

# Static Analysis: Overview, Syntactic Analysis and Abstract Interpretation

TDDC90: Software Security

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## Outline

Overview

Syntactic Analysis

Abstract interpretation

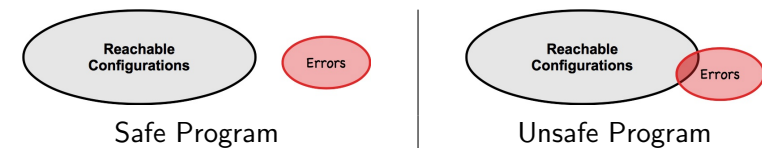
## Static Program Analysis

Static Program Analysis analyses computer programs **statically**, i.e., without executing them (as opposed to *dynamic analysis* that does execute the programs wrt. some specific input):

- ▶ No need to run programs, before deployment
- ▶ No need to restrict to a single input as for testing
- ▶ Useful in compiler optimization, program analysis, finding security vulnerabilities and verification
- ▶ Often performed on (models of) source code, sometimes on object code
- ▶ Usually highly automated though with the possibility of some user interaction
- ▶ From scalable bug hunting tools without guarantees to heavy weight verification frameworks for safety critical systems

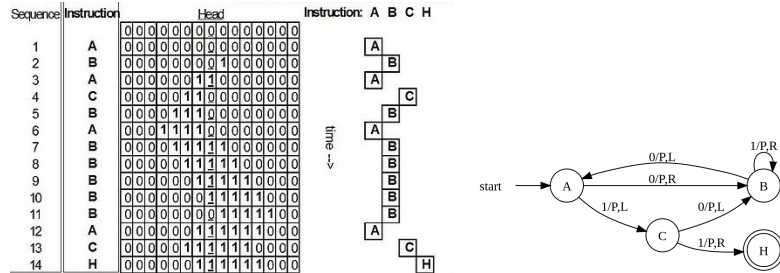
## Verification

- ▶ We want to answer whether some program behaves correctly. We define “correctness” soon.
- ▶ For now, assume that means some erroneous configurations are not reachable
- ▶ We say the program is **safe**



## The general verification problem is “very difficult”

- ▶ Deciding whether all possible executions of a program are error-free is hard. If we could write a program that does it for arbitrary programs to be analyzed then we would always be able to answer whether a Turing machine halts.
- ▶ This problem is proven to be undecidable.



## Problem is “very difficult”: what to do?

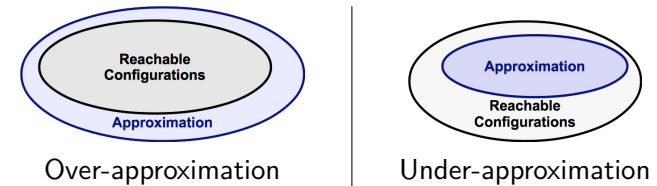
- ▶ Identify sub-problems on which one can decide: e.g. finite state machines, push-down automata, timed automata, Petri nets, well-structured transition systems.
- ▶ Proceed with approximations that will hopefully give some guarantees.

## Verification problem and approximations

- ▶ An analysis procedure takes as input a program to be checked against a property. The procedure is an analysis algorithm if it is guaranteed to terminate.
- ▶ An analysis algorithm is **sound** in the case where each time it reports the program is safe wrt. some errors, then the original program is indeed safe wrt. those errors (pessimistic analysis)
- ▶ An algorithm is **complete** in the case where each time it is given a program that is safe wrt. some errors, then it does report it to be safe wrt. those errors (optimistic analysis)
- ▶ In general, you have to give up on one of the three: termination, soundness or completeness.

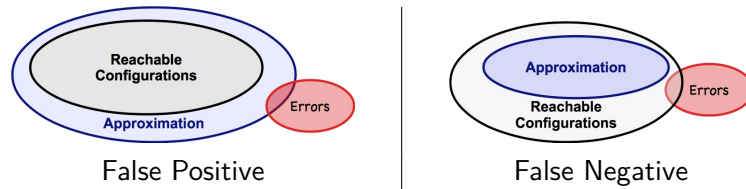
## Verification problem and approximations

- ▶ The idea is then to come up with efficient approximations to give correct answers in as many cases as possible.



