

Foundations of Abstract Interpretation

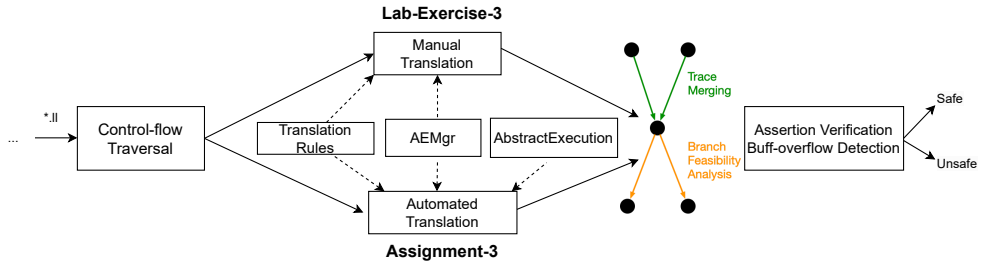
(Week 8)

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University of New South Wales, Australia

Classes in the Next Three Weeks



Outline of Today's lecture

- An Introduction to Abstract Interpretation: What and Why
- Abstract Interpretation vs Symbolic Execution
- Definitions: Abstract domains, Abstract State and Abstract Trace.
- Step-by-Step Motivating Examples.
- Widening and Narrowing to Improve Analysis Speed and Precision

Abstract Interpretation

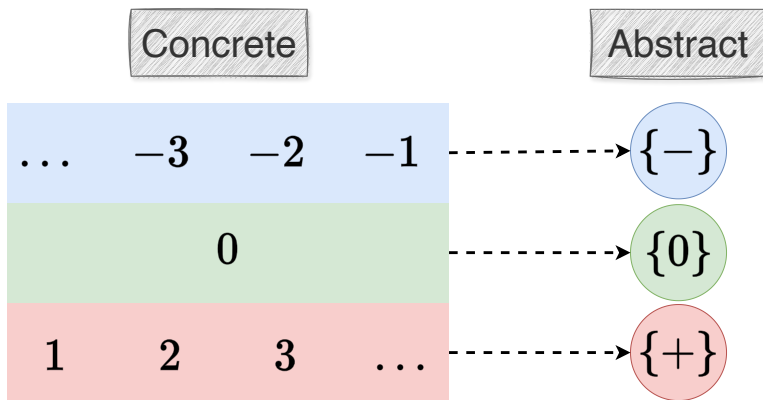
Abstract interpretation or Abstract Execution [Cousot & Cousot, POPL'77]¹, a general framework for static analysis, aims to **soundly approximate** the potential concrete values program variables may take during runtime, **based on monotonic functions over ordered sets, particularly lattices**.

Abstract Interpretation: Levels of Abstractions

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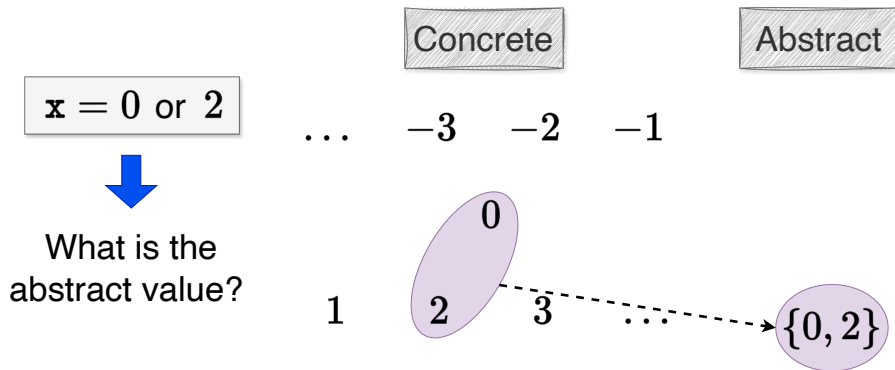
$x = 0 \text{ or } 2$



What is the
abstract value?

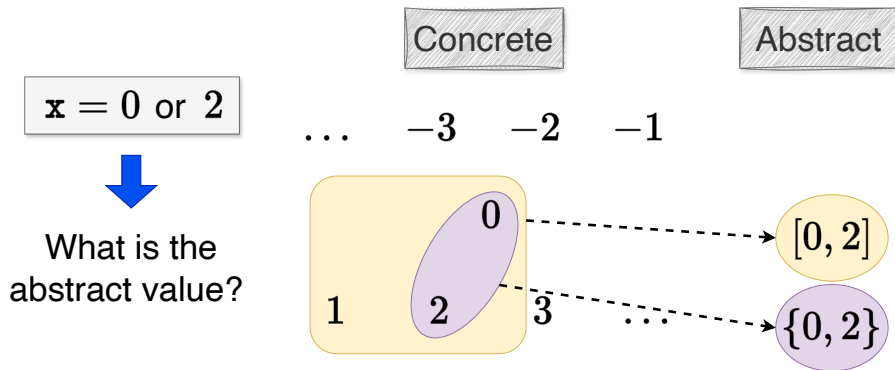
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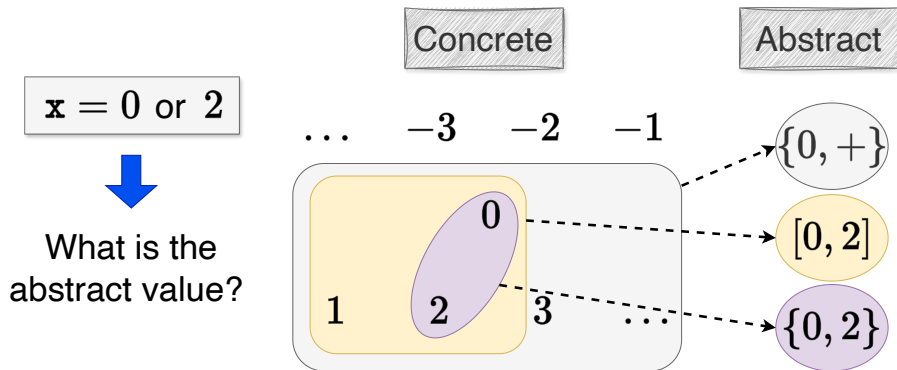
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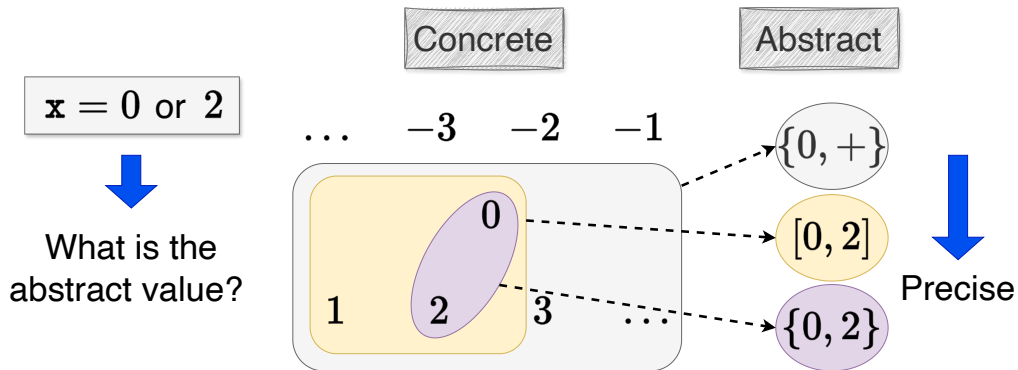
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Abstract Interpretation: Applications

- **Program Optimization:** allows compilers to make **safe assumptions** about a program's behavior, leading to more efficient code generation.
 - **Range Analysis:** abstractly determines the loop's value range, aiding in memory optimization and eliminating redundant checks within this range.

Abstract Interpretation: Applications

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- **Hardware Design and Analysis:** used to verify that hardware designs **meet certain specifications** and to optimize the designs for better performance or lower power consumption.
 - **Analyzing Hardware Circuits:** By creating an abstract model of the circuit, it can predict how the circuit will behave under various input conditions.

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- **Hardware Design and Analysis:** used to verify that hardware designs **meet certain specifications** and to optimize the designs for better performance or lower power consumption.
 - **Analyzing Hardware Circuits:** By creating an abstract model of the circuit, it can predict how the circuit will behave under various input conditions.
- **Code Analysis (This Course):** provides a systematic approach to **approximate program behavior through value abstractions**.
 - **Security Analysis:** crucial for **early detection of bugs (e.g., assertion errors and buffer overflows)**, reducing debugging time and enhancing code reliability.

Abstract Interpretation: Tools

Widely used in safety-critical systems (e.g., aerospace industries) and commercial software products to enhance reliability, security, and performance.

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- **Astrée** is used to analyze and ensure the safety of software in modern aircraft, such as the Airbus A380.
- **Polyspace** is highly valued in the automotive and aerospace industries for ensuring software compliance with safety standards such as ISO 26262 for automotive software.
- **Ikos** is specialized in detecting run-time errors and numerical computation issues, making it ideal for space and aeronautics software.
- **SPARK** is used in the aerospace industry for writing and verifying safety-critical avionics software.
- **Infer** is a static analysis tool developed by Facebook to identify bugs in mobile and web applications.
- Other tools: **Frama-C**, **Julia Static Analyzer**, **BAP**, **Soot** and many more . . .

Abstract Interpretation vs. Symbolic Execution

Soundness

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Abstract Interpretation vs. Symbolic Execution

Soundness

- **Abstract interpretation** aims for **sound results**. It can conservatively approximate **all possible execution paths and runtime behaviors**.
- **Symbolic execution** can be **unsound**. It **precisely explores individual yet feasible paths**, facing a “path explosion” problem in large programs, and may result in **under-approximation** of program behaviors.

Assignment-2 vs. Assignment-3

Assignment-2

- **Delegate** the constraint solving to the **z3 SMT solver**.
- Each time, it returns **one solution with concrete values for all variables** in the search space when the solver is satisfiable.
- Per-path verification **without handling the inner parts of a loop**.

