Sliced Path Prefixes: An Effective Method to Enable Refinement Selection

Dirk Beyer, Stefan Löwe, Philipp Wendler

SoSy-Lab
Software Systems

UNIVERSITÄT PASSAU
Fakultät für Informatik und Mathematik

We want Refinement Selection !!!

Because straight-forward interpolation completely and utterly sucks !!!11!

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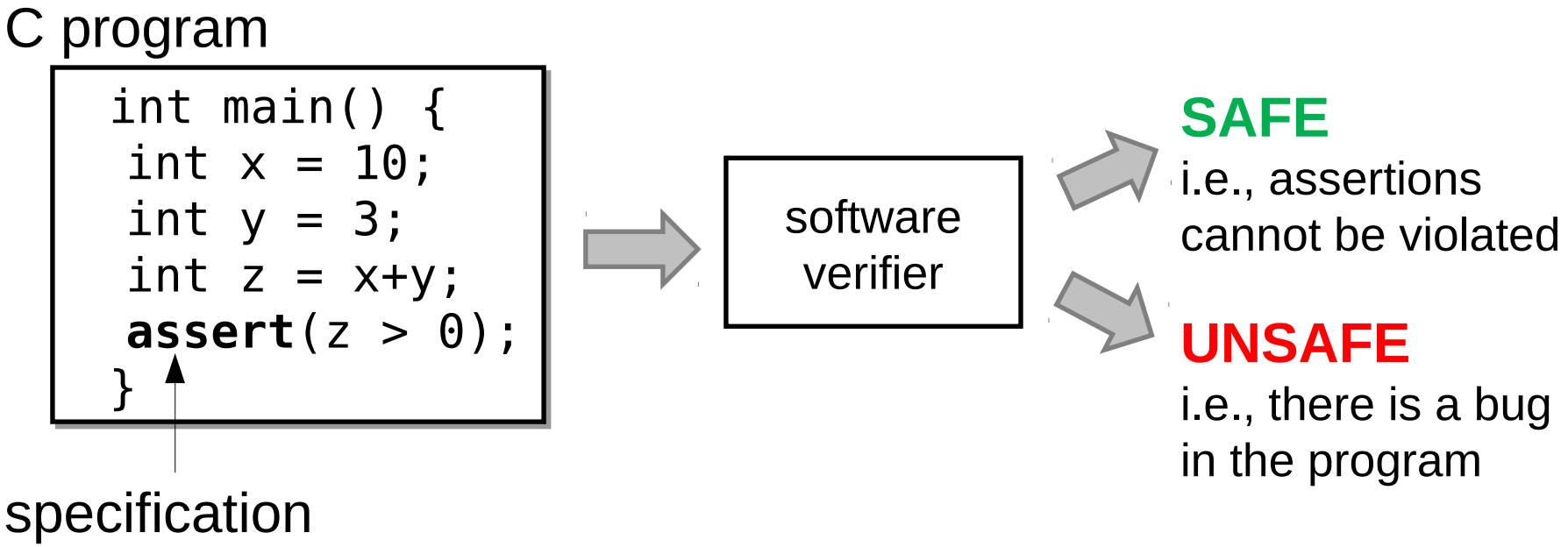
Software Verification

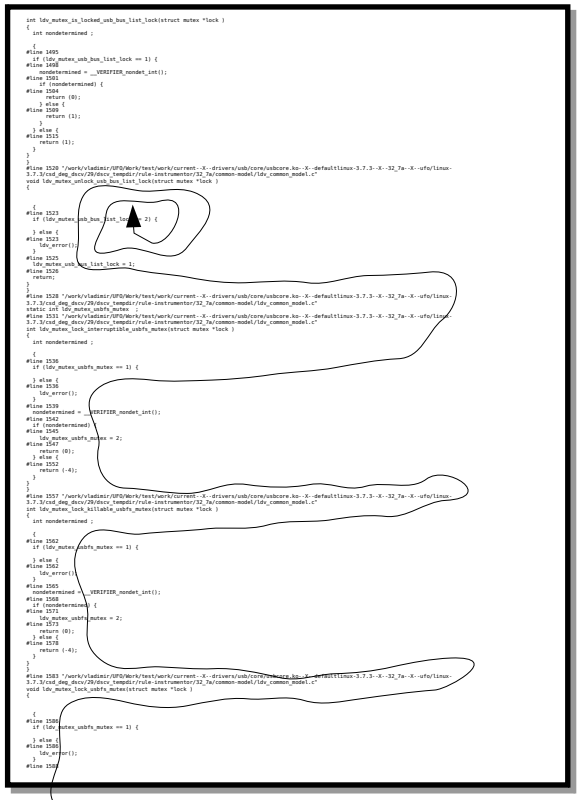
Goal: Build an **automatic** software verifier



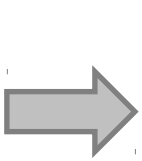
Software Verification

Goal: Build an **automatic** software verifier

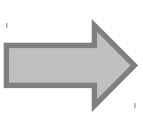
C program – Linux Device Driver



specification



software verifier



UNKNOWN

timeout, memory out ...

SAFE

i.e., assertions cannot be violated

UNSAFE

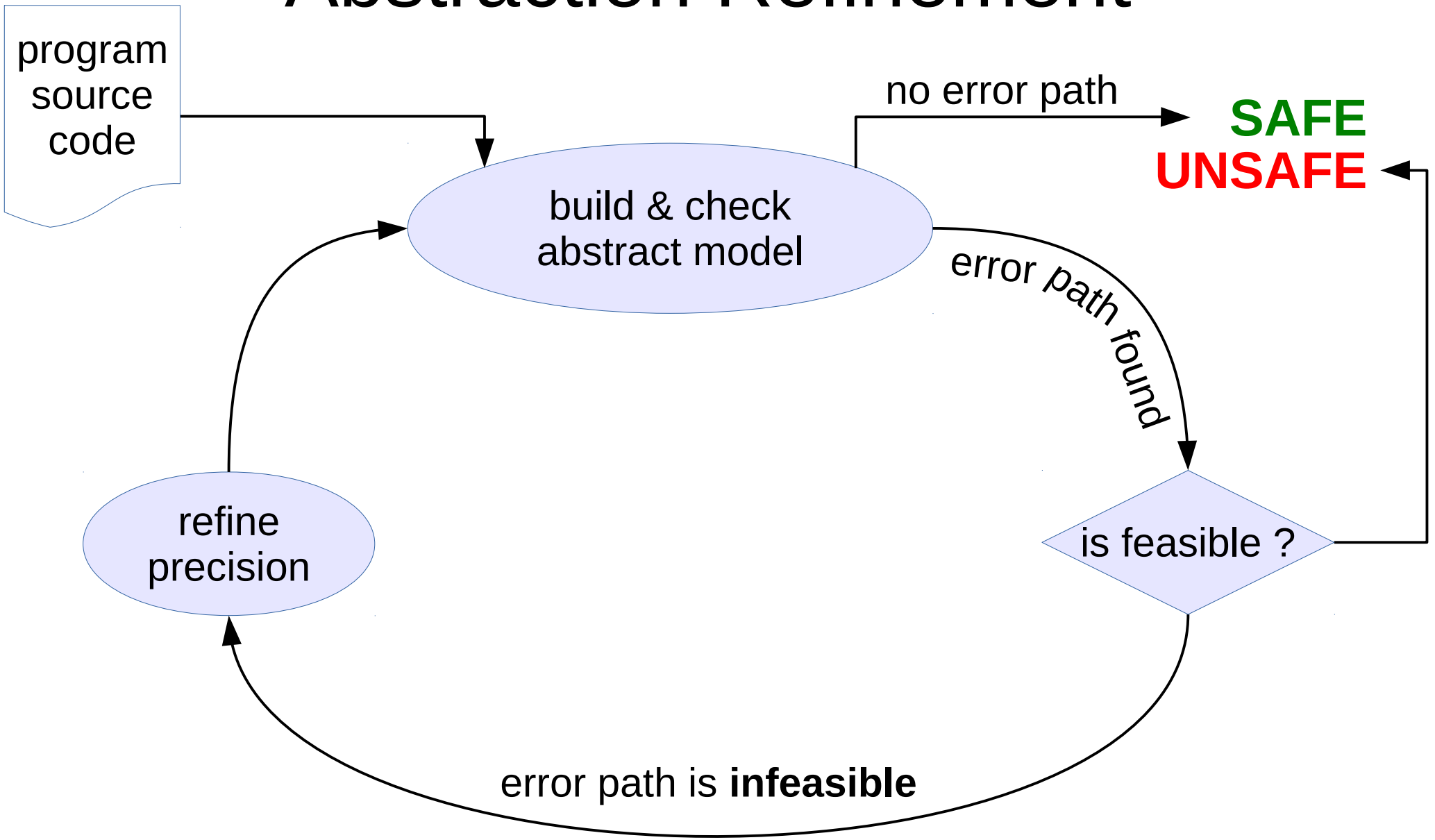
i.e., there is a bug in the program

Abstraction

- Disregard irrelevant information
  - Avoids state-space explosion
  - Allows verification of real-world software to scale
  - Success story of **SLAM** project at Microsoft

