

# CE 874 - Secure Software Systems

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Symbolic Execution

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*Acknowledgments:* Some of the slides are fully or partially obtained from other sources. A reference is noted on the bottom of each slide, when the content is fully obtained from another source. Otherwise a full list of references is provided on the last slide.

# Program Analysis

- How could we analyze a program (with source code) and look for problems?
- How accurate would our analysis be without executing the code?
- If we execute the code, what input values should we use to test/analyze the code?
- What if we don't have the source code?



**When I suggest using static code analysis to reduce the number of errors**

<https://www.viva64.com>



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# Symbolic Execution



# Symbolic Execution --- History

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- 1976: A system to generate test data and symbolically execute programs (Lori Clarke)
- 1976: Symbolic execution and program testing (James King)
- 2005-present: practical symbolic execution
  - Using SMT solvers
  - Heuristics to control exponential explosion
  - Heap modeling and reasoning about pointers
  - Environment modeling
  - Dealing with solver limitations



# Motivation

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- Writing and maintaining tests is tedious and error-prone
- Idea: Automated Test Generation
  - Generate regression test suite
  - Execute all reachable statements
  - Catch any assertion violations



# Approach

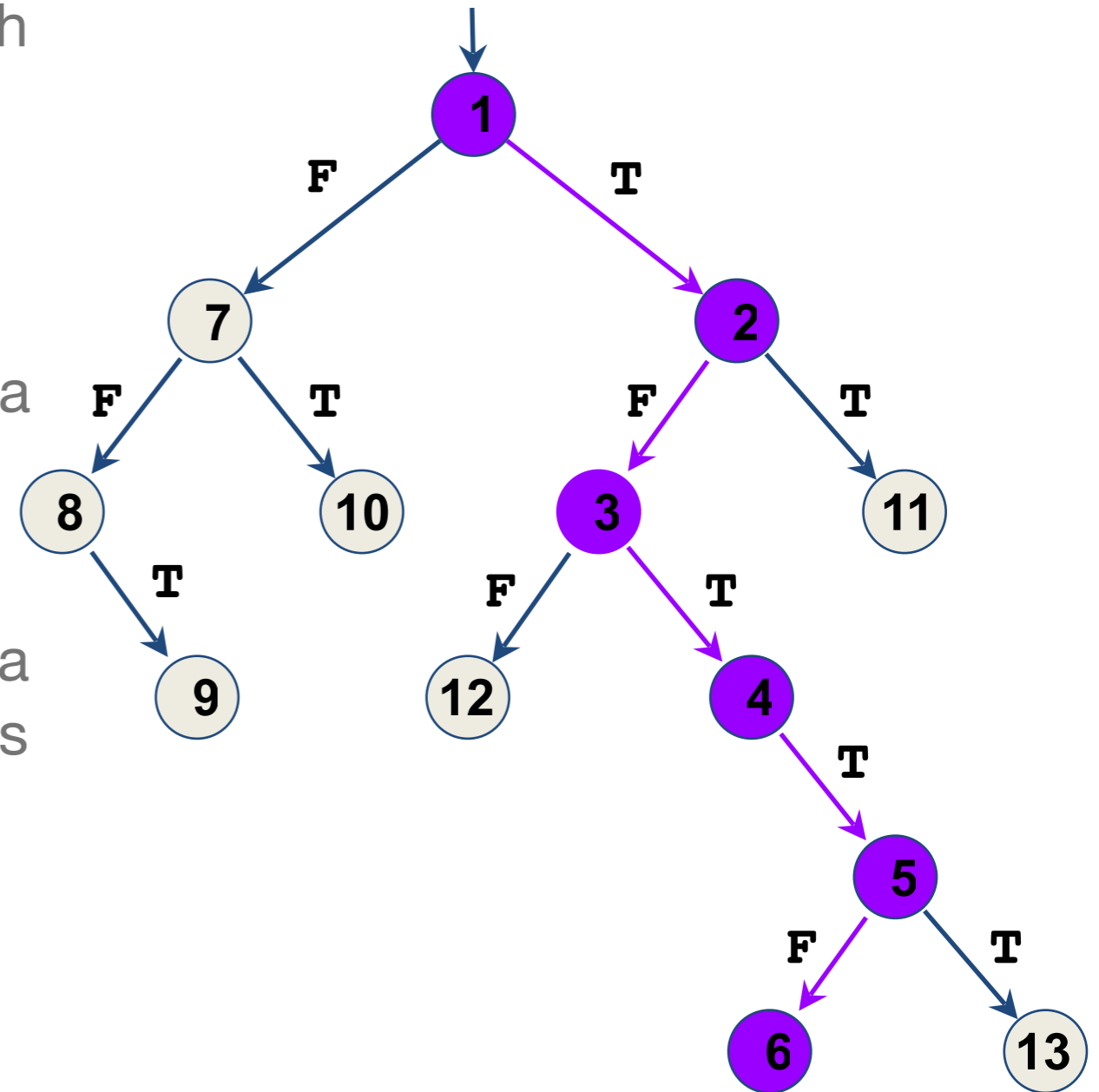
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- Dynamic Symbolic Execution
  - Stores program state concretely and symbolically
  - Solves constraints to guide execution at branch points
  - Explores all execution paths of the unit tested
- Example of Hybrid Analysis
  - Collaboratively combines dynamic and static analysis



# Execution Paths of a Program

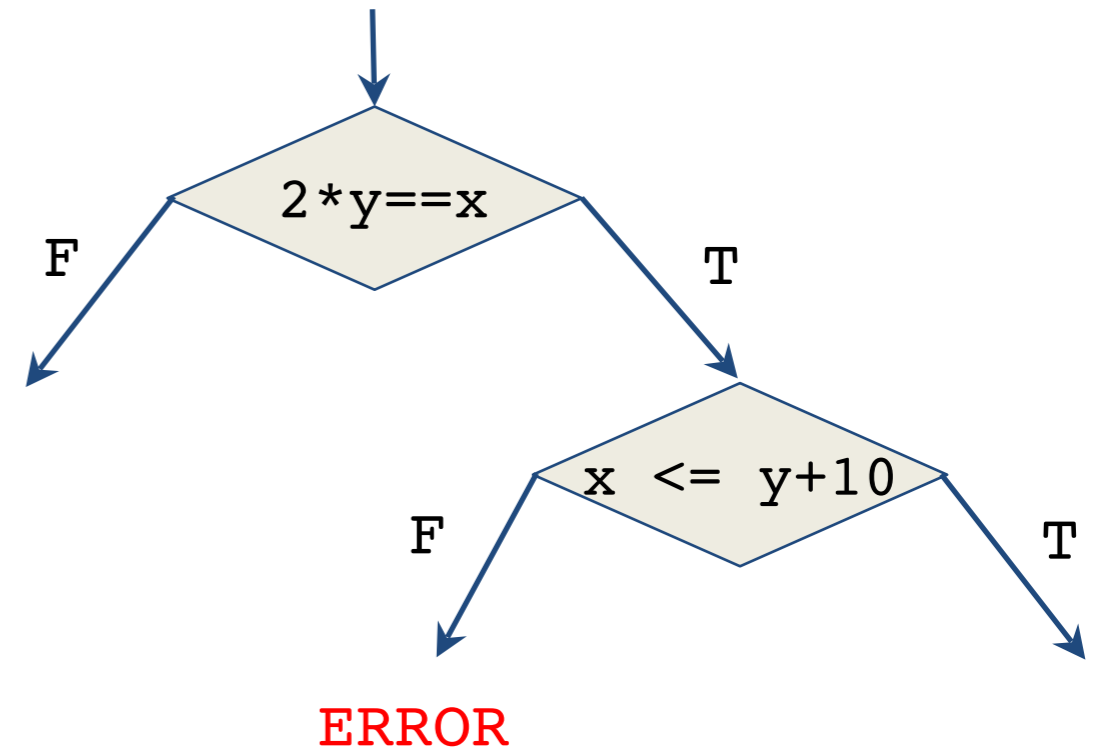
- Program can be seen as binary tree with possibly infinite depth
  - Called **Computation Tree**
- Each node represents the execution of a conditional statement
- Each edge represents the execution of a sequence of non-conditional statements
- Each path in the tree represents an equivalence class of inputs





# Example of Computation Tree

```
void test_me(int x, int y) {  
    if (2*y == x) {  
        if (x <= y+10)  
            print("OK");  
        else {  
            print("something bad");  
            ERROR;  
        }  
    } else  
        print("OK");  
}
```







# Existing Approach I

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- Random Testing:

- Generate random inputs
- Execute the program on those (concrete) inputs

```
void test_me(int x) {  
    if (x == 94389) {  
        ERROR;  
    }  
}
```

- Problem:

- Probability of reaching error could be astronomically small

Probability of **ERROR**:

$1/2^{32} \approx 0.000000023\%$



# Existing Approach II

- Symbolic Execution
  - Use symbolic values for inputs
  - Execute program symbolically on symbolic input values
  - Collect symbolic path constraints
  - Use theorem prover to check if a branch can be taken
- Problem:
  - Does not scale for large programs

```
void test_me(int x) {  
    if (x*3 == 15) {  
        if (x % 5 == 0)  
            print("OK");  
        else {  
            print("something  
bad");  
            ERROR;  
        }  
    } else  
        print("OK");  
}
```



# Existing Approach II

- Symbolic Execution
  - Use symbolic values for inputs
  - Execute program symbolically on symbolic input values
  - Collect symbolic path constraints
  - Use theorem prover to check if a branch can be taken
- Problem:
  - Does not scale for large programs

```
void test_me(int x) {  
    // c = product of two  
    // large primes  
    if (pow(2,x) % c == 17) {  
        print("something bad");  
        ERROR;  
    } else  
        print("OK");  
}
```

Symbolic execution will say both branches are reachable: **False Positive**



# Combined Approach

- Dynamic Symbolic Execution (DSE)
  - Start with random input values
  - Keep track of both concrete values and symbolic constraints
  - Use concrete values to simplify symbolic constraints
  - Incomplete theorem-prover

```
int foo(int v) {  
    return 2*v;  
}  
  
void test_me(int x, int y) {  
    int z = foo(y);  
    if (z == x)  
        if (x > y+10)  
            ERROR;  
}
```



# An Illustrative Example

```
int foo(int v) {
    return 2*v;
}

void test_me(int x, int y)
{
    int z = foo(y);
    if (z == x)
        if (x > y+10)
            ERROR;
}
```

Concrete Execution

concrete state

x = 22  
y = 7

Symbolic Execution

symbolic state

x = x<sub>0</sub>  
y = y<sub>0</sub>

path condition



# An Illustrative Example

```
int foo(int v) {  
    return 2*v;  
}  
  
void test_me(int x, int y)  
{  
    int z = foo(y);  
    if (z == x)  
        if (x > y+10)  
            ERROR;  
}
```

Concrete  
Execution

Symbolic  
Execution

concrete  
state

x = 22  
y = 7  
z = 14

symbolic  
state


x =  $x_0$   
y =  $y_0$   
z =  $2*y_0$

path  
condition



# An Illustrative Example

```
int foo(int v) {  
    return 2*v;  
}  
  
void test_me(int x, int y)  
{  
    int z = foo(y);  
    if (z == x)  
        if (x > y+10)  
            ERROR;  
}
```



Concrete  
Execution

concrete  
state

x = 22  
y = 7  
z = 14

Symbolic  
Execution

symbolic  
state

x =  $x_0$   
y =  $y_0$   
z =  $2*y_0$

path  
condition

$2*y_0 \neq x_0$



# An Illustrative Example

```
int foo(int v) {  
    return 2*v;  
}  
  
void test_me(int x, int y)  
{  
    int z = foo(y);  
    if (z == x)  
        if (x > y+10)  
            ERROR;  
}
```

Concrete  
Execution

Symbolic  
Execution

concrete  
state

$x = 22$   
 $y = 7$   
 $z = 14$

symbolic  
state

$x = x_0$   
 $y = y_0$   
 $z = 2*y_0$

path  
condition

$2*y_0 \neq x_0$

**Solve:**  $2*y_0 == x_0$

**Solution:**  $x_0 = 2, y_0 = 1$





# An Illustrative Example

```
int foo(int v) {  
    return 2*v;  
}  
  
void test_me(int x, int y)  
{  
    int z = foo(y);  
    if (z == x)  
        if (x > y+10)  
            ERROR;  
}
```

Concrete  
Execution

Symbolic  
Execution

concrete  
state

x = 2  
y = 1

symbolic  
state

x = x<sub>0</sub>  
y = y<sub>0</sub>

path  
condition

# An Illustrative Example

---

```
int foo(int v) {  
    return 2*v;  
}  
  
void test_me(int x, int y)  
{  
    int z = foo(y);  
    if (z == x)  
        if (x > y+10)  
            ERROR;  
}
```

Concrete  
Execution

Symbolic  
Execution

concrete  
state

x = 2

y = 1

z = 2

symbolic  
state

x =  $x_0$

y =  $y_0$

z =  $2*y_0$

path  
condition



# An Illustrative Example

---

```
int foo(int v) {
    return 2*v;
}

void test_me(int x, int y)
{
    int z = foo(y);
    if (z == x) ←
        if (x > y+10)
            ERROR;
}
```

Concrete  
Execution

concrete  
state

x = 2

y = 1

z = 2

Symbolic  
Execution

symbolic  
state

x =  $x_0$

y =  $y_0$

z =  $2*y_0$

path  
condition

$2*y_0 == x_0$




# An Illustrative Example

---

```
int foo(int v) {
    return 2*v;
}

void test_me(int x, int y)
{
    int z = foo(y);
    if (z == x)
        if (x > y+10)
            ERROR;
}
```



Concrete  
Execution

Symbolic  
Execution

concrete  
state

$x = 2$

$y = 1$

$z = 2$

symbolic  
state

$x = x_0$

$y = y_0$

$z = 2*y_0$

path  
condition

$2*y_0 == x_0$


$x_0 \leq y_0 + 10$



# An Illustrative Example

```
int foo(int v) {
    return 2*v;
}

void test_me(int x, int y)
{
    int z = foo(y);
    if (z == x)
        if (x > y+10)
            ERROR;
}
```



Concrete  
Execution

Symbolic  
Execution

concrete  
state

$x = 2$

$y = 1$

$z = 2$

symbolic  
state

$x = x_0$

$y = y_0$

$z = 2*y_0$

path  
condition

$2*y_0 == x_0$

$x_0 \leq y_0+10$

**Solve:**  $(2*y_0 == x_0)$  and  $(x_0 > y_0+10)$

**Solution:**  $x_0 = 30, y_0 = 15$



# An Illustrative Example

```
int foo(int v) {  
    return 2*v;  
}  
  
void test_me(int x, int y)  
{  
    int z = foo(y);  
    if (z == x)  
        if (x > y+10)  
            ERROR;  
}
```

Concrete  
Execution

Symbolic  
Execution

concrete  
state

x = 30  
y = 15

symbolic  
state

x =  $x_0$   
y =  $y_0$

path  
condition

# An Illustrative Example

---

```
int foo(int v) {
    return 2*v;
}

void test_me(int x, int y)
{
    int z = foo(y);
    if (z == x)
        if (x > y+10)
            ERROR;
}
```

Concrete  
Execution

Symbolic  
Execution

concrete  
state

symbolic  
state

path  
condition

x = 30

x =  $x_0$

y = 15

y =  $y_0$

z = 30

z =  $2*y_0$



# An Illustrative Example

---

```
int foo(int v) {
    return 2*v;
}

void test_me(int x, int y)
{
    int z = foo(y);
    if (z == x) ←
        if (x > y+10)
            ERROR;
}
```

Concrete  
Execution

concrete  
state

x = 30

y = 15

z = 30

Symbolic  
Execution

symbolic  
state

x =  $x_0$

y =  $y_0$

z =  $2*y_0$

path  
condition

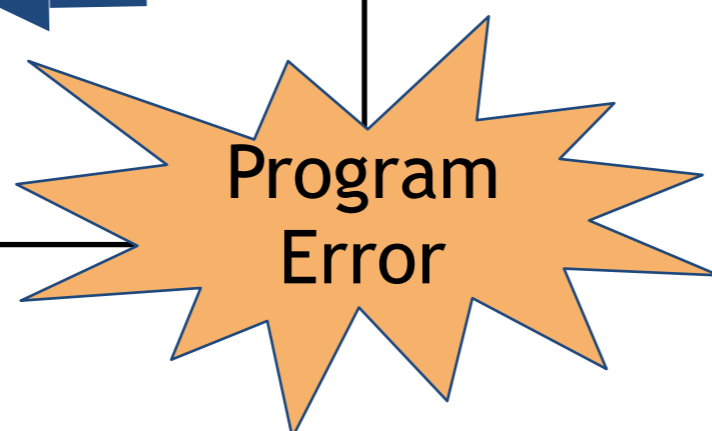
$2*y_0 == x_0$





# An Illustrative Example

```
int foo(int v) {  
    return 2*v;  
}  
  
void test_me(int x, int y)  
{  
    int z = foo(y);  
    if (z == x)  
        if (x > y+10)  
            ERROR;  
}
```



Concrete Execution

concrete state

x = 30  
y = 15  
z = 30

Symbolic Execution

symbolic state

x =  $x_0$   
y =  $y_0$   
z =  $2*y_0$

path condition

$2*y_0 == x_0$   
 $x_0 > y_0+10$



# A More Complex Example

```
int foo(int v) {  
    return secure_hash(v);  
}  
  
void test_me(int x, int y)  
{  
    int z = foo(y);  
    if (z == x)  
        if (x > y+10)  
            ERROR;  
}
```

Concrete Execution

Symbolic Execution

concrete state

symbolic state

path condition

x = 22  
y = 7

x = x<sub>0</sub>  
y = y<sub>0</sub>



# A More Complex Example

```
int foo(int v) {  
    return secure_hash(v);  
}  
  
void test_me(int x, int y)  
{  
    int z = foo(y);  
    if (z == x)  
        if (x > y+10)  
            ERROR;  
}
```

Concrete  
Execution

Symbolic  
Execution

concrete  
state

symbolic  
state

path  
condition

x = 22

x =  $x_0$

y = 7

y =  $Y_0$


z =  
601...129

z = secure\_hash( $Y_0$ )



# A More Complex Example

```
int foo(int v) {  
    return secure_hash(v);  
}  
  
void test_me(int x, int y)  
{  
    int z = foo(y);  
    if (z == x)  
        if (x > y+10)  
            ERROR;  
}
```



Concrete  
Execution

Symbolic  
Execution

concrete  
state

symbolic  
state

path  
condition

x = 22

x =  $x_0$

secure\_hash( $Y_0$ )

y = 7

y =  $Y_0$

$\neq x_0$

z =  
601...129

z = secure\_hash( $Y_0$ )

**Solve:** secure\_hash( $Y_0$ ) ==  $x_0$

Don't know how to solve! Stuck?

# A More Complex Example

```
int foo(int v) {  
    return secure_hash(v);  
}  
  
void test_me(int x, int y)  
{  
    int z = foo(y);  
    if (z == x)  
        if (x > y+10)
```

Not stuck! Use concrete state: replace  $y_0$  by 7

Concrete Execution

Symbolic Execution

concrete state

symbolic state

path condition

$x = 22$

$x = x_0$

$\text{secure\_hash}(Y_0)$

$y = 7$

$y = Y_0$

$\neq x_0$

$z = 601\dots129$


$z = \text{secure\_hash}(Y_0)$

**Solve:**  $\text{secure\_hash}(Y_0) == x_0$

Don't know how to solve! Stuck?

