

formal verification of smart contracts

Ethereum Meetup 1.11.2016, Berlin
Yoichi Hirai

“formal” verification?



“formal” comes from formalised math

Usual Math



idea

correct but boring

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmy_Noether#/media/File:Noether.jpg

Formalised Math

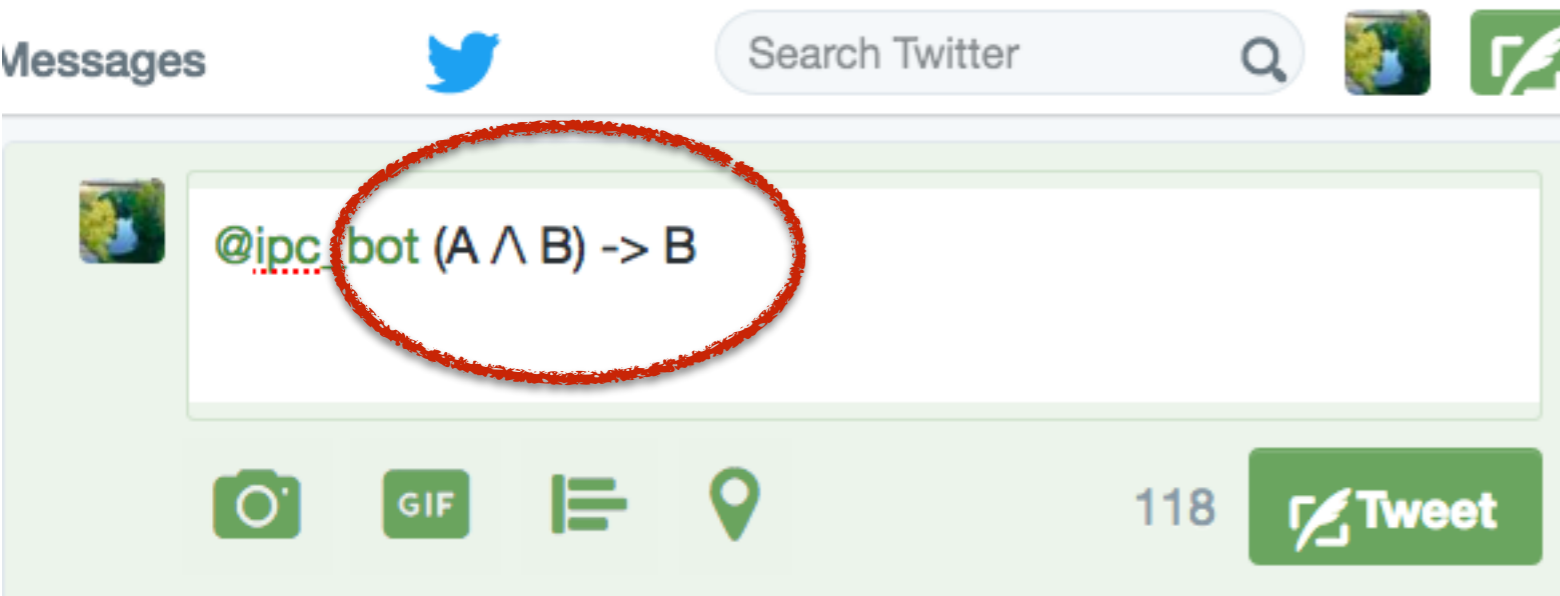


no idea

just looking at “form”

correct

formal proofs on twitter



$$\frac{\frac{P \vee \neg P}{\neg P} \quad \overline{P}}{\frac{\perp}{P \vee \neg P}} \quad \text{IPC bot}$$

@ipc_bot

.@pirapira Provable. (pwl)

$A \wedge B \rightarrow B$:
 Provable.
 Proof tree (intuitionistic):

$$\frac{\frac{[A \wedge B]_1}{B} \wedge E_2}{A \wedge B \rightarrow B} \rightarrow I(1)$$

8:00 PM - 31 Oct 2016

German tech from 1934

186

G. Gentzen.

(*N*)-Zeichen-, „Einführung“ (*E*) bzw. „-Beseitigung“ (*B*).
in § 5.

