

Program verification with Why3

Marc Schoolderman

February 7, 2019

The first part of this course is on Why3

- Main sessions: thursdays, 8:30 HG00.068
- Tutorial hour: next wednesday, 10:30 MERC I 00.28
Slot will not always be used – check announcements!

Useful if you remember something from:

- Mathematical Structures
- Assertion and Argumentation
- Semantics and Correctness
- Functional Programming

Reference materials

Why3 Tutorial by J.C. Filliâtre:

`why3.lri.fr/vtsa-18/notes-why3.pdf`

Manual:

`why3.lri.fr/manual.pdf`

Exercises: see Brightspace

- Important you do these!
- **Work in pairs!**
- Deadline: tuesday 12:00

Help? Contact: `m.schoolderman@cs.ru.nl`

Motivation

Validation

Writing the correct program

- Are informal requirements captured in a *specification*?

Verification

Writing the program correctly

- Does the program match the specification?

Formal verification

Validation

Writing the correct program

- Are informal requirements captured in a *specification*?

Verification

Writing the program correctly

- Does the program match the specification?

Formal verification

The art of using rigorous, mathematical techniques for verification

- Prove that a program matches a **formal specification!**

1948 Manchester Baby: first programmable computer

The dawn of computing science

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1949 Early program proof by Turing for computing $n!$

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... **crickets** ...

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- 1967 Floyd: “Assigning Meanings to Programs”
- 1969 Hoare logic (Axiomatic semantics)
- 1975 Dijkstra: weakest preconditions

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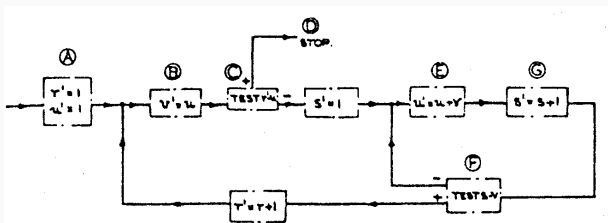
1975 Dijkstra: weakest preconditions

... *fast forward* ...

The dawn of computing science

- 1948 Manchester Baby: first programmable computer
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- 1969 Hoare logic (Axiomatic semantics)
- 1975 Dijkstra: weakest preconditions
... *fast forward* ...
- 2019 Formal verification seldomly used

Turing's notes



STORAGE LOCATION	(INITIAL) Ⓐ k=6	Ⓑ k=5	Ⓒ k=4	(STOP) Ⓓ k=0	Ⓔ k=3	Ⓕ k=1	Ⓖ k=2
27					S	S+1	S
28		T	T		T	T	T
29	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
30		F	F		S+1	(S+1)	(S+1)
31			F	F	F	F	F
	TO Ⓑ [Ⓐ] WITH T=1 S=1	TO Ⓒ [Ⓑ]	TO Ⓓ [Ⓒ] IF T=2 TO Ⓔ [Ⓒ] IF T<2		TO Ⓖ [Ⓔ]	TO Ⓑ [Ⓕ] WITH T=1 IF S=1 TO Ⓒ [Ⓕ] WITH T=1 IF S<1	TO Ⓕ [Ⓖ]

Critical software bugs

Testing shows the presence, not the absence of bugs – Dijkstra

- 1996** Ariane 5: uncaught runtime exception
- 1999** NASA: confused imperial and metric system
- 2008** Debian OpenSSL: RNG seeded with well-known data
- 2009** Toyota “unintended acceleration”: stack overflow
- 2014** Apple SSL: `goto fail`
- 2014** HeartBleed: buffer overflow
- 2014** ShellShock: Incorrect input processing
(undetected for 25 years)

More stories:

<http://www.cs.tau.ac.il/~nachumd/horror.html>

2006 “Nearly All Binary Searches and Mergesorts are Broken” – Joshua Bloch:[¶]

```
int mid = (low+high)/2
int midVal = a[mid]
```

[¶]<https://ai.googleblog.com/2006/06/extra-extra-read-all-about-it-nearly.html>

2006 “Nearly All Binary Searches and Mergesorts are Broken” – Joshua Bloch:[¶]

```
int mid = (low+high)/2
int midVal = a[mid]
```

Will cause overflow if $low+high \geq 2^{31}$!

