

Goals to Operational Specifications: Getting it right!

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Universidad Nacional de Río Cuarto

Best of RESG Research 2014
December 4th 2014

Detecting Errors Early

Detecting Errors Early

THIS DAY IN TECH

20th century

britain

Computers

Health and Medicine

Oct. 26, 1992: Software Glitch Cripples Ambulance Service

brisbanetimes
.com.au

Technology

Police force damaged

June 9, 2011

Geesche Jacobsen Legal Affairs

in it

and new computer-aided ambulance-

Knight Capital Reports Net Loss After Software Error

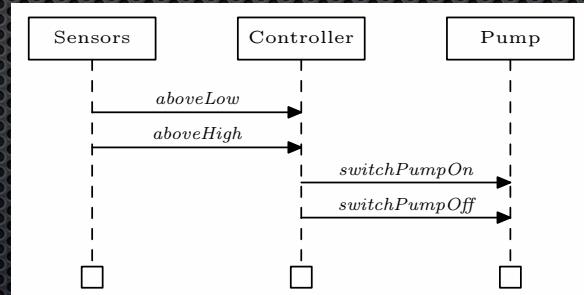
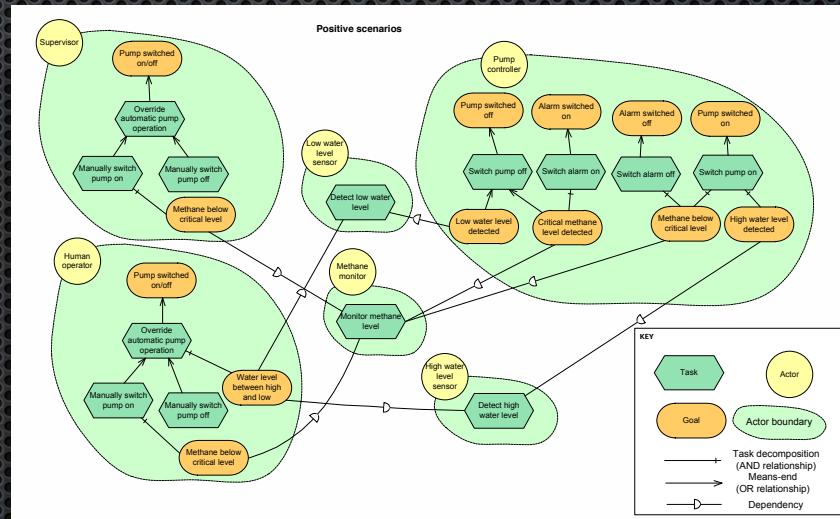
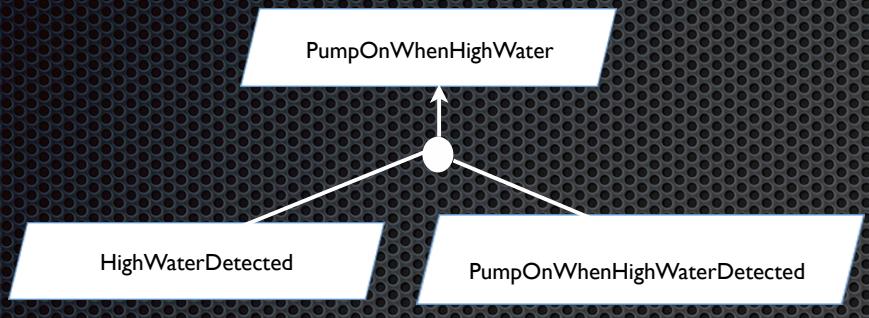
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By Whitney Kisling Oct 17, 2012 4:58 PM GMT+0100 0 Comments Email Print

Knight Capital Group Inc. (KCG)

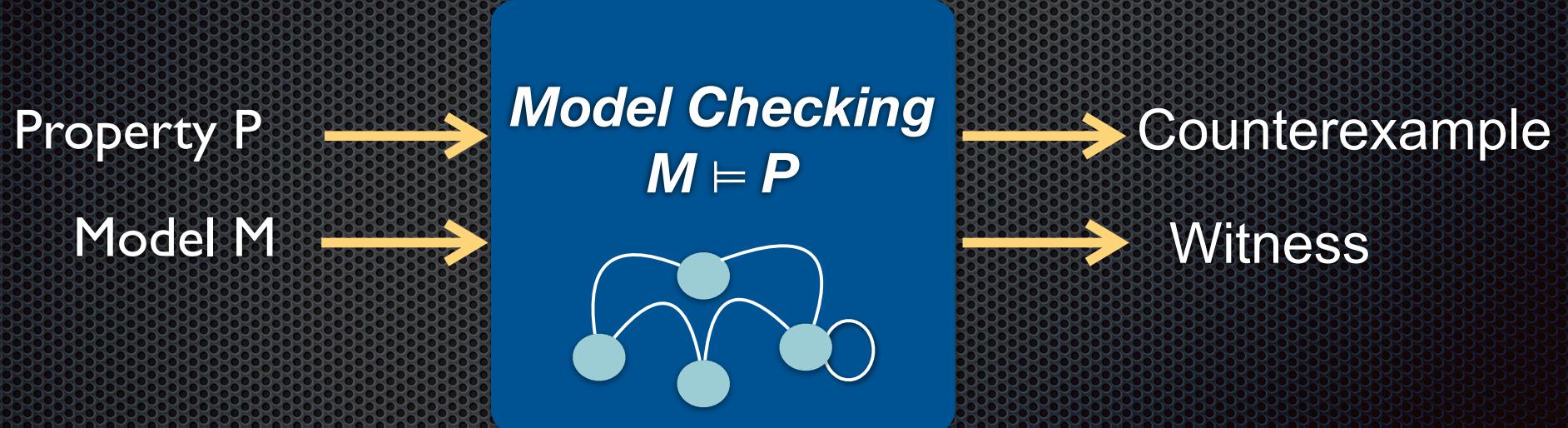
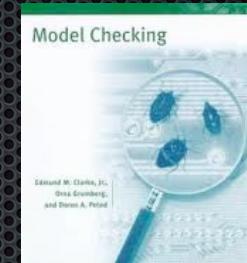
Software Requirements

Software Requirements



Model Checking

An automatic technique for verifying properties of finite state systems.



Extending Model Checking

*Elaborating Requirements using
model checking and
inductive learning*

TSE'13

IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON SOFTWARE ENGINEERING, VOL. 39, NO. 3, MARCH 2013

361

Elaborating Requirements Using Model Checking and Inductive Learning

Dalal Alrajeh, Jeff Kramer, *Member, IEEE*, Alessandra Russo, *Member, IEEE*, and
Sebastian Uchitel, *Member, IEEE*

Abstract—The process of Requirements Engineering (RE) includes many activities, from goal elicitation to requirements specification. The aim is to develop an operational requirements specification that is guaranteed to satisfy the goals. In this paper, we propose a formal, systematic approach for generating a set of operational requirements that are complete with respect to given goals. We show how the integration of model checking and inductive learning can be effectively used to do this. The model checking formally verifies the satisfaction of the goals and produces counterexamples when incompleteness in the operational requirements is detected. The inductive learning process then computes operational requirements from the counterexamples and user-provided positive examples. These learned operational requirements are guaranteed to eliminate the counterexamples and be consistent with the goals. This process is performed iteratively until no goal violation is detected. The proposed framework is a rigorous, tool-supported requirements elaboration technique which is formally guided by the engineer's knowledge of the domain and the envisioned system.

Index Terms—Requirements elaboration, goal operationalization, behavior model refinement, model checking, inductive learning

Extending Model Checking

*Elaborating Requirements using
model checking and
inductive learning*

TSE'13

*Repairing compositional
specifications using
model checking and
theory revision*

SEFM'14

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Automated Error-Detection and Repair for Compositional Software Specifications

Dalal Alrajeh and Robert Craven

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Automated Goal Operationalisation Based on Interpolation and SAT Solving *

Renzo Degiovanni* Dalal Alrajeh† Nazareno Aguirre* Sebastian Uchitel†‡

*Departamento de Computación, Universidad Nacional de Río Cuarto and CONICET, Argentina

†Department of Computing, Imperial College London, UK

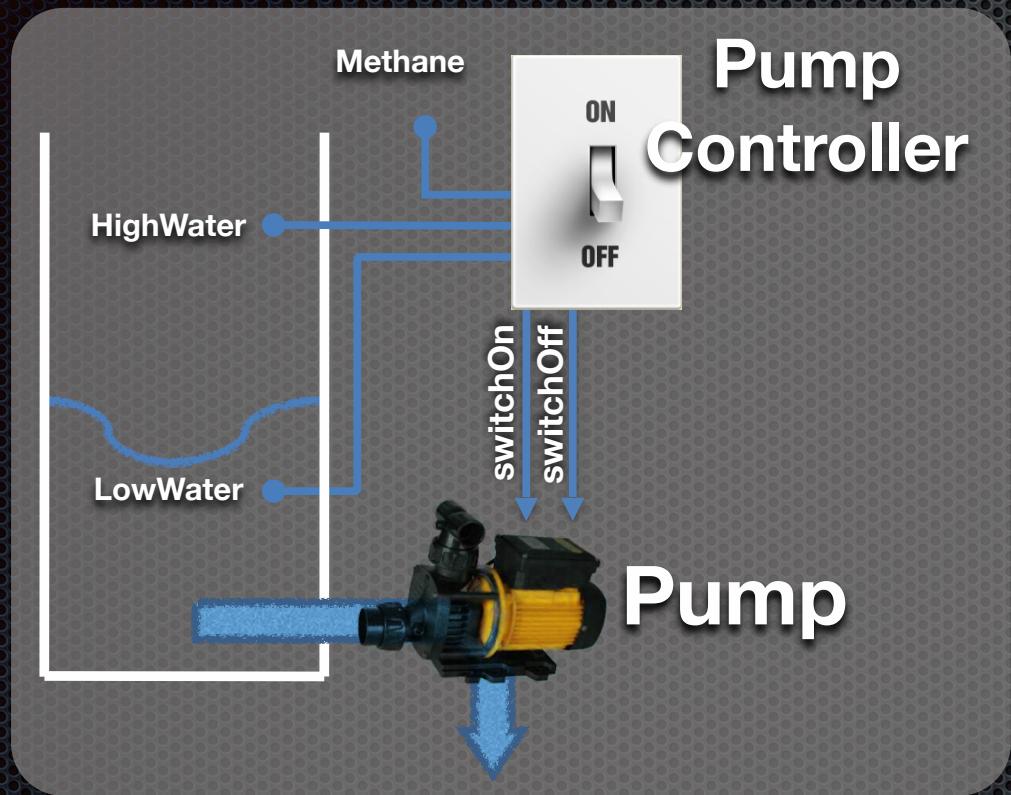
‡Departamento de Computación, Universidad de Buenos Aires and CONICET, Argentina

{rdegiovanni, naguirre}@dc.exa.unrc.edu.ar, {dalal.alrajeh04, s.uchitel}@imperial.ac.uk

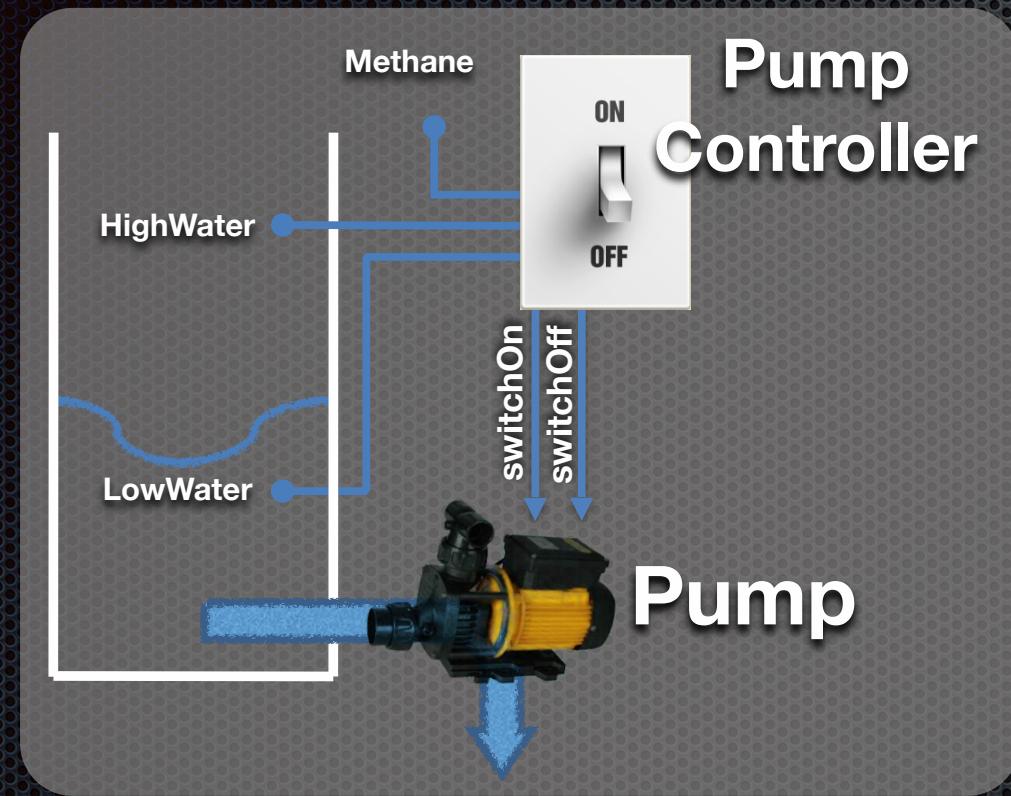
ICSE 2014

Motivating Example

Motivating Example



Motivating Example



switchOn

Pre: Pump=Off

Trig: — —

Post: Pump=On

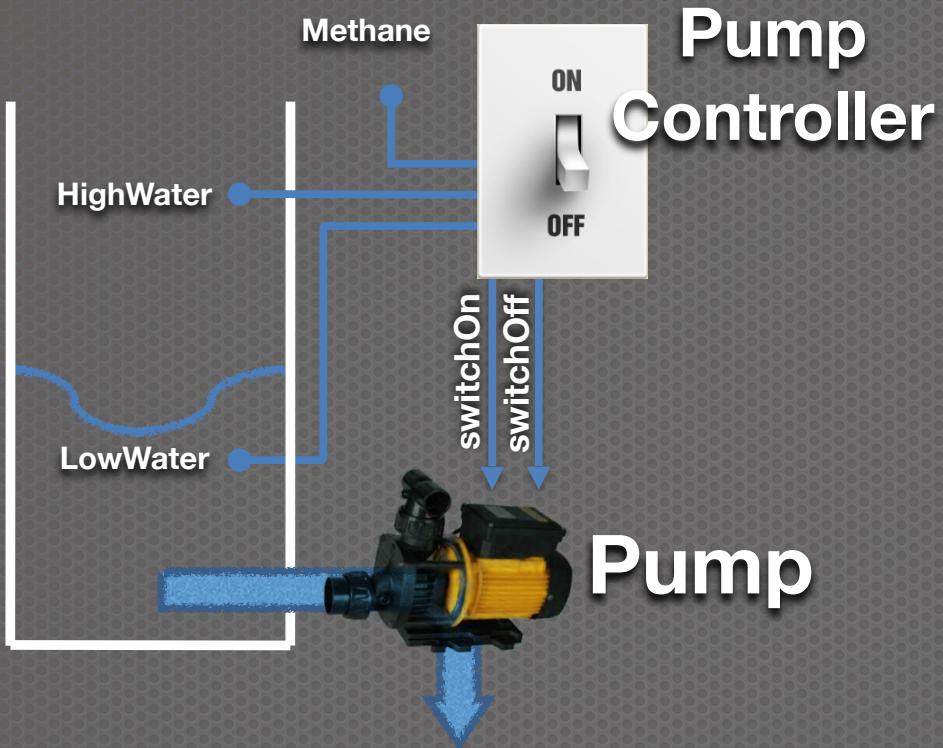
switchOff

Pre: Pump=On

Trig: — —

Post: Pump=Off

Motivating Example



switchOn

Pre: Pump=Off

Trig: — —

Post: Pump=On

switchOff

Pre: Pump=On

Trig: — —

Post: Pump=Off

If the water level is high and there is no methane, then the pump should be on.

Goal Operationalisation

switchOn

Pre: Pump=Off

Trig: --

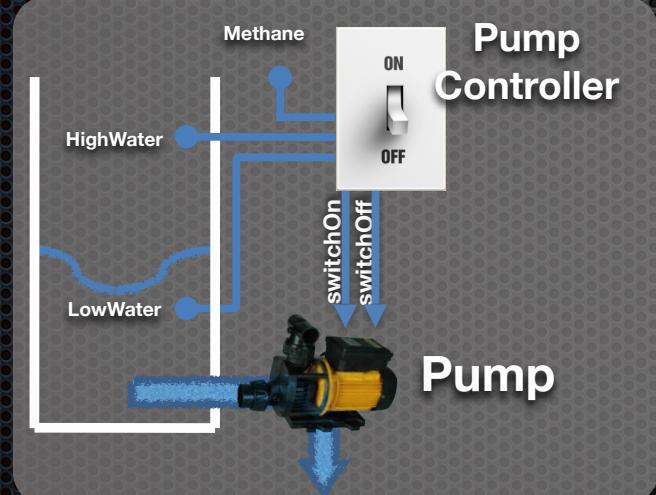
Post: Pump=On

switchOff

Pre: Pump=On

Trig: --

Post: Pump=Off



If the water level is high and there is no methane, then the pump should be on.

Goal Operationalisation

switchOn

Pre: Pump=Off

Trig: --

Post: Pump=On

switchOff

Pre: Pump=On

Trig: --

Post: Pump=Off



cannot add
controlled operations

If the water level is high and there is no methane, then the pump should be on.

Goal Operationalisation

permission

switchOn

Pre: Pump=Off **and ???**

Trig: --

Post: Pump=On

switchOff

Pre: Pump=Off **and ???**

Trig: --

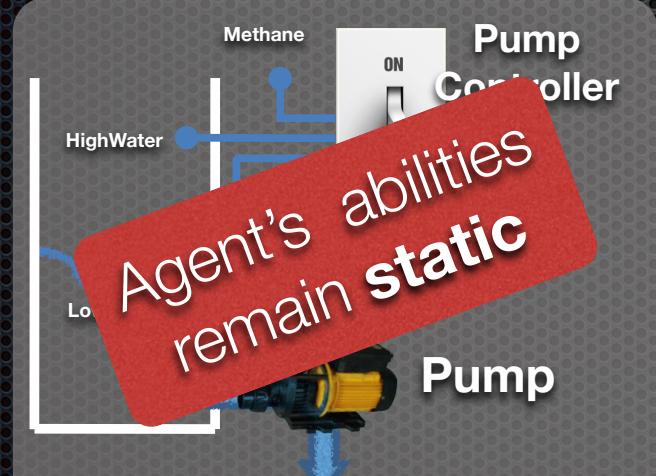
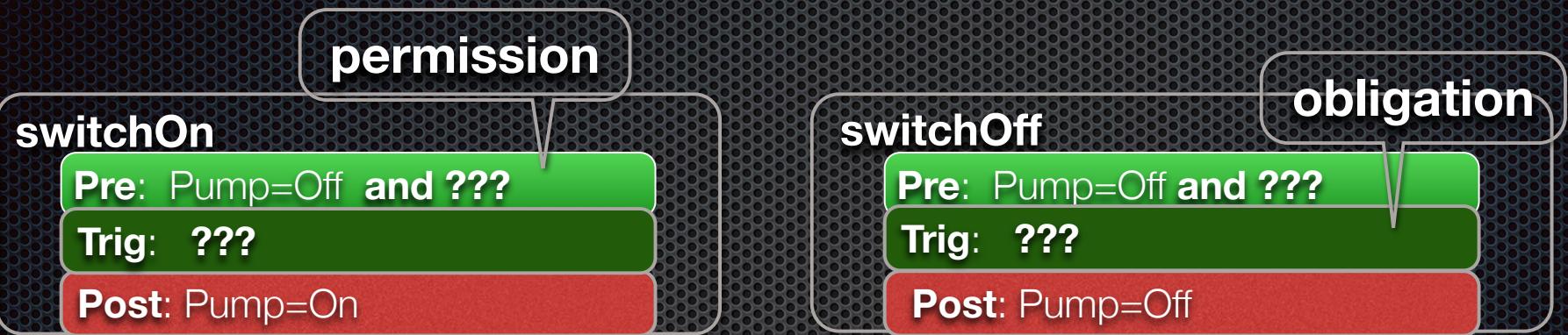
Post: Pump=Off



cannot add
controlled operations

If the water level is high and there is no methane, then the pump should be on.

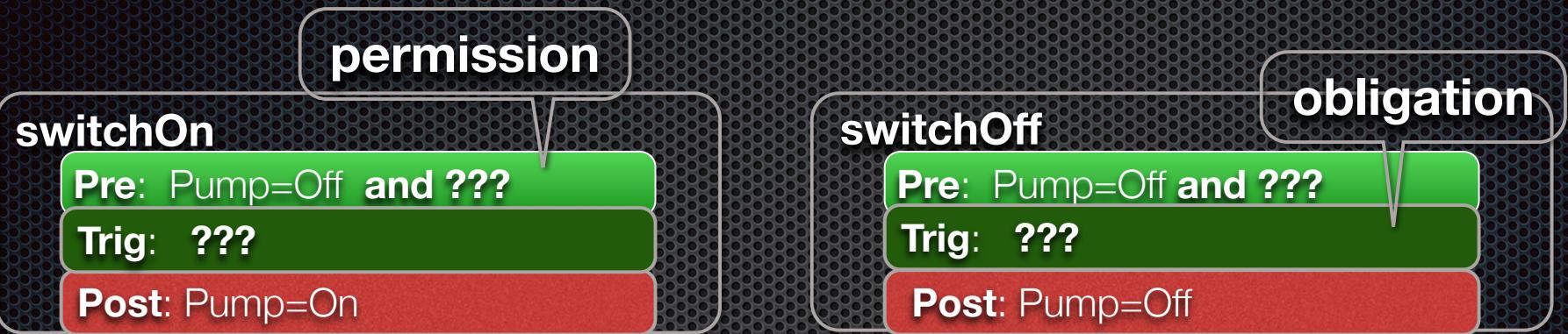
Goal Operationalisation



cannot add
controlled operations

If the water level is high and there is no methane, then the pump should be on.

