

# CS 599: Formal Methods in Security and Privacy

Hoare Triples and Hoare Logic

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# Programming Language

```
c ::= abort
    | skip
    | x := e
    | c ; c
    | if e then c else c
    | while e do c
```

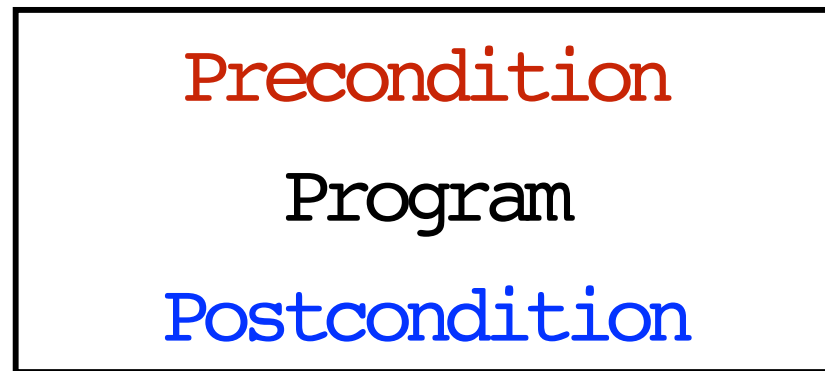
$x, y, z, \dots$  program variables

$e_1, e_2, \dots$  expressions

$c_1, c_2, \dots$  commands

# Specifications - Hoare triple

Precondition  
(a logical formula)



$$c : P \Rightarrow Q$$

Program

Postcondition  
(a logical formula)

# Some examples

Precondition

$$x := z + 1 : \{z + 1 > 0\} \Rightarrow \{x > 0\}$$

Postcondition

Is it a good  
specification?

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```
i:=0;  
r:=1;  
while(i≤k)do  
  r:=r * n;  
  i:=i + 1
```

Precondition

:  $\{0 \leq k\} \Rightarrow \{r = n^k\}$

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$$m_{in} = [k = 0, n = 2, i = 0, r = 0]$$

$$m_{out} = [k = 0, n = 2, i = 1, r = 2]$$



# Some examples

```
i:=0;  
r:=1;  
while(i≤k)do  
  r:=r * n;  
  i:=i + 1
```

Precondition

:  $\{0 < k\} \Rightarrow \{r = n^k\}$

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$$: \{0 < k\} \Rightarrow \{r = n^k\}$$

Postcondition

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$$m_{in} = [k = 1, n = 2, i = 0, r = 0]$$

$$m_{out} = [k = 1, n = 2, i = 2, r = 4]$$

# Some examples

```
i:=0;  
r:=1;  
while(i<k)do  
  r:=r * n;  
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```

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Precondition

:  $\{0 < k \wedge k < 0\} \Rightarrow \{r = n^k\}$

Postcondition

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i := 0;  
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Precondition

:  $\{0 < k \wedge k < 0\} \Rightarrow \{r = n^k\}$

Postcondition

Is it a good  
specification?



This is good because there is no  
memory that satisfies the precondition.

How do we determine the validity of an Hoare triple?

# Validity of Hoare triple

Precondition  
(a logical formula)



$$c : P \Rightarrow Q$$

Program

A black arrow pointing upwards from the word 'Program' to the symbol  $c$  in the Hoare triple  $c : P \Rightarrow Q$ .

Postcondition  
(a logical formula)

A blue arrow pointing upwards from the text 'Postcondition (a logical formula)' to the symbol  $Q$  in the Hoare triple  $c : P \Rightarrow Q$ .

# Validity of Hoare triple

Precondition  
(a logical formula)



$$c : P \Rightarrow Q$$

Program

Postcondition  
(a logical formula)

We are interested only in **inputs** that meets **P** and we want to have **outputs** satisfying **Q**.

