

Automated Software Analysis Techniques For High Reliability: A Concolic Testing Approach

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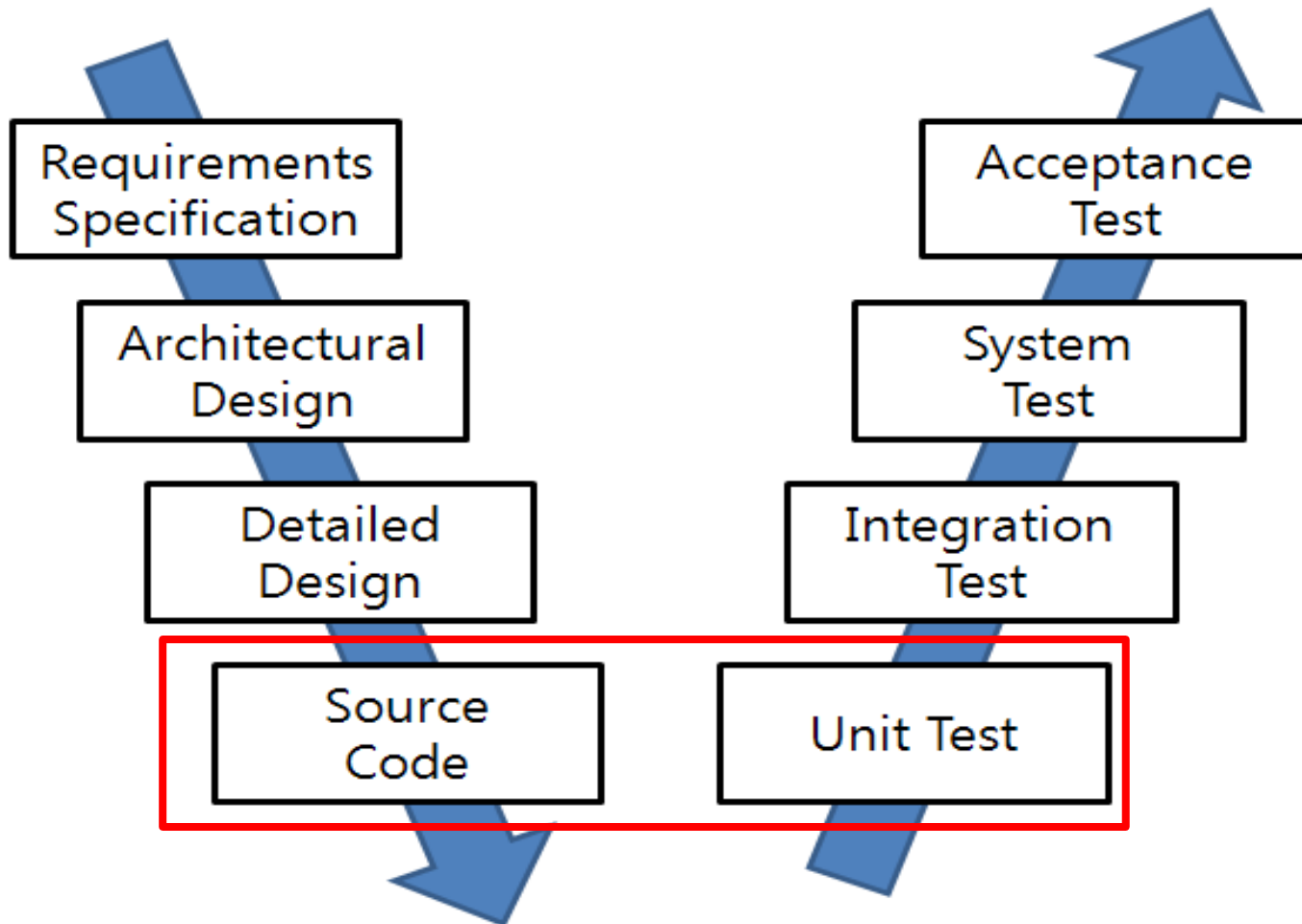
A screenshot of the Provable SW Lab website. The page has a header with the title 'PROVABLE SW LAB' and a navigation menu with links for 'home', 'research', 'courses', 'publications', 'members', 'events', 'lab seminar', 'link', 'library', and 'pictures'. Below the header, there is a 'Welcome to Provable Software Lab.' message with a timestamp. The main content area features a diagram of a system architecture with components like 'File System', 'Device Driver', 'Unified Storage Platform', 'CS High-Level Module', and 'Low-Level Device Driver'. There are also images of various storage devices (SD cards, USB drives) and a network diagram. A sidebar on the left contains a '이영표' (Lee Young-pyo) profile section with a list of categories (Research, Courses, etc.) and a '사용자 ID' (User ID) field with the value 'admin'. At the bottom, there is a 'Provable Software Lab.' section with a list of affiliations: 'Software Engineering Group', 'Division of Computer Science', 'Department of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science', and 'Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST)'.

Contents

- Automated Software Analysis Techniques
 - Background
 - Concolic testing process
 - Example of concolic testing
- Case Study: Busybox utility
- Future Direction and Conclusion