- But how does a **good** abstraction look like?
  - Too coarse → False alarms
  - Too precise → More timeouts
  - Impossible to do manually → Automation needed

Counterexample-Guided Abstraction Refinement



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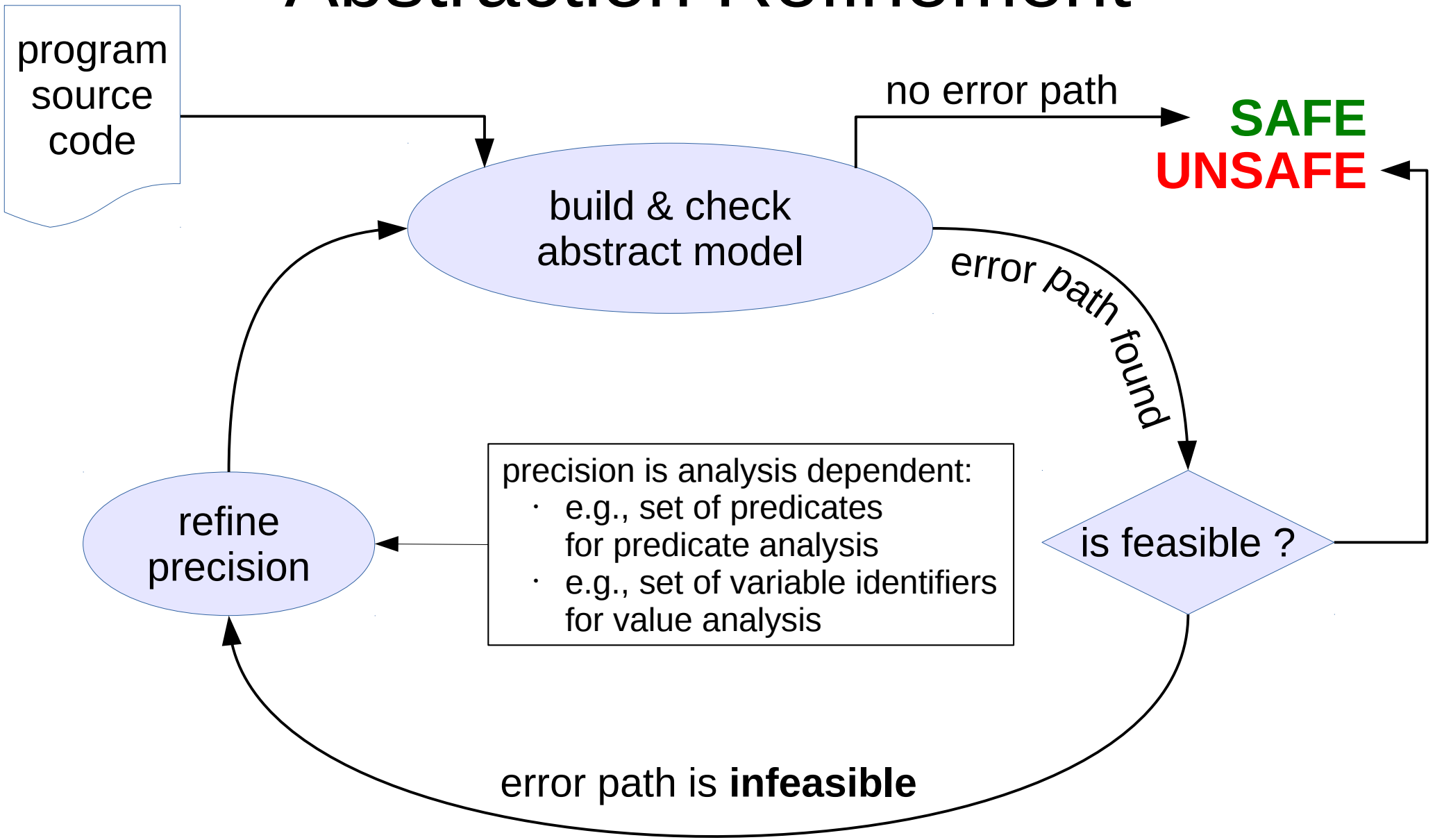


Counterexample-Guided Abstraction Refinement

program source code

build & check abstract model

no error path

SAFE

UNSAFE

error path found

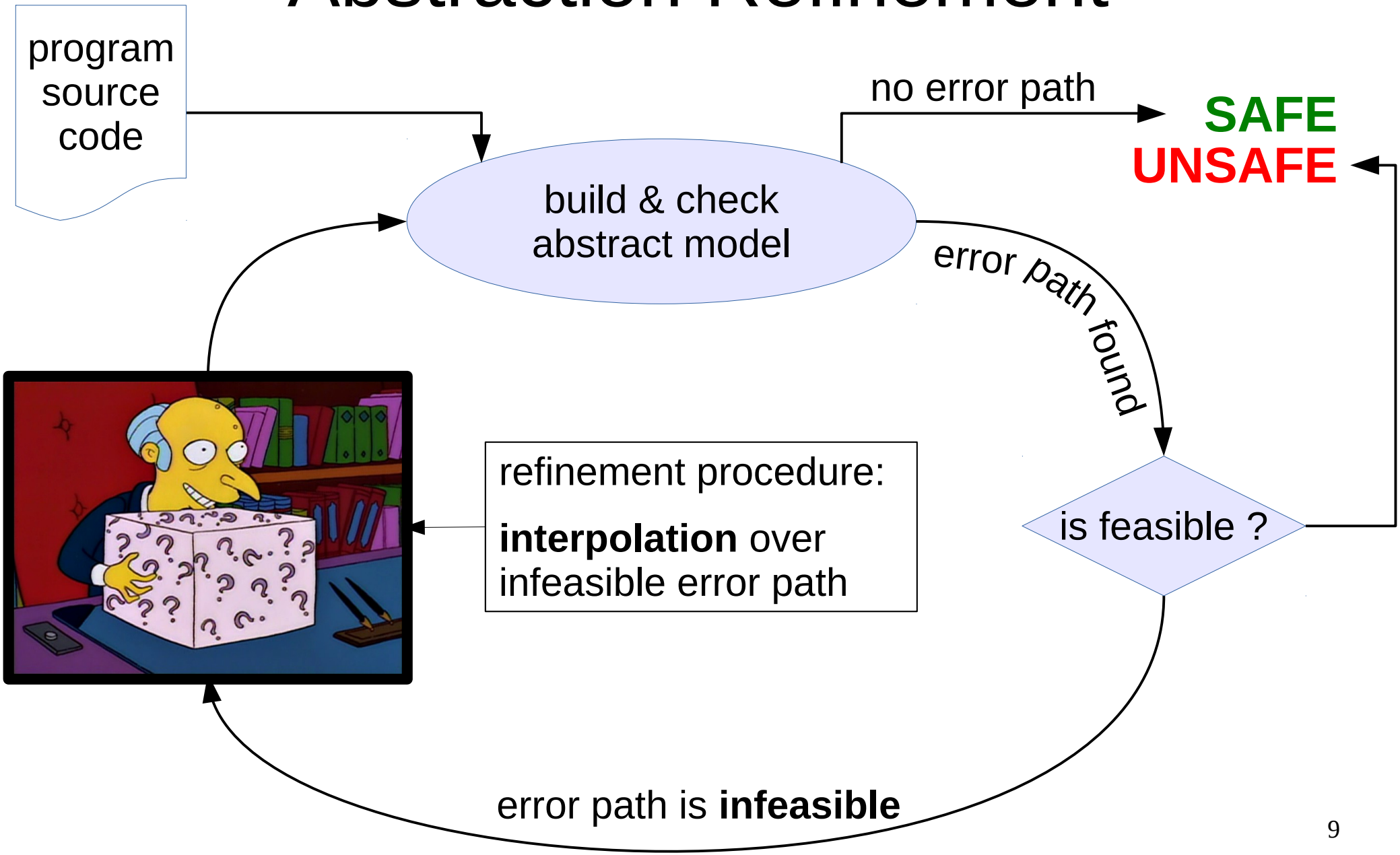
is feasible ?

refinement procedure:

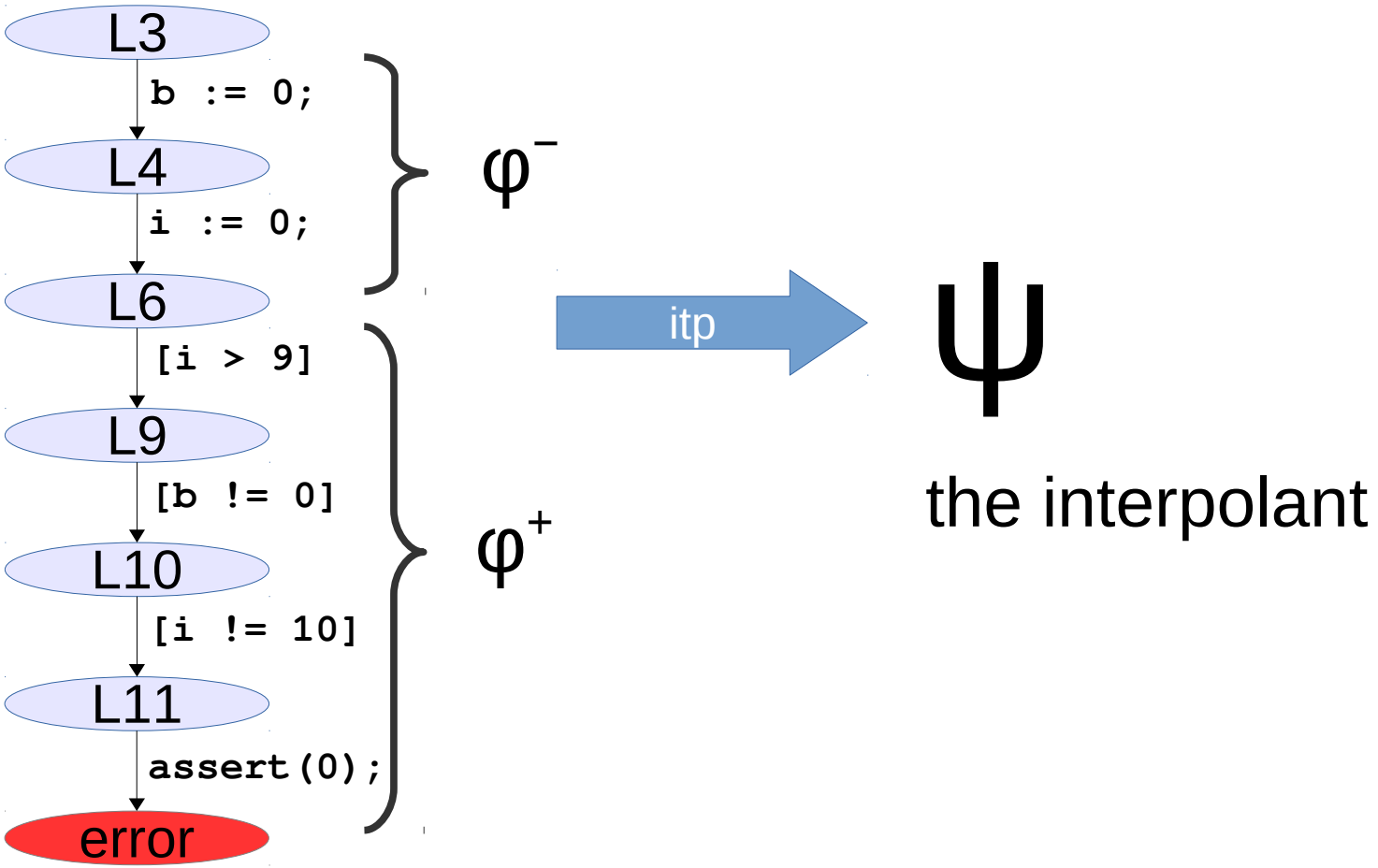
black magic in a **mystery box**

error path is **infeasible**

Counterexample-Guided Abstraction Refinement



Craig Interpolation



At L6 the interpolant ψ for φ^- and φ^+ could be:

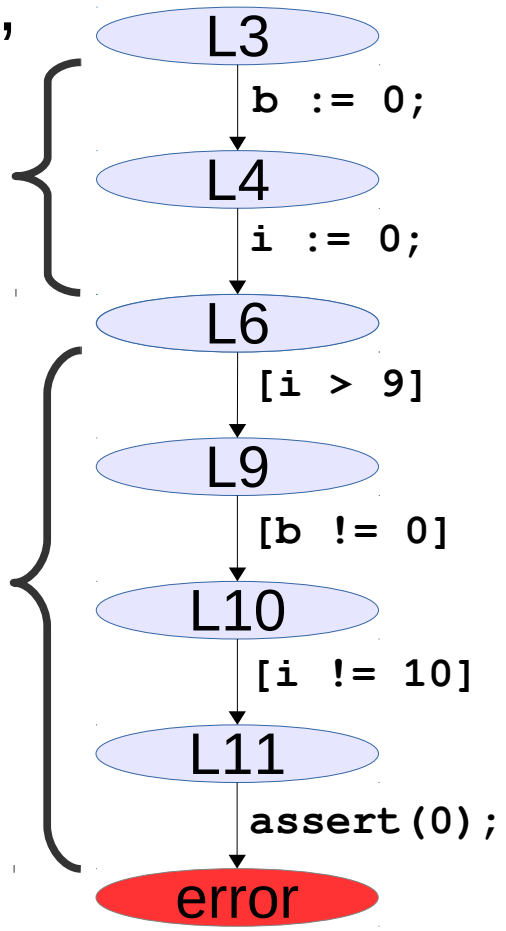
[b = 0], or [i = 0], or [b = 0 ∧ i = 0], or ...

[Abstractions from Proofs, 2004, Henzinger, Jhala, Majumdar, McMillan]

“Explicit-Value” Interpolation

For a pair of ***constraint sequences*** y^- and y^+, such that $y^- \wedge y^+$ is ***contradicting***, ***interpolant*** ψ is a ***constraint sequence*** that fulfills the following requirements:

1) y^- implies ψ
2) $\psi \wedge y^+$ is unsatisfiable
3) ψ only contains symbols that are common to both y^- and y^+



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[Explicit-State Software Model Checking Based on CEGAR and Interpolation, 2013, D. Beyer, S. Löwe]

Interpolants

- Represent **concise** explanations for infeasibility of error
  - Therefore, ideally suited for refinement of precision

Interpolation

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- Theoretically, well suited for refinement of precision

