

Fissile Type Analysis: Modular Checking of Almost Everywhere Invariants



Devin Coughlin
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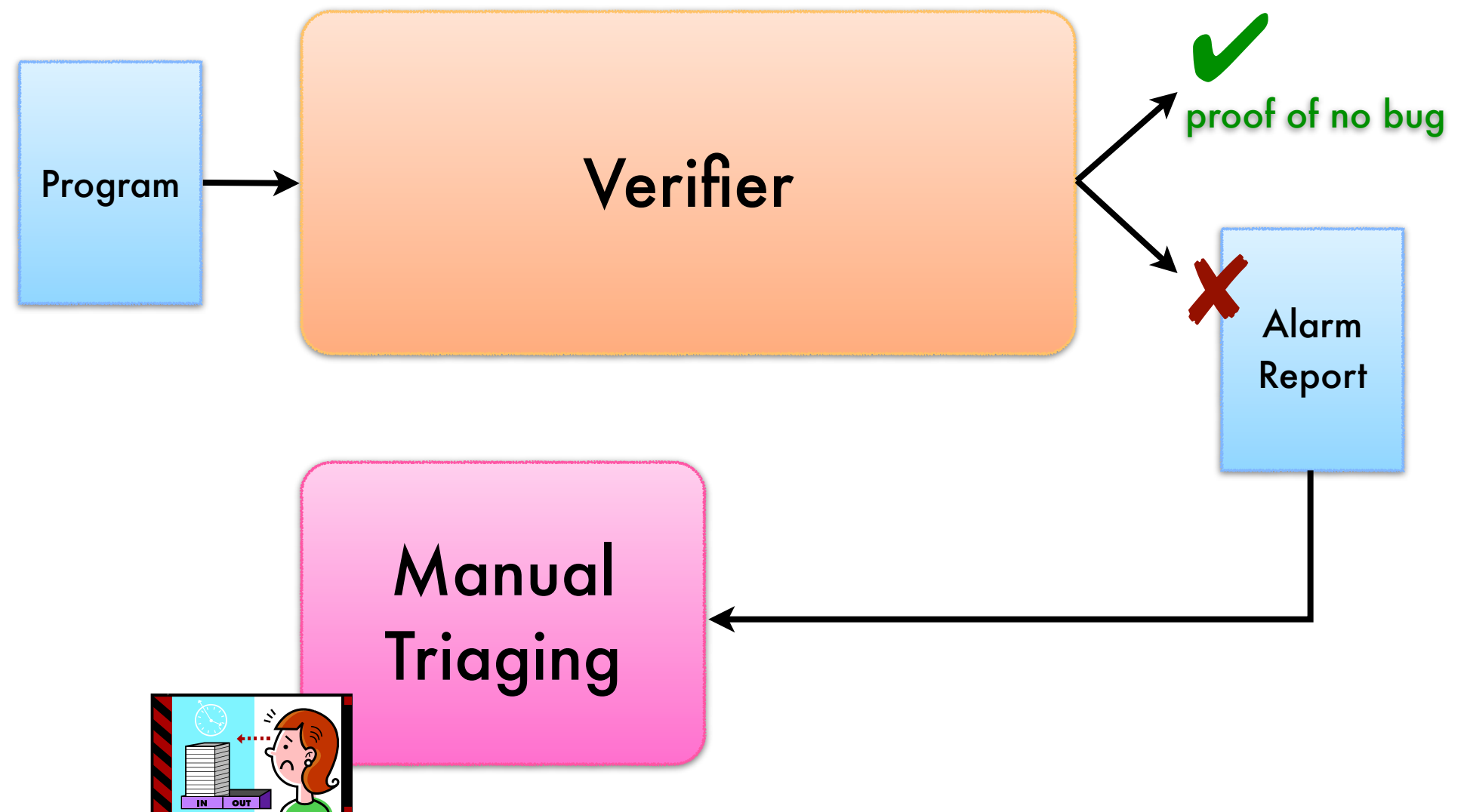
Carnegie Mellon University
April 23, 2014

Lab: **Program analysis** in the **whole** bug mitigation **process**

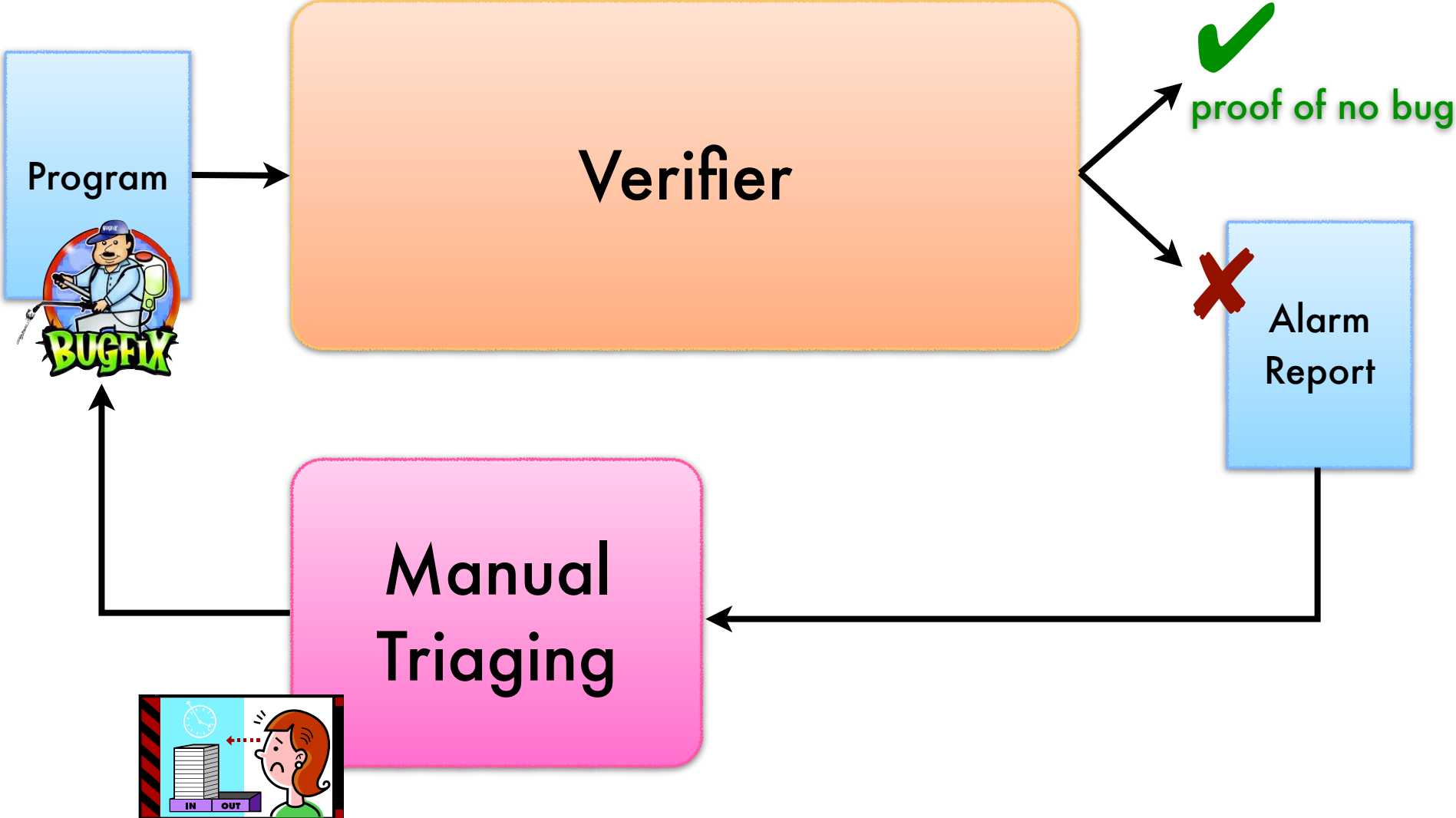
Lab: Program analysis in the whole bug mitigation process



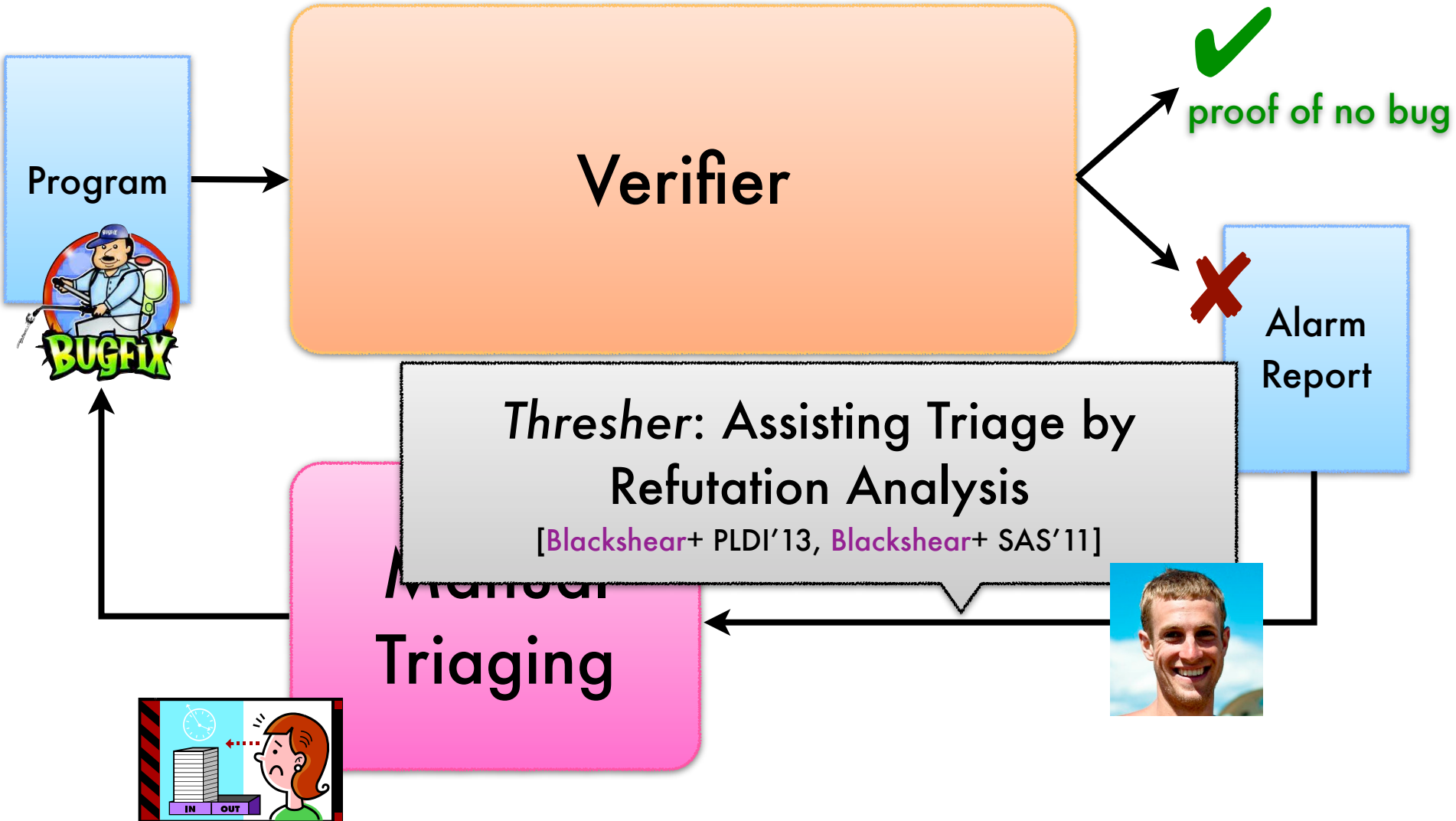
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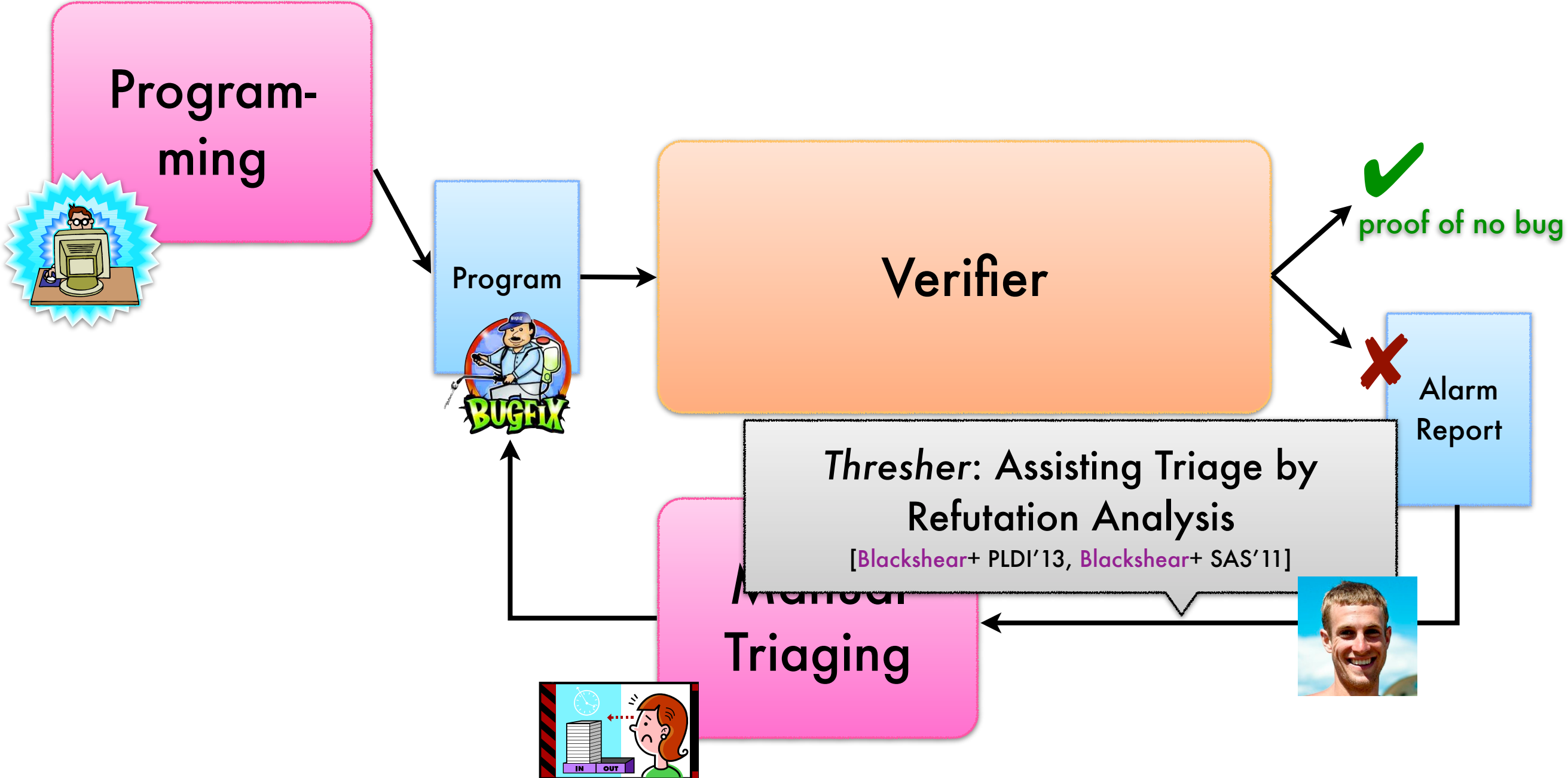
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Enforcement
Windows: Measuring Bug Avoidance
[Coughlin+ ISSTA'12]

**Program-
ming**



Program



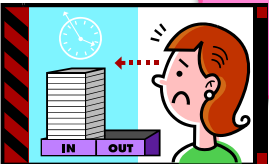
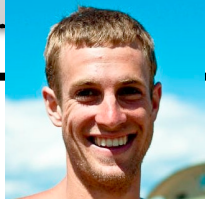
Verifier

✓
proof of no bug

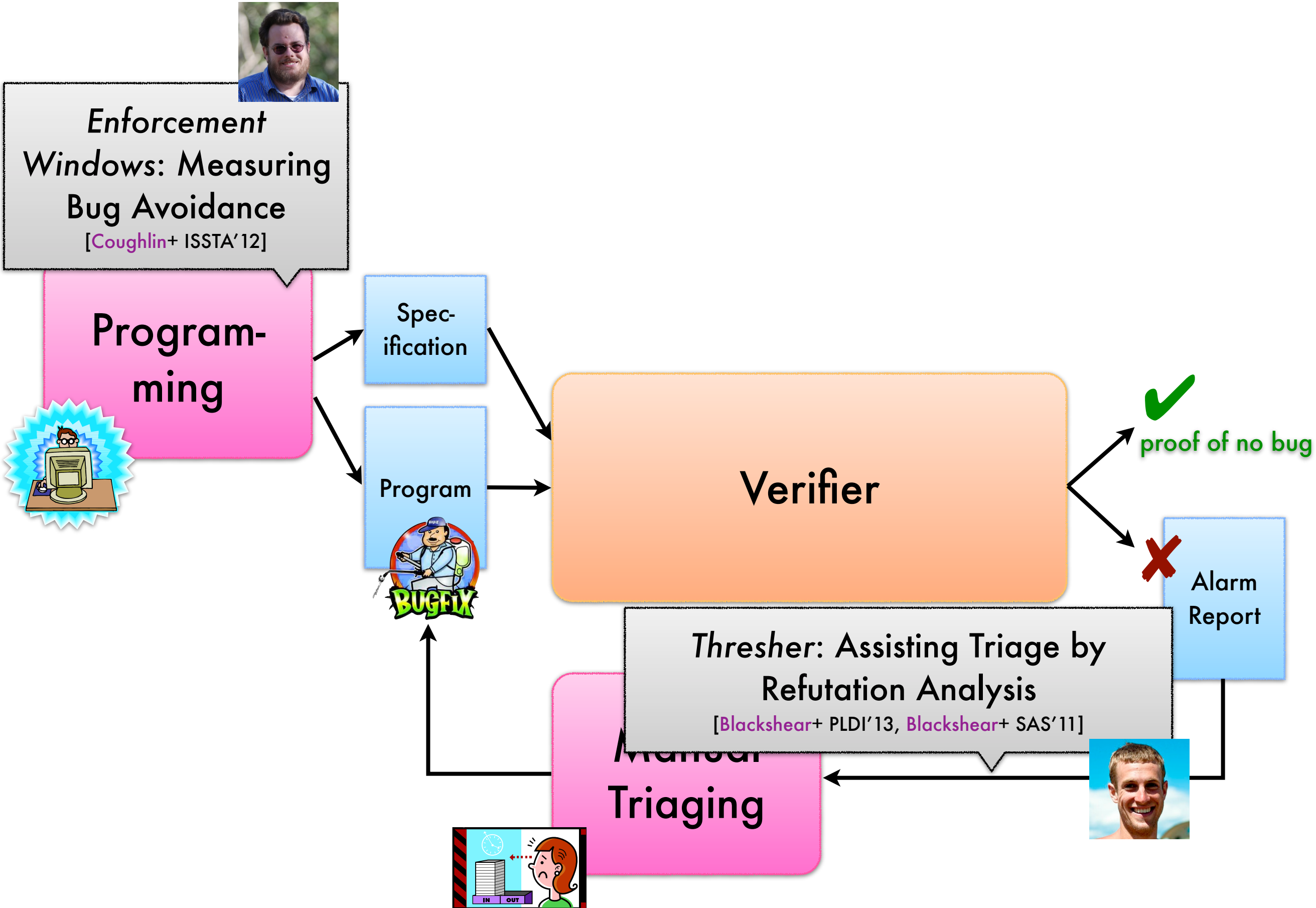
✗
Alarm Report

Thresher: Assisting Triage by Refutation Analysis
[Blackshear+ PLDI'13, Blackshear+ SAS'11]

