

# WHY Tutorial

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## Why

Why is [a software verification platform.](#)

This platform contains several tools:

- a general-purpose verification condition generator (VCG), *Why*, which is used as a back-end by other verification tools (see below) but which can also be used directly to verify programs (see for instance [these examples](#)) ;
- a tool [Krakatoa](#) for the verification of Java programs;
- a tool [Caduceus](#) for the verification of C programs; note that [Caduceus](#) is somewhat obsolete now and users should turn to [Frama-C](#) instead.

One of the main features of *Why* is to be [integrated with many](#) existing provers (proof assistants such as [Coq](#), [PVS](#), [Isabelle/HOL](#), [HOL 4](#), [HOL Light](#), [Mizar](#) and [decision procedures](#) such as [Simplify](#), [Alt-Ergo](#), [Yices](#), [Z3](#), [CVC3](#), etc.).

## Documentation

User manual, in [PostScript](#) and [HTML](#).

Introduction to the *Why* tool given at the [TYPES Summer School 2007](#) : [slides](#) ; [lecture notes](#) ; [exercises](#).

Examples of programs certified with *Why* are collected [on this page](#).

*Why* is presented in [this article](#). Theoretical foundations are described in [this paper](#).

## Download

*Why* is freely available, under the terms of the [GNU LIBRARY GENERAL PUBLIC LICENSE](#) (with a special exception for linking; see the LICENSE file included in the source distribution). It is available as:

- Source: [why-2.21.tar.gz](#) (contains [Caduceus](#), [Krakatoa](#) and the [Frama-C](#) plugin)
- Windows: [Why Installer 2.13](#)

Here are the recent [changes](#).

You download previous versions from the [FTP zone](#).

Requirements:

- to compile the sources, you need [Objective Caml](#) 3.09 (or higher)
- to compile the graphical user interface *gwhy* (optional but highly recommended) you also need the [Lablgtk2 library](#) (Note that there is a Debian package, [liblablgtk2-ocaml-dev](#)).
- no prover is distributed with *Why*, you must install at least one supported prover from the list below
- if you are willing to use [Coq](#) as a back-end prover, you need at least [Coq](#) version 7.4

There is an [Eclipse plugin](#) for *Why*/*Caduceus*/*Krakatoa*.

To download/install theorem provers, look at the [Prover Tips](#) page

# Motivating Example

```
1.  /*@ requires  $\forall$ valid_range(t,0,n-1)
2.    @ ensures
3.    @ (0 <=  $\forall$ result < n => t[ $\forall$ result] == v) &&
4.    @ ( $\forall$ result == n =>  $\forall$ forall int i; 0 <= i < n => t[i] != v)
5.    @*/
6.  int index(int t[], int n, int v) {
7.    int i = 0;
8.    /*@ invariant 0 <= i &&  $\forall$ forall int k; 0 <= k < i => t[k] != v
9.       @ variant n - i */
10.   while (i < n) {
11.     if (t[i] == v) break;
12.     i++;
13.   }
14.   return i;
15. }
```

dereferenceable

behavioral correctness

termination

# Snapshot of GUI of WHY

The screenshot shows the gWhy GUI with a menu bar (File, Configuration, Proof) and a toolbar. The main area is divided into a table of proof obligations and a code editor.

Proof obligations	Alt-Ergo (uninstalled)	Simplify 1.5.4 (Graph)	Simplify 1.5.4	Z3 2.1 (SS)	Yices 1.0.24 (SS)
▼ C function index				✓	
Correctness					
1. initialization of loop invariant	—	☐	☐	●	☐
2. initialization of loop invariant	—	☐	☐	●	☐
3. pointer dereferencing	—	☐	☐	●	☐
4. postcondition	—	☐	☐	●	☐
5. postcondition	—	☐	☐	●	☐
6. preservation of loop invariant	—	☐	☐	●	☐
7. preservation of loop invariant	—	☐	☐	●	☐
8. variant decrease	—	☐	☐	●	☐
9. variant decrease	—	☐	☐	●	☐
10. postcondition	—	☐	☐	●	☐
11. postcondition	—	☐	☐	●	☐

```
index_impl_po_1
t: global pointer
n: int
alloc: alloc_table
H1: valid_range(alloc, t, 0, n - 1)

0 <= 0

/*@ requires \valid_range(t,0,n-1)
  @ ensures
  @   (0 <= \result < n => t[\result] == v) &&
  @   (\result == n => \forall int i; 0 <= i < n => t[i] != v)
  @*/
int index(int t[], int n, int v) {
  int i = 0;
  /*@ invariant 0 <= i && \forall int k; 0 <= k < i => t[k] != v
    @ variant n - i */
  while (i < n) {
    if (t[i] == v) break;
    i++;
  }
  return i;
}
```