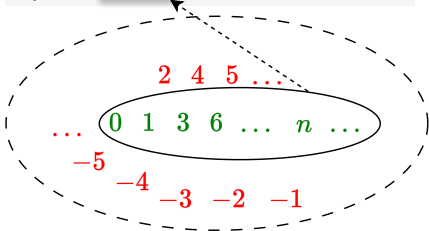
Assignment-3

- Use **Abstract State** (AState) and **Abstract Trace** (a set of AStates for all ICFGNodes) to **compute and maintain abstract values** of variables.
- **Abstract all possible values** of a variable into a value **interval** (for scalars) or an **address set** (for memory addresses).
- **Approximate loop behaviors** based on widening and narrowing.

Abstract Interpretation vs. Symbolic Execution

Over-Approximation (soundness) vs. Under-Approximation (unsoundness)

```
l1 void analyzeThis(int x) {  
l2   int sum = 0;  
l3   for (int i = 0; i < x; ++i) {  
l4       sum += i;  
l5   }  
l6 }  
    sum = ?
```



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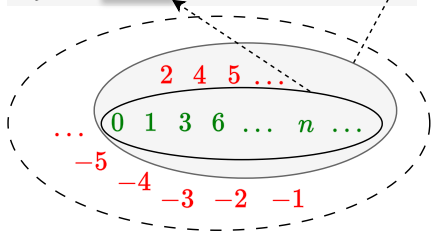
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Abstract
Interpretation

{0, +}

Sound (include all non-negative numbers)

imprecise (may include infeasible numbers: 2, 4, 5, ...)



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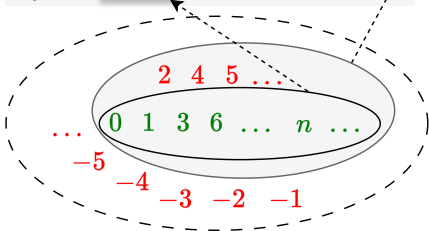
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Symbolic
Execution

Path	Answer
$\ell_1 \rightarrow \ell_2 \rightarrow \ell_3 \rightarrow \ell_6$	0



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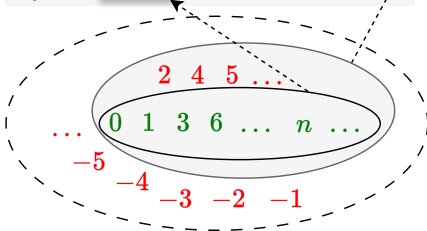
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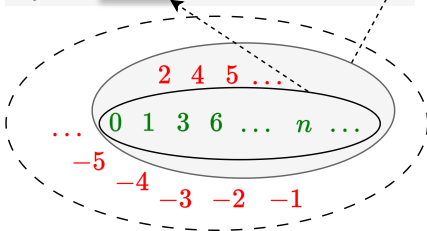
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Over-Approximation (soundness) vs. Under-Approximation (unsoundness)

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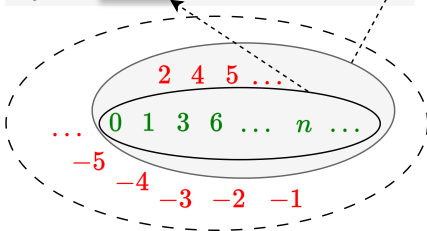
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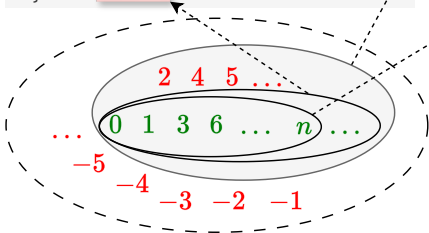
Sound (include all non-negative numbers)

imprecise (may include infeasible numbers: 2, 4, 5, ...)

Symbolic
Execution

Precise (only include feasible numbers: 0, 1, 3, 6, ...)

unsound (cannot cover all possible numbers)



Path	Answer
$l_1 \rightarrow l_2 \rightarrow l_3 \rightarrow l_6$	0
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Importance of Soundness

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- **Reliability:** Ensures comprehensive coverage of all possible program states, reducing unforeseen behavior in production.
- **Quality Assurance:** Crucial for critical systems where failure can have serious consequences, ensuring software behaves as intended.
- **Confidence in Maintenance:** Provides a safety net for code changes, reducing the risk of introducing new bugs.

Abstract Interpretation vs. Symbolic Execution

Termination

- **Abstract interpretation** is typically guaranteed to **terminate within a finite step**. Uses an abstracted, and hence more manageable, version of the state space to represent the infinite number of runtime states and paths.

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Termination

- **Abstract interpretation** is typically guaranteed to **terminate within a finite step**. Uses an abstracted, and hence more manageable, version of the state space to represent the infinite number of runtime states and paths.
- **Symbolic execution** **may struggle with termination in complex or large-scale programs**. The need to explore numerous paths in detail, especially in programs with loops and recursive calls, can lead to non-termination or impractical analysis times.

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- **Efficiency:** Reduces computational load by using abstracted state spaces, speeding up the analysis process.
- **Coverage:** ensure that all parts of the code are analyzed, avoiding missed sections and ensuring thorough coverage for detecting issues.

Abstract Interpretation: A Code Example

```
if (cond)
  x=1;
else
  x=3;
x = ?
```

Approximation!

