

# Opening Survey

https://pollev.com/jnfoster

# When I need to troubleshoot buggy code...

```
eval.ml
       🗏 × 🗐 🦠 🖟 🖺 🔇
 and eval_parser_decl (env : env) (st : state) (name : string)
      (constructor params : Parameter.t list) (params : Parameter.t list)
     (locals : Declaration.t list) (states : Parser.state list) : env * state =
   let v = VParser {
     pscope = env:
     pconstructor params = constructor params;
     pparams = params;
     plocals = locals:
     states:
   } in
   let l = State.fresh_loc () in
   let st = State.insert_heap l v st in
   let env = EvalEnv.insert val bare name l env in
   env. st
  and eval control decl (env : env) (st : state) (name : string)
      (constructor_params : Parameter.t list) (params : Parameter.t list)
     (locals : Declaration.t list) (apply : Block.t) : env * state =
   let v = VControl {
     cscope = env;
     cconstructor_params = constructor_params;
     cparams = params;
     clocals = locals;
     apply = apply;
   } in
   let l = State.fresh_loc () in
   let st = State.insert heap l v st in
   let env = EvalEnv.insert_val_bare name l env in
   env. st
-:--- eval.ml
                      6% L115 Git-mininet-interface (Tuareg)
```

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                      6% L115 Git-mininet-interface (Tuareg)
-:--- eval.ml
```



# **Software Validation: A Spectrum**

#### Social

- Code reviews
- Pair programming

#### Methodological

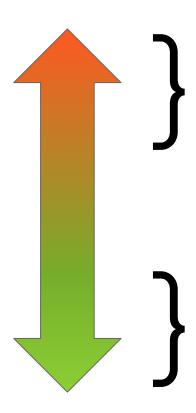
- Test-driven development
- Version control
- Bug tracking

#### **Technological**

- Static "linters"
- Fuzzers

#### Mathematical

- Type systems
- Formal verification



Less formal: techniques are easy to use but may miss some problems in programs

Best practice: all of these techniques should be used!

More formal: eliminate *with* certainty as many problems as possible, but may be hard to use

# What about computer networks?



```
nate - ping 8.8.8.8 - 70×24
Last login: Tue Apr 27 05:20:52 on ttys000
[05:25 $ ping 8.8.8.8
PING 8.8.8.8 (8.8.8.8): 56 data bytes
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp seq=0 ttl=117 time=29.864 ms
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp seq=1 ttl=117 time=30.463 ms
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp seq=2 ttl=117 time=29.036 ms
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp_seq=3 ttl=117 time=30.427 ms
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp seq=4 ttl=117 time=36.375 ms
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp seq=5 ttl=117 time=32.785 ms
64 bytes from 8.8.8.8: icmp seq=6 ttl=117 time=34.360 ms
```

<u>"You're On Your Own Mate"</u> —Nick McKeown

# **Network Verification Pre-History**

- Proposed a static analysis to determine network reachability
- Based on an underlying model that captures IP forwarding
- Extension supports richer behaviors like NAT and middleboxes

#### On Static Reachability Analysis of IP Networks

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Albert Greenberg‡

Jibin Zhan<sup>†</sup> David A. Maltz<sup>†</sup> Gisli Hjalmtysson<sup>‡</sup>

Hui Zhang<sup>†</sup> Jennifer Rexford<sup>‡</sup>

#### ABSTRACT

The primary purpose of a network is to provide reachability between applications running on end hosts. In this paper, we describe how to compute the reachability a network provides from a snapshot of the configuration state from each of the routers. Our primary contribution is the precise definition of the potential reachability of a network and a substantial simplification of the problem through a unified modeling of packet filters and routing protocols. In the end, we reduce a complex, important practical problem to computing the transitive closure to set union and intersection operations on reachability set representations. We then extend our algorithm to model the influence of packet transformations (e.g., by NATs or ToS remapping) along the path. Our technique for static analysis of network reachability is valuable for verifying the intent of the network designer, troubleshooting reachability problems, and performing "what-if" analysis of failure scenarios.

Index Terms-Routing, Static Configuration Analysis.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

While the ultimate goal of networking is to enable communication between hosts that are not directly connected, a wide variety of mechanisms are being used to *limit* the set of destinations the hosts can reach. For example, backbone networks may provide Virtual Private Network services to connect only remote offices belonging to the same enterprise, and enterprise networks themselves are often segmented into departments or offices whose hosts must Determining what kinds of packets can be exchanged between two hosts connected to a network is a difficult and critical problem facing network designers and operators. To our knowledge, the problem is largely unexamined in the networking research literature. Solving the problem requires knowing far more than the network's topology or the routing protocols it uses. For example, despite having a route to a remote end-point, a sender's packets may be discarded by a packet filter on one of the links in the path. The network's packet filters, routing policies, and packet transformations all must be taken into account to even ask the simple and very important question of "can these two hosts communicate?"

This paper crystallizes the problem of calculating the reachability provided by a network. By mapping packet filters, routing information, and packet transformations to a single unified model of reachability we have determined how to transform this seemingly intractable problem into a classical graph problem that can be solved with polynomial time algorithms such as transitive closure. This is the primary contribution of this paper.

#### A. Advantages of Automated Static Analysis

Currently, the common practice to determine if packets can reach from one point in a network to another is to use tools such as ping and traceroute to send probe traffic that experimentally test whether reachability exists. In contrast, we have developed a static-analysis approach that can be applied even if only a description of the network is available. Static analysis has many advantages

## **Network Verification in SDN**

#### **Pre-SDN**

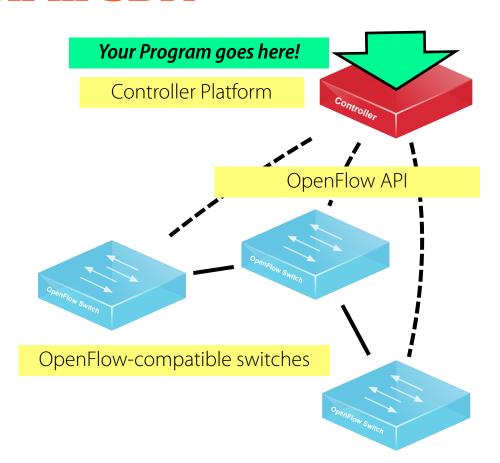
- Distributed control plane
- Complex data plane
  - Dozens of protocols
  - Tricky, undocumented semantics

#### **Post-SDN**

- Centralized control plane
- Streamlined data plane
  - OpenFlow 1.0: only 12 protocols!
  - Clear semantics

#### **Key Insight**

- Can instrument control plane to build a model of the data plane behavior
- Can reason statically about networkwide forwarding properties



# **Plan for Today**

Header Space Analysis

### NetKAT

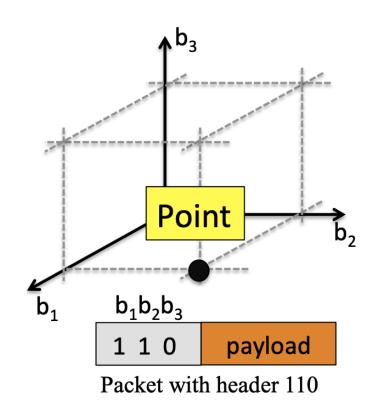
#### **Key Questions:**

- How to encode networks and properties?
- How to automate reasoning?
- How scalable and how fast?

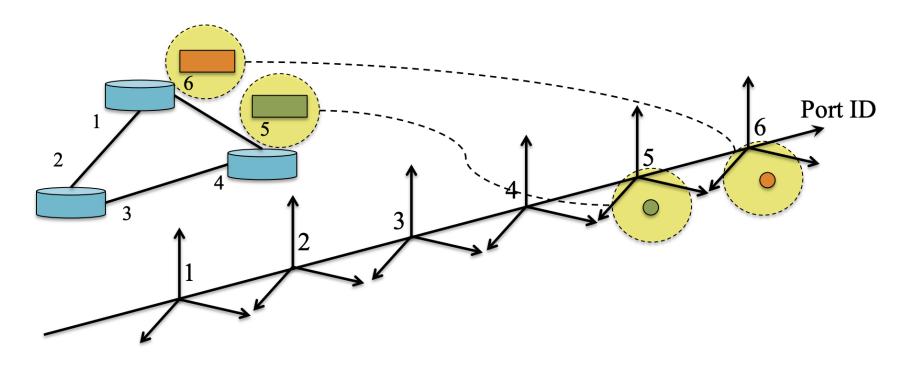
# HSA [NSDI '12]

## **Packet Model**

- Fix the set of headers (Ethernet, IPv4, TCP, UDP, etc.) used by devices
- If L is the total number of bits used to encode all headers...
- Then a packet can be seen as a point in an L-dimensional space
- Can also assign each port a unique identifier and add a "pseudo header" to track packet's location
- Formally: { 0 , 1 } \(^{\text{L}} \text{x { 1, ..., P }}

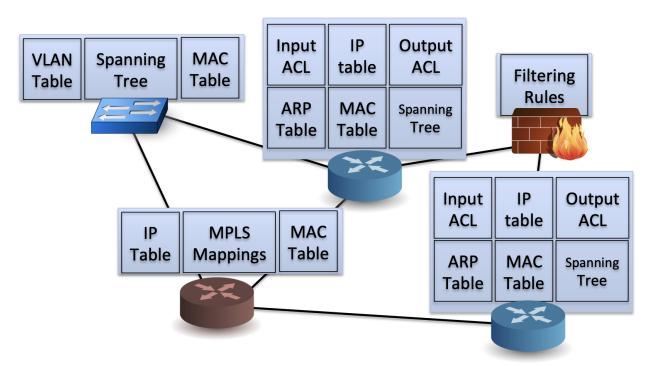


# **Forwarding Model**



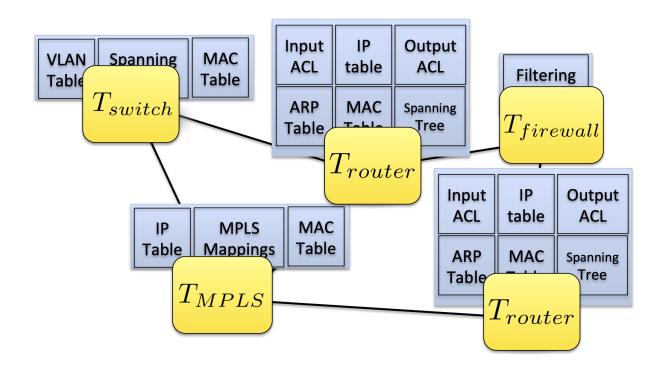
Packet forwarding can be viewed as a transformation on *header space* 

# **Device Complexity**



Network devices seem complex, with many different features and protocols...

## **Transfer Functions**



... but ultimately they too can be modeled as transfer functions on packet space

# **Formalizing Transfer Functions**

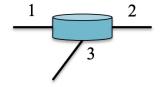
T ∈ Header × Port → (Header × Port) Set

# **Formalizing Transfer Functions**

T ∈ Header × Port → (Header × Port) Set

