# CS 489 / 698: Software and Systems Security 

Module 7: Bug Finding Tools and Practices static and symbolic reasoning

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## Outline

(1) Introduction to abstraction interpretation
(2) Example and intuition about abstract domains
(3) Reaching fixedpoint: joining, widening, and narrowing

4 Introduction to symbolic execution
(5) Conventional symbolic execution

## Why this topic?

A significant portion of software security research is related to program analysis:

- derive properties which hold for program $P$ (i.e., inference)
- prove that some property holds for program $P$ (i.e., verification)
- given a program $P$, generate a program $P^{\prime}$ which is
- in most ways equivalent to $P$
- behaves better than $P$ w.r.t some criteria
(i.e., transformation)


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- in most ways equivalent to $P$
- behaves better than $P$ w.r.t some criteria
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Abstract interpretation provides a formal framework for developing program analysis tools.

## Abstract interpretation in a nutshell

Acknowledgement: the illustrations in this section is borrowed from Prof. Patrick Cousot's webpage Abstract Interpretation in a Nutshell.

## Program analysis: concrete semantics



The concrete semantics of a program is formalized by the set of all possible executions of this program under all possible inputs.

The concrete semantics of a program can be a close to infinite mathematical object / sequence which is impractical to enumerate.

## Program analysis: safety properties

## Forbidden zone



Safety properties of a program express that no possible execution of the program, when considering all possible execution environments, can reach an erroneous state.

## Program analysis: testing



Test of a few trajectories

Testing consists in considering a subset of the possible executions.

## Program analysis: bounded model checking



Bounded model-checking of trajectory prefixes

Bounded model checking consists in exploring the prefixes of the possible executions.

Program analysis: abstract interpretation

## Forbidden zone



Abstract interpretation consists in considering an abstract semantics, that is a superset of the concrete program semantics.

The abstract semantics covers all possible cases
$\Longrightarrow$ if the abstract semantics is safe (i.e. does not intersect the forbidden zone) then so is the concrete semantics.

Program analysis: abstract interpretation false alarm 1


False alarms caused by widening during execution.

Program analysis: abstract interpretation false alarm 2

## Forbidden zone



False alarms caused by abstract domains.

## Outline

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(2) Example and intuition about abstract domains

3 Reaching fixedpoint: joining, widening, and narrowing

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## What is abstract interpretation?

Consider detecting that one branch will not be taken in: int $x, y, z ; \quad y:=r e a d(f i l e) ; \quad x:=y * y$;
if $x \geq 0$ then $z:=1$ else $z:=0$

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- Exhaustive analysis in the standard domain: non-termination
- Human reasoning about programs - uses abstractions: signs, order of magnitude, odd/even, ...


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Consider detecting that one branch will not be taken in: int $x, y, z ; \quad y:=r e a d(f i l e) ; \quad x:=y * y$;
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- Exhaustive analysis in the standard domain: non-termination
- Human reasoning about programs - uses abstractions: signs, order of magnitude, odd/even, ...

Basic idea: use approximate (generally finite) representations of computational objects to make the problem of program dataflow analysis tractable.

## What is abstract interpretation?

Abstract interpretation is a formalization of the above procedure:

- define a non-standard semantics which can approximate the meaning (or behaviour) of the program in a finite way
- expressions are computed over an approximate (abstract) domain rather than the concrete domain (i.e., meaning of operators has to be reconsidered w.r.t. this new domain)


## Example: integer sign arithmetic

Consider the domain $D=Z$ (integers) and the multiplication operator: $*: Z^{2} \rightarrow Z$

We define an "abstract domain:" $D_{\alpha}=\{[-],[+]\}$ and abstract multiplication: $*_{\alpha}: D_{\alpha}^{2} \rightarrow D_{\alpha}$ defined by:

| $*_{\alpha}$ | $[-]$ | $[+]$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $[-]$ | $[+]$ | $[-]$ |
| $[+]$ | $[-]$ | $[+]$ |

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| $*_{\alpha}$ | $[-]$ | $[+]$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $[-]$ | $[+]$ | $[-]$ |
| $[+]$ | $[-]$ | $[+]$ |

This allows us to conclude, for example, that $y=x^{2}=x * x$ is never negative.

## Some observations

- The basis is that whenever we have $z=x * y$ then: if $x, y \in Z$ are approximated by $x_{\alpha}, y_{\alpha} \in D_{\alpha}$ then $z \in Z$ is approximated by $z_{\alpha}=x_{\alpha} *_{\alpha} y_{\alpha}$
- Essentially, we map from an unbounded domain to a finite domain.
- It is important to formalize this notion of approximation, in order to be able to reason/prove that the analysis is correct.
- Approximate computation is generally less precise but faster (hence the tradeoff).


