

Abella2Coq: Translating Abella Specifications into Coq

Informatik Masterprojekt in der Theoretischen Informatik,
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With thanks to Johannes Lindner for his advice and input

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The proof assistant **Abella** takes a “two-level approach” to dealing with PL meta-theory and binders, distinguishing between a **specification** and **reasoning logic**.

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What is to be done?

- Understand Abella and its specification logic (λ Prolog)

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What is to be done?

- Understand Abella and its specification logic (λ Prolog)
- Introduce **Coq-ELPI** and **Hybrid**
- Give an overview of software engineering process

Section 1

Necessary Background

- A proof assistant based on a two-level approach
 - ① **Specification Logic** Based on λ Prolog/hereditary Harrop formulas, with an *open world* assumption
 - ② **Reasoning Logic** Based on “logic \mathcal{G} ”, with a *closed world* assumption, used to reason about specifications

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- Reasoning over nominal constants using ∇ quantifiers (Baelde et al. 2014, p. 32f.).

$$\nabla x \nabla y. x \neq y$$

$$\nabla x. P = P \iff x \notin \text{FV}(P)$$

$$\nabla x \nabla y. P = \nabla y \nabla x. P$$

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- An interactive tactic-based system, with proof search.

```
Theorem add_step :  
  forall A B C,  
    add A B C ->  
      add A (s B) (s C).  
induction on 1.  
intros. case H1.  
  search.  
  apply IH to H2. search.
```

What is Abella good for?

Baelde et al. 2014; Gacek, Miller, and Nadathur 2011; Tiu 2007

- A proof assistant based on a two-level approach
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- Reasoning over nominal constants using ∇ quantifiers (Baelde et al. 2014, p. 32f.).
- An interactive tactic-based system, with proof search.
- **Brittle user experience.**

...

Error: Sys_error("/home/philip

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Error: Sys_error("/home/philip

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...

```
Theorem member_nominal_absurd :  
  forall L T, nabla x,  
    member (of x T) L -> false.
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case H1.  
  apply IH to H2.
```



```
type-uniq.sig
```

```
sig type-uniq.
```

```
kind tm, ty type.
```

```
type of      tm -> ty -> o.
```

```
type-uniq.mod
```

```
module type-uniq.
```

```
of (abs R) (arrow T U) :-
```

```
  pi x\ of x T => of (R x) U.
```

```
of (app M N) T :- of M (arrow U T), of N U.
```

The *Specification Logic as a Relational Specifications*

Miller 1988; Miller and Nadathur 2012; Miller 2000; Belleannée, Brisset, and Ridoux 1999

λ Prolog “extends” Prolog with

- Generalising Horn-Clauses to intuitionistic Higher Order Hereditary Harrop Formulae.

$H ::= x t_1 \dots t_n \mid H \wedge H \mid \forall X. H \mid \exists x. H \mid G \implies H$ (Program)

$G ::= x t_1 \dots t_n \mid X t_1 \dots t_n \mid G \wedge G \mid G \vee G \mid$ (Queries)

$\exists X. G \mid \forall x. G \mid H \implies G$

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λ Prolog “extends” Prolog with

- Generalising Horn-Clauses to intuitionistic Higher Order Hereditary Harrop Formulae.
- Static typing for predicates, functors and individuals.

```
kind list type.  
type nil list.  
type :: int -> list -> list.  
type append list -> list -> list -> o.  
append (X :: L) K (X :: M) :- append L K M.  
append nil K K.
```

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- **H**igher **O**rders **A**bstract **S**yntax (HOAS) using typed λ -tree syntax

```
type app tm -> tm -> tm.  
type abs (tm -> tm) -> tm.
```

```
% Y-Combinator:  $\lambda f. \lambda x. f(x x) \lambda x. f(x x)$   
(abs f \ (app (x \ (app f (app x x))) (x \ (app f (app x x))))))
```

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- Higher-Order Unification, i.e. λ -term unification modulo $\alpha\beta\eta$ -conversion

```
kind person type.
```

```
type bob sue ned person.
```

```
type age person -> int -> o.
```

```
age bob 23. age sue 24. age ned 23.
```

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```
type bob sue ned person.
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```
type age person -> int -> o.
```

```
age bob 23. age sue 24. age ned 23.
```

```
?- forevery (x\ age x A) (ned :: bob :: nil).
```

```
A == 23.
```

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no.
```

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- **H**igher **O**rders **A**bstract **S**yntax (HOAS) using typed λ -tree syntax
- Higher-Order Unification, i.e. λ -term unification modulo $\alpha\beta\eta$ -conversion
- Support for hypothetical reasoning


```
type-uniq.sig
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```
sig type-uniq.
```

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```

```
type of      tm -> ty -> o.
```

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type-uniq.mod
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module type-uniq.
```

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of (abs R) (arrow T U) :-
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```

Example

