Relational Abstract Interpretation for Enforcing Information Flow Security

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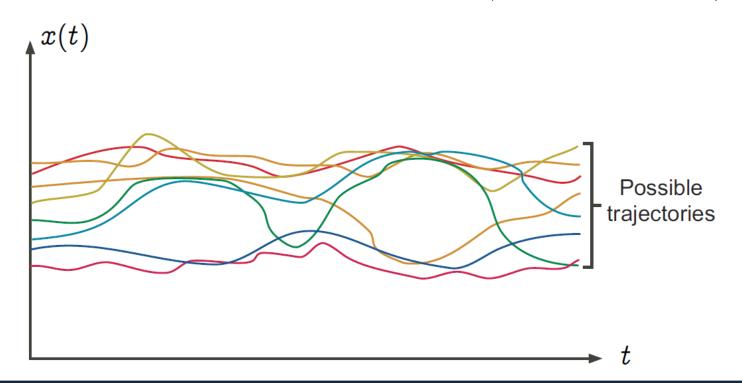


Outline

- An Introduction to Abstract Interpretation
 - Abstract Domain
 - Abstract Transform
 - Galois Connection
 - Combination of Galois Connections
- Relational Abstract Interpretation for Verification of 2-hypersafety properties
 - Via self-composition of CFG
 - XML manipulating language



- Concrete Semantics
 - formalizes the set of all possible executions of this program in all possible execution environments (Possible Behaviors)





- Undecidability
 - The concrete mathematical semantics of a program is an "infinite" mathematical object, not computable;
 - All non trivial questions on the concrete program semantics are undecidable (e.g. termination).
 - Assume termination(P) would always terminates and returns true iff P always terminates on all input data
 - P ≡ while termination(P) do skip od

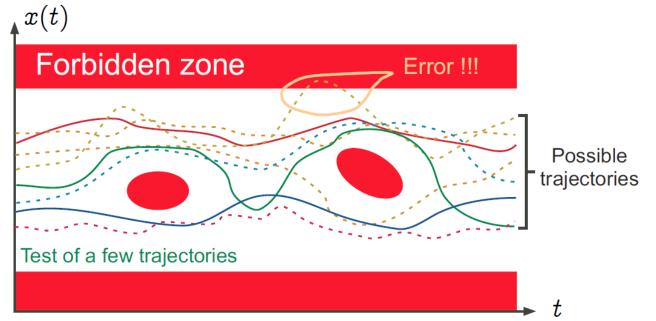


- Safety Property
 - expresses that no possible execution of the program when considering all possible execution environments can reach an erroneous state



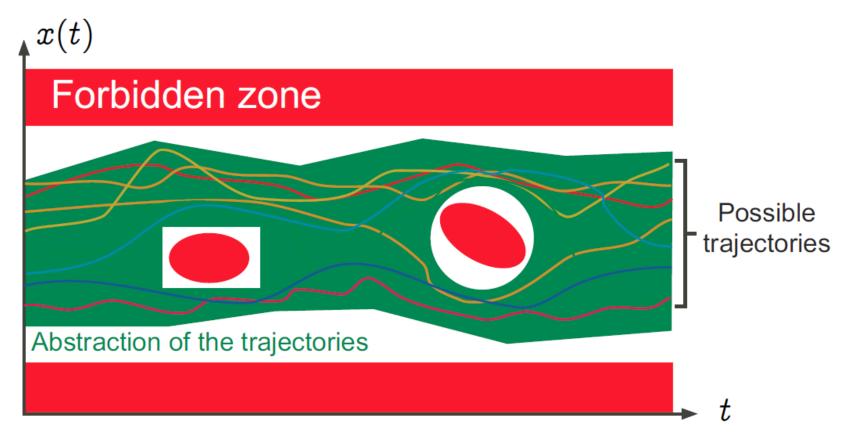


- Property Testing/Debugging
 - consists in considering a subset of the possible executions and not a correctness proof;
 - absence of coverage is the main problem





Abstract Interpretation





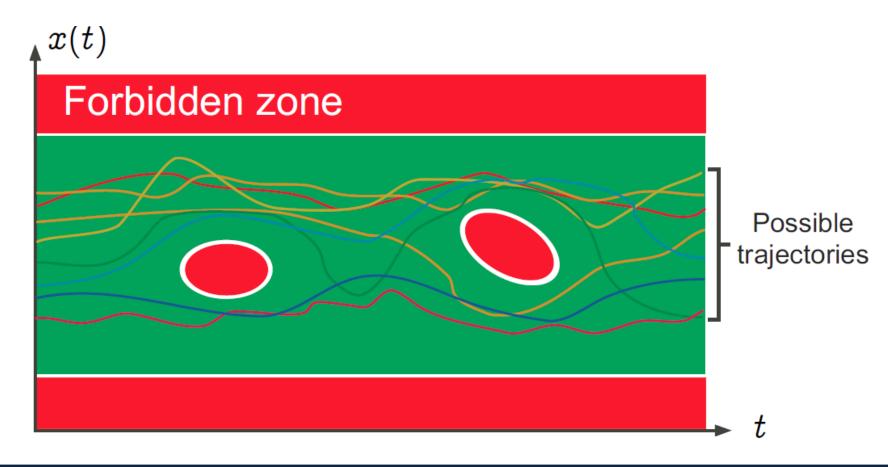
- Formal Methods are Abstract Interpretations!
 - Model Checking: abstract semantics is given <u>manually</u>
 by the user (a *finitary model* of the program execution)
 - Deductive Methods: the <u>user</u> must provide the abstract semantics in the form of *inductive arguments*
 - Static Analysis: the abstract semantics is computed automatically from the program text according to predefined abstractions