x

$\{+\}$

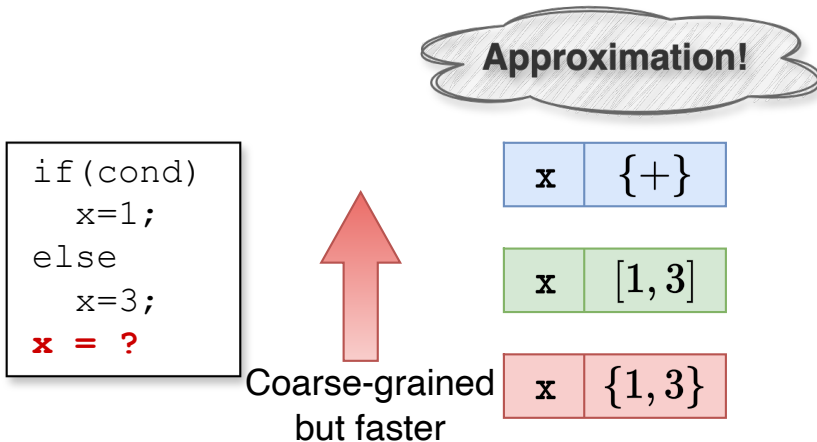
x

$[1, 3]$

x

$\{1, 3\}$

Abstract Interpretation: A Code Example



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if (cond)
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x = ?
```

Approximation!

x	{+}
---	-----

x	[1, 3]
---	--------

x	{1, 3}
---	--------

Fine-grained
but slower



Concrete Domain and Abstract Domain: Formal Definition

Concrete Domain

- $\mathbb{S}$ denotes the set of concrete values that a program variable can have.
 - E.g., $\mathbb{S} = \mathbb{Z}$ represents the concrete values that an integer variable can have.
- A **concrete domain** $\mathbb{C}$ is the *powerset* of $\mathbb{S}$, denoted as $\mathbb{C} = \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S})$.
 - E.g. The *powerset integer domain* is a concrete domain for integer variables.

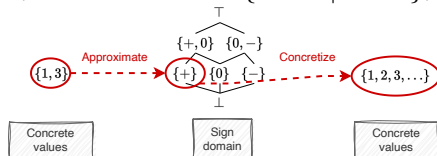
Abstract Domain

- An **abstract domain** $\mathbb{A}$ contains *abstract values* approximating a set of concrete values.
- An abstract domain is typically implemented using a **lattice** $\mathbb{L} = \langle \mathbb{A}, \sqsubseteq, \sqcap, \sqcup, \perp, \top \rangle$ structure, a set of abstract values following a **partial order**, also equipped with two binary operations.
 - $\sqsubseteq$ is a partial order relation on $\mathbb{A}$ (e.g., $\sqsubseteq$ is the subset ($\subseteq$) on a power set).
 - $\sqcap$ and $\sqcup$ are the meet and join binary operations, and $\perp$ and $\top$ are unique least and greatest elements of $\mathbb{A}$.

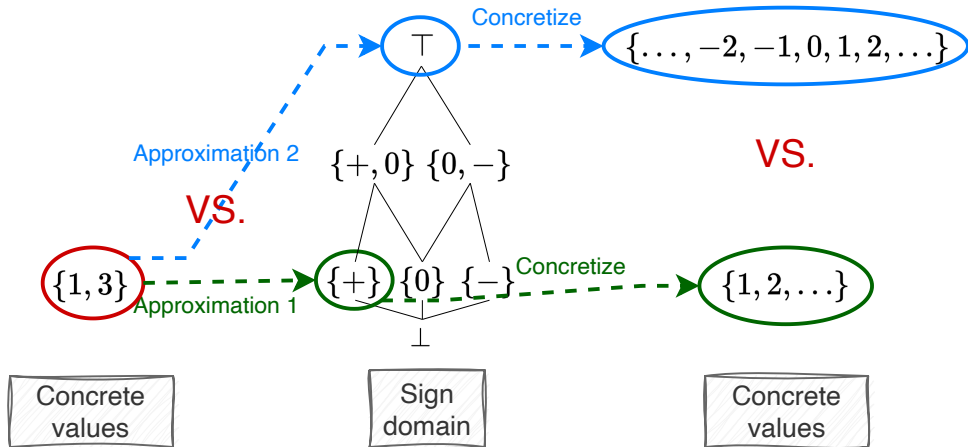
An Example: Abstract Sign Domain

An abstract domain that approximates a set of concrete values with their signs.

- Lattice is defined as $\mathbb{L} = \langle \mathcal{P}(\{-, 0, +\}), \sqsubseteq, \sqcap, \sqcup, \perp, \top \rangle$.
- **Partial order:** $a \sqsubseteq b \Leftrightarrow a \subseteq b$. E.g., $\{+\} \sqsubseteq \{0, +\} \Leftrightarrow \{+\} \subseteq \{0, +\}$.
- **Meet operator** $a \sqcap b$: returns the **greatest lower bound (GLB)** that is less than or equal to both a and b (**move downwards along the lattice**)
 - $\{+\} \sqcap \{0\} = \perp$
- **Join operator** $a \sqcup b$: returns the **least upper bound (LUB)** that is greater than or equal to both a and b (**move upwards along the lattice**)
 - $\{+\} \sqcup \{0\} = \{+, 0\}$
- **Approximation:** concrete value set $\{1, 3\}$ is **over-approximated** as $\{+\}$.
After **concretization**, it is restored as $\{x \in \mathbb{Z} \mid x > 0\}$, a **super set** of $\{1, 3\}$.



An Example, the Best Abstraction using Sign Domain



Approximation 1 (more precise than Approximation 2) is the best abstraction!

Galois Connection

When each concrete value has a unique best abstraction, the correspondence is a **Galois connection**, which is a two-way connections between abstract domain and concrete domain using abstraction function and concretization function.

- Abstraction function $\alpha : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}$ maps a set of concrete values to its abstract ones;
- Concretization function $\gamma : \mathbb{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ maps a set of abstract values to concrete ones.

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Example: Abstraction/concretization functions on sign domain

$$\gamma_{Sign}(\top) = \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\gamma_{Sign}(\{-\}) = \{x \mid x < 0\}$$

$$\gamma_{Sign}(\{+\}) = \{x \mid x > 0\}$$

...

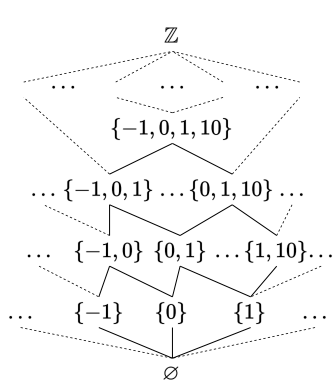
$$\alpha_{Sign}(c) = \{+\} \text{ if } c \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$$

$$\alpha_{Sign}(c) = \{-\} \text{ if } c \in \mathbb{Z}_{<0}$$

$$\alpha_{Sign}(c) = \{+, 0\} \text{ if } c \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$$

...

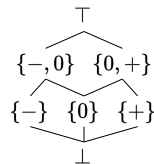
Galois Connection of Sign Domain



(a) Powerset integer domain

$$\begin{aligned}
 \gamma_{Sign}(\top) &= \mathbb{Z} \\
 \gamma_{Sign}(\{-\}) &= \{x \mid x < 0\} \\
 \gamma_{Sign}(\{+\}) &= \{x \mid x > 0\} \\
 \gamma_{Sign}(\{-, 0\}) &= \{x \mid x \leq 0\} \\
 \gamma_{Sign}(\{+, 0\}) &= \{x \mid x \geq 0\} \\
 \gamma_{Sign}(\{\perp\}) &= \emptyset
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\alpha_{Sign}(c) = \begin{cases} \{+\} & \text{if } c \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0} \\ \{-\} & \text{if } c \in \mathbb{Z}_{<0} \\ \{+, 0\} & \text{if } c \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \\ \{-, 0\} & \text{if } c \in \mathbb{Z}_{\leq 0} \\ \perp & \text{if } c = \emptyset \\ \top & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



(b) Sign domain

Interval Domain

The interval domain is an abstract domain that represents a set of integers that fall between two given endpoints.

- Lattice is defined as

$\mathbb{I}_{interval} = \langle \mathbb{I}, \sqsubseteq, \sqcap, \sqcup, \perp, \top \rangle$, where $\mathbb{I} = \{[a, b] \mid a, b \in \mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty, +\infty\}\} \cup \{\perp\}$.

- Partial order: $[a_1, b_1] \sqsubseteq [a_2, b_2] \Leftrightarrow a_2 \leq a_1 \wedge b_1 \leq b_2$.
 - E.g., $[0, 0], [0, 1] \in \mathbb{A}_{interval}$, satisfying $[0, 0] \sqsubseteq [0, 1]$.

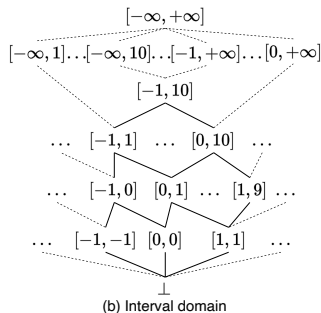
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Given $a_1 = [3, 8]$ and $a_2 = [7, 12]$.

Meet operation $a_1 \sqcap a_2$ returns the **greatest Lower Bound (GLB)**:

- GLB = $[7, 8]$, the largest range that is shared by both a_1 and a_2 .

Join operation $a_1 \sqcup a_2$ returns the **Least Upper Bound (LUB)**:

- LUB = $[3, 12]$, the smallest range that includes both a_1 and a_2 .

LUB and GLB of lattice $\mathbb{I}_{interval}$ are $[-\infty, +\infty]$ and $\perp$ respectively.

Galois Connection between $\mathbb{C}$ and $\mathbb{A}_{interval}$

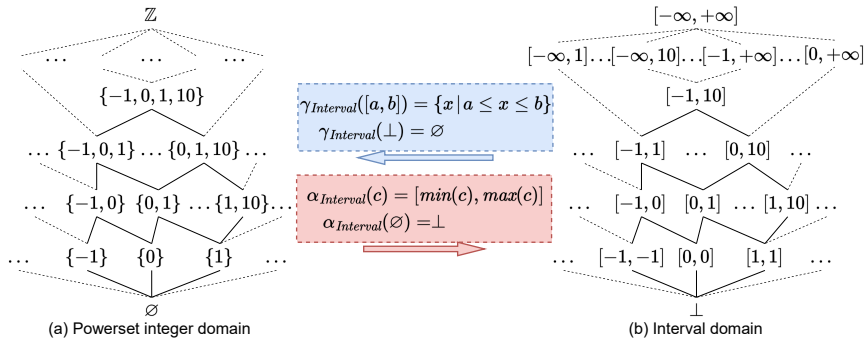


Figure: Powerset integer domain $\mathbb{C}$ and its abstraction as the interval domain $\mathbb{A}_{interval}$.

Abstract State and Abstract Trace

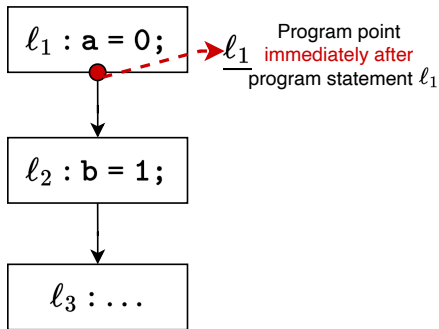
