Verification with SPIN

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[1] Based on material from Prof. Wolfgang Ahrendt..

SPIN: Previous Lecture vs. This Lecture

Previous lecture

SPIN appeared as a PROMELA simulator

This lecture

Intro to SPIN as a model checker

What Does A Model Checker Do?

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MC does *not* try to prove correctness properties.
It tries the opposite.

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Why can an MC also prove correctness properties?

MC's search for counter examples is exhaustive.

$\Rightarrow$ Finding no counter example proves stated correctness properties.

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exhaustive search

$=$

resolving non-determinism in all possible ways

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- explicit, local:
  if/**do** statements

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:: guardY -> ...
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For model checking PROMELA code,
two kinds of non-determinism to be resolved:

- explicit, local:
  if/**do** statements

```
:: guardX -> ...
:: guardY -> ...
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- implicit, global:
  scheduling of concurrent processes

Model Checker for This Course: SPIN

main functionality of SPIN:

- simulating a model (randomly/interactively/guided)
- generating a verifier

Model Checker for This Course: SPIN

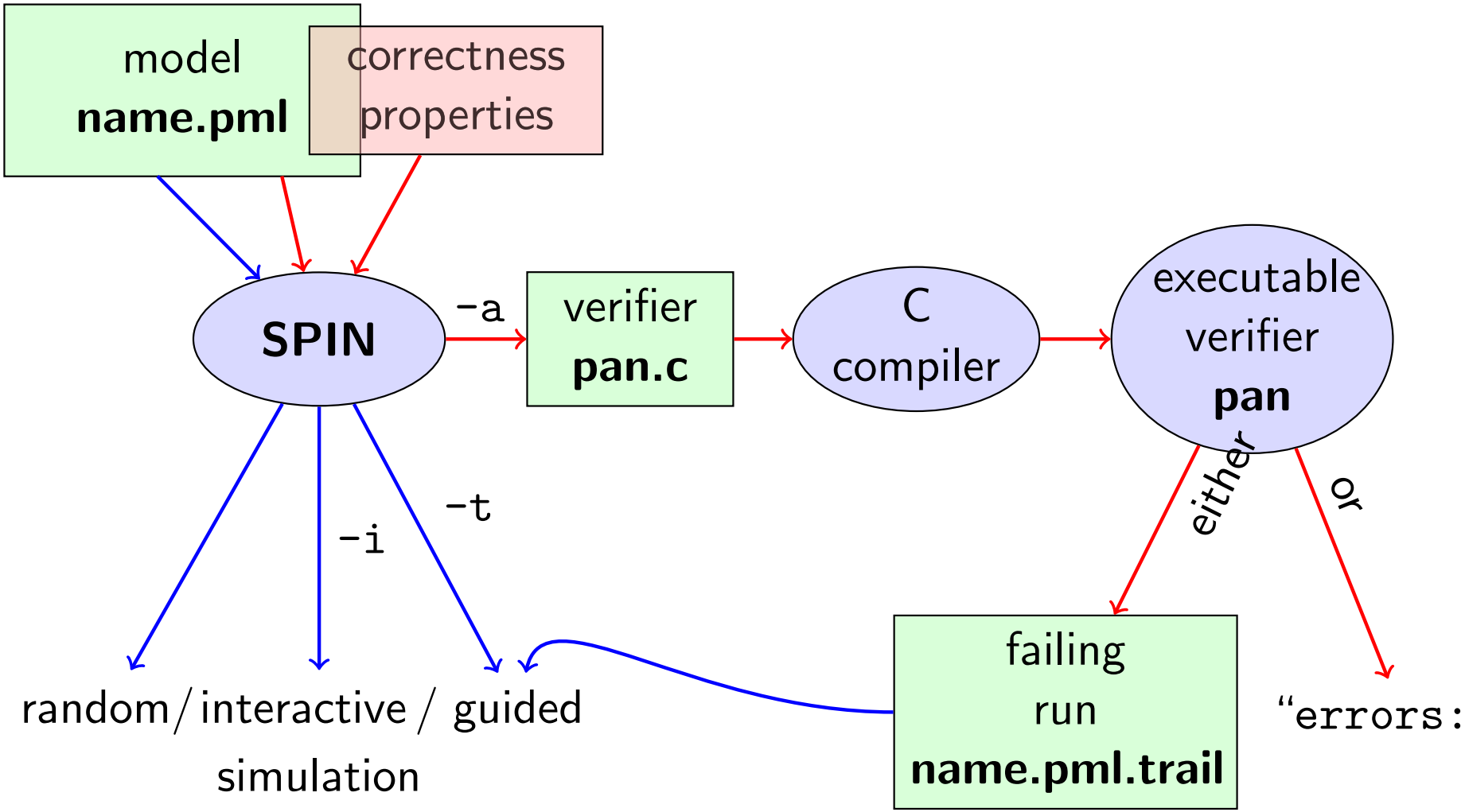
main functionality of SPIN:

- simulating a model (randomly/interactively/guided)
- generating a verifier

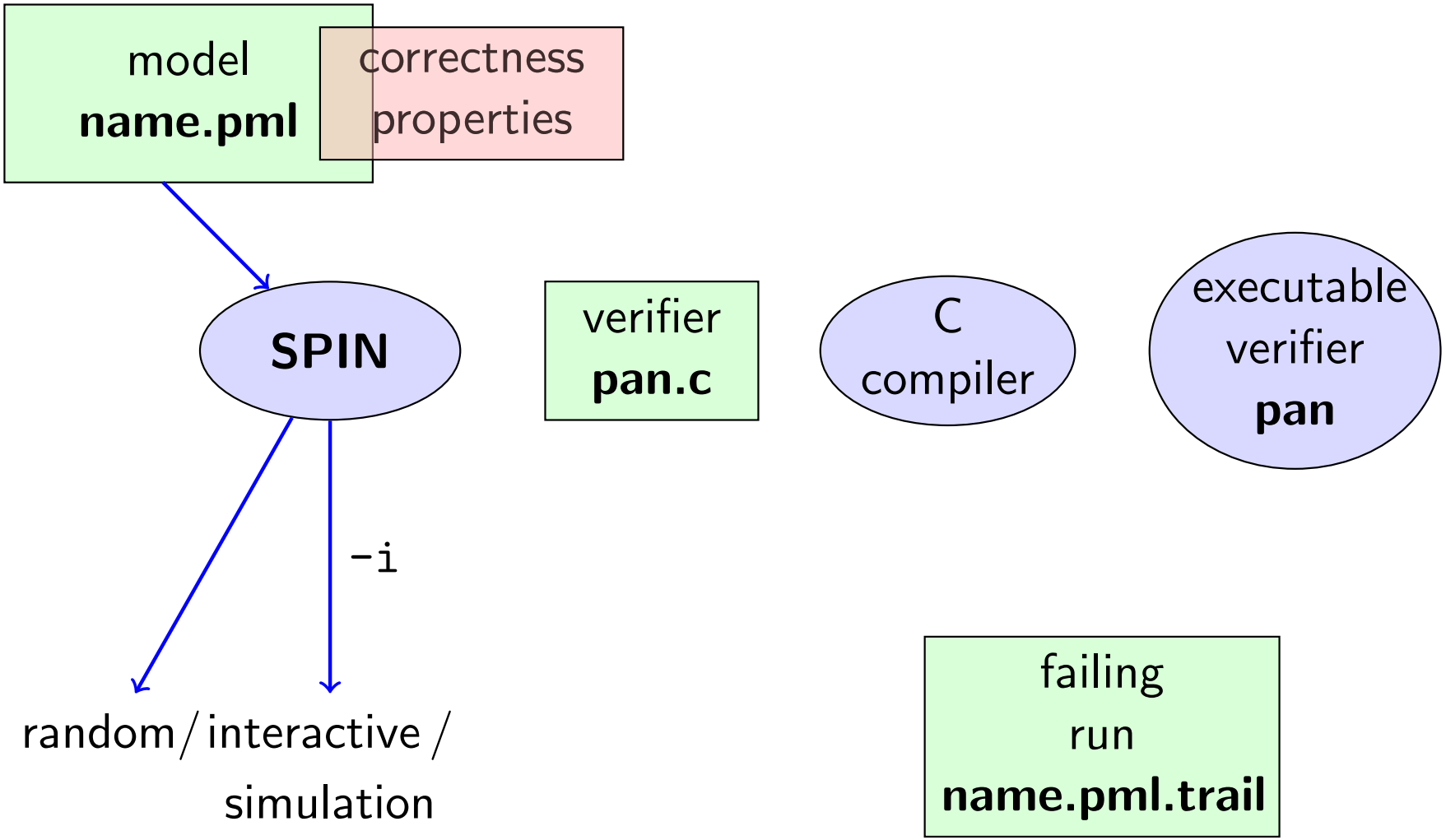
verifier generated by SPIN is a C program performing model checking:

- exhaustively checks PROMELA model against correctness properties
- in case the check is negative:
  generates a failing run of the model, to be simulated by SPIN

SPIN Workflow: Overview



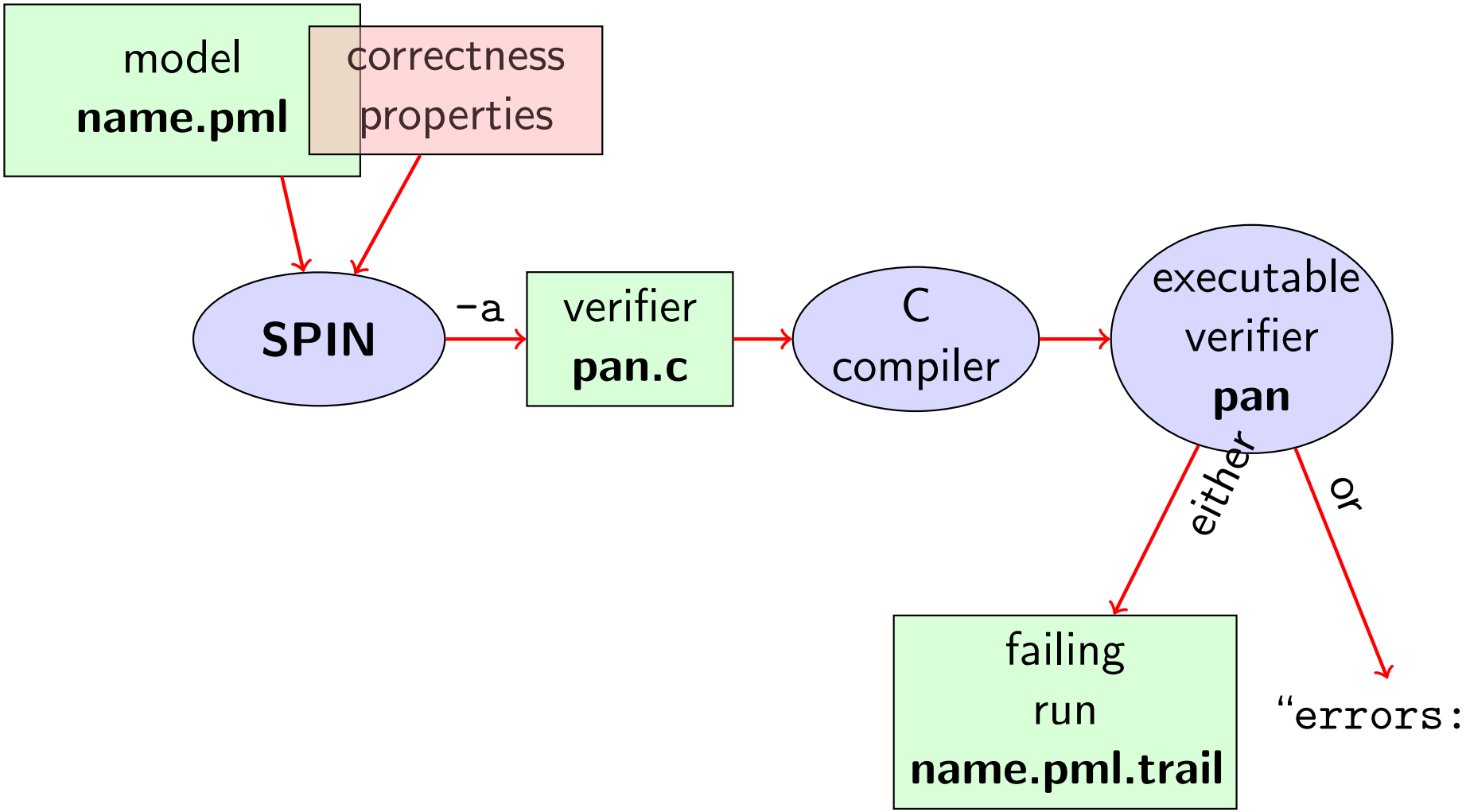
Plain Simulation with SPIN



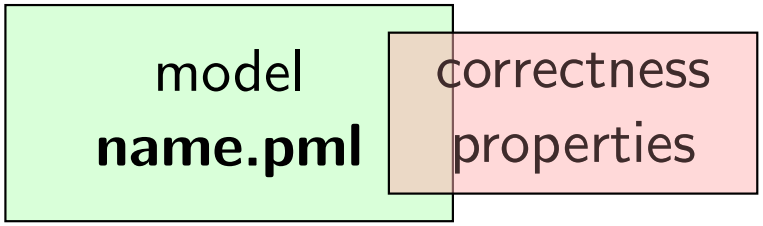
Rehearsal: Simulation Demo