- Requirements of Abstract Semantics
 - sound so that no possible error can be forgotten
 - no conclusion derived from the abstract semantics is wrong relative to the program concrete semantics and specification
 - precise enough (to avoid false alarms)
 - as simple/abstract as possible

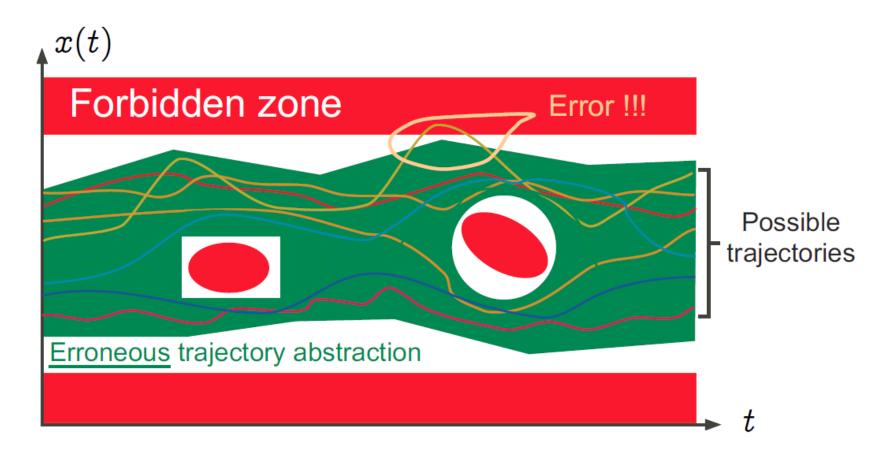


Correct and precise semantics



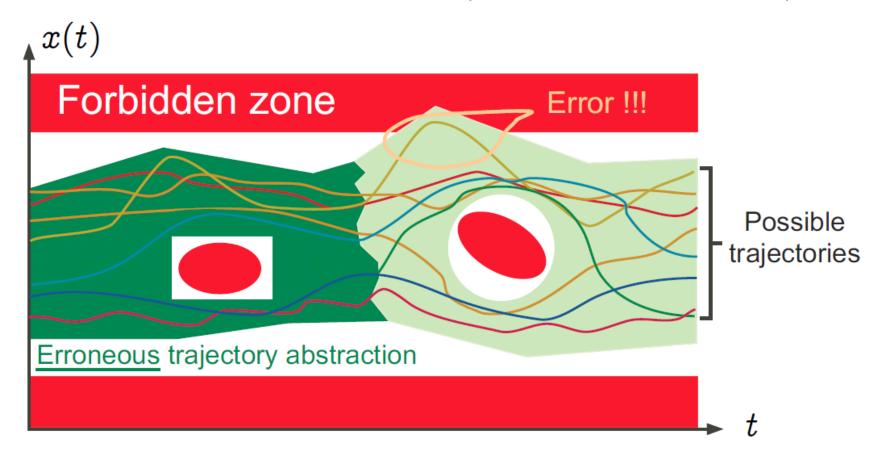


Erroneous semantics



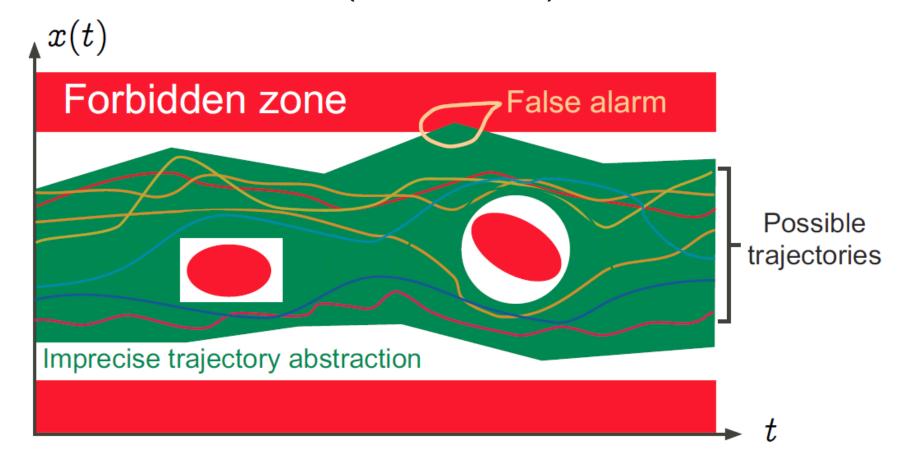


Another erroneous semantics (bounded model checking)





Imprecise semantics (False Alarms)



Abstract Domain

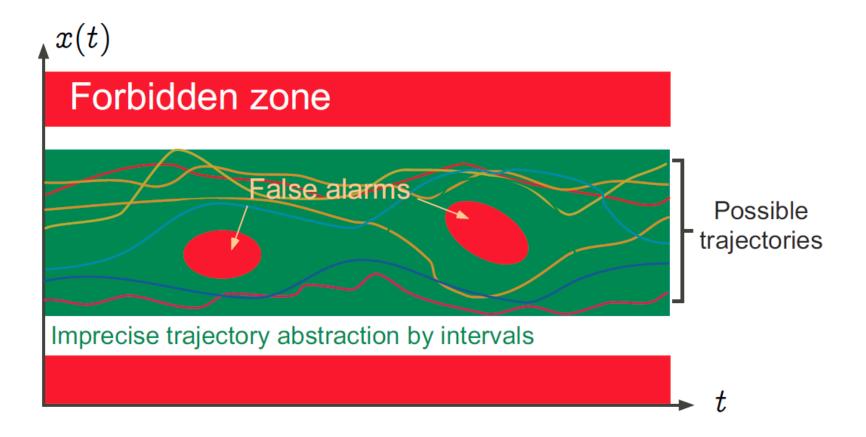
 providing a description of abstract program properties and abstract property transformers describing the operational effect of program instructions and commands in the abstract.

