

# WEAKEST-PRECONDITION

## SYMBOLIC EXECUTION IN THE BACKWARD DIRECTION

- Given an error condition or a post-condition, propagate the condition backwards through the program.
- Given a set of states  $S$  and a command  $c$ , the weakest precondition operator  $wp(S, c)$  consists of all states that would always lead to a state in  $S$  after executing  $c$ .

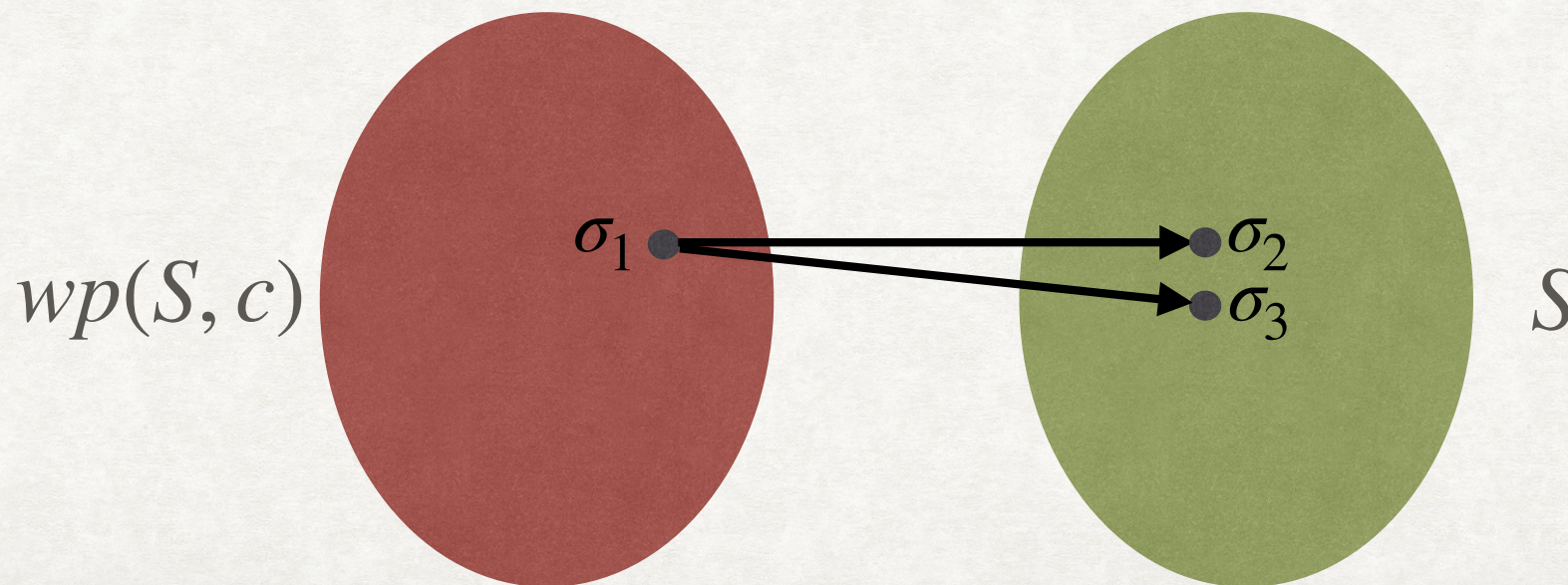
$$wp(S, c) \triangleq \{\sigma \mid \forall \sigma'. (\sigma, c) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma', \text{skip}) \rightarrow \sigma' \in S\}$$

