

OFFSEC

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SHARIF

ANGR advancing next generation  
research into binary analysis

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## Mohsen Ahmadi

- Ph.D. student at the SEFCOM lab at Arizona State University
  - a big fan of symbolic execution
  - angr project contributor
  - Shellphish CTF team member
  - also a sushi lover



# How was angr created?

- Supported by DARPA, under the VET program
- Perpetuated by CTF needs
- After a brainstorm in DC at August 2013...

**BOOM!**

- Pushed by the Cyber Grand Challenge
- And now, pushed even harder by our desire to improve program analysis

# Why should I be present for this tutorial?

angr has had an enormous impact since its release

- Used in 225 academic papers
- Fundamental impact on CTF
- 3rd in Cyber Grand Challenge
- Industry

angr is rather hard to get started with

- hard to prioritize time for documentation
- cutting-edge concepts

# Agenda

- Binary analysis 101
- Introduction to angr
  - Design
  - Capabilities
  - Basic concepts
- Getting **angry**
  - Installation
  - Interaction
  - Basic static analysis with angr
  - Basic symbolic execution with angr
- The future
- Q&A



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- **Binary analysis 101**
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# Why binaries?

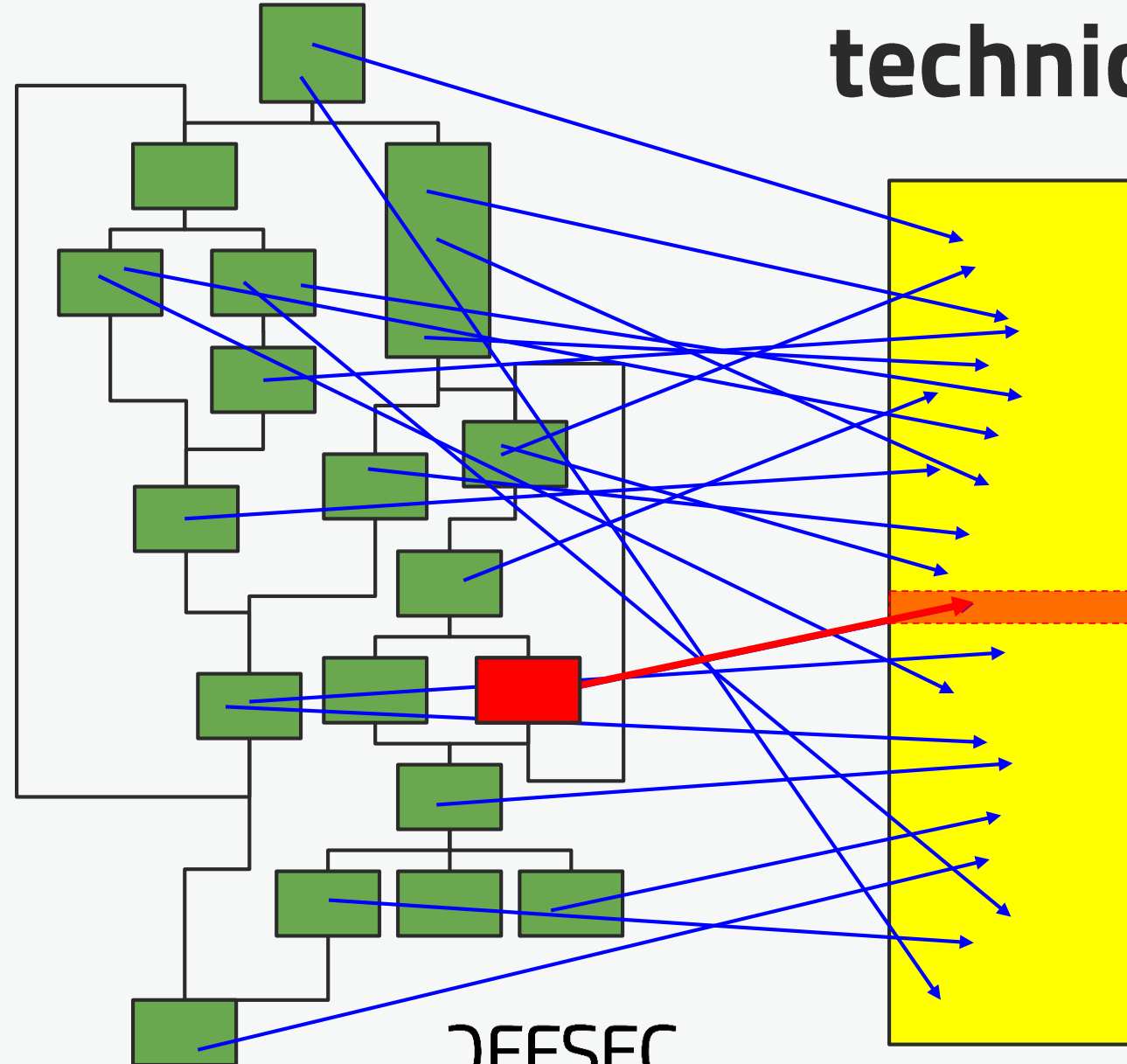
- Binary code is **everywhere**.
- Binary code is **hard** to understand.
- Binary code is **hard** to analyze.
- Analyzing binary code is **important!**

# Binary analysis – General techniques

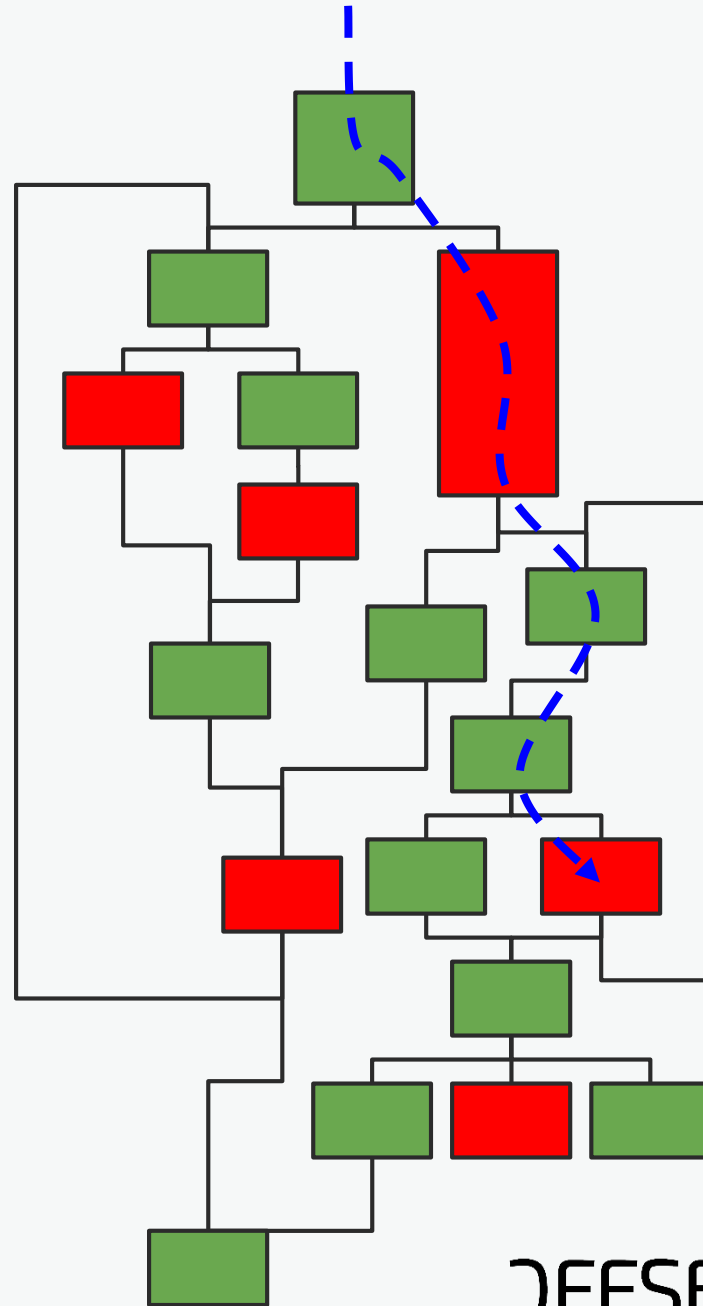
- Static
- Dynamic
- "Symbolic"



# Static techniques



# Problems



- False Positives
- Replayability

# Static techniques...

- Scalable
- Sound
- Main problems
  - no replayability
  - false positives

```
x = input()
if x >= 10:
    if x < 100:
        bug()
    else:
        print "You lose!"
else:
    print "You lose!"
```

## Dynamic - Fuzzing

1 ⇒ "You lose!"

593 ⇒ "You  
lose!"

183 ⇒ "You  
lose!"

4 ⇒ "You lose!"

498 ⇒ "You  
lose!"

42 ⇒ CRASH

```
x = input()
if x >= 10:
    if x*200+15 == 267415:
        bug()
    else:
        print "You lose!"
else:
    print "You lose!"
```

# Dynamic - Fuzzing

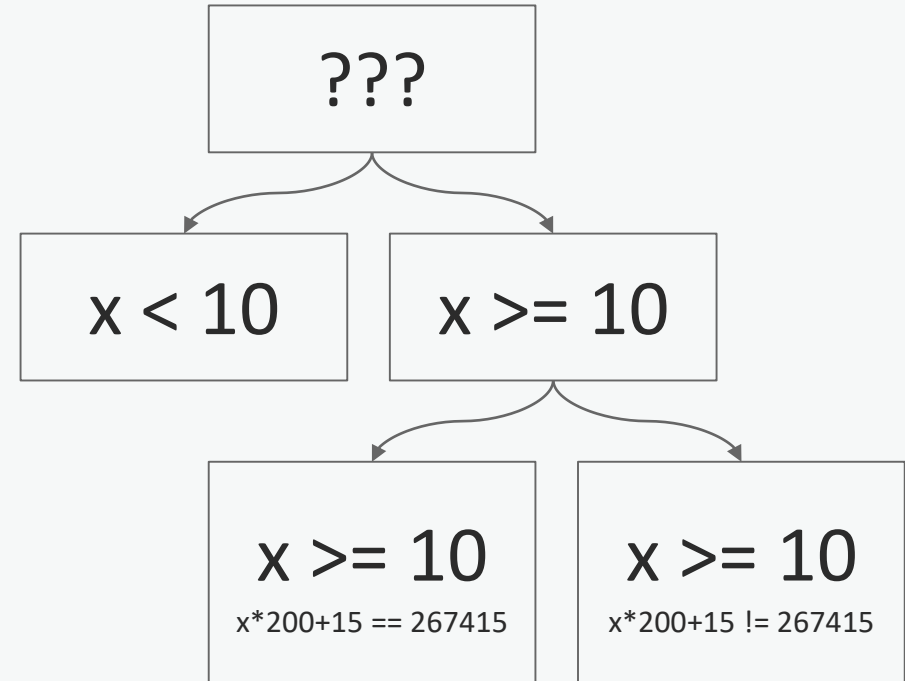
```
1 ⇒ "You lose!"
593 ⇒ "You
lose!"
183 ⇒ "You
lose!"
4 ⇒ "You lose!"
498 ⇒ "You
lose!"
42 ⇒ "You lose!"
3 ⇒ "You lose!"
.....
57 ⇒ "You lose!"
```

