

Hoare Logic

Adapted From:

Zhaoguo Wang

ETH Zurich program verification, Lecture 6, 7

(<https://www.pm.inf.ethz.ch/education/courses/program-verification.html>)

<<Forward with Hoare>>

<<Weakest-Precondition of Unstructured Programs>>

Foundations of Programming Languages(<https://cs.nju.edu.cn/xyfeng/teaching/FOPL>, Hoare Logic)

<<Background reading on Hoare Logic>>, Mike Gordon

Cornell CS412/CS413, Introduction to Compilers, Lecture 24: Control Flow Graphs

Hoare Logic (霍尔逻辑)

1.1 Propositional Logic

Step 0. Proof.

Step 1. Convert program into mathematical formula.

Step 2. Ask the computer to solve the formula.

1.2 First Order Logic

Step 1. Convert it into first logic formula.

Step 2. Ask the computer to solve the formula.

1.3 Interactive Proof

Step 1. Axiom system

Step 2. Ask the computer to check the invariants

A Quick Recap – Axiom System

- Axiom System
- Hoare Triples

Outline – This Lecture

- Axioms and Inference Rules
- Interactive Theorem Prover
- Predicate Transformer
- Weakest Precondition
- Automated Verifier

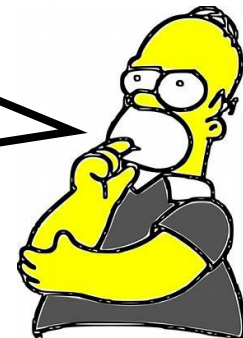
Problem:

How to prove program correctness?

Axioms and Inference Rules

$$\{P\}skip\{P\}$$

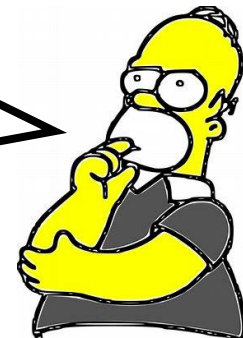
This axiom is clearly true.
Because skip does nothing.



Axioms and Inference Rules

$$\{?\}a := e\{?\}$$

The assignment axiom
brings troubles.

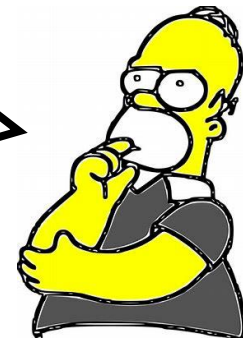


Axioms and Inference Rules

$$\{P\}a := e\{P[a/e]\}$$

$$\{a = 0\}a := 1\{a = 0\} \quad \boxed{\times}$$

Is this correct?

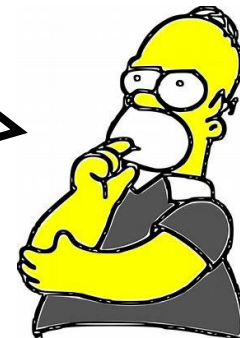


Axioms and Inference Rules

$$\{P\}a := e\{P \wedge a = e\}$$

$$\{a = 5\}a := a + 1\{a = 5 \wedge a = a + 1\} \quad \boxed{\times}$$

Is this correct?



Axioms and Inference Rules

v is a fresh variable.

$$\{P\}a := e \{ (\exists v)(a = e[v/a] \wedge P[v/a]) \}$$

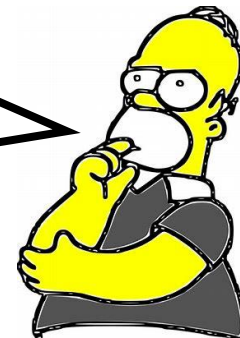
$$\{a = 1\}a := a + 1 \{ (\exists v)(a = (a + 1)[v/a] \wedge (a = 1)[v/a]) \}$$

$$\{a = 1\}a := a + 1 \{ (\exists v)(a = v + 1 \wedge v = 1) \}$$

simplification

$$\{a = 1\}a := a + 1 \{a = 2\}$$

This is correct and a forward assignment axiom.



Axioms and Inference Rules

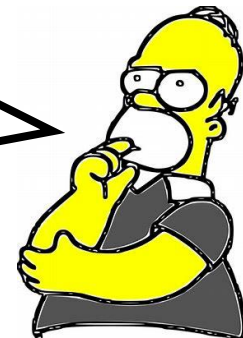
$$\{P[e/a]\}a := e\{P\}$$

$$\{b + 1 = 42\}a := b + 1\{a = 42\}$$

$$\{42 = 42\}a := 42\{a = 42\}$$

$$\{a - b > 3\}a := a - b\{a > 3\}$$

This is correct. But it seems to be "backward".



Axioms and Inference Rules

The abbreviation
is AS-FW.

$$\{P\}a := e\{(\exists v)(a = e[v/a] \wedge P[v/a])\}$$

- Forward
- Quantifier
- Intuitive

It is more widely
used because it's
quantifier-free.

The abbreviation
is AS.

$$\{P[e/a]\}a := e\{P\}$$

- Backward
- Quantifier-free
- Not intuitive

Axioms and Inference Rules

$$\{a = 1\} a := a + 1 \{(\exists v)(a = (a + 1)[v/a] \wedge (a = 1)[v/a])\}$$



$$\{a = 1\} a := a + 1 \{(\exists v)(a = v + 1 \wedge v = 1)\}$$



$$\{a = 1\} a := a + 1 \{a = 2\}$$

The simplification
is correct.

But Hoare logic is an axiom
system. We need some rules
to do this simplification.

Axioms and Inference Rules

$$\boxed{\text{strong}} \quad P \rightarrow Q \quad \boxed{\text{weak}}$$

$$\frac{\{P\}C\{Q\} \quad Q \rightarrow R}{\{P\}C\{R\}}$$

The line means inference.

weakening consequent (WC)

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} \{a = 1\}a := a + 1\{(\exists v)(a = (a + 1)[v/a] \wedge (a = 1)[v/a])\} \\ (\exists v)(a = (a + 1)[v/a] \wedge (a = 1)[v/a]) \rightarrow a = 2 \end{array}}{\{a = 1\}a := a + 1\{a = 2\}}$$

Axioms and Inference Rules

strong $P \rightarrow Q$ *weak*

$$\frac{P \rightarrow Q \quad \{Q\}C\{R\}}{\{P\}C\{R\}}$$

We can also
strengthen
precedent (SP).

$\{a = n\}a := a + 1\{a = n + 1\}$

Proof.

Axioms and Inference Rules

strong $P \rightarrow Q$ *weak*

$$\frac{P \rightarrow Q \quad \{Q\}C\{R\}}{\{P\}C\{R\}}$$

We can also strengthen precedent (SP).

$\{a = n\}a := a + 1\{a = n + 1\}$

Proof.

(1) $a = n \rightarrow a + 1 = n + 1$

predicate logic

Axioms and Inference Rules

strong $P \rightarrow Q$ *weak*

$$\frac{P \rightarrow Q \quad \{Q\}C\{R\}}{\{P\}C\{R\}}$$

We can also strengthen precedent (SP).

$$\{a = n\}a := a + 1\{a = n + 1\}$$

Proof.

$$(1) a = n \rightarrow a + 1 = n + 1$$

predicate logic

$$(2) \{a + 1 = n + 1\}a := a + 1\{a = n + 1\}$$

AS

Axioms and Inference Rules

strong $P \rightarrow Q$ *weak*

$$\frac{P \rightarrow Q \quad \{Q\}C\{R\}}{\{P\}C\{R\}}$$

We can also strengthen precedent (SP).

$\{a = n\}a := a + 1\{a = n + 1\}$

Proof.

(1) $a = n \rightarrow a + 1 = n + 1$

predicate logic

(2) $\{a + 1 = n + 1\}a := a + 1\{a = n + 1\}$

AS

(3) $\{a = n\}a := a + 1\{a = n + 1\}$

SP (1)(2)

Axioms and Inference Rules

Program structure

1. Sequence : $s1; s2$
2. Branch : $\text{if}(b1) \{ s1 \} \text{ then } \{ s2 \}$
3. Loop structure : $\text{while}(b1) \{ s \}$

We will introduce inference rules for these structures.

This is what we want the most.

Axioms and Inference Rules

$$\frac{\{P\}C1\{R\} \quad \{R\}C2\{Q\}}{\{P\}C1; C2\{Q\}}$$

The sequential
composition
rule (SC)

$\{b > 3\}a := 2 * b; a := a - b\{a \geq 4\}$

Proof.

Axioms and Inference Rules

$$\frac{\{P\}C1\{R\} \quad \{R\}C2\{Q\}}{\{P\}C1; C2\{Q\}}$$

The sequential
composition
rule (SC)

$\{b > 3\}a := 2 * b; a := a - b\{a \geq 4\}$

Proof.

(1) $\{a - b \geq 4\}a := a - b\{a \geq 4\}$

AS

Axioms and Inference Rules

$$\frac{\{P\}C1\{R\} \quad \{R\}C2\{Q\}}{\{P\}C1; C2\{Q\}}$$

The sequential
composition
rule (SC)

$\{b > 3\}a := 2 * b; a := a - b\{a \geq 4\}$

Proof.

(1) $\{a - b \geq 4\}a := a - b\{a \geq 4\}$

AS

(2) $\{2 * b - b \geq 4\}a := 2 * b\{a - b \geq 4\}$

AS

Axioms and Inference Rules

$$\frac{\{P\}C1\{R\} \quad \{R\}C2\{Q\}}{\{P\}C1; C2\{Q\}}$$

The sequential
composition
rule (SC)

$$\{b > 3\}a := 2 * b; a := a - b\{a \geq 4\}$$

Proof.

$$(1) \{a - b \geq 4\}a := a - b\{a \geq 4\}$$

AS

$$(2) \{2 * b - b \geq 4\}a := 2 * b\{a - b \geq 4\}$$

AS

$$(3) b > 3 \rightarrow 2 * b - b \geq 4$$

predicate logic

Axioms and Inference Rules

$$\frac{\{P\}C1\{R\} \quad \{R\}C2\{Q\}}{\{P\}C1; C2\{Q\}}$$

The sequential
composition
rule (SC)

$\{b > 3\}a := 2 * b; a := a - b\{a \geq 4\}$

Proof.

(1) $\{a - b \geq 4\}a := a - b\{a \geq 4\}$

AS

(2) $\{2 * b - b \geq 4\}a := 2 * b\{a - b \geq 4\}$

AS

(3) $b > 3 \rightarrow 2 * b - b \geq 4$

predicate logic

(4) $\{b > 3\}a := 2 * b\{a - b \geq 4\}$

SP(2)(3)

Axioms and Inference Rules

$$\frac{\{P\}C1\{R\} \quad \{R\}C2\{Q\}}{\{P\}C1; C2\{Q\}}$$

the sequential
composition
rule (SC)

$\{b > 3\}a := 2 * b; a := a - b\{a \geq 4\}$

Proof.

(1) $\{a - b \geq 4\}a := a - b\{a \geq 4\}$

AS

(2) $\{2 * b - b \geq 4\}a := 2 * b\{a - b \geq 4\}$

AS

(3) $b > 3 \rightarrow 2 * b - b \geq 4$

predicate logic

(4) $\{b > 3\}a := 2 * b\{a - b \geq 4\}$

SP(2)(3)

(5) $\{b > 3\}a := 2 * b; a := a - b\{a \geq 4\}$

SC(1)(4)

It's clearly
proved
backwards.

Axioms and Inference Rules

Convert b to a proposition.

Convert b to a proposition.

$$\frac{\{P \wedge istrue(b1)\}C1\{Q\} \quad \{P \wedge isfalse(b1)\}C2\{Q\}}{\{P\}if(b1) then C1 else C2 \{Q\}}$$

The conditional rule (CD)

Axioms and Inference Rules

$\{T\} \text{ if}(a < b) \text{ then } c := b \text{ else } c := a \{c = \max(a, b)\}$

Proof.

Axioms and Inference Rules

$\{T\} \text{ if}(a < b) \text{ then } c := b \text{ else } c := a \{c = \max(a, b)\}$

Proof.

(1) $\{b = \max(a, b)\} c := b \{c = \max(a, b)\}$ *AS*

Axioms and Inference Rules

$\{T\} \text{ if}(a < b) \text{ then } c := b \text{ else } c := a \{c = \max(a, b)\}$

Proof.

(1) $\{b = \max(a, b)\} c := b \{c = \max(a, b)\}$ *AS*

(2) $\{a = \max(a, b)\} c := a \{c = \max(a, b)\}$ *AS*

Axioms and Inference Rules

$\{T\} \text{ if}(a < b) \text{ then } c := b \text{ else } c := a \{c = \max(a, b)\}$

Proof.

(1) $\{b = \max(a, b)\} c := b \{c = \max(a, b)\}$ *AS*

(2) $\{a = \max(a, b)\} c := a \{c = \max(a, b)\}$ *AS*

(3) $T \wedge a < b \rightarrow b = \max(a, b)$ *predicate logic*

Axioms and Inference Rules

$\{T\} \text{ if}(a < b) \text{ then } c := b \text{ else } c := a \{c = \max(a, b)\}$

Proof.

(1) $\{b = \max(a, b)\} c := b \{c = \max(a, b)\}$ *AS*

(2) $\{a = \max(a, b)\} c := a \{c = \max(a, b)\}$ *AS*

(3) $T \wedge a < b \rightarrow b = \max(a, b)$ *predicate logic*

(4) $T \wedge \neg(a < b) \rightarrow a = \max(a, b)$ *predicate logic*

Axioms and Inference Rules

$\{T\} \text{ if}(a < b) \text{ then } c := b \text{ else } c := a \{c = \max(a, b)\}$

Proof.

(1) $\{b = \max(a, b)\} c := b \{c = \max(a, b)\}$ *AS*

(2) $\{a = \max(a, b)\} c := a \{c = \max(a, b)\}$ *AS*

(3) $T \wedge a < b \rightarrow b = \max(a, b)$ *predicate logic*

(4) $T \wedge \neg(a < b) \rightarrow a = \max(a, b)$ *predicate logic*

(5) $\{T \wedge a < b\} c := b \{c = \max(a, b)\}$ *SP(1)(3)*

Axioms and Inference Rules

$\{T\} \text{ if}(a < b) \text{ then } c := b \text{ else } c := a \{c = \max(a, b)\}$

Proof.

(1) $\{b = \max(a, b)\} c := b \{c = \max(a, b)\}$ *AS*

(2) $\{a = \max(a, b)\} c := a \{c = \max(a, b)\}$ *AS*

(3) $T \wedge a < b \rightarrow b = \max(a, b)$ *predicate logic*

(4) $T \wedge \neg(a < b) \rightarrow a = \max(a, b)$ *predicate logic*

(5) $\{T \wedge a < b\} c := b \{c = \max(a, b)\}$ *SP(1)(3)*

(6) $\{T \wedge \neg(a < b)\} c := a \{c = \max(a, b)\}$ *SP(2)(4)*

Axioms and Inference Rules

$\{T\} \text{ if}(a < b) \text{ then } c := b \text{ else } c := a \{c = \max(a, b)\}$

Proof.

(1) $\{b = \max(a, b)\} c := b \{c = \max(a, b)\}$ *AS*

(2) $\{a = \max(a, b)\} c := a \{c = \max(a, b)\}$ *AS*

(3) $T \wedge a < b \rightarrow b = \max(a, b)$ *predicate logic*

(4) $T \wedge \neg(a < b) \rightarrow a = \max(a, b)$ *predicate logic*

(5) $\{T \wedge a < b\} c := b \{c = \max(a, b)\}$ *SP(1)(3)*

(6) $\{T \wedge \neg(a < b)\} c := a \{c = \max(a, b)\}$ *SP(2)(4)*

(7) $\{T\} \text{ if}(a < b) \text{ then } c := b \text{ else } c := a \{c = \max(a, b)\}$ *CD(5)(6)*

Axioms and Inference Rules

Loop invariant

$$\frac{\{I \wedge istrue(b1)\} C \{I\}}{\{I\} while(b1) C \{I \wedge isfalse(b1)\}}$$

The while
rule (WHP)

It says that

- if executing C once preserves the truth of I, then executing C any number of times also preserves the truth of I
- after a while loop has terminated, the test must be false

Axioms and Inference Rules

Loop invariant

$$\frac{\{I \wedge istrue(b1)\} C \{I\}}{\{I\} while(b1) C \{I \wedge isfalse(b1)\}}$$

The while
rule (WHP)

It can be proved by induction on number of loop times

- If the loop execute for 0 time, I of course holds.
- If I holds for n times loops, it holds for n+1 times because of the condition above the line.

Axioms and Inference Rules

$\{a \leq 10\} \text{ while}(a \neq 10) \ a := a + 1 \ \{a = 10\}$

Proof.

$$\frac{\{I \wedge istrue(b1)\} C \{I\}}{\{I\} \text{ while}(b1) \ C \ \{I \wedge isfalse(b1)\}}$$

Axioms and Inference Rules

$\{a \leq 10\} \text{ while}(a \neq 10) \ a := a + 1 \ \{a = 10\}$

Proof.