```
type app tm -> tm -> tm.  
type abs (tm -> tm) -> tm.
```

Interpretation as an inductive datatype

Example

```
type app tm -> tm -> tm.  
type abs (tm -> tm) -> tm.
```

Interpretation as an inductive datatype

```
Inductive tm : Set :=  
  app : tm -> tm -> tm  
| abs : (tm -> tm) -> tm.
```

Example

```
type app tm -> tm -> tm.  
type abs (tm -> tm) -> tm.
```

Interpretation as an inductive datatype

```
Inductive tm : Set :=  
  app : tm -> tm -> tm  
| abs : (tm -> tm) -> tm.  
(* Error: Non strictly positive occurrence of "tm" in  
   "(tm -> tm) -> tm". *)
```

Example

```
type app tm -> tm -> tm.  
type abs (tm -> tm) -> tm.
```

Interpretation as an inductive datatype

```
#[bypass_check(positivity)]  
Inductive tm : Set :=  
  app : tm -> tm -> tm  
| abs : (tm -> tm) -> tm.
```


Example

```
type app tm -> tm -> tm.  
type abs (tm -> tm) -> tm.
```

Interpretation as an inductive datatype (Chlipala 2022)

```
#[bypass_check(positivity)]  
Inductive tm : Set :=  
  app : tm -> tm -> tm  
| abs : (tm -> tm) -> tm.
```

```
Definition uhoh (t : tm) : tm :=  
  match t with abs f => f t | _ => t end.
```

The ELPI language and the Coq-ELPI Plugin

Tassi 2018; Dunchev, Sacerdoti Coen, and Tassi 2016

ELPI is an extended variant of λ Prolog with constraint handling rules. . .

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- Can be embedded into applications, such as **Coq-ELPI**.

```
Elpi Query lp:{{  
of (abs x\abs y\app y x) X.  
}}.
```

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ELPI is an extended variant of λ Prolog with constraint handling rules. . .

- Can be embedded into applications, such as **Coq-ELPI**.
- Coq-ELPI can introspect the Coq environment

```
Elpi Query lp:{{  
  coq.locate "nat" Nat,  
  (global Nat) = {{ nat }}.  
}}.
```

The ELPI language and the Coq-ELPI Plugin

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- Can be embedded into applications, such as **Coq-ELPI**.
- Coq-ELPI can introspect, and manipulate the Coq environment

```
Elpi Query lp:{{  
  . . . ,  
  coq.env.add-indt Decl _ .  
}}.
```

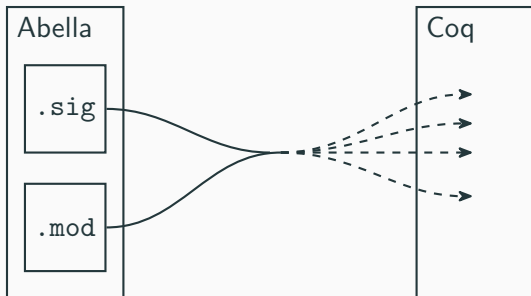
The ELPI language and the Coq-ELPI Plugin

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ELPI is an extended variant of λ Prolog with constraint handling rules. . .

- Can be embedded into applications, such as **Coq-ELPI**.
- Coq-ELPI can introspect, and manipulate the Coq environment
- Tactics and commands can be implemented in Coq-ELPI.

```
Elpi Command Say.  
Elpi Accumulate lp:{{  
  main [str S] :- coq.say S.  
}}.  
Elpi Typecheck.  
Elpi Export Say.
```



Abella

```
kind nat type.  
type z nat.  
type s nat -> nat.
```

Coq

```
Inductive nat : Set :=  
| z : nat  
| s : nat -> nat.
```


Abella

```
kind nat type.  
type z nat.  
type s nat -> nat.
```

Coq

```
Inductive nat : Set :=  
| z : nat  
| s : nat -> nat.
```

but that's hardly a typical Abella specification...

Abella is well-suited for reasoning about languages with binders by using HOAS...

What about **Coq**?

```
Inductive uexp : Set :=  
| uapp : uexp -> uexp -> uexp  
| uabs : (uexp -> uexp) -> uexp.
```

```
Inductive uexp : Set :=  
| uapp : uexp -> uexp -> uexp  
| uabs : (uexp -> uexp) -> uexp.
```

Error: Non strictly positive occurrence of "uexp" in
"(uexp -> uexp) -> uexp".

So what are the alternative approaches to representing binders in Coq?

Definition `var : Set := string.`

Inductive term : Set :=

| `Var : var -> term`

| `App : term -> term -> term`

| `Abs : var -> term -> term.`



```
Inductive term : Set :=  
| BND : nat -> term  
| APP : term -> term -> term  
| ABS : term -> term.
```

```
Inductive uexp : Set :=  
| uapp : uexp -> uexp -> uexp  
| uabs : (uexp -> uexp) -> uexp.
```



