

The set of possible states *state* of the program is

$$\mathcal{S} = \text{Vars} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$$

The evaluation of an arithmetic expression e under state $\rho \in \mathcal{S}$ is denoted

$$\llbracket e \rrbracket \rho : \mathbb{Z}$$

An edge $k = (u, l, v)$ induces a *partial transformation* on program states. The transformation depends only on the label l .

$$\llbracket k \rrbracket \rho = \llbracket l \rrbracket \rho$$

$$\text{where } \llbracket l \rrbracket : \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$$

$$\llbracket ; \rrbracket \rho = \rho;$$

$$\llbracket x = e; \rrbracket \rho = \rho \oplus \{x \mapsto \llbracket e \rrbracket \rho\} \quad // \text{i.e. } \rho \text{ modified at point } x$$

$$\llbracket e_1 \geq e_2 \rrbracket \rho = \rho \quad \text{if } \llbracket e_1 \rrbracket \rho \geq \llbracket e_2 \rrbracket \rho$$

A path π is a sequence of consecutive edges in the CFG.



$\pi = k_1, \dots, k_n$ where each k_i is of the form (u_{i-1}, l_i, u_i) .

We write $\pi : u_0 \rightarrow^* u_n$

The transformation induced by a path is the composition of the transformations induced by the edges.

$$\llbracket \pi \rrbracket = \llbracket k_n \rrbracket \circ \dots \circ \llbracket k_1 \rrbracket$$

Each node can be reached through possibly **infinitely many paths**, leading to infinitely many different states at each program point.

We are interested in the set of all such states at each program point.

Suppose we know that a set V of states is possible at a node u .

By following an edge $k = (u, l, v)$, a new set of states becomes possible at node v . This set is denoted $\llbracket k \rrbracket^\# V = \llbracket l \rrbracket^\# V : 2^{\mathcal{S}} \rightarrow 2^{\mathcal{S}}$.

We define **abstract transformation**

$$\llbracket l \rrbracket^\# V = \{ \llbracket l \rrbracket \rho \mid \rho \in V \text{ and } \llbracket l \rrbracket \text{ is defined for } \rho \}.$$

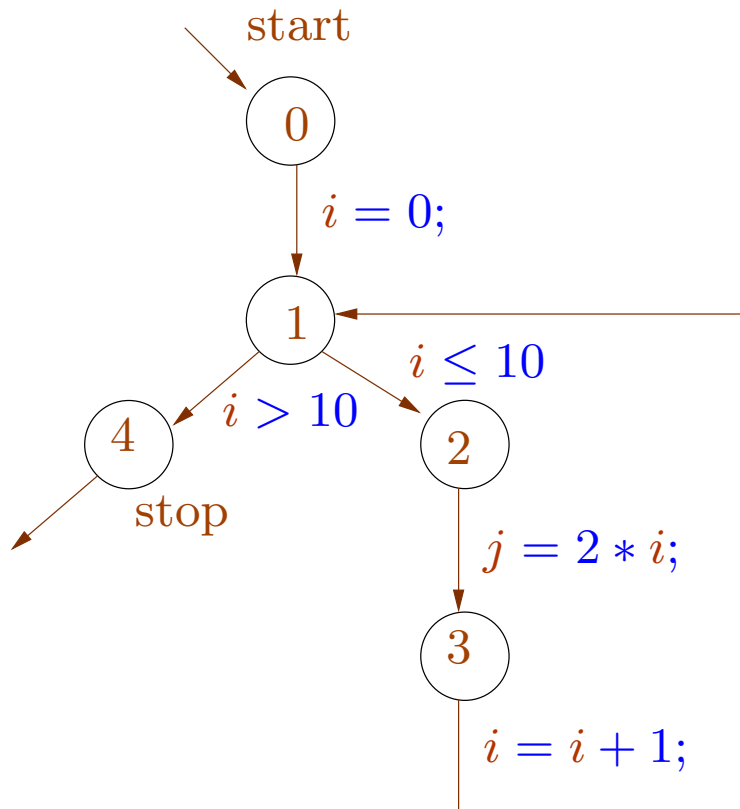
As before, $\llbracket k_1, \dots, k_n \rrbracket^\# V = (\llbracket k_n \rrbracket^\# \circ \dots \circ \llbracket k_1 \rrbracket^\#)V$.

At the *start* node, all states are possible.

For each node v we want to compute the set

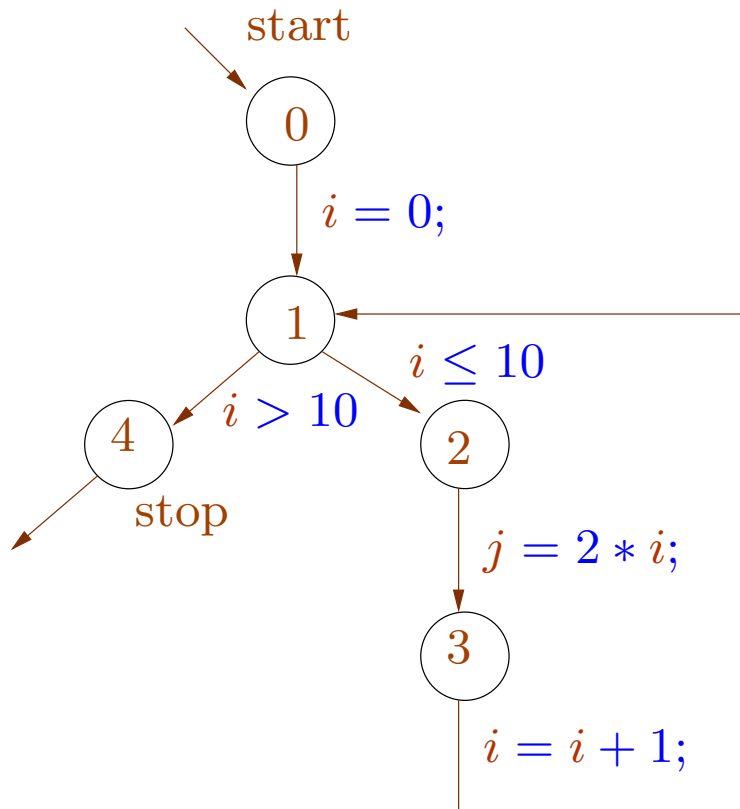
$$\mathcal{V}^*[v] = \bigcup \{ \llbracket \pi \rrbracket^\# \mathcal{S} \mid \pi : \textit{start} \rightarrow^* v \}$$

Example



u	$\mathcal{V}^*[u]$
0	$-\infty < i, j < \infty$
1	$i = 0 \wedge -\infty < j < \infty$ $\forall 1 \leq i \leq 11 \wedge j = 2i - 2$
2	$i = 0 \wedge -\infty < j < \infty$ $\forall 1 \leq i \leq 10 \wedge j = 2i - 2$
3	$i = 0 \wedge -\infty < j < \infty$ $\forall 1 \leq i \leq 10 \wedge j = 2i$
4	$i = 11 \wedge j = 20$

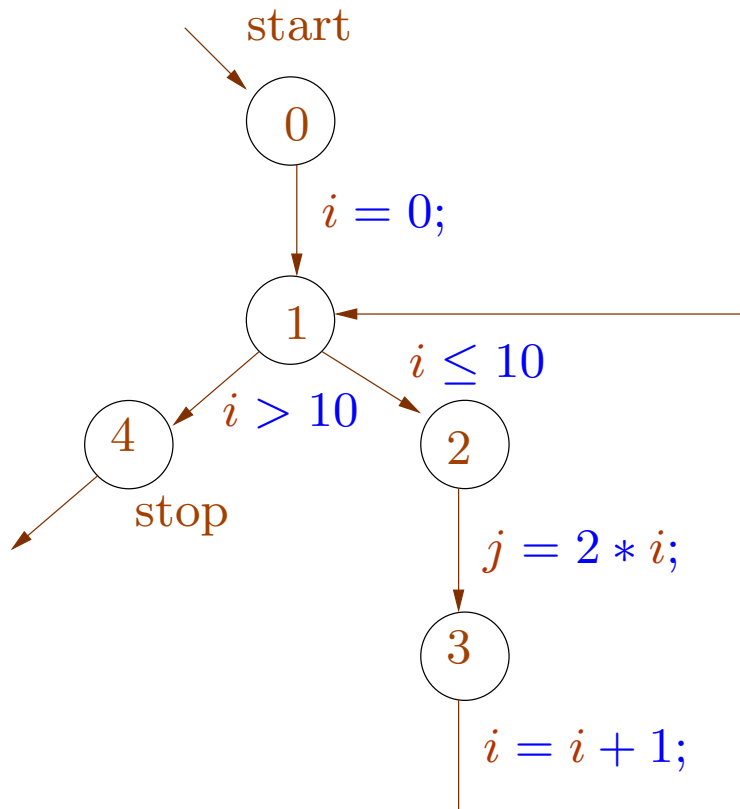
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How to compute the sets $\mathcal{V}^*[v]$ in general?