Die Schlußfiguren-Schemata:

UE

UB

OE

$$\frac{\mathcal{A} \quad \mathcal{B}}{\mathcal{A} \& \mathcal{B}}$$
$$\frac{\mathcal{A} \& \mathcal{B}}{\mathcal{A}} \quad \frac{\mathcal{A} \& \mathcal{B}}{\mathcal{B}}$$
$$\frac{\mathcal{A}}{\mathcal{A} \vee \mathcal{B}} \quad \frac{\mathcal{B}}{\mathcal{A} \vee \mathcal{B}}$$

Und-
Einführung

Und-
Beseitigung

Oder-
Einführung

All mathematical logicians are encouraged to learn German especially if they become an Ethereum DEV in Berlin.

Good rules and bad rules

Good rules allow no smuggling.

Bad rules allow smuggling.

Und-Einführung

$$\frac{\mathcal{A} \quad \mathcal{B}}{\mathcal{A} \& \mathcal{B}}$$

Und-Beseitigung

$$\frac{\mathcal{A} \& \mathcal{B}}{\mathcal{B}}$$

$$\frac{A}{A \text{ tonk } B}$$

$$\frac{A \text{ tonk } B}{B}$$

tonk-introduction

tonk-elimination

Truth
<hr/>
Truth <i>tonk</i> Falsehood
<hr/>
Falsehood

What are the inference rules for Solidity programs?

Solidity code



idea

this works

but why do you believe the code executes top to bottom, not bottom to up?

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmy_Noether#/media/File:Noether.jpg

Solidity code



**knows the rules,
can compile**



**EVM
bytecode**

~~correct~~

What are the inference rules for EVM programs?

PUSH1 0x60
PUSH1 0x40
MSTORE

...

stack: [0x60]
memory: empty

does not go wrong

PUSH1 0x60
PUSH1 0x40
MSTORE

...

