

# Thread-Modular Abstract Interpretation of Concurrent Software

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# Introduction

**Goal:** static analysis of concurrent programs

Discover properties of the dynamic behaviors of programs:

- directly on the source code (not a model)
- in an **automated** way (not interactive)
- in a terminating and **efficient** way
- with approximations (computability and efficiency)
- **soundly** (full coverage of all behaviors)
- with customizable precision control (global and local control)

We use the theory of **abstract interpretation** [Cousot and Cousot]

We developed the **AstréeA** static analyzer

(an extension of the Astrée analyzer to concurrent embedded software)

# Certification in the avionics industry

Critical avionics software are subject to **certification**:

- **more than half** the development cost
- regulated by **international standards** (DO-178B, DO-178C)
- mostly based on massive test campaigns & intellectual reviews

## Current trend:

**use of formal methods now acknowledged** (DO-178C, DO-333)

- at the binary level, to replace testing
- at the **source level**, to replace intellectual reviews, and testing when using a certified compiler (CompCert)
- to check robustness, RTE-freedom, WCET, etc.
- static analysis can be used **provided it is sound**

⇒ **sound automatic static analysis improves cost-effectiveness!**

# Astrée

Astrée: *Analyse Statique Temps-RÉEel*

## Features:

- checks statically for the absence of **run-time errors** (RTE)
- supports a large subset of **C** (targeting embedded software)
- specialized for **synchronous** reactive codes (e.g., avionics)
- **fast**, **sound** and **precise** (aims at **0** alarm)
- limited to **sequential** software (no concurrency)

## Time-line:

- 2001 Astrée project **starts**
- 2003 **0** alarm on A340 primary control software
- 2005 **0** alarm on A380 primary control software
- 2009 **industrialization** by **AbsInt**

Development team: ÉNS, Paris, France

B. Blanchet, P. Cousot, R. Cousot, L. Mauborgne,  
D. Monniaux, J. Feret, A. Miné, X. Rival

# Concurrent software

## Concurrent programming:

**decompose** a program into a set of **loosely interacting processes**

- exploit parallelism in computers (multi-cores, distributed computing)
- logical decomposition into asynchronous tasks  
(servers, GUI, reactive programs)

Use in avionics software: **Integrated Modular Avionics**

- integrate fonctionnalités (less CPUs)
- replace buses with shared memory communications
- limited to less critical software (DAL C-E, less stringent certification)
- static resource allocation (threads, locks, memory)

## Issues:

- concurrent software are more difficult to design correctly
- and **more difficult** to **validate** and **verify**
- **test** is **ineffective**, **formal methods** are **nonexistent**

$$\text{AstréeA} = \text{Astrée} + \text{A}$$

**AstréeA:** *Analyse statique de programmes temps-réels asynchrones*

- static analyzer for **concurrent embedded** C codes
- checks for run-time errors and data-races
- **fork** of the Astrée analyzer (around 2007)
  - **reuses** Astrée's **iterator** and **abstract domains**
  - builds on them a **thread-modular analysis**
  - adds **new abstract domains**
- as Astrée, aims towards high precision by **specialization**
- unlike Astrée, still **many false alarms** on target code  
but already usable (industrialization in progress)

# Talk overview

- From sequential to concurrent abstract interpreters
  - specialized analyzers
  - iterated sequential analysis with simple interference
- Abstract rely-guarantee
  - a complete concrete semantics
  - retrieving simple interferences by abstraction
  - novel abstractions of interferences
- Experiments
  - academic experiments
  - industrial experiments
- Conclusion and future challenges

# Abstract interpreters

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## Classic and specialized interpreters

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# “Classic” abstract interpreter design

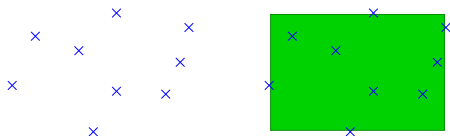
- 1 State the concrete semantics
- 2 State the class of properties of interest
- 3 Fix the class of properties that actually need to be inferred
- 4 Design an analyzer over a computable abstract semantics

# “Classic” abstract interpreter design



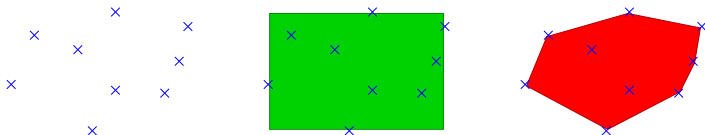
- ① State the concrete semantics
  - function from programs to a (rich) mathematical world
  - formalization of the language specification
  - ground truth, **immutable**
  - not computable!
- ② State the class of properties of interest
- ③ Fix the class of properties that actually need to be inferred
- ④ Design an analyzer over a computable abstract semantics

# “Classic” abstract interpreter design



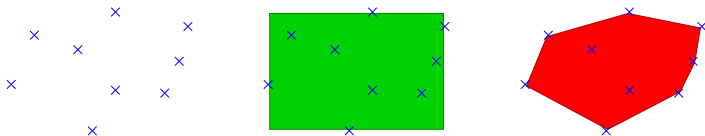
- ① State the concrete semantics
- ② State the class of properties of interest
  - e.g.: variable bounds  $X \in [a, b]$
- ③ Fix the class of properties that actually need to be inferred
- ④ Design an analyzer over a computable abstract semantics

# “Classic” abstract interpreter design



- ① State the concrete semantics
- ② State the class of properties of interest
- ③ Fix the class of properties that actually need to be inferred
  - e.g.: linear constraints  $\alpha X + \beta Y \leq \gamma$
  - generally **richer** than the properties of interest  
need to represent intermittent assertions, inductive loop invariants
  - may **depend** on the class of analyzed programs
- ④ Design an analyzer over a computable abstract semantics

# “Classic” abstract interpreter design



- ① State the concrete semantics
- ② State the class of properties of interest
- ③ Fix the class of properties that actually need to be inferred
- ④ **Design an analyzer over a computable abstract semantics**
  - derive or invent abstract operators (e.g., interval arithmetic)
  - invent acceleration operators  $\nabla$
  - abstract domain: data-structures and algorithms

abstract composition and  $\nabla$  accumulate precision loss  
 $\implies$  we will not find the most precise property in the class

# Specialized abstract interpreter

Refine the abstraction

- ① Start with a **simple and fast** analyzer (intervals)  
and a representative program in a class of programs of interest
- ② **Refine by hand** the analyzer until 0 false alarm
  - determine which intermittent properties are missed
  - add a new domain (if the property is not expressible)  
employ fast transfer functions, if possible  
limit the activation scope (variables, program part) to keep scalability  
connect to existing domains through partial reductions
  - refine transfer functions
  - add communications (reductions)
  - adjust precision parameters  
activation scope, iteration parameters, ...  
(available to end-users)

# Specialized abstract interpreter

Refine the abstraction

## Result

- **sound** by construction
- **efficient** by parsimony
- **0** false alarm on the target program by refinement
- encourages modular design, reusable abstractions

## Rationale:

- For each program and property, an adequate domain exists  
but its construction is generally not mechanizable
- A domain succeeds on infinitely many programs
- Any combination of domains fails on infinitely many programs

In practice, **the analyzer is precise on a whole class of programs**  
False alarm reduction requires per-program tuning of parameters  
(available to end-users, unlike domain refinement)



# Specialized abstract interpreter

Reinvent the **concrete semantics**

We may also need to **change the concrete semantics!**

Reasons: the original concrete semantics

- **does not support** some constructions  
e.g., concurrency:  $\text{Astrée} \rightsquigarrow \text{AstréeA}$
- abstracts away **platform details** too much
  - arithmetic overflows: non-deterministic  $\rightsquigarrow$  modular  
( $\Rightarrow$  more precise analysis)
  - ill-typed dereferences: program halt  $\rightsquigarrow$  bit-level type-punning  
( $\Rightarrow$  more behaviors)necessary when **analyzing non-portable programs**
- is **incomplete** (hard limit on the precision of any abstraction)  
(e.g., simple interference semantics)

