

Proving confidentiality and its preservation under compilation for mixed-sensitivity concurrent programs

PhD thesis (2016-2020), UNSW
<https://doi.org/fjmt>

SSS², 25 January 2023

Dr Robert Sison

Research Fellow, The University of Melbourne
Visiting Fellow, UNSW Sydney

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Note: *Interactive theorem proving* (Isabelle)

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Note: *Interactive theorem proving* (Isabelle)

Proving confidentiality: The floor is lava



“secret files can’t
touch the lava”
game

Proving confidentiality: The floor is lava



“secret files can’t
touch the lava”
game

Proving confidentiality: The floor is lava



“secret files can’t
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game

Proving confidentiality: **The floor is lava**

in reality:
a hotel window;
the media

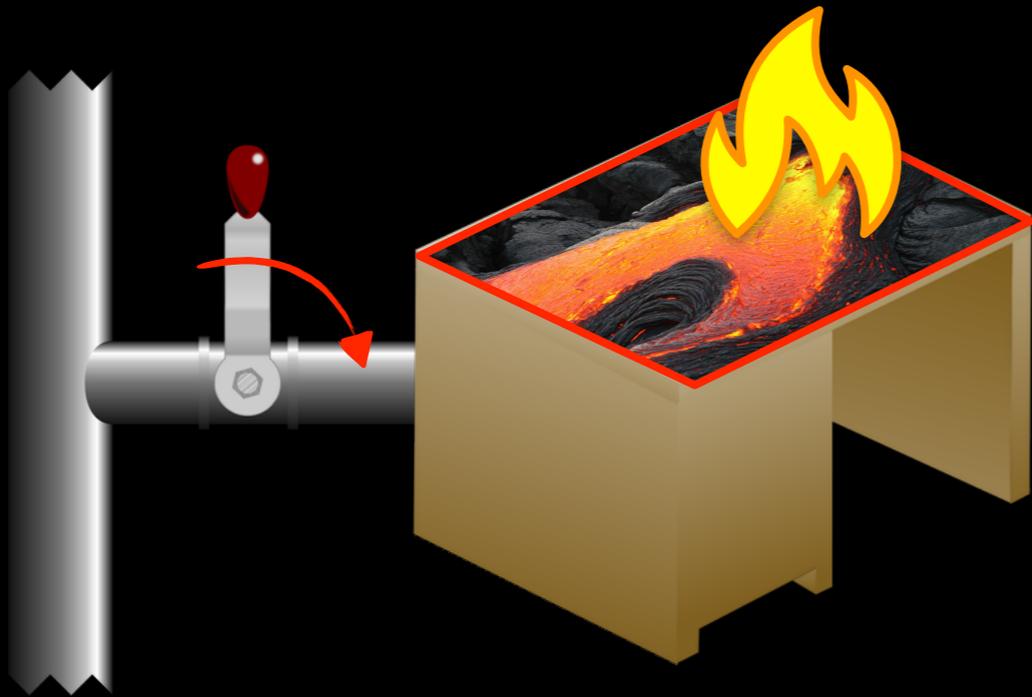


Confidentiality in the face of scale

The *desk* is lava

Mixed-sensitivity reuse

“We have 2 customers and 1 desk”

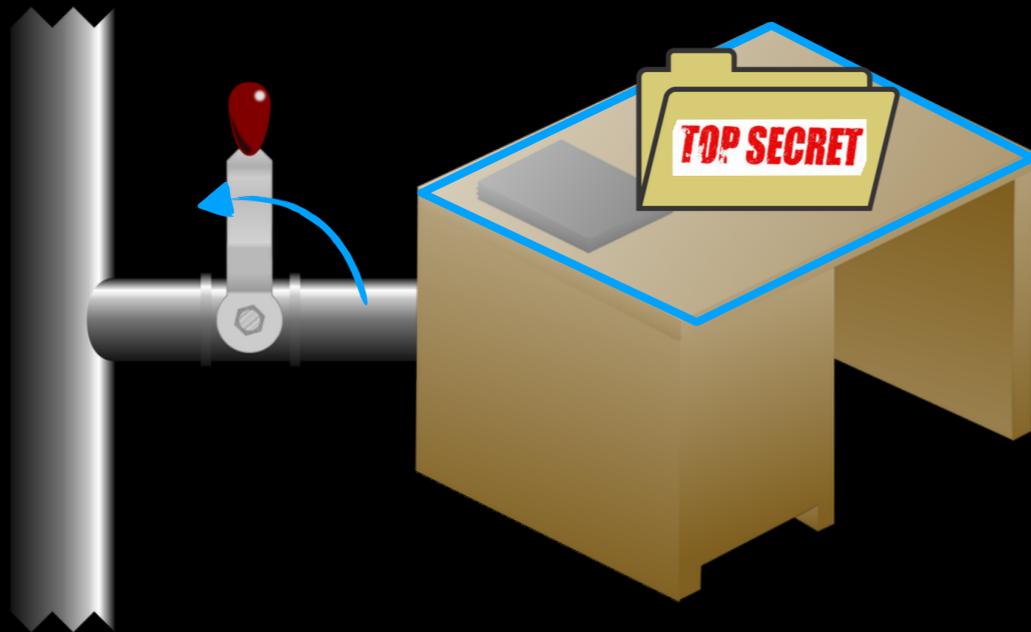


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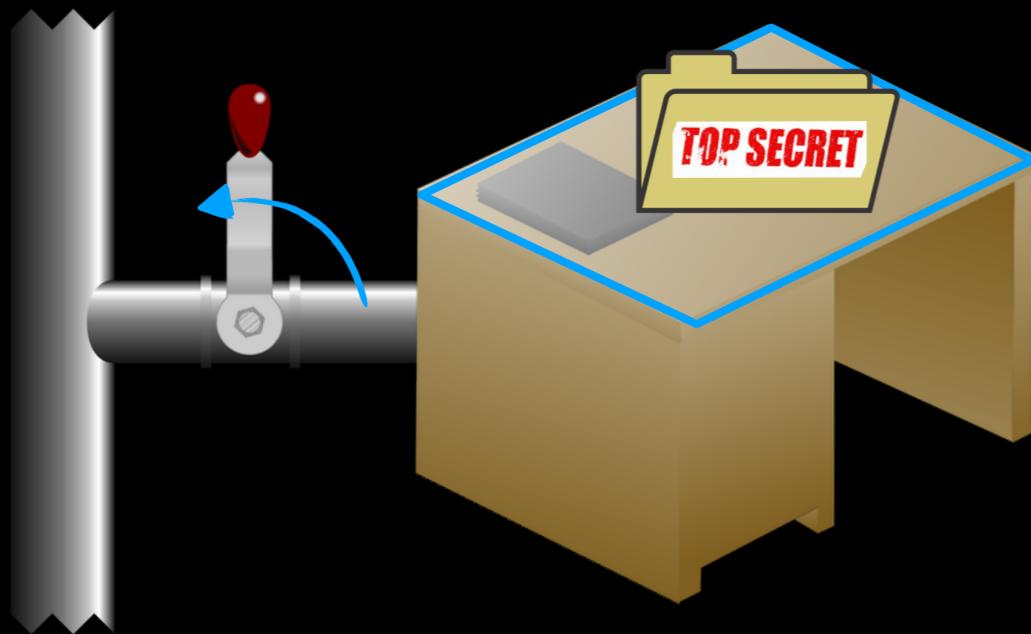
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Shared-memory concurrency

“15 of us work in this office”



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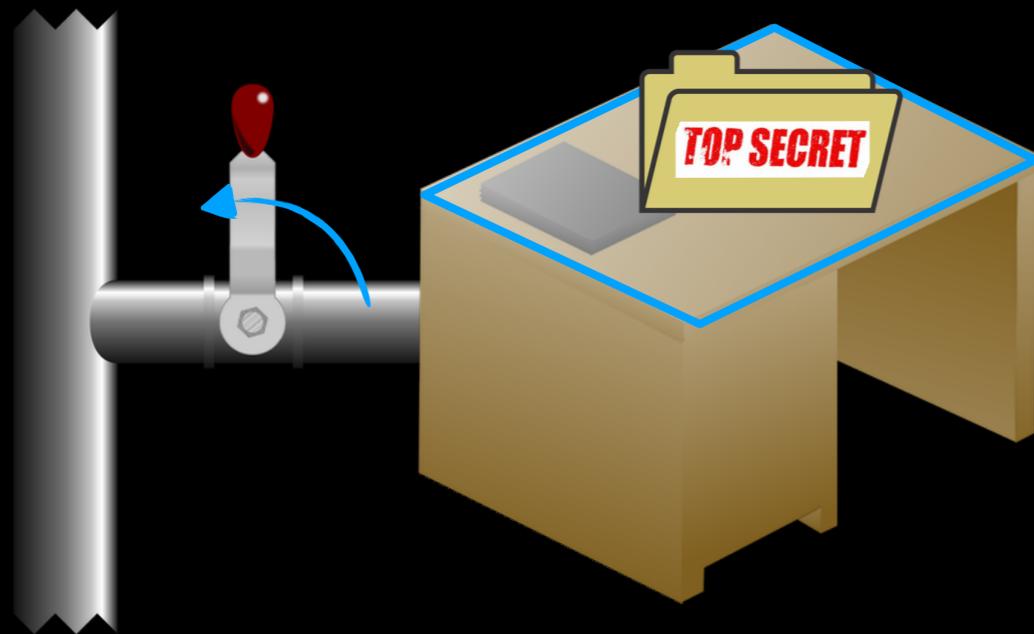
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- Any of us might use the desk

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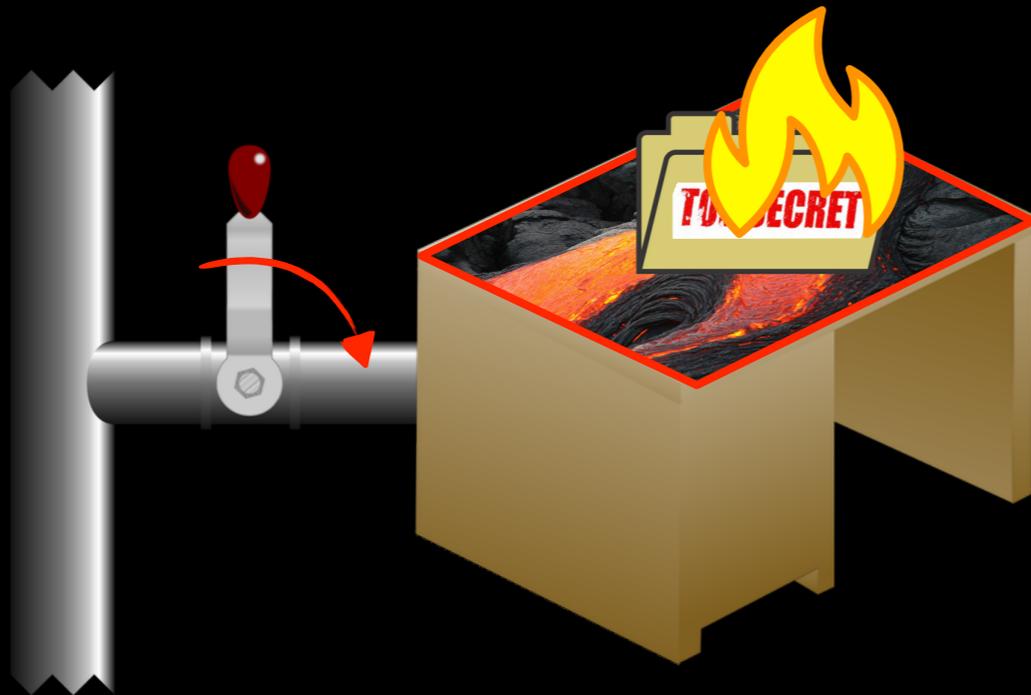
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- Any of us might use the desk
- Any of us might touch the lever

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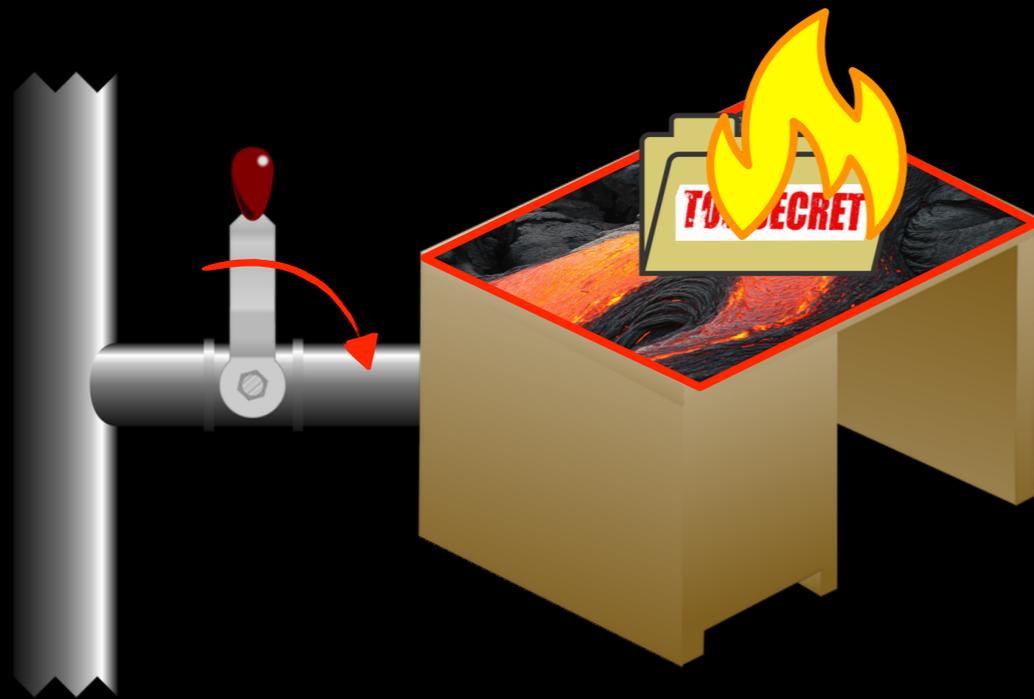
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Mixed-sensitivity concurrent programs

Motivating use case

Beaumont, McCarthy, Murray
(ACSAC 2016)

Cross Domain Desktop Composer (DSTG + Trustworthy Systems collaboration)

Finalist entry for 2021 Eureka Prize
(Outstanding Science in Safeguarding Australia)

Motivating use case

TOP SECRET

PROTECTED

Unclassified

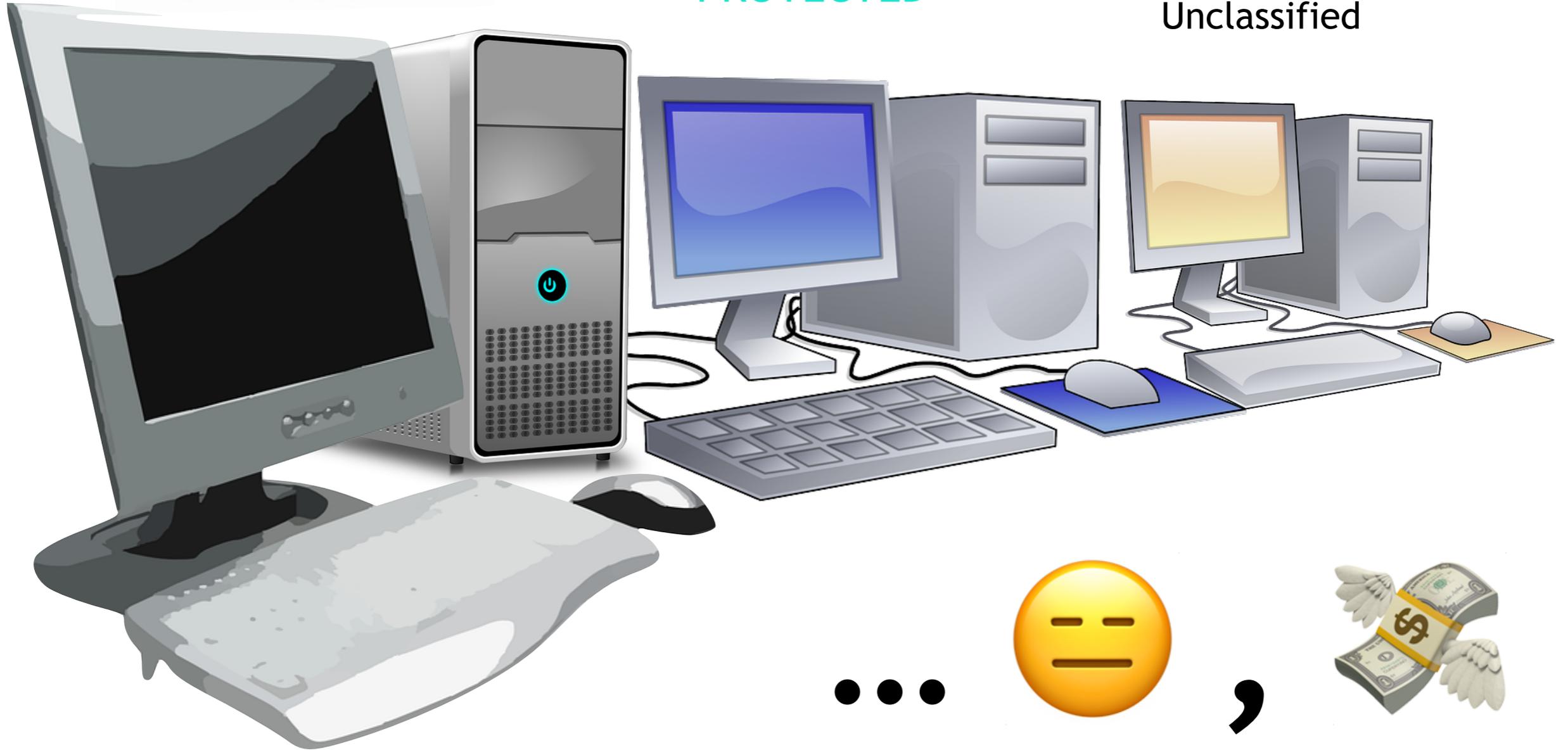


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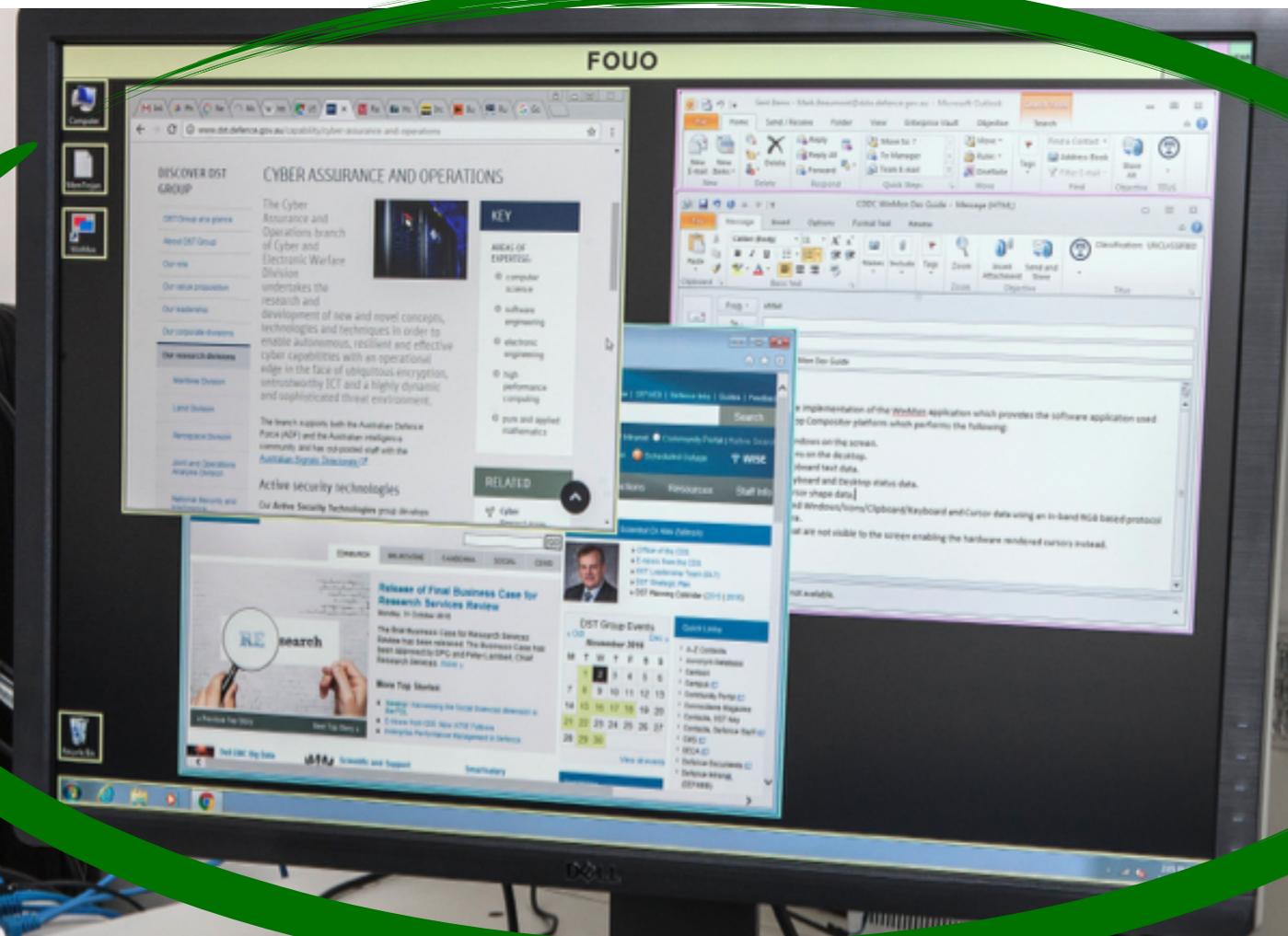
Cross Domain Desktop Compositor (CDDC)



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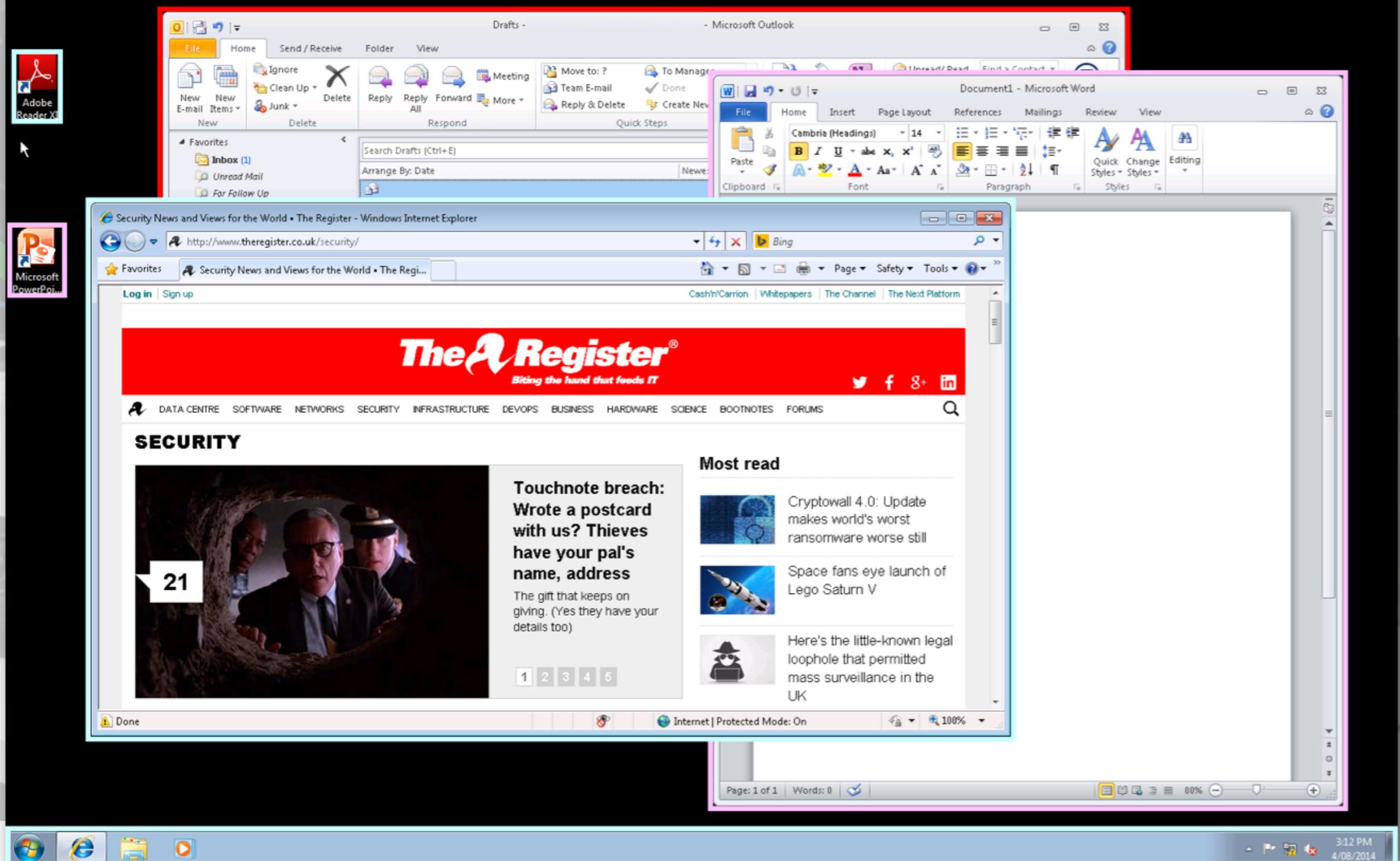


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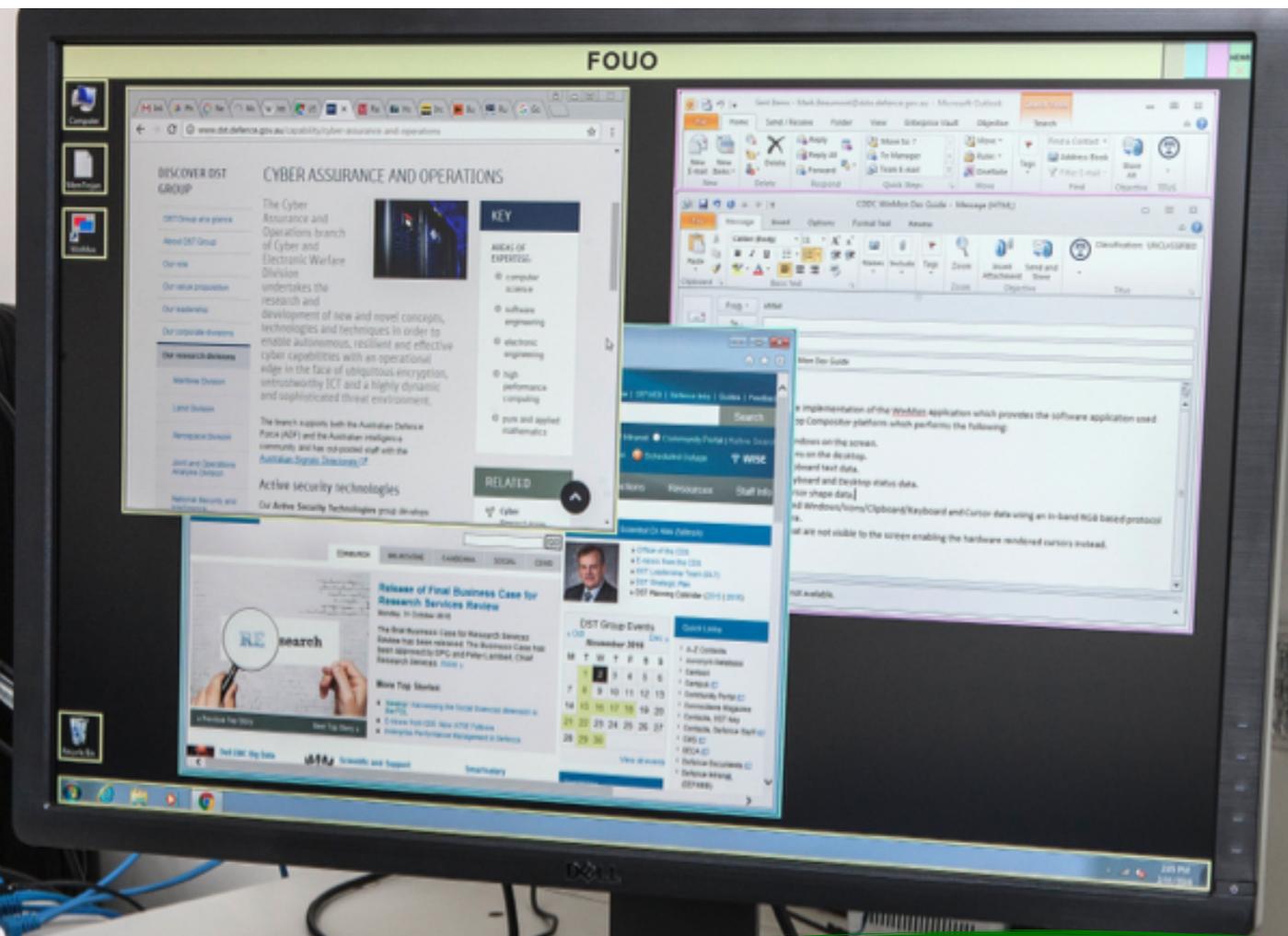


Cross Domain Desktop Compositor (CDDC)

DOMAIN 1



Cross Domain Desktop Compositor (CDDC)



3 key challenges

Cross Domain
Desktop Compositor
(CDDC)

2. Multiple moving parts
(well-synchronised)

Doesn't leak secrets

Concurrent value-dependent information-flow security

1. Mixed-sensitivity reuse
(of devices, space, etc.)

3. Compositionally!
(per-thread effort)

Confidentiality

SECRET,
PROTECTED,
or **Unclassified**?