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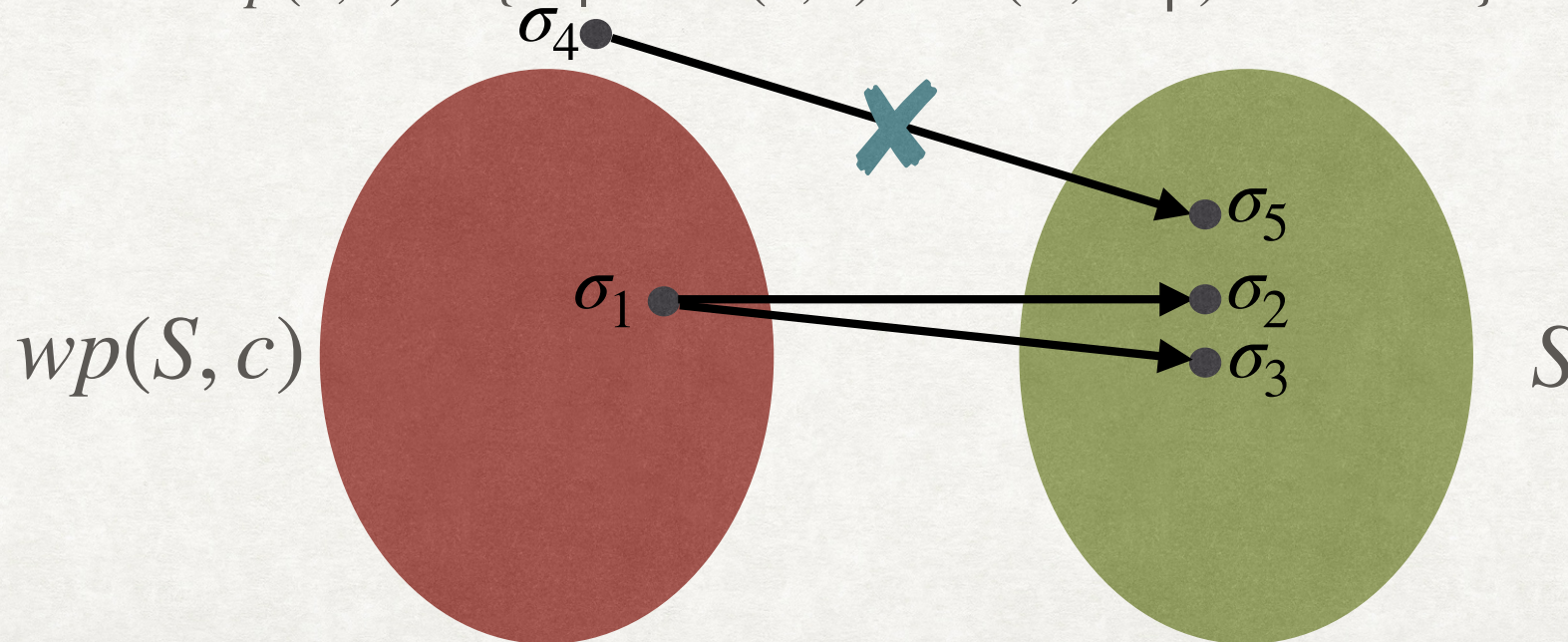


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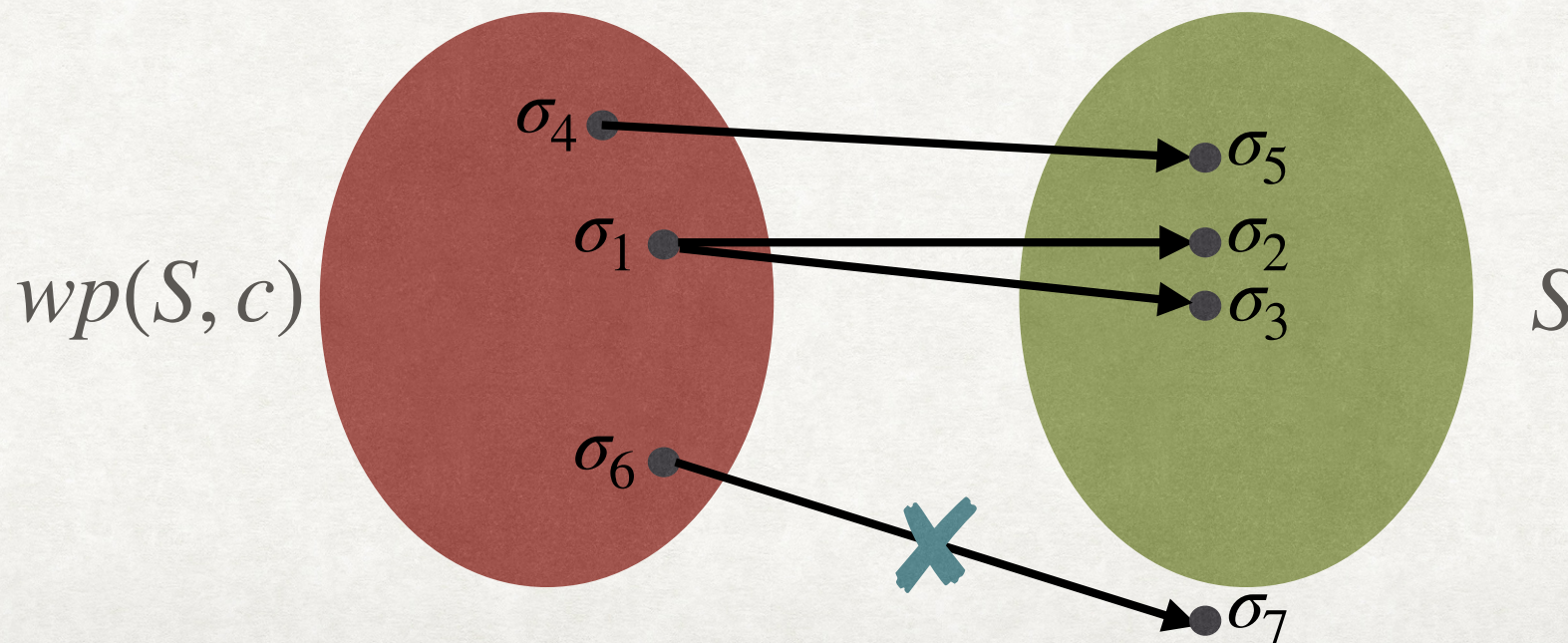