Goal Operationalisation



cannot add controlled operations

Correct operationalisation

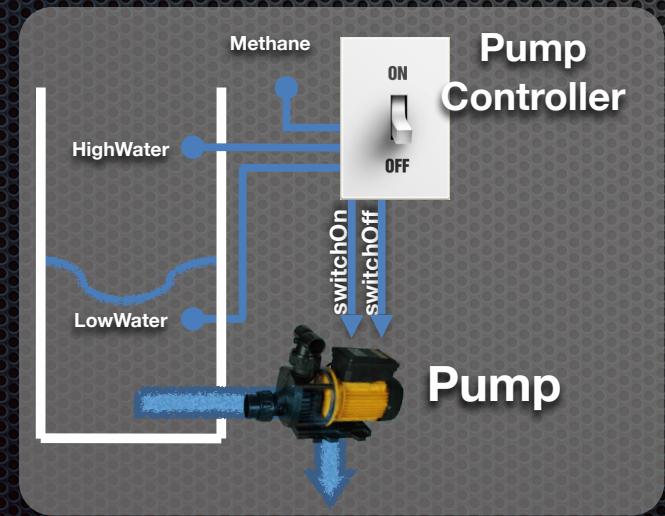
If the water level is high and there is no methane, then the pump should be on.

Goal Operationalisation

(iterative/interactive)

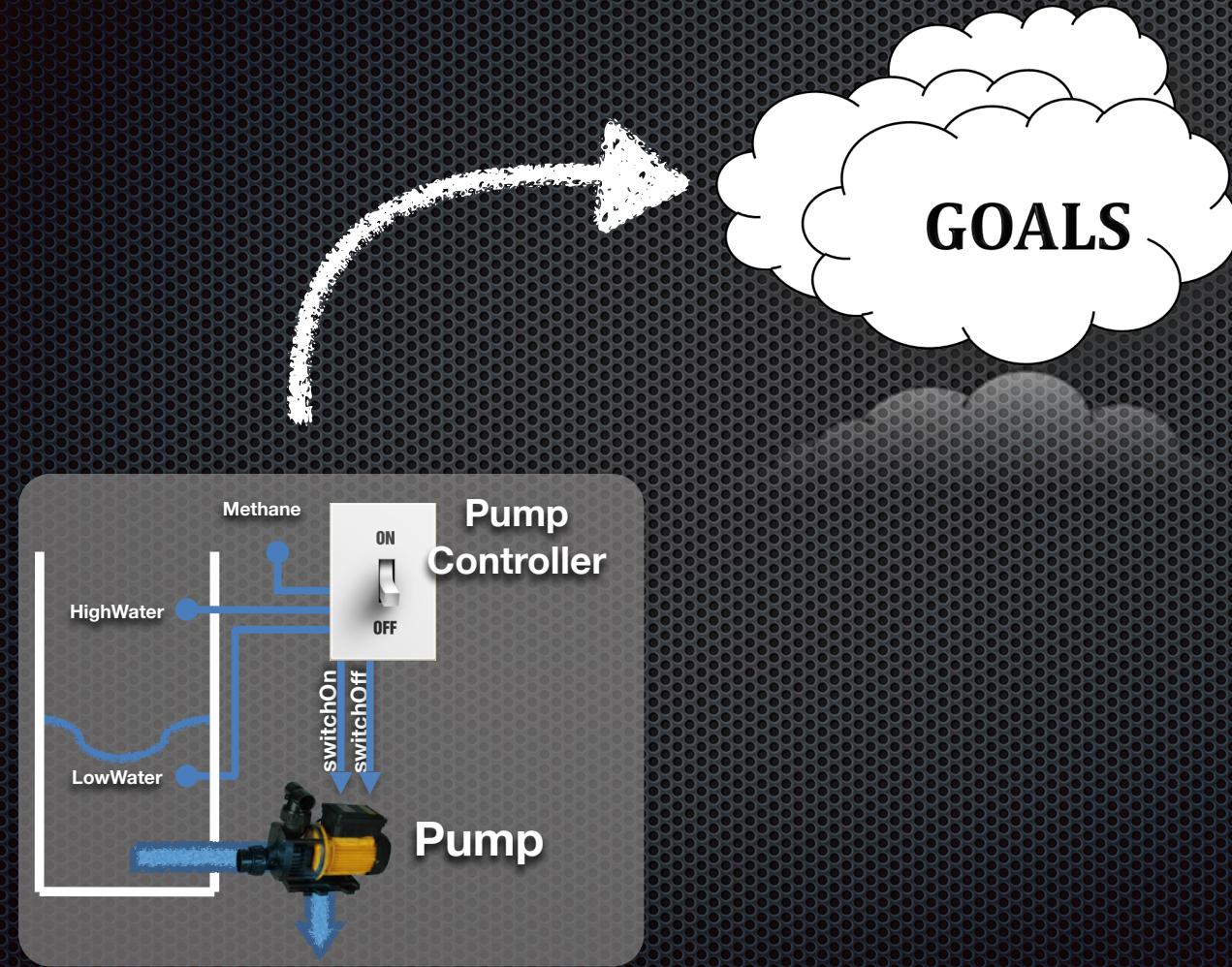
Goal Operationalisation

(iterative/interactive)



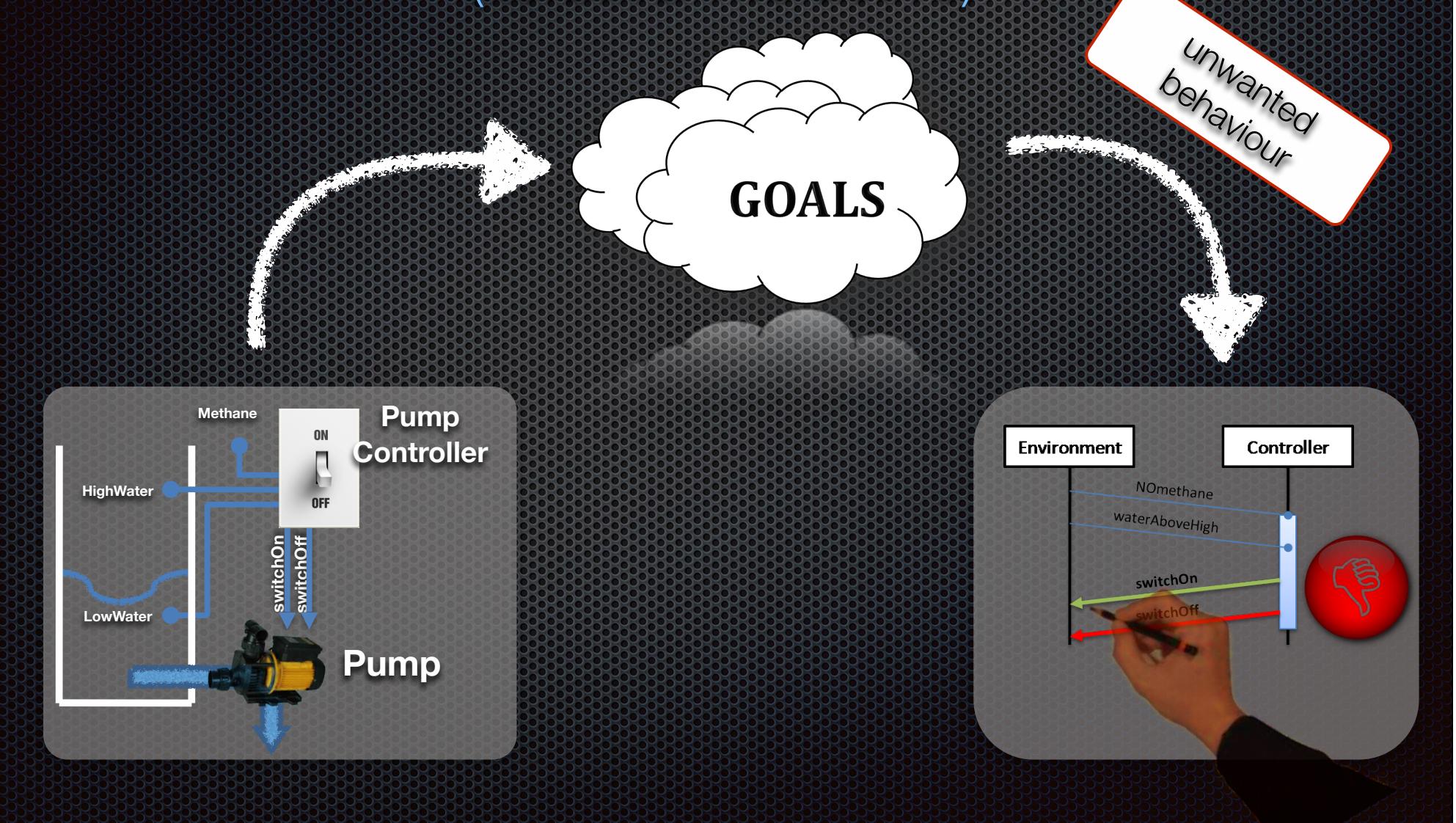
Goal Operationalisation

(iterative/interactive)



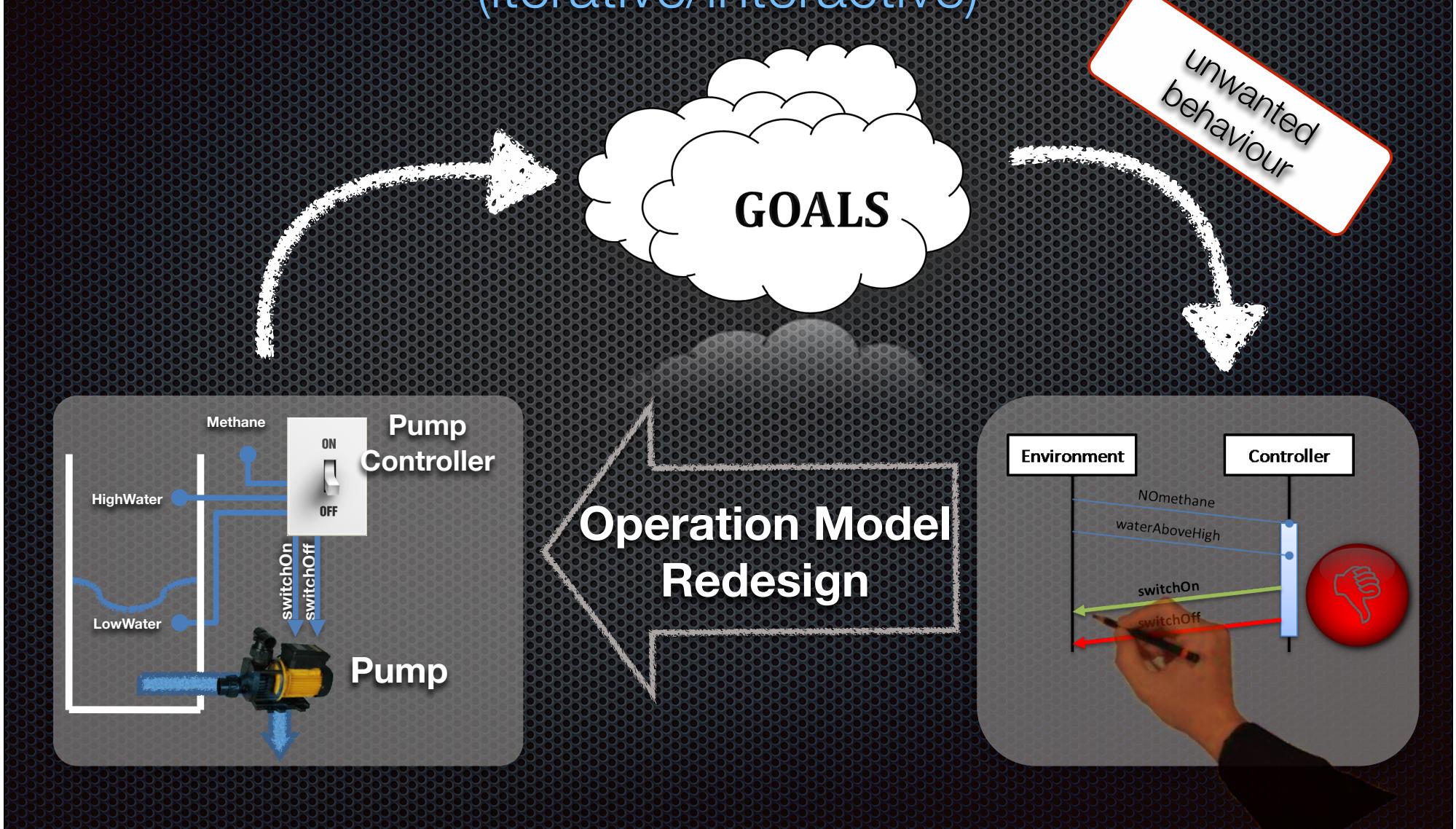
Goal Operationalisation

(iterative/interactive)



Goal Operationalisation

(iterative/interactive)



Goal Operationalisation

switchOn

Pre: Pump=Off

Trig: --

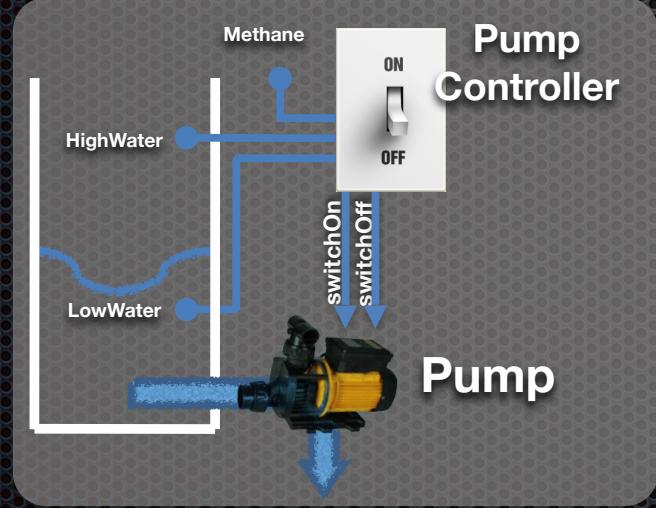
Post: Pump=On

switchOff

Pre: Pump=On

Trig: --

Post: Pump=Off



If the water level is high and there is no methane, then the pump should be on.

Goal Operationalisation

switchOn

Pre: Pump=Off

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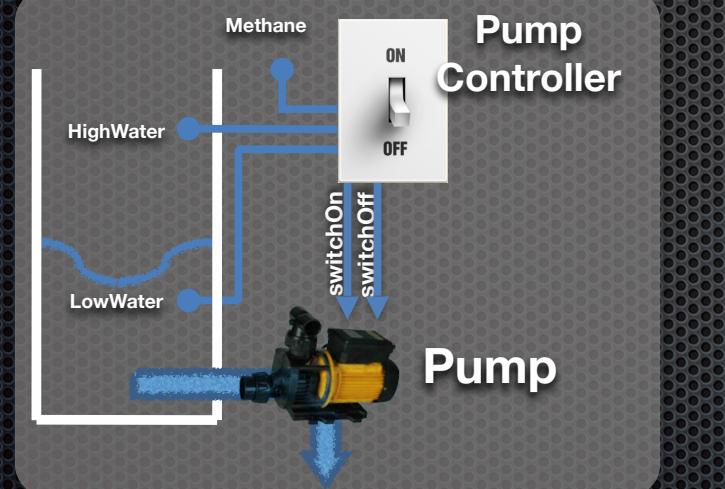
Post: Pump=On

switchOff

Pre: Pump=On

Trig: — —

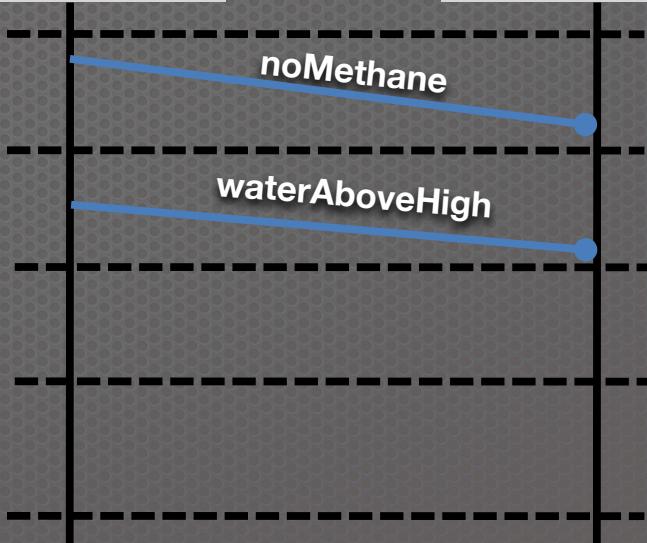
Post: Pump=Off



If the water level is high and there is no methane, then the pump should be on.

Environment

Controller



Goal Operationalisation

switchOn

Pre: Pump=Off

Trig: — —

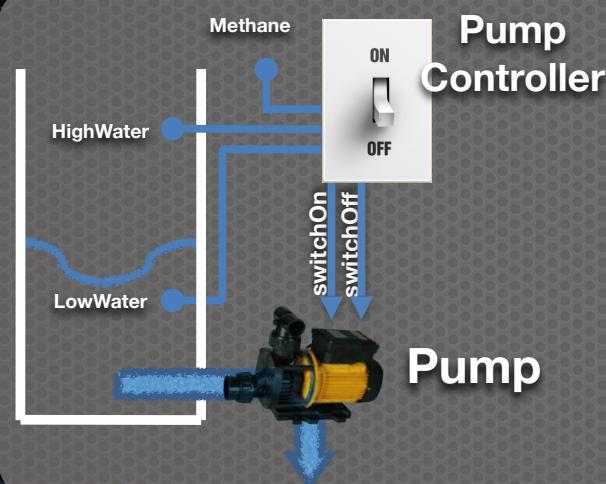
Post: Pump=On

switchOff

Pre: Pump=On

Trig: — —

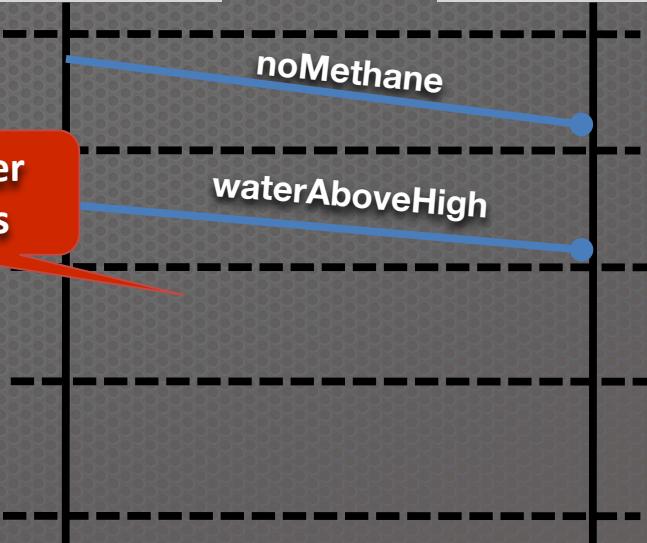
Post: Pump=Off



If the water level is high and there is no methane, then the pump should be on.