3 key challenges

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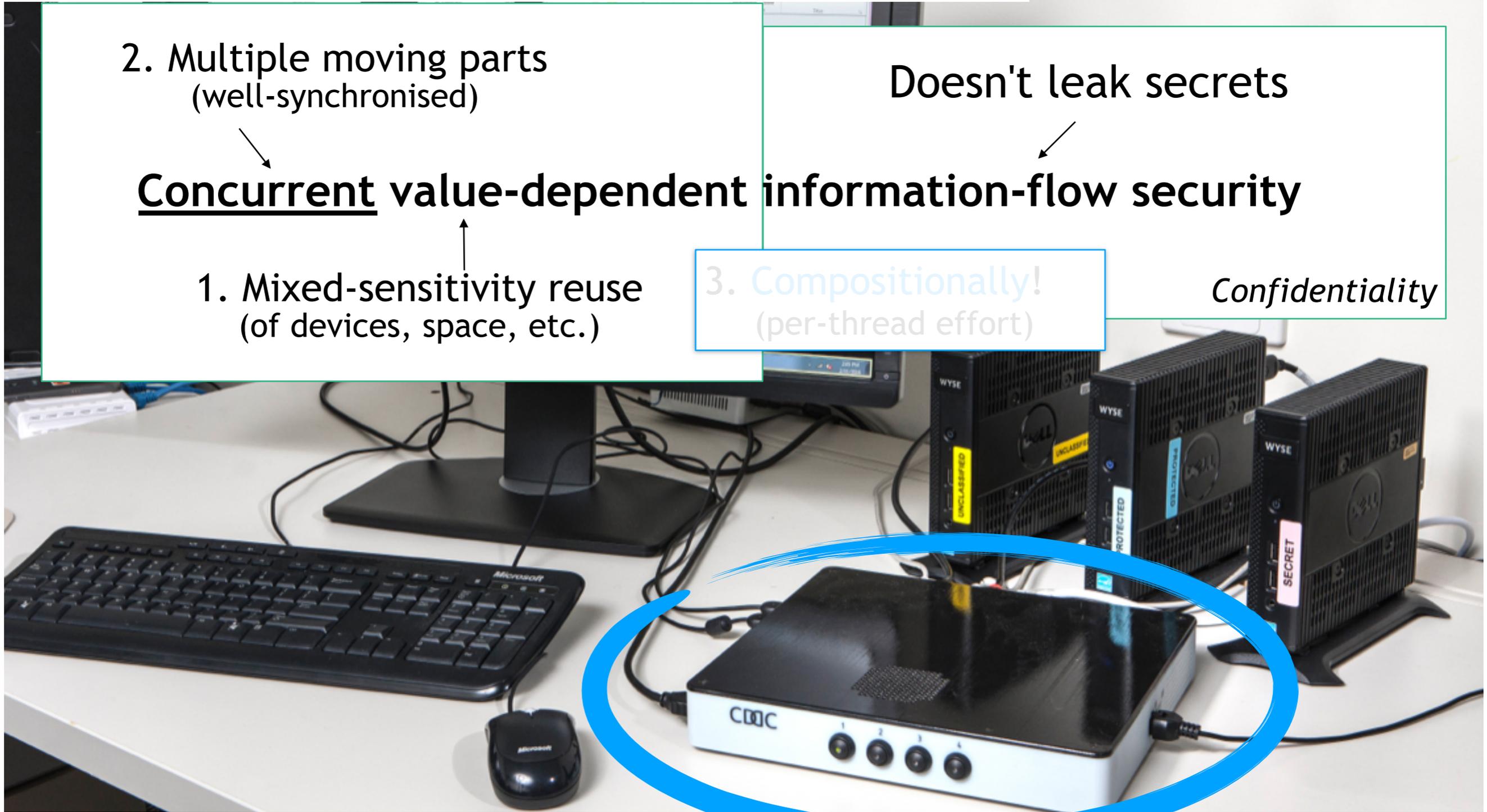
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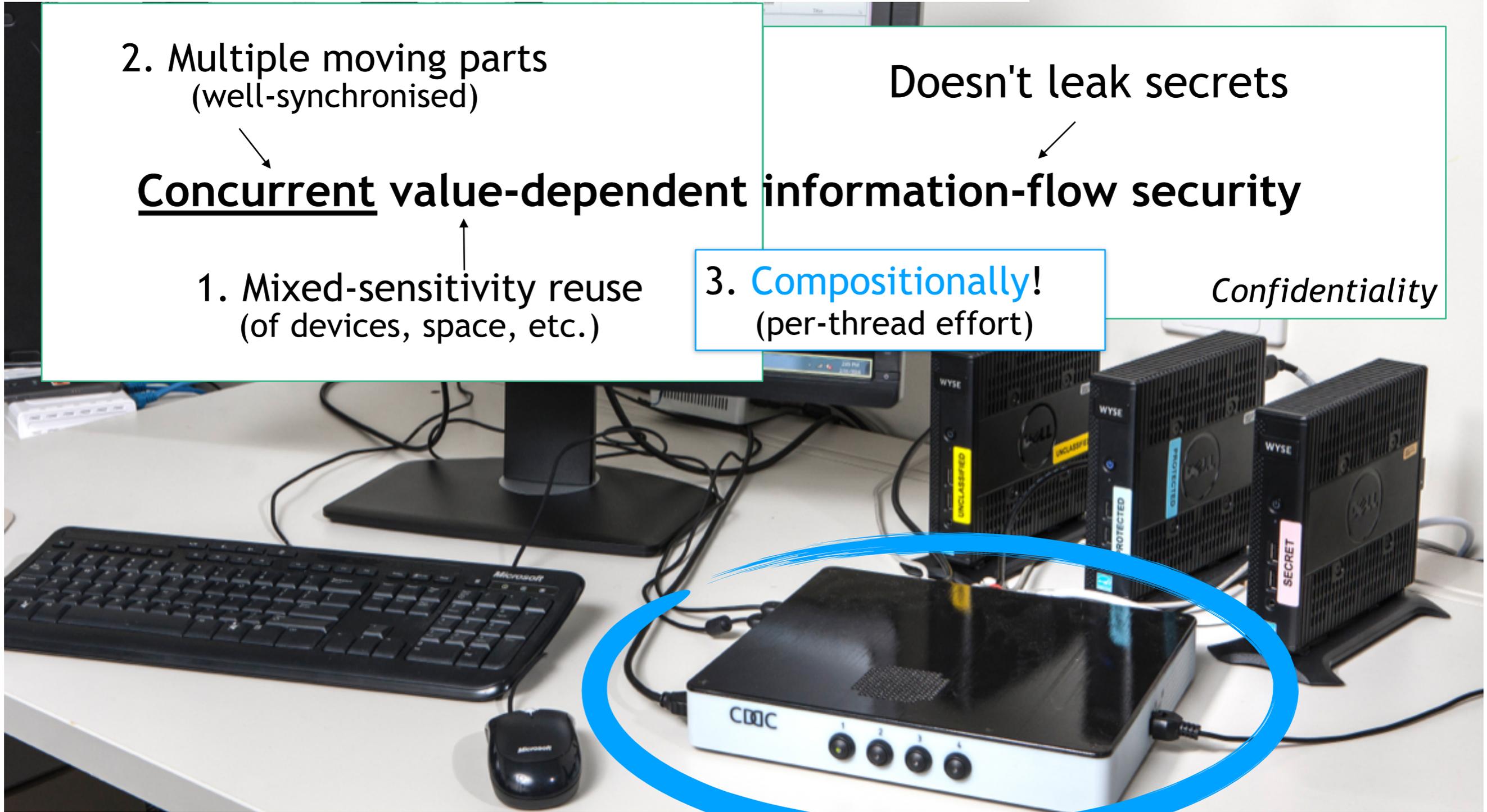
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Confidentiality



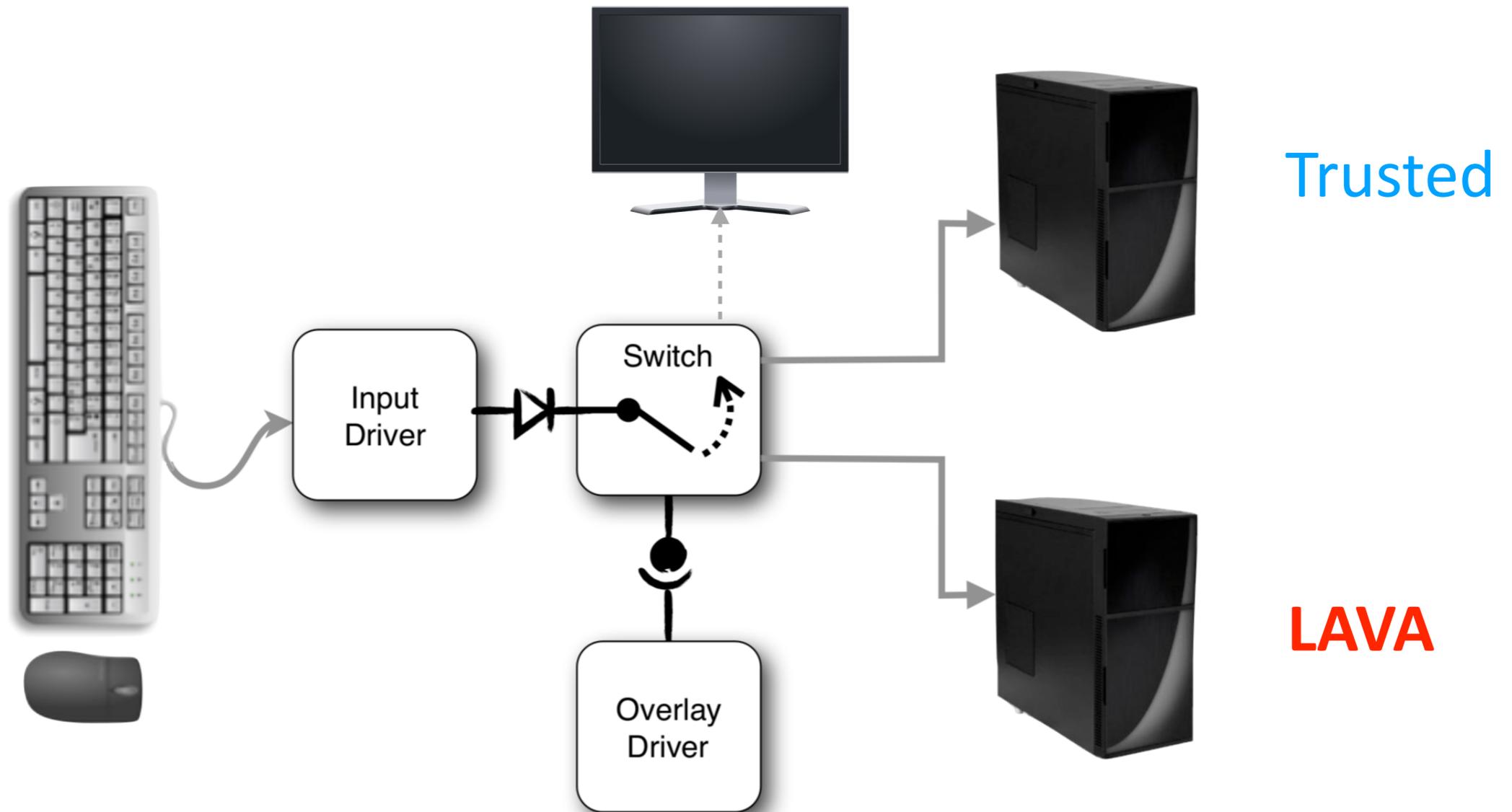
A mixed-sensitivity concurrent program

CDDC's HID switch as software components



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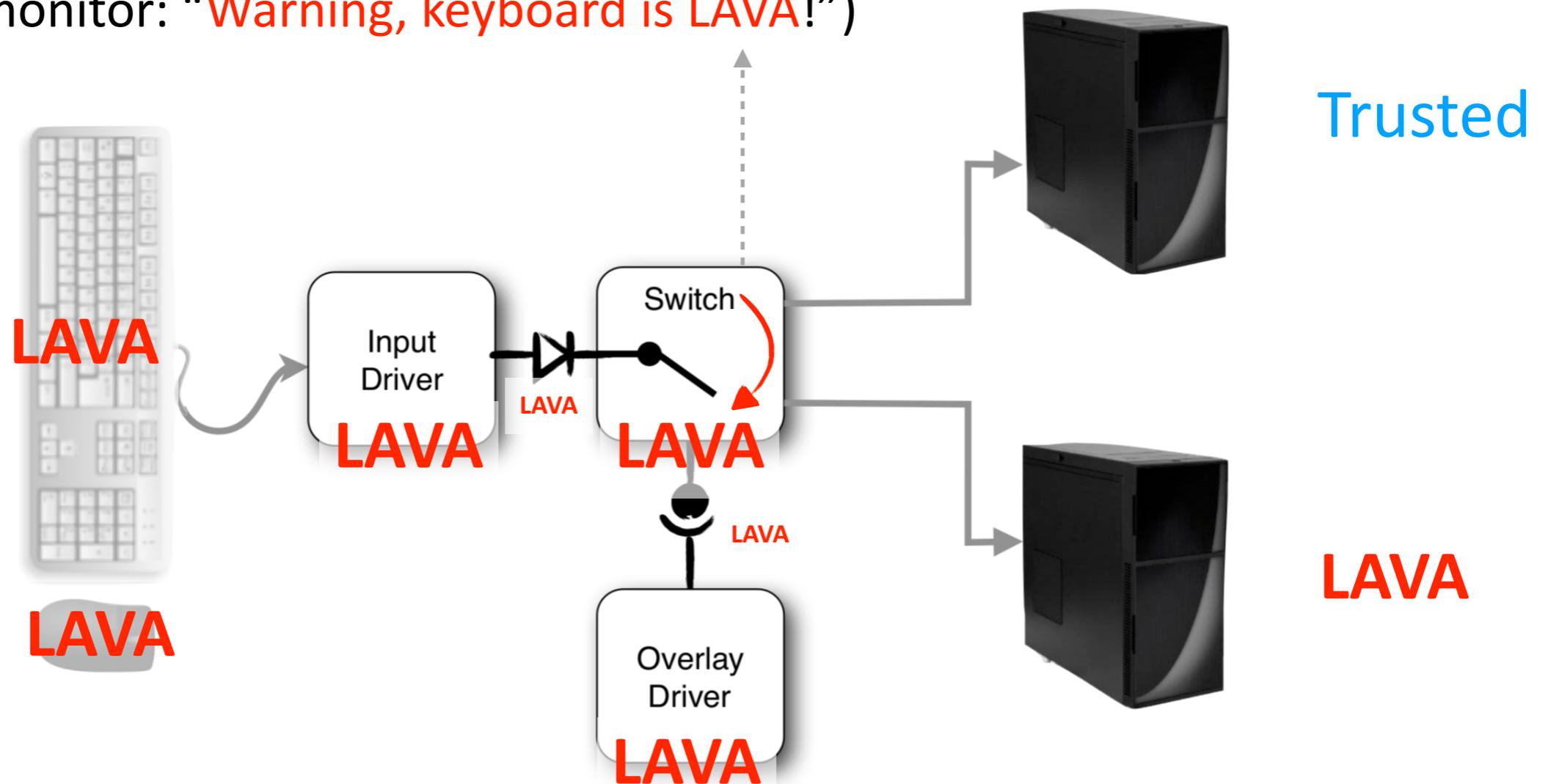


seL4 component architecture, functional schematic

A mixed-sensitivity concurrent program

CDDC's HID switch as software components

(On video monitor: “Warning, keyboard is LAVA!”)

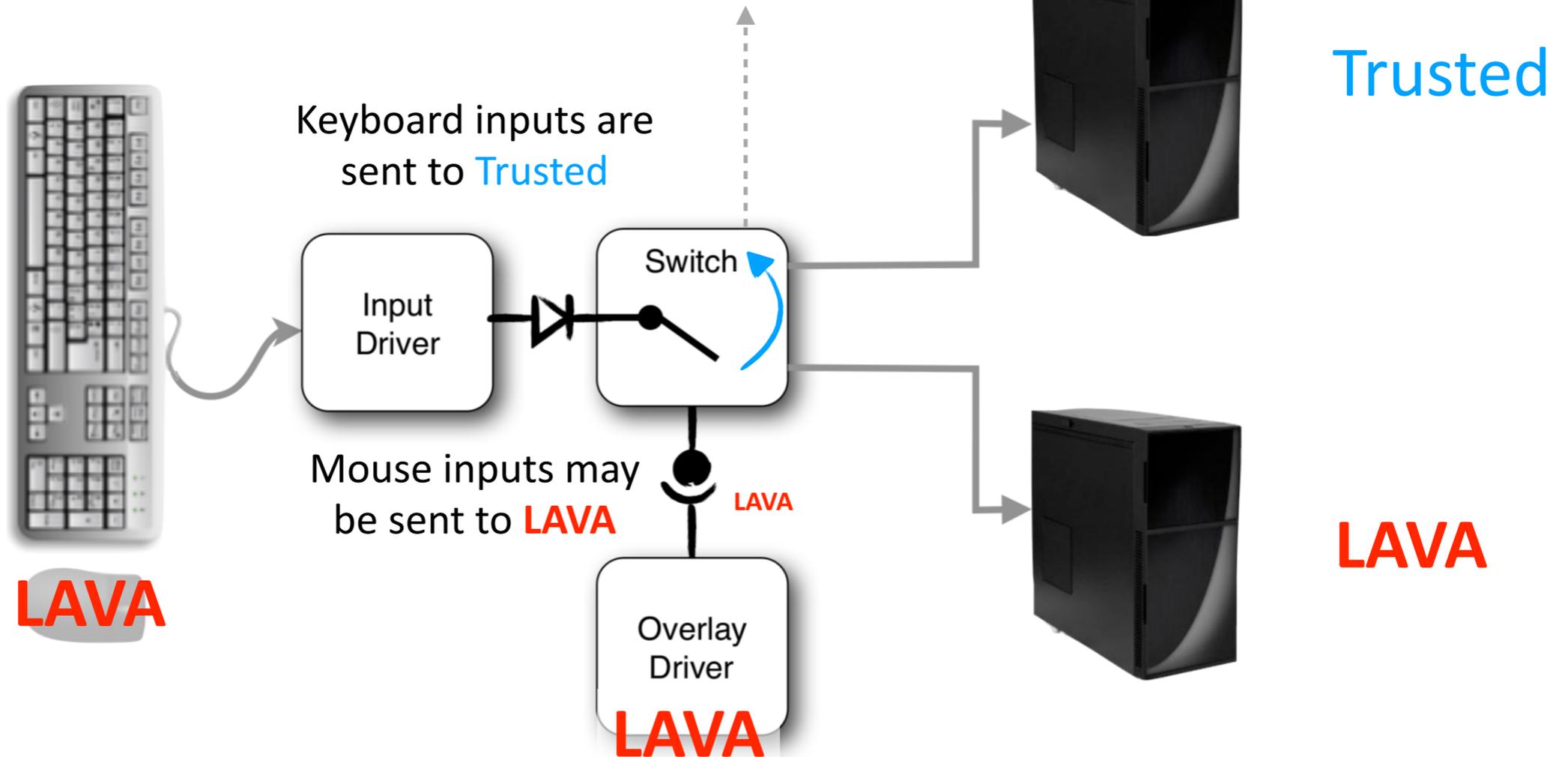


seL4 component architecture, functional schematic

A mixed-sensitivity concurrent program

CDDC's HID switch as software components

(On video monitor: "Keyboard inputs **can be secret**")



seL4 component architecture, functional schematic

Thesis (PhD, 2020)

That “Proving Confidentiality and Its Preservation Under Compilation for **Mixed-Sensitivity Concurrent Programs**” *is feasible*.

- Program verification Chapter 4
- Compiler verification Chapter 5
- Case study: CDDC Chapter 6
- Extension to program verification Chapter 7



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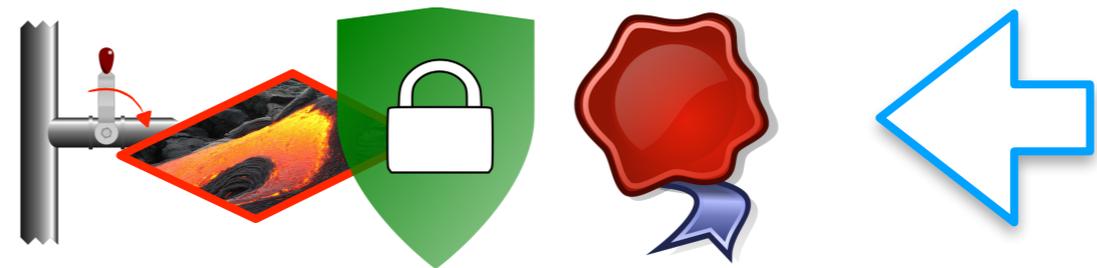
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- Program verification

Chapter 4



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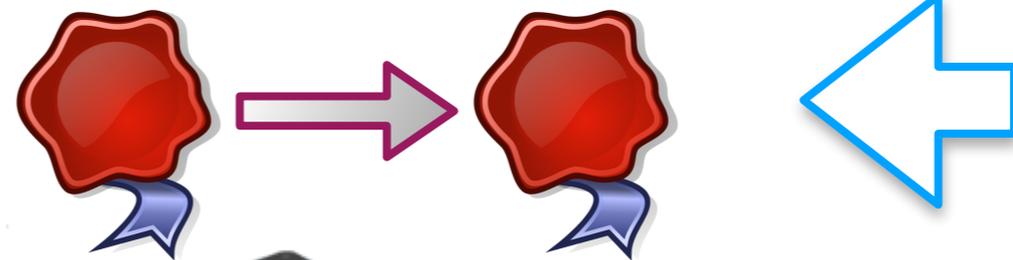
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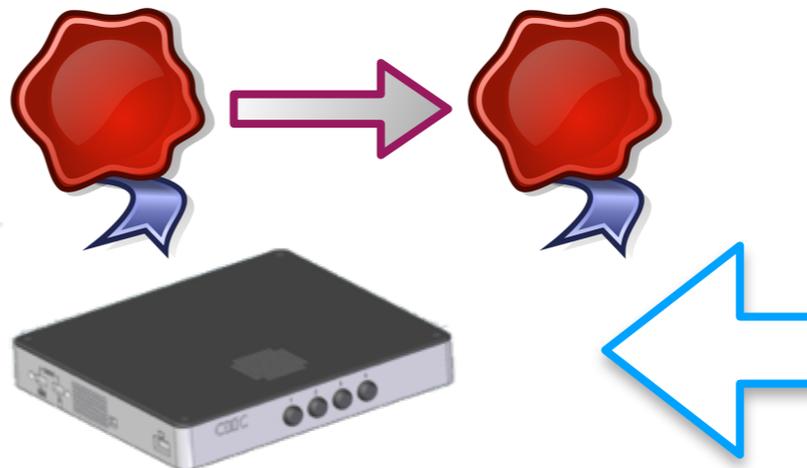
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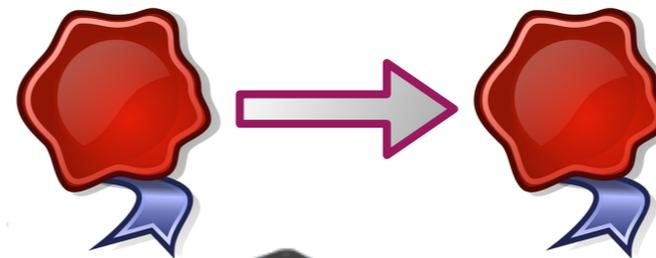
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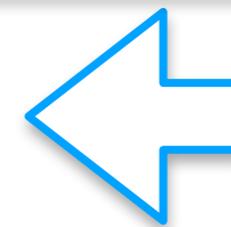
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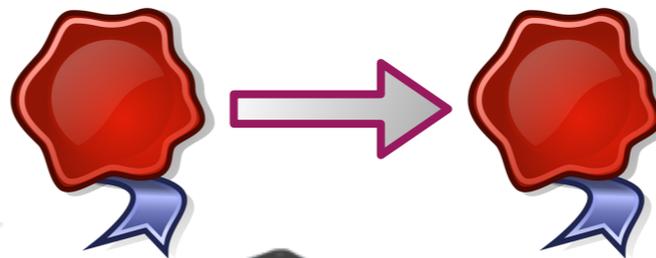
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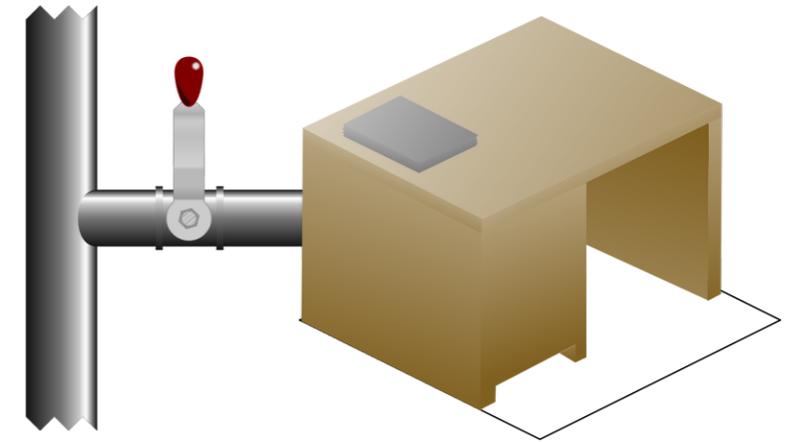
Chapter 7

Program verification: Prior work

(Murray, Sison, Pierzchalski, Rizkallah 2016)

Assume-guarantee contracts between threads

(Jones 1983 via Mantel et al. 2011)



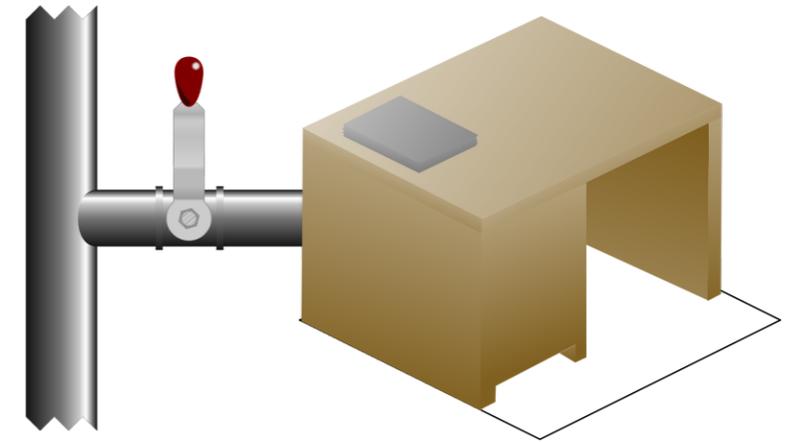
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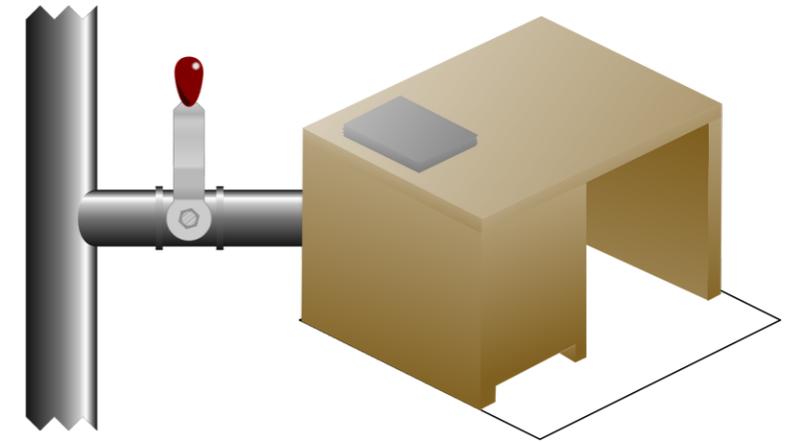
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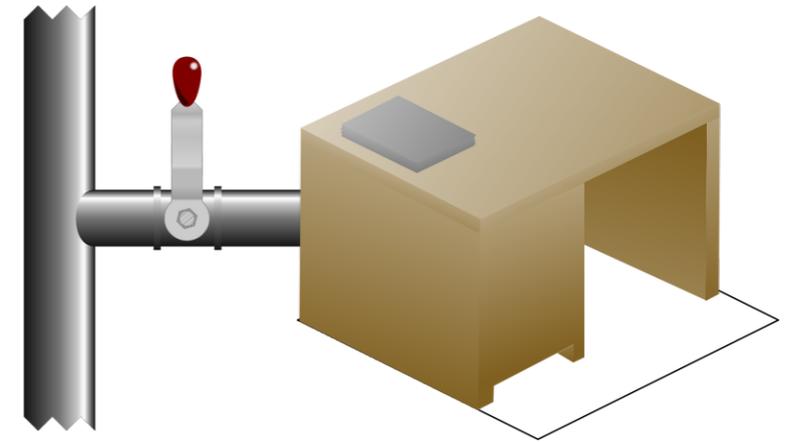
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“I respect my guarantees”