Standard abstractions

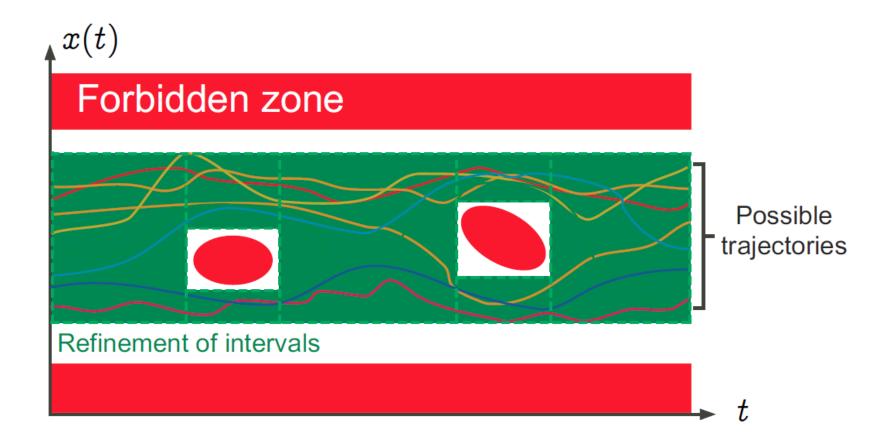
- that serve as a basis for the design of static analyzers
- abstract program data
- abstract program basic operations
- abstract program control (iteration, procedure, concurrency,...)
- can be parametrized to allow for manual adaptation to the application domains

- Most program properties can be expressed as fixpoints of monotone or extensive property transformers, a property preserved by abstraction.
 - This reduces program analysis to fixpoint approximation and verification to fixpoint checking.

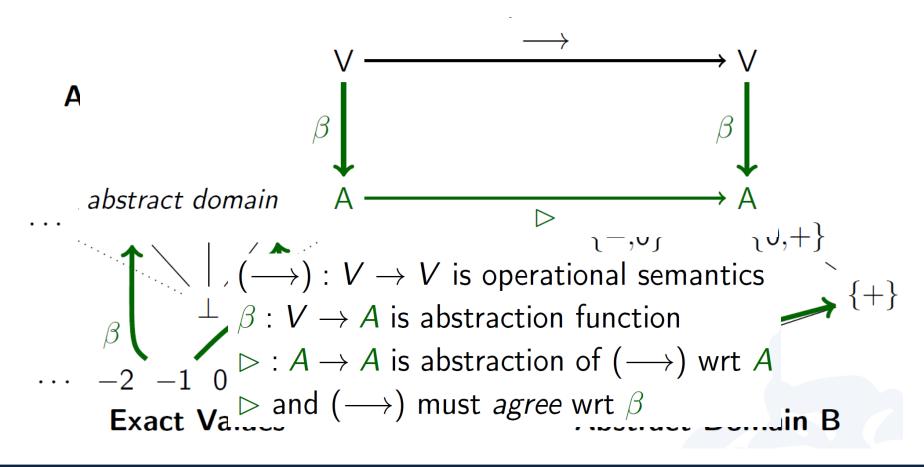
Standard abstraction by intervals



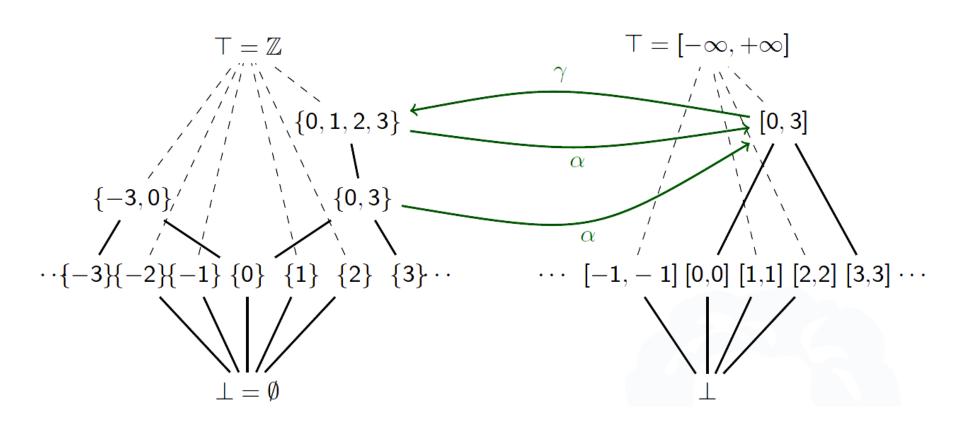
More refined abstraction



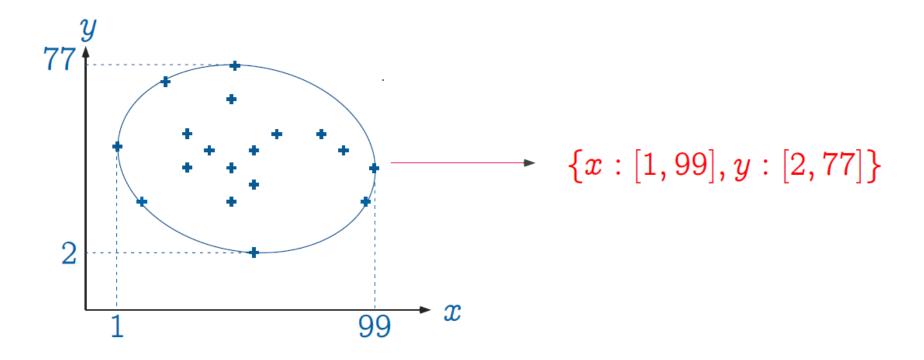
Approximation Options (Abstract Domains)



