

Spoken Commands Crash Bank Phone Lines

Posted by **samzenpus** on Monday September 17, @10:24AM
from the initiate-self-destruct-sequence dept.



mask.of.sanity writes

"A security researcher has demonstrated a series of attacks that are capable of [disabling touch tone and voice activated phone systems](#), forcing them to disclose sensitive information. The commands can be keyed in using [touchtones](#) or even using the human voice. In one test, a phone system run by an unnamed Indian bank had dumped customer PINs. In another, a [buffer overflow](#) was triggered against a back-end database. Other attacks can be used to crash phone systems outright."

Finding vulnerabilities

CS642:

Computer Security



Professor Ristenpart

<http://www.cs.wisc.edu/~rist/>

rist at cs dot wisc dot edu

Finding vulnerabilities



Manual analysis

Simple example: double free

Fuzzing tools

Static analysis, dynamic analysis

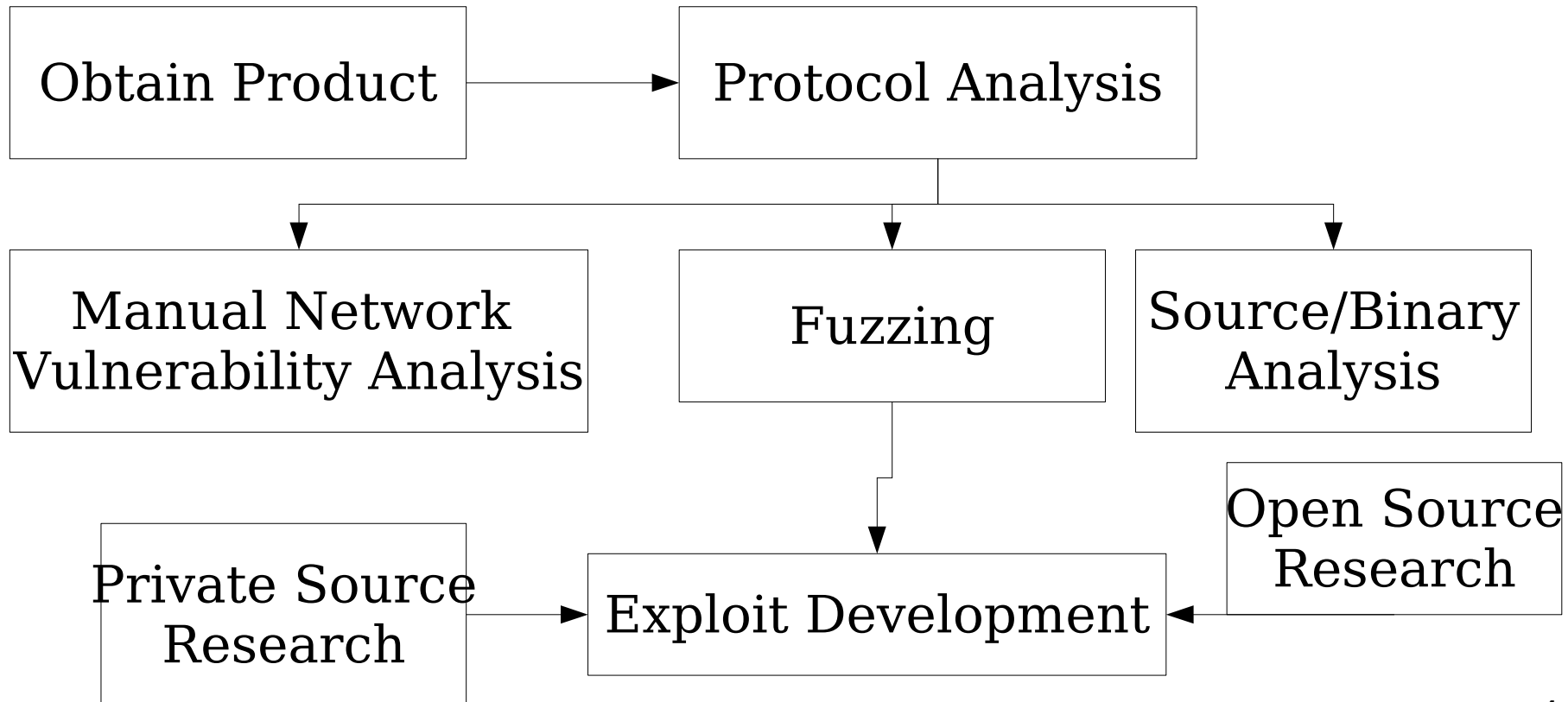
...

Hackers use People, Processes and Technology to obtain a singular goal: Information dominance



From “How Hackers Look for Bugs”, Dave Aitel

Take a sample product X and attack it remotely



From "How Hackers Look for Bugs", Dave Aitel

Manual analysis

- You get a binary or the source code
- You find vulnerabilities

IDA Pro

The screenshot displays the IDA Pro interface within a VMware Workstation environment. The main window shows assembly code for a function named `loc_80485E5`. The code includes instructions for memory management, comparison, and string handling.

```
.text:0048594      mov     [esp+28h+var_28], eax
.text:0048597      call   tfree
.text:004859C      mov     [esp+28h+var_28], 400h
.text:00485A3      call   tmalloc
.text:00485A8      mov     [ebp+var_10], eax
.text:00485AB      cmp     [ebp+var_10], 0
.text:00485AF      jnz    short loc_80485E5
.text:00485B1      mov     eax, ds:stderr@G@LIBC_2_0
.text:00485B6      mov     edx, eax
.text:00485B8      mov     eax, offset aTmallocFailure ; "malloc failure\n"
.text:00485BD      mov     [esp+28h+var_1C], edx
.text:00485C1      mov     [esp+28h+var_28], 10h
.text:00485C9      mov     [esp+28h+var_24], 1
.text:00485D1      mov     [esp+28h+var_28], eax
.text:00485D4      call   _fwrite
.text:00485D9      mov     [esp+28h+var_28], 1
.text:00485E0      call   _exit
.text:00485E5      ;-----
.text:00485E5      loc_80485E5:      ; CODE XREF: foo+C1f]
.text:00485E5      mov     [esp+28h+var_20], 400h
.text:00485ED      mov     eax, [ebp+arg_0]
.text:00485F0      mov     [esp+28h+var_24], eax
.text:00485F4      mov     eax, [ebp+var_10]
.text:00485F7      mov     [esp+28h+var_28], eax
.text:00485FA      call   obsd_strncpy
```

The **Names window** on the right lists symbols with their addresses and types:

Name	Address	P.
<code>_fwrite</code>	00483B0	
<code>_exit</code>	00483C0	
<code>_start</code>	00483D0	P
<code>__do_global_ctors_aux</code>	0048400	
<code>frame_dummy</code>	0048460	
<code>obsd_strncpy</code>	0048484	
<code>foo</code>	00484EE	P
<code>main</code>	0048611	P
<code>init</code>	004866C	

The **Strings window** shows the following entries:

Address	Length	Type	String
rodats:...	0000011	C	malloc failure\n
rodats:...	0000014	C	target4; argc=2\n

The console at the bottom shows the initial autoanalysis log:

```
File 'C:\Users\vmuser\Desktop\target4' is successfully loaded into the database.
Compiling file 'C:\Program Files\IDA Free\idc\ida.idc'...
Executing function 'main'...
Compiling file 'C:\Program Files\IDA Free\idc\onload.idc'...
Executing function 'OnLoad'...
IDA is analyzing the input file...
You may start to explore the input file right now.
Propagating type information...
Function argument information is propagated.
The initial autoanalysis has been finished.
```

IDA Pro

The screenshot displays the IDA Pro interface within a VMware Workstation environment. The main window shows a disassembled assembly code with a control flow graph. The 'Names window' on the right lists symbols like 'iwrite', 'exit', and 'main'. The 'Strings window' shows memory addresses and strings like 'malloc failure' and 'target4_argc != 2\n'. The status bar at the bottom indicates 'AU: idle' and 'Disk: 29GB'.

VMware Workstation interface showing the IDA Pro application running on a Windows 7 virtual machine. The main window displays the IDA Pro interface, showing the disassembled assembly code and the control flow graph. The console window at the bottom shows the execution progress, including the compilation of files and the execution of the 'main' function. The status bar at the bottom indicates the system is idle and the disk usage is 29GB.

VMware Workstation interface showing the IDA Pro application running on a Windows 7 virtual machine. The main window displays the IDA Pro interface, showing the disassembled assembly code and the control flow graph. The console window at the bottom shows the execution progress, including the compilation of files and the execution of the 'main' function. The status bar at the bottom indicates the system is idle and the disk usage is 29GB.

To direct input to this VM, move the mouse pointer inside or press Ctrl+G.

What type of vulnerability might this be?

```
movl $0xf8, (%esp)
call 0x8048364 <malloc@plt>
mov  %eax, 0x14(%esp)
movl $0xf8, (%esp)
call 0x8048364 <malloc@plt>
mov  %eax, 0x18(%esp)
mov  0x14(%esp), %eax
mov  %eax, (%esp)
call 0x8048354 <free@plt>
mov  0x18(%esp), %eax
mov  %eax, (%esp)
call 0x8048354 <free@plt>
movl $0x200, (%esp)
call 0x8048364 <malloc@plt>
mov  %eax, 0x1c(%esp)
mov  0xc(%ebp), %eax
add  $0x4, %eax
mov  (%eax), %eax
movl $0x1ff, 0x8(%esp)
mov  %eax, 0x4(%esp)
mov  0x1c(%esp), %eax
mov  %eax, (%esp)
call 0x8048334 <strncpy@plt>
mov  0x18(%esp), %eax
mov  %eax, (%esp)
call 0x8048354 <free@plt>
mov  0x1c(%esp), %eax
mov  %eax, (%esp)
call 0x8048354 <free@plt>
leave
ret
```



```
main( int argc, char* argv[] ) {
    char* b1;
    char* b2;
    char* b3;

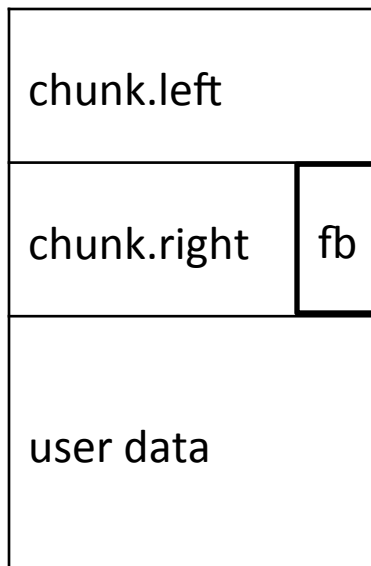
    b1 = (char*)malloc(248);
    b2 = (char*)malloc(248);
    free(b1);
    free(b2);
    b3 = (char*)malloc(512);
    strncpy( b3, argv[1], 511 );
    free(b2);
    free(b3);
}
```

