
Counter-Example Guided Abstraction Refinement

Testing & Verification

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Reference

This presentation is based on the work of E. Clarke, A. Gupta, J. Kukula, O. Strichman (CAV'02). Most of these slides are from A. Gupta's presentation.

Model Checking

- **Given:**
 - Finite transition system $M(S, I, R, L)$
 - A temporal property p

- **The model checking problem:**
 - Does M satisfy p ?

$$M \stackrel{?}{=} p$$

Model Checking

□ Temporal properties:

- “Always $x=y$ ”

$(G(x=y))$

- “Every Send is followed immediately by Ack”

$(G(\text{Send} \rightarrow X \text{Ack}))$

- “Reset can always be reached”

$(GF \text{Reset})$

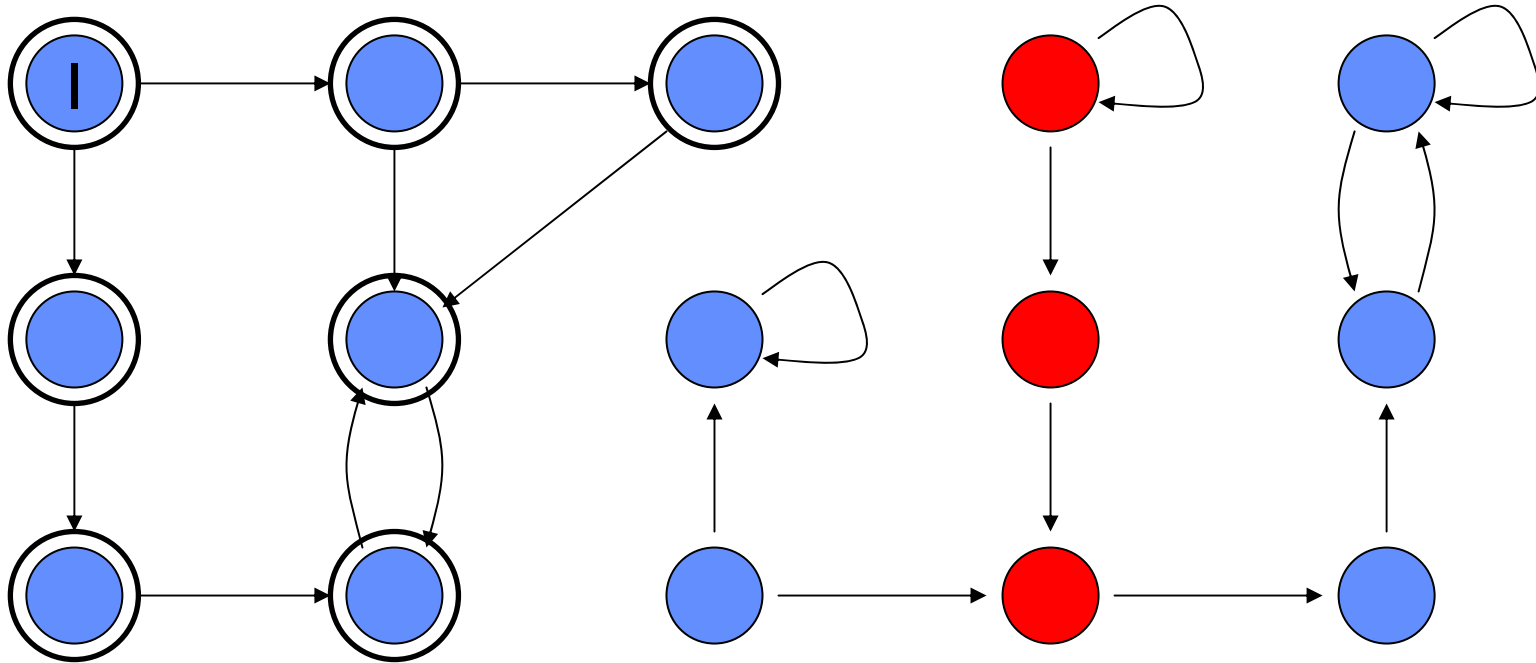
- “From some point on, always switch_on”

