CS 6110 – Formal Methods in System Design | Spring 2015
Apr-13

Lecture 15

Predicate Abstraction

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University of Utah

slides acknowledgements: Ranjit Jhala

Announcements

- 4 classes left before the end of semester
  - 2 classes – Alexey will cover HOL Light proof assistant
  - 2 classes for project presentations
    - 8 projects, 15 mins each = 120 mins
    - Merge into just one longer class?

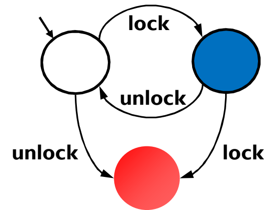
This Time

- Predicate abstraction

Checking Interface Usage Rules

- Interface rules in documentation
  - Define order of operations
  - Often incomplete and imprecise
- Violated rules cause bad behavior
  - System crash or deadlock
  - Unexpected exceptions
  - Failed runtime checks

Example Property: Double Locking

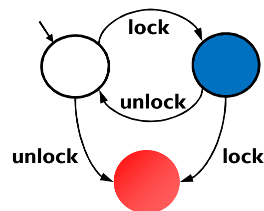


"An attempt to re-acquire an acquired lock or release a released lock will cause a ***deadlock****."*

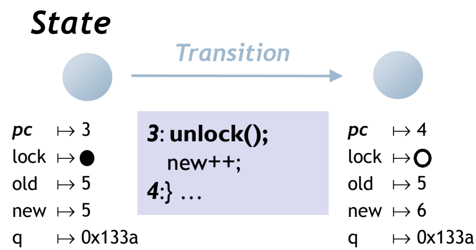
Calls to lock and unlock must **alternate**.

Example Program

```
  example() {
1:  do {
      lock();
      old = new;
      q = q->next;
2:    if (q != NULL){
3:      q->data = new;
        unlock();
        new ++;
      }
4:  } while(new != old);
5:  unlock();
    return;
  }
```



