

# WEAKEST-PRECONDITION

## SYMBOLIC EXECUTION IN THE BACKWARD DIRECTION

- Given an error condition or a post-condition, propagate the condition backwards through the program.
- Given a set of states  $S$  and a command  $c$ , the weakest precondition operator  $wp(S, c)$  consists of all states that would always lead to a state in  $S$  after executing  $c$ .

$$wp(S, c) \triangleq \{\sigma \mid \forall \sigma'. (\sigma, c) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma', \text{skip}) \rightarrow \sigma' \in S\}$$

Equivalently,  $\sigma \in wp(S, c) \Leftrightarrow \forall \sigma'. (\sigma, c) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma', \text{skip}) \rightarrow \sigma' \in S$

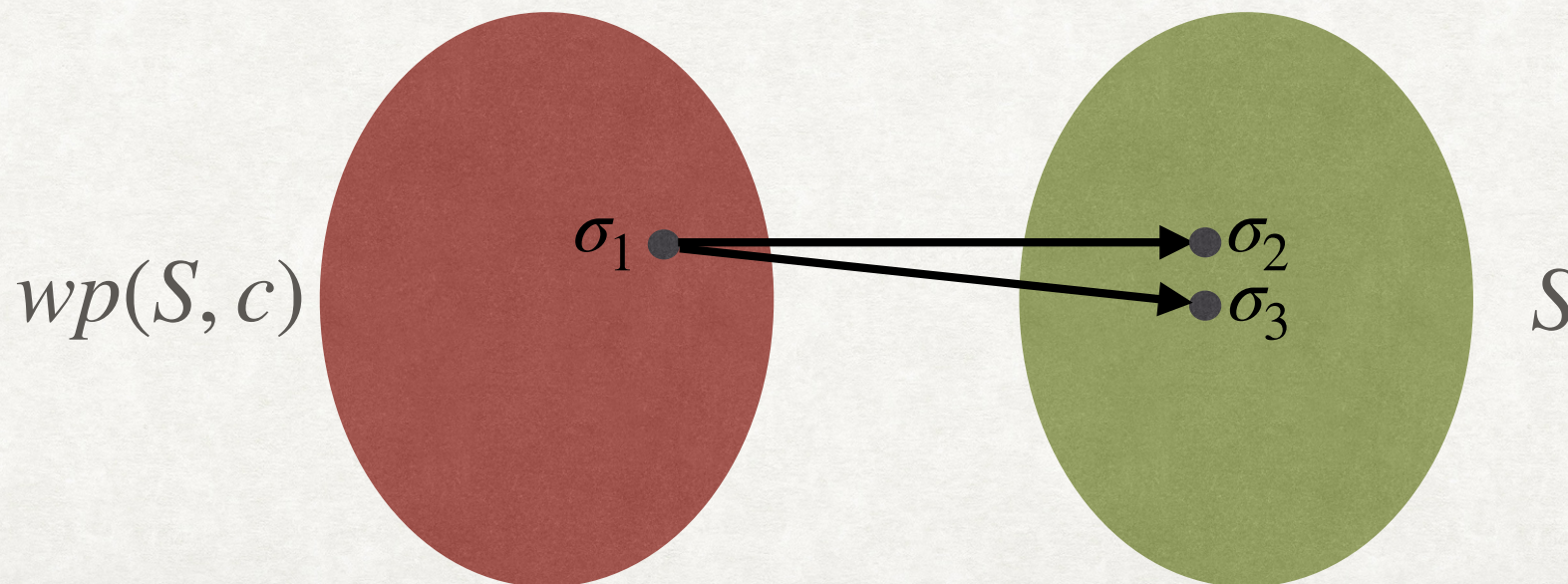


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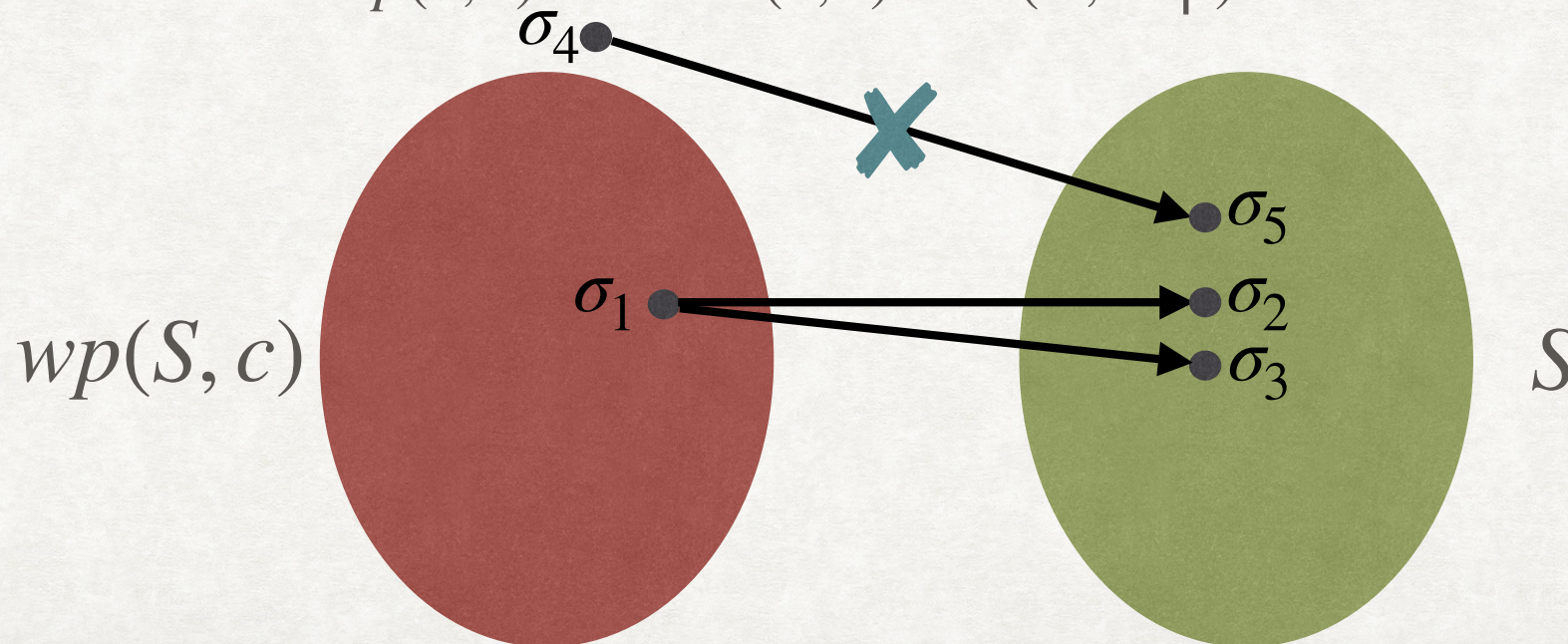


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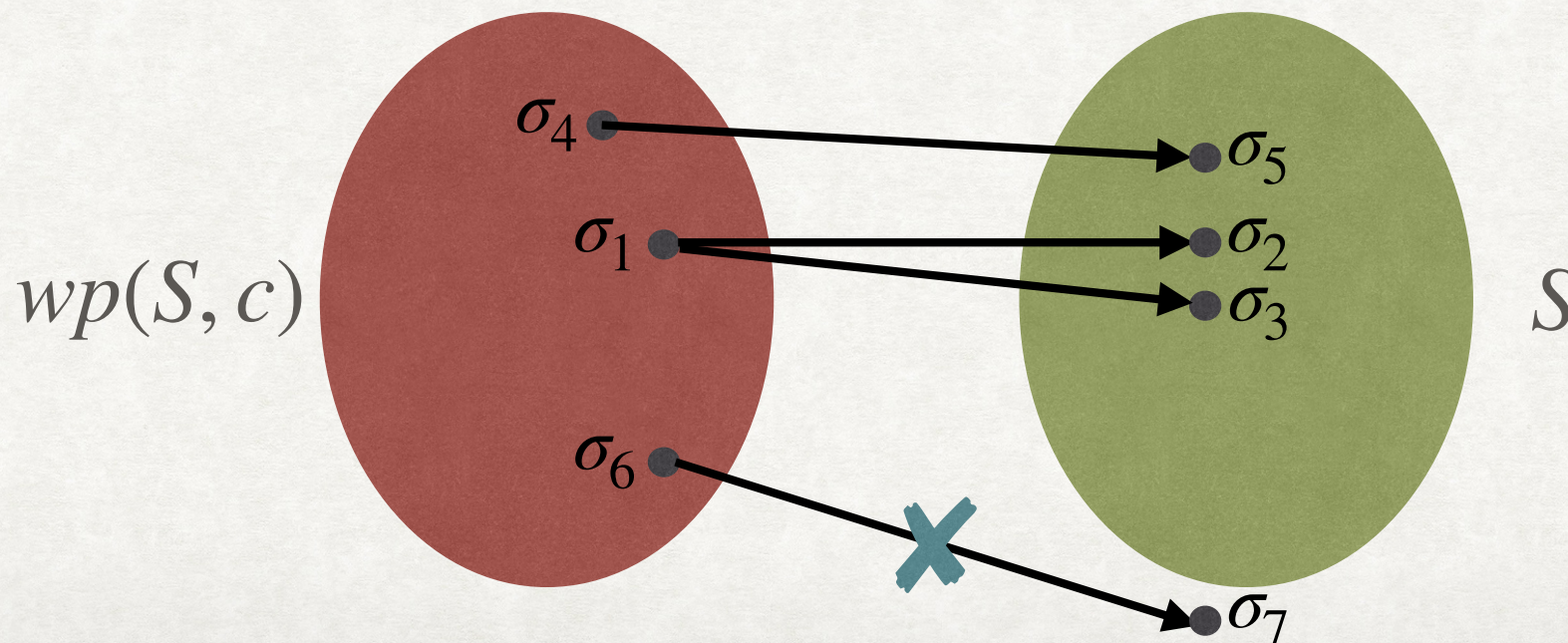


