# Eventually Sound Points-To Analysis with Specifications

Osbert Bastani, Rahul Sharma, Lazaro Clapp, Saswat Anand, and Alex Aiken

#### Android Malware Detection

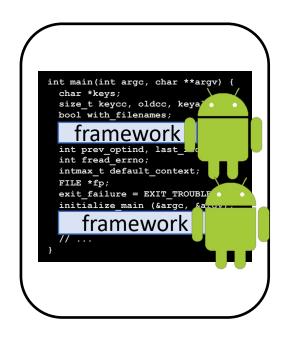
Characterize Android malware using source to sink taint flows

**Information leak:** location flows to Internet

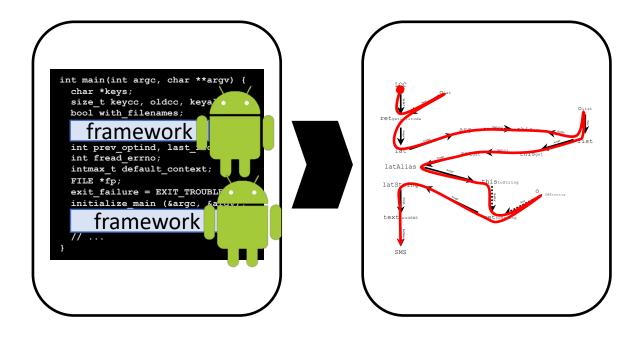
SMS Fraud: phone # used in SMS send

Ransomware: network packets encrypt files

- Use a static taint analysis to find these flows
  - Example of a client for our eventually sound static points-to analysis



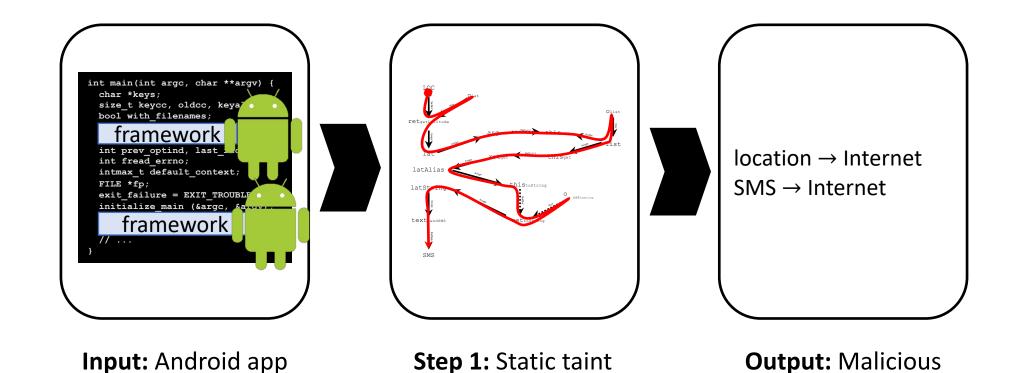
**Input:** Android app and framework



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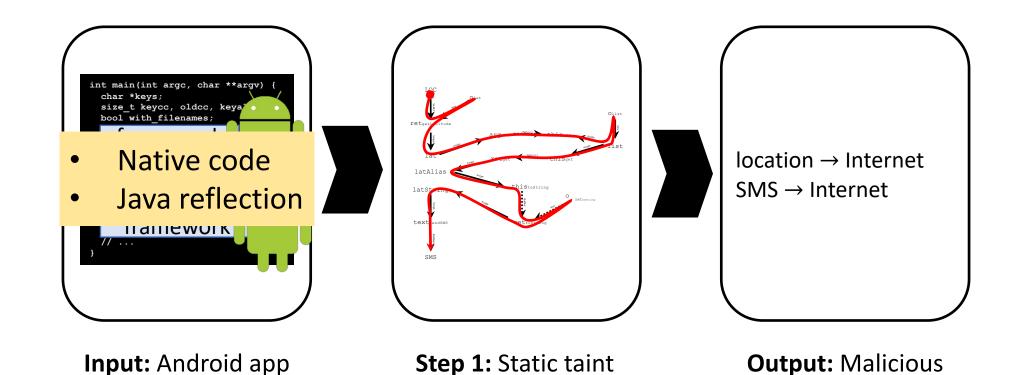
**Step 1:** Static taint analysis

and framework



analysis

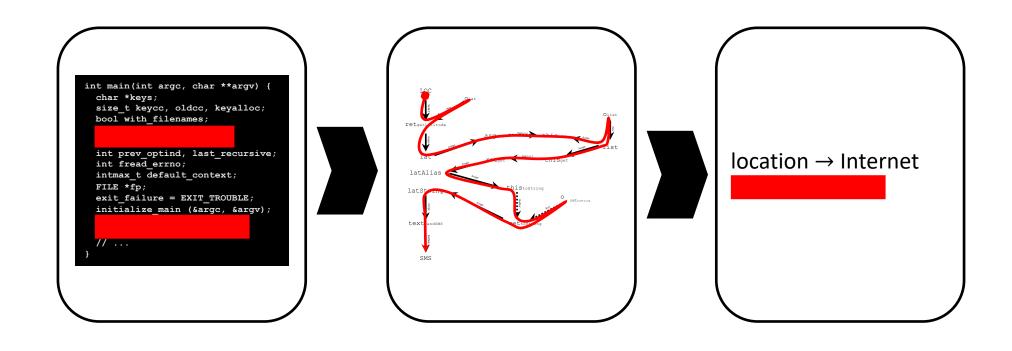
and framework



analysis

**Input:** Android app

and framework



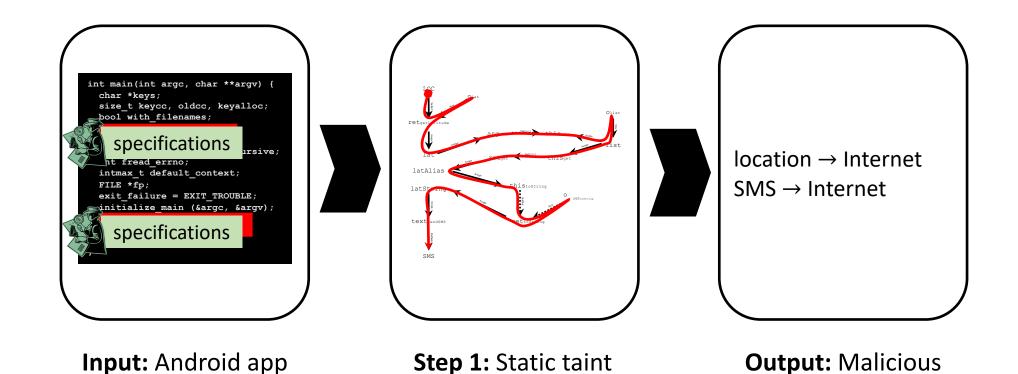
**Step 1:** Static taint

analysis

**Output:** Partial malicious

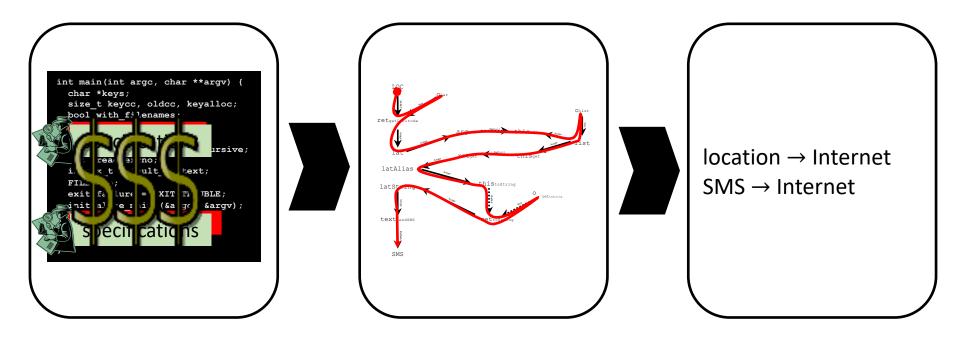
#### Android Framework Specifications

and specifications



analysis

# Android Framework Specifications



**Input:** Android app and specifications

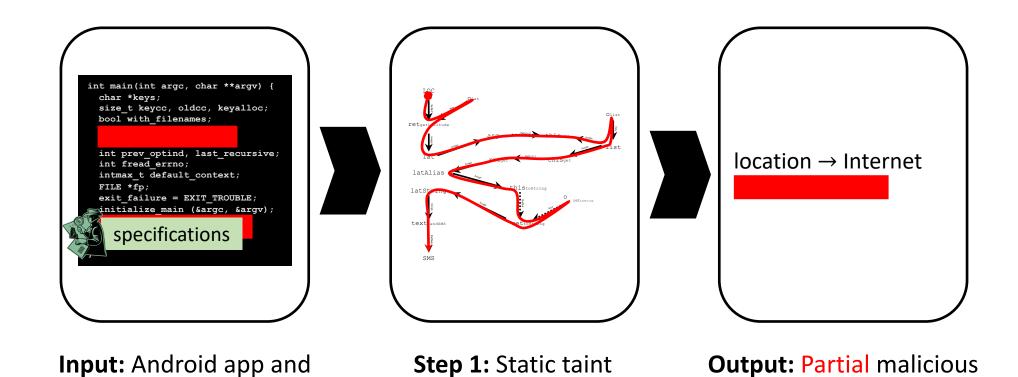
**Step 1:** Static taint analysis

**Output:** Malicious behavior

#### Android Framework Specifications

Input: Android app and

partial specifications



analysis

**Output:** Partial malicious

#### Our Goal

• Ensure soundness despite missing specifications

- Using runtime checks (dynamic soundness)
  - Dynamic policy enforcement (Enck 2010)
  - Debugging (Liblit 2005, Jin 2012)
  - ...

