

Challenges in Abstract Interpretation for Software Safety

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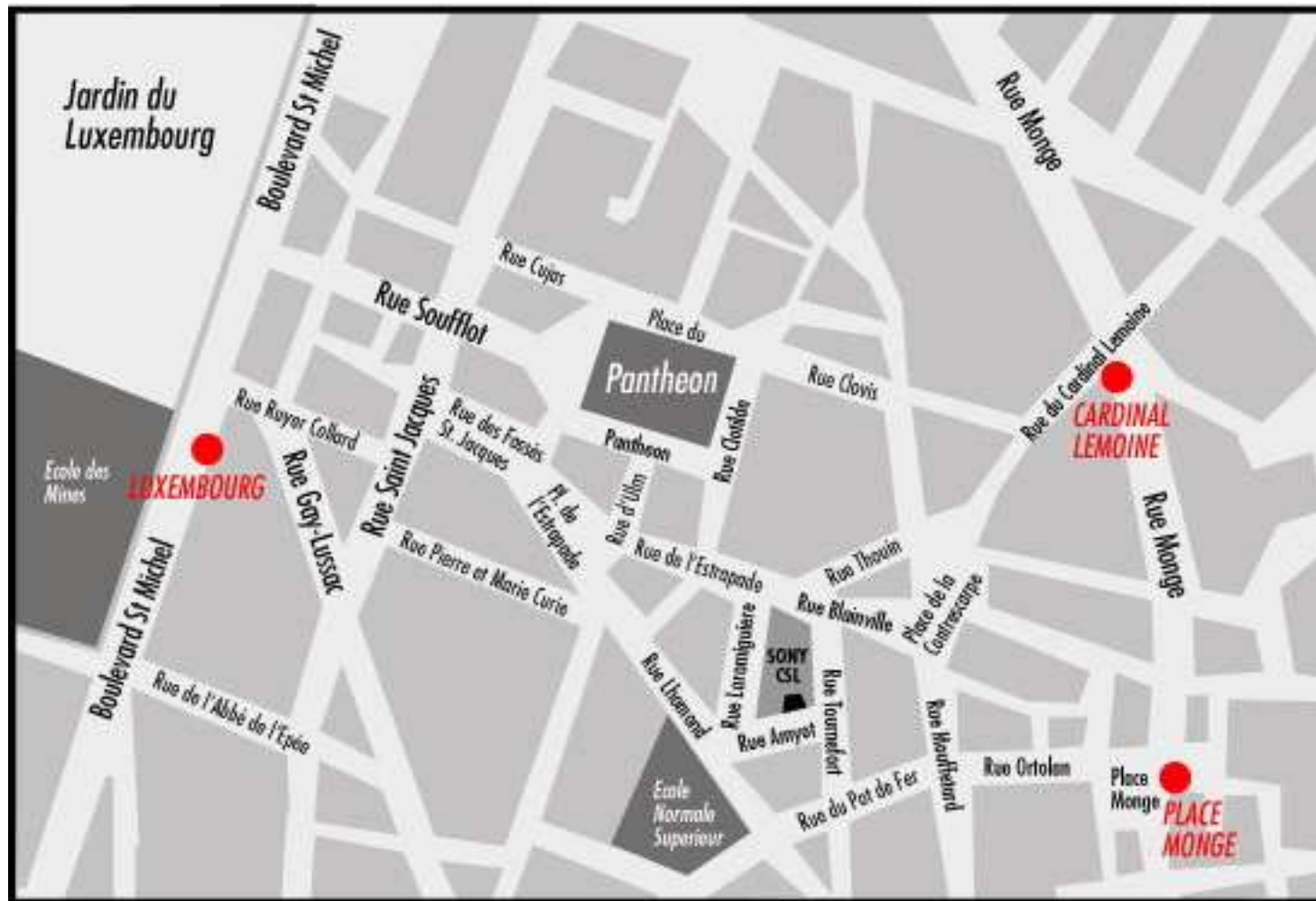
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A few former students: Évariste Galois, Louis Pasteur, ...; Nobel prizes: Claude Cohen-Tannoudji, Pierre-Gilles de Gennes, Gabriel Lippmann, Louis Néel, Jean-Baptiste Perrin, Paul Sabatier, ...; Fields Medal holders: Laurent Schwartz, Jean-

Pierre Serre (1st Abel Prize), René Thom, Alain Connes, Pierre-Louis Lions, Jean-Christophe Yoccoz, Laurent Lafforgue; Fictitious mathematicians: Nicolas Bourbaki; Philosophers: Henri Bergson (Nobel Prize), Louis Althusser, Simone de Beauvoir, Emile Auguste Chartier “Alain”, Raymond Aron, Jean-Paul Sartre, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Michel Foucault, Jacques Derrida, Bernard-Henri Lévy...; Politicians: Jean Jaurès, Léon Blum, Édouard Herriot, Georges Pompidou, Alain Juppé, Laurent Fabius, Léopold Sédar Senghor,...; Sociologists: Émile Durkheim, Pierre Bourdieu, ...; Writers: Romain Rolland (Nobel Prize), Jean Giraudoux, Charles Péguy, Julien Gracq, ...;



State of Practice in Software Engineering



An example among many others (Matlab code)

```
» h=get(gca,'children');
```

```
apple.awt.EventQueueExceptionHandler Caught Throwable : java.lang.ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException: 2 >= 2
java.lang.ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException: 2 >= 2
at java.util.Vector.elementAt(Vector.java:431)
at com.mathworks.mde.help.IndexItem.getFilename(IndexItem.java:100)
at com.mathworks.mde.help.Index.getFilenameForLocation(Index.java:706)
at com.mathworks.mde.help.Index.access$3100(Index.java:29)
at com.mathworks.mde.help.Index$IndexMouseMotionAdapter.mouseMoved(Index.java:768)
at java.awt.AWTEventMulticaster.mouseMoved(AWTEventMulticaster.java:272)
at java.awt.AWTEventMulticaster.mouseMoved(AWTEventMulticaster.java:271)
at java.awt.Component.processMouseEvent(Component.java:5211)
at javax.swing.JComponent.processMouseEvent(JComponent.java:2779)
at com.mathworks.mwswing.MJTable.processMouseEvent(MJTable.java:725)
at java.awt.Component.processEvent(Component.java:4967)
at java.awt.Container.processEvent(Container.java:1613)
at java.awt.Component.dispatchEventImpl(Component.java:3681)
at java.awt.Container.dispatchEventImpl(Container.java:1671)
at java.awt.Component.dispatchEvent(Component.java:3543)
at java.awt.LightweightDispatcher.retargetMouseEvent(Container.java:3527)
at java.awt.LightweightDispatcher.processMouseEvent(Container.java:3255)
at java.awt.LightweightDispatcher.dispatchEvent(Container.java:3172)
at java.awt.Container.dispatchEventImpl(Container.java:1657)
at java.awt.Window.dispatchEventImpl(Window.java:1606)
at java.awt.Component.dispatchEvent(Component.java:3543)
at java.awt.EventQueue.dispatchEvent(EventQueue.java:456)
at java.awt.EventDispatchThread.pumpOneEventForHierarchy(EventDispatchThread.java:234)
at java.awt.EventDispatchThread.pumpEventsForHierarchy(EventDispatchThread.java:184)
at java.awt.EventDispatchThread.pumpEvents(EventDispatchThread.java:178)
at java.awt.EventDispatchThread.pumpEvents(EventDispatchThread.java:170)
at java.awt.EventDispatchThread.run(EventDispatchThread.java:100)
```



The software safety challenge for next 10 years

- Present-day software engineering is almost exclusively manual, with very few automated tools;
- Trust and confidence in specifications and software can no longer be entirely based on the development process (e.g. DO178B in aerospace software);
- In complement, quality assurance must be ensured by new design, modeling, checking, verification and certification tools based on the product itself.



Abstract Interpretation

Reference

- [POPL '77] P. Cousot and R. Cousot. Abstract interpretation: a unified lattice model for static analysis of programs by construction or approximation of fixpoints. In *4th ACM POPL*.
- [Thesis '78] P. Cousot. Méthodes itératives de construction et d'approximation de points fixes d'opérateurs monotones sur un treillis, analyse sémantique de programmes. Thèse ès sci. math. Grenoble, march 1978.
- [POPL '79] P. Cousot & R. Cousot. Systematic design of program analysis frameworks. In *6th ACM POPL*.