[¶]<https://ai.googleblog.com/2006/06/extra-extra-read-all-about-it-nearly.html>

2006 “Nearly All Binary Searches and Mergesorts are Broken” – Joshua Bloch:[¶]

```
int mid = (low+high)/2
int midVal = a[mid]
```

Will cause overflow if $low+high \geq 2^{31}$! Fixing this in C:

```
int mid = low + (high-low)/2
```

[¶]<https://ai.googleblog.com/2006/06/extra-extra-read-all-about-it-nearly.html>

What can we do about this?

Proofs can show the absence of (certain) bugs.

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The Bad News

Formal proofs are *hard, tedious, time-consuming, and error-prone.*

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The Bad News

Formal proofs are *hard, tedious, time-consuming, and error-prone.*

The Good News

Major advances in *computational power and artificial intelligence*

- Interactive theorem provers: Coq, PVS, Isabelle/HOL
- Fully automated provers: Z3, CVC4, E, Alt-Ergo, ...

Another reason to use machine intelligence

Do you trust your own proofs?

Do you trust other people's proofs?

Another reason to use machine intelligence

Do you trust your own proofs?

Do you trust other people's proofs?

Cryptanalysis of OCB2 – Inoue & Minematsu

- OCB2: authenticated encryption, 'proven secure' in 2004
- Broken in 2018?!

<https://eprint.iacr.org/2018/1040.pdf>

Some high-profile stories

AMD K5 Verification of `fdiv` using ACL2 (1995)

Paris Métro Driverless *Ligne 14* verified using B-Method (1998)

Hyper-V Hypervisor verified using VCC and Z3 (2005)

CompCert C compiler verified using Coq (2009)

seL4 micro-kernel verified using Isabelle/HOL (2009)

Work in progress:

Project Everest Verified HTTPS stack using F*

CakeML Bootstrapping, verified compiler for ML

The state of the art

Modern systems for program verification

- Why3 (INRIA)
- F* (Microsoft Research)
- Frama-C/WP (INRIA+CEA)

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Common complaint from industry:
“Give us a system that we can actually use”

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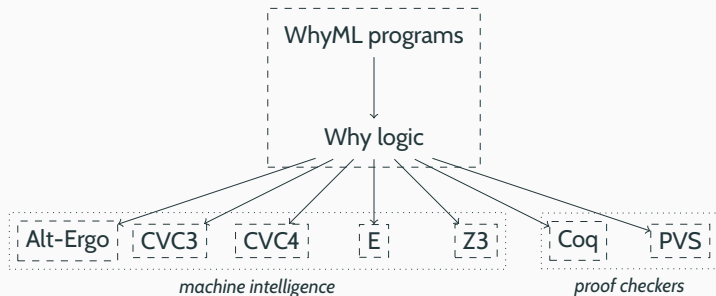
Common complaint from industry:
“Give us a system that we can actually use”

Let's see how far we get with Why3

- Recently had major updates
- Expertise present at Radboud

The Why3 Platform

specifications + programs \mapsto *verification conditions*



WhyML consists of two parts:

- ① A pure logic system
 - ▶ Usage: theorem proving.
- ② A programming language
 - ▶ Usage: modelling programs, intermediate language

Three ways of using Why3

① A pure logic system

- ▶ First order logic + pure functions (no side effects)
- ▶ Proofs discharged by *automatic provers*
- ▶ Why3 keeps track of dependencies between proofs
- ▶ Ability to produce (potential) *counter-examples*

Why3 logic

```
module Example

use int.Int

predicate odd (x: int) = exists k: int. x = 2*k+1

function sqr (x: int): int = x*x

lemma odd_square:
  forall x: int. odd x -> odd (sqr x)

end
```

② WhyML as a programming language

- ▶ Imperative programming (`while` loops, mutable data)
- ▶ Function contracts: pre- and postconditions
- ▶ Algebraic data types with pattern matching
- ▶ Type inference (like Haskell, ML)
- ▶ Control-flow: `break`, `continue`, `return`
- ▶ Why3 generates verification conditions