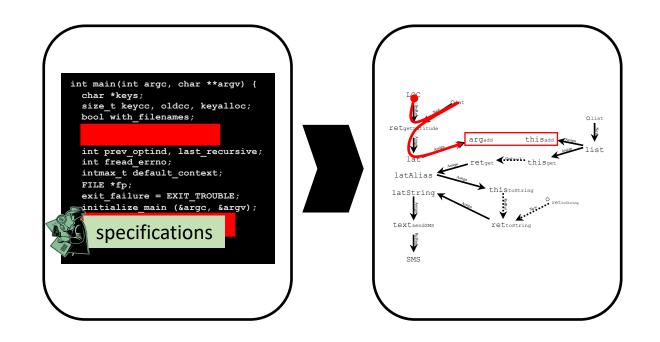
Improve soundness of static analysis over time

```
int main(int argc, char **argv) {
   char *keys;
   size_t keycc, oldcc, keyalloc;
   bool with_filenames;

int prev_optind, last_recursive;
   int fread_errno;
   intmax_t default_context;
   FILE *fp;
   exit_failure = EXIT_TROUBLE;
   initialize_main (&argc, &argv);

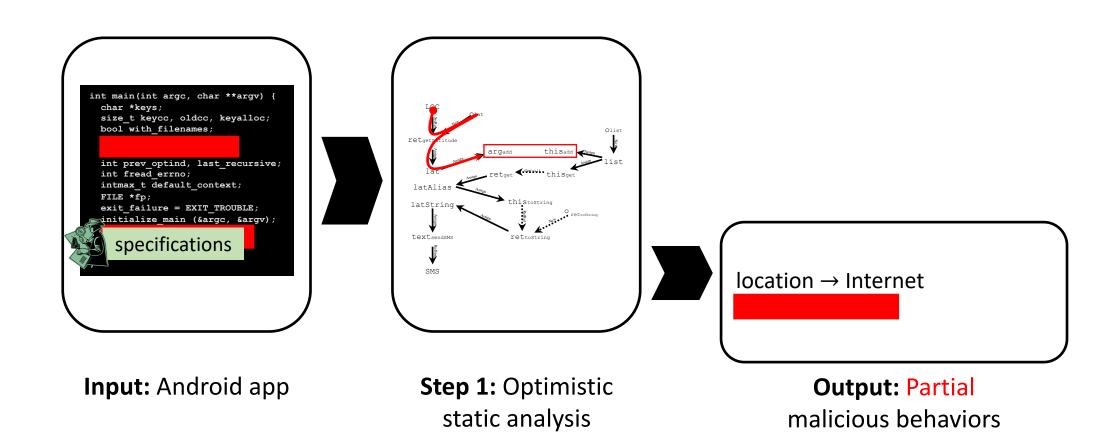
   Specifications
```

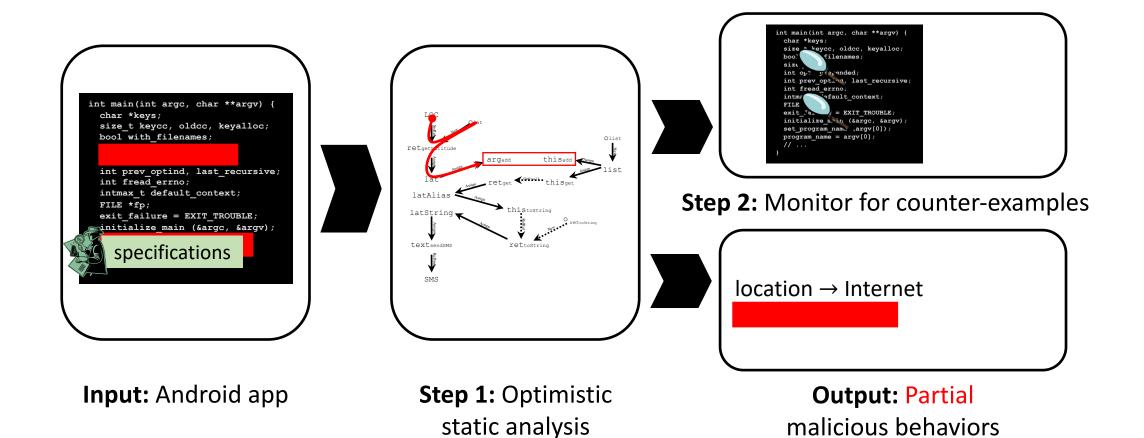
**Input:** Android app

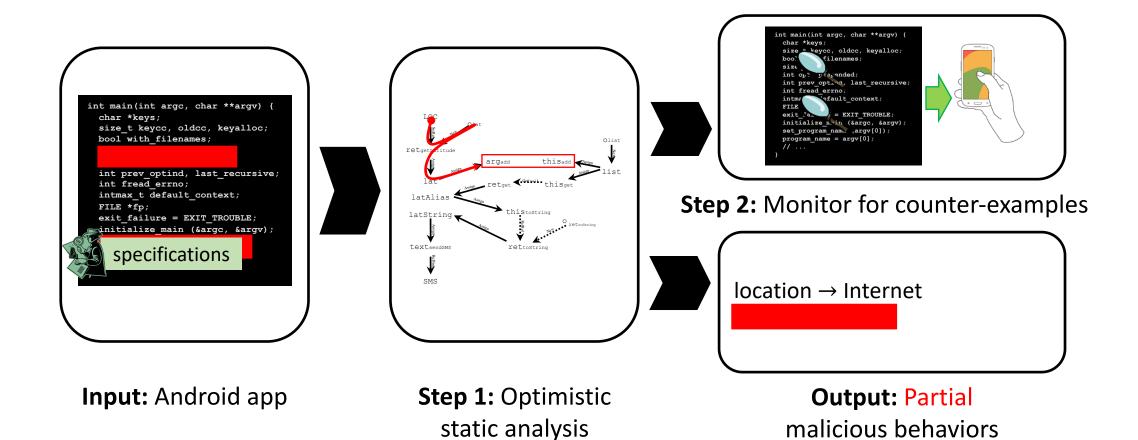


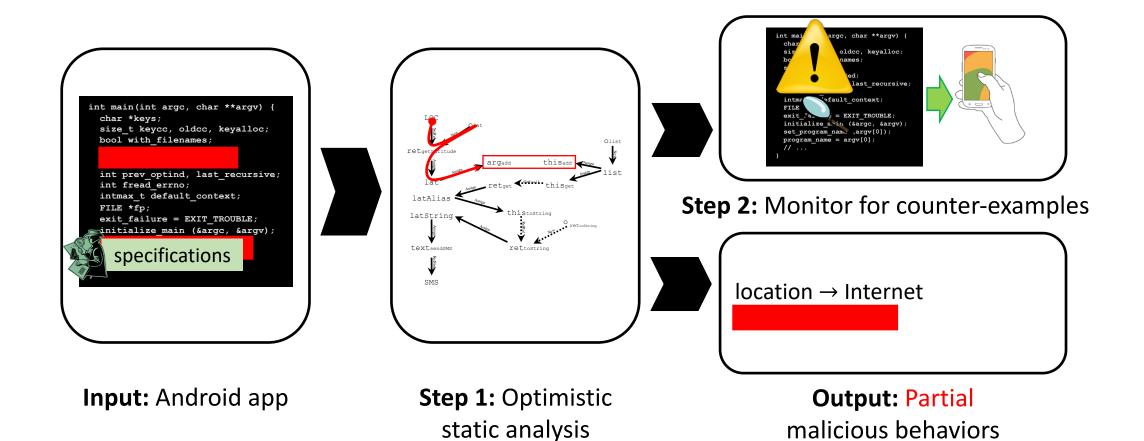
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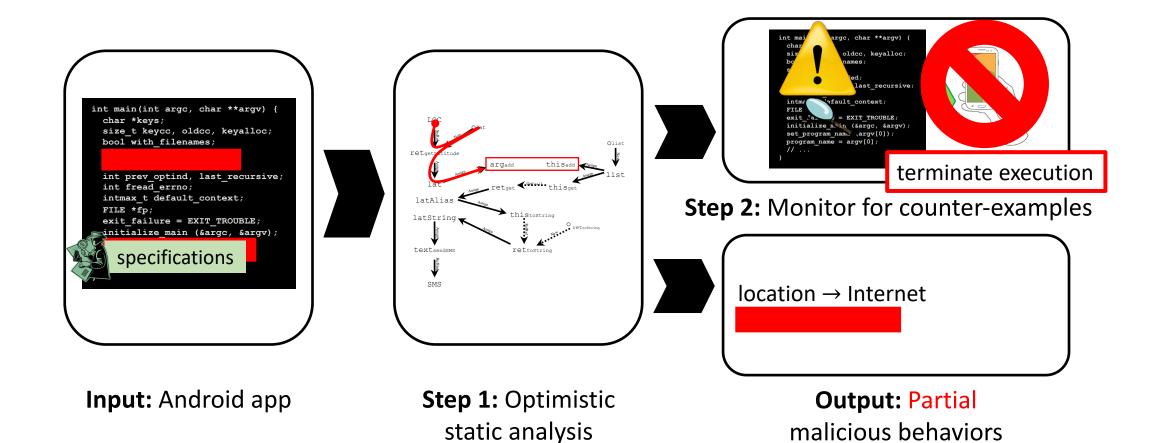
**Step 1:** Optimistic static analysis

