

# Abstract Stobjs and Their Application to ISA Modeling

Shilpi Goel  
Warren A. Hunt, Jr.  
Matt Kaufmann

*The University of Texas at Austin*

30<sup>th</sup> May, 2013

# OUTLINE

## INTRODUCTION

## ABSTRACT STOBJS

- Proof Obligations

- Introducing Abstract Stobjs in ACL2

## BENEFITS

- Simplified Reasoning

- Execution in ACL2

- Proof by Symbolic Execution

- Layered Modeling Strategy

## CONCLUSION

# OUTLINE

## INTRODUCTION

### ABSTRACT STOBJS

Proof Obligations

Introducing Abstract Stobjs in ACL2

### BENEFITS

Simplified Reasoning

Execution in ACL2

Proof by Symbolic Execution

Layered Modeling Strategy

## CONCLUSION

# EXECUTION AND REASONING

- ▶ ACL2 development is geared towards:
  - ▶ Efficient execution
  - ▶ Effective reasoning

# EXECUTION AND REASONING

- ▶ ACL2 development is geared towards:
  - ▶ Efficient execution
  - ▶ Effective reasoning
  
- ▶ Abstract stobj, introduced in ACL2 Version 5.0, are also in this tradition.

# RUNNING EXAMPLE: Y86

- ▶ ISA Model: **y86**
  - ▶ 32-bit architecture
  - ▶ Academic simplification of the x86
  - ▶ Supporting Materials:  
`books/models/y86/y86-two-level-abs`

# RUNNING EXAMPLE: Y86

- ▶ ISA Model: **y86**
  - ▶ 32-bit architecture
  - ▶ Academic simplification of the x86
  - ▶ Supporting Materials:  
`books/models/y86/y86-two-level-abs`
- ▶ We benefit from abstract stobjs in our x86 model too.

# GOAL OF THIS TALK

- ▶ Will *not* be talking about the logical foundations of abstract stobjs today...
  - ▶ (For that, see the Essay on the Correctness of Abstract Stobjs in ACL2 source file `other-events.lisp`.)



# GOAL OF THIS TALK

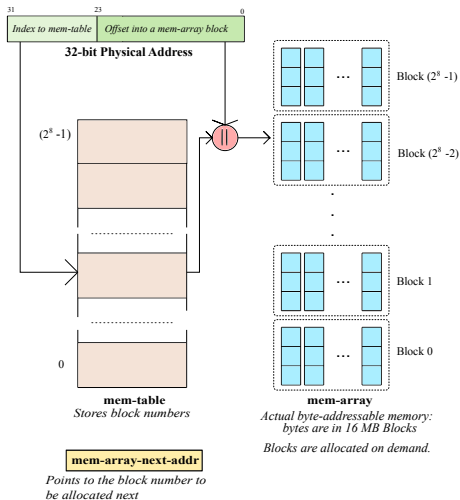
- ▶ Will *not* be talking about the logical foundations of abstract stobjs today...
  - ▶ (For that, see the Essay on the Correctness of Abstract Stobjs in ACL2 source file `other-events.lisp`.)
- ▶ Will introduce abstract stobjs to the ACL2 community so that users can consider using this feature in their proof developments

## Y86 MODEL IN ACL2

- ▶ State: represented by a concrete stobj called `x86-32$c`

Component	Description
general-purpose registers	array of length 8; each element is a 32-bit unsigned number
instruction pointer	32-bit unsigned number
flags register	32-bit unsigned number
physical memory	a <b>space-efficient implementation</b> of 4 GB physical memory

# Y86 MEMORY MODEL



# Y86 STATE RECOGNIZER

- ▶ Stobj recognizer: a simple structural check for the stobj fields

# Y86 STATE RECOGNIZER

- ▶ Stobj recognizer: a simple structural check for the stobj fields
- ▶ **What does it mean to have a good y86 state?**

# Y86 STATE RECOGNIZER

- ▶ Stobj recognizer: a simple structural check for the stobj fields
- ▶ **What does it mean to have a good y86 state?**  
Stobj recognizer  
+  
an invariant stating that the space-efficient implementation of the memory gives a well-formed y86 memory

# Y86 STATE RECOGNIZER

- ▶ Stobj recognizer: a simple structural check for the stobj fields
- ▶ **What does it mean to have a good y86 state?**  
Stobj recognizer  
+  
an invariant stating that the space-efficient implementation of the memory gives a well-formed y86 memory
- ▶ Have to carry around the complexities of the space-efficient memory model during proofs...