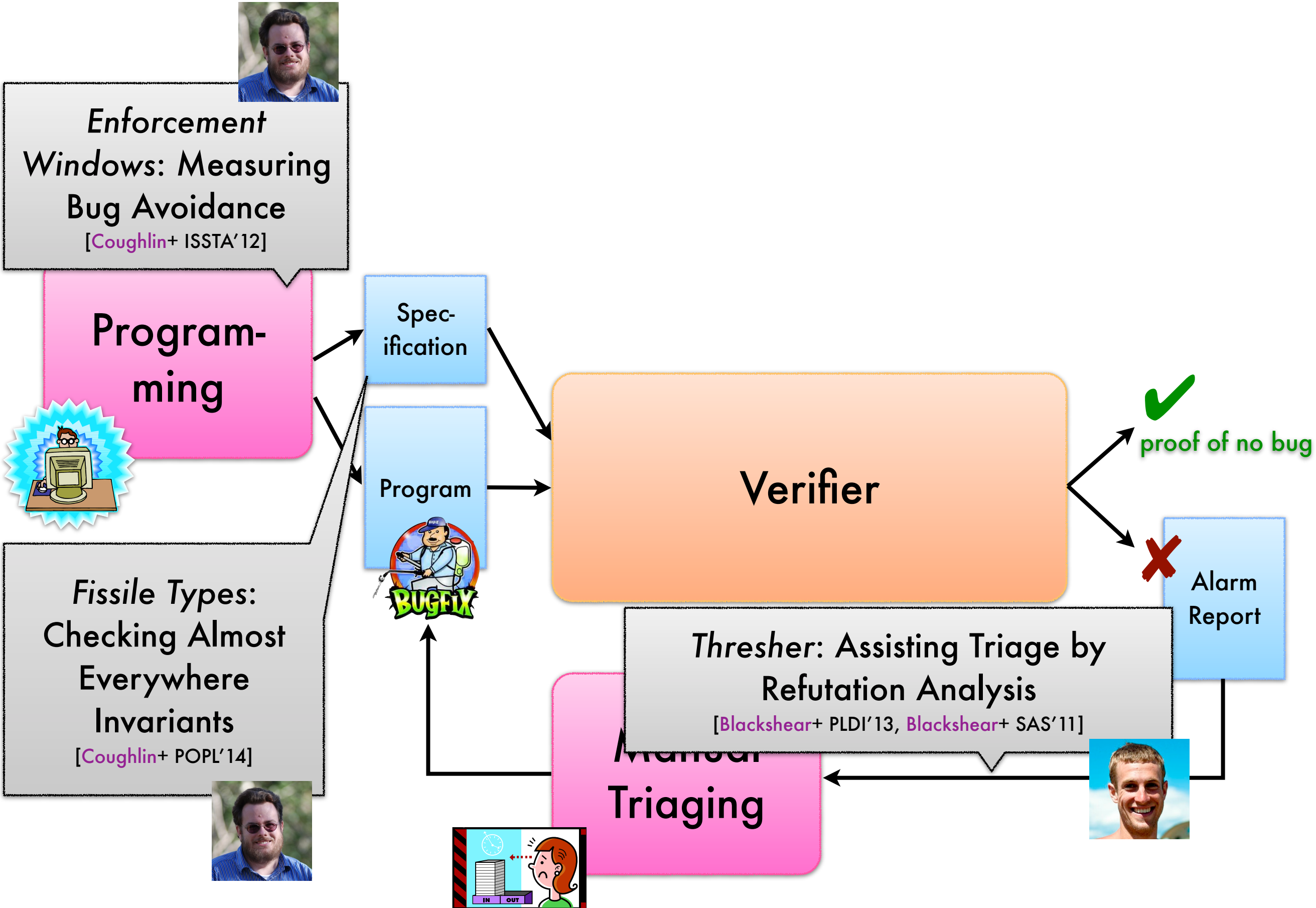
**Manual
Triaging**



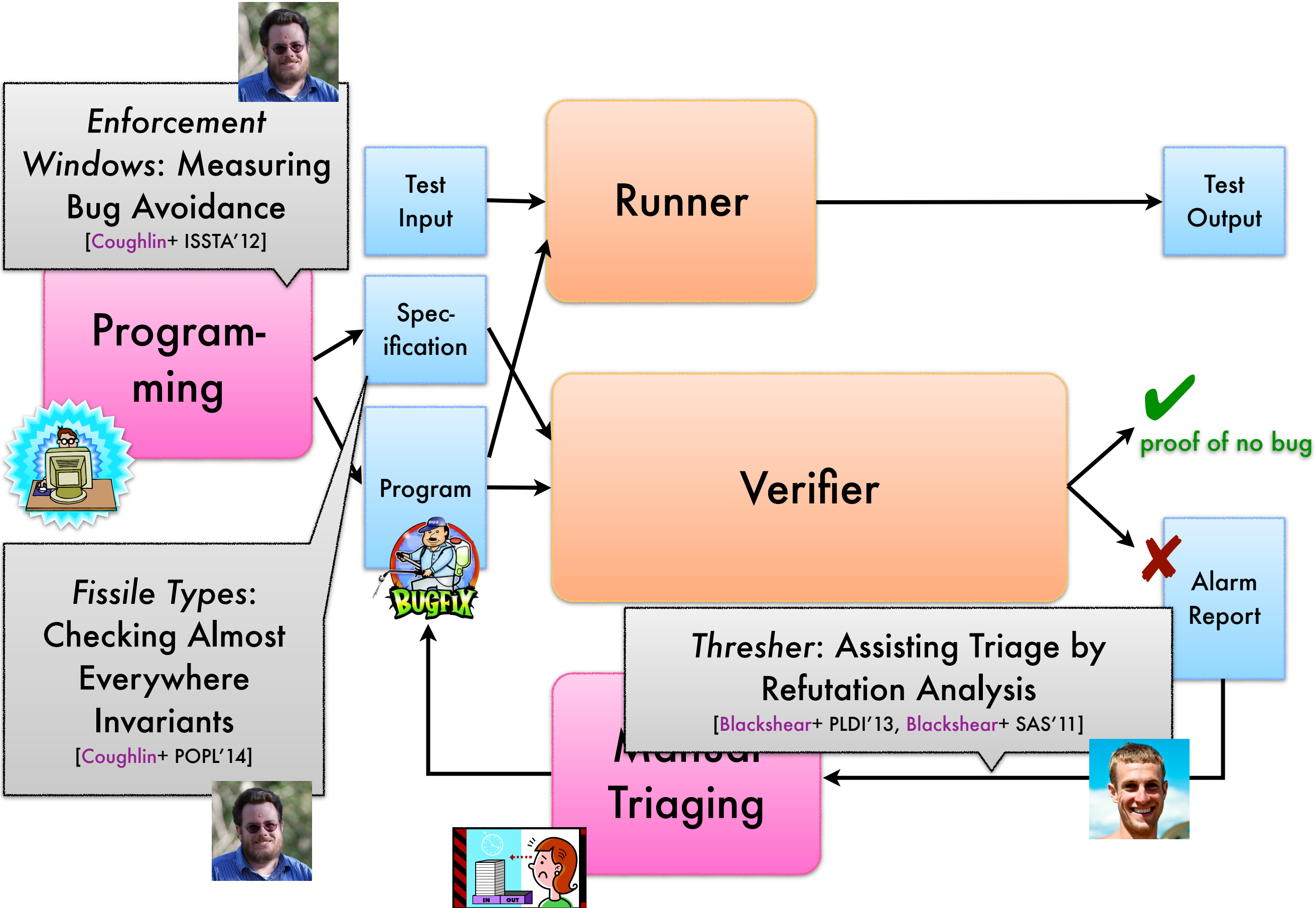
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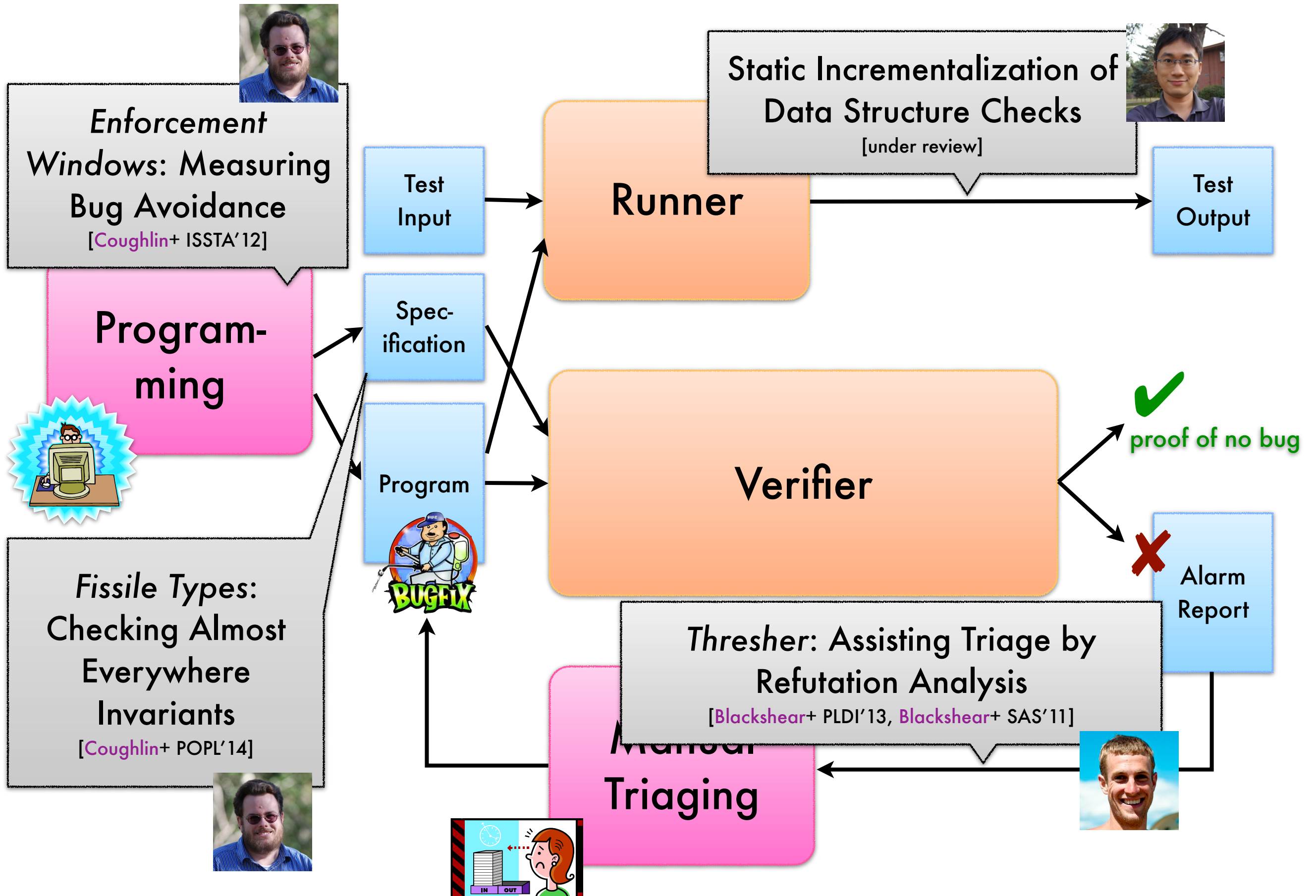
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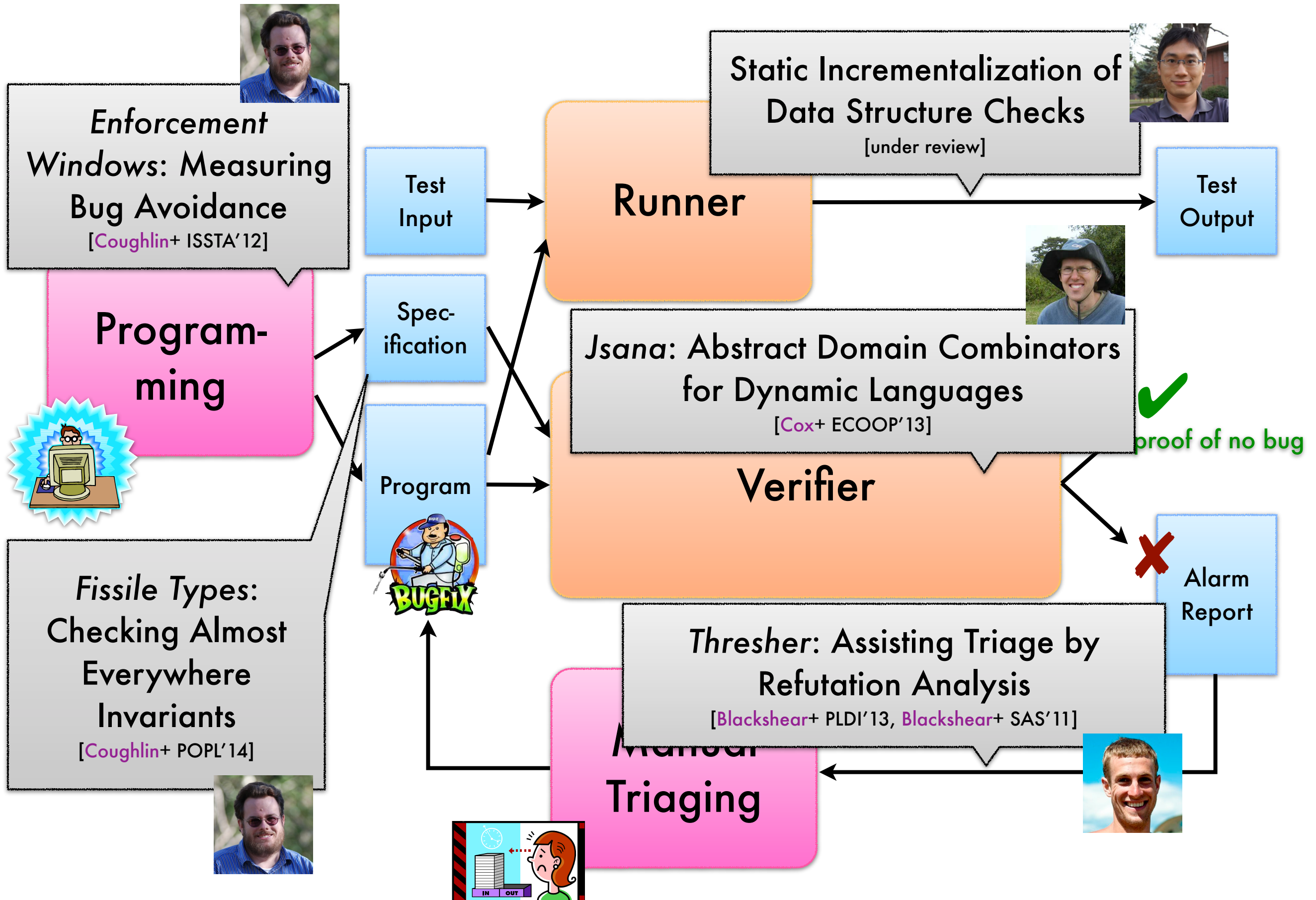
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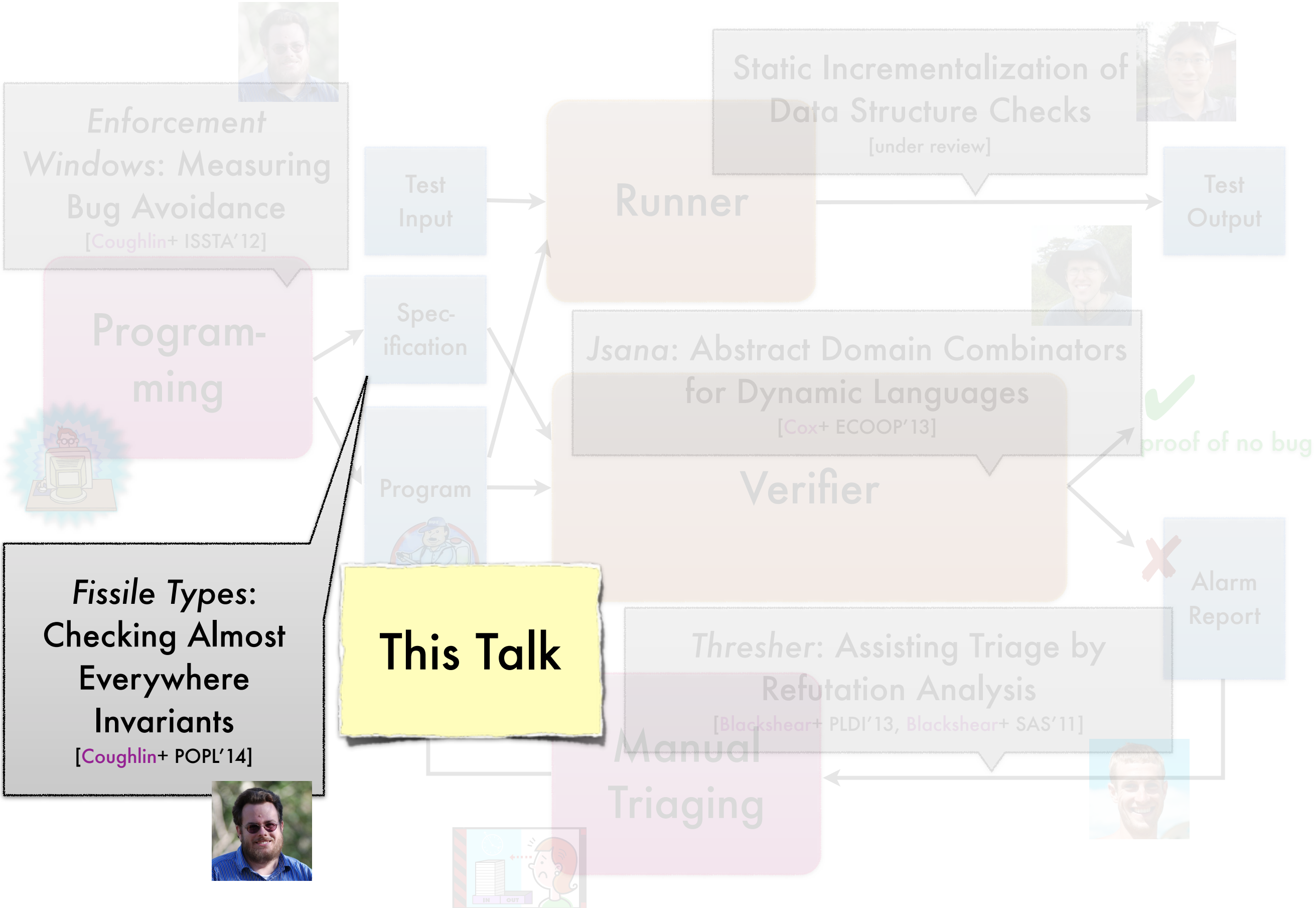
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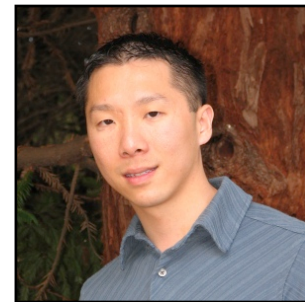
Lab: Program analysis in the whole bug mitigation process



Fissile Type Analysis: Modular Checking of Almost Everywhere Invariants



Devin Coughlin
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April 23, 2014

**How to type check
a program that is
almost well-
typed?**

In this talk

Example property of interest:
safety of reflective method calls

Specification system:
dependent-refinement types

Reflective method call dispatches based on runtime string value

```
class Callback
  var sel : Str
  var obj : Obj

  def call()
    this.obj.[this.sel]()
```

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Calls method with name (selector) stored in `sel` on object stored in `obj`

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Calls method with name (selector) stored in `sel` on object stored in `obj`

If `sel` held string "notifyDidClick" would call `notifyDidClick()` on `obj`.

Reflective method call dispatches based on runtime string value

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class Callback
  var sel : Str
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  def call()
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```

Calls method with name (selector) stored in `sel` on object stored in `obj`

Run time error if `obj` does not respond to `sel` — i.e., method does not exist

Method Reflection and the Great Divide

Method Reflection and the Great Divide

```
object.[string]()
```

Method Reflection and the Great Divide

reflective method call: dispatch based on **run-time value** (in string)

`object.[string]()`

Method Reflection and the Great Divide

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“static” folks



“web 2.0” developers



Method Reflection and the Great Divide

reflective method call: dispatch based on **run-time value** (in string)

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“Static” folks, like type system designers, **worry**.

What gets called? What if `object` has **no method** named by `string`?

Method Reflection and the Great Divide

reflective method call: dispatch based on **run-time value** (in string)

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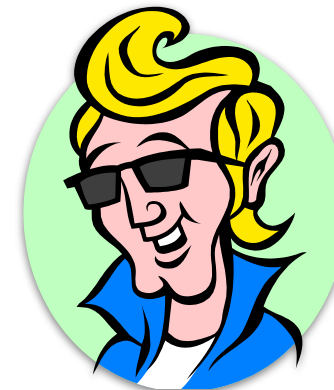
“static” folks



“Static” folks, like type system designers, **worry**.

What gets called? What if `object` has **no method** named by `string`?

“web 2.0” developers



“Web 2.0” developers think it’s **cool**.

I can write flexible and compact code, so I will take it over **static safety**.

Method Reflection and the Great Divide

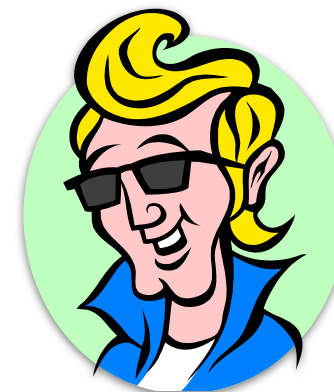
reflective method call: dispatch based on **run-time value** (in string)

`object.[string]()`

“static” folks



“web 2.0” developers



Bridge the divide to support both first-class
reflective method call and **static checking**
of reflection safety

“Sta
des
Wha
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safety.

Ensure reflection safety with **dependent-refinement type** expressing required relationship

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class Callback
  var sel : Str
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Ensure reflection safety with **dependent-refinement type** expressing required relationship

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class Callback
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obj must "respond to" sel

Ensure reflection safety with **dependent-refinement type** expressing required relationship

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Shorthand for $\text{obj} :: \{v : \text{Obj} \mid v \text{ r2 sel}\}$

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Shorthand for $\text{obj} :: \{\nu : \text{Obj} \mid \nu \text{ r2 sel}\}$

**Guarantees no
MethodNotFound error in
call()**

Similar relationship for array bounds safety

```
class Iterator
  var idx : Int
  var buf : Obj[] | indexedBy idx

  def get() : Obj
    return this.buf[this.idx]
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Guarantees no
"ArrayOutOfBounds"
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These kinds of relationships are
important to many safety
properties

Updating relationship causes type error

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def update(s : Str, o : Obj | r2 s)
  this.sel = s
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Updating relationship causes type error

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Field type says: obj must
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Type error: old obj may not respond to new sel

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False alarm: no runtime error

Two styles of reasoning to determine false alarm

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class Callback
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Reasoning by global invariant: call safe if relationship holds

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Reasoning about effects of imperative updates

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Relationship violated

```
def call()
```

```
  this.obj.[this.sel]()
```

Reasoning by global invariant: call safe if relationship holds

Two styles of reasoning to determine false alarm

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Reasoning about effects of imperative updates

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  this.sel = s
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```
  this.obj = o
```

Relationship violated

Relationship restored

```
def call()
```

```
  this.obj.[this.sel]()
```

Reasoning by global invariant: call safe if relationship holds

**Idea: Selectively
alternate between
reasoning styles
in verification**

Fissile Type Analysis **combines** two styles
of **reasoning**

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Automated **reasoning**
about **global**
invariants

Fissile Type Analysis **combines** two styles of reasoning

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$\Gamma \vdash \dots$
**Flow-
Insensitive Type
Systems**

Fissile Type Analysis **combines** two styles of reasoning

Automated reasoning
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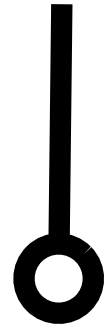
Automated reasoning
about **execution**

$\gamma(\cdot) = \dots$
**Abstract
Interpretation/
Flow Analysis**

Verification of **almost-everywhere invariants** with **intertwined** type and flow analysis

Verification of **almost-everywhere invariants** with **intertwined** type and flow analysis

