

A Unifying View on SMT-Based Software Model Checking

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“Documentation”

SMT-based Software Model Checking

- ▶ Predicate Abstraction
(BLAST, CPACHECKER, SLAM, ...)
- ▶ IMPACT
(CPACHECKER, IMPACT, WOLVERINE, ...)
- ▶ Bounded Model Checking
(CBMC, CPACHECKER, ESBMC, ...)
- ▶ k -Induction
(CPACHECKER, ESBMC, 2LS, ...)
- ▶ Property-Directed Reachability (PDR, also known as IC3)
(SEAHORN, VVT, ...)
- ▶ ...

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Our Goals

- ▶ Provide a unifying conceptual framework for SMT-based algorithms
- ▶ Perform an extensive comparative evaluation
- ▶ Confirm intuitions about strengths
- ▶ Determine potential of extensions and combinations

Approach

- ▶ Understand, and, if necessary, re-formulate the algorithms
- ▶ Implement all algorithms in one tool (CPACHECKER)
- ▶ Run the algorithms on a large set of benchmarks
- ▶ Measure efficiency and effectiveness

Experimental Validity: All Algorithms in one Tool

Compare algorithms, not tools:

- ▶ Share same front-end code
- ▶ Share same utilities
- ▶ Share same SMT-solver integration
- ▶ Share algorithm-independent optimizations

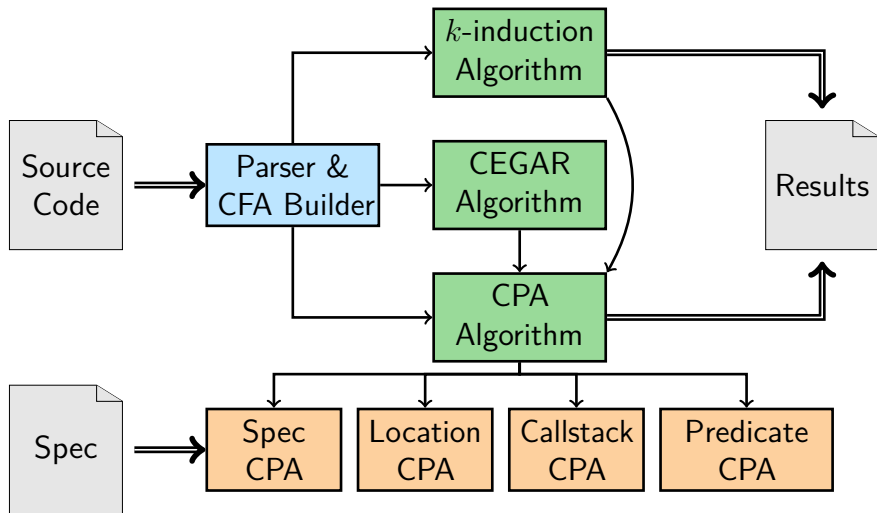
→ Differences in performance must be caused by algorithms

Configurable Program Analysis

Configurable Program Analysis (CPA):

- ▶ Beyer, Henzinger, Théoduloz: [\[CAV'07\]](#)
- ▶ One single unifying algorithm for all algorithms based on state-space exploration
- ▶ Configurable components: Abstract domain, abstract-successor computation, path sensitivity, ...
- ▶ Separation of concerns:
 - ▶ Reusable CPA for tracking the program counter
 - ▶ Reusable CPA for tracking the callstack
 - ▶ Reusable CPA representing the specification
 - ▶ Reusable CPA for combining multiple CPAs

CPACHECKER



Predicate Abstraction

- ▶ Predicate Abstraction
 - ▶ Graf, Saïdi: [CAV'97]
 - ▶ Abstract-Interpretation technique
 - ▶ Abstract domain constructed from a set of predicates π
 - ▶ Use CEGAR to add predicates to π (refinement)
 - ▶ Derive new predicates using Craig interpolation
 - ▶ Good for finding proofs

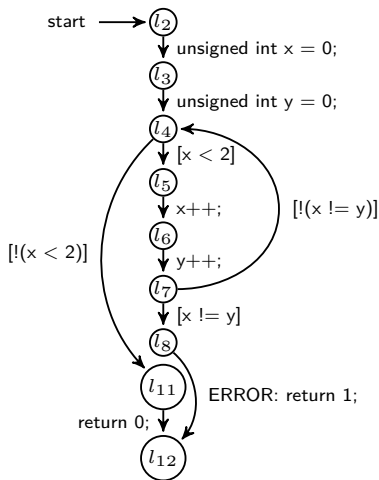
Adjustable-Block Encoding

Adjustable-Block Encoding:

- ▶ Abstraction computation is expensive
- ▶ Abstraction is not necessary after every transition
- ▶ Track precise path formula between abstraction states
- ▶ Reset path formula and compute abstraction formula at abstraction states
- ▶ Large-Block Encoding: Abstraction only at loop (and function) heads
- ▶ Adjustable-Block Encoding: Introduce block operator "blk" to make it configurable

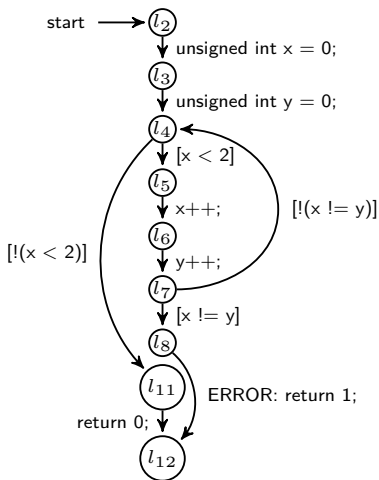
Example Program

```
1  int main() {
2      unsigned int x = 0;
3      unsigned int y = 0;
4      while (x < 2) {
5          x++;
6          y++;
7          if (x != y) {
8              ERROR: return 1;
9          }
10     }
11     return 0;
12 }
```



Predicate Abstraction: Example

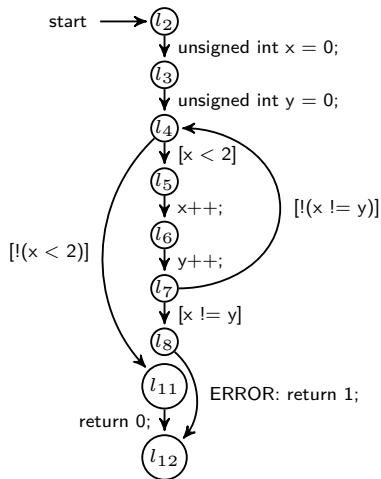
with $\pi(l_4) = \{x = y\}$ and $\pi(l_8) = \{false\}$



$e_0: (l_2, (true, l_2, true))$

Predicate Abstraction: Example

with $\pi(l_4) = \{x = y\}$ and $\pi(l_8) = \{false\}$

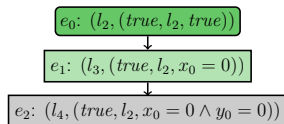
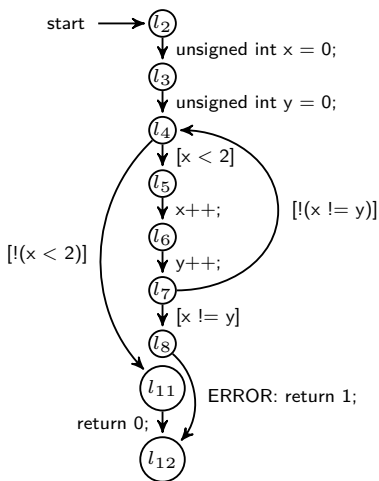