# A More Complex Example

```
int foo(int v) {  
    return secure_hash(v);  
}  
  
void test_me(int x, int y)  
{  
    int z = foo(y);  
    if (z == x)  
        if (x > y+10)  
            ERROR;  
}
```



Concrete  
Execution

Symbolic  
Execution

concrete  
state

symbolic  
state

path  
condition

$x = 22$

$x = x_0$

$\text{secure\_hash}(Y_0)$

$y = 7$

$y = Y_0$

$\neq x_0$

$z =$   
 $601\dots129$

$z = \text{secure\_hash}(Y_0)$

**Solve:**  $601\dots129 == x_0$

**Solution:**  $x_0 = 601\dots129, y_0 = 7$



# A More Complex Example

```
int foo(int v) {  
    return secure_hash(v);  
}  
  
void test_me(int x, int y)  
{  
    int z = foo(y);  
    if (z == x)  
        if (x > y+10)  
            ERROR;  
}
```

Concrete Execution

concrete state

x =  
601...129  
y = 7

Symbolic Execution

symbolic state

x = x<sub>0</sub>  
y = y<sub>0</sub>

path condition

# A More Complex Example

```
int foo(int v) {  
    return secure_hash(v);  
}  
  
void test_me(int x, int y)  
{  
    int z = foo(y);  
    if (z == x)  
        if (x > y+10)  
            ERROR;  
}
```

Concrete  
Execution

Symbolic  
Execution

concrete  
state

symbolic  
state

path  
condition

x =  
601...129  
  
z = y = 7  
601...129

x =  $x_0$   
y =  $Y_0$   
z =  $\text{secure\_hash}(Y_0)$



# A More Complex Example

```
int foo(int v) {
    return secure_hash(v);
}

void test_me(int x, int y)
{
    int z = foo(y);
    if (z == x) ←
        if (x > y+10)
            ERROR;
}
```

Concrete  
Execution

Symbolic  
Execution

concrete  
state

symbolic  
state

path  
condition

x =  
601...129  
y = 7  
z =  
601...129

x =  $x_0$   
y =  $Y_0$   
z =  $\text{secure\_hash}(Y_0)$

$\text{secure\_hash}(Y_0)$   
==  $x_0$

# A More Complex Example

```
int foo(int v) {
    return secure_hash(v);
}

void test_me(int x, int y)
{
    int z = foo(y);
    if (z == x)
        if (x > y+10)
            ERROR;
}
```

Concrete Execution

Symbolic Execution

concrete state

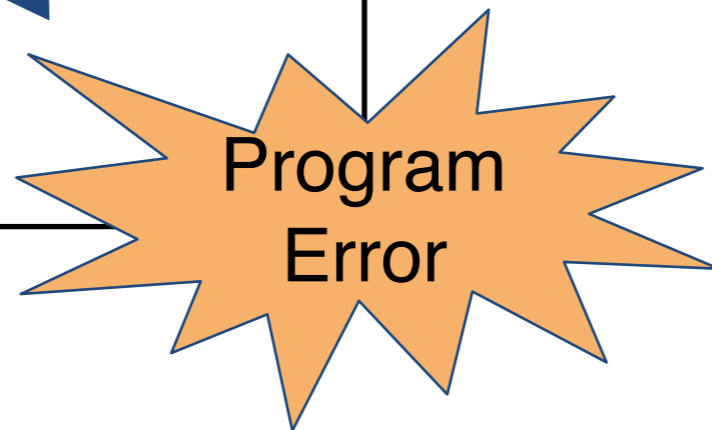
symbolic state

path condition

x = 601...129  
z = y = 7  
601...129

x = x<sub>0</sub>  
y = y<sub>0</sub>  
z = secure\_hash(Y<sub>0</sub>)

secure\_hash(Y<sub>0</sub>) == x<sub>0</sub>  
x<sub>0</sub> > y<sub>0</sub>+10





# Example Application

- DSE tests the below program starting with input  $x = 1$ . What is the input and constraint  $(C1 \wedge C2 \wedge C3)$  solved in each run of DSE? Use depth-first search and leave trailing constraints blank if unused.

Run	x	C1	C2	C3
1	1	$5 \neq x0$	$7 \neq x0$	$9 == x0$
2				
3				
4				

```
int test_me(int x) {  
    int[] A = { 5, 7, 9 };  
    int i = 0;  
    while (i < 3) {  
        if (A[i] == x)  
            break;  
        i++;  
    }  
    return i;  
}
```



# Example Application

- DSE tests the below program starting with input  $x = 1$ . What is the input and constraint ( $C1 \wedge C2 \wedge C3$ ) solved in each run of DSE? Use depth-first search and leave trailing constraints blank if unused.

Run	x	C1	C2	C3
1	1	$5 \neq x0$	$7 \neq x0$	$9 == x0$
2	9	$5 \neq x0$	$7 == x0$	
3	7	$5 == x0$		
4	5			

```
int test_me(int x) {  
    int[] A = { 5, 7, 9 };  
    int i = 0;  
    while (i < 3) {  
        if (A[i] == x)  
            break;  
        i++;  
    }  
    return i;  
}
```



# A Third Example

```
int foo(int v) {  
    return secure_hash(v);  
}  
  
void test_me(int x, int y)  
{  
    if (x != y) ←  
        if (foo(x) == foo(y))  
            ERROR;  
}
```

Concrete Execution

concrete state

x = 22  
y = 7

Symbolic Execution

symbolic state

x = x<sub>0</sub>  
y = y<sub>0</sub>

path condition



# A Third Example

```
int foo(int v) {
    return secure_hash(v);
}

void test_me(int x, int y)
{
    if (x != y) ←
        if (foo(x) == foo(y))
            ERROR;
}
```

Concrete Execution

concrete state

x = 22  
y = 7

Symbolic Execution

symbolic state

x = x<sub>0</sub>  
y = y<sub>0</sub>

path condition

x<sub>0</sub> != y<sub>0</sub>



# A Third Example

```
int foo(int v) {  
    return secure_hash(v);  
}  
  
void test_me(int x, int y)  
{  
    if (x != y)  
        if (foo(x) == foo(y))  
            ERROR;  
}
```



Concrete Execution

Symbolic Execution

concrete state

$x = 22$   
 $y = 7$

symbolic state

$x = x_0$   
 $y = y_0$

path condition

$x_0 \neq y_0$   
 $\text{secure\_hash}(x_0) \neq \text{secure\_hash}(y_0)$


**Solve:**  $x_0 \neq y_0$  and  
 $\text{secure\_hash}(x_0) == \text{secure\_hash}(y_0)$

**Use concrete state: replace  $y_0$  by 7.**



# A Third Example

```
int foo(int v) {  
    return secure_hash(v);  
}  
  
void test_me(int x, int y)  
{  
    if (x != y)  
        if (foo(x) == foo(y))  
            ERROR;  
}
```



Concrete Execution

Symbolic Execution

concrete state

x = 22  
y = 7

symbolic state

x = x<sub>0</sub>  
y = y<sub>0</sub>

path condition

x<sub>0</sub> != y<sub>0</sub>  
  
secure\_hash(x<sub>0</sub>) !=  
secure\_hash(y<sub>0</sub>)

**Solve:** x<sub>0</sub> != 7 and  
secure\_hash(x<sub>0</sub>) == 601...129

**Use concrete state: replace x<sub>0</sub> by 22.**





# A Third Example

```

int foo(int v) {
    return secure_hash(v);
}

void test_me(int x, int y)
{
    if (x != y)
        if (foo(x) == foo(y))
            ERROR;
}

```

**False negative!**

Concrete Execution

Symbolic Execution

concrete state

x = 22  
y = 7

symbolic state

x = x<sub>0</sub>  
y = y<sub>0</sub>

path condition

x<sub>0</sub> != y<sub>0</sub>  
  
secure\_hash(x<sub>0</sub>) != secure\_hash(y<sub>0</sub>)

**Solve:** 22 != 7 and  
438...861 == 601...129

**Unsatisfiable!**



# Another Example: Testing Data Structures

- Random Test Driver:
  - random value for x
  - random memory graph reachable from p
- Probability of reaching ERROR is extremely low

```
typedef struct cell {
    int data;
    struct cell *next;
} cell;

int foo(int v) { return 2*v + 1; }

int test_me(int x, cell *p) {
    if (x > 0)
        if (p != NULL)
            if (foo(x) == p->data)
                if (p->next == p)
                    ERROR;

    return 0;
}
```



# Data-Structure Example

```
typedef struct cell {
    int data;
    struct cell *next;
} cell;

int foo(int v) { return 2*v + 1; }

int test_me(int x, cell *p) {
    if (x > 0)
        if (p != NULL)
            if (foo(x) == p->data)
                if (p->next == p)
                    ERROR;
    return 0;
}
```

Concrete Execution

Symbolic Execution

concrete state

x = 236  
p = NULL

symbolic state

x = x<sub>0</sub>  
p = p<sub>0</sub>

path condition





# Data-Structure Example

```
typedef struct cell {
    int data;
    struct cell *next;
} cell;

int foo(int v) { return 2*v + 1; }

int test_me(int x, cell *p) {
    if (x > 0)
        if (p != NULL)
            if (foo(x) == p->data)
                if (p->next == p)
                    ERROR;
    return 0;
}
```

Concrete Execution

concrete state

x = 236  
p = NULL

Symbolic Execution

symbolic state

x = x<sub>0</sub>  
p = p<sub>0</sub>

path condition

x<sub>0</sub> > 0



# Data-Structure Example

```
typedef struct cell {
    int data;
    struct cell *next;
} cell;

int foo(int v) { return 2*v + 1; }

int test_me(int x, cell *p) {
    if (x > 0)
        if (p != NULL)
            if (foo(x) == p->data)
                if (p->next == p)
                    ERROR;
    return 0;
}
```

Concrete Execution

concrete state

$x = 236$   
 $p = \text{NULL}$

Symbolic Execution

symbolic state

$x = x_0$   
 $p = p_0$

path condition

$x_0 > 0$   
 $p_0 == \text{NULL}$



# Data-Structure Example

```
typedef struct cell {
    int data;
    struct cell *next;
} cell;

int foo(int v) { return 2*v + 1; }

int test_me(int x, cell *p) {
    if (x > 0)
        if (p != NULL)
            if (foo(x) == p->data)
                if (p->next == p)
                    ERROR;
    return 0;
}
```

Concrete Execution

Symbolic Execution

concrete state

$x = 236$   
 $p = \text{NULL}$

symbolic state

$x = x_0$   
 $p = p_0$

path condition

$x_0 > 0$   
 $p_0 == \text{NULL}$

**Solve:**  $x_0 > 0$  and  $p_0 \neq \text{NULL}$

**Solution:**  $x_0 = 236$ ,  $p_0 \rightarrow$ 

634	NULL
-----	------



# Data-Structure Example

```
typedef struct cell {
    int data;
    struct cell *next;
} cell;

int foo(int v) { return 2*v + 1; }

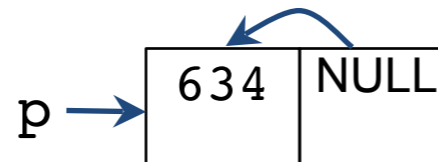
int test_me(int x, cell *p) {
    if (x > 0)
        if (p != NULL)
            if (foo(x) == p->data)
                if (p->next == p)
                    ERROR;
    return 0;
}
```

Concrete Execution

Symbolic Execution

concrete state

$x = 236$



symbolic state

$x = x_0$

$p = p_0$

$p \rightarrow \text{data} = v_0$

$p \rightarrow \text{next} = n_0$

path condition



# Data-Structure Example

```
typedef struct cell {
    int data;
    struct cell *next;
} cell;

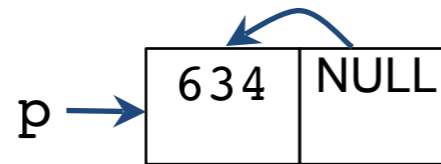
int foo(int v) { return 2*v + 1; }

int test_me(int x, cell *p) {
    if (x > 0)
        if (p != NULL)
            if (foo(x) == p->data)
                if (p->next == p)
                    ERROR;
    return 0;
}
```

## Concrete Execution

concrete state

$x = 236$



## Symbolic Execution

symbolic state

$x = x_0$

$p = p_0$

$p \rightarrow \text{data} = v_0$

$p \rightarrow \text{next} = n_0$

path condition

$x_0 > 0$





# Data-Structure Example

```
typedef struct cell {
    int data;
    struct cell *next;
} cell;

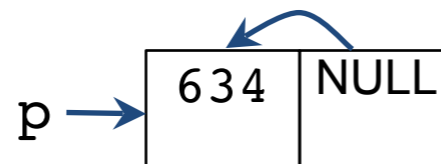
int foo(int v) { return 2*v + 1; }

int test_me(int x, cell *p) {
    if (x > 0)
        if (p != NULL)
            if (foo(x) == p->data)
                if (p->next == p)
                    ERROR;
    return 0;
}
```

## Concrete Execution

concrete state

$x = 236$



## Symbolic Execution

symbolic state

$x = x_0$

$p = p_0$

$p \rightarrow \text{data} = v_0$

$p \rightarrow \text{next} = n_0$

path condition

$x_0 > 0$

$p_0 \neq \text{NULL}$



# Data-Structure Example

```
typedef struct cell {
    int data;
    struct cell *next;
} cell;

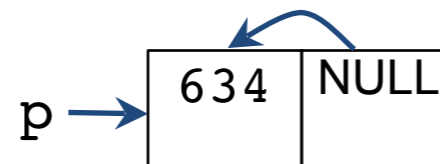
int foo(int v) { return 2*v + 1; }

int test_me(int x, cell *p) {
    if (x > 0)
        if (p != NULL)
            if (foo(x) == p->data)
                if (p->next == p)
                    ERROR;
    return 0;
}
```

## Concrete Execution

concrete state

$x = 236$



## Symbolic Execution

symbolic state

$x = x_0$

$p = p_0$

$p \rightarrow \text{data} = v_0$

$p \rightarrow \text{next} = n_0$

path condition

$x_0 > 0$

$p_0 \neq \text{NULL}$

$2 * x_0 + 1 \neq v_0$



# Data-Structure Example

```

typedef struct cell {
    int data;
    struct cell *next;
} cell;

int foo(int v) { return 2*v + 1; }

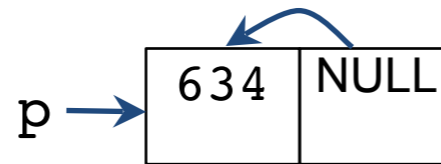
int test_me(int x, cell *p) {
    if (x > 0)
        if (p != NULL)
            if (foo(x) == p->data)
                if (p->next == p)
                    ERROR;
    return 0;
}

```

## Concrete Execution

concrete state

$x = 236$



## Symbolic Execution

symbolic state

$x = x_0$

$p = p_0$

$p \rightarrow \text{data} = v_0$

$p \rightarrow \text{next} = n_0$

path condition

$x_0 > 0$

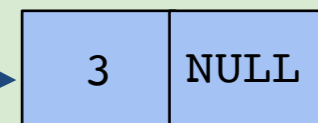
$p_0 \neq \text{NULL}$

$2 * x_0 + 1 \neq v_0$

**Solve:**  $x_0 > 0$  and  $p_0 \neq \text{NULL}$  and  $2 * x_0 + 1 == v_0$

**Solution:**  $x_0 = 1,$

$p_0 \rightarrow$





# Data-Structure Example

```
typedef struct cell {
    int data;
    struct cell *next;
} cell;

int foo(int v) { return 2*v + 1; }

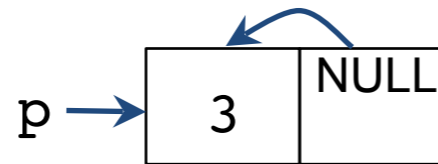
int test_me(int x, cell *p) {
    if (x > 0)
        if (p != NULL)
            if (foo(x) == p->data)
                if (p->next == p)
                    ERROR;
    return 0;
}
```

Concrete Execution

Symbolic Execution

concrete state

$x = 1$



symbolic state

$x = x_0$

$p = p_0$

$p \rightarrow \text{data} = v_0$

$p \rightarrow \text{next} = n_0$

path condition



# Data-Structure Example

```
typedef struct cell {
    int data;
    struct cell *next;
} cell;

int foo(int v) { return 2*v + 1; }

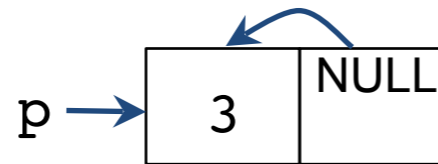
int test_me(int x, cell *p) {
    if (x > 0)
        if (p != NULL)
            if (foo(x) == p->data)
                if (p->next == p)
                    ERROR;
    return 0;
}
```

Concrete Execution

Symbolic Execution

concrete state

$x = 1$



symbolic state

$x = x_0$

$p = p_0$

$p \rightarrow \text{data} = v_0$

$p \rightarrow \text{next} = n_0$

path condition

$x_0 > 0$



# Data-Structure Example

```
typedef struct cell {
    int data;
    struct cell *next;
} cell;

int foo(int v) { return 2*v + 1; }

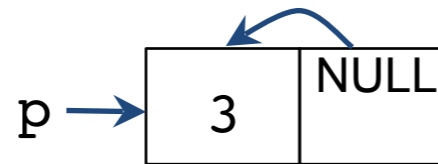
int test_me(int x, cell *p) {
    if (x > 0)
        if (p != NULL)
            if (foo(x) == p->data)
                if (p->next == p)
                    ERROR;
    return 0;
}
```

Concrete Execution

Symbolic Execution

concrete state

$x = 1$



symbolic state

$x = x_0$

$p = p_0$

$p \rightarrow \text{data} = v_0$

$p \rightarrow \text{next} = n_0$

path condition

$x_0 > 0$

$p_0 \neq \text{NULL}$



# Data-Structure Example

```
typedef struct cell {
    int data;
    struct cell *next;
} cell;

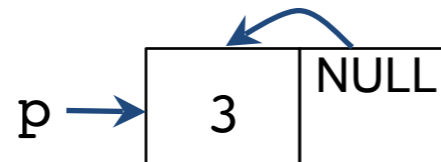
int foo(int v) { return 2*v + 1; }

int test_me(int x, cell *p) {
    if (x > 0)
        if (p != NULL)
            if (foo(x) == p->data)
                if (p->next == p)
                    ERROR;
    return 0;
}
```

## Concrete Execution

concrete state

$x = 1$



## Symbolic Execution

symbolic state

$x = x_0$

$p = p_0$

$p \rightarrow \text{data} = v_0$

$p \rightarrow \text{next} = n_0$

path condition

$x_0 > 0$

$p_0 \neq \text{NULL}$

$2 * x_0 + 1 == v_0$



# Data-Structure Example

```

typedef struct cell {
    int data;
    struct cell *next;
} cell;

int foo(int v) { return 2*v + 1; }

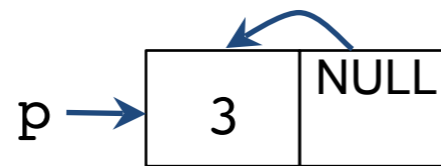
int test_me(int x, cell *p) {
    if (x > 0)
        if (p != NULL)
            if (foo(x) == p->data)
                if (p->next == p)
                    ERROR;
    return 0;
}

```

## Concrete Execution

concrete state

$$x = 1$$



## Symbolic Execution

symbolic state

$$x = x_0$$

$$p = p_0$$

$$p \rightarrow \text{data} = v_0$$

$$p \rightarrow \text{next} = n_0$$

path condition

$$x_0 > 0$$

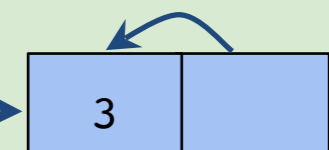
$$p_0 \neq \text{NULL}$$

$$2 * x_0 + 1 == v_0$$

$$n_0 \neq p_0$$

**Solve:**  $x_0 > 0$  and  $p_0 \neq \text{NULL}$  and  $2 * x_0 + 1 == v_0$  and  $n_0 == p_0$

**Solution:**  $x_0 = 1, p_0 \rightarrow$





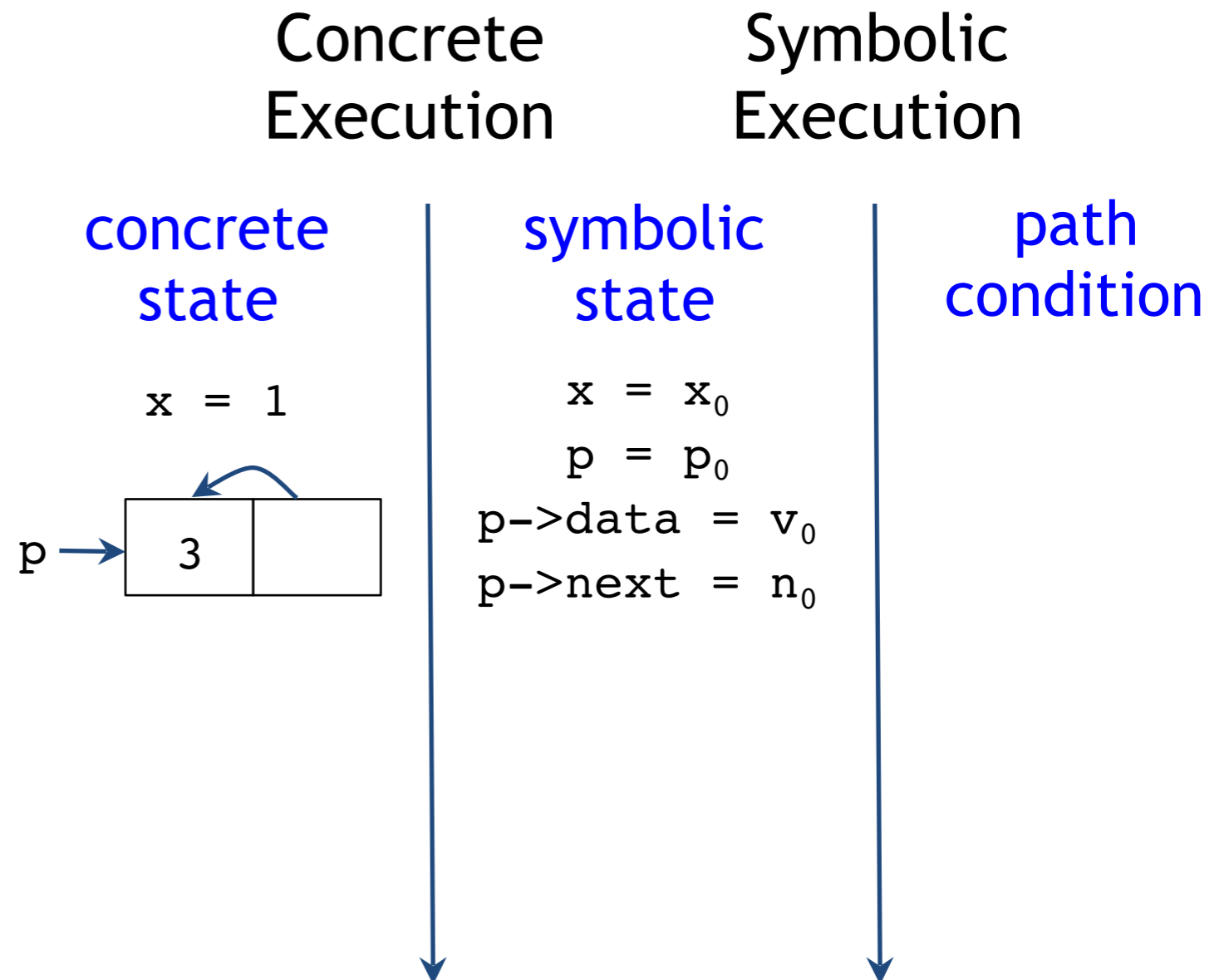


# Data-Structure Example

```
typedef struct cell {
    int data;
    struct cell *next;
} cell;

int foo(int v) { return 2*v + 1; }

int test_me(int x, cell *p) {
    if (x > 0)
        if (p != NULL)
            if (foo(x) == p->data)
                if (p->next == p)
                    ERROR;
    return 0;
}
```





