

Software Verification

Is a software program free from bugs?

- What kind of bugs?

- Lint checking – Divide by zero, Variable values going out of range
- User specified bugs – Assertions

Challenges:

- Real valued variables

- Huge state space if we have to consider all values

- Size of the program is much smaller than the number of paths to be explored

- Branchings, Loops

We need to extract an abstract state machine from a program

Abstraction: Sound versus Complete

- Sound Abstraction

If the abstraction shows no bugs, then the original program also doesn't have bugs

- Complete Abstraction

If the abstraction shows a bug, then the original program has a bug

Due to undecidability of static analysis problems, we cant have a general procedure that is both sound and complete.

Techniques

Abstract Static Analysis

- Abstract interpretation
- Numerical abstract domains

Software Model Checking

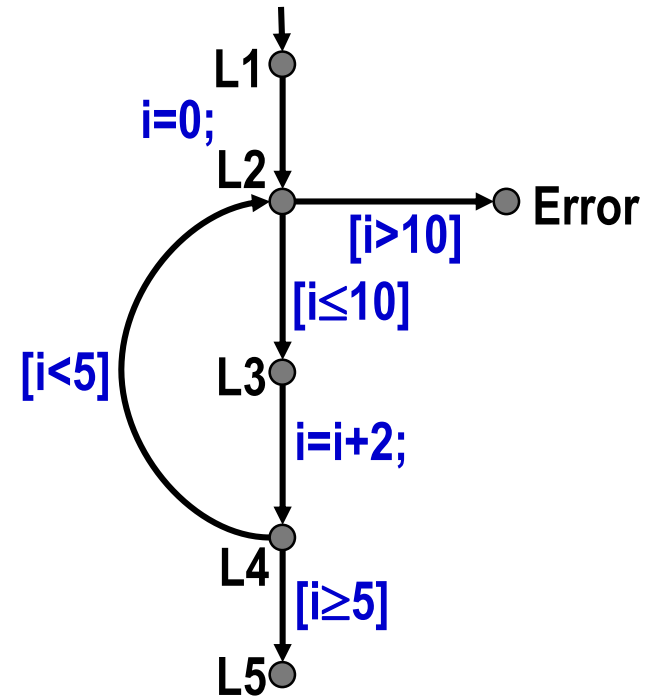
- Explicit and symbolic model checking
- Predicate abstraction and abstraction refinement

Example

Sample program:

```
int i=0
do {
    assert( i <= 10);
    i = i+2;
} while (i < 5);
```

Control Flow Graph (CFG):



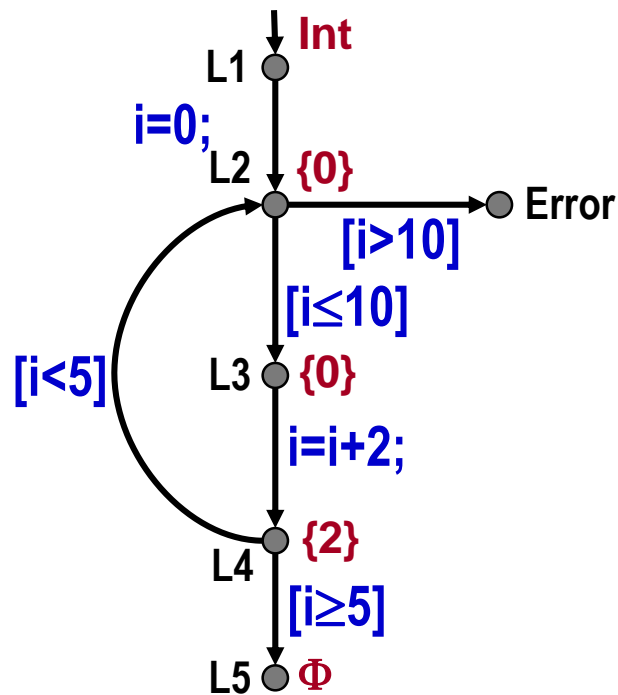
Concrete Interpretation

Philosophy:

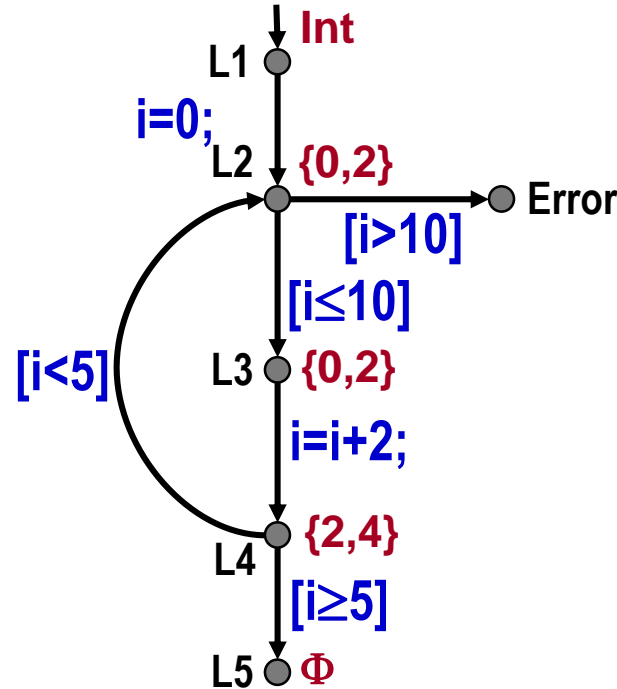
Collect the set of possible values of i until a fixed point is reached

Sample program:

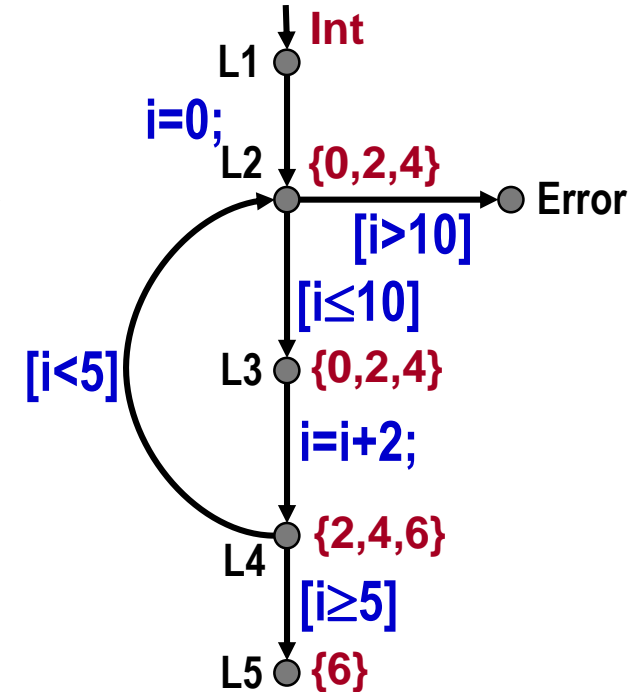
```
int i=0
do {
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```



Iteration-1



Iteration-2



Iteration-3

Abstract Interpretation

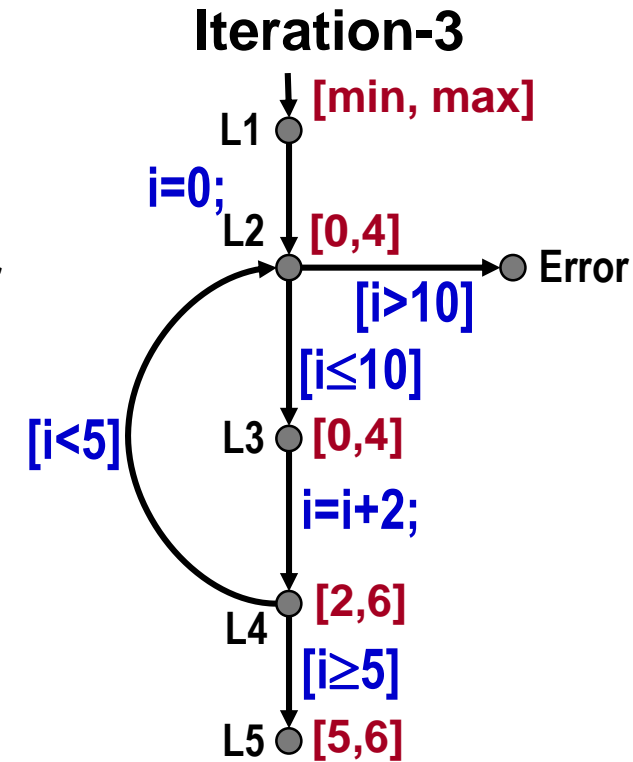
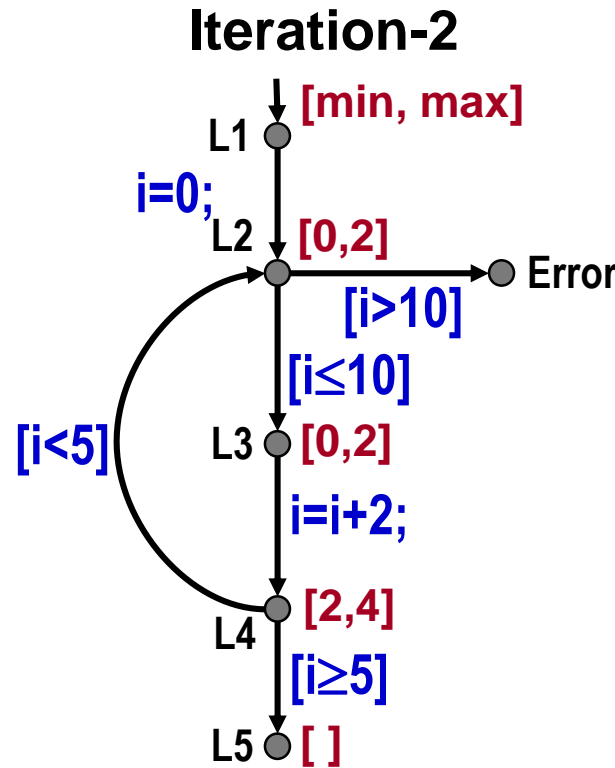
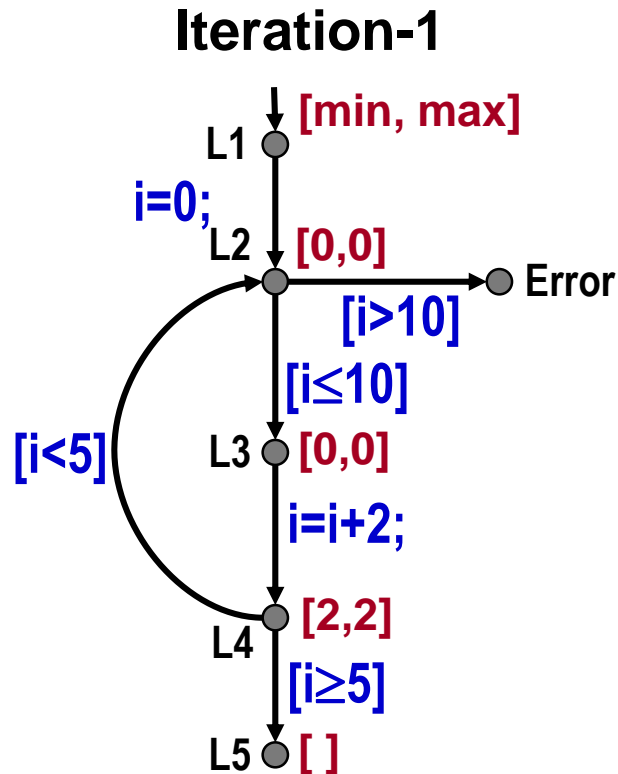
Philosophy:

Use an abstract domain instead of value sets

Example: We may use value intervals instead of value sets

Sample program:

