

# Program Analysis and Verification

0368-4479

<http://www.cs.tau.ac.il/~maon/teaching/2013-2014/paav/paav1314b.html>

Noam Rinetzky

Lecture 2: Program Semantics

Slides credit: Roman Manevich, Mooly Sagiv, Eran Yahav

# Good manners

- Mobiles

# Admin

- Grades
  - 4 Assignments (30%)
    - 1 involves programming
  - 1 Lesson summary (10%)
  - Toar I: Final exam (60%)
    - Must pass
  - Toar II: Project (60%)
- ✓ Scribes (this week)
- ? Scribes (nextweek)

# Today

- What does semantics mean?
  - Why do we need it?
  - How is it related to analysis/verification?
- Operational semantics
  - Natural operational semantics
  - Structural operational semantics

# Motivation: Verifying absence of bugs

SECURITY

## Update your iThings NOW: Apple splats scary SSL snooping bug in iOS

**OS X Mavericks still VULNERABLE, millions at risk of web hijacking**

By Chris Williams, 21st February 2014

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```
static OSStatus
SSLVerifySignedServerKeyExchange(SSLContext *ctx, bool isRsa, SSLBuffer
signedParams, uint8_t *signature, UInt16 signatureLen)
{
    OSStatus      err;
    ...

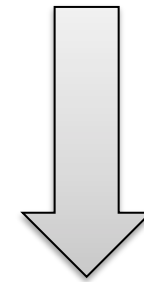
    if ((err = SSLHashSHA1.update(&hashCtx, &serverRandom)) != 0)
        goto fail;
    if ((err = SSLHashSHA1.update(&hashCtx, &signedParams)) != 0)
        goto fail;
    goto fail;
    if ((err = SSLHashSHA1.final(&hashCtx, &hashOut)) != 0)
        goto fail;
    ...

fail:
    SSLFreeBuffer(&signedHashes);
    SSLFreeBuffer(&hashCtx);
    return err;
}
```

# What can we do about it?

- Monitoring
- Testing
- Static analysis
- Formal verification
- Specification

Run time

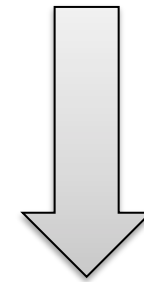


Design Time

# What can we do about it?

- Monitoring
- Testing
- Static analysis
- Formal verification
- Specification

Run time



Design Time

# Program analysis & verification

```
y = ? x = ?  
if (x > 0) {  
    y = 42;  
} else {  
    y = 73;  
    foo();  
}  
assert (y == 42);
```

No/?/Yes

- Is assertion true?



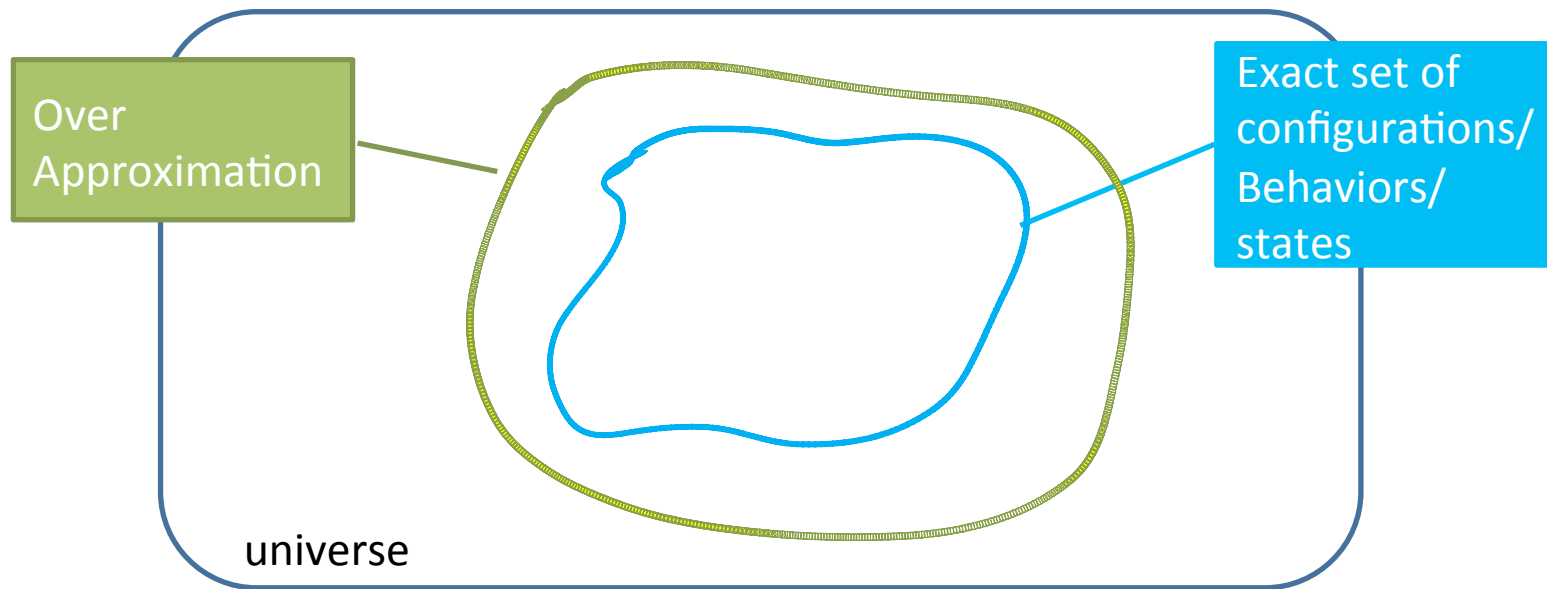
# Program analysis & verification

```
y = ? x = ?  
x = y * 2  
if (x % 2 == 0) {  
    y = 42;  
} else {  
    y = 73;  
    foo();  
}  
assert (y == 42);
```

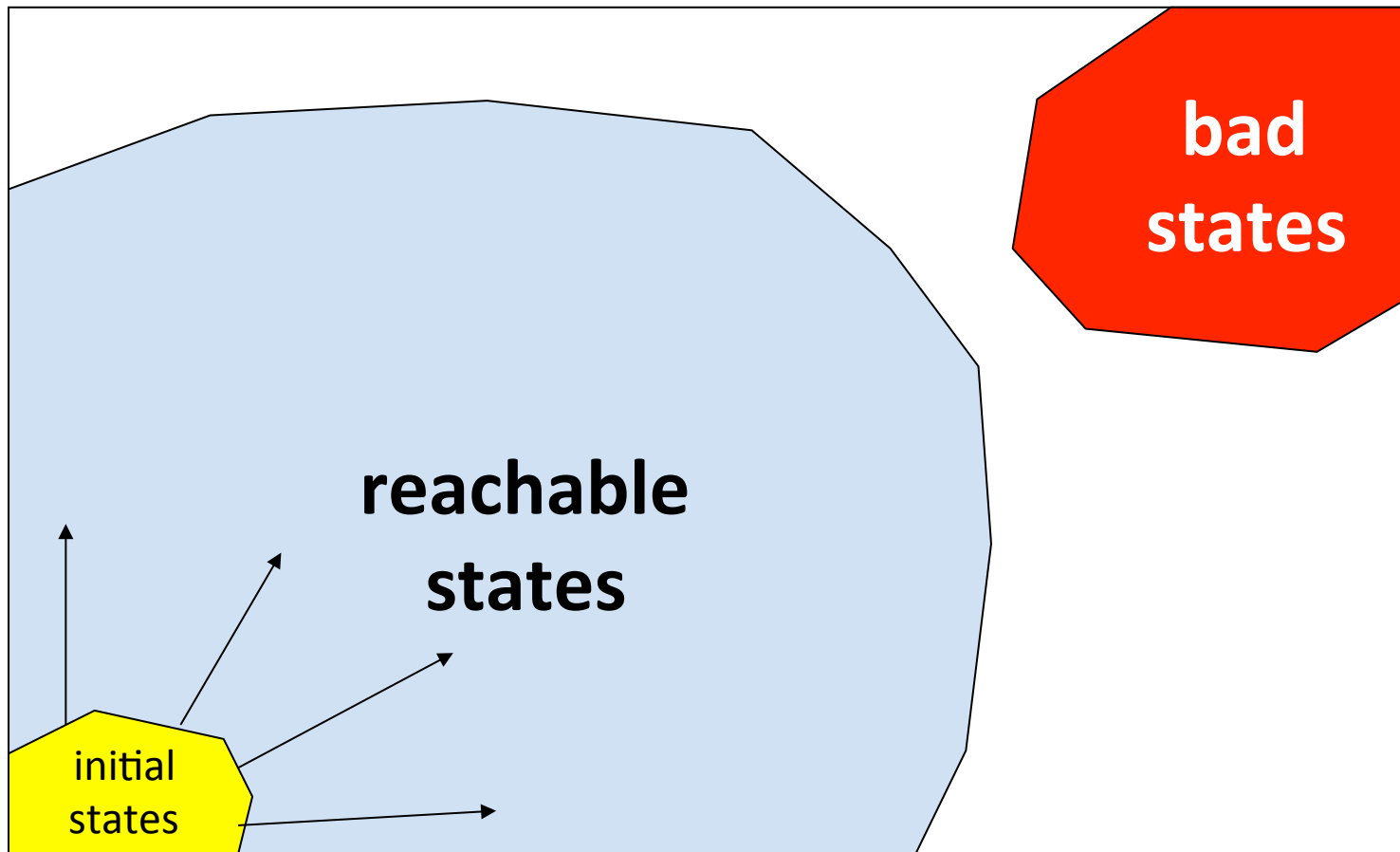
Yes/?/No

- Can we prove this? Automatically?
- Bad news: problem is generally undecidable

# Main idea: use over-approximation

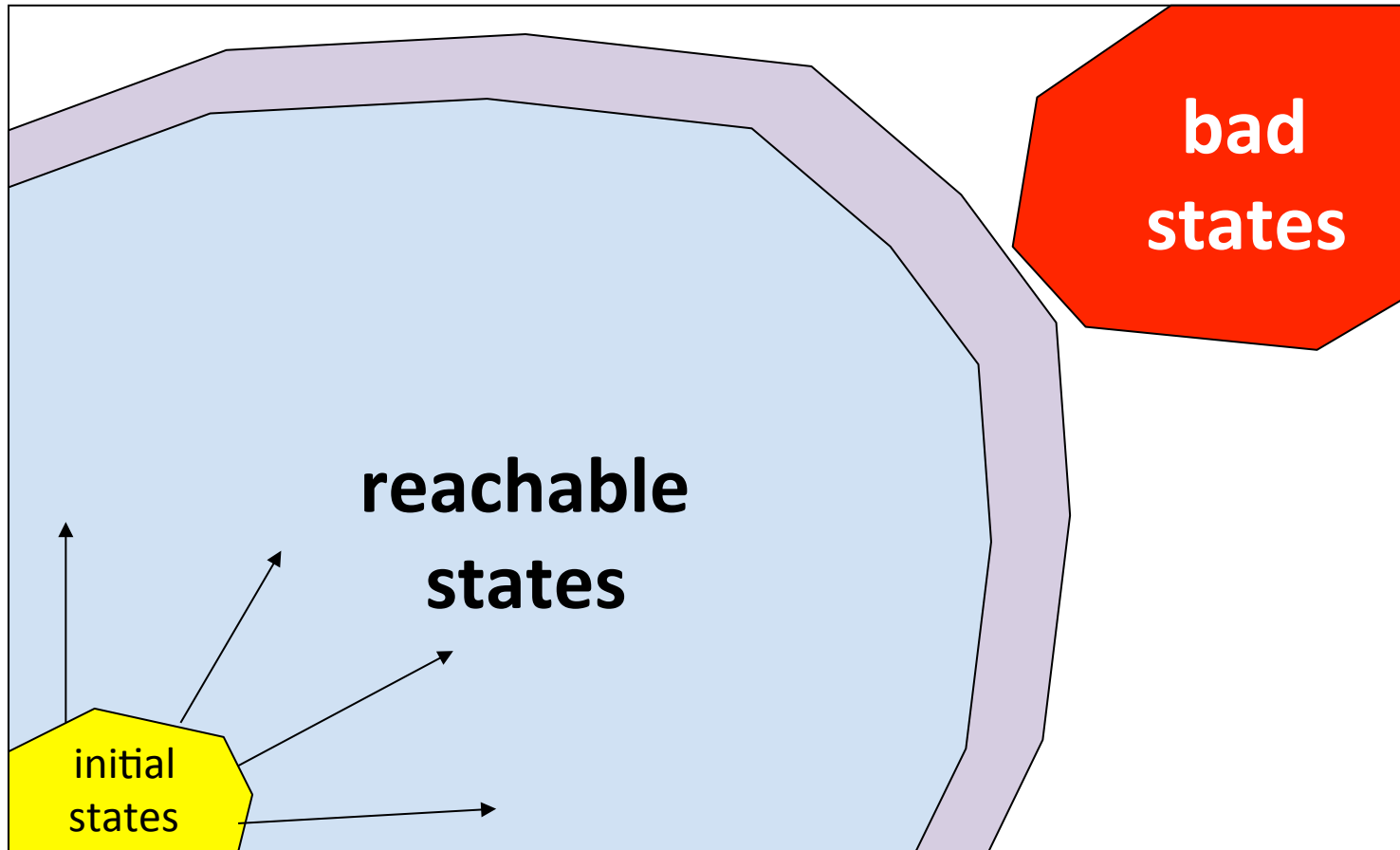


Main idea: find (properties of)  
all reachable states\*



\*or of something else ...

Technique: find (properties of)  
**more than** all reachable states\*



\*or of something else ...

# Program analysis & verification

```
y = ?; x = ?;  
x = y * 2  
if (x % 2 == 0) {  
    y = 42;  
} else {  
    y = 73;  
    foo();  
}  
assert (y == 42);
```



# What does P do?

```
y = ?; x = ?;  
x = y * 2  
if (x % 2 == 0) {  
    y = 42;  
} else {  
    y = 73;  
    foo();  
}  
assert (y == 42);
```



# What does P mean?