```
- 172.24.74.0 255.255.255.0 Port1
```

- 172.24.128.0 255.255.255.0 Port2
- 171.67.0.0 255.255.0.0 Port3

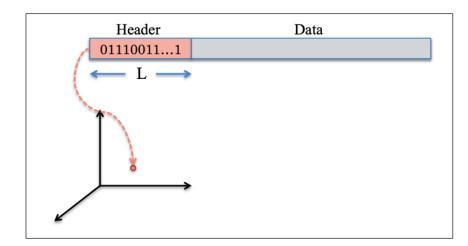


$$T(h, p) = \begin{cases} (h,1) & \text{if } dst_ip(h) = 172.24.74.x \\ (h,2) & \text{if } dst_ip(h) = 172.24.128.x \\ (h,3) & \text{if } dst_ip(h) = 171.67.x.x \end{cases}$$

# Symbolic Representation

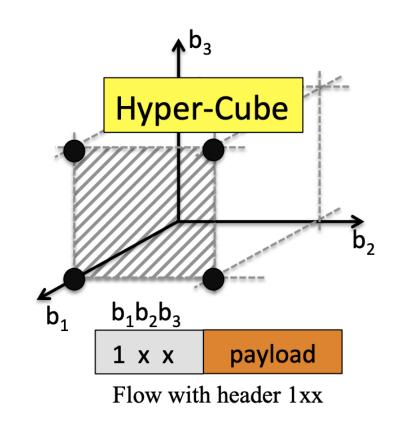
# **Scaling Challenges**

- We now have a foundational model of forwarding behavior
- But the space of packets is huge...
- ...and the space of functions on that space is larger still...
- Unclear how to realize this model in an implementation that scales well!



# **Insight: Networks are (Mostly) Uniform**

- In practice, most transfer functions transform the packet space in a (mostly) uniform way
- Sets of packets can be viewed as regions (i.e., hypercubes) in the same N-dimensional space
- So we can build symbolic representations that manipulate regions of header space rather than individual points in packet space



# **Header Space Algebra**

#### **Elements**

Every region of header space can be represented as a union of ternary "wildcard expressions" in  $\{0,1,x\}^*$ 

#### **Operations**

- Equivalence & inclusion
- Union
- Intersection
- Difference
- Complement

## Intersection

#### **Single-bit intersection**

$b_i$	0	1	х
0	0	Z	0
1	z	1	1
X	0	1	X

#### **Definition**

Intersect bit-wise, yield Ø if any bit is "z"

#### Example

 $11000xxx \cap xx00010x = 1100010x$ 

## Union

#### **Definition**

Simply take union of wildcard expressions, simplify if possible

#### **Example**

**1111**xxxx ∪ 0000xxxx

#### **Optimization Example**

1100xxxx U 1000xxxx = 1x00xxx

# Complement

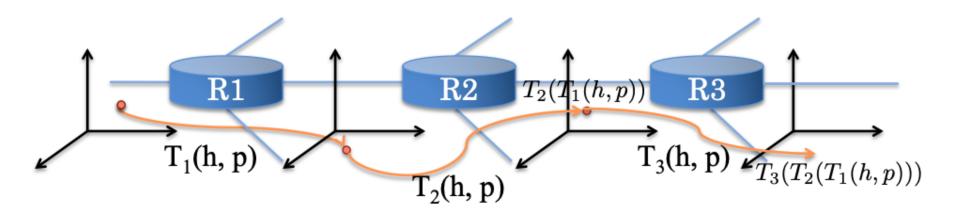
#### **Definition**

- Flip each non-wildcard bit, wildcard every other bits
- Result is union of all such expressions

#### **Example**

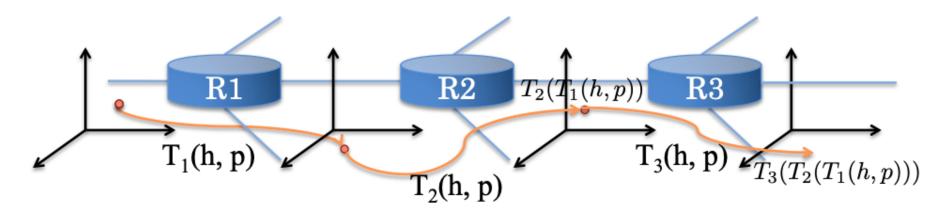
```
(010x)^c = 1xxx \cup x0xx \cup xx1x
```

# **Composing Transfer Functions**



We can model network-wide behavior as the composition of transfer functions

# **Composing Transfer Functions**

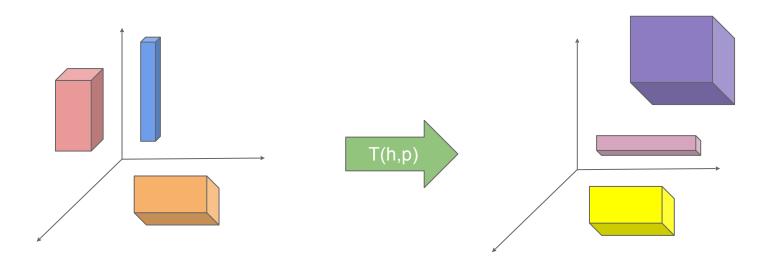


We can model network-wide behavior as the composition of transfer functions

Question: how do you reconcile the different input and output types?

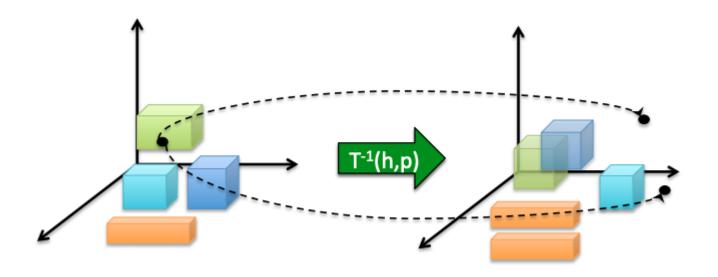
**Answer:** "lift" the second function to (Header × Port) Set → (Header × Port) Set

# **Domain and Range**



We can compute the *domain* and *range* of an transfer function symbolically in terms of header spaces represented as wildcard expressions

# **Inverse Transfer Function**



Can also compute the header space produced by the *inverse* of a transfer function, yielding a model of the *inputs* that map to a given set of outputs...

