

# SMT@Microsoft

Midwest Verification Day, Iowa, 2009

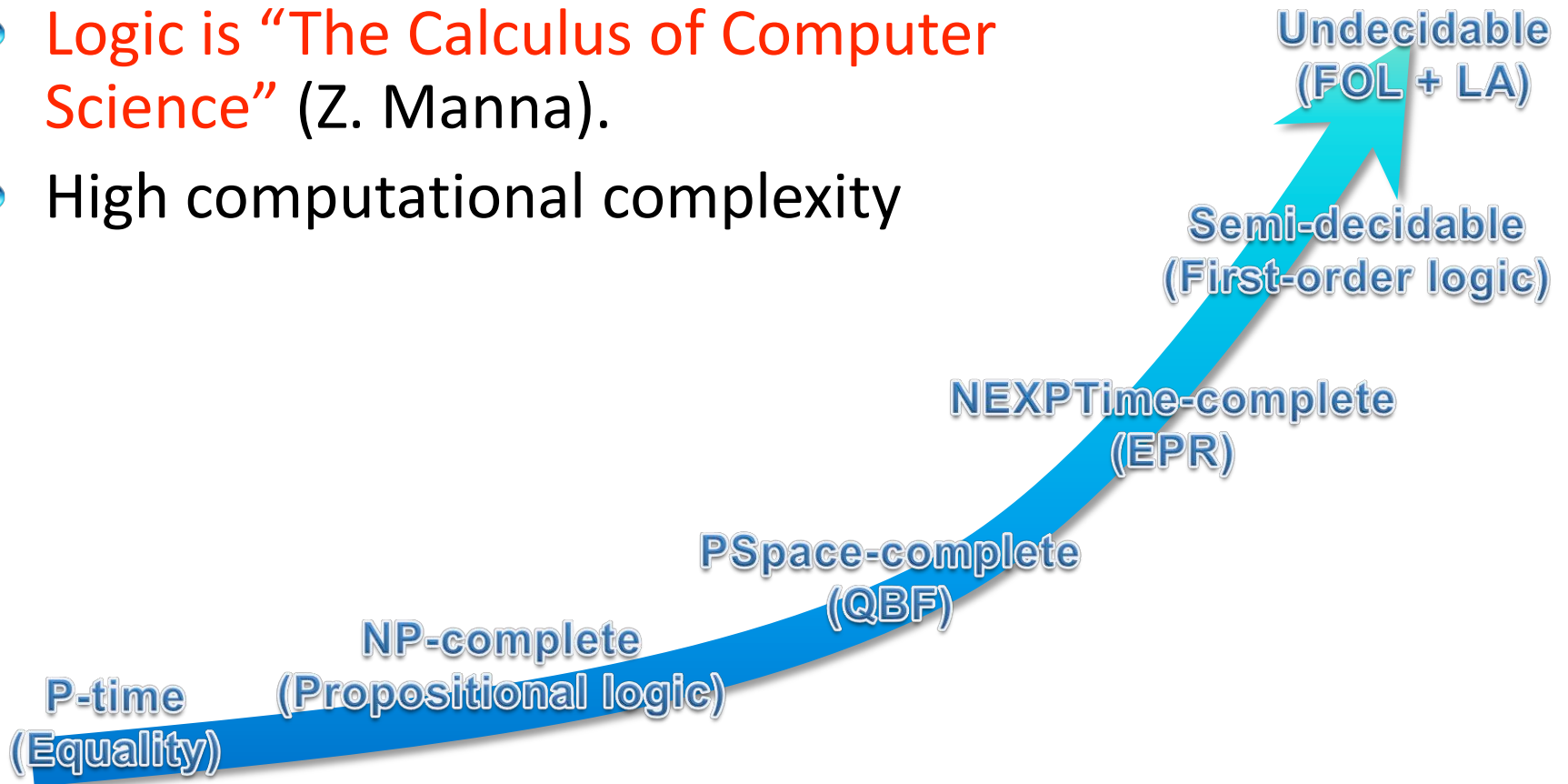
Leonardo de Moura  
Microsoft Research

# Symbolic Reasoning

Verification/Analysis tools  
need some form of  
**Symbolic Reasoning**

# Symbolic Reasoning

- Logic is “The Calculus of Computer Science” (Z. Manna).
- High computational complexity



# Applications

**Test case generation**

**Verifying Compilers**

**Predicate Abstraction**

**Invariant Generation**

**Type Checking**

**Model Based Testing**

# Some Applications @ Microsoft



**HAVOC**



**Hyper-V**

**Microsoft** | Virtualization 

**Terminator T-2**

**VCC**



**NModel**

**Vigilante**

**SpecExplorer**



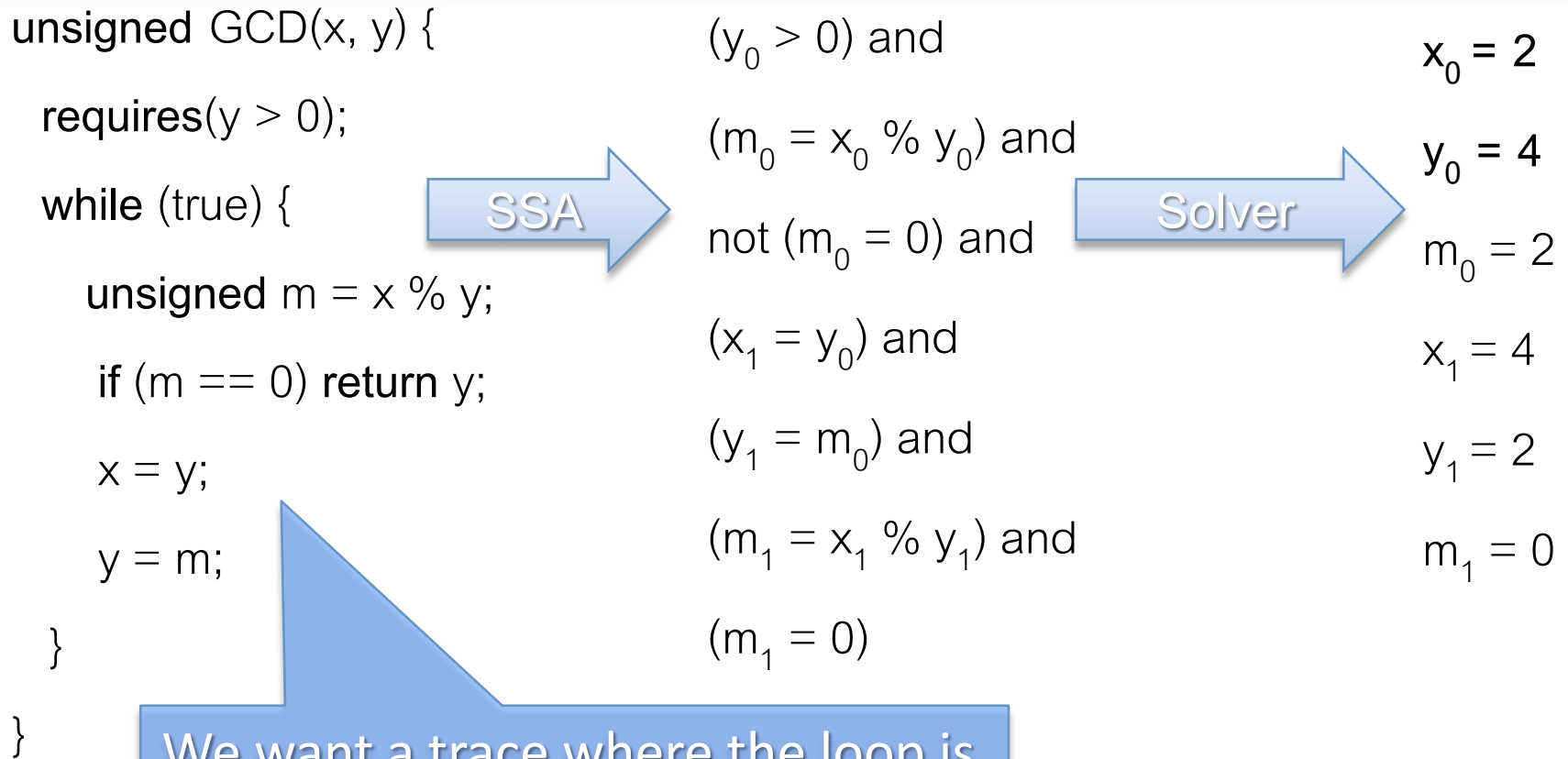
**F7**

**SAGE**

SMT@Microsoft

Microsoft  
**Research**

# Test case generation



We want a trace where the loop is executed twice.

# Type checking

Signature:

$\text{div} : \text{int}, \{ x : \text{int} \mid x \neq 0 \} \rightarrow \text{int}$

Call site:

if  $a \leq 1$  and  $a \leq b$  then  
    return  $\text{div}(a, b)$

Verification condition

$a \leq 1$  and  $a \leq b$  implies  $b \neq 0$



Subtype

# Satisfiability Modulo Theories (SMT)

**Is formula  $F$  satisfiable  
modulo theory  $T$  ?**

SMT solvers have  
specialized algorithms for  $T$



# Satisfiability Modulo Theories (SMT)

*$b + 2 = c$  and  $f(\text{read}(\text{write}(a,b,3), c-2) \neq f(c-b+1)$*

# Satisfiability Modulo Theories (SMT)

$b + 2 = c$  and  $f(\text{read}(\text{write}(a, b, 3), c-2) \neq f(c-b+1)$

Arithmetic

# Satisfiability Modulo Theories (SMT)

$b + 2 = c$  and  $f(\text{read}(\text{write}(a, b, 3), c-2) \neq f(c-b+1)$

Array Theory

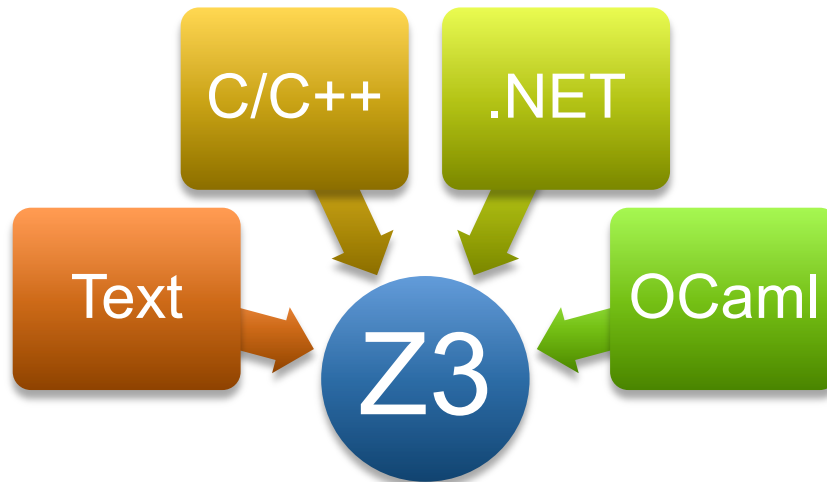
# Satisfiability Modulo Theories (SMT)