stack: empty
memory: empty

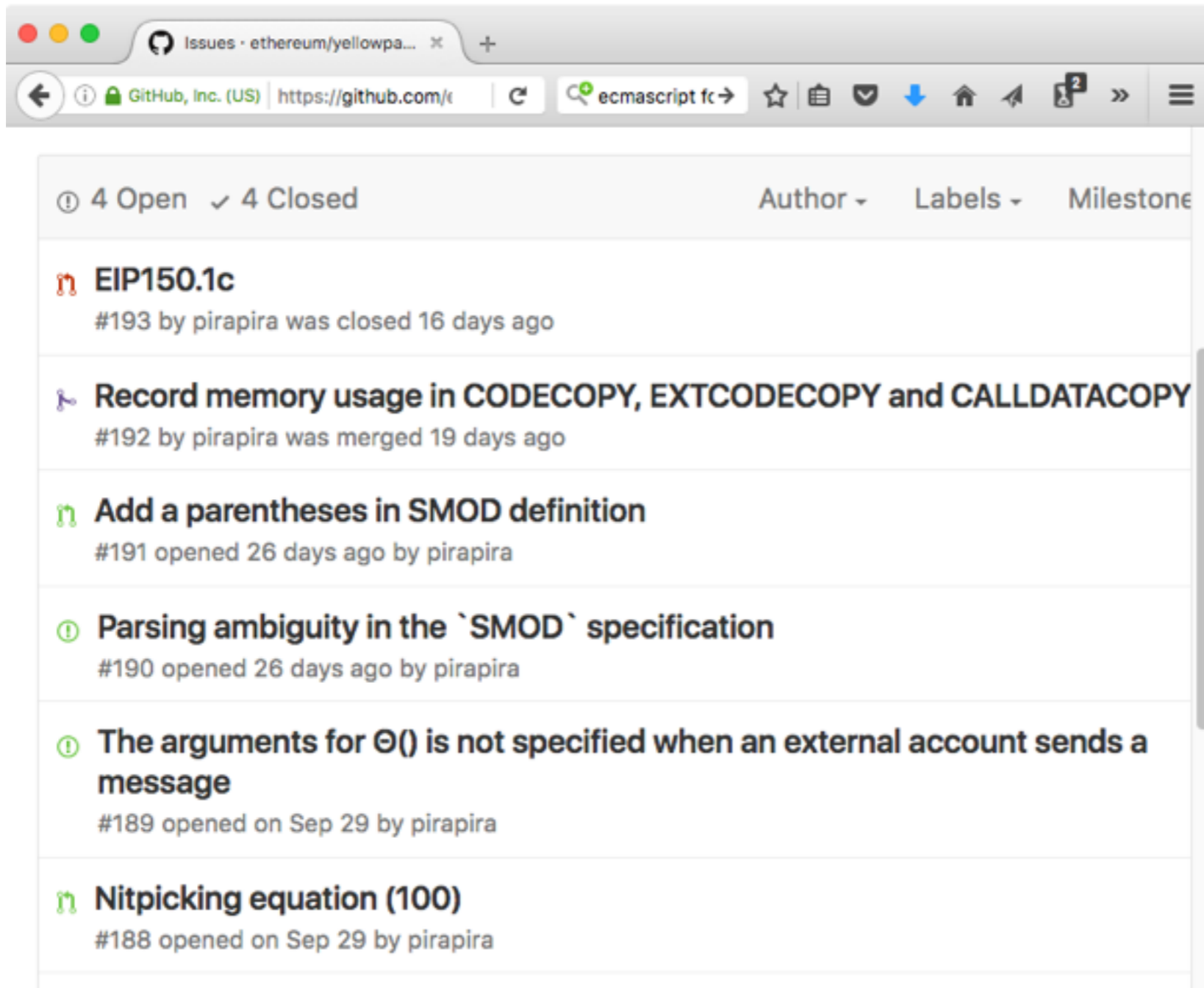
does not go wrong

The hierarchy of programming languages

- spec authoritative written for proof checkers:
[CakeML](#)
- spec translated into proof checkers:
[C11](#), [javascript \(ECMAScript 5\)](#)
- spec with mathematical definitions:
[Standard ML](#), [Scheme](#), [\(EVM?\)](#)
- spec for people: [EVM](#), [C++14](#), [Haskell2010](#), [Ruby](#)
- no spec: [Solidity](#)

EVM spec in the yellow paper

- There are bugs, but the spec exists, and different implementations.



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the GitHub Issues page for the repository 'ethereum/yellowpaper'. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'https://github.com/ethereum/yellowpaper/issues'. The page header indicates '4 Open' and '4 Closed' issues. The issues are listed as follows:

Issue Title	Issue Number	Status	Author	Created
EIP150.1c	#193	Closed	pirapira	16 days ago
Record memory usage in CODECOPY, EXTCODECOPY and CALLDATACOPY	#192	Merged	pirapira	19 days ago
Add a parentheses in SMOD definition	#191	Open	pirapira	26 days ago
Parsing ambiguity in the `SMOD` specification	#190	Open	pirapira	26 days ago
The arguments for $\Theta()$ is not specified when an external account sends a message	#189	Open	pirapira	Sep 29
Nitpicking equation (100)	#188	Open	pirapira	Sep 29

Type every rule in a proof checker

- just implementing another EVM
- around 50 pages in A4
- the proof checker Isabelle/HOL does not allow “tonk”s

POP removes the topmost element of the stack

abbreviation $pop ::$

$variable-env \Rightarrow constant-env \Rightarrow instruction-result$

where

$$pop\ v\ c \equiv InstructionContinue\ (v\ env\ advance\ pc\ c\ v\ (\!|v\ env\ stack := tl\ (v\ env\ stack\ v)|))$$

Final question: what do you want?

- The account should do expected things.
I have to interview people. Not right now.
- The account should not do anything wrong.

Final question: what do you want?

- The account should not do anything wrong.

The balance should not decrease unless an authorised account tells so.

Final question: what do you want?

- The account should not do anything wrong.

The balance should not decrease unless an authorised account tells so.

A non-authorised account cannot authorise any account.