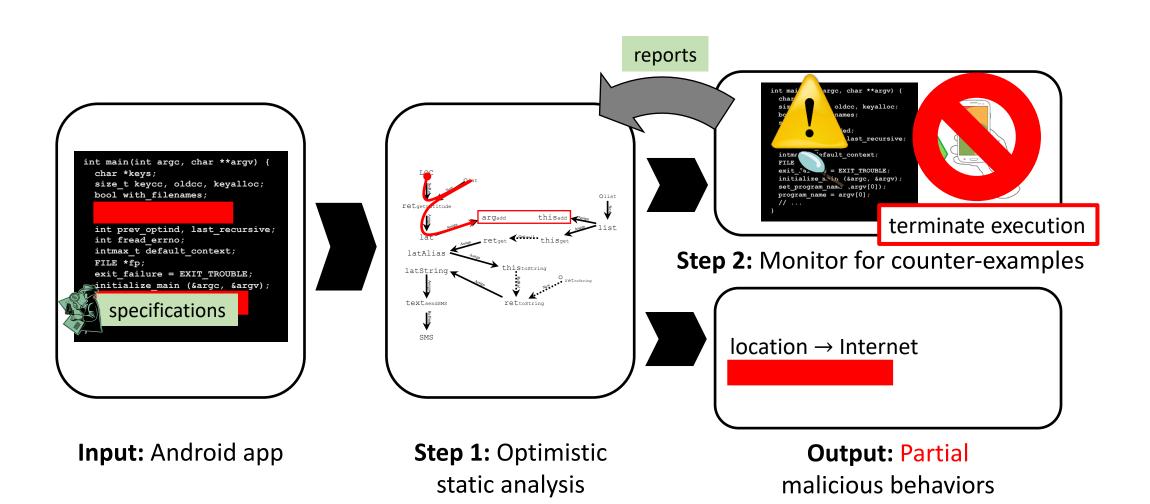


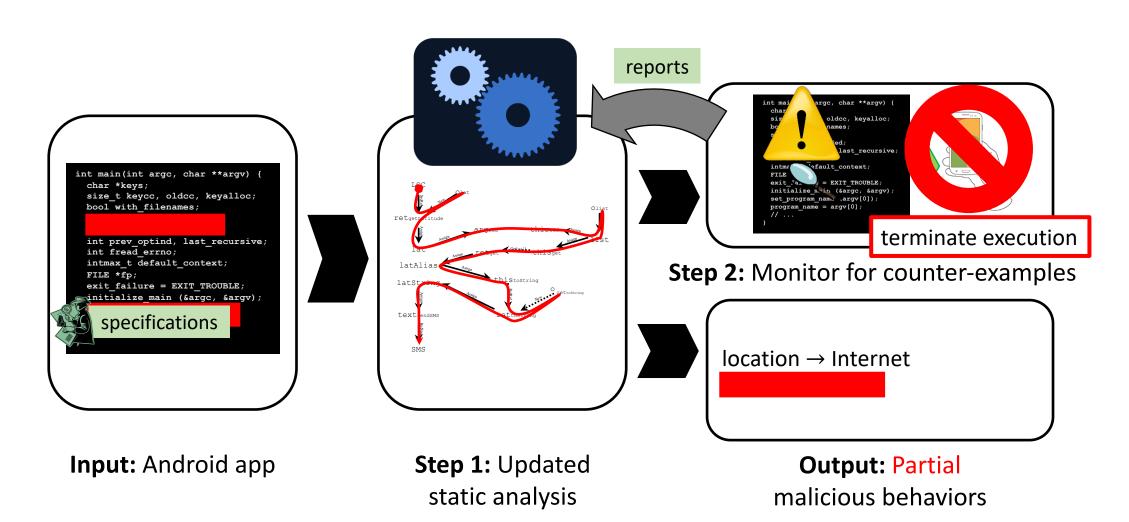


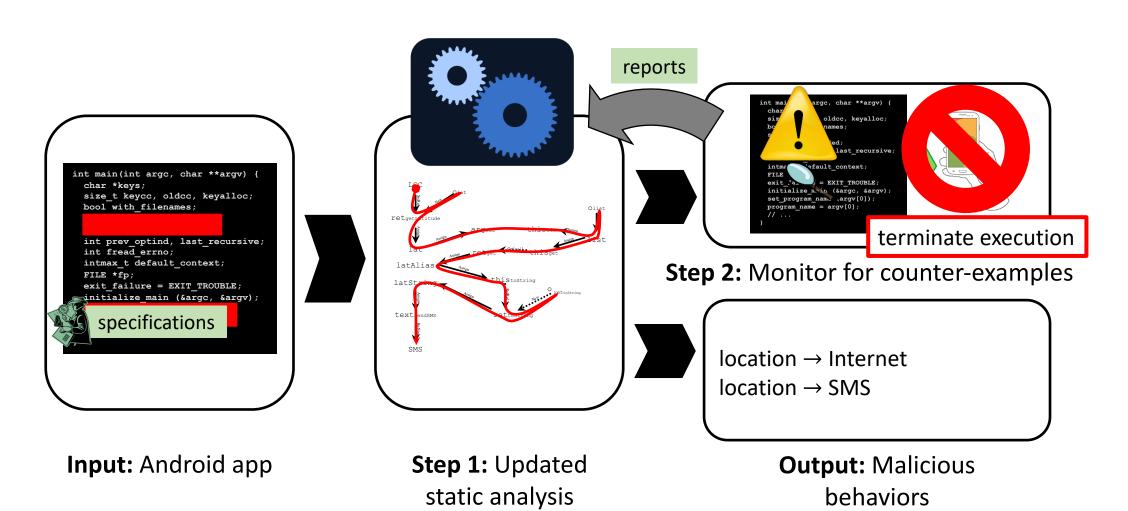












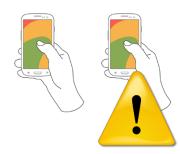
#### Guarantees

#### Eventual soundness

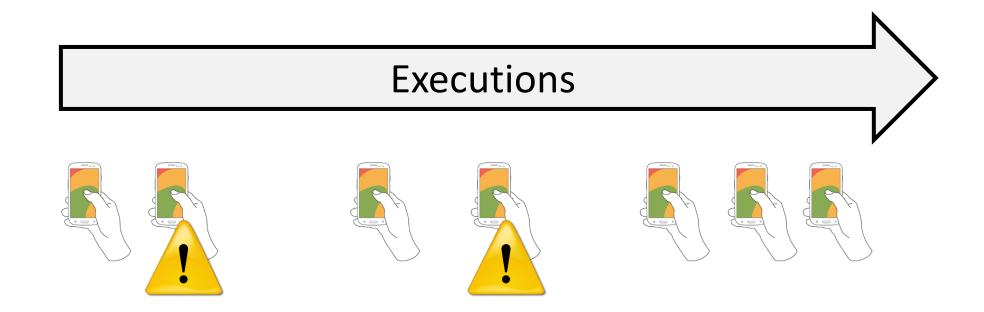
- Dynamic soundness via runtime checks
- Eventually, the static analysis results are sound for all subsequent executions

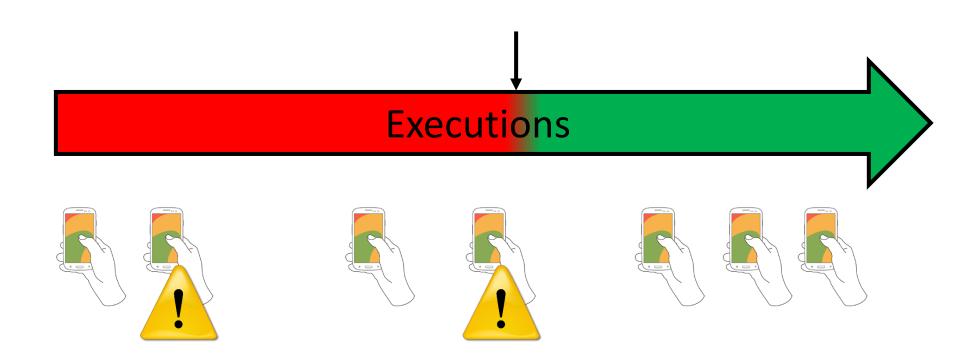


#### **Executions**



# Executions





#### Guarantees

#### Eventual soundness

- Dynamic soundness via runtime checks
- Eventually, the static analysis results are sound for all subsequent executions

#### Precise

Relative to knowing all specifications beforehand

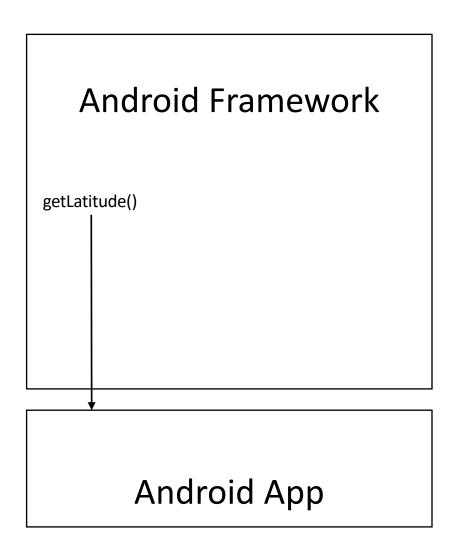
# Eventually Sound Points-To Analysis

- Double latitude = getLatitude();
- List list = new List();
- list.add(latitude);
- 4. Double data = list.get(0);
- Double dataDup = data;
- sendSMS(dataDup);

