

# Program Analysis and Verification

0368-4479

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

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Lecture 13: Numerical, Pointer & Shape Domains

Slides credit: Roman Manevich, Mooly Sagiv, Eran Yahav, Ganesan Ramalingam

# Abstract Interpretation [Cousot'77]

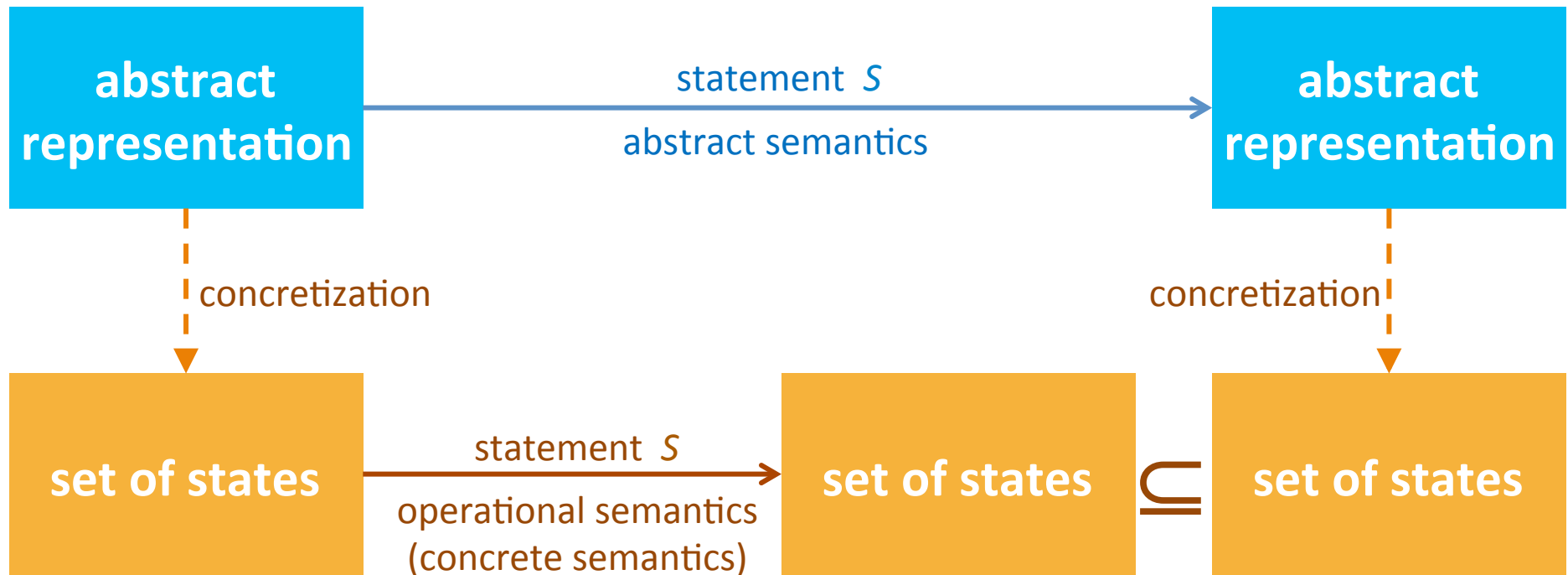
- **Mathematical** foundation of static analysis
  - Abstract domains
    - Abstract states
    - Join ( $\sqcup$ )
  - Transformer functions
    - Abstract steps
  - Chaotic iteration
    - Abstract computation
    - Structured Programs

Lattices  
( $D, \sqsubseteq, \sqcup, \sqcap, \perp, \top$ )

Monotonic  
functions

Fixpoints

# Abstract (conservative) interpretation



# The collecting lattice

- Lattice for a given control-flow node  $v$ :

$$L_v = (2^{\text{State}}, \subseteq, \cup, \cap, \emptyset, \mathbf{State})$$

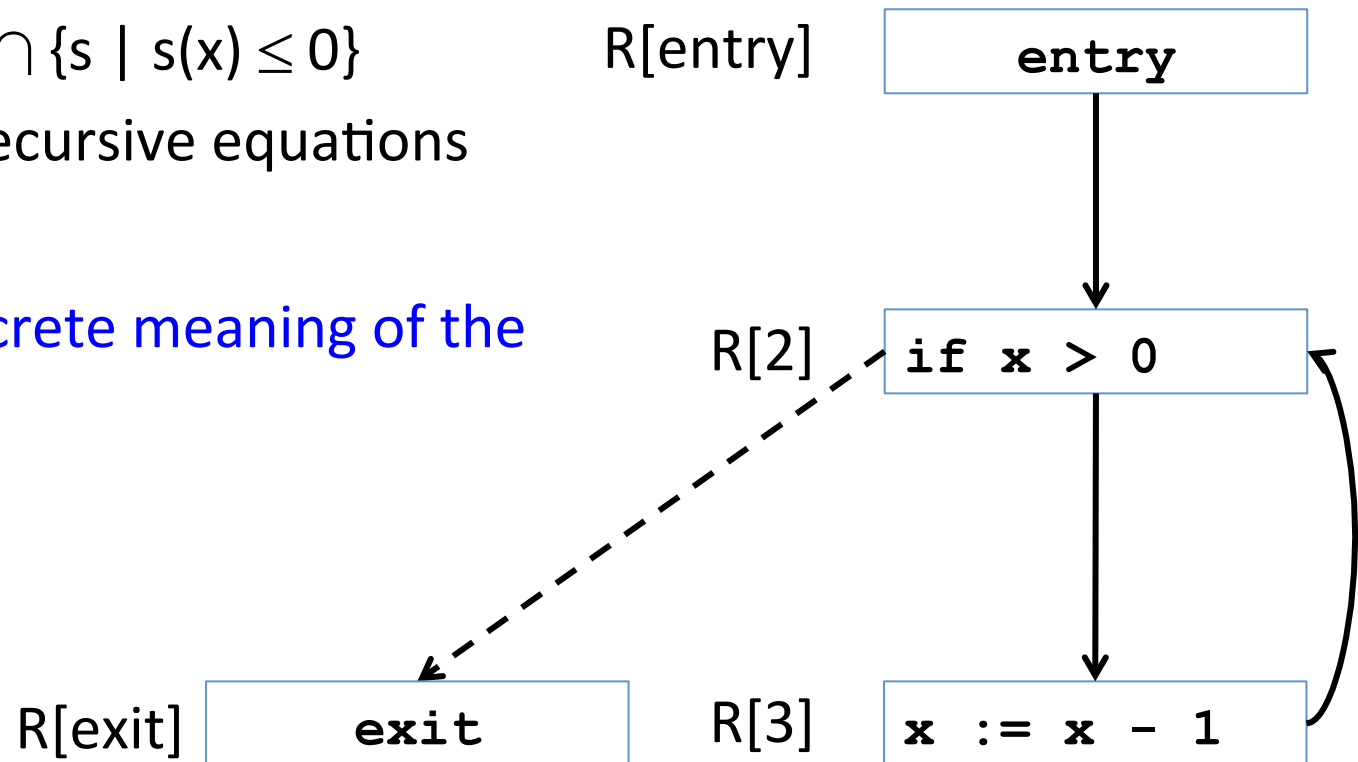
- Lattice for entire control-flow graph with nodes  $V$ :

$$L_{\text{CFG}} = \text{Map}(V, L_v)$$

- We will use this lattice as a baseline for static analysis and define abstractions of its elements

# Equational definition of the semantics

- $R[2] = R[\text{entry}] \cup \llbracket \mathbf{x} := \mathbf{x} - 1 \rrbracket R[3]$
- $R[3] = R[2] \cap \{s \mid s(x) > 0\}$
- $R[\text{exit}] = R[2] \cap \{s \mid s(x) \leq 0\}$
- A system of recursive equations
- Solution: concrete meaning of the program



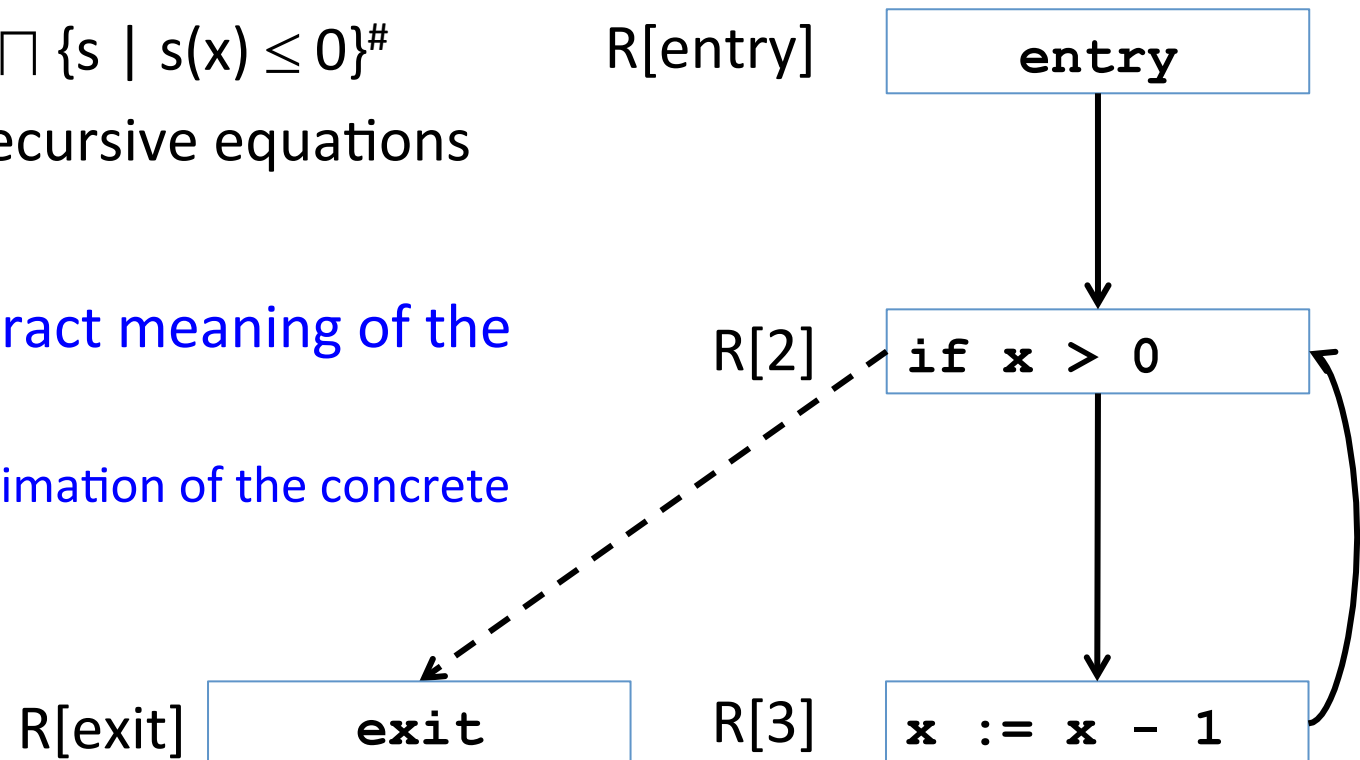
# An abstract semantics

- $R[2] = R[\text{entry}] \sqcup \llbracket \mathbf{x} := \mathbf{x} - 1 \rrbracket^\# R[3]$
- $R[3] = R[2] \sqcap \{s \mid s(x) > 0\}^\#$
- $R[\text{exit}] = R[2] \sqcap \{s \mid s(x) \leq 0\}^\#$
- A system of recursive equations

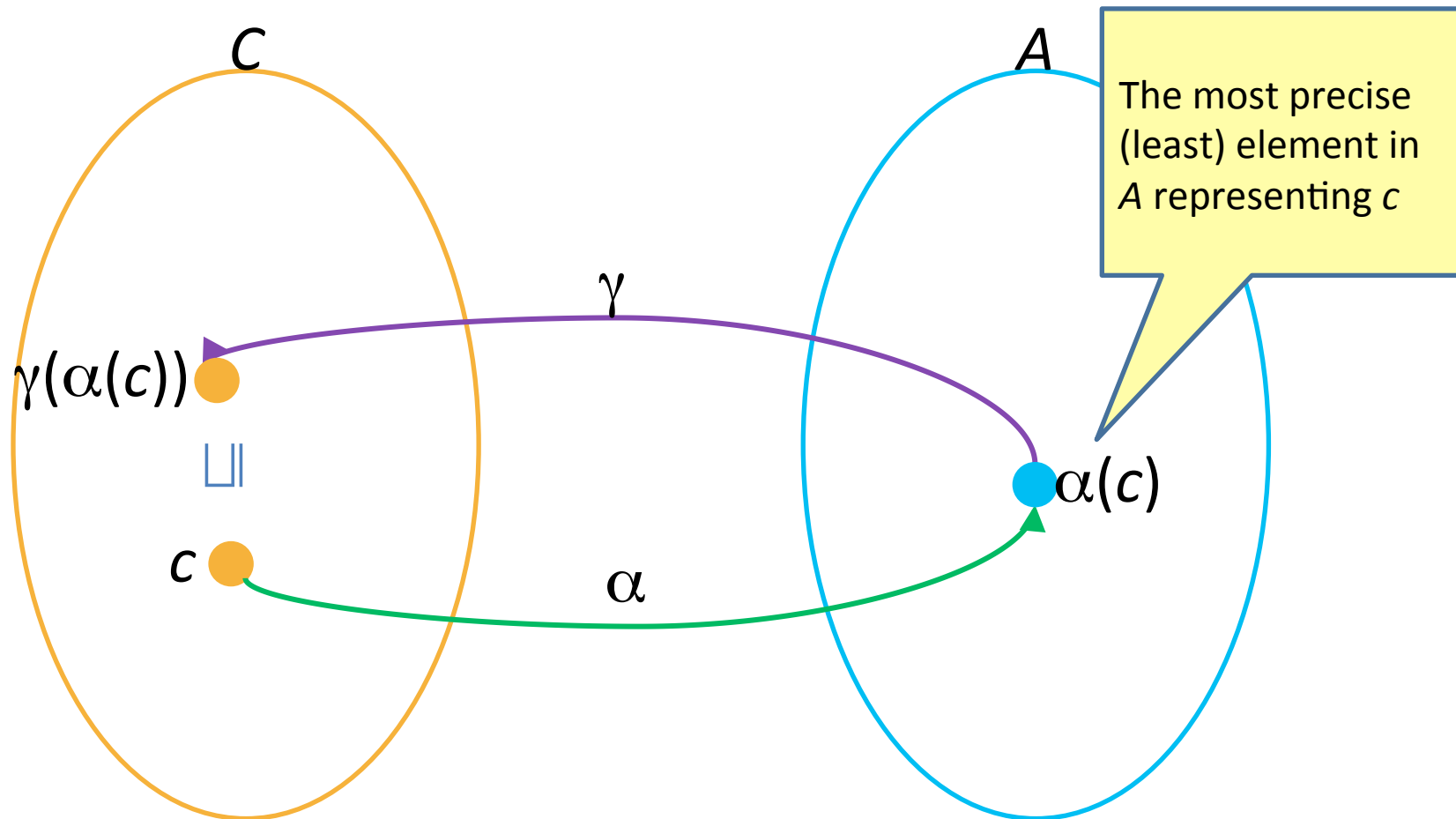
Abstract transformer for  $\mathbf{x} := \mathbf{x} - 1$

Abstract representation of  $\{s \mid s(x) < 0\}$

- Solution: abstract meaning of the program
  - Over-approximation of the concrete semantics