Syntax of programs

X

variables $X \in \mathbb{X}$

T

types $T \in \mathbb{T}$

E

arithmetic expressions $E \in \mathbb{E}$

B

boolean expressions $B \in \mathbb{B}$

$D ::= T \ X;$

$\quad | \quad T \ X ; D'$

$C ::= X = E;$

$\quad | \quad \text{while } B \ C'$

$\quad | \quad \text{if } B \ C' \text{ else } C''$

$\quad | \quad \{ C_1 \dots C_n \}, (n \geq 0)$

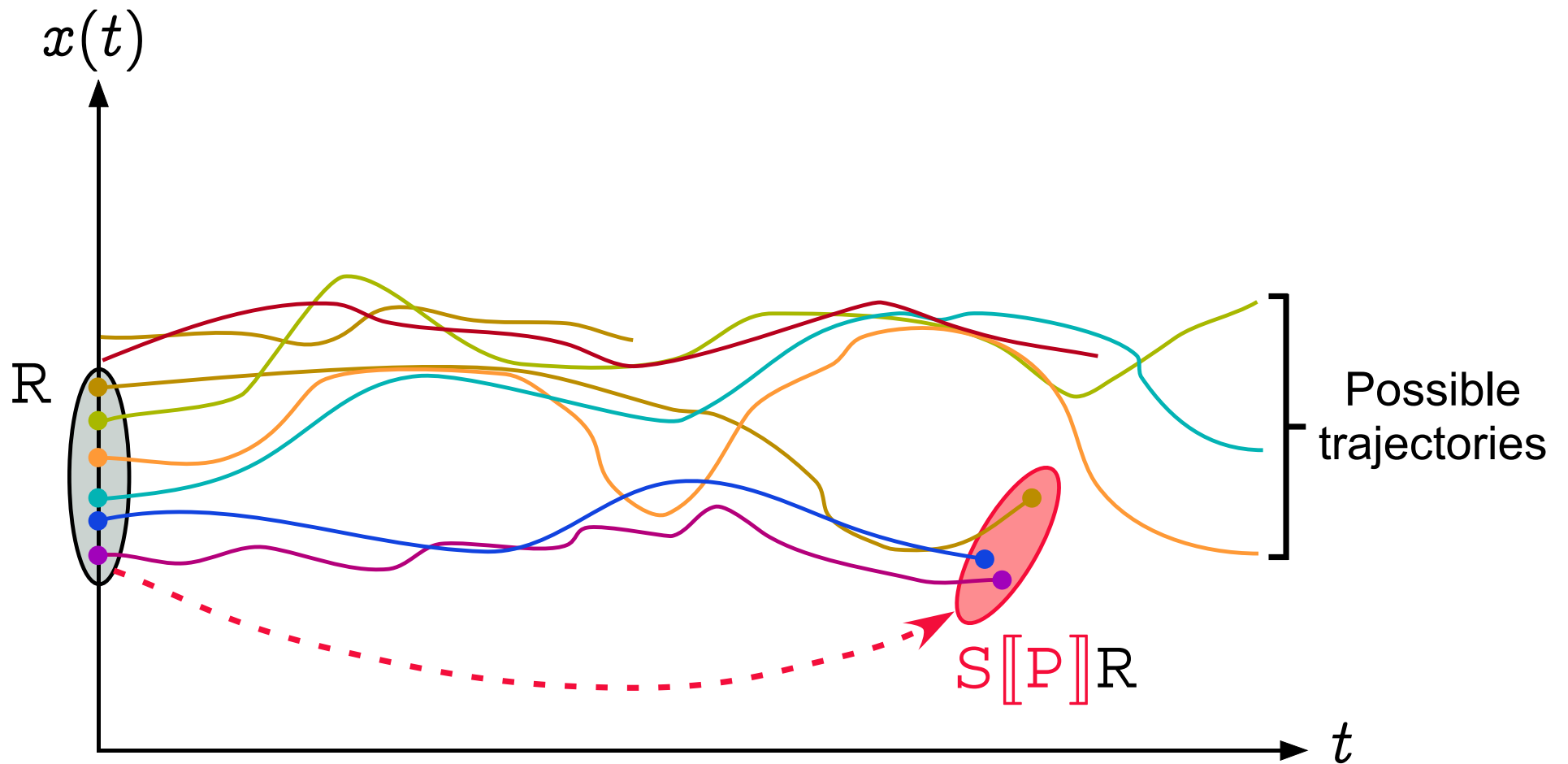
$P ::= D \ C$

commands $C \in \mathbb{C}$

program $P \in \mathbb{P}$



Postcondition semantics



States

Values of given type:

$\mathcal{V}[[T]]$: values of type $T \in \mathbb{T}$

$$\mathcal{V}[[\text{int}]] \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{z \in \mathbb{Z} \mid \text{min_int} \leq z \leq \text{max_int}\}$$

Program states $\Sigma[[P]]$ ¹:

$$\Sigma[[D \ C]] \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \Sigma[[D]]$$

$$\Sigma[[T \ X;]] \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{X\} \mapsto \mathcal{V}[[T]]$$

$$\Sigma[[T \ X; \ D]] \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\{X\} \mapsto \mathcal{V}[[T]]) \cup \Sigma[[D]]$$

¹ States $\rho \in \Sigma[[P]]$ of a program P map program variables X to their values $\rho(X)$



Concrete Semantic Domain of Programs

Concrete semantic domain for reachability properties:

$$\mathcal{D}[[P]] \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \wp(\Sigma[[P]]) \quad \text{sets of states}$$

i.e. program properties where \subseteq is implication, \emptyset is false, \cup is disjunction.



Concrete Reachability Semantics of Programs

$$S[X = E;]R \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\rho[X \leftarrow \mathcal{E}[E]\rho] \mid \rho \in R \cap \text{dom}(E)\}$$

$$\rho[X \leftarrow v](X) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} v, \quad \rho[X \leftarrow v](Y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \rho(Y)$$

$$S[\text{if } B \text{ } C']R \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} S[C'](\mathcal{B}[B]R) \cup \mathcal{B}[\neg B]R$$

$$\mathcal{B}[B]R \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\rho \in R \cap \text{dom}(B) \mid B \text{ holds in } \rho\}$$

$$S[\text{if } B \text{ } C' \text{ else } C'']R \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} S[C'](\mathcal{B}[B]R) \cup S[C''](\mathcal{B}[\neg B]R)$$

$$S[\text{while } B \text{ } C']R \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{let } \mathcal{W} = \text{lfp}_{\emptyset}^{\subseteq} \lambda \mathcal{X}. R \cup S[C'](\mathcal{B}[B]\mathcal{X}) \\ \text{in } (\mathcal{B}[\neg B]\mathcal{W})$$

$$S[\{\}]R \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} R$$

$$S[\{C_1 \dots C_n\}]R \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} S[C_n] \circ \dots \circ S[C_1] \quad n > 0$$

$$S[D \text{ } C]R \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} S[C](\Sigma[D]) \quad (\text{uninitialized variables})$$

Not computable (undecidability).