$b + 2 = c$  and  $f(\text{read}(\text{write}(a, b, 3), c-2)) \neq f(c-b+1)$

Uninterpreted  
Functions

# SMT@Microsoft: Solver

- Z3 is a new solver developed at Microsoft Research.
- Development/Research driven by internal customers.
- Free for academic research.
- Interfaces:



- <http://research.microsoft.com/projects/z3>

# Ground formulas

*For most SMT solvers:  $F$  is a set of ground formulas*

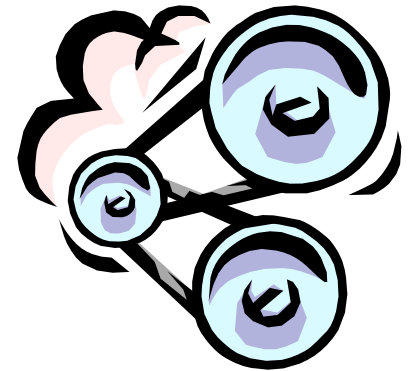
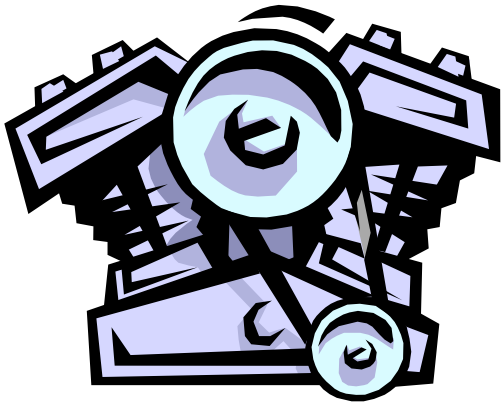
## Many Applications

Bounded Model Checking

Test-Case Generation

# Little Engines of Proof

An SMT Solver is a collection of  
**Little Engines of Proof**



# Deciding Equality

$a = b, b = c, d = e, b = s, d = t, a \neq e, a \neq s$

a

b

c

d

e

s

t



# Deciding Equality

$a = b, b = c, d = e, b = s, d = t, a \neq e, a \neq s$

a

b

c

d

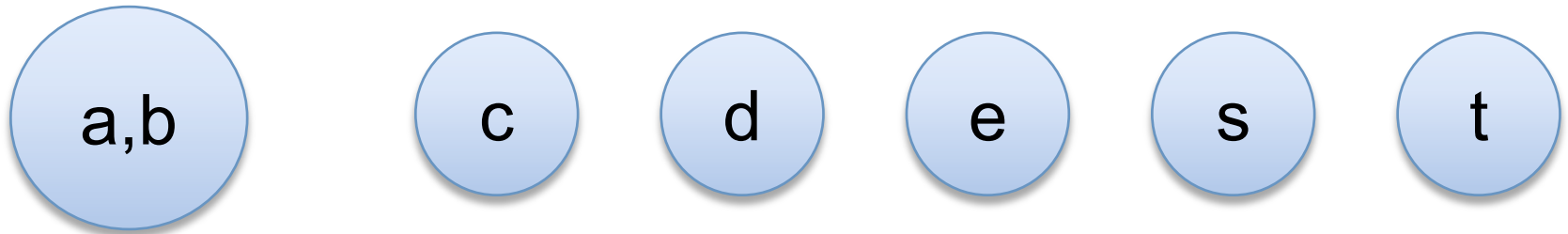
e

s

t

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# Deciding Equality

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a, b

c

d

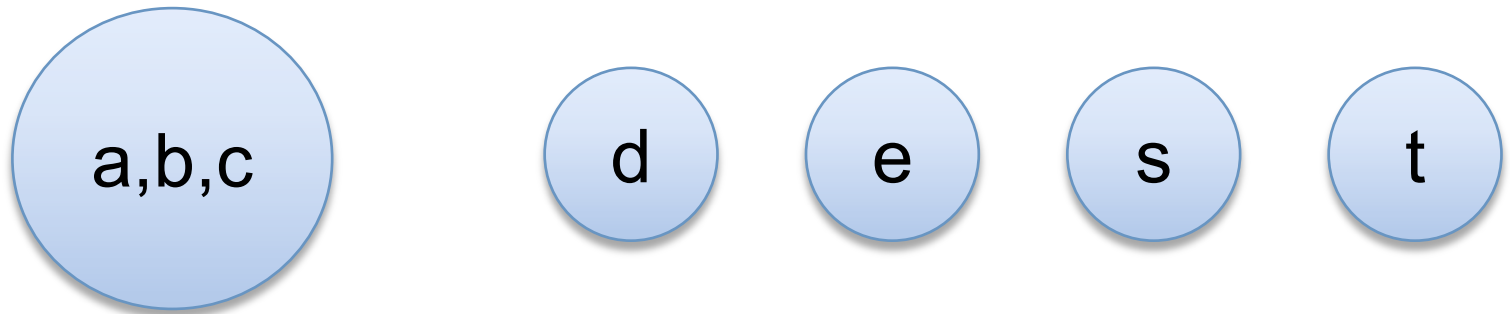
e

s

t

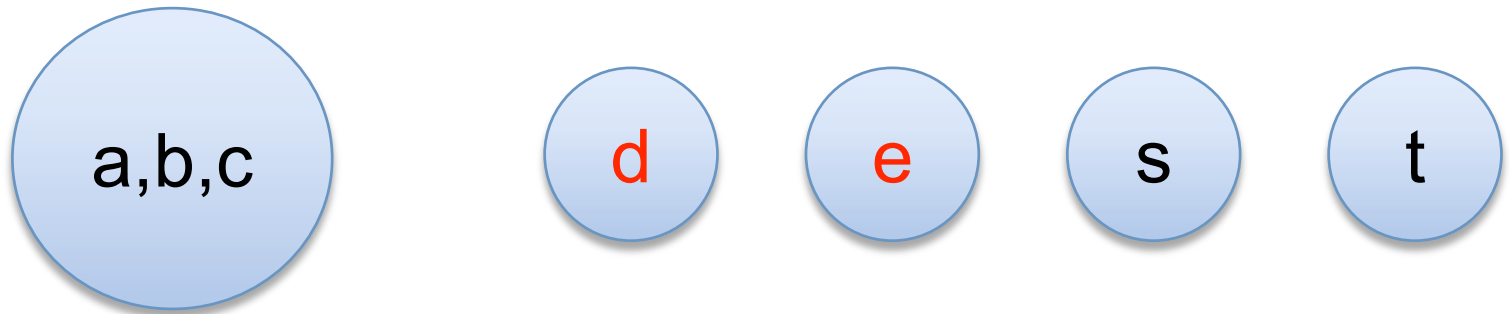
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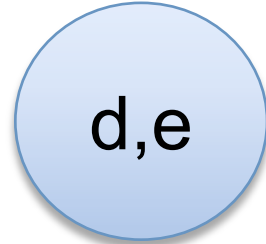
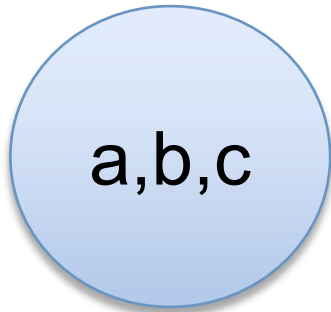
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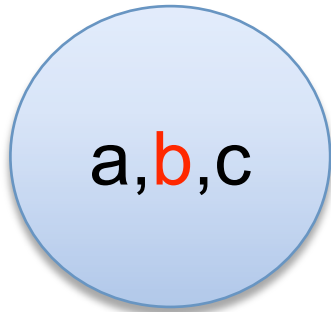
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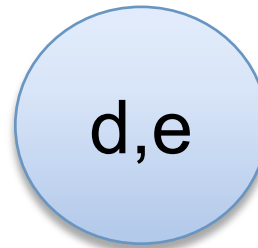
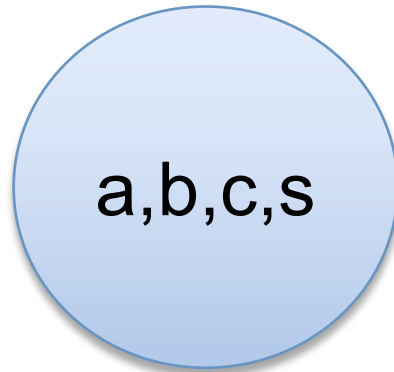
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# Deciding Equality

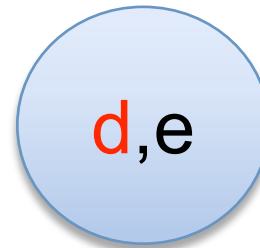
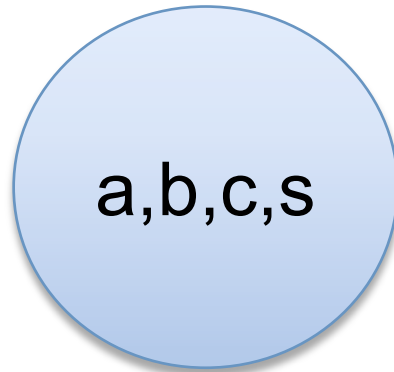
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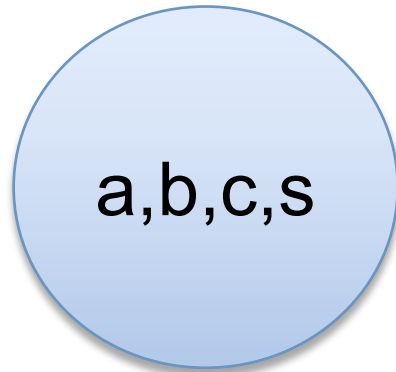
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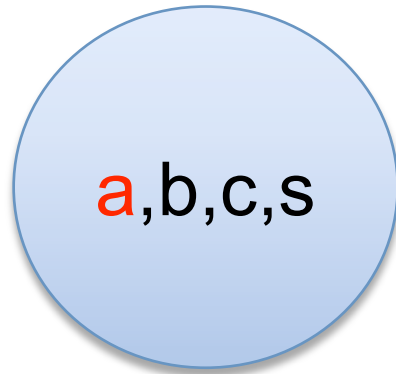
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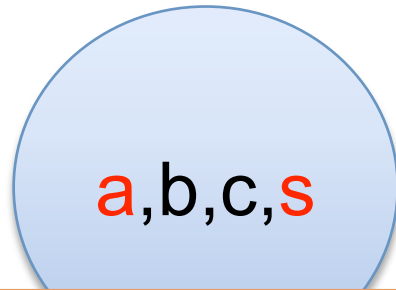
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# Deciding Equality

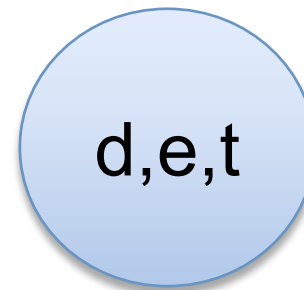
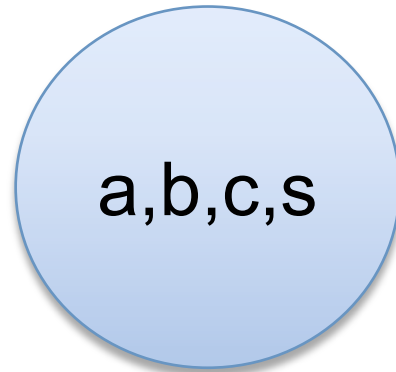
$a = b, b = c, d = e, b = s, d = t, a \neq e, a \neq s$



Unsatisfiable

# Deciding Equality

$$a = b, b = c, d = e, b = s, d = t, a \neq e$$



Model

$$|M| = \{ 0, 1 \}$$

$$M(a) = M(b) = M(c) = M(s) = 0$$

$$M(d) = M(e) = M(t) = 1$$

# Deciding Equality + (uninterpreted) Functions

$$a = b, b = c, d = e, b = s, d = t, f(a, g(d)) \neq f(b, g(e))$$

a,b,c,s

d,e,t

g(d)

g(e)

f(a,g(d))

f(b,g(e))

Congruence Rule:

$$x_1 = y_1, \dots, x_n = y_n \text{ implies } f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = f(y_1, \dots, y_n)$$

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f(a,g(d))

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d,e,t

g(d),g(e)

f(a,g(d))

f(b,g(e))

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g(d),g(e)

f(a,g(d)),f(b,g(e))

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# Deciding Equality + (uninterpreted) Functions

$$a = b, b = c, d = e, b = s, d = t, f(a, g(d)) \neq f(b, g(e))$$

a,b,c,s

d,e,t

g(d),g(e)

f(a,g(d)),f(b,g(e))

Unsatisfiable

# Deciding Equality + (uninterpreted) Functions

(fully shared) DAGs for representing terms  
Union-find data-structure + Congruence Closure  
 $O(n \log n)$

# Combining Solvers

In practice, we need a combination of theory solvers.