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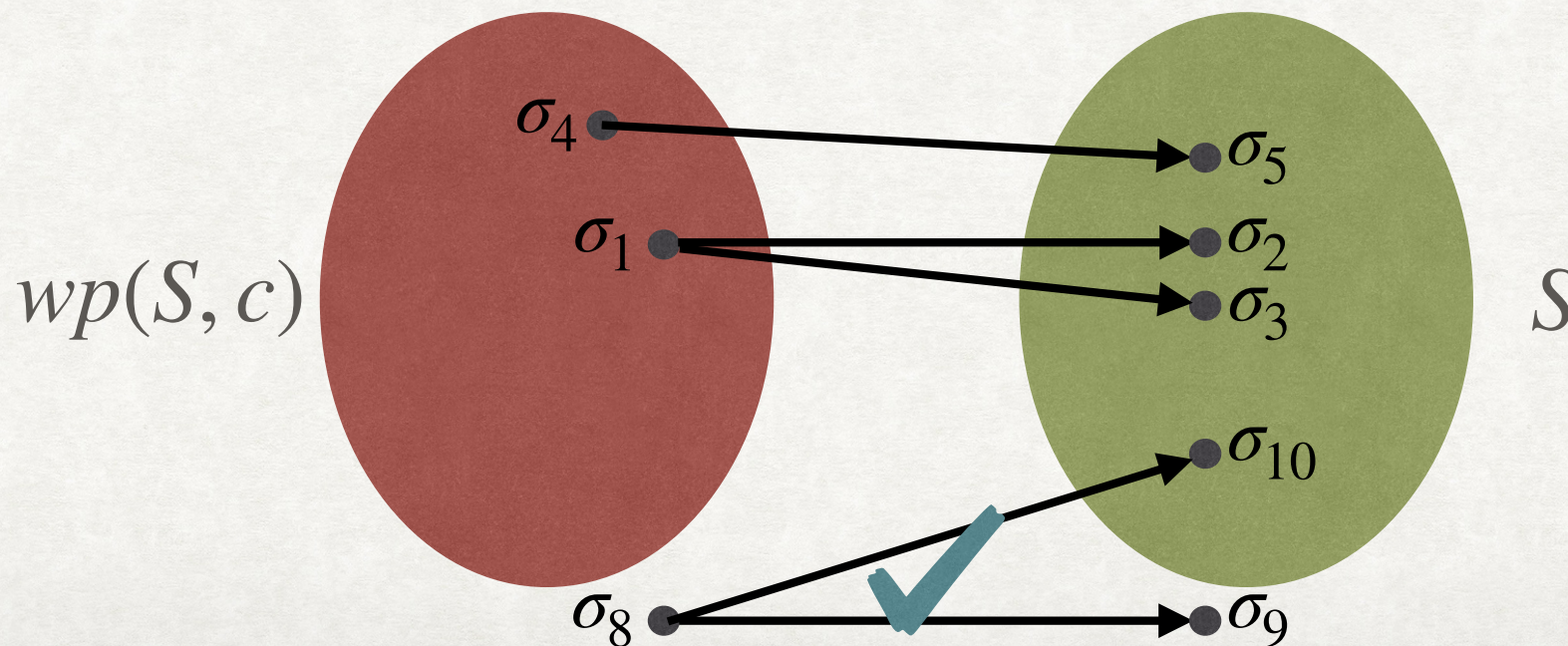


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# WEAKEST-PRECONDITION

## SYMBOLIC EXECUTION IN THE BACKWARD DIRECTION

$$wp(S, c) \triangleq \{\sigma \mid \forall \sigma'. (\sigma, c) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma', \text{skip}) \rightarrow \sigma' \in S\}$$

- We can use a FOL formula  $F$  to represent a set of states.
- The symbolic weakest pre-condition operator can be defined as:

$$\sigma \models wp(F, c) \Leftrightarrow \forall \sigma'. (\sigma, c) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma', \text{skip}) \rightarrow \sigma' \models F$$

