

# *Axiomatic Semantics*

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# Axiomatic Semantics

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1. Language for making **assertions** about programs
2. **Rules** for establishing, i.e. proving the assertions

Typical kinds of **assertions**:

- This program terminates.
- During execution if var **z** has value 0, then **x** equals **y**
- All array accesses are within array bounds

Some typical **languages** of assertions:

- **First-order logic**
- Other logics (e.g., temporal logic)

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# Axiomatic Semantics

# History : Program Verification

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- Turing 1949: Checking a large routine
- Floyd 1967: Assigning meaning to programs
- Hoare 1971: An "axiomatic basis for computer programming"
- Program Verifiers (70's - 80's)
- PREFIX: Symbolic Execution for bug-hunting (WinXP)
- Software Validation tools

## Foundation for Software Verification

- Deductive Verifiers: ESCJava, Spec#, Verifast, Y0, ...
- Model Checkers: SLAM, BLAST,...
- Test Generators: DART, CUTE, EXE,...

# Hoare Triples

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- Partial correctness assertion:  $\{A\} \text{ c } \{B\}$   
*If  $A$  holds in state  $\sigma$  and exists  $\sigma'$  s.t.  $\langle \text{c}, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \sigma'$   
then  $B$  holds in  $\sigma'$*
- Total correctness assertion:  $[A] \text{ c } [B]$   
*If  $A$  holds in state  $\sigma$   
then there exists  $\sigma'$  s.t.  $\langle \text{c}, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \sigma'$  and  $B$  holds in  $\sigma'$*
- $[A]$  is called precondition,  $[B]$  is called postcondition
- Example:  $\{y=x\} \text{ z } := \text{ x; z } := \text{ z}+1 \{y < z\}$

# The Assertion Language

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- Arith Exprs + First-order Predicate logic

$A ::= \text{true} \mid \text{false}$   
 $\mid e_1 = e_2 \mid e_1, e_2$   
 $\mid \neg A \mid A_1 \ \&\& \ A_2 \mid A_1 \ \|\ A_2 \mid A_1 \Rightarrow A_2$   
 $\mid \backslash \text{exists } x.A \mid \backslash \text{forall } x.A$

- IMP boolean expressions are assertions

# Semantics of Assertions

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- Judgment  $\sigma \models A$  means assertion holds in given state

$\sigma \models \text{true}$	always
$\sigma \models e_1 = e_2$	iff $\langle e_1, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow n_1$ , $\langle e_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow n_2$ and $n_1 = n_2$
$\sigma \models e_1 \leq e_2$	iff $\langle e_1, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow n_1$ , $\langle e_2, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow n_2$ and $n_1 \leq n_2$
$\sigma \models A_1 \ \&\& \ A_2$	iff $\sigma \models A_1$ and $\sigma \models A_2$
$\sigma \models A_1 \    \ A_2$	iff $\sigma \models A_1$ or $\sigma \models A_2$
$\sigma \models A_1 \Rightarrow A_2$	iff $\sigma \models A_1$ implies $\sigma \models A_2$
$\sigma \models \backslash \text{exists } x. A$	iff for <i>some</i> $n$ in $Z$ . $\sigma[x := n] \models A$
$\sigma \models \backslash \text{forall } x. A$	iff for <i>all</i> $n$ in $Z$ . $\sigma[x := n] \models A$

# Semantics of Assertions

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Formal definition of **partial** correctness assertion:

$\models \{A\} c \{B\}$

iff

forall  $\sigma$  in  $\Sigma$ .  $\sigma \models A$

implies [forall  $\sigma'$  in  $\Sigma$ .  $\langle c, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \sigma'$  implies  $\sigma' \models B$ ]



# Semantics of Assertions

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- Total correctness assertion:

$$|= [A] \text{ c } [B]$$

iff

$$|= \{A\} \text{ c } \{B\}$$

and

forall  $\sigma$  in  $\Sigma$ .

$\sigma \models A$  implies [exists  $\sigma'$  in  $\Sigma$ .  $\langle \text{c}, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \sigma'$ ]

# Deriving Assertions

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- Formal  $\models \{A\} \mathbf{c} \{B\}$  hard to use
- Defined in terms of the op-semantics
- Next, *symbolic* technique (*logic*)
- for deriving valid triples  $\vdash \{A\} \mathbf{c} \{B\}$

# Derivation Rules for Hoare Triples

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- Write  $\vdash \{A\} c \{B\}$  when we can derive the triple using derivation rules
- One rule per command
- Plus, the rule of consequence:

$$\frac{A' \Rightarrow A \quad \vdash \{A\} c \{B\} \quad B \Rightarrow B'}{\vdash \{A'\} c \{B'\}}$$

# Deriv. Rules for Hoare Logic $\vdash \{A\} c \{B\}$

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Rules for each language construct

$$\frac{}{\vdash \{A\} \text{skip} \{A\}} \qquad \frac{\vdash \{A\} c_1 \{B\} \quad \vdash \{B\} c_2 \{C\}}{\vdash \{A\} c_1 ; c_2 \{C\}}$$

$$\frac{\vdash \{A \ \&\& \ b\} c_1 \{B\} \quad \vdash \{A \ \&\& \ !b\} c_2 \{B\}}{\vdash \{A\} \text{if } b \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2 \{B\}}$$

$$\frac{\vdash \{A \ \&\& \ b\} c \{A\}}{\vdash \{A\} \text{while } b \text{ do } c \{A \ \&\& \ !b\}} \qquad \frac{}{\vdash \{[e/x]A\} x := e \{A\}}$$

And the rule of consequence...

# Free and Bound Variables

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Key idea in logic/PL: **scoping & substitution**

- Assertions are equivalent up to **renaming of bound variables** (a.k.a. **alpha-renaming**)

- Examples:

$\forall x. x = x$  is the **same** as  $\forall y. y = y$

- Rename **bound**  $x$  with  $y$

$\forall x. \forall y. x = y$  is the **same** as  $\forall z. \forall x. z = x$

- Rename **bound**  $x$  with  $z$  and  $y$  with  $x$

# Substitution

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- $[e'/x] e$  is substituting  $e'$  for  $x$  in  $e$ 
  - Also written as  $e[e'/x]$
  - Note: only substitute the free occurrences
- Alpha-rename bound variables to avoid conflicts
  - To subst.  $[e'/x]$  in  $\forall y. x = y$  rename  $y$  if it occurs in  $e'$
  - Result of alpha-renaming:  $\forall z. e' = z$
- We say that substitution avoids variable capture  
 $[x/z] \forall x. z = x$  is ?
  - $\forall x. x = x$  Wrong
  - $\forall y. x = y$  Correct

# Example: Assignment

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Assume  $x$  does not appear in  $e$

Prove  $\vdash \{\text{true}\} x := e \{x = e\}$

Note  $[e/x](x = e) = e = [e/x]e = e = e$

Use assignment rule ... then conseq. rule

$$\frac{\text{true} \Rightarrow e = e \quad \frac{x \text{ does not appear in } e}{\vdash \{e = e\} x := e \{x = e\}}}{\vdash \{\text{true}\} x := e \{x = e\}}$$

# Example: Conditional

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Prove:  $\{\text{true}\} \text{ if } y \leq 0 \text{ then } x := 1 \text{ else } x := y \{x > 0\}$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{true} \ \& \ y \leq 0 \Rightarrow 1 > 0 \quad | - \{1 > 0\} \ x := 1 \{x > 0\} \quad \quad \text{true} \ \& \ y > 0 \Rightarrow y > 0 \quad | - \{y > 0\} \ x := y \{x > 0\} \\ \hline | - \{\text{true} \ \& \ y \leq 0\} \ x := 1 \{x > 0\} \quad \quad \quad | - \{\text{true} \ \& \ y > 0\} \ x := y \{x > 0\} \\ \hline | - \{\text{true}\} \text{ if } y \leq 0 \text{ then } x := 1 \text{ else } x := y \{x > 0\} \end{array}$$

