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Runtime Certification

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Certification

- Certification and high-assurance and have long been supporters and customers of verification technology
- Big changes are under way in these areas
  - I'll describe some of them
- These create new opportunities for runtime verification
  - I'll point out some of these

Current Certification Practice

- Certification provides assurance that deploying a given system does not pose an unacceptable risk of adverse consequences
- Current methods explicitly depend on
  - Standards and regulations
  - Rigorous examination of the whole, finished system

  And implicitly on
  - Conservative practices
  - Safety culture
- All of these are changing

The Standards-Based Approach to Software Certification

- E.g., airborne s/w (DO-178B), security (Common Criteria)
- Applicant follows a prescribed method (or processes)
  - Delivers prescribed outputs
    - ⋆ e.g., documented requirements, designs, analyses, tests and outcomes, traceability among these
- Works well in fields that are stable or change slowly
  - Can institutionalize lessons learned, best practice
    - ⋆ e.g. evolution of DO-178 from A to B to C
- But less suitable with novel problems, solutions, methods

A Recent Incident

- Fuel emergency on Airbus A340-642, G-VATL, on 8 February 2005 (AAIB SPECIAL Bulletin S1/2005)
- Toward the end of a flight from Hong Kong to London: two engines flamed out, crew found certain tanks were critically low on fuel, declared an emergency, landed at Amsterdam
- Two Fuel Control Monitoring Computers (FCMCs) on this type of airplane; they cross-compare and the "healthiest" one drives the outputs to the data bus
- Both FCMCs had fault indications, and one of them was unable to drive the data bus
- Unfortunately, this one was judged the healthiest and was given control of the bus even though it could not exercise it
- Further backup systems were not invoked because the FCMCs indicated they were not both failed

Implicit and Explicit Factors

- See also ATSB incident report for in-flight upset of Boeing 777, 9M-MRG (Malaysian Airlines, near Perth Australia)
- How could gross errors like these pass through rigorous assurance standards?
- Maybe effectiveness of current certification methods depends on implicit factors such as safety culture, conservatism
- Current business models are leading to a loss of these
  - Outsourcing, COTS, complacency, innovation
- Surely, a credible certification regime should be effective on the basis of its explicit practices

Standards and Goal-Based Assurance

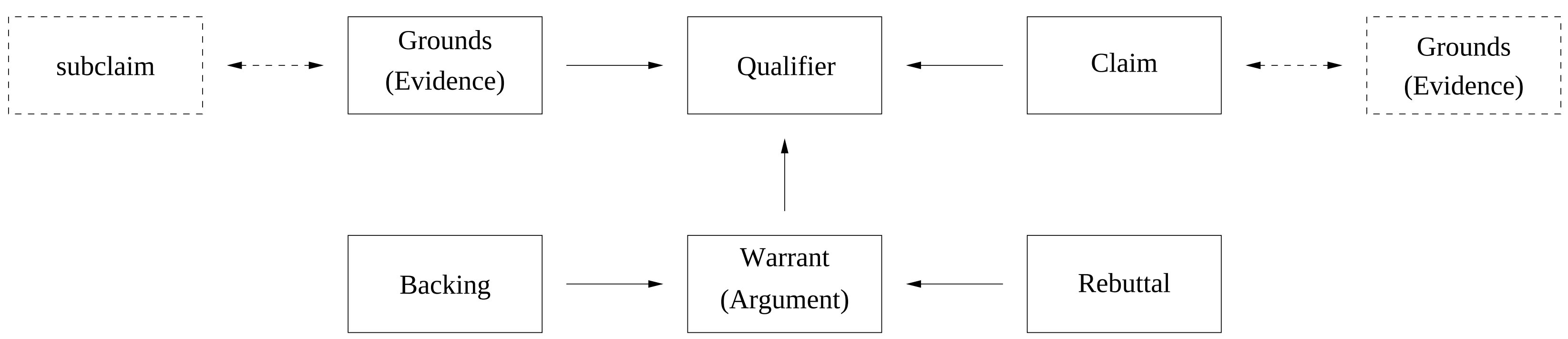
- All assurance is based on **arguments** that purport to justify certain **claims**, based on documented **evidence**
- Standards usually define only the evidence to be produced
- The claims and arguments are implicit
- Hence, hard to tell whether given evidence meets the intent
- E.g., is MC/DC coverage evidence for good testing or good requirements?
- Recently, goal-based assurance methods have been gaining favor: these make the elements explicit

The Goal-Based Approach to Software Certification

- E.g., air traffic management (CAP670 SW01), UK defence
- Applicant develops an assurance case
  - Whose outline form may be specified by standards or regulation (e.g., MOD DefStan 00-56)
  - Makes an explicit set of goals or claims
  - Provides supporting evidence for the claims
  - And arguments that link the evidence to the claims
    - ⋆ Make clear the underlying assumptions and judgments
    - ⋆ Should allow different viewpoints and levels of detail
- The case is evaluated by independent assessors
  - Explicit claims, evidence, argument

Toulmin's Model of Argument

- Certification is ultimately a judgement
- So classical formal reasoning may not be entirely appropriate
- Advocates of assurance cases often look to Toulmin's model of argument
- Toulmin stresses justification rather than inference



Toulmin's Model of Argument (ctd.)