(1) $\{a + 1 \leq 10\} a := a + 1 \{a \leq 10\}$

loop invariant

$$\frac{\{I \wedge istrue(b1)\} C \{I\}}{\{I\} \text{ while}(b1) \ C \ \{I \wedge isfalse(b1)\}}$$

AS

Axioms and Inference Rules

$\{a \leq 10\} \text{ while}(a \neq 10) \ a := a + 1 \ \{a = 10\}$

Proof.

(1) $\{a + 1 \leq 10\} a := a + 1 \{a \leq 10\}$

(2) $a \leq 10 \wedge a \neq 10 \rightarrow a + 1 \leq 10$

$$\frac{\{I \wedge istrue(b1)\} C \{I\}}{\{I\} \text{ while}(b1) \ C \ \{I \wedge isfalse(b1)\}}$$

AS

predicate logic

Axioms and Inference Rules

$\{a \leq 10\} \text{ while}(a \neq 10) \ a := a + 1 \ \{a = 10\}$

Proof.

(1) $\{a + 1 \leq 10\} a := a + 1 \{a \leq 10\}$

(2) $a \leq 10 \wedge a \neq 10 \rightarrow a + 1 \leq 10$

(3) $\{a \leq 10 \wedge a \neq 10\} a := a + 1 \{a \leq 10\}$

loop invariant
always holds.

$$\frac{\{I \wedge istrue(b1)\} C \{I\}}{\{I\} \text{ while}(b1) \ C \ \{I \wedge isfalse(b1)\}}$$

AS

predicate logic

SP(1)(2)

Axioms and Inference Rules

$\{a \leq 10\} \text{ while}(a \neq 10) \ a := a + 1 \ \{a = 10\}$

$$\frac{\{I \wedge \text{istrue}(b1)\} C \{I\}}{\{I\} \text{ while}(b1) \ C \ \{I \wedge \text{isfalse}(b1)\}}$$

Proof.

(1) $\{a + 1 \leq 10\} a := a + 1 \{a \leq 10\}$

AS

(2) $a \leq 10 \wedge a \neq 10 \rightarrow a + 1 \leq 10$

predicate logic

(3) $\{a \leq 10 \wedge a \neq 10\} a := a + 1 \{a \leq 10\}$

SP(1)(2)

(4) $\{a \leq 10\} \text{ while}(a \neq 10) \ a := a + 1 \ \{a \leq 10 \wedge a = 10\}$

WHP(3)

Axioms and Inference Rules

$$\frac{\{I \wedge istrue(b1)\} C \{I\}}{\{I\} while(b1) C \{I \wedge isfalse(b1)\}}$$

Proof.

$$(1) \{a + 1 \leq 10\} a := a + 1 \{a \leq 10\} \quad AS$$

$$(2) a \leq 10 \wedge a \neq 10 \rightarrow a + 1 \leq 10 \quad predicate\ logic$$

$$(3) \{a \leq 10 \wedge a \neq 10\} a := a + 1 \{a \leq 10\} \quad SP(1)(2)$$

$$(4) \{a \leq 10\} while(a \neq 10) a := a + 1 \{a \leq 10 \wedge a = 10\} \quad WHP(3)$$

$$(5) a \leq 10 \wedge a = 10 \rightarrow a = 10 \quad predicate\ logic$$

$$(6) \{a \leq 10\} while(a \neq 10) a := a + 1 \{a = 10\} \quad WC(4)(5)$$

Axioms and Inference Rules

$\{a \leq 10\} \text{ while}(a \neq 10) \ a := a + 1 \ \{a = 10\}$

Proof.

(1) $\{a + 1 \leq 10\} a := a + 1 \{a \leq 10\}$

AS

(2) $a \leq 10 \wedge a \neq 10 \rightarrow a + 1 \leq 10$

predicate logic

(3) $\{a \leq 10 \wedge a \neq 10\} a := a + 1 \{a \leq 10\}$

SP(1)(2)

(4) $\{a \leq 10\} \text{ while}(a \neq 10) \ a := a + 1 \ \{a \leq 10 \wedge a = 10\}$

WHP(3)

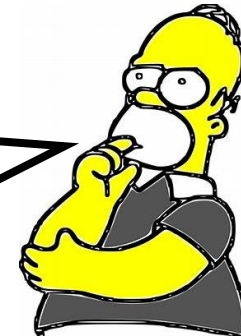
(5) $a \leq 10 \wedge a = 10 \rightarrow a = 10$

predicate logic

(6) $\{a \leq 10\} \text{ while}(a \neq 10) \ a := a + 1 \ \{a = 10\}$

WC(4)(5)

How to find the
loop invariant?



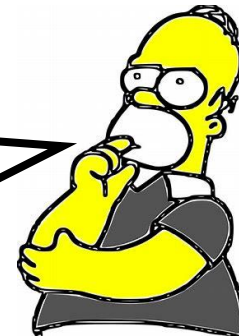
Axioms and Inference Rules

There is no automatic algorithm to generate loop invariant.

You must find it by yourself. The invariant should say that:

- what has been done so far together with what remains to be done
- holds at each iteration of the loop
- and gives the desired result when the loop terminates

How to find the
loop invariant?



Exercise

```
void f(unsigned a)
{
    unsigned i = 0;
    { $i = 0 \wedge a \geq 0$ }
    while(i < a)
    {
        i = i + 1;
    }
    { $i = a$ }
}
```

pre-condition

post-condition

$I : i \geq 0 \wedge i \leq a \wedge a \geq 0$

loop invariant?

Interactive Theorem Prover



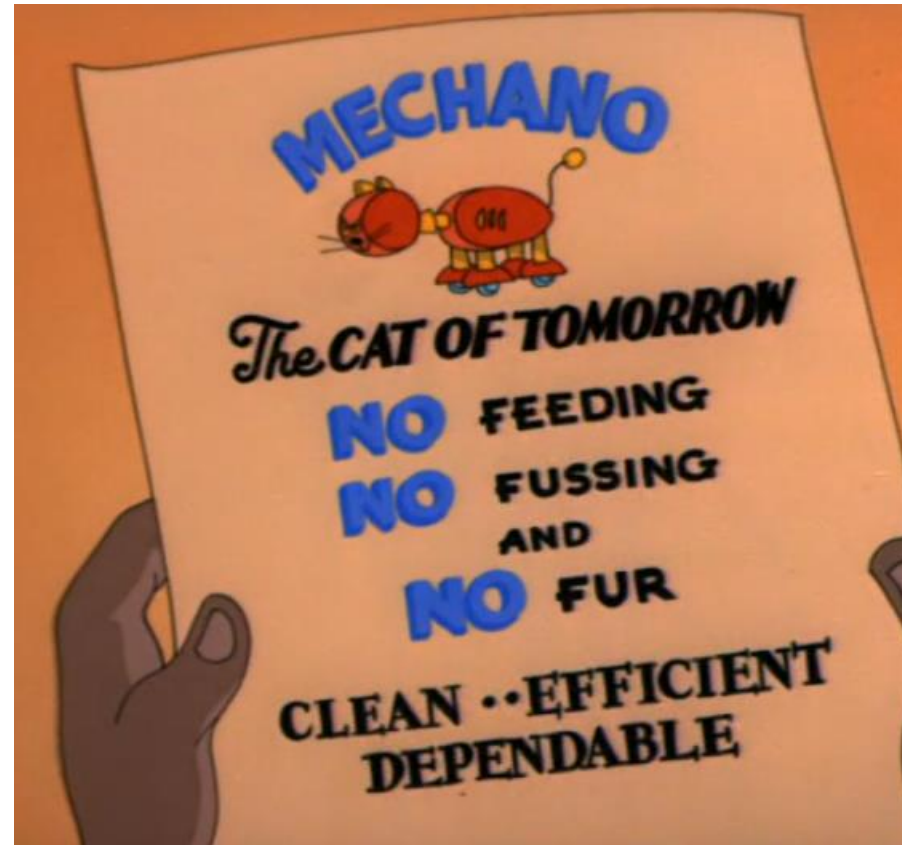
- Coq is an interactive theorem prover
- We can use Coq to construct an axiom system, such as Hoare logic, and prove theorems
- Coq will help check whether the proofs are correct, avoiding errors in paper proof
- Some learning materials
 - <https://6826.csail.mit.edu/2019/schedule.html>
 - <https://github.com/coq-community/vscoq>
 - <https://softwarefoundations.cis.upenn.edu/current/index.html>
 - <http://adam.chlipala.net/cpdt/>
 - <https://www.labri.fr/perso/casteran/CoqArt/>



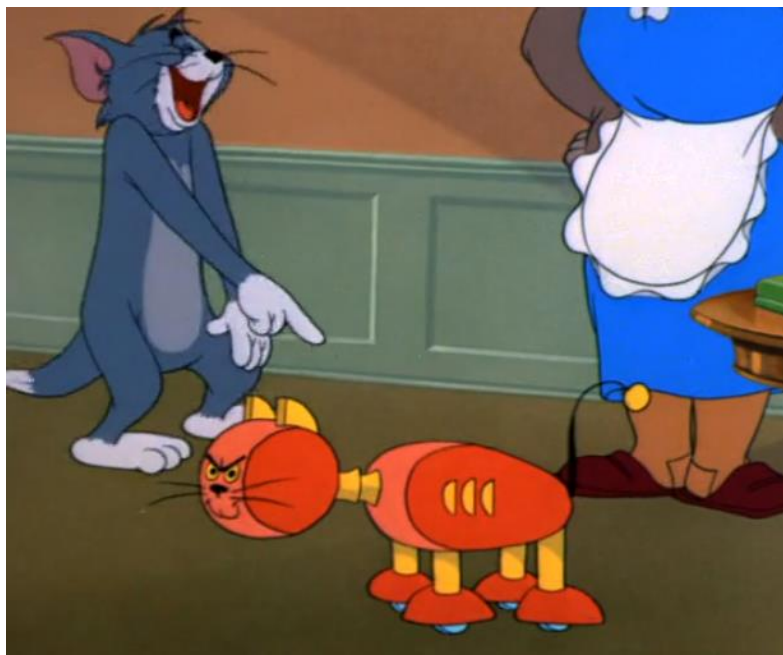
However,



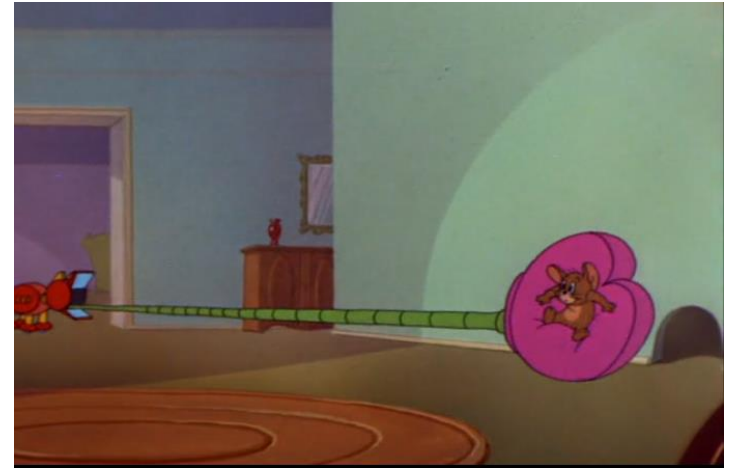
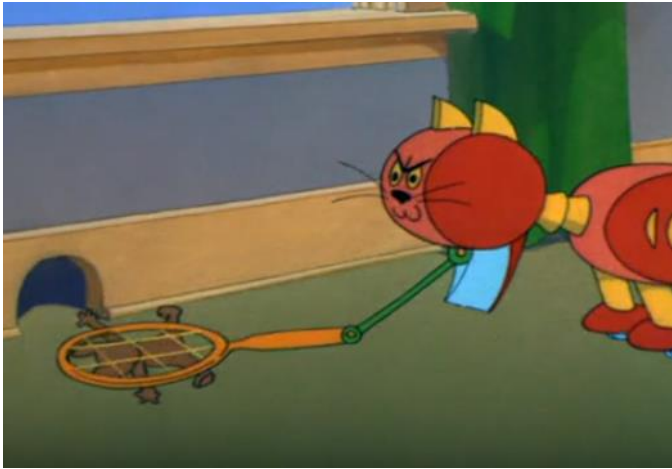
Proof is usually
tedious



We want an automated program verifier.



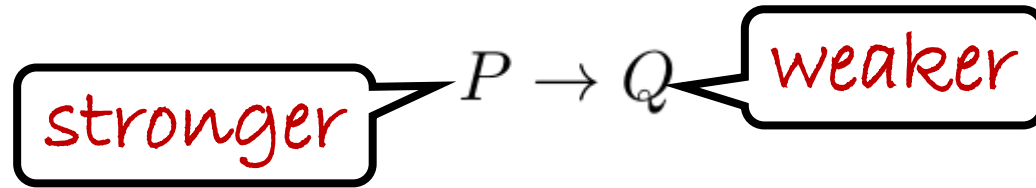
But cannot
handle loops



What if we keep all
invariants/conditions in
the interactive proof?

Automatic Proof, Again???

Predicate Transformer



DEFINITION

Given a program C and postcondition Q , P is the weakest precondition means for all P' , $\{P'\} C \{Q\}$ iff $P' \rightarrow P$. We use $wp(C, Q)$ to denote P .

$$\{a = 2\} a := a + 1 \{a = 3\}$$

$$\{a = 2 \wedge b = 4\} a := a + 1 \{a = 3\}$$

$$\{a = 2 \wedge a > 1\} a := a + 1 \{a = 3\}$$

A callout bubble pointing to the expression $a = 2$ in the equation below, containing the words "weakest precondition" in red.

$$a = 2 \wedge b = 4 \rightarrow a = 2$$

$$a = 2 \wedge a > 1 \rightarrow a = 2$$

Predicate Transformer

$$\boxed{\text{stronger}} \rightarrow P \rightarrow Q \leftarrow \boxed{\text{weaker}}$$

DEFINITION

Given a program C and precondition P , Q is the strongest postcondition means for all Q' , $\{P\} C \{Q'\}$ iff $Q \rightarrow Q'$. We use $\text{sp}(C, P)$ to denote Q .

$$\{a = 1\} a := 3 \{a = 3\} \quad \boxed{\text{strongest postcondition}}$$

$$\{a = 1\} a := 3 \{T\}$$

$$a = 3 \rightarrow T$$

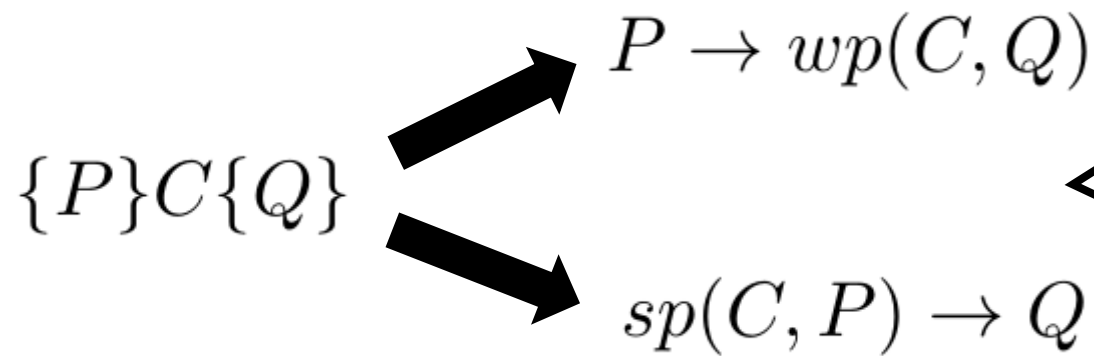
$$\{a = 1\} a := 3 \{(\exists v)(a = v)\}$$

$$a = 3 \rightarrow (\exists v)(a = v)$$

Predicate Transformer

We can consider the problem from the following perspective:

- Given a precondition and program, can we find the strongest postcondition?
- Or given a postcondition and program, can we find the weakest precondition?
- This is called **predicate transformer** semantics: how programs transform assertions

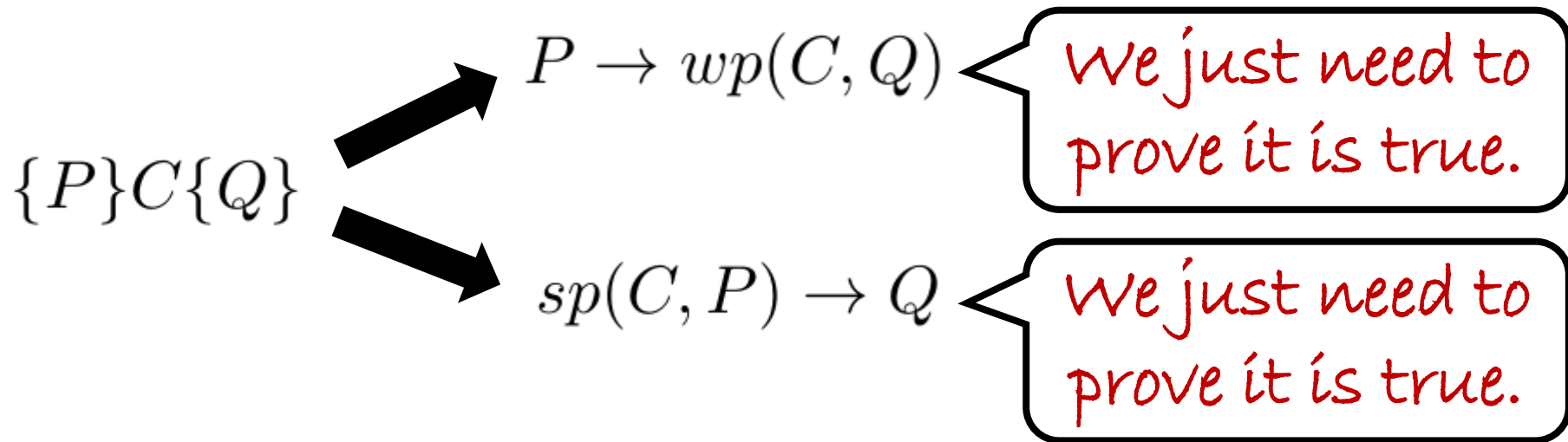


If we can find wp or sp, we can convert hoare triples to predicate logic formula.