$e_0: (l_2, (true, l_2, true))$

$e_1: (l_3, (true, l_2, x_0 = 0))$

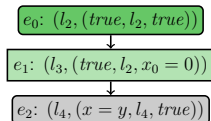
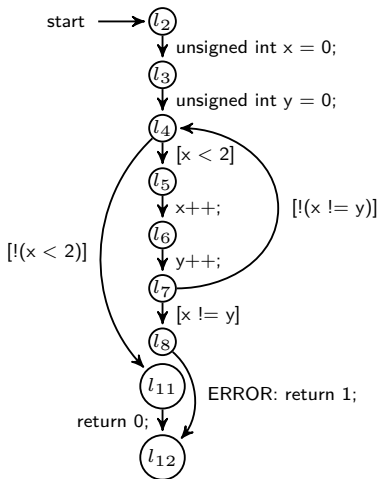
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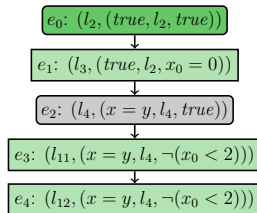
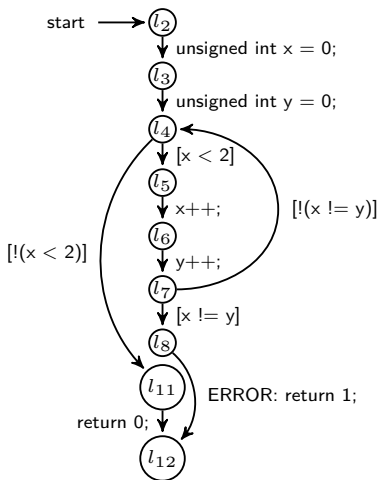
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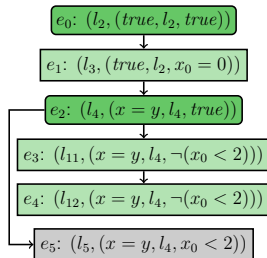
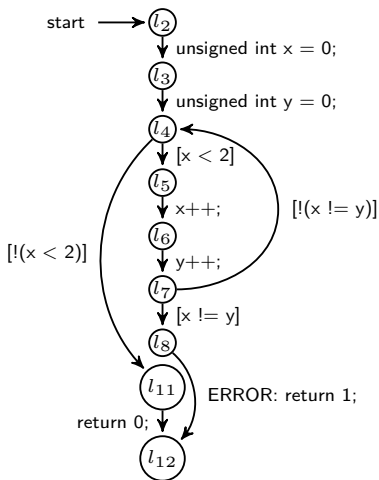
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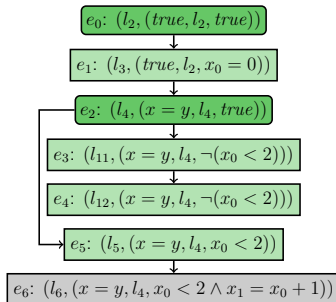
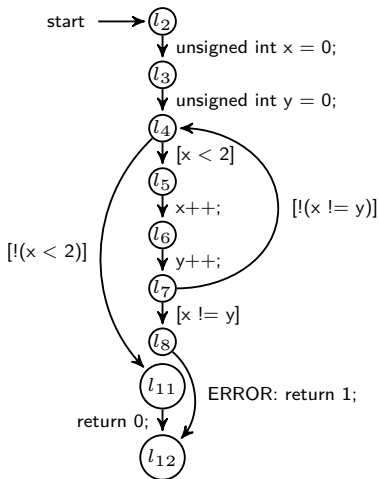
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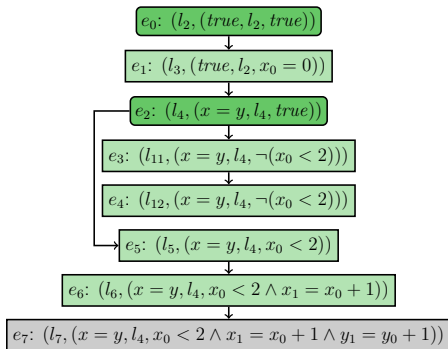
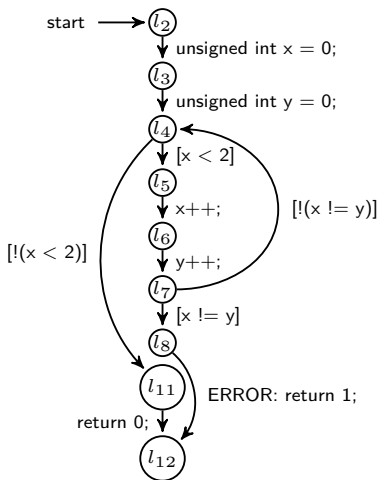
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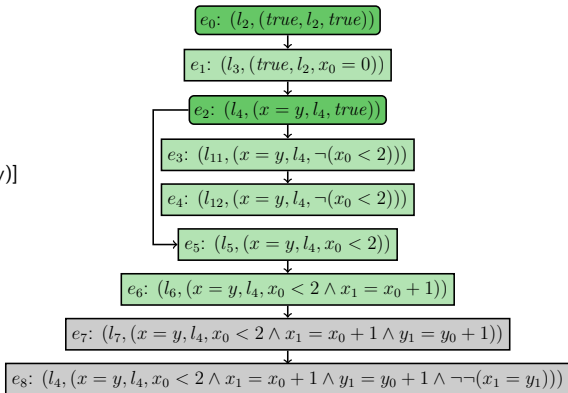
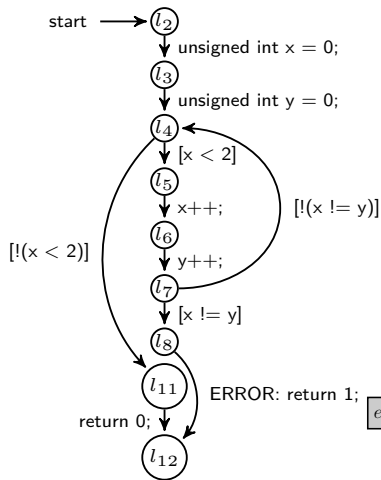
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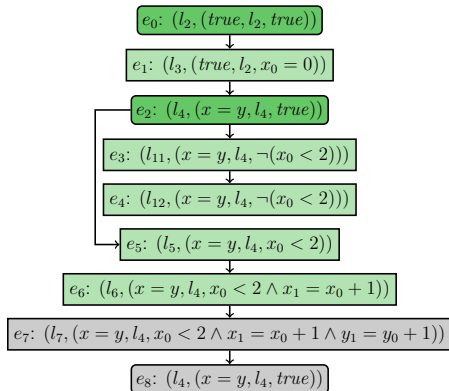
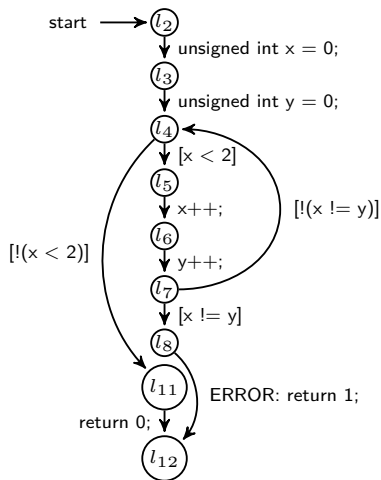
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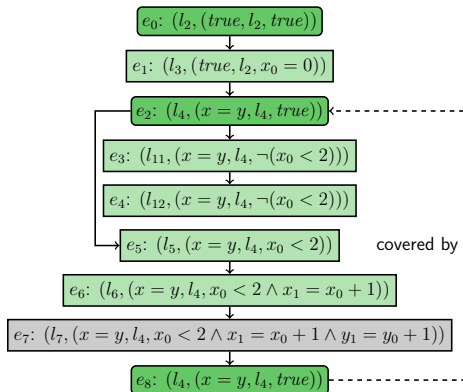
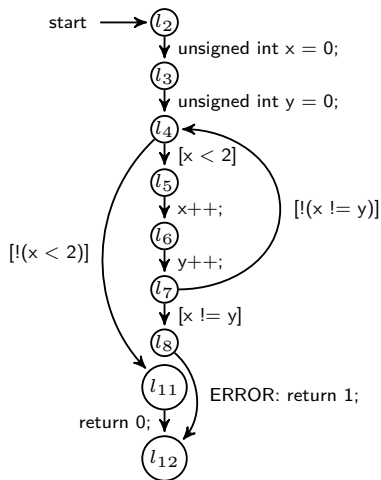
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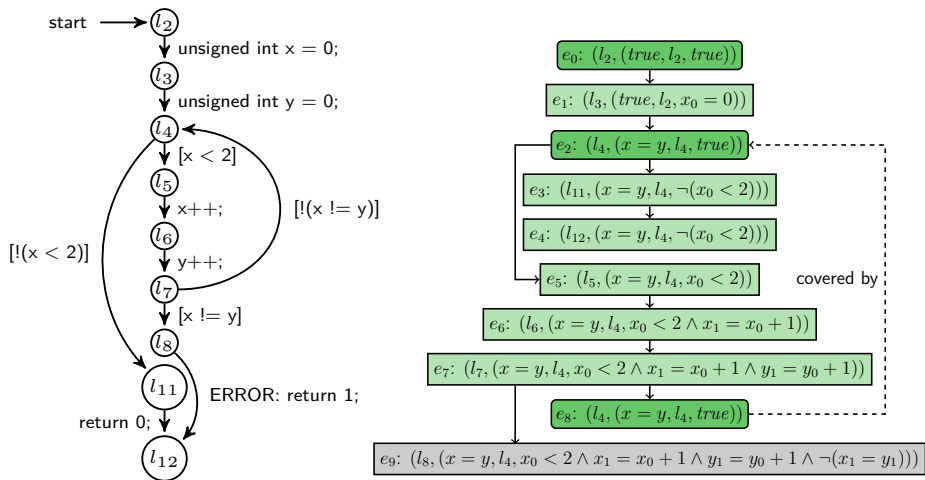
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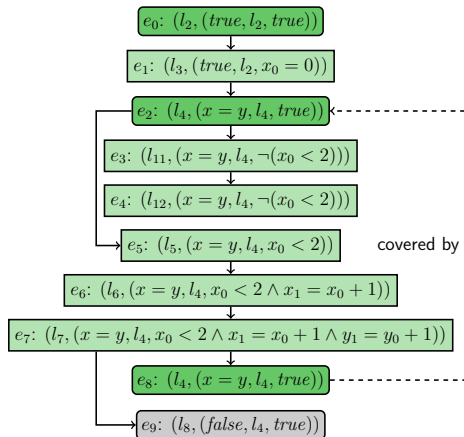
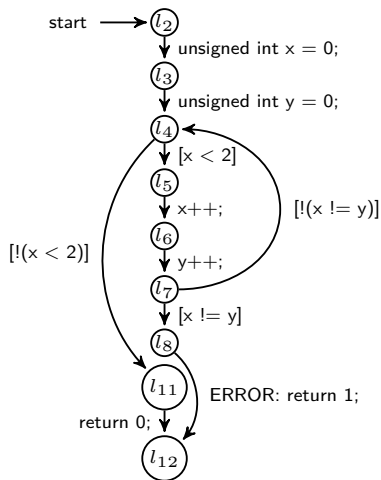
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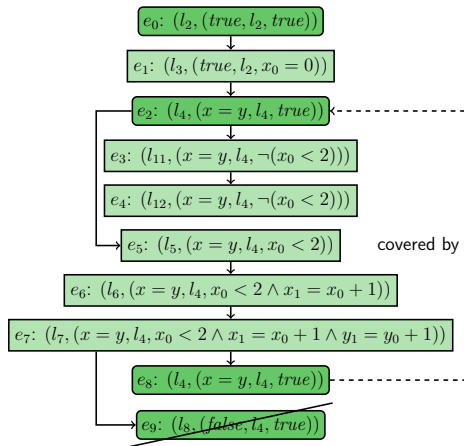
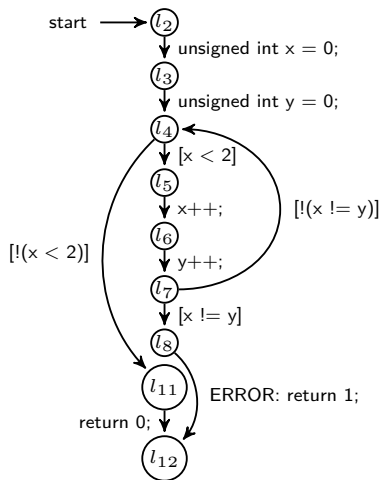
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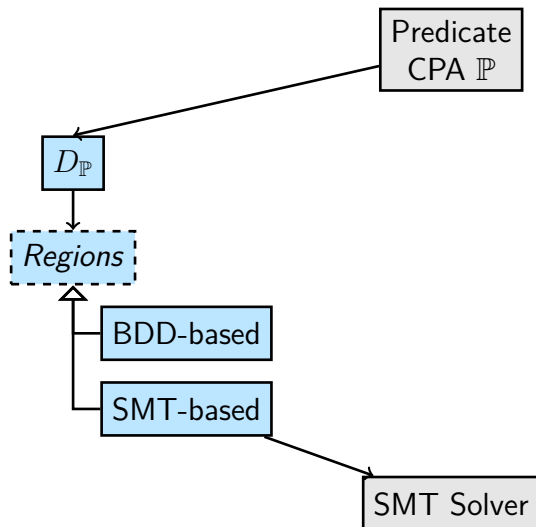


