

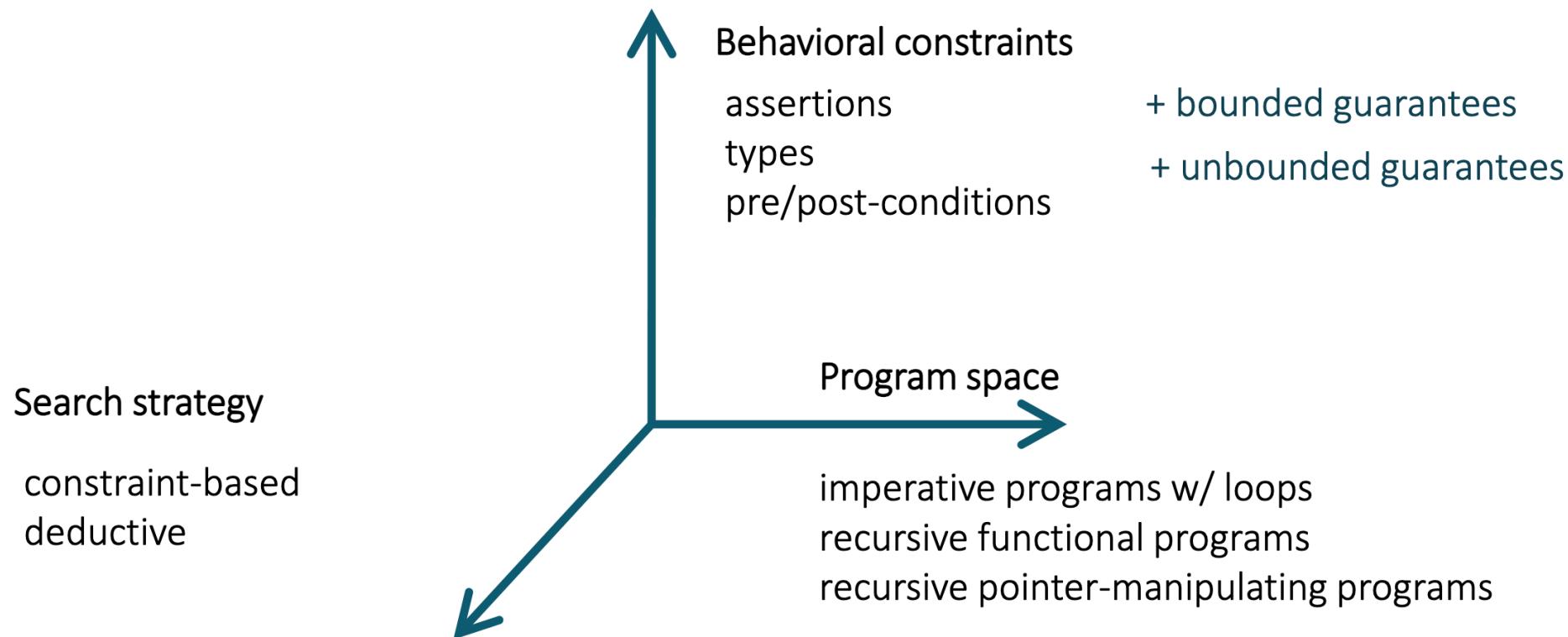
# **CS5733 Program Synthesis**

## **#17. Hoare Logic and Synthesis**

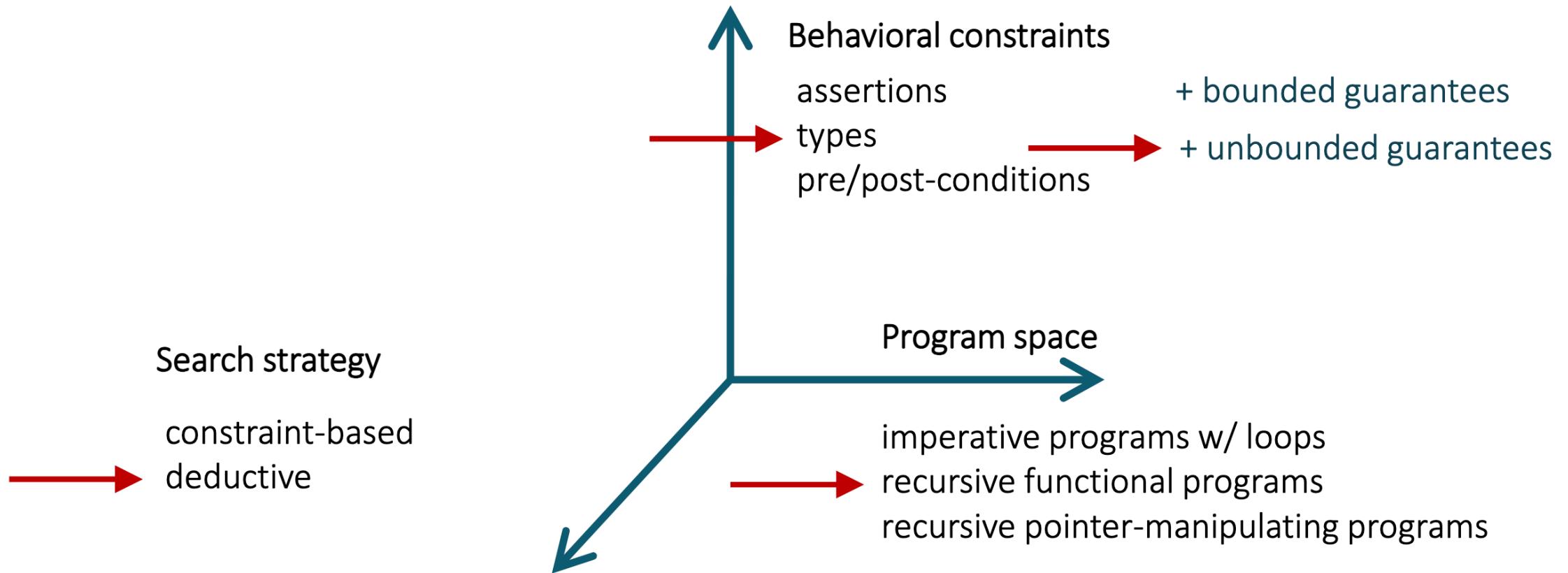
**Ashish Mishra, September 24, 2024**

With slides from Nadia Polikarpova and Yu-Fang Chen

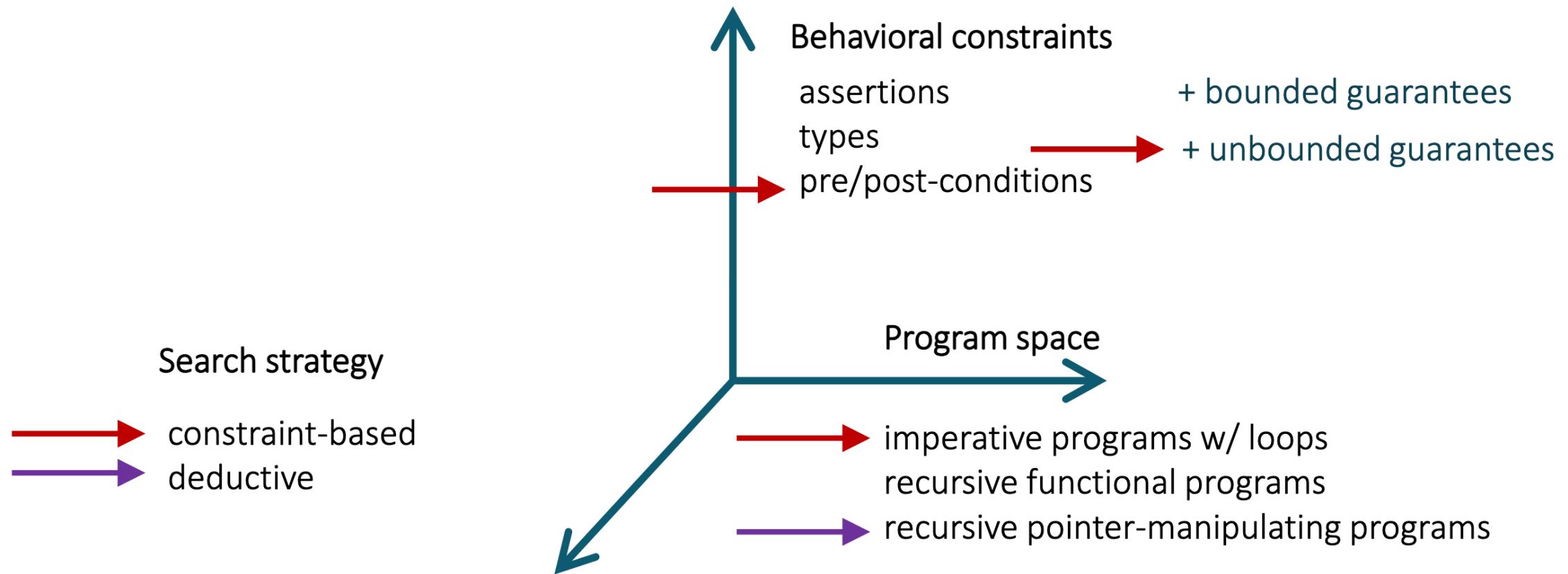
# Module II



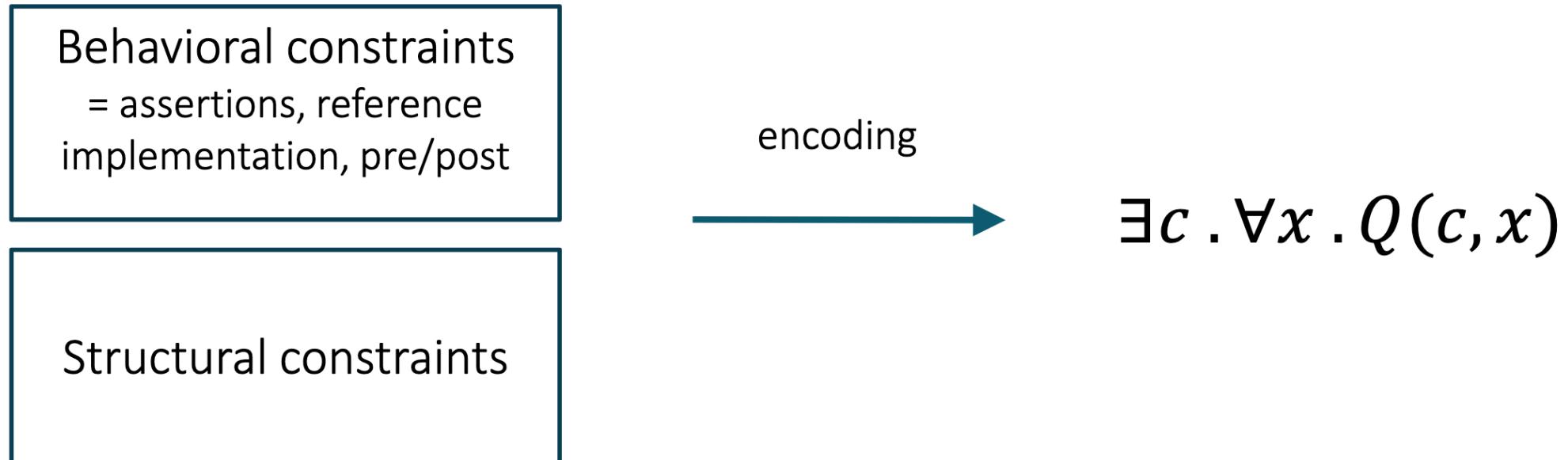
# Last week



# This week



# Constraint-based synthesis



# Why is this hard?

Euclid (**int** a, **int** b) **returns** (**int** x)

**requires**  $a > 0 \wedge b > 0$

**ensures**  $x = \text{gcd}(a, b)$

{

**int** x , y := a, b;

**while** (x != y) {

**if** (x > y) x := ??\*x + ??\*y + ??;

**else** y := ??\*x + ??\*y + ??;

}

infinitely many inputs

infinitely many paths!

# Loop unrolling is unsound and incomplete

Euclid (**int** a, **int** b) **returns** (**int** x)

**requires**  $a > 0 \wedge b > 0$

**ensures**  $x = \text{gcd}(a, b)$

```
{  
    int x , y := a, b;  
    while (x != y) {  
        if (x > y) x := ??*x + ??*y + ??;  
        else y := ??*x + ??*y + ??;  
    }  
}  
Unroll with  
depth = 1  
if (x != y) {  
    if (x > y)  
        x := ??*x + ??*y + ??;  
    else  
        y := ??*x + ??*y + ??;  
    assert !(x != y);  
}
```

# Loop unrolling is unsound and incomplete

```
Euclid (int a, int b) returns (int x)
  requires a > 0 ∧ b > 0
  ensures x = gcd(a, b)

{
  int x , y := a, b;
  while (x != y) {
    if (x > y) x := ??*x + ??*y + ??;
    else y := ??*x + ??*y + ??;
  }
}
```

Unroll with  
depth = 1

```
if (x != y) {
  if (x > y)
    x := ??*x + ??*y + ??;
  else
    y := ??*x + ??*y + ??;
assert !(x != y);
```

Unsatisfiable sketch

# Loop unrolling is unsound and incomplete

```
Euclid (int a, int b) returns (int x)
  requires a > 0 ∧ b > 0
  ensures x = gcd(a, b)
{
  int x , y := a, b;
  while (x != y) {
    if (x > y) x := ??*x + ??*y + ??;
    else y := ??*x + ??*y + ??;
  }
}
```

What if we restrict inputs to  
[1, 2]?

Unsound solution!

Unroll with  
depth = 1

```
  if (x != y) {
    if (x > y)
      x := 0*x + 0*y + 1;
    else
      y := 0*x + 0*y + 1;
    assert !(x != y);
  }
```

# Constraint-based synthesis

Behavioral constraints  
= assertions, reference implementation, pre/post

Structural constraints

encoding

$$\exists c . \forall x . Q(c, x)$$

If we want to synthesize programs that are correct on all inputs,  
we need a better way to deal with loops!

# Solution

Hoare logic = a program logic for simple imperative programs

- in particular: loop invariants

# The Imp language

---

```
e ::= n | x |
      e + e | e - e | e * e |
      e = e | e < e | !e | e && e
c ::= skip
      x := e
      c ; c
      if e then c else c |
      while e do c
```

# Hoare triples

Properties of programs are specified as judgments

$$\{P\} \; c \; \{Q\}$$

where  $c$  is a command and  $P, Q: \sigma \rightarrow \text{Bool}$  are predicates

- e.g. if  $\sigma = [x \mapsto 2]$  and  $P \equiv x > 0$  then  $P \sigma = \top$

Terminology

- Judgments of this kind are called *(Hoare) triples*
- $P$  is called precondition
- $Q$  is called postcondition

# Meaning of Triples

The meaning of  $\{P\} c \{Q\}$  is:

- if  $P$  holds in the initial state  $\sigma$ , and