Predicate Transformer

We can consider the problem from the following perspective:

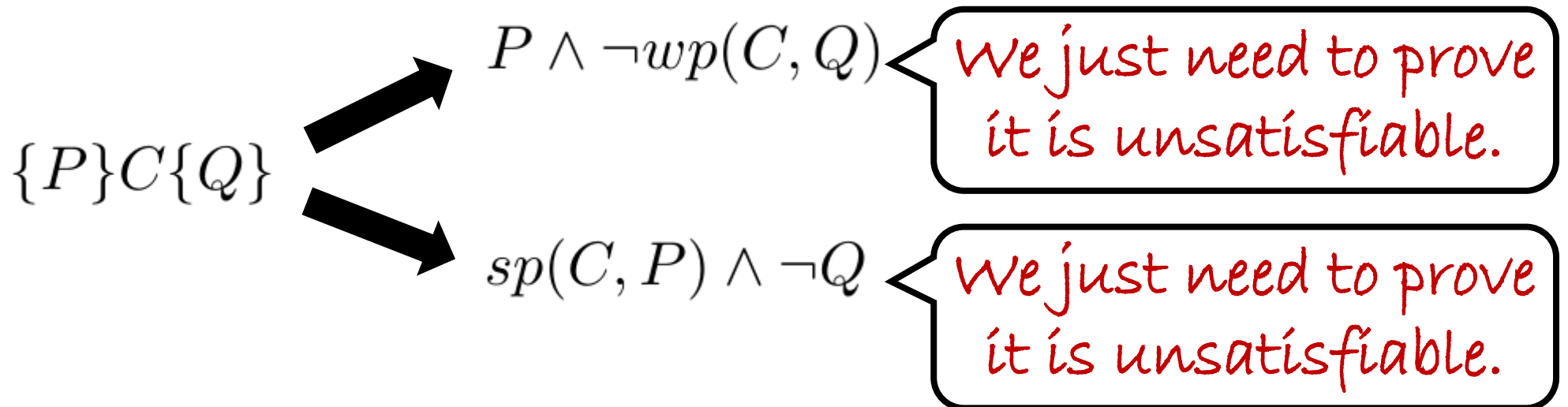
- Given a precondition and program, can we find the strongest postcondition?
- Or given a postcondition and program, can we find the weakest precondition?
- This is called **predicate transformer** semantics: how programs transform assertions



Predicate Transformer

We can consider the problem from the following perspective:

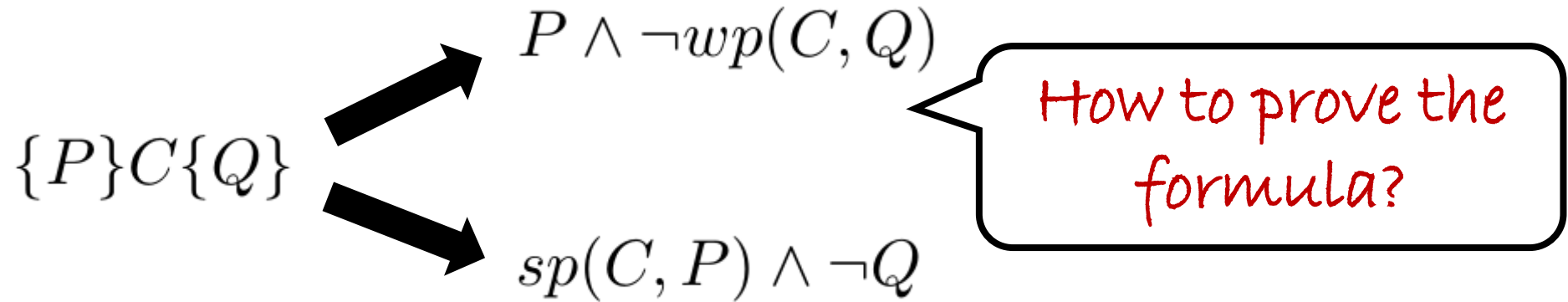
- Given a precondition and program, can we find the strongest postcondition?
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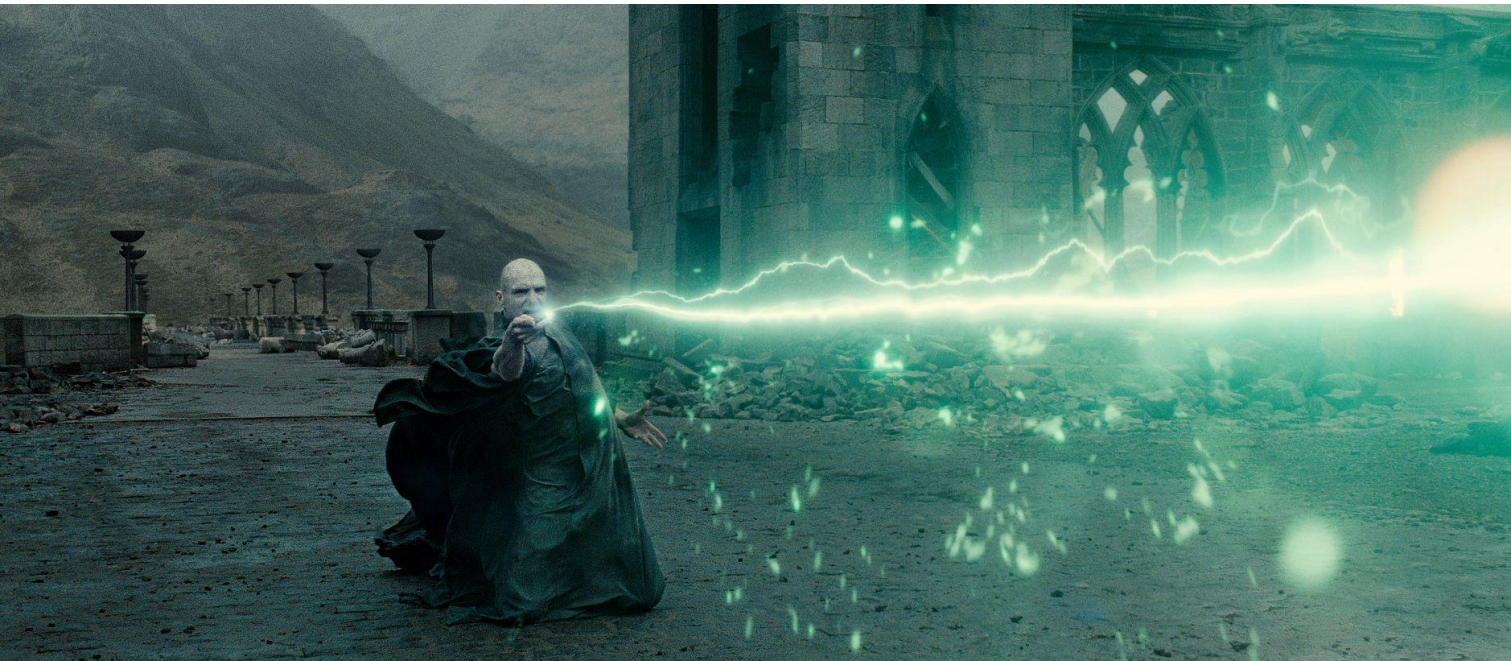
Basic Idea

To prove $\{P\}C\{Q\}$

- Find the $wp(C, Q)$, then prove P implies $wp(C, Q)$.
- Find the $sp(C, P)$, then prove $sp(C, P)$ implies Q .



Working with SMT solvers is like magic



Question: How to automatically find the weakest precondition (strongest postcondition)?

By rules (Theorems)...

A Quick Recap

AS-FW gives the strongest postcondition.

$$\{P\}a := e \{ (\exists v)(a = e[v/a] \wedge P[v/a]) \}$$

- Forward
- Quantifier
- Intuitive

AS gives the weakest postcondition.

$$\{P[e/a]\}a := e \{P\}$$

It is more widely used because it's simpler.

- Backward
- Quantifier-free
- Not intuitive

A Quick Recap

AS-FW gives the strongest postcondition.

$$\{P\}a := e \{ (\exists v)(a = e[v/a] \wedge P[v/a]) \}$$

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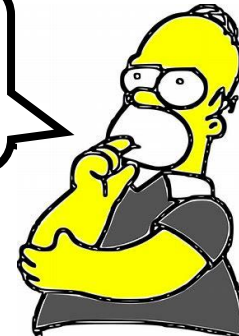
$$\{P[e/a]\}a := e \{P\}$$

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It is more widely used because it's simpler.

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- Quantifier-free
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We will focus on wp.

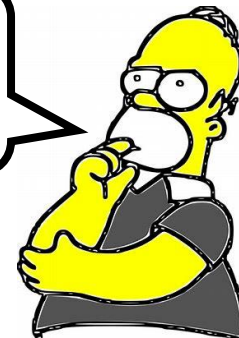


Weakest Precondition

We use $wlp(C, Q)$ instead of $wp(C, Q)$ in following slides:

- C is the program, Q is the intended postcondition
- Name stands for weakest “liberal” precondition: it ignores termination
- For all C and Q, it is guaranteed that $\{ wlp(C, Q) \} C \{ Q \}$ is true
- For all P, C and Q, $\{ P \} C \{ Q \}$ iff $P \rightarrow wlp(C, Q)$

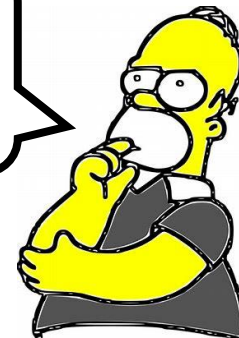
*wlp must be computable. We
will introduce the details.*



Weakest Precondition

$$wlp(skip, Q) = Q$$

This is clear because
skip does nothing.



Weakest Precondition

*This is similar to
AS in Hoare logic.*

$$\{P[e/a]\}a := e\{P\}$$

$$wlp(a := e, P) = P[e/a]$$

$$wlp(a := b + 1, a = 42) = b + 1 = 42$$

$$wlp(a := a - b, a > 3) = \quad ?$$

Weakest Precondition

*This is similar to
AS in Hoare logic.*

$$\{P[e/a]\}a := e\{P\}$$

$$wlp(a := e, P) = P[e/a]$$

$$wlp(a := b + 1, a = 42) = b + 1 = 42$$

$$wlp(a := a - b, a > 3) = a - b > 3$$

Weakest Precondition

$$wlp(C1; C2, Q) = wlp(C1, wlp(C2, Q))$$

$$wlp(a := a + 1; b := a, a = 3 \wedge b > 0)$$

Weakest Precondition

$$wlp(C1; C2, Q) = wlp(C1, wlp(C2, Q))$$

$$wlp(a := a + 1; b := a, a = 3 \wedge b > 0)$$

$$= wlp(a := a + 1, wlp(b := a, a = 3 \wedge b > 0))$$

$$= wlp(a := a + 1, a = 3 \wedge a > 0)$$

$$= a + 1 = 3 \wedge a + 1 > 0$$

Weakest Precondition

$$\begin{aligned} & wlp(if(b1) \text{ then } \{C1\} \text{ else } \{C2\}, Q) \\ & = (istrue(b1) \rightarrow wlp(C1, Q)) \wedge (isfalse(b1) \rightarrow wlp(C2, Q)) \end{aligned}$$

$$wlp(if(a == 0) \text{ then } \{b := 1\} \text{ else } \{b := 0\}, b = 1 \vee b = 0)$$

Weakest Precondition

$$\begin{aligned} & wlp(if(b1) \text{ then } \{C1\} \text{ else } \{C2\}, Q) \\ & = (istrue(b1) \rightarrow wlp(C1, Q)) \wedge (isfalse(b1) \rightarrow wlp(C2, Q)) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & wlp(if(a == 0) \text{ then } \{b := 1\} \text{ else } \{b := 0\}, b = 1 \vee b = 0) \\ & = (a = 0 \rightarrow wlp(b := 1, b = 1 \vee b = 0)) \wedge (a \neq 0 \rightarrow wlp(b := 0, b = 1 \vee b = 0)) \\ & = (a = 0 \rightarrow 1 = 1 \vee 1 = 0) \wedge (a \neq 0 \rightarrow 0 = 1 \vee 0 = 0) \end{aligned}$$

Weakest Precondition

$$wlp(while(b1)\{C\}, Q) = ?$$

:-) 呵呵

Question: How does an automated verifier implement these?

Basic Design of An Automated Verifier

Input

- Invariants (e.g., Pre-condition) provided by user
- A program to be proved

Workflow

- Convert the program into Control Flow Graph (CFG).
- Insert the invariants into the CFG.
- Translate CFG into Hoare Triples
 - Find the weakest precondition
 - Prove the precondition imply the weakest precondition (Predicate Logic)

Basic Design of An Automated Verifier

Input

- Invariants (e.g., Pre-condition) provided by user
- A program to be proved

Workflow

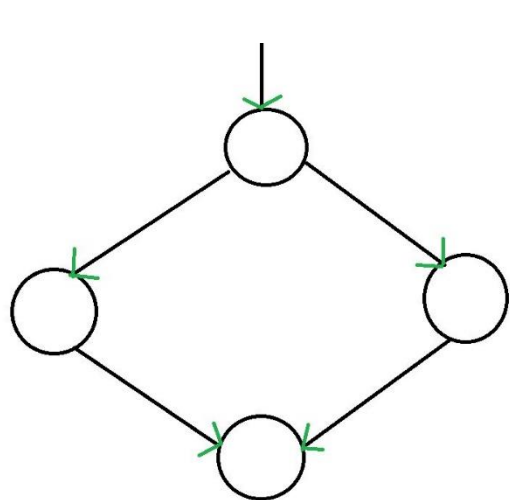
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Automated Verifier

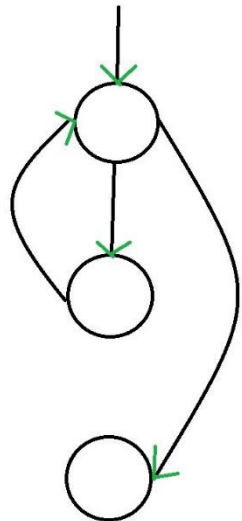
In automated verifiers, programs are represented by the control-flow graph.

DEFINITION

A control-flow graph (CFG) is a representation, using graph notation, of all paths that might be traversed through a program during its execution.

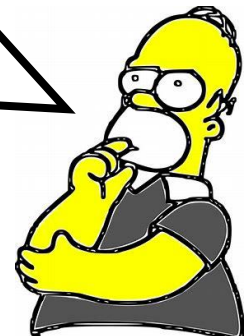


If-then-else



while

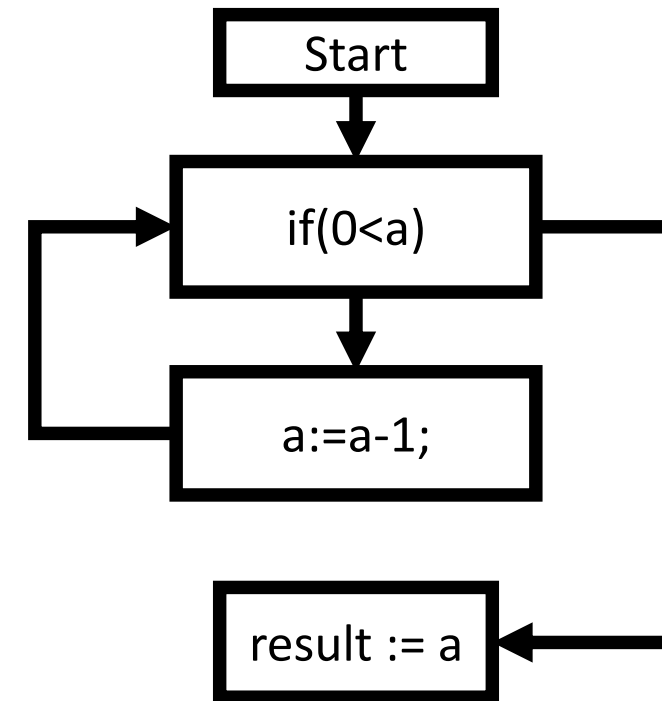
We introduce CFG for high level language.



