

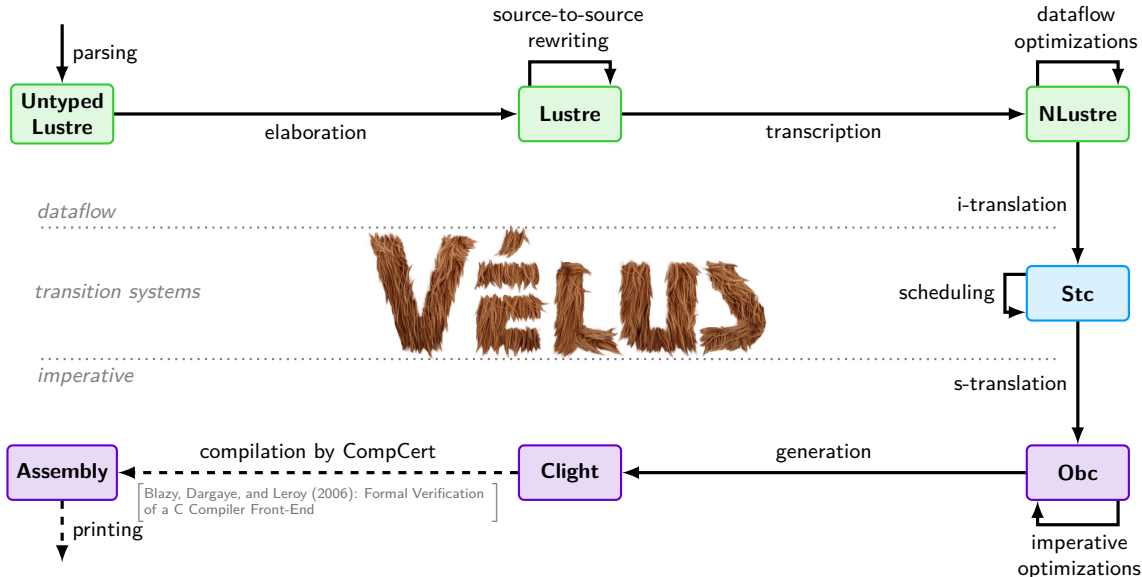
Formal verification of Vélus programs with SMTCoq

Basile Pesin

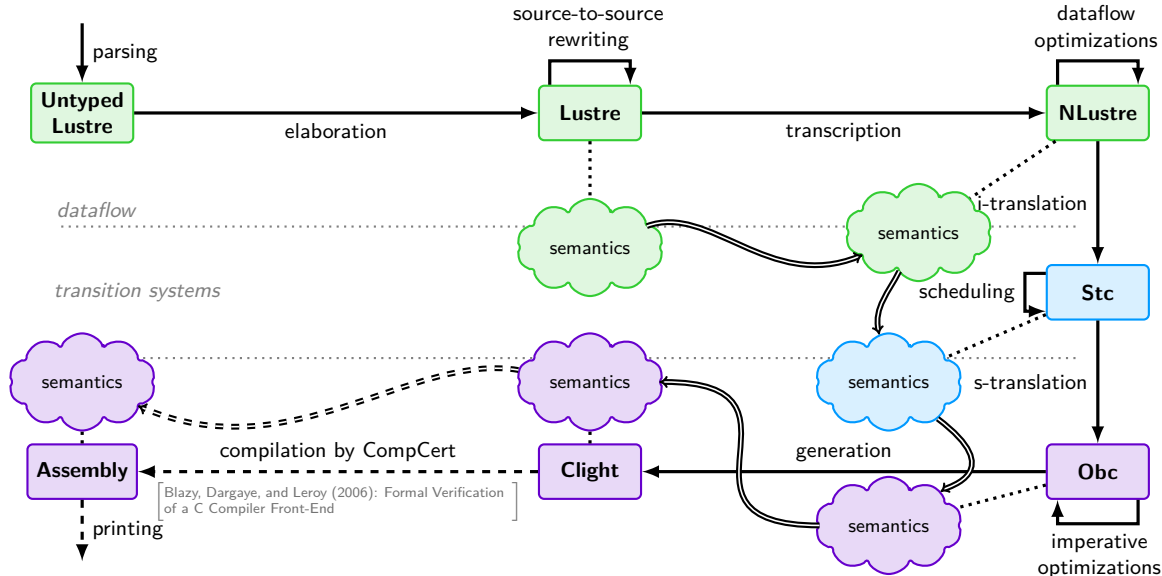
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SYNCHRON 2025