## Example: integer sign arithmetic (refined)

Again, $D=Z$ (integers)
and: $*: Z^{2} \rightarrow Z$

We can define a more refined "abstract domain"
$D_{\alpha}^{\prime}=\{[-],[0],[+]\}$
and the corresponding abstract multiplication: $*_{\alpha}: D_{\alpha}^{\prime 2} \rightarrow D_{\alpha}^{\prime}$

| $*_{\alpha}$ | $[-]$ | $[0]$ | $[+]$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $[-]$ | $[+]$ | $[0]$ | $[-]$ |
| $[0]$ | $[0]$ | $[0]$ | $[0]$ |
| $[+]$ | $[-]$ | $[0]$ | $[+]$ |

## Example: integer sign arithmetic (refined)

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| $*_{\alpha}$ | $[-]$ | $[0]$ | $[+]$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $[-]$ | $[+]$ | $[0]$ | $[-]$ |
| $[0]$ | $[0]$ | $[0]$ | $[0]$ |
| $[+]$ | $[-]$ | $[0]$ | $[+]$ |

This allows us to conclude, for example, that $z=y *(0 * x)$ is zero.

## More observations

- There is a degree of freedom in defining different abstract operators and domains.
- The minimal requirement is that they be "safe" or "correct".
- Different "safe" definitions result in different kinds of analysis.


## Example: integer sign arithmetic (with addition)

Again, $D=Z$ (integers)
and now we want to define the addition operator $+: Z^{2} \rightarrow Z$

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We cannot use $D_{\alpha}^{\prime}=\{[-],[0],[+]\}$ because we wouldn't know how to represent the result of $[+]+\alpha[-]$, (i.e., the abstract addition would not be closed).

## Example: integer sign arithmetic (with addition)

Again, $D=Z$ (integers)
and now we want to define the addition operator $+: Z^{2} \rightarrow Z$

We cannot use $D_{\alpha}^{\prime}=\{[-],[0],[+]\}$ because we wouldn't know how to represent the result of $[+]+\alpha[-]$, (i.e., the abstract addition would not be closed).

Solution: introduce a new element "T" in the abstract domain as an approximation of any integer.

## Example: integer sign arithmetic (with addition)

New "abstract domain": $D^{\prime}{ }_{\alpha}=\{[-],[0],[+], T\}$

Abstract $+{ }_{\alpha}: D_{\alpha}^{\prime 2} \rightarrow D^{\prime}{ }_{\alpha}$

| $+_{\alpha}$ | $[-]$ | $[0]$ | $[+]$ | $T$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $[-]$ | $[-]$ | $[-]$ | $T$ | $T$ |
| $[0]$ | $[-]$ | $[0]$ | $[+]$ | $T$ |
| $[+]$ | $T$ | $[+]$ | $[+]$ | $T$ |
| $T$ | $T$ | $T$ | $T$ | $T$ |

Abstract $*_{\alpha}: D_{\alpha}^{\prime 2} \rightarrow D_{\alpha}^{\prime}$

| $*_{\alpha}$ | $[-]$ | $[0]$ | $[+]$ | $T$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $[-]$ | $[+]$ | $[0]$ | $[-]$ | $T$ |
| $[0]$ | $[0]$ | $[0]$ | $[0]$ | $[0]$ |
| $[+]$ | $[-]$ | $[0]$ | $[+]$ | $T$ |
| $T$ | T | $[0]$ | T | T |

## Example: integer sign arithmetic (with addition)

New "abstract domain": $D^{\prime}{ }_{\alpha}=\{[-],[0],[+], T\}$

Abstract $+{ }_{\alpha}: D_{\alpha}^{\prime 2} \rightarrow D^{\prime}{ }_{\alpha}$

| $+_{\alpha}$ | $[-]$ | $[0]$ | $[+]$ | $T$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $[-]$ | $[-]$ | $[-]$ | $T$ | $T$ |
| $[0]$ | $[-]$ | $[0]$ | $[+]$ | $T$ |
| $[+]$ | $T$ | $[+]$ | $[+]$ | $T$ |
| $T$ | $T$ | $T$ | $T$ | $T$ |