# Data-Structure Example

```
typedef struct cell {
    int data;
    struct cell *next;
} cell;

int foo(int v) { return 2*v + 1; }

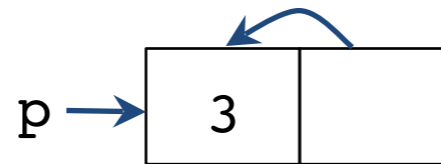
int test_me(int x, cell *p) {
    if (x > 0)
        if (p != NULL)
            if (foo(x) == p->data)
                if (p->next == p)
                    ERROR;
    return 0;
}
```

Concrete Execution

Symbolic Execution

concrete state

$x = 1$



symbolic state

$x = x_0$

$p = p_0$

$p \rightarrow \text{data} = v_0$

$p \rightarrow \text{next} = n_0$

path condition

$x_0 > 0$



# Data-Structure Example

```
typedef struct cell {
    int data;
    struct cell *next;
} cell;

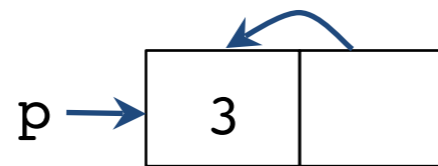
int foo(int v) { return 2*v + 1; }

int test_me(int x, cell *p) {
    if (x > 0)
        if (p != NULL)
            if (foo(x) == p->data)
                if (p->next == p)
                    ERROR;
    return 0;
}
```

## Concrete Execution

concrete state

$x = 1$



## Symbolic Execution

symbolic state

$x = x_0$

$p = p_0$

$p \rightarrow \text{data} = v_0$

$p \rightarrow \text{next} = n_0$

path condition

$x_0 > 0$

$p_0 \neq \text{NULL}$



# Data-Structure Example

```
typedef struct cell {
    int data;
    struct cell *next;
} cell;

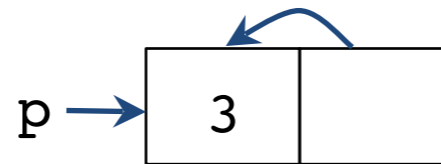
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int test_me(int x, cell *p) {
    if (x > 0)
        if (p != NULL)
            if (foo(x) == p->data)
                if (p->next == p)
                    ERROR;
    return 0;
}
```

## Concrete Execution

concrete state

$x = 1$



## Symbolic Execution

symbolic state

$x = x_0$

$p = p_0$

$p \rightarrow \text{data} = v_0$

$p \rightarrow \text{next} = n_0$

path condition

$x_0 > 0$

$p_0 \neq \text{NULL}$

$2 * x_0 + 1 == v_0$



# Data-Structure Example

```
typedef struct cell {
    int data;
    struct cell *next;
} cell;

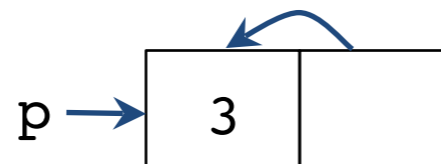
int foo(int v) { return 2*v + 1; }

int test_me(int x, cell *p) {
    if (x > 0)
        if (p != NULL)
            if (foo(x) == p->data)
                if (p->next == p)
                    ERROR;
    return 0;
}
```

## Concrete Execution

concrete state

$x = 1$



## Symbolic Execution

symbolic state

$x = x_0$

$p = p_0$

$p \rightarrow \text{data} = v_0$

$p \rightarrow \text{next} = n_0$

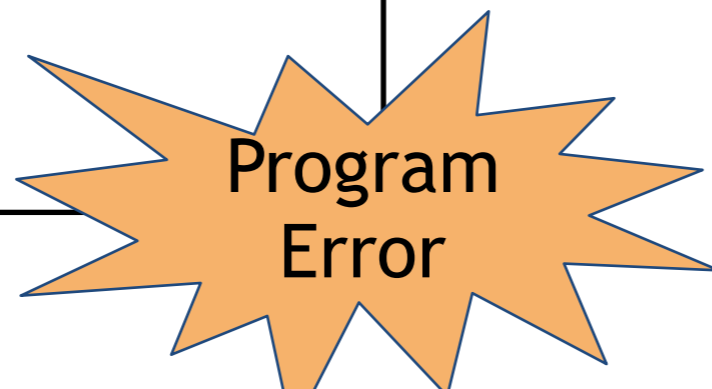
path condition

$x_0 > 0$

$p_0 \neq \text{NULL}$

$2 * x_0 + 1 == v_0$

$n_0 \neq p_0$





# Approach in a Nutshell

---

- Generate concrete inputs, each taking different program path
- On each input, execute program both concretely and symbolically
- Both cooperate with each other:
  - Concrete execution guides symbolic execution
    - Enables it to overcome incompleteness of theorem prover
  - Symbolic execution guides generation of concrete inputs
    - Increases program code coverage



# Realistic Implementations

---

- KLEE: LLVM (C family of languages)
- PEX: .NET Framework
- jCUTE: Java
- Jalangi: Javascript
- SAGE and S2E: binaries (x86, ARM, ...)



# How does Symbolic Execution Find bugs?

- It is possible to extend symbolic execution to help us catch bugs
- How: Dedicated checkers
  - Divide by zero example ---  $y = x / z$  where  $x$  and  $z$  are integers and assume current PC (i.e. path constraints) is  $z \neq 0$
  - Even though we only fork in branches, the division operator
  - One branch in which  $z = 0$
  - We will get two path constraints:
  - $z = 0 \ \&\&$
  - Solver will give us concrete input values that will cause error.

**Write a dedicated checker for each kind of bug (e.g., buffer overflow, integer overflow, integer underflow)**





# Classic Symbolic Execution --- Practical Issues

---

- Loops and recursions --- infinite execution tree
- Path explosion --- exponentially many paths
- Heap modeling --- symbolic data structures and pointers
- SMT solver limitations --- dealing with complex path constraints
- Environment modeling --- dealing with native / system/library calls/file operations/network events



---

# **EXE vs. KLEE and the UC-KLEE**



---

# **EXE: Automatically Generating Inputs of Death,**

David Dill, Vijay Ganesh, Cristian Cadar, Dawson Engler,  
Peter Pawlowski, CCS'06



---

What if you could find all the bugs in your code, automatically ?



# EXE: EXecution generated Executions

---

- The Idea:
  - Code can automatically generate its own (potentially highly complex) test cases



# EXE: EXecution generated Executions

---

- The Algorithm
  - Symbolic execution
  - +
  - Constraint solving



# EXE: EXecution generated Executions

---

- As program runs
  - Executes each feasible path, tracking all constraints
- A path terminates upon
  - `exit()`                      crash
  - failed 'assert'              error detection
- When a path terminates
  - Calls STP to solve the path's constraints for concrete values



# EXE: EXecution generated Executions

---

- Identifies all input values causing these errors
  - Null or Out-of-bounds memory reference
  - Overflow
  - Division or modulo by 0
- Identifies all input values causing assert invalidation





# Example

```
int main(void) {
    unsigned int i, t, a[4] = { 1, 3, 5, 2 };

    if (i >= 4)
        exit(0);
    char *p = (char *)a + i * 4;
    *p = *p - 1;
    t = a[*p];
    t = t / a[i];
    if (t == 2)
        assert(i == 1);
    else
        assert(i == 3);
    return 0;
}
```



# Marking Symbolic Data

```
int main(void) {  
    unsigned int i, t, a[4] = { 1, 3, 5, 2 };  
    make_symbolic(&i);  
    if (i >= 4)  
        exit(0);  
    char *p = (char *)a + i * 4;  
    *p = *p - 1;  
    t = a[*p];  
    t = t / a[i];  
    if (t == 2)  
        assert(i == 1);  
    else  
        assert(i == 3);  
    return 0;  
}
```

Marks the 4  
bytes  
associated with  
32-bit variable  
'i' as **symbolic**



# Compiling...

## example.c

```
int main(void) {  
    unsigned int i, t, a[4] = { 1, 3, 5, 2  
};  
  
    make_symbolic(&i);  
    if (i >= 4)  
        exit(0);  
    char *p = (char *)a + i * 4;  
    *p = *p - 1  
    t = a[*p];  
    t = t / a[i];  
    if (t == 2)  
        assert(i == 1);  
    else  
        assert(i == 3);  
    return 0;  
}
```

EXE compiler



## example.out

Executable

1

Inserts checks around **every assignment, expression & branch**, to determine if its operands are **concrete** or **symbolic**

`unsigned int a[4] =  
{1,3,5,2}`

`if (i >= 4)`



# Compiling...

## example.c

```
int main(void) {
    unsigned int i, t, a[4] = { 1, 3, 5, 2 };
};

make_symbolic(&i);

if (i >= 4)
    exit(0);
char *p = (char *)a + i * 4;
*p = *p - 1;
t = a[*p];
t = t / a[i];
if (t == 2)
    assert(i == 1);
else
    assert(i == 3);
return 0;
}
```

EXE compiler



## example.out

Executable

1

Inserts checks around **every assignment, expression & branch**, to determine if its operands are **concrete** or **symbolic**

If any operand is **symbolic**, the operation is not performed, but is **added as a constraint** for the current path



# Compiling...

```
example.c
int main(void) {
    unsigned int i, t, a[4] = { 1, 3, 5, 2 };
};

make_symbolic(&i);
if (i >= 4)
    exit(0);
char *p = (char *)a + i * 4;
*p = *p - 1;
t = a[*p];
t = t / a[i];
if (t == 2)
    assert(i == 1);
else
    assert(i == 3);
return 0;
}
```

EXE compiler

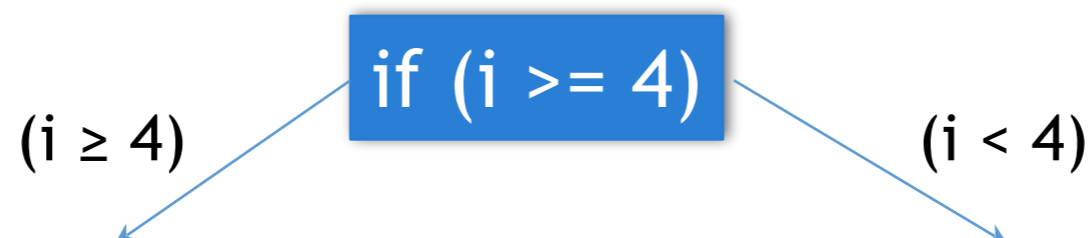


example.out

Executable

2

Inserts code to **fork** program execution when it reaches a **symbolic branch point**, so that it can explore **each possibility**





# Compiling...

## example.c

```
int main(void) {
    unsigned int i, t, a[4] = { 1, 3, 5, 2 };
};

make_symbolic(&i);
if (i >= 4)
    exit(0);
char *p = (char *)a + i * 4;
*p = *p - 1;
t = a[*p];
t = t / a[i];
if (t == 2)
    assert(i == 1);
else
    assert(i == 3);
return 0;
}
```

EXE compiler



example.out

Executable

2

Inserts code to **fork** program execution when it reaches a **symbolic branch point**, so that it can explore **each possibility**

For each **branch constraint**, queries STP for existence of **at least one solution for the current path**. If not – stops executing path



# Compiling...

example.c

```
int main(void) {
    unsigned int i, t, a[4] = { 1, 3, 5, 2 };

    make_symbolic(&i);
    if (i >= 4)
        exit(0);
    char *p = (char *)a + i * 4;
    *p = *p - 1;
    t = a[*p];
    t = t / a[i];
    if (t == 2)
        assert(i == 1);
    else
        assert(i == 3);
    return 0;
}
```

EXE compiler



example.out

Executable

3

Inserts code for checking if a **symbolic expression** could have **any possible value** that could cause **errors**

$t = t / a[i]$

Division by Zero ?



# Compiling...

## example.c

```
int main(void) {
    unsigned int i, t, a[4] = { 1, 3, 5, 2 };
};

make_symbolic(&i);
if (i >= 4)
    exit(0);
char *p = (char *)a + i * 4;
*p = *p - 1;
t = a[*p];
t = t / a[i];
if (t == 2)
    assert(i == 1);
else
    assert(i == 3);
return 0;
}
```

EXE compiler



## example.out

Executable

3

Inserts code for checking if a **symbolic expression** could have **any possible value** that could cause **errors**

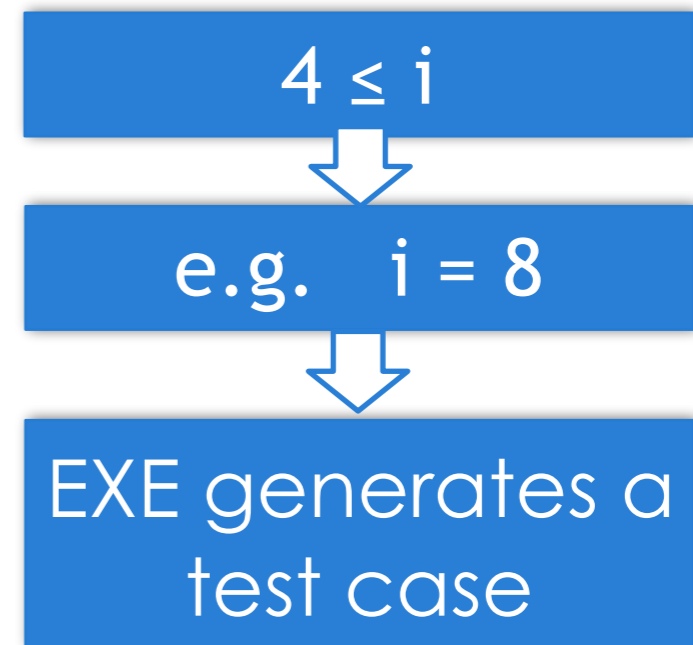
If the check passes – the path has been **verified as safe under all possible input values**





# Running...

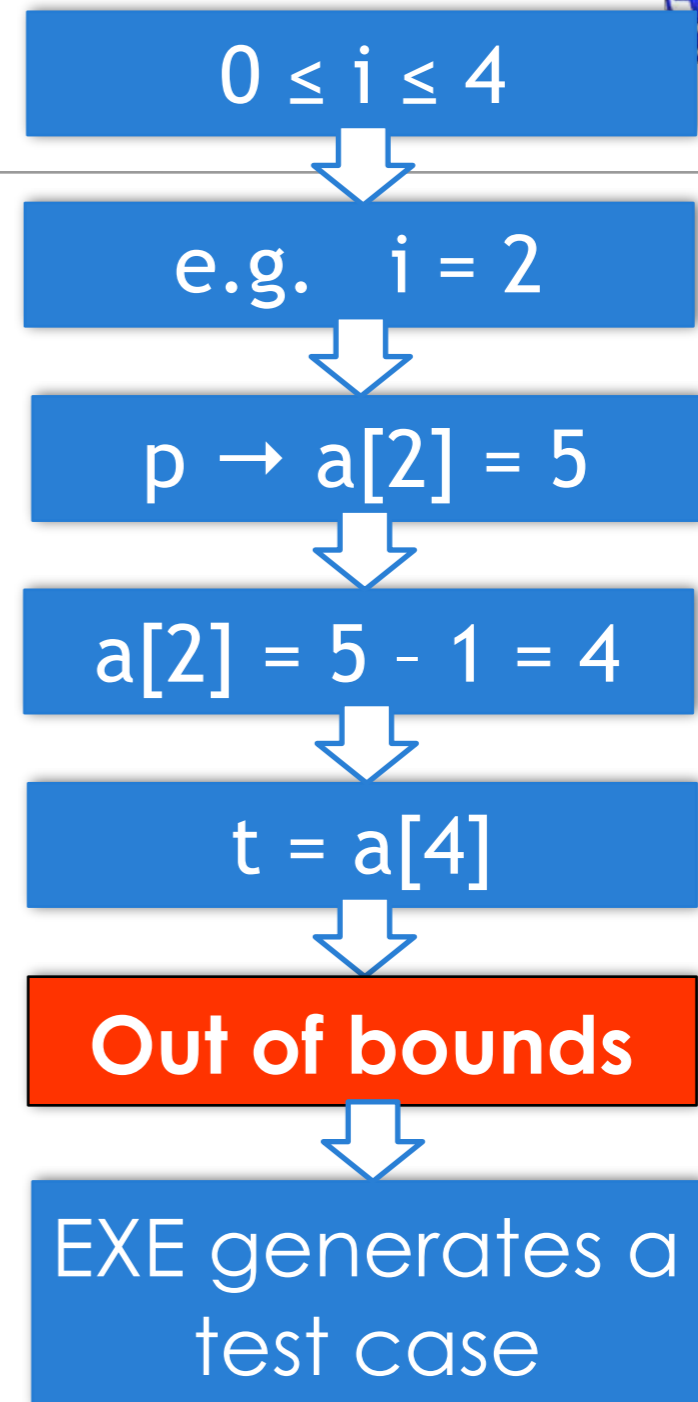
```
int main(void) {  
    unsigned int i, t, a[4] = { 1, 3, 5, 2 };  
    make_symbolic(&i);  
    if (i >= 4)  
        exit(0);  
    char *p = (char *)a + i * 4;  
    *p = *p - 1;  
    t = a[*p];  
    t = t / a[i];  
    if (t == 2)  
        assert(i == 1);  
    else  
        assert(i == 3);  
    return 0;  
}
```





# Running...

```
int main(void) {  
    unsigned int i, t, a[4] = { 1, 3, 5, 2 };  
    make_symbolic(&i);  
    if (i >= 4)  
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    *p = *p - 1  
    t = a[*p];  
    t = t / a[i];  
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    return 0;  
}
```





# Running...

```
int main(void) {  
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    *p = *p - 1  
    t = a[*p];  
    t = t / a[i];  
    if (t == 2)  
        assert(i == 1);  
    else  
        assert(i == 3);  
    return 0;  
}
```

$0 \leq i \leq 4, i \neq 2$

e.g.  $i = 0$

$p \rightarrow a[0] = 1$

$a[0] = 1 - 1 = 0$

$t = a[0]$

$t = t / 0$

**Division by 0**

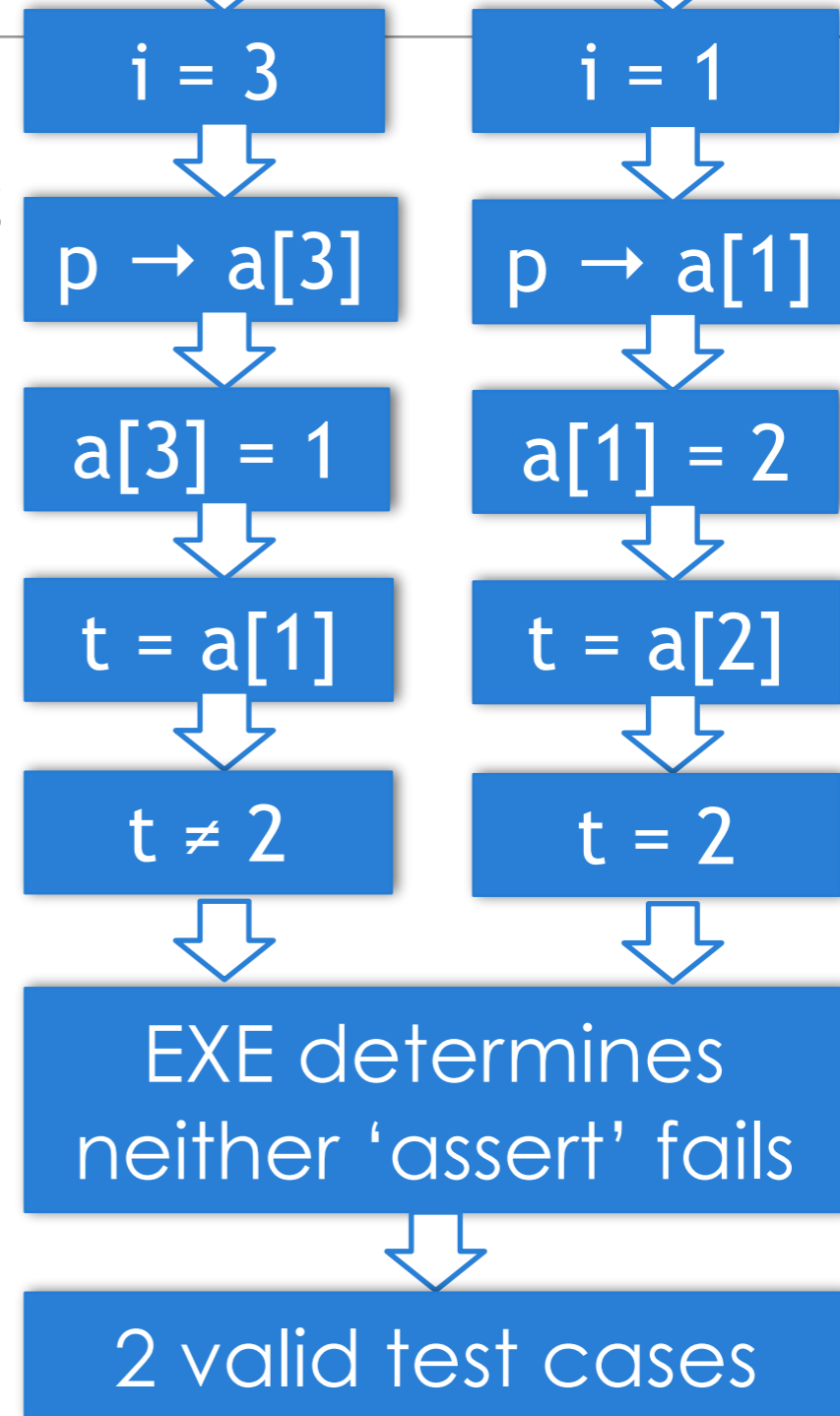
EXE generates a  
test case



# Running...

```
int main(void) {  
    unsigned int i, t, a[4] = { 1, 3, 5, 2 };  
    make_symbolic(&i);  
  
    if (i >= 4)  
        exit(0);  
    char *p = (char *)a + i * 4;  
    *p = *p - 1  
    t = a[*p];  
    t = t / a[i];  
    if (t == 2)  
        assert(i == 1);  
    else  
        assert(i == 3);  
    return 0;  
}
```