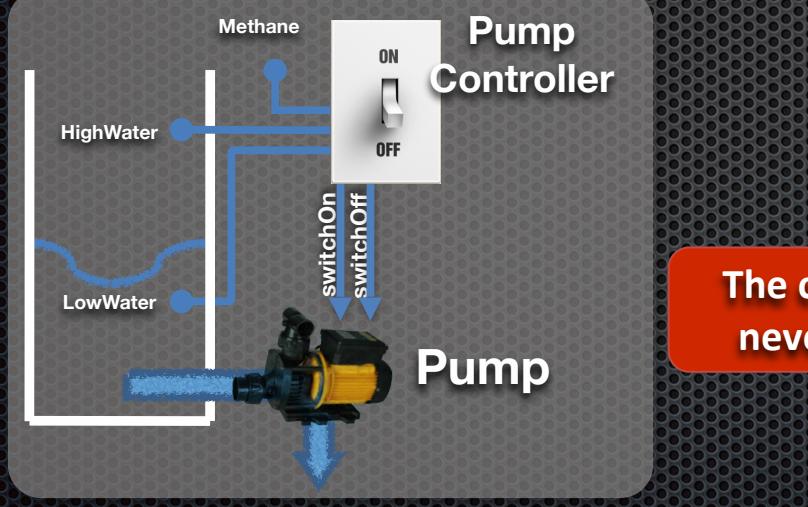
Environment

Controller

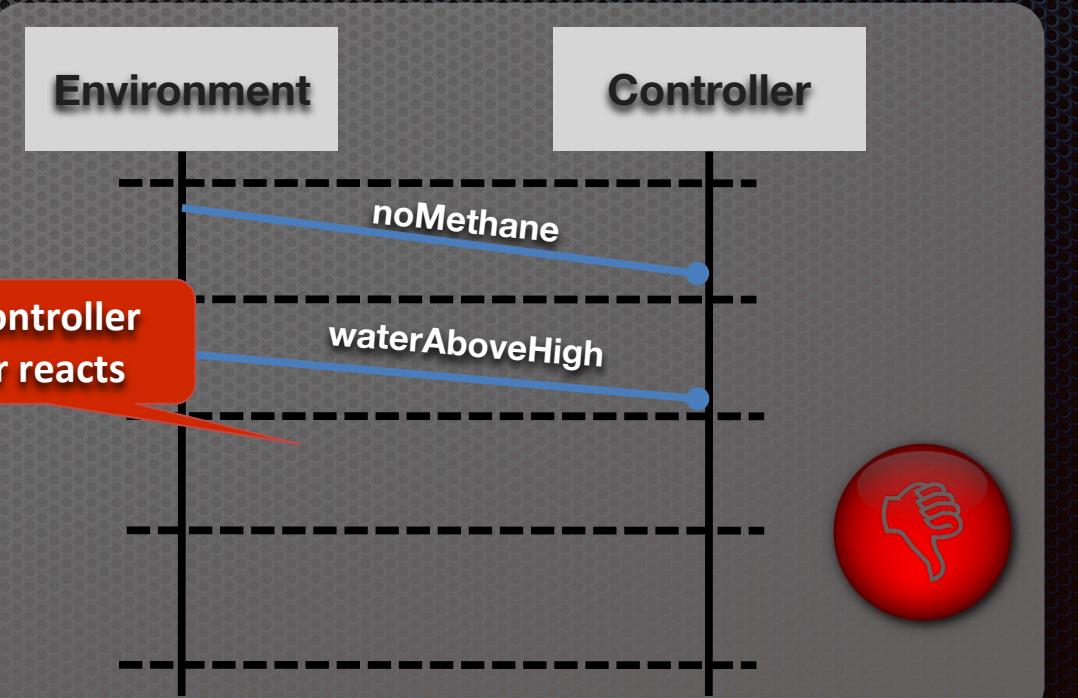


The controller never reacts

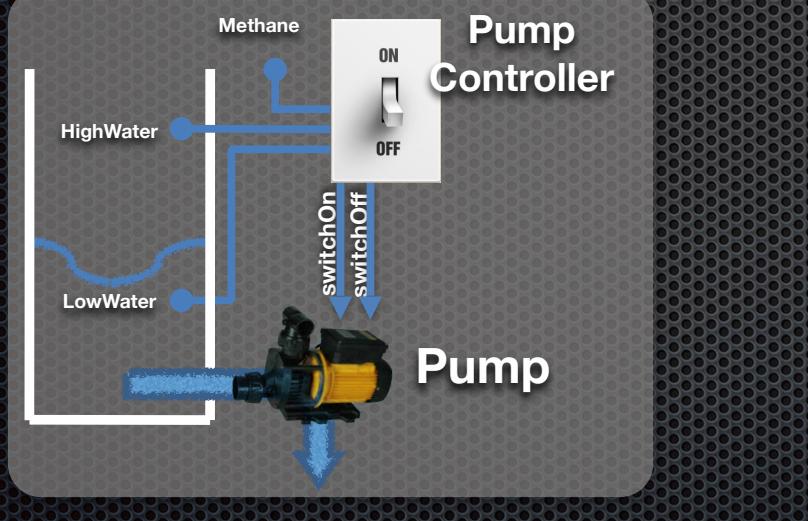
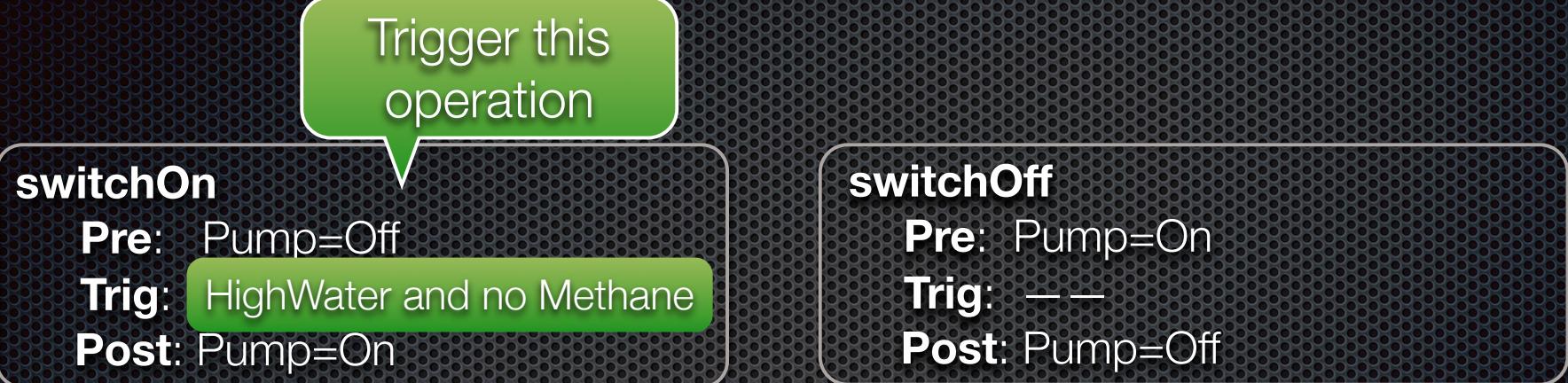
Goal Operationalisation



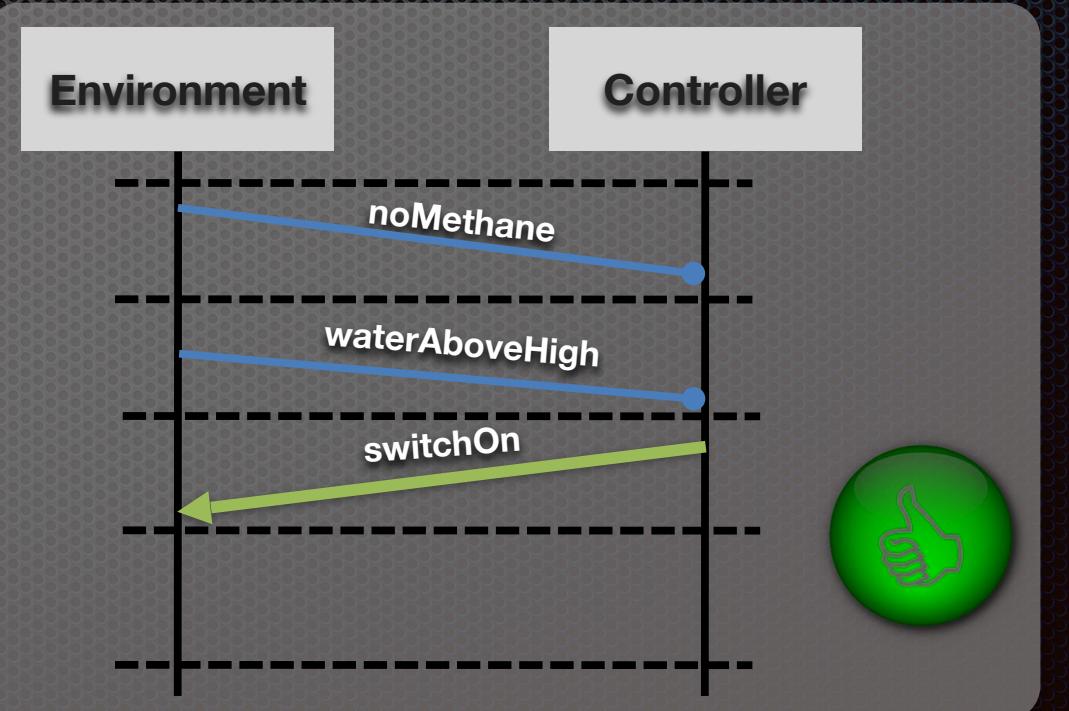
If the water level is high and there is no methane, then the pump should be on.



Goal Operationalisation



If the water level is high and there is no methane, then the pump should be on.



Goal Operationalisation

switchOn

Pre: Pump=Off

Trig: HighWater and no Methane

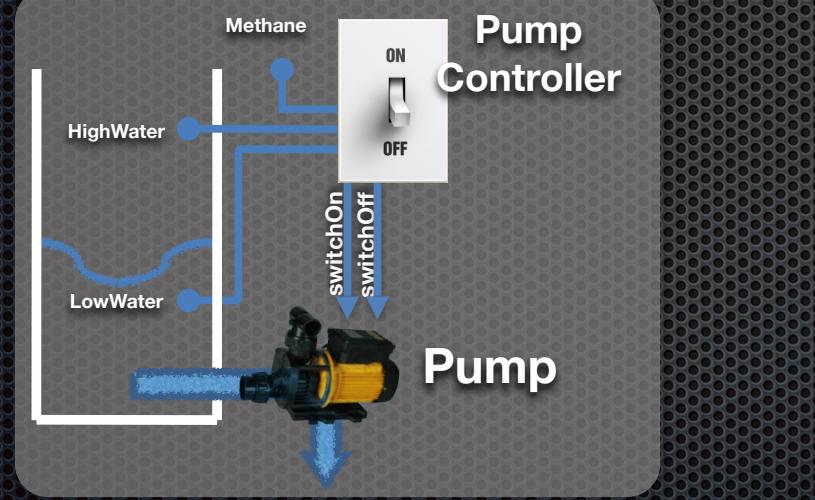
Post: Pump=On

switchOff

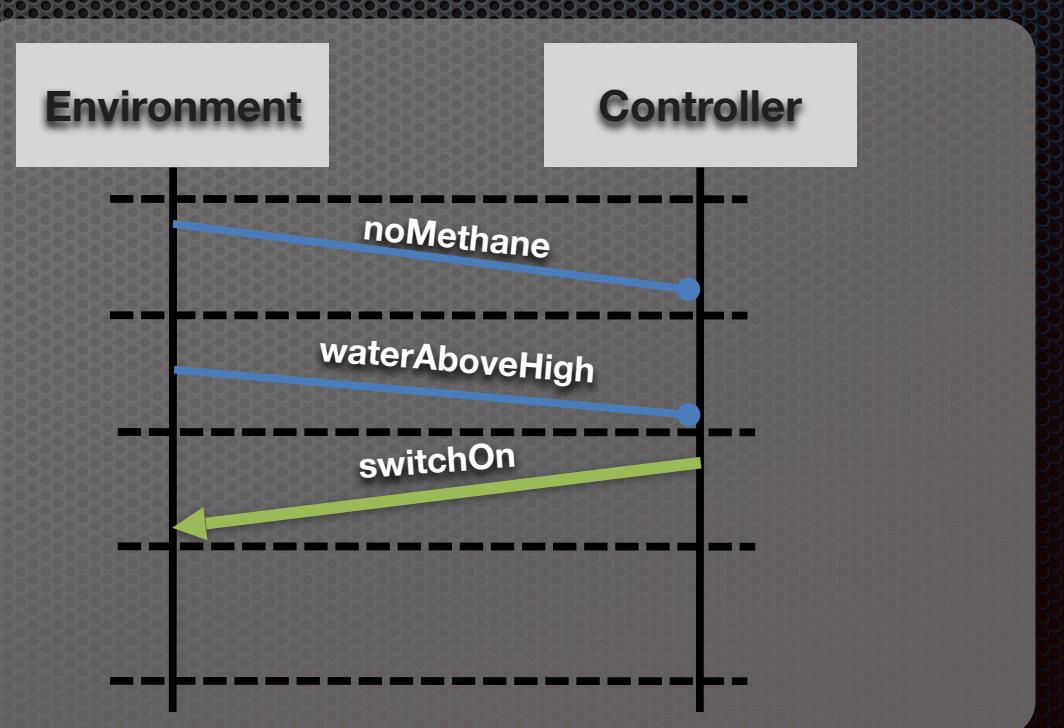
Pre: Pump=On

Trig: — —

Post: Pump=Off



If the water level is high and there is no methane, then the pump should be on.



Goal Operationalisation

switchOn

Pre: Pump=Off

Trig: HighWater and no Methane

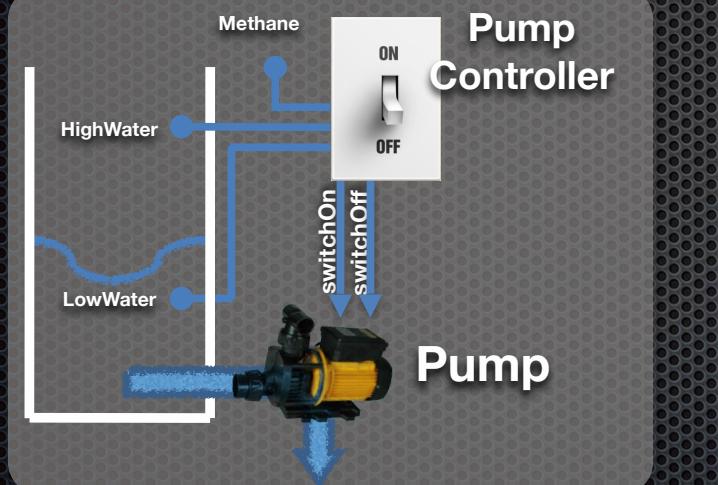
Post: Pump=On

switchOff

Pre: Pump=On

Trig: — —

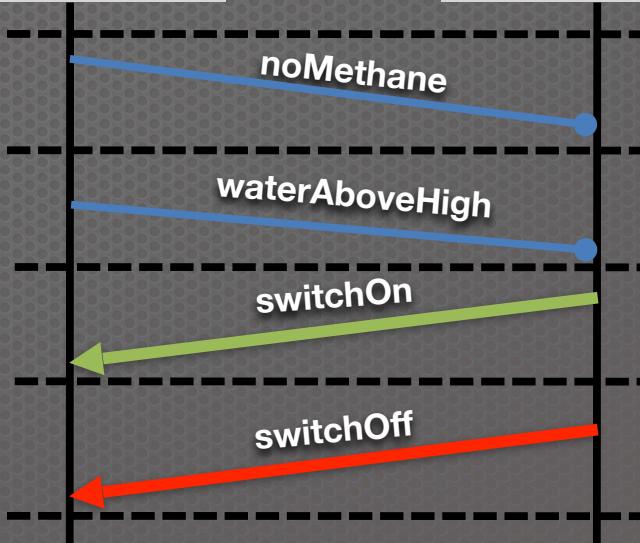
Post: Pump=Off



If the water level is high and there is no methane, then the pump should be on.

Environment

Controller



Goal Operationalisation

switchOn

Pre: Pump=Off

Trig: HighWater and no Methane

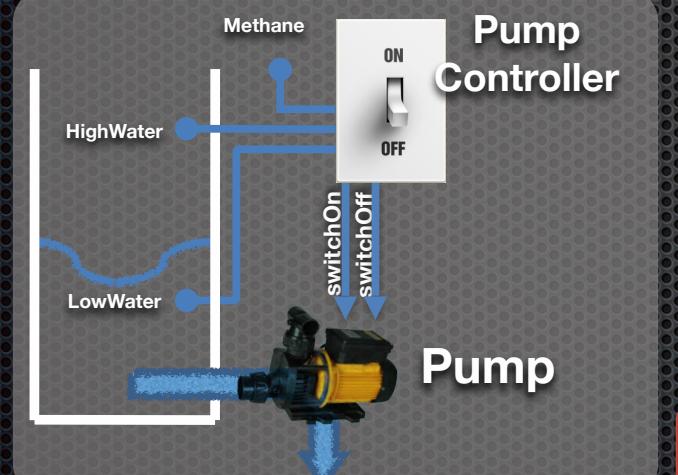
Post: Pump=On

switchOff

Pre: Pump=On

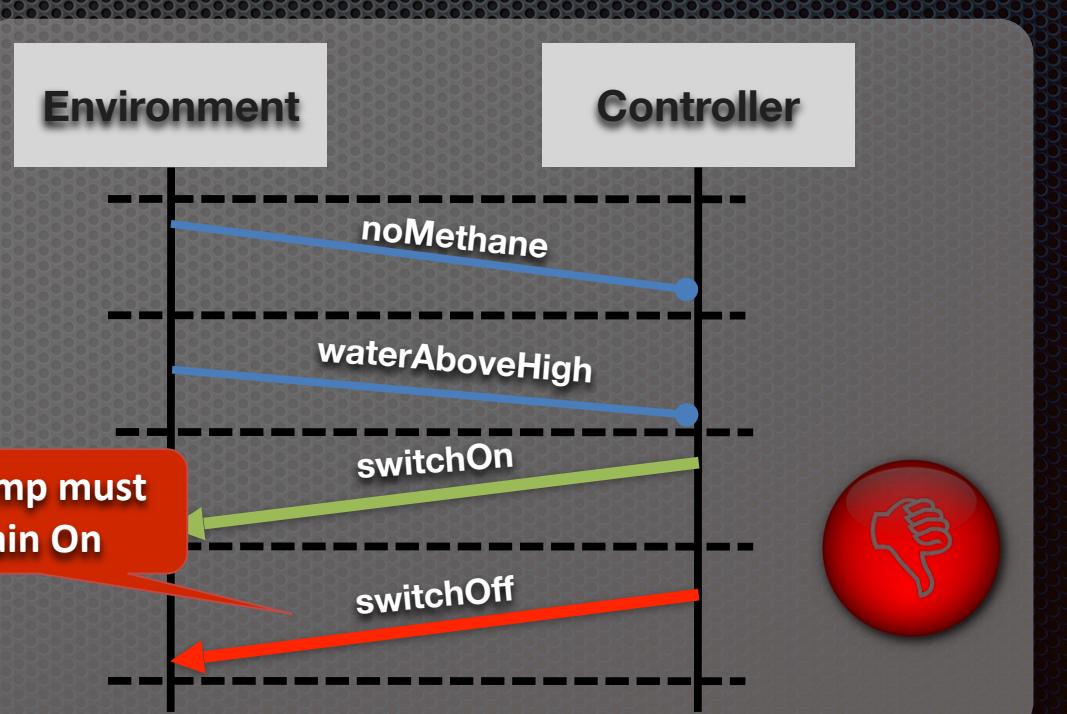
Trig: — —

Post: Pump=Off



If the water level is high and there is no methane, then the pump should be on.

The Pump must remain On



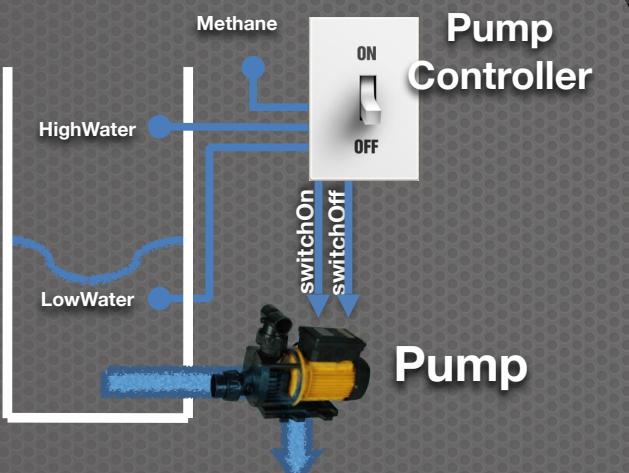
Goal Operationalisation

switchOn

Pre: Pump=Off

Trig: HighWater and no Methane

Post: Pump=On



If the water level is high and there is no methane, then the pump should be on.

