

Invariant Generation

CS560: Reasoning About Programs

Roopsha Samanta



Roadmap

Previously

- ▶ Semi-automating Hoare logic using verification condition generation

Today

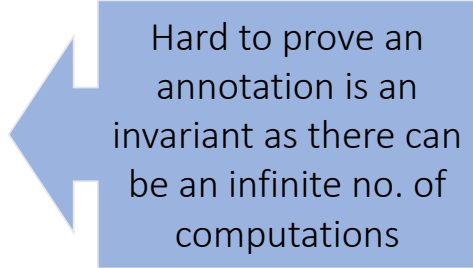
- ▶ Automated invariant generation
- ▶ Forward propagation using strongest postconditions
- ▶ Abstract interpretation

Invariant vs. Inductive Invariant

- ▶ A formula I annotating location L of a program S is an **invariant** iff *it holds whenever control reaches location L* :

for each computation s_0, s_1, s_2, \dots of S and each index i ,
 $pc(s_i) = L$ implies $s_i \models I$.

- ▶ The annotations of S are invariant iff each annotation is invariant
- ▶ The annotations of S are **inductive** (or, **inductive invariants**) iff all corresponding verification conditions are valid.



Hard to prove an annotation is an invariant as there can be an infinite no. of computations

Invariant vs. Inductive Invariant

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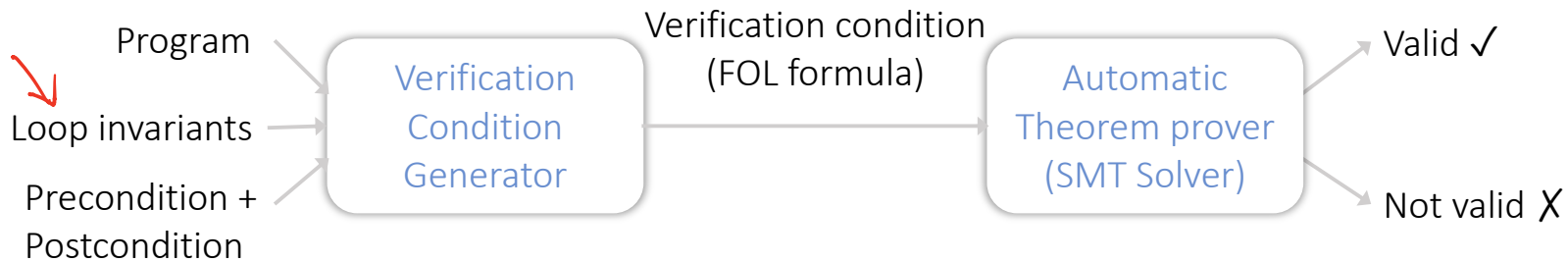
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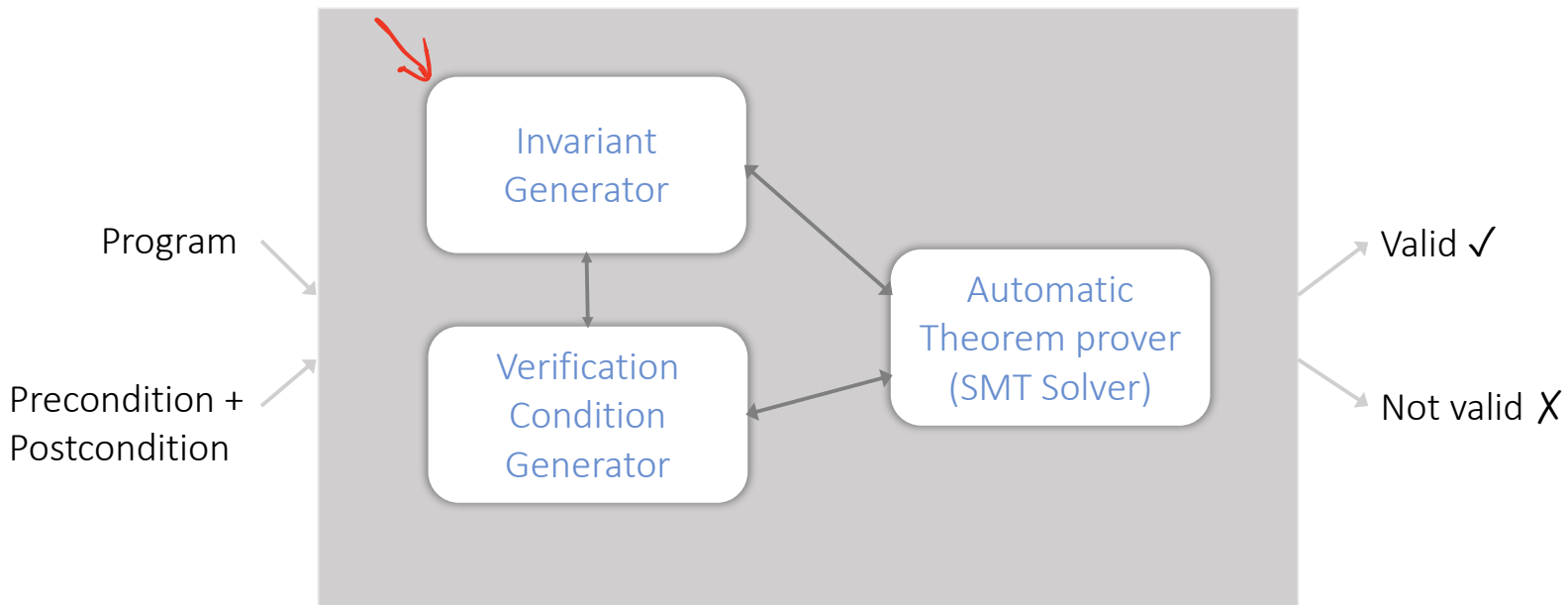
Hard to prove an annotation is an invariant as there can be an infinite no. of computations

Inductive invariants are the invariants we can *prove*

Loop Invariant

- ▶ A **loop invariant** I is an annotation for a loop that must hold at the beginning of every iteration.
 - ▶ I must hold before the loop begins
 - ▶ I must hold after every iteration





Inductive assertion method

- ▶ Represent program as control-flow graph with annotations/inductive assertions
- ▶ Identify basic paths
- ▶ For each basic path:
check if corresponding Hoare triple is valid

VCs

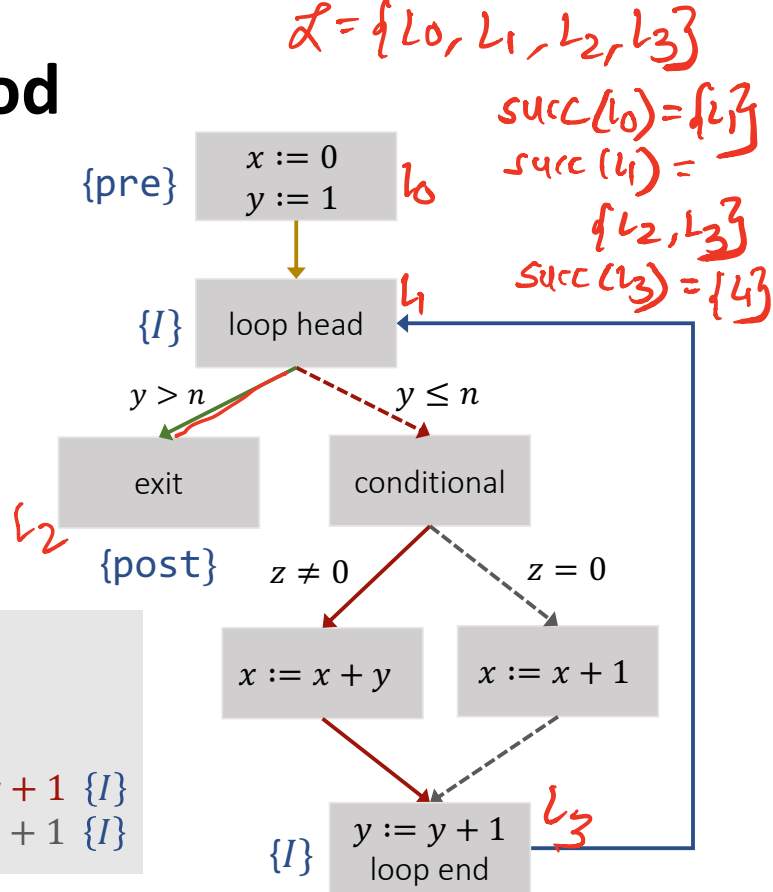
$\{pre\} \ x := 0; y := 1 \ \{I\}$

$\{I\} \ \text{assume } y > n \ \{post\}$

$\{I\} \ \text{skip} \ \{I\} \ .$

$\{I\} \ \text{assume } y \leq n; \ \text{assume } z \neq 0; \ x := x + y; \ y := y + 1 \ \{I\}$

$\{I\} \ \text{assume } y \leq n; \ \text{assume } z = 0; \ x := x + 1; \ y := y + 1 \ \{I\}$



A cutset \mathcal{L} is a set of locations (called cutpoints) such that every path between adjacent cutpoints is a basic path

Invariant Generation:

Find a map $\mu: \mathcal{L} \mapsto \text{FOL}$ such that for each basic path, its corresponding Hoare triple is valid

The map μ is called an **inductive assertions map**

ForwardPropagate(pre, \mathcal{L})

$W := \{L_{init}\}$

$\mu(L_{init}) := \text{pre}$

foreach $L \in \mathcal{L} \setminus \{L_{init}\}$ do $\mu(L) := \perp$

while $W \neq \emptyset$ do

 pick $L_j \in W$; $W := W \setminus \{L_j\}$

 foreach $L_k \in \text{succ}(L_j)$ do

 if $\neg(\text{sp}(S_j; \dots; S_k, \mu(L_j)) \Rightarrow \mu(L_k))$

 then

$\mu(L_k) := \mu(L_k) \vee \text{sp}(S_j; \dots; S_k, \mu(L_j))$

$W := W \cup \{L_k\}$

return μ

ForwardPropagate(pre, \mathcal{L})