## Program verification and the price of approximations

- ▶ A sound analysis cannot give **false negatives**
- ▶ A complete analysis cannot give **false positives**



## These Two Lectures

These two lectures on static program analysis will briefly introduce different types of analysis:

- ▶ This lecture:
  - ▶ syntactic analysis: scalable but neither sound nor complete
  - ▶ abstract interpretation sound but not complete
- ▶ Next lecture:
  - ▶ symbolic executions: complete but not sound
  - ▶ inductive methods: may require heavy human interaction in proving the program correct
- ▶ These two lectures are only appetizers:
  - ▶ There is a deeper course with more tools and applications in the spring (TDDE34)
  - ▶ Possibilities of exjobbs with applications to verification.

## Administrative Aspects:

- ▶ Lab sessions might not be enough and you might have to work outside these sessions
- ▶ You will need to write down your answers to each question on a draft.
- ▶ You will need to demonstrate (individually) your answers in a lab session on a computer to me or to Ulf.
- ▶ Once you get the green light, you can write your report in a pdf form and send it (in pairs) to the person you got the green light from.
- ▶ You will get questions in the final exam about these two lectures.

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## Automatic Unsound and Incomplete Analysis

- ▶ Tools such as the open source *Splint* or the heavier and commercial *Clockwork* and *Coverity* trade guarantees for scalability
- ▶ Not all reported errors are actual errors (false positives) and even if the program reports no errors there might still be uncovered errors (false negatives)
- ▶ A user needs therefore to carefully check each reported error, and to be aware that there might be more uncovered errors

## Unsound and Incomplete analysis: Splint

- ▶ Some tools are augmented versions of grep and look for occurrences of memcopy, pointer dereferences ...
- ▶ The open source Splint tool checks C code for security vulnerabilities and programming errors.
- ▶ Splint does parse the source code and looks for certain patterns such as:
  - ▶ unused method parameters
  - ▶ loop tests that are not modified by the loop,
  - ▶ variables used before definitions,
  - ▶ null pointer dereference
  - ▶ overwriting allocated structures
  - ▶ and many more ...

## Unsound and Incomplete analysis: Splint

```
...
return *s; // warning about dereference of possibly null pointer s
...
if(s!=NULL)
    return *s; //does not give warnings because s was checked
```

```
int dumbfunc ()
{
    int i;
    if (i = 0) return 1;
    int j=i;
    while(i > 0){
        j--;
    }
    return 0;
}
```

## Unsound and Incomplete analysis: Splint

- ▶ Still, the number of false positives remains very important, which may diminish the attention of the user since splint looks for “dangerous” patterns
- ▶ An important number of flags can be used to enable, inhibit or organize the kind of errors Splint should look for
- ▶ Splint gives the possibility to the user to annotate the source code in order to eliminate warnings
- ▶ Real errors can be made quite with annotations. In fact real errors will remain unnoticed with or without annotations

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## Abstract Interpretation

- ▶ In the concrete semantics, one can associate to each label a set of possible mappings from the variables to their values.
- ▶ Concrete semantics is precise: it only captures possible states. It is however too inefficient to be feasible in practice (loops, arbitrary inputs, arrays, recursion, concurrent interleavings, etc)
- ▶ Instead, efficiently and soundly over-approximate while tracking “facts” of certain “forms”

## Abstract Interpretation

Idea:

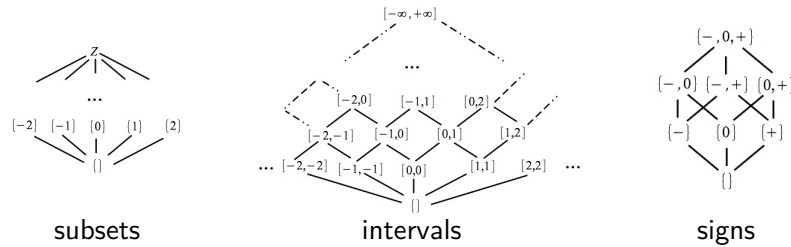
- ▶ Assume an “abstract domain” fixing the “form” of the tracked facts (e.g.,  $a \leq x \leq b$  or  $a \leq x - y \leq b$  or ...)
- ▶ Define an abstract semantics that over-approximates the concrete semantics (e.g., abstract additions, subtractions, comparisons, etc)
- ▶ Iterate computation with abstract semantics until fixpoint. Deduce facts about the original semantics.