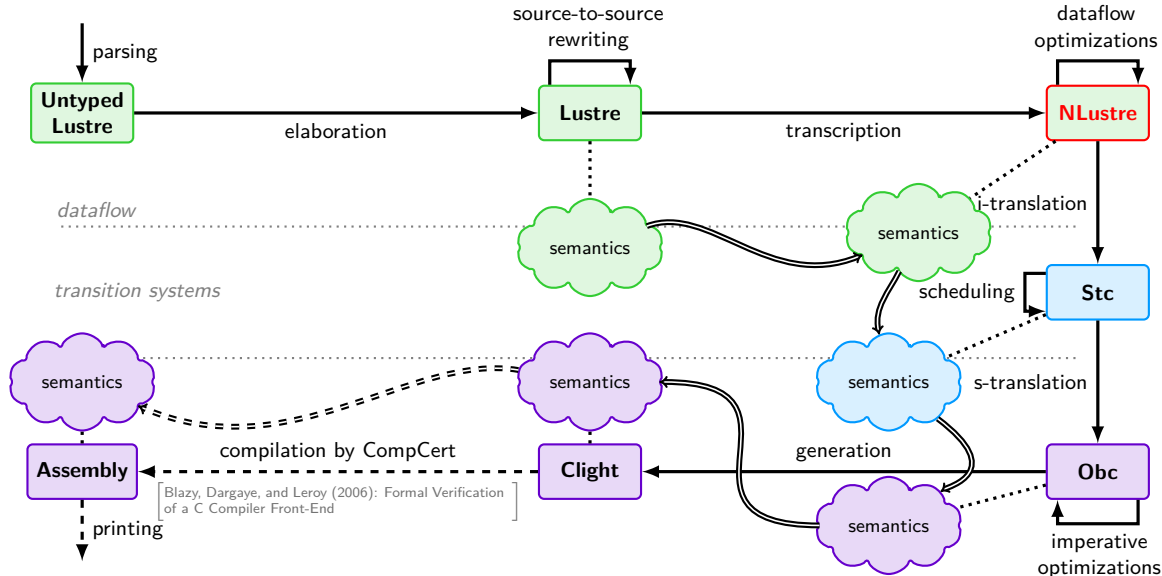
The Vélus compiler



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Running Example

```
node sum(i: int; r: bool) returns (c: int)
```

```
let
```

Computes the sum of i, resets every r.

```
  c = i + (if r then 0 else (0 fby c))
```

```
tel
```

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node sum(i: int; r: bool) returns (c: int)
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  c = i + (if r then 0 else (0 fby c))
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Computes the sum of i, resets every r.

```
node since(b1, b2: bool) returns (b: bool)
var pb : bool;
let
  pb = true fby b;
  b = b2 and (b1 or pb);
tel
```

b2 = true since last time b1 = true.

Normalized form (fby in its own equation).
Looks like NLustre.

```
node obs(i: int; r: bool) returns (ok: bool)
let
  ok = if since(r, i >= 0)
        then sum(i, r) >= 0 else true
tel
```

If i non-negative since the last reset, then sum is non-negative.

Dataflow Semantics in Vélus

Inductive `sem_exp`:

| `Svar`:
 `sem_var H x s →`
 `sem_exp H (Evar x) s`
| `Sbinop`:
 `sem_exp H e1 s1 →`
 `sem_exp H e2 s2 →`
 `lift2 op s1 s2 os →`
 `sem_exp H b (Ebinop op e1 e2) os [...]`

with `sem_equation`:

| `Seq`:
 `sem_exp H e s →`
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| `Sfby`:
 `sem_exp H e es →`
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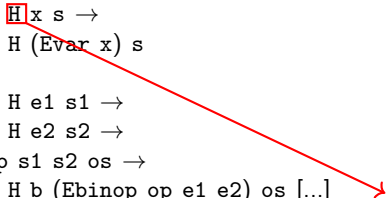
`var` `pb : bool`;