# Galois Connection: $c \sqsubseteq \gamma(\alpha(c))$



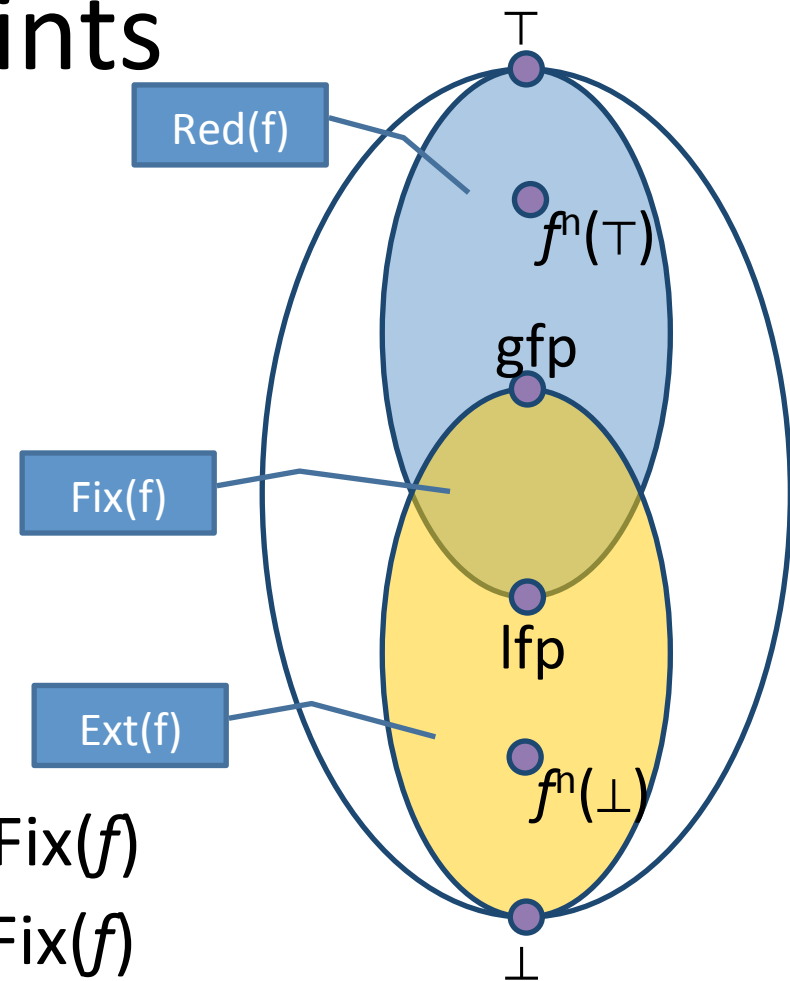
# Monotone functions

- Let  $L_1=(D_1, \sqsubseteq)$  and  $L_2=(D_2, \sqsubseteq)$  be two posets
- A function  $f: D_1 \rightarrow D_2$  is **monotone** if for every pair  $x, y \in D_1$   
 $x \sqsubseteq y$  implies  $f(x) \sqsubseteq f(y)$
- A special case:  $L_1=L_2=(D, \sqsubseteq)$   
 $f: D \rightarrow D$



# Fixed-points

- $L = (D, \sqsubseteq, \sqcup, \sqcap, \perp, \top)$
- $f : D \rightarrow D$  **monotone**
- $\text{Fix}(f) = \{ d \mid f(d) = d \}$
- $\text{Red}(f) = \{ d \mid f(d) \sqsubseteq d \}$
- $\text{Ext}(f) = \{ d \mid d \sqsubseteq f(d) \}$
- **Theorem** [Tarski 1955]
  - $\text{lfp}(f) = \sqcap \text{Fix}(f) = \sqcap \text{Red}(f) \in \text{Fix}(f)$
  - $\text{gfp}(f) = \sqcup \text{Fix}(f) = \sqcup \text{Ext}(f) \in \text{Fix}(f)$



1. A solution always exist
2. It unique
3. Not always computable

# Continuity and ACC condition

- Let  $L = (D, \sqsubseteq, \sqcup, \perp)$  be a complete partial order
  - Every ascending chain has an upper bound

- A function  $f$  is **continuous** if for every increasing chain  $Y \subseteq D^*$ ,

$$f(\sqcup Y) = \sqcup \{ f(y) \mid y \in Y \}$$

- $L$  satisfies the **ascending chain condition** (ACC) if every ascending chain eventually stabilizes:

$$d_0 \sqsubseteq d_1 \sqsubseteq \dots \sqsubseteq d_n = d_{n+1} = \dots$$

# Fixed-point theorem [Kleene]

- Let  $L = (D, \sqsubseteq, \sqcup, \perp)$  be a complete partial order and a **continuous** function  $f: D \rightarrow D$  then

$$\text{lfp}(f) = \bigsqcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} f^n(\perp)$$

- **Lemma:** Monotone functions on posets satisfying ACC are continuous

# Resulting algorithm

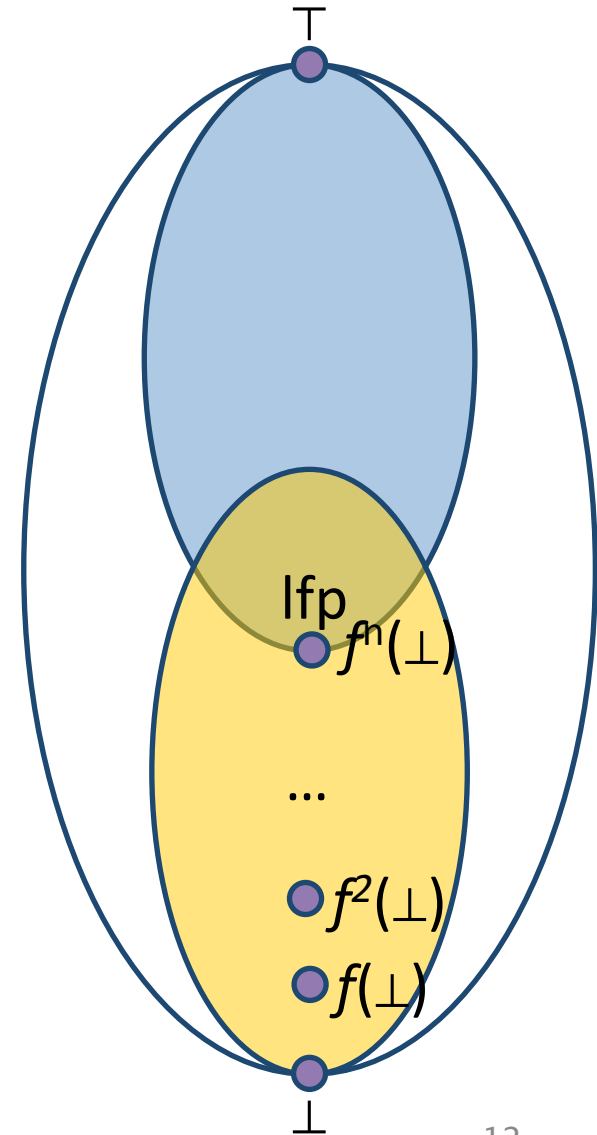
- Kleene's fixed point theorem gives a constructive method for computing the lfp

Mathematical definition

$$\text{lfp}(f) = \bigsqcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} f^n(\perp)$$

Algorithm

```
 $d := \perp$   
while  $f(d) \neq d$  do  
   $d := d \sqcup f(d)$   
return  $d$ 
```



# Sound abstract transformer

- Given two lattices

$$C = (D^C, \sqsubseteq^C, \sqcup^C, \sqcap^C, \perp^C, \top^C)$$

$$A = (D^A, \sqsubseteq^A, \sqcup^A, \sqcap^A, \perp^A, \top^A)$$

and  $GC^{C,A} = (C, \alpha, \gamma, A)$  with

- A concrete transformer  $f : D^C \rightarrow D^C$   
an abstract transformer  $f^\# : D^A \rightarrow D^A$
- We say that  $f^\#$  is a **sound transformer** (w.r.t.  $f$ ) if
  - $\forall c: \alpha(f(c)) \sqsubseteq f^\#(\alpha(c))$
  - $\forall a: \alpha(f(\gamma(a))) \sqsubseteq^A f^\#(a)$

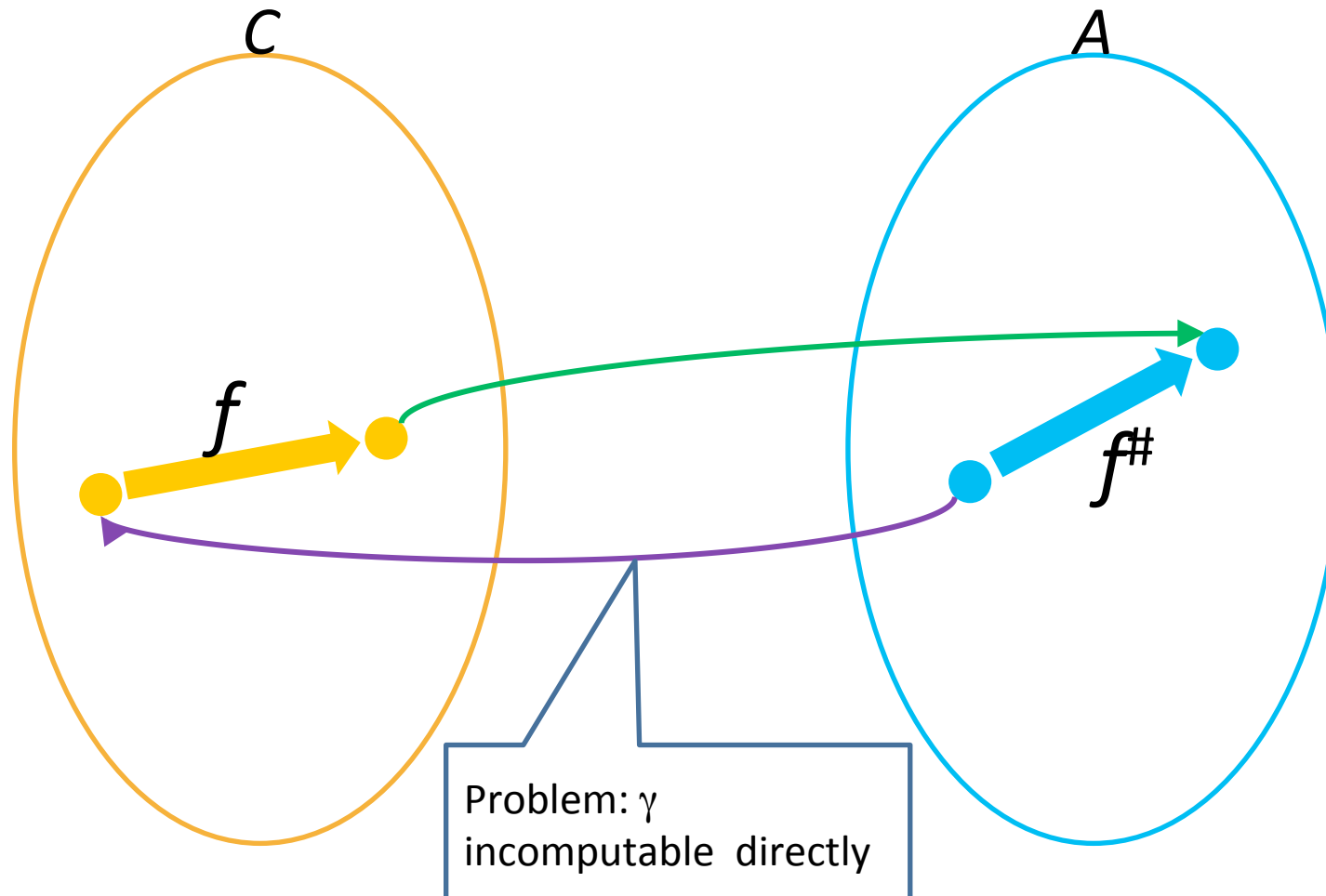
# Soundness

1. Given two complete lattices  
 $C = (D^C, \sqsubseteq^C, \sqcup^C, \sqcap^C, \perp^C, \top^C)$   
 $A = (D^A, \sqsubseteq^A, \sqcup^A, \sqcap^A, \perp^A, \top^A)$   
and  $GC^{C,A} = (C, \alpha, \gamma, A)$  with
2. Monotone concrete transformer  $f : D^C \rightarrow D^C$
3. Monotone abstract transformer  $f^\# : D^A \rightarrow D^A$
4. Either  $\forall a \in D^A : f(\gamma(a)) \sqsubseteq \gamma(f^\#(a))$   
or  $\forall c \in D^C : \alpha(f(c)) \sqsubseteq f^\#(\alpha(c))$

Then  $\text{lfp}(f) \sqsubseteq \gamma(\text{lfp}(f^\#))$  and  $\alpha(\text{lfp}(f)) \sqsubseteq \text{lfp}(f^\#)$

# Best (induced) transformer [CC'77]

$$f^\#(a) = \alpha(f(\gamma(a)))$$



# Fixed-point theorem [Kleene]

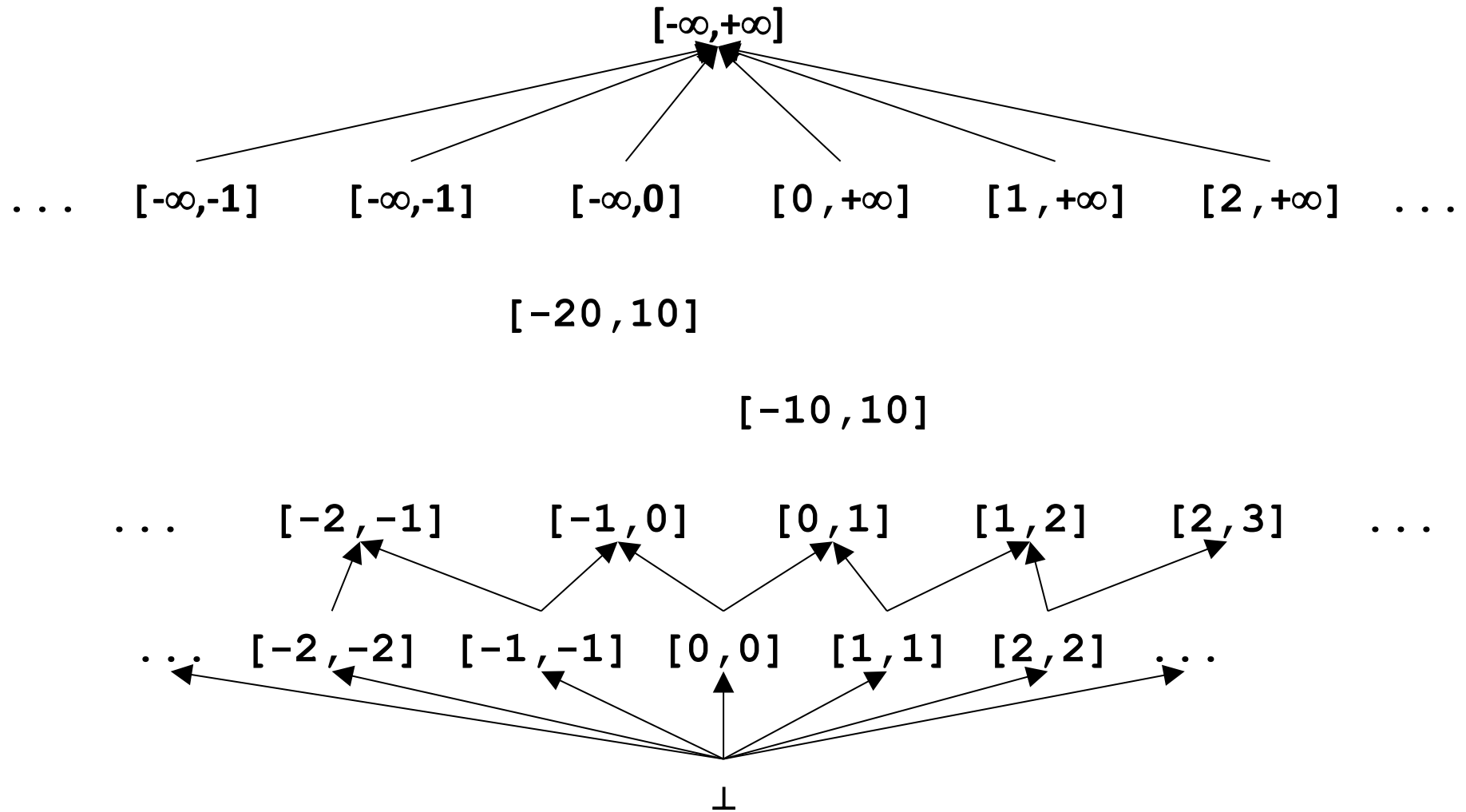
- Let  $L = (D, \sqsubseteq, \sqcup, \perp)$  be a complete partial order and a **continuous** function  $f: D \rightarrow D$  then

$$\text{lfp}(f) = \bigsqcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} f^n(\perp)$$

- **Lemma:** Monotone functions on posets satisfying ACC are continuous
- **What if ACC does not hold?**



# Intervals lattice for variable $x$



# Intervals lattice for variable $x$

- $D^{\text{int}}[x] = \{ (L,H) \mid L \in -\infty, \mathbf{Z} \text{ and } H \in \mathbf{Z}, +\infty \text{ and } L \leq H \}$
- $\perp$
- $\top = [-\infty, +\infty]$
- $\sqsubseteq = ?$ 
  - $[1,2] \sqsubseteq [3,4] ?$
  - $[1,4] \sqsubseteq [1,3] ?$
  - $[1,3] \sqsubseteq [1,4] ?$
  - $[1,3] \sqsubseteq [-\infty, +\infty] ?$
- What is the lattice height?