# Validity of Hoare triple

Precondition  
(a logical formula)



$$C : P \Rightarrow Q$$

Program

Postcondition  
(a logical formula)

We are interested only in **inputs** that meets **P** and we want to have **outputs** satisfying **Q**.

How shall we formalize this intuition?

# Validity of Hoare triple

We say that the triple  $c : P \Rightarrow Q$  is **valid** if and only if

for every memory  $m$  such that  $P(m)$  and memory  $m'$  such that  $\{c\}_m = m'$  we have  $Q(m')$ .

# Validity of Hoare triple

We say that the triple  $c : P \Rightarrow Q$  is **valid** if and only if

for every memory  $m$  such that  $P(m)$  and memory  $m'$  such that  $\{c\}_m = m'$  we have  $Q(m')$ .

Is this condition easy to check?

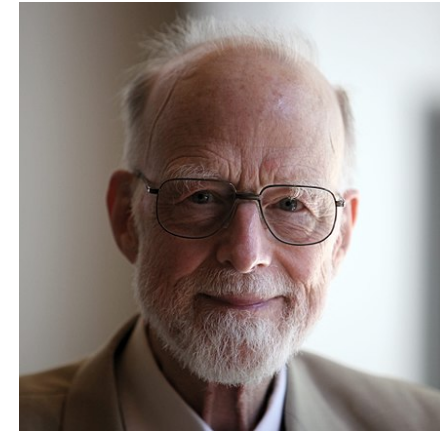


# Hoare Logic

# Floyd-Hoare reasoning



Robert W Floyd



Tony Hoare

A *verification* of an interpretation of a flowchart is a proof that for every command  $c$  of the flowchart, if control should enter the command by an entrance  $a_i$  with  $P_i$  true, then control must leave the command, if at all, by an exit  $b_j$  with  $Q_j$  true. A *semantic definition* of a particular set of command types, then, is a rule for constructing, for any command  $c$  of one of these types, a *verification condition*  $V_c(\mathbf{P}; \mathbf{Q})$  on the antecedents and consequents of  $c$ . This verification condition must be so constructed that a proof that the verification condition is satisfied for the antecedents and consequents of each command in a flowchart is a verification of the interpreted flowchart.

# Rules of Hoare Logic: Skip

---

$$\vdash \text{skip} : P \Rightarrow P$$

# Rules of Hoare Logic: Skip

---

$$\vdash \text{skip} : P \Rightarrow P$$

Is this correct?

# Correctness of an axiom

---

$$\vdash C : P \Rightarrow Q$$

We say that an axiom is **correct** if we can prove the **validity of each triple** which is an instance of the conclusion.

# Correctness of Skip Rule

---

$$\vdash \text{skip} : P \Rightarrow P$$

To show this rule **correct** we need to show the **validity of the triple**  $\text{skip} : P \Rightarrow P$ .

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For every  $m$  such that  $P(m)$  and  $m'$  such that  $\{\text{skip}\}_{m=m'}$  we need  $P(m')$ .

# Correctness of Skip Rule

$$\vdash \text{skip} : P \Rightarrow P$$

To show this rule **correct** we need to show the **validity of the triple**  $\text{skip} : P \Rightarrow P$ .

For every  $m$  such that  $P(m)$  and  $m'$  such that  $\{\text{skip}\}_{m=m'}$  we need  $P(m')$ .

Follow easily by our semantics:

$$\{\text{skip}\}_{m=m}$$



# Rules of Hoare Logic: Assignment

---

$$\vdash x := e : P \Rightarrow P [e / x]$$

# Rules of Hoare Logic: Assignment

---

$$\vdash x := e : P \Rightarrow P [e / x]$$

Is this correct?

# Some instances

$$x := x + 1 : \{x < 0\} \Rightarrow \{x + 1 < 0\}$$

Is this a valid triple?

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# Some instances

$$x := z + 1 : \{x > 0\} \Rightarrow \{z + 1 > 0\}$$

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# Rules of Hoare Logic: Assignment

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$$\vdash x := e \quad : \quad P [ e / x ] \Rightarrow P$$

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Is this a valid triple?



