

Review

# Directed Automated Random Testing [PLDI 2005]

```
int obscure(int x, int y) {  
    if (x==complex(y)) error();  
    return 0;  
}
```

Run 1 :

- start with (random) x=33, y=42
- execute concretely and symbolically:  
if (33 != 567) | if (x != complex(y))  
constraint too complex  
→ simplify it: x != 567
- solve: x==567 → solution: x=567
- new test input: x=567, y=42

Run 2 : the other branch is executed  
All program paths are now covered !

Also known as concolic execution (concrete + symbolic)  
Referred to here as dynamic symbolic execution

# Dynamic Symbolic Execution

Formula  $F := \text{False}$

**Loop**

Find program input  $i$  in  $\text{solve}(\text{negate}(F))$  // stop if no such  $i$  can be found

Execute  $P(i)$ ; record path condition  $C$  // in particular,  $C(i)$  holds

$F := F \vee C$

**End**

# Lecture 2

Design and Implementation  
of Dynamic Symbolic Execution  
(for Python, in Python)

<https://github.com/thomasjball/PyExZ3>

# The Code

- Derived from the NICE project (<http://code.google.com/p/nice-of/>)
- Ported to use Z3 (instead of STP)
- Removed platform dependences (should run on Linux, MacOS, etc.)
- DSE hooks solely via method overloading
  - No AST rewriting
  - No bytecode interpretation
- Made error checking more robust
- Added more regression tests

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# Requirements

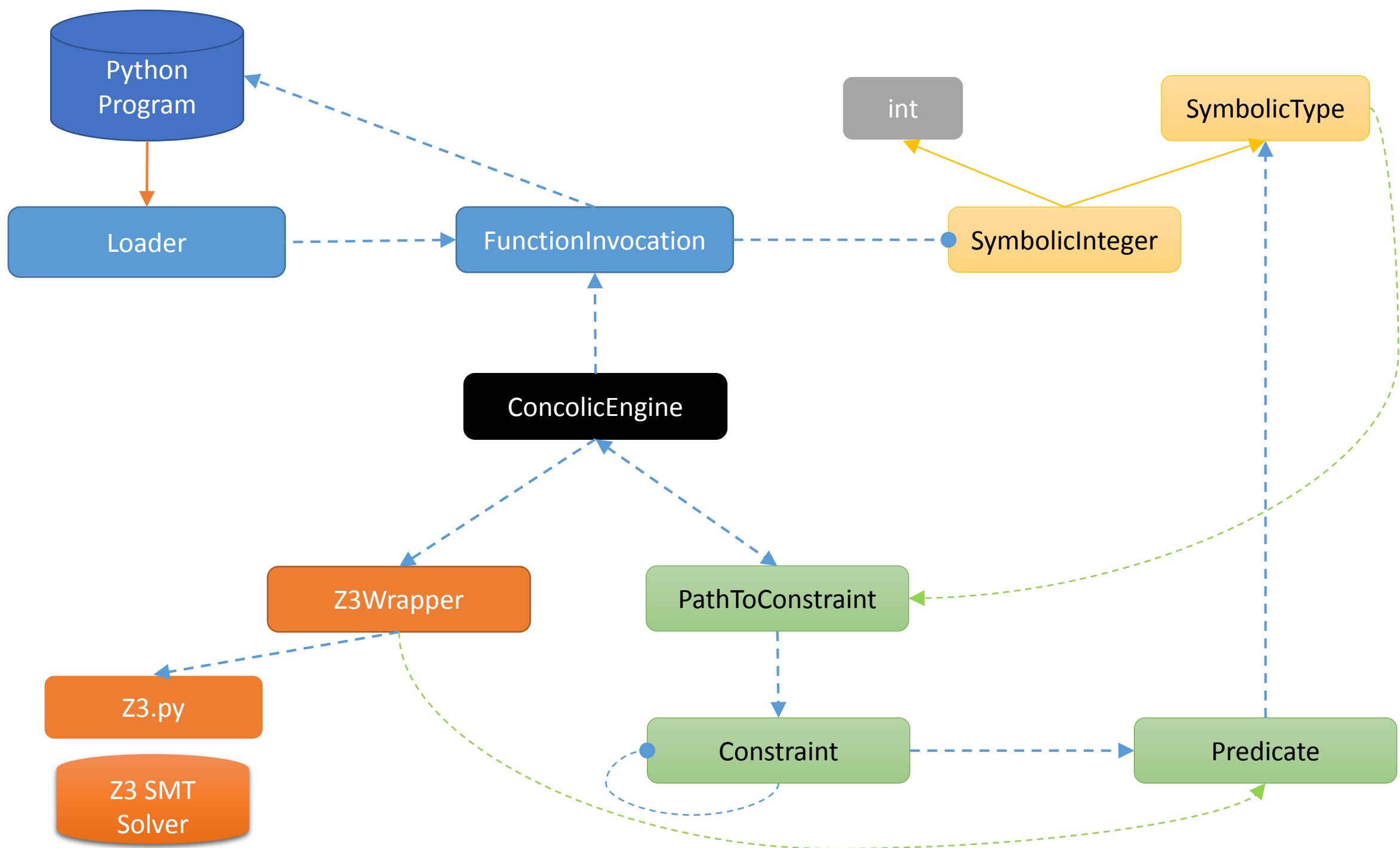
- Identify the code under test (CUT)
- Identify symbolic inputs
- Trace the CUT
- Reinterpret instructions to compute symbolic expressions
- Collect path constraint
- Generate new input
- Restart execution of CUT (from initial state)
- Search strategy to expose new paths