```
y = ?; x = ?;  
x = y * 2  
if (x % 2 == 0) {  
    y = 42;  
} else {  
    y = 73;  
    foo();  
}  
assert (y == 42);
```

**=** ...

*syntax*

*semantics*

# “Standard” semantics

```
y = ?;  
x = y * 2  
if (x % 2 == 0) {  
    y = 42;  
} else {  
    y = 73;  
    foo();  
}  
assert (y == 42);
```

...-1,0,1, ... ...-1,0,1,...

**y**      **x**



# “Standard” semantics

(“state transformer”)

```
y = ?;  
x = y * 2  
if (x % 2 == 0) {  
    y = 42;  
} else {  
    y = 73;  
    foo();  
}  
assert (y == 42);
```

...-1,0,1, ... ...-1,0,1,...

**y**      **x**

# “Standard” semantics

(“state transformer”)

```
y = ?;           y=3, x=9
x = y * 2
if (x % 2 == 0) {
    y = 42;
} else {
    y = 73;
    foo();
}
assert (y == 42);
```

...-1,0,1, ... ...-1,0,1,...

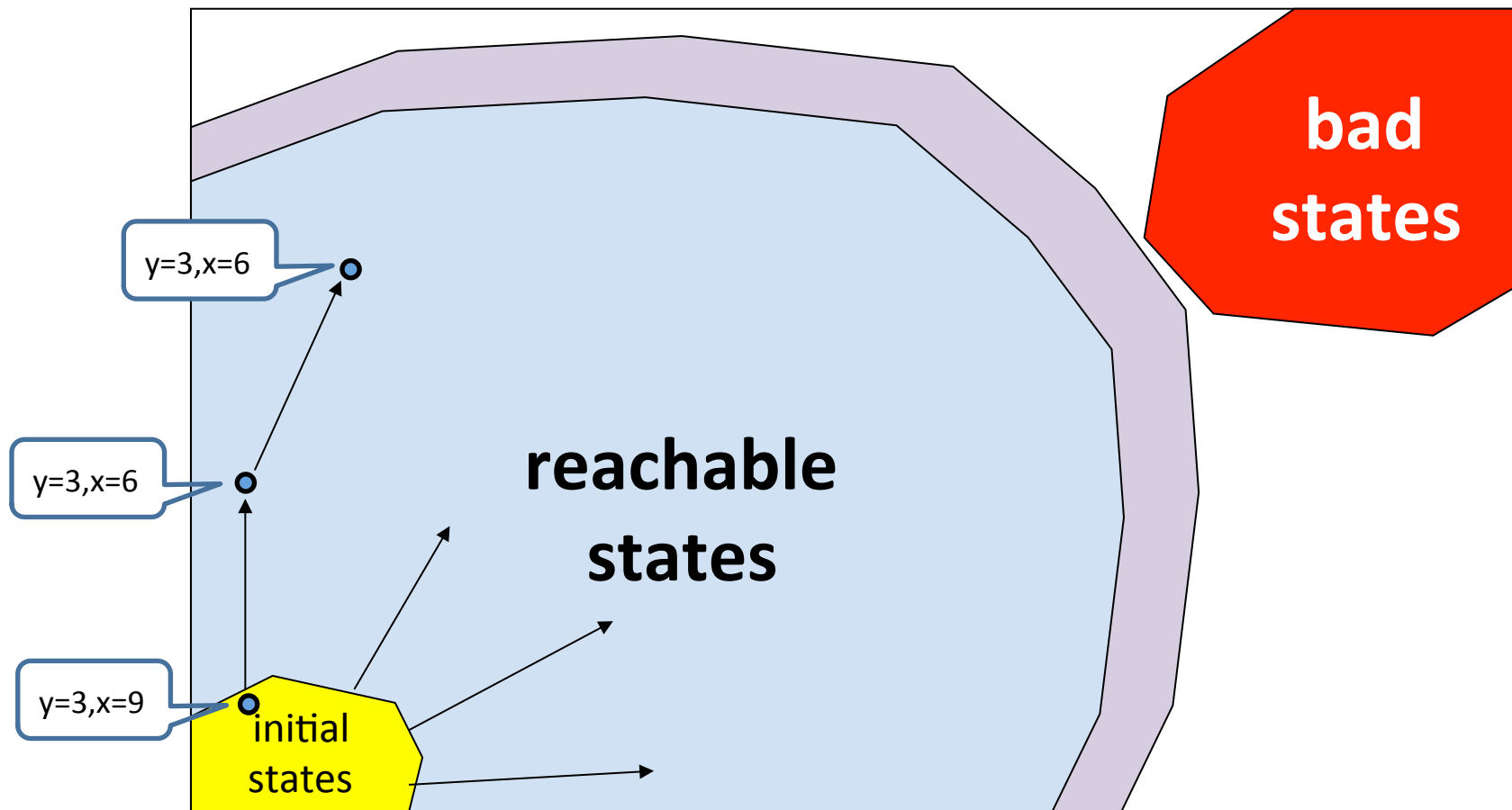
**y**      **x**

# “Standard” semantics

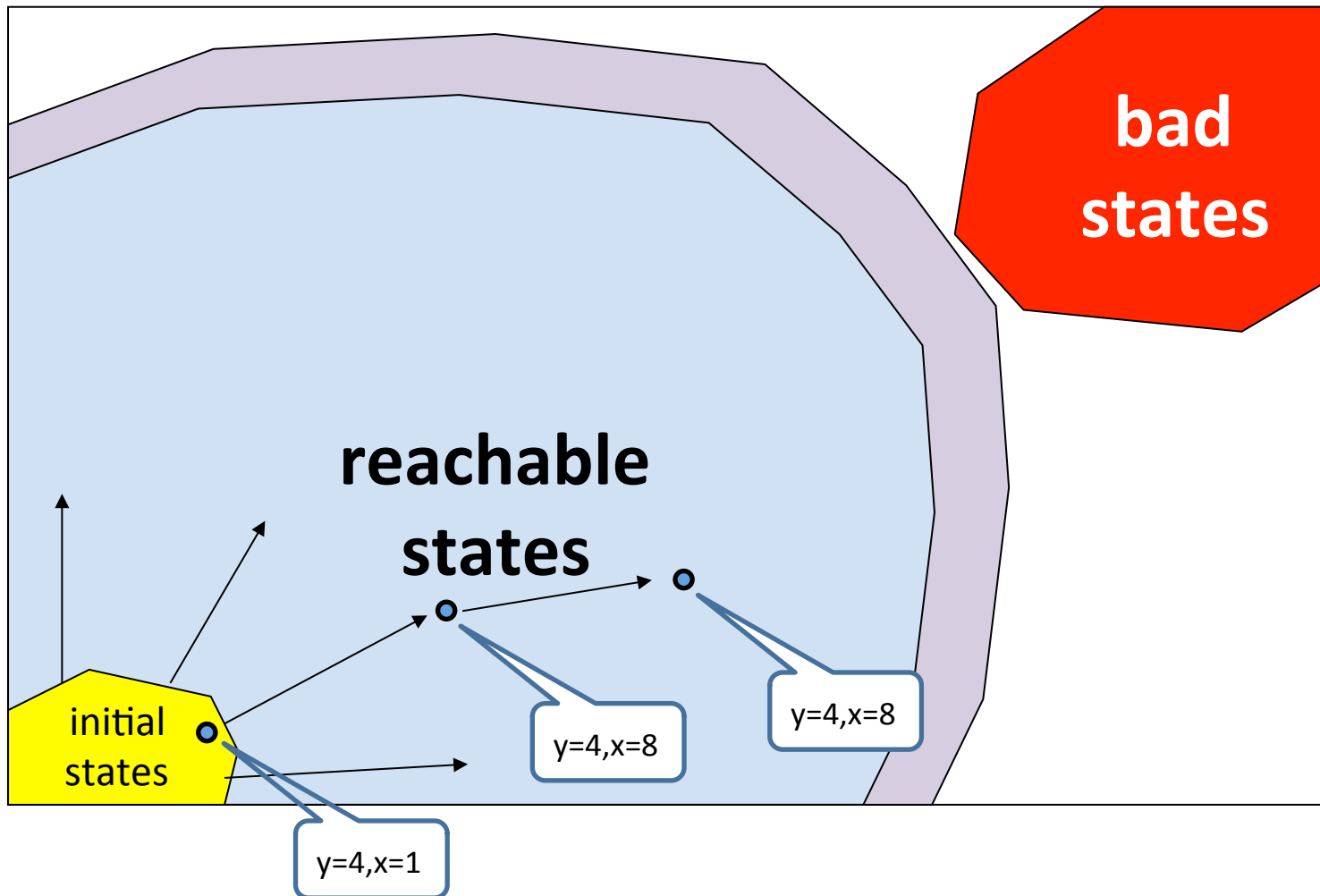
(“state transformer”)

<code>y = ?;</code>	<code>y=3, x=9</code>	
<code>x = y * 2</code>	<code>y=3, x=6</code>	<code>...-1,0,1, ...</code>
<code>if (x % 2 == 0) {</code>	<code>y=3, x=6</code>	<code>...-1,0,1,...</code>
<code>y = 42;</code>	<code>y=42, x=6</code>	<b>y</b> <b>x</b>
<code>} else {</code>		
<code>y = 73;</code>	<code>...</code>	
<code>foo();</code>	<code>...</code>	
<code>}</code>		
<code>assert (y == 42);</code>	<code>y=42, x=6</code>	

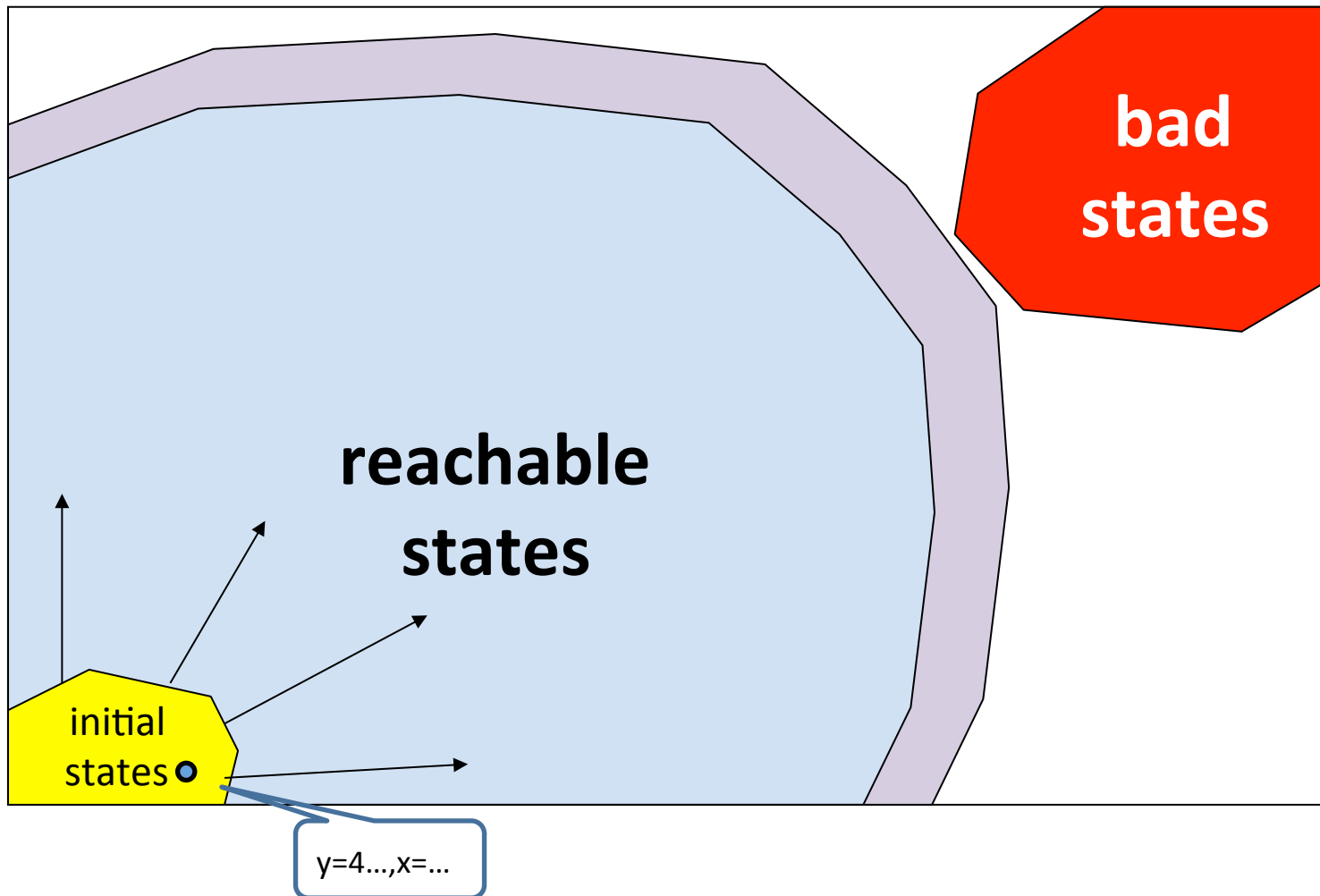
# “State transformer” semantics



# “State transformer” semantics

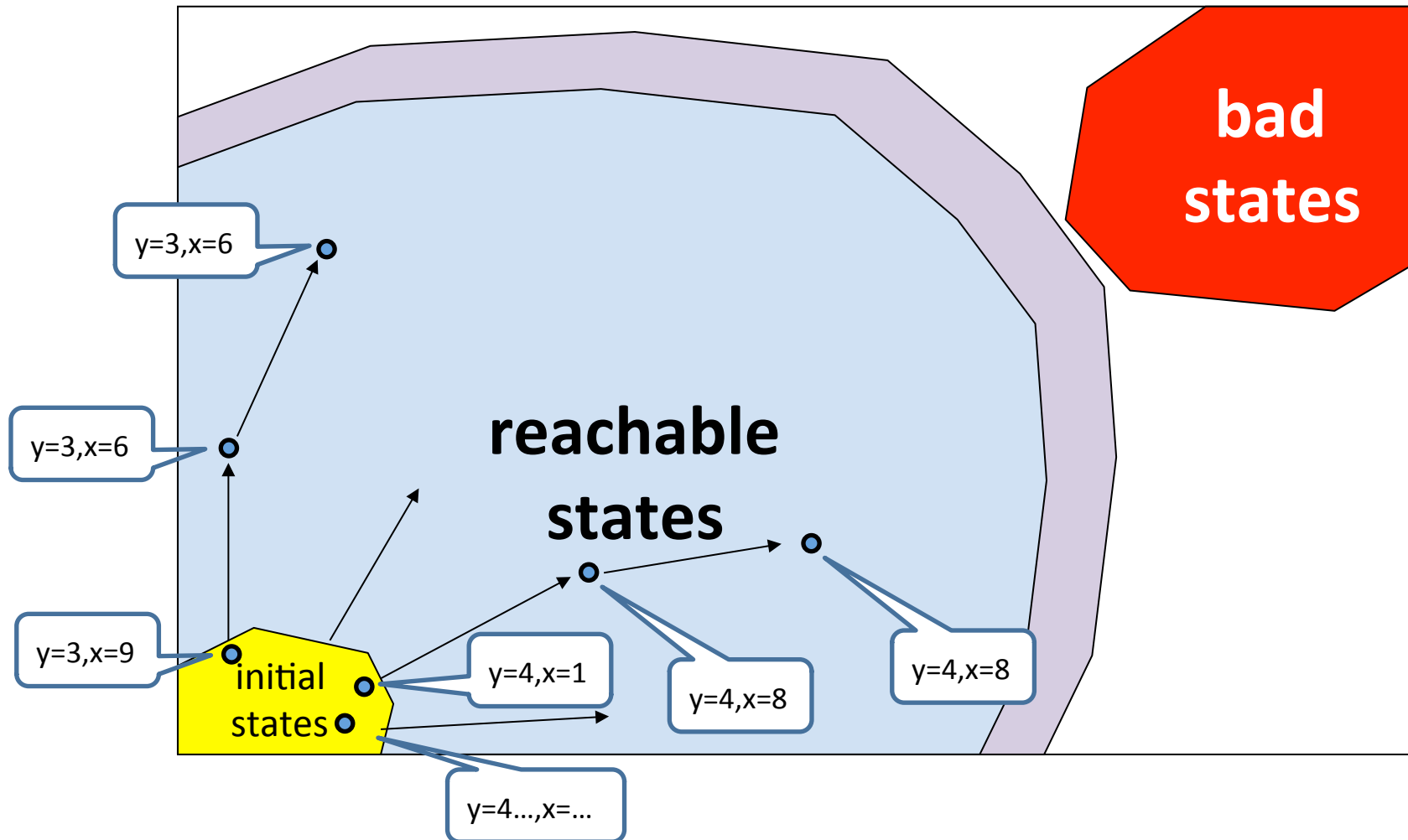


# “State transformer” semantics



# “State transformer” semantics

Main idea: find (properties of) all reachable states\*



# “Standard” (collecting) semantics

(“sets-of states-transformer”)

