

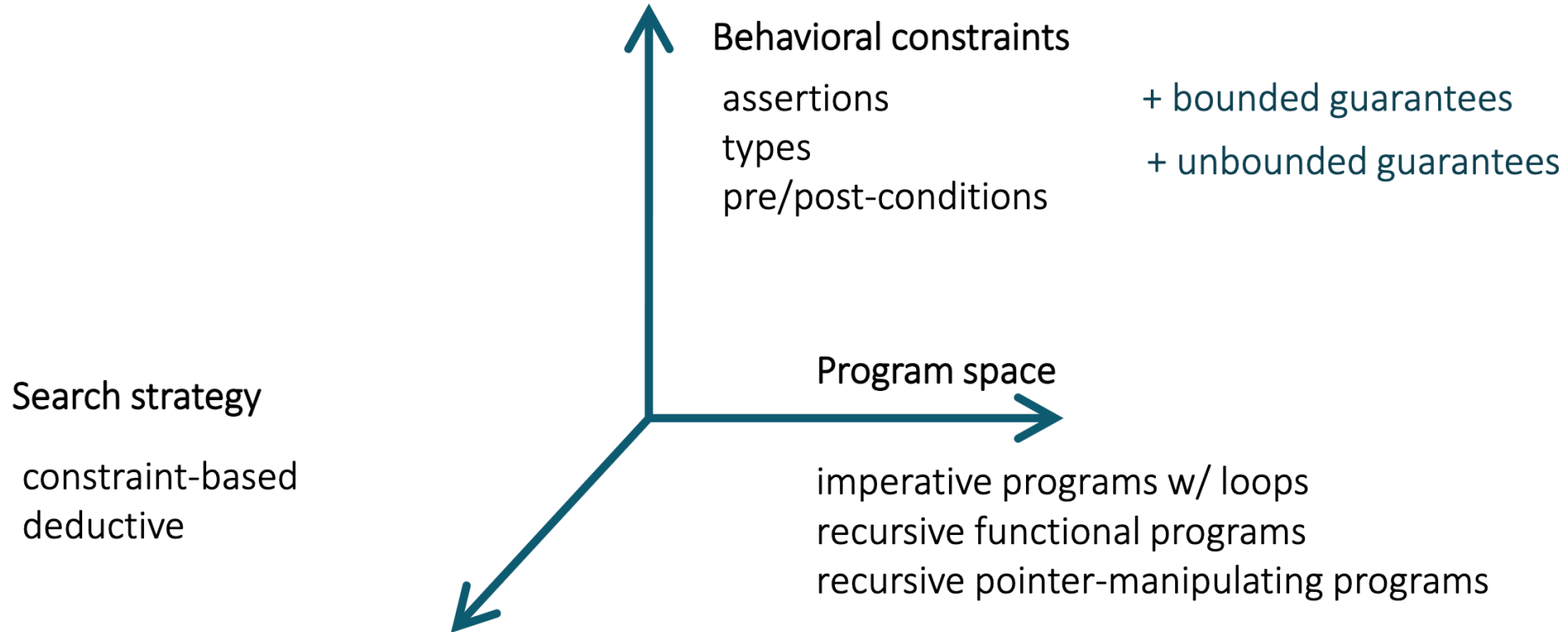
CS5733 Program Synthesis

#17. Hoare Logic and Synthesis

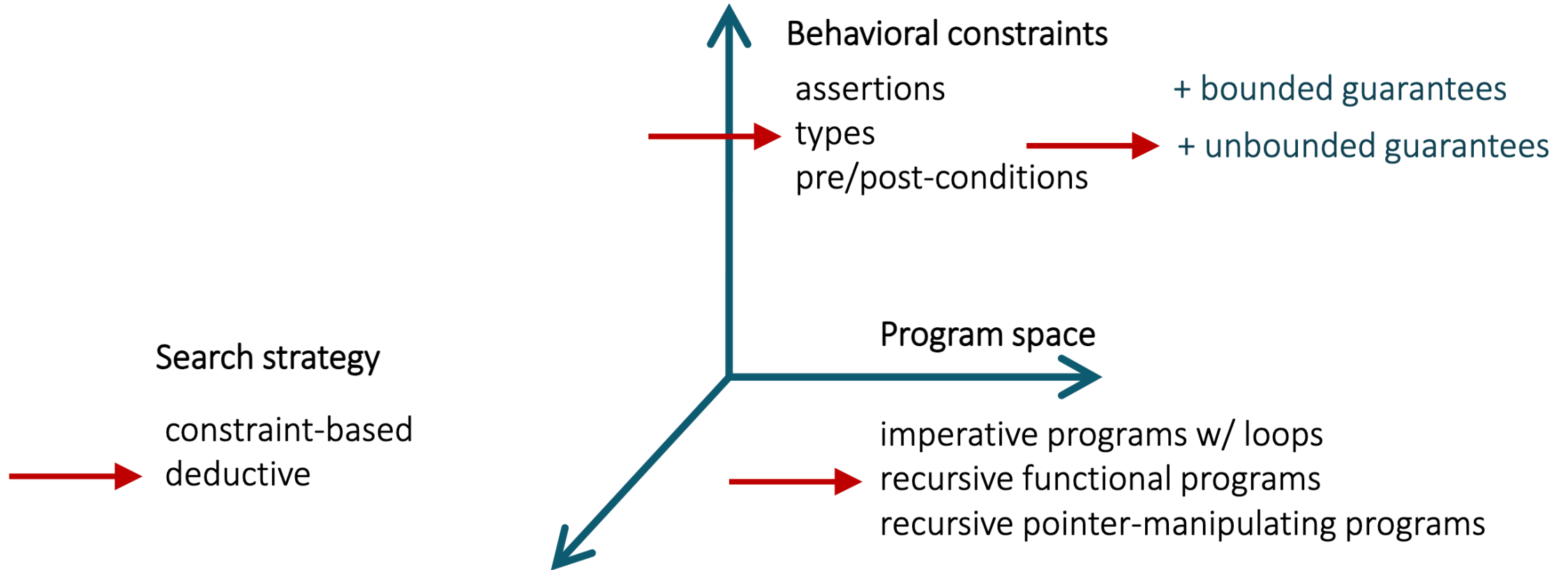
Ashish Mishra, September 24, 2024

With slides from Nadia Polikarpova and Yu-Fang Chen

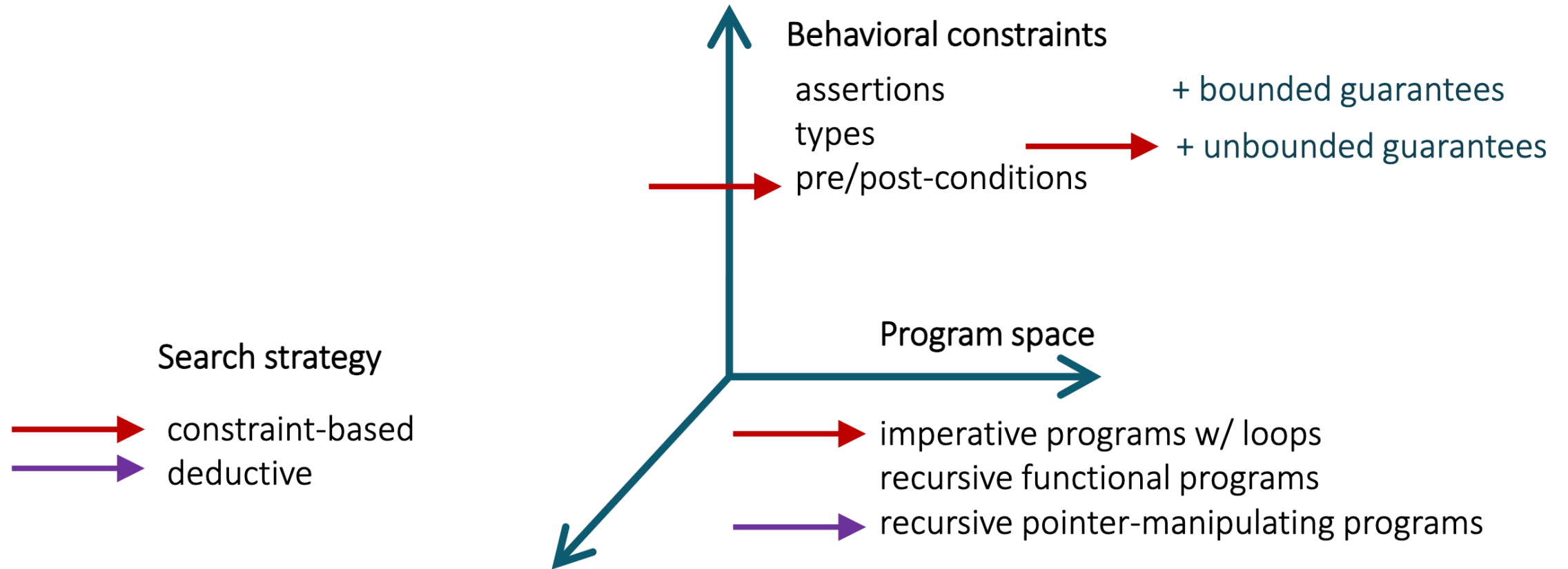
Module II



Last week



This week



Constraint-based synthesis

Behavioral constraints
= assertions, reference
implementation, pre/post

Structural constraints

encoding

$$\exists c . \forall x . Q(c, x)$$

Why is this hard?