- We now use the symbolic FOL semantics ( $\rho$ ) for individual commands:

$$wp(F, c) \triangleq \forall V'. \rho(c) \rightarrow F[V'/V]$$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## EXAMPLES

$$\begin{aligned}wp(x > 10, x := x + 1) &\triangleq \forall x'. x' = x + 1 \rightarrow x' > 10 \\ &\equiv x + 1 > 10 \equiv x > 9\end{aligned}$$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## EXAMPLES

$$\begin{aligned} wp(x > 10, x := x + 1) &\triangleq \forall x'. x' = x + 1 \rightarrow x' > 10 \\ &\equiv x + 1 > 10 \equiv x > 9 \end{aligned}$$

$$wp(\top, c) \equiv ???$$



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$$wp(\top, c) \equiv \top$$

$$wp(\perp, c) \equiv ???$$



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$$wp(\top, c) \equiv \top$$

$$wp(\perp, c) \equiv \text{All states for which } c \text{ does not terminate}$$



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$$wp(\top, c) \equiv \top$$

$$wp(\perp, c) \equiv \text{All states for which } c \text{ does not terminate}$$

$$wp(\perp, \text{assume}(x > 0)) \equiv ???$$



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$$wp(\top, c) \equiv \top$$

$$wp(\perp, c) \equiv \text{All states for which } c \text{ does not terminate}$$

$$\begin{aligned}wp(\perp, \text{assume}(x > 0)) &\equiv \forall x'. x > 0 \wedge x' = x \rightarrow \perp \\ &\equiv x \leq 0\end{aligned}$$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## ASSIGNMENT STATEMENT

- $wp(F, x:=e) \triangleq F[e/x]$



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$$wp(F, x:=e) \triangleq \forall V'. \rho(x:=e) \rightarrow F[V'/V]$$

$$\equiv \forall V'. x' = e \wedge \text{frame}(x') \rightarrow F[V'/V]$$

$$\equiv F[e/x]$$



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- $wp(F, x:=e) \triangleq F[e/x]$

$$\begin{aligned} wp(F, x:=e) &\triangleq \forall V'. \rho(x:=e) \rightarrow F[V'/V] \\ &\equiv \forall V'. x' = e \wedge \text{frame}(x') \rightarrow F[V'/V] \\ &\equiv F[e/x] \end{aligned}$$

### EXAMPLES:

- $wp(x = 5, x:=6) \equiv ???$



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### EXAMPLES:

- $wp(x = 5, x:=6) \equiv \perp$



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- $wp(F, x:=e) \triangleq F[e/x]$

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### EXAMPLES:

- $wp(x = 5, x:=6) \equiv \perp$
- $wp(x = 5, x:=5) \equiv ???$



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### EXAMPLES:

- $wp(x = 5, x:=6) \equiv \perp$
- $wp(x = 5, x:=5) \equiv \top$



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### EXAMPLES:

- $wp(x = 5, x:=6) \equiv \perp$
- $wp(x = 5, x:=5) \equiv \top$
- $wp(x > 5, x:=y+1) \equiv ???$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## ASSIGNMENT STATEMENT

- $wp(F, x:=e) \triangleq F[e/x]$

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### EXAMPLES:

- $wp(x = 5, x:=6) \equiv \perp$
- $wp(x = 5, x:=5) \equiv \top$
- $wp(x > 5, x:=y+1) \equiv x > 5[(y+1)/x] \equiv y > 4$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## HAVOC, ASSUME

- $wp(F, x:=havoc) \equiv \forall x. F$

$$\begin{aligned} wp(F, x:=havoc) &\triangleq \forall V'. frame(x) \rightarrow F[V'/V] \\ &\equiv \forall x'. F[x'/x] \equiv \forall x. F \end{aligned}$$

- $wp(F, assume(G)) \equiv ???$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## HAVOC, ASSUME

- $wp(F, x:=havoc) \equiv \forall x. F$

$$\begin{aligned} wp(F, x:=havoc) &\triangleq \forall V'. frame(x) \rightarrow F[V'/V] \\ &\equiv \forall x'. F[x'/x] \equiv \forall x. F \end{aligned}$$

- $wp(F, assume(G)) \equiv G \rightarrow F$

$$\begin{aligned} wp(F, assume(G)) &\triangleq \forall V'. G \wedge frame(\emptyset) \rightarrow F[V'/V] \\ &\equiv \forall V'. G \rightarrow F \equiv G \rightarrow F \end{aligned}$$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## HAVOC, ASSUME - EXAMPLES

- $wp(x > 0, x := \text{havoc}) \equiv ???$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## HAVOC, ASSUME - EXAMPLES

- $wp(x > 0, x := \text{havoc}) \equiv \forall x. x > 0 \equiv \perp$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## HAVOC, ASSUME - EXAMPLES

- $wp(x > 0, x := \text{havoc}) \equiv \forall x. x > 0 \equiv \perp$
- $wp(x + i \leq 0, x := \text{havoc}) \equiv ???$



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## HAVOC, ASSUME - EXAMPLES

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- $wp(x + i \leq 0, x := \text{havoc}) \equiv \forall x. x + i \leq 0 \equiv \perp$
- $wp(x \geq 0, \text{assume}(x=1)) \equiv ???$



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- $wp(x > 0, \text{assume}(x < 0)) \equiv x < 0 \rightarrow x > 0 \equiv x \geq 0$



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- $wp(x > 0, x := \text{havoc}) \equiv \forall x. x > 0 \equiv \perp$
- $wp(x + i \leq 0, x := \text{havoc}) \equiv \forall x. x + i \leq 0 \equiv \perp$
- $wp(x \geq 0, \text{assume}(x=1)) \equiv x=1 \rightarrow x \geq 0 \equiv \top$
- $wp(x > 0, \text{assume}(x < 0)) \equiv x < 0 \rightarrow x > 0 \equiv x \geq 0$
- Does there exist  $F$  and  $G$  such that  $wp(F, \text{assume}(G)) \equiv \perp$  ?