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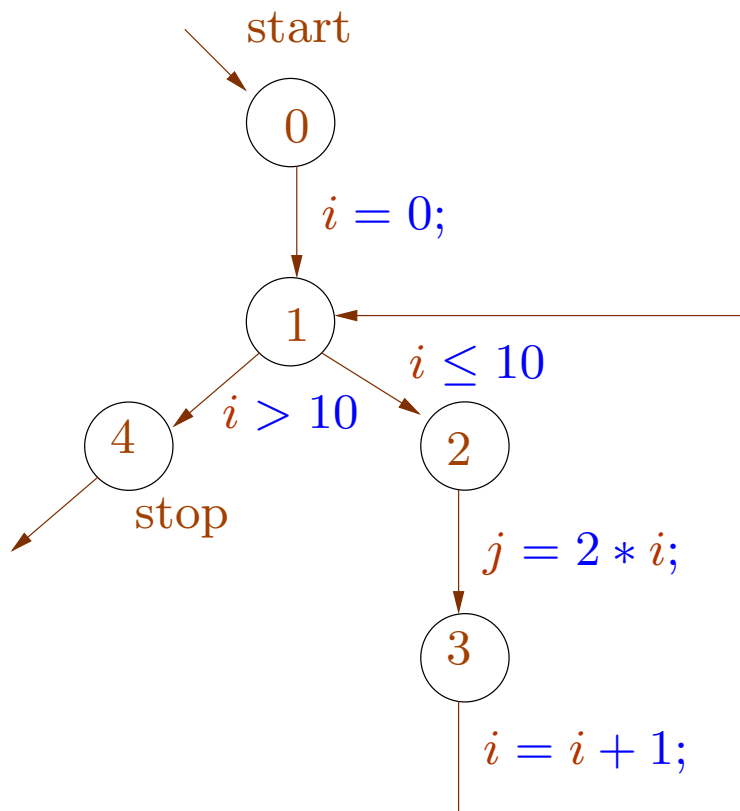


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How to compute the sets $\mathcal{V}^*[v]$ in general?

In general they are not computable!

We set up a **constraint system**.



$$\mathcal{V}[0] \supseteq \mathcal{S}$$

$$\mathcal{V}[1] \supseteq \llbracket i = 0; \rrbracket \mathcal{V}[0]$$

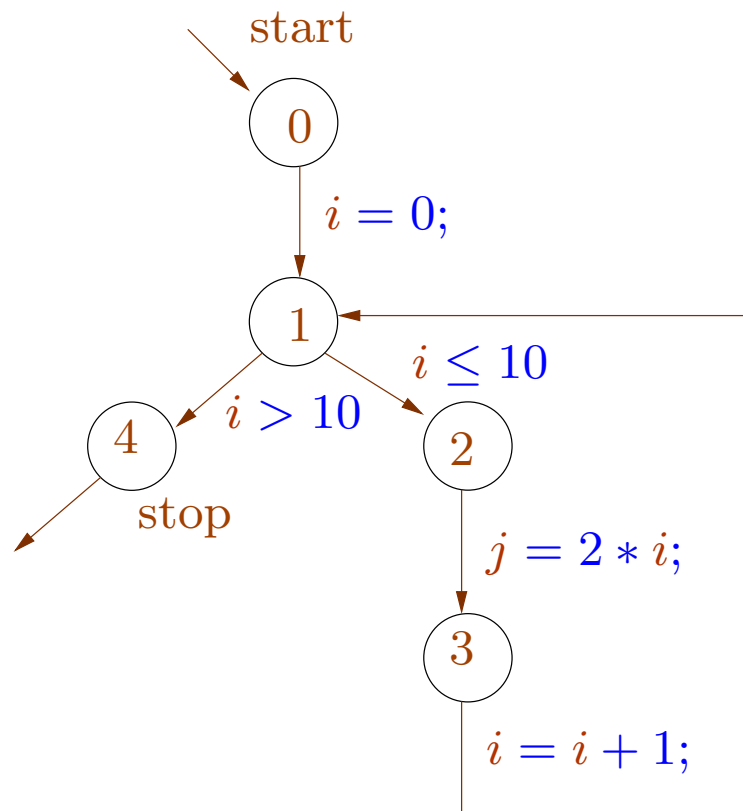
$$\mathcal{V}[1] \supseteq \llbracket i = i + 1; \rrbracket \mathcal{V}[3]$$

$$\mathcal{V}[2] \supseteq \llbracket i \leq 10 \rrbracket \mathcal{V}[1]$$

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The **least solution** (wrt \subseteq) of the constraints is exactly \mathcal{V}^* .

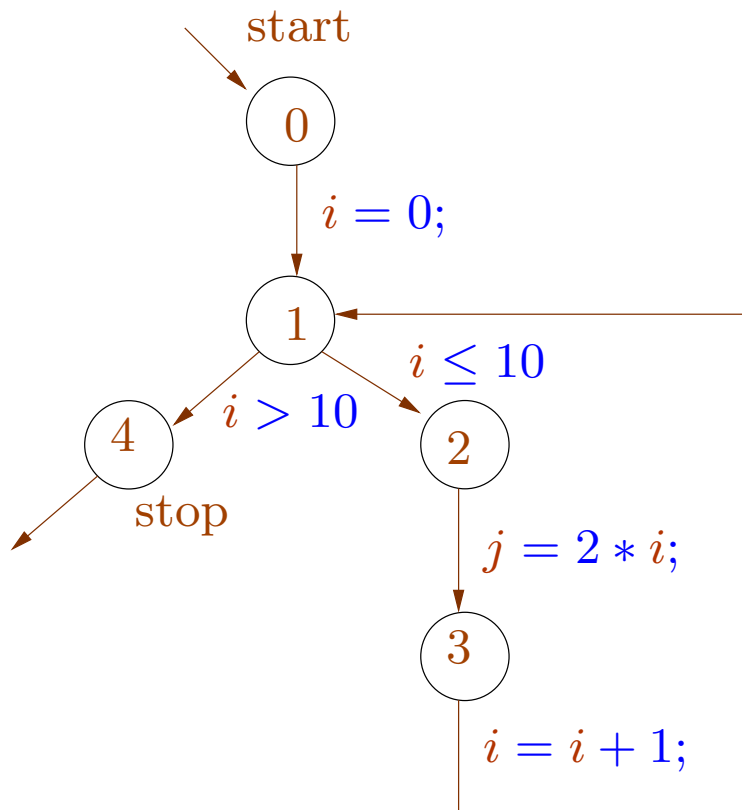
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Is this always true?

Does such a constraint system always have a least solution?

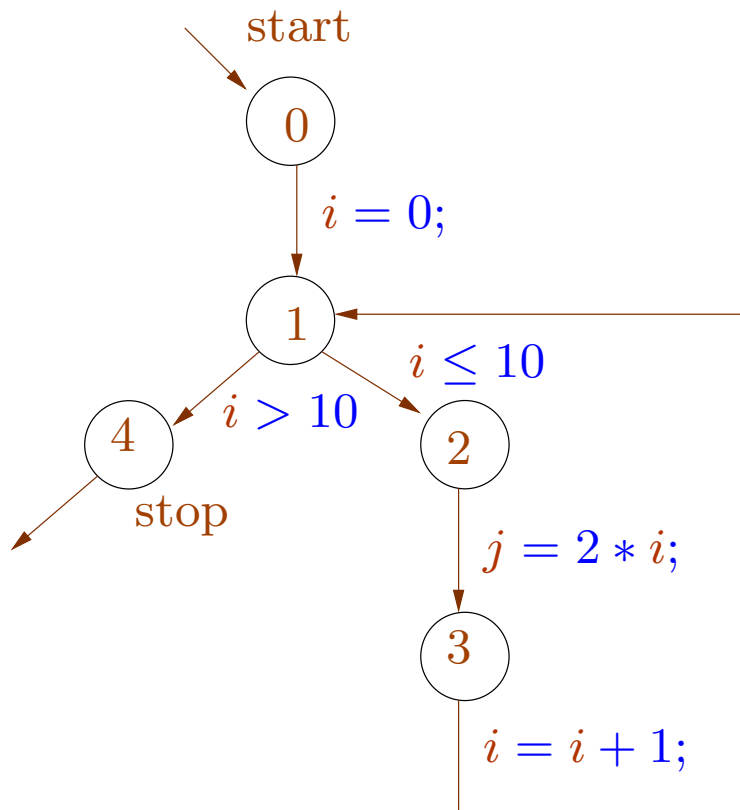
Is it computable? Efficiently?

An idea: do iterative computation of reachable states.