Abstract $*_{\alpha}: D_{\alpha}^{\prime 2} \rightarrow D_{\alpha}^{\prime}$

| $*_{\alpha}$ | $[-]$ | $[0]$ | $[+]$ | $T$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $[-]$ | $[+]$ | $[0]$ | $[-]$ | $T$ |
| $[0]$ | $[0]$ | $[0]$ | $[0]$ | $[0]$ |
| $[+]$ | $[-]$ | $[0]$ | $[+]$ | $T$ |
| $\top$ | $\top$ | $[0]$ | T | T |

We can now reason that $z=x^{2}+y^{2}$ is never negative

## More observations

- In addition to the imprecision due to the coarseness of $D_{\alpha}$, the abstract versions of the operations (dependent on $D_{\alpha}$ ) may introduce further imprecision
- Thus, the choice of abstract domain and the definition of the abstract operators are crucial.


## Concerns in abstract interpretation

- Required:
- Correctness - safe approximations: the analysis should be "conservative" and errs on the "safe side"
- Termination - compilation should definitely terminate
(note: not always the case in everyday program analysis tools!)
- Desirable - "practicality":
- Efficiency - in practice finite analysis time is not enough: finite and small is the requirement.
- Accuracy - too many false alarms is harmful to the adoption of the analysis tool ("the boy who cried wolf").
- Usefulness - determines which information is worth collecting.


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## Abstract domain example: intervals

Consider the following abstract domain for $x \in Z$ (integers): $x=[a, b]$ where

- a can be either a constant or $-\infty$ and
- $b$ can be either a constant or $\infty$.


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- a can be either a constant or $-\infty$ and
- $b$ can be either a constant or $\infty$.


## Example:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\{x^{\#}=[0,9], y^{\#}=[-1,1]\right\} \\
& z=x+2 * y \\
& \left\{z^{\#}=[0,9]+\# 2 \times \#[-1,1]=[-2,11]\right\}
\end{aligned}
$$

## Abstract domain example: intervals

Consider the following abstract domain for $x \in Z$ (integers): $x=[a, b]$ where

- a can be either a constant or $-\infty$ and
- $b$ can be either a constant or $\infty$.


## Example:

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\begin{aligned}
& \left\{x^{\#}=[0,9], y^{\#}=[-1,1]\right\} \\
& z=x+2 * y \\
& \left\{z^{\#}=[0,9]+\# 2 \times{ }^{\#}[-1,1]=[-2,11]\right\}
\end{aligned}
$$

Q: Why $z^{\#}$ is an abstraction of $z$ ?

## Join operator

The join operator $\sqcup$ merges two or more abstract states into one abstract state.

## Joining operator example

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\{x^{\#}=[0,10]\right\} \\
& \text { if }(x<0) \text { then } \\
& \qquad s:=-1 \\
& \text { else if }(x>0) \text { then } \\
& \qquad s:=1 \\
& \text { else } \\
& \text { s }:=0
\end{aligned}
$$

## Joining operator example

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\{x^{\#}=[0,10]\right\} \\
& \text { if }(x<0) \text { then } \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset\right\} \\
& \quad \mathrm{s}:=-1 \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset, s^{\#}=\emptyset\right\} \\
& \text { else if }(x>0) \text { then } \\
& \qquad \text { s }:=1 \\
& \text { else } \\
& \text { s }:=0
\end{aligned}
$$

## Joining operator example

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\begin{aligned}
& \left\{x^{\#}=[0,10]\right\} \\
& \text { if }(x<0) \text { then } \\
& \quad\left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset\right\} \\
& \quad \mathrm{s}:=-1 \\
& \quad\left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset, s^{\#}=\emptyset\right\} \\
& \text { else if }(x>0) \text { then } \\
& \quad\left\{x^{\#}=[1,10]\right\} \\
& \quad s:=1 \\
& \quad\left\{x^{\#}=[1,10], s^{\#}=[1,1]\right\} \\
& \text { else } \\
& \quad \mathrm{s}:=0
\end{aligned}
$$

## Joining operator example

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\{x^{\#}=[0,10]\right\} \\
& \text { if }(x<0) \text { then } \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset\right\} \\
& s:=-1 \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset, s^{\#}=\emptyset\right\} \\
& \text { else if }(x>0) \text { then } \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[1,10]\right\} \\
& s:=1 \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[1,10], s^{\#}=[1,1]\right\} \\
& \text { else } \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[0,0]\right\} \\
& s:=0 \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[0,0], s^{\#}=[0,0]\right\}
\end{aligned}
$$