- if the execution of  $c$  from  $\sigma$  terminates in a state  $\sigma'$
- then  $Q$  holds in  $\sigma'$

This interpretation is called *partial correctness*

- termination is not essential

Another possible interpretation: *total correctness*

- if  $P$  holds in the initial state  $\sigma$
- then the execution of  $c$  from  $\sigma$  terminates in a state (call it  $\sigma'$ )
- and  $Q$  holds in  $\sigma'$

# Example: swap

---

{T}

$x := x + y; y := x - y; x := x - y$

~~$\{x = y \wedge y = x\}$~~

We have to express that  $y$  in the final state is equal to  $x$  in the initial state!

# Logical Variables

$$\{x = N \wedge y = M\}$$
$$x := x + y; \quad y := x - y; \quad x := x - y$$
$$\{x = M \wedge y = N\}$$

Assertions can contain *logical variables*

- may occur only in pre- and postconditions, not in programs
- the state maps logical variables to their values, just like normal variables

# Inference system

- Similar to the Logical System in PL and FOL.
- Called as the Hoare Logic

We formalize the semantics of a language by describing which judgments are valid about a program

An *inference system*

- a set of *axioms* and *inference rules* that describe how to derive a valid judgment

We combine axioms and inference rules to build *inference trees* (derivations)

# Semantics of skip

**skip** does not modify the state

$$\{ P \} \text{ skip } \{ P \}$$

# Semantics of assignment

$$\{ x > 0 \} \quad x := x + 1 \quad \{ ??? \} \qquad x > 1$$
$$\{ ??? \} \quad x := x + 1 \quad \{ x > 1 \}$$

# Semantics of Assignment

We begin with Floyd's version of the assignment axiom

$$\{P\} X := E \{?\}$$

The term  $E$  might contain  $X$ , e.g.  $E \equiv X+1$

An example:  $X := X + 1$

The value of  $X$  **after**  
executing the statement

The value of  $X$  **before**  
executing the statement

We need to differentiate these two values!

# Floyd's version

We begin with Floyd's version of the assignment axiom

$$\{P\} X := E \{?\}$$
$$\exists V. ( X = E[V/X] \quad \wedge \quad P[V/X] )$$

Intuition: we use new variable  $V$  to denote the **old value of  $X$**

## Notations

$E[V/X]$  replacing all **free occurrences** of  $X$  in  $E$  with  $V$   
 $P[V/X]$

# Floyd's version

## Floyd's Assignment Axiom

$$\frac{}{\{P\} X := E \{ \exists V. X = E[V/X] \wedge P[V/X]\}}$$

### Example

$$\{Y + X = 42\} X := X + 5 \{ \exists V. X = V + 5 \wedge Y + V = 42\}$$

### Example

$$\{Y = 5\} X := X/Y + X \{?\}$$

We do not want to have quantifiers in the reasoning path!

# Hoare's backward semantics of assignment

$x := e$  assigns the value of  $e$  to variable  $x$

$$\{ P[x \mapsto e] \} \ x := e \ \{ P \}$$

- Let  $\sigma$  be the initial state
- Precondition:  $(P[x \mapsto e])\sigma$ , i.e.,  $P(\sigma[x \mapsto \mathcal{A}[e]\sigma])$
- Final state:  $\sigma' = \sigma[x \mapsto \mathcal{A}[e]\sigma]$
- Consequently,  $P$  holds in the final state

# Hoare's backward semantics

Backward reasoning

## Hoare's Assignment Axiom

$$\{Q[E/X]\} \ X := E \ \{Q\}$$

Read as If Q holds in the post-condition then ...

Let s be the state before  $X := E$  and  $s'$  the state after.

So,  $s' = s[X \rightarrow E]$  (assuming E has no side-effect).