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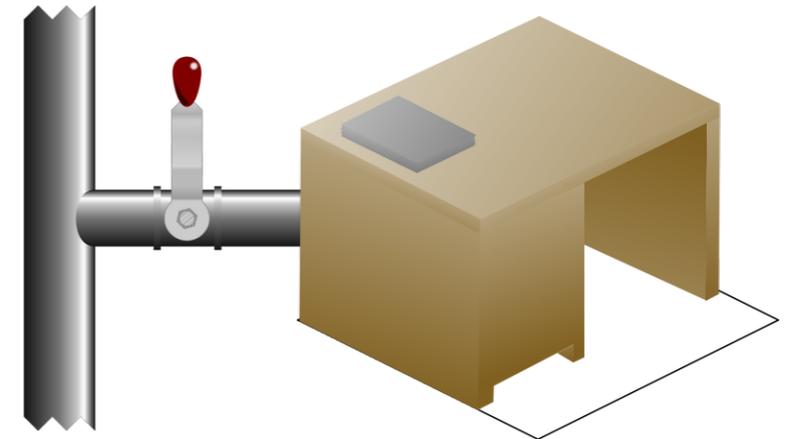
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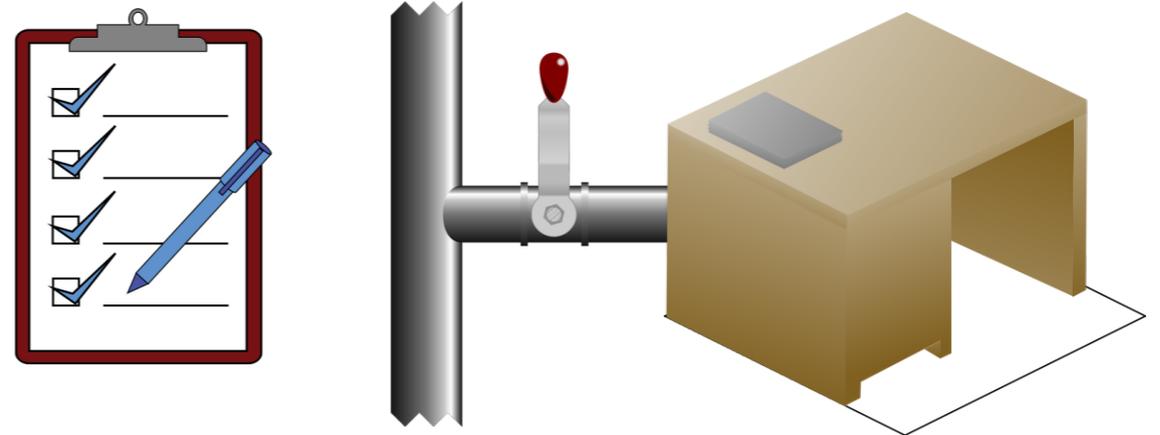
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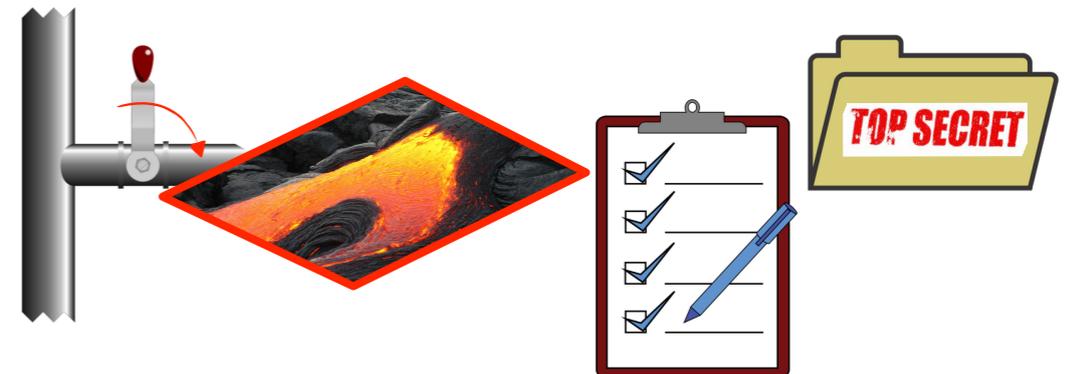
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“I win ‘floor is lava with levers’ using assumptions”



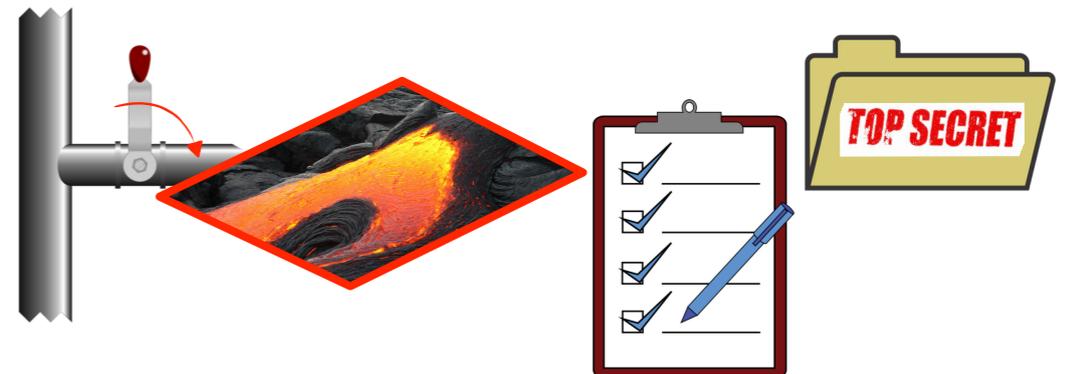
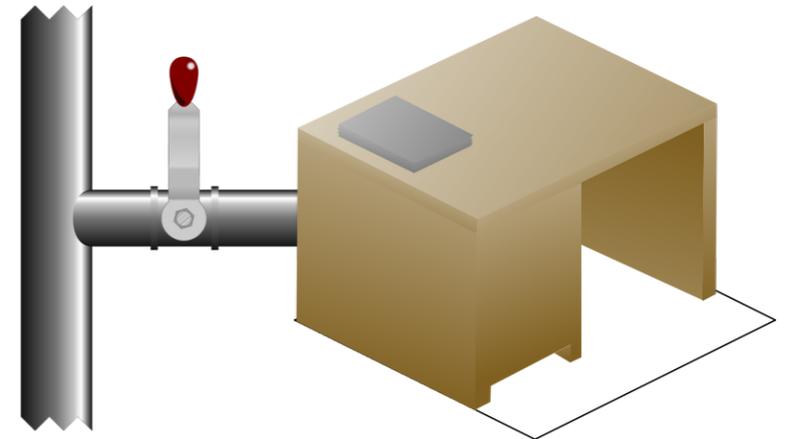
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(Type systems for a generic While language)

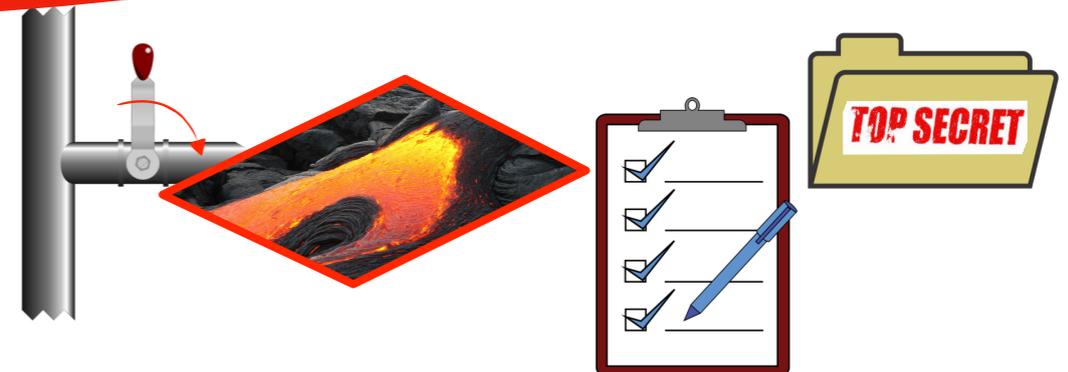
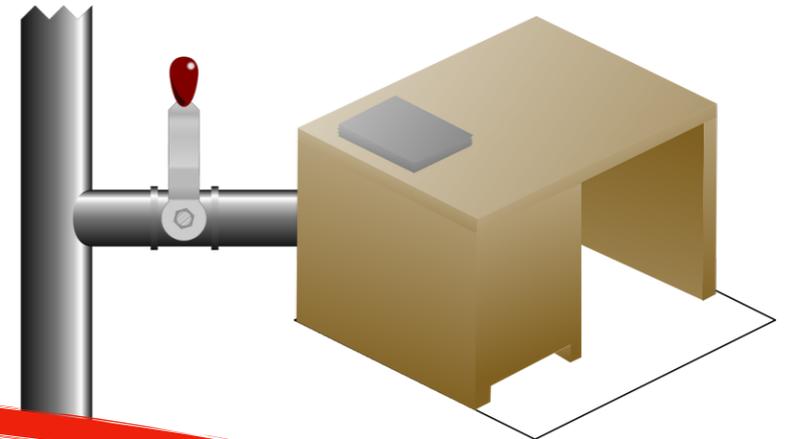
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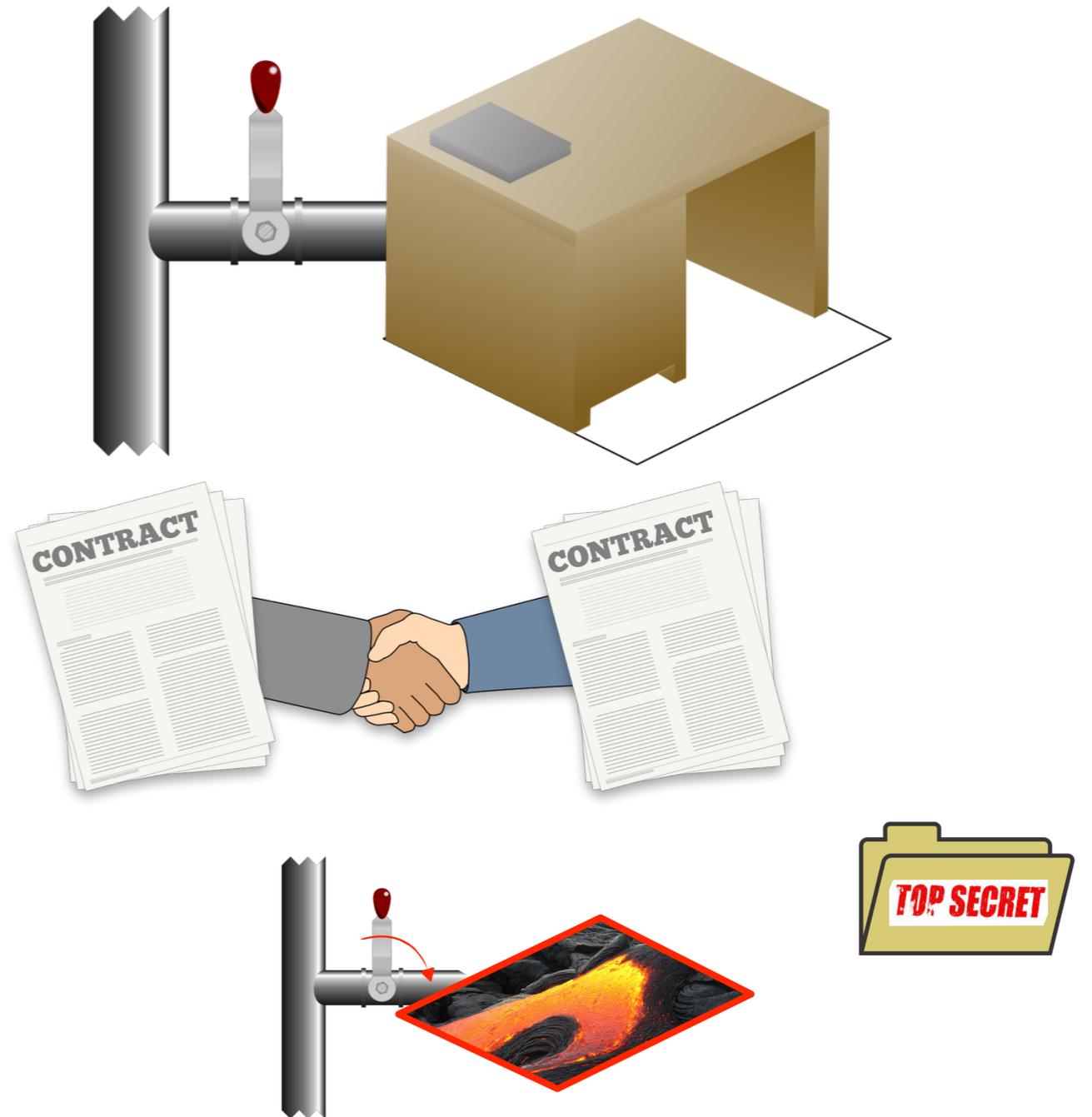


(**Type systems** for a generic While language)

Program verification: My work

(Language designer's perspective)

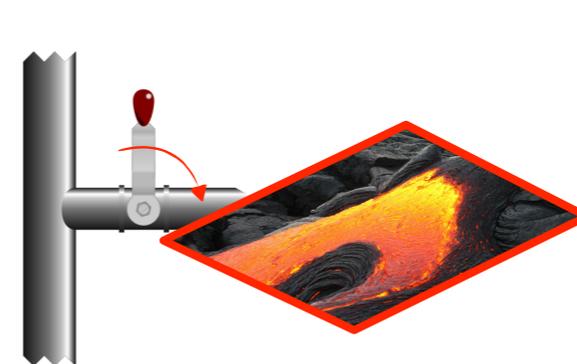
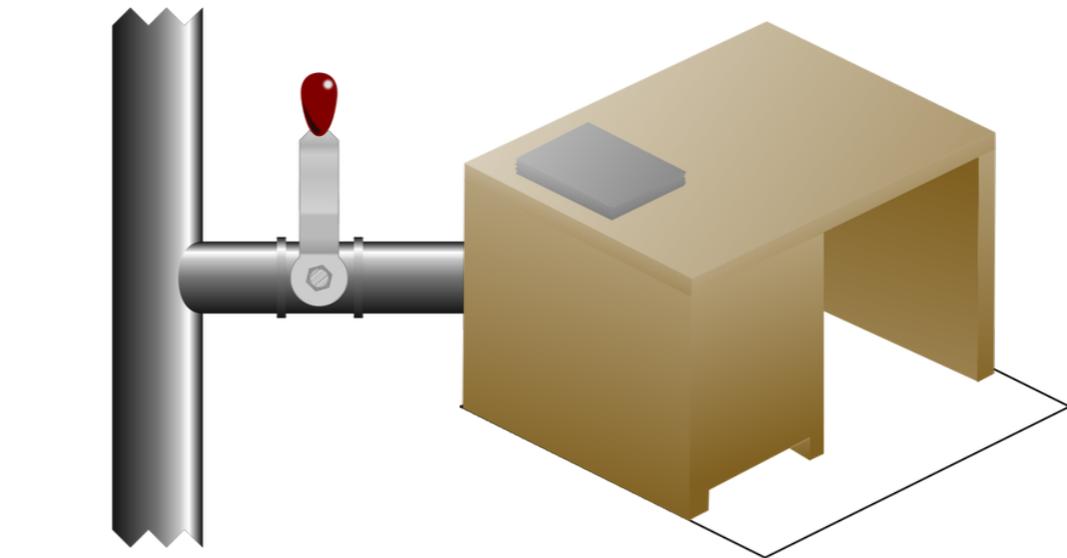
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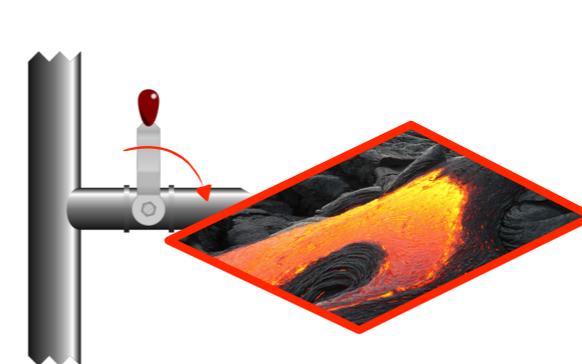
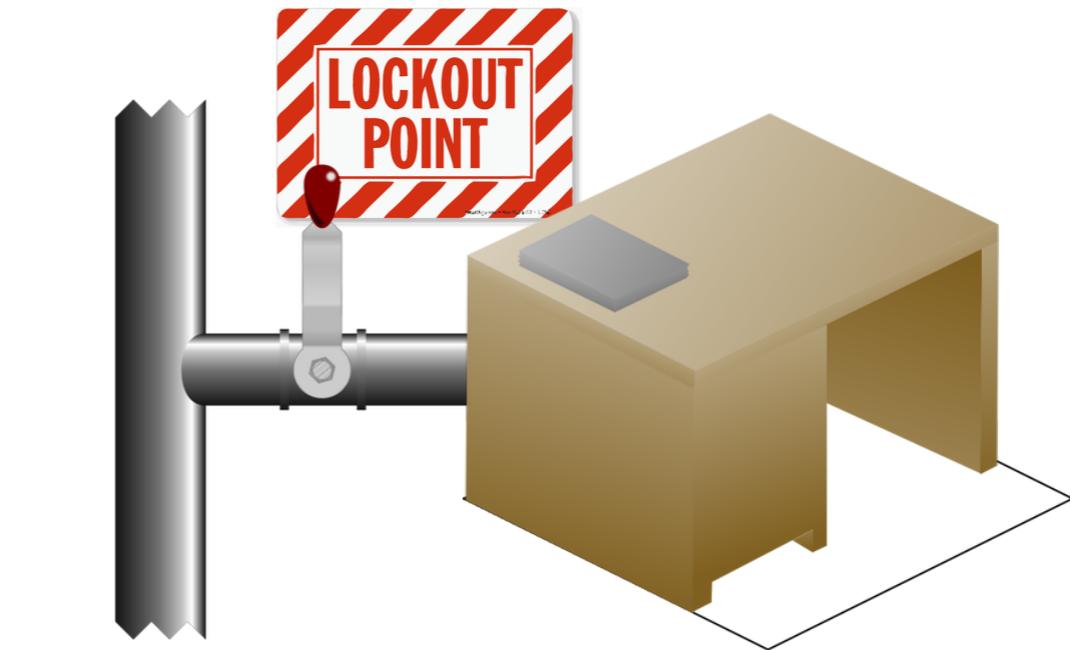


(For a generic While language with **locks**)

Program verification: My work

(Language designer's perspective)

- A way to assign **locks** to spaces
- Local compliance
“I respect my guarantees”
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“Guarantees meet assumptions”
- Local security
“I win ‘floor is lava with levers’
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(For a generic While language with **locks**)

Program verification: My work

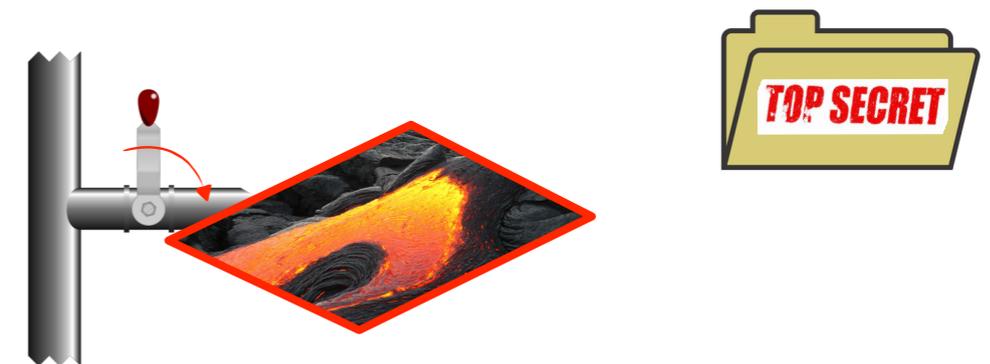
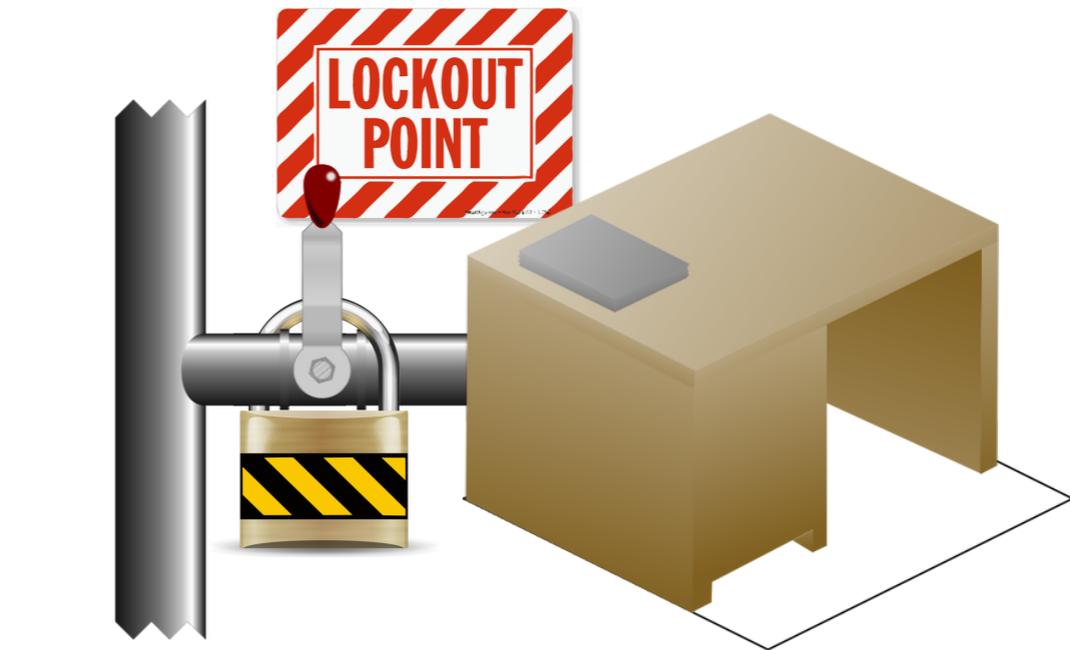
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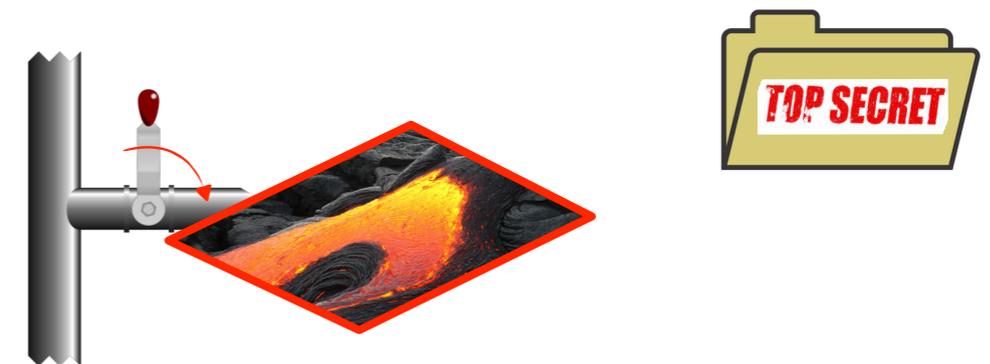
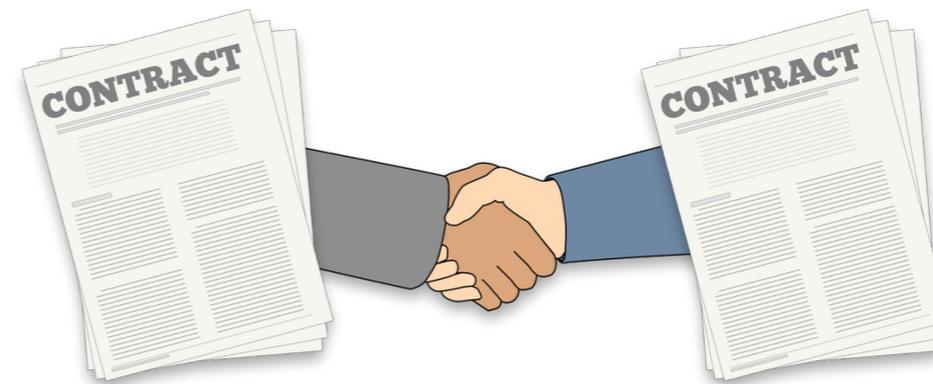
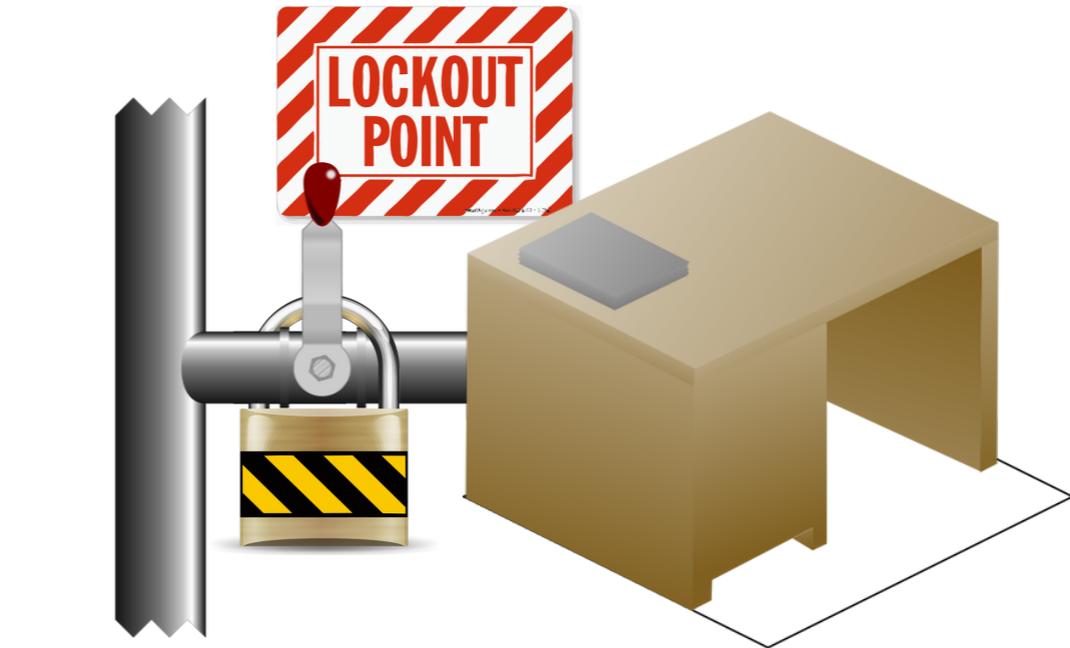


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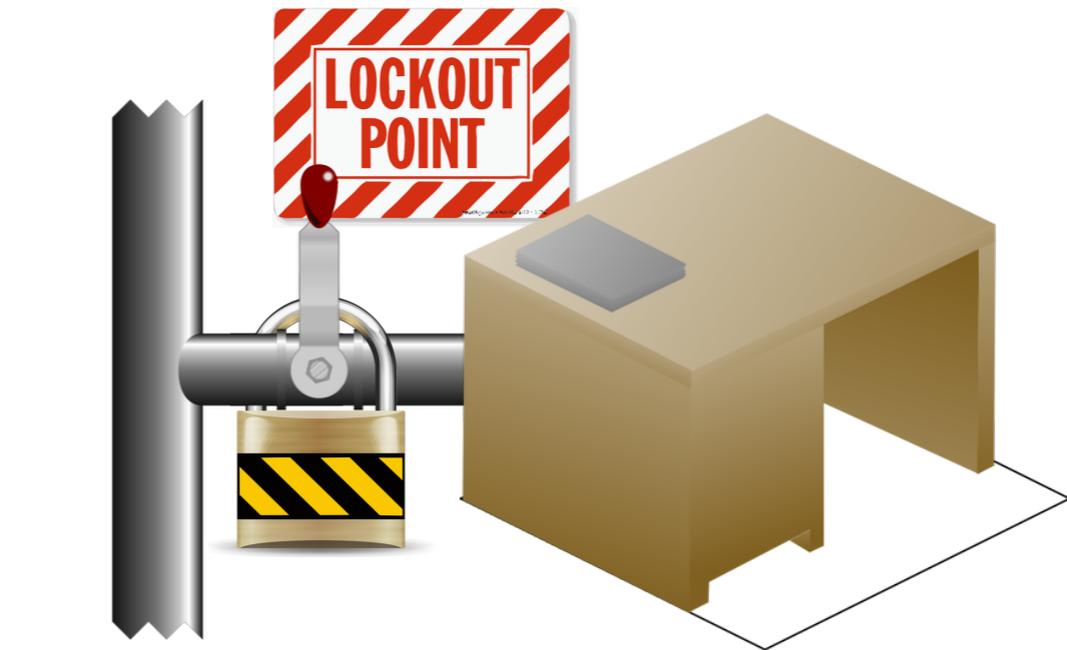


(For a generic While language with **locks**)

Program verification: My work

(Language designer's perspective)

- A way to assign **locks** to spaces
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“I respect **the locks**”
- Global compatibility
“Respecting **locks** is enough for guarantees to meet assumptions”
- Local security
“I win ‘floor is lava with levers’ **using locks**”



(For a generic While language with **locks**)

Program verification: My work

(Language designer's perspective)

- A way to assign **locks** to spaces
- Local compliance
“I respect **the locks**”
- ~~Global compatibility~~
“~~Respecting locks is enough for~~
~~guarantees to meet assumptions~~”
- Local security
“I win ‘floor is lava with levers’ **using locks**”



(For a generic While language with **locks**)

Program verification: My work

(Programmer's perspective)

- Assign **locks** to spaces



- For each thread, **prove**:

- ~~Global compatibility~~
~~“Respecting locks is enough for guarantees to meet assumptions”~~

- Local compliance

“I respect **the locks**”



- Local security

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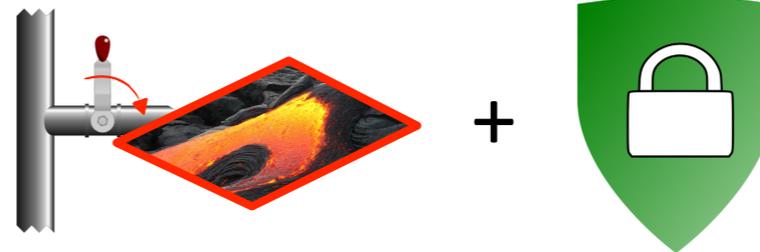


(**Type systems** provide proof method)

Thesis (PhD, 2020)

That “Proving Confidentiality and Its Preservation Under Compilation for **Mixed-Sensitivity Concurrent Programs**” is feasible.

