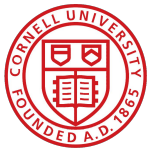




LAProof: A Library of Formal Proofs of Accuracy and Correctness for Linear Algebra Programs

Ariel Kellison^{1,2}, Andrew W. Appel³, Mohit Tekriwal⁴, and David Bindel¹



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What is LAProof?

LAProof is a library of machine-checked accuracy proofs for basic linear algebra operations.



VeriNum / LAProof



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- are developed entirely within the Coq proof assistant.



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Why verify the accuracy of programs implementing BLAS?



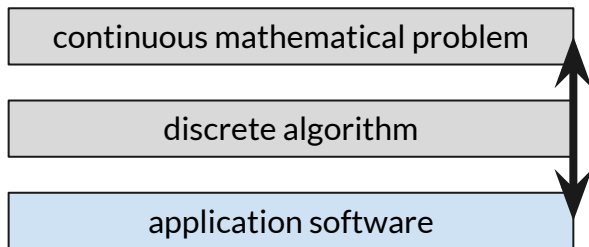
BLAS implementations are vital in *numerical analysis*

“...our mission is to compute quantities that are typically uncomputable, from an analytic point of view, and to do it with lightning speed.” - Trefethen 1992



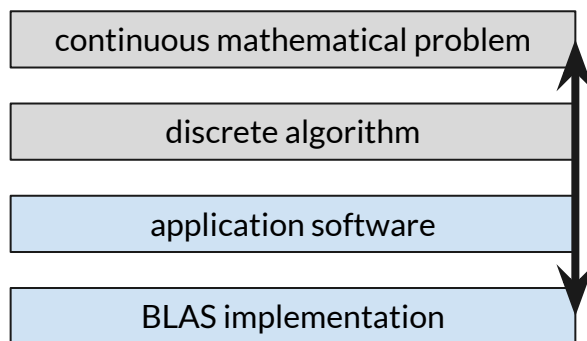
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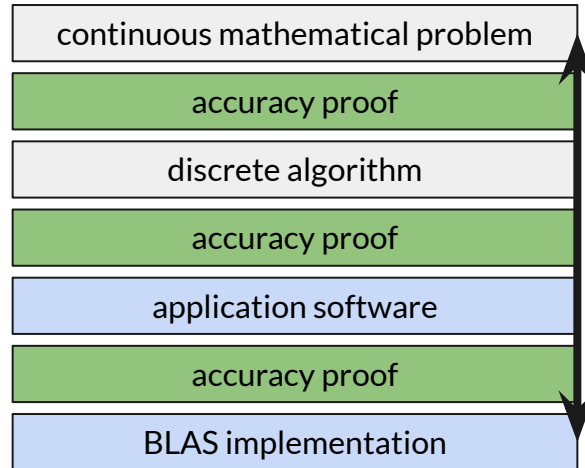
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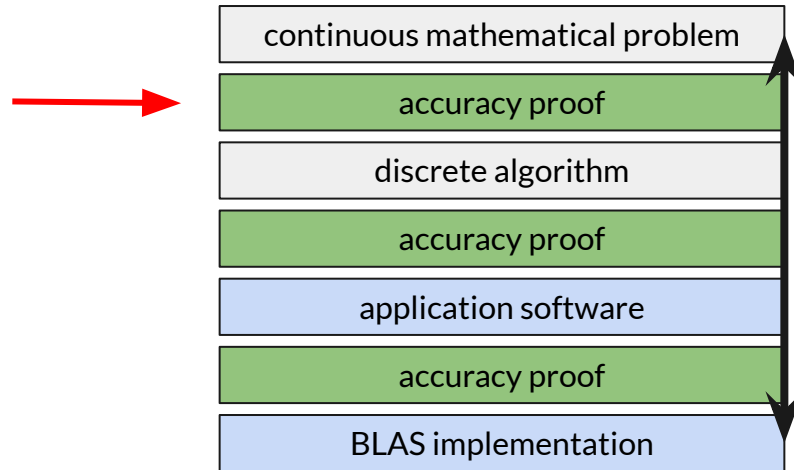