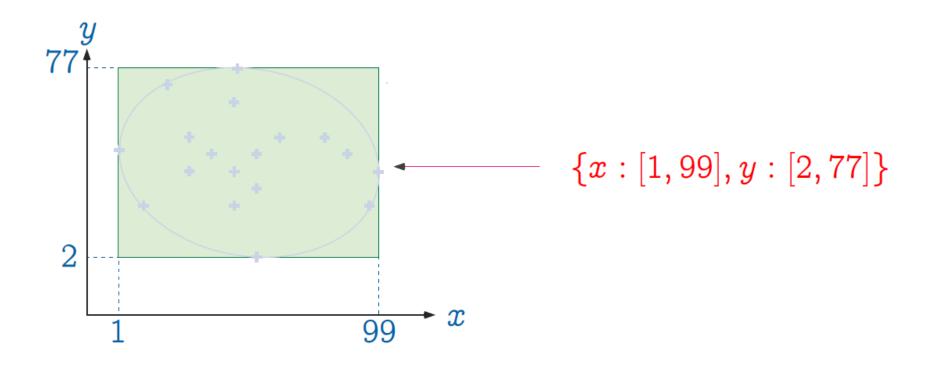
- Choose an abstract domain, replacing sets of objects (states, traces, ...) S by their abstraction $\alpha(S)$
- The abstraction function α maps a set of concrete objects to its abstract interpretation
- The inverse concretization function γ maps an abstract set of objects to concrete ones
- $S \subseteq \gamma(\alpha(S))$



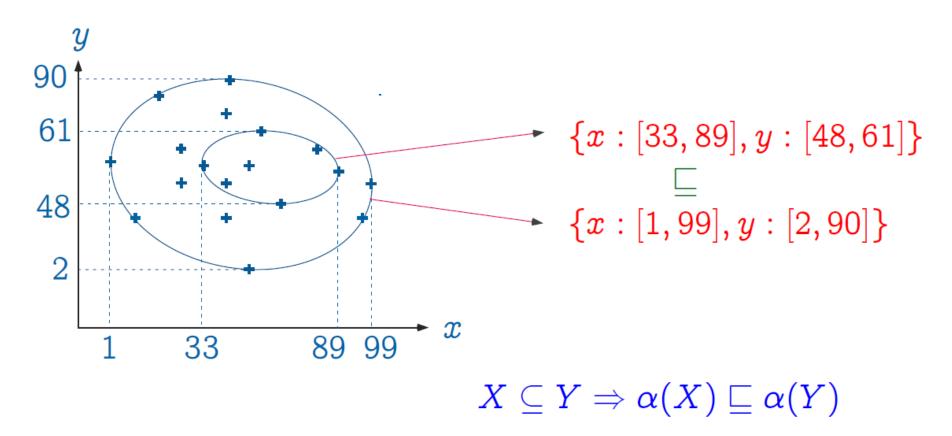
• Interval abstraction α



• Interval concretization γ

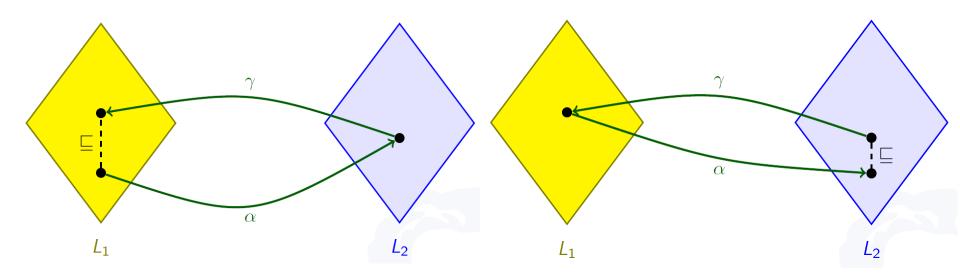


• Abstraction function α is monotone



Galois Connection

Notation: $L_1 \stackrel{\gamma}{\underset{\alpha}{\longmapsto}} L_2$ $\alpha: L_1 \to L_2$ monotonic (i.e., $x \sqsubseteq y \implies \alpha(x) \sqsubseteq \alpha(y)$) $\gamma: L_2 \to L_1$ monotonic $y \sqsubseteq \alpha \circ \gamma(y)$ $\gamma \circ \alpha(x) \sqsubseteq x$



Galois Connection

• Galois Insertion = Galois Connection + α is surjective (onto)

$$\gamma(\alpha(X)) = X$$

Common case in program analysis

Constructing Concretization

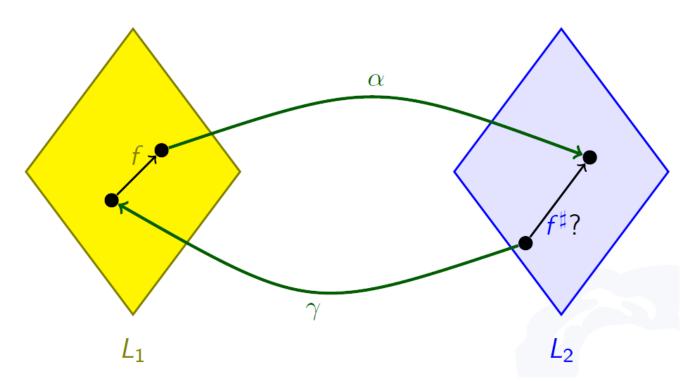
$$\gamma(y) = \sqcup \{x | \alpha(x) \sqsubseteq y\}$$