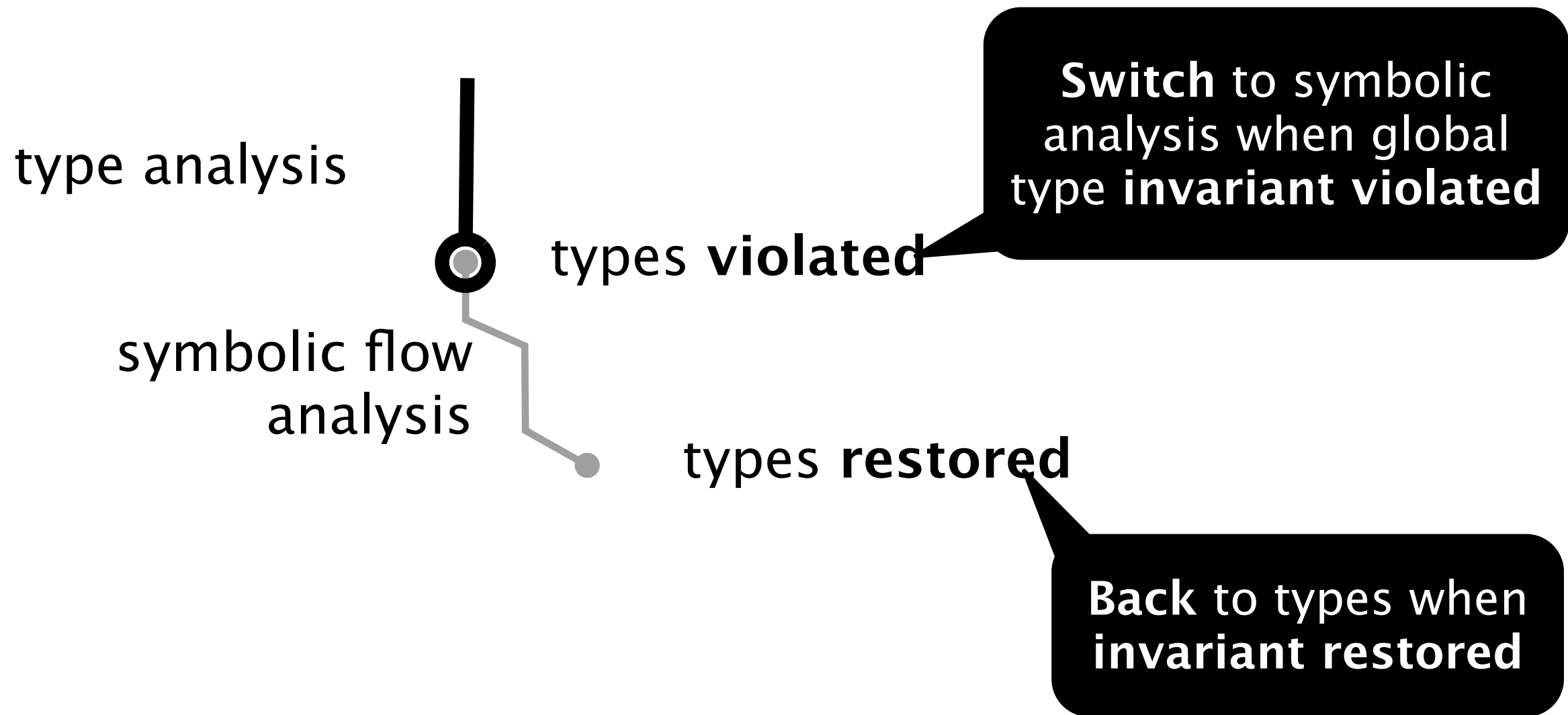
type analysis



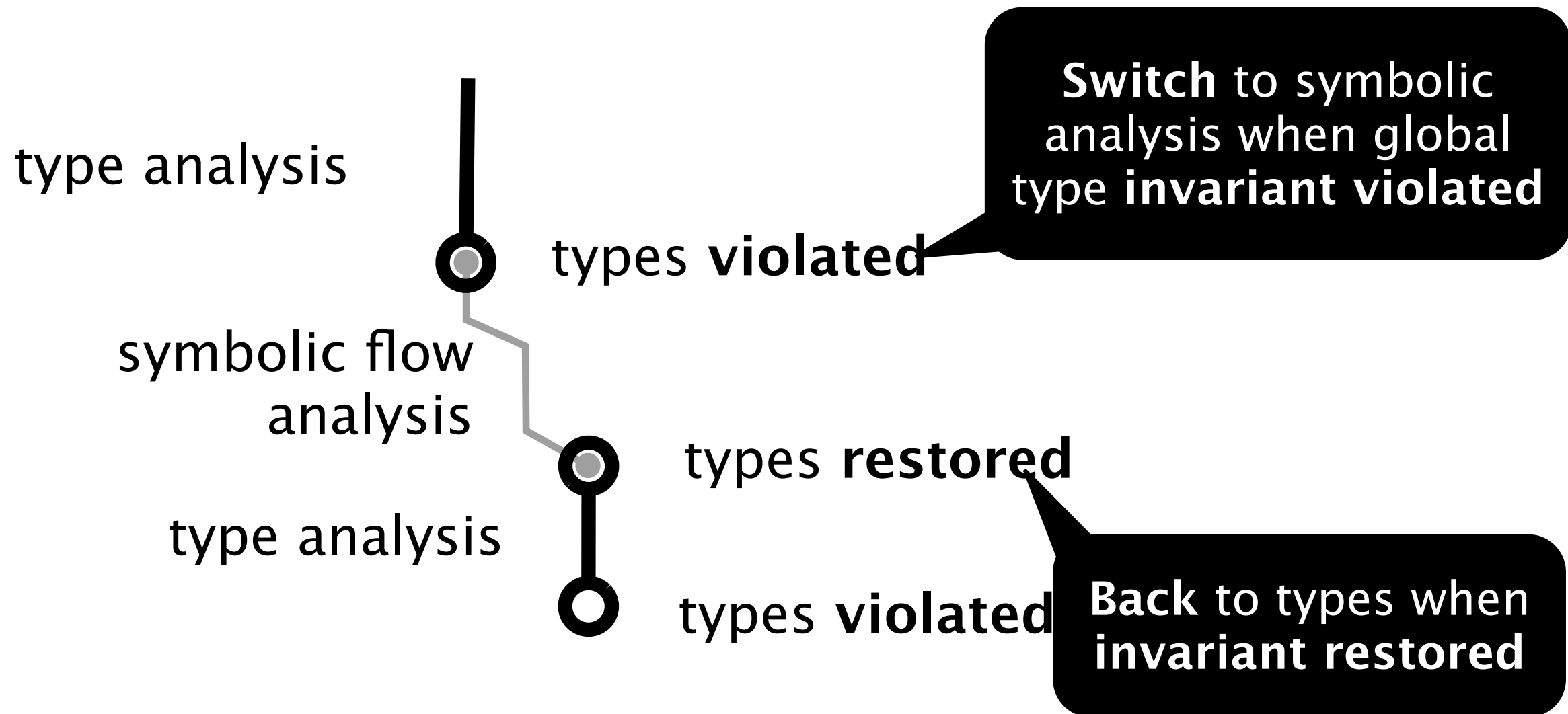
types violated

Switch to symbolic analysis when global type **invariant violated**

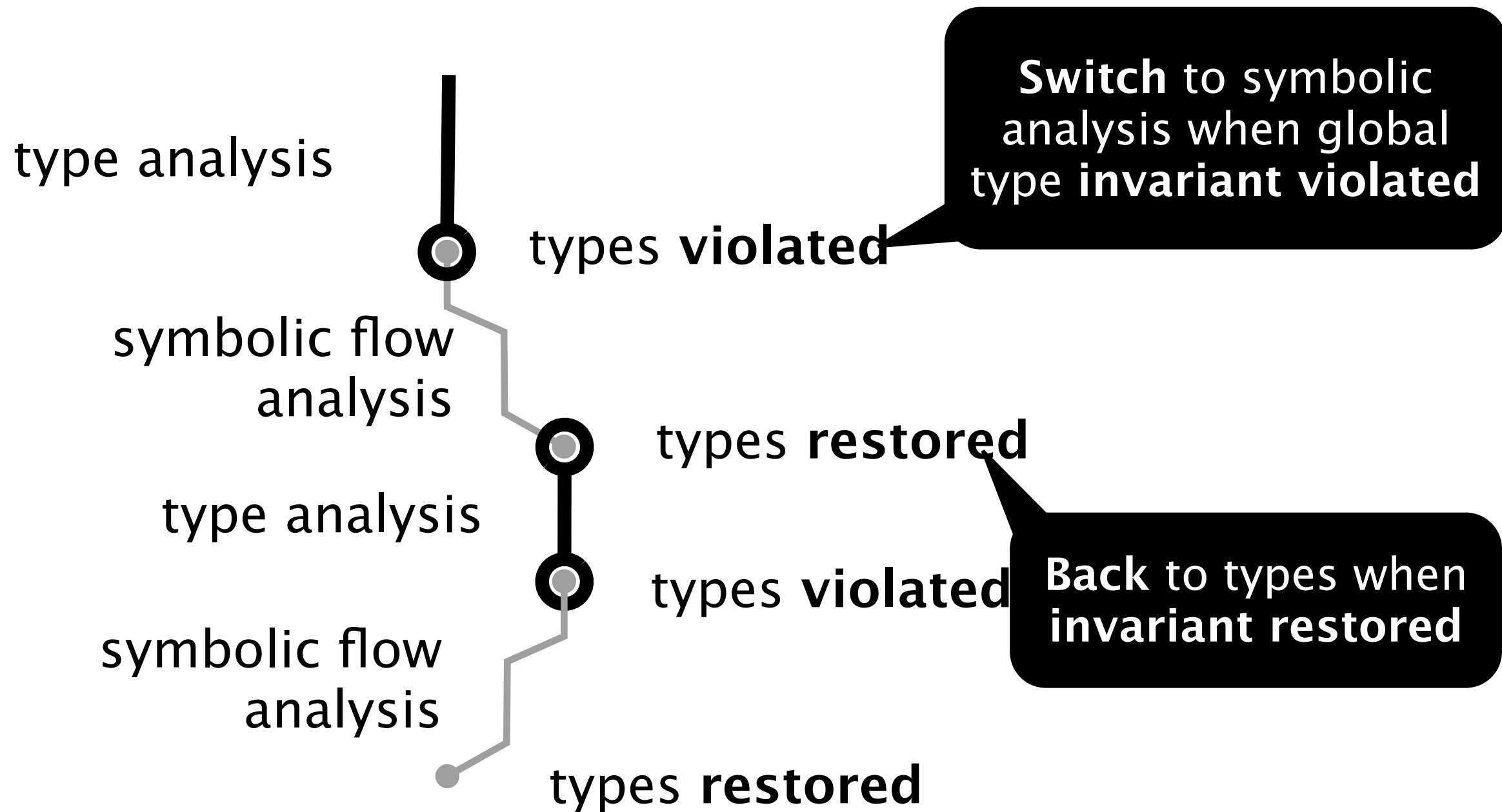
Verification of **almost-everywhere invariants** with **intertwined** type and flow analysis



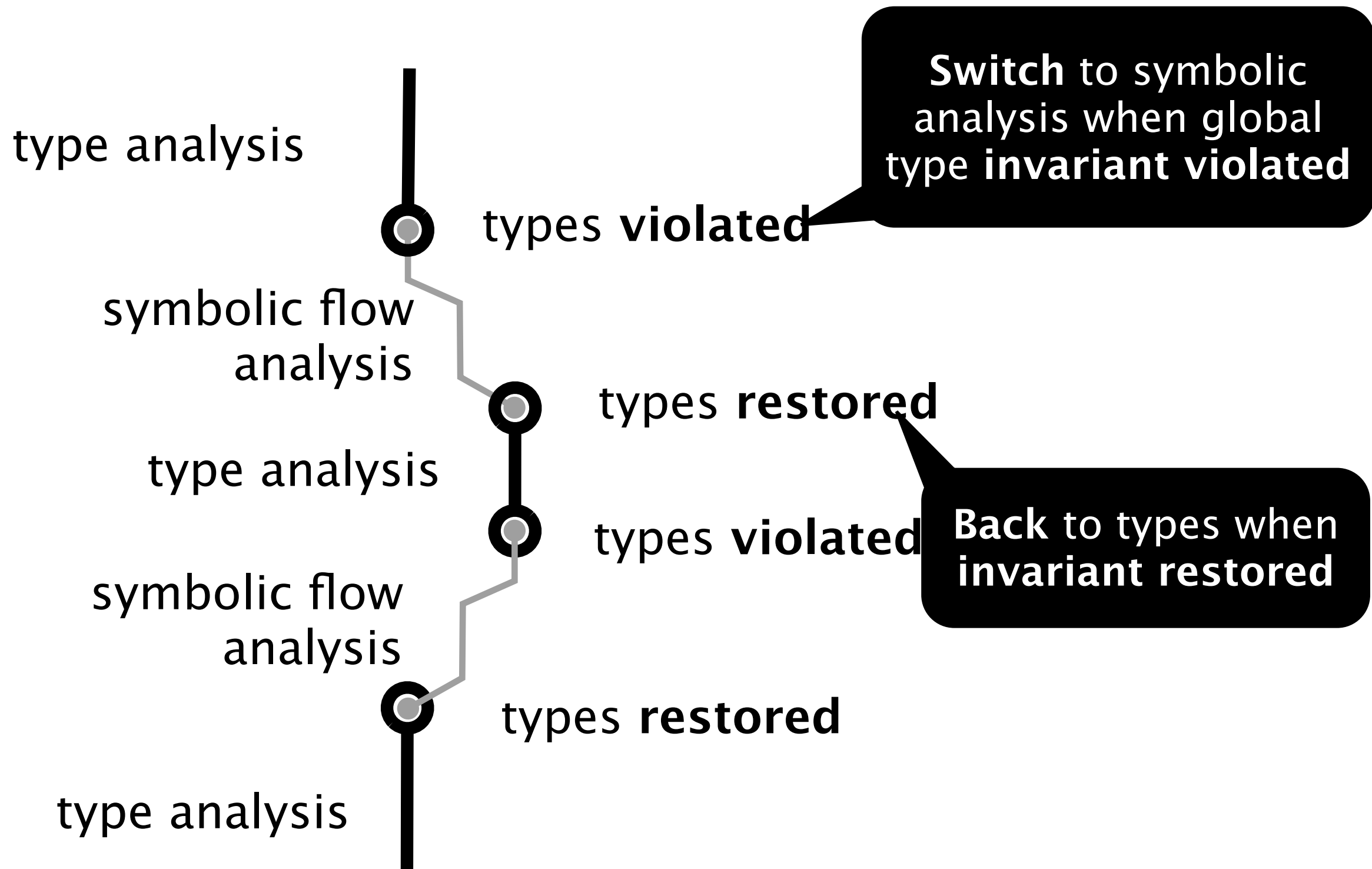
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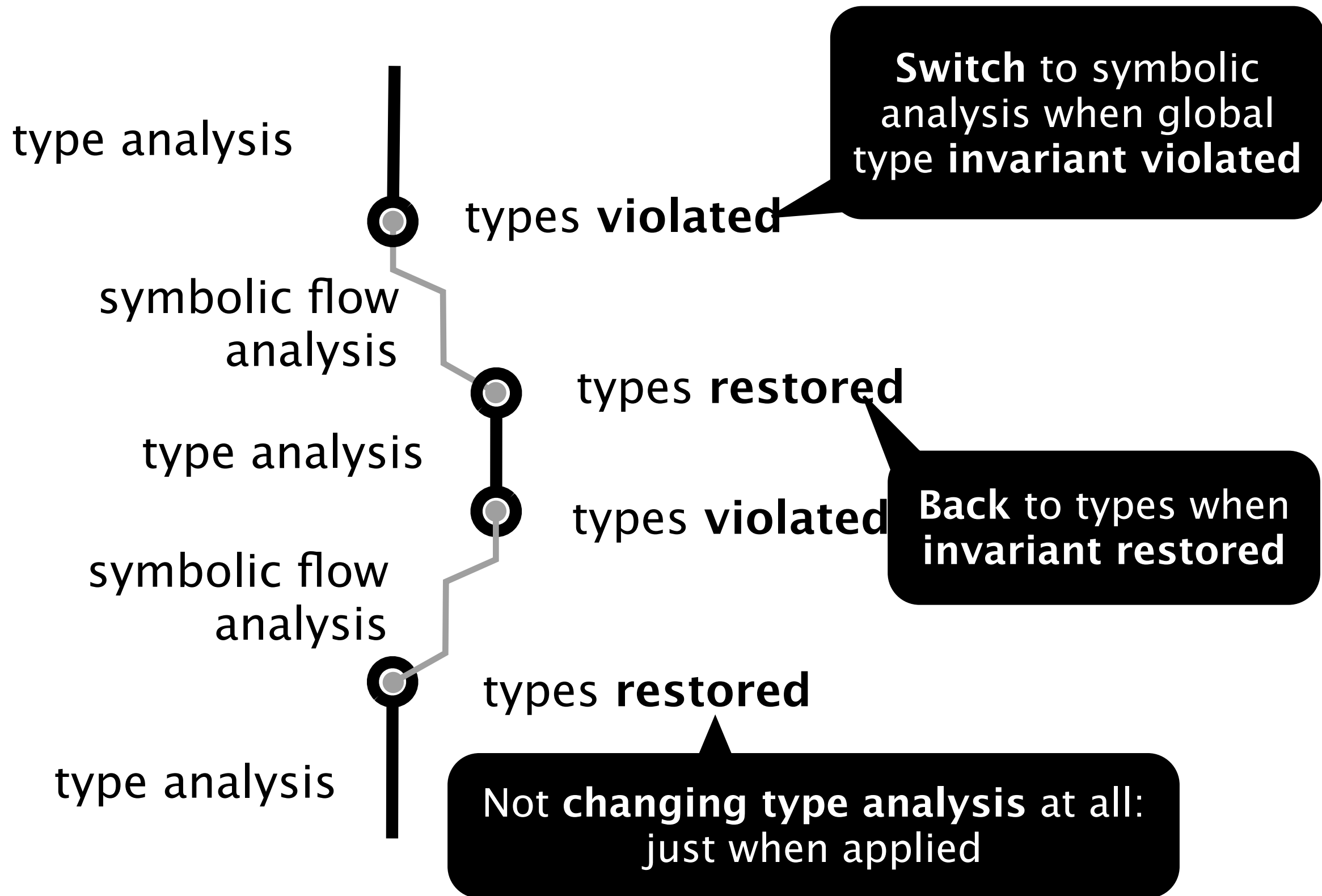
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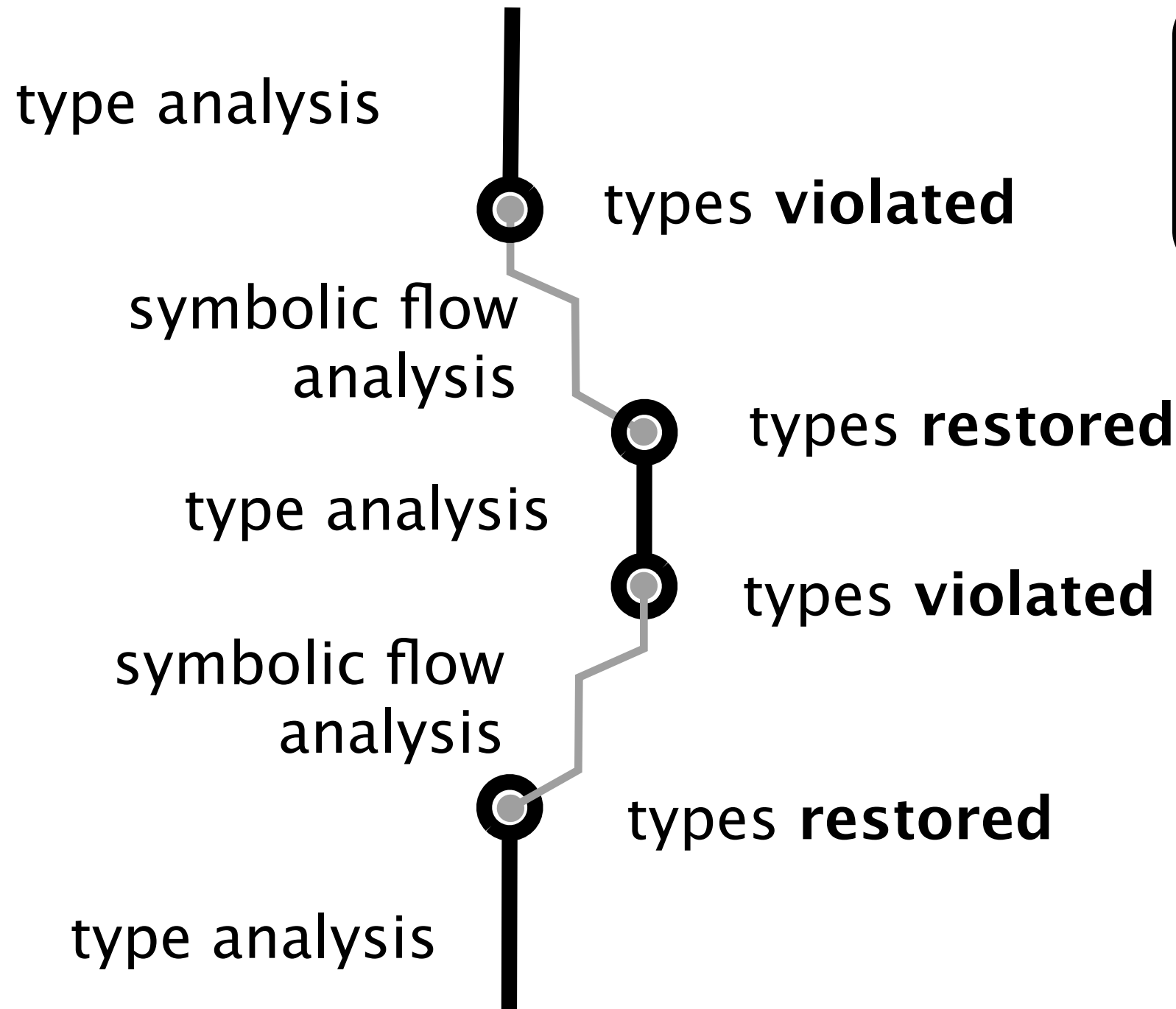
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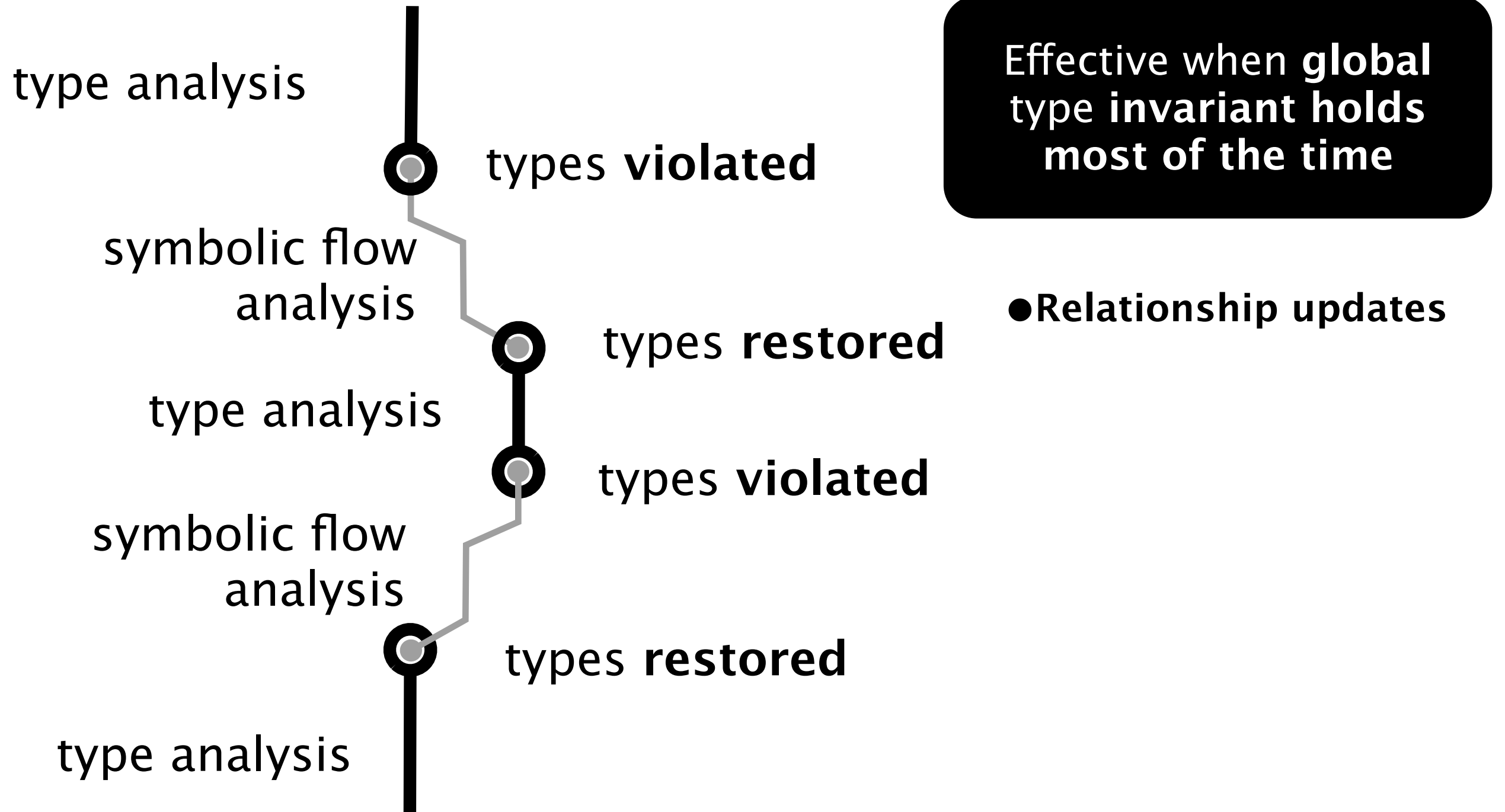