Abstract Semantic Domain of Programs

$$\langle \mathcal{D}^\# \llbracket P \rrbracket, \sqsubseteq, \perp, \sqcup \rangle$$

such that:

$$\langle \mathcal{D}, \subseteq \rangle \begin{matrix} \xleftarrow{\gamma} \\ \xrightarrow{\alpha} \end{matrix} \langle \mathcal{D}^\# \llbracket P \rrbracket, \sqsubseteq \rangle$$

hence $\langle \mathcal{D}^\# \llbracket P \rrbracket, \sqsubseteq, \perp, \sqcup \rangle$ is a complete lattice such that $\perp = \alpha(\emptyset)$ and $\sqcup X = \alpha(\cup \gamma(X))$



Reduced Product of Abstract Domains

To combine abstractions

$$\langle \mathcal{D}, \sqsubseteq \rangle \xrightleftharpoons[\alpha_1]{\gamma_1} \langle \mathcal{D}_1^\#, \sqsubseteq_1 \rangle \text{ and } \langle \mathcal{D}, \sqsubseteq \rangle \xrightleftharpoons[\alpha_2]{\gamma_2} \langle \mathcal{D}_2^\#, \sqsubseteq_2 \rangle$$

the reduced product is

$$\alpha(X) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sqcap \{ \langle x, y \rangle \mid X \subseteq \gamma_1(X) \wedge X \subseteq \gamma_2(X) \}$$

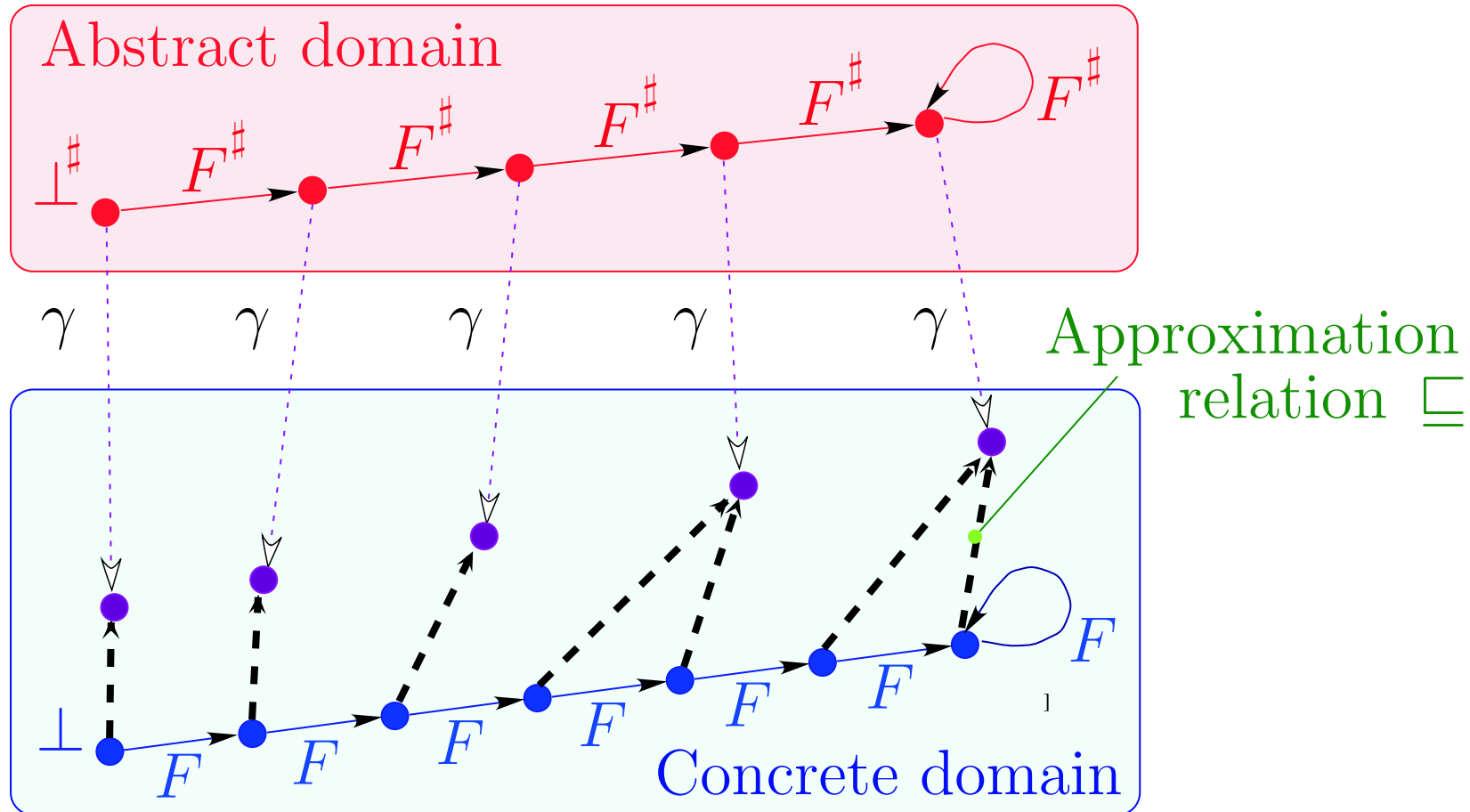
such that $\sqsubseteq \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sqsubseteq_1 \times \sqsubseteq_2$ and

$$\langle \mathcal{D}, \sqsubseteq \rangle \xrightleftharpoons[\alpha]{\gamma_1 \times \gamma_2} \langle \alpha(\mathcal{D}), \sqsubseteq \rangle$$

Example: $x \in [1, 9] \wedge x \bmod 2 = 0$ reduces to $x \in [2, 8] \wedge x \bmod 2 = 0$



Approximate Fixpoint Abstraction



$$F \circ \gamma \sqsubseteq \gamma \circ F^\# \Rightarrow \text{lfp } F \sqsubseteq \gamma(\text{lfp } F^\#)$$



Abstract Reachability Semantics of Programs

$$S^\# \llbracket X = E; \rrbracket R \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \alpha(\{\rho[X \leftarrow \mathcal{E} \llbracket E \rrbracket \rho] \mid \rho \in \gamma(R) \cap \text{dom}(E)\})$$

$$S^\# \llbracket \text{if } B \text{ } C' \rrbracket R \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} S^\# \llbracket C' \rrbracket (\mathcal{B}^\# \llbracket B \rrbracket R) \sqcup \mathcal{B}^\# \llbracket \neg B \rrbracket R$$

$$\mathcal{B}^\# \llbracket B \rrbracket R \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \alpha(\{\rho \in \gamma(R) \cap \text{dom}(B) \mid B \text{ holds in } \rho\})$$

$$S^\# \llbracket \text{if } B \text{ } C' \text{ else } C'' \rrbracket R \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} S^\# \llbracket C' \rrbracket (\mathcal{B}^\# \llbracket B \rrbracket R) \sqcup S^\# \llbracket C'' \rrbracket (\mathcal{B}^\# \llbracket \neg B \rrbracket R)$$

$$S^\# \llbracket \text{while } B \text{ } C' \rrbracket R \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{let } \mathcal{W} = \text{lfp}_{\perp}^{\sqsubseteq} \lambda \mathcal{X}. R \sqcup S^\# \llbracket C' \rrbracket (\mathcal{B}^\# \llbracket B \rrbracket \mathcal{X}) \\ \text{in } (\mathcal{B}^\# \llbracket \neg B \rrbracket \mathcal{W})$$