```
int i=0
do {
    assert( i <= 10);
    i = i+2;
} while (i < 5);
```



Actually, the value 5 is not possible here

Numerical Abstract Domains

The class of invariants that can be computed, and hence the properties that can be proved, varies with the expressive power of a domain

- An abstract domain can be more *precise* than another
- The information loss between different domains may be incomparable

Examples:

- The domain of *Signs* has three values: {Pos, Neg, Zero}
- *Intervals* are more expressive than signs. Signs can be modeled as [min,0], [0,0], and [0,max]
- The domain of *Parities* abstracts values as Even and Odd
- *Signs* or *Intervals* cannot be compared with *Parities*.

Predicate Abstraction

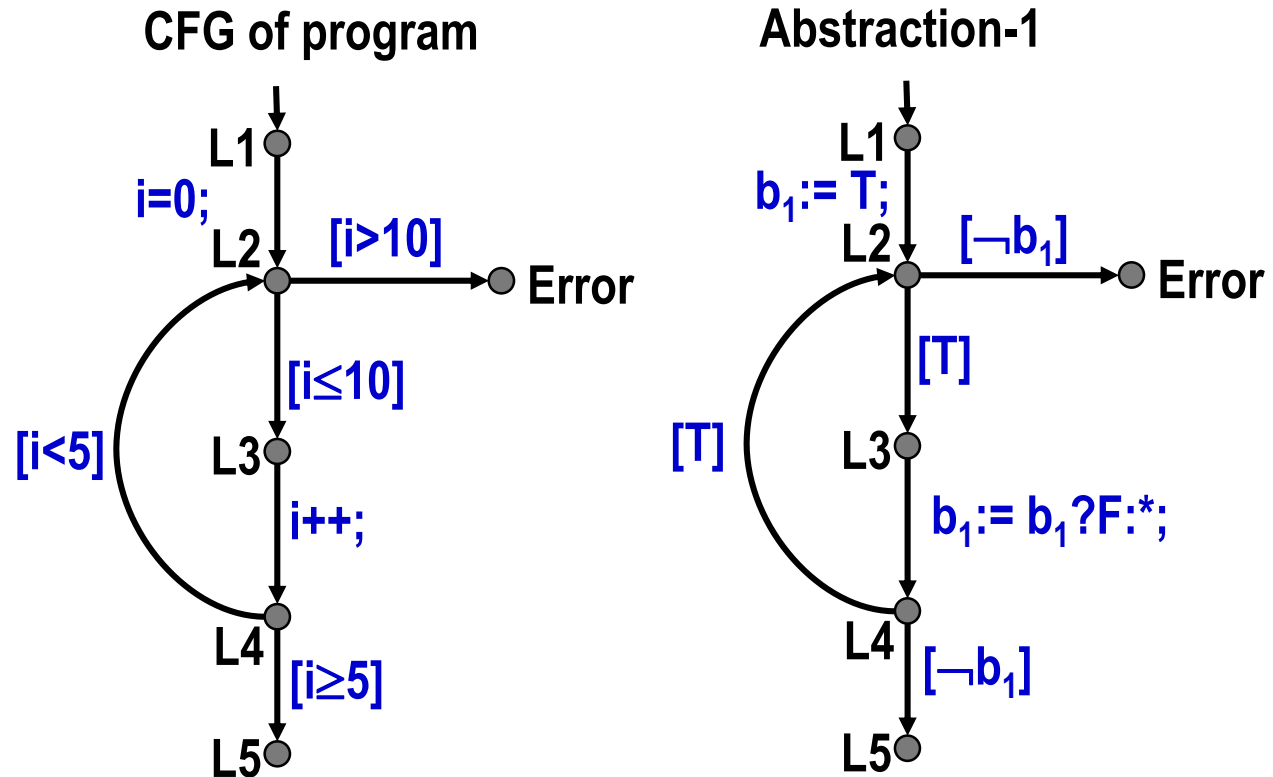
- A sound approximation R' of the transition relation R is constructed using predicates over program variables
- A predicate P partitions the states of a program into two classes: one in which P evaluates to true and one in which it evaluates to false
 - Each class is an *abstract state*
 - Let A and B be abstract states. A transition is defined from A to B if there is a state in A with a transition to a state in B
 - This construction yields an existential abstraction of a program, which is sound for reachability properties
 - The abstract program corresponding to R' is represented by a *Boolean program*, one with only Boolean data types, and the same control flow constructs as C programs

Predicate Abstraction

Abstraction-1 uses the predicate ($i=0$)
(represented by the variable b_1)

Sample program:

```
int i=0
do {
    assert( i <= 10);
    i++;
} while ( i < 5);
```



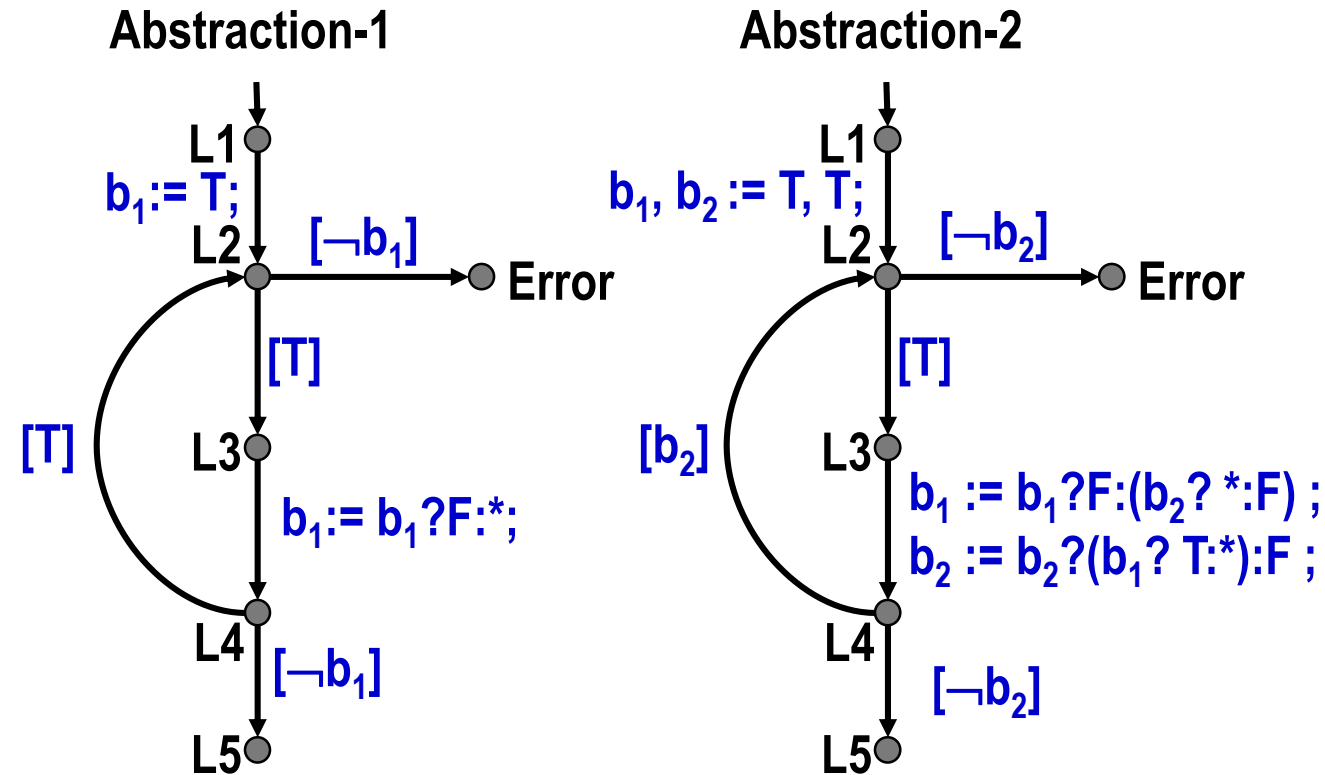
In Abstraction-1 the Error location is reachable, but the counter-example can't be reconstructed in the real program

Predicate Abstraction

Abstraction-2 refines Abstraction-1 using the additional predicate ($i < 5$) (represented by the variable b_2)

Sample program:

```
int i=0
do {
    assert( i <= 10);
    i++;
} while (i < 5);
```



In Abstraction-2 the location L2 is reached with b_2 every time. Hence the Error location is unreachable.

Model Checking with Predicate Abstraction

- A **heavy-weight** formal analysis technique
- Recent successes in software verification, e.g., **SLAM** at Microsoft
- The abstraction reduces the size of the model by **removing irrelevant details**
- The abstract model is then **small enough** for an analysis with a BDD-based Model Checker
- Idea: **only track predicates on data**, and remove data variables from model
- Mostly works with control-flow dominated properties

Source of these slides: D. Kroening: SSFT12 – Predicate Abstraction: A Tutorial

Outline

- **Introduction Existential Abstraction**
- **Predicate Abstraction for Software**
- **Counterexample Guided Abstraction Refinement**
- **Computing Existential Abstractions of Programs**
- **Checking the Abstract Model**
- **Simulating the Counterexample Refining the Abstraction**

Predicate Abstraction as Abstract Domain

- We are given a set of predicates over S , denoted by Π_1, \dots, Π_n .
- An abstract state is a valuation of the predicates:

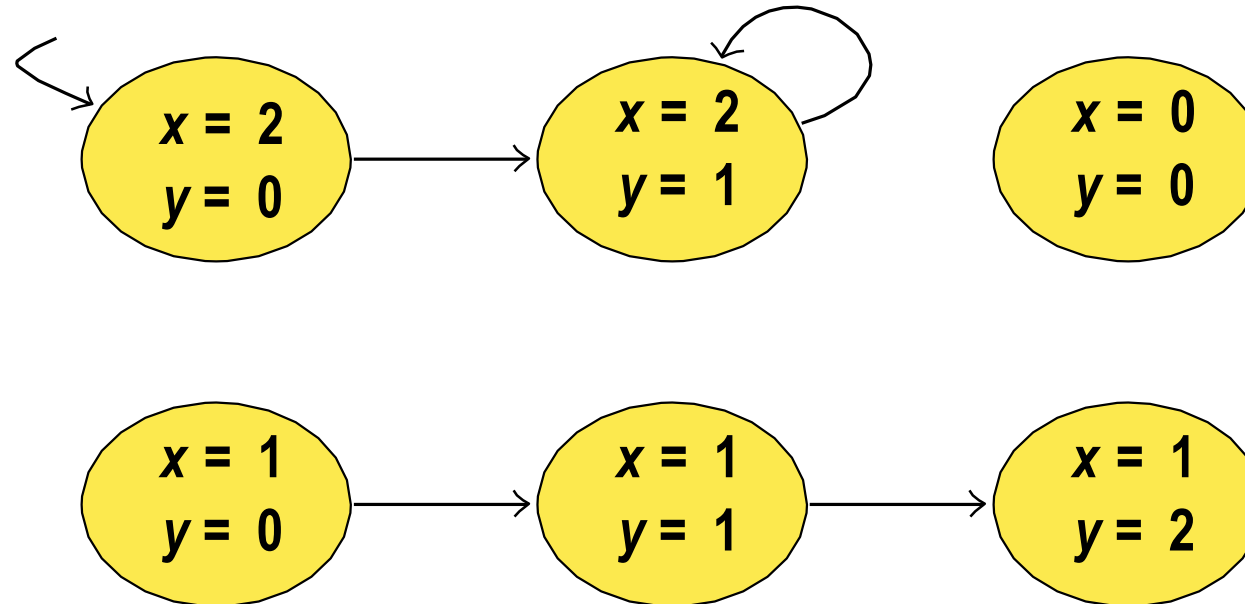
$$\mathcal{S} = \mathbf{B}^n$$

- The abstraction function:

$$\alpha(\mathbf{s}) = (\Pi_1(\mathbf{s}), \dots, \Pi_n(\mathbf{s}))$$

Predicate Abstraction: the Basic Idea

Concrete states over variables x, y :



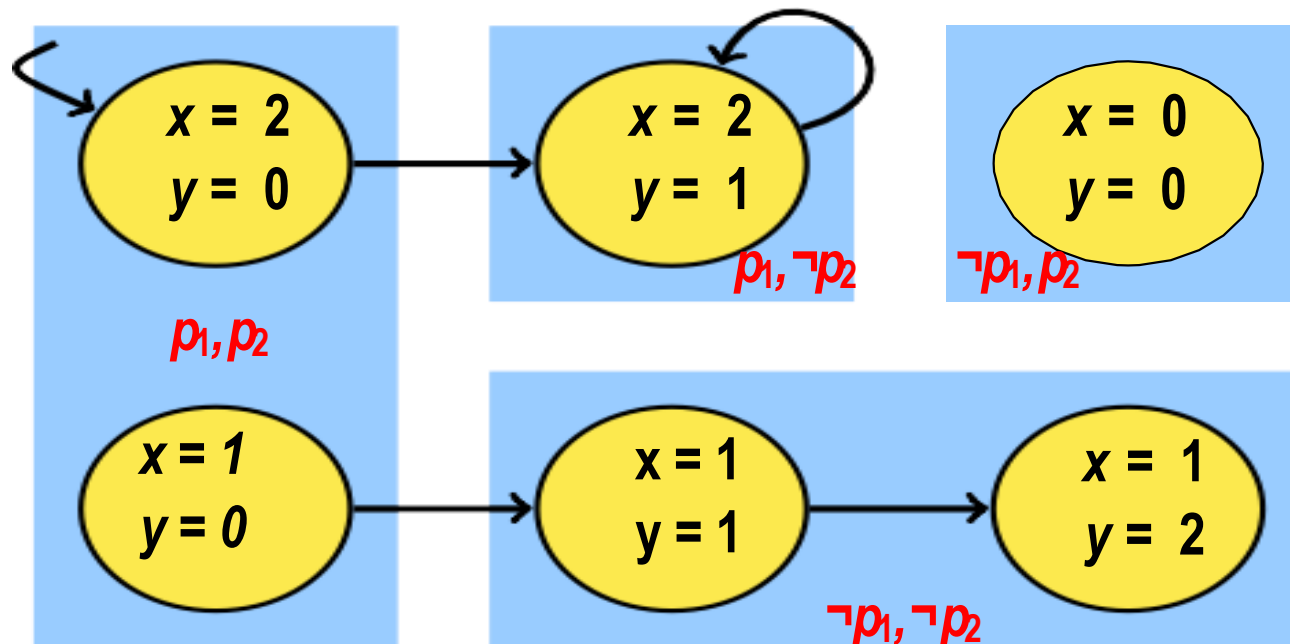
Predicates:

$$p1 \iff x > y$$

$$p2 \iff y = 0$$

Predicate Abstraction: The Basic Idea

Concrete states over variables x, y :



Predicates:

$$p_1 \iff x > y$$

$$p_2 \iff y = 0$$

Abstract Transitions?

Existential Abstraction¹

Definition (Existential Abstraction)

A model $\hat{M} = (\hat{S}, \hat{S}_0, \hat{T})$ is an *existential abstraction* of $M = (S, S_0, T)$ with respect to $\alpha : S \rightarrow \hat{S}$ iff

- $\exists s \in S_0. \alpha(s) = \hat{s} \implies \hat{s} \in \hat{S}_0$ and
- $\exists (s, s^t) \in T. \alpha(s) = \hat{s} \wedge \alpha(s^t) = \hat{s}^t \implies (\hat{s}, \hat{s}^t) \in \hat{T}.$

¹Clarke, Grumberg, Long: *Model Checking and Abstraction*, ACM TOPLAS, 1994

Minimal Existential Abstractions

There are obviously many choices for an existential abstraction for a given α .

Definition (Minimal Existential Abstraction)

A model $\hat{M} = (\hat{S}, \hat{S}_0, \hat{T})$ is the *minimal existential abstraction* of $M = (S, S_0, T)$ with respect to $\alpha : S \rightarrow \hat{S}$ iff

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This is the most precise existential abstraction.

Existential Abstraction

We write $\alpha(\pi)$ for the abstraction of a path $\pi = s_0, s_1, \dots$:

$$\alpha(\pi) = \alpha(s_0), \alpha(s_1), \dots$$

Existential Abstraction

We write $\alpha(\pi)$ for the abstraction of a path $\pi = s_0, s_1, \dots$:

$$\alpha(\pi) = \alpha(s_0), \alpha(s_1), \dots$$

Lemma

Let \hat{M} be an existential abstraction of M . The abstraction of every path (trace) π in M is a path (trace) in \hat{M} .

$$\pi \in M \quad \Rightarrow \quad \alpha(\pi) \in \hat{M}$$