WhyML programs

```
let foo (x: int): int
  requires { x >= 0 }
  ensures { result >= 0 }
= let z = ref 0 in
  let odd = ref 1 in
  let sum = ref 1 in
  while !sum <= x do
    z := !z + 1;
    odd := !odd + 2;
    sum := !sum + !odd;
  done;
  return !z
```

Theoretical background

Pre- and postconditions: $\{P\} \mathbf{S} \{Q\}$

- *Partial correctness*: if P holds, and we run \mathbf{S} , then Q holds when it terminates.
- **Note**: Doesn't say \mathbf{S} will actually terminate!

Comes with derivation rules:

$\{ x = 42 \}$
 $\{ x+1 = 43 \}$
 $y := x + 1$
 $\{ y = 43 \}$

$\{P[x \mapsto a]\} \mathbf{x}:=\mathbf{a} \{P\}$

$\frac{\{P\} \mathbf{S}_1 \{Q\} \quad \{Q\} \mathbf{S}_2 \{R\}}{\{P\} \mathbf{S}_1; \mathbf{S}_2 \{R\}}$

Do you enjoy Hoare logic?

```
{ x >= 0 }  
while x > 0 do  
  x := x-1  
done  
{ x = 0 }
```

Do you enjoy Hoare logic?

```
{ x >= 0 }
```

```
while x > 0 do
```

```
  x := x-1
```

```
done
```

```
{ x = 0 }
```

Do you enjoy Hoare logic?

```
{ x >= 0 }  
{ INV }  
while x > 0 do  
  { x > 0 /\ INV }  
  
  x := x-1  
  
  { INV }  
done  
{ not (x > 0) /\ INV }  
{ x = 0 }
```

Do you enjoy Hoare logic?

```
{ x >= 0 }  
{ x >= 0 }  
while x > 0 do  
  { x > 0 /\ x >= 0 }  
  
  x := x-1  
  
  { x >= 0 }  
done  
{ not (x > 0) /\ x >= 0 }  
{ x = 0 }
```

Do you enjoy Hoare logic?

```
{ x >= 0 }  
{ x >= 0 }  
while x > 0 do  
  { x > 0 /\ x >= 0 }  
  { x-1 >= 0 }  
  x := x-1  
  { x >= 0 }  
  { x >= 0 }  
done  
{ not (x > 0) /\ x >= 0 }  
{ x = 0 }
```


Hoare logic proofs are mostly mechanical, except:

- Finding loop invariants
- Proving that one condition follows from another

And can only show *partial correctness!*

Weakest liberal precondition

A predicate $wlp(S, Q)$, so that $\{wlp(S, Q)\} \mathbf{S} \{Q\}$

- Instead of deriving $\{P\} \mathbf{S} \{Q\}$, just show $P \rightarrow wlp(S, Q)$

Weakest liberal precondition

A predicate $wlp(S, Q)$, so that $\{wlp(S, Q)\} \mathbf{S} \{Q\}$

- Instead of deriving $\{P\} \mathbf{S} \{Q\}$, just show $P \rightarrow wlp(S, Q)$

$$wlp(x:=e, Q) = Q[x \mapsto e]$$

$$wlp(e1; e2, Q) = wlp(e1, wlp(e2, Q))$$

$$wlp(\text{if } b \text{ then } e1 \text{ else } e2, Q) = (b \rightarrow wlp(e1, Q)) \wedge (\neg b \rightarrow wlp(e2, Q))$$

$$wlp(\text{while } b \text{ do } S, Q) = INV \wedge$$

$$\forall v \in S. INV \rightarrow (b \rightarrow wlp(S, INV)) \wedge (\neg b \rightarrow Q)$$

$$\begin{aligned}wlp(\mathbf{while}\dots\mathbf{done}, x = 0) &= INV \wedge \\ &\quad \forall x. INV \rightarrow (x > 0 \rightarrow wlp(\mathbf{x}:=\mathbf{x}-1, INV)) \wedge \\ &\quad (\neg(x > 0) \rightarrow x = 0)\end{aligned}$$

```
{ x >= 0 }  
while x > 0 do invariant x >= 0  
  x := x-1  
done  
{ x = 0 }
```