$(FG \text{switch_on})$

} “Safety”
properties

} “Liveness”
properties

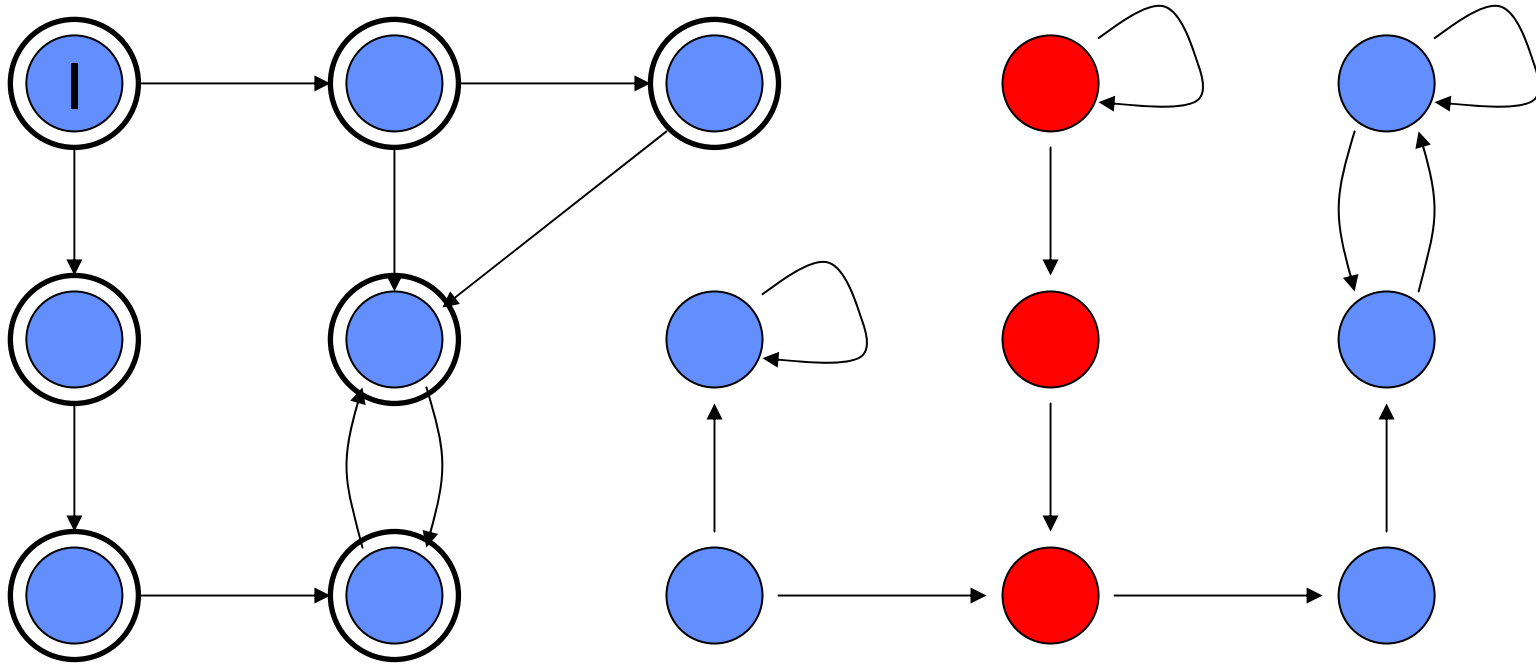
Model Checking (safety)



Add reachable states until reaching a fixed-point

● = bad state

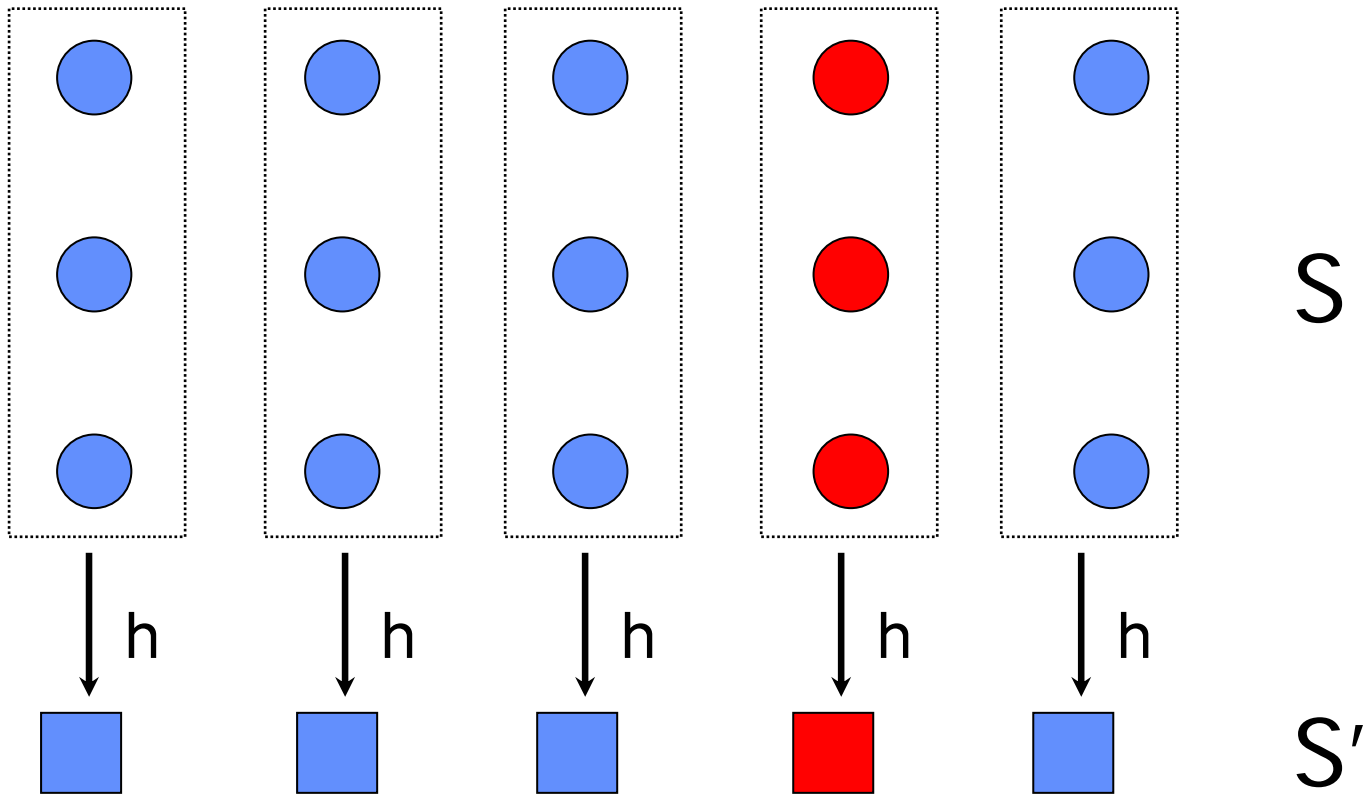
Model Checking (safety)



Too many states to handle !

