Set-Up

set up non-certifying and certifying planarity demo. Let the non-certifying demo run during introduction
Certifying Algorithms
Algorithmics meets Software Engineering

Kurt Mehlhorn
Max Planck Institute for Informatics and Saarland University

July 7, 2014
Outline of Talk

- problem definition and certifying algorithms
- examples of certifying algorithms
  - testing bipartiteness
  - matchings in graphs
  - planarity testing
  - convex hulls
  - further examples
- advantages of certifying algorithms
- universality
- formal verification and certifying algorithms
- summary
The Problem

- A user feeds $x$ to the program, the program returns $y$.
- How can the user be sure that, indeed,

$$y = f(x)?$$

The user has no way to know.
Warning Examples

- LEDA 2.0 planarity test was incorrect
- Rhino3d (a CAD systems) fails to compute correct intersection of two cylinders and two spheres
- CPLEX (a linear programming solver) fails on benchmark problem etamacro.
- Mathematica 4.2 (a mathematics systems) fails to solve a small integer linear program

In[1] := ConstrainedMin[ x , {x==1,x==2} , {x} ]
Out[1] = {2, {x->2}}

In[1] := ConstrainedMax[ x , {x==1,x==2} , {x} ]
ConstrainedMax::"lpsub": "The problem is unbounded."
Out[2] = {Infinity, {x -> Indeterminate}}
The Proposal

Programs must justify (prove) their answers in a way that is easily checked by their users.
A Certifying Program for a Function \( f \)

- On input \( x \), a **certifying program** returns
  - the function value \( y \) and a certificate (witness) \( w \)
- \( w \) proves \( y = f(x) \) even to a dummy,
- and there is a simple program \( C \), the **checker**, that verifies the validity of the proof.
A First Example: Testing Bipartiteness of Graphs

A graph is bipartite if its vertices can be colored black and white such that the endpoints of each edge have distinct colors.

Conventional algorithm outputs YES or NO

Certifying Algorithm outputs
- a two-coloring in the YES-case
- an odd cycle in the NO-case

Remark: simple modification of the standard algorithm suffices
A First Example: Testing Bipartiteness of Graphs

A graph is **bipartite** if its vertices can be colored black and white such that the endpoints of each edge have distinct colors.

Conventional algorithm outputs YES or NO

Certifying Algorithm outputs

- a two-coloring in the YES-case
- an odd cycle in the NO-case

Remark: simple modification of the standard algorithm suffices
History

- I do not claim that I invented the concept; it is an old concept
  - al-Kwarizmi: multiplication
  - extended Euclid: gcd
  - primal-dual algorithms in combinatorial optimization
  - Blum et al.: Programs that check their work

- I do claim that Näher and I were the first (1995) to adopt the concept as the design principle for a large library project: LEDA (Library of Efficient Data Types and Algorithms)

- Kratsch/McConnell/M/Spinrad (SODA 2003) coin name

- McConnell/M/Näher/Schweitzer (2010): 80 page survey
Examples

Planarity Testing
Maximum Cardinality Matchings
Further Examples
Example II: Planarity Testing

- Given a graph $G$, decide whether it is planar
- Tarjan (76): planarity can be tested in linear time
- A story and a demo
- Combinatorial planar embedding is a witness for planarity

Chiba et al (85): planar embedding of a planar $G$ in linear time

- Kuratowski subgraph is a witness for non-planarity

Hundack/M/Näher (97): Kuratowski subgraph of non-planar $G$ in linear time, LEDAbook, Chapter 9
Example III: Maximum Cardinality Matchings

- A matching $M$ is a set of edges no two of which share an endpoint.

- The blue edges form a matching of maximum cardinality; this is non-obvious as two vertices are unmatched.

