

# Analyzing and Transforming Native Code

Applied Static Analysis 2016

**Ben Hermann**  
**@benhermann**

Dr. Michael Eichberg, Johannes Lerch, Sebastian Proksch, Karim Ali Ph.D.



# Parameter Data-Flow Analysis

naive version

- Idea: Ignore control flow, path conditions, and calling context
- Iterate over instructions and see what happens

# Parameter Data-Flow Analysis

naive version

```
%tmp = alloca i32, align 4
```

```
%tmp1 = alloca i32, align 4
```

```
store i32 %n, i32* %tmp1, align 4
```

```
%tmp2 = load i32, i32* %tmp1, align 4
```

```
%tmp3 = icmp eq i32 %tmp2, 0
```

```
br i1 %tmp3, label %bb4, label %bb5
```

```
store i32 0, i32* %tmp
```

```
br label %bb17
```

```
%tmp6 = load i32, i32* %tmp1, align 4
```

```
%n
```

```
%n
```

```
%n, %tmp1
```

```
%n, %tmp1, %tmp2
```

```
%n, %tmp1, %tmp2
```

```
%n, %tmp1, %tmp2
```

```
%n, %tmp1, %tmp2
```

```
%n, %tmp1, %tmp2
```

```
%n, %tmp1, %tmp2, %tmp6
```

# Parameter Data-Flow Analysis

`exercises/ParameterFlow/`

- Iterate over all arguments of a function  
`for(Argument &a : f.getArgumentList())`
- Implement an `InstVisitor` for all relevant instructions

```
struct FlowIV : public InstVisitor<FlowIV>
```

- Store tracked `Value` instances in a `DenseSet`  
`DenseSet<Value*> trackedValues;`



# Parameter Data-Flow Analysis

exercises/ParameterFlow/

- Implement handler for all instructions relevant

```
void visitBinaryOperator(BinaryOperator &I) {  
    Value *op1 = I.getOperand(0);  
    Value *op2 = I.getOperand(1);  
  
    if (isTracked(op1) || isTracked(op2)) {  
        addTrackedValue(I);  
    }  
}
```

# Parameter Data-Flow Analysis

naive version

- What are the problems of this approach?
- Is the result correct/sound?
- Is the result precise?

# Control-Flow Sensitivity

- Consider this example:

```
int doStuff(int n) {  
    int result = 0;  
    if (false) {  
        result = n;  
    }  
    return result;  
}
```

- Does `n` flow to `result`?



# Making the Analysis Control-Flow Sensitive

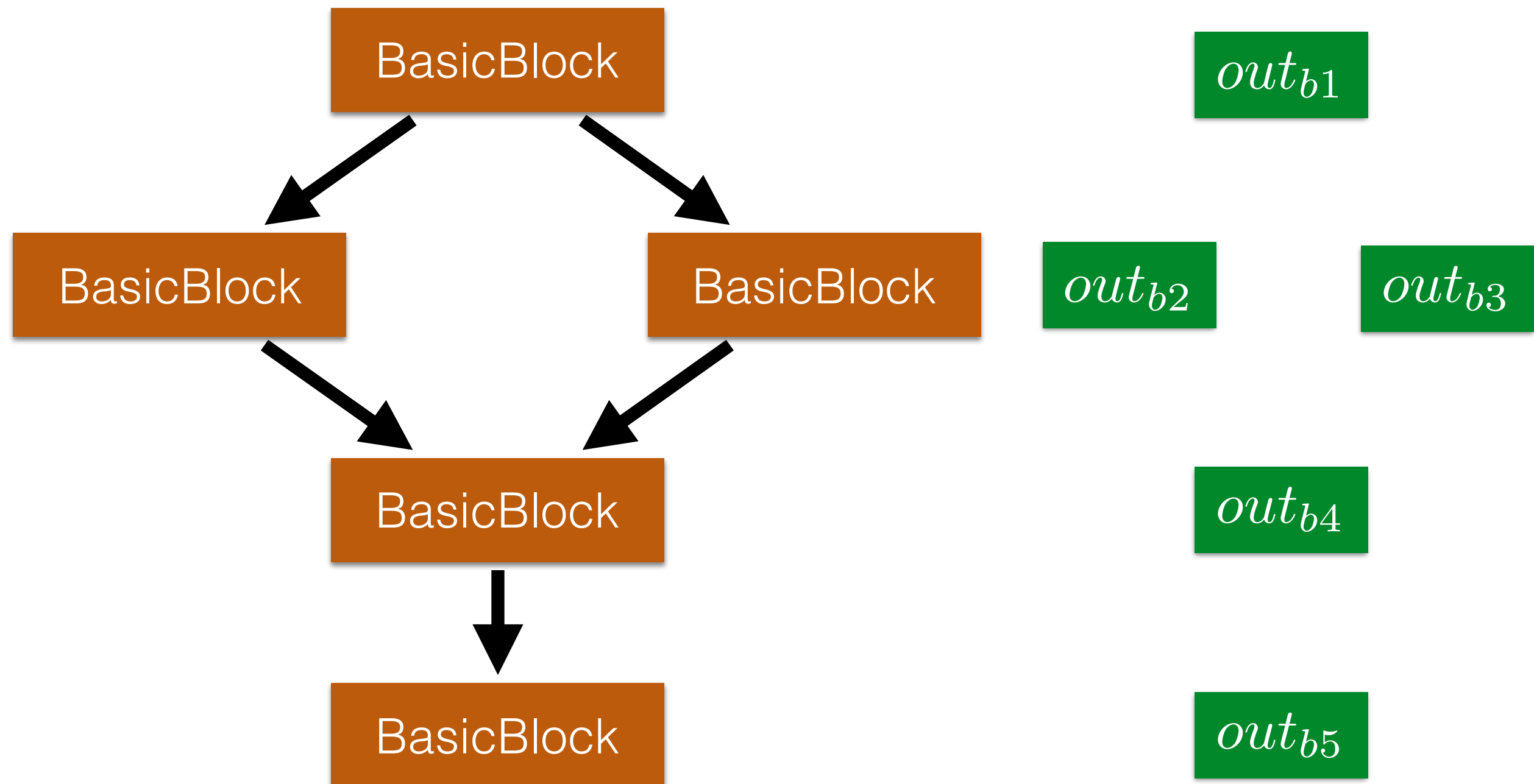
- Recall the following:

$$out_b = trans_b(in_b)$$

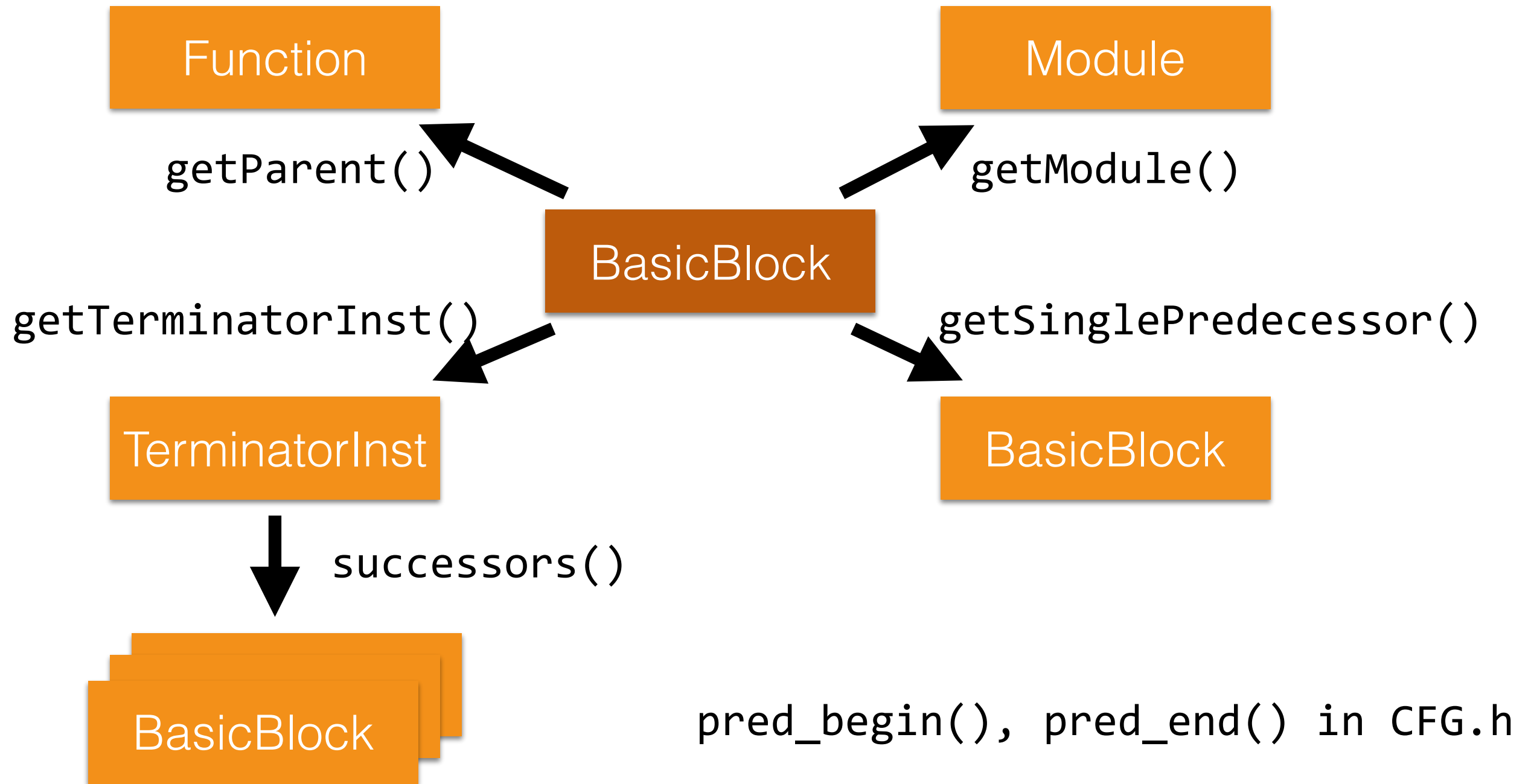
$$in_b = join_{p \in pred_b}(out_p)$$

- This is exactly what we want:
  - basic block separated
  - output is the translation of the input
  - joined output of predecessors is input the next

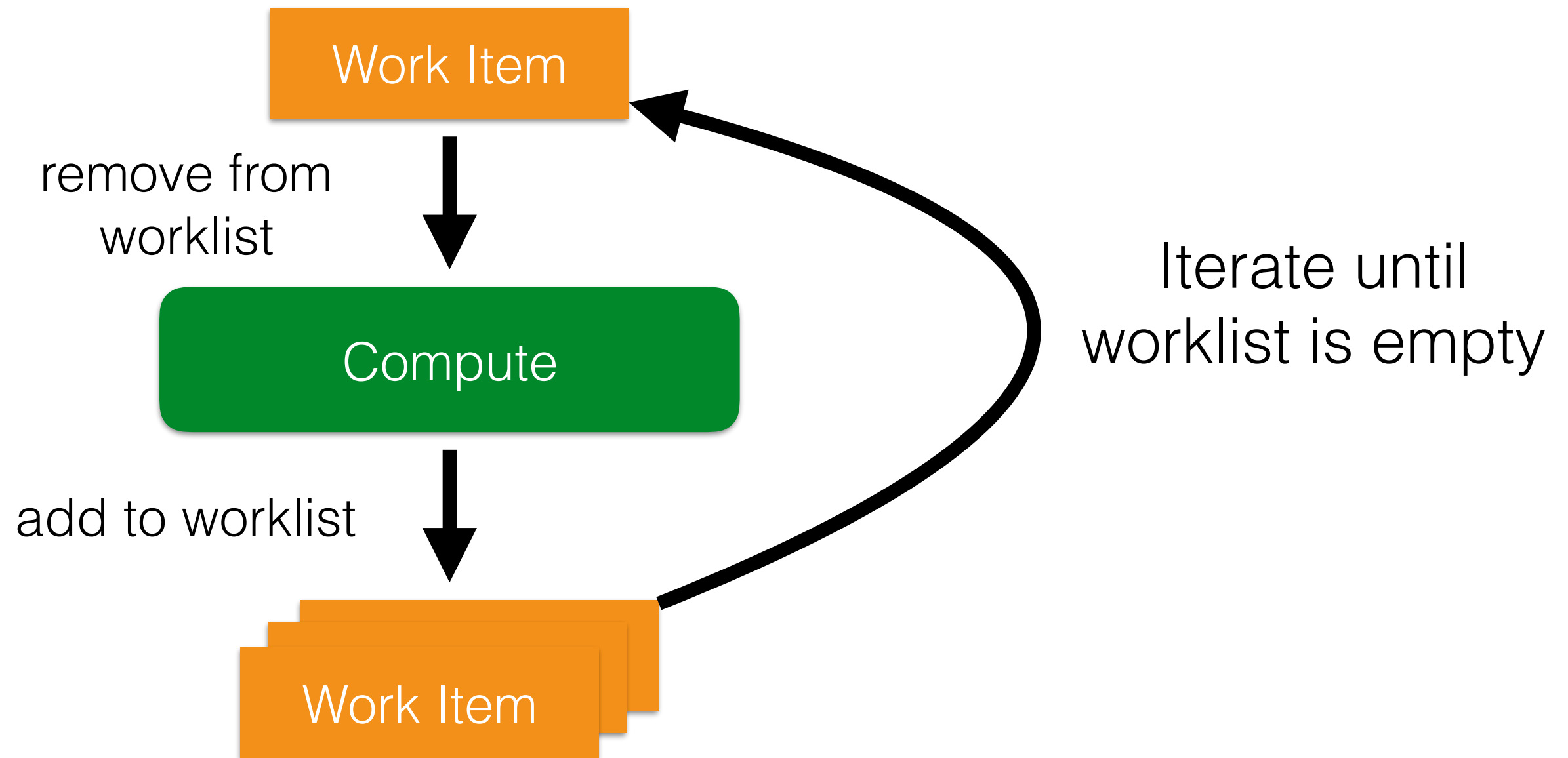
# Making the Analysis Control-Flow Sensitive