Euclid (**int** a, **int** b) **returns** (**int** x)

requires $a > 0 \wedge b > 0$

ensures $x = \text{gcd}(a, b)$

{

int x , y := a, b;

while (x != y) {

if (x > y) x := ??*x + ??*y + ??;

else y := ??*x + ??*y + ??;

}}

infinately many inputs



infinately many paths!



Loop unrolling is unsound and incomplete

Euclid (**int** a, **int** b) **returns** (**int** x)

requires $a > 0 \wedge b > 0$

ensures $x = \text{gcd}(a, b)$

```
{  
  int x , y := a, b;  
  while (x != y) {  
    if (x > y) x := ??*x + ??*y + ??;  
    else y := ??*x + ??*y + ??;  
  }  
}
```

Unroll with
depth = 1

```
if (x != y) {  
  if (x > y)  
    x := ??*x + ??*y + ??;  
  else  
    y := ??*x + ??*y + ??;  
  assert !(x != y);  
}
```

Loop unrolling is unsound and incomplete

```
Euclid (int a, int b) returns (int x)
  requires a > 0 ∧ b > 0
  ensures x = gcd(a, b)
{
  int x , y := a, b;
  while (x != y) {
    if (x > y) x := ??*x + ??*y + ??;
    else y := ??*x + ??*y + ??;
  }
}
```

Unroll with
depth = 1

```
if (x != y) {
  if (x > y)
    x := ??*x + ??*y + ??;
  else
    y := ??*x + ??*y + ??;
  assert !(x != y);
}
```

Unsatisfiable sketch

Loop unrolling is unsound and incomplete

What if we restrict inputs to [1, 2]?

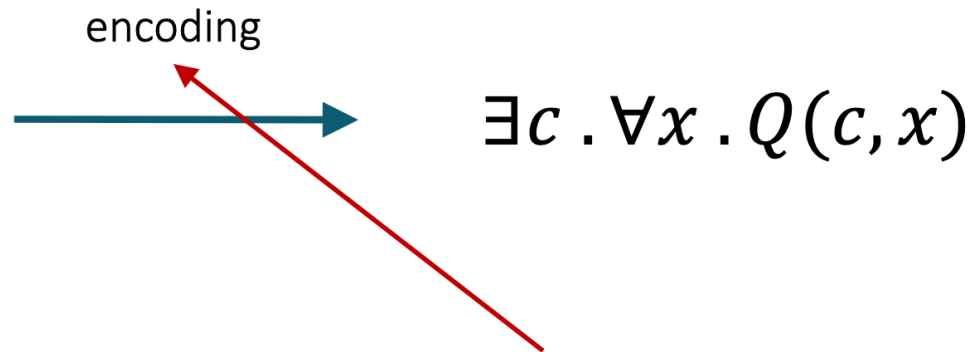
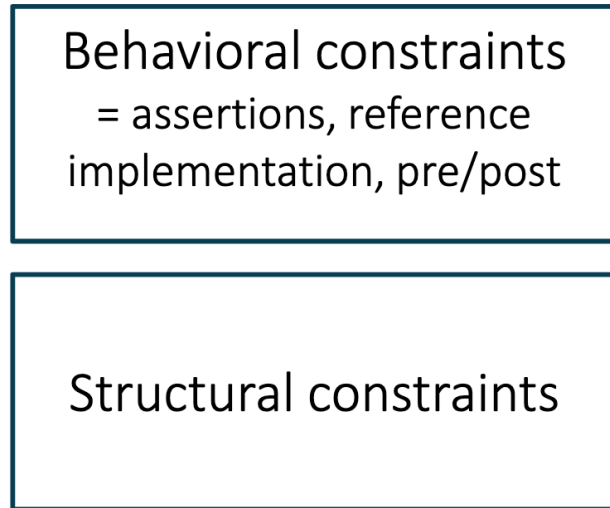
```
Euclid (int a, int b) returns (int x)
  requires a > 0 ∧ b > 0
  ensures x = gcd(a, b)
{
  int x, y := a, b;
  while (x != y) {
    if (x > y) x := ??*x + ??*y + ??;
    else y := ??*x + ??*y + ??;
  }
```

Unroll with
depth = 1

```
if (x != y) {
  if (x > y)
    x := 0*x + 0*y + 1;
  else
    y := 0*x + 0*y + 1;
  assert !(x != y);
}
```

Unsound solution!

Constraint-based synthesis



If we want to synthesize programs that are correct on all inputs,
we need a better way to deal with loops!

Solution

Hoare logic = a program logic for simple imperative programs

- in particular: loop invariants

The Imp language

```
e ::= n | x |
      e + e | e - e | e * e |
      e = e | e < e | !e | e && e
c ::= skip
      x := e
      c ; c
      if e then c else c
      while e do c
```

Hoare triples

Properties of programs are specified as judgments

$$\{P\} c \{Q\}$$

where c is a command and $P, Q: \sigma \rightarrow \text{Bool}$ are predicates

- e.g. if $\sigma = [x \mapsto 2]$ and $P \equiv x > 0$ then $P \sigma = \text{T}$

Terminology

- Judgments of this kind are called *(Hoare) triples*
- P is called precondition
- Q is called postcondition

Meaning of Triples

The meaning of $\{P\} c \{Q\}$ is:

- if P holds in the initial state σ , and
- if the execution of c from σ terminates in a state σ'
- then Q holds in σ'

This interpretation is called *partial correctness*

- termination is not essential

Another possible interpretation: *total correctness*

- if P holds in the initial state σ
- then the execution of c from σ terminates in a state (call it σ')
- and Q holds in σ'

Example: swap

{T}

$x := x + y; y := x - y; x := x - y$

~~{x = y ∧ y = x}~~

We have to express that y in the final state is equal to x in the initial state!

Logical Variables

$$\{x = N \wedge y = M\}$$
$$x := x + y; y := x - y; x := x - y$$
$$\{x = M \wedge y = N\}$$

Assertions can contain *logical variables*

- may occur only in pre- and postconditions, not in programs
- the state maps logical variables to their values, just like normal variables

Inference system

- Similar to the Logical System in PL and FOL.
- Called as the Hoare Logic

We formalize the semantics of a language by describing which judgments are valid about a program

An inference system

- a set of *axioms* and *inference rules* that describe how to derive a valid judgment

We combine axioms and inference rules to build *inference trees* (derivations)

Semantics of skip

`skip` does not modify the state

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

Semantics of assignment

$$\{x > 0\} \quad x := x + 1 \quad \{???\} \quad x > 1$$

$$\{???\} \quad x := x + 1 \quad \{x > 1\}$$

Semantics of Assignment

We begin with Foyld's version of the assignment axiom

$$\{P\} X := E \{?\}$$

The term **E** might contain **X**, e.g. $E \equiv X+1$

An example: $X := X + 1$

The value of X **after**
executing the statement

The value of X **before**
executing the statement

We need to differentiate these two values!

Floyd's version

We begin with Floyd's version of the assignment axiom

$$\{P\} X := E \{?\}$$

$$\exists V. (X = E[V/X] \wedge P[V/X])$$

Intuition: we use new variable V to denote the **old value of X**

Notations

$E[V/X]$
 $P[V/X]$ replacing all **free occurrences** of X in $\frac{E}{P}$ with V

Flyod's version

Foyld's Assignment Axiom

$$\frac{}{\{P\} X:=E \{\exists V. X=E[V/X] \wedge P[V/X]\}}$$

Example

$$\{Y + X = 42\} X := X + 5 \{\exists V. X = V + 5 \wedge Y + V = 42\}$$

Example

$$\{Y = 5\} X := X/Y + X \{?\}$$

We do not want to have quantifiers in the reasoning path!

Hoare's backward semantics of assignment

$x := e$ assigns the value of e to variable x

$$\{ P[x \mapsto e] \} \quad x := e \quad \{ P \}$$

- Let σ be the initial state
- Precondition: $(P[x \mapsto e])\sigma$, i.e., $P(\sigma[x \mapsto \mathcal{A}[[e]]\sigma])$
- Final state: $\sigma' = \sigma[x \mapsto \mathcal{A}[[e]]\sigma]$
- Consequently, P holds in the final state

Hoare's backward semantics

Backward reasoning

Hoare's Assignment Axiom

$$\frac{}{\{Q[E/X]\} X:=E \{Q\}}$$

Read as If Q holds in the post-condition then ...

Let s be the state before $X := E$ and s' the state after.

So, $s' = s[X \rightarrow E]$ (assuming E has no side-effect).

$Q[E/X]$ holds in s if and only if Q holds in s' , because

- (1) Every variable, except X , has the same value in s and s' , and
- (2) $Q[E/X]$ has every X in Q replaced by E ,
- (3) Q has every X evaluated to E in s ($s' = s[X \rightarrow E]$).