# Dynamic techniques...

- Very fast
- Straightforward
- Main problem:
  - (lack of) dynamic coverage
  - "semantic gap"

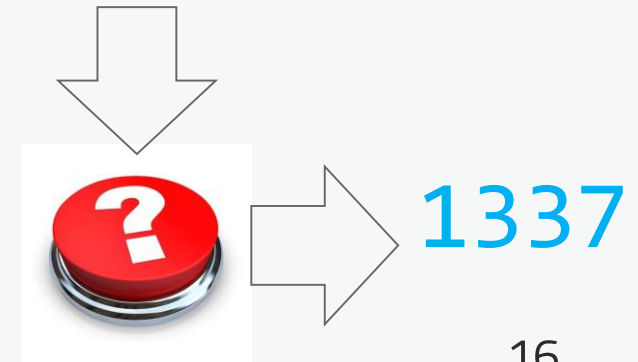
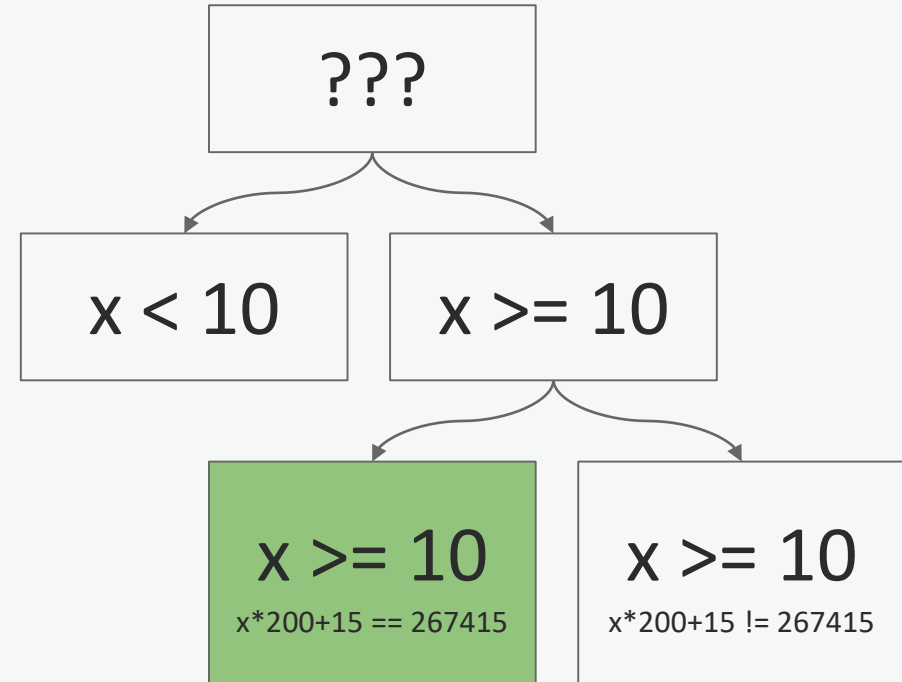
# Symbolic execution

```
⇒ x = input()
⇒ if x >= 10:
    ⇒ if x*200+15 == 267415:
        bug()
    ⇒ else:
        print "You lose!"
⇒ else:
    print "You lose!"
```

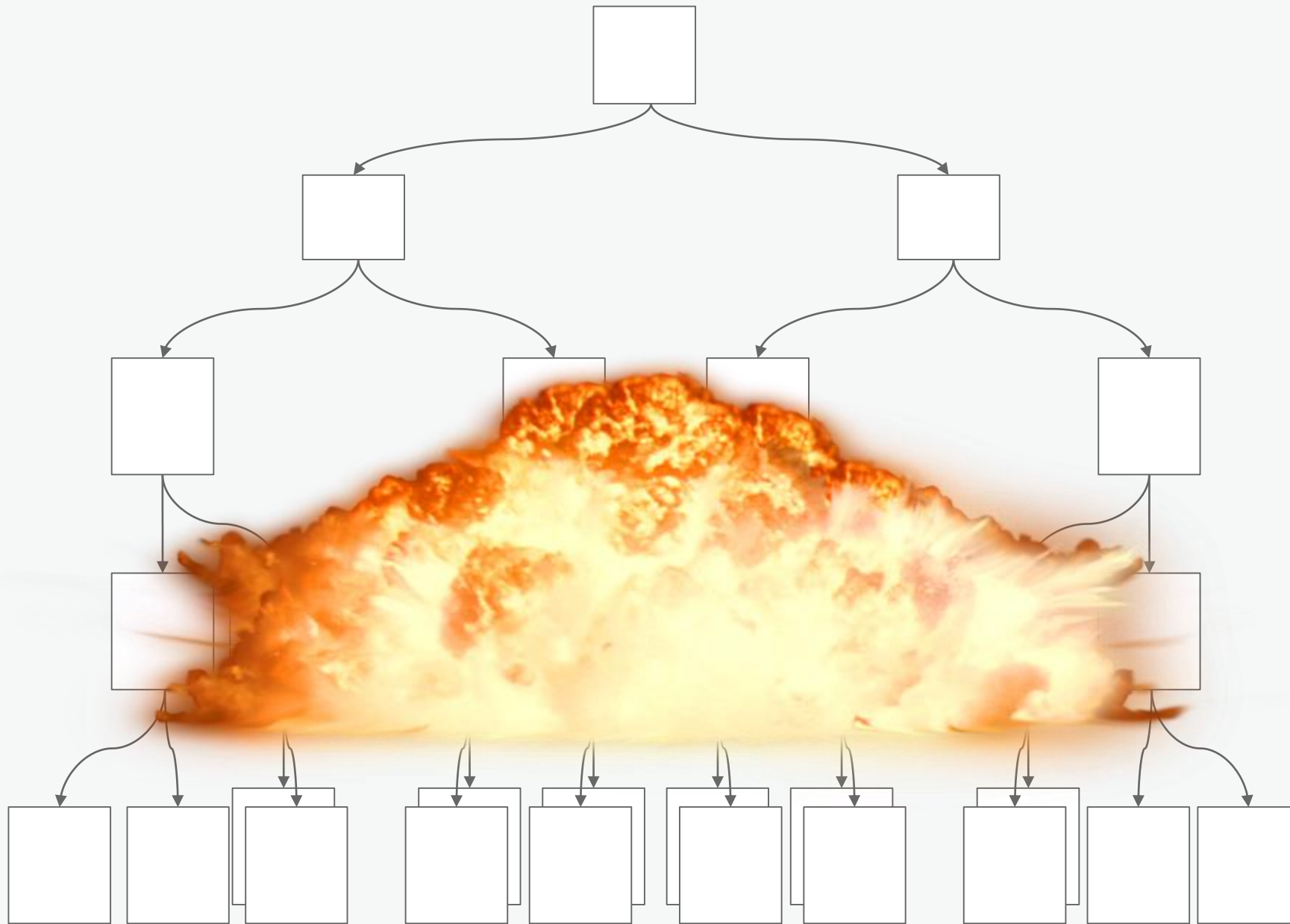


# Symbolic execution

```
x = input()
if x >= 10:
    if x*200+15 == 267415:
        bug()
    else:
        print "You lose!"
else:
    print "You lose!"
```







# Symbolic execution...

- Semantically aware
- Targetable
- Major problems
  - path explosion
  - constraint solving



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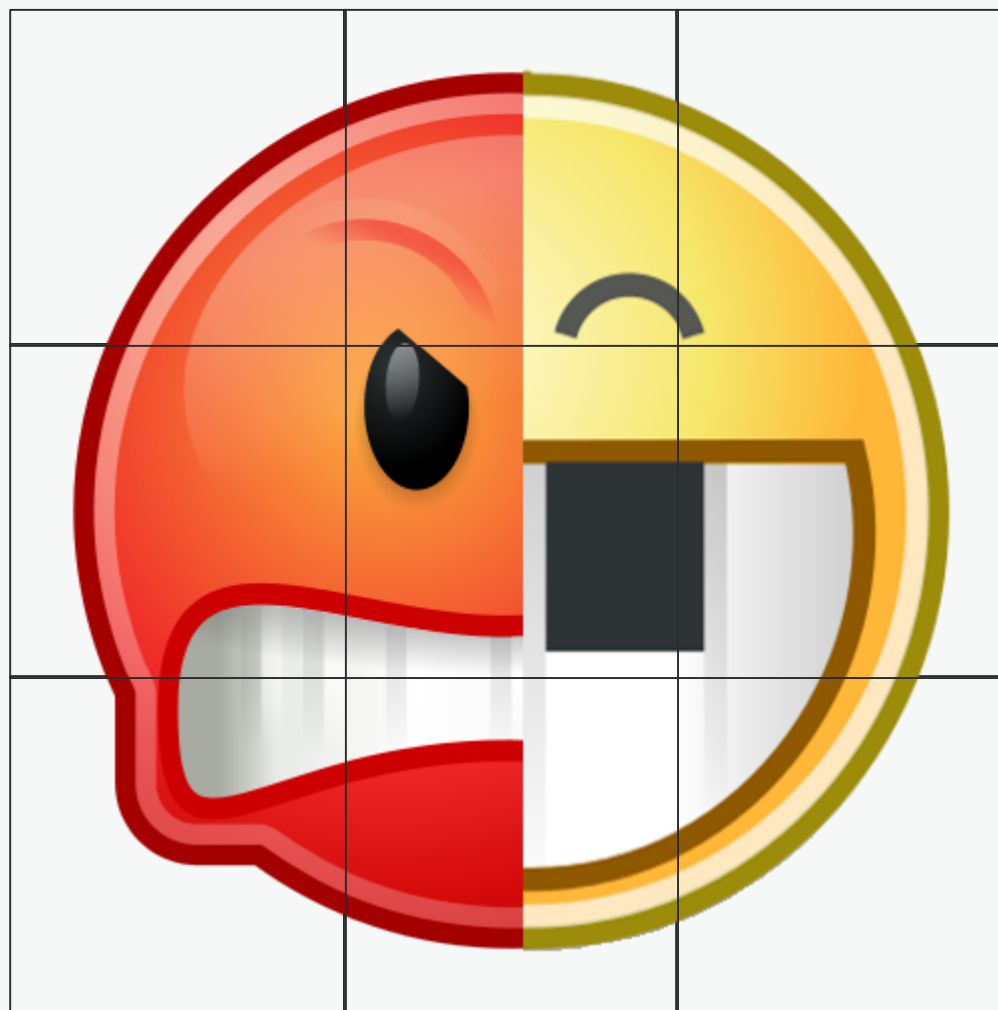


# Why angr?

- Broad arches/platforms support
- Easy to use
- Easy to understand
- Flexible
- Extensible
- Fast prototyping
- Everything open sourced  
... with an awesome license!