# HSA Applications

# Reachability

#### Goal

Want to know whether packet originating at A can get to B

#### **Approach**

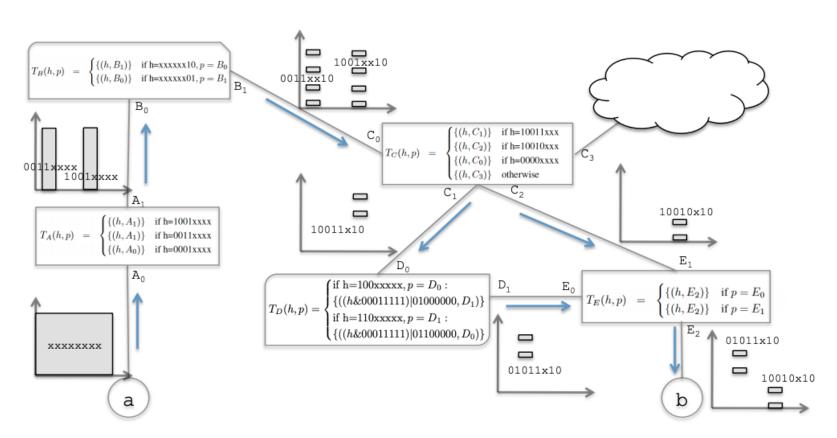
- Symbolically execute R<sub>a→b</sub> on an "all wildcard" packet "xxxx..."
- Compose transfer functions for the devices path to get  $R_{a \rightarrow b}$
- The result models all packets that reach B from A

#### **Extensions**

Waypointing, Blackholing, etc.

# **Reachability Example**

# [NSDI '12, Fig 2]



# **Loop Freedom**

#### Goal

Want to know whether packets can loop infinitely...

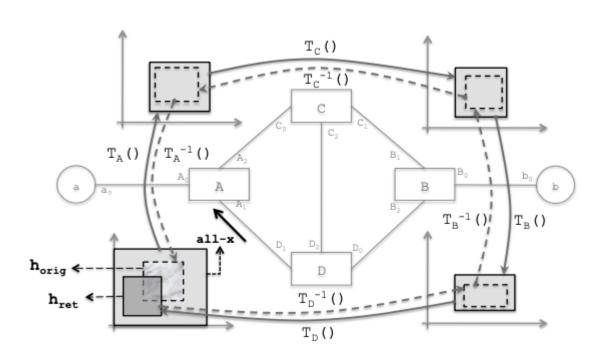
#### **Distinction**

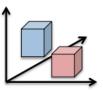
- Generic Loop: a packet loops back to the same switch
- Infinite Loop: an identical packet loops back to the same switch

#### **Approach**

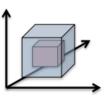
- Use reachability to identify generic loops
- Then analyze header spaces to identify infinite loops

# **Loop Freedom Example**

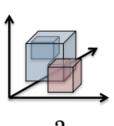




Finite Loop

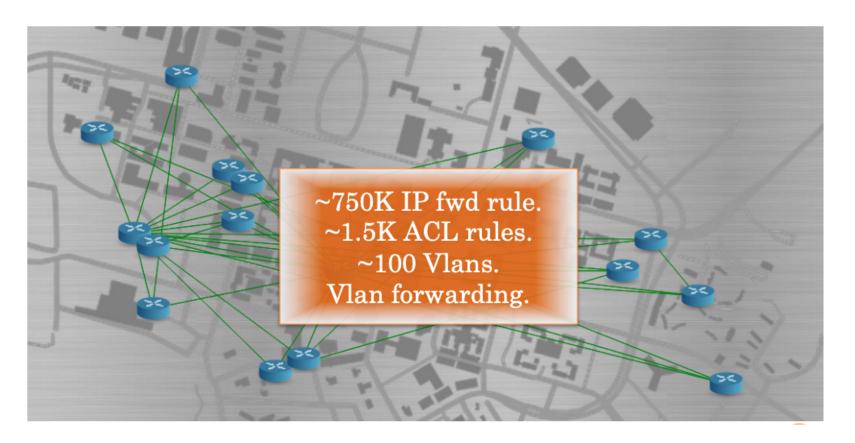


Infinite Loop



# Performance

# Stanford Campus Network (ca. 2012)

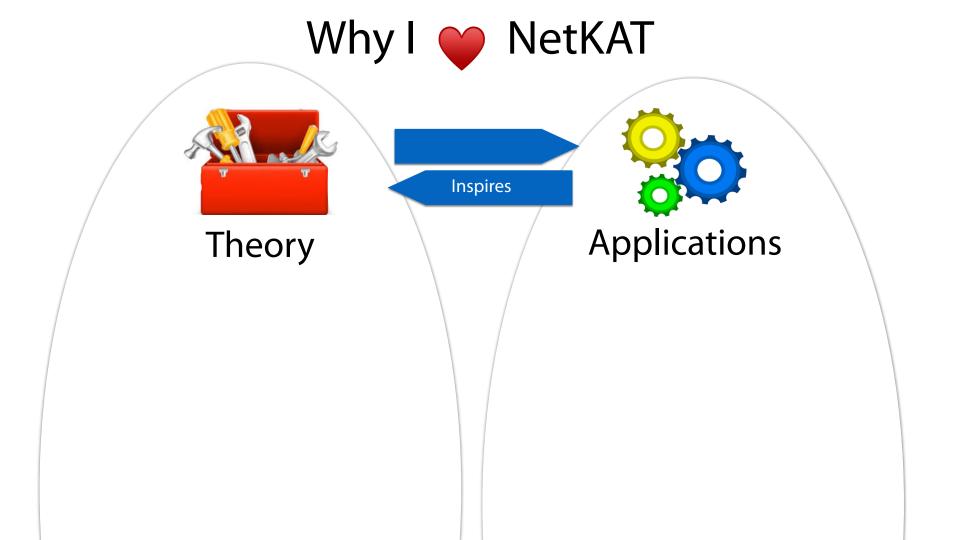


# **HSA Performance**

On a single machine with 4 cores and 4GB Ram

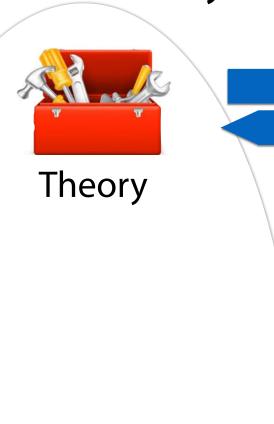
Generating TF Rules	~150 sec
Loop Detection Test (30 ports)	~560 sec
Average Per Port	~18 sec
Min Per Port	~ 8 sec
Max Per Port	~ 135 sec
Reachability Test (Avg)	~13 sec

# NetKAT POPL '14]



# Why I Why NetKAT

**Inspires** 





- Compilation
- Verification
- New Features

# Why I 💚 NetKAT



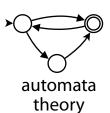
Theory

Inspir



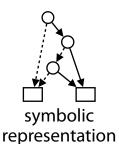
**Applications** 





⊢p≡q sound & complete

axiomatization



- Compilation
- Verification
- New Features

## **NetKAT Roadmap**

Language Design & Modeling

Reasoning & Verification

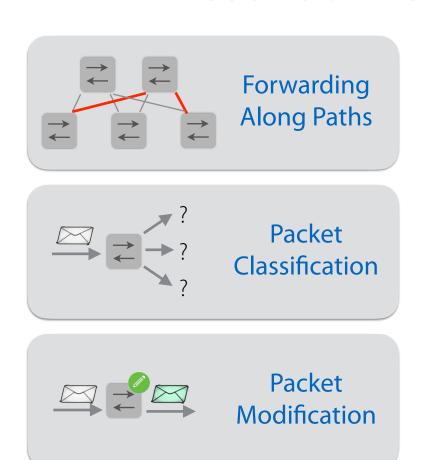
Programming & Compilation

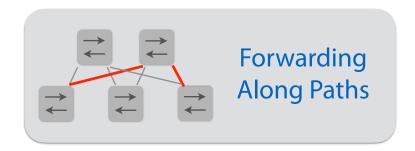
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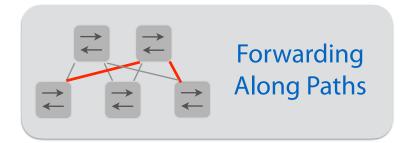




Regular Expressions +, ;, \*



Packet Modification

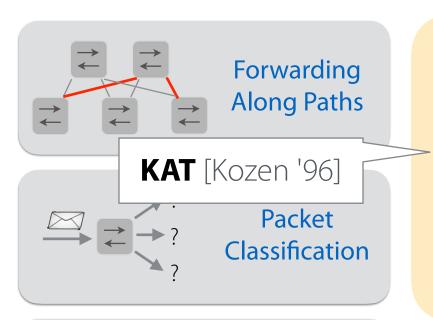


Regular Expressions +, ;, \*



Boolean Algebra true, false, f=n, a&b, a|b, ¬a

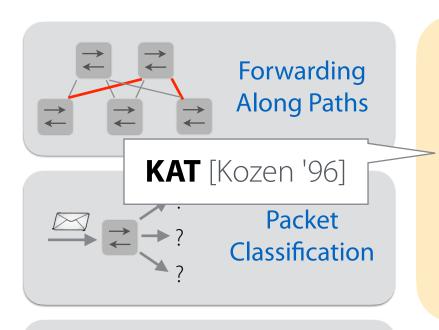




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Boolean Algebra true, false, f=n, a&b, a|b, ¬a



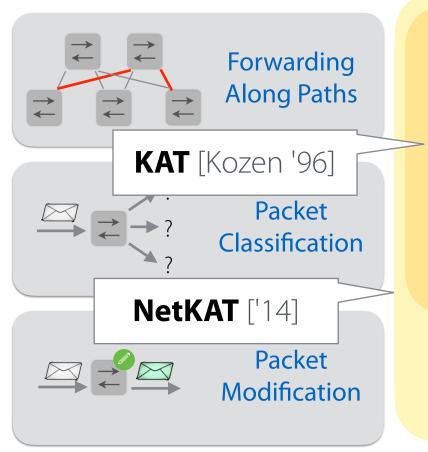


Regular Expressions +, ;, \*

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Network Primitives f:=n, A→B



Regular Expressions +, ;, \*

Boolean Algebra true, false, f=n, a&b, a|b, ¬a

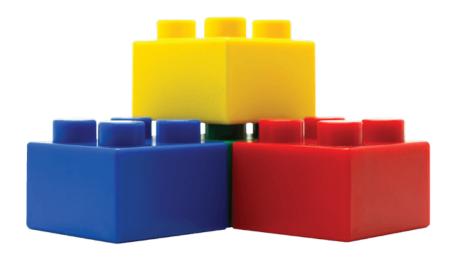
Network Primitives f:=n, A→B

#### **Example**