Semantics of composition

Sequential composition $c_1 ; c_2$ executes c_1 to produce an intermediate state and from there executes c_2

$$\frac{\{P\} c_1 \{R\} \quad \{R\} c_2 \{Q\}}{\{P\} c_1 ; c_2 \{Q\}}$$

Example: swap

$$\{ P[x \mapsto e] \} \quad x := e \quad \{ P \}$$

leaves = axioms

inference tree

$$\frac{}{\{x = N \wedge y = M\} \quad x := x + y \quad \{y = M \wedge x - y = N\}} \text{ assign}$$

edges = rules

$$\frac{}{\{y = M \wedge x - y = N\} \quad y := x - y \quad \{x - y = M \wedge y = N\}} \text{ assign}$$

$$\frac{}{\{x = N \wedge y = M\} \quad x := x + y; \quad y := x - y \quad \{x - y = M \wedge y = N\}} \text{ comp}$$

$$\frac{}{\{x - y = M \wedge y = N\} \quad x := x - y \quad \{x = M \wedge y = N\}} \text{ assign}$$

$$\frac{}{\{x = N \wedge y = M\} \quad x := x + y; \quad y := x - y; \quad x := x - y \quad \{x = M \wedge y = N\}} \text{ comp}$$

root = triple to prove

Proof outline

$$\{P[x \mapsto e]\} \ x := e \ \{P\}$$

An alternative (more compact) representation of inference trees

$$\{x = N \wedge y = M\}$$

\Rightarrow

$$\{(x + y) - ((x + y) - y) = M \wedge (x + y) - y = N\}$$

$$x = x + y;$$

$$\{x - (x - y) = M \wedge x - y = N\}$$

$$y = x - y;$$

$$\{x - y = M \wedge y = N\}$$

$$x = x - y$$

$$\{x = M \wedge y = N\}$$

Try out example

Example

P: $\{\text{true}\} X:=2 ; Y:=X \{X > 0 \wedge Y=2\}$

- (1) $2 > 0 \wedge 2 = 2 \Leftrightarrow \text{true}$ (Integer arithmetic)
- (2) $\{2 > 0 \wedge 2 = 2\} X:=2 \{X > 0 \wedge X = 2\}$ (assignment axiom)
- (3) $\{X > 0 \wedge X = 2\} Y:=X \{X > 0 \wedge Y = 2\}$ (assignment axiom)
- (4) $\{\text{true}\} X:=2 \{X > 0 \wedge X = 2\}$ (by (1), we can replace $2 > 0 \wedge 2 = 2$ in (3) with true)
- (5) $\{\text{true}\} X:=2 ; Y:=X \{X > 0 \wedge Y = 2\}$ (by (3), (4), and composition rule)

Rule of consequence

$$\frac{\{P'\} c \{Q'\}}{\{P\} c \{Q\}} \text{ if } P \Rightarrow P' \wedge Q' \Rightarrow Q$$

Corresponds to adding \Rightarrow steps in a proof outline

Here $P \Rightarrow P'$ should be read as

- “We can prove for all states σ , that $P \sigma$ implies $P' \sigma$ ”

Consequence rule

Consequence Rule

$$\frac{P \Rightarrow P' \quad \{P'\} S \{Q'\} \quad Q' \Rightarrow Q}{\{P\} S \{Q\}}$$

- We can strengthen the precondition, i.e. assume more than we need
- We can weaken the postcondition, i.e. conclude less than we are allowed to

Consequence rule

Consequence Rule

$$\frac{P \Rightarrow P' \quad \{P'\} S \quad \{Q'\} Q' \Rightarrow Q}{\{P\} S \quad \{Q\}}$$

Example

$P_1: \{\text{true} \wedge X < 10\} X:=10 \quad \{X=10 \vee X=0\}$

- (1) $\{\text{true}\} X:=10 \quad \{X=10 \vee X=0\}$ (by Assignment Rule)
- (2) $\text{true} \wedge X < 10 \Rightarrow \text{true}$ (by underlying logic)
- (3) $X = 10 \vee X = 0 \Rightarrow X = 10 \vee X = 0$ (by underlying logic)
- (4) $\{\text{true} \wedge X < 10\} X:=10 \quad \{X=10 \vee X=0\}$ (by consequence rule, (2), and (3))

Consequence rule

Consequence Rule

$$\frac{P \Rightarrow P' \quad \{P'\} S \quad \{Q'\} Q' \Rightarrow Q}{\{P\} S \quad \{Q\}}$$

Example

$P_2: \{\text{true} \wedge X \geq 10\} X:=0 \quad \{X=10 \vee X=0\}$

Try it yourself!

Semantics of conditionals

$$\frac{\{P \wedge e\} c_1 \{Q\} \quad \{P \wedge \neg e\} c_2 \{Q\}}{\{P\} \text{ if } e \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2 \{Q\}}$$

Example: absolute value

{T}

if $x < 0$ **then**

{T \wedge $x < 0$ }

\Rightarrow

{ $-x \geq 0$ }

$x := -x$

{ $x \geq 0$ }

else

{ $\neg(x < 0)$ }

\Rightarrow

{ $x \geq 0$ }

skip

{ $x \geq 0$ }

{ $x \geq 0$ }

$$\frac{\{P \wedge e\} c_1 \{Q\} \quad \{P \wedge \neg e\} c_2 \{Q\}}{\{P\} \text{if } e \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2 \{Q\}}$$

Hoare Logic Continued...

Semantics of loops

$$\frac{\{?\} c \{?\}}{\{P\} \text{ while } e \text{ do } c \{Q\}}$$

Challenge: c needs to execute multiple times with the same pre/post

Semantics of loops

loop invariant


$$\{I\} c \{I\}$$

$$\{I\} \text{ while } e \text{ do } c \{I\}$$

Challenge: c needs to execute multiple times with the same pre/post

Solution: make its pre and post *the same!*

- called a *loop invariant*

Semantics of loops

$$\frac{\{I \wedge e\} c \{I\}}{\{I\} \text{ while } e \text{ do } c \{\neg e \wedge I\}}$$

Challenge: c needs to execute multiple times with the same pre/post

Solution: make its pre and post *the same!*

- called a *loop invariant*
- + strengthen the semantics with the info about the loop condition

Example: GCD

$\{x = N \wedge y = M \wedge N > 0 \wedge M > 0\}$

\Rightarrow

$\{I\}$

while $x \neq y$ **do**

$\{I \wedge x \neq y\}$

if $x > y$ **then**

$x := x - y$

else

$y := y - x$

$\{I\}$

$\{I \wedge x = y\}$

\Rightarrow

$\{x = \text{gcd}(N, M)\}$

Guessing the loop invariant:

x	y	N	M
10	4	10	4
6	4	10	4
2	4	10	4
2	2	10	4

$I \equiv \text{gcd}(x, y) = \text{gcd}(N, M)$

Example: GCD

$$\{x = N \wedge y = M \wedge N > 0 \wedge M > 0\}$$
$$\Rightarrow$$
$$\{\text{gcd}(x, y) = \text{gcd}(N, M) \wedge x, y > 0\}$$
$$\text{while } x \neq y \text{ do}$$
$$\quad \{\text{gcd}(x, y) = \text{gcd}(N, M) \wedge x, y > 0 \wedge x \neq y\}$$
$$\quad \text{if } x > y \text{ then}$$
$$\quad \quad \{\text{gcd}(x, y) = \text{gcd}(N, M) \wedge x \neq y \wedge x > y\}$$
$$\quad \quad \Rightarrow$$
$$\quad \quad \{\text{gcd}(x - y, y) = \text{gcd}(N, M) \wedge x - y, y > 0\}$$
$$\quad \quad \quad x := x - y$$
$$\quad \quad \quad \{\text{gcd}(x, y) = \text{gcd}(N, M) \wedge x, y > 0\}$$
$$\quad \text{else}$$
$$\quad \quad y := y - x$$
$$\quad \quad \{\text{gcd}(x, y) = \text{gcd}(N, M) \wedge x, y > 0\}$$
$$\{\text{gcd}(x, y) = \text{gcd}(N, M) \wedge x, y > 0 \wedge x = y\}$$
$$\Rightarrow$$
$$\{x = \text{gcd}(N, M)\}$$

Termination

loop variant / ranking function /
termination metric



$$\{I \wedge e \wedge r = R\} c \{I \wedge r < R \wedge r \geq 0\}$$

$$\{I\} \text{ while } e \text{ do } c \{\neg e \wedge I\}$$

Example: GCD

```
while x != y do
  if x > y then
    x := x - y
  else
    y := y - x
```

Example: GCD

$\{x = N \wedge y = M \wedge N > 0 \wedge M > 0\}$

\Rightarrow

$\{\text{gcd}(x, y) = \text{gcd}(N, M) \wedge x, y > 0\}$

while $x \neq y$ **do**

$\{\text{gcd}(x, y) = \text{gcd}(N, M) \wedge x, y > 0 \wedge x + y = R \wedge x \neq y\}$

if $x > y$ **then**

$x := x - y$

else

$y := y - x$

$\{\text{gcd}(x, y) = \text{gcd}(N, M) \wedge x, y > 0 \wedge x + y < R \wedge x + y \geq 0\}$

$\{\text{gcd}(x, y) = \text{gcd}(N, M) \wedge x, y > 0 \wedge x = y\}$

\Rightarrow

$\{x = \text{gcd}(N, M)\}$

Program Verification

```
method Euclid (a: int, b: int) returns (gcd: int)
  requires a > 0 && b > 0
  ensures x == gcd(a,b)
{
  var x, y := a, b;
  while (x != y)
    invariant y > 0 && x > 0 && gcd(x,y) == gcd(a,b)
    decreases x + y
  {
    if (x > y) {
      x := x - y;
    } else {
      y := y - x;
    }
  }
}
```