# Basic Block



# Worklist Algorithms



# Parameter Data-Flow Analysis

flow-sensitive version

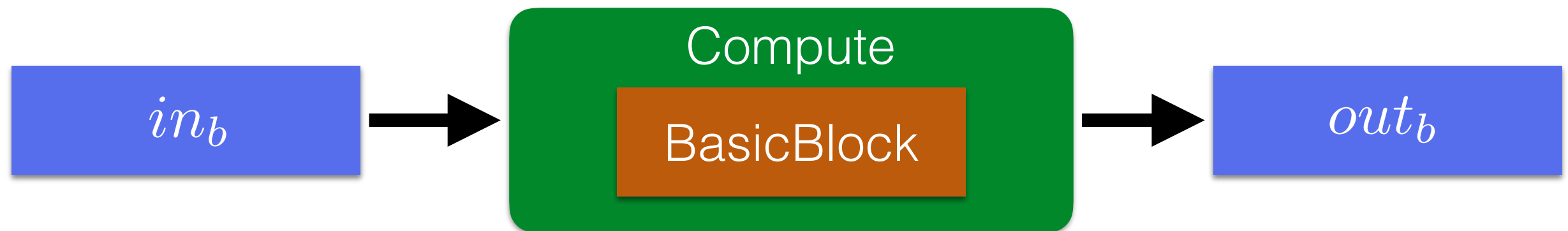
Standard pair

Incoming Tracked Values

```
std::vector<std::pair<BasicBlock*, DenseSet<Value*>>> worklist;
```

Standard vector data structure

Basic block to be processed



# Parameter Data-Flow Analysis

flow-sensitive version

Computing the initial seed

```
for (BasicBlock &bb : f) {  
    if (!hasPredecessor(&bb)) {  
        DenseSet<Value*> incomingValues;  
        incomingValues.insert(&a);  
        worklist.push_back(std::make_pair(&bb, incomingValues));  
    }  
}
```

Get all BasicBlocks w/o predecessors

Assume the argument as incoming

Add pair to work list

```
// [...]  
bool hasPredecessor(BasicBlock* bb) {  
    if (pred_begin(bb) != pred_end(bb)) return true;  
    return false;  
}
```

End and begin pointers differ

**exercise 7.1**

# Parameter Data-Flow Analysis

flow-sensitive version

## Worklist processing

```
while(!worklist.empty()) {  
    std::pair<BasicBlock*, DenseSet<Value*>> current = worklist.back();  
    worklist.pop_back();  
  
    FlowIV flowVisitor;  
    for (Value *v : current.second)  
        flowVisitor.addTrackedValue(v);  
    flowVisitor.visit(current.first);  
    DenseSet<Value*> outgoingTracked = flowVisitor.getCurrentlyTrackedValues();  
  
    TerminatorInst *blockTi = current.first->getTerminator();  
    if (blockTi) {  
        for(BasicBlock *succ : blockTi->successors()) {  
            worklist.push_back(std::make_pair(succ, outgoingTracked));  
        }  
    }  
}
```

Get the current item and pop it from the worklist

Reuse the FlowIV from before

Add initial values

Compute outgoing values

Iterate over successor block

Push successor blocks to work list

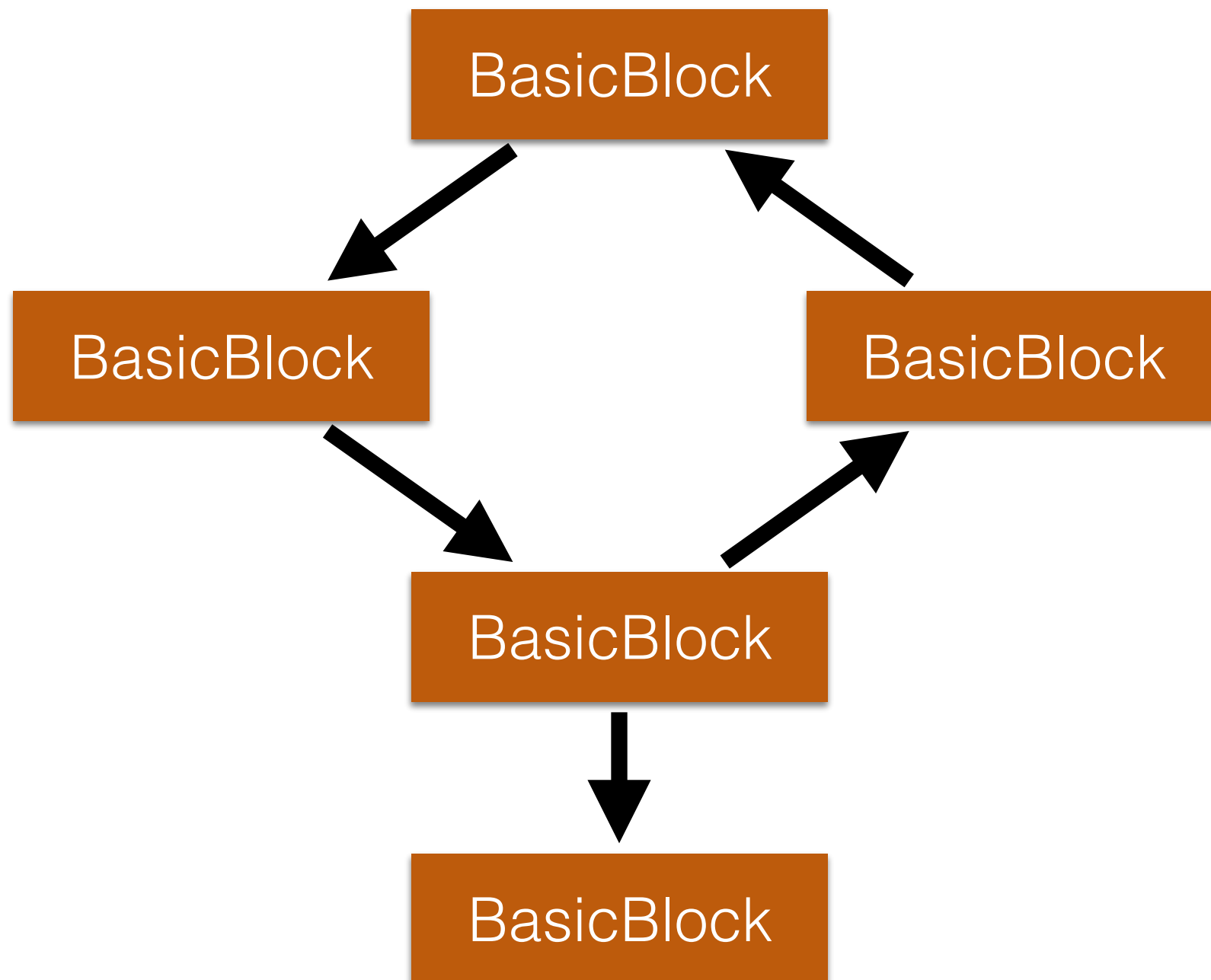
**exercise 7.1**



**What's wrong in this  
implementation?**

Loops!