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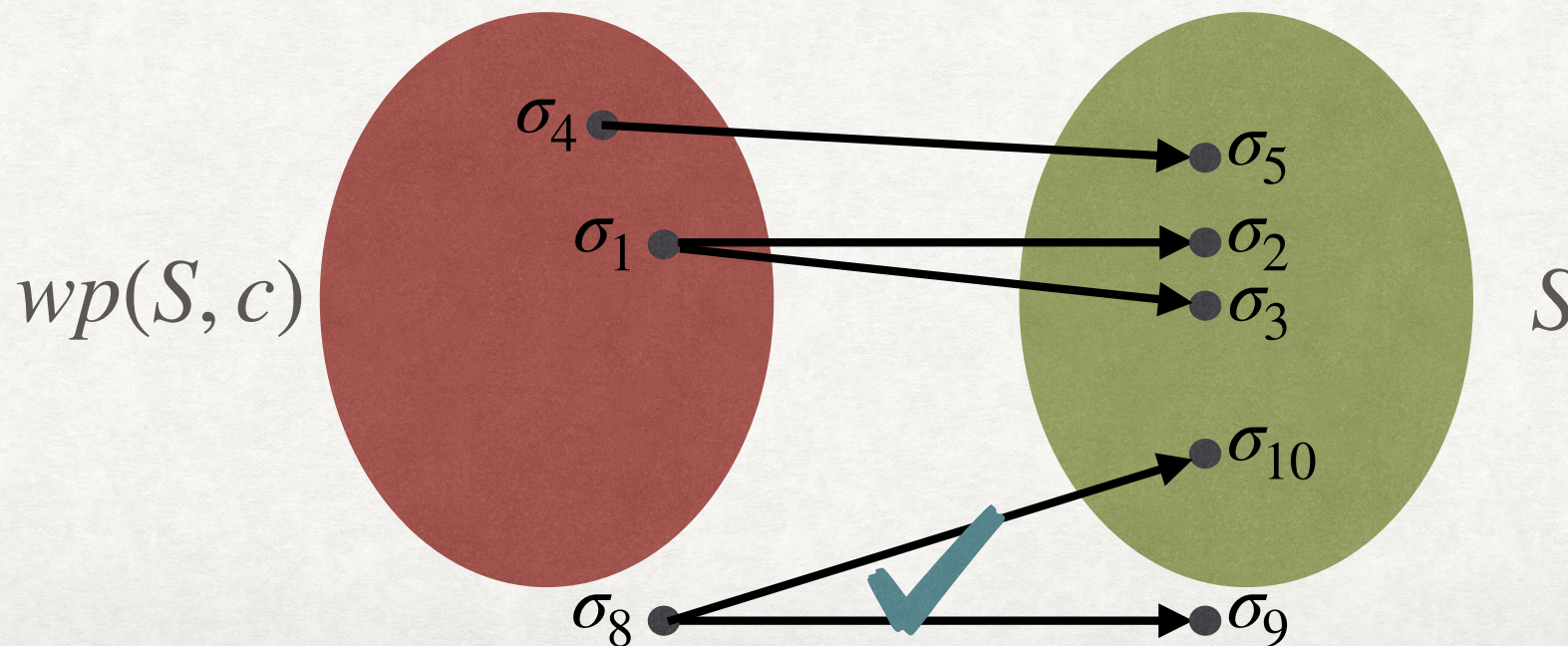


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- We can use a FOL formula  $F$  to represent a set of states.
- The symbolic weakest precondition operator can be defined as:

$$\sigma \models wp(F, c) \Leftrightarrow \forall \sigma'. (\sigma, c) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma', \text{skip}) \rightarrow \sigma' \models F$$

- We now use the symbolic FOL semantics ( $\rho$ ) for individual commands:

$$wp(F, c) \triangleq \forall V'. \rho(c) \rightarrow F[V'/V]$$

# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## EXAMPLES

$$\begin{aligned}wp(x > 10, x := x + 1) &\triangleq \forall x'. x' = x + 1 \rightarrow x' > 10 \\ &\equiv x + 1 > 10 \equiv x > 9\end{aligned}$$