Dafny



correct!



can't proof
correctness

Program synthesis

```
method Euclid (a: int, b: int) returns (gcd: int)
  requires a > 0 && b > 0
  ensures x == gcd(a,b)
{
  var x, y := ?;
  ?;
  while (?)
    invariant ?
    decreases ?
  {
    ?;
  }
  ?;
}
```



found a correct program!

```
var x, y := a, b;
while (x != y)
  invariant y > 0 && x > 0 && gcd(x,y) == gcd(a,b)
  decreases x + y
{
  if (x > y) {
    x := x - y;
  } else {
    y := y - x;
  }
}
```



can't find a (program,
invariant) pair that I can
prove correct

Verification → synthesis

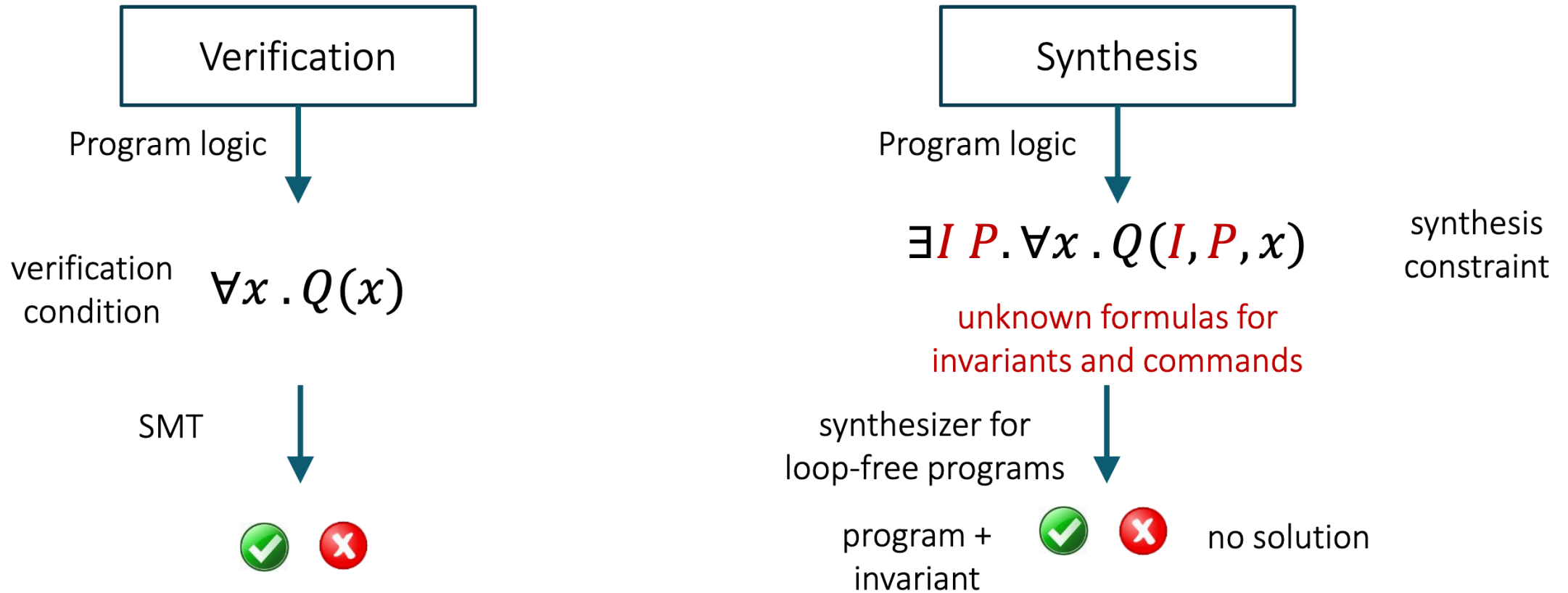
Srivastava, Gulwani, Foster: [From program verification to program synthesis](#). POPL'10

- idea: make constraint-based synthesis unbounded by synthesizing loop invariants alongside programs
- synthesized some looping programs with integers, including Bresenham algorithm
- won “Most Influential Paper” at POPL'20!

Qiu, Solar-Lezama: [Natural Synthesis of Provably-Correct Data-Structure Manipulations](#). OOPSLA'17