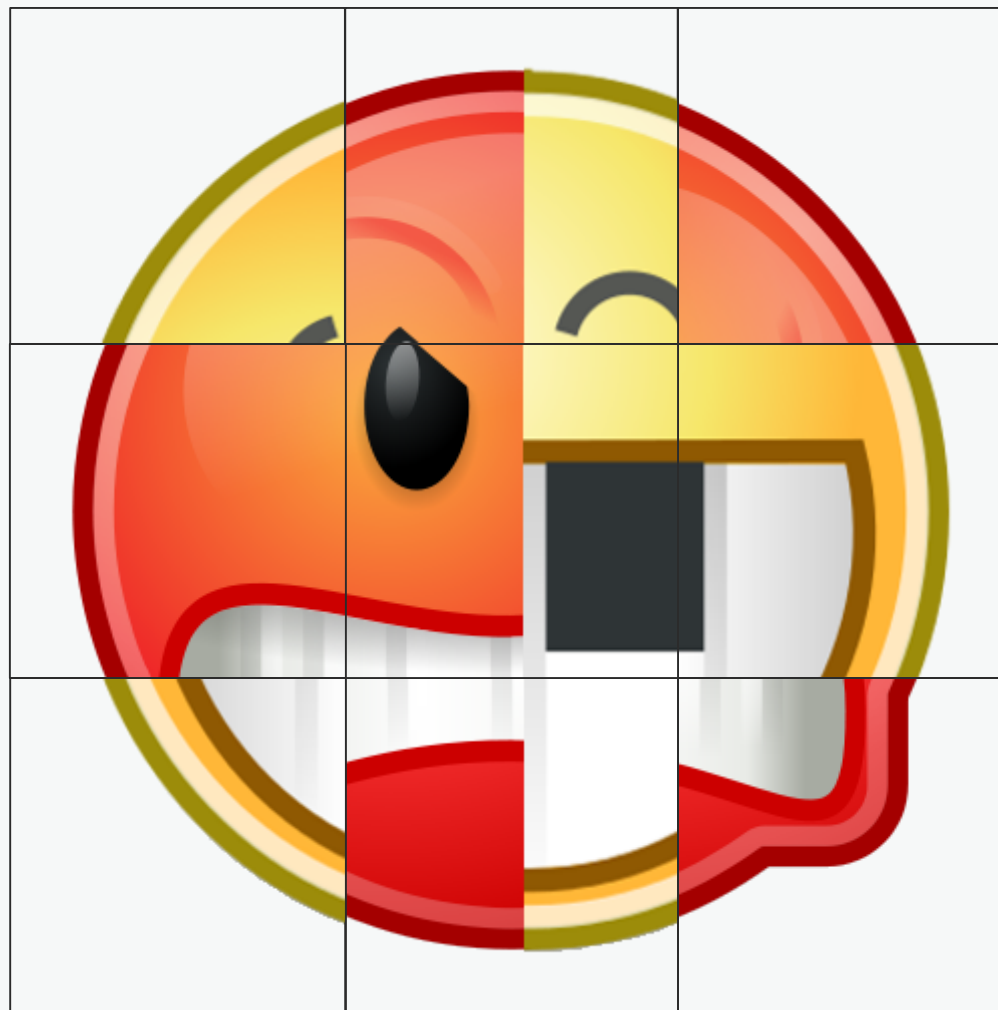
angr

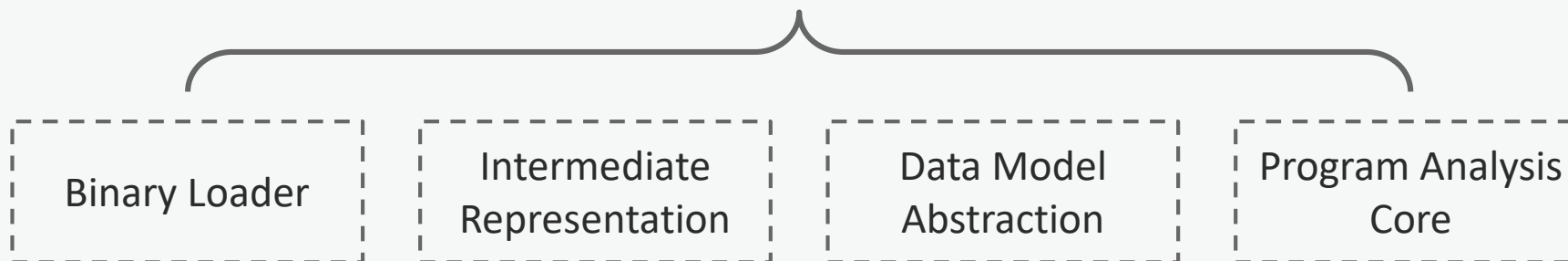
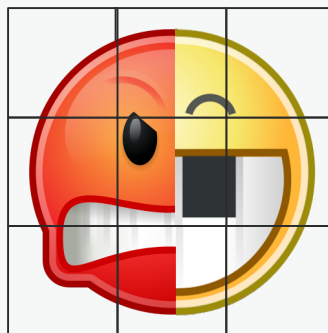


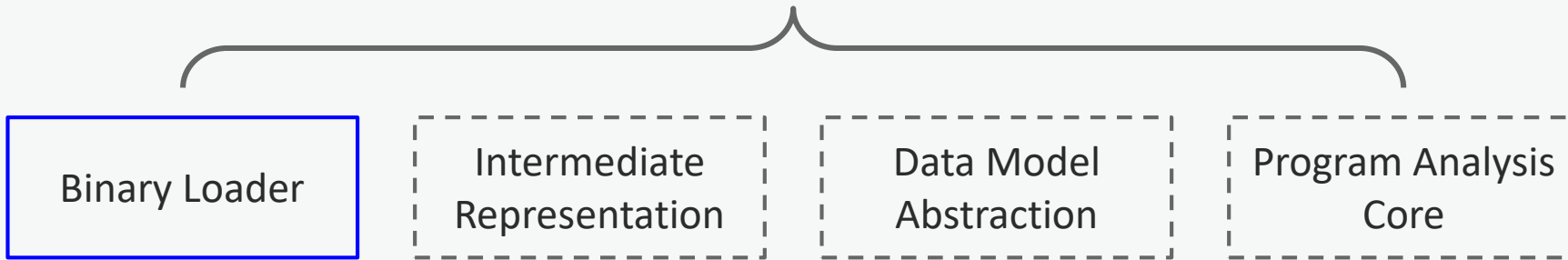
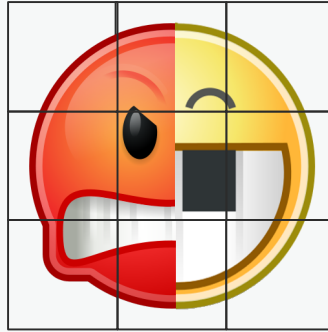




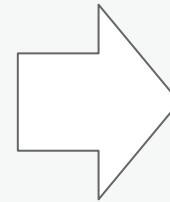
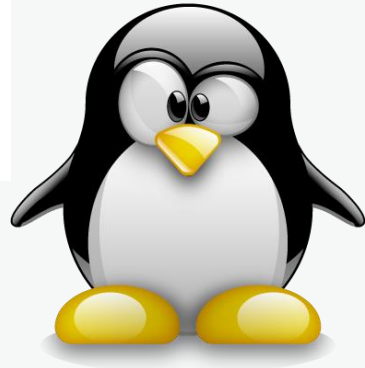
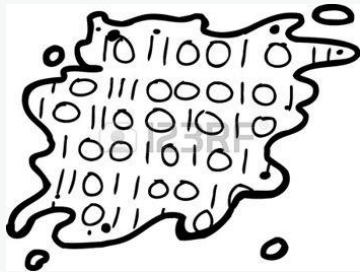
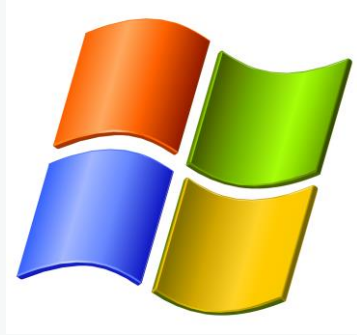


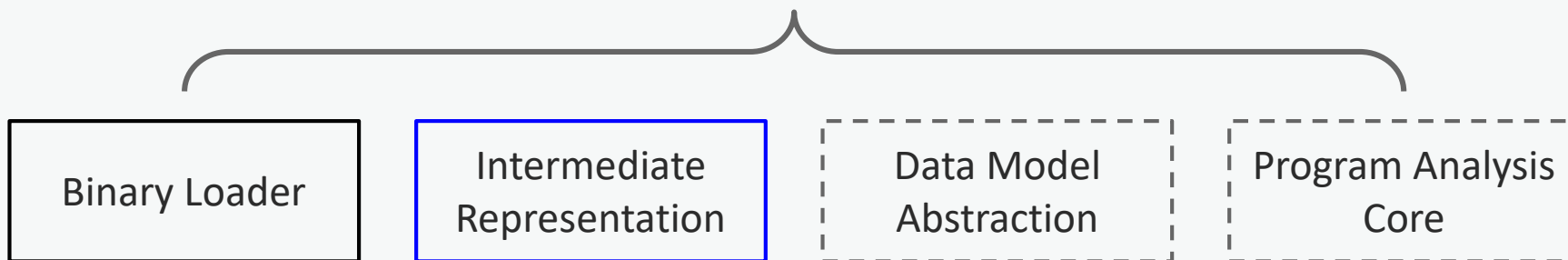
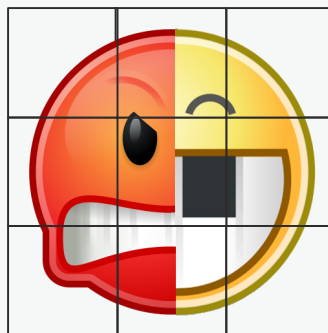