```
port = 88; switch = 6;
  dest := 10.0.0.1;
(port := 50 + port := 51)
```

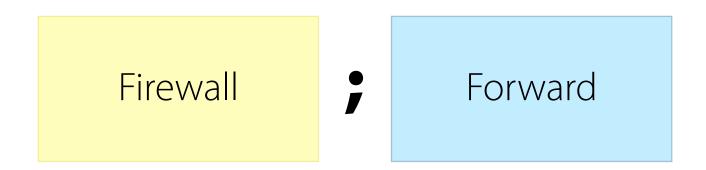
"For all packets incoming on port 88 of switch 6, set the destination IP address to 10.0.0.1 and multicast the packet out of ports 50 and 51."

#### **Design Goal: Modular Composition**



program fragments can be composed to form larger programs

## **Sequential Composition**



"First filter out untrusted traffic, then forward."

#### **Sequential Composition**

if dstport=22 then false else true



if dest=10.0.0.1 then port:=1 elif dest=10.0.0.2 then port:=2 elif dest=10.0.0.3 then port:=3 else false

"First filter out untrusted traffic, then forward."

## **Parallel Composition**

Monitor + Forward

"Execute both Monitor and Forward on all incoming packets"

Multicast: port:=1 + port:=2

#### Language Design 8 Modeling

Reasoning & Verification

Programming & Compilation

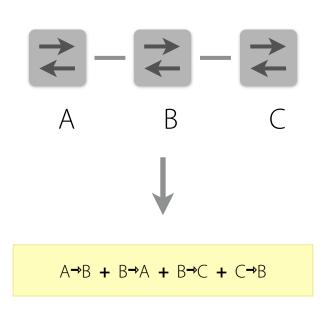
# Language Fesign & Mcceling

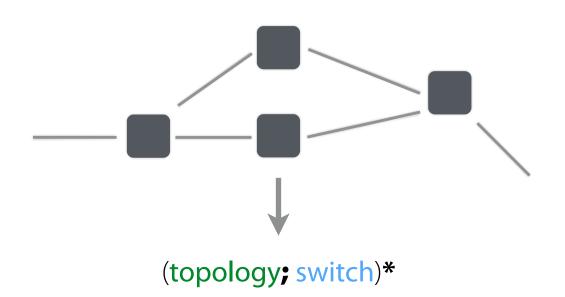
Reasoning & Verification

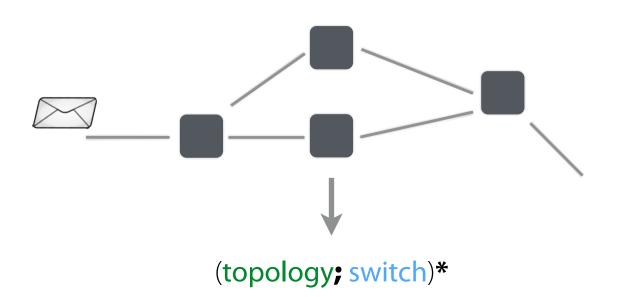
Programming & Compilation

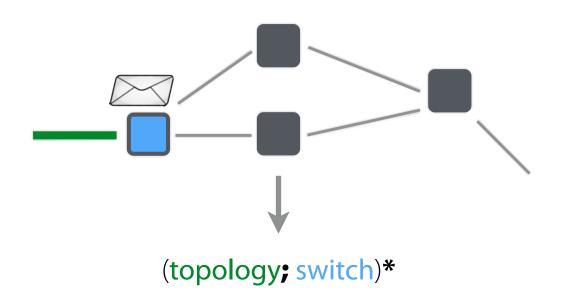
Forwarding tables and topologies can be represented in NetKAT using straightforward encodings

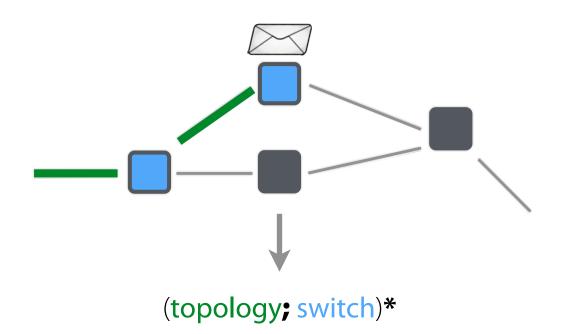
<b>→</b>		
<b>*</b>	Pattern	Actions
	dstport=22	Drop
	srcip=10.0.0.1	Forward 1
	*	Forward 2
	<pre>if dstport=22 then false elsif srcip=10.0.0.1 then port := 1 else port := 2</pre>	

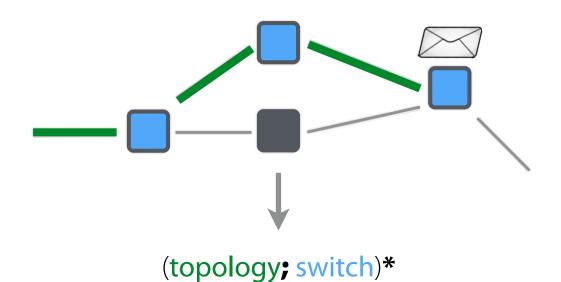


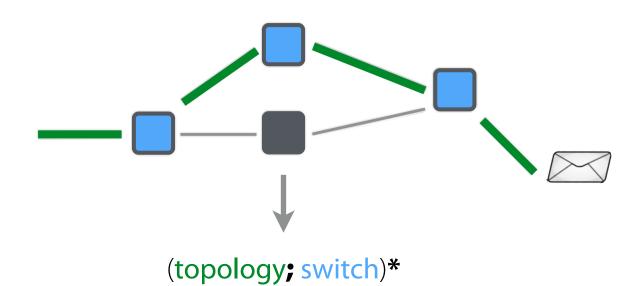




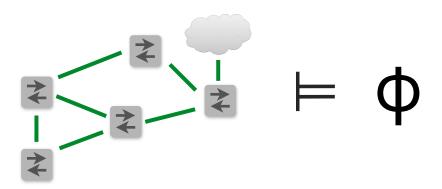








## **Checking Reachability**



Given a network encoded this way, we'd like to be able to automatically answer questions like:

"Does the network forward from ingress to egress?"

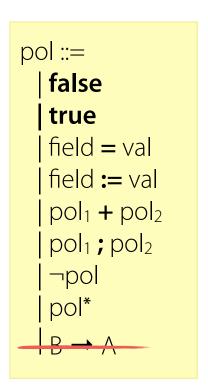
Can reduce this question (and others) to program equivalence

in; (topology; switch)\*; out ≠ false

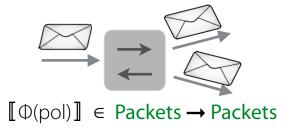
#### **Denotational Semantics**