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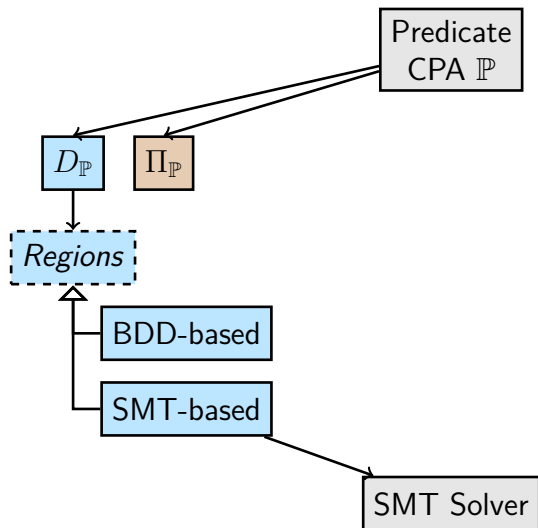
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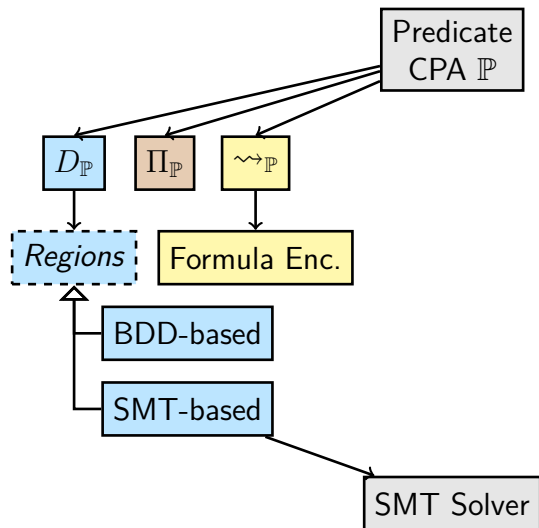
Predicate CPA