$0 \leq i \leq 4$  ,  $i \neq 2$  ,  $i \neq 0$

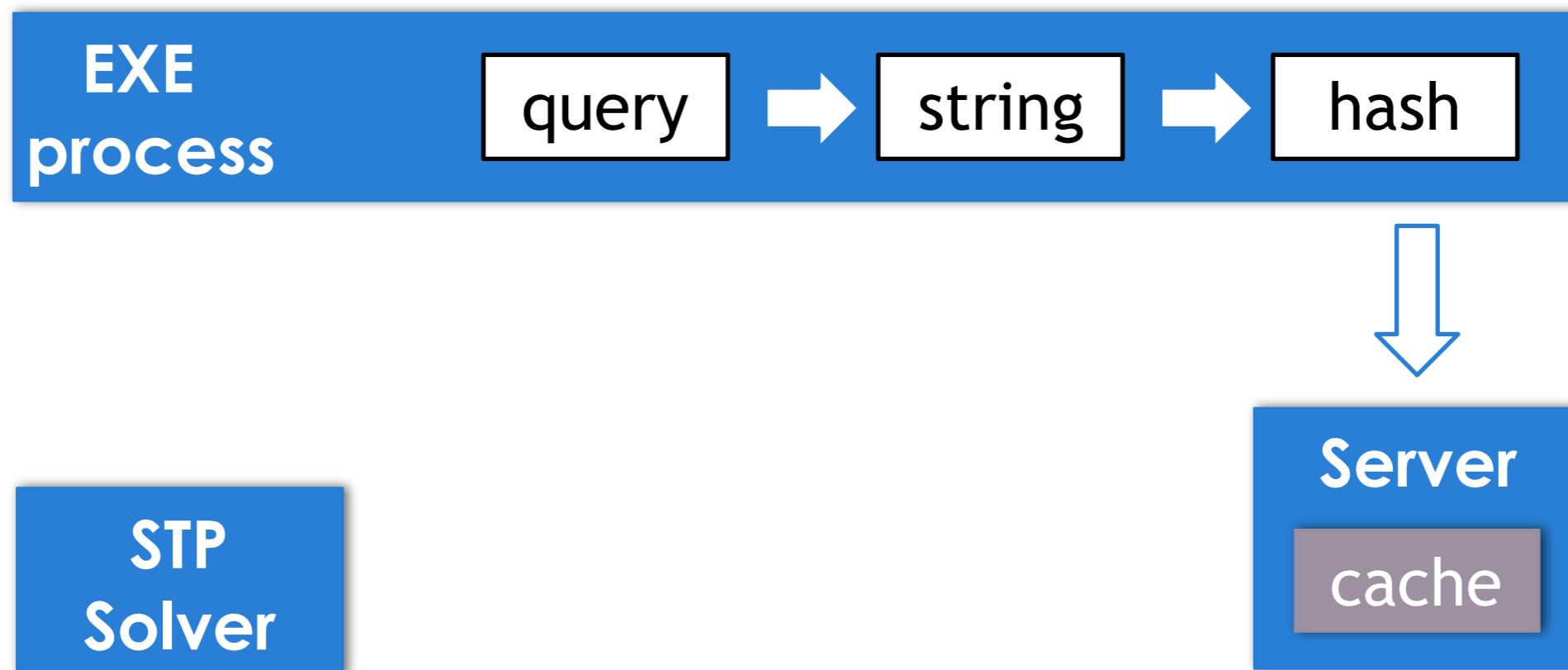




# Optimizations

## 1. Caching constraints to avoid calling STP

- Goal – avoid calling STP when possible
- Results of queries and constraint solutions are cached
- Cache is managed by a server process
- Naïve implementation – significant overhead

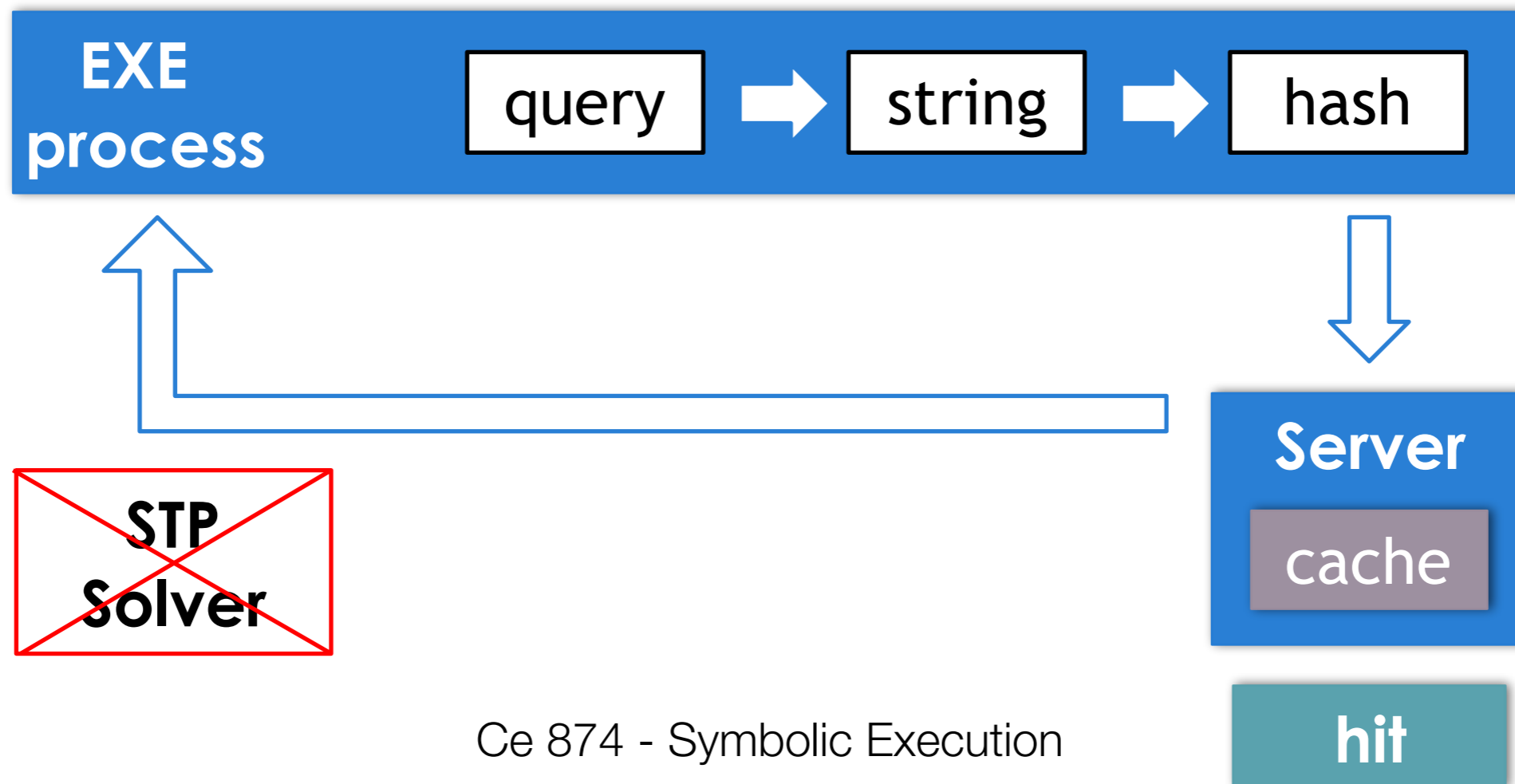




# Optimizations

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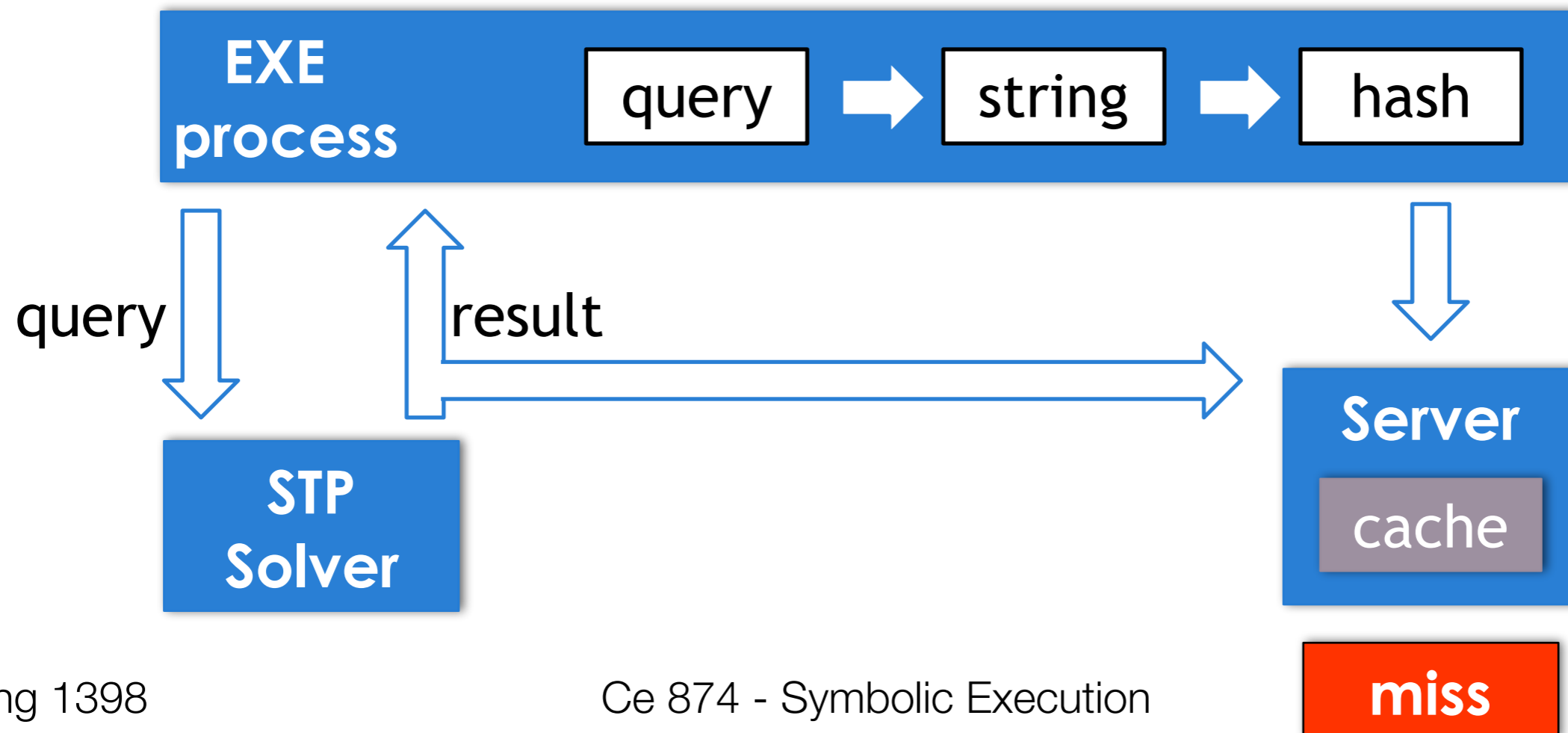




# Optimizations

## 1. Caching constraints to avoid calling STP

- Goal – avoid calling STP when possible
- Results of queries and constraint solutions are cached
- Cache is managed by a server process
- Naïve implementation – significant overhead





# Optimizations

---

## 2. Constraint Independence

- Breaking constraints into multiple, independent, subsets
- Discard irrelevant constraints
- Small cost for computing independent subsets
- May yield additional cache hits





# Optimizations

## 2. Constraint Independence

```
if (A[i] > A[i+1]) {  
    ...  
}  
  
if (B[j] + B[j-1] == B[j+1])  
{  
    ...  
}
```

**2 consecutive  
independent  
branches**



$(A[i] > A[i+1]) \ \&\& \ (B[j] + B[j-1] \neq B[j+1])$

$(A[i] \leq A[i+1]) \ \&\& \ (B[j] + B[j-1] \neq B[j+1])$

$(A[i] \leq A[i+1]) \ \&\& \ (B[j] + B[j-1] = B[j+1])$

$(A[i] > A[i+1]) \ \&\& \ (B[j] + B[j-1] = B[j+1])$

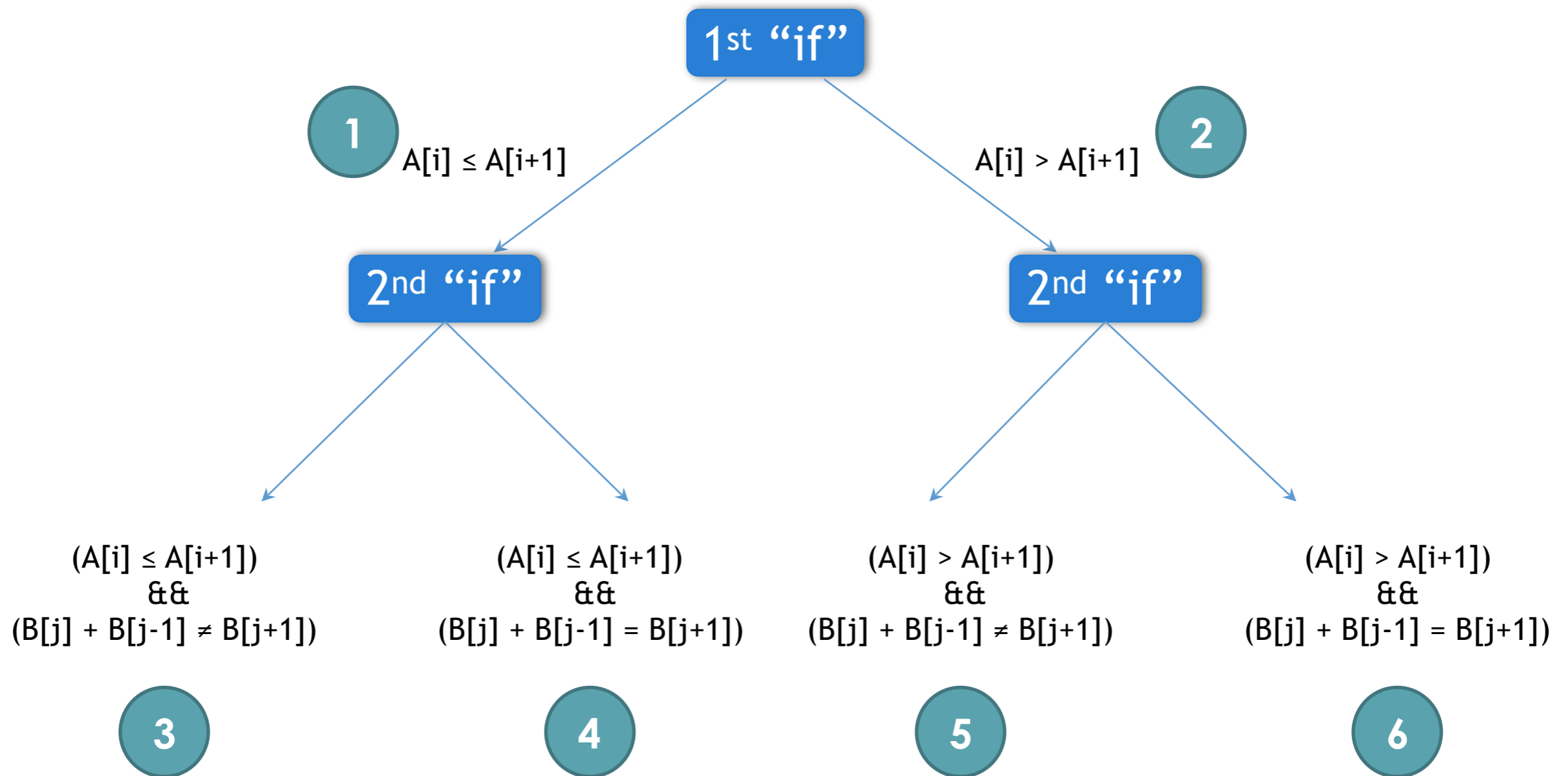
**4 possible paths**



# Optimizations

## 2. Constraint Independence

no optimization

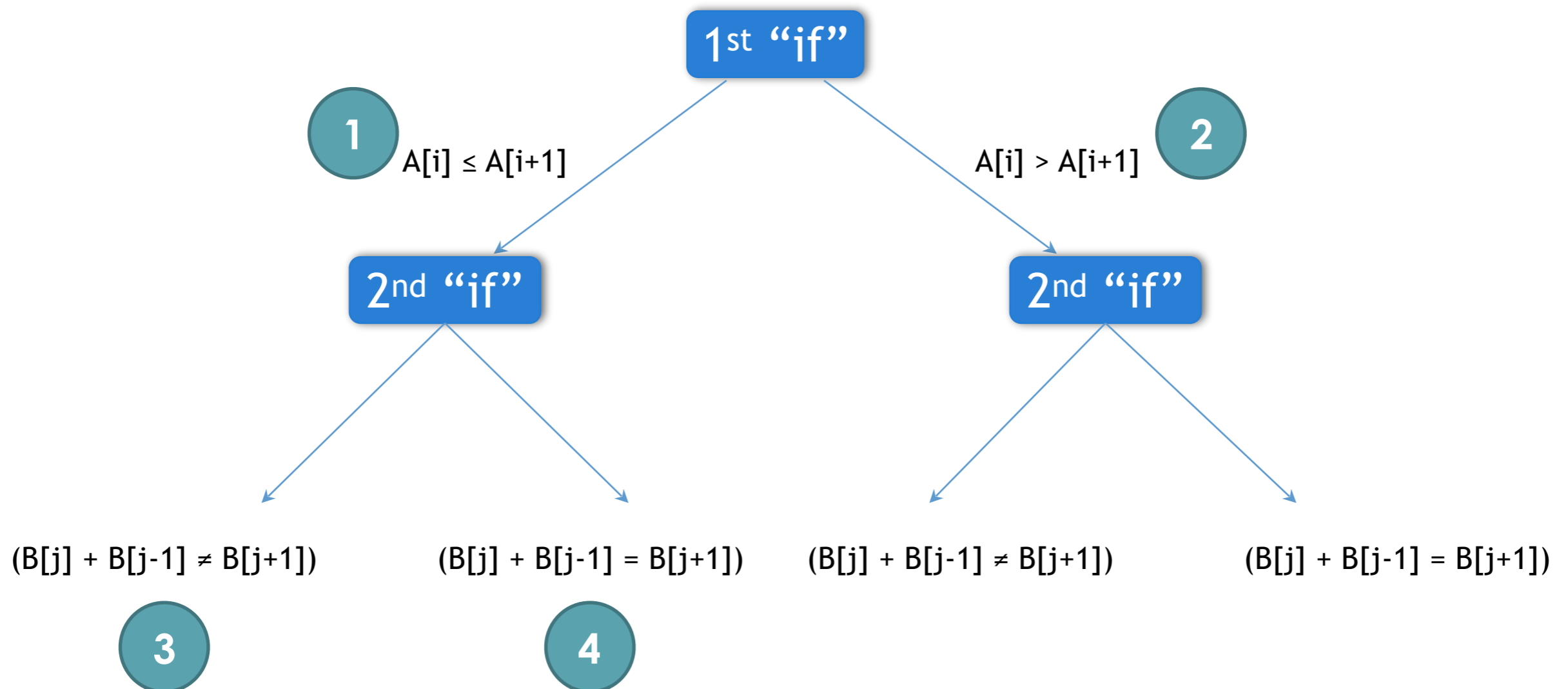




# Optimizations

## 2. Constraint Independence

with optimization





# Optimizations

---

## 2. Constraint Independence

**'n' consecutive  
independent  
branches**

**no optimization**

**$2(2^n - 1)$  queries to  
STP**

**with optimization**

**$2n$  queries to STP**



# Optimizations

---

## 3. Search Heuristics – “Best First Search” & DFS

- By default, EXE uses DFS when forking for picking which branch to follow first
- Problem – Loops bounded by symbolic variables
- Solution
  - Each forked process calls search server, and blocks
  - Server picks process blocked on line of code which has run the fewer number of times
  - Picked process and children are run with DFS