```
y = ?; x = ?;      {(y,x) | y,x ∈ Nat}
x = y * 2
if (x % 2 == 0) {
  y = 42;
} else {
  y = 73;
  foo();
}
assert (y == 42);
```



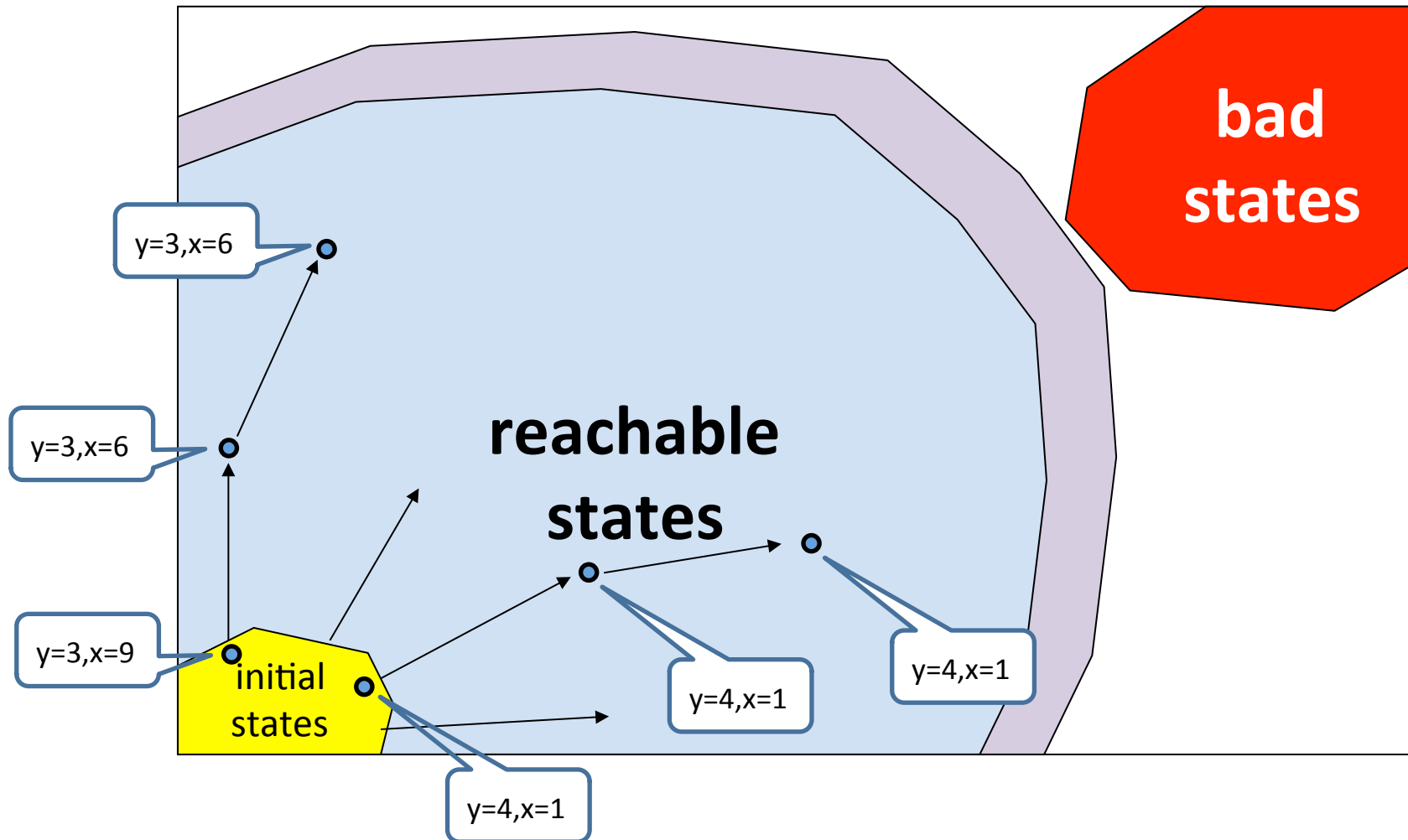
# “Standard” (collecting) semantics

(“sets-of states-transformer”)

<code>y = ?;</code>	<code>{(y=3, x=9),(y=4,x=1),(y=..., x=...)}</code>
<code>x = y * 2</code>	<code>{(y=3, x=6),(y=4,x=8),(y=..., x=...)}</code>
<code>if (x % 2 == 0) {</code>	<code>{(y=3, x=6),(y=4,x=8),(y=..., x=...)}</code>
<code>y = 42;</code>	<code>{(y=42, x=6),(y=42,x=8),(y=42, x=...)}</code>
<code>}</code>	
<code>else {</code>	
<code>y = 73;</code>	<code>{}</code>
<code>foo();</code>	<code>{}</code>
<code>}</code>	
<code>assert (y == 42);</code>	<code>{(y=42, x=6),(y=42,x=8),(y=42, x=...)}</code>

Yes

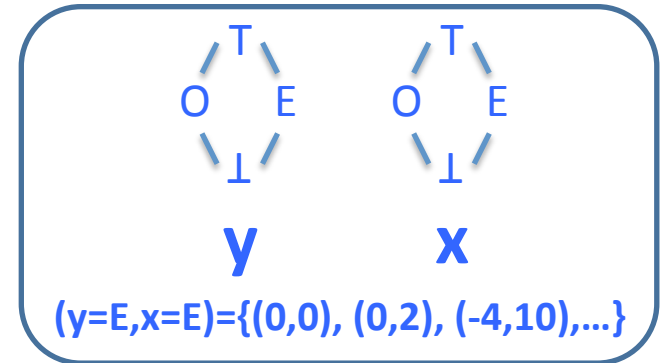
# “Set-of-states transformer” semantics



# “Abstract-state transformer” semantics

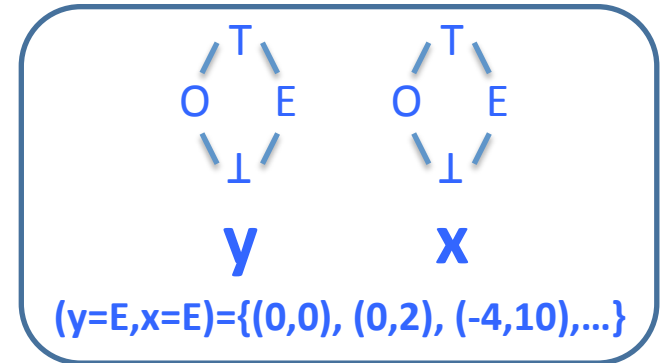
```
y = ?;  
x = y * 2  
if (x % 2 == 0) {  
    y = 42;  
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    y = 73;  
    foo();  
}  
assert (y == 42);
```

$y=T, x=T$



# “Abstract-state transformer” semantics

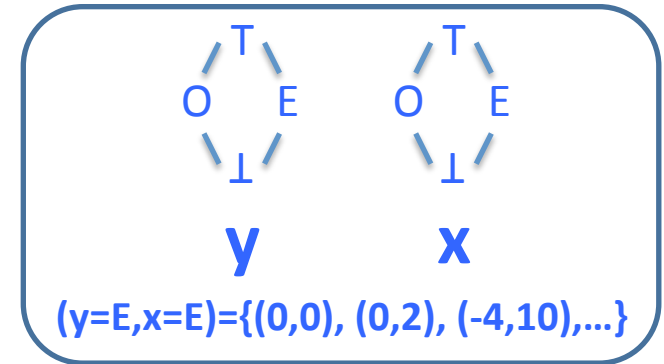
<code>y = ?;</code>	<code>y=T, x=T</code>
<code>x = y * 2</code>	<code>y=T, x=E</code>
<code>if (x % 2 == 0) {</code>	<code>y=T, x=E</code>
<code>y = 42;</code>	<code>y=T, x=E</code>
<code>} else {</code>	
<code>y = 73;</code>	<code>...</code>
<code>foo();</code>	<code>...</code>
<code>}</code>	
<code>assert (y == 42);</code>	<code>y=E, x=E</code>



Yes/?/No

# “Abstract-state transformer” semantics

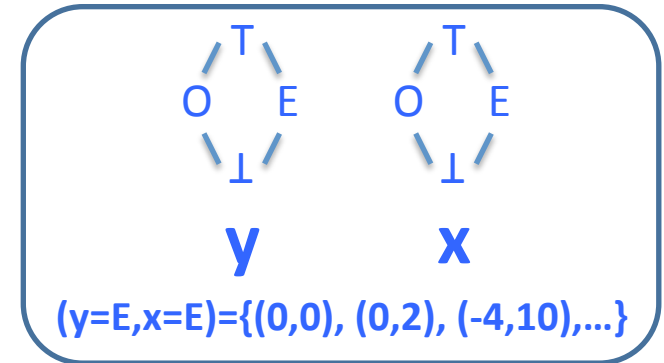
<code>y = ?;</code>	<code>y=T, x=T</code>
<code>x = y * 2</code>	<code>y=T, x=E</code>
<code>if (x % 2 == 0) {</code>	<code>y=T, x=E</code>
<code>y = 42;</code>	<code>y=T, x=E</code>
<code>} else {</code>	
<code>y = 73;</code>	<code>...</code>
<code>foo();</code>	<code>...</code>
<code>}</code>	
<code>assert (y == 42);</code>	<code>y=E, x=E</code>



Yes/?/No

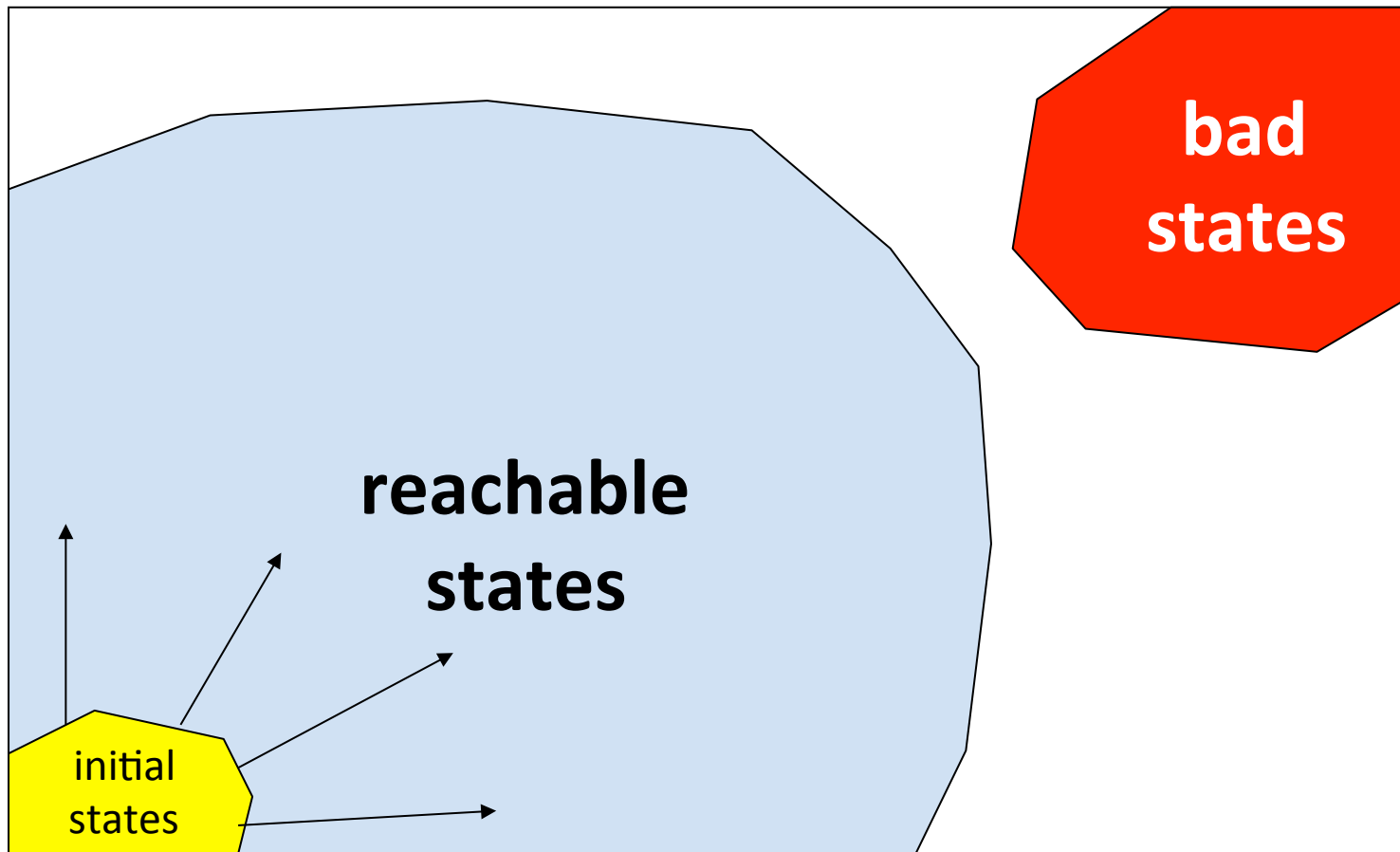
# “Abstract-state transformer” semantics

<code>y = ?;</code>	<code>y=T, x=T</code>
<code>x = y * 2</code>	<code>y=T, x=E</code>
<code>if (x % 2 == 0) {</code>	<code>y=T, x=E</code>
<code>y = 42;</code>	<code>y=E, x=E</code>
<code>} else {</code>	
<code>y = 73;</code>	<code>...</code>
<code>foo();</code>	<code>...</code>
<code>}</code>	
<code>assert (y%2 == 0)</code>	<code>y=E, x=E</code>

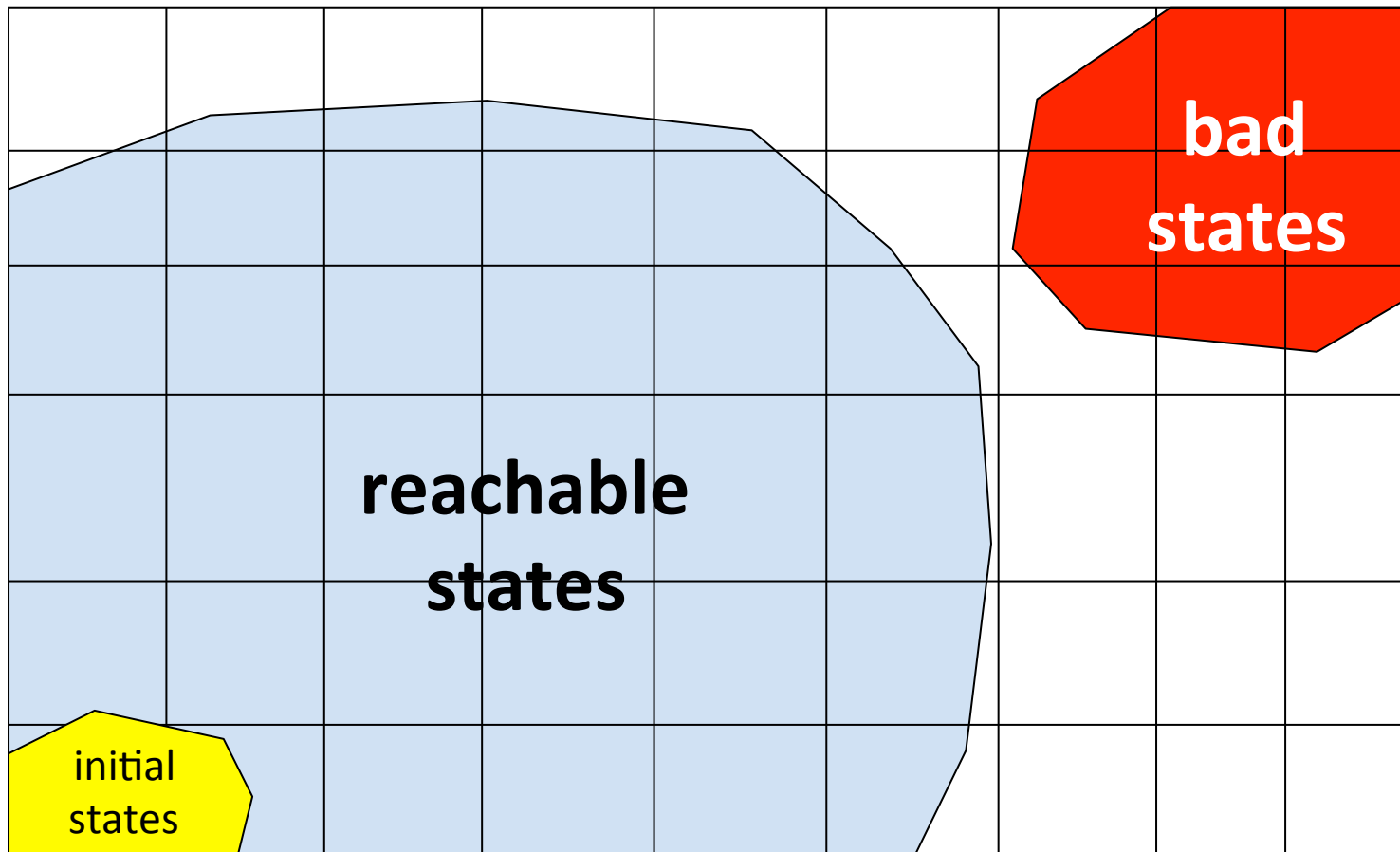


?

# “Abstract-state transformer” semantics

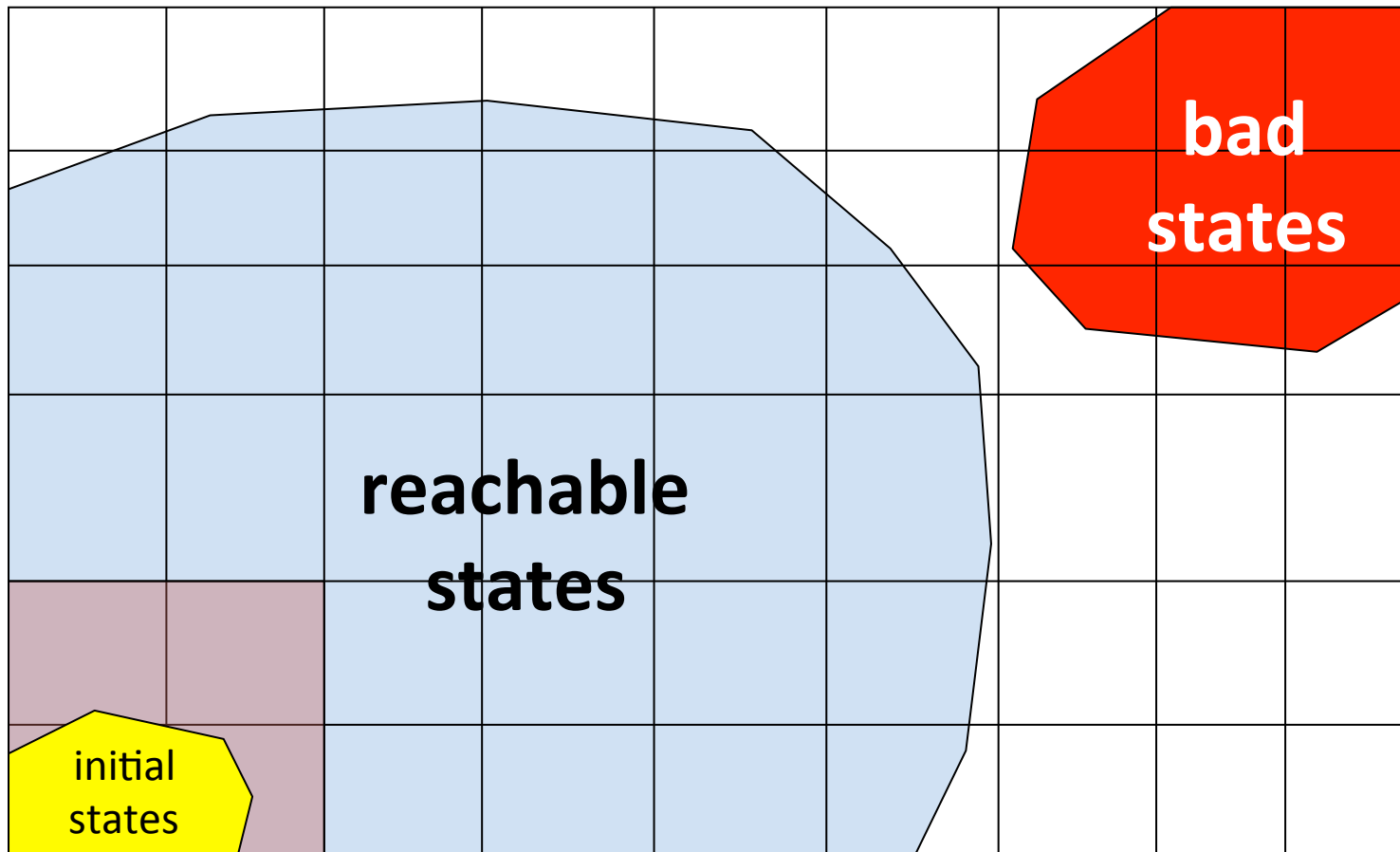


# “Abstract-state transformer” semantics

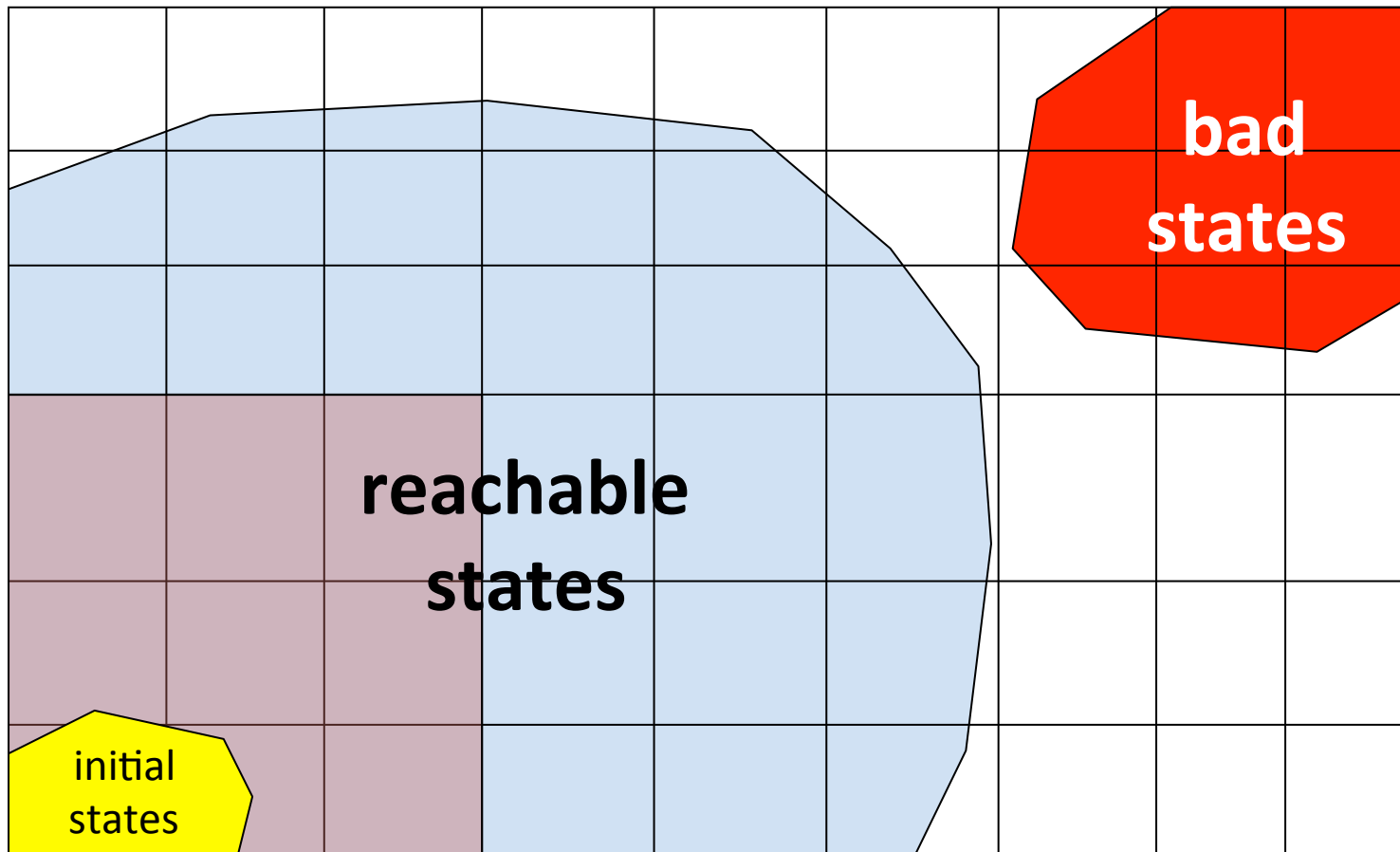




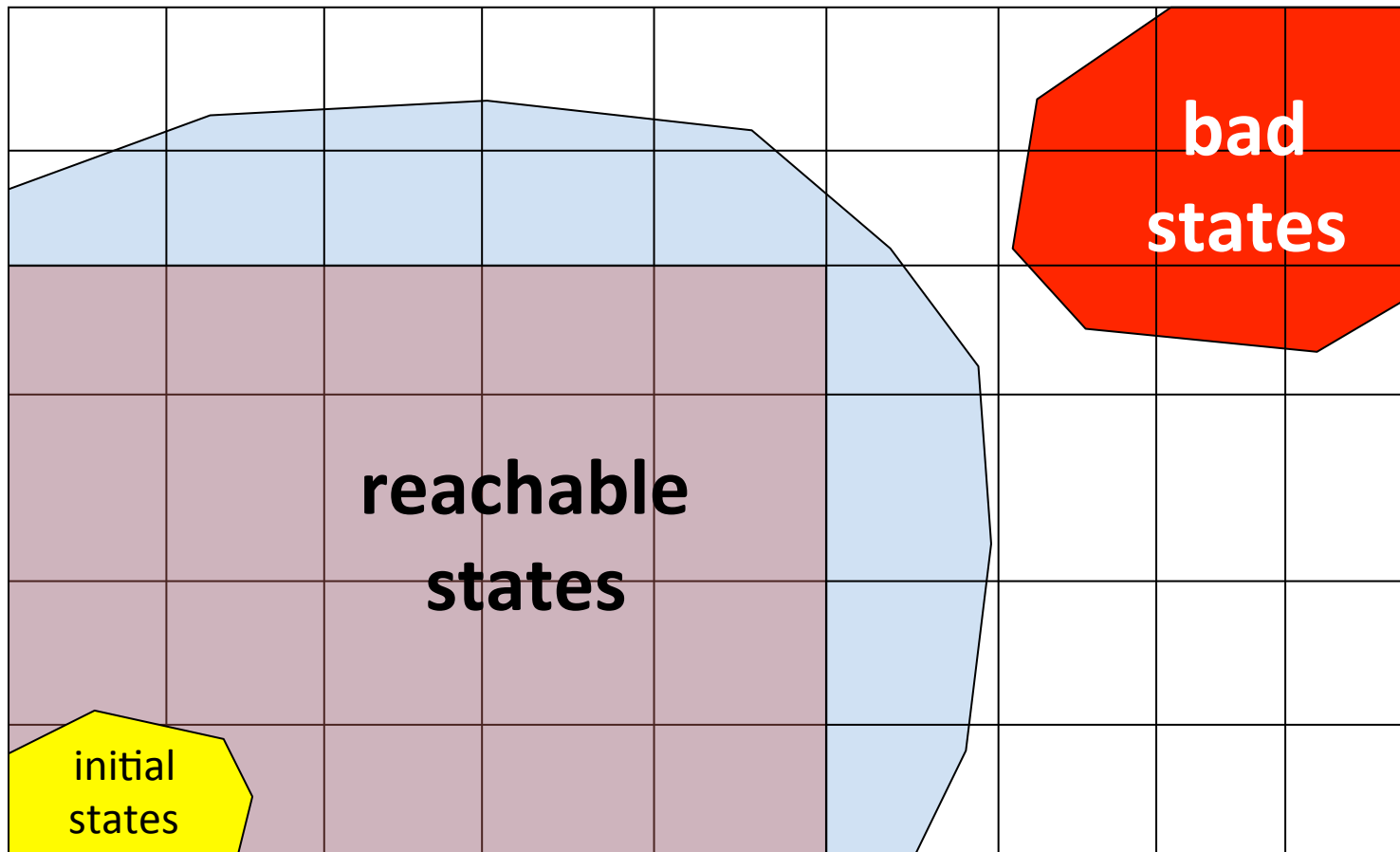
# “Abstract-state transformer” semantics



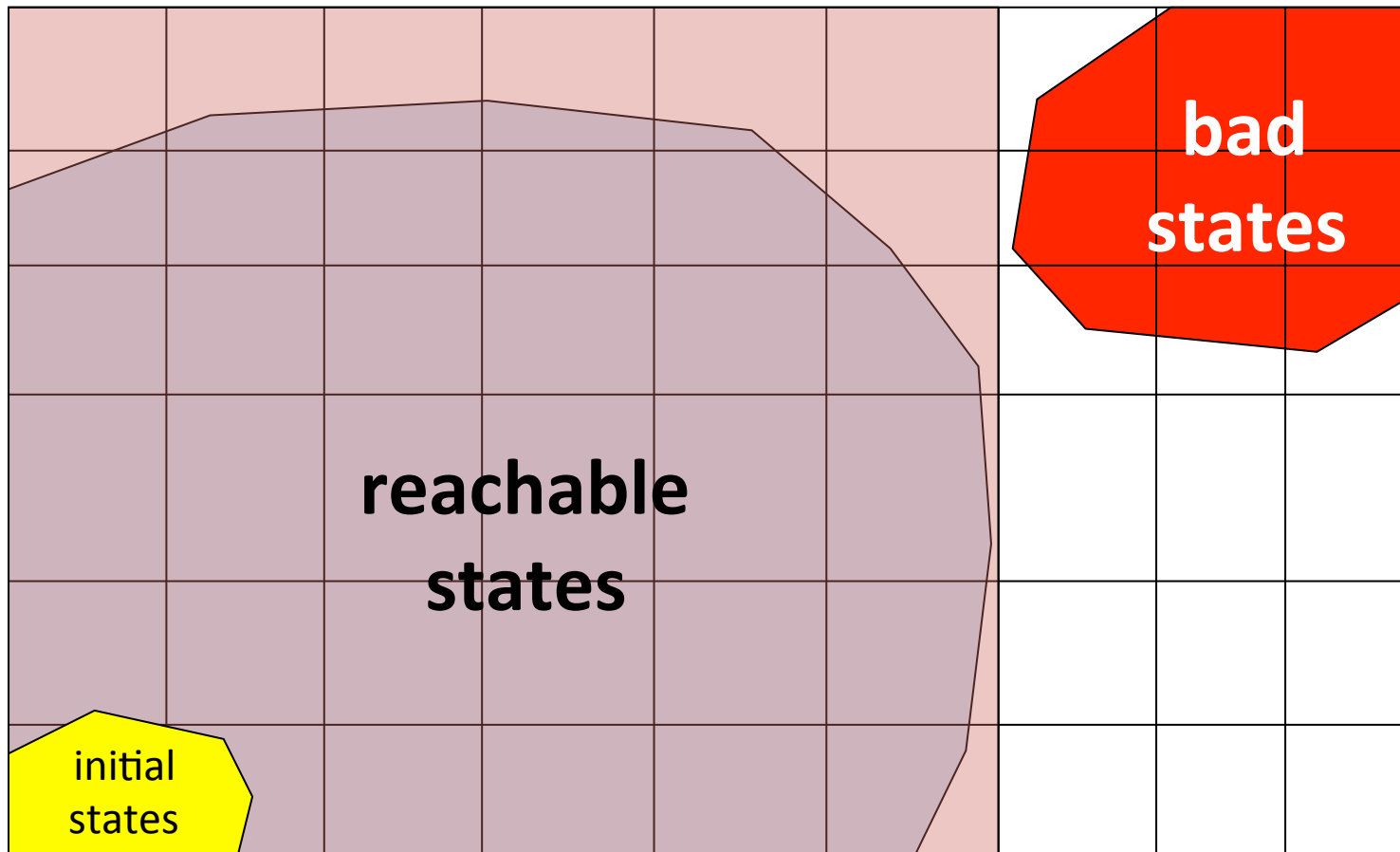
# “Abstract-state transformer” semantics



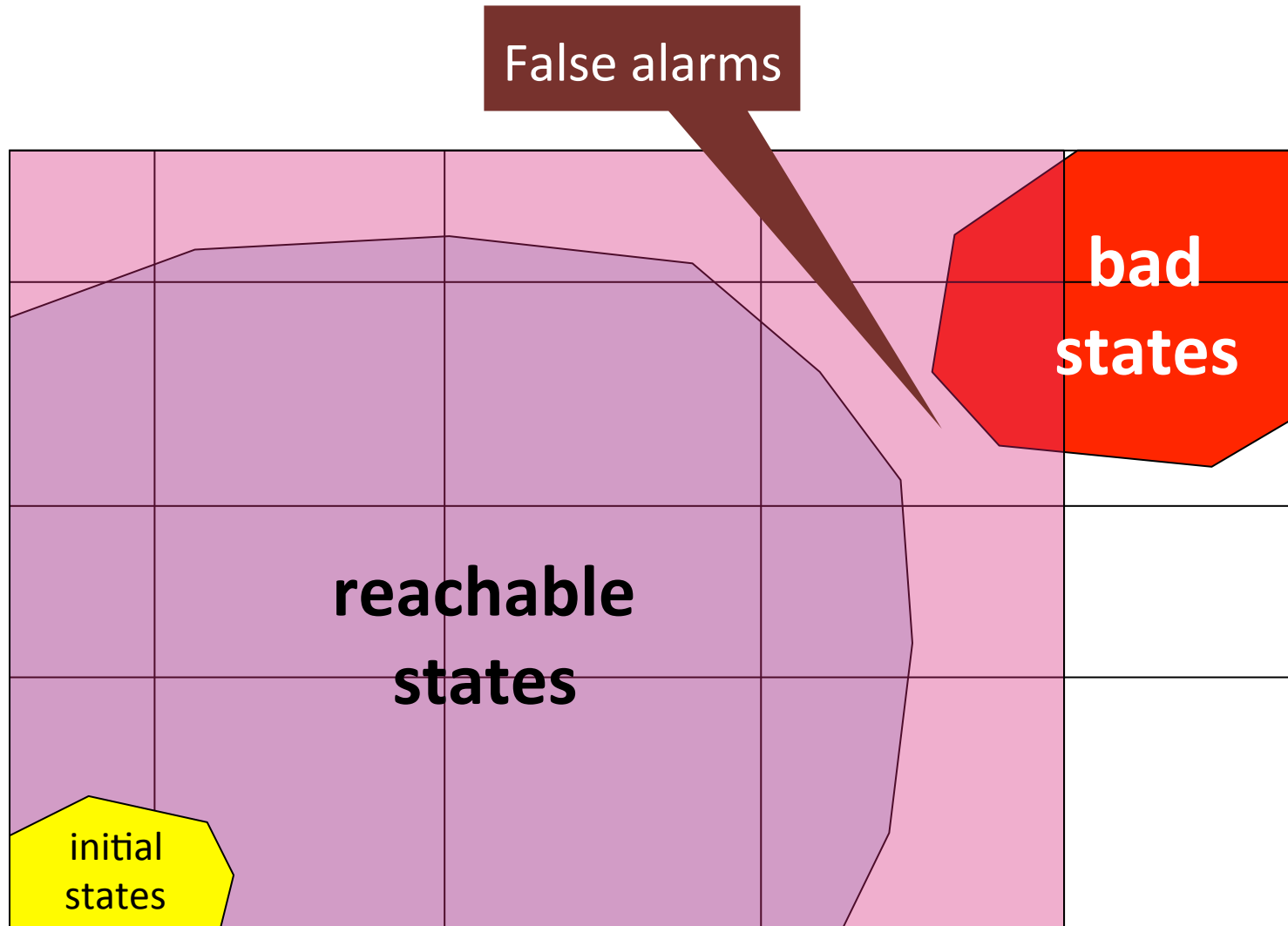
# Technique: explore abstract states



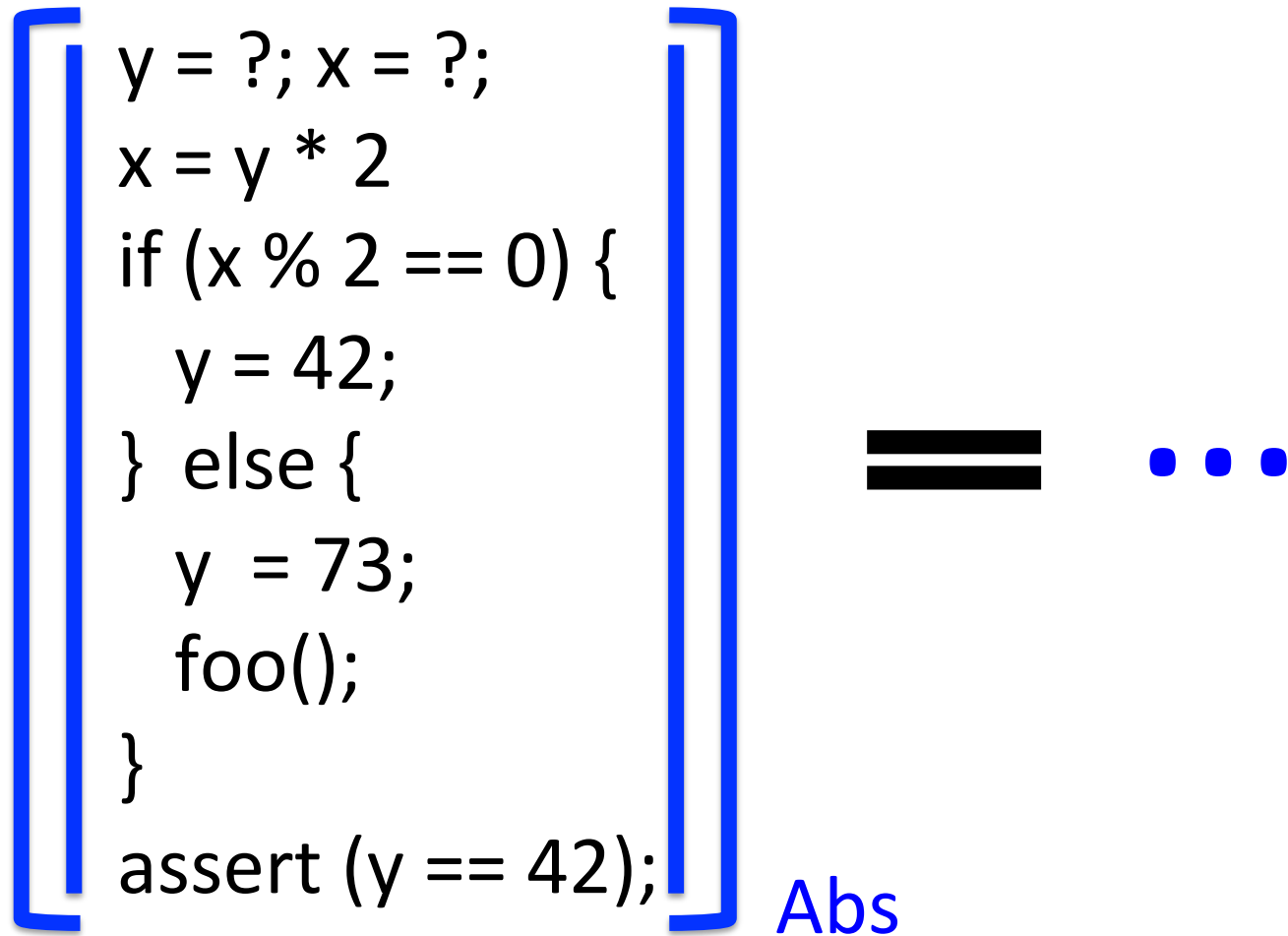
# Sound: cover all reachable states



# Imprecise abstraction



# What does P mean?



# Programming Languages

- Syntax
  - “how do I write a program?”
  - BNF
  - “Parsing”
- Semantics
  - “What does my program mean?”
  - ...

# Program semantics

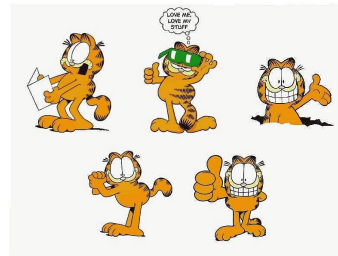
- State-transformer
  - Set-of-states transformer
  - Trace transformer
- Predicate-transformer
- Functions



# Program semantics

- State-transformer
  - Set-of-states transformer
  - Trace transformer
- Predicate-transformer
- Functions

- Cat-transformer



# What semantics do we want?

- Captures the aspects of computations we care about
  - “adequate”
- Hides irrelevant details
  - “fully abstract”
- Compositional

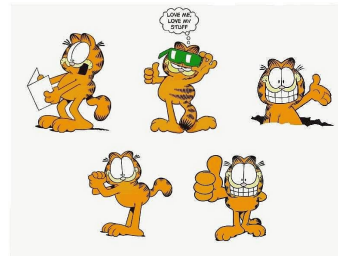
# Operational Semantics

# Recap

# Program semantics

- State-transformer
  - Set-of-states transformer
  - Trace transformer
- Predicate-transformer
- Functions

- Cat-transformer



# What semantics do we want?

- Captures the aspects of computations we care about
  - “adequate”
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  - “fully abstract”
- Compositional