- A conventional algorithm outputs the set of blue edges.
Maximum Cardinality Matching: A Certifying Alg

**Edmonds’ Theorem:** Let $M$ be a matching in a graph $G$ and let $\ell$ be a labelling of the vertices with non-negative integers such that for each edge $e = (u, v)$ either $\ell(u) = \ell(v) \geq 2$ or $1 \in \{\ell(u), \ell(v)\}$. Then

$$|M| \leq n_1 + \sum_{i \geq 2} \lfloor n_i/2 \rfloor,$$

where $n_i$ is the number of vertices labelled $i$. 
Maximum Cardinality Matching: A Certifying Alg

Edmonds’ Theorem: Let $M$ be a matching in a graph $G$ and let $\ell$ be a labelling of the vertices with non-negative integers such that for each edge $e = (u, v)$ either $\ell(u) = \ell(v) \geq 2$ or $1 \in \{\ell(u), \ell(v)\}$. Then

$$|M| \leq n_1 + \sum_{i \geq 2} \left\lfloor \frac{n_i}{2} \right\rfloor,$$

where $n_i$ is the number of vertices labelled $i$.

- $|M| = 6$
- $m_1 = 4$, $m_2 = 3$, $m_3 = 3$.
- $|M| = 6 = 4 + \left\lfloor \frac{3}{2} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{3}{2} \right\rfloor$

and hence $M$ has maximum cardinality.
Maximum Cardinality Matching: A Certifying Alg

**Edmonds’ Theorem:** Let $M$ be a matching in a graph $G$ and let $\ell$ be a labelling of the vertices with non-negative integers such that for each edge $e = (u, v)$ either $\ell(u) = \ell(v) \geq 2$ or $1 \in \{ \ell(u), \ell(v) \}$. Then

$$|M| \leq n_1 + \sum_{i \geq 2} \left\lfloor \frac{n_i}{2} \right\rfloor,$$

where $n_i$ is the number of vertices labelled $i$.

- Let $M_1$ be the edges in $M$ having at least one endpoint labelled 1 and, for $i \geq 2$, let $M_i$ be the edges in $M$ having both endpoints labelled $i$.

- $M = M_1 \cup M_2 \cup M_3 \cup \ldots$

- $|M_1| \leq n_1$ and $|M_i| \leq n_i/2$ for $i \geq 2$. 
Further Examples

- Convex Hulls
- Schmidt: Three-Connectivity of Graphs
- Georgiadis/Tarjan: Dominators in Digraphs
- Wang: Arrangements of Algebraic Curves
- Mehlhorn/Sagraloff/Wang: Root Isolation for Real Polynomials
- Althaus/Dumitriu: Certifying feasibility and objective value of linear programs
- Hauenstein/Sottile: alphaCertified: certifying solutions to polynomial systems
- Cook et al: Traveling Salesman Tours
- Dictionaries
The Advantages of Certifying Algorithms

- Certifying algs can be tested on
  - any input
  - and not just on inputs for which the result is known.

- Certifying algorithms are reliable:
  - Either give the correct answer
  - or notice that they have erred ⇒ confinement of error

- Computation as a service
  - There is no need to understand the program, understanding the witness property and the checking program suffices.
  - One may even keep the program secret and only publish the checker
The Advantages of Certifying Algorithms

- Certifying algs can be tested on
  - any input
  - and not just on inputs for which the result is known.

- Certifying algorithms are reliable:
  - Either give the correct answer
  - or notice that they have erred \( \Rightarrow \) confinement of error

- Computation as a service
  - There is no need to understand the program, understanding the witness property and the checking program suffices.
  - One may even keep the program secret and only publish the checker
The Advantages of Certifying Algorithms

- Certifying algs can be tested on
  - any input
  - and not just on inputs for which the result is known.

- Certifying algorithms are reliable:
  - Either give the correct answer
  - or notice that they have erred $\Rightarrow$ confinement of error

- Computation as a service
  - There is no need to understand the program, understanding the witness property and the checking program suffices.
  - One may even keep the program secret and only publish the checker
Odds and Ends

- General techniques
  - Linear programming duality
  - Characterization theorems
  - Program composition

- Probabilistic programs and checkers

- Reactive Systems (data structures)

- does apply to problems in NP (and beyond), e.g., SAT
  - output a satisfying assignment of satisfiable inputs
  - output a resolution proof for unsatisfiability otherwise
Universality

- Does every problem have a certifying algorithm? Can every program be converted into a certifying one?