- same approach for pointer-manipulating programs

Verification \rightarrow synthesis



How verification works

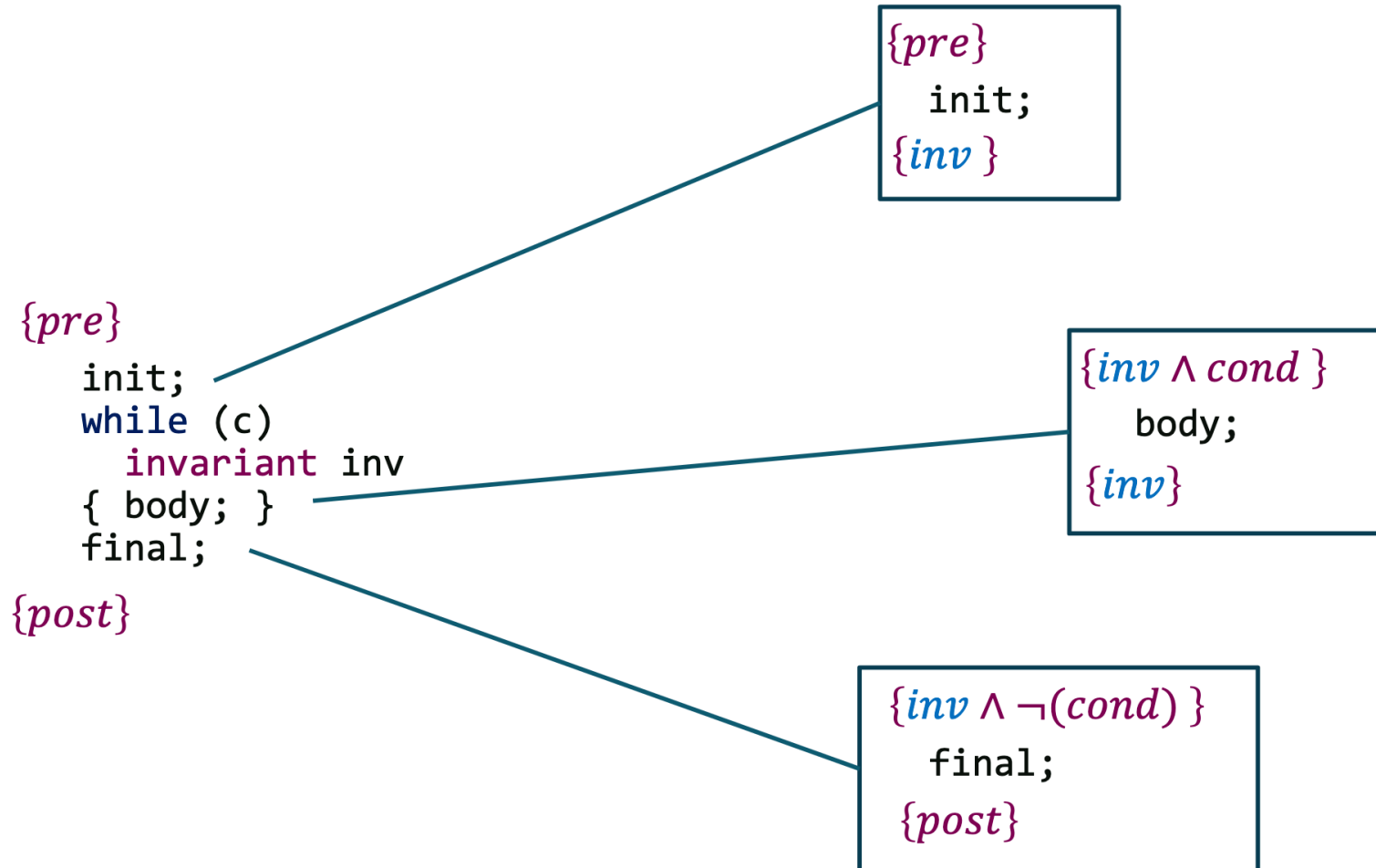
Verification



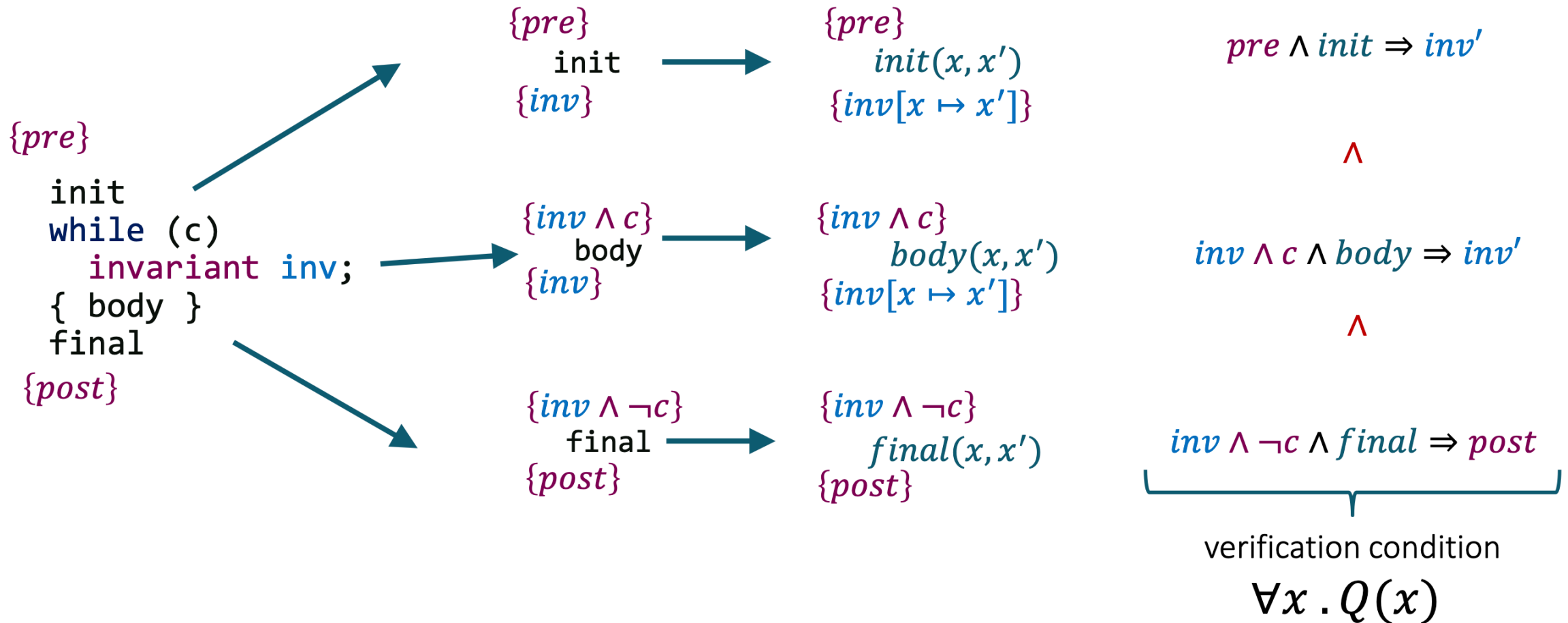
```
graph TD; A[Verification] --> B["forall x. Q(x)"]
```

$\forall x . Q(x)$

Step 1: eliminate loops



Step 2: generate VCs



From verification to synthesis

Verification

$$\forall x . Q(x)$$
$$\stackrel{=}{=} \exists x . \neg Q(x)$$

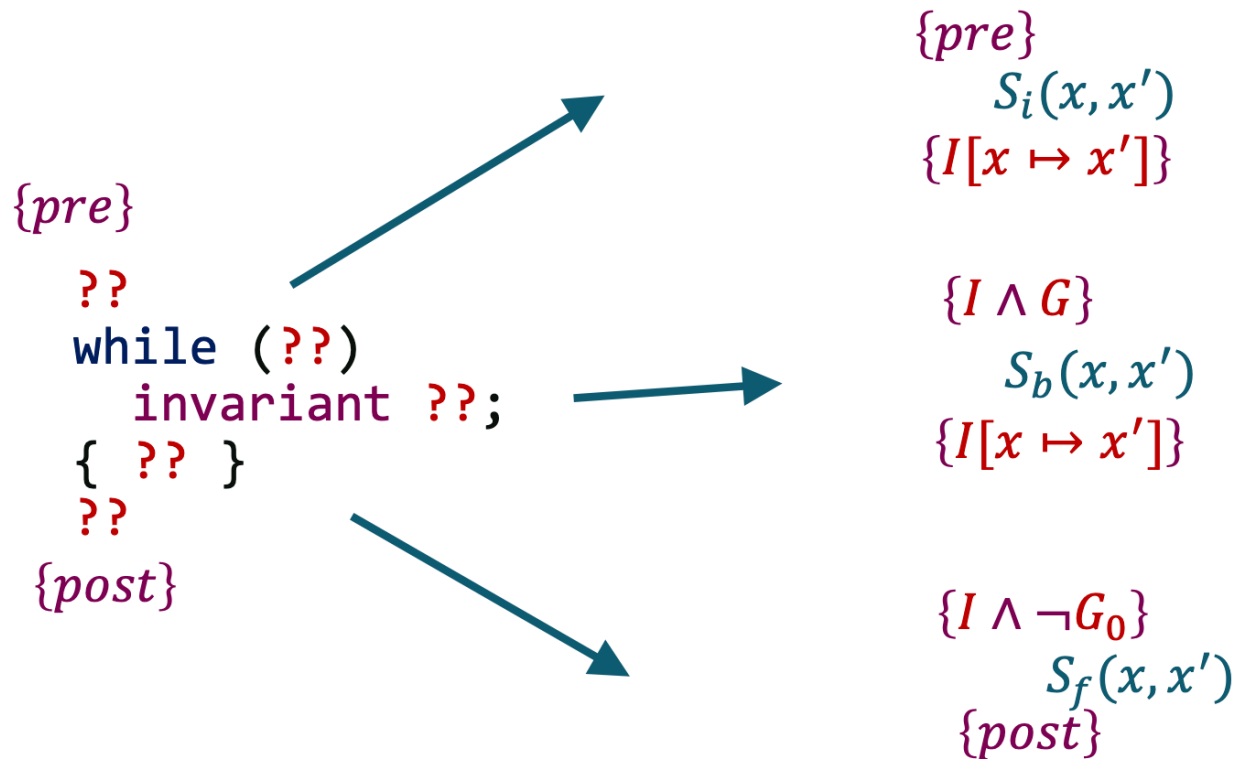
SMT

UNSAT / SAT

Synthesis

$$\exists I P . \forall x . Q(I, P, x)$$

Program synthesis



$$\exists S G I. \forall x .$$

$$pre \wedge S_i \Rightarrow I'$$

$$\wedge$$

$$I \wedge G \wedge S_b \Rightarrow I'$$

$$\wedge$$

$$I \wedge \neg G \wedge S_f \Rightarrow post$$

synthesis constraint

$$\exists I P. \forall x . Q(I, P, x)$$

Synthesis constraints

$$pre \wedge S_i \Rightarrow I'$$

$$I \wedge G \wedge S_b \Rightarrow I'$$

$$I \wedge \neg G \wedge S_f \Rightarrow post$$

Domain for I, G : formulas over program variables

Domain for $S = \{x' = e_x \wedge y' = e_y \wedge \dots \mid e_x, e_y, \dots \in Expr\}$

- conjunction of equalities, one per variables

Solving synthesis constraints

$$pre \wedge S_i \Rightarrow I'$$

$$I \wedge G \wedge S_b \Rightarrow I'$$

$$I \wedge \neg G \wedge S_f \Rightarrow post$$

Can be solved this with...

- SyGuS solvers
- Sketch
 - Look we made an unbounded synthesizer out of Sketch!
- VS3 uses Lattice search
 - More efficient for predicates

Component-based synthesis using Hoare Logic

Component-based synthesis (CBS)

library

sort: list

reverse: list -> list

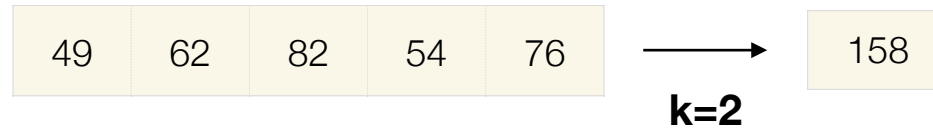
take: list -> int -> list

sum: list

query

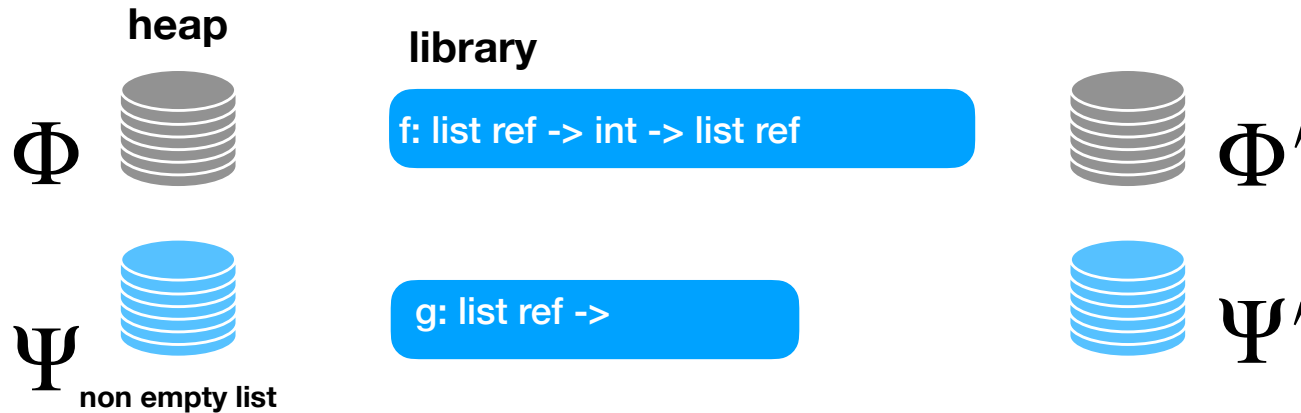
best_ksum: (l : list) -> (k : int) -> int

i/o examples



```
best_ksum l k = sum ( take ( reverse (sort l) ) k )
```


CBS: with effectful components



query to a CBS

goal: `(l : list ref) -> (s : int) -> int`

the required heap state for the g function is violated



A sound synthesizer must take changing heap state and library protocol into account

a blowup in the space of programs

A query over a mutable Table

Library

```
type pair = Pair of float * int
type table = [string] ref

add_tbl : adds a string in the table if not already present.

mem_tbl : checks if a string is in the table

fresh_str : returns a fresh string not in the table.

size_tbl : gives the size of the tbl

average_len_tbl : gives a float value equal to the average length of the strings in the table
```