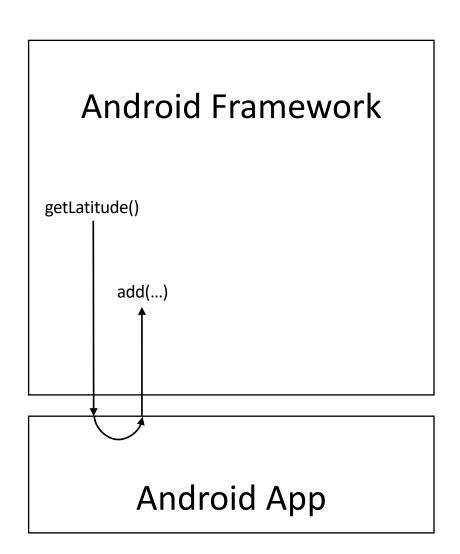
**Android Framework** 

**Android App** 

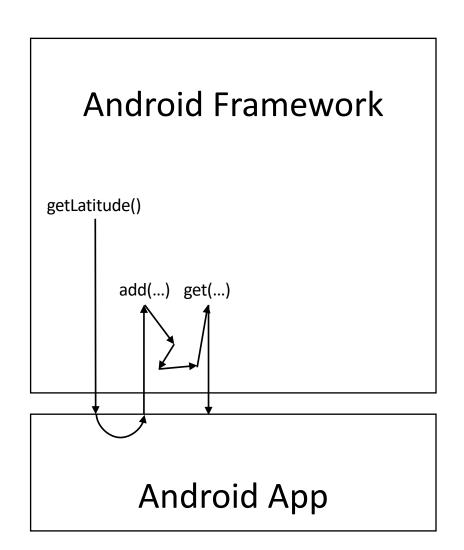
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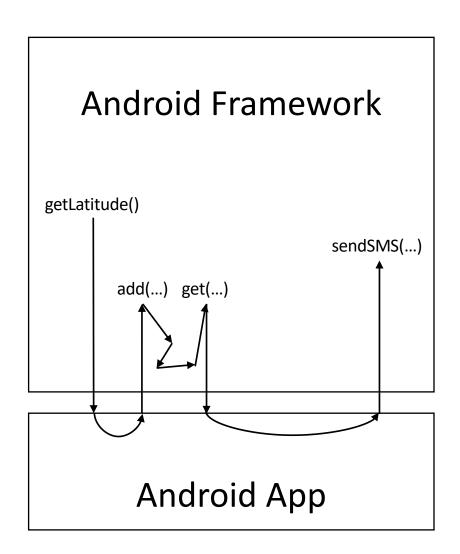
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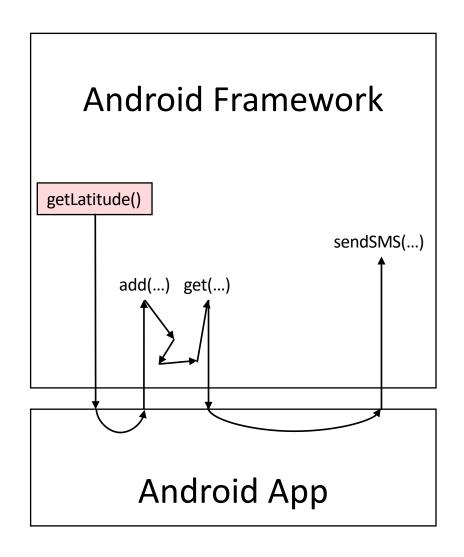
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    Double latitude = getLatitude();
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- 2. List list = new List();
- 3. list.add(latitude);
- 4. Double data = list.get(0);
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- 6. sendSMS(dataDup);

- 5. class LocationManager:
- 6. @Flow(LOC, return)
- 7. static String getLatitude() { ... }



```
    sendSMS(dataDup);
    class LocationManager:
    @Flow(LOC, return)
    static String getLatitude() { ... }
    class SMS:
    @Flow(text, SMS)
    static void sendSMS(String text) { ... }
```

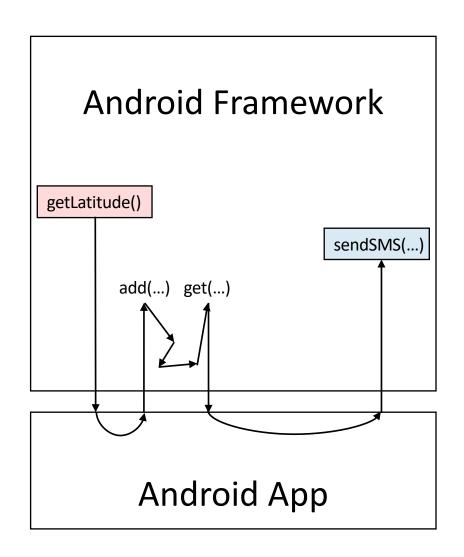
Double latitude = getLatitude();

List list = new List();

5. Double dataDup = data;

Double data = list.get(0);

3. list.add(latitude);

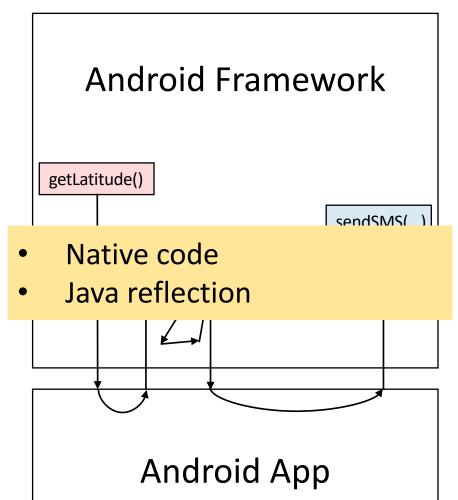


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List list = new List();

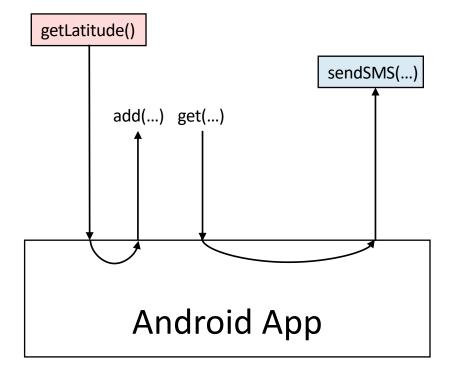
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Double data = list.get(0);
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5. class LocationManager:
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      static String getLatitude() { ... }
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      @Flow(text, SMS)
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    Double latitude = getLatitude();
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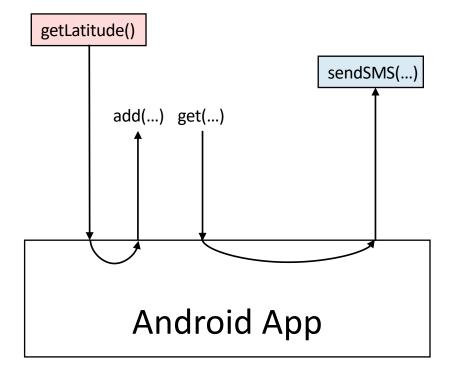


- Describes aliasing
  - @Alias(x, y) means "x may alias y"

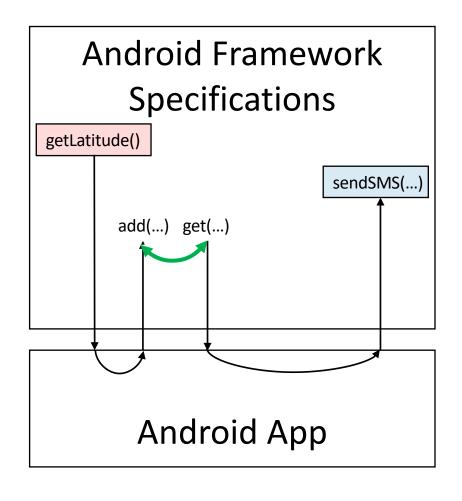
```
    @Alias(add.arg, get.return)
        class List:
        void add(Object arg) {}
        Object get(Integer index) {}
```

```
    Double latitude = getLatitude();
    List list = new List();
    list.add(latitude);
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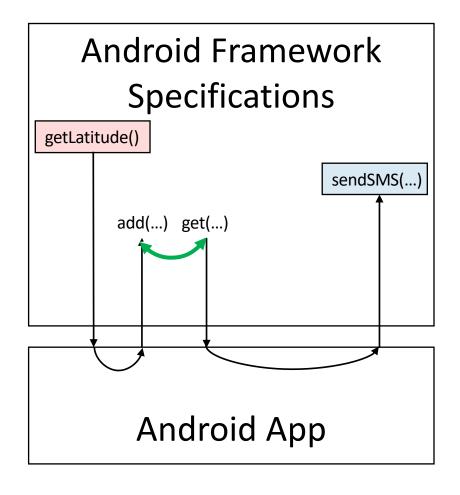
# Missing Specifications

- Expensive to write specifications for every framework method
  - $\approx 4,000$  framework classes
  - A given app may use hundreds of classes

- Specifications typically written as needed
  - For a given app, only a few classes are relevant for finding taint flows
  - Our experience: specifications for  $\approx 175$  classes over course of a few years

# Missing Specifications

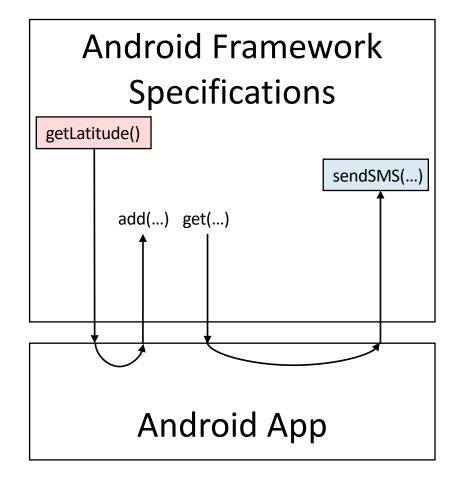
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#### Missing Specifications

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5. class LocationManager:
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```



#### Our Approach: Eventual Soundness

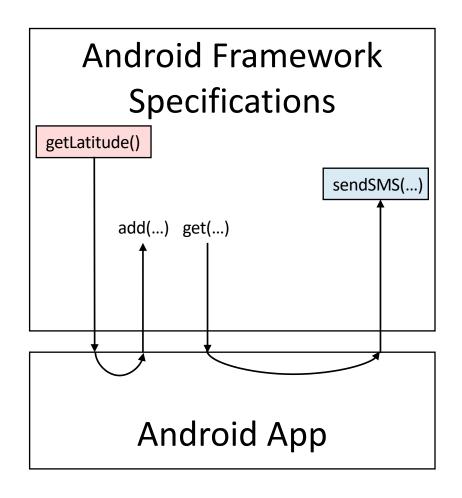
- Step 1: Optimistic static analysis
- Step 2: Monitor for counter-examples
  - Report counter-examples detected during execution to static analysis
- Step 3: Update static analysis
  - Take into account detected counter-examples

# Step 1: Optimistic Static Analysis