- run example, random and interactive
  `zero.pml`

Model Checking with SPIN



Stating Correctness Properties



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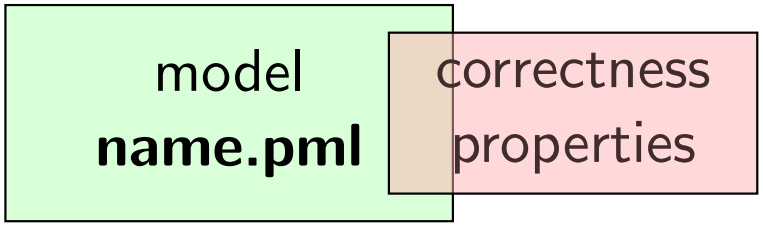

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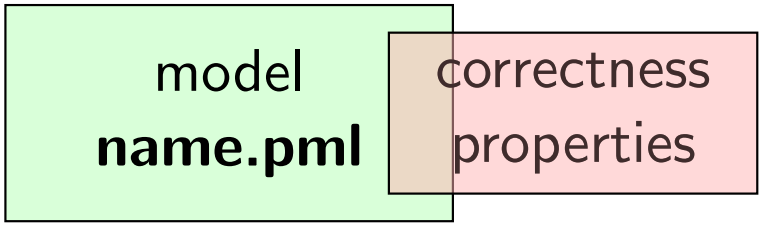

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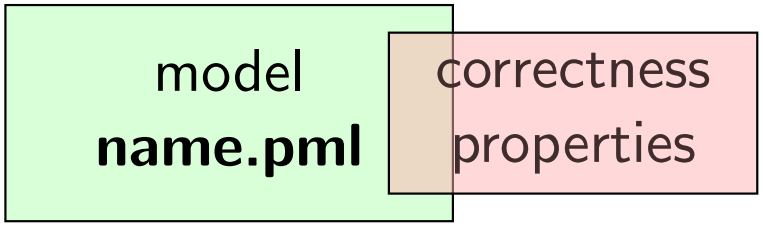

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stating properties within model, using

- assertion statements

stating properties outside model, using

- temporal logic formulas

Assertion Statements

Definition (Assertion Statements)

Assertion statements in PROMELA are statements of the form

$$\textbf{assert}(\textit{expr})$$

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stmt1;
assert(max == a);
stmt2;
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...
stmt1;
assert(max == a);
stmt2;
...
```

```
...
if
  :: b1 -> stmt3;
           assert(x <
            y)
  :: b2 -> stmt4
...
```

