

# 软件分析

南京大学

计算机科学与技术系

程序设计语言与

静态分析研究组

李棣 谭添

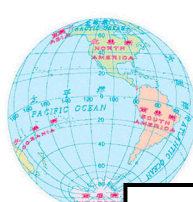
# Static Program Analysis

## Introduction

Nanjing University

Yue Li

Fall 2020



西半球  
Western hemisphere

# Lecturers: Yue Li & Tian Tan

Aarhus

2 yrs

Nanjing

2019.09

Sydney

5 yrs

Yue Li @ Nanjing University





# Contents

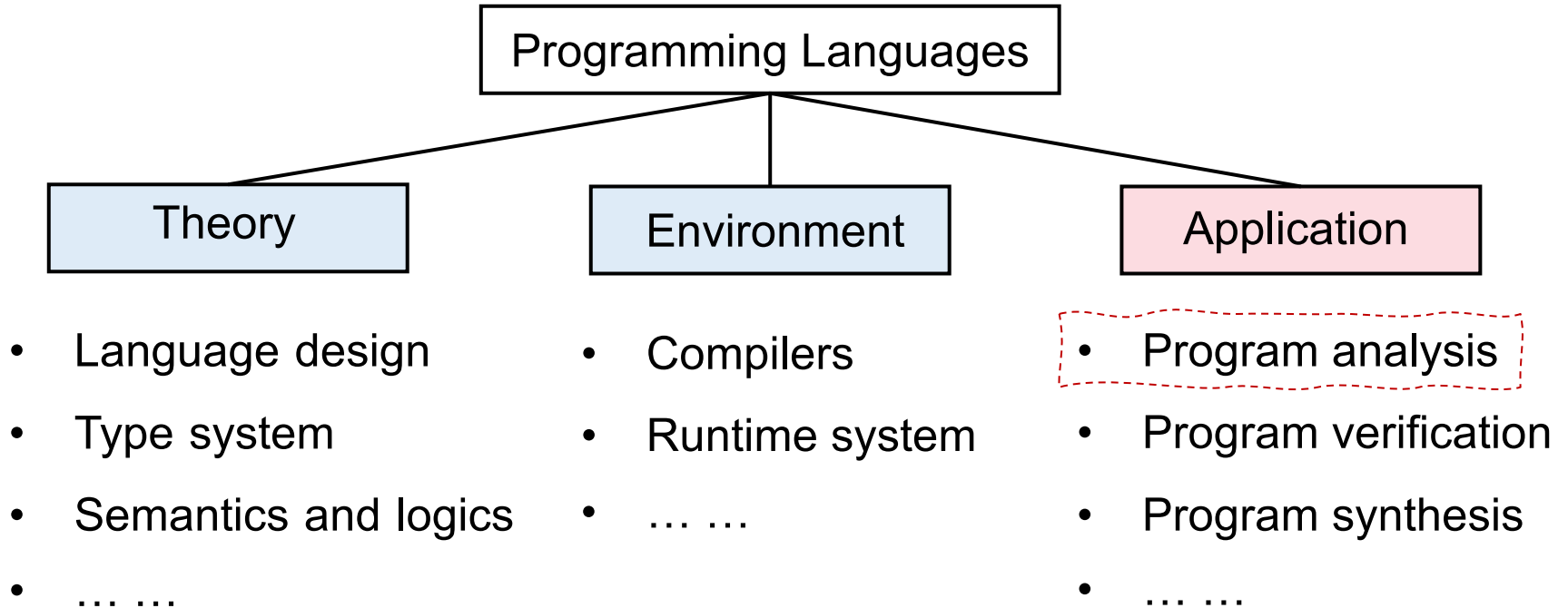
1. PL and Static Analysis
2. Why We Learn Static Analysis?
3. What is Static Analysis?
4. Static Analysis Features and Examples
5. Teaching Plan
6. Evaluation Criteria



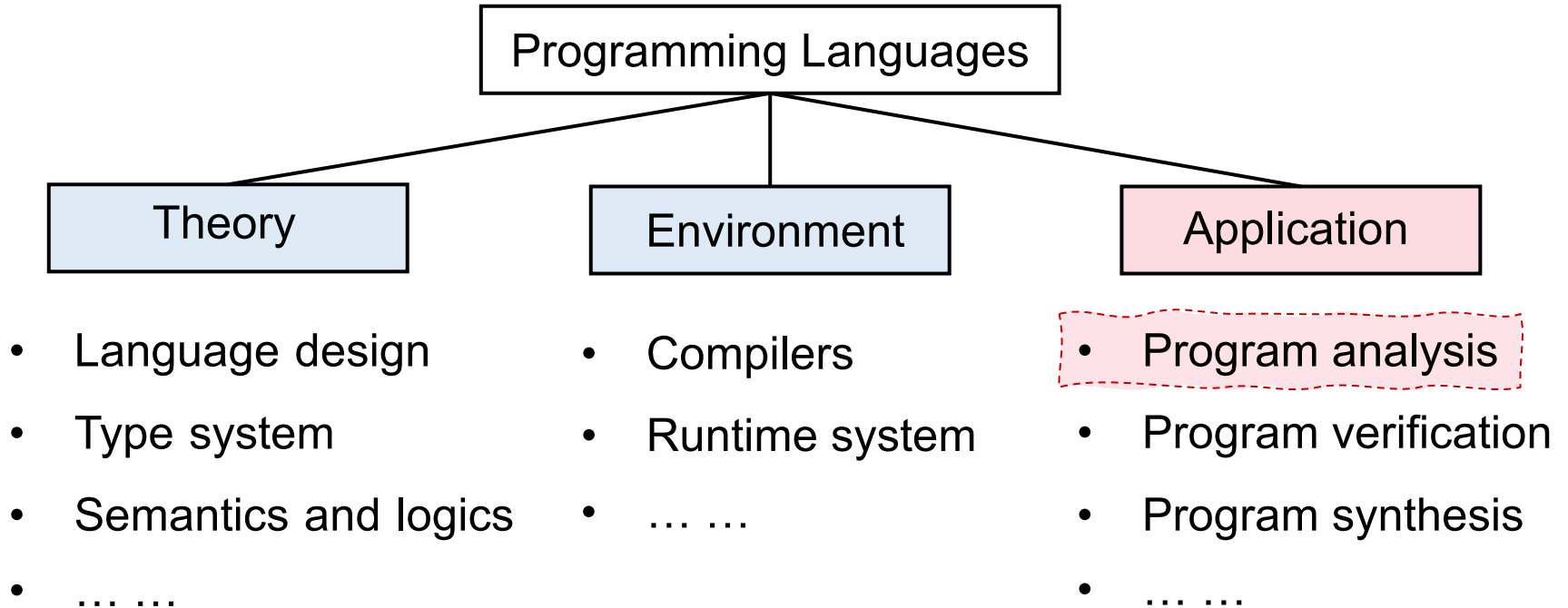
# Static Program Analysis (Static Analysis)

Programming Languages

# Static Program Analysis (Static Analysis)



# Static Program Analysis (Static Analysis)



**Background:** In the last decade, the language cores had few changes, but the programs became significantly larger and more complicated.

**Challenge:** How to ensure the reliability, security and other promises of large-scale and complex programs?



# Why We Need Static Analysis?

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- Program Reliability

Null pointer dereference, memory leak, etc.