```
    Double latitude = getLatitude();
    List list = new List();
```

- 3. list.add(latitude);
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- 5. Double dataDup = data;
- sendSMS(dataDup);

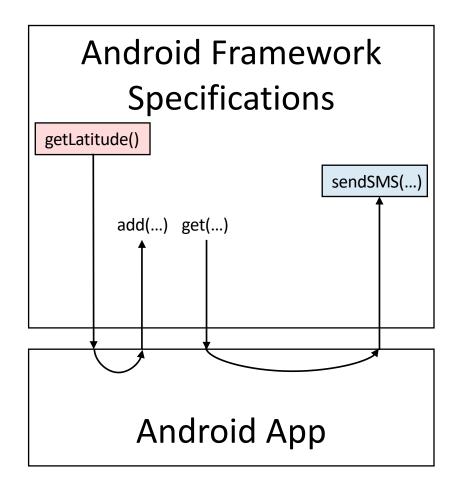
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- 9. **@Flow(text, SMS)**
- 10. static void sendSMS(String text) {}



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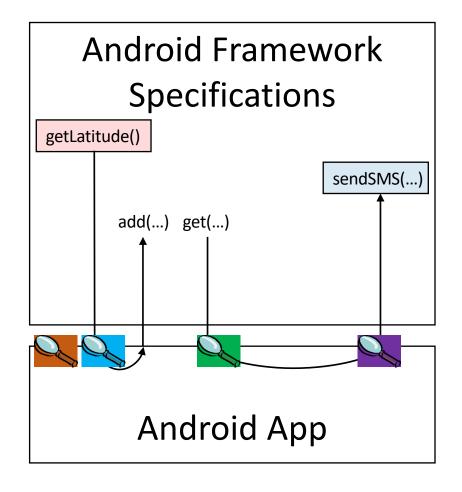


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Double latitude = getLatitude();
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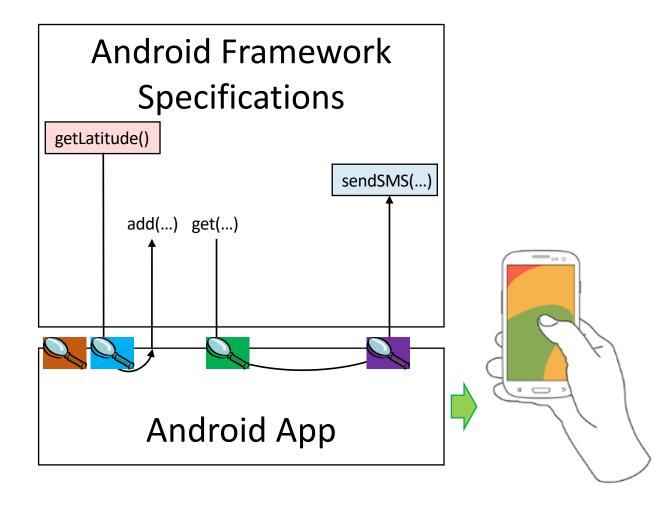
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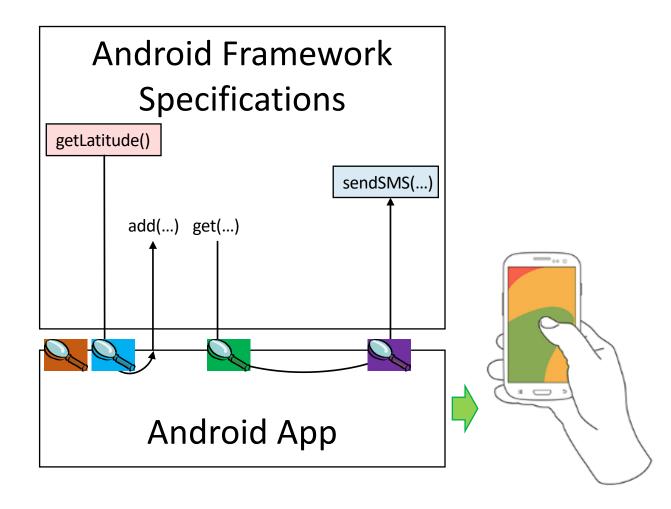
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```
Oxaaaaa Double latitude = getLatitude();
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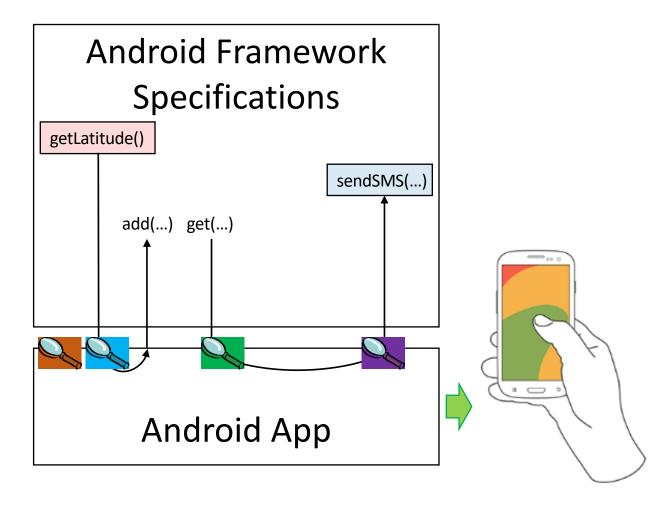
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```
OxAAAAA

Double latitude = getLatitude();

Ox00000

List list = new List();

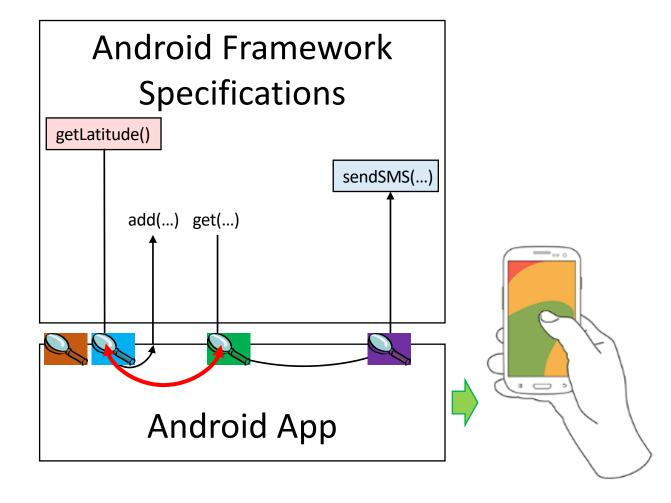
3. list.add(latitude);

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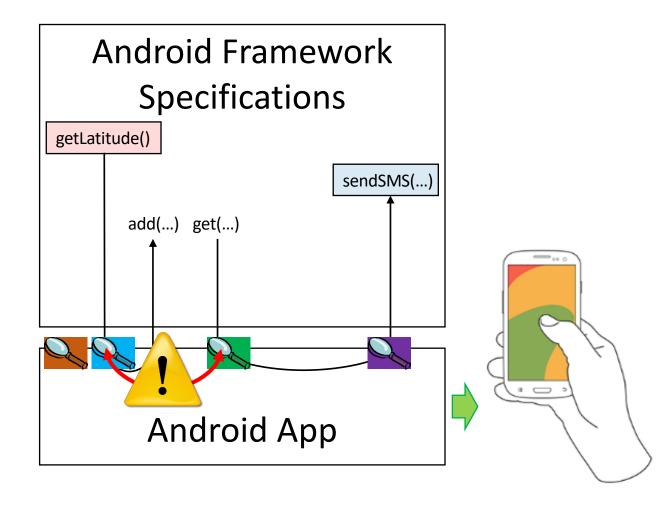
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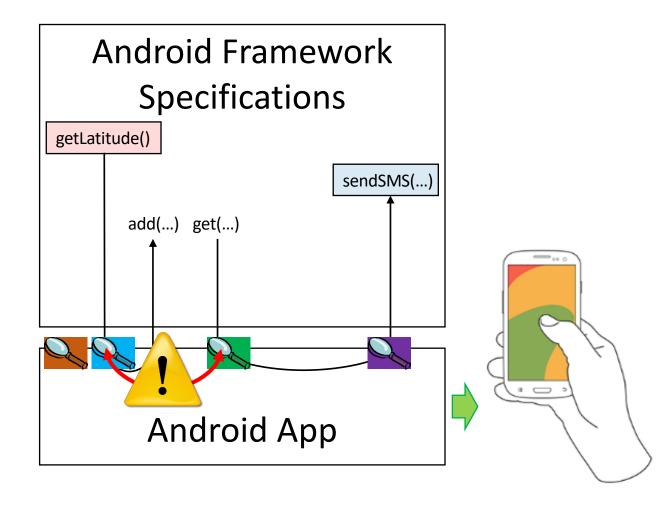
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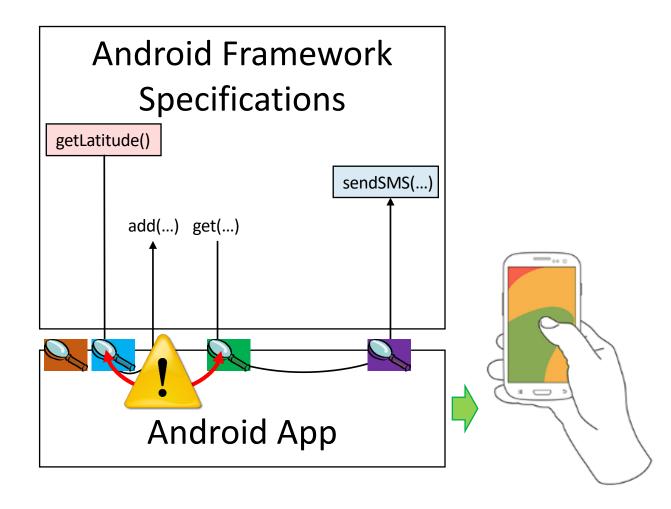
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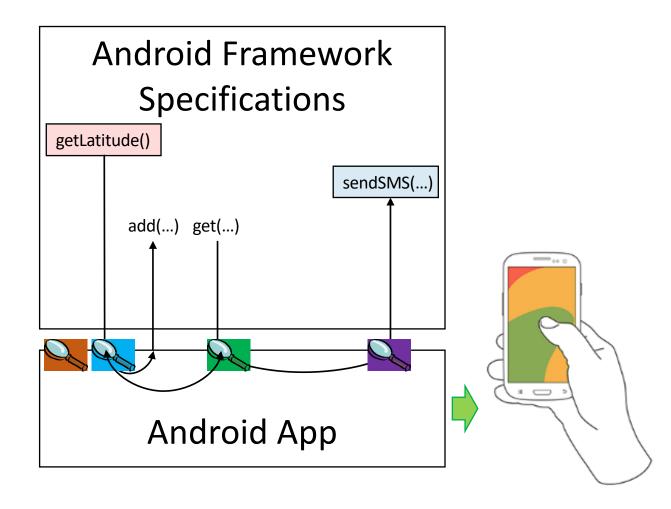
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OxAAAAA
OxOO000
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OxAAAAA
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```
@Alias(latitude, data)

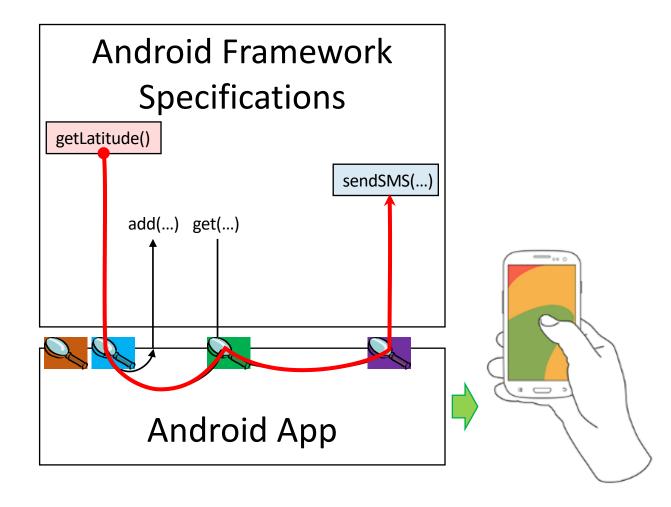
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# Naïve Monitoring

#### Monitor:

Every allocation, assignment, and field load/store

#### Theorem (easy):

Instrumentation scheme is dynamically sound