# ABSTRACT STOBJS

*An abstract stobj* provides a simple logical interface to a *corresponding* concrete stobj.



# ABSTRACT STOBJS

An *abstract stobj* provides a simple logical interface to a *corresponding* concrete stobj.

- ▶ Fast execution: provided by the previously-defined concrete stobj

# ABSTRACT STOBJS

An *abstract stobj* provides a simple logical interface to a *corresponding* concrete stobj.

- ▶ Fast execution: provided by the previously-defined concrete stobj
- ▶ Effective reasoning: provided by an alternate (logical) representation of the concrete stobj

# OUTLINE

## INTRODUCTION

### ABSTRACT STOBJS

Proof Obligations

Introducing Abstract Stobjs in ACL2

## BENEFITS

Simplified Reasoning

Execution in ACL2

Proof by Symbolic Execution

Layered Modeling Strategy

## CONCLUSION

# OUTLINE

## INTRODUCTION

### ABSTRACT STOBJS

#### Proof Obligations

#### Introducing Abstract Stobjs in ACL2

## BENEFITS

#### Simplified Reasoning

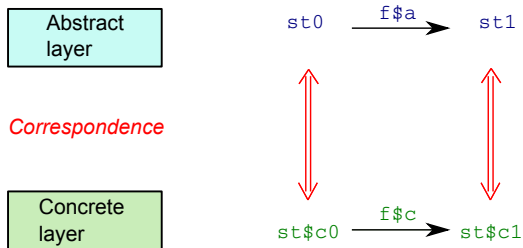
#### Execution in ACL2

#### Proof by Symbolic Execution

#### Layered Modeling Strategy

## CONCLUSION

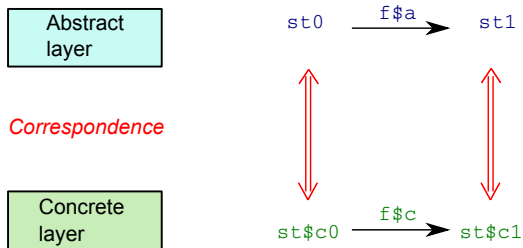
# PROOF OBLIGATIONS



Three kinds of proof obligations need to be discharged:

1. **Correspondence Theorems**
2. **Preservation Theorems**
3. **Guard Theorems**

# PROOF OBLIGATIONS



Three kinds of proof obligations need to be discharged:

1. **Correspondence Theorems**
2. **Preservation Theorems**
3. **Guard Theorems**

**Important:** ACL2 prints these proof obligations for the user.

# OUTLINE

## INTRODUCTION

### ABSTRACT STOBJS

Proof Obligations

Introducing Abstract Stobjs in ACL2

### BENEFITS

Simplified Reasoning

Execution in ACL2

Proof by Symbolic Execution

Layered Modeling Strategy

## CONCLUSION

# INTRODUCING ABSTRACT STOBJS IN ACL2

1. Introduce a concrete stobj.
2. Define functions that operate on the fields of the concrete stobj (:EXEC functions).
3. Define a recognizer function and a creator function for the abstract stobj.
4. Define the functions that will operate on the abstract stobj (:LOGIC functions).
5. Define the *correspondence* predicate.
6. Discharge the proof obligations needed to introduce a `defabsstobj` event.
7. Introduce the `defabsstobj` event into ACL2.



# INTRODUCING ABSTRACT STOBJS IN ACL2

1. Introduce a concrete stobj.

# INTRODUCING ABSTRACT STOBJS IN ACL2

- Define functions that operate on the fields of the concrete stobj (:EXEC functions).

```
(defun !mem$ci (i v x86-32$c)
  ;; Declare statement elided.
  (let* ((i-top (ash i (- *2^x-byte-pseudo-page*)))
        (addr (mem-tablei i-top x86-32$c)))
    (mv-let (addr x86-32$c)
      (cond ((eql addr 1) ; page is not present
            (add-page-x86-32$c i-top x86-32$c))
            (t (mv addr x86-32$c)))
      (!mem-arrayi (logior addr (logand *2^24-1* i))
                   v
                   x86-32$c))))
```

# INTRODUCING ABSTRACT STOBJS IN ACL2

3. Define a recognizer function and a creator function for the abstract stobj.

We choose a sparse alternative representation for the y86 memory: *records*. (books/defexec/other-apps/records)