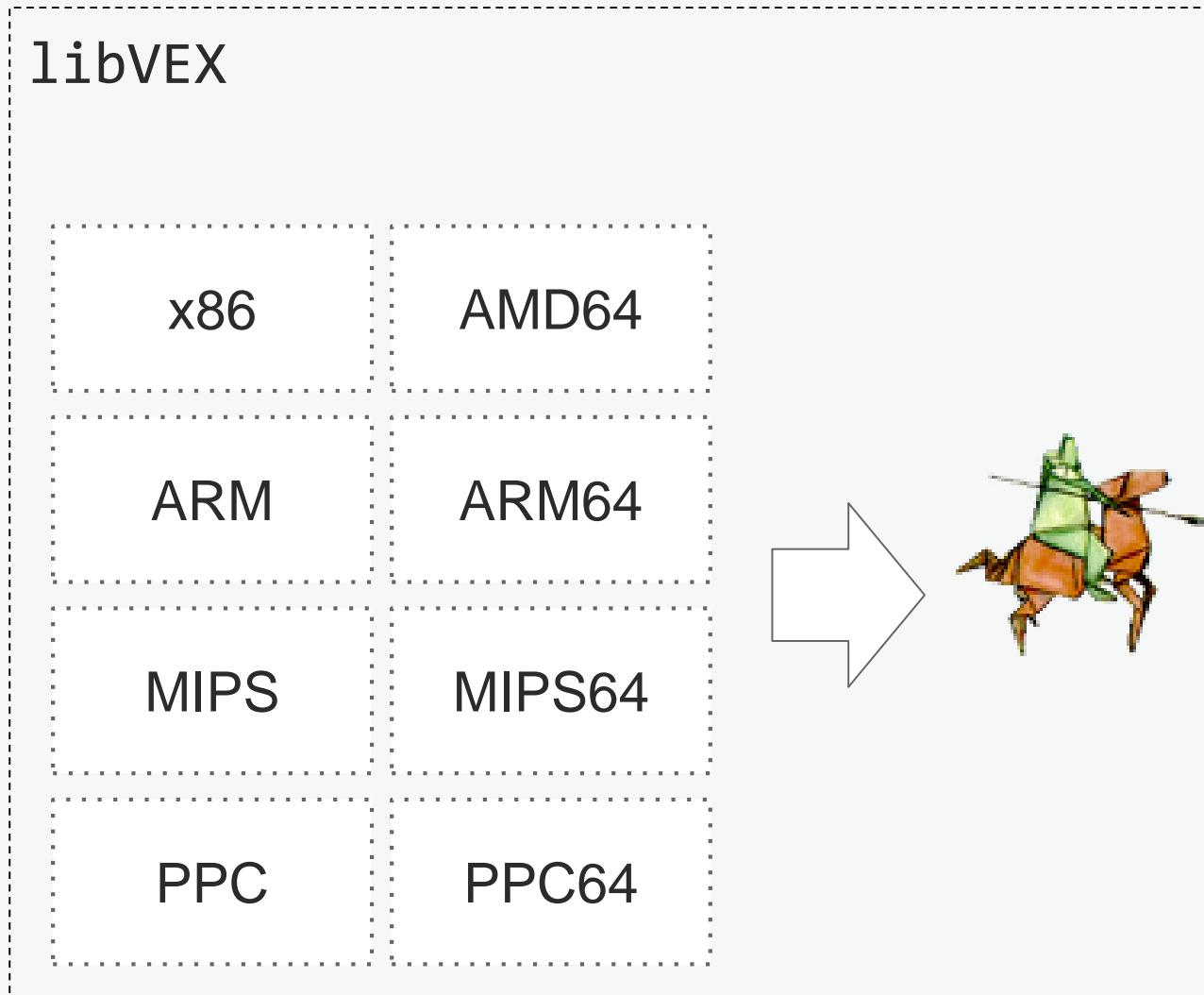


# CLE

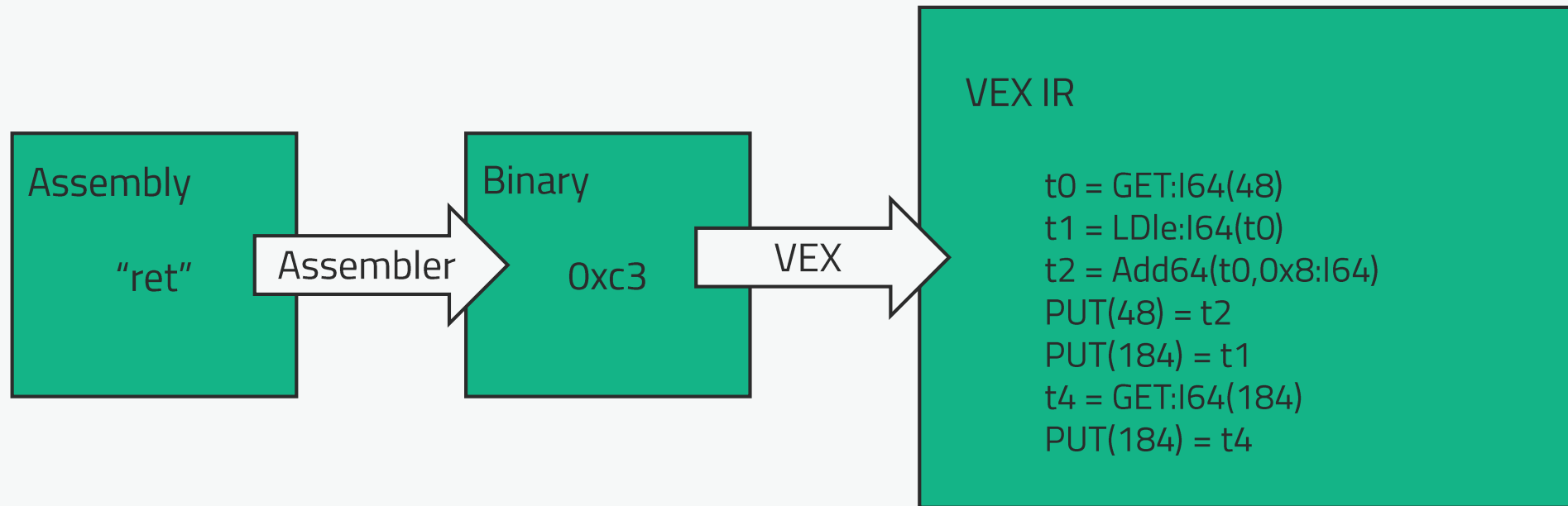




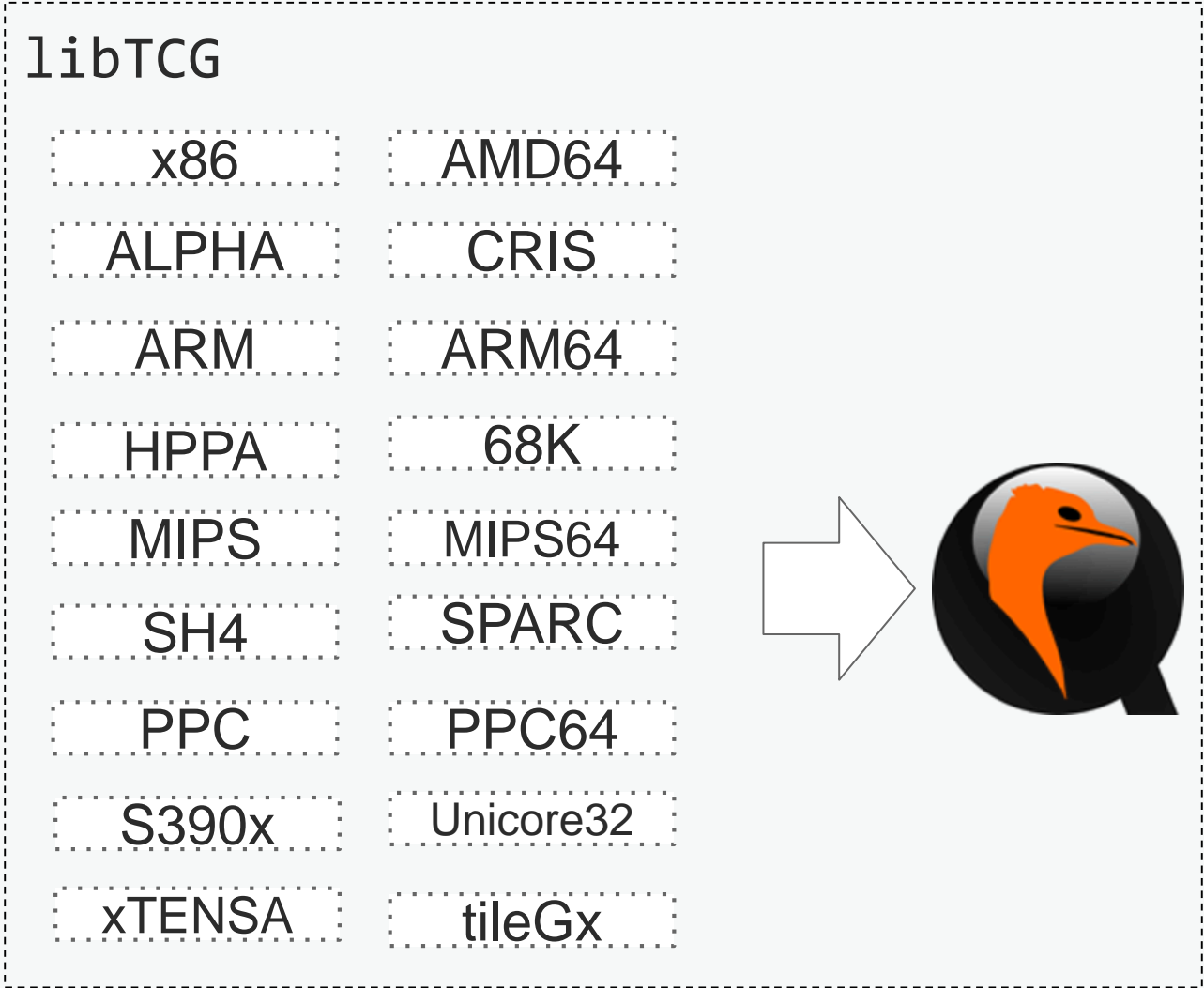
# PyVEX



# VEX example



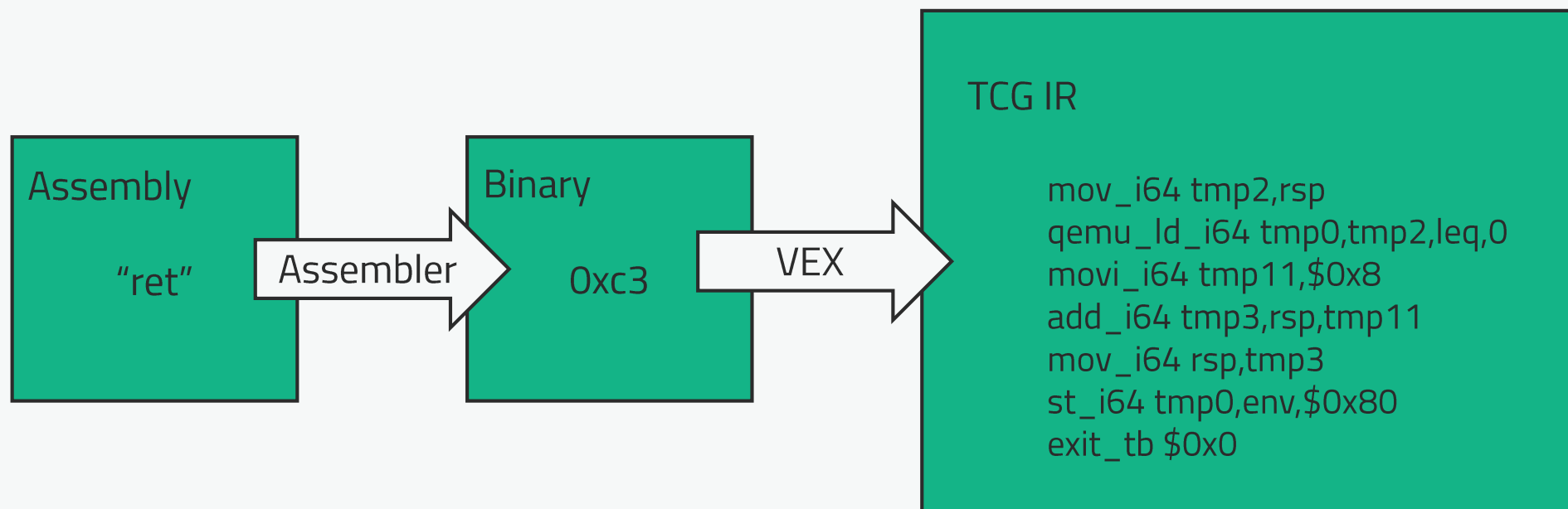
# PyTCG

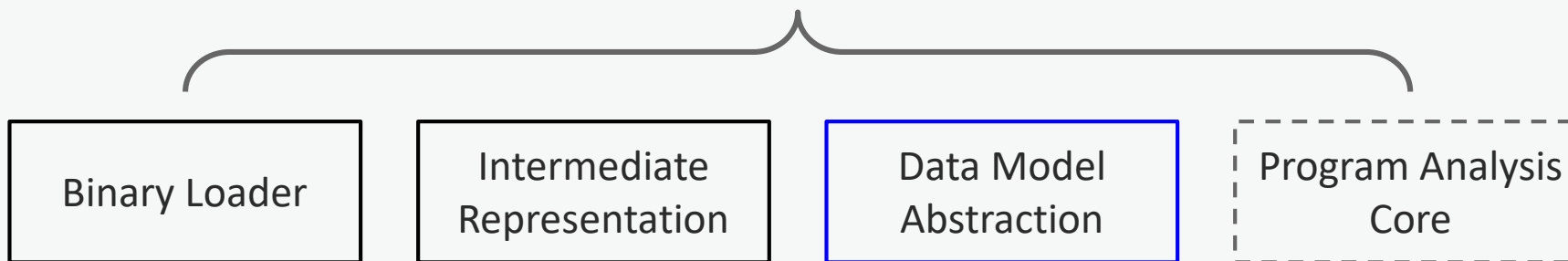
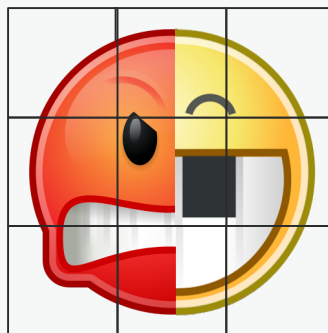