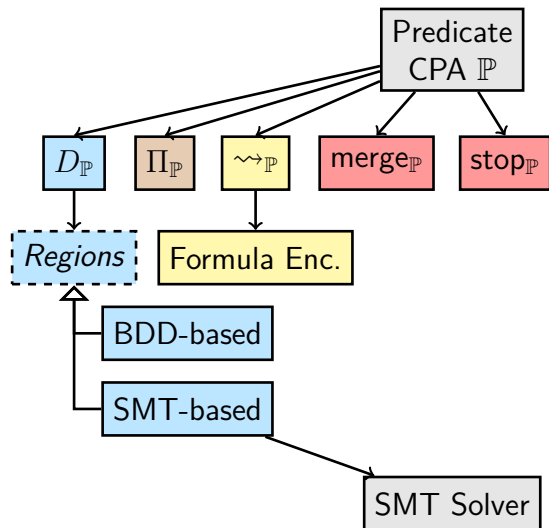
Predicate CPA



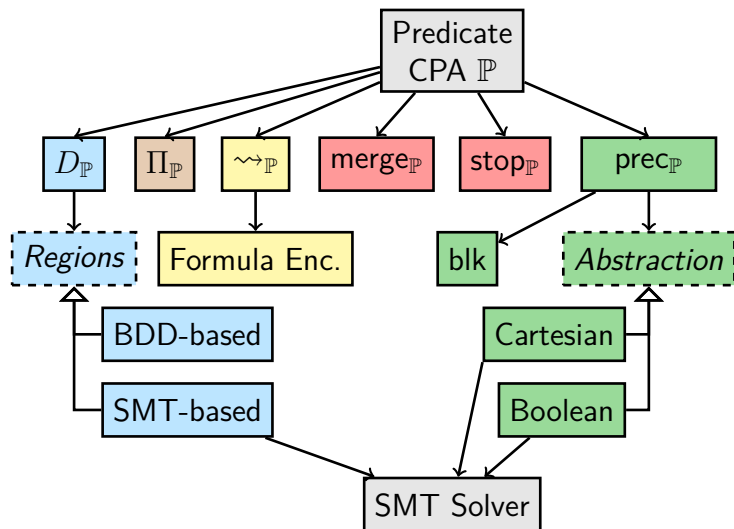
Predicate CPA



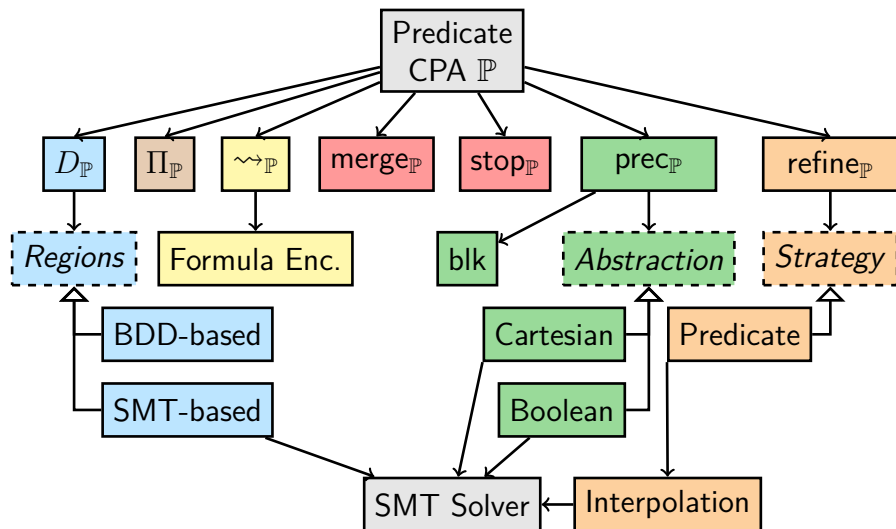
Predicate CPA



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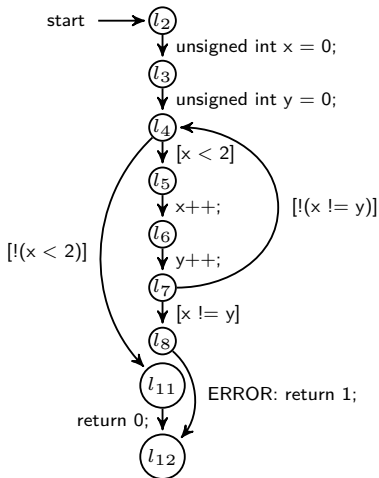
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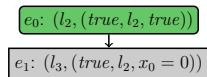
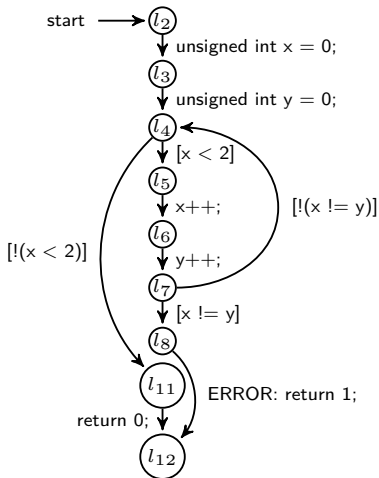
- ▶ IMPACT
 - ▶ "Lazy Abstraction with Interpolants"
 - ▶ McMillan: [CAV'06]
 - ▶ Counter-draft to predicate abstraction
 - ▶ Abstraction is derived dynamically/lazily
 - ▶ Solution to avoiding expensive abstraction computations
 - ▶ Compute fixed point over three operations
 - ▶ Expand
 - ▶ Refine
 - ▶ Cover
 - ▶ Quick exploration of the state space
 - ▶ Good for finding bugs