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Dead code elimination, code motion, etc.

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- Program Security

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- Compiler Optimization

Dead code elimination, code motion, etc.

Examples

- Program Understanding

IDE call hierarchy, type indication, etc.

Examples

# Market of Static Analysis

## Academia

Programming Languages

Software Engineering

Systems

Security

... ..

Any directions that  
rely on programs

## Industries



IBM Research





# Market of Static Analysis

## Academia

Programming Languages

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Any directions that  
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Static analysis people are  
urgently needed!

## Industries





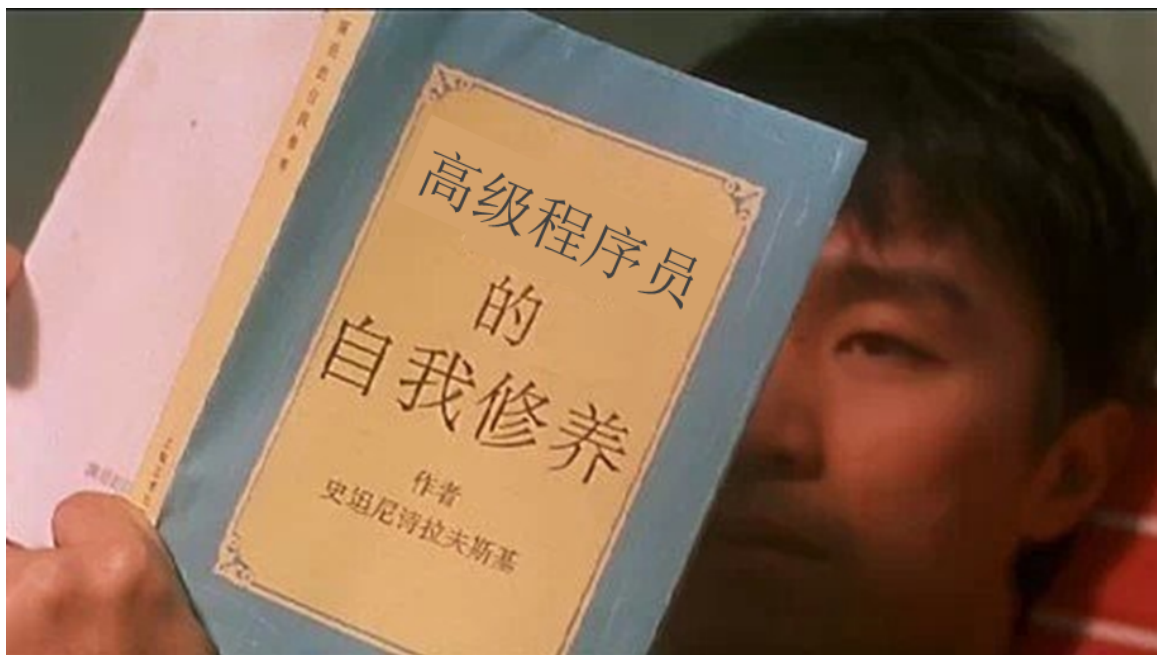


# 前方中文预警



# 深入学习静态程序分析——附加值

- 更深入地理解编程语言的语法、语义（不枯燥）
- 自然而然地写出更可靠、更安全、更高效的程序



# Static Analysis

**Static** analysis analyzes a program  $P$  to reason about its behaviors and determines whether it satisfies some properties **before running**  $P$ .

- Does  $P$  contain any private information leaks?
- Does  $P$  dereference any null pointers?
- Are all the cast operations in  $P$  safe?
- Can  $v1$  and  $v2$  in  $P$  point to the same memory location?
- Will certain *assert* statements in  $P$  fail?
- Is this piece of code in  $P$  dead (so that it could be eliminated)?
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Unfortunately, by **Rice's Theorem**, there is no such approach to determine whether  $P$  satisfies such non-trivial properties, i.e., giving **exact answer**: Yes or No

# Rice's Theorem

“Any **non-trivial** property of the behavior of programs in a r.e. language is **undecidable**.”

r.e. (recursively enumerable) = recognizable by a Turing-machine

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A property is trivial if either it is not satisfied by any r.e. language, or if it is satisfied by all r.e. languages; otherwise it is **non-trivial**.

**non-trivial** properties

~ = **interesting** properties

~ = the properties related with **run-time behaviors** of programs

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- Does  $P$  contain any **private information leaks**?
- Does  $P$  **dereference any null pointers**?
- Are all the **cast operations** ...
- Can  $v1$  and  $v2$  **access the same memory location**?
- Will certain **assert statements in  $P$**  fail?
- Is this **piece of code in  $P$**  dead (so that it could be eliminated)?

**Non-trivial Properties**

Can determine whether P satisfies such non-trivial properties, i.e., giving *exact answer*: Yes or No

***Perfect*** static analysis



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Rice

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**Perfect** static analysis

AND

- Sound
- Complete



Rice

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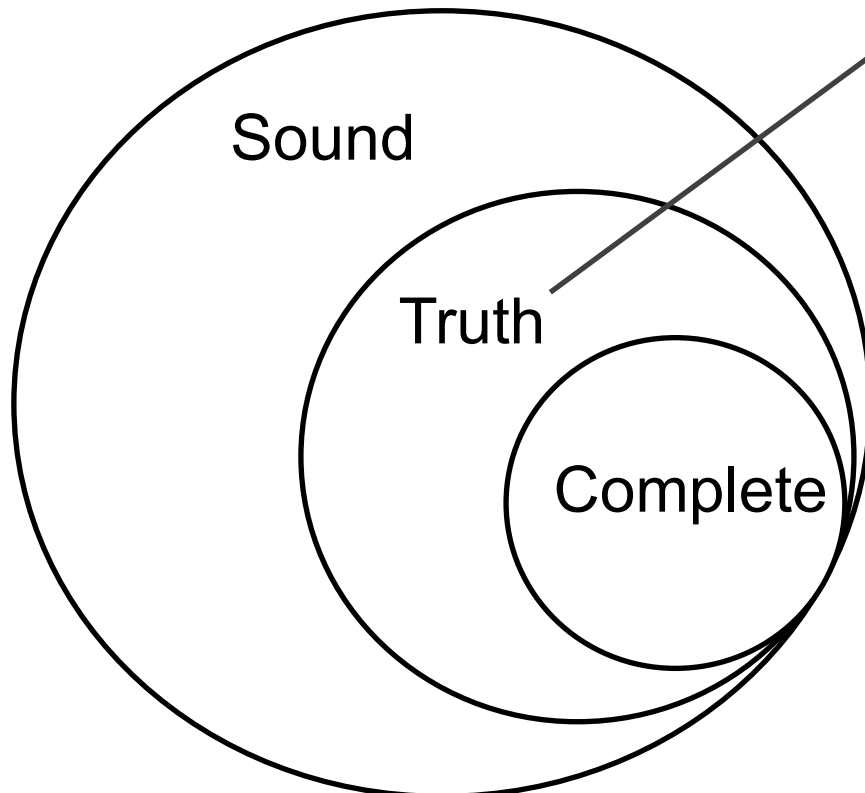
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Sound & Complete