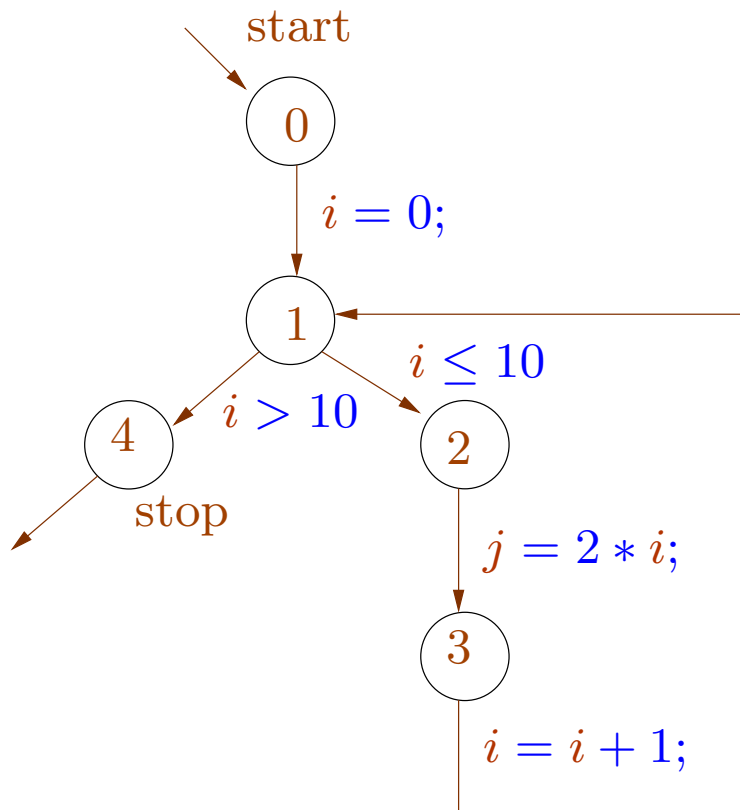
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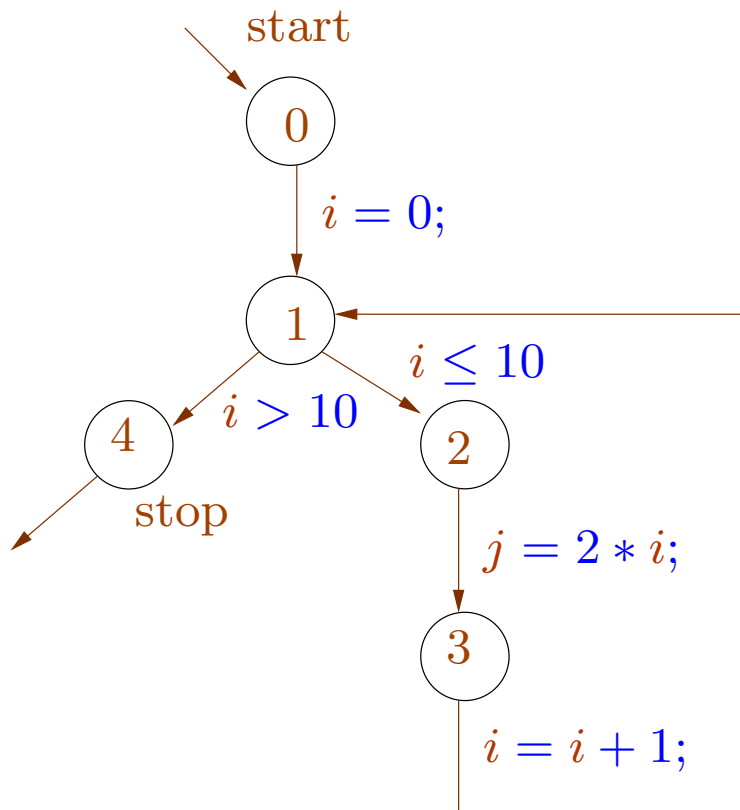
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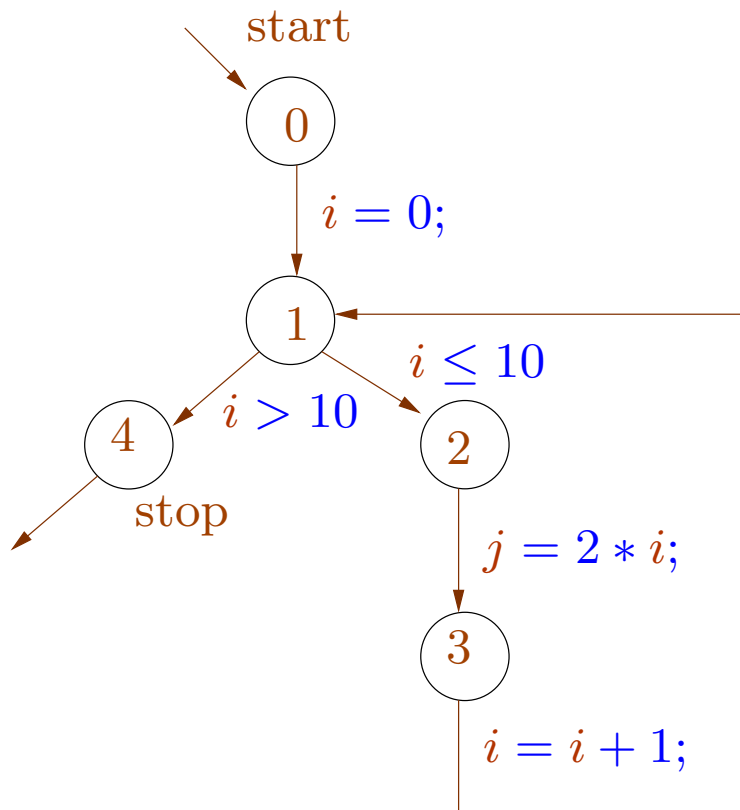
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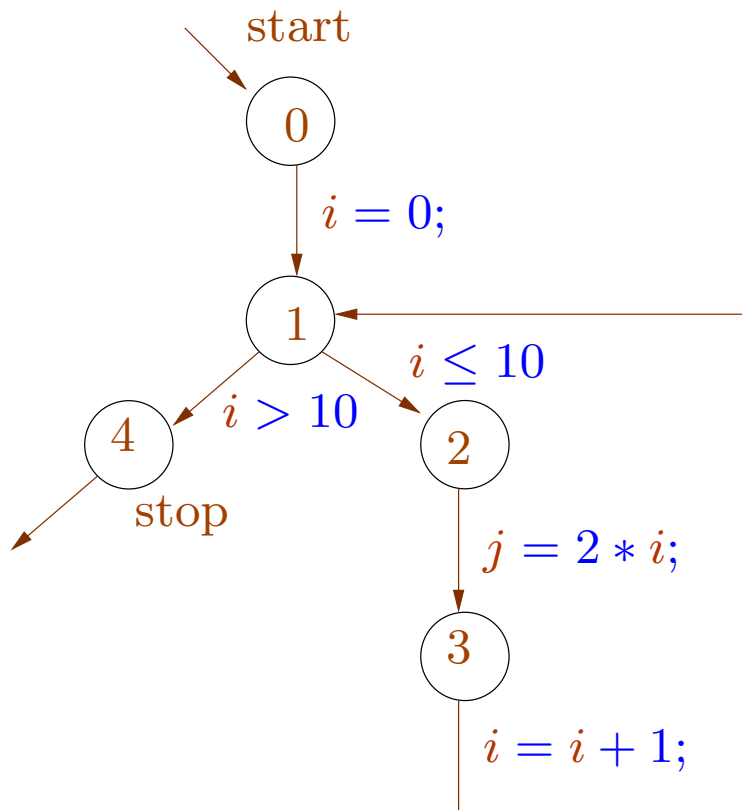
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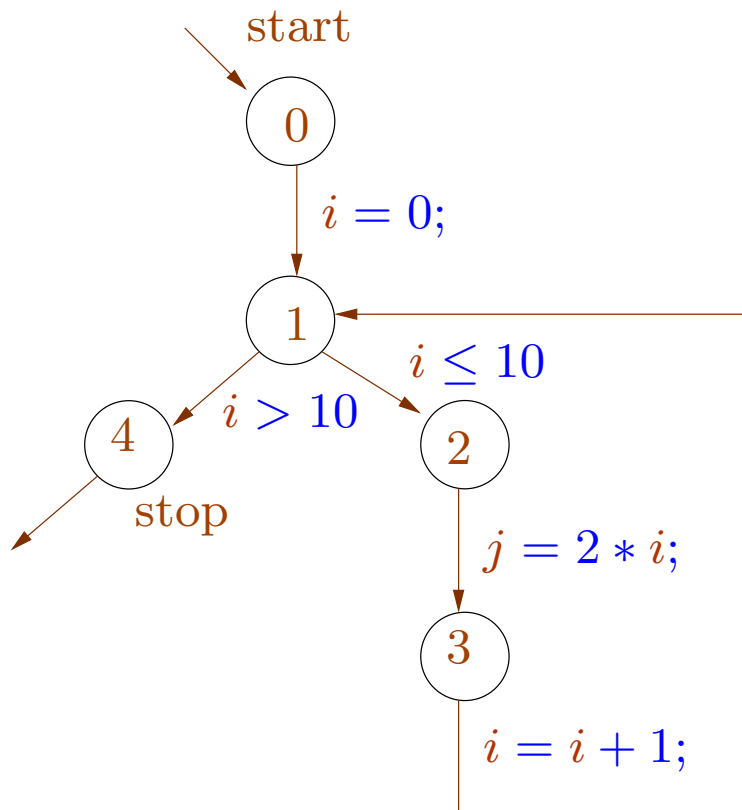
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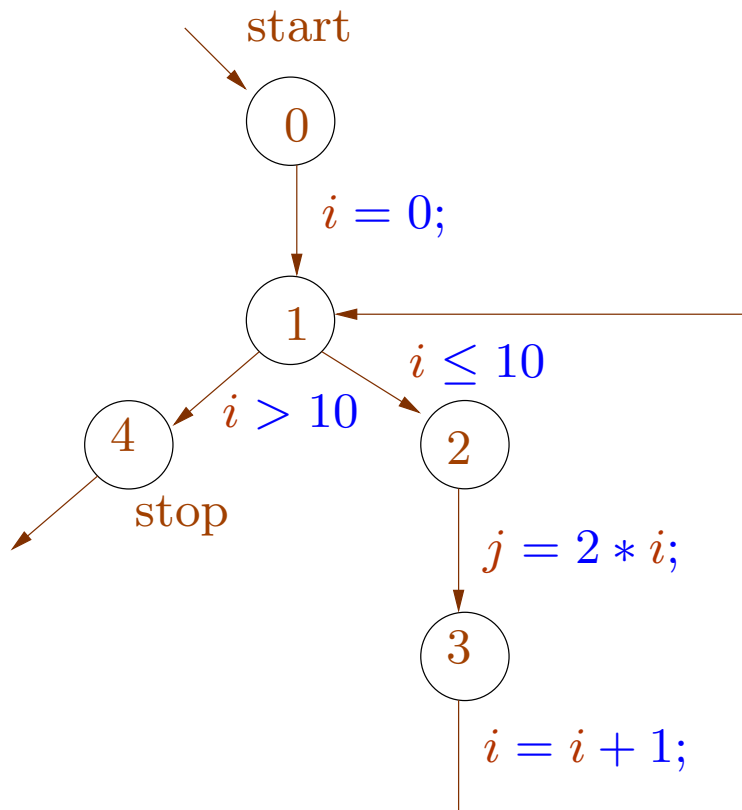
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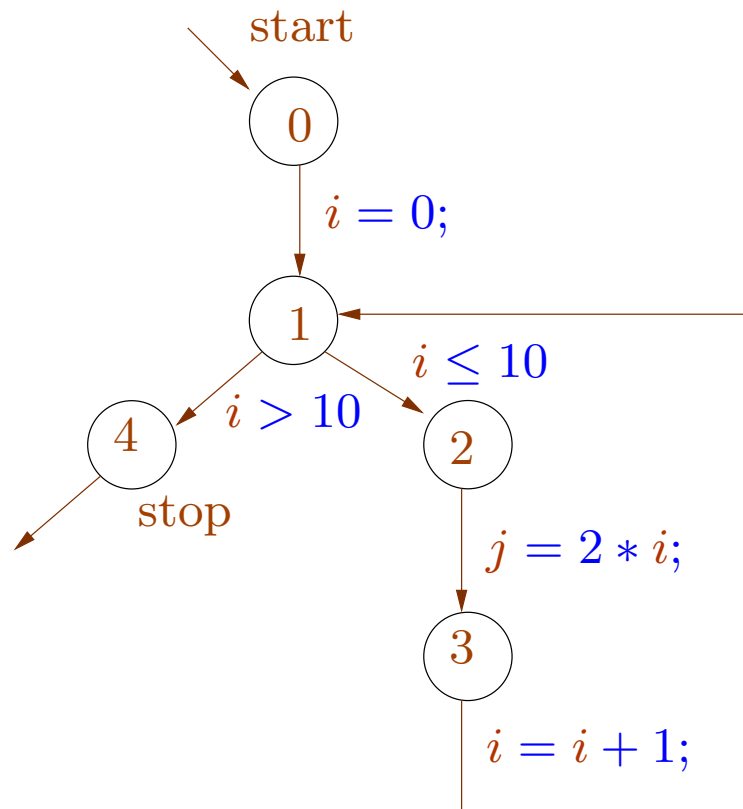
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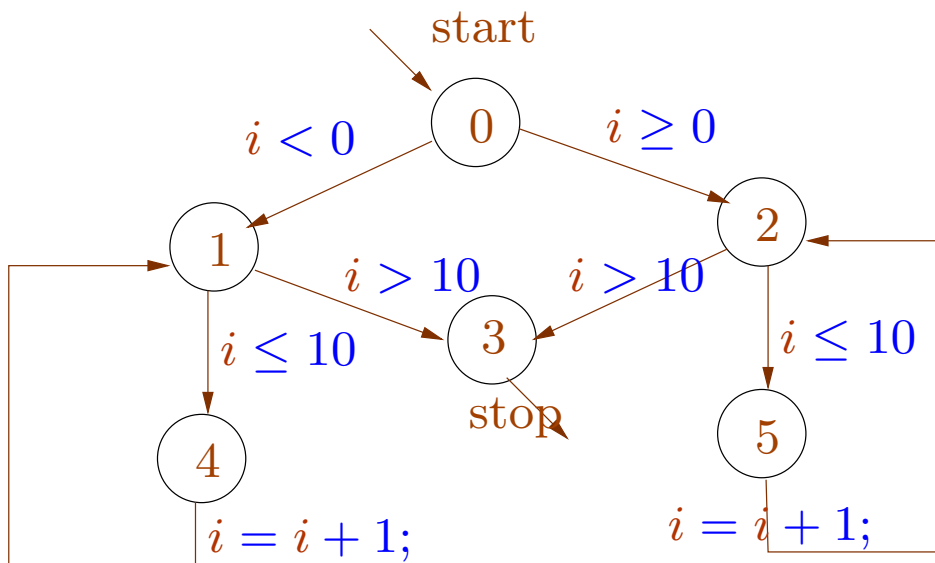
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Problem: too many iterations, infinite loops.