Galois Connection



Function Abstraction (Induced Operation)

$$f^{\#} = \alpha \circ f \circ \gamma$$



Sequence

$$L_1 \stackrel{\gamma_1}{\longleftrightarrow} L_2 \stackrel{\gamma_2}{\longleftrightarrow} L_3$$

$$L_1 \stackrel{\gamma_1 \circ \gamma_2}{\longleftarrow} L_3$$

Product (Independent Attributes)

$$L_{1} \xrightarrow{\gamma_{1}} M_{1}$$

$$L_{2} \xrightarrow{\gamma_{2}} M_{2}$$

$$\alpha(\langle x_{1}, x_{2} \rangle)$$

$$\alpha(\langle x_{1}, x_{2} \rangle)$$

$$L_1 \times L_2 \stackrel{\gamma}{\longleftrightarrow} M_1 \times M_2$$

$$\alpha(\langle x_1, x_2 \rangle) = \langle \alpha_1(x_1), \alpha_2(x_2) \rangle$$

$$\gamma(\langle x_1, x_2 \rangle) = \langle \gamma_1(x_1), \gamma_2(x_2) \rangle$$

Function

Galois connection
$$L \xrightarrow{\gamma} M$$

Set S

$$S \to L \xrightarrow{\gamma_S} S \to M$$

$$\alpha_s(f) = \alpha \circ f$$
$$\gamma_s(f) = \gamma \circ f$$

Tensor Product

$$\mathcal{P}(V) \xrightarrow{\frac{\gamma_1}{\alpha_1}} \mathcal{P}(D_1)$$

$$\mathcal{P}(V) \xrightarrow{\frac{\gamma_2}{\alpha_2}} \mathcal{P}(D_2)$$

$$\mathcal{P}(V) \stackrel{\gamma}{\underset{\alpha}{\longleftrightarrow}} \mathcal{P}(D_1 \times D_2)$$

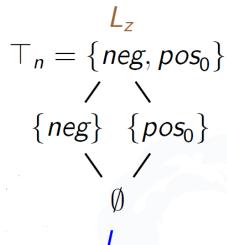
$$\alpha(\mathbf{v}) = \bigcup \{\alpha_1(\{x\}) \times \alpha_2(\{x\}) | x \in \mathbf{v}\}\$$

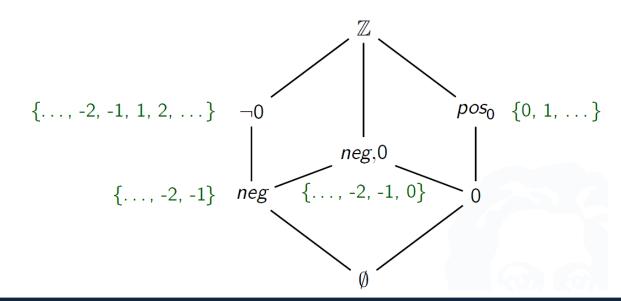
$$\gamma(d_{1,2}) = \{x | \alpha_1(\{x\}) \times \alpha_2(\{x\}) \subseteq d_{1,2}\}$$

Tensor Product

$$\alpha(\{-2,0\}) = \{\langle \neg 0, neg \rangle, \langle 0, pos_0 \rangle\}$$

$$\begin{split} &\gamma(\{\langle \neg 0, \textit{neg} \rangle\}) = \{\dots, -1\} \\ &\gamma(\{\langle 0, \textit{pos}_0 \rangle\}) = \{0\} \\ &\gamma(\{\langle \neg 0, \textit{neg} \rangle, \langle 0, \textit{pos}_0 \rangle\}) = \{\dots, -1, 0\} \end{split}$$





Relational Abstract Interpretation for the Verification of 2-Hypersafety Properties

Motivation

- Abstract interpretation is a well established approach for proving safety properties of programs
- Information Flow policies are formalized as safetyhyperproperties
 - Properties of multiple runs
- The verification of k-hypersafety properties can be reduced to the verification of ordinary safety properties of the k-fold self-composition of the program

Motivation

```
<if name="If">
      <condition> <![CDATA[$test < 0.5]]>
      </condition>
       <assign name="EvalGood">
        <copy> <from>"good"</from>

    Nc

         <to> $pList/patientRecord[id=$patientId]
                   /health/text()
                                                IC
         </to> </copy>
                                                et
       </assign>
      <else>
       <assign name="EvalPoor">
                                                iting
<to> $pList/patientRecord[id=$patientId]
  lar
                   /health/text()
         </to> </copy>
                                                1e
      </assign>
      </else>
     </if>
```

Set up

- Execution = sequence of assignments and condition evaluations
- Inserting skip instructions into arbitrary places of an execution does not change the result
 - Different *alignments* of a pair of executions
- Knowing an initial abstract value (the potential set of pairs of initial states), computing the final abstract value (the possible set of pairs of states that can result from any pairs of executions)

Main Idea

- Relational abstract domain describing pairs of concrete states + abstract transformers for pairs of instructions set in alignment within the two executions
- The abstract <u>effect</u> of a given pair of executions w.r.t a fixed alignments of instructions
 - By applying the composition of the occurring transformers to the initial abstract value
- Abstract effect of any alignment results in a safe overapproximation of the desired outcome
 - Approximate it with the glb over all alignments

Main Idea

- To obtain a safe approximation for all pairs of executions reaching a given pair of program points
 - -lub of the values provided for each pair of executions individually
 - Merge over all Twin Computations (MTC) solution
- To achieve maximal precision, the structural similarities of two subprograms are taken into account using a tree distance measure during the construction.
- Selecting one promising static alignment of instructions for each pair of executions resulting in a self-composition of the CFG of the program.