Accuracy proofs give us confidence in these algorithms and their implementations



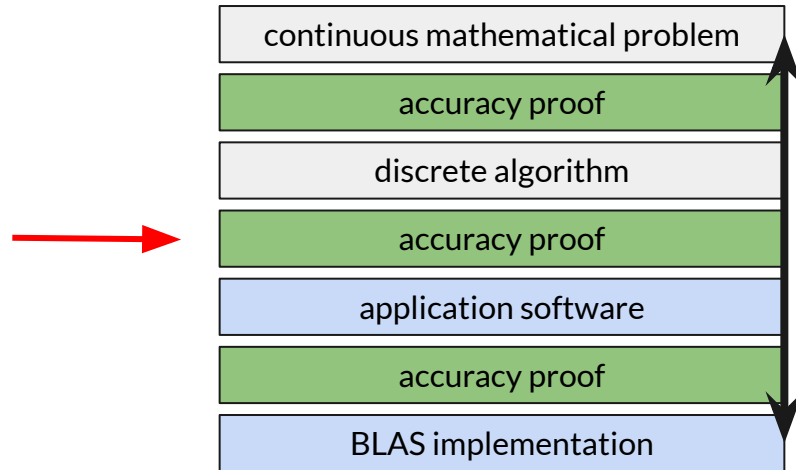


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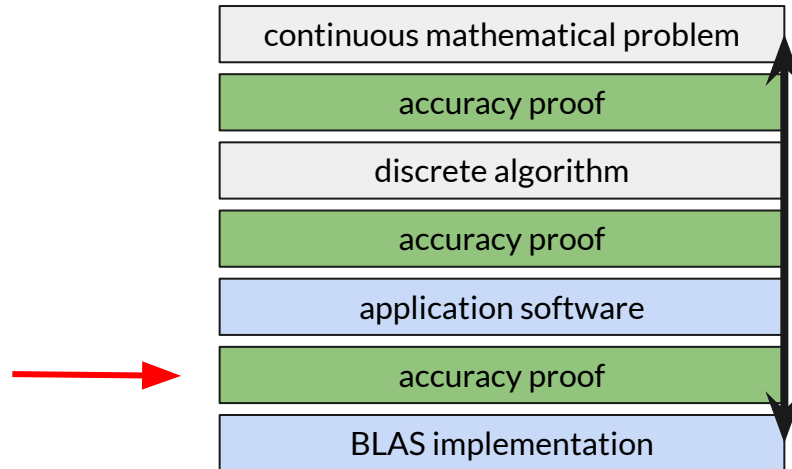


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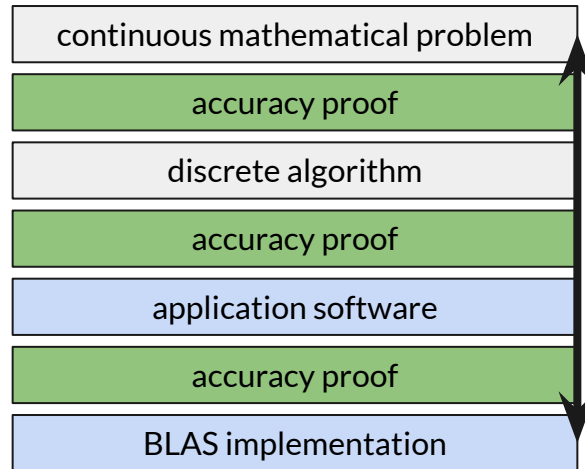




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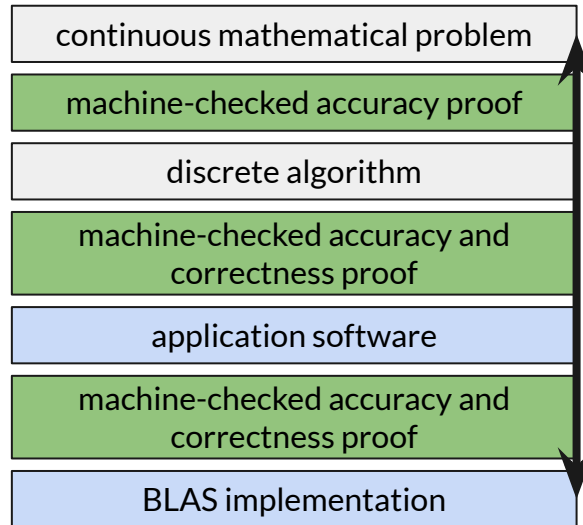