Double-free vulnerability

Double-free vulnerabilities

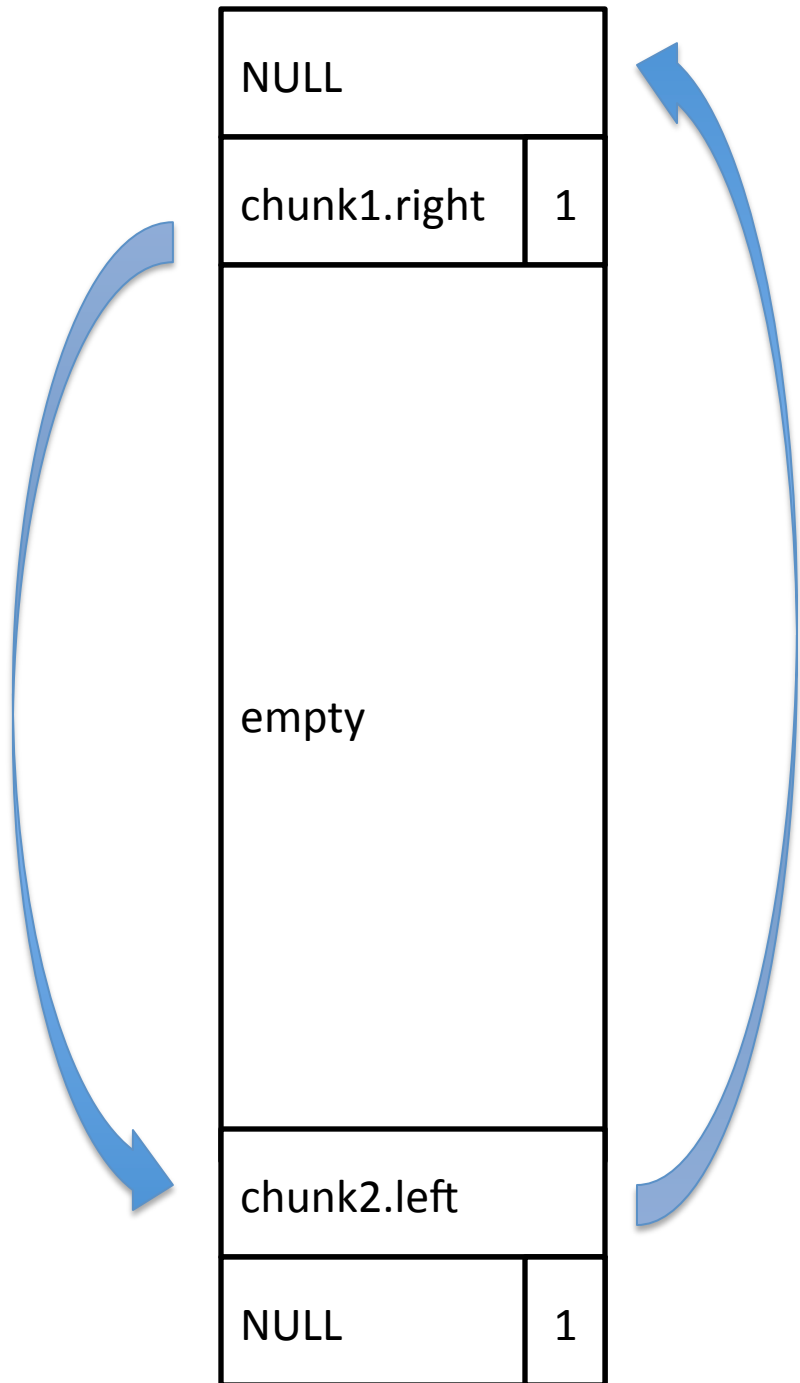
Can corrupt the state of the heap management

Say we use a simple doubly-linked list malloc implementation with control information stored alongside data



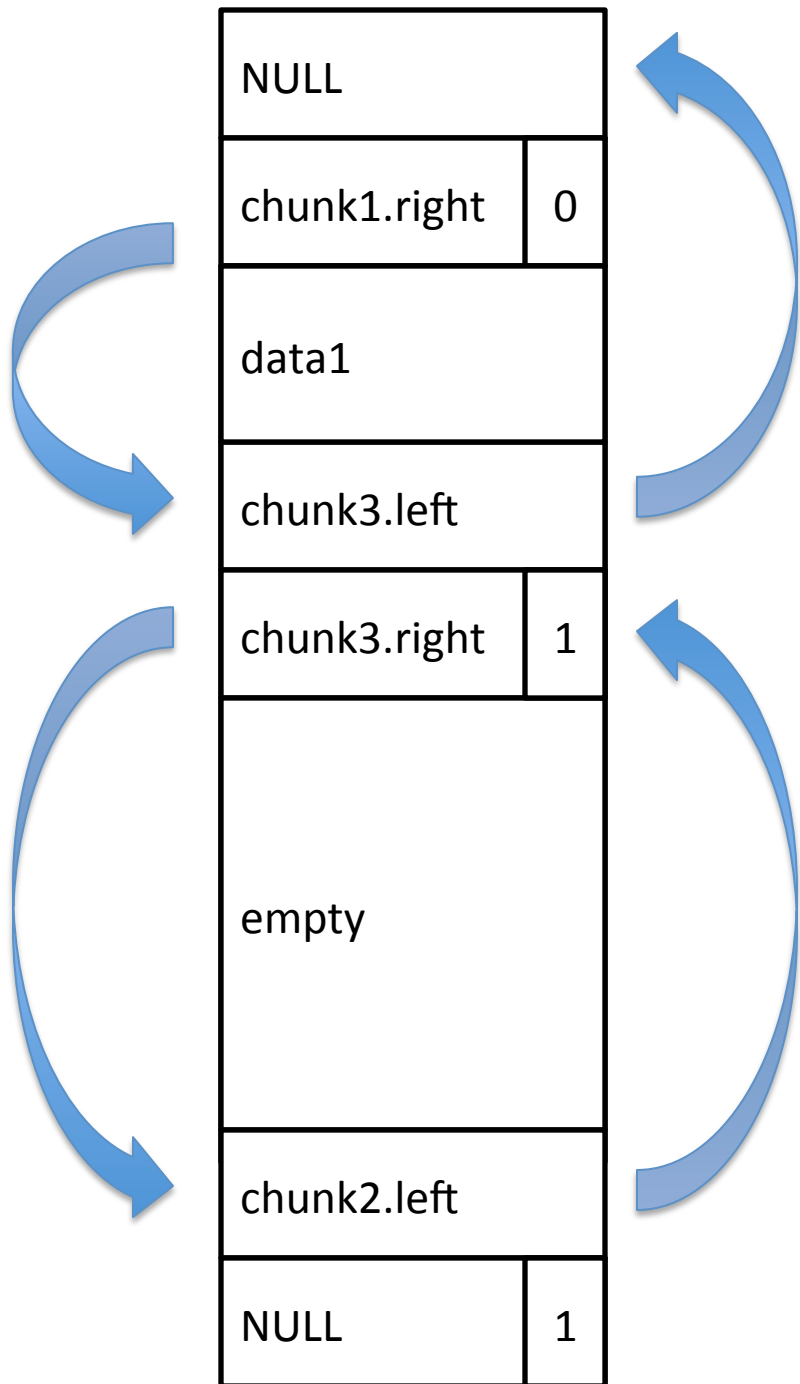
Chunk has:

- 1) left ptr (to previous chunk)
- 2) right ptr (to next chunk)
- 3) free bit which denotes if chunk is free
this reuses low bit of right ptr
because we will align chunks
- 4) user data



malloc()

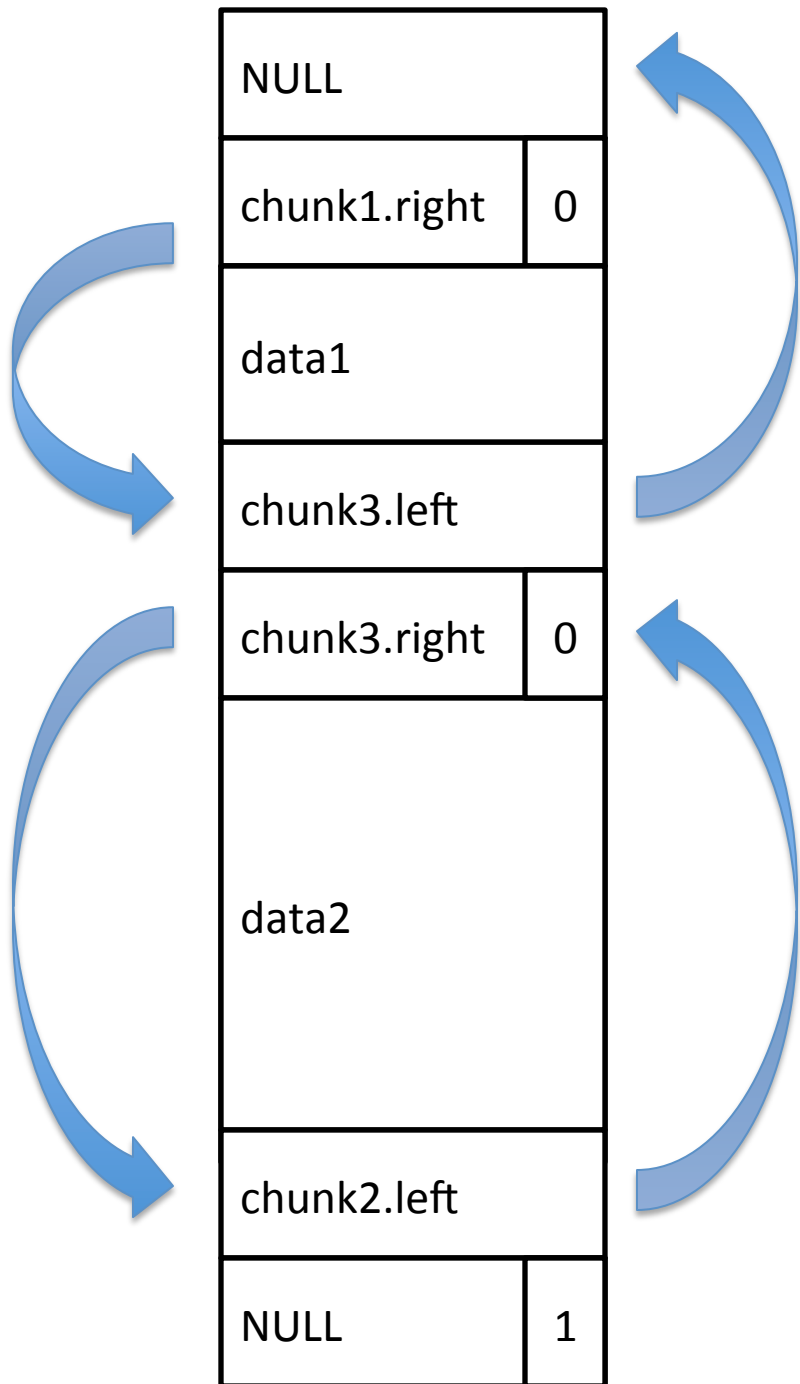
- search left-to-right for free chunk
- modify pointers



malloc()

- search left-to-right for free chunk
- modify pointers

```
b1 = malloc( BUF_SIZE1 );
```



malloc()

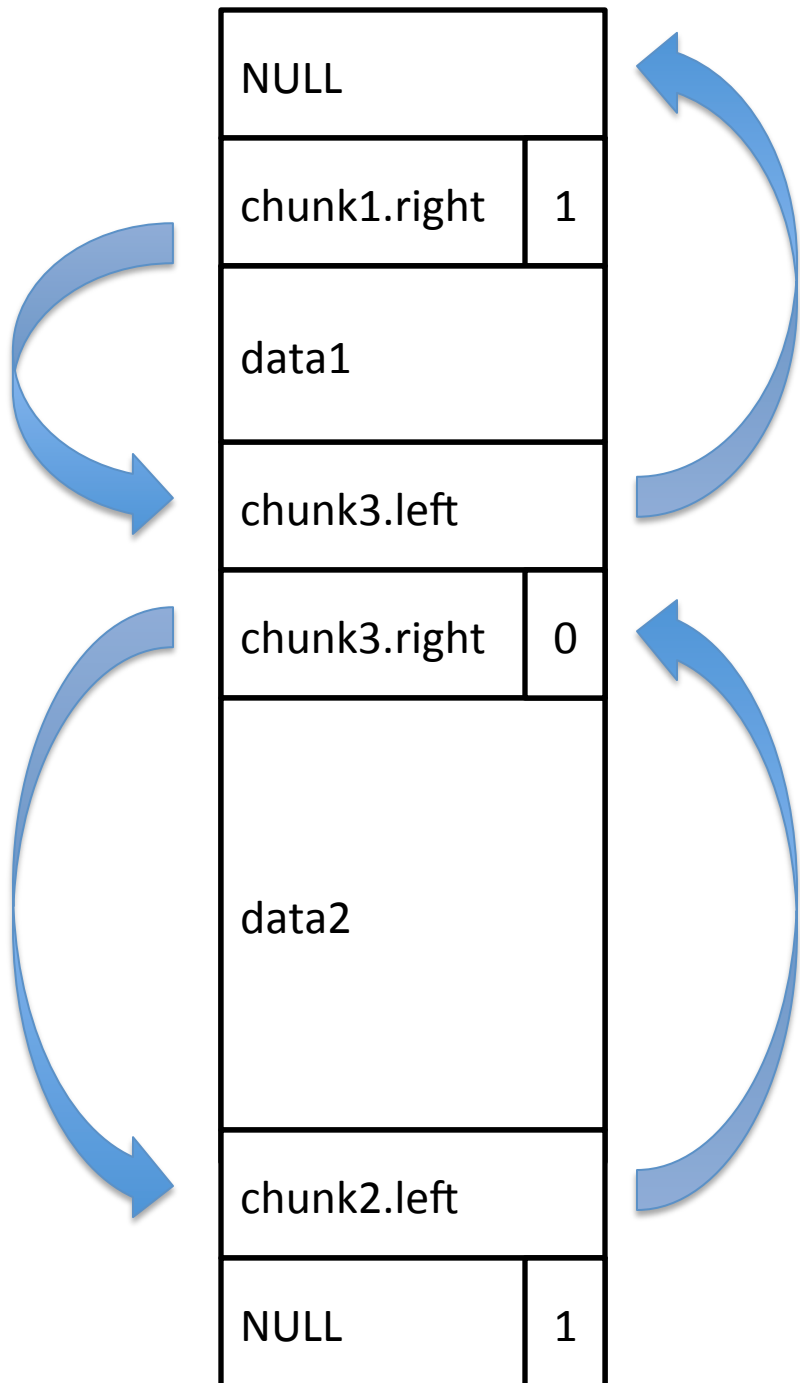
- search left-to-right for free chunk
- modify pointers

b1 = malloc(BUF_SIZE1)

b2 = malloc(BUF_SIZE2)

free()