- I know 100+ certifying algorithms, see survey by McConnell/M/Näher/Schweitzer (CS Review), in particular, all text-book algorithms can be made certifying

- most programs in LEDA are certifying, and

- Thm: Every deterministic program can be made certifying without asymptotic loss of efficiency

(at least in principle)

I still believe that the opposite should be true; however, for every formalization that I tried, I could prove the theorem.
Universality

Does every problem have a certifying algorithm? Can every program be converted into a certifying one?

I know 100+ certifying algorithms, see survey by McConnell/M/Näher/Schweitzer (CS Review), in particular, all text-book algorithms can be made certifying.

most programs in LEDA are certifying, and

Thm: Every deterministic program can be made certifying without asymptotic loss of efficiency (at least in principle)

I still believe that the opposite should be true; however, for every formalization that I tried, I could prove the theorem.
Universality

- Does every problem have a certifying algorithm? Can every program be converted into a certifying one?

- I know 100+ certifying algorithms, see survey by McConnell/M/Näher/Schweitzer (CS Review), in particular, all text-book algorithms can be made certifying

- most programs in LEDA are certifying, and

- Thm: Every deterministic program can be made certifying without asymptotic loss of efficiency (at least in principle)

  I still believe that the opposite should be true; however, for every formalization that I tried, I could prove the theorem.
Universality

- Does every problem have a certifying algorithm? Can every program be converted into a certifying one?

- I know 100+ certifying algorithms, see survey by McConnell/M/Näher/Schweitzer (CS Review), in particular, all text-book algorithms can be made certifying

- most programs in LEDA are certifying, and

- Thm: Every deterministic program can be made certifying without asymptotic loss of efficiency

  (at least in principle)

I still believe that the opposite should be true; however, for every formalization that I tried, I could prove the theorem.
Universality

- Does every problem have a certifying algorithm? Can every program be converted into a certifying one?

- I know 100+ certifying algorithms, see survey by McConnell/M/Näher/Schweitzer (CS Review), in particular, all text-book algorithms can be made certifying

- most programs in LEDA are certifying, and

- Thm: Every deterministic program can be made certifying without asymptotic loss of efficiency

(at least in principle)

I still believe that the opposite should be true; however, for every formalization that I tried, I could prove the theorem.
The Maximum Cardinality Matching Checker

**Edmonds’ Theorem:** Let $M$ be a matching in a graph $G = (V, E)$ and let $\ell : V \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ such that for each edge $e = (u, v)$ of $G$ either $\ell(u) = \ell(v) \geq 2$ or $1 \in \{ \ell(u), \ell(v) \}$. Then

$$|M| \leq n_1 + \sum_{i \geq 2} \left\lfloor n_i / 2 \right\rfloor,$$

where $n_i$ is the number of vertices labelled $i$.

The Checker Program has input $G$, $M$, and $\ell$:

- checks that $M \subseteq E$,
- checks that $M$ is a matching,
- checks that $\ell$ satisfies the hypothesis of the theorem, and
- checks that $|M| = n_1 + \sum_{i \geq 2} \left\lfloor n_i / 2 \right\rfloor$

set $c[v] = 0$ for all $v \in V$;
for all $e = (u, v) \in M$: increment $c[u]$ and $c[v]$;
if some counter reaches 2, $M$ is not a matching.

**Our checkers are written in C!!!**
Who Checks the Checker?

How can we be sure that the checker programs are correct?

My answer up to 2011: Because they are so simple.

Because we can prove their correctness in a formal system

Isabelle/HOL

Nipkow/Paulson

- formal mathematics
- proof are machine-checked
- only kernel needs to be trusted
Who Checks the Checker?

How can we be sure that the checker programs are correct?

My answer up to 2011: Because they are so simple.

Because we can prove their correctness in a formal system Isabelle/HOL Nipkow/Paulson

- formal mathematics
- proof are machine-checked
- only kernel needs to be trusted
Who Checks the Checker?

How can we be sure that the checker programs are correct?

My answer up to 2011: Because they are so simple.

