



DEVELOPING HIGH ASSURANCE SYSTEMS: ON THE ROLE OF SOFTWARE TOOLS

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OUTLINE



- Introduction
- Background
 - Overview of SCR requirements method
 - SCR Tools
- Applying tools in the development of high assurance systems
 - A-7 Operational Flight Program (U.S. Navy)
 - Rockwell's Flight Guidance System
 - U.S. Navy's Weapon Control Panel
 - NASA's Flight Protection Engine
 - U.S. Navy Family of Cryptographic Devices
- Problems tools cannot solve
- Summary and Conclusions



WHAT ARE **HIGH ASSURANCE SYSTEMS?**



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*Heitmeyer and Rushby, Workshop on High Assurance Systems, 1995.



MATHEMATICS VS. ENGINEERING



MATHEMATICAL RESOURCES (e.g., theories, models, and algorithms)

Logics (predicate, 1st order, higher order, etc.) Automata models Theories underlying decision procedures



MATHEMATICALLY WELL-FOUNDED SOFTWARE ENGINEERING DISCIPLINE

> Methods Languages Tools Technology

OUR LONG-TERM GOAL

(Semi-)Automatic Transformation of a Specification into a Provably Correct, Efficient Program

...

HOW CAN TOOLS HELP IN DEVELOPING HIGH ASSURANCE SYSTEMS?

- Three major problems in software development
 - High cost of developing software
 - Lengthy software development times
 - Software errors
- Tools can help reduce all three
 - Can reduce software development costs
 - Automating a task can dramatically reduce the cost of the task
 - In many cases, can perform analysis much faster than humans
 - Often, a tool can do a task in fractions of a seconds
 - Doing the task manually can require orders of magnitude more time
 - Can find errors humans miss
 - Typically, human inspections overlook many errors
 - For certain classes of errors, tools can find ALL of the errors



HISTORY OF SCR APPROACH



- 1978: Heninger, Parnas+ publish A-7/SCR requirements document
 - Tabular notation
 - Events and conditions
 - Mode classes and terms
- 1980s-early 1990s: SCR applied to a wide range of systems
 - Telephone networks (AT&T Bell Labs)
 - Submarine communications (NRL)
 - Control software for nuclear plants (Ontario Hydro)
 - Avionics software (Grumman)
- Early 1990s: Development of Four Variable Model and CoRE
 - Parnas+ introduce and apply Four Variable Model
 - Softw. Productivity Consortium develops CoRE method (based on SCR)
 - Lockheed applies CoRE and SCR tables to C-130J flight program
- 1992-present: NRL develops formal SCR model and tools

$\ensuremath{\mathsf{SCR}}\xspace \to \ensuremath{\mathsf{Software}}\xspace$ Cost Reduction



SCR GOAL: MAKE 'FORMAL METHODS' PRACTICAL







SCR TOOLS FOR DEVELOPING SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS*







TOOLS FOR TESTING & CODE SYNTHESIS ARE BEING DEVELOPED



SCR TOOLSET

- most mature tools
- installed at 100+ org'ns in industry, govt., and academia



USE OF SCR TOOLS BY LOCKHEED-MARTIN (LM)

- LM using SCR in U.S. rocket programs -- Atlas 5, J2, IUS for satellite launch
- LM in Denver used SCR to detect critical error in software controlling landing procedures in the Mars Polar Lander
 - "most likely cause of \$165M failure of Mars Polar Lander in Dec. 99"*
- SCR is a key component of **RETTA**, the software approach described in LM's winning proposal for the Joint Strike Fighter**
 - Goal of **RETTA** (Requirements Testability and Test Automation) is "early defect prevention"
 - "such formalized techniques [*i.e., SCR*] have not been used previously because requirements have been expressed using pseudo-formal models and textual documents written in English prose"



*Blackburn et al., "TAF quickly identifies error in Mars Polar Lander software," LM Joint Symp., 2000. **Lockheed Martin report, August, 2000 (Proprietary Information). 9/24/03