# Correctness Assignment Rule

$$\frac{}{\vdash x := e : P[e/x] \Rightarrow P}$$

To show this rule **correct** we need to show the **validity**  $x := e : P[e/x] \Rightarrow P$  for every  $x, e, P$ .

# Correctness Assignment Rule

---

$$\vdash x := e \quad : \quad P[e/x] \Rightarrow P$$

To show this rule **correct** we need to show the **validity**  $x := e : P[e/x] \Rightarrow P$  for every  $x, e, P$ .

For every  $m$  such that  $P[e/x](m)$  and  $m'$  such that  $\{x := e\}_m = m'$  we need  $P(m')$ .

# Correctness Assignment Rule

$$\frac{}{\vdash x := e : P[e/x] \Rightarrow P}$$

To show this rule **correct** we need to show the **validity**  $x := e : P[e/x] \Rightarrow P$  for every  $x, e, P$ .

For every  $m$  such that  $P[e/x](m)$  and  $m'$  such that  $\{x := e\}_m = m'$  we need  $P(m')$ .

**By our semantics:**  $\{x := e\}_m = m[x = \{e\}_m]$  **and**  
**we can show**  $P[e/x](m) = P(m[x = \{e\}_m])$

# Rules of Hoare Logic

## Composition

---

$$\vdash c; c' : P \Rightarrow Q$$



# Rules of Hoare Logic

## Composition

$$\vdash c : P \Rightarrow R$$

---

$$\vdash c ; c' : P \Rightarrow Q$$

# Rules of Hoare Logic

## Composition

$$\vdash c : P \Rightarrow R \quad \vdash c' : R \Rightarrow Q$$

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$$\vdash c ; c' : P \Rightarrow Q$$

# Rules of Hoare Logic

## Composition

$$\vdash c : P \Rightarrow R \quad \vdash c' : R \Rightarrow Q$$

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$$\vdash c ; c' : P \Rightarrow Q$$

Is this correct?

# Some Instances

$\vdash x := z * 2; z := x * 2$

$: \{(z * 2) * 2 = 8\} \Rightarrow \{z = 8\}$

Is this a valid triple?

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# Some Instances

How can we prove it?

---

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---

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# Correctness Composition Rule

$$\frac{\vdash c : P \Rightarrow R \quad \vdash c' : R \Rightarrow Q}{\vdash c ; c' : P \Rightarrow Q}$$

To show this rule **correct** we need to show the **validity**  $c ; c' : P \Rightarrow Q$  for every  $c, c', P, Q$ .



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To show this rule **correct** we need to show the **validity**  $c ; c' : P \Rightarrow Q$  for every  $c, c', P, Q$ .

For every  $m$  such that  $P(m)$  and  $m'$  such that  $\{c, c'\}_{m=m'}$  we need  $Q(m')$ .

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By our semantics:  $\{c ; c'\}_m = m'$  if and only if  
there is  $m''$  such that  
 $\{c\}_m = m''$  and  $\{c'\}_{m''} = m'$ .

# Correctness Composition Rule

$$\frac{\vdash c : P \Rightarrow R \quad \vdash c' : R \Rightarrow Q}{\vdash c ; c' : P \Rightarrow Q}$$

By our semantics:  $\{c ; c'\}_m = m'$  if and only if there is  $m''$  such that  $\{c\}_{m=m''}$  and  $\{c'\}_{m''=m'}$ .

Assuming  $c : P \Rightarrow R$  and  $c' : R \Rightarrow Q$  valid, if  $P(m)$  we can show  $R(m'')$  and if  $R(m'')$  we can show  $Q(m')$ , hence since we have  $P(m)$  we can conclude  $Q(m')$ .