 the semantics of programs defined by means of control-flow graphs (CFG)

$$G = (N, E, n_{in}, n_{fi})$$

- N: set of nodes
- n_{in} , n_{fi} : unique initial and final nodes
- E: set of directed and labeled edges

$$(n_1, f, n_2)$$

f: state transformer

$$\llbracket f \rrbracket : S \nrightarrow S$$

- An execution = A path from the initial node to the final node
- The effect of the sequence of labels $\pi = f_1 \dots f_n$,

$$[\![\pi]\!]s_0 = [\![f_1...f_n]\!]s_0 = [\![f_n]\!] \circ ... \circ [\![f_1]\!]s_0$$

 $n_1 \leadsto n_2$: the set of sequences of labels of paths from node n_1 to node n_2

- We define a 2-hypersafety property by an initial and a final relation of program states ρ_{in} , $\rho_{fi} \subseteq S \times S$
- A program given by CFG $G = (N, E, n_{in}, n_{fi})$ satisfies the 2-hypersafety property specified by in ρ_{in} and ρ_{fi} , if for all pairs of initial states $(s_0, t_0) \in \rho_{in}$ and all pairs of final states $s = [\![\pi_1]\!]s_0$ and $t = [\![\pi_2]\!]t_0$ reachable by arbitrary computations $\pi_1, \pi_2 \in n_{in} \rightarrow n_{fi}$, it holds that $(s,t) \in \rho_{fi}$.

- $(\mathbb{D}, \sqsubseteq)$ complete lattice
- $(\mathcal{P}(S \times S), \alpha, \gamma, \mathbb{D})$ Galois connection
 - Powerset of pairs of states $\mathcal{P}(S \times S)$
 - **Abstraction function** α : $\mathcal{P}(S \times S)$ → \mathbb{D}
 - **−** Concretization function γ : \mathbb{D} $\rightarrow \mathcal{P}(S \times S)$
- Requirement for abstract transformers $[\![f,g]\!]^\#$ of pairs of labels (f,g) (called twin steps)

$$\gamma(\llbracket f,g \rrbracket^{\sharp}d) \supseteq \{ (s',t') \mid \exists (s,t) \in \gamma(d) : \\ \llbracket f \rrbracket s = s' \wedge \llbracket g \rrbracket t = t' \}$$

• The set of all possible alignments $A(\pi_1, \pi_2)$ is recursively defined by

```
\begin{array}{lll} A(\varepsilon,\varepsilon) & = & \varepsilon \cup \{(\mathtt{skip},\mathtt{skip})\omega \mid \omega \in A(\varepsilon,\varepsilon)\} \\ A(\varepsilon,g\pi) & = & \{(\mathtt{skip},g)\omega \mid \omega \in A(\varepsilon,\pi)\} \cup \\ & \{(\mathtt{skip},\mathtt{skip})\omega \mid \omega \in A(\varepsilon,g\pi)\} \\ A(f\pi,\varepsilon) & = & \{(f,\mathtt{skip})\omega \mid \omega \in A(\pi,\varepsilon)\} \cup \\ & \{(\mathtt{skip},\mathtt{skip})\omega \mid \omega \in A(f\pi,\varepsilon)\} \cup \\ A(f\pi_1,g\pi_2) & = & \{(f,g)\omega \mid \omega \in A(\pi_1,\pi_2)\} \cup \\ & \{(\mathtt{skip},g)\omega \mid \omega \in A(\pi_1,\pi_2)\} \cup \\ & \{(f,\mathtt{skip})\omega \mid \omega \in A(\pi_1,g\pi_2)\} \cup \\ & \{(\mathtt{skip},\mathtt{skip})\omega \mid \omega \in A(f\pi_1,g\pi_2)\} \cup \\ & \{(\mathtt{skip},\mathtt{skip})\omega \mid \omega \in A(f\pi_1,g\pi_2)\} \end{array}
```

- An alignment of two sequences of labels of a CFG, π_1 and π_2 , is a sequence of twin steps ω representing both of the original runs
- If $s = [\![\pi_1]\!]s_0$, $t = [\![\pi_2]\!]t_0$, $\omega \in A(\pi_1, \pi_2)$ and $= (f_1, g_1) \dots (f_n, g_n)$ then $(s, t) = [\omega](s_0, t_0)$
- For an abstract value d_0 , the most precise abstract value d that can be composed using the abstract semantics of twin steps:

$$d = \prod_{\omega \in A(\pi_1, \pi_2)} \llbracket \omega \rrbracket^{\sharp} d_0$$

• Given a CFG $G=(N,E,n_{in},n_{fi})$ and the initial abstract value d_0 , the merge over all twin computations solution is defined by:

$$MTC(G, d_0) = \bigsqcup_{\substack{\pi_1 \in n_{in} \leadsto n_{fi} \\ \pi_2 \in n_{in} \leadsto n_{fi}}} \left[\left[\omega \right] \right]^{\sharp} d_0$$

- The MTC solution can be considered as the extension of the MOP (meet over all paths) solution
- Theorem -

$$d \supseteq MTC(G, d_0) \text{ implies } (s, t) \in \gamma(d)$$

- The MTC solution is an abstraction of all possible pairs of states resulting from any pair of executions of the program.
- It might be difficult to compute the MTC solution directly.
- A fixed alignment for each pair of paths obtained by constructing a self-composition GG of the CFG G.
 - Perhaps less precise but still sound solution

• Given the CFG $G = (N, E, n_{in}, n_{fi})$ and a self-composition of it $GG = (N', E', n'_{in}, n'_{fi})$, the following holds for all d_0 :