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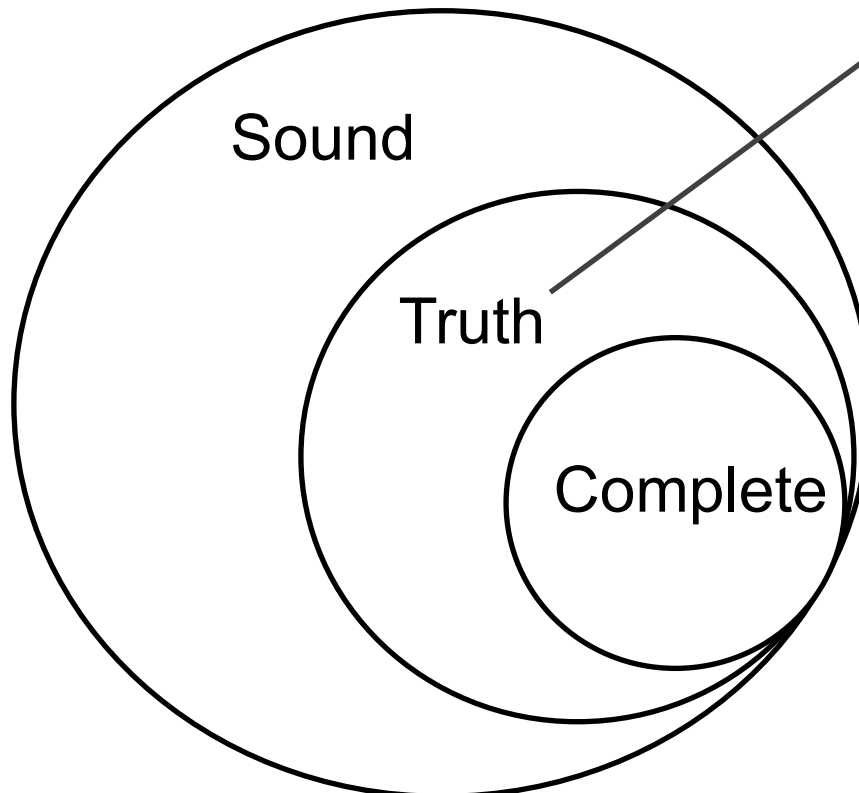
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Sound & Complete

All possible true  
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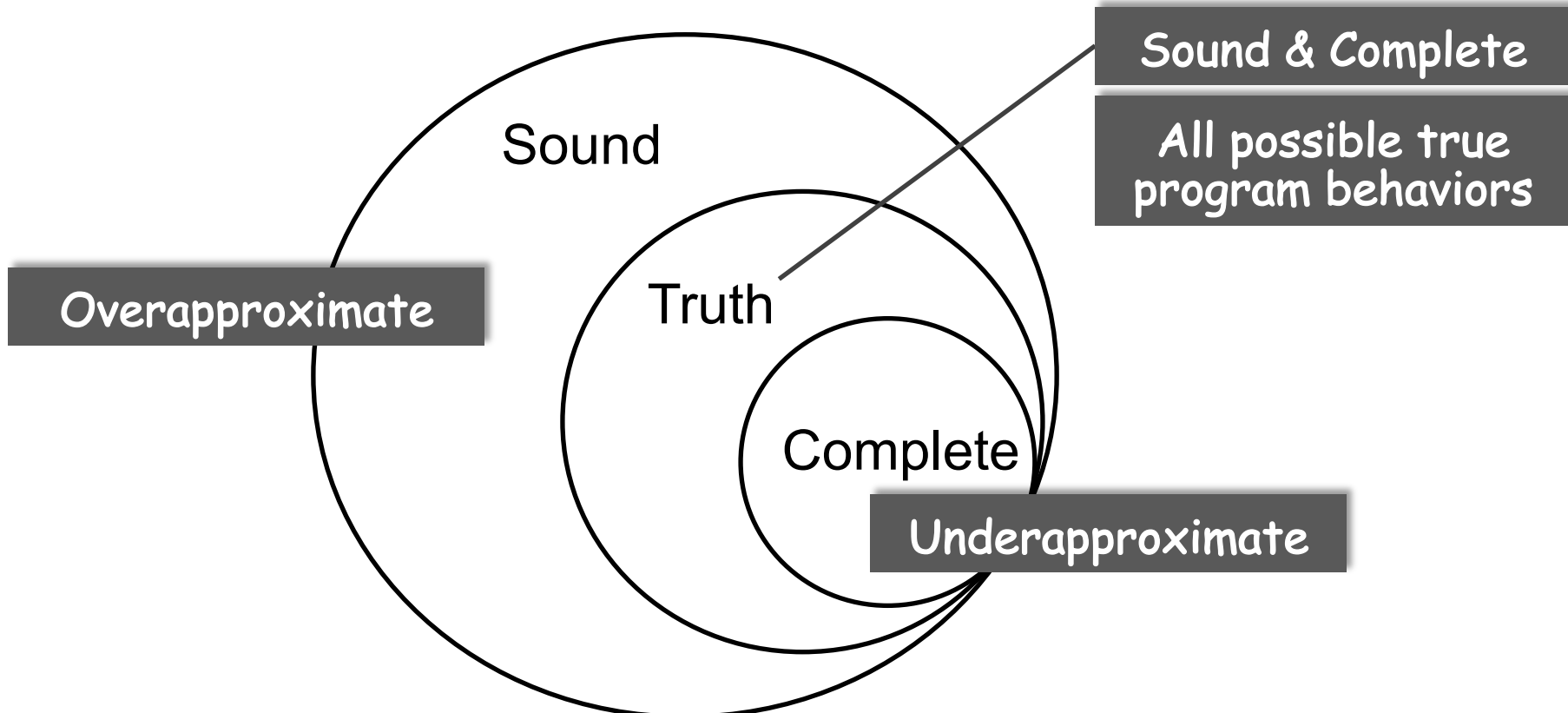
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Sound & Complete

All possible true  
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Overapproximate

Sound

Truth

Complete

Underapproximate

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## **Perfect** static analysis

AND

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Rice



Sound  
**NO perfect static analysis!**  
The end of story ???

Sound & Complete

All possible true  
behaviors

Complete

Underapproximate

## ***Perfect*** static analysis

AND

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## ***Useful*** static analysis

OR

- Compromise soundness (false negatives)
- Compromise completeness (false positives)