- Consolidate with free neighbors



malloc()

- search left-to-right for free chunk
- modify pointers

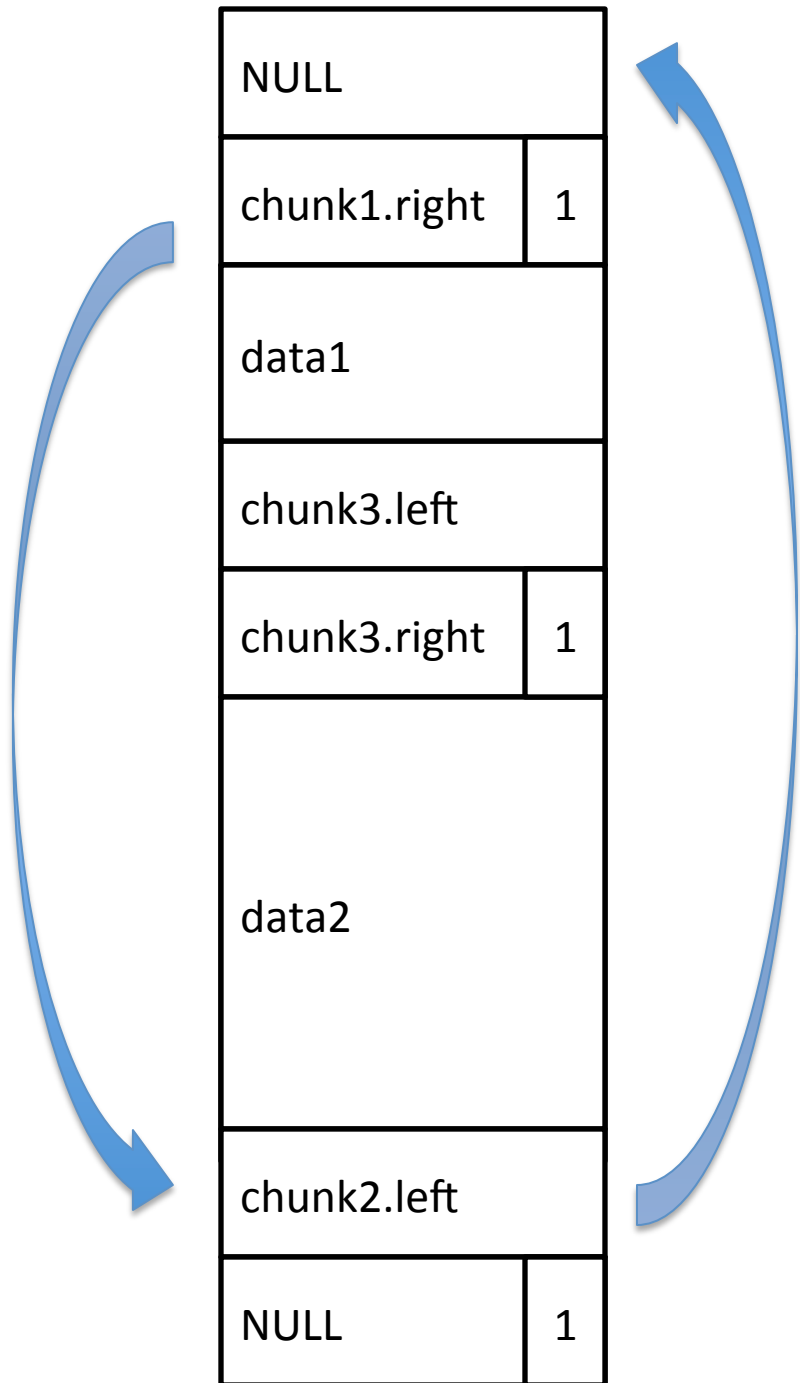
b1 = malloc(BUF_SIZE1)

b2 = malloc(BUF_SIZE2)

free()

- Consolidate with free neighbors

free(b1)



malloc()

- search left-to-right for free chunk
- modify pointers

b1 = malloc(BUF_SIZE1)

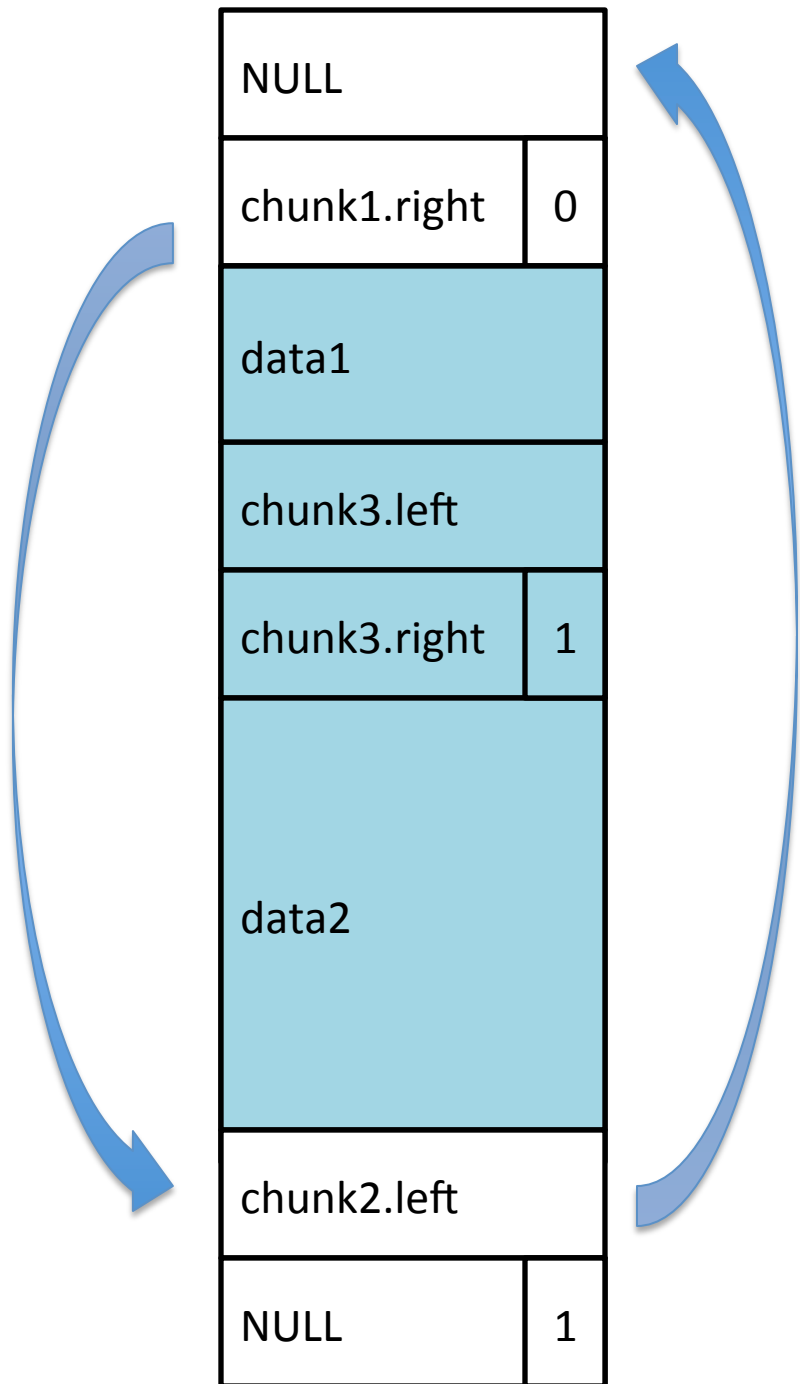
b2 = malloc(BUF_SIZE2)

free()

- Consolidate with free neighbors

free(b1)

free(b2)



malloc()

- search left-to-right for free chunk
- modify pointers

b1 = malloc(BUF_SIZE1)

b2 = malloc(BUF_SIZE2)

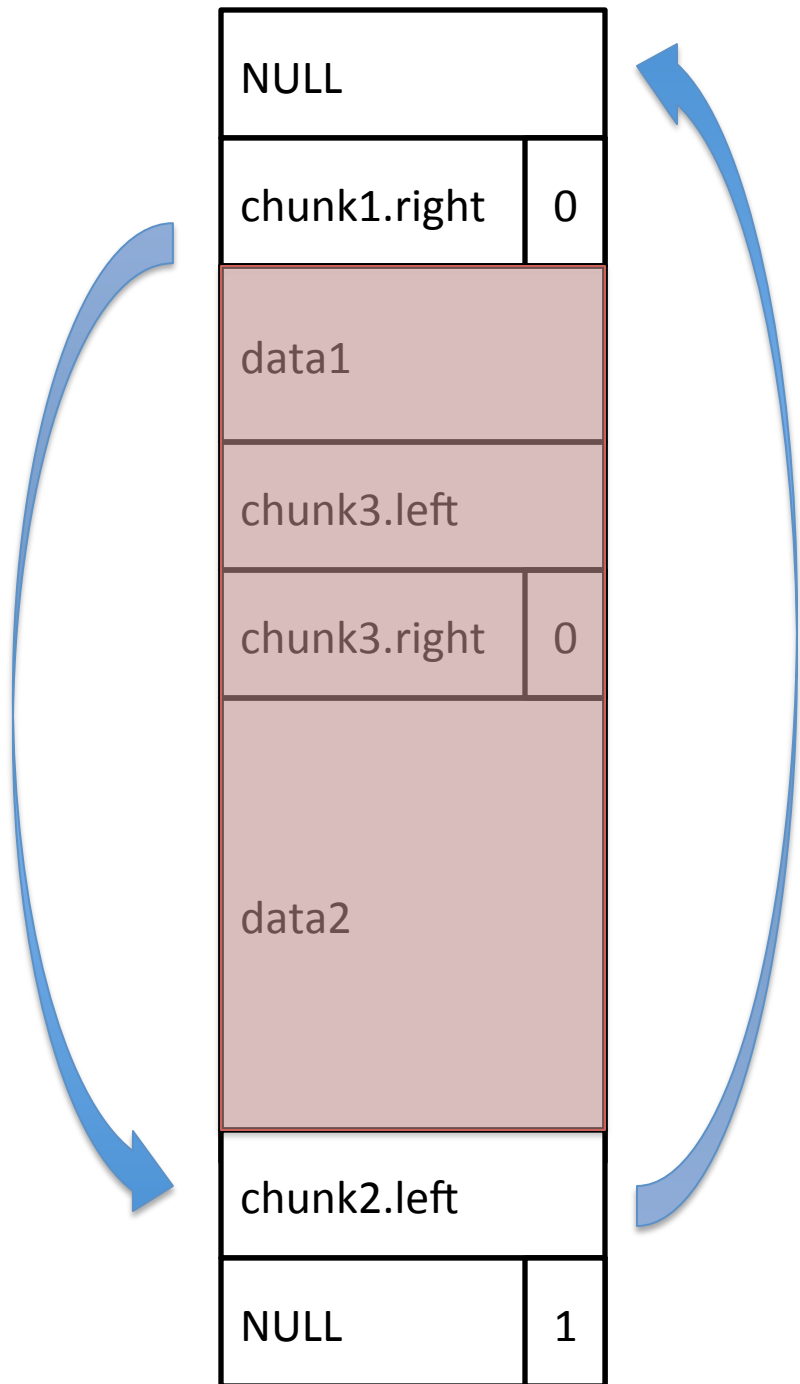
free()

- Consolidate with free neighbors

free(b1)

free(b2)

b3 = malloc(BUF_SIZE1 + BUF_SIZE2)



malloc()

- search left-to-right for free chunk
- modify pointers

b1 = malloc(BUF_SIZE1)

b2 = malloc(BUF_SIZE2)

free()