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## EXAMPLES

$$\begin{aligned}wp(x > 10, x := x + 1) &\triangleq \forall x'. x' = x + 1 \rightarrow x' > 10 \\ &\equiv x + 1 > 10 \equiv x > 9\end{aligned}$$

$$wp(\text{true}, c) \equiv ???$$



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$$wp(\text{true}, c) \equiv \text{true}$$

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$$wp(\text{false}, \text{assume}(x > 0)) \equiv ???$$

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$$wp(\text{true}, c) \equiv \text{true}$$

$$wp(\text{false}, c) \equiv \text{All states for which } c \text{ does not terminate}$$

$$\begin{aligned}wp(\text{false}, \text{assume}(x > 0)) &\equiv \forall x' . x > 0 \wedge x' = x \rightarrow \text{false} \\ &\equiv x \leq 0\end{aligned}$$

# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## ASSIGNMENT STATEMENT

- $wp(F, x:=e) \triangleq F[e/x]$

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- $wp(F, x:=e) \triangleq F[e/x]$

$$wp(F, x:=e) \triangleq \forall V'. \rho(x:=e) \rightarrow F[V'/V]$$

$$\equiv \forall V'. x' = e \wedge \text{frame}(x') \rightarrow F[V'/V]$$

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### EXAMPLES:

- $wp(x = 5, x:=6) \equiv ???$



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### EXAMPLES:

- $wp(x = 5, x:=6) \equiv \text{false}$

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$$\equiv F[e/x]$$

### EXAMPLES:

- $wp(x = 5, x:=6) \equiv \text{false}$

- $wp(x = 5, x:=5) \equiv ???$

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- $wp(F, x:=e) \triangleq F[e/x]$

$$wp(F, x:=e) \triangleq \forall V'. \rho(x:=e) \rightarrow F[V'/V]$$

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$$\equiv F[e/x]$$

### EXAMPLES:

- $wp(x = 5, x:=6) \equiv \text{false}$

- $wp(x = 5, x:=5) \equiv \text{true}$

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$$\equiv F[e/x]$$

### EXAMPLES:

- $wp(x = 5, x:=6) \equiv \text{false}$
- $wp(x = 5, x:=5) \equiv \text{true}$
- $wp(x > 5, x:=y+1) \equiv ???$

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$$wp(F, x:=e) \triangleq \forall V'. \rho(x:=e) \rightarrow F[V'/V]$$

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$$\equiv F[e/x]$$

### EXAMPLES:

- $wp(x = 5, x:=6) \equiv \text{false}$

- $wp(x = 5, x:=5) \equiv \text{true}$

- $wp(x > 5, x:=y+1) \equiv x > 5[(y+1)/x] \equiv y > 4$

# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## HAVOC, ASSUME

- $wp(F, x:=havoc) \equiv \forall x. F$

$$\begin{aligned} wp(F, x:=havoc) &\triangleq \forall V'. frame(x) \rightarrow F[V'/V] \\ &\equiv \forall x'. F[x'/x] \equiv \forall x. F \end{aligned}$$

- $wp(F, assume(G)) \equiv ???$

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- $wp(F, x:=havoc) \equiv \forall x. F$

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- $wp(F, assume(G)) \equiv G \rightarrow F$

$$\begin{aligned} wp(F, assume(G)) &\triangleq \forall V'. G \wedge frame(\emptyset) \rightarrow F[V'/V] \\ &\equiv \forall V'. G \rightarrow F \equiv G \rightarrow F \end{aligned}$$

# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## HAVOC, ASSUME - EXAMPLES

- $wp(x > 0, x := \text{havoc}) \equiv ???$



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- $wp(x > 0, x := \text{havoc}) \equiv \forall x. x > 0 \equiv \text{false}$

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## HAVOC, ASSUME - EXAMPLES

- $wp(x > 0, x := \text{havoc}) \equiv \forall x. x > 0 \equiv \textit{false}$
- $wp(x + i \leq 0, x := \text{havoc}) \equiv ???$

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- $wp(x > 0, x := \text{havoc}) \equiv \forall x. x > 0 \equiv \textit{false}$
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- $wp(x \geq 0, \text{assume}(x=1)) \equiv ???$

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- $wp(x \geq 0, \text{assume}(x=1)) \equiv x=1 \rightarrow x \geq 0 \equiv \text{true}$
- $wp(x > 0, \text{assume}(x < 0)) \equiv x < 0 \rightarrow x > 0 \equiv x \geq 0$

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- $wp(x \geq 0, \text{assume}(x=1)) \equiv x=1 \rightarrow x \geq 0 \equiv \text{true}$
- $wp(x > 0, \text{assume}(x < 0)) \equiv x < 0 \rightarrow x > 0 \equiv x \geq 0$
- Does there exist F and G such that  $wp(F, \text{assume}(G)) \equiv \text{false}$ ?