Example – Good vs. Bad Interpolants

Input Program

```
1   extern int f(int x);
2   int main() {
3     int b = 0;
4     int i = 0;
5     while(1) {
6       if(i > 9) break;
7       f(i++);
8     }
9     if(b != 0) {
10      if(i != 10) {
11        assert(0);
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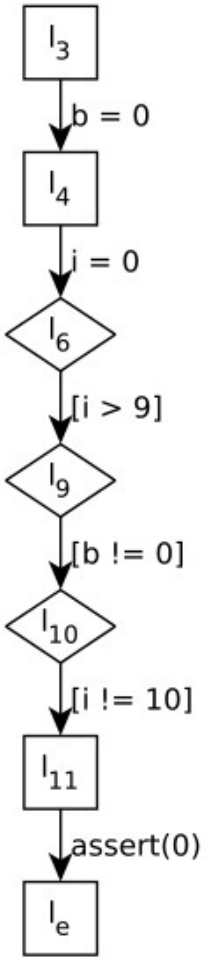
Abstract Error Path



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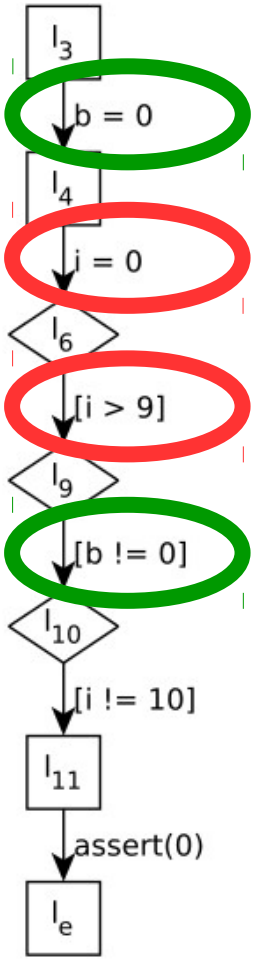

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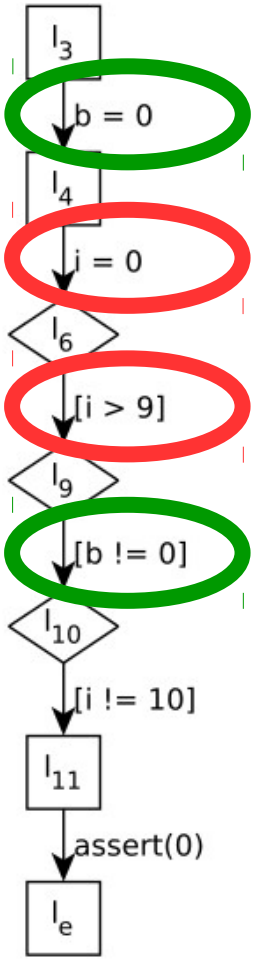
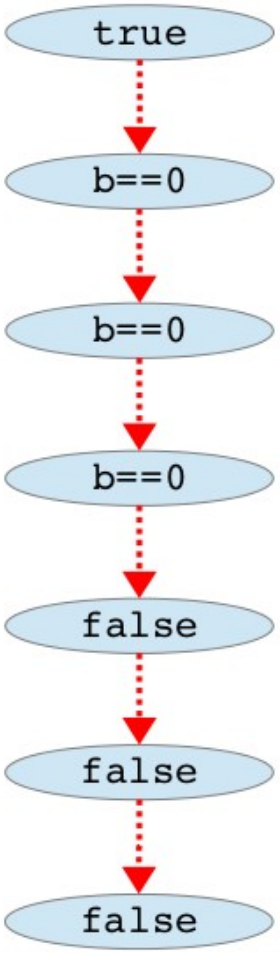
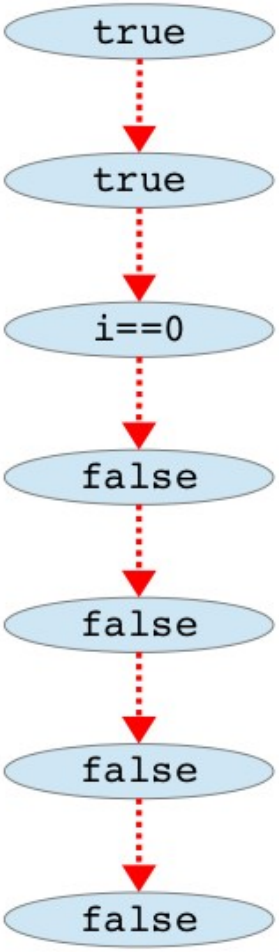


Good Interpolants



Bad Interpolants



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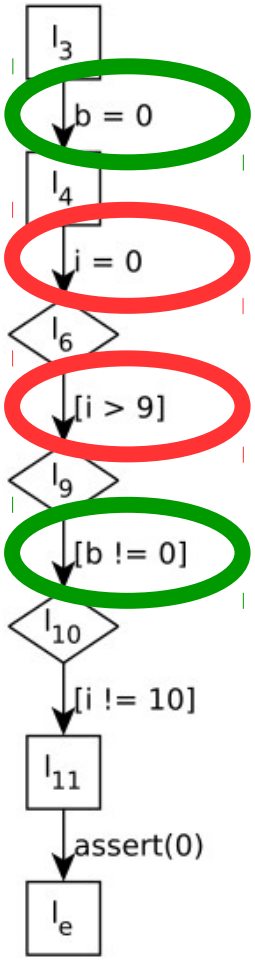

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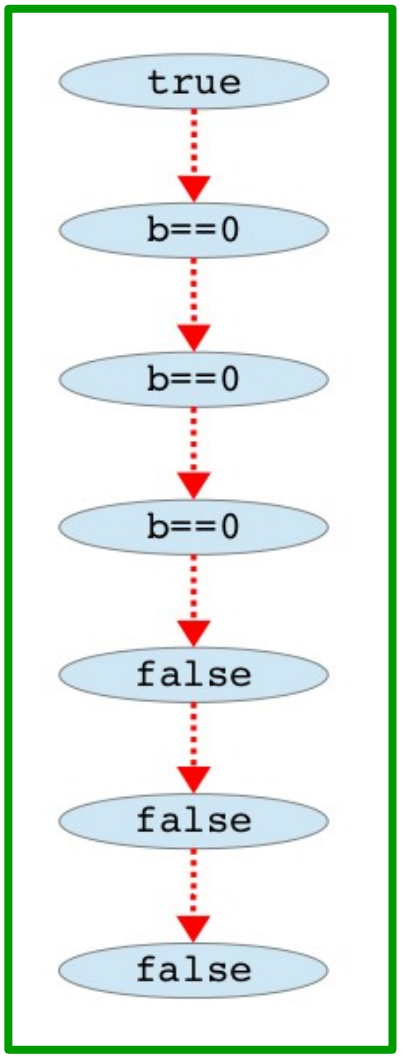

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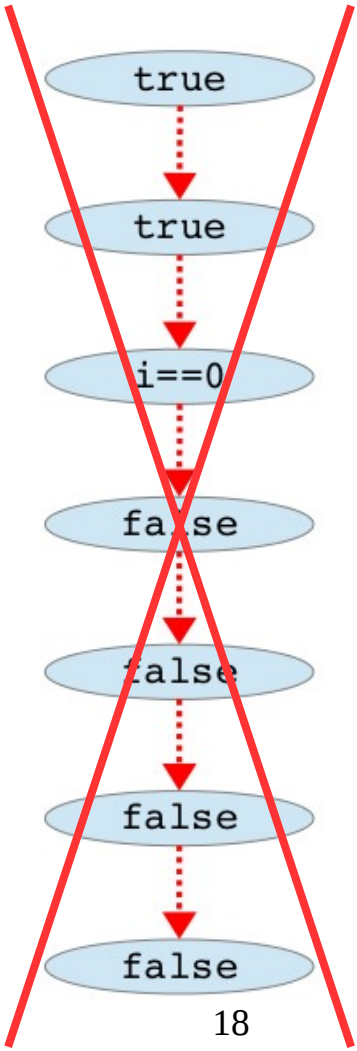

Interpolation – Recap

