

Program Verification in SPARK and ACSL: A Comparative Case Study

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- Introduction
- Background
 - Software Contracts & Verification Process
 - SPARK
 - ACSL
 - Running Example (Stack)
- Bounded Stack Specification
 - Reasoning With Specifications
- Implementation, Refinement & Program Verification
- Conclusion
- Future Work

- Why compare SPARK and ACSL?
 - C and Ada are the most used languages in critical systems;
 - SPARK enables program verification (among other things) for a subset of Ada;
 - ACSL is “ANSI/ISO C Specification Language”;
 - To show the similarities and differences between the two specification languages and approaches.
- Promoting the use of verification tools for both languages!
 - As a short tutorial using a simple example.

- **Software Contracts**
 - We write the contracts in a Behavioral Interface Specification Language;
 - The contracts are the specification of properties;
 - The contracts state:
 - what a subprogram is expecting; (pre-condition)
 - Established by the caller.
 - what is expected from the suprogram. (post-condition)
 - Established by the callee.
 - There are usually contracts describing the state of the program (e.g. data and class invariants).

- Program Verification

- After the program is annotated with its annotations...
- ... the Verification Condition (VC) generator (VCGen) generates the VCs/Proof Obligations;
- The VCs are fed to theorem provers;
- They may be discharged (proved to be valid) automatically (if possible) or manually.
 - Or we may be able to find counter-examples that show the VC is not valid.

- SPARK

- The language is a strict/true subset of Ada;
- Uses its own BSL for the contracts;
- Uses a toolset to enforce its subset of Ada and to generate and discharge Vcs;
- Depends on Ada compilers;
- Used in several large safety-critical projects and is the focus of on-going academic research.

- ACSL
 - It is used for ANSI/ISO C code;
 - The language is a separate entity from the annotations;
 - The BSL has to deal with more problems (e.g. pointers, dynamic memory...);
 - It provides several ways to specify mathematical properties (axioms, lemmas, predicates, behaviours...).

Running example (general stack specification)

```
nat count()
nat capacity()
boolean isEmpty()
Postcond: Result = (count() = 0)
boolean isFull()
Postcond: Result = (count() = capacity())
int top()
Precond: not isEmpty()
void pop()
Precond: not isEmpty(); Postcond: count() = old_count() - 1
void push(int n)
Precond: not isFull(); Postcond: count() = old_count() + 1 and top() = n
```

What is missing?


```

package Stack
--# own State: StackType;
is
  --# type StackType is abstract;
  --# function Count_of(S: StackType) return Natural;
  --# function Cap_of(S: StackType) return Natural;
  --# function Substack(S1: StackType; S2: StackType) return Boolean;

  MaxStackSize: constant := 100;

  procedure Init;
  --# global out State;
  --# derives State from;
  --# post Cap_of(State) = MaxStackSize and Count_of(State) = 0;

  function isEmpty return Boolean;
  --# global State;
  --# return Count_of(State) = 0;

  function isFull return Boolean;
  --# global State;
  --# return Count_of(State) = Cap_of(State);

  function Top return Integer;
  --# global State;
  --# pre Count_of(State) > 0;

  procedure Pop;
  --# global in out State;
  --# derives State from State;
  --# pre 0 < Count_of(State);
  --# post Cap_of(State) = Cap_of(State~) and Count_of(State) = Count_of(State~)-1 and
  --#       Substack(State, State~);

  procedure Push(X: in Integer);
  --# global in out State;
  --# derives State from State, X;
  --# pre Count_of(State) < Cap_of(State);
  --# post Cap_of(State) = Cap_of(State~) and Count_of(State) = Count_of(State~)+1 and
  --#       Top(State) = X and Substack(State~, State);
end Stack;

```

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package Stack
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MaxStackSize: constant := 100;

procedure Init;
--# global out State;
--# derives State from;
--# post Cap_of(State) = MaxStackSize and Count_of(State) = 0;

function isEmpty return Boolean;
--# global State;
--# return Count_of(State) = 0;

function isFull return Boolean;
--# global State;
--# return Count_of(State) = Cap_of(State);

function Top return Integer;
--# global State;
--# pre Count_of(State) > 0;

procedure Pop;
--# global in out State;
--# derives State from State;
--# pre 0 < Count_of(State);
--# post Cap_of(State) = Cap_of(State~) and Count_of(State) = Count_of(State~)-1 and
--#       Substack(State, State~);

procedure Push(X: in Integer);
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--#       Top(State) = X and Substack(State~, State);
end Stack;