Proof by induction.

We say that \hat{M} **overapproximates** M .

Abstracting Properties

Reminder: we are using

- a set of **atomic propositions** (predicates) A , and
- a **state-labelling function** $L : S \rightarrow P(A)$

in order to define the meaning of propositions in our properties.

Abstracting Properties

We define an abstract version of it as follows:

- First of all, the negations are pushed into the atomic propositions.

E.g., we will have

$$x = 0 \in A \text{ and } x \neq 0 \in A$$

Abstracting Properties

- An abstract state \hat{s} is labelled with $a \in A$ iff **all** of the corresponding concrete states are labelled with a .

$$a \in L(\hat{s}) \iff \forall s | \alpha(s) = \hat{s}. a \in L(s)$$

- This also means that an abstract state may have neither the label $x = 0$ nor the label $x \neq 0$ – this may happen if it concretizes to concrete states with different labels!

Conservative Abstraction

The keystone is that existential abstraction is **conservative** for certain properties:

Theorem (Clarke/Grumberg/Long 1994)

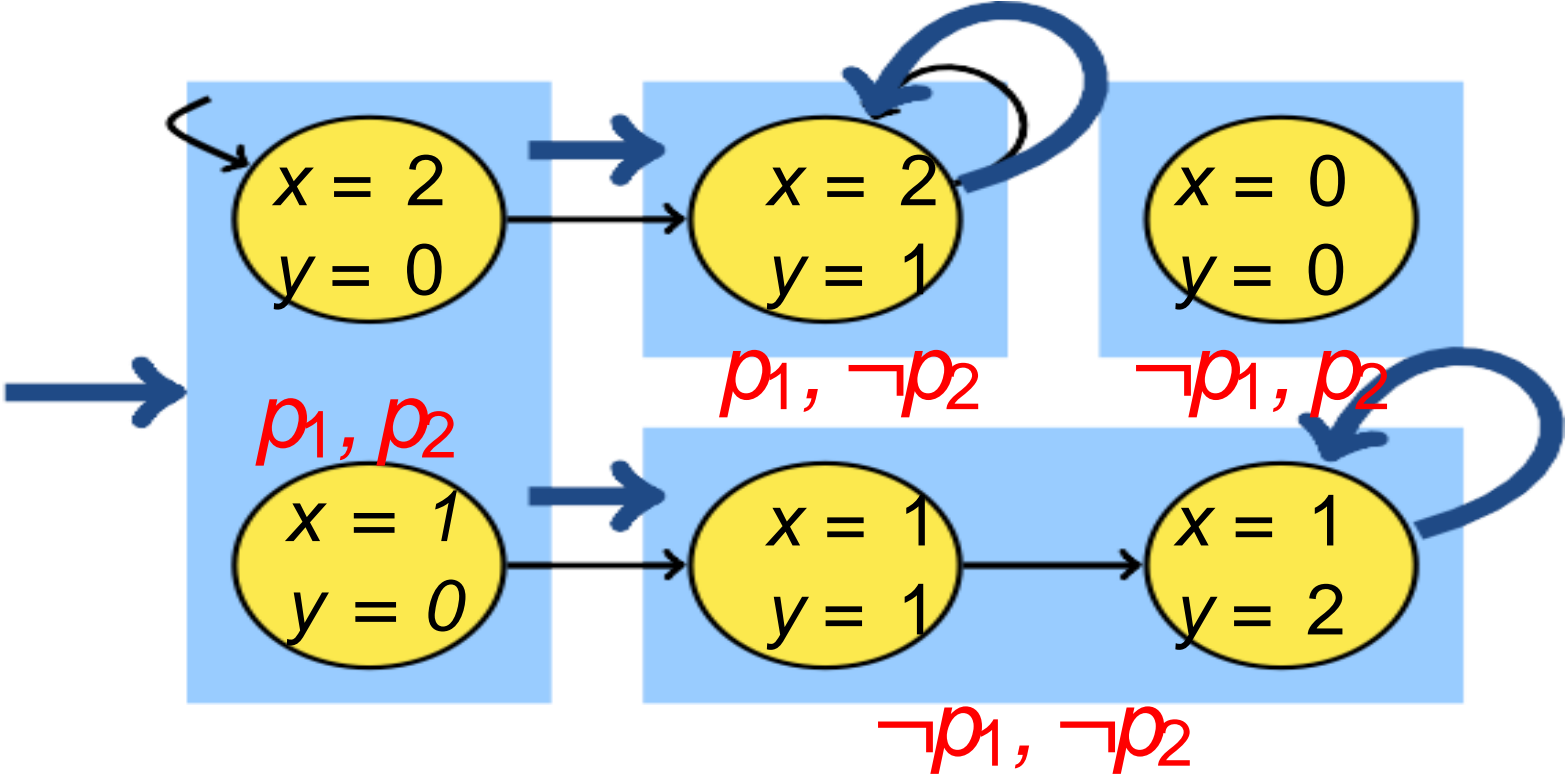
Let φ be a \forall CTL formula where all negations are pushed into the atomic propositions, and let \hat{M} be an existential abstraction of M . If φ holds on \hat{M} , then it also holds on M .*

$$\hat{M} \models \varphi \quad \Rightarrow \quad M \models \varphi$$

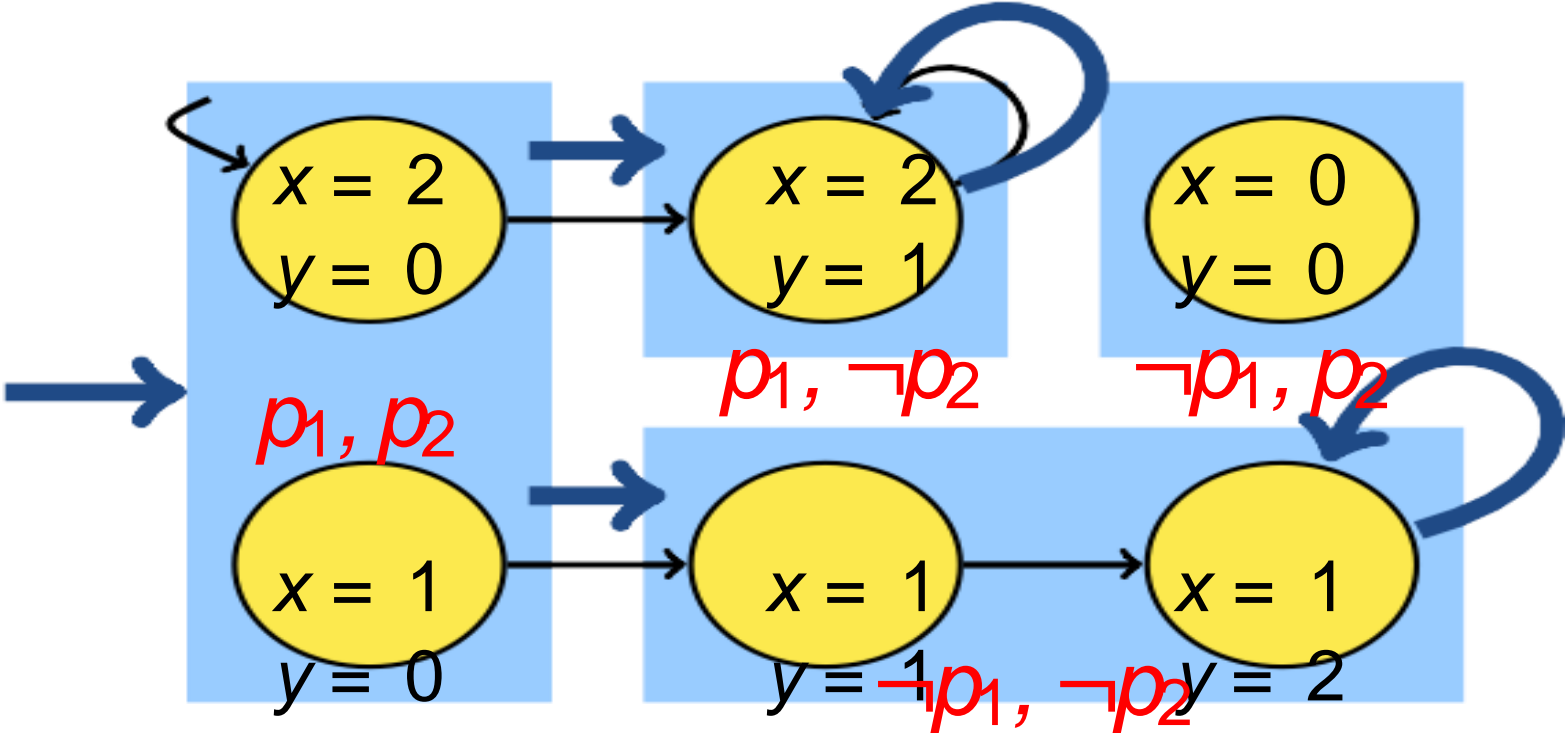
We say that an existential abstraction is conservative for \forall CTL* properties. **The same result can be obtained for LTL properties.**

The proof uses the lemma and is by induction on the structure of φ . The converse usually does not hold.

Back to the Example



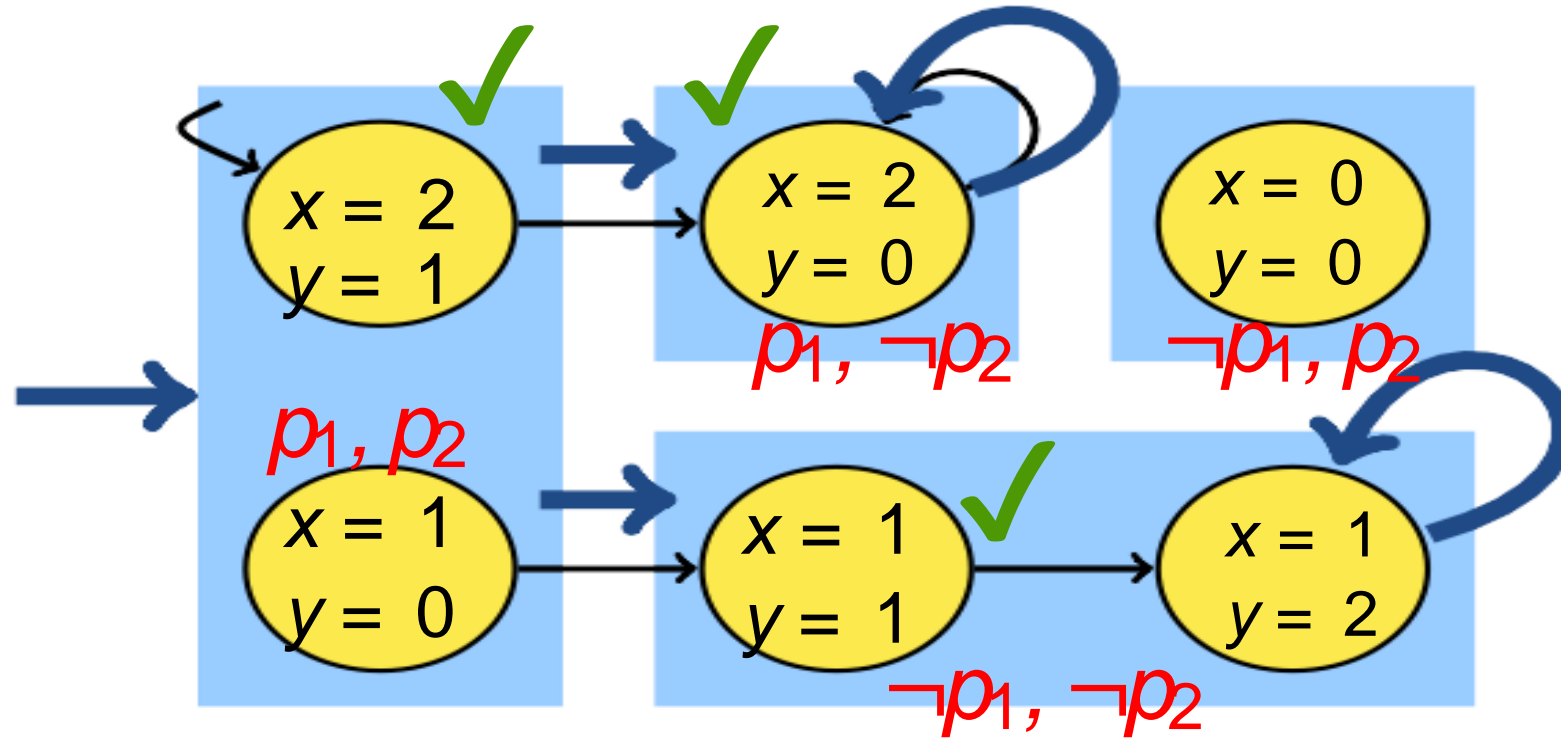
Let's try a Property



Property:

$$x > y \vee y \neq 0 \iff p_1 \vee \neg p_2$$

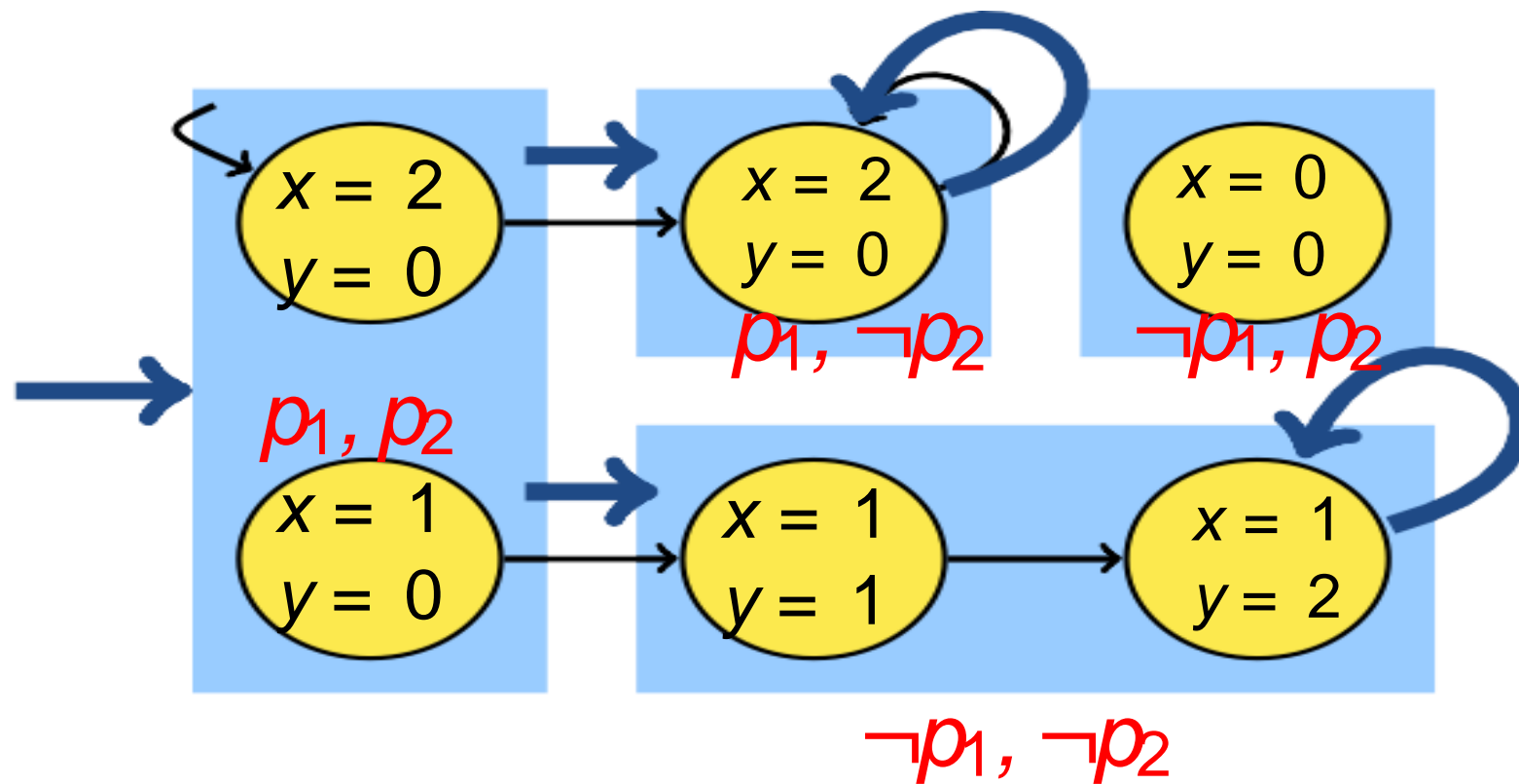
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Property:

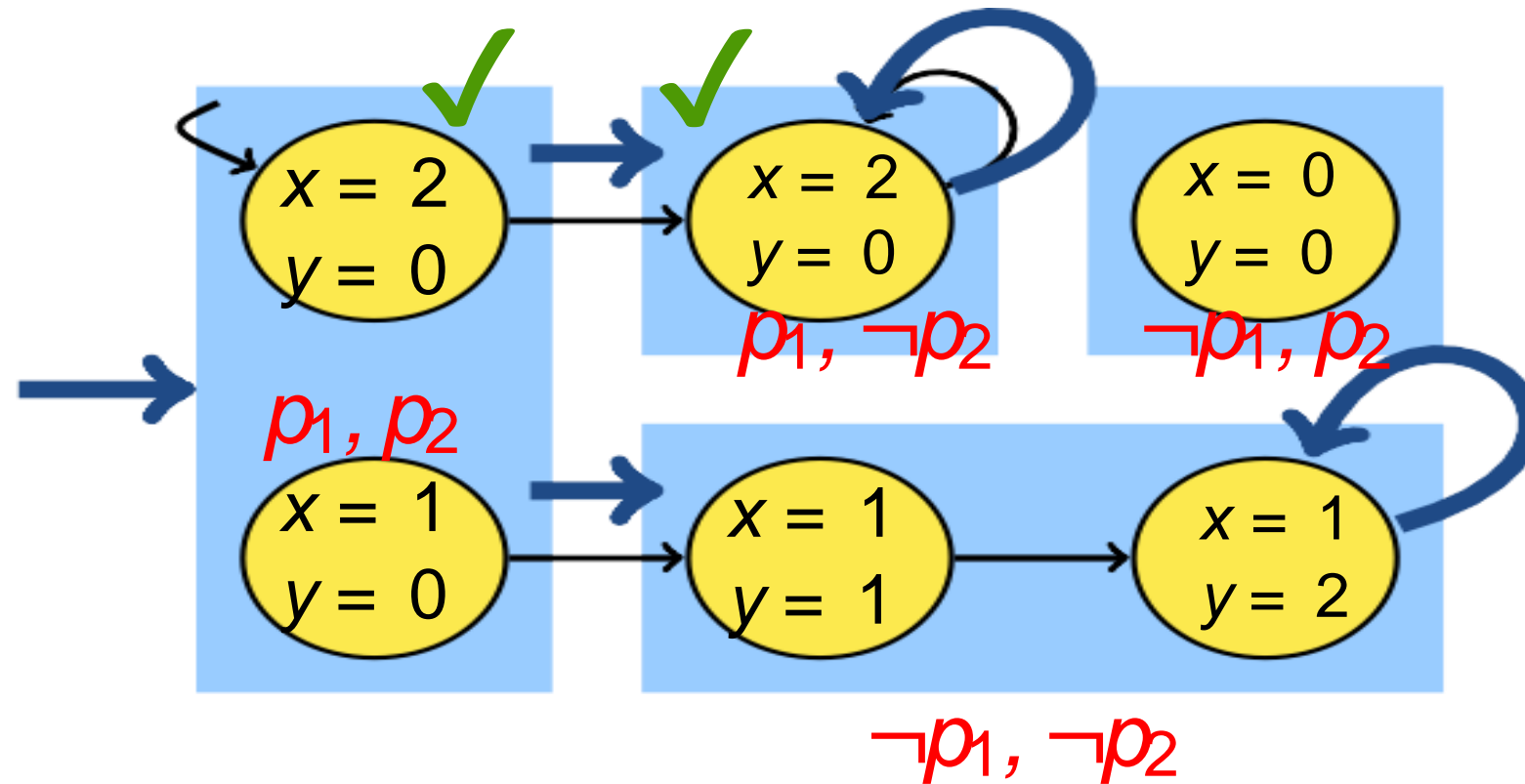
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Another Property



Property:
 $x > y \iff \rho_1$

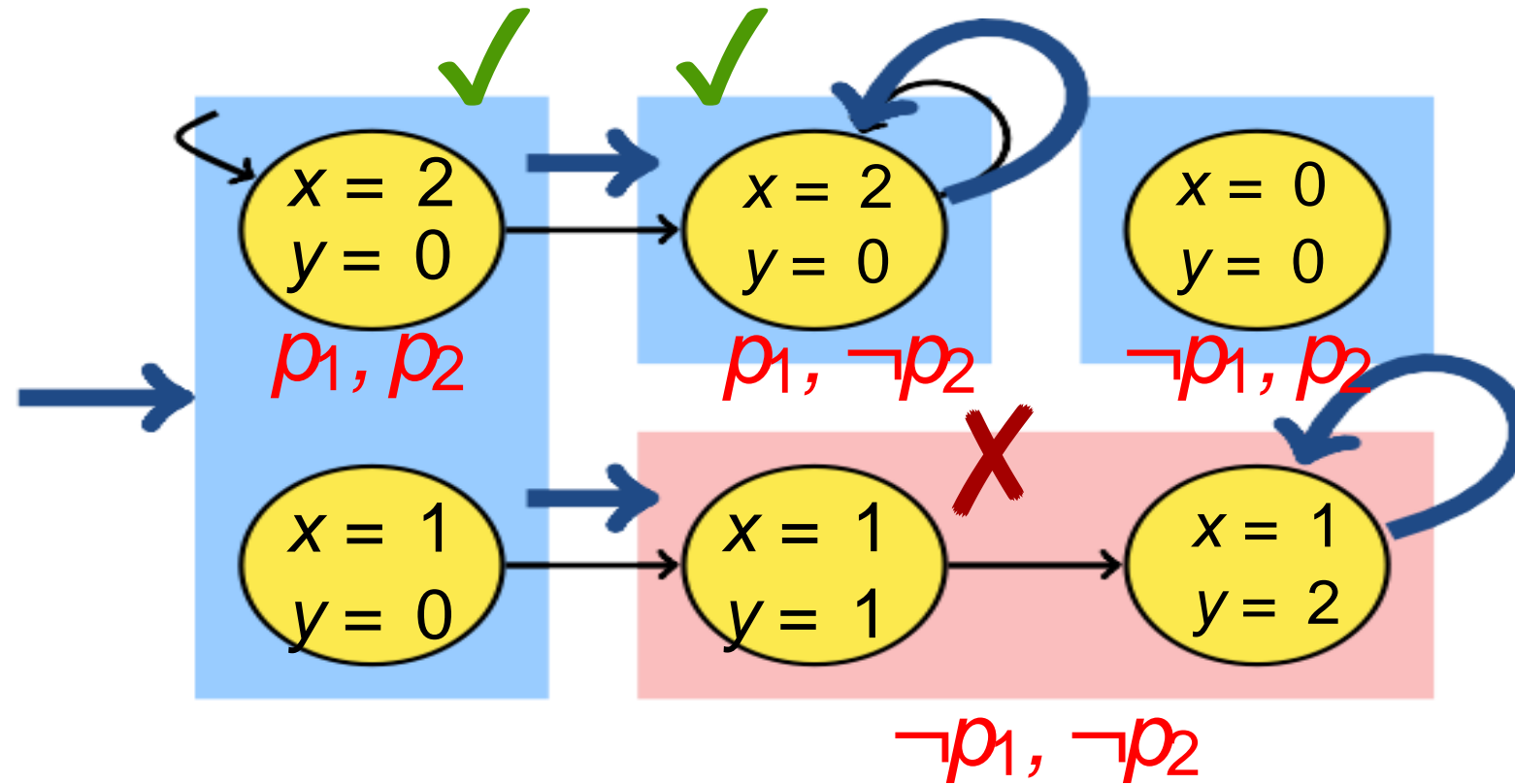
Another Property



Property:

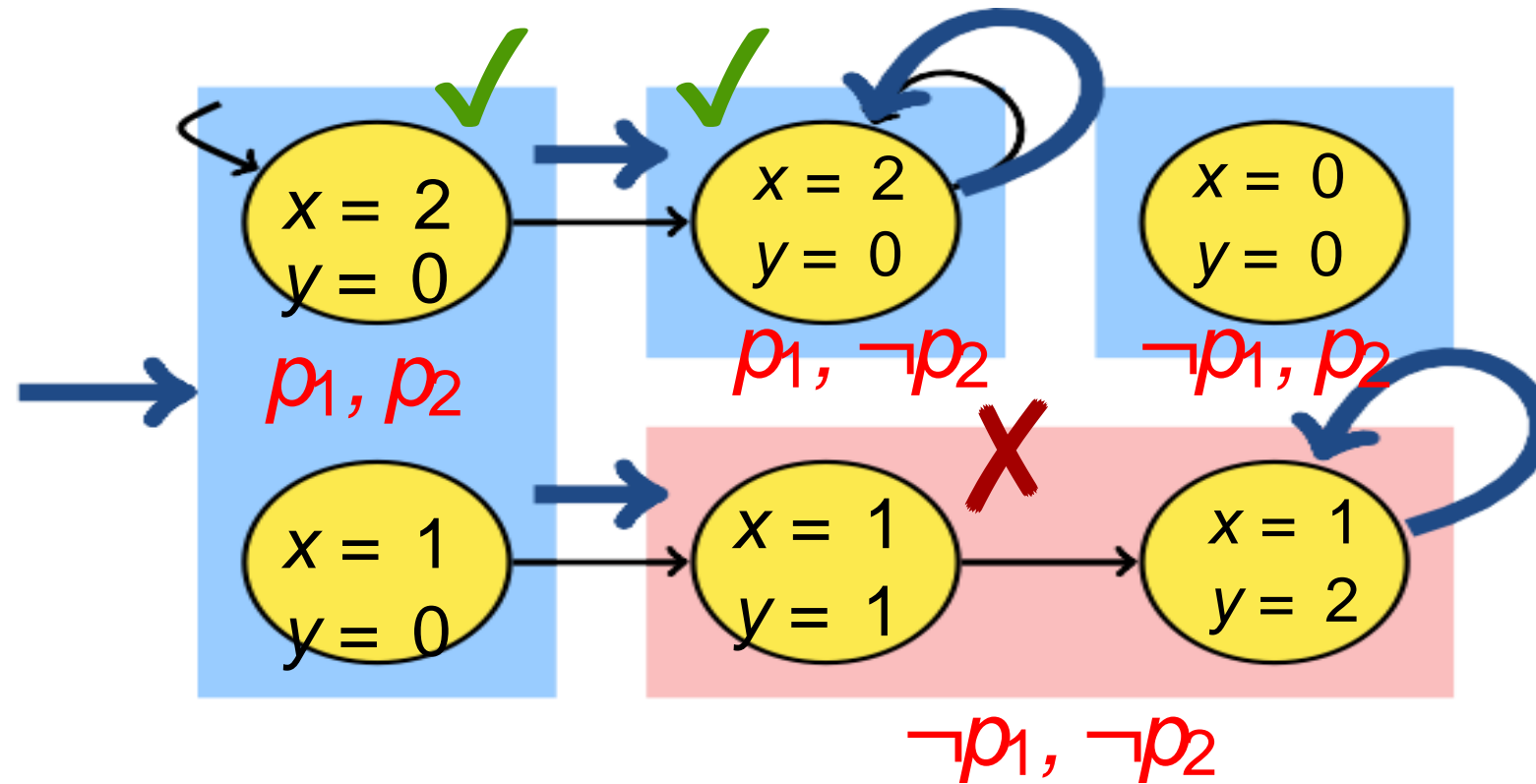
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Another Property



Property:
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Another Property



Property:
 $x > y \iff p_1$

But: the counterexample is **spurious**

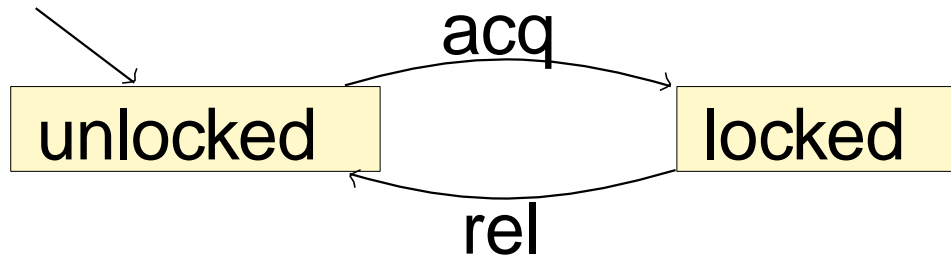
SLAM

- Microsoft blames most Windows crashes on **third party device drivers**
- The Windows device driver API is quite complicated
- Drivers are low level C code
- SLAM: Tool to automatically check device drivers for certain errors
- SLAM is shipped with Device Driver Development Kit
- Full detail available at <http://research.microsoft.com/slam/>

SLIC

- **Finite state language** for defining properties
 - **Monitors behavior of C code**
 - **Temporal safety properties (security automata)**
 - **familiar C syntax**
- **Suitable for expressing control-dominated properties**
 - **e.g., proper sequence of events**
 - **can track data values**

SLIC Example

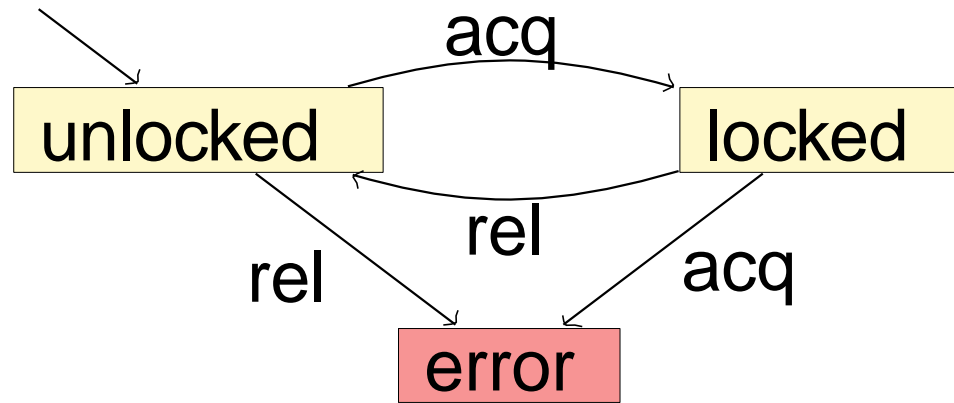