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return  $\mu$ 

```

Set of locations in \mathcal{L} that need to be processed

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All locations in which basic paths originating at L_j terminate

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Set of locations in \mathcal{L} that need to be processed

Initial map

All locations in which basic paths originating at L_j terminate

$sp(S_j; \dots; S_k, \mu(L_j))$ contains states not contained in $\mu(L_k)$. Hence, update $\mu(L_k)$ with these new states

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Undecidable for FOL

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May not terminate

Undecidable for FOL

Pre : $i=0 \wedge n > 0$

while $\{i\}$ ($i < n$)
 $i := i + 1$

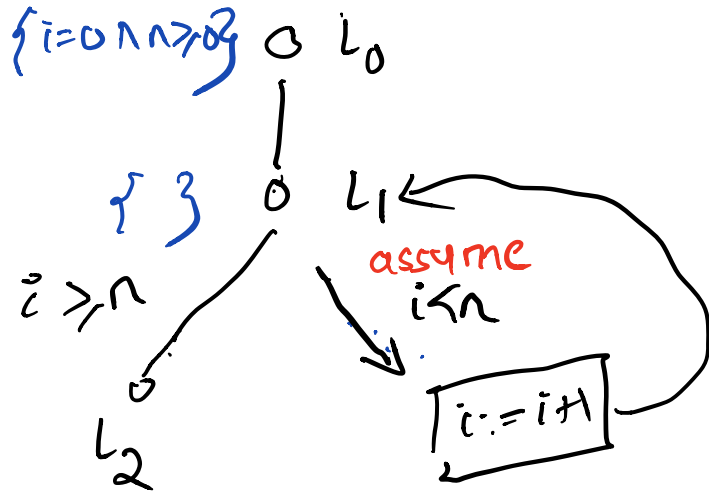
$\mu(i) = \perp$

$\forall i=0 \wedge n > 0$

$\forall i=1 \wedge n > 0$

$\forall i=2 \wedge n > 1$

\vdots



Doesn't converge!

But " $0 \leq i < n$ " is a loop invariant!

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A state is reachable in a program if it appears in some computation of the program starting from a state satisfying the precondition

ForwardPropagate computes the **exact** set of reachable states using a **(least) fixpoint computation**: repeated symbolic execution of program starting from \perp until equilibrium

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A state is reachable in a program if it appears in some computation of the program starting from a state satisfying the precondition

Inductive assertions usually **over-approximate** the set of reachable states: every reachable state satisfies the annotation, but other unreachable states can also satisfy the annotation

Abstract interpretation can help force termination!

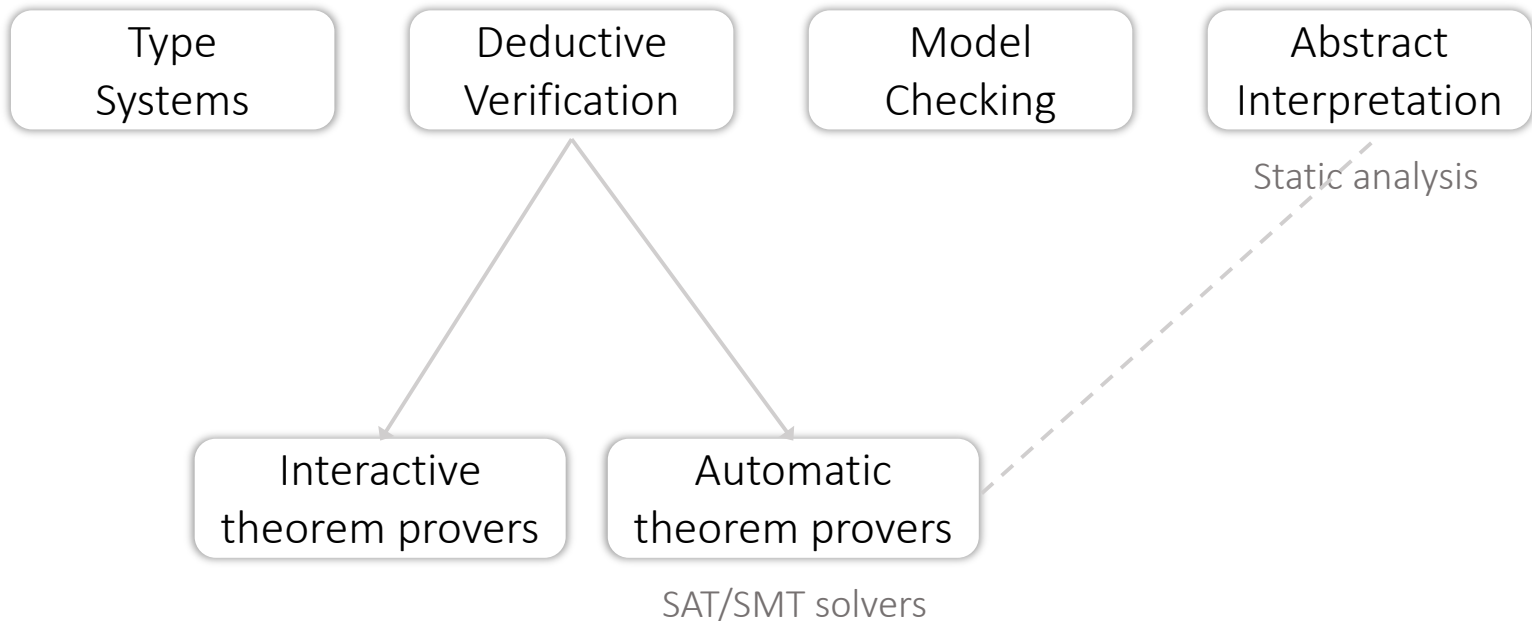
Ensures implication checking is decidable by manipulating **abstract states** --- an artificially constrained form of state sets

Abstract interpretation can help force termination!

$I_0 \vee I_1 \vee I_2 \vee I_3 \vee \dots$

$\perp \vee \perp$
 $\{true\} \{true\}$

Helps termination of main loop via **widening** --- guessing a limit overapproximation to a sequence of state sets.



Abstraction Interpretation

Patrick Cousot



Radhia Cousot



Cousot & Cousot, *Abstract interpretation: a unified lattice model for static analysis of programs by construction or approximation of fixpoints*, 1977

A framework for designing sound-by-construction static analyses

Safe States

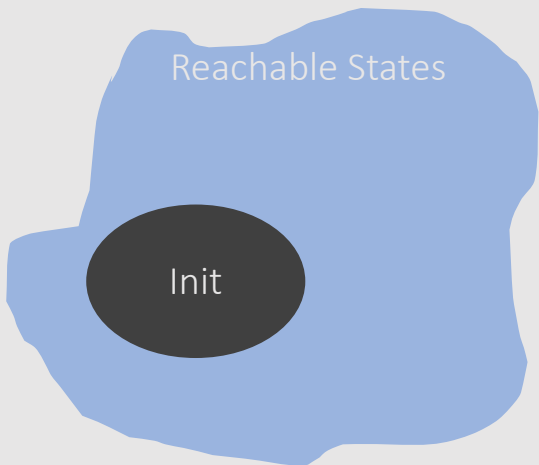


Reachable States

Error States

Key Idea: Overapproximate program behaviour by computing a (least) fixpoint under an abstract domain

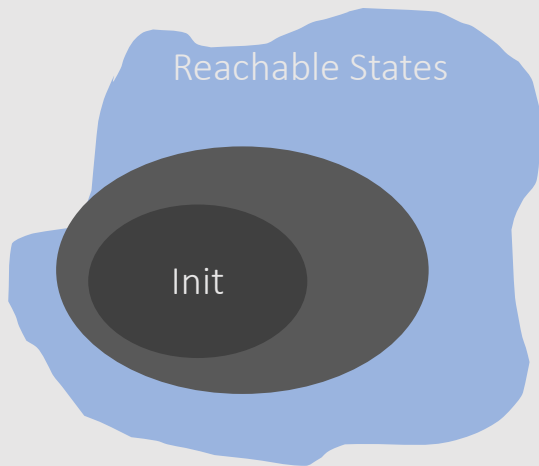
Safe States



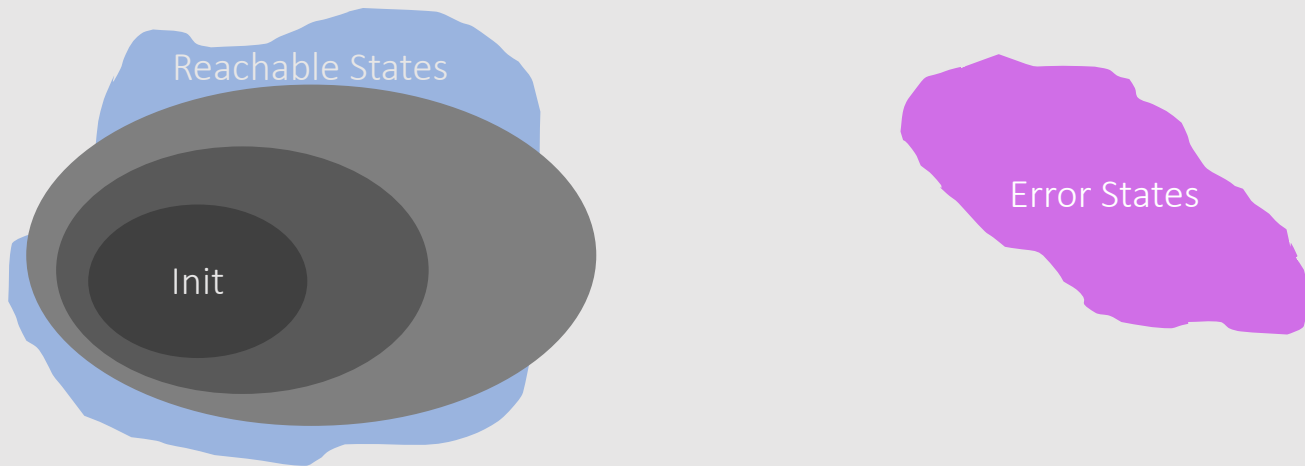
Key Idea: Overapproximate program behaviour by computing a (least) fixpoint under an abstract domain

Let's use
the
"oval"
abstract
domain

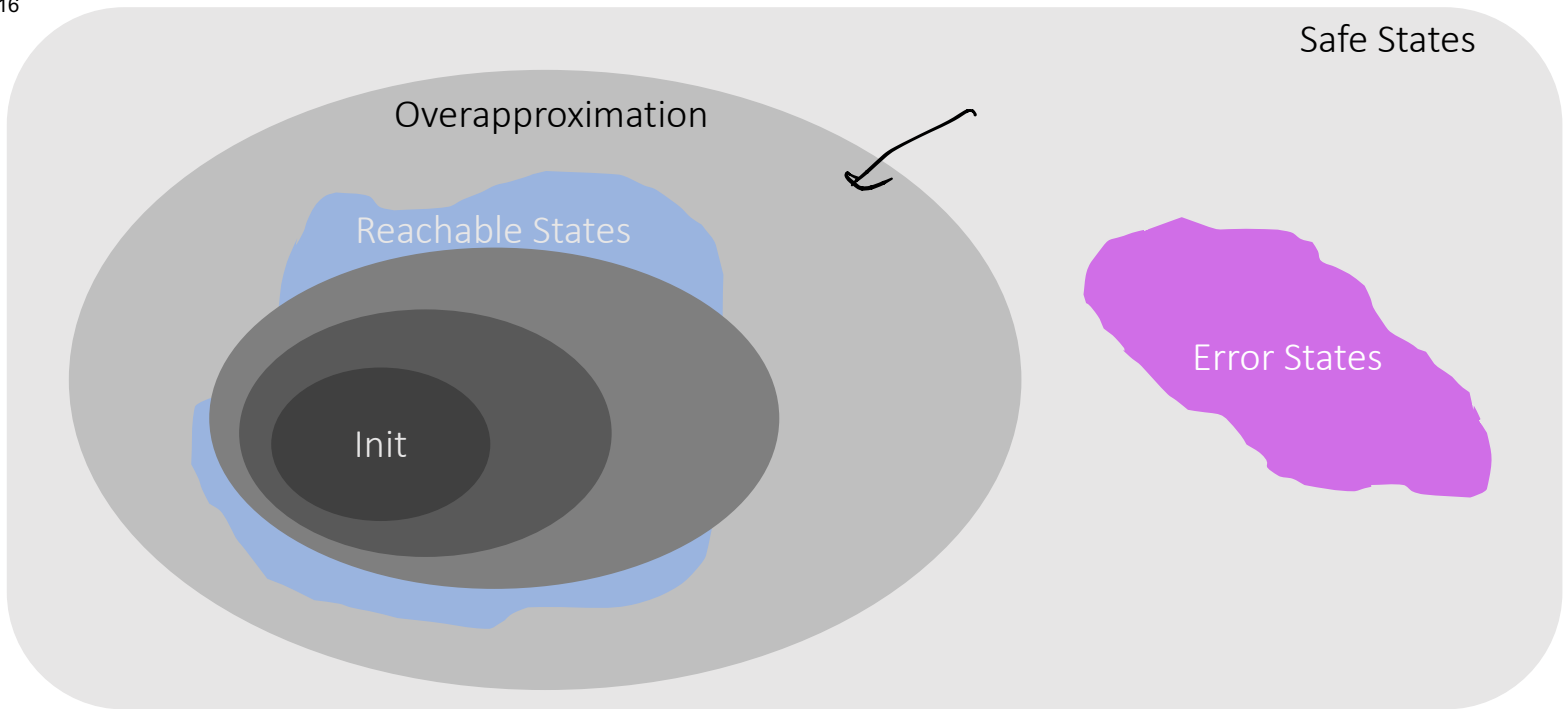
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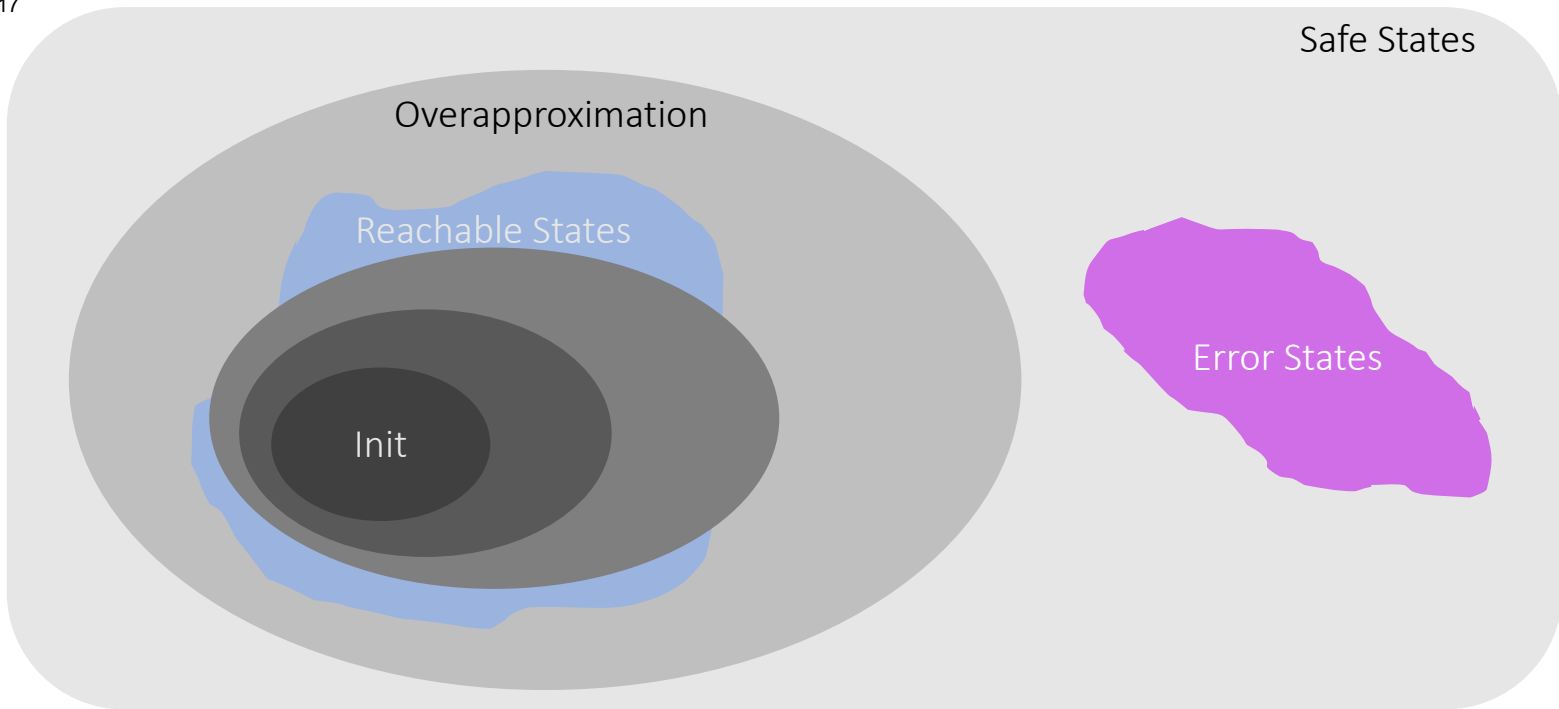
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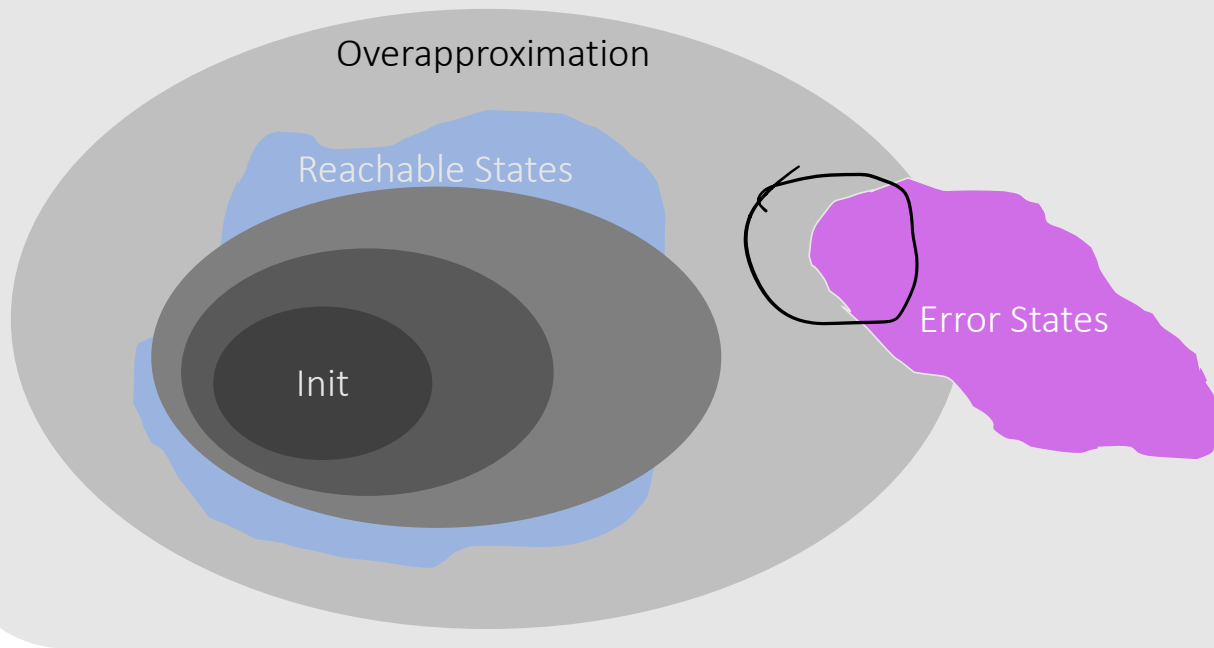