● = bad state

Abstraction

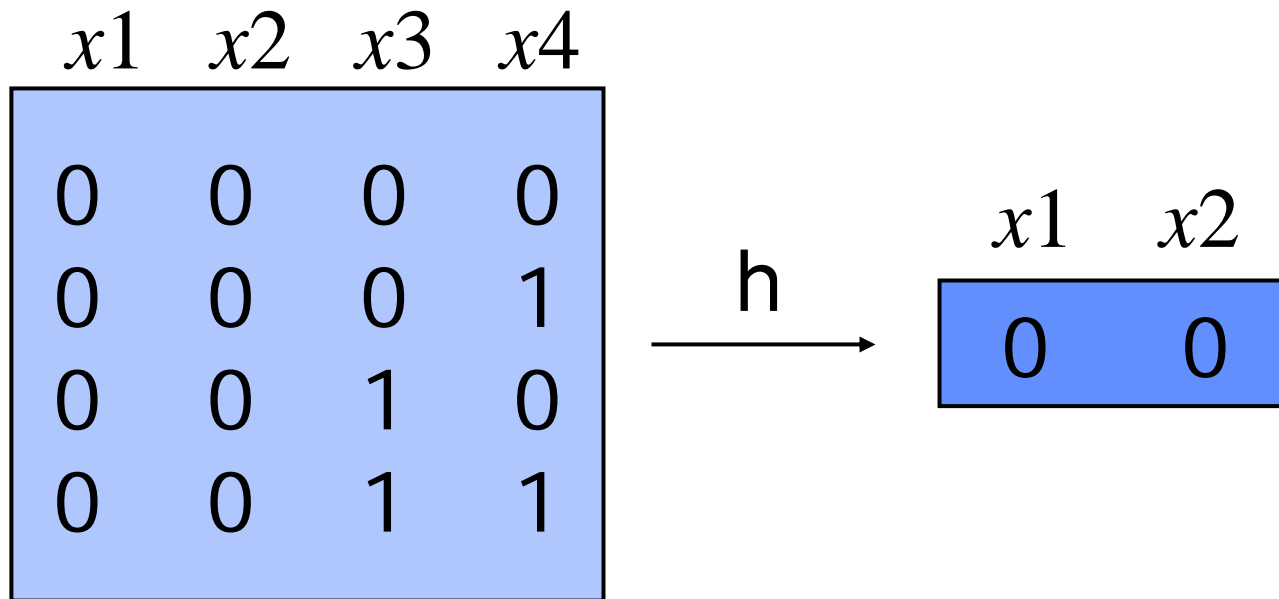


Abstraction Function $h : S \rightarrow S'$

Abstraction Function

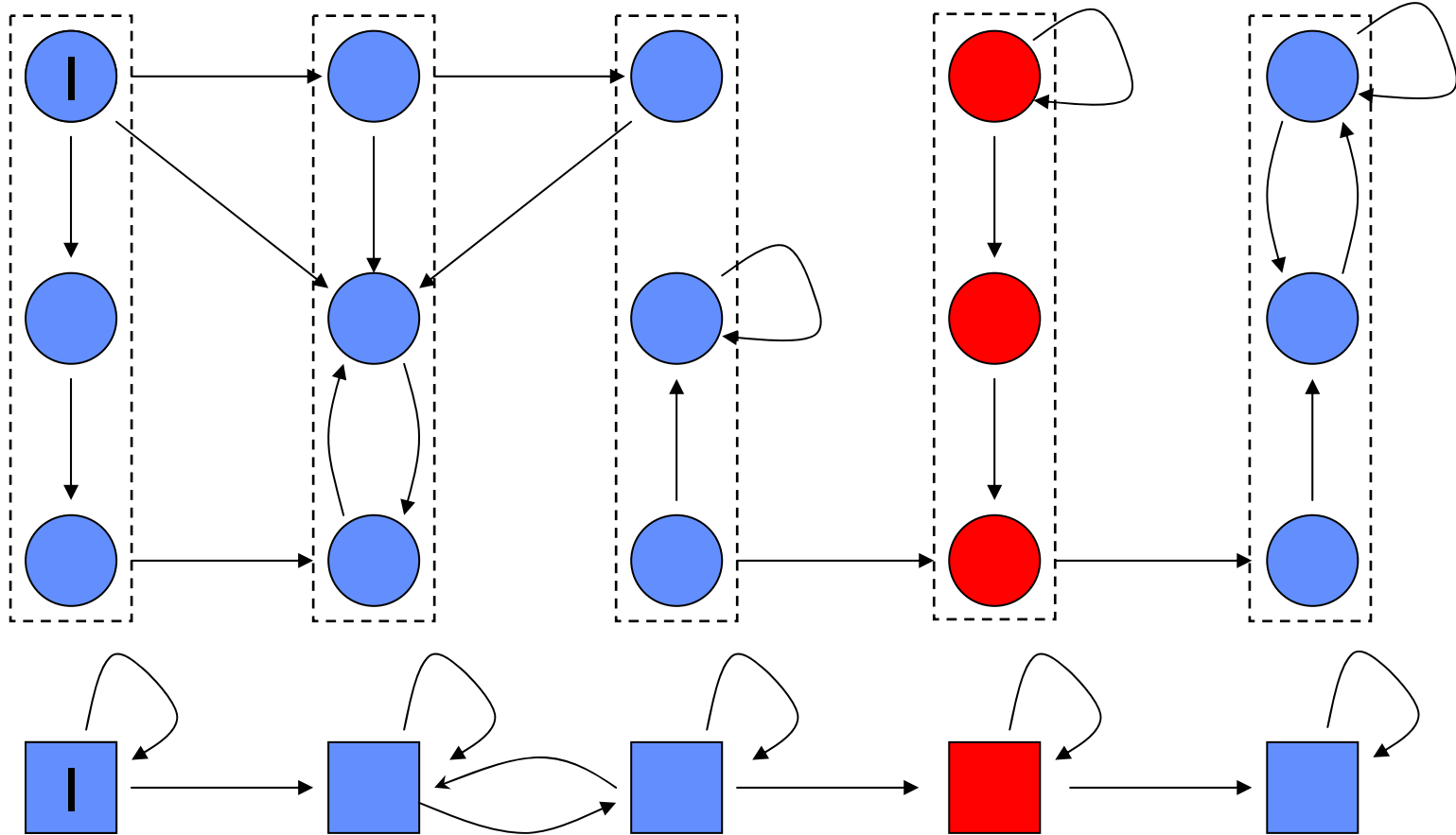
- **Partition variables into visible(V) and invisible(I) variables.**
- ◆ **The abstract model consists of V variables. I variables are made inputs.**
- ◆ **The abstraction function maps each state to its projection over V .**