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION ASSERT

- $wp(F, \text{assert}(G)) \equiv ???$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## ASSERT

- $wp(F, \text{assert}(G)) \equiv F \wedge G$
- Assume that  $F \neq \top$ .
- Assumption makes sense because we ideally want error = 0 after assert.



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION ASSERT

$$wp(F, \text{assert}(G)) \triangleq$$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## ASSERT

$$\begin{aligned} wp(F, \text{assert}(G)) &\triangleq \forall V'. (G \rightarrow \text{frame}(\emptyset)) \rightarrow F[V'/V] \\ &\equiv \forall V'. (\neg G \vee \text{frame}(\emptyset)) \rightarrow F[V'/V] \\ &\equiv \forall V'. (G \wedge \neg \text{frame}(\emptyset)) \vee F[V'/V] \\ &\equiv \forall V'. (G \vee F[V'/V]) \wedge (\neg \text{frame}(\emptyset) \vee F[V'/V]) \\ &\equiv (G \vee \forall V'. F[V'/V]) \wedge \forall V'. (\text{frame}(\emptyset) \rightarrow F[V'/V]) \\ &\equiv (G \vee \forall V. F) \wedge F \\ &\equiv (G \vee \perp) \wedge F \\ &\equiv G \wedge F \end{aligned}$$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## ASSERT-EXAMPLES

- $wp(x \geq 0, \text{assert}(x=1)) \equiv ???$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## ASSERT-EXAMPLES

- $wp(x \geq 0, \text{assert}(x=1)) \equiv x = 1$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## ASSERT-EXAMPLES

- $wp(x \geq 0, \text{assert}(x=1)) \equiv x = 1$
- $wp(x = 2, \text{assert}(x=3)) \equiv ???$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## ASSERT-EXAMPLES

- $wp(x \geq 0, \text{assert}(x=1)) \equiv x = 1$
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# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## ASSERT-EXAMPLES

- $wp(x \geq 0, \text{assert}(x=1)) \equiv x = 1$
- $wp(x = 2, \text{assert}(x=3)) \equiv \perp$
- Does there exist  $F$  and  $G$  such that  $wp(F, \text{assert}(G)) \equiv \top$  ?



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## SEQUENTIAL COMPOSITION

- $wp(F, c_1; c_2) \equiv ???$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## SEQUENTIAL COMPOSITION

- $wp(F, c_1; c_2) \equiv wp(wp(F, c_2), c_1)$
- We will show that  $wp(S, c_1; c_2) = wp(wp(S, c_2), c_1)$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## SEQUENTIAL COMPOSITION

- $wp(F, c_1; c_2) \equiv wp(wp(F, c_2), c_1)$ 
  - We will show that  $wp(S, c_1; c_2) = wp(wp(S, c_2), c_1)$

**Proof:** First, we show that  $wp(wp(S, c_2), c_1) \subseteq wp(S, c_1; c_2)$ .

Consider  $\sigma \in wp(wp(S, c_2), c_1)$ .

By definition,  $\forall \sigma''. (\sigma, c_1) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma'', \text{skip}) \rightarrow \sigma'' \in wp(S, c_2)$  [1]

Further, for  $\sigma'' \in wp(S, c_2)$ ,  $\forall \sigma'. (\sigma'', c_2) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma', \text{skip}) \rightarrow \sigma' \in S$  [2]

Now, consider  $\sigma'$  such that  $(\sigma, c_1; c_2) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma', \text{skip})$ . Then, there exists  $\sigma''$  such that  $(\sigma, c_1) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma'', \text{skip})$  and  $(\sigma'', c_2) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma', \text{skip})$ . By [1],  $\sigma'' \in wp(S, c_2)$  and hence by [2],  $\sigma' \in S$ .

Thus,  $\sigma \in wp(S, c_1; c_2)$ .



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## SEQUENTIAL COMPOSITION

**Proof[Continued]:** Now, we will show that  
 $wp(S, c_1; c_2) \subseteq wp(wp(S, c_2), c_1).$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## SEQUENTIAL COMPOSITION

**Proof[Continued]:** Now, we will show that  
 $wp(S, c_1; c_2) \subseteq wp(wp(S, c_2), c_1)$ .

Consider  $\sigma \in wp(S, c_1; c_2)$ .