# Formal semantics

*“Formal semantics is concerned with rigorously specifying the meaning, or behavior, of programs, pieces of hardware, etc.” / page 1*

# Formal semantics

*“This theory allows a program to be manipulated like a formula – that is to say, its properties can be calculated.”*

*G rard Huet & Philippe Flajolet homage to Gilles Kahn*



# Why formal semantics?

- Implementation-independent definition of a programming language
- Automatically generating interpreters (and some day maybe full fledged compilers)
- Verification and debugging
  - if you don't know what it does, how do you know its incorrect?

# Levels of abstractions and applications

Static Analysis  
(abstract semantics)

$\sqsubseteq$

Program Semantics

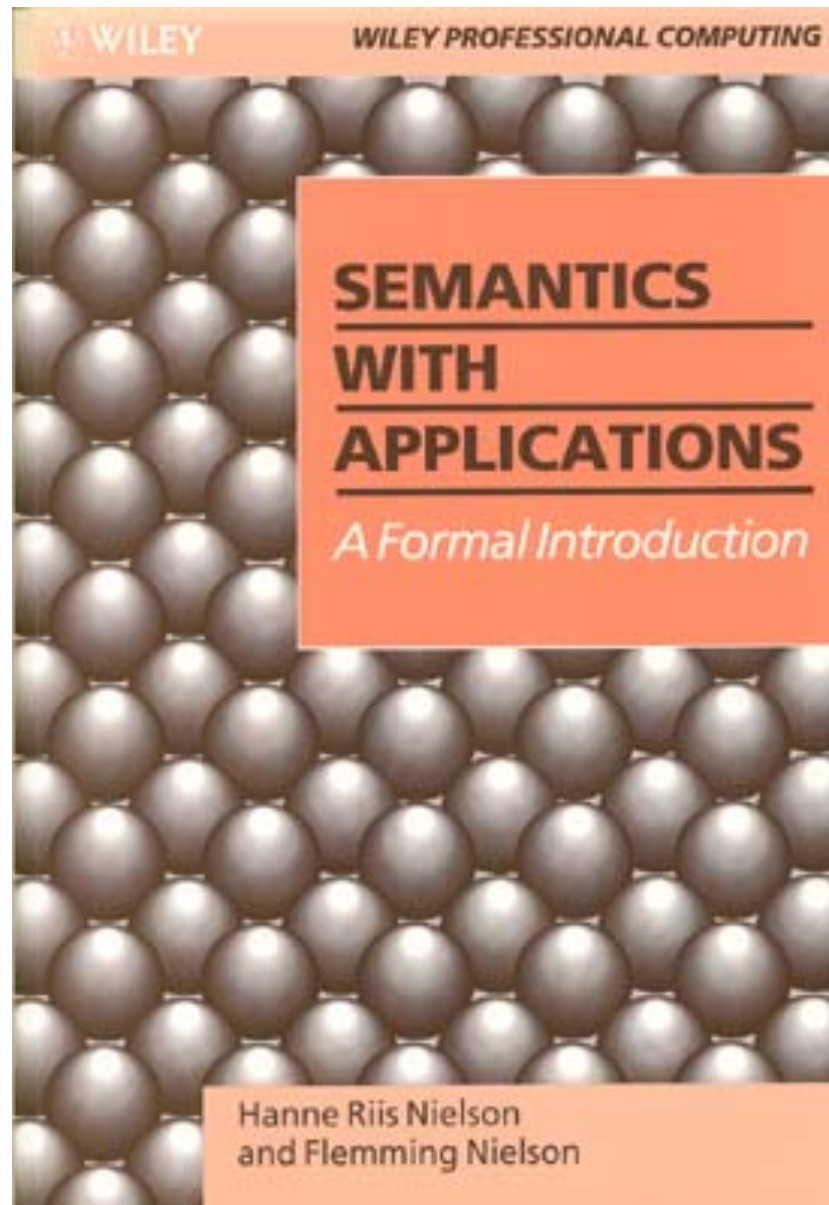
$\sqsubseteq$

Assembly-level Semantics  
(Small-step)

# Semantic description methods

- Operational semantics
  - Natural semantics (big step) [G. Kahn]
  - Structural semantics (small step) [G. Plotkin]
    - *Trace semantics*
    - *Collecting semantics*
    - *[Instrumented semantics]*
- Denotational semantics [D. Scott, C. Strachy]
- Axiomatic semantics [C. A. R. Hoare, R. Floyd]

[http://www.daimi.au.dk/~bra8130/Wiley\\_book/wiley.html](http://www.daimi.au.dk/~bra8130/Wiley_book/wiley.html)



# Operational Semantics

# A simple imperative language: **While**

Abstract syntax:

$a ::= n \mid x \mid a_1 + a_2 \mid a_1 \star a_2 \mid a_1 - a_2$

$b ::= \mathbf{true} \mid \mathbf{false}$

$\mid a_1 = a_2 \mid a_1 \leq a_2 \mid \neg b \mid b_1 \wedge b_2$

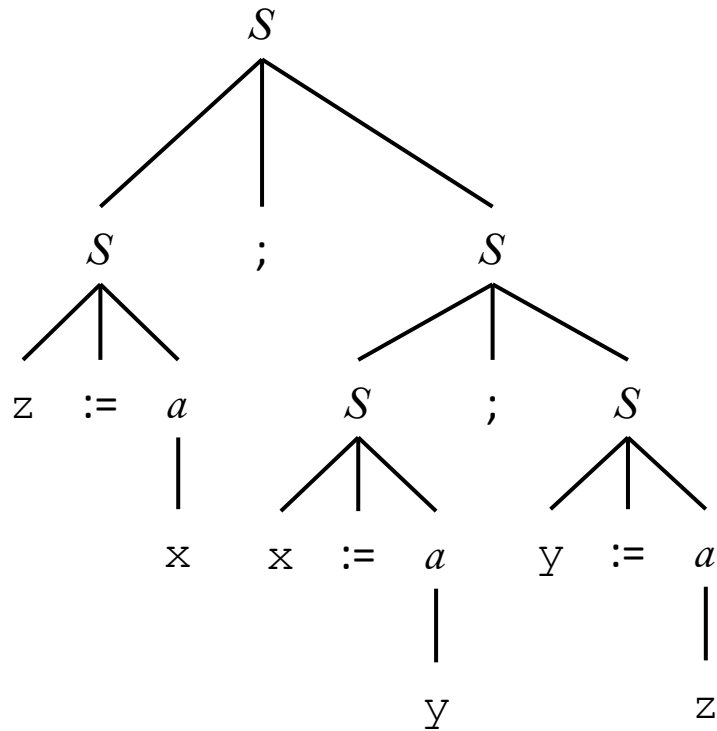
$S ::= x := a \mid \mathbf{skip} \mid S_1; S_2$

$\mid \mathbf{if } b \mathbf{ then } S_1 \mathbf{ else } S_2$

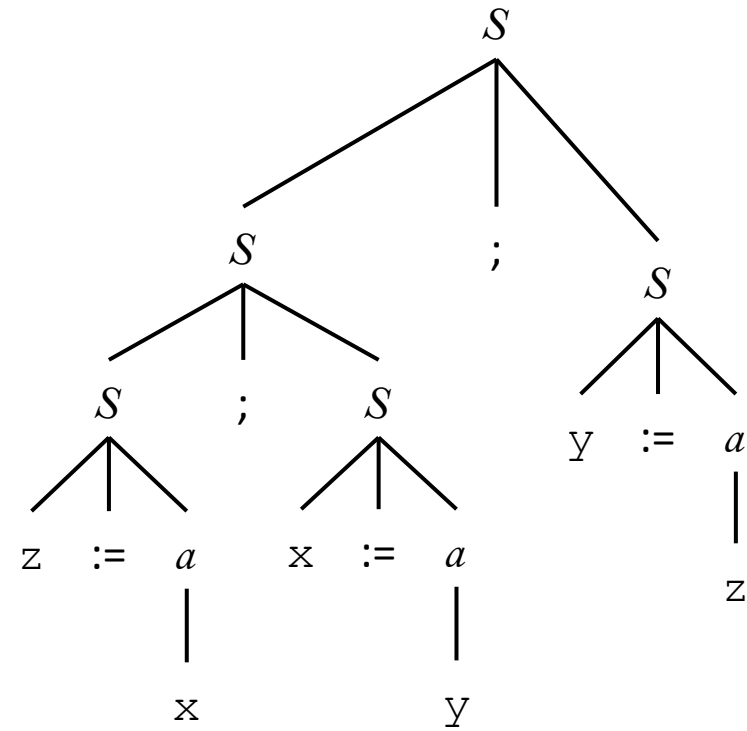
$\mid \mathbf{while } b \mathbf{ do } S$

# Concrete Syntax vs. Abstract Syntax

**$z := x; x := y; y := z$**



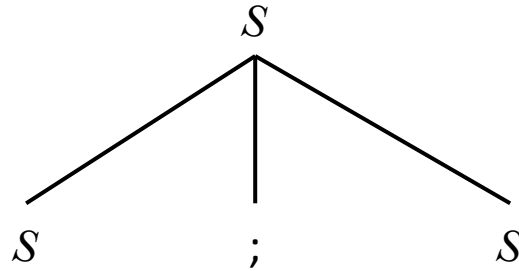
**$z := x; (x := y; y := z)$**



**$(z := x; x := y); y := z$**

# Exercise: draw an AST

`y:=1; while  $\neg(x=1)$  do (y:=y*x; x:=x-1)`





# Syntactic categories

$n \in \mathbf{Num}$	numerals
$x \in \mathbf{Var}$	program variables
$a \in \mathbf{Aexp}$	arithmetic expressions
$b \in \mathbf{Bexp}$	boolean expressions
$S \in \mathbf{Stm}$	statements

# Semantic categories

**Z** Integers  $\{0, 1, -1, 2, -2, \dots\}$

**T** Truth values  $\{\text{ff}, \text{tt}\}$

**State** **Var**  $\rightarrow$  **Z**

Example state:  $s = [x \mapsto 5, y \mapsto 7, z \mapsto 0]$

Lookup:  $s \ x = 5$

Update:  $s[x \mapsto 6] = [x \mapsto 6, y \mapsto 7, z \mapsto 0]$

# Example state manipulations

- $[x \mapsto 1, y \mapsto 7, z \mapsto 16] y =$
- $[x \mapsto 1, y \mapsto 7, z \mapsto 16] t =$
- $[x \mapsto 1, y \mapsto 7, z \mapsto 16][x \mapsto 5] =$
- $[x \mapsto 1, y \mapsto 7, z \mapsto 16][x \mapsto 5] x =$
- $[x \mapsto 1, y \mapsto 7, z \mapsto 16][x \mapsto 5] y =$

# Semantics of arithmetic expressions

- Arithmetic expressions are side-effect free
- Semantic function  $\mathcal{A} \llbracket \mathbf{Aexp} \rrbracket : \mathbf{State} \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}$
- Defined by induction on the syntax tree

$$\mathcal{A} \llbracket n \rrbracket s = n$$

$$\mathcal{A} \llbracket x \rrbracket s = s x$$

$$\mathcal{A} \llbracket a_1 + a_2 \rrbracket s = \mathcal{A} \llbracket a_1 \rrbracket s + \mathcal{A} \llbracket a_2 \rrbracket s$$

$$\mathcal{A} \llbracket a_1 - a_2 \rrbracket s = \mathcal{A} \llbracket a_1 \rrbracket s - \mathcal{A} \llbracket a_2 \rrbracket s$$

$$\mathcal{A} \llbracket a_1 * a_2 \rrbracket s = \mathcal{A} \llbracket a_1 \rrbracket s \times \mathcal{A} \llbracket a_2 \rrbracket s$$

$$\mathcal{A} \llbracket (a_1) \rrbracket s = \mathcal{A} \llbracket a_1 \rrbracket s \quad \text{--- not needed}$$

$$\mathcal{A} \llbracket - a \rrbracket s = 0 - \mathcal{A} \llbracket a_1 \rrbracket s$$

- Compositional
- Properties can be proved by structural induction

# Arithmetic expression exercise

Suppose  $x = 3$

Evaluate  $\mathcal{A}[\mathbf{x+1}]_s$

# Semantics of boolean expressions

- Boolean expressions are side-effect free