```
pol ::=
  false
  true
  field = val
  field := val
  pol_1 + pol_2
  |pol_1;pol_2|
  ¬pol
  pol*
  B \rightarrow A
```

#### **Denotational Semantics**



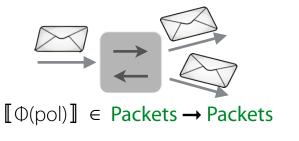
Local: input-output behavior of switches



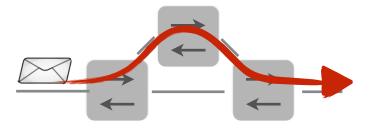
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  pol_1; pol_2
   ¬pol
```

Local: input-output behavior of switches



Global: network-wide paths



[pol] ∈ Histories → Histories

#### **NetKAT Axioms**

#### **Kleene Algebra Axioms**

```
p + (q + r) \equiv (p + q) + r
p + q = q + p
p + false = p
p + p \equiv p
p;(q;r) \equiv (p;q);r
p;(q + r) = p \cdot q + p;r
(p+q); r \equiv p; r+q; r
true; p = p
p = p; true
false; p = false
p; false = false
true + p; p^* = p^*
true + p^*; p = p^*
p+q;r+r=r \Rightarrow p^*;q+r=r
p + q; r + q = q \Rightarrow p; r^* + q = q
```

#### **Boolean Algebra Axioms**

```
a + (b; c) = (a + b); (a + c)

a + true = true

a + ¬a = true

a; b = b; a

a; ¬a = false

a; a = a
```

#### **Packet Axioms**

```
f := n; f' := n' \equiv f' := n'; f := n if f \neq f'

f := n; f' = n' \equiv f' = n'; f := n if f \neq f'

f := n; f = n \equiv f := n

f := n; f := n \equiv f = n

f := n; f := n' \equiv f := n'

f := n; f := n' \equiv f \text{ alse} if n \neq n'

A \rightarrow B; f = n \equiv f = n; A \rightarrow B if f \notin \{\text{switch, port}\}

\sum_i f = n_i \equiv \text{true}
```

#### **NetKAT Axioms**

#### **Kleene Algebra Axioms**

$$p + (q + r) \equiv (p + q) + r$$
  
 $p + q \equiv q + p$   
 $p + false \equiv p$ 

#### $p + p \equiv p$

$$p;(q;r) \equiv p;(q+r) \equiv$$

#### $(p+q); r \equiv true; p \equiv p$

#### p = p; true

false; 
$$p = false$$
  
p; false = false

true + p; 
$$p^* \equiv p^*$$
  
true +  $p^*$ ;  $p \equiv p^*$ 

$$p+q;r+r=r \Rightarrow p^*;q+r=r$$

$$p + q; r + q = q \Rightarrow p; r^* + q = q$$

#### **Boolean Algebra Axioms**

$$a + (b; c) = (a + b); (a + c)$$

## **Soundness:** If $\vdash p = q$ , then $\llbracket p \rrbracket = \llbracket q \rrbracket$

#### **Completeness:** If [p] = [q], then $\vdash p = q$

$$f := n; f' = n' = f' = n'; f := n$$
  
 $f := n; f = n = f := n$ 

$$f = n; f := n = f = n$$
  
 $f := n; f := n' = f := n'$ 

$$f = n$$
;  $f = n' = false$ 

$$A \rightarrow B$$
;  $f = n = f = n$ ;  $A \rightarrow B$  if  $f \notin \{\text{switch, port}\}$ 

if  $f \neq f'$ 

if  $n \neq n'$ 

$$\Sigma_i f = n_i \equiv true$$

#### **Decision Procedure**

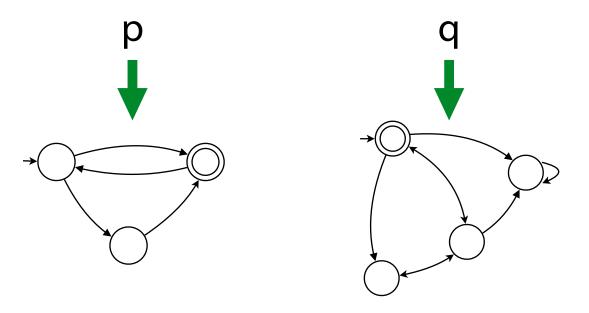
Decides program equivalence fully automatically!

