



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH  
**informatics**

# Compiler Intermediate Representations

SPLV 2020 – Michel Steuwer

# Outline of Lectures over the week

- **Tuesday:** Functional Intermediate Representations
  - Lambda Calculus and the Lambda Cube
  - Implementation Strategies for System F (ADTs across different PLs)
  - Compiler transformations as rewrite rules
- **Wednesday:** Imperative Intermediate Representations
  - Data-flow analysis
  - Control-Flow Graphs
  - Foundations of Single Static Assignment (SSA)
  - LLVM IR
- **Thursday:** Domain-Specific Intermediate Representations
  - MLIR — a compiler infrastructure for building domain-specific intermediate representations
  - Dataflow graphs — TensorFlow
  - Pattern-based (and functional) — RISE

# Data-flow Analysis

**Data-flow analysis** gathers information for each program point by analysing the **static** code approximating its **dynamic** behaviour

- Examples:
  - Reaching Definitions
  - Initialised Variables
  - Constant Propagation
  - Sign Analysis
  - Liveness of variables



```
1 int foo(int input) {  
2     int x,y,z;  
3     x = input;  
4     while (x > 1) {  
5         y = x / 2;  
6         if (y > 3) x = x - y;  
7         z = x - 4;  
8         if (z > 0) x = x / 2;  
9         z = z-1;  
10    }  
11    return x;  
12 }
```

Is  $z$  ever initialised?

What values are possible for  $y$  here?

Is this computation ever used?

# Liveness Analysis - What & why?

- **Intuition:** A variable is *live* at a program point if its current value may be read during the remaining execution of the program, otherwise the variable is *dead*.
- Useful for *register allocation* and *dead code elimination*

```
1 int foo(int input) {  
2     int x,y,z;  
3     x = input;  
4     while (x > 1) {  
5         y = x / 2;  
6         if (y > 3) x = x - y;  
7         z = x - 4;  
8         if (z > 0) x = x / 2;  
9         z = z-1;  
10    }  
11    return x;  
12 }
```

Legal transformation  
due to liveness information



```
1 int foo_opt(int input) {  
2     int x, yz;  
3     x = input;  
4     while (x > 1) {  
5         yz = x / 2;  
6         if (yz > 3) x = x - yz;  
7         yz = x-4;  
8         if (yz > 0) x = x / 2;  
9     }  
10    return x;  
11 }
```

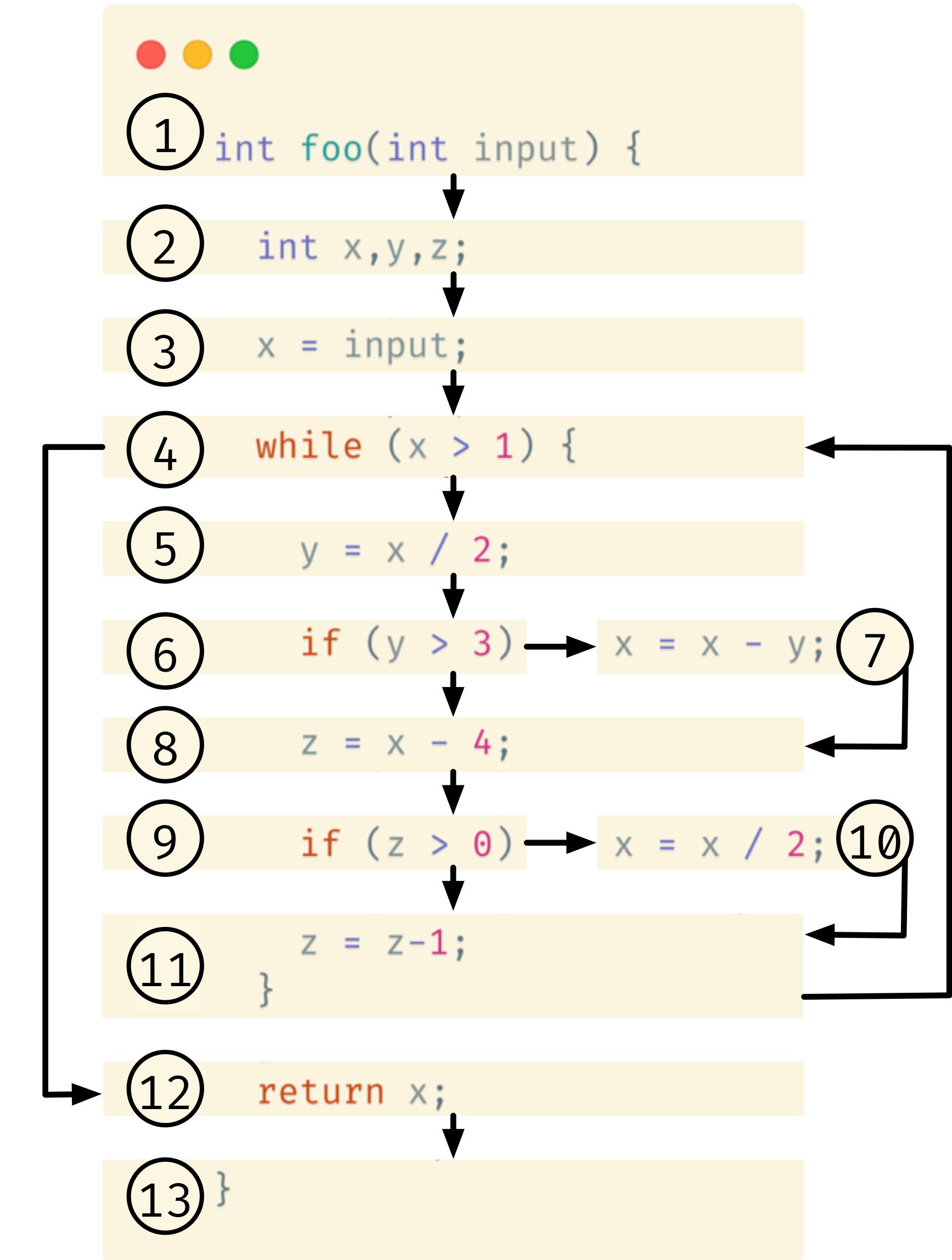
y and z can be stored  
in the same register

Computation  
was never used

# Control Flow Graphs

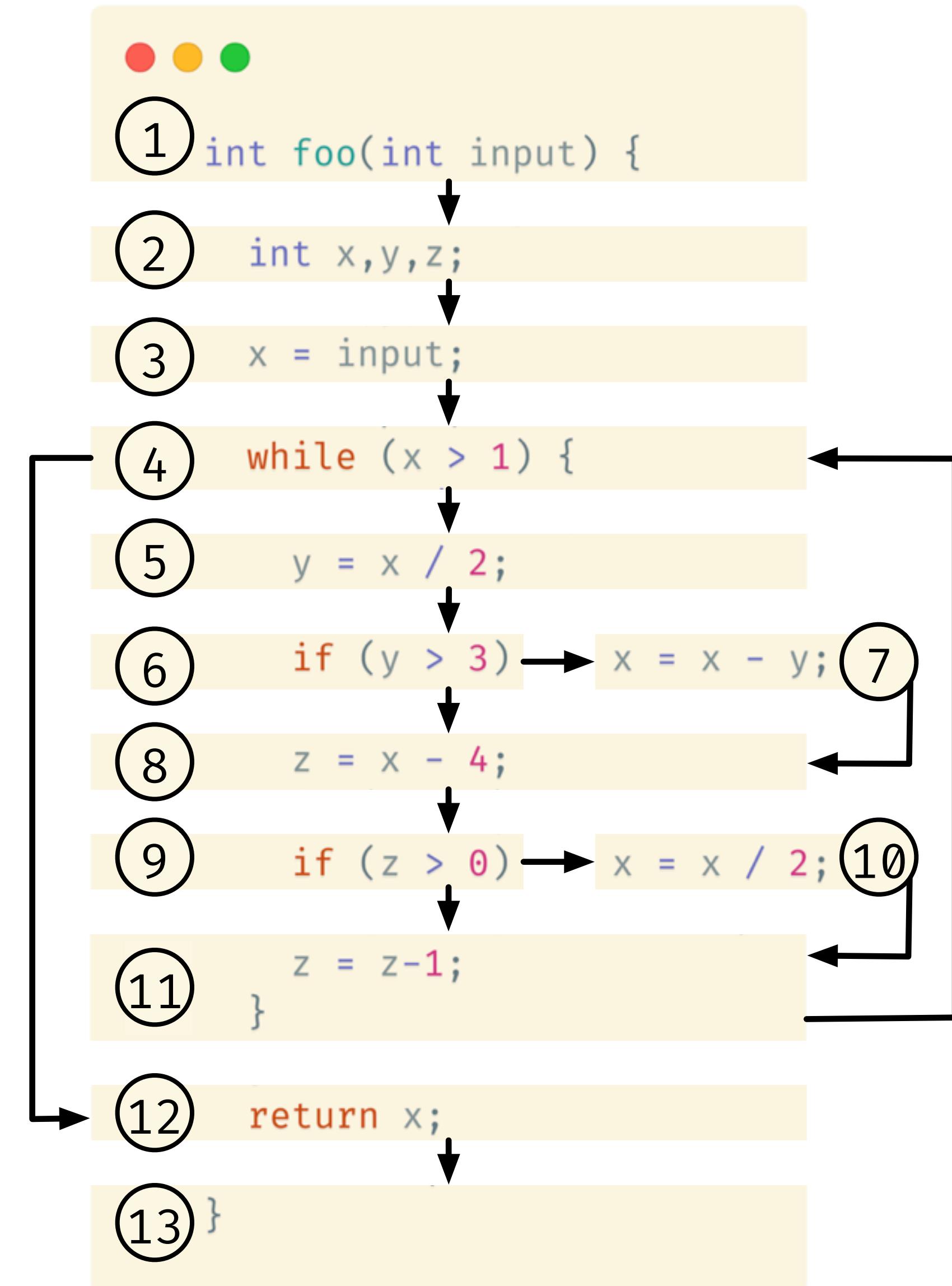
- **Definition:** A Control Flow Graph (CFG) is a graph who's *nodes* represent program statements and who's *directed edges* represent control flow.
- Example:

```
1 int foo(int input) {  
2     int x,y,z;  
3     x = input;  
4     while (x > 1) {  
5         y = x / 2;  
6         if (y > 3) x = x - y;  
7         z = x - 4;  
8         if (z > 0) x = x / 2;  
9         z = z-1;  
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```



# Definition of def and use

- For *defining* (or *writing*) a variable we write:
  - $\text{def}_{\text{nodes}}(v)$  = set of nodes that define variable  $v$
  - $\text{def}_{\text{var}}(n)$  = set of variables defined at node  $n$
- For *using* (or *reading*) a variable we write:
  - $\text{use}_{\text{nodes}}(v)$  = set of nodes that use variable  $v$
  - $\text{use}_{\text{var}}(n)$  = set of variables used at node  $n$
- Examples:  
 $\text{def}_{\text{nodes}}(z) = \{ 8, 11 \}$   
 $\text{def}_{\text{var}}(4) = \{ \} \quad \text{use}_{\text{var}}(4) = \{ x \}$

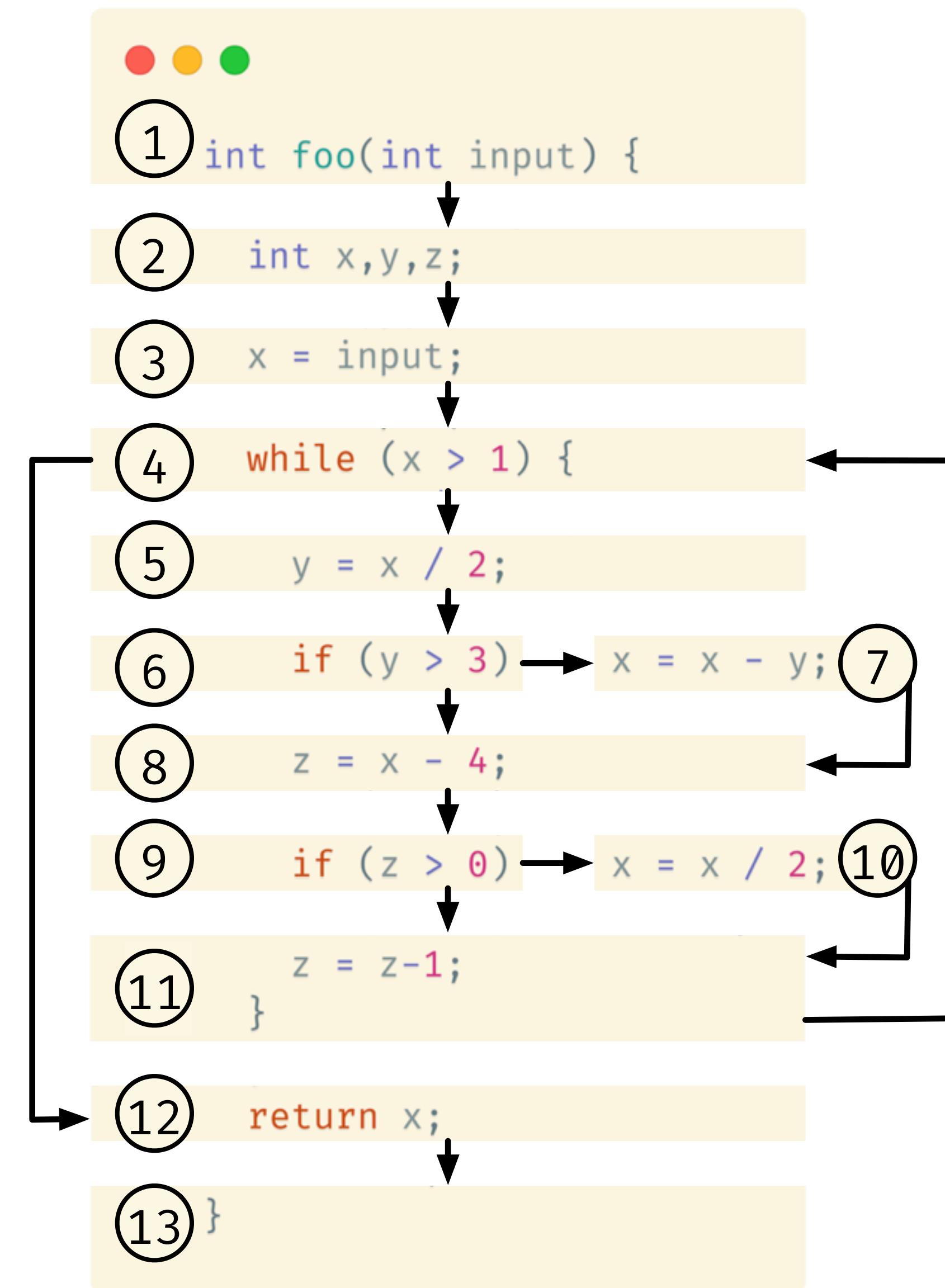


# Definition of def-use chains

- The def-use chains for a variable contain all definitions and all possible uses

For variable x:

```
[x, x = input, while(x>1)]
[x, x = input, x = x - y ]
[x, x = input, x = x / 2 ]
[x, x = input, return x ]
[x, x = x - y, while(x>1)]
[x, x = x - y, x = x - y ]
[x, x = x - y, x = x / 2 ]
[x, x = x - y, return x ]
[x, x = x / 2, while(x>1)]
[x, x = x / 2, x = x - y ]
[x, x = x / 2, x = x / 2 ]
[x, x = x / 2, return x ]
```



# Definition of Liveness

- **Definition:**

A variable  $v$  is live *before* a CFG node  $n$  if

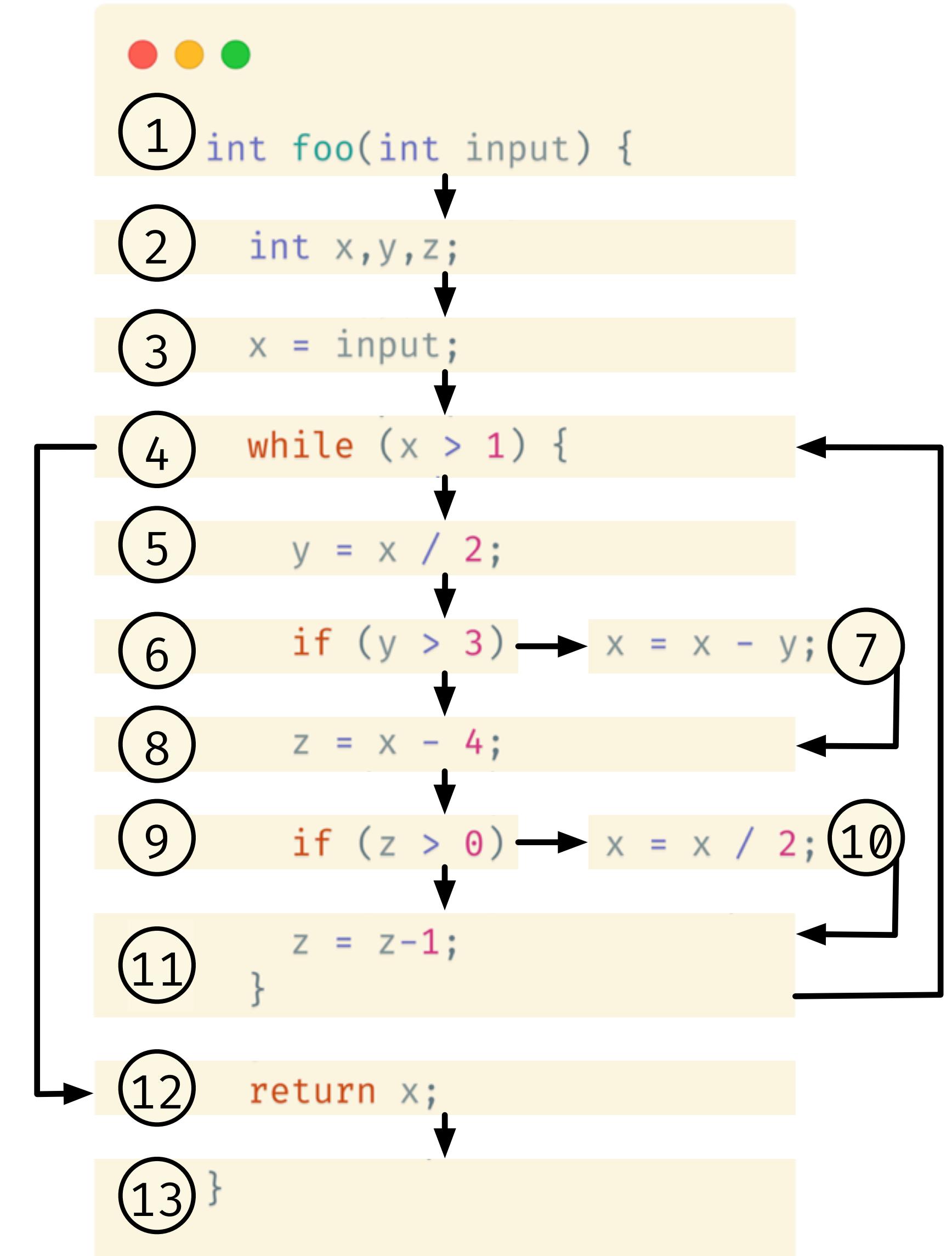
(1)  $v \in \text{use}_{\text{var}}(n)$ , or:

(2)  $\exists$  a directed path from  $n$  to a node in  $\text{use}_{\text{nodes}}(v)$ , and that path does not go through a node in  $\text{def}_{\text{nodes}}(v)$ .

- **Examples:**

Is  $x$  live before  $n = 5$ ? Yes,  $x \in \{x\} = \text{use}_{\text{var}}(5)$

Is  $z$  live before  $n = 5$ ? No, we first hit a def at 8



# Computing Liveness per node

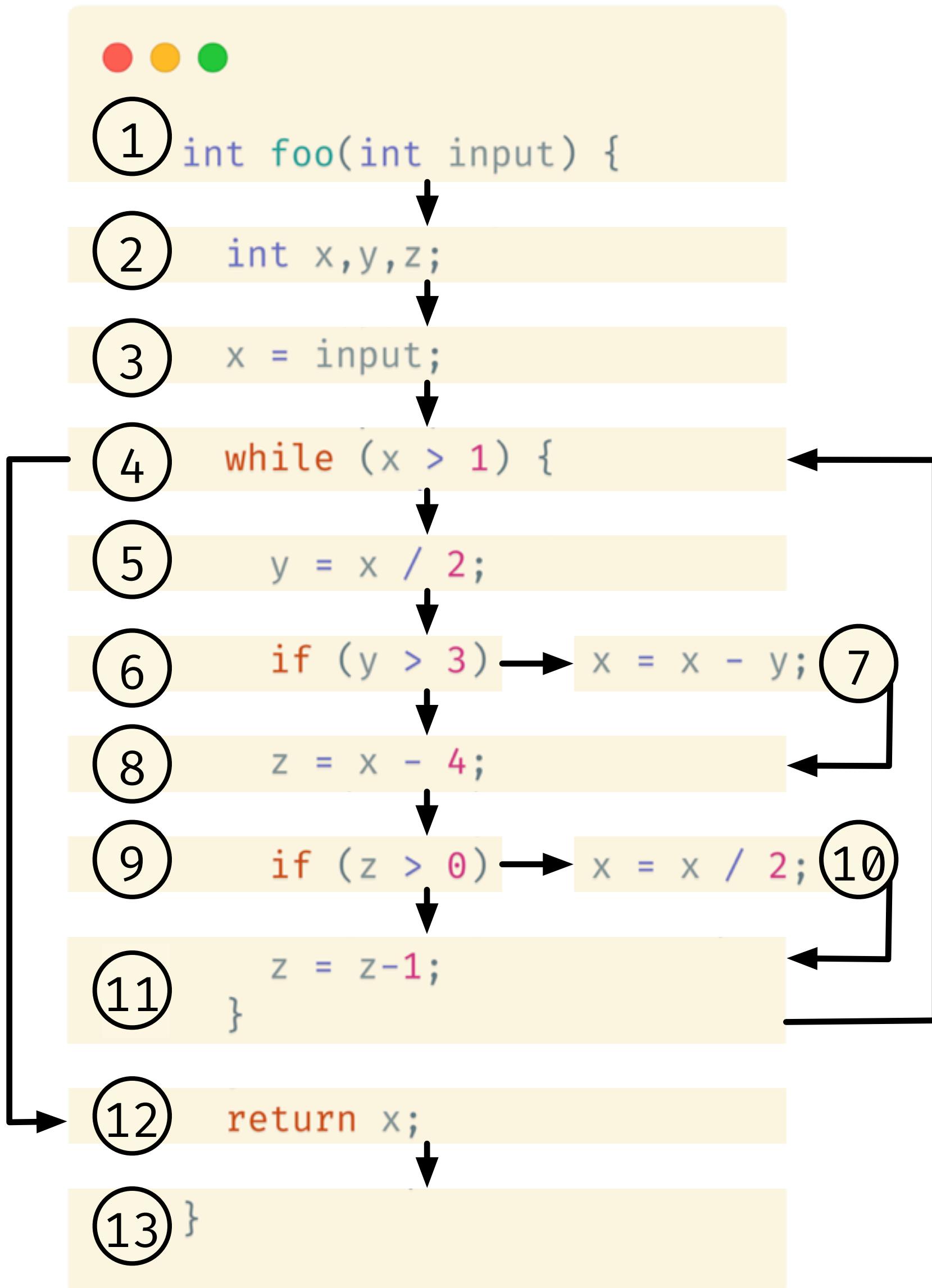
Three cases to consider for a node:

(1) **use<sub>var</sub>(n)**

(2) if a variable is live at a successor of n  
then we consider it a *candidate* for n:

$$\text{candidates}[n] = \bigcup_{s \in \text{succ}(n)} \text{live}[s]$$

(3) if a variable is a candidate at n and  
not in **def<sub>var</sub>(n)** then it is live at n:  
 $\text{candidates}[n] - \text{def}[n]$



# Iterative fixpoint algorithm

**for each** node  $n$  in CFG:

$\text{live}[n] = \{\}$ ;  $\text{candidates}[n] = \{\}$ ;

**repeat for each** node  $n$  in CFG **in reverse top. sorted order**:

$\text{live}'[n] = \text{live}[n]$ ;

$\text{candidates}'[n] = \text{candidates}[n]$ ;

$\text{candidates}[n] = \bigcup_{s \in \text{succ}(n)} \text{live}[s]$ ;

$\text{live}[n] = \text{use}_{\text{var}}(n) \cup (\text{candidates}[n] - \text{def}_{\text{var}}(n))$ ;

**until**  $\text{live}'[n] = \text{live}[n]$  and

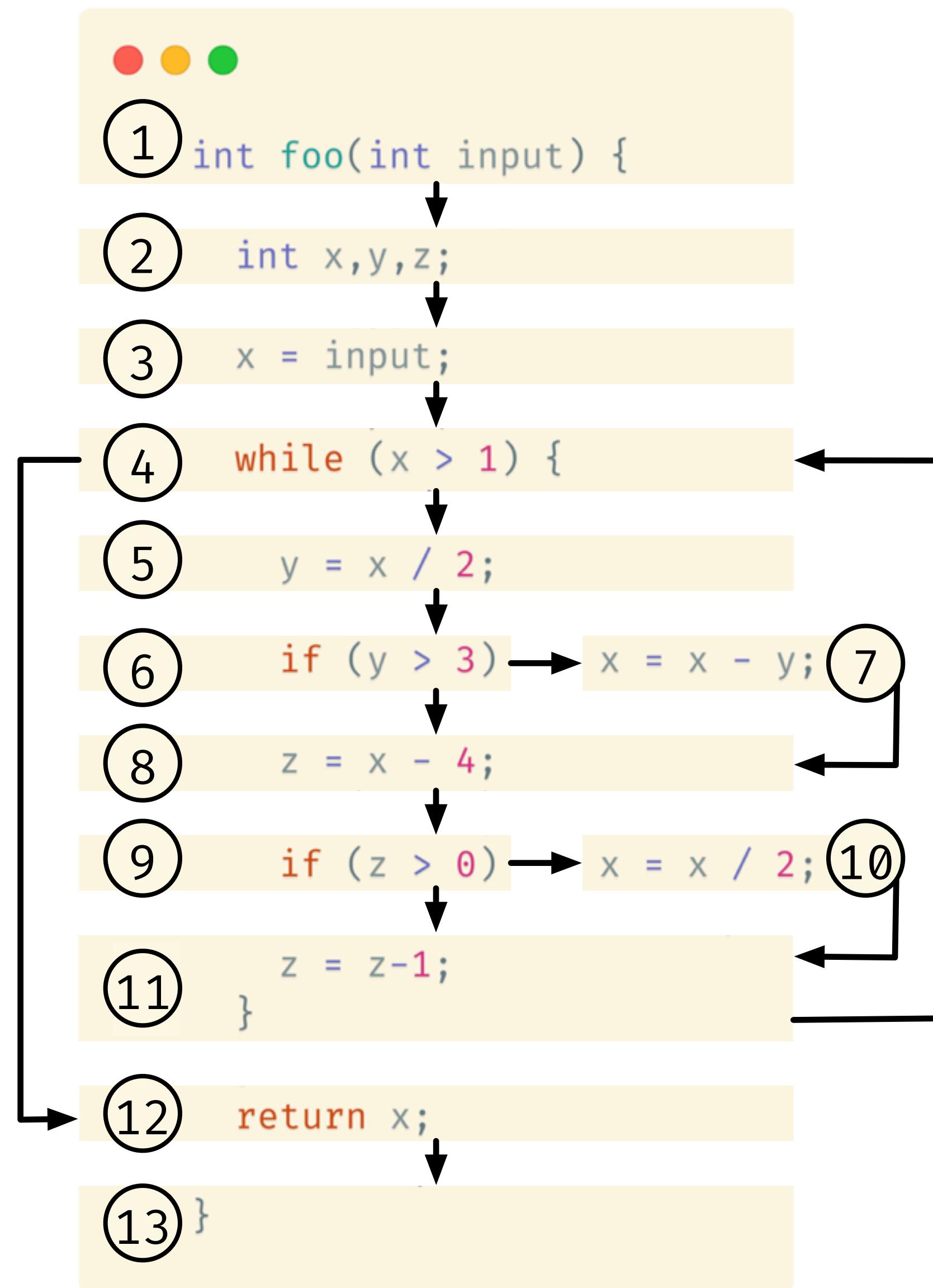
$\text{candidate}'[n] = \text{candidate}[n]$  for all  $n$

# Liveness Analysis Example

Node n	use <sub>var</sub> (n)	def <sub>var</sub> (n)	candidate[n]	live[n]