$Q[E/X]$  holds in s if and only if Q holds in  $s'$ , because

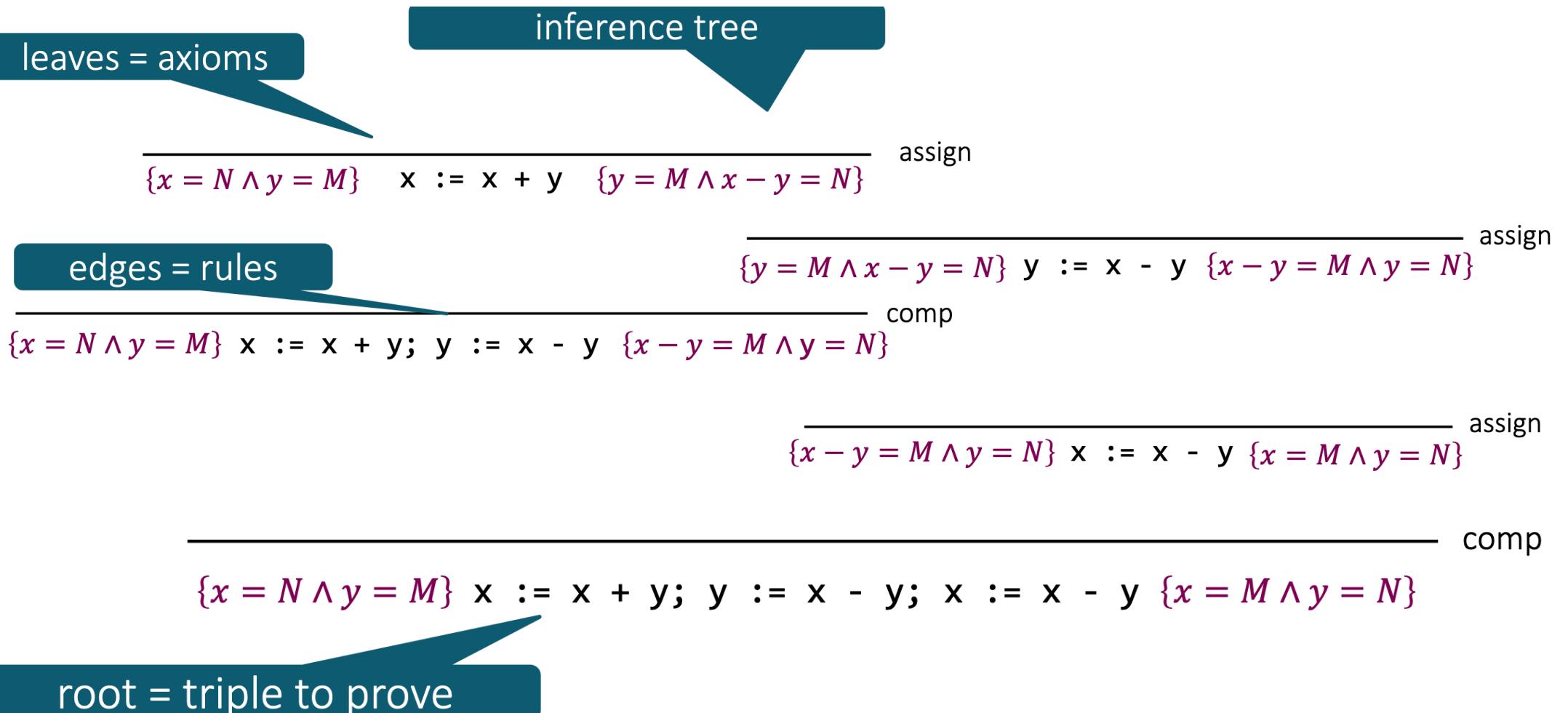
- (1) Every variable, except X, has the same value in s and  $s'$ , and
- (2)  $Q[E/X]$  has every X in Q replaced by E,
- (3) Q has every X evaluated to E in s ( $s' = s[X \rightarrow E]$ ).

# Semantics of composition

Sequential composition  $c_1 ; c_2$  executes  $c_1$  to produce an intermediate state and from there executes  $c_2$

$$\frac{\{P\} c_1 \{R\} \quad \{R\} c_2 \{Q\}}{\{P\} c_1; c_2 \{Q\}}$$

# Example: swap

$$\{ P[x \mapsto e] \} \quad x := e \quad \{ P \}$$


# Proof outline

---

$$\{ P[x \mapsto e] \} \ x := e \ { P }$$

An alternative (more compact) representation of inference trees

$$\{x = N \wedge y = M\}$$

$\Rightarrow$

$$\{(x + y) - ((x + y) - y) = M \wedge (x + y) - y = N\}$$

$$x = x + y;$$

$$\{x - (x - y) = M \wedge x - y = N\}$$

$$y = x - y;$$

$$\{x - y = M \wedge y = N\}$$

$$x = x - y$$

$$\{x = M \wedge y = N\}$$

# Try out example

## Example

P: {true} X:=2 ; Y:=X {X >0  $\wedge$  Y=2}

- (1)  $2 > 0 \wedge 2 = 2 \Leftrightarrow \text{true}$  (Integer arithmetic)
- (2)  $\{2 > 0 \wedge 2 = 2\} X := 2 \{X > 0 \wedge X = 2\}$  (assignment axiom)
- (3)  $\{X > 0 \wedge X = 2\} Y := X \{X > 0 \wedge Y = 2\}$  (assignment axiom)
- (4)  $\{\text{true}\} X := 2 \{X > 0 \wedge X = 2\}$  (by (1), we can replace  $2 > 0 \wedge 2 = 2$  in (3) with true )
- (5)  $\{\text{true}\} X := 2 ; Y := X \{X > 0 \wedge Y = 2\}$  (by (3), (4), and composition rule)

# Rule of consequence

---

$$\frac{\{P'\} \subset \{Q'\}}{\{P\} \subset \{Q\}} \text{ if } P \Rightarrow P' \wedge Q' \Rightarrow Q$$

Corresponds to adding  $\Rightarrow$  steps in a proof outline

Here  $P \Rightarrow P'$  should be read as

- “We can prove for all states  $\sigma$ , that  $P \sigma$  implies  $P' \sigma$ ”

# Consequence rule

## Consequence Rule

$$\frac{P \Rightarrow P' \{P'\} S \{Q'\} Q' \Rightarrow Q}{\{P\} S \{Q\}}$$

- We can strengthen the precondition, i.e. assume more than we need
- We can weaken the postcondition, i.e. conclude less than we are allowed to

# Consequence rule

## Consequence Rule

$$\frac{P \Rightarrow P' \{P'\} S \{Q'\} Q' \Rightarrow Q}{\{P\} S \{Q\}}$$

## Example

$P_1: \{\text{true} \wedge X < 10\} X := 10 \{X = 10 \vee X = 0\}$

- (1)  $\{\text{true}\} X := 10 \{X = 10 \vee X = 0\}$  (by Assignment Rule)
- (2)  $\text{true} \wedge X < 10 \Rightarrow \text{true}$  (by underlying logic)
- (3)  $X = 10 \vee X = 0 \Rightarrow X = 10 \vee X = 0$  (by underlying logic)
- (4)  $\{\text{true} \wedge X < 10\} X := 10 \{X = 10 \vee X = 0\}$  (by consequence rule, (2), and (3))

# Consequence rule

## Consequence Rule

$$\frac{P \Rightarrow P' \{P'\} S \{Q'\} Q' \Rightarrow Q}{\{P\} S \{Q\}}$$

## Example

$P_2: \{\text{true} \wedge X \geq 10\} X:=0 \{X=10 \vee X=0\}$

Try it yourself!

# Semantics of conditionals

---

$$\frac{\{P \wedge e\} c_1 \{Q\} \quad \{P \wedge \neg e\} c_2 \{Q\}}{\{P\} \text{ if } e \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2 \{Q\}}$$

# Example: absolute value

---

{T}

```
if x < 0 then
  {T ∧ x < 0}
  ⇒ {−x ≥ 0}
  x := −x
  {x ≥ 0}
else
  ⇒ {¬(x < 0)}
  {x ≥ 0}
skip
{x ≥ 0}
```

{x ≥ 0}

$$\frac{\{P \wedge e\} c_1 \{Q\} \quad \{P \wedge \neg e\} c_2 \{Q\}}{\{P\} \text{ if } e \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2 \{Q\}}$$

# Hoare Logic Continued...

# Semantics of loops

---

$$\frac{\{?\} c \{?\}}{\{P\} \text{while } e \text{ do } c \{Q\}}$$

Challenge:  $c$  needs to execute multiple times with the same pre/post

# Semantics of loops

---

$$\frac{\text{loop invariant} \quad \{I\} c \{I\}}{\{I\} \text{ while } e \text{ do } c \{I\}}$$

Challenge:  $c$  needs to execute multiple times with the same pre/post

Solution: make its pre and post *the same!*

- called a *loop invariant*

# Semantics of loops

---

$$\frac{\{I \wedge e\} c \{I\}}{\{I\} \text{while } e \text{ do } c \{\neg e \wedge I\}}$$

Challenge:  $c$  needs to execute multiple times with the same pre/post

Solution: make its pre and post *the same!*

- called a *loop invariant*
- + strengthen the semantics with the info about the loop condition

# Example: GCD

---

$$\{x = N \wedge y = M \wedge N > 0 \wedge M > 0\}$$

$\Rightarrow$

$$\{I\}$$

```
while x != y do
    {I ∧ x ≠ y}
    if x > y then
        x := x - y
    else
        y := y - x
```

$$\{I\}$$

$$\{I \wedge x = y\}$$

$\Rightarrow$

$$\{x = \gcd(N, M)\}$$

Guessing the loop invariant:

x	y	N	M
10	4	10	4
6	4	10	4
2	4	10	4
2	2	10	4

$$I \equiv \gcd(x, y) = \gcd(N, M)$$

# Example: GCD

---

```
{ $x = N \wedge y = M \wedge N > 0 \wedge M > 0$ }  
⇒  
{ $\text{gcd}(x, y) = \text{gcd}(N, M) \wedge x, y > 0$ }  
while  $x \neq y$  do  
  { $\text{gcd}(x, y) = \text{gcd}(N, M) \wedge x, y > 0 \wedge x \neq y$ }  
    if  $x > y$  then  
      { $\text{gcd}(x, y) = \text{gcd}(N, M) \wedge x \neq y \wedge x > y$ }  
      ⇒  
      { $\text{gcd}(x - y, y) = \text{gcd}(N, M) \wedge x - y, y > 0$ }  
       $x := x - y$   
      { $\text{gcd}(x, y) = \text{gcd}(N, M) \wedge x, y > 0$ }  
    else  
       $y := y - x$   
      { $\text{gcd}(x, y) = \text{gcd}(N, M) \wedge x, y > 0$ }  
    { $\text{gcd}(x, y) = \text{gcd}(N, M) \wedge x, y > 0 \wedge x = y$ }  
    ⇒  
{ $x = \text{gcd}(N, M)$ }
```