- Semantic function  $\mathcal{B} \llbracket \mathbf{Bexp} \rrbracket : \mathbf{State} \rightarrow \mathbf{T}$
- Defined by induction on the syntax tree

$$\mathcal{B} \llbracket \text{true} \rrbracket s = \text{tt}$$

$$\mathcal{B} \llbracket \text{false} \rrbracket s = \text{ff}$$

$$\mathcal{B} \llbracket a_1 = a_2 \rrbracket s =$$

$$\mathcal{B} \llbracket a_1 \leq a_2 \rrbracket s =$$

$$\mathcal{B} \llbracket b_1 \wedge b_2 \rrbracket s =$$

$$\mathcal{B} \llbracket \neg b \rrbracket s =$$

# Operational semantics

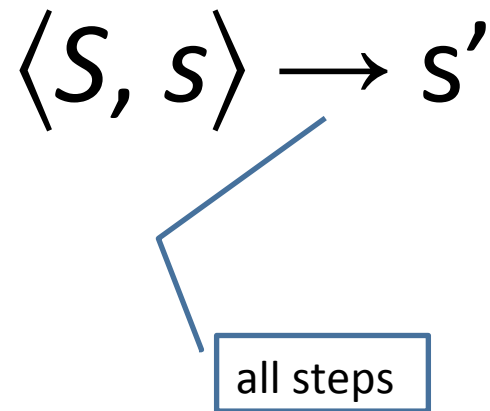
- Concerned with **how** to execute programs
  - How statements modify **state**
  - Define transition relation between configurations
- Two flavors
  - **Natural semantics**: describes how the **overall** results of executions are obtained
    - So-called “big-step” semantics
  - **Structural operational semantics**: describes how the **individual steps** of a computations take place
    - So-called “small-step” semantics

# Natural operating semantics (NS)



# Natural operating semantics (NS)

- aka “Large-step semantics”

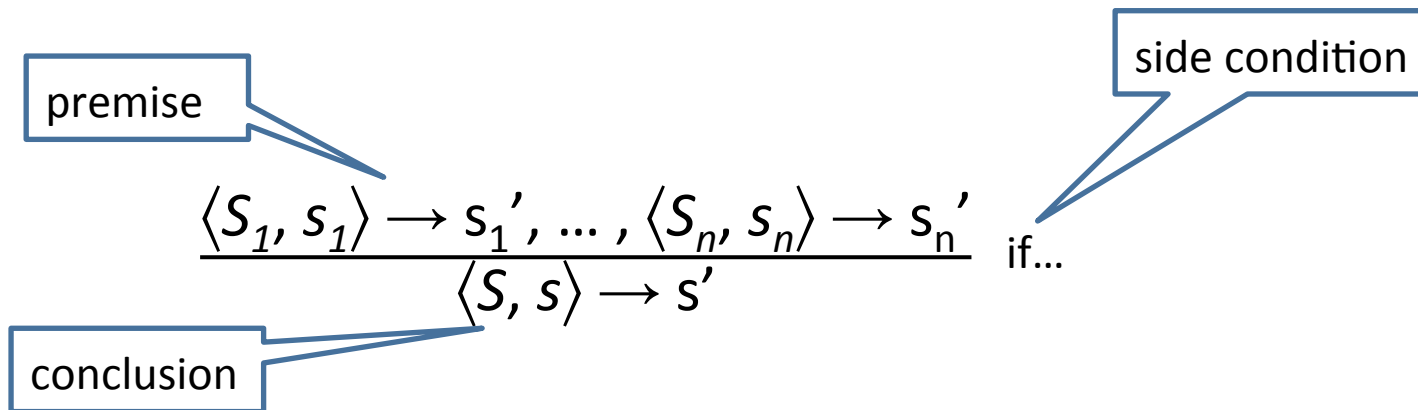


# Natural operating semantics

- Developed by Gilles Kahn [[STACS 1987](#)]
- Configurations
  - $\langle S, s \rangle$  Statement  $S$  is about to execute on state  $s$
  - $s$  Terminal (final) state
- Transitions
  - $\langle S, s \rangle \rightarrow s'$  Execution of  $S$  from  $s$  will terminate with the result state  $s'$
  - Ignores non-terminating computations

# Natural operating semantics

- $\rightarrow$  defined by rules of the form



- The meaning of compound statements is defined using the meaning immediate constituent statements

# Natural semantics for **While**

$$[\text{ass}_{\text{ns}}] \quad \langle x := a, s \rangle \rightarrow s[x \mapsto \mathcal{A}[[a]]s]$$

$$[\text{skip}_{\text{ns}}] \quad \langle \text{skip}, s \rangle \rightarrow s$$

axioms

$$[\text{comp}_{\text{ns}}] \quad \frac{\langle S_1, s \rangle \rightarrow s', \langle S_2, s' \rangle \rightarrow s''}{\langle S_1; S_2, s \rangle \rightarrow s''}$$

$$[\text{if}^{\text{tt}}_{\text{ns}}] \quad \frac{\langle S_1, s \rangle \rightarrow s'}{\langle \text{if } b \text{ then } S_1 \text{ else } S_2, s \rangle \rightarrow s'} \quad \text{if } \mathcal{B}[[b]]s = \text{tt}$$

$$[\text{if}^{\text{ff}}_{\text{ns}}] \quad \frac{\langle S_2, s \rangle \rightarrow s'}{\langle \text{if } b \text{ then } S_1 \text{ else } S_2, s \rangle \rightarrow s'} \quad \text{if } \mathcal{B}[[b]]s = \text{ff}$$

# Natural semantics for **While**

$[\text{while}_{\text{ns}}^{\text{ff}}]$   $\langle \text{while } b \text{ do } S, s \rangle \rightarrow s$  if  $\mathcal{B}[[b]] s = \text{ff}$

Non-compositional

$[\text{while}_{\text{ns}}^{\text{tt}}]$  
$$\frac{\langle S, s \rangle \rightarrow s', \langle \text{while } b \text{ do } S, s' \rangle \rightarrow s''}{\langle \text{while } b \text{ do } S, s \rangle \rightarrow s''}$$
 if  $\mathcal{B}[[b]] s = \text{tt}$

# Example

- Let  $s_0$  be the state which assigns zero to all program variables

$$\langle x := x+1, s_0 \rangle \rightarrow s_0[x \mapsto 1]$$

$$\langle \text{skip}, s_0 \rangle \rightarrow s_0$$

$$\frac{\langle \text{skip}, s_0 \rangle \rightarrow s_0, \langle x := x+1, s_0 \rangle \rightarrow s_0[x \mapsto 1]}{\langle \text{skip}; x := x+1, s_0 \rangle \rightarrow s_0[x \mapsto 1]}$$

$$\frac{\langle x := x+1, s_0 \rangle \rightarrow s_0[x \mapsto 1]}{\langle \text{if } x=0 \text{ then } x:=x+1 \text{ else skip}, s_0 \rangle \rightarrow s_0[x \mapsto 1]}$$

# Derivation trees

- Using axioms and rules to derive a transition  $\langle S, s \rangle \rightarrow s'$  gives a derivation tree
  - Root:  $\langle S, s \rangle \rightarrow s'$
  - Leaves: axioms
  - Internal nodes: conclusions of rules
    - Immediate children: matching rule premises

# Derivation tree example 1

- Assume  $s_0 = [x \mapsto 5, y \mapsto 7, z \mapsto 0]$   
 $s_1 = [x \mapsto 5, y \mapsto 7, z \mapsto 5]$   
 $s_2 = [x \mapsto 7, y \mapsto 7, z \mapsto 5]$   
