



# Static Program Analysis

**Lecture 16: Abstract Interpretation VI  
(Counterexample-Guided Abstraction Refinement)**

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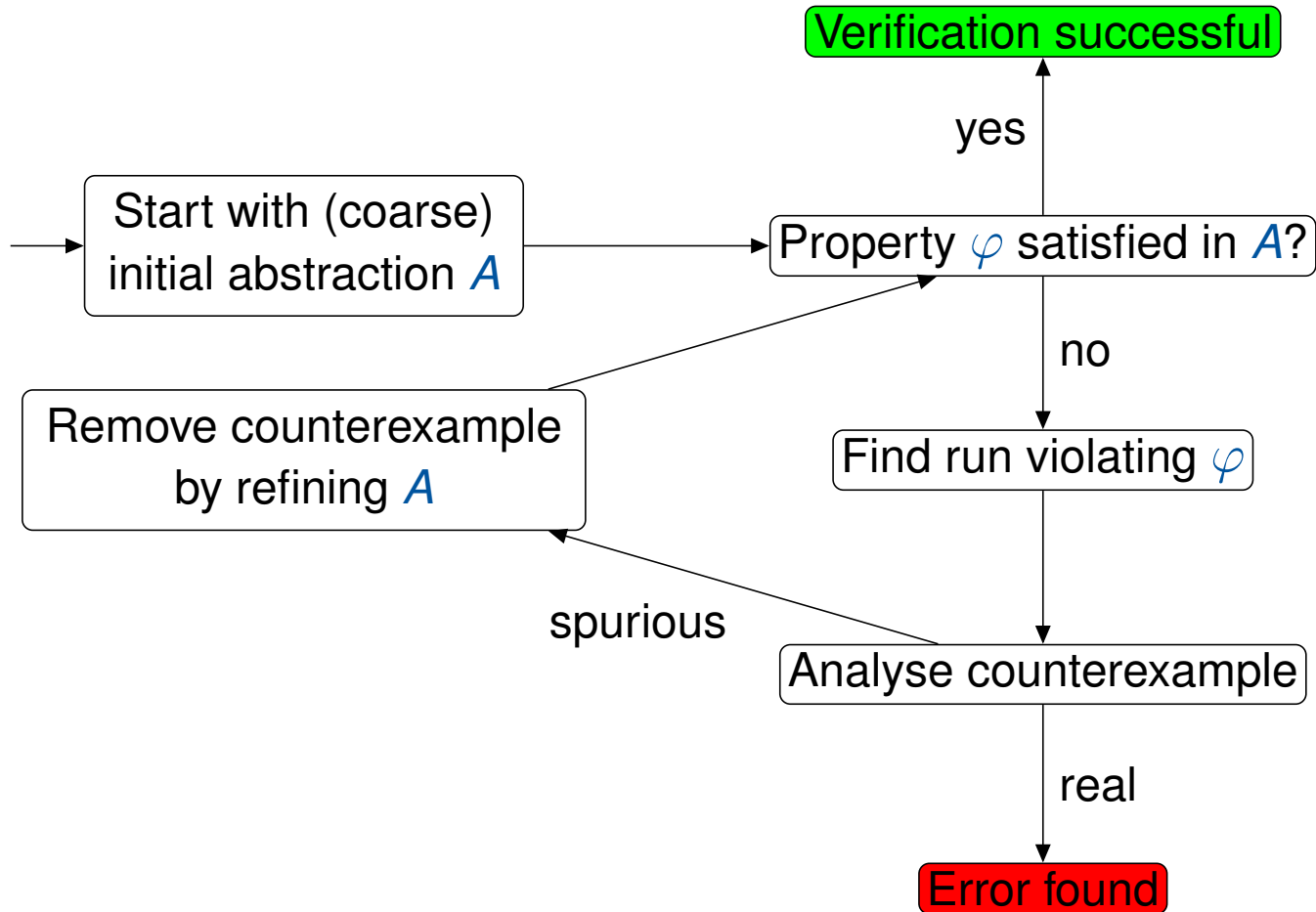
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- ◆ DJ Prof. Katoen ◆  
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# Recap: Predicate Abstraction

## Counterexample-Guided Abstraction Refinement (CEGAR)



# Recap: Predicate Abstraction

## Predicate Abstraction I

### Definition (Predicate abstraction)

Let  $Var$  be a set of variables.