# Optimizations

---

- Experimental Performance
  - Used to find bugs in
    - 2 packet filters (FreeBSD & Linux)
    - DHCP server (udhcpd)
    - Perl compatible regular expressions library (pcre)
    - XML parser library (expat)
  - Ran EXE without optimizations, with each optimization separately, and with all optimizations



# Optimizations

---

- Experimental Performance
  - Positive
    - With both caching & independence – Faster by 7%-20%
    - Cache hit rate jumps sharply with independence
    - Cost of independence – near zero
    - Best First Search gets (almost) full coverage more than twice as fast than DFS
    - Coverage with BFS compared to random testing: 92% against 57%



# Optimizations

---

- Experimental Performance
  - Interesting
    - Actual growth of number of paths is much smaller than potentially exponential growth
    - EXE is able to handle relatively complex code
  - Negative
    - Cache lookup has significant overhead, as conversion of queries to string is dominant
    - STP by far remains highest cost (as expected)





# Advantages

---

- Automation – “competition” is manual and random testing
- Coverage - can test any executable code path and (given enough time) exhaust them all
- Generation of actual attacks and exploits
- No false positives



# Limitations

---

- Optimizations – far from perfect implementation
- Benchmarks – hand-picked, small-scaled
- Single threaded – each path is explored independently from others
- Code doesn't interact with it's surrounding environment



---

# **KLEE: Unassisted and Automatic Generation of High-Coverage Tests for Complex Systems Programs**, Cristian Cadar, Daniel Dunbar, Dawson Engler, OSDI'08



# KLEE

---

- Shares main idea with EXE, but completely redesigned
- Deals with the external environment
- More optimizations, better implemented
- Targeted at checking system-intensive programs “out of the box”
- Thoroughly evaluated on real, more complicated, environment-intensive programs



# KLEE

---

- A hybrid between an **operating system for symbolic processes** and an **interpreter**
  - Programs are compiled to virtual instruction sets in LLVM assembly language
  - Each symbolic process (“state”) has a symbolic environment
    - register file      stack      heap
    - program counter      path condition
  - Symbolic environment of a state (unlike a normal process)
    - Refers to symbolic expressions and not concrete data values



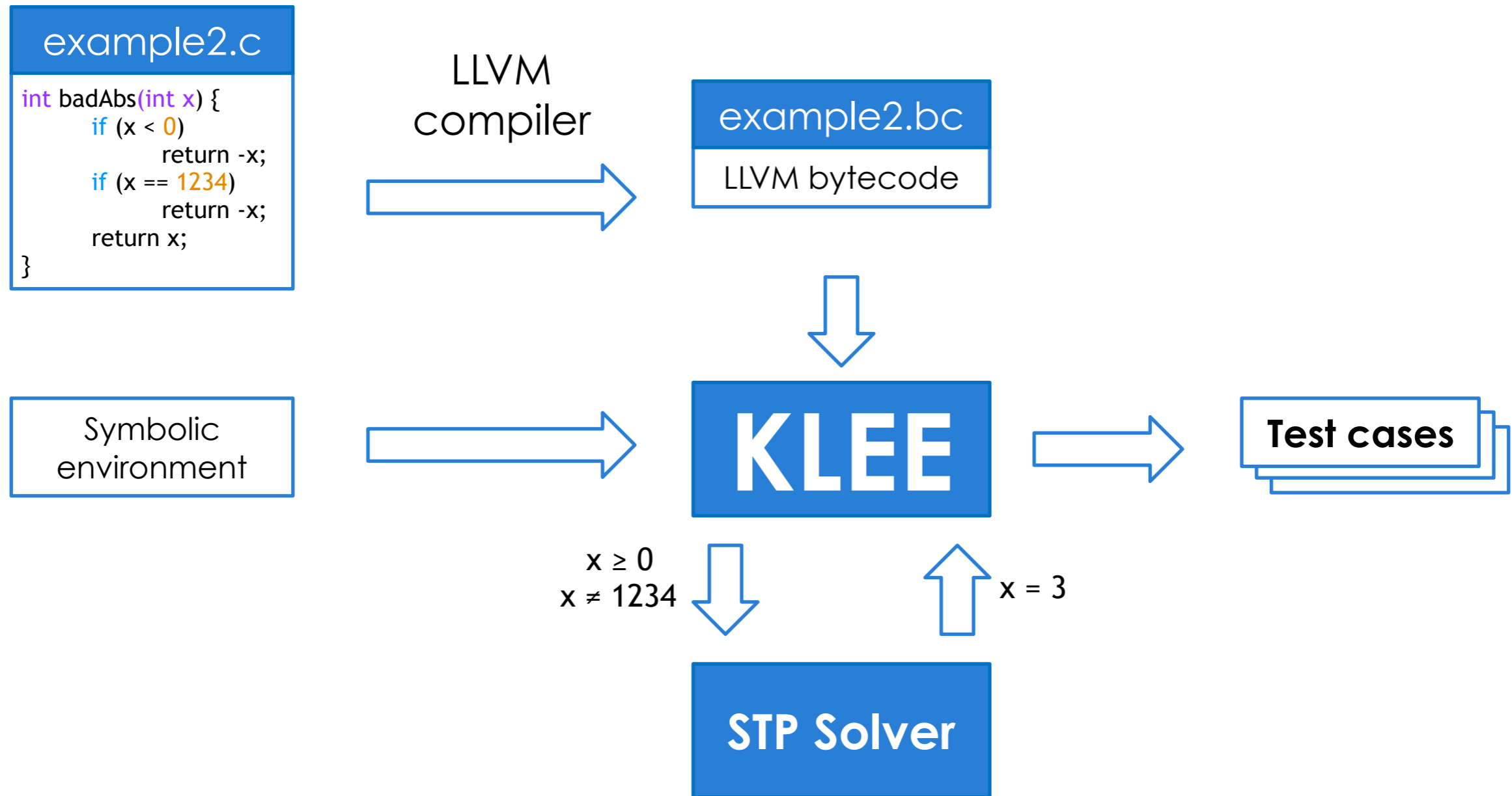
# KLEE

---

- Able to execute a large number of states simultaneously
- At its core – an interpreter loop
  - Selects a state to run (search heuristics)
  - Symbolically executes a single instruction in the context of the state
  - Continues until no remaining states
  - (or reaches user-defined timeout)



# Architecture





# Execution

---

- Conditional Branches
  - Queries STP to determine if the branch condition is true or false
  - The state's instruction pointer is altered suitably
  - Both branches are possible?
    - State is cloned, and each clone's instruction pointer and path condition are updated appropriately





# Execution

---

- Targeted Errors
  - As in EXE
    - Division by 0
    - Overflow
    - Out-of-bounds memory reference



# Modeling the Environment

---

- Code reads/writes values from/to its environment
  - Command line arguments
  - Environment variables
  - File data
  - Network packets
- Want to return all possible values for these reads
- How?
  - Redirecting calls that access the environment to custom models



# Modeling the Environment

---

- Example: Modeling the File System
  - File system operations
    - Performed on an actual concrete file on disk?
      - Invoke the corresponding system call in the OS
    - Performed on a symbolic file?
      - Emulate the operation's effect on a simple symbolic file system (private for each state)
  - Defined simple models for 40 system calls



# Modeling the Environment

---

- Example: Modeling the File System
  - Symbolic file system
    - Crude
      - Contains a single directory with N symbolic files
      - User can specify N and size of files
  - Coexists with real file system
    - Applications can use files in both



# Modeling the Environment

---

- Failing system calls
  - Environment can fail in unexpected ways
    - `write()` when disk is full
    - Unexpected, hard-to-diagnose bugs
  - Optionally simulates environmental failures
    - Failing system calls in a controlled manner



# Optimizations

---

## 1. Compact State Representation

- Number of concurrent states grows quickly (even  $>100,000$ )
- Implements copy-on-write at object level
  - Dramatically reduces memory requirements per state
  - Heap structure can be shared amongst multiple states
  - Can be cloned in constant time (very frequent operation)



# Optimizations

---

## 2. Simplifying queries

- Cost of constraint solving dominates everything else
  - Make solving faster
  - Reduce memory consumption
  - Increase cache hit rate (to follow)



# Optimizations

## 2. Simplifying queries

### a. Expression Rewriting

- Simple arithmetic simplifications

$$\boxed{x + 0} \Rightarrow \boxed{x}$$

- Strength reduction

$$\boxed{x * 2^n} \Rightarrow \boxed{x \ll n}$$

- Linear simplification

$$\boxed{2*x - x} \Rightarrow \boxed{x}$$





# Optimizations

---

## 2. Simplifying queries

### b. Constraint Set Simplification

- Constraints on same variables tend to become more specific
- Rewrites previous constraints when new, equality constraints, are added to the set

$x < 10$



# Optimizations

---

## 2. Simplifying queries

### b. Constraint Set Simplification

- Constraints on same variables tend to become more specific
- Rewrites previous constraints when new, equality constraints, are added to the set

$$x < 10$$

$$x = 5$$



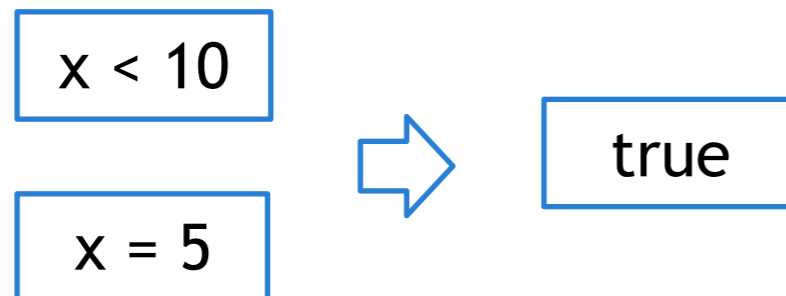
# Optimizations

---

## 2. Simplifying queries

### b. Constraint Set Simplification

- Constraints on same variables tend to become more specific
- Rewrites previous constraints when new, equality constraints, are added to the set





# Optimizations

---

- Simplifying queries
  - c. Implied Value Concretization
    - The value of a variable effectively becomes concrete
    - Concrete value is written back to memory

$$\boxed{x + 1 = 10} \Rightarrow \boxed{x = 9}$$



# Optimizations

---

- Simplifying queries
  - d. Constraint Independence
    - As in EXE



# Optimizations

## 3. Counter-Example Cache

- More sophisticated than in EXE
- Allows efficient searching for cache entries for both subsets and supersets of a given set

(1)	{ $i < 10, i = 10$ }	unsatisfiable
(2)	{ $i < 10, j = 8$ }	( $i = 5, j = 8$ )

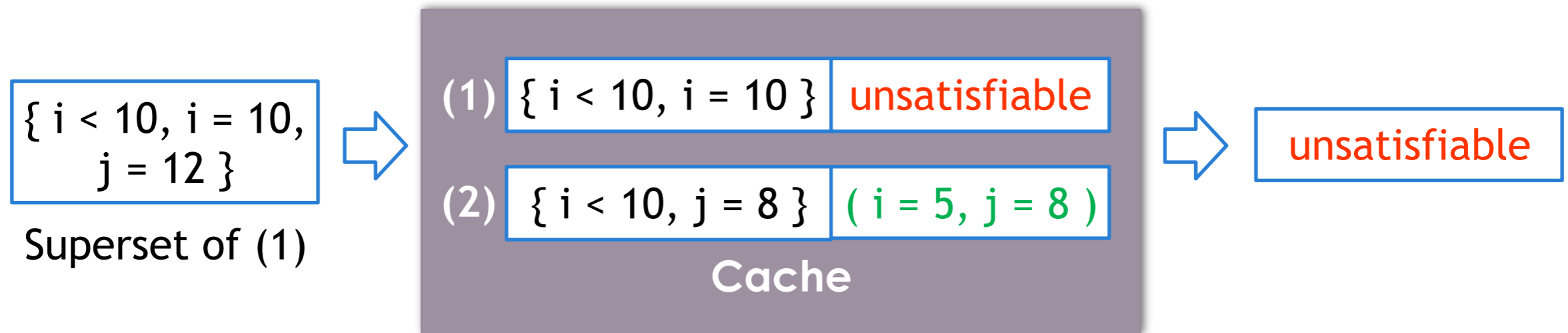
Cache



# Optimizations

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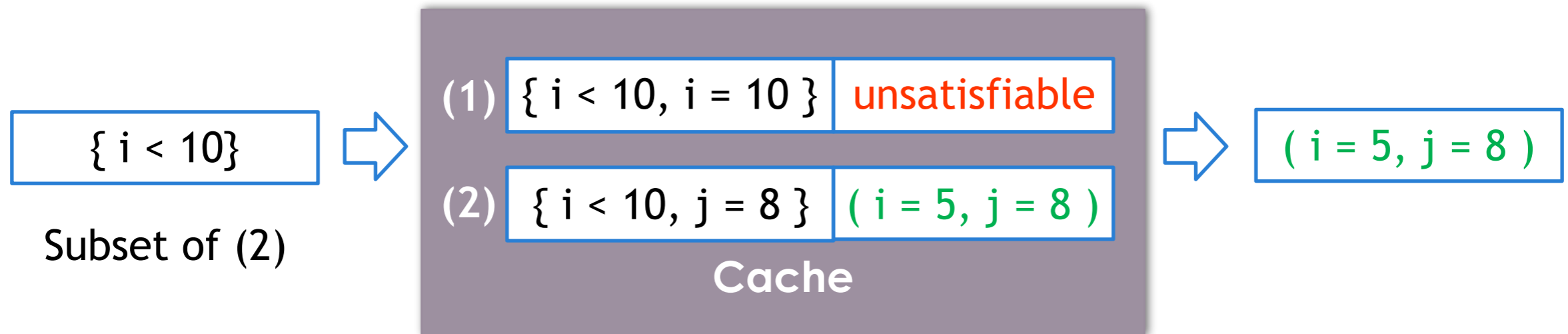




# Optimizations

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- More sophisticated than in EXE
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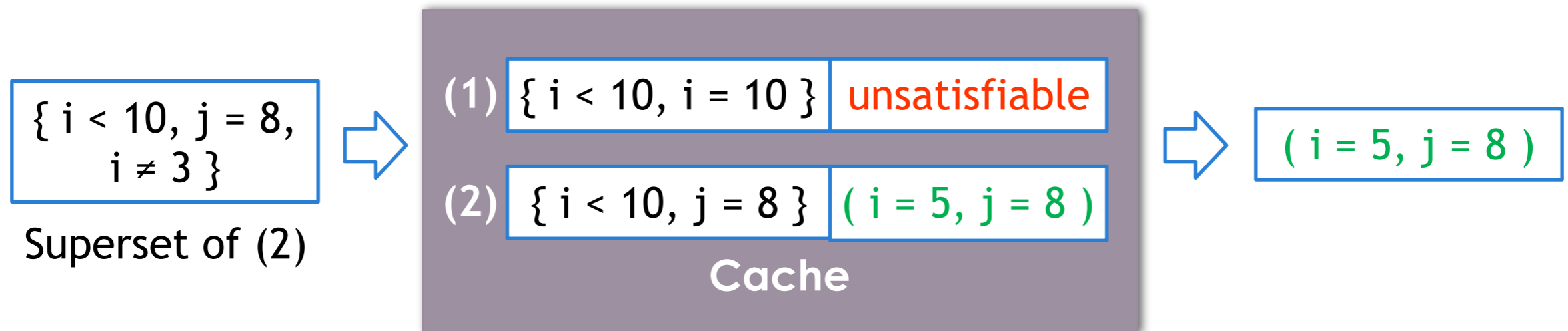




# Optimizations

## 3. Counter-Example Cache

- More sophisticated than in EXE
- Allows efficient searching for cache entries for both subsets and supersets of a given set





# Optimizations

---

## 4. Search Heuristics – State Scheduling

- The state to run at each instruction is selected by interleaving 2 strategies
- Each is used in a Round-Robin fashion
- Each state is run for a “time slice”
- Ensures a state which frequently executes expensive instructions will not dominate execution time



# Optimizations

---

## 4. Search Heuristics – State Scheduling

### a. Random Path Selection

- Traverses tree of paths from root to leaves  
(internal nodes – forks, leaves – states)
- At branch points – randomly selects path to follow
- States in each subtree have equal probability of being selected
- Favors states higher in the tree – less constraints, freedom to reach uncovered code
- Avoids starvation (loop + symbolic condition = “forks bomb”)



# Optimizations

---

## 4. Search Heuristics – State Scheduling

### b. Coverage-Optimized Search

- Tries to select states more likely to cover new code
- Computes min. distance to uncovered instruction, call stack size & whether state recently covered new code
- Randomly selects a state according to these weights



# Optimizations

---

- Experimental Performance
  - Used to generate tests in
    - GNU COREUTILS Suite (89 programs)
    - BUSYBOX (72 programs)
    - Both have variety of functions, intensive interaction with the environment
    - Heavily tested, mature code
  - Used to find bugs in
    - Total of 450 applications



# Optimizations

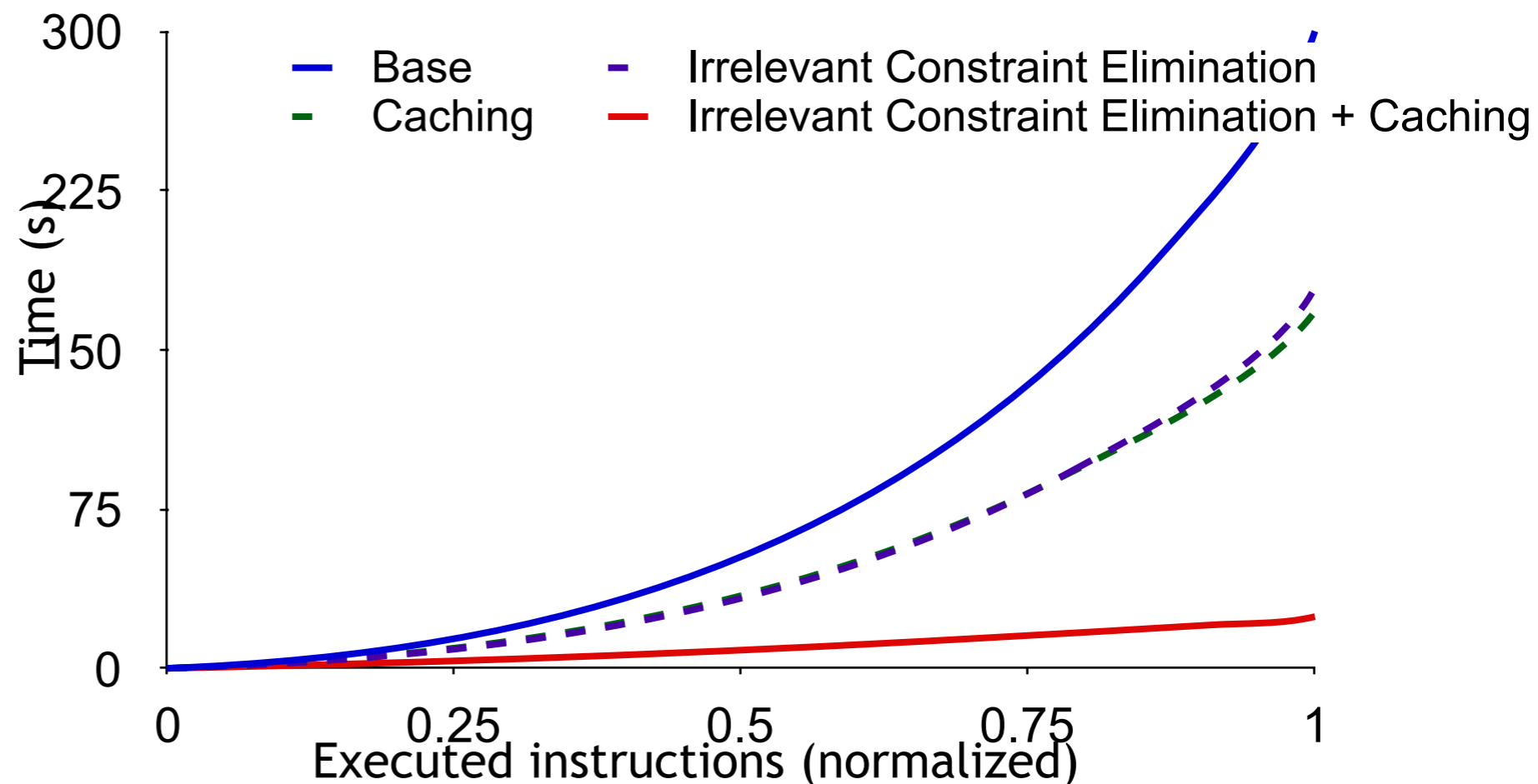
- Experimental Performance

- Query simplification + caching

- Number of STP queries reduced to 5% (!) of original

- Time spent solving queries to STP reduced from 92% of overall time to 41% of overall time