# Termination

---

loop variant / ranking function /  
termination metric



$$\frac{\{I \wedge e \wedge r = R\} \subset \{I \wedge r < R \wedge r \geq 0\}}{\{I\} \text{ while } e \text{ do } c \{\neg e \wedge I\}}$$

# Example: GCD

---

```
while x != y do
    if x > y then
        x := x - y
    else
        y := y - x
```

# Example: GCD

---

$$\{x = N \wedge y = M \wedge N > 0 \wedge M > 0\}$$
 $\Rightarrow$ 
$$\{\gcd(x, y) = \gcd(N, M) \wedge x, y > 0\}$$

**while**  $x \neq y$  **do**

$$\{\gcd(x, y) = \gcd(N, M) \wedge x, y > 0 \wedge x + y = R \wedge x \neq y\}$$

**if**  $x > y$  **then**

$$x := x - y$$

**else**

$$y := y - x$$
$$\{\gcd(x, y) = \gcd(N, M) \wedge x, y > 0 \wedge x + y < R \wedge x + y \geq 0\}$$
$$\{\gcd(x, y) = \gcd(N, M) \wedge x, y > 0 \wedge x = y\}$$
 $\Rightarrow$ 
$$\{x = \gcd(N, M)\}$$

# Program Verification

---

```
method Euclid (a: int, b: int) returns (gcd: int)
    requires a > 0 && b > 0
    ensures x == gcd(a,b)
{
    var x, y := a, b;
    while (x != y)
        invariant y > 0 && x > 0 && gcd(x,y) == gcd(a,b)
        decreases x + y
    {
        if (x > y) {
            x := x - y;
        } else {
            y := y - x;
        }
    }
}
```

Dafny →



correct!



can't proof  
correctness

# Program synthesis

---

```
method Euclid (a: int, b: int) returns (gcd: int)
    requires a > 0 && b > 0
    ensures x == gcd(a,b)
{
    var x, y := ?>;
    ?>;
    while (?) {
        invariant ?
        decreases ?
    {
        ?>;
    }
    ?>;
}
```



found a correct program!

✓ `var x, y := a, b;
while (x != y)
 invariant y > 0 && x > 0 && gcd(x,y) == gcd(a,b)
 decreases x + y
{
 if (x > y) {
 x := x - y;
 } else {
 y := y - x;
 }
}`



✗ can't find a (program,  
invariant) pair that I can  
prove correct

# Verification → synthesis

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Srivastava, Gulwani, Foster: [From program verification to program synthesis](#). POPL'10

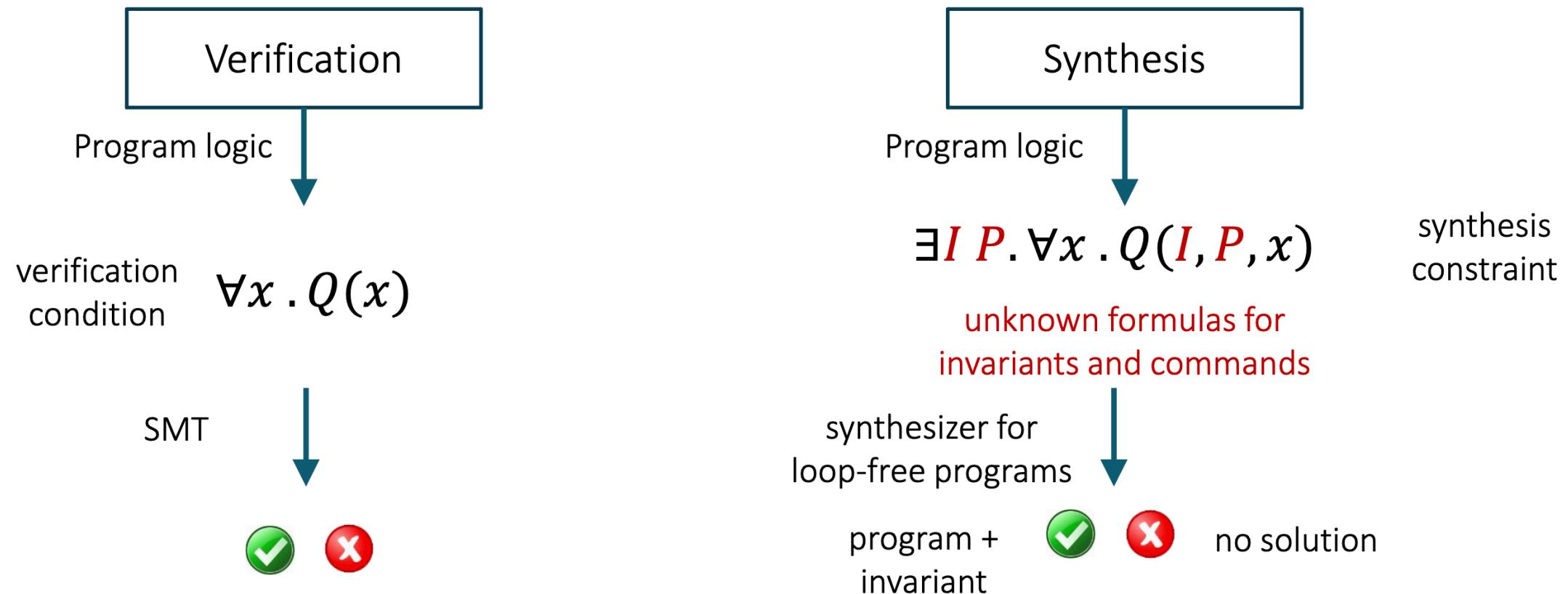
- idea: make constraint-based synthesis unbounded by synthesizing loop invariants alongside programs
- synthesized some looping programs with integers, including Bresenhein algorithm
- won “Most Influential Paper” at POPL’20!

Qiu, Solar-Lezama: [Natural Synthesis of Provably-Correct Data-Structure Manipulations](#). OOPSLA’17

- same approach for pointer-manipulating programs

# Verification → synthesis

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# How verification works

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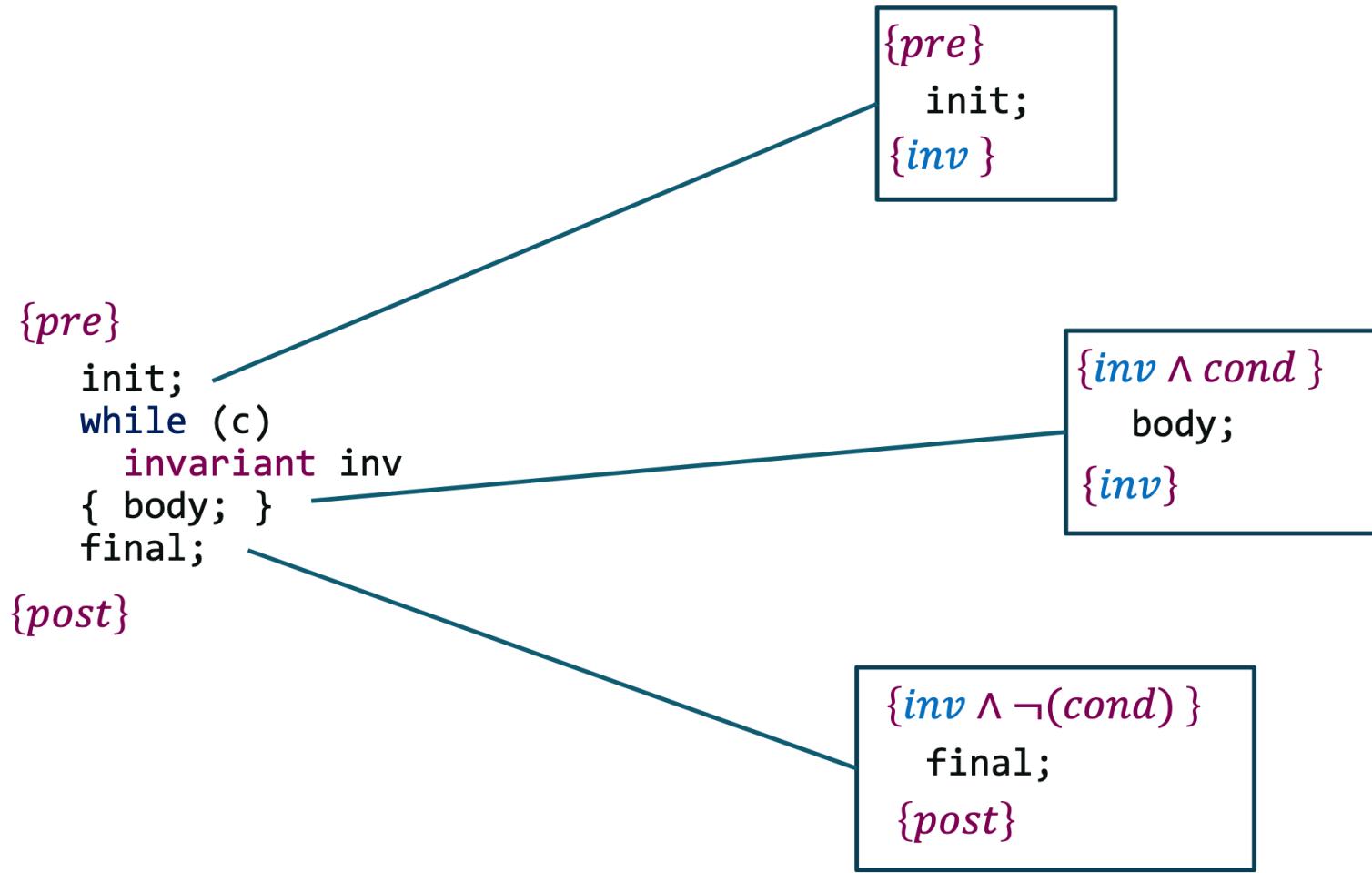
Verification