Maintains a Uniqueness Invariant

Query

```
add_and_incr : (tbl : table * s : string) →
pair
(*requires*)
{true}
(*ensures*)
{ mem (Tbl', s) ∧
  size (Tbl') = size (Tbl) + 1};
```



Tbl, Tbl' : [string]

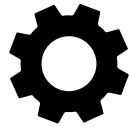
```
add_and_incr (tbl : table * s : string) =
??
```

Effect agnostic CBS on query

violates uniqueness property of
add_tbl

What if s is already in tbl?

```
add_and_incr : (tbl : table * s :  
string) →  
(*requires*)  
{true}  
v : pair  
(*ensures*)  
{ mem (Tbl', s) ∧  
size (Tbl') = size (Tbl) + 1};
```



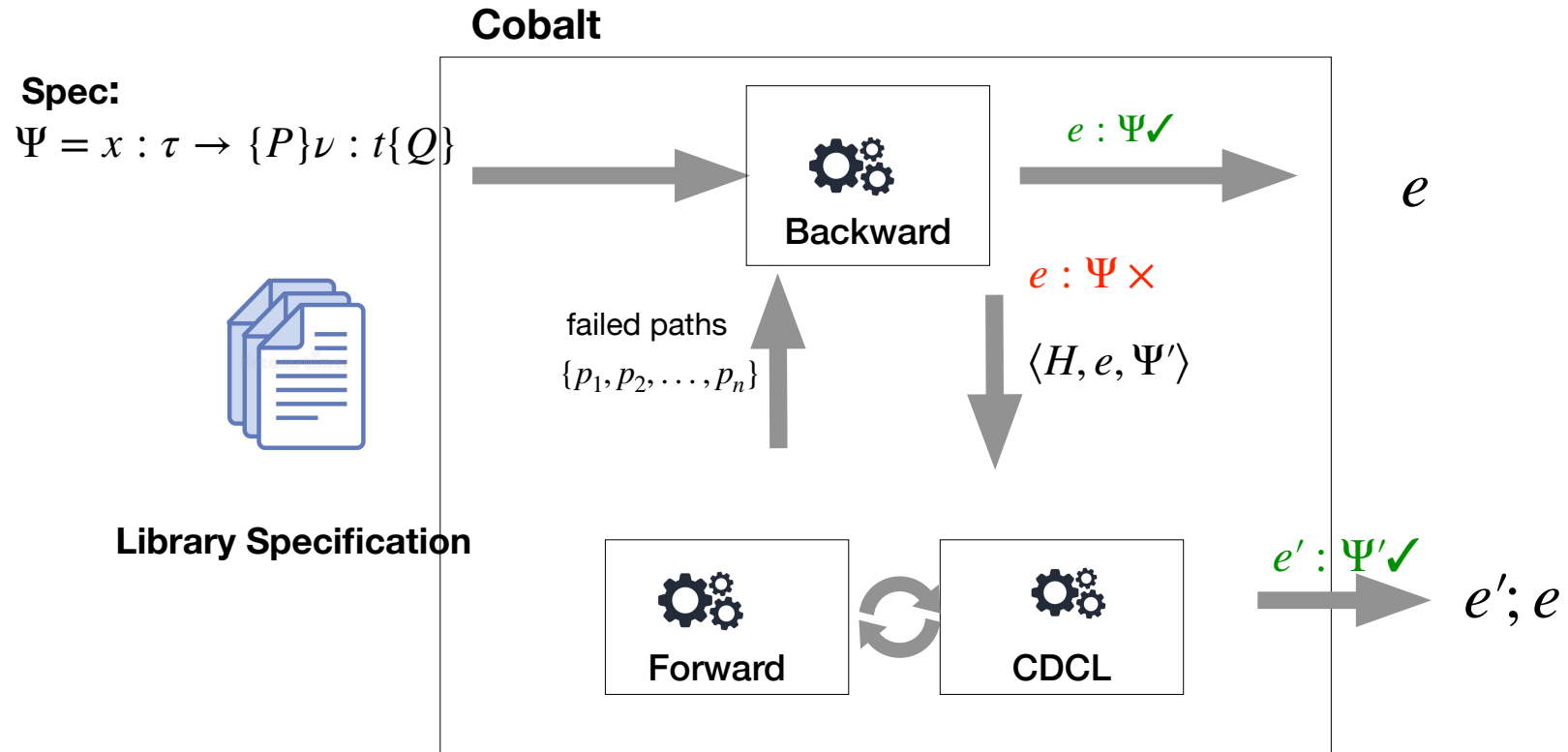
creates a fresh string if
s already in tbl

```
add_and_incr (tbl : table * s : string) =  
_ ← add_tbl (tbl, s);  
x1 ← average_len_tbl (tbl);  
y1 ← size_tbl (tbl);  
return Pair (x1, y1)
```

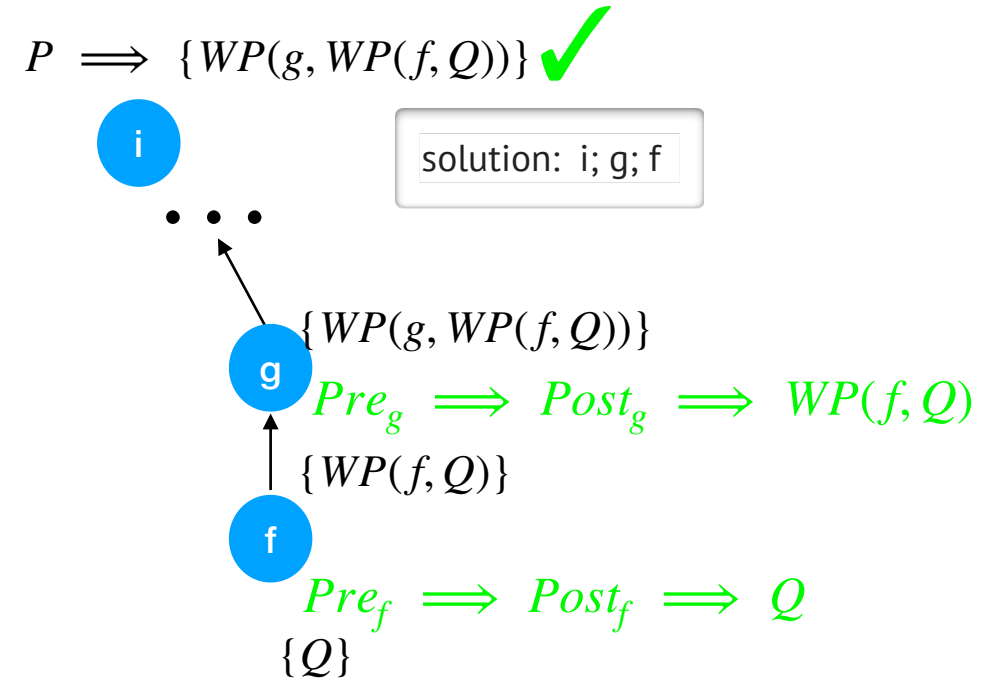
```
add_and_incr (tbl : table * s : string) =  
b1 ← mem (s); splits control flow  
if (b1) then  
s1 ← fresh_str (tbl);  
_ ← add_tbl (tbl, s1);  
x1 ← average_len_tbl (tbl);  
y1 ← size_tbl (tbl);  
return Pair (x1, y1)  
else  
_ ← add_tbl (tbl, s);  
x1 ← average_len_tbl (tbl);  
y1 ← size_tbl (tbl);  
return Pair (x1, y1)
```