# Specialized abstract interpreter

Reinvent the concrete semantics

Even though the concrete semantics has changed  
the abstracts domains can be reused:

- abstractions may still be sound  
e.g., non-deterministic overflow  $\rightsquigarrow$  modular overflow  
completed by new abstractions sound only in the refined semantics
- thread semantics as sequential program semantics  
slightly modified with interferences

# Abstract interpretation of sequential programs

## Two approaches

### Sequential program exemple

```

1 while random do
2   if x < y then
3     x ← x + 1
  
```

### Equation solving

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{X}_1 &= I \\
 \mathcal{X}_2 &= \mathcal{X}_1 \cup \llbracket x \leftarrow x + 1 \rrbracket \mathcal{X}_3 \cup \llbracket x \geq y \rrbracket \mathcal{X}_2 \\
 \mathcal{X}_3 &= \llbracket x < y \rrbracket \mathcal{X}_2
 \end{aligned}$$

- linear memory in program **length**
- **flexible** solving strategy  
flexible context sensitivity
- easy to adapt to **concurrency**

### Interpretation by induction

$$\begin{aligned}
 \llbracket \text{while random do } S \rrbracket \mathcal{X} &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \\
 &\text{lfp } \lambda \mathcal{Y}. \mathcal{X} \cup \llbracket S \rrbracket \mathcal{Y} \\
 \llbracket \text{if } x < y \text{ then } S \rrbracket \mathcal{X} &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \\
 &\llbracket S \rrbracket (\llbracket x < y \rrbracket \mathcal{X}) \cup \llbracket x \geq y \rrbracket \mathcal{X}
 \end{aligned}$$

- linear memory in program **depth**
- **fixed** iteration strategy  
fixed context sensitivity  
(follows the program structure)

for scalability on large programs, **memory** is a limiting factor

⇒ Astrée(A) uses an interpreter by induction

# Analyzing concurrent programs

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# Multi-thread execution model

$t_1$	$t_2$
<u>1a</u> <b>while</b> random <b>do</b>	<u>1b</u> <b>while</b> random <b>do</b>
<u>2a</u> <b>if</b> $x < y$ <b>then</b>	<u>2b</u> <b>if</b> $y < 100$ <b>then</b>
<u>3a</u> $x \leftarrow x + 1$	<u>3b</u> $y \leftarrow y + [1, 3]$

## Execution model:

- finite number of threads
- the memory is shared ( $x, y$ )
- each thread has its own program counter
- execution interleaves steps from threads  $t_1$  and  $t_2$   
(assignments and tests are supposed atomic)

$\Rightarrow$  we have the global invariant  $0 \leq x \leq y \leq 102$

# Product-based analysis

$t_1$	$t_2$
<u>1a</u> while random do	<u>1b</u> while random do
<u>2a</u> if $x < y$ then	<u>2b</u> if $y < 100$ then
<u>3a</u> $x \leftarrow x + 1$	<u>3b</u> $y \leftarrow y + [1, 3]$

Product of thread equations, interleaving of instructions:

$$\mathcal{X}_{\ell, \ell'} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}^2, \ell \in \{1a, 2a, 3a\}, \ell' \in \{1b, 2b, 3b\}$$

$$\mathcal{X}_{1a, 1b} = I$$

$$\mathcal{X}_{2a, 1b} = \mathcal{X}_{1a, 1b} \cup \llbracket x \geq y \rrbracket \mathcal{X}_{2a, 1b} \cup \llbracket x \leftarrow x + 1 \rrbracket \mathcal{X}_{3a, 1b}$$

$$\mathcal{X}_{3a, 1b} = \llbracket x < y \rrbracket \mathcal{X}_{2a, 1b}$$

$$\mathcal{X}_{2a, 2b} = \mathcal{X}_{1a, 2b} \cup \llbracket x \geq y \rrbracket \mathcal{X}_{2a, 2b} \cup \llbracket x \leftarrow x + 1 \rrbracket \mathcal{X}_{3a, 2b} \cup \llbracket y \geq 100 \rrbracket \mathcal{X}_{2a, 2b} \cup \llbracket y \leftarrow y + [1, 3] \rrbracket \mathcal{X}_{2a, 3b}$$

$$\mathcal{X}_{3a, 2b} = \llbracket x < y \rrbracket \mathcal{X}_{2a, 2b} \cup \mathcal{X}_{3a, 1b} \cup \llbracket y \geq 100 \rrbracket \mathcal{X}_{3a, 2b} \cup \llbracket y \leftarrow y + [1, 3] \rrbracket \mathcal{X}_{3a, 3b}$$

$$\mathcal{X}_{2a, 3b} = \mathcal{X}_{1a, 3b} \cup \llbracket x \geq y \rrbracket \mathcal{X}_{2a, 3b} \cup \llbracket x \leftarrow x + 1 \rrbracket \mathcal{X}_{3a, 3b} \cup \llbracket y < 100 \rrbracket \mathcal{X}_{2a, 2b}$$

$$\mathcal{X}_{3a, 3b} = \llbracket x < y \rrbracket \mathcal{X}_{2a, 3b} \cup \llbracket y < 100 \rrbracket \mathcal{X}_{3a, 2b}$$

limitations: large number of variables, large equations  
no induction on the syntax possible

⇒ **impractical**

# Separate sequential analyses

 $t_1$ 

```
1a while random do  
  2a if  $x < y$  then  
    3a  $x \leftarrow x + 1$ 
```

 $t_2$ 

```
1b while random do  
  2b if  $y < 100$  then  
    3b  $y \leftarrow y + [1, 3]$ 
```

Our wish: analyze each thread separately

- **scale** linearly in program size
- **reuse** the **interpreter by induction** on each thread
- **unsound** if we don't take thread interferences into account

Poor's man concurrent analysis:

- consider each shared variable as **volatile input**
- rely on the **user** to list shared variables
- rely on the **user** to provide ranges on shared variables

⇒ **huge human cost, drop in analysis confidence**

# Inferring simple interferences

 $t_1$ 

```
1a while random do  
  2a if  $x < y$  then  
    3a  $x \leftarrow x + 1$ 
```

 $t_2$ 

```
1b while random do  
  2b if  $y < 100$  then  
    3b  $y \leftarrow y + [1, 3]$ 
```

**Principle:** [Miné 2010, Carré & Hymans 2009]

- analyze each thread in **isolation**  
but also **gather interferences**  
(abstraction of) the **values** stored into each variable by each thread
- re-analyze the threads **taking interferences into account**  
(variable read returns the last value written, or an interference)  
gather new sets of interferences
- **iterate** until stabilization  
 $\implies$  one more level of fixpoint iteration



# Inferring simple interferences

 $t_1$ 

```

1a while random do
  2a if  $x < y$  then
    3a  $x \leftarrow x + 1$ 
  
```

 $t_2$ 

```

1b while random do
  2b if  $y < 100$  then
    3b  $y \leftarrow y + [1, 3]$ 
  
```

## Analysis of $t_1$ in isolation

(1a):  $x = y = 0$  $\mathcal{X}_{1a} = I$ (2a):  $x = y = 0$  $\mathcal{X}_{2a} = \mathcal{X}_{1a} \cup \llbracket x \leftarrow x + 1 \rrbracket \mathcal{X}_{3a} \cup \llbracket x \geq y \rrbracket \mathcal{X}_{2a}$ (3a):  $\perp$  $\mathcal{X}_{3a} = \llbracket x < y \rrbracket \mathcal{X}_{2a}$

# Inferring simple interferences

 $t_1$ 

```

1a while random do
  2a if  $x < y$  then
    3a  $x \leftarrow x + 1$ 
  
```

 $t_2$ 

```

1b while random do
  2b if  $y < 100$  then
    3b  $y \leftarrow y + [1, 3]$ 
  
```

## Analysis of $t_2$ in isolation

(1b):  $x = y = 0$

$\mathcal{X}_{1b} = I$

(2b):  $x = 0, y \in [0, 102]$

$\mathcal{X}_{2b} = \mathcal{X}_{1b} \cup \llbracket y \leftarrow y + [1, 3] \rrbracket \mathcal{X}_{3b} \cup \llbracket y \geq 100 \rrbracket \mathcal{X}_{2b}$