IMPACT: Example

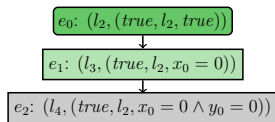
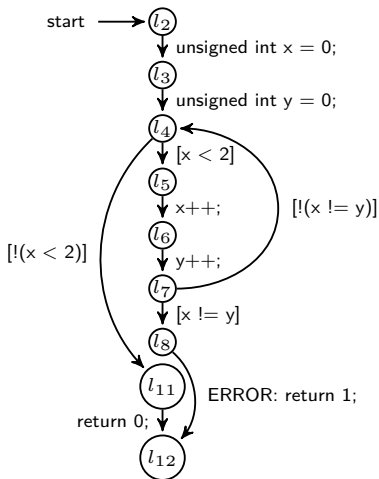
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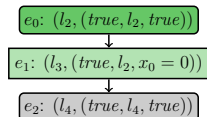
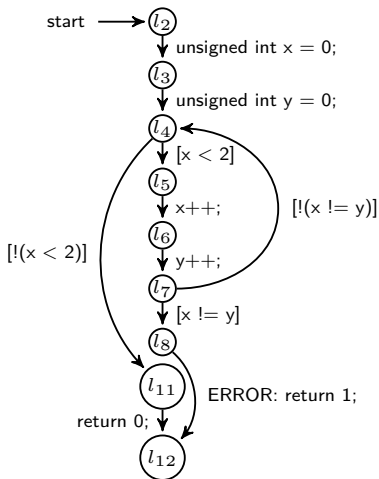
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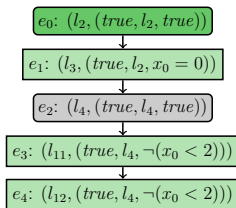
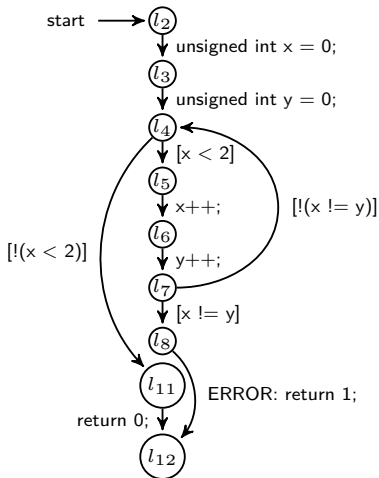
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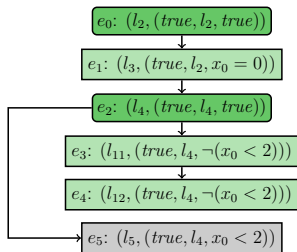
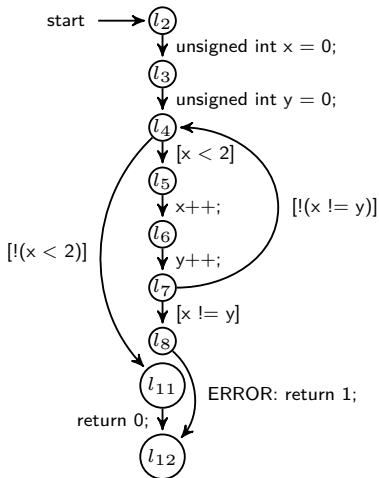
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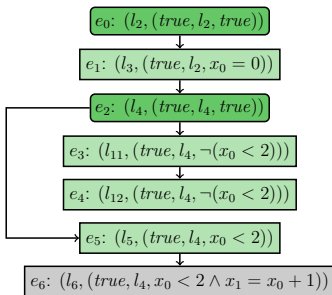
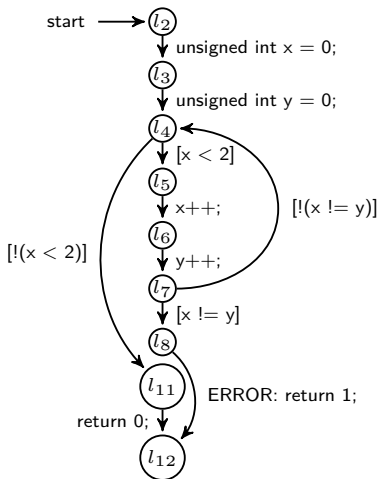
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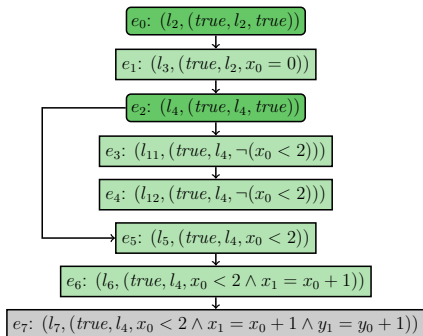
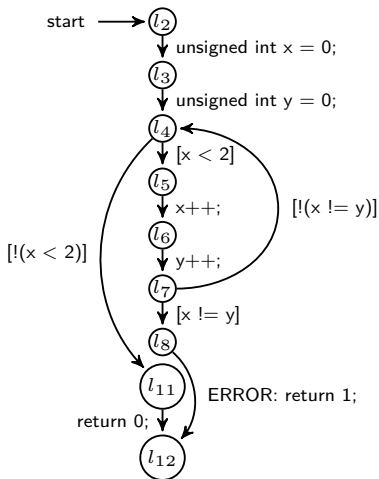
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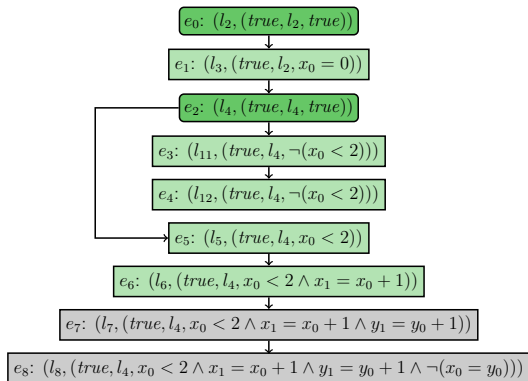
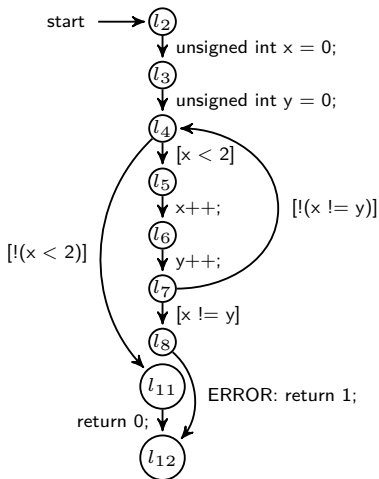
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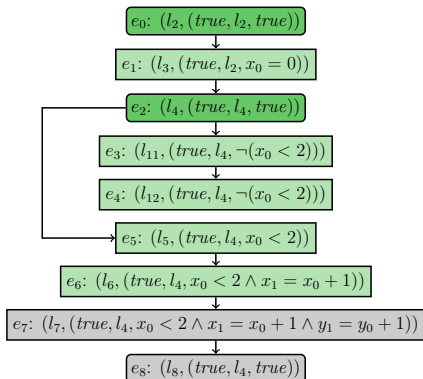
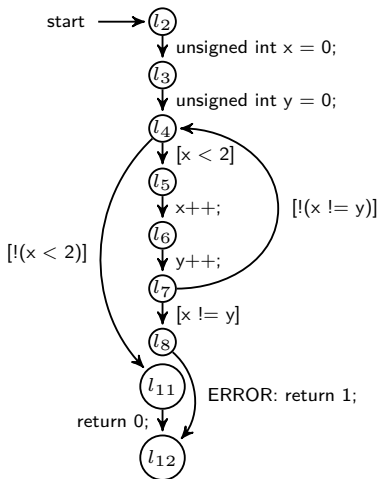
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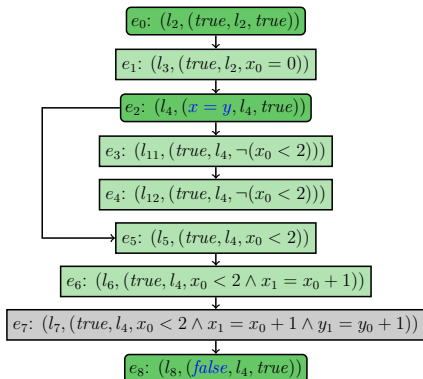
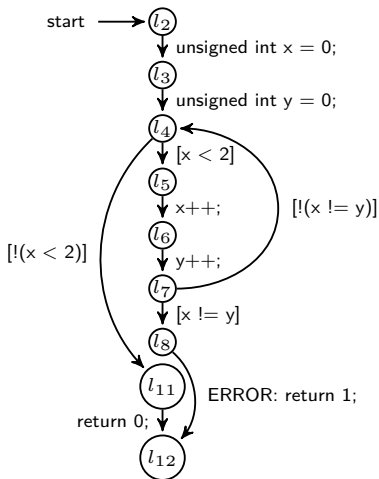
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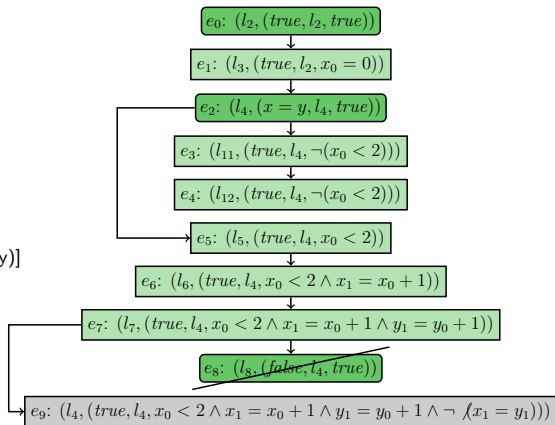
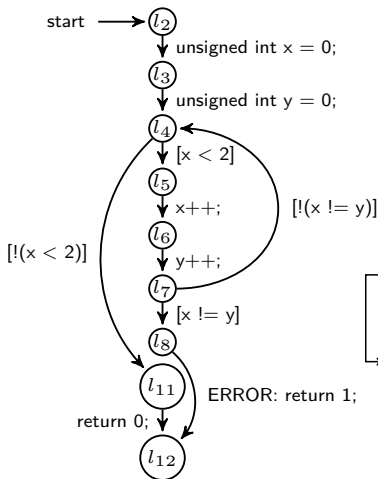
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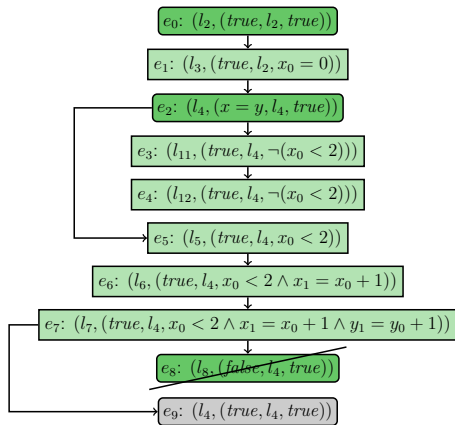
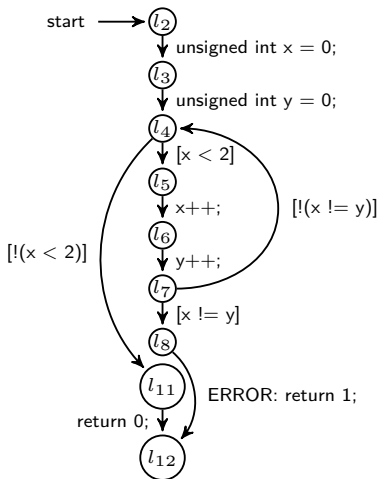
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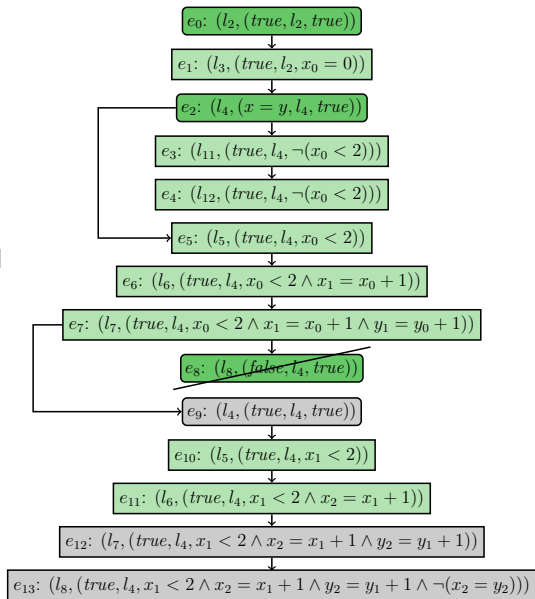
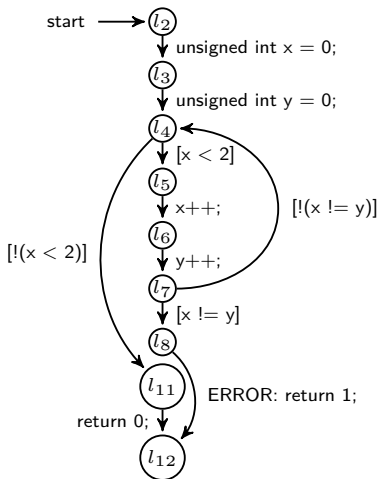
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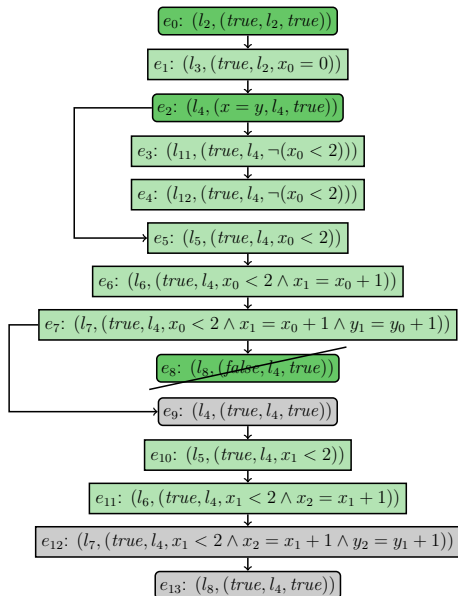
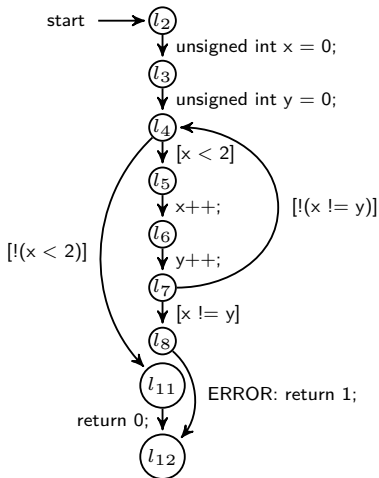
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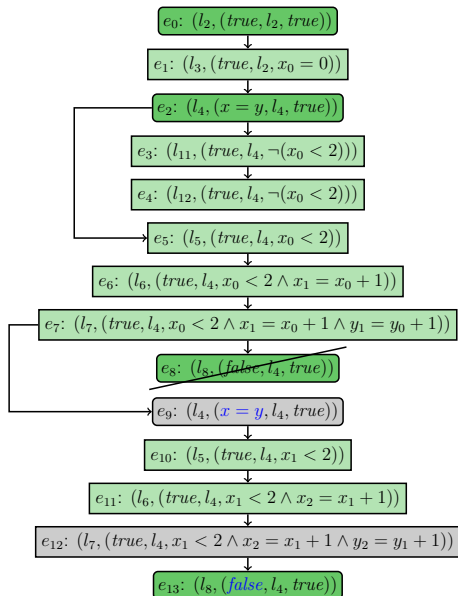
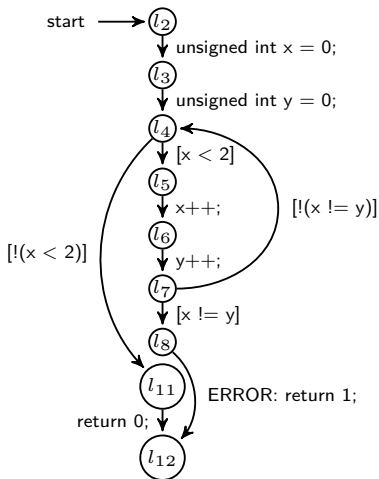
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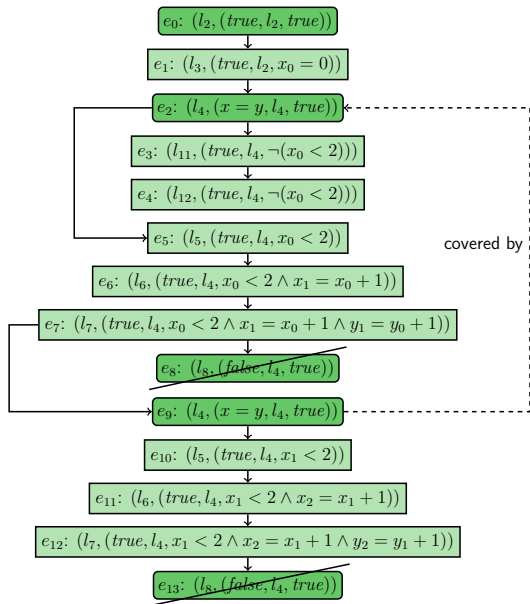
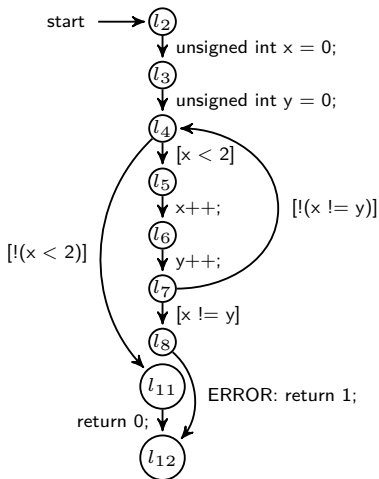
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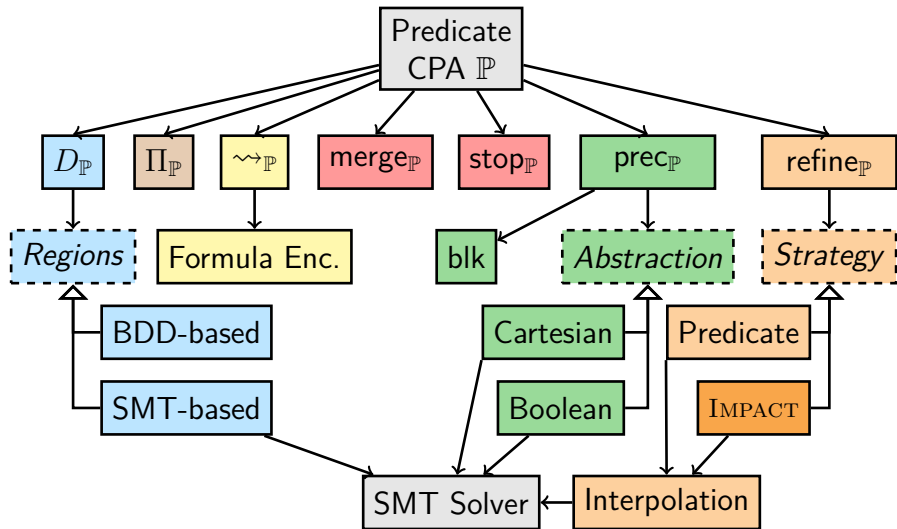
IMPACT: Example