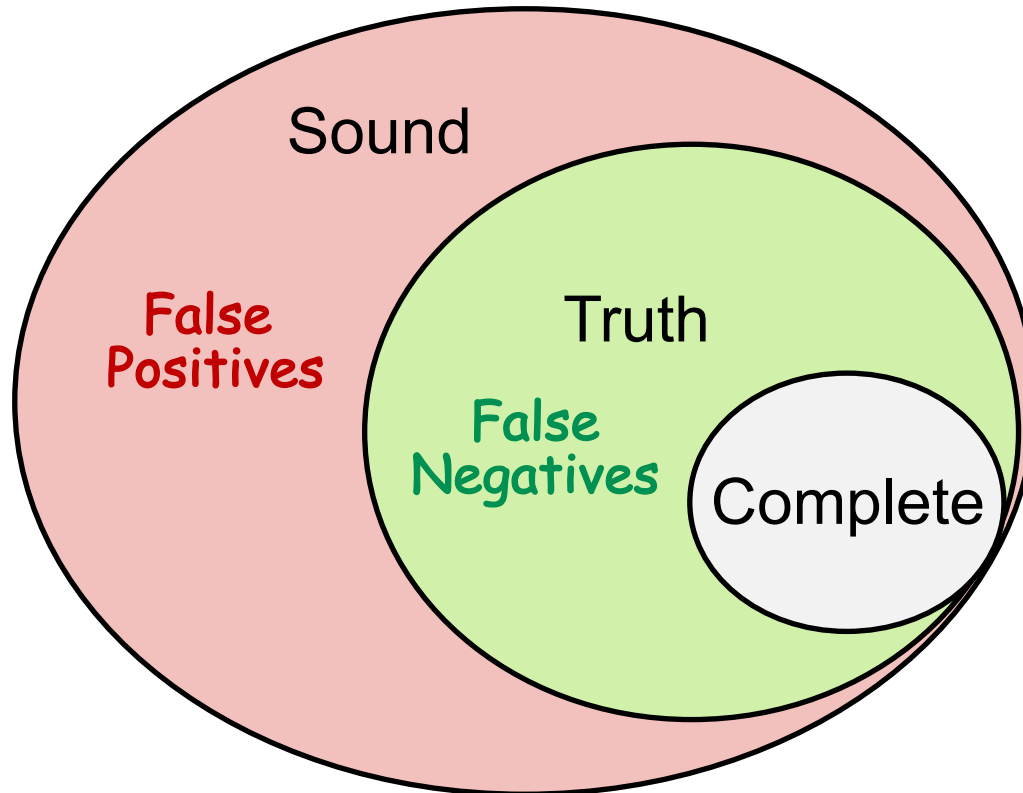




## *Useful* static analysis

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- Compromise soundness (**false negatives**)
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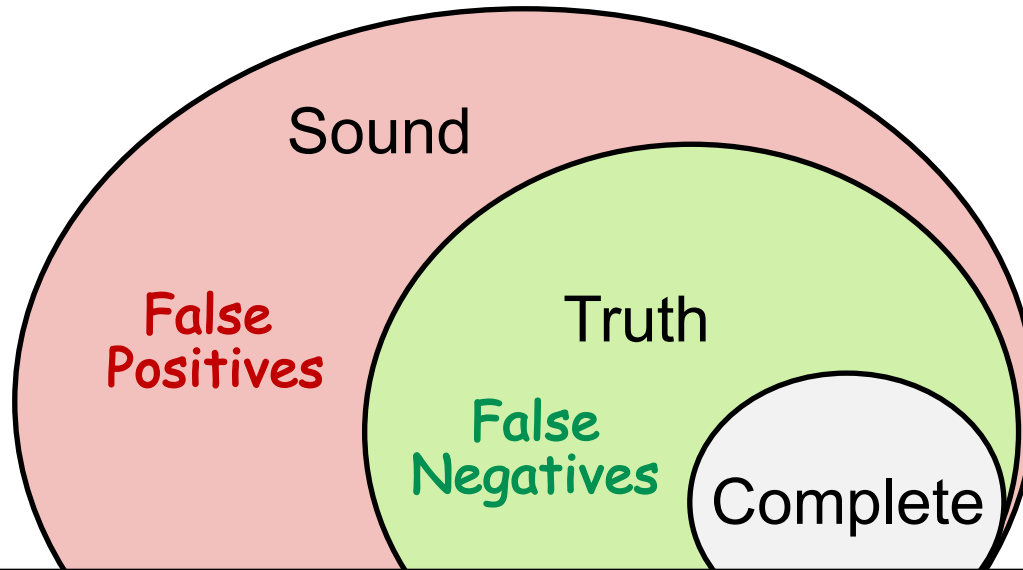




## *Useful* static analysis

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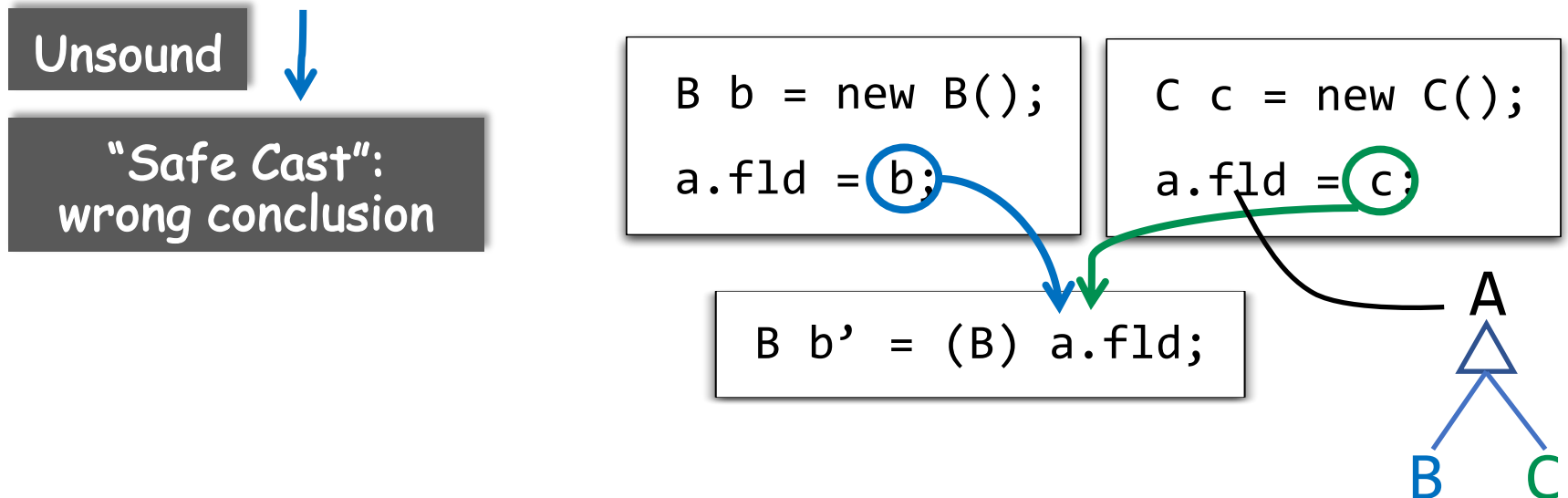
**Mostly compromising completeness:**  
**Sound** but **not fully-precise** static analysis

# Necessity of Soundness

- Soundness is **critical** to a collection of important (static-analysis) applications such as *compiler optimization* and *program verification*.