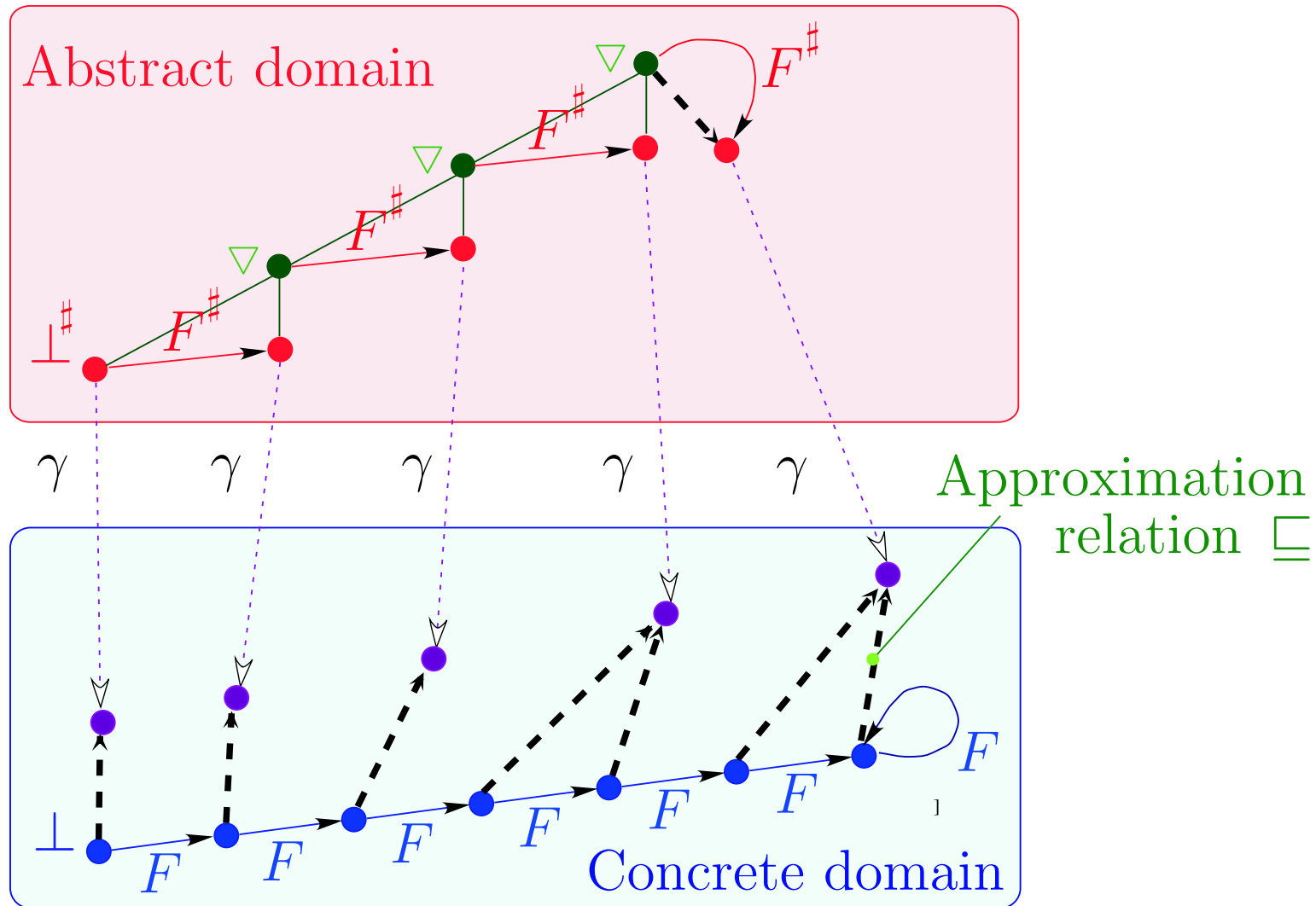
$$S^\# \llbracket \{\} \rrbracket R \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} R$$

$$S^\# \llbracket \{C_1 \dots C_n\} \rrbracket R \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} S^\# \llbracket C_n \rrbracket \circ \dots \circ S^\# \llbracket C_1 \rrbracket \quad n > 0$$

$$S^\# \llbracket D \text{ } C \rrbracket R \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} S^\# \llbracket C \rrbracket (\top) \quad (\text{uninitialized variables})$$



Convergence Acceleration with Widening



Abstract Semantics with Convergence Acceleration²

$$S^\sharp[X = E;]R \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \alpha(\{\rho[X \leftarrow \mathcal{E}[E]\rho] \mid \rho \in \gamma(R) \cap \text{dom}(E)\})$$

$$S^\sharp[\text{if } B \text{ } C']R \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} S^\sharp[C'](\mathcal{B}^\sharp[B]R) \sqcup \mathcal{B}^\sharp[\neg B]R$$

$$\mathcal{B}^\sharp[B]R \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \alpha(\{\rho \in \gamma(R) \cap \text{dom}(B) \mid B \text{ holds in } \rho\})$$

$$S^\sharp[\text{if } B \text{ } C' \text{ else } C'']R \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} S^\sharp[C'](\mathcal{B}^\sharp[B]R) \sqcup S^\sharp[C''](\mathcal{B}^\sharp[\neg B]R)$$

$$S^\sharp[\text{while } B \text{ } C']R \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{let } \mathcal{F}^\sharp = \lambda \mathcal{X}. \text{let } \mathcal{Y} = R \sqcup S^\sharp[C'](\mathcal{B}^\sharp[B]\mathcal{X}) \\ \text{in if } \mathcal{Y} \sqsubseteq \mathcal{X} \text{ then } \mathcal{X} \text{ else } \mathcal{X} \nabla \mathcal{Y}$$

$$\text{and } \mathcal{W} = \text{lfp}_{\perp}^{\sqsubseteq} \mathcal{F}^\sharp \quad \text{in } (\mathcal{B}^\sharp[\neg B]\mathcal{W})$$

$$S^\sharp[\{\}]R \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} R$$

$$S^\sharp[\{C_1 \dots C_n\}]R \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} S^\sharp[C_n] \circ \dots \circ S^\sharp[C_1] \quad n > 0$$

$$S^\sharp[D \text{ } C]R \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} S^\sharp[C](\top) \quad (\text{uninitialized variables})$$

² Note: \mathcal{F}^\sharp not monotonic!



Applications of Abstract Interpretation



Applications of Abstract Interpretation

- **Static Program Analysis** [POPL '77], [POPL '78], [POPL '79]
including **Dataflow Analysis** [POPL '79], [POPL '00], **Set-based Analysis** [FPCA '95], **Predicate Abstraction** [Manna's festschrift '03], ...
- **Syntax Analysis** [TCS 290(1) 2002]
- **Hierarchies of Semantics (including Proofs)** [POPL '92], [TCS 277(1–2) 2002]
- **Typing & Type Inference** [POPL '97]



Applications of Abstract Interpretation (Cont'd)

- (Abstract) Model Checking [POPL '00]
- Program Transformation [POPL '02]
- Software Watermarking [POPL '04]
- Bisimulations [RT-ESOP '04]

All these techniques involve **sound approximations** that can be formalized by **abstract interpretation**



Static Analysis

Reference

- [1] P. Cousot and R. Cousot. Static determination of dynamic properties of programs. In *Proceedings of the Second International Symposium on Programming*, pages 106–130. Dunod, Paris, France, 1976.



State of the Art in Automatic Static Program Analysis



Static analysis tools

- Determine automatically from the program text program properties of a certain class that do hold at runtime (e.g. absence of runtime error);
- Based on the automatic computation of machine representable abstractions³ of all possible executions of the program in any possible environment;
- Scales up to hundreds of thousands lines;
- Undecidable whence false alarms are possible⁴

³ sound but (in general) uncomplete approximations.

⁴ cases when a question on the program runtime behavior cannot be answered automatically for sure



Degree of specialization

- Specialization for a **class of runtime properties** (e.g. absence of runtime errors)
 - Specialization for a **programming language** (e.g. PolySpace Suite for Ada, C or C++)
 - Specialization for a **programming style** (e.g. C Global Surveyor)
 - Specialization for an **application type** (e.g. ASTRÉE for embedded real-time synchronous⁵ autocodes)
- ⇒ The more specialized, the less false alarms⁶!

⁵ deterministic

⁶ but the less specialized, the larger commercial market (and the less client satisfaction)!

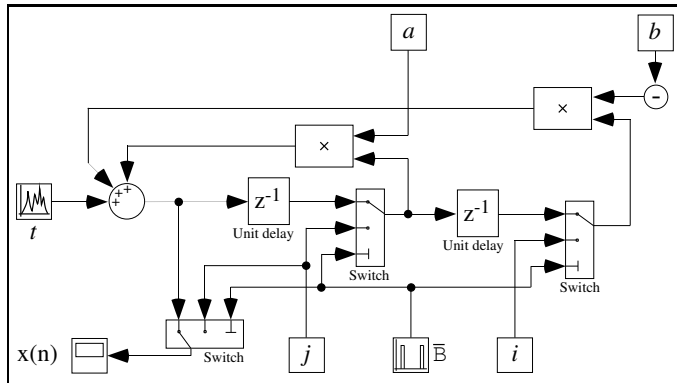


The **ASTRÉE** static analyzer (www.astree.ens.fr)

- **ASTRÉE** is a static program analyzer aiming at proving the absence of Run Time Errors (started Nov. 2001)
- C programs, no dynamic memory allocation and recursion
- Encompass many (automatically generated) synchronous, time-triggered, real-time, safety critical, embedded software
- automotive, energy and aerospace applications
 - ⇒ e.g. No false alarm on the electric flight control codes for the A340 (Nov. 2003) and A380 (Nov. 2004) generated from SAO/SCADE.