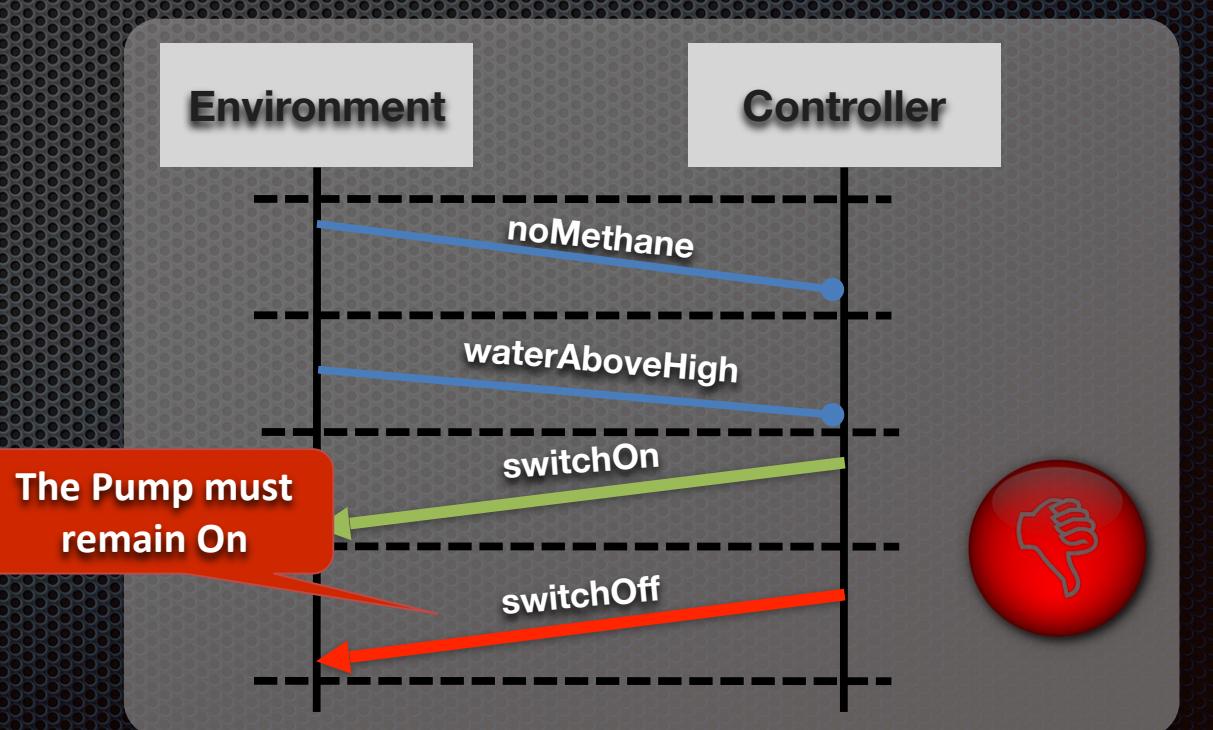
switchOff

Pre: Pump=On

Trig: — —

Post: Pump=Off

Restrict this operation



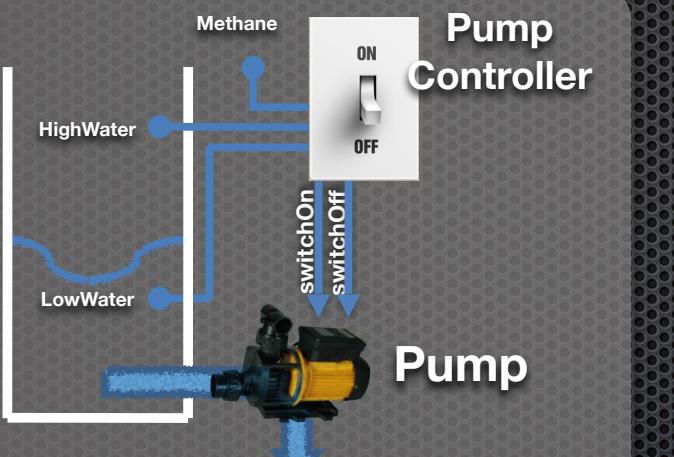
Goal Operationalisation

switchOn

Pre: Pump=Off

Trig: HighWater and no Methane

Post: Pump=On



If the water level is high and there is no methane, then the pump should be on.

switchOff

Pre: Pump=On

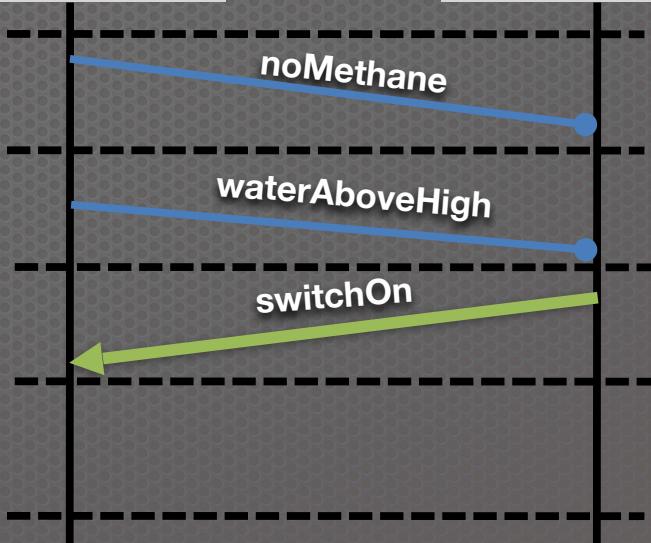
Trig: — —

Post: Pump=Off

Restrict this operation

Environment

Controller



Can this process be
automated?

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- Unwanted scenarios generation/detection?
 - YES
 - Model Checking

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 - YES
 - Model Checking
- Goal Operationalisation?
 - State of the Art: **Partially**

Can this process be automated?

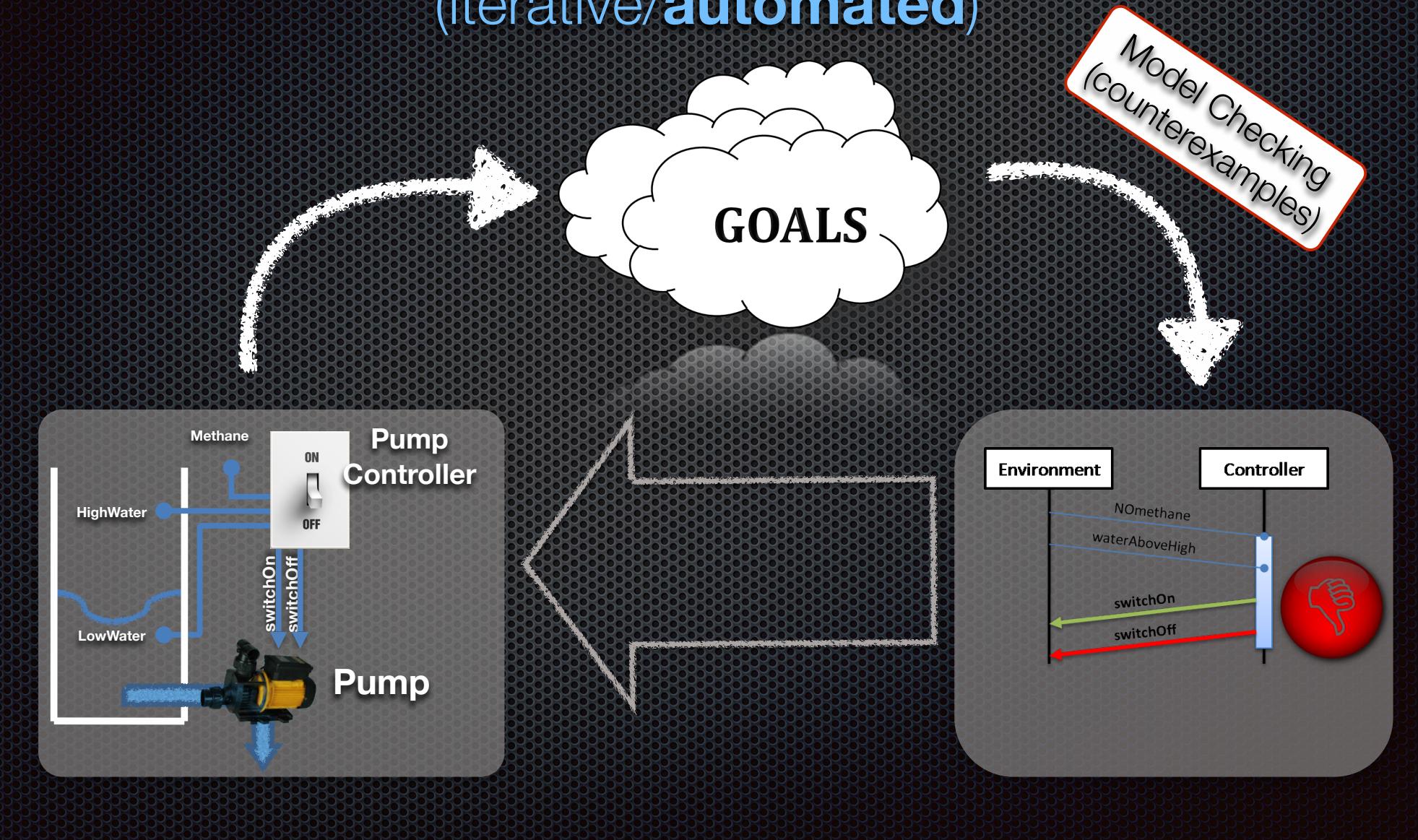
- Unwanted scenarios generation/detection?
 - YES
 - Model Checking
- Goal Operationalisation?
 - State of the Art: **Partially Semiautomated**
 - Inductive techniques
 - Requires user assistance.

Can this process be automated?

- Unwanted scenarios generation/detection?
 - YES
 - Model Checking
- Goal Operationalisation?
 - State of the Art: **Partially Semiautomated**
 - Inductive techniques
 - Requires user assistance.
 - Safety Goals
 - Progress
 - not Liveness

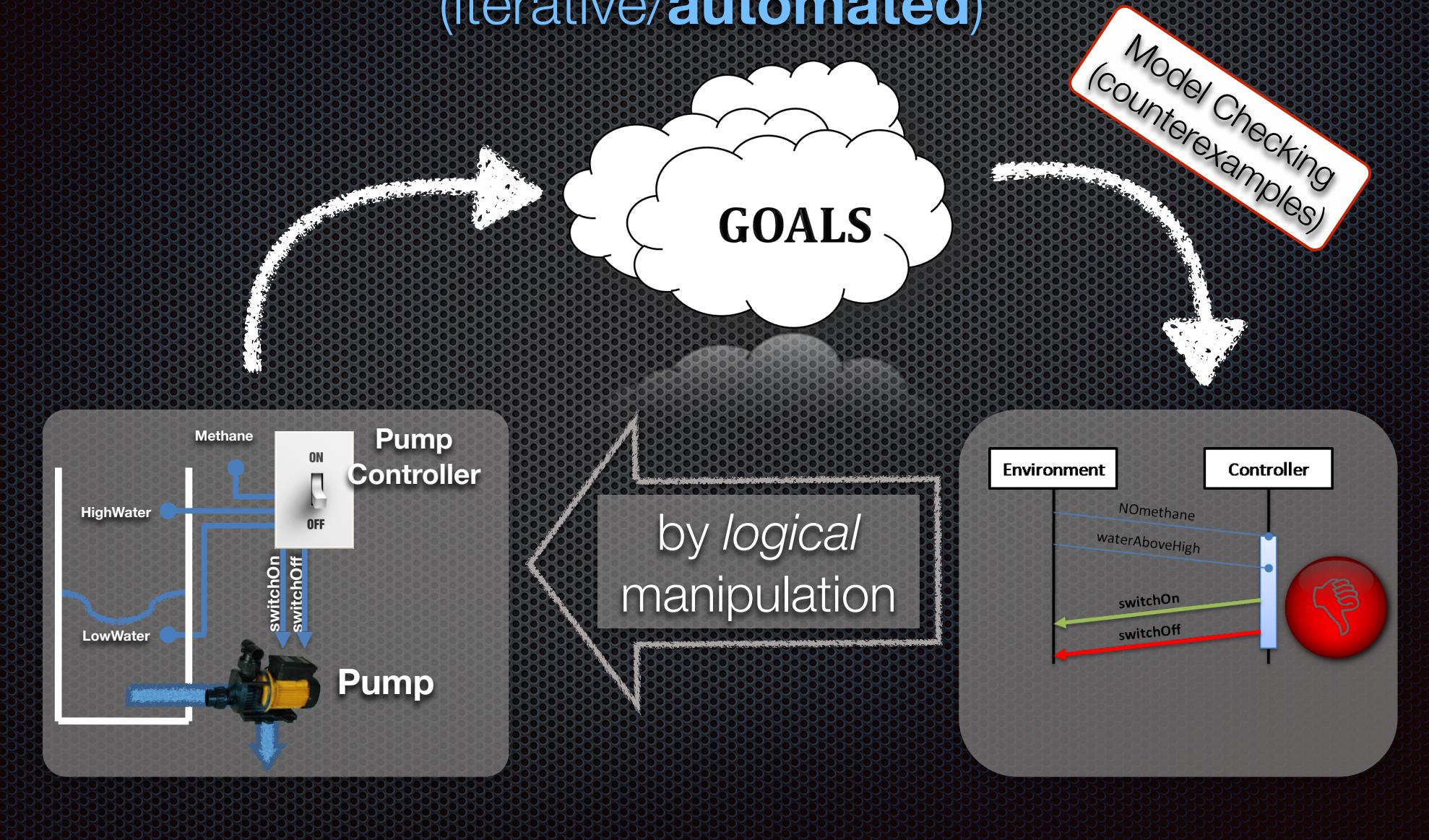
Goal Operationalisation

(iterative/**automated**)



Goal Operationalisation

(iterative/**automated**)



Goal Operationalisation

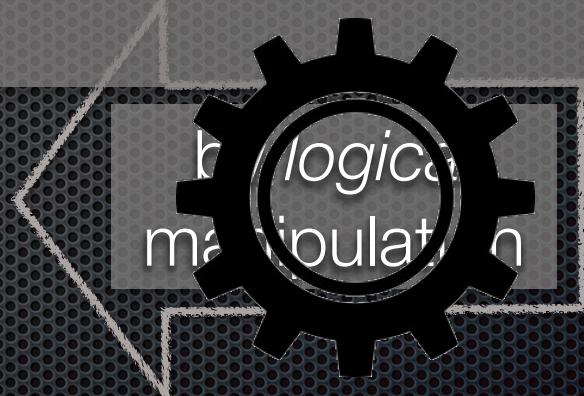
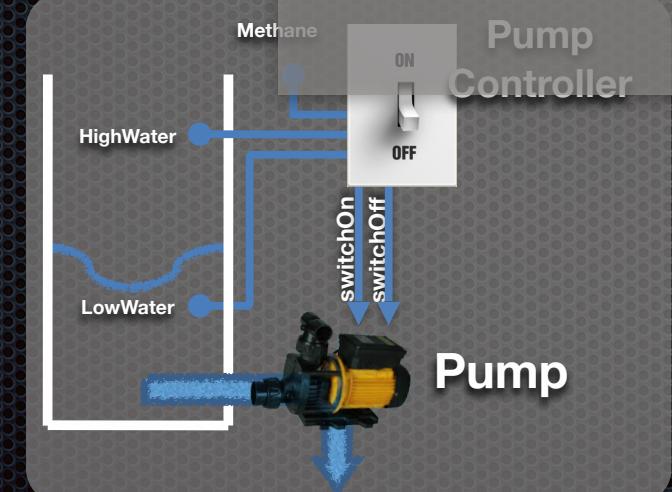
(iterative/**automated**)

Automated

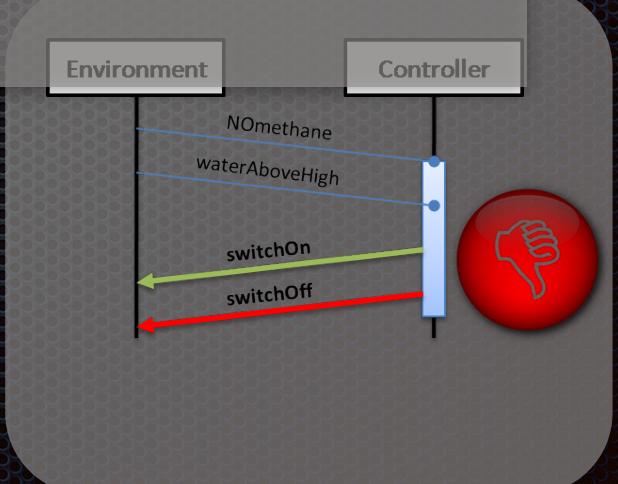
- Interpolation
- SAT solving

Safety Goals
Progress
Liveness

Model Checking
(counterexamples)



Interpolation



Interpolation

Interpolation

- Given A and B , such that $A \wedge B$ is **inconsistent**, an interpolant for A and B is a formula I with the following properties:

Interpolation

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$$A \Rightarrow I$$

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$$\text{UNSAT}(I, B)$$

Interpolation

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$$A \Rightarrow I$$

$$\text{UNSAT}(I, B)$$

I is in the common language of A and B

Interpolation

- Given A and B , if $A \wedge B$ is inconsistent, then $A \wedge B$ is **inconsistent**.
“explains” why A is inconsistent with B

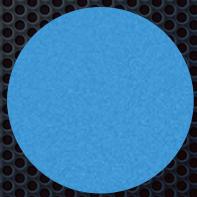
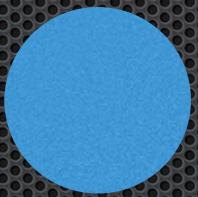
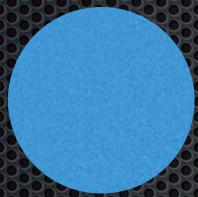
$$A \Rightarrow I$$

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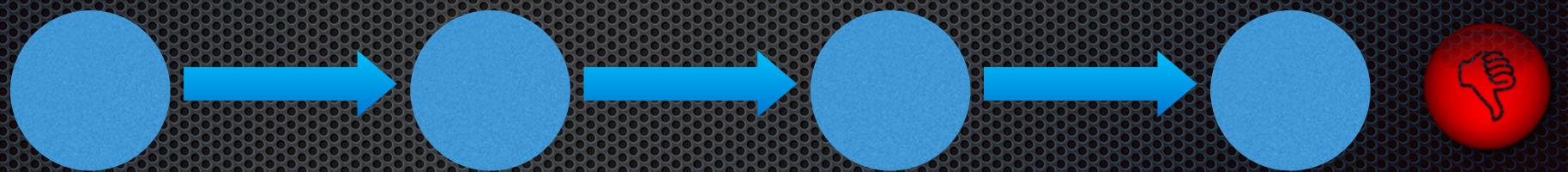
Interpolation

- Successfully used for **removing counterexamples**
 - ❖ Abstraction Based Model Checking
 - CEGAR



Interpolation

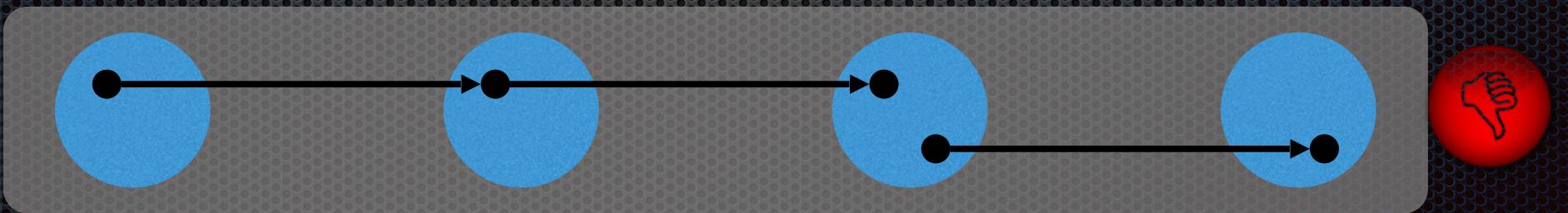
- Successfully used for **removing counterexamples**
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Interpolation

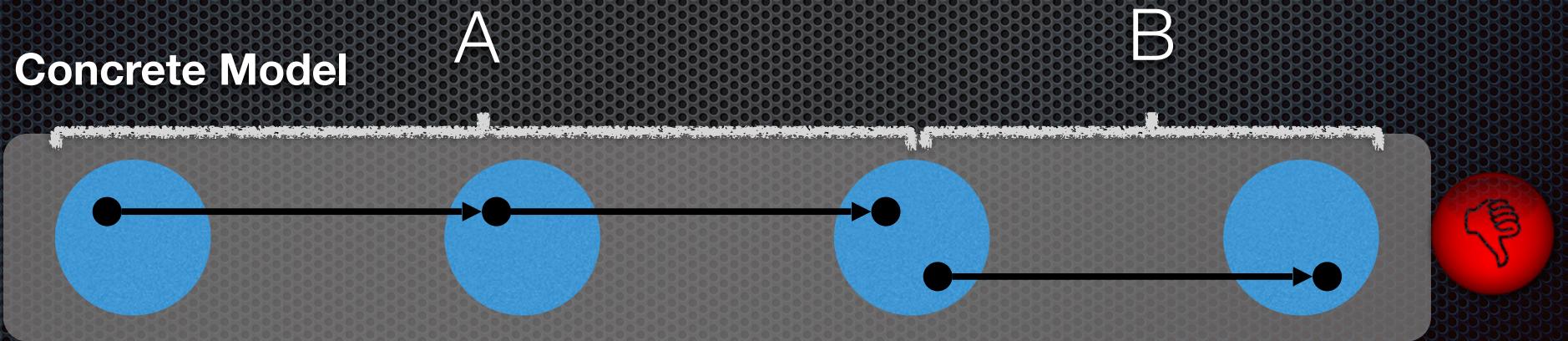
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Concrete Model