`let`

`pb = true fby b`;

`b = b2 and (b1 or pb)`;

`tel`



b1	$\langle F \rangle$	$\langle T \rangle$	$\langle F \rangle$	$\langle F \rangle$	$\langle \rangle$	$\langle F \rangle$	$\langle T \rangle$	...
b2	$\langle F \rangle$	$\langle T \rangle$	$\langle T \rangle$	$\langle F \rangle$	$\langle \rangle$	$\langle T \rangle$	$\langle T \rangle$	...
pb	$\langle T \rangle$	$\langle F \rangle$	$\langle T \rangle$	$\langle T \rangle$	$\langle \rangle$	$\langle F \rangle$	$\langle F \rangle$	...
b	$\langle F \rangle$	$\langle T \rangle$	$\langle T \rangle$	$\langle F \rangle$	$\langle \rangle$	$\langle F \rangle$	$\langle T \rangle$	...

with `sem_node`:

| `Snode`:

`find_node f G = Some n →`

`sem_vars H n.(n_in) iss →`

`sem_vars H n.(n_out) oss →`

`Forall (sem_equation H n.(n_eqs)) →`

`sem_node f iss oss`

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```

```
node since(b1, b2: bool) returns (b: bool)
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```
var pb : bool;
```

```
let
```

```
  pb = true fby b;
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```

```
tel
```

b1	⟨F⟩	⟨T⟩	⟨F⟩	⟨F⟩	⟨⟩	⟨F⟩	⟨T⟩	...
b2	⟨F⟩	⟨T⟩	⟨T⟩	⟨F⟩	⟨⟩	⟨T⟩	⟨T⟩	...
pb	⟨T⟩	⟨F⟩	⟨T⟩	⟨T⟩	⟨⟩	⟨F⟩	⟨F⟩	...
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pb	⟨T⟩	⟨F⟩	⟨T⟩	⟨T⟩	⟨⟩	⟨F⟩	⟨F⟩	...
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Proving a program property

- Goal: prove that ok is always true
- Against Vélus' semantic model
- Carries to the generated C-code

In Rocq (simplified):

Lemma `sum_obs_spec` : $\forall$ xs ys,
 `sem_node G "obs" xs ys` $\rightarrow$
 $\forall$ n, ys n = [vtrue].

- How should we prove it ?

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node obs(i: int; r: bool) returns (ok: bool)
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- ▶ Use model-checking to do it automatically

Proving a program property – Automatic approach

- ▶ Kind [Hagen and Tinelli (2008): Scaling Up the Formal Verification of Lustre Programs with SMT-based Techniques]: automatic verif of Lustre programs
- ▶ Uses SMT-solving (Z3) + K-induction/Bounded Model Checking
- ▶ Let's do the same, but in Rocq :)

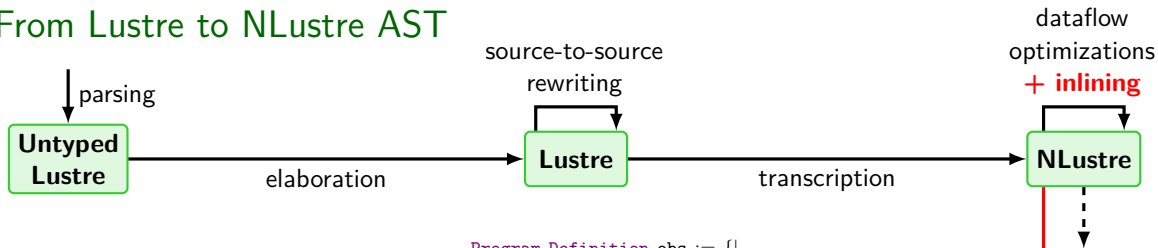
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Our approach:

- ▶ Compile a Vélus source program into NLustre, print its AST into a .v file
- ▶ Generates a parameterized boolean formula for the AST's semantics
- ▶ Apply k-induction principle to specialize this formula
- ▶ Discharge the specialized formula with SMTCoq
[Armand, Faure, Grégoire, Keller, Théry, and Werner (2011): A Modular Integration of SAT/SMT Solvers to Coq through Proof Witnesses]

From Lustre to NLustre AST