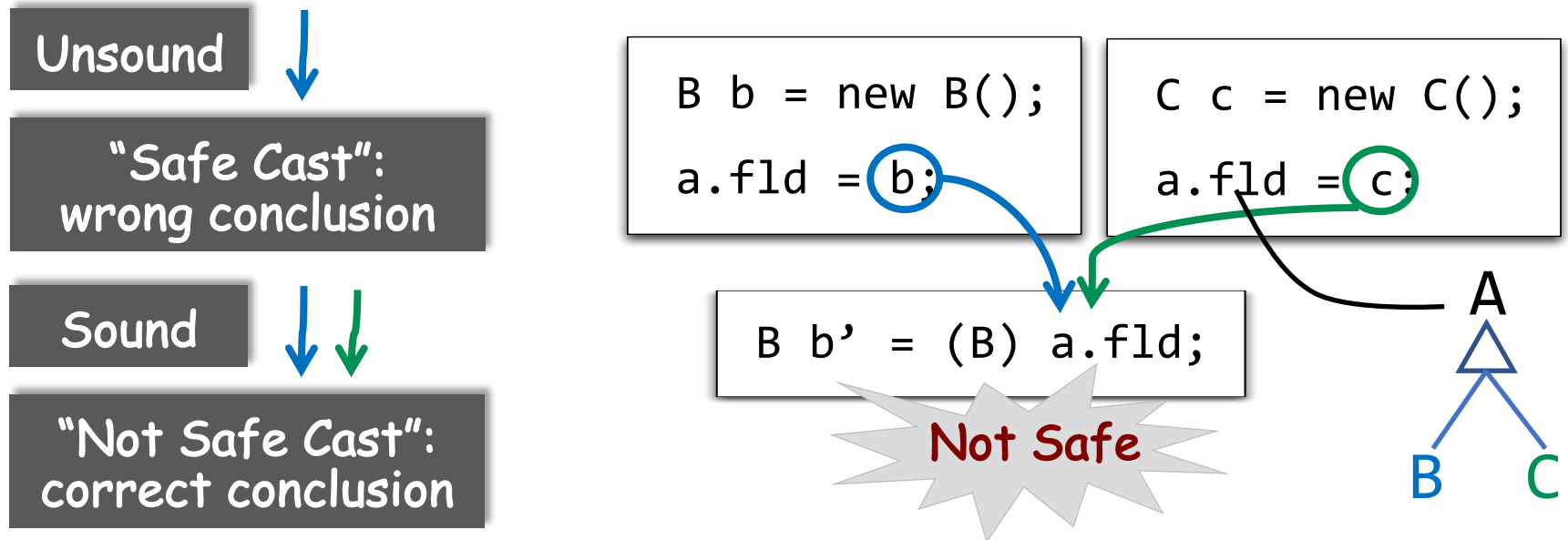
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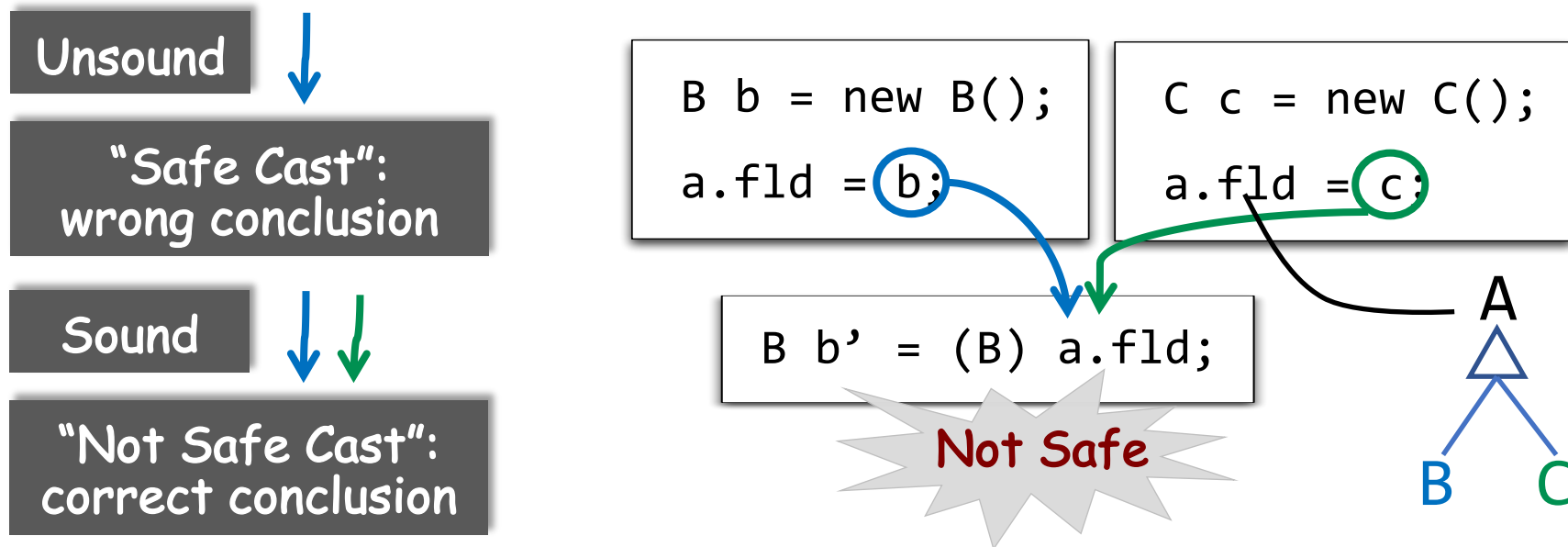
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- Soundness is also **preferable** to other (static-analysis) applications for which soundness is not demanded, e.g., *bug detection*, as better soundness implies more bugs could be found.