- Rule for if-then-else
- Rule for assignment + consequence





# Example: Loop

- **Prove**  $\vdash \{x \leq 0\} \text{ while } x \leq 5 \text{ do } x := x + 1 \{x = 6\}$
- Use the rule for while with invariant  $x \leq 6$ :

$$\frac{\frac{x \leq 6 \ \& \ x \leq 5 \Rightarrow x + 1 \leq 6 \quad \vdash \{x + 1 \leq 6\} \text{ } x := x + 1 \{x \leq 6\}}{\vdash \{x \leq 6 \ \& \ x \leq 5\} \text{ } x := x + 1 \{x \leq 6\}}}{\vdash \{x \leq 6\} \text{ while } x \leq 5 \text{ do } x := x + 1 \{x \leq 6 \ \& \ x > 5\}}$$

- Finish off with consequence rule:

$$\frac{x \leq 0 \Rightarrow x \leq 6 \quad \vdash \{x \leq 6\} \text{ } \mathbf{w} \{x \leq 6 \ \& \ x > 5\} \quad x \leq 6 \ \& \ x > 5 \Rightarrow x = 6}{\vdash \{x \leq 0\} \text{ } \mathbf{w} \{x = 6\}}$$

# Soundness of Axiomatic Semantics

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Formal Statement of Soundness:

If  $\vdash \{A\} \text{ c } \{B\}$  then  $\models \{A\} \text{ c } \{B\}$

Equivalently

If  $H:: \vdash \{A\} \text{ c } \{B\}$  then

forall  $\sigma$  if  $\sigma \models A$  and  $D:: \langle \text{c}, \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \sigma'$  then  $\sigma' \models B$

Proof:

Simultaneous induction on structure of D and H

# Algorithmic Verification

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Hoare rules mostly **syntax directed**, but:

1. When to apply the rule of **consequence** ?
2. What **invariant** to use for while ?
3. How to **prove implications** (conseq. rule)?

**Hint:**

- (3) involves ... SMT
- (2) **invariants** are the hardest problem
- (1) lets see how to deal with ...

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# **Making Floyd-Hoare Algorithmic: Predicate Transformers**

# Technique: Weakest Preconditions

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$\vdash \{y > 10\} \mathbf{x} := \mathbf{y} \{x > 0\}$

$\vdash \{y > 100\} \mathbf{x} := \mathbf{y} \{x > 0\}$

$\vdash \{x=2 \ \& \ y=5\} \mathbf{x} := \mathbf{y} \{x > 0\}$

After what preconditions does postcond.  $x > 0$  hold?

$\text{WP}(\mathbf{c}, B)$ : weakest predicate s.t.  $\{\text{WP}(\mathbf{c}, B)\} \mathbf{c} \{B\}$

- For any  $A$  we have  $\{A\} \mathbf{c} \{B\}$  iff  $A \Rightarrow \text{WP}(\mathbf{c}, B)$

How to verify  $\vdash \{A\} \mathbf{c} \{B\}$  ?

1. Compute:  $\text{WP}(\mathbf{c}, B)$
2. Prove:  $A \Rightarrow \text{WP}(\mathbf{c}, B)$

# Weakest Preconditions

---

Define  $\text{wp}(c, B)$  using Hoare rules

$$\begin{aligned}\text{wp}(c_1; c_2, B) \\ &= \text{wp}(c_1, \text{wp}(c_2, B))\end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{\vdash \{A\} c_1 \{B\} \quad \vdash \{B\} c_2}{\vdash \{A\} c_1; c_2 \{C\}}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{wp}(x := e, B) \\ &= [e/x]B\end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{}{\vdash \{[e/x]A\} x := e \{A\}}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{wp}(\text{if } e \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2, B) \\ &= e \Rightarrow \text{wp}(c_1, B) \ \&\& \ !e \Rightarrow \text{wp}(c_2, B)\end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{\vdash \{A \& b\} c_1 \{B\} \quad \vdash \{A \& !b\} c_2 \{B\}}{\vdash \{A\} \text{if } b \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2 \{B\}}$$

# Weakest Preconditions for Loops

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Start from the equivalence

`while b do c =`

`if b then (c; while b do c) else skip`

Let  $W = \text{wp}(\text{while } b \text{ do } c, B)$

It must be that:  $W = [b \Rightarrow \text{wp}(c, W) \ \& \ !b \Rightarrow B]$

But this is a recursive equation! How to compute?!

- We'll return to finding loop WPs later ...

# Technique: Strongest Postconditions

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$\vdash \{y > 100\} \mathbf{x} := \mathbf{y} \{x > 10\}$

$\vdash \{y > 100\} \mathbf{x} := \mathbf{y} \{x > 20\}$

$\vdash \{y > 100\} \mathbf{x} := \mathbf{y} \{x > 100\}$

What postcond. is guaranteed after prec.  $y > 100$  ?

$SP(\mathbf{c}, A)$ : strongest predicate s.t.  $\{A\} \mathbf{c} \{SP(\mathbf{c}, A)\}$

- For any  $B$  we have  $\{A\} \mathbf{c} \{B\}$  iff  $SP(\mathbf{c}, A) \Rightarrow B$

How to verify  $\{A\} \mathbf{c} \{B\}$  ?

1. Compute:  $SP(\mathbf{c}, A)$

2. Prove:  $SP(\mathbf{c}, A) \Rightarrow B$



# Strongest Postconditions

---

Define  $sp(c, B)$  following Hoare rules

$$sp(c_1; c_2, A) = \frac{\begin{array}{l} sp(c_1, A) \\ sp(c_2, sp(c_1, A)) \end{array}}{\vdash \{A\} c_1; c_2 \{B\}}$$

$$sp(x := e, A) = \frac{\vdash \{[e/x]A\} x := e \{A\}}{\vdash \{A\} x := e \{B\}}$$

$$sp(\text{if } e \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2, A) = \frac{\begin{array}{l} sp(c_1, A \& e) \quad sp(c_2, A \& !e) \end{array}}{\vdash \{A\} \text{if } e \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2 \{B\}}$$

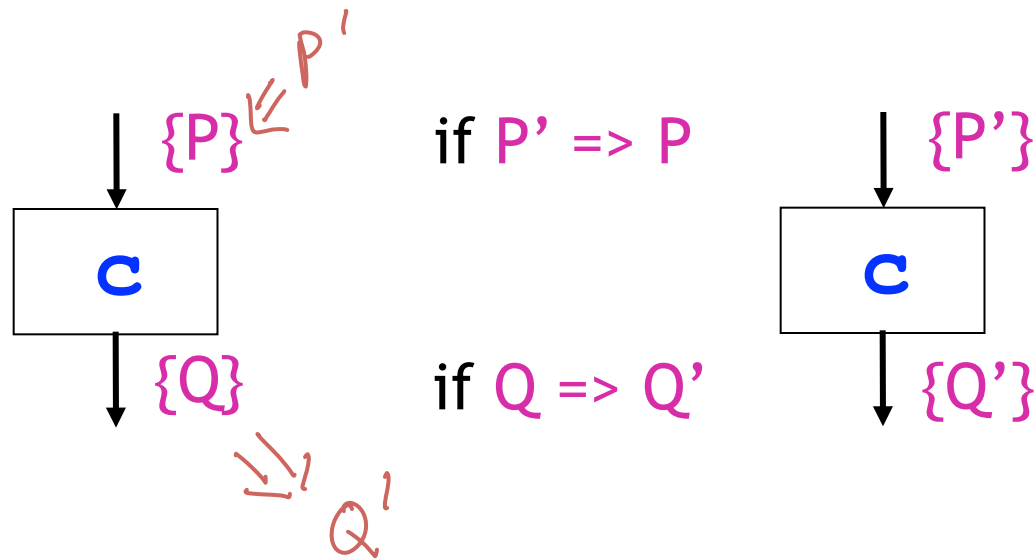
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# **Axiomatic Semantics on Flow Graphs**