Meaning of Boolean Assertion Statements

assert(*expr*)

- has no effect if *expr* evaluates to true
- triggers an error message if *expr* evaluates to false

This holds in both, simulation and model checking mode.

Meaning of General Assertion Statements

assert(*expr*)

- has no effect if *expr* evaluates to non-zero value
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Recall:

bool true false is syntactic sugar for

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This holds in both, simulation and model checking mode.

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bool	**true**	**false**	is syntactic sugar for
bit	1	0	

$\Rightarrow$ general case covers Boolean case

Instead of using ‘printf’s for Debugging ...

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```

Command Line Execution

(simulate, inject fault, simulate again)

```
> spin [-i] max.pml
```

... we can employ Assertions

```
/* after choosing a,b from {1,2,3} */
if
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Now, we have a first example with a formulated correctness property.

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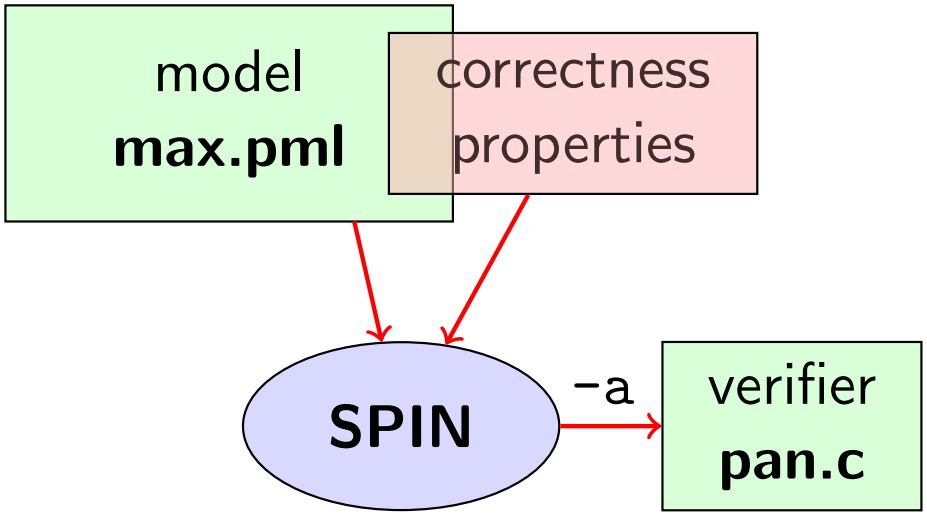
Generate Verifier in C



Command Line Execution

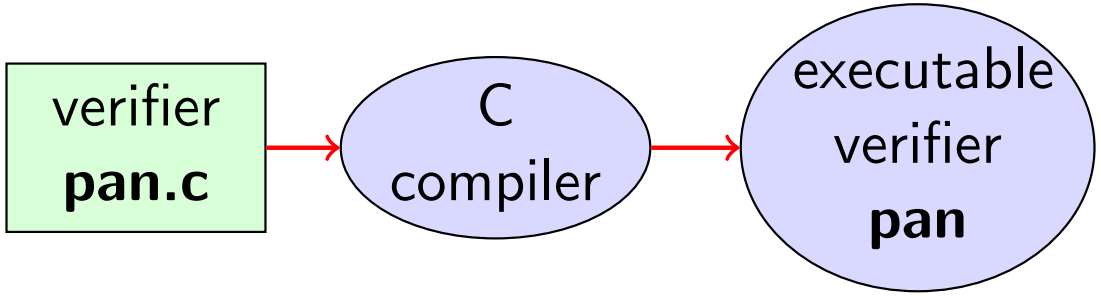
Generate Verifier in C