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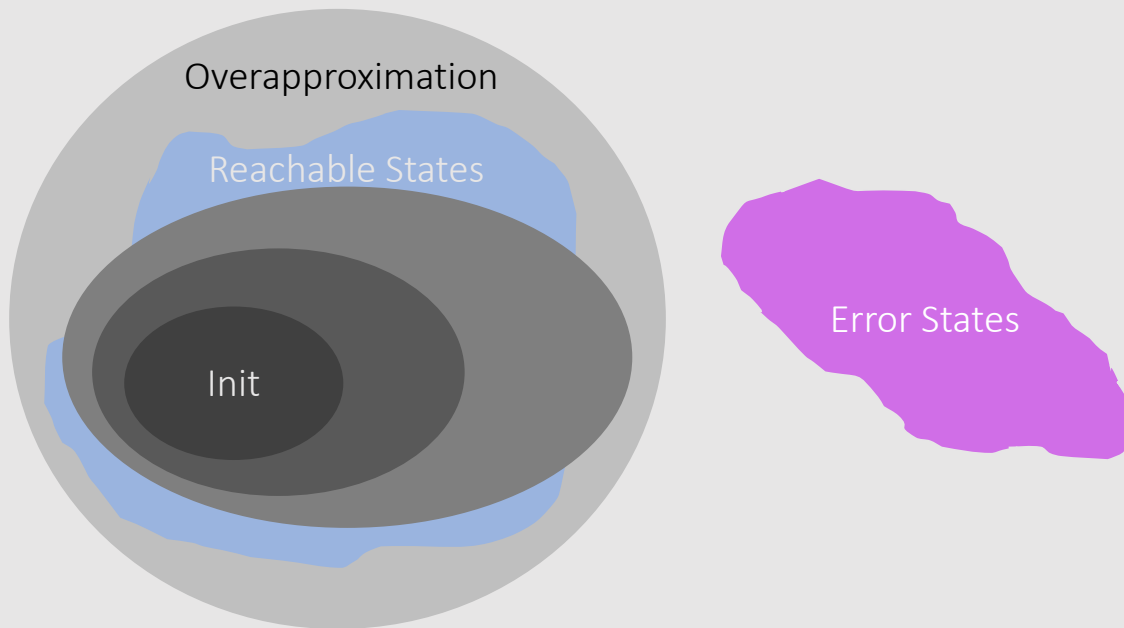
Key Idea: Overapproximate program behaviour by computing a (least) fixpoint under an abstract domain



Soundness: If abstract program is safe, then concrete program is safe
No false negative (no false declaration of absence of errors)



If abstract program is unsafe, then concrete program may still be safe.
False positive (false alarm)



Ideally, we want the most precise (strongest) overapproximation of reachable states expressible in the abstract domain of choice.

Choose abstract domain based on
what you want to prove about the program!

Step 1: Abstract domain

An abstract domain is just a set of abstract values we want to track

Define an **abstract domain** D as a syntactic class of Σ_T -formulas of some theory T

Each member Σ_T -formula represents a set of **concrete** states/elements

In addition, every abstract domain contains:

- ▶ \top (top): "don't know", represents any value
- ▶ \perp (bottom): represents empty-set

Step 2: Abstraction function

Define functions that map sets of concrete states/elements to an element of the abstract domain

Define **abstraction function** $\alpha: \text{FOL} \mapsto D$ to map a FOL formula F to element $\alpha(F)$ of D such that $F \Rightarrow \alpha(F)$

1. D_I : Interval domain

\perp

\top

conjunctions of Σ_Q -literals

$v \leq c, v \geq c$
var \swarrow \searrow const

Interval arithmetic, $[l, u]$

2. $\alpha(F)$

\hookrightarrow literal

\perp — $f: \perp$

$v \leq \frac{b}{a}$ — $F: av \leq b$

$v \geq \frac{b}{a}$ — $F: av \geq b$

$v \leq \frac{b}{a}$ } $F: av = b$

\wedge
 $v \geq \frac{b}{a}$ }

\top otherwise

$a, b \in \mathbb{N}, a > 0$

Step 3: Abstract transformer (SP)

Define abstract semantics/transformers for each statement

Define an **abstract strongest postcondition** sp_D for assumption and assign statements such that

$$sp(S, P) \Rightarrow sp_D(S, P) \text{ and } sp_D(S, P) \in D$$

Step 3: Abstract transformer (SP)

Recall: $sp(\text{assume } C, P) = C \wedge P$

Define **abstract conjunction** Π_D such that for $F_1, F_2 \in D$

$$F_1 \wedge F_2 \Rightarrow F_1 \Pi_D F_2 \text{ and } F_1 \Pi_D F_2 \in D$$

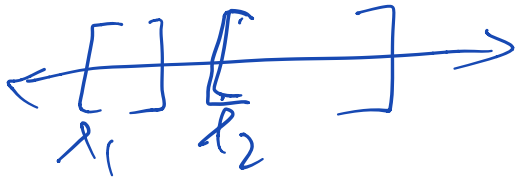
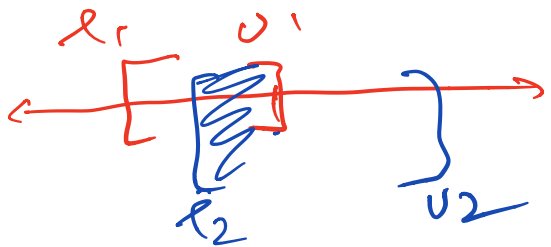
Then for $F \in D$: $sp_D(\text{assume } C, F) = \alpha(C) \Pi_D F$

Recall: $sp(x := E, P) = \exists x^0. x = E[x^0/x] \wedge p[x^0/x]$

The existential quantification can lead to a quantifier alternation during implication checking and is undesirable

3. Π_I : exact

$$[l_1, u_1] \Pi_I [l_2, u_2] = \begin{cases} [\infty, -\infty] & \text{if } \max(l_1, l_2) > \min(u_1, u_2) \\ [\max(l_1, l_2), \min(u_1, u_2)] & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



$$sp_I(\text{assume } c, F) = \alpha(c) \Pi_I F$$

$$sp_I(x := a, F) = ??$$

Interval arithmetic

Step 4: Abstract disjunction

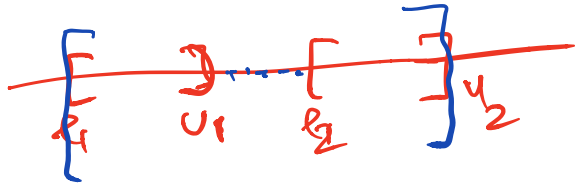
Define **abstract disjunction** \sqcup_D such that for $F_1, F_2 \in D$

$$F_1 \vee F_2 \Rightarrow F_1 \sqcup_D F_2 \text{ and } F_1 \sqcup_D F_2 \in D$$

Step 5: Abstract implication checking

When selecting D ensure that the implication in the validity check is decidable

4. W_I : interval hull



$$[l_1, u_1] \cup [l_2, u_2] = [\min(l_1, l_2), \max(u_1, u_2)]$$