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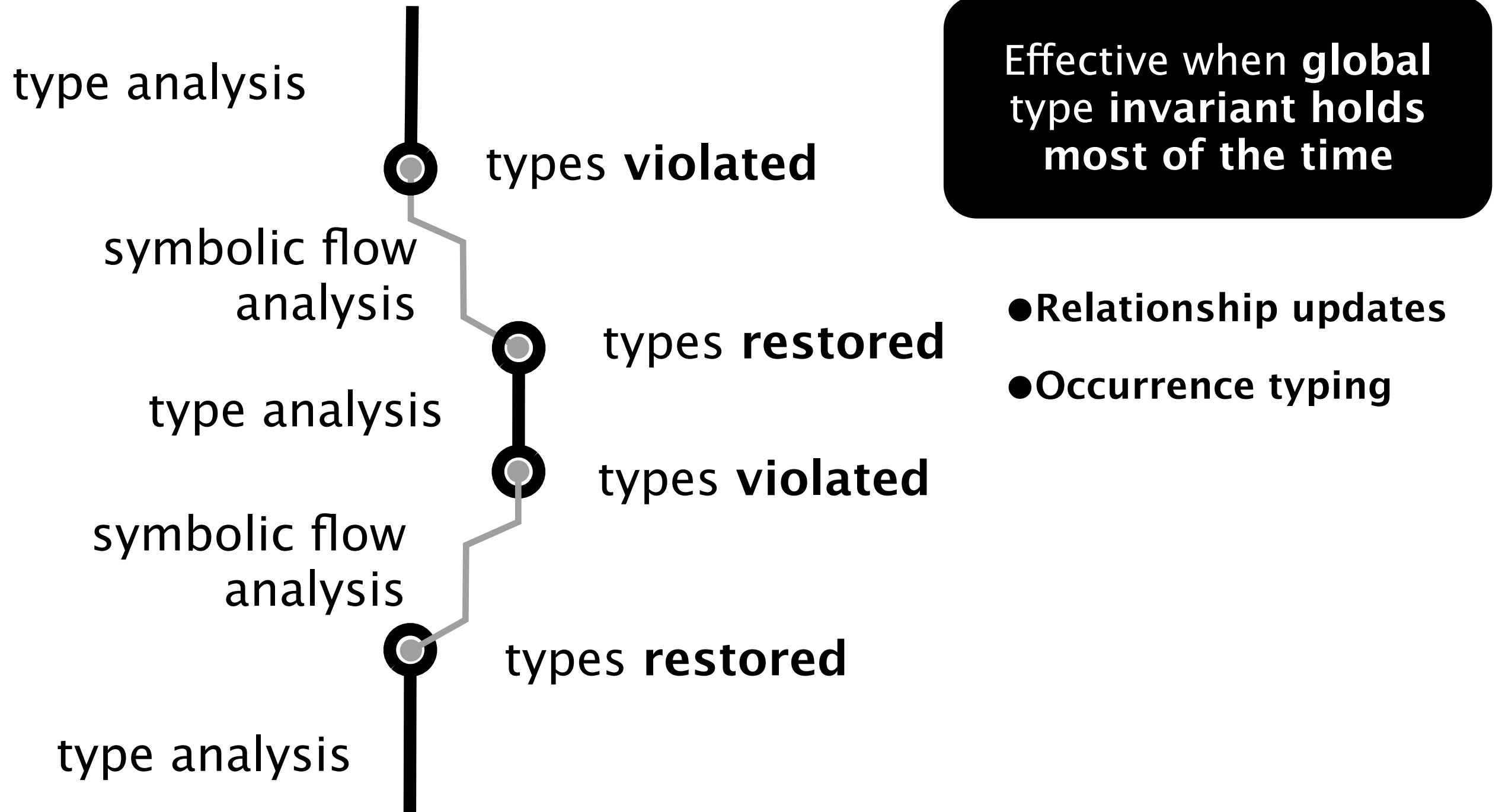


Effective when **global type invariant holds most of the time**

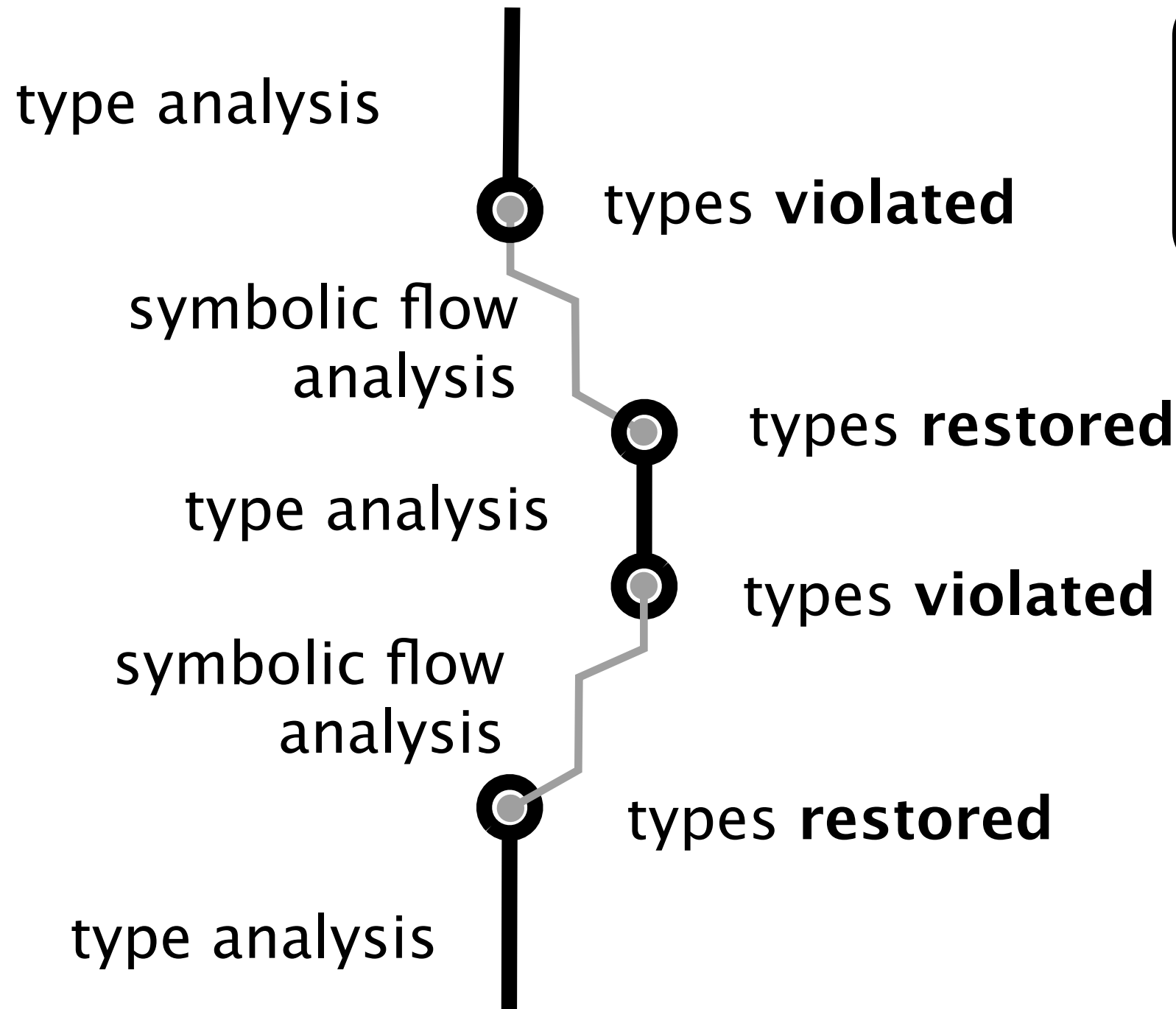
Verification of **almost-everywhere invariants** with **intertwined** type and flow analysis



Verification of **almost-everywhere invariants** with **intertwined** type and flow analysis



Verification of **almost-everywhere invariants** with **intertwined** type and flow analysis



Effective when **global type invariant holds most of the time**

- Relationship updates
- Occurrence typing
- Tagged unions

Play to the **strengths** of each intertwined
analysis

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Flow-Insensitive Types

Easy to **specify global** invariants

Fast

Natural for **modular** reasoning

Good **error reporting**

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Symbolic Flow Analysis

Natural for **local** reasoning
about **heap mutation**

Precise

Can be disjunctive/path-
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Play to the **strengths** of each intertwined analysis

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flow-sensitive
typing?

ownership types?

alias types?

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**Goal: keep types as
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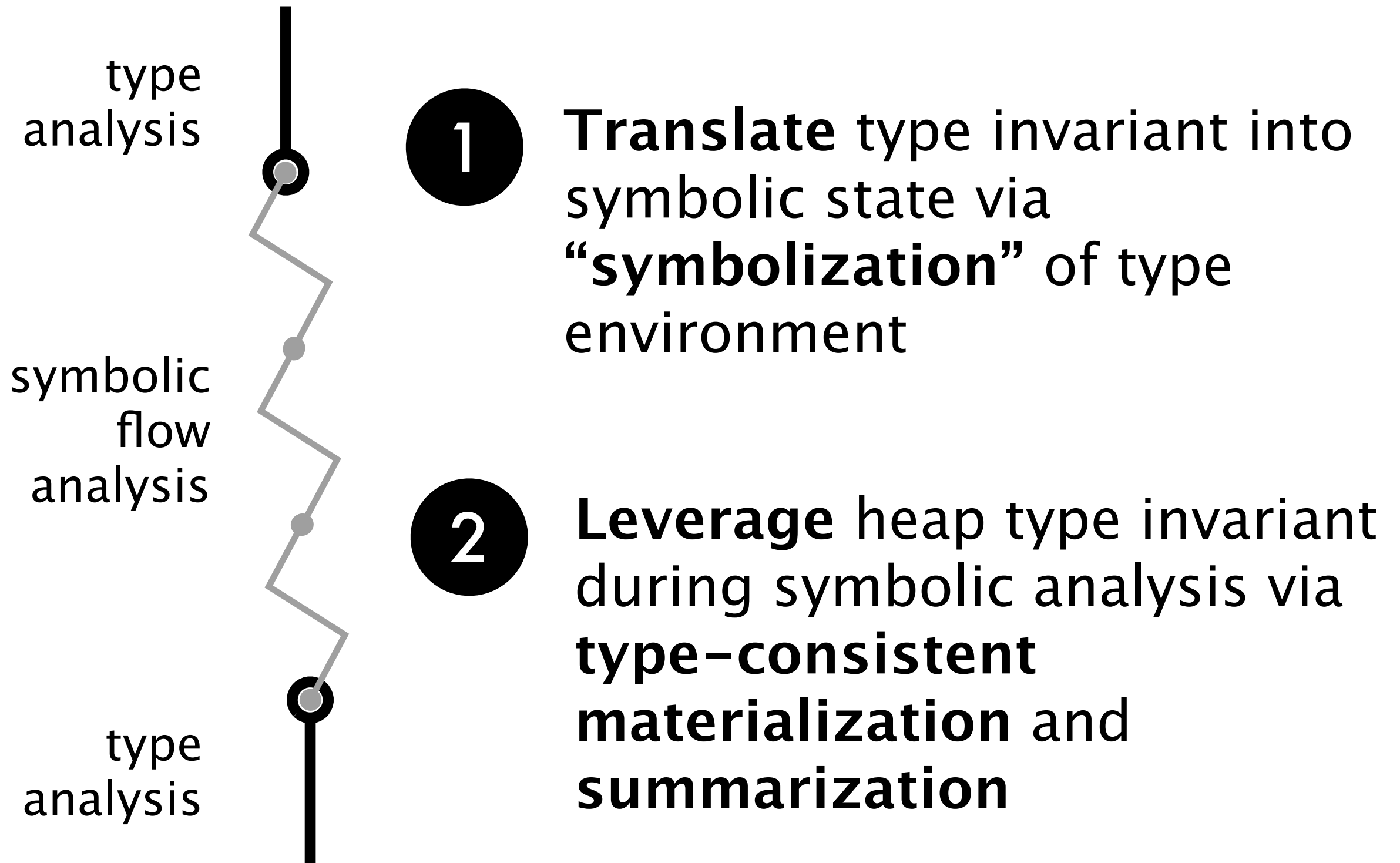
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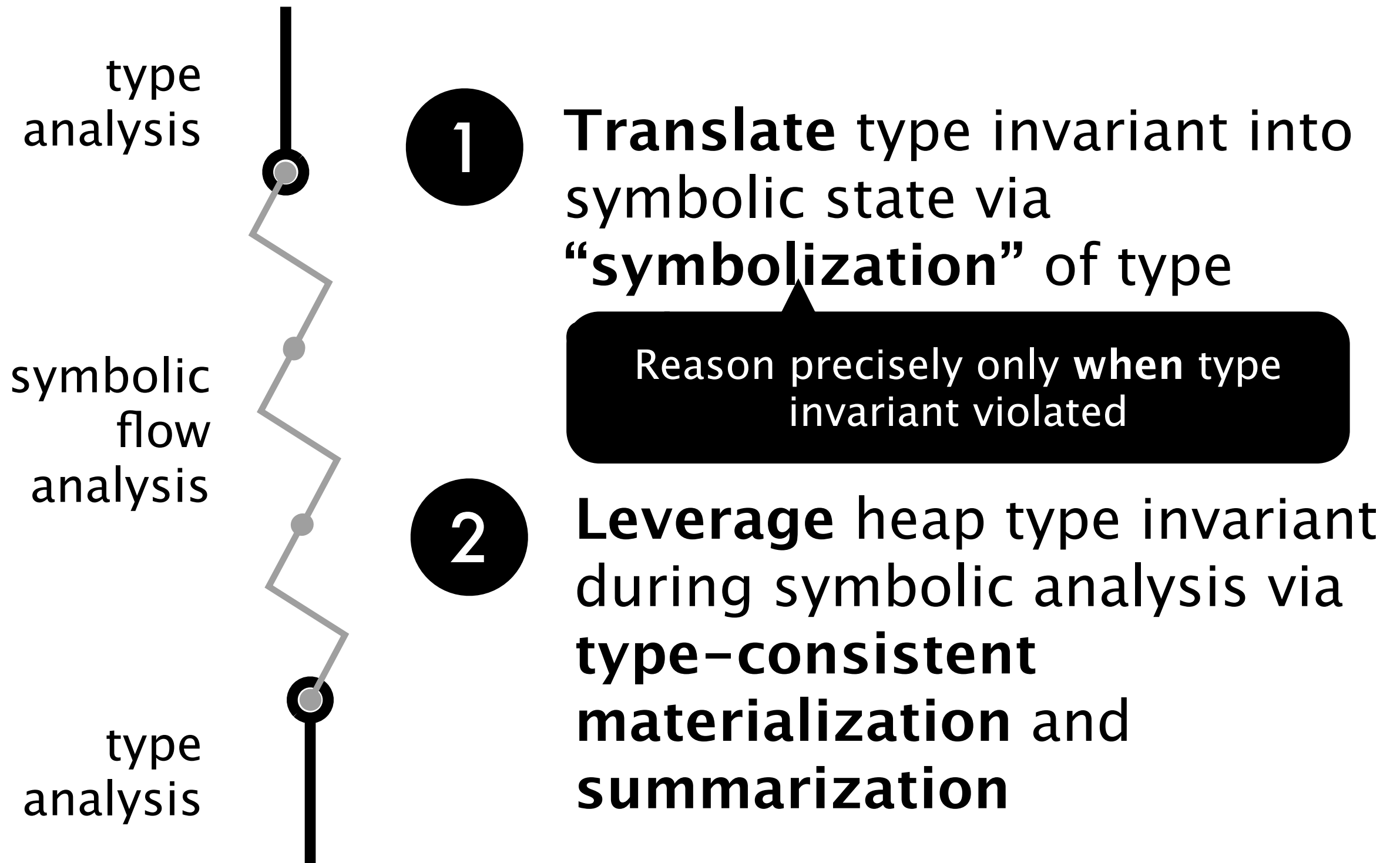
s

**Complexity lies in handoff
between analyses and in symbolic
analysis**

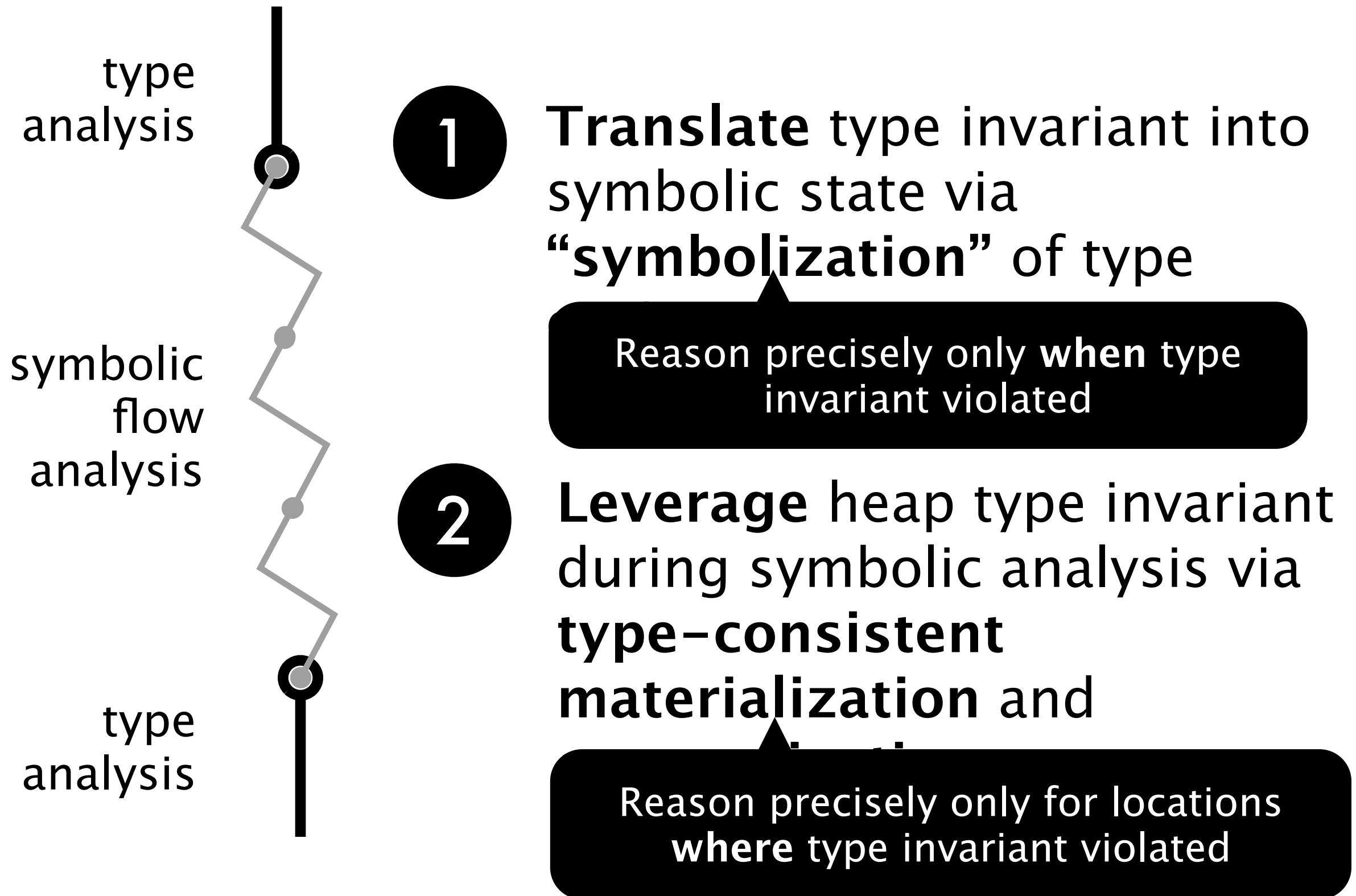
Key Contributions



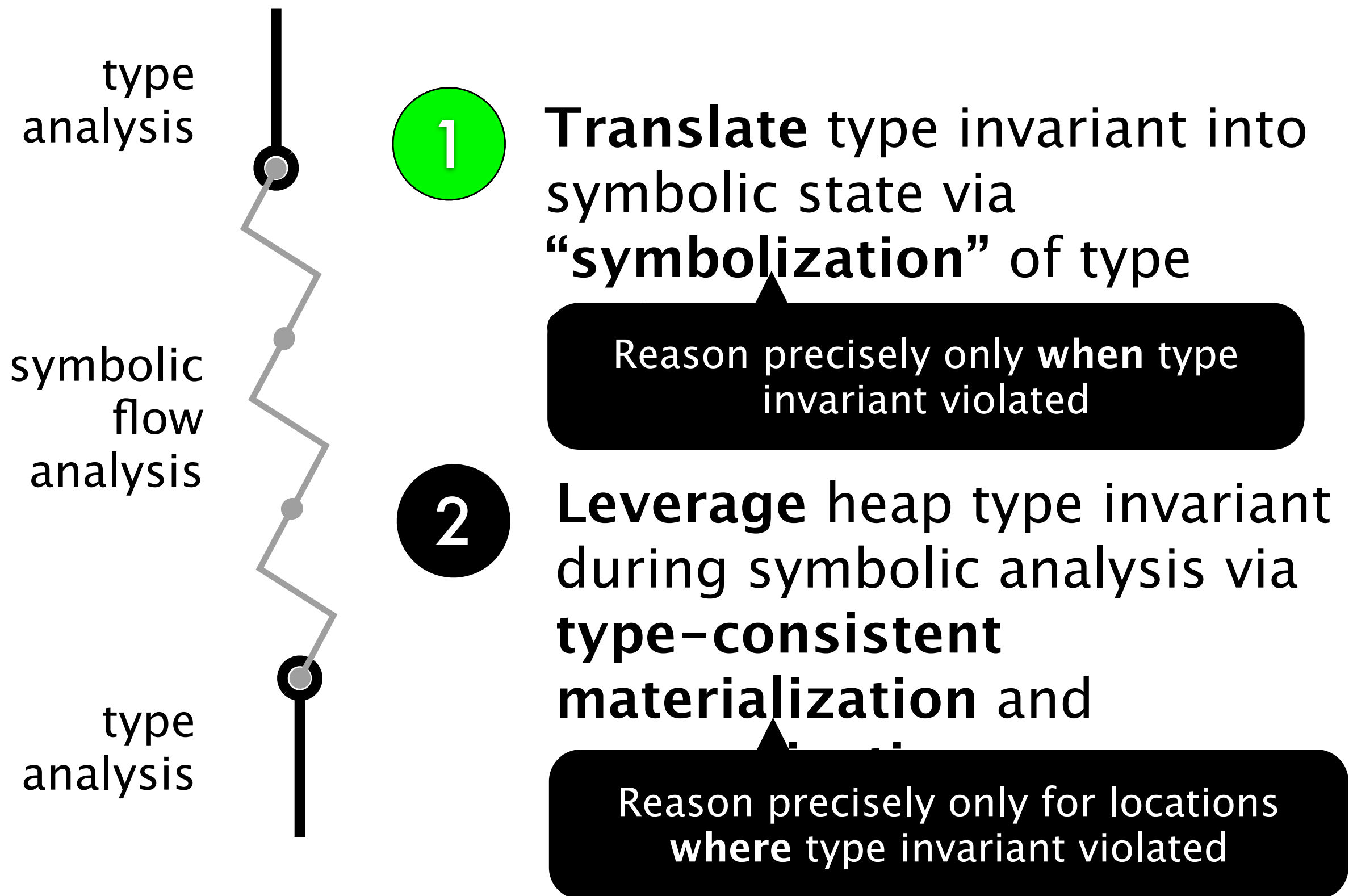
Key Contributions



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Key Contributions



Symbolization splits a type environment into facts about values and storage for those values