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION ASSERT

- $wp(F, \text{assert}(G)) \equiv ???$

# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## ASSERT

- $wp(F, \text{assert}(G)) \equiv F \wedge G$ 
  - Assume that  $F \neq \text{true}$ .
  - Assumption makes sense because we do not want error = 1 after assert.

# ANNOUNCEMENT

- Assignment : Late Submission Policy
  - 1 Day late : 25% Penalty
  - 2 Day late : 50% Penalty
  - No submissions allowed after 2 days.

# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## ASSERT

$$\begin{aligned} wp(F, \text{assert}(G)) &\triangleq \forall V'. (G \rightarrow \text{frame}(\emptyset)) \rightarrow F[V'/V] \\ &\equiv \forall V'. (\neg G \vee \text{frame}(\emptyset)) \rightarrow F[V'/V] \\ &\equiv \forall V'. (G \wedge \neg \text{frame}(\emptyset)) \vee F[V'/V] \\ &\equiv \forall V'. (G \vee F[V'/V]) \wedge (\neg \text{frame}(\emptyset) \vee F[V'/V]) \end{aligned}$$

# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## ASSERT

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# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## ASSERT-EXAMPLES

- $wp(x \geq 0, \text{assert}(x=1)) \equiv ???$

# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## ASSERT-EXAMPLES

- $wp(x \geq 0, \text{assert}(x=1)) \equiv x = 1$

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## ASSERT-EXAMPLES

- $wp(x \geq 0, \text{assert}(x=1)) \equiv x = 1$
- $wp(x = 2, \text{assert}(x=3)) \equiv ???$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## ASSERT-EXAMPLES

- $wp(x \geq 0, \text{assert}(x=1)) \equiv x = 1$
- $wp(x = 2, \text{assert}(x=3)) \equiv \textit{false}$

# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## ASSERT-EXAMPLES

- $wp(x \geq 0, \text{assert}(x=1)) \equiv x = 1$
- $wp(x = 2, \text{assert}(x=3)) \equiv \textit{false}$
- Does there exist F and G such that  $wp(F, \text{assert}(G)) \equiv \textit{true}$ ?

# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## SEQUENTIAL COMPOSITION

- $wp(F, c_1; c_2) \equiv ???$

# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## SEQUENTIAL COMPOSITION

- $wp(F, c_1; c_2) \equiv wp(wp(F, c_2), c_1)$ 
  - We will show that  $wp(S, c_1; c_2) = wp(wp(S, c_2), c_1)$

**Proof:** First, we show that  $wp(wp(S, c_2), c_1) \subseteq wp(S, c_1; c_2)$ .

Consider  $\sigma \in wp(wp(S, c_2), c_1)$ .

By definition,  $\forall \sigma'' . (\sigma, c_1) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma'', \text{skip}) \rightarrow \sigma'' \in wp(S, c_2)$  [1]

Further, for  $\sigma'' \in wp(S, c_2)$ ,  $\forall \sigma' . (\sigma'', c_2) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma', \text{skip}) \rightarrow \sigma' \in S$  [2]

Now, consider  $\sigma'$  such that  $(\sigma, c_1; c_2) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma', \text{skip})$ . Then, there exists  $\sigma''$  such that  $(\sigma, c_1) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma'', \text{skip})$  and  $(\sigma'', c_2) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma', \text{skip})$ . By [1],  $\sigma'' \in wp(S, c_2)$  and hence by [2],  $\sigma' \in S$ .

Thus,  $\sigma \in wp(S, c_1; c_2)$ .

# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## SEQUENTIAL COMPOSITION

**Proof[Continued]:** Now, we will show that  
 $wp(S, c_1; c_2) \subseteq wp(wp(S, c_2), c_1)$ .

Consider  $\sigma \in wp(S, c_1; c_2)$ .

Then,  $\forall \sigma'. (\sigma, c_1; c_2) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma', \text{skip}) \rightarrow \sigma' \in S$  [3].

Otherwise, consider  $\sigma''$  such that  $(\sigma, c_1) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma'', \text{skip})$ .

Then,  $\sigma'' \in wp(S, c_2)$ . Because otherwise, [3] would be violated.

Hence,  $\forall \sigma''. (\sigma, c_1) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma'', \text{skip}) \rightarrow \sigma'' \in wp(S, c_2)$ .

Hence,  $\sigma \in wp(wp(S, c_2), c_1)$ .

# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## SEQUENTIAL COMPOSITION

**Proof[Continued]:** Now, we will show that  
 $wp(S, c_1; c_2) \subseteq wp(wp(S, c_2), c_1)$ .

Consider  $\sigma \in wp(S, c_1; c_2)$ .