APPLYING CONSISTENCY CHECKING TO THE A-7 REQUIREMENTS DOCUMENT





CONSISTENCY CHECKING THE A-7 REQ. DOCUMENT: RESULTS



- A-7 requirements document contains a complete spec of the required externally visible behavior of the A-7 flight program
- Checked manually for errors by two independent review teams
- Results of analyzing the specs with our consistency checker
 - Check of 36 condition tables, a total of 98 rows
 - Results: 17 rows in 11 tables violated the Coverage Property (i.e., 17 missing cases detected)
 - Checked all 3 mode transition tables, a total of 700 rows (4319 logical expressions)
 - Results: 57 violations of the Disjointness Property were detected (i.e., 57 instances of non-determinism detected)
 - All checks performed in a few minutes

Consistency checking finds MANY errors that human inspections miss and usually does so in a very short time (seconds to minutes)



EXAMPLE: DETECTION OF A DISJOINTNESS ERROR



Old Mode	E	vent	New Mode	Excerpt
The two rows that overlap	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	*Landlan* *Airaln* *DIG* *DI* *OLB*	from 14-page table in the A-7 req. document
	@F @T	@T	*Grid* COUNTE *IMS fail* *PolarI*	rexample
 For each error detected, the consistency checker displays 1. the table containing the error with erroneous entry highlighted 2. a state pair demonstrating the error (counterexample) Event that could trigger either transition @ T(Doppler_up) WHEN [NOT CA_stage_complete AND latitude > 70 deg. AND NOT present_position_entered AND NOT latitude > 80 deg. AND IMSMODE=Gndal] 				

APPLYING THE SCR TOOLS TO ROCKWELL'S FLIGHT GUIDANCE SYSTEM







- Experimental application of SCR tools by Rockwell
- Despite extensive reviews by Rockwell engineers, the tools found many errors in the spec
 - 28 errors detected, "many of them significant"
 - one third each: constructing the specification, applying the completeness and consistency checks, and simulating the system behavior based on the specification

Example: Disjointness error leading to two possible flight modes

Example: Missing cases (Lateral Armed Annunciation field undefined in certain cases)

"...preliminary execution of the specification and completeness and consistency checking [with the SCR tools] has found several errors in a specification that represented our best effort at producing a correct specification manually."

> Steve Miller Rockwell-Collins Aviation

APPLYING THE SIMULATOR AND MODEL CHECKING TO A WEAPONS CONTROL PANEL



ANALYZING A CONTRACTOR REQ. SPEC OF A WEAPONS CONTROL PANEL







Part of WEAPONS CONTROL PANEL Interface

WCP OVERVIEW

- WCP used to prepare & launch weapons
- Sizable, complex program (~15KLOC)
- Monitored quantities
 - switches and dials
 - numeric quantities (read by sensors)
- Controlled quantities
 - lights
 - doors and valves (set by actuators)

PRODUCING THE SCR SPEC

- Used scanner and OCR to read in contractor spec of the WCP (250+ vars)
- Used text editor to convert to SCR spec

USER-FRIENDLY SIMULATION

- Scanned in diagrams of operator interface
- Used interface builder to develop realistic simulator front-end
- Operators unfamiliar with SCR can run scenarios to validate requirements spec





EXAMPLE SAFETY PROPERTY

Opening the Torpedo Tube Vent Valve shall be prevented unless the Missile-to-Torpedo-Tube differential pressure is within safe limits

 $@T(cVENT_SOLENOID) \Rightarrow$

kMinTRANS_OK < TRANS_A' ∧ TRANS_A' < kMaxTRANS_OK ∨ kMinTRANS_OK < TRANS_B' ∧ TRANS_B' < kMaxTRANS_OK





MODEL CHECKING THE WCP SPECIFICATION (1)



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Dependency Graph of Orig.Spec

PROBLEM: Too many variables SOLUTION: Remove variables irrelevant to the validity of the property



Dependency Graph of Abstraction

Reduces spec from 250+ to 55 variables (~80% reduction)

Technique used analogous to code"slicing"