Main Target of Automated SW Analysis

Manual
Labor



Abstraction

Automated Software Analysis Techniques

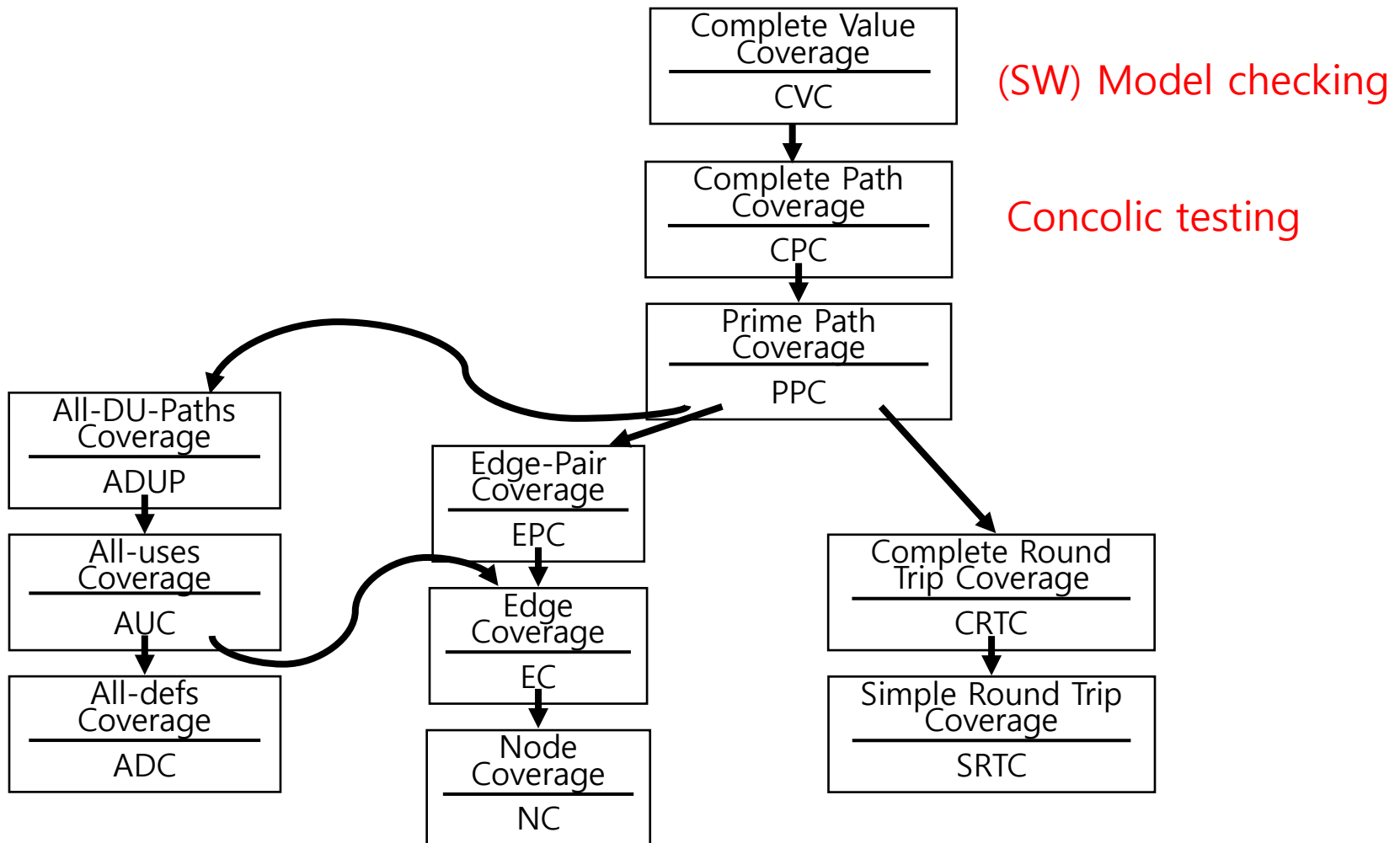
- Aims to explore possible behaviors of target systems **in an exhaustive manner**
- Key methods:
 - Represents a target program/or executions as a “logical formula”
 - Then, analyze the logical formula (a target program) by using logic analysis techniques

Weakness of conventional testing



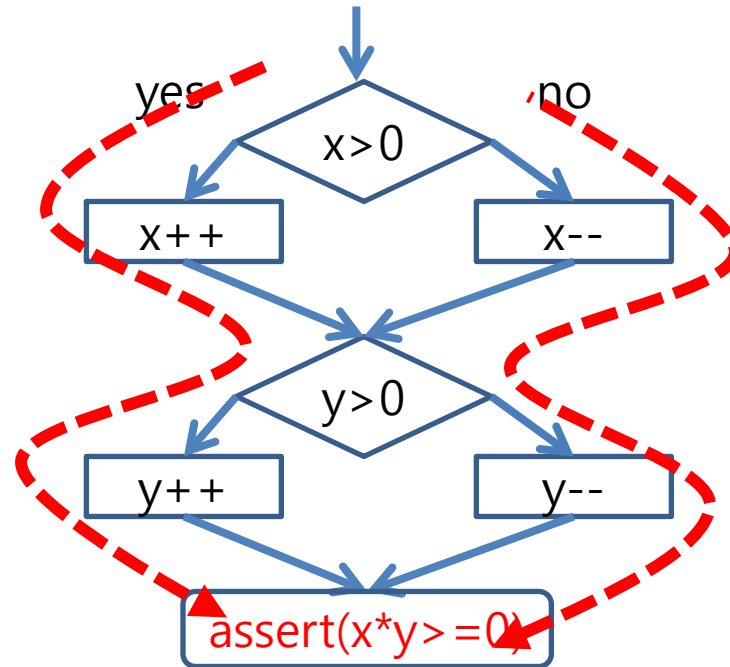
Symbolic execution (1970)
Model checking (1980)
SW model checking (2000)
Concolic testing (2005 ~)

Hierarchy of SW Coverages



Weaknesses of the Branch Coverage

```
/* TC1: x= 1, y= 1;
   TC2: x=-1, y=-1;*/
void foo(int x, int y) {
  if ( x > 0)
    x++;
  else
    x--;
  if(y >0)
    y++;
  else
    y--;
  assert (x * y >= 0);
}
```



Systematic testing techniques are necessary for quality software!

- > Integration testing is not enough
- > Unit testing with automated test case generation is desirable for both **productivity** and **quality**

Dynamic v.s. Static Analysis

| | Dynamic Analysis (i.e., testing) | Static Analysis (i.e. model checking) |
|------|---|---|
| Pros | <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Real result•No environmental limitation•Binary library is ok | <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Complete analysis result•Fully automatic•Concrete counter example |
| Cons | <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Incomplete analysis result•Test case selection | <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Consumed huge memory space•Takes huge time for verification•False alarms |

Concolic Approach

- Combine concrete and symbolic execution
 - **Concrete** + Symbol**ic** = **Concolic**
- In a nutshell, concrete execution over a concrete input guides symbolic execution
 - No false positives
- **Automated** testing of real-world C Programs
 - Execute target program on **automatically** generated test inputs
 - **All possible execution paths** are to be explored
 - Higher branch coverage than random testing

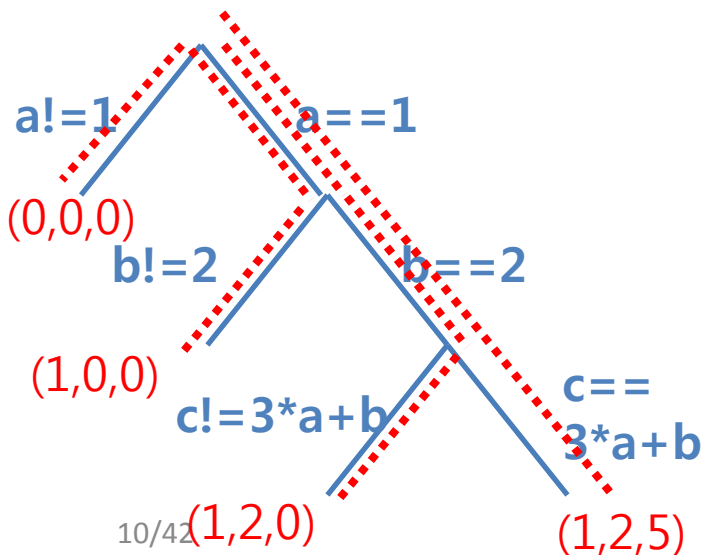
Overview of Concolic Testing Process

1. Select input variables to be handled symbolically
2. A target C program is statically instrumented with probes, which record symbolic path conditions
3. The instrumented C program is executed with given input values
 - Initial input values are assigned randomly
4. Obtain a symbolic path formula φ_i from a concrete execution over a concrete input
5. One branch condition of φ_i is **negated** to generate the next symbolic path formula ψ_i
6. A constraint solver solves ψ_i to get next concrete input values
 - Ex. $\varphi_i: (x < 2) \ \&\& \ (x + y \geq 2)$ and $\psi_i: (x < 2) \ \&\& \ (x + y < 2)$.
One solution is $x=1$ and $y=0$
7. Repeat step 3 until all feasible execution paths are explored