(3b):  $x = 0, y \in [0, 99]$

$\mathcal{X}_{3b} = \llbracket y < 100 \rrbracket \mathcal{X}_{2b}$

output interferences:  $y \leftarrow [1, 102]$

# Inferring simple interferences

 $t_1$ 

```

1a while random do
  2a if  $x < y$  then
    3a  $x \leftarrow x + 1$ 
  
```

 $t_2$ 

```

1b while random do
  2b if  $y < 100$  then
    3b  $y \leftarrow y + [1, 3]$ 
  
```

Re-analysis of  $t_1$  with interferences from  $t_2$

input interferences:  $y \leftarrow [1, 102]$

(1a):  $x = y = 0$   $\mathcal{X}_{1a} = I$   
 (2a):  $x \in [0, 102], y = 0$   $\mathcal{X}_{2a} = \mathcal{X}_{1a} \cup \llbracket x \leftarrow x + 1 \rrbracket \mathcal{X}_{3a} \cup \llbracket x \geq (y \mid [1, 102]) \rrbracket \mathcal{X}_{2a}$   
 (3a):  $x \in [0, 102], y = 0$   $\mathcal{X}_{3a} = \llbracket x < (y \mid [1, 102]) \rrbracket \mathcal{X}_{2a}$

output interferences:  $x \leftarrow [1, 102]$

subsequent re-analyses are identical (fixpoint reached)

# Inferring simple interferences

 $t_1$ 

```

 $\underline{1a}$  while random do
   $\underline{2a}$  if  $x < y$  then
     $\underline{3a}$   $x \leftarrow x + 1$ 
  
```

 $t_2$ 

```

 $\underline{1b}$  while random do
   $\underline{2b}$  if  $y < 100$  then
     $\underline{3b}$   $y \leftarrow y + [1, 3]$ 
  
```

## Derived abstract analysis:

- similar to a **sequential** program analysis, but iterated  
(can be parameterized by arbitrary abstract domains)
- **efficient** (few reanalyses are required in practice)
- interferences are **non-relational** and **flow-insensitive**  
(limit inherited from the concrete semantics)

## Limitation:

we get  $x, y \in [0, 102]$ ; we don't get that  $x \leq y$

simplistic view of thread interferences (volatile variables)

based on an **incomplete** concrete semantics!

# Rely-guarantee reasoning

checking  $t_1$ 

$t_1$	$t_2$
$\underline{1a}$ while random do $\underline{2a}$ if $x < y$ then $\underline{3a}$ $x \leftarrow x + 1$	

checking  $t_2$ 

$t_1$	$t_2$
	$\underline{1b}$ while random do $\underline{2b}$ if $y < 100$ then $\underline{3b}$ $y \leftarrow y + [1, 3]$

**Rely-guarantee:** proof method introduced by Jones in 1981

- generalized Hoare logics (by structural induction  $\Rightarrow$  thread-modular)

# Rely-guarantee reasoning

checking  $t_1$ 

$t_1$	$t_2$
$\underline{1a}$ while random do $\underline{2a}$ if $x < y$ then $\underline{3a}$ $x \leftarrow x + 1$	

 $(1a) : x = y = 0$  $(2a) : x, y \in [0, 102], x \leq y$  $(3a) : x \in [0, 101], y \in [1, 102], x < y$ checking  $t_2$ 

$t_1$	$t_2$
	$\underline{1b}$ while random do $\underline{2b}$ if $y < 100$ then $\underline{3b}$ $y \leftarrow y + [1, 3]$

 $(1b) : x = y = 0$  $(2b) : x, y \in [0, 102], x \leq y$  $(3b) : x, y \in [0, 99], x \leq y$ 

**Rely-guarantee**: proof method introduced by Jones in 1981

- generalized Hoare logics (by structural induction  $\Rightarrow$  thread-modular)
- requires thread-local **invariant assertions**

# Rely-guarantee reasoning

checking  $t_1$ 

$t_1$	$t_2$
<u>1a</u> while random do	x unchanged
<u>2a</u> if $x < y$ then	y incremented
<u>3a</u> $x \leftarrow x + 1$	$0 \leq y \leq 102$

 $(1a) : x = y = 0$  $(2a) : x, y \in [0, 102], x \leq y$  $(3a) : x \in [0, 101], y \in [1, 102], x < y$ checking  $t_2$ 

$t_1$	$t_2$
y unchanged	<u>1b</u> while random do
$0 \leq x \leq y$	<u>2b</u> if $y < 100$ then
	<u>3b</u> $y \leftarrow y + [1, 3]$

 $(1b) : x = y = 0$  $(2b) : x, y \in [0, 102], x \leq y$  $(3b) : x, y \in [0, 99], x \leq y$ 

**Rely-guarantee:** proof method introduced by Jones in 1981

- generalized Hoare logics (by structural induction  $\Rightarrow$  thread-modular)
- requires thread-local **invariant assertions**
- requires **guarantees on transitions** generated by other threads

# Rely-guarantee reasoning

checking  $t_1$ 

$t_1$	$t_2$
<u>1a</u> while random do	x unchanged
<u>2a</u> if $x < y$ then	y incremented
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 $(1a) : x = y = 0$  $(2a) : x, y \in [0, 102], x \leq y$  $(3a) : x \in [0, 101], y \in [1, 102], x < y$ checking  $t_2$ 

$t_1$	$t_2$
y unchanged	<u>1b</u> while random do
$0 \leq x \leq y$	<u>2b</u> if $y < 100$ then
	<u>3b</u> $y \leftarrow y + [1, 3]$

 $(1b) : x = y = 0$  $(2b) : x, y \in [0, 102], x \leq y$  $(3b) : x, y \in [0, 99], x \leq y$ 

**Rely-guarantee:** proof method introduced by Jones in 1981

- generalized Hoare logics (by structural induction  $\Rightarrow$  thread-modular)
- requires thread-local **invariant assertions**
- requires **guarantees on transitions** generated by other threads
- checks each thread against an **abstraction** of the other threads
- **allows proving that  $x \leq y$  holds!**



# Rely-guarantee reasoning

checking  $t_1$ 

$t_1$	$t_2$
<u>1a</u> while random do	x unchanged
<u>2a</u> if $x < y$ then	y incremented
<u>3a</u> $x \leftarrow x + 1$	$0 \leq y \leq 102$

(1a) :  $x = y = 0$ (2a) :  $x, y \in [0, 102], x \leq y$ (3a) :  $x \in [0, 101], y \in [1, 102], x < y$ checking  $t_2$ 

$t_1$	$t_2$
y unchanged	<u>1b</u> while random do
$0 \leq x \leq y$	<u>2b</u> if $y < 100$ then
	<u>3b</u> $y \leftarrow y + [1, 3]$

(1b) :  $x = y = 0$ (2b) :  $x, y \in [0, 102], x \leq y$ (3b) :  $x, y \in [0, 99], x \leq y$ 

**Rely-guarantee:** proof method introduced by Jones in 1981

- generalized Hoare logics (by structural induction  $\Rightarrow$  thread-modular)
- requires thread-local **invariant assertions**
- requires **guarantees on transitions** generated by other threads
- checks each thread against an **abstraction** of the other threads
- **allows proving that  $x \leq y$  holds!**

# Rely-guarantee in abstract interpretation form

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# Thread-modular concrete fixpoint semantics

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# Non-modular concrete semantics



## Concrete trace semantics: $\mathcal{F}$

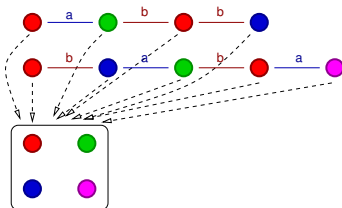
- threads:  $\mathcal{T} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{a, b, \dots\}$
- states:  $\Sigma \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{M} = \{\bullet, \bullet, \dots\}$ 
  - control state:  $\mathcal{C} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}$  (maps threads to locations)
  - memory state:  $\mathcal{M} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathbb{V}$  (maps variables to values)
- transition relation:  $\tau \subseteq \Sigma \times \mathcal{T} \times \Sigma: \sigma \xrightarrow{\tau}^a \sigma'$

partial finite **trace semantics** in **fixpoint** form:

$\mathcal{F} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{lf} \mathbf{p} F$  where

$$F \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda X. I \cup \{ \sigma_0 \xrightarrow{a_1} \dots \sigma_i \xrightarrow{a_{i+1}} \sigma_{i+1} \mid \sigma_0 \xrightarrow{a_1} \dots \sigma_i \in X \wedge \sigma_i \xrightarrow{\tau}^{a_{i+1}} \sigma_{i+1} \}$$

# Non-modular concrete semantics



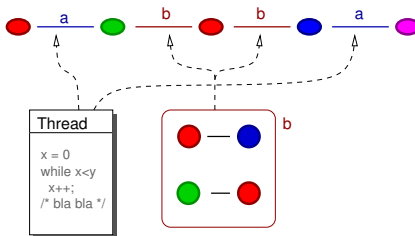
**Reachable states:**  $\mathcal{R}$  (concrete semantics of interest)

Extract the states reached during execution

$$\mathcal{R} = \alpha^{reach}(\mathcal{F}) \subseteq \Sigma \text{ where}$$

$$\alpha^{reach}(T) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ \sigma \mid \exists \sigma_0 \xrightarrow{a_1} \cdots \sigma_n \in T : \exists i \leq n : \sigma = \sigma_i \}$$

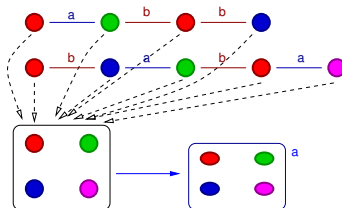
# Modularity: main idea



Main idea: **separate** execution steps

- from the **current thread a**
  - found by analysis by induction on the syntax of *a*
- from **other threads b**
  - given as parameter in the analysis of *a*
  - inferred during the analysis of *b*

# Trace decomposition



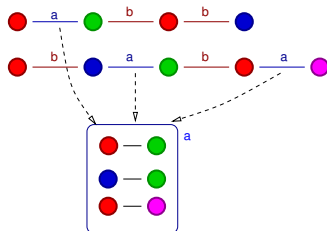
**Reachable states projected on thread  $t$ :**  $\mathcal{Rl}(t)$

- attached to thread control point in  $\mathcal{L}$ , not control state in  $\mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}$
- remember other thread's control point as “auxiliary variables”  
(required for completeness)

$$\mathcal{Rl}(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \pi_t(\mathcal{R}) \subseteq \mathcal{L} \times (\mathcal{V} \cup \{pc_{t'} \mid t \neq t' \in \mathcal{T}\}) \rightarrow \mathbb{V}$$

$$\text{where } \pi_t(R) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ \langle L(t), \rho [\forall t' \neq t : pc_{t'} \mapsto L(t')] \rangle \mid \langle L, \rho \rangle \in R \}$$

# Trace decomposition



Interferences generated by  $t$ :  $\mathcal{I}(t)$  ( $\simeq$  guarantees on transitions)

Extract the transitions with action  $t$  **observed in  $\mathcal{F}$**

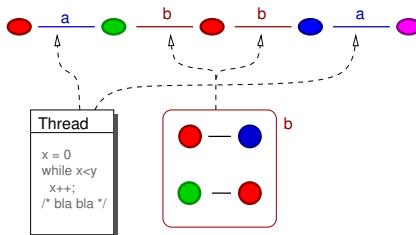
(subset of the transition system, containing only transitions actually used in reachability)

$$\mathcal{I}(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \alpha^{itf}(\mathcal{F})(t)$$

$$\text{where } \alpha^{itf}(X)(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ \langle \sigma_i, \sigma_{i+1} \rangle \mid \exists \sigma_0 \xrightarrow{a_1} \sigma_1 \cdots \xrightarrow{a_n} \sigma_n \in X : a_{i+1} = t \}$$



# Thread-modular concrete semantics



**Principle:** express  $\mathcal{Rl}(t)$  and  $\mathcal{I}(t)$  directly, without computing  $\mathcal{F}$

**States:**  $\mathcal{Rl}$

Interleave:

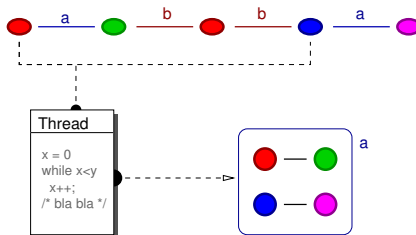
- transitions from the current thread  $t$
- transitions from interferences  $\mathcal{I}$  by other threads

$\mathcal{Rl}(t) = \text{Ifp } R_t(\mathcal{I})$ , where

$$R_t(Y)(X) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \pi_t(I) \cup \{ \pi_t(\sigma') \mid \exists \pi_t(\sigma) \in X : \sigma \xrightarrow[t]{\tau} \sigma' \} \cup \{ \pi_t(\sigma') \mid \exists \pi_t(\sigma) \in X : \exists t' \neq t : \langle \sigma, \sigma' \rangle \in Y(t') \}$$

$\Rightarrow$  similar to reachability for a sequential program, up to  $\mathcal{I}$

# Thread-modular concrete semantics



**Principle:** express  $\mathcal{R}\ell(t)$  and  $\mathcal{I}(t)$  directly, without computing  $\mathcal{F}$

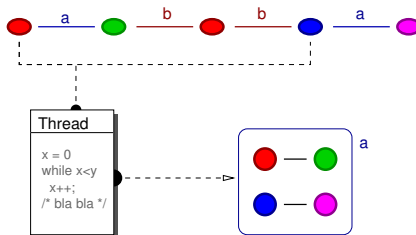
Interferences:  $\mathcal{I}$

Collect transitions from a thread  $t$  and reachable states  $\mathcal{R}$ :

$\mathcal{I}(t) = B(\mathcal{R}\ell)(t)$ , where

$$B(\mathcal{Z})(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ \langle \sigma, \sigma' \rangle \mid \pi_t(\sigma) \in \mathcal{Z}(t) \wedge \sigma \xrightarrow{t}_{\tau} \sigma' \}$$

# Thread-modular concrete semantics



**Principle:** express  $\mathcal{R}\ell(t)$  and  $\mathcal{I}(t)$  directly, without computing  $\mathcal{F}$

Recursive definition:

- $\mathcal{R}\ell(t) = \text{lfp } R_t(\mathcal{I})$
- $\mathcal{I}(t) = B(\mathcal{R}\ell)(t)$

$\Rightarrow$  express the most precise solution as nested fixpoints:

$$\mathcal{R}\ell = \text{lfp } \lambda Z. \lambda t. \text{lfp } R_t(B(Z))$$

$\Rightarrow$  iterate analyses with interference

**Completeness:**  $\forall t : \mathcal{R}\ell(t) \simeq \mathcal{R} \quad (\pi_t \text{ is bijective thanks to auxiliary variables})$

# Thread-modular abstractions

---

# Retrieving the simple interference-based analysis

## Flow-insensitive abstraction:

- reduce as much control information as possible
- but keep flow-sensitivity on each thread's control location

## State abstraction:    remove auxiliary variables

$$\alpha_{\mathcal{R}}^f(X) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ \langle \ell, \rho|_v \rangle \mid \langle \ell, \rho \rangle \in X \}$$

## Interference abstraction:    remove all control information

$$\alpha_{\mathcal{I}}^f(Y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ \langle \rho, \rho' \rangle \mid \exists L, L' \in \mathcal{C} : \langle \langle L, \rho \rangle, \langle L', \rho' \rangle \rangle \in Y \}$$

Note: we lose completeness

we cannot prove that  $x$  is bounded in  $x \leftarrow x + 1 \parallel x \leftarrow x + 1$