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By our semantics:  $\{c ; c'\}_m = m'$  if and only if there is  $m''$  such that  $\{c\}_m = m''$  and  $\{c'\}_{m''} = m'$ .

Assuming  $c : P \Rightarrow R$  and  $c' : R \Rightarrow Q$  valid, if  $P(m)$  we can show  $R(m'')$  and if  $R(m'')$  we can show  $Q(m')$ , hence since we have  $P(m)$  we can conclude  $Q(m')$ . ✓

# Some examples

$$\vdash x := z * 2; z := x * 2$$
$$: \{z * 4 = 8\} \Rightarrow \{z = 8\}$$

Is this a valid triple?

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Can we prove it with the rules that we have?



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# Some Instances

What is the issue?

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# Some Instances

What is the issue?

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$$\vdash x := z * 2 : \{z * 4 = 8\} \Rightarrow \{x * 2 = 8\}$$

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$$\vdash x := z * 2; z := x * 2 : \{z * 4 = 8\} \Rightarrow \{z = 8\}$$

# Rules of Hoare Logic

## Consequence

$$P \Rightarrow S$$
$$\vdash C : S \Rightarrow R$$
$$R \Rightarrow Q$$

---

$$\vdash C : P \Rightarrow Q$$

# Some examples

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Can we prove it with the rules that we have?



# Some Instances

---

$$\vdash x := z * 2 \{ (z * 2) * 2 = 8 \} \Rightarrow \{ x * 2 = 8 \}$$

$$\{ z * 4 = 8 \} \Rightarrow \{ (z * 2) * 2 = 8 \}$$

---

$$\vdash x := z * 2: \{ z * 4 = 8 \} \Rightarrow \{ x * 2 = 8 \} \quad \vdash z := x * 2: \{ x * 2 = 8 \} \Rightarrow \{ z = 8 \}$$

---

$$\vdash x := z * 2; z := x * 2: \{ z * 4 = 8 \} \Rightarrow \{ z = 8 \}$$

# Rules of Hoare Logic

## If then else

---

$\vdash \text{if } e \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2 : P \Rightarrow Q$

# Rules of Hoare Logic

## If then else

$$\vdash c_1 : P \Rightarrow Q$$
$$\vdash c_2 : P \Rightarrow Q$$

---

$$\vdash \text{if } e \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2 : P \Rightarrow Q$$

# Rules of Hoare Logic

## If then else

 $\vdash c_1 : P \Rightarrow Q$  $\vdash c_2 : P \Rightarrow Q$ 

---

 $\vdash \text{if } e \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2 : P \Rightarrow Q$ 

Is this correct?

# Some examples

$\vdash$  if  $y = 0$  then skip else  $x := x + 1; x := x - 1$   
:  $\{x = 1\} \Rightarrow \{x = 1\}$

Is this a valid triple?

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$\vdash$  if  $y = 0$  then skip else  $x := x + 1; x := x - 1$   
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Can we prove it with the rules that we have?



# Some examples

$\vdash \text{if } y = 0 \text{ then skip else } x := x + 1; x := x - 1$   
 $: \{x = 1\} \Rightarrow \{x = 1\}$

Is this a valid triple?



Can we prove it with the rules that we have?



# Some Instances

$$\frac{\frac{\vdash \text{skip} : \{x = 1\} \Rightarrow \{x = 1\}}{\vdash \text{skip} : \{x = 1\} \Rightarrow \{x = 1\}} \quad \frac{\vdash x := x + 1; x := x - 1 : \{x = 1\} \Rightarrow \{x = 1\}}{\vdash x := x + 1; x := x - 1 : \{x = 1\} \Rightarrow \{x = 1\}}}{\vdash \text{if } y = 0 \text{ then skip else } x := x + 1; x := x - 1 : \{x = 1\} \Rightarrow \{x = 1\}}$$

# Rules of Hoare Logic

## If then else

$$\vdash c_1 : P \Rightarrow Q$$
$$\vdash c_2 : P \Rightarrow Q$$

---

$$\vdash \text{if } e \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2 : P \Rightarrow Q$$

# Rules of Hoare Logic

## If then else

$$\vdash c_1 : P \Rightarrow Q$$
$$\vdash c_2 : P \Rightarrow Q$$

---

$$\vdash \text{if } e \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2 : P \Rightarrow Q$$

Is this strong enough?