- An **abstract state** (AState in Lab-3 and Assignment-3) is defined as a map $AS : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}$ associating program variables $\mathcal{V}$ with an abstract value in $\mathbb{A}$, approximating the runtime states of program variables.

Abstract State and Abstract Trace

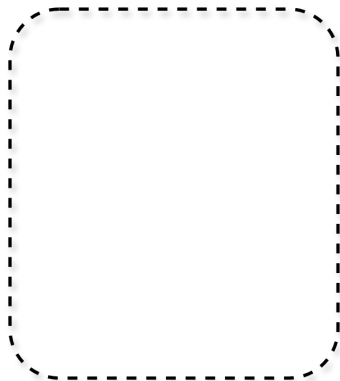
- An **abstract state** (AState in Lab-3 and Assignment-3) is defined as a map $AS : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}$ associating program variables $\mathcal{V}$ with an abstract value in $\mathbb{A}$, approximating the runtime states of program variables.
- An **abstract trace** $\sigma \in \mathbb{L} \times \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}$ represents a list of abstract states before ($\bar{\ell}$) and after ($\underline{\ell}$) each program statement ℓ (preAbsTrace and postAbsTrace in Assignment-3).

	Notation	Domain
Abstract trace	σ	$\mathbb{L} \times \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}_{Interval}$
Abstract state at program point $L \in \mathbb{L}$	σ_L	$\mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}_{Interval}$
Abstract value of x at program point $L \in \mathbb{L}$	$\sigma_L(x)$	$\mathbb{A}_{Interval}$

Abstract Trace : A Simple Example

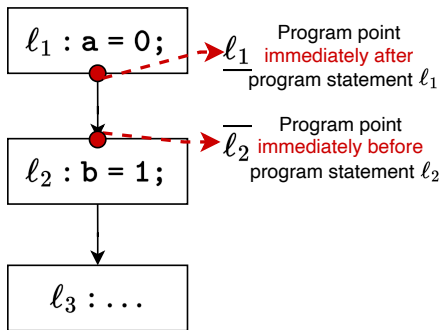


Control Flow Graph

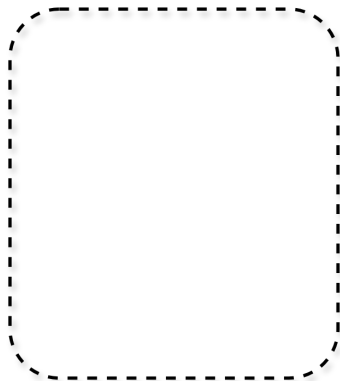


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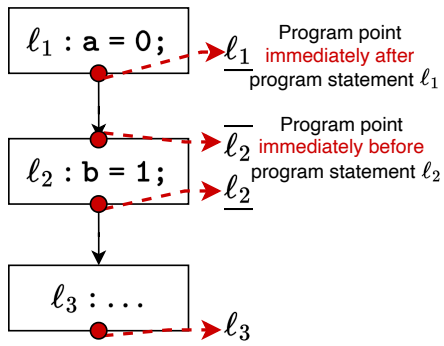


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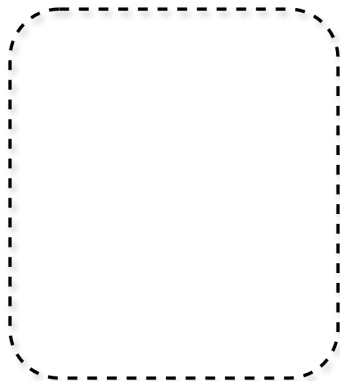


Abstract Trace σ

Abstract Trace : A Simple Example

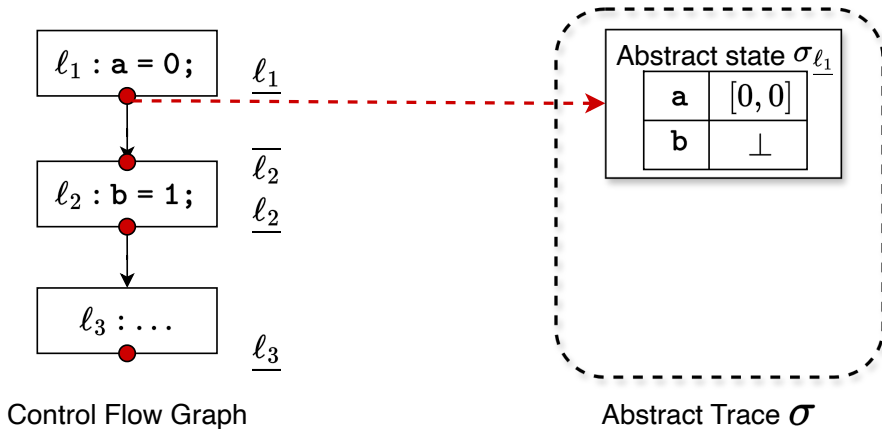


Control Flow Graph

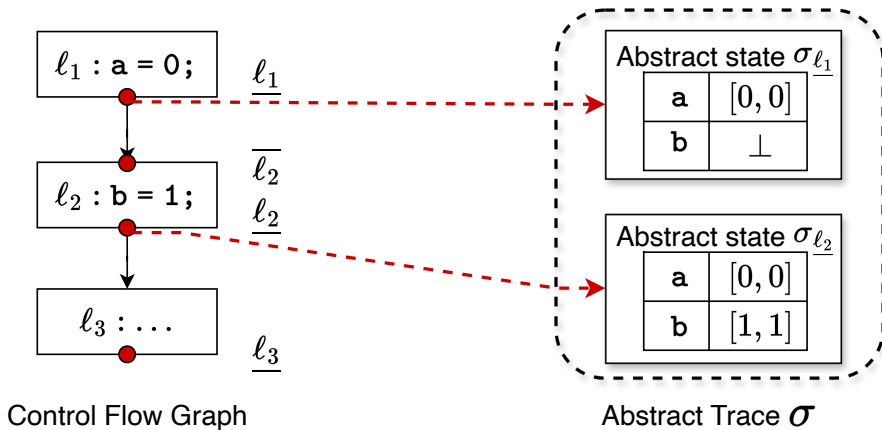


Abstract Trace σ

Abstract Trace : A Simple Example

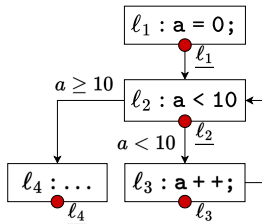


Abstract Trace : A Simple Example



Abstract Trace: Naive Fixed-Point Computation for Loops

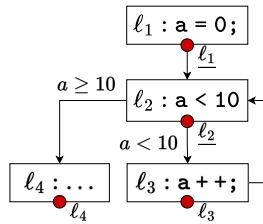
Abstract trace												
$\sigma_{\underline{l_1}}(a)$												
$\sigma_{\underline{l_2}}(a)$												
$\sigma_{\underline{l_3}}(a)$												
$\sigma_{\underline{l_4}}(a)$												



Control Flow Graph

Abstract Trace: Naive Fixed-Point Computation for Loops

Abstract trace											
$\sigma_{\underline{\ell_1}}(a)$											
$\sigma_{\underline{\ell_2}}(a)$											
$\sigma_{\underline{\ell_3}}(a)$											
$\sigma_{\underline{\ell_4}}(a)$											

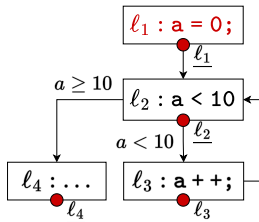


Control Flow Graph

What is the abstract state after analyzing each statement?

Abstract Trace: Naive Fixed-Point Computation for Loops

Abstract trace												
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$												
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$												
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$												
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$												



Control Flow Graph

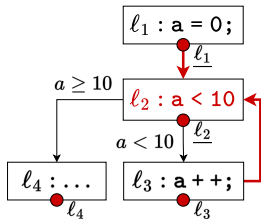
What is the abstract state after analyzing each statement?

$$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a) := F_1() = [0, 0]$$

$F_1, \dots, F_4$ are **transfer functions** which indicate how abstract states are updated

Abstract Trace: Naive Fixed-Point Computation for Loops

Abstract trace												
$\sigma_{\underline{\ell_1}}(a)$												
$\sigma_{\underline{\ell_2}}(a)$												
$\sigma_{\underline{\ell_3}}(a)$												
$\sigma_{\underline{\ell_4}}(a)$												



Control Flow Graph

What is the abstract state after analyzing each statement?

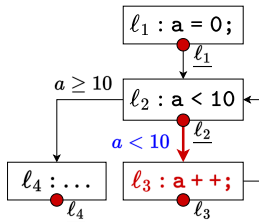
$$\sigma_{\underline{\ell_1}}(a) := F_1() = [0, 0]$$

$$\sigma_{\underline{\ell_2}}(a) := F_2(\sigma_{\underline{\ell_1}}, \sigma_{\underline{\ell_3}}) = \sigma_{\underline{\ell_1}}(a) \sqcup \sigma_{\underline{\ell_3}}(a)$$

$F_1, \dots, F_4$ are **transfer functions** which indicate how abstract states are updated

Abstract Trace: Naive Fixed-Point Computation for Loops

Abstract trace											
$\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_1}(a)$											
$\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_2}(a)$											
$\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_3}(a)$											
$\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_4}(a)$											



Control Flow Graph

What is the abstract state after analyzing each statement?

$$\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_1}(a) := F_1() = [0, 0]$$

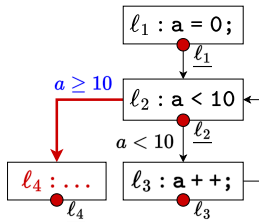
$$\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_2}(a) := F_2(\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_1}, \sigma_{\underline{\ell}_3}) = \sigma_{\underline{\ell}_1}(a) \sqcup \sigma_{\underline{\ell}_3}(a)$$

$$\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_3}(a) := F_3(\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_2}) = ([-\infty, 9] \sqcap \sigma_{\underline{\ell}_2}(a)) + [1, 1]$$

$F_1, \dots, F_4$ are **transfer functions** which indicate how abstract states are updated

Abstract Trace: Naive Fixed-Point Computation for Loops

Abstract trace											
$\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_1}(a)$											
$\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_2}(a)$											
$\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_3}(a)$											
$\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_4}(a)$											



Control Flow Graph

What is the abstract state after analyzing each statement?

$$\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_1}(a) := F_1() = [0, 0]$$

$$\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_2}(a) := F_2(\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_1}, \sigma_{\underline{\ell}_3}) = \sigma_{\underline{\ell}_1}(a) \sqcup \sigma_{\underline{\ell}_3}(a)$$

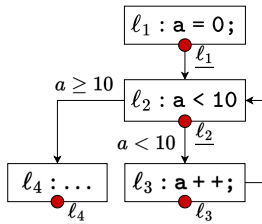
$$\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_3}(a) := F_3(\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_2}) = ([-\infty, 9] \sqcap \sigma_{\underline{\ell}_2}(a)) + [1, 1]$$

$$\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_4}(a) := F_4(\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_2}) = ([10, \infty] \sqcap \sigma_{\underline{\ell}_2}(a))$$