```
node sum(i: int; r: bool) returns (c: int)
let
  c = i + (if r then 0 else (0 fby c))
tel

node since(b1, b2: bool) returns (b: bool)
var pb : bool;
let
  pb = true fby b;
  b = b2 and (b1 or pb);
tel

node obs(i: int; r: bool) returns (ok: bool)
let
  ok = if since(r, i >= 0)
    then sum(i, r) >= 0 else true
tel
```

```
Program Definition obs := {
  n_in := [(_i, (tyint, Cbase)); (_r, (tybool, Cbase))];
  n_out := [(_ok, (tybool, Cbase))];
  n_vars := [...];
  n_eqs := [
    EqFby v5 Cbase (Const 0) (Evar v3);
    EqDef v4 (Ecase (Evar _r) [Evar v5; Econst 0]);
    EqDef v3 (Ebinop 0add (Evar _i) (Evar v4));
    EqFby v2 Cbase (Enum 1%nat) (Evar v1);
    EqDef v1
      (Ebinop 0and
        (Ebinop 0ge (Evar _i) (Econst 0))
        (Ebinop 0or (Evar _r) (Evar v2)));
    EqDef _ok
      (Ecase (Evar v1)
        [Eenum 1; Ebinop 0ge (Evar v3) (Econst 0)]);
  ]
}.
```

AST printing

Boolean denotation for NLustre equations

Definition `env` := `ident` $\rightarrow$ (`bool` * `Z`). (* `clock`, `value` *)

Definition `hist` : `nat` $\rightarrow$ `env`.

(* Denotes the constraint induced by [eq] at cycle [n] on [H] *)

Definition `denot_equ` (`H`: `hist`) (`eq`: `equation`) (`n`: `nat`) : `bool`.

(* Example (combinatorial) *)

`denot_equ H n (EqDef _ok (Ecase (Evar v1) [Eenum 1; Ebinop 0ge (Evar v3) (Econst 0)])) =`

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Definition $\text{env} := \text{ident} \rightarrow (\text{bool} * \mathbb{Z}). (* \text{ clock, value } *)$

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$(* \text{ Denotes the constraint induced by [eq] at cycle [n] on [H] } *)$

Definition $\text{denot_equ} (\text{H}: \text{hist}) (\text{eq}: \text{equation}) (\text{n}: \text{nat}) : \text{bool}.$

Fixpoint $\text{denot_cexp} (\text{E}: \text{env}) (\text{v}: \text{bool} * \mathbb{Z}) (\text{e}: \text{cexp}) : \text{bool}.$

Fixpoint $\text{denot_bool_exp} (\text{E}: \text{env}) (\text{e}: \text{exp}) : \text{bool} * \text{bool}.$

$(* \text{ Example (combinatorial) } *)$

```
denot_equ H n (EqDef _ok (Ecase (Evar v1) [Eenum 1; Ebinop 0ge (Evar v3) (Econst 0)])) =  
  ifb (fst (denot_bool_exp (Evar v1)))  
    (ifb (snd (denot_bool_exp (Evar v1)))  
      (denot_cexp (H n) (H n _ok) (Ebinop 0ge (Evar v3) (Econst 0)))  
      (denot_cexp (H n) (H n _ok) (Eenum 1)))  
    (negb (fst (H n _ok)))
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    (ifb (snd (H n v1))  
      (let v := denot_int_exp (H n) (Ebinop 0ge (Evar v3) (Econst 0)) in  
        (fst (H n _ok) <--> fst v) && (snd v <--> (snd (H n _ok) =? 1)))  
      (denot_cexp (H n) (H n _ok) (Eenum 1)))  
    (negb (fst (H n _ok)))
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(* Example (combinatorial) *)

```
denot_equ H n (EqDef _ok (Ecase (Evar v1) [Eenum 1; Ebinop 0ge (Evar v3) (Econst 0)])) =  
  ifb (fst (H n v1))  
    (ifb (snd (H n v1))  
      (let v := (let v1 := denot_int_exp (H n) (Evar v3) in  
                  fst v1, snd v1 >=? snd (denot_int_exp (H n) (Econst 0)))) in  
      (fst (H n _ok) <--> fst v) && (snd v <--> (snd (H n _ok) =? 1)))  
      (denot_cexp (H n) (H n _ok) (Eenum 1)))  
    (negb (fst (H n _ok)))
```

Boolean denotation for NLustre equations

Definition `env` := `ident` $\rightarrow$ (`bool` * `Z`). (* `clock`, `value` *)

Definition `hist` : `nat` $\rightarrow$ `env`.