## **Floyd's Original Formulation**

# Axiomatic Semantics over Flow Graphs

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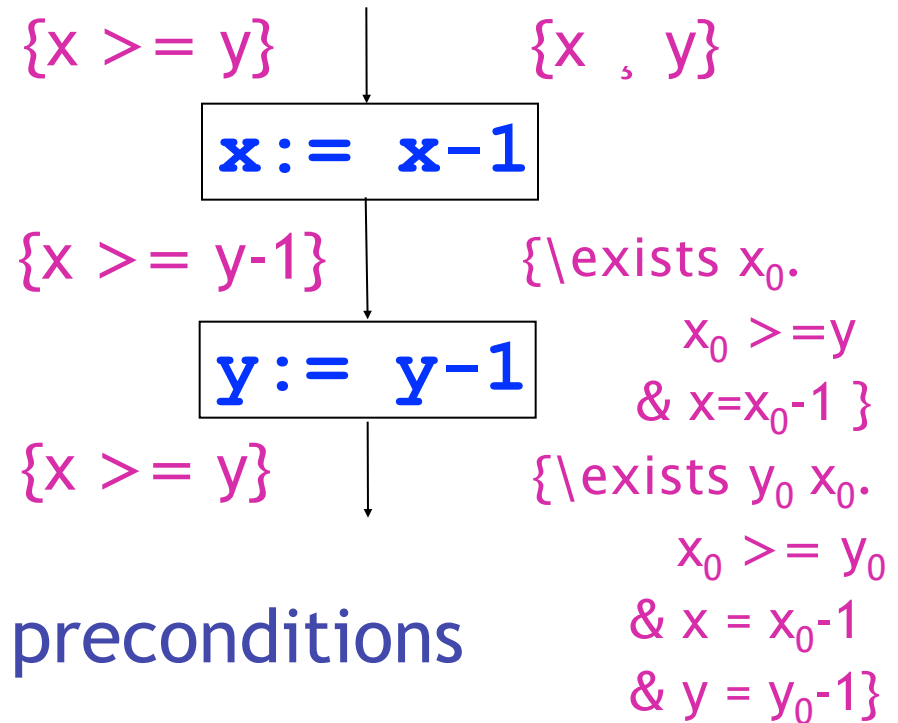
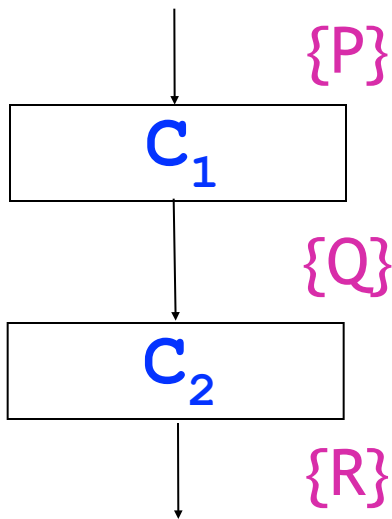


**Relaxing Specifications via Consequence**

Will revisit later as **subtyping**

# Sequential Composition

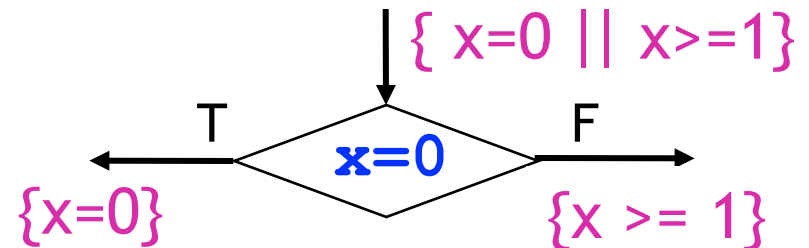
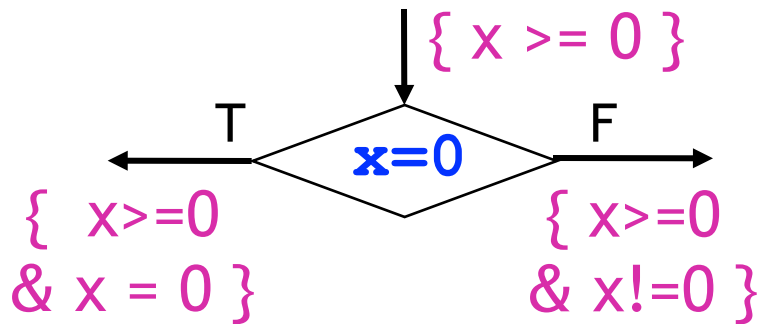
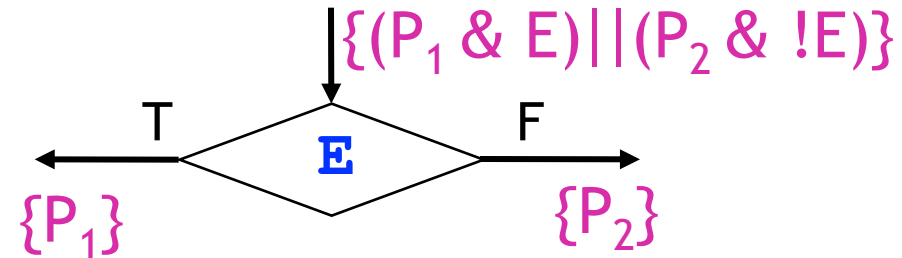
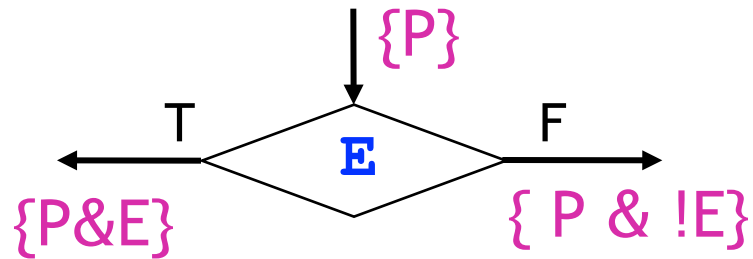
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Backwards using weakest preconditions