Program Transitions




```
   Example () {
1:   do {
       lock();
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2:     if (q != NULL){
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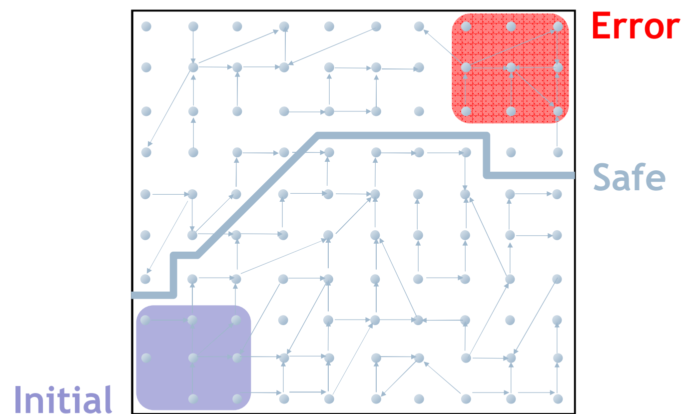
The Safety Verification Problem



Is there a path from an initial to an error state?

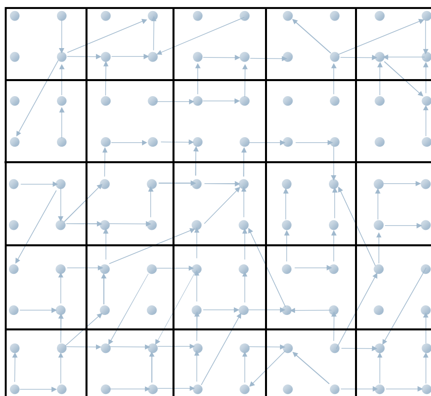
Problem: Infinite state graph

Solution: Set of states is a logical formula

Representing States as Formulas

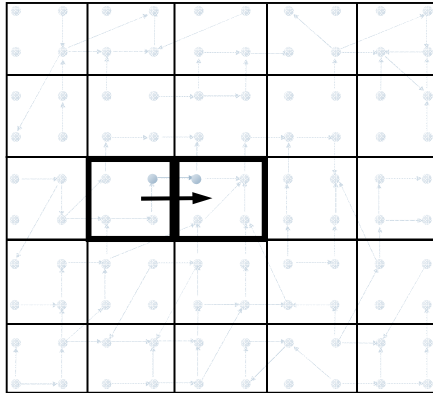
States	Formulas
$[F]$ states satisfying F $\{s \mid s \models F\}$	F FO formula over prog.vars
$[F_1] \cap [F_2]$	$F_1 \wedge F_2$
$[F_1] \cup [F_2]$	$F_1 \vee F_2$
$[F]$	$\neg F$
$[F_1] \subseteq [F_2]$	$F_1 \rightarrow F_2$ i.e. $F_1 \wedge \neg F_2$ unsatisfiable

Idea: Predicate Abstraction

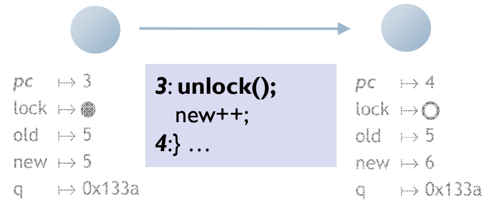


- Predicates on program state:
  `lock`
  `old = new`
- States satisfying same predicates are equivalent
  - Merged into one abstract state
- #abstract states is finite

Abstract States and Transitions



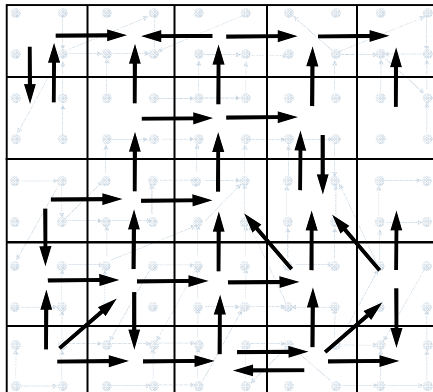
State



lock
old=new

¬ lock
¬ old=new

Abstraction



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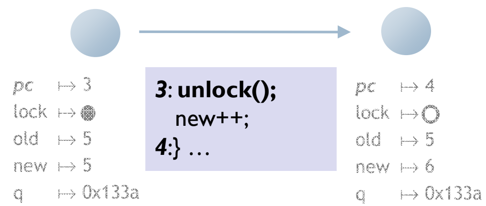

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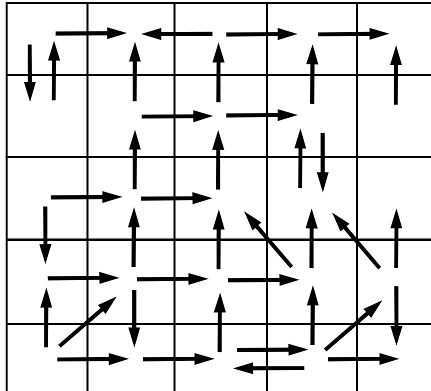