Timeout: 10 | Pretty Printer | file: ex1.c Correctness of C function index

# Programming by Contract

- Contract:
  - Write a program P which computes a number y whose square is less than the input x
  - If the input x is a positive number, compute a number whose square is less than x
- Hoare Triples

Pre-condition    Post-condition

- $(|\phi|)P(|\psi|)$
- Program P is run in a state that satisfies  $\phi$ , then the state after it executes will satisfy  $\psi$
- $(|x>0|) P(|y \bullet y < x|)$

# Program Verification through Programming by Contract/Theorem Proving

- The earliest scientific approach to verify a target software
- Requires human expertise on the target software
  - If a user can specify important characteristic of the target SW in a “good” way, proof can succeed.
    - Ex. Loop invariant
  - Note that computer scientists in early days were mathematicians and logicians
- Not automatic, but the verification result is general (i.e. not bounded within  $n \leq 10$ )

# Proof rules for partial correctness of Hoare triples

$$\frac{(\phi)C_1(\eta)(\eta)C_2(\psi)}{(\phi)C_1;C_2(\psi)} \text{Composition}$$

$$\frac{}{(\psi[E/x])x = E(\psi)} \text{Assignment}$$

$$\frac{(\phi \wedge B)C_1(\psi)(\phi \wedge \neg B)C_2(\psi)}{(\phi)\text{if } B\{C_1\}\text{else}\{C_2\}(\psi)} \text{If - statement}$$

$$\frac{(\psi \wedge B)C(\psi)}{(\psi)\text{while } B\{C\}(\psi \wedge \neg B)} \text{Partial - while}$$

$$\frac{\vdash_{AR} \phi \rightarrow \phi(\phi)C(\psi) \vdash_{AR} \psi \rightarrow \psi}{(\phi)C(\psi)} \text{Implied}$$

# Assignment

$$\frac{}{(\psi[E/x])x = E(\psi)}$$

- $\psi[E/x]$ 
  - Denotes the formula obtained by taking  $\psi$  and replacing all free occurrences of  $x$  with  $E$
  - $\psi$  with  $E$  in place of  $x$  - whatever  $\psi$  says about  $x$  but applied to  $E$  - must be true in the initial state
- **Backward verification** for  $(\psi[E/x])x=E(\psi)$ 
  - If we know  $\psi$  and wish to find  $\phi$  such that  $(\phi)x=E(\psi)$

# Examples

- If  $P: x=2$ , then are the followings true?
  - a)  $(|2=2|)P(|x=2|)$
  - b)  $(|2=4|)P(|x=4|)$   
✓  $(|\perp|)x=E(|\psi|)$
  - c)  $(|2=y|)P(|x=y|)$
  - d)  $(|2>0|)P(|x>0|)$
- $P: x=x+1$ 
  - a)  $(|x+1=2|)P(|x=2|)$
  - b)  $(|x+1=y|)P(|x=y|)$
  - c)  $(|x+1+5=y|)P(|x+5=y|)$
  - d)  $(|x+1>0 \wedge y>0|)P(|x>0 \wedge y>0|)$



# If-statements

$$\frac{(\phi \wedge B)C_1(\psi) \quad (\phi \wedge \neg B)C_2(\psi)}{(\phi)\text{if } B\{C_1\}\text{else}\{C_2\}(\psi)}$$

- $(|\phi|)\text{if } B\{C_1\}\text{else}\{C_2\}(|\psi|)$ 
  - Decompose it into two triples, subgoals corresponding to the cases of  $B = \text{true}$  and false

# While-statements

$$\frac{(\psi \wedge B)C(\psi)}{(\psi)\text{while } B \{ C \} (\psi \wedge \neg B)}$$

- Invariant  $\psi$
- No matter how many times the body  $C$  is executed, if  $\psi$  is true initially and the while-statement terminates, then  $\psi$  will be true at the end.
- Since the while-statement has terminated,  $B$  will be false.

# Implied

$$\frac{\vdash_{AR} \phi' \rightarrow \phi \quad (|\phi|)C(|\psi|) \quad \vdash_{AR} \psi \rightarrow \psi'}{(|\phi'|)C(|\psi'|)}$$

- A sequent  $\vdash_{AR} \phi \rightarrow \phi'$  is valid iff there is a proof of  $\phi'$  in the natural deduction calculus for predicate logic, where  $\phi$  and standard laws of arithmetic are premises.
- Precondition – **strengthened**
  - In general, we want weakest pre-condition to make a proof as general as possible
- Postcondition – **weakened**
  - In general, we want strongest post-condition to make a proof as general as possible