Then,  $\forall \sigma'. (\sigma, c_1; c_2) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma', \text{skip}) \rightarrow \sigma' \in S$  [3].

If  $\neg \exists \sigma''. (\sigma, c_1) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma'', \text{skip})$ , then  $\sigma \in wp(wp(S, c_2), c_1)$ .

Otherwise, consider  $\sigma''$  such that  $(\sigma, c_1) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma'', \text{skip})$ .

Then,  $\sigma'' \in wp(S, c_2)$ . Because otherwise, there would exist  $\sigma'$  such that  $(\sigma'', c_2) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma', \text{skip})$  and  $\sigma' \notin S$ . That would violate [3].

Hence,  $\forall \sigma''. (\sigma, c_1) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma'', \text{skip}) \rightarrow \sigma'' \in wp(S, c_2)$ .

Hence,  $\sigma \in wp(wp(S, c_2), c_1)$ .



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## IF-THEN-ELSE

- $wp(F, \text{if}(G) \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2) \equiv ???$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## IF-THEN-ELSE

- $wp(F, \text{if}(G) \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2) \equiv (G \rightarrow wp(F, c_1)) \wedge (\neg G \rightarrow wp(F, c_2))$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## IF-THEN-ELSE

- $wp(F, \text{if}(G) \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2) \equiv (G \rightarrow wp(F, c_1)) \wedge (\neg G \rightarrow wp(F, c_2))$

**Proof:** We will show that  $LHS \rightarrow RHS$ .

Consider  $\sigma \models LHS$ . By definition,

$$\forall \sigma'. (\sigma, \text{if}(G) \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma', \text{skip}) \rightarrow \sigma' \models F \quad [1].$$

Suppose  $\sigma \models G$ . Then,  $(\sigma, \text{if}(G) \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2) \hookrightarrow (\sigma, c_1)$ .

Consider  $\sigma'$  such that  $(\sigma, c_1) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma', \text{skip})$ . Then by [1],  $\sigma' \models F$ . Hence  $\sigma \models wp(F, c_1)$ . This implies that  $\sigma \models RHS$ .

Suppose  $\sigma \not\models G$ . Then,  $(\sigma, \text{if}(G) \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2) \hookrightarrow (\sigma, c_2)$ .

Consider  $\sigma'$  such that  $(\sigma, c_2) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma', \text{skip})$ . Then by [1],  $\sigma' \models F$ . Hence  $\sigma \models wp(F, c_2)$ . This implies that  $\sigma \models RHS$ .

Hence,  $LHS \rightarrow RHS$ .

**HOMEWORK: PROVE THE OTHER DIRECTION**



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## IF-THEN-ELSE

- $wp(F, \text{if}(G) \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2) \equiv (G \rightarrow wp(F, c_1)) \wedge (\neg G \rightarrow wp(F, c_2))$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## IF-THEN-ELSE

- $wp(F, \text{if}(G) \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2) \equiv (G \rightarrow wp(F, c_1)) \wedge (\neg G \rightarrow wp(F, c_2))$

- Example:

$wp(y = 0, \text{if}(x > 10) \text{ then } y := z + 1 \text{ else } y := z - 1)$

$\equiv$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## IF-THEN-ELSE

- $wp(F, \text{if}(G) \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2) \equiv (G \rightarrow wp(F, c_1)) \wedge (\neg G \rightarrow wp(F, c_2))$

- Example:

$$wp(y = 0, \text{if}(x > 10) \text{ then } y := z + 1 \text{ else } y := z - 1)$$

$$\equiv (x > 10 \rightarrow wp(y = 0, y := z + 1)) \wedge (\neg(x > 10) \rightarrow wp(y = 0, y := z - 1))$$