Nelson-Oppen combination method.

Reduction techniques.

Model-based theory combination.

# SAT (propositional checkers): Case Analysis

$p \vee q,$   
 $p \vee \neg q,$   
 $\neg p \vee q,$   
 $\neg p \vee \neg q$

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$p \vee q,$   
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 $\neg p \vee q,$   
 $\neg p \vee \neg q$

Assignment:  
 $p = \text{false},$   
 $q = \text{false}$

# SAT (propositional checkers): Case Analysis

$$\begin{aligned} & p \vee q, \\ & p \vee \neg q, \\ \neg & p \vee q, \\ \neg & p \vee \neg q \end{aligned}$$

Assignment:  
 $p = \text{false},$   
 $q = \text{true}$



# SAT (propositional checkers): Case Analysis

$p \vee q,$   
 $p \vee \neg q,$   
 $\neg p \vee q,$   
 $\neg p \vee \neg q$

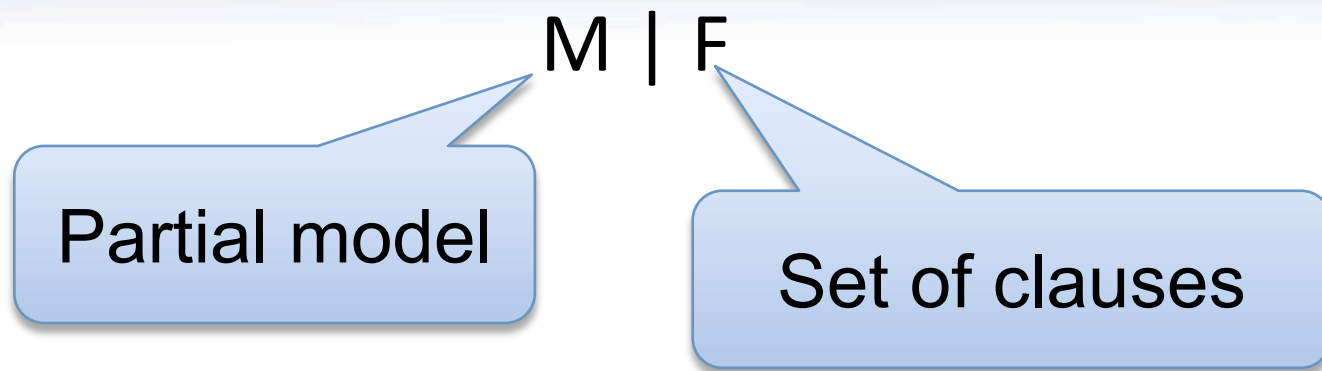
Assignment:  
 $p = \text{true},$   
 $q = \text{false}$

# SAT (propositional checkers): Case Analysis

$p \vee q,$   
 $p \vee \neg q,$   
 $\neg p \vee q,$   
 $\neg p \vee \neg q$

Assignment:  
 $p = \text{true},$   
 $q = \text{true}$

# DPLL



# DPLL

- Guessing

$$p \mid p \vee q, \neg q \vee r$$



$$p, \neg q \mid p \vee q, \neg q \vee r$$

# DPLL

- Deducing

$$p \mid p \vee q, \neg p \vee s$$

$$p, s \mid p \vee q, \neg p \vee s$$

# DPLL

- Backtracking

$p, \neg s, q \mid p \vee q, s \vee q, \neg p \vee \neg q$



$p, s \mid p \vee q, s \vee q, \neg p \vee \neg q$

# Modern DPLL

- Efficient indexing (two-watch literal)
- Non-chronological backtracking (backjumping)
- Lemma learning
- ...

# Solvers = DPLL + Decision Procedures

- Efficient decision procedures for conjunctions of ground literals.

$$a=b, a<5 \mid \neg a=b \vee f(a)=f(b), \quad a < 5 \vee a > 10$$



# Theory Conflicts

$a=b, a > 0, c > 0, a + c < 0 \mid F$



backtrack

# Naïve recipe?

**SMT Solver = DPLL + Decision Procedure**

Standard question:

Why don't you use CPLEX for handling linear arithmetic?

# Efficient SMT solvers

Decision Procedures must be:

Incremental & Backtracking  
Theory Propagation

$a=b, a<5 \mid \dots a<6 \vee f(a) = a$



$a=b, a<5, a<6 \mid \dots a<6 \vee f(a) = a$

# Efficient SMT solvers

## Decision Procedures must be:

Incremental & Backtracking

Theory Propagation

Precise (theory) lemma learning

$a=b, a > 0, c > 0, a + c < 0 \mid F$

Learn clause:

$\neg(a=b) \vee \neg(a > 0) \vee \neg(c > 0) \vee \neg(a + c < 0)$

**Imprecise!**

Precise clause:

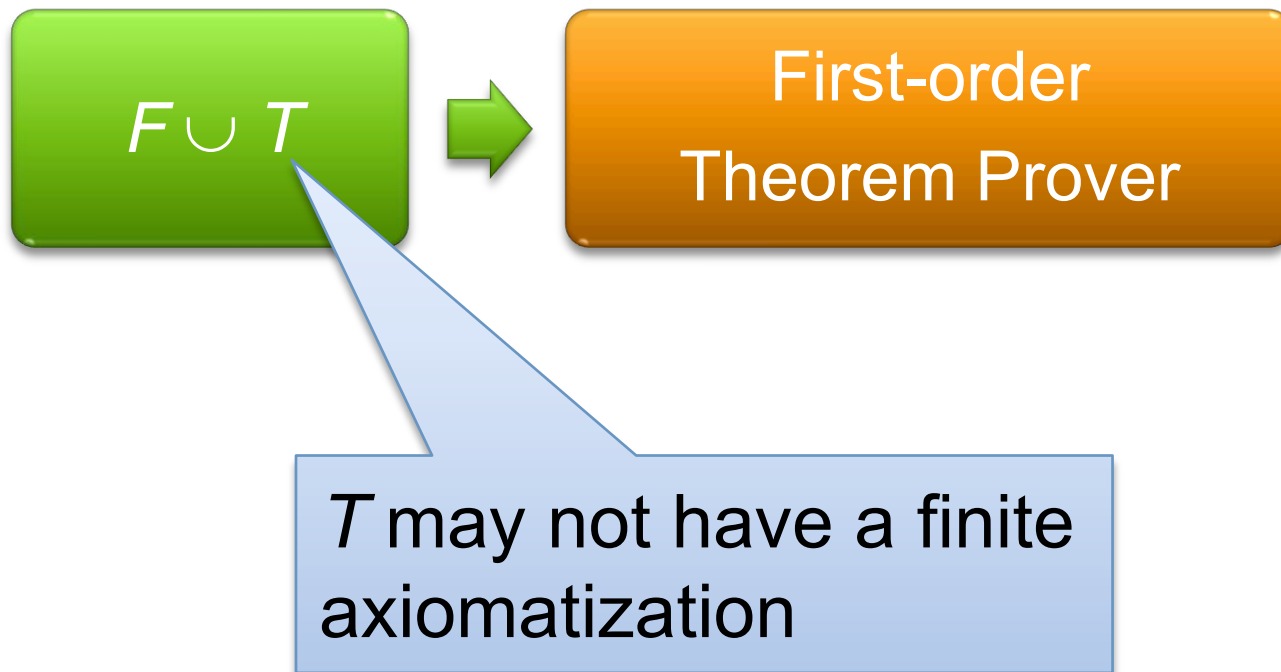
$\neg a > 0 \vee \neg c > 0 \vee \neg a + c < 0$