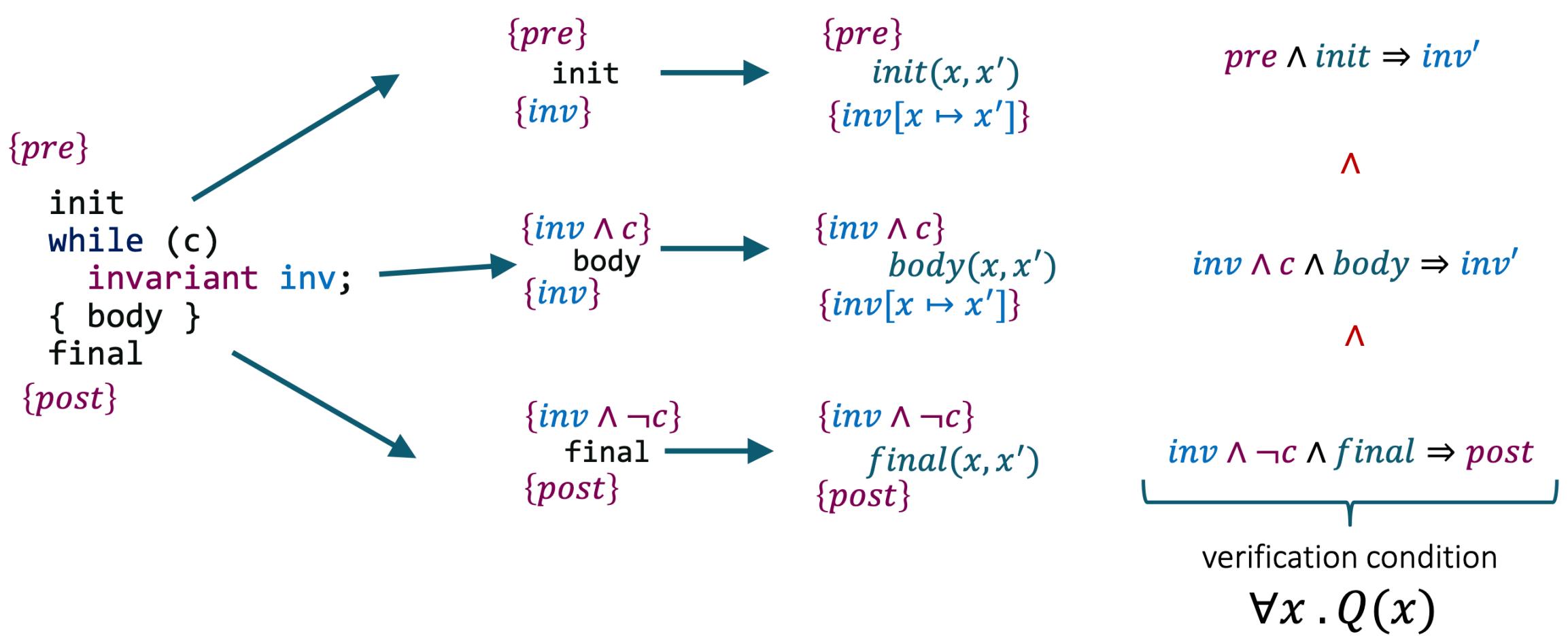
$\forall x . Q(x)$

# Step 1: eliminate loops

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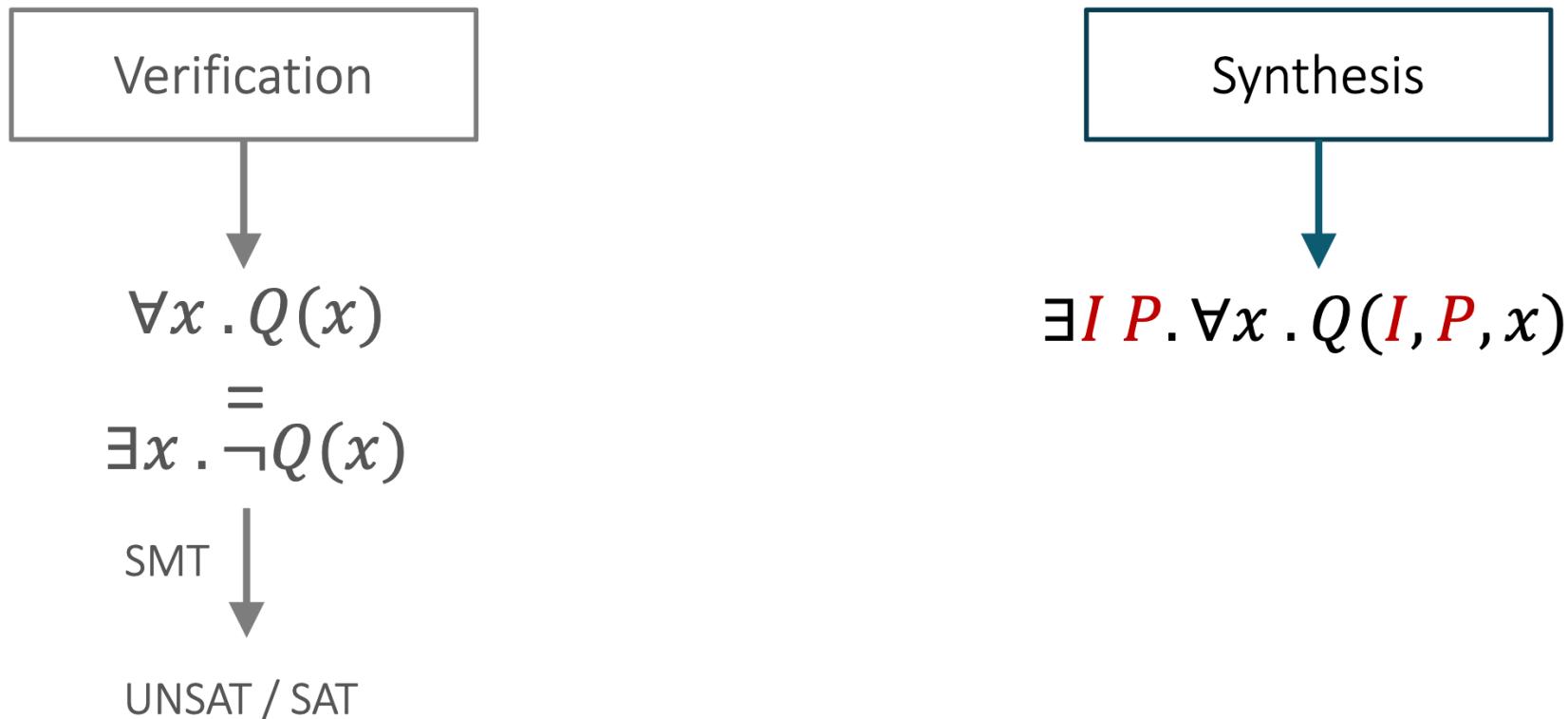


# Step 2: generate VCs



# From verification to synthesis

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# Program synthesis

```
{pre}  
??  
while (??)  
    invariant ??;  
{ ?? }  
??  
{post}
```

$$\begin{aligned}&\{pre\} \\&S_i(x, x') \\&\{I[x \mapsto x']\}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}&\{I \wedge G\} \\&S_b(x, x') \\&\{I[x \mapsto x']\}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}&\{I \wedge \neg G_0\} \\&S_f(x, x') \\&\{post\}\end{aligned}$$

$$\exists S \, G \, I. \forall x.$$

$$pre \wedge S_i \Rightarrow I'$$

$\wedge$

$$I \wedge G \wedge S_b \Rightarrow I'$$

$\wedge$

$$I \wedge \neg G \wedge S_f \Rightarrow post$$

synthesis constraint

$$\exists I \, P. \forall x. Q(I, P, x)$$

# Synthesis constraints

---

$$pre \wedge S_i \Rightarrow I'$$

$$I \wedge G \wedge S_b \Rightarrow I'$$

$$I \wedge \neg G \wedge S_f \Rightarrow post$$

Domain for  $I, G$ : formulas over program variables

Domain for  $S = \{x' = e_x \wedge y' = e_y \wedge \dots \mid e_x, e_y, \dots \in Expr\}$

- conjunction of equalities, one per variables

# Solving synthesis constraints

---

$$pre \wedge S_i \Rightarrow I'$$

$$I \wedge G \wedge S_b \Rightarrow I'$$

$$I \wedge \neg G \wedge S_f \Rightarrow post$$

Can be solved this with...