Cobalt solution

Overview: Cobalt



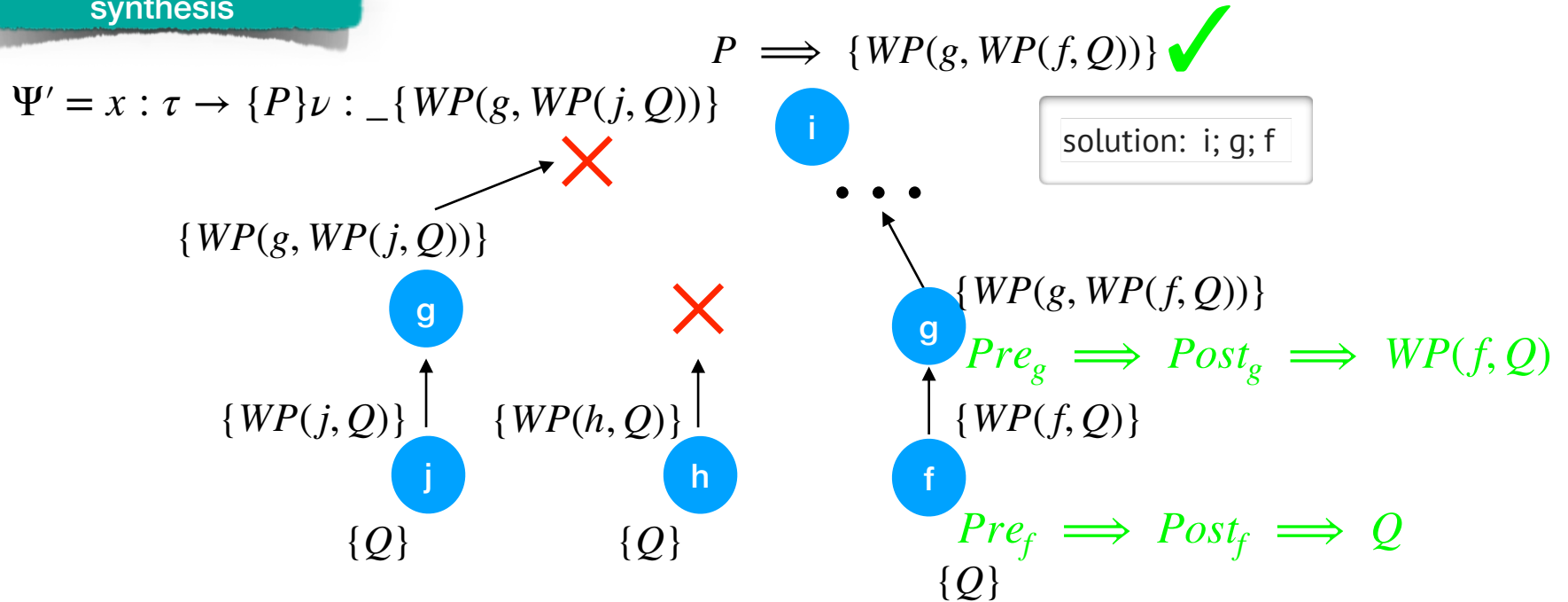
Backward synthesis



Spec $\Psi = x : \tau \rightarrow \{P\} \nu : t\{Q\}$

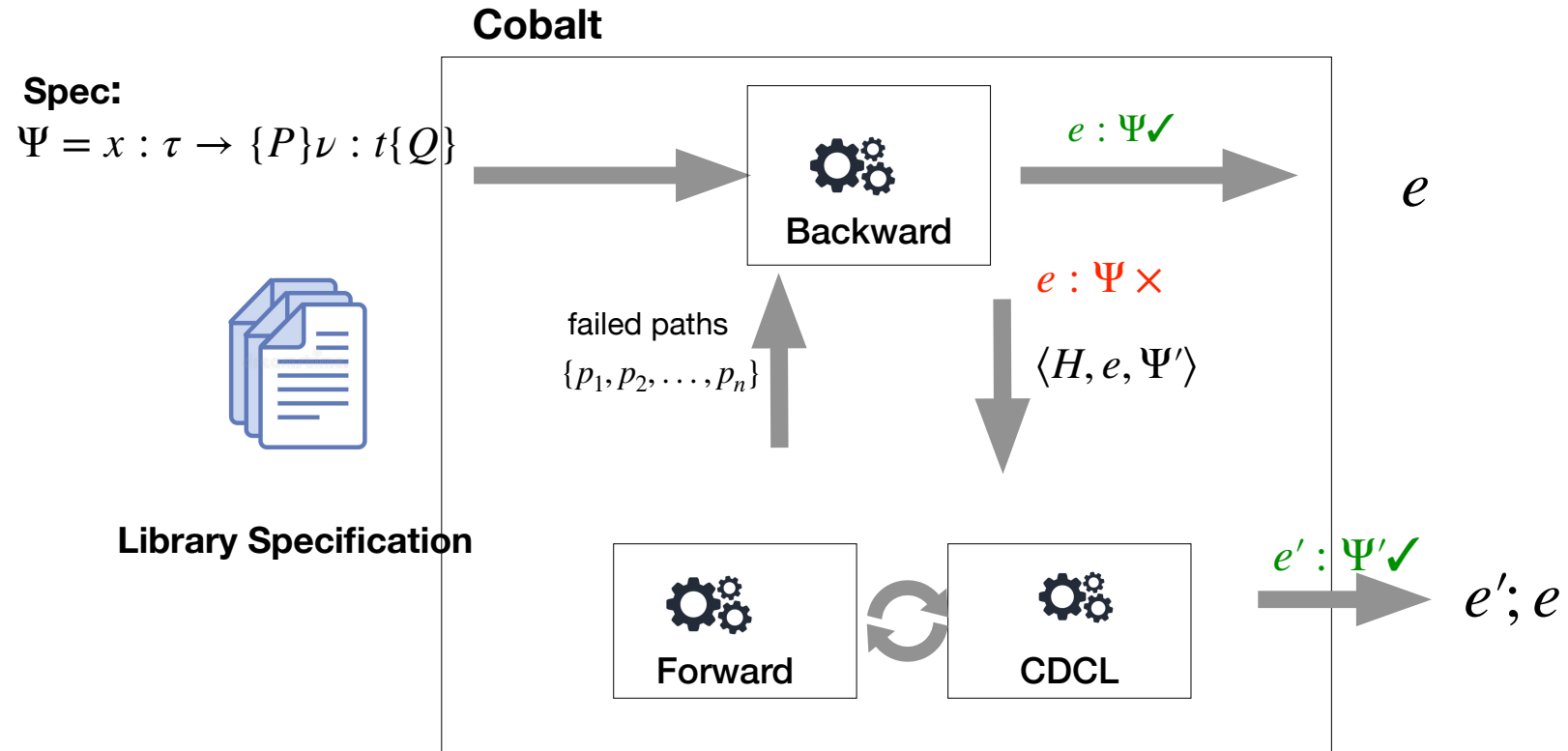
Backward synthesis

Handover to forward synthesis



$$\text{Spec } \Psi = x : \tau \rightarrow \{P\} \nu : t\{Q\}$$

Forward synthesis



finite-depth Forward synthesis

Spec $\Psi = x : \tau \rightarrow \{P\} \nu : t\{Q\}$

$\{P\} \Rightarrow Pre_f$

f $\{SP(P, f)\} \nu : t\{Q\}$

$\{SP(P, f)\} \Rightarrow Pre_g$

g $\{SP(SP(P, f), g)\} \nu : t\{Q\}$

h $\{SP(SP(P, f), g, h)\} \nu : t\{Q\}$

...

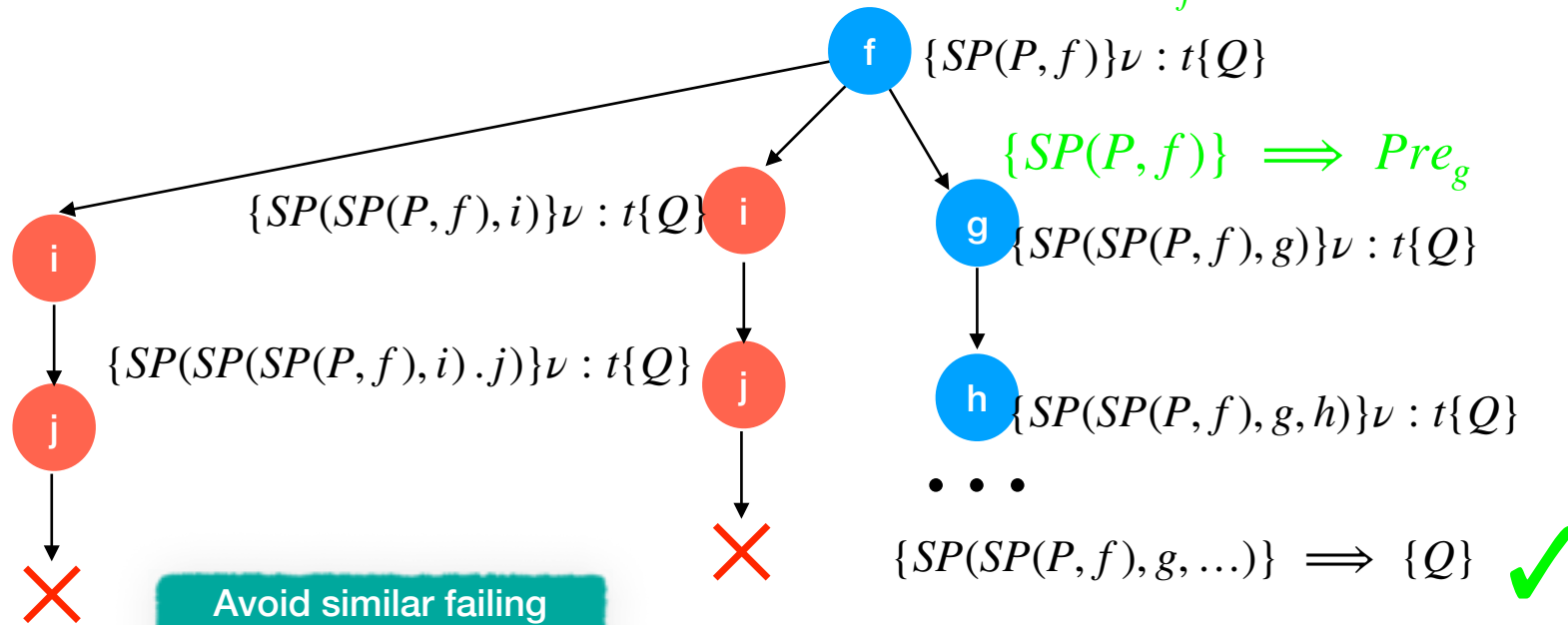
$\{SP(SP(P, f), g, \dots)\} \Rightarrow \{Q\}$ ✓

solution: f; g; h...