```
OxAAAAA

Double latitude = getLatitude();
Ox00000

List list = new List();

3. list.add(latitude);

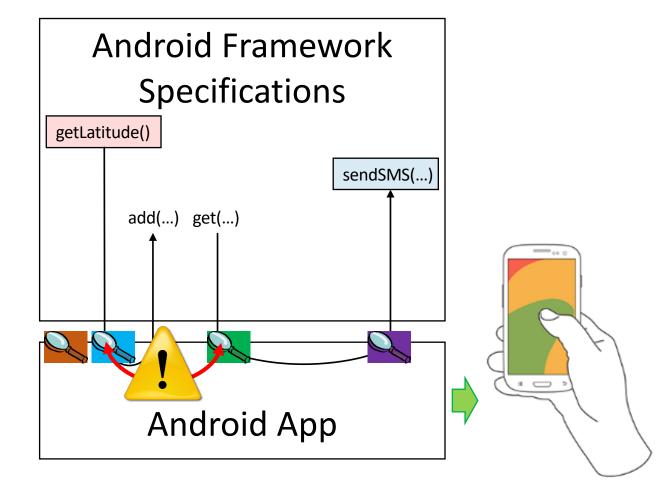
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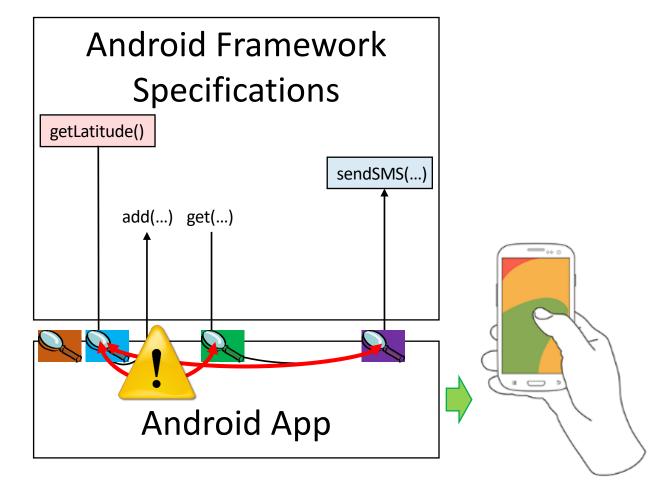
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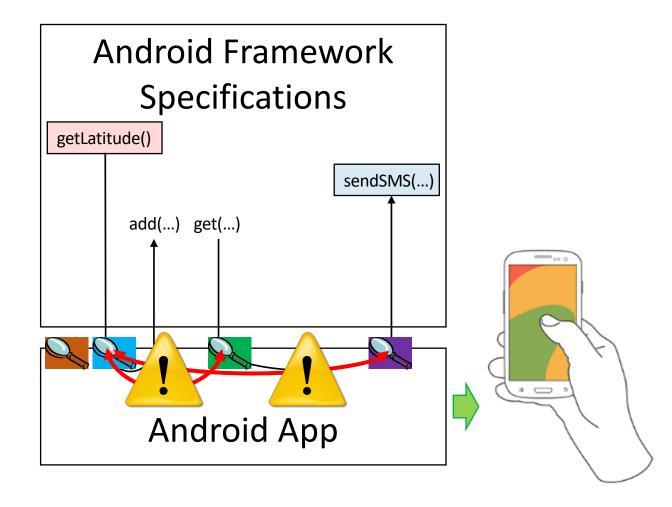
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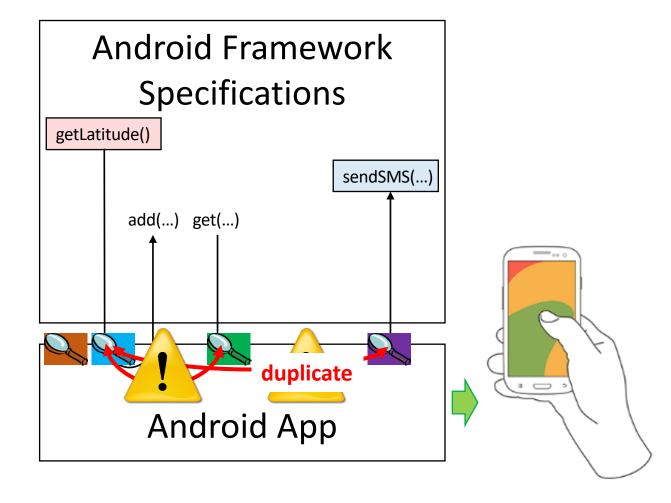
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- Assumption: The framework does not access app fields
  - Holds in practice

#### Monitor:

- Allocations  $x \leftarrow \text{new } X()$  that may leak to the framework
- Return values  $x \leftarrow m(y)$  of framework methods
- App accesses  $x \leftarrow y \cdot f$  to framework fields

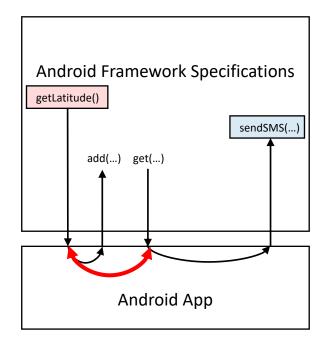
#### Theorem:

Instrumentation scheme is dynamically sound

# Beyond a Single App

# Beyond a Single App

- Counter-examples are used to improve results for a **single** app
  - Alias(latitude, data)



#### Beyond a Single App

- Counter-examples are used to improve results for a single app
  - Alias(latitude, data)

Android Framework Specifications

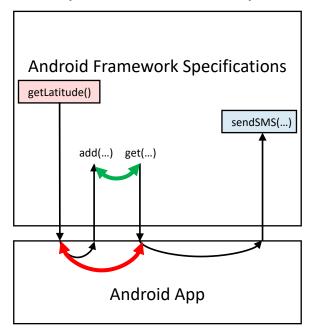
getLatitude()

add(...) get(...)

Android App



- Infer specifications for the framework and use across apps
  - Alias(add.arg, get.return)
    - ⇒ Alias(latitude, data)



#### Summary

- Eventually sound points-to analysis
  - Step 1: Optimistic static analysis
  - Step 2: Instrument app to monitor for counter-examples
  - Step 3: Update static analysis to address detected counter-examples