5. $F, G \in \mathcal{D}_I$

Validity of $F \Rightarrow G$ is decidable!

$$[l_1, u_1] \subseteq [l_2, u_2]$$

Step 6: Widening

$$F_1, F_2 \equiv F_1 \vee H_2, F_3 \equiv F_2 \vee H_3, \dots$$

$$G_1, G_2 \equiv G_1 \nabla_D F_2, G_3 \equiv G_2 \nabla_D F_3$$

Defining an abstraction does not suffice to guarantee termination. Some abstract domains need to be equipped with a widening operator.

Define a widening operator $\nabla_D: D \times D \mapsto D$ such that

1. for all $F_1, F_2 \in D$, $F_1 \vee F_2 \Rightarrow F_1 \nabla_D F_2$ and
2. for all infinite sequences F_1, F_2, \dots with $F_1 \Rightarrow F_2 \Rightarrow \dots$,
the infinite sequence $G_1 = F_1, \dots, G_{i+1} = G_i \nabla_D F_{i+1}, \dots$ converges.

Thus, the sequence G_i converges even if the sequence F_i does not.

$$6. \quad F: [l_1, u_1]$$

$$G: [l_2, u_2]$$



$$F \cap_I G = [l, u] \supseteq [l_1, u_1] \cup [l_2, u_2]$$

$$l = \begin{cases} -\infty & , \text{ if } l_2 < l_1 \\ l_1 & , \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$u = \begin{cases} \infty & , \text{ if } u_2 > u_1 \\ u_1 & , \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$F \cap_I G$ "drops" bounds that grow from F to G

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then if WIDEN()

then $\mu(L_k) := \mu(L_k) \nabla_D (\mu(L_k) \sqcup_D \text{sp}_D(S_j; \dots; S_k, \mu(L_j)))$

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WIDEN()
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Least Fixpoint
Computation
under abstract
domain

Invariant generation

- ▶ Today: least fixed-point in an abstract domain
- ▶ Farkas' lemma (for linear invariants) [Colon_CAV_2003]
- ▶ Interpolation [McMillan_TACAS_2008]
- ▶ Abductive inference [Dillig_OOPSLA_2013]
- ▶ IC3 [Bradley_VMCAI_2011]
- ▶ Machine learning [Garg_CAV_2014]



Abstraction Interpretation

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Cousot & Cousot, *Abstract interpretation: a unified **lattice** model for static analysis of programs by construction or approximation of fixpoints*, 1977

A framework for designing sound-by-construction static analyses

Lattices and Abstract Domains

Abstraction function $\alpha: \text{FOL} \mapsto D$ maps a FOL formula F to element $\alpha(F)$ of D such that $F \Rightarrow \alpha(F)$

Concretization function $\gamma: D \mapsto \text{FOL}$ to map an element of D to a FOL formula F

Lattices and Abstract Domains

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Concretization function $\gamma: D \mapsto \text{FOL}$ to map an element of D to a FOL formula F

- ▶ Concretization function defines partial order \preceq on abstract values:
$$A_1 \preceq A_2 \text{ iff } \gamma(A_1) \Rightarrow \gamma(A_2)$$
- ▶ In an abstract domain D , every pair of elements has a lub (\sqcup_D) and glb (\sqcap_D)

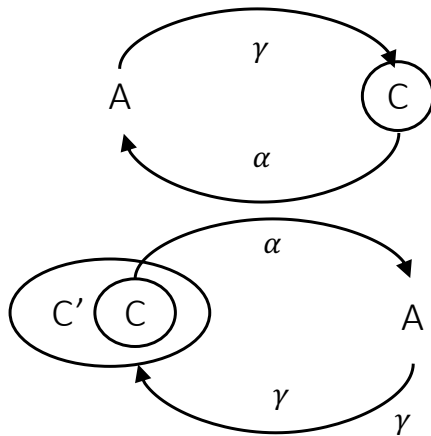
\Rightarrow Mathematical Lattice

Galois insertion

Important property of the abstraction and concretization function is that they are **almost inverses**:

$$\alpha(\gamma(A)) = A$$

$$C \subseteq \gamma(\alpha(C))$$

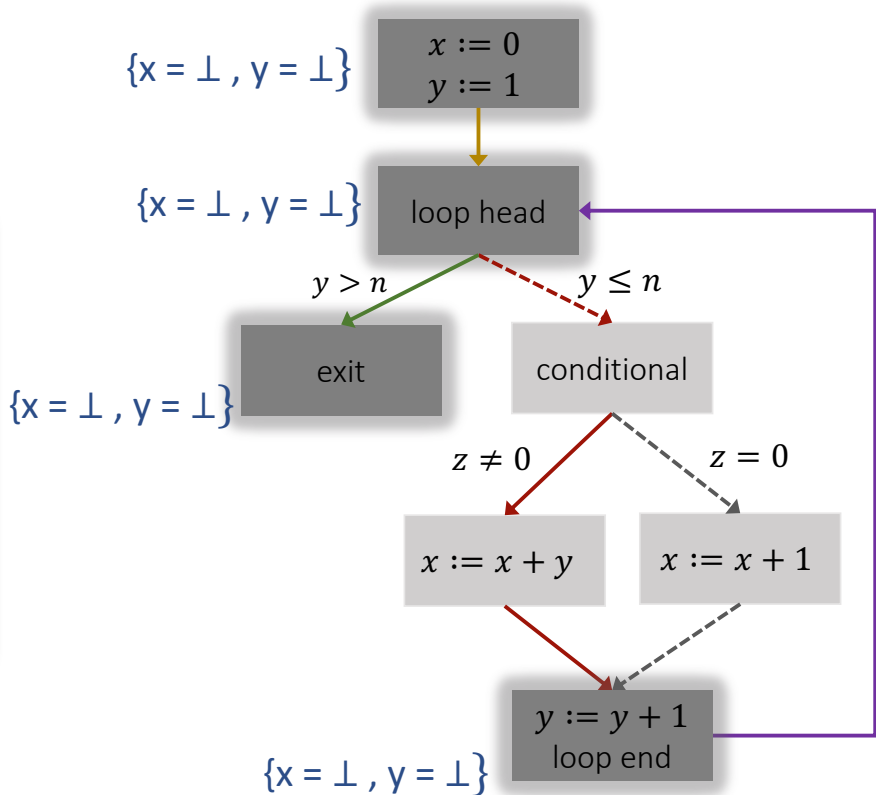


Captures soundness of the abstraction

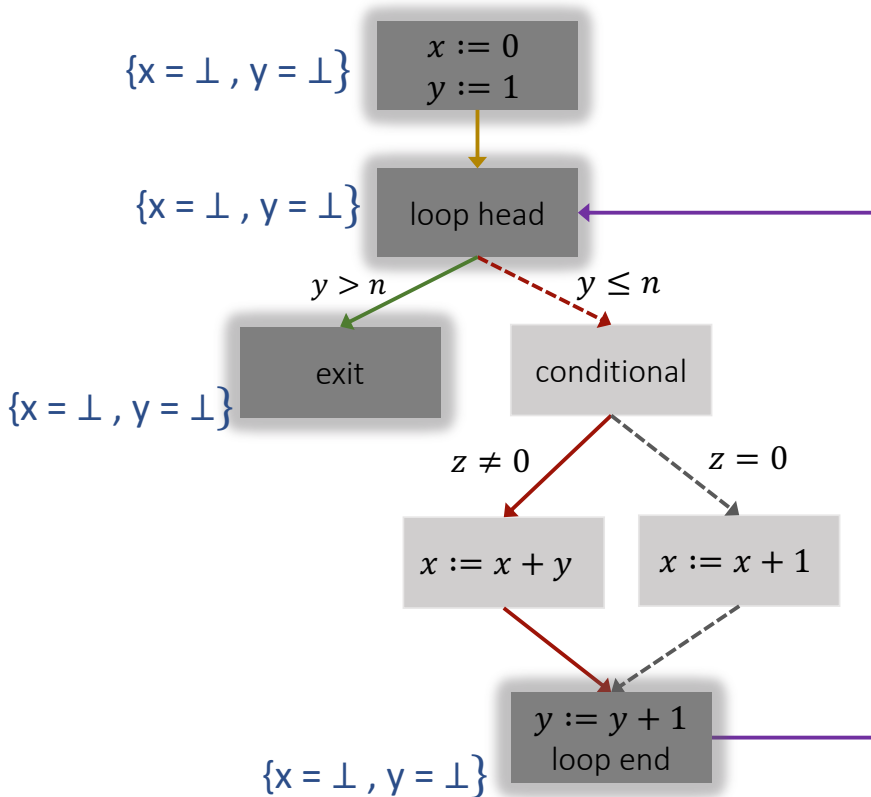
```