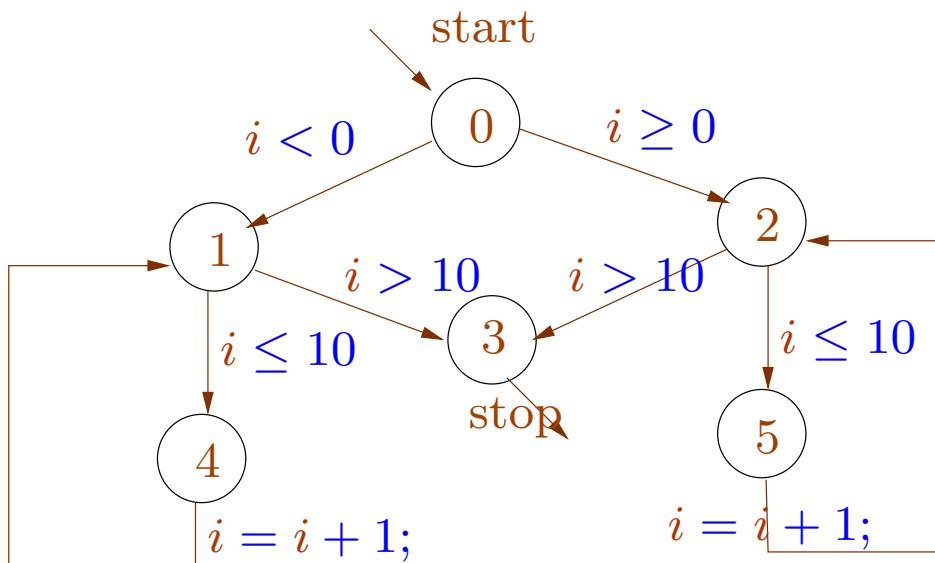
Solution: approximate computation of possible states.



0	\emptyset	\mathbb{Z}	\mathbb{Z}
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Interpretation of our result:

the values of i at node 1 is included in \mathbb{Z}

the values of i at node 2 is included in \mathbb{Z}^+

This information we obtain is accurate.

In general we have some domain \mathbb{D} .

Examples: $2^{\mathcal{S}}$, $2^{\mathbb{Z}}$, $\{\emptyset, \mathbb{Z}^-, \mathbb{Z}^+, \mathbb{Z}\}$, the set of intervals over \mathbb{Z} .

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We require an **ordering** \sqsubseteq on the elements of this domain.

$$\emptyset \sqsubseteq \mathbb{Z}^- \quad \emptyset \sqsubseteq \mathbb{Z}^+ \quad \mathbb{Z}^- \sqsubseteq \mathbb{Z} \quad \mathbb{Z}^+ \sqsubseteq \mathbb{Z}$$

Read $x \sqsubseteq y$ as "y is **imprecise** information compared to x".