For some theories, SMT can be reduced to SAT

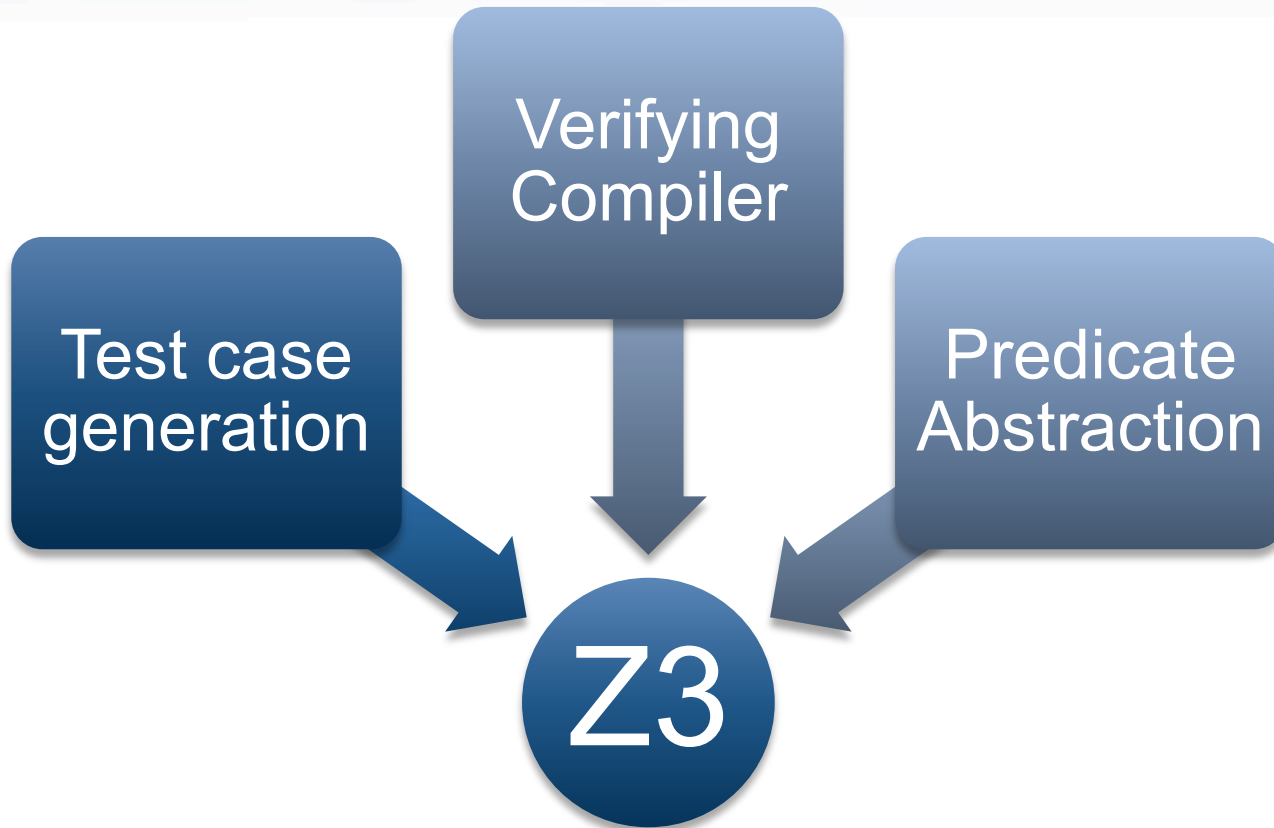
**Higher level of abstraction**

$$\text{bvmul}_{32}(a,b) = \text{bvmul}_{32}(b,a)$$

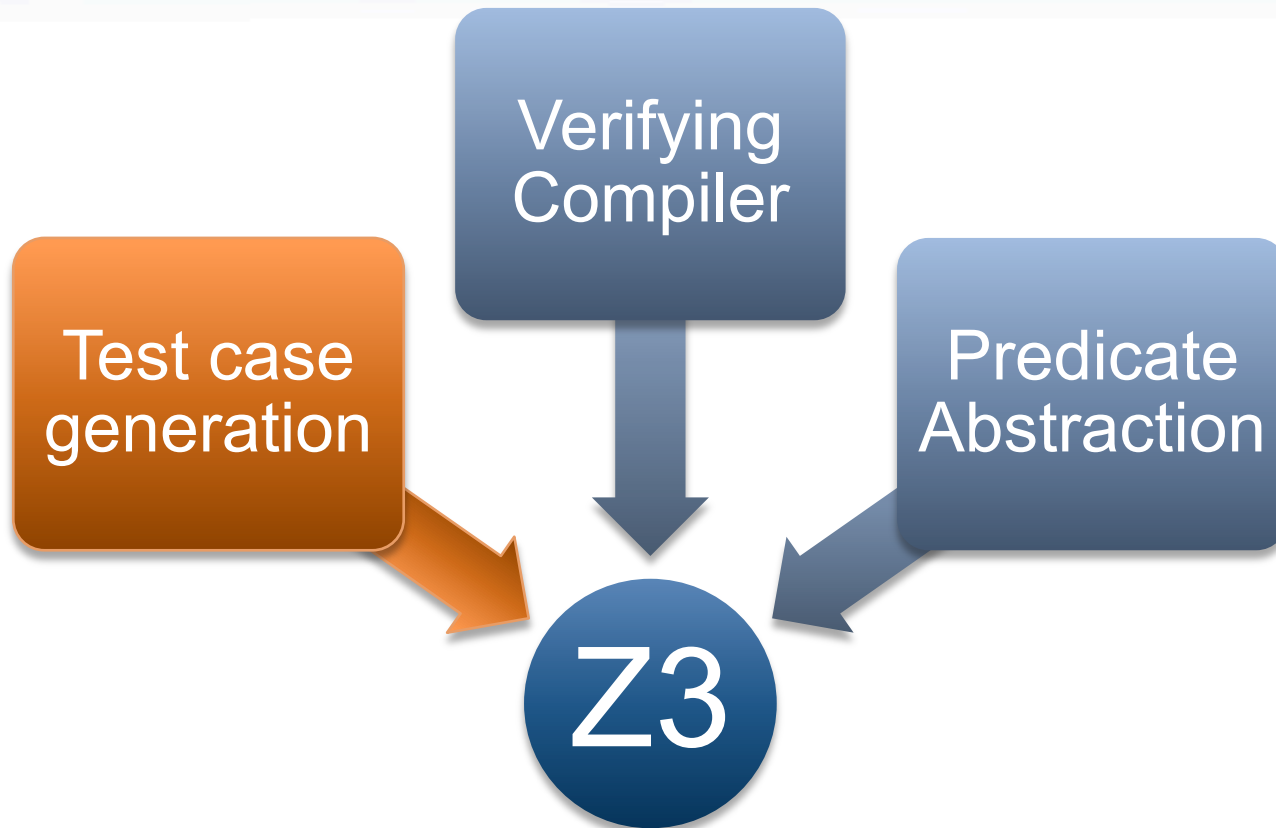
# SMT x First-order provers



# SMT: Some Applications



# SMT: Some Applications





# Test-case generation

- Test (correctness + usability) is 95% of the deal:
  - Dev/Test is 1-1 in products.
  - Developers are responsible for unit tests.
- Tools:
  - Annotations and static analysis (SAL + ESP)
  - File Fuzzing
  - Unit test case generation

# Security is critical

- Security bugs can be very expensive:
  - Cost of each MS Security Bulletin: \$600k to \$Millions.
  - Cost due to worms: \$Billions.
  - **The real victim is the customer.**
- Most security exploits are initiated via files or packets.
  - Ex: Internet Explorer parses dozens of file formats.
- Security testing: **hunting for million dollar bugs**
  - Write A/V
  - Read A/V
  - Null pointer dereference
  - Division by zero

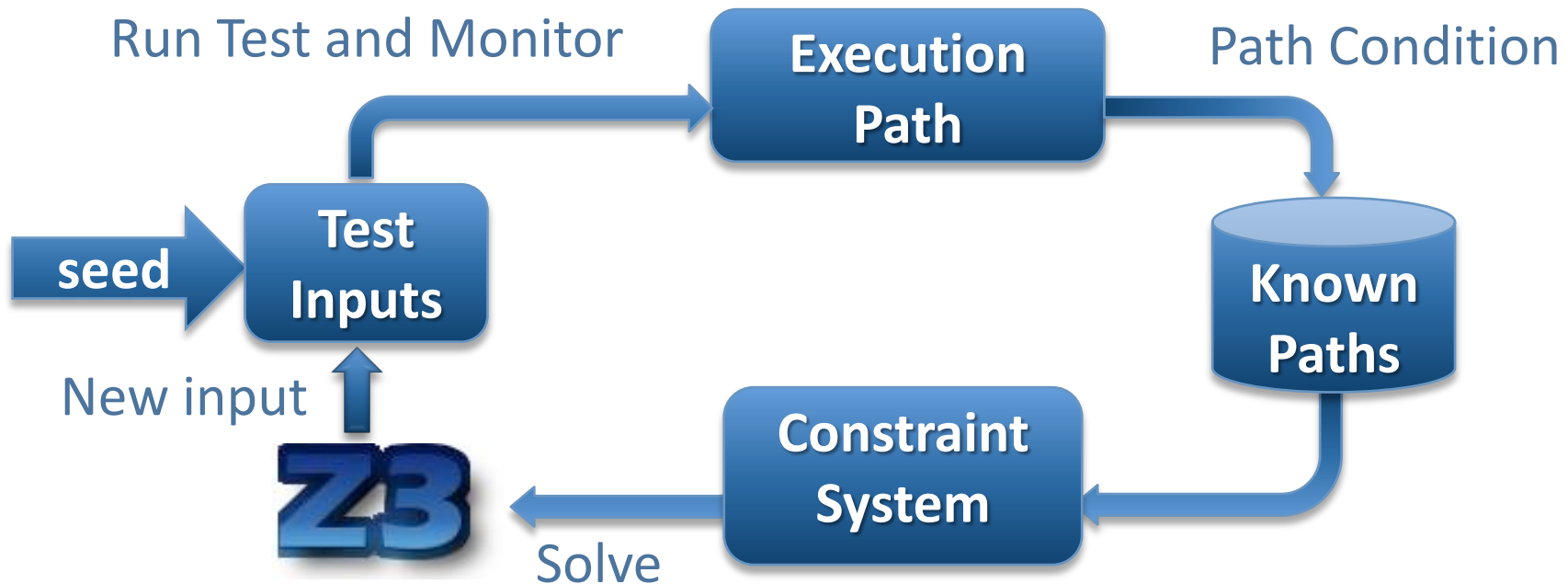


# Hunting for Security Bugs.

- Two main techniques used by “*black hats*”:
  - Code inspection (of binaries).
  - *Black box fuzz testing*.
- **Black box** fuzz testing:
  - A form of black box random testing.
  - Randomly *fuzz* (=modify) a well formed input.
  - Grammar-based fuzzing: rules to encode how to fuzz.
- **Heavily** used in security testing
  - At MS: several internal tools.
  - Conceptually simple yet effective in practice



# Directed Automated Random Testing (DART)



# DARTish projects at Microsoft

PEX

Implements DART for .NET.

SAGE

Implements DART for x86 binaries.

YOGI

Implements DART to check the feasibility of program paths generated statically using a SLAM-like tool.

Vigilante

Partially implements DART to dynamically generate worm filters.

# What is *Pex*?

- Test input generator
  - Pex starts from parameterized unit tests
  - Generated tests are emitted as traditional unit tests

# ArrayList: The Spec

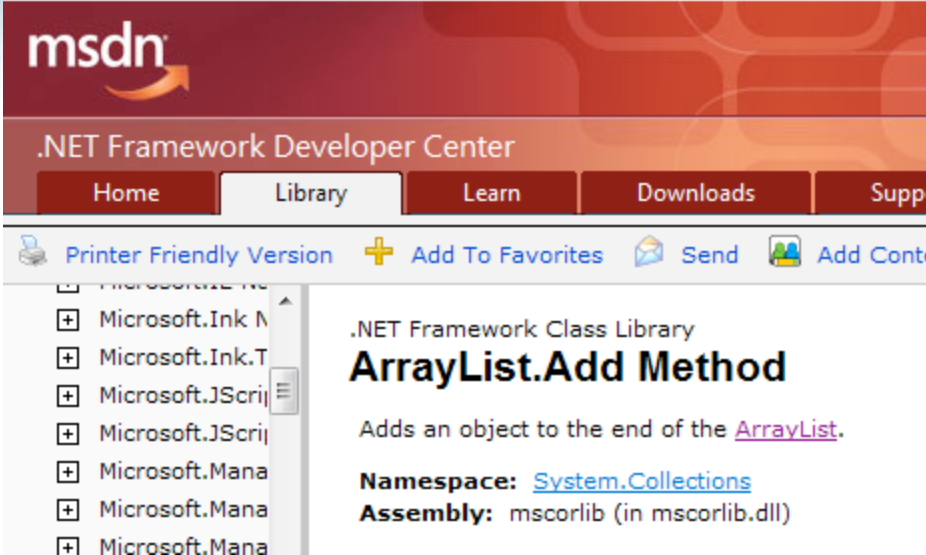
The screenshot displays the MSDN website interface for the `ArrayList.Add` method. The page title is `ArrayList.Add Method`. The description states: "Adds an object to the end of the `ArrayList`." The namespace is `System.Collections` and the assembly is `mscorlib (in mscorlib.dll)`. The `Remarks` section explains that `ArrayList` accepts a null reference (Nothing in Visual Basic) and allows duplicate elements. It also notes that if the `Count` equals the `Capacity`, the capacity is increased by automatically reallocating the internal array. Finally, it states that if `Count` is less than `Capacity`, the method is an  $O(1)$  operation, but becomes an  $O(n)$  operation if the capacity needs to be increased, where  $n$  is `Count`.