$$\begin{aligned}wlp(\mathbf{while\dots done}, x = 0) &= x \geq 0 \wedge \\ &\forall x. x \geq 0 \rightarrow (x > 0 \rightarrow wlp(\mathbf{x:=x-1}, x \geq 0)) \wedge \\ &\quad (\neg(x > 0) \rightarrow x = 0)\end{aligned}$$

```
{ x >= 0 }  
while x > 0 do invariant x >= 0  
  x := x-1  
done  
{ x = 0 }
```

$$\begin{aligned}wlp(\mathbf{while\dots done}, x = 0) &= x \geq 0 \wedge \\ &\quad \forall x. x \geq 0 \rightarrow (x > 0 \rightarrow x - 1 \geq 0) \wedge \\ &\quad (\neg(x > 0) \rightarrow x = 0)\end{aligned}$$

```
{ x >= 0 }  
while x > 0 do invariant x >= 0  
  x := x-1  
done  
{ x = 0 }
```

This is the verification condition:

$$x \geq 0 \longrightarrow wlp(\mathbf{while \dots done}, x = 0)$$

This is the verification condition:

$$x \geq 0 \longrightarrow x \geq 0 \wedge$$

$$\forall x. x \geq 0 \rightarrow (x > 0 \rightarrow x - 1 \geq 0) \wedge (\neg(x > 0) \rightarrow x = 0)$$

This is the verification condition:

$$x \geq 0 \longrightarrow x \geq 0 \wedge \\ \forall x. x \geq 0 \rightarrow (x > 0 \rightarrow x - 1 \geq 0) \wedge (\neg(x > 0) \rightarrow x = 0)$$

This is what Why3 will do for you:

- Why3 computes (more or less) exactly this.
- Why3 will also do this proof for you.

What do we want to prove?

Partial correctness $\{P\} S \{Q\}$

Termination Prove that **S** terminates.

Total correctness Partial correctness + termination

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Partial correctness $\{P\} S \{Q\}$

Termination Prove that **S** terminates.

Total correctness Partial correctness + termination

Partial correctness on its own can be weak.

```
while not sorted a do
  tmp := a[0]; a[0] := a[1]; a[1] := tmp;
done
{ sorted a }
```

Proving termination

To prove termination of `while` loops, find some quantity that:

- Gets smaller every iteration
- Never becomes negative

Proving termination

To prove termination of `while` loops, find some quantity that:

- Gets smaller every iteration
- Never becomes negative

We call this the **variant**.

```
{ x >= 0 }  
while x > 0 do  
  invariant x >= 0  
  variant x  
  x := x-1  
done  
{ x = 0 }
```



Practical matters: the Why3 toolbox

If you can program, you can program in WhyML!

- Programs can be run directly (`why3 execute`)

Built-in types: `bool`, `int`, `real`

- Data is **immutable** by default
- Mutable data can be stored in *references*: `ref int`

WhyML has annotations for:

- Function contracts: `requires`, `ensures`
- While loops: `invariant`, `variant`
- Assertions: `assert`

WhyML programs

```
let foo (x: int): int
  requires { ... }
  ensures { ... }
= let z: ref int = ref 0 in
  let odd: ref int = ref 1 in
  let sum: ref int = ref 1 in
  while !sum <= x do
    invariant { ... }
    variant { ... }
    z := !z + 1;
    odd := !odd + 2;
    assert { ... };
    sum := !sum + !odd;
  done;
  return !z
```


Pure WhyML expressions + first order logic

Quick syntax guide:

$x \wedge y$	<code>x/\y</code>
$x \vee y$	<code>x\/y</code>
$\neg y$	<code>not x</code>
$x \rightarrow y$	<code>x->y</code>
$x \leftrightarrow y$	<code>x<->y</code>
$\forall x \in T[P(x)]$	<code>forall x:t. p x</code>
$\exists x \in T[P(x)]$	<code>exists x:t. p x</code>

Pure logic:

```
function double (x: int): int =  
  2*x
```

```
predicate divides (d n: int) =  
  exists q: int. n = q*d
```