Because we can prove their correctness in a formal system

Isabelle/HOL

Nipkow/Paulson

- formal mathematics
- proof are machine-checked
- only kernel needs to be trusted

definition disjoint-edges :: (α, β) pre-graph ⇒ β ⇒ β ⇒ bool where
  disjoint-edges G e₁ e₂ = (start G e₁ ≠ start G e₂ ∧ start G e₁ ≠ target G e₂ ∧ target G e₁ ≠ start G e₂ ∧ target G e₁ ≠ target G e₂)

definition matching :: (α, β) pre-graph ⇒ β set ⇒ bool where
  matching G M = (M ⊆ edges G ∧ (∀e₁ ∈ M. ∀e₂ ∈ M. e₁ ≠ e₂ → disjoint-edges G e₁ e₂))

definition edge-as-set :: β ⇒ α set where
  edge-as-set e ≡ {tail G e, head G e}

lemma matching_disjointness:
  assumes matching G M
  assumes e₁ ⊆ M  assumes e₂ ⊆ M  assumes e₁ ≠ e₂
  shows edge-as-set e₁ ∩ edge-as-set e₂ = {}
  using assms
  by (auto simp add: edge-as-set_def disjoint-edges_def matching_def)
What do we Formally Verify and How?

- Edmonds’ theorem
- Checker always halts and either rejects or accepts.
- Checker accepts a triple \((G, M, \ell)\) iff it satisfies the assumptions of Edmonds’ theorem.
  
  - we prove Edmonds’ theorem in Isabelle
  - we translate checkers from C to I-Monads with AutoCorres (NICTA)
  - I-Monads is a programming language defined in Isabelle
  - we prove items 2 and 3 for the resulting I-Monads program in Isabelle
  - since NICTA-tools are verified, this verifies the C-code of the checker
What do we Formally Verify and How?

- Edmonds’ theorem

- Checker always halts and either rejects or accepts.

- Checker accepts a triple \((G, M, \ell)\) iff it satisfies the assumptions of Edmonds’ theorem.

- we prove Edmonds’ theorem in Isabelle

- we translate checkers from C to I-Monads with AutoCorres (NICTA)

- I-Monads is a programming language defined in Isabelle

- we prove items 2 and 3 for the resulting I-Monads program in Isabelle

- since NICTA-tools are verified, this verifies the C-code of the checker
Formal Verification: Summary

Formal Instance Correctness

If a formally verified checker accepts a triple \((x, y, w)\), we have a formal proof that \(y\) is the correct output for input \(x\).

- a high level of trust (only Isabelle kernel needs to be trusted)
- a way to build large libraries of trusted algorithms

Alkassar/Böhme/M/Rizkallah: Verification of Certifying Computations, JAR 2014
Noshinski/Rizkallah/M: Verification of Certifying Computations through AutoCorres and Simpl, NASA Formal Methods Symposium 2014
Summary

- **Only certifying algs are good algs**

- Certifying algs have many advantages over standard algs:
  - every run is a test
  - notice when they erred
  - can be relied on without knowing code
  - are a way to computation as a service

- Formal verification of checkers and formal proof of witness property are feasible

- Most programs in the LEDA system are certifying.

When you design your next algorithm, make it certifying.
Summary

- **Only certifying algs are good algs**

- Certifying algs have many advantages over standard algs:
  - every run is a test
  - notice when they erred
  - can be relied on without knowing code
  - are a way to computation as a service

- Formal verification of checkers and formal proof of witness property are feasible

- Most programs in the LEDA system are certifying.

When you design your next algorithm, make it certifying.
Summary

- **Only certifying algs are good algs**

- Certifying algs have many advantages over standard algs:
  - every run is a test
  - notice when they erred
  - can be relied on without knowing code
  - are a way to computation as a service

- Formal verification of checkers and formal proof of witness property are feasible

- Most programs in the LEDA system are certifying.

When you design your next algorithm, make it certifying.
Summary

- **Only certifying algs are good algs**
- Certifying algs have many advantages over standard algs:
  - every run is a test
  - notice when they erred
  - can be relied on without knowing code
  - are a way to computation as a service
- Formal verification of checkers and formal proof of witness property are feasible
- Most programs in the LEDA system are certifying.

When you design your next algorithm, make it certifying.
Summary

- **Only certifying algs are good algs**

- Certifying algs have many advantages over standard algs:
  - every run is a test
  - notice when they erred
  - can be relied on without knowing code
  - are a way to computation as a service

- Formal verification of checkers and formal proof of witness property are feasible

- Most programs in the LEDA system are certifying.

**When you design your next algorithm, make it certifying.**