# Retrieving the simple interference-based analysis

## Cartesian abstraction: on interferences

- forget the relations between variables
- forget the relations between values before and after transitions  
(input-output relationship)
- only remember which variables are modified and their new value:

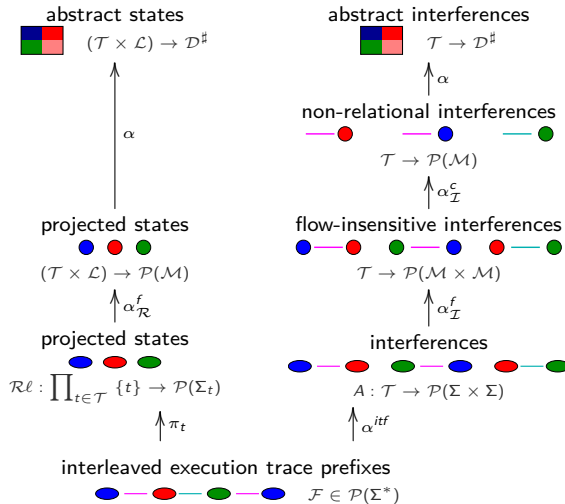
$$\alpha_{\mathcal{I}}^c(Y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda V. \{x \in \mathbb{V} \mid \exists \langle \rho, \rho' \rangle \in Y : \rho(V) \neq x \wedge \rho'(V) = x\}$$

- no modification on the state  
(the analysis of each thread can still be relational)

$\implies$  we get back our simple interference analysis!

Finally, use a numeric abstract domain  $\alpha : \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathbb{V}) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}^\#$   
(for interferences,  $\mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{V})$  is abstracted as  $\mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}^\#$ )

# From traces to thread-modular analyses



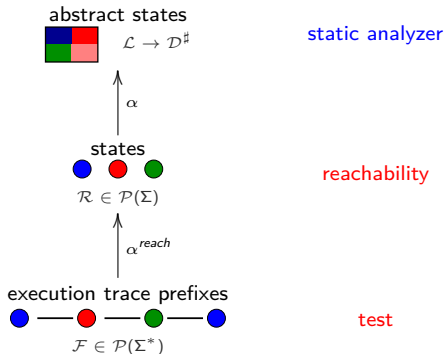
static analyzer

**rely-guarantee**  
(without aux. variables)

**rely-guarantee**  
(with aux. variables)

test

# Compare with sequential analyses





# Beyond simple interferences

- **Academic experiment** (internship of Raphaël Monat, 2015)

fully-relational flow-insensitive interferences

academic prototype, no concern for scalability

- **Industry-targeted experiments** (AstréeA, 2011–)

AstréeA was initially based on simple interferences  
(flow-insensitive, non-relational)

now **specialize** AstréeA with **partially relational interferences**  
support for **locks** and **priorities**

⇒ reduce false alarms while keeping scalability

# Fully relational interferences

---

# Academic experiment

## Fully relational interference abstraction:

- $\alpha_{\mathcal{I}}^f(Y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ \langle \rho, \rho' \rangle \mid \exists L, L' \in \mathcal{C} : \langle \langle L, \rho \rangle, \langle L', \rho' \rangle \rangle \in Y \}$
- $\alpha_{\mathcal{I}}^f(Y) \in \mathcal{M} \times \mathcal{M}$ : relation between states

$\implies$  can be abstracted in a **numeric abstract domain over  $\mathcal{V}^2$**   
(e.g., polyhedra)

e.g.:  $\{ (x, x + 1) \mid x \in [0, 10] \}$

is represented as  $x' = x + 1 \wedge x \in [0, 10]$

## Abstract interpreter:

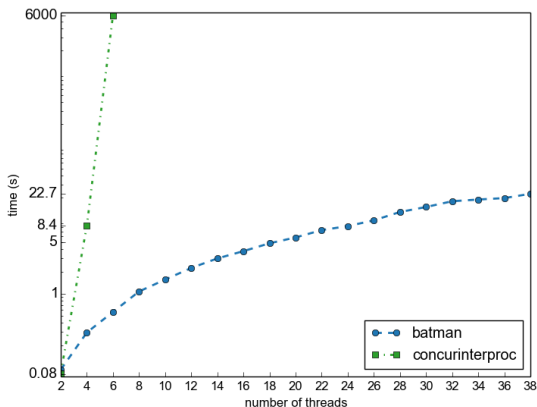
- represent abstract states as polyhedra
- propagate abstract states by induction on thread syntax
- **maintain interferences in a thread-wide polyhedron**  $X^\sharp(t)$
- each assignment in  $t$  **enriches**  $X^\sharp(t)$  with new interferences
- **apply**  $(\cup_{t' \neq t} X^\sharp(t'))^*$  after each instruction of  $t$

# Example analysis

$t_1$ <hr/> <b>while</b> $z < 10000$ $z = z + 1$ <b>if</b> $y < c$ <b>then</b> $y = y + 1$ <b>done</b>	$t_2$ <hr/> <b>while</b> $z < 10000$ $z = z + 1$ <b>if</b> $x < y$ <b>then</b> $x = x + 1$ <b>done</b>
--	--

- prototype “batman” [Monat 2015] in OCaml supporting a small imperative language
- abstractions based on Apron (polyhedra and octagons)
- interference operations simulated with state operations on  $\mathcal{V}^2$
- able to infer  $x \leq y$
- experimental comparison with ConcurInterproc (non thread modular, also able to infer  $x \leq y$ )

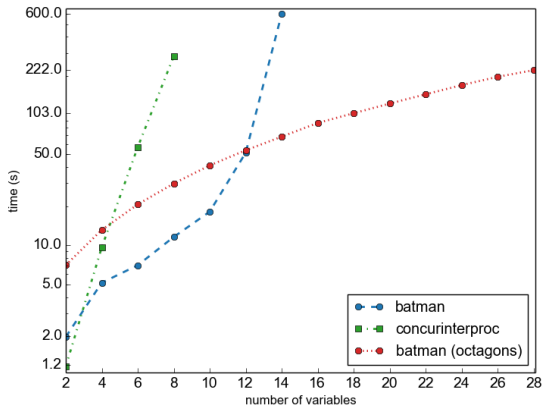
# Scalability in threads



- $n$  copies of each thread (with varying value for  $c$ )
- fixed number of variables

⇒ much **better scalability** than non-modular methods!

# Scalability in variables



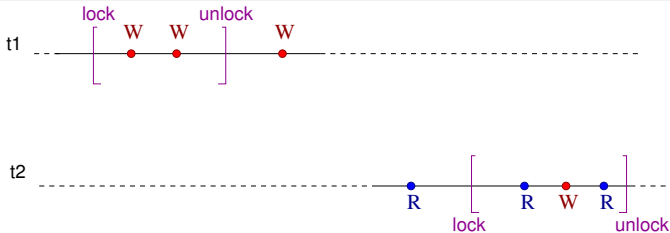
- $n$  copies of each thread
- $n$  copies of each variable

⇒ scalability issues, **packing techniques needed** (expected)

# Partilly relational interferences in AstréeA

---

# Mutual exclusion locks



## Mutexes:

- ensure mutual exclusion  
at each time, each mutex can be locked by a single thread
- enforce memory consistency and atomicity

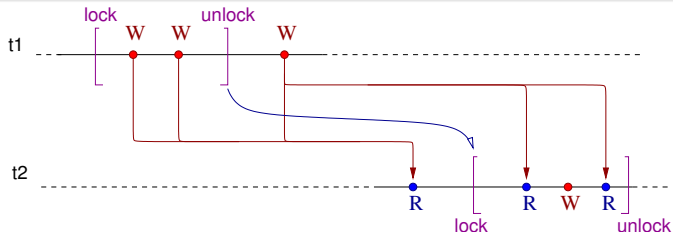
⇒ we need to **discard spurious interferences**, to improve the precision

We assume a fixed, **finite number of mutexes**





# Mutual exclusion locks



## Data-race interferences:

- across **read** / **write** not protected by a mutex

## Well-synchronized interferences:

- last **write** before an **unlock** in  $t_1$   
influence **reads** between **lock** and first **write** in  $t_2$

We partition **interferences** by the set of mutexes held.