Abstraction Function



Group concrete states with identical visible part to a single abstract state.

Existential Abstraction



Model Checking Abstract Model

□ Preservation Theorem

$$M' \models p \rightarrow M \models p$$

◆ Converse does not hold

$$M' \not\models p \not\rightarrow M \not\models p$$

◆ The counterexample may be spurious

Checking the Counterexample

- ❑ **Counterexample : (c_1, \dots, c_m)**
 - Each c_i is an assignment to V .

- ❑ **Simulate the counterexample on the concrete model.**

Checking the Counterexample

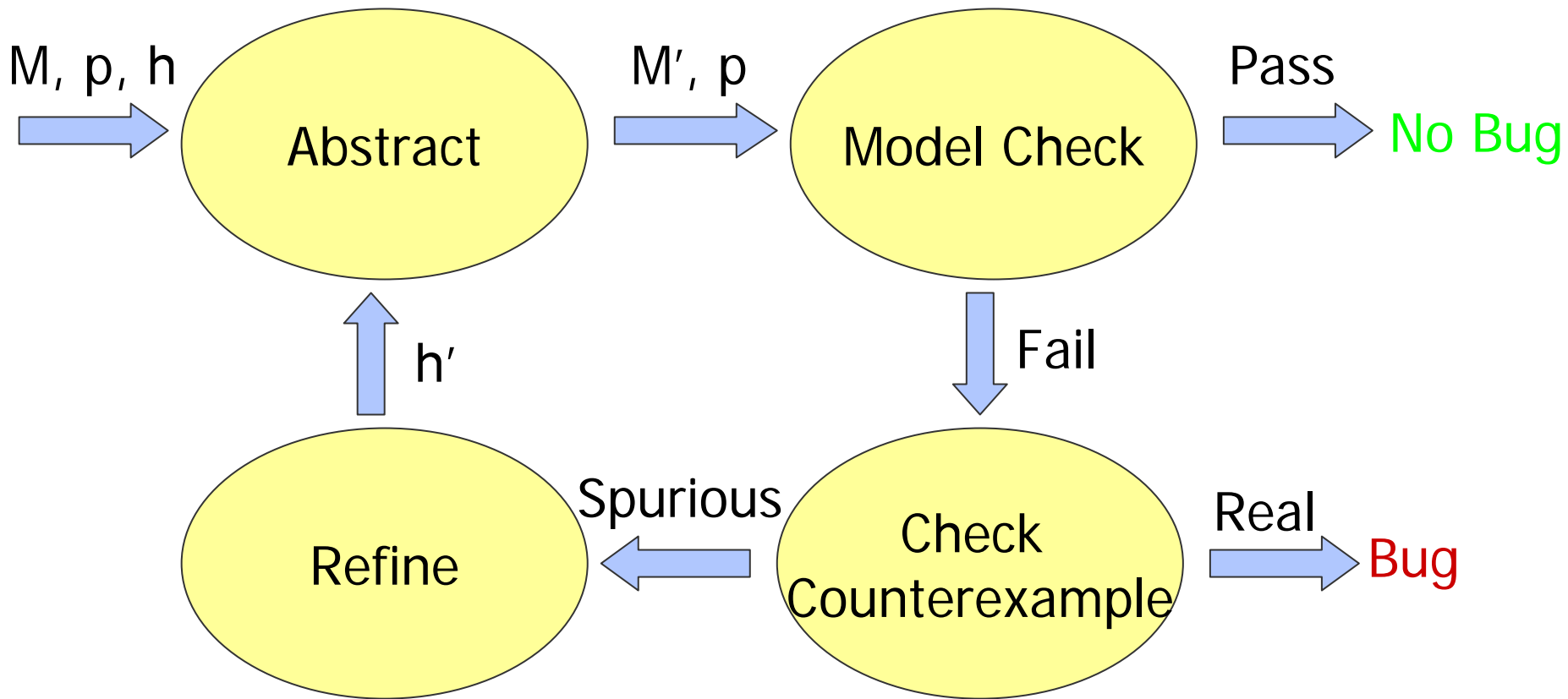
Concrete traces corresponding to the counterexample:

$$\phi = I(s_1) \wedge \quad \text{(Initial State)}$$

$$\bigwedge_{i=1}^{m-1} R(s_i, s_{i+1}) \wedge \quad \text{(Unrolled Transition Relation)}$$

$$\bigwedge_{i=1}^m \text{visible}(s_i) = c_i \quad \text{(Restriction of } V \text{ to Counterexample)}$$

