

An Application of Auxiliary Variables

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An ad hoc proof of the list reversal program:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \{\text{list } \alpha_0 \text{ } i\} \\
& \{\text{list } \alpha_0 \text{ } i * (\mathbf{emp} \wedge \mathbf{nil} = \mathbf{nil})\} \\
& j := \mathbf{nil}; \\
& \{\text{list } \alpha_0 \text{ } i * (\mathbf{emp} \wedge j = \mathbf{nil})\} \\
& \{\text{list } \alpha_0 \text{ } i * \text{list } \epsilon j\} \\
\Rightarrow & \{\exists \alpha, \beta. (\text{list } \alpha \text{ } i * \text{list } \beta j) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = \alpha^\dagger \cdot \beta\} \\
& \mathbf{while } i \neq \mathbf{nil} \mathbf{ do} \\
& \quad \left(\{\exists \alpha, \beta. (\text{list } \alpha \text{ } i * \text{list } \beta j) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = \alpha^\dagger \cdot \beta \wedge \alpha \neq \epsilon\} \right. \\
\Rightarrow & \{\exists a, \alpha, \beta. (\text{list } (a \cdot \alpha) \text{ } i * \text{list } \beta j) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = (a \cdot \alpha)^\dagger \cdot \beta\} \\
& \quad \{\exists a, \alpha, \beta, k. (i \mapsto a, k * \text{list } \alpha \text{ } k * \text{list } \beta j) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = (a \cdot \alpha)^\dagger \cdot \beta\} \\
& \quad k := [i + 1]; \\
& \quad \{\exists a, \alpha, \beta. (i \mapsto a, k * \text{list } \alpha \text{ } k * \text{list } \beta j) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = (a \cdot \alpha)^\dagger \cdot \beta\} \\
& \quad [i + 1] := j; \\
& \quad \{\exists a, \alpha, \beta. (i \mapsto a, j * \text{list } \alpha \text{ } k * \text{list } \beta j) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = (a \cdot \alpha)^\dagger \cdot \beta\} \\
& \quad \{\exists a, \alpha, \beta. (\text{list } \alpha \text{ } k * \text{list } (a \cdot \beta) \text{ } i) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = \alpha^\dagger \cdot a \cdot \beta\} \\
\Rightarrow & \{\exists \alpha, \beta. (\text{list } \alpha \text{ } k * \text{list } \beta i) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = \alpha^\dagger \cdot \beta\} \\
& \quad j := i; i := k \\
& \quad \left. \{\exists \alpha, \beta. (\text{list } \alpha \text{ } i * \text{list } \beta j) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = \alpha^\dagger \cdot \beta\} \right) \\
& \{\exists \alpha, \beta. \text{list } \beta j \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = \alpha^\dagger \cdot \beta \wedge \alpha = \epsilon\} \\
& \{\text{list } \alpha_0^\dagger j\}
\end{aligned}$$

Note the change of existential witnesses.

A Derivation — the abstract program:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \{\mathbf{true}\} \\
& \{\alpha_0^\dagger = \alpha_0^\dagger \cdot \epsilon\} \\
& \alpha := \alpha_0 ; \beta := \epsilon ; \\
& \{\alpha_0^\dagger = \alpha^\dagger \cdot \beta\} \\
& \mathbf{while} \alpha \neq \epsilon \mathbf{do} \\
& \quad \left(\{\alpha_0^\dagger = \alpha^\dagger \cdot \beta \wedge \alpha \neq \epsilon\} \right. \\
& \quad \quad \{\alpha_0^\dagger = (\mathbf{f} \alpha \cdot \mathbf{r} \alpha)^\dagger \cdot \beta\} \\
& \quad \quad \{\alpha_0^\dagger = (\mathbf{r} \alpha)^\dagger \cdot (\mathbf{f} \alpha) \cdot \beta\} \\
& \quad \quad \beta := (\mathbf{f} \alpha) \cdot \beta ; \\
& \quad \quad \{\alpha_0^\dagger = (\mathbf{r} \alpha)^\dagger \cdot \beta\} \\
& \quad \quad \alpha := \mathbf{r} \alpha ; \\
& \quad \quad \left. \{\alpha_0^\dagger = \alpha^\dagger \cdot \beta\} \right) \\
& \{\alpha_0^\dagger = \alpha^\dagger \cdot \beta \wedge \alpha = \epsilon\} \\
& \{\beta = \alpha_0^\dagger\}
\end{aligned}$$

where $\mathbf{f}(a \cdot \alpha) = a$ and $\mathbf{r}(a \cdot \alpha) = \alpha$.