This screenshot shows a different view of the MSDN website for the `ArrayList.Add` method. The page title is `ArrayList.Add Method`. The description states: "Adds an object to the end of the `ArrayList`." The namespace is `System.Collections` and the assembly is `mscorlib (in mscorlib.dll)`. The `Remarks` section explains that `ArrayList` accepts a null reference (Nothing in Visual Basic) and allows duplicate elements. It also notes that if the `Count` equals the `Capacity`, the capacity is increased by automatically reallocating the internal array. Finally, it states that if `Count` is less than `Capacity`, the method is an  $O(1)$  operation, but becomes an  $O(n)$  operation if the capacity needs to be increased, where  $n$  is `Count`.

# ArrayList: AddItem Test

```
class ArrayListTest {  
    [PexMethod]  
    void AddItem(int c, object item) {  
        var list = new ArrayList(c);  
        list.Add(item);  
        Assert(list[0] == item); }  
}
```

```
class ArrayList {  
    object[] items;  
    int count;  
  
    ArrayList(int capacity) {  
        if (capacity < 0) throw ...;  
        items = new object[capacity];  
    }  
  
    void Add(object item) {  
        if (count == items.Length)  
            ResizeArray();  
  
        items[this.count++] = item; }  
    ...  
}
```



The screenshot shows the MSDN .NET Framework Developer Center website. The page title is ".NET Framework Class Library ArrayList.Add Method". The description states: "Adds an object to the end of the [ArrayList](#)." The namespace is listed as [System.Collections](#) and the assembly is [mscorlib](#) (in mscorlib.dll). The page also includes navigation links for Home, Library, Learn, Downloads, and Support, as well as utility links for Printer Friendly Version, Add To Favorites, Send, and Add Content.



# ArrayList: Starting Pex...

```
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class ArrayList {  
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    ArrayList(int capacity) {  
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        items = new object[capacity];  
    }  
  
    void Add(object item) {  
        if (count == items.Length)  
            ResizeArray();  
  
        items[this.count++] = item; }  
    ...  
}
```

Inputs

# ArrayList: Run 1, (0,null)

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class ArrayListTest {  
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    }  
  
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    ...  
}
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Inputs

(0,null)

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    if (capacity < 0) throw ...;  
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  }  
  
  void Add(object item) {  
    if (count == items.Length)  
      ResizeArray();  
  
    items[this.count++] = item; }  
  ...  
}
```

$c < 0 \rightarrow \text{false}$

Inputs

Observed  
Constraints

(0,null)

!(c<0)

# ArrayList: Run 1, (0,null)

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class ArrayListTest {  
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    }  
  
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        if (count == items.Length) ResizeArray();  
  
        items[this.count++] = item; }  
    ...  
}
```

0 == c → true

Inputs

(0,null)

Observed  
Constraints

!(c<0) && 0==c

# ArrayList: Run 1, (0,null)

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}
```

item == item → true

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  object[] items;  
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  ...  
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```

Inputs

(0,null)

Observed  
Constraints

!(c<0) && 0==c

# ArrayList: Picking the next branch to cover

```
class ArrayListTest {  
    [PexMethod]  
    void AddItem(int c, object item) {  
        var list = new ArrayList(c);  
        list.Add(item);  
        Assert(list[0] == item); }  
}
```

```
class ArrayList {  
    object[] items;  
    int count;  
  
    ArrayList(int capacity) {  
        if (capacity < 0) throw ...;  
        items = new object[capacity];  
    }  
  
    void Add(object item) {  
        if (count == items.Length)  
            ResizeArray();  
  
        items[this.count++] = item; }  
    ...  
}
```

Constraints to  
solve

Inputs

Observed  
Constraints

(0, null)

!(c < 0) && 0 == c

!(c < 0) && 0 != c



# ArrayList: Solve constraints using SMT solver

```
class ArrayListTest {  
  [PexMethod]  
  void AddItem(int c, object item) {  
    var list = new ArrayList(c);  
    list.Add(item);  
    Assert(list[0] == item); }  
}
```

```
class ArrayList {  
  object[] items;  
  int count;  
  
  ArrayList(int capacity) {  
    if (capacity < 0) throw ...;  
    items = new object[capacity];  
  }  
  
  void Add(object item) {  
    if (count == items.Length)  
      ResizeArray();  
  
    items[this.count++] = item; }  
  ...  
}
```

Constraints to solve	Inputs	Observed Constraints
	(0, null)	!(c < 0) && 0 == c
!(c < 0) && 0 != c	(1, null)	



# ArrayList: Run 2, (1, null)

```
class ArrayListTest {  
    [PexMethod]  
    void AddItem(int c, object item) {  
        var list = new ArrayList(c);  
        list.Add(item);  
        Assert(list[0] == item); }  
}
```

```
class ArrayList {  
    object[] items;  
    int count;  
  
    ArrayList(int capacity) {  
        if (capacity < 0) throw ...;  
        items = new object[capacity];  
    }  
  
    void Add(object item) {  
        if (count == items.Length) ResizeArray();  
  
        items[this.count++] = item; }  
    ...  
}
```

$0 == c \rightarrow \text{false}$

Constraints to solve	Inputs	Observed Constraints
	(0, null)	$!(c < 0) \ \&\& \ 0 == c$
$!(c < 0) \ \&\& \ 0 != c$	(1, null)	$!(c < 0) \ \&\& \ 0 != c$



# ArrayList: Pick new branch

```
class ArrayListTest {  
  [PexMethod]  
  void AddItem(int c, object item) {  
    var list = new ArrayList(c);  
    list.Add(item);  
    Assert(list[0] == item); }  
}
```

```
class ArrayList {  
  object[] items;  
  int count;  
  
  ArrayList(int capacity) {  
    if (capacity < 0) throw ...;  
    items = new object[capacity];  
  }  
  
  void Add(object item) {  
    if (count == items.Length)  
      ResizeArray();  
  
    items[this.count++] = item; }  
  ...  
}
```

Constraints to solve	Inputs	Observed Constraints
	(0,null)	!(c<0) && 0==c
!(c<0) && 0!=c	(1,null)	!(c<0) && 0!=c
<b>c&lt;0</b>		



# ArrayList: Run 3, (-1, null)

```
class ArrayListTest {  
  [PexMethod]  
  void AddItem(int c, object item) {  
    var list = new ArrayList(c);  
    list.Add(item);  
    Assert(list[0] == item); }  
}
```

```
class ArrayList {  
  object[] items;  
  int count;  
  
  ArrayList(int capacity) {  
    if (capacity < 0) throw ...;  
    items = new object[capacity];  
  }  
  
  void Add(object item) {  
    if (count == items.Length)  
      ResizeArray();  
  
    items[this.count++] = item; }  
  ...  
}
```

Constraints to solve	Inputs	Observed Constraints
	(0,null)	!(c<0) && 0==c
!(c<0) && 0!=c	(1,null)	!(c<0) && 0!=c
c<0	<b>(-1,null)</b>	



# ArrayList: Run 3, (-1, null)

```
class ArrayListTest {  
    [PexMethod]  
    void AddItem(int c, object item) {  
        var list = new ArrayList(c);  
        list.Add(item);  
        Assert(list[0] == item); }  
}
```

```
class ArrayList {  
    object[] items;  
    int count;  
  
    ArrayList(int capacity) {  
        if (capacity < 0) throw ...;  
        items = new object[capacity];  
    }  
  
    void Add(object item) {  
        if (count == items.Length)  
            ResizeArray();  
  
        items[this.count++] = item; }  
    ...  
}
```

$c < 0 \rightarrow \text{true}$

Constraints to solve	Inputs	Observed Constraints
	(0, null)	!(c < 0) && 0 == c
!(c < 0) && 0 != c	(1, null)	!(c < 0) && 0 != c
c < 0	<b>(-1, null)</b>	c < 0

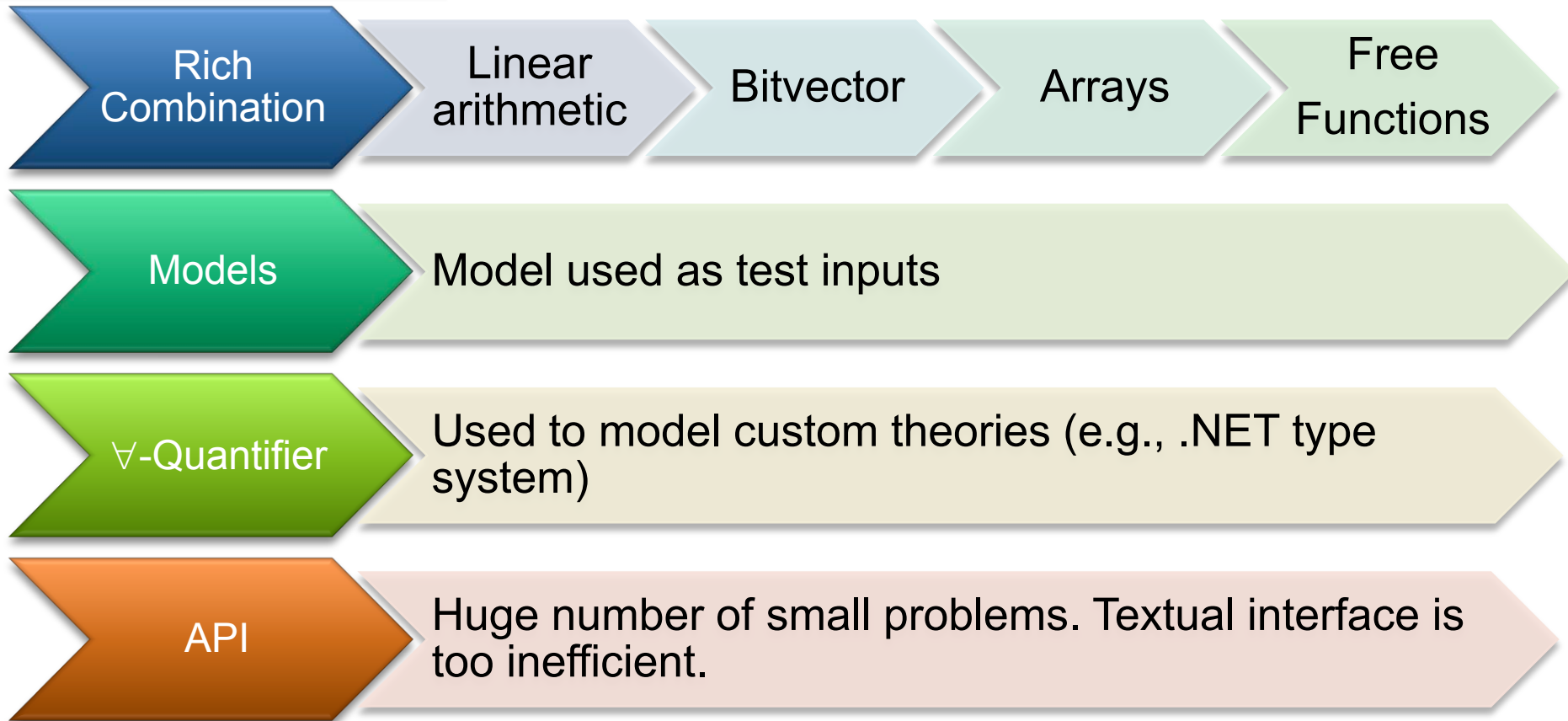
# ArrayList: Run 3, (-1, null)