# Loops of Basic Blocks



# Parameter Data-Flow Analysis

flow-sensitive version

## Strategies for Handling Loops

- Only visit a BasicBlock once
- Only visit with different input flow
- Only push to worklist, if output set was not seen before

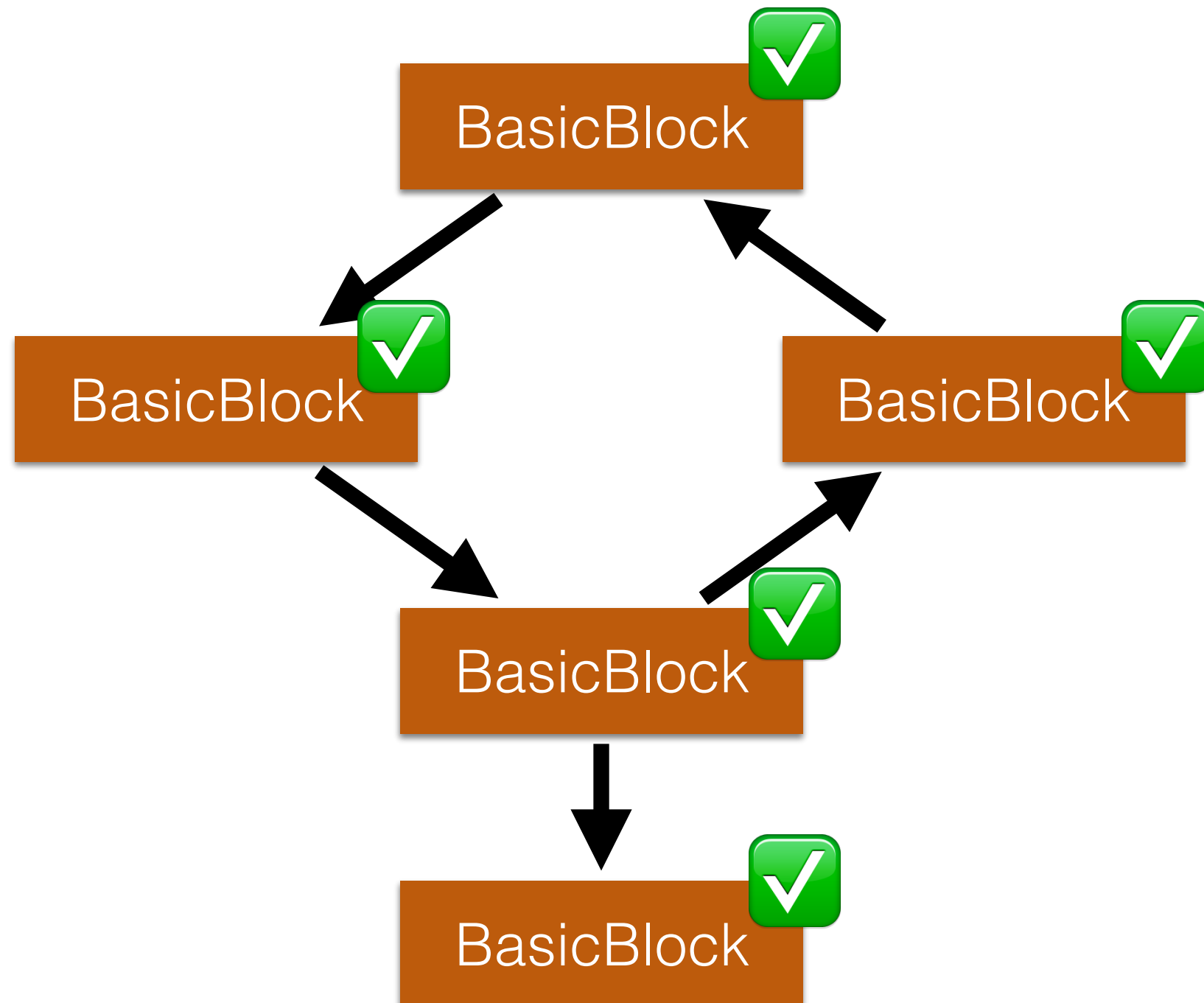
# Parameter Data-Flow Analysis

flow-sensitive version

Strategies for Handling Loops  
1. Process Blocks Once

```
DenseSet<BasicBlock*> processed;  
  
// compute outgoing values  
processed.insert(current.first);  
  
if (processed.find(succ) == processed.end())  
    // add to worklist
```