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Type environment

Maps local variables to dependent types

$$\Gamma \quad \begin{array}{l} s : \text{Str} \\ o : \text{Obj} \mid r2 \ s \\ \text{this} : \text{Callback} \end{array}$$

Refinements refer to variables

Symbolization splits a type environment into facts about values and storage for those values

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Γ $s : \text{Str}$
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Refinements refer to variables

Symbolic state

symbolize →

\tilde{E} $s : \tilde{s}$
 $o : \tilde{o}$
 $\text{this} : \tilde{t}$

$\tilde{\Gamma}$ $\tilde{s} : \text{Str}$
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Refinements refer to variables

Maps local variables to symbolic values

symbolize

Maps symbolic values to dependent types lifted to symbolic values (symbolic facts)

Symbolic state

$\sim E$
 $\sim \Gamma$

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o : \tilde{o}
this : \tilde{t}

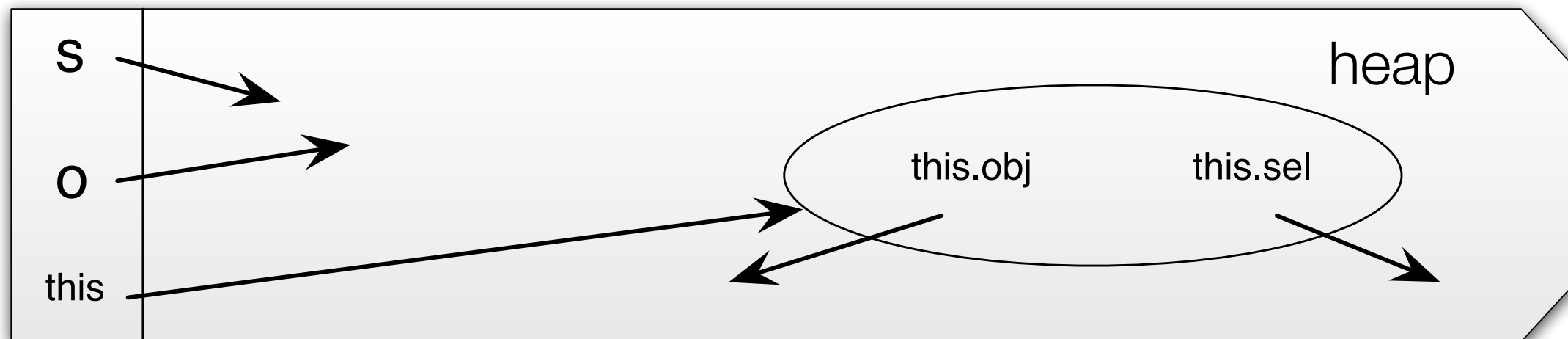
\tilde{s} : Str
 \tilde{o} : Obj | r2 \tilde{s}
 \tilde{t} : Callback

Refinements refer to values

Symbolization allows local variables to hold values inconsistent with declared types

```
def update(s:Str, o:Obj | r2 s)  
  this.sel = s  
  this.obj = o
```

Γ $s : \text{Str}$
 $o : \text{Obj} \mid r2\ s$
 $\text{this} : \text{Callback}$

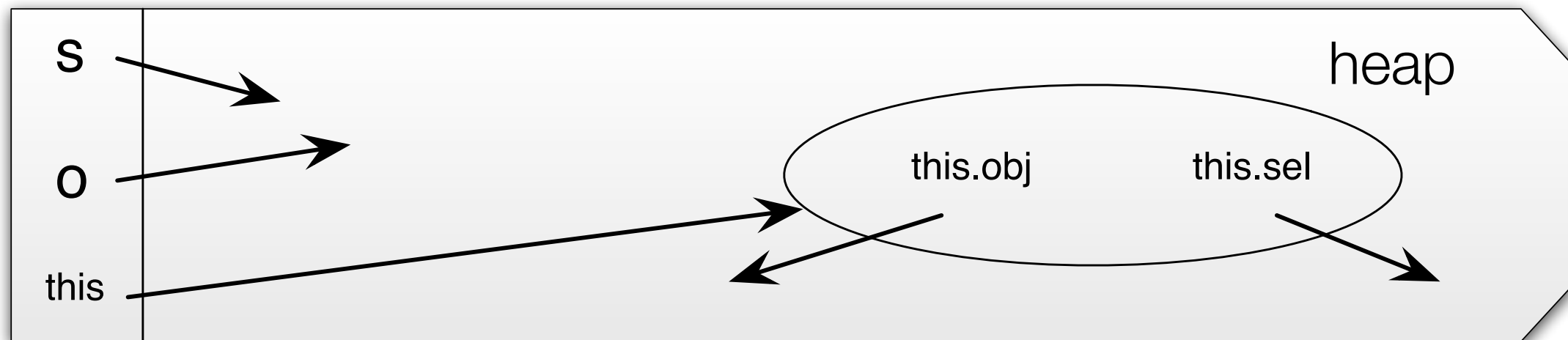


Symbolization allows local variables to hold values inconsistent with declared types

A type environment constrains local variables

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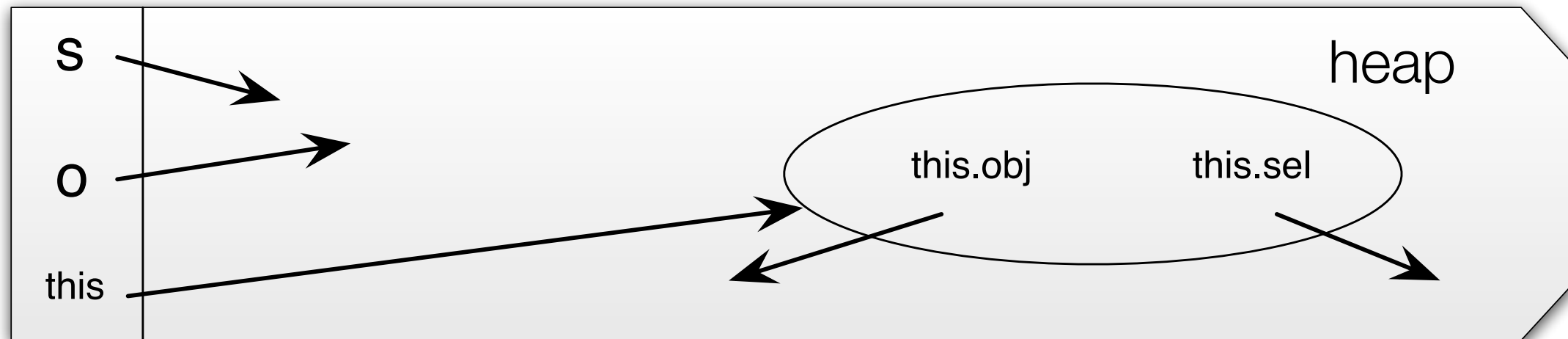
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```

But also constrains the reachable heap to be **type-consistent**: fields must conform to declared types



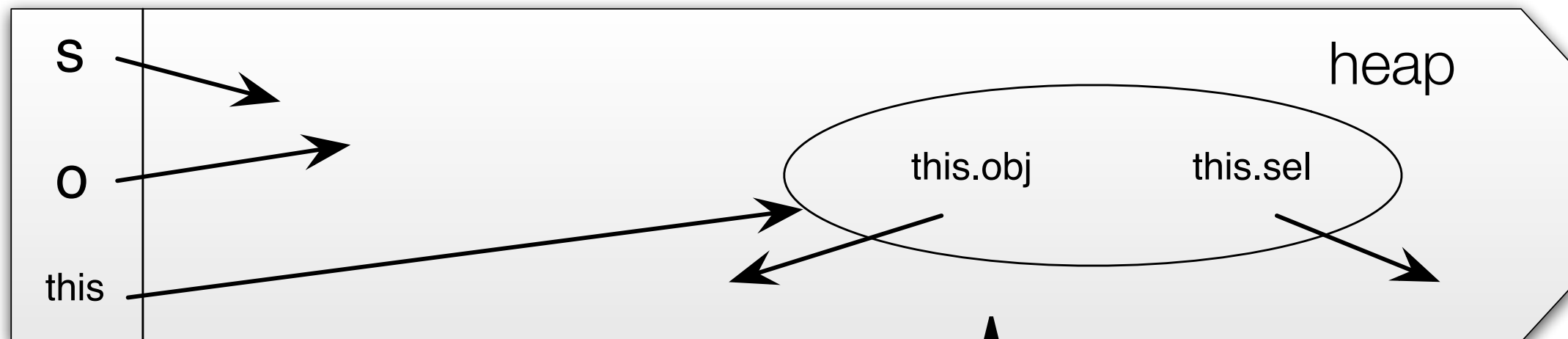
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This picture captures the **fully type-consistent concrete state**

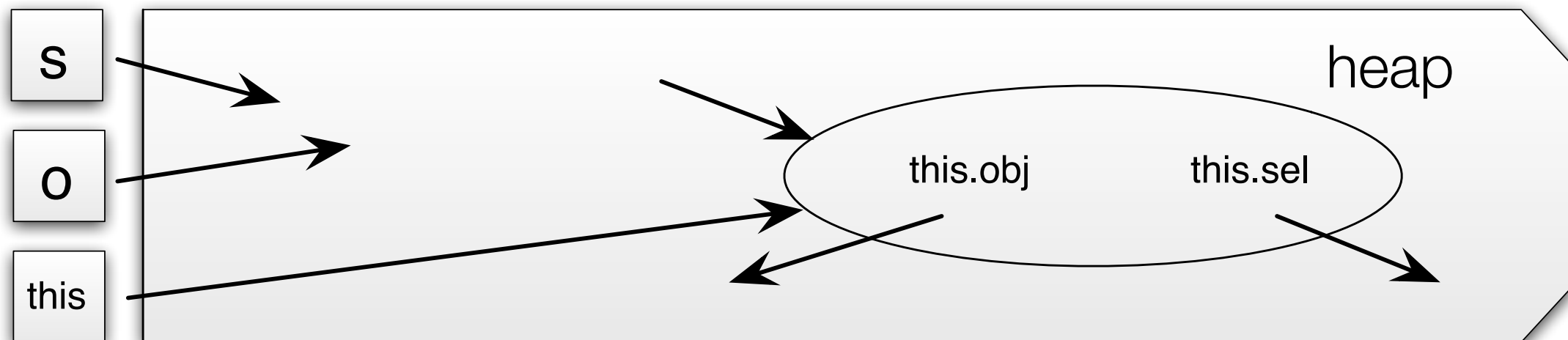
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symbolize

\tilde{E} $\tilde{\Gamma}$



Symbolization allows local variables to hold values inconsistent with declared types

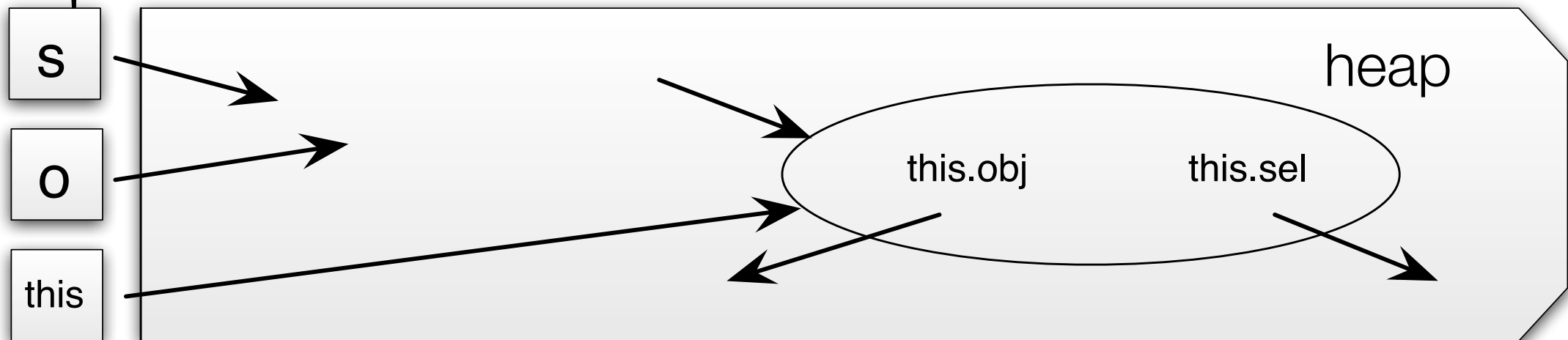
Symbolic environment allows, e.g., int in s

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def update(s:Str, o:Obj | r2 s)  
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```

Γ
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o : Obj | r2 s
this : Callback

symbolize →

\tilde{E} $\tilde{\Gamma}$



Symbolization allows local variables to hold values inconsistent with declared types

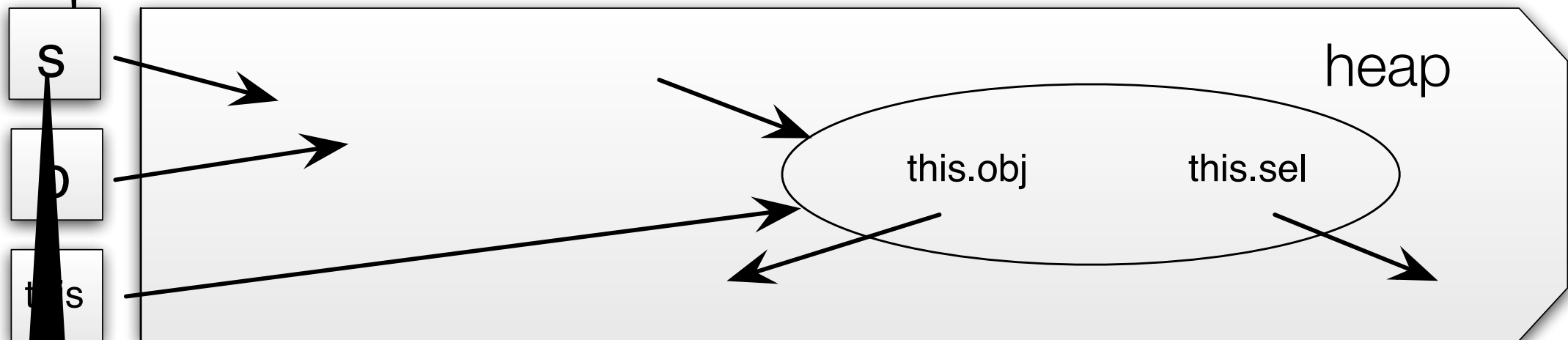
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symbolize →

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Immediately type-inconsistent: value stored without dereferences violates a type constraint

Symbolization allows local variables to hold values inconsistent with declared types

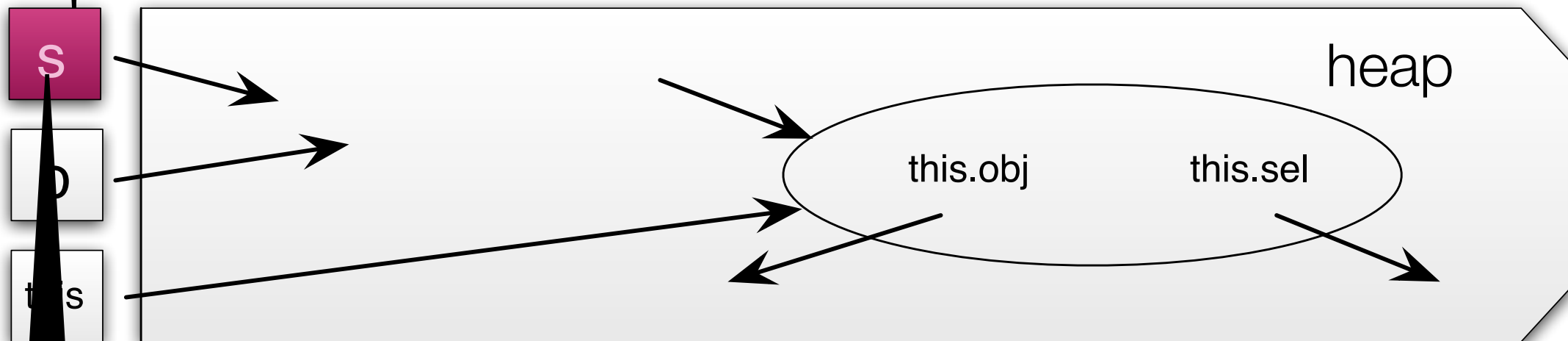
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symbolize

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Immediately type-inconsistent: value stored without dereferences violates a type constraint

Symbolization allows local variables to hold values inconsistent with declared types

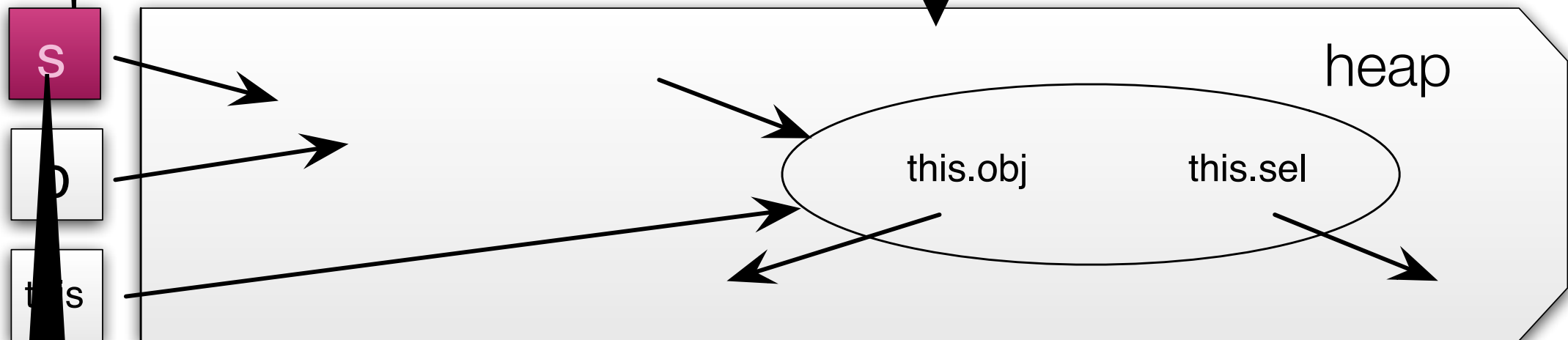
Symbolic environment allows, e.g., int in s

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def update(s:Str, o:Obj | r2 s)  
  this.sel = s  
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```

s : Str
o : Obj | r2 s
this : Callback

S

Grey indicates storage that is not immediately type-inconsistent



Immediately type-inconsistent: value stored without dereferences violates a type constraint

Symbolization unpacks local cells, but symbolic facts about values still constrain the heap

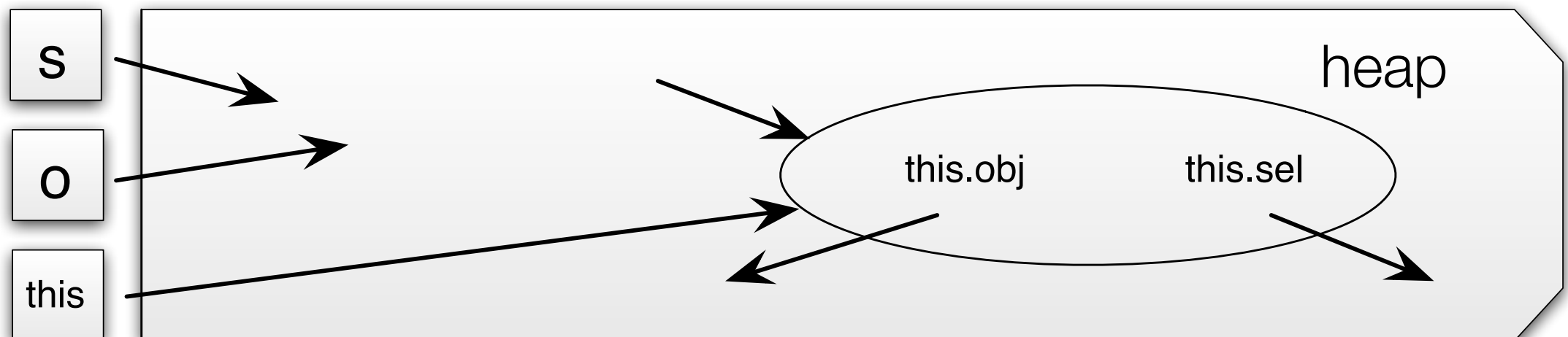
Type environment

Γ $s : \text{Str}$
 $o : \text{Obj} \mid r2\ s$
 $\text{this} : \text{Callback}$

symbolize \rightarrow

Symbolic fact map

$\tilde{\Gamma}$ $\tilde{s} : \text{Str}$
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 $\tilde{t} : \text{Callback}$