# Static Analysis — Bird's Eye View

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if(input)
    x = 1;
else
    x = 0;
```

→ x = ?

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Two analysis results:

1. when input is *true*,  $x = 1$   
when input is *false*,  $x = 0$
2.  $x = 1$  or  $x = 0$

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**Static Analysis:** ensure (or get close to) **soundness**, while making good trade-offs between analysis **precision** and analysis **speed**.

*For most static analyses  
(may analysis)*

Two Words to Conclude Static Analysis

**Abstraction + Over-approximation**

# Static Analysis — An Example

Determine the sign (+, -, or 0) of all the variables of a given program.

- Abstraction
- Over-approximation
  - Transfer functions
  - Control flows

To check divided  
by zero error

To check negative  
array indices

# Abstraction

Determine the sign (+, -, or 0) of all the variables of a given program.

Concrete Domain  
(ints)

$v = 1000$

$v = 1$

$v = -1$

$v = 0$

$v = e ? 1 : -1$

$v = w / 0$

Abstract Domain  
(signs)

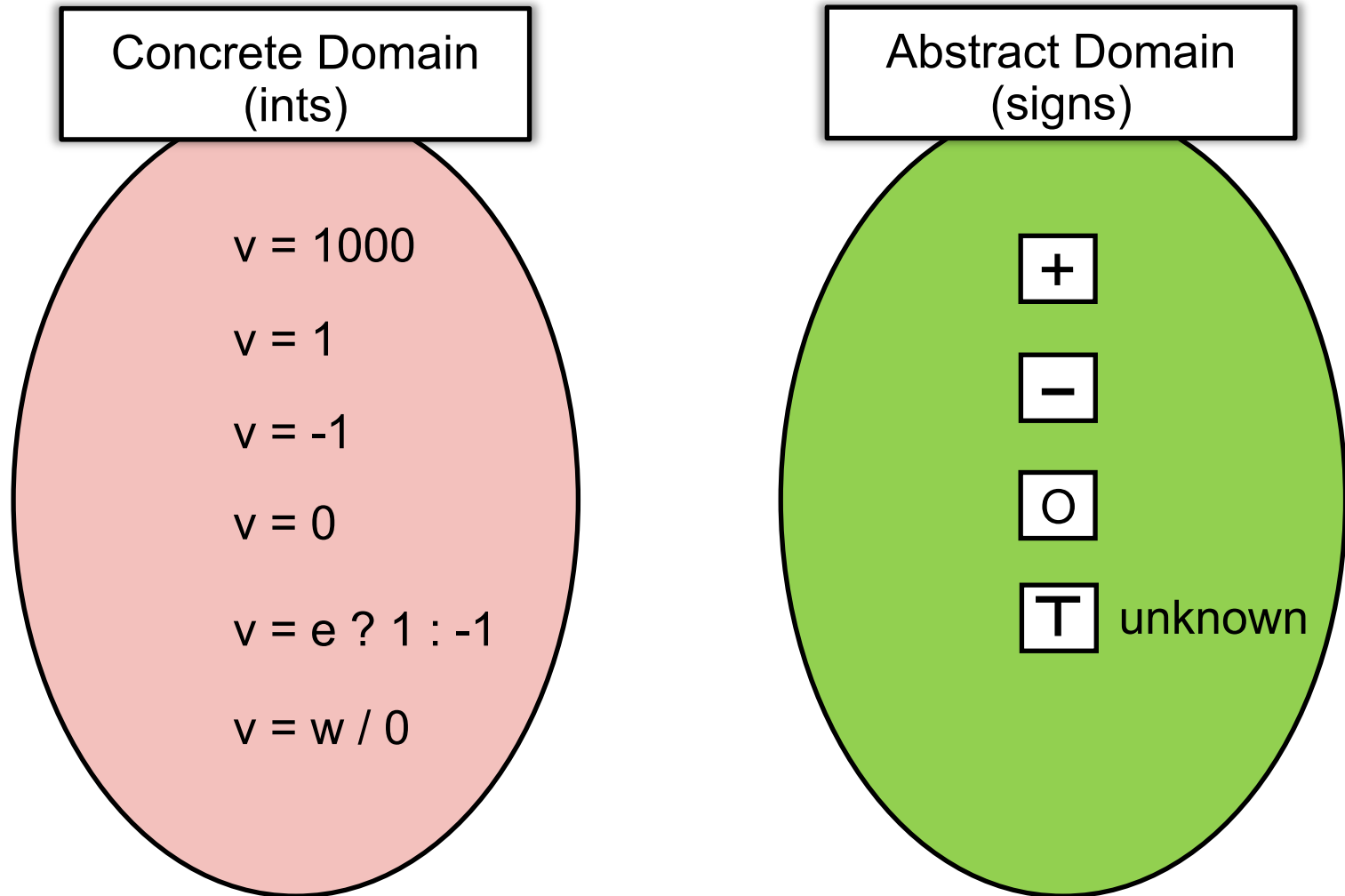
+

-

0

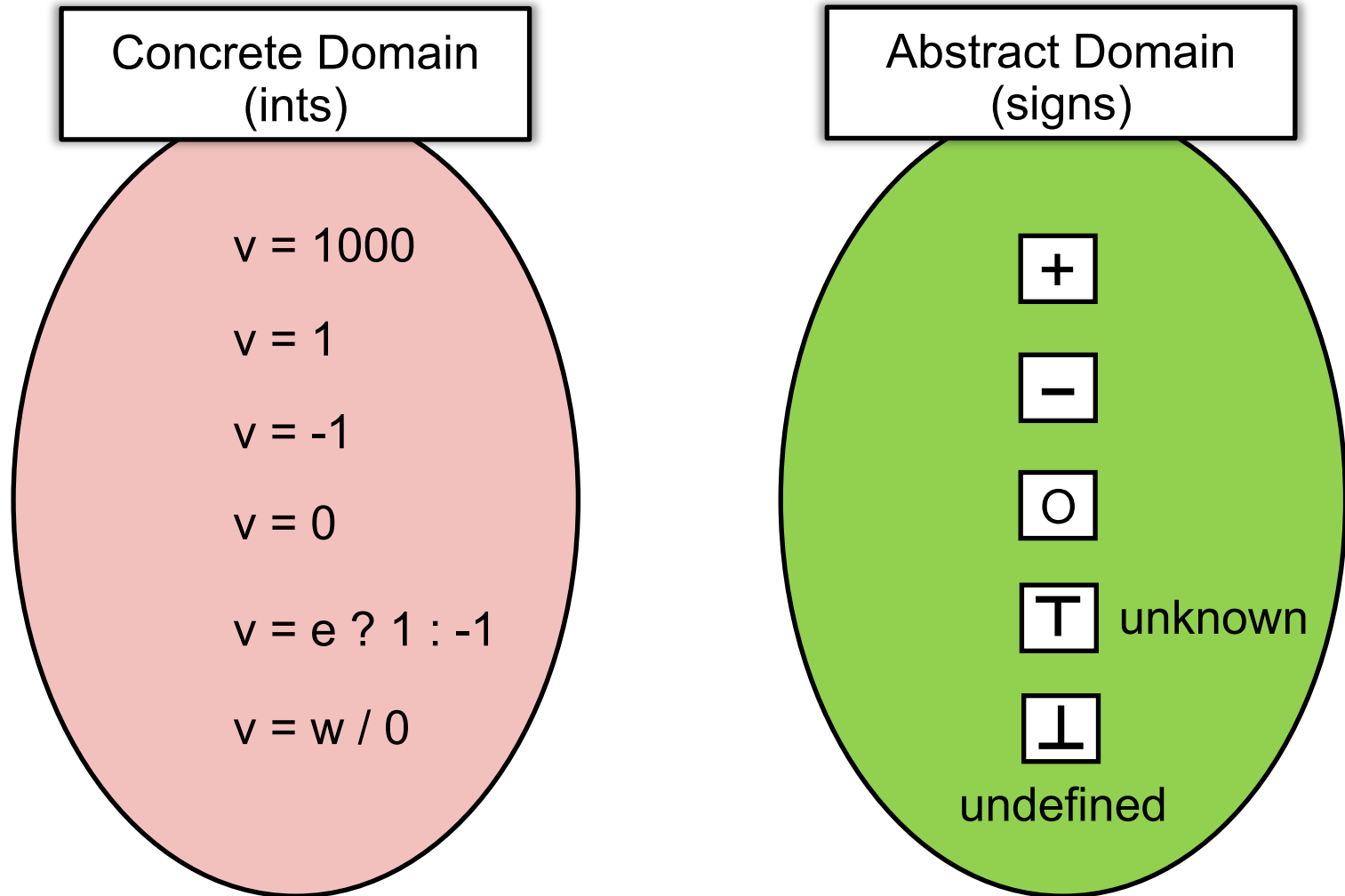
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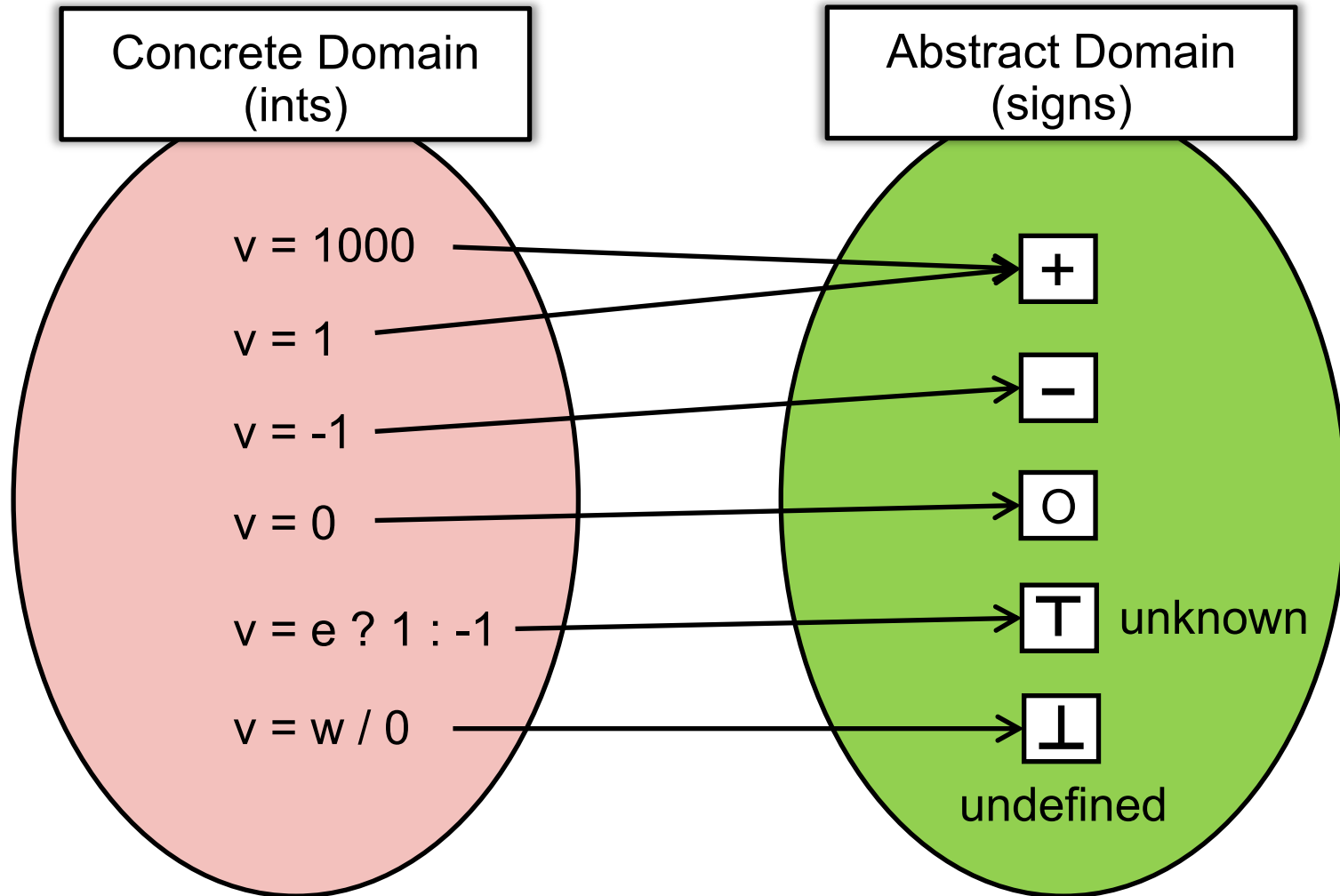
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# Over-approximation: Transfer Functions

- In static analysis, transfer functions define how to evaluate different program statements on abstract values.
- Transfer functions are defined according to “analysis problem” and the “semantics” of different program statements.



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$$\boxed{O} + \boxed{O} =$$

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$$+ + - = T$$

$$+ / + = +$$

$$- / - = +$$

$$T / 0 = \perp$$

$$+ / - = -$$

$$0 / - = 0$$

....

1