# INTRODUCING ABSTRACT STOBJS IN ACL2

4. Define the functions that will operate on the abstract stobj (:LOGIC functions).

```
(defun !mem$ai (i v x86-32)
  ;; Declare statement elided.
  (update-nth *memi*
              (s i v (nth *memi* x86-32))
              x86-32))
```

# INTRODUCING ABSTRACT STOBJS IN ACL2

5. Define the *correspondence* predicate.

```
(defun corr (conc abs)
  ;; Declare statement elided.
  (and (x86-32$cp conc)
       (x86-32$ap abs)
       (equal (nth *rgfi* conc) (nth *rgfi* abs))
       (equal (nth *flg* conc) (nth *flg* abs))
       ...
       (corr-mem conc (nth *memi* abs))))
```

# INTRODUCING ABSTRACT STOBJS IN ACL2

6. Discharge the proof obligations needed to introduce a `defabsstobj` event.

Typically, just execute the `defabsstobj` event, paste the resulting proof obligations (`defthm` events) into your file, and prove them in the normal way.

# INTRODUCING ABSTRACT STOBJS IN ACL2

7. Introduce the `defabsstobj` event into ACL2.

# INTRODUCING ABSTRACT STOBJS IN ACL2

```
(defabsstobj x86-32
  :concrete x86-32$c
  :recognizer (x86-32p :logic x86-32$ap :exec x86-32$cp-pre)
  :creator (create-x86-32 :logic create-x86-32$a
                        :exec create-x86-32$c)

  :corr-fn corr
  :exports ((rgfi :logic rgf$ai :exec rgf$ci)
            (!rgfi :logic !rgf$ai :exec !rgf$ci)
            (rip :logic rip$a :exec rip$c)
            (!rip :logic !rip$a :exec !rip$c)
            (flg :logic flg$a :exec flg$c)
            (!flg :logic !flg$a :exec !flg$c)
            ...
            (memi :logic mem$aai :exec mem$ci)
            (!memi :logic !mem$aai :exec !mem$ci)
            :protect t))
```



# INTRODUCING ABSTRACT STOBJS IN ACL2

1. Introduce a concrete stobj.
2. Define functions that operate on the fields of the concrete stobj (:EXEC functions).
3. Define a recognizer function and a creator function for the abstract stobj.
4. Define the functions that will operate on the abstract stobj (:LOGIC functions).
5. Define the *correspondence* predicate.
6. Discharge the proof obligations needed to introduce a `defabsstobj` event.
7. Introduce the `defabsstobj` event into ACL2.

# OUTLINE

## INTRODUCTION

## ABSTRACT STOBJS

Proof Obligations

Introducing Abstract Stobjs in ACL2

## BENEFITS

Simplified Reasoning

Execution in ACL2

Proof by Symbolic Execution

Layered Modeling Strategy

## CONCLUSION

# OUTLINE

## INTRODUCTION

## ABSTRACT STOBJS

Proof Obligations

Introducing Abstract Stobjs in ACL2

## BENEFITS

**Simplified Reasoning**

Execution in ACL2

Proof by Symbolic Execution

Layered Modeling Strategy

## CONCLUSION

# SIMPLIFIED REASONING

## Memory read-over-write theorem:

```
(defthm read-write
  (implies (and (x86-32$cp x86-32$c)
                (integerp i)
                (<= 0 i)
                (< i *mem-size-in-bytes*)
                (integerp j)
                (<= 0 j)
                (< j *mem-size-in-bytes*)
                (n08p v))
            (equal (mem$ci j (!mem$ci i v x86-32$c))
                  (if (equal i j)
                      v
                      (mem$ci j x86-32$c))))))
```

# SIMPLIFIED REASONING

Memory read-over-write theorem without abstract stobjs:

```
(defthm read-write
  (implies (and (x86-32$cp x86-32$c)
                (integerp i)
                (<= 0 i)
                (< i *mem-size-in-bytes*)
                (integerp j)
                (<= 0 j)
                (< j *mem-size-in-bytes*)
                (n08p v))
            (equal (mem$ci j (!mem$ci i v x86-32$c))
                  (if (equal i j)
                      v
                      (mem$ci j x86-32$c))))))
```

# SIMPLIFIED REASONING: ELIMINATING HYPOTHESES

Abstract stobjs allow us to prove the following read-over-write theorem instead:

```
(defthm memi-!memi
  (equal (memi i (!memi j v x86-32))
    (if (equal i j)
      (or v 0)
      (memi i x86-32))))
```