## Joining operator example

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\{x^{\#}=[0,10]\right\} \\
& \text { if }(x<0) \text { then } \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset\right\} \\
& s:=-1 \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset, s^{\#}=\emptyset\right\} \\
& \text { else if }(x>0) \text { then } \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[1,10]\right\} \\
& s:=1 \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[1,10], s^{\#}=[1,1]\right\} \\
& \text { else } \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[0,0]\right\} \\
& \mathrm{s}:=0 \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[0,0], s^{\#}=[0,0]\right\} \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset \sqcup[1,10] \sqcup[0,0]=[0,10], s^{\#}=\emptyset \sqcup[1,1] \sqcup[0,0]=[0,1]\right\}
\end{aligned}
$$

## What about loops?

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset\right\} \\
& x:=0 \\
& \text { while }(x<100)\{ \\
& x:=x+2 \\
& \}
\end{aligned}
$$

## What about loops?

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset\right\} \\
& x:=0 \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=\langle\text { even }\rangle\right\} \\
& \text { while }(x<100)\{ \\
& x:=x+2 \\
& \}
\end{aligned}
$$

## What about loops?

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset\right\} \\
& x:=0 \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=\langle\text { even }\rangle\right\} \\
& \text { while }(x<100)\{ \\
& \quad\left\{x^{\#}=\langle\text { even }\rangle\right\}_{1} \\
& x:=x+2 \\
& \quad\left\{x^{\#}=\langle\text { even }\rangle\right\}_{1} \\
& \}
\end{aligned}
$$

## What about loops?

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset\right\} \\
& \mathrm{x}:=0 \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=\langle\text { even }\rangle\right\} \\
& \text { while }(\mathrm{x}<100)\{ \\
& \quad\left\{x^{\#}=\langle\text { even }\rangle\right\}_{1} \quad\left\{x^{\#}=\langle\text { even }\rangle \sqcup\langle\text { even }\rangle=\langle\text { even }\rangle\right\}_{2} \\
& x:=x+2 \\
& \quad\left\{x^{\#}=\langle\text { even }\rangle\right\}_{1} \\
& \}
\end{aligned}
$$

## What about loops?

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset\right\} \\
& x:=0 \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=\langle\text { even }\rangle\right\} \\
& \text { while }(x<100)\{ \\
& \quad\left\{x^{\#}=\langle\text { even }\rangle\right\}_{1} \quad\left\{x^{\#}=\langle\text { even }\rangle \sqcup\langle\text { even }\rangle=\langle\text { even }\rangle\right\}_{2} \\
& \quad \mathrm{x}:=\mathrm{x}+2 \\
& \quad\left\{x^{\#}=\langle\text { even }\rangle\right\}_{1} \\
& \} \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=\langle\text { even }\rangle\right\}
\end{aligned}
$$

Two iterations to reach fixedpoint (i.e., none of the abstract states changes).

## Collecting semantics

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset\right\} \\
& x:=0 \\
& \text { while }(x<100)\{ \\
& x:=x+2 \\
& \}
\end{aligned}
$$

## Collecting semantics

```
\(\left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset\right\}\)
x := 0
\(\left\{x^{\#}=[0,0]\right\}\)
while (x < 100) \{
x := x + 2
\}
```


## Collecting semantics

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset\right\} \\
& x:=0 \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[0,0]\right\} \\
& \text { while }(\mathrm{x}<100)\{ \\
& \quad\left\{x^{\#}=[0,0]\right\}_{1} \\
& x:=x+2 \\
& \quad\left\{x^{\#}=[2,2]\right\}_{1} \\
& \}
\end{aligned}
$$

## Collecting semantics

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset\right\} \\
& \mathrm{x}:=0 \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[0,0]\right\} \\
& \text { while }(\mathrm{x}<100) \\
& \\
& \quad\left\{x^{\#}=[0,0]\right\}_{1} \\
& \\
& \quad \mathrm{x}:=\mathrm{x}+2 \\
& \\
& \begin{cases} & \left\{x^{\#}=[2,2]=[0,0] \sqcup[2,2]=[0,2]\right\}_{1}\end{cases} \\
& \}
\end{aligned}
$$

## Collecting semantics

$$
\left.\left.\begin{array}{l}
\left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset\right\} \\
\mathrm{x}:=0 \\
\left\{x^{\#}=[0,0]\right\} \\
\text { while }(\mathrm{x}<100)\{ \\
\\
\quad\left\{x^{\#}=[0,0]\right\}_{1} \\
\\
\quad \mathrm{x}:=\mathrm{x}+2 \\
\\
\left\{x^{\#}=[2,2]\right\}_{1}
\end{array} \quad\left\{x^{\#}=[0,2] \sqcup[2,4]=[0,4]\right\}_{3}=[2,4] \sqcup[2,6]=[2,6]\right\}_{3}\right\}
$$