- Represent **concise** explanations for infeasibility of error
- ~~Therefore, ideally suited for refinement of precision~~
- Theoretically, well suited for refinement of precision

- Single interpolation problem typically has several solutions
  - Which interpolant do we get?
  - Some are “good”, others might lead to divergence
  - Selection controlled by internals of interpolation engine

Interpolation – Guided

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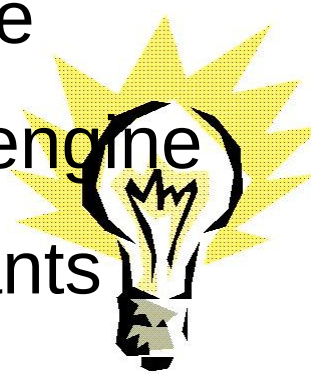
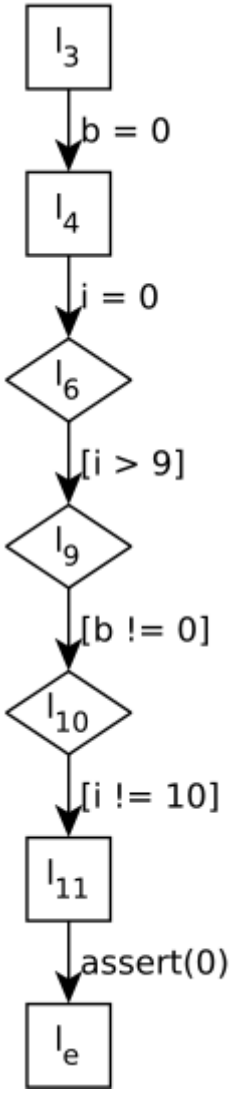
  - Which interpolant do we get?
  - Some are “good”, others might lead to divergence
  - Selection controlled by internals of interpolation engine
- Guide interpolation, ideally towards good interpolants



Extraction of Infeasible Sliced Prefixes

Abstract Error Path



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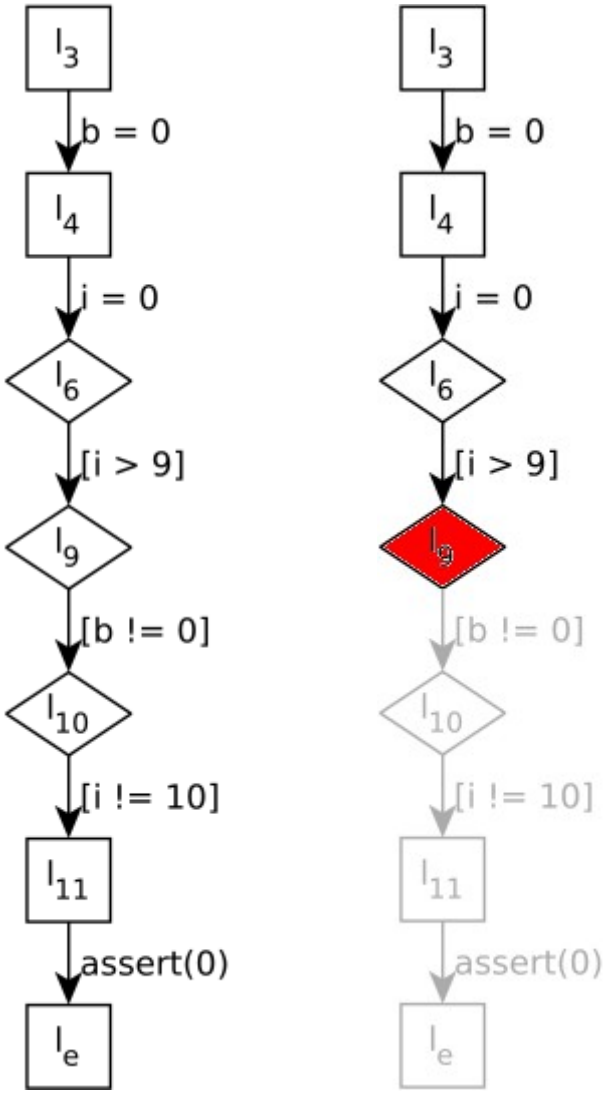

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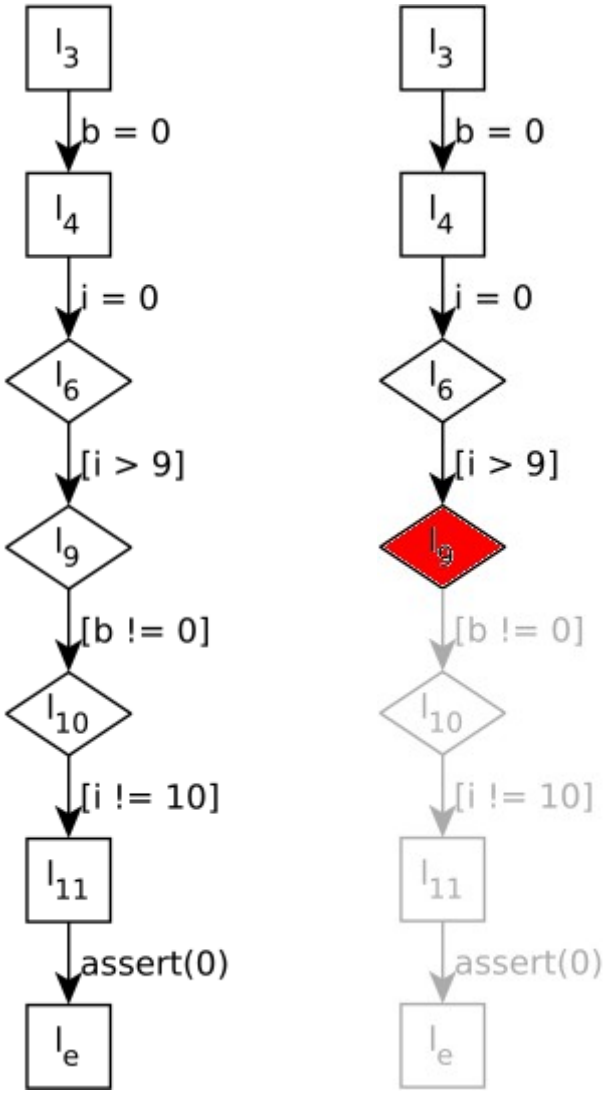