(* Denotes the constraint induced by [eq] at cycle [n] on [H] *)

Definition `denot_equ` (`H`: `hist`) (`eq`: `equation`) (`n`: `nat`) : `bool`.

Fixpoint `denot_cexp` (`E`: `env`) (`v`: `bool` * `Z`) (`e`: `cexp`) : `bool`.

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(* Example (combinatorial) *)

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  ifb (fst (H n v1))  
    (ifb (snd (H n v1))  
      (let v := (let v1 := H n v3 in  
                  fst v1, snd v1 >=? snd (true, 0))) in  
      (fst (H n _ok) <---> fst v) && (snd v <---> (snd (H n _ok) =? 1)))  
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      (let v := (fst (H n v3), snd (H n v3) <=? 0)) in  
        (fst (H n _ok) <--> fst v) && (snd v <--> (snd (H n _ok) =? 1)))  
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    (ifb (snd (H n v1))  
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    (ifb (snd (H n v1))  
      ((fst (H n _ok) <---> fst (H n v3))  
       && ((snd (H n v3) <=? 0) <---> (snd (H n _ok) =? 1)))  
      ((fst (H n _ok) <---> true) && (snd (H n _ok) =? 1)))  
    (negb (fst (H n _ok)))
```

Boolean denotation for NLustre equations

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Definition `denot_equ` (`H`: `hist`) (`eq`: `equation`) (`n`: `nat`) : `bool`.

Fixpoint `denot_clock` (`E`: `env`) (`ck`: `clock`) : `bool`.

(* Example (fby) *)

`denot_equ H n (EqFby _ok Cbase (Const 0) (Evar v3)) =`

Boolean denotation for NLustre equations

Definition $\text{env} := \text{ident} \rightarrow (\text{bool} * \mathbb{Z}). (* \text{clock}, \text{value} *)$

Definition $\text{hist} : \text{nat} \rightarrow \text{env}.$

(Denotes the constraint induced by [eq] at cycle [n] on [H] *)*

Definition $\text{denot_equ} (\text{H} : \text{hist}) (\text{eq} : \text{equation}) (\text{n} : \text{nat}) : \text{bool}.$

Fixpoint $\text{denot_clock} (\text{E} : \text{env}) (\text{ck} : \text{clock}) : \text{bool}.$

```
(* Example (fby) *)
denot_equ H n (EqFby _ok Cbase (Const 0) (Evar v3)) =
  ifb (denot_clock (H n) Cbase)
    (fst (H n _ok)
      && hold
        (fun m => denot_clock (H m) Cbase)
        (snd (H n _ok) =? 0)
        (fun m => denot_exp (H m) (H n _ok) (Evar v3))
        n)
    (negb (fst (H n _ok)) && snd (H n _ok) =? 0)
```

Boolean denotation for NLustre equations

Definition $\text{env} := \text{ident} \rightarrow (\text{bool} * \mathbb{Z}). (* \text{clock}, \text{value} *)$

Definition $\text{hist} : \text{nat} \rightarrow \text{env}.$

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(Example (fby) *)*

```
denot_equ H n (EqFby _ok Cbase (Const 0) (Evar v3)) =  
  ifb (true)  
    (fst (H n _ok)  
      && hold  
        (fun m => denot_clock (H m) Cbase)  
        (snd (H n _ok) =? 0)  
        (fun m => denot_exp (H m) (H n _ok) (Evar v3))  
        n)  
    (negb (fst (H n _ok)) && snd (H n _ok) =? 0)
```

Boolean denotation for NLustre equations

Definition `env` := `ident` → (`bool` * `Z`). (`*` `clock`, `value` `*`)

Definition `hist` : `nat` → `env`.

(`*` Denotes the constraint induced by `[eq]` at cycle `[n]` on `[H]` `*`)

Definition `denot_equ` (`H`: `hist`) (`eq`: `equation`) (`n`: `nat`) : `bool`.

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(`*` Example (`fby`) `*`)

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denot_equ H n (EqFby _ok Cbase (Const 0) (Evar v3)) =  
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  && hold  
    (fun m => denot_clock (H m) Cbase)  
    (snd (H n _ok) =? 0)  
    (fun m => denot_exp (H m) (H n _ok) (Evar v3))  
  n
```