## A simple abstract domain: the sign example

- ▶ For an integer variable, the set of concrete values at a location is in  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{Z})$ . Concrete sets of variables' values can be ordered with the subset relation  $\sqsubseteq_c$  on  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{Z})$ . We write  $S_1 \sqsubseteq_c S_2$  to mean that  $S_1$  is more precise than  $S_2$ .
- ▶ If you are only interested in the signs of variables' values, you can associate, at each label and to each variable, a subset of  $\{-, 0, +\}$ .
- ▶ We approximate concrete values with an element in  $\mathcal{P}(\{-, 0, +\})$ . For instance,  $\{+\}$  reflects the variable is larger than zero. For  $A_1, A_2$  in  $\mathcal{P}(\{-, 0, +\})$ , we write  $A_1 \sqsubseteq_a A_2$  to mean that  $A_1$  is more precise than  $A_2$ .

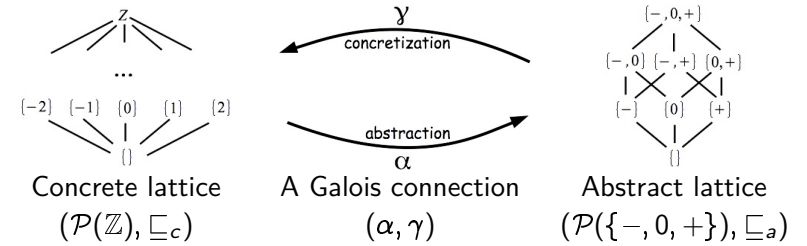
# Lattices

- ▶ A lattice is a poset  $(Q, \sqsubseteq)$  where each pair  $p, q$  in  $Q$  has:
  - ▶ a greatest lower bound (aka. meet)  $p \sqcap q$  wrt.  $\sqsubseteq$ , and
  - ▶ a least upper bound (aka. join)  $p \sqcup q$  wrt.  $\sqsubseteq$
- ▶ If  $S$  is a set, then  $(\mathcal{P}(S), \subseteq, \perp, \top, \cup, \cap)$  is a complete lattice: i.e, a lattice where each subset has a least upper bound and a greatest lower bound.
- ▶  $(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{Z}), \subseteq_c)$  (resp.  $(\mathcal{P}(\{-, 0, +\}), \subseteq_a)$ ) is a complete lattices where  $\top_c = \mathbb{Z}$  and  $\perp_c = \{\}$  (resp.  $\top_a = \{-, 0, +\}$  and  $\perp_a = \{\}$ )



# The sign example: abstraction and concretization

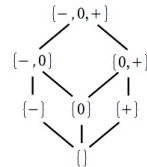
- ▶ An abstraction function:  $\alpha(\{1, 10, 100, 103, 2021\}) = \{+\}$ ,  $\alpha(\{-10, -3, 10\}) = \{-, +\}$ ,  $\alpha(\{-3, 0\}) = \{-, 0\}$
- ▶ A concretization function:  $\gamma(\{0\}) = \{0\}$ ,  $\gamma(\{-, 0\}) = \{v \mid v \leq 0\}$  and  $\gamma(\{+\}) = \{v \mid v > 0\}$



# Fixpoint computation: simple example (1/6)

```

L1. x := *
L2. y := x
L3. if x > 0 goto L5
L4. end
L5. assert x >= 0
L6. end
    
```



```

//x:
//y:
L1. x := *
//x:
//y:
L2. y := x
//x:
//y:
L3. if x > 0 goto L5
//x:
//y:
L4. end
//x:
//y:
L5. assert x >= 0
//x:
//y:
L6. end
    
```

```

//x: ⊤
//y: ⊤
L1. x := *
//x: ⊥
//y: ⊥
L2. y := x
//x: ⊥
//y: ⊥
L3. if x > 0 goto L5
//x: ⊥
//y: ⊥
L4. end
//x: ⊥
//y: ⊥
L5. assert x >= 0
//x: ⊥
//y: ⊥
L6. end
    
```