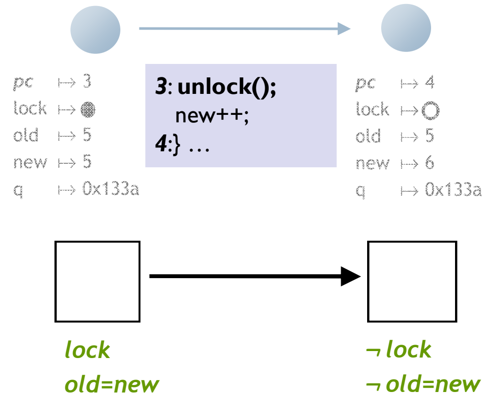
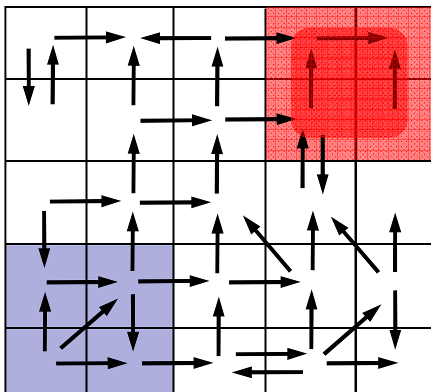
Existential Lifting

Abstraction





Analyze Abstraction



Analyzing finite graph

Over-approximate:

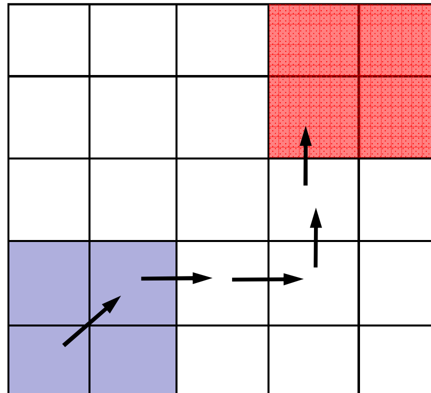
Safe means that system is safe

No false negatives

Problem:

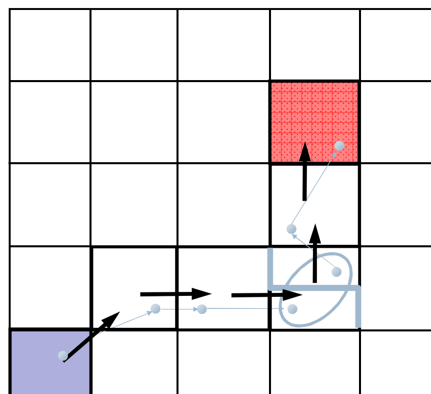
Spurious counterexamples

Idea: Counterex.-Guided Refinement



Solution:
Use spurious counterexamples to refine abstraction

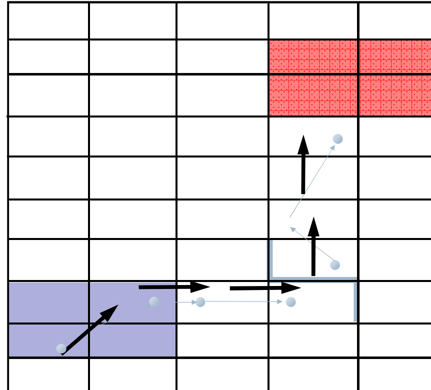
Idea: Counterex.-Guided Refinement



Solution:
Use spurious counterexamples to refine abstraction

1. Add predicates to distinguish states across cut

Iterative Abstraction Refinement



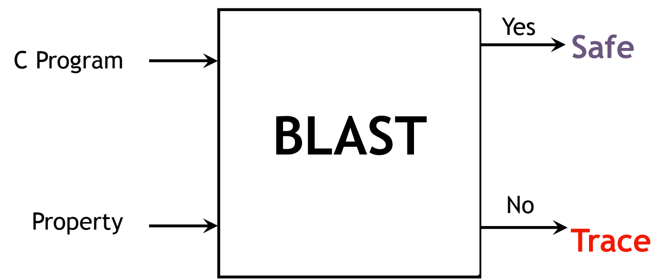
Solution:
Use spurious counterexamples to refine abstraction

1. Add predicates to distinguish states across cut
2. Build refined abstraction
   - eliminates counterexample
3. Repeat search
   - till real counterexample or system proved safe

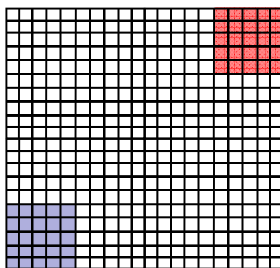
Predicate-Abstraction-Based Tools

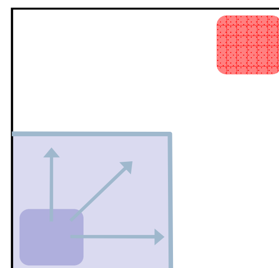
- SLAM
- BLAST
- SATABS
- CPAchecker
- IMPACT
- VCEGAR

Lazy Abstraction



Problem: Abstraction is Expensive





Problem

#abstract states = $2^{\#predicates}$

Exponential Thm. Prover queries