# Strategy #1



# Parameter Data-Flow Analysis

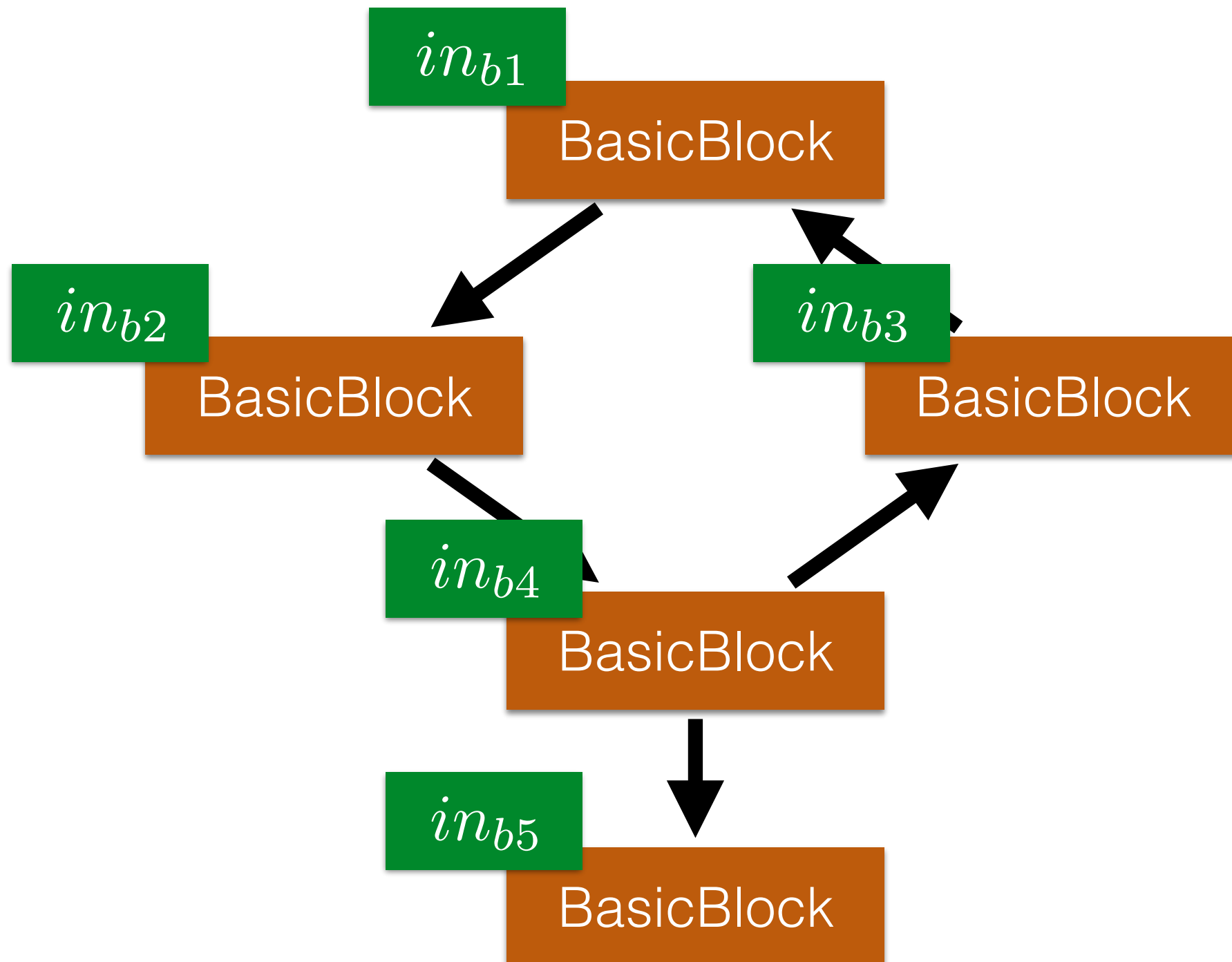
flow-sensitive version

## Strategies for Handling Loops 2. Consider Input Flows

```
DenseMap<BasicBlock*, DenseSet<Value*>> knownInputs;  
  
DenseSet<Value*> processedBeforeWith = knownInputs.lookup(current.first);  
if (processedBeforeWith.size() > 0 &&  
    valueSetsAreEqual(current.second, processedBeforeWith))  
    continue;  
  
if(knownInputs.count(current.first) == 1) knownInputs.erase(current.first);  
knownInputs.insert(std::make_pair(current.first, current.second));
```

**exercise 7.2b**

# Strategy #2





# Parameter Data-Flow Analysis

flow-sensitive version

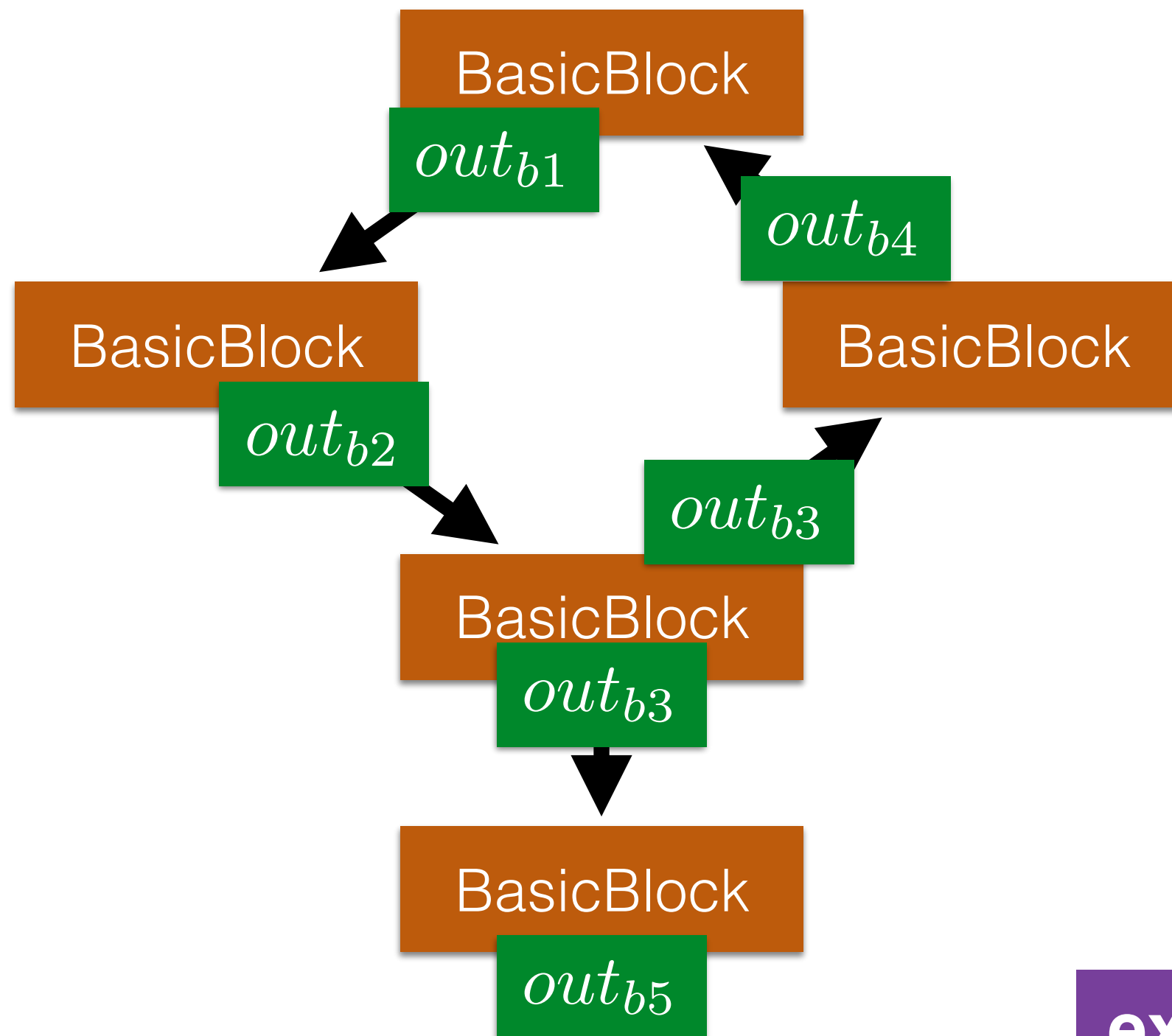
## Strategies for Handling Loops 3. Consider Output Flows

```
DenseMap<BasicBlock*, DenseSet<Value*>> previousOutputs;

if (previousOutputs.count(current.first) > 0) {
    DenseSet<Value*> previousOutput = previousOutputs.lookup(current.first);
    if (previousOutput.size() > 0 &&
        valueSetsAreEqual(outgoingTracked, previousOutput))
        continue;
    previousOutputs.erase(current.first);
}

previousOutputs.insert(std::make_pair(current.first, outgoingTracked));
```

# Strategy #3



# What's left to do?

- **Path-sensitivity** — Reconstruct conditions
- **Context-sensitivity** — Implement more clever call handling
- This exercise is just for your own curiosity, I won't present a solution in the next lecture

# Writing Transformers

# Why transform code?

- Finding problems in code is nice
- Solving them automatically is much, much nicer
- Can be part of your usual compile pipeline and helps you maintain quality
- Make runtime observations w/o cluttering your code

# How to Write a Transformer?

`exercises/FirstTransform/`

- A transformer is a normal pass
- But it returns `true` to signal code changes

```
for(BasicBlock &bb : F) {  
    Instruction *firstInst = bb.getFirstNonPHI()  
    IRBuilder<> builder(firstInst);  
    Instruction *newInst =  
        builder.CreateAlloca(Type::getInt32Ty(bb.getContext()));  
}
```