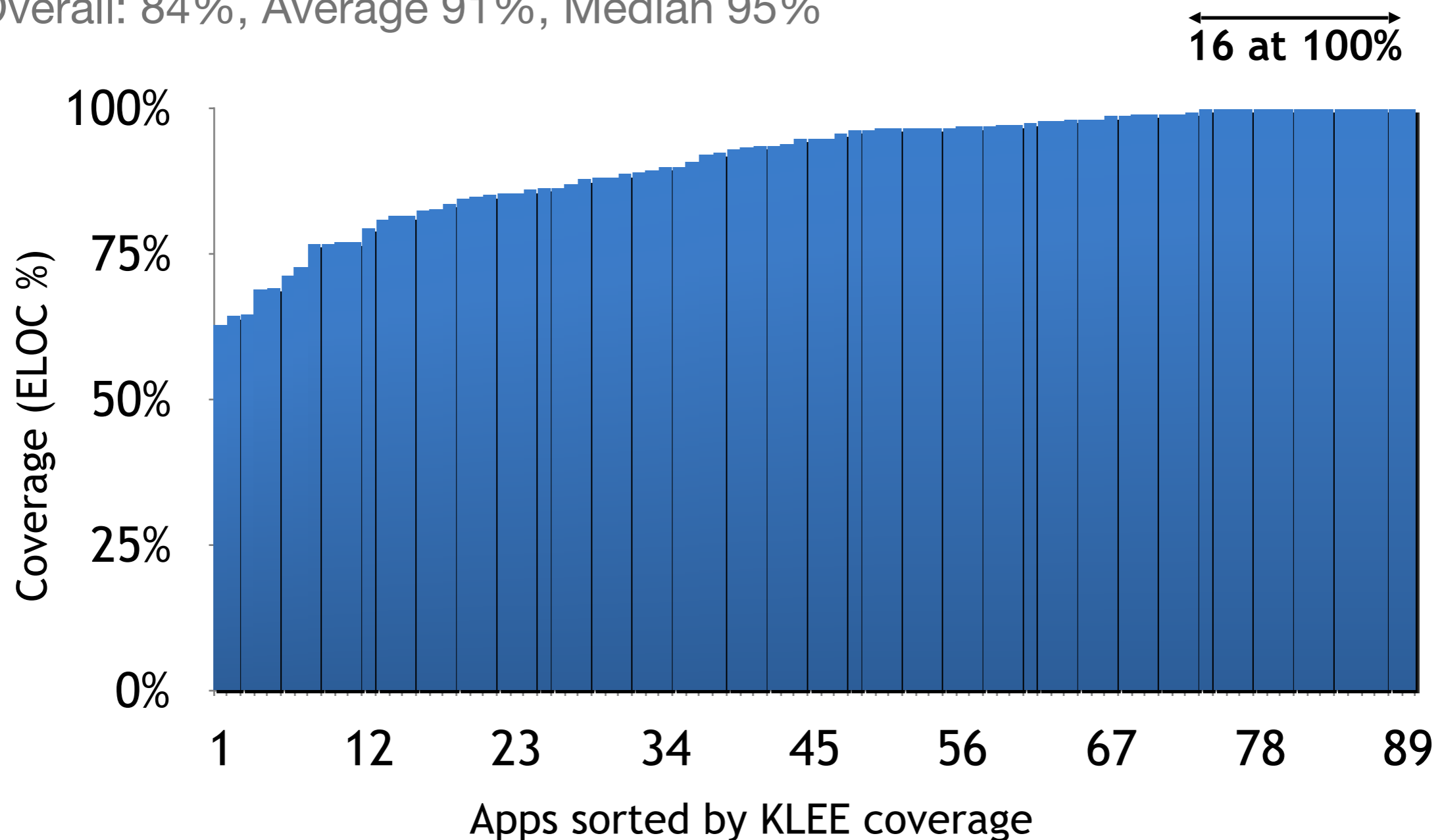
- Speedup





# Results – Line Coverage

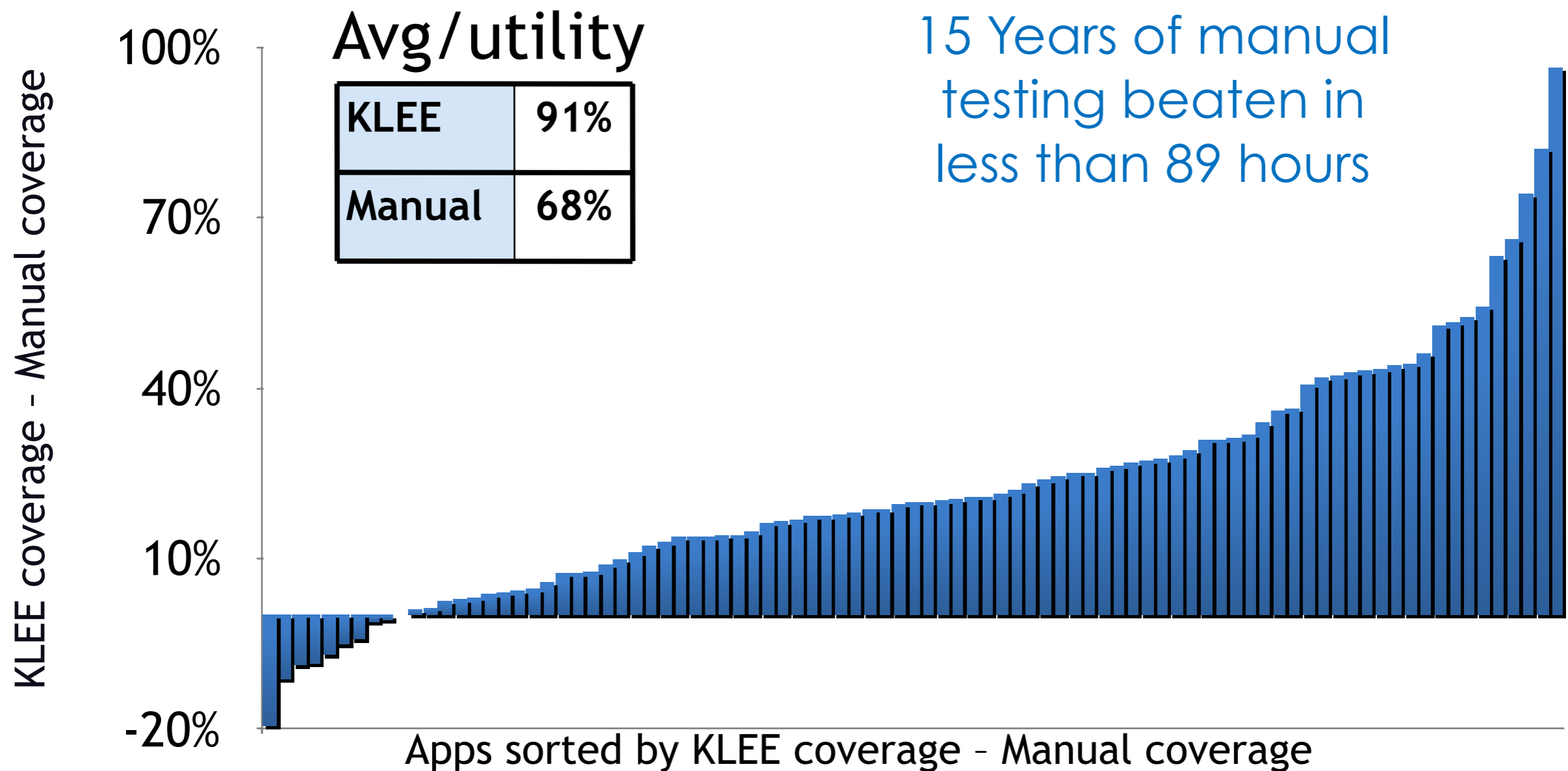
- GNU COREUTILS
- Overall: 84%, Average 91%, Median 95%





# Results – Line Coverage

- GNU COREUTILS







# Results – Bugs found

- 10 memory error crashes in GNU COREUTILS
  - More than found in previous 3 years combined
  - Generates actual command lines exposing crashes

```
paste -d\\ abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
pr -e t2.txt
tac -r t3.txt t3.txt
mkdir -Z a b
mkfifo -Z a b
mknod -Z a b p
md5sum -c t1.txt
ptx -F\\ abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
ptx x t4.txt
seq -f %0 1

t1.txt: "\t \tMD5 ("
t2.txt: "\b\b\b\b\b\b\b\t"
t3.txt: "\n"
t4.txt: "a"
```



---

# **Under-Constrained Symbolic Execution: Correctness Checking for Real Code**, David A. Ramos and Dawson Engler, Usenix Security 2015



# Contributions

---

- Technique + tool for finding deep bugs in real, open source C/C++ code
  - No manual testcases
  - No functional specification
- Bugs reported may have security implications; exploitability must be determined manually
  - Memory access, heap management, assertion failures, division-by-zero
- Found 77 new bugs in BIND, OpenSSL, Linux kernel
  - 2 OpenSSL DoS vulnerabilities: CVE-2014-0198, CVE-2015-0292
  - 14 Linux kernel vulnerabilities (mostly minor DoS issues)



# Problem: Scalability

---

- Path explosion
  - $|\text{paths}| \sim 2^n$  if-statements
- Path length and complexity
  - Undecidable: infinite-length paths (halting problem)
- SMT query complexity (NP-complete)



# Solution: Under-Constrained

---

- Directly execute individual functions within a program
  - Less code = Fewer paths
  - Function calls executed (inter-procedural)
  - Able to test previously-unreachable code
- Challenges
  - Complex inputs (e.g., pointer-rich data structures)
  - Under-constrained: inputs have unknown preconditions
    - False positives



# UC-KLEE tool

---

- Extends KLEE tool (OSDI 2008)
- Runs LLVM bitcode compiled from C/C++ source
- Automatically synthesizes complex inputs
  - Based on lazy initialization (Java PathFinder)
  - Supports pointer manipulation and casting in C/C++ (no type safety)
  - User-specified input depth (k-bound) [Deng 2006]



# Lazy Initialization

---

- Symbolic (input) pointers initially unbound
- On first dereference:
  - New object allocated
  - Symbolic pointer bound to new object's address
- On subsequent dereferences:
  - Pointer resolves to object allocated above



# Example

Unbound Symbolic Input

---

```
int listSum(node *n) {
    int sum = 0;
    while (n) {
        sum += n->val;
        n = n->next;
    }
    return sum;
}
```





# Example

---

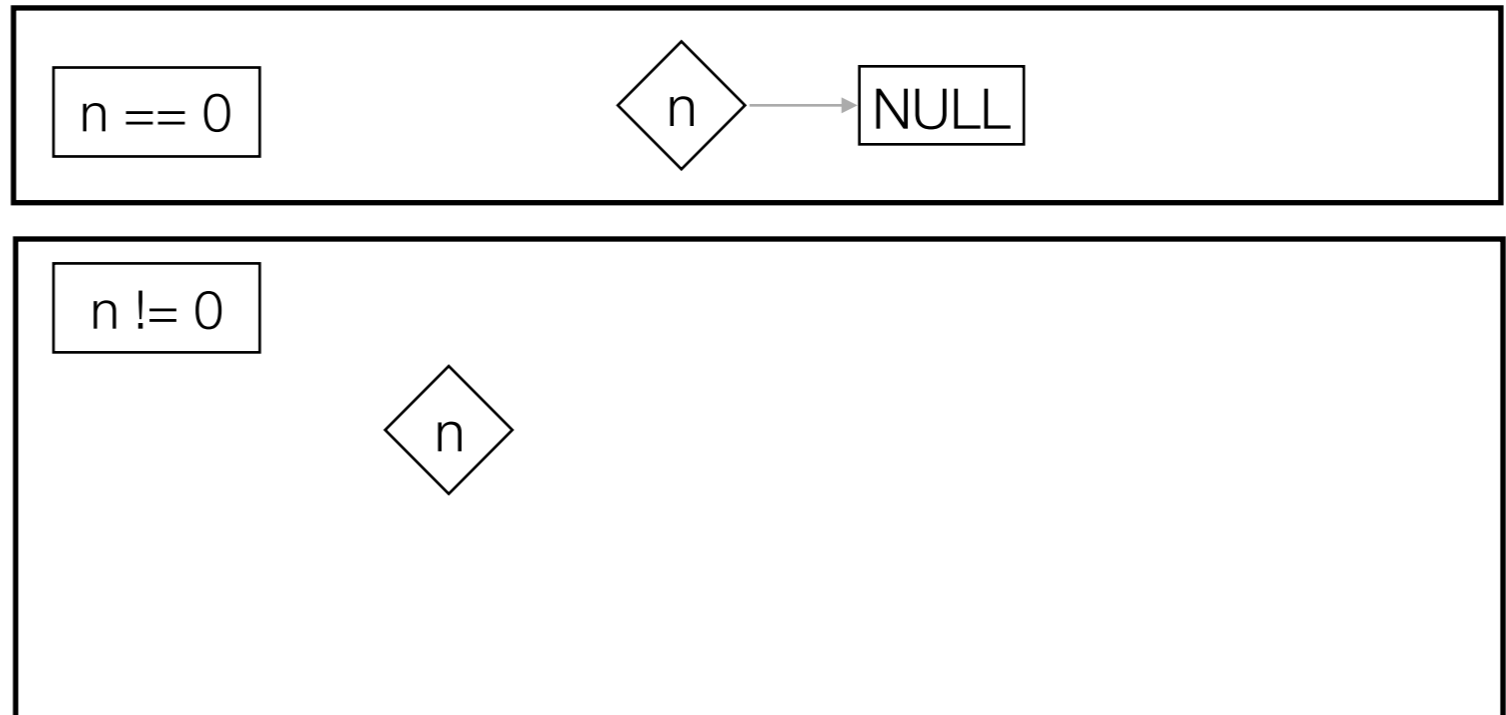
```
int listSum(node *n) {  
→ int sum = 0;  
  while (n) {  
    sum += n->val;  
    n = n->next;  
  }  
  return sum;  
}
```

-



# Example

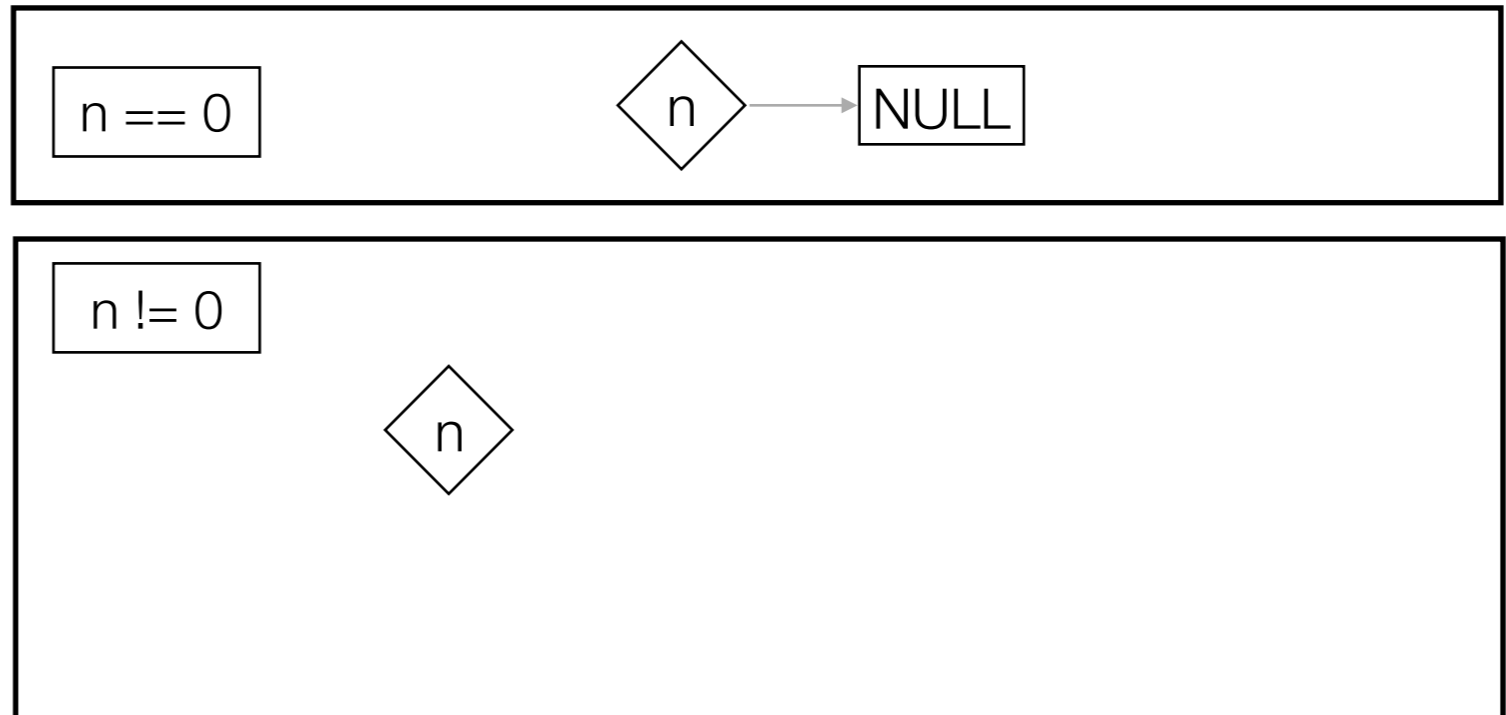
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# Example

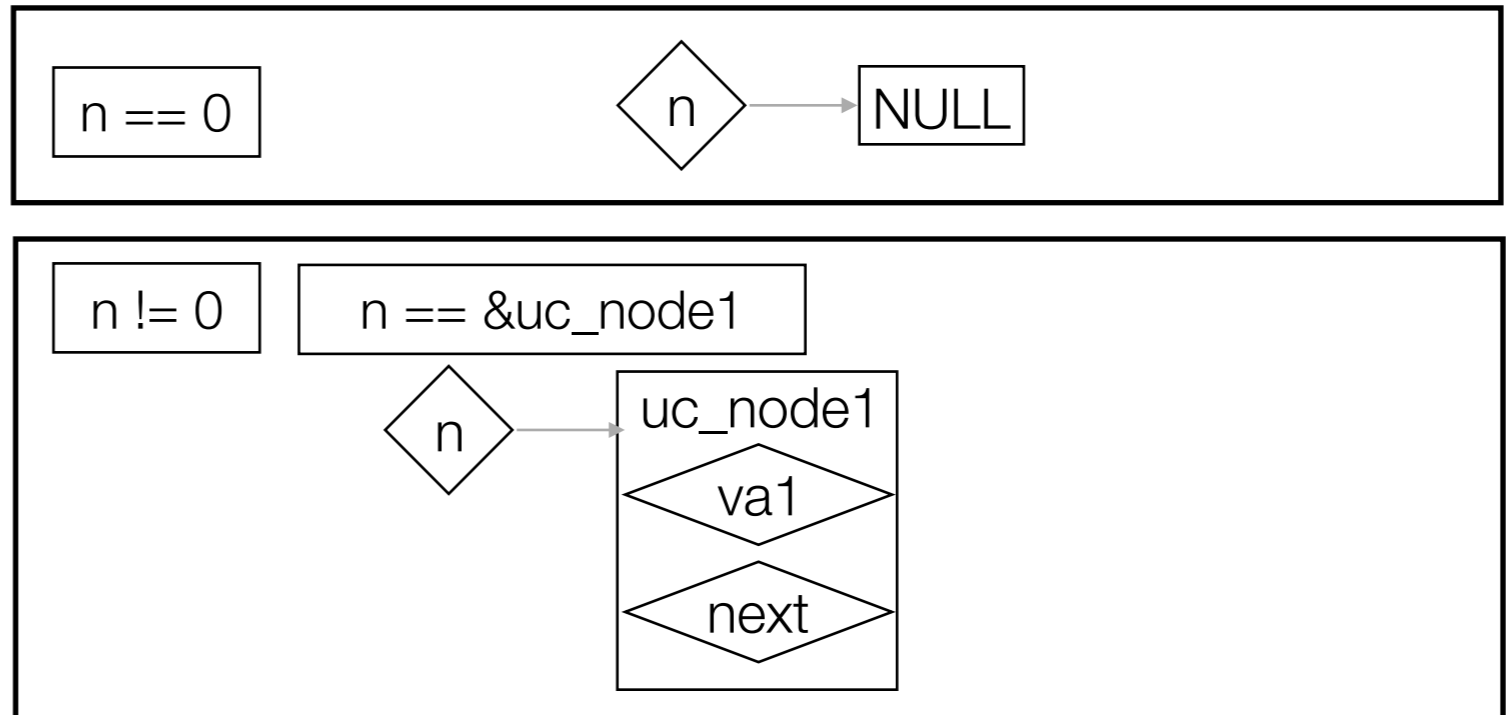
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```