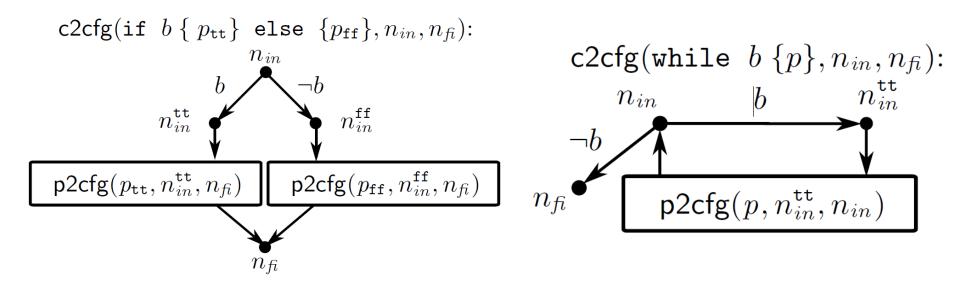
$$\bigsqcup_{\omega \in n'_{in} \leadsto n'_{fi}} \llbracket \omega \rrbracket^{\sharp} d_0 \supseteq MTC(G, d_0)$$

 Any solution of the analysis problem corresponding to the self-composition GG of G is a safe overapproximation of $MTC(G, d_0)$.

Verification

- Proving a 2-hypersafety property by means of this methods succeeds in two steps:
 - 1- Constructing a self-composition GG of the CFG
 - 2- Finding a decent abstract domain which achieve reasonable precision at an acceptable price

```
\begin{array}{ll} (\operatorname{program}) & p & ::= & c \text{; } | c \text{; } p \\ (\operatorname{command}) & c & ::= & \operatorname{skip} | x \text{ := } e | \operatorname{while} b \{p\} \mid \\ & & \text{if } b \{p_{\operatorname{tt}}\} \operatorname{else} \{p_{\operatorname{ff}}\} \end{array}
```



pp2cfg (pair of programs to CFG) and pc2cfg (pair of commands to CFG)

Computing a Best Alignment of Two Programs

$$\omega_{\text{opt}} = \underset{\omega \in A(p_1, p_2)}{\operatorname{arg \, min}} \sum_{1 \le i \le |\omega|} \operatorname{td}(\omega[i].1, \omega[i].2)$$

Computing the Compositions of CFGs of Pairs of Commands

$$\omega = (c_1, d_1) \dots (c_k, d_k)$$

 The roots of the ASTs corresponding to c and d are considered composable in the following cases:

$$c=d=x:=e \text{ or } c=d=\text{skip}$$

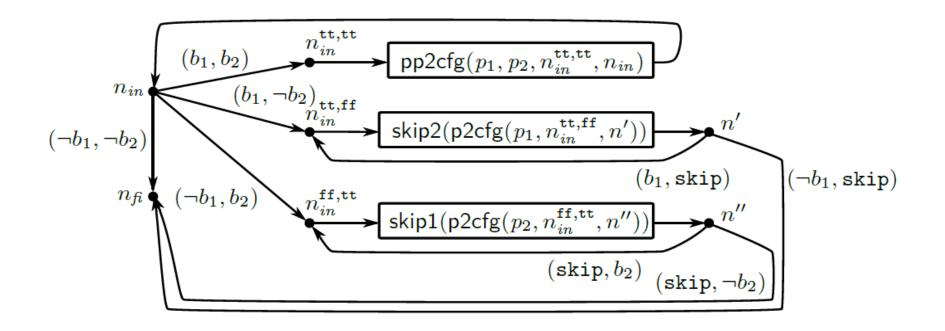
$$c=\text{if } b_1 \ \{p_{\mathtt{tt}}^1\} \text{ else } \{p_{\mathtt{ff}}^1\} \text{ and } d=\text{if } b_2 \ \{p_{\mathtt{tt}}^2\} \text{ else } \{p_{\mathtt{ff}}^2\}$$

$$c=\text{while } b_1 \ \{p_1\} \text{ and } d=\text{while } b_2 \ \{p_2\}$$

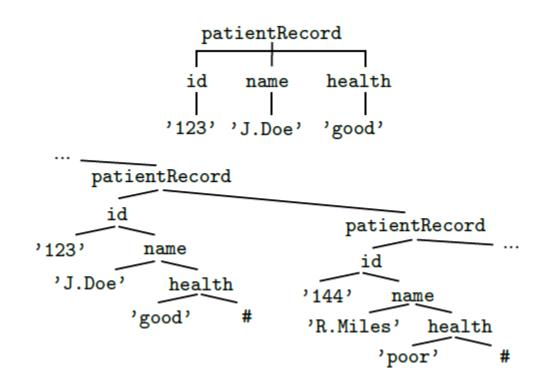
- In case the roots of the ASTs of the commands c and d are not composable, then we put them in sequence
 - Adding skip to each CFG labels

For composable roots

- Not branching constructs: $pc2cfg(c, d, n_{in}, n_{fi}) = (n_{in}, (c, d), n_{fi})$
- Branching constructs as follow



- XML documents are unranked ordered trees
 - Represented using binary trees by means of first-child-next-sibling



- Σ_2 : alphabet of binary nodes (models XML tags)
- Σ_0 : alphabet of nullary nodes (models textual entities)
- $\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma_2,\Sigma_0}$: set of binary trees