# Example

## abstract consumer/producer

$N$ consumers	$N$ producers
<pre> while random do   lock(<math>m</math>)   if <math>x &gt; 0</math> then <math>x \leftarrow x - 1</math> endif; unlock(<math>m</math>) </pre>	<pre> while random do   lock(<math>m</math>);   <math>x \leftarrow x + 1</math>;   if <math>x &gt; 100</math> then <math>x \leftarrow 100</math> endif; unlock(<math>m</math>) </pre>

Assuming we have several ( $N$ ) producers and consumers:

- no data-race interference (proof of the absence of data-race)
- well-synchronized interferences:
  - consumer:  $x \leftarrow [0, 99]$
  - producer:  $x \leftarrow [1, 100]$
- $\implies$  we get that  $x \in [0, 100]$

(without locks, if  $N > 1$ , our concrete semantics cannot bound  $x$ !)

# Locks and priorities

## priority-based critical sections

high thread	low thread
$L \leftarrow \text{islocked}(m);$ <b>if</b> $L = 0$ <b>then</b> $Y \leftarrow Y + 1;$ <b>yeild</b>	<b>lock</b> ( $m$ ); $Z \leftarrow Y;$ $Y \leftarrow 0;$ <b>unlock</b> ( $m$ )

## Real-time scheduling

- only the **highest priority unblocked** thread can run
- **lock** and **yeild** may **block**
- **yeilding** threads **wake up non-deterministically**  
(**preempting** lower-priority threads)
- **explicit** synchronisation enforces **memory consistency**

# Locks and priorities

## priority-based critical sections

high thread	low thread
$L \leftarrow \text{islocked}(m);$ <b>if</b> $L = 0$ <b>then</b> $Y \leftarrow Y + 1;$ <b>yeild</b>	<b>lock</b> ( $m$ ); $Z \leftarrow Y;$ $Y \leftarrow 0;$ <b>unlock</b> ( $m$ )

**Partition** interferences and **environments** wrt. scheduling state

- partition wrt. mutexes tested with **islocked**
- $X \leftarrow \text{islocked}(m)$  creates two partitions
  - $P_0$  where  $X = 0$  and  $m$  is free
  - $P_1$  where  $X = 1$  and  $m$  is locked
- $P_0$  handled as if  $m$  where locked
- blocking primitives merge  $P_0$  and  $P_1$  (**lock**, **yeild**)

# Weakly relational interferences

## Clock thread

```
while  $Clock < 10^6$  do  
   $Clock \leftarrow Clock + 1$ ;  
  ...  
done
```

## Accumulator thread

```
while random do  
   $Prec \leftarrow Clock$ ;  
  ...  
   $delta \leftarrow Clock - Prec$ ;  
  if random then  $x \leftarrow x + delta$  endif;  
  ...  
done
```

- $Clock$  is a global, increasing clock
- $x$  accumulates periods of time
- **no overflow** on  $Clock - Prec$  nor  $x \leftarrow x + delta$

To prove this we need:

- **relational abstractions** of interferences  
(keep input-output relationships)
- hypotheses on memory consistency  
(e.g., partial store ordering)

# Monotonicity abstraction

## Abstraction:

map variables to  $\uparrow$  monotonic or  $\top$  don't know

$$\alpha_{\mathcal{I}}^{mon}(Y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda V. \text{if } \forall \langle \rho, \rho' \rangle \in Y : \rho(V) \leq \rho'(V) \text{ then } \uparrow \text{ else } \top$$

- keep some input-output relationships
- forgets all relations between variables
- flow-insensitive

## Inference and use

- **gather:**

$$\mathcal{I}_{mon}^{\sharp}(t)(V) = \uparrow \iff$$

all assignments to  $V$  in  $t$  have the form  $V \leftarrow V + e$ , with  $e \geq 0$

- **use:** combined with non-relational interferences

$$\text{if } \forall t : \mathcal{I}_{mon}^{\sharp}(t)(V) = \uparrow$$

then any test with non-relational interference  $\llbracket X \leq (V \mid [a, b]) \rrbracket$  can be strengthened into  $\llbracket X \leq V \rrbracket$

# Relational invariant interferences

Abstraction: keep relations maintained by interferences

- remove control state in interferences  $(\alpha_{\mathcal{I}}^f)$
- keep mutex state  $M$  (set of mutexes held)
- forget input-output relationships
- keep relationships between variables

$$\alpha_{\mathcal{I}}^{inv}(Y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ \langle M, \rho \rangle \mid \exists \rho' : \langle \langle M, \rho \rangle, \langle M, \rho' \rangle \rangle \in Y \vee \langle \langle M, \rho' \rangle, \langle M, \rho \rangle \rangle \in Y \}$$

$\langle M, \rho \rangle \in \alpha_{\mathcal{I}}^{inv}(Y) \implies \langle M, \rho \rangle \in \alpha_{\mathcal{I}}^{inv}(Y)$  after any sequence of interferences from  $Y$

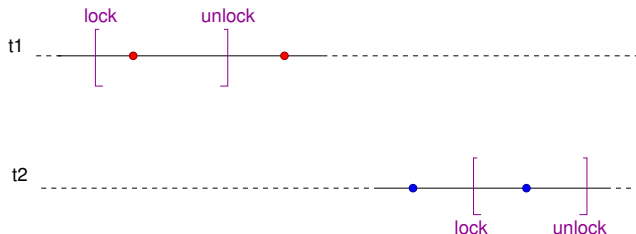
Lock invariant:

$$\{ \rho \mid \exists t \in \mathcal{T}, M : \langle M, \rho \rangle \in \alpha_{\mathcal{I}}^{inv}(\mathcal{I}(t)), m \notin M \}$$

- property maintained outside code protected by  $m$
- possibly broken while  $m$  is locked
- restored before unlocking  $m$

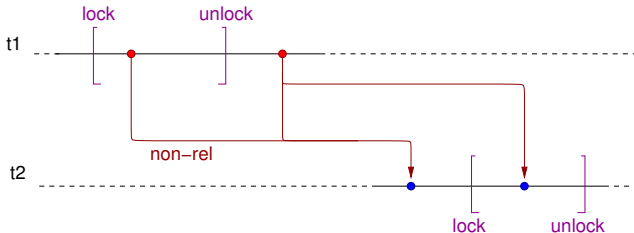


# Relational lock invariants



Improved interferences: mixing simple interferences and lock invariants

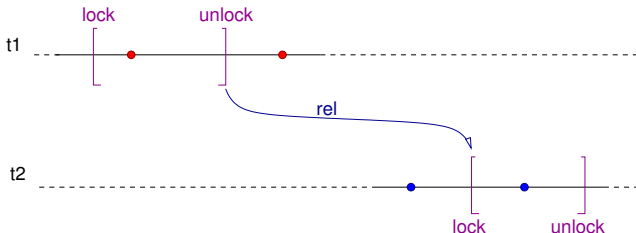
# Relational lock invariants



Improved interferences: mixing simple interferences and lock invariants

- apply non-relational data-race interferences  
unless threads hold a common lock (mutual exclusion)

# Relational lock invariants



Improved interferences: mixing simple interferences and lock invariants

- apply **non-relational data-race interferences** unless **threads hold a common lock** (mutual exclusion)
- apply **non-relational well-synchronized interferences** at **lock** points then **intersect with the lock invariant**
- gather **lock invariants** for **lock** / **unlock** pairs

# Weakly relational interference example

analyzing  $t_1$ 

$t_1$	$t_2$
<b>while random do</b> <b>lock</b> ( $m$ ); <b>if</b> $x < y$ <b>then</b> $x \leftarrow x + 1$ ; <b>unlock</b> ( $m$ )	$x$ unchanged $y$ incremented $0 \leq y \leq 102$

analyzing  $t_2$ 

$t_1$	$t_2$
$y$ unchanged $0 \leq x, x \leq y$	<b>while random do</b> <b>lock</b> ( $m$ ); <b>if</b> $y < 100$ <b>then</b> $y \leftarrow y + [1, 3]$ ; <b>unlock</b> ( $m$ )