- SyGuS solvers
- Sketch
  - Look we made an unbounded synthesizer out of Sketch!
- VS3 uses Lattice search
  - More efficient for predicates

# **Component-based synthesis using Hoare Logic**

# Component-based synthesis (CBS)

**library**

sort: list

reverse: list -> list

take: list -> int -> list

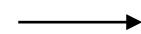
sum: list

**query**

best\_ksum: (l : list) -> (k : int ) -> int

**i/o examples**

49    62    82    54    76

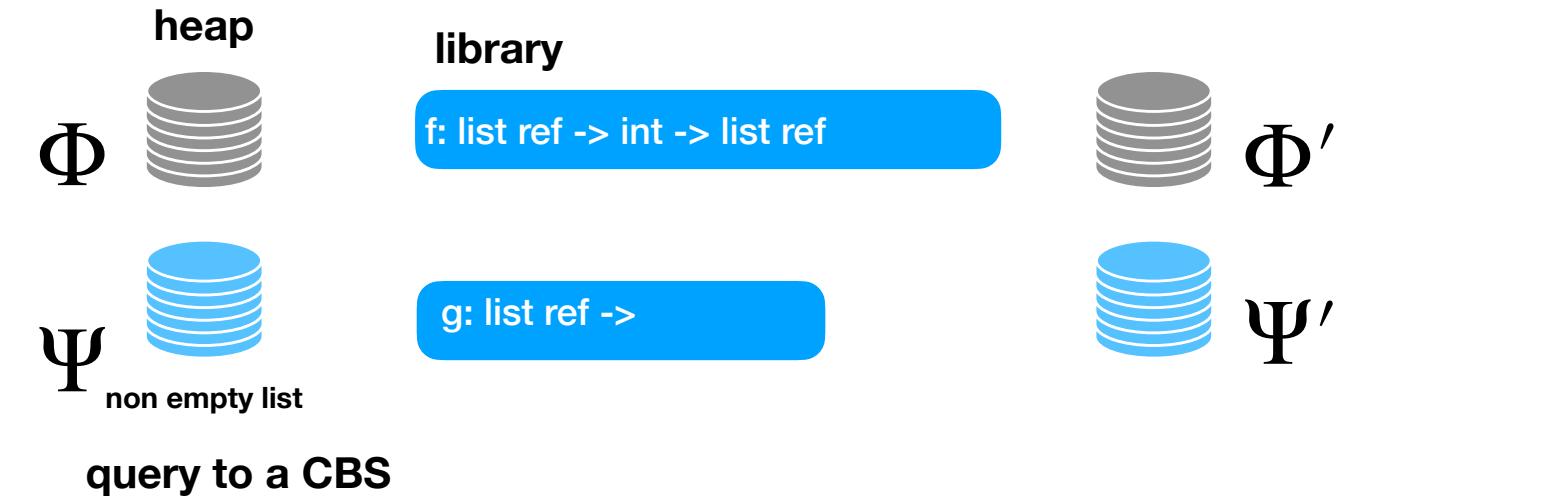


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**k=2**

best\_ksum l k = sum ( take ( reverse (sort l) ) k )

# CBS: with effectful components



A sound synthesizer must take changing heap state and library protocol into account

a blowup in the space of programs

# A query over a mutable Table

## Library

```
type pair = Pair of float * int
type table = [string] ref

add_tbl : adds a string in the table if not already present.

mem_tbl : checks if a string is in the table

fresh_str : returns a fresh string not in the table.

size_tbl : gives the size of the tbl

average_len_tbl : gives a float value equall to the average length of the strings in the table
```

Maintains a Uniqueness Invariant

## Query

**add\_and\_incr** : (tbl : table \* s : string) → pair

(\*requires\*) {true}

(\*ensures\*) { mem (Tbl' s) ∧ size (Tbl') = size (Tbl) + 1; }

no constraints on the initial table

updates the table to include s and increment size by 1



Tbl, Tbl' : [string]

**add\_and\_incr** (tbl : table \* s : string) = ??

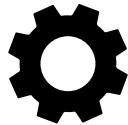
# Effect agnostic CBS on query

**add\_and\_incr** : (tbl : table \* s : string) →  
(\*requires\*)  
{true}  
v : pair  
(\*ensures\*)  
{ mem (Tbl', s) ∧  
size (Tbl') = size (Tbl) + 1};

creates a fresh string if  
s already in tbl

Cobalt solution

What if s is already in tbl?

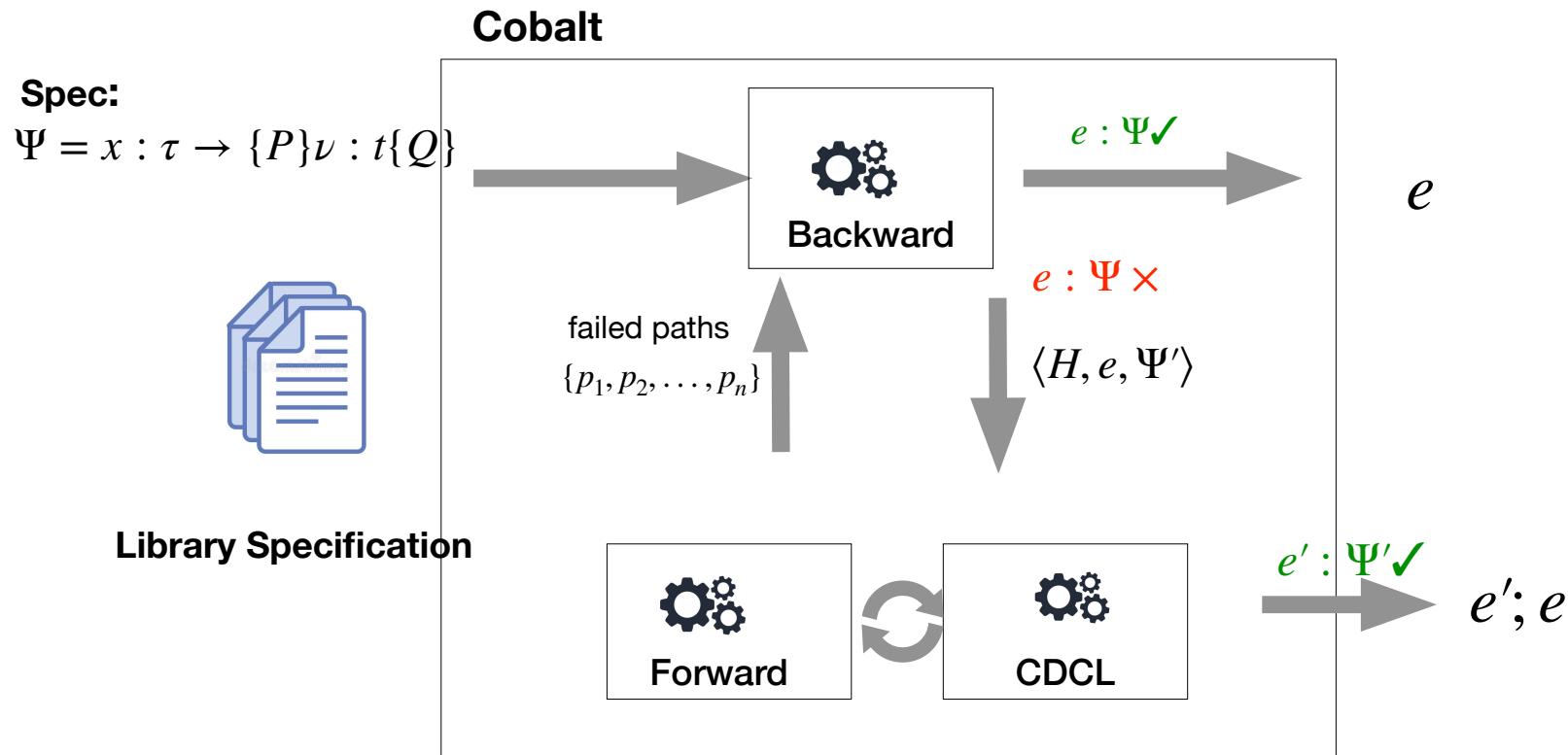


```
add_and_incr (tbl : table * s : string) =  
_ ← add_tbl (tbl, s);  
x1 ← average_len_tbl (tbl);  
y1 ← size_tbl (tbl);  
return Pair (x1, y1)
```

violates uniqueness property of  
add\_tbl

```
add_and_incr (tbl : table * s : string) =  
b1 ← mem (s); splits control flow  
if (b1) then  
    s1 ← fresh_str (tbl);  
    _ ← add_tbl (tbl, s1);  
    x1 ← average_len_tbl (tbl);  
    y1 ← size_tbl (tbl);  
return Pair (x1, y1)  
else  
    _ ← add_tbl (tbl, s);  
    x1 ← average_len_tbl (tbl);  
    y1 ← size_tbl (tbl);  
return Pair (x1, y1)
```