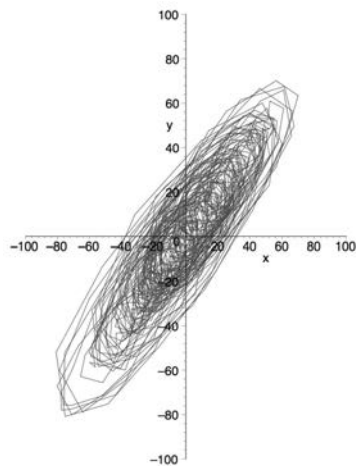


2^d Order Digital Filter:

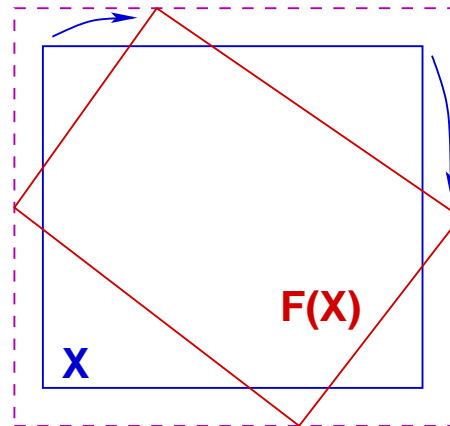


Ellipsoid Abstract Domain for Filters

- Computes $X_n = \begin{cases} \alpha X_{n-1} + \beta X_{n-2} + Y_n \\ I_n \end{cases}$
- The concrete computation is **bounded**, which must be proved in the abstract.
- There is **no stable interval or octagon**.
- The simplest stable surface is an **ellipsoid**.

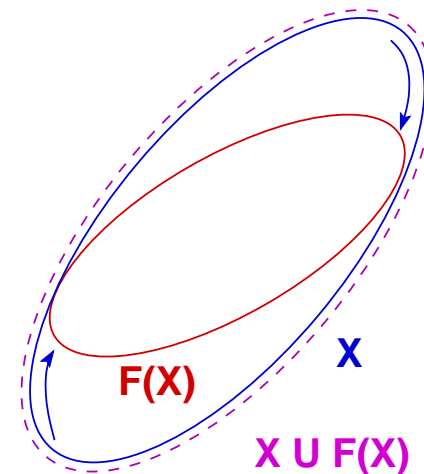


execution trace



$X \cup F(X)$

unstable interval



$X \cup F(X)$

stable ellipsoid



Filter Example

```
typedef enum {FALSE = 0, TRUE = 1} BOOLEAN;
BOOLEAN INIT; float P, X;

void filter () {
    static float E[2], S[2];
    if (INIT) { S[0] = X; P = X; E[0] = X; }
    else { P = (((((0.5 * X) - (E[0] * 0.7)) + (E[1] * 0.4))
                + (S[0] * 1.5)) - (S[1] * 0.7)); }
    E[1] = E[0]; E[0] = X; S[1] = S[0]; S[0] = P;
    /* S[0], S[1] in [-1327.02698354, 1327.02698354] */
}

void main () { X = 0.2 * X + 5; INIT = TRUE;
    while (1) {
        X = 0.9 * X + 35; /* simulated filter input */
        filter (); INIT = FALSE; }
}
```

Reference

see <http://www.astree.ens.fr/>



Arithmetic-geometric progressions

- Abstract domain: $(\mathbb{R}^+)^5$ ⁷
- Concretization (any function bounded by the arithmetic-geometric progression):

$$\gamma \in (\mathbb{R}^+)^5 \longmapsto \wp(\mathbb{N} \mapsto \mathbb{R})$$

$$\gamma(M, a, b, a', b') =$$

$$\{f \mid \forall k \in \mathbb{N} : |f(k)| \leq \left(\lambda x . ax + b \circ (\lambda x . a'x + b')^k \right) (M)\}$$

Reference

see <http://www.astree.ens.fr/>

⁷ here in \mathbb{R}



Arithmetic-Geometric Progressions (Example 1)

```
% cat count.c
typedef enum {FALSE = 0, TRUE = 1} BOOLEAN;
volatile BOOLEAN I; int R; BOOLEAN T;
void main() {
```

```
    R = 0;
    while (TRUE) {
        __ASTREE_log_vars((R));
        if (I) { R = R + 1; }
        else { R = 0; }
        T = (R >= 100);
        __ASTREE_wait_for_clock(());
    }
```

← potential overflow!

```
% cat count.config
__ASTREE_volatile_input((I [0,1]));
__ASTREE_max_clock((3600000));
% astree -exec-fn main -config-sem count.config count.c|grep '|R|'

|R| <= 0. + clock *1. <= 3600001.
```



Arithmetic-geometric progressions (Example 2)

```
% cat retro.c
typedef enum {FALSE=0, TRUE=1} BOOL;
BOOL FIRST;
volatile BOOL SWITCH;
volatile float E;
float P, X, A, B;

void dev( )
{ X=E;
  if (FIRST) { P = X; }
  else
    { P = (P - (((2.0 * P) - A) - B)
           * 4.491048e-03)); };
  B = A;
  if (SWITCH) {A = P;}
  else {A = X;}
}
```

```
void main()
{ FIRST = TRUE;
  while (TRUE) {
    dev( );
    FIRST = FALSE;
    __ASTREE_wait_for_clock();
  }}

% cat retro.config
__ASTREE_volatile_input((E [-15.0, 15.0]));
__ASTREE_volatile_input((SWITCH [0,1]));
__ASTREE_max_clock((3600000));

|P| <= (15.  + 5.87747175411e-39
/ 1.19209290217e-07) * (1
+ 1.19209290217e-07)^clock
- 5.87747175411e-39 /
1.19209290217e-07 <=
23.0393526881
```