# SIMPLIFIED REASONING: ELIMINATING HYPOTHESES

Abstract stobjs allow us to prove the following read-over-write theorem instead:

```
(defthm memi-!memi
  (equal (memi i (!memi j v x86-32))
    (if (equal i j)
      (or v 0)
      (memi i x86-32))))
```

Removing hypotheses from theorems:

- ▶ results in stronger (more general) rules, and

# SIMPLIFIED REASONING: ELIMINATING HYPOTHESES

Abstract stobjs allow us to prove the following read-over-write theorem instead:

```
(defthm memi-!memi
  (equal (memi i (!memi j v x86-32))
    (if (equal i j)
      (or v 0)
      (memi i x86-32))))
```

Removing hypotheses from theorems:

- ▶ results in stronger (more general) rules, and
- ▶ speeds up the ACL2 rewriter during proofs.



# OUTLINE

## INTRODUCTION

## ABSTRACT STOBJS

Proof Obligations

Introducing Abstract Stobjs in ACL2

## BENEFITS

Simplified Reasoning

**Execution in ACL2**

Proof by Symbolic Execution

Layered Modeling Strategy

## CONCLUSION

# EXECUTION IN ACL2

- ▶ We use *guards* extensively to do processor modeling.

## EXECUTION IN ACL2

- ▶ We use *guards* extensively to do processor modeling.
- ▶ While executing functions, ACL2 uses guards to check the legality of each call made in the ACL2 loop.

## EXECUTION IN ACL2

- ▶ We use *guards* extensively to do processor modeling.
- ▶ While executing functions, ACL2 uses guards to check the legality of each call made in the ACL2 loop.
- ▶ All functions that take the concrete `stobj` as input have `x86-32$cp` as a guard.

## EXECUTION IN ACL2

- ▶ We use *guards* extensively to do processor modeling.
- ▶ While executing functions, ACL2 uses guards to check the legality of each call made in the ACL2 loop.
- ▶ All functions that take the concrete `stobj` as input have `x86-32$cp` as a guard.
- ▶ `x86-32$cp` is a complicated predicate that makes guard-checking slow.

## EXECUTION IN ACL2

- ▶ We use *guards* extensively to do processor modeling.
- ▶ While executing functions, ACL2 uses guards to check the legality of each call made in the ACL2 loop.
- ▶ All functions that take the concrete stobj as input have `x86-32$cp` as a guard.
- ▶ `x86-32$cp` is a complicated predicate that makes guard-checking slow.
- ▶ In the case of abstract stobjs:
  - ▶ We prove that the recognizer always holds for the abstract stobj returned by the updater functions.

## EXECUTION IN ACL2

- ▶ We use *guards* extensively to do processor modeling.
- ▶ While executing functions, ACL2 uses guards to check the legality of each call made in the ACL2 loop.
- ▶ All functions that take the concrete stobj as input have `x86-32$cp` as a guard.
- ▶ `x86-32$cp` is a complicated predicate that makes guard-checking slow.
- ▶ In the case of abstract stobjs:
  - ▶ We prove that the recognizer always holds for the abstract stobj returned by the updater functions.
  - ▶ **Optimization: calls of `x86-32p` evaluate instantly to `T`.**

# OUTLINE

## INTRODUCTION

## ABSTRACT STOBJS

Proof Obligations

Introducing Abstract Stobjs in ACL2

## BENEFITS

Simplified Reasoning

Execution in ACL2

**Proof by Symbolic Execution**

Layered Modeling Strategy

## CONCLUSION



# PROOF BY SYMBOLIC EXECUTION

- ▶ All elements of `x86-32$c` are logically represented as linear lists.

# PROOF BY SYMBOLIC EXECUTION

- ▶ All elements of `x86-32$C` are logically represented as linear lists.
- ▶ Concrete stobjs give us an enormous logical representation of the state because of the large memory arrays.

# PROOF BY SYMBOLIC EXECUTION

- ▶ All elements of  $x86-32\$C$  are logically represented as linear lists.
- ▶ Concrete stobjs give us an enormous logical representation of the state because of the large memory arrays.
- ▶ Every read/write operation involving  $x86-32\$C$  requires linear traversals.