13	{ }	{ }		
12	{ x }	{ }		
11	{ z }	{ z }		
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8	{ x }	{ z }		
7	{ x, y }	{ x }		
6	{ y }	{ }		
5	{ x }	{ y }		
4	{ x }	{ }		
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2	{ }	{ }		
1	{ }	{ }		

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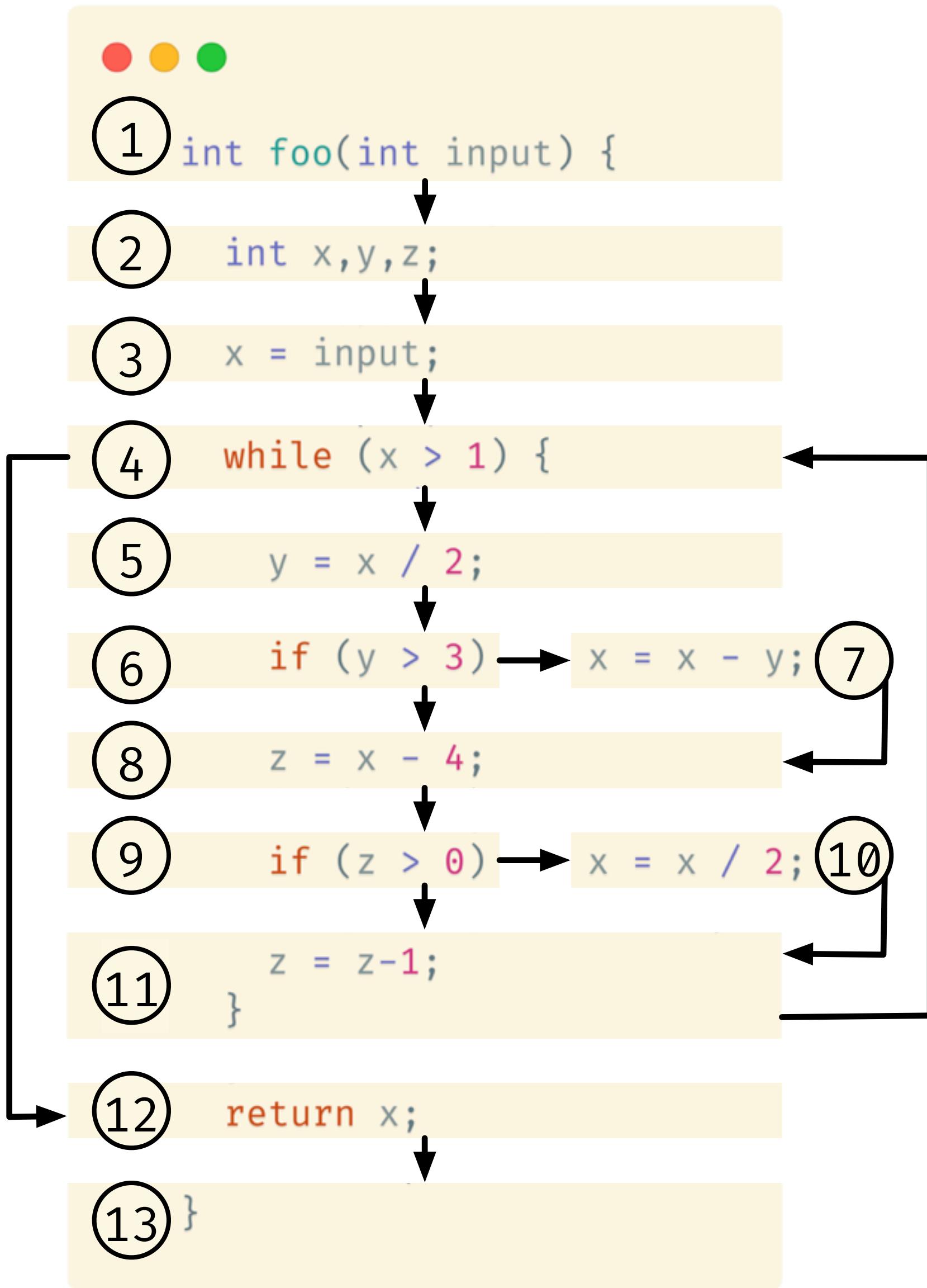


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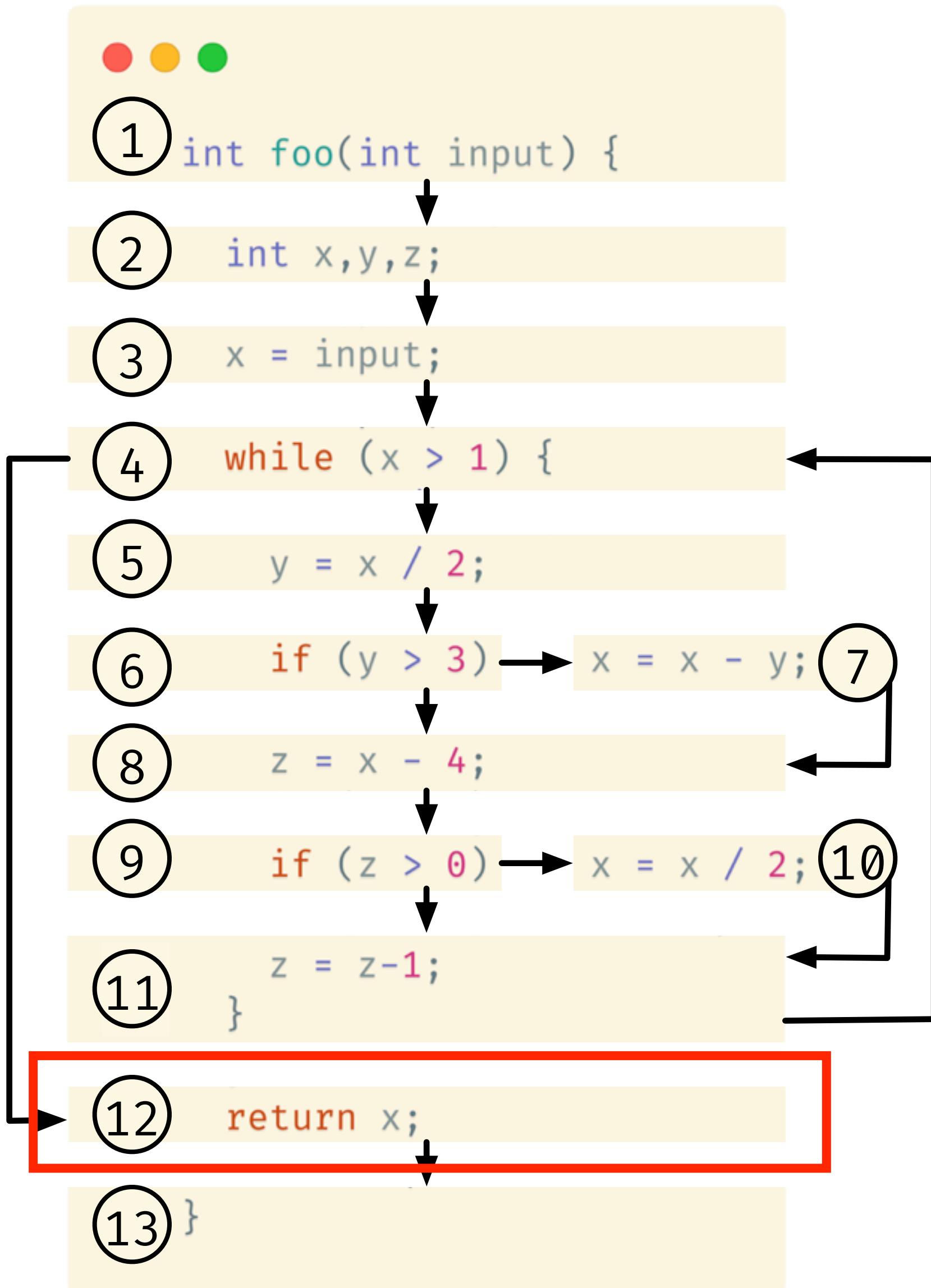


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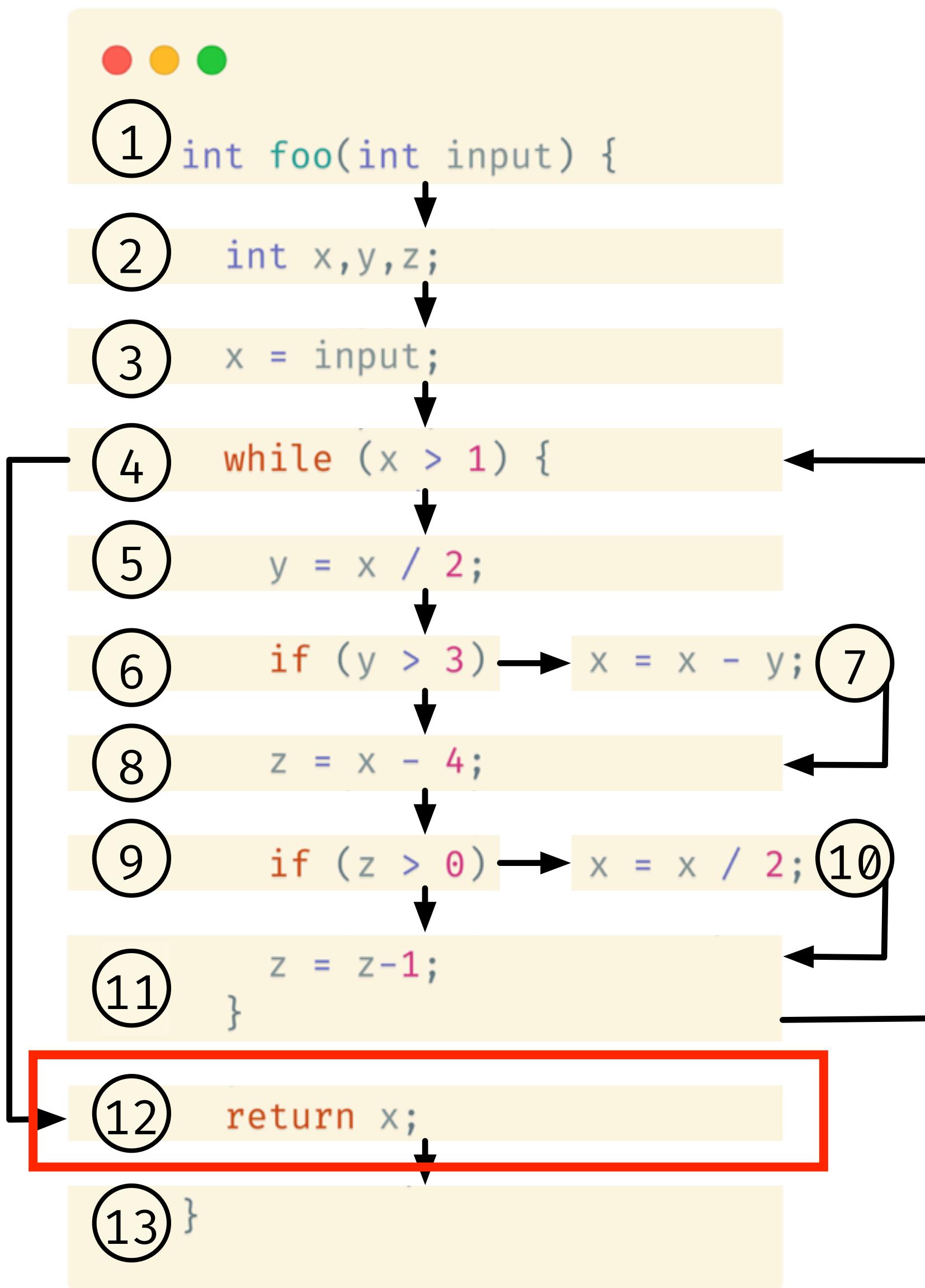


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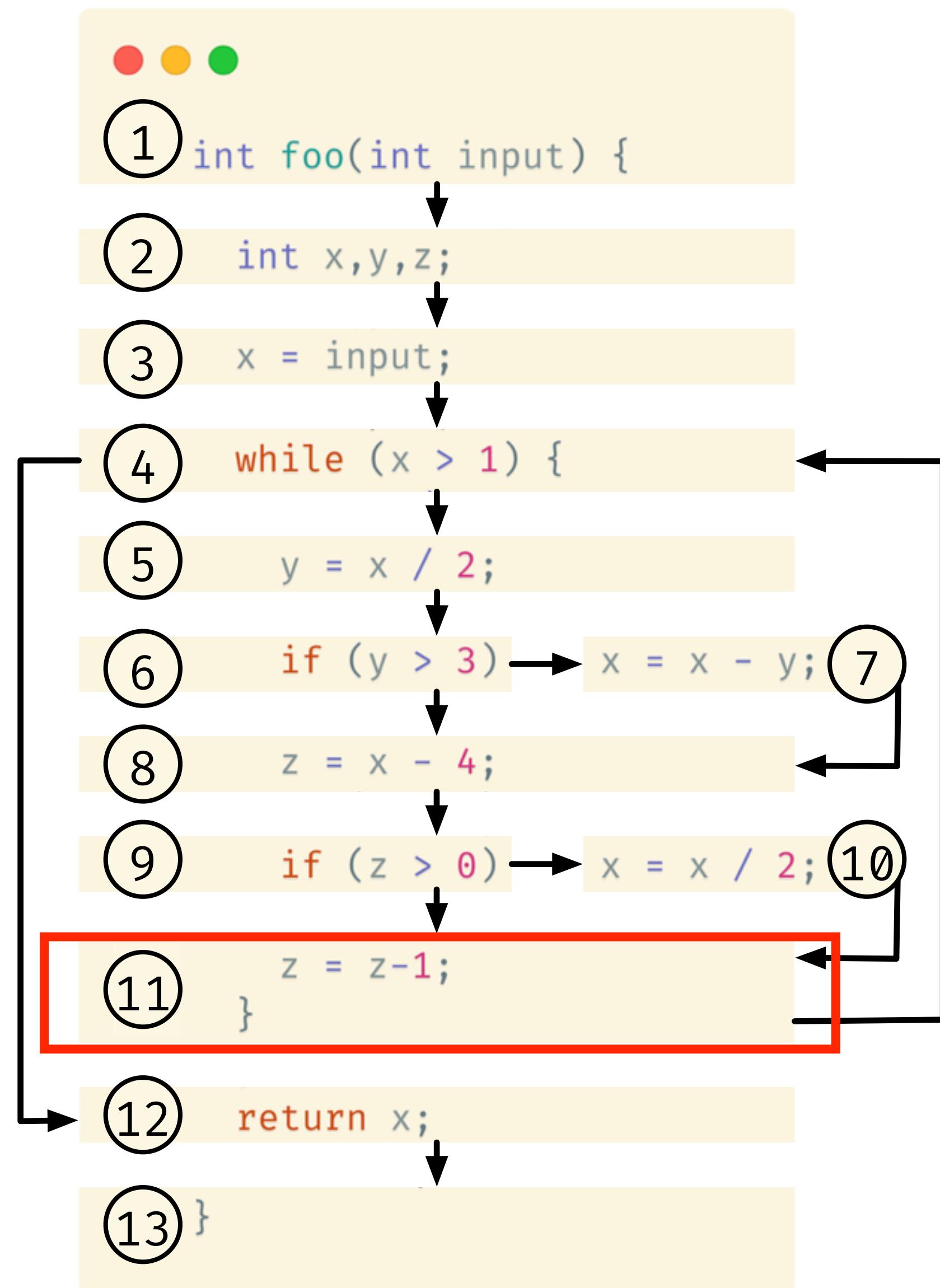


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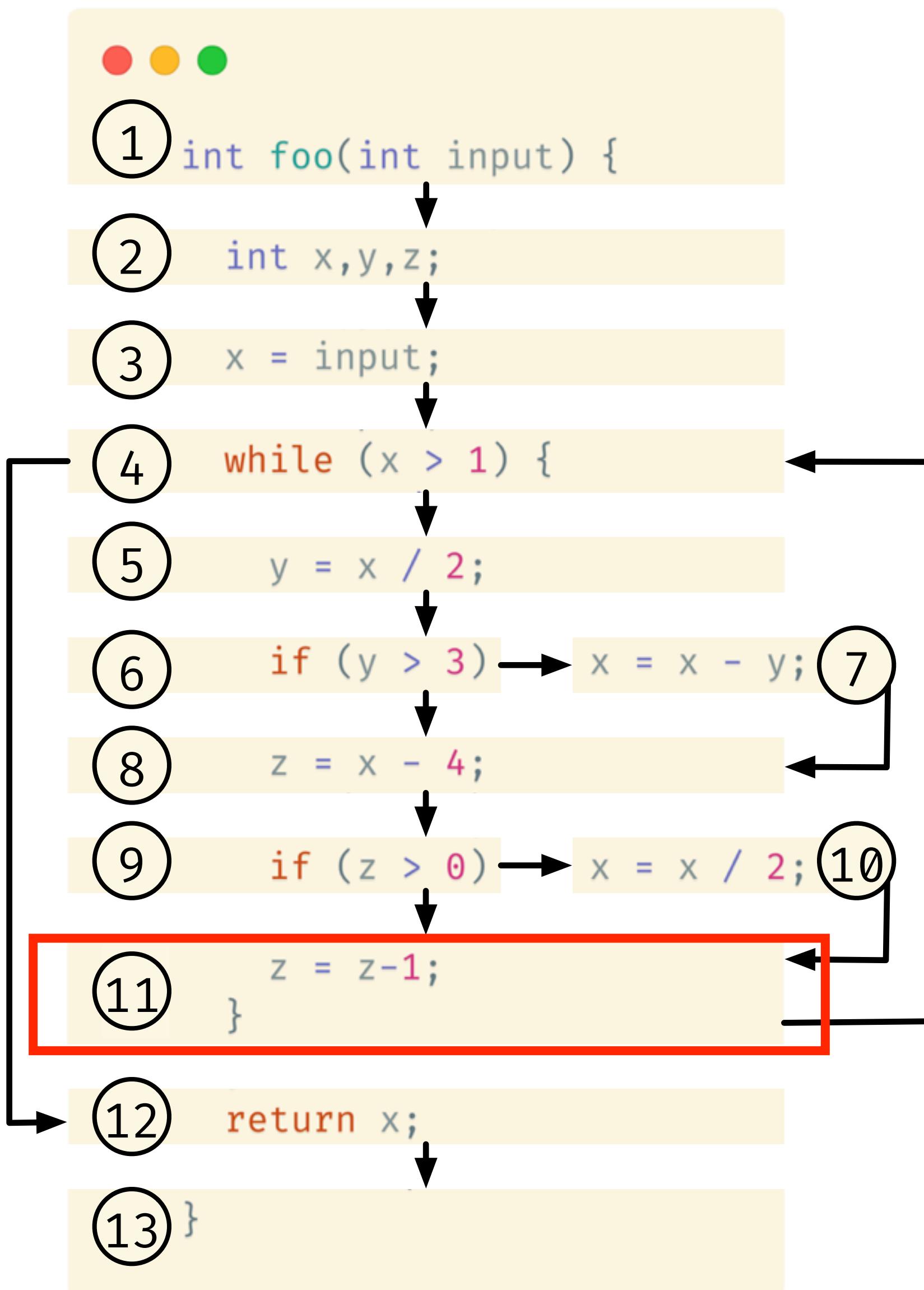


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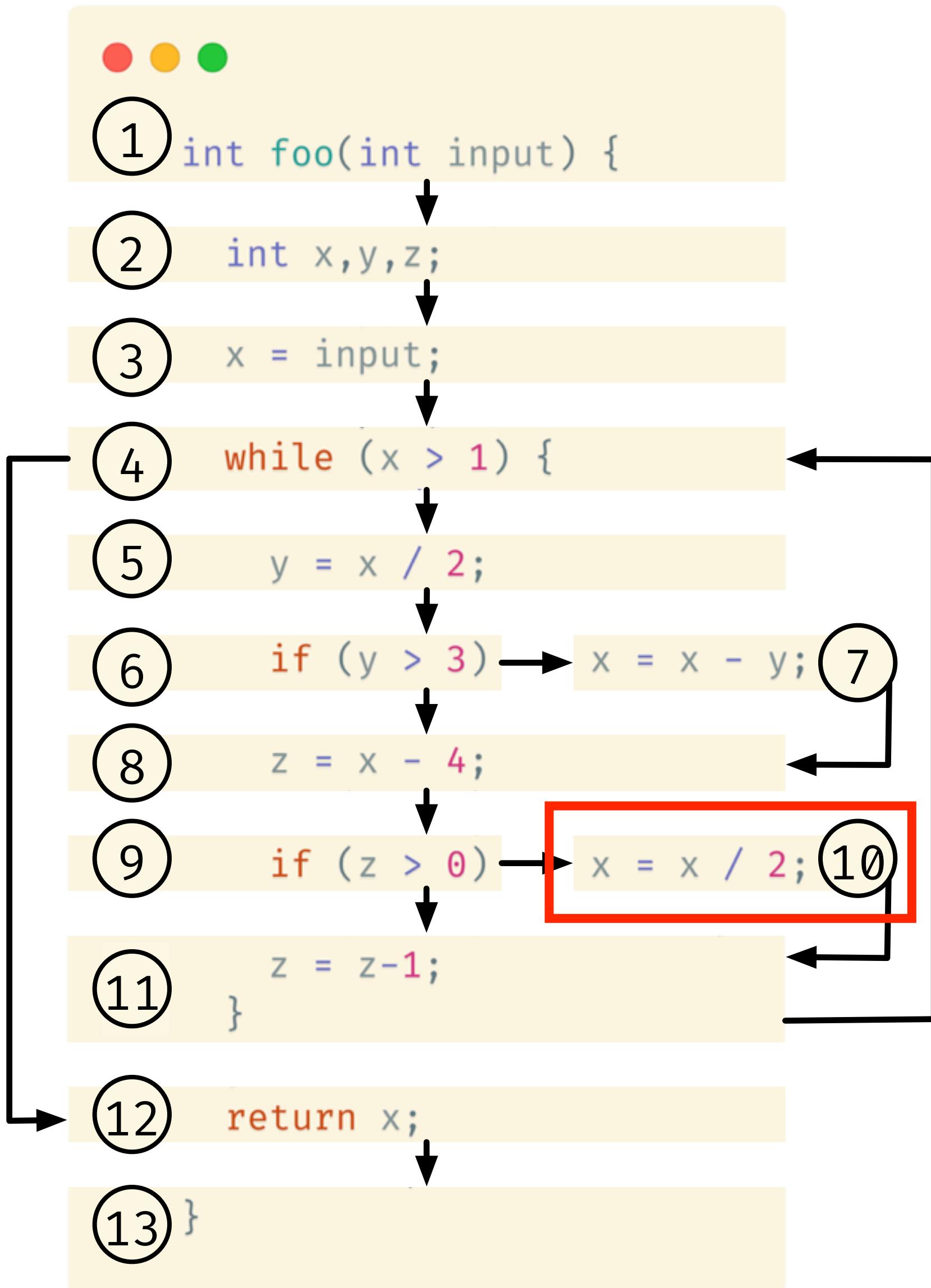


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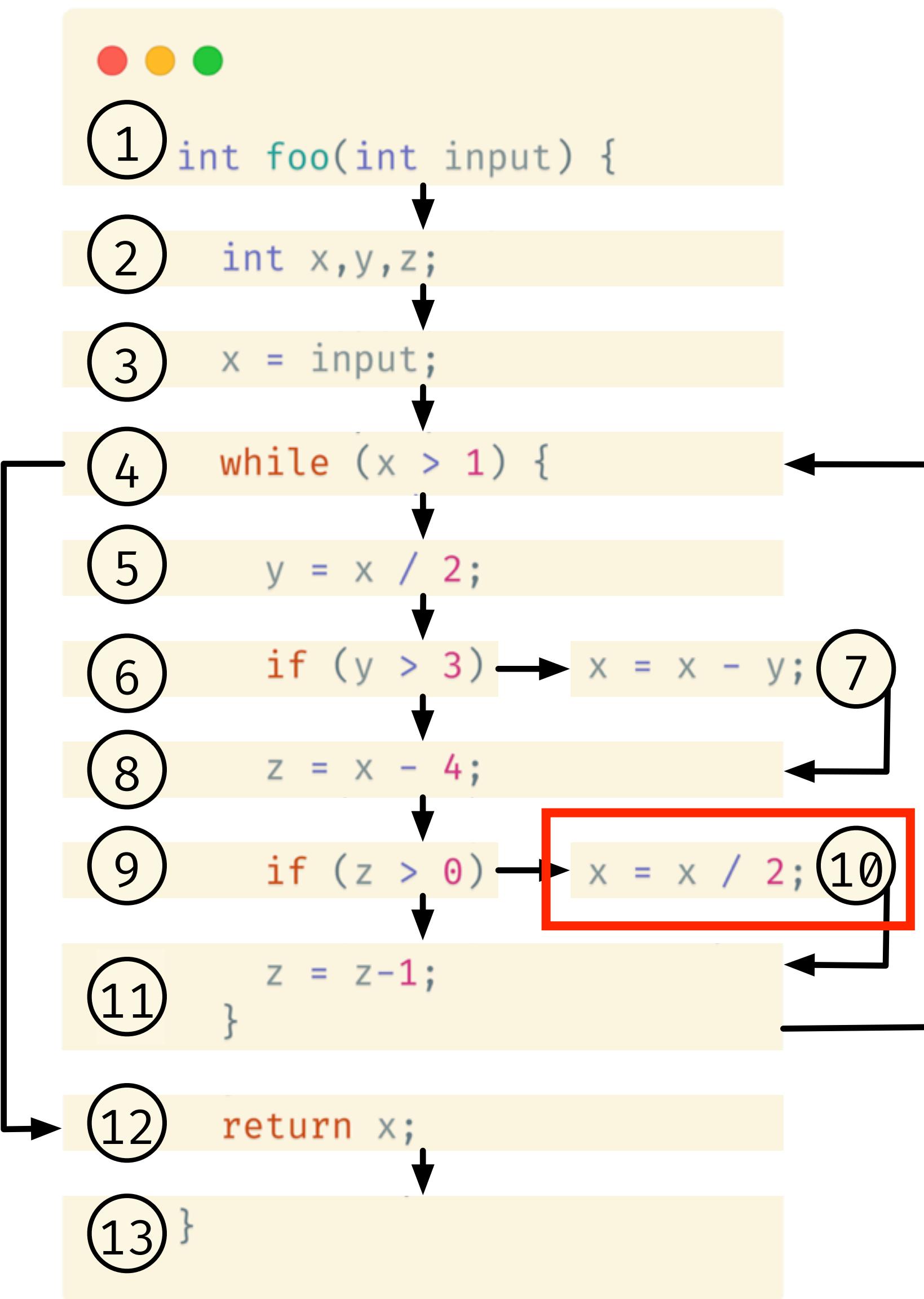


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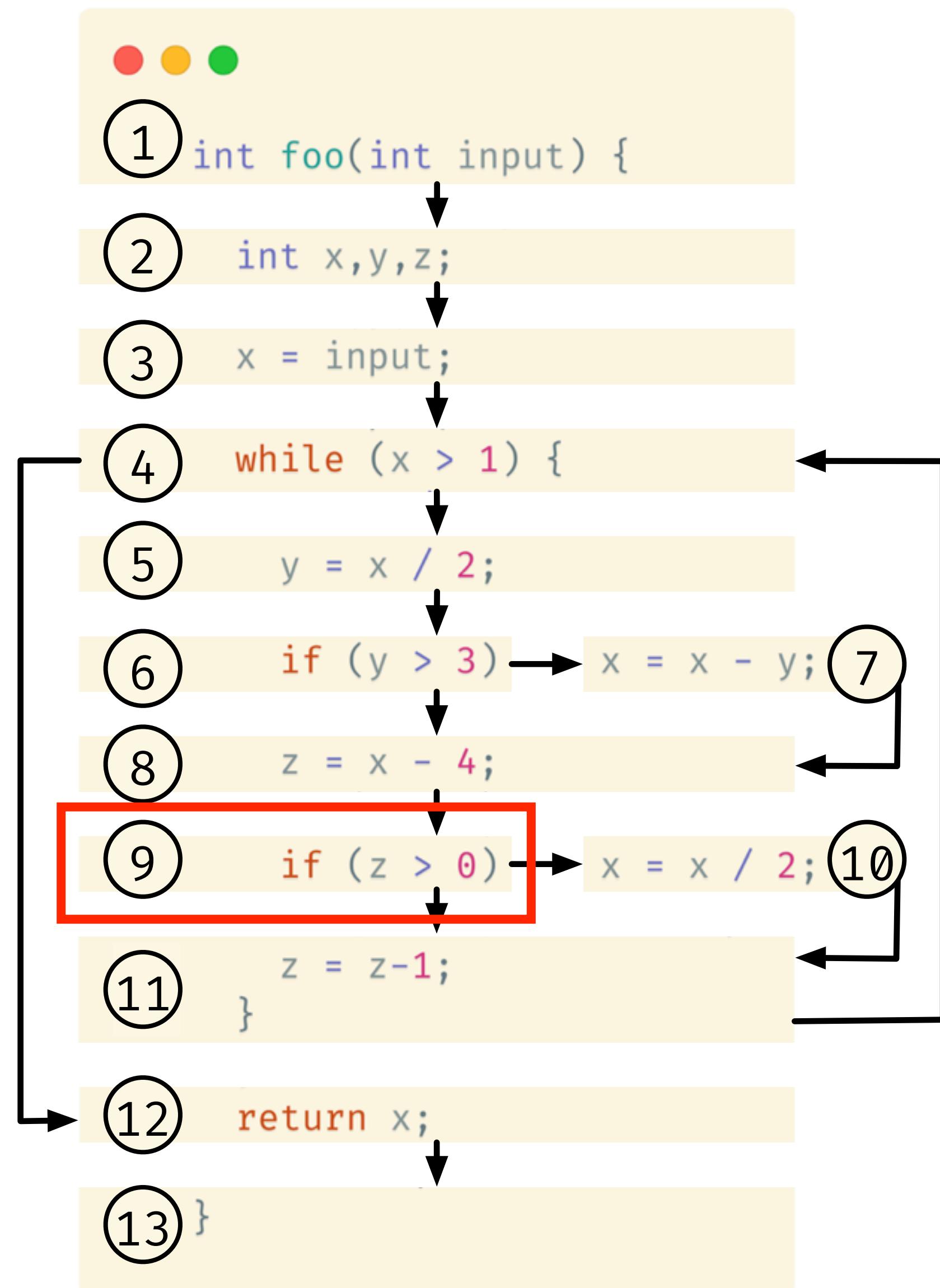


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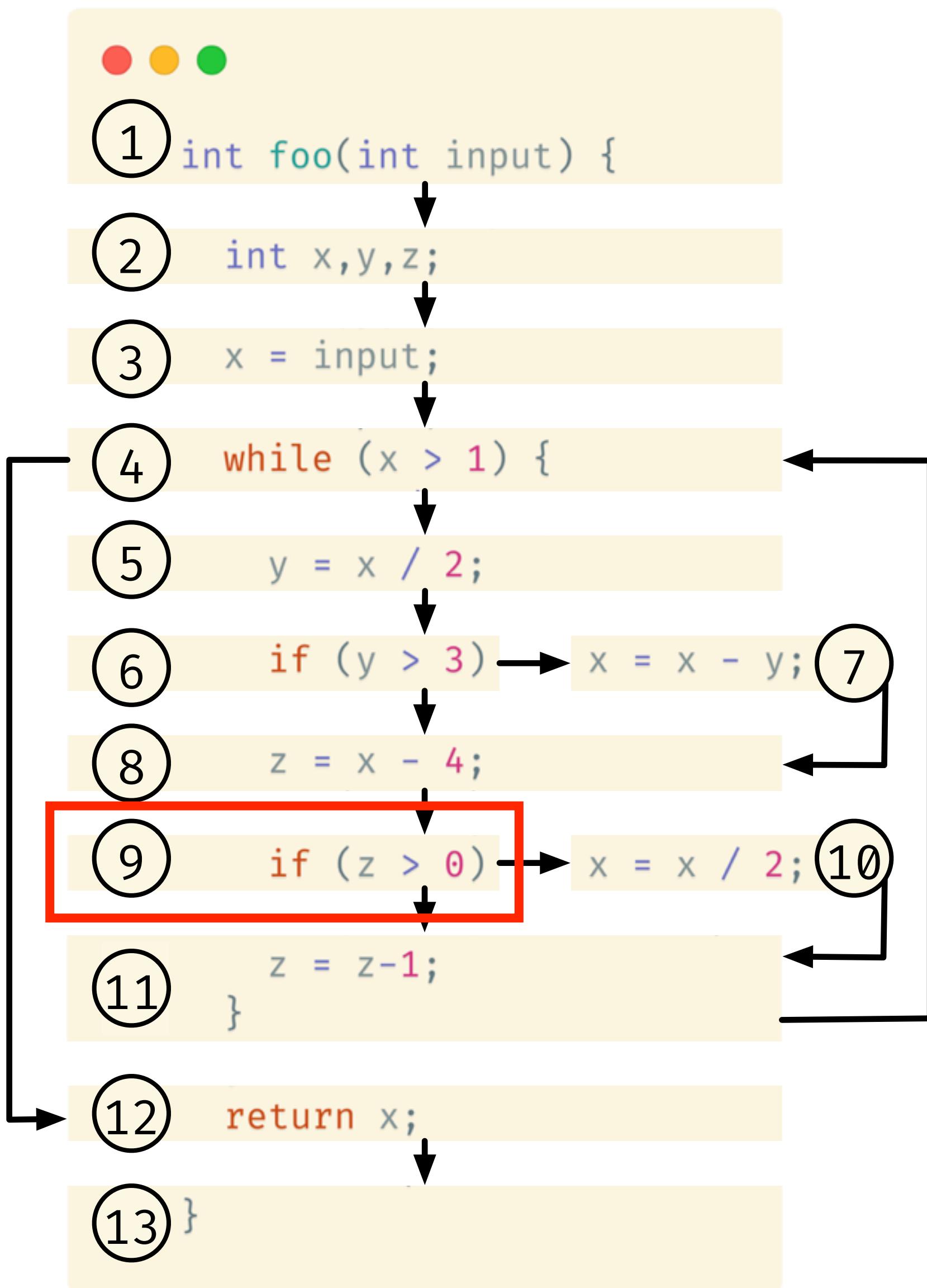


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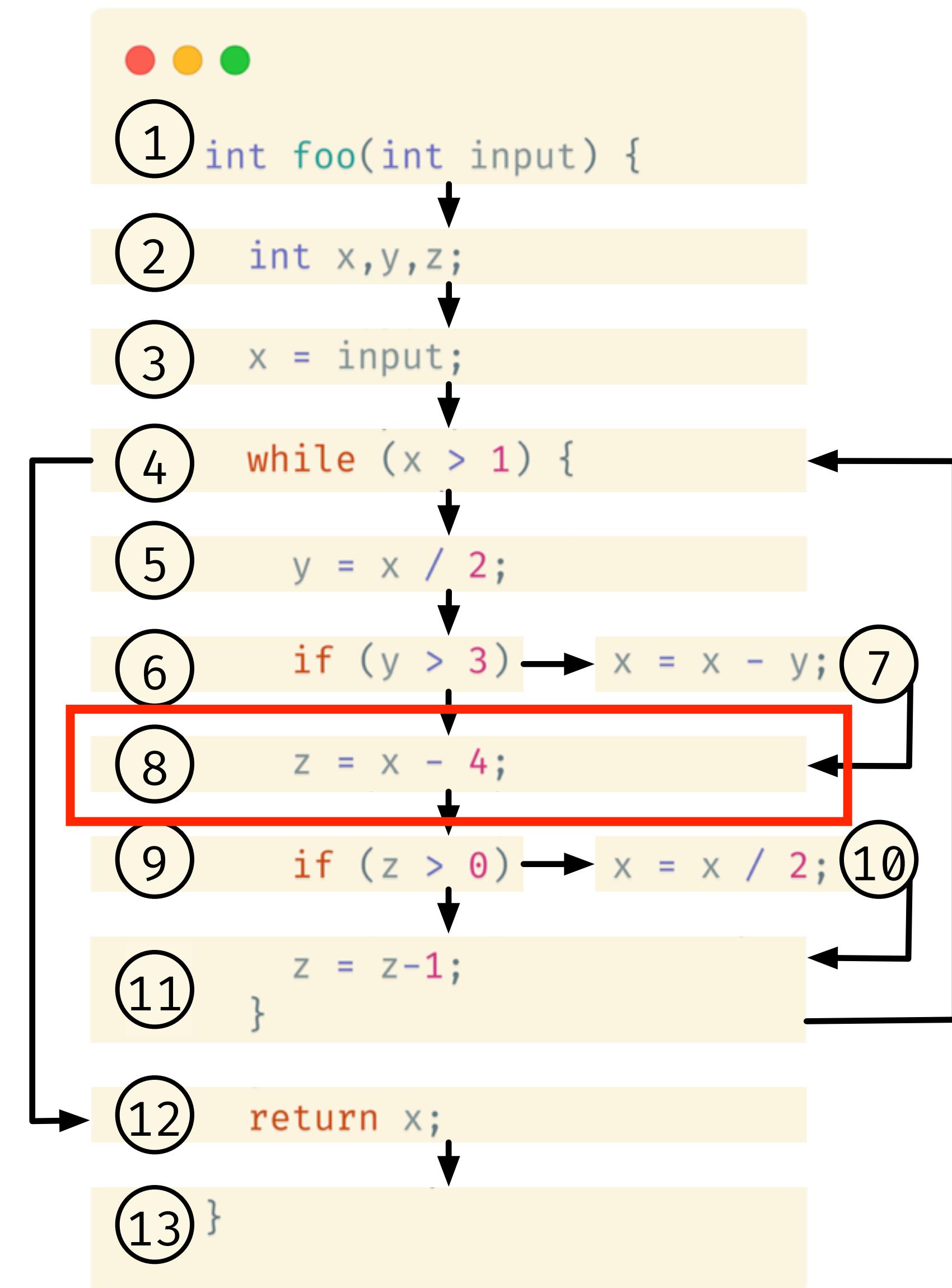


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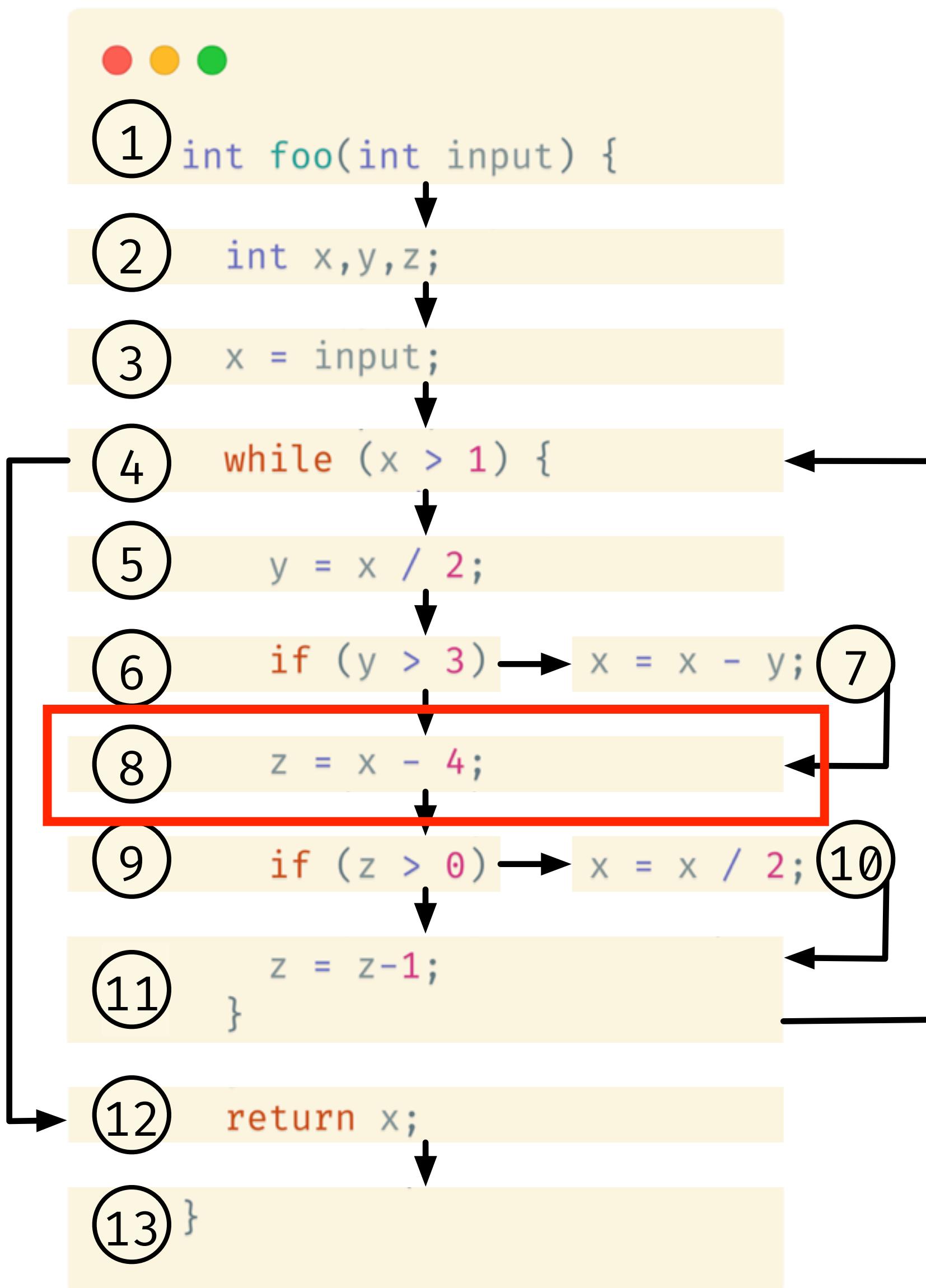


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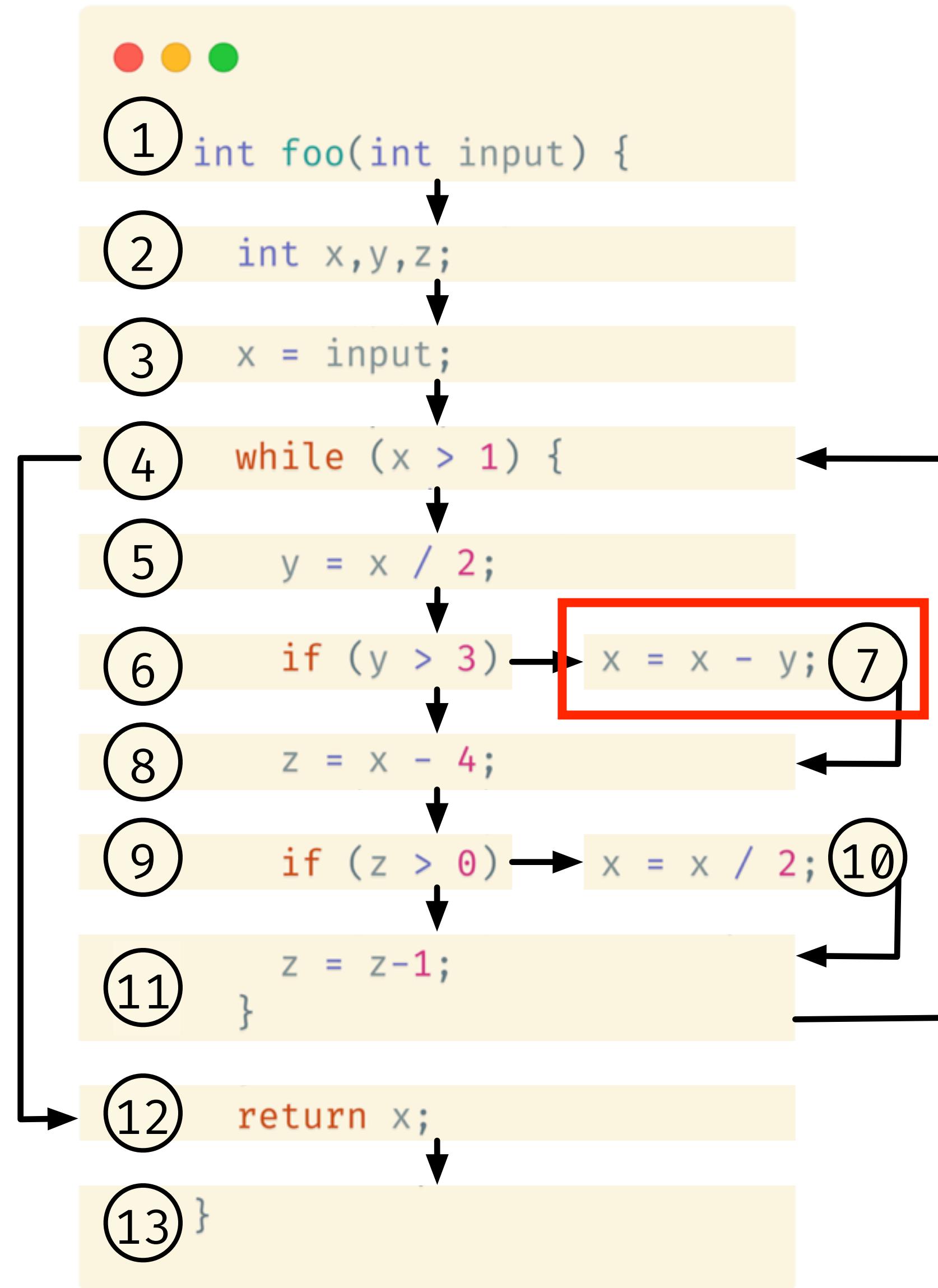


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7	{ x, y }	{ x }	{ x } <span style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;">{ x, y }</span>	{ x, y }
6	{ y }	{ }	{ }	{ }
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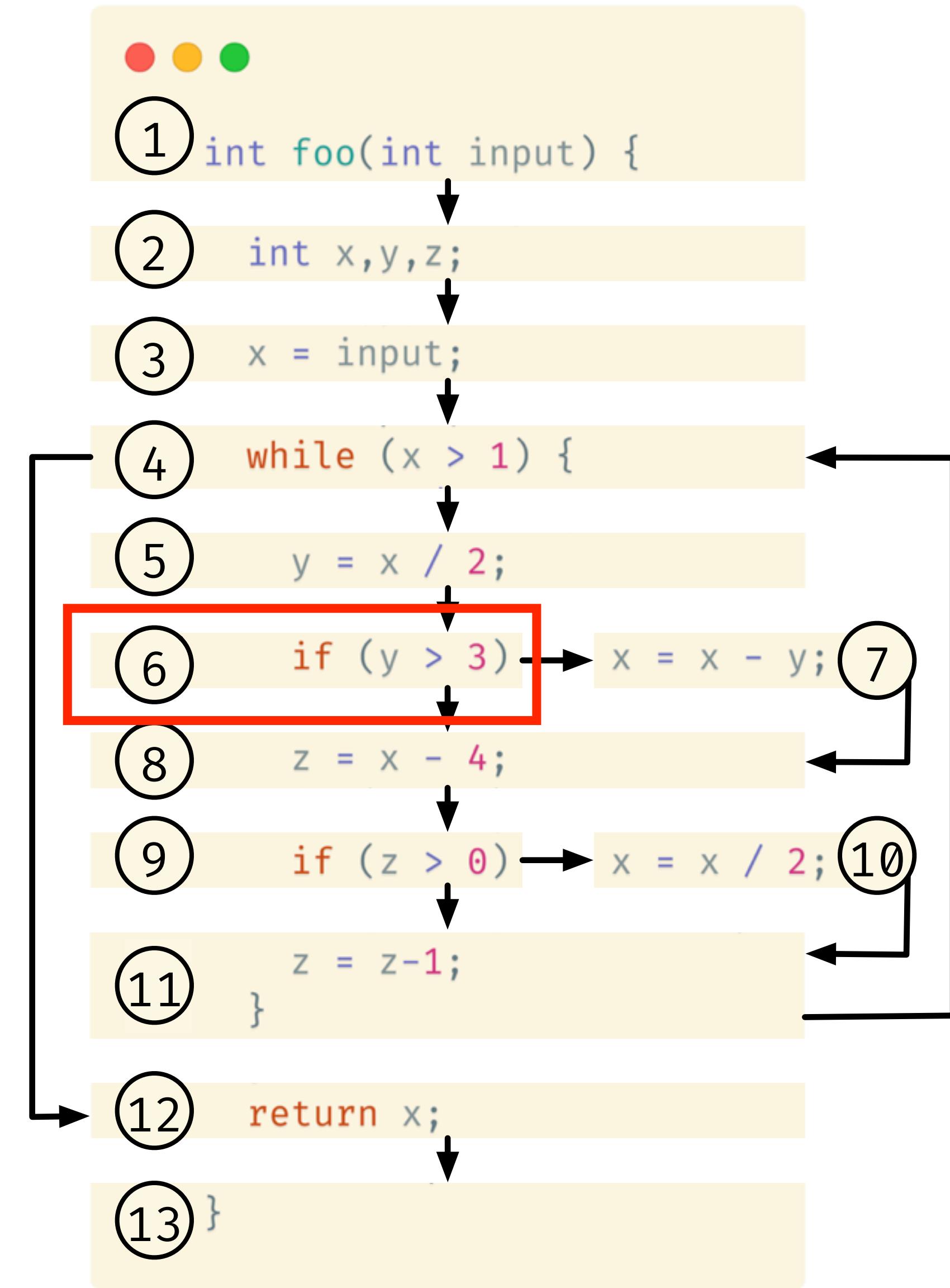


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12	{ x }	{ }	{ }	{ x }
11	{ z }	{ z }	{ }	{ z }
10	{ x }	{ x }	{ z }	{ x, z }
9	{ z }	{ }	{ x, z }	{ x, z }
8	{ x }	{ z }	{ x, z }	{ x }
7	{ x, y }	{ x }	{ x }	{ x, y }
6	{ y }	{ }	{ x, y }	{ x, y }
5	{ x }	{ y }	{ }	{ }
4	{ x }	{ }	{ }	{ }