{pre}
x := 0
y := 1
while {I} (y <= n) do
  if (z == 0) then
    x := x + 1
  else
    x := x + y
    y := y + 1
{post}

```



Let's do a static analysis of this program under the "sign" abstract domain

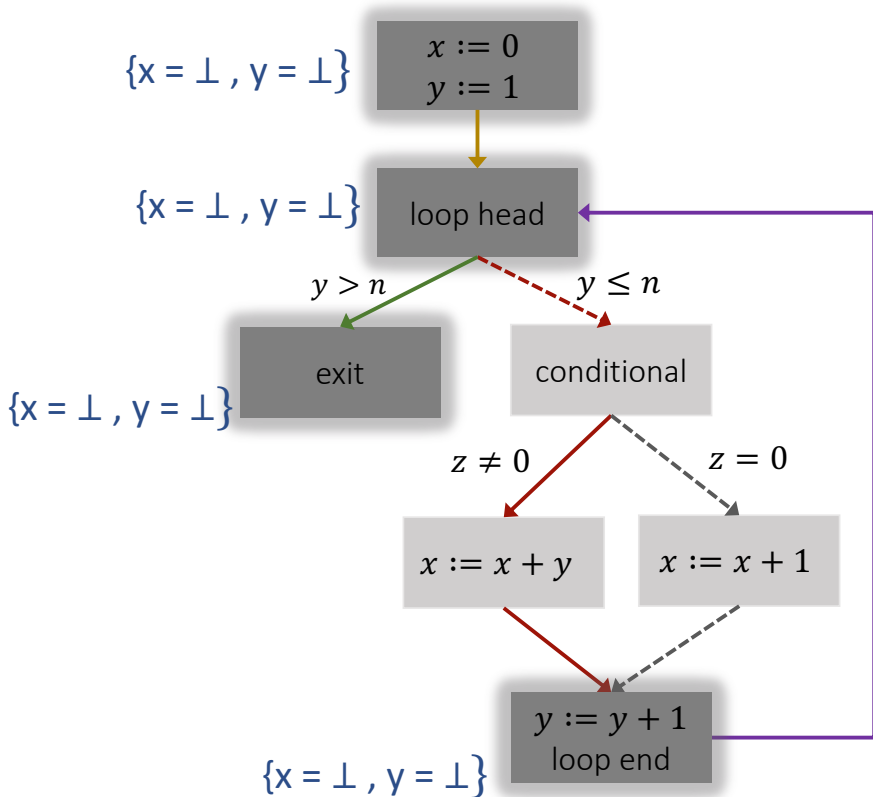


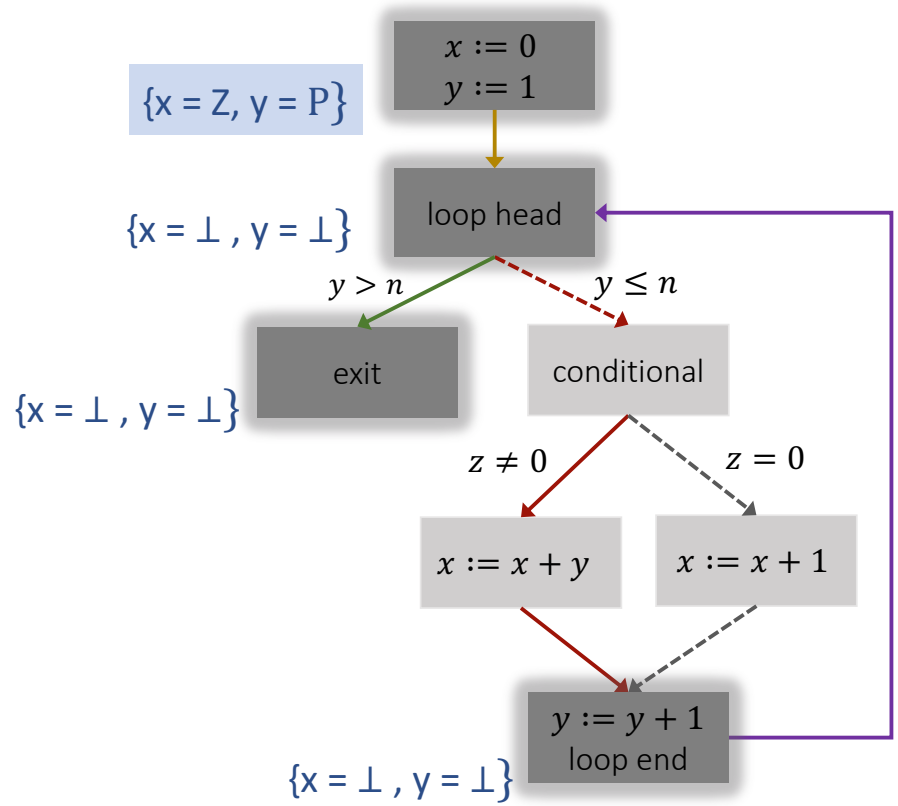
Let's do a static analysis of this program under the "sign" abstract domain

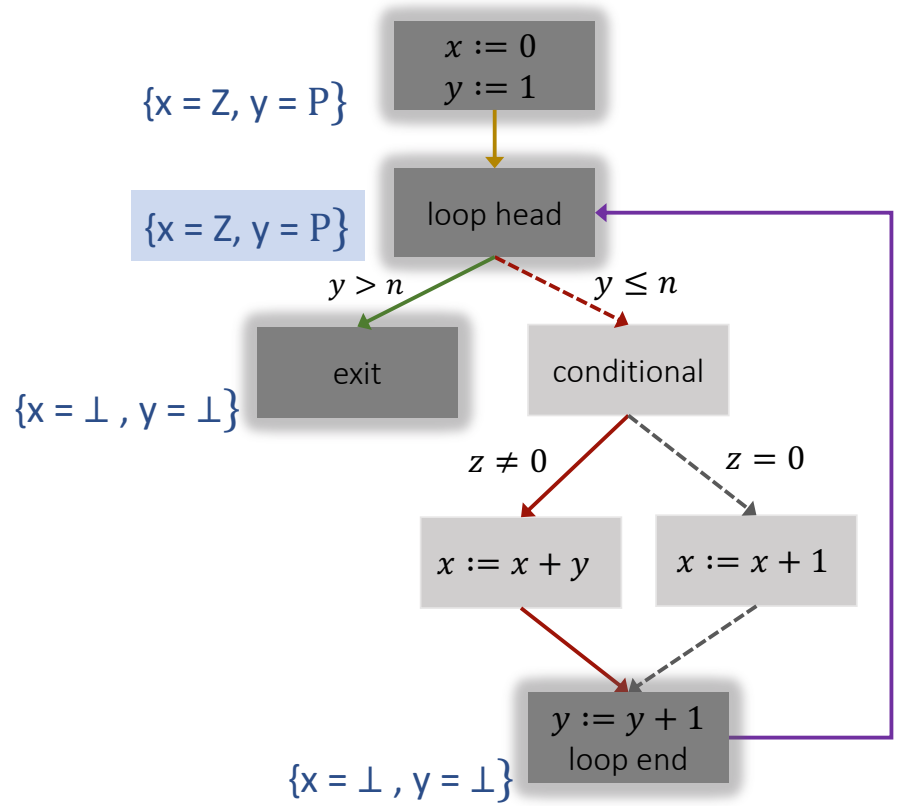
Here **pre** and **post** are not given.

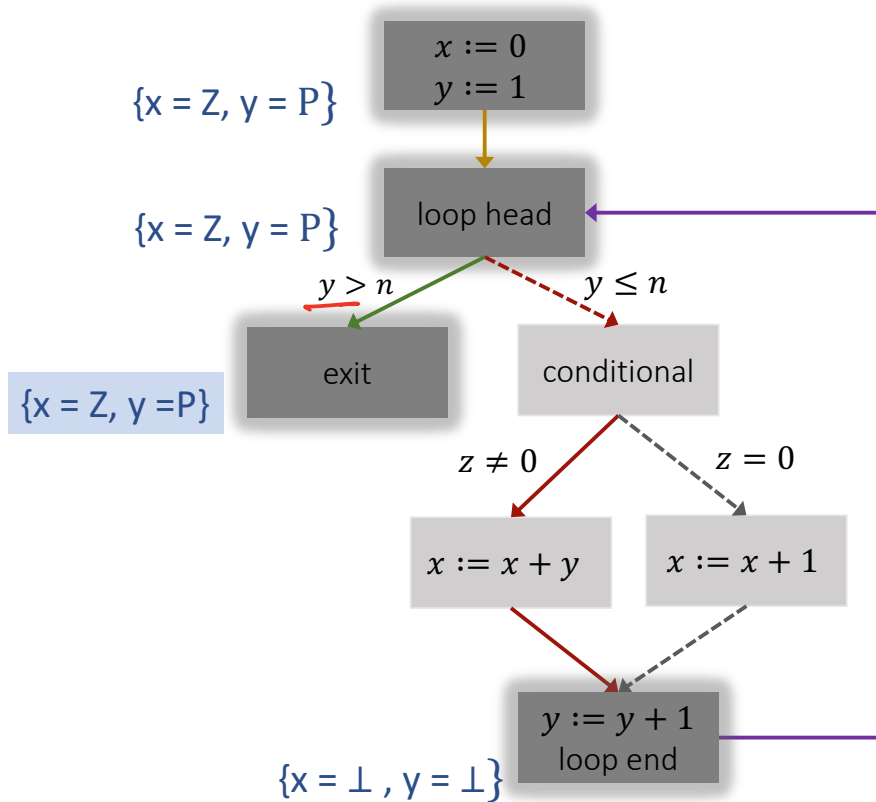
Assume **pre** is **true**. This analysis will find an overapproximation of reachable states at all cut-points.

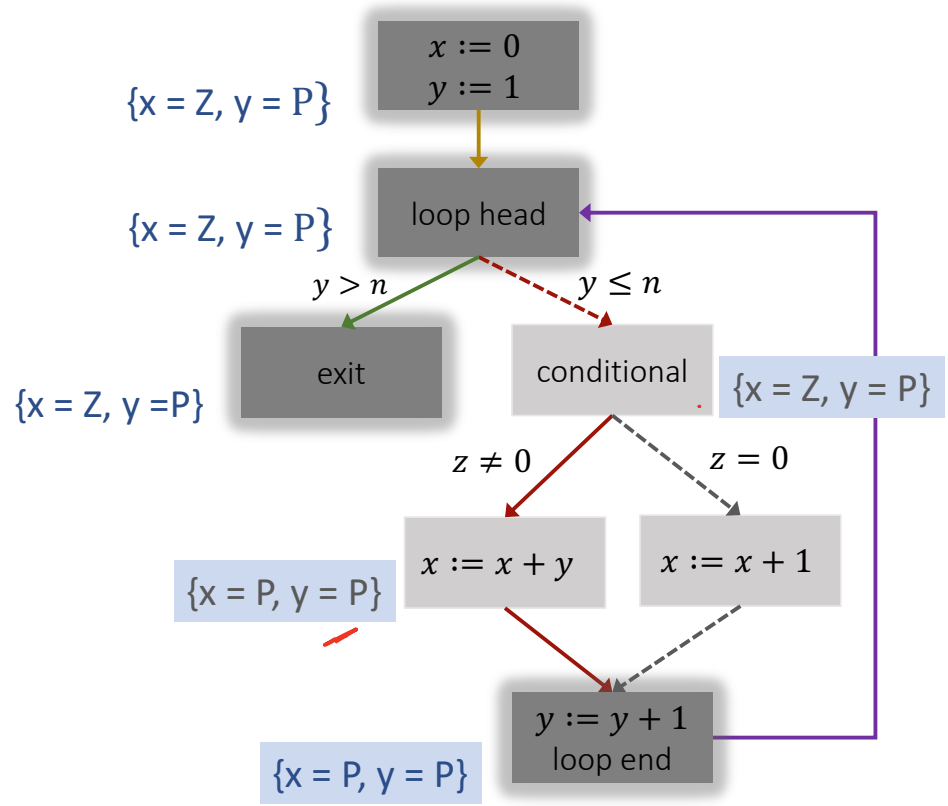
One can then easily verify if some given **post** holds.

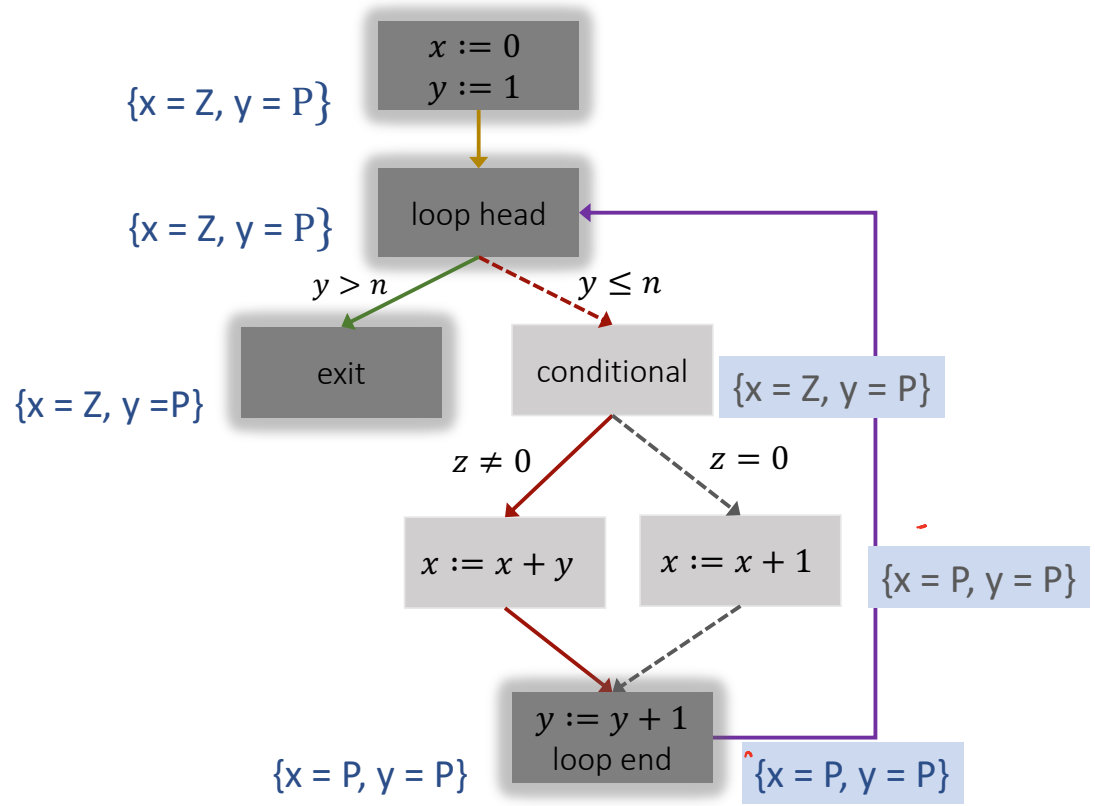


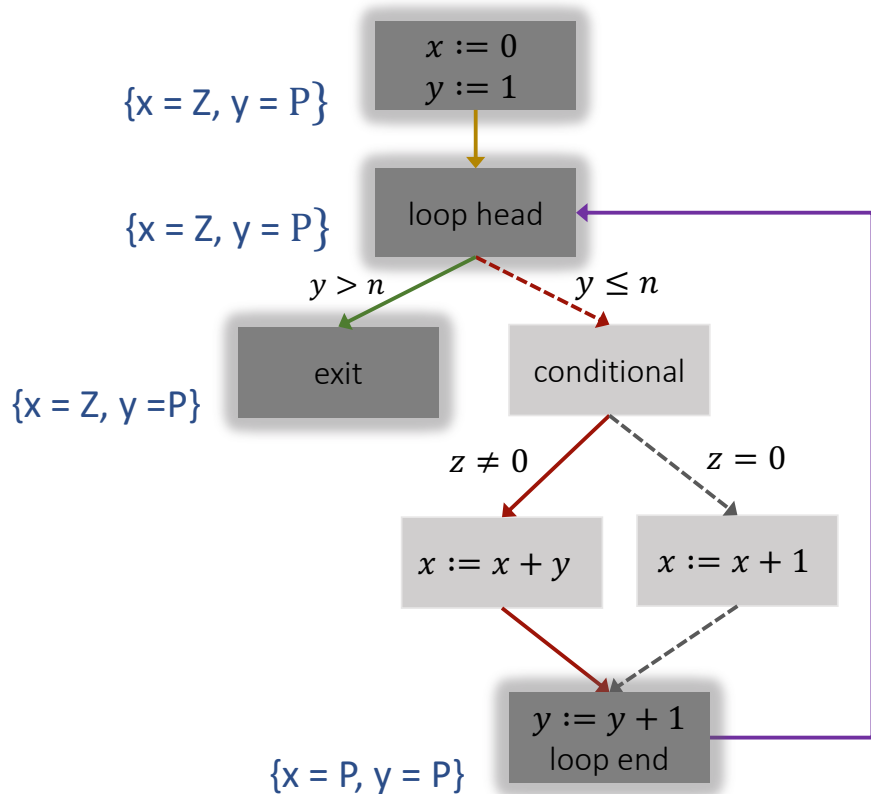