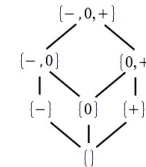
```

//x: ⊤
//y: ⊤
L1. x := *
//x: ⊥
//y: ⊥
L2. y := x
//x: ⊥
//y: ⊥
L3. if x > 0 goto L5
//x: ⊥
//y: ⊥
L4. end
//x: ⊥
//y: ⊥
L5. assert x >= 0
//x: ⊥
//y: ⊥
L6. end
    
```

# Fixpoint computation: simple example (2/6)

```

L1. x := *
L2. y := x
L3. if x > 0 goto L5
L4. end
L5. assert x >= 0
L6. end
    
```



```

//x: ⊤
//y: ⊤
L1. x := *
//x: ⊥
//y: ⊥
L2. y := x
//x: ⊥
//y: ⊥
L3. if x > 0 goto L5
//x: ⊥
//y: ⊥
L4. end
//x: ⊥
//y: ⊥
L5. assert x >= 0
//x: ⊥
//y: ⊥
L6. end
    
```

```

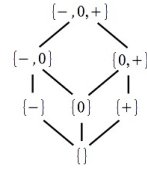
//x: ⊤ ⊥ ⊥
//y: ⊤ ⊥ ⊥
L1. x := *
//x: ⊥ ⊥ ⊥
//y: ⊥ ⊥ ⊥
L2. y := x
//x: ⊥ ⊥ ⊥
//y: ⊥ ⊥ ⊥
L3. if x > 0 goto L5
//x: ⊥ ⊥ ⊥ ⊥ ⊥ ⊥ ⊥
//y: ⊥ ⊥ ⊥ ⊥ ⊥ ⊥ ⊥
L4. end
//x: ⊥ ⊥ ⊥ ⊥ ⊥ ⊥ ⊥
//y: ⊥ ⊥ ⊥ ⊥ ⊥ ⊥ ⊥
L5. assert x >= 0
//x: ⊥ ⊥ ⊥ ⊥ ⊥ ⊥ ⊥
//y: ⊥ ⊥ ⊥ ⊥ ⊥ ⊥ ⊥
L6. end
    
```

```

//x: ⊤
//y: ⊤
L1. x := *
//x: ⊥
//y: ⊥
L2. y := x
//x: ⊥
//y: ⊥
L3. if x > 0 goto L5
//x: ⊥
//y: ⊥
L4. end
//x: ⊥
//y: ⊥
L5. assert x >= 0
//x: ⊥
//y: ⊥
L6. end
    
```

## Fixpoint computation: simple example (3/6)

```
L1. x:= *
L2. y:= x
L3. if x > 0 goto L5
L4. end
L5. assert x >= 0
L6. end
```



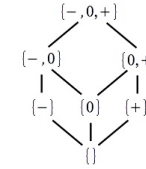
```
//x:T
//y:T
L1. x:= *
//x:T
//y:T
L2. y:= x
//x:⊥
//y:⊥
L3. if x > 0 goto L5
//x:⊥
//y:⊥
L4. end
//x:⊥
//y:⊥
L5. assert x >= 0
//x:⊥
//y:⊥
L6. end
```

```
//x:TU⊥
//y:TU⊥
L1. x:= *
//x:TUT
//y:TUT
L2. y:= x
//x:⊥UT
//y:⊥UT
L3. if x > 0 goto L5
//x:⊥U(⊥∩{-,0})
//y:⊥U(⊥∩T)
L4. end
//x:⊥U(⊥∩{+})
//y:⊥U(⊥∩T)
L5. assert x >= 0
//x:⊥U(⊥∩{0,+})
//y:⊥U(⊥∩T)
L6. end
```

```
//x:T
//y:T
L1. x:= *
//x:T
//y:T
L2. y:= x
//x:T
//y:T
L3. if x > 0 goto L5
//x:⊥
//y:⊥
L4. end
//x:⊥
//y:⊥
L5. assert x >= 0
//x:⊥
//y:⊥
L6. end
```

## Fixpoint computation: simple example (4/6)

```
L1. x:= *
L2. y:= x
L3. if x > 0 goto L5
L4. end
L5. assert x >= 0
L6. end
```