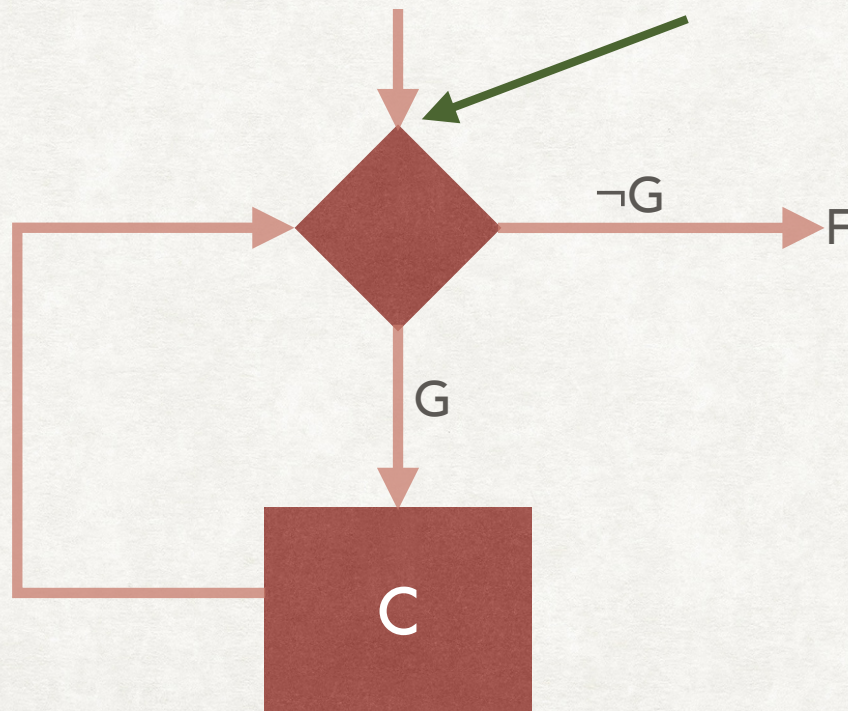
$$\equiv (x > 10 \rightarrow z = -1) \wedge (x \leq 10 \rightarrow z = 1)$$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## WHILE LOOPS

- $wp(F, \text{while}(G) \text{ do } c) \equiv ???$
- Collect all states at the beginning of loop, which would lead to a state in  $F$  if the loop exits after  $k$  iterations (for  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ )

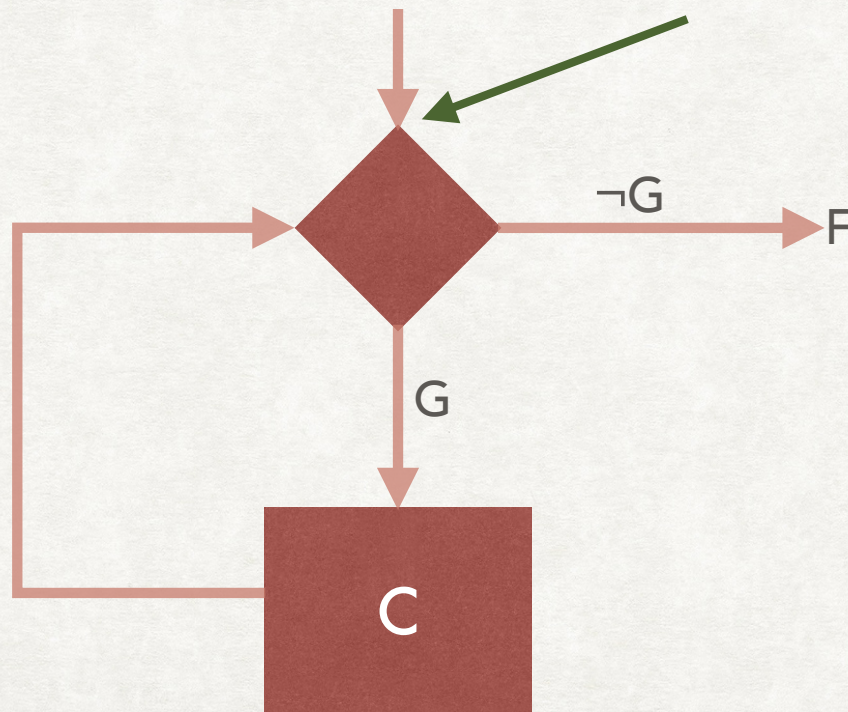




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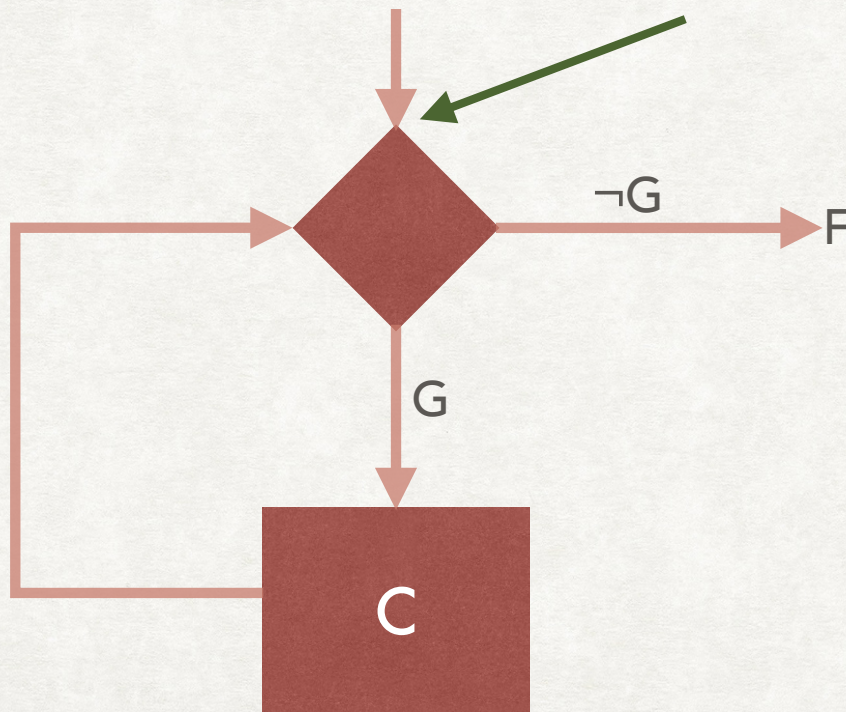
Iteration $k$	Initial State for exit after $k$ iterations
0	
1	
2	
...	...