## Collecting semantics

```
\(\left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset\right\}\)
x := 0
\(\left\{x^{\#}=[0,0]\right\}\)
while ( \(\mathrm{x}<100\) ) \{
    \(\left\{x^{\#}=[0,0]\right\}_{1} \quad\{\cdots\}_{4},\{\cdots\}_{5}, \cdots\)
    \(\mathrm{x}:=\mathrm{x}+2\)
    \(\left\{x^{\#}=[2,2]\right\}_{1} \quad\{\cdots\}_{4},\{\cdots\}_{5}, \cdots\)
\}
```


## Collecting semantics

```
\(\left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset\right\}\)
\(\mathrm{x}:=0\)
\(\left\{x^{\#}=[0,0]\right\}\)
while ( \(\mathrm{x}<100\) ) \{
    \(\left\{x^{\#}=[0,0]\right\}_{1} \quad\left\{x^{\#}=[0,96] \sqcup[2,98]=[0,98]\right\}_{50}\)
    \(\mathrm{x}:=\mathrm{x}+2\)
    \(\left\{x^{\#}=[2,2]\right\}_{1} \quad\left\{x^{\#}=[2,98] \sqcup[2,100]=[2,100]\right\}_{50}\)
\}
```


## Collecting semantics

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset\right\} \\
& \mathrm{x} \text { := } 0 \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[0,0]\right\} \\
& \text { while ( } \mathrm{x}<100 \text { ) \{ } \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[0,0]\right\}_{1} \\
& \mathrm{x}:=\mathrm{x}+2 \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[2,2]\right\}_{1} \quad\left\{x^{\#}=[2,98] \sqcup[2,100]=[2,100]\right\}_{50} \\
& \text { \} } \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[100,100]\right\}
\end{aligned}
$$

50 iterations to reach fixedpoint (i.e., none of the abstract states changes).

## Collecting semantics

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset\right\} \\
& \mathrm{x} \text { := } 0 \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[0,0]\right\} \\
& \text { while ( } \mathrm{x}<100 \text { ) \{ } \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[0,0]\right\}_{1} \\
& \mathrm{x}:=\mathrm{x}+2 \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[2,2]\right\}_{1} \quad\left\{x^{\#}=[2,98] \sqcup[2,100]=[2,100]\right\}_{50} \\
& \text { \} } \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[100,100]\right\}
\end{aligned}
$$

50 iterations to reach fixedpoint (i.e., none of the abstract states changes).

Q: can we reach the fixedpoint faster?

## Widening operator

We compute the limit of the following sequence:

$$
\begin{gathered}
X_{0}=\perp \\
X_{i+1}=X_{i} \nabla F^{\#}\left(X_{i}\right)
\end{gathered}
$$

where $\nabla$ denotes the widening operator.

## Widening operator example

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset\right\} \\
& x:=0 \\
& \text { while }(x<100)\{ \\
& x:=x+2 \\
& \}
\end{aligned}
$$

## Widening operator example

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset\right\} \\
& x:=0 \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[0,0]\right\} \\
& \text { while }(x<100)\{ \\
& \quad x:=x+2 \\
& \}
\end{aligned}
$$

## Widening operator example

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset\right\} \\
& \mathrm{x}:=0 \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[0,0]\right\} \\
& \text { while }(\mathrm{x}<100)\{ \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[0,0]\right\}_{1} \\
& \mathrm{x}:=\mathrm{x}+2 \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[2,2]\right\}_{1} \\
& \}
\end{aligned}
$$

## Widening operator example

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset\right\} \\
& \mathrm{x}:=0 \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[0,0]\right\} \\
& \text { while (x<100) } \\
& \begin{aligned}
& \\
&\left\{x^{\#}=[0,0]\right\}_{1}
\end{aligned} \\
& \begin{array}{ll}
\mathrm{x}:=\mathrm{x}+2 & \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[0,0] \nabla[2,2]=[0,+\infty]\right\}_{2} \\
\} &
\end{array}
\end{aligned}
$$