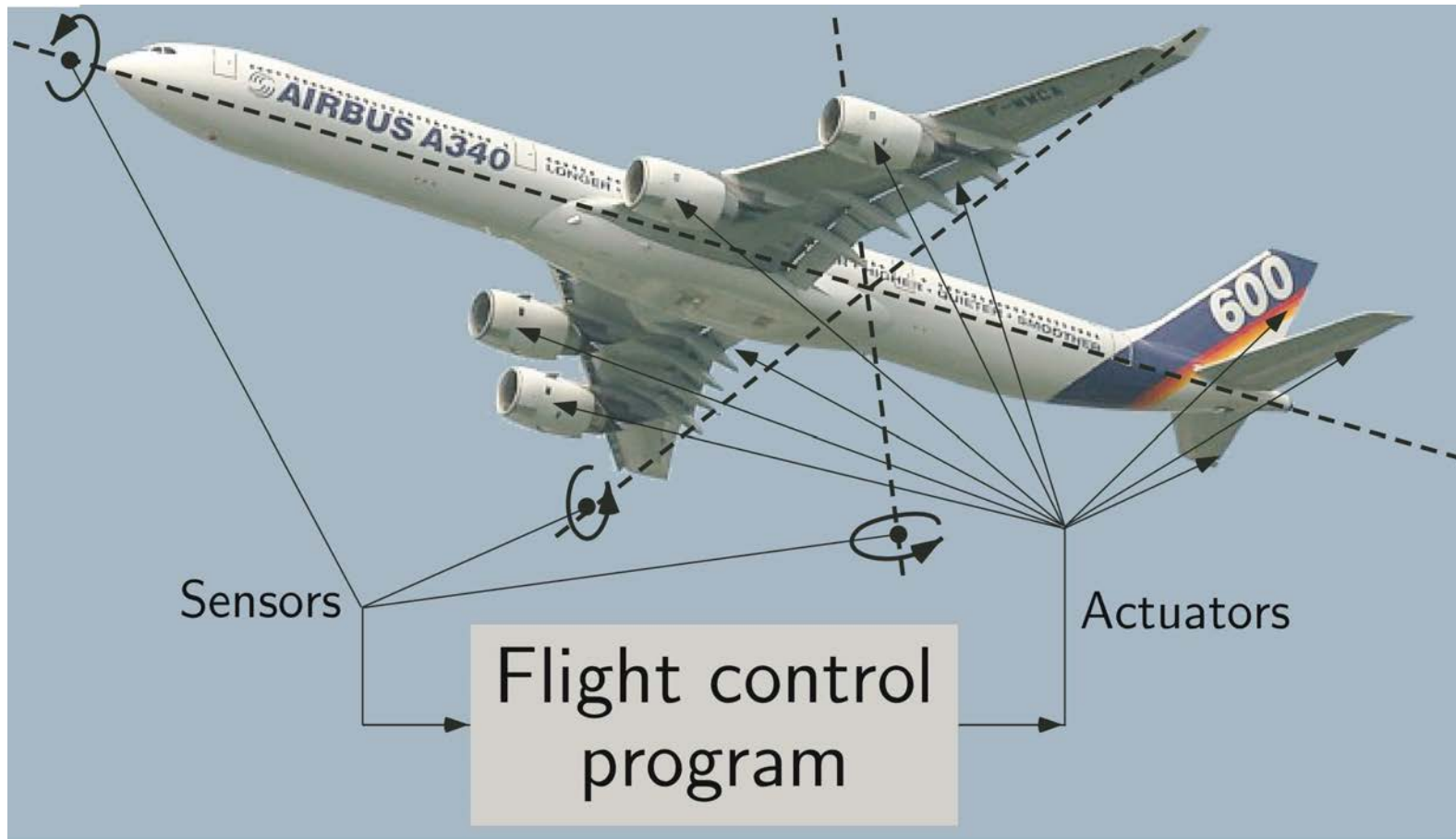
Towards System Verification Tools

Reference

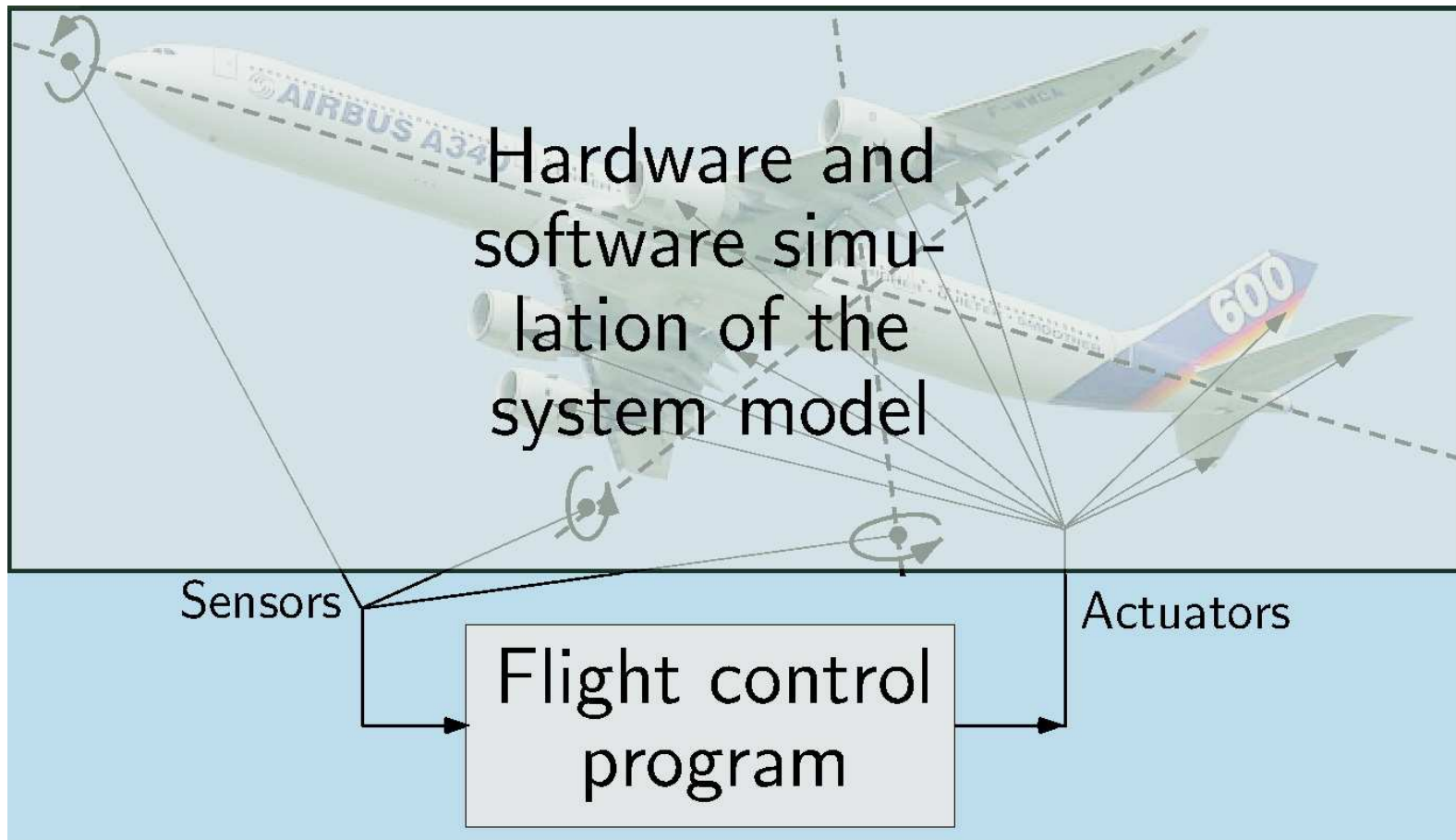
- [2] P. Cousot. Proving Program Invariance and Termination by Parametric Abstraction, Lagrangian Relaxation and Semidefinite Programming, invited paper. In *Sixth International Conference on Verification, Model Checking and Abstract Interpretation (VMCAI'05)*, pages 1–24, Paris, France, January 17-19, 2005. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, volume 3385, Springer, Berlin.
- [APLAS '06] P. Cousot. Integrating Physical Systems in the Static Analysis of Embedded Control Software., invited talk In *APLAS'06*, Tokyo, Nov. 2005, to appear (LNCS).



Computer controlled systems



Software test



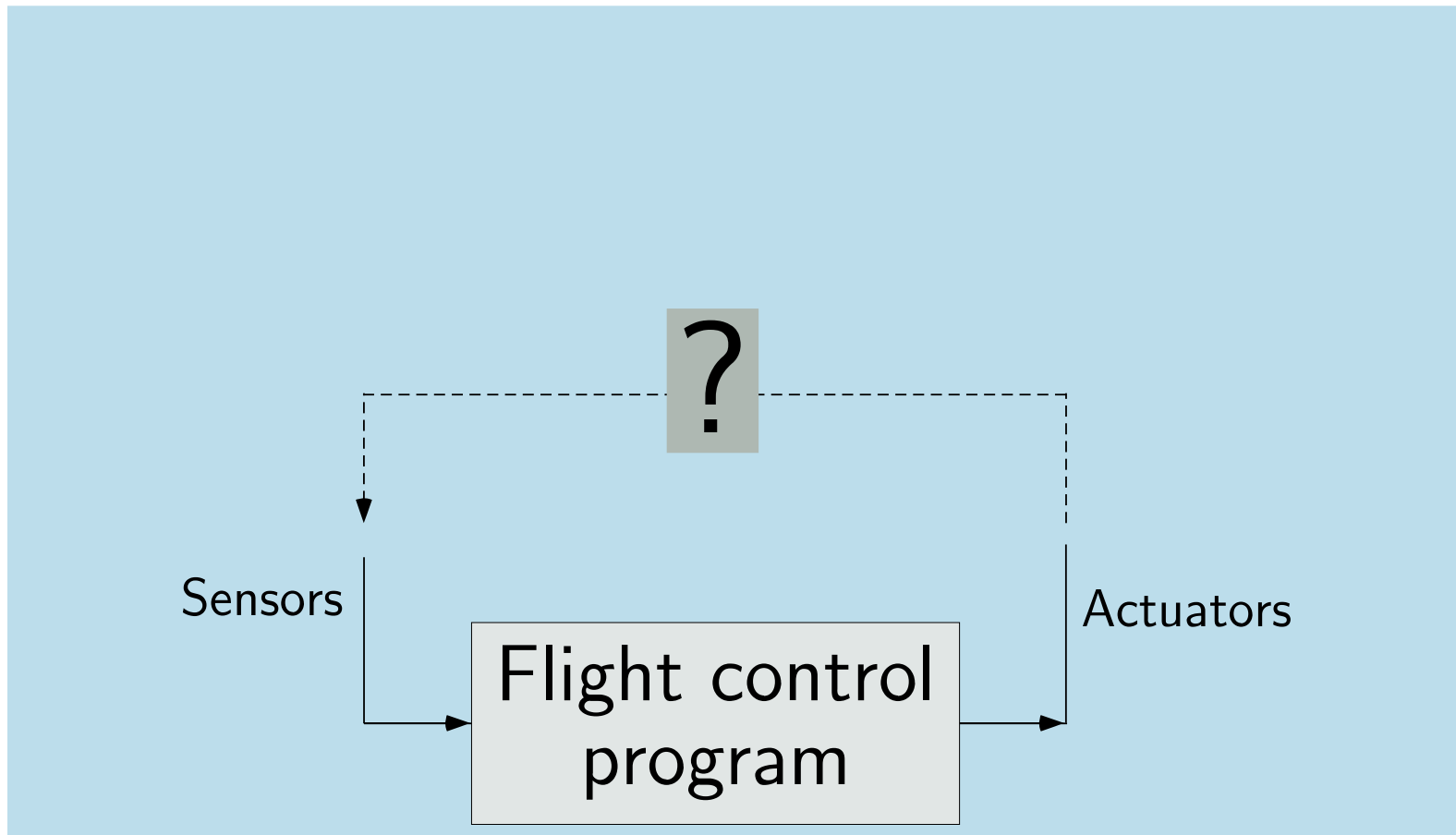
Abstractions: $\text{program} \rightarrow \text{none}$, $\text{system} \rightarrow \text{precise}$