```
Parameter var : Set.  
Inductive uexp : Set :=  
| uapp : uexp -> uexp -> uexp  
| uabs : (var -> uexp) -> uexp.
```

```
Parameter var : Set.  
Inductive uexp : Set :=  
| uapp : uexp -> uexp -> uexp  
| uabs : (var -> uexp) -> uexp  
| uvar : var -> uexp.
```

Autosubst 1

- takes in a de Bruijn specification (in Coq) with Binding annotations

Autosubst 1

- takes in a de Bruijn specification (in Coq) with Binding annotations
- generates substitution algorithm and substitution lemmata

Autosubst 1

- takes in a de Bruijn specification (in Coq) with Binding annotations
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Autosubst 2

Autosubst 1

- takes in a de Bruijn specification (in Coq) with Binding annotations
- generates substitution algorithm and substitution lemmata

Autosubst 2

- takes a HOAS specification

Autosubst 1

- takes in a de Bruijn specification (in Coq) with Binding annotations
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Autosubst 2

- takes a HOAS specification
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Two level approach

Object logic HOAS encoding of a formal system

Base level expands terms to de Bruijn representation

Two level approach

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Base level expands terms to de Bruijn representation

- Details of de Bruijn representation are hidden

Two level approach

Object logic HOAS encoding of a formal system

Base level expands terms to de Bruijn representation

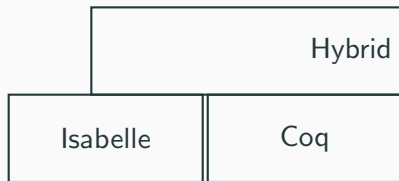
- Details of de Bruijn representation are hidden
- Specification logic is flexible

Approach	HOAS-like	Reasoning Logic
Concrete Syntax		
de Bruijn		
PHOAS	✓	
Autosubst 1		
Autosubst 2	✓	
Hybrid	✓	✓

Isabelle

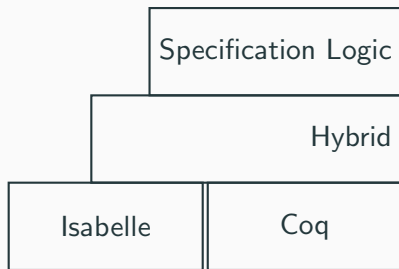
Coq

Simplification and Induction



Meta-Language for λ -Calculus

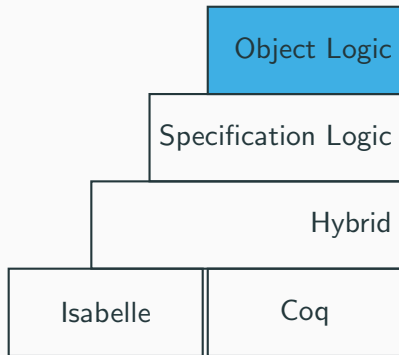
Simplification and Induction



Sequent Calculus

Meta-Language for λ -Calculus

Simplification and Induction

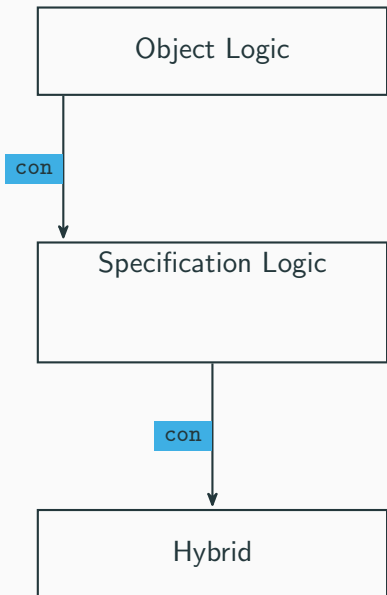


Syntax and Semantics

Sequent Calculus

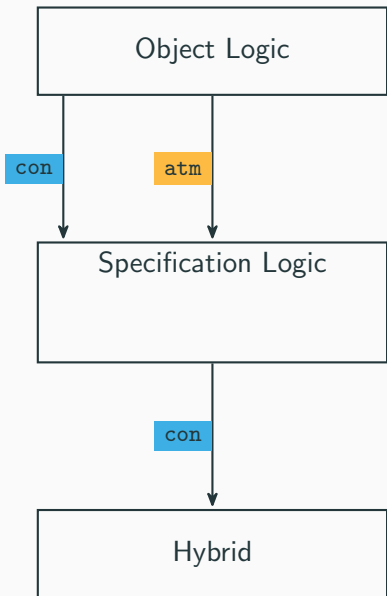
Meta-Language for λ -Calculus

Simplification and Induction



Types

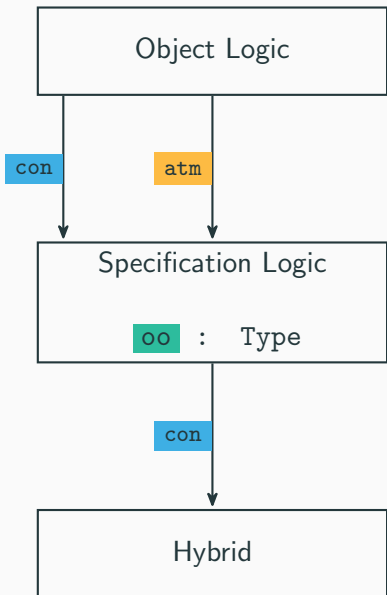
`con` : Set



Types

con : Set

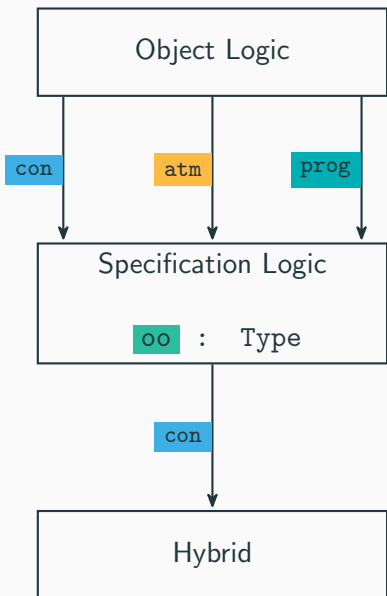
atm : Set



Types

`con` : Set

`atm` : Set



Types