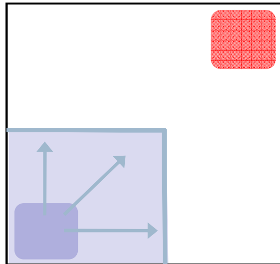
Observe

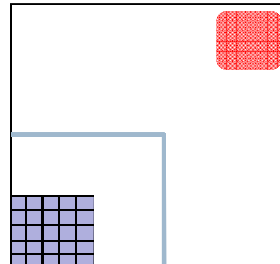
Fraction of state space reachable

#Preds ~ 100's, #States ~ 2^{100} ,

#Reach ~ 1000's

Solution1: Only Abstract Reachable States





Safe

Problem

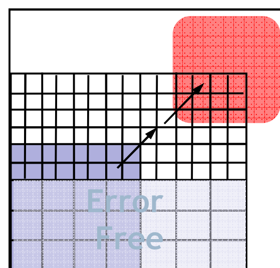
#abstract states = $2^{\#predicates}$

Exponential Thm. Prover queries

Solution

Build abstraction during search

Solution2: Don't Refine Error-Free Regions



Problem

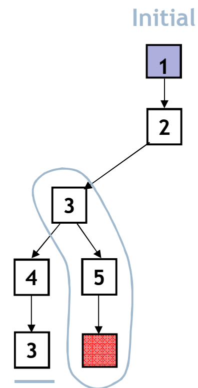
#abstract states = $2^{\#predicates}$

Exponential Thm. Prover queries

Solution

Don't refine error-free regions

Key Idea: Reachability Tree



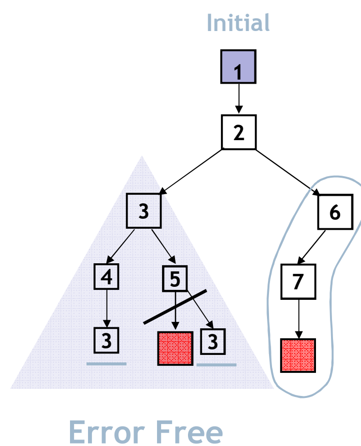
Unroll Abstraction

1. Pick tree-node (=abs. state)
2. Add children (=abs. successors)
3. On re-visiting abs. state, cut-off

Find min infeasible suffix

- Learn new predicates
- Rebuild subtree with new preds.

Key Idea: Reachability Tree



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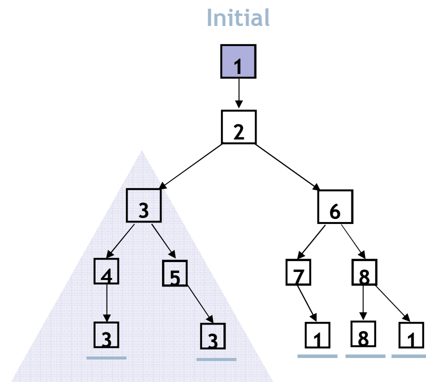

Unroll
1. Pick tree-node (=abs. state)
2. Add children (=abs. successors)
3. On re-visiting abs. state, cut-off

Find min spurious suffix
- Learn new predicates
- Rebuild subtree with new preds.

SAFE

S1: Only Abstract Reachable States

S2: Don't refine error-free regions

Build-and-Search