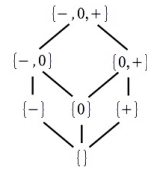
```
//x:T
//y:T
L1. x:= *
//x:T
//y:T
L2. y:= x
//x:T
//y:T
L3. if x > 0 goto L5
//x:⊥
//y:⊥
L4. end
//x:⊥
//y:⊥
L5. assert x >= 0
//x:⊥
//y:⊥
L6. end
```

```
//x:TU⊥
//y:TU⊥
L1. x:= *
//x:TUT
//y:TUT
L2. y:= x
//x:⊥UT
//y:⊥UT
L3. if x > 0 goto L5
//x:⊥U(T∩{-,0})
//y:⊥U(T∩T)
L4. end
//x:⊥U(T∩{+})
//y:⊥U(T∩T)
L5. assert x >= 0
//x:⊥U(⊥∩{0,+})
//y:⊥U(⊥∩T)
L6. end
```

```
//x:T
//y:T
L1. x:= *
//x:T
//y:T
L2. y:= x
//x:T
//y:T
L3. if x > 0 goto L5
//x:⊥
//y:⊥
L4. end
//x:{+}
//y:T
L5. assert x >= 0
//x:⊥
//y:⊥
L6. end
```

## Fixpoint computation: simple (5/6)

```
L1. x:= *
L2. y:= x
L3. if x > 0 goto L5
L4. end
L5. assert x >= 0
L6. end
```



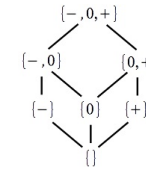
```
//x:T
//y:T
L1. x:= *
//x:T
//y:T
L2. y:= x
//x:T
//y:T
L3. if x > 0 goto L5
//x:{-,0}
//y:T
L4. end
//x:{+}
//y:T
L5. assert x >= 0
//x:⊥
//y:⊥
L6. end
```

```
//x:TU⊥
//y:TU⊥
L1. x:= *
//x:TUT
//y:TUT
L2. y:= x
//x:TUT
//y:TUT
L3. if x > 0 goto L5
//x:{-,0}U(T∩{-,0})
//y:TU(T∩T)
L4. end
//x:{+}U(T∩{+})
//y:TU(T∩T)
L5. assert x >= 0
//x:⊥U({+}∩{0,+})
//y:TU(T∩T)
L6. end
```

```
//x:T
//y:T
L1. x:= *
//x:T
//y:T
L2. y:= x
//x:T
//y:T
L3. if x > 0 goto L5
//x:{-,0}
//y:T
L4. end
//x:{+}
//y:T
L5. assert x >= 0
//x:{+}
//y:T
L6. end
```

## Fixpoint computation: simple (6/6)

```
L1. x:= *
L2. y:= x
L3. if x > 0 goto L5
L4. end
L5. assert x >= 0
L6. end
```



```
//x:T
//y:T
L1. x:= *
//x:T
//y:T
L2. y:= x
//x:T
//y:T
L3. if x > 0 goto L5
//x:{-,0}
//y:T
L4. end
//x:{+}
//y:T
L5. assert x >= 0
//x:{+}
//y:T
L6. end
```

```
//x:TU⊥
//y:TU⊥
L1. x:= *
//x:TUT
//y:TUT
L2. y:= x
//x:TUT
//y:TUT
L3. if x > 0 goto L5
//x:{-,0}U(T∩{-,0})
//y:TU(T∩T)
L4. end
//x:{+}U(T∩{+})
//y:TU(T∩T)
L5. assert x >= 0
//x:{+}U({+}∩{0,+})
//y:TU(T∩T)
L6. end
```

```
//x:T
//y:T
L1. x:= *
//x:T
//y:T
L2. y:= x
//x:T
//y:T
L3. if x > 0 goto L5
//x:{-,0}
//y:T
L4. end
//x:{+}
//y:T
L5. assert x >= 0
//x:{+}
//y:T
L6. end
```





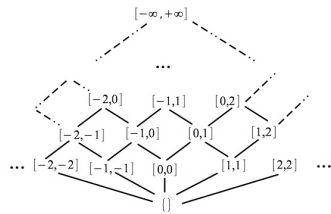
## Fixpoint computation: widening

- ▶ A widening operator  $\nabla$  guarantees termination even in the presence of an infinite-height abstract lattice.
- ▶ Conditions on a widening operator  $\nabla$ 
  - ▶ for any abstract elements  $A^\#, B^\#, (A^\# \sqcup_a B^\#) \sqsubseteq_a (A^\# \nabla B^\#)$
  - ▶ For any  $C_0^\# \sqcup_a C_1^\# \sqcup_a \dots$ , let  $D_0^\# = C_0^\#$  and  $D_{i+1}^\# = D_i^\# \nabla C_{i+1}^\#$ . The sequence  $D_0^\# \sqcup_a D_1^\# \sqcup_a \dots$  stabilizes.
  - ▶ Convergence guaranteed when using  $\nabla$  instead of  $\sqcup_a$ .