Itera-
tions

Concolic Testing Example

```
// Test input a, b, c
void f(int a, int b, int c) {
  if (a == 1) {
    if (b == 2) {
      if (c == 3*a + b) {
        Error();
      }
    }
  }
}
```



- Random testing
 - Probability of reaching **Error()** is extremely low
- Concolic testing generates the following 4 test cases
 - (0,0,0): initial random input
 - Obtained symbolic path formula (SPF) ϕ : $a \neq 1$
 - Next SPF ψ generated from ϕ : $!(a \neq 1)$
 - (1,0,0): a solution of ψ (i.e. $!(a \neq 1)$)
 - SPF ϕ : $a == 1 \ \&\& \ b \neq 2$
 - Next SPF ψ : $a == 1 \ \&\& \ !(b \neq 2)$
 - (1,2,0)
 - SPF ϕ : $a == 1 \ \&\& \ (b == 2) \ \&\& \ (c \neq 3*a + b)$
 - Next SPF ψ : $a == 1 \ \&\& \ (b == 2) \ \&\& \ !(c \neq 3*a + b)$
 - (1,2,5)
 - Covered all paths and

Error()
reached

Example

```
typedef struct cell {  
    int v;  
    struct cell *next;  
} cell;
```

```
int f(int v) {  
    return 2*v + 1;  
}
```

```
int testme(cell *p, int x) {  
    if (x > 0)  
        if (p != NULL)  
            if (f(x) == p->v)  
                if (p->next == p)  
                    Error();  
    return 0;  
}
```

- Random Test Driver:
 - random memory graph reachable from p
 - random value for x
- Probability of reaching **Error()** is extremely low

Concolic Testing

```
typedef struct cell {  
    int v;  
    struct cell *next;  
} cell;
```

```
int f(int v) {  
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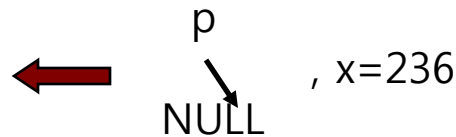
Concrete
Execution

Symbolic
Execution

concrete
state

symbolic
state

constraints



$p=p_0, x=x_0$

Concolic Testing

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```
int f(int v) {  
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    return 0;  
}
```

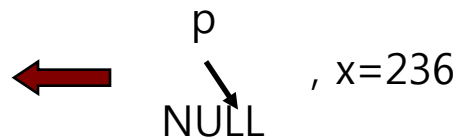
Concrete
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$p = p_0, x = x_0$

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                if (p->next == p)  
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    return 0;  
}
```

Concrete
Execution

Symbolic
Execution

concrete
state

symbolic
state

constraints

← p
NULL, x=236

$p = p_0, x = x_0$

$x_0 > 0$

Concolic Testing

```
typedef struct cell {  
    int v;  
    struct cell *next;  
} cell;
```

```
int f(int v) {  
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    return 0;  
}
```

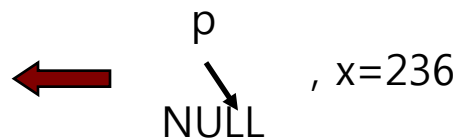
Concrete
Execution

Symbolic
Execution

concrete
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symbolic
state

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$p = p_0, x = x_0$

$x_0 > 0$
 $!(p_0 \neq \text{NULL})$

Concolic Testing

```
typedef struct cell {  
    int v;  
    struct cell *next;  
} cell;
```

```
int f(int v) {  
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int testme(cell *p, int x) {  
    if (x > 0)  
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                if (p->next == p)  
                    Error();  
    return 0;  
}
```

Concrete Execution

Symbolic Execution

concrete

symbolic

constraints

solve: $x_0 > 0$ and $p_0 \neq \text{NULL}$

$x_0 > 0$

$p_0 = \text{NULL}$



p
NULL

, x=236

$p = p_0, x = x_0$

Concolic Testing

```
typedef struct cell {
  int v;
  struct cell *next;
} cell;
```

```
int f(int v) {
  return 2*v + 1;
}
```

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        if (p->next == p)
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```

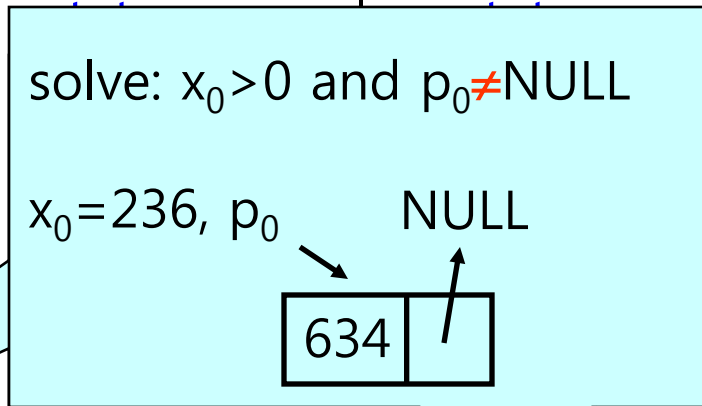
Concrete Execution

Symbolic Execution

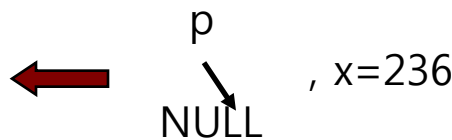
concrete

symbolic

constraints



$x_0 > 0$
 $p_0 = \text{NULL}$



$p = p_0, x = x_0$

Concolic Testing

```
typedef struct cell {  
    int v;  
    struct cell *next;  
} cell;
```

```
int f(int v) {  
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                if (p->next == p)  
                    Error();  
    return 0;  
}
```

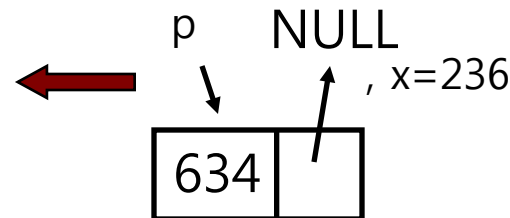
Concrete
Execution

Symbolic
Execution

concrete
state

symbolic
state

constraints



$p=p_0, x=x_0,$
 $p \rightarrow v = v_0,$
 $p \rightarrow next = n_0$

Concolic Testing

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typedef struct cell {  
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} cell;
```