Adding the concrete representation: $\text{list } \alpha \ i * \text{list } \beta \ j$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \{\text{list } \alpha_0 \ i\} \\
& \{\text{list } \alpha_0 \ i * (\mathbf{emp} \wedge \mathbf{nil} = \mathbf{nil})\} \\
& \boxed{j := \mathbf{nil}}; \\
& \{\text{list } \alpha_0 \ i * (\mathbf{emp} \wedge j = \mathbf{nil})\} \\
& \{\text{list } \alpha_0 \ i * \text{list } \epsilon \ j\} \\
& \{(\text{list } \alpha_0 \ i * \text{list } \epsilon \ j) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = \alpha_0^\dagger \cdot \epsilon\} \\
& \alpha := \alpha_0; \beta := \epsilon; \\
& \{(\text{list } \alpha \ i * \text{list } \beta \ j) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = \alpha^\dagger \cdot \beta\} \\
& \mathbf{while } \alpha \neq \epsilon \ \mathbf{do} \\
& \quad (\{(\text{list } \alpha \ i * \text{list } \beta \ j) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = \alpha^\dagger \cdot \beta \wedge \alpha \neq \epsilon\} \\
& \quad \quad \{(\text{list } (\mathbf{f} \ \alpha \cdot \mathbf{r} \ \alpha) \ i * \text{list } \beta \ j) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = (\mathbf{f} \ \alpha \cdot \mathbf{r} \ \alpha)^\dagger \cdot \beta\} \\
& \quad \quad \{\exists k. (i \mapsto \mathbf{f} \ \alpha, k * \text{list } (\mathbf{r} \ \alpha) \ k * \text{list } \beta \ j) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = (\mathbf{f} \ \alpha \cdot \mathbf{r} \ \alpha)^\dagger \cdot \beta\} \\
& \quad \quad \boxed{k := [i + 1]}; \\
& \quad \quad \{(i \mapsto \mathbf{f} \ \alpha, k * \text{list } (\mathbf{r} \ \alpha) \ k * \text{list } \beta \ j) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = (\mathbf{f} \ \alpha \cdot \mathbf{r} \ \alpha)^\dagger \cdot \beta\} \\
& \quad \quad \boxed{[i + 1] := j}; \\
& \quad \quad \{(i \mapsto \mathbf{f} \ \alpha, j * \text{list } (\mathbf{r} \ \alpha) \ k * \text{list } \beta \ j) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = (\mathbf{f} \ \alpha \cdot \mathbf{r} \ \alpha)^\dagger \cdot \beta\} \\
& \quad \quad \{(i \mapsto \mathbf{f} \ \alpha, j * \text{list } (\mathbf{r} \ \alpha) \ k * \text{list } \beta \ j) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = (\mathbf{r} \ \alpha)^\dagger \cdot (\mathbf{f} \ \alpha) \cdot \beta\} \\
& \quad \quad \{(\text{list } (\mathbf{r} \ \alpha) \ k * \text{list } (\mathbf{f} \ \alpha) \cdot \beta \ i) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = (\mathbf{r} \ \alpha)^\dagger \cdot (\mathbf{f} \ \alpha) \cdot \beta\} \\
& \quad \quad \beta := (\mathbf{f} \ \alpha) \cdot \beta; \\
& \quad \quad \{(\text{list } (\mathbf{r} \ \alpha) \ k * \text{list } \beta \ i) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = (\mathbf{r} \ \alpha)^\dagger \cdot \beta\} \\
& \quad \quad \alpha := \mathbf{r} \ \alpha; \\
& \quad \quad \{(\text{list } \alpha \ k * \text{list } \beta \ i) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = \alpha^\dagger \cdot \beta\} \\
& \quad \quad \boxed{j := i; i := k} \\
& \quad \quad \{(\text{list } \alpha \ i * \text{list } \beta \ j) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = \alpha^\dagger \cdot \beta\}) \\
& \{\text{list } \beta \ j \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = \alpha^\dagger \cdot \beta \wedge \alpha = \epsilon\} \\
& \{\text{list } \alpha_0^\dagger \ j\}
\end{aligned}$$