```
class ArrayListTest {  
    [PexMethod]  
    void AddItem(int c, object item) {  
        var list = new ArrayList(c);  
        list.Add(item);  
        Assert(list[0] == item); }  
}
```

```
class ArrayList {  
    object[] items;  
    int count;  
  
    ArrayList(int capacity) {  
        if (capacity < 0) throw ...;  
        items = new object[capacity];  
    }  
  
    void Add(object item) {  
        if (count == items.Length)  
            ResizeArray();  
  
        items[this.count++] = item; }  
    ...  
}
```

Constraints to solve	Inputs	Observed Constraints
	(0,null)	!(c<0) && 0==c
!(c<0) && 0!=c	(1,null)	!(c<0) && 0!=c
c<0	(-1,null)	c<0

# PEX $\leftrightarrow$ Z3



# PEX $\leftrightarrow$ Z3: Incrementality

- Pex “sends” several similar formulas to Z3.
- Plus: backtracking primitives in the Z3 API.
  - **push**
  - **pop**
- Reuse (some) lemmas.

# PEX $\leftrightarrow$ Z3: Small models

- **Given** a set of constraints  $C$ , find a model  $M$  that **minimizes** the interpretation for  $x_0, \dots, x_n$ .
- In the ArrayList example:
  - Why is the model where  $c = 2147483648$  less desirable than the model with  $c = 1$ ?

$!(c < 0) \ \&\& \ \theta \neq c$

- Simple solution:

Assert  $C$

while satisfiable

    Peek  $x_i$  such that  $M[x_i]$  is big

    Assert  $x_i < n$ , where  $n$  is a small constant

Return last found model

# PEX $\leftrightarrow$ Z3: Small models

- **Given** a set of constraints  $C$ , find a model  $M$  that **minimizes** the interpretation for  $x_0, \dots, x_n$ .
- In the ArrayList example:
  - Why is the model where  $c = 2147483648$  less desirable than the model with  $c = 1$ ?

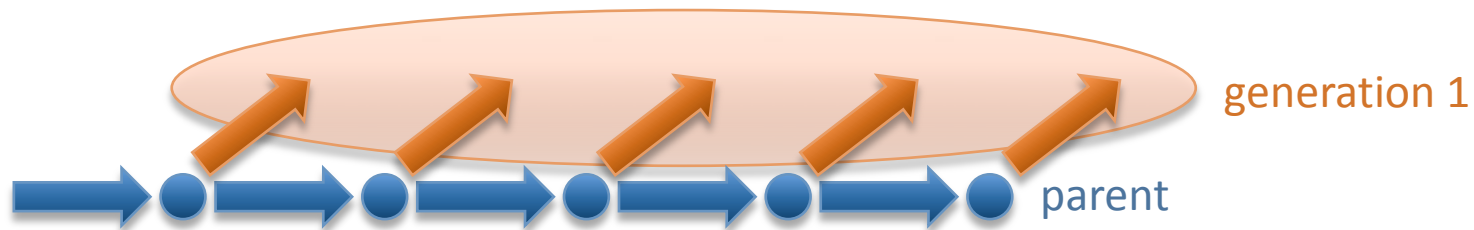
$!(c < \theta) \ \&\& \ \theta \neq c$

- **Refinement:**
  - Eager solution stops as soon as the system becomes unsatisfiable.
  - A “bad” choice (peek  $x_i$ ) may prevent us from finding a good solution.
  - Use **push** and **pop** to retract “bad” choices.



# SAGE

- Apply DART to large applications (not units).
- Start with well-formed input (not random).
- Combine with generational search (not DFS).
  - Negate 1-by-1 each constraint in a path constraint.
  - Generate many children for each parent run.



# Zero to Crash in 10 Generations

- Starting with 100 zero bytes ...
- SAGE generates a crashing test for Media1 parser

```
00000000h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....  
00000010h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....  
00000020h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....  
00000030h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....  
00000040h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....  
00000050h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....  
00000060h: 00 00 00 00 ; .....
```

Generation 0 – seed file

# Zero to Crash in 10 Generations

- Starting with 100 zero bytes ...
- SAGE generates a crashing test for Media1 parser

```
00000000h: 52 49 46 46 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; RIFF.....
00000010h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000020h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000030h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000040h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000050h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000060h: 00 00 00 00 ; .....
```

Generation 1

# Zero to Crash in 10 Generations

- Starting with 100 zero bytes ...
- SAGE generates a crashing test for Media1 parser

```
00000000h: 52 49 46 46 00 00 00 00 ** ** ** 20 00 00 00 00 ; RIFF... *** .....
00000010h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000020h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000030h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000040h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000050h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000060h: 00 00 00 00 ; .....
```

Generation 2

# Zero to Crash in 10 Generations

- Starting with 100 zero bytes ...
- SAGE generates a crashing test for Media1 parser

```
00000000h: 52 49 46 46 3D 00 00 00 ** ** ** 20 00 00 00 00 ; RIFF...*** ....
00000010h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000020h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000030h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000040h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000050h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000060h: 00 00 00 00 ; .....
```

Generation 3

# Zero to Crash in 10 Generations

- Starting with 100 zero bytes ...
- SAGE generates a crashing test for Media1 parser

```
00000000h: 52 49 46 46 3D 00 00 00 ** ** ** 20 00 00 00 00 ; RIFF=...*** ....
00000010h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000020h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000030h: 00 00 00 00 73 74 72 68 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....strh.....
00000040h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000050h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000060h: 00 00 00 00 ; .....
```

Generation 4

# Zero to Crash in 10 Generations

- Starting with 100 zero bytes ...
- SAGE generates a crashing test for Media1 parser

```
00000000h: 52 49 46 46 3D 00 00 00 ** ** ** 20 00 00 00 00 ; RIFF=...*** ....
00000010h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000020h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000030h: 00 00 00 00 73 74 72 68 00 00 00 00 76 69 64 73 ; ....strh... vids
00000040h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000050h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000060h: 00 00 00 00 ; .....
```

Generation 5

# Zero to Crash in 10 Generations

- Starting with 100 zero bytes ...
- SAGE generates a crashing test for Media1 parser

```
00000000h: 52 49 46 46 3D 00 00 00 ** ** ** 20 00 00 00 00 ; RIFF=...*** ....
00000010h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000020h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000030h: 00 00 00 00 73 74 72 68 00 00 00 00 76 69 64 73 ; ....strh....vids
00000040h: 00 00 00 00 73 74 72 66 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; ....strf.....
00000050h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000060h: 00 00 00 00 ; .....
```

Generation 6



# Zero to Crash in 10 Generations

- Starting with 100 zero bytes ...
- SAGE generates a crashing test for Media1 parser

```
00000000h: 52 49 46 46 3D 00 00 00 ** ** ** 20 00 00 00 00 ; RIFF=...*** ....
00000010h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000020h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000030h: 00 00 00 00 73 74 72 68 00 00 00 00 76 69 64 73 ; ....strh....vids
00000040h: 00 00 00 00 73 74 72 66 00 00 00 00 28 00 00 00 ; ....strf....
00000050h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000060h: 00 00 00 00 ; .....
```

Generation 7

# Zero to Crash in 10 Generations

- Starting with 100 zero bytes ...
- SAGE generates a crashing test for Media1 parser

```
00000000h: 52 49 46 46 3D 00 00 00 ** ** ** 20 00 00 00 00 ; RIFF=...*** ....
00000010h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000020h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000030h: 00 00 00 00 73 74 72 68 00 00 00 00 76 69 64 73 ; ....strh....vids
00000040h: 00 00 00 00 73 74 72 66 00 00 00 00 28 00 00 00 ; ....strf....(....
00000050h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 C9 9D E4 4E ; .....EāN
00000060h: 00 00 00 00 ; .....
```

Generation 8

# Zero to Crash in 10 Generations

- Starting with 100 zero bytes ...
- SAGE generates a crashing test for Media1 parser

```
00000000h: 52 49 46 46 3D 00 00 00 ** ** ** 20 00 00 00 00 ; RIFF=...*** ....
00000010h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000020h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000030h: 00 00 00 00 73 74 72 68 00 00 00 00 76 69 64 73 ; ....strh....vids
00000040h: 00 00 00 00 73 74 72 66 00 00 00 00 28 00 00 00 ; ....strf....(...)
00000050h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 01 00 00 ; .....
00000060h: 00 00 00 00 ; .....
```

Generation 9

# Zero to Crash in 10 Generations

- Starting with 100 zero bytes ...
- SAGE generates a crashing test for Media1 parser