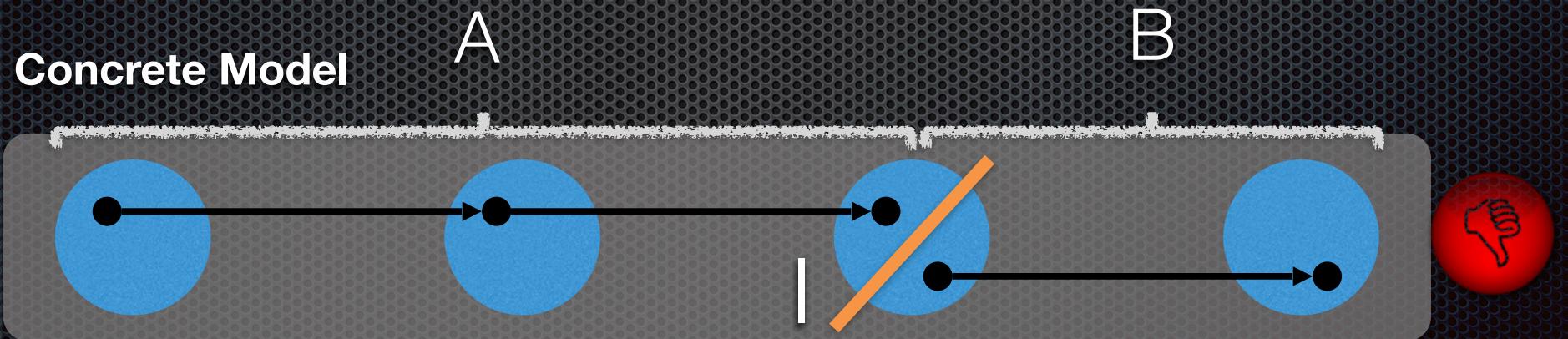
Interpolation

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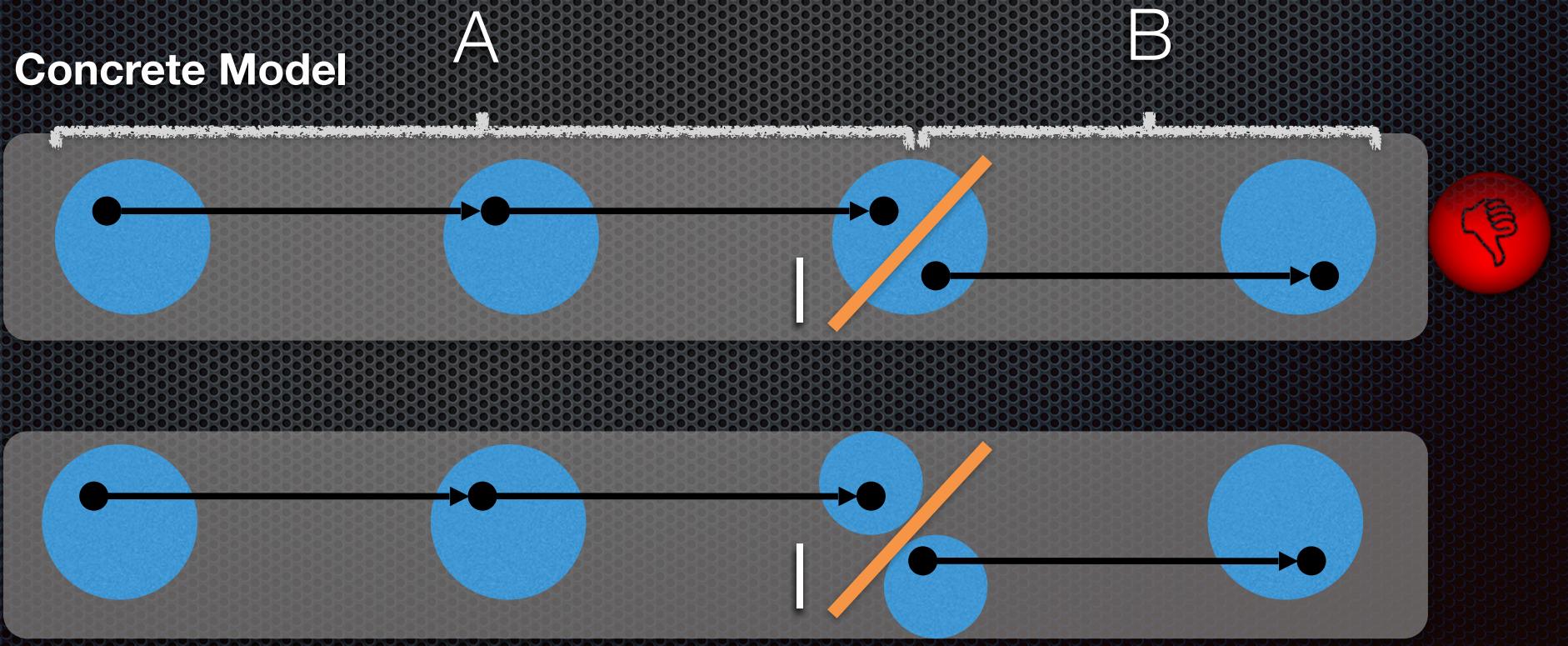
Interpolation

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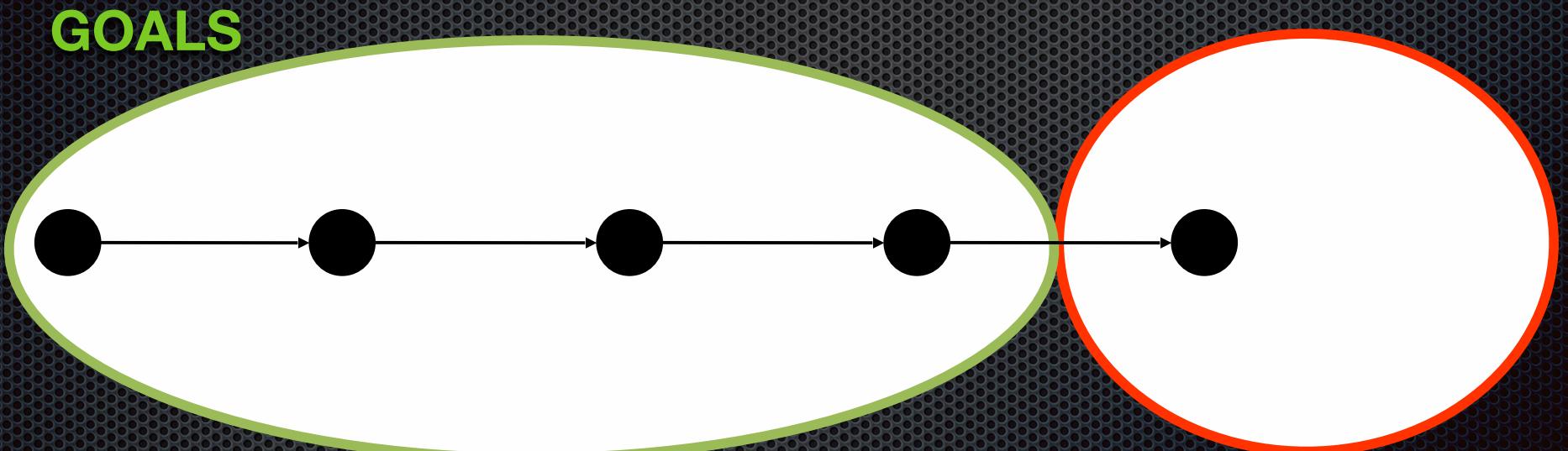
Interpolation

- Successfully used for **removing counterexamples**
 - Abstraction Based Model Checking
 - CEGAR



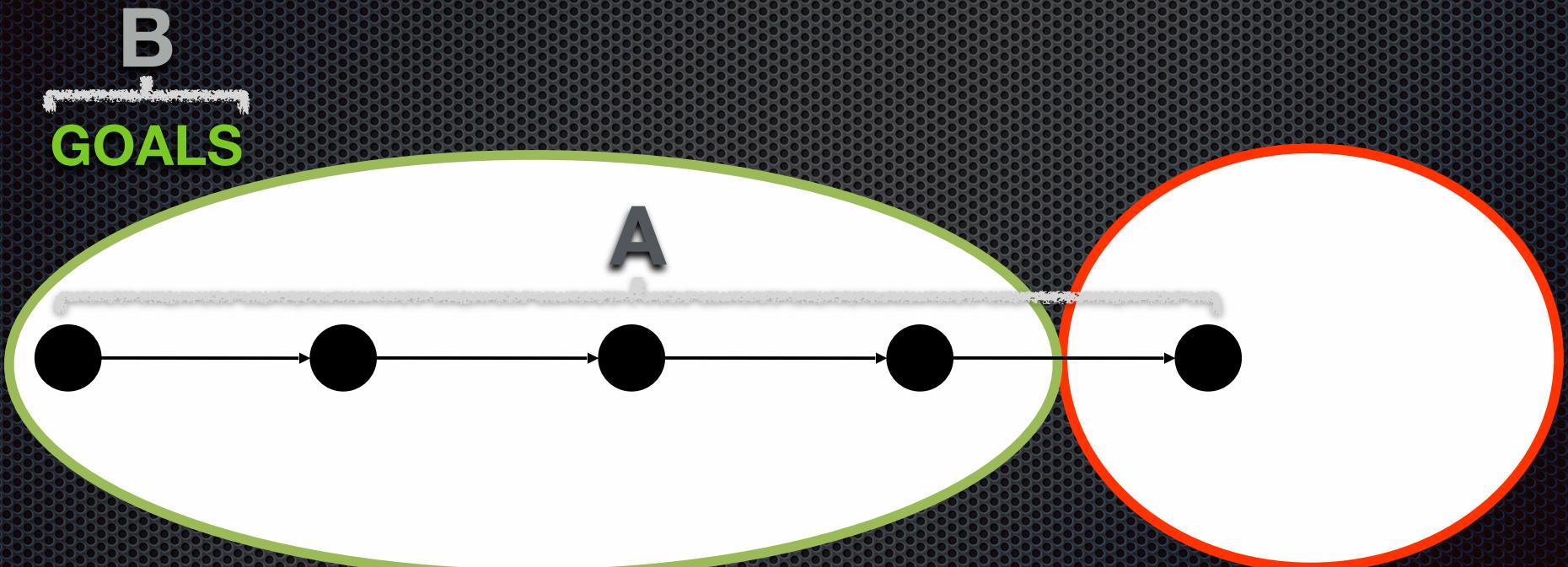
Requirements Refinement

- Our setting: **Concrete counterexamples**



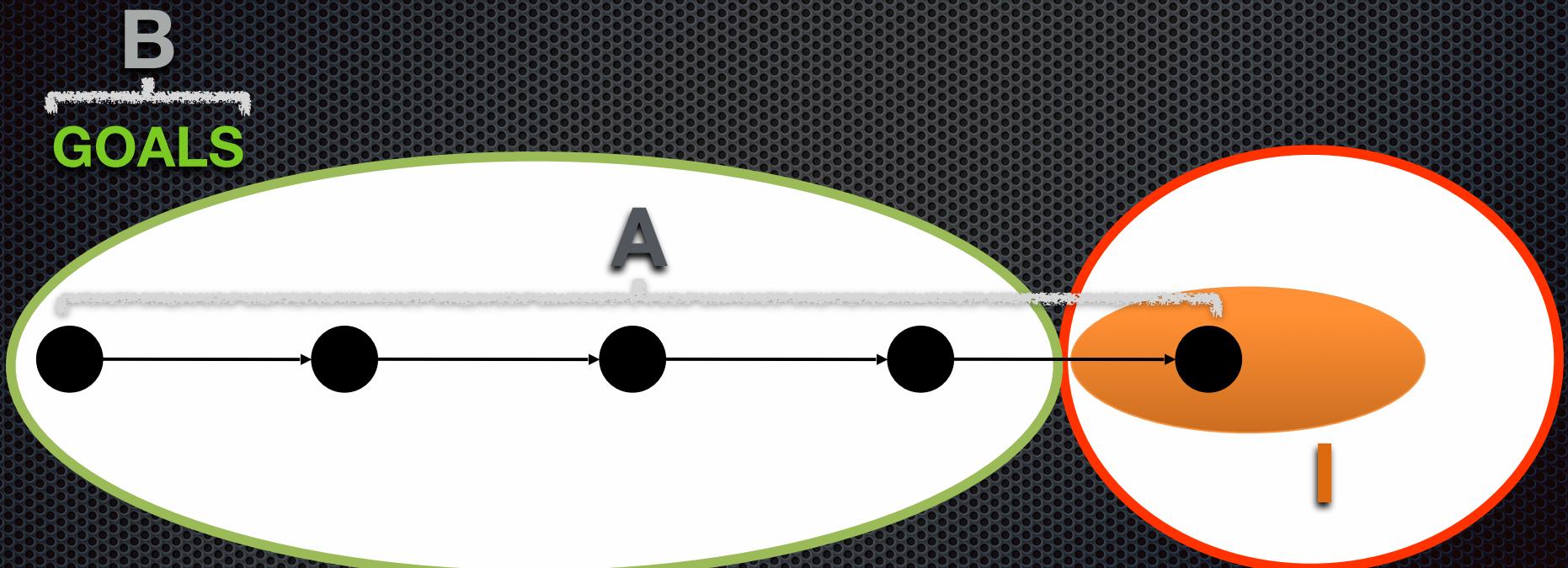
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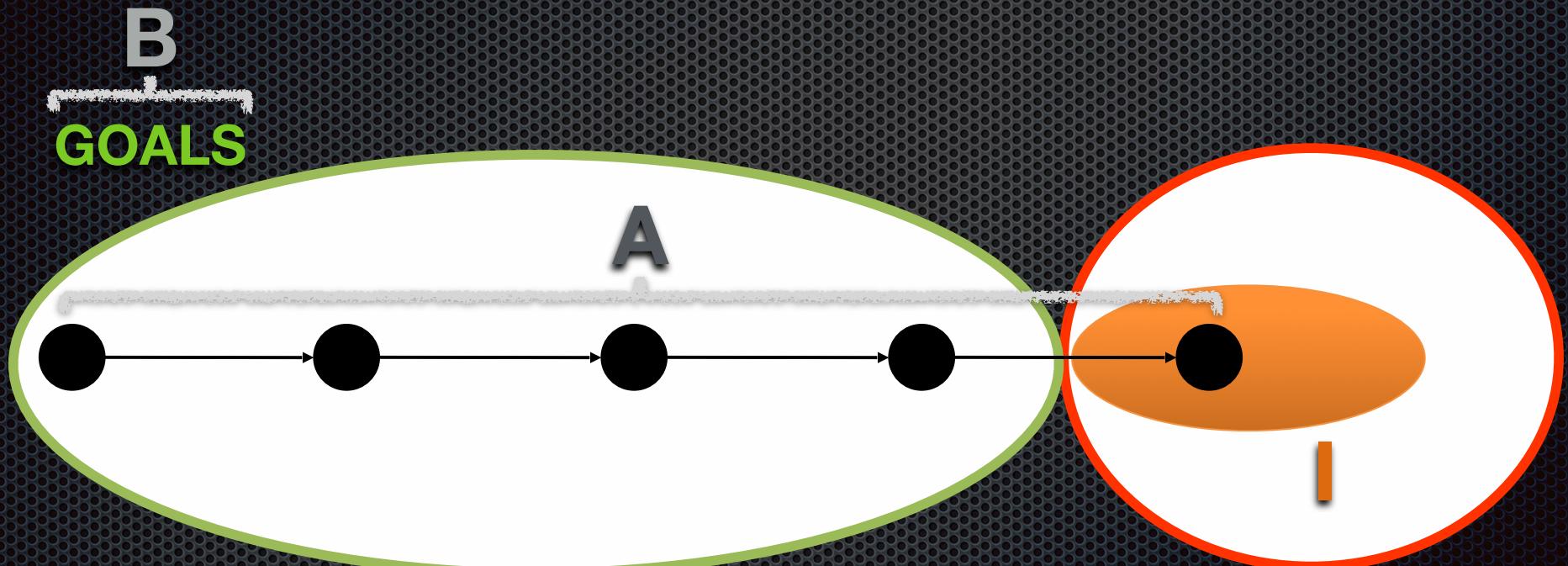
Requirements Refinement

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Requirements Refinement

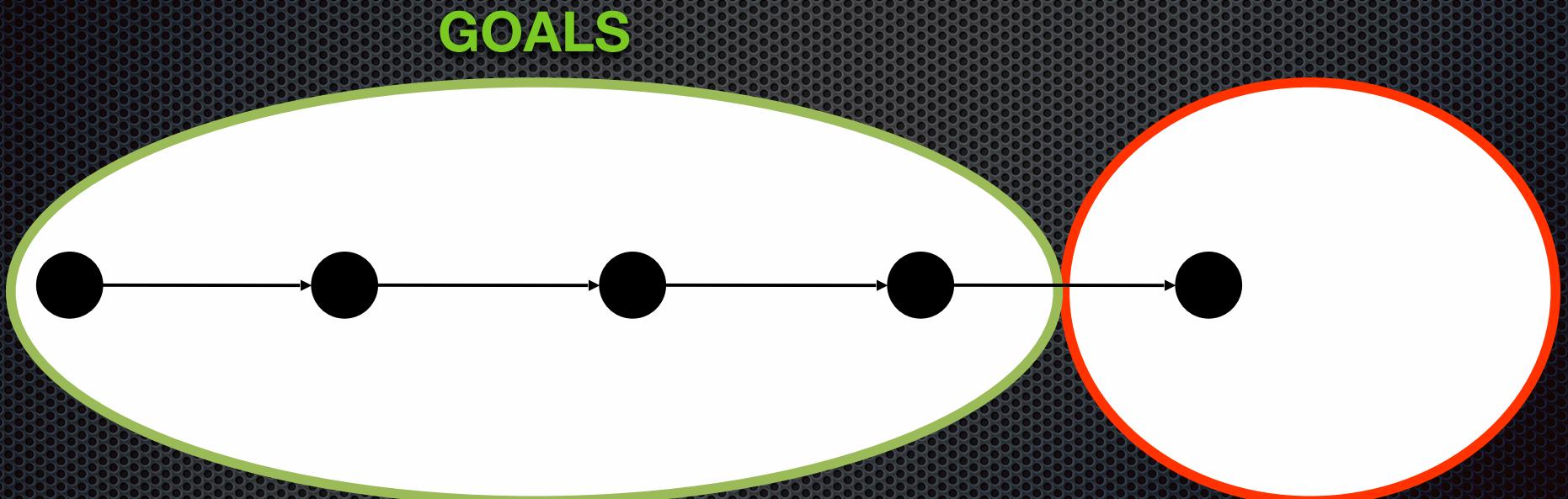
- Our setting: **Concrete counterexamples**



How can we exploit the information given by the interpolant?

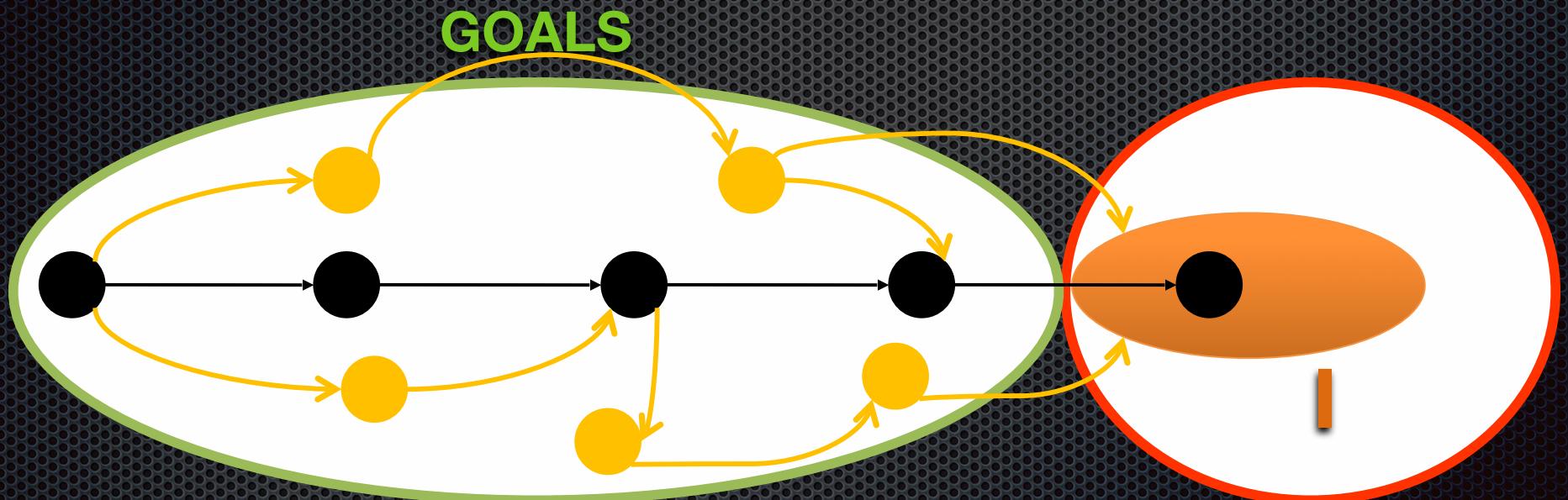
Requirements Refinement

Counterexample $\Rightarrow I \text{ } UNSAT(I, GOALS)$



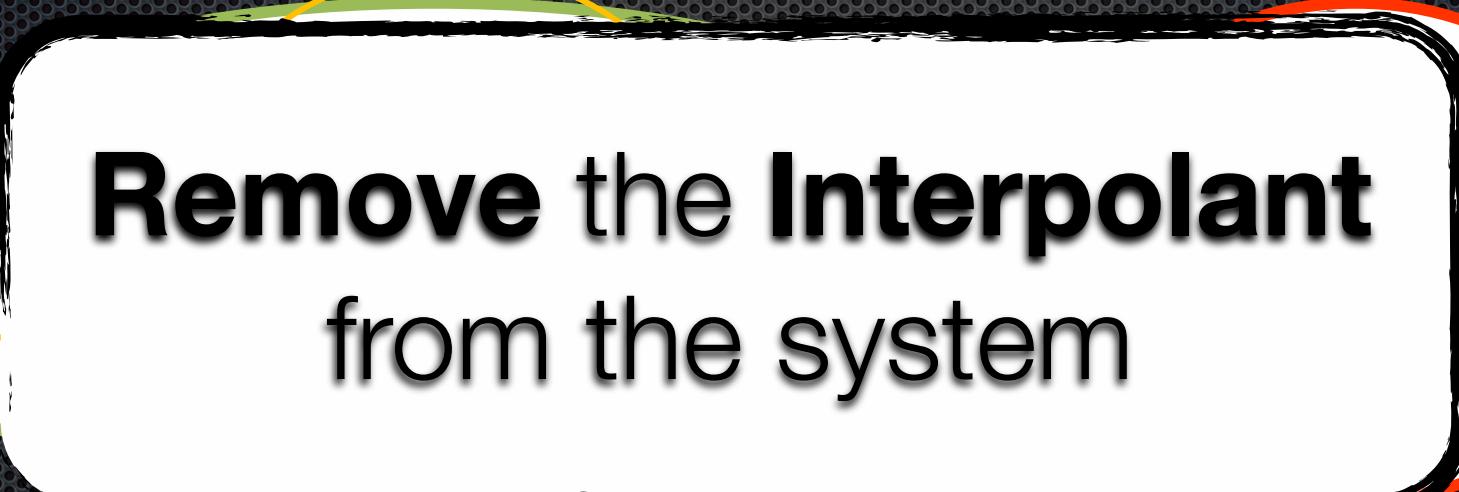
Requirements Refinement

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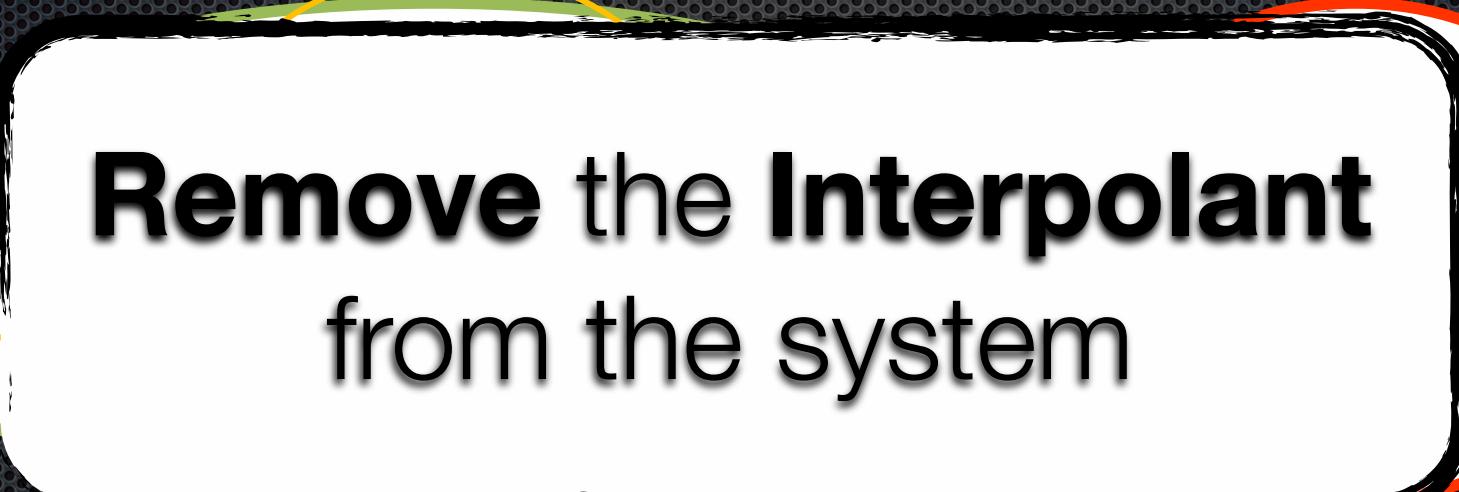