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  --# function Substack(S1: StackType; S2: StackType) return Boolean;

  MaxStackSize: constant := 100;

  procedure Init;
  --# global out State;
  --# derives State from;
  --# post Cap_of(State) = MaxStackSize and Count_of(State) = 0;

  function isEmpty return Boolean;
  --# global State;
  --# return Count_of(State) = 0;

  function isFull return Boolean;
  --# global State;
  --# return Count_of(State) = Cap_of(State);

  function Top return Integer;
  --# global State;
  --# pre Count_of(State) > 0;

  procedure Pop;
  --# global in out State;
  --# derives State from State;
  --# pre 0 < Count_of(State);
  --# post Cap_of(State) = Cap_of(State~) and Count_of(State) = Count_of(State~)-1 and
  --#       Substack(State, State~);

  procedure Push(X: in Integer);
  --# global in out State;
  --# derives State from State, X;
  --# pre Count_of(State) < Cap_of(State);
  --# post Cap_of(State) = Cap_of(State~) and Count_of(State) = Count_of(State~)+1 and
  --#       Top(State) = X and Substack(State~, State);
end Stack;

```

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  --# type StackType is abstract;
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  --# function Cap_of(S: StackType) return Natural;
  --# function Substack(S1: StackType; S2: StackType) return Boolean;

  MaxStackSize: constant := 100;

  procedure Init;
  --# global out State;
  --# derives State from;
  --# post Cap_of(State) = MaxStackSize and Count_of(State) = 0;

  function isEmpty return Boolean;
  --# global State;
  --# return Count_of(State) = 0;

  function isFull return Boolean;
  --# global State;
  --# return Count_of(State) = Cap_of(State);

  function Top return Integer;
  --# global State;
  --# pre Count_of(State) > 0;

  procedure Pop;
  --# global in out State;
  --# derives State from State;
  --# pre 0 < Count_of(State);
  --# post Cap_of(State) = Cap_of(State~) and Count_of(State) = Count_of(State~)-1 and
  --#       Substack(State, State~);

  procedure Push(X: in Integer);
  --# global in out State;
  --# derives State from State, X;
  --# pre Count_of(State) < Cap_of(State);
  --# post Cap_of(State) = Cap_of(State~) and Count_of(State) = Count_of(State~)+1 and
  --#       Top(State) = X and Substack(State~, State);
end Stack;

```

Now in C/ACSL

```

typedef ... Stack;
Stack st;

/*@ axiomatic Pilha {
  @ logic integer cap_of{L} (Stack st) = ...
  @ logic integer top_of{L} (Stack st) = ...
  @ logic integer count_of{L} (Stack st) = ...
  @ predicate substack{L1,L2} (Stack st) = ...
  @ } */

/*@ requires cap >= 0;
  @ ensures cap_of{Here}(st) == cap && count_of{Here}(st) == 0;
  @*/
void init (int cap);

/*@ assigns \nothing;
  @ behavior empty:
  @   assumes count_of{Here}(st) == 0;
  @   ensures \result == 1;
  @ behavior not_empty:
  @   assumes count_of{Here}(st) != 0;
  @   ensures \result == 0;
  @*/
int isEmpty (void);

/*@ assigns \nothing;
  @ behavior full:
  @   assumes count_of{Here}(st) == cap_of{Here}(st);
  @   ensures \result == 1;
  @ behavior not_full:
  @   assumes count_of{Here}(st) != cap_of{Here}(st);
  @   ensures \result == 0;
  @*/
int isFull (void);

/*@ requires 0 < count_of{Here}(st);
  @ ensures \result == top_of{Here}(st);
  @ assigns \nothing;
  @*/
int top (void);

```

```

/*@ requires 0 < count_of{Here}(st);
  @ ensures cap_of{Here}(st) == cap_of{Old}(st) &&
  @         count_of{Here}(st) == count_of{Old}(st) - 1 &&
  @         substack{Here,Old}(st);
  @*/
void pop(void);

/*@ requires count_of{Here}(st) < cap_of{Here}(st);
  @ ensures cap_of{Here}(st) == cap_of{Old}(st) &&
  @         count_of{Here}(st) == count_of{Old}(st) + 1 &&
  @         top_of{Here}(st) == x && substack{Old,Here}(st);
  @*/
void push (int x);