```
con : Set  
atm : Set  
prog : atm -> oo -> Prop
```

- Second-Order Minimal logic (Momigliano, Martin, and A. P. Felty 2008)

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- Hereditary Harrop Formulas (Battell and A. Felty 2016)

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In both cases, a sequent calculus is provided as an inductive type.

```
Inductive oo : Type :=  
  | atom : atm -> oo
```

```
Notation "<< a >>" := (atom a).
```

```
Inductive oo : Type :=  
  | atom : atm -> oo  
  | T : oo
```

Notation "<< a >>" := (atom a).


```
Inductive oo : Type :=  
  | atom : atm -> oo  
  | T : oo  
  | Conj : oo -> oo -> oo
```

Notation "<< a >>" := (atom a).

Notation "a & b" := (Conj a b).

```
Inductive oo : Type :=  
  | atom : atm -> oo  
  | T : oo  
  | Conj : oo -> oo -> oo  
  | Imp : oo -> oo -> oo
```

Notation "<< a >>" := (atom a).

Notation "a & b" := (Conj a b).

Notation "a ---> b" := (Imp a b).

```
Inductive oo : Type :=  
  | atom : atm -> oo  
  | T : oo  
  | Conj : oo -> oo -> oo  
  | Imp : oo -> oo -> oo  
  | All : (expr con -> oo) -> oo  
  | Some : (expr con -> oo) -> oo.
```

Notation "<< a >>" := (atom a).

Notation "a & b" := (Conj a b).

Notation "a ---> b" := (Imp a b).

Variable con : Set.

Variable atm : Set.

Variable prog : atm \rightarrow oo \rightarrow Prop.

Notation "A :- b" := (prog A b).

HOAS encoding of some formal system where
`con` Set of constants

HOAS encoding of some formal system where

`con` Set of constants

`atm` Set of relations

HOAS encoding of some formal system where

`con` Set of constants

`atm` Set of relations

`prog` Inductive Property specifying when the relations hold

Abella

```
kind nat type.  
  
type zero nat.  
type succ nat -> nat.
```

Coq

```
Inductive con : Set :=  
| czero : con  
| csucc : con.
```


Abella

```
kind nat type.  
  
type zero nat.  
type succ nat -> nat.
```

Coq

```
Inductive con : Set :=  
| czero : con  
| csucc : con.
```

```
Definition zero : uexp :=  
  CON czero.
```

```
Definition succ : uexp -> uexp :=  
  fun e =>  
    (APP (CON csucc) e).
```

Abella

```
type plus nat -> nat -> nat -> o.
```

```
type leq nat -> nat -> o.
```

Coq

```
Inductive atm : Set :=  
| plus : uexp -> uexp -> uexp -> atm  
| leq  : uexp -> uexp -> atm.
```

Abella

```
type plus nat -> nat -> nat -> o.
```

Coq

```
Inductive prog : atm -> oo -> Prop :=
```

Abella

```
type plus nat -> nat -> nat -> o.
```

```
plus z N N.
```

Coq

```
Inductive prog : atm -> oo -> Prop :=  
| plus0 : forall N,  
  plus z N N :- T
```

Abella

```
type plus nat -> nat -> nat -> o.  
  