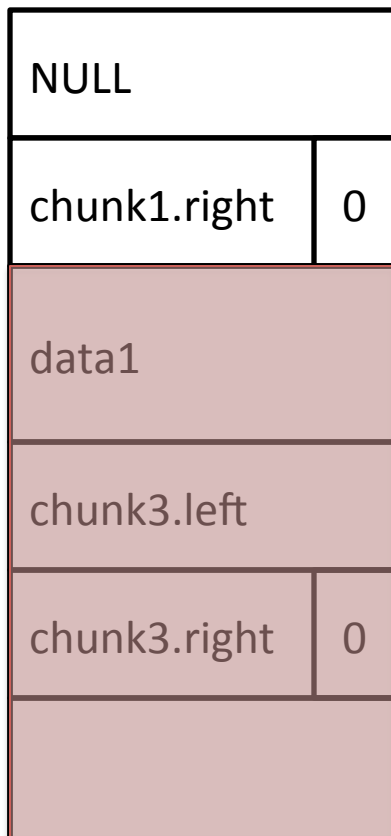
- Consolidate with free neighbors

free(b1)

free(b2)

b3 = malloc(BUF_SIZE1 + BUF_SIZE2)

strncpy(b3, argv[1], BUF_SIZE1+BUF_SIZE2-1)



malloc()

- search left-to-right for free chunk
- modify pointers

b1 = malloc(BUF_SIZE1)

b2 = malloc(BUF_SIZE2)

free()

- Consolidate with free neighbors

free(b1)

free(b2)

b3 = malloc(BUF_SIZE1 + BUF_SIZE2)

strncpy(b3, argv[1], BUF_SIZE1+BUF_SIZE2-1)

free(b2)

Interprets b2-8 as a chunk3.left

Interprets b2-4 as a chunk3.right

(b2 - 8)->left->right = (b2-8)->right

(b2 - 8)->right->left = (b2-8)->left

**With a clever argv[1]:
write a 4-byte word to an
arbitrary location in memory**



```
movl    $0xf8, (%esp)
call   0x8048364 <malloc@plt>
mov     %eax, 0x14(%esp)
movl   $0xf8, (%esp)
call   0x8048364 <malloc@plt>
mov     %eax, 0x18(%esp)
mov     0x14(%esp), %eax
mov     %eax, (%esp)
call   0x8048354 <free@plt>
mov     0x18(%esp), %eax
mov     %eax, (%esp)
call   0x8048354 <free@plt>
movl   $0x200, (%esp)
call   0x8048364 <malloc@plt>
mov     %eax, 0x1c(%esp)
mov     0xc(%ebp), %eax
add     $0x4, %eax
mov     (%eax), %eax
movl   $0x1ff, 0x8(%esp)
mov     %eax, 0x4(%esp)
mov     0x1c(%esp), %eax
mov     %eax, (%esp)
call   0x8048334 <strncpy@plt>
mov     0x18(%esp), %eax
mov     %eax, (%esp)
call   0x8048354 <free@plt>
mov     0x1c(%esp), %eax
mov     %eax, (%esp)
call   0x8048354 <free@plt>
leave
ret
```

What type of vulnerability might this be?

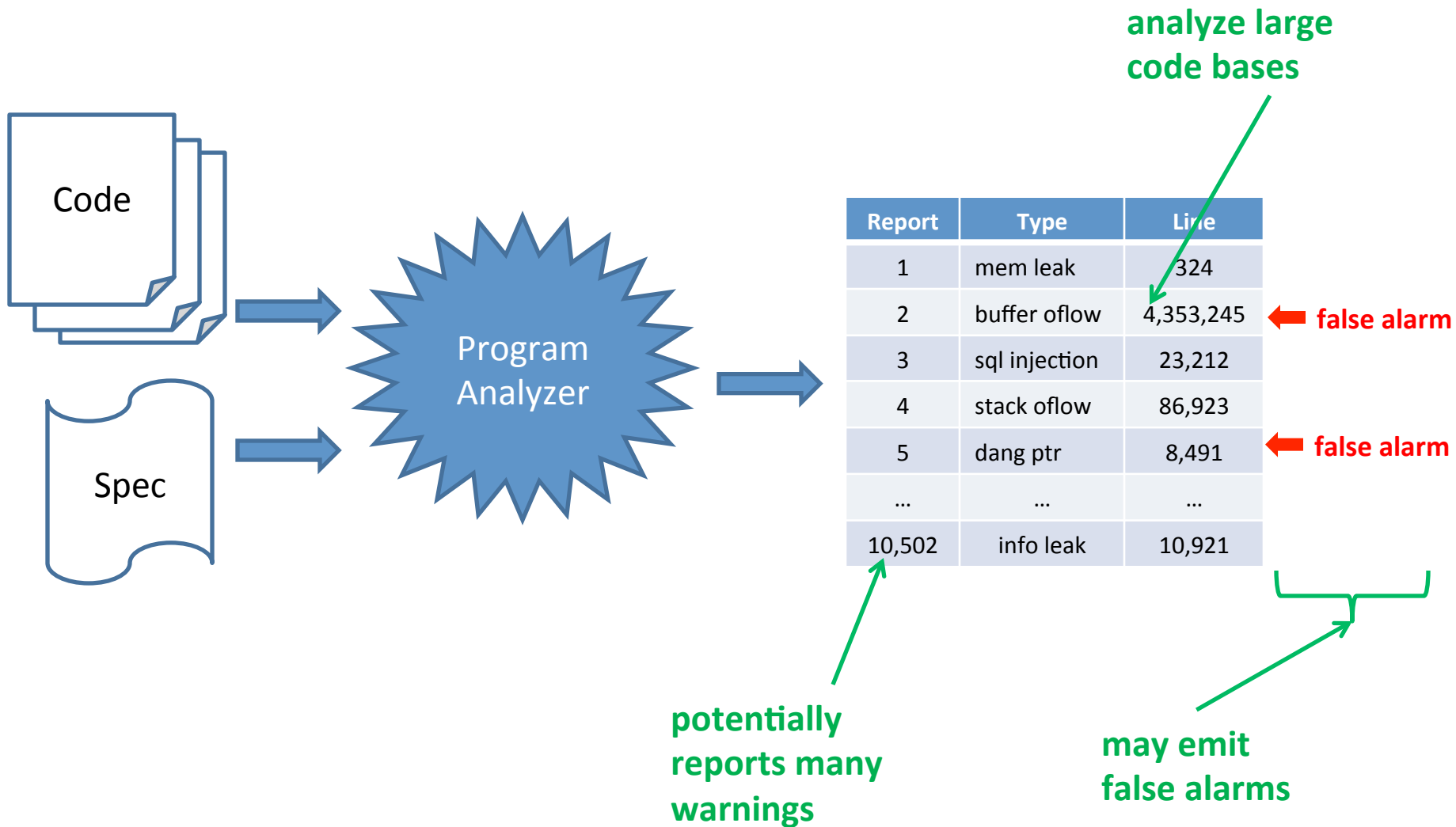
This is very simple example.
Manual analysis is very time
consuming.

Security analysts use a variety of
tools to augment manual analysis

Security tools

- Testing tools for helping find security-critical bugs
 - Scanners
 - Taint trackers
 - Fuzzers
 - “dumb”, “smart”, whitebox
 - Static analysis tools
- Static analysis vs. dynamic analysis

Program analyzers



Program analyzers

- Static analysis
 - Do not execute program
- Dynamic analysis
 - Execute program on test cases

Soundness, Completeness

Property	Definition
Soundness	If the program contains an error, the analysis will report a warning. “Sound for reporting correctness”
Completeness	If the analysis reports an error, the program will contain an error. “Complete for reporting correctness”

Complete

Incomplete

Sound

Reports all errors
Reports no false alarms

No false positives
No false negatives

Undecidable

Reports all errors
May report false alarms

No false negatives
False positives

Decidable

Unsound

May not report all errors
Reports no false alarms

False positives
No false negatives

Decidable

May not report all errors
May report false alarms

False negatives
False positives

Decidable

Source code scanners

Look at source code, flag suspicious constructs

```
...  
strcpy( ptr1, ptr2 );  
...
```

Warning: Don't use strcpy

Simplest example: grep

Lint is early example

RATS (Rough auditing tool for security)

ITS4 (It's the Software Stupid Security Scanner)

Circa 1990's technology:

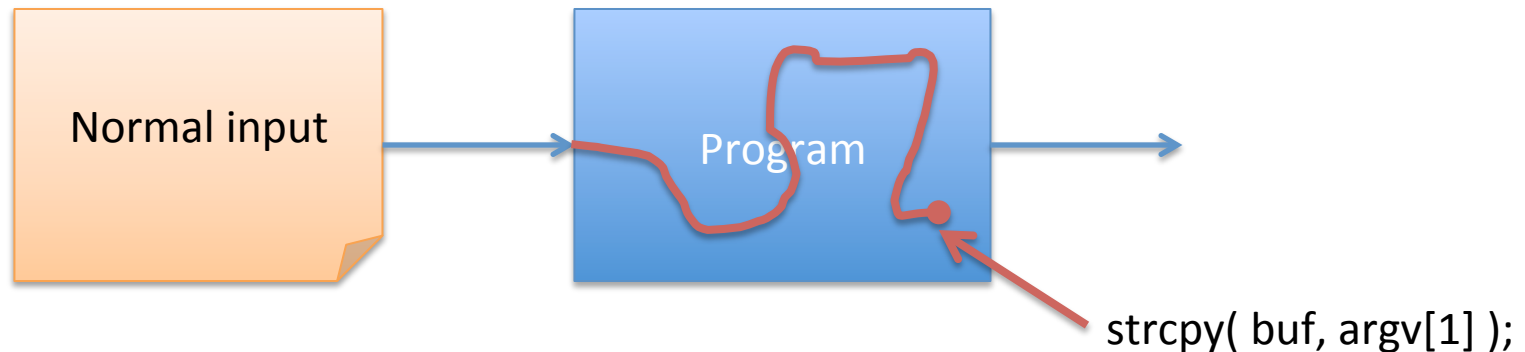
shouldn't work for reasonable modern codebases

Taint tracking

Track information flow from user input to it's use

Can be either static or dynamic

Useful to augment manual testing



Fuzzing



“The term first originates from a class project at the University of Wisconsin 1988 although similar techniques have been used in the field of quality assurance, where they are referred to as robustness testing, syntax testing or negative testing.”

Wikipedia

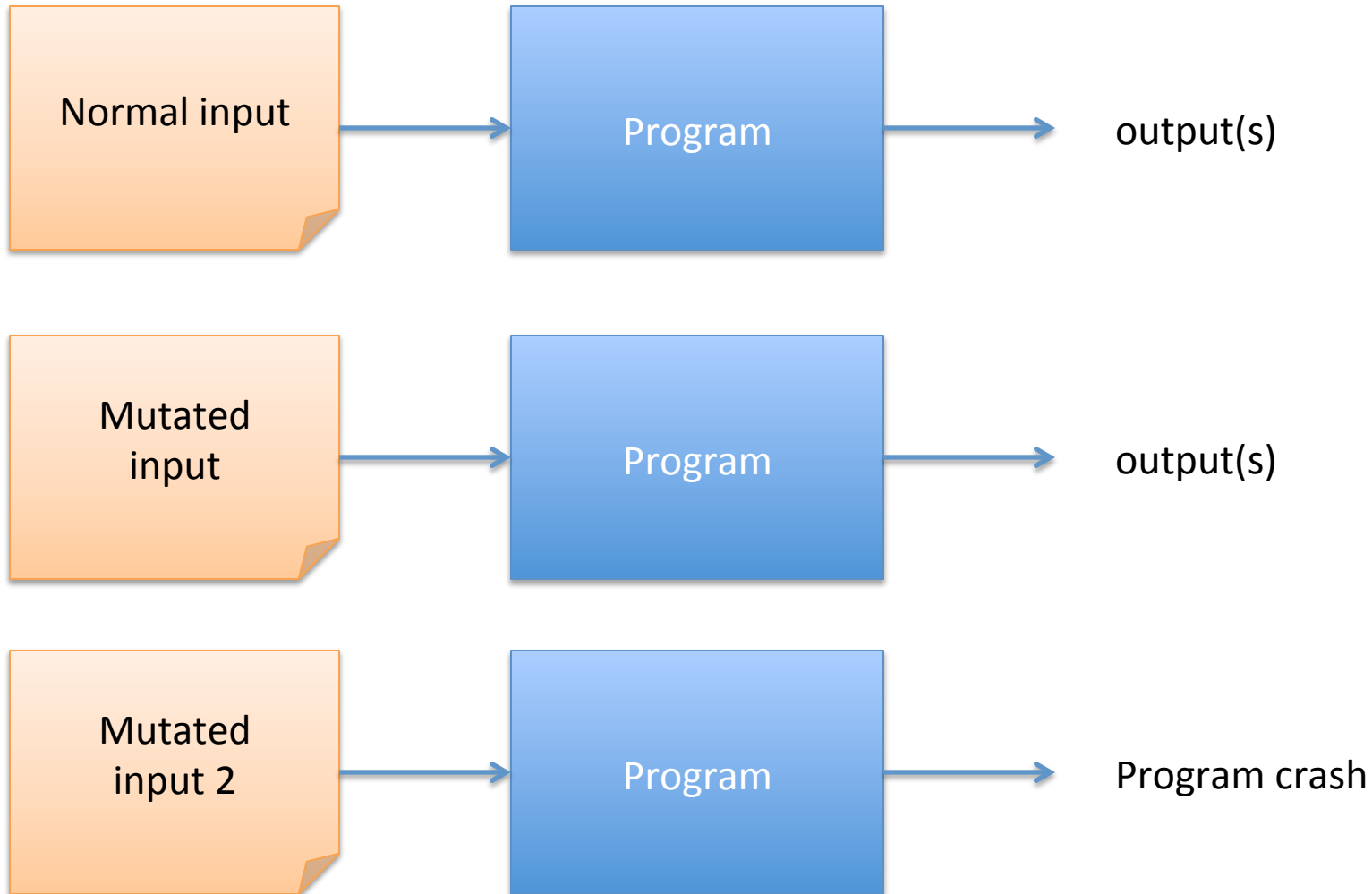
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fuzz_testing