Boolean denotation for NLustre equations

Definition `env` := `ident` $\rightarrow$ (`bool` * `Z`). (* `clock`, `value` *)

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Definition `denot_equ` (`H`: `hist`) (`eq`: `equation`) (`n`: `nat`) : `bool`.

Fixpoint `denot_clock` (`E`: `env`) (`ck`: `clock`) : `bool`.

```
(* Example (fby) *)
denot_equ H n (EqFby _ok Cbase (Const 0) (Evar v3)) =
  fst (H n _ok)
  && (fix hold m :=
    match n with
    | 0  $\Rightarrow$  snd (H n _ok) =? 0
    | S m  $\Rightarrow$  Bool.ifb (denot_clock (H m) Cbase)
      (denot_exp (H m) (H n _ok) (Evar v3))
      (hold m)
    end) n
```

Boolean denotation for NLustre equations

Definition `env` := `ident` $\rightarrow$ (`bool` * `Z`). (* `clock`, `value` *)

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`end) n`

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    | S n  $\Rightarrow$  denot_exp (H n) (H (S n) _ok) (Evar v3)  
  end
```

Boolean denotation for NLustre equations

Definition `env` := `ident` $\rightarrow$ (`bool` * `Z`). (* `clock`, `value` *)

Definition `hist` : `nat` $\rightarrow$ `env`.

(* Denotes the constraint induced by [eq] at cycle [n] on [H] *)

Definition `denot_equ` (`H`: `hist`) (`eq`: `equation`) (`n`: `nat`) : `bool`.

(* Correctness lemma *)

Lemma `denot_equation_safe` :

`wt_equation` `G` Γ `equ` $\rightarrow$

`sem_equation` `G` `H` `equ` $\rightarrow$

$\forall$ `n`, `denot_equation` `H` `equ` `n` = `true`.

Automated goal and k-induction

Node-specific goal to prove automatically:

Lemma `obs_denot_spec` : $\forall H,$
 $(\forall n, (\text{forallb } (\text{fun } e \Rightarrow \text{denot_equ } H \ e \ n) \ (n_eqs \ nd))) \rightarrow \quad (* \text{ H respects semantics } *)$
 $\forall n, (\text{snd } (H \ n \ _ok) =? 1). \quad (* \text{ output is always true } *)$

Difficulties:

- ▶ SMT solvers cannot deal with $(\forall n, \dots) \rightarrow (\forall n, \dots)$
- ▶ for combinatorial programs, we can prove

$\forall n,$
 $(\text{forallb } (\text{fun } e \Rightarrow \text{denot_equ } H \ e \ n) \ (n_eqs \ nd)) \rightarrow$
 $(\text{snd } (H \ n \ _ok) =? 1)$

- ▶ for stateful nodes (with `fby`), we need to add a (k-)induction hypothesis.

K-induction tactic