- Very expensive
- Not exhaustive
- Extended during flight test period
- Late discovery of errors can delay the program by months
(the whole software development process must be rechecked)



Software analysis & verification with ASTRÉE



Abstractions: program \rightarrow precise, system \rightarrow coarse

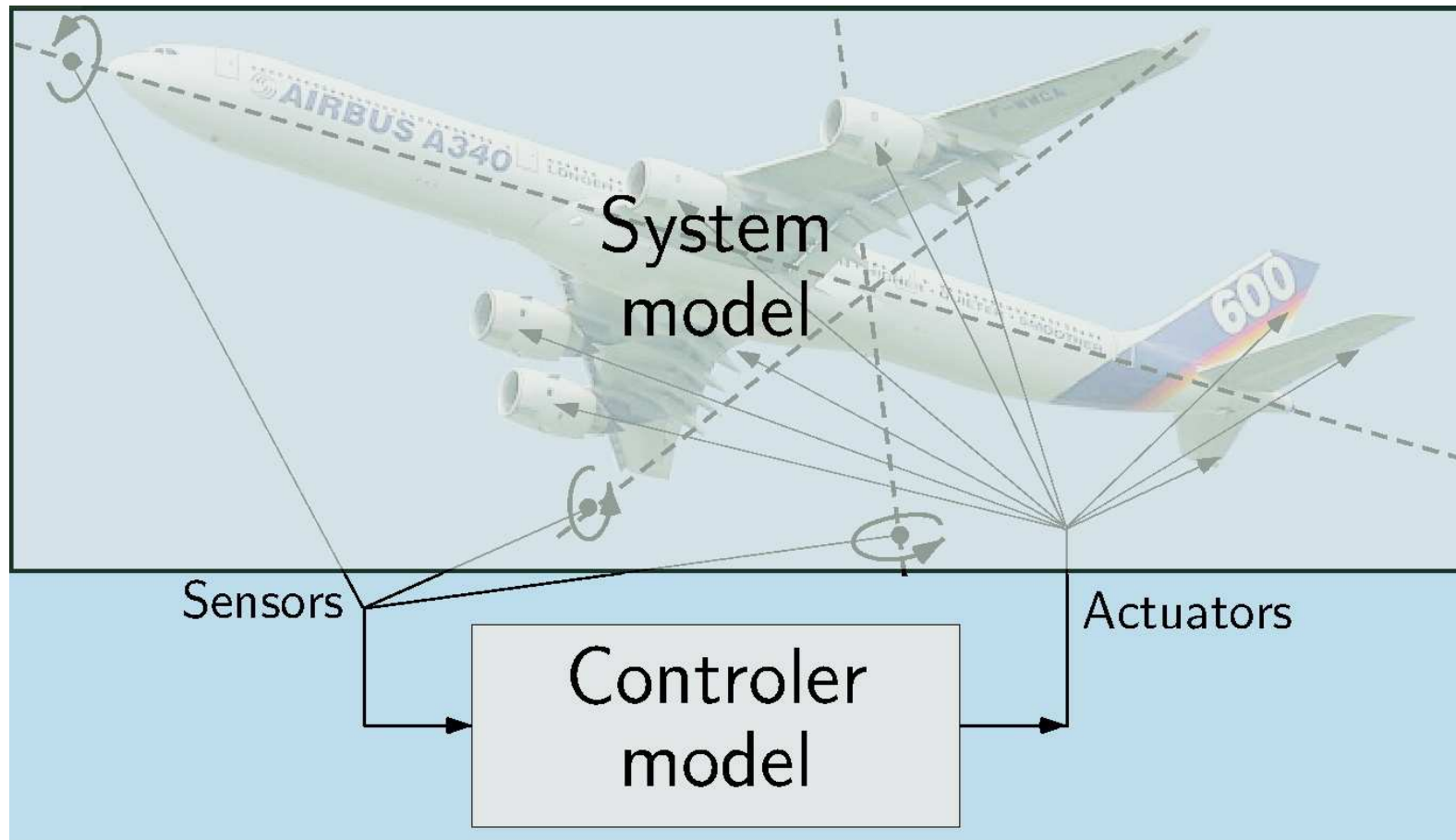


- Exhaustive
- Can be made precise by specialization⁸ to get no false alarm
- No specification of the controlled system (but for ranges of values of a few sensors)
- Impossible to prove essential properties of the controlled system (e.g. controlability, robustness, stability)