Forwards using strongest postconditions

# Conditionals

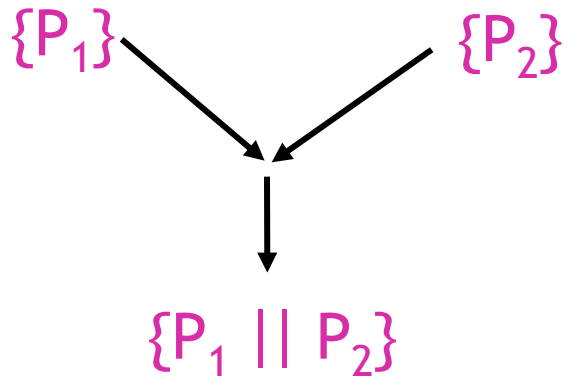


Forwards

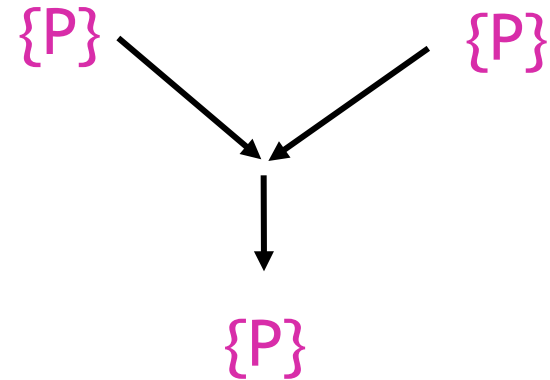
Backwards

# Joins

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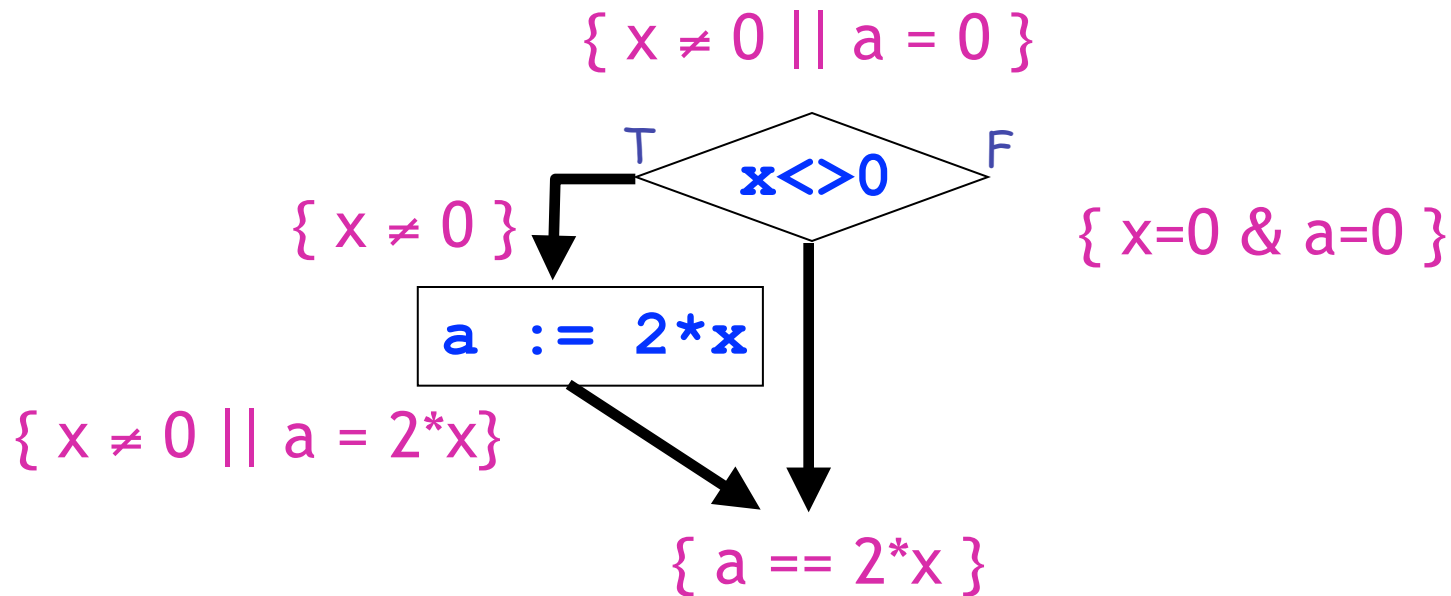
Forwards



Backwards

# Conditional+Join: Forward

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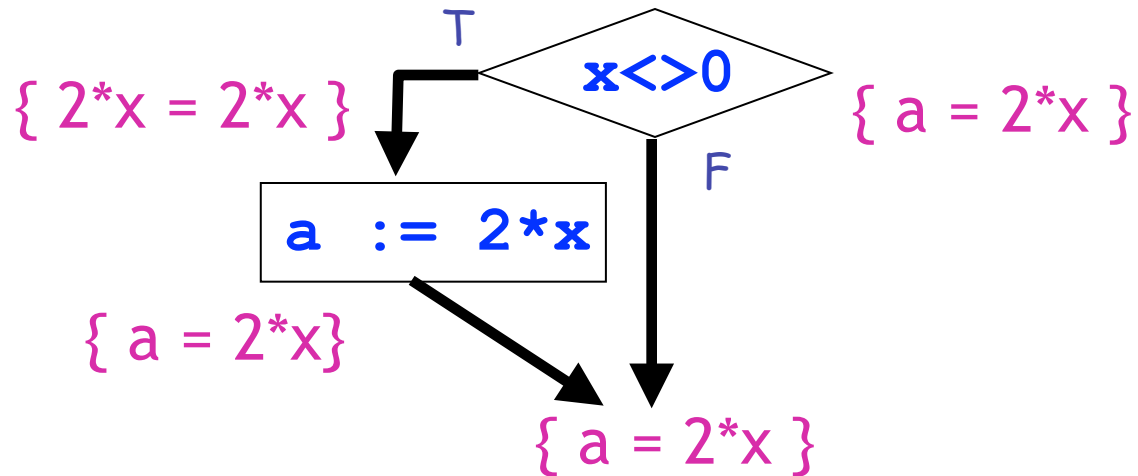


- Check the implications (simplifications)

# Conditionals+Joins: Backward

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$\{ (x \neq 0 \ \& \ \text{true}) \ || \ (x = 0 \ \& \ a = 2*x) \}$





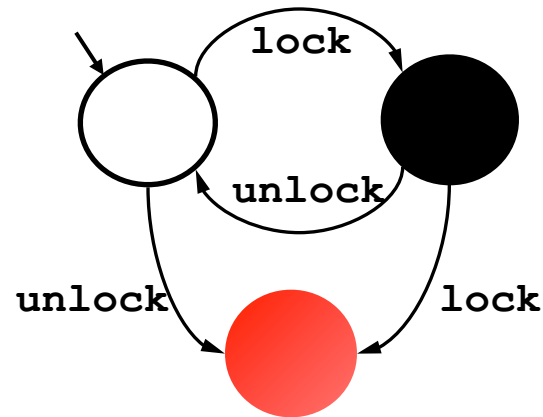
# Forward or Backward ?

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- Forward reasoning
  - Know the precondition
  - Want to know what postcond the code guarantees
- Backward reasoning
  - Know what we want to code to establish
  - Want to know under what preconditions this happens

# Another Example: Double Locking

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*“An attempt to re-acquire an acquired lock or release a released lock will cause a **deadlock**.”*

Calls to **lock** and **unlock** must **alternate**.