Choose a bunch of inputs

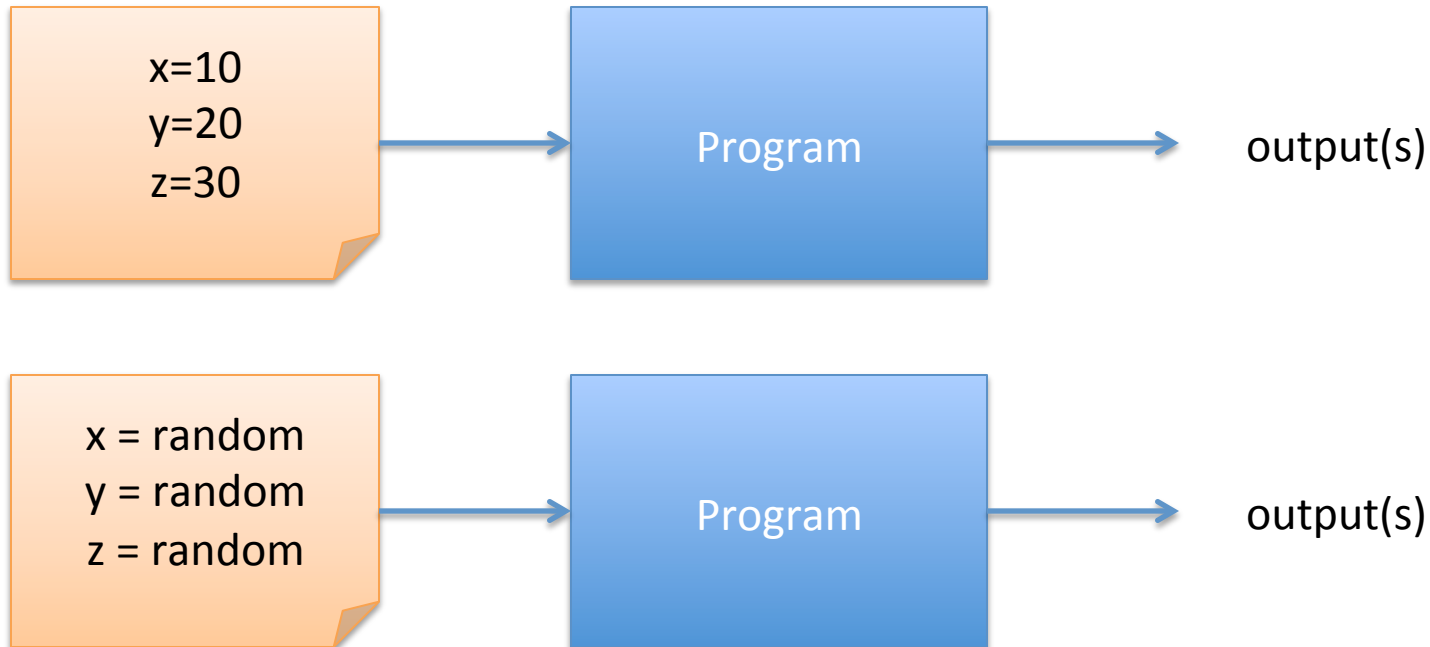
See if they cause program to misbehave

Example of dynamic analysis

Black-box fuzz testing

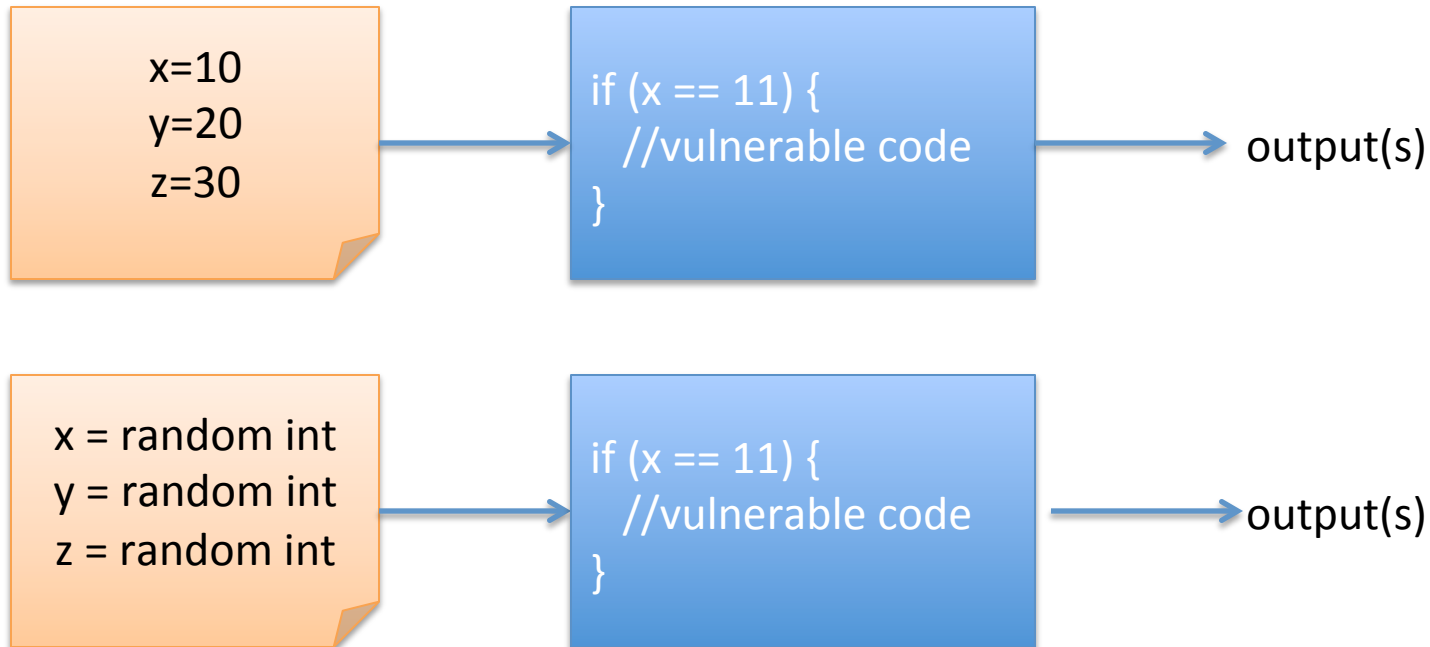


Black-box fuzz testing



Achieving code coverage can be very difficult

Black-box fuzz testing



Achieving code coverage can be very difficult

If `x` is 32 bits, then probability of crashing is **at most?**

Fuzzing is a lot about code coverage

- Code coverage defined in many ways
 - # of basic blocks reached
 - # of paths followed
 - # of conditionals followed
- Mutation based
 - Start with known-good examples
 - Mutate them to new test cases
 - heuristics: increase string lengths (AAAAAAAAAA...)
 - randomly change items
- Generative
 - Start with specification of protocol, file format
 - Build test case files from it
 - Rarely used parts of spec

Example from Miller slides

Multiplayer game

Fuzz for remote exploits

- Capture packets during normal use
- Replace some packet contents with random values
- Send to game, determine code coverage

Initial: 614 out of 36183 basic blocks

One big switch statement controlled by third byte of packet

Update fuzz rules to exhaust the values of this third byte

Improves coverage by 4x.

Repeat several times to improve coverage.

Heap overflow found.

From Wikipedia:

Freeciv



Freeciv 2.1.0-beta3, with the SDL client

Symbolic execution

```
void myfree(int* p, int x) {  
    int y = 0;  
  
    free( p );  
    y = 10*x;  
    if( y > 20 ) free( p );  
}
```

Let x' be symbolic variable for x

$y' = 2x'$ is new symbolic variable

$y' > 20$ is constraint on reaching
second free()

$2x' > 20$ must hold for input x to cause
double free

- Technique for statically analyzing code paths and finding inputs
- Associate to each input variable a special symbol
 - called symbolic variable
- Simulate execution symbolically
 - Update symbolic variable's value appropriately
 - Conditionals add constraints on possible values
- Cast constraints as satisfiability, and use SAT solver to find inputs

White-box fuzz testing

- Start with real input and do static analysis
 - Symbolic execution of program
 - Gather constraints (control flow) along way
 - Systematically negate constraints backwards
 - Eventually this yields a new input
- Repeat

Godefroid, Levin, Molnar. “Automated Whitebox Fuzz Testing”

Symbolic execution + fuzzing

```
void top(char input[4]) {  
    int cnt=0;  
    if (input[0] == 'b') cnt++;  
    if (input[1] == 'a') cnt++;  
    if (input[2] == 'd') cnt++;  
    if (input[3] == '!') cnt++;  
    if (cnt >= 3) abort(); // error  
}
```

Example from Godefroid et al.

Start with some input.

Run program for real & symbolically

Say input = "good"

$i_0 \neq 'b'$

$i_1 \neq 'a'$

$i_2 \neq 'd'$

$i_3 \neq '!''$

i_0, i_1, i_2, i_3

are all

symbolic

variables

This gives set of constraints on input

Negate them one at a time to generate a

new input that explores new path

Example

$i_0 \neq 'b'$ and $i_1 \neq 'a'$ and $i_2 \neq 'd'$ and $i_3 = '!''$

input would be "goo!"

Repeat with new input

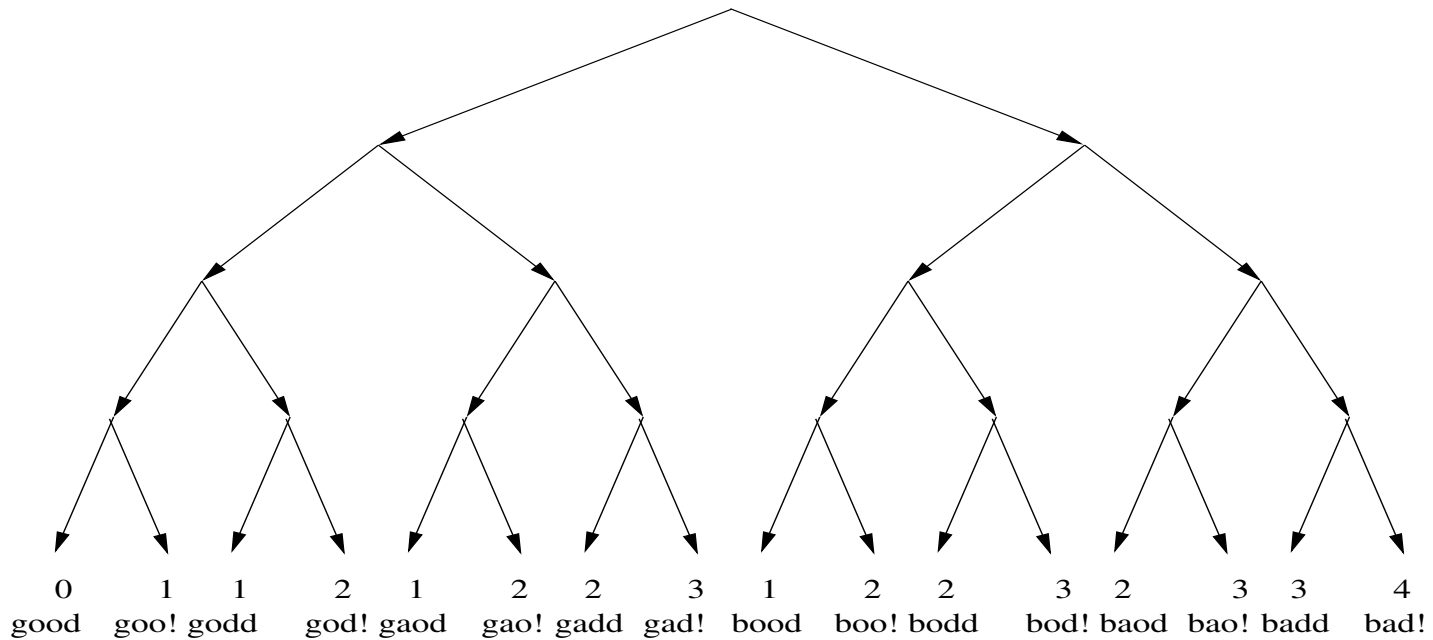


Figure 2. Search space for the example of Figure 1 with the value of the variable `cnt` at the end of each run and the corresponding input string.