In high-consequence settings, machine-checked proofs are the gold standard

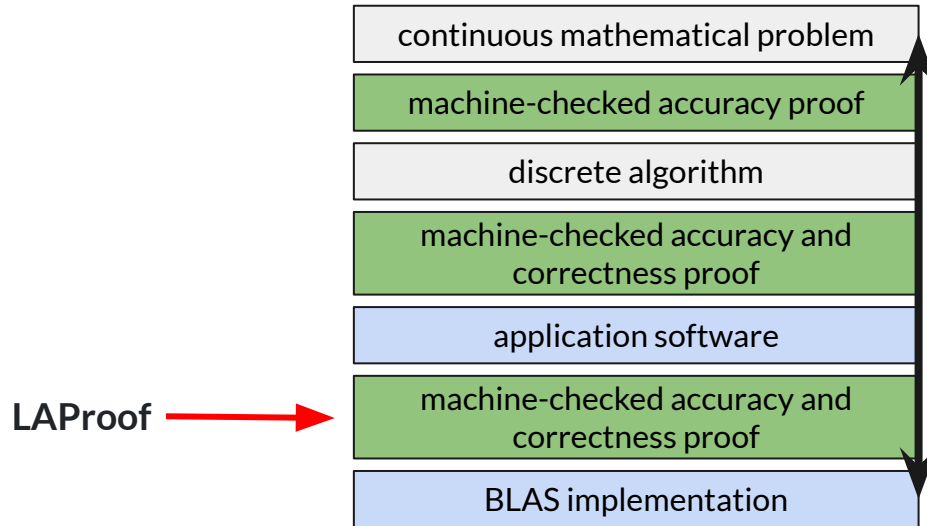




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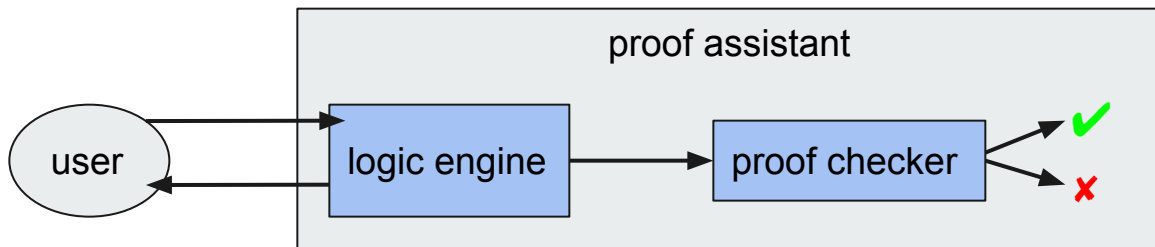


What is a machine-checked proof?

- A formal derivation in a formal logical system, checked by a proof-checking program

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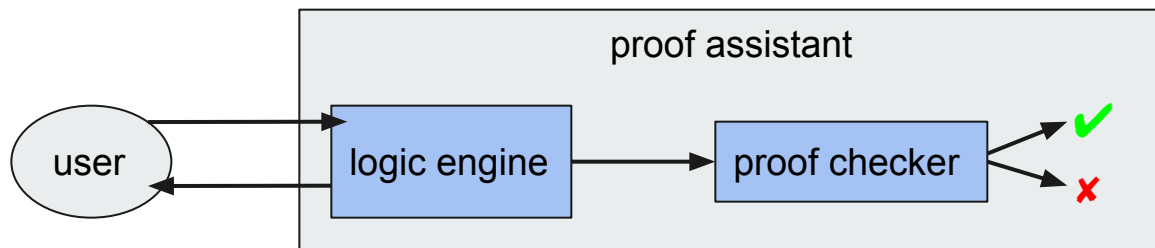
- A formal derivation in a formal logical system, checked by a proof-checking program
- A common tool for developing machine checked proofs is a *proof assistant*
- Proof assistants provide
 - a DSL (domain-specific language) for building proofs
 - a program that verifies whether proofs are valid derivations in a formal logic
 - libraries of definitions, theorems, and programs for proof automation



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- The **Coq proof assistant** – free, open-source software; development largely supported by INRIA (The National Institute for Research in Digital Science and Technology) since 1989.



Which linear algebra operations does LAProof provide machine-checked accuracy proofs for?

What operations does LAProof provide?

TABLE I
LAPROOF VECTOR OPERATIONS

DOT	$r \leftarrow x \cdot y$
sVec	$r \leftarrow \alpha x$
SUM	$r \leftarrow \sum_i x_i$
VecAdd	$r \leftarrow x + y$
VecAXPBY	$r \leftarrow \alpha x + \beta y$
VecNRM1	$r \leftarrow \ x\ _1$
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TABLE II
LAPROOF MATRIX-VECTOR OPERATIONS

MV	$r \leftarrow Ax$
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GEMV	$r \leftarrow \alpha Ax + \beta y$

TABLE III
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sMat	$R \leftarrow \alpha A$
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How are LAProof operations defined?