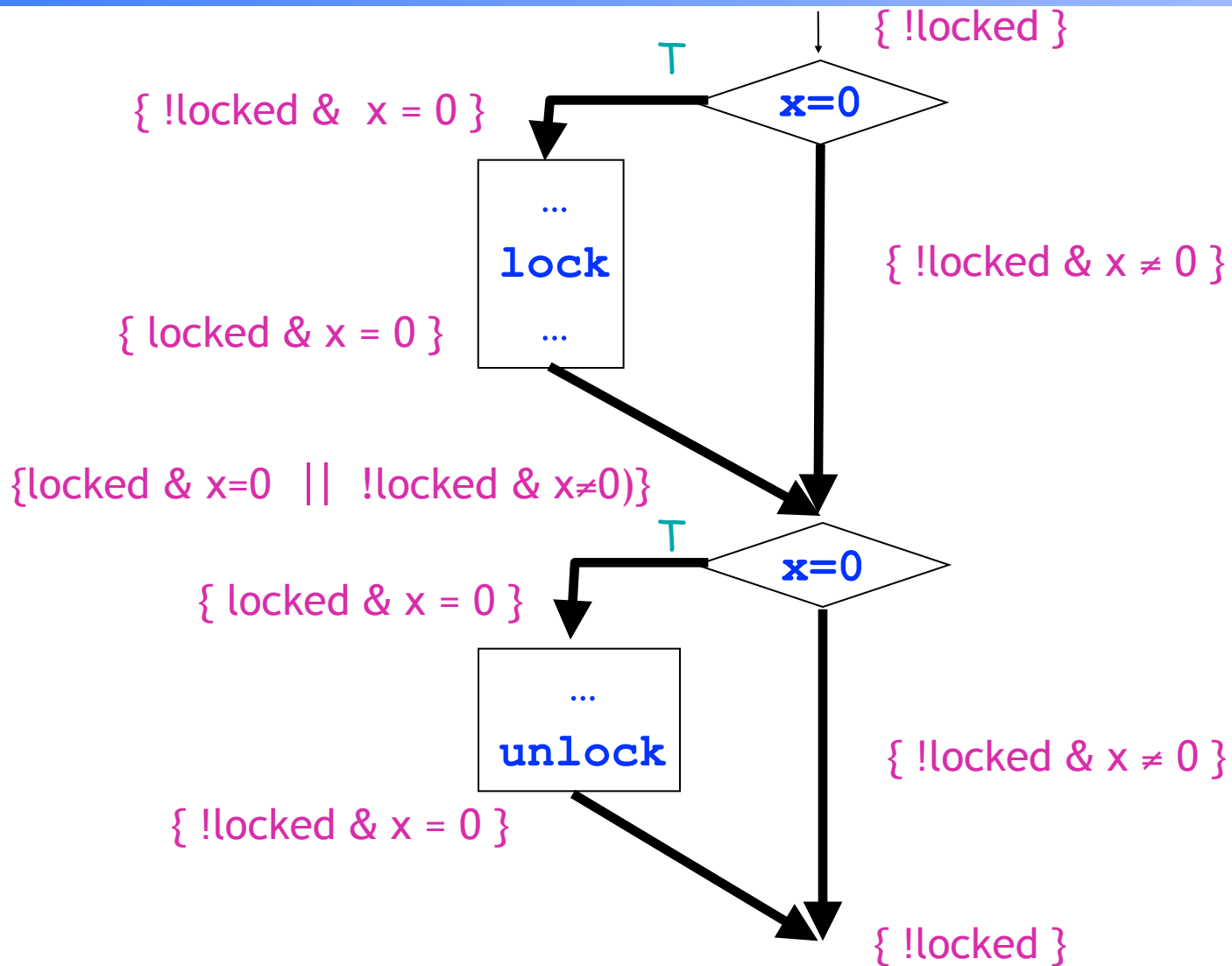
# Locking Rules

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Boolean variable **locked** states if lock is held or not

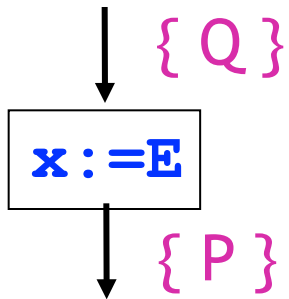
- $\{ \neg \text{locked} \ \& \ P[\text{true}/\text{locked}] \} \text{ lock } \{ P \}$   
**lock** behaves as `assert (!locked) ; locked:=true`
- $\{ \text{locked} \ \& \ P[\text{false}/\text{locked}] \} \text{ unlock } \{ P \}$   
**unlock** behaves as `assert (locked) ; locked:=false`

# Locking Example

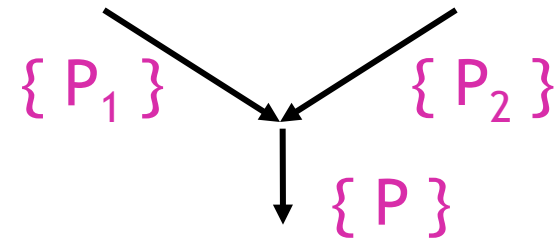


# Review

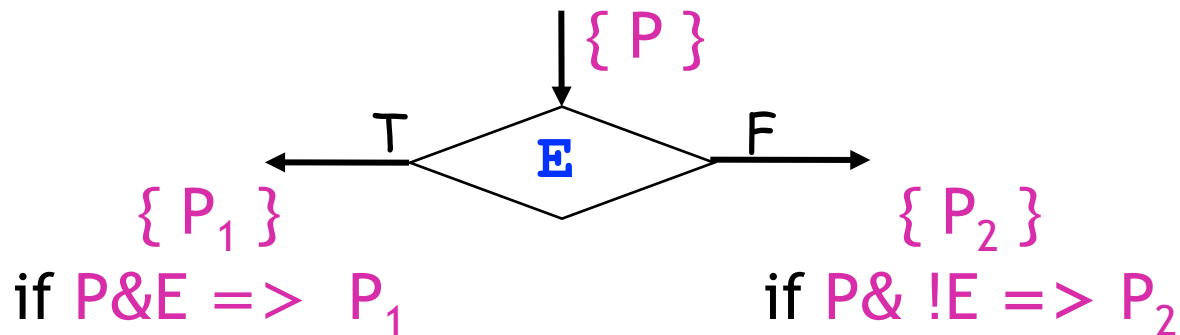
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if  $Q \Rightarrow P[E \setminus x]$



if  $P_1 \Rightarrow P$  and  $P_2 \Rightarrow P$



if  $P \& E \Rightarrow P_1$

if  $P \& !E \Rightarrow P_2$

Implication is always in the direction of the control flow

# What about real languages ?

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- Loops
- Function calls
- Pointers

# Reasoning about loops: Rules

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$$\frac{\vdash \{A \ \& \ b\} \ c \ \{A\}}{\vdash \{A\} \text{ while } b \text{ do } c \ \{A \ \& \ !b\}}$$

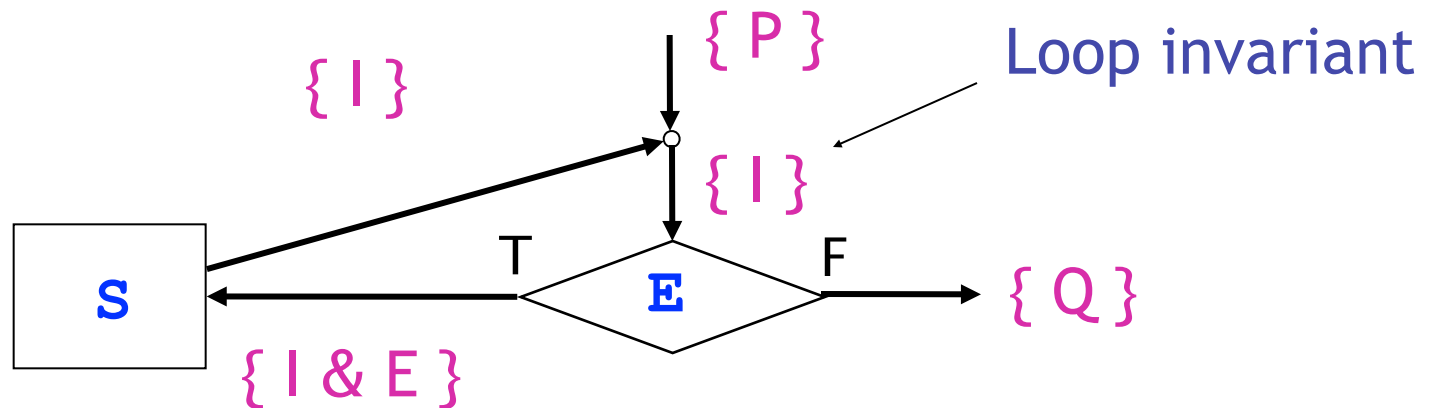
Rewrite  $A$  with  $I$  : Loop Invariant

$$\frac{P \Rightarrow I \quad \frac{\vdash \{I \ \& \ b\} \ c \ \{I\}}{\vdash \{I\} \text{ while } b \text{ do } c \ \{I \ \& \ !b\}} \quad I \ \& \ !b \Rightarrow Q}{\vdash \{P\} \text{ while } b \text{ do } c \ \{Q\}}$$

Rule of Consequence

# Reasoning about loops: Flow Graphs

- Loops can be handled using conditionals and joins
- Consider the **while b do S** statement