```
x = 10;
```

```
y = -1;
```

```
z = 0;
```

```
a = x + y;
```

```
b = z / y;
```

```
c = a / b;
```

```
p = arr[y];
```

```
q = arr[a];
```

```
x = +
```

```
y = -
```

```
z = 0
```

```
a = T
```

```
b = 0
```

```
c = \perp
```

```
p = \perp
```

```
q = \perp
```

Divided  
by zero

$$+ + + = +$$

$$- + - = -$$

$$0 + 0 = 0$$

$$+ + - = T$$

$$+ / + = +$$

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a = T

b = 0

c = \perp

p = \perp

q = \perp

Divided  
by zero

negative  
array index

$$+ + + = +$$

$$- + - = -$$

$$0 + 0 = 0$$

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Divided  
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1 2 Static analysis is useful

$$+ + + = +$$

$$- + - = -$$

$$0 + 0 = 0$$

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$c = \perp$

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$q = \perp$

Divided  
by zero

negative  
array index

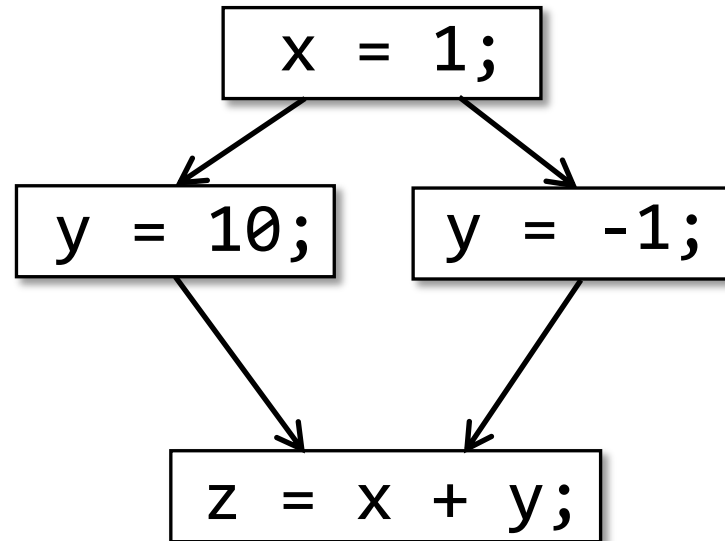
1 2 Static analysis is useful

3 But (over-approximated) static  
analysis produces false positives



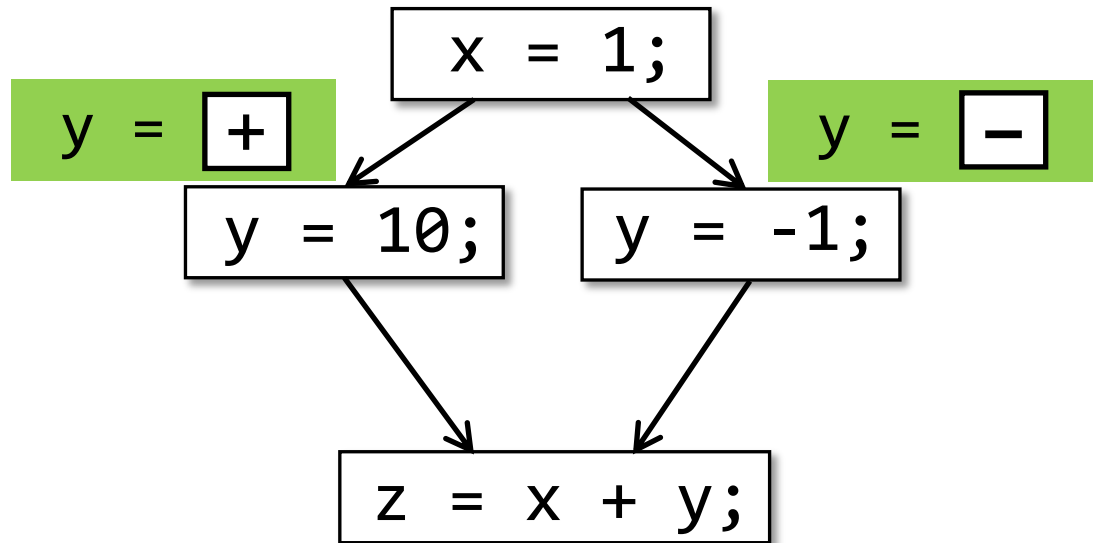
# Over-approximation: Control Flows