# Some examples

$\vdash$  if false then skip else  $x = x + 1$   
:  $\{x = 0\} \Rightarrow \{x = 1\}$

Is this a valid triple?

# Some examples

$\vdash$  if false then skip else  $x = x + 1$   
:  $\{x = 0\} \Rightarrow \{x = 1\}$

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# Some examples

$\vdash$  if false then skip else  $x = x + 1$   
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Can we prove it with the rules that we have?

# Some examples

$\vdash$  if false then skip else  $x = x + 1$   
:  $\{x = 0\} \Rightarrow \{x = 1\}$

Is this a valid triple?



Can we prove it with the rules that we have?





# Rules of Hoare Logic

## If then else

$$\frac{\vdash c_1 : e \wedge P \Rightarrow Q \quad \vdash c_2 : \neg e \wedge P \Rightarrow Q}{\vdash \text{if } e \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2 : P \Rightarrow Q}$$

Is this correct?

# Rules of Hoare Logic

## If then else

$$\frac{\vdash c_1 : e \wedge P \Rightarrow Q \quad \vdash c_2 : \neg e \wedge P \Rightarrow Q}{\vdash \text{if } e \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2 : P \Rightarrow Q}$$

Is this correct?

Homework

# Rules of Hoare Logic: Abort

---

$\vdash \text{Abort} : ? \Rightarrow ?$

# Rules of Hoare Logic: Abort

---

$\vdash \text{Abort} : ? \Rightarrow ?$

What can be a good  
specification?

# Validity of Hoare triple

We say that the triple  $c : P \Rightarrow Q$  is **valid** if and only if

for every memory  $m$  such that  $P(m)$  and memory  $m'$  such that  $\{c\}_m = m'$  we have  $Q(m')$ .

# Rules of Hoare Logic: Abort

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$\vdash \text{Abort} : P \Rightarrow Q$

# Rules of Hoare Logic: Abort

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$$\vdash \text{Abort} : P \Rightarrow Q$$

To show this rule **correct** we need to show the **validity**  $\text{Abort} : P \Rightarrow Q$  for every  $P, Q$ .

# Rules of Hoare Logic: Abort

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To show this rule **correct** we need to show the **validity**  $\text{Abort} : P \Rightarrow Q$  for every  $P, Q$ .

For every  $m$  such that  $P(m)$  and  $m'$  such that  $\{\text{Abort}\}_{m=m'}$  we need  $Q(m')$ .



# Rules of Hoare Logic: Abort

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$$\vdash \text{Abort} : P \Rightarrow Q$$

To show this rule **correct** we need to show the **validity**  $\text{Abort} : P \Rightarrow Q$  for every  $P, Q$ .

For every  $m$  such that  $P(m)$  and  $m'$  such that  $\{\text{Abort}\}_{m=m'}$  we need  $Q(m')$ .

**Vacuously True**

# Rules of Hoare Logic

## While

---

$\vdash \text{while } e \text{ do } c : ??$

# Rules of Hoare Logic

## While

$$P \Rightarrow \neg e$$

---

$\vdash \text{while } e \text{ do } c : P \Rightarrow P$

# Rules of Hoare Logic

## While

$$P \Rightarrow e$$
$$\vdash c : P \Rightarrow P$$

---

$$\vdash \text{while } e \text{ do } c : P \Rightarrow P$$

# Rules of Hoare Logic

## While

$$\vdash c : e \wedge P \Rightarrow P$$

---

$$\vdash \text{while } e \text{ do } c : P \Rightarrow P \wedge \neg e$$

Invariant



# An example

$\vdash \text{while } x = 0 \text{ do } x := x + 1$   
 $\quad : \{x = 1\} \Rightarrow \{x = 1\}$

How can we derive this?