Example from Godefroid et al.

Larger programs have too many paths to explore so they specify various heuristics

In-use at Microsoft

Formal verification

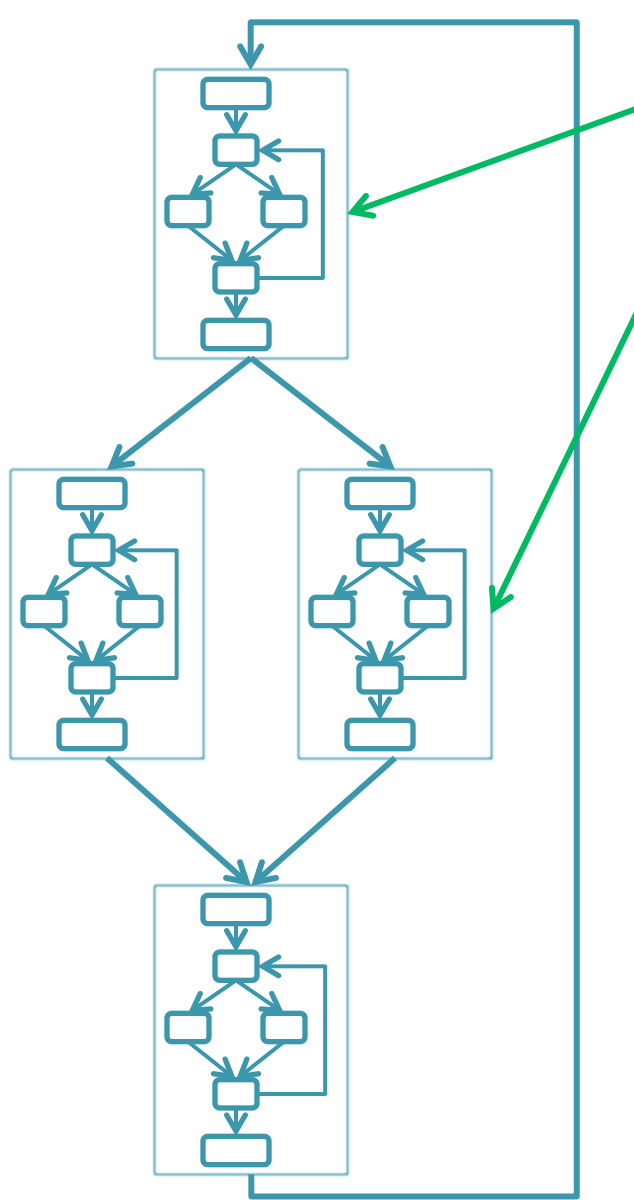
- Can we prove absence of security vulnerabilities?
- No...but we might rule out certain specific vulnerabilities

Model checking

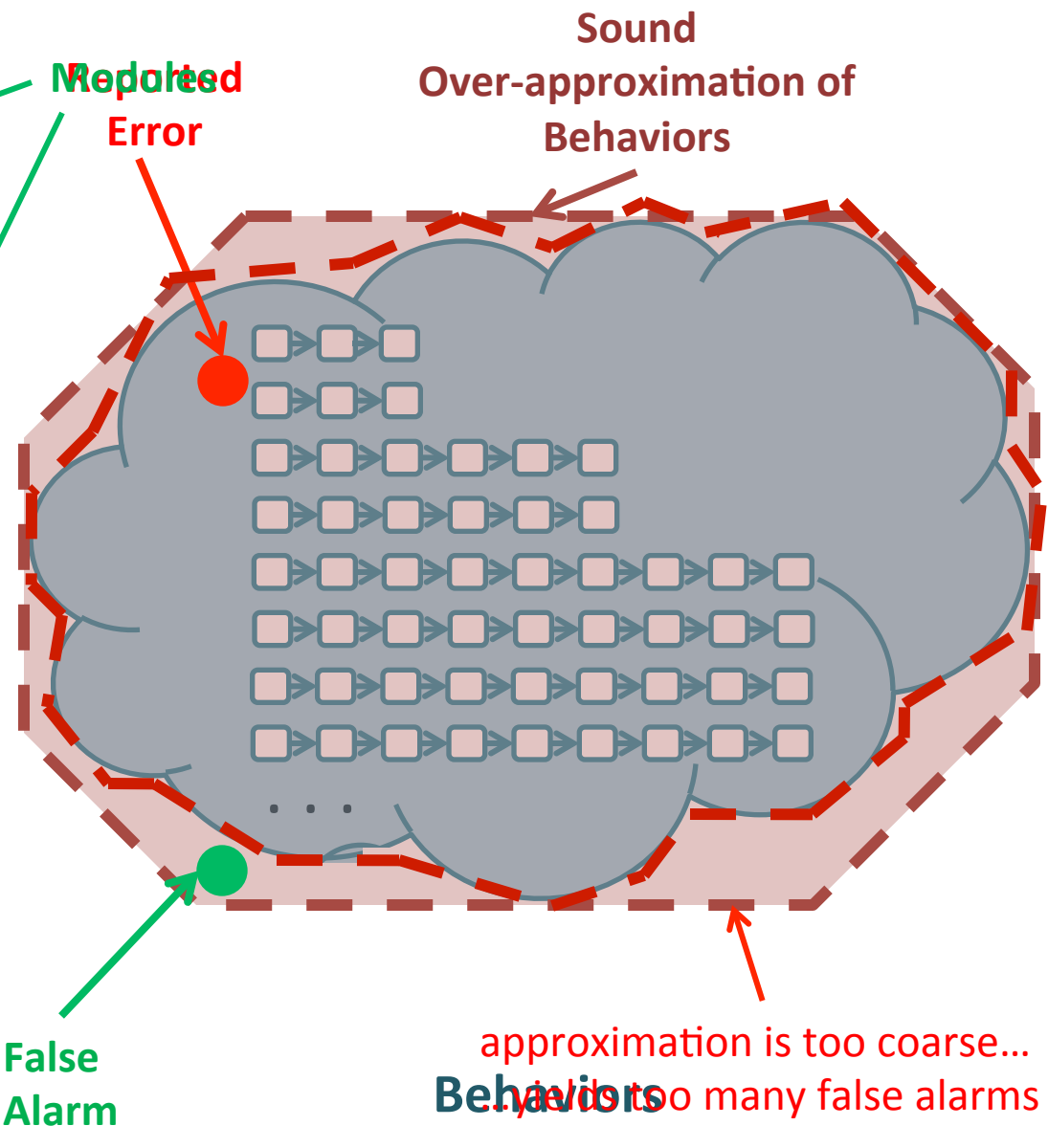
- 1) Specify a property (typically via FSA)
e.g., temporal safety property
such as “drop privileges” before
running untrusted program
- 2) Prove that no path exists that violates
property (on some sound abstraction)

Bug finding is a big business

- Grammatech (Prof Reps here at Wisconsin)
- Coverity (Stanford startup)
- Fortify
- many, many others...



Software



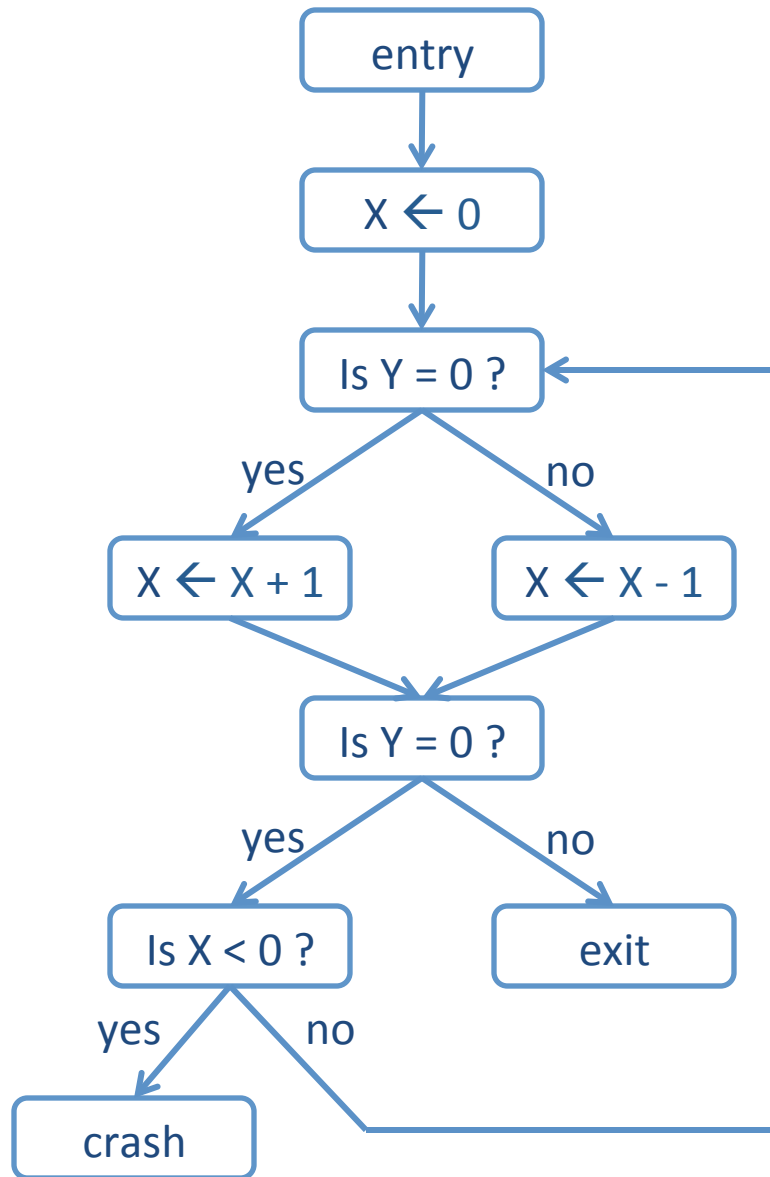
Sound
Over-approximation of
Behaviors

Modulated
Error

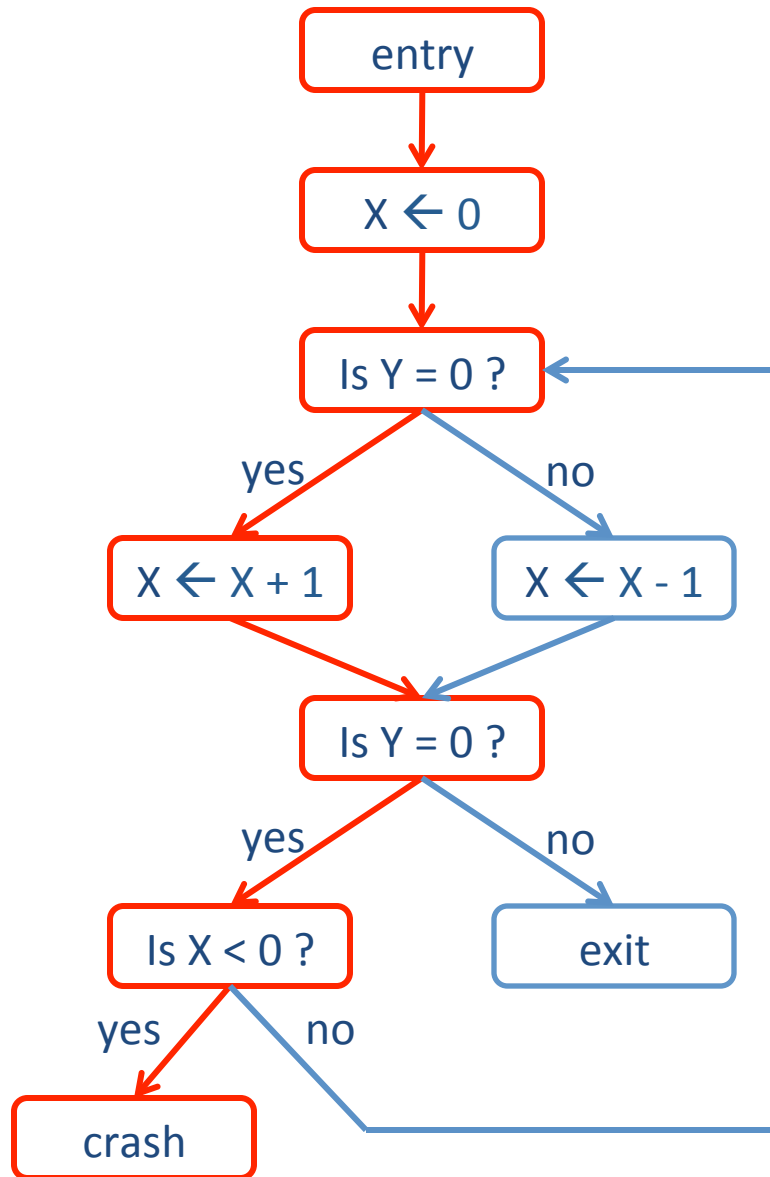
False
Alarm

approximation is too coarse...
Behaviors too many false alarms

Does this program ever crash?