Get the first instructions

Construct a IRBuilder

Create an `alloc` instruction

**exercise 7.4**

# Running a Transformer

- Much like an analysis pass

```
opt-3.8 -load FirstTransform/libFirstTransform.so  
        -FirstTransform  
        < factorial.bc  
        > factorial-transformed.bc
```

```
opt-3.8 -load FirstTransform/libFirstTransform.so  
        -FirstTransform  
        --debug-pass=Structure  
        < factorial.bc  
        > /dev/null
```

Show me the structure of the pipeline

**exercise 7.4**



# Pass Structure

Pass Arguments: -targetlibinfo -tti -FirstTransform -verify

Target Library Information

Target Transform Information

ModulePass Manager

FunctionPass Manager

First transform

Module Verifier

Bitcode Writer

Pass managers try to optimize the execution of passes

Verifies the resulting bitcode

Emits bitcode

# PassManager

- Its job:
  - Pipeline the execution of passes on the program
  - Share the results of analyses
- There is no need for you to call it directly
- However, you can help the PassManager

# PassManager

- Help the PassManager do its job

```
virtual void getAnalysisUsage(AnalysisUsage &Info) const;
```

```
// This example modifies the program, but does not modify the CFG  
void LICM::getAnalysisUsage(AnalysisUsage &AU) const {  
    AU.setPreservesCFG();  
    AU.addRequired<LoopInfoWrapperPass>();  
}
```

Provide information on your pass

Require other passes

# PassManager

- Get modularity in return

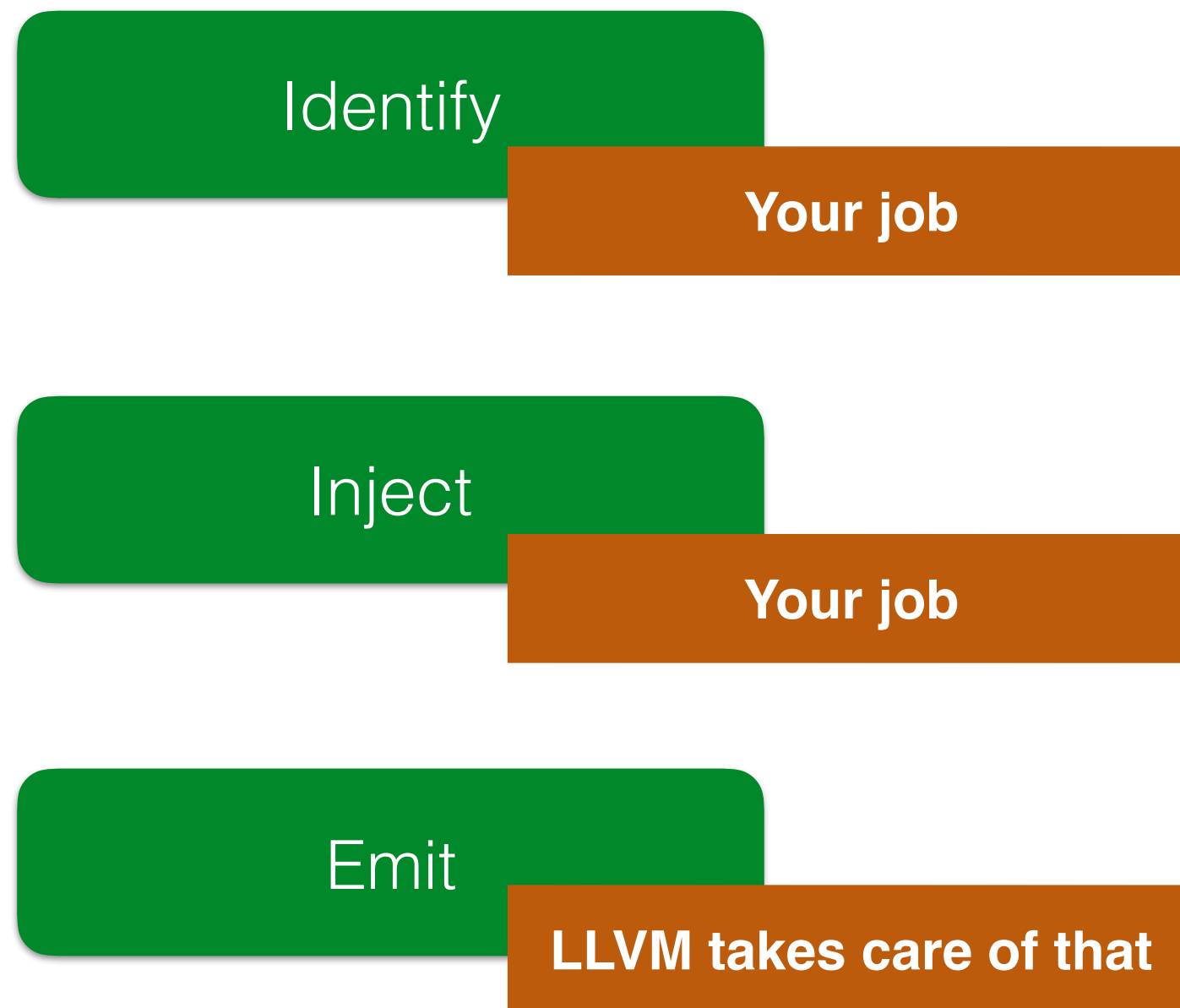
```
bool runOnFunction(Function &F) override {  
    LoopInfo &LI = getAnalysis<LoopInfoWrapperPass>().getLoopInfo();  
    //...  
}
```