```
Example ( ) {
1: do{
    lock();
    old = new;
    q = q->next;
2:  if (q != NULL){
3:     q->data = new;
       unlock();
       new ++;
    }
4:}while(new != old);
5: unlock ();
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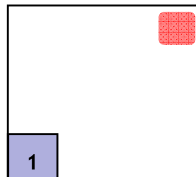

Predicates: *LOCK*

1 *¬ LOCK*

Reachability Tree

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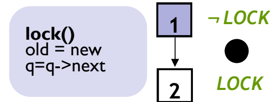

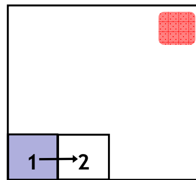

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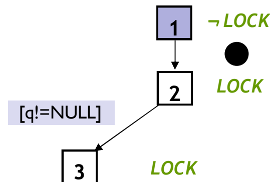

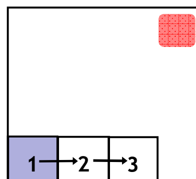

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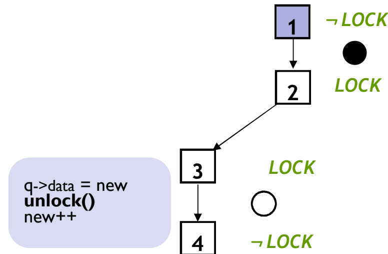

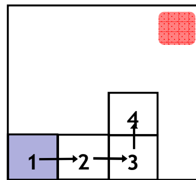

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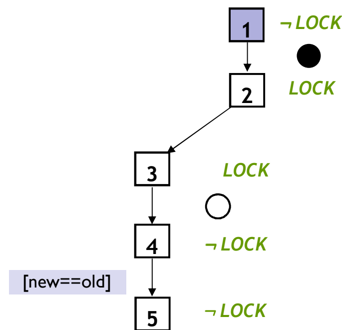

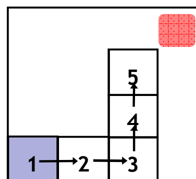

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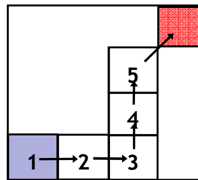

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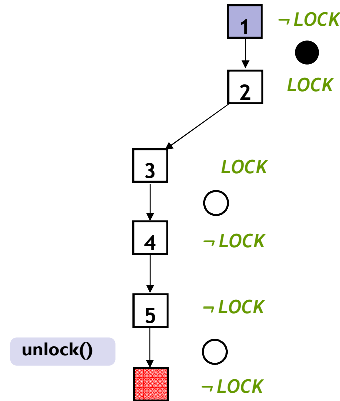

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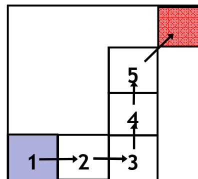

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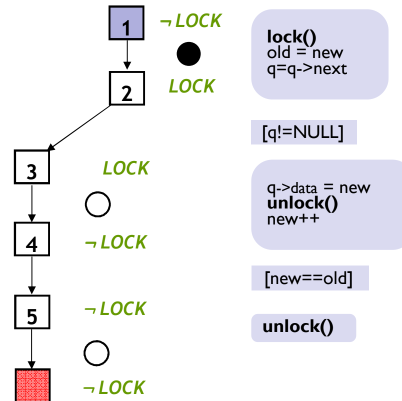

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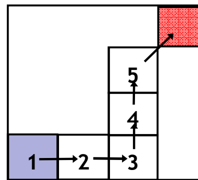

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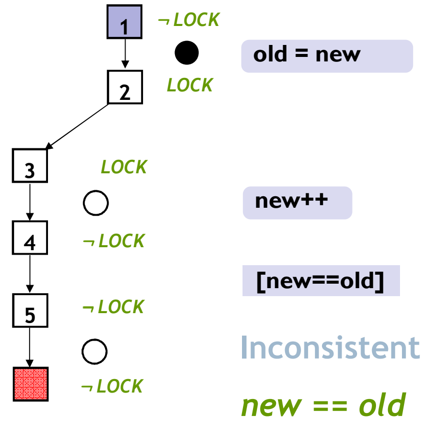

Reachability Tree

Repeat Build-and-Search

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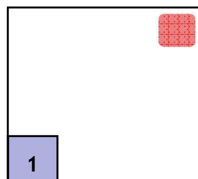

Predicates: *LOCK, new==old*

Reachability Tree

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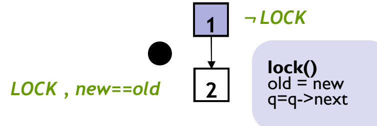

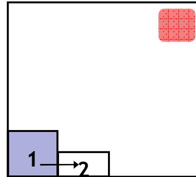

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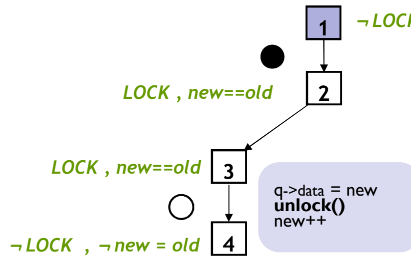