- ~~Program verification~~ Chapter 4



- Compiler verification Chapter 5

- Case study: CDDC Chapter 6

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- Extension to program verification Chapter 7

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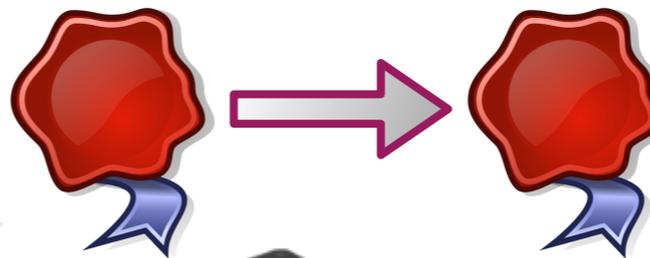
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Chapter 4



- **Compiler verification**

Chapter 5



- Case study: CDDC

Chapter 6

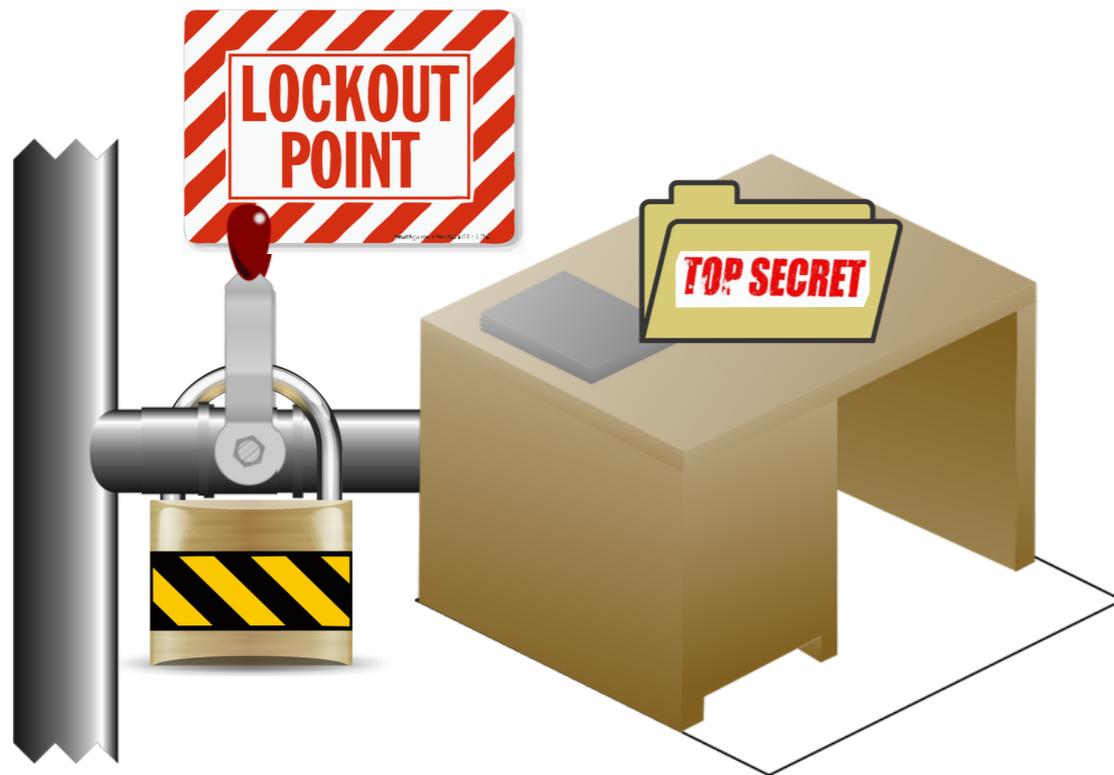


- Extension to program verification

Chapter 7

Verified secure compilation

Say you've proved your **mixed-sensitivity concurrent program** *doesn't leak secrets...*



Verified secure compilation

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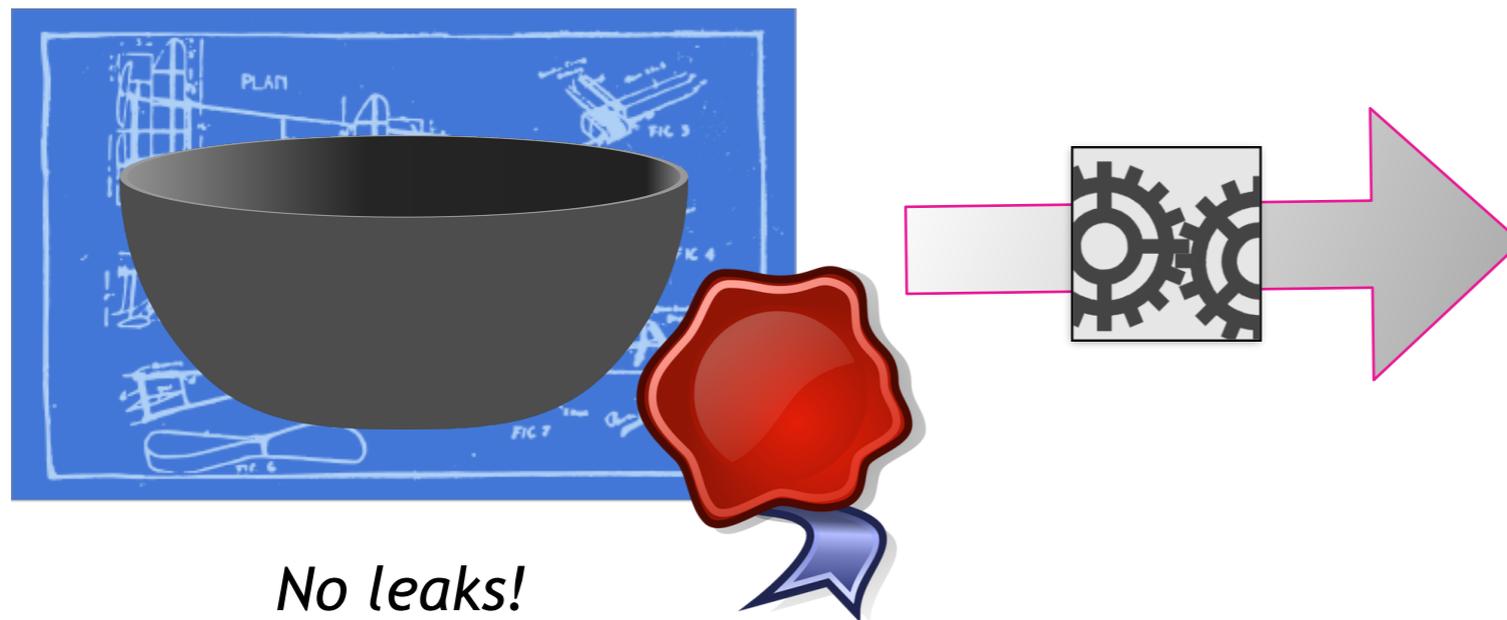


No leaks!

Verified secure compilation

Say you've proved your **mixed-sensitivity concurrent program** *doesn't leak secrets...*

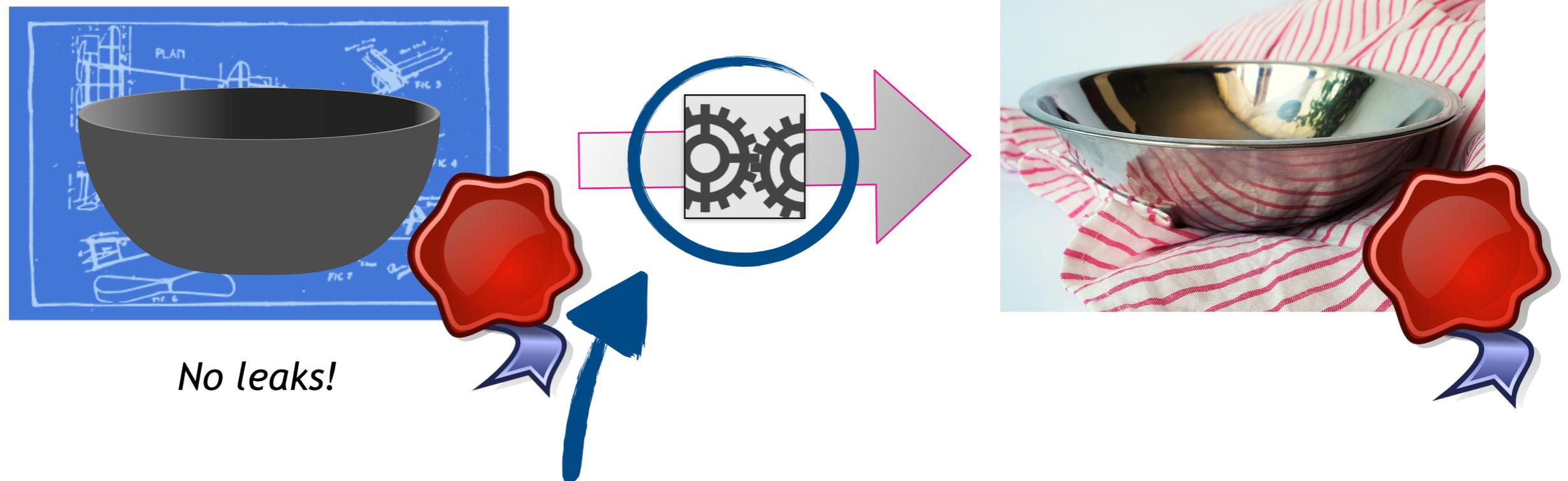
How do you know your compiler won't ***introduce leaks***?



Verified secure compilation

Say you've proved your **mixed-sensitivity concurrent program** *doesn't leak secrets...*

How do you know your compiler won't ***introduce leaks***?



What if **your compiler** could be proved to *preserve* it?

Verified secure compilation

Say you've proved your **mixed-sensitivity concurrent program**
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Here's how!

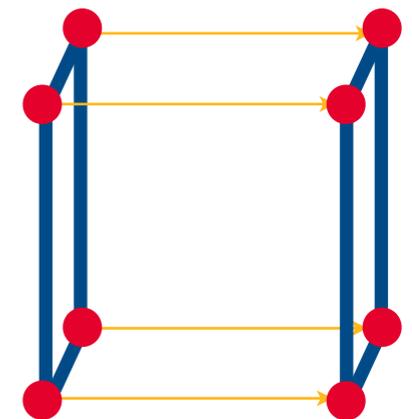
Verified secure compilation

Say you've proved your *mixed-sensitivity concurrent program* *doesn't leak secrets...*

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Here's how!

Prove *confidentiality-preserving* refinement,



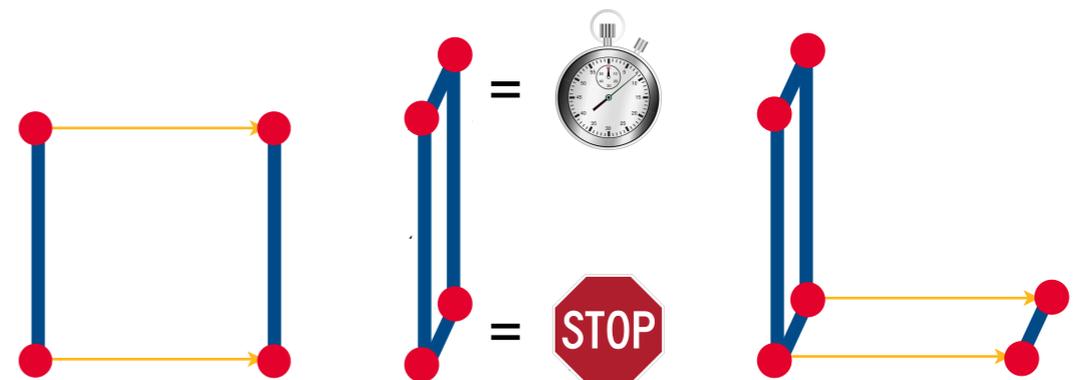
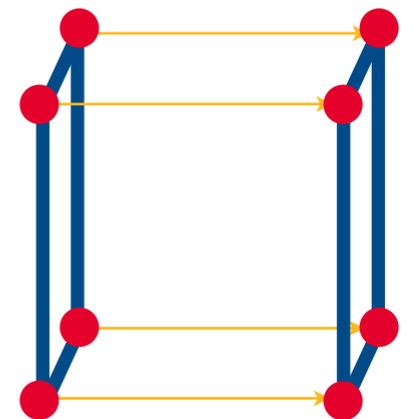
Verified secure compilation

Say you've proved your *mixed-sensitivity concurrent program* *doesn't leak secrets...*

What if **your compiler** could be proved to *preserve* it?

Here's how!

Prove *confidentiality-preserving* refinement,
using a *decomposition principle*.

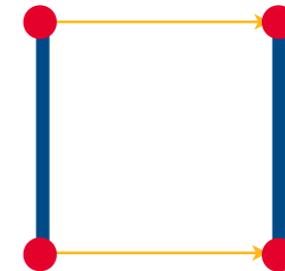


Compiler verification: Prior work

Using interactive theorem proving

- Jinja compiler (Java dialect) - **verified in Isabelle/HOL**
(Klein and Nipkow, 2006) (also)
 + JinjaThreads compiler (for **multithreaded programs**)
 (Lochbihler, 2010)

Note: “Usual” refinement



- CompCert C compiler - **verified in Coq**
(Leroy, 2009)

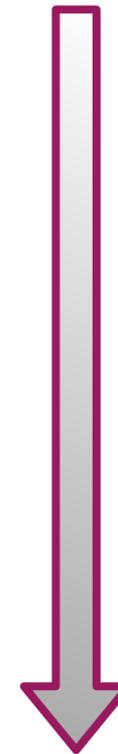
- CakeML compiler (Standard ML dialect) - **verified in HOL4**
(Kumar et al. 2014)

Compiler verification: Prior work

“Usual” refinement

C refines A

Abstract



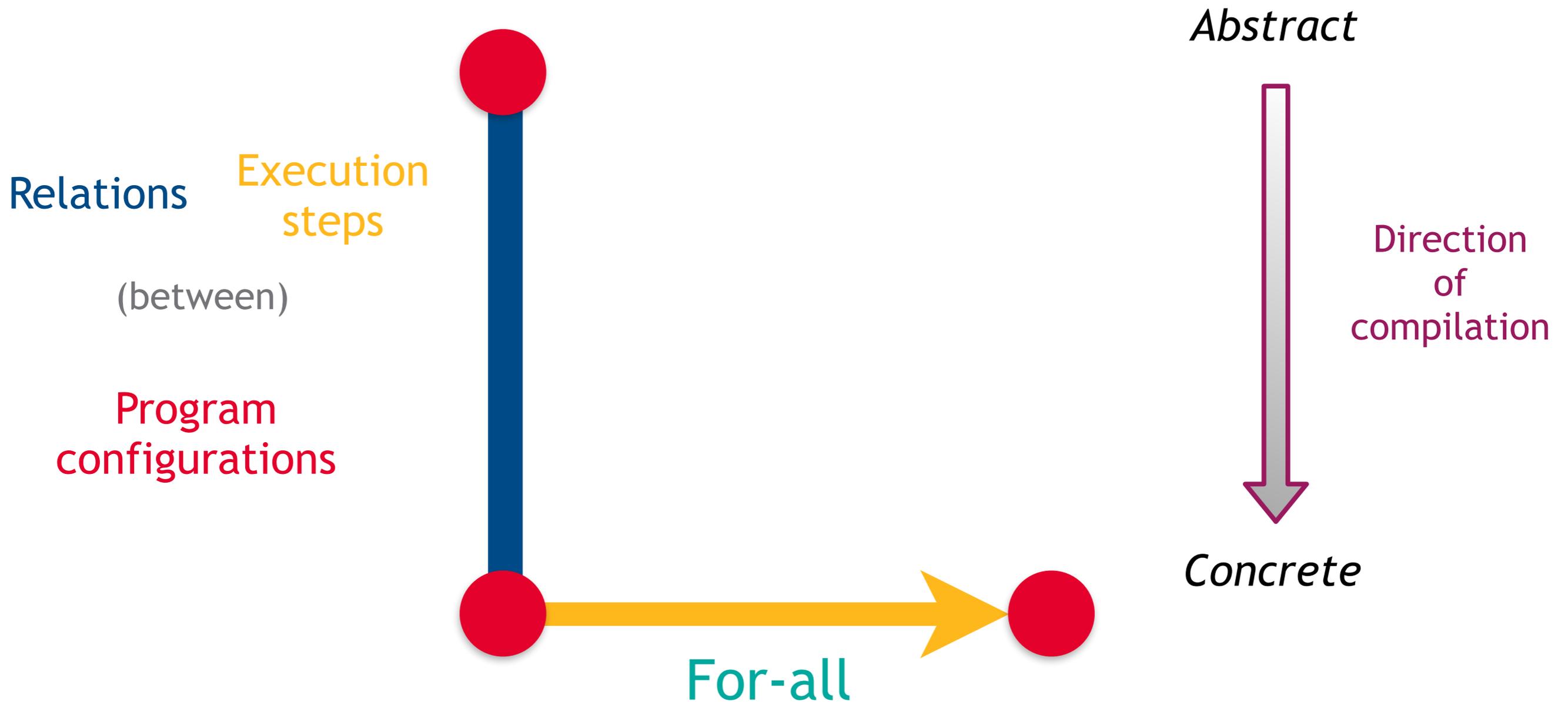
Direction
of
compilation

Concrete

Compiler verification: Prior work

“Usual” refinement

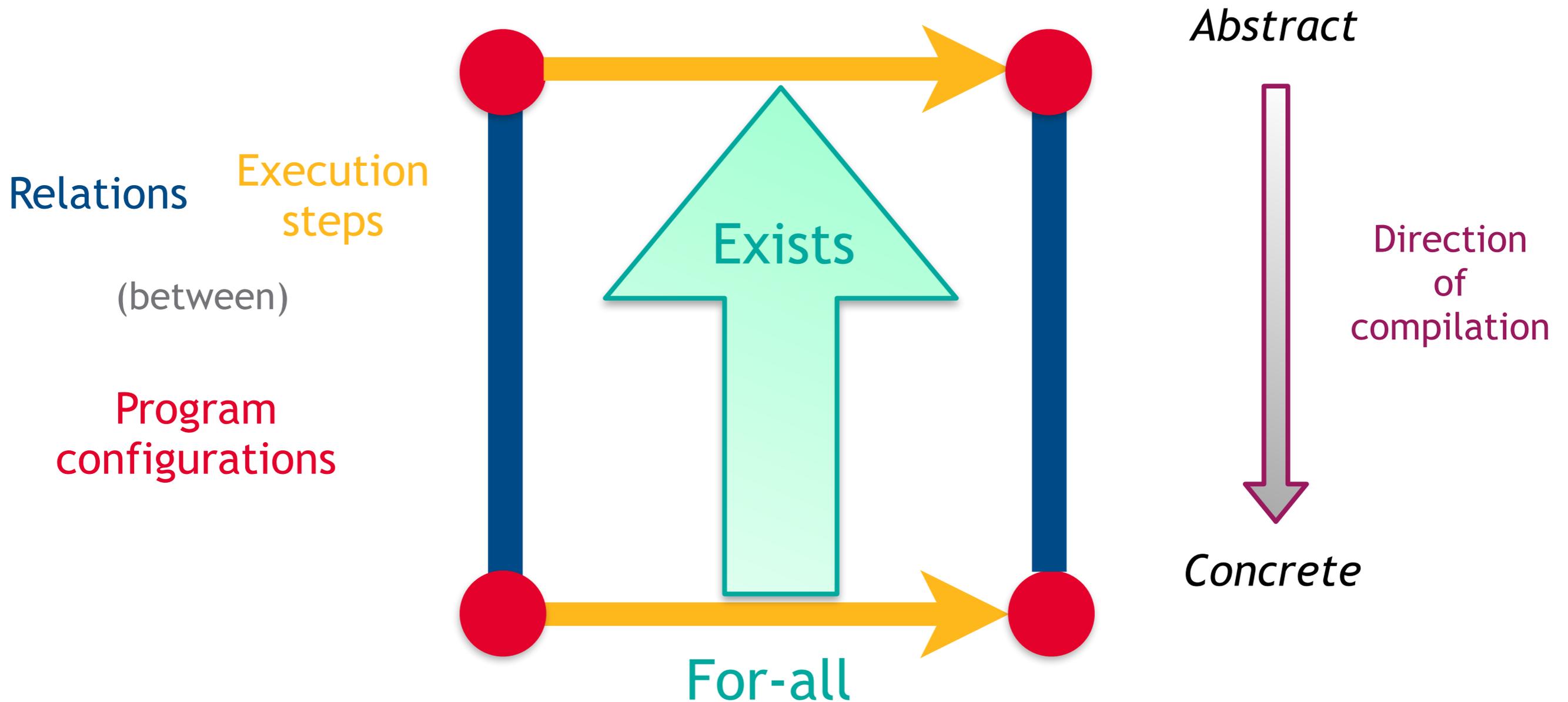
C refines A



Compiler verification: Prior work

“Usual” refinement

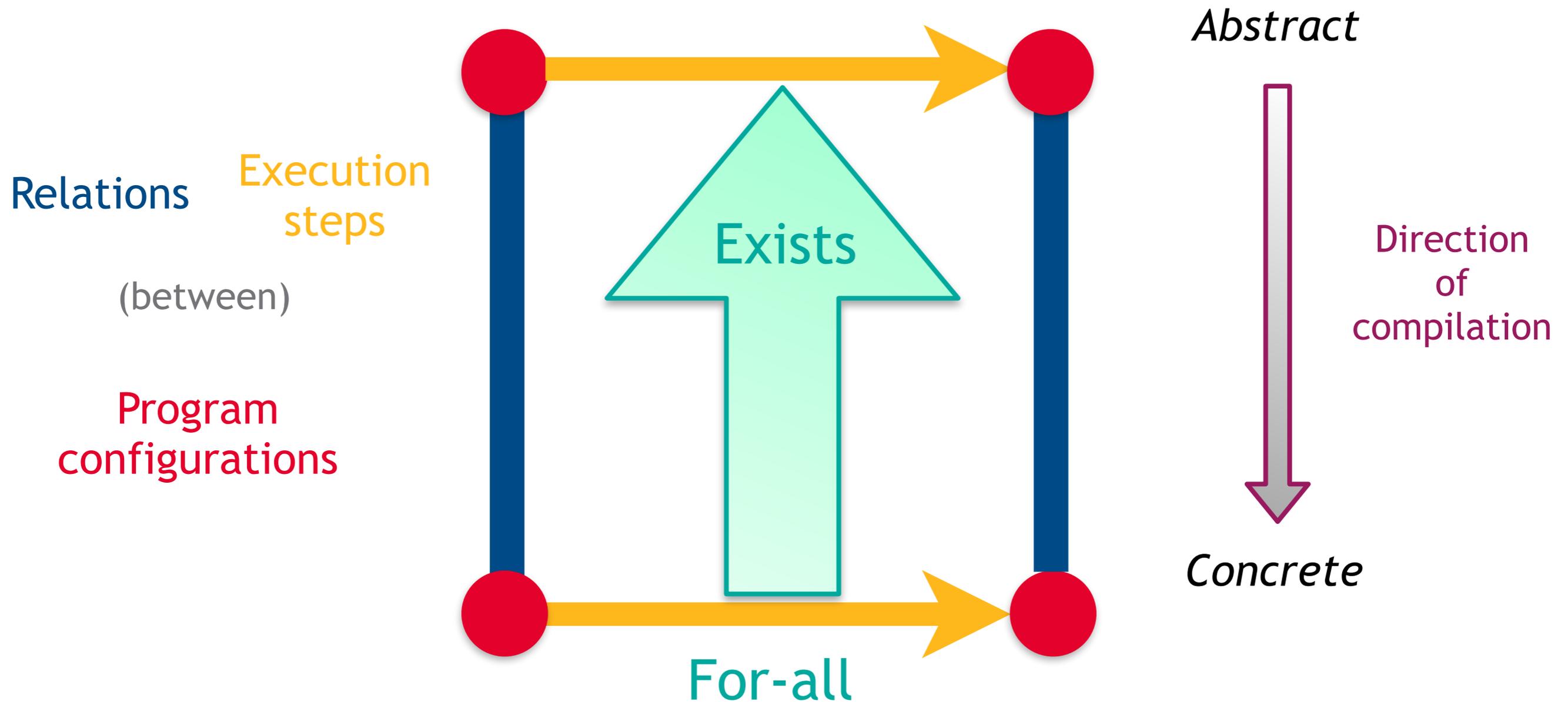
A **simulates** C \Rightarrow C **refines** A



Compiler verification: Prior work

Confidentiality-preserving refinement

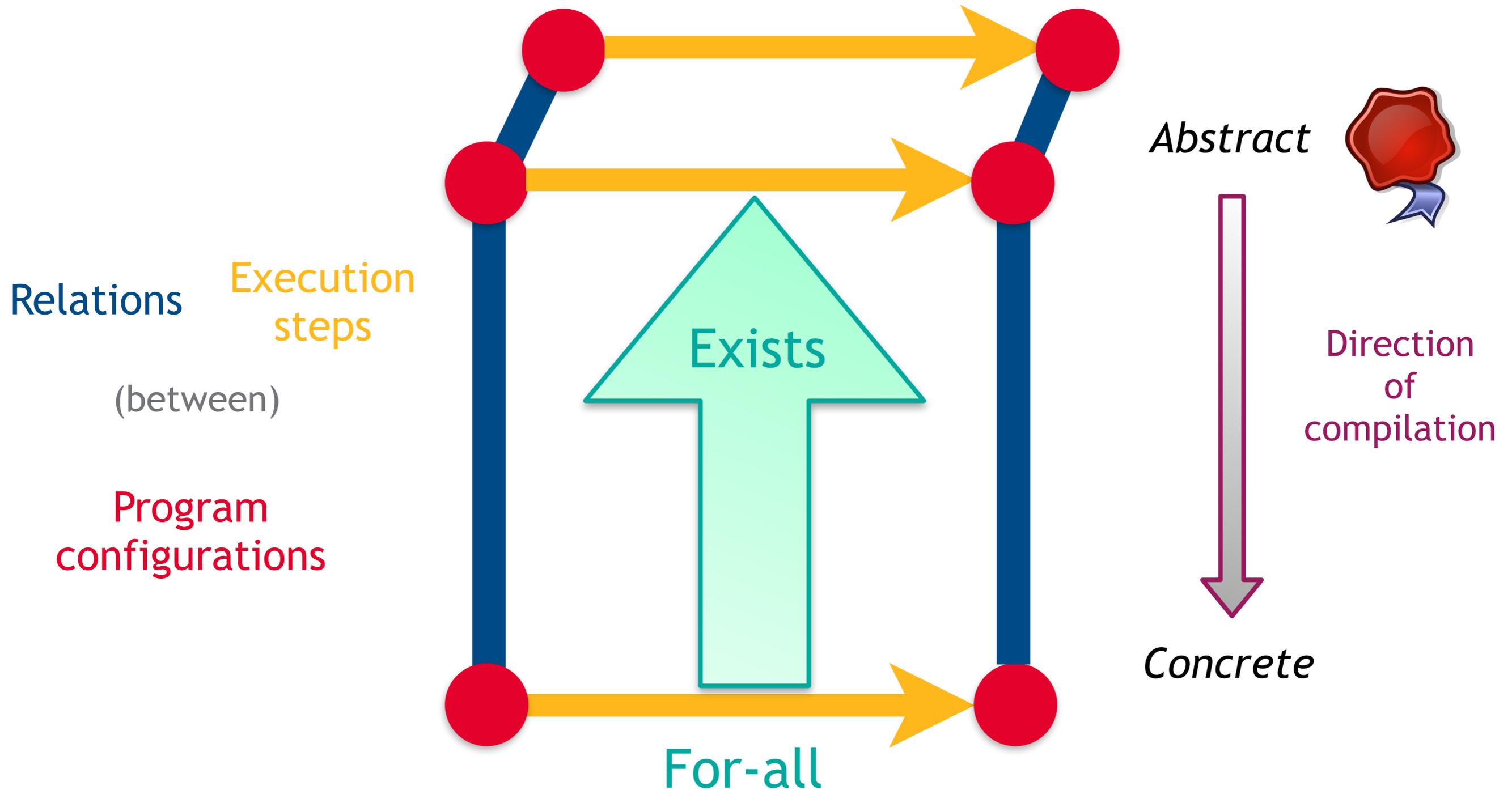
(Murray, Sison, Pierzchalski, Rizkallah 2016)



Compiler verification: Prior work

*Confidentiality-preserving
refinement*

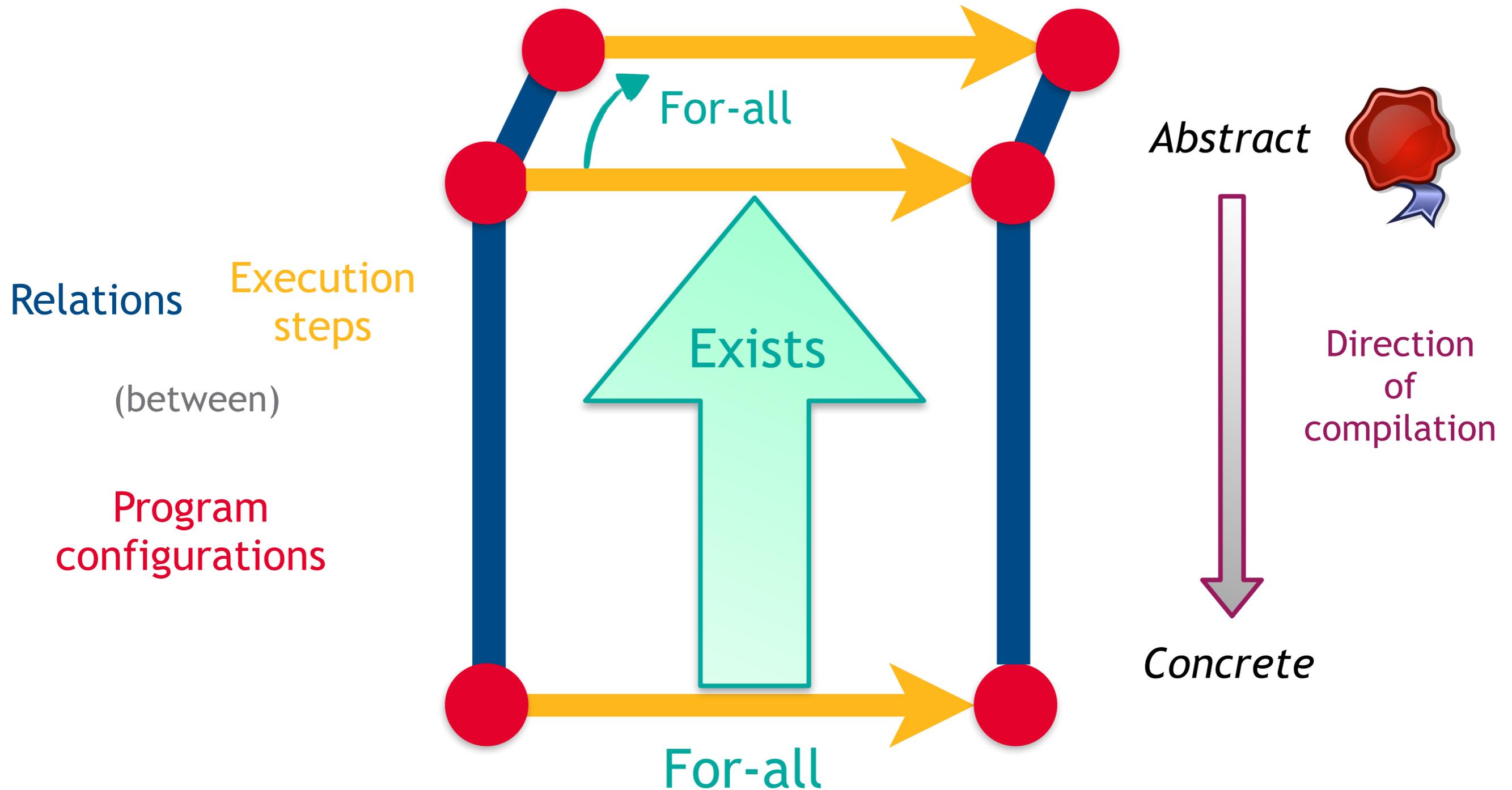
(Murray, Sison, Pierzchalski, Rizkallah 2016)