# Classes

- Loader
- FunctionInvocation
- SymbolicType
  - SymbolicInteger
- PathToConstraint
- Constraint
- Predicate
- Z3Wrapper
- ConcolicEngine

- Identify the code under test (CUT)
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# Loader

Uses reflection to

- load the code under test and identify function entry point F
  - determine the number of arguments to F
- 
- Creates a SymbolicInteger for each argument
- 
- Creates a FunctionInvocation object to encapsulate
    - entry point F and
    - symbolic argument values

# SymbolicType

SymbolicType

- An abstract base class representing a pair of
  - a concrete value of type T
  - a symbolic value of type T
- Overrides basic object operations:
  - Comparisons: `__eq__`, `__ne__`, `__lt__`, `__le__`, `__gt__`, `__ge__`
  - Coercion to Boolean: `__bool__`

# SymbolicInteger

- A SymbolicInteger is
  - a Python int, and
  - a SymbolicType
- SymbolicInteger overloads arithmetic operations for which we know how to translate to logic and solver with Z3

# Python Execution

$x : \text{SymbolicInt} \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 0 \\ "x" \end{smallmatrix} \right)$

$y = x + 1$

$y : \text{SymbolicInt} \left( \begin{smallmatrix} 1 \\ "x" + 1 \end{smallmatrix} \right)$

# Intercepting Control-flow in Python

- Conditionals
  - if e1, while e1, e1 and e2 , e1 or e2, not e
- *Any* object can be used in a conditional test
  - Python calls `__bool__` method to get a Boolean from object
  - Used whenever a conditional test (predicate) encountered
- We override `__bool__` in order to intercept control-flow and determine which way predicate will evaluate (true, false)

# Predicate

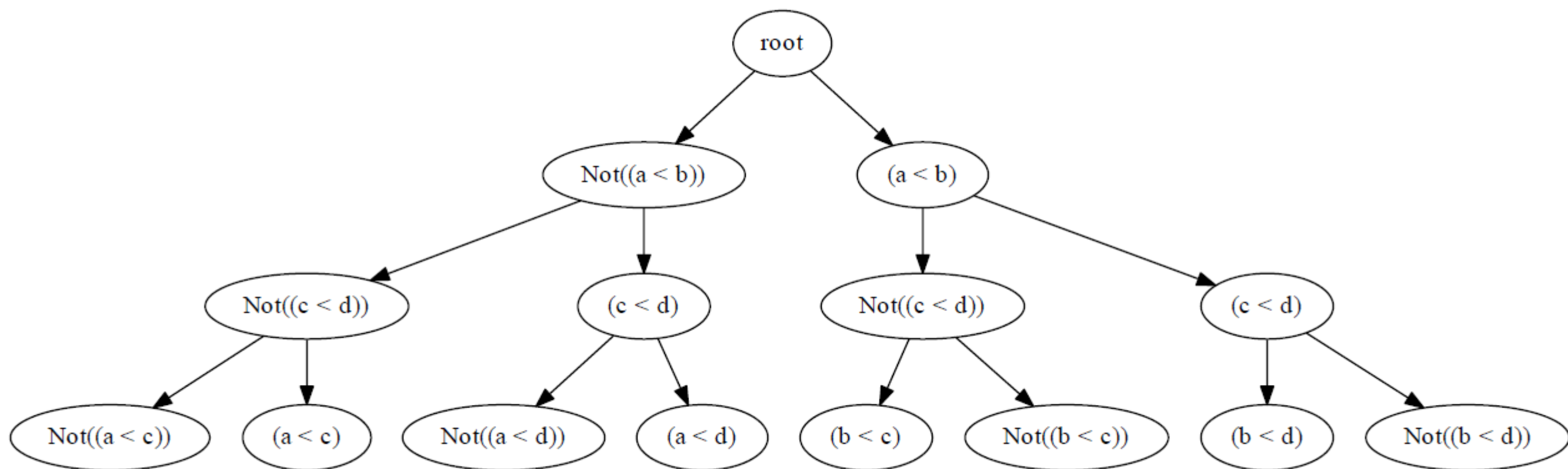
- Tracks a predicate in the program and which direction it took (T,F)

# Constraint

- A sequence of predicates corresponding to an execution path



# PathToConstraint



# Z3Wrapper

- Translate from AST expression (in SymbolicType) into Z3 expression

Python Semantics



Logic

# Python Semantics -> Logic

- Python integers
  - Python's integer representation grows to limits of machine memory
  - Arithmetic operations do not cause overflows!
- Z3 BitVectors
  - Z3 BitVectors have finite width (they do not grow)
  - Arithmetic operations do cause overflows...