Program code:

```
let double (x: int): int =  
  2*x
```

```
let divides (d n: int): bool =  
  d = 0 && n = 0 || mod n d = 0
```

① Logical expressions can only be used in annotations

Pure logic:

```
function double (x: int): int =  
  2*x
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predicate divides (d n: int) =  
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Program code:

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```
let divides (d n: int): bool =  
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```

- 1 Logical expressions can only be used in annotations
- 2 To reason about programs, you generally need contracts

Pure logic:

```
function double (x: int): int =  
  2*x
```

```
predicate divides (d n: int) =  
  exists q: int. n = q*d
```

Program code:

```
let double (x: int): int  
  ensures { result = 2*x }  
= 2*x
```

```
let divides (d n: int): bool  
  ensures { result <->  
            exists q: int. n = q*d }  
= d = 0 && n = 0 || mod n d = 0
```

Often we can avoid repeating ourselves:

Usable in both logical formulas and programs:

```
let function double (x: int): int =  
    2*x  
  
let predicate divides (d n: int)  
    ensures { result <-> exists q: int. n = q*d }  
= d = 0 && n = 0 || mod n d = 0
```

Proving programs is done in the Why3 IDE (`why3 ide`)

- Has a *program view* and a *logical view*
- Allows editing the program
- Access provers with right click
- Logical formulas can be manipulated
 - ▶ Strategies: automated splitting & proving
 - ▶ Transformations: fine-grained control
- State can be saved and returned to later

Let's do something!

Example

What does this compute?

```
let foo (x: int): int
= let z    = ref 0 in
  let odd  = ref 1 in
  let sum  = ref 1 in
  while !sum <= x do
    z := !z + 1;
    odd := !odd + 2;
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  done;
  return !z
```


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```

!z !odd !sum

Example

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    z := !z + 1;
    odd := !odd + 2;
    sum := !sum + !odd;
  done;
  return !z
```

!z	!odd	!sum
0	1	1

Example

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    odd := !odd + 2;
    sum := !sum + !odd;
  done;
  return !z
```

!z	!odd	!sum
0	1	1
1	3	4

Example

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let foo (x: int): int
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  let sum  = ref 1 in
  while !sum <= x do
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    odd := !odd + 2;
    sum := !sum + !odd;
  done;
  return !z
```

!z	!odd	!sum
0	1	1
1	3	4
2	5	9

Example

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let foo (x: int): int
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  let sum = ref 1 in
  while !sum <= x do
    z := !z + 1;
    odd := !odd + 2;
    sum := !sum + !odd;
  done;
  return !z
```

!z	!odd	!sum
0	1	1
1	3	4
2	5	9
3	7	16

Example

What does this compute?

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let foo (x: int): int
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  let sum = ref 1 in
  while !sum <= x do
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    odd := !odd + 2;
    sum := !sum + !odd;
  done;
  return !z
```

!z	!odd	!sum
0	1	1
1	3	4
2	5	9
3	7	16
4	9	25

Example

What does this compute?

```
let foo (x: int): int
= let z    = ref 0 in
  let odd = ref 1 in
  let sum = ref 1 in
  while !sum <= x do
    z := !z + 1;
    odd := !odd + 2;
    sum := !sum + !odd;
  done;
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```

!z	!odd	!sum
0	1	1
1	3	4
2	5	9
3	7	16
4	9	25
5	11	36

Example

What does this compute?

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  done;
  return !z
```

!z	!odd	!sum
0	1	1
1	3	4
2	5	9
3	7	16
4	9	25
5	11	36
6	13	49

Example

What does this compute?

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  done;
  return !z
```

!z	!odd	!sum
0	1	1
1	3	4
2	5	9
3	7	16
4	9	25
5	11	36
6	13	49
7	15	64

Demo!

How to find good invariants?



Find a property that generalizes initial and end condition.

```
assert { !i = 0 };  
let j = ref 9 in  
while !i < 10 do  
  invariant { ... }  
  i := !i + 1;  
  j := !j - 1;  
done  
assert { !i = 9 };
```

How to find good invariants?



Find a property that generalizes initial and end condition.