Compiler verification: Prior work

Confidentiality-preserving refinement

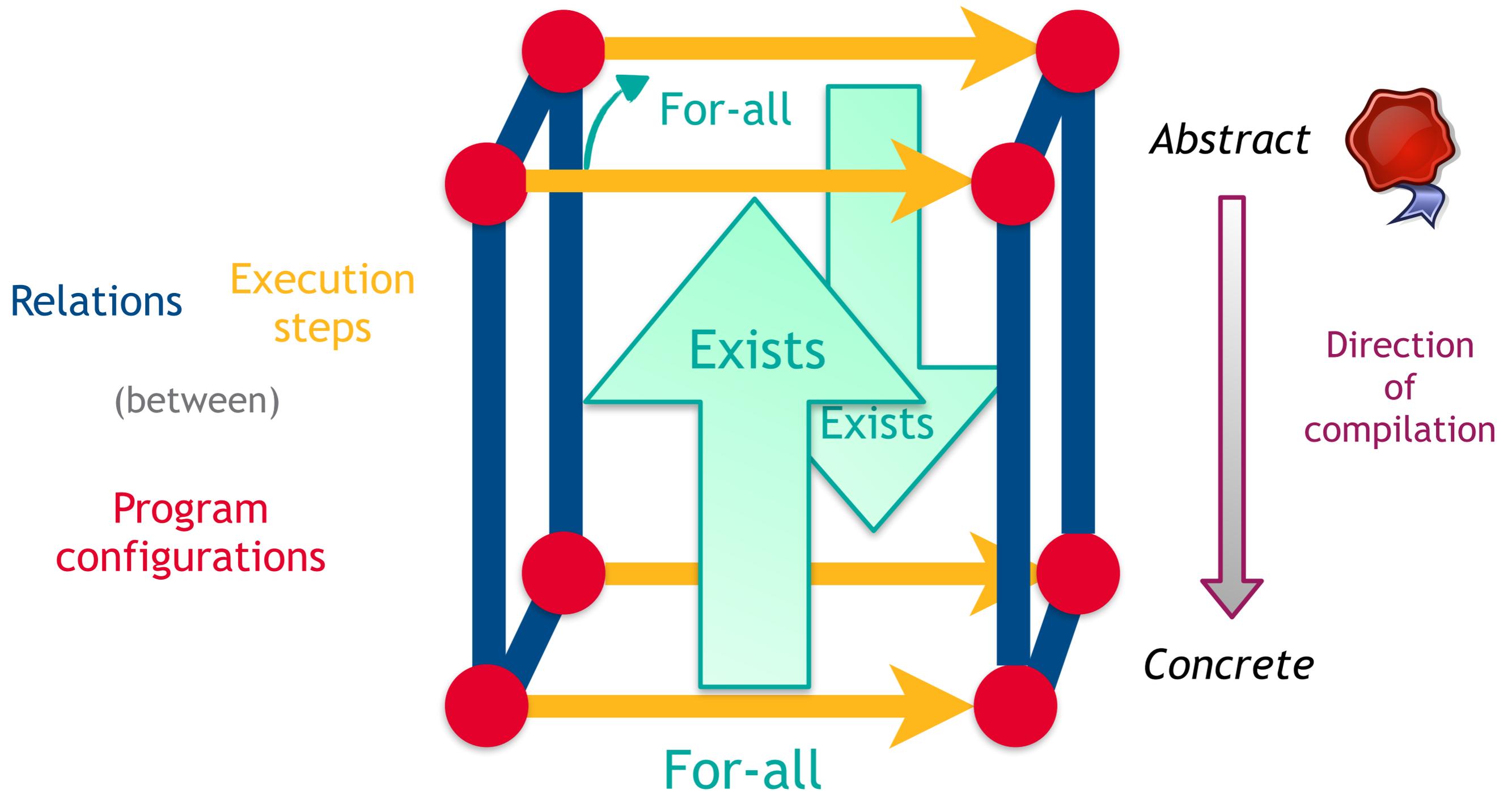
(Murray, Sison, Pierzchalski, Rizkallah 2016)



Compiler verification: Prior work

*Confidentiality-preserving
refinement*

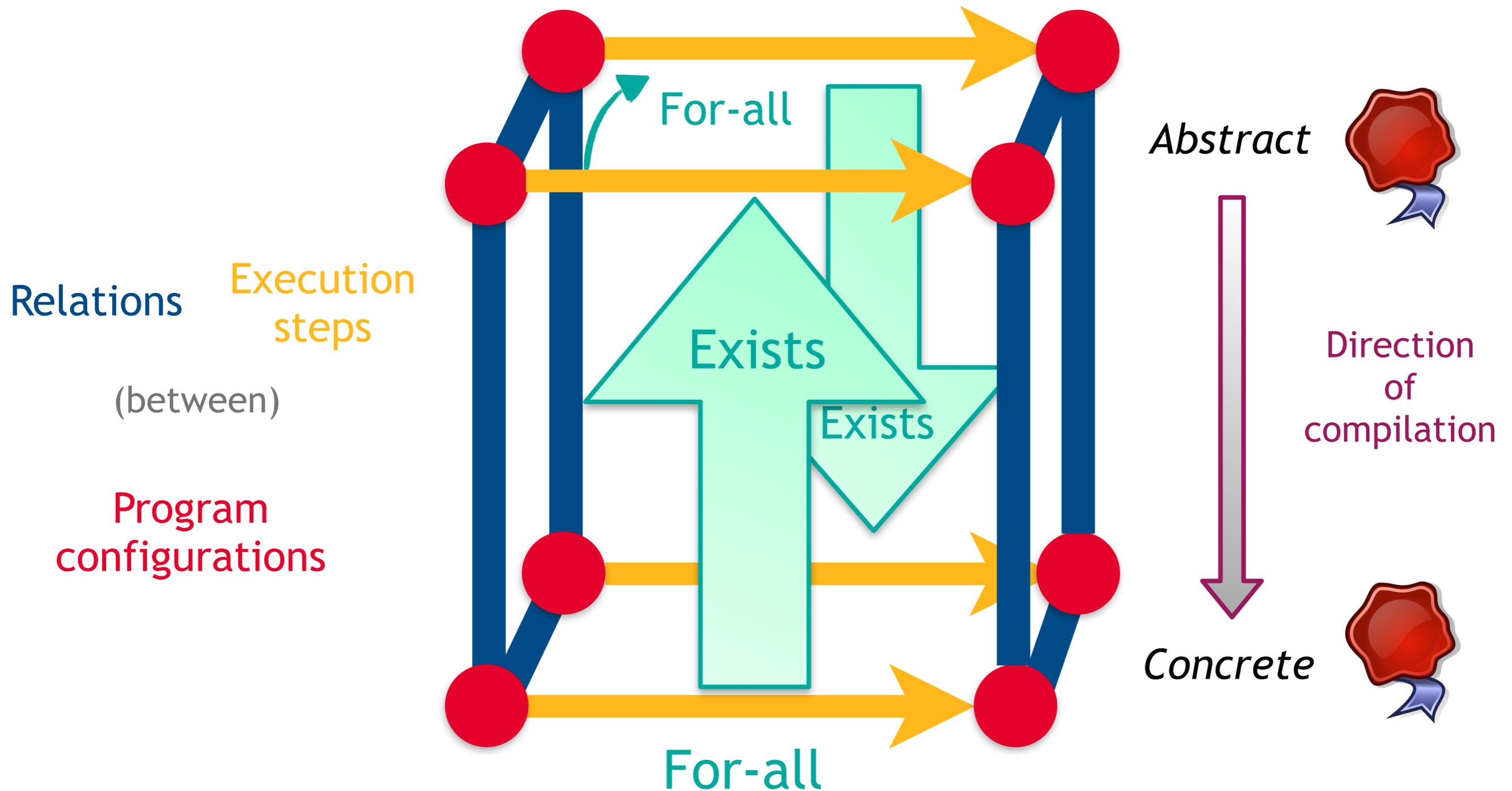
(Murray, Sison, Pierzchalski, Rizkallah 2016)



Compiler verification: Prior work

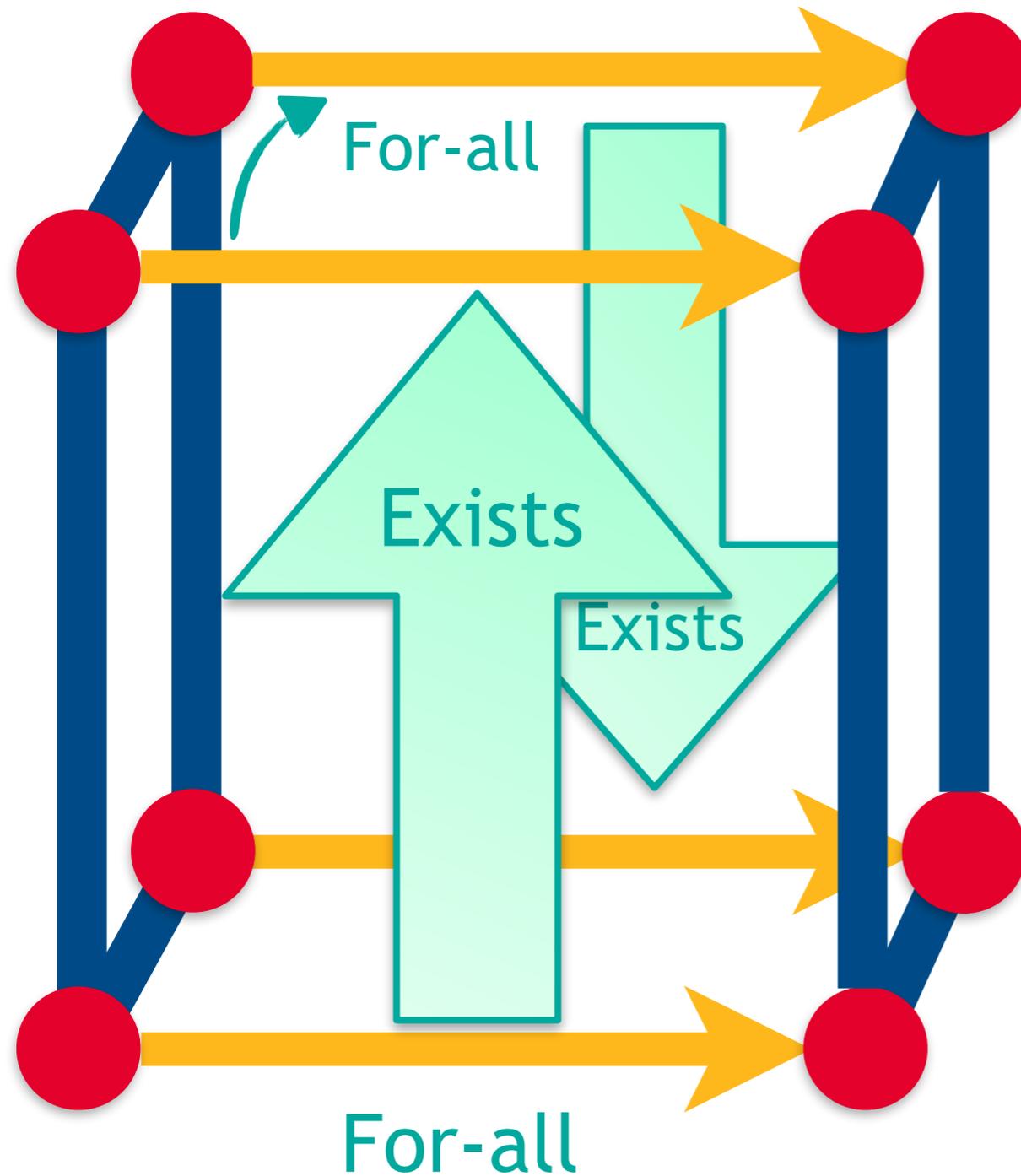
Confidentiality-preserving refinement

(Murray, Sison, Pierzchalski, Rizkallah 2016)



Compiler verification: My work

(Compiler based on Tedesco et al. 2016)



Abstract

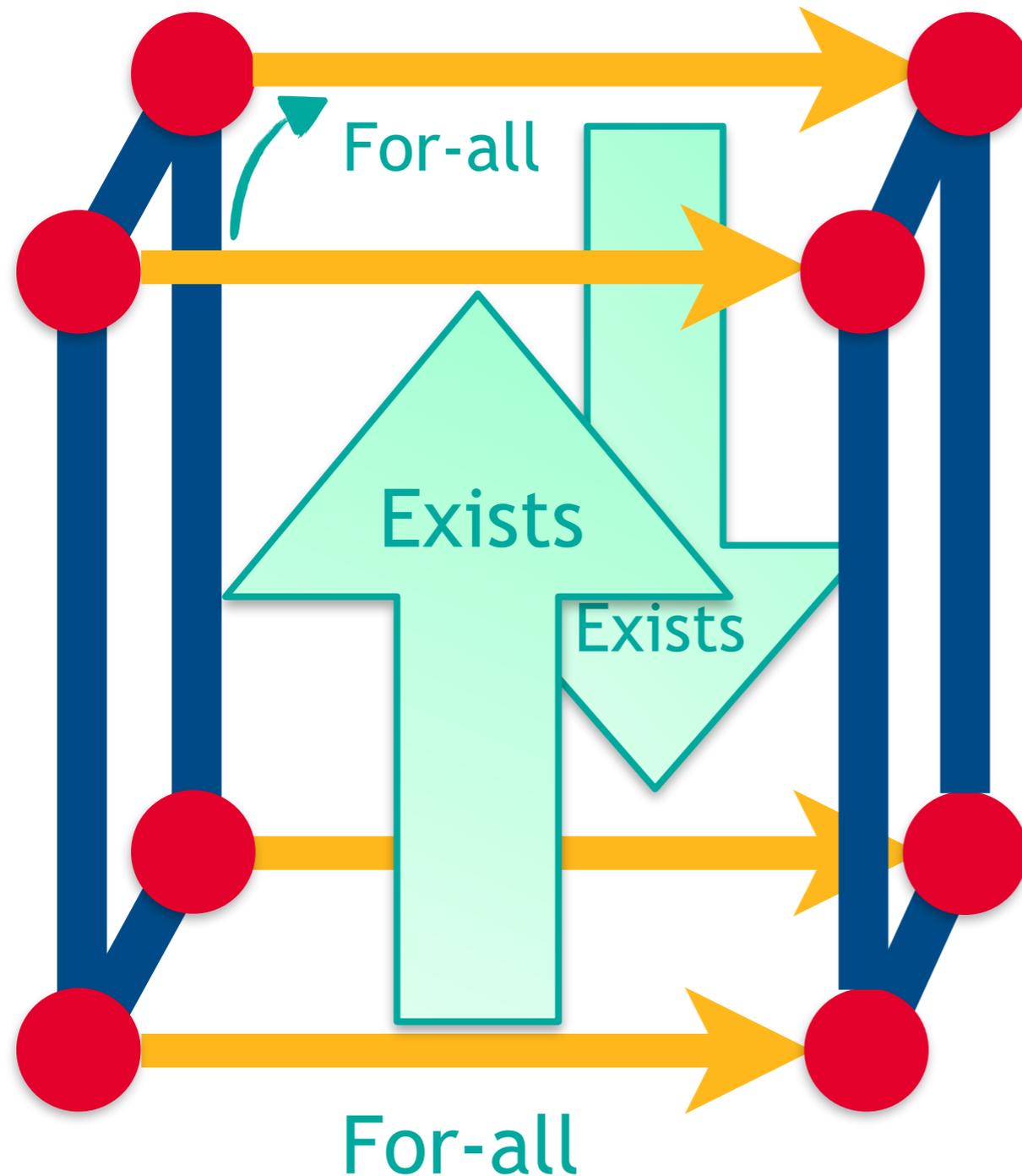


Direction
of
compilation

Concrete

Compiler verification: My work

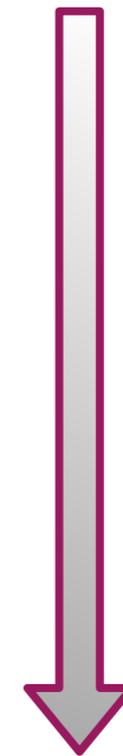
(Compiler based on
Tedesco et al. 2016)



Generic
While language
with locks



Direction
of
compilation

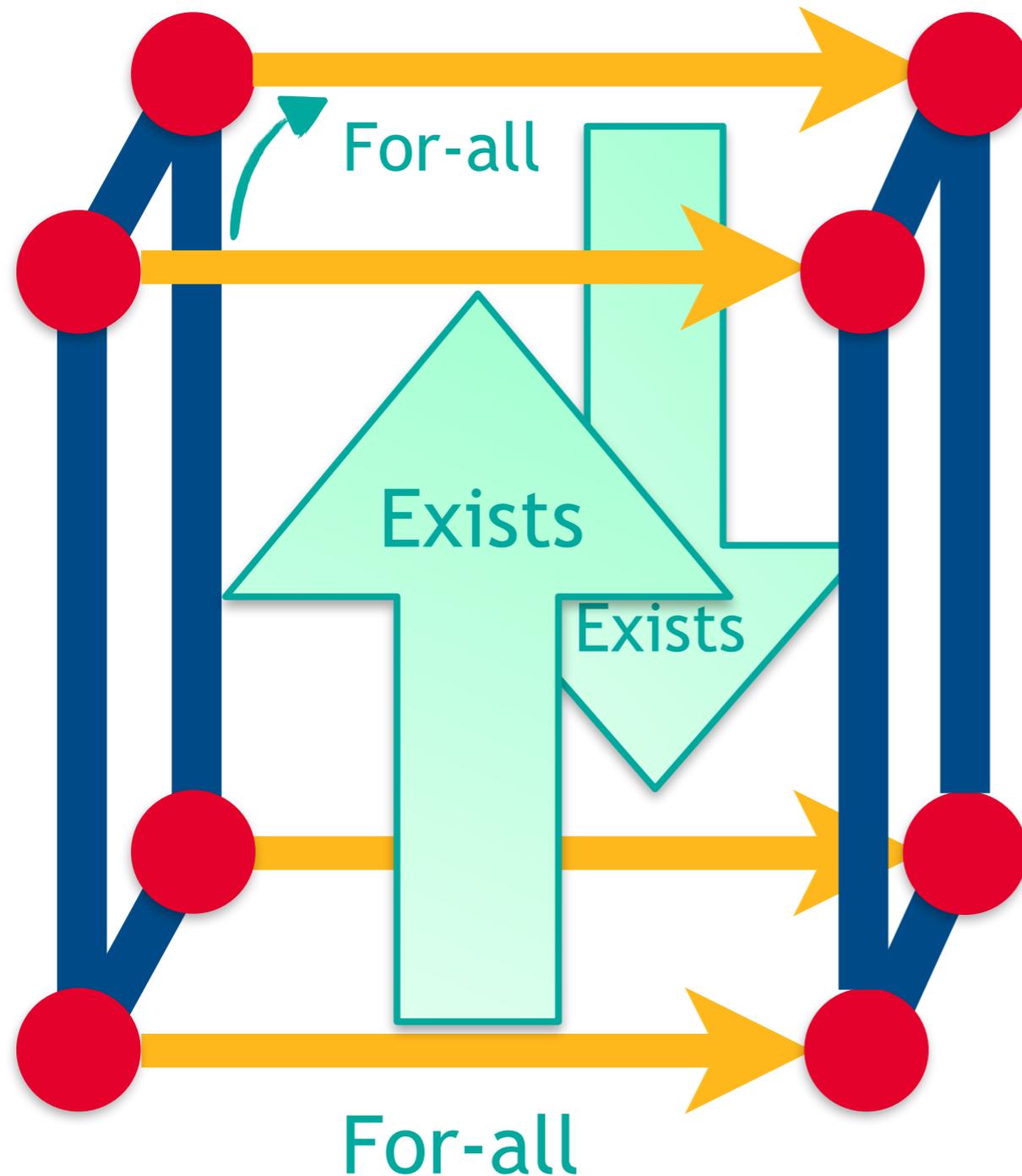


Generic
RISC assembly
with locks

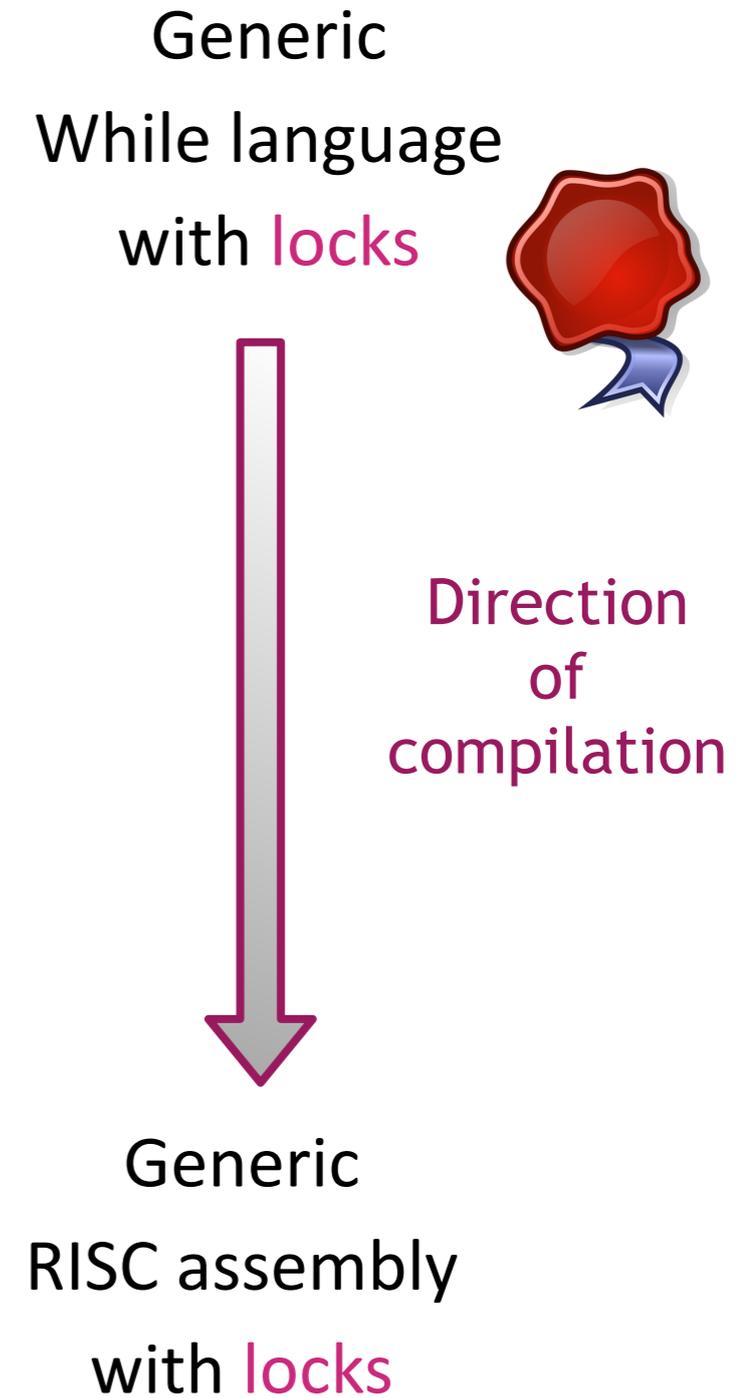
Compiler verification: My work

Using a *decomposition principle*

(Thanks to Toby Murray)



(Compiler based on
Tedesco et al. 2016)

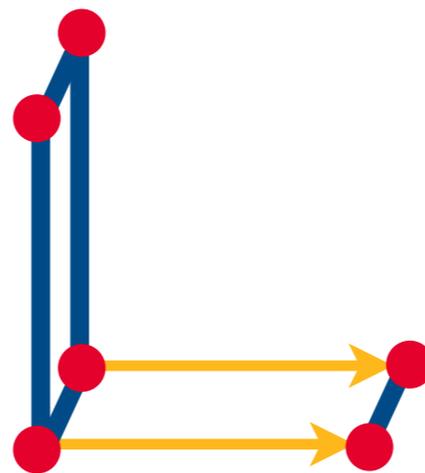
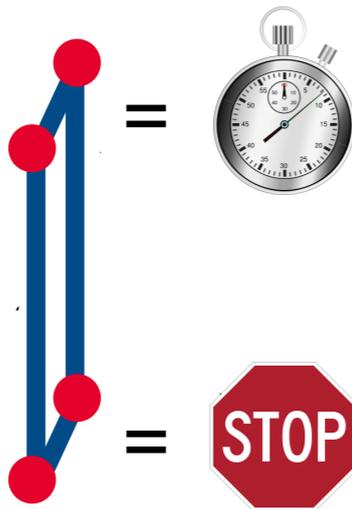
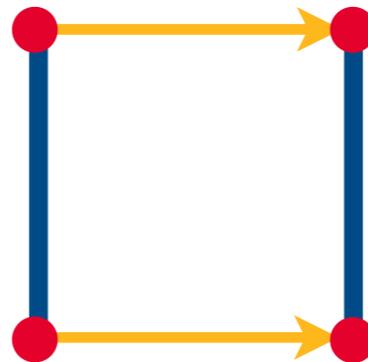


Compiler verification: My work

Using a *decomposition principle*

(Thanks to Toby Murray)

- The “usual” refinement, with no changes to locking:



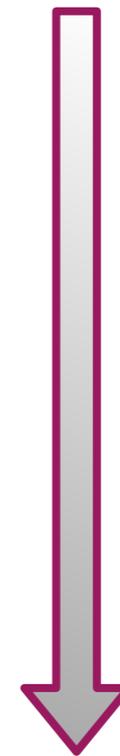
(Compiler based on Tedesco et al. 2016)

Generic

While language with locks



Direction of compilation



Generic RISC assembly with locks

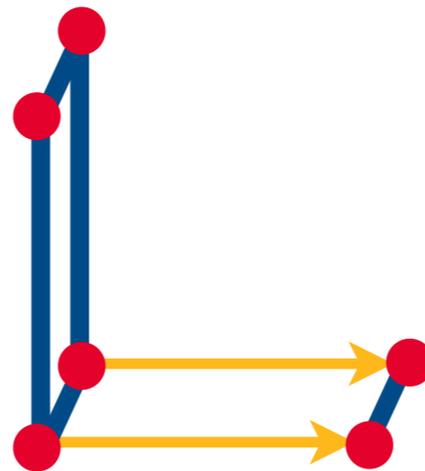
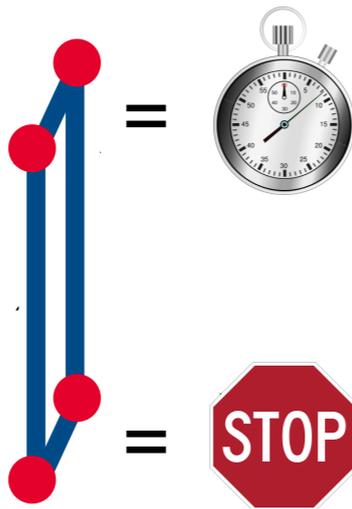
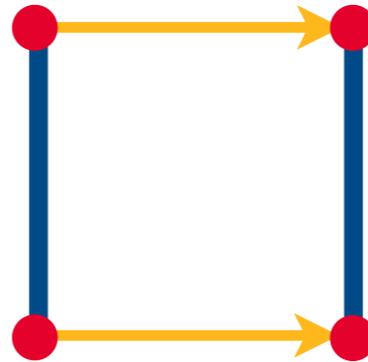
Compiler verification: My work

Using a *decomposition principle*

(Thanks to Toby Murray)

- The “usual” refinement,
with no changes to locking:

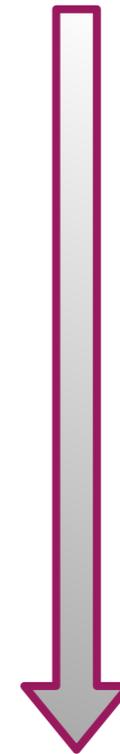
+ Using knowledge that
spaces are locked



(Compiler based on
Tedesco et al. 2016)

Generic

While language
with locks



Direction
of
compilation

Generic
RISC assembly
with locks

Compiler verification: My work

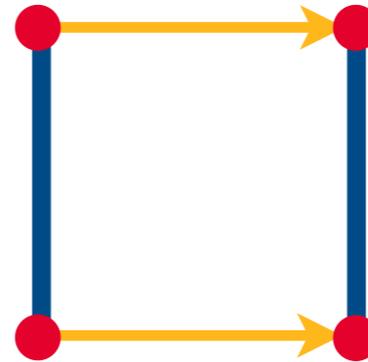
Using a *decomposition principle*

(Thanks to Toby Murray)

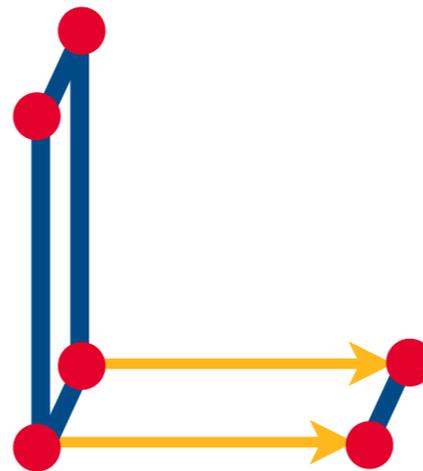
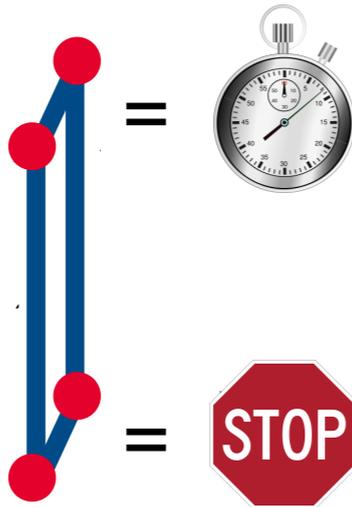
(Compiler based on Tedesco et al. 2016)

- The “usual” refinement, with no changes to locking:

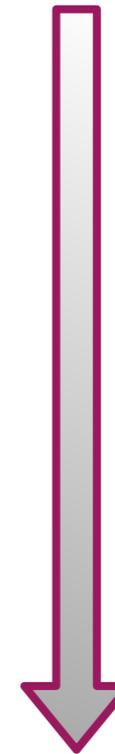
+ Using knowledge that spaces are locked



- No new *timing*, *stopping*, or *branching* based on secret information:



Generic
While language
with locks



Direction
of
compilation

Generic
RISC assembly
with locks

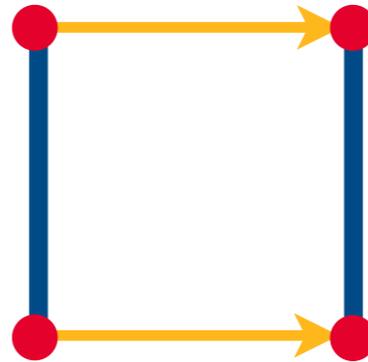
Compiler verification: My work

Using a *decomposition principle*

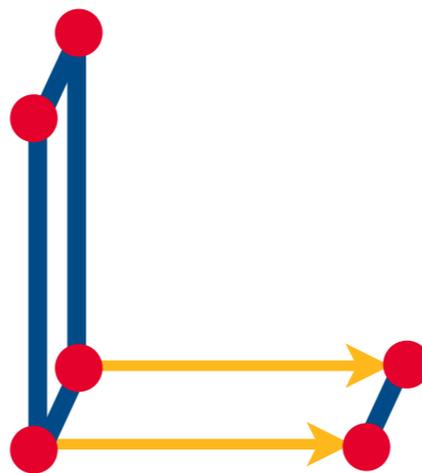
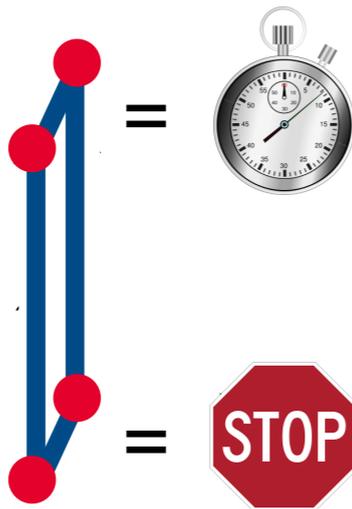
(Thanks to Toby Murray)

- The “usual” refinement,
with no changes to locking:

+ Using knowledge that
spaces are locked



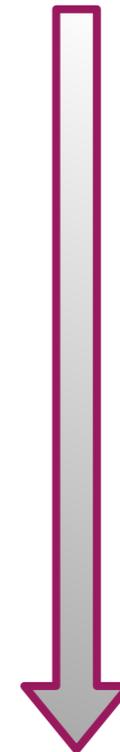
- No new *timing*, *stopping*, or *branching* based
on secret information:



(Compiler based on
Tedesco et al. 2016)

Generic

While language
with locks



Direction
of
compilation

Generic
RISC assembly
with locks



Thesis (PhD, 2020)

That “Proving Confidentiality and Its Preservation Under Compilation for **Mixed-Sensitivity Concurrent Programs**” is feasible.