1st Prefix



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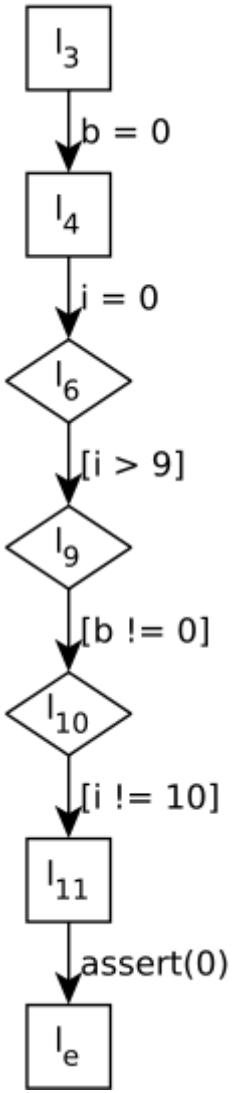

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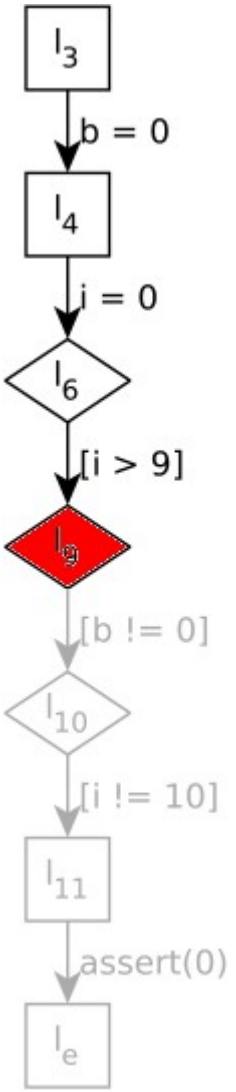
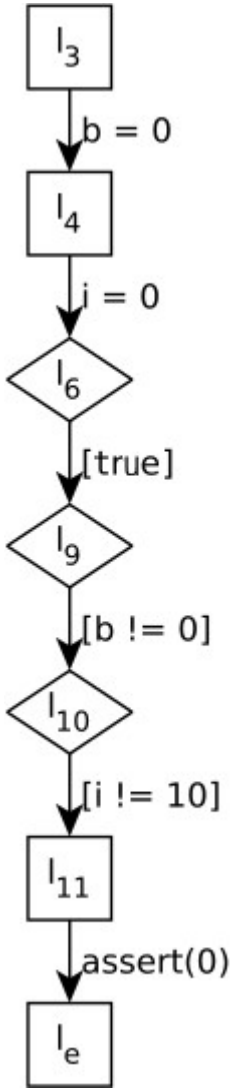


Sliced Error Path



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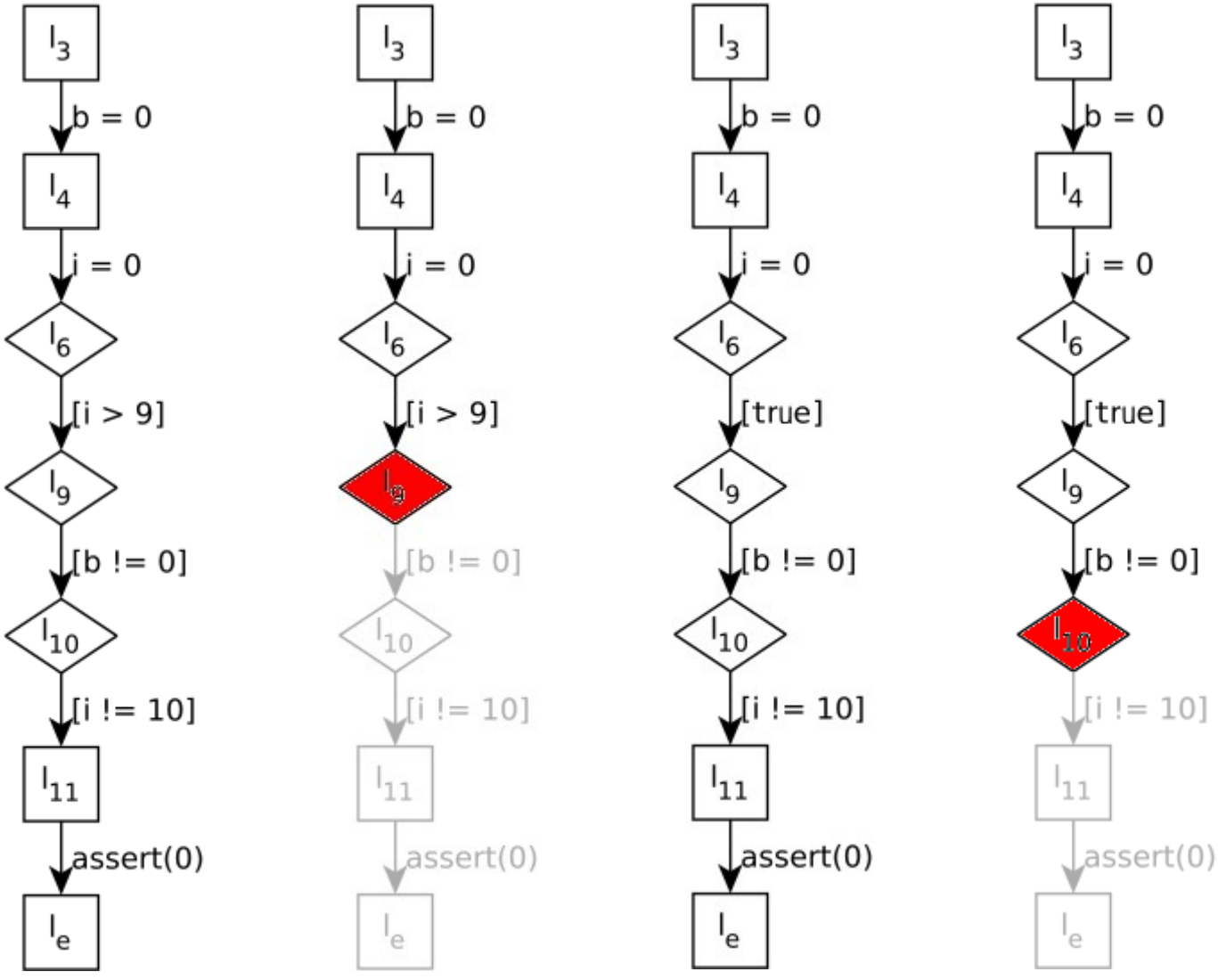
Abstract Error Path 1st Prefix Sliced Error Path



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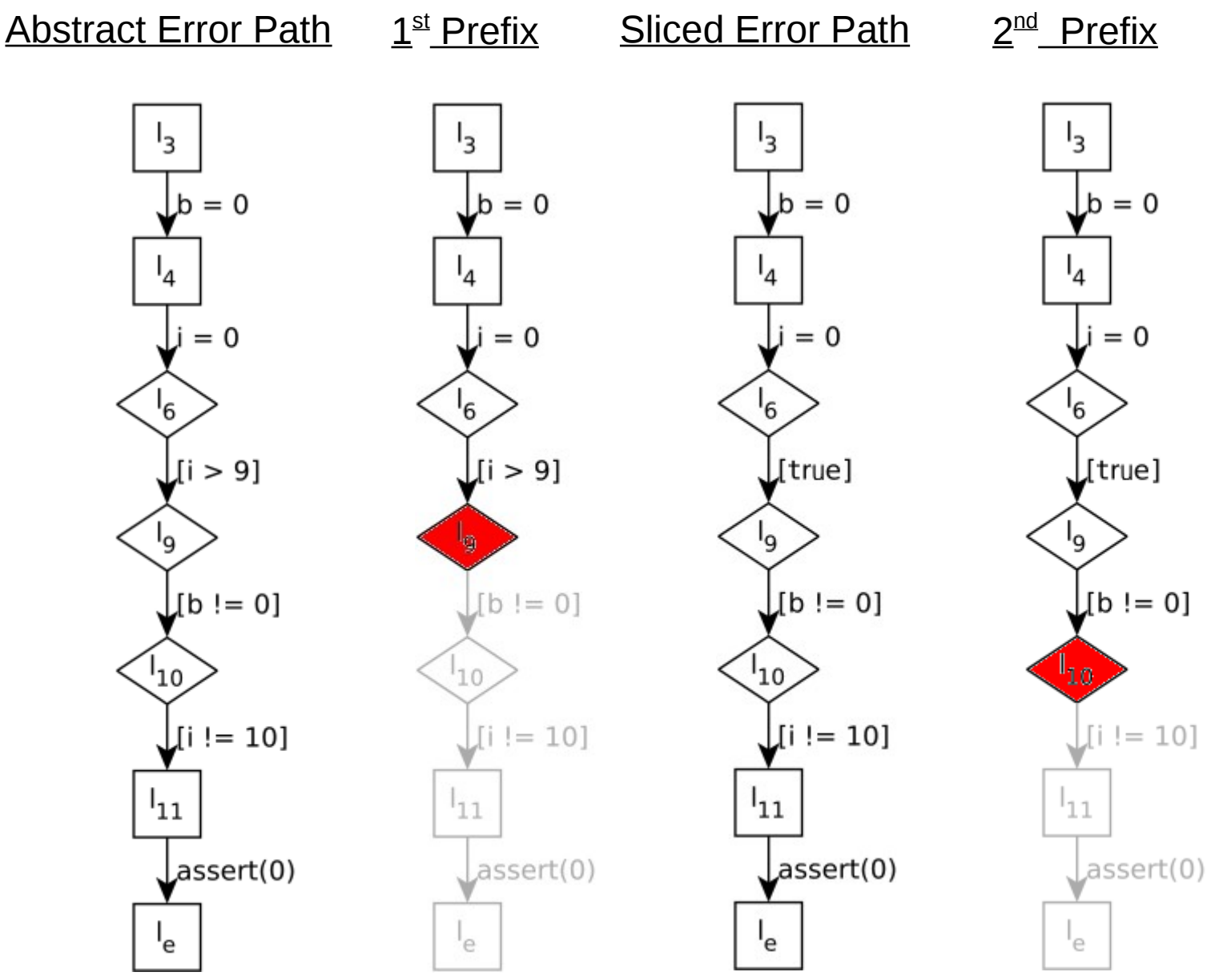

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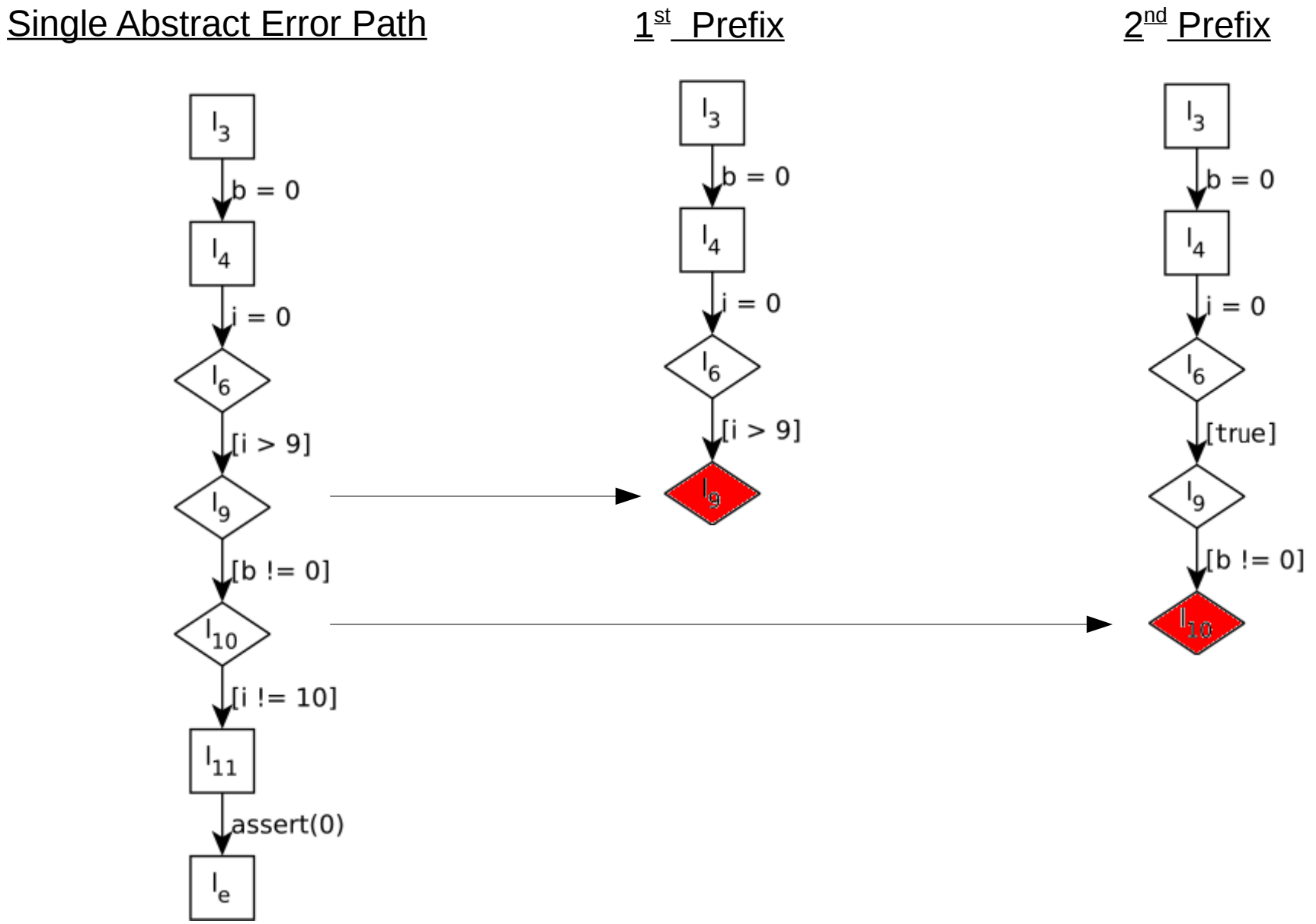

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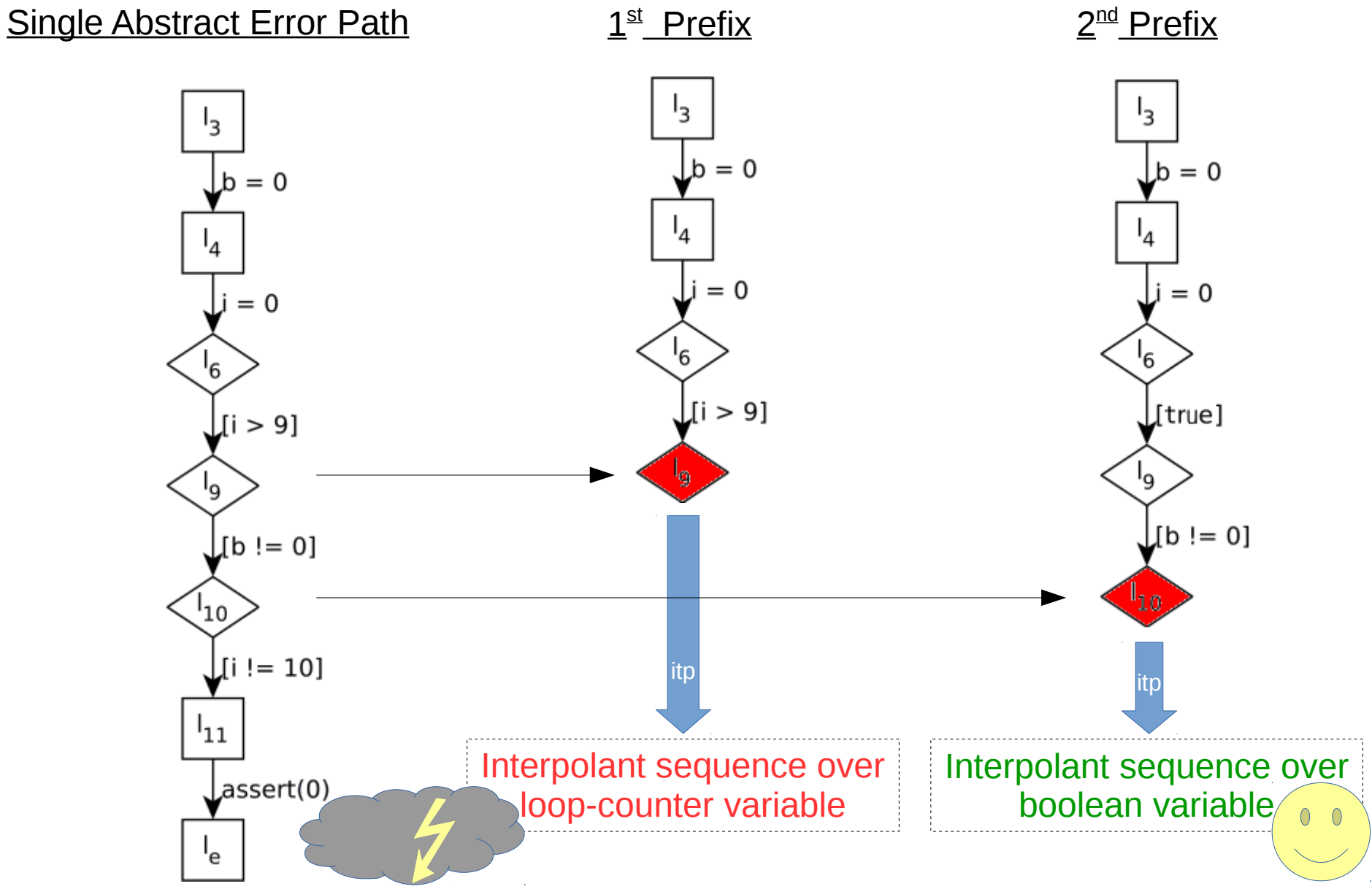

Proposition: Interpolants of Prefixes

Any **infeasible sliced prefix φ**

that is extracted from an **infeasible error path σ**

can be used **for interpolation**

to **exclude the original error path σ**

from **subsequent iterations** of CEGAR loop