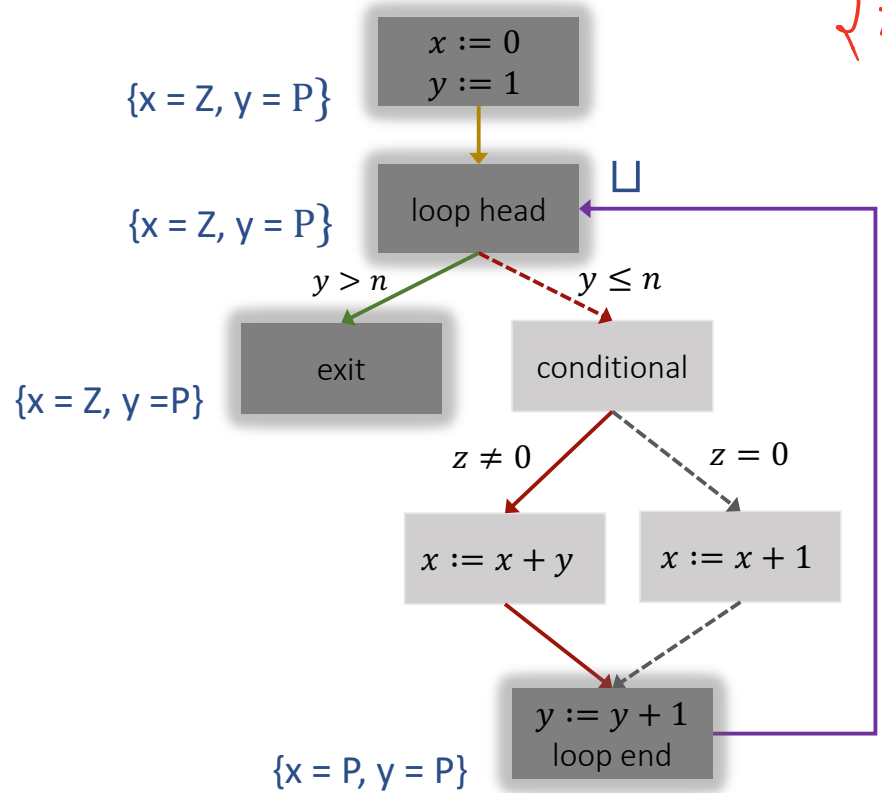




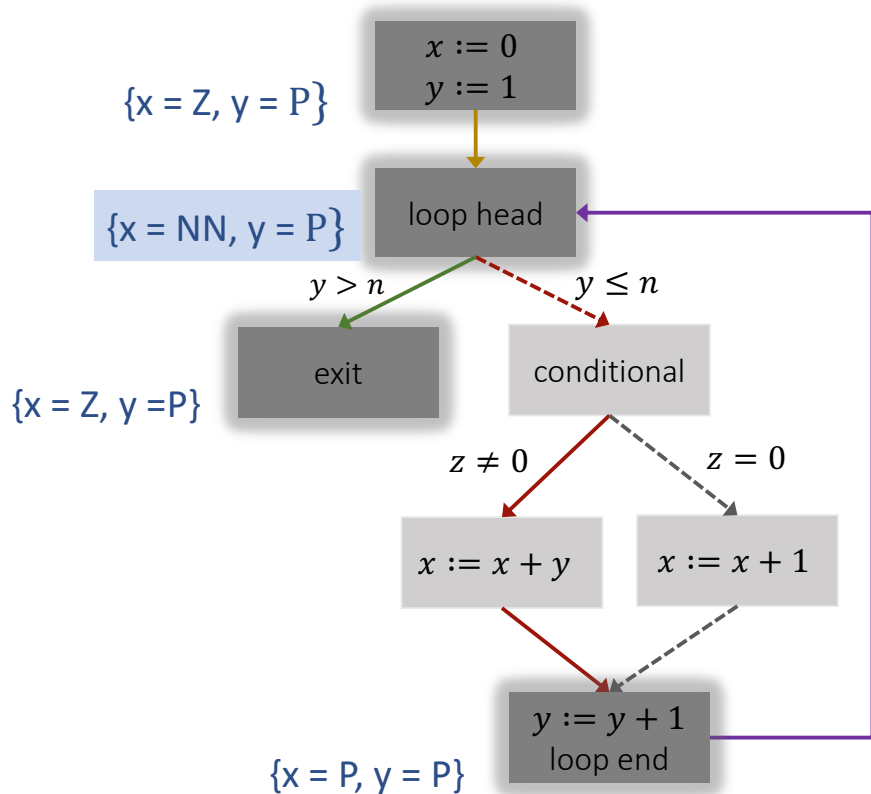


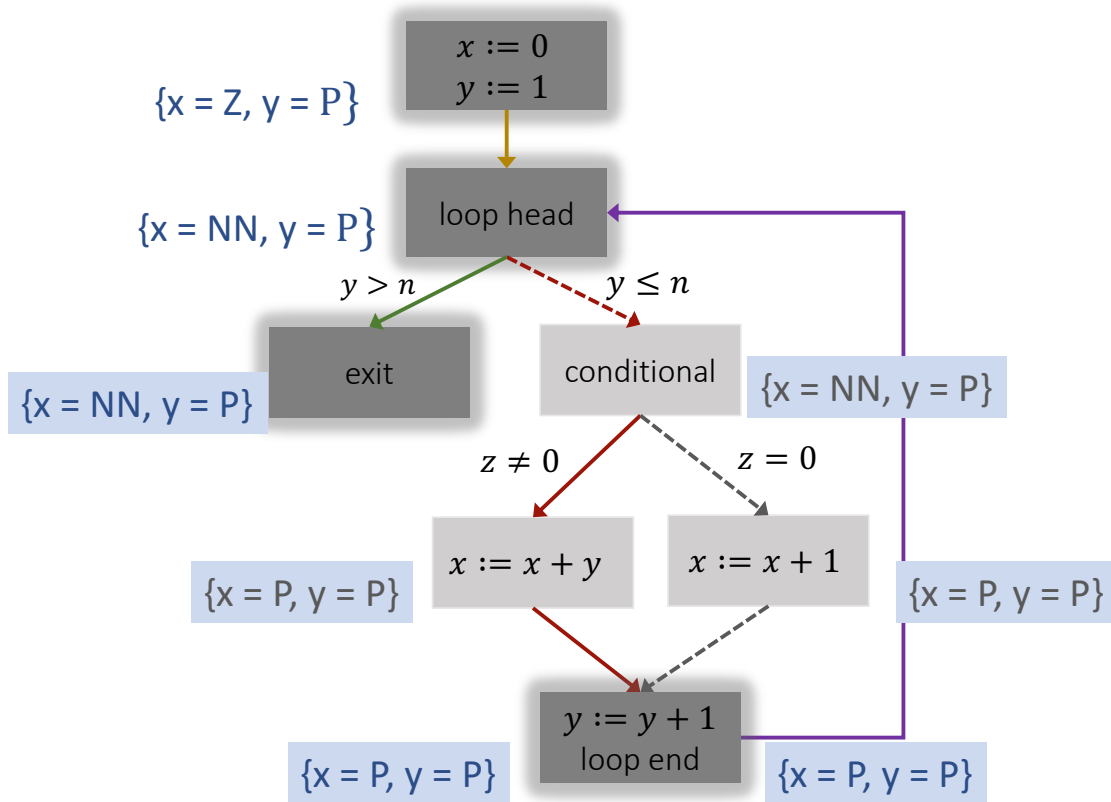


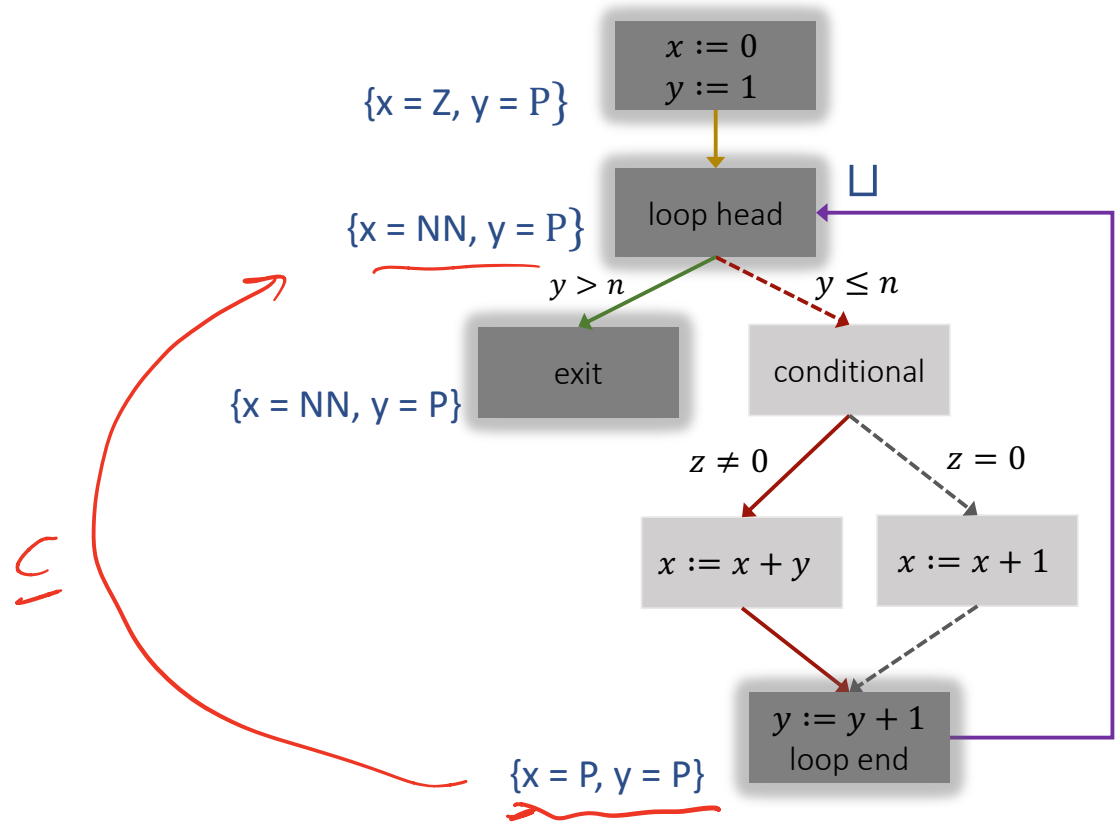


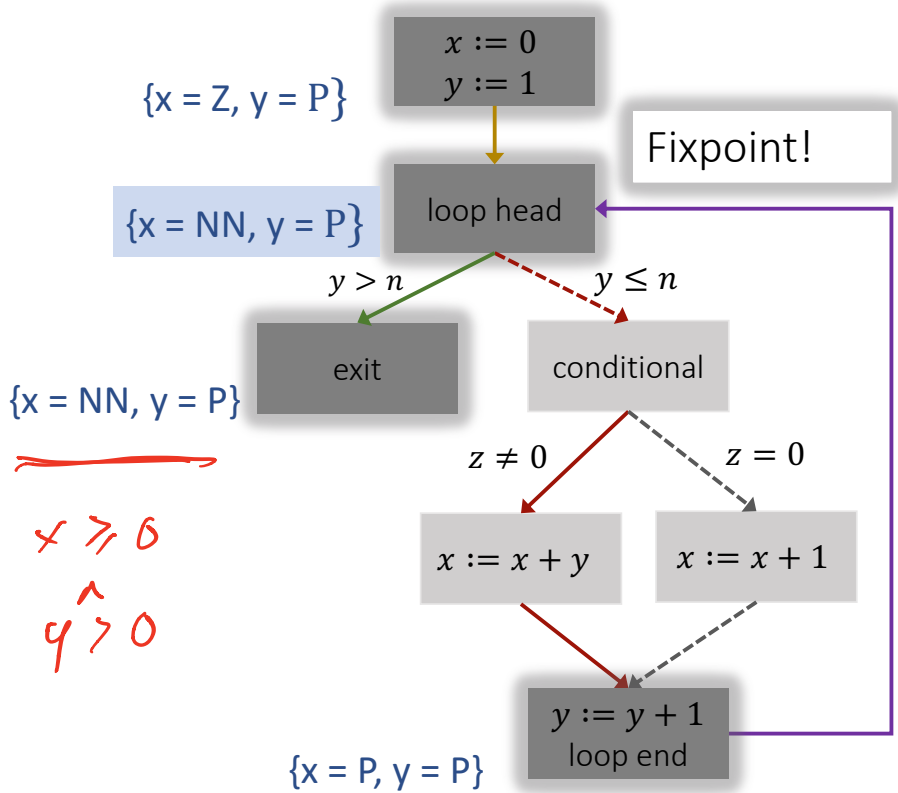


$\{x = z, y = P\}$
 $\{x = P, y = P\}$
 $\{x = NN, y = P\}$









Partial specifications

- ▶ Pre/postcondition pairs are also called **functional specifications**
 - ▶ Meant to be **complete**
- ▶ Writing complete specifications can be very hard
- ▶ **Partial specifications** are easier to write and, often, easier to check
- ▶ Partial specifications may be explicit or implicit

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- ▶ Partial specifications may be explicit or implicit

assertions

no division-by-zero
no null-pointer-dereference