finite-depth forward synthesis

$$\text{Spec } \Psi = x : \tau \rightarrow \{P\} \nu : t\{Q\}$$

$$\{P\} \Rightarrow \text{Pre}_f$$

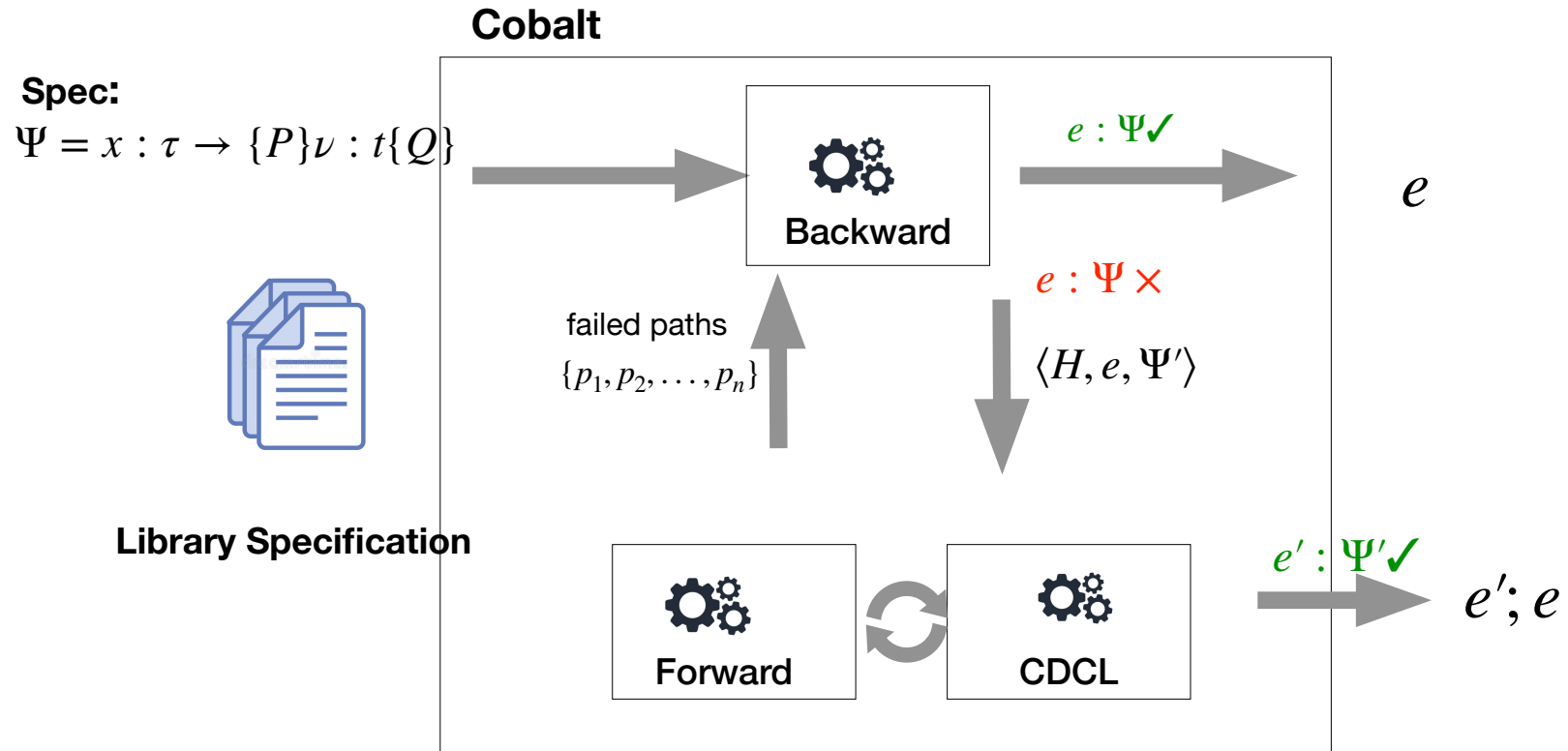


Avoid similar failing explorations

exhausted functions or max depth reached

solution: f; g; h...

CDCL search



Revisiting the query

Query

```
add_and_incr : (tbl : table * s :  
string) →  
(*requires*)  
{true}  
v : pair  
(*ensures*)  
{ mem (Tbl', s) ∧  
size (Tbl') = size (Tbl) + 1};
```



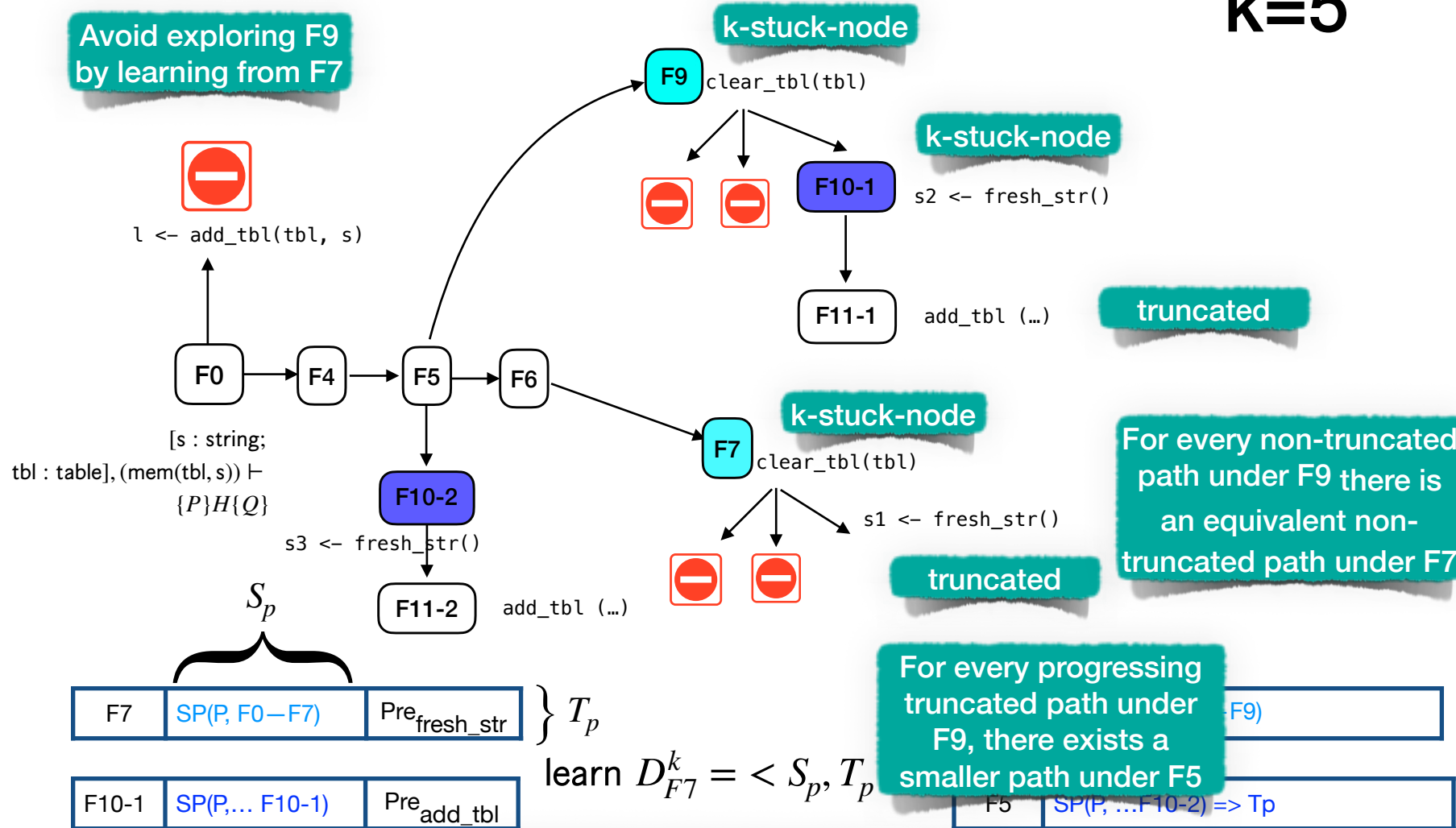
subquery for when s is in
the table

```
add_and_incr (tbl : table * s :string) =  
b1 ← mem (s);  
if (b1) then  
  ?? : {(mem(Tbl, s))  
        v : pair  
        {mem(Tbl', s)  
          ∧ size(Tbl') =  
            size(Tbl) + 1}  
else  
  ?? : ...
```

finite-depth CDCL search

k=5

Avoid exploring F9 by learning from F7



Synthesis guarantees

- The synthesis algorithm is *sound* and *complete*.

Theorem (Soundness): For a given (Γ, Σ, Ψ) if Cobalt synthesizes a term e then $\Gamma \vdash e : \Psi$

Type Environment, Library and Specification

Theorem (Completeness): For all k , for a given (Γ, Σ, Ψ) if Cobalt fails to find a solution then there exists no e of size $|e| \leq k$, such that $\Gamma \vdash e : \Psi$