3	{ }	{ x }	{ }	{ }
2	{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }
1	{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }

$$\text{candidates}[n] = \bigcup_{s \in \text{succ}(n)} \text{live}[s];$$

$$\text{live}[n] = \text{use}_{\text{var}}(n) \cup (\text{candidates}[n] - \text{def}_{\text{var}}(n));$$

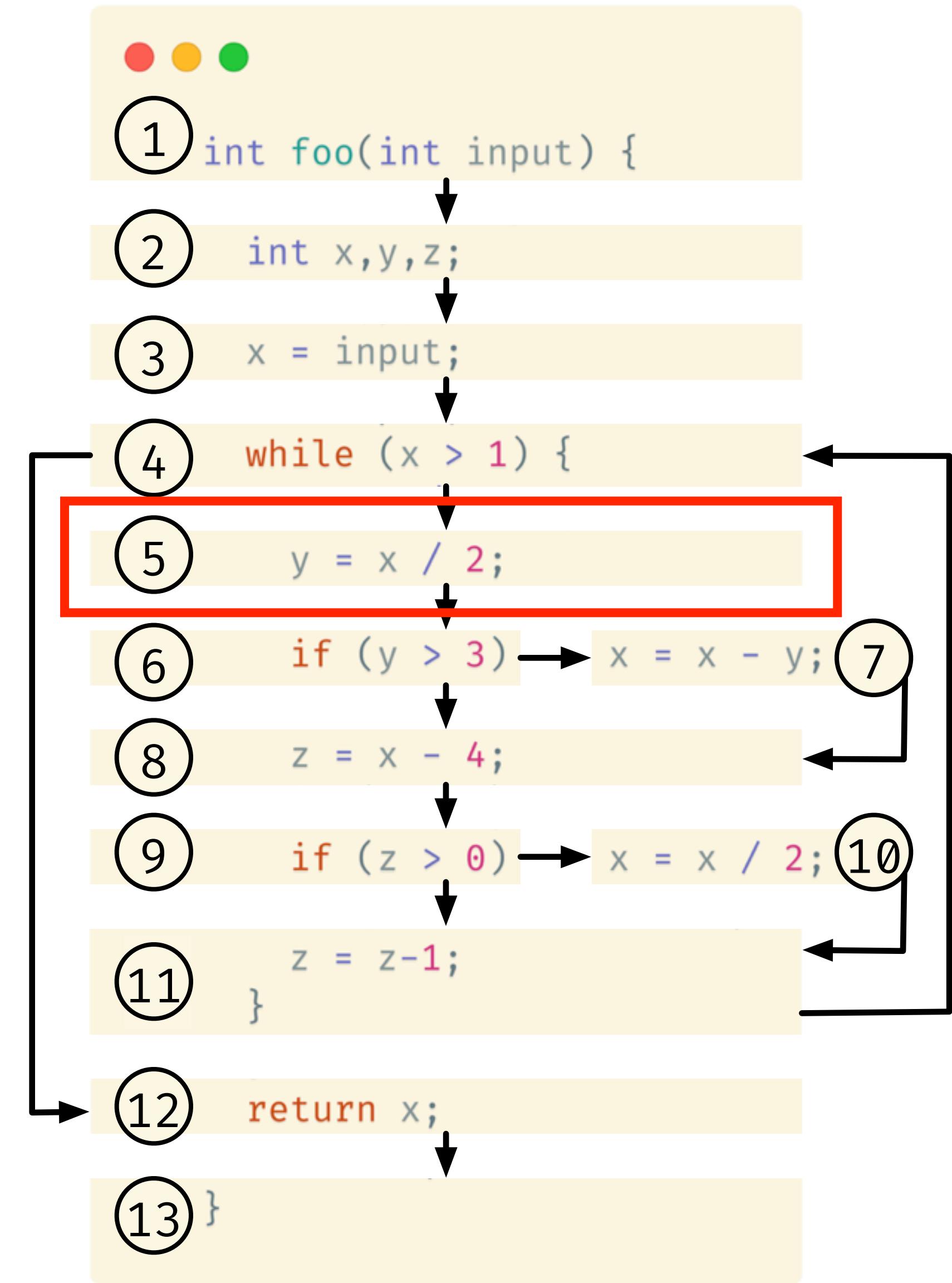


# Liveness Analysis Example

		1st		
Node n	use <sub>var</sub> (n)	def <sub>var</sub> (n)	candidate[n]	live[n]
13	{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }
12	{ x }	{ }	{ }	{ <u>x</u> }
11	{ z }	{ z }	{ }	{ <u>z</u> }
10	{ x }	{ x }	{ z }	{ <u>x</u> , <u>z</u> }
9	{ z }	{ }	{ x, z }	{ <u>x</u> , <u>z</u> }
8	{ x }	{ z }	{ x, z }	{ <u>x</u> }
7	{ x, y }	{ x }	{ x }	{ <u>x</u> , <u>y</u> }
6	{ y }	{ }	{ x, y }	{ <u>x</u> , <u>y</u> }
5	{ x }	{ y }	{ <u>x</u> , <u>y</u> }	{ <u>x</u> }
4	{ x }	{ }	{ }	{ }
3	{ }	{ x }	{ }	{ }
2	{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }
1	{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }

$$\text{candidates}[n] = \bigcup_{s \in \text{succ}(n)} \text{live}[s];$$

$$\text{live}[n] = \text{use}_{\text{var}}(n) \cup (\text{candidates}[n] - \text{def}_{\text{var}}(n));$$

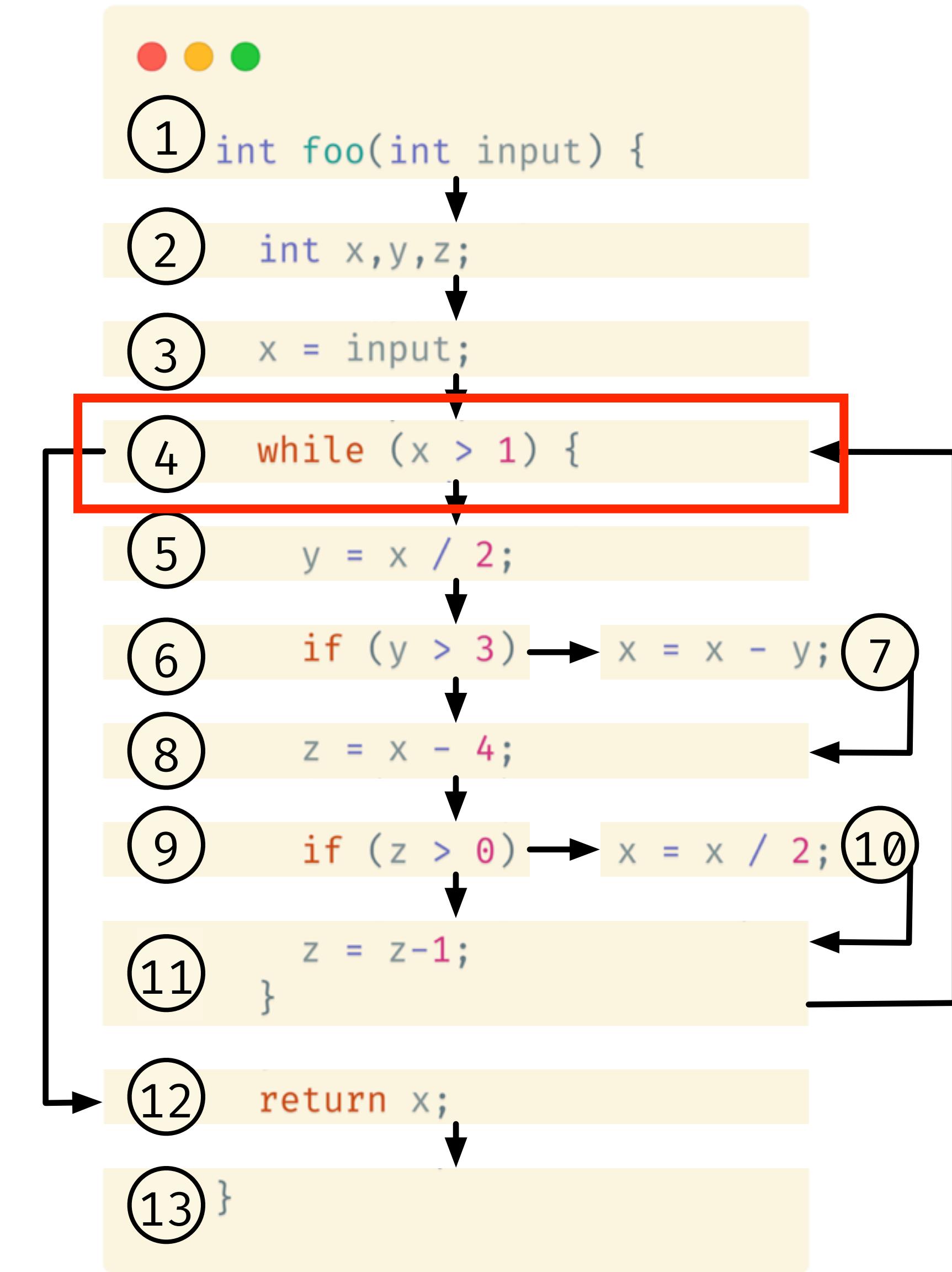


# Liveness Analysis Example

		1st		
Node n	use <sub>var</sub> (n)	def <sub>var</sub> (n)	candidate[n]	live[n]
13	{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }
12	{ x }	{ }	{ }	{ x }
11	{ z }	{ z }	{ }	{ z }
10	{ x }	{ x }	{ z }	{ x, z }
9	{ z }	{ }	{ x, z }	{ x, z }
8	{ x }	{ z }	{ x, z }	{ x }
7	{ x, y }	{ x }	{ x }	{ x, y }
6	{ y }	{ }	{ x, y }	{ x, y }
5	{ x }	{ y }	{ x, y }	{ x }
4	{ x }	{ }	{ x }	{ x }
3	{ }	{ x }	{ }	{ }
2	{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }
1	{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }

$$\text{candidates}[n] = \bigcup_{s \in \text{succ}(n)} \text{live}[s];$$

$$\text{live}[n] = \text{use}_{\text{var}}(n) \cup (\text{candidates}[n] - \text{def}_{\text{var}}(n));$$