Matrices and vectors are defined using polymorphic lists.

```
Definition matrix (T : Type) := list (list T).  
Definition vector (T : Type) := list T.
```



- Coq's **axiomatic reals**
- Flocq's [Boldo & Melquiond, 2011]
IEEE-754 binary floats at any precision



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Operations are simple higher-order polymorphic functional programs.

```
Variable dot : vector T → vector T → T.  
Variables (A : matrix T) (v : vector T).
```

matrix-vector
product



```
Definition MV : vector T  
:= map (fun a => dot a v) A.
```

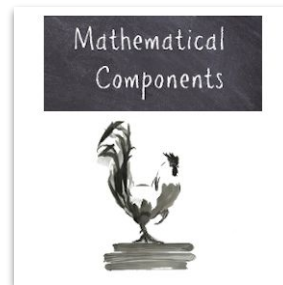
How do we ensure the correctness of LAMProof operations?

Extension to the Mathematical Components (MathComp) Library [Mahboubi et al., 2022]

The Mathematical Components repository

The Mathematical Components Library is an extensive and coherent repository of formalized mathematical theories. It is based on the [Coq](#) proof assistant, powered with the [Coq/SSReflect](#) language.

- Originally developed for formal proofs of the four color theorem and the odd order theorem
- Contains well developed and maintained libraries for real analysis and basic linear algebra



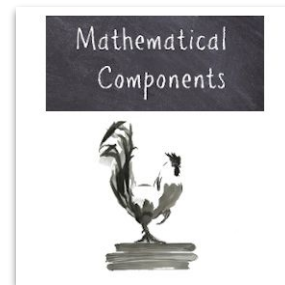


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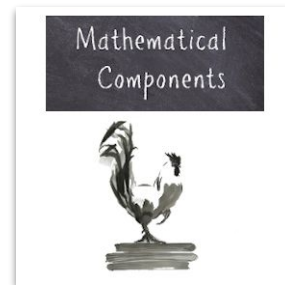
- Define injections from LAProof matrices and vectors over Coq's axiomatic reals to MathComp's matrices and vectors [Cohen et al., 2022]
- Prove that injections from LAProof operations to MathComp operations are correct
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Why not use MathComp in the first place?

- Coq lists are easier to use in proofs of program correctness [Cohen et al., 2022]
- More Coq users are familiar with Coq lists than MathComp (and SSReflect)



What accuracy theorems does LAMProof provide?

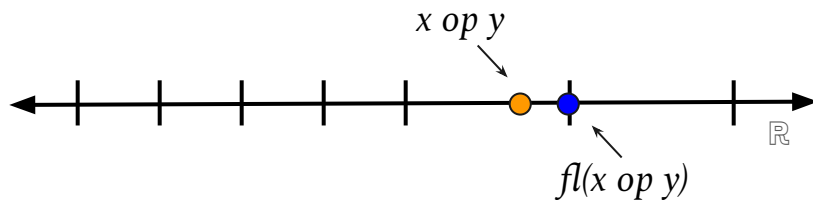


What accuracy theorems does LAProof provide?

- Mixed (backward-forward) rounding error bounds that account for underflow
- Low order error terms captured exactly, not approximating as $O(u^2)$
- Assume only a low-level formal model of IEEE-754 arithmetic provided by the Flocq library [Boldo & Melquiond, 2011].

LAProof accuracy theorems rely on the correctness of the standard rounding error model

Flocq theorem: for IEEE arithmetic,



$$\text{fl}(a \text{ op } b) = (a \text{ op } b)(1 + \delta) + \epsilon$$
$$|\delta| \leq u, |\epsilon| \leq \eta, \delta\epsilon = 0, \text{ op} \in \{+, -, \times, /, \sqrt{\}$$

unit roundoff

underflow unit



What accuracy theorems does LAProof provide?

- Backward error bounds when possible (e.g., summation).

$$\phi_{\mathbb{F}_{p,e}}(x) = \phi_{\mathbb{R}}(x + \Delta x)$$

Floating-point operation:
precision p , maximum exponent e

Rounding error is attributed to a small change in the input.

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Rounding error is attributed to a small change in the input, **plus some small term that accounts for underflow.**



What accuracy theorems does LAProof provide?