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int f(int v) {  
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}
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                if (p->next == p)  
                    Error();  
    return 0;  
}
```

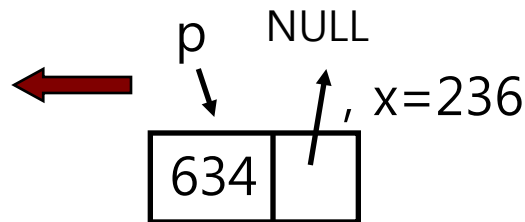
Concrete
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Symbolic
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concrete
state

symbolic
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$p = p_0, x = x_0,$
 $p \rightarrow v = v_0,$
 $p \rightarrow next = n_0$

$x_0 > 0$

Concolic Testing

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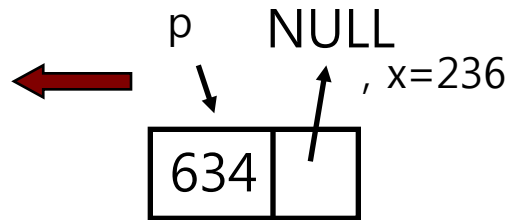
Concrete Execution

Symbolic Execution

concrete state

symbolic state

constraints



$p = p_0, x = x_0,$
 $p \rightarrow v = v_0,$
 $p \rightarrow next = n_0$

$x_0 > 0$
 $p_0 \neq NULL$

Concolic Testing

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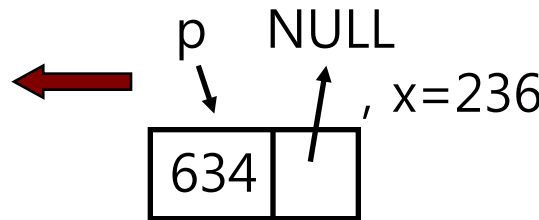
Concrete Execution

Symbolic Execution

concrete state

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constraints



$p = p_0, x = x_0,$
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$x_0 > 0$
 $p_0 \neq NULL$
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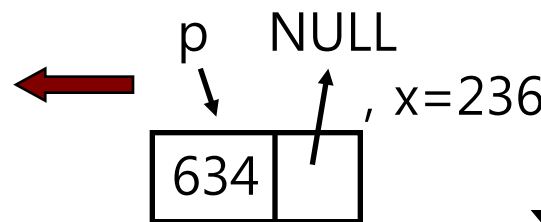
Concrete
Execution

Symbolic
Execution

concrete
state

symbolic
state

constraints



$p=p_0, x=x_0,$
 $p->v =v_0,$
 $p->next=n_0$

$x_0 > 0$
 $p_0 \neq \text{NULL}$
 $2x_0 + 1 \neq v_0$

Concolic Testing

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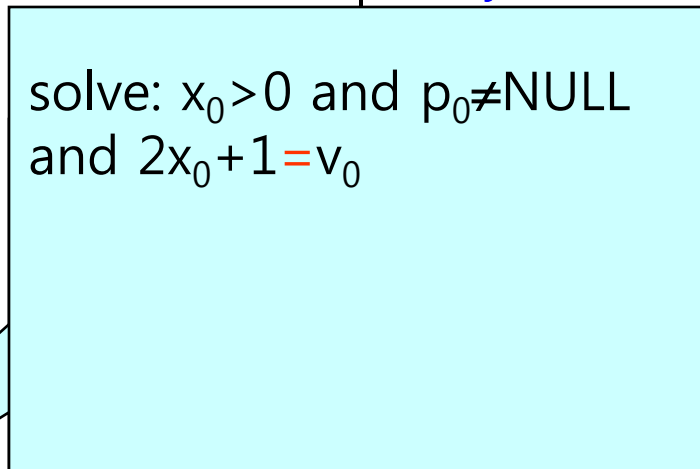
Concrete Execution

Symbolic Execution

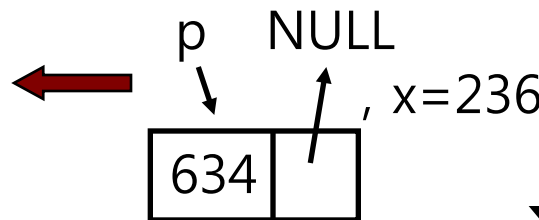
concrete

symbolic

constraints



$x_0 > 0$
 $p_0 \neq \text{NULL}$
 $2x_0 + 1 \neq v_0$



$p = p_0, x = x_0,$
 $p \rightarrow v = v_0,$
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Concolic Testing

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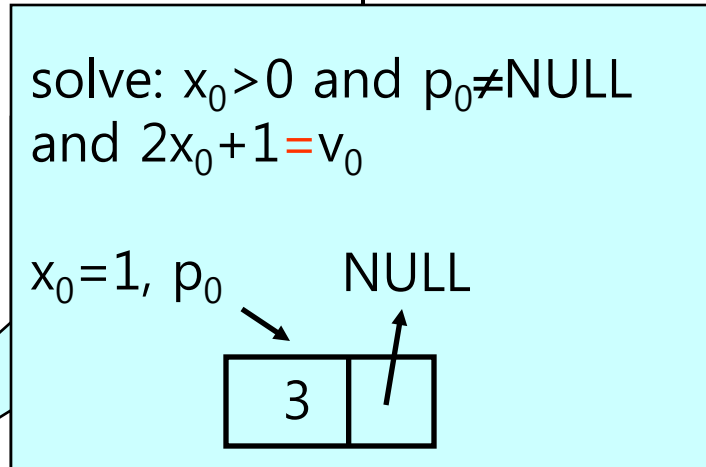
Concrete Execution

Symbolic Execution

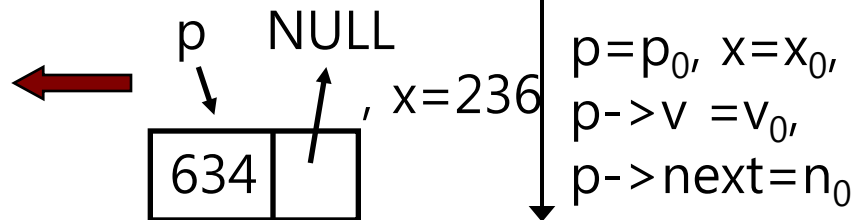
concrete

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$x_0 > 0$
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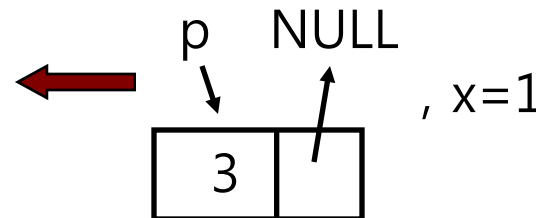
Concrete
Execution

Symbolic
Execution

concrete
state

symbolic
state

constraints



$p=p_0, x=x_0,$
 $p \rightarrow v = v_0,$
 $p \rightarrow next = n_0$

Concolic Testing

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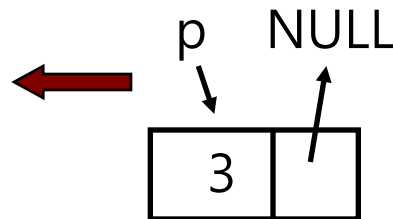
Concrete
Execution

Symbolic
Execution

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symbolic
state

constraints



, x=1

$p = p_0$, $x = x_0$,
 $p \rightarrow v = v_0$,
 $p \rightarrow next = n_0$

$x_0 > 0$

Concolic Testing

```
typedef struct cell {
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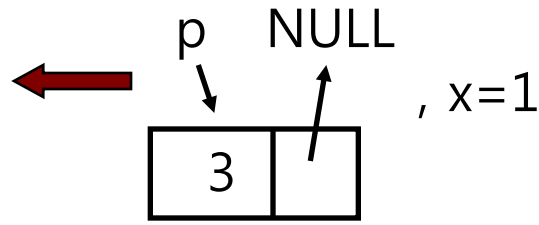
Concrete Execution

Symbolic Execution

concrete state

symbolic state

constraints



$p = p_0, x = x_0,$
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$x_0 > 0$
 $p_0 \neq NULL$