<https://pypi.org/project/pytcg/>



# TCG example





# claripy

$(1+2)$

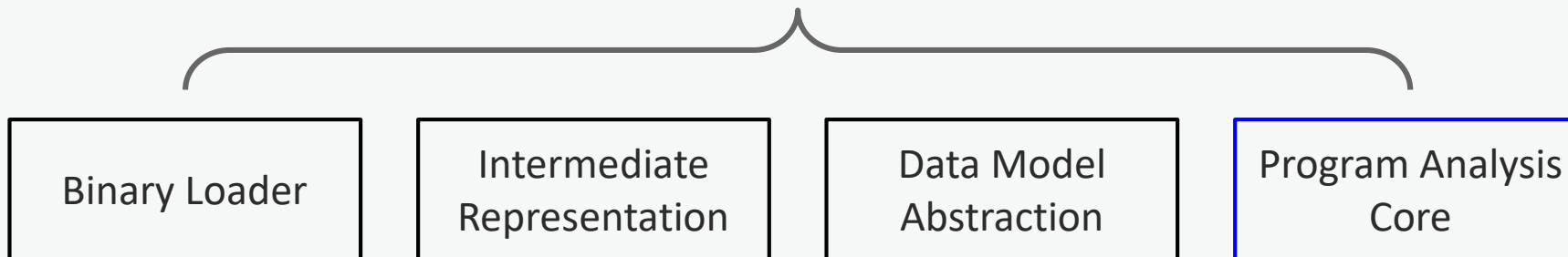
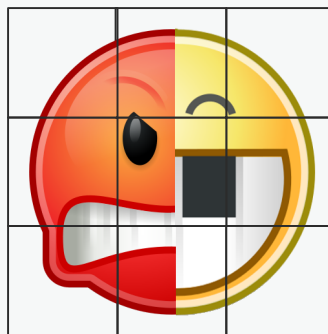
$(\pi+\phi)$

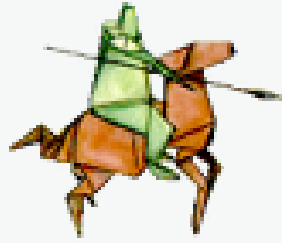
$2[10..20]$



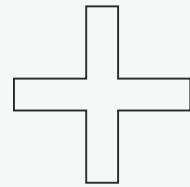
```
>>> import claripy
>>> s = claripy.Solver()
>>> a = claripy.BVS('a', 32)
>>> s.add(a > 4)
>>> s.add(a < 10)
>>> s.eval(a, 10)
(9, 5, 7, 6, 8)

>>> s.add((a + 1) % 2 == a / 2)
>>> s.eval(a, 10)
ERROR: UNSATISFIABLE
```

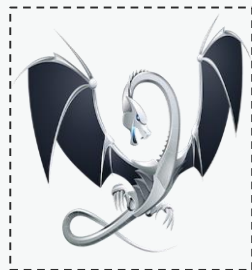


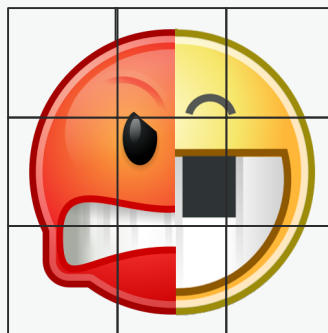


# SimuVEX



- Registers
- Memory
- Files
- OS state



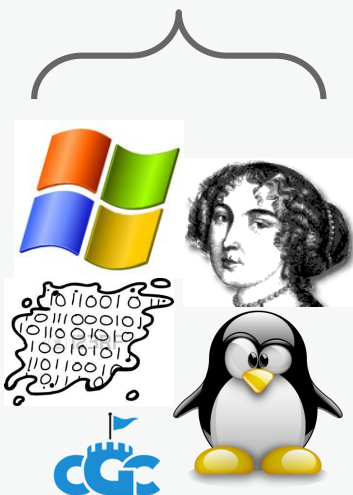


Binary Loader

Intermediate Representation

Data Model Abstraction

Program Analysis Core



x86	AMD64
ARM	ARM64
MIPS	MIPS64
PPC	PPC64

(1+2)  
( $\pi + \phi$ )  
 $2[10..20]$



# Design summary

- *Unified interfaces*
- *Many \*different\* analysis modes*
- *Flexible and Adaptable*
- *Expandable*

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# Comparison with other projects

Items	angr	KLEE	BAP	BitBlaze	S2E	Triton	Microsoft SAGE	Mayhem
Work on binaries w/o src	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Online symbolic execution	Green	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Offline symbolic execution	Green	?	Red	?	Red	Red	?	Red
Cross-platform analysis	Green	Red	Green	Red	Red	Orange	Red	Red
Static analysis	Green	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
Multi-platform/arch support	Green	Red	Orange	Red	Red	Orange	Red	Red
Open source	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Red
Actively maintained	Green	Orange	Green	Red	?	Green	Green	Green
Free license	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Red



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# Basic concepts

## *Program states*

- Registers
- Contents in memory
- Files  
*file system, socket, etc.*
- State of the environment and OS  
*Number of allocated buffers in libc*  
*Thread-local storage*

Registers	rax 0x1 rdx 0x6005bc ... rip 0x400080 ...
Memory	[0] = 0 [1] = 1 [2] = 0 ...
Files	file[0] = "Hello, world!\n" file[1] = <symbolic_read 80> ...

# Basic concepts

## *Different modes of program states*

- Symbolic mode
  - DO\_CCALLS
  - TRACK\_CONSTRAINTS: keep adding constraints to state
  - COMPOSITE\_SOLVER: constraint set optimizations by solving smaller set of constraints along the way
    - LRU cache for caching already solved constraints
- Static mode
- Fastpath mode
- Tracing

```
state.set_mode("symbolic")
state.set_mode("static")
state.set_mode("fastpath")
```

# Basic concepts

## *State options*

- State modes are controlled by combinations of state options  
see `simuvex/s_options.py`
- Feel free to add or remove options to states
- You can even use options of one mode on state of another mode  
-- FLEXIBILITY MAX --



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# Let's install angr!

- OS dependencies
  - Ubuntu/Debian/Arch Linux (recommended!)
  - macOS
  - Windows (Experimental)
- VirtualEnv
- PyPI
- Docker

```
./setup.sh -i -e angr
```

<https://github.com/angr/angr-dev>



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## **angr**

- Target program (`angr.Project`)
- Analyses (`project.analyses`)
  - CFG, VFG, BackwardSlice
- KnowledgeBase (`project.kb`)
- Functions (`project.kb.functions`)
- Blocks (`project.factory.block`)
- PathGroups (`project.factory.path_group`)
- Paths (`path_group.active[0]`)

## **cle**

- Loaded binary (`project.loader`)

## **simuvex**

- SimState (`path.state`)
- SimState Plugins (`state.memory`,  
`state.registers`)

## **claripy**

- Constraint Solver (`state.solver`)
- ASTs (`state.registers.rax`)

# Our guinea pig - Fauxware

- Simple "backdoor" example
- The very first binary that ran under angr.

```
$ ./angr/binaries/tests/x86_64/fauxware
```

```
Username:
```

```
blahblah
```

```
Password:
```

```
blahblah
```

```
Go away!
```

# Interaction point - Loading a binary

```
# let's get started  
import angr  
project = angr.Project("angr/binaries/tests/i386/fauxware")
```

# Interaction point - Binary information

```
# imports
print project.loader.main_bin.imports

# sections
print project.loader.main_bin.sections

# other shared objects
print project.loader.all_objects
```

# Interaction point - Analyses

```
# run a Control-Flow Graph analysis
```

```
cfg = project.analyses.CFG()
```

```
# view all basic blocks
```

```
print len(cfg.nodes())
```

```
# access the CFG as a NetworkX graph
```

```
print cfg.graph.edges()
```

# Interaction point - Knowledge base

```
# the prior CFG filled in a recovered callgraph  
print project.kb.callgraph.edges()
```

```
# you can access function information through the function  
# manager  
entry_function = project.kb.functions[project.entry]  
print entry_function.addr
```

```
# you can access the function's basic block NetworkX graph  
print entry_function.graph.edges()
```

```
# or get at other function information  
print entry_function.code_constants  
print entry_function.graph
```

# Interaction point - Binary lifting

```
# lift a block with angr
block = project.factory.block(project.entry)

# view the disassembly
block.pp()

# view the VEX IR
block.vex.pp()

# lift *all* blocks
all_vex = { }
for b in cfg.nodes():
    try: all_vex[b.addr] = project.factory.block(b.addr).vex
    except AngrTranslationError: pass
```



# Interaction point - Symbolic execution

```
# start a new PathGroup
path_group = project.factory.path_group()
state = p.factory.entry_state()
simgr = project.factory.simulation_manager(state)

# step
simgr.step()

# step until it branches
simgr.step(until=lambda simgr: len(simgr.active) != 1)

# check the paths that are still active
print(simgr.active)

# step until everything terminates
simgr.run()
```

# Interaction point - Symbolic states

```
# select one of the deadended states
state = simgr.deadended[0]

# a state has plugins, representing registers, memory, etc
print(state.regs.eax)
print(state.memory.load(state.regs.esp, 8))
print(state.memory.load(state.regs.esp, 8, endness="Iend_LE"))

# one of the plugins represents the system state
print(state.posix.files)

# files are backed by a memory region
print(state.posix.files[1].content.load(0, 8))
```

# Interaction point - Symbolic solver

```
# each state has a solver plugin  
state.se
```

```
# you can use this solver to retrieve concrete values.  
# for example, you can get 2 potential solutions for RAX  
print(state.se.eval(state.regs.eax, 2))
```

```
# or you can get ranges for values  
print(state.se.min(state.regs.eax))  
print(state.se.max(state.regs.eax))
```

```
# you can also add constraints  
state.add_constraints(state.regs.eax == 0x100)
```

# Interaction point - Symbolic expressions

```
# each value in angr is represented as an expression tree
```

```
print(state.regs.eax)
```

```
complex_expression = state.regs.eax + 1
```

```
print(complex_expression.op)
```

```
print(complex_expression.args)
```

```
# you can slice expressions, but the bit addressing is weird
```

```
whole_expression = complex_expression[-31:0]
```

```
lsb_byte = complex_expression[-7:0]
```

```
# simple optimizations are automatically performed
```

```
assert complex_expression is complex_expression + 0
```

# Say hi to angr-management

- Based on Qt and Enaml
- Visualize important information
  - Disassembly
  - Control flow graph
  - Data dependencies
  - Program states
- Allow programming and easy scripting!