- Forward rounding error bounds are derived from mixed (or backward) error bounds.

$$F \triangleq |\phi_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbf{x}) - \phi_{\mathbb{F}_{p,e}}(\mathbf{x})|$$

Floating-point operation:
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An example: accuracy of matrix-vector product

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An example: accuracy of matrix-vector product

Theorem 3 (bfMV). For any vector $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{F}_{p,e}^n$, and matrix $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{F}_{p,e}^{m \times n}$, there exists a matrix $\Delta \mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ and vector $\boldsymbol{\eta} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that

$$\text{fl}(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}) = (\mathbf{A} + \Delta \mathbf{A})\mathbf{v} + \boldsymbol{\eta}, \quad (11)$$

where every element of the vector $\boldsymbol{\eta}$ respects the bound $|\eta| \leq g(n, n)$ and each element of the matrix $\Delta \mathbf{A}$ respects the bound $|\Delta A| \leq h(n)|A|$.



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$$h(n) = (1 + u)^n - 1$$
$$g(n, m) = n\eta(1 + h(m))$$

What does the theorem look like in Coq?

```
→ Variable (A: @matrix (ftype t)).  
Variable (v: @vector (ftype t)).  
  
Hypothesis Hfin : is_finite_vec (A *f v).  
Hypothesis Hlen: forall row, In row A -> length row = length v.  
  
Lemma mat_vec_mul_mixed_error:  
  exists (E : matrix) (eta : vector),  
    A *fr v = (Ar +m E) *r vr +v eta.  
  /\ (forall i j, (i < m)%nat -> (j < n)%nat ->  
    Rabs (E _(i,j)) <= g n * Rabs (Ar _(i,j))).  
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  /\ eq_size E A.  
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    A *f v = (Ar +m E) *r vr +v eta.  
  /\ (forall i j, (i < m)%nat -> (j < n)%nat ->  
    Rabs (E _(i,j)) <= g n * Rabs (Ar _(i,j))).  
  /\ (forall k, In k eta -> Rabs k <= g1 n n).  
  /\ eq_size E A.  
  /\ length eta = m.
```

- Formal proof ~120 lines of code



How can we connect error bounds from LAProof to concrete programs?



Use LAProof operations in proofs of program correctness

Example from the paper: prove the correctness of the function `csr_mv_multiply`, which implements matrix-vector multiplication using a compressed sparse row (CSR) format .

```
void csr_mv_multiply (struct csr_matrix *m,
                     double *v, double *p) {
    unsigned i, rows = m → rows;
    double *val = m → val;
    unsigned *col_ind = m → col_ind;
    unsigned *row_ptr = m → row_ptr;
    unsigned next=row_ptr[0];
    for (i = 0; i < rows; i++) {
        double s = 0.0;
        unsigned h = next;
        next = row_ptr[i+1];
        for (h = 0; h < next; h++) {
            double x = val[h];
            unsigned j = col_ind[h];
            double y = v[j];
            s = fma(x,y,s);
        }
        p[i]=s;
    }
}
```



Use LAProof operations in proofs of program correctness

Example from the paper: prove the correctness of the function `csr_mv_multiply`, which implements matrix-vector multiplication using a compressed sparse row (CSR) format.

- Write a specification of matrix-vector multiplication using the LAProof operation.
- Prove (in Coq) that `csr_mv_multiply` complies with this specification.

```
void csr_mv_multiply (struct csr_matrix *m,
                     double *v, double *p) {
  unsigned i, rows = m → rows;
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      double x = val[h];
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      double y = v[j];
      s = fma(x,y,s);
    }
    p[i]=s;
  }
}
```



Example: Prove the correctness of `csr_mv_multiply` using VST

The Verified Software Toolchain (VST) [Appel et al., 2011]

- A collection of verification tools for the C language
- Implements (in Coq) a program logic for reasoning about the correctness of C programs
- Proved sound with respect to the CompCert C compiler [Leroy et al., 2008]

```
Definition csr_mv_spec :=  
  DECLARE _csr_mv_multiply  
  WITH  $\pi_1$ : share,  $\pi_2$ : share,  $\pi_3$ : share,  
       m: val, A: matrix Tdouble, v: val,  
       x: vector Tdouble, p: val  
  PRE [ tptr t_csr, tptr tdouble, tptr tdouble ]
```

```
  POST [ tvoid ]  
  EX y: vector Tdouble,  
     PROP(Forall2 feq y (MVF A x))  
  RETURN()  
  SEP (csr_rep  $\pi_1$  A m;  
       data_at  $\pi_2$  (tarray tdouble (Zlength x))  
                                     (map Vfloat x) v;  
       data_at  $\pi_3$  (tarray tdouble (matrix_rows A))  
                                     (map Vfloat y) p).
```