**Theoretical Insight:** NetKAT programs ↔ NetKAT automata

#### **Decision Procedure**

Decides program equivalence fully automatically!

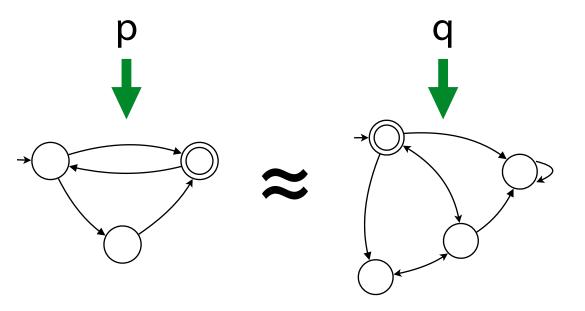
**Theoretical Insight:** NetKAT programs ↔ NetKAT automata



#### **Decision Procedure**

Decides program equivalence fully automatically!

**Theoretical Insight:** NetKAT programs ↔ NetKAT automata



Algorithm checks bisimilarity of automata

#### Language Design 8 Modeling

Reasoning & Verification

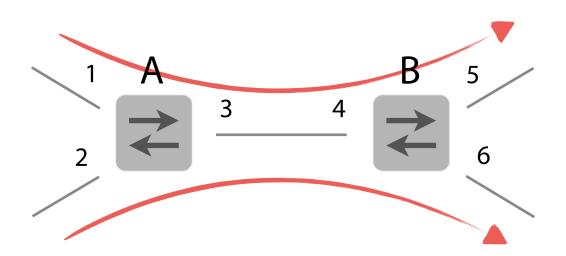
Programming & Compilation

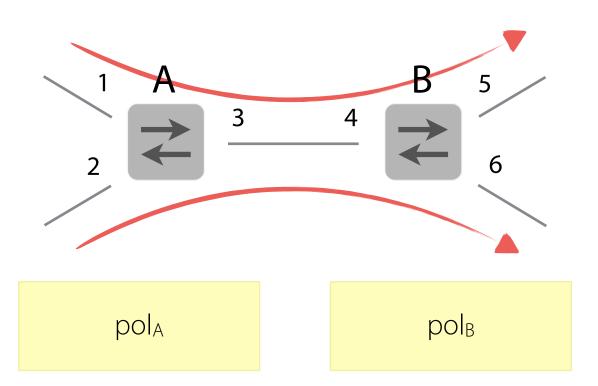
# Language Fesign & Mcceling

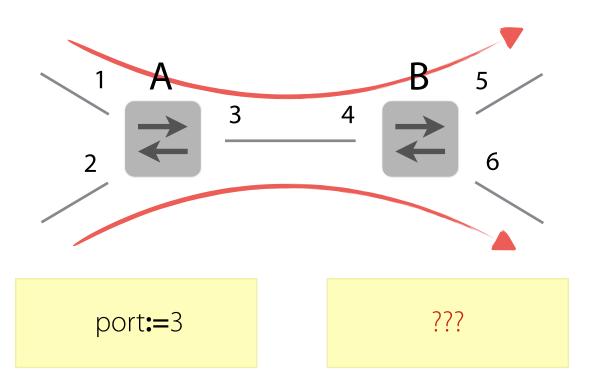
Reasoning 8
Vertication

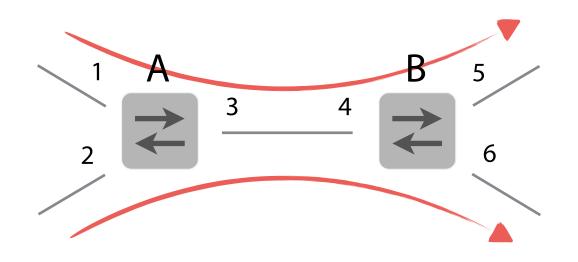
Programming & Compilation

### **Example**



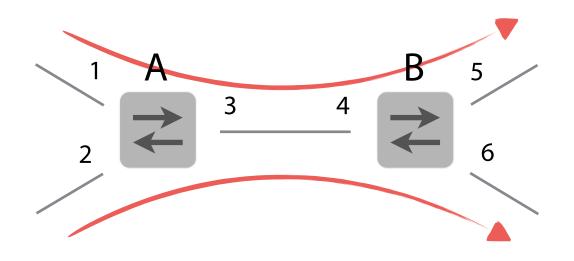




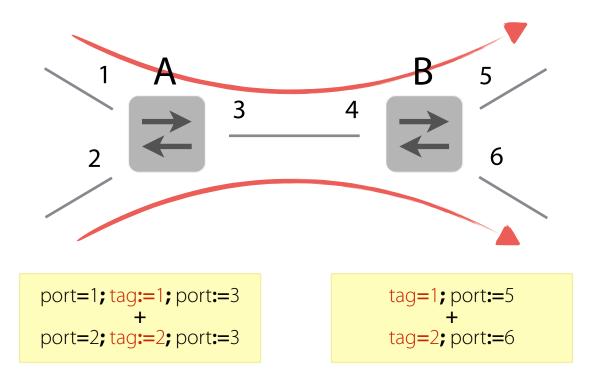


port=1; tag:=1; port:=3 + port=2; tag:=2; port:=3

???

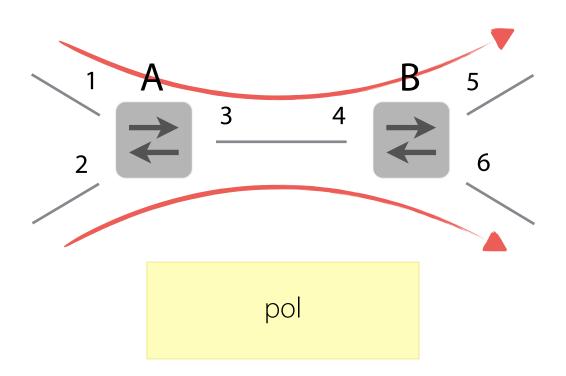


tag=1; port:=5 + tag=2; port:=6

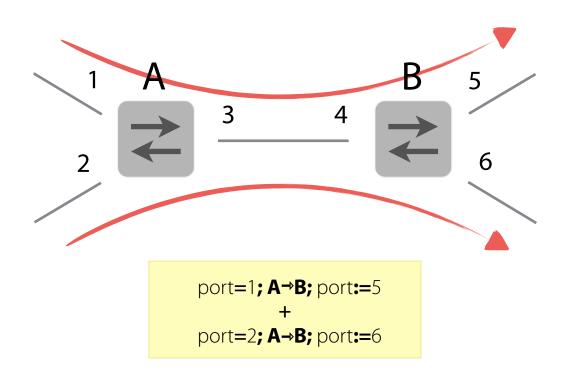


Tedious for programmers... difficult to get right!