$F_1, \dots, F_4$ are **transfer functions** which indicate how abstract states are updated

Abstract Trace: Naive Fixed-Point Computation for Loops

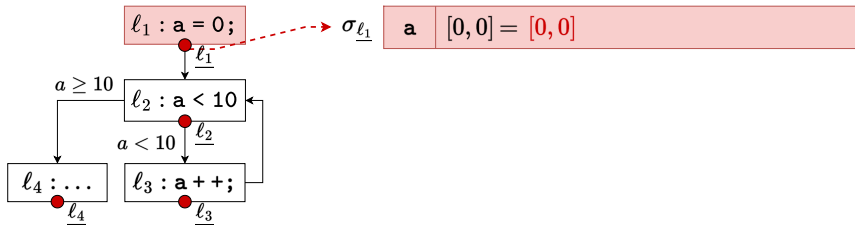
Abstract trace	Init											
$\sigma_{\underline{l_1}}(a)$	$\perp$											
$\sigma_{\underline{l_2}}(a)$	$\perp$											
$\sigma_{\underline{l_3}}(a)$	$\perp$											
$\sigma_{\underline{l_4}}(a)$	$\perp$											



Control Flow Graph

Abstract Trace: Naive Fixed-Point Computation for Loops

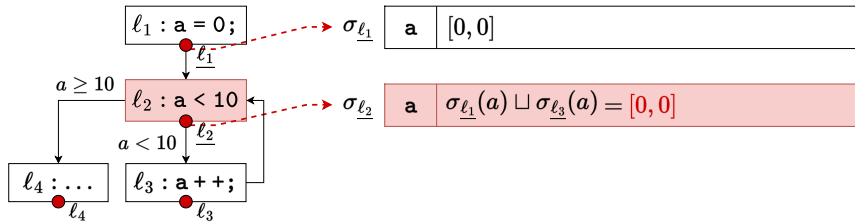
Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1										
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$										
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$										
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$										
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$										



Control Flow Graph

Abstract Trace: Naive Fixed-Point Computation for Loops

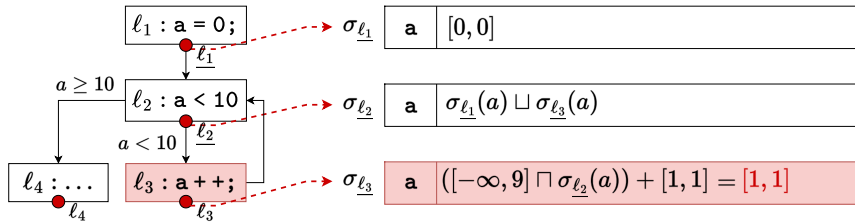
Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter									
			After ℓ_2									
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$									
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$									
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$									
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$									



Control Flow Graph

Abstract Trace: Naive Fixed-Point Computation for Loops

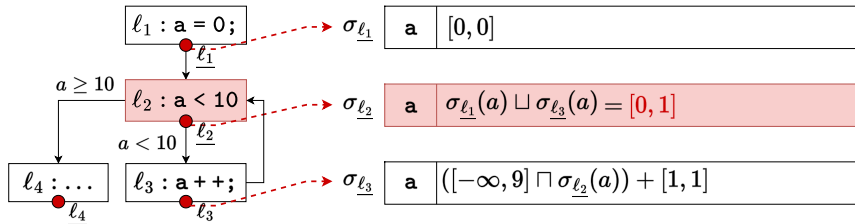
Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter									
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3								
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$								
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$								
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[1, 1]$								
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$								



Control Flow Graph

Abstract Trace: Naive Fixed-Point Computation for Loops

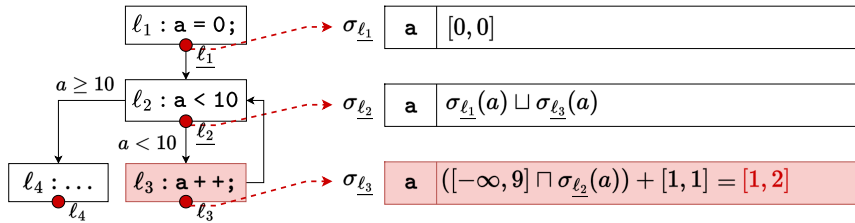
Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter							
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2							
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$							
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 1]$							
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 1]$							
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$							



Control Flow Graph

Abstract Trace: Naive Fixed-Point Computation for Loops

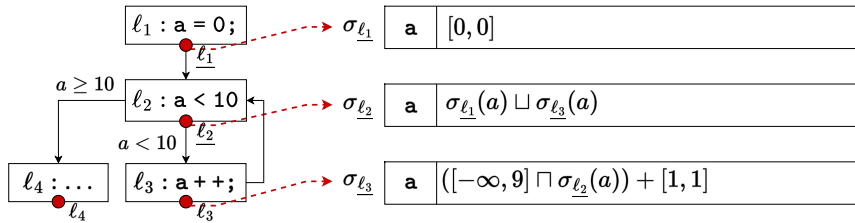
Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter						
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3					
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$					
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 1]$	$[0, 1]$					
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 2]$					
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$					



Control Flow Graph

Abstract Trace: Naive Fixed-Point Computation for Loops

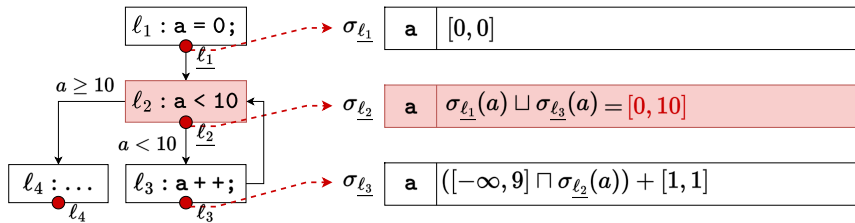
Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter		...	11 th loop iter				
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3		After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3			
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	...	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$			
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 1]$	$[0, 1]$	...	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$			
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 2]$	...	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$			
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	...	$\perp$	$\perp$			



Control Flow Graph

Abstract Trace: Naive Fixed-Point Computation for Loops

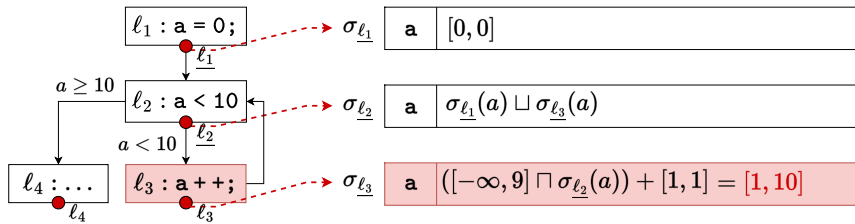
Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter		...	11 th loop iter		12 nd loop iter		
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3		After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2		
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	...	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$		
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 1]$	$[0, 1]$	...	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$		
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 2]$	...	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$		
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	...	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$		



Control Flow Graph

Abstract Trace: Naive Fixed-Point Computation for Loops

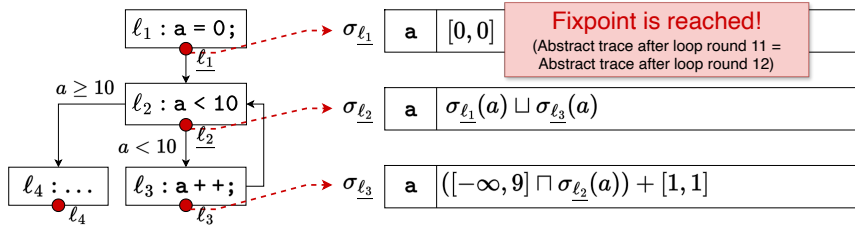
Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter		...	11 th loop iter		12 nd loop iter		
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3		After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	...	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 1]$	$[0, 1]$	...	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$	
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 2]$	...	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	...	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	



Control Flow Graph

Abstract Trace: Naive Fixed-Point Computation for Loops

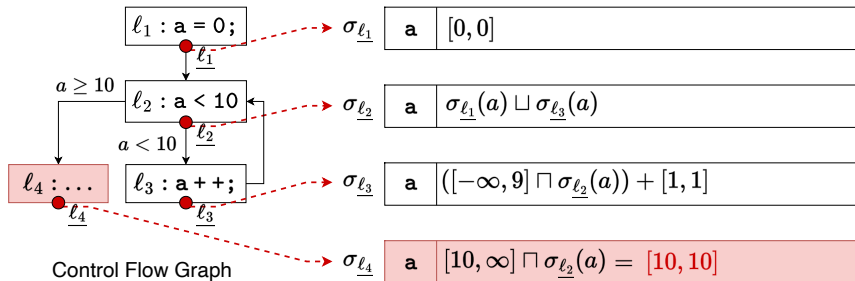
Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter		...	11 th loop iter		12 nd loop iter	
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3		After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	...	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 1]$	$[0, 1]$	...	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 2]$	...	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	...	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$



Control Flow Graph

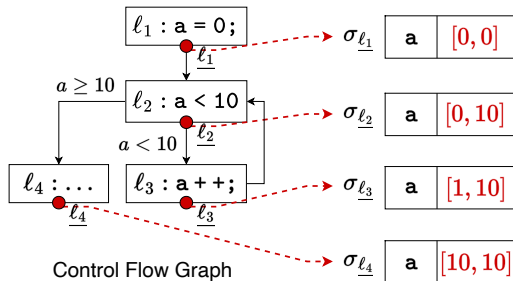
Abstract Trace: Naive Fixed-Point Computation for Loops

Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter		...	11 th loop iter		12 nd loop iter		After analyzing ℓ_4
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3		After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	...	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 1]$	$[0, 1]$	...	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 2]$	...	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	...	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[10, 10]$