plus z N N.  
plus (s M) N (s P) :- plus M N P.
```

Coq

```
Inductive prog : atm -> oo -> Prop :=  
| plus0 : forall N,  
  plus z N N :- T  
| plus1 : forall M N P,  
  plus (s M) N (s P) :-  
    << plus M N P >>
```

kind	tm, ty	type.
type	app	tm \rightarrow tm \rightarrow tm.
type	abs	(tm \rightarrow tm) \rightarrow tm.
type	arrow	ty \rightarrow ty \rightarrow ty.
type	of	tm \rightarrow ty \rightarrow o.

Abella

Coq

```
Inductive prog : atm -> oo -> Prop :=  
...
```

Abella

```
of (app M N) T :- of M (arrow U T), of N U.
```

Coq

```
Inductive prog : atm -> oo -> Prop :=  
| of0 : forall (M N T U : uexp),  
  of (app M N) T :-  
    << of M (arrow U T) >> &  
    << of N U >>
```


Abella

```

of (app M N) T :- of M (arrow U T), of N U.
of (abs R) (arrow T U) :- pi x\ (of x T => of (R x) U).

```

Coq

```

Inductive prog : atm -> oo -> Prop :=
...
| of1 : forall (R : uexp -> uexp) (T U : uexp),
  abstr R ->
  of (abs R) (arrow T U) :-
    All (fun x =>
      << of x T >> ---->
      << of (R x) U >>)

```

`abstr : (uexp -> uexp) -> Prop`

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`abstr R` asserts that:

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- `R` contains no dangling indices

`abstr : (uexp -> uexp) -> Prop`

`abstr R` asserts that:

- `R` contains no dangling indices
- `R` is not an *exotic* term



Parameter $P : \text{uexp} \rightarrow \text{bool}$.

Definition $\text{foo} : \text{uexp} := \text{CON } \text{cfoo}$.

Definition $\text{bar} : \text{uexp} := \text{CON } \text{cbar}$.

Definition $\text{exotic} : \text{uexp} :=$
 $(\text{lambda } (\text{fun } e \Rightarrow \text{if } (P\ e) \text{ then foo else bar}))$.

Section 2

Software Engineering

How to situate this in a Coq environment?

How to situate this in a Coq environment?

- ① How to parse `.sig` and `.mod` files?
 - Re-use the Abella parser
 - Implement a parser in ELPI

How to situate this in a Coq environment?

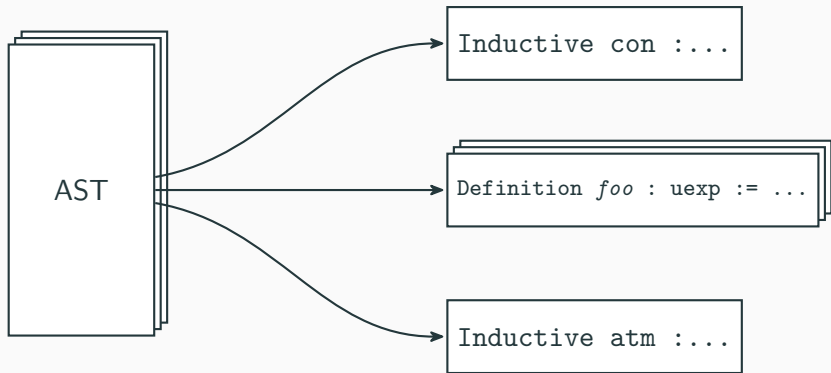
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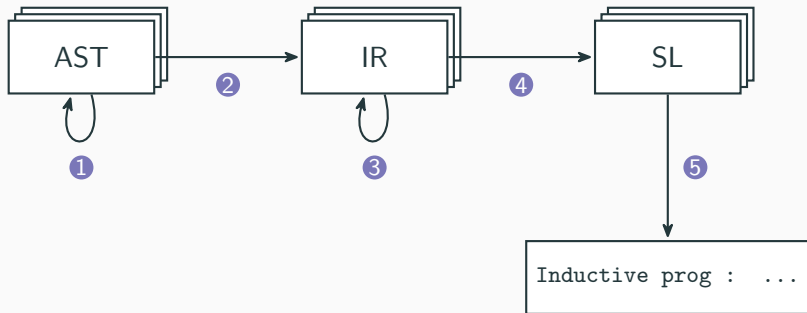
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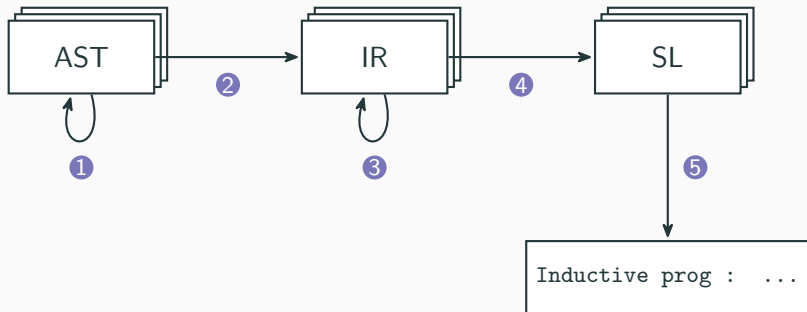
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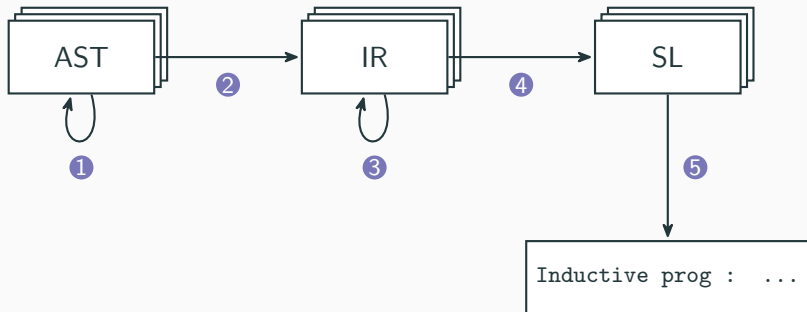




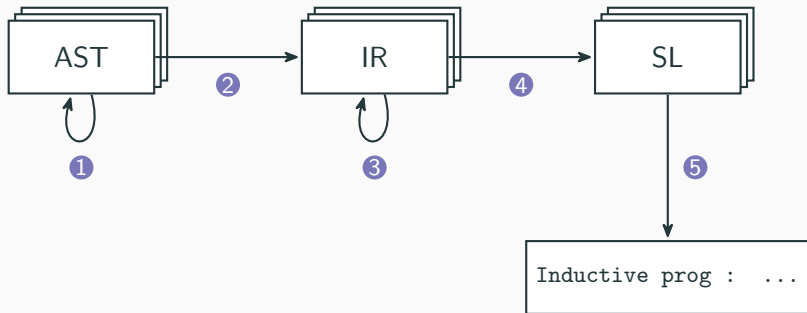
① Preprocessing of AST



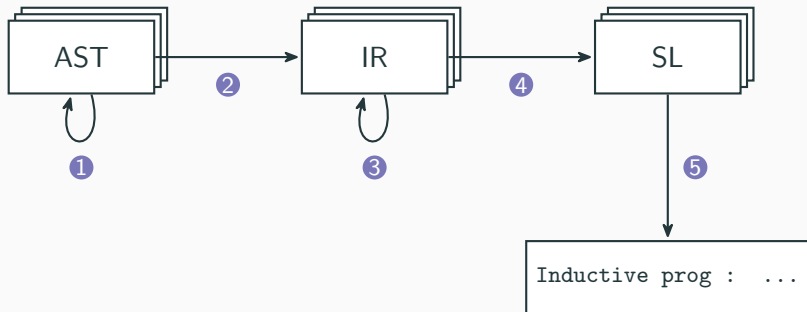
- 1 Preprocessing of AST
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- 3 Identify head and body of a clause



- 1 Preprocessing of AST
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- 1 Preprocessing of AST
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- 3 Identify head and body of a clause
- 4 Translate into representations of head and body in the specification logic
- 5 Generate inductive **Property**

- the AST representation uses de Bruijn indices for variables

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- these are resolved to string references for a consistent handling of variables and constants

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- these are resolved to string references for a consistent handling of variables and constants
- some idiosyncracies of the AST are resolved

Assumption

Each term is a **clause**, i.e. it has the form

$$\forall X_0. \forall X_1 \dots \forall X_n. \text{Head} :- B_0, \dots, B_m$$

where B_i are conjuncts in the clause body