 $s_3 = [x \mapsto 7, y \mapsto 5, z \mapsto 5]$

[ass<sub>ns</sub>]

$$\langle z := x, s_0 \rangle \rightarrow s_1$$

[ass<sub>ns</sub>]

$$\langle x := y, s_1 \rangle \rightarrow s_2$$

---

[comp<sub>ns</sub>]

$$\langle (z := x; x := y), s_0 \rangle \rightarrow s_2$$

[ass<sub>ns</sub>]

$$\langle y := z, s_2 \rangle \rightarrow s_3$$

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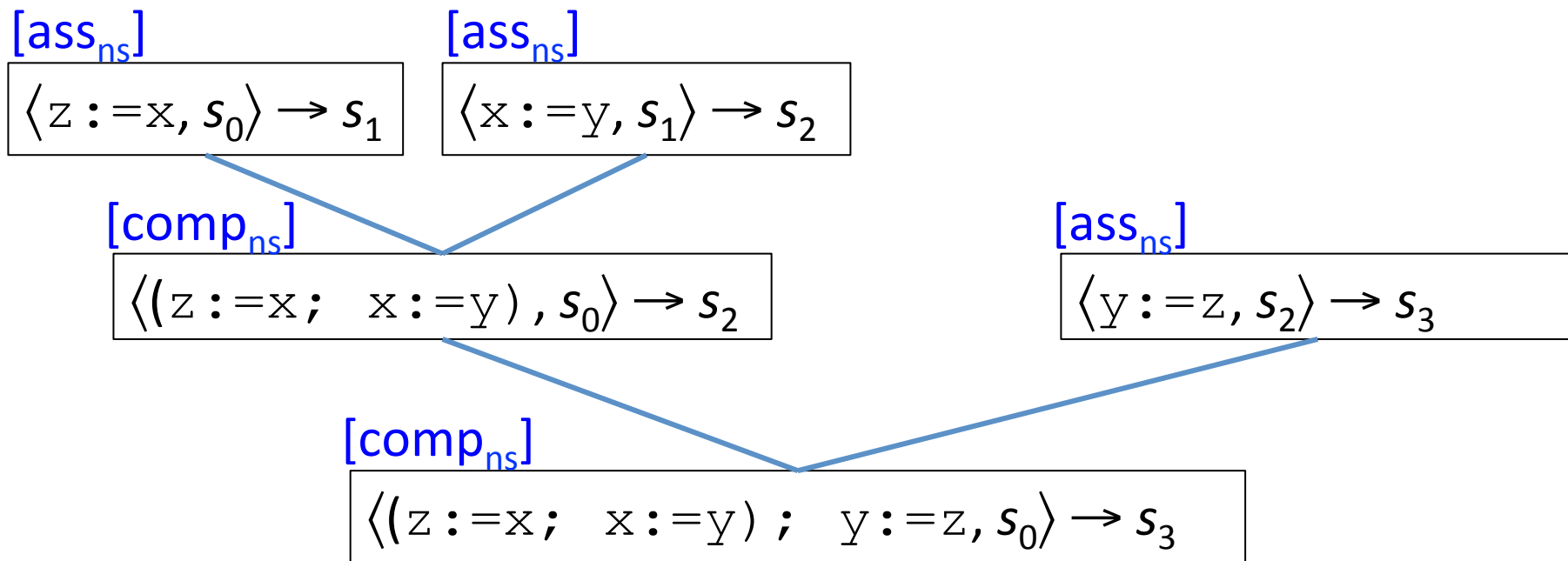
[comp<sub>ns</sub>]

$$\langle (z := x; x := y); y := z, s_0 \rangle \rightarrow s_3$$



# Derivation tree example 1

- Assume  $s_0 = [x \mapsto 5, y \mapsto 7, z \mapsto 0]$   
 $s_1 = [x \mapsto 5, y \mapsto 7, z \mapsto 5]$   
 $s_2 = [x \mapsto 7, y \mapsto 7, z \mapsto 5]$   
 $s_3 = [x \mapsto 7, y \mapsto 5, z \mapsto 5]$

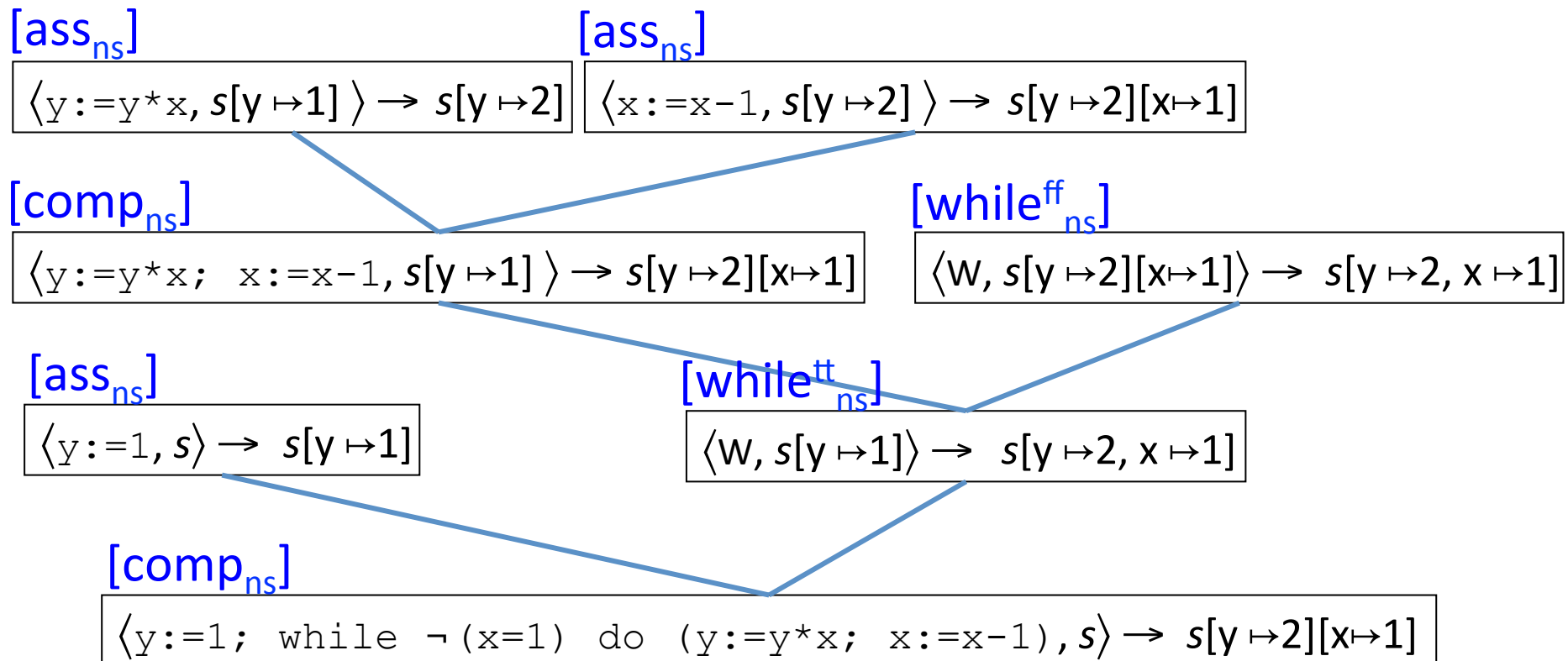


# Top-down evaluation via derivation trees

- Given a statement  $S$  and an input state  $s$  find an output state  $s'$  such that  $\langle S, s \rangle \rightarrow s'$
- Start with the root and repeatedly apply rules until the axioms are reached
  - Inspect different alternatives in order
- In While  $s'$  and the derivation tree is unique

# Top-down evaluation example

- Factorial program with  $s \ x = 2$
- Shorthand:  $W = \text{while } \neg(x=1) \text{ do } (y := y * x; x := x - 1)$



# Program termination

- Given a statement  $S$  and input  $s$ 
  - $S$  **terminates** on  $s$  if there exists a state  $s'$  such that  $\langle S, s \rangle \rightarrow s'$
  - $S$  **loops** on  $s$  if there is no state  $s'$  such that  $\langle S, s \rangle \rightarrow s'$
- Given a statement  $S$ 
  - $S$  **always terminates** if  
for every input state  $s$ ,  $S$  terminates on  $s$
  - $S$  **always loops** if  
for every input state  $s$ ,  $S$  loops on  $s$

# Semantic equivalence

- $S_1$  and  $S_2$  are **semantically equivalent** if for all  $s$  and  $s'$   
 $\langle S_1, s \rangle \rightarrow s'$  if and only if  $\langle S_2, s \rangle \rightarrow s'$
- Simple example  
`while  $b$  do  $S$`   
is semantically equivalent to:  
`if  $b$  then ( $S$ ; while  $b$  do  $S$ ) else skip`  
– Read proof in pages 26-27

# Properties of natural semantics

- Equivalence of program constructs
  - **skip ; skip** is semantically equivalent to **skip**
  - $((S_1; S_2); S_3)$  is semantically equivalent to  $(S_1; (S_2; S_3))$
  - $(x := 5; y := x * 8)$  is semantically equivalent to  $(x := 5; y := 40)$

Equivalence of  $(S_1; S_2); S_3$  and  $S_1; (S_2; S_3)$

# Equivalence of $(S_1; S_2); S_3$ and $S_1; (S_2; S_3)$

Assume  $\langle (S_1; S_2); S_3, s \rangle \rightarrow s'$  then the following unique derivation tree exists:

$$\frac{\langle S_1, s \rangle \rightarrow s_1, \langle S_2, s_1 \rangle \rightarrow s_{12}}{\frac{\langle (S_1; S_2), s \rangle \rightarrow s_{12}, \langle S_3, s_{12} \rangle \rightarrow s'}{\langle (S_1; S_2); S_3, s \rangle \rightarrow s'}}$$

Using the rule applications above, we can construct the following derivation tree:

$$\frac{\langle S_1, s \rangle \rightarrow s_1, \frac{\langle S_2, s_1 \rangle \rightarrow s_{12}, \langle S_3, s_{12} \rangle \rightarrow s'}{\langle (S_2; S_3), s_{12} \rangle \rightarrow s'}}{\langle (S_1; S_2); S_3, s \rangle \rightarrow s'}$$

And vice versa.



# Deterministic semantics for **While**

- **Theorem:** for all statements  $S$  and states  $s_1, s_2$   
if  $\langle S, s \rangle \rightarrow s_1$  and  $\langle S, s \rangle \rightarrow s_2$  then  $s_1 = s_2$
- The proof uses induction on the shape of derivation trees (pages 29-30)
  - Prove that the property holds for all simple derivation trees by showing it holds for axioms
  - Prove that the property holds for all composite trees:
    - For each rule assume that the property holds for its premises (induction hypothesis) and prove it holds for the conclusion of the rule

single  
node

#nodes>1

# The semantic function $S_{ns}$

- The meaning of a statement  $S$  is defined as a partial function from **State** to **State**

$$S_{ns}: \mathbf{Stm} \rightarrow (\mathbf{State} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{State})$$