```

```

typedef ... Stack;
Stack st;

/*@ axiomatic Pilha {
  @ logic integer cap_of{L} (Stack st) = ...
  @ logic integer top_of{L} (Stack st) = ...
  @ logic integer count_of{L} (Stack st) = ...
  @ predicate substack{L1,L2} (Stack st) = ...
  @ } */

/*@ requires cap >= 0;
  @ ensures cap_of{Here}(st) == cap && count_of{Here}(st) == 0;
  @*/
void init (int cap);

/*@ assigns \nothing;
  @ behavior empty:
  @   assumes count_of{Here}(st) == 0;
  @   ensures \result == 1;
  @ behavior not_empty:
  @   assumes count_of{Here}(st) != 0;
  @   ensures \result == 0;
  @*/
int isEmpty (void);

/*@ assigns \nothing;
  @ behavior full:
  @   assumes count_of{Here}(st) == cap_of{Here}(st);
  @   ensures \result == 1;
  @ behavior not_full:
  @   assumes count_of{Here}(st) != cap_of{Here}(st);
  @   ensures \result == 0;
  @*/
int isFull (void);

/*@ requires 0 < count_of{Here}(st);
  @ ensures \result == top_of{Here}(st);
  @ assigns \nothing;
  @*/
int top (void);

```

```

typedef ... Stack;
Stack st;

/*@ axiomatic Pilha {
  @ logic integer cap_of{L} (Stack st) = ...
  @ logic integer top_of{L} (Stack st) = ...
  @ logic integer count_of{L} (Stack st) = ...
  @ predicate substack{L1,L2} (Stack st) = ...
  @ } */

/*@ requires cap >= 0;
  @ ensures cap_of{Here}(st) == cap && count_of{Here}(st) == 0;
  @*/
void init (int cap);

/*@ assigns \nothing;
  @ behavior empty:
  @   assumes count_of{Here}(st) == 0;
  @   ensures \result == 1;
  @ behavior not_empty:
  @   assumes count_of{Here}(st) != 0;
  @   ensures \result == 0;
  @*/
int isEmpty (void);

```

```

/*@ assigns \nothing;
  @ behavior full:
  @   assumes count_of{Here}(st) == cap_of{Here}(st);
  @   ensures \result == 1;
  @ behavior not_full:
  @   assumes count_of{Here}(st) != cap_of{Here}(st);
  @   ensures \result == 0;
  @*/
int isFull (void);

```

```

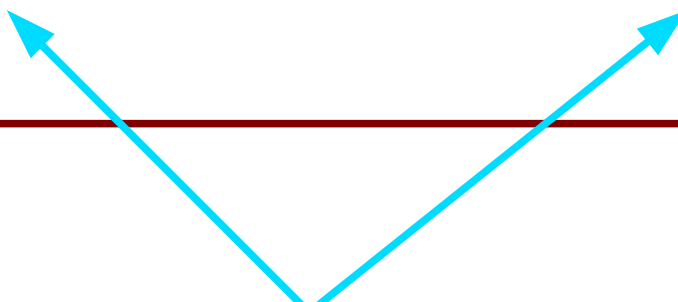
/*@ requires 0 < count_of{Here}(st);
  @ ensures \result == top_of{Here}(st);
  @ assigns \nothing;
  @*/
int top (void);

```



```
/*@ requires 0 < count_of{Here}(st);
   @ ensures cap_of{Here}(st) == cap_of{Old}(st) &&
   @         count_of{Here}(st) == count_of{Old}(st) - 1 &&
   @         substack{Here,Old}(st);
   @*/
void pop(void);
```

```
/*@ requires count_of{Here}(st) < cap_of{Here}(st);
   @ ensures cap_of{Here}(st) == cap_of{Old}(st) &&
   @         count_of{Here}(st) == count_of{Old}(st) + 1 &&
   @         top_of{Here}(st) == x && substack{Old,Here}(st);
   @*/
void push (int x);
```



State labels

- Reasoning With Specifications

```
with Stack;
--# inherit Stack;
package SSwap is
  procedure Swap(X, Y: in out Integer);
    --# global in out Stack.State;
    --# derives Stack.State, X, Y from Stack.State, X, Y;
    --# pre Stack.Count_of(Stack.State) <= Stack.Cap_of(Stack.State)-2;
    --# post X = Y~ and Y = X~;
end SSwap;

package body SSwap is
  procedure Swap(X, Y: in out Integer)
  is
  begin
    Stack.Push(X); Stack.Push(Y);
    X := Stack.Top; Stack.Pop;
    Y := Stack.Top; Stack.Pop;
  end Swap;
end SSwap;
```

Is it wrong not to ensure that the stack stays the same? We say it depends(?)