Making the while-test concrete:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \{\text{list } \alpha_0 \text{ } i\} \\
& \{\text{list } \alpha_0 \text{ } i * (\text{emp} \wedge \text{nil} = \text{nil})\} \\
& j := \text{nil}; \\
& \{\text{list } \alpha_0 \text{ } i * (\text{emp} \wedge j = \text{nil})\} \\
& \{\text{list } \alpha_0 \text{ } i * \text{list } \epsilon \text{ } j\} \\
& \{(\text{list } \alpha_0 \text{ } i * \text{list } \epsilon \text{ } j) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = \alpha_0^\dagger \cdot \epsilon\} \\
& \alpha := \alpha_0; \beta := \epsilon; \\
& \{(\text{list } \alpha \text{ } i * \text{list } \beta \text{ } j) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = \alpha^\dagger \cdot \beta\} \\
& \text{while } \boxed{i \neq \text{nil}} \text{ do} \\
& \quad \left(\{(\text{list } \alpha \text{ } i * \text{list } \beta \text{ } j) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = \alpha^\dagger \cdot \beta \wedge \alpha \neq \epsilon\} \right. \\
& \quad \quad \{(\text{list } (\mathbf{f} \alpha \cdot \mathbf{r} \alpha) \text{ } i * \text{list } \beta \text{ } j) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = (\mathbf{f} \alpha \cdot \mathbf{r} \alpha)^\dagger \cdot \beta\} \\
& \quad \quad \{\exists k. (i \mapsto \mathbf{f} \alpha, k * \text{list } (\mathbf{r} \alpha) \text{ } k * \text{list } \beta \text{ } j) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = (\mathbf{f} \alpha \cdot \mathbf{r} \alpha)^\dagger \cdot \beta\} \\
& \quad \quad k := [i + 1]; \\
& \quad \quad \{(i \mapsto \mathbf{f} \alpha, k * \text{list } (\mathbf{r} \alpha) \text{ } k * \text{list } \beta \text{ } j) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = (\mathbf{f} \alpha \cdot \mathbf{r} \alpha)^\dagger \cdot \beta\} \\
& \quad \quad [i + 1] := j; \\
& \quad \quad \{(i \mapsto \mathbf{f} \alpha, j * \text{list } (\mathbf{r} \alpha) \text{ } k * \text{list } \beta \text{ } j) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = (\mathbf{f} \alpha \cdot \mathbf{r} \alpha)^\dagger \cdot \beta\} \\
& \quad \quad \{(i \mapsto \mathbf{f} \alpha, j * \text{list } (\mathbf{r} \alpha) \text{ } k * \text{list } \beta \text{ } j) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = (\mathbf{r} \alpha)^\dagger \cdot (\mathbf{f} \alpha) \cdot \beta\} \\
& \quad \quad \{(\text{list } (\mathbf{r} \alpha) \text{ } k * \text{list } (\mathbf{f} \alpha) \cdot \beta \text{ } i) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = (\mathbf{r} \alpha)^\dagger \cdot (\mathbf{f} \alpha) \cdot \beta\} \\
& \quad \quad \beta := (\mathbf{f} \alpha) \cdot \beta; \\
& \quad \quad \{(\text{list } (\mathbf{r} \alpha) \text{ } k * \text{list } \beta \text{ } i) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = (\mathbf{r} \alpha)^\dagger \cdot \beta\} \\
& \quad \quad \alpha := \mathbf{r} \alpha; \\
& \quad \quad \{(\text{list } \alpha \text{ } k * \text{list } \beta \text{ } i) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = \alpha^\dagger \cdot \beta\} \\
& \quad \quad j := i; i := k \\
& \quad \quad \left. \{(\text{list } \alpha \text{ } i * \text{list } \beta \text{ } j) \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = \alpha^\dagger \cdot \beta\} \right) \\
& \{\text{list } \beta \text{ } j \wedge \alpha_0^\dagger = \alpha^\dagger \cdot \beta \wedge \alpha = \epsilon\} \\
& \{\text{list } \alpha_0^\dagger \text{ } j\}
\end{aligned}$$

Eliminating assignments to the auxiliary variables α and β :

```

{list  $\alpha_0$  i}
j := nil;
 $\alpha := \alpha_0 ; \beta := \epsilon$ ;
while i  $\neq$  nil do
  (k := [i + 1];
   [i + 1] := j;
    $\beta := (\mathbf{f} \alpha) \cdot \beta$ ;
    $\alpha := \mathbf{r} \alpha$ ;
   j := i ; i := k)
{list  $\alpha_0^\dagger$  j}

```