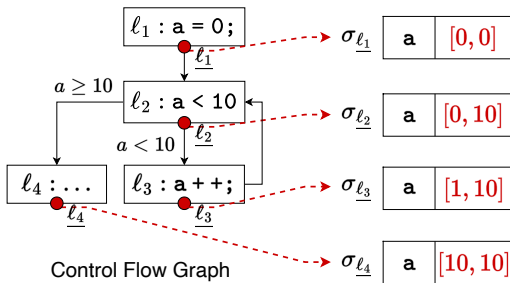
Abstract Trace: Naive Fixed-Point Computation for Loops

Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter		...	11 th loop iter		12 nd loop iter		After analyzing ℓ_4
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3		After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	...	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 1]$	$[0, 1]$	...	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 2]$	...	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	...	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[10, 10]$



Abstract Trace: Naive Fixed-Point Computation for Loops

Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter			11 th loop iter		12 nd loop iter		After analyzing ℓ_4
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3		After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	...	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 1]$	$[0, 1]$	...	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 2]$	...	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	...	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[10, 10]$

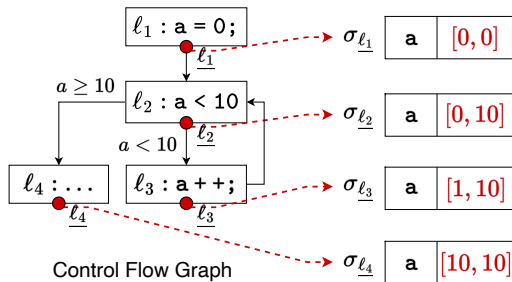


$[0, 0] \Rightarrow [0, 1] \Rightarrow [0, 2] \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow [0, 10] \Rightarrow [0, 10]$

12 iterations while analyzing the loop

Abstract Trace: Naive Fixed-Point Computation for Loops

Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter			11 th loop iter		12 nd loop iter		After analyzing ℓ_4
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3		After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	...	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 1]$	$[0, 1]$	...	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 2]$	...	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	...	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[10, 10]$



$[0, 0] \Rightarrow [0, 1] \Rightarrow [0, 2] \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow [0, 10] \Rightarrow [0, 10]$

12 iterations while analyzing the loop

What if $a < 10000$?
More iterations!

Widening: Accelerating Fixed-Point Computation

Widening technique can accelerate the fixpoint computation of $\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_2}(a)$.

Naive fixpoint computation: value changes of $\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_2}(a)$

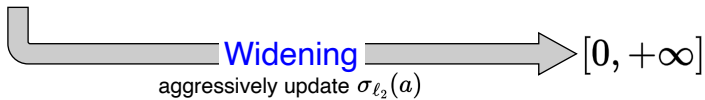
$$[0, 0] \Rightarrow [0, 1] \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow [0, 10] \Rightarrow [0, 10]$$

Widening: Accelerating Fixed-Point Computation

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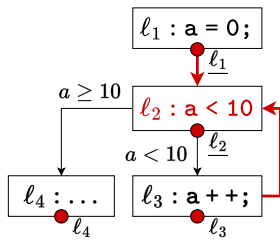
Naive fixpoint computation: value changes of $\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_2}(a)$

$[0, 0] \Rightarrow [0, 1] \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow [0, 10] \Rightarrow [0, 10]$



Widening: Accelerating Fixed-Point Computation

Widening at the k^{th} iteration in the loop for analyzing ℓ_2 to update $\sigma_{\underline{\ell_2}}$.



Control Flow Graph

$$\sigma_{\underline{\ell_2}}(a) :=$$

$$\sigma_{\underline{\ell_1}}(a) \sqcup \sigma_{\underline{\ell_3}}(a)$$

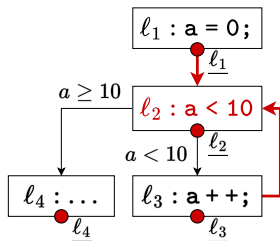
Apply widening operator ∇

$$\sigma_{\underline{\ell_2}}^k(a) := \sigma_{\underline{\ell_2}}^{k-1}(a) \nabla (\sigma_{\underline{\ell_1}}(a) \sqcup \sigma_{\underline{\ell_3}}^{k-1}(a))$$

$\sigma_{\underline{\ell_2}}^k$ denotes the value of $\sigma_{\underline{\ell_2}}$ after the k^{th} analysis of ℓ_2 , and $\sigma_{\underline{\ell_1}}$ does not have a superscription as it is updated only once and is not involved in the loop

Widening: Accelerating Fixed-Point Computation

Widening at the k^{th} iteration in the loop for analyzing ℓ_2 to update $\sigma_{\underline{\ell_2}}$.



Control Flow Graph

$$\sigma_{\underline{\ell_2}}(a) :=$$

$$\sigma_{\underline{\ell_1}}(a) \sqcup \sigma_{\underline{\ell_3}}(a)$$

Apply widening operator ∇

$$\sigma_{\underline{\ell_2}}^k(a) := \sigma_{\underline{\ell_2}}^{k-1}(a) \nabla (\sigma_{\underline{\ell_1}}(a) \sqcup \sigma_{\underline{\ell_3}}^{k-1}(a))$$

$\sigma_{\underline{\ell_2}}^k$ denotes the value of $\sigma_{\underline{\ell_2}}$ after the k^{th} analysis of ℓ_2 , and $\sigma_{\underline{\ell_1}}$ does not have a superscription as it is updated only once and is not involved in the loop

What is a Widening Operator?

Widening Operator

The Widening Operator ($\nabla : \mathbb{A} \times \mathbb{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}$) is formally defined on a poset $(\mathbb{A}, \sqsubseteq)$. ∇ on interval domain could be defined as:

$$[\ell_1, h_1] \nabla [\ell_2, h_2] = [\ell_3, h_3]$$

Widening Operator

The Widening Operator ($\nabla : \mathbb{A} \times \mathbb{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}$) is formally defined on a poset $(\mathbb{A}, \sqsubseteq)$. ∇ on interval domain could be defined as:

$$[\ell_1, h_1] \nabla [\ell_2, h_2] = [\ell_3, h_3]$$

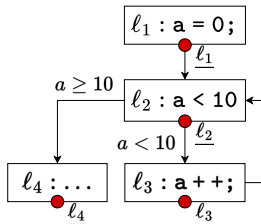
where

$$l_3 = \begin{cases} -\infty & l_2 < l_1 \\ l_1 & l_2 \geq l_1 \end{cases}, h_3 = \begin{cases} +\infty & h_2 > h_1 \\ h_1 & h_2 \leq h_1 \end{cases}$$

As a concrete example, $[0, 0] \nabla [0, 1] = [0, +\infty]$.

Widening: The Loop Example

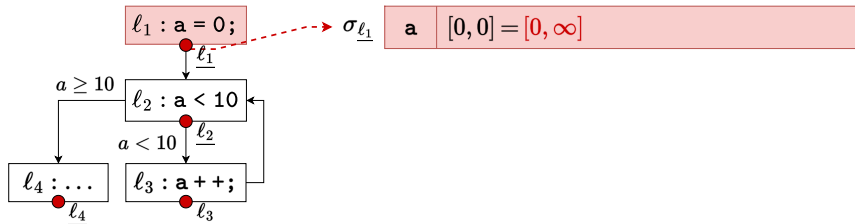
Abstract trace	Init								
$\sigma_{\underline{l_1}}(a)$	$\perp$								
$\sigma_{\underline{l_2}}(a)$	$\perp$								
$\sigma_{\underline{l_3}}(a)$	$\perp$								
$\sigma_{\underline{l_4}}(a)$	$\perp$								



Control Flow Graph

Widening: The Loop Example

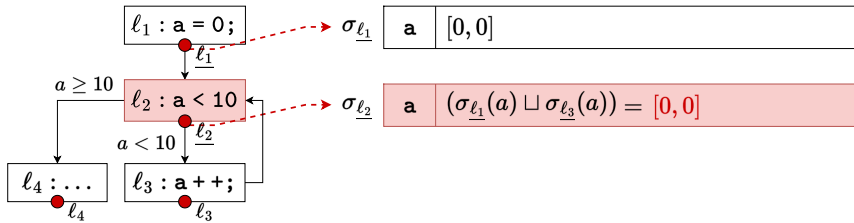
Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1							
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$							
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$							
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$							
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$							



Control Flow Graph

Widening: The Loop Example

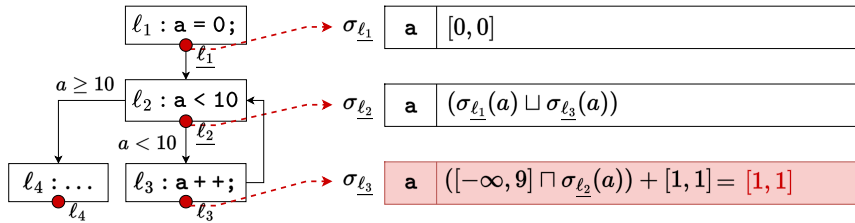
Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter						
