

COMP4011/8011  
Advanced Topics in  
Formal Methods and Programming Languages  
– **Software Verification with Isabelle/HOL** –

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## Section 7

Isabelle/HOL

Isar (Part 1)

A Language for Structured Proofs

## Motivation

Is this true:  $(A \rightarrow B) = (B \vee \neg A)$  ?

## Motivation

Is this true:  $(A \longrightarrow B) = (B \vee \neg A)$  ?

YES!

```
apply (rule iffI)
  apply (cases A)
    apply (rule disjI1)
      apply (erule impE)
        apply assumption
      apply assumption
    apply (rule disjI2)
      apply assumption
    apply (rule impI)
      apply (erule disjE)
        apply assumption
      apply (erule notE)
        apply assumption
  done
```

or by blast

OK it's true. But WHY?

# Motivation

WHY is this true:  $(A \longrightarrow B) = (B \vee \neg A)$  ?

Demo

# Isar

## apply scripts

- hard to read
- hard to maintain

**No explicit structure.**

## What about..

- Elegance?
- Explaining deeper insights?

**Isar!**

## A typical Isar proof

```
proof  
  assume  $formula_0$   
  have  $formula_1$  by simp  
   $\vdots$   
  have  $formula_n$  by blast  
  show  $formula_{n+1}$  by ...  
qed
```

proves  $formula_0 \implies formula_{n+1}$

(analogous to **assumes/shows** in lemma statements)

## Isar core syntax

proof = **proof** [method] statement\* **qed**  
| **by** method

method = (simp ...) | (blast ...) | (rule ...) | ...

statement = **fix** variables  $(\wedge)$   
| **assume** proposition  $(\implies)$   
| [**from** name<sup>+</sup>] (**have** | **show**) proposition proof  
| **next** (separates subgoals)

proposition = [name:] formula



## proof and qed

**proof** [method] statement\* **qed**

**lemma** "[A; B]  $\implies$  A  $\wedge$  B"

**proof** (rule conj1)

**assume** A: "A"

**from** A **show** "A" **by** assumption

**next**

**assume** B: "B"

**from** B **show** "B" **by** assumption

**qed**

- **proof** (<method>) applies method to the stated goal
- **proof** applies a single rule that fits
- **proof -** does nothing to the goal

## How do I know what to Assume and Show?

Look at the proof state!

**lemma** " $\llbracket A; B \rrbracket \implies A \wedge B$ "

**proof** (rule conj1)

- **proof** (rule conj1) changes proof state to
  1.  $\llbracket A; B \rrbracket \implies A$
  2.  $\llbracket A; B \rrbracket \implies B$
- so we need 2 shows: **show** "A" and **show** "B"
- We are allowed to **assume** A,  
because A is in the assumptions of the proof state.

## The Three Modes of Isar

- **[prove]**:  
goal has been stated, proof needs to follow.
- **[state]**:  
proof block has opened or subgoal has been proved,  
new *from* statement, goal statement or assumptions can follow.
- **[chain]**:  
*from* statement has been made, goal statement needs to follow.

**lemma** "[A; B]  $\implies$  A  $\wedge$  B" **[prove]**

**proof** (rule conj) **[state]**

**assume** A: "A" **[state]**

**from** A **[chain]** **show** "A" **[prove]** **by** assumption **[state]**

**next** **[state]** ...

## Have

Can be used to make intermediate steps.

**Example:** `lemma "(x :: nat) + 1 = 1 + x"`  
`proof -`  
    `have A: "x + 1 = Suc x" by simp`  
    `have B: "1 + x = Suc x" by simp`  
    `show "x + 1 = 1 + x" by (simp only: A B)`  
`qed`

# Demo

## Backward and Forward

### Backward reasoning: ... have " $A \wedge B$ " proof

- **proof** picks an **intro** rule automatically
- conclusion of rule must unify with  $A \wedge B$

### Forward reasoning: ...

**assume** AB: " $A \wedge B$ "

**from** AB **have** "... " **proof**

- now **proof** picks an **elim** rule automatically
- triggered by **from**
- first assumption of rule must unify with AB

### General case: **from** $A_1 \dots A_n$ **have** $R$ **proof**

- first  $n$  assumptions of rule must unify with  $A_1 \dots A_n$
- conclusion of rule must unify with  $R$

## Fix and Obtain

- **fix**  $v_1 \dots v_n$

Introduces new arbitrary but fixed variables  
( $\sim$  parameters,  $\wedge$ )

- **obtain**  $v_1 \dots v_n$  **where**  $\langle \text{prop} \rangle$   $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

Introduces new variables together with property

## Fancy Abbreviations

this = the previous fact proved or assumed

**then** = **from this**

**thus** = **then show**

**hence** = **then have**

**with**  $A_1 \dots A_n$  = **from**  $A_1 \dots A_n$  this

**?thesis** = the last enclosing goal statement



# Demo

## Moreover and Ultimately

**have**  $X_1: P_1 \dots$

**have**  $X_2: P_2 \dots$

$\vdots$

**have**  $X_n: P_n \dots$

**from**  $X_1 \dots X_n$  **show**  $\dots$

**have**  $P_1 \dots$

**moreover** **have**  $P_2 \dots$

$\vdots$

**moreover** **have**  $P_n \dots$

**ultimately** **show**  $\dots$

wastes lots of brain power on names  $X_1 \dots X_n$

## General Case Distinctions

**show** *formula*

**proof** -

**have**  $P_1 \vee P_2 \vee P_3$  <proof>

**moreover** { **assume**  $P_1$  ... **have** ?thesis <proof> }

**moreover** { **assume**  $P_2$  ... **have** ?thesis <proof> }

**moreover** { **assume**  $P_3$  ... **have** ?thesis <proof> }

**ultimately show** ?thesis **by** blast

**qed**

{ ... } is a proof block similar to **proof** ... **qed**

{ **assume**  $P_1$  ... **have**  $P$  <proof> }

stands for  $P_1 \implies P$

## Mixing proof styles

**from ...**

**have ...**

**apply** - make incoming facts assumptions

**apply (...)**

**:**

**apply (...)**

**done**

## More on Automation

### This can be automated

Automated methods (fast, blast, clarify etc) are not hardwired.  
Safe/unsafe intro/elim rules can be declared.

#### Syntax:

[<kind>!]  
[<kind>]      for safe rules (<kind> one of intro, elim, dest)  
                 for unsafe rules

#### Application (roughly):

do safe rules first, search/backtrack on unsafe rules only

<b>Example:</b>	declare attribute globally	<b>declare</b> conjl [intro!] allE [elim]
	remove attribute globally	<b>declare</b> allE [rule del]
	use locally	<b>apply</b> (blast intro: somel)
	delete locally	<b>apply</b> (blast del: conjl)

## Demo: Automation

## Exercises

- derive the classical contradiction rule  $(\neg P \implies \text{False}) \implies P$  in Isabelle
- define **nor** and **nand** in Isabelle
- show  $\text{nor } x \ x = \text{nand } x \ x$
- derive safe intro and elim rules for them
- use these in an automated proof of  $\text{nor } x \ x = \text{nand } x \ x$