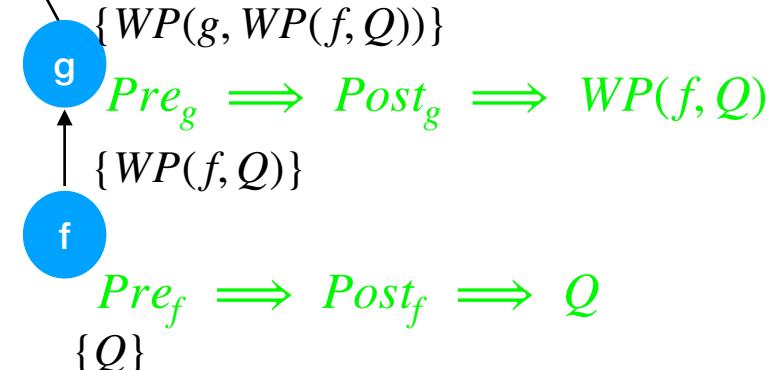
# Overview: Cobalt



# Backward synthesis

$$P \implies \{WP(g, WP(f, Q))\} \checkmark$$

i  
• • •  
solution: i; g; f

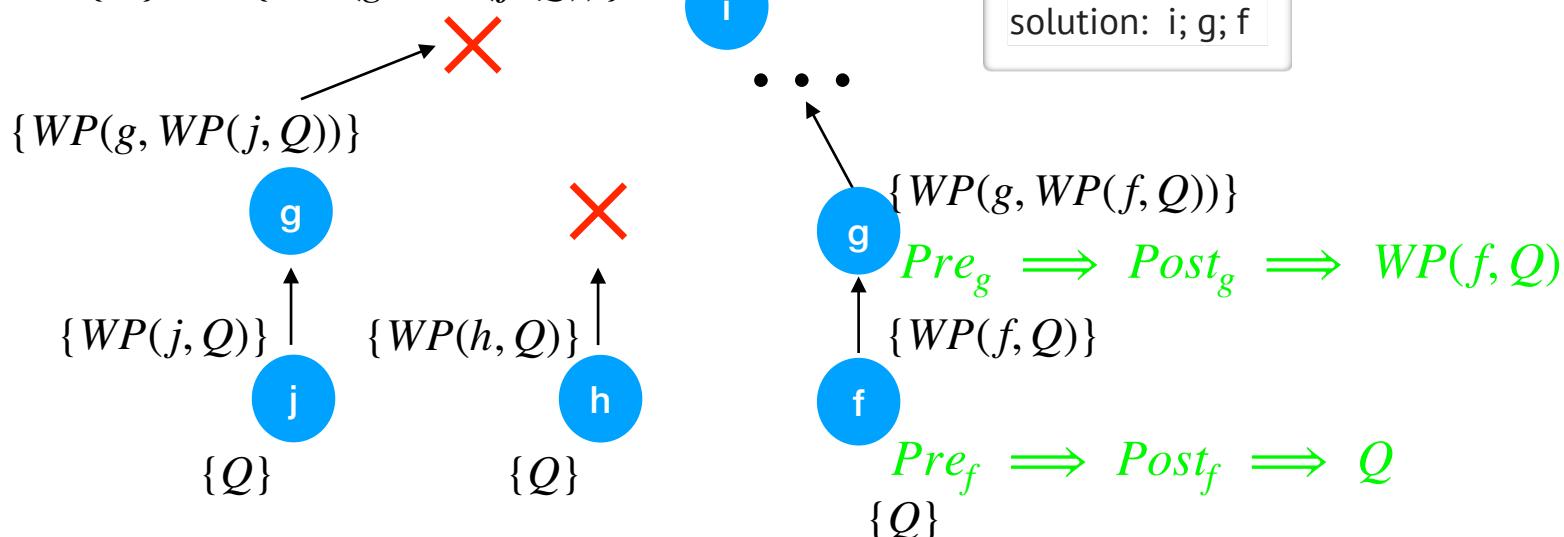


$$\text{Spec } \Psi = x : \tau \rightarrow \{P\} \nu : t\{Q\}$$

# Backward synthesis

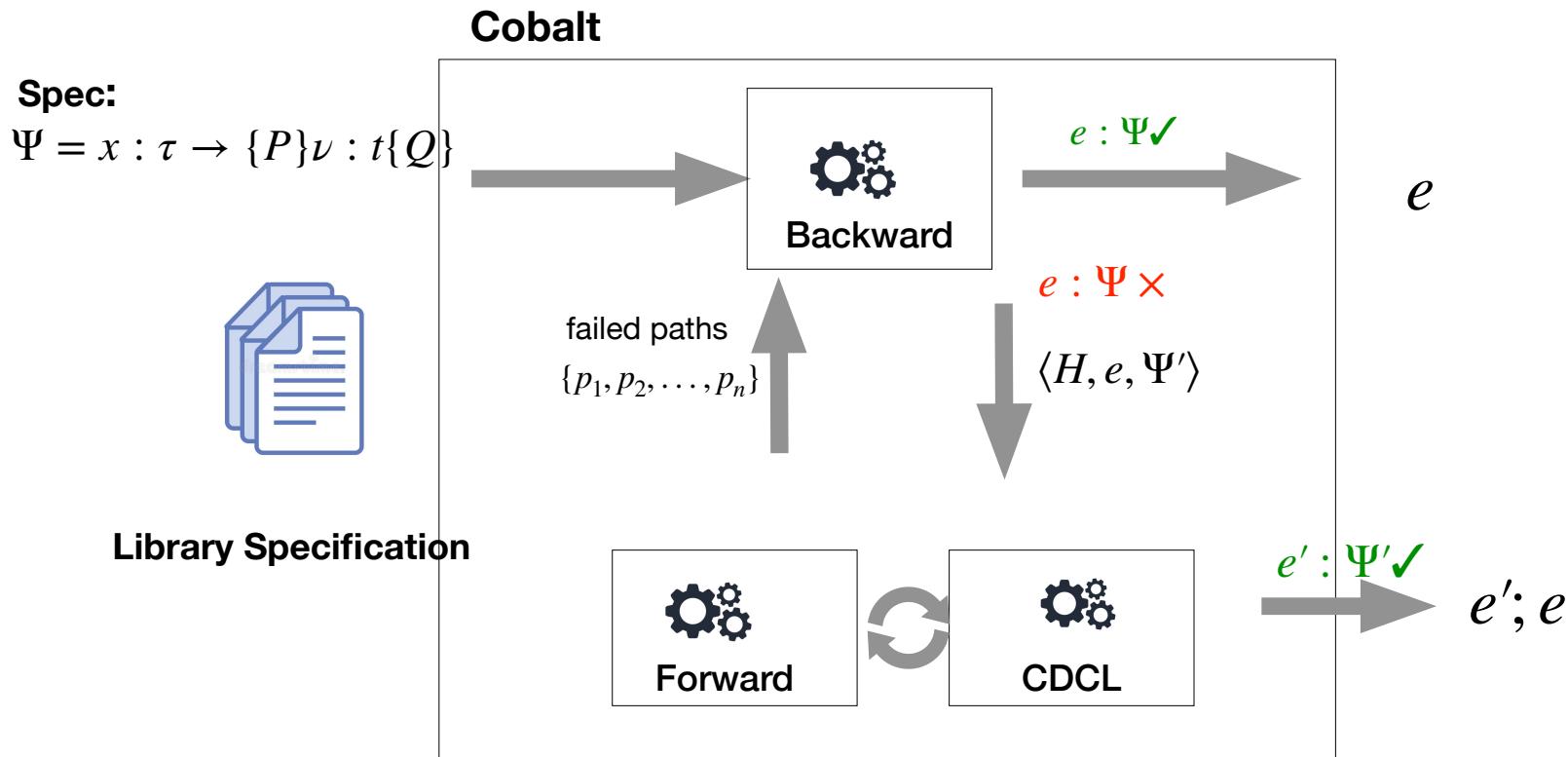
Handover to forward  
synthesis

$$\Psi' = x : \tau \rightarrow \{P\} \nu : \_ \{WP(g, WP(j, Q))\}$$



$$\text{Spec } \Psi = x : \tau \rightarrow \{P\} \nu : t\{Q\}$$

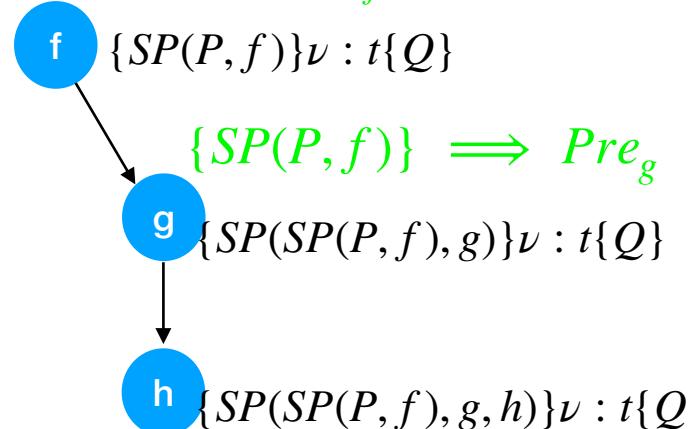
# Forward synthesis



# finite-depth Forward synthesis

Spec  $\Psi = x : \tau \rightarrow \{P\} \nu : t\{Q\}$

$\{P\} \implies \text{Pre}_f$



• • •

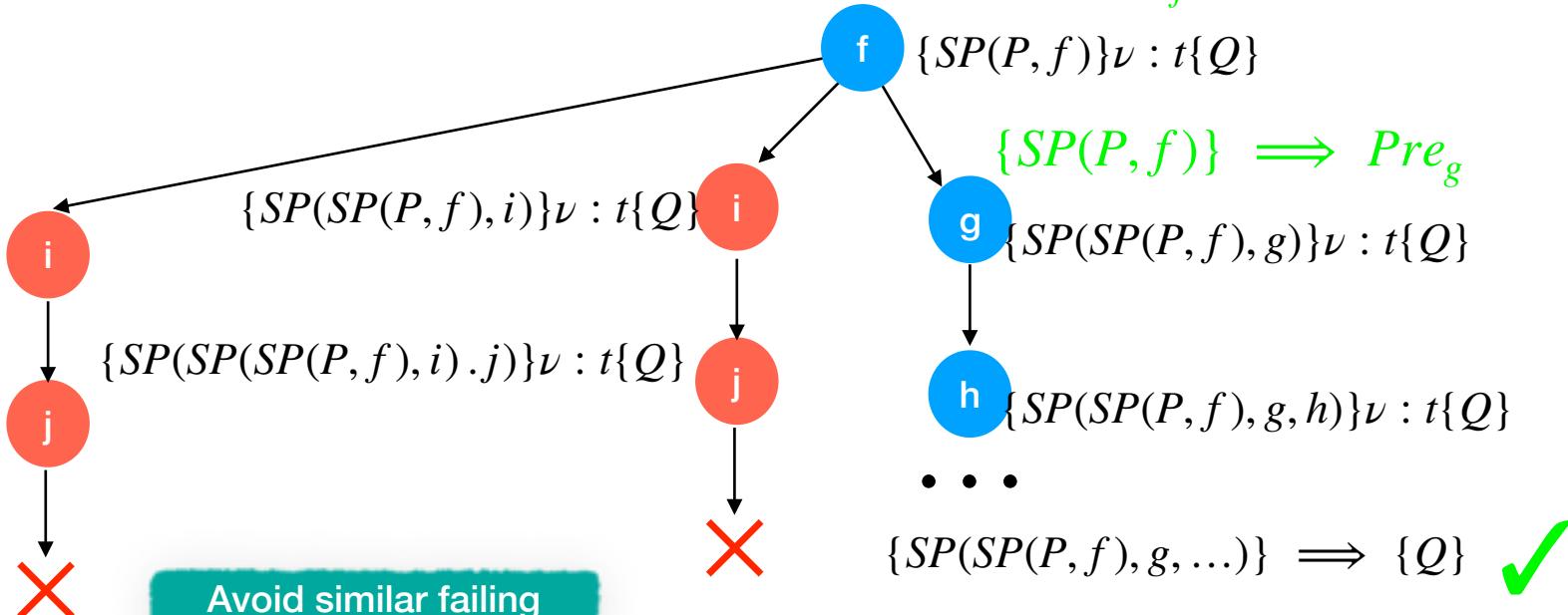
$\{SP(SP(P,f),g,\dots)\} \implies \{Q\}$  ✓

solution: f; g; h...