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We further require operations like **least upper bounds**.

$$\mathbb{Z}^- \sqcup \mathbb{Z}^+ = \mathbb{Z}$$

A brief discussion of complete lattices

Recall: a set \mathbb{D} with relation \sqsubseteq is a **partial order** if the following conditions hold for all $x, y, z \in \mathbb{D}$.

- **Reflexivity:** $x \sqsubseteq x$.
- **Antisymmetry:** $x \sqsubseteq y$ and $y \sqsubseteq x$ then $x = y$.
- **Transitivity:** if $x \sqsubseteq y$ and $y \sqsubseteq z$ then $x \sqsubseteq z$.

An element $d \in \mathbb{D}$ is called an **upper bound** of a set $X \subseteq \mathbb{D}$ if $x \sqsubseteq d$ for all $x \in X$.

$d \in \mathbb{D}$ is called **least upper bound** of $X \subseteq \mathbb{D}$ if

- d is an upper bound of X
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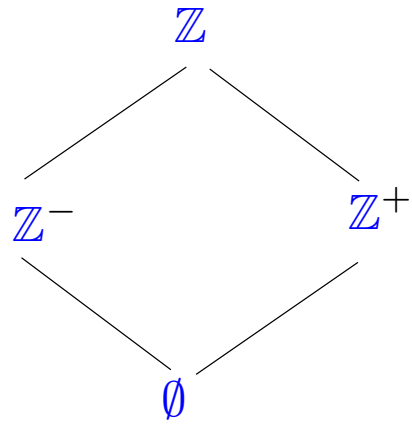
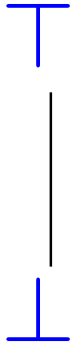
- d is an upper bound of X
- $d \sqsubseteq d'$ for every upper bound d' of X

A partial order $(\mathbb{D}, \sqsubseteq)$ is called a **complete lattice** if every $X \subseteq \mathbb{D}$ has a least upper bound $\bigsqcup X$.

We write $x \sqcup y$ for $\bigsqcup\{x, y\}$.

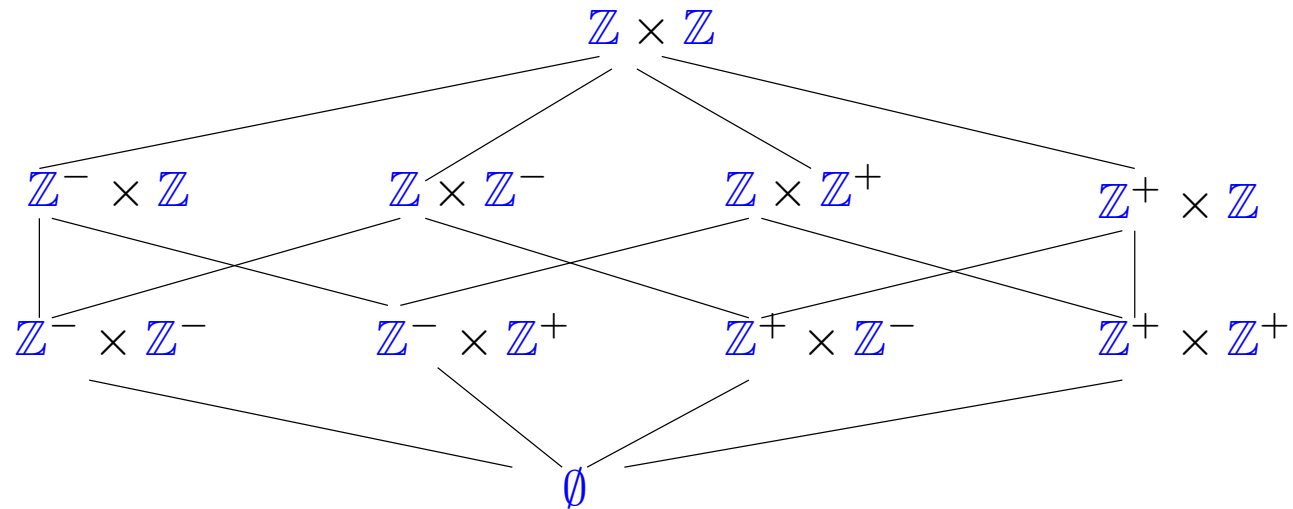
For $(2^{\mathcal{S}}, \subseteq)$ we have $\bigsqcup X = \bigcup X$.

Some complete lattices.

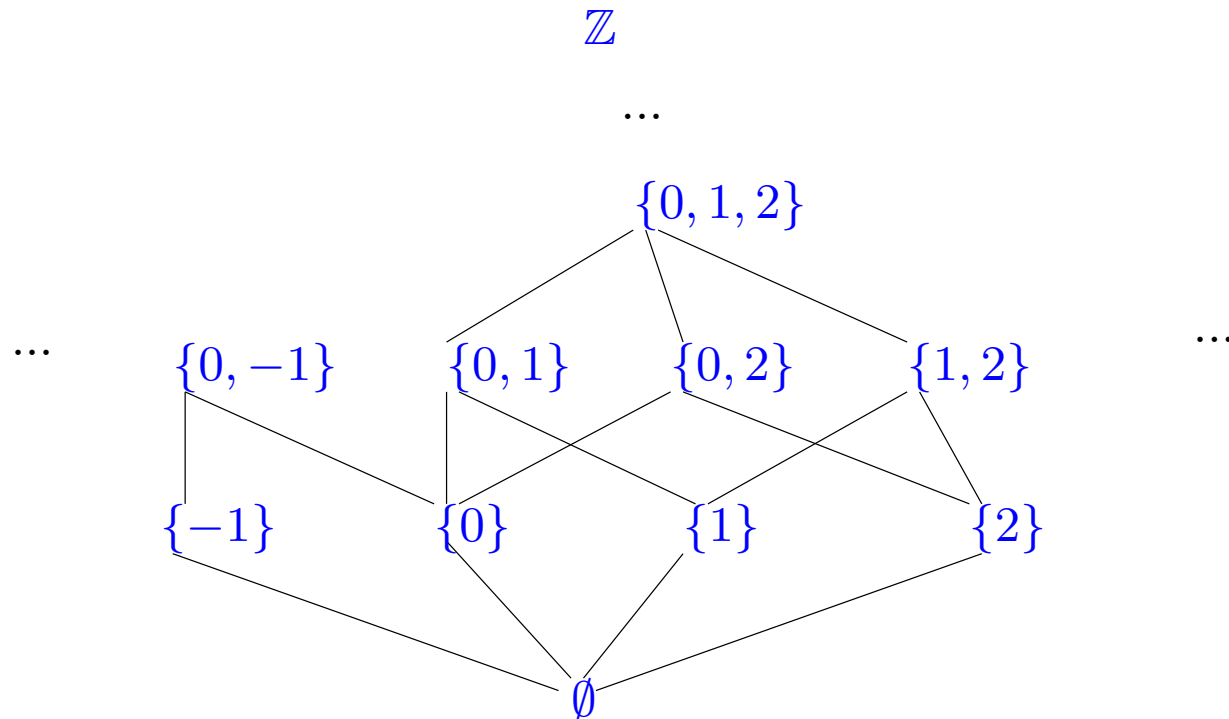


$$\mathbb{Z}^- = \{x \in \mathbb{Z} \mid x < 0\}$$

$$\mathbb{Z}^+ = \{x \in \mathbb{Z} \mid x \geq 0\}$$



An infinite complete lattice : $(2^{\mathbb{Z}}, \subseteq)$.



Every complete lattice has

- a **top** element: $\top = \bigsqcup \mathbb{D}$
- a **bottom** element: $\perp = \bigsqcup \emptyset$

Further every $X \subseteq \mathbb{D}$ has a **greatest lower bound** $\bigsqcap X$.

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Proof: exercise.

A function $f : \mathbb{D}_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{D}_2$ is called **monotone** if:

$$f(x) \sqsubseteq f(y) \text{ whenever } x \sqsubseteq y$$

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The **transformations** induced by the program edges are **monotone**:

$$\text{Recall: } \llbracket l \rrbracket^\# : 2^{\mathcal{S}} \rightarrow 2^{\mathcal{S}}$$

$$\llbracket l \rrbracket^\# V = \{ \llbracket l \rrbracket \rho \mid \rho \in V \text{ and } \llbracket l \rrbracket \text{ is defined for } \rho \}.$$

$$\text{Hence if } V_1 \subseteq V_2 \text{ then } \llbracket l \rrbracket^\# V_1 \subseteq \llbracket l \rrbracket^\# V_2.$$

Some facts:

If $f : \mathbb{D}_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{D}_2$ and $g : \mathbb{D}_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{D}_3$ are monotone then the composition $g \circ f : \mathbb{D}_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{D}_3$ is **monotone**.