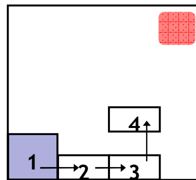

Reachability Tree

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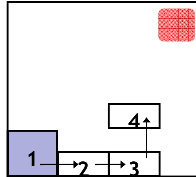

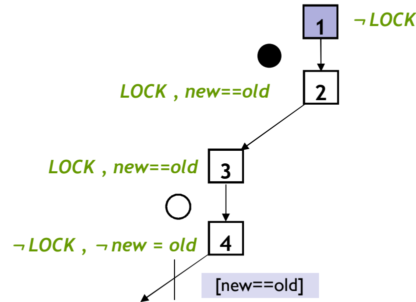

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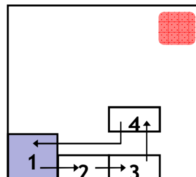

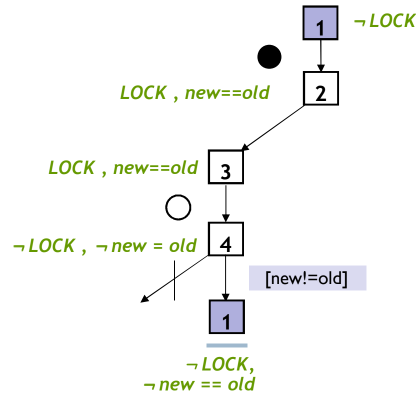

Reachability Tree

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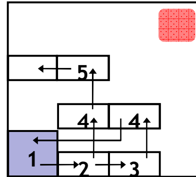
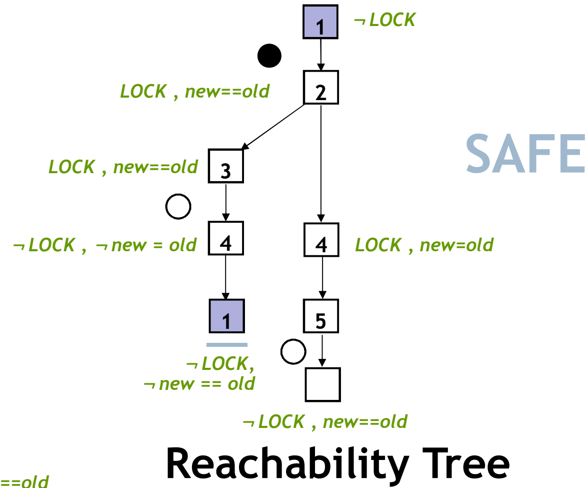
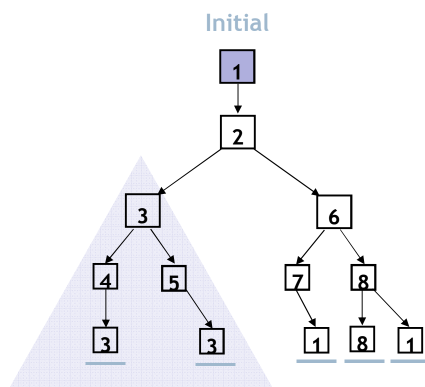
    old = new;
    q = q->next;
2:  if (q != NULL){
3:     q->data = new;
       unlock();
       new ++;
    }
4:}while(new != old);
5: unlock ();
}
```





Predicates: *LOCK, new==old*

Key Idea: Reachability Tree



Error Free

SAFE

Unroll

1. Pick tree-node (=abs. state)
2. Add children (=abs. successors)
3. On re-visiting abs. state, cut-off

Find min spurious suffix

- Learn new predicates
- Rebuild subtree with new preds.

S1: Only Abstract Reachable States

S2: Don't refine error-free regions

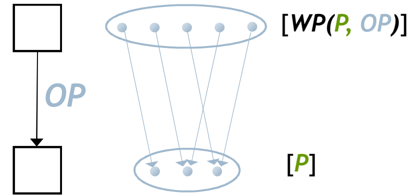
Weakest Preconditions

WP(P,OP)

Weakest formula *P'* s.t.

if *P'* is true before *OP*

then *P* is true after *OP*



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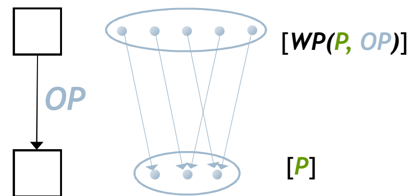

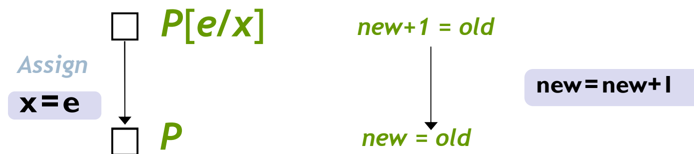

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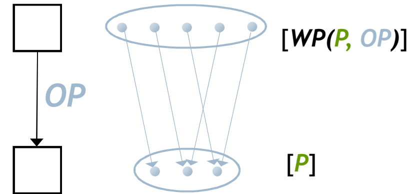

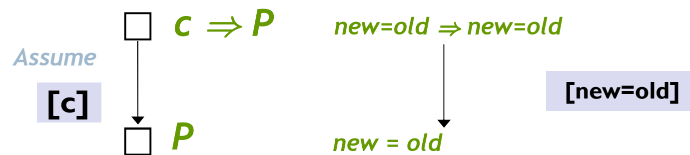

How to compute successor ?