			After ℓ_2						
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$						
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$						
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$						
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$						



Control Flow Graph

Widening: The Loop Example

Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter						
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3					
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$					
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$					
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[1, 1]$					
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$					

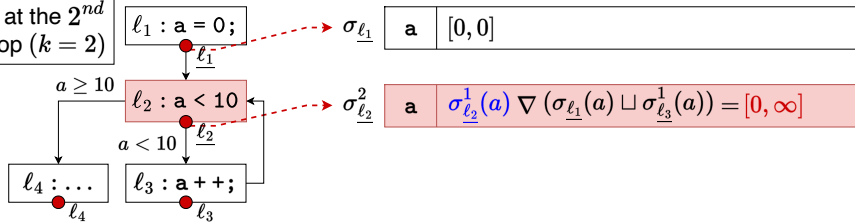


Control Flow Graph

Widening: The Loop Example

Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter				
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2				
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$				
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, \infty]$				
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 1]$				
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$				

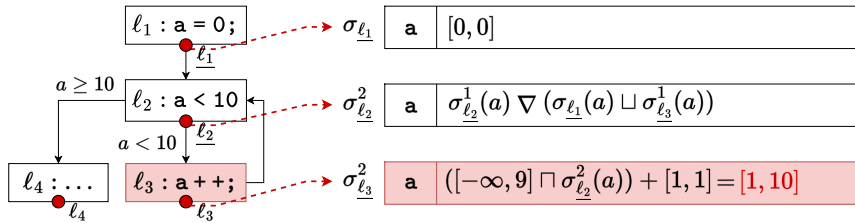
Start widening at the 2nd iteration of loop ($k = 2$)



Control Flow Graph

Widening: The Loop Example

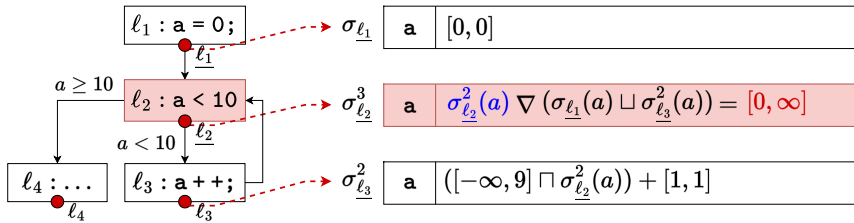
Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter			
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3		
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$		
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$		
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 10]$		
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$		



Control Flow Graph

Widening: The Loop Example

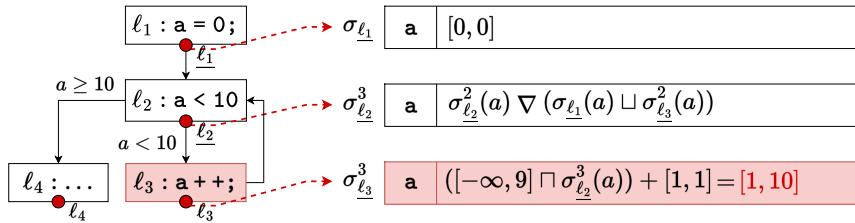
Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter		3 rd loop iter		
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2		
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$		
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$		
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$		
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$		



Control Flow Graph

Widening: The Loop Example

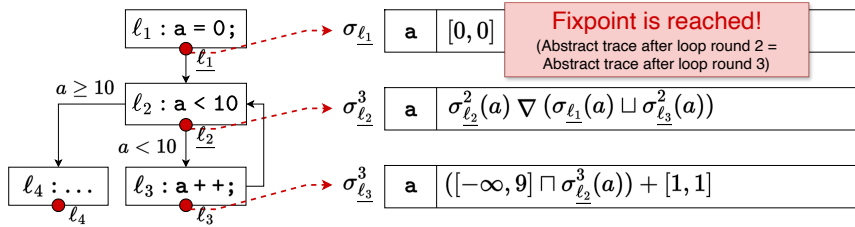
Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter		3 rd loop iter		
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	



Control Flow Graph

Widening: The Loop Example

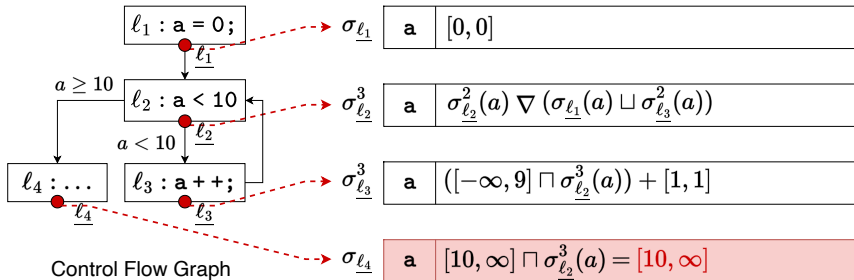
Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter		3 rd loop iter		
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	



Control Flow Graph

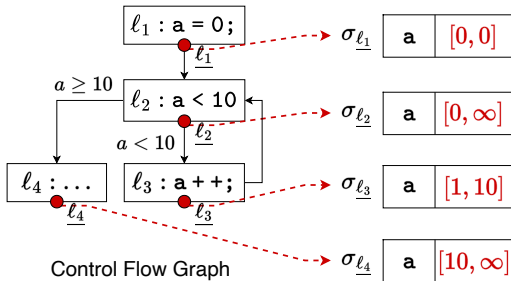
Widening: The Loop Example

Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter		3 rd loop iter		After analyzing ℓ_4
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[10, \infty]$



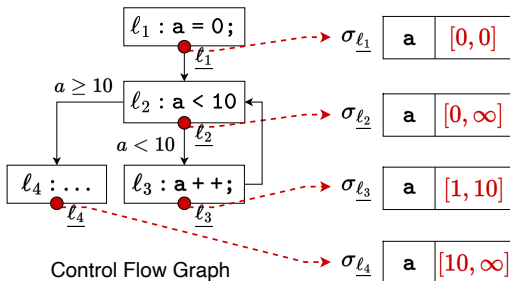
Widening: The Loop Example

Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter		3 rd loop iter		After analyzing ℓ_4
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[10, \infty]$



Widening: The Loop Example

Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter		3 rd loop iter		After analyzing ℓ_4
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[10, \infty]$

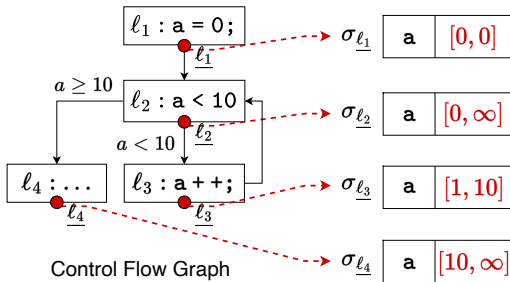


$[0, 0] \Rightarrow [0, \infty] \Rightarrow [0, \infty]$

3 iterations while analyzing the loop

Widening: The Loop Example

Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter		3 rd loop iter		After analyzing ℓ_4
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[10, \infty]$



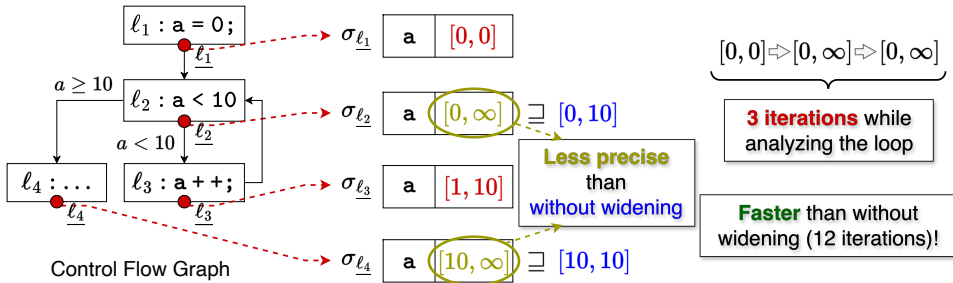
$[0, 0] \Rightarrow [0, \infty] \Rightarrow [0, \infty]$

3 iterations while analyzing the loop

Faster than naive fixpoint computation (12 iterations)!

Widening: The Loop Example

Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter		3 rd loop iter		After analyzing ℓ_4
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[10, \infty]$

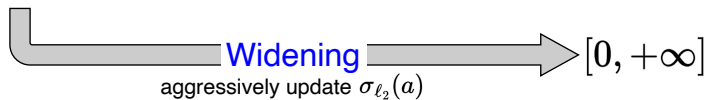


Narrowing: Precision Refinement

Narrowing technique can eliminate the precision loss after a widening operation (e.g., by improving imprecise $\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_2}$ and $\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_4}$).

Naive fixpoint computation: value changes of $\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_2}(a)$

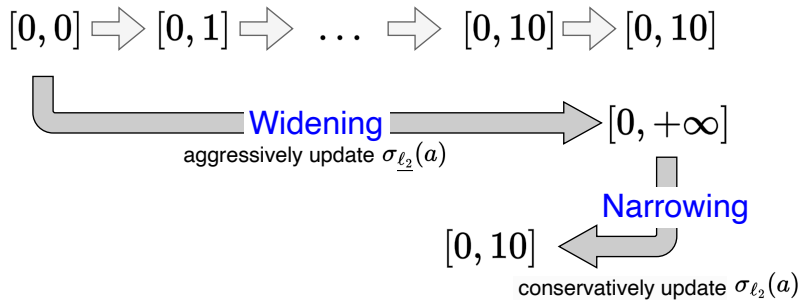
$[0, 0] \Rightarrow [0, 1] \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow [0, 10] \Rightarrow [0, 10]$



Narrowing: Precision Refinement

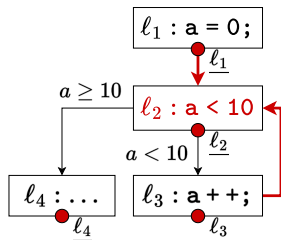
Narrowing technique can eliminate the precision loss after a widening operation (e.g., by improving imprecise $\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_2}$ and $\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_4}$).

Naive fixpoint computation: value changes of $\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_2}(a)$



Narrowing: Precision Refinement

After the widening reaches a fixpoint at the k^{th} iteration when analyzing the loop, we start performing narrowing at the $(k + 1)^{th}$ to update $\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_2}$.



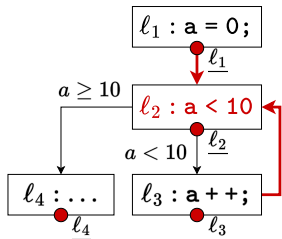
Control Flow Graph

Widening reaches
a fixpoint

$$\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_2}^k(a) := \sigma_{\underline{\ell}_2}^{k-1}(a) \nabla (\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_1}(a) \sqcup \sigma_{\underline{\ell}_3}^{k-1}(a))$$

Narrowing: Precision Refinement

After the widening reaches a fixpoint at the k^{th} iteration when analyzing the loop, we start performing narrowing at the $(k + 1)^{th}$ to update $\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_2}$.



Control Flow Graph

Widening reaches
a fixpoint

$$\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_2}^k(a) := \sigma_{\underline{\ell}_2}^{k-1}(a) \nabla (\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_1}(a) \sqcup \sigma_{\underline{\ell}_3}^{k-1}(a))$$

Apply narrowing operator Δ instead