```
state {
  enum { Locked, Unlocked}
  s = Unlocked;
}
```

```
KeAcquireSpinLock.entry {
  if (s==Locked) abort;
  else s = Locked;
}
```

```
KeReleaseSpinLock.entry {
  if (s==Unlocked) abort;
  else s = Unlocked;
}
```

SLIC Example



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Refinement Example

```
do {  
    KeAcquireSpinLock ();  
    nPacketsOld = nPackets;  
    if (request) {  
        request = request->Next;  
        KeReleaseSpinLock ();  
        nPackets++;  
    }  
} while(nPackets != nPacketsOld);  
  
KeReleaseSpinLock ();
```

Refinement Example

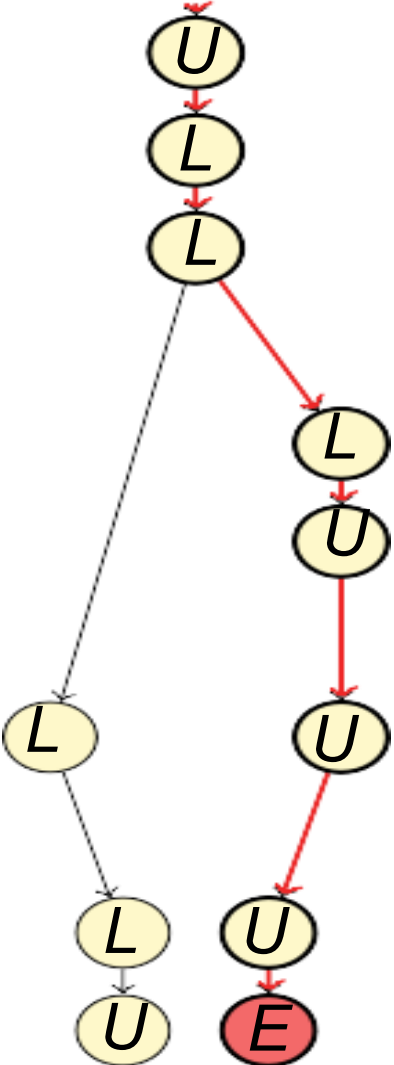
Does this code obey the locking rule?

```
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Refinement Example

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    if (*) {  
  
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    }  
} while (*);  
  
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```

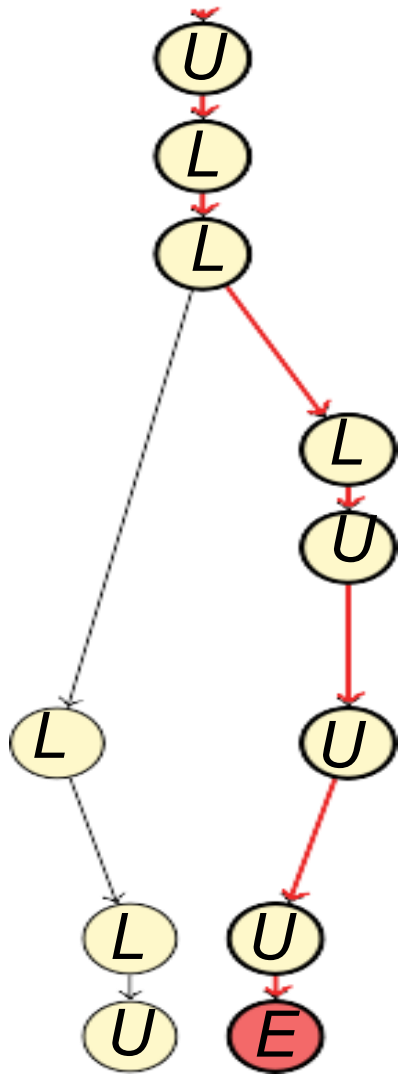

Refinement Example



```
do {  
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```

Is this path concretizable?

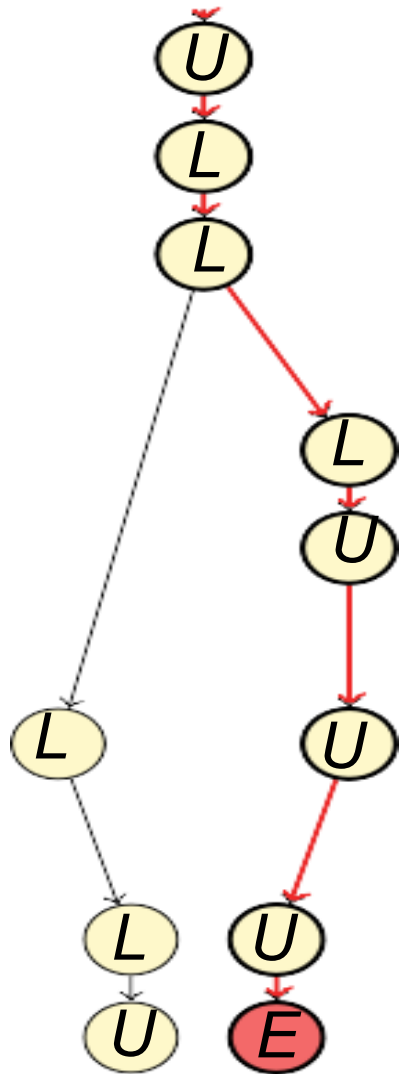
Refinement Example



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KeReleaseSpinLock ();
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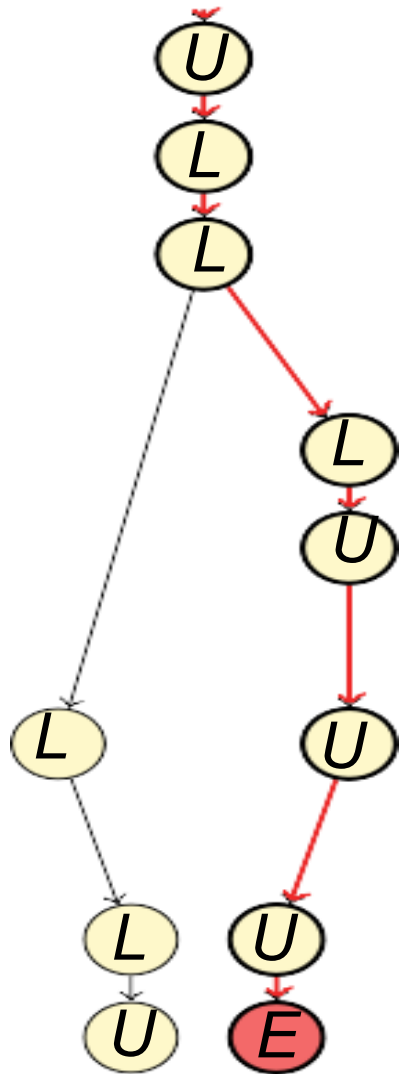
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```

This path is
spurious!

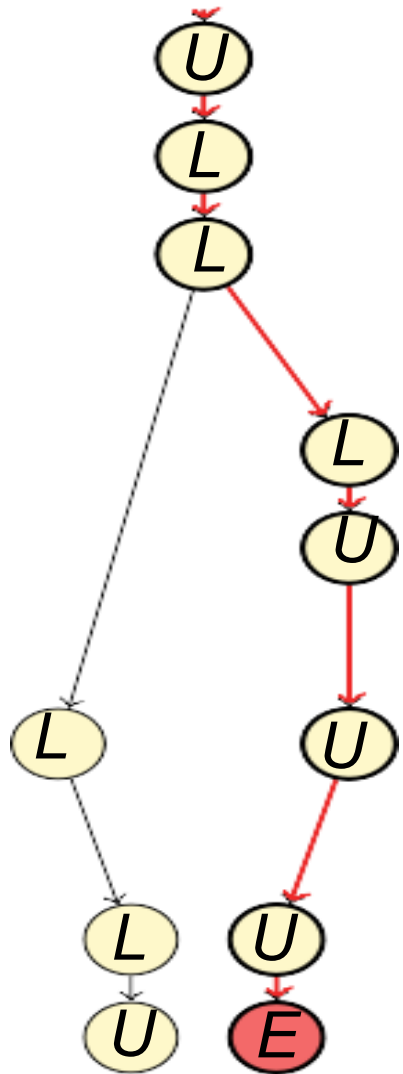
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```

Let's add the predicate
 $nPacketsOld == nPackets$

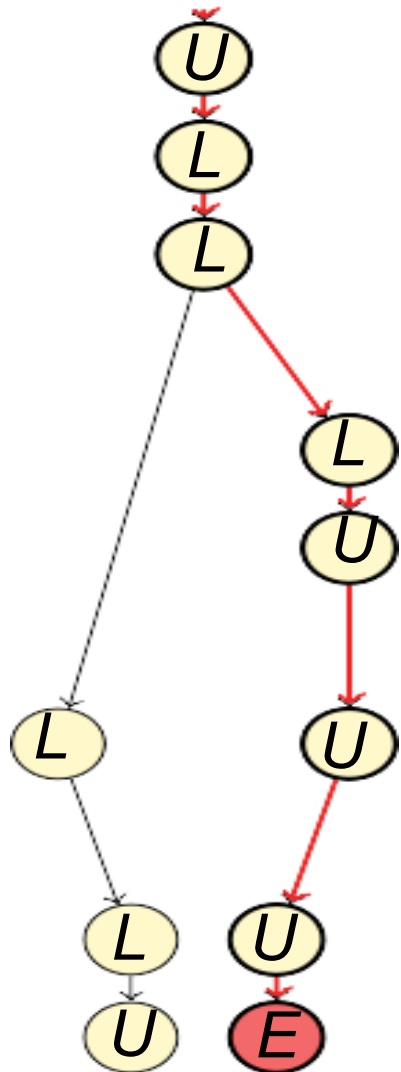
Refinement Example