$$\Delta_0 \wedge \Delta_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \Delta_k \models_{\mathcal{IL}} P_0 \wedge P_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge P_k$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \Delta_n \wedge \Delta_{n+1} \wedge \cdots \wedge \Delta_{n+(k+1)} \wedge \\ P_n \wedge P_{n+1} \wedge \cdots \wedge P_{n+k} \end{array} \models_{\mathcal{IL}} P_{n+(k+1)}$$

[Hagen and Tinelli (2008): Scaling Up the Formal Verification of Lustre Programs with SMT-based Techniques]

with

$$\Delta_n := \text{forallb } (\text{fun } e \Rightarrow \text{denot_equ } H \ e \ n) \ (n_eqs \ nd)$$

$$P_n := \text{snd } (H \ n \ _ok) =? \ 1$$

Automatic tactic, but k must be specified by the user

K-induction tactic

$$\begin{array}{l} \Delta_0 \wedge \Delta_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \Delta_k \models_{\mathcal{IL}} P_0 \wedge P_1 \wedge \dots \wedge P_k \\ \Delta_n \wedge \Delta_{n+1} \wedge \dots \wedge \Delta_{n+(k+1)} \wedge P_n \wedge P_{n+1} \wedge \dots \wedge P_{n+k} \models_{\mathcal{IL}} P_{n+(k+1)} \end{array} \quad \text{with}$$
$$\begin{array}{l} \Delta_n := \text{forallb } (\text{fun } e \Rightarrow \text{denot_equ } H \ e \ n) \ (n_eqs \ nd) \\ P_n := \text{snd } (H \ n \ _ok) =? 1 \end{array}$$

[Hagen and Tinelli (2008): Scaling Up the Formal Verification of Lustre Programs with SMT-based Techniques]

First, apply the following lemma:

Lemma `k_ind` (`k: nat`) : $\forall (P: \text{nat} \rightarrow \text{Prop})$,
 $(\forall n, (n < k) \rightarrow P \ n) \rightarrow$
 $(\forall n, (\forall m, m < k \rightarrow P \ (n + m)) \rightarrow P \ (k + n)) \rightarrow$
 $\forall n, P \ n$.

Generates 2 goals

- First goal is split in k subgoals ($n = 0, 1, \dots, k - 1$)
- Hypothesis of the second is specialized ($m = 0, 1, \dots, k - 1$)

Automatic tactic, but k must be specified by the user

Solving boolean goals with SMTCoq

K-induction has generated $k + 1$ boolean subgoals

One of them (for our example) looks like this:

[illegible]

Solving boolean goals with SMTCoq

K-induction has generated $k + 1$ boolean subgoals

One of them (for our example) looks like this:

To solve it: `verit` tactic from `SMTCoq`

- Translates the goal into SMT
- Calls the veriT solver
[Bouton, Caminha B. de Oliveira, Déharbe, and Fontaine (2009): veriT:]
[an open, trustable and efficient SMT-solver]
- Reconstructs a Rocq proof from the unsat certificate
[Armand, Faure, Grégoire, Keller, Théry, and Werner (2011): A Modular]
[Integration of SAT/SMT Solvers to Coq through Proof Witnesses]
- Qed. :)