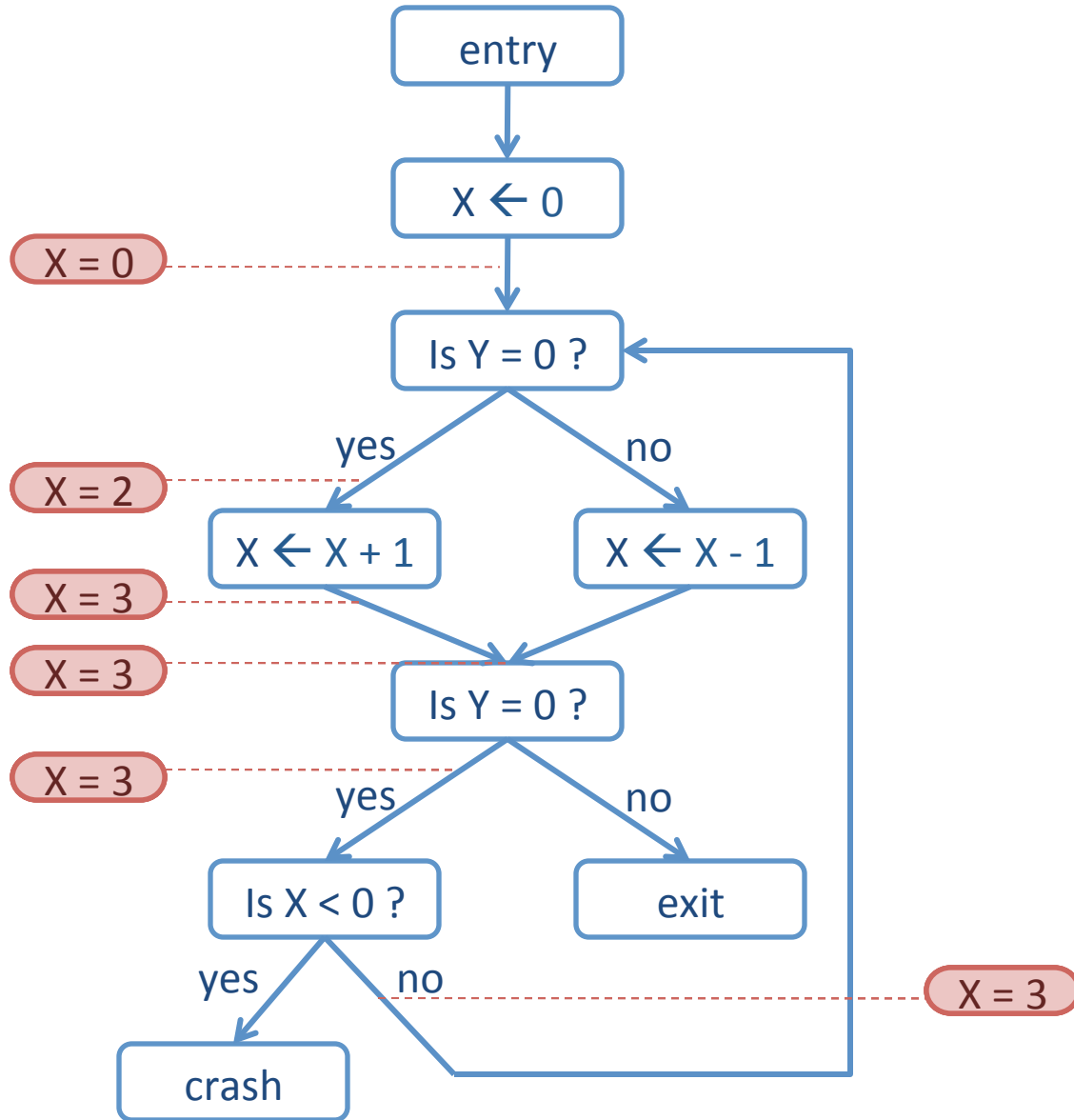


Does this program ever crash?

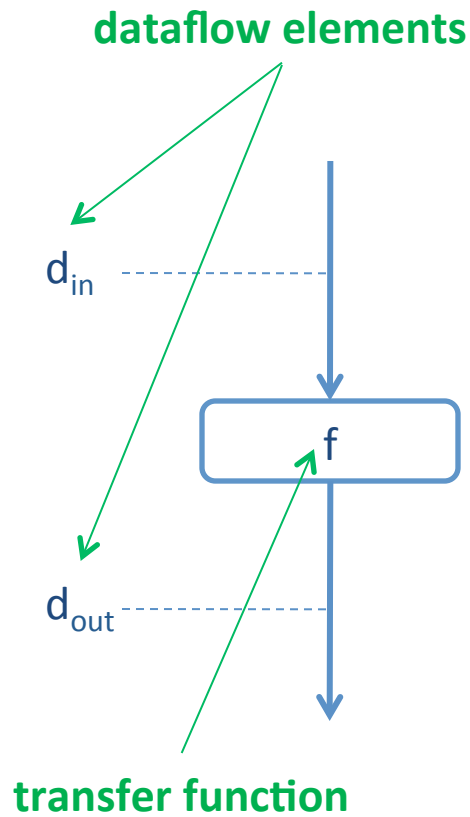
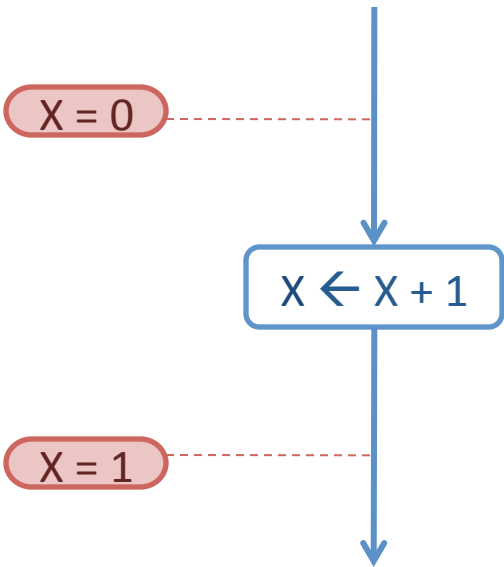


infeasible path!
... program will never crash

Try analyzing without approximating...

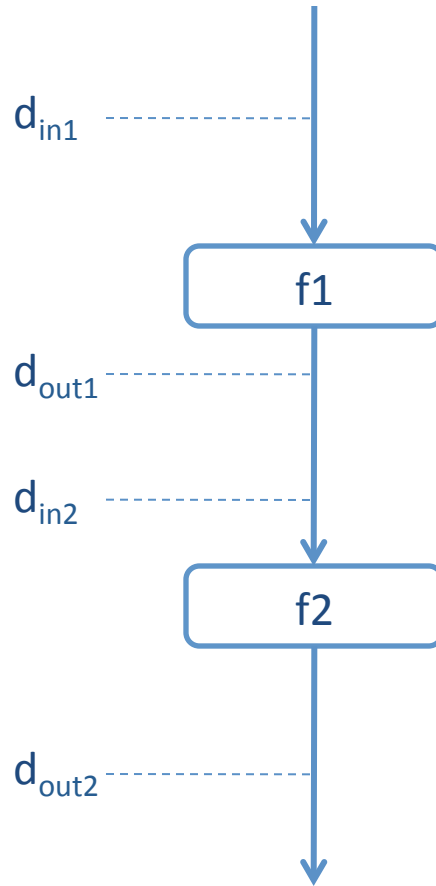
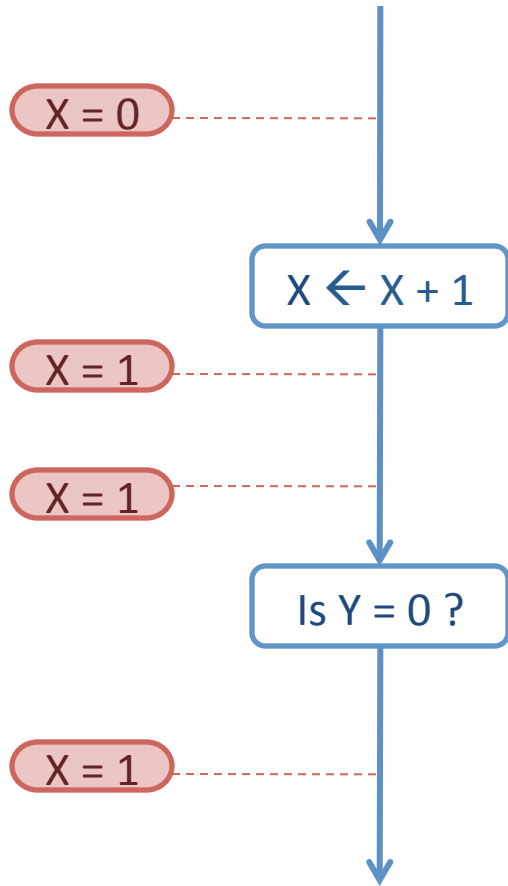


non-termination!
... therefore, need to approximate



$$d_{out} = f(d_{in})$$

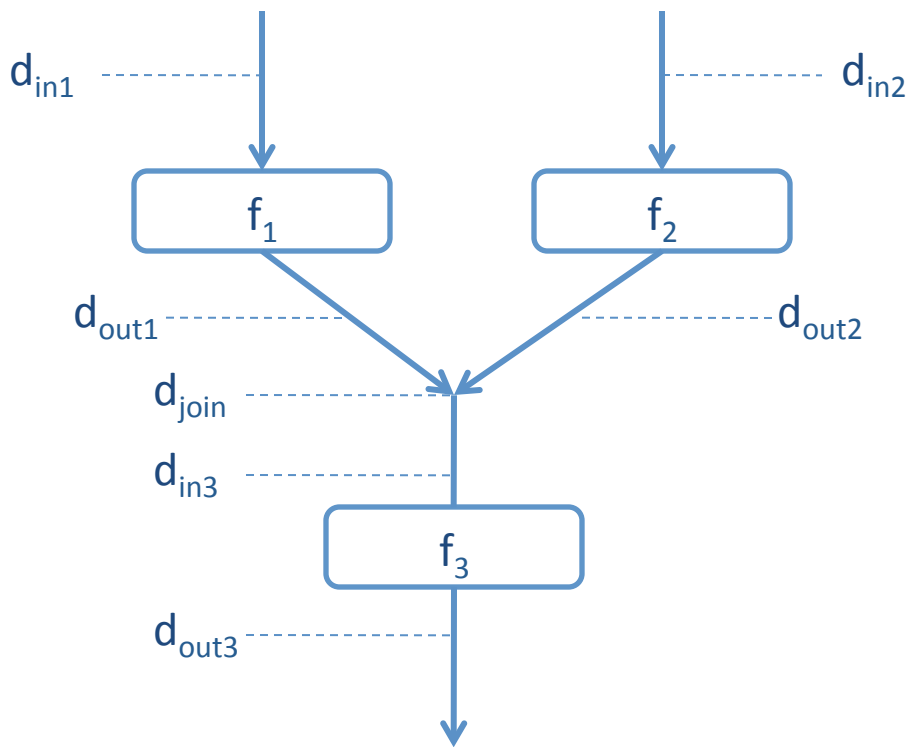
dataflow equation



$$d_{out1} = f_1(d_{in1})$$

$$d_{out1} = d_{in2}$$

$$d_{out2} = f_2(d_{in2})$$



What is the space of dataflow elements, Δ ?
 What is the least upper bound operator, \sqcup ?

