{translate1} : \{s1 \ s2 : AV\} \rightarrow \text{ExLang } s1 \ s2 \rightarrow \text{OpLang } s1 \ s2$

$\text{translate1 (Emb } x) = x$

$\text{translate1 (} x \gg \gg \gg y) = \text{translate1 } x \gg \gg \text{translate1 } y$

$\text{translate1 (Step1 } n) = \text{genNSteps } n$

$\text{translate1 (Turn1 } n) = \text{genNTurns } n$

Problem

- Turning into a certain direction without assumption about previous direction
- Comparison with a non-static value yields a non-static value

Solution

Jones, Gomard, Sestoft [1993]: Partial Evaluation and Automatic Program Generation, Section 4.8.3: Variables of bounded static variation:

"It often happens in partial evaluation that a variable seems dynamic since it depends on dynamic input, but only takes on finitely many values. In such cases a bit of reprogramming can yield much better results from partial evaluation. This kind of reprogramming, or program transformation, which does not alter the standard meaning of the program but leads to better residual programs is called a *binding-time improvement*."



Function turnProof revisited

```
turnProof : { from to : Direction }  
  → Σ (Fin 4) (λ c → to ≡ turnN c from)
```

Translation **Note:** case distinction remains in executable!

```
translate1 {mkAV _ from _} (TurnTo to)  
  with turnProof {from} {to}  
... | (c, proof) with c  
... | zero rewrite proof = Wait 3  
... | (suc zero) rewrite proof = Turn >>= Wait 2  
... | (suc (suc zero))  
  rewrite proof = (Turn >>= Turn) >>= Wait 1  
... | (suc (suc (suc zero)))  
  rewrite proof = (Turn >>= Turn) >>= Turn  
... | (suc (suc (suc (suc ())))))
```



To show

There is a program in **OpLang** (or **ExLang**) that for any given start location (x_S, y_S) and final location (x_F, y_F) it makes the vehicle move from start to final location within $|x_F - x_S| + |y_F - y_S| + 4$ units of time.

Idea for implementation and proof

- Walk in one direction, turn left, walk in the other direction
- Initial turn takes at most three units
- Walk into one direction takes $|x_F - x_S|$ or $|y_F - y_S|$ units
- Intermediate turn left takes one unit

Note

The idea makes the tight connection between the design of the algorithm and its proof obvious!

Walking north m steps

$$\begin{aligned} \text{walkNorth} &: \{t : \mathbb{N}\} (\boxed{m} : \mathbb{N}) \{x y : \mathbb{Z}\} \rightarrow \\ &\quad \text{ExLang} (\text{mkAV } t \ \mathbb{N} \ x \ y) (\text{mkAV} (\boxed{m} +^{\mathbb{N}} t) \ \mathbb{N} \ x \ (y +^{\mathbb{Z}} (+ \boxed{m}))) \\ \text{walkNorth} &\{t\} \boxed{m} \{x\} \{y\} \\ \text{rewrite lawNorth} &\{\boxed{m}\} \{t\} \{x\} \{y\} = \text{Step1 } \boxed{m} \end{aligned}$$

rewrite lawNorth makes the type of **walkNorth** fit **step1**

Auxiliary law

$$\begin{aligned} \text{lawNorth} &: \{m t : \mathbb{N}\} \{x y : \mathbb{Z}\} \\ &\rightarrow (\text{mkAV} (m +^{\mathbb{N}} t) \ \mathbb{N} \ x \ (y +^{\mathbb{Z}} (+ m))) \\ &\equiv \text{stepAV1 } m (\text{mkAV } t \ \mathbb{N} \ x \ y) \end{aligned}$$

Proof of auxiliary law (base case)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{lawNorth} &: \{m\ t : \mathbb{N}\} \{x\ y : \mathbb{Z}\} \\ &\rightarrow (\text{mkAV } (m +^{\mathbb{N}} t) \ \mathbb{N} \ x \ (y +^{\mathbb{Z}} (+\ m))) \\ &\equiv \text{stepAVI } m \ (\text{mkAV } t \ \mathbb{N} \ x \ y) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{lawNorth } \{0\} \{t\} \{x\} \{y\} =$$

begin

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{mkAV } (0 +^{\mathbb{N}} t) \ \mathbb{N} \ x \ (y +^{\mathbb{Z}} (+\ 0)) \\ &\equiv \langle \text{refl} \rangle \\ &\text{mkAV } t \ \mathbb{N} \ x \ (y +^{\mathbb{Z}} (+\ 0)) \\ &\equiv \langle \text{cong } (\lambda z \rightarrow \text{mkAV } t \ \mathbb{N} \ x \ z) \ (+^{\mathbb{Z}} - \text{identity } \{y\}) \rangle \\ &\text{mkAV } t \ \mathbb{N} \ x \ y \\ &\equiv \langle \text{refl} \rangle \\ &\text{stepAVI } 0 \ (\text{mkAV } t \ \mathbb{N} \ x \ y) \end{aligned}$$