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If \mathbb{D}_2 is a complete lattice then the set $[\mathbb{D}_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{D}_2]$ of monotone functions $f : \mathbb{D}_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{D}_2$ is a **complete lattice**,

where $f \sqsubseteq g$ iff $f(x) \sqsubseteq g(x)$ for all $x \in \mathbb{D}_1$.

For $F \subseteq [\mathbb{D}_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{D}_2]$ we have

$$\bigsqcup F = f \text{ with } f(x) = \bigsqcup \{g(x) \mid g \in F\}$$

For our program analysis problem, we want the least solution of the constraint system

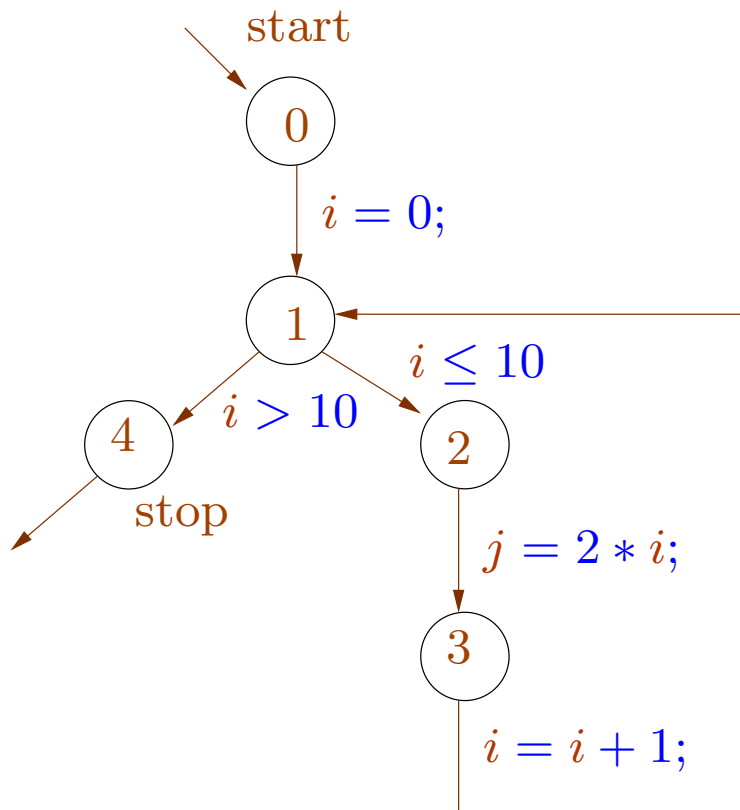
$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{V}[0] &\supseteq \mathcal{S} && (0 \text{ is the } \textit{start} \text{ node}) \\ \mathcal{V}[v] &\supseteq \llbracket l \rrbracket^\# \mathcal{V}[u] && \text{for every edge } (u, l, v). \end{aligned}$$

We have the domain $\mathbb{D} = 2^{\mathcal{S}}$. Choose a variable for each set $\mathcal{V}[v]$.

We obtain a constraint system of the form

$$x_i \supseteq f_i(x_1, \dots, x_n) \quad (1 \leq i \leq n)$$

Example



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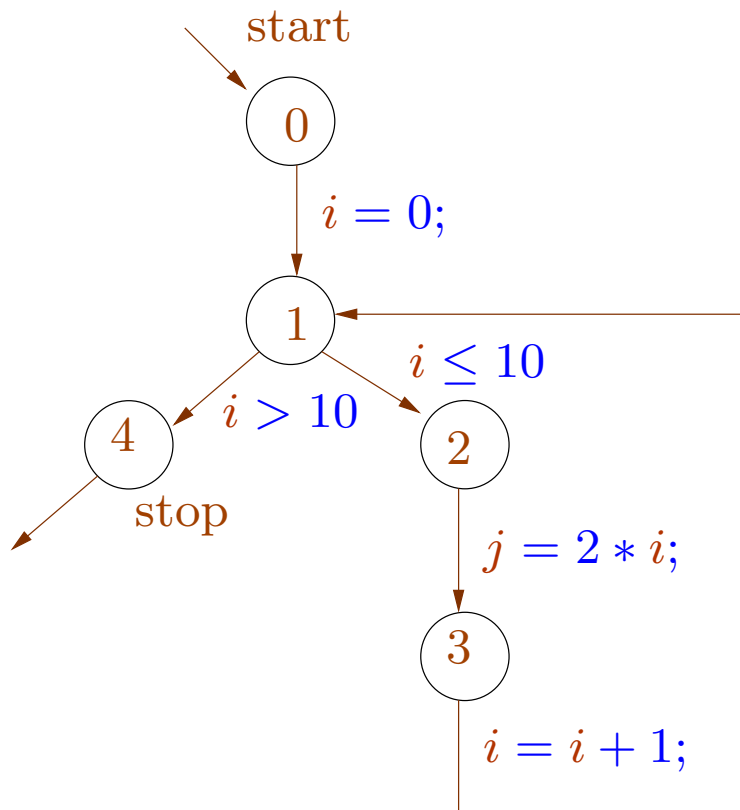
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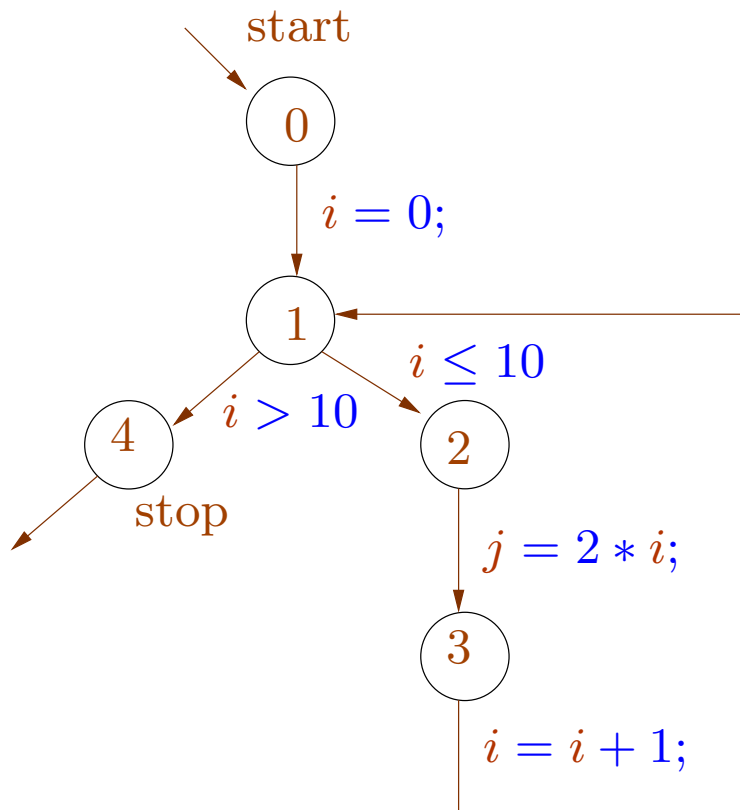
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Transforms to ...

Example



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$$\mathcal{V}[1] \supseteq ([i = 0;] \mathcal{V}[0] \cup [i = i + 1;] \mathcal{V}[3])$$

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Since \mathbb{D} is a lattice, \mathbb{D}^n is also a lattice where

$$(d_1, \dots, d_n) \sqsubseteq (d'_1, \dots, d'_n) \text{ iff } d_i \sqsubseteq d'_i \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq n$$

The functions $f_i : \mathbb{D}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ are monotone.

Define $F : \mathbb{D}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{D}^n$ as

$$F(y) = (f_1(y), \dots, f_n(y)) \text{ where } y = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

F is also monotone.

We need least solution of $y \sqsupseteq F(y)$.

Idea: use **iteration**

Start with the least element \perp and compute the sequence

$\perp, F(\perp), F^2(\perp), F^3(\perp), \dots$

Do we always reach the least solution in this way?

Example: the complete lattice of Booleans: $\mathbb{D} = \{\perp, \top\}$.

Constraint system:

$$x \sqsupseteq y \vee z$$

$$y \sqsupseteq x \wedge y \wedge z$$

$$z \sqsupseteq \top$$

The iteration:

x	\perp			
y	\perp			
z	\perp			

We have $F^2(\perp) = F^3(\perp)$.

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The iteration:

x	\perp	\perp	\top	\top
y	\perp	\perp	\perp	\perp
z	\perp	\top	\top	\top

We have $F^2(\perp) = F^3(\perp)$.

Such an iteration produces an ascending chain

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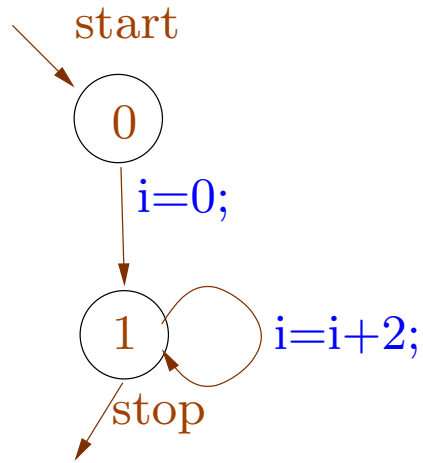
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then clearly $F^k(\perp)$ is some solution of the constraint $F(x) \sqsubseteq x$.