```
x = 1;  
if(input)  
    y = 10;  
else  
    y = -1;  
z = x + y;
```



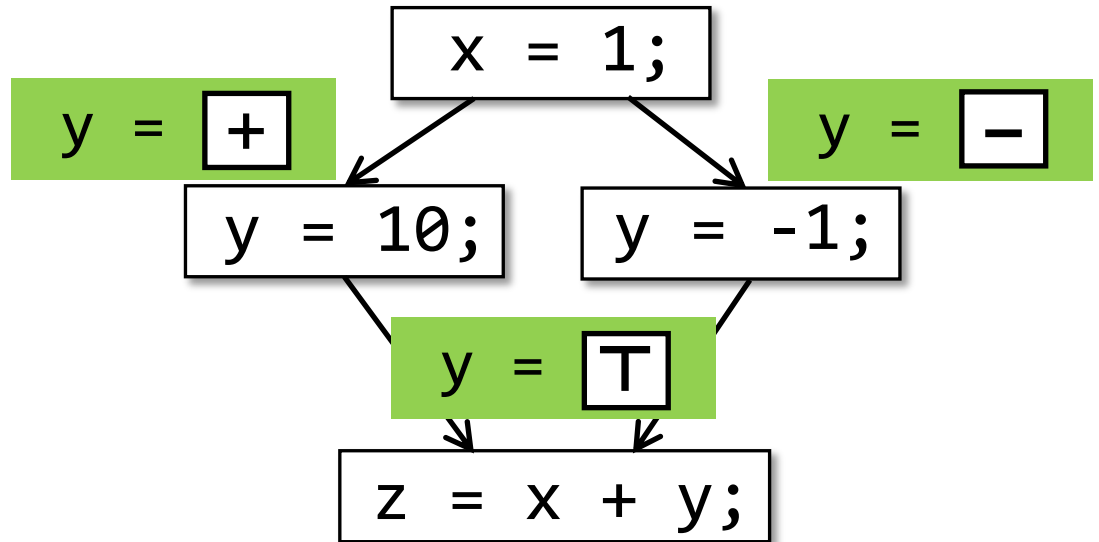
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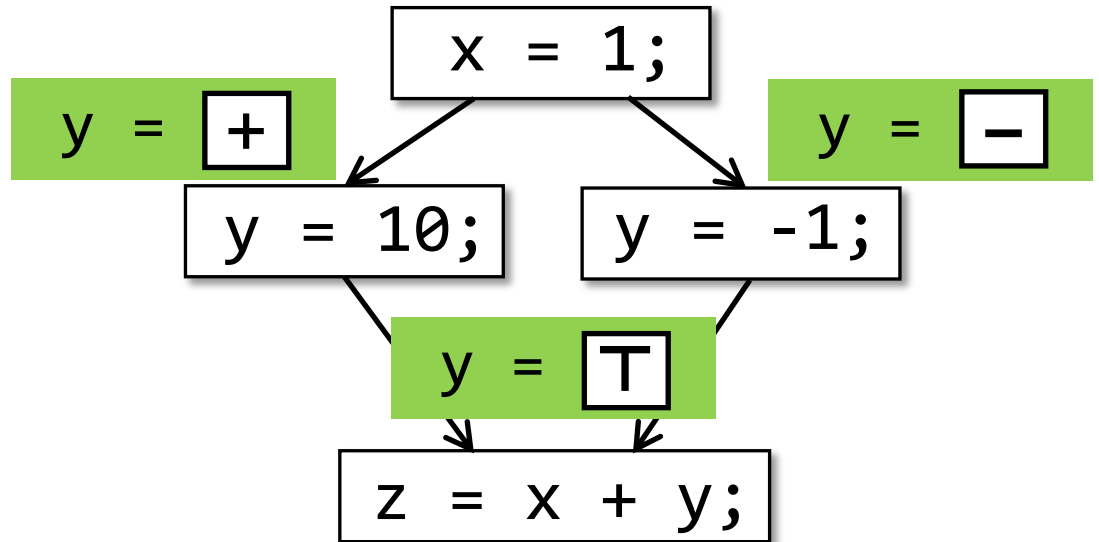
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```



As it's impossible to enumerate all paths in practice, flow merging (as a way of over-approximation) is taken for granted in most static analyses.

# Teaching Plan (Tentative)

1. Introduction
2. Intermediate Representation
3. Data Flow Analysis — Applications (I)
4. Data Flow Analysis — Applications (II)
5. Data Flow Analysis — Foundations (I)
6. Data Flow Analysis — Foundations (II)
7. Inter-procedural Analysis
8. Pointer Analysis
9. Pointer Analysis — Foundations (I)
10. Pointer Analysis — Foundations (II)
11. Context Sensitivity (I)
12. Context Sensitivity (II)
13. Static Analysis for Security
14. Datalog-Based Static Analysis
15. CFL-Reachability and IFDS
16. Soundness and Soundiness
17. Abstract Interpretation/Summary

# Evaluation Criteria

- Coding Assignments 50%
- Final Exam 50%

# Coding Assignments (Tentative)

- Assignment 1: Constant Propagation (CP, 10 points)
  - Statically compute and propagate constant values in program
  - Intra-procedural analysis

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  - Build a call graph via pointer analysis (more precise than CHA)
  - Enable more precise inter-procedural constant propagation
- Assignment 5: **Context-Sensitive Pointer Analysis** (CSPTA, 6 points)
  - Build a call graph via C.S. pointer analysis (more precise than PTA)
  - Enable more precise inter-procedural constant propagation

# The X You Need To Understand in This Lecture

- What are the differences between static analysis and (dynamic) testing?
- Understand soundness, completeness, false negatives, and false positives.
- Why soundness is usually required by static analysis?
- How to understand abstraction and over-approximation?

注意注意!  
划重点了!



# Our PASCAL Research Group @Nanjing University



**Programming Languages  
and Static Analysis Group**

[Home](#)[People](#)[Publications](#)[Code](#)

The **PASCAL Research Group** is affiliated with [Institute of Computer Software](#) and [Department of Computer Science and Technology](#) at [Nanjing University](#). We develop effective static program analysis techniques and tools for solving the problems in programming languages, software engineering, system and security.

## News

📅 **October 15, 2019**

[Yue Li](#) and [Tian Tan](#) start the **PASCAL Research Group** at [Nanjing University](#)!

🕒 [Older posts...](#)



## People



**Chenxi Zhang**  
Ph.D., 2017 — (co-supervised with [Prof. Chang Xu](#))



**Hao Ling**  
Undergraduate, 2016 —



**Tian Tan**  
Assistant Research Professor



**Yue Li**  
Associate Professor



**Ganlin Li**  
Undergraduate, 2018 —



**Shengyuan Yang**  
Undergraduate, 2017 —



**Weiyu Ye**  
Ph.D., 2017 — (co-supervised with [Prof. Xiaoxing Ma](#))



**Yuying Yuan**  
Undergraduate, 2017 —



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Yue Li

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谭 添

Tian Tan