Using all three interference abstractions:

- non-relational interferences ( $0 \leq y \leq 102, 0 \leq x$ )
- lock invariants, with the octagon domain ( $x \leq y$ )
- monotonic interferences ( $y$  monotonic)

we can prove automatically that  $x \leq y$  holds

# Subsequence interference

 $t_1$  : clock in  $H$ 

```
while random do
  if  $H < 10,000$  then
     $H \leftarrow H + 1$ 
```

 $t_2$  : sample  $H$  into  $C$ 

```
while random do
   $C \leftarrow H$ 
```

 $t_3$  : accumulate elapsed time in  $T$ 

```
while random do
  if random then  $T \leftarrow 0$ 
  else  $T \leftarrow T + (C - L)$ 
   $L \leftarrow C$ 
```

**Problem:** we wish to prove that  $T \leq L \leq C \leq H$

it is sufficient to prove the monotony of  $H$ ,  $C$ , and  $L$   
 but **monotony is not transitive**

$X$  is only assigned monotonic variables  $\not\Rightarrow X$  is monotonic

$\Rightarrow$  we infer an **additional property** implying monotony

**Abstraction:** subsequence

- $\mathcal{I}_{sub}^\sharp(t)(V) = \{ W \in \mathcal{V} \mid V\text{'s values are a subsequence of } W\text{'s values} \}$
- $\alpha_{\mathcal{R}}^{sub}(X)(V) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ W \mid \forall \langle \ell_0, \rho_0 \rangle, \dots, \langle \ell_n, \rho_n \rangle \in X : \exists i_0, \dots, i_n : \forall k : i_k \leq k \wedge i_k \leq i_{k+1} \wedge \forall j : \rho_j(V) = \rho_{i_j}(W) \}$

based on a **trace version** of the modular semantics

# AstréeA

---

# Sources for Astrée(A)'s concrete semantics

Concrete semantics: defined through

- **C99 norm** (portable programs)
- **IEEE 754-1985 norm** (floating-point arithmetic)
- architecture parameters (`sizeof`, `endianess`, `struct`, etc.)
- compiler and linker parameters (initialization, etc.)

Properties of interest: absence of run-time error

- no integer nor float **numeric overflow**
- no **invalid arithmetic operation** (/0, << 33)
- no **invalid memory access** (arrays [], pointers \*)
- respect the constraints put by the programmer (`assert`)

**i.e., reachability of bad memory states**

# Astrée(A)'s targets

Analyzed programs: embedded critical C codes

- no dynamic memory allocation
- no recursivity

Astrée:

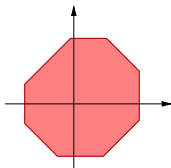
- no concurrency
- tuned for synchronous control/command software  
(numeric & boolean; no string, list, etc.)  
but sound on all accepted programs

AstréeA:

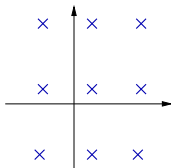
- supports shared-memory concurrency (statically allocated threads)
- supports operating systems (through externally provided stub models)
- on-going support for data-structures  
(strings, arrays; static allocation but dynamic usage)



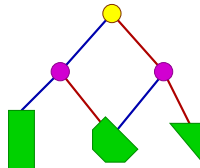
# A few abstract domains used in Astrée(A)



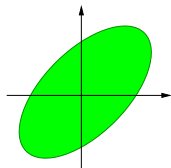
octagons  
 $\pm X \pm Y \leq c$   
 [Miné 2006]



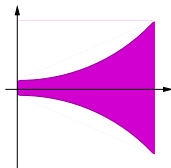
congruences  
 $X \equiv a[b]$   
 [Granger 1989]



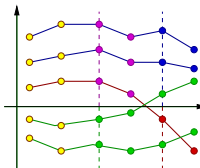
boolean decision trees  
 [Mauborgne]



ellipsoids  
 digital filters  
 [Feret 2005]



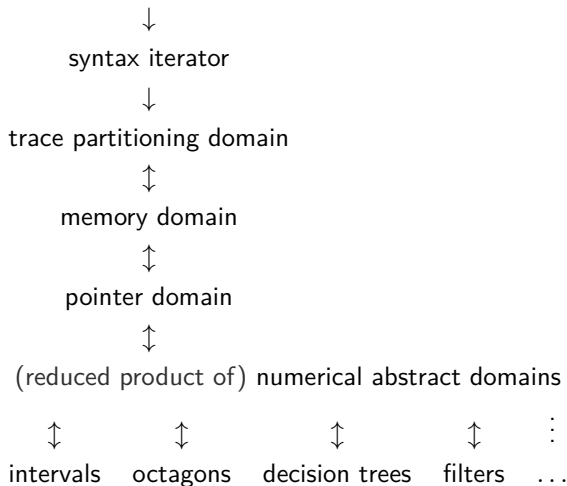
exponentials  
 $X \leq (1 + \alpha)^{\beta t}$   
 [Feret 2005]



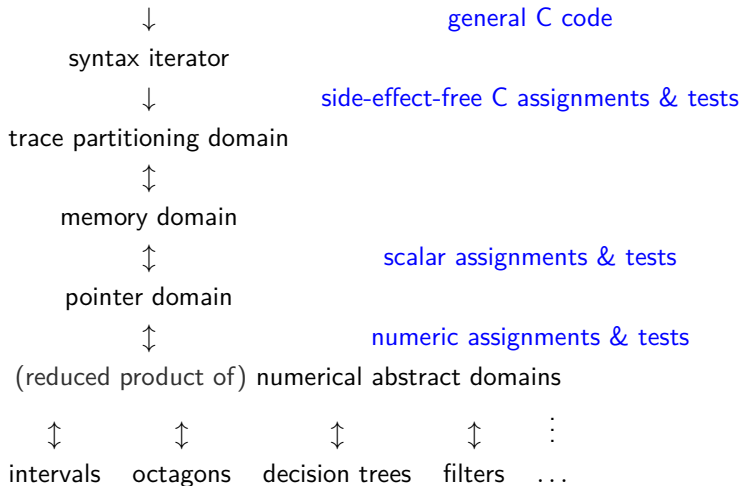
trace partitions  
 [Mauborgne Rival 2005]

**relational** domains are often required to find inductive invariants  
 for scalability, they are limited to small variable packs, selected by syntactic heuristics