```
> spin -a max2.pml
```

SPIN generates Verifier in C, called **pan.c**

(plus helper files)

Compile To Executable Verifier



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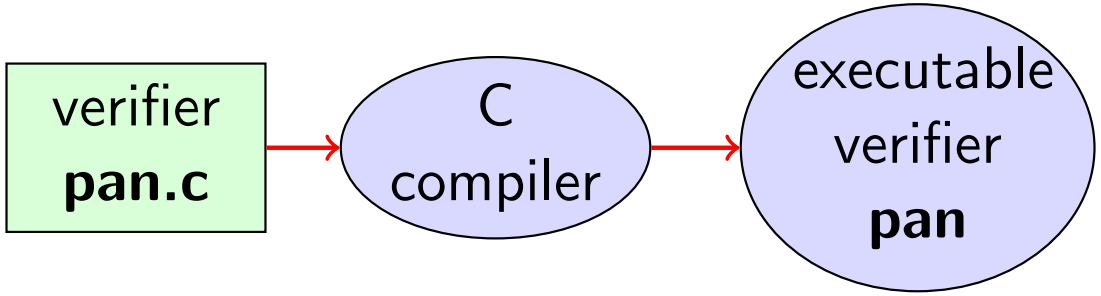

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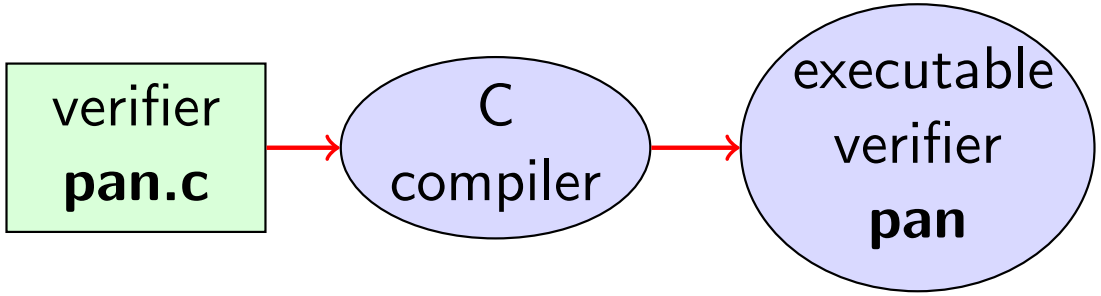

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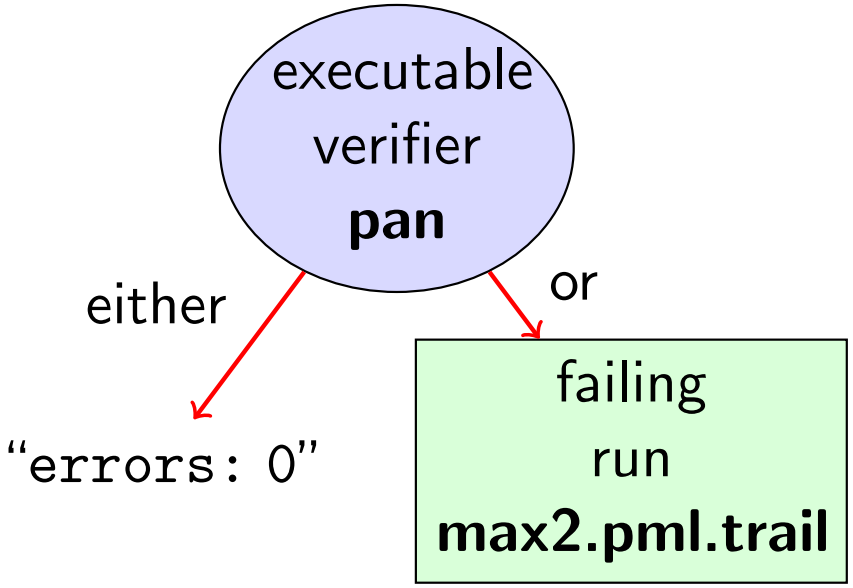
pan: historically "**p**rotocol **an**alyzer", now "**p**rocess **an**alyzer"

Run Verifier (= Model Check)



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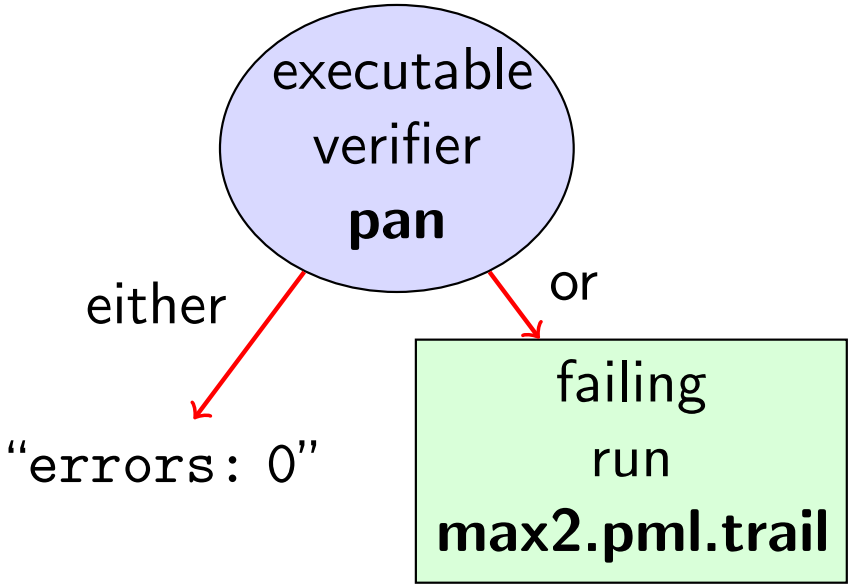

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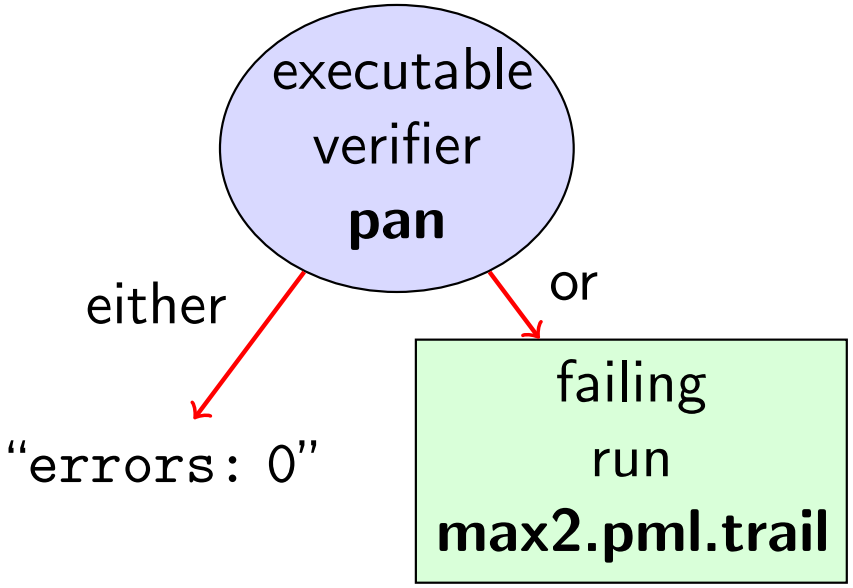

Command Line Execution

run verifier **pan**

> ./pan *or* *> pan*