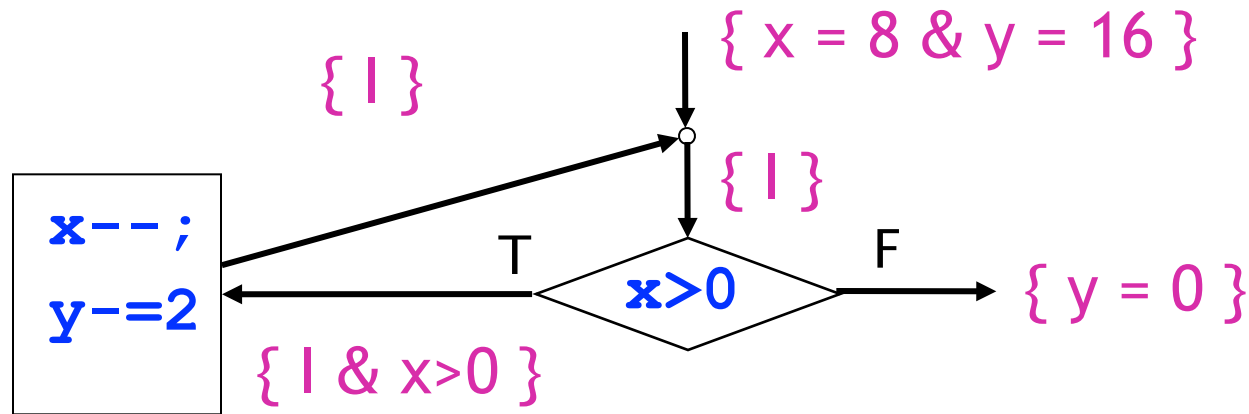
if $P \Rightarrow I$	(loop invariant holds initially)
and $I \& !b \Rightarrow Q$	(loop establishes the postcondition)
and $\{I \& b\} S \{I\}$	(loop invariant is preserved)



# Loop Example

Verify:

$\{x=8 \ \& \ y=16\}$  **while**  $(x>0)$   $\{x--; \ y-=2; \}$   $\{y = 0\}$

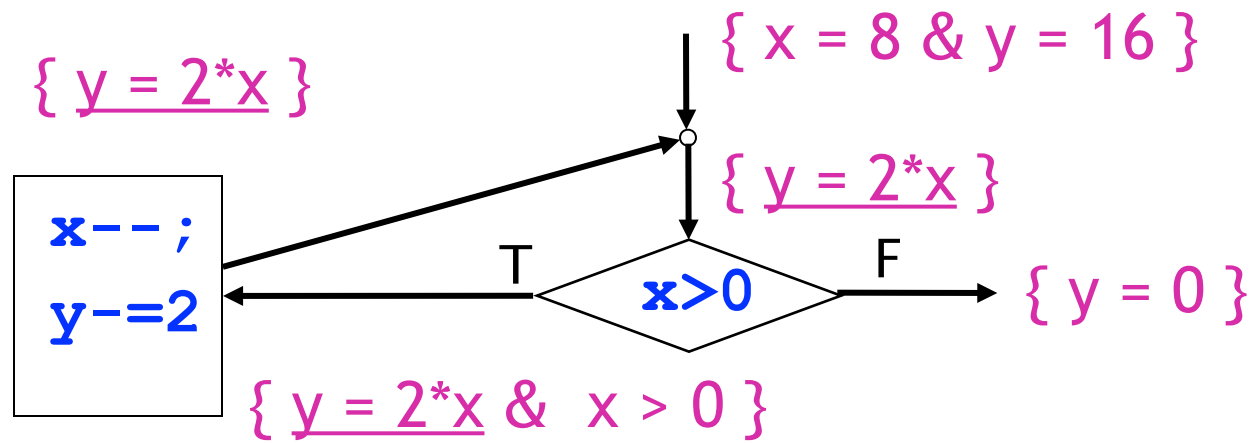


Find an appropriate invariant  $I$

- Holds initially  $x = 8 \ \& \ y = 16$
- Holds at end  $y == 0$

# Loop Example (II)

Guess invariant  $y = 2*x$

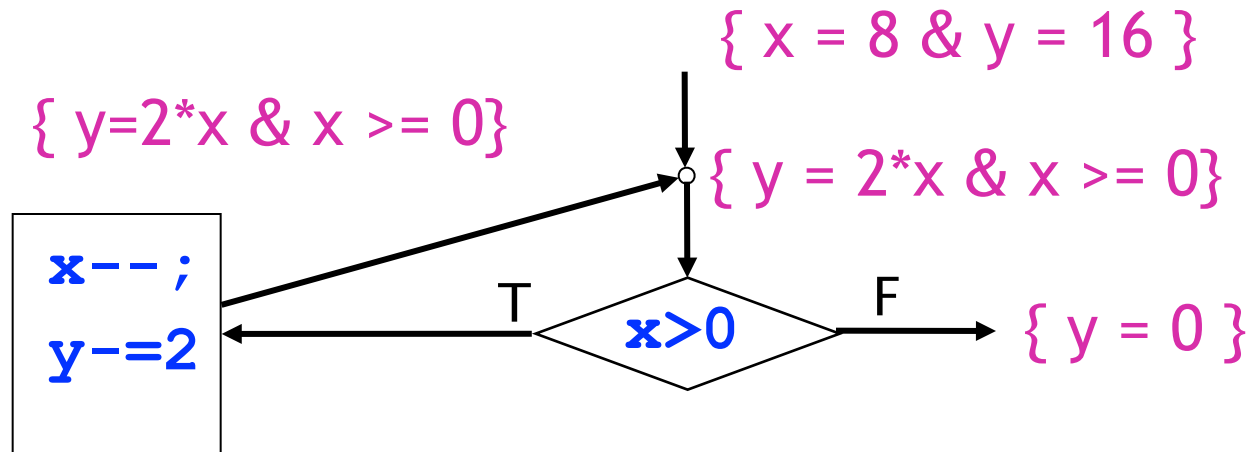


Check :

- Initial:  $x = 8 \ \& \ y = 16 \Rightarrow y = 2*x$
- Preservation:  $y = 2*x \ \& \ x > 0 \Rightarrow y-2 = 2*(x-1)$
- Final:  $y = 2*x \ \& \ x \leq 0 \Rightarrow y = 0$  **Invalid**

# Loop Example (III)

Guess invariant  $y = 2*x \ \& \ x \geq 0$



Check

- Initial :  $x = 8 \ \& \ y = 16 \Rightarrow y = 2*x \ \& \ x \geq 0$
- Preserv:  $y = 2*x \ \& \ x \geq 0 \ \& \ x > 0 \Rightarrow y-2 = 2*(x-1) \ \& \ x-1 \geq 0$
- Final:  $y = 2*x \ \& \ x \geq 0 \ \& \ x \leq 0 \Rightarrow y = 0$