```
Example ( ) {
1: do{
    lock();
    old = new;
    q = q->next;
2:  if (q != NULL){
3:    q->data = new;
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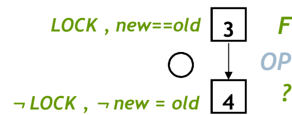

For each *p*

- Check if *p* is true (or false) after *OP*

Q: When is *p* true after *OP* ?

- If ***WP(p, OP)*** is true before *OP* !
- We know *F* is true before *OP*
- Thm. Pvr. Query: *F* ⇒ ***WP(p, OP)***

Predicates: *LOCK, new==old*

How to compute successor ?

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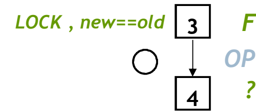

For each *p*

- Check if *p* is true (or false) after *OP*

Q: When is *p* false after *OP* ?
- If *WP*(¬ *p*, *OP*) is true before *OP* !
- We know *F* is true before *OP*
- Thm. Pvr. Query: $F \Rightarrow WP(\neg p, OP)$

Predicates: *LOCK, new==old*

How to compute successor ?

```
Example ( ) {
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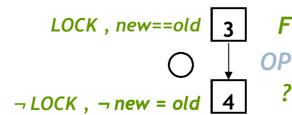


For each *p*

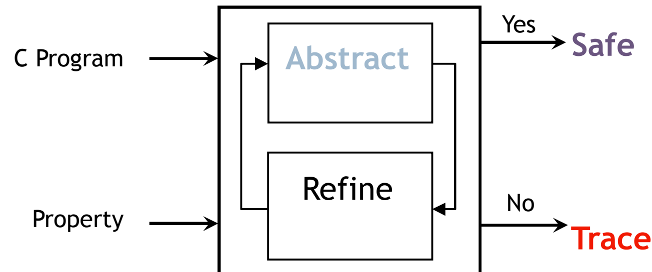
- Check if *p* is true (or false) after *OP*

Q: When is *p* false after *OP* ?
- If *WP*(¬ *p*, *OP*) is true before *OP* !
- We know *F* is true before *OP*
- Thm. Pvr. Query: $F \Rightarrow WP(\neg p, OP)$

Predicate: *new==old*

True ?	$(LOCK \wedge new{=}{=}old) \Rightarrow (new + 1 = old)$	NO
False ?	$(LOCK \wedge new{=}{=}old) \Rightarrow (new + 1 \neq old)$	YES

Lazy Abstraction



Problem: Abstraction is Expensive

Solution: 1. Abstract reachable states,
2. Avoid refining error-free regions

Key Idea: **Reachability Tree**