# Disassembly view

The screenshot displays the angr Management interface. The main window shows the disassembly of a function named `test_func`. The assembly code is as follows:

```
test_func:
s_e8 -0xe8
s_e8 -0xe8
s_e8 -0xe8
s_e8 -0xe8
s_d8 -0xd8
s_d8 -0xd8
s_d8 -0xd8
s_d4 -0xd4
s_d4 -0xd4
s_d4 -0xd4
s_d0 -0xd0
s_8 -0x8
s_0 0x0
ret addr 0x8
004005ed push rbp
004005ee mov rbp, rsp
004005f1 sub rsp, 0xe0
004005f8 mov rax, fs:[0x20]
00400601 mov [rbp-0x8], rax
00400605 xor eax, eax
00400607 mov [rbp-0xd4], 0x0
00400611 lea rax, [rbp-0xd0]
00400618 mov edx, 0xc8
0040061d mov rsi, rax
00400620 mov edi, 0x0
00400625 call read
0040062a mov [rbp-0xd8], 0x0
00400634 jmp 0x400658
```

The control flow graph shows a jump from `00400634` to `loc_0x400658`. The code at `loc_0x400658` is:

```
loc_0x400658:
{s_d8} = ${<is_5>, <is_8>}
00400658 cmp [rbp-0xd8], 0x13
0040065f jle 0x400636
```

From `loc_0x400658`, the flow goes to `loc_0x400661` (if the condition is false) and `loc_0x400636` (if the condition is true). The code at `loc_0x400661` is:

```
loc_0x400661:
00400661 cmp [rbp-0xd4], 0xa
00400668 jne 0x40067e
```

The code at `loc_0x400636` is:

```
loc_0x400636:
00400636 mov eax, [rbp-0xd8]
0040063c cdqe
0040063e movzx eax, [rbp+rax-0xd0]
00400646 cmp al, 0x42
00400648 jne 0x400651
```

The console at the bottom shows the IPython prompt and the command `In [1]:` with the output `Ready.`

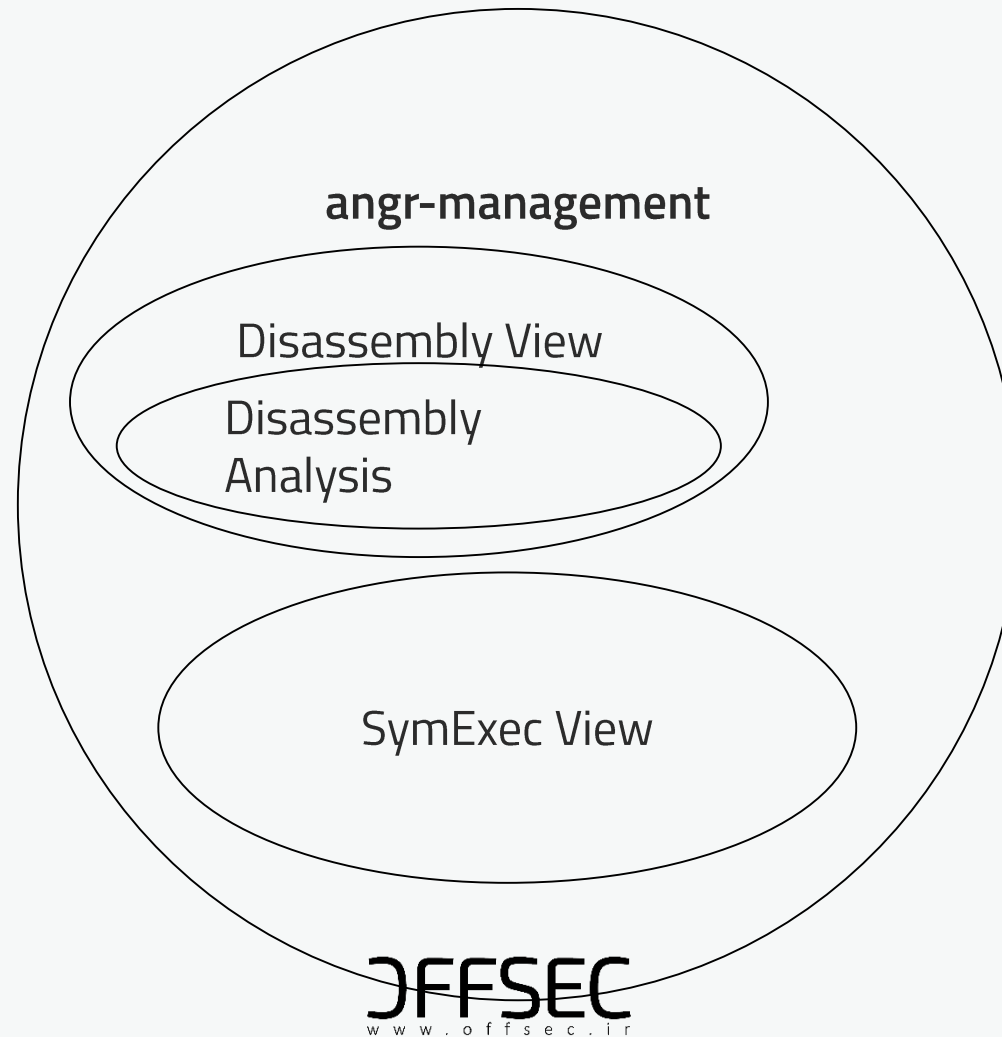
# Decompiler view

The screenshot displays the angr Management application interface. The main window is titled "angr Management" and features a menu bar with "File" and "Analyze". Below the menu bar is a toolbar with icons for "New state", "Recover Variables", and "Induction Variables". The interface is divided into several panes:

- Functions List (Left):** A table listing various functions. The function "test\_func" is selected and marked with a "Xor" tag.
- Pseudocode (Center):** A window showing the decompiled code for the selected function. The code is as follows:

```
void test_func()
{
    s_8 = rbp<8>;
    s_dc = 0;
    read(0x0, &s_d8, 0xc8);
    s_e0 = 0;
    while (s_e0 <= 19)
    {
        1r_5 = (long long)s_d8[s_e0];
        if (1r_5 == 66)
        {
            s_dc = s_dc + 1;
        }
        s_e0 = s_e0 + 1;
    }
    if (s_dc == 10)
    {
        puts("There are 10 'B's in your input.");
        1r_10 = puts("Easter egg triggered!");
    }
    rbp<8> = s_8;
}
```
- Decompilation Options (Right):** A panel with a checked option "StackCanarySimplifier" and an "Apply" button at the bottom.
- Console (Bottom):** A terminal window showing the IPython 7.0.1 prompt and the command "In [1]:".

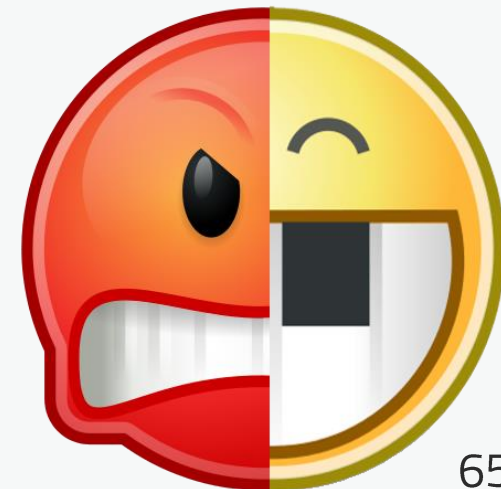
# angr-management overview





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# Analyses in angr... what are they?

- analyses in angr are analogous to analyses in LLVM
  - angr's analyses are more ad-hoc and more flexible*
- angr.Analysis provides some references...
  - .project
  - .kb
  - And some infrastructure support...
    - Resiliency
    - Progress reporting
    - Progress bar

# Analysis overview

Analysis	Description
CFGFast/CFGAccurate	Control flow graph recovery
Disassembly	Linear disassembly rendering routine
DDG	Data dependence analysis
VFG	Value-flow graph recovery, performs value-set analysis on programs
BackwardSlicing	Backward program slicing based on control dependence and data dependence
BoyScout*	Determines architecture of binary blobs
GirlScout*	Determines base addresses of binary blobs

# Control flow graph...

- Generating a CFG in angr is easy as easy as a one-liner

```
cfg = proj.analyses.CFG()
```

# Control flow graph...

*But it can also be hard...*

- Resolving indirect jumps
  - Jump tables
  - Non-jump-table indirect jumps
  - Indirect calls
  
- Guessing data types
  - Strings
  - Integers
  - Floats

# Control flow graph... the graph?

`CFG.graph` # a `networkx.DiGraph()`

- Traverse the graph like traversing any other directed graph
- `.get_successors()` and `.get_predecessors()` ... they take arguments!
- Get a node from the graph, and then access `.successors` and `.predecessors`

# Using the CFG

```
# this grabs *any* node at a given location  
entry_node = cfg.get_any_node(p.entry)
```

```
# we can also look up predecessors and successors  
Print(list(entry_node.predecessors))  
Print(list(entry_node.successors))
```

# Control flow graph... the graph?

CFG.graph # a networkx.DiGraph()

- Each edge is a transition between nodes on the control flow graph
- There are labels on edges!

Label name	Description
jumpkind	Type of the exit that the edge represents. Can be 'ljk_Boring', 'ljk_Call', 'ljk_Ret' etc.
stmt_idx	Index of the statement that creates this transition
ins_addr	Address of the instruction that creates this transition



# Control flow graph... the graph?

*How can I uniquely mark an instruction in CFG?*

- **CFGNode**

Stores valuable information for each basic block

- Address
- Size
- Instruction addresses
- Function it belongs to
- ...

- **CFGNode identifier:** a unique ID for nodes in a control flow graph

... nicknamed *SimRunKey* as of now

# Control flow graph... and beyond

*Why do we have two CFG analyses?*

- CFGFast and CFGAccurate



# Control flow graph... and beyond

- **CFGFast** is way faster than **CFGAccurate**  
Tens of seconds **vs** several minutes or hours
  
- **CFGAccurate** is as easy to use as **CFGFast**  
They share most arguments  
*... if they haven't yet, we'll make them do!*

# Control flow graph... and beyond

*When do I want to be fast?*

- An IDA disassembly style CFG recovery
  - ...with more indirect jump resolution techniques
  - ...with basic type inference and “guessing”
  - ...with function prototype recovery

# Control flow graph... and beyond

*When do I want to be accurate?*

- Concrete forced execution with states as input
  - ...it takes a symbolic state!
  - ...can be viewed as an *emulation*
- Resolves indirect jumps better
  - ...better (and slower) simulation
- Sound results and complete results

# Control flow graph... and beyond

*When do I want to be accurate?*

- Context sensitivity  
...you can implement other types of sensitivity!
- Can be used as inputs for other static analyses
- Slow...