```
00000000h: 52 49 46 46 3D 00 00 00 ** ** ** 20 00 00 00 00 ; RIFF=...*** ....
00000010h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000020h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ; .....
00000030h: 00 00 00 00 73 74 72 68 00 00 00 00 76 69 64 73 ; ....strh....vids
00000040h: 00 00 00 00 73 74 72 66 B2 75 76 3A 28 00 00 00 ; ....struv:(...
00000050h: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 01 00 00 ; .....
00000060h: 00 00 00 00 ; .....
```

Generation 10 – CRASH

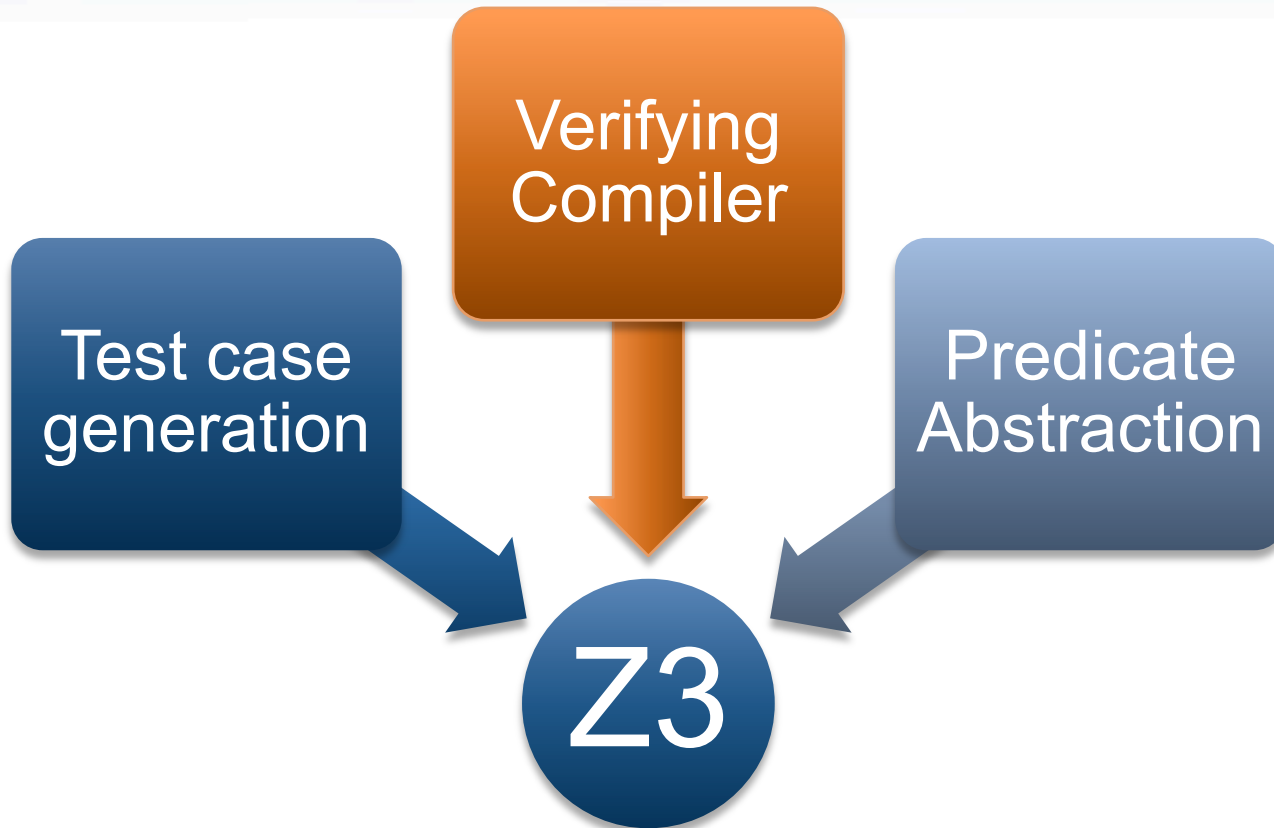
# SAGE (cont.)

- SAGE is very effective at finding bugs.
- Works on large applications.
- Fully automated
- Easy to deploy (x86 analysis – any language)
- Used in various groups inside Microsoft
- Powered by Z3.

# SAGE ↔ Z3

- Formulas are usually big conjunctions.
- SAGE uses only the bitvector and array theories.
- Pre-processing step has a huge performance impact.
  - Eliminate variables.
  - Simplify formulas.
- Early unsat detection.

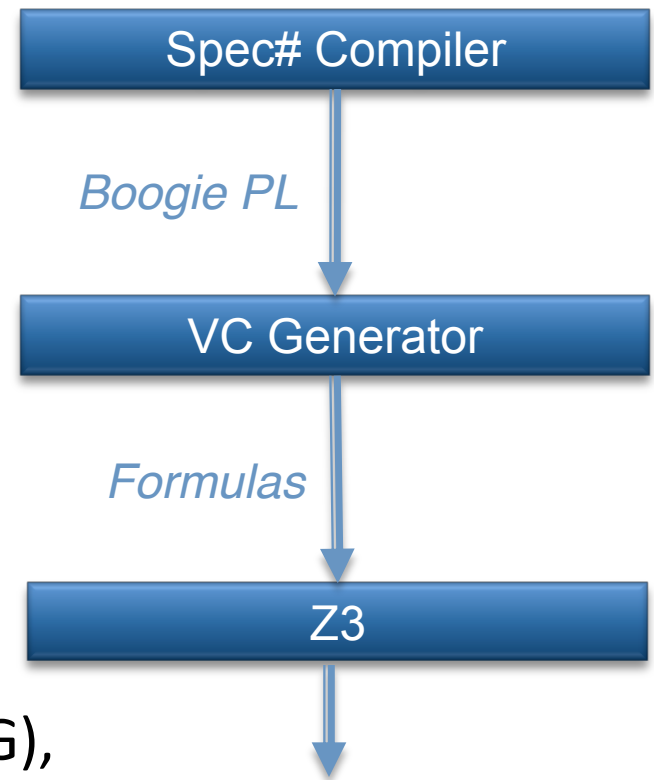
# SMT: Some Applications



# Spec# Approach for a Verifying Compiler

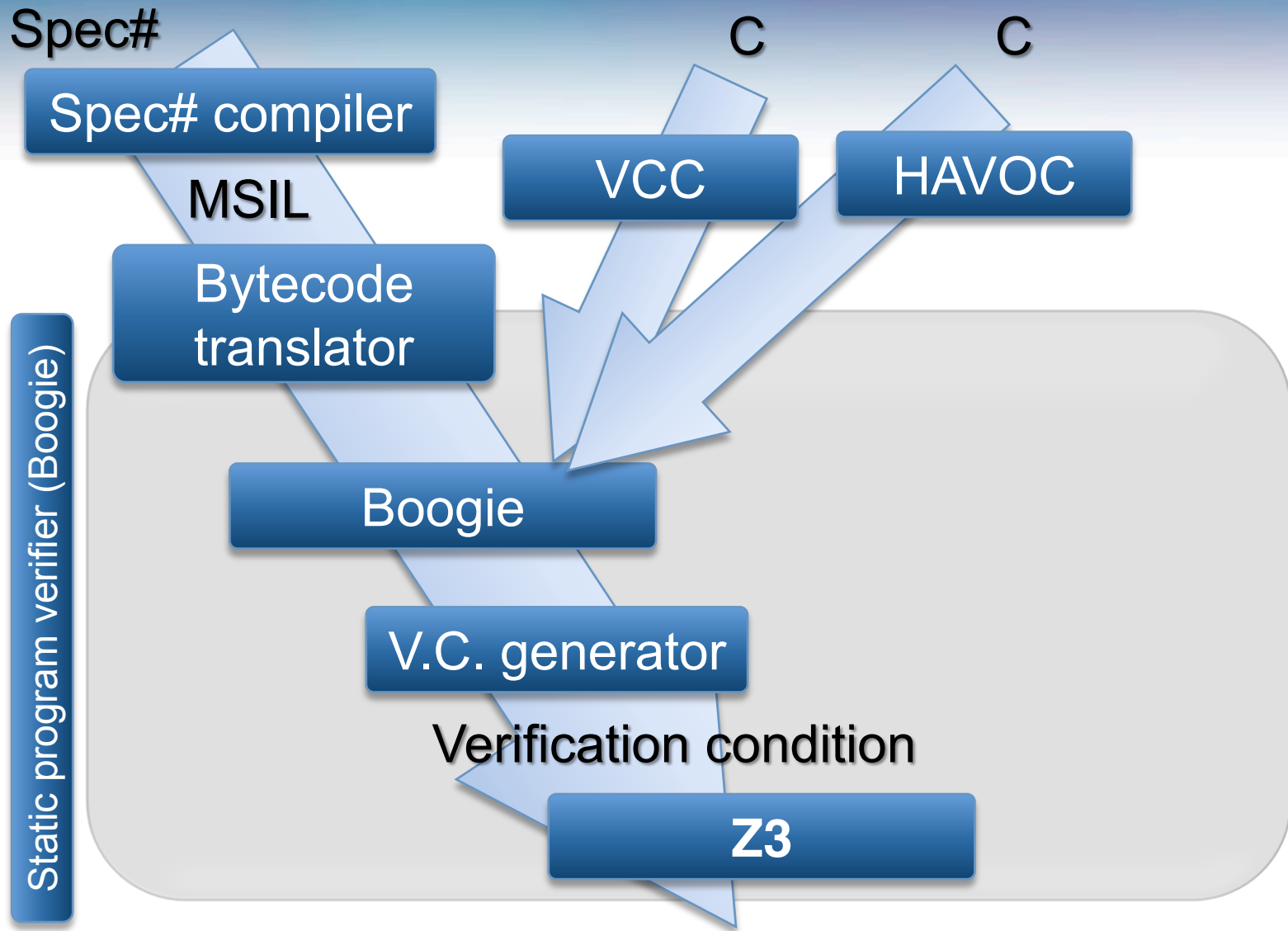
- **Source Language**
  - C# + goodies = Spec#
- **Specifications**
  - method contracts,
  - invariants,
  - field and type annotations.
- **Program Logic:**
  - *Dijkstra's weakest preconditions.*
- **Automatic Verification**
  - type checking,
  - verification condition generation (VCG),
  - automatic theorem proving Z3

*Spec# (annotated C#)*





# Verification architecture



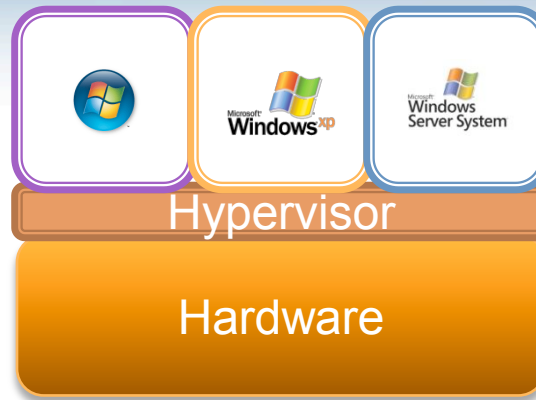
# HAVOC

- A tool for specifying and checking properties of systems software written in C.
- It also translates annotated C into Boogie PL.
- It allows the expression of *richer properties about the program heap and data structures* such as linked lists and arrays.
- HAVOC is being used to specify and check:
  - Complex locking protocols over heap-allocated data structures in Windows.
  - Properties of collections such as IRP queues in device drivers.
  - Correctness properties of custom storage allocators.

# A Verifying C Compiler

- VCC translates an *annotated C program* into a *Boogie PL* program.
- A C-ish memory model
  - Abstract heaps
  - Bit-level precision
- Microsoft Hypervisor: verification grand challenge.

# Hypervisor: A Manhattan Project



- **Meta OS:** small layer of software between hardware and OS
- **Mini:** 60K lines of non-trivial concurrent systems C code
- **Critical:** must **provide functional resource abstraction**
- **Trusted:** a verification grand challenge

# Hypervisor: Some Statistics

- VCs have several Mb
- Thousands of non ground clauses
- Developers are willing to wait at most 5 min per VC

# Main Challenge

- Quantifiers, quantifiers, quantifiers, ...
- Modeling the runtime

$\forall h, o, f:$

$\text{IsHeap}(h) \wedge o \neq \text{null} \wedge \text{read}(h, o, \text{alloc}) = t$

$\Rightarrow$

$\text{read}(h, o, f) = \text{null} \vee \text{read}(h, \text{read}(h, o, f), \text{alloc}) = t$

# Main Challenge

- Quantifiers, quantifiers, quantifiers, ...
- Modeling the runtime
- Frame axioms

$\forall o, f:$

$$o \neq \text{null} \wedge \text{read}(h_0, o, \text{alloc}) = t \Rightarrow \\ \text{read}(h_1, o, f) = \text{read}(h_0, o, f) \vee (o, f) \in M$$

# Main Challenge

- Quantifiers, quantifiers, quantifiers, ...
- Modeling the runtime
- Frame axioms
- User provided assertions

$$\forall i,j: i \leq j \Rightarrow \text{read}(a,i) \leq \text{read}(b,j)$$



# Main Challenge

- Quantifiers, quantifiers, quantifiers, ...
- Modeling the runtime
- Frame axioms
- User provided assertions
- Theories
  - $\forall x: p(x,x)$
  - $\forall x,y,z: p(x,y), p(y,z) \Rightarrow p(x,z)$
  - $\forall x,y: p(x,y), p(y,x) \Rightarrow x = y$

# Main Challenge

- Quantifiers, quantifiers, quantifiers, ...
- Modeling the runtime
- Frame axioms
- User provided assertions
- Theories
- Solver must be fast in satisfiable instances.



**We want to find bugs!**

# Bad news

**There is no sound and refutationally complete  
procedure for  
linear integer arithmetic + free function symbols**

# Many Approaches

Heuristic quantifier instantiation

Combining SMT with Saturation provers

Complete quantifier instantiation

Decidable fragments

Model based quantifier instantiation

# Challenge: modeling runtime

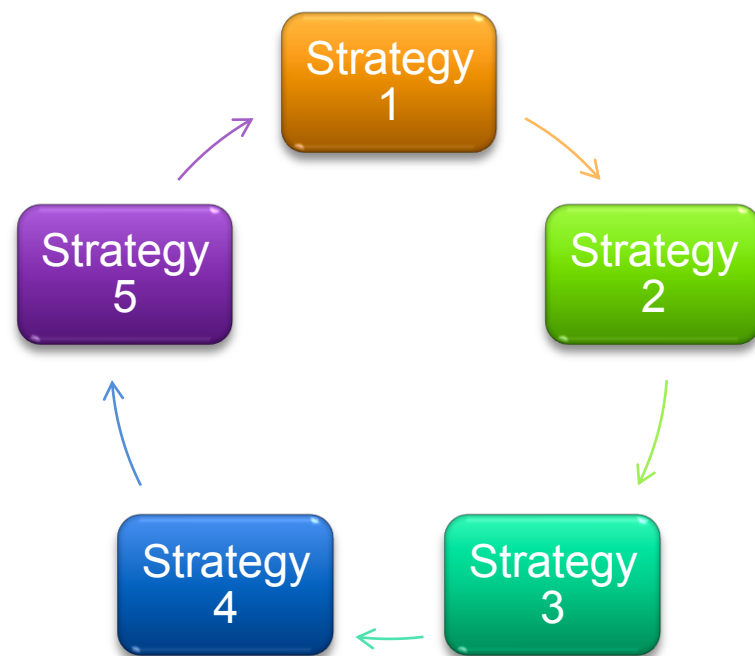
- Is the axiomatization of the runtime consistent?
- **False** implies everything
- Partial solution: **SMT + Saturation Provers**
- Found many bugs using this approach

# Challenge: Robustness

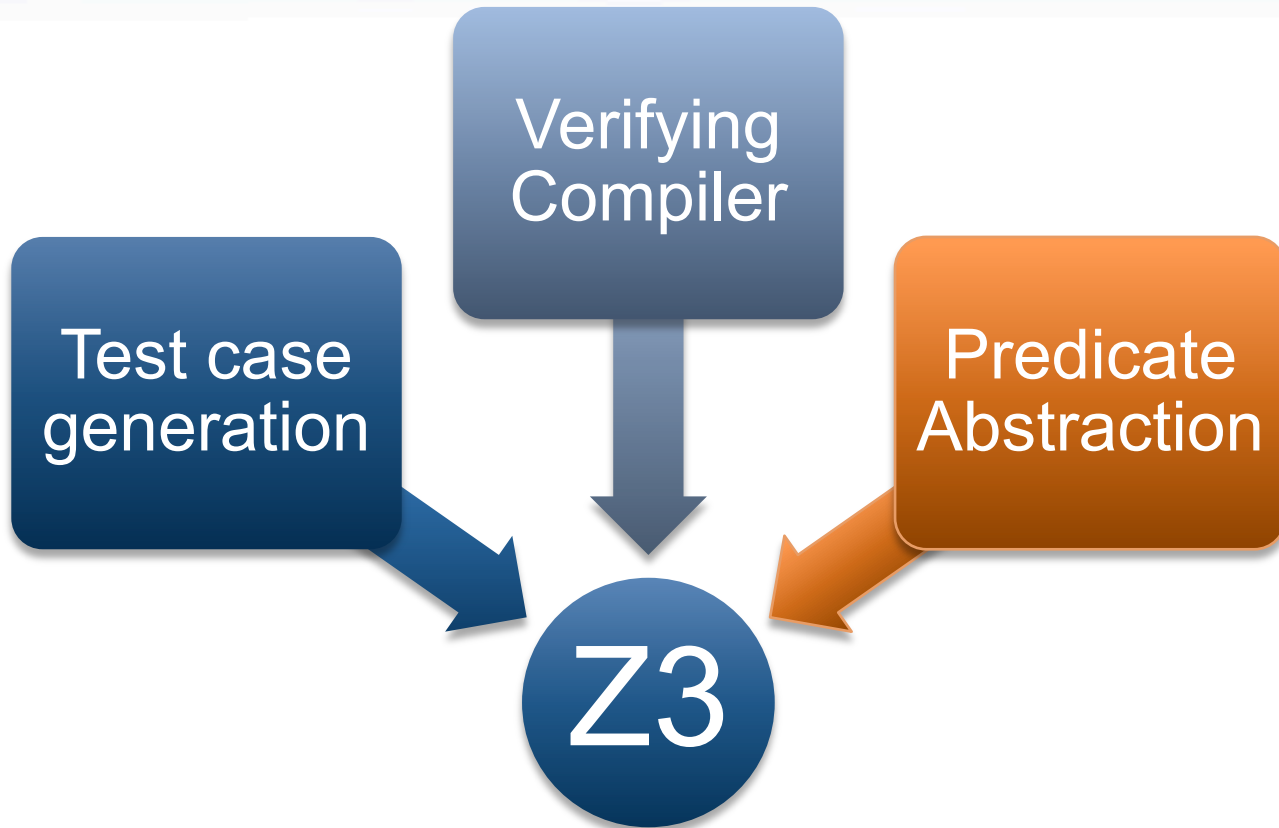