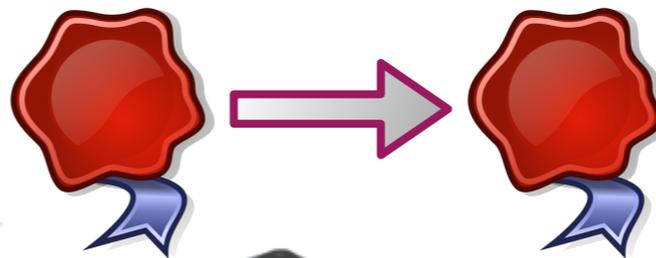
- ~~Program verification~~

Chapter 4



- ~~Compiler verification~~

Chapter 5



- Case study: CDDC

Chapter 6



- Extension to program verification

Chapter 7

Case study

Methodology in Isabelle/HOL

Program verification

- Assign locks to spaces
- For each thread, prove:

- Local compliance
“I respect the locks”

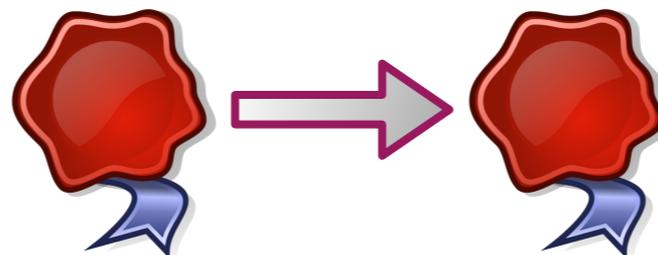
- Local security
“I win ‘floor is lava with levers’ using locks”



- ~~Global compatibility~~
“~~Respecting locks is enough for~~
~~guarantees to meet assumptions~~”



Compiler application



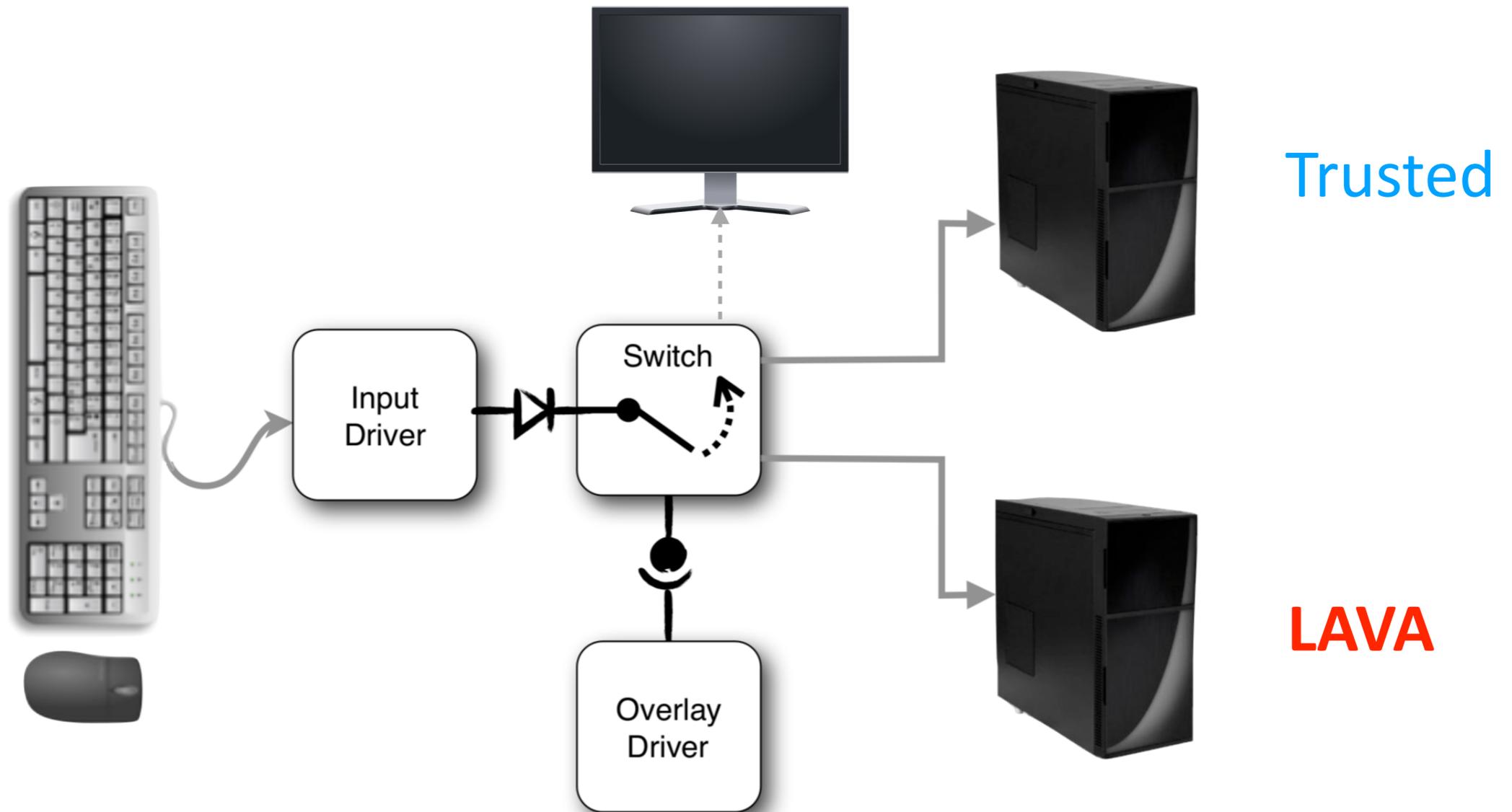
Case study

Cross Domain Desktop Compositor HID switch



Case study

Cross Domain Desktop Compositor HID switch

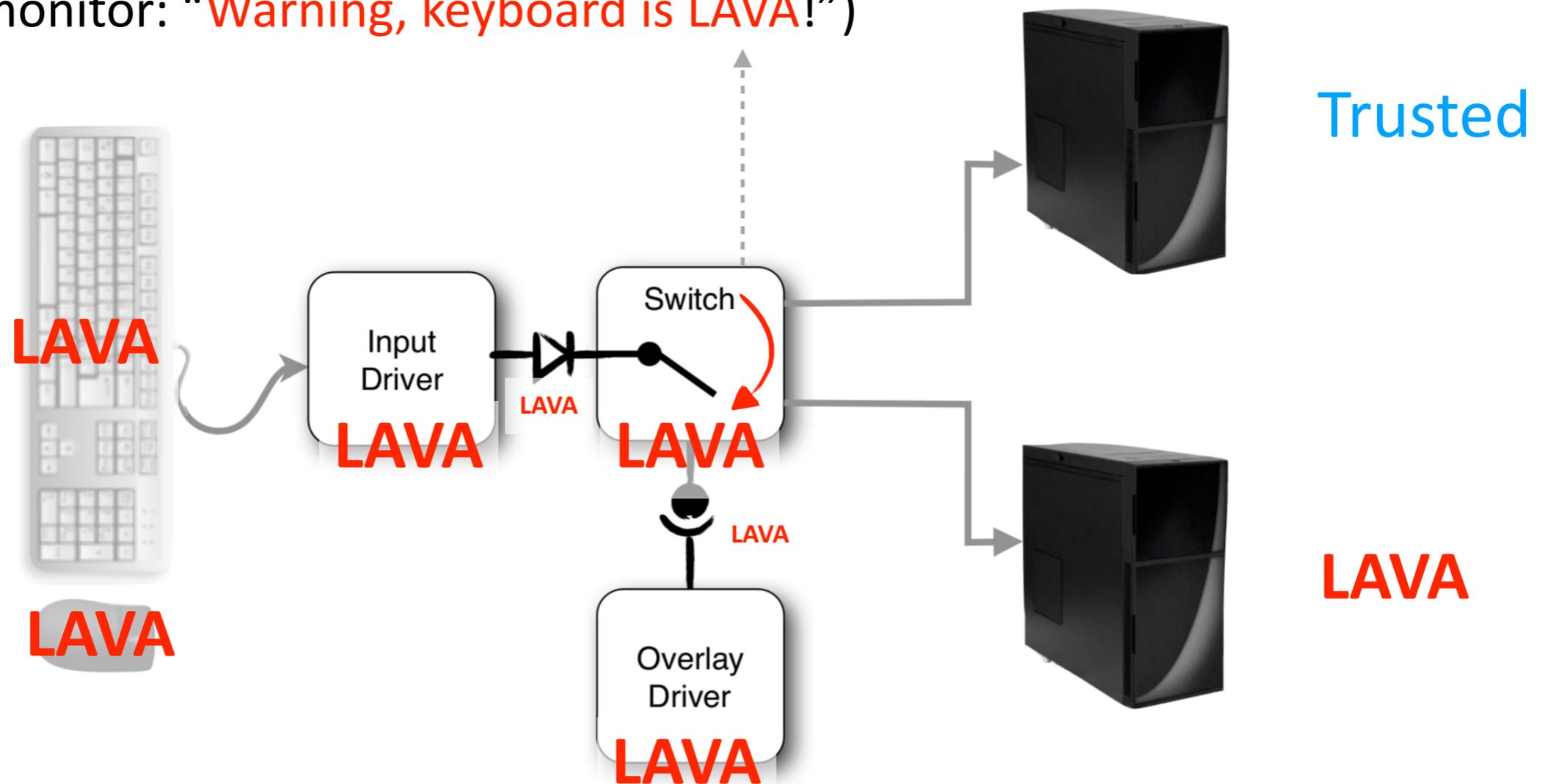


seL4 component architecture, functional schematic

Case study

Cross Domain Desktop Compositor HID switch

(On video monitor: “Warning, keyboard is LAVA!”)

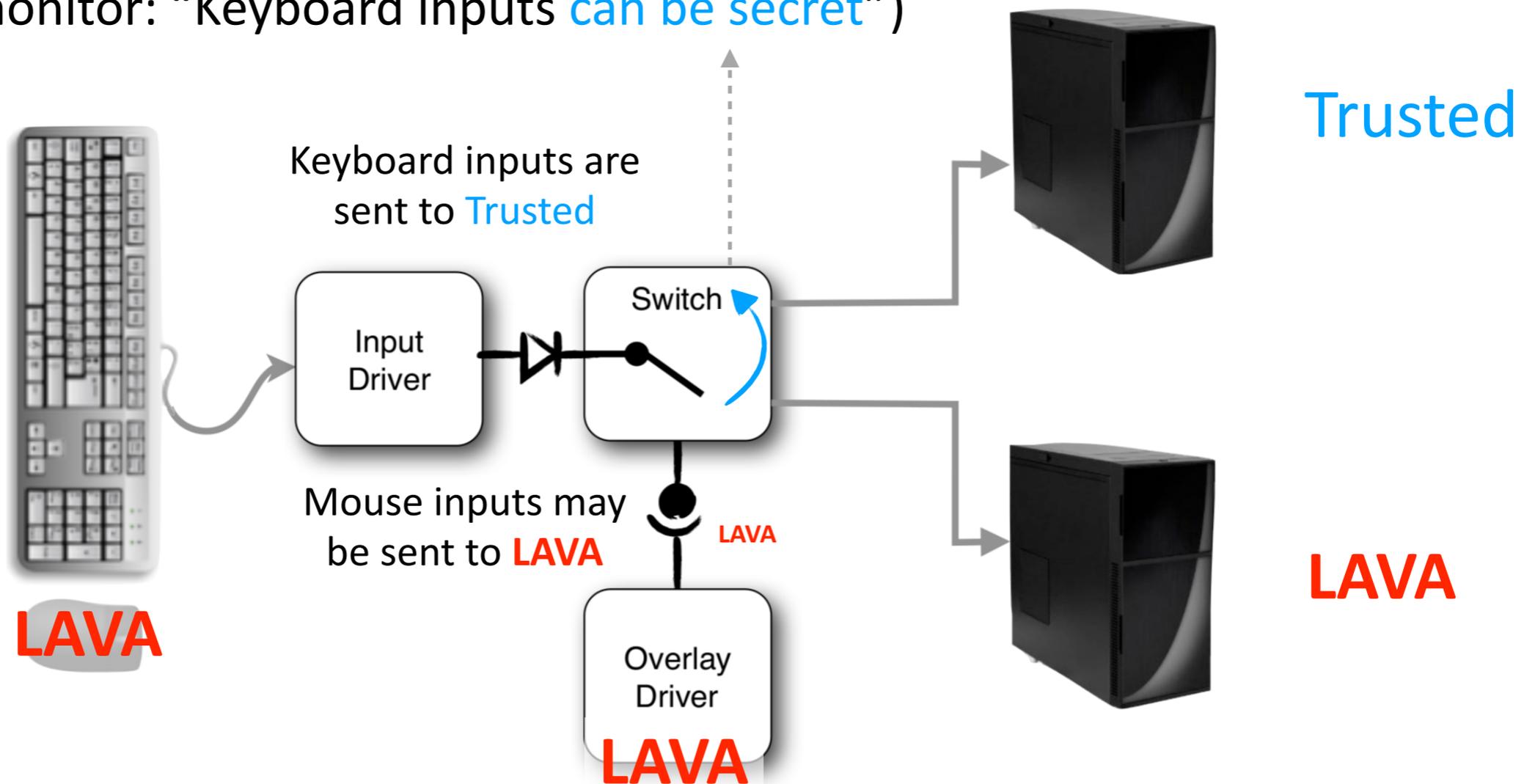


seL4 component architecture, functional schematic

Case study

Cross Domain Desktop Compositor HID switch

(On video monitor: “Keyboard inputs **can be secret**”)

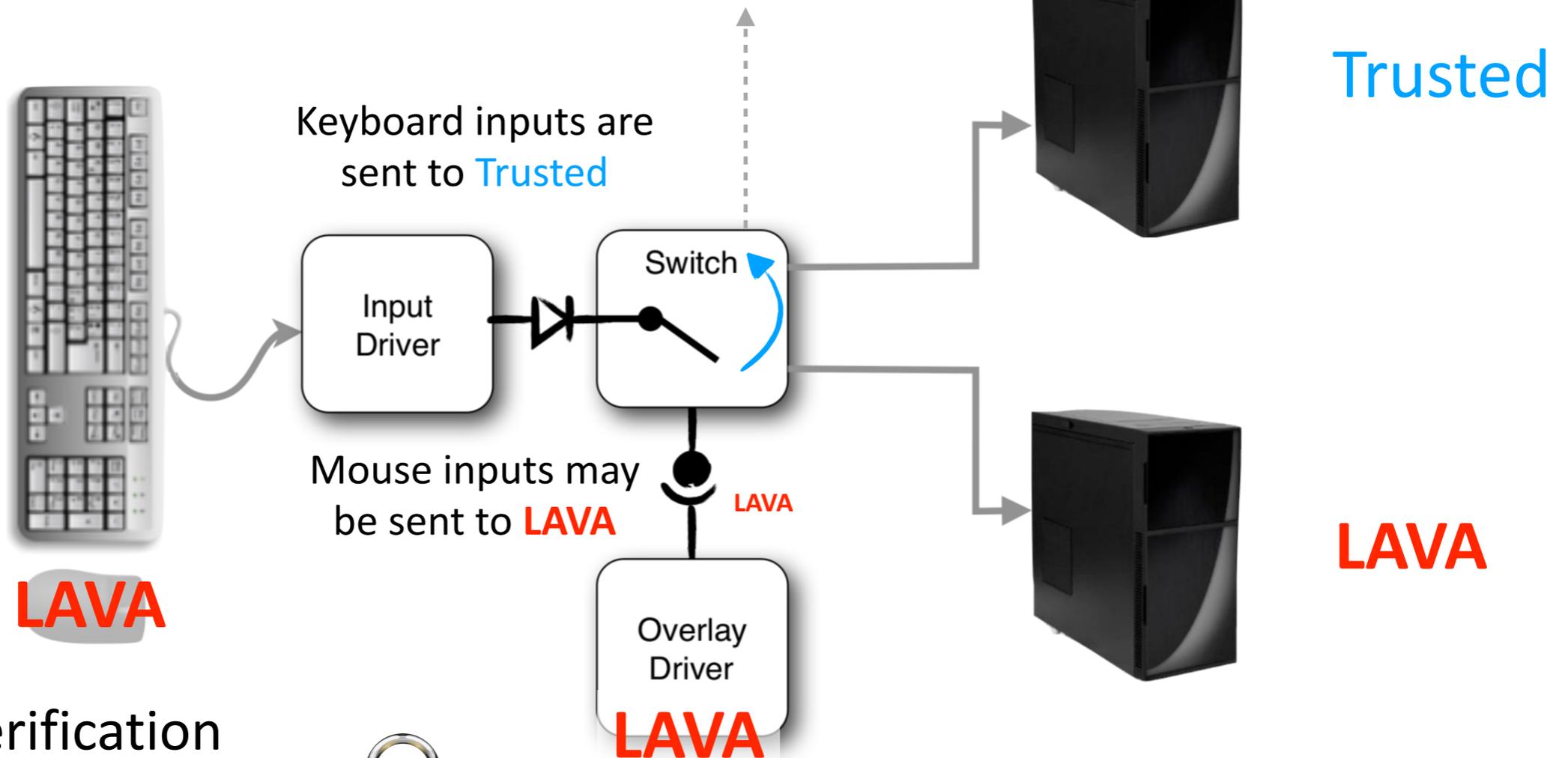


seL4 component architecture, functional schematic

Case study

Cross Domain Desktop Compositor HID switch

(On video monitor: “Keyboard inputs can be secret”)



Program verification

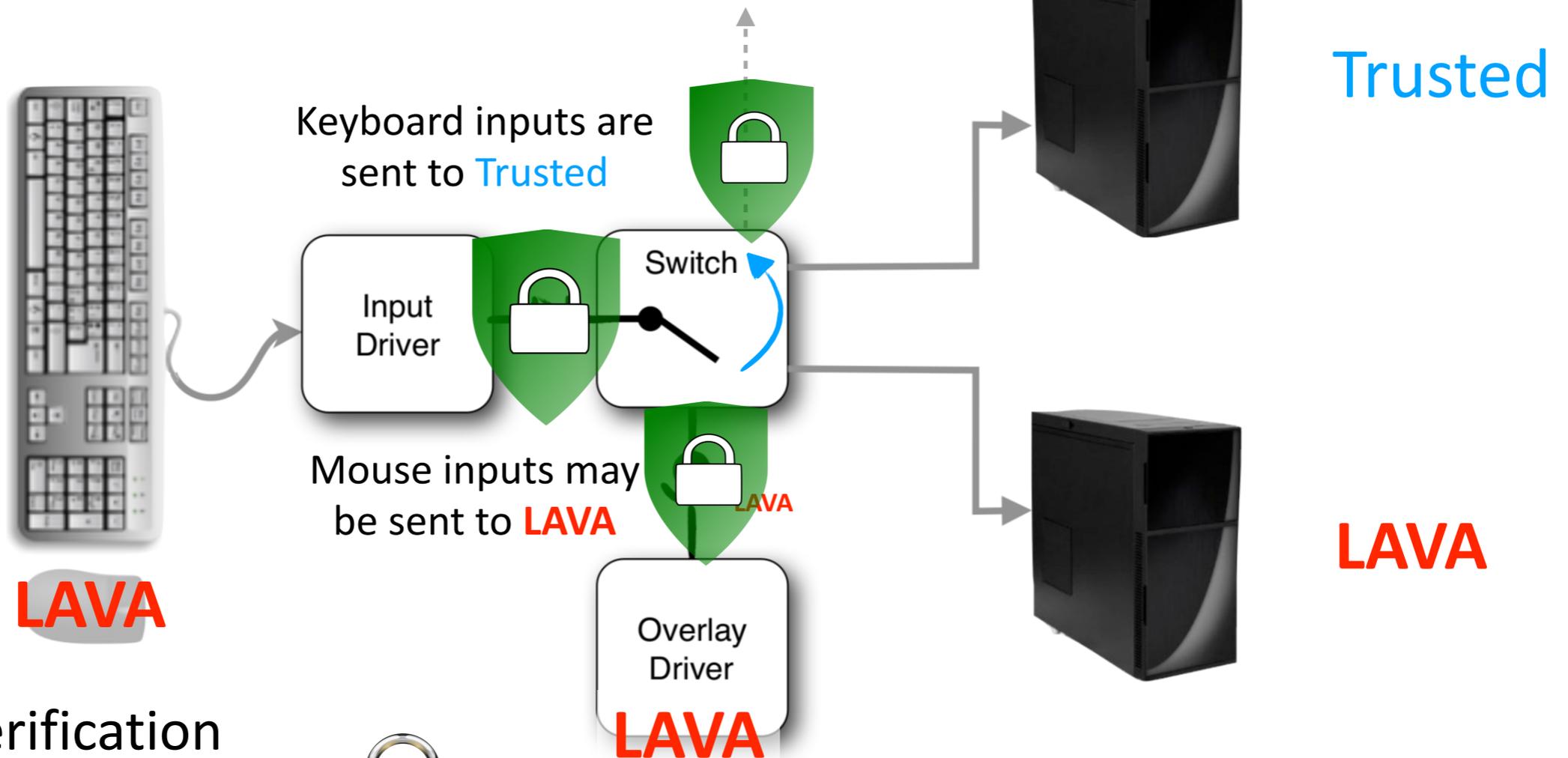
- Assign locks to spaces



Case study

Cross Domain Desktop Compositor HID switch

(On video monitor: “Keyboard inputs **can be secret**”)



Program verification

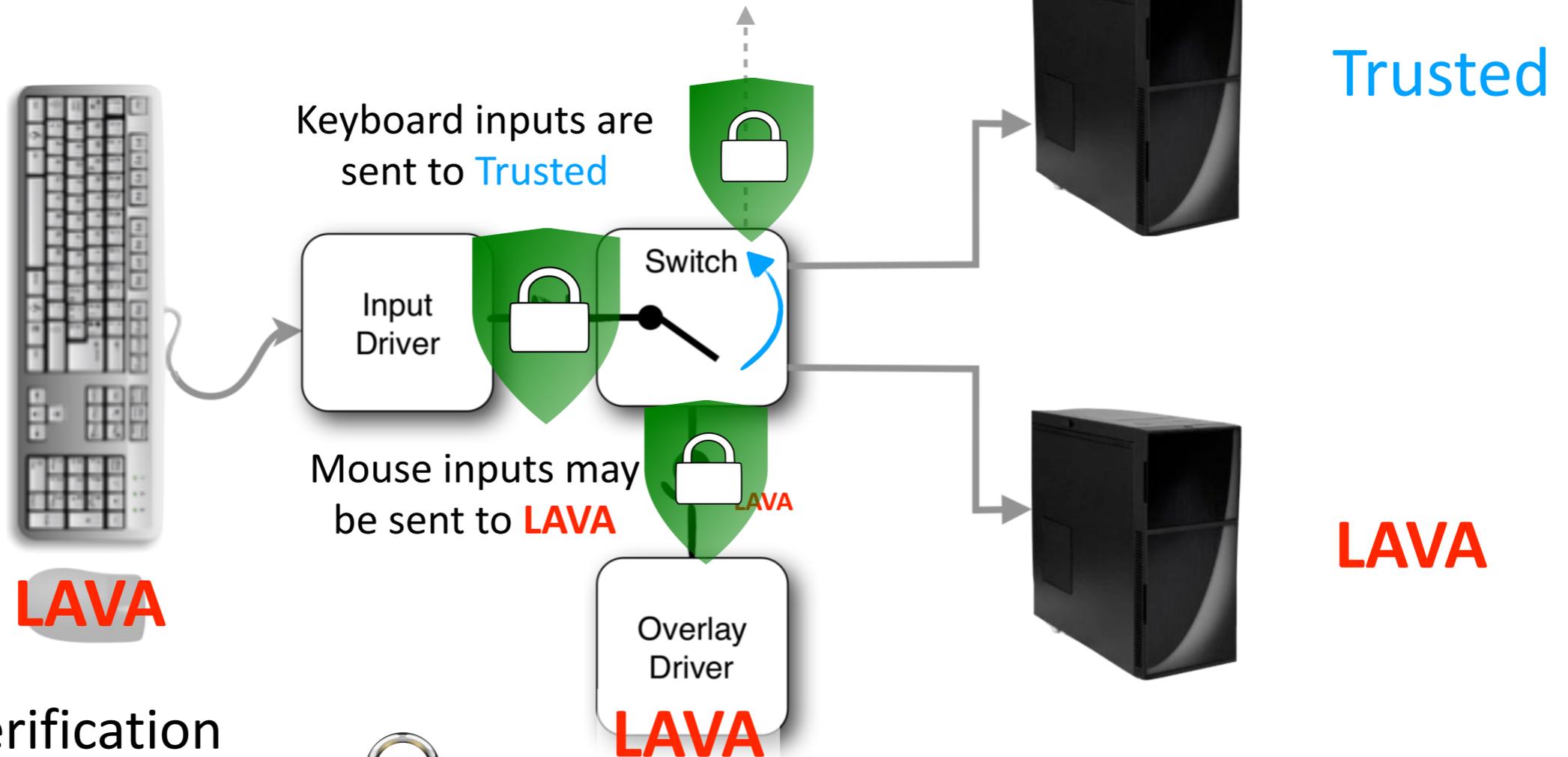
- Assign locks to spaces



Case study

Cross Domain Desktop Compositor HID switch

(On video monitor: “Keyboard inputs **can be secret**”)



Program verification

- Assign locks to spaces
- For each thread, prove:
 - Local compliance
“I respect the locks”



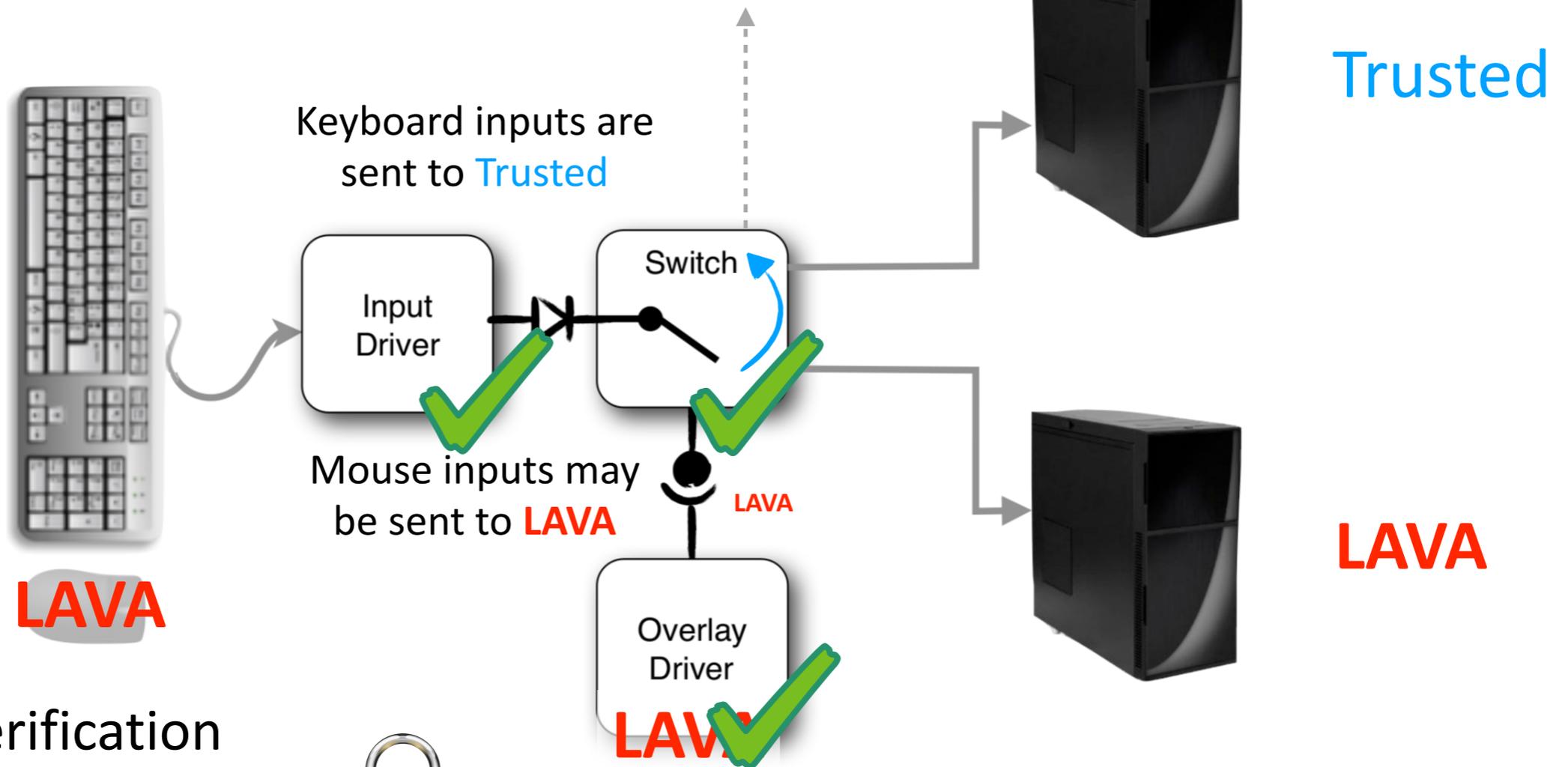
- Local security
“I win ‘floor is lava with levers and locks’”