# An example

$\vdash \text{while } x = 0 \text{ do } x := x + 1$   
 $\quad \quad \quad : \{x = 1\} \Rightarrow \{x = 1\}$

What can be a good Invariant?

# An example

$\vdash \text{while } x = 0 \text{ do } x := x + 1$   
 $\quad : \{x = 1\} \Rightarrow \{x = 1\}$

What can be a good Invariant?

$\text{Inv} = \{x = 1\}$



# An example

---

$\vdash \text{while } x = 0 \text{ do } x := x + 1 : \{x = 1\} \Rightarrow \{x = 1\}$

# An example

---

$\vdash \text{while } x = 0 \text{ do } x := x + 1: \{x = 1\} \Rightarrow \{x = 1 \wedge x \neq 0\}$        $x = 1 \wedge x \neq 0 \Rightarrow x = 1$

---

$\vdash \text{while } x = 0 \text{ do } x := x + 1: \{x = 1\} \Rightarrow \{x = 1\}$

# An example

$$x = 1 \wedge x = 0 \Rightarrow x + 1 = 1$$

$$\vdash x := x + 1 : \{x + 1 = 1\} \Rightarrow \{x = 1\}$$

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$$\vdash x := x + 1 : \{x = 1 \wedge x = 0\} \Rightarrow \{x = 1\}$$

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$$\vdash \text{while } x = 0 \text{ do } x := x + 1 : \{x = 1\} \Rightarrow \{x = 1 \wedge x \neq 0\}$$

$$x = 1 \wedge x \neq 0 \Rightarrow x = 1$$

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$$\vdash \text{while } x = 0 \text{ do } x := x + 1 : \{x = 1\} \Rightarrow \{x = 1\}$$

# Another example

$\vdash$ 

<pre>x := 3; y := 1; while x &gt; 1 do   y := y + 1;   x := x - 1;</pre>
--

 :  $\{true\} \Rightarrow \{y = 3\}$

How can we derive this?

# Another example

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<pre>x := 3; y := 1; while x &gt; 1 do   y := y + 1;   x := x - 1;</pre>
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 :  $\{true\} \Rightarrow \{y = 3\}$

What can be a good Invariant?

# Another example

$\vdash$ 

<pre>x := 3; y := 1; while x &gt; 1 do   y := y + 1;   x := x - 1;</pre>
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 :  $\{true\} \Rightarrow \{y = 3\}$

What can be a good Invariant?

$$Inv = \{y = 4 - x \wedge x \geq 1\}$$

How do we know that these  
are the right rules?



# Soundness

If we can derive  $\vdash C : P \Rightarrow Q$  through the rules of the logic, then the triple  $C : P \Rightarrow Q$  is valid.

Are the rules we presented  
sound?

# Completeness

If a triple  $c : P \Rightarrow Q$  is valid, then  
we can derive  $\vdash c : P \Rightarrow Q$  through  
the rules of the logic.

Are the rules we presented  
complete?

# Relative Completeness

 $P \Rightarrow S$  $\vdash C : S \Rightarrow R$  $R \Rightarrow Q$ 

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 $\vdash C : P \Rightarrow Q$

# Relative Completeness

$$P \Rightarrow S \quad \vdash c : S \Rightarrow R \quad R \Rightarrow Q$$

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$$\vdash c : P \Rightarrow Q$$

If a triple  $c : \text{Pre} \Rightarrow \text{Post}$  is valid, and we have an oracle to derive all the true statements of the form  $P \Rightarrow S$  and of the form  $R \Rightarrow Q$ , which we can use in applications of the conseq rule, then we can derive  $\vdash c : \text{Pre} \Rightarrow \text{Post}$  through the rules of the logic.