IMPACT: Example



Predicate CPA extended for IMPACT



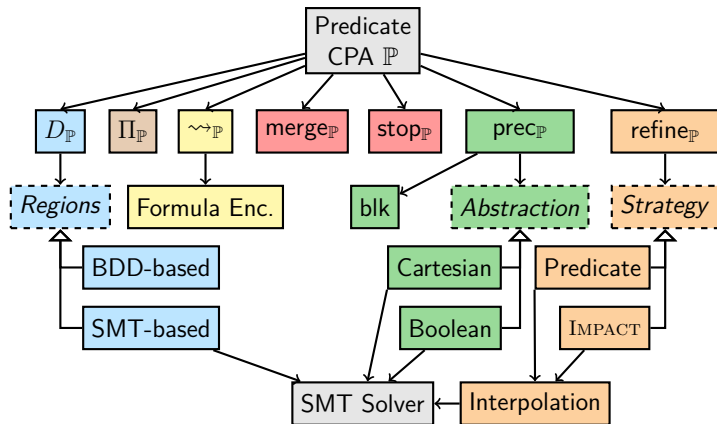
Bounded Model Checking

- ▶ Bounded Model Checking:
 - ▶ Biere, Cimatti, Clarke, Zhu: [\[TACAS'99\]](#)
 - ▶ No abstraction
 - ▶ Unroll loops up to a loop bound k
 - ▶ Check that P holds in the first k iterations:

$$\bigwedge_{i=1}^k P(i)$$

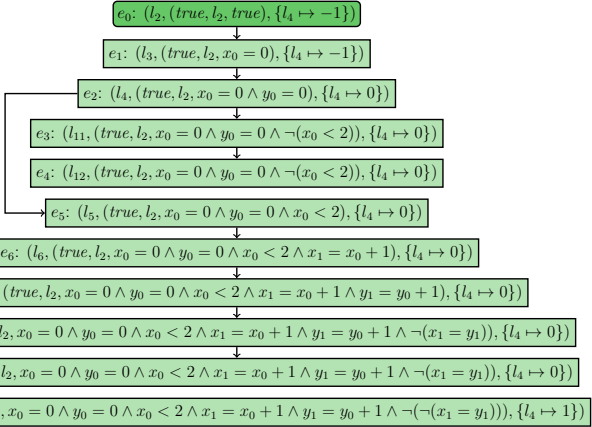
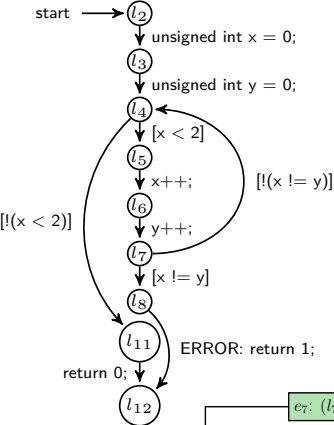
- ▶ Good for finding bugs

Reuse Predicate CPA to Build BMC Query



Just add a CPA $\mathbb{L}\mathbb{B}$ for counting and bounding loop iterations

Bounded Model Checking: Example



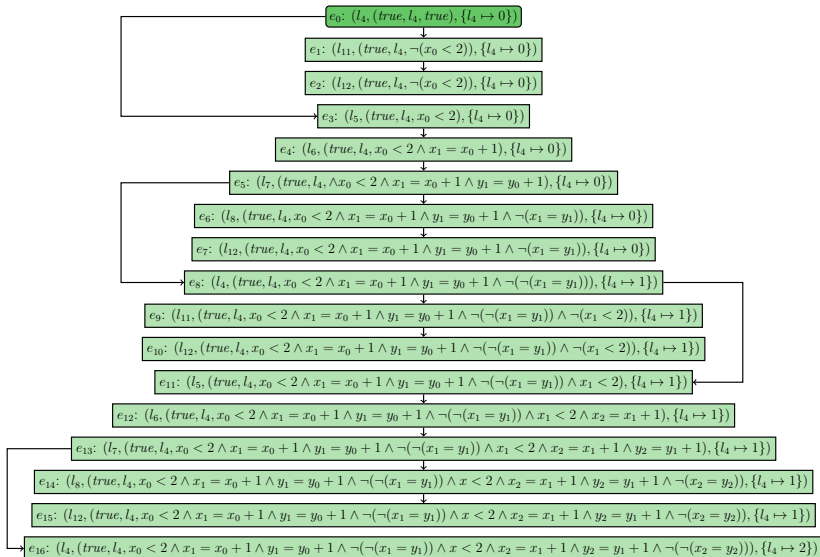
k -Induction

- ▶ k -Induction generalizes the induction principle:
 - ▶ No abstraction
 - ▶ Base case: Check that P holds in the first k iterations:
→ Equivalent to BMC with loop bound k
 - ▶ Step case: Check that the safety property is k -inductive:

$$\forall n : \left(\left(\bigwedge_{i=1}^k P(n + i - 1) \right) \implies P(n + k) \right)$$

- ▶ Stronger hypothesis is more likely to succeed
- ▶ Add auxiliary invariants
- ▶ Kahsai, Tinelli: [\[PDMC'11\]](#)
- ▶ Heavy-weight proof technique

k -Induction: Example



k -Induction with Auxiliary Invariants

Induction:

- 1: $k = 1$
- 2: **while** !finished **do**
- 3: BMC(k)
- 4: Induction(k , invariants)
- 5: $k++$

Invariant generation:

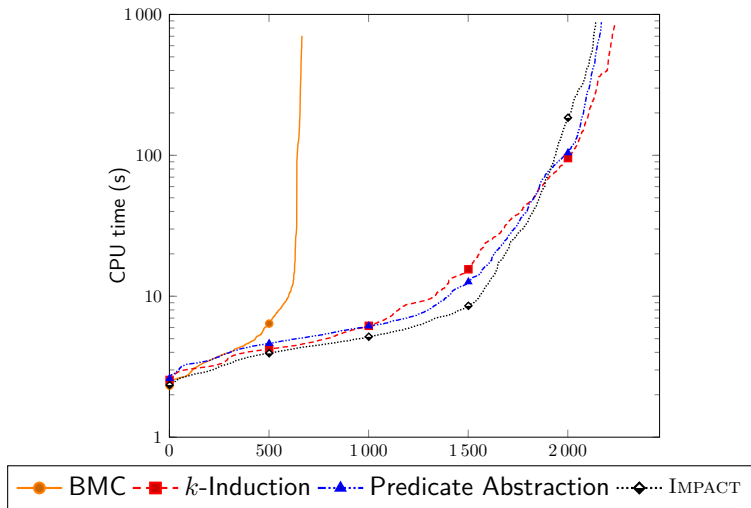
- 1: prec = <weak>
- 2: invariants = \emptyset
- 3: **while** !finished **do**
- 4: invariants = GenInv(prec)
- 5: prec = RefinePrec(prec)



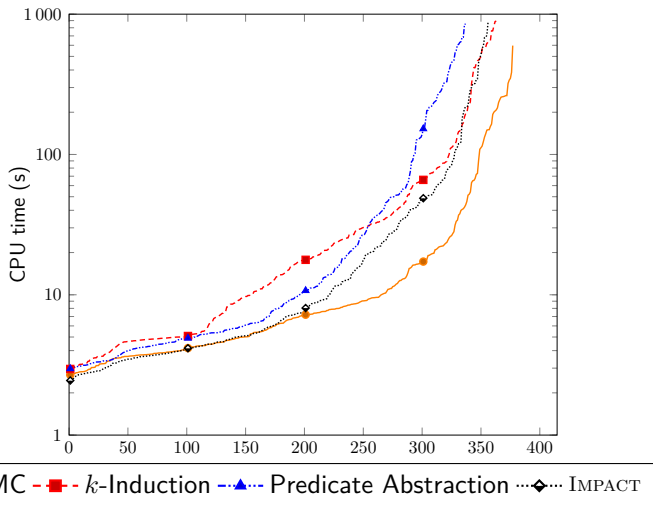
Experimental Comparison

- ▶ 5 287 verification tasks taken from SV-COMP'17
- ▶ 15 min timeout (CPU time)
- ▶ 15 GB memory
- ▶ SMT solver: MATHSAT 5
- ▶ SMT theory: QF_UFBVFP
- ▶ Measured with BENCHEXEC