Concolic Testing

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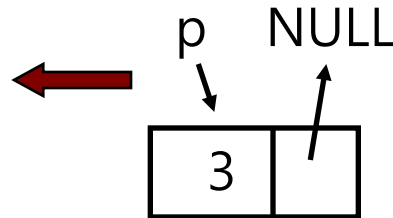
Concrete
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Symbolic
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symbolic
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, x=1

$p = p_0$, $x = x_0$,
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$x_0 > 0$
 $p_0 \neq NULL$
 $2x_0 + 1 = v_0$

Concolic Testing

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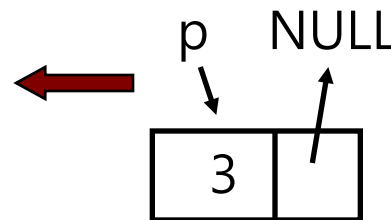
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, x=1

$p = p_0, x = x_0,$
 $p \rightarrow v = v_0,$
 $p \rightarrow next = n_0$

$x_0 > 0$
 $p_0 \neq \text{NULL}$
 $2x_0 + 1 = v_0$
 $n_0 \neq p_0$

Concolic Testing

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  int v;
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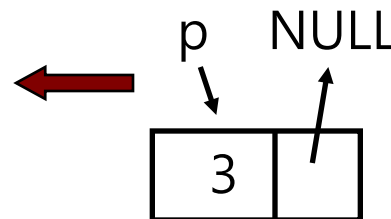
Concrete Execution

Symbolic Execution

concrete state

symbolic state

constraints



, x=1

$p = p_0, x = x_0,$
 $p \rightarrow v = v_0,$
 $p \rightarrow next = n_0$

$x_0 > 0$
 $p_0 \neq NULL$
 $2x_0 + 1 = v_0$
 $n_0 \neq p_0$

Concolic Testing

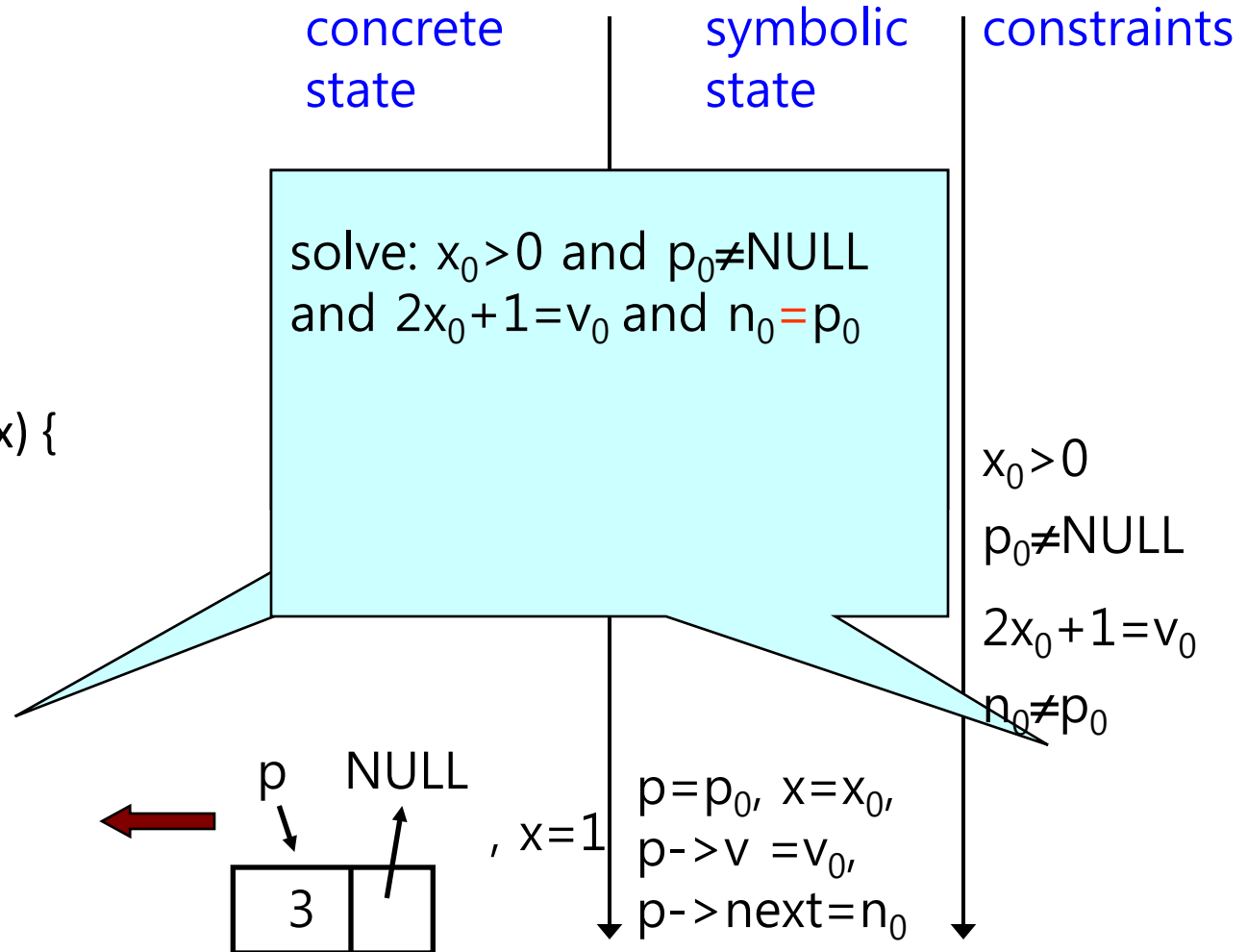
```
typedef struct cell {
  int v;
  struct cell *next;
} cell;
```

```
int f(int v) {
  return 2*v + 1;
}
```

```
int testme(cell *p, int x) {
  if (x > 0)
    if (p != NULL)
      if (f(x) == p->v)
        if (p->next == p)
          Error();
  return 0;
}
```