CFG

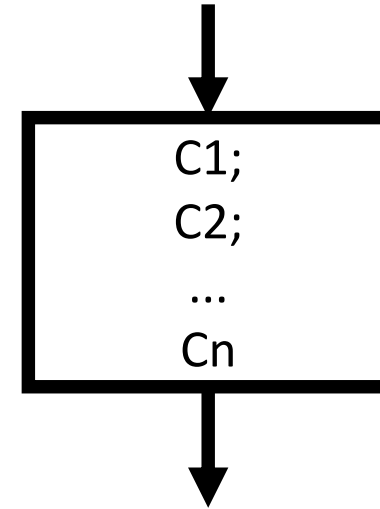
- Each node in the graph represents a basic block, i.e. a straight-line piece of code without any jumps or jump targets
- Jump targets start a block, and jumps end a block
- Directed edges are used to represent jumps in the control flow

```
int example(int a)
{
    while(0 < a)
    {
        a := a - 1;
    }
    return a;
}
```

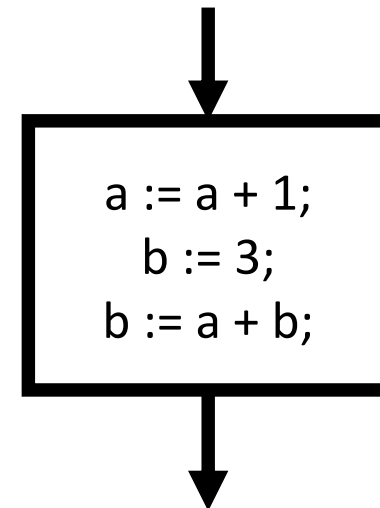


CFG for sequential programs

CFG(C1; C2; ...; Cn)



```
.....  
a := a + 1;  
b := 3;  
b := a + b;  
.....
```

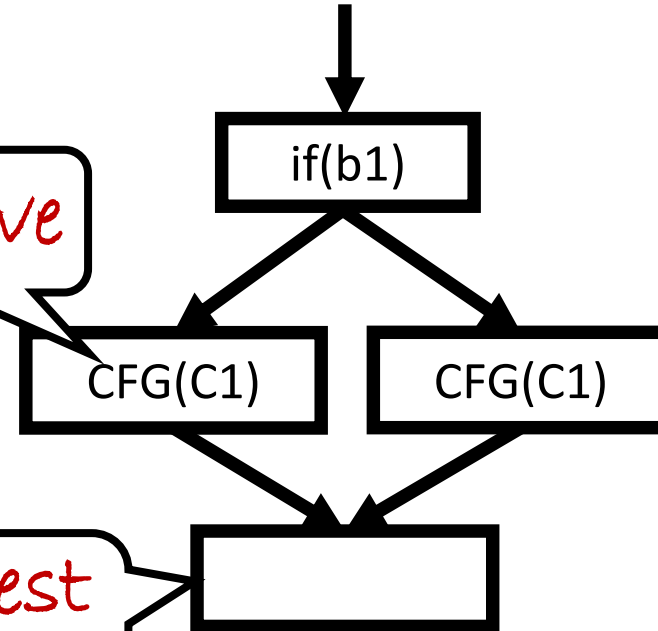


CFG for if-then-else

CFG(if(b1) C1; else C2)

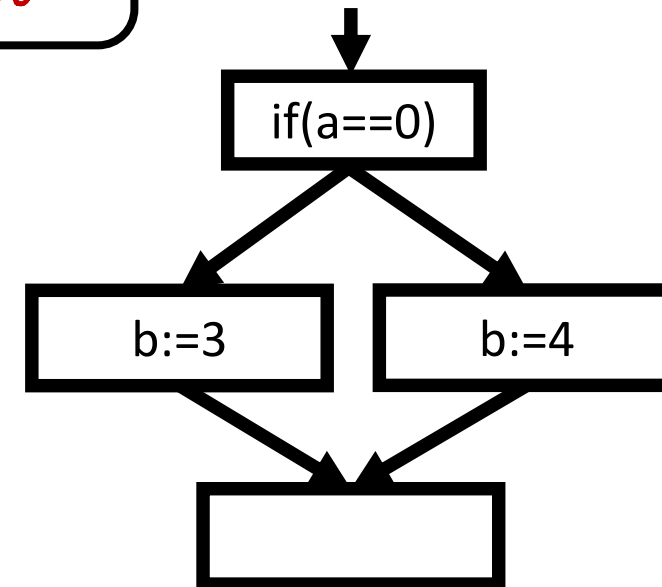


recursive



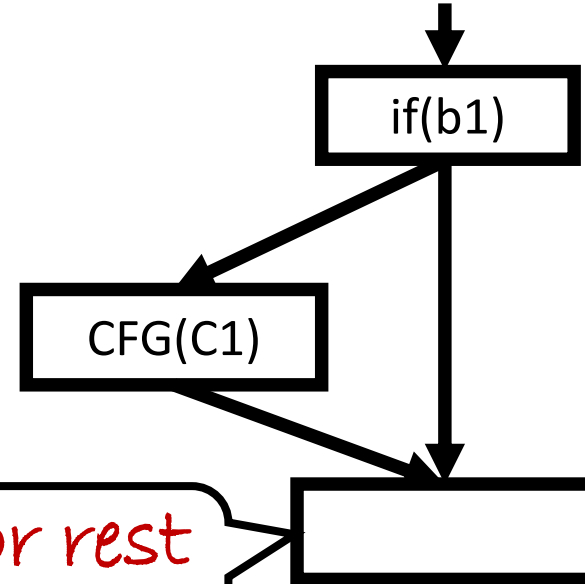
CFG for rest program

```
.....  
if(a == 0)  
    b := 3;  
else  
    b := 4;  
.....
```

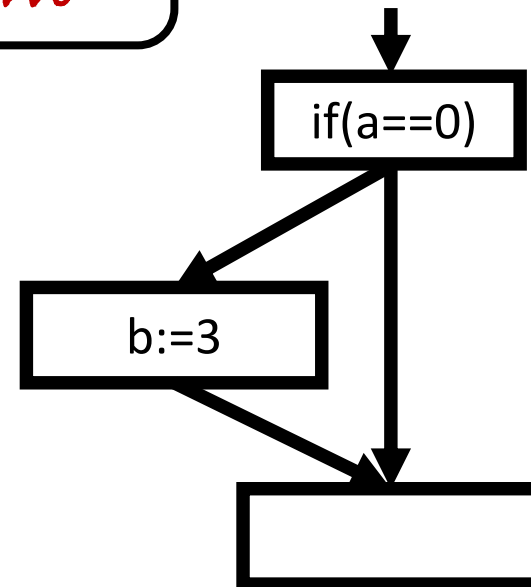


CFG for if-then

CFG(if(b1) C1)

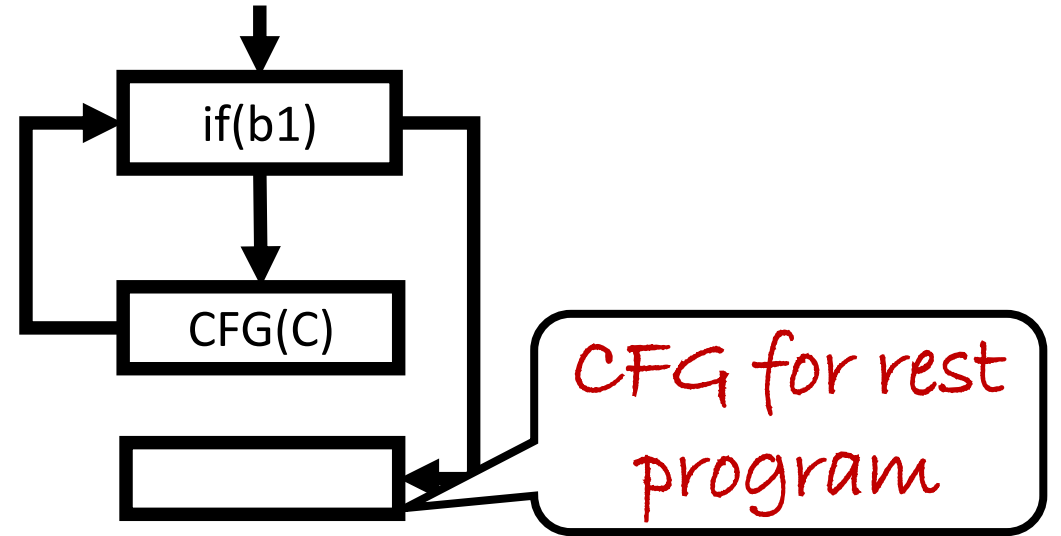


```
.....  
if(a == 0)  
    b := 3;  
.....
```

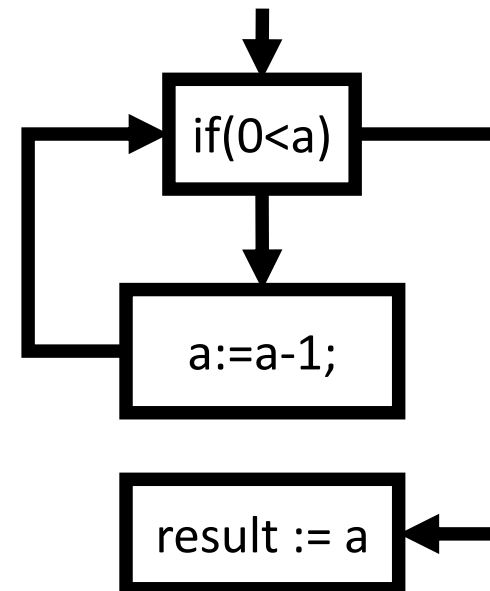


CFG for while

CFG(while(b1) C)

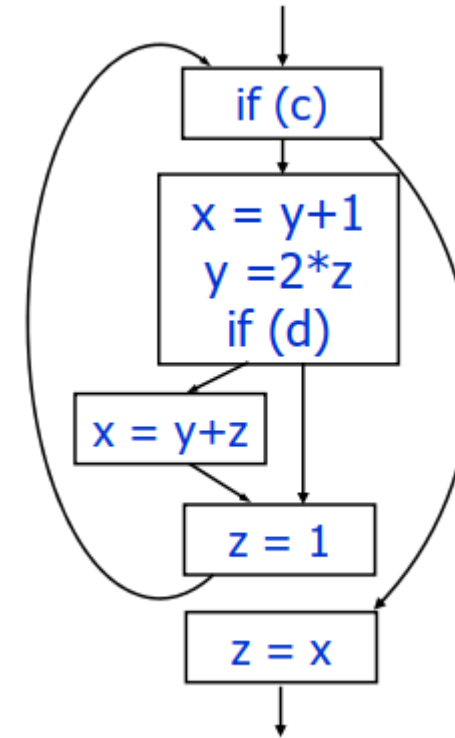


```
.....  
while(0 < a)  
{  
    a := a - 1;  
}  
return a;
```



Exercise

```
while (c) {  
    x := y + 1;  
    y := 2 * z;  
    if (d) x := y+z;  
    z := 1;  
}  
z := x;
```



Construct the CFG
recursively.



Basic Design of An Automated Verifier

Input

- Invariants (e.g., Pre-condition) provided by user
- A program to be proved

Workflow

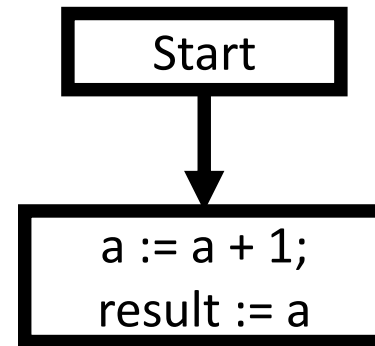
- Convert the program into Control Flow Graph (CFG).
- **Insert the invariants into the CFG.**
- Translate CFG into Hoare Triples
 - Find the weakest precondition
 - Prove the precondition imply the weakest precondition

Automated Verifier

BASIC IDEA

Automated Verifier transforms control flow graph to logical formulas and uses SMT solvers to solve it.

```
{a=1}  
int f(int a)  
{  
    a := a + 1;  
    return a;  
}  
{result=2}
```



How to denote pre-/post-condition in CFG?



Automated Verifier

To denote pre-/post-conditions, we need add new statements.

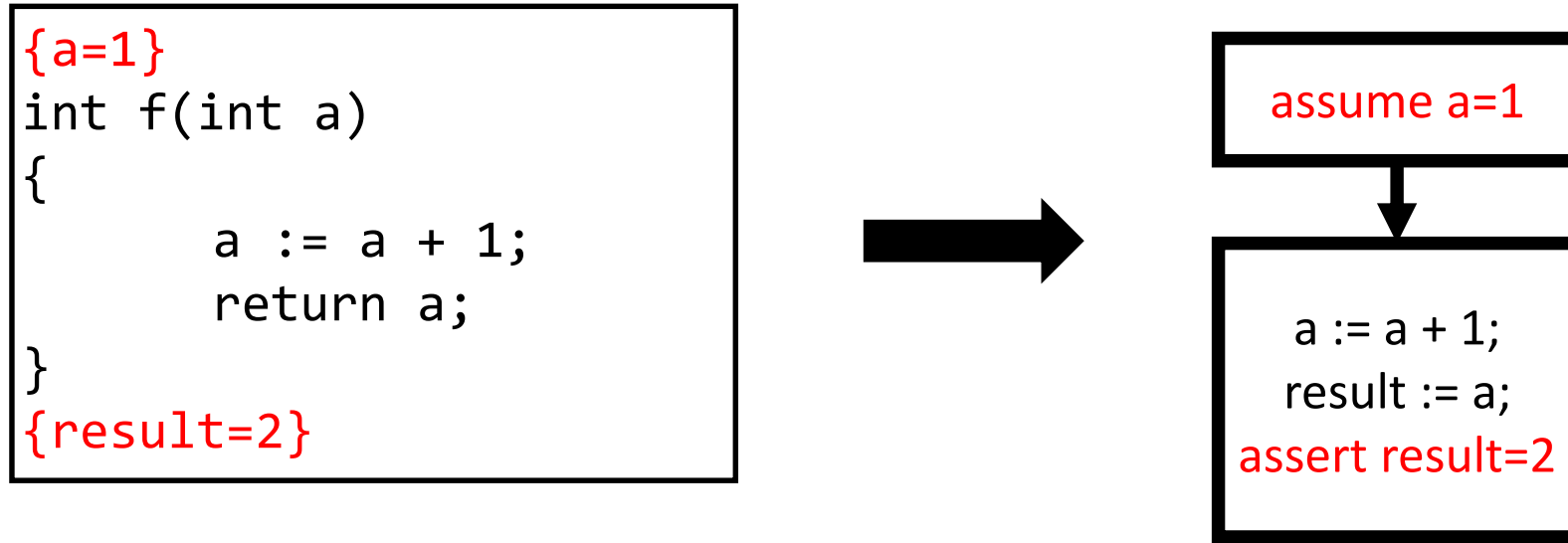
- assume A: assume A is true
- assert A: if A is true, then execute the rest program, else go to error state

```
{a=1}  
int f(int a)  
{  
    a := a + 1;  
    return a;  
}  
{result=2}
```



```
assume a=1  
  
a := a + 1;  
result := a;  
assert result=2
```

Automated Verifier



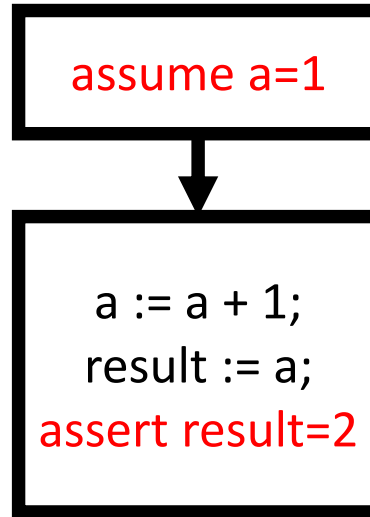
Because there are no loops, we can still use weakest preconditions to reduce the CFG to formulas.

$$wlp(\text{assert } P, Q) = P \wedge Q$$

$$wlp(\text{assume } P, Q) = P \rightarrow Q$$

Automated Verifier

```
{a=1}  
int f(int a)  
{  
    a := a + 1;  
    return a;  
}  
{result=2}
```



$a = 1 \rightarrow$

$wlp(a := a + 1; result := a, result = 2)$



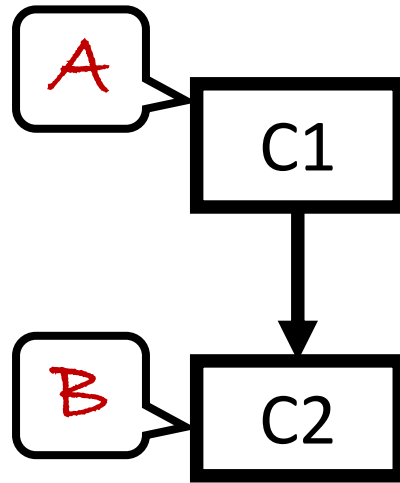
$a = 1 \rightarrow$

$a + 1 = 2$

How to compute weakest precondition from CFG?