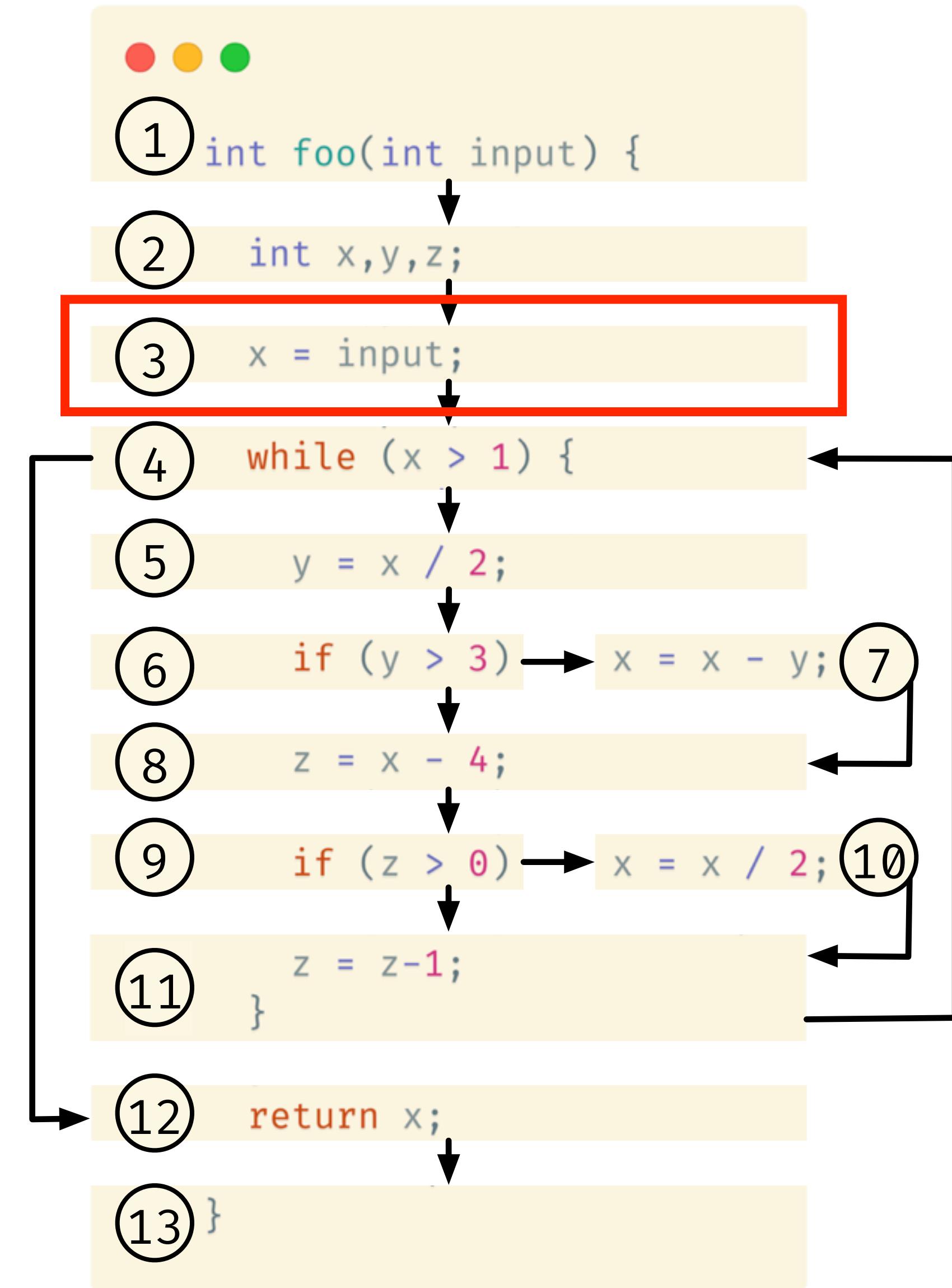


# Liveness Analysis Example

		1st		
Node n	use <sub>var</sub> (n)	def <sub>var</sub> (n)	candidate[n]	live[n]
13	{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }
12	{ x }	{ }	{ }	{ x }
11	{ z }	{ z }	{ }	{ z }
10	{ x }	{ x }	{ z }	{ x, z }
9	{ z }	{ }	{ x, z }	{ x, z }
8	{ x }	{ z }	{ x, z }	{ x }
7	{ x, y }	{ x }	{ x }	{ x, y }
6	{ y }	{ }	{ x, y }	{ x, y }
5	{ x }	{ y }	{ x, y }	{ x }
4	{ x }	{ }	{ x }	{ x }
3	{ }	{ x }	{ x }	{ }
2	{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }
1	{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }

$$\text{candidates}[n] = \bigcup_{s \in \text{succ}(n)} \text{live}[s];$$

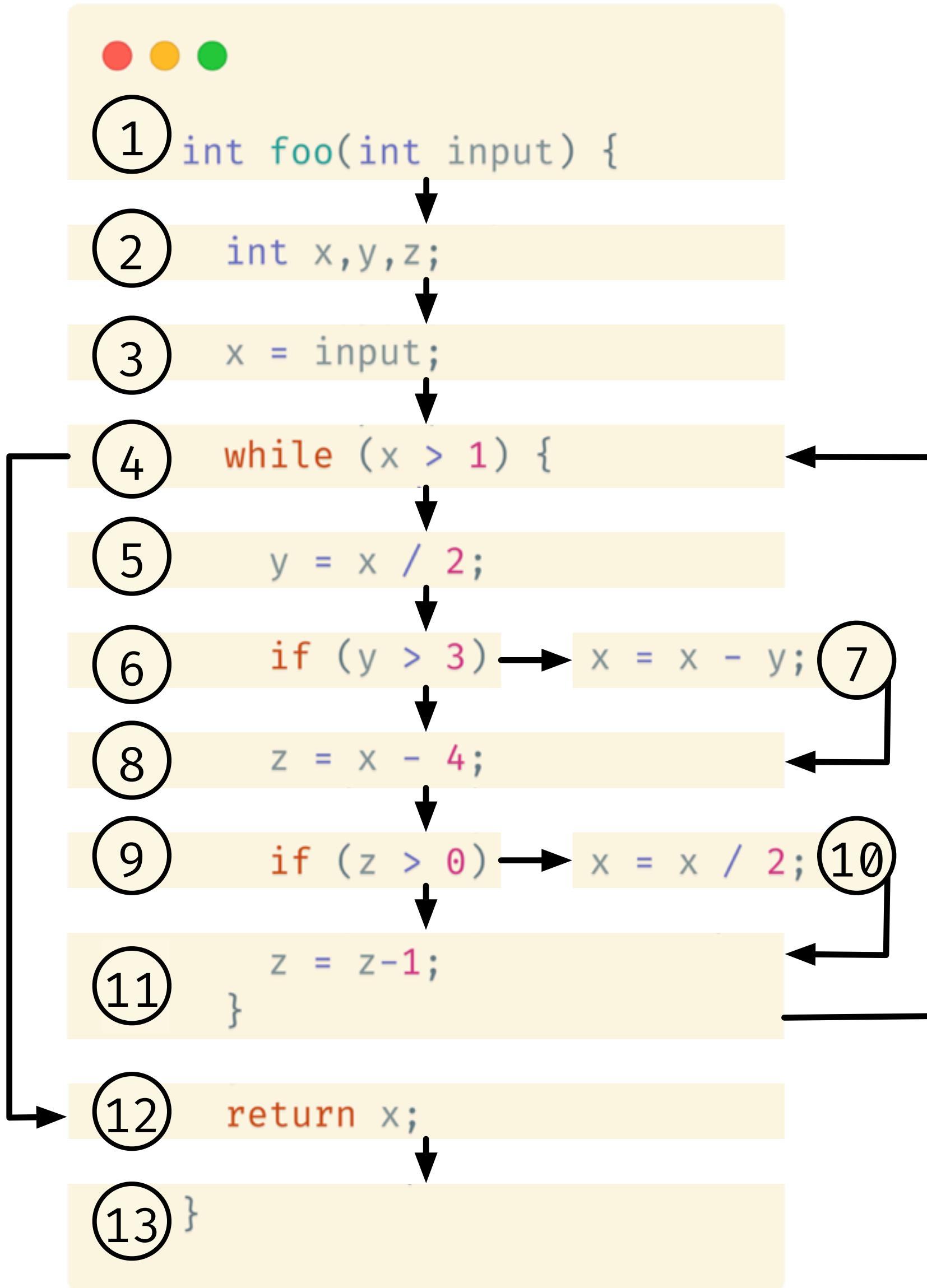
$$\text{live}[n] = \text{use}_{\text{var}}(n) \cup (\text{candidates}[n] - \text{def}_{\text{var}}(n));$$



# Liveness Analysis Example

		1st		
Node n	use <sub>var</sub> (n)	def <sub>var</sub> (n)	candidate[n]	live[n]
13	{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }
12	{ x }	{ }	{ }	{ <u>x</u> }
11	{ z }	{ z }	{ }	{ <u>z</u> }
10	{ x }	{ x }	{ z }	{ <u>x</u> , <u>z</u> }
9	{ z }	{ }	{ x, z }	{ <u>x</u> , <u>z</u> }
8	{ x }	{ z }	{ x, z }	{ <u>x</u> }
7	{ x, y }	{ x }	{ x }	{ <u>x</u> , <u>y</u> }
6	{ y }	{ }	{ x, y }	{ <u>x</u> , <u>y</u> }
5	{ x }	{ y }	{ x, y }	{ <u>x</u> }
4	{ x }	{ }	{ x }	{ <u>x</u> }
3	{ }	{ x }	{ x }	{ }
2	{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }
1	{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }

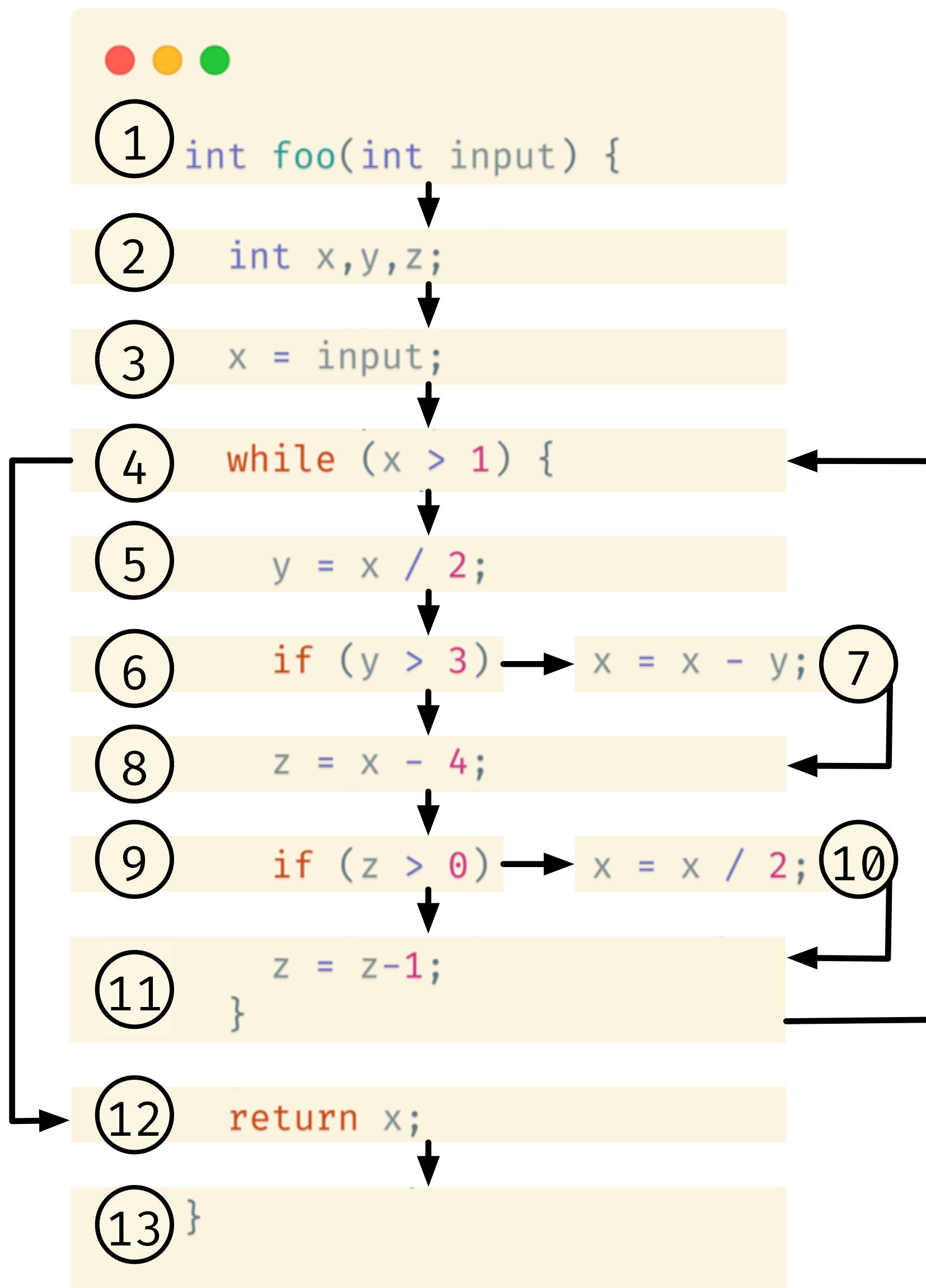
Completed first iteration



# Liveness Analysis Example

Node n	1st		2nd			
	use <sub>var</sub> (n)	def <sub>var</sub> (n)	candidate[n]	live[n]	candidate[n]	live[n]
13	{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }
12	{ x }	{ }	{ }	{ x }	{ }	{ x }
11	{ z }	{ z }	{ }	{ z }	{ x }	{ x, z }
10	{ x }	{ x }	{ z }	{ x, z }	{ x, z }	{ x, z }
9	{ z }	{ }	{ x, z }	{ x, z }	{ x, z }	{ x, z }
8	{ x }	{ z }	{ x, z }	{ x }	{ x, z }	{ x }
7	{ x, y }	{ x }	{ x }	{ x, y }	{ x }	{ x, y }