Concrete Execution

Symbolic Execution



Concolic Testing

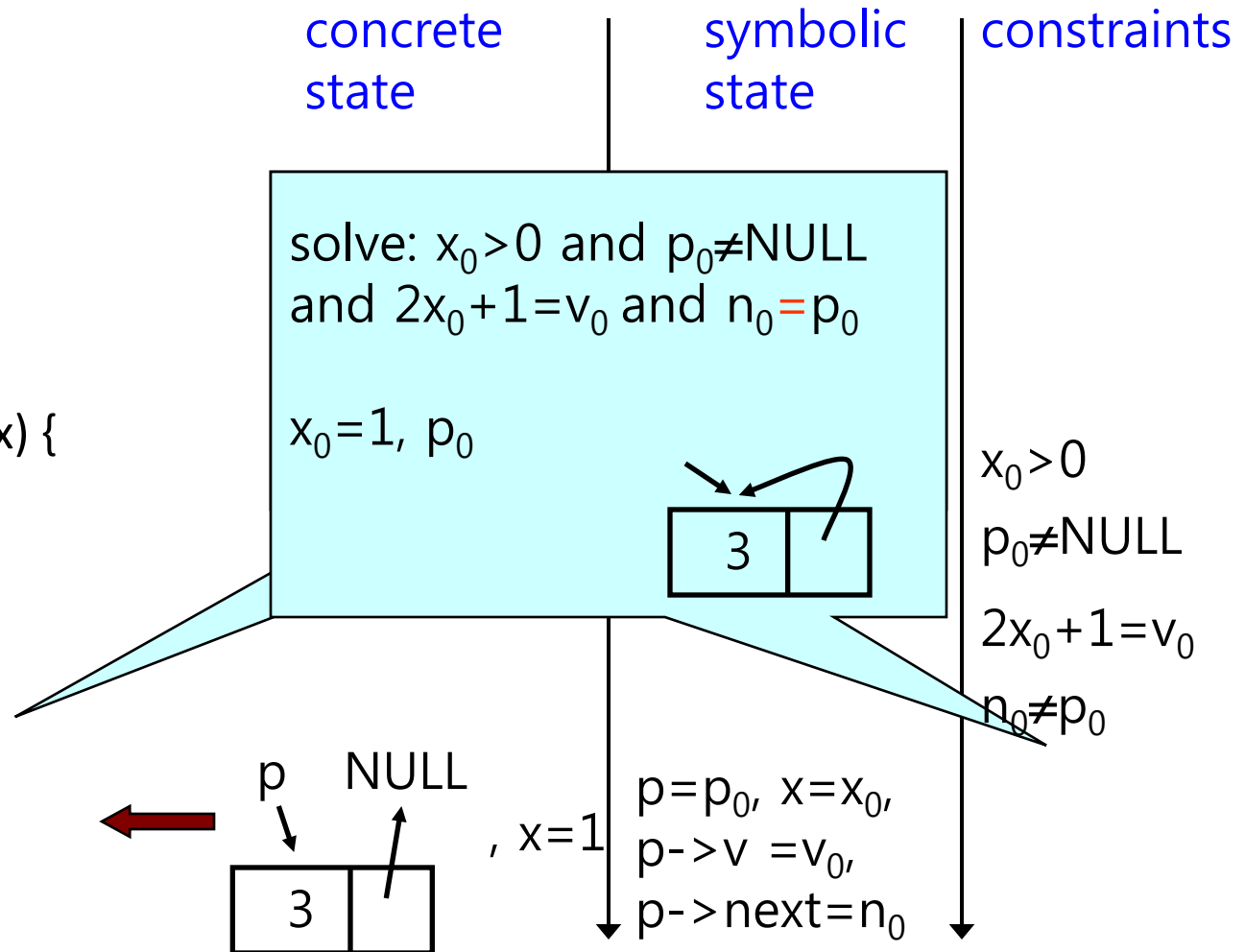
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  int v;
  struct cell *next;
} cell;
```

```
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Concrete Execution

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Concolic Testing

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}
```

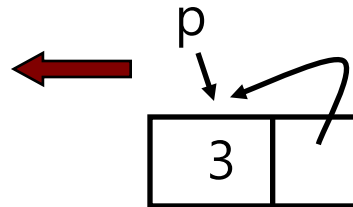
Concrete
Execution

Symbolic
Execution

concrete
state

symbolic
state

constraints



, x=1

$p = p_0, x = x_0,$
 $p \rightarrow v = v_0,$
 $p \rightarrow next = n_0$

Concolic Testing

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    int v;  
    struct cell *next;  
} cell;
```

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    return 2*v + 1;  
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    if (x > 0)  
        if (p != NULL)  
            if (f(x) == p->v)  
                if (p->next == p)  
                    Error();  
    return 0;  
}
```

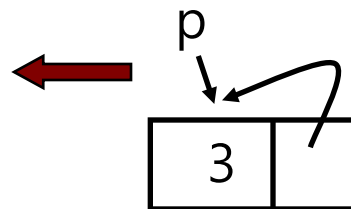
Concrete
Execution

Symbolic
Execution

concrete
state

symbolic
state

constraints



, x=1

$p = p_0, x = x_0,$
 $p \rightarrow v = v_0,$
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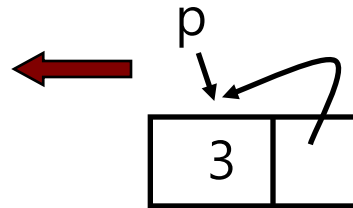
$x_0 > 0$

Concolic Testing

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typedef struct cell {
  int v;
  struct cell *next;
} cell;
```

```
int f(int v) {
  return 2*v + 1;
}
```

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  if (x > 0)
    if (p != NULL)
      if (f(x) == p->v)
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          Error();
  return 0;
}
```



Concrete Execution

Symbolic Execution

concrete state

symbolic state

constraints

, x=1

$p = p_0, x = x_0,$
 $p \rightarrow v = v_0,$
 $p \rightarrow next = n_0$

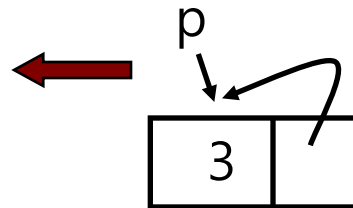
$x_0 > 0$
 $p_0 \neq NULL$

Concolic Testing