# Example

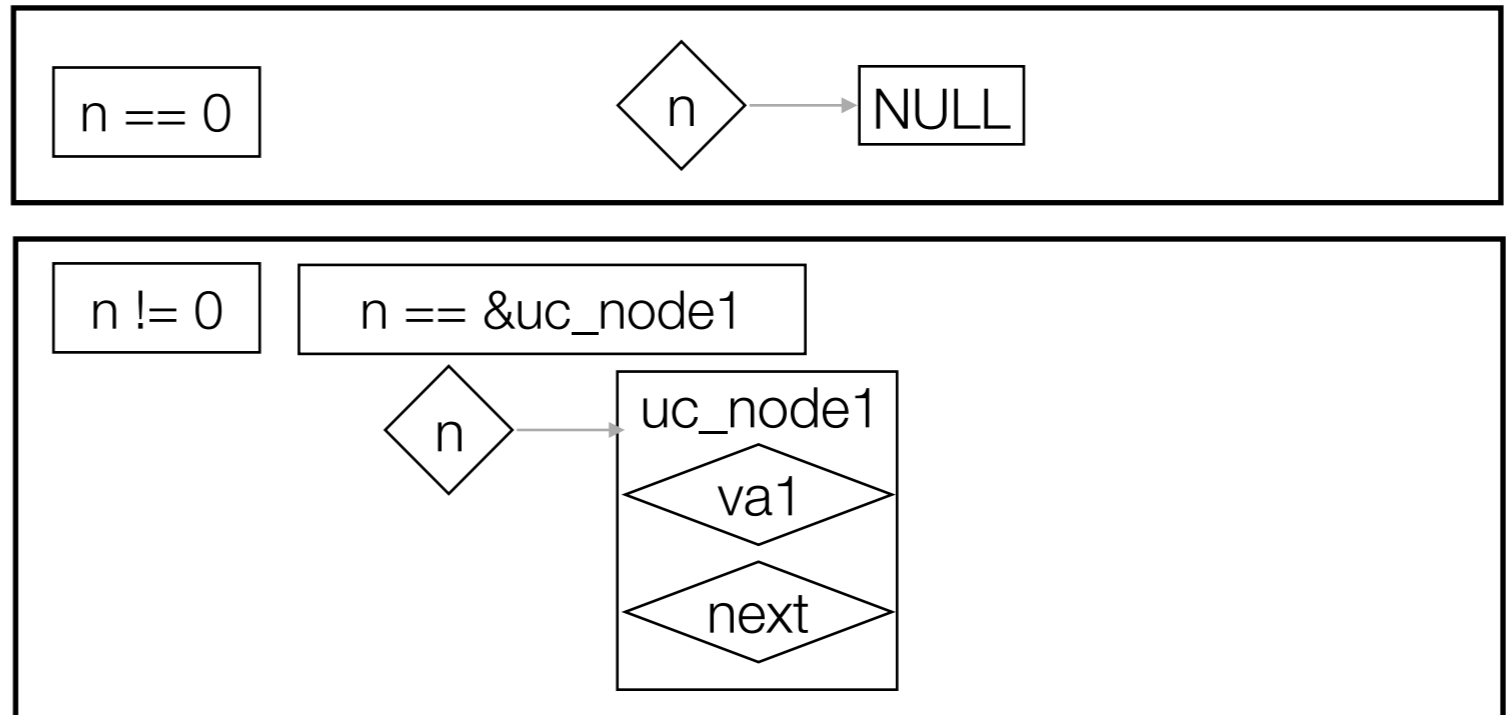
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# Example

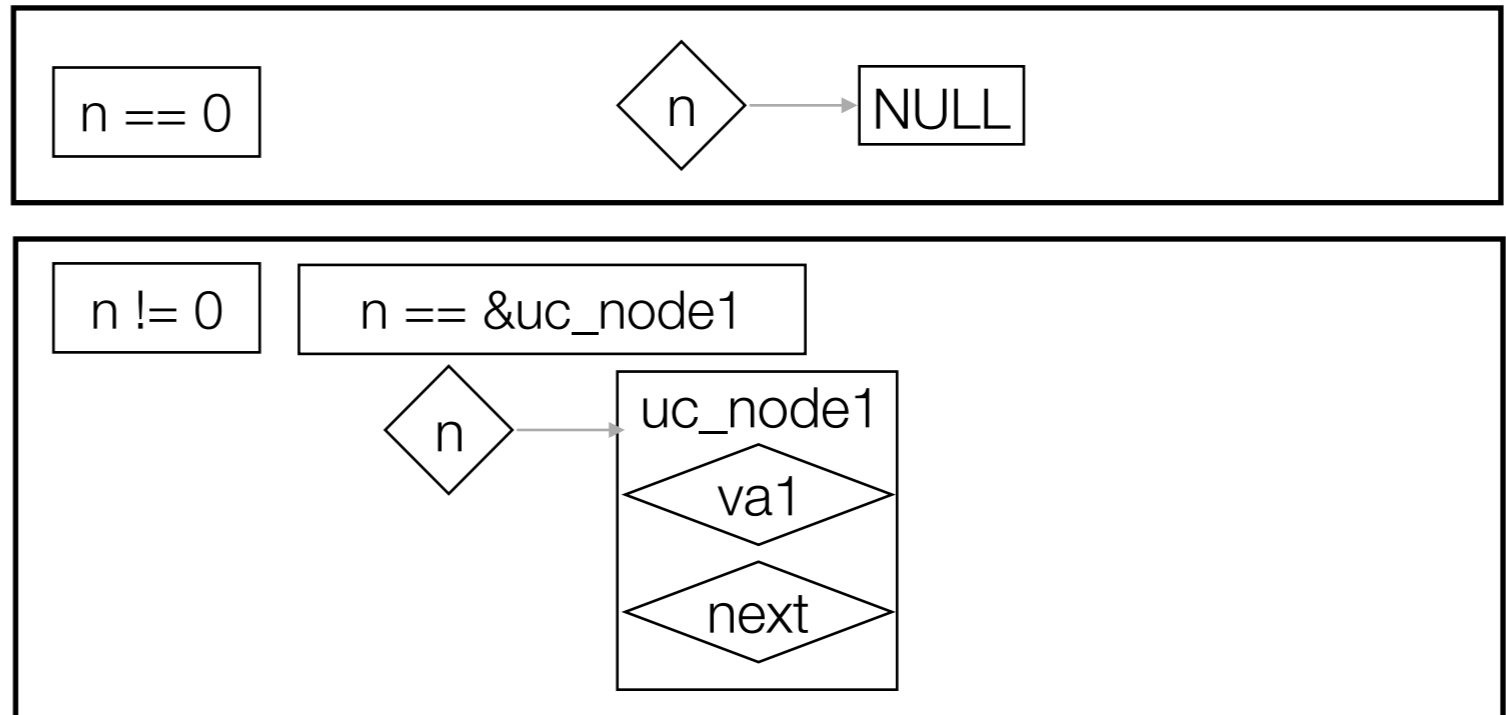
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# Example