## Widening for the interval domain

- ▶ A widening operator  $\nabla$  for the interval domain:
  - ▶  $[a, b] \nabla \perp = \perp \nabla [a, b] = [a, b]$
  - ▶  $[a, b] \nabla [c, d] = [l, r]$  with
    - ▶  $l = a$  if  $a \leq c$  and  $l = -\infty$  otherwise
    - ▶  $r = b$  if  $b \geq d$  and  $r = \infty$  otherwise
- ▶  $[3, 10] \nabla [2, 9]$
- ▶ ...

## Fixpoint computation: widening (1)



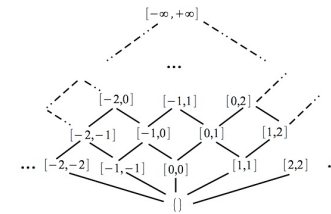
$[0, 0], [0, 1], [0, 2], [0, 3] \dots$   
 would take long time to converge.  
 For this use some widening operator  $\nabla$ .  
 Intuitively, an acceleration that ensures termination

```
//x: T
L1. x := 0
//x: [0, 0]
L2. x := x + 1
//x: [1, 1]
L3. if x < 100 goto L2 →
//x: ⊥
L4. assert x >= 100
//x: ⊥
L5. end
```

```
//x: T ∇ ⊥
L1. x := 0
//x: ([0, 0] ∇ [0, 0])
// ∇([1, 1] ∩ [-∞, 99])
L2. x := x + 1
//x: [1, 1] ∇ [1, 1] →
L3. if x < 100 goto L2
//x: ⊥
L4. assert x >= 100
//x: ⊥
L5. end
```

```
//x: T
L1. x := 0
//x: [0, +∞]
L2. x := x + 1
//x: [1, 1]
L3. if x < 100 goto L2
//x: ⊥
L4. assert x >= 100
//x: ⊥
L5. end
```

## Fixpoint computation: widening (2)



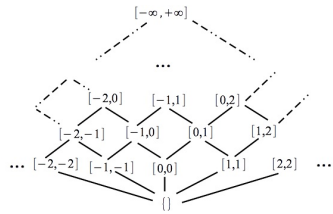
$[0, 0], [0, 1], [0, 2], [0, 3] \dots$   
 would take long time to converge.  
 For this use some widening operator  $\nabla$ .  
 Intuitively, an acceleration that ensures termination

```
//x: T
L1. x := 0
//x: [0, +∞]
L2. x := x + 1
//x: [1, 1]
L3. if x < 100 goto L2 →
//x: ⊥
L4. assert x >= 100
//x: ⊥
L5. end
```

```
//x: T ∇ ⊥
L1. x := 0
//x: ([0, +∞] ∇ [0, 0])
// ∇([1, 1] ∩ [-∞, 99])
L2. x := x + 1
//x: [1, 1] ∇ [1, +∞] →
L3. if x < 100 goto L2
//x: ⊥
L4. assert x >= 100
//x: ⊥
L5. end
```

```
//x: T
L1. x := 0
//x: [0, +∞]
L2. x := x + 1
//x: [1, +∞]
L3. if x < 100 goto L2
//x: ⊥
L4. assert x >= 100
//x: ⊥
L5. end
```

