

Ghosts



certora

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A (much) stronger invariant

Before the break:

- ▶ Tried to show that each user balance is at most the total supply

Now:

- ▶ We'll show that the total supply is the sum of all user balances

$$\text{totalSupply}() = \sum_{a \in \text{address}} \text{balanceOf}(a)$$

- ▶ It's hard to track infinite sum
 - ▶ we'll track changes to balances instead

Hooks

A CVL hook allows running CVL code when the contract updates storage

▶ **Syntax:**

```
hook Sstore <pattern> <new variable> (<old variable>) STORAGE {  
  <body>  
}
```

▶ **Example:**

```
hook Sstore _balances[KEY address a] uint new_value (uint old_value) STORAGE {  
  ...  
}
```

▶ **Pattern is a field followed by any number of:**

- ▶ array lookups (using [INDEX <type> <name>]),
- ▶ mapping lookups (using [KEY <type> <name>]),
- ▶ struct field lookups (using .field)

▶ **Hook can update our tracked sum of balances**

Ghosts

A ghost variable is an additional variable that doesn't exist in the contract

- ▶ Primarily useful for keeping track of changes from hooks

Example:

```
ghost mathint sum_of_balances;
```

You can also declare ghost mappings:

```
ghost mapping(address => mapping(address => uint256)) balances_by_token;
```

Prover considers every possible value of ghost (just like storage)

Putting ghost and hook together

Example (results link):

```
ghost mathint sum_of_balances {
  init_state axiom sum_of_balances == 0;
}

hook Sstore _balances[KEY address a] uint new_value (uint old_value) STORAGE {
  // when balance changes, update ghost
  sum_of_balances = sum_of_balances + new_value - old_value;
}

invariant totalSupplyIsSumOfBalances()
  totalSupply() == sum_of_balances
```

Rule passes on preservation but fails on initialization

- ▶ Prover chooses non-zero initial value for the ghost

Initial state axiom tells prover to make assumptions about the initial value of the ghost (before the constructor)

Exercise

- ▶ Create a ghost to track the number of changes to users' balances
- ▶ Use it to prove that no method changes more than two balances