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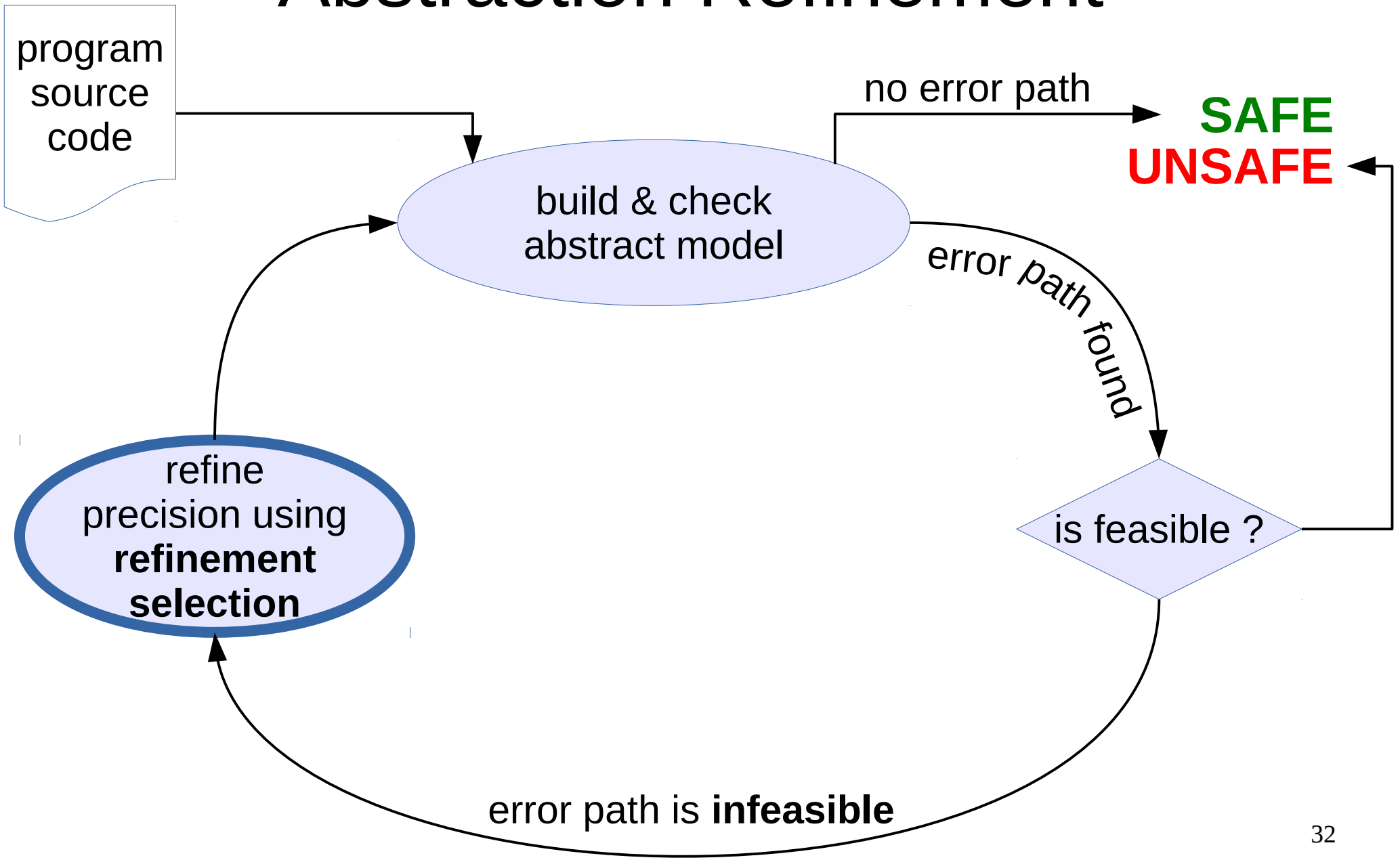
- **We can use any prefix we want for interpolation !**

refinement selection is now possible

Proof is in the Paper

Couterexample-Guided Abstraction Refinement



Refinement Selection

- Refinement is now an optimization problem
- Select any refinement from a set of refinements
- Different heuristics for selecting an refinement
  - Shortest or longest prefix
  - Best or worst score based on Domain-Types
  - Width of precision
  - Depth of refinement root
  - …

Implementation & Experiments

- Evaluated on over 2500 benchmarks from SV-COMP'15
- Evaluated under rules of SV-COMP'15
  - 15 minutes CPU Time
  - 15 GB RAM
- All ideas and concepts described are implemented
  - Integrated into CPAchecker
  - Extended Value Analysis

http://cpachecker.sosy-lab.org

Results

Heuristic		Sliced-Prefix Length		Score		Oracle		
	# Tasks	Shortest	Longest	Best	Worst	Best	Worst	Diff
DeviceDrivers64	619	326	395	399	319	403	315	88
ECA	1 140	489	512	570	478	611	410	201