In fact it also the least solution of $F(x) \sqsubseteq x$.

Such a k always exists if the lattice is finite.

What in case of infinite lattices?



Constraint system:

$$\mathcal{V}[0] \supseteq \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\mathcal{V}[1] \supseteq \{0\} \cup \{x+2 \mid x \in \mathcal{V}[1]\}$$

The least solution:

$$\mathcal{V}[0] = \mathbb{Z} \text{ and } \mathcal{V}[1] = \{2n \mid n \geq 0\}.$$

Iteration doesn't terminate:

	\perp	$F(\perp)$	$F^2(\perp)$	$F^3(\perp)$	
$\mathcal{V}[0]$	\emptyset	\mathbb{Z}	\mathbb{Z}	\mathbb{Z}	...
$\mathcal{V}[1]$	\emptyset	$\{0\}$	$\{0, 2\}$	$\{0, 2, 4\}$	

Existence of least solutions: Knaster-Tarski

Fact: In a complete lattice \mathbb{D} , every monotone function $f : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ has a **least fixpoint** a .

Fixpoint: an element x such that $f(x) = x$.

Prefixpoint: an element x such that $f(x) \sqsubseteq x$.

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Let $P = \{x \in \mathbb{D} \mid f(x) \sqsubseteq x\}$ (the set of prefixpoints).

$\sqcap P$ is the **least prefixpoint** as well as the **least fixpoint** of f .

Example 1: Consider partial order $\mathbb{D}_1 = \mathbb{N}$ with $0 \sqsubseteq 1 \sqsubseteq 2 \sqsubseteq \dots$

The function $f(x) = x+1$ is monotonic.

However it has no fixpoint.

Actually \mathbb{D}_1 is not a complete lattice.

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Actually \mathbb{D}_1 is not a complete lattice.

Example 2: Now we consider $\mathbb{D}_2 = \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$.

This is a complete lattice.

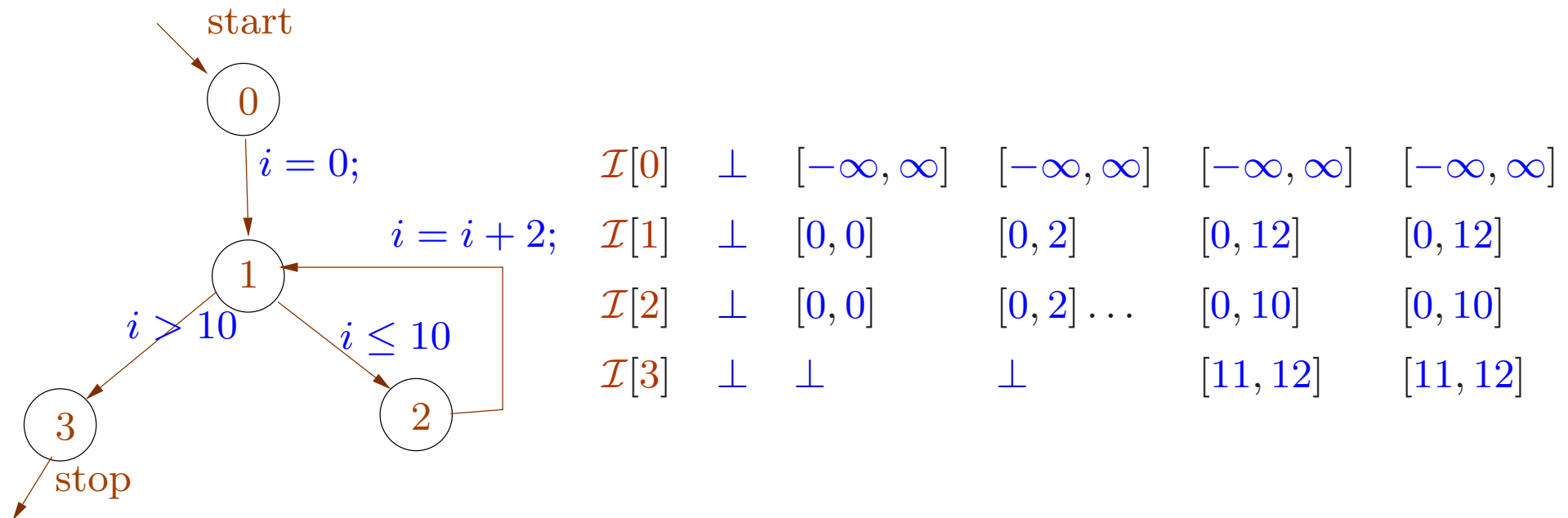
The function $f(x) = x+1$ is again monotonic.

The only fixpoint is ∞ : $\infty+1 = \infty$.

Abstract Interpretation: Cousot, Cousot 1977

We use a suitable complete lattice as the domain of abstract values.

Example: **intervals** as abstract values:



The analysis **guarantees** e.g. that at node **1** the value of i is always in the interval $[0, 12]$.

We have the set of concrete states $\mathcal{S} = (\text{Vars} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z})$.

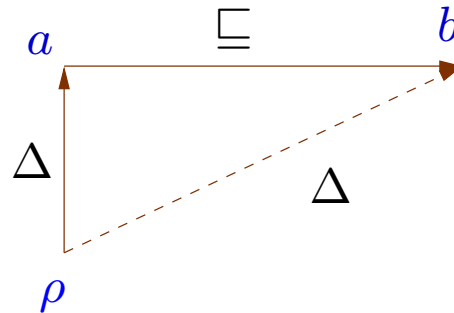
We choose a complete lattice \mathbb{D} of abstract states.

We define an abstraction relation

$$\Delta : \mathcal{S} \times \mathbb{D}$$

with the condition that

$$\rho \Delta a \wedge a \sqsubseteq b \implies \rho \Delta b$$



The concretization function: $\gamma(a) = \{\rho \mid \rho \Delta a\}$.

Example: For a program on two integer variables, $\mathbf{Vars} = \{x, y\}$.

The concrete states are from the set $\mathcal{S} = (\mathbf{Vars} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z})$ (or equivalently \mathbb{Z}^2).

For **interval analysis**, we choose the **complete lattice**

$$\mathbb{D}_{\mathbb{I}} = (\mathbf{Vars} \rightarrow \mathbb{I})_{\perp} = (\mathbf{Vars} \rightarrow \mathbb{I}) \cup \{\perp\}$$

where $\mathbb{I} = \{[l, u] \mid l \in \mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty\}, u \in \mathbb{Z} \cup \{\infty\}, l \leq u\}$ is the set of intervals.



Partial order on \mathbb{I} : $[l_1, u_1] \sqsubseteq [l_2, u_2]$ iff $l_1 \geq l_2$ and $u_1 \leq u_2$

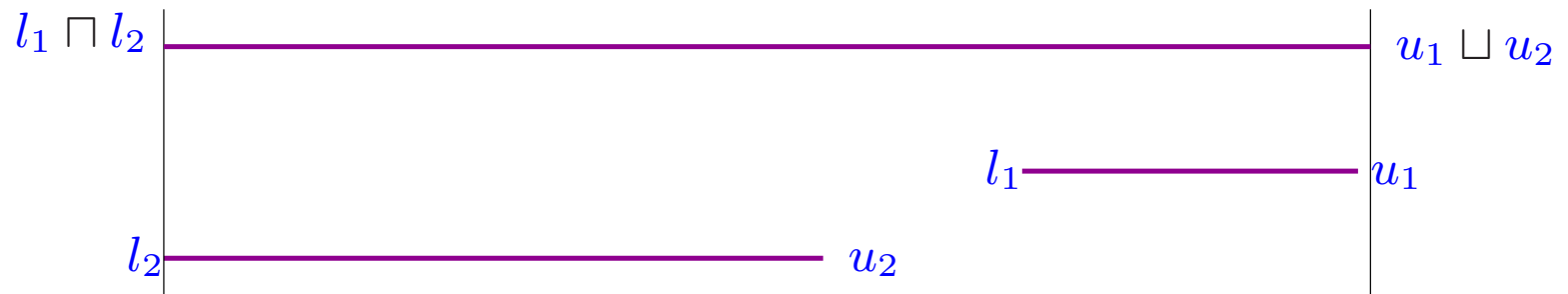
(As usual, $-\infty \leq n \leq \infty$ for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.)

Partial order on $\mathbf{Vars} \rightarrow \mathbb{I}$: $D_1 \sqsubseteq D_2$ iff $D_1(x) \sqsubseteq D_2(x)$.