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If  $\neg \exists \sigma''. (\sigma, c_1) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma'', \text{skip})$ , then  $\sigma \in wp(wp(S, c_2), c_1)$ .

Otherwise, consider  $\sigma''$  such that  $(\sigma, c_1) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma'', \text{skip})$ .

Then,  $\sigma'' \in wp(S, c_2)$ . Because otherwise, [3] would be violated.

Hence,  $\forall \sigma''. (\sigma, c_1) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma'', \text{skip}) \rightarrow \sigma'' \in wp(S, c_2)$ .

Hence,  $\sigma \in wp(wp(S, c_2), c_1)$ .

# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## SEQUENTIAL COMPOSITION

**Proof[Continued]:** Now, we will show that  $wp(S, c_1; c_2) \subseteq wp(wp(S, c_2), c_1)$ .

Consider  $\sigma \in wp(S, c_1; c_2)$ .

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If  $\neg \exists \sigma''. (\sigma, c_1) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma'', \text{skip})$ , then  $\sigma \in wp(wp(S, c_2), c_1)$ .

Otherwise, consider  $\sigma''$  such that  $(\sigma, c_1) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma'', \text{skip})$ .

Then,  $\sigma'' \in wp(S, c_2)$ . Because otherwise, there would exist  $\sigma'$  such that  $(\sigma'', c_2) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma', \text{skip})$  and  $\sigma' \notin S$ . That would violate [3].

Hence,  $\forall \sigma''. (\sigma, c_1) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma'', \text{skip}) \rightarrow \sigma'' \in wp(S, c_2)$ .

Hence,  $\sigma \in wp(wp(S, c_2), c_1)$ .

# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## IF-THEN-ELSE

- $wp(F, \text{if}(G) \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2) \equiv ???$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## IF-THEN-ELSE

- $wp(F, \text{if}(G) \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2) \equiv (G \rightarrow wp(F, c_1)) \wedge (\neg G \rightarrow wp(F, c_2))$

**Proof:** We will show that  $LHS \rightarrow RHS$ .

Consider  $\sigma \models LHS$ . By definition,

$$\forall \sigma'. (\sigma, \text{if}(G) \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma', \text{skip}) \rightarrow \sigma' \models F \quad [1].$$

Suppose  $\sigma \models G$ . Then,  $(\sigma, \text{if}(G) \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2) \hookrightarrow (\sigma, c_1)$ .

Consider  $\sigma'$  such that  $(\sigma, c_1) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma', \text{skip})$ . Then by [1],  $\sigma' \models F$ . Hence  $\sigma \models wp(F, c_1)$ . This implies that  $\sigma \models RHS$ .

Suppose  $\sigma \not\models G$ . Then,  $(\sigma, \text{if}(G) \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2) \hookrightarrow (\sigma, c_2)$ .

Consider  $\sigma'$  such that  $(\sigma, c_2) \hookrightarrow^* (\sigma', \text{skip})$ . Then by [1],  $\sigma' \models F$ . Hence  $\sigma \models wp(F, c_2)$ . This implies that  $\sigma \models RHS$ .

Hence,  $LHS \rightarrow RHS$ .

**HOMEWORK: PROVE THE OTHER DIRECTION**

# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## IF-THEN-ELSE

- $wp(F, \text{if}(G) \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2) \equiv (G \rightarrow wp(F, c_1)) \wedge (\neg G \rightarrow wp(F, c_2))$

# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## IF-THEN-ELSE

- $wp(F, \text{if}(G) \text{ then } c_1 \text{ else } c_2) \equiv (G \rightarrow wp(F, c_1)) \wedge (\neg G \rightarrow wp(F, c_2))$

- Example:

$$wp(y = 0, \text{if}(x > 10) \text{ then } y := z + 1 \text{ else } y := z - 1)$$