Typing your expectations in a proof checker

under these
conditions

(the caller is not the registrar; *)*
 $ucast \text{ (account-storage init-state } 0) \neq callenv\text{-caller init-call}$

(the Deed contract is still marked active; *)*
 $\wedge (255 \text{ AND account-storage init-state } 2 \text{ div } 2 \wedge 160 \neq 0)$

(the call does not overflow the balance; *)*
 $\wedge \text{account-balance init-state} + \text{callenv-value init-call} \geq \text{account-balance init-state}$

(the account is not marked as destroyed. *)*
 $\wedge \neg (\text{account-killed init-state})$

(The balance has not decreased. *)*
 $\text{account-balance init-state} \leq \text{account-balance post-state}$

(The account is still not marked for destruction
(i.e. the account has not executed self-destruction). *)*
 $\wedge \neg (\text{account-killed post-state})$

(The Deed contract is still marked as active. *)*
 $\wedge (255 \text{ AND account-storage post-state } 2 \text{ div } 2 \wedge 160 \neq 0)$

(The registrar of the contract remains the same. *)*
 $\wedge \text{account-storage init-state } 0 = \text{account-storage post-state } 0)$

certain bad things
never happen



prove!



if you've forgotten something...

Isabelle2016 - Deed.thy

File Edit Search Markers Folding View Utilities Macros Plugins Help

Deed.thy (~/src/eth-isabelle/example/)

```

apply(drule deed_inv.cases; auto)
  apply(drule star_case; auto)
  apply(case_tac steps; auto)
  apply(split strict_if_split; auto)
  apply(split strict if split; auto)

```

Proof state Auto update Search:

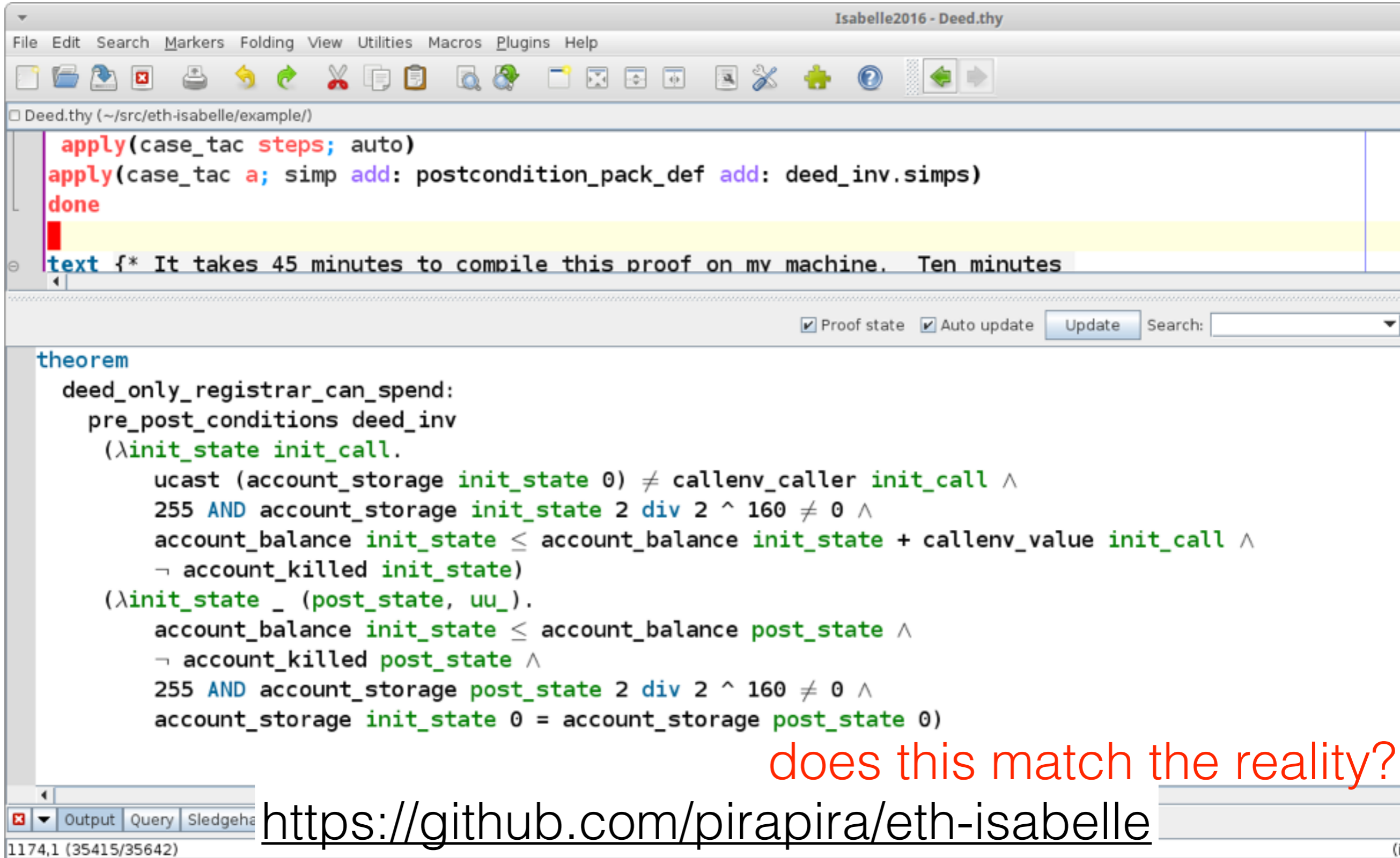
```

proof (prove)
goal (7 subgoals):
1.  $\bigwedge a$  initial_call aa bal origin ext block act st bala opt_v nat.
   account_code a = deed_program  $\implies$ 
   ucast (account_storage a 0)  $\neq$  callenv_caller initial_call  $\implies$ 
   255 AND account_storage a 2 div 1461501637330902918203684832716283019655932542976  $\neq$  0  $\implies$ 
   account_balance a  $\leq$  account_balance a + callenv_value initial_call  $\implies$ 
    $\neg$  account_killed a  $\implies$ 
   star (one_round deed_inv)
     (update_account_state a act st bala opt_v, ProgramToWorld (act, st, bala, opt_v))
     (aa, ProgramAnnotationFailure)  $\implies$ 
   bal (account_address a) = account_balance a  $\implies$ 
   (case strict_if (word_of_int (int (length (callenv_data initial_call))))  $\neq$  0)
     (blockedInstructionContinue
       (venv advance pc (cenv program = deed program. cenv this = account address a))