# Loops Discussion

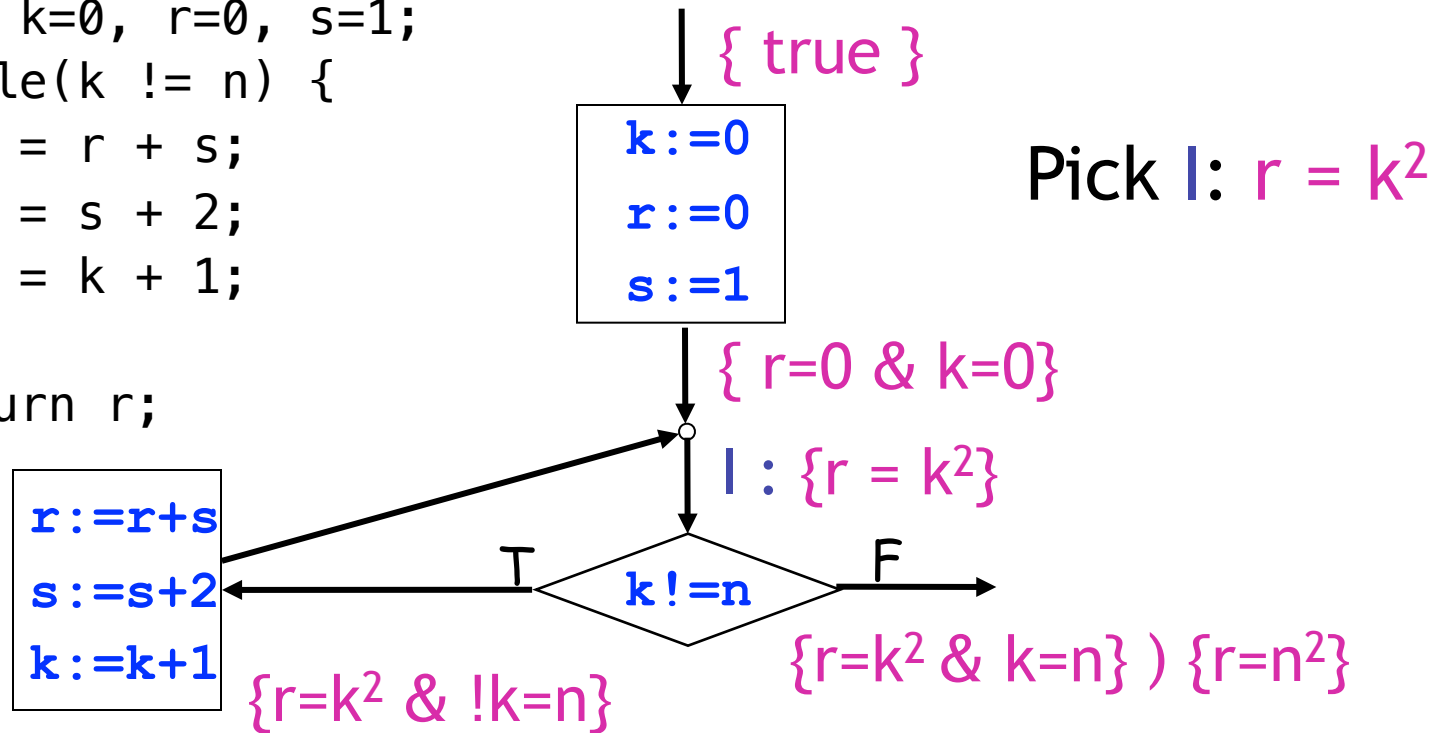
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- Simple forward/backward propagation fails
- Require loop invariants
  - Hardest part of program verification
  - Guess the invariants (existing programs)
  - Write the invariants (new programs)

**Note: Invariant depends on your proof goal!**

# Verification Example

```
int square(int n) {  
  int k=0, r=0, s=1;  
  while(k != n) {  
    r = r + s;  
    s = s + 2;  
    k = k + 1;  
  }  
  return r;  
}
```



Need:  $\{ r=k^2 \ \& \ !k=n \} \text{ c } \{ r=k^2 \}$

i.e.  $\{ r=k^2 \ \& \ !k=n \} \Rightarrow \text{WP}(\text{c}, \{ r=k^2 \})$

i.e.  $\{ r=k^2 \ \& \ !k=n \} \Rightarrow \{ r+s=(k+1)^2 \}$

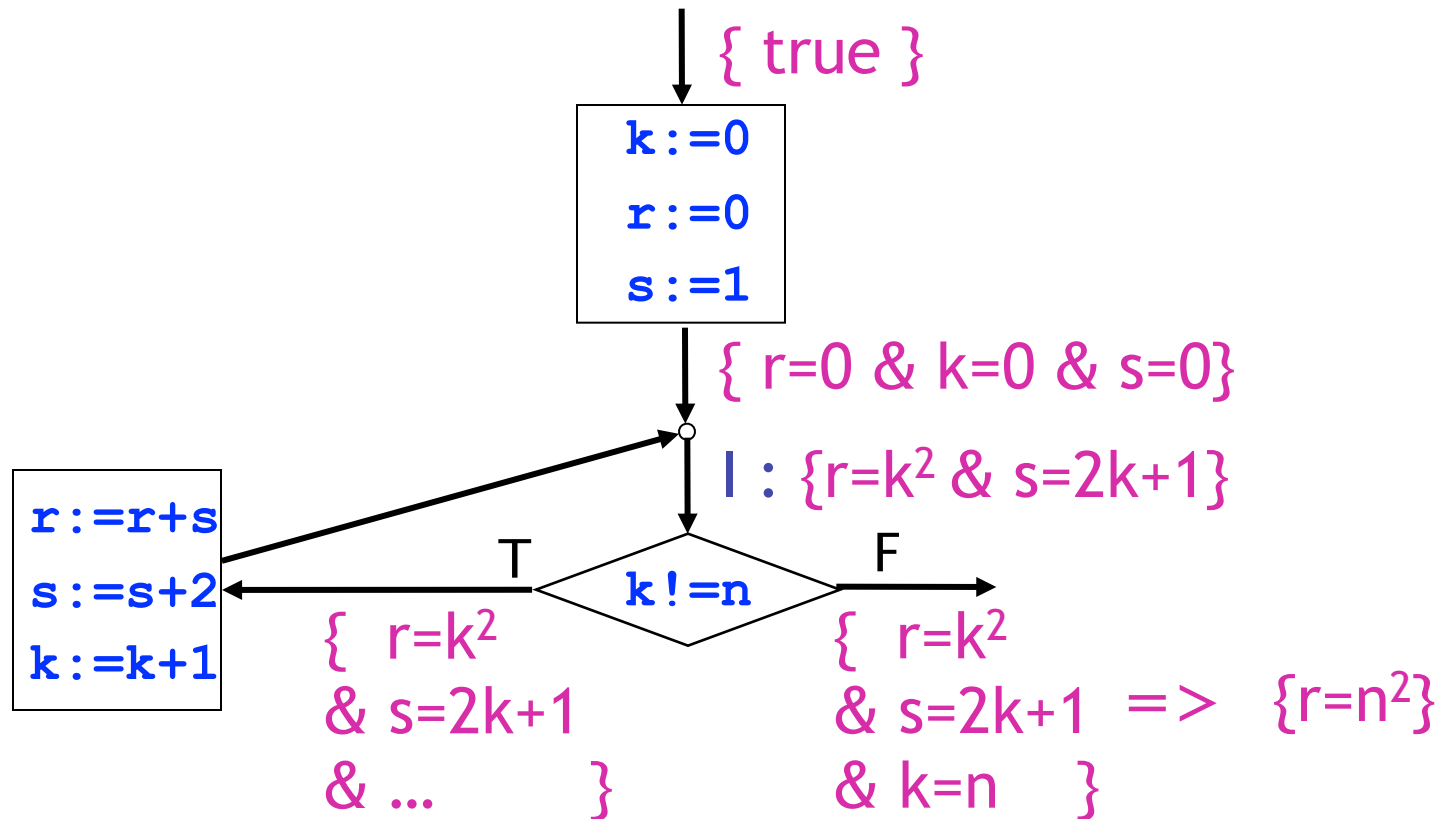
Invalid

# Verification Example

Need:  $\{r=k^2 \ \& \ s=2k+1 \ \& \ ...\} \mathbf{c} \ \{r=k^2 \ \& \ s=2k+1\}$

i.e.  $\{r=k^2 \ \& \ s=2k+1 \ ...\} \Rightarrow \mathbf{WP}(\mathbf{c}, \{r=k^2 \ \& \ s=2k+1\})$

i.e.  $\{r=k^2 \ \& \ s=2k+1 \ ...\} \Rightarrow \{r+s=(k+1)^2 \ \& \ (s+2) = 2(k+1)+1\}$  **Valid**



# What about real languages ?

---

- Loops
- Function calls
- Pointers

# Functions are big instructions

---

Suppose we have verified `bsearch`

```
int bsearch(int a[], int p) {  
    { sorted(a) }  
    ...  
    { r=-1 || (r>=0 & r < a.length & a[r]=p) }  
    return r;  
}
```

Precondition  
“Requires”

Postcondition  
“Ensures”