- Automatic proof with Simplifier

```
ss_rule(1) : stack_top(S1) = stack_top(S2) may_be_deduced_from  
  [stack_count_of(S1) = stack_count_of(S2), stack_substack(S1,S3), stack_substack(S2,S3)].
```

```
ss_rule(3) : stack_top(S1) = stack_top(S2) may_be_deduced_from  
  [stack_count_of(S3) = stack_count_of(S2)+1, stack_count_of(S1) = stack_count_of(S3)-1,  
   stack_substack(S1,S3), stack_substack(S2,S3)].
```

Equivalent rules but only the second is able to discharge the VC.

```
package body Stack
--# own State is Capacity, Ptr, Vector;
is
  type Ptrs is range 0..MaxStackSize;
  subtype Indexes is Ptrs range 1..Ptrs'Last;
  type Vectors is array (Indexes) of Integer;

  Capacity: Ptrs := 0;
  Ptr: Ptrs := 0;
  Vector: Vectors := Vectors'(Indexes => 0);

  procedure Push(X: in Integer)
  --# global in out Vector, Ptr;
  --#      in Capacity;
  --# derives Ptr from Ptr & Vector from Vector, Ptr, X & null from Capacity;
  --# pre Ptr < Capacity;
  --# post Ptr = Ptr~ + 1 and Vector = Vector~[Ptr => X];
  is
  begin
    Ptr := Ptr + 1;
    Vector(Ptr) := X;
    --# accept F, 30, Capacity, "Only used in contract";
  end Push;
```

```
package body Stack
--# own State is Capacity, Ptr, Vector;
is
  type Ptrs is range 0..MaxStackSize;
  subtype Indexes is Ptrs range 1..Ptrs'Last;
  type Vectors is array (Indexes) of Integer;

  Capacity: Ptrs := 0;
  Ptr: Ptrs := 0;
  Vector: Vectors := Vectors'(Indexes => 0);

  procedure Push(X: in Integer)
  --# global in out Vector, Ptr;
  --#      in Capacity;
  --# derives Ptr from Ptr & Vector from Vector, Ptr, X & null from Capacity;
  --# pre Ptr < Capacity;
  --# post Ptr = Ptr~ + 1 and Vector = Vector~[Ptr => X];
  is
  begin
    Ptr := Ptr + 1;
    Vector(Ptr) := X;
    --# accept F, 30, Capacity, "Only used in contract";
  end Push;
```

```
package body Stack
--# own State is Capacity, Ptr, Vector;
is
  type Ptrs is range 0..MaxStackSize;
  subtype Indexes is Ptrs range 1..Ptrs'Last;
  type Vectors is array (Indexes) of Integer;

  Capacity: Ptrs := 0;
  Ptr: Ptrs := 0;
  Vector: Vectors := Vectors'(Indexes => 0);

  procedure Push(X: in Integer)
--# global in out Vector, Ptr;
--#      in Capacity;
--# derives Ptr from Ptr & Vector from Vector, Ptr, X & null from Capacity;
--# pre Ptr < Capacity;
--# post Ptr = Ptr~ + 1 and Vector = Vector~[Ptr => X];
  is
  begin
    Ptr := Ptr + 1;
    Vector(Ptr) := X;
    --# accept F, 30, Capacity, "Only used in contract";
  end Push;
```

- Proof rules in SPARK

```
stack_rule(1) : cap_of(S) may_be_replaced_by fld_capacity(S) .  
stack_rule(2) : count_of(S) may_be_replaced_by fld_ptr(S) .
```

```
stack_rule(3) : count_of(X) = count_of(Y) - Z may_be_replaced_by fld_ptr(Y) = fld_ptr(X) + Z.  
stack_rule(4) : count_of(X) = count_of(Y) + Z may_be_replaced_by fld_ptr(X) = fld_ptr(Y) + Z.  
stack_rule(5) : count_of(S) = cap_of(S) may_be_replaced_by fld_ptr(S) = fld_capacity(S).
```

```
stack_rule(6) : substack(X, Y) may_be_deduced_from  
  [V=fld_vector(X), Z=fld_ptr(X)+1, Z=fld_ptr(Y), fld_vector(Y)=update(V, [Z], N)].  
stack_rule(7) : substack(X, Y) may_be_deduced_from  
  [fld_vector(X)=fld_vector(Y), fld_ptr(X)<fld_ptr(Y)].  
stack_rule(8) : stack_top(X) = Y may_be_deduced_from  
  [fld_vector(X) = update(Z, [fld_ptr(X)], Y)] .
```