Agda recognises inductive proofs

- Have shown above: $\text{lawNorth } \{0\}$
- Next we will show: $\text{lawNorth } \{m\} \Rightarrow \text{lawNorth } \{\text{suc } m\}$



Proof of auxiliary law (inductive case)

$$\text{lawNorth} : \{m\ t : \mathbb{N}\} \{x\ y : \mathbb{Z}\} \\ \rightarrow (\text{mkAV } (m +^{\mathbb{N}} t) \ \mathbb{N} \ x \ (y +^{\mathbb{Z}} (+ m))) \equiv \text{stepAVI } m \ (\text{mkAV } t \ \mathbb{N} \ x \ y))$$

$$\text{lawNorth } \{\text{suc } m\} \{t\} \{x\} \{y\} =$$

begin

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{mkAV } ((\text{suc } m) +^{\mathbb{N}} t) \ \mathbb{N} \ x \ (y +^{\mathbb{Z}} (+ (\text{suc } m))) \\ \equiv & \langle \text{refl} \rangle \\ & \text{mkAV } (\text{suc } (m +^{\mathbb{N}} t)) \ \mathbb{N} \ x \ (y +^{\mathbb{Z}} (+ (\text{suc } m))) \\ \equiv & \langle \text{cong } (\lambda z \rightarrow \text{mkAV } (\text{suc } (m +^{\mathbb{N}} t)) \ \mathbb{N} \ x \ z) \\ & \quad (z + \text{sn} = z + n + 1 \ \{y\} \ \{m\}) \rangle \\ & \text{mkAV } (\text{suc } (m +^{\mathbb{N}} t)) \ \mathbb{N} \ x \ ((y +^{\mathbb{Z}} (+ m)) +^{\mathbb{Z}} (+ 1)) \\ \equiv & \langle \text{refl} \rangle \\ & \text{stepAV } (\text{mkAV } (m +^{\mathbb{N}} t) \ \mathbb{N} \ x \ (y +^{\mathbb{Z}} (+ m))) \\ \equiv & \langle \text{cong } (\lambda x \rightarrow \text{stepAV } x) \ (\text{lawNorth } \{m\} \{t\} \{x\} \{y\}) \rangle \quad \text{-- IND ASS} \\ & \text{stepAV } (\text{stepAVI } m \ (\text{mkAV } t \ \mathbb{N} \ x \ y)) \\ \equiv & \langle \text{refl} \rangle \\ & \text{stepAVI } (\text{suc } m) \ (\text{mkAV } t \ \mathbb{N} \ x \ y) \end{aligned}$$

Compositions of turns and walks

Initial turn and single dimension walk (one of four cases)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{turnWalkNorth} &: \{d : \text{Direction}\} (m : \mathbb{N}) \rightarrow \{t : \mathbb{N}\} \{x\ y : \mathbb{Z}\} \\ &\rightarrow \text{ExLang} (\text{mkAV } t\ d\ x\ y) \\ &\quad (\text{mkAV } (m +^{\mathbb{N}} (3 +^{\mathbb{N}} t))\ \mathbb{N}\ x\ (y +^{\mathbb{Z}} (+\ m))) \\ \text{turnWalkNorth } m &= \text{TurnTo } \mathbb{N} \gg \gg \gg = \text{walkNorth } m \end{aligned}$$

Complete task (one of four cases)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{walkNorthWest} &: \{d : \text{Direction}\} (m\ n : \mathbb{N}) \\ &\rightarrow \{t : \mathbb{N}\} \{x\ y : \mathbb{Z}\} \\ &\rightarrow \text{ExLang} (\text{mkAV } t\ d\ x\ y) \\ &\quad (\text{mkAV } (t +^{\mathbb{N}} m +^{\mathbb{N}} n +^{\mathbb{N}} 4)\ W\ (x -^{\mathbb{Z}} (+\ m))\ (y +^{\mathbb{Z}} (+\ n))) \\ \text{walkNorthWest } \{-\} m\ n \{t\} &\text{rewrite LawMoveYX } \{t\} \{m\} \{n\} \\ &= \text{turnWalkNorth } n \gg \gg \gg = \text{TurnI } 1 \gg \gg \gg = \text{walkWest } m \end{aligned}$$


Example

```
LawMoveYX : {t m n : ℕ}
  → (t +ℕ m +ℕ n +ℕ 4 ≡ m +ℕ (1 +ℕ (n +ℕ (3 +ℕ t))))
LawMoveYX {t} {m} {n}
= solve 3 (λ t m n → t : + m : + n : + con 4
  := m : + (con 1 : + (n : + (con 3 : + t)))) refl t m n
```

Note

Agda can prove the equivalence of two (equivalent) expressions for instances of commutative rings automatically, involving only variables, the ring constants and ring operations $+$ and $*$.