- A **predicate** is a Boolean expression  $p \in BExp$  over  $Var$ .
- A state  $\sigma \in \Sigma$  **satisfies**  $p \in BExp$  ( $\sigma \models p$ ) if  $val_\sigma(p) = \text{true}$ .
- $p$  **implies**  $q$  ( $p \models q$ ) if  $\sigma \models q$  whenever  $\sigma \models p$  (or:  $p$  is **stronger than**  $q$ ,  $q$  is **weaker than**  $p$ ).
- $p$  and  $q$  are **equivalent** ( $p \equiv q$ ) if  $p \models q$  and  $q \models p$ .
- Let  $P = \{p_1, \dots, p_n\} \subseteq BExp$  be a finite set of predicates, and let  $\neg P := \{\neg p_1, \dots, \neg p_n\}$ .  
An element of  $P \cup \neg P$  is called a **literal**. The **predicate abstraction lattice** is defined by:

$$Abs(P) := \left( \left\{ \bigwedge Q \mid Q \subseteq P \cup \neg P \right\}, \models \right).$$

**Abbreviations:**  $\text{true} := \bigwedge \emptyset$ ,  $\text{false} := \bigwedge \{p_i, \neg p_i, \dots\}$

# Recap: Predicate Abstraction

## Predicate Abstraction II

### Lemma

$Abs(P)$  is a *complete lattice* with

- $\perp = \text{false}$ ,  $\top = \text{true}$
- $Q_1 \sqcap Q_2 = \overline{Q_1 \wedge Q_2}$  where  $\bar{b} := \bigwedge \{q \in P \cup \neg P \mid b \models q\}$   
(i.e., strongest formula in  $Abs(P)$  that implies  $Q_1 \wedge Q_2$ )
- $Q_1 \sqcup Q_2 = \overline{Q_1 \vee Q_2}$  (i.e., strongest formula in  $Abs(P)$  that is implied by  $Q_1 \vee Q_2$ )

### Example

Let  $P := \{p_1, p_2, p_3\}$  with  $p_1 := (x = 1)$ ,  $p_2 := (y = 2)$ ,  $p_3 := (z = 3)$ .

1. For  $Q_1 := p_1 \wedge \neg p_2$  and  $Q_2 := \neg p_2 \wedge p_3$ , we obtain

$$Q_1 \sqcap Q_2 = \overline{Q_1 \wedge Q_2} = \overline{p_1 \wedge \neg p_2 \wedge p_3}$$

$$Q_1 \sqcup Q_2 = \overline{Q_1 \vee Q_2} \equiv \overline{\neg p_2 \wedge (p_1 \vee p_3)} = \neg p_2$$

2. For  $Q_1 := p_1 \wedge p_2$  and  $Q_2 := p_1 \wedge \neg p_2$ , we obtain

$$Q_1 \sqcap Q_2 = \overline{Q_1 \wedge Q_2} = \overline{\text{false}} = \text{true}$$

$$Q_1 \sqcup Q_2 = \overline{Q_1 \vee Q_2} \equiv \overline{p_1 \wedge (p_2 \vee \neg p_2)} = \overline{p_1} = \neg p_1$$

# Recap: Predicate Abstraction

## Predicate Abstraction III

### Definition (Galois connection for predicate abstraction)

The **Galois connection for predicate abstraction** is determined by

$$\begin{aligned} & \alpha : 2^\Sigma \rightarrow Abs(P) \quad \text{and} \quad \gamma : Abs(P) \rightarrow 2^\Sigma \\ \text{with} \quad & \alpha(S) := \bigsqcup \{Q_\sigma \mid \sigma \in S\} \quad \text{and} \quad \gamma(Q) := \{\sigma \in \Sigma \mid \sigma \models Q\} \\ \text{where} \quad & Q_\sigma := \bigwedge (\{p_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq n, \sigma \models p_i\} \cup \{\neg p_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq n, \sigma \not\models p_i\}) \end{aligned}$$