Claim: This is the expressed opinion or conclusion that the arguer wants accepted by the audience

Grounds: This is the evidence or data for the claim

Qualifier: An adverbial phrase indicating the strength of the claim (e.g., certainly, presumably, probably, possibly, etc.)

Warrant: The reasoning or argument (e.g., rules or principles) for connecting the data to the claim

Backing: Further facts or reasoning used to support or legitimate the warrant

Rebuttal: Circumstances or conditions that cast doubt on the argument; it represents any reservations or "exceptions to the rule" that undermine the reasoning expressed in the warrant or the backing for it

Reconciling Toulmin's Approach with Formal Methods

- We do formal methods
- So the qualifier is always $\vdash$ or $\models$
- How can we reconcile these with the reasonable doubts manifested in Toulmin's approach?
- One idea
  - Implicit in the work of Jackson and Zave, Goodenough and Weinstock, and others

  Is to put them in the assumptions $A_1, \ldots, A_n$ under which the system S satisfies the requirements R

$$A_1, \ldots, A_n, S \vdash R$$

- Then do subsidiary analysis on each assumption A_i

Analysis of Assumptions

How do we know assumption A_i is valid?

One or more of:

- It is justified as a subsidiary claim
- All our system tests succeeded
- It was not implicated in failed system tests
- Runtime check

Runtime Verification for Assumption Failure

- It is part of the assurance case
- So must be credible (sound, complete, . . .)
- Probably need a sensible recovery action
  - Not like Ariane 501
  - Systematic approaches may be feasible
- What runtime verification methods and specification languages are appropriate?—over to you