Automated Verifier



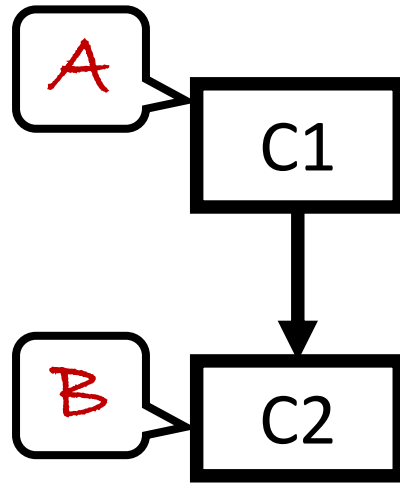
We define the correctness
of CFG:

$$A_{ok} \equiv wlp(C1, B_{ok})$$

A_{ok} is true if the program is in a state
from which all executions beginning
from block A are correct.

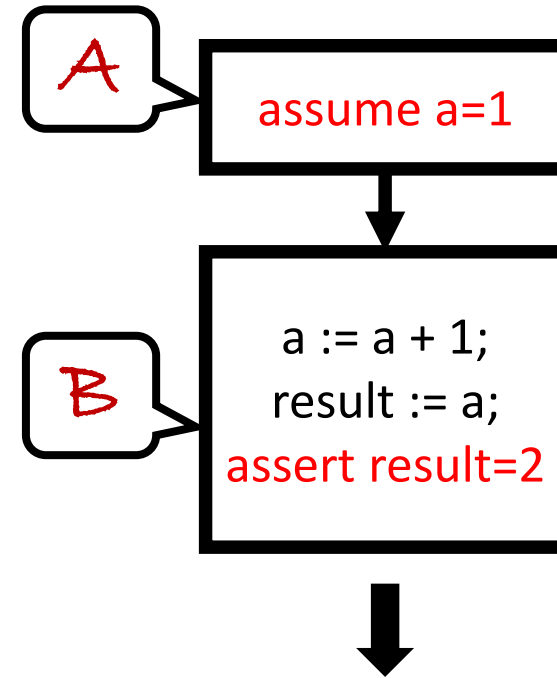
Prove a program is correct
becomes prove A_{ok} is True.

Automated Verifier



We define the correctness of CFG like this:

$$A_{ok} \equiv wlp(C1, B_{ok})$$



$$\begin{aligned} B_{ok} &\equiv wlp(a := a + 1; result := a; assert result = 2, T) \\ &\equiv wlp(a := a + 1; result := a, result = 2) \\ &\equiv wlp(a := a + 1, a = 2) \\ &\equiv a + 1 = 2 \\ A_{ok} &\equiv wlp(assume a = 1, B_{ok}) \\ &\equiv a = 1 \rightarrow a + 1 = 2 \end{aligned}$$

Automated Verifier

```
{a=1}  
int f(int a)  
{  
    a := a + 1;  
    return a;  
}  
{result=2}
```



$a = 1 \rightarrow$

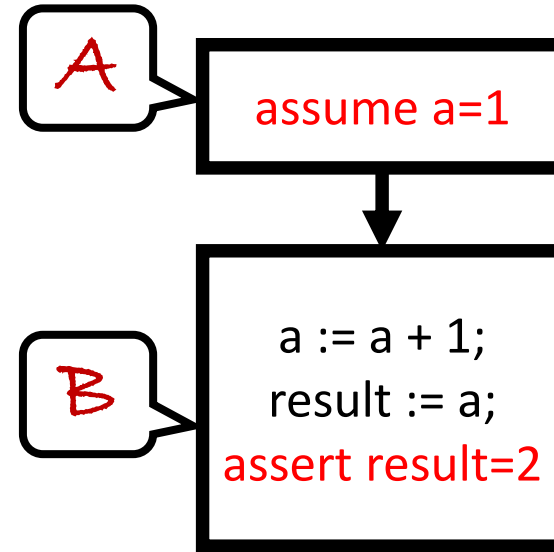
$wlp(a := a + 1; result := a, result = 2)$



$a = 1 \rightarrow$

$a + 1 = 2$

=



$B_{ok} \equiv wlp(a := a + 1; result := a; assert result = 2, T)$

$\equiv wlp(a := a + 1; result := a, result = 2)$

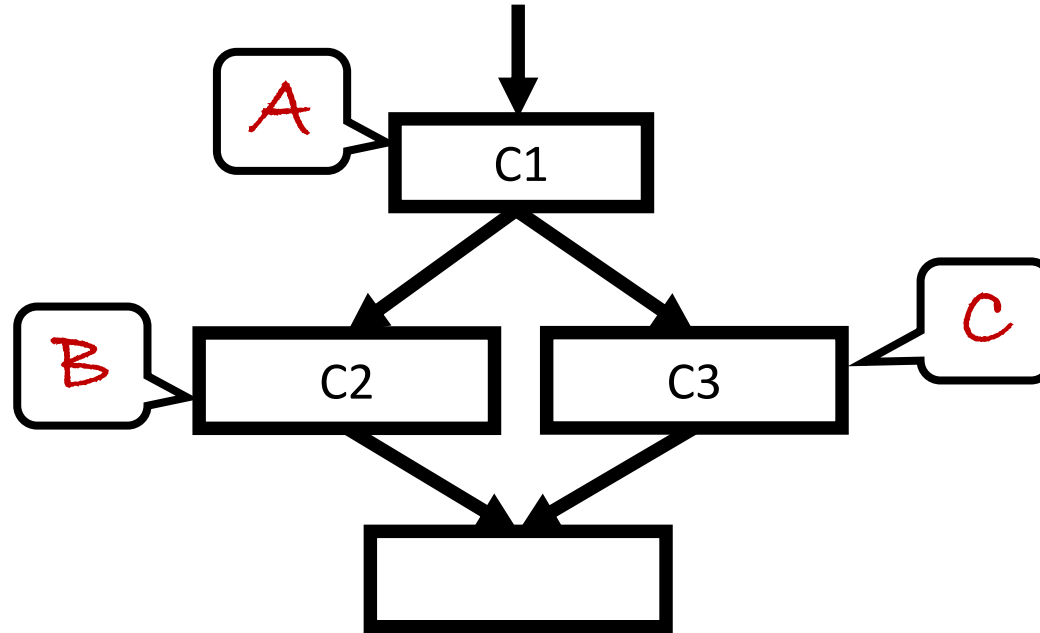
$\equiv wlp(a := a + 1, a = 2)$

$\equiv a + 1 = 2$

$A_{ok} \equiv wlp(assume a = 1, B_{ok})$

$\equiv a = 1 \rightarrow a + 1 = 2$

Automated Verifier

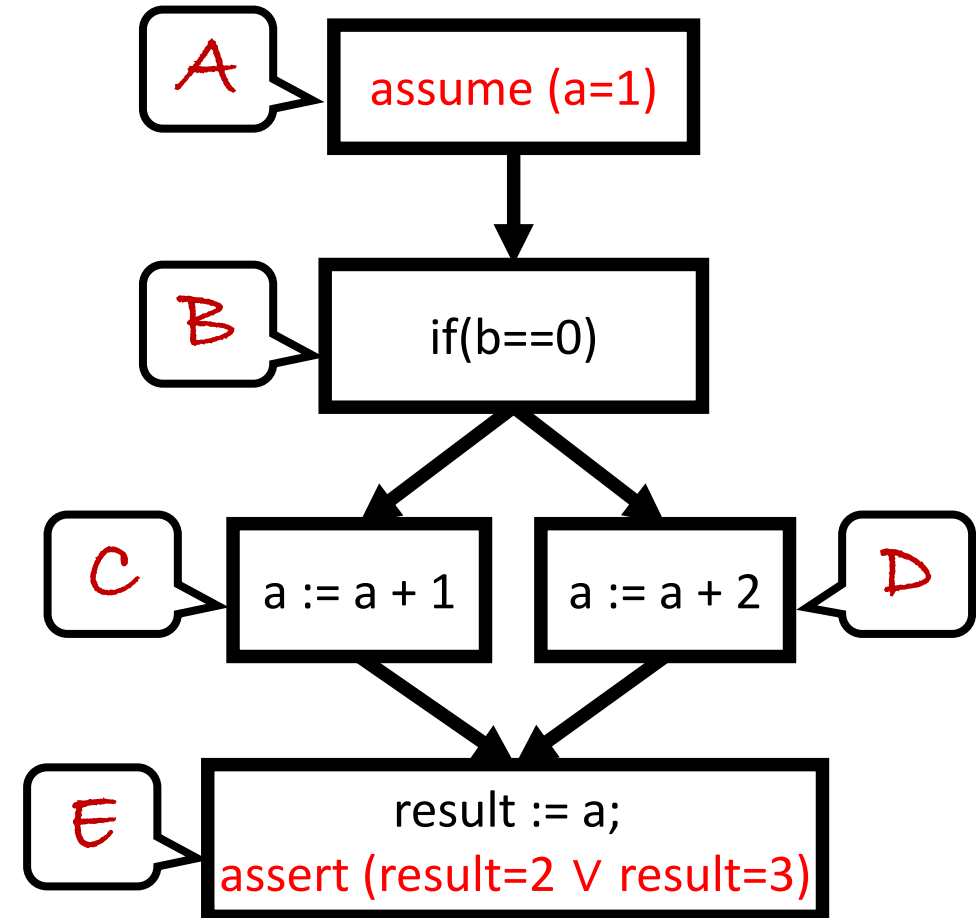


$$A_{ok} \equiv wlp(C1, \bigwedge_{S \text{ is } Succ(A)} S_{ok})$$

Succ(A) denotes the set of successors of A in CFG

Automated Verifier

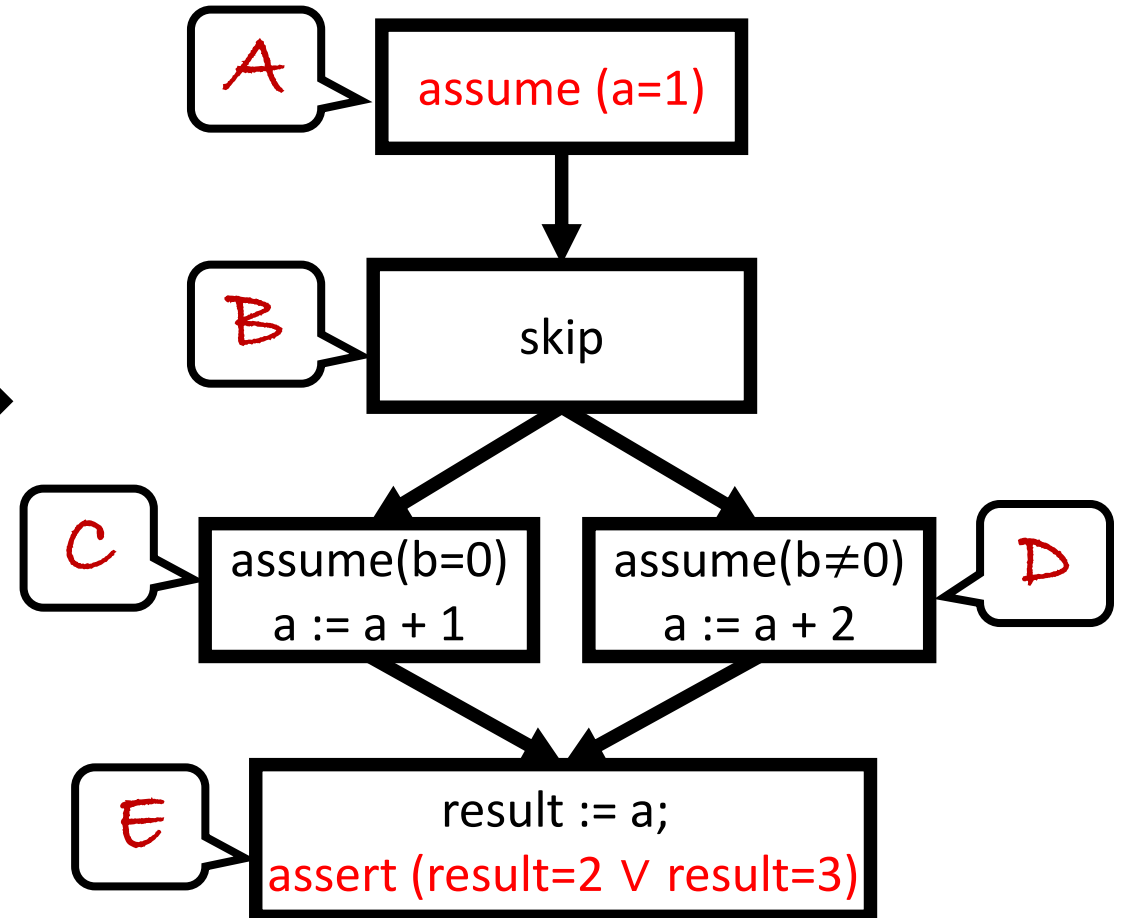
```
{a=1}
int f(int a, int b)
{
    if(b == 0)
        a := a + 1;
    else
        a := a + 2;
    return a;
}
{result=2 ∨ result=3}
```



When addressing branches, we need to add branch condition information to CFG.

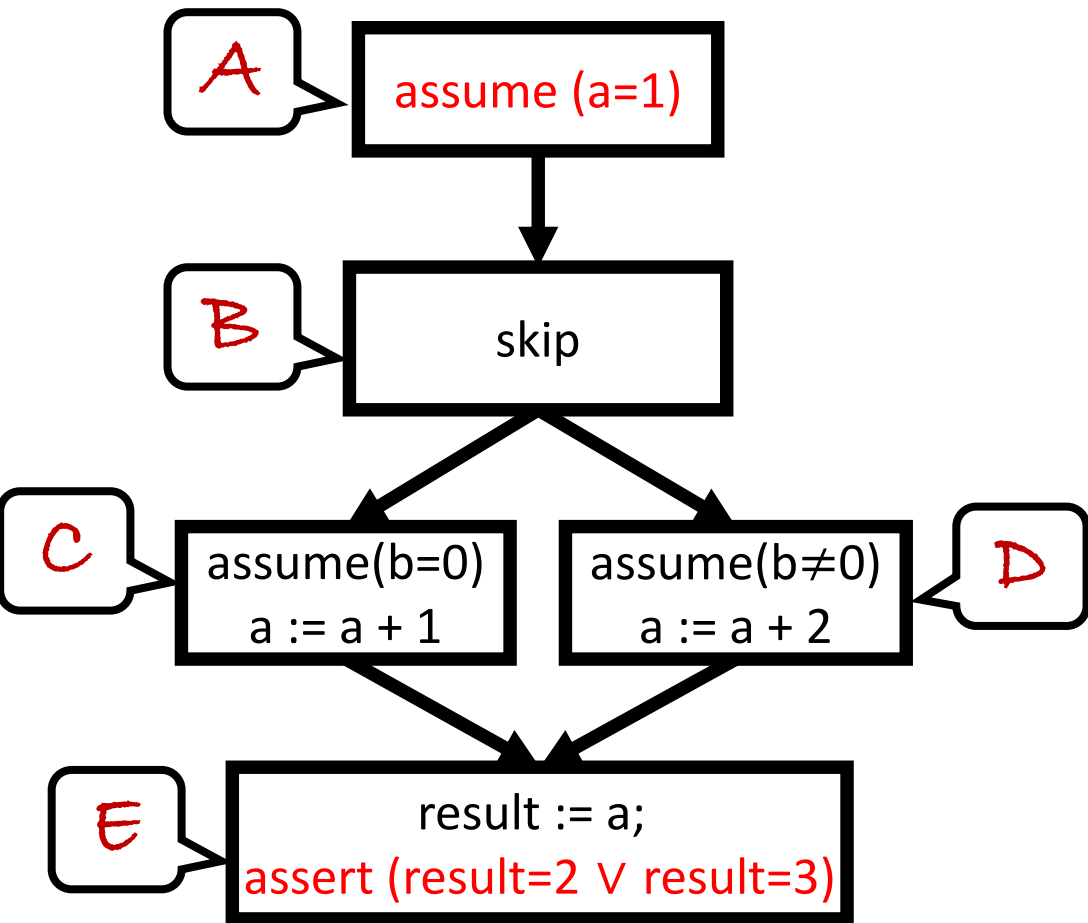
Automated Verifier

```
{a=1}
int f(int a, int b)
{
    if(b == 0)
        a := a + 1;
    else
        a := a + 2;
    return a;
}
{result=2 ∨ result=3}
```