Abstraction-Refinement Loop

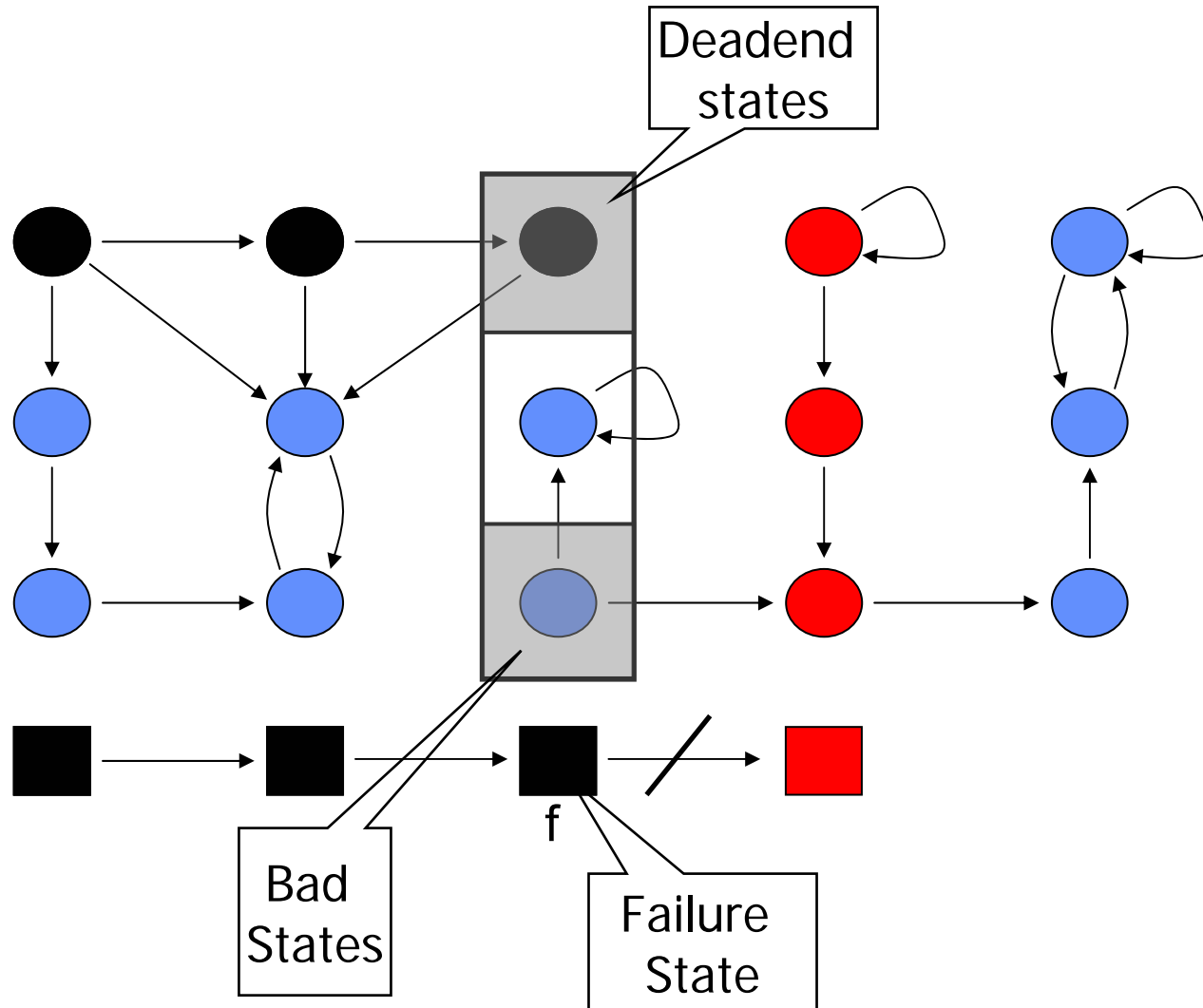


Abstraction/refinement with conflict analysis

(Chauhan, Clarke, Kukula, Sapra, Veith, Wang, FMCAD 2002)

- ❑ **Simulate counterexample on concrete model with SAT**
- ❑ **If the instance is unsatisfiable, analyze conflict**
- ❑ **Make visible one of the variables in the clauses that lead to the conflict**