All 3913 bug-free tasks



All 1374 tasks with known bugs

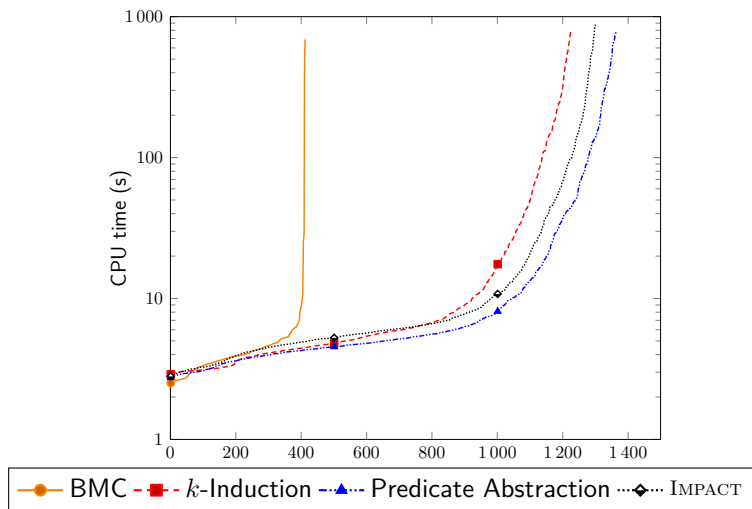


Category: Device Drivers

- ▶ Several thousands LOC per task
- ▶ Complex structures
- ▶ Pointer arithmetics

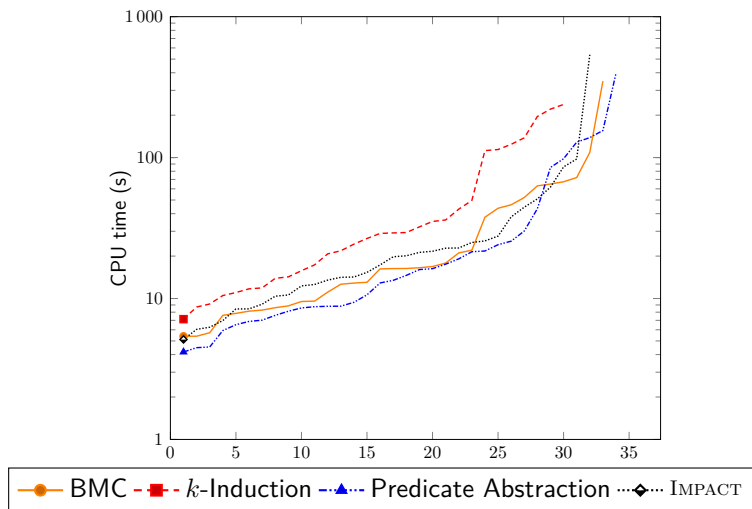
Category: Device Drivers

2 440 bug-free tasks:



Category: Device Drivers

355 tasks with known bugs:



Category: Event Condition Action Systems

- ▶ Several thousand LOC per task
- ▶ Auto-generated
- ▶ Only integer variables
- ▶ Linear and non-linear arithmetics
- ▶ Complex and dense control structure

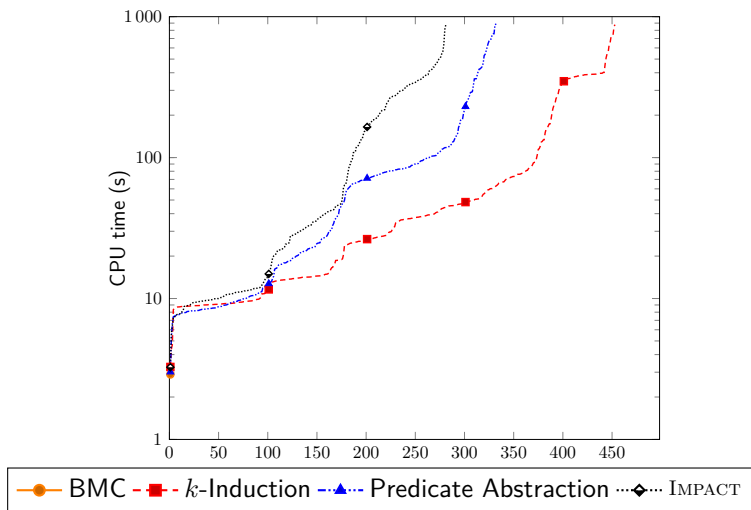
Category: Event Condition Action Systems

- ▶ Several thousand LOC per task
- ▶ Auto-generated
- ▶ Only integer variables
- ▶ Linear and non-linear arithmetics
- ▶ Complex and dense control structure

```
if (((a24==3) && (((a18==10) && ((input == 6)
    && ((115 < a3) && (306 >= a3))))
    && (a15==4)))) {
    a3 = (((a3 * 5) + -583604) * 1);
    a24 = 0;
    a18 = 8;
    return -1;
}
```

Category: Event Condition Action Systems

738 bug-free tasks:



Category: Event Condition Action Systems

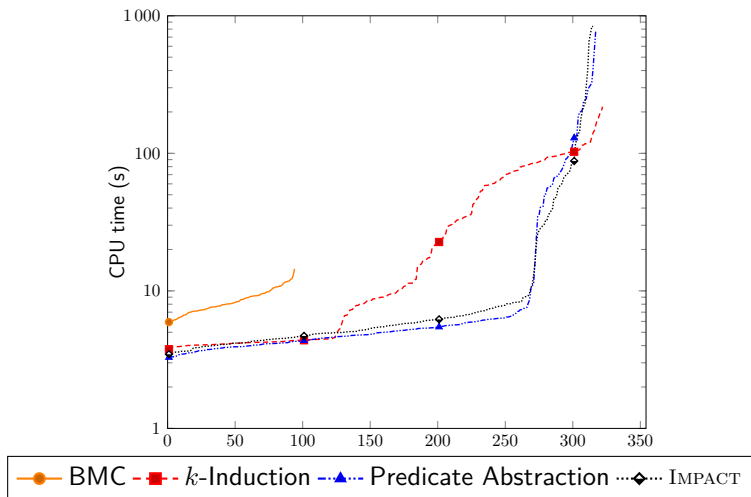
411 tasks with known bugs: Only BMC and k -induction find one bug (the same one).

Category: Product Lines

- ▶ Several hundred LOC
- ▶ Mostly integer variables, some structs
- ▶ Mostly simple linear arithmetics
- ▶ Lots of property-independent code

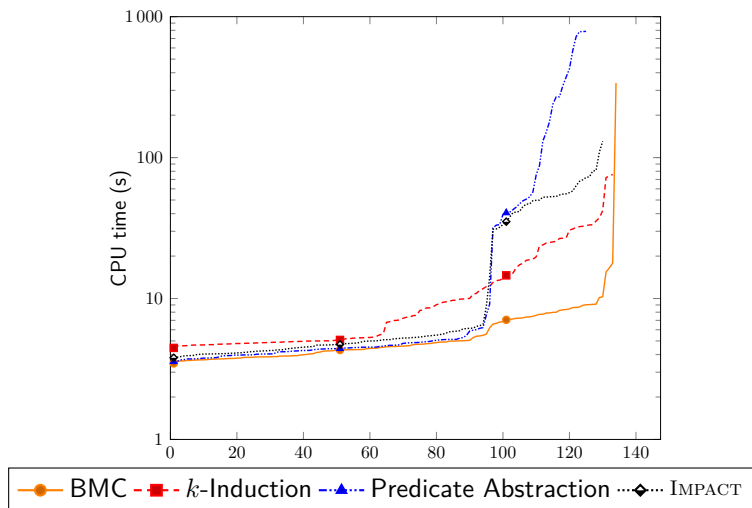
Category: Product Lines

332 bug-free tasks:



Category: Product Lines

265 tasks with known bugs:



Summary

We reconfirm that

- ▶ BMC is a good bug hunter
- ▶ k -Induction is a heavy-weight proof technique: effective, but slow
- ▶ CEGAR makes abstraction techniques (Predicate Abstraction, `IMPACT`) scalable
- ▶ `IMPACT` is lazy, and explores the state space and finds bugs quicker
- ▶ Predicate Abstraction is eager, and prunes irrelevant parts and finds proofs quicker

Outlook

- ▶ Find a way to integrate PDR into this framework
- ▶ Combine PDR with k -Induction