Case study

Cross Domain Desktop Compositor HID switch

(On video monitor: “Keyboard inputs **can be secret**”)



Program verification

- Assign locks to spaces
- For each thread, prove:
 - Local compliance
“I respect the locks”



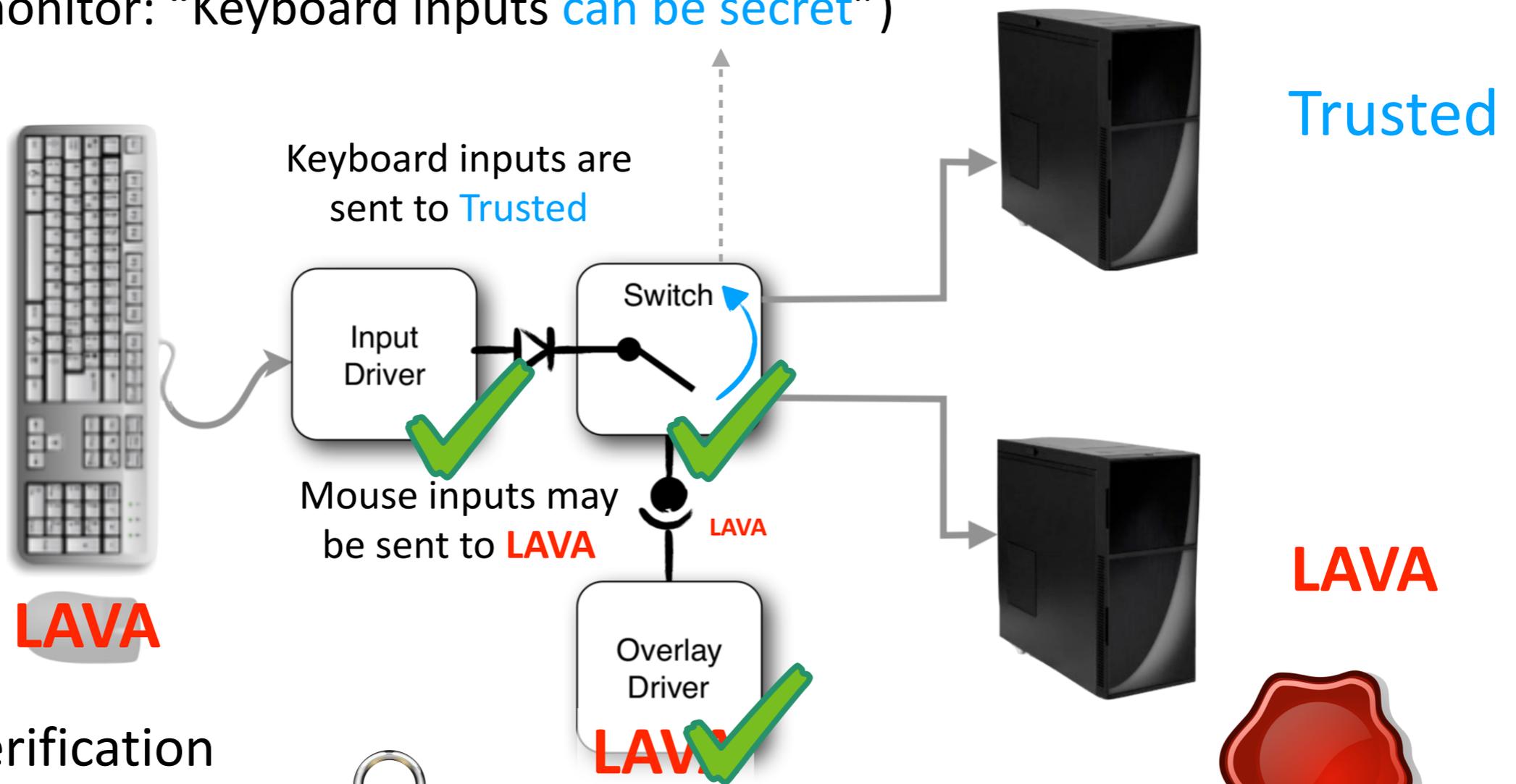
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Case study

Cross Domain Desktop Compositor HID switch

(On video monitor: “Keyboard inputs can be secret”)



Program verification

- Assign locks to spaces
- For each thread, prove:
 - Local compliance
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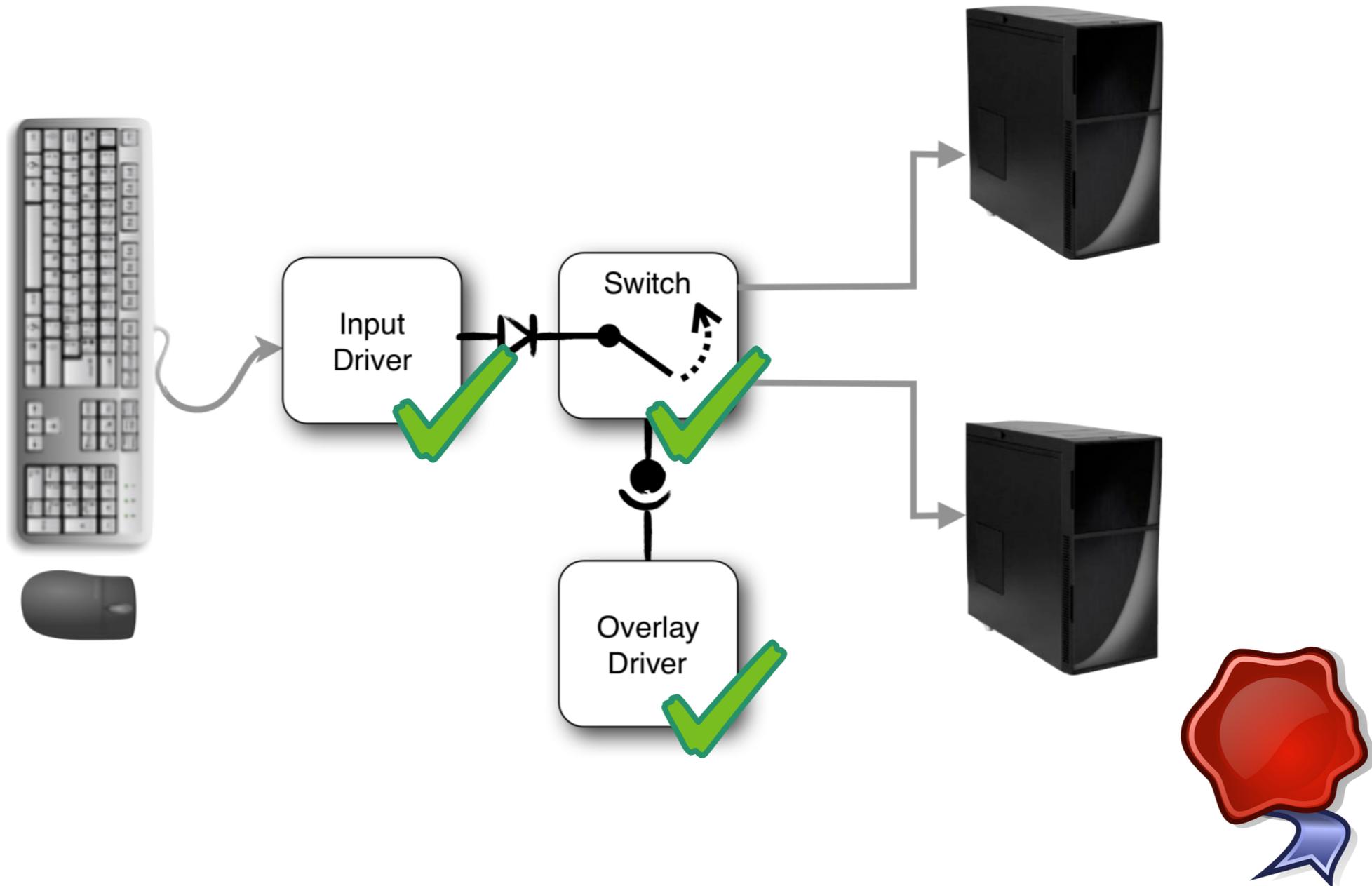


- Local security
“I win ‘floor is lava with levers and locks’”



Case study

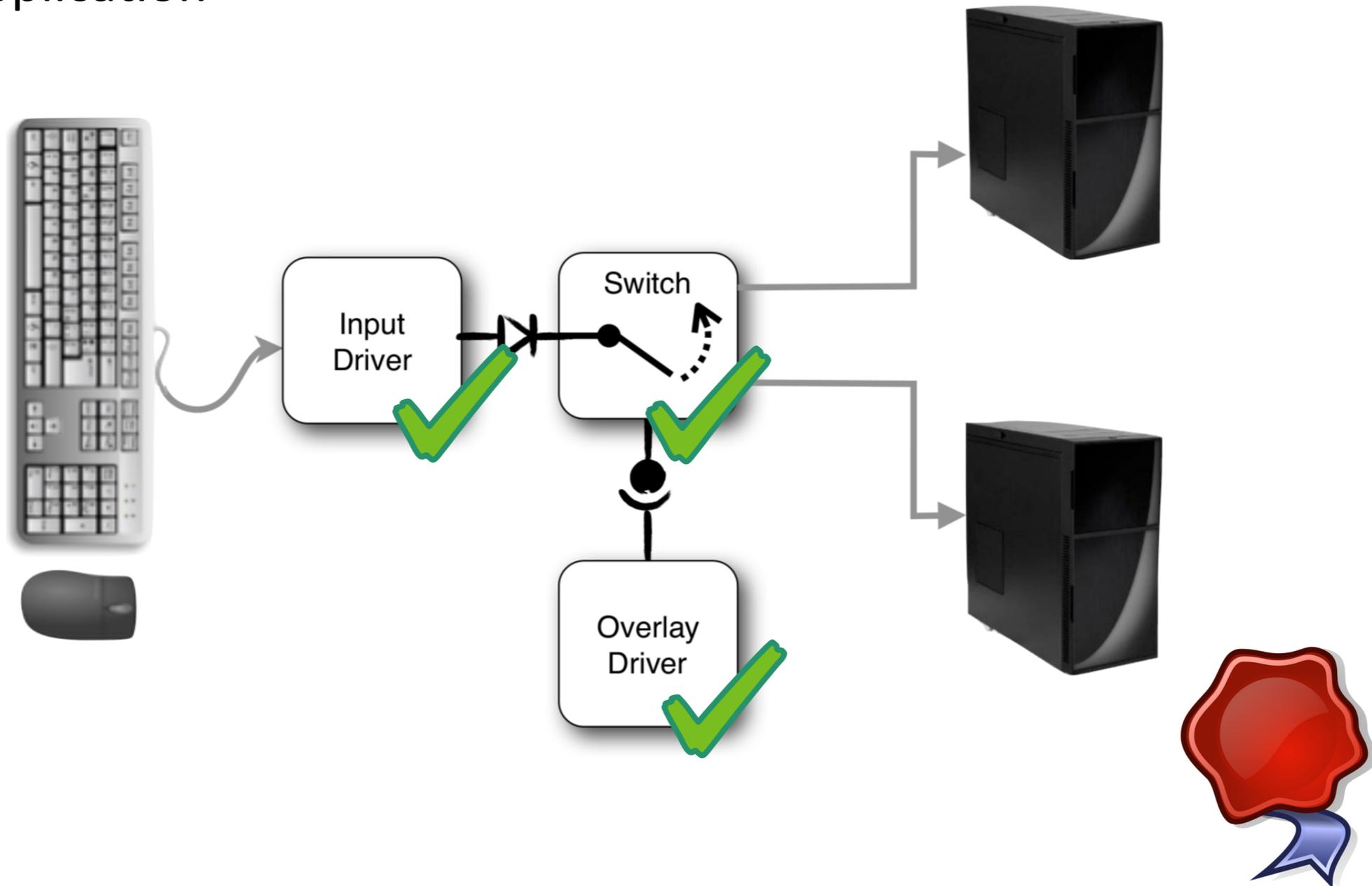
Cross Domain Desktop Compositor HID switch



Case study

Cross Domain Desktop Compositor HID switch

Compiler application

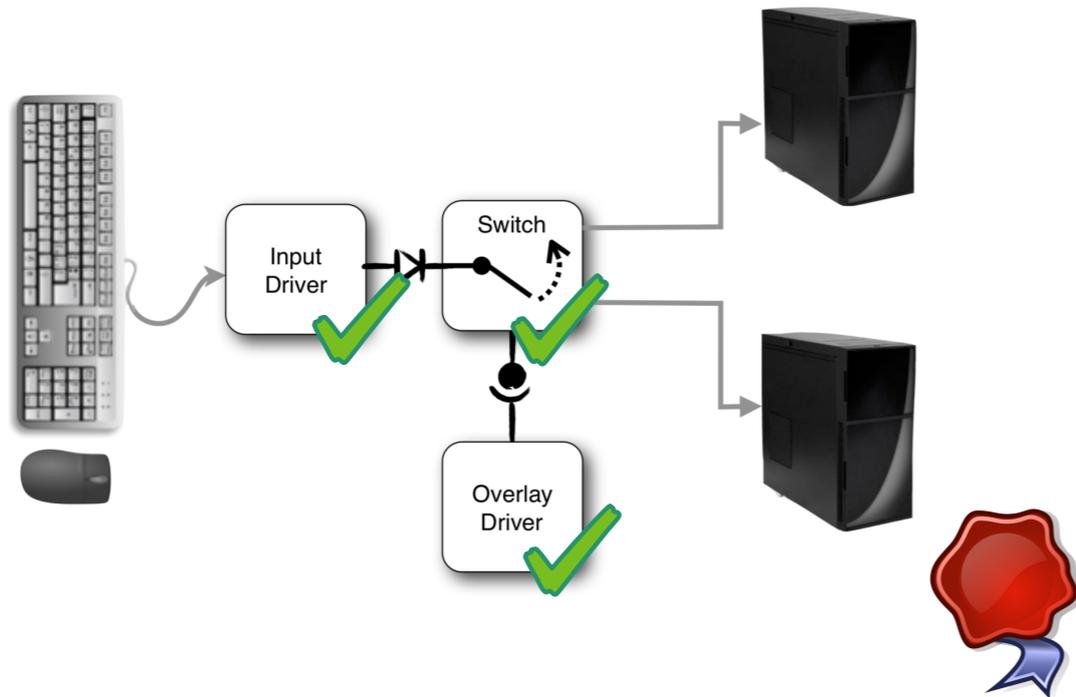


Case study

Cross Domain Desktop Compositor HID switch

Compiler application

While language with locks

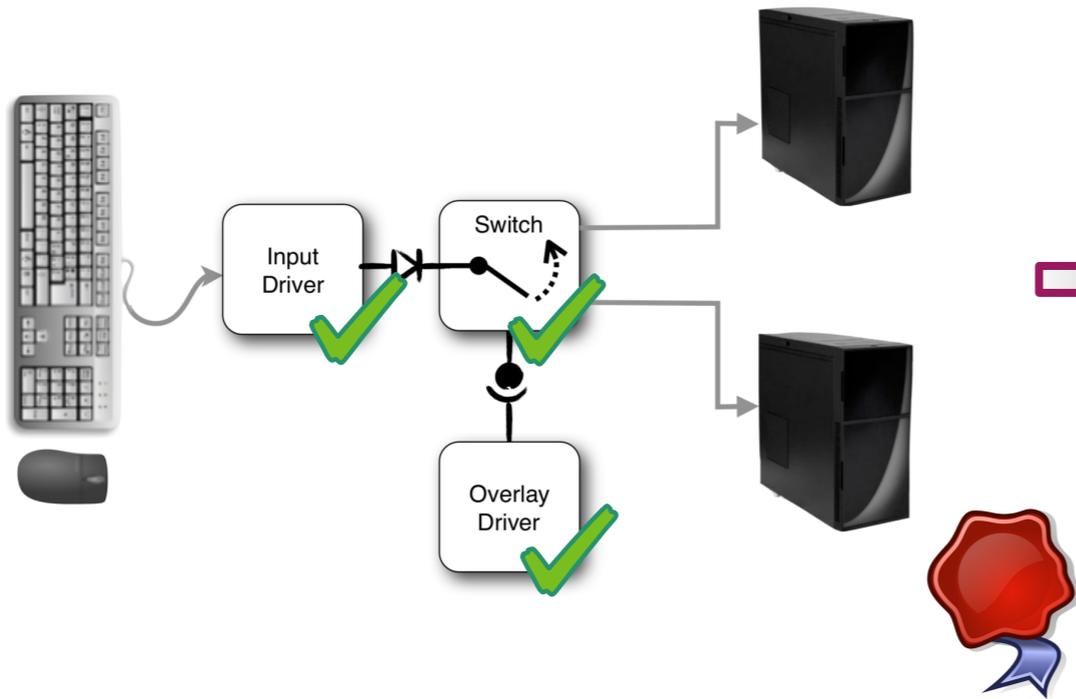


Case study

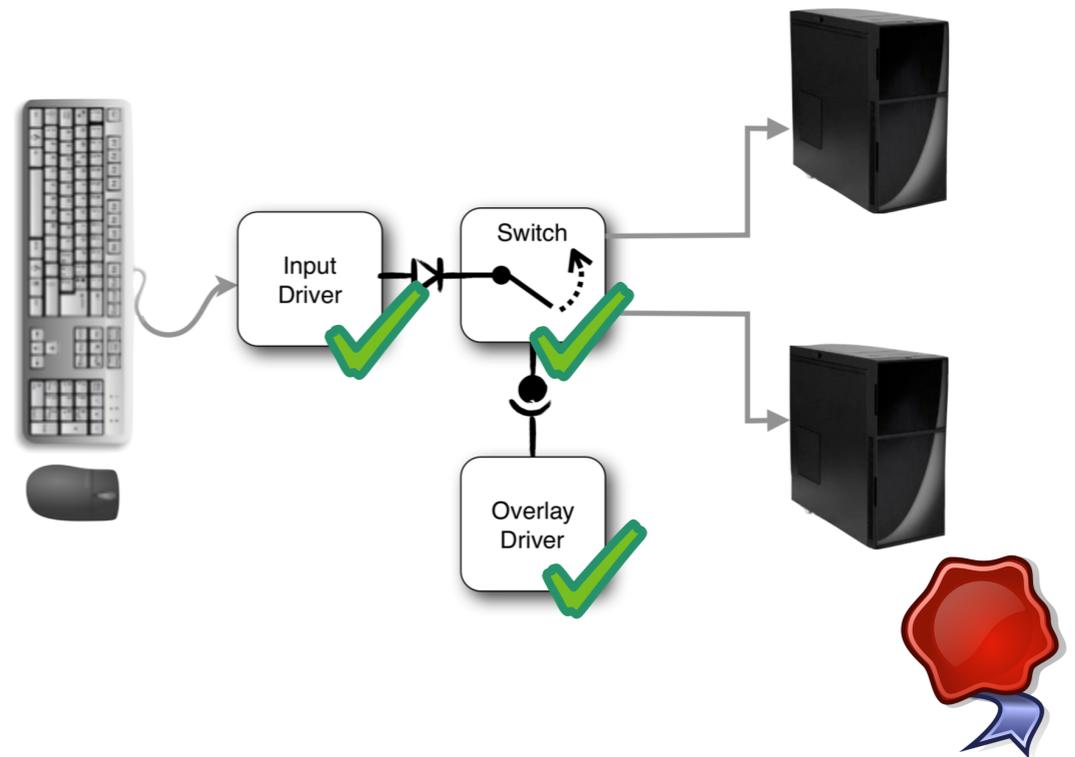
Cross Domain Desktop Compositor HID switch

Compiler application

While language with locks

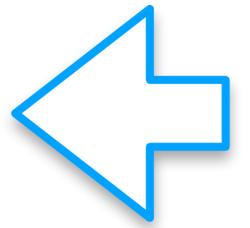


Generic RISC assembly with locks



Thesis (PhD, 2020)

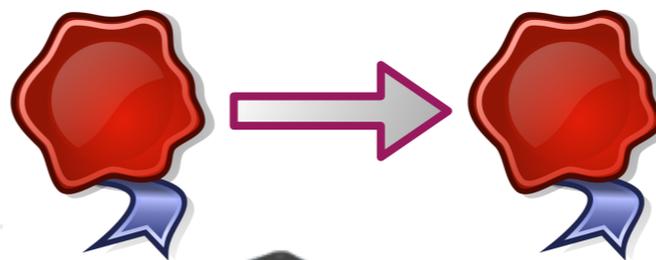
That “Proving Confidentiality and Its Preservation Under Compilation for **Mixed-Sensitivity Concurrent Programs**” is feasible.



• **Program verification** Chapter 4



• **Compiler verification** Chapter 5



• **Case study: CDDC** Chapter 6



• **Extension to program verification:** Chapter 7

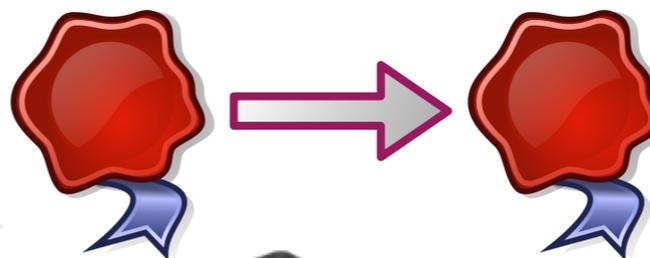
Thesis (PhD, 2020)

That “Proving Confidentiality and Its Preservation Under Compilation for **Mixed-Sensitivity Concurrent Programs**” is feasible.

- **Program verification** Chapter 4



- **Compiler verification** Chapter 5



- **Case study: CDDC** Chapter 6



- **Extension to program verification:**
Allow **conditional branching on secrets**

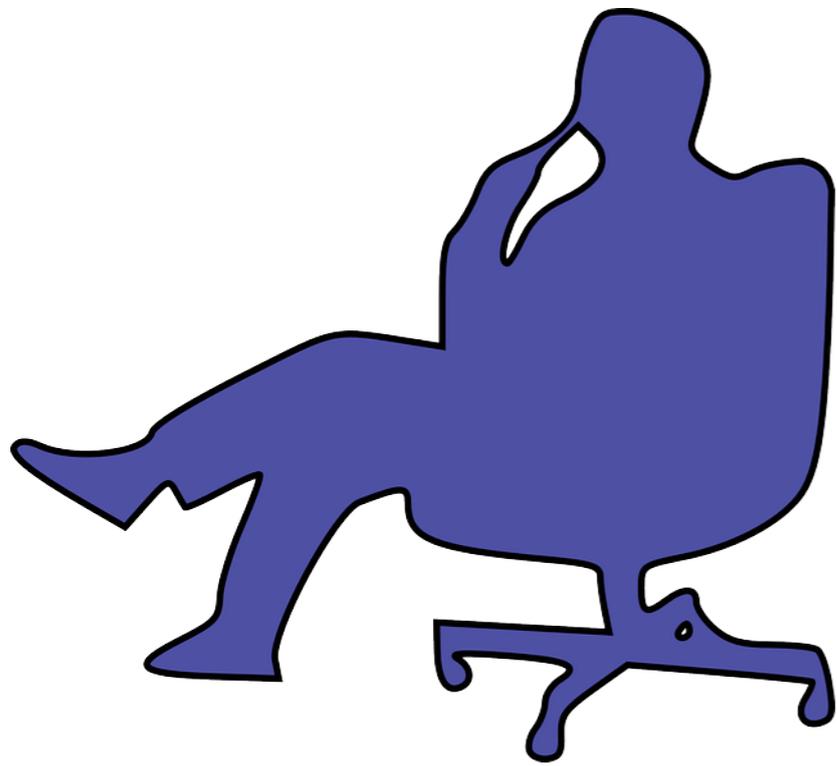
Chapter 7



Explicit flow

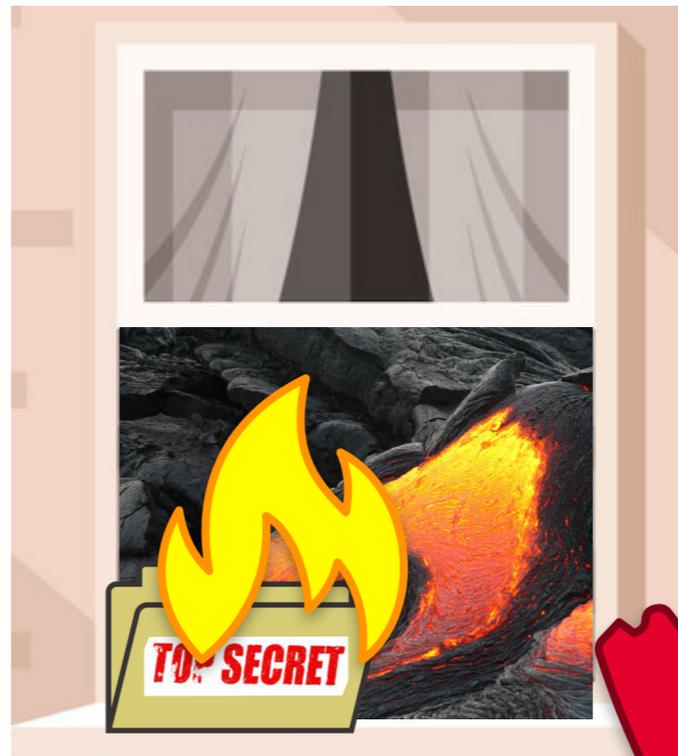
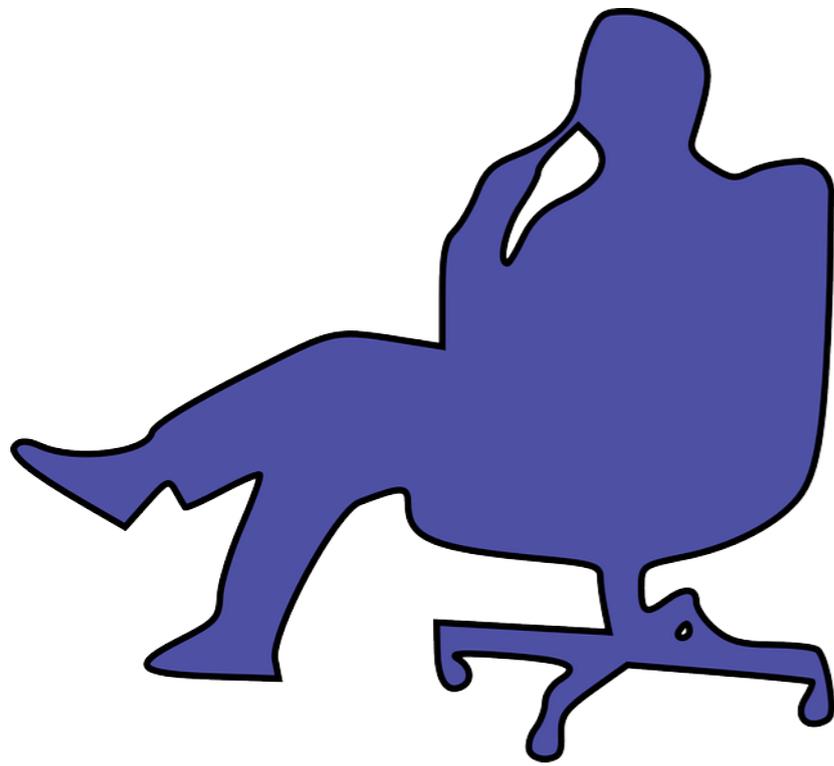


Explicit flow



output := secret

Explicit flow



output := secret



Analysis (rightly)
rejects this!