⁸ To specific families of properties and programs



System analysis & verification by control engineers



Abstractions: program \rightarrow imprecise, system \rightarrow precise



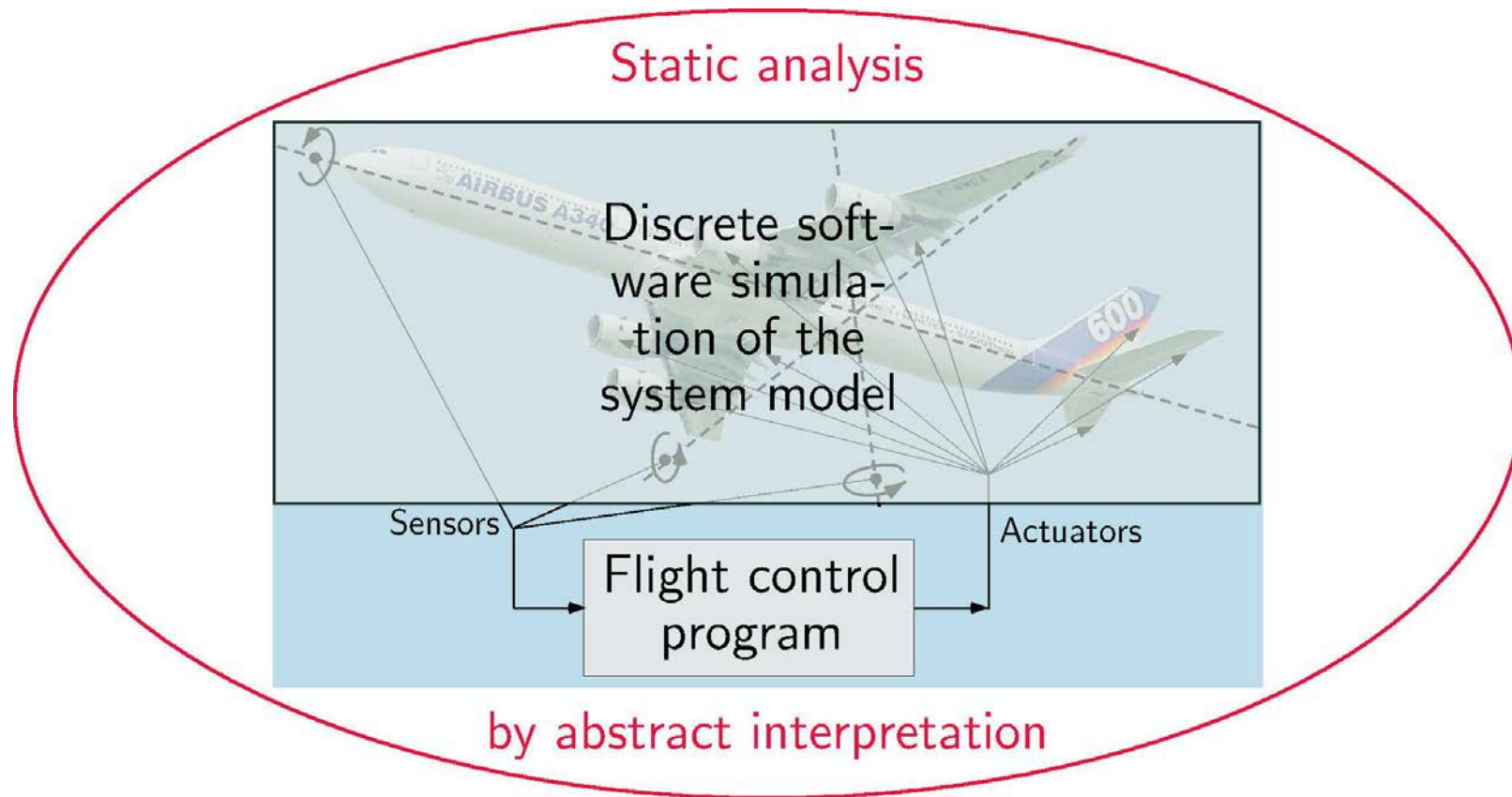
- The controller model is a rough abstraction of the control program:
 - Continuous, not discrete
 - Limited to control laws
 - Does not take into account fault-tolerance to failures and computer-related system dependability.
- In theory, SDP-based search of system invariants (Lyapunov-like functions) can be used to prove reachability and inevitability properties
- Problems to scale up (e.g. over long periods of time)
- In practice, the system/controller model is explored by discrete simulations (testing)



Exploring new avenues in static analysis



System analysis & verification, Avenue 1

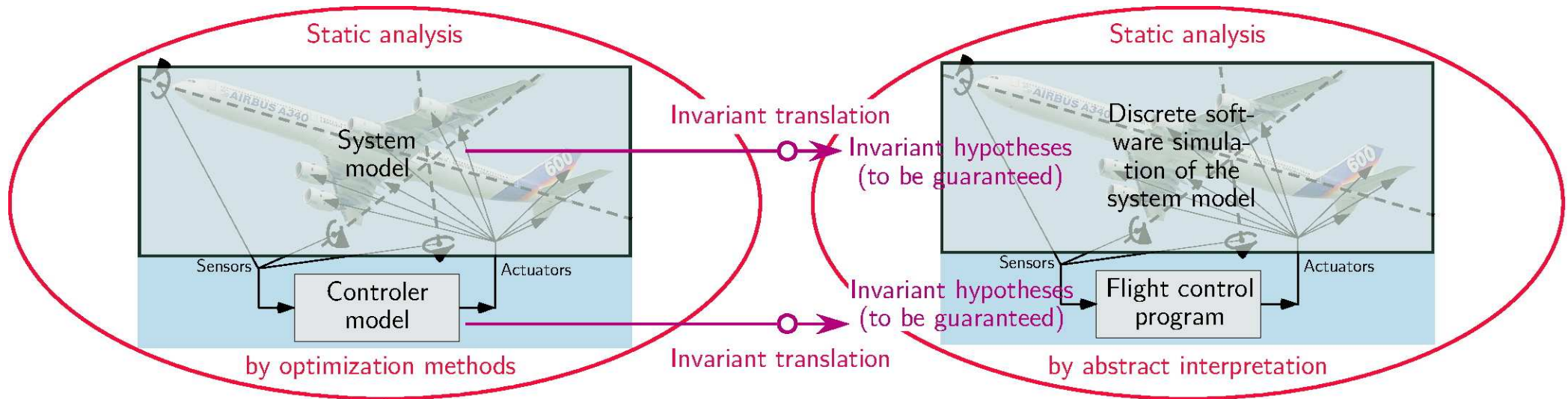


Abstractions: program \rightarrow precise, system \rightarrow precise

- Exhaustive (contrary to current simulations)
- Traditional abstractions (e.g. polyhedral abstraction with widening) seem to be too imprecise
- Currently exploring new abstractions (issued from control theory like ellipsoidal calculus using SDP)
- Prototype implementation in construction!



System analysis & verification, Avenue 2



Abstractions: program \rightarrow precise, system \rightarrow precise

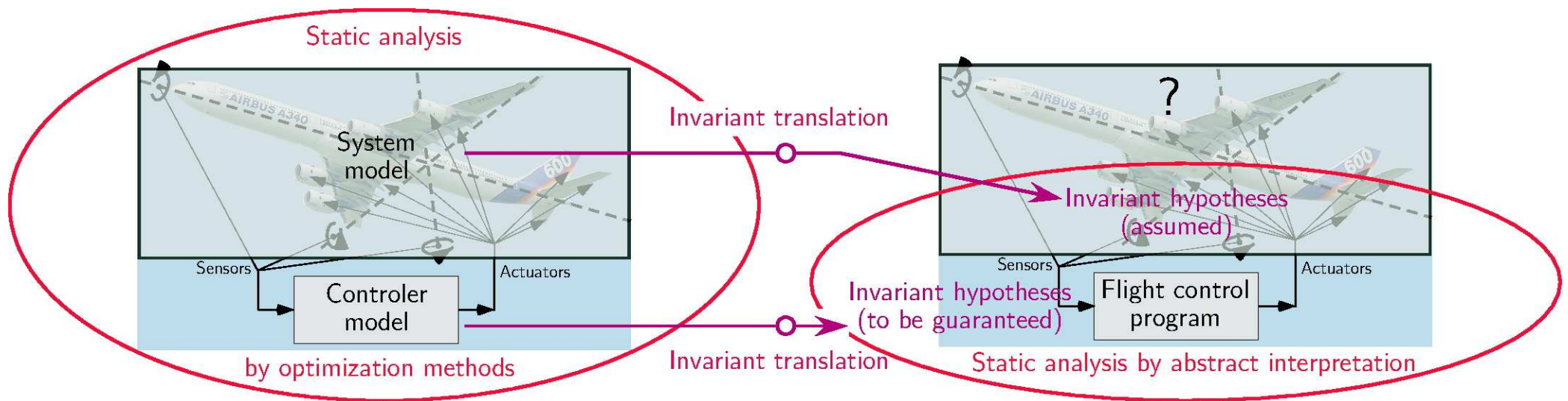


- Example of invariant translation: ellipsoidal \longrightarrow polyhedral⁹
- The static analysis is easier on the system/controller model using continuous optimization methods
- The translated invariants can be checked for the system simulator/control program (easier than invariant discovery)
- Should scale up since these complex invariants are relevant to a small part of the control program only

⁹ For which floating point computations can be taken into account



System analysis & verification, Avenue 3



Abstractions: program \rightarrow precise, system \rightarrow precise



- The invariant hypotheses on the controlled system are assumed to be true
- It remains to perform the control program analysis under these hypothesis
- The results can then be checked on the whole system (as in case 2, but now using refined invariants on the control program!)
- Iterating this process leads to *static analysis by refinement of specifications*



Conclusion



Scientific and technologic objective

To develop formal tools to answer questions about software:

- from control model design to software implementation,
- for a wide range of design and software properties, which would be general enough to benefit all software-intensive industries, and can be adapted to specific application domains.



THE END, THANK YOU

More references at URL www.di.ens.fr/~cousot
www.astree.ens.fr.



References

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