MODEL CHECKING THE WCP SPECIFICATION(2)



PROBLEM: Some variables are real-valued SOLUTION: Apply data abstraction -- i.e., replace each real-valued variable with a variable with a small, discrete value set



<u>EXAMPLE</u>

• Spec refers to real-valued variable tSEL_TRANS in two expressions:

tSEL_TRANS < 14.8 and tSEL_TRANS < 9.2

- The first expression partitions the interval [I,u] into 2 subintervals
- The second expression partitions the interval [I, 14.8) into 2 subintervals
- The new abstract variable has the type set {0, 1, 2}.
- The function *f* mapping the concrete var to the abstract var is defined by

	0 if I \leq tSEL_TRANS < 9.2	Size of type set of
<i>f</i> (tSEL_TRANS) = ≺	1 if $9.2 \leq \text{tSEL}$ TRANS < 14.8	tSEL_TRANS goes
	2 if 14.8 \leq tSEL_TRANS \leq u	from infinite to 3



USING SIMULATION TO VALIDATE VIOLATION OF A SAFETY PROPERTY







APPLYING SCR TO WCP: REQUIRED EFFORT



TASK	PERSON- WEEKS
Translate contractor SRS into SCR	0.8
Use light-weight tools to detect errors	0.2
Correct errors	0.3
Abstraction/Detection of safety violation	0.7
Develop customized simulator front-end	3.0 0.1
TOTAL	>5 2+

This small effort is quite surprising given that

- the contractor-produced SRS was large and complex
- the contractor had no prior knowledge of SCR

APPLYING THE SCR TOOLS, INCLUDING THE TEST CASE GENERATOR, TO NASA'S FAULT PROTECTION ENGINE (FPE)





TEST CASE GENERATION FOR NASA'S FPE



PROBLEM

- NASA is using slightly different implementations of the FPE in various spacecraft
- NASA needs high reliance in the correctness of each version of the **FPE** code
- Our task
 - To develop a formal spec of the **FPE** beh.
 - From the spec, to constuct a set of test cases satisfying some coverage criteria
 - The tests will be used to check the FPE code







- Construct test predicates that "cover" the specification
 - Start with the set of (total) functions whose composition form the next state predicate
 - Given a function, define a predicate for each part of the function definition
 - Each predicate is called a test predicate and is the basis for defining a set of test cases
- Construct the test cases from the test predicates
 - Use the ability of a model checker to construct counterexamples
 - The set of test cases constructed is a test suite and can be used to automatically test the conformance of a program with a formal specification

For details, see Gargantini/Heitmeyer, *Proc., ESEC/FSE '99*.





- An SCR spec that is well-formed and relatively easy to understand
 - NASA personnel quickly learned to understand the SCR spec
- A simulator for use in validating the spec
 - Highly effective in helping to debug the spec
 - Summer intern found a serious error in the SCR spec by experimenting with the graphical simulator
- A complete set of test cases have been constructed from the spec using our testing tool and the model checker Cadence SMV

FPE SIMULATOR INTERFACE					
INPUTS	OUTPUTS				
Request for Request for Request for	Command				
Ground Interrupting Non-Interrupting Response Response Response	Response				
	ID Type				
WayPoint Entered	Error Messages				
Completed Response TimeOut Expired O					
The Type Plush All Responses					
MODE AND OTHER AUXILIARY VARIABLES					
FPE Mode Currently Active Response Saved Non-Inter. Response Timed Out?					
ID Type					
Ground Responses Interrupting Respon	ses Non-Inter. Responses				
Queue Queue	Queue				
Current Length = 🗌 Current Length = 🗌	Current Length = 🗆				





SCR LANGUAGE

- FPE algorithm involves many complex constructs that do not normally arise in embedded systems
 - e.g., feedback loops, queues, arrays simult. events, priorities, etc.
- Problem: How to specify these—

Solution: more expressive language Trade-off: analysis more difficult

PROPERTIES/LIKELY CHANGES

- How to determine what these are
- None of this is captured in the current NASA documentation

