# Translating HOL4 Definitions into ACL2 Rump Session, ACL2 Workshop 2025

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May 13, 2025

Overview

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A Translation Example

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#### Introduction

This work is in the early stages. How far we go with it may depend on demand.

It builds on work reported in a related rump session talk on integrating set theory with ACL2.

Like that work, no trust tags or ACL2 changes support this work.

### **ABSTRACT**

Abstract. We report on preliminary work on translating HOL4 definitions into ACL2. This work takes advantage of a recent integration of set theory with ACL2. This work may provide a key step towards being able to reason about HOL4 and ACL2 formalizations in a common ACL2 environment.

#### RELATED WORK

Various efforts have been made to provide ways to use more than one proof assistant in a common environment.

But the primary effort for combining ACL2 and HOL was an embedding of ACL2 into HOL4.

(Today: The other way around, HOL4 into ACL2!)

That tool has undergone bit rot, though relevant ACL2 code has been updated (in books/projects/acl2-in-hol/).

Michael J. C. Gordon, Warren A. Hunt, Jr., Matt Kaufmann, and James Reynolds. An Embedding of the ACL2 Logic in HOL. *Proceedings of ACL2 Workshop 2006*, August, 2006. ACM Digital Library URL http://portal.acm.org/toc.cfm?id=1217975.

Michael J. C. Gordon, James Reynolds, Warren A. Hunt, Jr., and Matt Kaufmann. An Integration of HOL and ACL2. *Proceedings of Formal Methods in Computer-Aided Design (FMCAD'06)* (A. Gupta and P. Manolios, editors). IEEE Computer Society Press, pp. 153-160, November, 2006.

Michael J. C. Gordon, Matt Kaufmann, and Sandip Ray. The Right Tools for the Job: Correctness of Cone of Influence Reduction Proved Using ACL2 and HOL4. *Journal of Automated Reasoning*, Volume 47, Number 1, Springer, 2011, pp. 1–16, DOI 10.1007/s10817-010-9169-y.

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# SUMMARY OF TRANSLATION APPROACH

See community books directory projects/hol-in-acl2/ for details.

HOL values are value-type pairs with respect to a *HOL type alist*, as recognized by the predicate hpp ("hol pair p"). Example:

(in-package "ZF")

#### SEMANTICS

Function hol-type-eval assigns a set to a type. Then:

We can form the *set* of all HOL values because they are all contained in a set.

#### BOOK LAYOUT

The book examples/ex1.lisp has translation examples and we'll look at one shortly. That file has the following shape.

(in-package "HOL")

```
(in-package "HOL")
(include-book "../acl2/theories")
```

```
; Define EX1$HTA and :HOL-THEORY table: (open-theory ex1)
```

```
; Populate that table with automatic translations: (defhol ...) (defhol ...) (defhol ...)
```

```
; Generate encapsulate with ex1$prop
; hypothesis function and translations:
(close-theory)
```

```
; Exhibit translations as theorems:
(set-enforce-redundancy t)
(defthm ...) (defthm ...)
```

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Here is a HOL definition of the function FST, which takes the first component of an ordered pair.

```
val FST = \vdash \forall (x : \alpha) (y : \beta). FST (x, y) = x: thm
```

Automatic translation produces:

The next slide repeats that form and shows what is generated from it.

```
val FST = \vdash \forall (x : \alpha) (y : \beta). FST (x,y) = x: thm
(defhol
  :fns ((fst (:arrow* (:hash a b) a)))
  :defs ((:forall
           ((x a) (y b))
           (equal (hap* (fst (typ (:arrow* (:hash a b)
                                              a)))
                          (hp-comma x y))
                  x))))
(DEFTHM HOLFST
  (IMPLIES
   (AND (HPP X HTA) (EQUAL (HP-TYPE X) (TYP A))
         (HPP Y HTA) (EQUAL (HP-TYPE Y) (TYP B))
         (ALIST-SUBSETP (EX1$HTA) HTA)
         (FORCE (EX1$PROP)))
   (EOUAL (HAP★ (FST (TYP (:ARROW★ (:HASH A B)
                                      A)))
                  (HP-COMMA X Y))
           X)))
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```

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#### CONCLUSION

Again, this is early-stage work.

Future tasks may include the following.

- ➤ Translate HOL4 theorems and type definitions, not just function definitions.
- Extend translation to handle quantifiers and lambdas (by lifting).
- ▶ Do a small proof example, e.g., correspondence of trivial expression evaluators written in HOL and in ACL2.
- ► Improve robustness (better error messages, extend existing term checks, ...).
- ► Formalize and prove soundness of the translation approach.

We tend to be application-driven. So....

It will inspire us to have users of this work!