# Beneath CFG analyses

- Normalization  
Convert all loops to natural loops  
Specify `normalize=True` or call `cfg.normalize()` later
- Loop unrolling  
Unroll a loop into multiple iterations

# On top of CFG analysis

*Analysis techniques that take CFG as input*

- **CFGAccurate** takes a base graph  
...allows you to refine a fast CFG to an accurate CFG
- **Disassembly** takes a CFG
- **Data dependence analysis (DDG)** takes a **CFGAccurate** result
- **Value-set analysis (VFG)** takes a CFG as input
- **BackwardSlice** takes a **CFGAccurate** result



# Function

- CFG analyses will fill in `kb.functions` with Function instances
- FakeRets and function returns

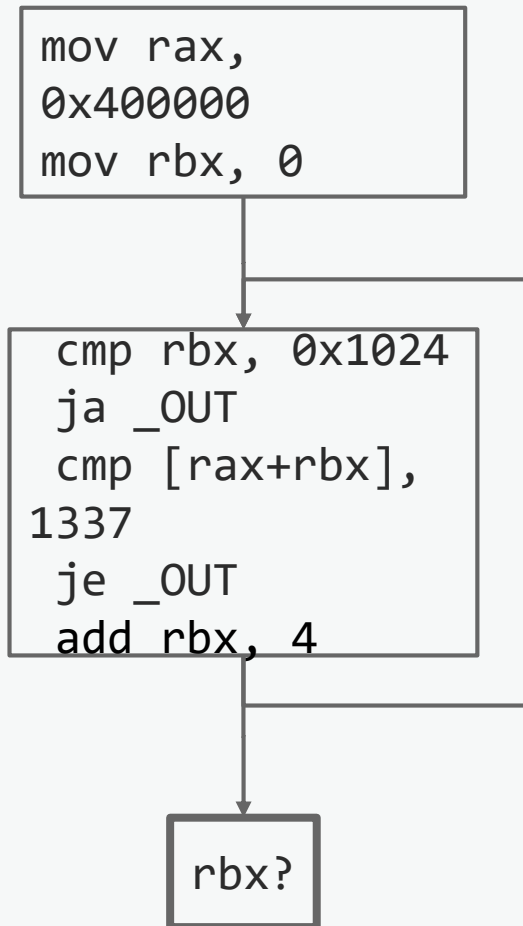
# Disassembly analysis

- Generating textual disassembly output
- No overlapping blocks, guaranteed
- Controllable by a number of switches and format strings

Future: a text-based disassembly utility

# Value-set analysis

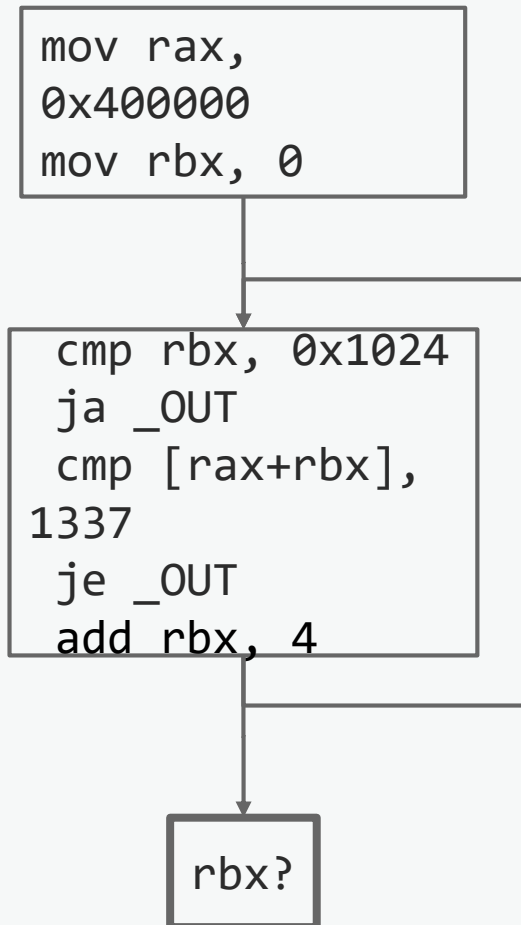
*The incentive for having a static analysis*



- What is the value of `rbx` in the end?
- How many times does this loop iterate?
- What are the possible values of `[rax+rbx]` during the loop?

# Value-set analysis

*The incentive for having a static analysis*



- What is the value of `rbx` in the end?
- How many times does this loop iterate?
- What are the possible values of `[rax+rbx]` during the loop?

*Symbolic execution can be used to answer them, but that's not ideal!*

# Value-set analysis

*One solution...*

Range analysis

- Instead of concrete values, use **ranges**

Concrete Value Domain	Range Domain
$\text{rax} = 0$	$\text{rax} = [0, 0]$
$\text{rax}_0 = \text{rax} + 1 = 1$	$\text{rax}_0 = \text{rax} + 1 = [1, 1]$
$\text{rax}_0 \text{ union } \text{rax} = ???$ <i>Multiple states are required</i>	$\text{rax}_0 \text{ union } \text{rax} = [0, 1]$ <i>One range for many values!</i>

# Value-set analysis

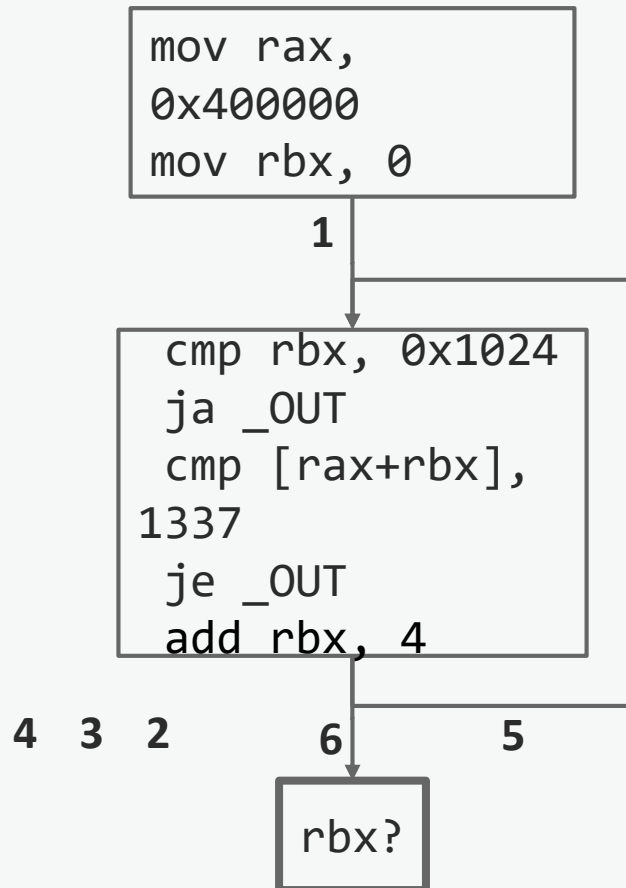
*What is a value-set?*

4[0x100, 0x120], 32

↑      ↑      ↑      ↑  
Stride   Low      High   Size

0x100	0x10c	0x118
0x104	0x110	0x11c
0x108	0x114	0x120

# Value-set analysis



What is the value of `rbx` eventually?

- |    |                      |
|----|----------------------|
| 1. | $1[0x0, 0x0], 64$    |
| 2. | $4[0x0, 0x4], 64$    |
| 3. | $4[0x0, 0x8], 64$    |
| 4. | $4[0x0, 0xc], 64$    |
| 5. | $4[0x0, \infty], 64$ |
| 6. | $4[0x0, 0x1024], 64$ |

Widen →

Narrow →

# Value-set analysis

*How to do it in angr?*

## Value-flow Graph

- Value-set information is stored in individual program states
- Program states are put in each node on a control flow graph

```
vfg = proj.analyses.VFG(start=...)
```



# Value-set analysis

*Extract information from a VFG*

- Program states are stored in **VFGNodes**  
Node.states # a list of states
- VFGNodes are stored in a connected graph  
vfg.graph # a networkx.DiGraph

# Integrate VFG with other analyses

- Data dependence analysis (DDG) may take a VFG as an input  
... which is VSA\_DDAG as of now

# Data dependence analysis

*What? Why?*

- Data dependency information is useful for
  - program understanding
  - bug finding
  - optimizing symbolic execution
  - binary rewriting

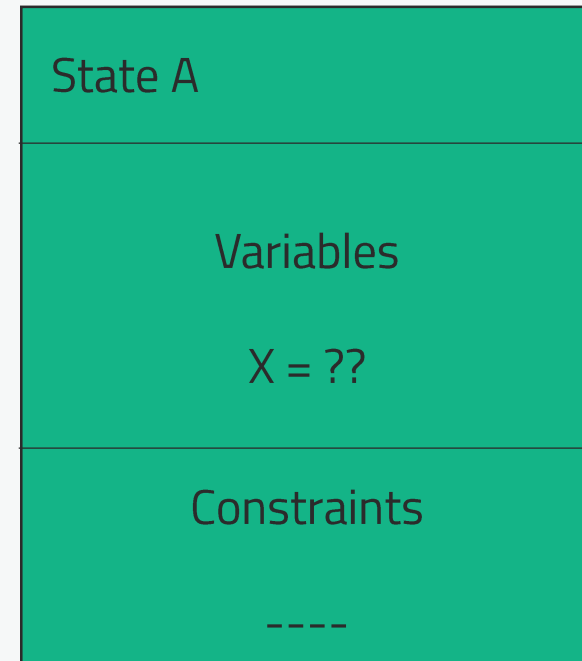
# Agenda

- Binary analysis 101
- Introduction to angr
  - Design
  - Capabilities
  - Basic concepts
- **Getting angry**
  - Installation
  - Interaction
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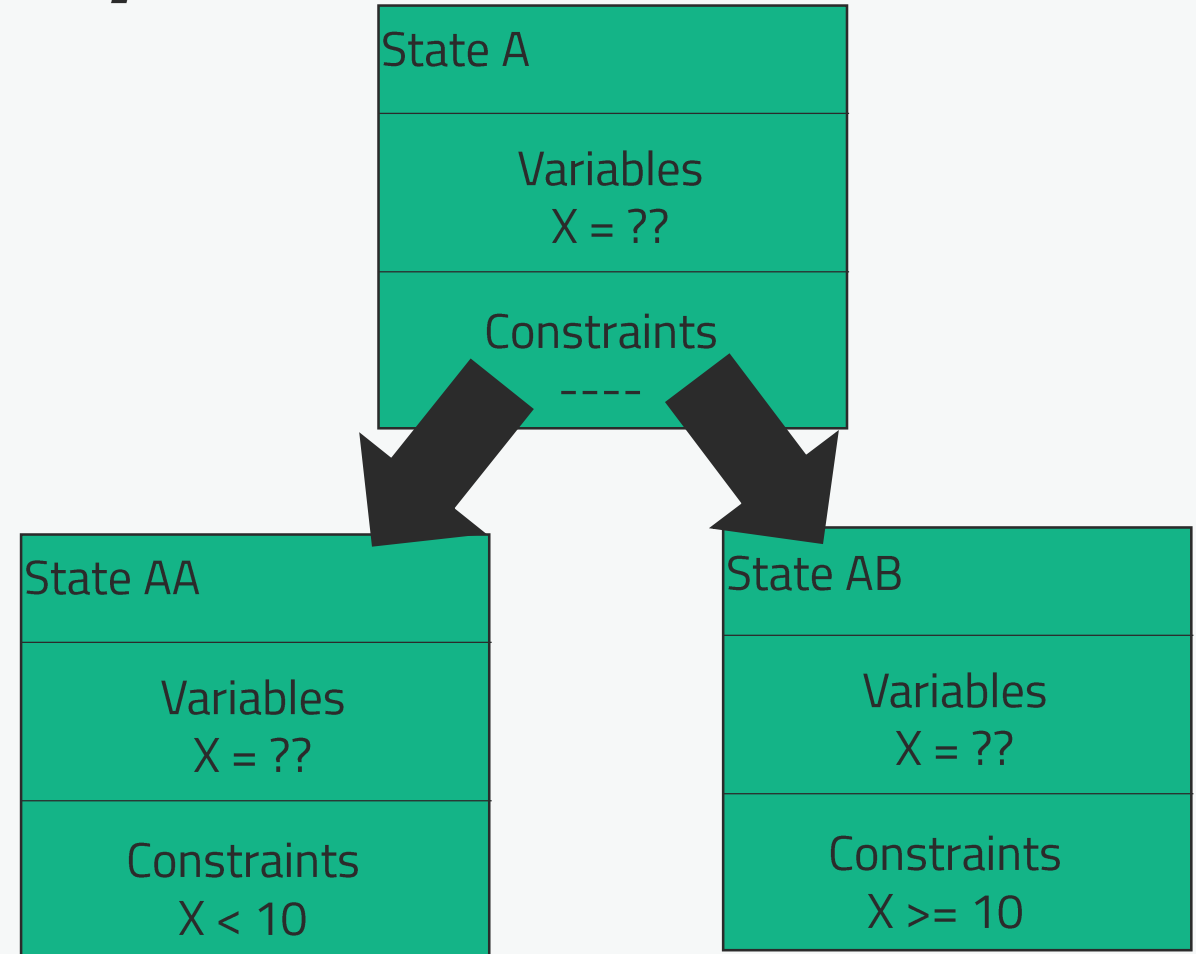
# Symbolic execution

```
→ x = int(input())
→ if x >= 10:
    → if x < 100:
        print("You Win!")
    → else:
        print("You lose!")
→ else:
    print("You lose!")
```