6	{ y }	{ }	{ x, y }	{ x, y }	{ x, y }	{ x, y }
5	{ x }	{ y }	{ x, y }	{ x }	{ x, y }	{ x }
4	{ x }	{ }	{ x }	{ x }	{ x }	{ x }
3	{ }	{ x }	{ x }	{ }	{ x }	{ }
2	{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }
1	{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }

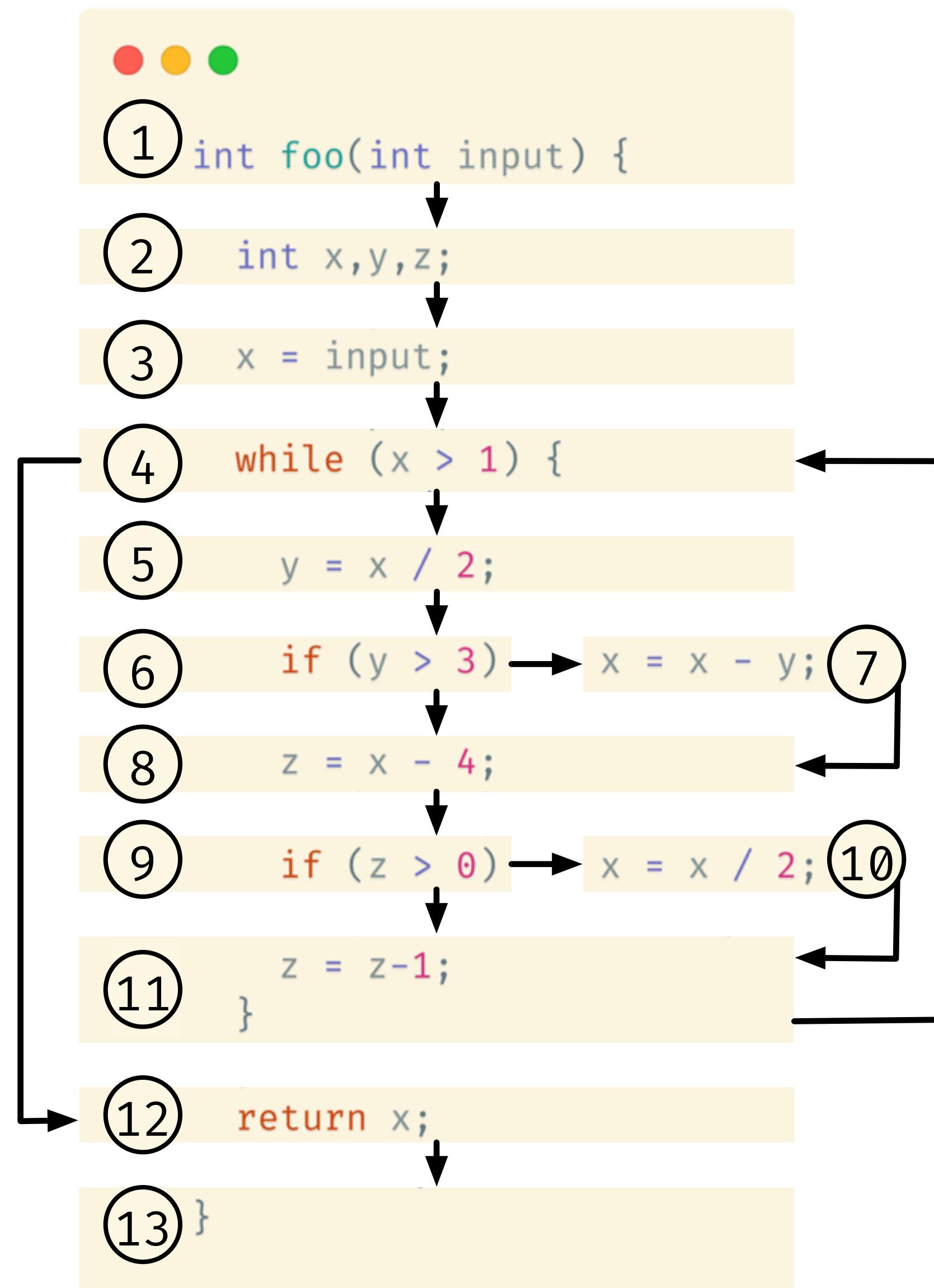
Completed second iteration



# Liveness Analysis Example

Node n	use <sub>var</sub> (n)		def <sub>var</sub> (n)		candidate[n]		live[n]		candidate[n]		live[n]		candidate[n]		live[n]	
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	
13	{ }	{ }			{ }	{ }			{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }				
12	{ x }	{ }			{ }	{ x }			{ }	{ x }	{ }	{ x }				
11	{ z }	{ z }			{ }	{ z }			{ x }	{ x, z }	{ x }	{ x, z }				
10	{ x }	{ x }			{ z }	{ x, z }			{ x, z }	{ x, z }	{ x, z }	{ x, z }				
9	{ z }	{ }			{ x, z }	{ x, z }			{ x, z }	{ x, z }	{ x, z }	{ x, z }				
8	{ x }	{ z }			{ x, z }	{ x }			{ x, z }	{ x }	{ x, z }	{ x }				
7	{ x, y }	{ x }			{ x }	{ x, y }			{ x }	{ x, y }	{ x }	{ x, y }				
6	{ y }	{ }			{ x, y }	{ x, y }			{ x, y }	{ x, y }	{ x, y }	{ x, y }				
5	{ x }	{ y }			{ x, y }	{ x }			{ x, y }	{ x }	{ x, y }	{ x }				
4	{ x }	{ }			{ x }	{ x }			{ x }	{ x }	{ x }	{ x }				
3	{ }	{ x }			{ x }	{ }			{ x }	{ }	{ x }	{ }				
2	{ }	{ }			{ }	{ }			{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }				
1	{ }	{ }			{ }	{ }			{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }				

No changes: fixpoint reached

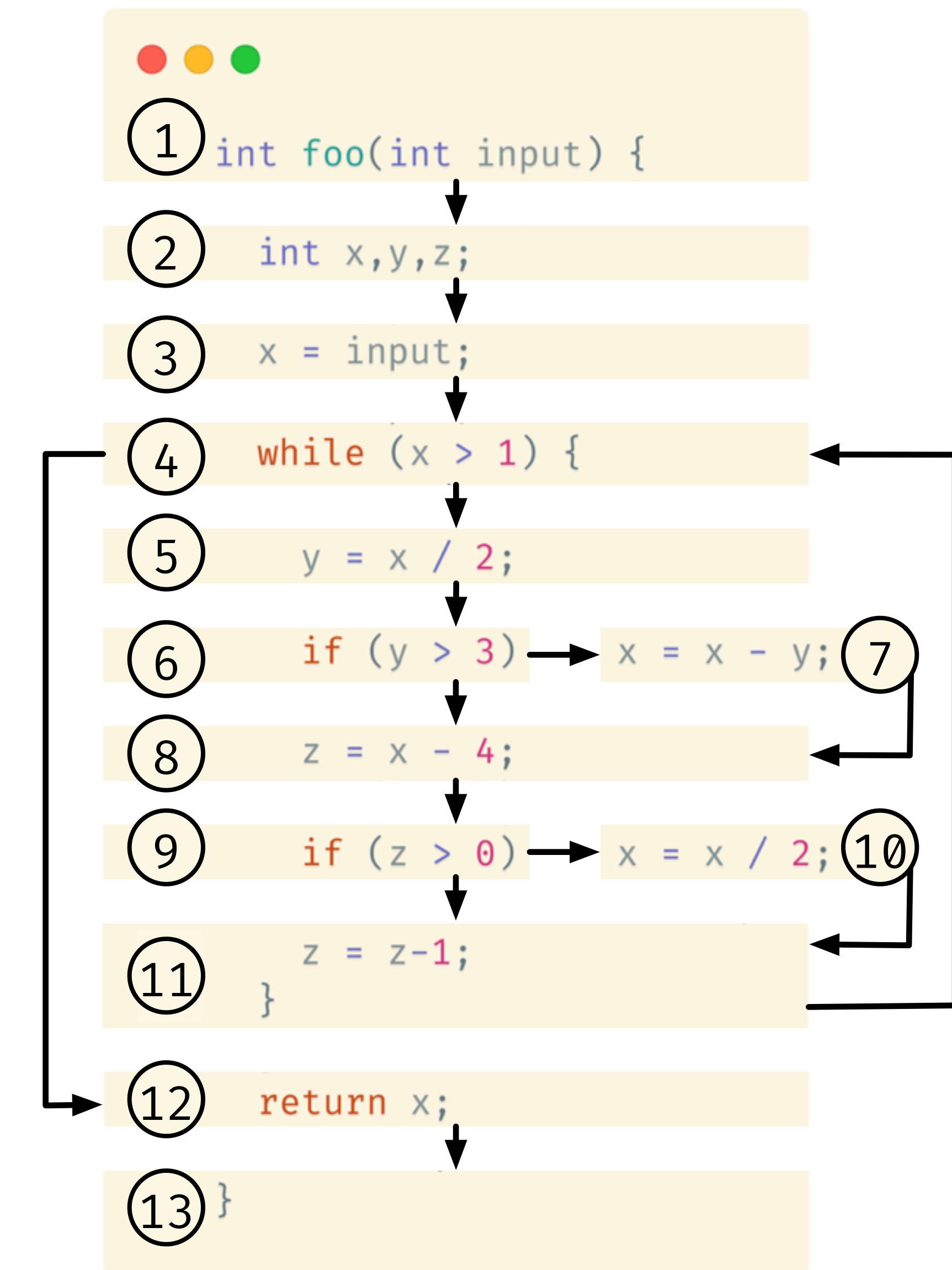


# Liveness Analysis Example

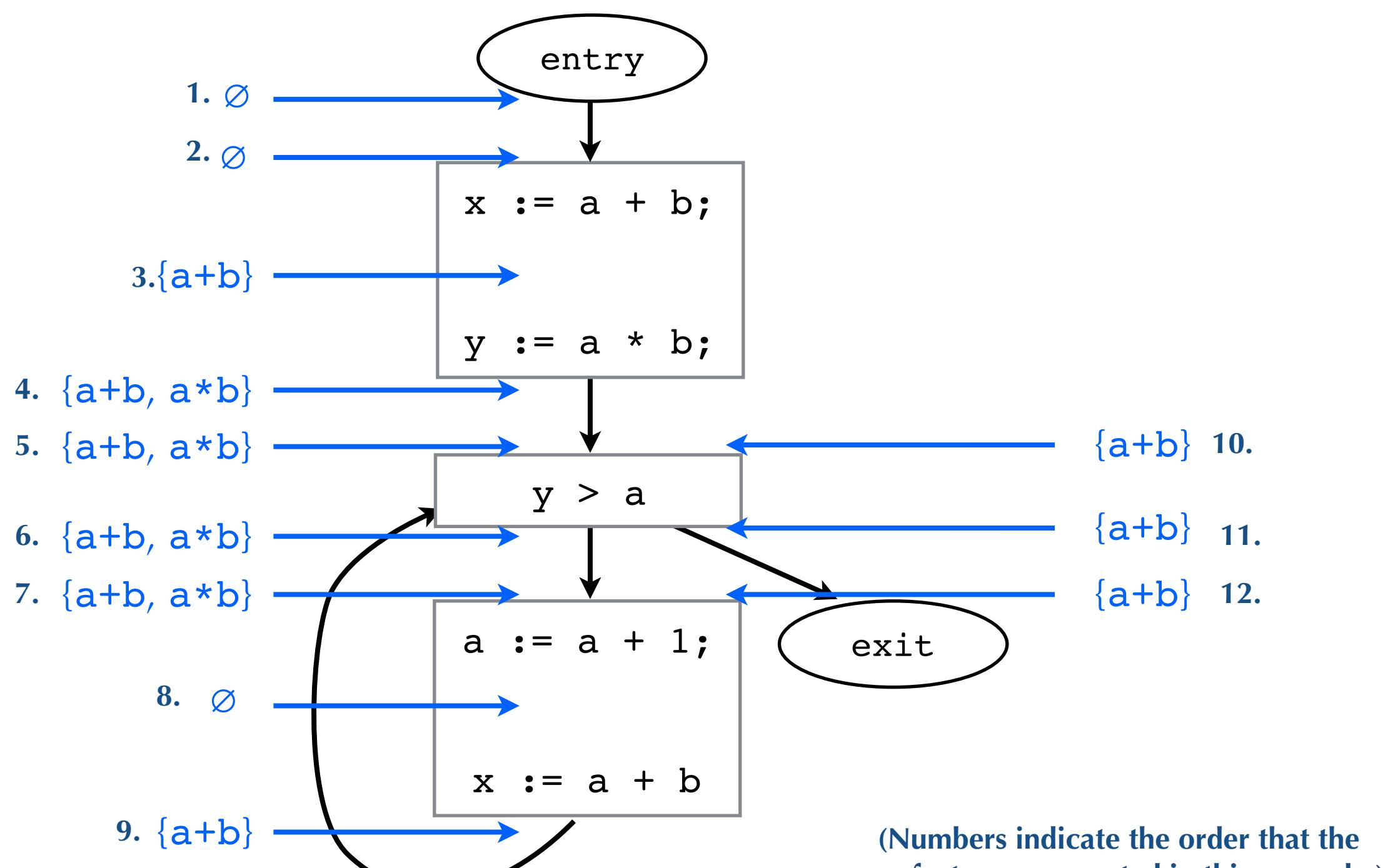
Node n	use <sub>var</sub> (n)		def <sub>var</sub> (n)		candidate[n]		live[n]		candidate[n]		live[n]		candidate[n]		live[n]	
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	
13	{ }	{ }			{ }	{ }			{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }				
12	{ x }	{ }			{ }	{ x }			{ }	{ x }	{ }	{ x }				
11	{ z }	{ z }			{ }	{ z }			{ x }	{ x, z }	{ x }	{ x, z }				