## Widening operator example

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset\right\} \\
& x:=0 \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[0,0]\right\} \\
& \text { while }(\mathrm{x}<100)\{ \\
& \\
& \quad\left\{x^{\#}=[0,0]\right\}_{1} \\
& \quad x:=x+2 \\
& \\
& \quad\left\{x^{\#}=[2,2]\right\}_{1} \\
& \}
\end{aligned}
$$

## Widening operator example

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset\right\} \\
& x:=0 \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[0,0]\right\} \\
& \text { while }(\mathrm{x}<100)\{ \\
& \quad\left\{x^{\#}=[0,0]\right\}_{1} \\
& \quad x:=\mathrm{x}+2 \\
& \quad\left\{x^{\#}=[0,+\infty] \nabla[2,+\infty]=[0,+\infty]\right\}_{3} \\
& \quad\left\{x^{\#}=[2,2]\right\}_{1} \\
& \} \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[100,+\infty]\right\}
\end{aligned}
$$

3 iterations to reach fixedpoint (i.e., none of the abstract states changes).

## Narrowing operator

We compute the limit of the following sequence:

$$
\begin{gathered}
X_{0}=\perp \\
X_{i+1}=X_{i} \triangle F^{\#}\left(X_{i}\right)
\end{gathered}
$$

where $\triangle$ denotes the narrowing operator.

## Narrowing operator example

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset\right\} \\
& x:=0 \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[0,0]\right\} \\
& \text { while }(x<100)\{ \\
& \quad\left\{x^{\#}=[0,+\infty]\right\} \\
& \quad x:=x+2 \\
& \quad\left\{x^{\#}=[2,+\infty]\right\} \\
& \} \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[100,101]\right\}
\end{aligned}
$$

## Narrowing operator example

$$
\left.\begin{array}{l}
\left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset\right\} \\
\mathrm{x}:=0 \\
\left\{x^{\#}=[0,0]\right\} \\
\text { while }(\mathrm{x}<100)\{ \\
\quad\left\{x^{\#}=[0,+\infty]\right\} \\
\quad \mathrm{x}:=\mathrm{x}+2 \\
\quad\left\{x^{\#}=[2,+\infty]\right\} \\
\} \\
\left\{x^{\#}=[100,101]\right\}
\end{array} \quad\left\{x^{\#}=[2,+\infty] \triangle[0,99]=[0,99]\right\}_{1}\right\}
$$

## Narrowing operator example

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\{x^{\#}=\emptyset\right\} \\
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& \left\{x^{\#}=[0,0]\right\} \\
& \text { while }(\mathrm{x}<100)\{ \\
& \quad\left\{x^{\#}=[0,+\infty]\right\} \\
& \quad \mathrm{x}:=\mathrm{x}+2 \\
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& \} \\
& \left\{x^{\#}=[100,101]\right\}
\end{aligned}
$$

2 iterations to reach fixedpoint (i.e., none of the abstract states changes).

## Outline

(1) Introduction to abstraction interpretation
(2) Example and intuition about abstract domains
(3) Reaching fixedpoint: joining, widening, and narrowing

4 Introduction to symbolic execution
(5) Conventional symbolic execution

## Motivation

Q: Why research on symbolic execution when we have unit testing or even fuzzing?

## Motivation

Q: Why research on symbolic execution when we have unit testing or even fuzzing?

A: A more complete exploration of program states.

## Illustration

```
1 fn foo(x: u64): u64 {
2 if (x * 3 == 42) {
3 some_hidden_bug();
4 }
5 if (x * 5 == 42) {
6 some_hidden_bug();
7 }
8 return 2 * x;
9 }
```


## Illustration

# Unit Test <br> foo(0); <br> foo(1); 

```
1 fn foo(x: u64): u64 {
2 if (x * 3 == 42) {
3 some_hidden_bug();
4 }
5 if (x * 5 == 42) {
6 some_hidden_bug();
7 }
8 return 2 * x;
9 }
```


## Illustration

# Unit Test <br> foo( 0 ) ; <br> foo(1); 

## Fuzzing

foo( $\theta$ ) ;
foo(1);
foo(12);
foo(78);
foo (9, 223, $372,036,854,775,808)$;

## Illustration

# Unit Test <br> foo( ${ }^{(\theta) \text { ) ; }}$ <br> foo(1); 

## Fuzzing

foo( 0 ) ;
foo(1);
foo(12);
foo(78);
foo( $9,223,372,036,854,775,808)$;
Symbolic execution
foo( $x$ )
aborts when $x=14$
returns $2 x$ otherwise

## Satisfiability Modulo Theories (SMT)

Definition: A procedure that decides whether a mathematical formula is satisfiable.