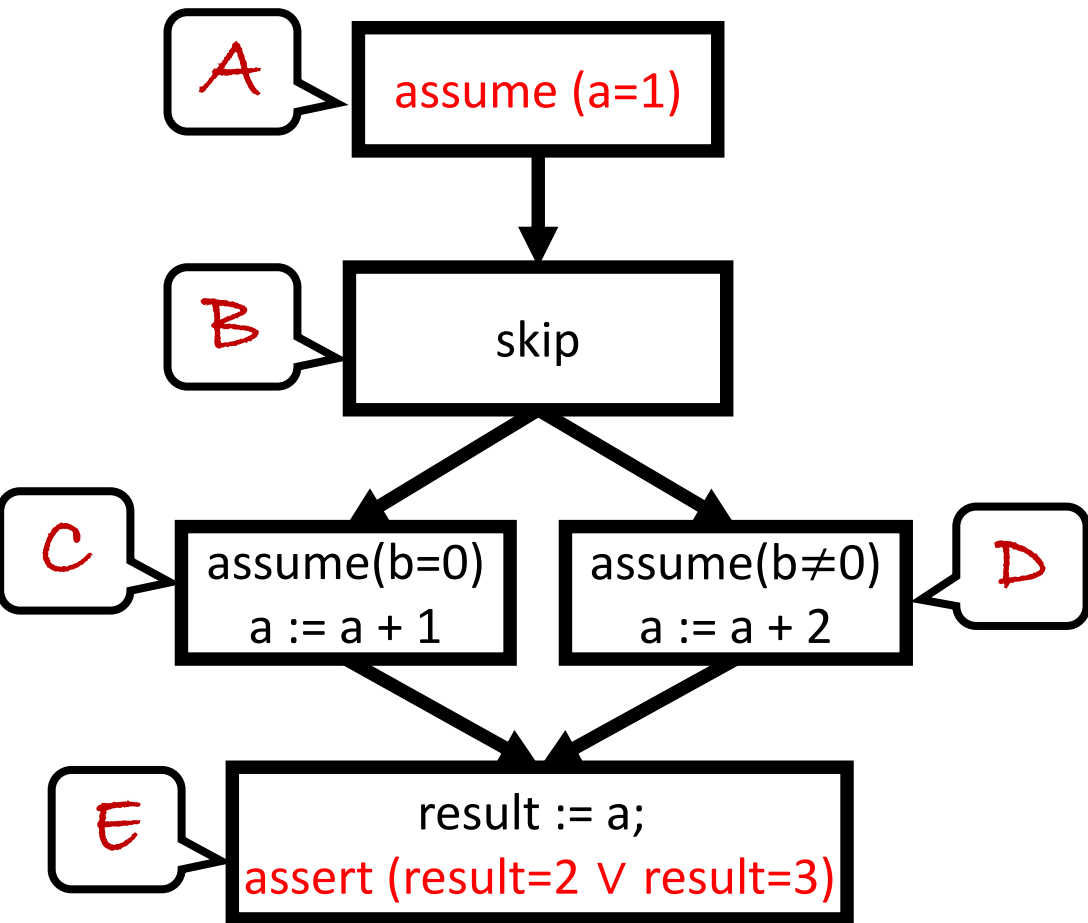
When addressing branches, we need to add branch condition information to CFG.

Automated Verifier



$$\begin{aligned} E_{ok} &\equiv wlp(result := a; assert(result = 2 \vee result = 3), T) \\ &\equiv wlp(result := a, result = 2 \vee result = 3) \\ &\equiv (a = 2 \vee a = 3) \end{aligned}$$

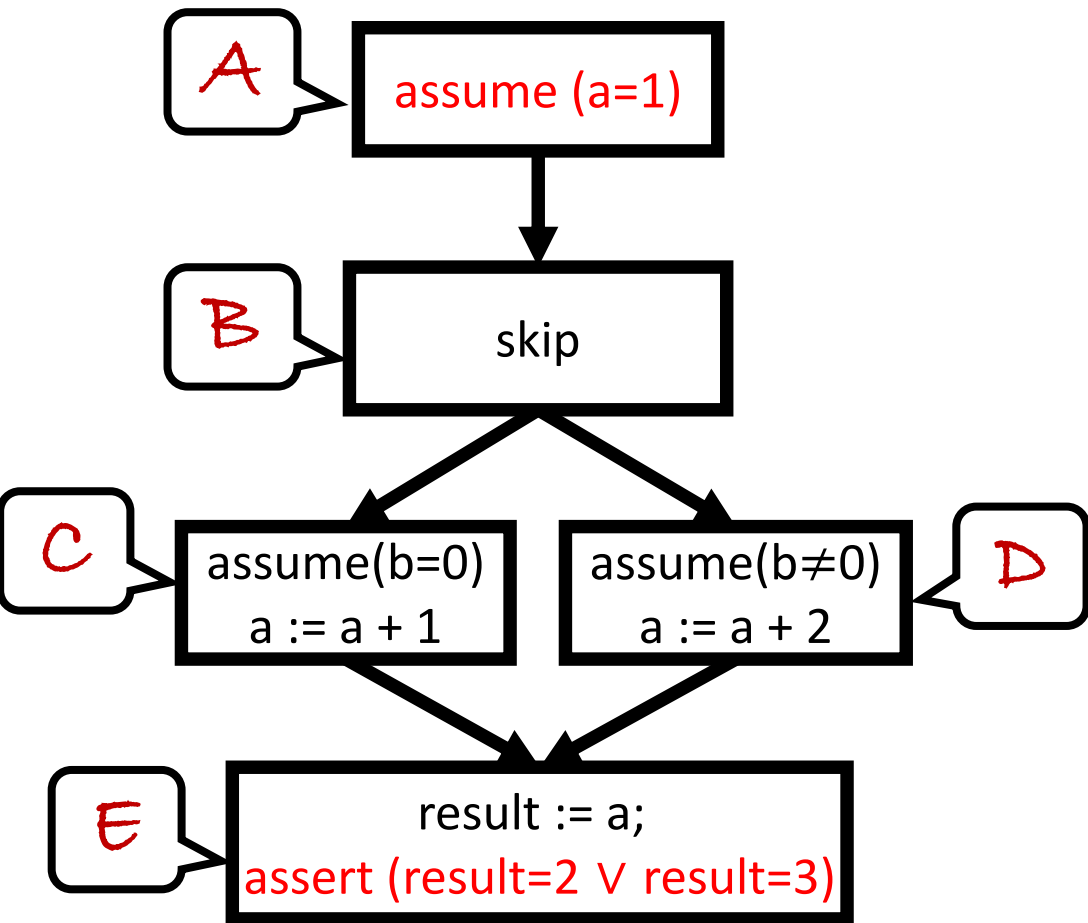
Automated Verifier



$$E_{ok} \equiv (a = 2 \vee a = 3)$$

$$\begin{aligned} D_{ok} &\equiv wlp(\text{assume}(b \neq 0); a := a + 2, E_{ok}) \\ &\equiv wlp(\text{assume}(b \neq 0), (a + 2 = 2 \vee a + 2 = 3)) \\ &\equiv (b \neq 0 \rightarrow (a + 2 = 2 \vee a + 2 = 3)) \end{aligned}$$

Automated Verifier

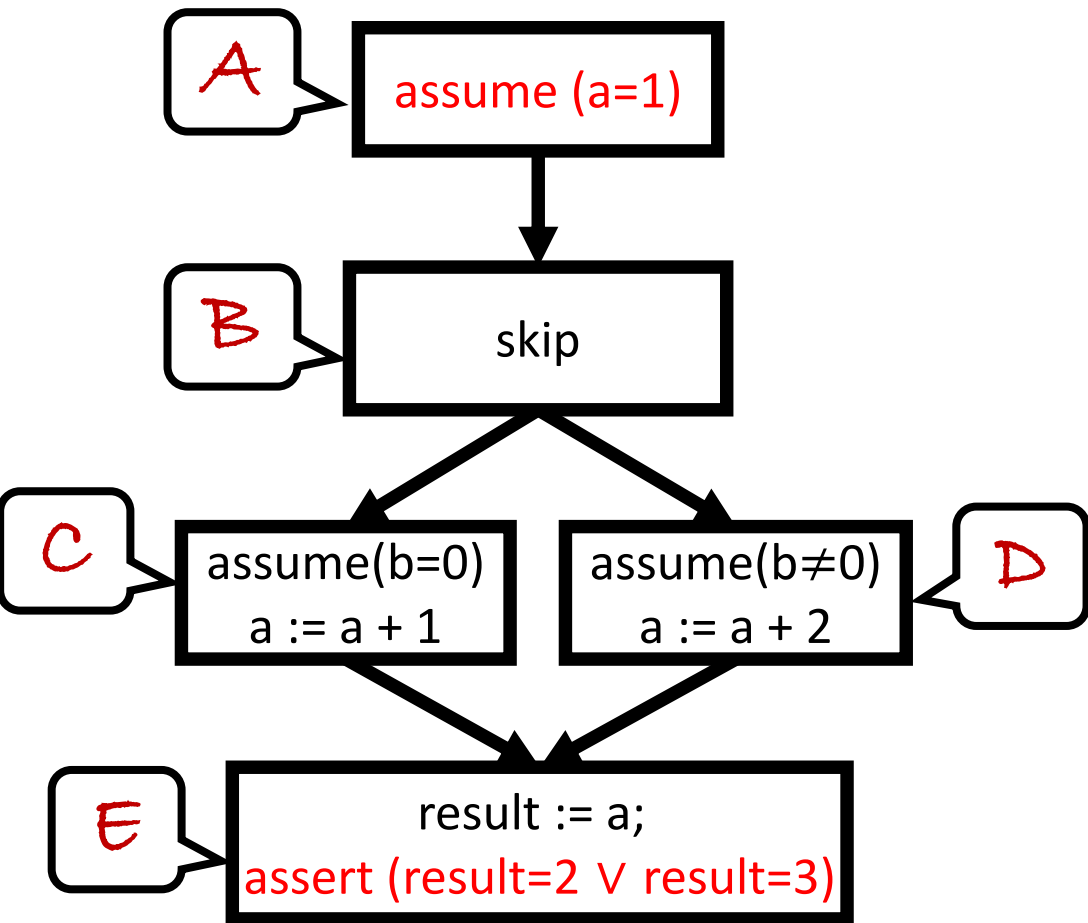


$$E_{ok} \equiv (a = 2 \vee a = 3)$$

$$D_{ok} \equiv (b \neq 0 \rightarrow (a + 2 = 2 \vee a + 2 = 3))$$

$$\begin{aligned} C_{ok} &\equiv wlp(\text{assume}(b = 0); a := a + 1, E_{ok}) \\ &\equiv wlp(\text{assume}(b = 0), (a + 1 = 2 \vee a + 1 = 3)) \\ &\equiv (b = 0 \rightarrow (a + 1 = 2 \vee a + 1 = 3)) \end{aligned}$$

Automated Verifier



$$E_{ok} \equiv (a = 2 \vee a = 3)$$

$$D_{ok} \equiv (b \neq 0 \rightarrow (a + 2 = 2 \vee a + 2 = 3))$$

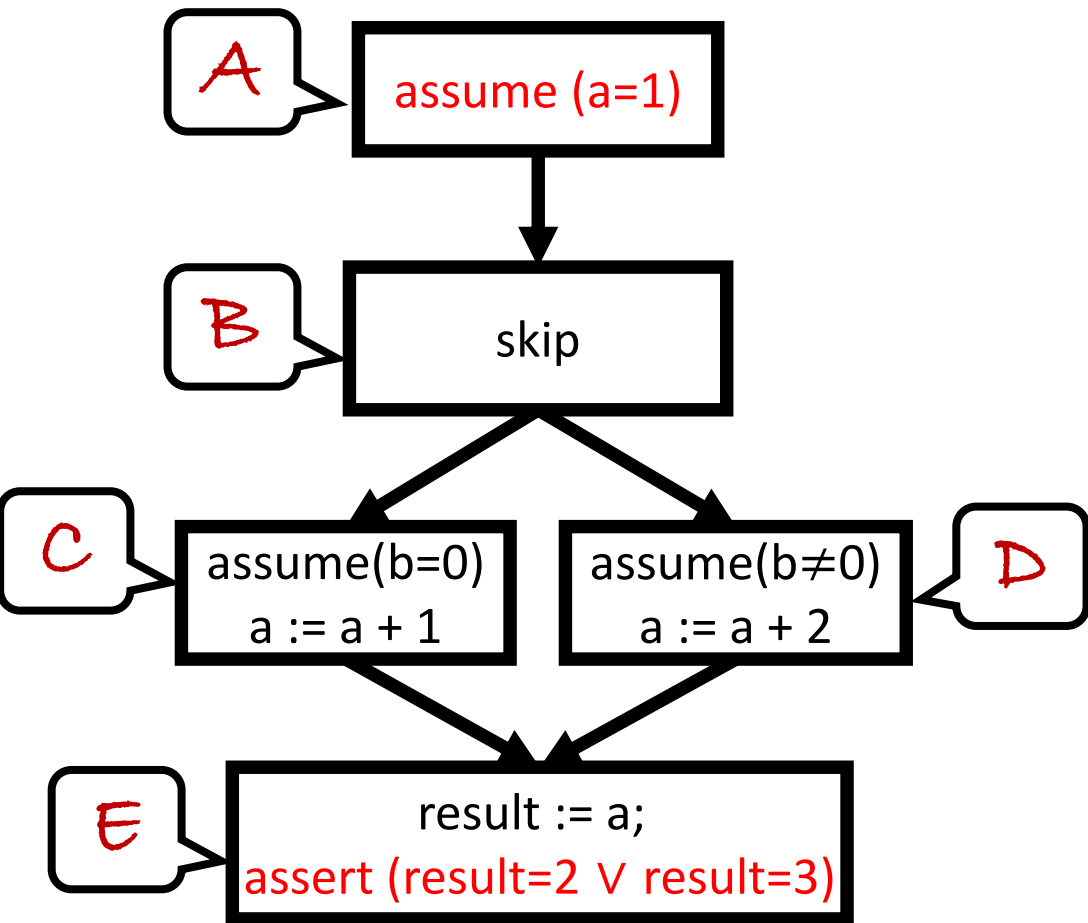
$$C_{ok} \equiv (b = 0 \rightarrow (a + 1 = 2 \vee a + 1 = 3))$$

$$B_{ok} \equiv wlp(skip, C_{ok} \wedge D_{ok})$$

$$\equiv C_{ok} \wedge D_{ok}$$

$$\equiv (b = 0 \rightarrow (a + 1 = 2 \vee a + 1 = 3)) \wedge \\ (b \neq 0 \rightarrow (a + 2 = 2 \vee a + 2 = 3))$$