Example: Prove the correctness of `csr_mv_multiply` using VST

A function is specified by its **precondition** and its **postcondition**

```
Definition csr_mv_spec :=
  DECLARE _csr_mv_multiply
  WITH  $\pi_1$ : share,  $\pi_2$ : share,  $\pi_3$ : share,
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                                     (map Vfloat y) p).
```

Example: Prove the correctness of `csr_mv_multiply` using VST

A function is specified by its **precondition** and its **postcondition**

- A, x: formal models of the matrix and vector begin multiplied.

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```

Example: Prove the correctness of `csr_mv_multiply` using VST

A function is specified by its **precondition** and its **postcondition**

- `A`, `x`: formal models of the matrix and vector begin multiplied.
- `m`: address where CSR representation of `A` is stored
- `p`: address where vector `x` is stored

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Definition csr_mv_spec :=  
  DECLARE _csr_mv_multiply  
  WITH  $\pi_1$ : share,  $\pi_2$ : share,  $\pi_3$ : share,  
       m: val, A: matrix Tdouble, v: val,  
       x: vector Tdouble, p: val  
  PRE [ tptr t_csr, tptr tdouble, tptr tdouble ]
```

```
  POST [ tvoid ]  
  EX y: vector Tdouble,  
     PROP(Forall2 feq y (MVF A x))  
  RETURN()  
  SEP (csr_rep  $\pi_1$  A m;  
       data_at  $\pi_2$  (tarray tdouble (Zlength x))  
                               (map Vfloat x) v;  
       data_at  $\pi_3$  (tarray tdouble (matrix_rows A))  
                               (map Vfloat y) p).
```

Example: Prove the correctness of `csr_mv_multiply` using VST

A function is specified by its **precondition** and its **postcondition**

- `A`, `x`: formal models of the matrix and vector begin multiplied.
- `m`: address where CSR representation of `A` is stored
- `p`: address where vector `x` is stored
- **postcondition**: the vector of `y` of double precision floats exists, *and...*

```
Definition csr_mv_spec :=  
  DECLARE _csr_mv_multiply  
  WITH  $\pi_1$ : share,  $\pi_2$ : share,  $\pi_3$ : share,  
        m: val, A: matrix Tdouble, v: val,  
        x: vector Tdouble, p: val  
  PRE [ tptr t_csr, tptr tdouble, tptr tdouble ]
```

```
POST [ tvoid ]
```

```
EX y: vector Tdouble,
```

```
PROP(Forall2 feq y (MVF A x))
```

```
RETURN()
```

```
SEP (csr_rep  $\pi_1$  A m;
```

```
      data_at  $\pi_2$  (tarray tdouble (Zlength x))
```

```
              (map Vfloat x) v;
```

```
→ data_at  $\pi_3$  (tarray tdouble (matrix_rows A))  
              (map Vfloat y) p).
```

```
Definition MV : vector T  
:= map (fun a => dot a v) A.
```



Accuracy and correctness proofs compose

Theorem [[accuracy and correctness](#)]: the function `csr_mv_multiply` correctly and accurately implements matrix-vector multiplication using a compressed sparse row format.

```
void csr_mv_multiply (struct csr_matrix *m,
                    double *v, double *p) {
    unsigned i, rows = m → rows;
    double *val = m → val;
    unsigned *col_ind = m → col_ind;
    unsigned *row_ptr = m → row_ptr;
    unsigned next=row_ptr[0];
    for (i = 0; i < rows; i++) {
        double s = 0.0;
        unsigned h = next;
        next = row_ptr[i+1];
        for (h = 0; h < next; h++) {
            double x = val[h];
            unsigned j = col_ind[h];
            double y = v[j];
            s = fma(x,y,s);
        }
        p[i]=s;
    }
}
```



In summary,



LAProof provides machine-checked proofs of accuracy for basic linear algebra operations and these accuracy proofs can be connected to concrete programs implementing BLAS.

- Accuracy proofs assume only a low-level formal model of IEEE-754 arithmetic.
- The rounding error bounds in the accuracy proofs are mixed (backward-forward) error bounds that account for underflow.
- Rounding error bounds capture low order error terms exactly, not approximating as $O(u^2)$.

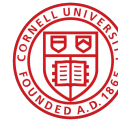


VeriNum / LAProof



Thanks for listening!

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