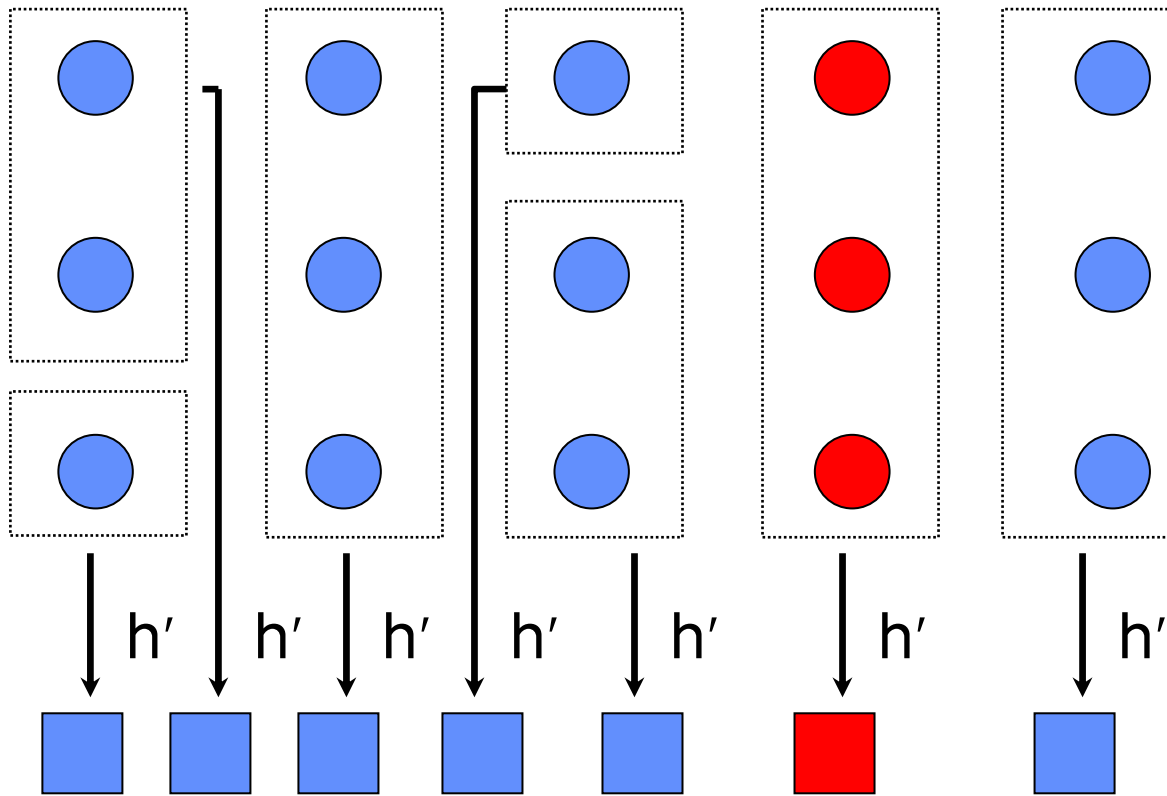
Why spurious counterexample?



Refinement

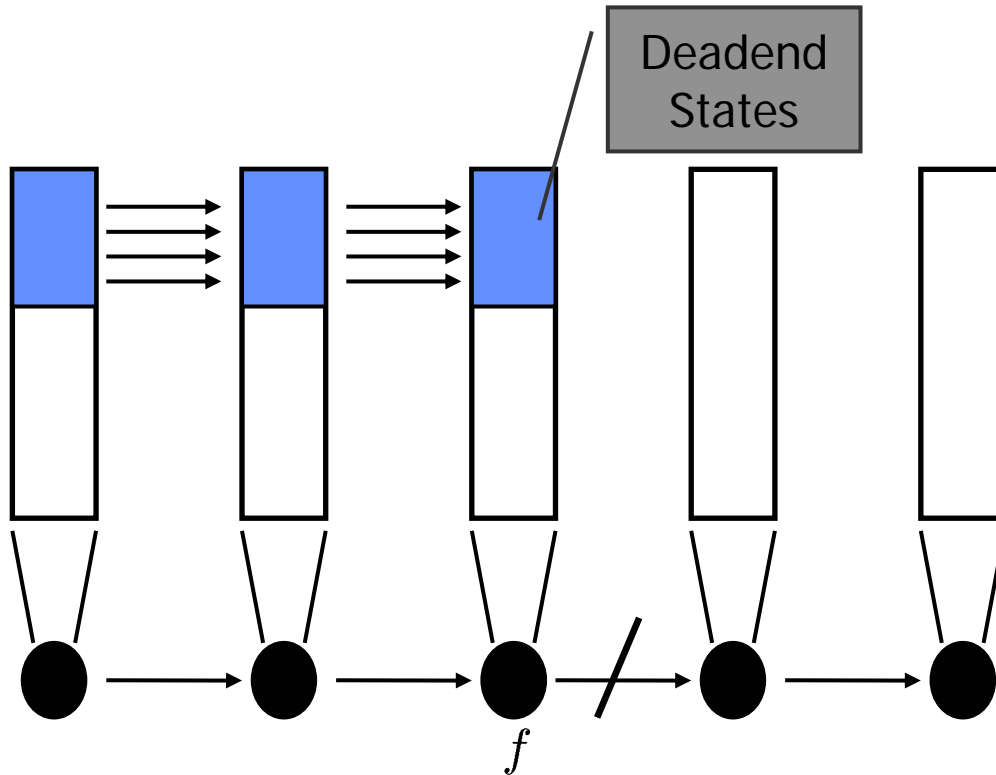
- ❑ **Problem: Deadend and Bad States are in the same abstract state.**
- ❑ **Solution: Refine abstraction function.**
- ❑ **The sets of Deadend and Bad states should be separated into different abstract states.**