- prints "`errors: 0`" $\Rightarrow$ Correctness Property verified!

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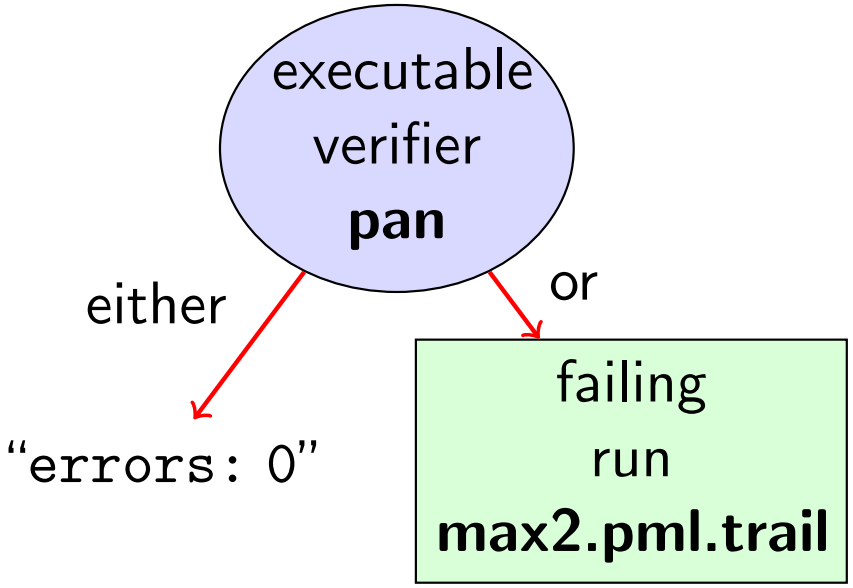

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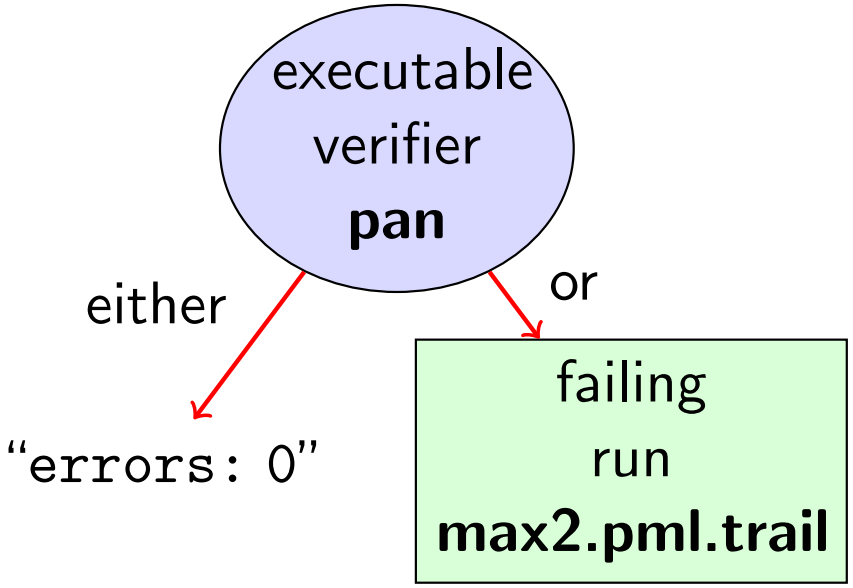

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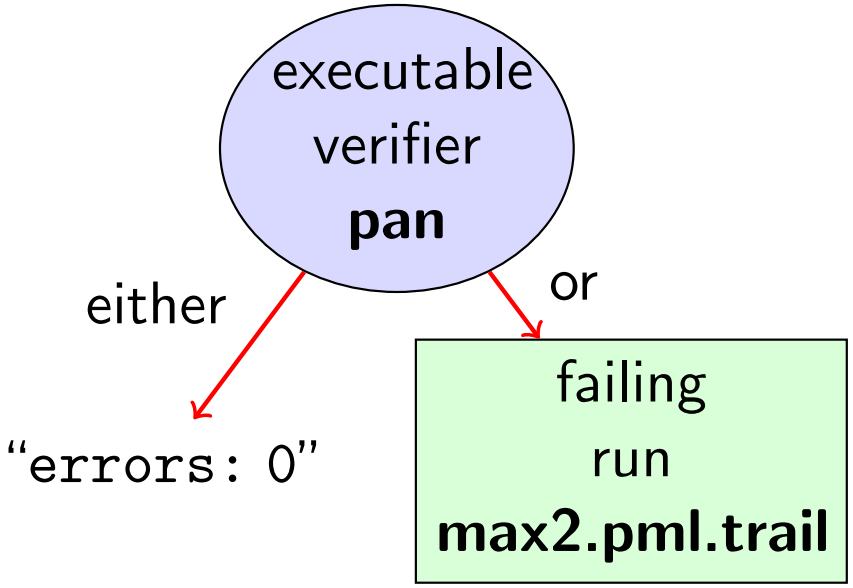


Command Line Execution

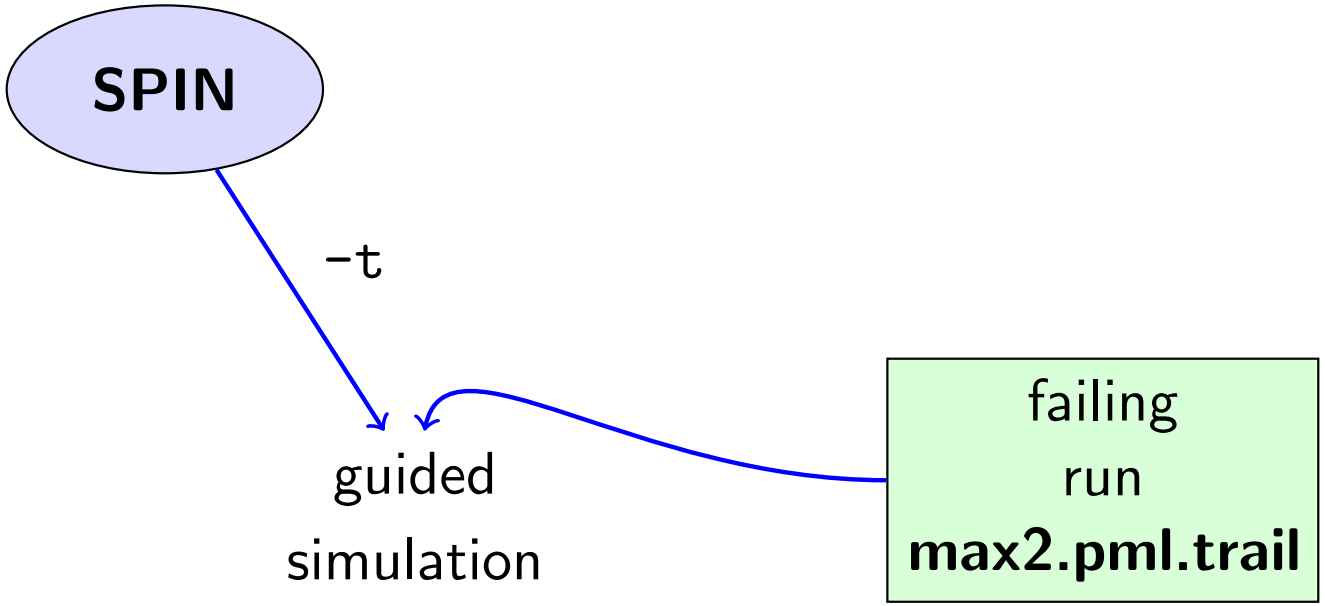
run verifier **pan**

> `./pan` *or* > `pan`

- prints "`errors: 0`", or
- prints "`errors:` n" ($n > 0$) $\Rightarrow$ counter example found!
  records failing run in **max2.pml.trail**

Guided Simulation

To examine failing run: employ simulation mode, "guided" by trail file.



Command Line Execution

inject a fault, re-run verification, and then:

```
> spin -t -p -l max2.pml
```

Output of Guided Simulation

can look like:

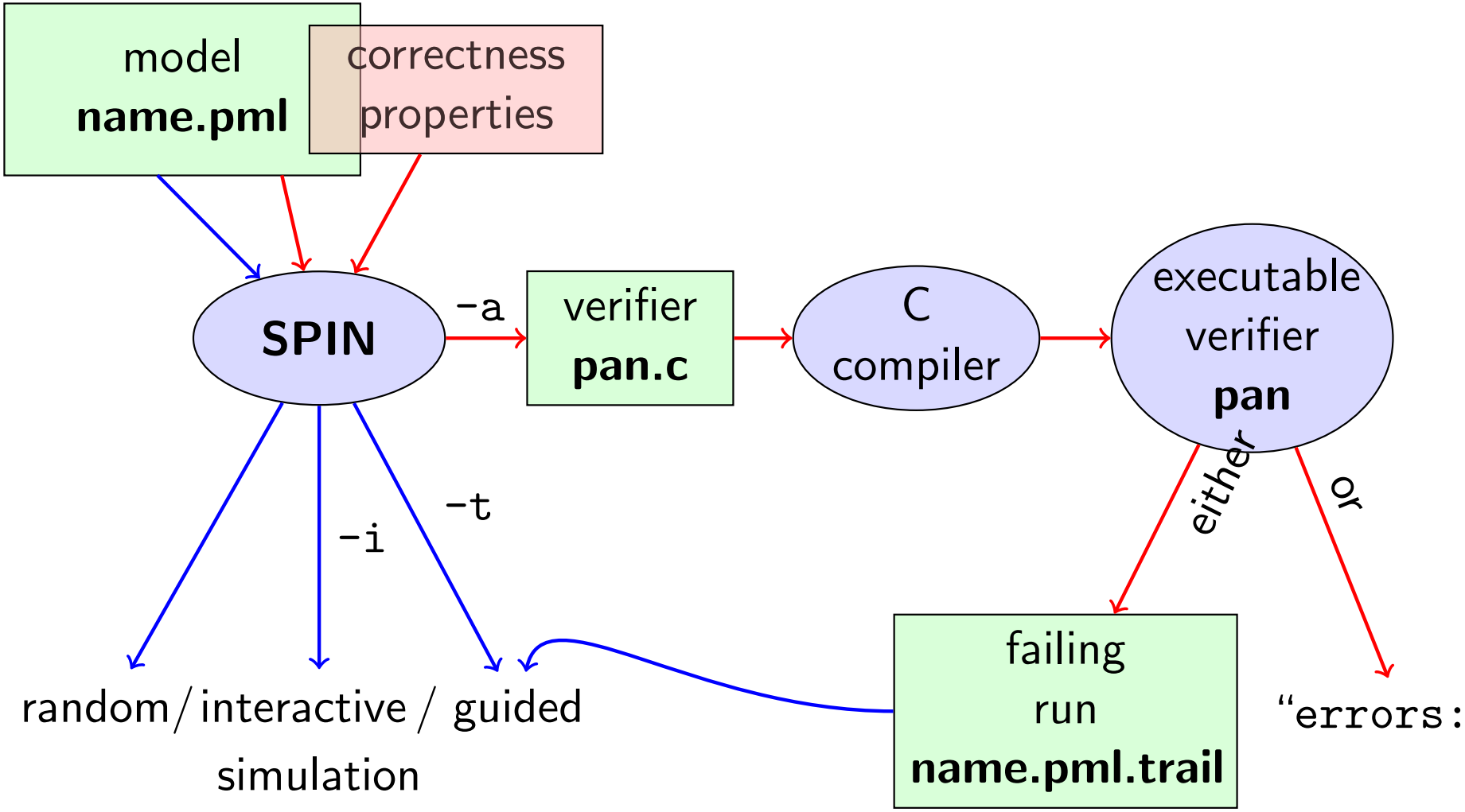
```
Starting P with pid 0
1: proc 0 (P) line  8 "max2.pml" (state 1) [a = 1
]
                P(0):a = 1
2: proc 0 (P) line 14 "max2.pml" (state 7) [b = 2
]
                P(0):b = 2
3: proc 0 (P) line 23 "max2.pml" (state 13) [
((a<=b))]
3: proc 0 (P) line 23 "max2.pml" (state 14) [max
= a ]
                P(0):max = 1
spin: max2.pml:22, Error: assertion violated
spin: text of failed assertion:
      assert((max==( ((a>b)) -> (a) : (b) )))
```

assignments in the run

values of variables whenever updated

What did we do so far?

following whole cycle (most primitive example, assertions only)



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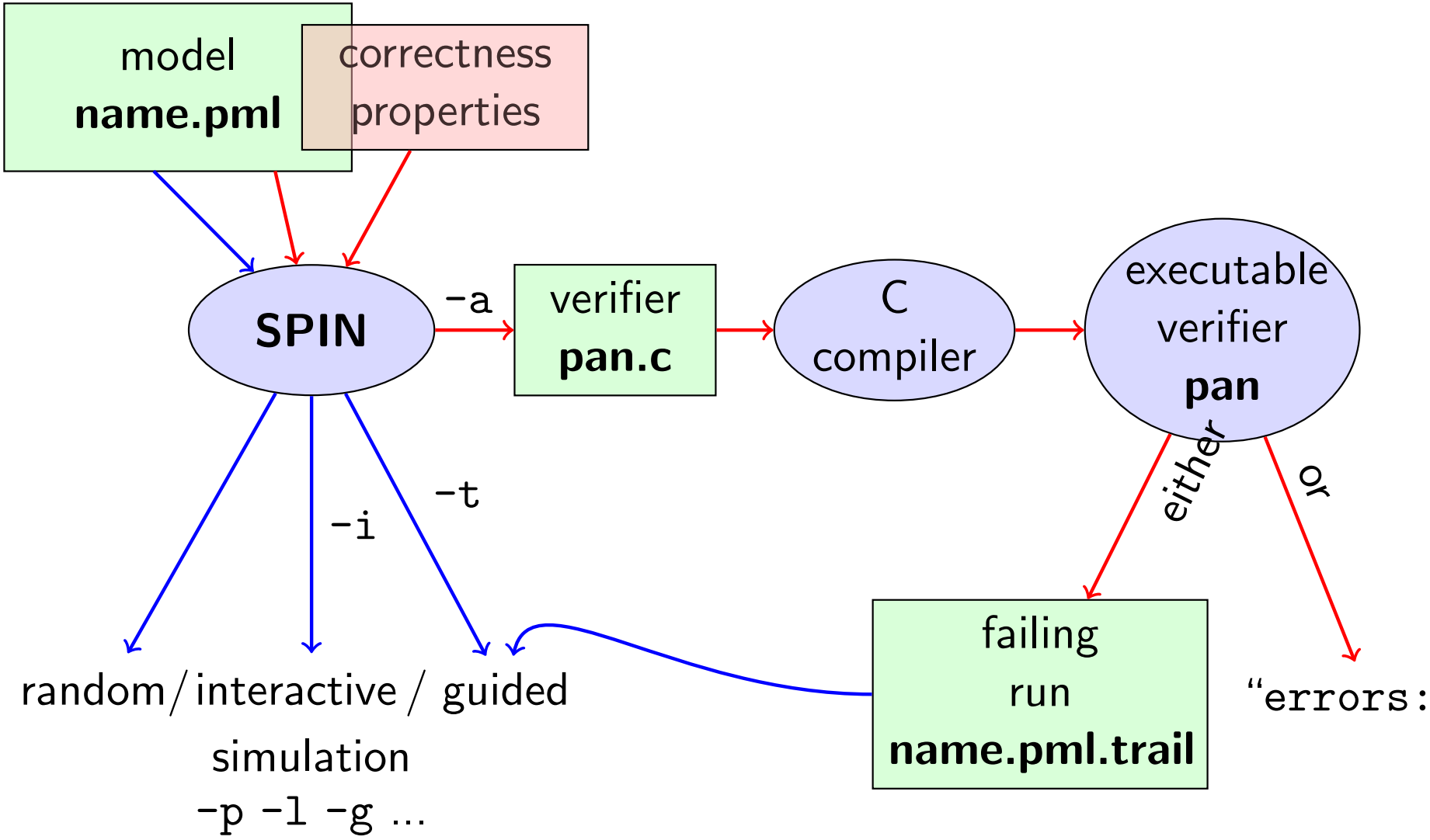

Further Examples: Integer Division