$$S_{ns} \llbracket S \rrbracket s = \begin{cases} s' & \text{if } \langle S, s \rangle \rightarrow s' \\ \text{undefined} & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

- Examples:

$$S_{ns} \llbracket \text{skip} \rrbracket s = s$$

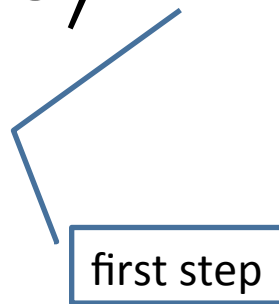
$$S_{ns} \llbracket x := 1 \rrbracket s = s [x \mapsto 1]$$

$$S_{ns} \llbracket \text{while true do skip} \rrbracket s = \text{undefined}$$

# Structural operating semantics (SOS)

- aka “Small-step semantics”

$$\langle S, s \rangle \Rightarrow \langle S', s' \rangle$$



# Structural operational semantics

- Developed by Gordon Plotkin

- Configurations:  $\gamma$  has one of two forms:

$\langle S, s \rangle$       Statement  $S$  is about to execute on state  $s$   
 $s$               Terminal (final) state

first step

- Transitions  $\langle S, s \rangle \Rightarrow \gamma$

$\gamma = \langle S', s' \rangle$  Execution of  $S$  from  $s$  is **not** completed and remaining computation proceeds from intermediate configuration  $\gamma$

$\gamma = s'$  Execution of  $S$  from  $s$  has **terminated** and the final state is  $s'$

- $\langle S, s \rangle$  is **stuck** if there is no  $\gamma$  such that  $\langle S, s \rangle \Rightarrow \gamma$

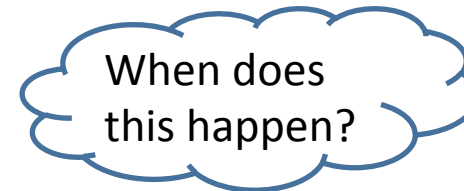
# Structural semantics for **While**

$$[\text{ass}_{\text{sos}}] \quad \langle x := a, s \rangle \Rightarrow s[x \mapsto \mathcal{A}[[a]]s]$$

$$[\text{skip}_{\text{sos}}] \quad \langle \text{skip}, s \rangle \Rightarrow s$$

$$[\text{comp}^1_{\text{sos}}] \quad \frac{\langle S_1, s \rangle \Rightarrow \langle S_1', s' \rangle}{\langle S_1; S_2, s \rangle \Rightarrow \langle S_1'; S_2, s' \rangle}$$

$$[\text{comp}^2_{\text{sos}}] \quad \frac{\langle S_1, s \rangle \Rightarrow s' \circ \circ \circ}{\langle S_1; S_2, s \rangle \Rightarrow \langle S_2, s' \rangle}$$



$$[\text{if}^{\text{tt}}_{\text{sos}}] \quad \langle \text{if } b \text{ then } S_1 \text{ else } S_2, s \rangle \Rightarrow \langle S_1, s \rangle \quad \text{if } \mathcal{B}[[b]]s = \text{tt}$$

$$[\text{if}^{\text{ff}}_{\text{sos}}] \quad \langle \text{if } b \text{ then } S_1 \text{ else } S_2, s \rangle \Rightarrow \langle S_2, s \rangle \quad \text{if } \mathcal{B}[[b]]s = \text{ff}$$

# Structural semantics for **While**

[while<sub>sos</sub>]

$$\langle \text{while } b \text{ do } S, s \rangle \Rightarrow$$
$$\langle \text{if } b \text{ then}$$
$$S; \text{while } b \text{ do } S \rangle$$
$$\text{else}$$
$$\text{skip}, s \rangle$$

# Derivation sequences

- A derivation sequence of a statement  $S$  starting in state  $s$  is either
- A **finite** sequence  $\gamma_0, \gamma_1, \gamma_2 \dots, \gamma_k$  such that
  1.  $\gamma_0 = \langle S, s \rangle$
  2.  $\gamma_i \Rightarrow \gamma_{i+1}$
  3.  $\gamma_k$  is either stuck configuration or a final state
- An **infinite** sequence  $\gamma_0, \gamma_1, \gamma_2, \dots$  such that
  1.  $\gamma_0 = \langle S, s \rangle$
  2.  $\gamma_i \Rightarrow \gamma_{i+1}$
- Notations:
  - $\gamma_0 \Rightarrow^k \gamma_k$                        $\gamma_0$  derives  $\gamma_k$  in  $k$  steps
  - $\gamma_0 \Rightarrow^* \gamma$                           $\gamma_0$  derives  $\gamma$  in a finite number of steps
- For **each** step there is a corresponding derivation tree

# Derivation sequence example

- Assume  $s_0 = [x \mapsto 5, y \mapsto 7, z \mapsto 0]$

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle (z := x; x := y); y := z, s_0 \rangle \\ & \Rightarrow \langle x := y; y := z, s_0[z \mapsto 5] \rangle \\ & \Rightarrow \langle y := z, (s_0[z \mapsto 5])[x \mapsto 7] \rangle \\ & \Rightarrow ((s_0[z \mapsto 5])[x \mapsto 7])[y \mapsto 5] \end{aligned}$$

- Derivation tree for first step:

$$\frac{\langle z := x, s_0 \rangle \Rightarrow s_0[z \mapsto 5]}{\langle z := x; x := y, s_0 \rangle \Rightarrow \langle x := y, s_0[z \mapsto 5] \rangle}$$

---

$$\langle (z := x; x := y); y := z, s_0 \rangle \Rightarrow \langle x := y; y := z, s_0[z \mapsto 5] \rangle$$