Extension to $(\mathbf{Vars} \rightarrow \mathbb{I})_{\perp}$: $\perp \sqsubseteq D$ for all D .

$(\mathbf{Vars} \rightarrow \mathbb{I})_{\perp}$ is a complete lattice. $(\mathbf{Vars} \rightarrow \mathbb{I})$ is not.

In particular we define $[l_1, u_1] \sqcup [l_2, u_2] = [l_1 \sqcap l_2, u_1 \sqcup u_2]$.



\perp represents the “unreachable state”: maps every variable to the “empty interval”.

The abstraction relation:

$$\rho \Delta D \text{ iff } D \neq \perp \text{ and } \rho(x) \Delta D(x) \text{ for each } x.$$

where $n \Delta [l, u]$ iff $l \leq n \leq u$.

The abstraction relation:

$$\rho \Delta D \quad \text{iff} \quad D \neq \perp \quad \text{and} \quad \rho(x) \Delta D(x) \quad \text{for each } x.$$

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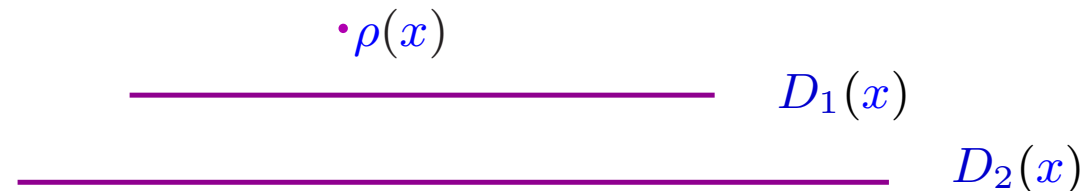
This satisfies the required condition:

Suppose $\rho \Delta D_1$ and $D_1 \sqsubseteq D_2$.

$\implies D_1 \neq \perp$ and $D_2 \neq \perp$.

$\rho(x) \Delta D_1(x)$ and $D_1(x) \sqsubseteq D_2(x)$ for each x .

$\implies \rho(x) \Delta D_1(x)$ for each x .



The concretization function:

$$\gamma(\perp) = \{\}$$

$$\gamma(D) = \{\rho \mid \rho(x) \Delta D(x)\}, \quad \text{for } D \neq \perp$$

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma(\{x \mapsto [3, 5], y \mapsto [0, 7]\}) = & \quad \{\{x \mapsto 3, y \mapsto 0\}, \{x \mapsto 3, y \mapsto 1\}, \\ & \quad \dots \{x \mapsto 3, y \mapsto 7\} \\ & \quad \dots \{x \mapsto 5, y \mapsto 0\} \dots \{x \mapsto 5, y \mapsto 7\}\} \end{aligned}$$

Abstraction of the partial transformation induced by edges.

Recall the edges $k = (u, l, v)$ induce a partial transformation on concrete states:

$$\llbracket k \rrbracket = \llbracket l \rrbracket : \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$$

Now on our chosen domain \mathbb{D} we define a monotonic abstract transformation:

$$\llbracket k \rrbracket^\# = \llbracket l \rrbracket^\# : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$$

The abstract transformation should simulate the concrete transformation:

if $\rho \Delta a$ and $\llbracket l \rrbracket \rho$ is defined then $\llbracket l \rrbracket \rho \Delta \llbracket l \rrbracket^\# a$.



Abstract transformation for interval analysis.

For concrete operators \square we define **monotonic** abstract operators $\square^\#$ such that

$$x_1 \Delta a_1 \wedge \dots \wedge x_n \Delta a_n \implies \square(x_1, \dots, x_n) \Delta \square^\#(a_1, \dots, a_n)$$

addition:

$$\begin{aligned} [l_1, u_1] +^\# [l_2, u_2] &= [l_1 + l_2, u_1 + u_2]. \\ - + \infty &= \infty \\ - + -\infty &= -\infty \\ // \infty + -\infty &\text{ is undefined.} \end{aligned}$$

subtraction:

$$-^\# [l, u] = [-u, -l]$$

Multiplication: $[l_1, u_1] *^\# [l_2, u_2] = [m, n]$ where

$$m = l_1 l_2 \sqcap l_1 u_2 \sqcap u_1 l_2 \sqcap u_1 u_2$$

$$n = l_1 l_2 \sqcup l_1 u_2 \sqcup u_1 l_2 \sqcup u_1 u_2$$

Example:

$$[1, 3] *^\# [5, 8] = [5, 24]$$

$$[-1, 3] *^\# [5, 8] = [-8, 24]$$

$$[-1, 3] *^\# [-5, 8] = [-15, 24]$$

$$[-1, 3] *^\# [-5, -8] = [-24, 5]$$

Equality test:

$$[l_1, u_1] ==^\# [l_2, u_2] = \begin{cases} [1, 1] & \text{if } l_1 = u_1 = l_2 = u_2 \\ [0, 0] & \text{if } u_1 < l_2 \text{ or } u_2 < l_1 \\ [0, 1] & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Example:

$$\begin{aligned} [7, 7] &==^\# [7, 7] &= [1, 1] \\ [1, 7] &==^\# [9, 12] &= [0, 0] \\ [1, 7] &==^\# [1, 7] &= [0, 1] \end{aligned}$$

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$$[l_1, u_1] <^{\#} [l_2, u_2] = \begin{cases} [1, 1] & \text{if } u_1 < l_2 \\ [0, 0] & \text{if } u_2 < l_1 \\ [0, 1] & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Example:

$$\begin{aligned} [1, 7] <^{\#} [9, 12] &= [1, 1] \\ [9, 12] <^{\#} [1, 7] &= [0, 0] \\ [1, 7] <^{\#} [6, 8] &= [0, 1] \end{aligned}$$

Monotonic abstract evaluation of expressions

For $D \neq \perp$,

$$\llbracket x \rrbracket^\# D = D(x)$$

$$\llbracket n \rrbracket^\# D = [n, n]$$

$$\llbracket \square(e_1, \dots, e_n) \rrbracket^\# D = \square^\#(\llbracket e_1 \rrbracket^\# D, \dots, \llbracket e_n \rrbracket^\# D)$$

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$$\text{Case } e \text{ is } \square(e_1, \dots, e_n): \quad \text{since each } \llbracket e_i \rrbracket \rho \Delta \llbracket e_i \rrbracket^\# D \text{ hence}$$

$$\llbracket \square(e_1, \dots, e_n) \rrbracket \rho = \square(\llbracket e_1 \rrbracket \rho, \dots, \llbracket e_n \rrbracket \rho)$$

Δ

$$\square^\#(\llbracket e_1 \rrbracket^\# D, \dots, \llbracket e_n \rrbracket^\# D) = \llbracket \square^\#(e_1, \dots, e_n) \rrbracket^\# D$$

Finally, the **monotonic** abstract transformations induced by edges

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \llbracket l \rrbracket^\# \perp = \perp \\
 \text{For } D \neq \perp, & \quad \llbracket ; \rrbracket^\# D = D \\
 & \llbracket x = e; \rrbracket^\# D = D \oplus \{x \mapsto \llbracket e \rrbracket^\# D\} \\
 & \llbracket e \rrbracket^\# D = \begin{cases} \perp & \text{if } \llbracket e \rrbracket^\# D = [0, 0] \\ D & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}
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Clearly $D \neq \perp$ here.

To check: $\rho \Delta D \wedge \llbracket l \rrbracket \rho = \rho_1 \wedge \llbracket l \rrbracket^\# D = D_1 \implies \rho_1 \Delta D_1.$

Case l is ;

$$\rho_1 = \rho \Delta D = D_1.$$

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Case l is $x = e$;

$$\rho_1 = \rho \oplus \{x \mapsto \llbracket e \rrbracket \rho\} \quad \text{and} \quad D_1 = D \oplus \{x \mapsto \llbracket e \rrbracket^\# D\}$$

As $\llbracket e \rrbracket \rho \Delta \llbracket e \rrbracket^\# D$ hence $\rho_1 \Delta D_1.$

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As $\llbracket e \rrbracket \rho \Delta \llbracket e \rrbracket^\# D$ hence $\rho_1 \Delta D_1.$

Case e is some condition e

Since the transformation $\llbracket e \rrbracket \rho$ is defined,

hence the expression evaluation $\llbracket e \rrbracket \rho \neq 0$, and $\rho_1 = \rho.$

Since $\rho \Delta D$,

hence the abstract expression evaluation $\llbracket e \rrbracket^\# D \neq [0, 0]$, and $D_1 = D.$

Recall, for a path $\pi = k_1 \dots k_n$,

$$[[\pi]] \rho = ([[k_n]] \circ \dots \circ [[k_1]]) \rho$$

$$[[\pi]]^\# D = ([[k_n]]^\# \circ \dots \circ [[k_1]]^\#) D$$

We conclude from above:

if $\rho \Delta D$ and $[[\pi]] \rho$ is defined then $[[\pi]] \rho \Delta [[\pi]]^\# D$.