```
conjuncts [] {{T}}.  
conjuncts [B | Bs] (Conj B1 Bs1) :-  
  translate B B1,  
  conjuncts Bs Bs1
```



```
Inductive prog : atm -> oo -> Prop :=  
| clause0 : ...  
| clause1 : ...  
|  
|
```

```
Inductive prog : atm -> oo -> Prop :=  
| clause0 : ...  
| clause1 : ...  
:  
:
```

We need a representation of Coq terms in ELPI

Elpi

```
type app list term
  -> term.
```

Coq

```
Definition n := 2.
```

```
?- coq.locate "n" (const C),
   coq.env.const C (some Body) _.
```

```
Body = (app [{{S}}, app [{{S}}, {{0}}]],
C = {{n}}.
```

Elpi

```

type fun name
  -> term
  -> (term -> term)
  -> term.

```

Coq

```

Definition f :=
  fun n : nat => n.

```

```

?- coq.locate "f" (const C),
   coq.env.const C (some Body) _ .

```

```

Body = (fun 'n' {{nat}} c0\ c0),
C = {{f}}.

```

ELPI

```

type prod name
  -> term
  -> (term -> term)
  -> term.

```

Coq

```

Definition P :=
  forall (n : nat), Prop.

```

```

?- coq.locate "P" (const C),
   coq.env.const C (some Body) _.

```

```

Body = (prod 'n' {{nat}} c0\ sort prop),
C = {{f}}.

```

- `fix`
- `match`

also exists, but we do not need them here

Coq