# Evaluation via derivation sequences

- For any **While** statement  $S$  and state  $s$  it is always possible to find at least one derivation sequence from  $\langle S, s \rangle$ 
  - Apply axioms and rules forever or until a terminal or stuck configuration is reached
- **Proposition:** there are no stuck configurations in **While**

# Factorial ( $n!$ ) example

- Input state  $s$  such that  $s \ x = 3$

$y := 1; \text{ while } \neg(x=1) \text{ do } (y := y * x; x := x - 1)$

$\langle y := 1; W, s \rangle$   
 $\Rightarrow \langle W, s[y \mapsto 1] \rangle$   
 $\Rightarrow \langle \text{if } \neg(x=1) \text{ then } ((y := y * x; x := x - 1); W \text{ else skip}), s[y \mapsto 1] \rangle$   
 $\Rightarrow \langle ((y := y * x; x := x - 1); W), s[y \mapsto 1] \rangle$   
 $\Rightarrow \langle (x := x - 1; W), s[y \mapsto 3] \rangle$   
 $\Rightarrow \langle W, s[y \mapsto 3][x \mapsto 2] \rangle$   
 $\Rightarrow \langle \text{if } \neg(x=1) \text{ then } ((y := y * x; x := x - 1); W \text{ else skip}), s[y \mapsto 3][x \mapsto 2] \rangle$   
 $\Rightarrow \langle ((y := y * x; x := x - 1); W), s[y \mapsto 3][x \mapsto 2] \rangle$   
 $\Rightarrow \langle (x := x - 1; W), s[y \mapsto 6][x \mapsto 2] \rangle$   
 $\Rightarrow \langle W, s[y \mapsto 6][x \mapsto 1] \rangle$   
 $\Rightarrow \langle \text{if } \neg(x=1) \text{ then } ((y := y * x; x := x - 1); W \text{ else skip}), s[y \mapsto 6][x \mapsto 1] \rangle$   
 $\Rightarrow \langle \text{skip}, s[y \mapsto 6][x \mapsto 1] \rangle$   
 $\Rightarrow s[y \mapsto 6][x \mapsto 1]$

# Program termination

- Given a statement  $S$  and input  $s$ 
  - $S$  **terminates** on  $s$  if there exists a finite derivation sequence starting at  $\langle S, s \rangle$
  - $S$  **terminates successfully** on  $s$  if there exists a finite derivation sequence starting at  $\langle S, s \rangle$  leading to a final state
  - $S$  **loops** on  $s$  if there exists an infinite derivation sequence starting at  $\langle S, s \rangle$

# Properties of structural operational semantics

- $S_1$  and  $S_2$  are **semantically equivalent** if:
  - for all  $s$  and  $\gamma$  which is either final or stuck,  
 $\langle S_1, s \rangle \Rightarrow^* \gamma$  if and only if  $\langle S_2, s \rangle \Rightarrow^* \gamma$
  - for all  $s$ , there is an infinite derivation sequence starting at  $\langle S_1, s \rangle$  if and only if there is an infinite derivation sequence starting at  $\langle S_2, s \rangle$
- **Theorem: While** is deterministic:
  - If  $\langle S, s \rangle \Rightarrow^* s_1$  and  $\langle S, s \rangle \Rightarrow^* s_2$  then  $s_1 = s_2$

# Sequential composition

- **Lemma:** If  $\langle S_1; S_2, s \rangle \Rightarrow^k s''$  then there exists  $s'$  and  $k=m+n$  such that  $\langle S_1, s \rangle \Rightarrow^m s'$  and  $\langle S_2, s' \rangle \Rightarrow^n s''$
- The proof (pages 37-38) uses induction on the length of derivation sequences
  - Prove that the property holds for all derivation sequences of length 0
  - Prove that the property holds for all other derivation sequences:
    - Show that the property holds for sequences of length  $k+1$  using the fact it holds on all sequences of length  $k$  (induction hypothesis)

# The semantic function $S_{\text{sos}}$

- The meaning of a statement  $S$  is defined as a partial function from **State** to **State**

$$S_{\text{sos}}: \mathbf{Stm} \rightarrow (\mathbf{State} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{State})$$

$$S_{\text{sos}} \llbracket S \rrbracket s = \begin{cases} s' & \text{if } \langle S, s \rangle \Rightarrow^* s' \\ \text{undefined} & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

- Examples:

$$S_{\text{sos}} \llbracket \text{skip} \rrbracket s = s$$

$$S_{\text{sos}} \llbracket x := 1 \rrbracket s = s [x \mapsto 1]$$

$$S_{\text{sos}} \llbracket \text{while true do skip} \rrbracket s = \text{undefined}$$

# An equivalence result

- For every statement in **While**

$$S_{ns} \llbracket S \rrbracket = S_{sos} \llbracket S \rrbracket$$

- Proof in pages 40-43

The End