- Function spec = precondition + postcondition
- Also called a contract



# Function Calls

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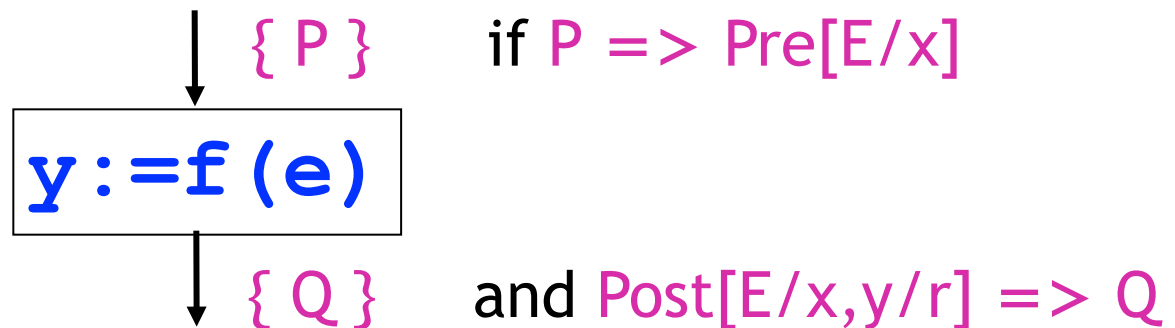
- Consider a call to function  $y := f(e)$ 
  - return variable  $r$
  - precondition  $Pre$ , postcondition  $Post$
- Rule for function call:

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} |- P \Rightarrow Pre[e/x] \quad |- \{Pre\} f \{Post\} \quad |- Post[e/x, y/r] \Rightarrow Q \end{array}}{|- \{P\} y := f(e) \{Q\}}$$

# Function Calls

---

- Consider a call to function  $y := f(e)$ 
  - return variable  $r$
  - precondition  $Pre$ , postcondition  $Post$
- Rule for function call:



# Function Call: Example

---

Consider the call

$\{\text{sorted}(\text{arr})\}$

$y := \text{bsearch}(\text{arr}, 5)$

$\{y = -1 \mid \mid \text{arr}[y] = 5\}$

$\text{if } (y \neq -1) \{$

$\{y \neq -1 \ \& \ (y = -1 \mid \mid \text{arr}[y] = 5)\}$

$\{\text{arr}[y] = 5\}$

```
int bsearch(int a[], int p) {  
    { sorted(a) }  
    ...  
    { r = -1 || (r >= 0 & r < a.length & a[r] = p) }  
    return r;  
}
```

- $\text{sorted}[\text{array}] \Rightarrow \text{Pre}[a := \text{arr}]$
- $\text{Post}[y/r, \text{arr}/a, 5/p] \Rightarrow (y = -1 \mid \mid \text{arr}[y] = 5)$

# What about real languages ?

---

- Loops
- Function calls
- Pointers

# Assignment and Aliasing

---

Does assignment rule work with aliasing ?

If  $*x$  and  $*y$  are aliased then:

$$\{x=y\} *x := 5 \{ *x + *y = 10 \}$$

# Hoare Rules: Assignment and References

---

- When is the following Hoare triple valid?

$$\{ A \} \textcolor{blue}{*x} := \textcolor{blue}{5} \{ \textcolor{violet}{*x + *y = 10} \}$$

- $A$  should be “ $\textcolor{violet}{*y = 5}$  or  $\textcolor{violet}{x = y}$ ”

- but Hoare rule for assignment gives:

$$\textcolor{violet}{[5/*x]}(\textcolor{violet}{*x + *y = 10})$$

$$= \textcolor{violet}{5 + *y = 10}$$

$$= \textcolor{violet}{*y = 5}$$

(uh oh! we lost one case! What happened?)

# Hoare Rules: Assignment and References

---

## Modeling writes with memory expressions

- Treat memory as a **whole** with memory variables ( $M$ )
- $\text{upd}(M, E_1, E_2)$  : update  $M$  at address  $E_1$  with value  $E_2$
- $\text{sel}(M, E_1)$  : read  $M$  at address  $E_1$

Reason about memory expressions with McCarthy's rule

$$\text{sel}(\text{upd}(M, E_1, E_2), E_3) = \begin{cases} E_2 & \text{if } E_1 = E_3 \\ \text{sel}(M, E_3) & \text{if } E_1 \neq E_3 \end{cases}$$

Assignment (**update**) changes the value of memory

---

$$\{B[\text{upd}(M, E_1, E_2)/M]\} * \mathbf{E_1 := E_2} \{B\}$$

# Memory Aliasing

---

- Consider again:  $\{A\} \text{ *x} := 5 \{ \text{*x} + \text{*y} = 10 \}$

$$\begin{aligned} A &= [\text{upd}(M, x, 5) / M] (\text{*x} + \text{*y} = 10) \\ &= [\text{upd}(M, x, 5) / M] (\text{sel}(M, x) + \text{sel}(M, y) = 10) \\ &= \text{sel}(\text{upd}(M, x, 5), x) + \text{sel}(\text{upd}(M, x, 5), y) = 10 \\ &= 5 + \text{sel}(\text{upd}(M, x, 5), y) = 10 \\ &= \text{sel}(\text{upd}(M, x, 5), y) = 5 \\ &= (x = y \ \& \ 5 = 5) \ || \ (x \neq y \ \& \ \text{sel}(M, y) = 5) \\ &= x = y \ || \ \text{*y} = 5 \end{aligned}$$



# Program Verification Tools

---

- Semi-automated
  - You write some invariants and specifications
  - Tool **tries** to fill in the other invariants
  - And to **prove** all implications
  - Explains when implication is invalid:  
**counterexample** for your specification
- **ESC/Java** is one of the best tools
- ... **Spec#, Verifast, VCC**

# Algorithmic Program Verification

---

...or how does ESC/Java work ?

Q: How to algorithmically prove  $\{P\} c \{Q\}$  ?

If no loops:

1. Compute:  $WP(c, Q)$
2. Prove:  $P \Rightarrow WP(c, Q)$

Verification Condition

Proved By SMT Solver

# VC Generation for Loops

---

Suppose all loops annotated with Invariant

`whileI b do c`

Compute VC:

$\text{SMTValid}(\text{VC}) \text{ implies } \vdash \{P\} c \{Q\}$

Q: Why not iff ?

1. Loop invariants may be bogus...
2. SMT solver may not handle logic...

# VCGen

---

We will write a function

$\text{vcgen} :: \text{Pred} \rightarrow \text{Com} \rightarrow (\text{Pred}, [\text{Pred}])$

Suppose  $(Q', L') = \text{VCG}(c, (Q, L;))$

Then VC for  $\{P\} c \{Q\}$  is:  $P \Rightarrow Q' \ \&\&_{\{f \text{ in } L'\}} f$

- $L'$  : the set of conditions that must be true
  - From loops (init, preservation, final)
- $Q'$  : “precondition” modulo invariants...

# VCGen

---

```
-----  
verify      :: Pred -> Com -> Pred -> Bool  
-----
```

```
-- | The top level verifier, takes:  
--   in : pre `p`, command `c` and post `q`  
--   out: True iff {p} c {q} is a valid Hoare-Triple
```

```
verify      :: Pred -> Com -> Pred -> Bool  
verify p c q = all smtValid queries  
  where  
    (q', conds) = runState (vcgen q c) []  
    queries     = p `implies` q' : conds
```

# VCGen

---

```
vcgen :: Pred -> Com -> VC Pred
```

```
vcgen (Skip) q  
  = return q
```

```
vcgen (Asgn x e) q  
  = return $ q `subst` (x, e)
```

```
vcgen (If b c1 c2) q  
  = do q1    <- vcgen q c1  
       q2    <- vcgen q c2  
       return $ (b `And` q1) `Or` (Not b `And` q2)
```

```
vcgen (While i b c) q  
  = do q'    <- vcgen i c  
       valid $ (i `And` Not b) `implies` q'  
       valid $ (i `And` b)      `implies` q  
       return $ i
```

# ESC/Java

---

## Semi-automated “Deductive Verification”

- You write the invariants
- ESC/Java:
  - VCGen
  - Simplify: SMT used to prove VC
- Explains when implication is invalid:  
**counterexample** for your specification