GOALS

**Remove the Interpolant
from the system**

Requirements Refinement

Counterexample $\Rightarrow I \text{ } UNSAT(I, GOALS)$



**Remove the Interpolant
from the system**

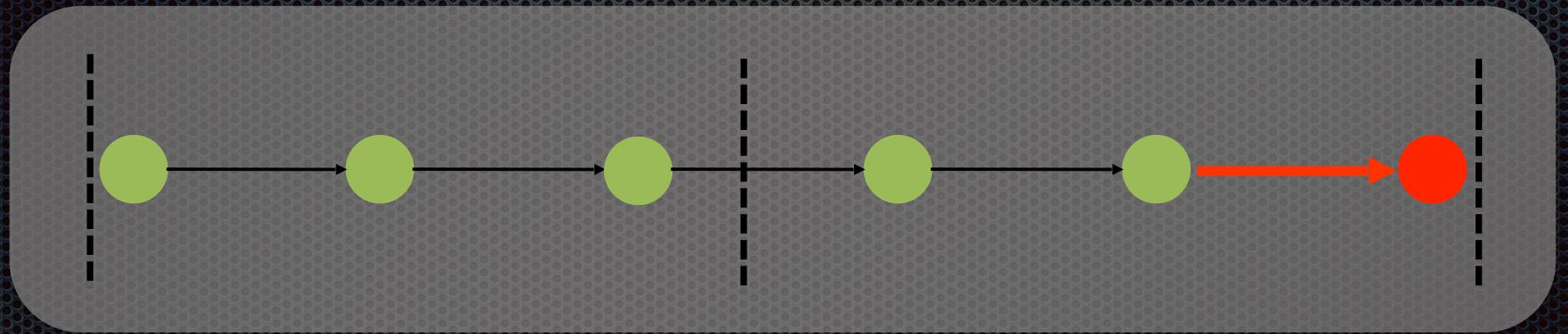
Removing I doesn't necessarily
guarantee the satisfaction of the goals

Why counterexamples arise?

first situation

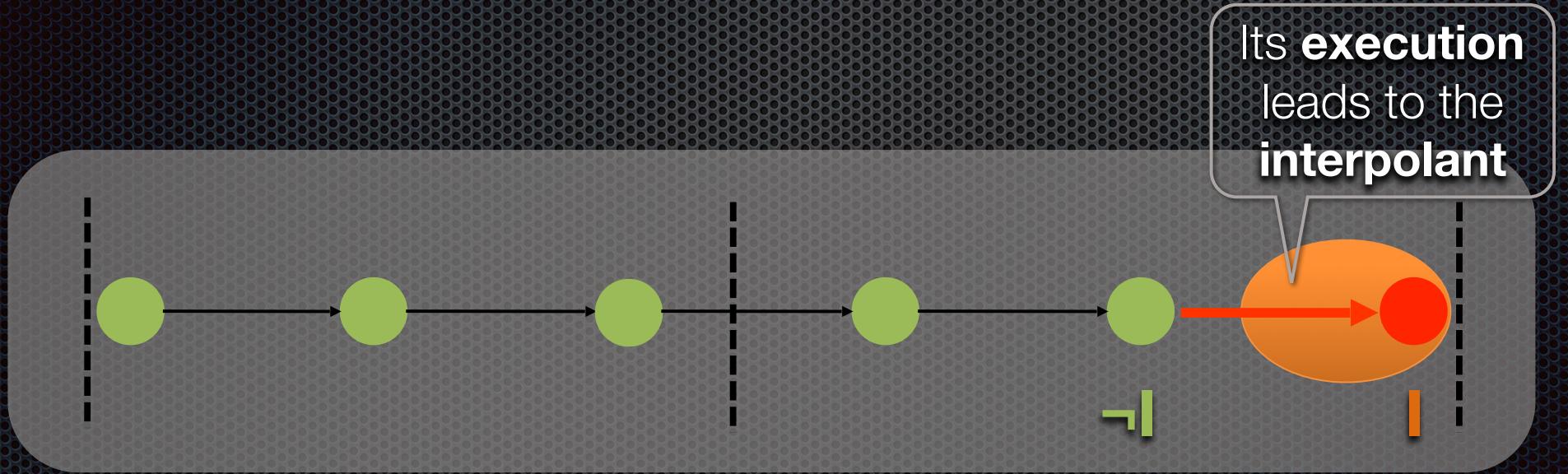
Why counterexamples arise?

first situation



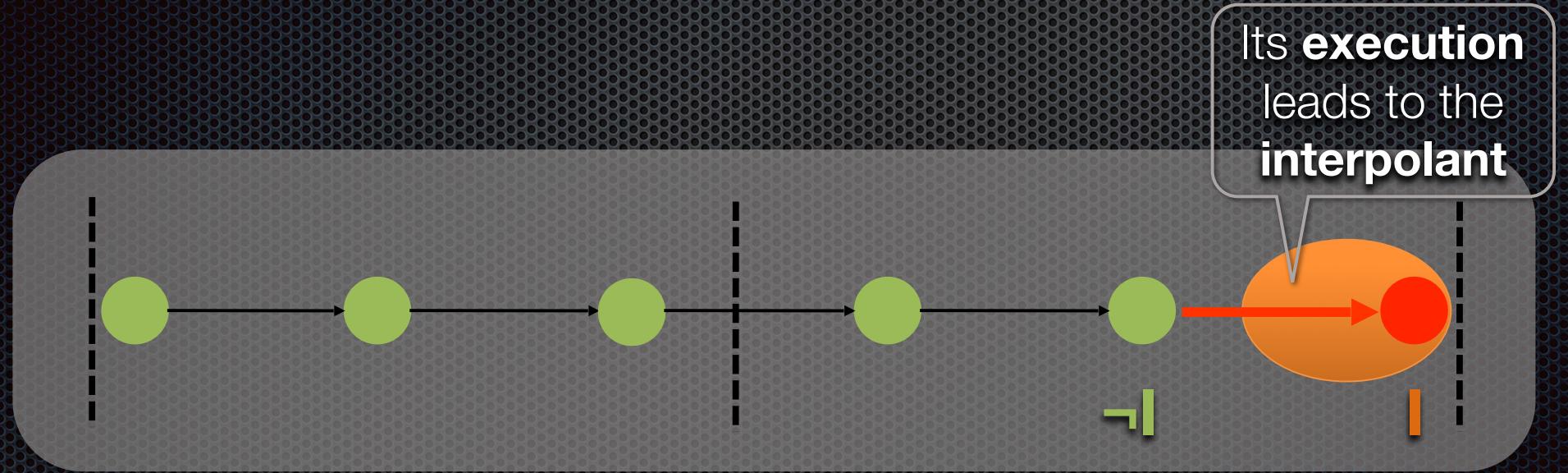
Why counterexamples arise?

first situation



Why counterexamples arise?

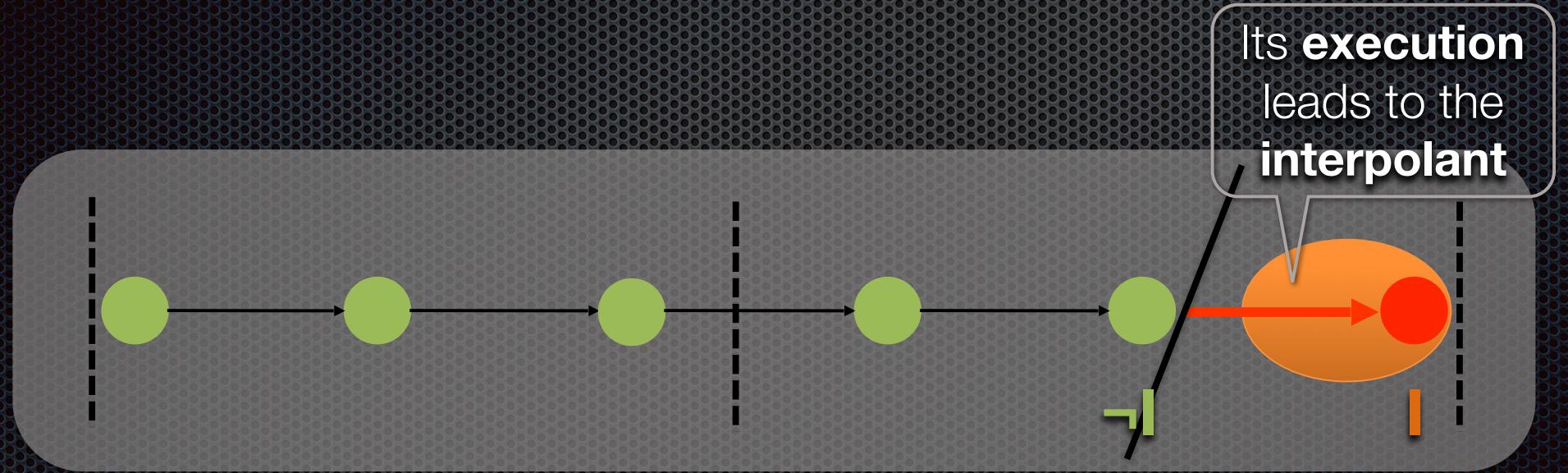
first situation



How can this counterexample **be removed**?

Why counterexamples arise?

first situation



How can this counterexample **be removed**?

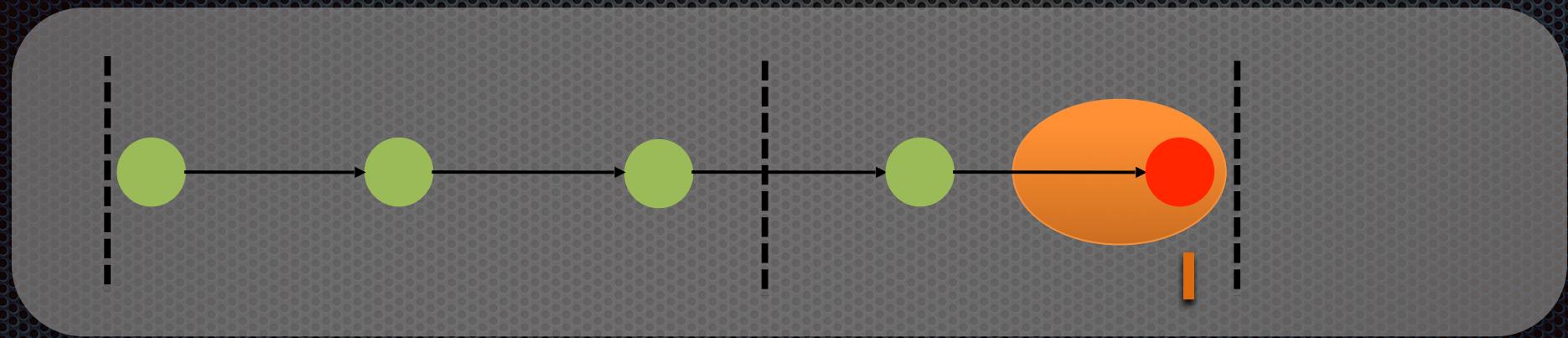
- prohibiting this operation to occur in certain states.
- **strengthening** its **precondition**.

Why counterexamples arise?

second situation

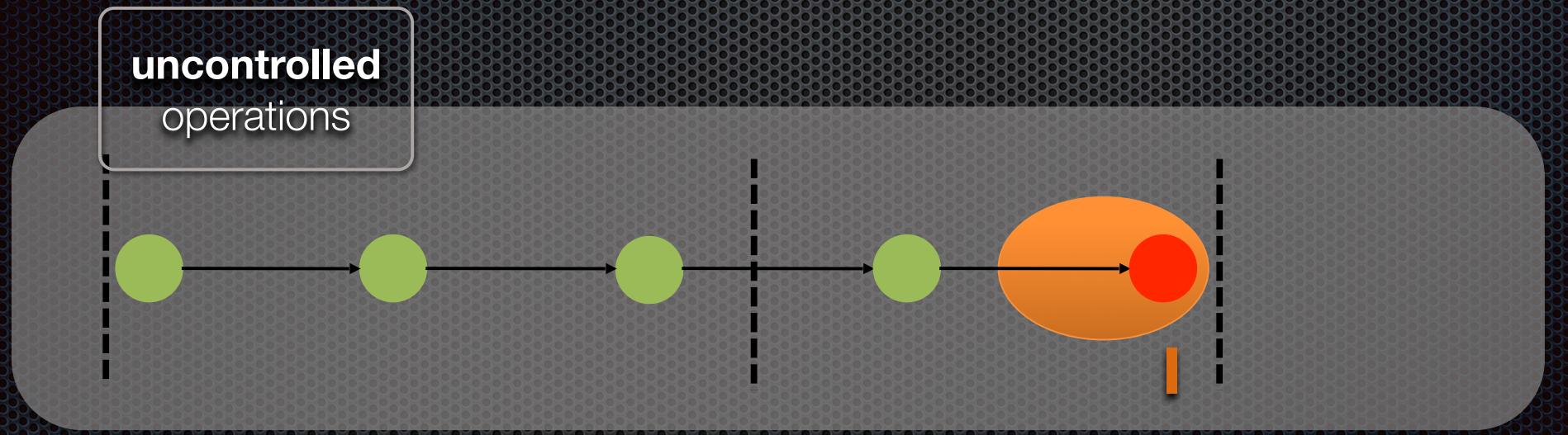
Why counterexamples arise?

second situation



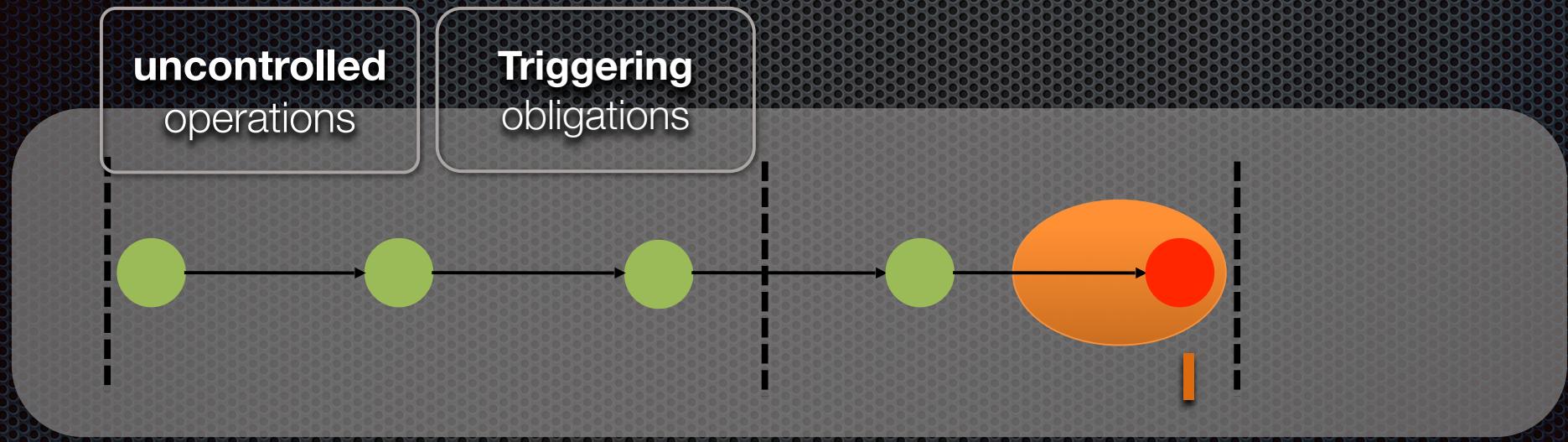
Why counterexamples arise?

second situation



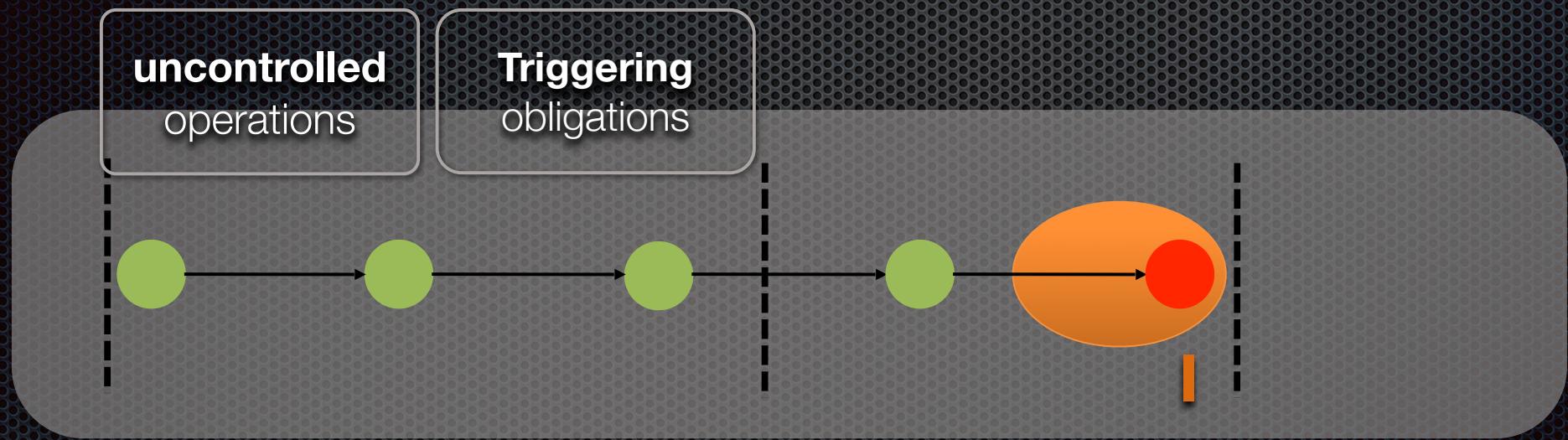
Why counterexamples arise?

second situation



Why counterexamples arise?

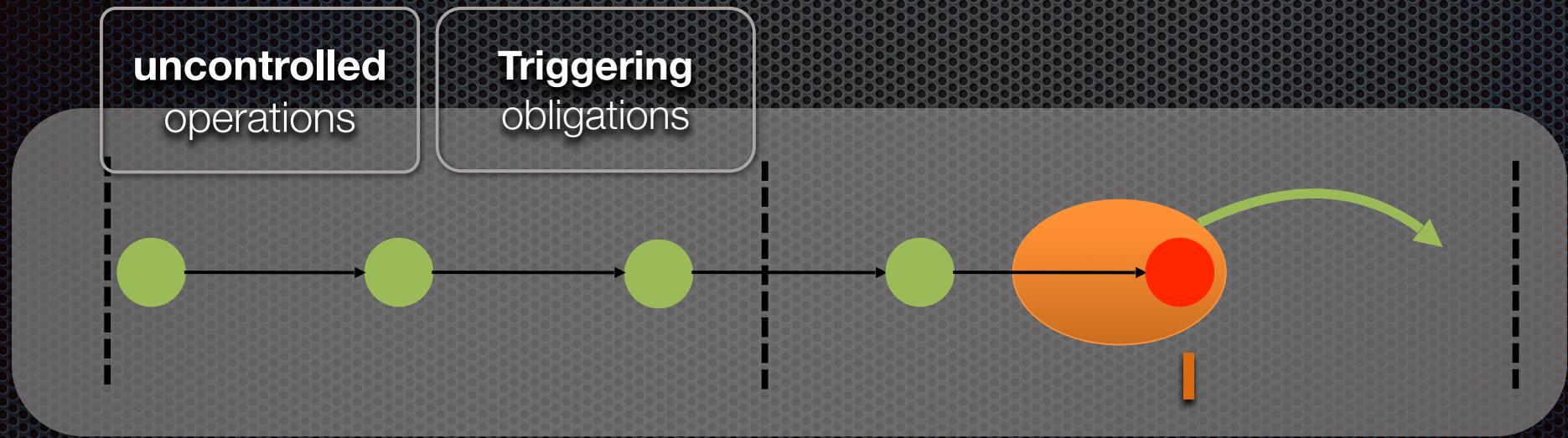
second situation



How can this counterexample **be removed**?