# Joining/meeting intervals

- $[a,b] \sqcup [c,d] = [\min(a,c), \max(b,d)]$ 
  - $[1,1] \sqcup [2,2] = [1,2]$
  - $[1,1] \sqcup [2,+\infty] = [1,+\infty]$
- $[a,b] \cap [c,d] = [\max(a,c), \min(b,d)]$  if a proper interval and otherwise  $\perp$ 
  - $[1,2] \cap [3,4] = \perp$
  - $[1,4] \cap [3,4] = [3,4]$
  - $[1,1] \cap [1,+\infty] = [1,1]$
- Check that indeed  $x \sqsubseteq y$  if and only if  $x \sqcup y = y$

# Interval domain for programs

- $D^{\text{int}}[x] = \{ (L,H) \mid L \in -\infty, \mathbf{Z} \text{ and } H \in \mathbf{Z}, +\infty \text{ and } L \leq H \}$
- For a program with variables  $Var = \{x_1, \dots, x_k\}$
- $D^{\text{int}}[Var] = D^{\text{int}}[x_1] \times \dots \times D^{\text{int}}[x_k]$
- How can we represent it in terms of formulas?
  - Two types of factoids  $x \geq c$  and  $x \leq c$
  - Example:  $S = \wedge \{x \geq 9, y \geq 5, y \leq 10\}$
  - Helper operations
    - $c + +\infty = +\infty$
    - $\text{remove}(S, x) = S$  without any  $x$ -constraints
    - $\text{lb}(S, x) = k$  if  $k \leq x \leq m$
    - $\text{ub}(S, x) = m$  if  $k \leq x \leq m$

# Assignment transformers

- $\llbracket x := c \rrbracket \# S = \text{remove}(S, x) \cup \{x \geq c, x \leq c\}$
- $\llbracket x := y \rrbracket \# S = \text{remove}(S, x) \cup \{x \geq \text{lb}(S, y), x \leq \text{ub}(S, y)\}$
- $\llbracket x := y + c \rrbracket \# S = \text{remove}(S, x) \cup \{x \geq \text{lb}(S, y) + c, x \leq \text{ub}(S, y) + c\}$
- $\llbracket x := y + z \rrbracket \# S = \text{remove}(S, x) \cup \{x \geq \text{lb}(S, y) + \text{lb}(S, z),$   
 $x \leq \text{ub}(S, y) + \text{ub}(S, z)\}$
- $\llbracket x := y * c \rrbracket \# S = \text{remove}(S, x) \cup \text{if } c > 0 \{x \geq \text{lb}(S, y) * c, x \leq \text{ub}(S, y) * c\}$   
 $\text{else } \{x \geq \text{ub}(S, y) * -c, x \leq \text{lb}(S, y) * -c\}$
- $\llbracket x := y * z \rrbracket \# S = \text{remove}(S, x) \cup ?$

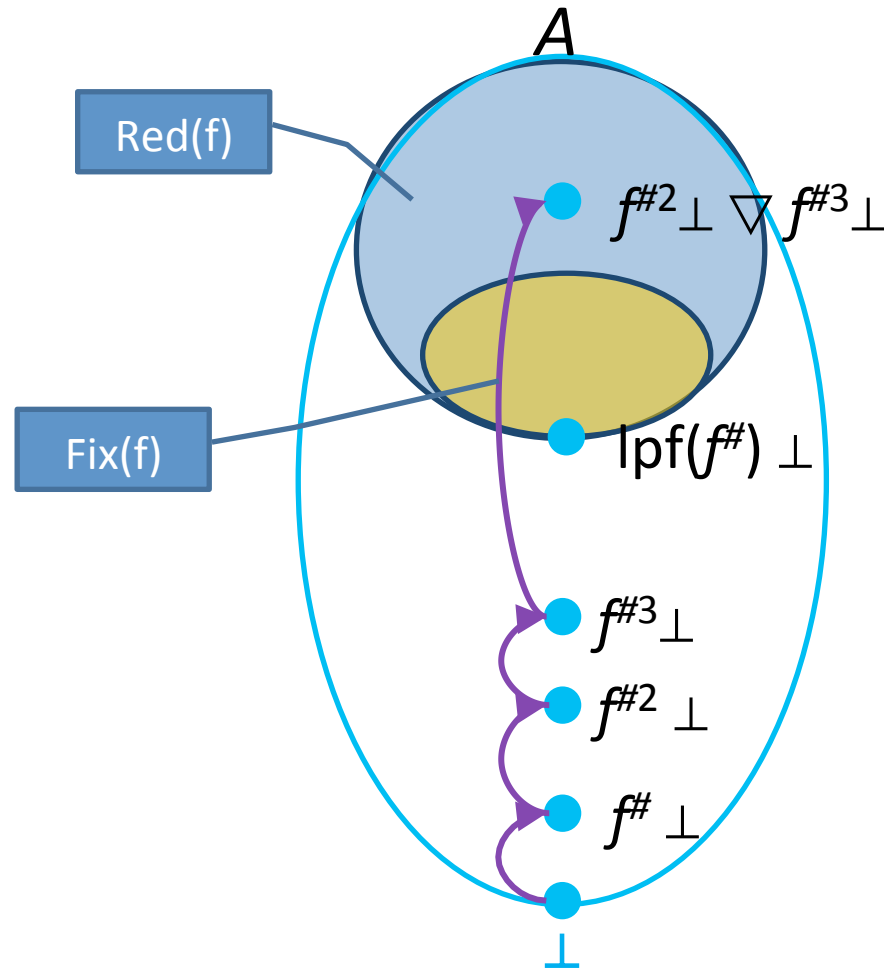
# assume transformers

- $\llbracket \text{assume } x=c \rrbracket \# S = S \sqcap \{x \geq c, x \leq c\}$
- $\llbracket \text{assume } x < c \rrbracket \# S = S \sqcap \{x \leq c-1\}$
- $\llbracket \text{assume } x=y \rrbracket \# S = S \sqcap \{x \geq \text{lb}(S,y), x \leq \text{ub}(S,y)\}$
- $\llbracket \text{assume } x \neq c \rrbracket \# S = (S \sqcap \{x \leq c-1\}) \sqcup (S \sqcap \{x \geq c+1\})$

# Too many iterations to converge

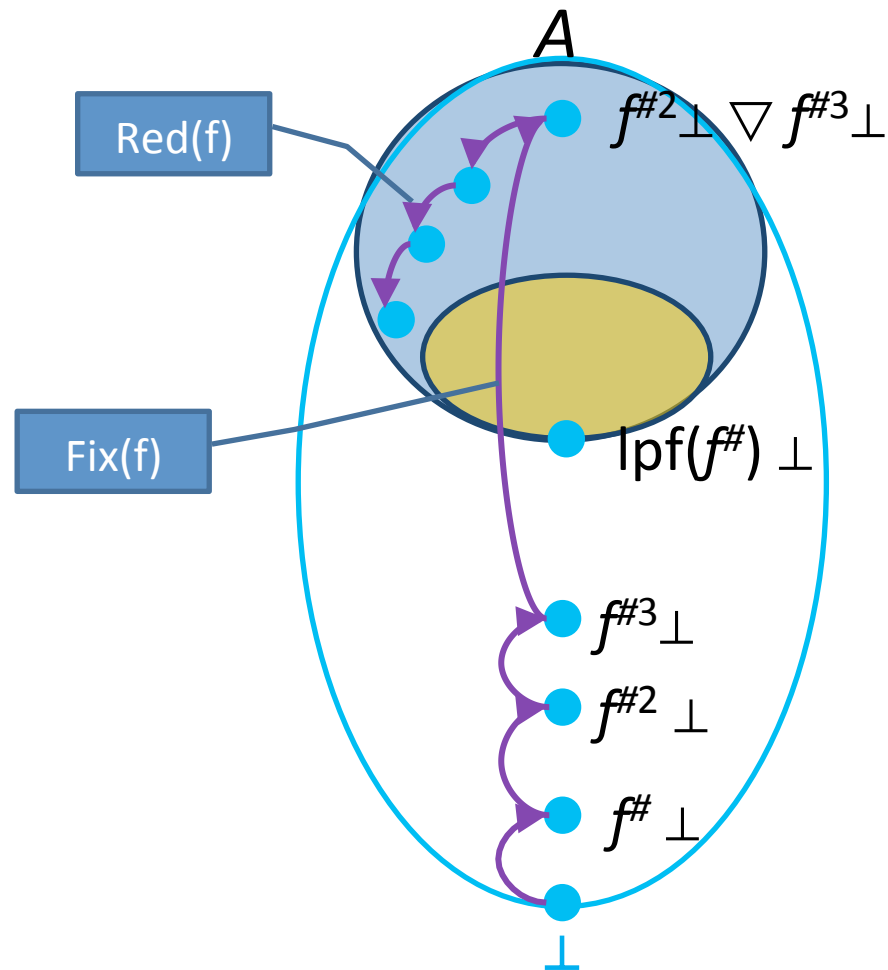
```
Iteration 3981: processing V[8] = Interval[x==1000](V[6]) // if x == 1000 goto return
    V[8] : false
    V[6] : and(x=1000)
    V[8]' : and(x=1000)
    Adding [V[12] = Join_IntervalDomain(V[8], V[10]) // return]
    workSet = {V[12]}
Iteration 3982: processing V[12] = Join_IntervalDomain(V[8], V[10]) // return
    V[12] : false
    V[8] : and(x=1000)
    V[10] : false
    V[12]' : and(x=1000)
    Adding [V[11] = V[12] // return]
    workSet = {V[11]}
Iteration 3983: processing V[11] = V[12] // return
    V[11] : false
    V[12] : and(x=1000)
    V[11]' : and(x=1000)
    Adding []
Reached fixed-point after 3983 iterations.
Solution = {
    V[0] : true
    V[1] : true
    V[2] : and(x=7)
    V[3] : and(x=7)
    V[4] : and(8<=x<=1000)
    V[7] : and(7<=x<=1000)
    V[5] : and(7<=x<=999)
    V[6] : and(x=1000)
    V[8] : and(x=1000)
    V[9] : false
    V[10] : false
    V[12] : and(x=1000)
    V[11] : and(x=1000)
}
0 possible errors found.
Writing to sootOutput\IntervalExample.jimple
Soot finished on Wed Jun 12 06:24:14 IDT 2013
Soot has run for 0 min. 1 sec.}
```

# Analysis with widening





# Analysis with narrowing



# Overview

- Goal: infer numeric properties of program variables (integers, floating point)
- Applications
  - Detect division by zero, overflow, out-of-bound array access
  - Help non-numerical domains
- Classification
  - Non-relational
  - (Weakly-)relational
  - Equalities / Inequalities
  - Linear / non-linear
  - Exotic

# Implementation

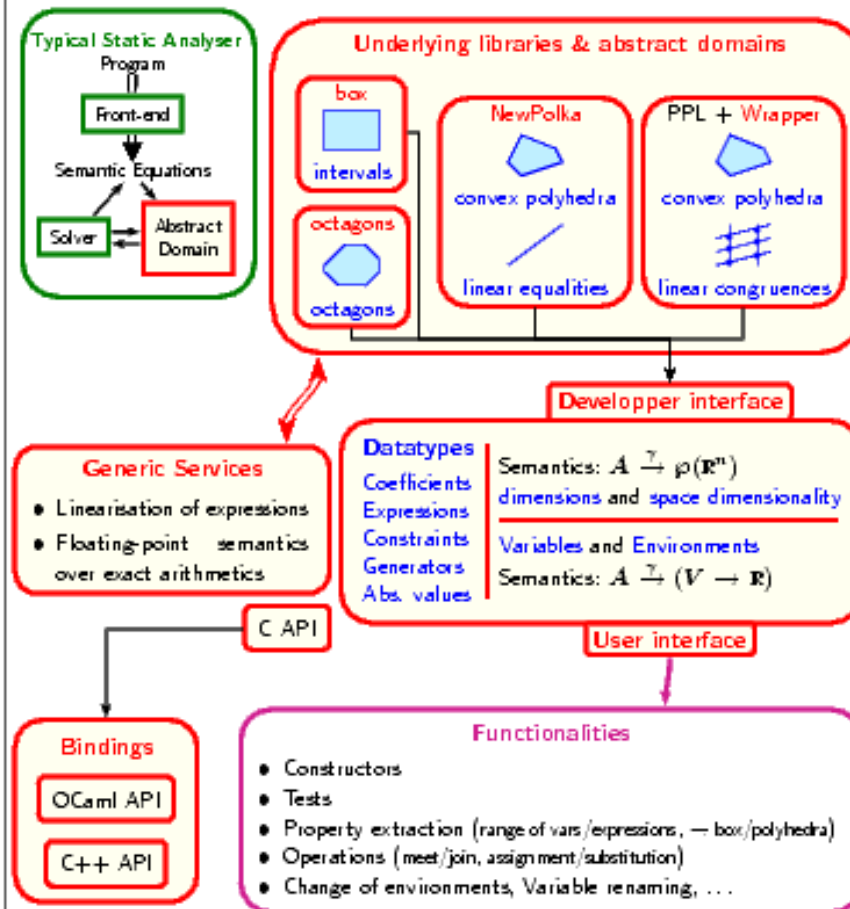
The APRON library for Numerical Abstract Domains

<http://apron.cri.enmp.fr/>

CRI/École des Mines — École Normale Supérieure — École Polytechnique — Verimag/CNRS — INRIA  
Bertrand Jeannot & Antoine Miné

**What ?** Unified higher-level interface for numerical abstract domains

**Why ?** Comparing/Exchanging abstract domains in analysis tools  
Sharing common services between libraries

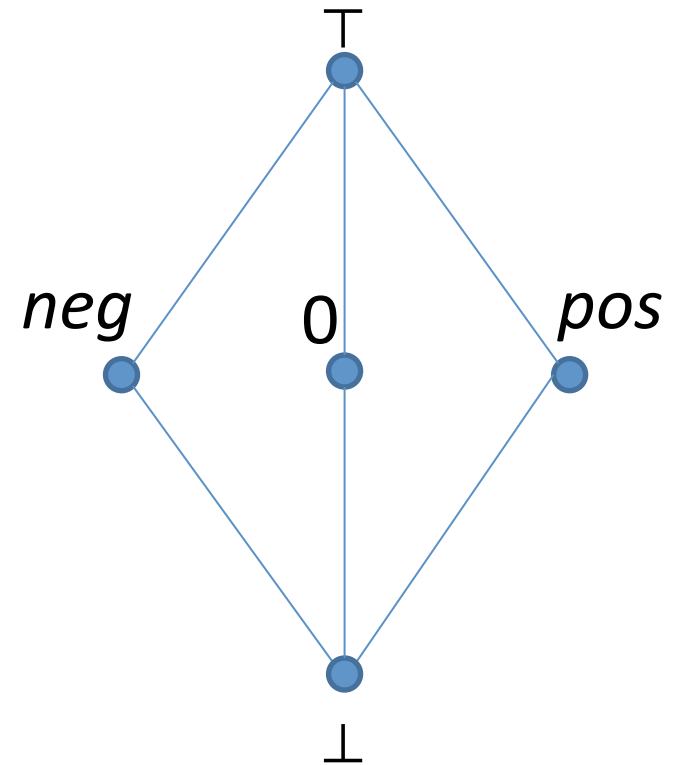


# Non-relational abstractions

- Abstract each variable individually
  - Constant propagation [Kildall'73]
  - Sign
  - Parity (congruences)
  - Intervals (Box)

# Sign abstraction for variable $x$

- Concrete lattice:  $C = (2^{\text{State}}, \subseteq, \cup, \cap, \emptyset, \mathbf{State})$
- $Sign = \{\perp, neg, 0, pos, \top\}$
- $GC^{C, Sign} = (C, \alpha, \gamma, Sign)$
- $\gamma(\perp) = ?$
- $\gamma(neg) = ?$
- $\gamma(0) = ?$
- $\gamma(pos) = ?$
- $\gamma(\top) = ?$
- How can we represent  $\geq 0$ ?