ProductLines	597	456	361	402	360	463	353	110
Sequentialized	234	29	22	30	27	30	19	11
All Tasks	2 696	1 369	1 359	1 470	1 252	1 577	1 165	412

Powered by BenchExec - https://github.com/dbeyer/benchexec

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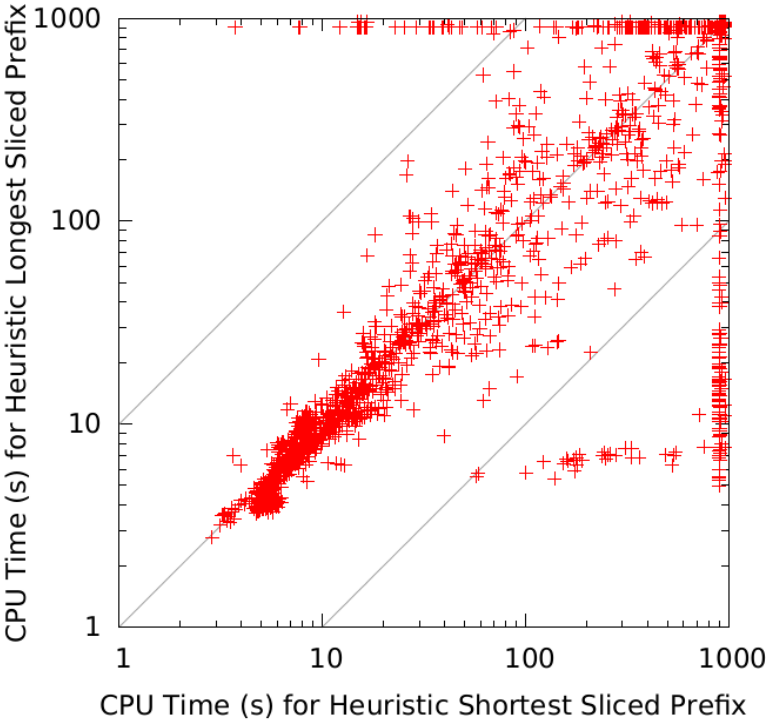

Heuristic “Shortest” vs. “Longest”

Results – Domain-Type Score

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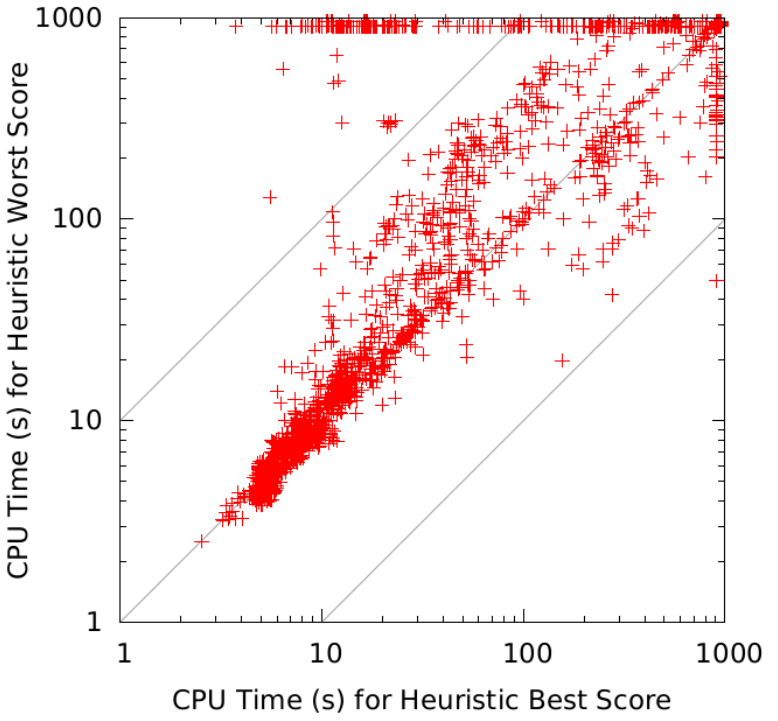


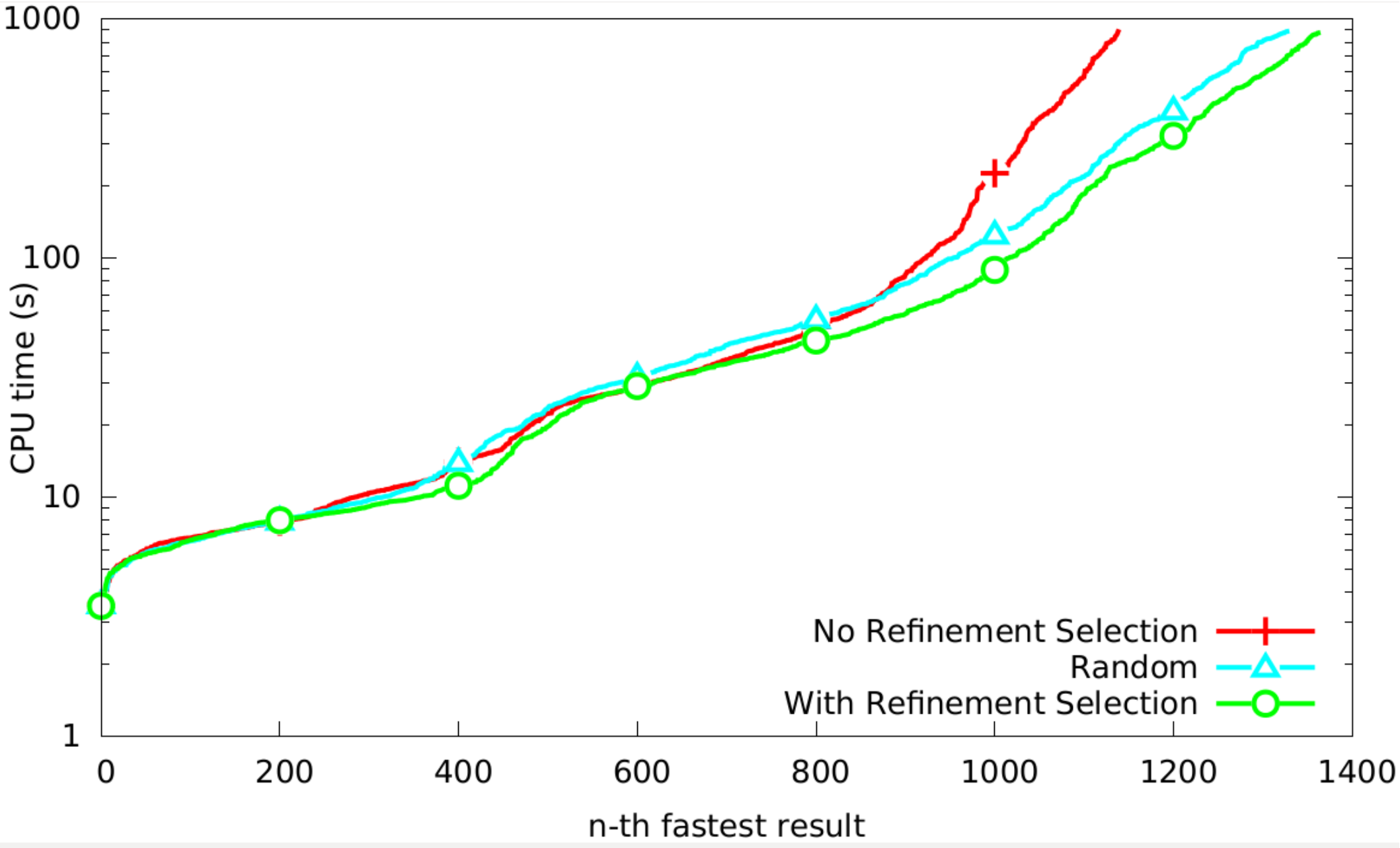
Heuristic “Best Score” vs. “Worst Score”

We want Refinement Selection !!!

Because straight-forward interpolation completely and utterly sucks !!!11!

Stefan Löwe

Now also for Predicate Abstraction!



Conclusion

- Defined and implemented for two domains
  - infeasible sliced prefixes
  - precision selection heuristics
- Enables refinement selection

http://cpachecker.sosy-lab.org

- Nice Results
  - Refinement selection matters!
  - More research needed on how to select refinements