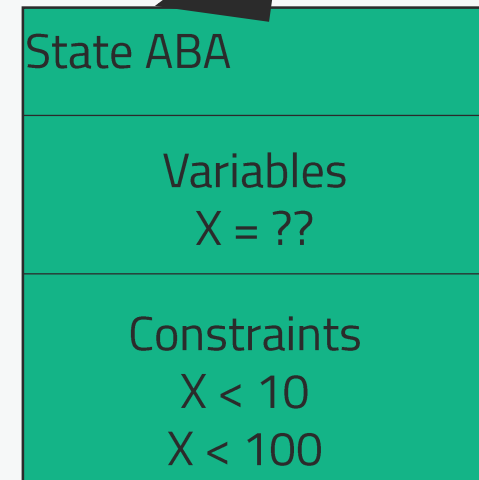
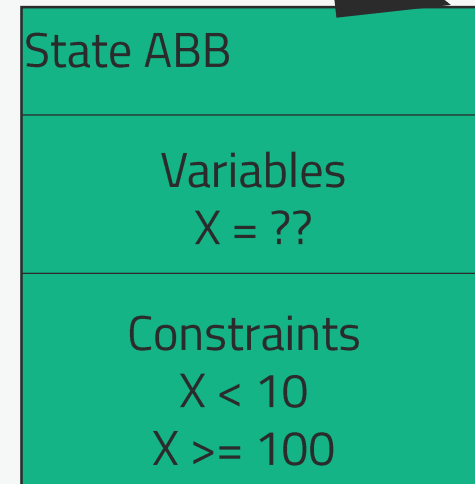
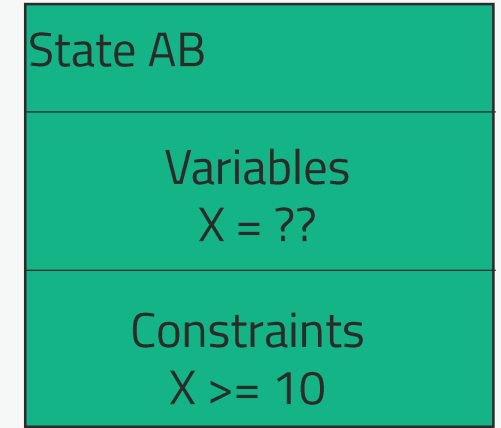
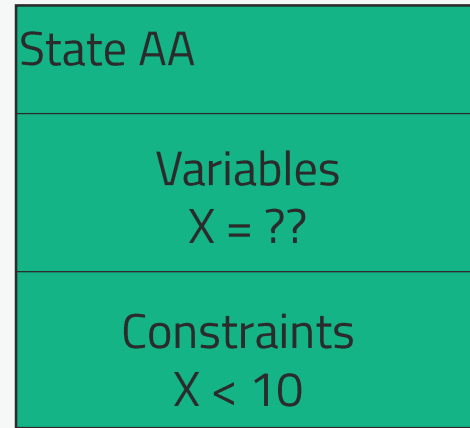
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# Symbolic execution



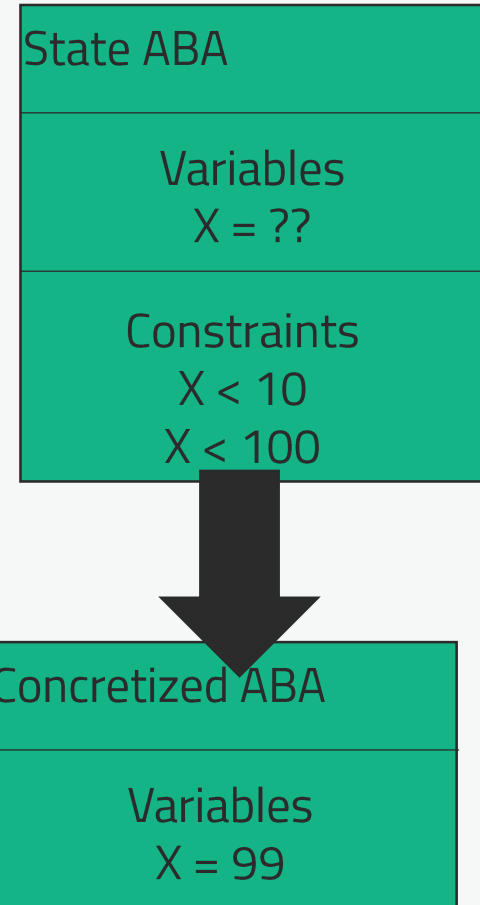
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```





# Simulation manager

```
>> simgr = project.factory.simulation_manager()
```

Standard symbolic execution interface.

```
>> simgr.step()  
>> simgr.active  
>> simgr.explore(find=X)  
>> simgr.found
```

<https://docs.angr.io/docs/pathgroups.html>

# Simulation manager- Stashes

Simulation managers are containers for "state stashes":

```
Print(simgr.stashes)
```

Standard stashes:

- active - paths that are "live"
- errored - paths that errored out (actual angr bugs)
- found - paths that reached the "find" condition
- avoided - paths that hit the "avoid" condition
- deadended - paths that produced no successors

# Path groups - Interaction

```
# the core simulation manager interaction is stepping states
simgr.step(
    stash, # name of the stash to step ('active' by default)
    n=???, # number of times to step (1 by default)
    until=???, # alternative to "n": step until this condition
    selector_func=???, # filter function for paths to step
    step_func=???, # callback function to call after every step
)
```

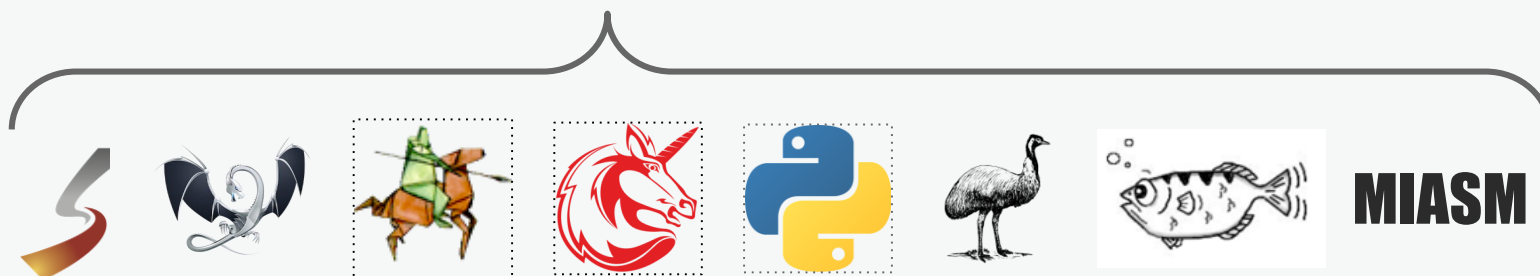
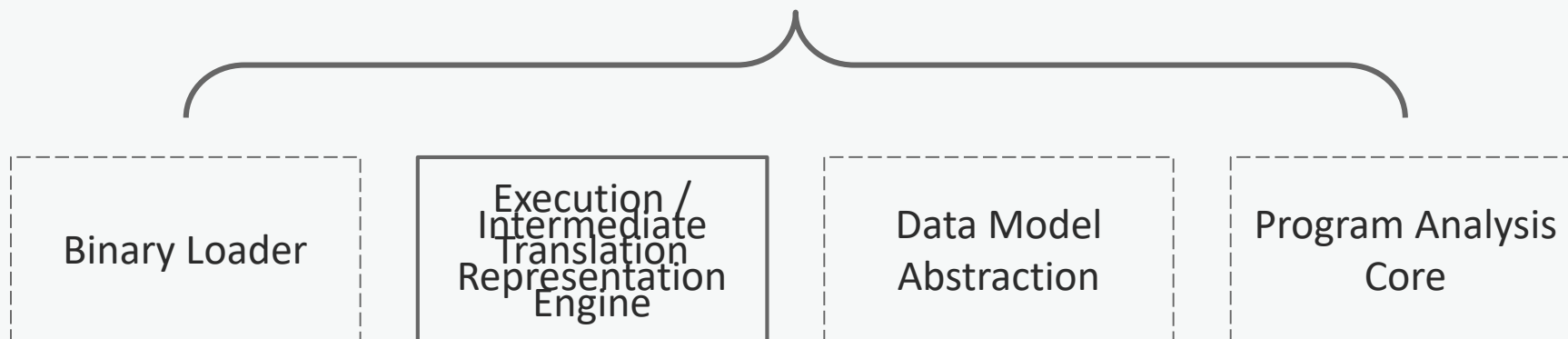
```
# to augment this, SimulationManager supports messing with
stashes
simgr.move('active', 'deadended', lambda state: True)
simgr.merge('active') # merge all paths in a stash
```



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# More?

- We will keep developing angr-management, and make it a data-flow-centric binary analysis tool
- Multiple important analyses, like variable liveness analysis, loop analysis, etc. are being refactored and will be merged in
- Speed improvement: rewrite some angr core components in C++
  - hot spots: symbolic memory, symbolic expressions
- More and better documentation!
  - <https://docs.angr.io/>

<http://angr.slack.com>

[angr@lists.cs.ucsb.edu](mailto:angr@lists.cs.ucsb.edu)

<http://github.com/angr/>

[pwnslinger@asu.edu](mailto:pwnslinger@asu.edu)

<https://git.seclab.cs.ucsb.edu/pwnslinger.keys>





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