Automated Verifier



$$E_{ok} \equiv (a = 2 \vee a = 3)$$

$$D_{ok} \equiv (b \neq 0 \rightarrow (a + 2 = 2 \vee a + 2 = 3))$$

$$C_{ok} \equiv (b = 0 \rightarrow (a + 1 = 2 \vee a + 1 = 3))$$

$$B_{ok} \equiv (b = 0 \rightarrow (a + 1 = 2 \vee a + 1 = 3)) \wedge \\ (b \neq 0 \rightarrow (a + 2 = 2 \vee a + 2 = 3))$$

$$A_{ok} \equiv wlp(\text{assume}(a = 1), B_{ok})$$

$$\equiv (a = 1) \rightarrow$$

$$(b = 0 \rightarrow (a + 1 = 2 \vee a + 1 = 3)) \wedge$$

$$(b \neq 0 \rightarrow (a + 2 = 2 \vee a + 2 = 3))$$

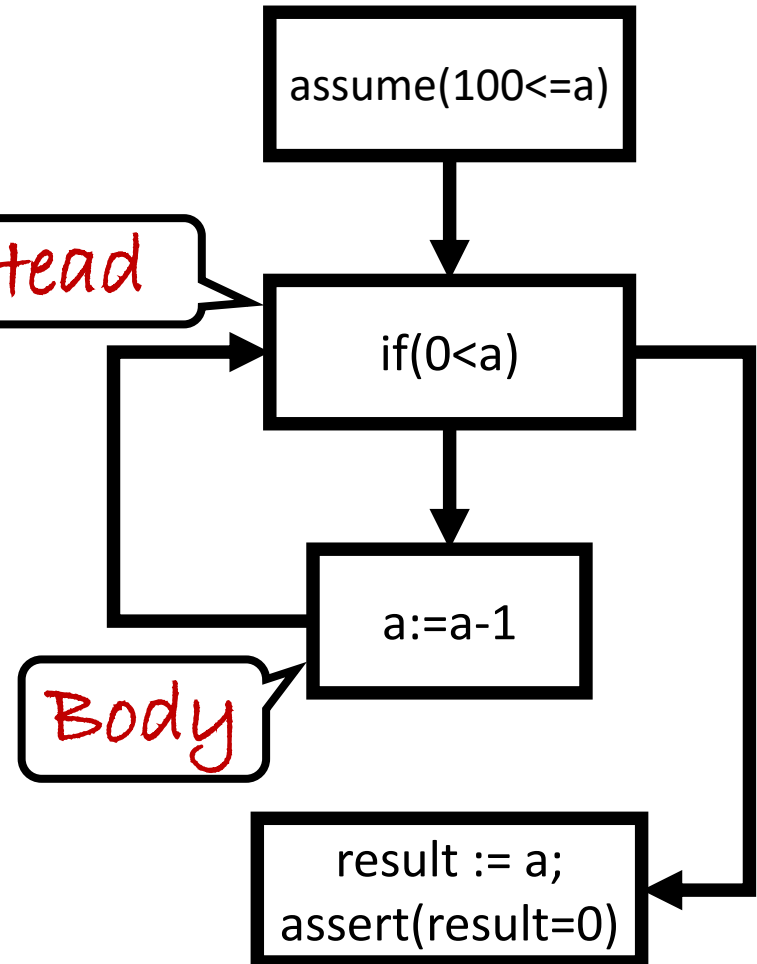
backward

Automated Verifier

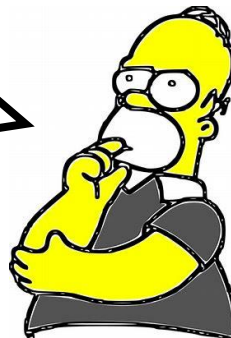
```
{100<=a}
int example(int a)
{
    while(0 < a)
    {
        a := a - 1;
    }
    return a;
}
{result=0}
```



LoopHead

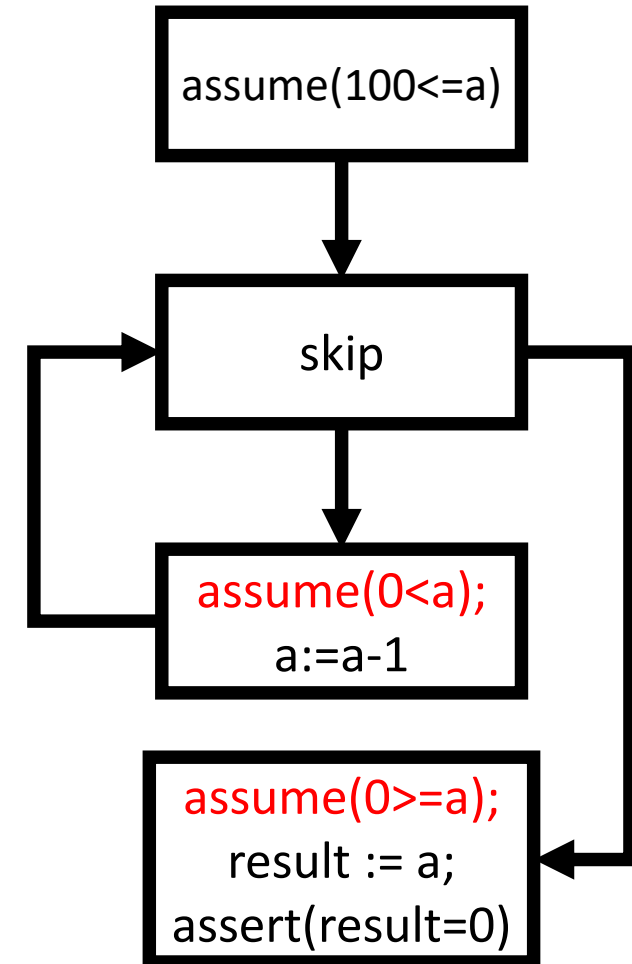


How to
address loops?

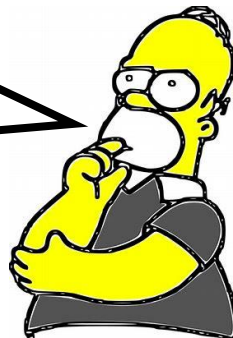


Automated Verifier

```
{100<=a}  
int example(int a)  
{  
    while(0 < a)  
    {  
        a := a - 1;  
    }  
    return a;  
}  
{result=0}
```

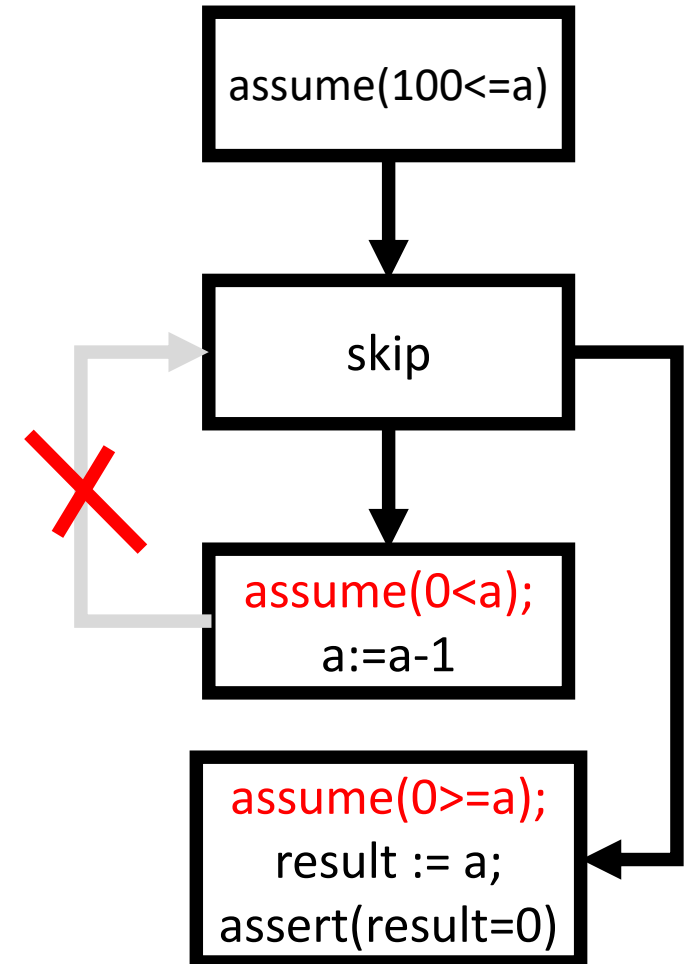


Like that in branch, we
need to add loop guard.



Automated Verifier

```
{100<=a}
int example(int a)
{
    while(0 < a)
    {
        a := a - 1;
    }
    return a;
}
{result=0}
```

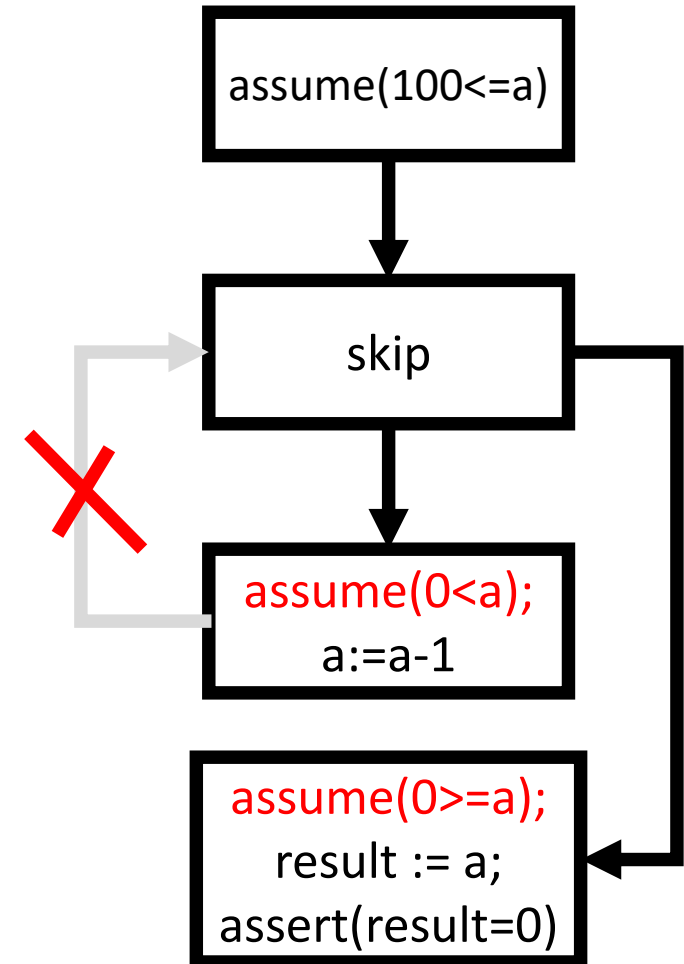


We must eliminate loops.
Otherwise, we cannot use
backward methods like before.

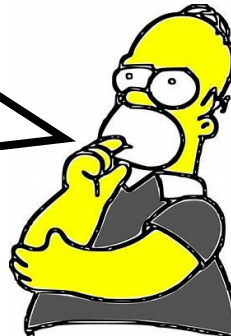


Automated Verifier

```
{100<=a}
int example(int a)
{
    while(0 < a)
    {
        a := a - 1;
    }
    return a;
}
{result=0}
```



But it's clearly not correct. We change the meaning of programs.



A Quick Recap

Loop invariant

$$\frac{\{I \wedge istrue(b1)\} C \{I\}}{\{I\} while(b1) C \{I \wedge isfalse(b1)\}}$$

The while
rule (WHP)

It says that

- if executing C once preserves the truth of I, then executing C any number of times also preserves the truth of I
- after a while loop has terminated, the test must be false

Automated Verifier

```
{100<=a}
int example(int a)
{
    while(0 < a)
        invariant a>=0
    {
        a := a - 1;
    }
    return a;
}
{result=0}
```

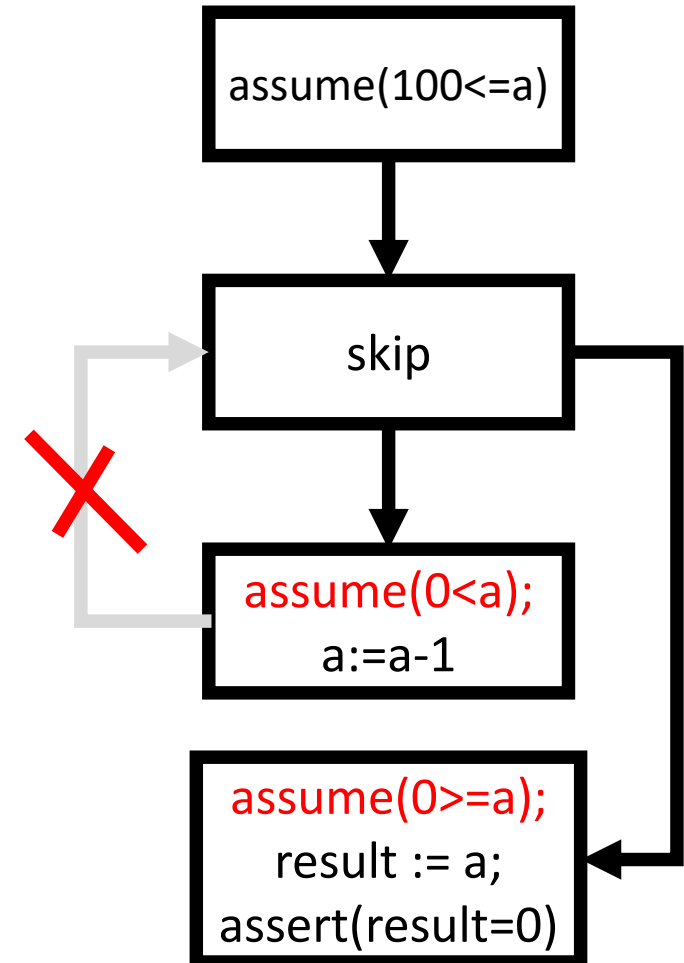
$$\frac{\{I \wedge istrue(b1)\} C \{I\}}{\{I\} while(b1) C \{I \wedge isfalse(b1)\}}$$

- 1) Prove invariant
- 2) Use invariant to generate wlp



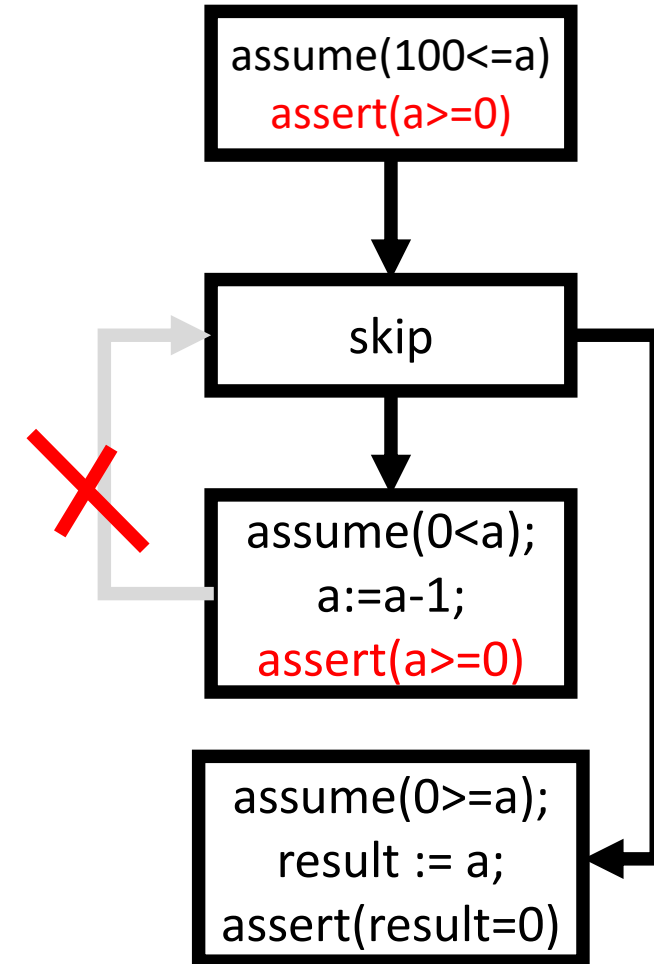
Automated Verifier

```
{100<=a}
int example(int a)
{
    while(0 < a)
        invariant a>=0
        {
            a := a - 1;
        }
    return a;
}
{result=0}
```

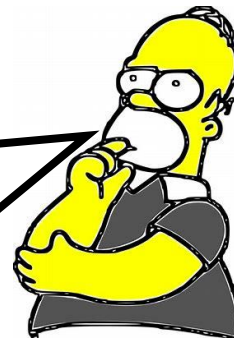


Automated Verifier

```
{100<=a}
int example(int a)
{
    while(0 < a)
        invariant a>=0
    {
        a := a - 1;
    }
    return a;
}
{result=0}
```



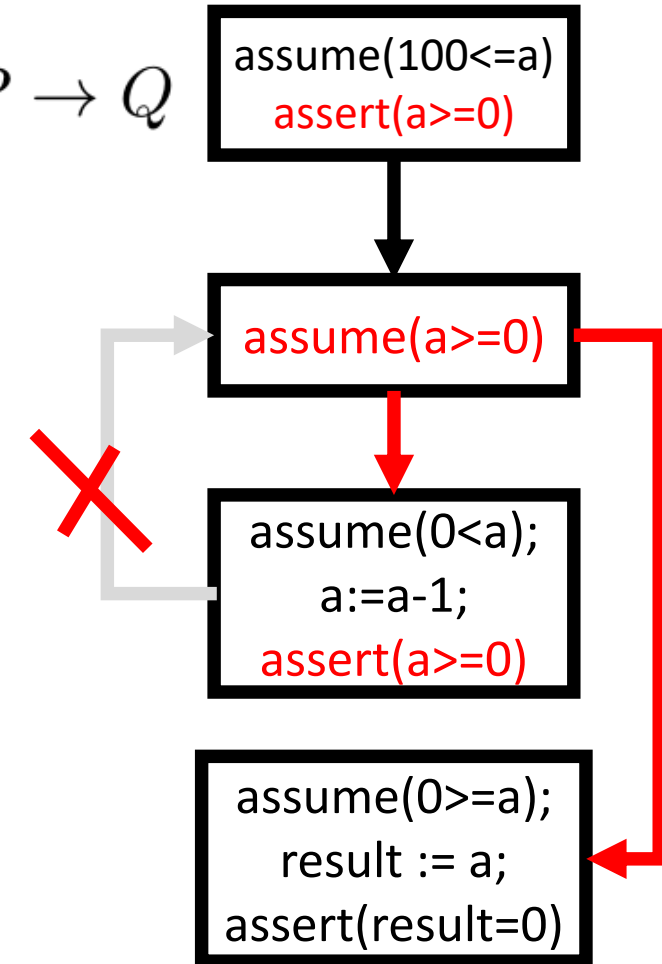
We can use assert to
check invariant before
and after the loop body.