### Example

- Let  $Var := \{x, y\}$  and  $P := \{p_1, p_2, p_3\}$  where  $p_1 := (x \leq y)$ ,  $p_2 := (x = y)$ ,  $p_3 := (x > y)$
- If  $S = \{\sigma_1, \sigma_2\} \subseteq \Sigma$  with  $\sigma_1 = [x \mapsto 1, y \mapsto 2]$ ,  $\sigma_2 = [x \mapsto 2, y \mapsto 2]$ ,  
then  $\alpha(S) = Q_{\sigma_1} \sqcup Q_{\sigma_2}$ 
$$\begin{aligned} &= (p_1 \wedge \neg p_2 \wedge \neg p_3) \sqcup (p_1 \wedge p_2 \wedge \neg p_3) \\ &= \frac{(p_1 \wedge \neg p_2 \wedge \neg p_3) \vee (p_1 \wedge p_2 \wedge \neg p_3)}{\equiv p_1 \wedge \neg p_3} \end{aligned}$$
- If  $Q = p_1 \wedge \neg p_2 \in Abs(P)$ , then  $\gamma(Q) = \{\sigma \in \Sigma \mid \sigma(x) < \sigma(y)\}$

# Recap: Predicate Abstraction

## Abstract Semantics for Predicate Abstraction

### Definition (Execution relation for predicate abstraction)

If  $c \in \text{Cmd}$  and  $Q \in \text{Abs}(P)$ , then  $\langle c, Q \rangle$  is called an **abstract configuration**. The **execution relation for predicate abstraction** is defined by the following rules:

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{(skip)} \frac{}{\langle \text{skip}, Q \rangle \Rightarrow \langle \downarrow, Q \rangle} \quad \text{(asgn)} \frac{}{\langle x := a, Q \rangle \Rightarrow \langle \downarrow, \bigsqcup \{ Q_{\sigma[x \mapsto \text{val}_{\sigma}(a)]} \mid \sigma \models Q \} \rangle} \\ \text{(seq1)} \frac{\langle c_1, Q \rangle \Rightarrow \langle c'_1, Q' \rangle \quad c'_1 \neq \downarrow}{\langle c_1; c_2, Q \rangle \Rightarrow \langle c'_1; c_2, Q' \rangle} \quad \text{(seq2)} \frac{\langle c_1, Q \rangle \Rightarrow \langle \downarrow, Q' \rangle}{\langle c_1; c_2, Q \rangle \Rightarrow \langle c_2, Q' \rangle} \\ \text{(if1)} \frac{}{\langle \text{if } b \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2 \text{ end}, Q \rangle \Rightarrow \langle c_1, \overline{Q \wedge b} \rangle} \\ \text{(if2)} \frac{}{\langle \text{if } b \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2 \text{ end}, Q \rangle \Rightarrow \langle c_2, \overline{Q \wedge \neg b} \rangle} \\ \text{(wh1)} \frac{}{\langle \text{while } b \text{ do } c \text{ end}, Q \rangle \Rightarrow \langle c; \text{while } b \text{ do } c \text{ end}, \overline{Q \wedge b} \rangle} \\ \text{(wh2)} \frac{}{\langle \text{while } b \text{ do } c \text{ end}, Q \rangle \Rightarrow \langle \downarrow, \overline{Q \wedge \neg b} \rangle} \end{array}$$

# Computation of Postconditions

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## Computation of Postconditions

**Problem:**  $\bar{b} = \bigwedge \{q \in P \cup \neg P \mid b \models q\}$  (i.e., the strongest formula in  $Abs(P)$  that is implied by  $b$ ) is generally **not computable** (due to undecidability of implication in certain logics)