```
do {  
    KeAcquireSpinLock ();  
    nPacketsOld = nPackets; b=true;  
    if (request) {  
        request = request->Next;  
        KeReleaseSpinLock (); nPackets++;  
    }  
} while(nPackets != nPacketsOld);  
KeReleaseSpinLock ();
```

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Refinement Example



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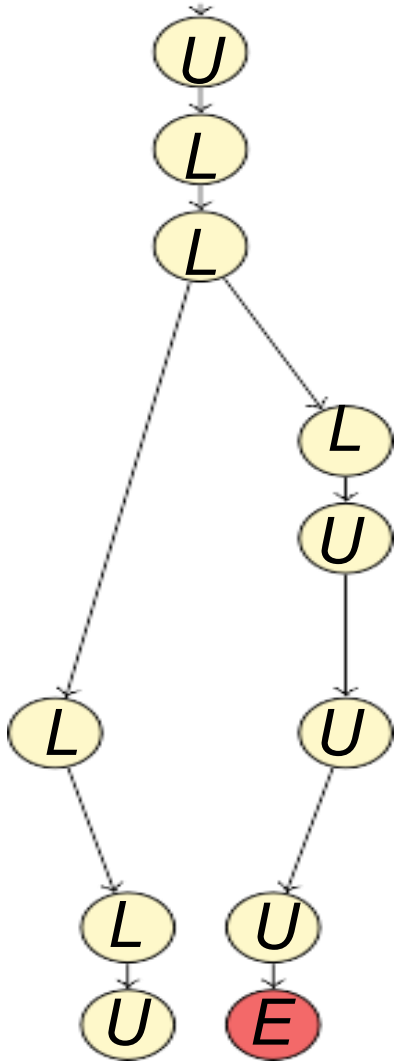
b=true;

b=b?false:*;

!b

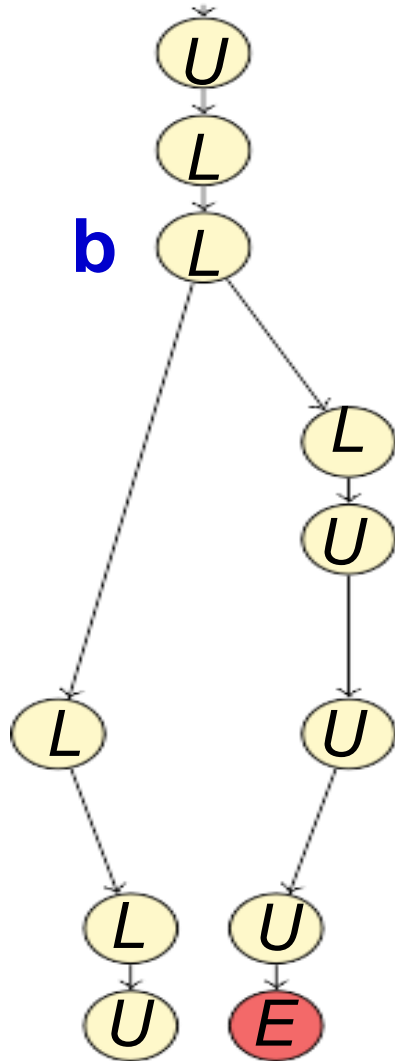
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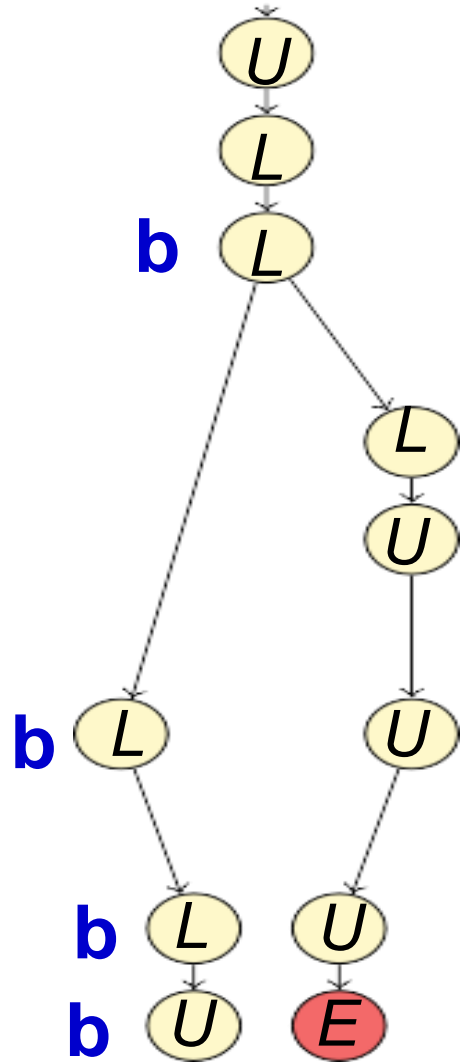
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Refinement Example



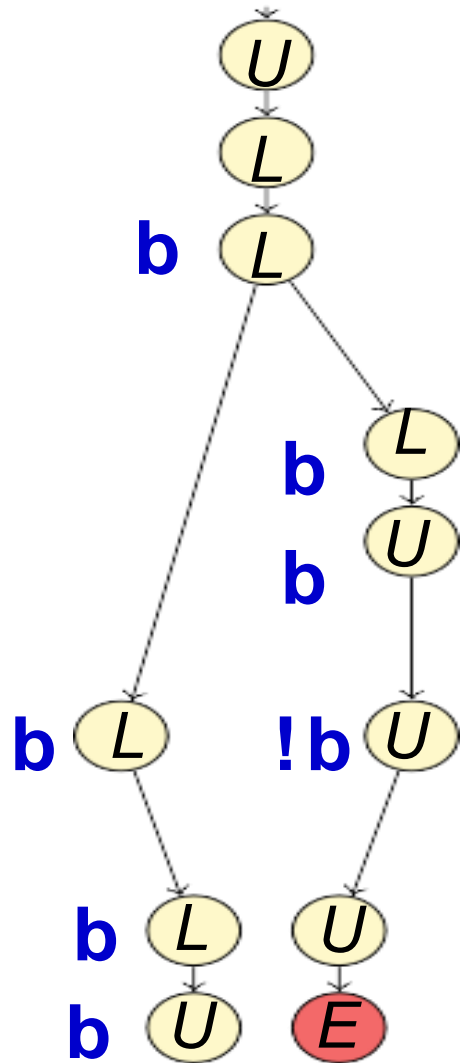
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Refinement Example



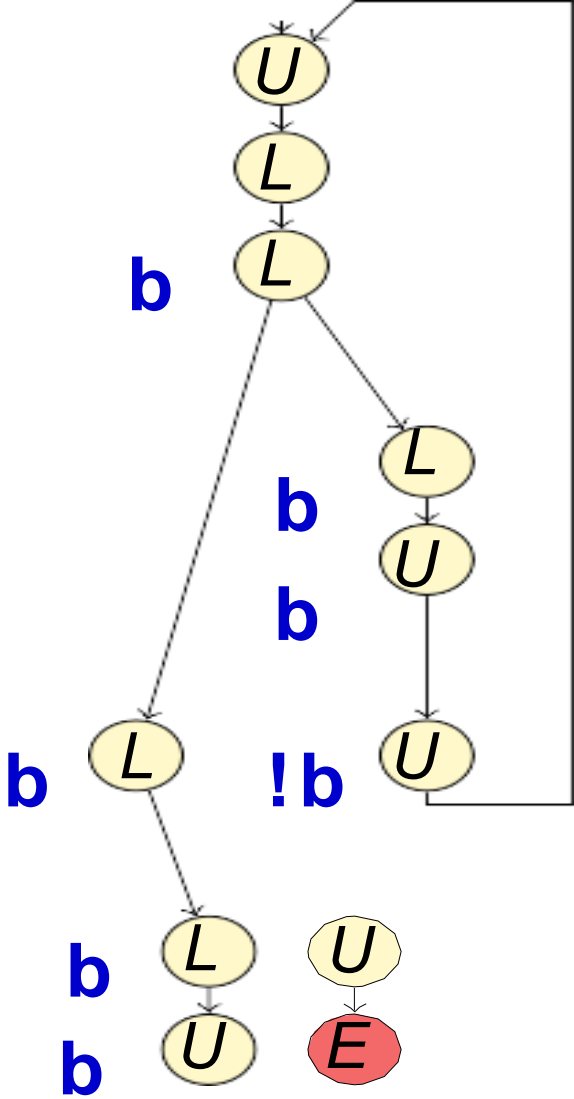
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Refinement Example



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Refinement Example



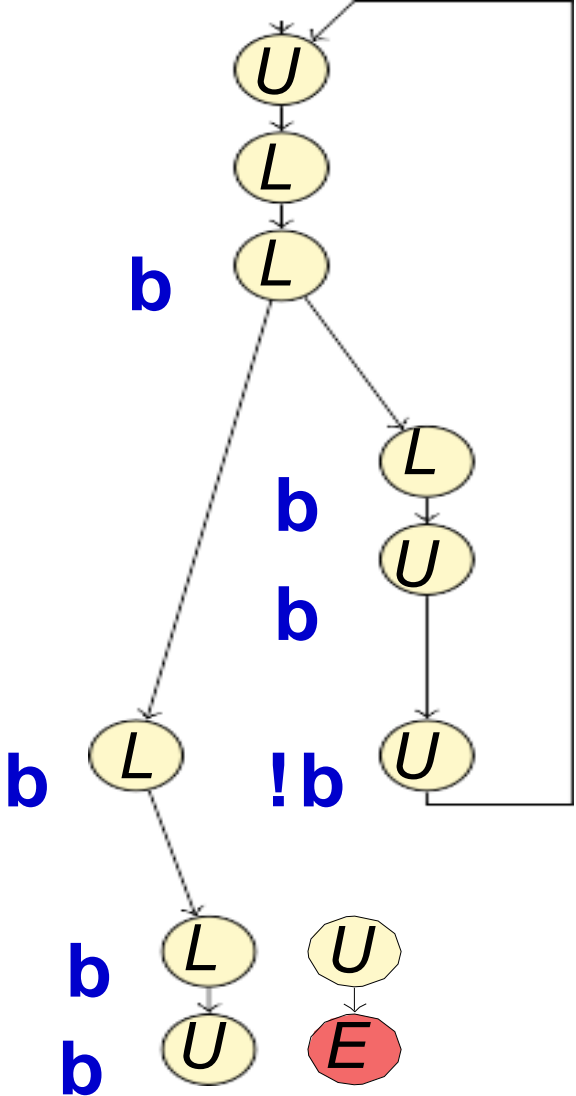
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Refinement Example



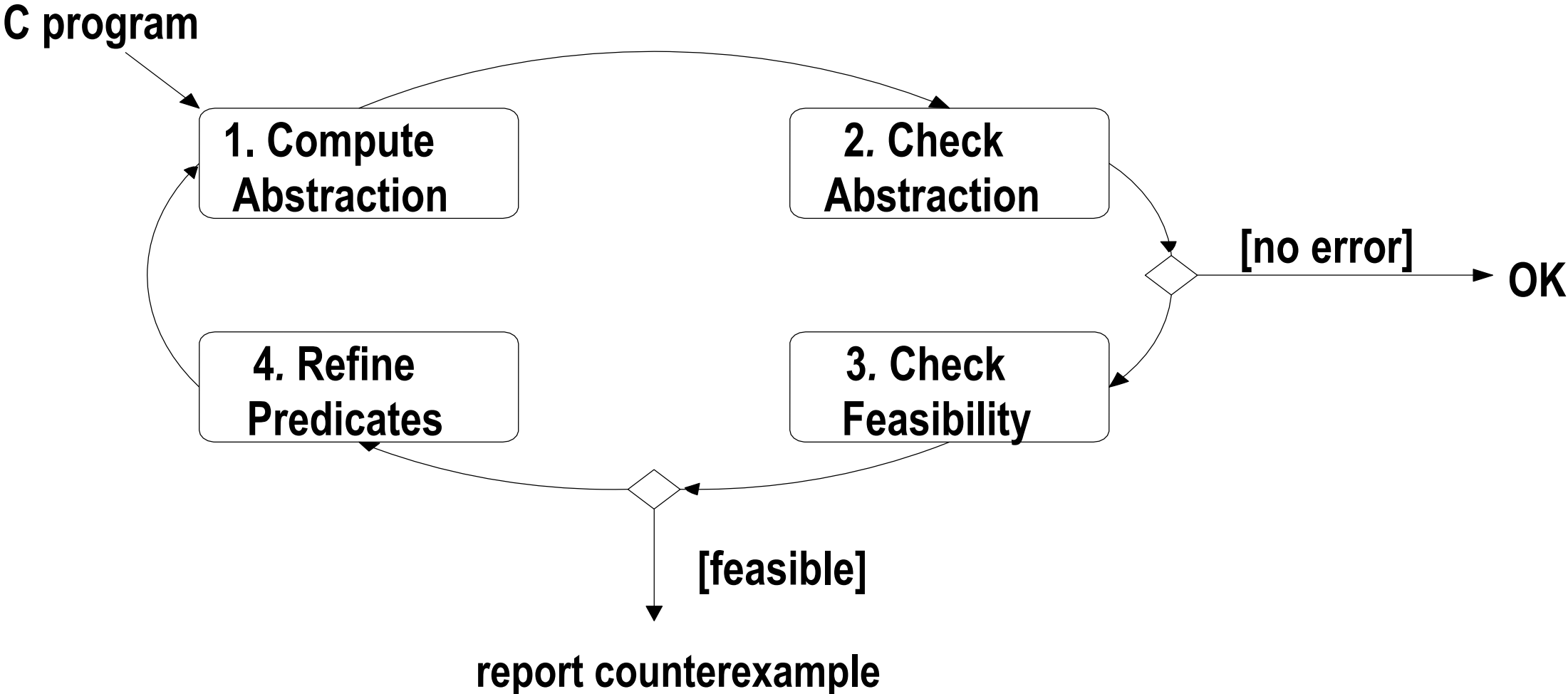
```
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  }  
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```

The property holds!