10	{ x }	{ x }			{ z }	{ x, z }			{ x, z }	{ x, z }	{ x, z }	{ x, z }				
9	{ z }	{ }			{ x, z }	{ x, z }			{ x, z }	{ x, z }	{ x, z }	{ x, z }				
8	{ x }	{ z }			{ x, z }	{ x }			{ x, z }	{ x }	{ x, z }	{ x }				
7	{ x, y }	{ x }			{ x }	{ x, y }			{ x }	{ x, y }	{ x }	{ x, y }				
6	{ y }	{ }			{ x, y }	{ x, y }			{ x, y }	{ x, y }	{ x, y }	{ x, y }				
5	{ x }	{ y }			{ x, y }	{ x }			{ x, y }	{ x }	{ x, y }	{ x }				
4	{ x }	{ }			{ x }	{ x }			{ x }	{ x }	{ x }	{ x }				
3	{ }	{ x }			{ x }	{ }			{ x }	{ }	{ x }	{ }				
2	{ }	{ }			{ }	{ }			{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }				
1	{ }	{ }			{ }	{ }			{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }				

y and z  
are never  
live together

No changes: fixpoint reached



# Available Expressions



<b>Stmt</b>	<b>Gen</b>	<b>Kill</b>
$x := a + b$	$\{a+b\}$	
$y := a * b$	$\{a * b\}$	
$y > a$		
$a := a + 1$	$\{a+1\}$	$\{a+1, a+b, a * b\}$

add to set of available expressions      remove from set of available expressions

<b>Stmt</b>	<b>Gen</b>	<b>Kill</b>
$x := v$	$\{v\}$	$\{e \mid x \text{ in } e\}$

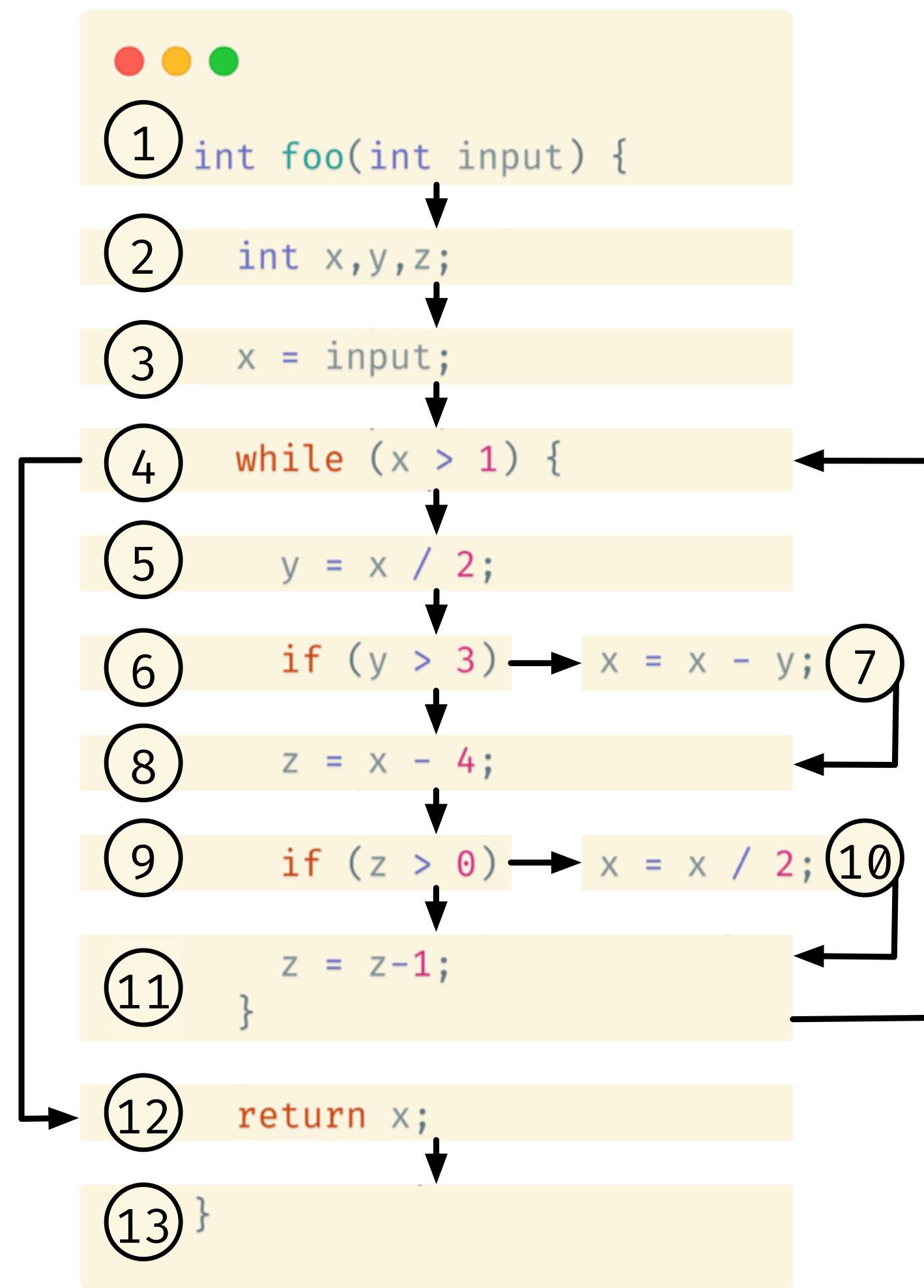
# What is SSA and how does it help Data-flow analysis?

- Single Static Assignment (SSA) enforces two important properties on the IR:
  - variables are assigned exactly once
  - every variable is defined before it is used (the definition dominates all uses)
- This simplifies data-flow analysis!

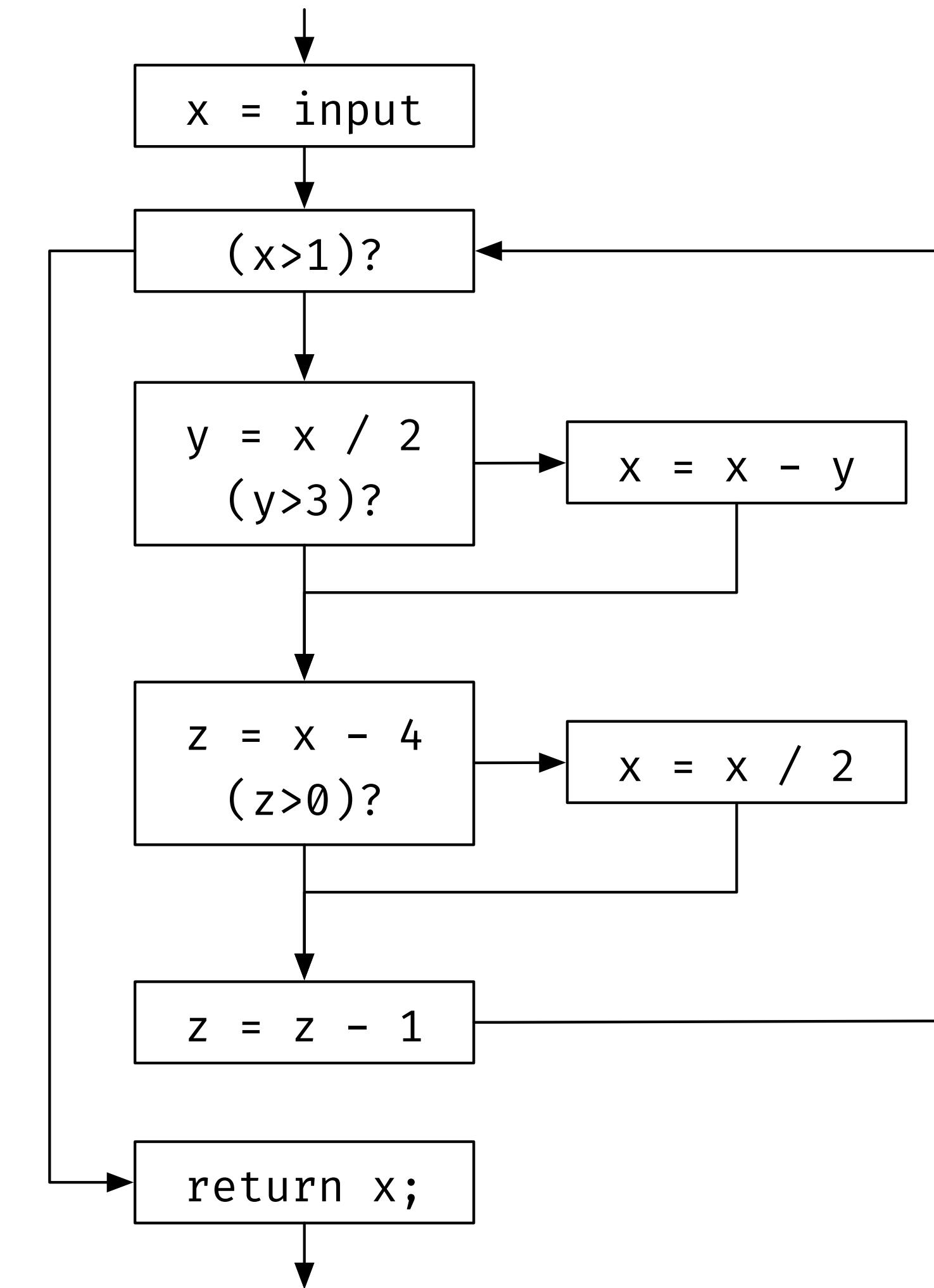
Stmt	Gen	Kill
x := v	{v}	

Kill set not longer required!

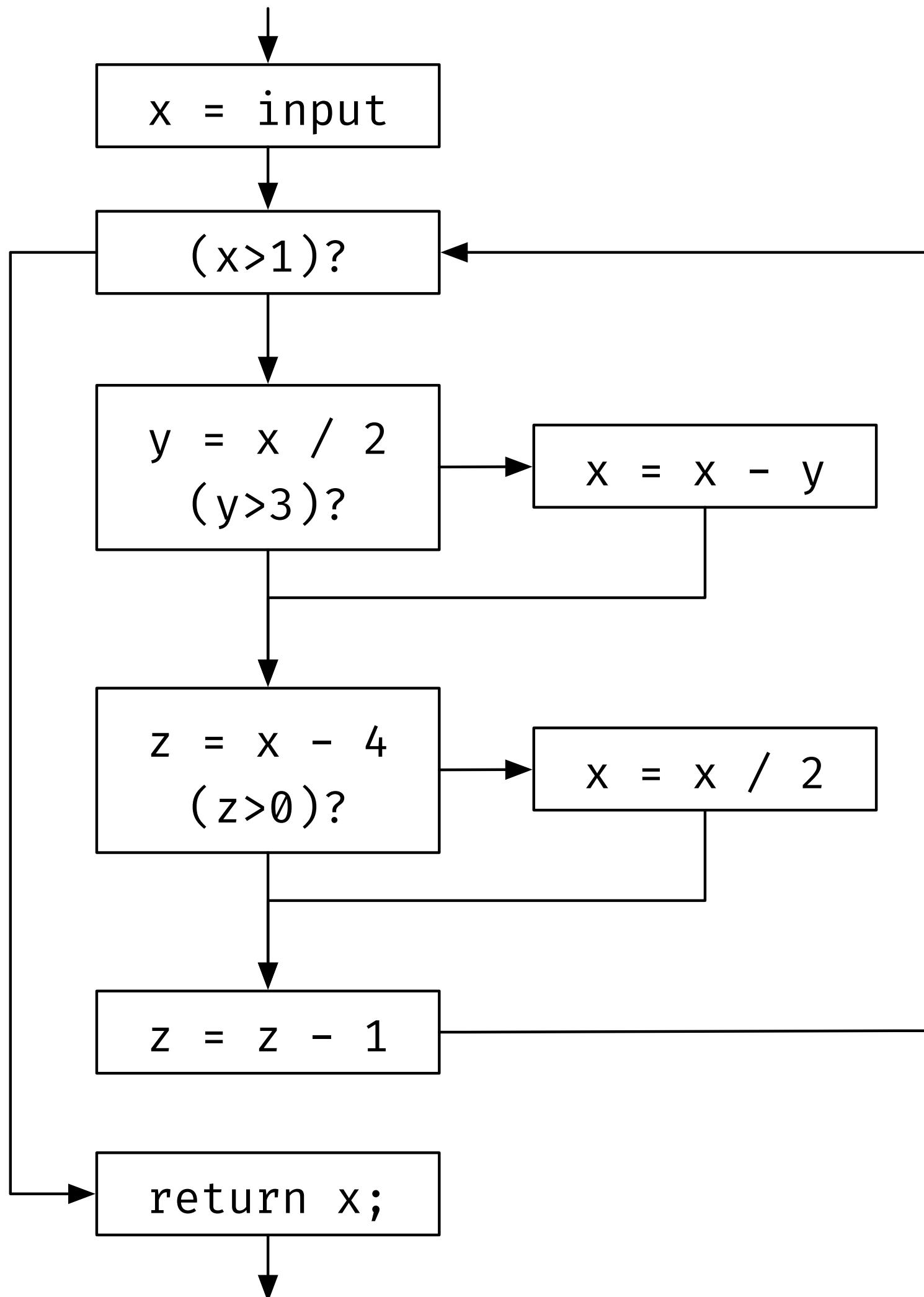
# Constructing SSA



Lower control  
flow to branches

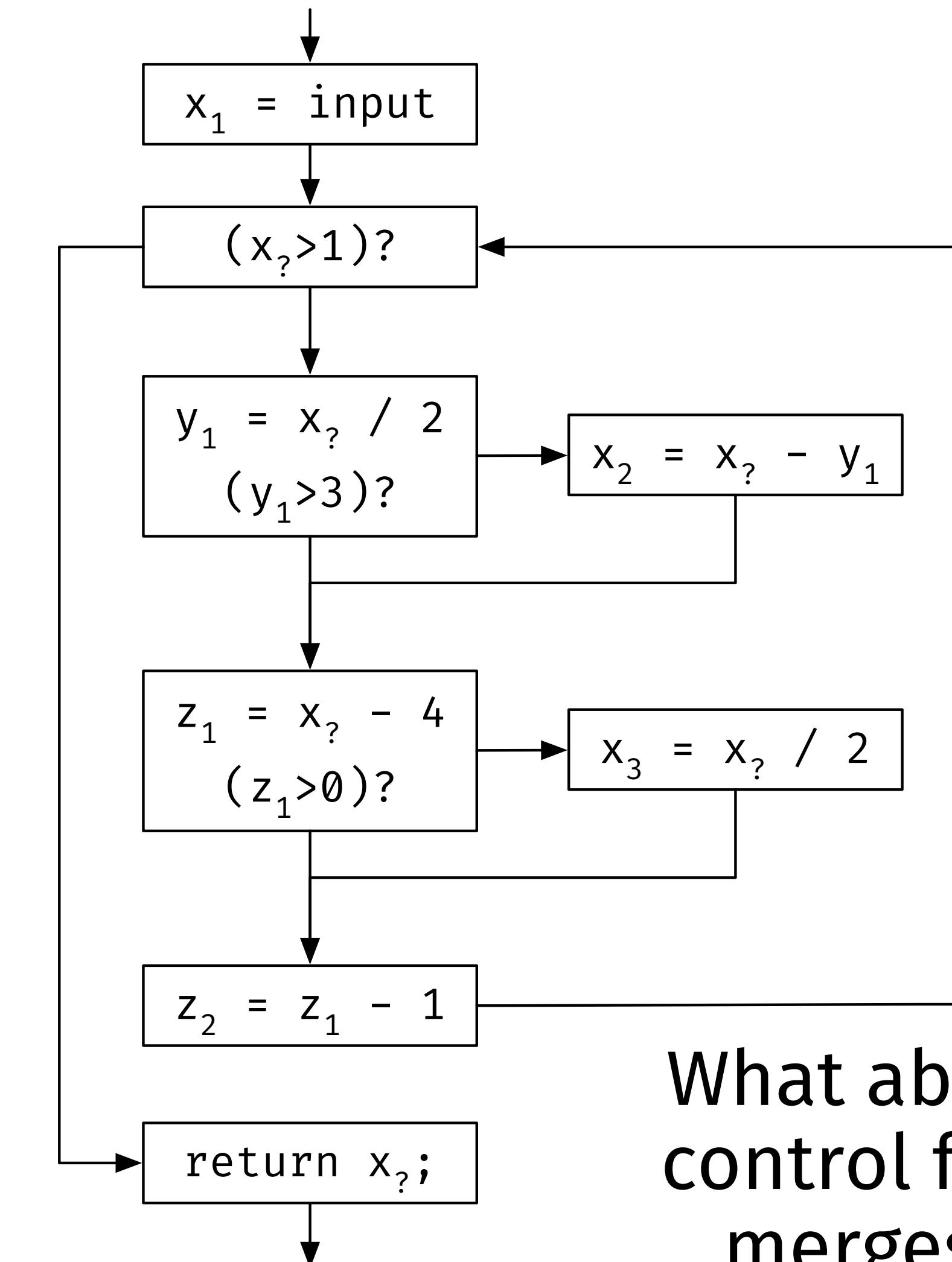


# Constructing SSA



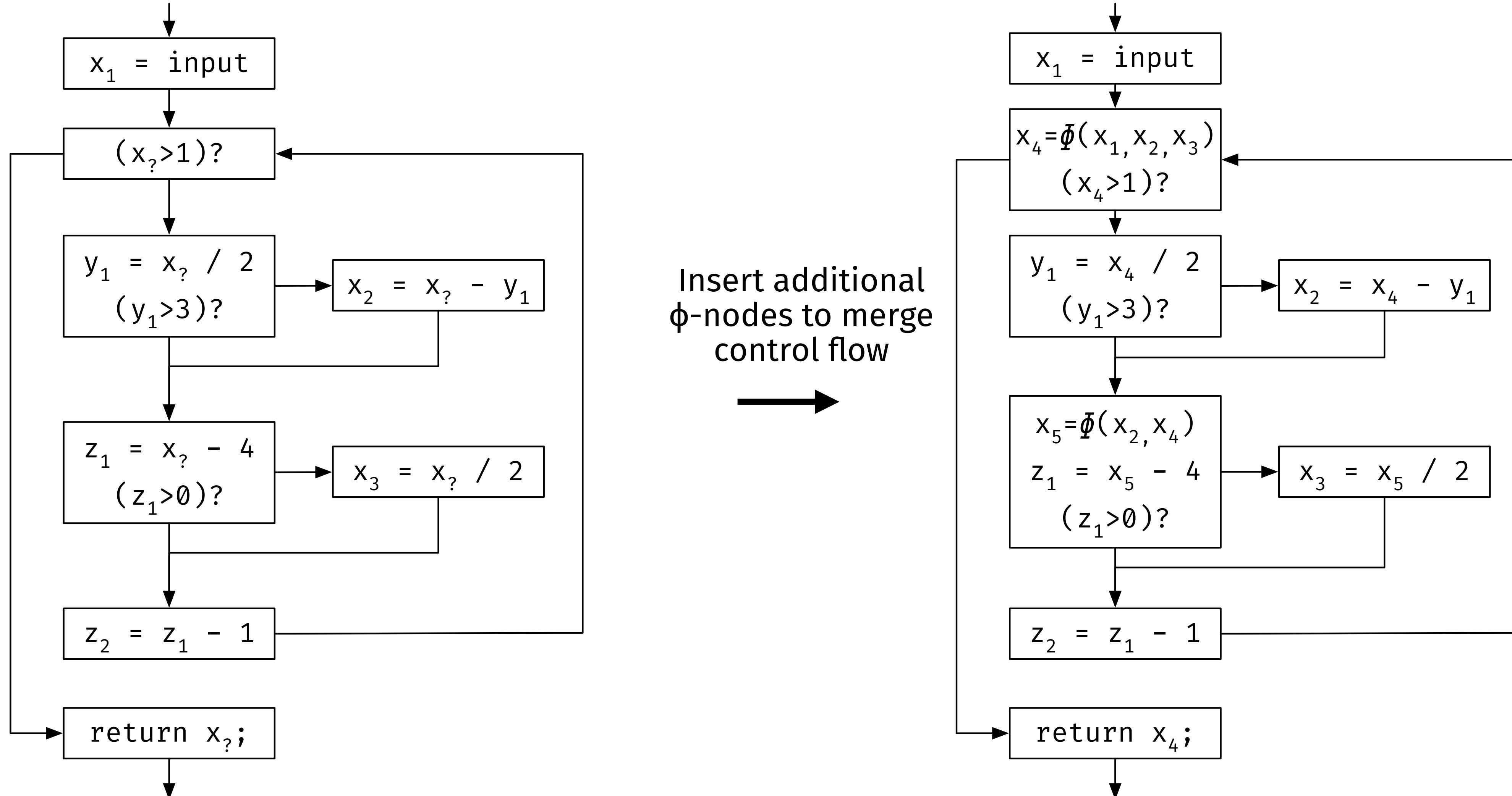
Each definition  
gets a fresh name

Propagate  
fresh name  
to uses



What about  
control flow  
merges?

# Constructing SSA



# Constant Folding is super easy in SSA

- For any statement  $x=c$  replace use of  $x$  with  $c$
- Replace  $x=\Phi(c, \dots, c)$  with  $x=c$