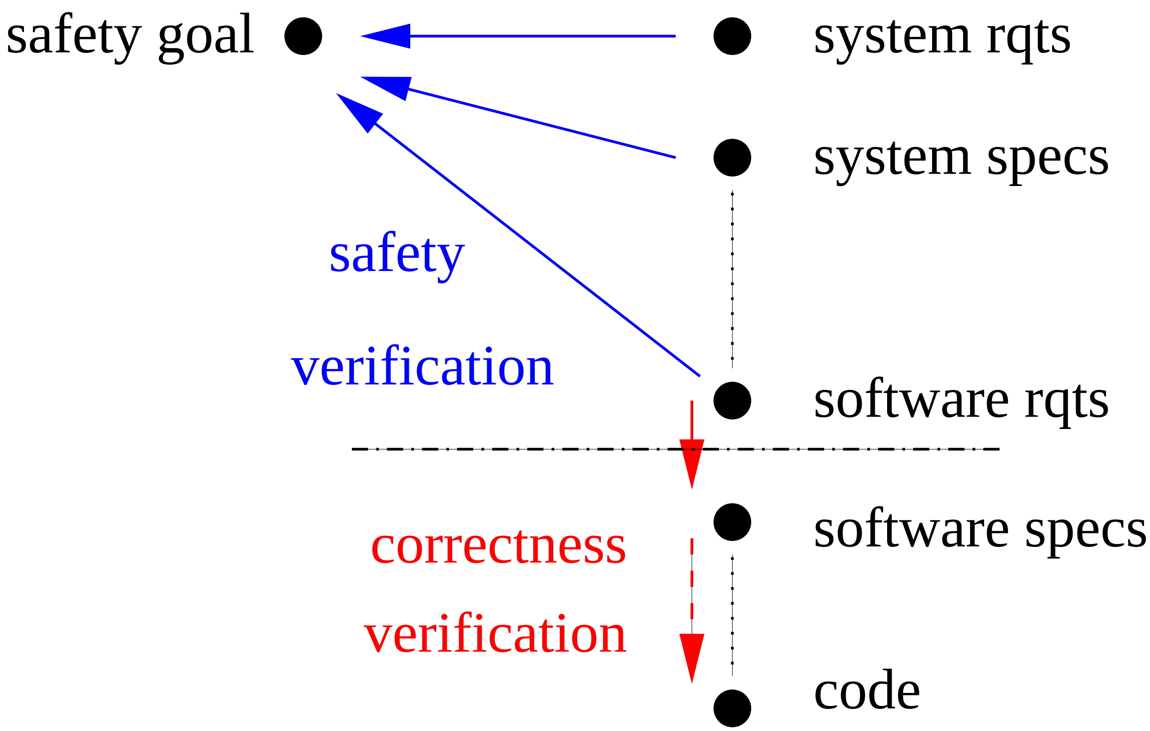
Other Proof Hazards

- The system specification S and requirements R should be analyzed similarly
- And the implementation of the specification
  - Usually a subsidiary claim or claims
- And there's a possibility the proof is flawed
- Or deliberately unsound
  - E.g., static analysis
- Diversity may mitigate this
- Observe this framework provides an uncontroversial and constructive treatment for the hysterical concerns of Fetzer

Implementation Hazards

- Currently, we apply safety analysis methods (HA, FTA, FMEA etc.) to an informal system description
    - Little automation, but in principle
    - These are abstracted ways to examine all reachable states
- Then, to be sure the implementation does not introduce new hazards, require it exactly matches the analyzed description
    - Hence, DO-178B is about correctness, not safety
- Instead, use a formal system description
    - Then have automated forms of reachability analysis
    - Closer to the implementation, smaller gap to bridge
- Analyze the implementation for preservation of safety, not correctness

Implementation Hazards: Standards Focus on Correctness Rather than Safety



- Premature focus on correctness is hugely expensive
- Goal-based methods could reduce this
- And runtime verification may be able to check some safety properties directly—over to you

Multi-Legged Arguments

- More evidence is required at higher Levels/EALs/SILs
- What's the argument that these deliver increased assurance?
- Generally an implicit appeal to diversity
  - And belief that diverse methods fail independently
  - Not true in n-version software, should be viewed with suspicion here too
- Want to distinguish rational multi-legged cases from nervous demands for more and more and . . .
- Need to know the arguments supported by each item of evidence, and how they compose

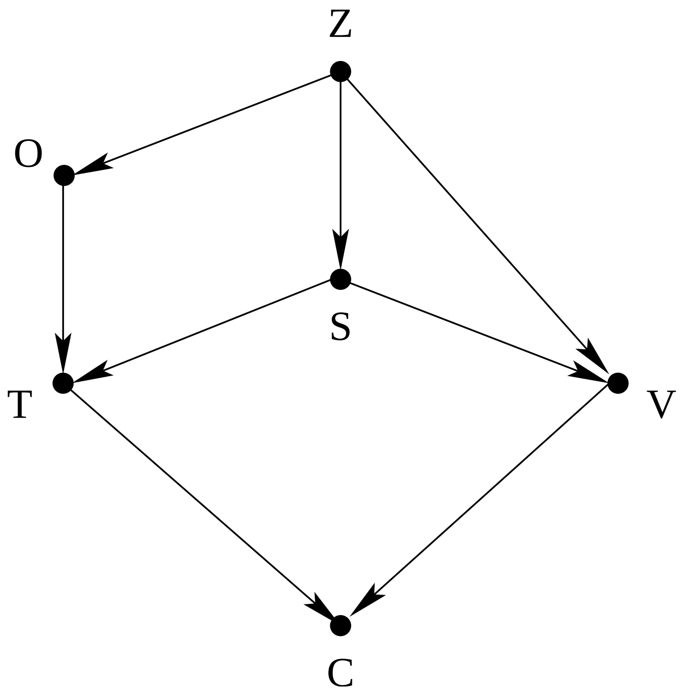
Two Kinds of Uncertainty In Certification

- One kind concerns failure of a claim, usually stated probabilistically (frequentist interpretation)
    - E.g., 10^{-9} probability of failure per hour, or 10^{-3} probability of failure on demand
- The other kind concerns failure of the assurance process
    - Seldom made explicit
    - But can be stated in terms of subjective probability
        - E.g., 95% confident this system achieves 10^{-3} probability of failure on demand
        - Note: this does not concern sampling theory and is not a confidence interval
- Demands for multiple sources of evidence are generally aimed at the second of these

Bayesian Belief Nets

- Bayes Theorem is the principal tool for analyzing subjective probabilities
- Allows a prior assessment of probability to be updated by new evidence to yield a rational posterior probability
  - E.g., P(C) vs. P(C | E)
- Math gets difficult when the models are complex
  - i.e., when we have many conditional probabilities of the form p(A | B and C or D)
- BBNs provide a graphical representation for hierarchical models, and tools to automate the calculations
- Can allow principled construction of multi-legged arguments

A BBN Example



Z: System Specification

O: Test Oracle

S: System's true quality

T: Test results

V: Verification outcome

C: Conclusion

Example joint probability table: successful test outcome

Correct System		Incorrect System	
Correct Oracle	Bad Oracle	Correct Oracle	Bad Oracle
100%	50%	5%	30%