Refinement



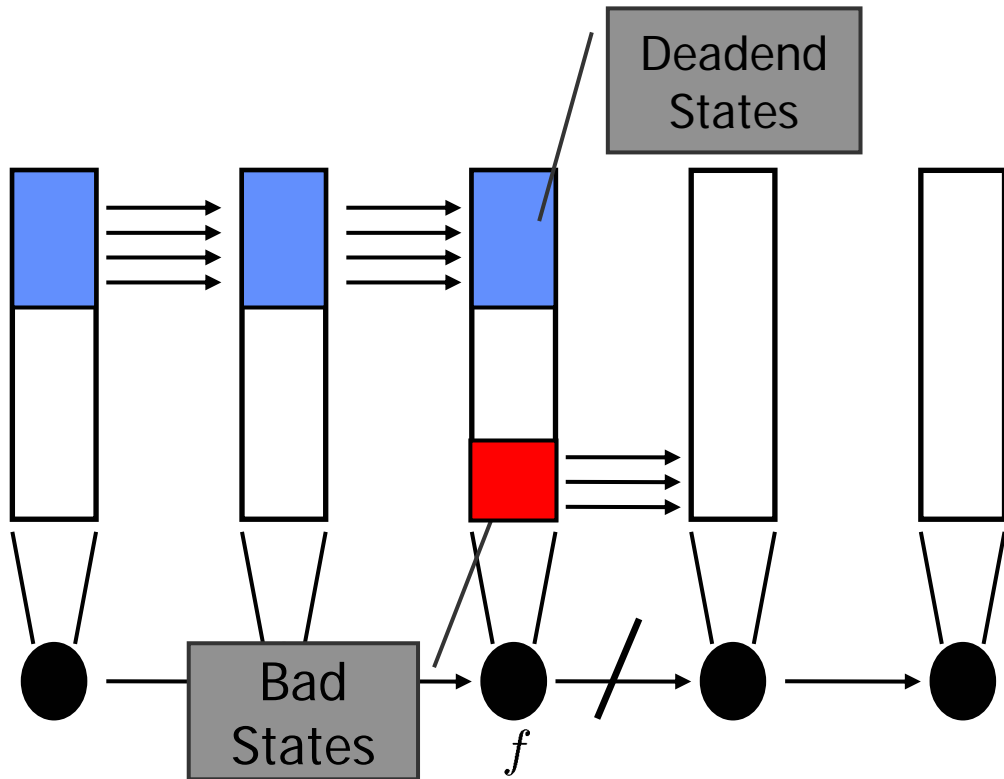
Refinement : h'

Refinement



$$\phi_D = I(s_1) \wedge \bigwedge_{i=1}^{f-1} R(s_i, s_{i+1}) \wedge \bigwedge_{i=1}^f \text{visible}(s_i) = c_i$$