$$d_{out1} = f_1(d_{in1})$$

$$d_{out2} = f_2(d_{in2})$$

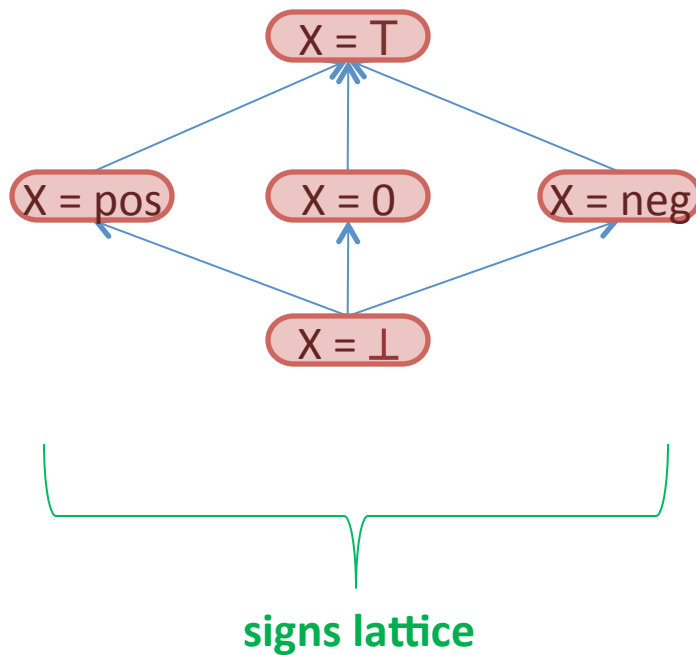
$$d_{join} = d_{out1} \sqcup d_{out2}$$

$$d_{join} = d_{in3}$$

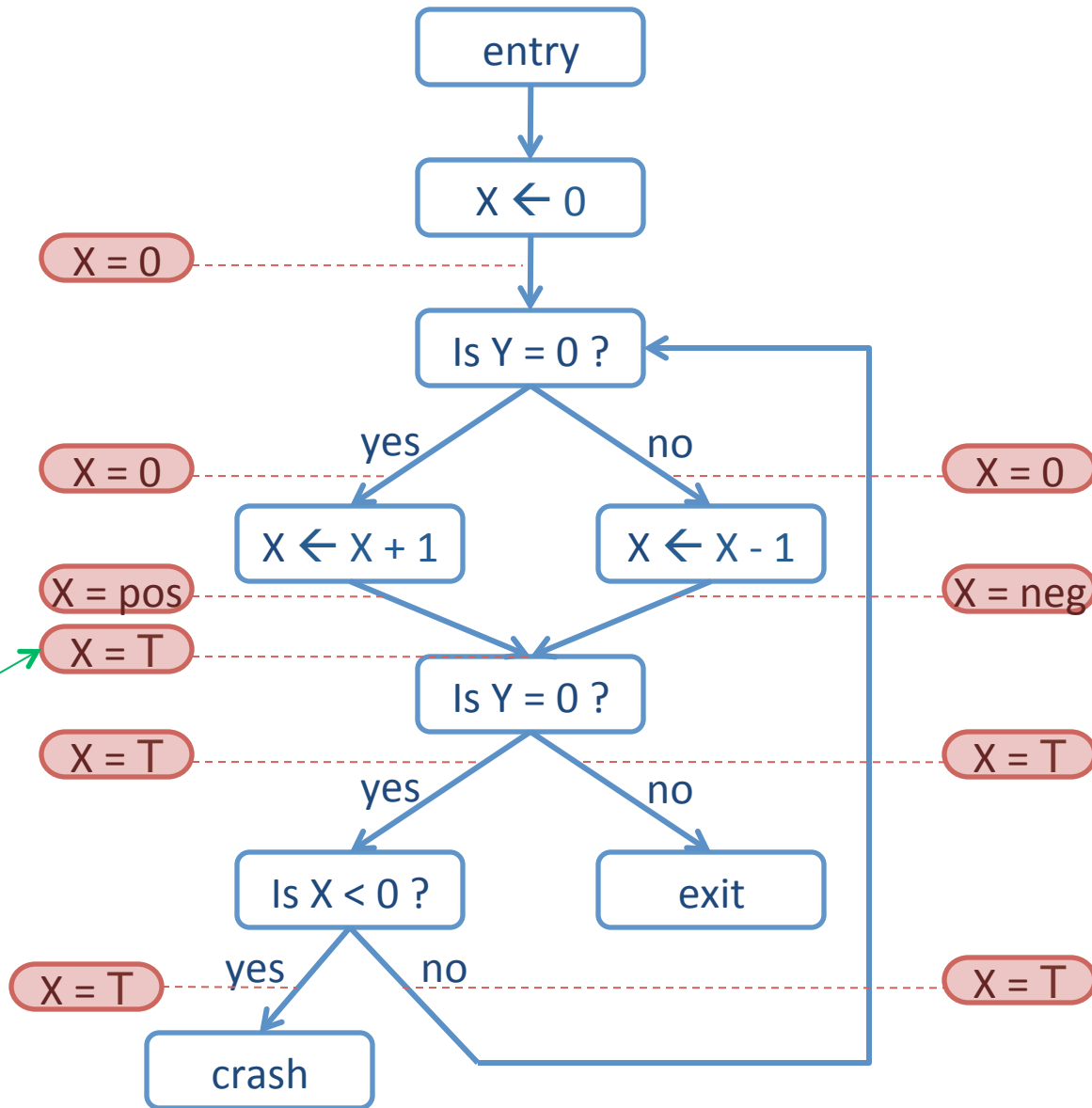
$$d_{out3} = f_3(d_{in3})$$

least upper bound operator
 Example: union of possible values

We give a lattice (partially ordered list with elements representing union and intersection) to specify the possible values we assign to symbolic variables



Try analyzing with “signs” approximation...

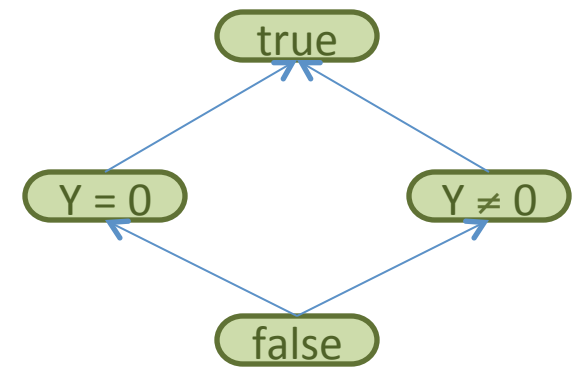
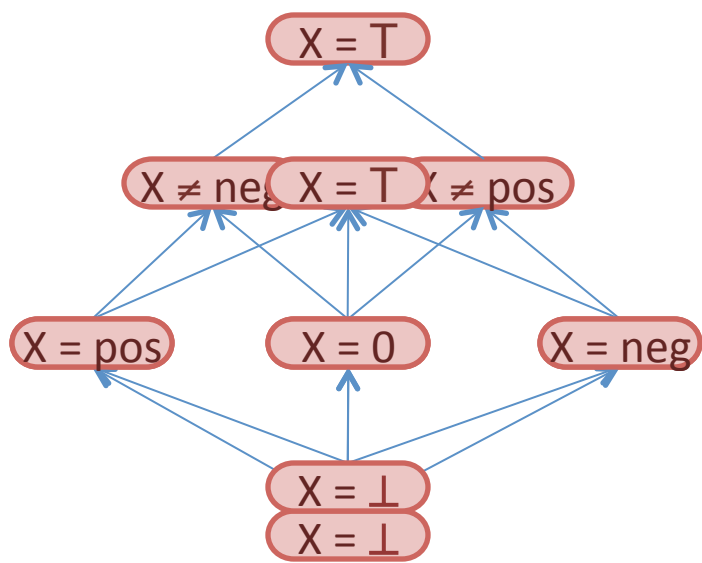


terminates...

... but reports false alarm

... therefore, need more precision

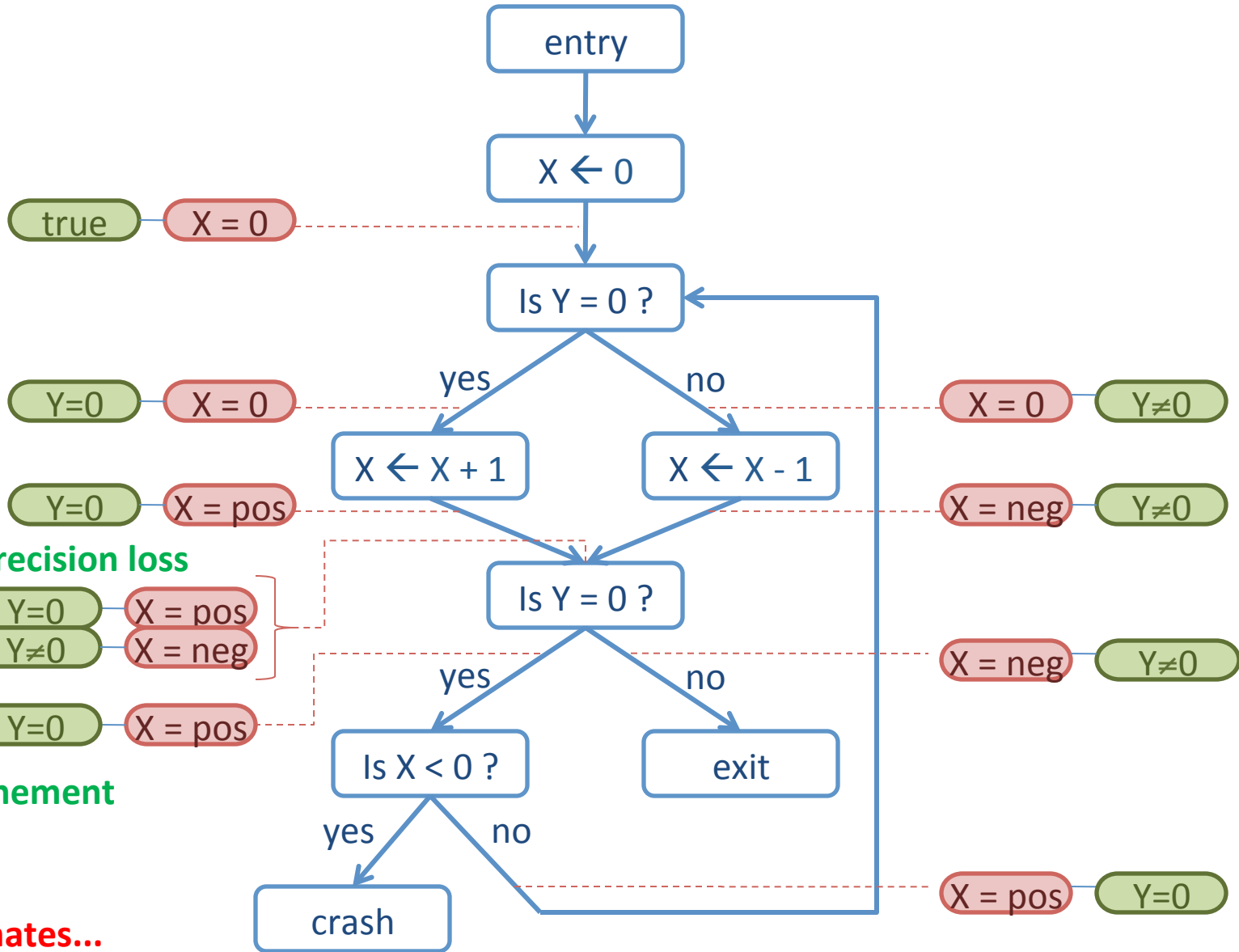
We give a lattice (partially ordered list with elements representing union and intersection) to specify the possible values we assign to symbolic variables



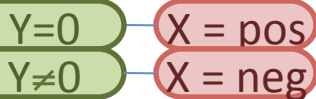
refined sign lattice

Boolean formula lattice

Try analyzing with “path-sensitive signs” approximation...



no precision loss



refinement



terminates...

... no false alarm

... soundly proved never crashes

Tales in insecurity...

"The most critical servers contain malicious software that can normally be detected by anti-virus software," it says. "The separation of critical components was not functioning or was not in place. We have strong indications that the CA-servers, although physically very securely placed in a tempest proof environment, were accessible over the network from the management LAN."

All CA servers were members of one Windows domain and all accessible with one user/password combination. Moreover, the used password was simple and susceptible to brute-force attacks.

<http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=11570>

DigiNotar