```
x := 0
y := 1
while (y <= n) do
  if (z == 0) then
    x := x + 1
  else
    x := x + y
  assert y > 0
  y := y + 1
```

An **assertion** is a FOL formula F at a program location L . It asserts that F is true whenever program control reaches L . Equivalently, it asserts that the set of reachable states at L satisfies F .

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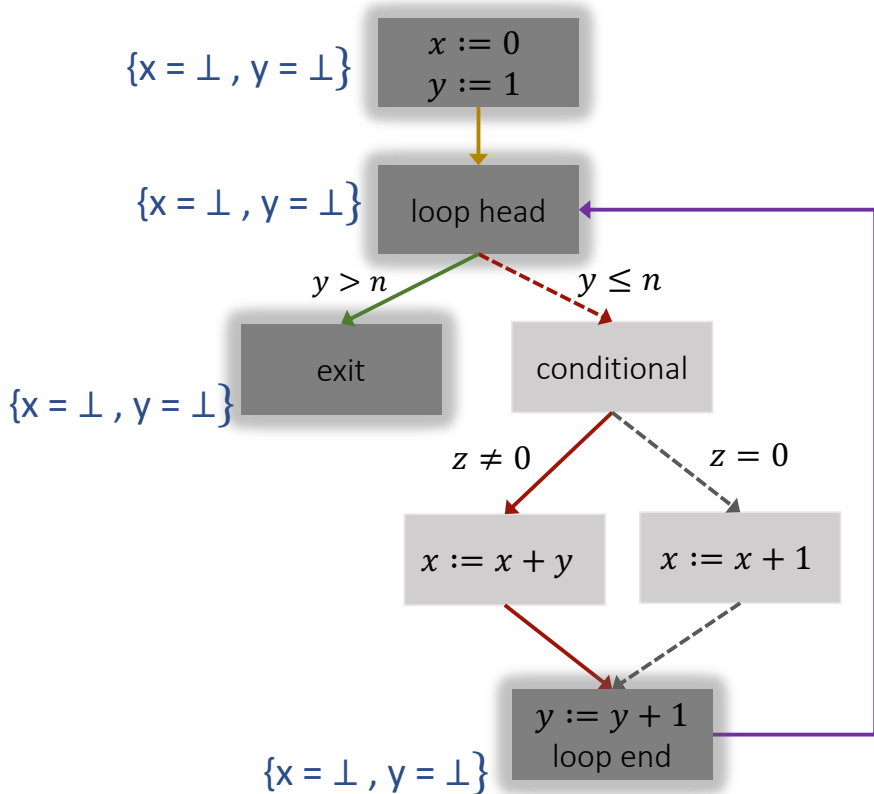
An **assertion** is a FOL formula F at a program location L . It asserts that F is true whenever program control reaches L . Equivalently, it asserts that the set of reachable states at L satisfies F .

Can use forward propagation to also compute the exact/overapproximate set of reachable states at location L (even if L is not a cutpoint).

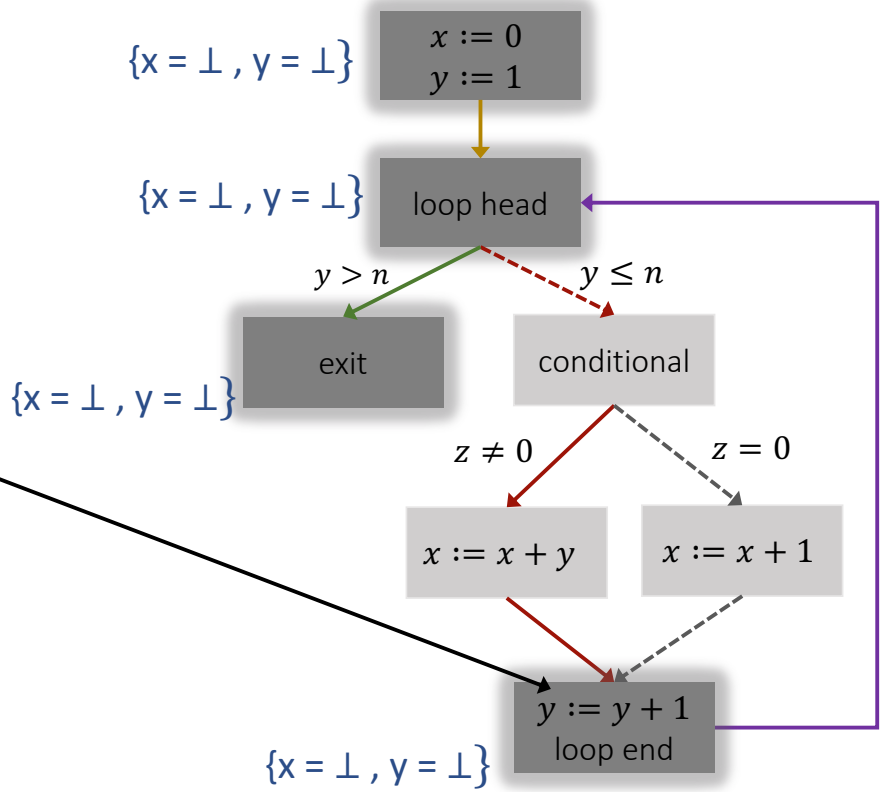
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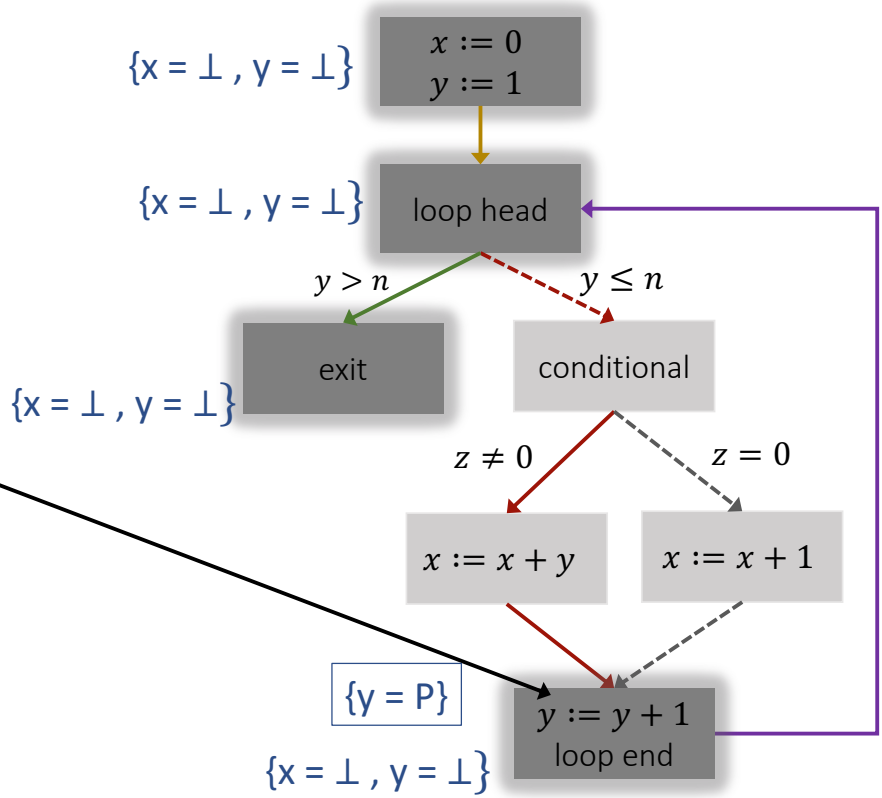
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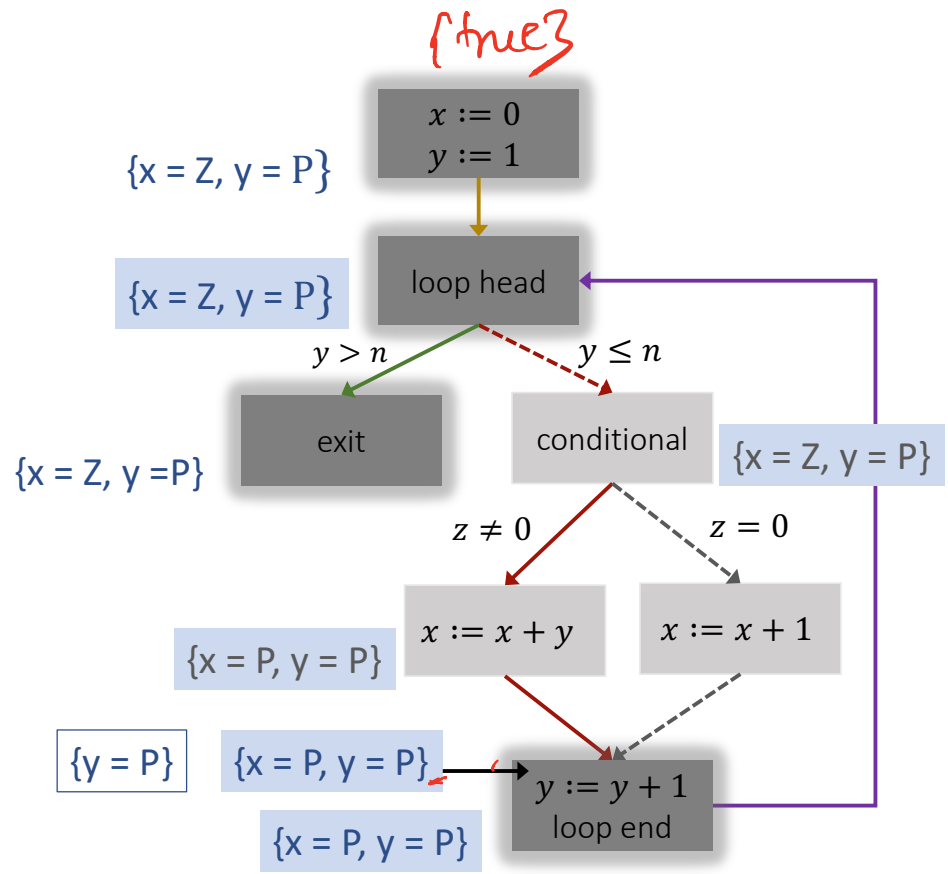


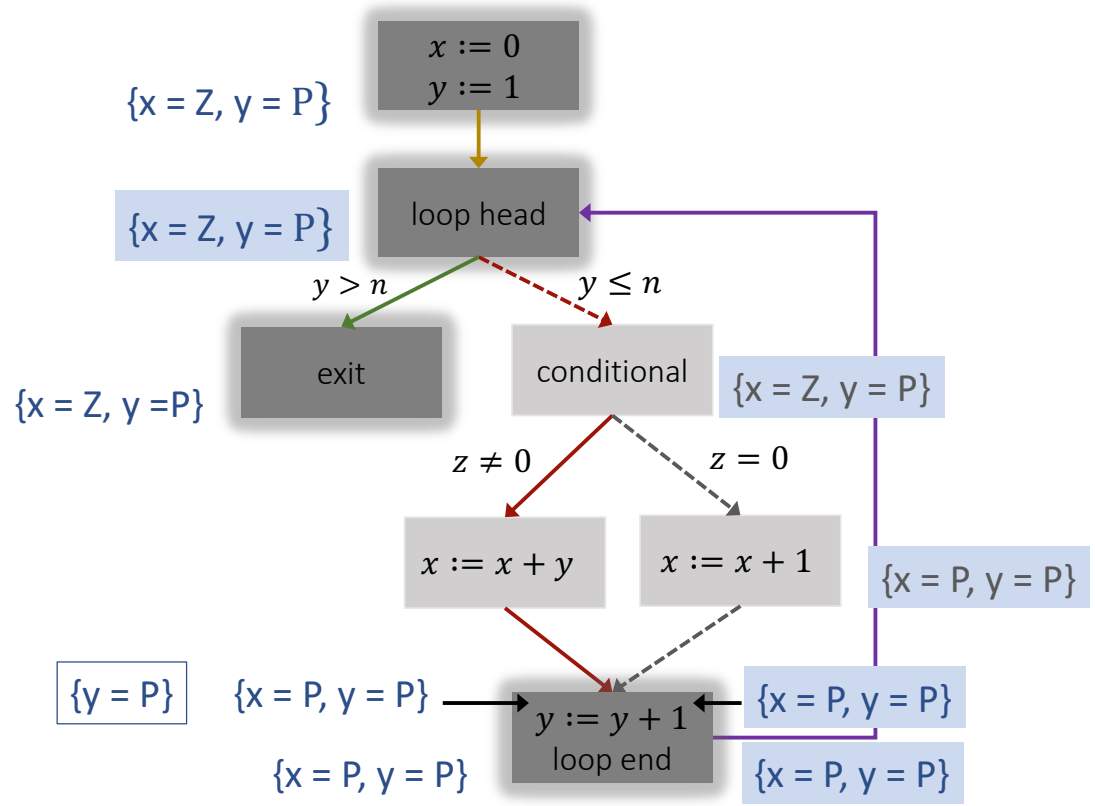