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stack_rule(8) : stack_top(X) = Y may_be_deduced_from  
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stack_rule(6) : substack(X, Y) may_be_deduced_from  
  [V=fld_vector(X), Z=fld_ptr(X)+1, Z=fld_ptr(Y), fld_vector(Y)=update(V, [Z], N)].  
stack_rule(7) : substack(X, Y) may_be_deduced_from  
  [fld_vector(X)=fld_vector(Y), fld_ptr(X)<fld_ptr(Y)].  
stack_rule(8) : stack_top(X) = Y may_be_deduced_from  
  [fld_vector(X) = update(Z, [fld_ptr(X)], Y)] .
```

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stack_rule(7) : substack(X, Y) may_be_deduced_from  
  [fld_vector(X)=fld_vector(Y), fld_ptr(X)<fld_ptr(Y)].  
stack_rule(8) : stack_top(X) = Y may_be_deduced_from  
  [fld_vector(X) = update(Z, [fld_ptr(X)], Y)] .
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stack_rule(5) : count_of(S) = cap_of(S) may_be_replaced_by fld_ptr(S) = fld_capacity(S).
```

```
stack_rule(6) : substack(X, Y) may_be_deduced_from  
  [V=fld_vector(X), Z=fld_ptr(X)+1, Z=fld_ptr(Y), fld_vector(Y)=update(V, [Z], N)].  
stack_rule(7) : substack(X, Y) may_be_deduced_from  
  [fld_vector(X)=fld_vector(Y), fld_ptr(X)<fld_ptr(Y)].  
stack_rule(8) : stack_top(X) = Y may_be_deduced_from  
  [fld_vector(X) = update(Z, [fld_ptr(X)], Y)] .
```

Now for C/ACSL

```
typedef struct stack {
    int capacity;
    int size;
    int *elems;
} Stack;

int x, y;
Stack st;

/*@ axiomatic Pilha {
    @ logic integer cap_of{L} (Stack st) = st.capacity;
    @ logic integer top_of{L} (Stack st) = st.elems[st.size-1];
    @ logic integer count_of{L} (Stack st) = st.size;
    @ predicate substack{L1,L2} (Stack st) = \at(st.size,L1) <= \at(st.size,L2) &&
    @ \forall integer i; 0<=i<\at(st.size,L1) ==> \at(st.elems[i],L1) == \at(st.elems[i],L2);
    @ predicate stinv{L}(Stack st) =
    @ \valid_range(st.elems,0,st.capacity-1) && 0 <= count_of{L}(st) <= cap_of{L}(st);
    @ } */

/*@ requires count_of{Here}(st) < cap_of{Here}(st) && stinv{Here}(st);
    @ ensures cap_of{Here}(st) == cap_of{Old}(st) && count_of{Here}(st) == count_of{Old}(st)+1
    @ && top_of{Here}(st) == x && substack{Old,Here}(st) && stinv{Here}(st);
    @*/
void push (int x) {
    st.elems[st.size] = x;
    st.size++;
}
```

```
typedef struct stack {
  int capacity;
  int size;
  int *elems;
} Stack;

int x, y;
Stack st;
```

```
/*@ axiomatic Pilha {
  @ logic integer cap_of{L} (Stack st) = st.capacity;
  @ logic integer top_of{L} (Stack st) = st.elems[st.size-1];
  @ logic integer count_of{L} (Stack st) = st.size;
  @ predicate substack{L1,L2} (Stack st) = \at(st.size,L1) <= \at(st.size,L2) &&
  @ \forall integer i; 0<=i<\at(st.size,L1) ==> \at(st.elems[i],L1) == \at(st.elems[i],L2);
  @ predicate stinv{L}(Stack st) =
  @ \valid_range(st.elems,0,st.capacity-1) && 0 <= count_of{L}(st) <= cap_of{L}(st);
  @ } */

/*@ requires count_of{Here}(st) < cap_of{Here}(st) && stinv{Here}(st);
  @ ensures cap_of{Here}(st) == cap_of{Old}(st) && count_of{Here}(st) == count_of{Old}(st)+1
  @ && top_of{Here}(st) == x && substack{Old,Here}(st) && stinv{Here}(st);
  @*/
void push (int x) {
  st.elems[st.size] = x;
  st.size++;
}
```

```
typedef struct stack {
  int capacity;
  int size;
  int *elems;
} Stack;
```

```
int x, y;
Stack st;
```

```
/*@ axiomatic Pilha {
  @ logic integer cap_of{L} (Stack st) = st.capacity;
  @ logic integer top_of{L} (Stack st) = st.elems[st.size-1];
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  @ \forall integer i; 0<=i<\at(st.size,L1) ==> \at(st.elems[i],L1) == \at(st.elems[i],L2);
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```