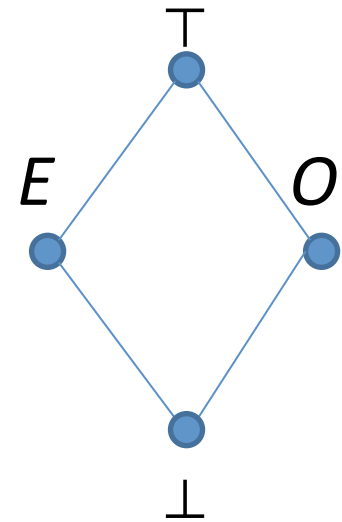


# Transformer $x:=y+z$

	$\perp$	neg	0	pos	T
$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$
neg	$\perp$	neg	neg	T	T
0	$\perp$	neg	0	pos	T
pos	$\perp$	T	pos	pos	T
T	$\perp$	T	T	T	T

# Parity abstraction for variable $x$

- Concrete lattice:  $C = (2^{\text{State}}, \subseteq, \cup, \cap, \emptyset, \mathbf{State})$
- $\text{Parity} = \{\perp, E, O, \top\}$
- $\text{GC}^{C, \text{Parity}} = (C, \alpha, \gamma, \text{Parity})$
- $\gamma(\perp) = ?$
- $\gamma(E) = ?$
- $\gamma(O) = ?$
- $\gamma(\top) = ?$

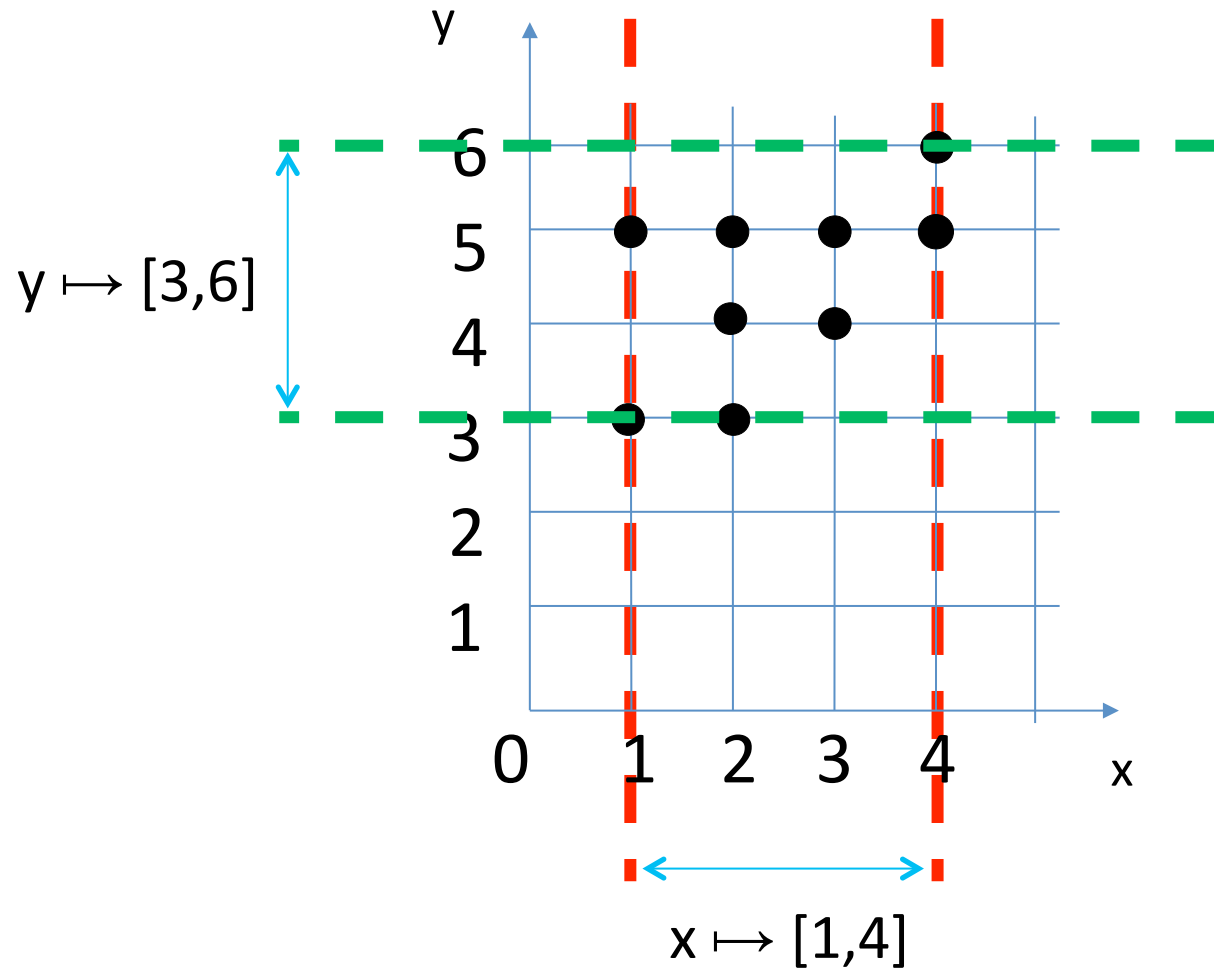


# Transformer $x:=y+z$

	$\perp$	$E$	$O$	$T$
$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$
$E$	$\perp$	$E$	$O$	$T$
$O$	$\perp$	$O$	$E$	$T$
$T$	$\perp$	$T$	$T$	$T$



# Boxes (intervals)



# Non-relational abstractions

- Cannot prove properties that hold simultaneous for several variables

–  $x = 2 * y$

–  $x \leq y$

```
public void loopExample2() {  
    int x = 7;  
    int y = x;  
    while (x < 1000) {  
        ++x;  
        ++y;  
    }  
    if (!(y == 1000))  
        error("Unable to prove y == 1000!");  
}
```

# Zone abstraction [Mine]

- Maintain bounded differences between a pair of program variables (useful for tracking array accesses)
- Abstract state is a conjunction of linear inequalities of the form  $x-y \leq c$

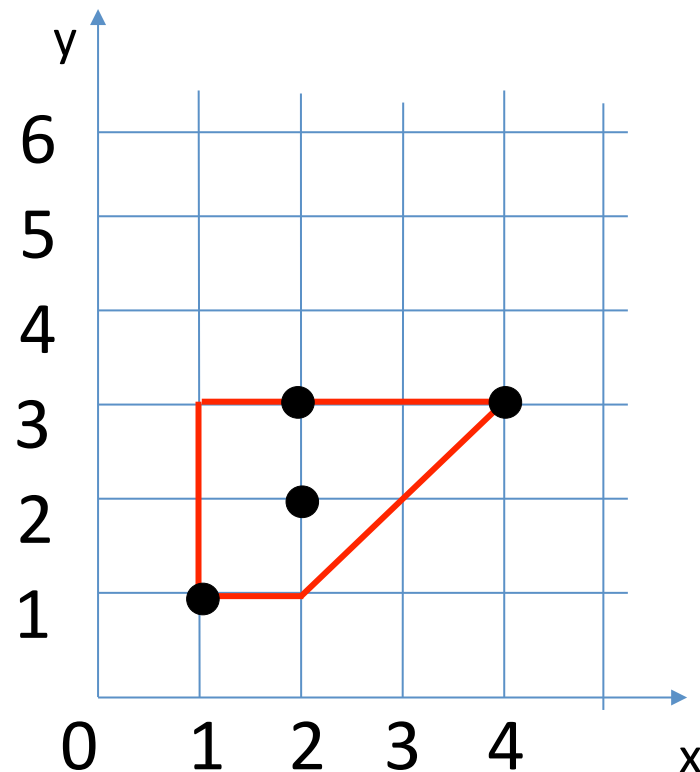
$$x \leq 4$$

$$-x \leq -1$$

$$y \leq 3$$

$$-y \leq -1$$

$$x - y \leq 1$$



# Difference bound matrices

- Add a special V0 variable for the number 0
- Represent non-existent relations between variables by  $+\infty$  entries
- Convenient for defining the partial order between two abstract elements...  $\sqsubseteq = ?$

$$x \leq 4$$

$$-x \leq -1$$

$$y \leq 3$$

$$-y \leq -1$$

$$x - y \leq 1$$

	V0	x	y
V0	$+\infty$	4	3
x	-1	$+\infty$	$+\infty$
y	-1	1	$+\infty$

# Difference bound matrices

- Add a special V0 variable for the number 0
- Represent non-existent relations between variables by  $+\infty$  entries
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$$x \leq 4$$

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$$y \leq 3$$

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$$x - y \leq 1$$

	V0	x	y
V0	$+\infty$	4	3
x	-1	$+\infty$	$+\infty$
y	-1	1	$+\infty$

# Ordering DBMs

- How should we order  $M_1 \sqsubseteq M_2$ ?

$$M_1 = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} x \leq 4 \\ -x \leq -1 \\ y \leq 3 \\ -y \leq -1 \\ x - y \leq 1 \end{array} \right.$$

	v0	x	y
v0	$+\infty$	4	3
x	-1	$+\infty$	$+\infty$
y	-1	1	$+\infty$

$$M_2 = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} x \leq 5 \\ -x \leq -1 \\ y \leq 3 \\ x - y \leq 1 \end{array} \right.$$

	v0	x	y
v0	$+\infty$	5	3
x	-1	$+\infty$	$+\infty$
y	$+\infty$	1	$+\infty$

# Widening DBMs

- How should we join  $M_1 \sqcup M_2$ ?

$$M_1 = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} x \leq 4 \\ -x \leq -1 \\ y \leq 3 \\ -y \leq -1 \\ x - y \leq 1 \end{array} \right.$$

	v0	x	y
v0	$+\infty$	4	3
x	-1	$+\infty$	$+\infty$
y	-1	1	$+\infty$

$$M_2 = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} x \leq 2 \\ -x \leq -1 \\ y \leq 0 \\ x - y \leq 1 \end{array} \right.$$

	v0	x	y
v0	$+\infty$	2	0
x	-1	$+\infty$	$+\infty$
y	$+\infty$	1	$+\infty$

# Widening DBMs

- How should we widen  $M_1 \nabla M_2$ ?

$$M_1 = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} x \leq 4 \\ -x \leq -1 \\ y \leq 3 \\ -y \leq -1 \\ x - y \leq 1 \end{array} \right.$$

	v0	x	y
v0	$+\infty$	4	3
x	-1	$+\infty$	$+\infty$
y	-1	1	$+\infty$

$$M_2 = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} x \leq 5 \\ -x \leq -1 \\ y \leq 3 \\ x - y \leq 1 \end{array} \right.$$

	v0	x	y
v0	$+\infty$	5	3
x	-1	$+\infty$	$+\infty$
y	$+\infty$	1	$+\infty$



# Potential graph

- A vertex per variable
- A directed edge with the weight of the inequality
- Enables computing semantic reduction by shortest-path algorithms

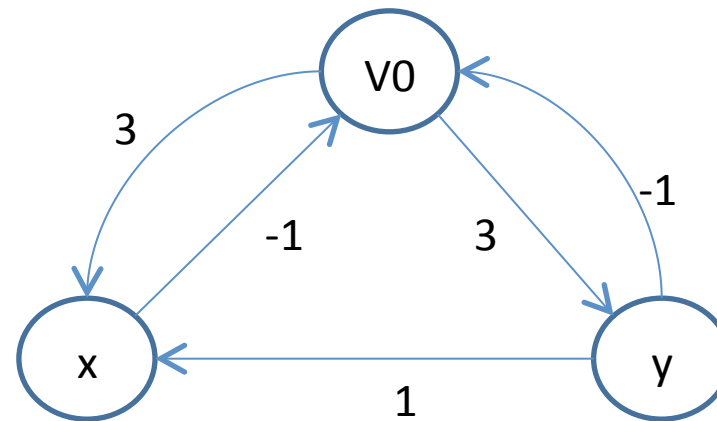
$$x \leq 4$$

$$-x \leq -1$$

$$y \leq 3$$

$$-y \leq -1$$

$$x - y \leq 1$$



Can we tell whether a system of constraints is satisfiable?

# Semantic reduction for zones

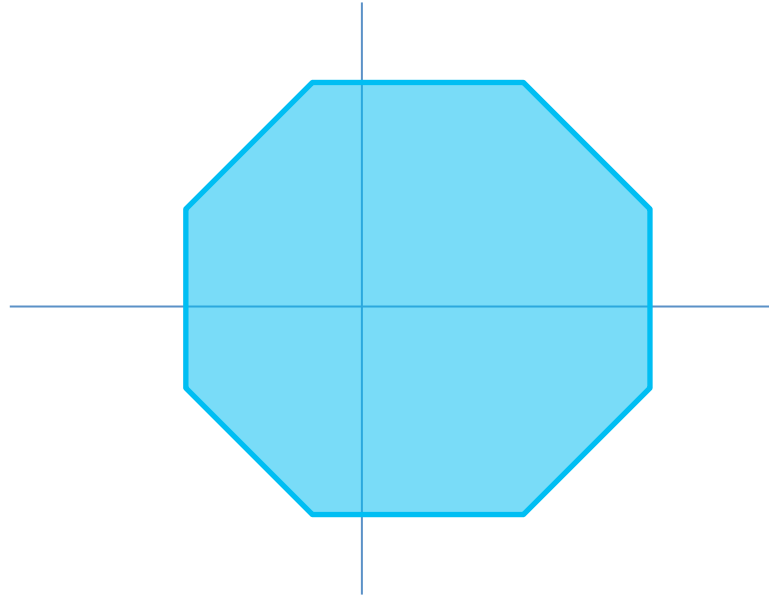
- Apply the following rule repeatedly

$$\frac{x - y \leq c \quad y - z \leq d}{x - z \leq c+d}$$

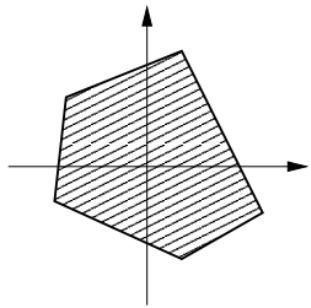
- When should we stop?
- Theorem 3.3.4. Best abstraction of potential sets and zones  
 $m^* = (\alpha^{\text{Pot}} \circ \gamma^{\text{Pot}})(m)$
- A word of caution: do not apply widening on top of semantic reduction (see 3.7.2)

# Octagon abstraction [Mine-01]

- Abstract state is an intersection of linear inequalities of the form  $\pm x \pm y \leq c$



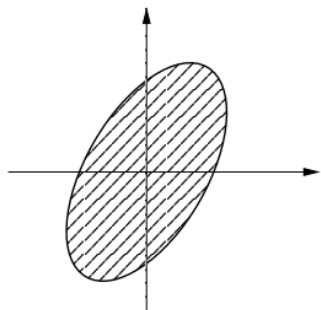
# Some inequality-based relational domains



Polyhedra

$$\sum_i \alpha_i X_i \geq \beta$$

[Cousot-Halbwachs-78]

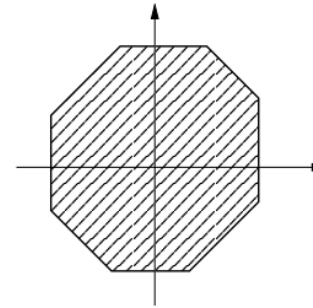


Ellipsoids

$$X^2 + \beta Y^2 + \gamma XY \leq \delta$$

[Feret-04]

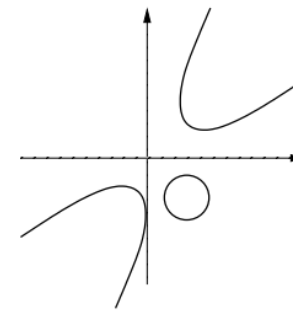
policy iteration



Octagons

$$\pm X_i \pm X_j \leq \beta$$

[Miné-01]



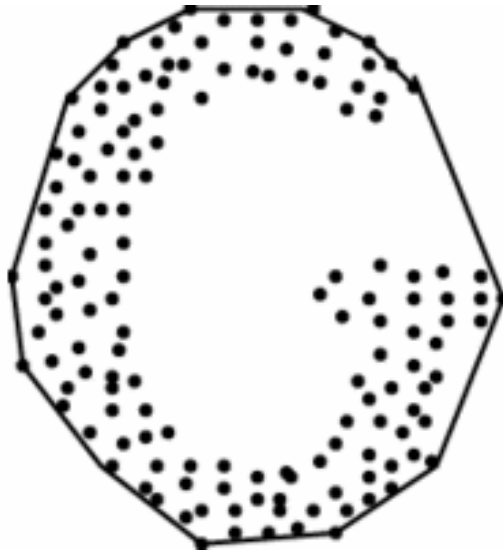
Varieties

$$P(\vec{X}) = 0, P \in \mathbb{R}[\text{Var}]$$

[Sankaranarayanan-Sipma-Mani]

# Polyhedral Abstraction

- abstract state is an intersection of linear inequalities of the form  $a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + \dots + a_nx_n \leq c$
- represent a set of points by their convex hull



(image from <http://www.cs.sunysb.edu/~algorithm/files/convex-hull.shtml>)

# Operations on Polyhedra



# Equality-based domains

- Simple congruences [Granger'89]:  $y = a \bmod k$
- **Linear relations:**  $y = a * x + b$ 
  - Join operator a little tricky
- Linear equalities [Karr'76]:  $a_1 * x_1 + \dots + a_k * x_k = c$
- Polynomial equalities:  
$$a_1 * x_1^{d_1} * \dots * x_k^{d_k} + b_1 * y_1^{z_1} * \dots * y_k^{z_k} + \dots = c$$
  - Some good results are obtainable when  $d_1 + \dots + d_k < n$  for some small  $n$

# Pointer Analysis



# Constant propagation example

```
x = 3;
```

```
y = 4;
```

```
z = x + 5;
```

# Constant propagation example with pointers

```
x = 3;
```

```
*p = 4;
```

```
z = x + 5;
```

Is **x** always **3** here?