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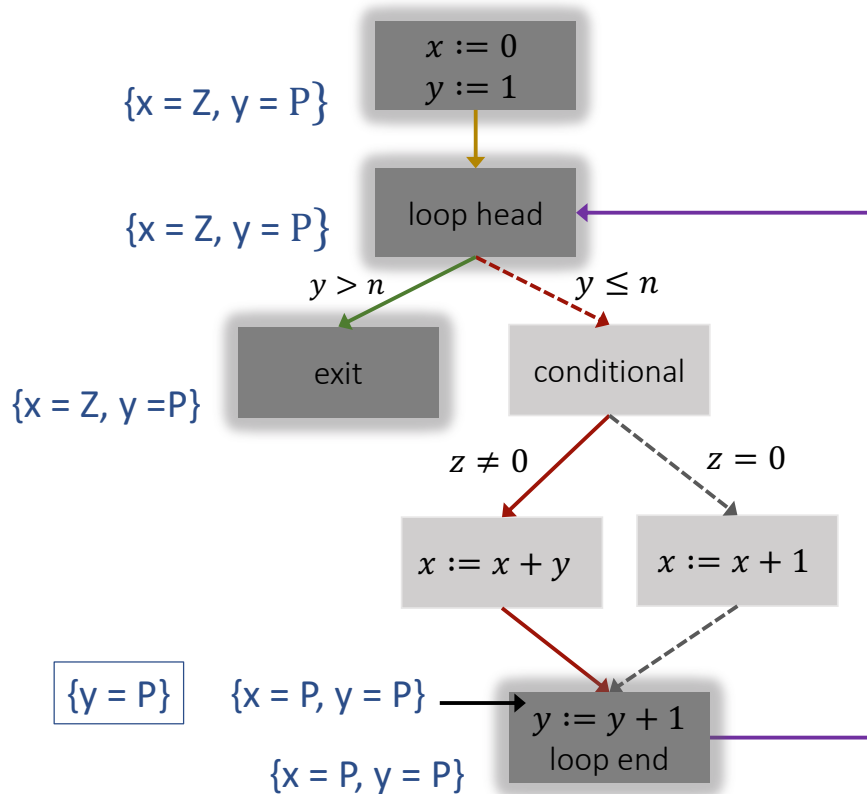


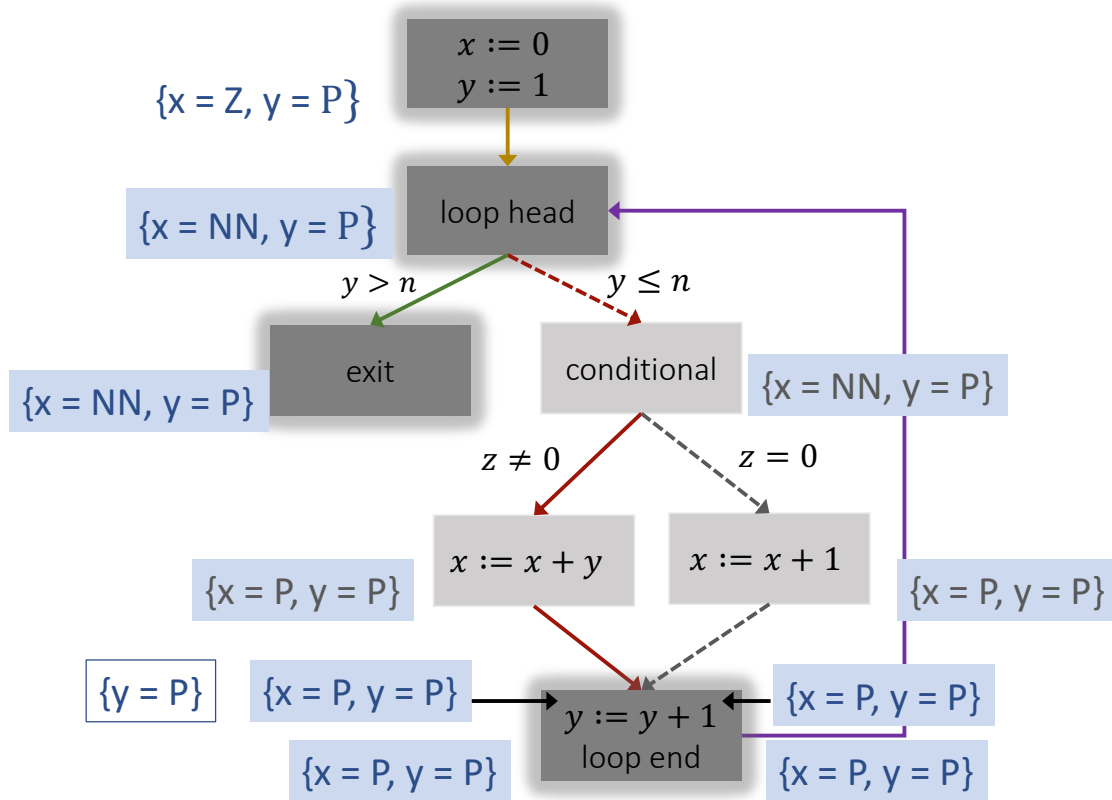
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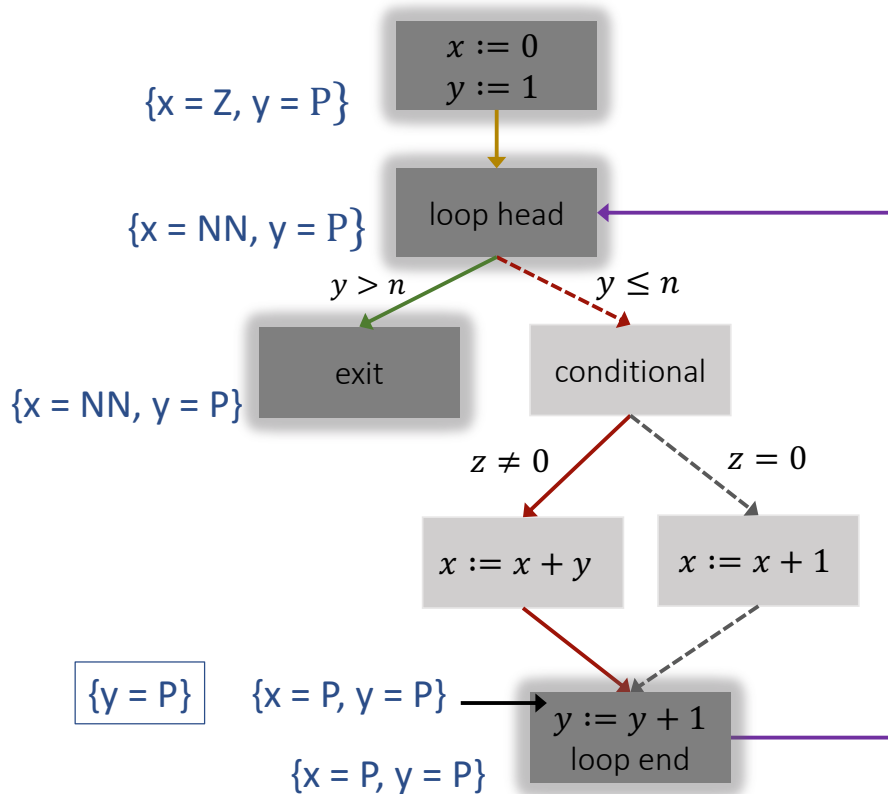


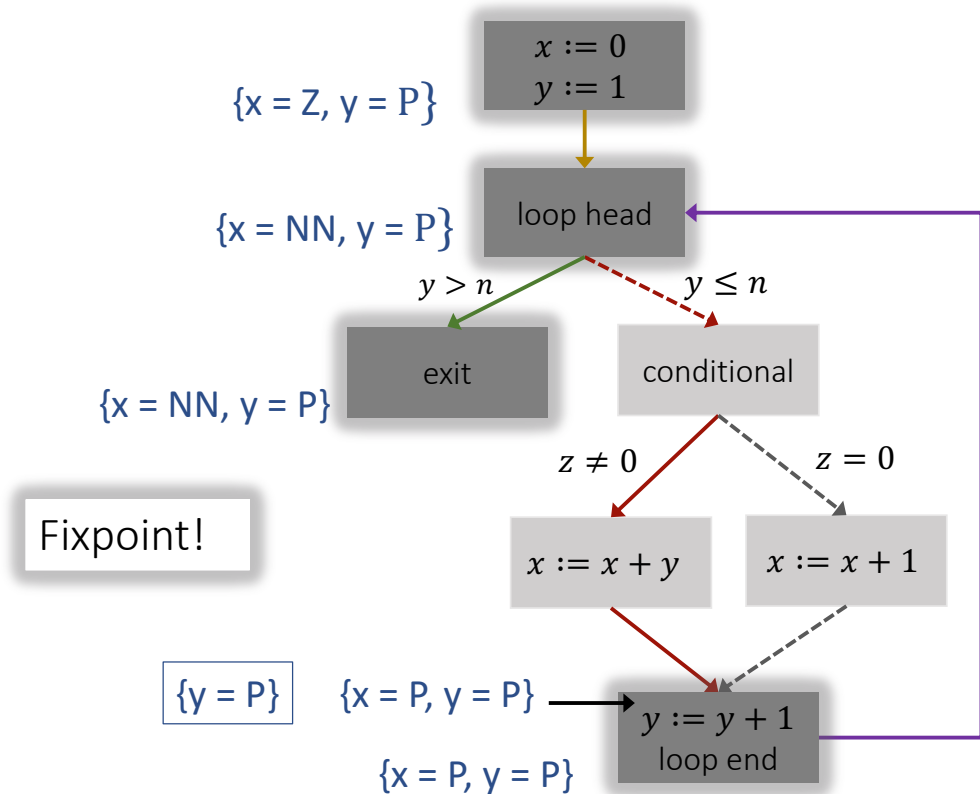


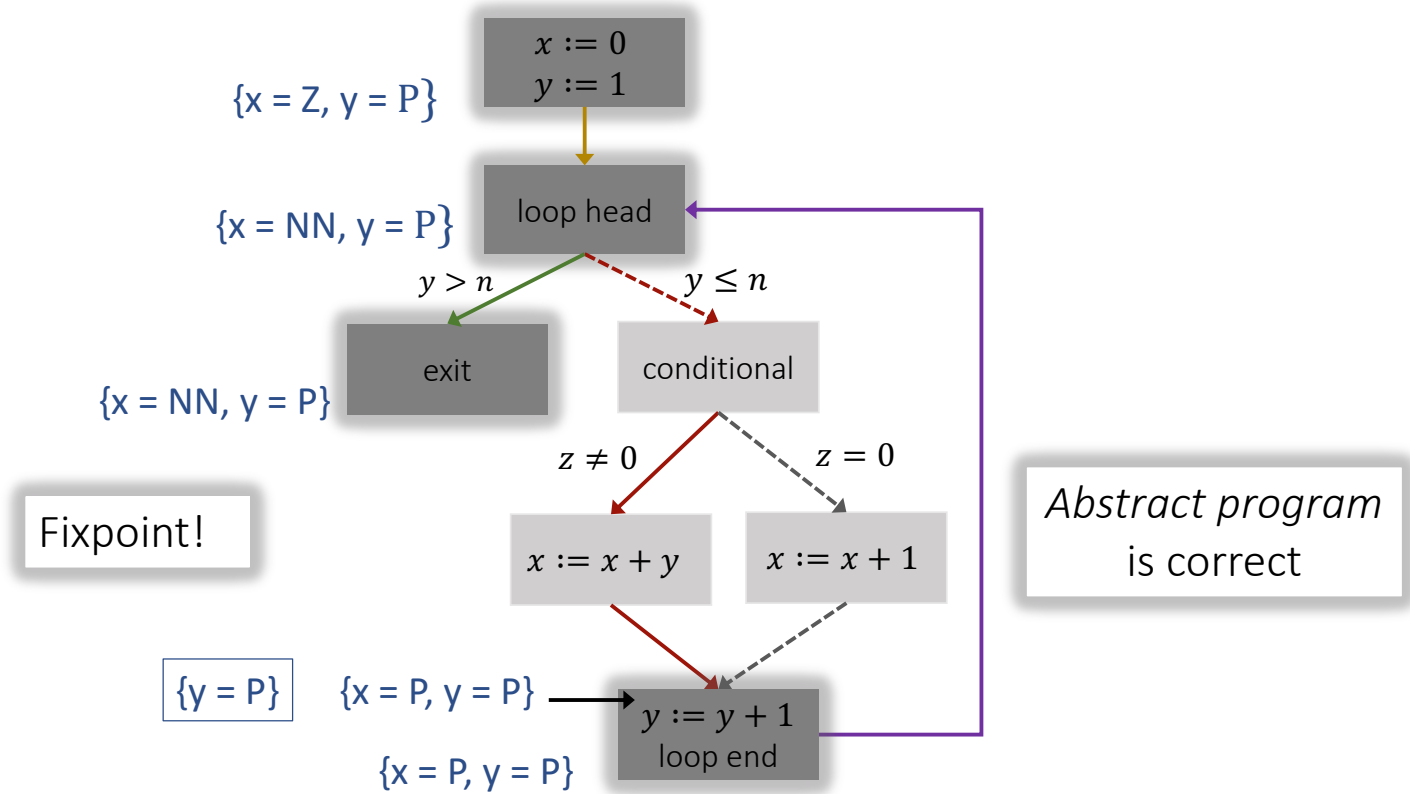












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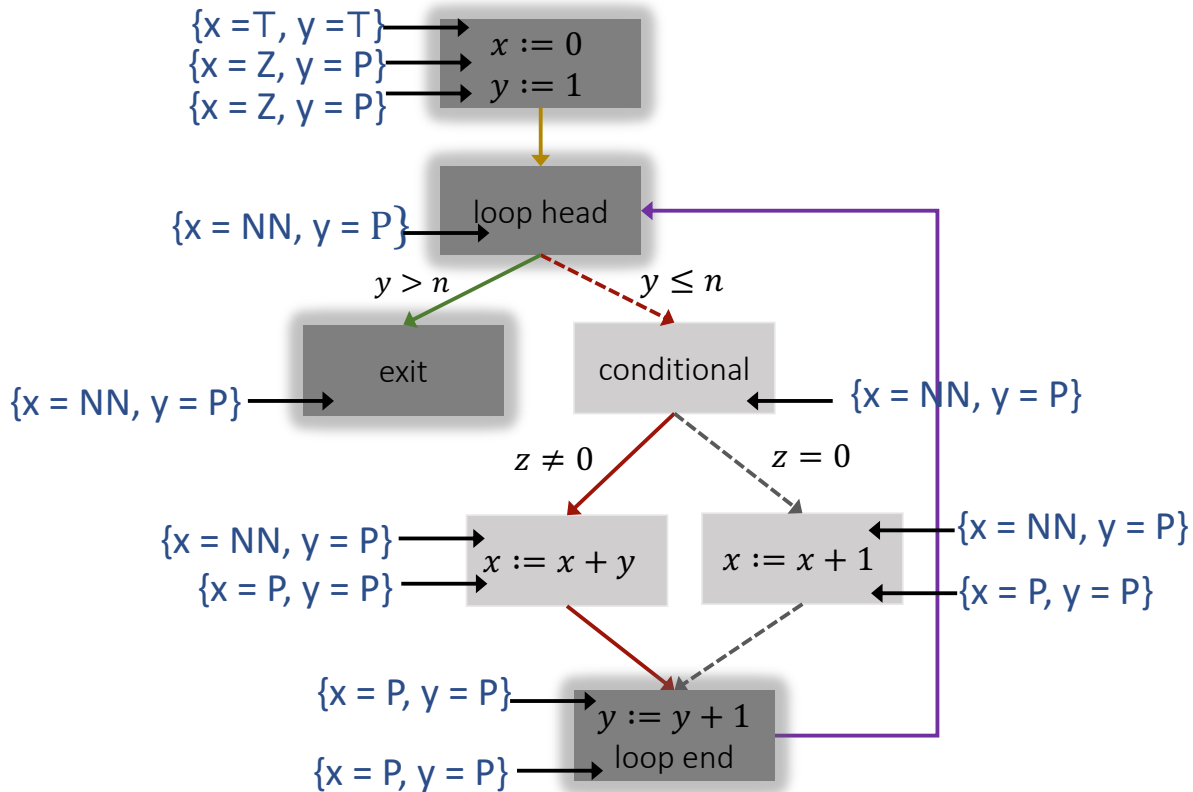
A **safety property** F asserts that F is true at every program location in every program execution. Equivalently, it asserts that the set of reachable states at any location satisfies F .

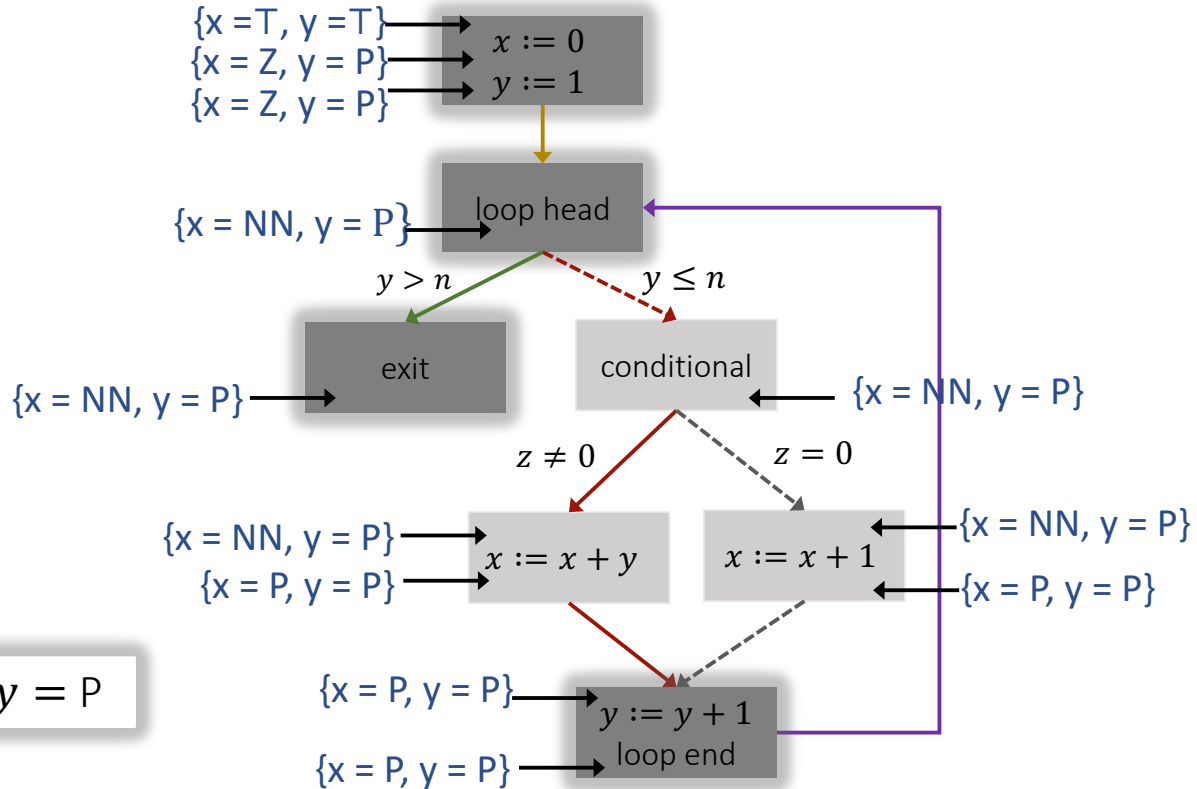
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Always $y > 0$

Summary

Today

- ▶ Automated invariant generation
- ▶ Forward propagation using strongest postconditions
- ▶ Abstract interpretation

Next

- ▶ Abstraction-refinement and predicate abstraction

$Ver_{new} \leftarrow \underline{AI}^2$
 $Caus_{it} \leftarrow \underline{AI}^2$

BDDs



$$\begin{aligned}
 & \leq x \leq U_x \\
 & \leq y \leq U_y \\
 & \leq z \leq U_z
 \end{aligned}$$