TEST CASE GENERATION

- How to deal with the input data at a more abstract level
- How to reduce length of the test cases Solution: apply symbolic model

Solution: apply symbolic model checking -- produces shortest counterexample

APPLYING THE SCR TOOLS TO CD I, A MEMBER OF A FAMILY OF CRYPTO SYSTEMS





CD FAMILY OF CRYPTOGRAPHIC DEVICES





CD SERVICES

- Load (and zeroize) crypto algorithms and keys
- Configure channel (i.e., write alg and key into channel space)
- Encrypt and decrypt data using a crypto algorithm and a key
- Take emergency action when, e.g., device is tampered with
- Provide the above services for *m* channels

Each member is implemented in handware and software





Objective

• Reduce human effort needed to verify properties with a theorem prover

Design Goals

- Easy to create specs
- Natural formulation of properties
- 'Natural' proof steps that match in size/kind steps used in hand proofs
- Proofs similar to hand proofs



Timed Automata Modeling Environment

Why build upon PVS?

- Avoid reinventing existing, well-known techniques
- Use PVS logic as a flexible means of further proof support for automata models
- State properties in the expressive but natural logic of PVS



STEPS IN HAND PROOFS VS. STEPS IN PVS PROOFS



HUMAN-STYLE	PVS
In proving A Þ B: "suppose A"	(FLATTEN)
In proving "a. $P(a)$: "fix $a = a_0$ "	(SKOLEM <fnum> "a0")</fnum>
"By the definition of <function>"</function>	(EXPAND " <function>")</function>
To show " $\$ a. P(a)$ because $P(a_0)$ "	(INST <fnum> "a0")</fnum>
??? (A miracle happens here maybe)	(GRIND)
Knowing "event p precedes state s and <i>P</i> (p , s) holds" adduce "the last event p ₀ before s such that <i>P</i> (p ₀ , s)"	<pre>(let ((exists_case_body (format nil))) (then (branch (case exists_case_body) (then (branch (apply_lemma "last_event"()))))))</pre>
In starting the proof of a state invariant: "Use induction."	<pre>(then (branch (auto_cases inv) ((then(base_caseinv)(systimpl_simp_probe) (postpone)) (branch (induct_cases inv) (then (reduce_case_one_var_exp inv "t_1") (match_univ_and_systimpl_simp_probe) (postpone)) (then (reduce_case_no_var_exp inv) (match_univ_and_systimpl_simp_probe) (postpone))</pre>
Introduce the constraints applying to a nondeterministic e value in the poststate	(let ((eps_lemma) (inst_pred)) (then (lemma eps_lemma) (inst -1 inst_pred) (branch (split -1) (()(postpone))))))

TAME Goal: Provide natural proof steps





SECURITY PROPERTIES When the zeroize switch is activated, the keys are zeroized No key can be stored before an algorithm in the assoc. location is activated If undervoltage occurs in backup power 3 while primary power is un-available, CD enters alarm or off mode proved directly 4 If backup power is overvoltage, then CD by induction is in initialization, standby, alarm, or off using TAME mode 5 When an overvoltage occurs in primary power, then **CD** is in standby, alarm or off mode, or goes into initialization 6 When an undervoltage occurs in primary power, then CD is in standby, alarm, or off mode, or goes into initialization mode 7. If CD is tampered with, the keys are zeroized





SECURITY PROPERTIES

- 1 When the zeroize switch is activated, the keys are zeroized
- 2 No key can be stored before an algorithm in the assoc. location is activated
- 3 If undervoltage occurs in backup power while primary power is unavailable, CD enters alarm or off mode
- 4 If backup power is overvoltage, then CD is in initialization, standby, alarm, or off mode
- 5 When an overvoltage occurs in primary power, then CD is in standby, alarm or off mode, or goes into initialization
- 6 When an undervoltage occurs in primary power, then CD is in standby, alarm, or off mode, or goes into initialization mode
- 7. If CD is tampered with, the keys are zeroized

AUTOMATICALLY GENERATED INVARIANTS*

- In Initialization mode, primary power is not unavailable
- In Configuration mode, the system is healthy, backup power is not overvoltage, and primary power is not unavailable
- In Idle mode, the system is healthy, backup power is not overvoltage, and power power is not unavailable
- In Traffic Processing mode, the system is healthy, backup power is not overvoltage, and primary power is not unavailable
- In Off mode, KeyBank1Key1=0 and ...