# Constant propagation example with pointers

pointers affect most program analyses

```
p = &y;  
x = 3;  
*p = 4;  
z = (x) + 5;
```

x is always 3

```
else  
    p = &y;  
    x = 3;  
    *p = 4;  
    z = (x) + 5;
```

```
p = &x;  
x = 3;  
*p = 4;  
z = (x) + 5;
```

x is always 4

x may be 3 or 4  
(i.e., x is unknown in our lattice)

# Constant propagation example with pointers

```
p = &y;  
x = 3;  
*p = 4;  
z = (x) + 5;
```

p always  
points-to y

```
if (?)  
    p = &x;  
else  
    p = &y;  
x = 3;  
*p = 4;  
z = (x) + 5;
```

p may point-to x or y

```
p = &x;  
x = 3;  
*p = 4;  
z = (x) + 5;
```

p always  
points-to x

# Points-to Analysis

- Determine the set of targets a pointer variable could point-to (at different points in the program)
  - “**p** points-to **x**”
    - “**p** stores the value **&x**”
    - “**\*p** denotes the location **x**”
  - targets could be variables or locations in the heap (dynamic memory allocation)
    - **p = &x;**
    - **p = new Foo();** or **p = malloc (...);**
  - **must-point-to** vs. **may-point-to**

## Constant propagation example with pointers

```
*q = 3;
```

```
*p = 4;
```

```
z = *q + 5;
```

Can *\*p* denote the same location as *\*q*?

what values can this take?

# More terminology

- $*p$  and  $*q$  are said to be **aliases** (in a given concrete state) if they represent the same location
- **Alias analysis**
  - Determine if a given pair of references could be aliases at a given program point
  - $*p$  may-alias  $*q$
  - $*p$  must-alias  $*q$

# Pointer Analysis

- Points-To Analysis
  - may-point-to
  - must-point-to

- Alias Analysis
  - may-alias
  - must-alias



# Applications

- Compiler optimizations
  - Method de-virtualization
  - Call graph construction
  - Allocating objects on stack via escape analysis
- Verification & Bug Finding
  - Datarace detection
  - Use in preliminary phases
  - Use in verification itself

# Points-to analysis: a simple example

<code>p = &amp;x;</code>	<code>{p=&amp;x}</code>
<code>q = &amp;y;</code>	<code>{p=&amp;x ∧ q=&amp;y}</code>
<code>if (?) {</code>	
<code>q = p;</code>	<code>{p=&amp;x ∧ q=&amp;x}</code>
<code>}</code>	<code>{p=&amp;x ∧ (q=&amp;y ∨ q=&amp;x)}</code>
<code>x = &amp;a;</code>	<code>{p=&amp;x ∧ (q=&amp;y ∨ q=&amp;x) ∧ x=&amp;a}</code>
<code>y = &amp;b;</code>	<code>{p=&amp;x ∧ (q=&amp;y ∨ q=&amp;x) ∧ x=&amp;a ∧ y=&amp;b}</code>
<code>z = *q;</code>	<code>{p=&amp;x ∧ (q=&amp;y ∨ q=&amp;x) ∧ x=&amp;a ∧ y=&amp;b ∧ (z=x ∨ z=y)}</code>

We will usually drop variable-equality information

How would you construct an abstract domain to represent these abstract states?

# Points-to lattice

- **Points-to**

- $PT\text{-factoids}[x] = \{ x=\&y \mid y \in \text{Var} \} \cup \text{false}$

- $PT[x] = (2^{PT\text{-factoids}}, \subseteq, \cup, \cap, \text{false}, PT\text{-factoids}[x])$

- (interpreted disjunctively)

- How should combine them to get the abstract states in the example?

- $\{ p=\&x \wedge (q=\&y \vee q=\&x) \wedge x=\&a \wedge y=\&b \}$

# Points-to lattice

- **Points-to**

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- (interpreted disjunctively)

- How should combine them to get the abstract states in the example?

- $\{ p=\&x \wedge (q=\&y \vee q=\&x) \wedge x=\&a \wedge y=\&b \}$

- $D[x] = \text{Disj}(VE[x]) \times \text{Disj}(PT[x])$

- For all program variables:  $D = D[x_1] \times \dots \times D[x_k]$

# Points-to analysis

```
a = &y  
x = &a;  
y = &b;  
if (?) {  
  p = &x;  
} else {  
  p = &y;  
}  
  
*x = &c;  
*p = &c;
```

How should we handle this statement?

Strong update

~~$\{x=&a \wedge y=&b \wedge (p=&x \vee p=&y) \wedge a=&y\}$~~

$\{x=&a \wedge y=&b \wedge (p=&x \vee p=&y) \wedge a=&c\}$

$\{(x=&a \vee x=&c) \wedge (y=&b \vee y=&c) \wedge (p=&x \vee p=&y)\}$

Weak update

# Questions

- When is it **correct** to use a strong update?  
A weak update?
- Is this points-to analysis **precise**?
- What does it mean to say
  - p must-point-to x at program point u
  - p may-point-to x at program point u
  - p must-not-point-to x at program u
  - p may-not-point-to x at program u

# Points-to analysis, formally

- We must **formally** define what we want to compute before we can answer many such questions

# PWhile syntax

- A primitive statement is of the form

- $x := \text{null}$
- $x := y$
- $x := *y$
- $x := \&y;$
- $*x := y$
- skip

Omitted (for now)

- Dynamic memory allocation
- Pointer arithmetic
- Structures and fields
- Procedures

(where  $x$  and  $y$  are variables in **Var**)



# PWhile operational semantics

- **State** :  $(\text{Var} \rightarrow Z) \cup (\text{Var} \rightarrow \text{Var} \cup \{\text{null}\})$
- $\llbracket x = y \rrbracket s =$
- $\llbracket x = *y \rrbracket s =$
- $\llbracket *x = y \rrbracket s =$
- $\llbracket x = \text{null} \rrbracket s =$
- $\llbracket x = \&y \rrbracket s =$

# PWhile operational semantics

- **State** :  $(\text{Var} \rightarrow Z) \cup (\text{Var} \rightarrow \text{Var} \cup \{\text{null}\})$
- $\llbracket x = y \rrbracket s = s[x \mapsto s(y)]$
- $\llbracket x = *y \rrbracket s = s[x \mapsto s(s(y))]$
- $\llbracket *x = y \rrbracket s = s[s(x) \mapsto s(y)]$
- $\llbracket x = \text{null} \rrbracket s = s[x \mapsto \text{null}]$
- $\llbracket x = \&y \rrbracket s = s[x \mapsto y]$

must say what happens if **null** is dereferenced

# PWhile collecting semantics

- $CS[u]$  = set of concrete states that can reach program point  $u$  (CFG node)

# Ideal PT Analysis: formal definition

- Let  $u$  denote a node in the CFG
- Define **IdealMustPT**( $u$ ) to be
$$\{ (p,x) \mid \mathbf{forall} s \text{ in } CS[u]. s(p) = x \}$$
- Define **IdealMayPT**( $u$ ) to be
$$\{ (p,x) \mid \mathbf{exists} s \text{ in } CS[u]. s(p) = x \}$$

# May-point-to analysis: formal Requirement specification

## May Point-To Analysis

Compute  $R: V \rightarrow 2^{\text{Vars}'}$  such that  
 $R(u) \sim \text{IdealMayPT}(u)$   
(where  $\text{Var}' = \text{Var} \cup \{\text{null}\}$ )

For every vertex  $u$  in the CFG,  
compute a set  $R(u)$  such that  
 $R(u) \sim \{ (p,x) \mid \exists s \in \text{CS}[u]. s(p) = x \}$

# May-point-to analysis: formal Requirement specification

Compute  $R: V \rightarrow 2^{\text{Vars}'}$  such that  
 $R(u) \sim \text{IdealMayPT}(u)$

- An algorithm is said to be **correct** if the solution  $R$  it computes satisfies

$$\forall u \in V. R(u) \sim \text{IdealMayPT}(u)$$

- An algorithm is said to be **precise** if the solution  $R$  it computes satisfies

$$\forall u \in V. R(u) = \text{IdealMayPT}(u)$$

- An algorithm that computes a solution  $R_1$  is said to be **more precise** than one that computes a solution  $R_2$  if

$$\forall u \in V. R_1(u) \subseteq R_2(u)$$

(May-point-to analysis)

*Algorithm A*

- Is this algorithm correct?
- Is this algorithm precise?
- Let's first completely and formally define the algorithm

# Points-to graphs

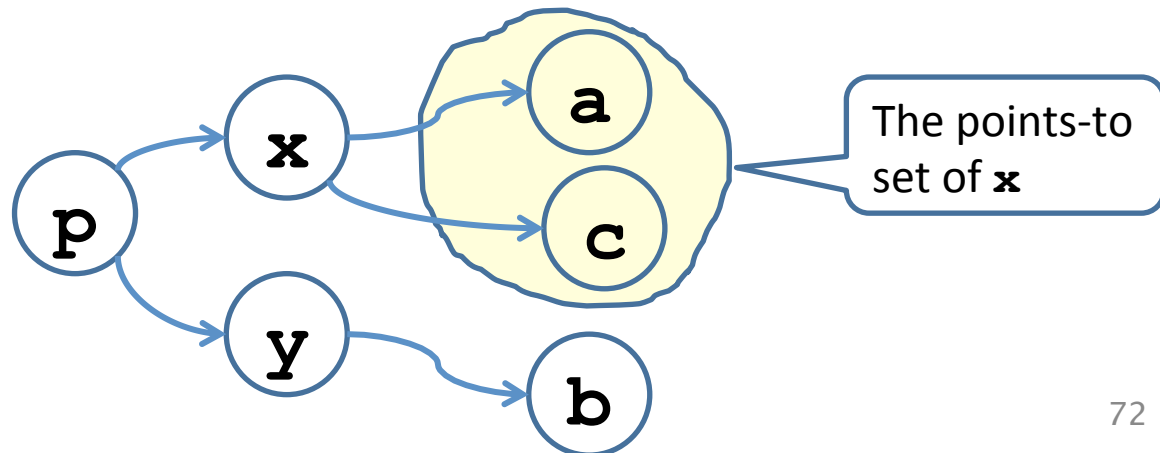
```
x = &a;  
y = &b;  
if (?) {  
  p = &x;  
} else {  
  p = &y;  
}
```

```
*x = &c;  
*p = &c;
```

$\{x=\&a \wedge y=\&b \wedge (p=\&x \vee p=\&y)\}$

$\{x=\&a \wedge y=\&b \wedge (p=\&x \vee p=\&y) \wedge a=\&c\}$

$\{(x=\&a \vee x=\&c) \wedge (y=\&b \vee y=\&c) \wedge (p=\&x \vee p=\&y)\}$





*Algorithm A: A formal definition  
the “Data Flow Analysis” Recipe*

- Define join-semilattice of abstract-values
  - $\text{PTGraph} ::= (\text{Var}, \text{Var} \times \text{Var}')$
  - $g_1 \sqcup g_2 = ?$
  - $\perp = ?$
  - $\top = ?$
- Define transformers for primitive statements
  - $\llbracket \text{stmt} \rrbracket^\# : \text{PTGraph} \rightarrow \text{PTGraph}$

## *Algorithm A: A formal definition* the “Data Flow Analysis” Recipe

- Define join-semilattice of abstract-values
  - $\text{PTGraph} ::= (\text{Var}, \text{Var} \times \text{Var}')$
  - $g_1 \sqcup g_2 = (\text{Var}, E_1 \cup E_2)$
  - $\perp = (\text{Var}, \{\})$
  - $\top = (\text{Var}, \text{Var} \times \text{Var}')$
- Define transformers for primitive statements
  - $\llbracket \text{stmt} \rrbracket^\# : \text{PTGraph} \rightarrow \text{PTGraph}$

# Algorithm A: transformers

- Abstract transformers for primitive statements
  - $\llbracket \text{stmt} \rrbracket^\# : \text{PTGraph} \rightarrow \text{PTGraph}$
- $\llbracket x := y \rrbracket^\# (\text{Var}, E) = ?$
- $\llbracket x := \text{null} \rrbracket^\# (\text{Var}, E) = ?$
- $\llbracket x := \&y \rrbracket^\# (\text{Var}, E) = ?$
- $\llbracket x := *y \rrbracket^\# (\text{Var}, E) = ?$
- $\llbracket *x := \&y \rrbracket^\# (\text{Var}, E) = ?$

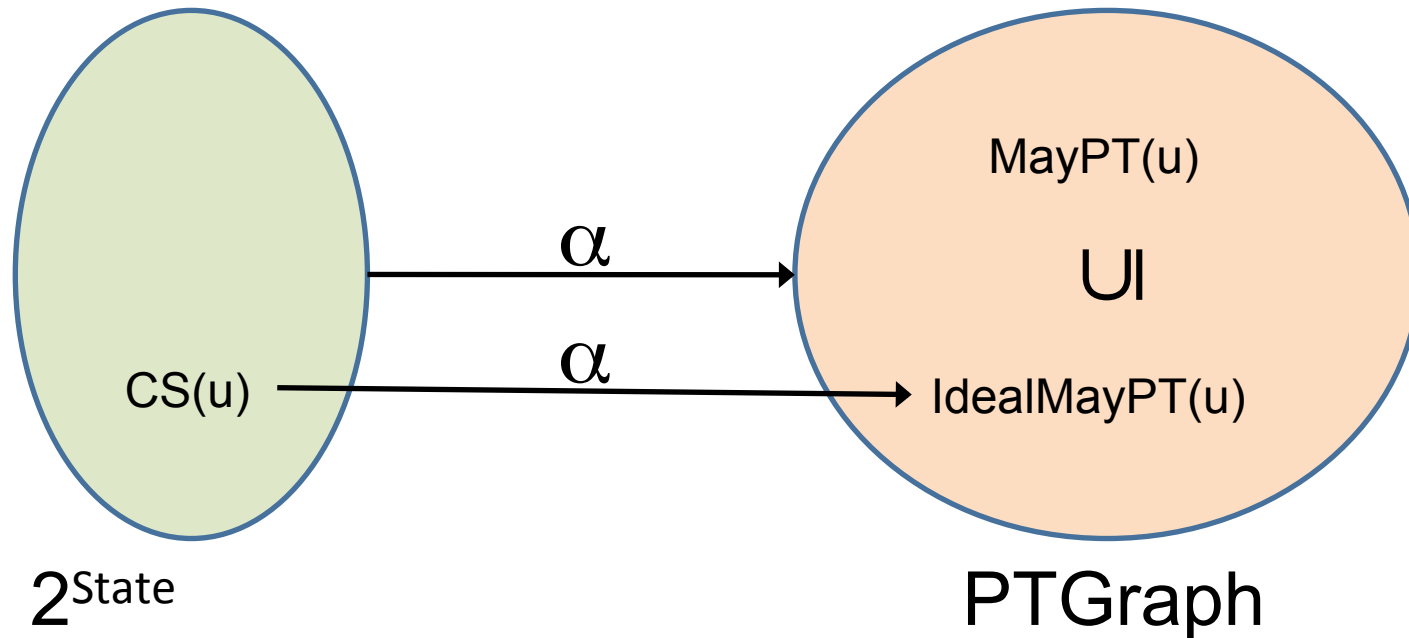
# Algorithm A: transformers

- Abstract transformers for primitive statements
  - $\llbracket \text{stmt} \rrbracket^\# : \text{PTGraph} \rightarrow \text{PTGraph}$
- $\llbracket x := y \rrbracket^\# (\text{Var}, E) = (\text{Var}, E[\text{succ}(x)=\text{succ}(y)])$
- $\llbracket x := \text{null} \rrbracket^\# (\text{Var}, E) = (\text{Var}, E[\text{succ}(x)=\{\text{null}\}])$
- $\llbracket x := \&y \rrbracket^\# (\text{Var}, E) = (\text{Var}, E[\text{succ}(x)=\{y\}])$
- $\llbracket x := *y \rrbracket^\# (\text{Var}, E) = (\text{Var}, E[\text{succ}(x)=\text{succ}(\text{succ}(y))])$
- $\llbracket *x := \&y \rrbracket^\# (\text{Var}, E) = ???$

# Correctness & precision

- We have a complete & formal definition of the problem
- We have a complete & formal definition of a proposed solution
- How do we reason about the correctness & precision of the proposed solution?