## Example:

- $3 x=42$
- $2 x \geq 2^{64}$
- $5 x=42$


## Satisfiability Modulo Theories (SMT)

Definition: A procedure that decides whether a mathematical formula is satisfiable.

## Example:

- $3 x=42 \longrightarrow$ satisfiable with $x=14$
- $2 x \geq 2^{64} \longrightarrow$ satisfiable with $x \geq 2^{63}$
- $5 x=42 \longrightarrow$ unsatisfiable, cannot find an $x$

Ask two questions whenever you see a symbolic execution work:

- How does it convert code into mathematical formula?
- What does it try to solve for?


## Program modeling desiderata

- Control-flow graph exploration
- Loop handling
- Memory modeling
- Concurrency


## Outline

## (1) Introduction to abstraction interpretation

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4 Introduction to symbolic execution
(5) Conventional symbolic execution

## An example of a pure function

```
fn foo(
    c1: bool, c2: bool,
    x: u64
    ) -> u64 \{
    let \(r=i f(c 1)\) \{
        x + 3
        \} else \{
            x + 4
    \};
        let \(r=i f(c 2)\) \{
                r - 1
    \} else \{
            r - 2
        \};
        r
\}
spec foo \{
    ensures r > x ;
\}
```


## An example of a pure function

| 1 fn foo( |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | c1: bool, c2: bool, |
| 3 | x : u64 |
|  | ) -> u64 \{ |
| 5 | let $\mathrm{r}=\mathrm{if}$ (c1) \{ |
| 6 | $\mathrm{x}+3$ |
| 7 | \} else \{ |
| 8 | $\mathrm{x}+4$ |
| 9 | \}; |
| 10 |  |
| 11 | let $\mathrm{r}=\mathrm{if}$ (c2) \{ |
| 12 | r - 1 |
| 13 | \} else \{ |
| 14 | r - 2 |
| 15 | \}; |
| 16 |  |
| 17 | r |
| 18 \} |  |
| 19 spec foo \{ |  |
| 20 | ensures r > x ; |
| 21 \} |  |



## The example in SSA form

| 1 fn fool |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | c1: bool, c2: bool, |
| x : u64 |  |
|  | ) -> u64 \{ |
| 5 | let $\mathrm{r}=\mathrm{if}$ ( c 1$)$ \{ |
| 6 | $\mathrm{x}+3$ |
| 7 | \} else \{ |
| 8 | $\mathrm{x}+4$ |
| 9 | \}; |
| 10 |  |
| 11 | let $\mathrm{r}=\mathrm{if}$ ( c 2$)$ \{ |
| 12 | r - 1 |
| 13 | \} else \{ |
| 14 | r - 2 |
| 15 | \}; |
| 16 |  |
| 17 | r |
| 18 \} |  |
| 19 spec foo \{ |  |
| 20 | ensures r > x; |
| 21 \} |  |



## Path-based exploration

Vars: $c 1, c 2, x, r_{1-6}$

| B0 | Sym. repr. <br> Path cond. | True |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |



## Path-based exploration

Vars: $c 1, c 2, x, r_{1-6}$

| B0 | Sym. repr. <br> Path cond. | $\emptyset$ <br> True |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathbf{B 1}$ | Sym. repr. <br> Path cond. | $r_{1}=x+3$ <br> $c 1$ |



## Path-based exploration

Vars: $c 1, c 2, x, r_{1-6}$

| B0 | Sym. repr. <br> Path cond. | $\emptyset$ <br> True |
| ---: | :--- | :--- |
| B1 | Sym. repr. <br> Path cond. | $r_{1}=x+3$ <br> $c 1$ |
| B3 | Sym. repr. | $r_{1}=x+3$ <br> $r_{3}=r_{1}$ <br> $c 1$ |



## Path-based exploration

Vars: $c 1, c 2, x, r_{1-6}$

| B0 | Sym. repr. <br> Path cond. | $\emptyset$ <br> True |
| ---: | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathbf{B 1}$ | Sym. repr. <br> Path cond. | $r_{1}=x+3$ <br> $c 1$ |
|  | Sym. repr. | $r_{1}=x+3$ <br> $r_{3}=r_{1}$ <br> $c 1$ |
|  | Path cond. |  |
|  | Sym. repr. | $r_{1}=x+3$ <br> $r_{3}=r_{1}$ <br> $r_{4}=r_{3}-1$ <br> $c_{1} \wedge c_{2}$ |
| B4 | Path cond. |  |