Get a reference to the required  
other pass

Retrieve information from other  
pass

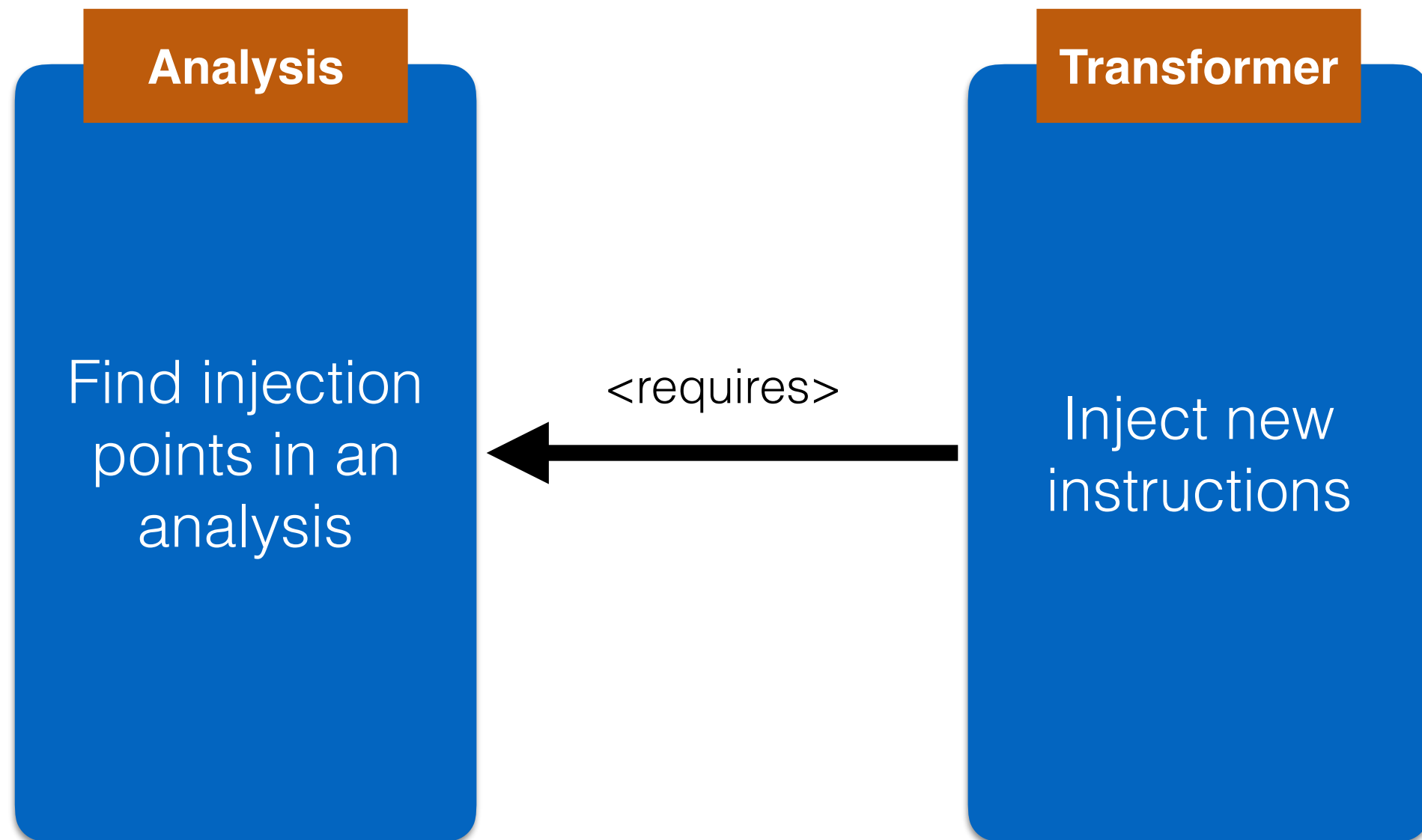
```
if (DominatorSet *DS = getAnalysisIfAvailable<DominatorSet>()) {  
    // A DominatorSet is active. This code will update it.  
}
```

# General Structure of a Transformer



# Chain you Passes

just a matter of style



# Exercise: Observe pointer instructions during runtime

- Pointer operations can lead to serious issues during runtime
- Moving a pointer to a different region of memory can lead unexpected results
- Reasoning about pointers statically is pretty hard
- Goal: Observe pointer instructions during runtime



# Identification Phase

```
DenseSet<Instruction*> pointerInstructions;
for(BasicBlock &bb : f) {
    for(Instruction &i : bb) {
        if (GetElementPtrInst* gep = dyn_cast<GetElementPtrInst>(&i)) {
            pointerInstructions.insert(gep);
        }
    }
}
```

# Injection Phase

```
for (Instruction *i : pointerInstructions) {  
    errs() << "Injecting print operation\n";  
    IRBuilder<> builder(i);  
    Function *printfFunction = getPrintfPrototype(i->getContext(),  
                                                    i->getModule());  
  
    builder.CreateCall(printfFunction,  
                       geti8StrVal(*i->getModule(),  
                                   "Pointer instruction\n",  
                                   "name"));  
}
```

# Function Prototypes

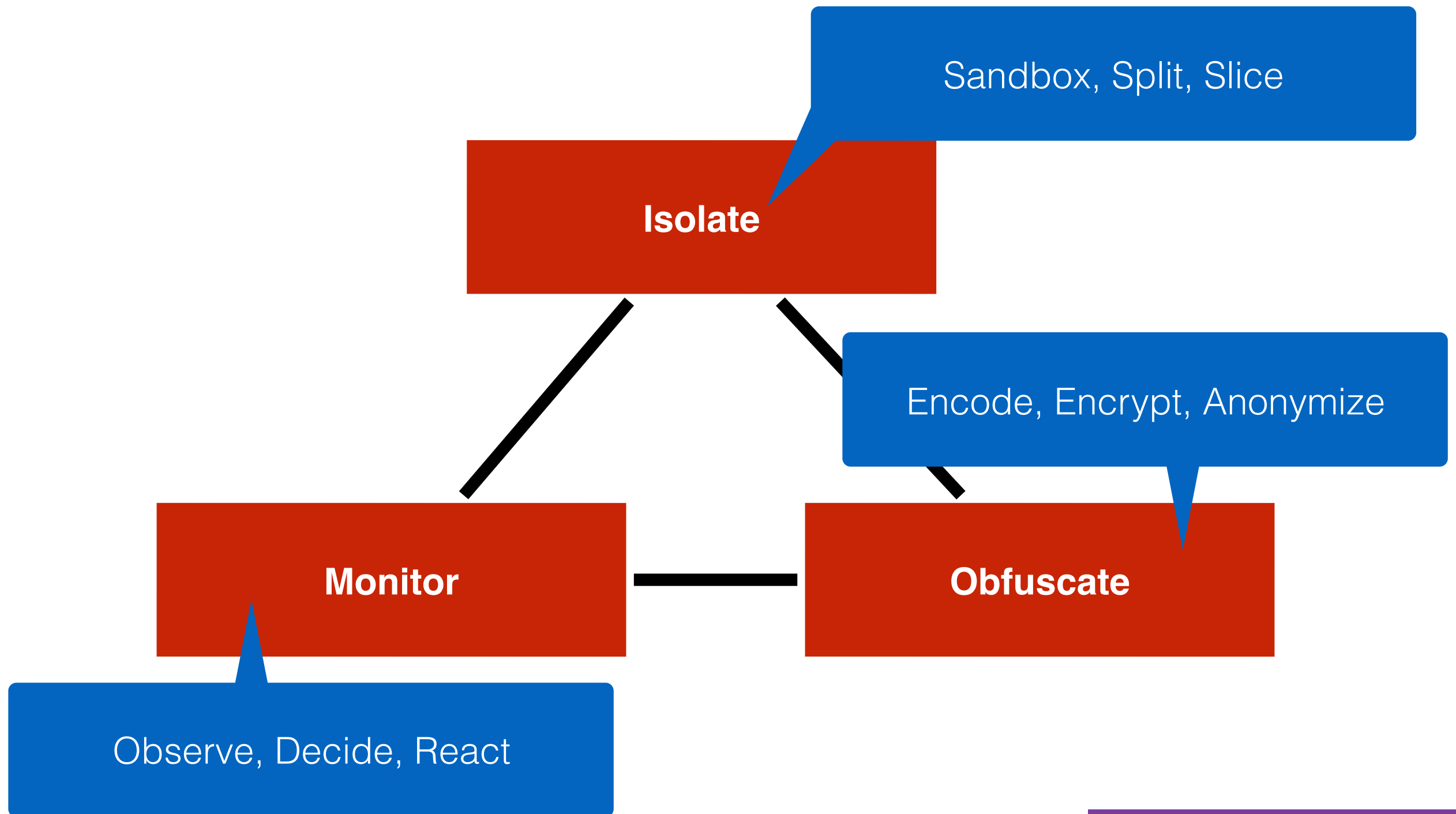
```
Function *getPrintfPrototype(LLVMContext &ctx, Module *mod) {  
    FunctionType *printf_type =  
        TypeBuilder<int(char*, ...), false>::get(getGlobalContext());  
    Function *func = cast<Function>(  
        mod->getOrInsertFunction("printf", printf_type,  
        AttributeSet().addAttribute(mod->getContext(), 1U,  
        Attribute::NoAlias)));  
    return func;  
}
```