```
W = list of all SSA statements  
  
while (!W.isEmpty):  
    S = W.head  
    W = W.tail  
    if (S == `x=\Phi(c, ..., c)`):  
        S.replace(`x=c`)  
    if (S == `x=c`):  
        S.delete  
    foreach T in use(x):  
        replace c for x in T  
    W.add(T)
```

# LLVM IR - Textual representation



```
1 int foo(int input) {
2     int x,y,z;
3     x = input;
4     while (x > 1) {
5         y = x / 2;
6         if (y > 3) x = x - y;
7         z = x - 4;
8         if (z > 0) x = x / 2;
9         z = z-1;
10    }
11    return x;
12 }
```

```
; ModuleID = 'foo.c'
source_filename = "foo.c"
target datalayout = "e-m:o-p270:32:32-p271:32:32-p272:64:64-i64:64-f80:128-n8:16:32:64
target triple = "x86_64-apple-macosx10.15.0"

; Function Attrs: noinline nounwind optnone ssp uwtable
define i32 @foo(i32 %0) #0 {
    %2 = alloca i32, align 4
    %3 = alloca i32, align 4
    %4 = alloca i32, align 4
    %5 = alloca i32, align 4
    store i32 %0, i32* %2, align 4
    %6 = load i32, i32* %2, align 4
    store i32 %6, i32* %3, align 4
    br label %7

7:                                              ; preds = %27, %1
    %8 = load i32, i32* %3, align 4
    %9 = icmp sgt i32 %8, 1
    br i1 %9, label %10, label %30

10:                                             ; preds = %7
    %11 = load i32, i32* %3, align 4
    %12 = sdiv i32 %11, 2
    store i32 %12, i32* %4, align 4
    %13 = load i32, i32* %4, align 4
    %14 = icmp sgt i32 %13, 3
    br i1 %14, label %15, label %19

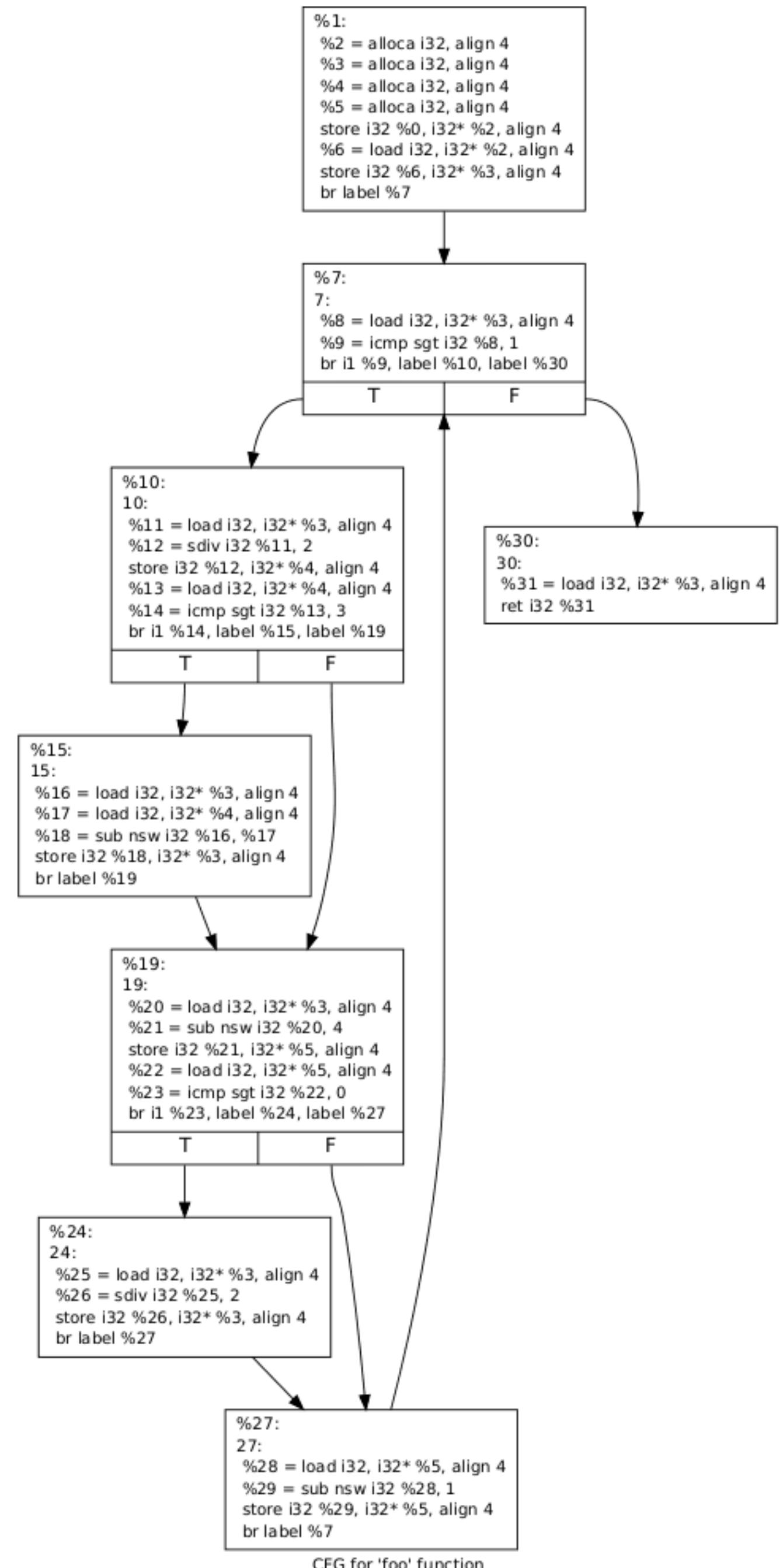
15:                                             ; preds = %10
    %16 = load i32, i32* %3, align 4
    %17 = load i32, i32* %4, align 4
    %18 = sub nsw i32 %16, %17
```

# LLVM IR - Control Flow Graphs

- In LLVM's CFG nodes are *basic blocks*: groups of statements with sequential control flow
- You can let LLVM generate CFGs using the dot tool.

```
opt -dot-cfg foo.o
```

```
1 int foo(int input) {
2     int x,y,z;
3     x = input;
4     while (x > 1) {
5         y = x / 2;
6         if (y > 3) x = x - y;
7         z = x - 4;
8         if (z > 0) x = x / 2;
9         z = z-1;
10    }
11    return x;
12 }
```



# LLVM IR - $\phi$ nodes vs. load&store instructions

- load and store instructions model reading and writing from variables which reduces the number of  $\phi$  nodes
- $\phi$  nodes are still used, e.g. for control flow in individual expressions:

```
int l = y || r;
```

results in:

```
%6 = load i32, i32* %4, align 4, !dbg !18  
%7 = icmp ne i32 %6, 0, !dbg !18  
br i1 %7, label %11, label %8, !dbg !19
```

8:

```
%9 = load i32, i32* %3, align 4, !dbg !20  
%10 = icmp ne i32 %9, 0, !dbg !20  
br label %11, !dbg !19
```

11:

```
%12 = phi i1 [ true, %2 ], [ %10, %8 ]  
%13 = zext i1 %12 to i32, !dbg !18  
store i32 %13, i32* %5, align 4, !dbg !17
```

# References

- Prof. Stephen Chong Compiler Course at Harvard <https://www.seas.harvard.edu/courses/cs153/2018fa>
- Michael I. Schwartzbach, Lecture Notes on Static Analysis <https://itu.dk/people;brabrand/UFPE/Data-Flow-Analysis/static.pdf>
- Static Single Assignment Book <http://ssabook.gforge.inria.fr/latest/book.pdf>
- Online Compiler Explorer <https://godbolt.org/>