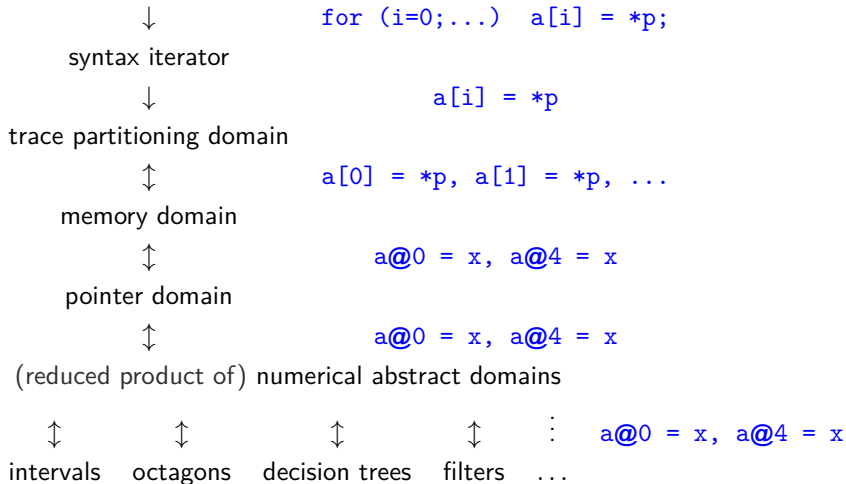
# Astrée's abstract interpreter layers



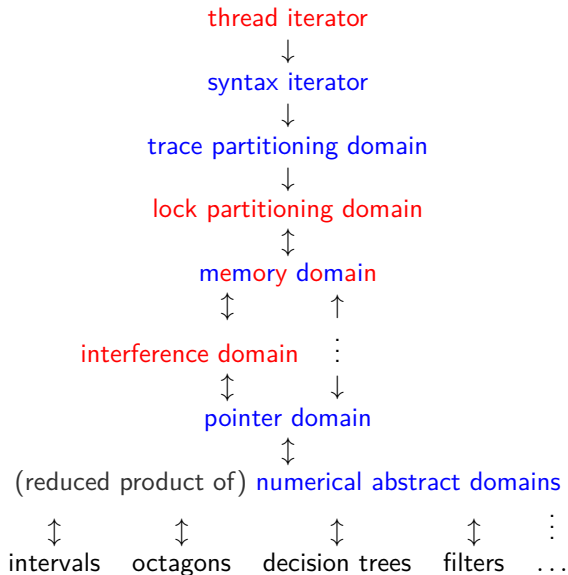
# Astrée's abstract interpreter layers



# Astrée's abstract interpreter layers



# AstréeA's abstract interpreter layers



# Main case study

## Specialization process:

- choose one representative target industrial application
- refine the domains until zero (or few) alarms
- extend to other targets

performed in an academic settings  
(requires modifying the analyzer)

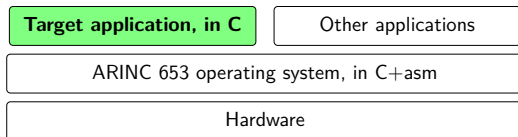
## Core target application:

- embedded avionic code (DAL C)
- 2.1 Mloc (2 Mloc generated)
- 15 threads, shared memory, locks
- preemptive real-time scheduling on a single processor
- reactive code + network code + lists, strings, pointers
- many variables, large arrays, many loops, shallow call graph
- no dynamic memory allocation, no recursivity



# Analysis context

## Concrete execution context:

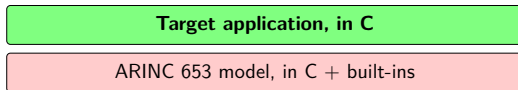


The target application:

- runs concurrently with other applications (memory separation)
- interacts dynamically with an ARINC 653 operating system (thread control operations, mutex lock and unlock, communication services)
- interacts with other applications through the OS
- creates system objects only during an initialization phase (the set of objects is inferred by the analysis)

# Analysis context

## Abstract analysis context:



The target application is enriched with a **hand-written model of the OS**

- 5.2 Kloc of C + low-level AstréeA built-ins
- stub and simulate all OS system calls
- manage (fat) OS objects, mapped to (thin) AstréeA objects  
(e.g., AstréeA's locks are simple integers, ARINC 653's locks have a string name)

⇒ analyze stand-alone “C” programs, with no undefined symbol



# Example stub

```
void WAIT_SEMAPHORE(  
    SEMAPHORE_ID_TYPE SEMAPHORE_ID, SYSTEM_TIME_TYPE TIMEOUT,  
    RETURN_CODE_TYPE * RETURN_CODE)  
{  
    *RETURN_CODE = NO_ERROR;  
    if (SEMAPHORE_ID < 0 || SEMAPHORE_ID >= NB_SEMAPHORE) {  
        __ASTREE_error("invalid semaphore");  
        *RETURN_CODE = INVALID_PARAM;  
    }  
    else if (TIMEOUT > 0) {  
        if (TIMEOUT == INFINITE_SYSTEM_TIME_VALUE || __ASTREE_rand())  
            __ASTREE_lock_mutex(SEMAPHORE_ID);  
    }  
    else {  
        __ASTREE_yield();  
        *RETURN_CODE = TIMED_OUT;  
    }  
}  
else {  
    if (__ASTREE_rand()) *RETURN_CODE = NOT_AVAILABLE;  
    else __ASTREE_lock_mutex(SEMAPHORE_ID);  
}  
}
```

# Results

Precision: achieved by specialization

- 2010: 12,257 alarms
- 2015: 1,195 alarms (60% on hand-written code)  
99.94% selectivity (% of lines without alarm)

Efficiency:

- on an intel i7 2.90 GHz workstation (1 core used)
- computation time: 24h
- analysis iterations: 6 (no widening needed on interferences)
- 27 GB RAM

Achieved through:

- well-synchronized interferences with lock partitioning
- relational interference domains
- additional state abstract domains  
(offset domains, bit-level float manipulation, memory domains)
- limiting the scope of relational domains (variable packing)

# Industrial case studies

Additional case studies performed **by industrials**  
study headed by David Delmas (Airbus)  
on DAL C & DAL E avionics software

- **enrich ARINC stubs** with newly used functions
- **design** a full set of **POSIX threads stubs**
- analysis **precision tuning** through end-user directives
- **no modification** of the analyzer

size	OS	stub	selectivity	time	memory
1.9 M	ARINC	2.4 K	99.56%	154 h	18 GB
2.2 M	POSIX	2.3 K	99.52%	160 h	23 GB
31.8 K	POSIX	2.2 K	99.28%	50 mn	0.6 GB
33.1 K	POSIX	1.2 K	97.18%	35 h	2.5 GB

selectivity only slightly worse than for the main case study

⇒ **towards a cost-effective industrial use of AstréeA**

# Conclusion

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# Summary

We proposed a static analysis framework for concurrent programs:

- **sound** for all interleavings
- **thread-modular**  
scalable, able to reuse existing analyzers
- **parameterized** by abstract domains  
able to reuse existing domains
- constructed by **abstraction of a complete method**  
enable refinement to arbitrary precision
- generalized previous simple interference analysis
- defined novel **relational interference domains**
- presented **encouraging experimental results**

# Future challenges: towards zero alarm

Precision target to be usable in avionics certification:

- 99.80% selectivity on hand-written code  
(currently: 95.97% to 99.2%)
- 99.99% selectivity on automatically generated code  
(currently: 99.78% to 99.98%)

Planned improvements:

- specialized relational interference domains
- memory domains (segmented array domain, specialization to strings)
- automate precision-control heuristics

On-going industrialization towards AbsInt:  
merging with commercial Astrée

# Future challenges: weak memory

The interleaving semantics (sequential consistency) is not realistic  
Actual languages and CPU obey **relaxed memory models** due to

- CPU-level optimizations (memory buffers, instruction reordering)
- compiler-level optimizations (allowed by language specifications)

⇒ an analysis sound only for sequential consistency  
may not be sound for the actual memory model!

(example:  $y \leftarrow 1$ ; **if**  $x = 0$  **then**  $\dots$  ||  $x \leftarrow 1$ ; **if**  $y = 0$  **then**  $\dots$ )

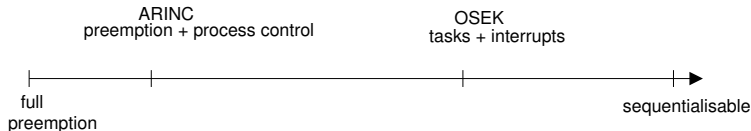
Result: The **flow-insensitive non-relational analysis** is sound  
wrt. a large set of weak memory models

Rationale: flow-insensitive non-relational interferences are insensitive  
to the reordering of reads and writes [Miné 2011, Alglave et al. 2011]

## Challenges:

- **flow-sensitivity** and **relationality** despite weak memory
- **specialization** to **realistic** memory models

# Future challenges: inter-thread flow-sensitivity



## Preemptive vs. sequential:

- AstréeA started with a fully preemptive semantics  
(allow all interleavings)
- refined to take into account locks and priorities  
(mutual exclusion)

## Future work:

- take into account inter-thread flow more precisely  
(almost sequential initialization, process and scheduling control)
- more precise support for OSEK/AUTOSAR  
(low preemption scheduling, explicit task switching)

full preemption is a sound (but coarse) abstraction of all other scheduling