# String Constant

```
Constant* geti8StrVal(Module& M, char const* str, Twine const& name) {  
    LLVMContext& ctx = getGlobalContext();  
    Constant* strConstant = ConstantDataArray::getString(ctx, str);  
    GlobalVariable* GVStr =  
        new GlobalVariable(M, strConstant-&gtgetType(), true,  
                           GlobalValue::InternalLinkage, strConstant,  
                           name);  
    Constant* zero = Constant::getNullValue(IntegerType::getInt32Ty(ctx));  
    Constant* indices[] = {zero, zero};  
    Constant* strVal = ConstantExpr::getGetElementPtr(Type::getInt8PtrTy(ctx),  
                                                         GVStr, indices, true);  
    return strVal;  
}
```

There is an error here... Can you provide the correct type?

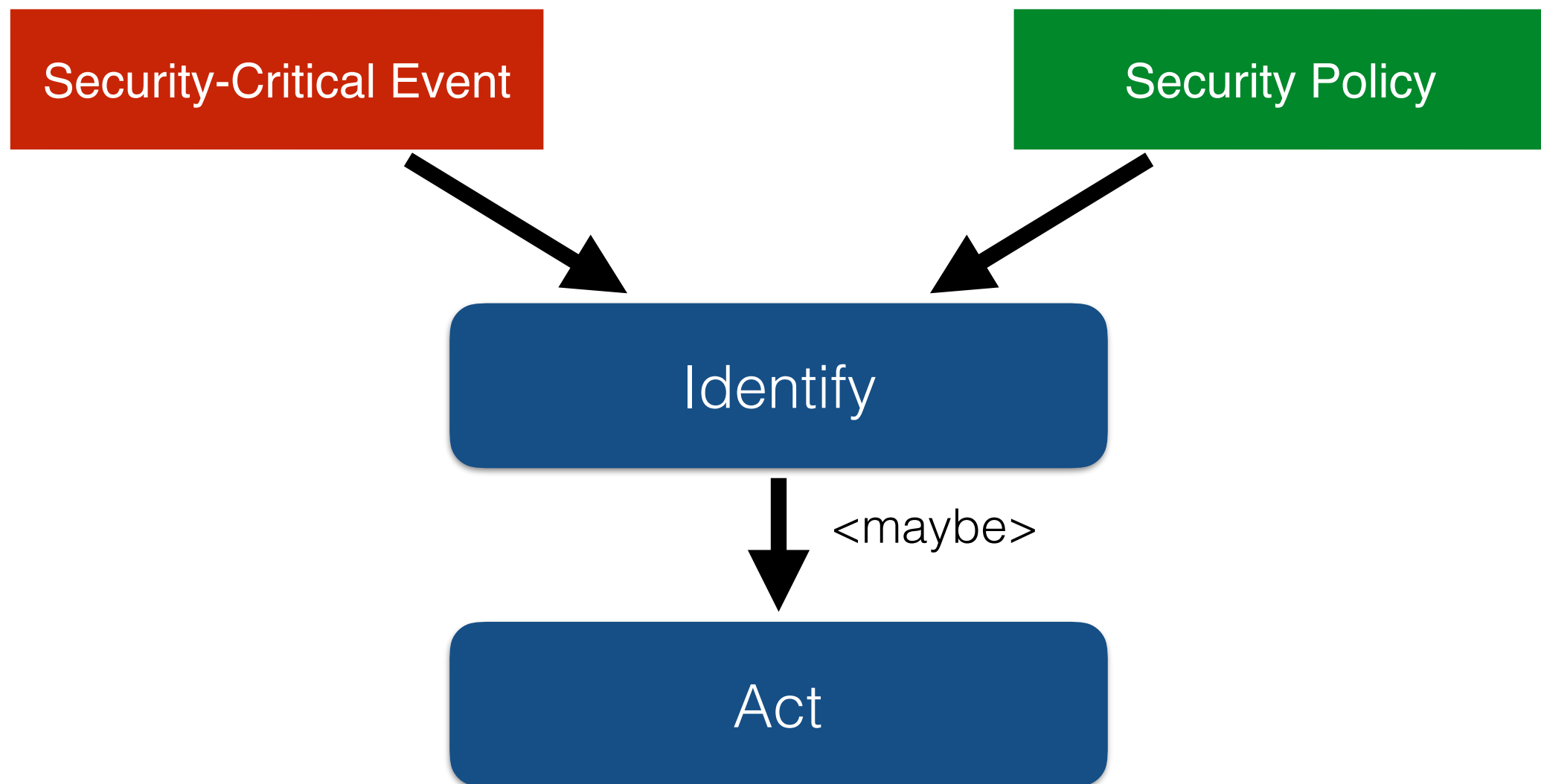
# Dimensions of Security



# Exercise: Inline Reference Monitor

- A reference monitor observes the execution of a program
- It halt or pauses the execution if something “bad” happens
- What “bad” ist defines a security policy
- It makes sense to observe only security critical events

# Exercise: Inline Reference Monitor



# Exercise: Inline Reference Monitor

- Goal: Write a transformer that injects a reference monitor according to the following specification.

Security-Critical Event

Any function calls

Security Policy

Prevent function calls when the first argument is a number of value 42

- If you want to make that very elegant you decompose it into different passes and make it configurable



# Shameless Advertisement

- Yes, I do some of my research using LLVM
- There are topics for Master Theses
- There are topics for Hands-On Courses
- It's all security related
- Please talk to me if you liked the things we did here

# Exercises in this Block

**exercise 6.6**

Parameter Data-Flow Analysis



**exercise 7.1**

Control-Flow Sensitivity



**exercise 7.2**

Handling Loops



**exercise 7.3**

Path- & Context-Sensitivity



**exercise 7.4**

Writing Transformers



**exercise 7.5**

Observe Pointer Operations



**exercise 7.6**

Inline Reference Monitor



# IFDS-Exercise Set-Up

Compiling OPAL may take some time,  
therefore start with the set up now, if  
not already done.

```
git clone https://bitbucket.org/delors/opal.git
```

```
git clone https://github.com/Sable/heros.git
```

```
git clone https://github.com/stg-tud/apsa.git
```

```
cd opal
```

```
git checkout develop
```

```
sbt publishLocal
```

```
cd ../heros
```

```
cp ant.settings.template ant.settings
```

```
mkdir javadoc
```

```
ant publish-Local
```

```
cd ../apsa/2016/ifds/ifds-exercise
```

```
sbt eclipse
```

Import projects IFDS-exercise and IFDS-testcases in Eclipse

Verify set-up: should compile without errors, some tests should succeed

From within Eclipse select Run As →  
Ant Build... on the build.xml file