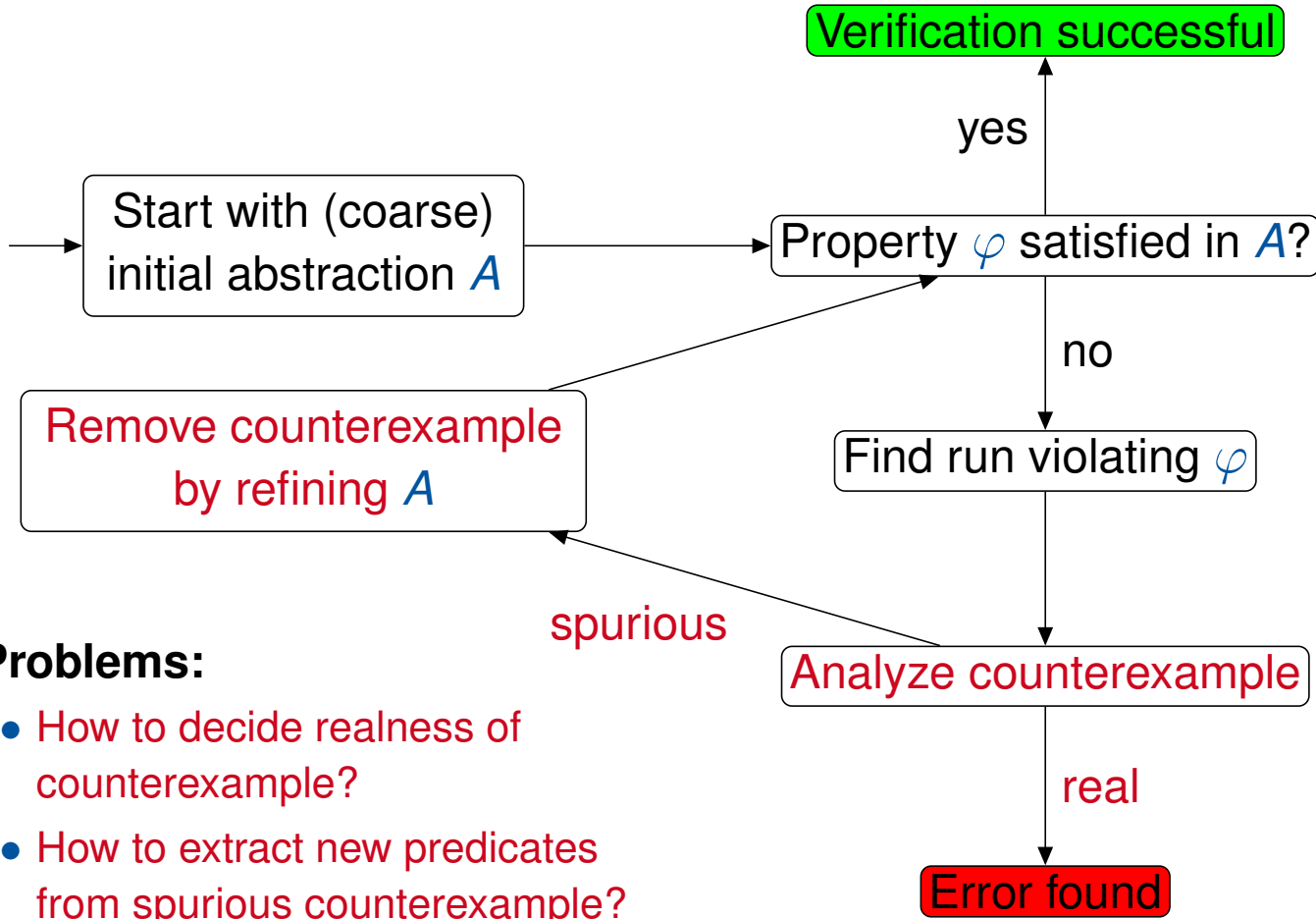
### Solutions:

- **Over-approximation:** fall back to non-strongest postconditions
  - in practice, (automatic) theorem proving
  - for every  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ , try to prove  $b \models p_i$  and  $b \models \neg p_i$
  - approximate  $\bar{b}$  by conjunction of all provable literals
- **Restriction of programs:**
  - $\models$  decidable for certain logics
  - example: Presburger arithmetic (first-order theory of  $\mathbb{N}$  with  $+$ )
  - thus  $\bar{b}$  computable for WHILE programs without multiplication
- **Restriction to finite domains:**
  - for example, binary numbers of fixed size
  - thus everything (domain, Galois connection, ...) exactly computable
  - problem: exponential blowup in  $n \implies$  solution: Binary Decision Diagrams (BDDs)



# Counterexample-Guided Abstraction Refinement

## Reminder: CEGAR



## Problems:

- How to decide realness of counterexample?
- How to extract new predicates from spurious counterexample?