# PROOF BY SYMBOLIC EXECUTION

- ▶ All elements of `x86-32$c` are logically represented as linear lists.
- ▶ Concrete stobjs give us an enormous logical representation of the state because of the large memory arrays.
- ▶ Every read/write operation involving `x86-32$c` requires linear traversals.
- ▶ Instead, we use sparse data structures — *records* — to model the memory.

# PROOF BY SYMBOLIC EXECUTION

- ▶ All elements of `x86-32$c` are logically represented as linear lists.
- ▶ Concrete stobjs give us an enormous logical representation of the state because of the large memory arrays.
- ▶ Every read/write operation involving `x86-32$c` requires linear traversals.
- ▶ Instead, we use sparse data structures — *records* — to model the memory.
- ▶ Initial representation of memory is now `NIL`, as opposed to large lists of zeroes in the concrete stobj representation.

# PROOF BY SYMBOLIC EXECUTION

- ▶ We get a smaller processor state that is amenable to proof by symbolic execution.

# PROOF BY SYMBOLIC EXECUTION

- ▶ We get a smaller processor state that is amenable to proof by symbolic execution.
- ▶ Abstract stobjs enable the use of GL (`books/centaur/gl`) to do automatic proofs about some non-trivial y86 binary programs.

# PROOF BY SYMBOLIC EXECUTION

- ▶ We get a smaller processor state that is amenable to proof by symbolic execution.
- ▶ Abstract stobjs enable the use of GL (`books/centaur/gl`) to do automatic proofs about some non-trivial y86 binary programs.
- ▶ For an example, see `books/models/y86/y86-two-level-abs/examples`.



# OUTLINE

## INTRODUCTION

## ABSTRACT STOBJS

Proof Obligations

Introducing Abstract Stobjs in ACL2

## BENEFITS

Simplified Reasoning

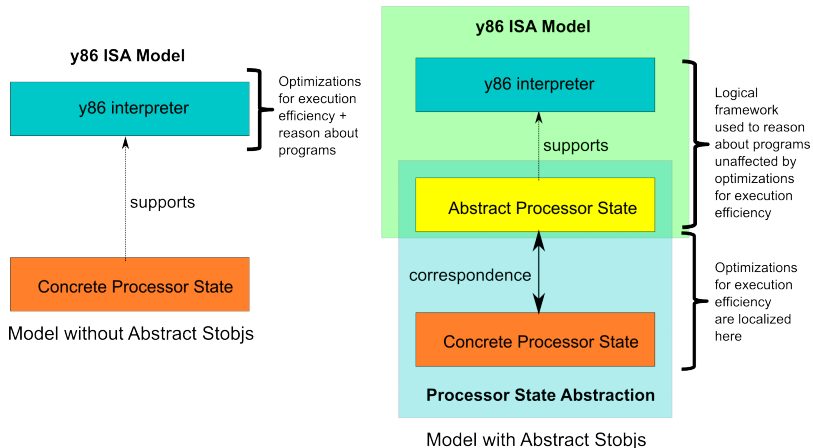
Execution in ACL2

Proof by Symbolic Execution

**Layered Modeling Strategy**

## CONCLUSION

# LAYERED MODELING STRATEGY



Abstract stobjs avoid the need of a trade-off between reasoning and execution efficiency.

# OUTLINE

## INTRODUCTION

## ABSTRACT STOBJS

- Proof Obligations

- Introducing Abstract Stobjs in ACL2

## BENEFITS

- Simplified Reasoning

- Execution in ACL2

- Proof by Symbolic Execution

- Layered Modeling Strategy

## CONCLUSION

# CONCLUSION

In brief, abstract stobj's:

- ▶ make processor modeling easier by **introducing abstraction** — a layered model is more manageable and robust;

# CONCLUSION

In brief, abstract stobj's:

- ▶ make processor modeling easier by **introducing abstraction** — a layered model is more manageable and robust;
- ▶ make reasoning about big models easier through **elimination of hypotheses**; and

# CONCLUSION

In brief, abstract stobj:

- ▶ make processor modeling easier by **introducing abstraction** — a layered model is more manageable and robust;
- ▶ make reasoning about big models easier through **elimination of hypotheses**; and
- ▶ support **efficiency of concrete execution** (with faster guard checking) and **symbolic execution** (by presenting sparse structures like records instead of long lists).

See :DOC defabsstobj.

# Abstract Stobjs and Their Application to ISA Modeling

Shilpi Goel  
Warren A. Hunt, Jr.  
Matt Kaufmann

*The University of Texas at Austin*

30<sup>th</sup> May, 2013