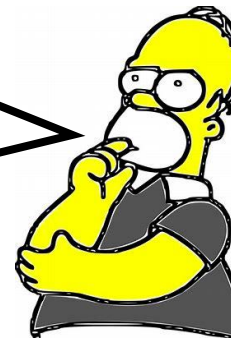
Automated Verifier

```
{100<=a}
int example(int a)
{
    while(0 < a)
        invariant a>=0
    {
        a := a - 1;
    }
    return a;
}
{result=0}
```

$$wlp(\text{assume } P, Q) = P \rightarrow Q$$



We can use `assume` to
add invariant as premise.



Automated Verifier

To address loops, we need another new statement.

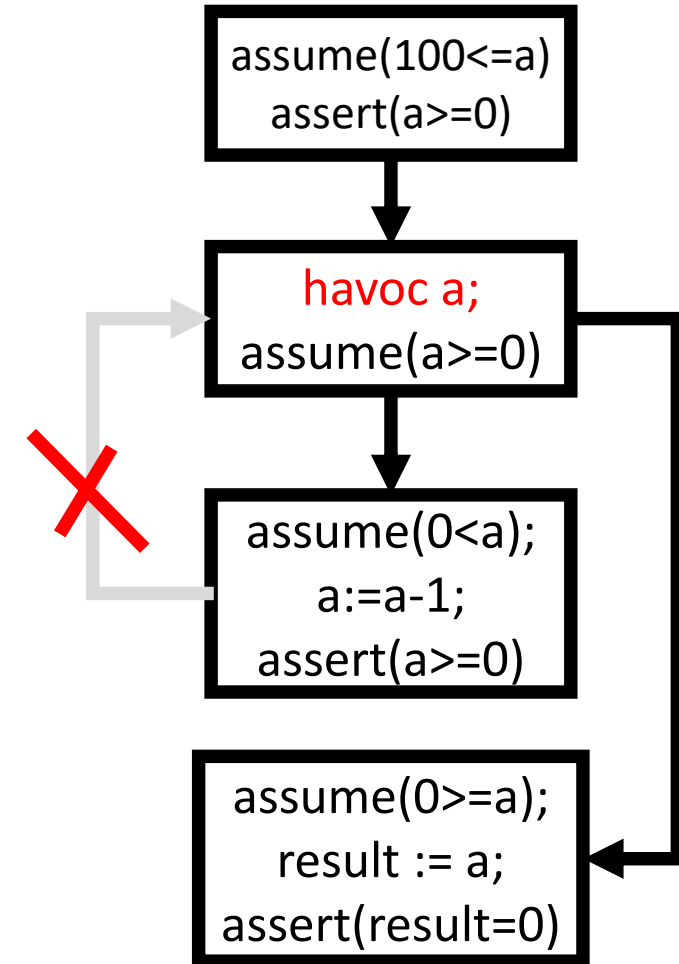
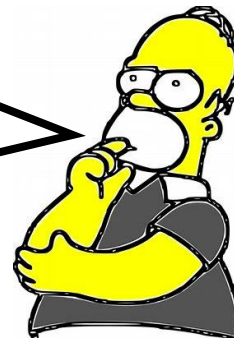
- `havoc a`: set `a` to an arbitrary value
- Variables updated in loop body are called loop targets
- We need to `havoc` loop targets before loop. Otherwise, it is not a strict proof of invariant

$$wlp(\textit{havoc } a, Q) = (\forall v)Q[v/a]$$

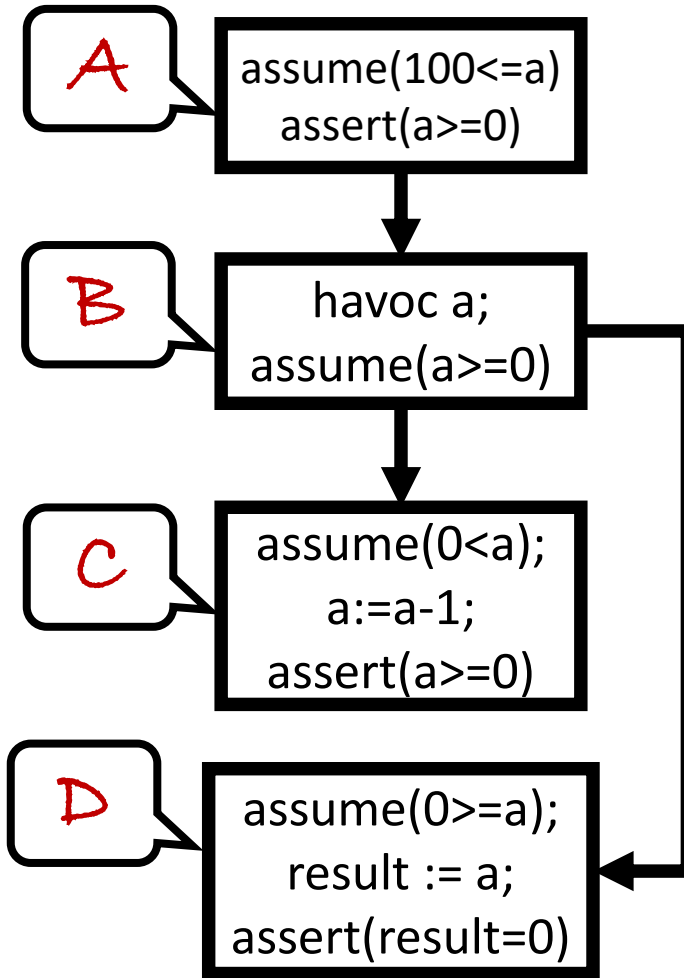
Automated Verifier

```
{100<=a}
int example(int a)
{
    while(0 < a)
        invariant a>=0
    {
        a := a - 1;
    }
    return a;
}
{result=0}
```

The loop target is a.
Now everything is ready.

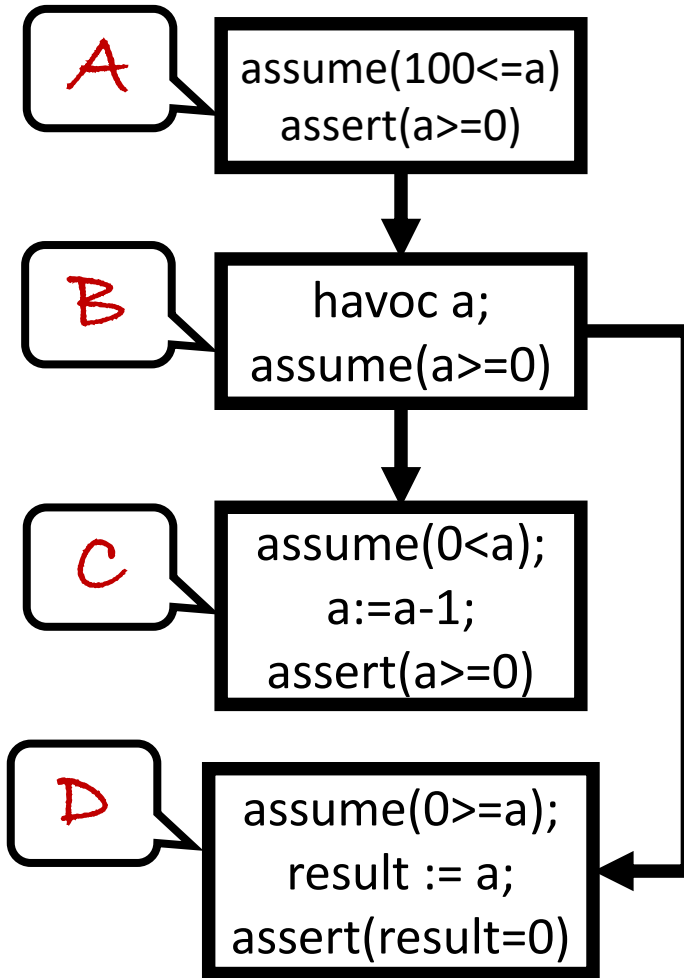


Automated Verifier



$$\begin{aligned} D_{ok} &\equiv wlp(\text{assume}(0 \geq a); \text{result} := a; \text{assert}(\text{result} = 0), T) \\ &\equiv wlp(\text{assume}(0 \geq a); \text{result} := a, \text{result} = 0) \\ &\equiv wlp(\text{assume}(0 \geq a), a = 0) \\ &\equiv (0 \geq a) \rightarrow a = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Automated Verifier



$$D_{ok} \equiv (0 \geq a) \rightarrow a = 0$$

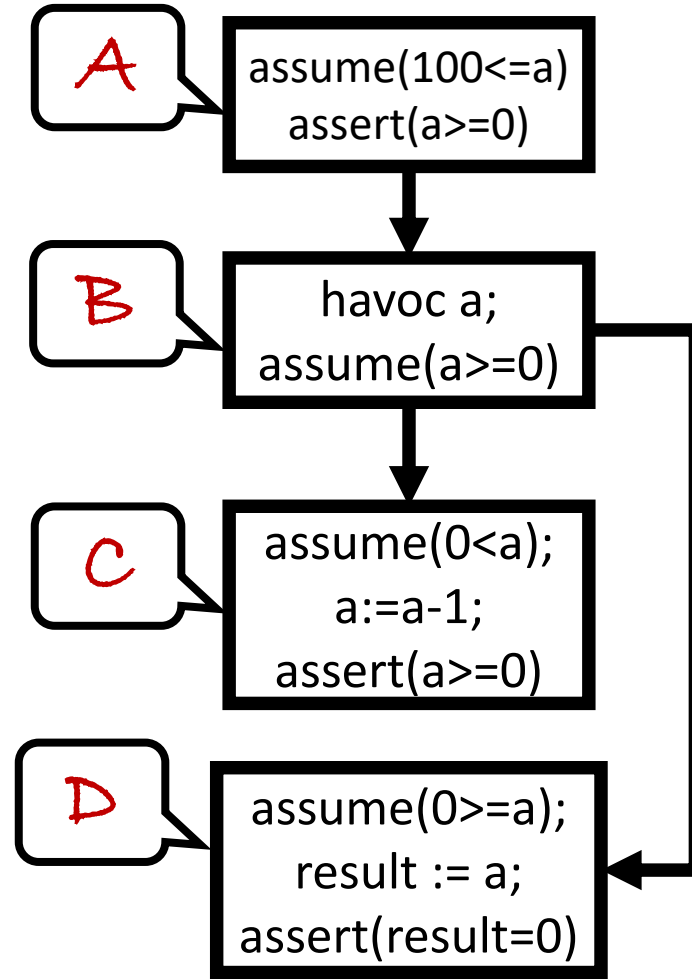
$$C_{ok} \equiv wlp(\text{assume}(0 < a); a := a - 1; \text{assert}(a \geq 0), T)$$

$$\equiv wlp(\text{assume}(0 < a); a := a - 1, a \geq 0)$$

$$\equiv wlp(\text{assume}(0 < a), (a - 1) \geq 0)$$

$$\equiv (0 < a) \rightarrow (a - 1) \geq 0$$

Automated Verifier



$$D_{ok} \equiv (0 \geq a) \rightarrow a = 0$$

$$C_{ok} \equiv (0 < a) \rightarrow (a - 1) \geq 0$$

$$B_{ok} \equiv wlp(havoc\ a; assume(a \geq 0), C_{ok} \wedge D_{ok})$$

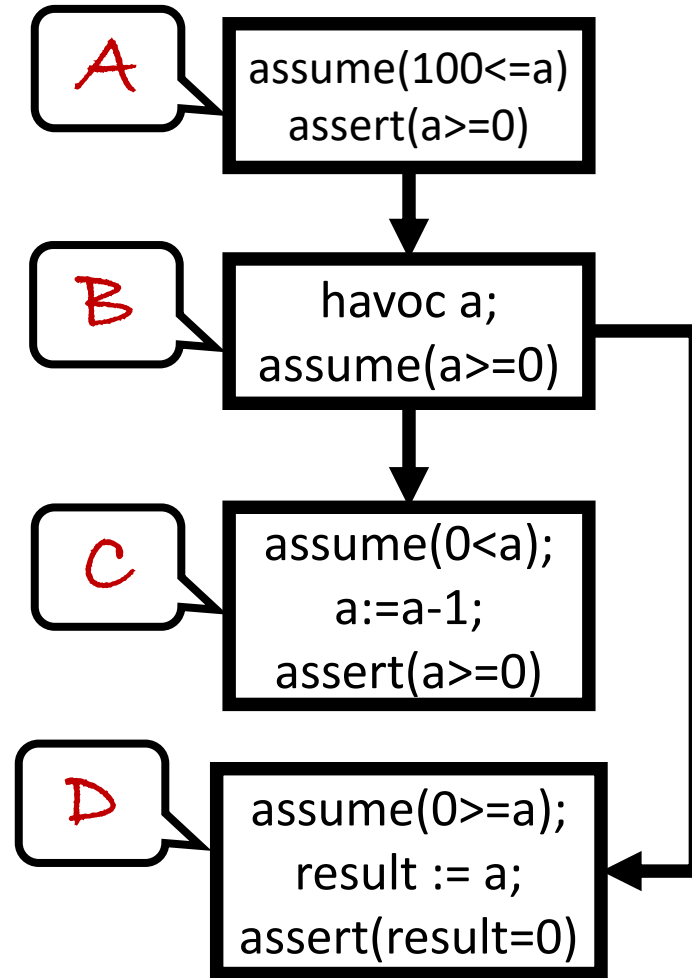
$$\equiv wlp(havoc\ a, (a \geq 0) \rightarrow C_{ok} \wedge D_{ok})$$

$$\equiv (\forall v)((a \geq 0) \rightarrow C_{ok} \wedge D_{ok})[v/a]$$

$$\equiv (\forall v)((a \geq 0) \rightarrow ((0 < a) \rightarrow (a - 1) \geq 0) \wedge ((0 \geq a) \rightarrow a = 0))[v/a]$$

$$\equiv (\forall v)((v \geq 0) \rightarrow ((0 < v) \rightarrow (v - 1) \geq 0) \wedge ((0 \geq v) \rightarrow v = 0))$$

Automated Verifier



$$D_{ok} \equiv (0 \geq a) \rightarrow a = 0$$

$$C_{ok} \equiv (0 < a) \rightarrow (a - 1) \geq 0$$

$$B_{ok} \equiv (\forall v)((v \geq 0) \rightarrow ((0 < v) \rightarrow (v - 1) \geq 0) \wedge ((0 \geq v) \rightarrow v = 0))$$

$$A_{ok} \equiv wlp(\text{assume}(100 \leq a); \text{assert}(a \geq 0), B_{ok})$$

$$\equiv wlp(\text{assume}(100 \leq a), (a \geq 0) \wedge B_{ok})$$

$$\equiv (100 \leq a) \rightarrow ((a \geq 0) \wedge B_{ok})$$

$$\equiv (100 \leq a) \rightarrow$$

$$((a \geq 0) \wedge$$

$$((\forall v)((v \geq 0) \rightarrow ((0 < v) \rightarrow (v - 1) \geq 0) \wedge ((0 \geq v) \rightarrow v = 0))))$$

Dafny

post-condition

```
method m(n: nat) returns (result: nat)
  ensures n == result
{
  var i: int := 0;
  while i < n
    invariant i <= n
  {
    i := i + 1;
  }
  return i;
}
```

loop invariant

'▶' shortcut: Alt+B



<https://rise4fun.com/Dafny/tutorial>

Dafny 2.3.0.10506

Dafny program verifier finished with 1 verified, 0 errors
Program compiled successfully

Dafny

Komodo: Using verification to disentangle secure-enclave hardware from software

Andrew Ferraiuolo
Cornell University

Andrew Baumann
Microsoft Research

Chris Hawblitzel
Microsoft Research

Bryan Parno
Carnegie Mellon University

5 SPECIFICATION

We specify and **verify Komodo using Dafny** [51], a general-purpose verification language. This section describes our trusted Dafny specifications of ARM assembly language (§5.1) and of Komodo's overall correctness (§5.2). We increase our confidence in the Komodo specification by proving several high-level lemmas: that it maintains consistency



Thanks & Questions