- Standard complain
  - “I made a small modification in my Spec, and Z3 is timingout”
- This also happens with SAT solvers (NP-complete)
- In our case, the problems are undecidable
- Partial solution: parallelization

# Parallel Z3

- Joint work with Y. Hamadi (MSRC) and C. Wintersteiger
- Multi-core & Multi-node (HPC)
- **Different strategies in parallel**
- Collaborate exchanging lemmas



# SMT: Some Applications





# Overview

- <http://research.microsoft.com/slam/>
- **SLAM/SDV** is a software model checker.
- Application domain: **device drivers**.
- Architecture:
  - **c2bp** C program  $\rightarrow$  boolean program (*predicate abstraction*).
  - **bebop** Model checker for boolean programs.
  - **newton** Model refinement (check for path feasibility)
- SMT solvers are used to perform predicate abstraction and to check path feasibility.
- c2bp makes several calls to the SMT solver. The formulas are relatively small.

# Predicate Abstraction: *c2bp*

- **Given** a C program  $P$  and  $F = \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$ .
- **Produce** a Boolean program  $B(P, F)$ 
  - Same control flow structure as  $P$ .
  - Boolean variables  $\{b_1, \dots, b_n\}$  to match  $\{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$ .
  - Properties true in  $B(P, F)$  are true in  $P$ .
- Each  $p_i$  is a pure Boolean expression.
- Each  $p_i$  represents set of states for which  $p_i$  is true.
- Performs modular abstraction.





# Abstracting Expressions via $F$

- *Implies<sub>F</sub> (e)*
  - Best Boolean function over  $F$  that implies  $e$ .
- *ImpliedBy<sub>F</sub> (e)*
  - Best Boolean function over  $F$  that is implied by  $e$ .
  - *ImpliedBy<sub>F</sub> (e) = not Implies<sub>F</sub> (not e)*

# Computing $\text{Implies}_F(e)$





- minterm  $m = l_1 \wedge \dots \wedge l_n$ , where  $l_i = p_i$ , or  $l_i = \text{not } p_i$ .
- $\text{Implies}_F(e)$ : disjunction of all minterms that imply  $e$ .
- Naive approach
  - Generate all  $2^n$  possible minterms.
  - For each minterm  $m$ , use SMT solver to check validity of  $m \Rightarrow e$ .
- Many possible optimizations

# Computing $\text{Implies}_F(e)$

- $F = \{ x < y, x = 2 \}$
- $e : y > 1$
- Minterms over  $F$ 
  - $\neg x < y, \neg x = 2$  implies  $y > 1$  
  - $x < y, \neg x = 2$  implies  $y > 1$  
  - $\neg x < y, x = 2$  implies  $y > 1$  
  - $x < y, x = 2$  implies  $y > 1$  

$$\text{Implies}_F(y > 1) = x < y \wedge x = 2$$

# Computing $\text{Implies}_F(e)$

- $F = \{ x < y, x = 2 \}$
- $e : y > 1$
- Minterms over F
  - $\neg x < y, \neg x = 2$  implies  $y > 1$  
  - $x < y, \neg x = 2$  implies  $y > 1$  
  - $\neg x < y, x = 2$  implies  $y > 1$  
  - $x < y, x = 2$  implies  $y > 1$  

$$\text{Implies}_F(y > 1) = b_1 \wedge b_2$$

# Newton

- Given an error path  $p$  in the Boolean program  $B$ .
- Is  $p$  a feasible path of the corresponding C program?
  - Yes: found a bug.
  - No: find predicates that explain the infeasibility.
- Execute path symbolically.
- Check conditions for inconsistency using Z3.

# SLAM $\leftrightarrow$ Z3

- All-SAT
  - Better (more precise) Predicate Abstraction
- Unsatisfiable cores
  - Why the abstract path is not feasible?
  - Fast Predicate Abstraction



# SLAM $\leftrightarrow$ Z3: Unsatisfiable cores

- Let  $S$  be an unsatisfiable set of formulas.
- $S' \subseteq S$  is an **unsatisfiable core** of  $S$  if:
  - $S'$  is also unsatisfiable, and
  - There is not  $S'' \subset S'$  that is also unsatisfiable.
- Computing  $\text{Implies}_F(e)$  with  $F = \{p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4\}$ 
  - Assume  $p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4 \Rightarrow e$  is valid
  - That is  $p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4, \neg e$  is unsat
  - Now assume  $p_1, p_3, \neg e$  is the **unsatisfiable core**
  - Then it is unnecessary to check:
    - $p_1, \neg p_2, p_3, p_4 \Rightarrow e$
    - $p_1, \neg p_2, p_3, \neg p_4 \Rightarrow e$
    - $p_1, p_2, p_3, \neg p_4 \Rightarrow e$

# Other Microsoft clients

- Model programs (M. Veanes – MSRR)
- Termination (B. Cook – MSRC)
- Security protocols (A. Gordon and C. Fournet - MSRC)
- Business Application Modeling (E. Jackson - MSRR)
- Cryptography (R. Venki – MSRR)
- Verifying Garbage Collectors (C. Hawblitzel – MSRR)
- Model Based Testing (L. Bruck – SQL)
- Semantic type checking for D models (G. Bierman – MSRC)
- **More coming soon...**

# Conclusion

- SMT is hot at Microsoft.
- Many applications.
- Z3 is a new and **very efficient** SMT solver.
- <http://research.microsoft.com/projects/z3>

**Thank You!**