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## WHILE LOOPS

- $wp(F, \text{while}(G) \text{ do } c) \equiv ???$
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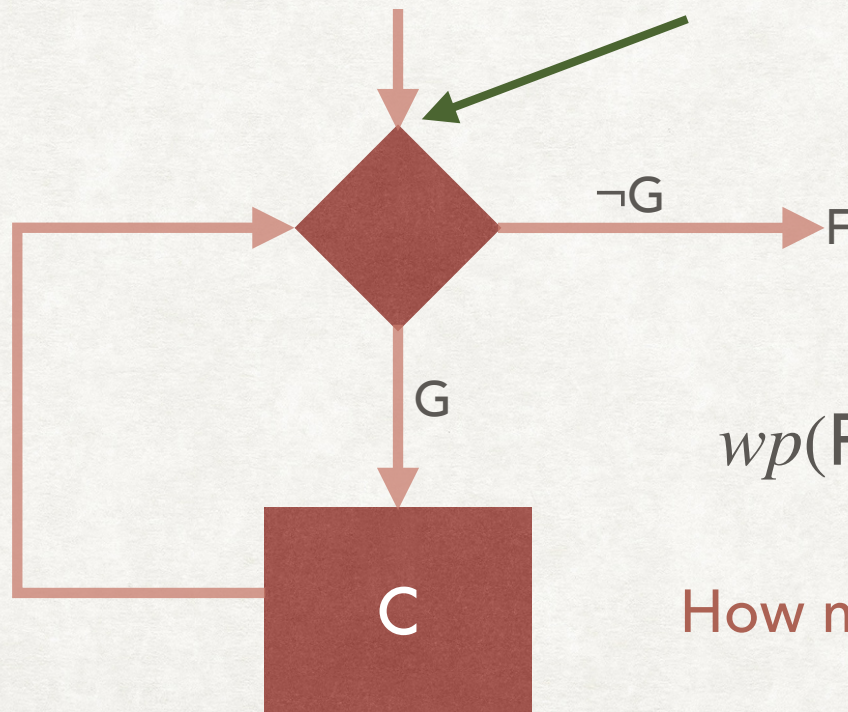
Iteration $k$	Initial State for exit after $k$ iterations
0	$\neg G \wedge F$
1	$G \wedge wp(\neg G \wedge F, c)$
2	$G \wedge wp(G \wedge wp(\neg G \wedge F, c))$
...	...



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## WHILE LOOPS

- $wp(F, \text{while}(G) \text{ do } c) \equiv ???$
- Collect all states at the beginning of loop, which would lead to a state in  $F$  if the loop exits after  $k$  iterations (for  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ )



$$F^0 \equiv \neg G \wedge F$$

$$F^k \equiv G \wedge wp(F^{k-1}, c)$$

$$wp(F, \text{while}(G) \text{ do } c) \triangleq \bigvee_{k=0}^{\infty} F^k$$

How many  $F^k$  should be calculated?

$$\text{Until } F^k \rightarrow \bigvee_i^{k-1} F^i$$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## WHILE LOOPS - EXAMPLES

- $wp(x > 0, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq ???$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## WHILE LOOPS - EXAMPLES

- $wp(x > 0, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq \text{True}$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## WHILE LOOPS - EXAMPLES

- $wp(x > 0, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq \top$
- $wp(x < 0, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq ???$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## WHILE LOOPS - EXAMPLES

- $wp(x > 0, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq \top$
- $wp(x < 0, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq \perp$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## WHILE LOOPS - EXAMPLES

- $wp(x > 0, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq \top$
- $wp(x < 0, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq \perp$
- $wp(x = 10, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq ???$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## WHILE LOOPS - EXAMPLES

- $wp(x > 0, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq \top$
- $wp(x < 0, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq \perp$
- $wp(x = 10, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq x \leq 10$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## WHILE LOOPS - EXAMPLES

- $wp(x > 0, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq \top$
- $wp(x < 0, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq \perp$
- $wp(x = 10, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq x \leq 10$
- $wp(x = 11, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq ???$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## WHILE LOOPS - EXAMPLES

- $wp(x > 0, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq \top$
- $wp(x < 0, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq \perp$
- $wp(x = 10, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq x \leq 10$
- $wp(x = 11, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq x = 11$