*Jeffords, Heitmeyer, 1998, 2001.





- A major barrier to using tools in developing high assurance systems: The lack of high quality specs
- Attributes of a high quality specification
 - Precise
 - Unambiguous
 - Minimizes redundancy

- Minimizes implementation bias
- Readable
- Organized as a reference document -- info is easy to find
- Is UML the/a solution? IMHO, No...
 - Ambiguous: Lacks a formal semantics
 - Too much opportunity for implementation bias
- What is needed
 - Higher quality specs
 - Research in spec languages
 - Technology that makes it easier for practitioners to write good specs





- Recently, a number of tools for static analysis of code have been developed (mostly for C and Java) that detect code that could lead to faults, e.g., buffer overflows, bad pointers, and arithmetic exceptions
 - Some are commercially available, e.g., Safe C, Codesurfer
 - Some are proprietary, e.g., SNAP (T. Ball at Microsoft Research)
 - Others have been developed at universities, e.g., ARCHER for C (D. Engler et al., ESEC/FME 2003, Helsinki), BOGOR for Java (M. Dwyer et al., ESEC/FSE 2003, Helsinki)
- "Integrity static analysis" (see Bishop, Bloomfield, et al., *Proc., SAFECOMP 2003*) using such tools should be highly effective in detecting code that could lead to a failure in a high assurance system
- Such an approach should be especially effective for developing high assurance for legacy, third-party, and COTS software

However, to achieve high confidence that a system satisfies critical safety (or security) properties, such analysis is not enough: it should be combined with other analyses that detect violations of application properties



NEED FOR SPECIALIZED METHODS AND TOOLS



MATHEMATICAL RESOURCES (theories, models, and algorithms)

Logics (predicate, 1st order, higher order, etc.) Automata models Theories underlying decision procedures MATHEMATICALLY WELL-FOUNDED SOFTWARE ENGINEERING DISCIPLINE

> Methods Languages Tools Technology

Needed: A collection of well-founded software engineering disciplines, each customized for a particular class of software, e.g.,

- Automobile software
- Software for medical devices
- Web software

- Avionics software
- Software for security products



SUMMARY



- Tools can be extremely useful in developing/evaluating software
 - Find missing cases and unwanted non-determinism
 - Help in validating a formal spec
 - Detect property violations
 - Support formal verification of properties
 - Reduce the time/effort required to construct and run test cases
 - Provide more confidence in testing by constructing a carefully constructed suite of test cases
- Most effective: A combination of tools
 - Different tools usually find different kinds of errors
- A major contribution of tools: Liberate people to do the hard intellectual work required to build high quality specs *and* software
 - Moreover, the "combination of human analysis and tool-based analysis is more powerful than either alone…" (paraphrasing John Rushby)
- But, powerful tools are not enough
 - Need better methods for developing high assurance software
 - Need better specifications
 - Need better spec languages



MY REACTION TO MARTYN'S TALK



- Where I agree
 - The emphasis in developing and certifying a high assurance system should be on the product (especially the system and the software) and its properties, not the process
 - Martyn's case against the SILS was very convincing
 - Strong software engineering principles should be applied
 - A correct formal spec of a high assurance system is critical
- Where I disagree
 - In our experience, it costs significantly more "to do things properly"
 - Doing so requires much more thought AND more competent people
 - Students do not generally receive adequate training in software engineering in our universities
 - Certainly, this is the case in the U.S.
 - Both a formal proof AND testing can be usefully applied to a single artifact
 - A proof demonstrates that the artifact satisfies a single property of interest
 - Testing with good coverage evaluates a much wider range of behaviors