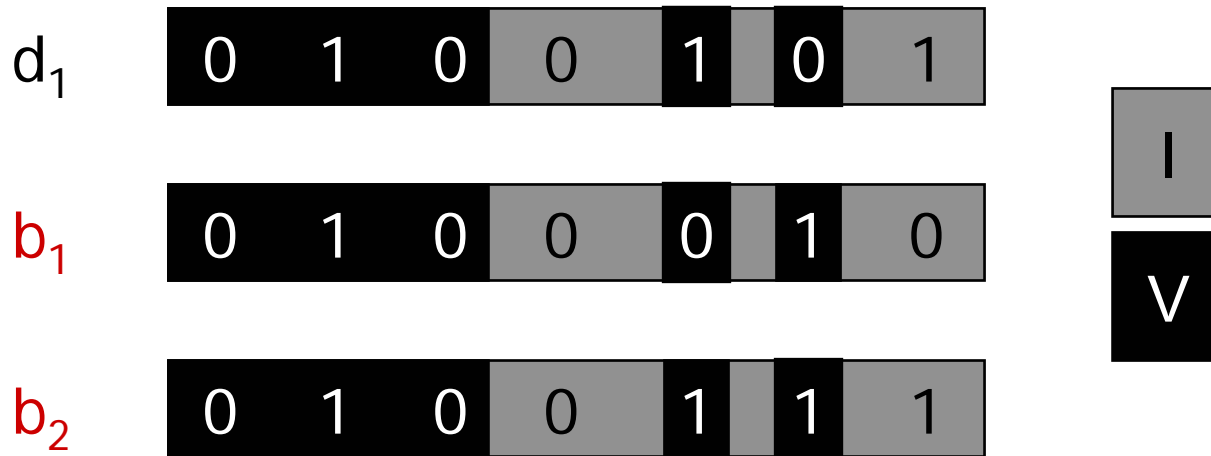
Refinement



$$\phi_B = R(s_f, s_{f+1}) \wedge$$

$$\text{visible}(s_f) = c_f \wedge \text{visible}(s_{f+1}) = c_{f+1}$$

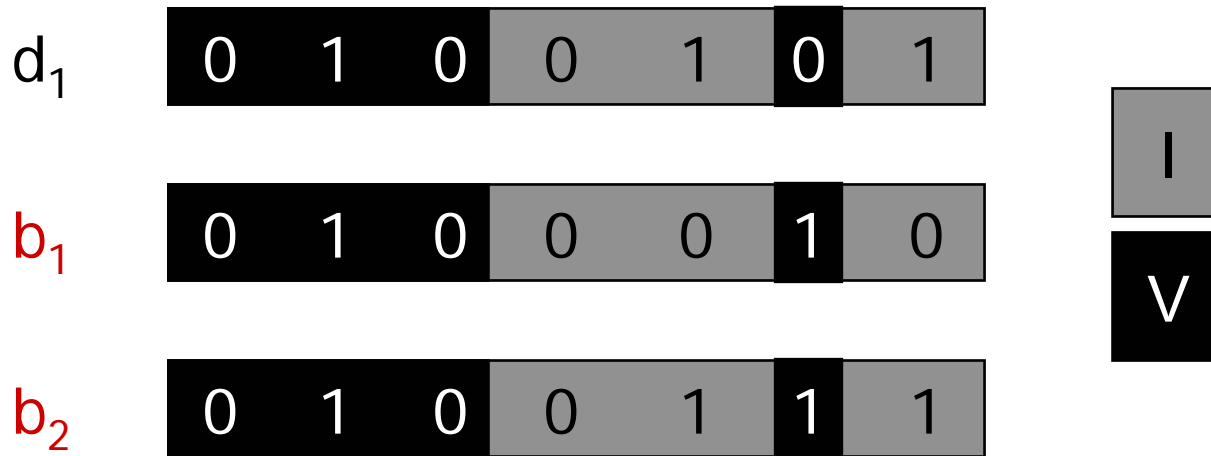
Refinement as Separation



Refinement : Find subset U of I that separates between all pairs of deadend and bad states. Make them visible.

Keep U small !

Refinement as Separation



Refinement : Find subset U of I that separates between all pairs of deadend and bad states. Make them visible.

Keep U small !

Refinement as Separation

The state separation problem

Input: **Sets** D, B

Output: **Minimal** $U \in I$ **s.t.:**

$$\forall d \in D, \forall b \in B, \exists u \in U. d(u) \neq b(u)$$

The refinement h' is obtained by adding U to V .

Two separation methods

- ❑ **ILP-based separation**
 - Minimal separating set.
 - Computationally expensive.

- ❑ **Decision Tree Learning based separation.**
 - Not optimal.
 - Polynomial.

Separation with Decision Tree Learning (Example)

Classification:

D

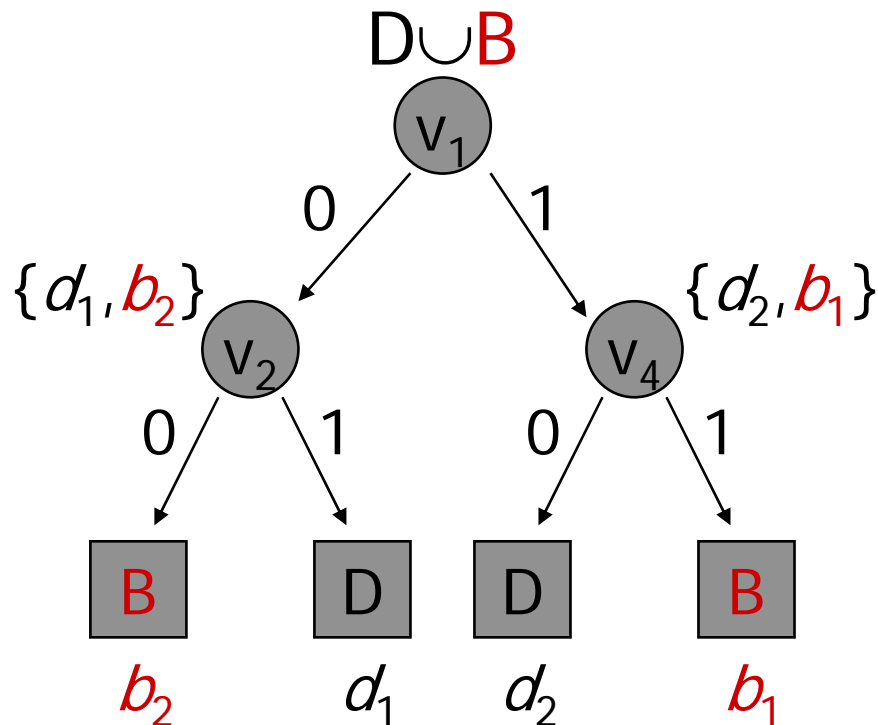
$$d_1 = (0, 1, 0, 1)$$

$$d_2 = (1, 1, 1, 0)$$

B

$$b_1 = (1, 1, 1, 1)$$

$$b_2 = (0, 0, 0, 1)$$



Separating Set :
 $\{V_1, V_2, V_4\}$

Separation with 0-1 ILP (Example)

$$\begin{aligned}d_1 &= (0, 1, 0, 1) & b_1 &= (1, 1, 1, 1) \\d_2 &= (1, 1, 1, 0) & b_2 &= (0, 0, 0, 1)\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Min } \sum_{i=1}^4 v_i$$

subject to:

$$\begin{array}{llll}v_1 + v_3 & \geq 1 & /* \text{ Separating } d_1 \text{ from } b_1 * / \\v_2 & \geq 1 & /* \text{ Separating } d_1 \text{ from } b_2 * / \\v_4 & \geq 1 & /* \text{ Separating } d_2 \text{ from } b_1 * / \\v_1 + v_2 + v_3 + v_4 & \geq 1 & /* \text{ Separating } d_2 \text{ from } b_2 * / \end{array}$$

Separation with 0-1 ILP

$$\text{Min } \sum_{i=1}^{|\mathcal{I}|} v_i$$

$$\text{subject to: } (\forall d \in D) (\forall b \in B) \sum_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq |\mathcal{I}|, \\ d, b \text{ differ at } v_i}} v_i \geq 1$$

- One constraint per pair of states.
- $v_i = 1$ iff v_i is in the separating set.

Refinement as Learning

- ❑ **For systems of realistic size**
 - Not possible to generate D and B.
 - Expensive to separate D and B.

- ❑ **Solution:**
 - Sample D and B
 - Infer separating variables from the samples.

- ❑ **The method is still complete:**
 - Counterexample will eventually be eliminated.

The CMU CEGAR Tool