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Type environment

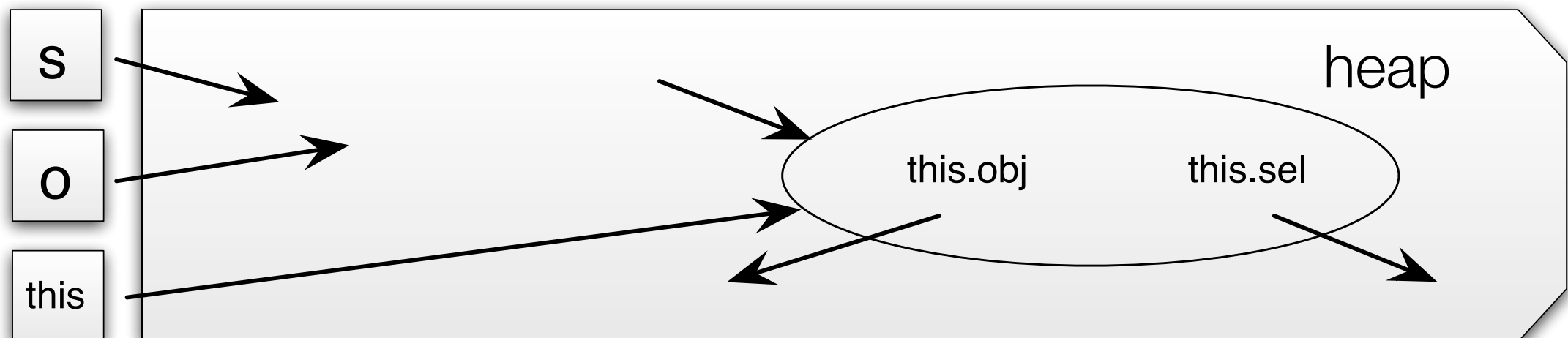
Γ $s : \text{Str}$
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Base types same on both sides

symbolize

Symbolic fact map

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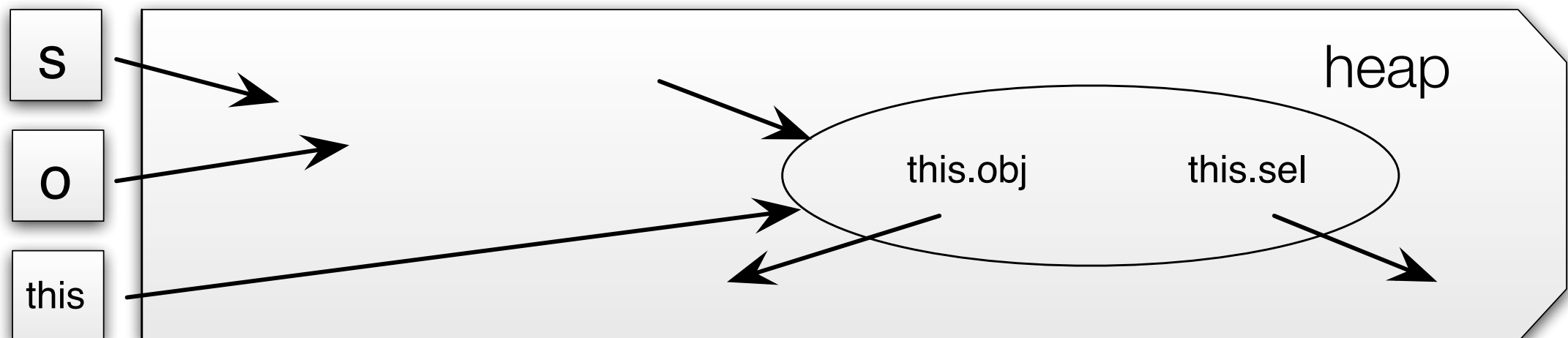
symbolize

Symbolic fact map

$\tilde{\Gamma}$ $\tilde{s} : \text{Str}$
 $\tilde{o} : \text{Obj} \mid r2\ \tilde{s}$
 $\tilde{t} : \text{Callback}$

$\text{Callback} \triangleq \{\text{sel} : \text{Str}, \text{obj} : \text{Obj} \mid r2\ \text{sel}\}$

Base type field refinements still refer to fields



Summarize heap locations that are **not** immediately type-inconsistent with okheap

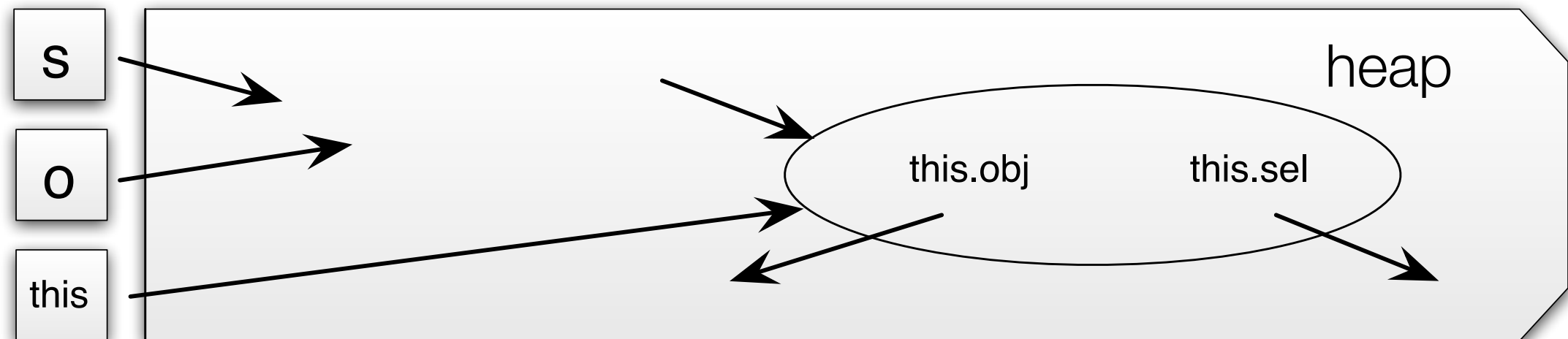
Symbolic Heap

\tilde{H}

okheap

```
def update(s:Str, o:Obj | r2 s)
  this.sel = s
  this.obj = o
```

Concrete State



Summarize heap locations that are **not** immediately type-inconsistent with okheap

Symbolic Heap

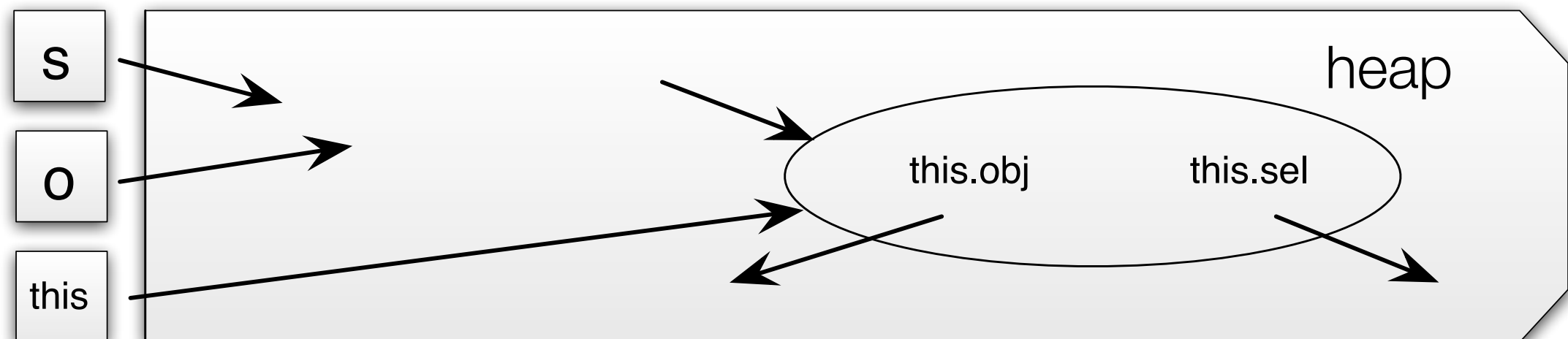
\tilde{H}

okheap

```
def update(s:Str, o:Obj | r2 s)
  this.sel = s
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```

Formula literal: concretization includes every subheap that is **not** immediately type inconsistent

Concrete State



Summarize heap locations that are **not** immediately type-inconsistent with okheap

Symbolic Heap

\tilde{H}

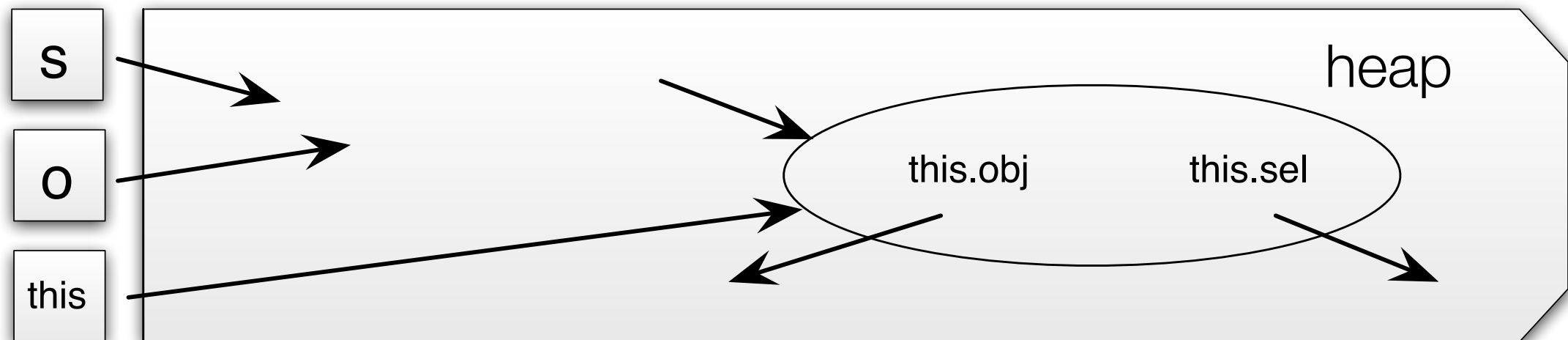
okheap

Describes storage without explicitly enumerating it

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```

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Concrete State



Summarize heap locations that are **not** immediately type-inconsistent with okheap

Symbolic Heap

\tilde{H}

okheap

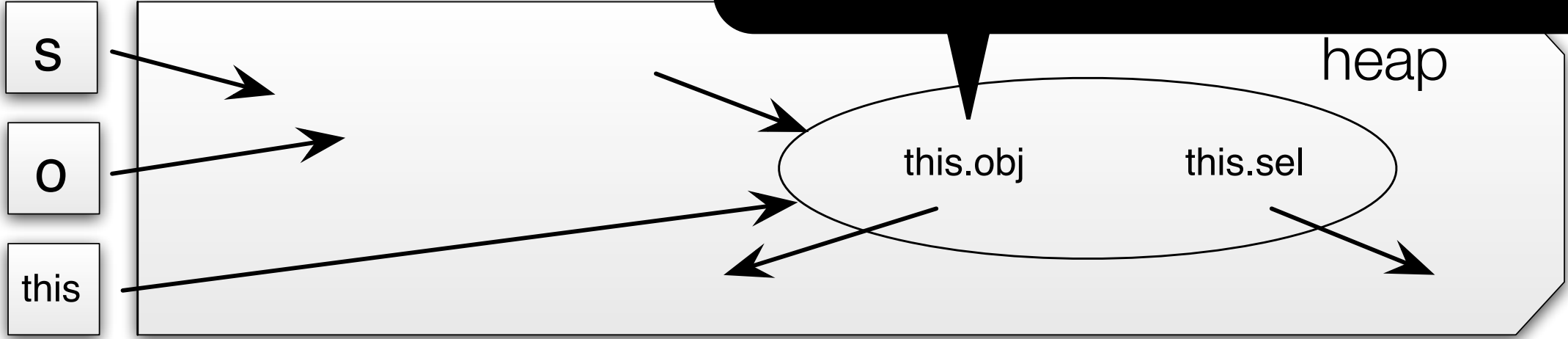
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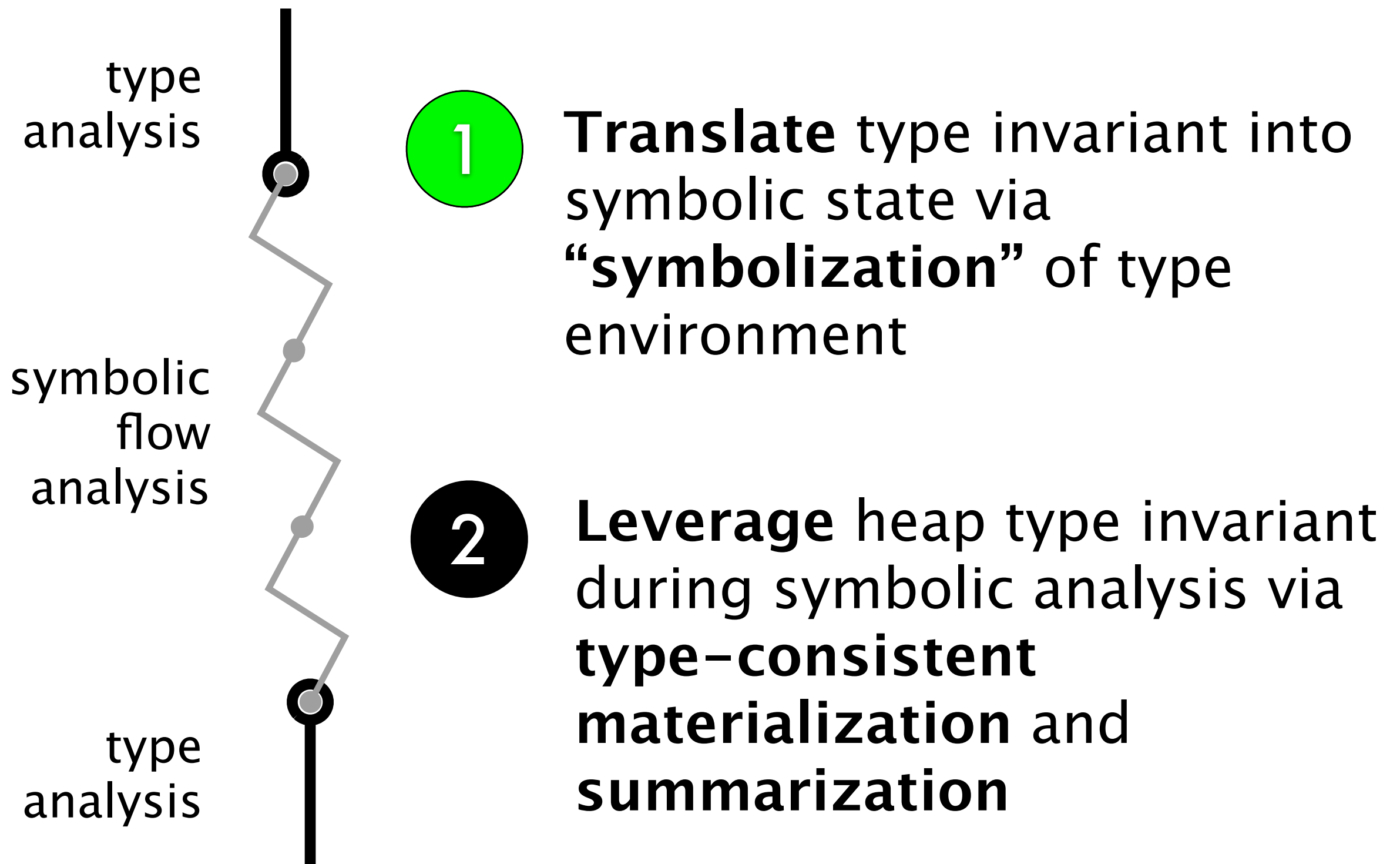
Formula literal: concretization includes every subheap that is **not** immediately type inconsistent

Immediately after switch, type invariants still hold so okheap represents entire heap

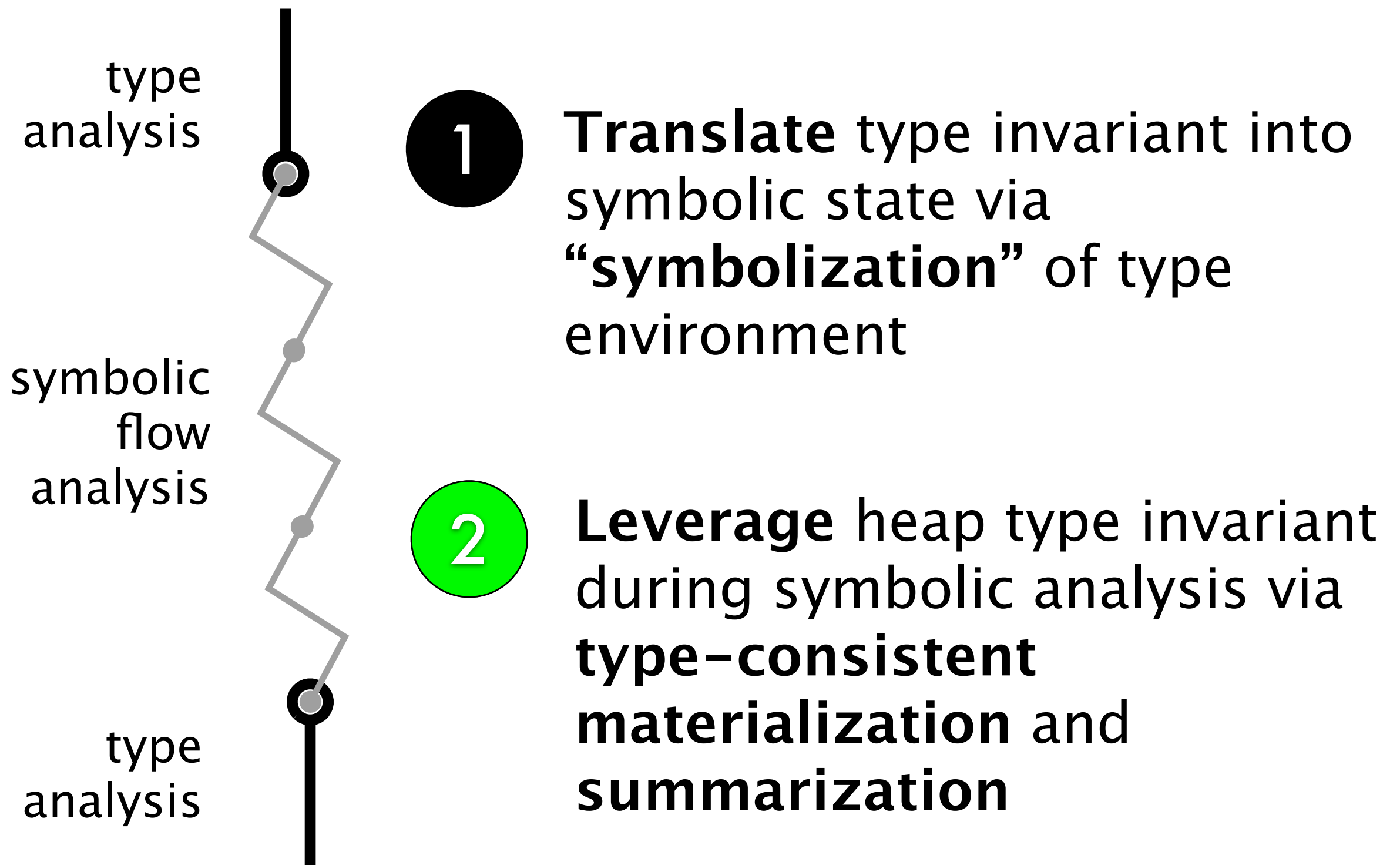
Concrete State



Key Contributions



Key Contributions



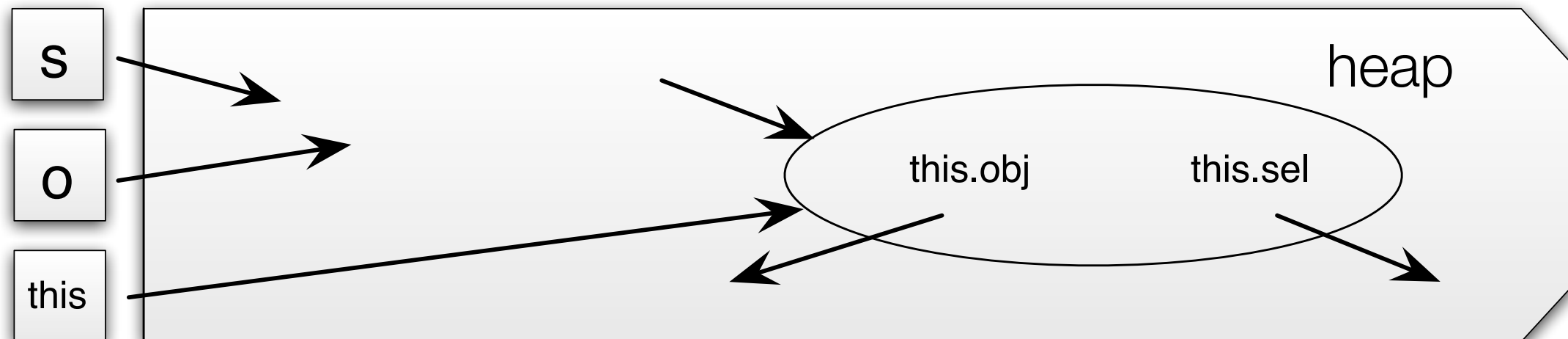
Leverage heap type invariant via type-consistent materialization

Symbolic State