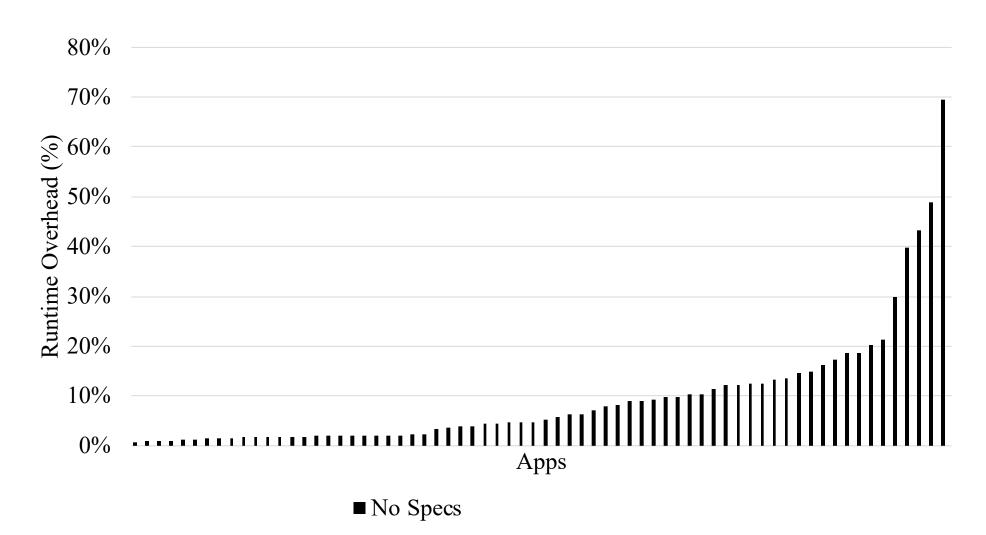
# Evaluation

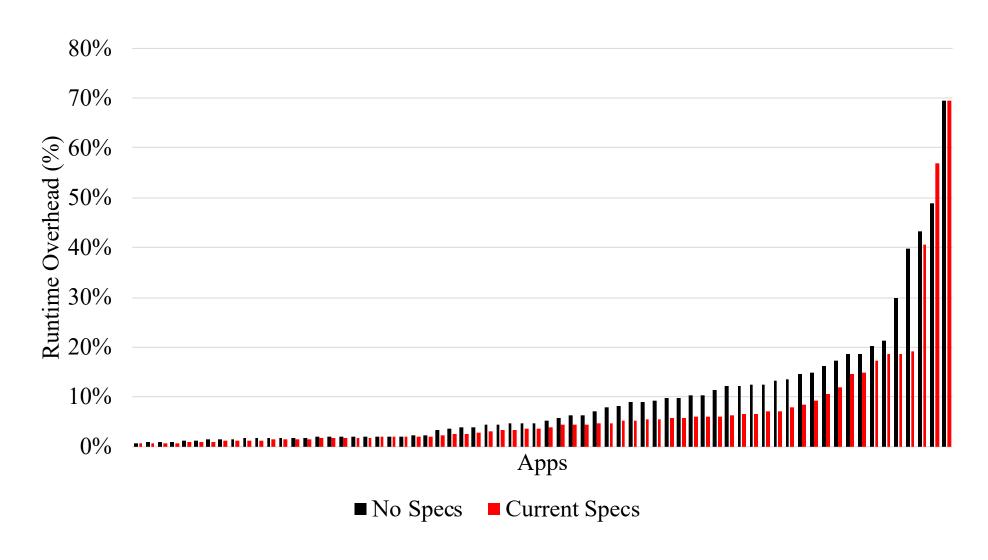
#### Evaluation

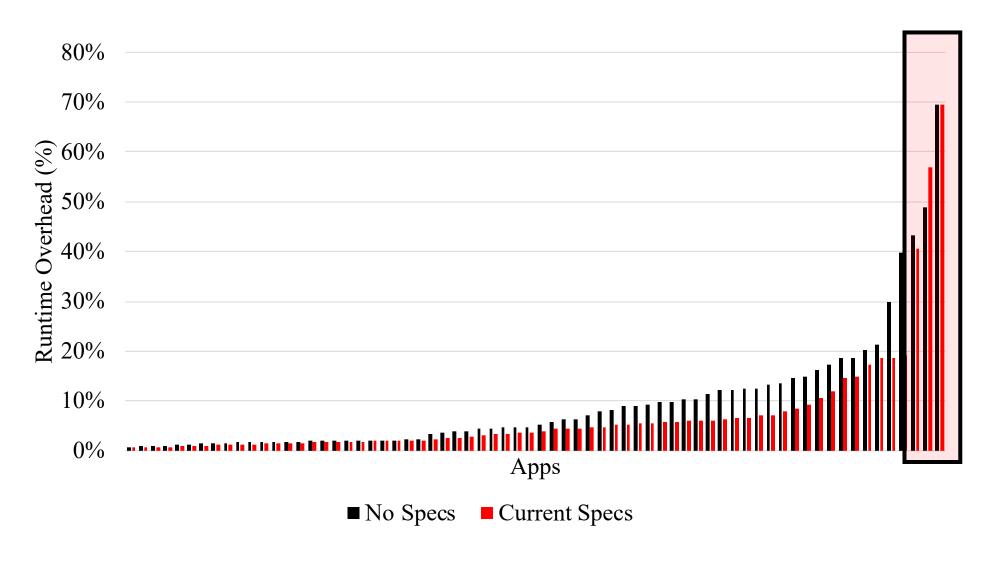
Instrumented 72 Android apps

- Executed apps
  - In Android emulator
  - 1 hour each
  - Used Monkey to generate random events

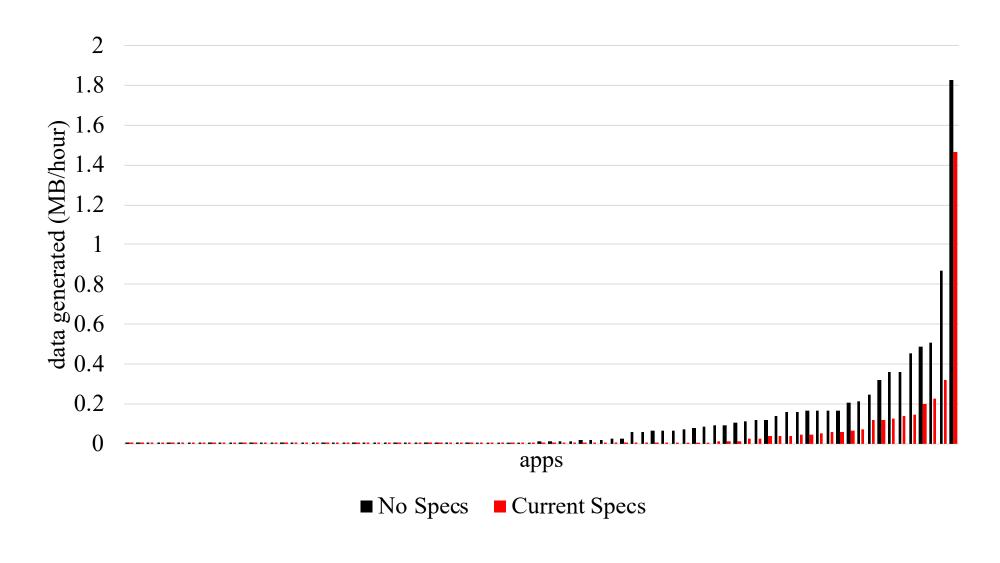




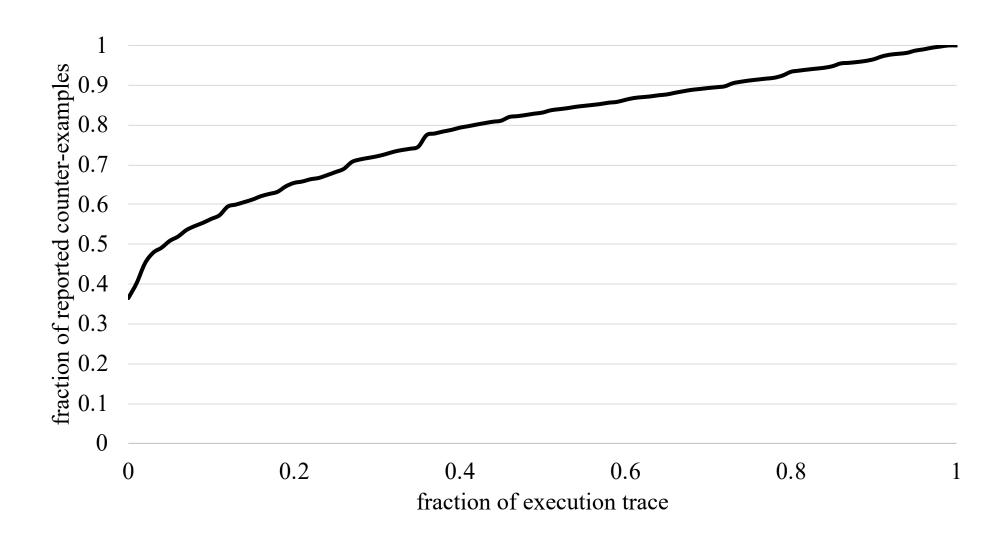




# Overhead (Data Usage)



#### Reported Counter-Examples



#### Conclusions

- Hard-to-Analyze Code
  - Ubiquitous
  - Use specifications

• Our approach: Eventual soundness

## Questions?

# Backup Slides

#### Related Work

• Static analysis for points-to analysis, finding Android malware

- Monitoring executions
  - Dynamic policy enforcement (Enck 2010)
  - Debugging (Liblit 2005, Jin 2012)