# Hilbert's 10<sup>th</sup> Problem

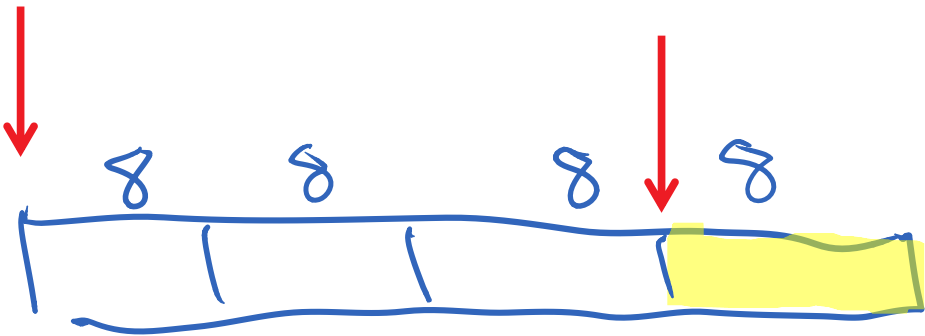
Given a Diophantine equation with any number of unknown quantities and with rational integral numerical coefficients: *To devise a process according to which it can be determined in a finite number of operations whether the equation is solvable in rational integers.*

There is a polynomial  $p(a, x_1, \dots, x_n)$  with integer coefficients such that  
the set of values of  $a$  for which  $p(a, x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0$   
has solutions in the natural numbers is not computable.

Solution: bounded search  
over symbolic  
inputs

$N = 32$

$B = 8$



1. Increase  $B$   
while  $\varphi_N$  UNSAT
2. if  $m \models \varphi_N$   
does  $m \models \varphi$ ?

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# ConcolicEngine

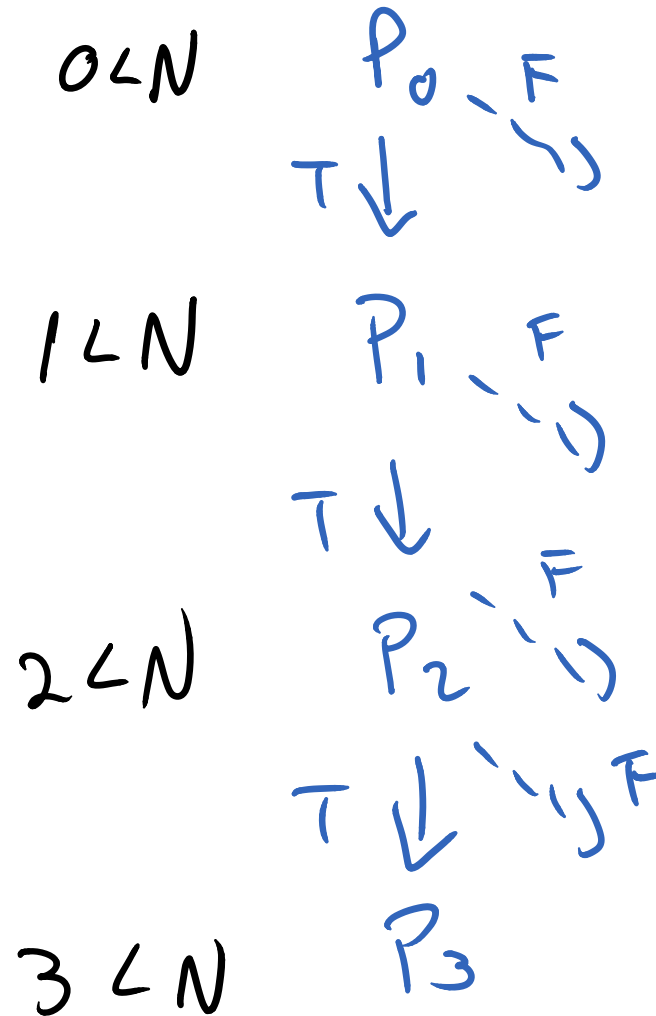
- Generational search procedure

# Deficiencies

- One process, many executions
  - Clean restart of state problematic
  - Means we may not be able to control program to go where we want it to...
- Poor handling of while loops
  - Take whileloop.py and remove “ $0 < x < 10$ ”
  - Loop subsumption



$i = 0$   
 while ( $i < N$ )  
 $i = i + 1$



if

$P_i \Rightarrow P_{i-1}$  then

don't flip  $P_i$

# Assignment 2

1. All PyExZ3 regression tests should pass
2. Write and submit new test cases
  - At least one test case that passes
  - At least one that shows off a deficiency in the implementation
  - Send email with new tests to [tball@microsoft.com](mailto:tball@microsoft.com) - I will add to github
3. For more fun,
  - Fix up treatment of while loops so that modified whileloop.py doesn't diverge
  - Implement loop subsumption
  - Write a function (in)equivalence checker