```
(if (fat (H m _1) && fat (H m _r) && true))
(ifb
  (ifb (fat (H m var40))
    ((fat (M (S m) var48) ==> 1)%XZ
      ((fat (M (S m)_ok) <==> fat (H m var52))) &&
      (fat (M m var52) <&& (snd (H m var52) ==> 0)%XZ <==>
        (snd (M m)_ok) ? 1)%XZ))
      ((fat (M (S m)_ok) <==> true) &&
        (true <==> (snd (M m)_ok) ? 1)%XZ))
      (megb (fat (H m)_ok) && (snd (H m)_ok) ? 0)%XZ &&
      ((fat (H m var48) <==> fat (H m _1)) &&
      (fat (M m _1) && fat (H m _r) && (fat (H m _r) &&
        (fat (H m var49) ==> 1)%XZ)) <==>
        (snd (H m var48) ? 1)%XZ)) && (fat (H m var49) <&& b n) &&
      ((fat (M m var52) <&& b n) && (fat (H m _1) &&
      ifb (fat (H m _1))
        (snd (M m var52) ==>
          snd (M m _1) + snd (H m var53))%XZ
          (snd (H m var52) ? 0)%XZ &&
            ifb (fat (H m _r))
              (ifb (snd (H m _r) ? 1)%XZ
                ((fat (M m var53) <==> true) && (snd (H m var53) ? 0)%XZ)
                ((fat (M m var53) <==> fat (H m var54)) &&
                  ifb (fat (H m var54))
                    (snd (H m var53) ==> fat (H m var54))%XZ
                    (snd (M m var53) ==> 0)%XZ))
                (megb (fat (H m var53)) && (snd (H m var53) ? 0)%XZ &&
                  (fat (H m var54) && b0 n) &&
                  (ifb (snd (H m)_ok) ? 1)%XZ
                    (ifb (fat (H m _1) && && fat (H (S m)_r) && true))
                      (ifb
                        (ifb (fat (H (S m) var48))
                          (ifb (snd (H (S m) var48) ? 1)%XZ
                            ((fat (H (S m)_ok) <==> fat (H (S m) var52)) &&
                              (fat (H (S m) var52) &&
                                (snd (H (S m) var52) ==> 0)%XZ <==>
                                  (fat (H (S m)_ok) ? 1)%XZ)
                                  ((fat (H (S m)_ok) <==> true) &&
                                    (true <==> (snd (H (S m)_ok) ? 1)%XZ))
                                    (megb (fat (H (S m)_ok) &&
                                      (snd (H (S m)_ok) ? 0)%XZ &&
                                        ((fat (H (S m)_1) && fat (H (S m)_r) &&
                                          (fat (H (S m)_1) && (fat (H (S m)_1) ==> 0)%XZ &&
                                            (fat (H (S m)_r) && fat (H (S m) var48) &&
                                              ((snd (H (S m)_r) ? 1)%XZ
                                                || (snd (H (S m) var49) ==> 1)%XZ)) <==>
                                                  (fat (H (S m) var48) ? 1)%XZ))
                                                  (fat (H (S m) var48) &&
                                                    ((fat (M (S m) var49) <==> fat (H m var48)) &&
                                                      ((snd (H m var48) ? 1)%XZ <==>
                                                        (snd (H (S m) var49) ? 1)%XZ)) &&
                                                        ((fat (H (S m) var49) <==> fat (H (S m)_1)) &&
                                                          ifb (fat (H (S m)_1)
                                                            (snd (H (S m) var52) ==>
                                                              snd (H (S m)_1) + snd (H (S m) var53))%XZ
                                                              (snd (H (S m) var52) ==> 0)%XZ &&
                                                                ifb (fat (H (S m)_r))
                                                                  (ifb (snd (H (S m)_r) ? 1)%XZ
                                                                    ((fat (H (S m) var53) <==> true) &&
                                                                      ((fat (H (S m) var53) <==> fat (H (S m) var54)) &&
                                                                        ifb (fat (H (S m) var54))
                                                                          (snd (H (S m) var53) ==> fat (H (S m) var54))%XZ
                                                                          (snd (H (S m) var53) ==> 0)%XZ))
                                                                      (megb (fat (H (S m) var53)) &&
                                                                        (snd (H (S m) var53) &&
                                                                          (fat (H (S m) var54) &&
                                                                            ((fat (H (S m) var54) <==> fat (H m var52)) &&
                                                                              ifb (fat (H m var52))
                                                                                (snd (H (S m) var54) ==> fat (H m var52)%XZ
                                                                                  (snd (H (S m) var54) ==> 0)%XZ))
                                                                              (snd (H (S m) var54) && (fat (H (S m)_1) && true) true) true &&

```

Demonstration

Let's hope the property is true !

Limitations and Future Work

- ▶ Support for machine integers/floating point numbers ?
 - ▶ The denotation/proof is done on arbitrary size integers
`Fixpoint` `denot_int_exp` (E: env) (e: exp) : `bool` * `Z`.
 - ▶ Define a new version of the denotation
 - ▶ Use `cvc4`/`Z3` ?

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`Fixpoint` denot_int_exp (E: env) (e: exp) : `bool` * `Z`.

- ▶ Define a new version of the denotation

- ▶ Use cvc4/Z3 ?

- ▶ Invariant discovery

- ▶ k-induction is not always sufficient (ex: gilbreath shuffle)

- ▶ but they can be strengthened to become 1-inductive

```
node main (...) returns (ok: bool);
```

```
var prop, inv : bool;
```

```
let (* Body of the program *)
```

```
  prop = ...; (* Property of interest *)
```

```
  inv = ...; (* Additional invariant *)
```

```
  ok = prop and inv;
```

```
tel;
```

- ▶ add automatically ? complex heuristics [Champion, Mebsout, Stickse, and Tinelli (2016):
The Kind 2 Model Checker]

- ▶ get invariant by calling Kind2

- ▶ prove (once-and-forall) that adding the invariant can only lead to “less” `true`