Why counterexamples arise?

second situation

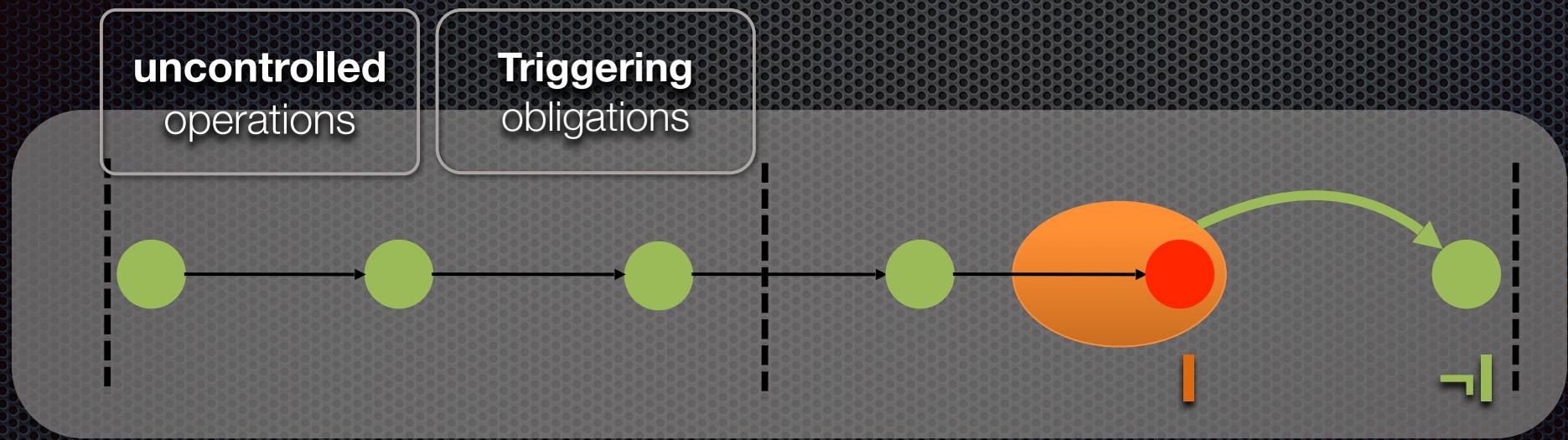


How can this counterexample **be removed**?

- **forcing** an operation to occur in certain states.

Why counterexamples arise?

second situation

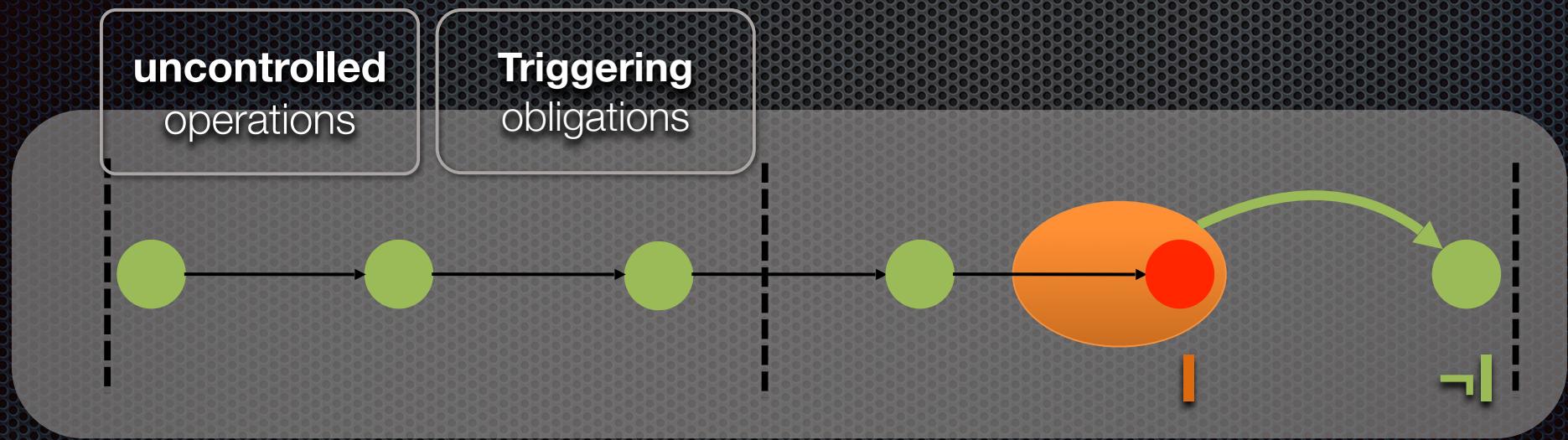


How can this counterexample **be removed**?

- **forcing** an operation to occur in certain states.

Why counterexamples arise?

second situation



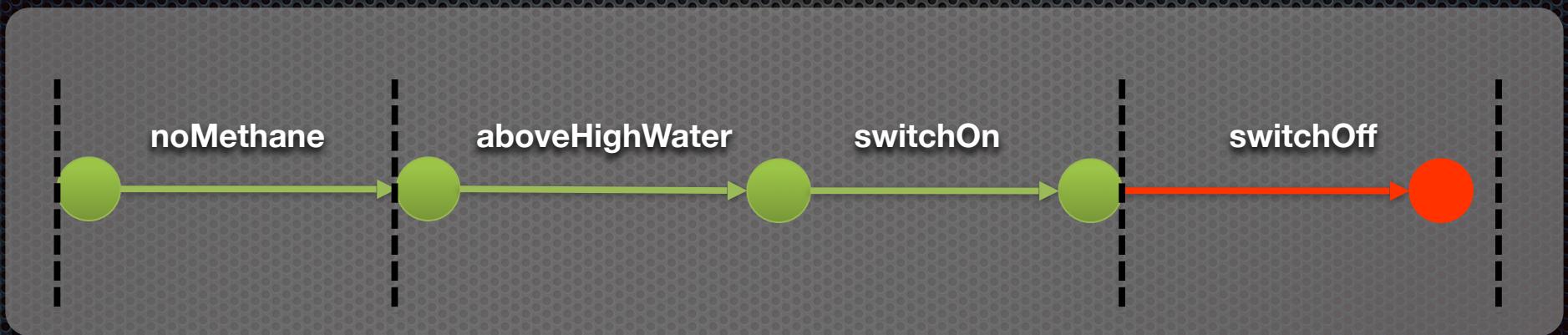
How can this counterexample **be removed**?

- **forcing** an operation to occur in certain states.
- **weakening** its **triggering** condition.

Strengthening Preconditions

Pump Controller

If the water level is high and there is no methane, then the pump should be on.

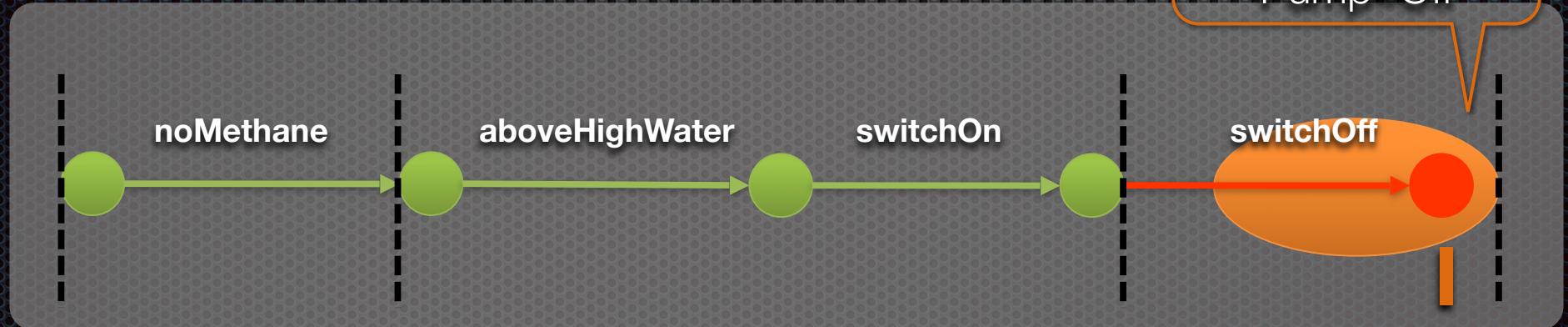


Strengthening Preconditions

Pump Controller

If the water level is high and there is no methane, then the pump should be on.

HighWater and
no Methane and
Pump=Off

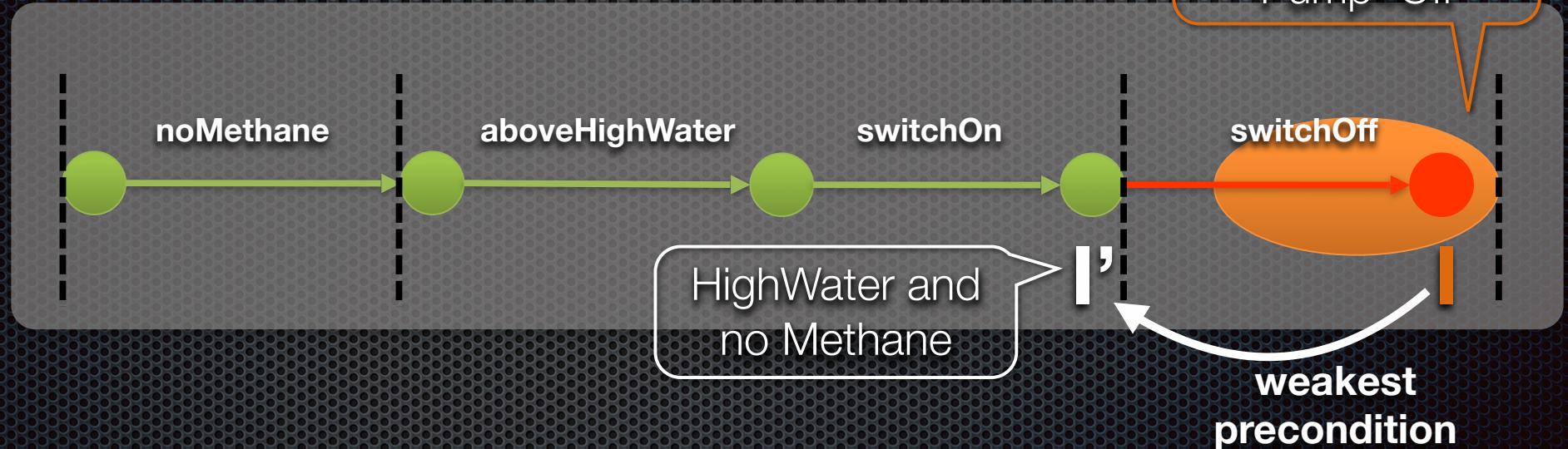


Strengthening Preconditions

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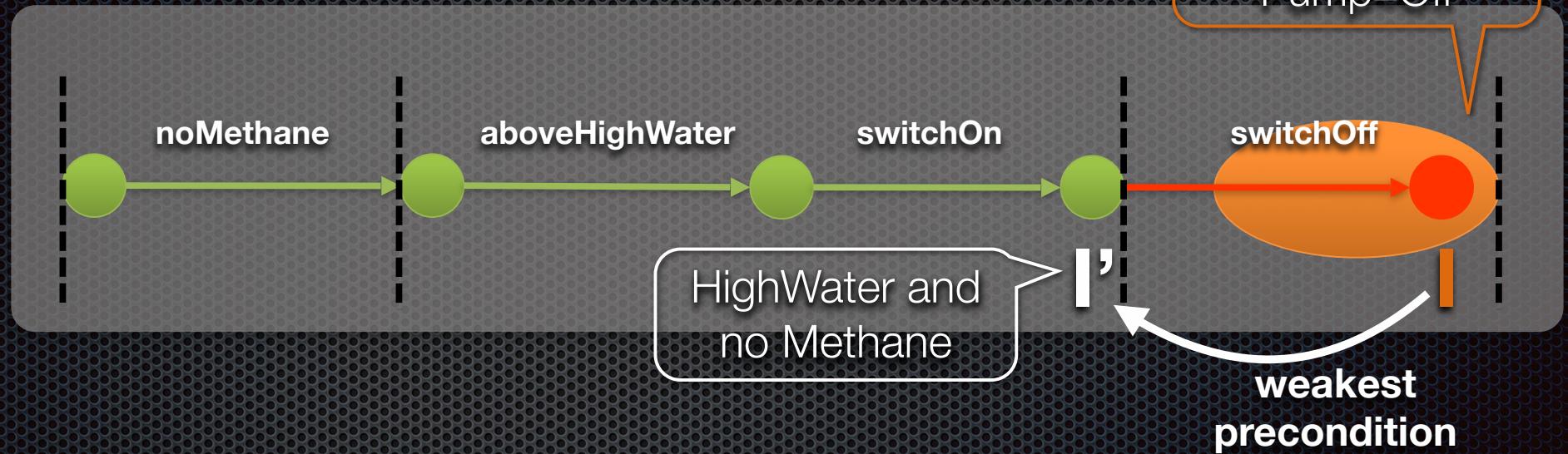


Strengthening Preconditions

Pump Controller

If the water level is high and there is no methane, then the pump should be on.

HighWater and
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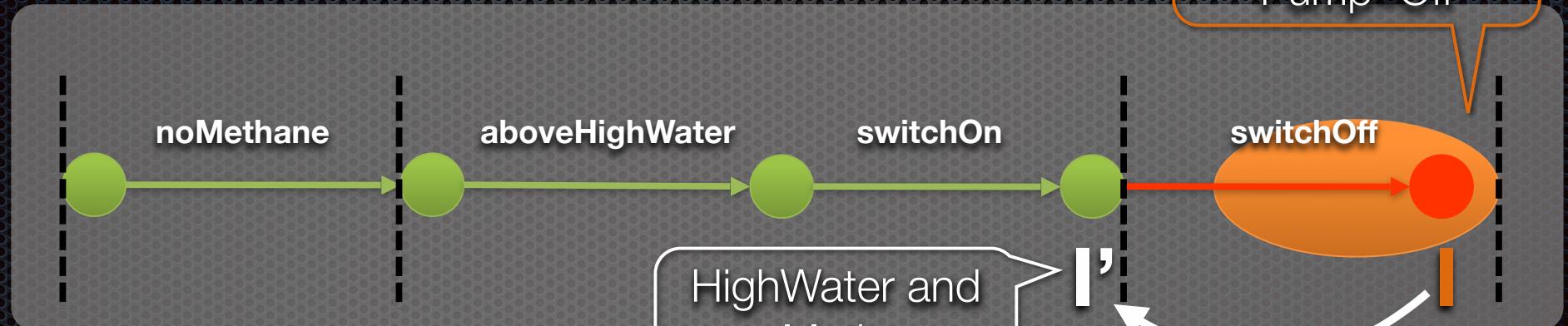
Prohibit **switchOff** from occurring when **I'** holds.

Strengthening Preconditions

Pump Controller

If the water level is high and there is no methane, then the pump should be on.

HighWater and
no Methane and
Pump=Off



Prohibit s

**Pre(`switchOff`) =
(Pump=On) and $\neg I'$**

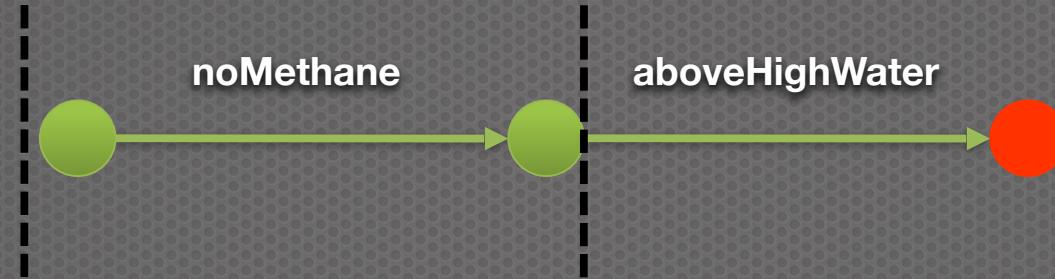
weakest
precondition

**strengthening
switchOff
precondition**

Weakening Triggering conditions

Pump Controller

If the water level is high and there is no methane, then the pump should be on.

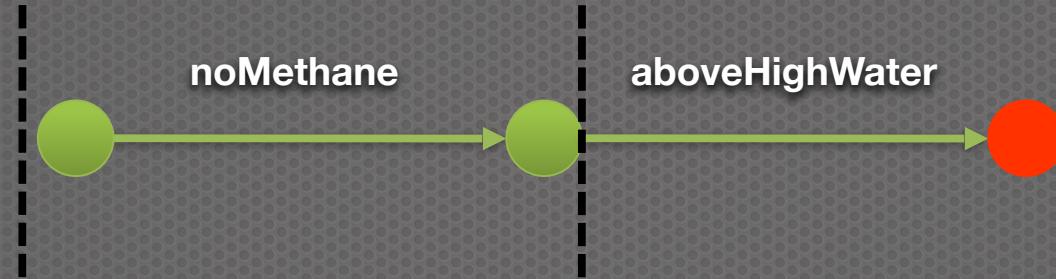


Weakening Triggering conditions

Pump Controller

If the water level is high and there is no methane, then the pump should be on.

**the controller
never reacts**



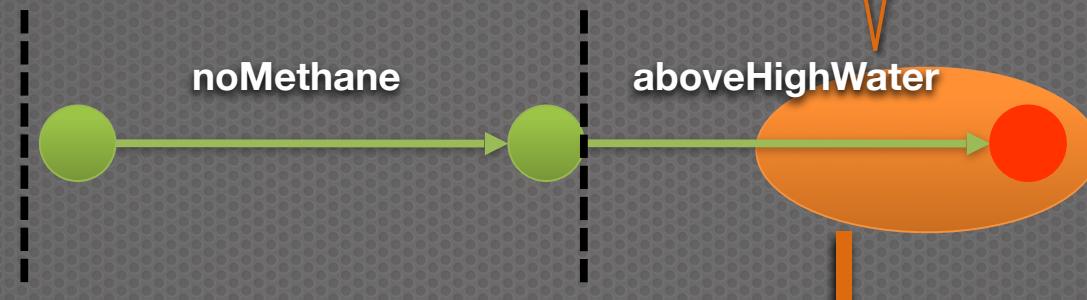
Weakening Triggering conditions

Pump Controller

If the water level is high and there is no methane, then the pump should be on.

HighWater and
no Methane and
Pump=Off

**the controller
never reacts**

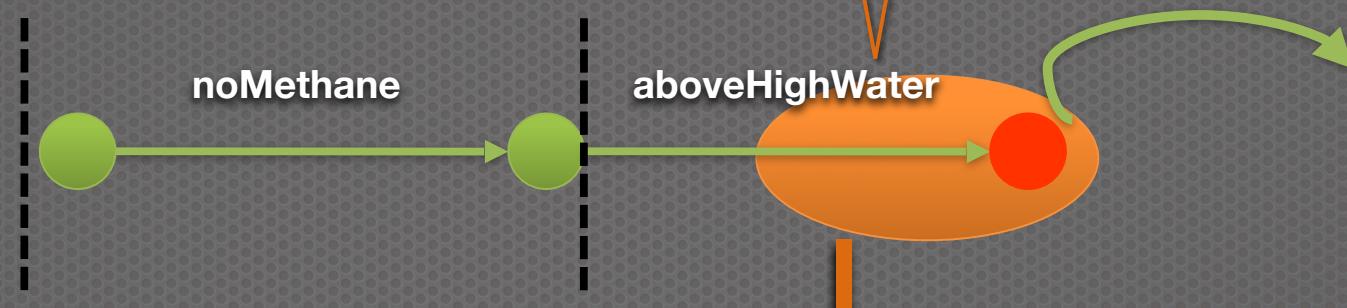


Weakening Triggering conditions

Pump Controller

If the water level is high and there is no methane, then the pump should be on.

HighWater and
no Methane and
Pump=Off



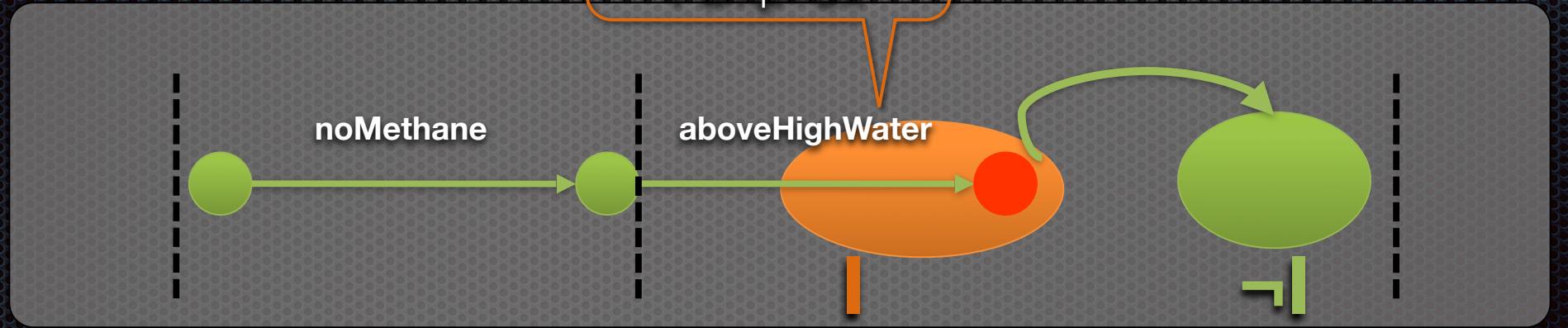
- Force an operation to occur when **I** holds,

Weakening Triggering conditions

Pump Controller

If the water level is high and there is no methane, then the pump should be on.