Bounded static variation again!

- Unbounded number of coordinate distances
- But a bounded number of signs for their differences

`moveDelta` : $(dx\ dy : \mathbb{Z}) \{s : AV\}$

→ `ExLang` s (`mkAV` (`AV.time` $s +^{\mathbb{N}} dx +^{\mathbb{N}} dy +^{\mathbb{N}} 4$)
 (`finalDir` $dx\ dy$) (`AV.px` $s +^{\mathbb{Z}} dx$) (`AV.py` $s +^{\mathbb{Z}} dy$))

`moveDelta` $dx\ dy \{mkAV\ t\ d\ xS\ yS\}$

with $dx \mid dy$

... $\mid +\ dx \mid +\ idy$ **rewrite** $abs1 \{xS\} \{idx\} \mid abs1 \{yS\} \{idy\}$
 = `walkEastNorth` $idx\ idy$

... $\mid +\ dx \mid -\ [1 + idy]$ **rewrite** $abs1 \{xS\} \{idx\} \mid abs2 \{yS\} \{idy\}$
 = `walkSouthEast` $idx\ (suc\ idy)$

... $\mid -\ [1 + idx] \mid +\ idy$ **rewrite** $abs2 \{xS\} \{idx\} \mid abs1 \{yS\} \{idy\}$
 = `walkNorthWest` $(suc\ idx)\ idy$

... $\mid -\ [1 + idx] \mid -\ [1 + idy]$ **rewrite** $abs2 \{xS\} \{idx\} \mid abs2 \{yS\} \{idy\}$
 = `walkWestSouth` $(suc\ idx)\ (suc\ idy)$



Mapping of the AV state, includes certificate

```

finalStateMoveTo :  $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow AV \rightarrow AV$ 
finalStateMoveTo xFin yFin s
  with (xFin  $-\mathbb{Z}$  AV.px s) | (yFin  $-\mathbb{Z}$  AV.py s)
... | dx | dy =
  mkAV (AV.time s + $\mathbb{N}$  dx + $\mathbb{N}$  dy + $\mathbb{N}$  4) (finalDir dx dy)
    (AV.px s + $\mathbb{Z}$  dx) (AV.py s + $\mathbb{Z}$  dy)
  
```

From distances to absolute coordinates

```

moveTo : (xFin yFin :  $\mathbb{Z}$ ) {s : AV}
  → ExLang s (finalStateMoveTo xFin yFin s)
moveTo xFin yFin {mkAV t d xStart yStart}
  = moveDelta (xFin  $-\mathbb{Z}$  xStart) (yFin  $-\mathbb{Z}$  yStart)
  
```

Language Definition

```
data StLang : AV → AV → Set where
  MoveTo : {s : AV} (xFin yFin : ℤ)
    → StLang s (finalStateMoveTo xFin yFin s)
```

Translation to ExLang

```
translate2 : {s1 s2 : AV} → StLang s1 s2 → ExLang s1 s2
translate2 (MoveTo {s} xFin yFin) = moveTo xFin yFin {s}
```

Note

- The operations and certificates are expressed concisely, although the implementation and proofs are quite complex
- The translation preserves the mapping between start state $s1$ and final state $s2$, so the properties are actually implemented



Main contributions

- Methodology: certified translation between layers of a domain-specific language, bridging the gap between low-level operations and user interface
- Generation of a non-trivial AV program with unbounded parameters that comes with static guarantees

General experiences gained

- Simpler to prove simple functions than larger ones, so construct your program using many simple functions.
- Proof and implementation should go along with each other.
- Use data types to encapsulate certificates in indices and intermediate representations (here DSLs) to match against.
- Pattern matching can exploit bounded static variation.
- Automatic solvers beyond the ring solver are desirable.



Challenge

- What can be done if the run-time choices are unbounded, e.g. by using an external optimisation function?
- It is not useful if external functions need to anticipate the required certificates, but they must implement the desired behaviour, including resource consumption.

Our ongoing approach

- Provide a simple but safe default strategy with a certificate
- The external function is applied when desired
 - its result is tested algorithmically trying to build up the representation of a certificate
 - if test successful then certificate permits use of the result, otherwise default strategy is used