# Partial-correctness proof for Fac1 in tree form

- $(\{T\})\text{Fac1}(\{y=x!\})$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{\frac{\frac{(\{1=1\})y=1(\{y=1\})}{(\{T\})y=1(\{y=1\})} \quad \frac{(\{y=1 \wedge 0=0\})z=0(\{y=1 \wedge z=0\})}{(\{y=1\})z=0(\{y=1 \wedge z=0\})} \quad i}{(\{T\})y=1; z=0(\{y=1 \wedge z=0\})} \quad c \quad \frac{\frac{\frac{(\{y \cdot (z+1) = (z+1)!\})z=z+1(\{y \cdot z = z!\})}{(\{y = z! \wedge z \neq x\})z=z+1(\{y \cdot z = z!\})} \quad i \quad \frac{(\{y \cdot z = z!\})y = y * z(\{y = z!\})}{(\{y = z! \wedge z \neq x\})z=z+1; y = y * z(\{y = z!\})} \quad c}{(\{y = z!\})\text{while}(z! = x)\{z = z + 1; y = y * z\}(\{y = z! \wedge z = x\})} \quad w}{(\{y = 1 \wedge z = 0\})\text{while}(z! = x)\{z = z + 1; y = y * z\}(\{y = x!\})} \quad i \\
 \hline
 (\{T\})y = 1; z = 0; \text{while}(z! = x)\{z = z + 1; y = y * z\}(\{y = x!\}) \quad c
 \end{array}$$

```

Program Fac1:
  y=1 ;
  z=0;
  while (z != x) {
    z=z+1;
    y=y*z;
  }
    
```

# Proof Strategies

- How should the intermediate formulas  $\phi_i$  be found?
  - Backward works for assignment rule
  - Weakest precondition of  $C_{i+1}$ , given the postcondition  $\phi_{i+1}$
- Proof is constructed **bottom-up**
  - Justification makes sense when read top-down
  - The weakest precondition  $\phi'$  is then checked to see whether it follows from the given precondition  $\phi$ .
  - We appeal to the **Implied** rule.
    - An interface between predicate logic with arithmetic and program logic

# Examples 4.13.1

$\vdash_{\text{par}} (|y=5|) \ x=y+1 \ (|x=6|)$

$(|y=5|)$

$(|y+1=6|)$     **Implied**

$x=y+1$

$(|x=6|)$     **Assignment**

- Proof is constructed from the Bottom upwards.

# Example 4.13.3

- Goal is to show that  $u$  stores the sum of  $x$  and  $y$  after the following sequence of assignments terminates.

$z = x;$

$z = z + y;$

$u = z;$

- Proof backwards

$(\top)$

$(x+y=x+y)$  Implied

$z = x;$

$(z+y=x+y)$  Assignment

$z = z+y;$

$(z=x+y)$  Assignment

$u = z;$

$(u=x+y)$  Assignment

# Example 4.14: *If-statements*

`a = x + 1;`

$\phi_1$  is  $1 = x + 1$

`if (a - 1 == 0) {`

$\phi_2$  is  $a = x + 1$

`y = 1;`

`} else {`

`y = a;`

`}`

$$\frac{(\phi_1|)C_1(|\psi|) \quad (\phi_2|)C_2(|\psi|)}{((B \rightarrow \phi_1) \wedge (\neg B \rightarrow \phi_2)|)\text{if } B \{C_1\} \text{else } \{C_2\} (|\psi|)}$$

$$\frac{(\phi \wedge B|)C_1(|\psi|) \quad (\phi \wedge \neg B|)C_2(|\psi|)}{(\phi|)\text{if } B \{C_1\} \text{else } \{C_2\} (|\psi|)}$$



# Partial-While

$$\frac{(\eta \wedge B)C (\eta)}{(\eta) \text{while } B \{C\} (\eta \wedge \neg B)}$$

- $\eta$  is invariant.
- $(|\phi|) \text{ while } (B) \{C\} (|\psi|)$ 
  - $\phi$  and  $\psi$  are not related.
  - How to relate? -- Discover a suitable  $\eta$ , such that
    - $\vdash \phi \rightarrow \eta$
    - $\vdash \eta \wedge \neg B \rightarrow \psi$
    - $(|\eta|) \text{ while } (B) \{C\} (|\eta \wedge \neg B|)$  hold.
  - “Implied-rule” discovery
    - Dijkstra