```
int dividend = 15;
int divisor  = 4;
int quotient, remainder;

quotient = 0;
remainder = dividend;
do
  :: remainder > divisor ->
     quotient++;
     remainder = remainder - divisor
  :: else ->
     break
od;
printf("%d␣divided␣by␣%d␣=␣%d,␣remainder␣=␣%d\
n",
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simulate, put assertions, verify, change values, ...

Typical Command Lines

typical command line sequences:

random simulation

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spin name.pml
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spin -a name.pml
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model checking

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spin -a name.pml
gcc -o pan pan.c
./pan
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and in case of error

```
spin -t -p -l -g name.pml
```

Why SPIN?

- SPIN targets software, instead of hardware verification ("Formal Methods for *Software* Development")
- 2001 ACM Software Systems Award (other winning systems include: Unix, TCP/IP, WWW, Tcl/Tk, Java, GCC, TEX, Coq)
- used for safety critical applications
- distributed freely as research tool, well-documented, actively maintained, large user-base in academia and in industry
- annual SPIN user workshops series held since 1995
- based on standard theory of (ω-)automata and linear temporal logic

Why SPIN? (Cont'd)

- PROMELA and SPIN are rather simple to use
- availability of good course book (Ben-Ari)
- availability of front end JSPIN (also Ben-Ari)

Catching A Different Type of Error

quoting from file **max3.pml**:

```
/* after choosing a,b from {1,2,3} */
if
  :: a >= b -> max = a
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generate and execute **pan**
⇒ reports "`errors: 1`"

Note: no `assert` in **max3.pml**.

Catching A Different Type of Error

Further inspection of **pan** output:

```
...
pan: invalid end state  (at depth 1)
pan: wrote max3.pml.trail
...
```

Legal and Illegal Blocking

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It is *illegal* if a process blocks while no other process can proceed.

$\Rightarrow$ "Deadlock"

In **max3.pml**, there exists a blocking run where no process can take over.

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- `P`'s textual end

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End locations of a process `P` are:

- `P`'s textual end
- each location marked with an end label: "`end`*xxx*`:`"

Valid End States

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- each location marked with an end label: "`endxxx:`"

Can get SPIN to ignore 'invalid end state' error: `./pan -E`

Literature for this Lecture

Ben-Ari Chapter 2, Sections 4.7.1, 4.7.2