# finite-depth forward synthesis

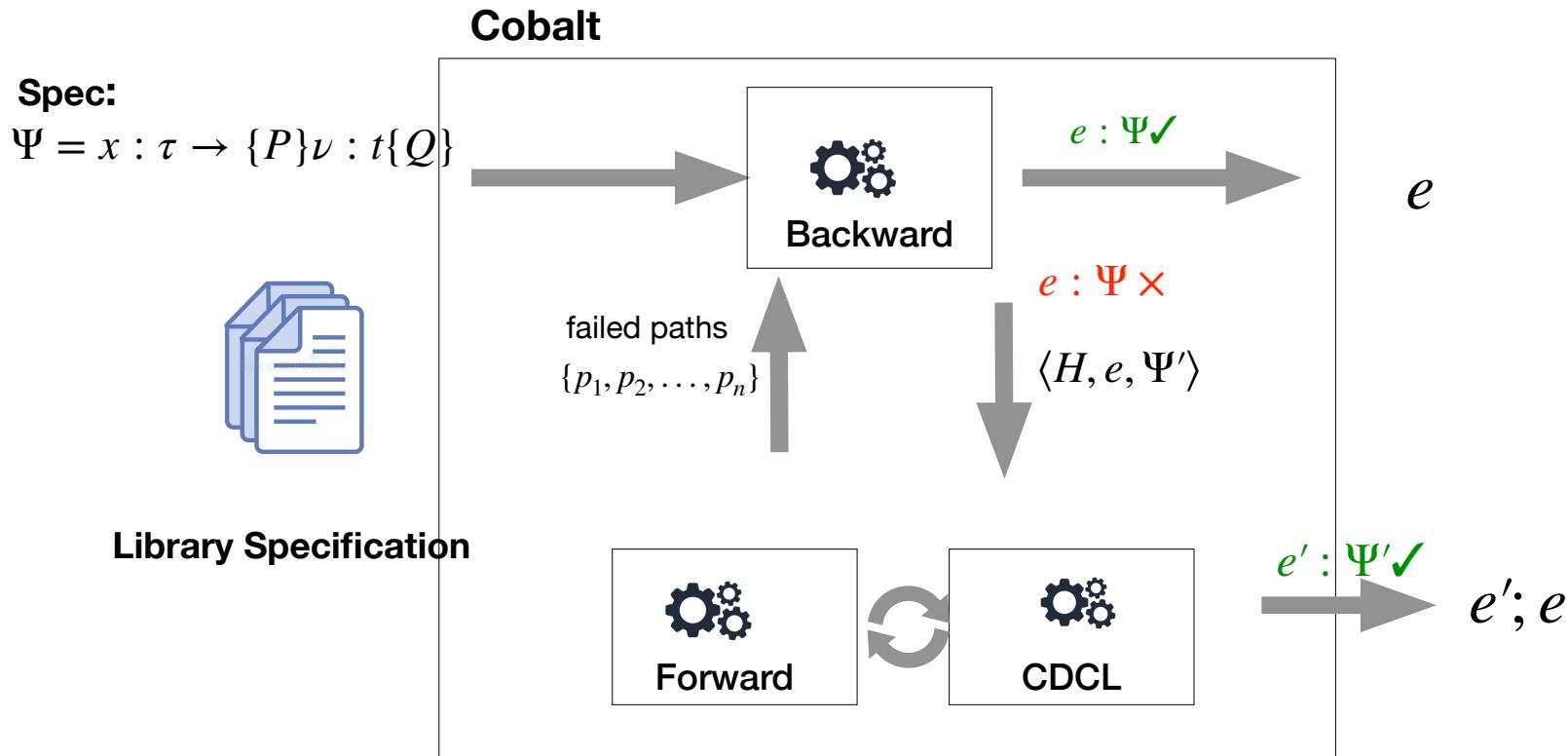
Spec  $\Psi = x : \tau \rightarrow \{P\} \nu : t\{Q\}$

$\{P\} \Rightarrow \text{Pre}_f$



solution: f; g; h...

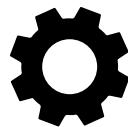
# CDCL search



# Revisiting the query

Query

```
add_and_incr : (tbl : table * s :  
string) →  
(*requires*)  
{true}  
v : pair  
(*ensures*)  
{ mem(Tbl', s) ∧  
size(Tbl') = size(Tbl) + 1};
```

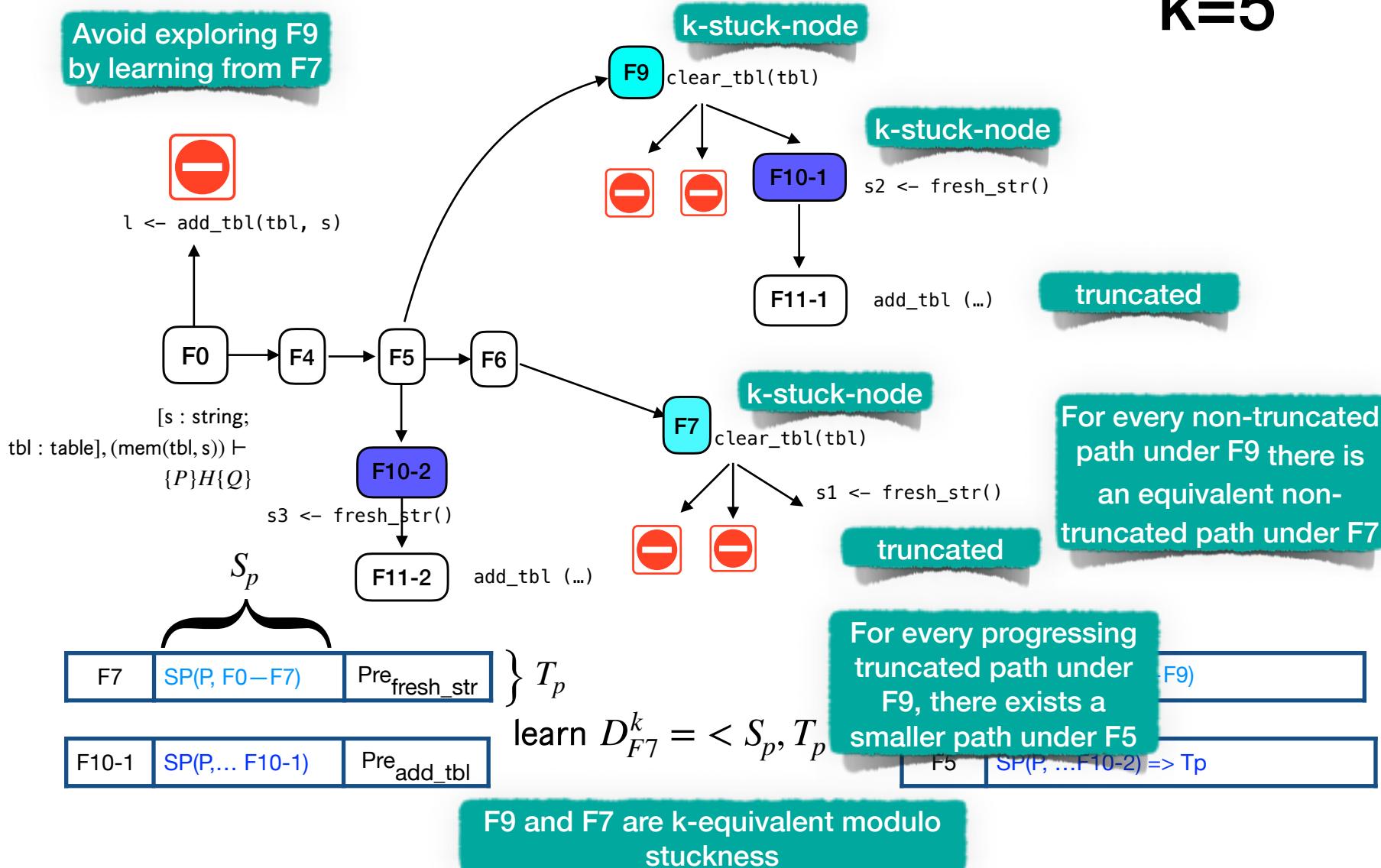


subquery for when s is in  
the table

```
add_and_incr (tbl : table * s : string) =  
b1 ← mem(s);  
if (b1) then  
?? : { (mem(Tbl, s)  
v : pair  
{ mem(Tbl', s)  
∧ size(Tbl') =  
size(Tbl) + 1 }  
else  
?? : ...
```

# finite-depth CDCL search

$k=5$



# Synthesis guarantees

- The synthesis algorithm is *sound* and *complete*.

**Theorem (Soundness):** For a given  $(\Gamma, \Sigma, \Psi)$  Cobalt synthesizes a term  $e$  then  $\Gamma \vdash e : \Psi$

Type Environment, Library and Specification

**Theorem (Completeness):** For all  $k$ , for a given  $(\Gamma, \Sigma, \Psi)$  Cobalt fails to find a solution then there exists no  $e$  of size  $(e) \leq k$ , such that  $\Gamma \vdash e : \Psi$