```
typedef struct cell {
  int v;
  struct cell *next;
} cell;
```

```
int f(int v) {
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  if (x > 0)
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      if (f(x) == p->v)
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          Error();
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}
```



Concrete Execution

Symbolic Execution

concrete state

symbolic state

constraints

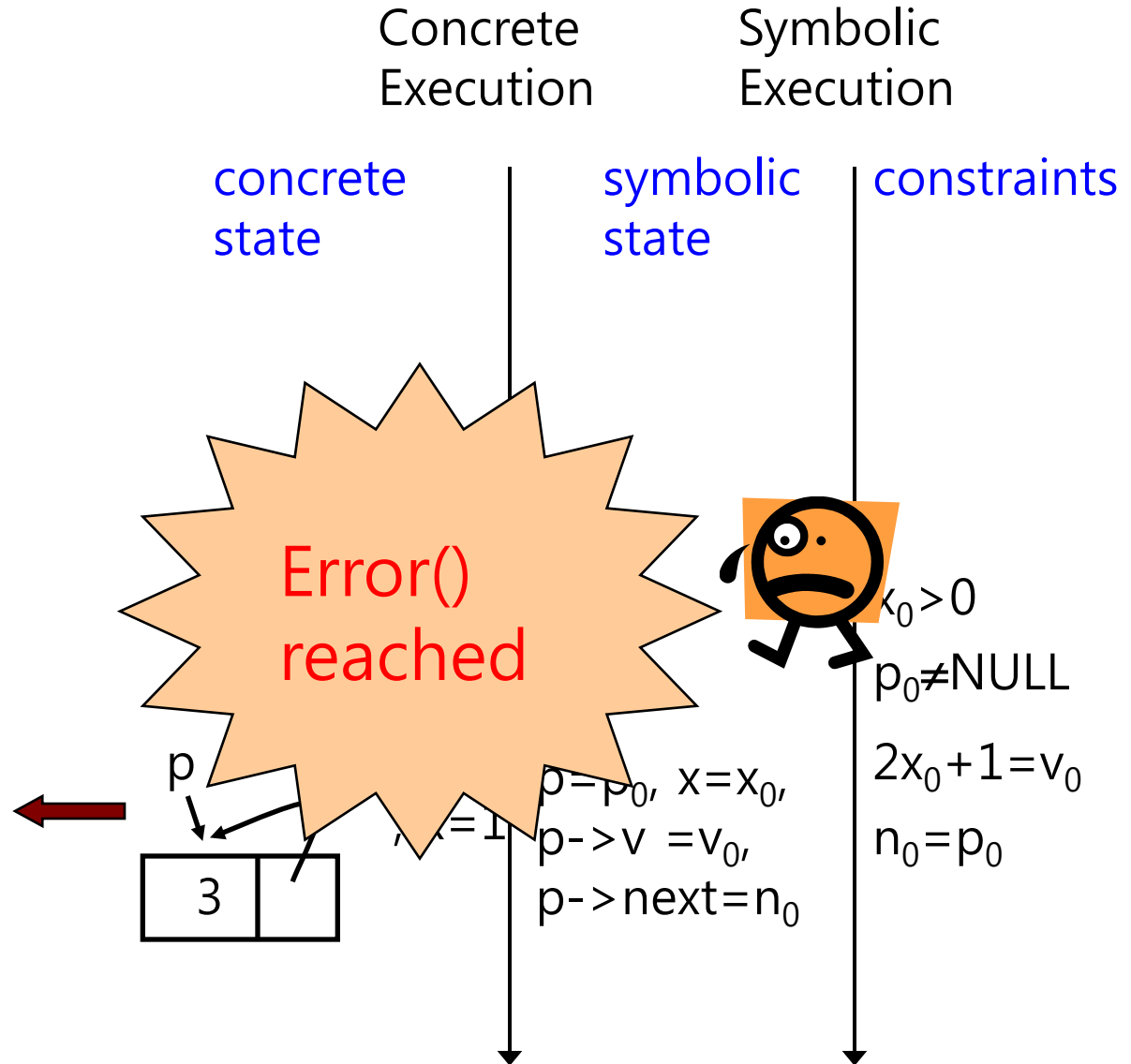
, x=1

$p = p_0, x = x_0,$
 $p \rightarrow v = v_0,$
 $p \rightarrow next = n_0$

$x_0 > 0$
 $p_0 \neq NULL$
 $2x_0 + 1 = v_0$

Concolic Testing

```
typedef struct cell {  
    int v;  
    struct cell *next;  
} cell;  
  
int f(int v) {  
    return 2*v + 1;  
}  
  
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    if (x > 0)  
        if (p != NULL)  
            if (f(x) == p->v)  
                if (p->next == p)  
                    Error();  
    return 0;  
}
```



Summary: Concolic Testing

- Pros
 - Automated test case generation
 - High coverage
 - High applicability (no restriction on target programs)
- Cons
 - If a target program has a complex statement, coverage might not be complete
 - Ex. `if(sin(x) + cos(x) == 0.3) { error(); }`
 - Current limitation on pointer and array
 - Slow analysis speed due to a large # of TCs

Case Study: Busybox

- We test a busybox by using CREST.
 - BusyBox is a one-in-all command-line utilities providing a fairly complete programming/debugging environment
 - It combines tiny versions of ~300 UNIX utilities into a single small executable program suite.
 - Among those 300 utilities, we focused to test the following 10 utilities
 - `grep, vi, cut, expr, od, printf, tr, cp, ls, mv.`
 - We selected these 10 utilities, because their behavior is easy to understand so that it is clear what variables should be declared as symbolic
 - Each utility generated 40,000 test cases for 4 different search strategies

Busybox Testing Result

| Utility | LOC | # of branches | DFS #of covered branch/time | CFG #of covered branch/time | Random #of covered branch/time | Random input #of covered branch/time | Merge of all 4 strategies #of covered branch/time |
|------------|------------|---------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| grep | 914 | 178 | 105(59.0%)/2785s | 85(47.8%)/56s | 136(76.4%)/85s | 50(28.1%)/45s | 136(76.4%) |
| vi | 4000 | 1498 | 855(57.1%)/1495s | 965(64.4%)/1036s | 1142(76.2%)/723s | 1019(68.0%)/463s | 1238(82.6%) |
| cut | 209 | 112 | 67(59.8%)/42s | 60(53.6%)/45s | 84(75.0%)/53s | 48(42.9%)/45s | 90(80.4%) |
| expr | 501 | 154 | 104(67.5%)/58s | 101(65.6%)/44s | 105(68.1%)/50s | 48(31.2%)/31s | 108(70.1%) |
| od | 222 | 74 | 59(79.7%)/35s | 72(97.3%)/41s | 66(89.2%)/42s | 44(59.5%)/30s | 72(97.3%) |
| printf | 406 | 144 | 93(64.6%)/84s | 109(75.7%)/41s | 102(70.8%)/40s | 77(53.5%)/30s | 115(79.9%) |
| tr | 328 | 140 | 67(47.9%)/58s | 72(51.4%)/50s | 72(51.4%)/50s | 63(45%)/42s | 73(52.1%) |
| cp | 191 | 32 | 20(62.5%)/38s | 20(62.5%)/38s | 20(62.5%)/38s | 17(53.1%)/30s | 20(62.5%) |
| ls | 1123 | 270 | 179(71.6%)/87s | 162(64.8%)/111s | 191(76.4%)/86s | 131(52.4%)/105s | 191(76.4%) |
| mv | 135 | 56 | 24(42.9%)/0s | 24(42.9%)/0s | 24(42.9%)/0s | 17(30.3%)/0s | 24(47.9%) |
| AVG | 803 | 264 | 157.3(59.6%)/809s | 167(63.3%)/146s | 194.2(73.5%)/117s | 151.4(57.4%)/83s | 206.7(78.4%)/1155s |

Result of grep

Experiment 1:

Iterations: 10, 000

branches in grep.c : 178

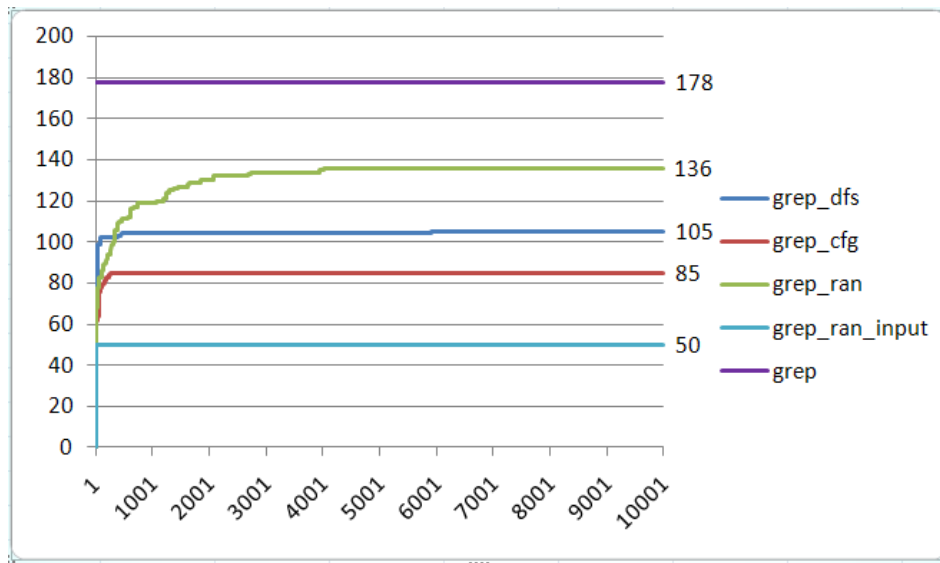
Execution Command:

```
run_crest './busybox grep "define" test_grep.dat' 10000 -dfs
```

```
run_crest './busybox grep "define" test_grep.dat' 10000 -cfg
```

```
run_crest './busybox grep "define" test_grep.dat' 10000 -random
```

```
run_crest './busybox grep "define" test_grep.dat' 10000 -random_input
```



| Strategy | Time cost (s) |
|-------------|---------------|
| Dfs | 2758 |
| Cfg | 56 |
| Random | 85 |
| Pure_random | 45 |

Test Oracles

- In the busybox testing, we do not use any explicit test oracles
 - Test oracle is an orthogonal issue to test case generation
 - However, still violation of runtime conformance (i.e., no segmentation fault, no divide-by-zero, etc) can be checked
- Segmentation fault due to integer overflow detected at grep 2.0
 - This bug was detected by test cases generated using DFS
 - The bug causes segmentation fault when
 - -B 1073741824 (i.e. $2^{32}/4$)
 - PATTERN should match line(s) after the 1st line
 - Text file should contain at least two lines
 - Bug scenario
 - Grep tries to dynamically allocate memory for buffering matched lines (-B option).
 - But due to integer overflow (# of line to buffer * sizeof(pointer)), memory is allocated in much less amount
 - Finally grep finally accesses illegal memory area

Bug 2653 - busybox grep with option -B can cause segmentation fault

Status: RESOLVED FIXED

Reported: 2010-10-02 06:35 UTC by Yunho Kim

Product: Busybox

Modified: 2010-10-03 21:50 UTC
([History](#))

Component: Other

Version: 1.17.x

CC List: 1 user ([show](#))

Platform: PC Linux

Importance: P5 major

Host:

Target Milestone: ---

Target:

Assigned To: unassigned

Build:

URL:

Keywords:

Depends on:

Blocks:

Show dependency
[tree](#) / [graph](#)

Attachments

[Add an attachment](#) (proposed patch, testcase, etc.)

Note

You need to [log in](#) before you can comment on or make changes to this bug.

Yunho Kim 2010-10-02 06:35:09 UTC

I report an integer overflow bug in a busybox grep applet, which causes an memory corruption.

```
**** findutils/grep.c ****
634     if (option_mask32 & OPT_C) {
635         /* -C unsets prev -A and -B, but following -A or -B
636            may override it */
637         if (!(option_mask32 & OPT_A)) /* not overridden */
638             lines_after = Copt;
639         if (!(option_mask32 & OPT_B)) /* not overridden */
640             lines_before = Copt;
```

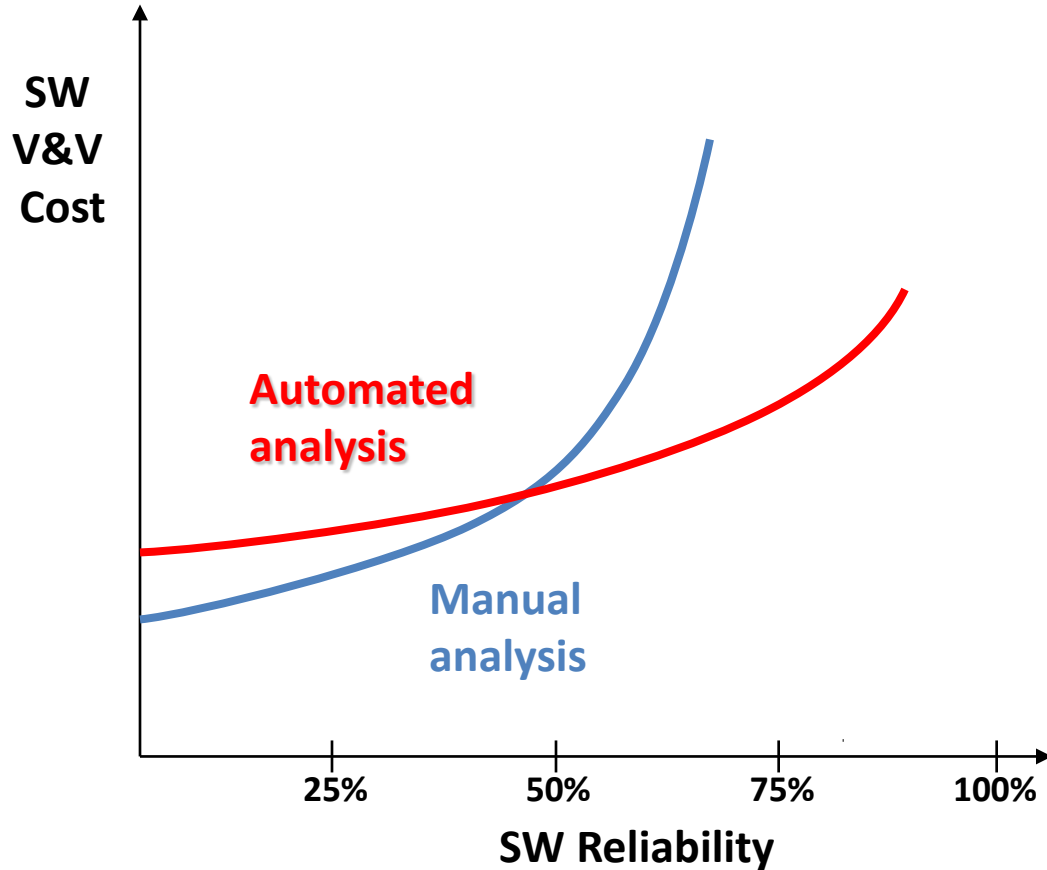
- Bug patch was immediately made in 1 day, since this bug is critical one
 - Importance: P5 major
 - major loss of function
 - Busybox 1.18.x will have fix for this bug

Future Direction

- Tool support will be strengthened for automated SW analysis
 - Ex. CBMC, BLAST, CREST, KLEE, and Microsoft PEX
 - Automated SW analysis will be performed routinely like GCC
 - Labor-intensive SW analysis => automated SW analysis by few experts
- Supports for concurrency analysis
 - Deadlock/livelock detection
 - Data-race detection
- Less user input, more analysis result and less false alarm
 - Fully automatic C++ syntax & type check (1980s)
 - (semi) automatic null-pointer dereference check (2000s)
 - (semi) automatic user-given assertion check (2020s)
 - (semi) automatic debugging (2030s)

Conclusion:

Manual Analysis v.s. Automated Analysis



- Traditional manual analysis is easy to apply for programs w/ low quality
- However, automated analysis can achieve high quality cost effectively
- Automated software analysis techniques are (almost) ready to be applied in industry