```
def update(s:Str, o:Obj | r2 s)
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  this.obj = o
```

\tilde{H} okheap

Concrete State



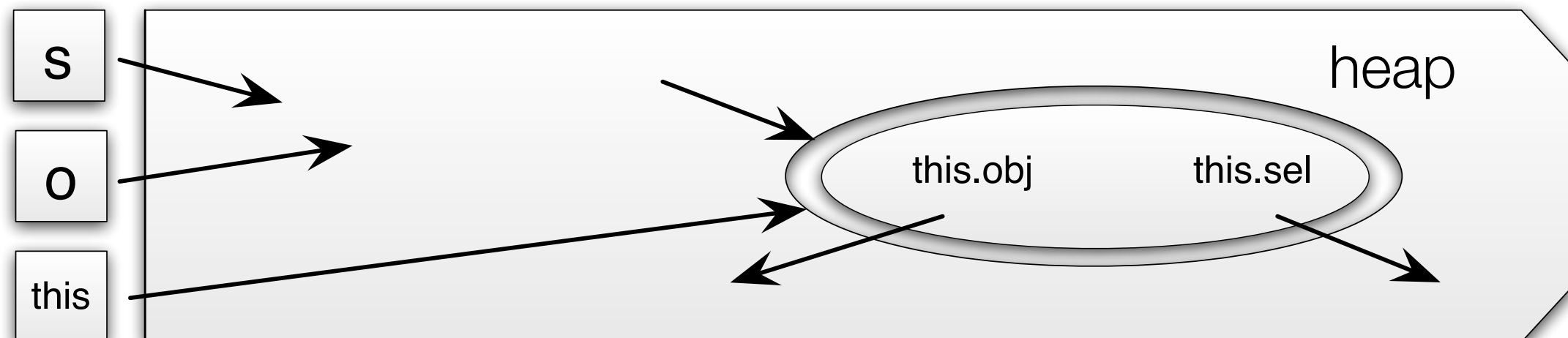
Leverage heap type invariant via type-consistent materialization

Materialize onto standard separation-logic explicit heap

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$$\tilde{H} \quad \text{okheap} * \widetilde{\text{this}} \mapsto \{\text{sel} \mapsto \widetilde{\text{sel}} * \text{obj} \mapsto \widetilde{\text{obj}}\}$$

Concrete State



Leverage heap type invariant via type-consistent materialization

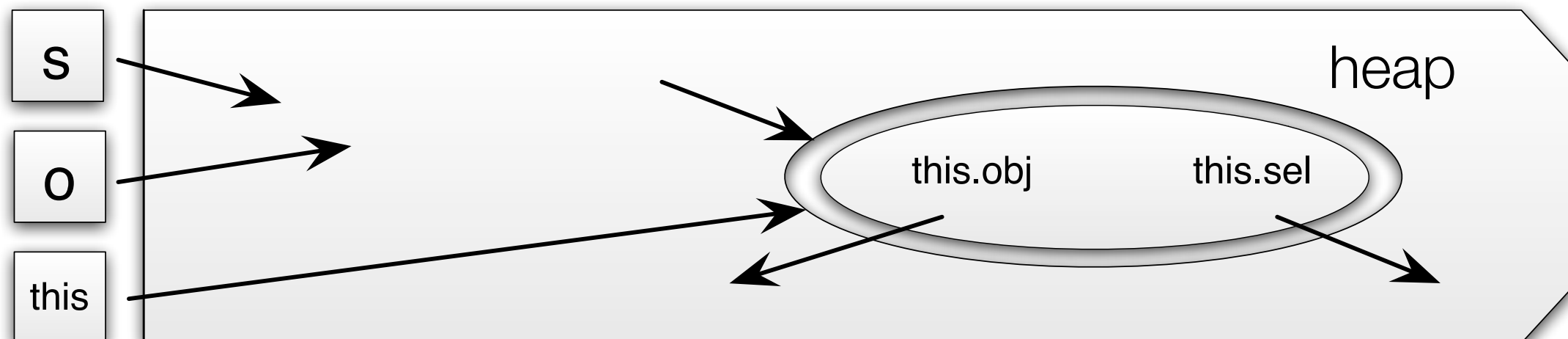
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Must-alias and disalias guarantee requires case split on materialization

Concrete State



Leverage heap type invariant via type-consistent materialization

Materialize onto standard separation-logic explicit heap

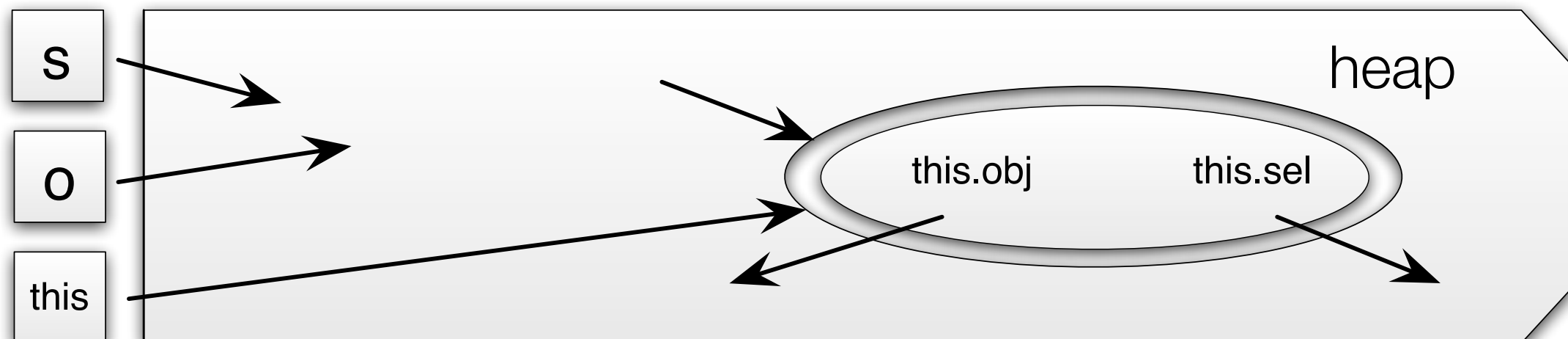
```
def update (
  this.sel : ...
  this.obj : ...
```

Materialized storage guaranteed to be **not immediately type-inconsistent**

$$\tilde{H} \text{ okheap} * \tilde{\text{this}} \mapsto \{\text{sel} \mapsto \tilde{\text{sel}} * \text{obj} \mapsto \tilde{\text{obj}}\}$$

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Concrete State



Leverage heap type invariant via type-consistent materialization

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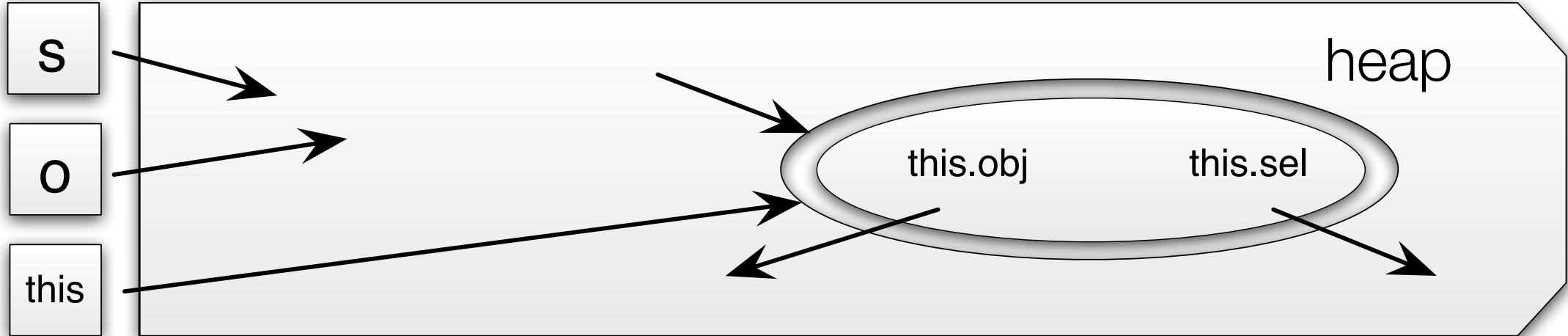
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Must-alias and disalias guarantee requires case split on materialization

Value stored in `obj` responds to value stored in `sel`

Concrete State



Leverage heap type invariant via type-consistent materialization

Materialize onto standard separation-logic explicit heap

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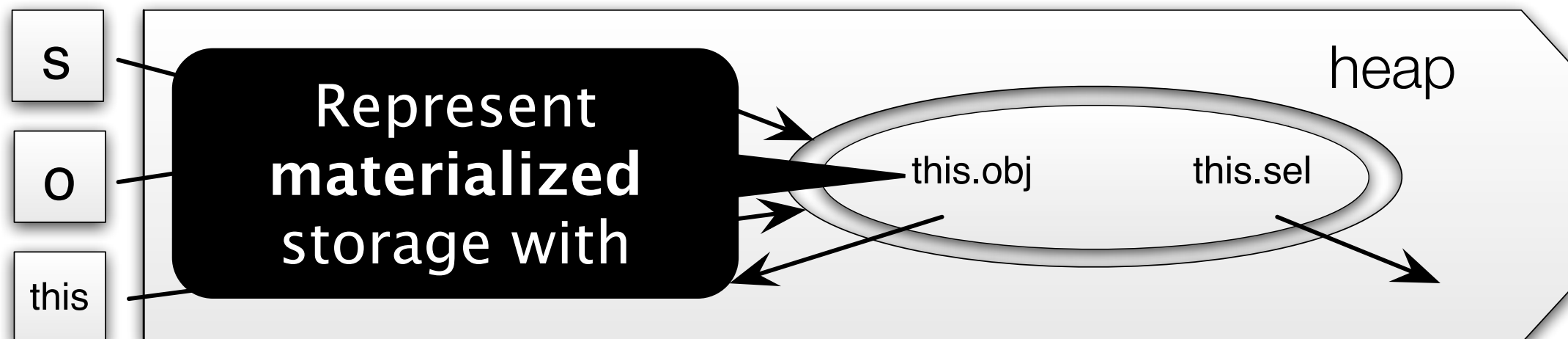
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Value stored in `obj` responds to value stored in `sel`

Concrete State



Leverage heap type invariant via type-consistent materialization

Materialize onto standard separation-logic explicit heap

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def update (
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  this.obj :
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Materialized storage guaranteed to be **not immediately type-inconsistent**

\tilde{H} okheap * $\tilde{\text{this}} \mapsto \{\text{sel} \mapsto \tilde{\text{sel}} * \text{obj} \mapsto \tilde{\text{obj}}\}$

Must-alias and disalias guarantee requires **case split** on materialization

Value stored in `obj` responds to value stored in `sel`

Concrete State

Analysis can assume that type invariant initially holds on all materialized storage

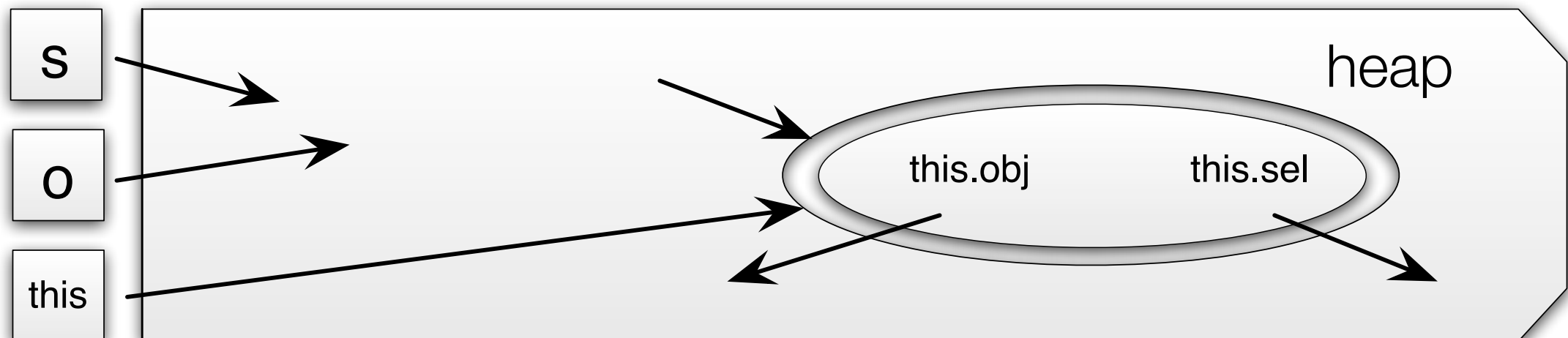
Strong updates on materialized storage to detect invariant restoration

Symbolic State

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  this.sel = s
  this.obj = o
```

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Concrete State



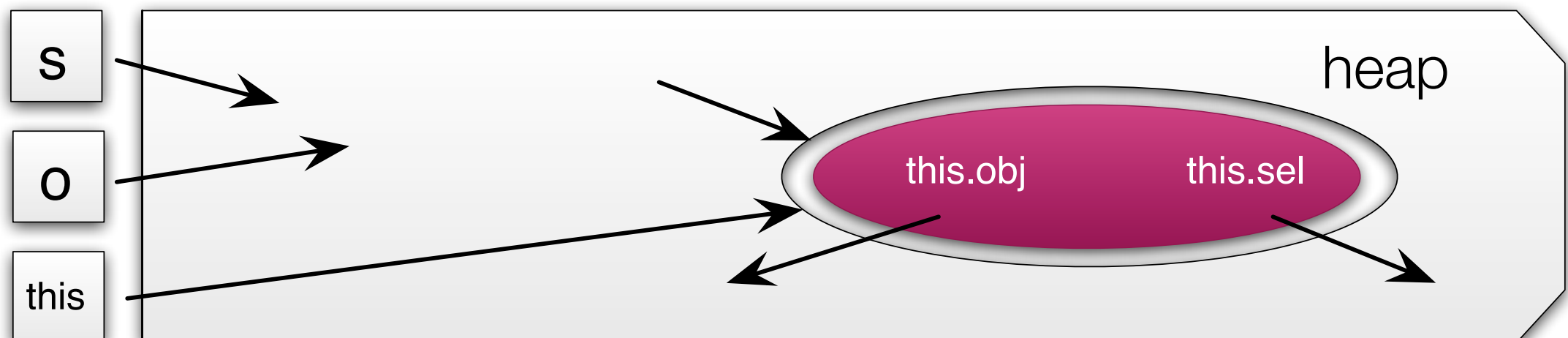
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Concrete State



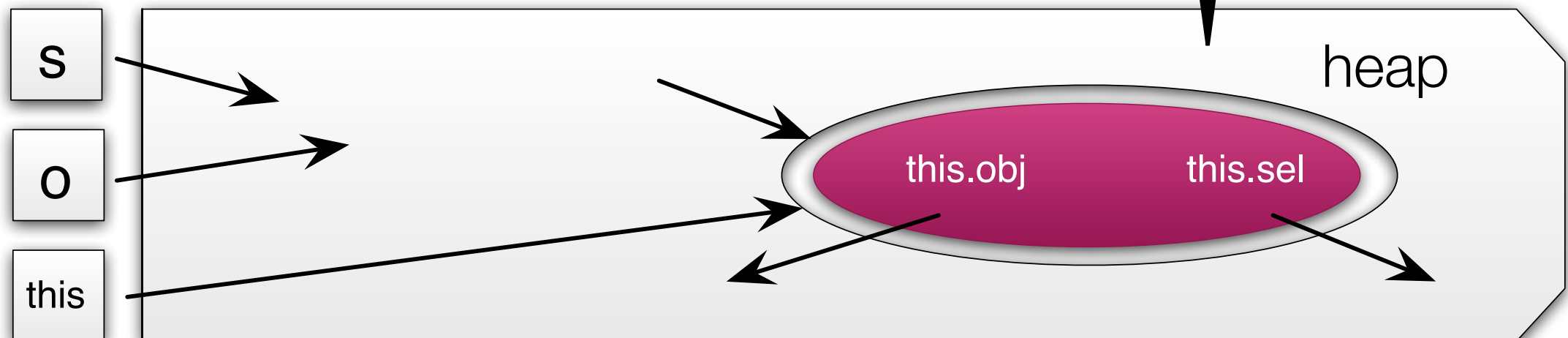
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Concrete State



Strong updates on materialized storage to detect invariant restoration

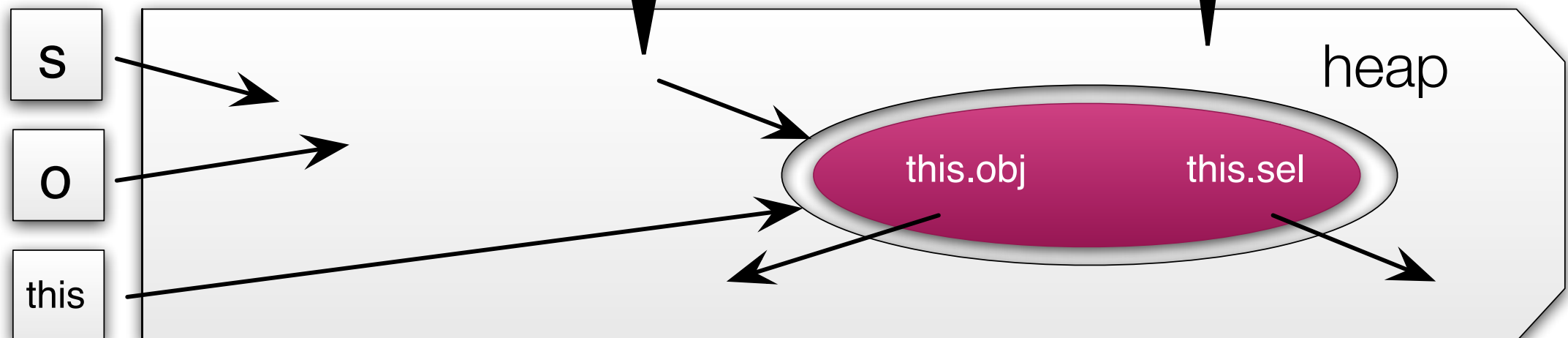
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Surprising: can soundly permit pointers in and out of the region that is not immediately type-inconsistent

Type invariant violated



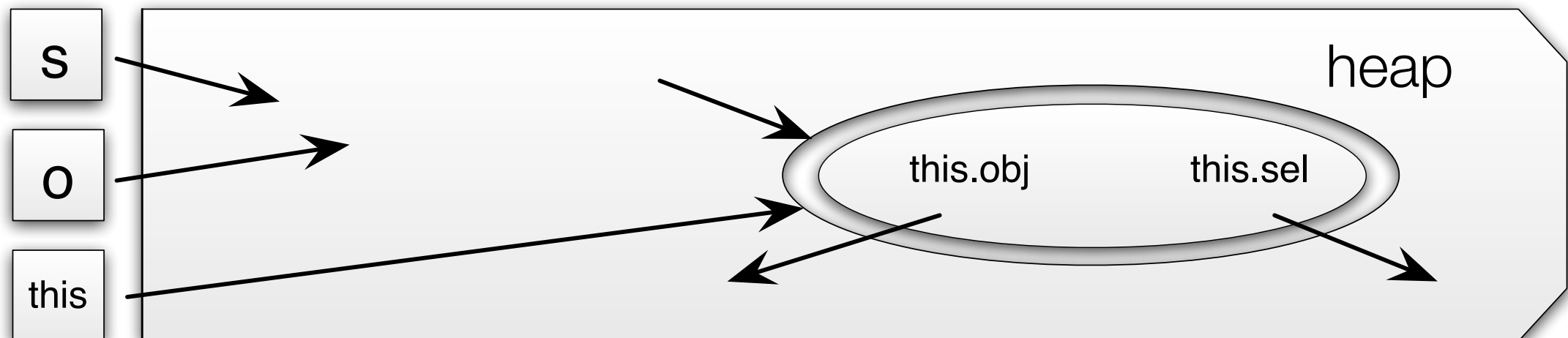
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Concrete State



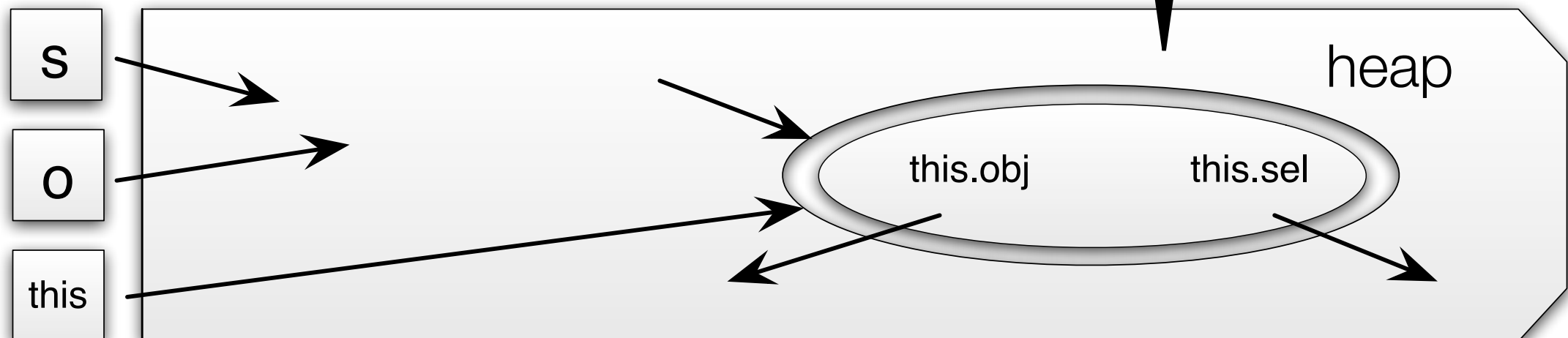
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Concrete State



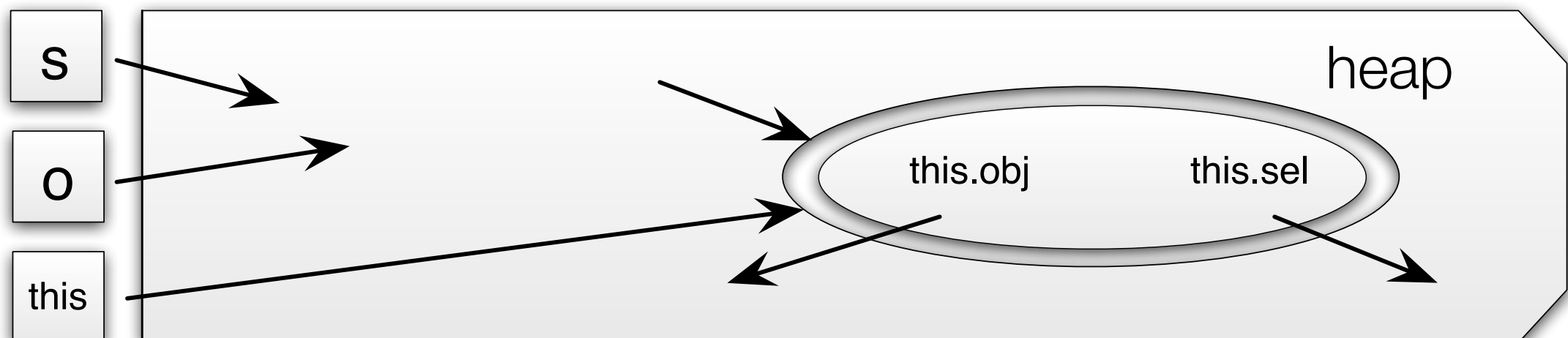
Safely summarize storage that is not immediately type inconsistent