# Points-to analysis (abstract interpretation)



$$\alpha(Y) = \{ (p,x) \mid \text{exists } s \text{ in } Y. s(p) = x \}$$

$$\text{IdealMayPT}(u) = \alpha(\text{CS}(u))$$

# Concrete transformers

- $CS[stmt] : State \rightarrow State$
- $\llbracket x = y \rrbracket s = s[x \mapsto s(y)]$
- $\llbracket x = *y \rrbracket s = s[x \mapsto s(s(y))]$
- $\llbracket *x = y \rrbracket s = s[s(x) \mapsto s(y)]$
- $\llbracket x = null \rrbracket s = s[x \mapsto null]$
- $\llbracket x = \&y \rrbracket s = s[x \mapsto y]$
  
- $CS^*[stmt] : 2^{State} \rightarrow 2^{State}$
- $CS^*[st] X = \{ CS[st]s \mid s \in X \}$

# Shape Analysis



# Shape Analysis

**Automatically** verify properties of programs  
manipulating dynamically allocated storage

Identify all possible **shapes** (layout) of the heap

# Sequential Stack

```
void push (int v) {  
    Node *x = malloc(sizeof(Node));  
    x->d = v;  
    x->n = Top;  
    Top = x;  
}
```

```
int pop() {  
    if (Top == NULL) return EMPTY;  
    Node *s = Top->n;  
    int r = Top->d;  
    Top = s;  
    return r;  
}
```

**Want to Verify**

No Null Dereference

Underlying list remains acyclic after each operation

# Shape Analysis via 3-valued Logic

## 1) Abstraction

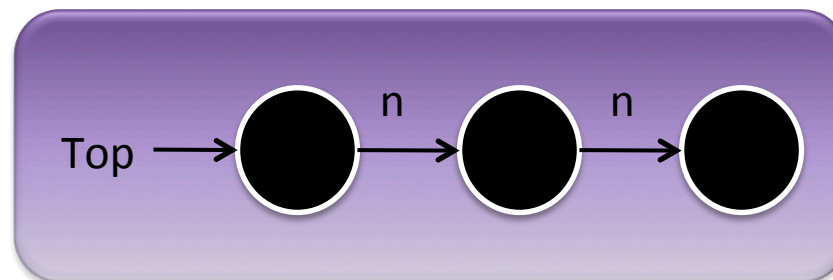
- 3-valued logical structure
- canonical abstraction

## 2) Transformers

- via logical formulae
- soundness by construction
  - embedding theorem, [SRW02]

# Concrete State

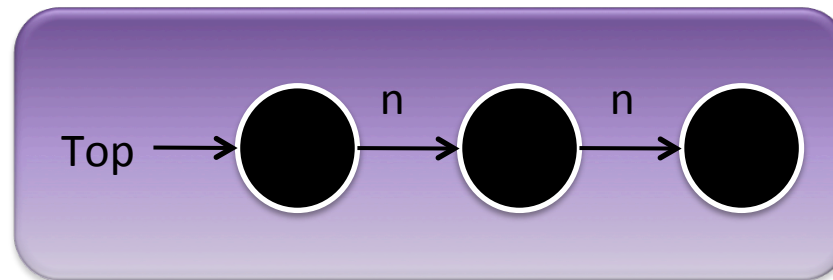
- represent a concrete state as a two-valued logical structure
  - Individuals = heap allocated objects
  - Unary predicates = object properties
  - Binary predicates = relations
- parametric vocabulary



(storeless, no heap addresses)

# Concrete State

- $S = \langle U, \iota \rangle$  over a vocabulary  $P$
- $U$  – universe
- $\iota$  - interpretation, mapping each predicate from  $p$  to its truth value in  $S$



- $U = \{ u1, u2, u3 \}$
- $P = \{ Top, n \}$
- $\iota(n)(u1, u2) = 1, \iota(n)(u1, u3) = 0, \iota(n)(u2, u1) = 0, \dots$
- $\iota(Top)(u1) = 1, \iota(Top)(u2) = 0, \iota(Top)(u3) = 0$

# Formulae for Observing Properties

```
void push (int v) {
  Node *x =
    malloc(sizeof(Node));
```

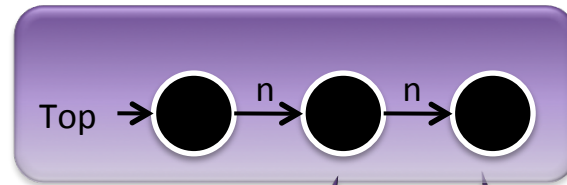
$\exists w: x(w)$

$\exists w: x(w);$

```
Top = x;
```

$\neg \exists v1, v2: n(v1, v2) \wedge n^*(v2, v1)$

$\neg \exists v1, v2: n(v1, v2) \wedge Top(v2)$



Top != null  
 $\exists w: Top(w)$  1

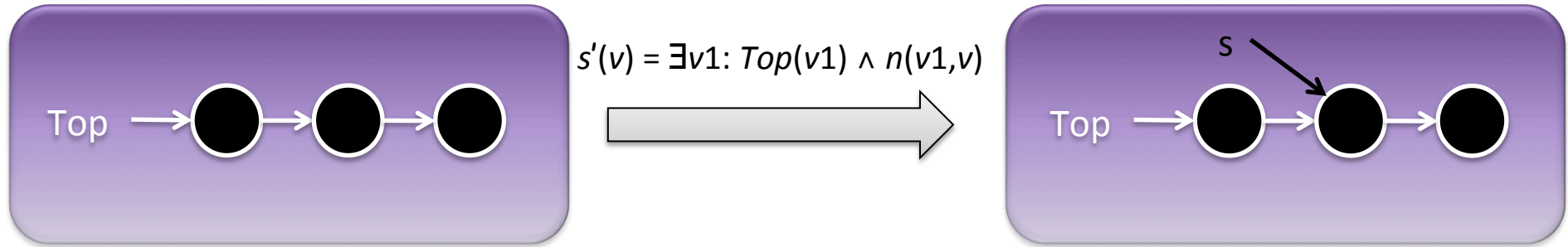
No node precedes Top  
 $\neg \exists v1, v2: n(v1, v2) \wedge Top(v2)$  1

No Cycles  
 $\neg \exists v1, v2: n(v1, v2) \wedge n^*(v2, v1)$  1

## Concrete Interpretation Rules

Statement	Update formula
$x = \text{NULL}$	$x'(v) = 0$
$x = \text{malloc}()$	$x'(v) = \text{IsNew}(v)$
$x = y$	$x'(v) = y(v)$
$x = y \rightarrow \text{next}$	$x'(v) = \exists w: y(w) \wedge n(w, v)$
$x \rightarrow \text{next} = y$	$n'(v, w) = (\neg x(v) \wedge n(v, w)) \vee (x(v) \wedge y(w))$

# Example: $s = Top \rightarrow n$



Top	
u1	1
u2	0
u3	0

n	u1	u2	u3
u1	0	1	0
u2	0	0	1
u3	0	0	0

Top	
u1	1
u2	0
u3	0

n	u1	u2	u3
u1	0	1	0
u2	0	0	1
u3	0	0	0

s	
u1	0
u2	0
u3	0

s	
u1	0
u2	1
u3	0



# Collecting Semantics

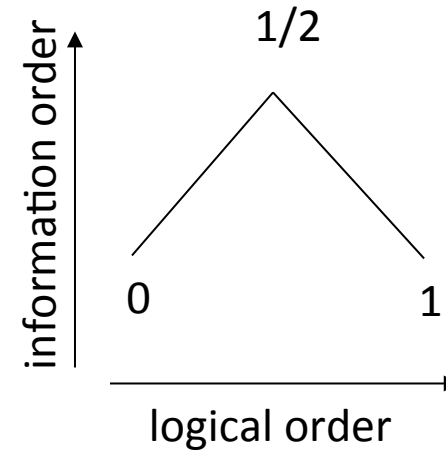
$$\text{CSS}[v] = \begin{cases} \{ \langle \emptyset, \emptyset \rangle \} & \text{if } v = \text{entry} \\ \bigcup \{ \llbracket \text{st}(w) \rrbracket(S) \mid S \in \text{CSS}[w] \} \cup \\ \quad (w,v) \in E(G), \\ \quad w \in \text{Assignments}(G) \\ \bigcup \{ S \mid S \in \text{CSS}[w] \} \cup \\ \quad (w,v) \in E(G), \\ \quad w \in \text{Skip}(G) \\ \bigcup \{ S \mid S \in \text{CSS}[w] \text{ and } S \models \text{cond}(w) \} \cup \\ \quad (w,v) \in \text{True-Branches}(G) \\ \bigcup \{ S \mid S \in \text{CSS}[w] \text{ and } S \models \neg \text{cond}(w) \} \\ \quad (w,v) \in \text{False-Branches}(G) \end{cases} \quad \text{otherwise}$$

# Collecting Semantics

- At every program point – a **potentially infinite** set of two-valued logical structures
- Representing (at least) all possible heaps that can arise at the program point
- Next step:  
**find a bounded abstract representation**

# 3-Valued Logic

- 1 = true
- 0 = false
- $1/2$  = unknown
- A join semi-lattice,  $0 \sqcup 1 = 1/2$



# 3-Valued Logical Structures

- A set of individuals (nodes)  $U$
- Relation meaning
  - Interpretation of relation symbols in  $\mathcal{P}$ 
    - $p^0() \rightarrow \{0,1, 1/2\}$
    - $p^1(v) \rightarrow \{0,1, 1/2\}$
    - $p^2(u,v) \rightarrow \{0,1, 1/2\}$
- A join semi-lattice:  $0 \sqcup 1 = 1/2$

# Boolean Connectives [Kleene]

$\wedge$	0	1/2	1
0	0	0	0
1/2	0	1/2	1/2
1	0	1/2	1

$\vee$	0	1/2	1
0	0	1/2	1
1/2	1/2	1/2	1
1	1	1	1

# Property Space

- $3\text{-struct}[P]$  = the set of 3-valued logical structures over a vocabulary (set of predicates)  $P$
- Abstract domain
  - $\wp(3\text{-Struct}[P])$
  - $\sqsubseteq$  is  $\subseteq$ 
    - We will see alternatives later (maybe)

# Embedding Order

- Given two structures  $S = \langle U, \iota \rangle$ ,  $S' = \langle U', \iota' \rangle$  and an onto function  $f : U \rightarrow U'$  mapping individuals in  $U$  to individuals in  $U'$
- We say that  $f$  embeds  $S$  in  $S'$  (denoted by  $S \sqsubseteq S'$ ) if
  - for every predicate symbol  $p \in P$  of arity  $k$ :  $u_1, \dots, u_k \in U$ ,  
 $\iota(p)(u_1, \dots, u_k) \sqsubseteq \iota'(p)(f(u_1), \dots, f(u_k))$
  - and for all  $u' \in U'$   
 $(\exists \{ u \mid f(u) = u' \} \neq \emptyset) \sqsubseteq \iota'(sm)(u')$
- We say that  $S$  can be embedded in  $S'$  (denoted by  $S \sqsubseteq S'$ ) if there exists a function  $f$  such that  $S \sqsubseteq^f S'$

# Tight Embedding

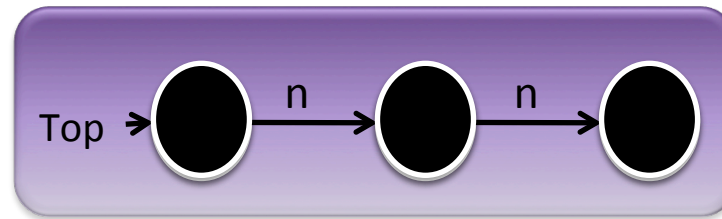
- $S' = \langle U', \iota' \rangle$  is a tight embedding of  $S = \langle U, \iota \rangle$  with respect to a function  $f$  if:
  - $S'$  does not lose unnecessary information

$$\iota'(u'_1, \dots, u'_k) = \sqcup \{ \iota(u_1, \dots, u_k) \mid f(u_1) = u'_1, \dots, f(u_k) = u'_k \}$$

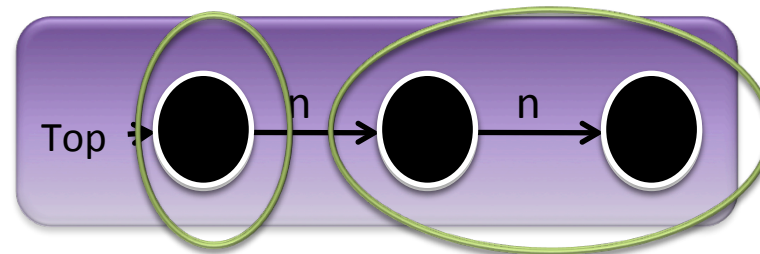
- One way to get tight embedding is canonical abstraction



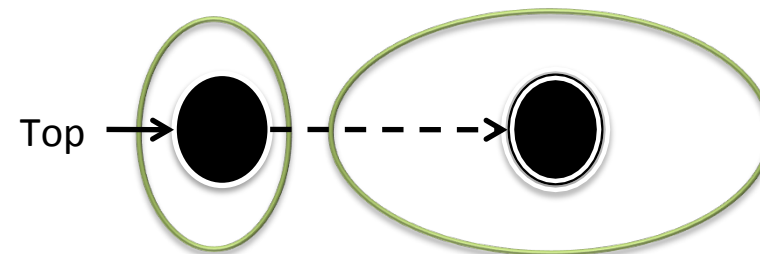
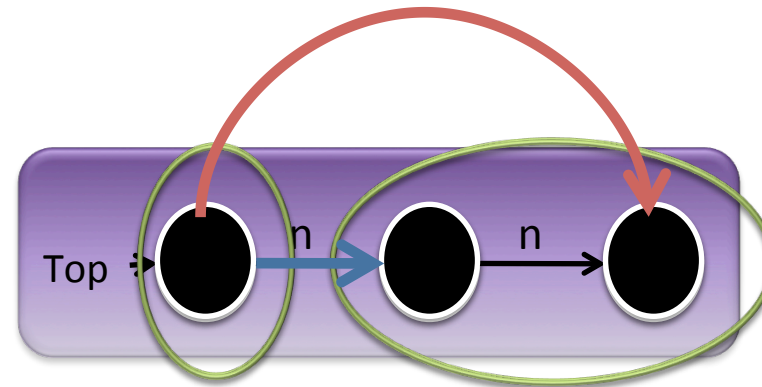
# Canonical Abstraction



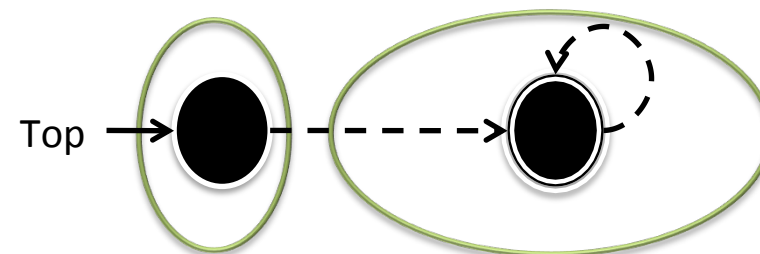
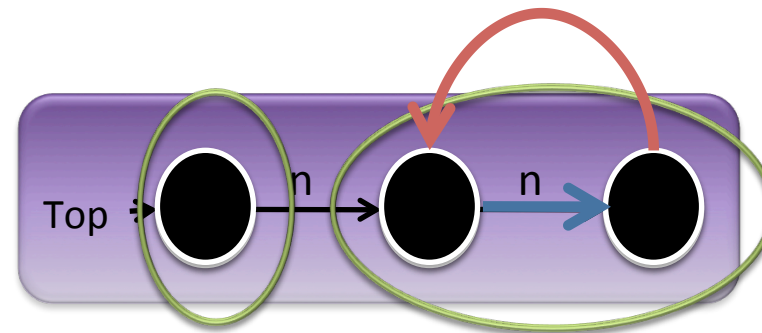
# Canonical Abstraction