$$\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_2}^{k+1}(a) := \sigma_{\underline{\ell}_2}^k(a) \Delta (\sigma_{\underline{\ell}_1}(a) \sqcup \sigma_{\underline{\ell}_3}^k(a))$$

What is a Narrowing Operator?

Narrowing Operator

The Narrowing Operator ($\Delta : \mathbb{A} \times \mathbb{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}$) is formally defined on a poset $(\mathbb{A}, \sqsubseteq)$. Δ on interval domain could be defined as:

$$[l_1, h_1] \Delta [l_2, h_2] = [l_3, h_3]$$

Narrowing Operator

The Narrowing Operator ($\Delta : \mathbb{A} \times \mathbb{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}$) is formally defined on a poset $(\mathbb{A}, \sqsubseteq)$. Δ on interval domain could be defined as:

$$[l_1, h_1] \Delta [l_2, h_2] = [l_3, h_3]$$

where

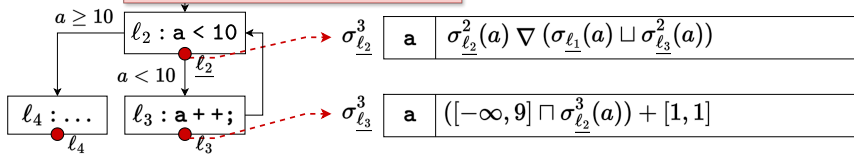
$$l_3 = \begin{cases} l_2 & l_1 \equiv -\infty \\ l_1 & l_1 \neq -\infty \end{cases}, h_3 = \begin{cases} h_2 & h_1 \equiv \infty \\ h_1 & h_1 \neq \infty \end{cases}$$

As a concrete example, $[0, \infty] \Delta [0, 10] = [0, 10]$.

Narrowing: The Loop Example

Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter		3 rd loop iter						
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3					
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$					
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$					
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$					
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$					

Widening reaches a fixpoint at the 3rd loop iteration

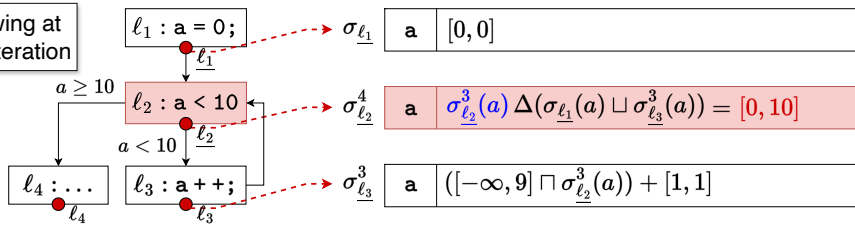


Control Flow Graph

Narrowing: The Loop Example

Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter		3 rd loop iter		4 th loop iter				
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2				
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$				
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, 10]$				
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$				
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$				

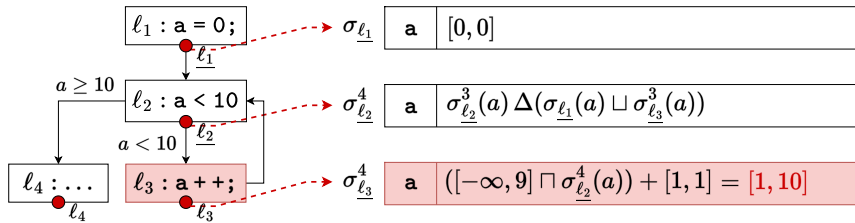
Start narrowing at the 4th loop iteration



Control Flow Graph

Narrowing: The Loop Example

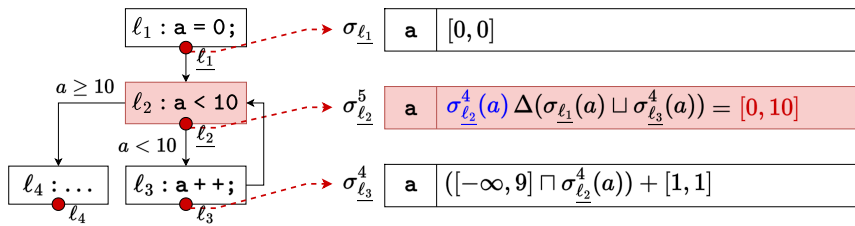
Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter		3 rd loop iter		4 th loop iter			
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3		
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$		
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$		
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$		
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$		



Control Flow Graph

Narrowing: The Loop Example

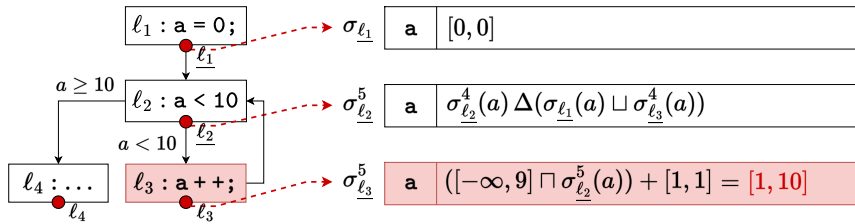
Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter		3 rd loop iter		4 th loop iter		5 th loop iter		
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2		
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$		
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$		
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$		
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$		



Control Flow Graph

Narrowing: The Loop Example

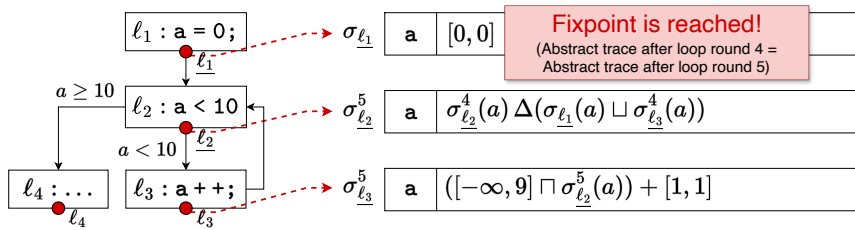
Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter		3 rd loop iter		4 th loop iter		5 th loop iter		After analyzing ℓ_4
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$	
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	



Control Flow Graph

Narrowing: The Loop Example

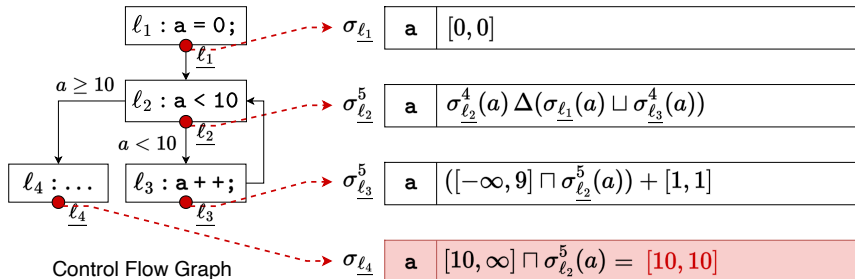
Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter		3 rd loop iter		4 th loop iter		5 th loop iter		After analyzing ℓ_4
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$	
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	



Control Flow Graph

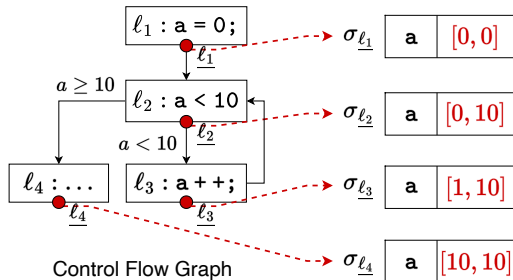
Narrowing: The Loop Example

Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter		3 rd loop iter		4 th loop iter		5 th loop iter		After analyzing ℓ_4
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, 0]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, \infty]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$	$[0, 10]$
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 1]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$	$[1, 10]$
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$[10, 10]$



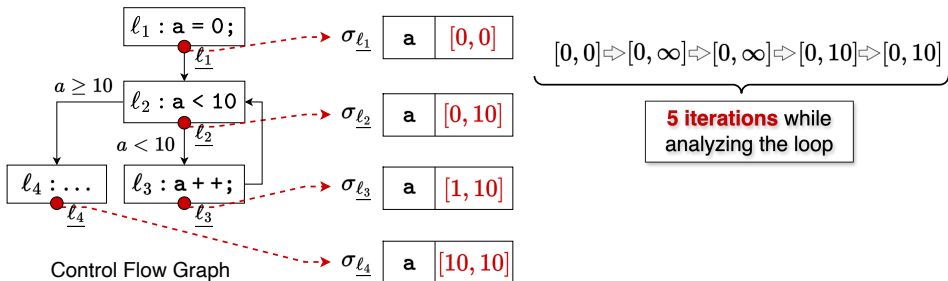
Narrowing: The Loop Example

Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter		3 rd loop iter		4 th loop iter		5 th loop iter		After analyzing ℓ_4
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, ∞]	[0, ∞]	[0, ∞]	[0, ∞]	[0, 10]	[0, 10]	[0, 10]	[0, 10]	[0, 10]
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	[1, 1]	[1, 1]	[1, 10]	[1, 10]	[1, 10]	[1, 10]	[1, 10]	[1, 10]	[1, 10]	[1, 10]
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	[10, 10]



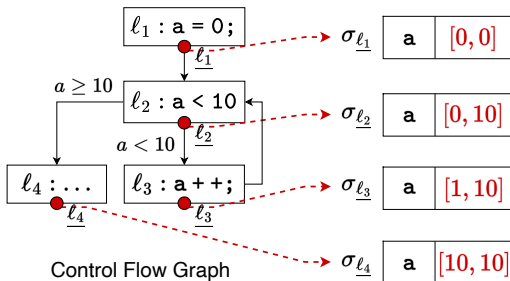
Narrowing: The Loop Example

Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter		3 rd loop iter		4 th loop iter		5 th loop iter		After analyzing ℓ_4
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, ∞]	[0, ∞]	[0, ∞]	[0, ∞]	[0, 10]	[0, 10]	[0, 10]	[0, 10]	[0, 10]
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	[1, 1]	[1, 1]	[1, 10]	[1, 10]	[1, 10]	[1, 10]	[1, 10]	[1, 10]	[1, 10]	[1, 10]
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	[10, 10]



Narrowing: The Loop Example

Abstract trace	Init	After analyzing ℓ_1	1 th loop iter		2 nd loop iter		3 rd loop iter		4 th loop iter		5 th loop iter		After analyzing ℓ_4
			After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	After ℓ_2	After ℓ_3	
$\sigma_{\ell_1}(a)$	$\perp$	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, 0]
$\sigma_{\ell_2}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	[0, 0]	[0, 0]	[0, ∞]	[0, ∞]	[0, ∞]	[0, ∞]	[0, 10]	[0, 10]	[0, 10]	[0, 10]	[0, 10]
$\sigma_{\ell_3}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	[1, 1]	[1, 1]	[1, 10]	[1, 10]	[1, 10]	[1, 10]	[1, 10]	[1, 10]	[1, 10]	[1, 10]
$\sigma_{\ell_4}(a)$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	$\perp$	[10, 10]



$[0, 0] \Rightarrow [0, \infty] \Rightarrow [0, \infty] \Rightarrow [0, 10] \Rightarrow [0, 10]$

5 iterations while analyzing the loop

Faster!

Precise!