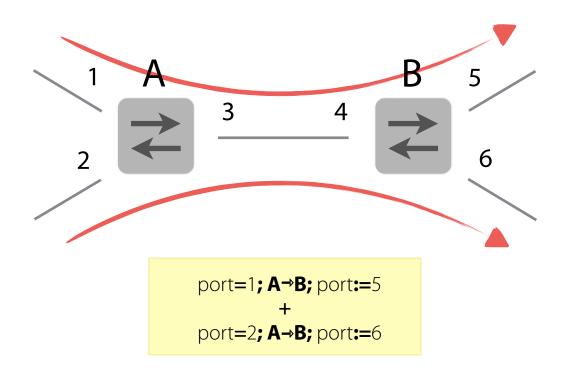
### **Global Program**



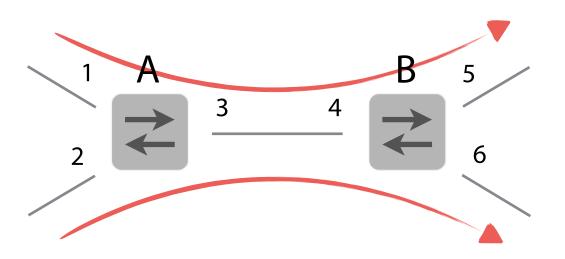
### **Global Program**

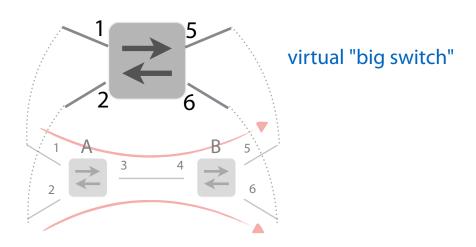


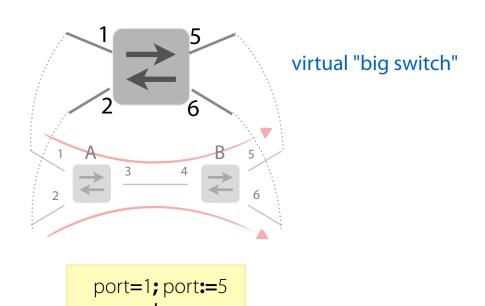
#### **Global Program**



Simple and elegant!

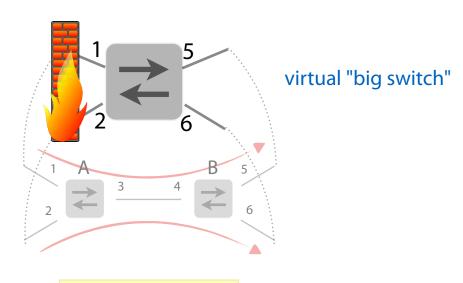






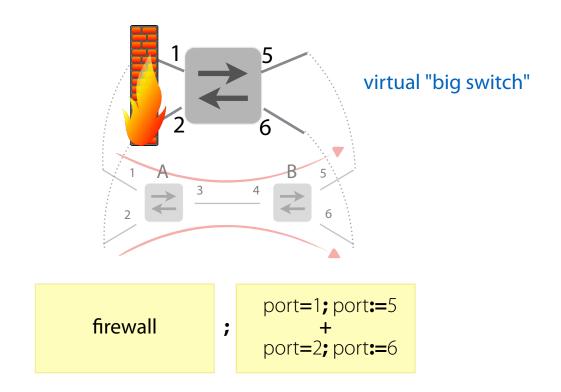
Even simpler!

port=2; port:=6



port=1; port:=5 + port=2; port:=6

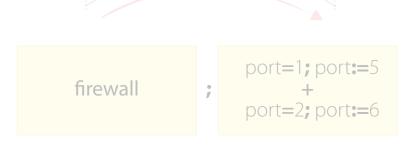
Even simpler!



Even simpler!



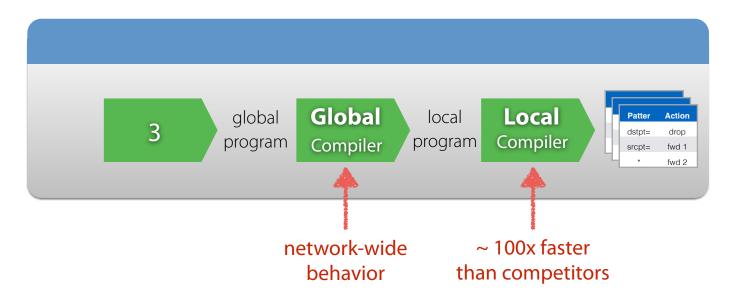
Can implement **multiple** arbitrary **virtual networks** on top of **single physical network** 

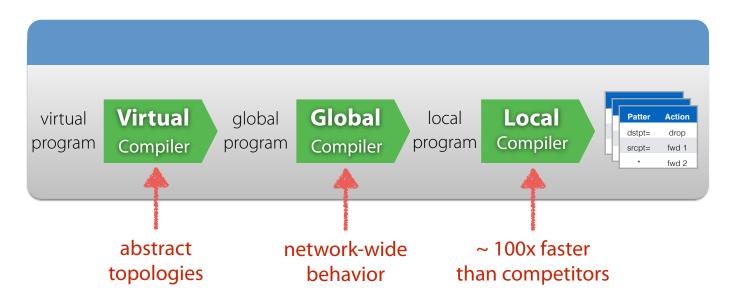


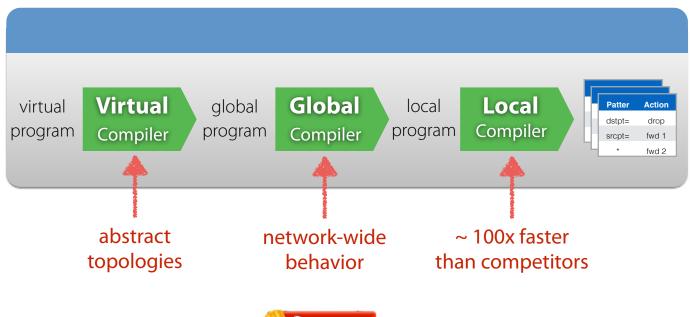
Even simpler!



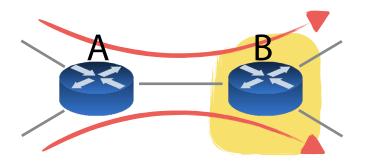




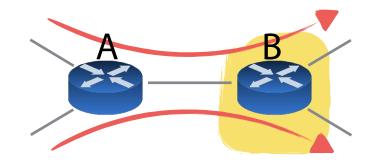




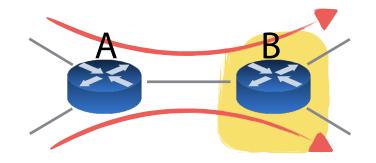




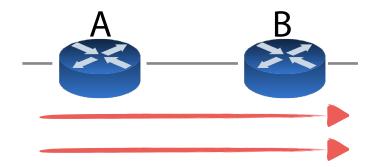
 Adding Extra State "Tagging"



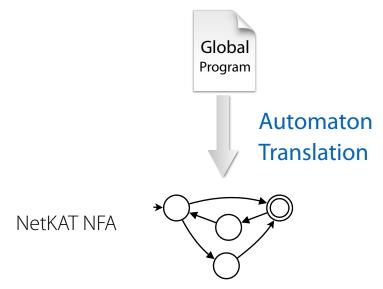
Adding Extra State
 "Tagging"