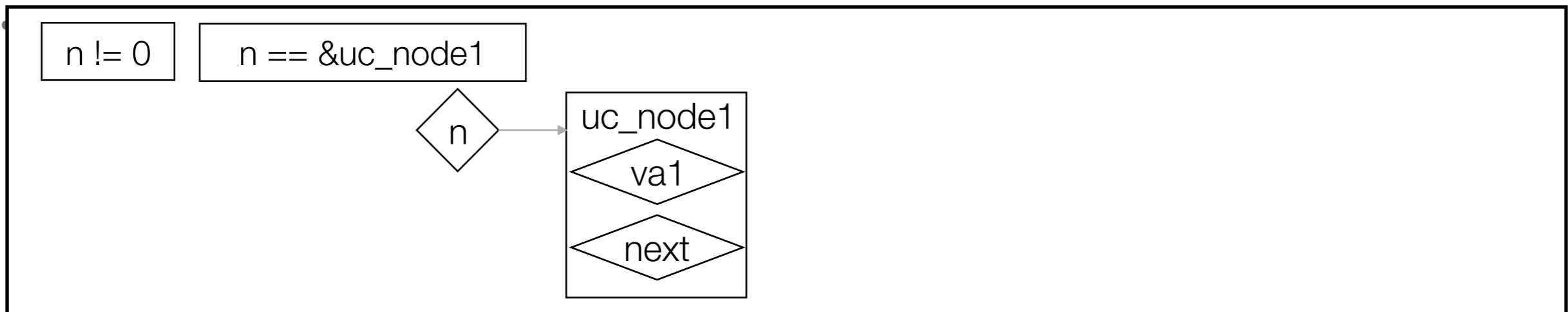
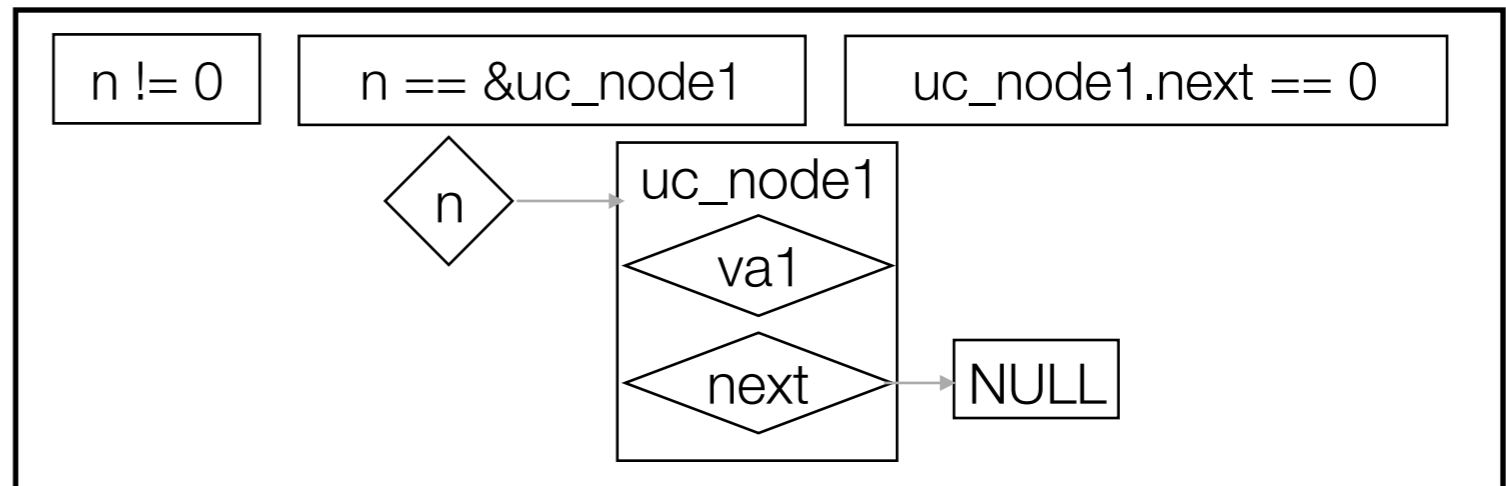
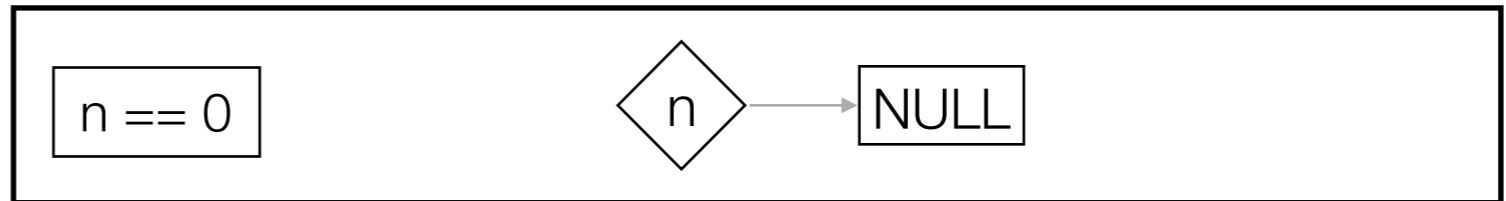
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    }  
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}
```





# Example

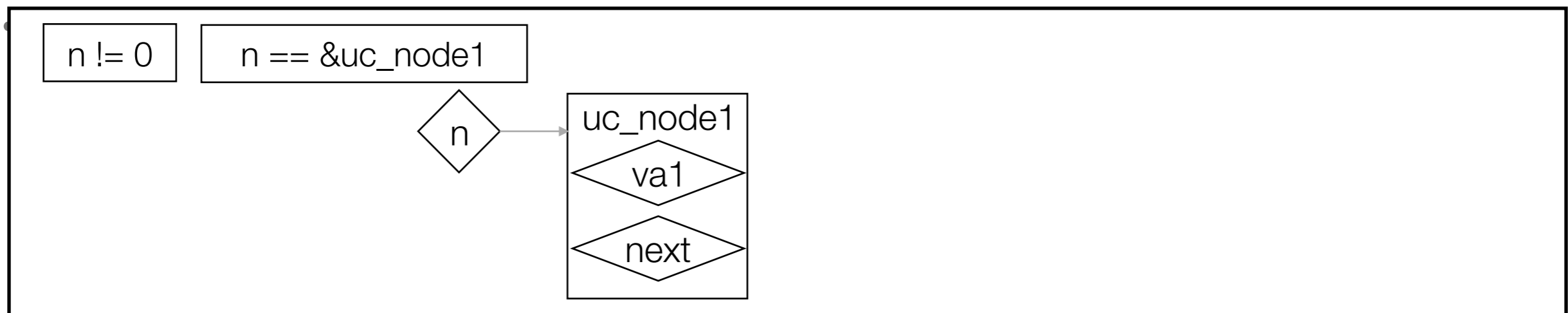
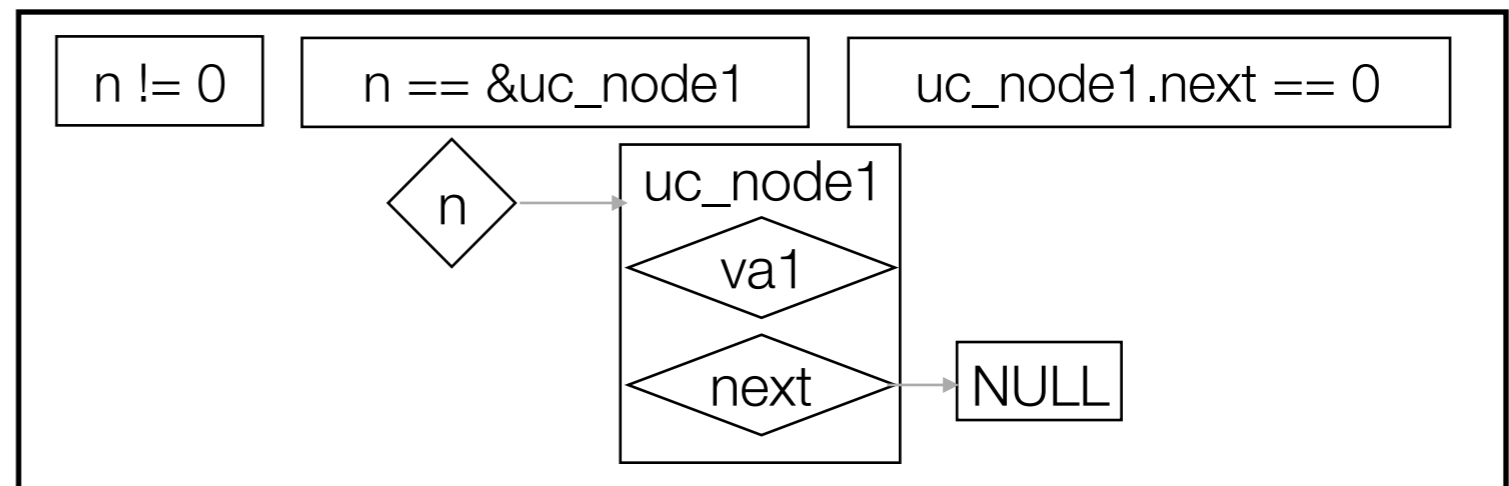
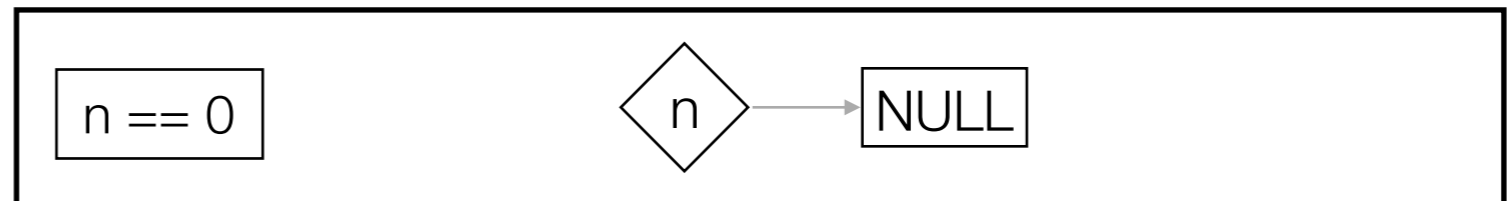
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# Example

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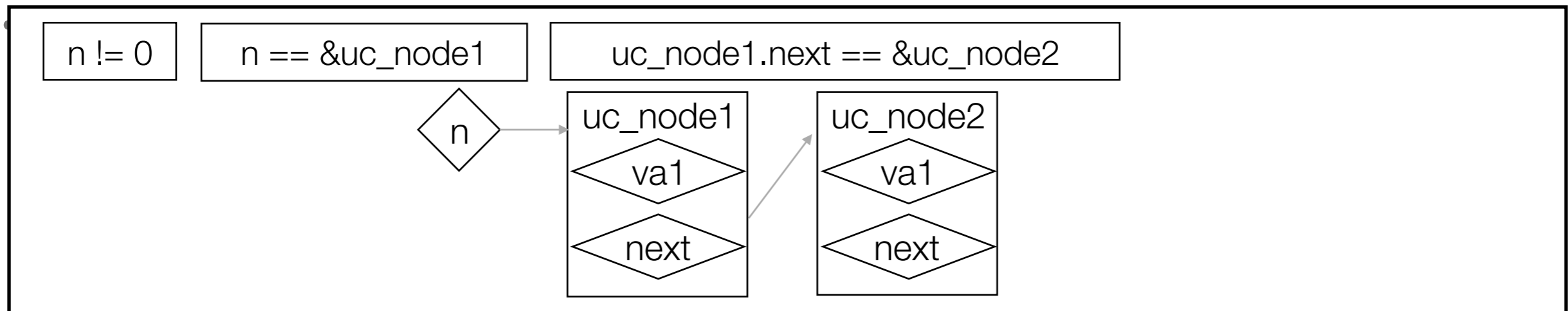
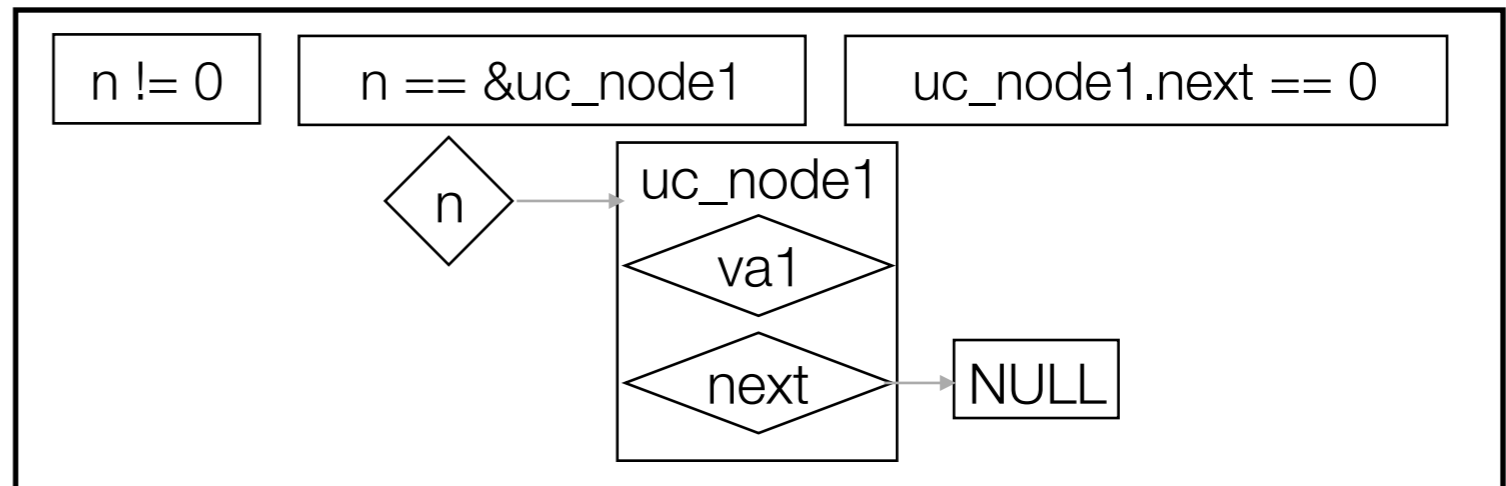
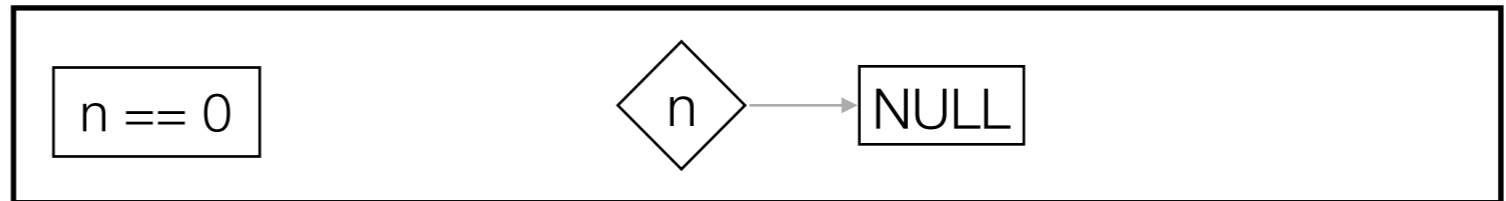






# Example

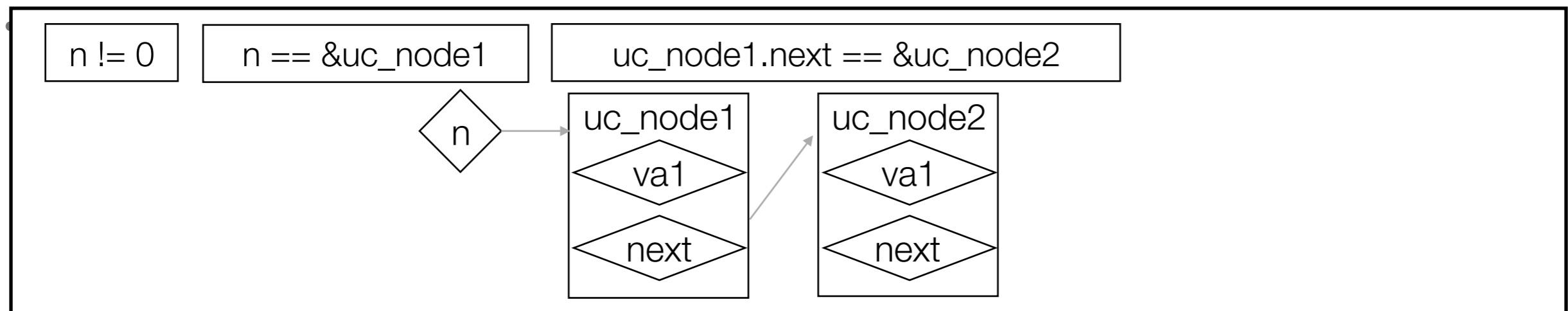
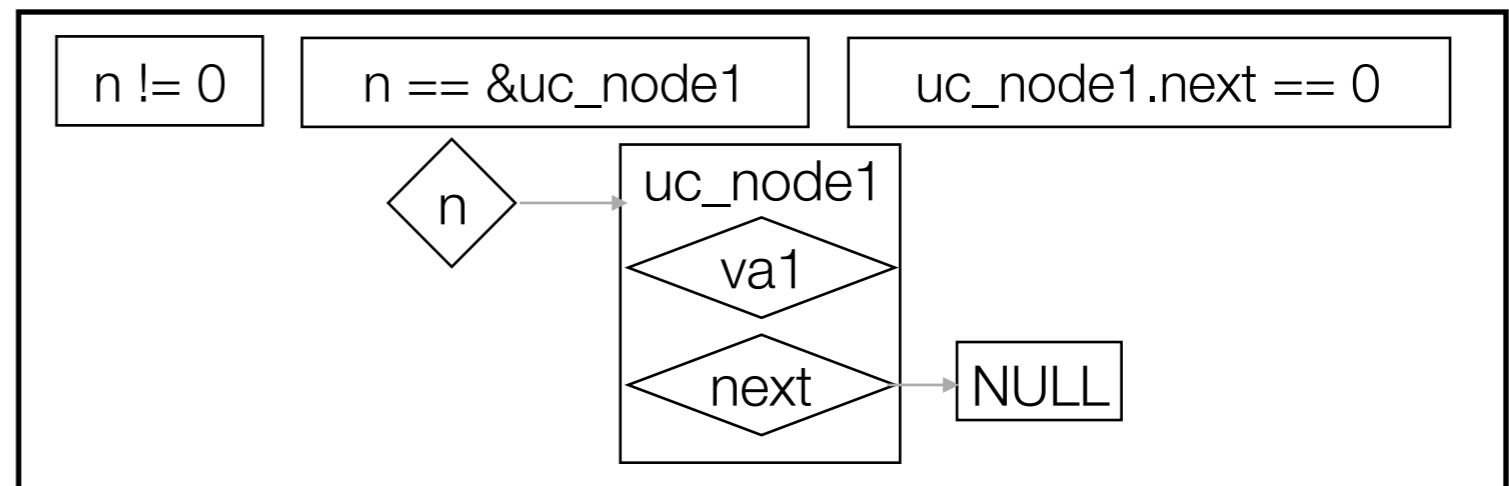
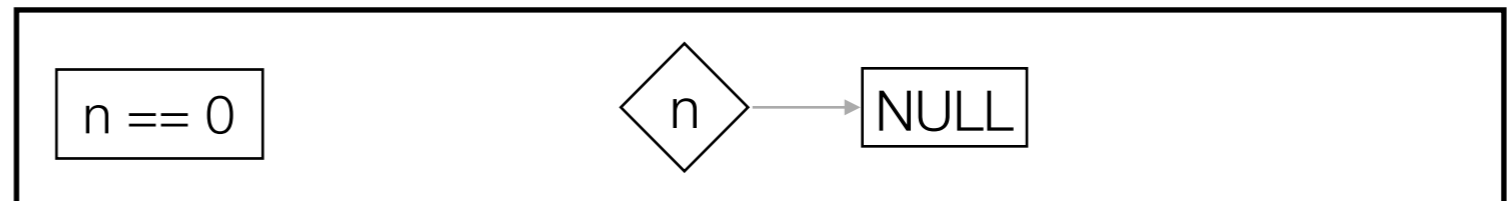
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    while (n) {  
        sum += n->val;  
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    }  
    return sum;  
}
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# Example

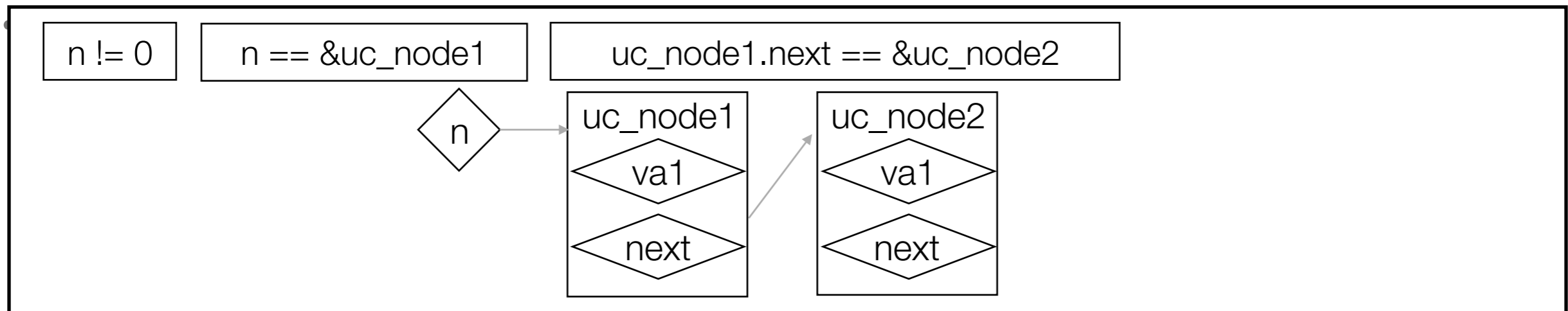
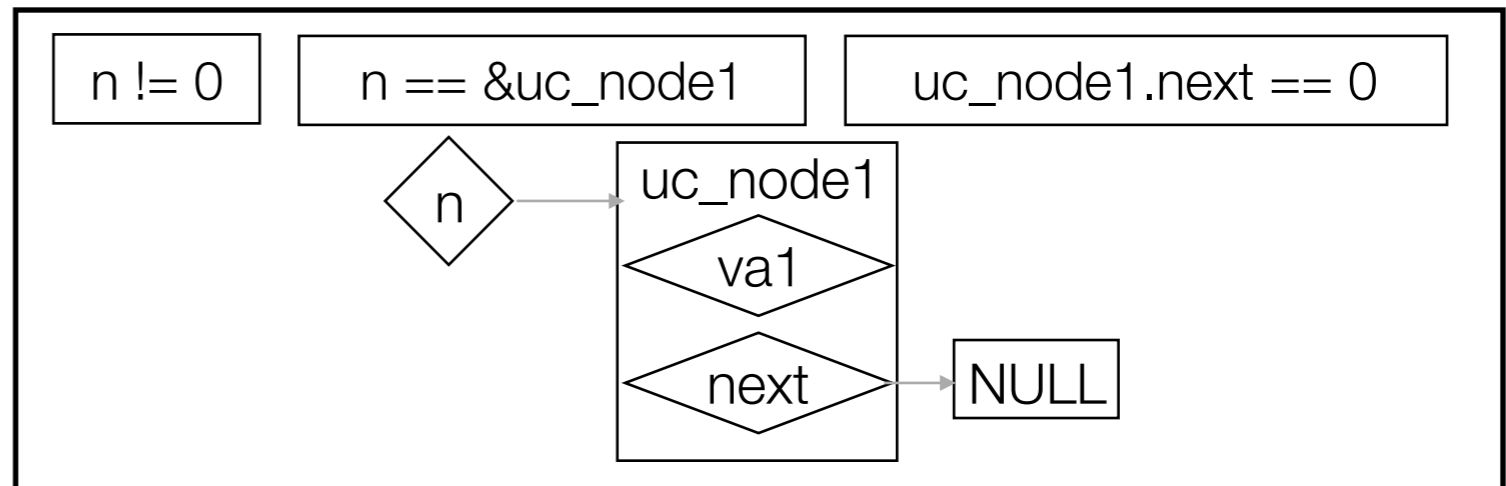
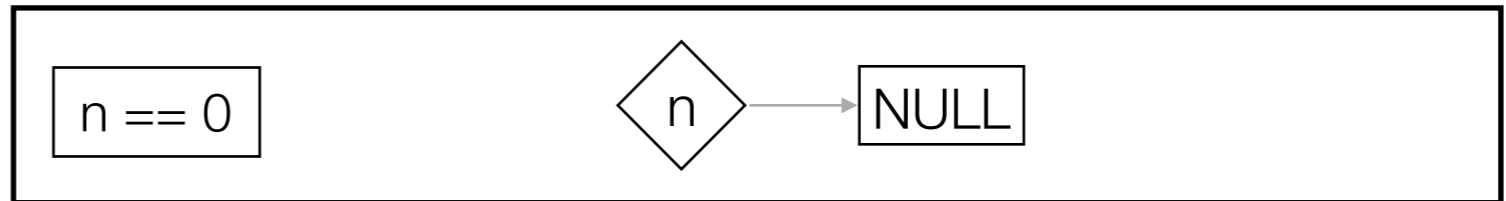
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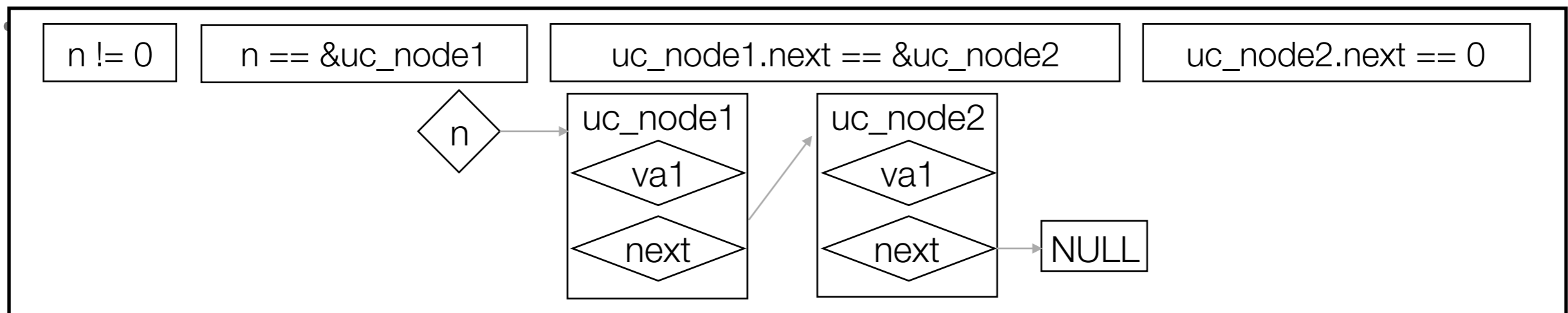
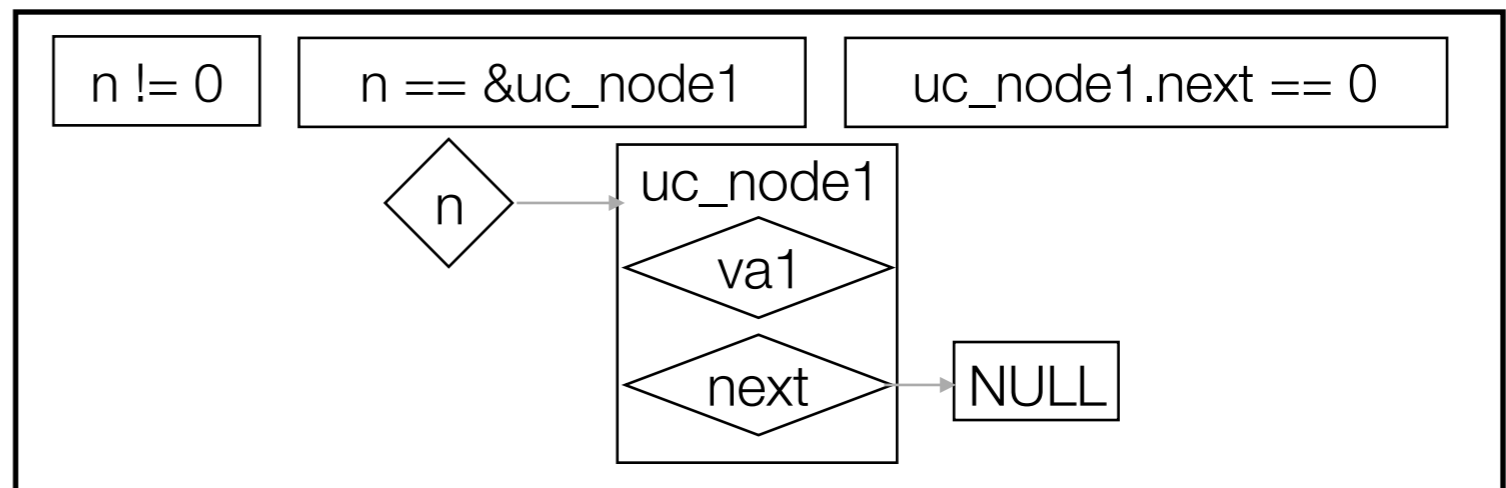
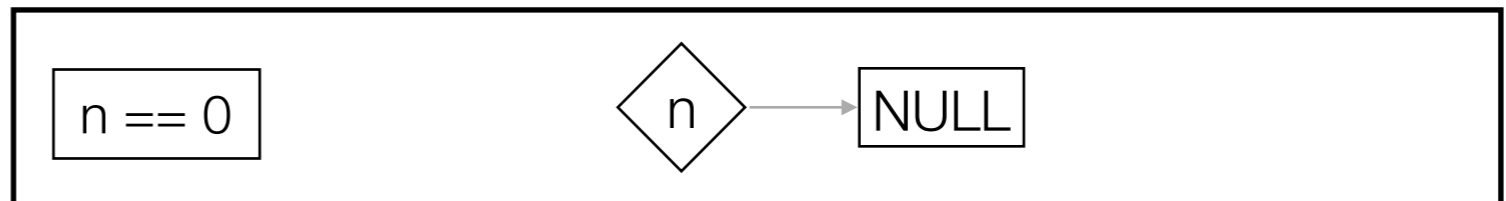
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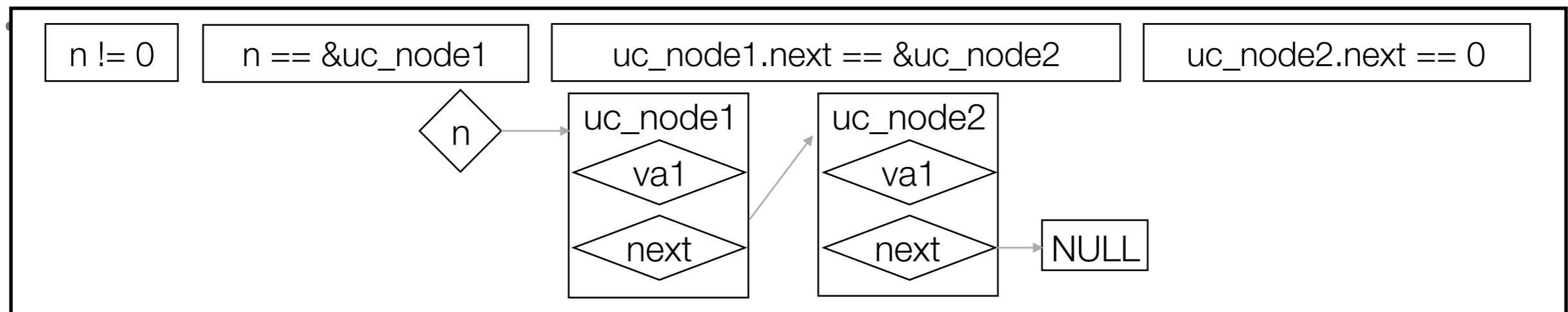
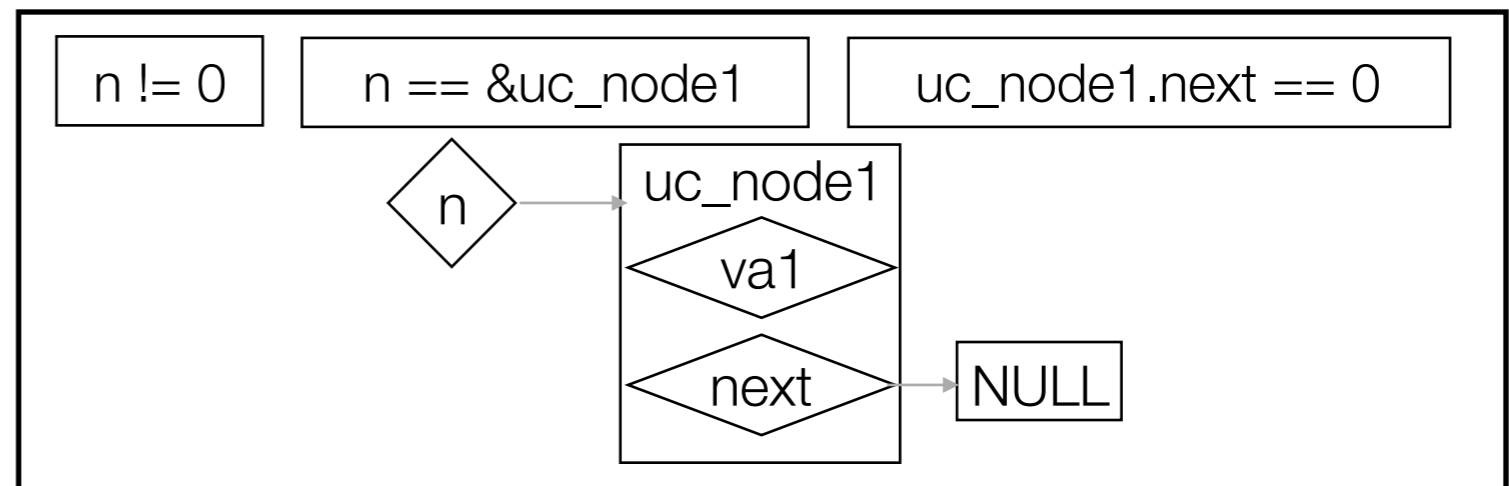
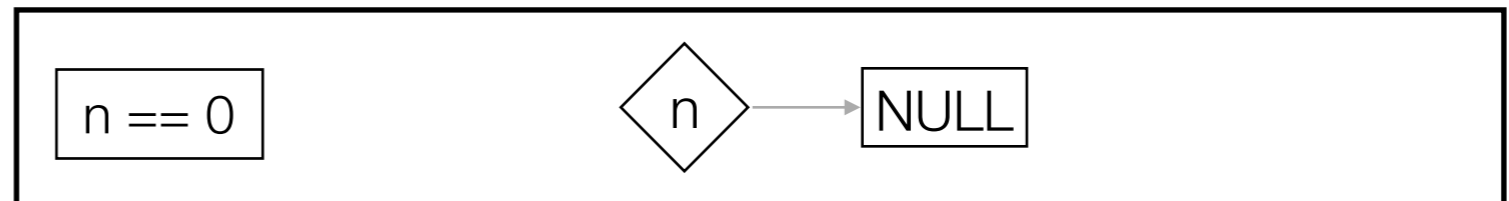
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# Example

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# Use Cases

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- Equivalence checking: patches
  - Yesterday's code vs. today's code (i.e., fewer bugs today)
  - Goal: detect (and prevent!) new crashes introduced by patches
  - Other uses discussed in CAV 2011 paper
- General bug-finding: rule-based checkers
  - Single version of a function; under-constrained + additional checker rules
  - Memory leaks, uninitialized data, unsafe user input
  - Simple interface for adding new checkers



# Equivalence Checking

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- Value equivalence
  - Return value
  - Arguments passed by reference
  - Global/static variables
  - System call effects (modeled)
- Error (crash) equivalence
  - Both versions typically have the same same (unknown) preconditions!
  - Neither version crashes on an input
  - Both versions crash on an input

USE CASE: whether patches introduce crashes



# Equivalence Checking

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- Check per path equivalence of two functions
- If all paths exhausted, equivalence verified (up to input bound)





# Evaluation

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- BIND, OpenSSL
  - Mature, security-critical codebases (~400 KLOC each)
- Patches
  - BIND: 487 patches to 9.9 stable (14 months)
  - OpenSSL: 324 patches to 1.0.1 stable (27 months)
- Ran UC-KLEE for 1 hour on each patched function



# Evaluation: Patches

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- Discovered 10 new bugs (4 in BIND, 6 in OpenSSL)
  - 2 OpenSSL DoS vulnerabilities:
    - CVE-2014-0198: NULL pointer dereference
    - CVE-2015-0292: Out-of-bounds memcpy read
- Verified (w/ caveats) that patches do not introduce crashes
  - 67 (13.8%) for BIND, 48 (14.8%) for OpenSSL



# Acknowledgments/References

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