```
Definition z : uexp := CON cz.
```

ELPI

```
coq.env.add-const "z" (app [CON, cz]) _ _ _.
```

Coq

```
Inductive atm : Set :=  
| is_z : uexp -> atm.
```

ELPI

```
Arity = (arity Set),  
Constructors =  
  (t\ [  
    (constructor "is_z"  
      (arity (prod _ {{uexp}} _ t))))],  
Decl = (inductive "atm" tt Arity Constructors),  
coq.env.add-indt Decl _.
```


Subsection 2

Common Idioms – λ Prolog beyond Prolog

Concrete Syntax

```
kind lam type.  
type lam-abs string -> lam -> lam.  
type lam-app lam -> lam -> lam.  
type lam-var string -> lam.
```

de Bruijn

```
kind db type.  
type db-var int -> db.  
type db-abs db -> db.  
type db-app db -> db -> db.
```

```
type depth int -> string -> o.
```

```
pred lam-to-db i:lam i:int o:db.
```

```
lam-to-db (lam-app L R) D (db-app L1 R1) :-  
  lam-to-db L D L1,  
  lam-to-db R D R1.
```

```
lam-to-db (lam-abs V B) D (db-abs B1) :-  
  D1 is D + 1,  
  depth D V => lam-to-db B D1 B1.
```

```
lam-to-db (lam-var V) D (db-var I) :-  
  depth N V,  
  I is D - N - 1.
```

```
type ctx var -> term -> o.
```

```
translate (var V) T :-  
  ctx V T.
```

```
translate (abs Var Type Body) (fun VarCoq TypeCoq F) :-  
  coq.id->name Var VarCoq,  
  translate-type Type TypeCoq,  
  pi x\ (ctx Var x) => translate Body (F x).
```

```
type ctx var -> term -> o.
```

```
translate (var V) T :-  
  ctx V T.
```

```
translate (abs Var Type Body) (fun VarCoq TypeCoq F) :-  
  coq.id->name Var VarCoq,  
  translate-type Type TypeCoq,  
  pi x\ (ctx Var x) => translate Body (F x).
```

```
kind term type.
type app term -> term -> term.
type abs (term -> term) -> term.
type foo term.
type baz term.

pred build_aux i:list term o:(term -> term).
build_aux [] e\e.
build_aux [T | Ts] (e\ F (app e T)) :-
  build_aux Ts F.