Absolute Claims in Multi-Legged Arguments

- Can get surprising results (Littlewood and Wright)
  - E.g., under some combinations of prior belief, increasing the number of failure-free tests may decrease our confidence in the test oracle rather than increase our confidence in the system reliability
- The anomalies disappear and calculations are simplified if one of the legs in a two-legged case is absolute
  - E.g., 95% confident that this claim holds. . . period
  - Formal methods deliver this kind of claim
- Aside: philosophers studying confirmation theory (part of Bayesian Epistemology) formulate measures of support differently than computer scientists
  - e.g., P(E | C) - P(E | not C) vs. P(C | E) - P(C)

  However, these are related

Practical Considerations

- This approach assumes the verification leg considers the same system description and requirements as the other leg
- But this is seldom the case
  - Verification of weak properties: static analysis etc.
  - Verification of abstractions of the real system
  - Verification of specific critical properties (subclaims)
- Research needed to develop the theory to cover these issues
- And to factor runtime verification methods into the treatment—over to you

Systems and Components

- The FAA certifies airplanes, engines and propellers
- Components are certified only as part of an airplane or engine
- That's because it's the interactions that matter and it's not known how to certify these compositionally
- But modern engineering and business practices use massive subcontracting and component-based development that provide little visibility into subsystem designs
- Furthermore, the binding times for system architectures and for component behaviors are being delayed to load-time, or even runtime
- So we are forced to contemplate compositional and incremental approaches to certification

Compositional and Incremental Certification

- These are immensely difficult
  - The assurance case may not decompose along architectural lines
- But, in some application areas we can insist that it does
- Need to ensure interactions use only known, intended mechanisms
  - No unprotected IPC channels
  - No signaling through cache occupancy, etc.
  - No unmodeled interaction through the controlled plant
- This is what the MILS approach to security is about
- Other applications, such as spacecraft, medical device plug'n'play, are more difficult

Controlled Interfaces

- If we have successfully controlled what interfaces exist
- The next task is to ensure they are used correctly
- That is, ensure interactions follow their prescribed protocol
- Can be done statically for preplanned compositions
- Or dynamically for opportunistic ones
  - E.g., interface automata
  - With runtime verification—over to you
- But we may still have problems with emergent behavior

Monitoring and Synthesis

- Certification rests on consideration of reachable states
- Science-based certification uses formal methods to calculate and analyze these at design time
- Instead, we could use these methods to construct monitors that check behavior at runtime
- Or to synthesize controllers to generate safe behavior
  - Ramage and Wonham: controller synthesis

Runtime Assurance

- Instead of design-time analysis of the actual implementation
- Use run-time monitoring or synthesis of behavior from models
  - Typically with a receding horizon (bounded lookahead)
  - Fewer possibilities to examine, known current state
- Each component makes its model available to others, pursues its own goals while ensuring that possible moves by others cannot trap it into following a bad path, or cause violation of safety
  - Analyzed as a game: guarantee a winning strategy
- Instead of using model checking and other formal methods for analysis, we use them for monitoring and synthesis

Runtime Assurance: Examples

- AI planning
  - Check generated plans
  - Do the generation (cf. bounded model checking)
- Model-based diagnosis and repair
  - Check the diagnoses and proposed repeairs
  - Do the diagnosis and repair generation: cf. qualitative reasoning and hybrid abstraction
- Adaptive control
  - Fixed model, tune the parameters
  - Hybrid systems model checking (box stability etc.)
- CMAC (cerebellum model articulation control)
  - And other connectionist models: discover the model
  - Can possibly synthesize a safe envelope
- Over to you

Runtime Certification

- Some of the verification and certification activity is moved from design-time to run-time
- We trust automated verification methods for analysis, so why not trust them for monitoring and synthesis?
    - Certification examines the models, trusts the synthesis
- Will need to consider time-constrained synthesis
    - Anytime algorithms
    - Seek improvements on safe default
- Some analysis methods can deliver a certificate (e.g., a proof), used for synthesis that would truly be runtime certification!

Summary

- Standards-based approaches to certification have run out of steam
- Goal-based certification methods create a framework in which potential contributions of runtime monitoring and synthesis can be better explored and understood
- The big challenges and opportunities are in enabling compositional and incremental certification
- And certifiable runtime adaptation and synthesis
- Runtime verification can make important contributions here
- Some of this material is from "Just-In-Time Certification" and "What Use Is Verified Software?" IEEE ICECCS, Auckland New Zealand July 2007, available at `http://www.csl.sri.com/~rushby/biblio`
- Over to you