## Path-based exploration

Vars: $c 1, c 2, x, r_{1-6}$

| B0 | Sym. repr. <br> Path cond. | $\begin{aligned} & \emptyset \\ & \text { True } \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| B1 | Sym. repr. <br> Path cond. | $\begin{aligned} & r_{1}=x+3 \\ & c 1 \end{aligned}$ |
| B3 | Sym. repr. <br> Path cond. | $\begin{aligned} & r_{1}=x+3 \\ & r_{3}=r_{1} \\ & c 1 \end{aligned}$ |
| B4 | Sym. repr. <br> Path cond. | $\begin{aligned} & r_{1}=x+3 \\ & r_{3}=r_{1} \\ & r_{4}=r_{3}-1 \\ & c_{1} \wedge c_{2} \end{aligned}$ |
| B6 | Sym. repr. <br> Path cond. | $\begin{aligned} & r_{1}=x+3 \\ & r_{3}=r_{1} \\ & r_{4}=r_{3}-1 \\ & r_{6}=r_{4} \\ & c_{1} \wedge c_{2} \end{aligned}$ |



## Proving procedure (per path)

Vars: $c 1, c 2, x, r_{1-6}$

| B6 | Sym. repr. | $r_{1}=x+3$ <br>  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br> Path cond. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| $c_{1} \wedge c_{2}$ |  |  |



## Proving procedure (per path)

Vars: $c 1, c 2, x, r_{1-6}$

|  | Sym. repr. | $r_{1}=x+3$ <br> B6 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | $r_{3}=r_{1}$ |  |
|  | $r_{4}=r_{3}-1$ |  |
|  | Path cond. | $r_{6}=r_{4}$ |
| $c_{1} \wedge c_{2}$ |  |  |

$\leadsto$
Prove that $\forall c 1, c 2, x, r_{1-6}$ :

$$
\begin{aligned}
& ((c 1 \wedge c 2) \wedge( \\
& \left(r_{1}=x+3\right) \\
& \left(r_{3}=r_{1}\right) \\
& \left(r_{4}=r_{3}-1\right) \\
& \left(r_{6}=r_{4}\right) \\
& )) \Rightarrow\left(r_{6}>x\right)
\end{aligned}
$$



## Proving procedure (all paths)

Prove that $\forall c 1, c 2, x, r_{1-6}$ :

$$
\begin{aligned}
& ((c 1 \wedge c 2) \wedge( \\
& \left(r_{1}=x+3\right) \\
& \left(r_{3}=r_{1}\right) \\
& \left(r_{4}=r_{3}-1\right) \\
& \left(r_{6}=r_{4}\right) \\
& )) \Rightarrow\left(r_{6}>x\right)
\end{aligned}
$$



## Proving procedure (all paths)

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Prove that } \forall c 1, c 2, x, r_{1-6}: \\
& \begin{array}{l}
((c 1 \wedge \neg c 2) \wedge( \\
\left(r_{1}=x+3\right) \\
\left(r_{3}=r_{1}\right) \\
\left(r_{5}=r_{3}-2\right) \\
\left(r_{6}=r_{5}\right) \\
)) \stackrel{\left(r_{6}>x\right)}{ }
\end{array}
\end{aligned}
$$



## Proving procedure (all paths)

$$
\text { Prove that } \forall c 1, c 2, x, r_{1-6}:
$$

$$
\begin{gathered}
((\neg c 1 \wedge c 2) \wedge( \\
\left(r_{2}=x+4\right) \\
\left(r_{3}=r_{2}\right) \\
\left(r_{4}=r_{3}-1\right) \\
\left(r_{6}=r_{4}\right) \\
)) \Rightarrow\left(r_{6}>x\right)
\end{gathered}
$$



## Proving procedure (all paths)

Prove that $\forall c 1, c 2, x, r_{1-6}$ :

$$
\begin{aligned}
& ((\neg c 1 \wedge \neg c 2) \wedge( \\
& \left(r_{2}=x+4\right) \\
& \left(r_{3}=r_{2}\right) \\
& \left(r_{5}=r_{3}-2\right) \\
& \left(r_{6}=r_{5}\right) \\
& )) \Rightarrow\left(r_{6}>x\right)
\end{aligned}
$$



## Path explosion

## Path explosion

$2^{2}$ paths


## Path explosion

$2^{2}$ paths
$2^{3}$ paths


## Path explosion

$2^{2}$ paths
$2^{3}$ paths
$2^{k}$ paths

$\langle$ End $\rangle$