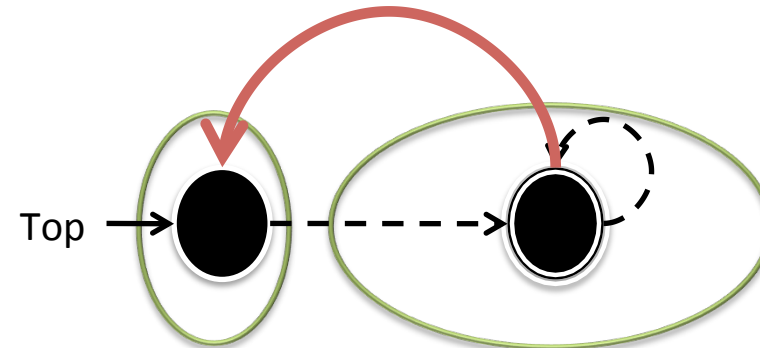
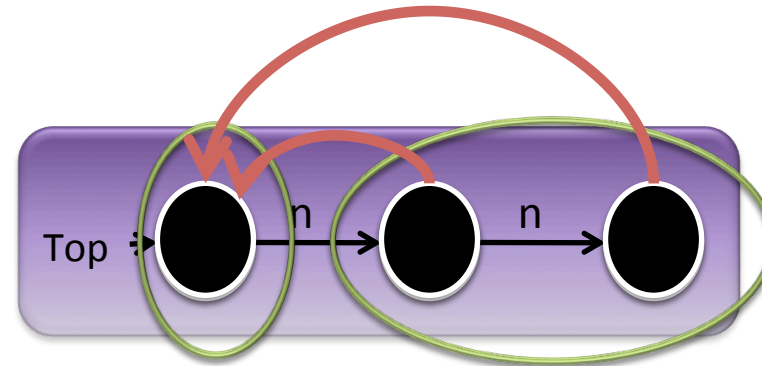
# Canonical Abstraction



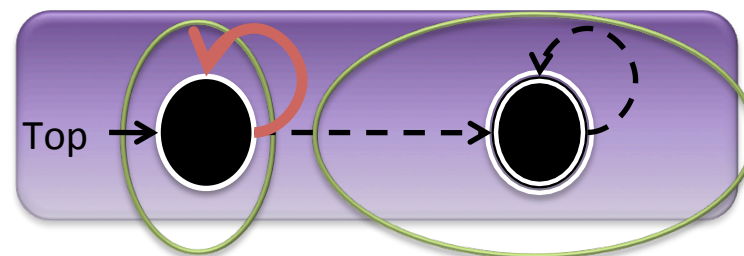
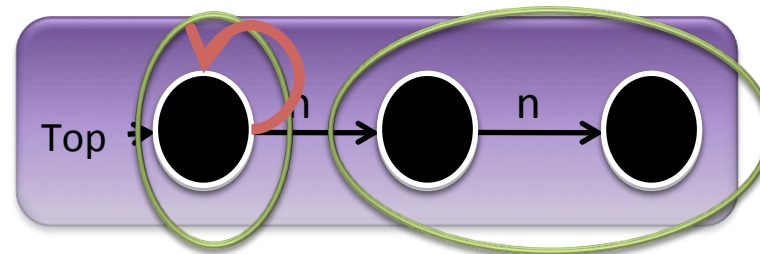
# Canonical Abstraction



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# Canonical Abstraction



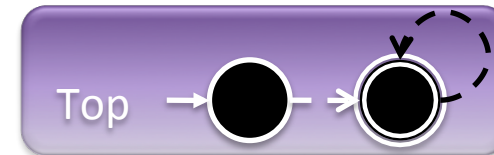
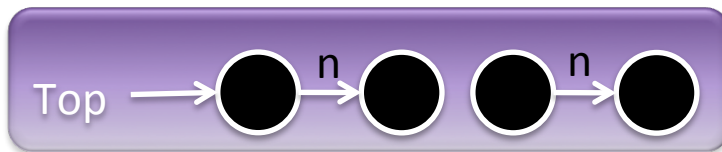
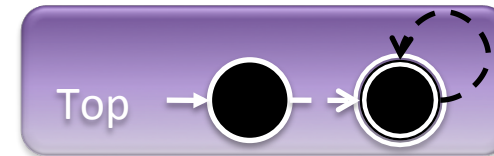
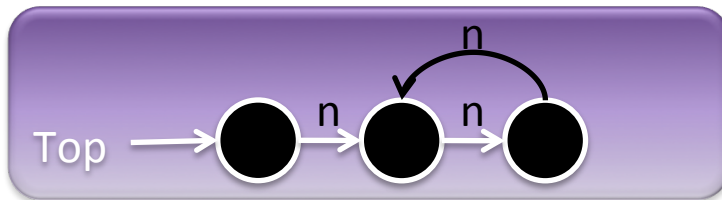
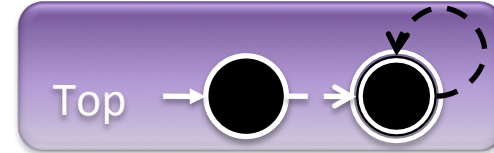
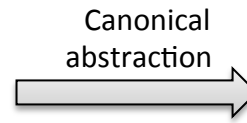
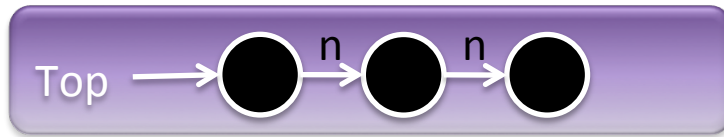
# Canonical Abstraction ( $\beta$ )

- Merge all nodes with the **same unary predicate values** into a single summary node
- Join predicate values

$$\iota'(u'_1, \dots, u'_k) = \sqcup \{ \iota(u_1, \dots, u_k) \mid f(u_1) = u'_1, \dots, f(u_k) = u'_k \}$$

- Converts a state of **arbitrary** size into a 3-valued abstract state of **bounded** size
- $\alpha(C) = \sqcup \{ \beta(c) \mid c \in C \}$

# Information Loss



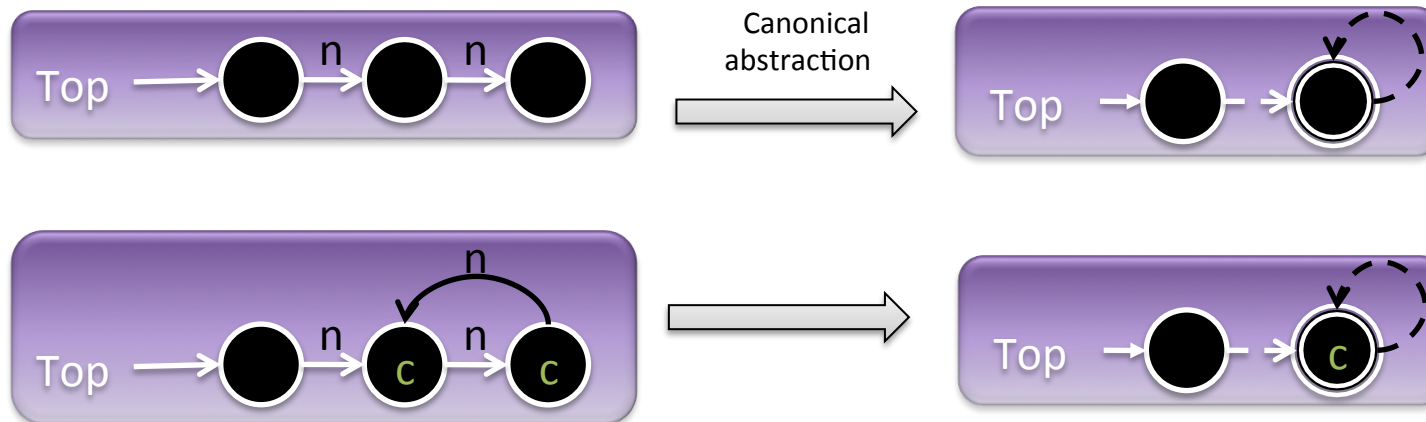


# Instrumentation Predicates

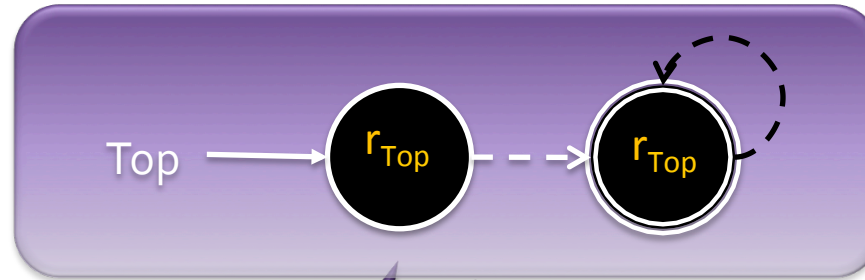
- Record additional derived information via predicates

$$r_x(v) = \exists v1: x(v1) \wedge n^*(v1, v)$$

$$c(v) = \exists v1: n(v1, v) \wedge n^*(v, v1)$$



# Embedding Theorem: Conservatively Observing Properties



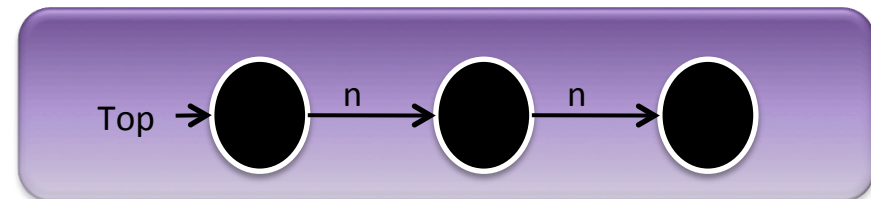
No Cycles  
 $\neg \exists v1, v2: n(v1, v2) \wedge n^*(v2, v1)$  **1/2**

No cycles (derived)  
 $\forall v: \neg c(v)$  **1**

# Operational Semantics

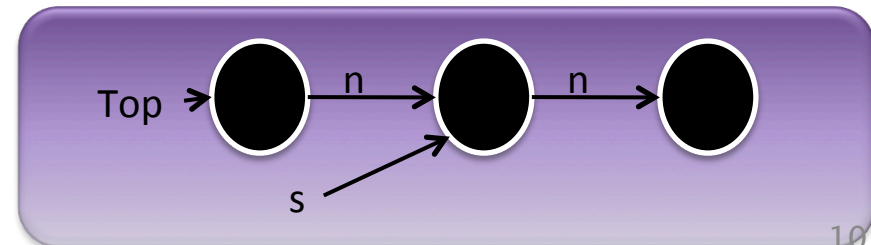
```
void push (int v) {  
  Node *x = malloc(sizeof(Node));  
  x->d = v;  
  x->n = Top;  
  Top = x;  
}
```

```
int pop() {  
  if (Top == NULL) return EMPTY;  
  Node *s = Top->n;  
  int r = Top->d;  
  Top = s;  
  return r;  
}
```

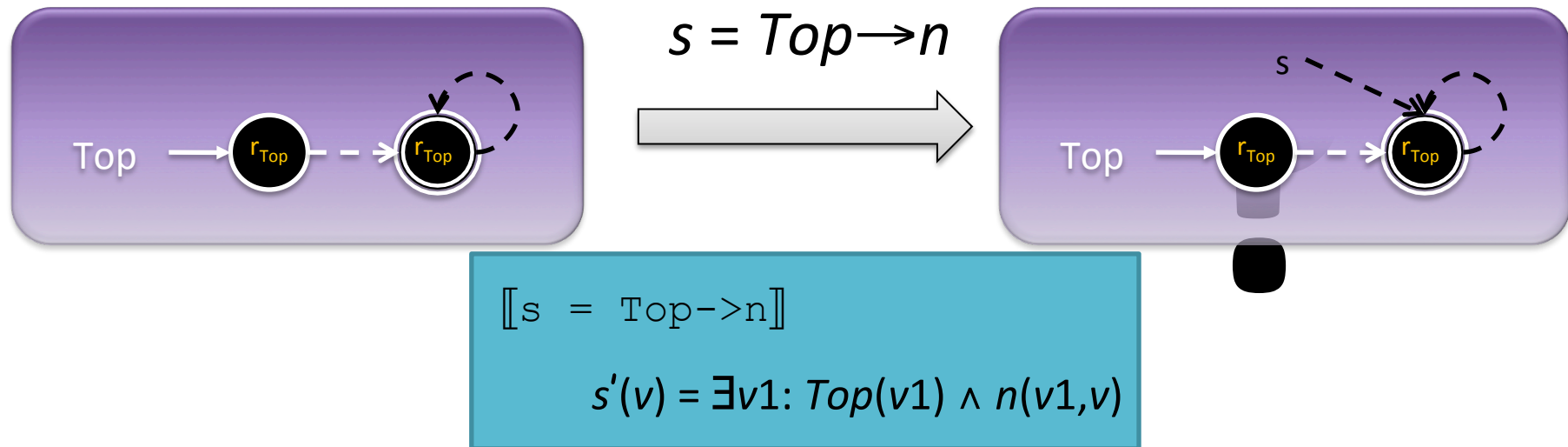


$\llbracket s = \text{Top} \rightarrow n \rrbracket$

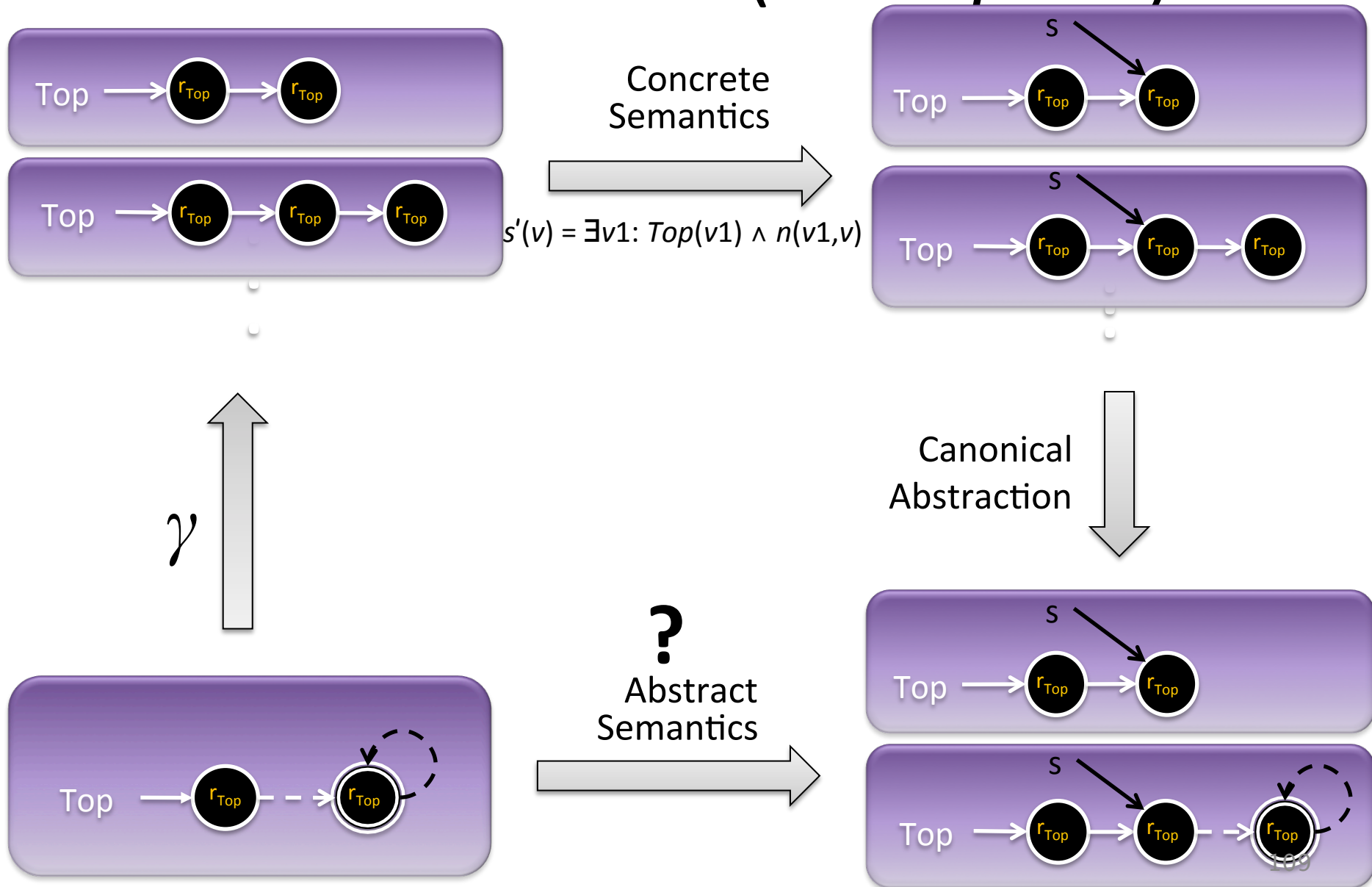
$$s'(v) = \exists v1: \text{Top}(v1) \wedge n(v1, v)$$