```
assert { !i = 0 };  
let j = ref 9 in  
while !i < 10 do  
  invariant { !i + !j = 9 }  
  i := !i + 1;  
  j := !j - 1;  
done  
assert { !i = 9 };
```

Conclusion

- Why3 is a platform for automating total correctness proofs
- Uses powerful SMT solvers to do tedious proofs
- WhyML: Logical formulas + Program code
- Functions: specify *contracts*
- `while` loops: specify *invariants* and *variants*

Final comment

Step 1: Frustration

The screenshot displays the Why3 Interactive Proof Session window. The left pane shows a tree of theories and goals. The right pane shows the task definition and the prover's output.

Theories/Goals:

- .../turing.mlw
 - TuringFac
 - VC fac [VC for fac]
 - split_vc
 - 0 [loop invariant init]
 - 1 [loop invariant init]
 - 2 [postcondition]
 - 3 [loop invariant init]
 - 4 [loop invariant init]
 - 5 [loop invariant init]
 - 6 [loop variant decrease]
 - 7 [loop invariant preservation]
 - 8 [loop invariant preservation] (highlighted)
 - Z3 4.7.1 (noBV) 5.00
 - 9 [loop variant decrease]
 - 10 [loop invariant preservation]
 - 11 [loop invariant preservation]
 - 12 [loop invariant preservation]
 - 13 [loop variant decrease]
 - 14 [loop invariant preservation]
 - 15 [loop invariant preservation]
 - 16 [unreachable point]

Task: ../turing.mlw

```
31 axiom n4 : u = (u1 + u2)
32
33 constant s : int
34
35 axiom H3 : s = (s1 + 1)
36
37 axiom H2 : ((s - 1) - r1) >= 0
38
39 constant r : int
40
41 axiom H1 : r = (r1 + 1)
42
43 axiom H : 1 <= r /\ r <= n \/ n = 0 /\ r = 1
44
45 ----- Goal -----
46
47 goal VC fac : u = fact r
48
49
50 =====> Prover: Z3 4.7.1 (noBV)
51 Timeout
52
53 The prover did not return counterexamples.
```

Prover Output: 0/0/0

Buttons: Messages, Log, Edited proof, Prover output, Counterexample

Final comment

Step 2: ...

The screenshot shows the Why3 Interactive Proof Session window. The left pane displays a tree of theories and goals. The right pane shows the code for the goal and the prover's output.

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- .../turing.mlw
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 - VC fac [VC for fac]
 - split_vc
 - 0 [loop invariant init]
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Task: ../turing.mlw

```
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39 constant r : int
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41 axiom H1 : r = (r1 + 1)
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43 axiom H : 1 <= r /\ r <= n \/ n = 0 /\ r = 1
44
45 ----- Goal -----
46
47 goal VC fac : u = fact r
48
49
50 =====> Prover: Z3 4.7.1 (noBV)
51 Timeout
52
53 The prover did not return counterexamples.
```

Messages: Log Edited proof Prover output Counterexample

Final comment

Step 3: Dopamine rush!

The screenshot shows the Why3 Interactive Proof Session interface. The left pane displays a tree of theories and goals. The right pane shows the task definition and the prover's output.

Theories/Goals:

- ~/turing.mlw
 - TuringFac
 - VC fac [VC for fac]
 - split_vc
 - 0 [loop invariant init]
 - 1 [loop invariant init]
 - 2 [postcondition]
 - 3 [loop invariant init]
 - 4 [loop invariant init]
 - 5 [loop invariant init]
 - 6 [loop variant decrease]
 - 7 [loop invariant preservation]
 - 8 [loop invariant preservation]
 - Alt-Ergo 2.0.0 0.01 (steps: 48)
 - Z3 4.7.1 1.00
 - 9 [loop variant decrease]
 - 10 [loop invariant preservation]
 - 11 [loop invariant preservation]
 - 12 [loop invariant preservation]
 - 13 [loop variant decrease]
 - 14 [loop invariant preservation]
 - 15 [loop invariant preservation]
 - 16 [unreachable point]