Symbolic State

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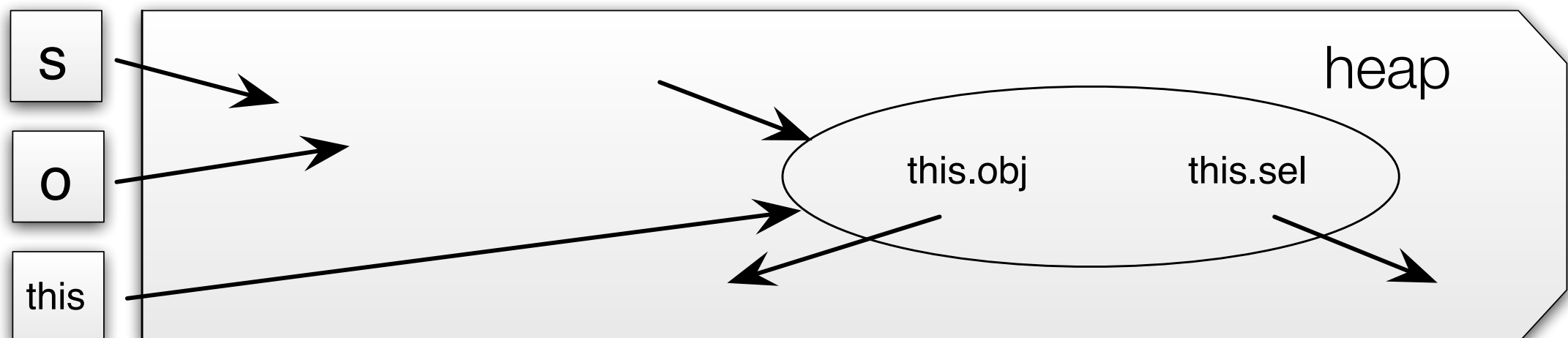
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\tilde{H} okheap

Concrete State



Safely summarize storage that is not immediately type inconsistent

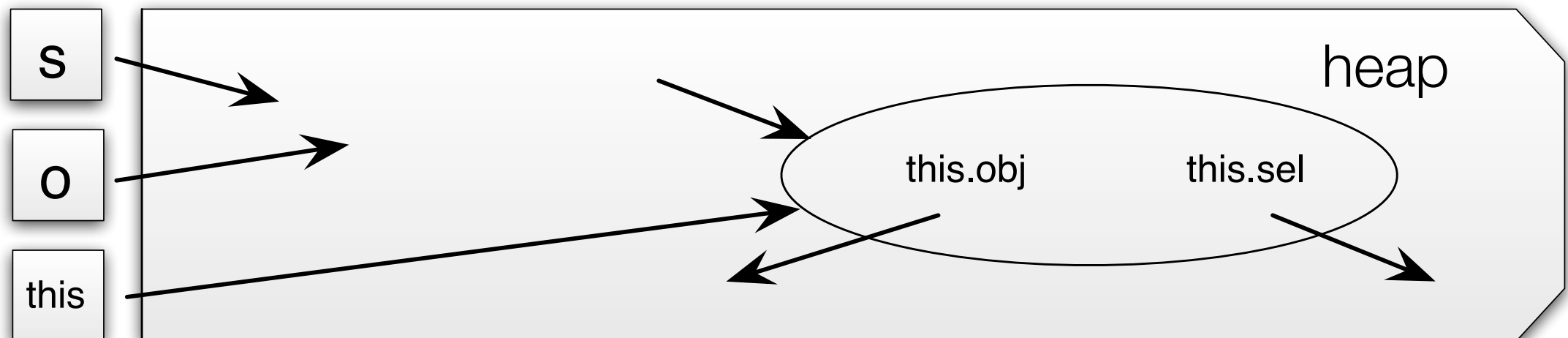
Symbolic State

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def update(s:Str, o:Obj | r2 s)
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```

\tilde{H} okheap

Only need to reason precisely about part of heap where invariant broken, so helps manage alias explosion

Concrete State



Safely summarize storage that is not immediately type inconsistent

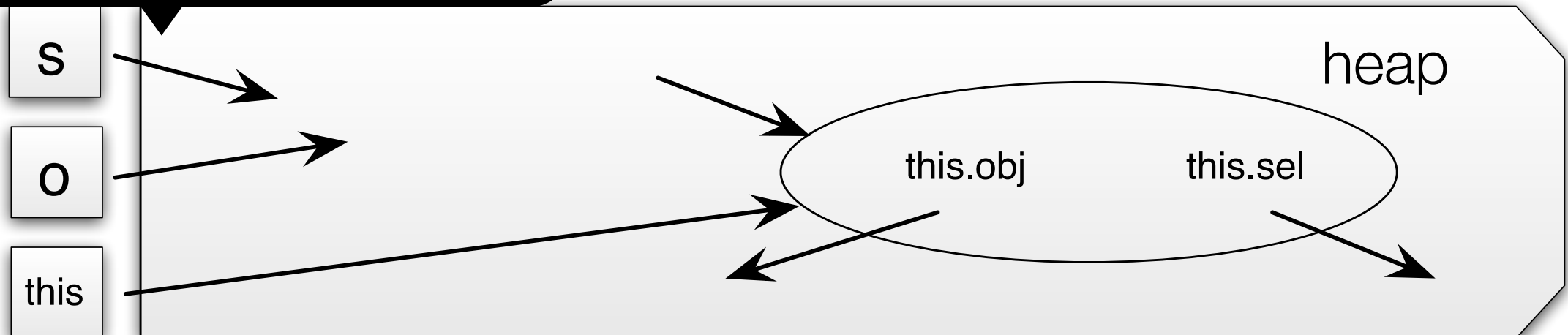
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Entire heap is type consistent so safe to return to type checking



Safely summarize storage that is not immediately type inconsistent

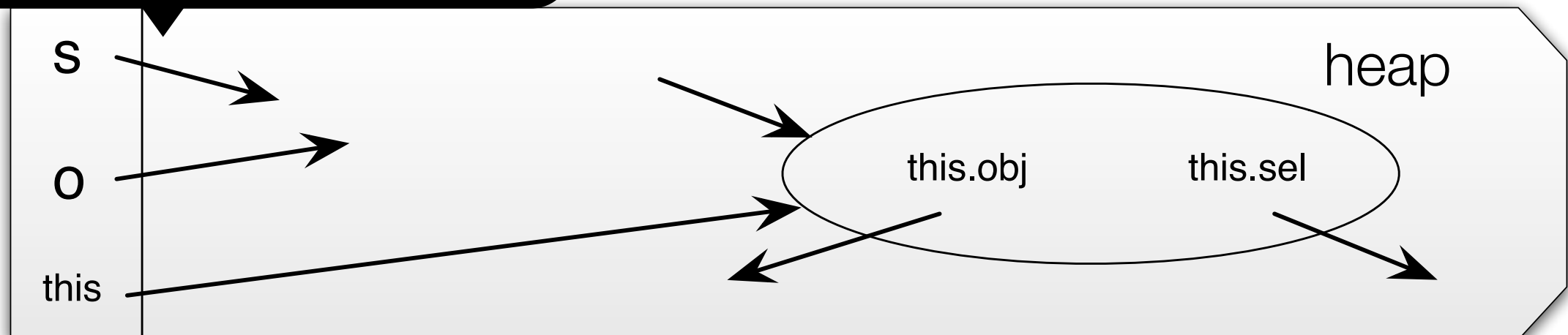
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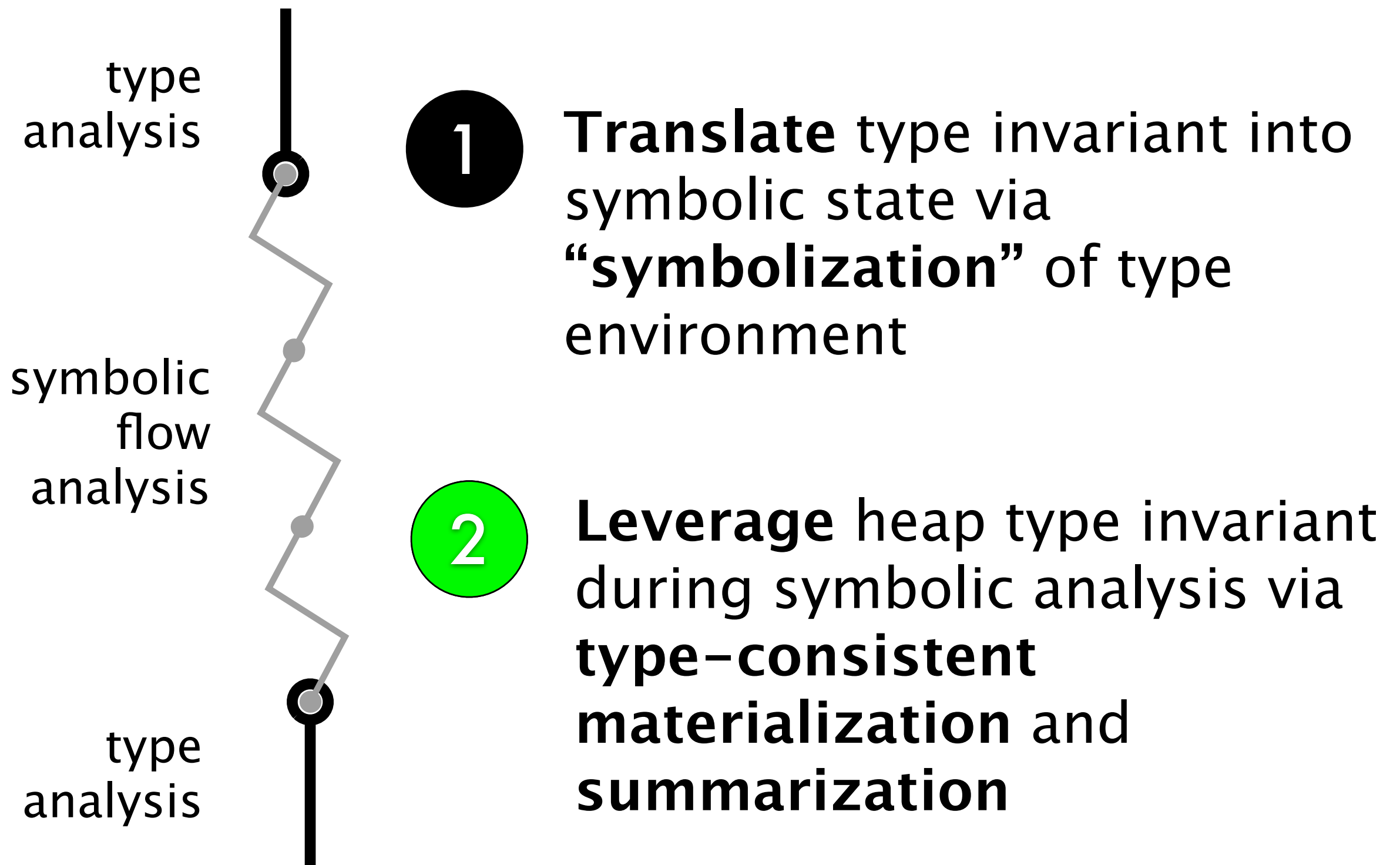
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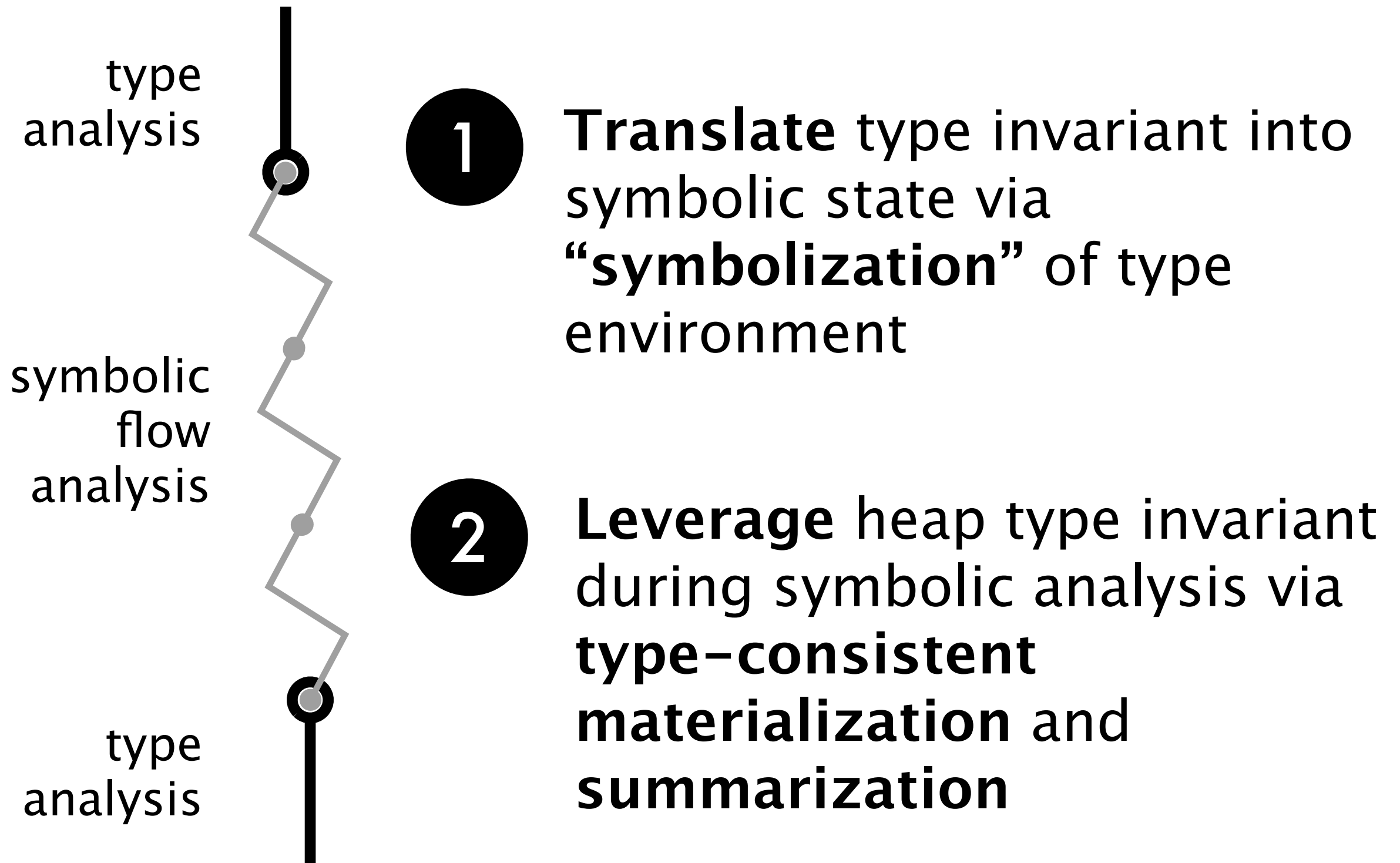
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Key Contributions



Key Contributions

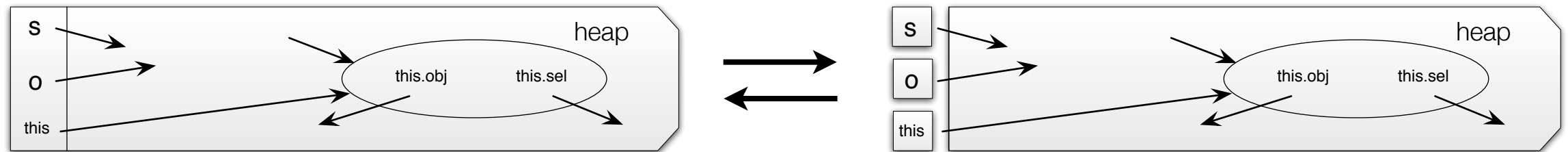


Fissile Type Analysis is **sound**

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Theorem (Soundness of Handoff).

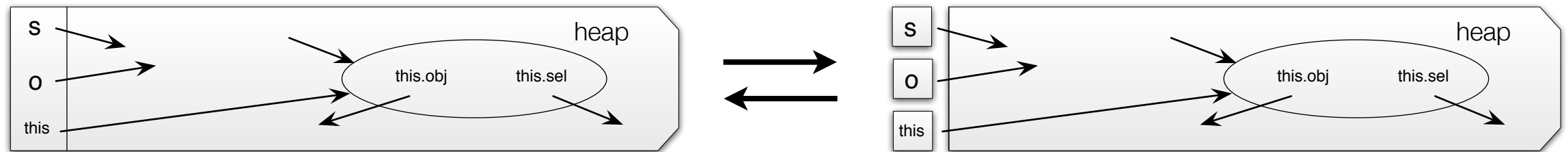
The **entire state is type-consistent** iff all locations are **not immediately type-inconsistent**.



Fissile Type Analysis is **sound**

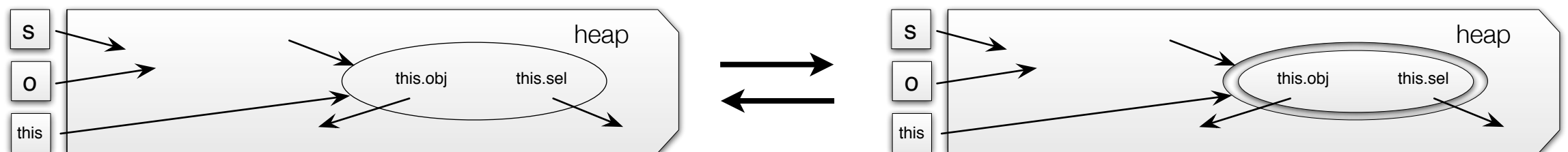
Theorem (Soundness of Handoff).

The **entire state is type-consistent** iff all locations are **not immediately type-inconsistent**.



Theorem (Soundness of Materialization/Summarization).

Storage that is **not immediately type-inconsistent** can be safely materialized and summarized into **okheap**.



Evaluation

Analysis mechanics: How often is symbolic reasoning required?

Precision: What is improvement over flow-insensitive checking alone?

Cost: What is the cost of analysis in running time?



Case Study: Reflection in Objective-C

Prototype analysis implementation

Plugin for **clang** static analyzer in C++

9 Objective-C benchmarks

6 **libraries** and 3 **applications**

1,000 to **176,000** lines of code

Manual **type annotations**

76 r2 annotations on **system libraries**

136 annotations on **benchmark code**

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1,000 to **176,000** lines of code

Including **Skim**,
Adium, and
OmniGraffle

Manual **type annotations**

76 r2 annotations on **system libraries**

136 annotations on **benchmark code**



Analysis mechanics

	size		
benchmark	(loc)	symbolic sections	maximum materializations
OAUTH	1248	7	1
SCRECORDER	2716	2	2
ZIPKIT	3301	0	0
SPARKLE	5289	3	1
ASIHTTPREQUEST	14620	59	2
OMNIFRAMEWORKS	160769	7	1
VIENNA	37327	28	2
SKIM	60211	0	0
ADIUM	176629	16	1
combined	461080	125	2

Analysis mechanics

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benchmark	(loc)	symbolic sections	maximum materializations
QAUTH	1248	7	1
	2716	2	2
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OMNIFRAMEWORKS	160769	7	1
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SKIM	60211	0	0
ADIUM	176629	16	1
combined	461080	125	2

Number of **successful switches to symbolic analysis and back**

Analysis mechanics

	size		
benchmark	(loc)	symbolic sections	maximum materializations
QAUTH	1248	7	1
	2716	2	2
	3301	0	0
	5289	3	1
ASIHITPREQUEST	14620	59	2
OMNIFRAMEWORKS	160769	7	1
VIENNA	37327	28	2
SKIM	60211	0	0
ADIUM	176629	16	1
combined	461080	125	2

Number of **successful switches to symbolic analysis and back**

A significant number of switches:
Approach successfully handles when **developers break and restore global invariants**

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	size		
benchmark	(loc)	symbolic sections	maximum materializations
		7	1
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Maximum number of **simultaneous** materialized storage locations

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At most **2 simultaneous materializations**:

Aliasing case splits will not blow up

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ADJUM	176629	16	1
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Approaches limited to **one-at-a-time materialization not sufficient**

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Precision

benchmark	size		false alarms	
	(loc)	reflective call sites	flow-insensitive	almost-everywhere
OAUTH	1248	7	7	2 (-71%)
SCRECORDER	2716	12	2	0 (-100%)
ZIPKIT	3301	28	0	0 (-)
SPARKLE	5289	40	4	1 (-75%)
ASIHTTPREQUEST	14620	68	50	10 (-80%)
OMNIFRAMEWORKS	160769	192	82	74 (-10%)
VIENNA	37327	186	59	38 (-36%)
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Also found a real reflection bug in Vienna, which we reported and which was fixed

Baseline: standard, flow-insensitive type analysis – no

SW

Almost everywhere techniques show 29% improvement in false alarms

Cost: Analysis time

	size	analysis time	
benchmark	(loc)	Time	Rate (kloc/s)
OAUTH	1248	0.24s	5.3
SCREORDER	2716	0.28s	10.8
ZIPKIT	3301	0.10s	33.0
SPARKLE	5289	0.67s	7.9
ASIHTTPREQUEST	14620	0.50s	27.2
OMNIFRAMEWORKS	160769	4.25s	37.8
VIENNA	37327	2.79s	13.4
SKIM	60211	2.49s	24.1
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Includes analysis time
but not parsing, base
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Does not include system headers

Includes analysis time but not parsing, base type checking

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Fast: 5 to 38 kloc/s with most time spent analyzing system headers

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Interactive speeds

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Fast: 5 to 38 kloc/s with most time spent analyzing system headers

Higher rate for projects with larger translation units

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Fast: 5 to 28 kloc/s with most time spent

Maintains key benefit of flow-insensitive analyses: speed

tion

Summary

- Check **almost everywhere** heap invariants with **intertwined type** and **symbolic flow analysis**
- **Translate** type environment into symbolic state with **symbolization**
- **Leverage** heap type invariant during symbolic analysis via **type-consistent materialization** and **summarization**
- Approach is **very fast** and **scales to large programs**

**Fissile Type Analysis yields
significant precision
improvement at little cost in
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Why?

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Why?

**Because almost-everywhere
invariants hold almost
everywhere**



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Manual annotation burden

benchmark	size		annotation count	false alarms		symbolic sections	max. materializations	analysis time	
	(loc)	reflective call sites		flow-insens.	almost-everwhere			Time	Rate (kloc/s)
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in-between for applications and large frameworks (which do both)

application code

```
class MyButton {  
  var cb : Callback = ...  
  
  def setState(s : Str)  
    var m = "draw" + s  
    cb.update(self, m)  
  end  
  
  def draw()  
    cb.call()  
  end  
  
  def drawUp() ... end  
  def drawDown() ... end  
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```

library code

```
class Callback {  
  var sel : Str = ...  
  var obj : Obj = ...  
  
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    this.obj = o  
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**Idiomatic reflection decouples
callbacks and avoids boilerplate**

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