# Abstract Semantics

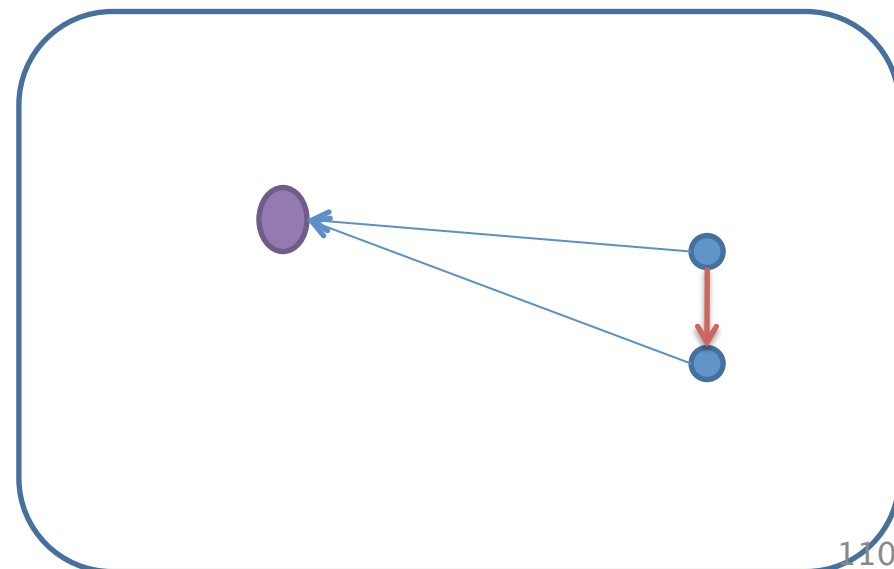


# Best Transformer ( $s = Top \rightarrow n$ )



# Semantic Reduction

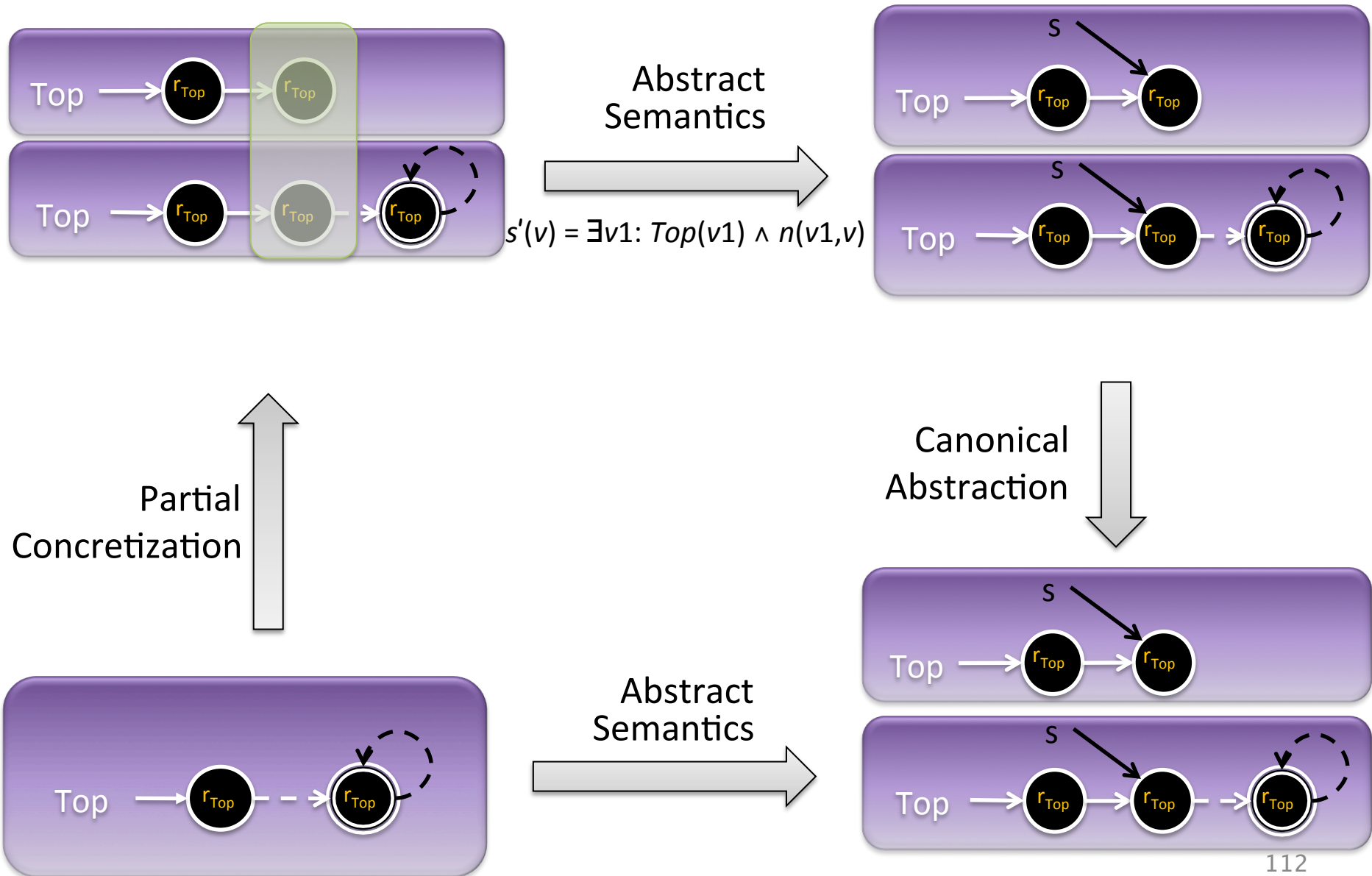
- Improve the precision of the analysis by recovering properties of the program semantics
- A Galois connection  $(C, \alpha, \gamma, A)$
- An operation  $op:A \rightarrow A$  is a **semantic reduction** when
  - $\forall l \in L_2 \ op(l) \sqsubseteq l$  and
  - $\gamma(op(l)) = \gamma(l)$



# The Focus Operation

- Focus:  $\text{Formula} \rightarrow (\wp(3\text{-Struct}) \hookrightarrow \wp(3\text{-Struct}))$
- Generalizes materialization
- For every formula  $\varphi$ 
  - $\text{Focus}(\varphi)(X)$  yields structure in which  $\varphi$  evaluates to a definite values in all assignments
  - Only maximal in terms of embedding
  - $\text{Focus}(\varphi)$  is a semantic reduction
  - But  $\text{Focus}(\varphi)(X)$  may be undefined for some  $X$

# Partial Concretization Based on Transformer ( $s=Top \rightarrow n$ )





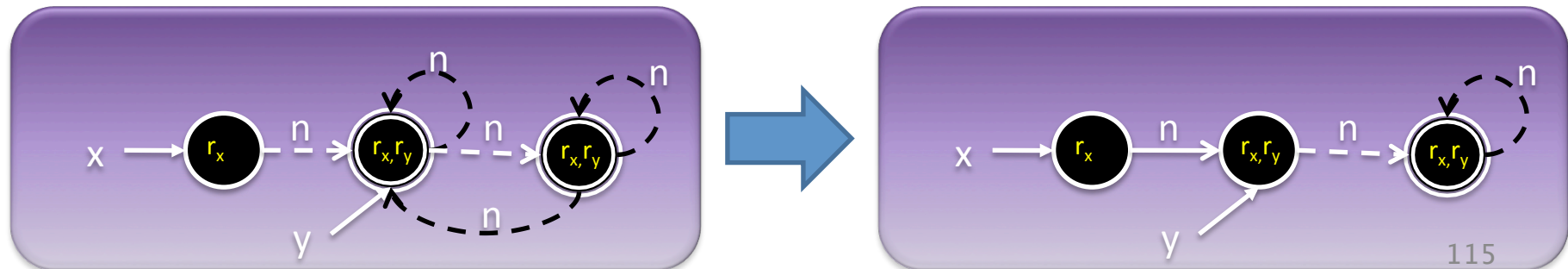
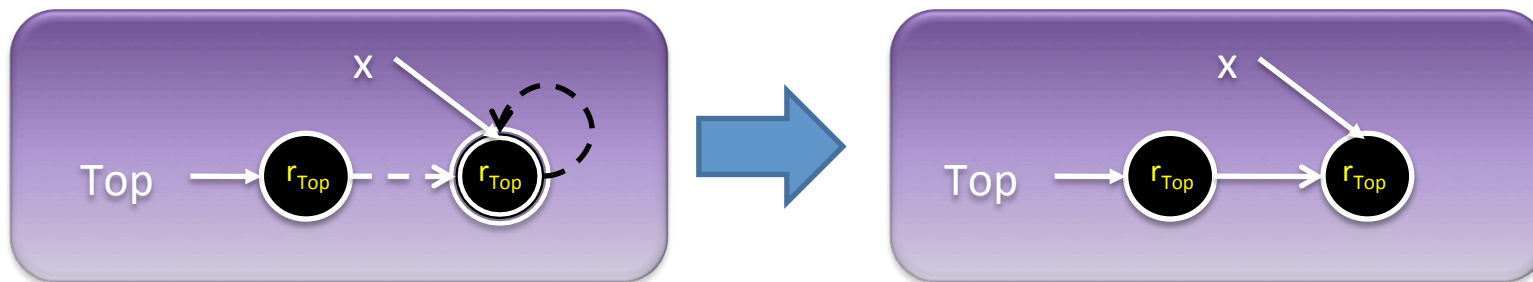
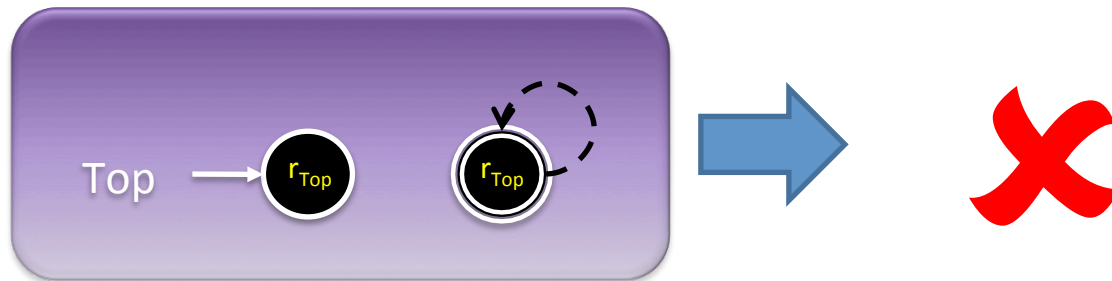
# Partial Concretization

- Locally refine the abstract domain per statement
- Soundness is immediate
- Employed in other shape analysis algorithms  
[Distefano et.al., TACAS'06, Evan et.al., SAS'07, POPL'08]

# The Coercion Principle

- Another Semantic Reduction
- Can be applied after Focus or after Update or both
- Increase precision by exploiting some structural properties possessed by all stores (Global invariants)
- Structural properties captured by **constraints**
- Apply a constraint solver

# Apply Constraint Solver



# Sources of Constraints

- Properties of the operational semantics
- Domain specific knowledge
  - Instrumentation predicates
- User supplied

# Example Constraints

$$x(v1) \wedge x(v2) \rightarrow eq(v1, v2)$$

$$n(v, v1) \wedge n(v, v2) \rightarrow eq(v1, v2)$$

$$n(v1, v) \wedge n(v2, v) \wedge \neg eq(v1, v2) \leftrightarrow is(v)$$

$$n^*(v3, v4) \leftrightarrow t[n](v1, v2)$$

# Abstract Transformers: Summary

- Kleene evaluation yields sound solution
- Focus is a statement-specific partial concretization
- Coerce applies global constraints

# Abstract Semantics

$$\begin{aligned}
 SS[v] = & \left\{ \langle \emptyset, \emptyset \rangle \right. && \text{if } v = \text{entry} \\
 & \bigcup \{ t\_embed(\text{coerce}(\llbracket st(w) \rrbracket_3(\text{focus}_{F(w)}(SS[w]))) \cup \\
 & (w,v) \in E(G), \\
 & w \in \text{Assignments}(G) \\
 & \bigcup \{ S \mid S \in SS[w] \} \cup && \text{otherwise} \\
 & (w,v) \in E(G), \\
 & w \in \text{Skip}(G) \\
 & \bigcup \{ t\_embed(S) \mid S \in \text{coerce}(\llbracket st(w) \rrbracket_3(\text{focus}_{F(w)}(SS[w]))) \\
 & \text{and } S \models \text{cond}(w) \} \cup \\
 & (w,v) \in \text{True-Branches}(G) \\
 & \bigcup \{ t\_embed(S) \mid S \in \text{coerce}(\llbracket st(w) \rrbracket_3(\text{focus}_{F(w)}(SS[w]))) \\
 & \text{and } S \models \neg \text{cond}(w) \} \cup \\
 & (w,v) \in \text{False-Branches}(G)
 \end{aligned}$$

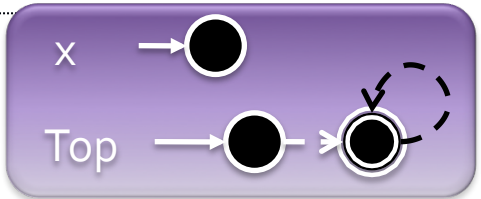
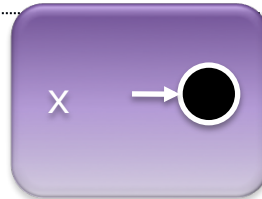
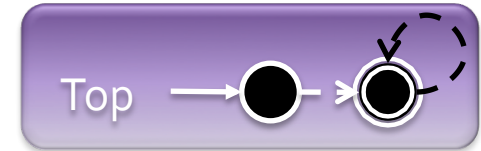
# Recap

- Abstraction
  - canonical abstraction
  - recording derived information
- Transformers
  - partial concretization (focus)
  - constraint solver (coerce)
  - sound information extraction



# Stack Push

```
void push (int v) {
  Node *x =
    alloc(sizeof(Node));
```

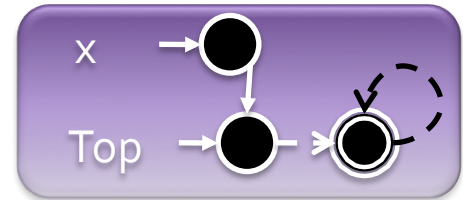
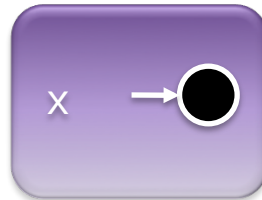


$$\exists v: x(v)$$

x →

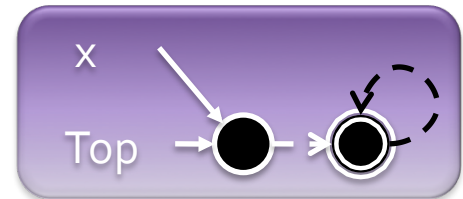
$$\exists v: x(v)$$

x →



```
Top = x;
```

$$\neg \exists v_1, v_2: n(v_1, v_2) \wedge \text{Top}(v_2)$$



$$\forall v: \neg c(v)$$