Counterexample-guided Abstraction Refinement

- **“CEGAR”**
- **An iterative method to compute a sufficiently precise abstraction**
- **Initially applied in the context of hardware [Kurshan]**

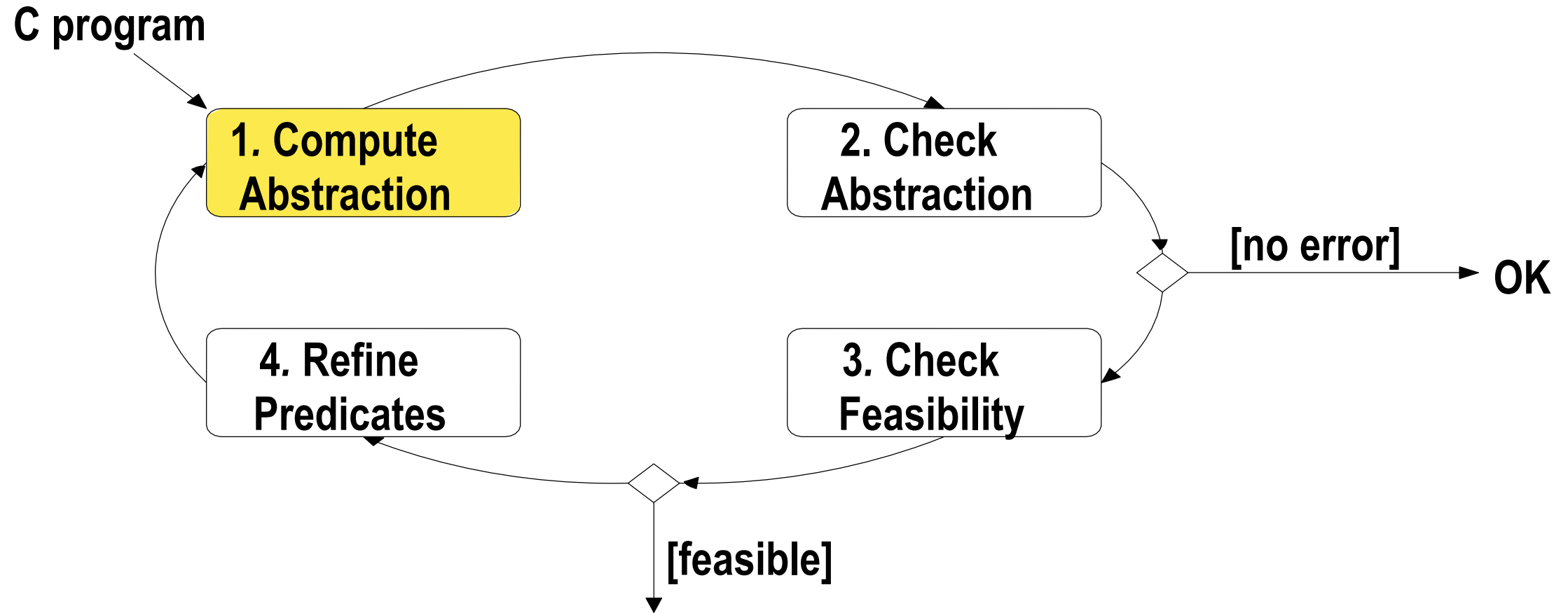
CEGAR Overview



Counterexample-guided Abstraction Refinement

- **Claims:**
 1. **This never returns a false error.**
 2. **This never returns a false proof.**
 3. **This is complete for finite-state models.**
 4. **But: no termination guarantee in case of infinite-state systems**

Computing Existential Abstractions of Programs



report counterexample

Computing Existential Abstractions of Programs

```
int main ( ) {  
    int i ;  
  
    i = 0 ;  
  
    while ( even ( i ) )  
        i+ + ;  
}
```

C Program

+

$p_1 \Leftrightarrow i=0$
 $p_2 \Leftrightarrow \text{even}(i)$

Predicates



```
void main ( ) {  
    bool p1 , p2 ;  
  
    p1=TRUE ;  
    p2=TRUE ;  
  
    while ( p2 ) {  
        p1 = p1 ? FALSE : * ;  
        p2= !p2 ;  
    }  
}
```

Boolean Program

Minimal?

Predicate Images

Reminder:

$$Image(X) = \{s' \in S \mid \exists s \in X. T(s, s')\}$$

We need:

$$\widehat{Image}(\hat{X}) = \{\hat{s}' \in \hat{S} \mid \exists \hat{s} \in \hat{X}. \hat{T}(\hat{s}, \hat{s}')\}$$

$\widehat{Image}(\hat{X})$ is equivalent to:

$$\{\hat{s}, \hat{s}' \in \hat{S}^2 \mid \exists s, s' \in S^2. \alpha(s) = \hat{s} \wedge \alpha(s') = \hat{s}' \wedge T(s, s')\}$$

This is called the **predicate image** of T .

Enumeration

- **Let's take existential abstraction seriously**
- **Basic idea: with n predicates, there are $2^n \cdot 2^n$ possible abstract transitions**
- **Let's just check them!**

Enumeration: Example

Predicates

$$p_1 \iff i = 1$$

$$p_2 \iff i = 2$$

$$p_3 \iff \text{even}(i)$$

Basic Block

$i++;$



T

$i' = i + 1$

p_1	p_2	p_3
0	0	0
0	0	1
0	1	0
0	1	1
1	0	0
1	0	1
1	1	0
1	1	1



p'_1	p'_2	p'_3
0	0	0
0	0	1
0	1	0
0	1	1
1	0	0
1	0	1
1	1	0
1	1	1

Query to Solver

$$i \neq 1 \wedge i \neq 2 \wedge \overline{\text{even}(i)} \wedge$$

$$i' = i + 1 \wedge$$

$$i' \neq 1 \wedge i' \neq 2 \wedge \overline{\text{even}(i')}$$

Enumeration: Example

Predicates

$$p_1 \iff i = 1$$

$$p_2 \iff i = 2$$

$$p_3 \iff \text{even}(i)$$

Basic Block

$i++;$



T

$i' = i + 1$

p_1	p_2	p_3
0	0	0
0	0	1
0	1	0
0	1	1
1	0	0
1	0	1
1	1	0
1	1	1



p'_1	p'_2	p'_3
0	0	0
0	0	1
0	1	0
0	1	1
1	0	0
1	0	1
1	1	0
1	1	1

Query to Solver

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$$i' = i + 1 \wedge$$

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Enumeration: Example

Predicates

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Basic Block

`i++;`



T

`i' = i + 1`

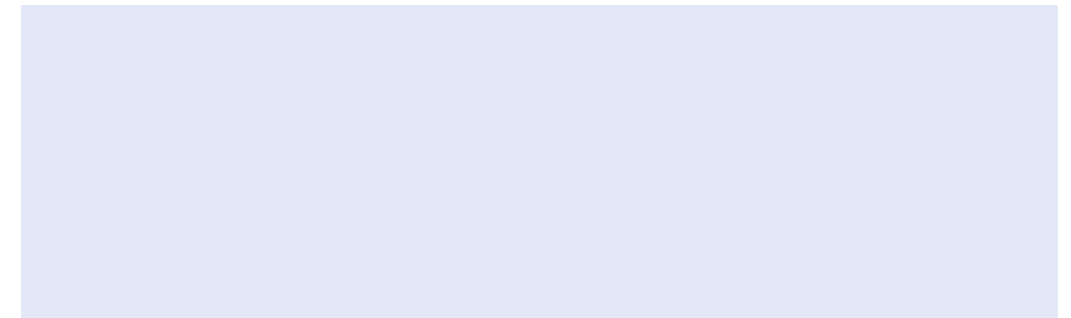
p_1 p_2 p_3

0	0	0
0	0	1
0	1	0
0	1	1
1	0	0
1	0	1
1	1	0
1	1	1

p'_1 p'_2 p'_3

0	0	0
0	0	1
0	1	0
0	1	1
1	0	0
1	0	1
1	1	0
1	1	1

Query to Solver

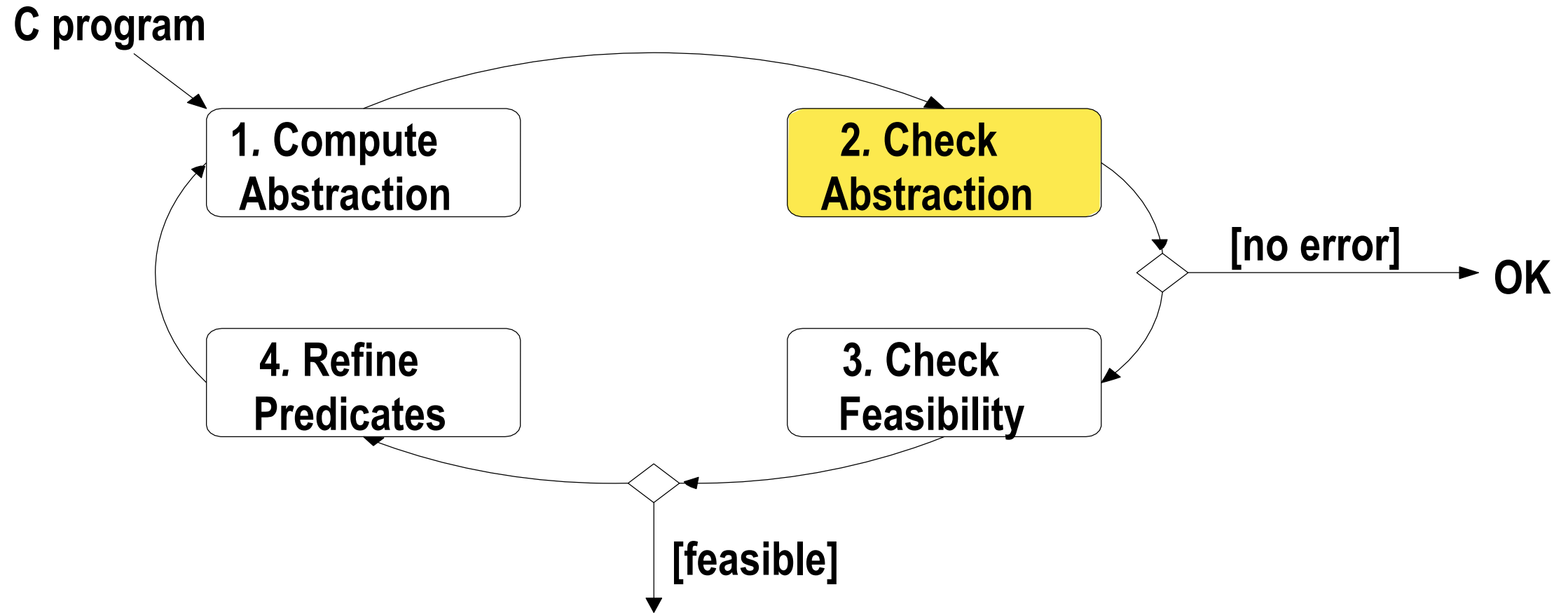


... and so on ...

Predicate Images

- ⊗ Computing the minimal existential abstraction can be way too slow
- Use an over-approximation instead
 - ✓ Fast(er) to compute
 - ⊗ But has additional transitions
- Examples:
 - Cartesian approximation (SLAM)
 - FastAbs (SLAM)
 - Lazy abstraction (Blast)
 - Predicate partitioning (VCEGAR)

Checking the Abstract Model



report counterexample

Checking the Abstract Model

- No more integers!
- But:
 - All control flow constructs, including function calls
 - (more) non-determinism
- ✓ BDD-based model checking now scales

Finite-State Model Checkers: SMV

① Variables

```
VAR b0_argc_ge_1 : boolean ;
VAR b1_argc_le_2147483646 : boolean ;
VAR b2 : boolean ;
VAR b3_nmemb_ge_r : boolean ;
VAR b4 : boolean ;
VAR b5_i_ge_8 : boolean ;
VAR b6_i_ge_s : boolean ;
VAR b7 : boolean ;
VAR b8 : boolean ;
VAR b9_s_gt_0 : boolean ;
VAR b10_s_gt_1 : boolean ;
...
-- argc >= 1
-- argc <= 2147483646
-- argv[argc ] == NULL
-- nmemb >= r
-- p1 == &array[0]
-- i >= 8
-- i >= s
-- 1 + i >= 8
-- 1 + i >= s
-- s > 0
-- s > 1
```

Finite-State Model Checkers: SMV

② Control Flow

-- program counter : 56 is the "terminating" PC

VAR PC : 0 .. 56 ;

ASSIGN init (PC) := 0 ; -- initial PC

ASSIGN next (PC) := **case**

PC = 0 : 1 ; -- other

PC = 1 : 2 ; -- other

...

PC=19: **case -- goto** (with guard)

guard19 : 26 ;

1 : 20 ;

esac ;

. . .