pred build i:list term o:term.
build Ts (F baz) :-
  build_aux Ts F.
```

- Simple representation of AST

- Simple representation of AST
- Powerful idioms for AST manipulation

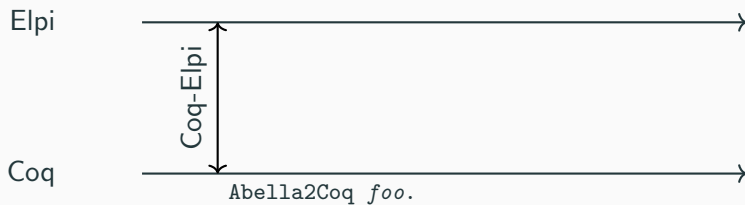
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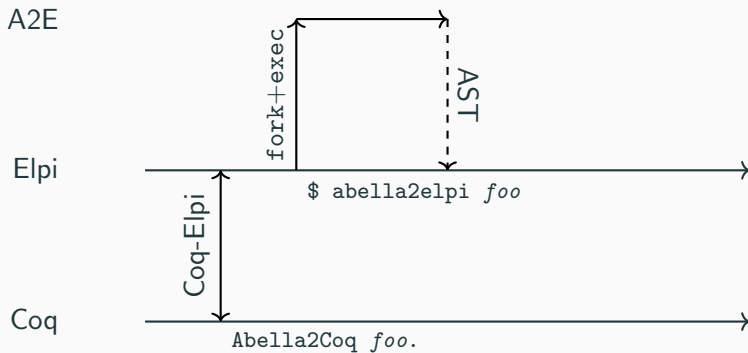
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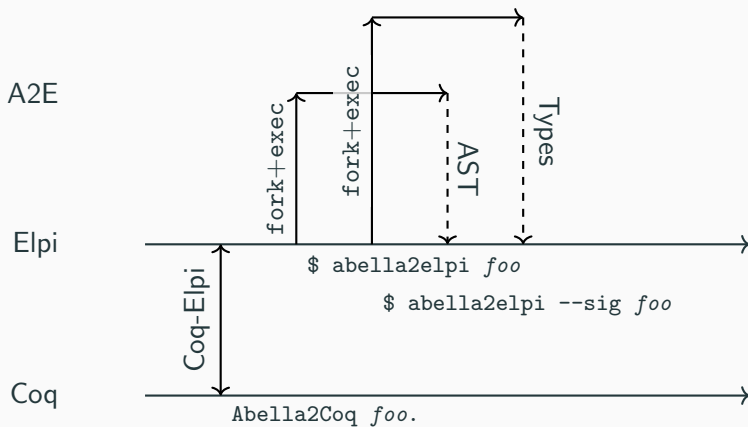
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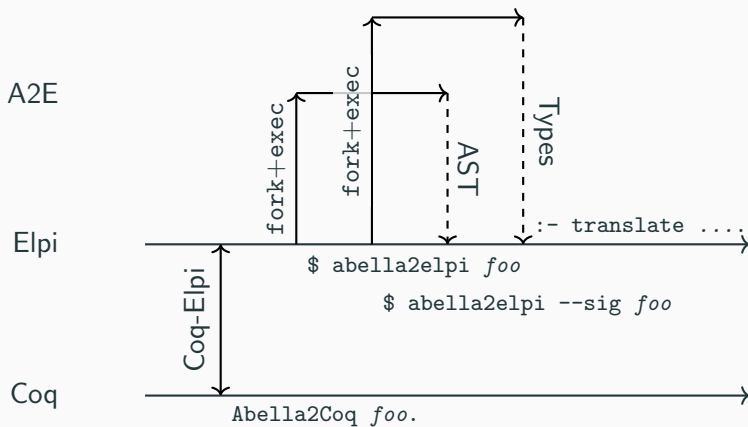
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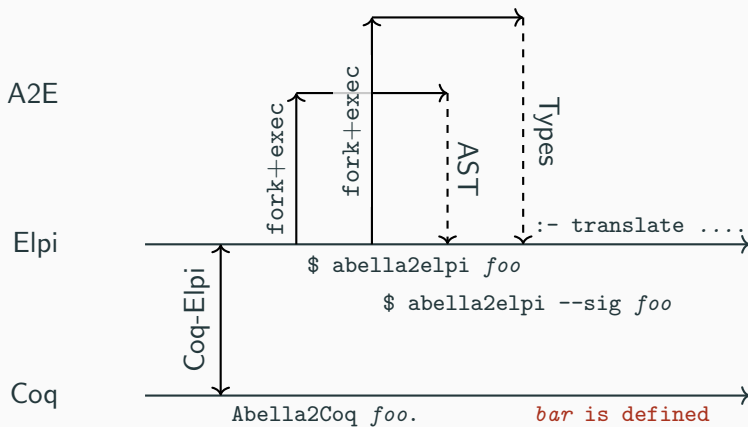
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- ELPI
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- Hybrid
 - Fix issues related to newer versions of Coq

Section 3

Practical Examples

- *Abella2Coq* can installed via OPAM

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- Translation occurs automatically with a vernacular command.

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- Translation occurs automatically with a vernacular command.
- `.sig/.mod` files are loaded via Extra Dependency

```
From Abella2Coq Require Import Abella2Coq.  
From A2CExamples Extra Dependency "nat.sig" as nat.  
Abella2Coq nat as natural_numbers.  
Import natural_numbers.
```

```
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Import natural_numbers.
```

...

```
(* plus (s M) N (s P) :- plus M N P. *)
```

```
Lemma add_n_m :
```

```
   $\emptyset \vdash \forall n, \forall m, \forall o,$ 
```

```
    plus n m o  $\rightarrow$  plus (s n) m (s o).
```

```
Proof.
```

```
  a2c_intros.
```

```
  a2c_search.
```

```
Qed.
```

Lemma add_n_m' :

$$\emptyset \vdash \forall n, \forall m, \forall o,$$

$$\text{plus } n \ m \ o \rightarrow \text{plus } (s \ n) \ m \ (s \ o).$$

Proof.

```
eapply g_all; intros.
eapply g_all; intros.
eapply g_all; intros.
eapply g_imp.
eapply g_prog.
- eapply plus1.
- eapply g_dyn.
  + eapply elem_self.
  + eapply b_match.
```

Qed.

```
From Abella2Coq Require Import Abella2Coq.  
From A2CExamples Extra Dependency "eval.sig" as eval.  
Abella2Coq eval.
```

```

From Abella2Coq Require Import Abella2Coq.
From A2CExamples Extra Dependency "eval.sig" as eval.
Abella2Coq eval.

```

...

```

Lemma two_step :
   $\emptyset \vdash \forall S, \forall S', \forall S'',$ 
    step S S'  $\wedge$  step S' S''  $\rightarrow$  nstep S S''.

```

Proof.

```

  a2c_intros.

```

```

  a2c_search.

```

Qed.

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Ideas for future projects

- Adding Coq tactics to simplify reasoning with Hybrid
- Reimplementing the Abella `search` tactic using Elpi
- Translating a (fragment) of `.thm` files into Coq proofs

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