# Binary Search Example

```
// Note that requires/ensures can access  
// only function parameters and return  
// value
```

```
/*@ requires
```

```
@ n >= 0 && \valid_range(t,0,n-1) &&
```

```
@ \forall int k1, int k2;
```

```
@ 0 <= k1 <= k2 <= n-1 => t[k1] <= t[k2]
```

```
@ ensures
```

```
@ (\result >= 0 && t[\result] == v) ||
```

```
@ (\result == -1 &&
```

```
@ \forall int k; 0 <= k < n => t[k] != v)
```

```
*/
```

```
int binary_search(int* t, int n, int v) {  
    int l = 0, u = n-1, p = -1;  
    /*@ invariant  
     @ 0 <= l && u <= n-1 && p == -1 &&  
     @ \forall int k;  
     @ 0 <= k < n => t[k] == v => l <= k <= u  
     @ variant u-l  
     @*/  
    while (l <= u) {  
        int m = (l + u) / 2;  
        /*@ assert l <= m <= u  
         if (t[m] < v)  
             l = m + 1;  
         else if (t[m] > v)  
             u = m - 1;  
         else {  
             p = m; break;  
         }  
    }  
    return p;  
}
```

# Snapshot of WHY Result

The screenshot displays the gWhy application window, titled "gWhy : Easy proof with easy tool". The interface is divided into several sections:

- File Configuration Proof**: A menu bar at the top.
- Proof obligations table**: A table with columns for the obligation name and five solvers: Alt-Ergo (uninstalled), Simplify 1.5.4 (Graph), Simplify 1.5.4, Z3 2.1 (SS), and Yices 1.0.24 (SS). The table lists 24 obligations for the "C function binary\_search Correctness".
 

Proof obligations	Alt-Ergo (uninstalled)	Simplify 1.5.4 (Graph)	Simplify 1.5.4	Z3 2.1 (SS)	Yices 1.0.24 (SS)
1. initialization of loop invariant	—	●	☞	●	☞
2. initialization of loop invariant	—	●	☞	●	☞
3. initialization of loop invariant	—	●	☞	●	☞
4. check division by zero	—	●	☞	●	☞
5. assertion	—	?	—	✂	—
6. assertion	—	?	—	✂	—
7. pointer dereferencing	—	●	☞	●	☞
8. preservation of loop invariant	—	●	☞	●	☞
9. preservation of loop invariant	—	●	☞	●	☞
10. preservation of loop invariant	—	●	☞	●	☞
11. preservation of loop invariant	—	●	☞	●	☞
12. preservation of loop invariant	—	●	☞	●	☞
13. variant decrease	—	●	☞	●	☞
14. variant decrease	—	●	☞	●	☞
15. pointer dereferencing	—	●	☞	●	☞
16. preservation of loop invariant	—	●	☞	●	☞
17. preservation of loop invariant	—	●	☞	●	☞
18. preservation of loop invariant	—	●	☞	●	☞
19. preservation of loop invariant	—	●	☞	●	☞
20. preservation of loop invariant	—	●	☞	●	☞
21. variant decrease	—	●	☞	●	☞
22. variant decrease	—	●	☞	●	☞
23. postcondition	—	●	☞	●	☞
24. postcondition	—	●	☞	●	☞
- Code Editor**: Contains C code for a binary search function with annotations.
 

```

n1. ((n >= 0 and valid_range(t, 0, n - 1)) and
(forall k1:int.
(forall k2:int.
(0 <= k1 and k1 <= k2) and k2 <= n - 1 ->
acc(intM_global, shift(t, k1)) <= acc(intM_global, shift(t,
k2))))))
l: int
p: int
u: int
H4: (((0 <= l and u <= n - 1) and p = -1) and
(forall k:int.
0 <= k and k < n ->
acc(intM_global, shift(t, k)) = v -> l <= k and k <= u))
H26: l > u

(p >= 0 and acc(intM_global, shift(t, p)) = v or
p = -1 and
(forall k:int. 0 <= k and k < n -> acc(intM_global, shift(t, k))
<= v))

/*@ requires
@ n >= 0 &&
@ \valid_range(t,0,n-1) &&
@ \forall int k1, int k2;
@ 0 <= k1 <= k2 <= n-1 => t[k1] <= t[k2]
@ ensures
@ (\result >= 0 && t[\result] == v) ||
@ (\result == -1 && \forall int k;
@ 0 <= k < n => t[k] != v)
*/
int binary_search(int* t, int n, int v) {
int l = 0, u = n-1, p = -1;

/*@ invariant
@ 0 <= l && u <= n-1 && p == -1 &&
@ \forall int k;
@ 0 <= k < n => t[k] == v => l <= k <= u
@ variant u-l
*/
while (l <= u) {
int m = (l + u) / 2;
/*@ assert l <= m <= u
if (t[m] < v)
l = m + 1;
else if (t[m] > v)
u = m - 1;
else {
p = m; break;
}

```
- Status Bar**: Shows "Timeout: 10", "Pretty Printer" checkbox, and "file: bi-search.c VC: postcondition".