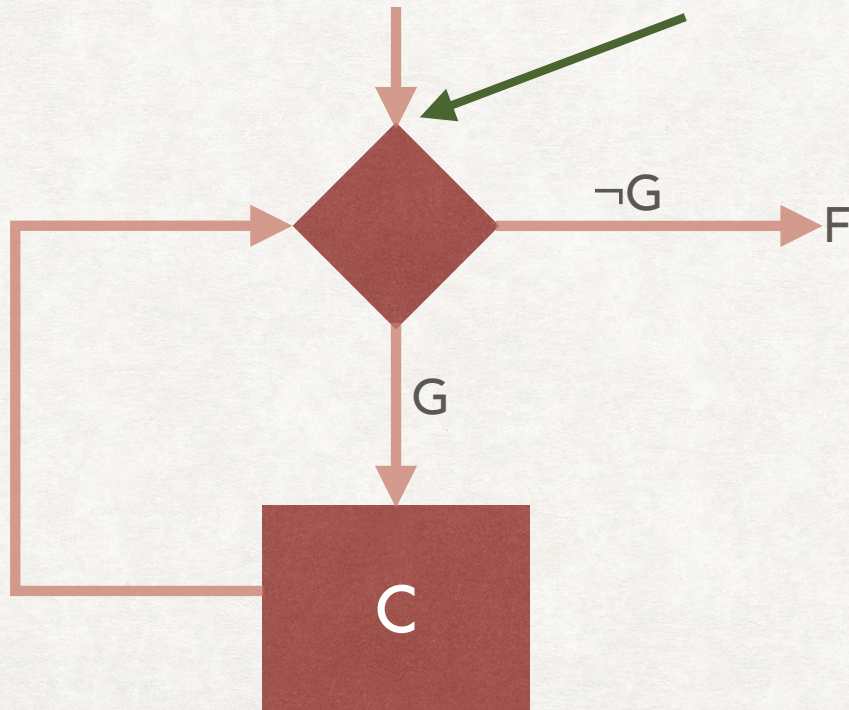
$$\equiv (x > 10 \rightarrow wp(y = 0, y := z + 1)) \wedge (\neg(x > 10) \rightarrow wp(y = 0, y := z - 1))$$

$$\equiv (x > 10 \rightarrow z = -1) \wedge (x \leq 10 \rightarrow z = 1)$$

# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## WHILE LOOPS

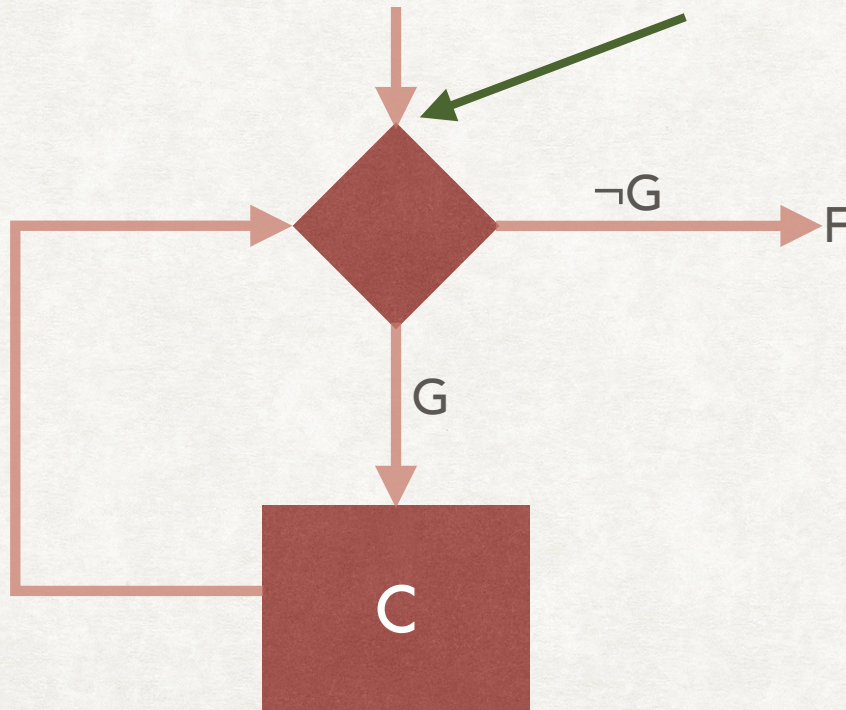
- $wp(F, \text{while}(G) \text{ do } c) \equiv ???$
- Collect all states at the beginning of loop, which would lead to a state in  $F$  if the loop exits after  $k$  iterations (for  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ )



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## WHILE LOOPS

- $wp(F, \text{while}(G) \text{ do } c) \equiv ???$
- Collect all states at the beginning of loop, which would lead to a state in  $F$  if the loop exits after  $k$  iterations (for  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ )

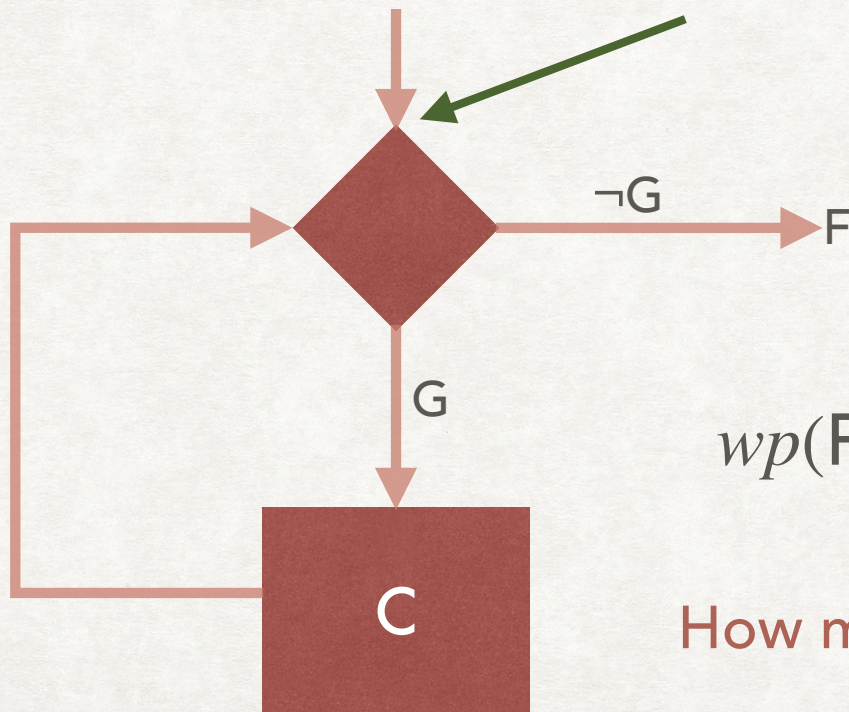


Iteration $k$	Initial State for exit after $k$ iterations
0	$\neg G \wedge F$
1	$G \wedge wp(\neg G \wedge F, c)$
2	$G \wedge wp(G \wedge wp(\neg G \wedge F, c))$
...	...

# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## WHILE LOOPS

- $wp(F, \text{while}(G) \text{ do } c) \equiv ???$
- Collect all states at the beginning of loop, which would lead to a state in  $F$  if the loop exits after  $k$  iterations (for  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ )



$$F^0 \equiv \neg G \wedge F$$

$$F^k \equiv G \wedge wp(F^{k-1}, c)$$

$$wp(F, \text{while}(G) \text{ do } c) \triangleq \bigvee_{k=0}^{\infty} F^k$$

How many  $F^k$  should be calculated?

Until  $F^k \rightarrow F^{k-1}$

# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## WHILE LOOPS - EXAMPLES

- $wp(x > 0, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq ???$

# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## WHILE LOOPS - EXAMPLES

- $wp(x > 0, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq \text{true}$



# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## WHILE LOOPS - EXAMPLES

- $wp(x > 0, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq \text{true}$
- $wp(x < 0, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq ???$

# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## WHILE LOOPS - EXAMPLES

- $wp(x > 0, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq \text{true}$
- $wp(x < 0, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq \text{false}$

# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## WHILE LOOPS - EXAMPLES

- $wp(x > 0, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq \text{true}$
- $wp(x < 0, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq \text{false}$
- $wp(x = 10, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq ???$

# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## WHILE LOOPS - EXAMPLES

- $wp(x > 0, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq \text{true}$
- $wp(x < 0, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq \text{false}$
- $wp(x = 10, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq x \leq 10$

# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## WHILE LOOPS - EXAMPLES

- $wp(x > 0, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq \text{true}$
- $wp(x < 0, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq \text{false}$
- $wp(x = 10, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq x \leq 10$
- $wp(x = 11, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq ???$

# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION

## WHILE LOOPS - EXAMPLES

- $wp(x > 0, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq \text{true}$
- $wp(x < 0, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq \text{false}$
- $wp(x = 10, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq x \leq 10$
- $wp(x = 11, \text{while}(x < 10) \text{ do } x := x + 1; ) \triangleq x = 11$

# WEAKEST PRE-CONDITION AND VERIFICATION

- Given a program  $c$  with assertions, then  $c$  is safe if  $\text{error} = 0 \rightarrow wp(\text{error} = 0, c)$  is valid.
- The Hoare Triple  $\{P\}c\{Q\}$  is valid if  $P \rightarrow wp(Q, c)$  is valid.
- Do we have a decidable procedure for  $wp$ ?
  - No, due to the unbounded computation required for while loops.
- WP is sound and relatively complete.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Change in Assignment 2 schedule
  - ~~Out on Oct 19, Due Oct 28~~
  - Out on Oct 26, Due Nov 4
- Project Timeline
  - Proposal Due on Oct 18
  - Final Presentation (20 Minutes + 5 Minutes Q&A): First week of December.
  - Project Report Due December 6.
  - Friday slot will be used for project discussions.
- Final Exam (Tentative)
  - Take-home Exam
  - 3 Days in the week of December 7.



# SP AND WP

- What can we say about  $wp(sp(P, c), c)$ ,  $sp(wp(P, c), c)$ , and  $P$ ?
  - $sp(wp(P, c), c) \subseteq P \subseteq wp(sp(P, c), c)$
  - Prove this!
- Give examples for  $wp(sp(P, c), c) \neq P$  and  $sp(wp(P, c), c) \neq P$