# Counterexample-Guided Abstraction Refinement

## Properties of Interest

- A certain program location is not reachable (dead code)
  - Division by zero is excluded
  - The value of  $x$  never becomes negative
  - After program termination, the value of  $y$  is even
- ⇒ All representable as (non-)reachability of “bad locations”
- ⇒ Counterexample = path to bad locations

## Definition 16.1 (Counterexample)

- A **counterexample** is a sequence of  $k \geq 1$  abstract transitions of the form

$$\langle c_0, \text{true} \rangle \Rightarrow \langle c_1, Q_1 \rangle \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow \langle c_k, Q_k \rangle$$

where

- $c_0, \dots, c_k \in \text{Cmd}$  (or  $c_k = \downarrow$ )
- $Q_1, \dots, Q_k \in \text{Abs}(P)$  with  $Q_k \not\equiv \text{false}$
- It is called **real** if there exist concrete states  $\sigma_0, \dots, \sigma_k \in \Sigma$  such that
$$\forall i \in \{1, \dots, k\} : \sigma_i \models Q_i \quad \text{and} \quad \langle c_{i-1}, \sigma_{i-1} \rangle \rightarrow \langle c_i, \sigma_i \rangle$$
- Otherwise it is called **spurious**.

# Counterexample-Guided Abstraction Refinement

## Elimination of Spurious Counterexamples I

### Lemma 16.2

If  $\langle c_0, \text{true} \rangle \Rightarrow \langle c_1, Q_1 \rangle \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow \langle c_k, Q_k \rangle$  is a spurious counterexample, there exist Boolean expressions  $b_0, \dots, b_k$  with  $b_0 \equiv \text{true}$ ,  $b_k \equiv \text{false}$ , and

$$\forall i \in \{1, \dots, k\}, \sigma, \sigma' \in \Sigma : \sigma \models b_{i-1} \wedge \langle c_{i-1}, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \langle c_i, \sigma' \rangle \implies \sigma' \models b_i$$

### Proof (idea).

Inductive definition of  $b_i$  as **strongest postconditions**:

1.  $b_0 := \text{true}$

2. for  $i = 1, \dots, k$ : definition of  $b_i$  depending on  $b_{i-1}$  and on (axiom) transition rule applied in

$\langle c_{i-1}, \cdot \rangle \Rightarrow \langle c_i, \cdot \rangle$ :

– (skip)  $b_i := b_{i-1}$

– (asgn)  $b_i := \exists x'. (b_{i-1}[x \mapsto x'] \wedge x = a[x \mapsto x'])$

(for  $x := a$ ;  $x' = \text{previous value of } x$ )

– (if1)  $b_i := b_{i-1} \wedge b$

– (if2)  $b_i := b_{i-1} \wedge \neg b$

– (wh1)  $b_i := b_{i-1} \wedge b$

– (wh2)  $b_i := b_{i-1} \wedge \neg b$

(yields  $b_k \equiv \text{false}$ ; by induction on  $k$ )