Dangers of conditional branching on secrets

Implicit flow #1: “storage” leak

if (secret)

then

...do stuff, then...



output := 0

Dangers of conditional branching on secrets

Implicit flow #1: “storage” leak

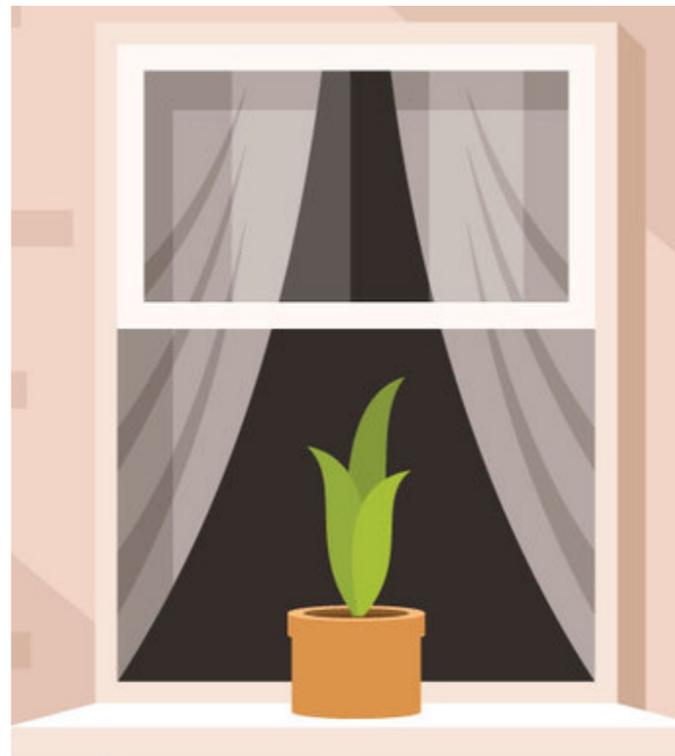
if (secret)

then

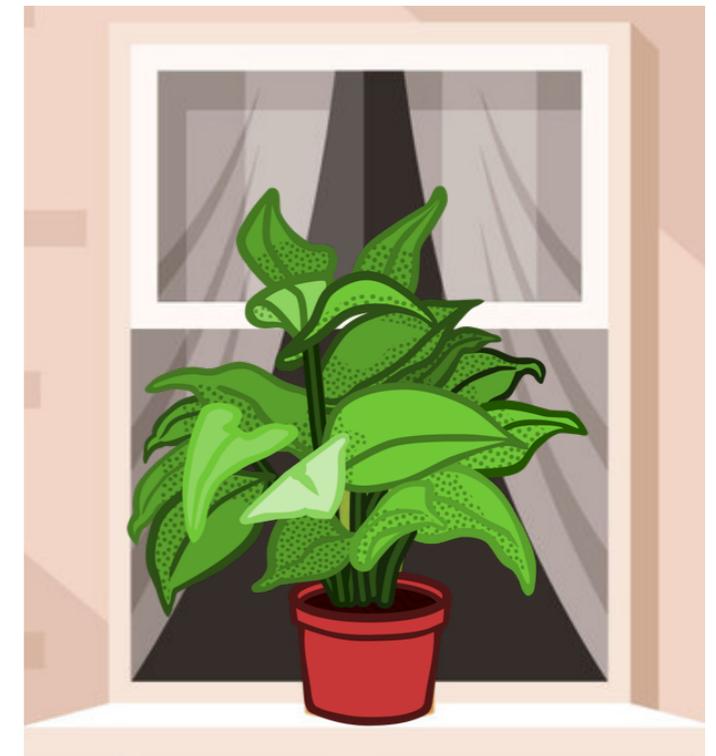
else

...do stuff, then...

...do other stuff, then...



output := 0



output := 1

Dangers of conditional branching on secrets

Implicit flow #1: “storage” leak

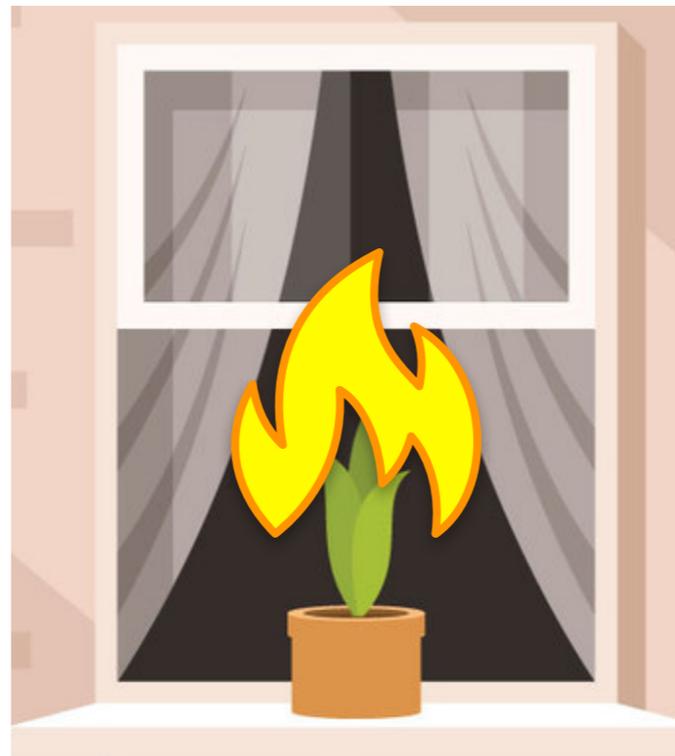
if (secret)

then

...do stuff, then...

else

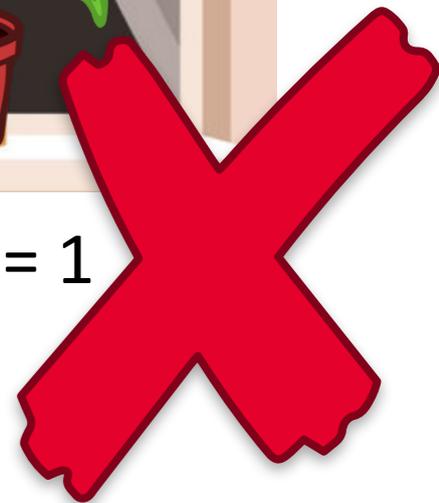
...do other stuff, then...



output := 0



output := 1



Also (rightly)
rejected

Dangers of conditional branching on secrets

Implicit flow #1: “storage” leak

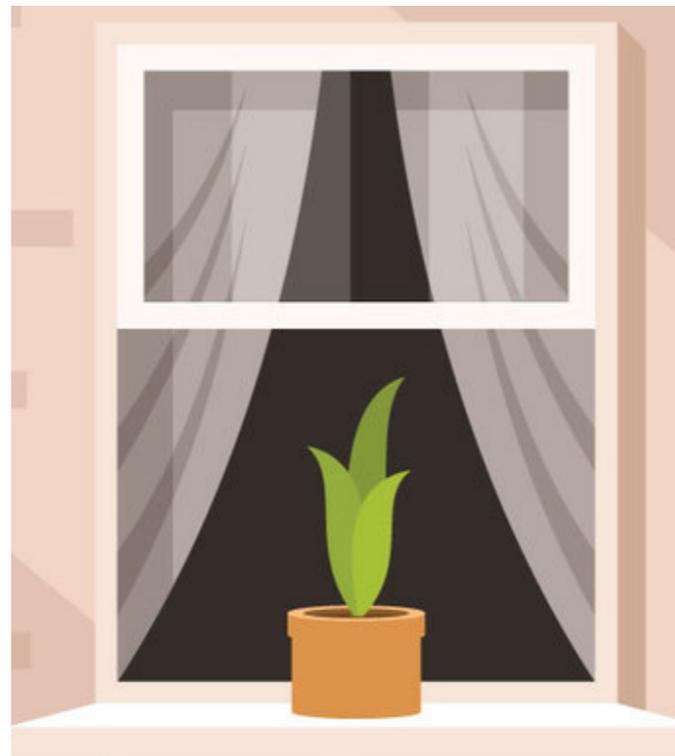
if (secret)

then

else

...do stuff, then...

...do other stuff, then...



output := 0



output := 0



Dangers of conditional branching on secrets

Implicit flow #1: “storage” leak

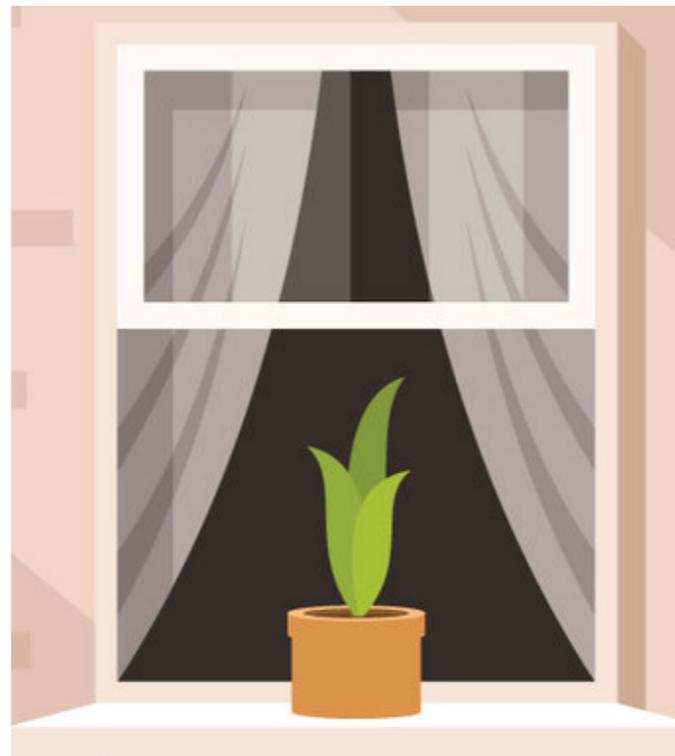
if (secret)

then

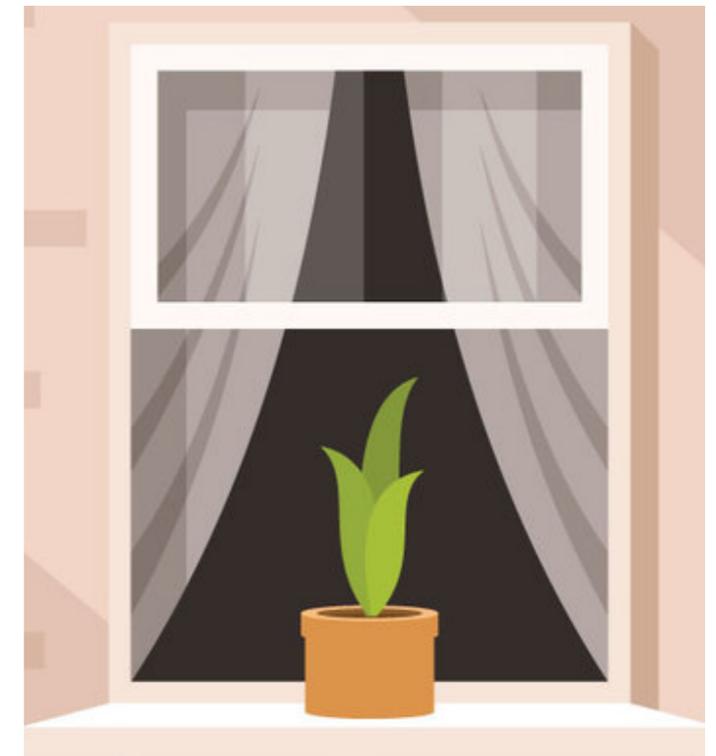
...do stuff, then...

else

...do other stuff, then...



output := 0



output := 0

Is this safe?



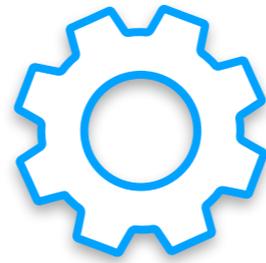
Conditional branching on secrets

Implicit flow #2: timing leak

if (secret)

then

...do stuff, then...



(3pm)



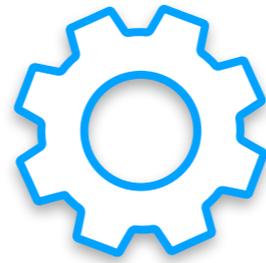
Conditional branching on secrets

Implicit flow #2: timing leak

if (secret)

then

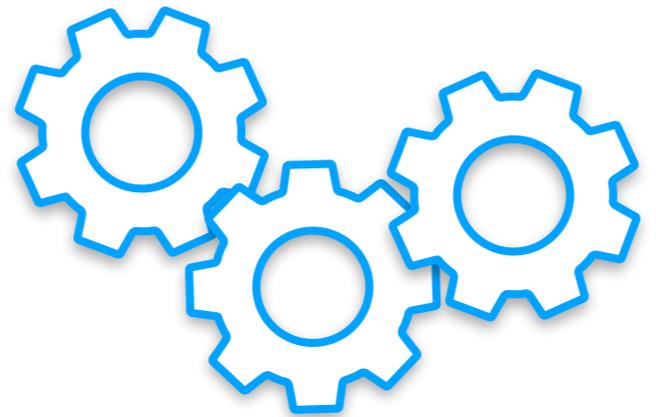
...do stuff, then...



(3pm)

else

...do other stuff, then...



(9pm)



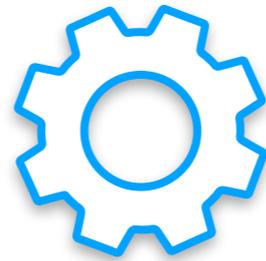
Conditional branching on secrets

Implicit flow #2: timing leak

if (secret)

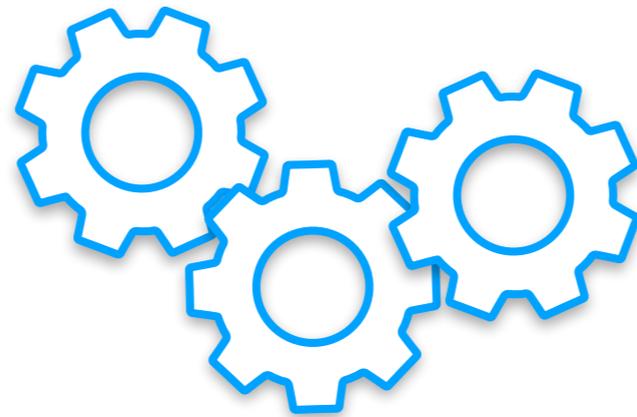
then

...do stuff, then...



else

...do other stuff, then...



...



(3pm)



(9pm)



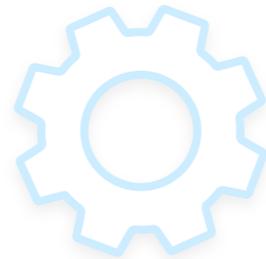
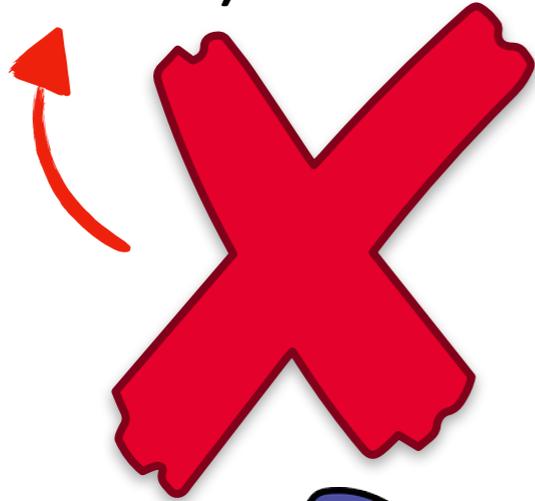
Conditional branching on secrets

Disallowed in previous Chps 4-6 of thesis!

if (secret)

then

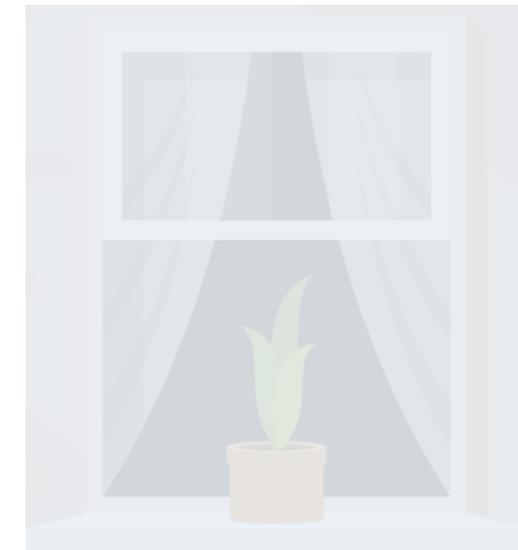
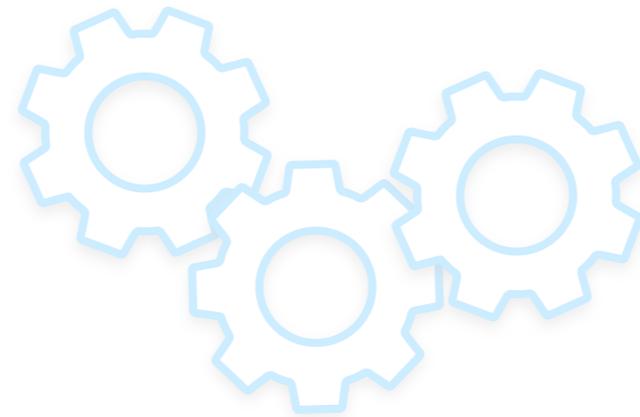
...do stuff, then...



(3pm)

else

...do other stuff, then...



(9pm)

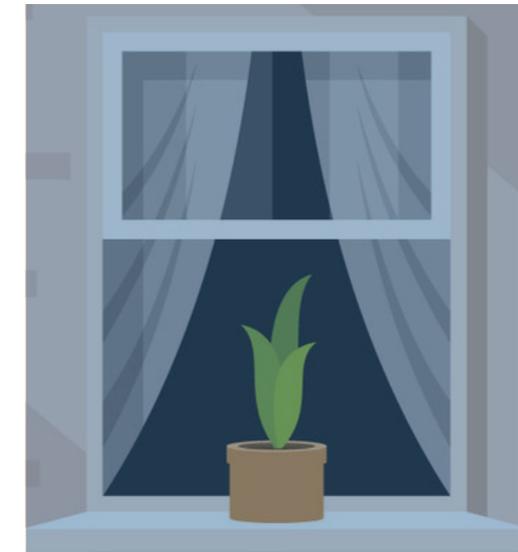
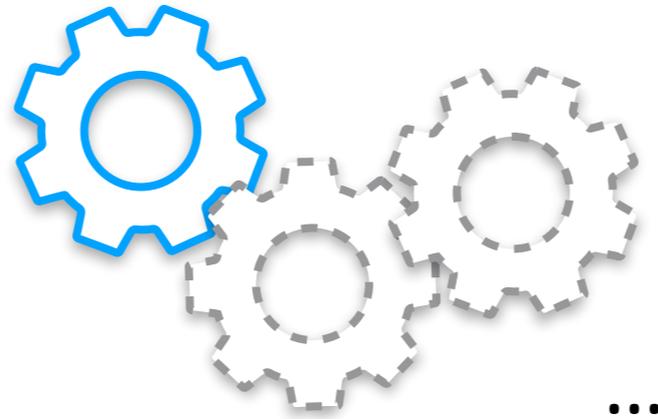
Conditional branching on secrets

Allowed by Chp 7 extension to type system

if (secret)

then

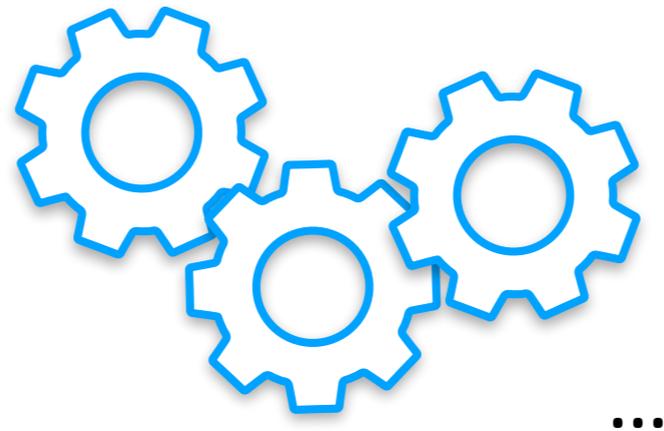
...do stuff, wait..., then...



(9pm)

else

...do other stuff, then...



(9pm)



Thesis (PhD, 2020)

<https://doi.org/fjmt>

That “Proving Confidentiality and Its Preservation Under Compilation for Mixed-Sensitivity Concurrent Programs” is feasible.

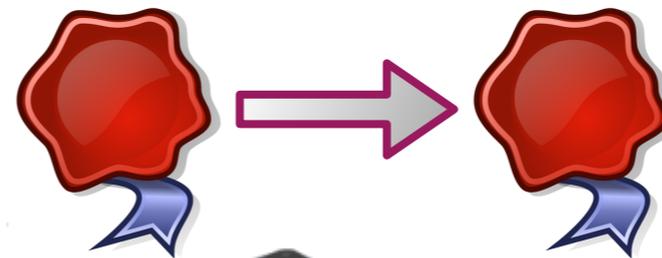
- **Program verification**

Chapter 4



- **Compiler verification**

Chapter 5



- **Case study: CDDC**

Chapter 6



- **Extension to program verification:**
Allow conditional branching on secrets

Chapter 7



Thesis (PhD, 2020) and publications

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www.robs-cse.com

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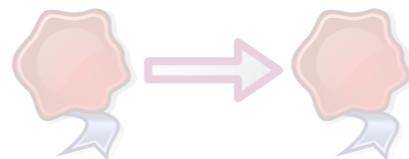
- **Program verification**



- **Case study: CDDC**



- **Compiler verification**



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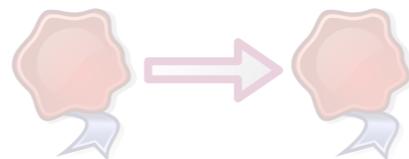


- **Case study: CDDC**



- Murray, Sison & Engelhardt (EuroS&P 2018)

- **Compiler verification**



Joint work with
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(Uni Melbourne)



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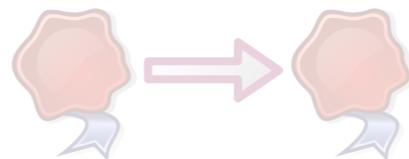


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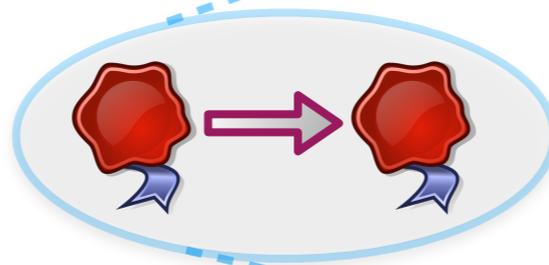


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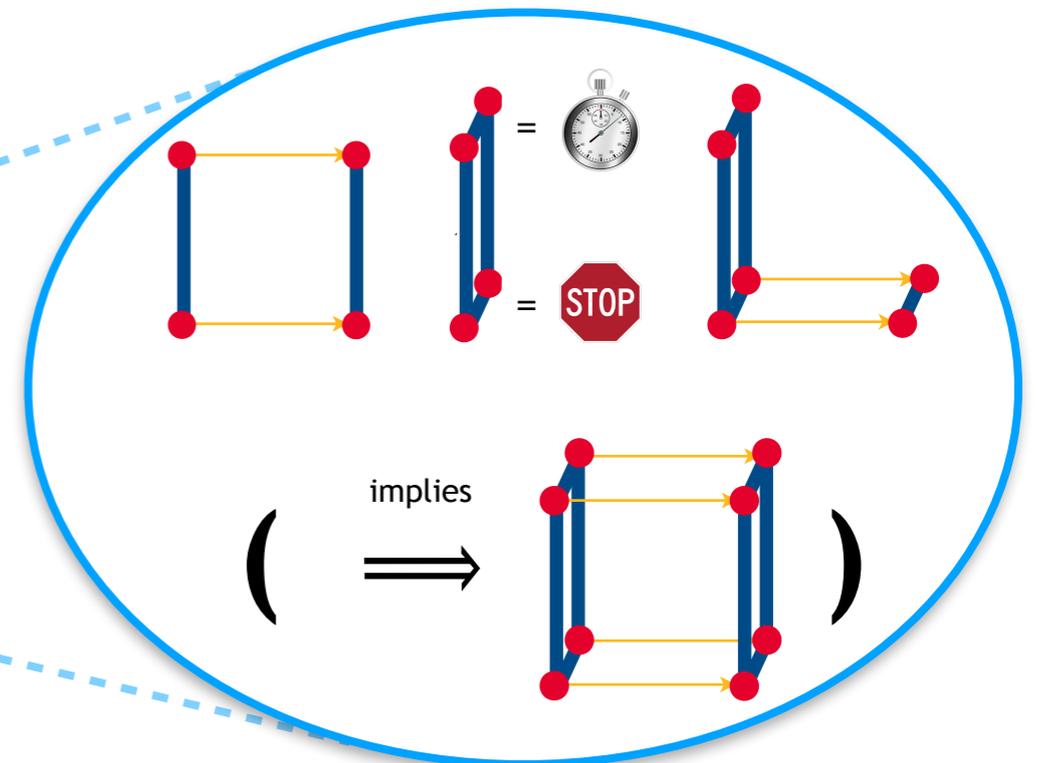
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decomposition principle



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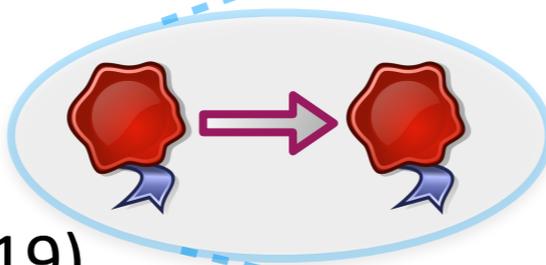
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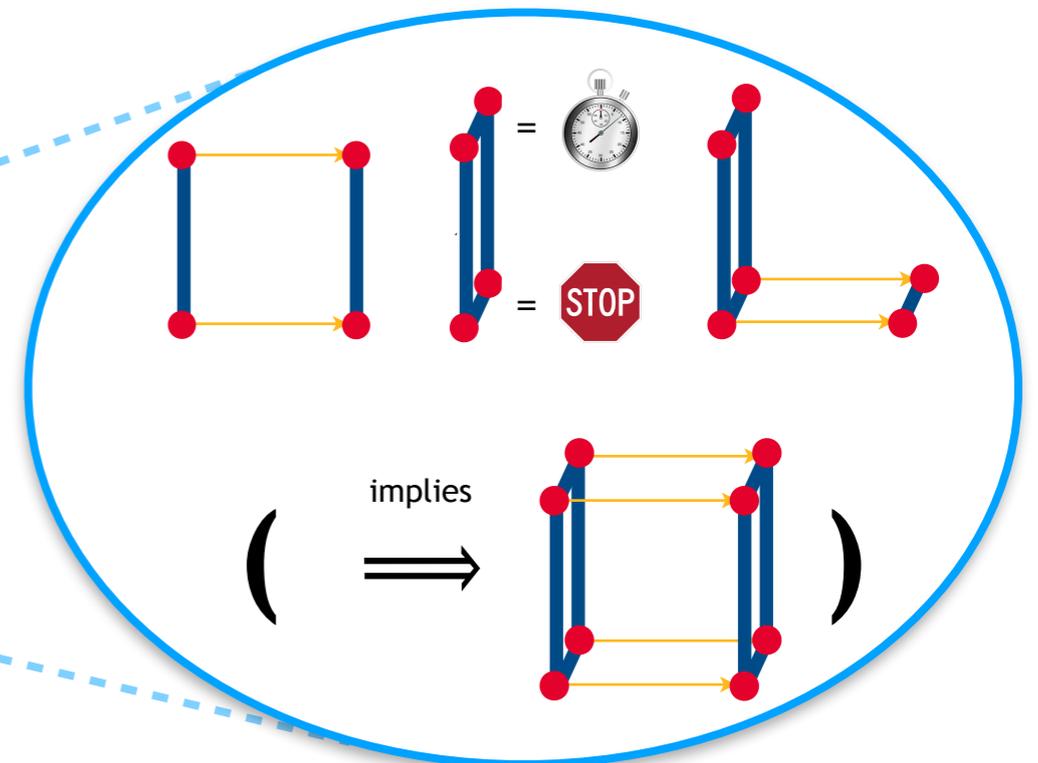
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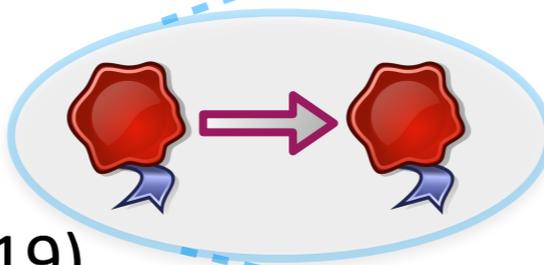


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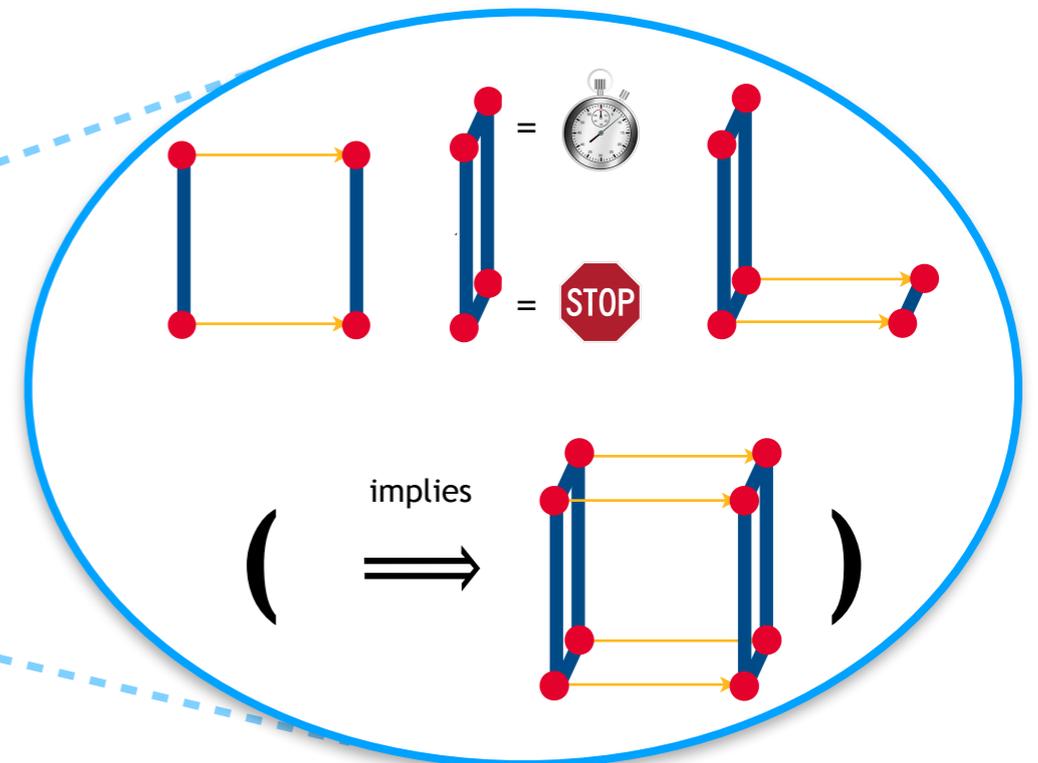


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Thank you!
Q & A

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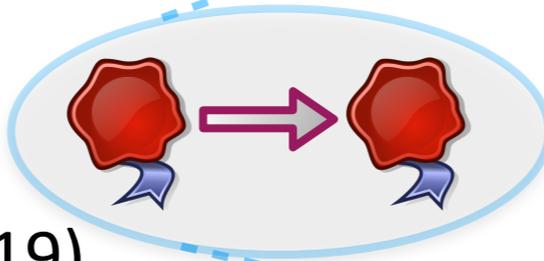


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