```
/*@ requires count_of{Here}(st) < cap_of{Here}(st) && stinv{Here}(st);
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  @ && top_of{Here}(st) == x && substack{Old,Here}(st) && stinv{Here}(st);
  @*/
```

```
void push (int x) {
  st.elems[st.size] = x;
  st.size++;
}
```

Array bounds safety condition


```
/*@ ensures x == \old(y) && y == \old(x);  
   @*/  
swap() {  
    init(3); push(x);  push(y); x = top(); pop(); y = top(); pop();  
}
```

- Same “swap with stack” as in the SPARK example.
 - Discharges all proof obligations without needing additional rules;
 - Requires an implementation.

gWhy: a verification conditions viewer

Proof obligations	Alt-Ergo 0.8	Simplify 1.5.7	Yices 1.0.13 (SS)	CVC3 1.5 (SS)	Statistics
Function isFull Safety	✓				4/4
Function main Default behavior	✓				2/2
1. postcondition	●	—	—	—	
2. postcondition	●	—	—	—	
Function main Safety	✓				13/13
Function pop Default behavior	✓				3/3
Function pop Safety	✓				2/2
Function push Default behavior	✓				4/4
1. postcondition	●	—	—	—	
2. postcondition	●	—	—	—	
3. postcondition	●	—	—	—	
4. postcondition	●	—	—	—	
Function push Safety	✓				4/4
1. pointer dereferencing	●	—	—	—	
2. pointer dereferencing	●	—	—	—	
3. check arithmetic overflow	●	—	—	—	
4. check arithmetic overflow	●	—	—	—	
Function top Default behavior	✓				1/1
Function top Safety	✓				4/4

```

int_P_st_10_alloc_table: int_P_alloc_table
stack_capacity_st_1: (stack, int32) memory
stack_elems_st_1: (stack, int_P pointer) memory
stack_size_0_st_1: (stack, int32) memory
stack_st_1_alloc_table: stack_alloc_table
H1: true == true &&
    ((count_of(st, stack_size_0_st_1) < cap_of(st, stack_capacity_st_1) &&
      stinv(st, int_P_st_10_alloc_table, stack_elems_st_1, stack_size_0_st_1,
        stack_capacity_st_1)) &&
      valid_st(stack_st_1_alloc_table))
result: int_P pointer
H2: result == select(stack_elems_st_1, st)
result0: int32
H3: result0 == select(stack_size_0_st_1, st)
int_P_int_M_st_10_0: (int_P, int32) memory
H4: int_P_int_M_st_10_0 ==
    store(int_P_int_M_st_10, result + integer_of_int32(result0), x_0)
result1: int32
H5: result1 == select(stack_size_0_st_1, st)
result2: int32
H6: integer_of_int32(result2) == integer_of_int32(result1) + 1
stack_size_0_st_1_0: (stack, int32) memory
H7: stack_size_0_st_1_0 == store(stack_size_0_st_1, st, result2)

count_of(st, stack_size_0_st_1_0) == count_of(st, stack_size_0_st_1) + 1
.....

/*@ requires count_of{Here}(st) < cap_of{Here}(st) &&
    @ stinv{Here}(st);
    @ ensures cap_of{Here}(st) == cap_of{Old}(st) &&
    @ count_of{Here}(st) == count_of{Old}(st) + 1 &&
    @ top_of{Here}(st) == x &&
    @ substack{Old,Here}(st) &&
    @ stinv{Here}(st);
    @*/
void push (int x) {
  st elems[st.size] = x;
  st.size++;
}

```

Timeout: 10 Pretty Printer | file: bounded_stack_global.c VC: postcondition

- Safety in SPARK is easier to prove;
- SPARK is better for software contracts;
 - Because of separate specification, mainly.
- SPARK has better support for abstraction;
- ACSL is more expressive;
- Functional correctness with ACSL is easier to prove;
- ACSL has better proof tool support;
- Hi-Lite, which has been announced last month, addresses the strengths of both approaches.

- This work is part of an effort aiming at formal verification of Ada;
- A MSc thesis related to the formalization of a subset of SPARK will be finished this year (hopefully!);
- 2 PhD projects starting now.