## Elimination of Spurious Counterexamples II

### Example 16.3

- Let  $c_0 := [x := z]^0; [z := z + 1]^1; [y := z]^2;$   
if  $[x = y]^3$  then  $[skip]^4$  else  $[skip]^5$  end
- **Interesting property:** after termination,  $x \neq y$ , i.e., label 4 unreachable
- **Initial abstraction:**  $P = \emptyset$  ( $\implies Abs(P) = \{\text{true}, \text{false}\}$ )
- (Spurious) **counterexample:**  $\langle 0, \text{true} \rangle \Rightarrow \langle 1, \text{true} \rangle \Rightarrow \langle 2, \text{true} \rangle \Rightarrow \langle 3, \text{true} \rangle \Rightarrow \langle 4, \text{true} \rangle$
- Forward construction of **strongest postconditions:**
  - $b_0 := \text{true}$
  - (asgn)  $b_i := \exists x'. (b_{i-1}[x \mapsto x'] \wedge x = a[x \mapsto x'])$   
 $\implies b_1 := \exists x'. (b_0[x \mapsto x'] \wedge x = z[x \mapsto x']) \equiv (x = z)$
  - (asgn)  $b_i := \exists x'. (b_{i-1}[x \mapsto x'] \wedge x = a[x \mapsto x'])$   
 $\implies b_2 := \exists z'. (b_1[z \mapsto z'] \wedge z = z + 1[z \mapsto z'])$   
 $= \exists z'. (x = z' \wedge z = z' + 1) \equiv (x + 1 = z)$
  - (asgn)  $b_i := \exists x'. (b_{i-1}[x \mapsto x'] \wedge x = a[x \mapsto x'])$   
 $\implies b_3 := \exists y'. (b_2[y \mapsto y'] \wedge y = z[y \mapsto y']) \equiv (x + 1 = z \wedge y = z)$
  - (if1)  $b_i := b_{i-1} \wedge b$   
 $\implies b_4 := (b_3 \wedge x = y) \equiv (x + 1 = z \wedge y = z \wedge x = y) \equiv \text{false}$

# Counterexample-Guided Abstraction Refinement

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## Abstraction Refinement

- Using  $b_1, \dots, b_{k-1}$  as computed before, let  $P' := P \cup \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$  where  $p_1, \dots, p_n$  are the **atomic conjuncts** occurring in  $b_1, \dots, b_{k-1}$
- Refine  $Abs(P)$  to  $Abs(P')$

### Lemma 16.4

*After refinement, the spurious counterexample*

$$\langle c_0, \text{true} \rangle \Rightarrow \langle c_1, Q_1 \rangle \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow \langle c_k, Q_k \rangle$$

*with  $Q_k \not\equiv \text{false}$  does not exist anymore.*

Proof.

omitted □

# Counterexample-Guided Abstraction Refinement

## A Simple Example

### Example 16.5 (cf. Example 16.3)

- Let  $c_0 := [x := z]^0; [z := z + 1]^1; [y := z]^2;$   
if  $[x = y]^3$  then  $[skip]^4$  else  $[skip]^5$  end
- $P = \emptyset, P' = \{\underbrace{x = z}_{p_1}, \underbrace{x + 1 = z}_{p_2}, \underbrace{y = z}_{p_3}\}$

- Refined abstract transitions:

$$\begin{aligned}\langle 0, \text{true} \rangle &\Rightarrow \langle 1, p_1 \wedge \neg p_2 \rangle \\ &\Rightarrow \langle 2, \neg p_1 \wedge p_2 \rangle \\ &\Rightarrow \langle 3, \neg p_1 \wedge p_2 \wedge p_3 \rangle \\ &\Rightarrow \langle 4, \underbrace{\neg p_1 \wedge p_2 \wedge p_3 \wedge x=y}_{\equiv \text{false}} \rangle\end{aligned}$$

# Counterexample-Guided Abstraction Refinement

## Another Example: Multiplication

### Example 16.6

- Let  $c_0 := [z := 0]^0$ ;  
    while  $[x > 0]^1$  do  
         $[z := z + y]^2$ ;  
         $[x := x - 1]^3$   
    end;  
    if  $[z \bmod y = 0]^4$  then  
         $[\text{skip}]^5$   
    else  
         $[\text{skip}]^6$   
    end;
- **Global assumption:**  $y > 0$
- **Interesting property:** label 6 unreachable (since  $z$  multiple of  $y$ )
- **Initial abstraction:**  $P = \emptyset$  ( $\implies \text{Abs}(P) = \{\text{true}, \text{false}\}$ )
- **Abstraction refinement:** on the board