Finite-State Model Checkers: SMV

③ Data

```
TRANS (PC=0) -> next(b0_argc_ge_1)=b0_argc_ge_1
                & next(b1_argc_le_213646)=b1_argc_le_21646
                & next(b2)=b2
                & (!b30 / b36) / b42)
                & (!b17 / !b30 / b48)
                & (!b30 / !b42 / !b42 / b54)
                & (!b17 / !b30
                & (!b54 / b60)
```

```
TRANS (PC=1) -> next(b0_argc_ge_1)=b0_argc_ge_1
                & next(b1_argc_le_214646)=b1_argc_le_214746
                & next(b2)=b2
                & next(b3_nmemb_ge_r)=b3_nmemb_ge_r
                & next(b4)=b4
                & next(b5_i_ge_8)=b5_i_ge_8
                & next(b6_i_ge_s)=b6_i_ge_s
```

Finite-State Model Checkers: SMV

④ Property

-- the specification

-- file main.c line 20 column 12

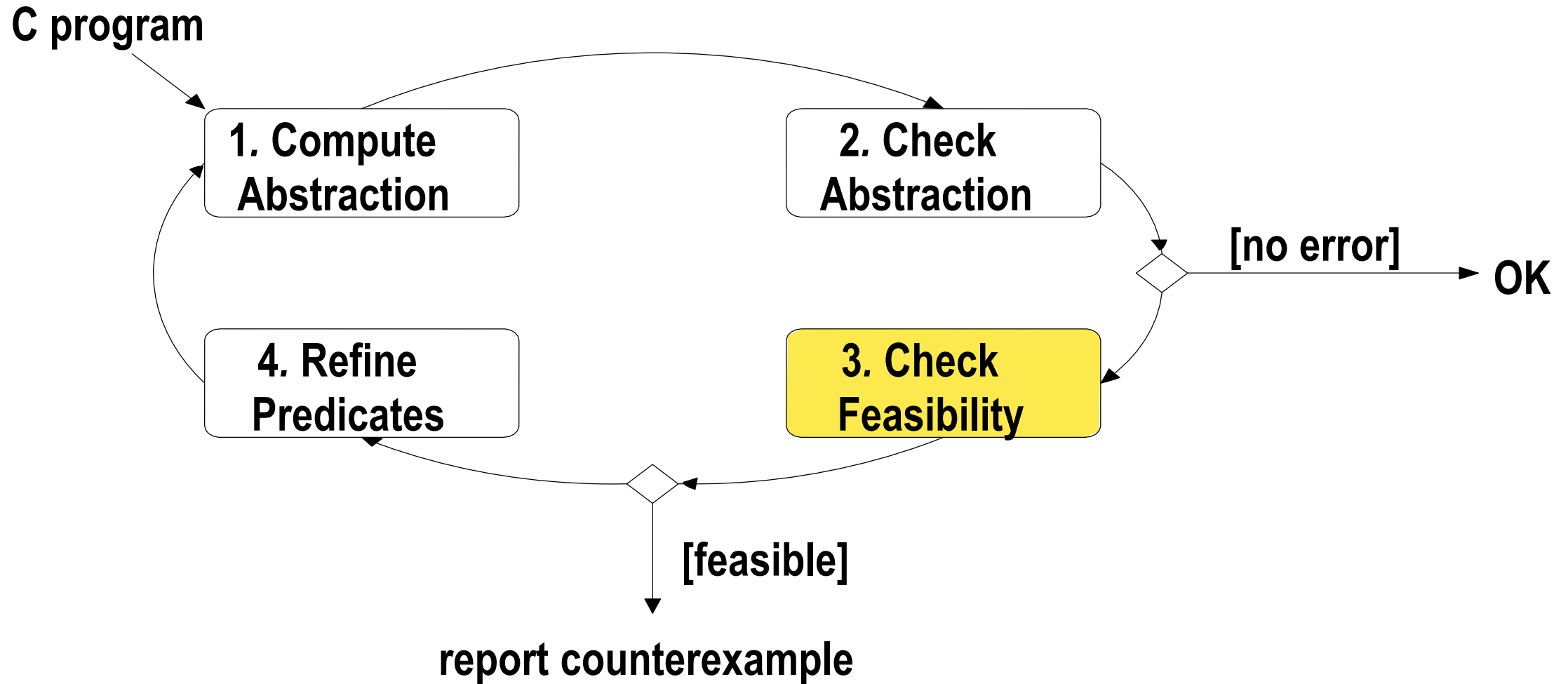
-- function c :: very buggy function

SPEC AG ((PC=51) -> ! b23)

Finite-State Model Checkers: SMV

- If the property holds, we can terminate
- If the property fails, SMV generates a **counterexample** with an assignment for all variables, including the PC

Simulating the Counterexample



Lazy Abstraction

- The progress guarantee is only valid if the minimal existential abstraction is used.
- Thus, distinguish **spurious transitions** from **spurious prefixes**.
- Refine spurious transitions separately to obtain minimal existential abstraction
- SLAM: Constrain

Lazy Abstraction

- One more observation:
Each iteration only **causes only minor changes** in the abstract model
- Thus, use “incremental Model Checker”, which **retains the set of reachable states between iterations** (BLAST)

Example Simulation

```
int main() {  
    int x, y;  
    y=1;  
    x=1;  
    if (y > x)  
        y--;  
    else  
        y++;  
    assert(y > x);  
}
```

Predicate:

$y > x$



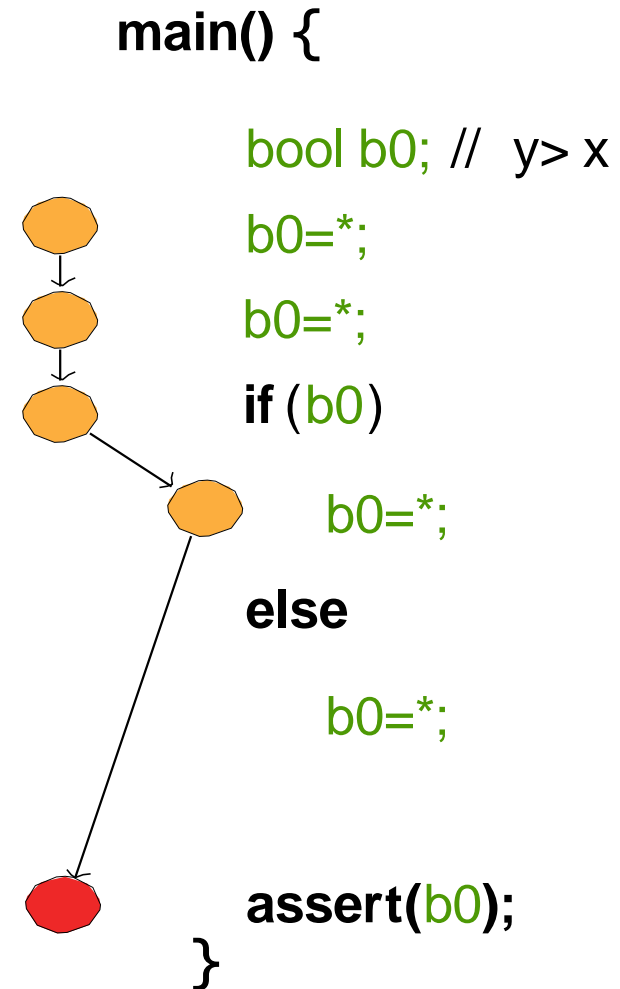
```
main() {  
    bool b0; // y > x  
    b0=*;  
    b0=*;  
    if (b0)  
        b0=*;  
    else  
        b0=*;  
    assert(b0);  
}
```

Example Simulation

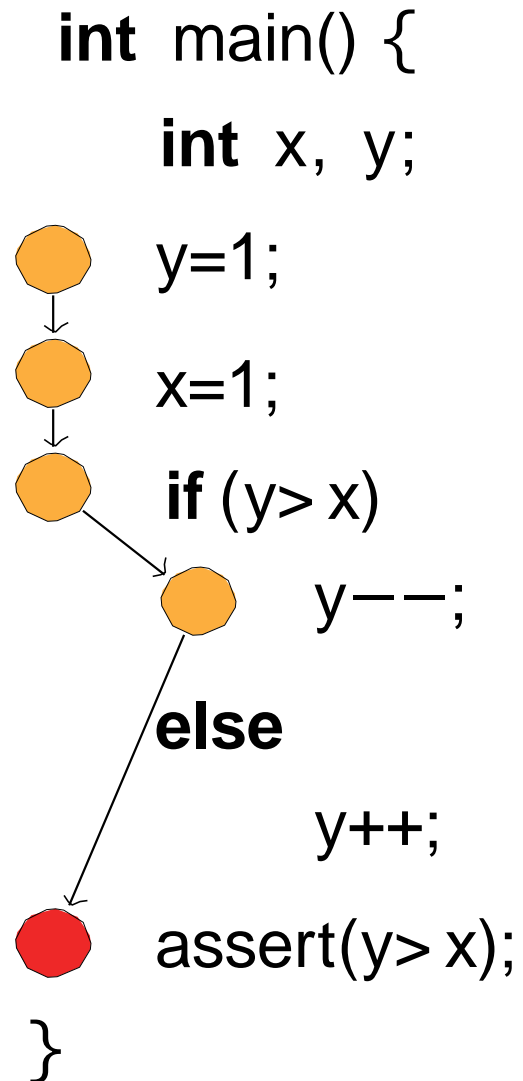
```
int main() {  
    int x, y;  
    y=1;  
    x=1;  
    if (y > x)  
        y--;  
    else  
        y++;  
    assert(y > x);  
}
```

Predicate:

$y > x$



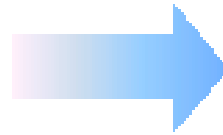
Example Simulation



We now do a path test, so convert to Static Single Assignment (SSA).

Example Simulation

```
int main() {  
    int x, y;  
    y1=1;  
    x1=1;  
    if (y1>x1)  
        y2=y1-1;  
    else  
        y++;  
    assert(y2>x1);  
}
```



$$y_1 = 1 \quad \wedge$$

$$x_1 = 1 \quad \wedge$$

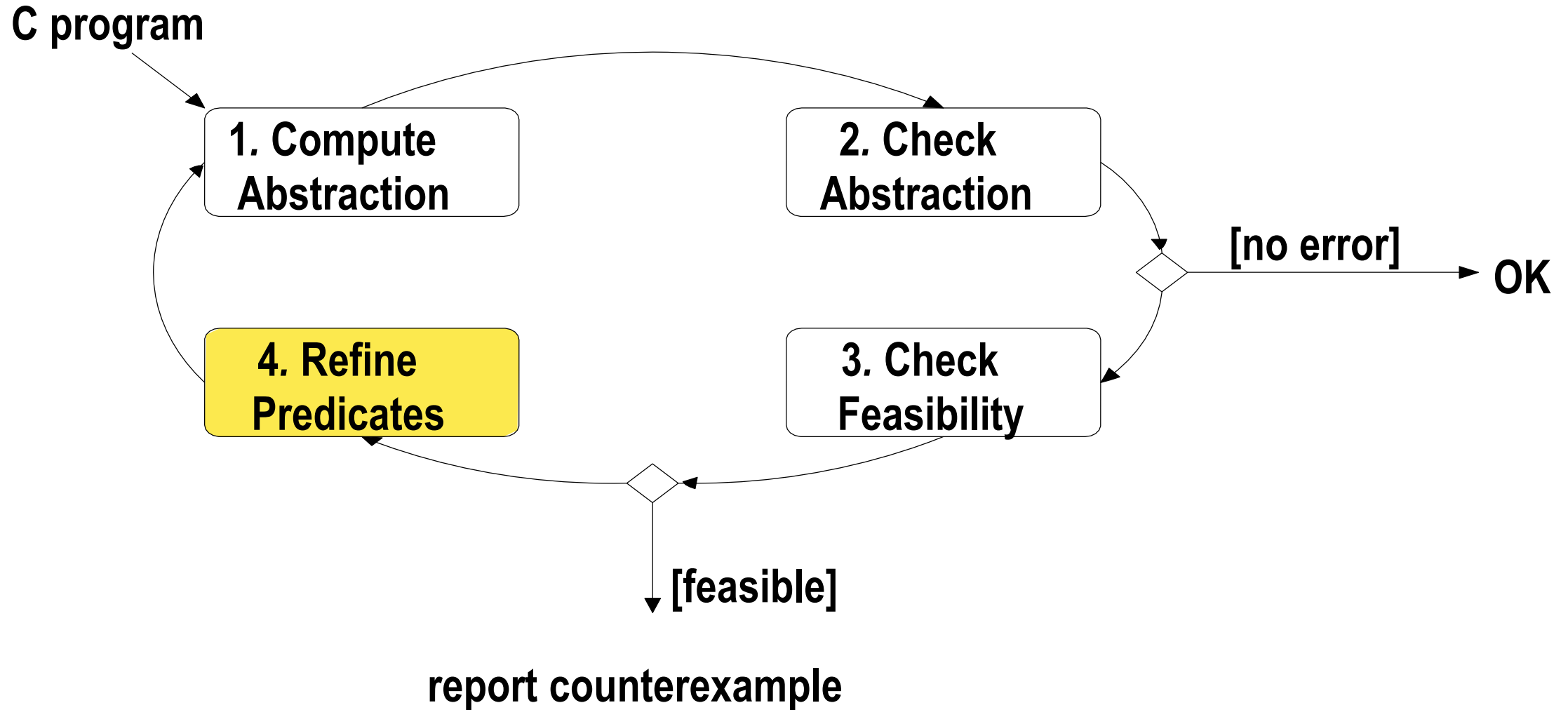
$$y_1 > x_1 \quad \wedge$$

$$y_2 = y_1 - 1 \quad \wedge$$

$$\neg(y_2 > x_1)$$

This is UNSAT, so $\hat{\pi}$ is spurious.

Refining the Abstraction



Manual Proof!

```
int main() {  
    int x, y;  
    y=1;  
    {y = 1}  
    x=1;  
    {x = 1 ∧ y = 1}  
    if (y>x)  
        y--;  
    else  
        {x = 1 ∧ y = 1 ∧ ¬y > x}  
        y++;  
        {x = 1 ∧ y = 2 ∧ y > x}  
    assert(y>x);  
}
```

This proof uses
strongest
post-conditions

An Alternative Proof

```
int main() {  
    int x, y;  
    y=1;  
    { $\neg y > 1 \Rightarrow y + 1 > 1$ }  
    x=1;  
    { $\neg y > x \Rightarrow y + 1 > x$ }  
    if (y>x)  
        y--;  
    else  
        { $y + 1 > x$ }  
        y++;  
    { $y > x$ }  
    assert(y>x);  
}
```

We are using weakest pre-conditions here

$$wp(x:=E, P) = P[x/E]$$

$$wp(S; T, Q) = wp(S, wp(T, Q))$$

$$wp(\text{if}(c) \ A \ \text{else} \ B, P) =$$

$$(C \Rightarrow wp(A, P)) \wedge$$

$$(\neg C \Rightarrow wp(B, P))$$

The proof for the "true" branch is missing

Refinement Algorithms

Using WP

1. Start with failed guard G
2. Compute $wp(G)$ along the path

Using SP

1. Start at the beginning
 2. Compute $sp(\dots)$ along the path
- Both methods eliminate the trace
 - Advantages / Disadvantages?