## Fixpoint computation: widening (3)



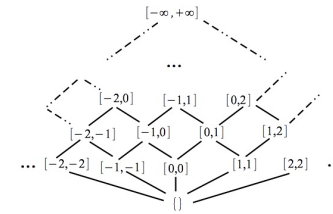
$[0, 0], [0, 1], [0, 2], [0, 3] \dots$   
 would take long time to converge.  
 For this use some widening operator  $\nabla$ .  
 Intuitively, an acceleration that ensures termination

```
//x:T
L1. x:= 0
//x:[0,+∞]
L2. x:= x + 1
//x:[1,+∞]
L3. if x < 100 goto L2 →
//x:⊥
L4. assert x >= 100
//x:⊥
L5. end
```

```
//x:T∇⊥
L1. x:= 0
//x:[0,+∞] ∇ [0,0]
// ∇([1,+∞] ⊓ [-∞,99])
L2. x:= x + 1
//x:[1,+∞] ∇ [1,+∞] →
L3. if x < 100 goto L2
//x:⊥ ∇ ([1,+∞] ⊓ [100,+∞])
L4. assert x >= 100
//x:⊥ ∇ (⊥ ⊓ [100,+∞])
L5. end
```

```
//x:T
L1. x:= 0
//x:[0,+∞]
L2. x:= x + 1
//x:[1,+∞]
L3. if x < 100 goto L2
//x:[100,+∞]
L4. assert x >= 100
//x:⊥
L5. end
```

## Fixpoint computation: widening (4)



$[0, 0], [0, 1], [0, 2], [0, 3] \dots$   
 would take long time to converge.  
 For this use some widening operator  $\nabla$ .  
 Intuitively, an acceleration that ensures termination

```
//x:T
L1. x:= 0
//x:[0,+∞]
L2. x:= x + 1
//x:[1,+∞]
L3. if x < 100 goto L2 →
//x:[100,+∞]
L4. assert x <= 100
//x:⊥
L5. end
```

```
//x:T
L1. x:= 0
//x:[0,+∞] ∇ [0,0]
// ∇([1,+∞])
L2. x:= x + 1
//x:[1,+∞] ∇ [1,+∞] →
L3. if x < 100 goto L2
//x:[100,+∞] ∇ ([1,+∞] ⊓ [100,+∞])
L4. assert x <= 100
//x:⊥ ∇ ([100,+∞] ⊓ [-∞,100])
L5. end
```

```
//x:T
L1. x:= 0
//x:[0,∞]
L2. x:= x + 1
//x:[1,∞]
L3. if x < 100 goto L2
//x:[100,∞]
L4. assert x <= 100
//x:[100,100]
L5. end
```

## Need for relational domains

```
//x:T, y:T
L1. x:= 0
//x:[0,0], y:T
L2. y:= 0
//x:[0,+∞]
//y:[0,+∞]
L3. x:= x + 1
//x:[1,+∞]
//y:[0,+∞]
L4. y:= y + 1
//x:[1,+∞]
//y:[1,+∞]
L5. if x < 100 goto L3
//x:[100,+∞]
//y:[1,+∞]
L6. assert y >= 100
//x:[100,+∞]
//y:[100,+∞]
L7. end
```

```
//x:T∇⊥, y:T∇⊥
L1. x:= 0
//x:[0,0] ∇ [0,0], y:⊥ ∇ T
L2. y:= 0
//x:[0,+∞] ∇ [0,0] ∇ [1,99]
//y:[0,+∞] ∇ [0,0] ∇ [1,+∞]
L3. x:= x + 1
//x:[1,+∞] ∇ [1,+∞]
//y:[0,+∞] ∇ [0,+∞]
L4. y:= y + 1
//x:[1,+∞] ∇ [1,+∞]
//y:[1,+∞] ∇ [1,+∞]
L5. if x < 100 goto L3
//x:[100,+∞] ∇ [1,+∞] ⊓ [100,+∞]
//y:[1,+∞] ∇ [1,+∞]
L6. assert y >= 100
//x:[100,+∞]
//y:[1,+∞]
L7. end
```

```
//x:T, y:T
L1. x:= 0
//x:[0,0], y:T
L2. y:= 0
//x:[0,+∞]
//y:[0,+∞]
L3. x:= x + 1
//x:[1,+∞]
//y:[0,+∞]
L4. y:= y + 1
//x:[1,+∞]
//y:[1,+∞]
L5. if x < 100 goto L3
//x:[100,+∞]
//y:[1,+∞]
L6. assert y >= 100
//x:[100,+∞]
//y:[100,+∞]
L7. end
```

- ▶ Intervals do not capture relations between variables
- ▶ DBMs  $x - y \leq k$
- ▶ Octagons  $\pm x \pm y \leq k$
- ▶ Polyhedra  $a_1x_1 + \dots + a_nx_n \leq k$
- ▶ Shape analysis, arrays, lists, etc