- Inferring specifications from executions
  - Inference of **taint** specifications (Clapp 2015)
  - Inference of Javascript library functions (Heule 2015)

```
OxAAAAA

Double latitude = getLatitude();

Ox00000

List list = new List();

3. list.add(latitude);

OxAAAAA

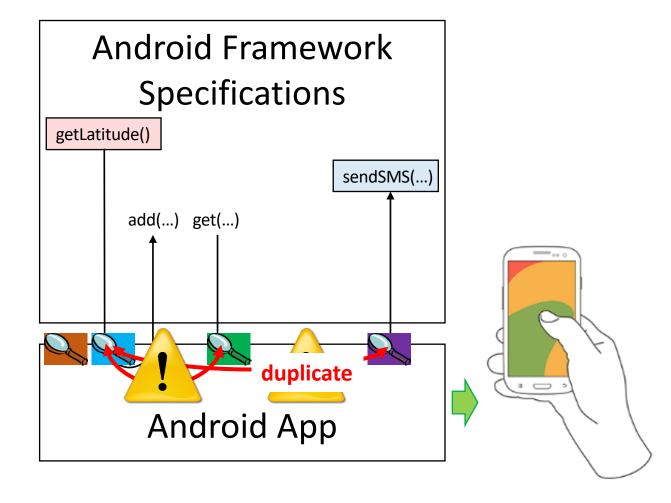
Double data = list.get(0);

OxAAAAA

Double dataDup = data;

6. sendSMS(dataDup);
```

```
5. class LocationManager:
6. @Flow(LOC, return)
7. static String getLatitude() {}
8. class SMS:
9. @Flow(text, SMS)
10. static void sendSMS(String text) {}
```



```
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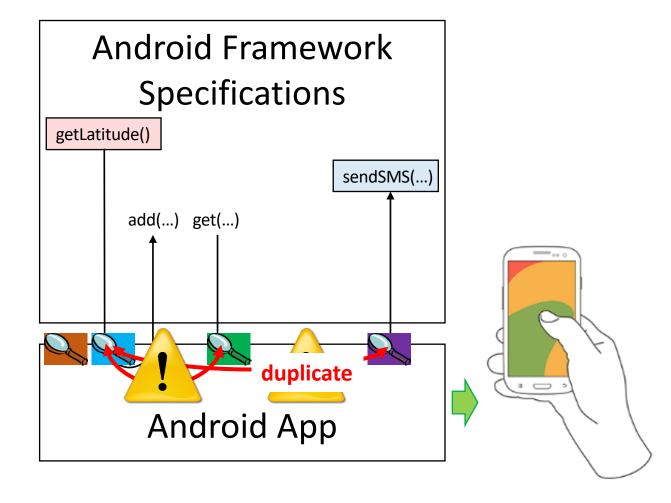
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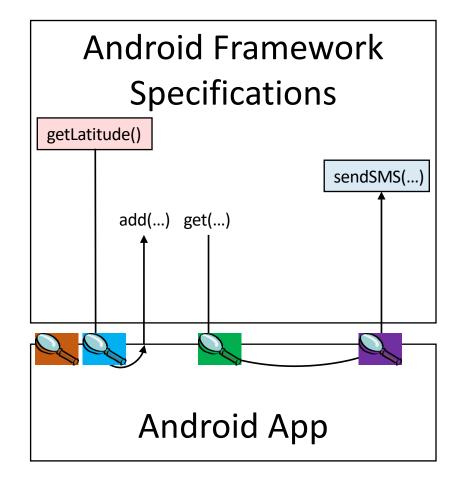
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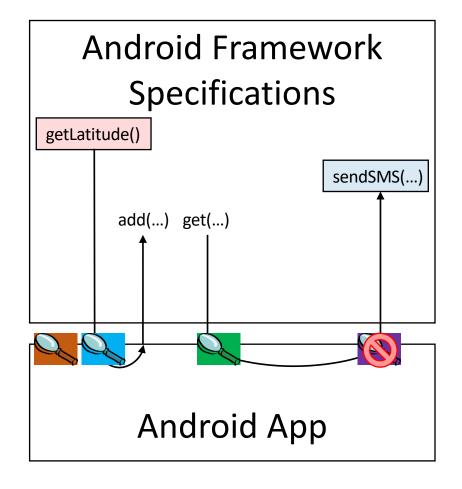
```
method call Double latitude = getLatitude();
allocation List list = new List();
3. list.add(latitude);
method call Double data = list.get(0);
Double dataDup = data;
6. sendSMS(dataDup);
```

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Double latitude = getLatitude();

List list = new List();

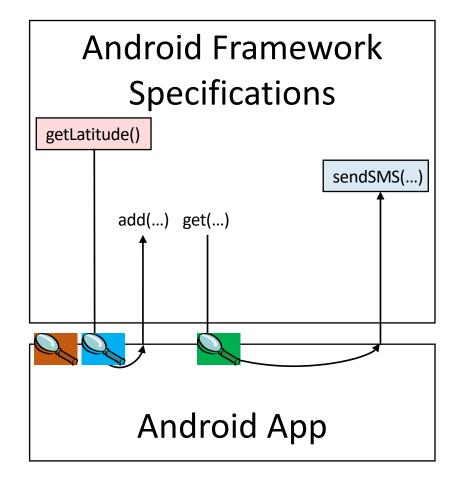
3. list.add(latitude);

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CFL-reachability based specification inference algorithm (POPL 2015)

CFL-reachability based specification inference algorithm (POPL 2015)

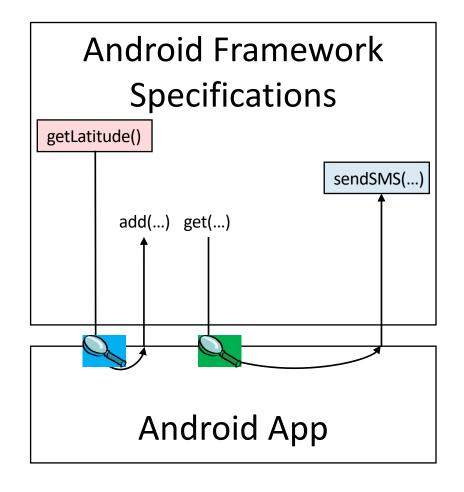
• Step A: Pessimistic static analysis

CFL-reachability based specification inference algorithm (POPL 2015)

- Step A: Pessimistic static analysis
- Step B: Minimal assumption to derive missing aliasing
  - Fewer assumptions ⇒ more likely to be correct

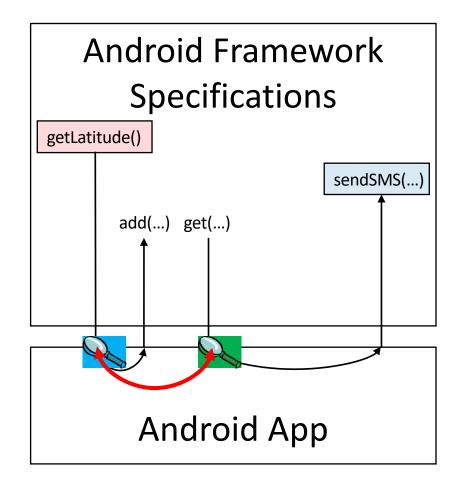
```
Double latitude = getLatitude();
List list = new List();
list.add(latitude);
Double data = list.get(0);
Double dataDup = data;
sendSMS(dataDup);
```

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5. class LocationManager:
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Double dataDup = data;
sendSMS(dataDup);
```

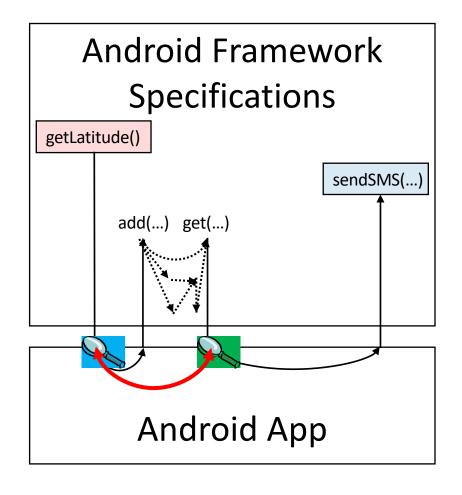
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5. class LocationManager:
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7. static String getLatitude() {}
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9. @Flow(text, SMS)
10. static void sendSMS(String text) {}
```



#### Step A: Pessimistic Assumptions

```
Double latitude = getLatitude();
List list = new List();
list.add(latitude);
Double data = list.get(0);
Double dataDup = data;
sendSMS(dataDup);
```

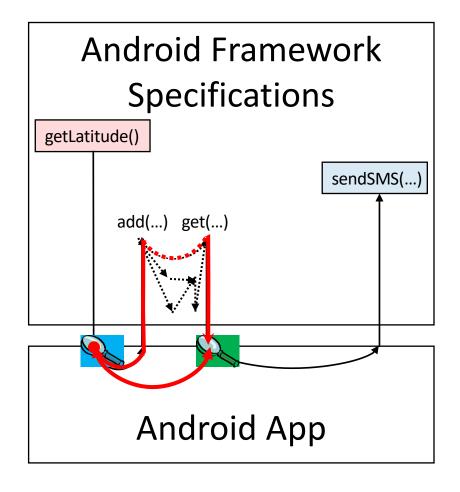
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#### Step B: Shortest Path

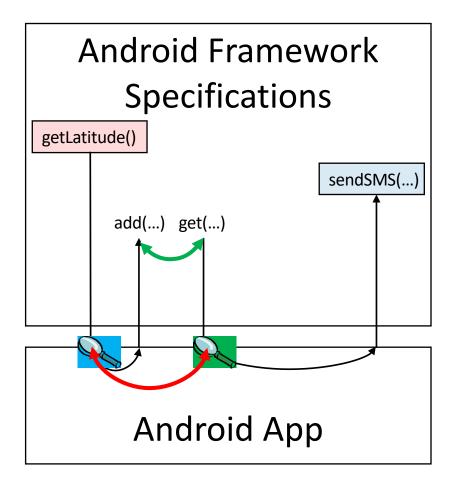
```
Double latitude = getLatitude();
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list.add(latitude);
Double data = list.get(0);
Double dataDup = data;
sendSMS(dataDup);
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```
5. class LocationManager:
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```

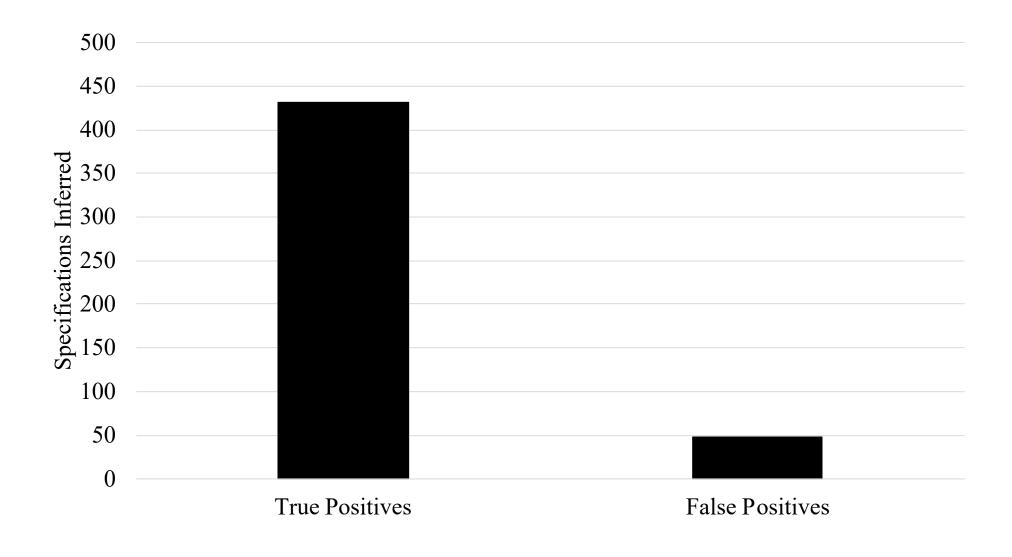


#### Step B: Shortest Path

```
Double latitude = getLatitude();
2. List list = new List();
3. list.add(latitude);
   Double data = list.get(0);
5. Double dataDup = data;
sendSMS(dataDup);
    @Alias(add.arg, get.return)
2. class List:
       void add(Object arg) {}
       Object get(Integer index) {}
5. class LocationManager:
       @Flow(LOC, return)
       static String getLatitude() {}
8. class SMS:
       @Flow(text, SMS)
       static void sendSMS(String text) {}
```



## Specification Inference



#### Information Flows