HighWater and
no Methane and
Pump=Off



- Force an operation to occur when **I** holds,
- and, its execution should not reach **I**.

Weakening Triggering conditions

Pump Controller

If the water level is high and there is no methane, then the pump should be on.

HighWater and
no Methane and
Pump=Off

$I \wedge \text{Pump}' = \text{On} \Rightarrow \neg I'$

Post(switchOn)

switchOn

noMethane

aboveHighWater

$I \Rightarrow \text{Pump} = \text{Off}$

Pre(switchOn)

- Force an operation to occur when I holds,
- and, its execution should not reach I .

Weakening Triggering conditions

Pump Controller

If the water level is high and there is no methane, then the pump should be on.

HighWater and
no Methane and
Pump=Off

$I \wedge \text{Pump}' = \text{On} \Rightarrow \neg I'$

Post(switchOn)

switchOn

noMethane

aboveHighWater

$I \Rightarrow \text{Pump} = \text{Off}$

Pre(switchOn)

- Force an c
and, its ex

Trig(switchOn) =
false or I

old weakening
switchOn
Trig. condition

Liveness

Reactivity Pattern

Liveness

Reactivity Pattern



Liveness

Reactivity Pattern

Infinitely
often



Assumptions

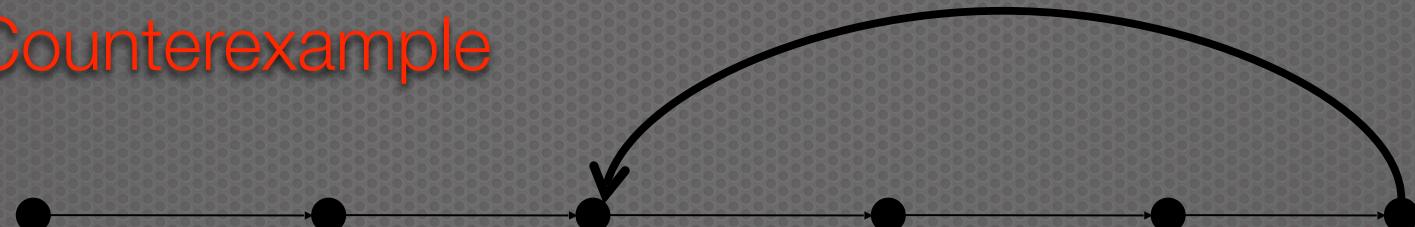


Infinitely
often



Goals

Counterexample



Liveness

Reactivity Pattern

Infinitely
often



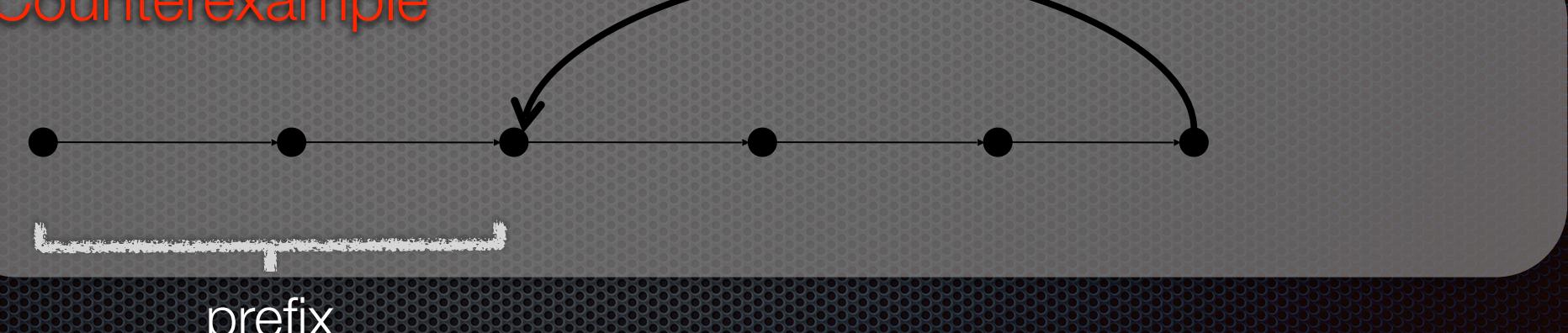
Assumptions

Infinitely
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Goals

Counterexample

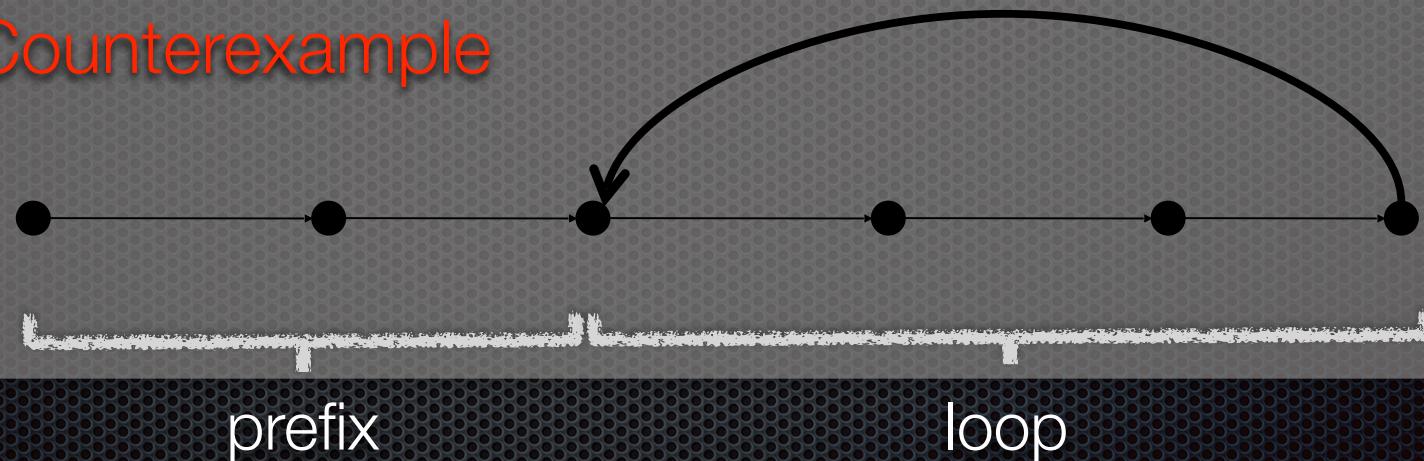


Liveness

Reactivity Pattern



Counterexample



Liveness

Reactivity Pattern

Infinitely
often



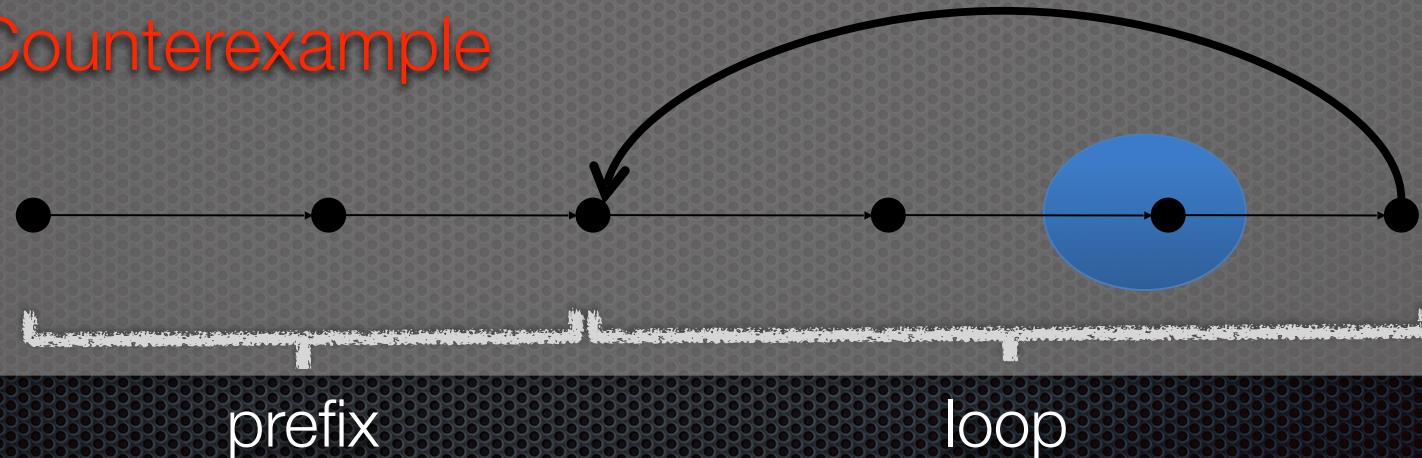
Assumptions

Infinitely
often



Goals

Counterexample



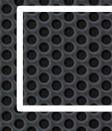
Liveness

Reactivity Pattern

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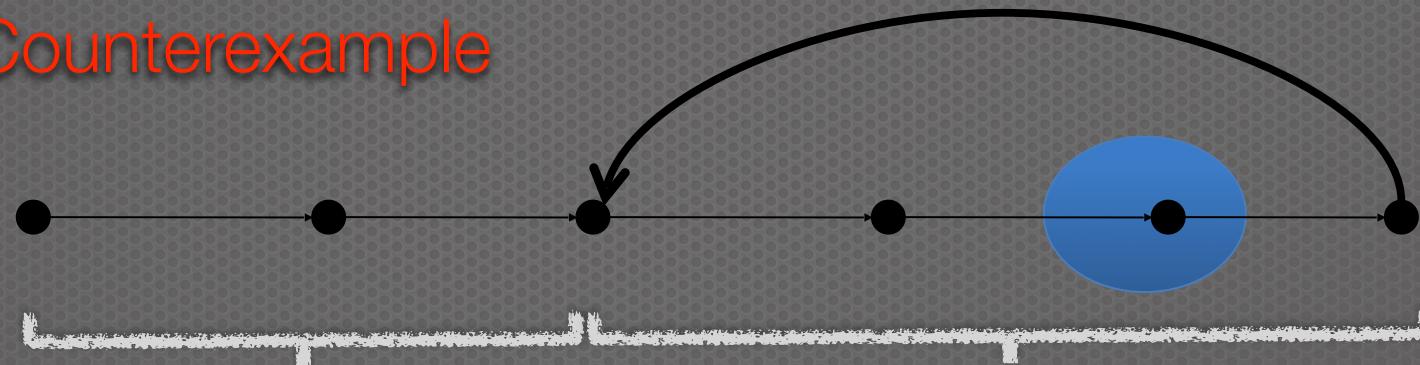
Assumptions



Goals

Infinitely
often

Counterexample



prefix

loop

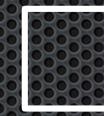
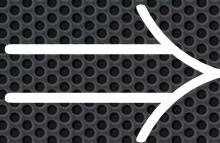
Liveness

Reactivity Pattern

Infinitely
often



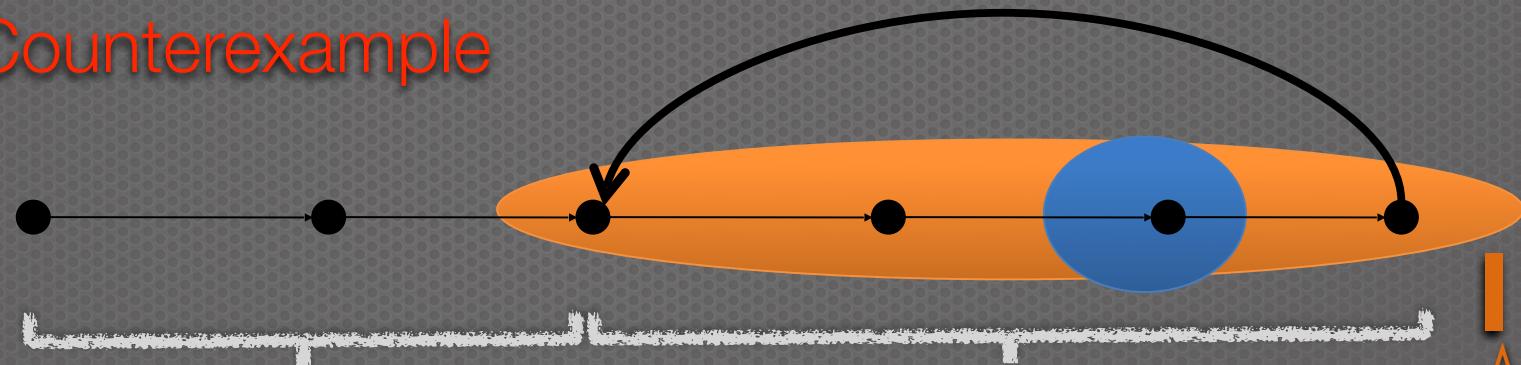
Assumptions



Goals

Infinitely
often

Counterexample



prefix

loop

weak representation
of the loop

Liveness

Reactivity Pattern

Infinitely often



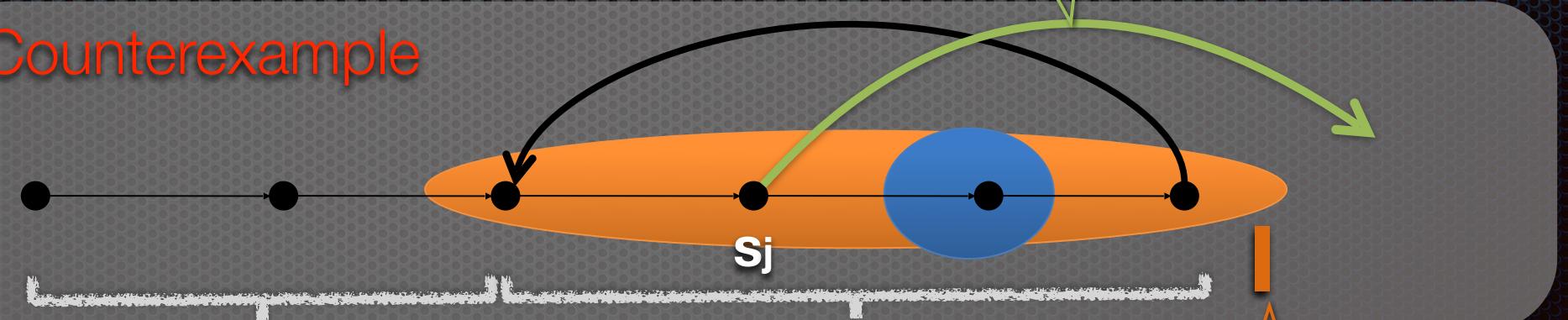
Assumptions



Goals

Infinitely often

Counterexample



prefix

loop

weak representation
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Liveness

Reactivity Pattern

Infinitely often



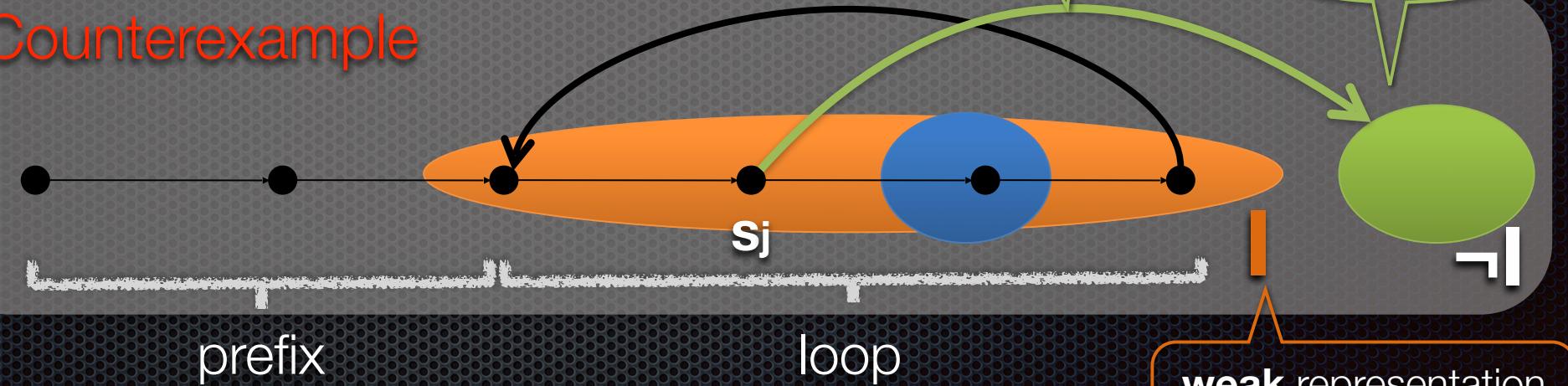
Assumptions

Infinitely often



Goals

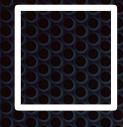
Counterexample



Liveness

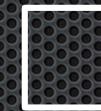
Reactivity Pattern

Infinitely often



Assumptions

Infinitely often



Goals

Counterexample

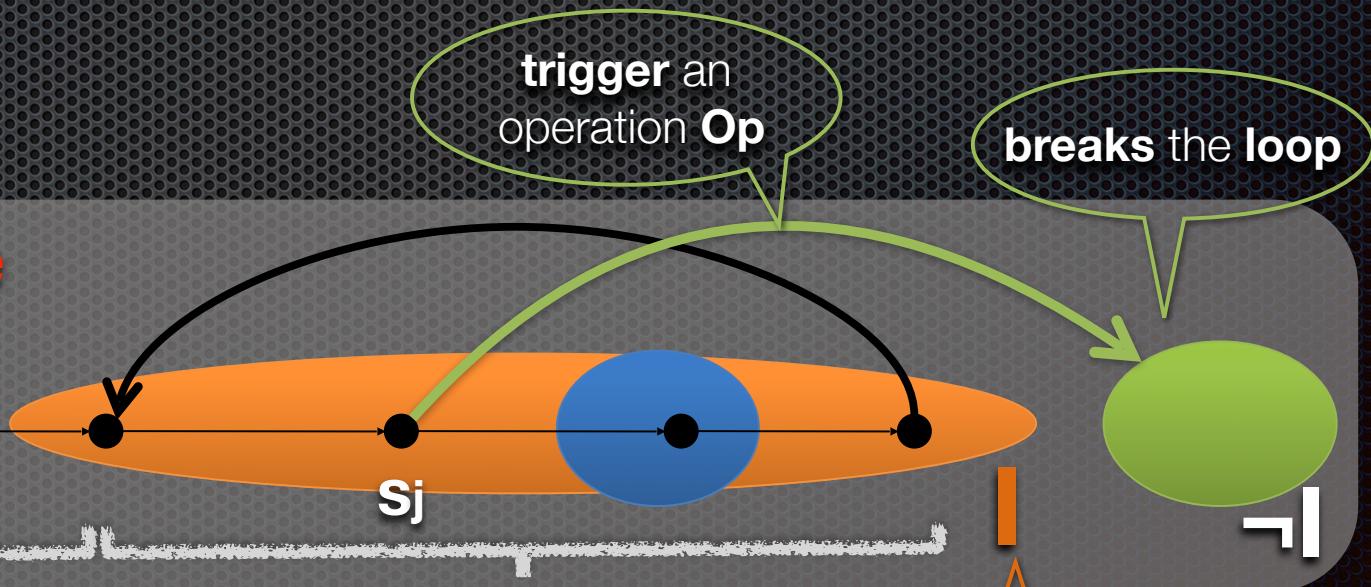


s_j



trigger an operation **Op**

breaks the loop



prefix

loop

weak representation
of the loop

- **Weaken** Op's triggering condition.

Liveness

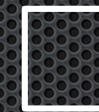
Reactivity Pattern

Infinitely often



Assumptions

Infinitely often



Goals

trigger an operation **Op**

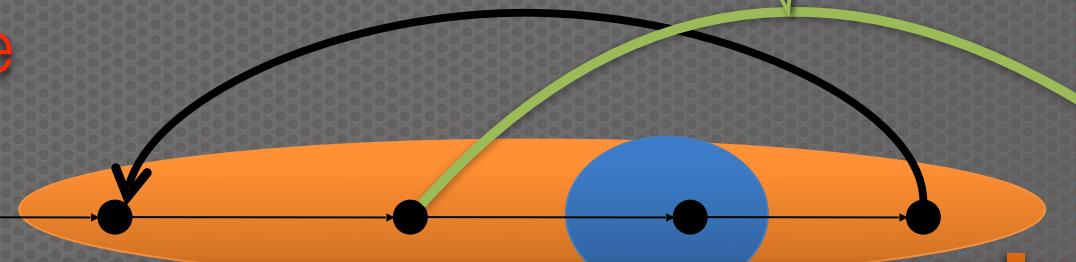
breaks the loop

Counterexample



prefix

• Weaken



~I

**Trig(Op) = ... or
(Pre(Op) and no Goals)**

entation op

Contributions

- Fully automated Goal Operationalisation:
 - Safety Goals,
 - Time Progress property,
 - **Liveness** properties (Reactivity).
- Successfully evaluated on four demonstrating examples.
 - We obtained less restrictive operationalisations than inductive techniques, in some cases.
 - **Interpolation+SAT** improves inductive techniques running times.

Limitations

- Correct, but Incomplete, goal operationalisation process.
 - Successful operationalisation may depend on the order in which counterexamples arise.
- Liveness
 - The refined triggering condition is not based on the interpolant information.
 - We may produce a stronger than necessary refinement,
 - But, it is consistent with the preconditions.

Future Work

- Evaluate **scalability** issues on case studies.
- Investigate the relationship between:
 - **interpolation** and **inductive logic programming**.
- Analyse a potential notion of “most general” operationalisation.
- Evaluate alternative mechanisms for interpolant computation
 - **Quality** of interpolants for our purposes.

Questions?