State transformers of edges (concrete transformers)

$$[\![top(x) = \sigma]\!] s = s \text{ if } \sigma \in \Sigma_2 \cup \{\#\} \text{ and } s(x) \text{ has root labeled with } \sigma$$

$$[\![\neg top(x) = \sigma]\!] s = s \text{ if } \sigma \in \Sigma_2 \cup \{\#\} \text{ and } s(x) \text{ has root labeled with } \sigma' \neq \sigma$$

$$[\![\lambda_b(x_1, x_2, \dots)]\!] s = s \text{ if } [\![\lambda_b]\!] (s(x_1), s(x_2), \dots) \text{ holds }$$

$$[\![x := y]\!] s = s[x \mapsto s(y)] \qquad [\![x := \#]\!] s = s[x \mapsto \#]$$

$$[\![x := \sigma_2(x_1, x_2)]\!] s = s[x \mapsto \sigma_2(s(x_1), s(x_2))]$$

$$[\![x := y/1]\!] s = \begin{cases} s[x \mapsto t_1] & \text{if } s(y) = \sigma_2(t_1, t_2) \text{ for some label } \sigma_2, \text{ and trees } t_1 \text{ and } t_2 \end{cases}$$

$$[\![x := y/2]\!] s = \begin{cases} s[x \mapsto t_2] & \text{if } s(y) = \sigma_2(t_1, t_2) \text{ for some label } \sigma_2, \text{ and trees } t_1 \text{ and } t_2 \end{cases}$$

$$[\![x := y/2]\!] s = \begin{cases} s[x \mapsto t_2] & \text{if } s(y) = \sigma_2(t_1, t_2) \text{ for some label } \sigma_2, \text{ and trees } t_1 \text{ and } t_2 \end{cases}$$

$$[\![x := x_t(x_1, x_2, \dots)]\!] s = s[x \mapsto [\![x_t]\!] (s(x_1), s(x_2), \dots)] \text{ or } \xi$$

$$[\![x := x_t(x_1, x_2, \dots)]\!] s = s[x \mapsto [\![x_t]\!] (s(x_1), s(x_2), \dots)] \text{ or } \xi$$

Termination-Insensitive Noninterference

if
$$s_0|_L = t_0|_L$$
 then $s|_L = t|_L$ for all pairs of executions

- Abstract states: $d: Var \to \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma_2,\{\#,bv,*\}})$
- $(s,t) \in \gamma(d)$ if for all variables $x, (s(x), t(x)) \in \gamma(d(x))$
- A pair of trees $\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_2$ is in the concretization of a set Λ of abstract trees, if Λ contains a tree \mathcal{T} such that both \mathcal{T}_1 and \mathcal{T}_2 can be obtained from \mathcal{T} by replacing the occurrences of bv with identical basic values, and the occurrences of * with any, possibly different subtrees.

Example -
$$\Lambda = \{a(*,bv),b(bv,*)\}$$
 $\mathcal{T}_1,\mathcal{T}_2 \in \gamma(\Lambda) \text{ for } \mathcal{T}_1 = \text{a(`secret','2')} \text{ and } \mathcal{T}_2 = \text{a(`SECRET','2')}$

- Abstract values do not record sensitive data and precise information on basic values
- $var_{x,n}$: sets of public views for variable x occurring at a node n
 - Defined by means of Horn clauses
 - Disjunction of literals with at most one positive literal
- $T \in d(x)$ at node n if $var_{x,n}(T)$ holds

Assignments as Horn clauses

Transformers of the form $[x \coloneqq e_1(x_1, \dots x_n), y \coloneqq e_2(y_1, \dots, y_n)]$

- For all variables $z \neq x$ and $z \neq y : var_{z,n'}(X) \Leftarrow var_{z,n}(X)$
- For edges with label $(x := y, x := y) : var_{x,n'}(X) \Leftarrow var_{y,n}(X)$
- For edges with label $(x := \sigma_2(y, z), x := \sigma_2(y, z))$: $var_{x,n'}(\sigma_2(L, R)) \Leftarrow var_{y,n}(L), var_{z,n}(R)$
- For edges with label $(x \coloneqq y/1, x \coloneqq y/1)$: $var_{x,n'}(L) \Leftarrow var_{y,n}(\sigma_2(L,_))$ for all σ_2
- For edges with label (x := y/2, x := y/2): $var_{x,n'}(R) \Leftarrow var_{y,n}(\sigma_2(_,R))$ for all σ_2

- Assignments as Horn clauses
 - For edges with label (f, f) where $f = x := \lambda_t(x_1, ..., x_k)$

$$\operatorname{var}_{x,n'}(bv) \Leftarrow \operatorname{var}_{x_1,n}(_), \operatorname{var}_{x_2,n}(_), \ldots, \operatorname{var}_{x_k,n}(_).$$
 $\operatorname{var}_{x,n'}(\star) \Leftarrow \operatorname{var}_{x_i,n}(X), \operatorname{secret}(X), \operatorname{var}_{x_1,n}(_), \ldots, \operatorname{var}_{x_k,n}(_).$

- For edges with label $(x \coloneqq e(x_1 \dots x_k), skip)$ and $(skip, x \coloneqq e(x_1 \dots x_k))$ $\text{var}_{x,n'}(\star) \Leftarrow \text{var}_{x_1,n}(\underline{\ }), \dots, \text{var}_{x_k,n}(\underline{\ })$

Boolean Expressions as Horn clauses (similarly)

- Theorem The abstract transformer $[f,g]^{\#}$ for a pair (f,g) as defined by Horn clauses is a correct abstract transformer.
 - In other words, if $[\![f]\!](s_0) = s$ and $[\![g]\!](t_0) = t$ where $(s_0,t_0) \in \gamma(d_0)$ and $[\![f,g]\!]^\# d_0 = d$, then $(s,t) \in \gamma(d)$ holds.
- The least solution of the set of Horn clauses defined for a program over-approximates the MTC solution.
- Noninterference for a particular output variable x holds at program exit n_{fi} , if the predicate $var_{x,n}$ does not accept trees containing *

Conclusion

- An Introduction to Abstract Interpretation
 - Abstract Domain
 - Abstract Transform
 - Galois Connection
- Relational Abstract Interpretation for Verification of 2-hypersafety properties
 - Via self-composition of CFG
 - XML manipulating language



References

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Any Questions?