```

Output Query Sledgehammer Symbols

The proof finishes somehow



The screenshot shows the Isabelle2016 IDE interface. The top menu bar includes File, Edit, Search, Markers, Folding, View, Utilities, Macros, Plugins, and Help. Below the menu is a toolbar with various icons for file operations and editing. The main editor window displays a proof script for a theorem named `deed_only_registrar_can_spend`. The script consists of several lines of code, including `apply` and `done` commands, followed by a `text` block containing a comment about compilation time. Below the editor, there are checkboxes for "Proof state" and "Auto update", an "Update" button, and a search field. At the bottom of the IDE, there are tabs for "Output", "Query", and "Sledgehammer", and a status bar showing the cursor position "1174,1 (35415/35642)".

```
Isabelle2016 - Deed.thy
File Edit Search Markers Folding View Utilities Macros Plugins Help
Deed.thy (~/src/eth-isabelle/example/)
  apply(case_tac steps; auto)
  apply(case_tac a; simp add: postcondition_pack_def add: deed_inv.simps)
  done
  text {* It takes 45 minutes to compile this proof on my machine. Ten minutes
  }
theorem
  deed_only_registrar_can_spend:
    pre_post_conditions deed_inv
      (λinit_state init_call.
        ucast (account_storage init_state 0) ≠ callenv_caller init_call ∧
        255 AND account_storage init_state 2 div 2 ^ 160 ≠ 0 ∧
        account_balance init_state ≤ account_balance init_state + callenv_value init_call ∧
        ¬ account_killed init_state)
      (λinit_state _ (post_state, uu_).
        account_balance init_state ≤ account_balance post_state ∧
        ¬ account_killed post_state ∧
        255 AND account_storage post_state 2 div 2 ^ 160 ≠ 0 ∧
        account_storage init_state 0 = account_storage post_state 0)
  
```

does this match the reality?

<https://github.com/pirapira/eth-isabelle>

If you can do better

1st Workshop on Trusted Smart Contracts

In Association with Financial Cryptography 17

April 07, 2017

The Palace Hotel & Spa

Malta