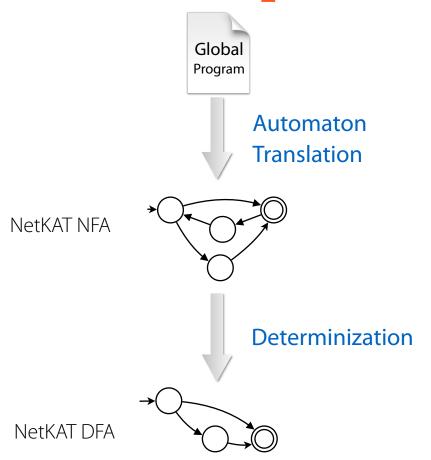


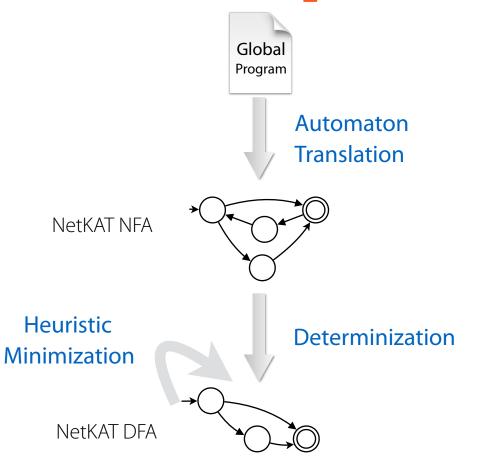
2. Avoiding Duplication (naive tagging is unsound!)

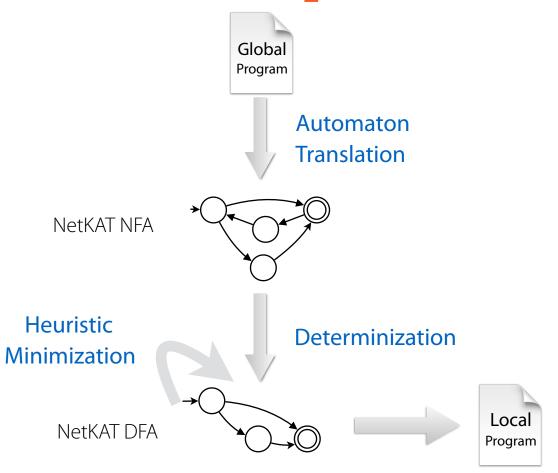


Global Program

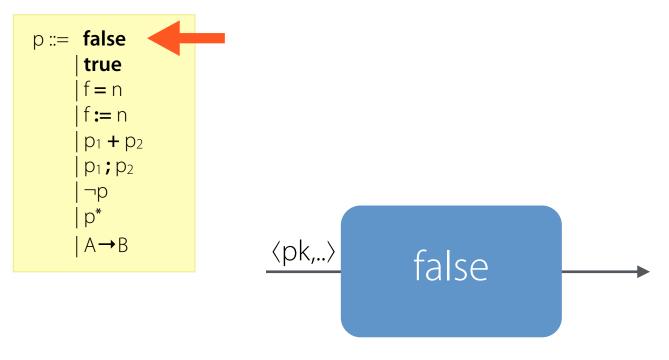




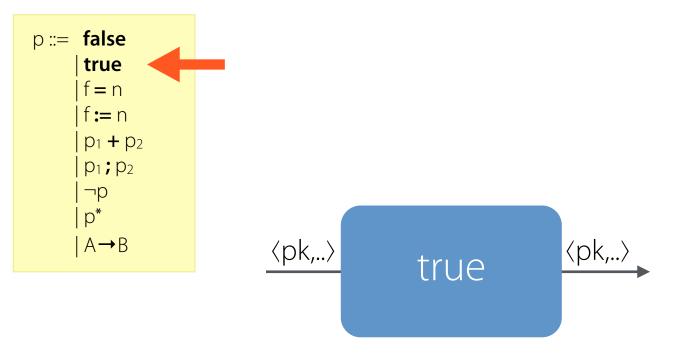




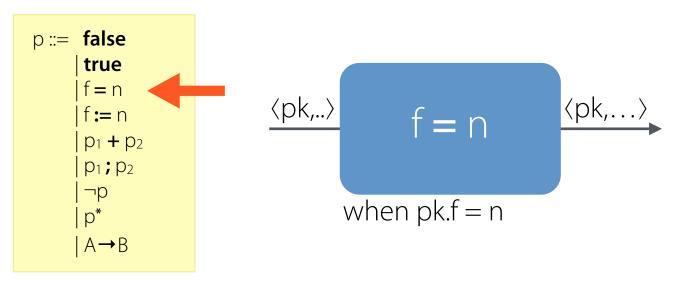
## Questions?



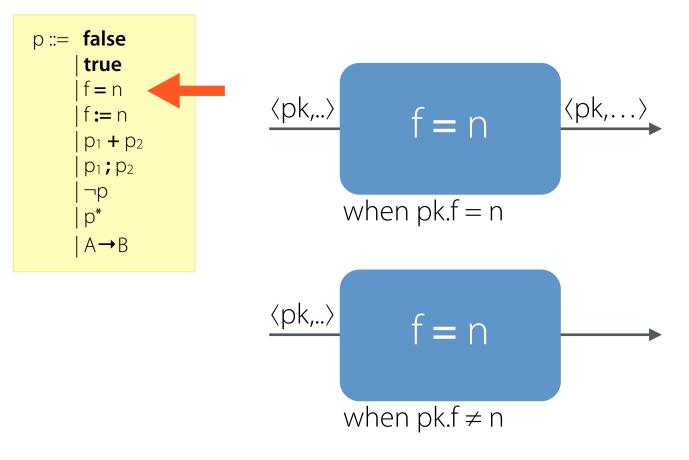
false drops its input



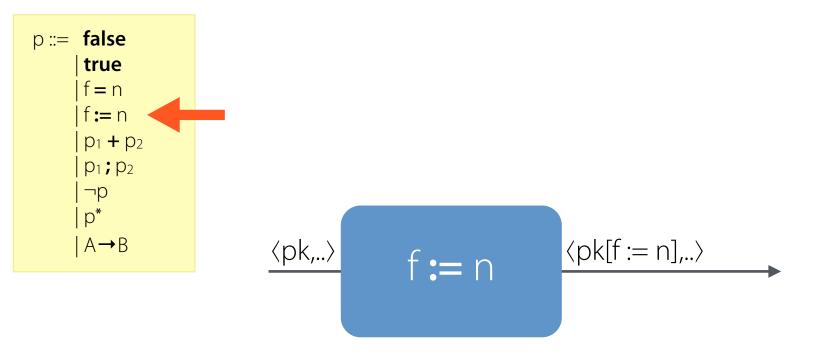
**true** copies its input



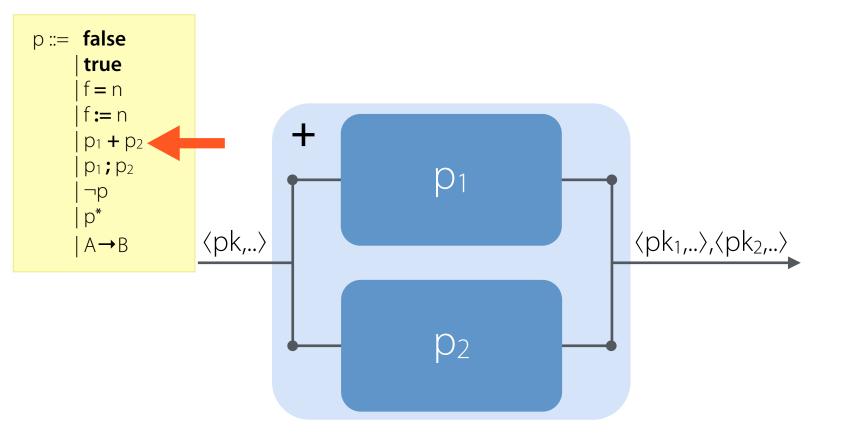
f = n copies its input if pk.f = n and otherwise drops it



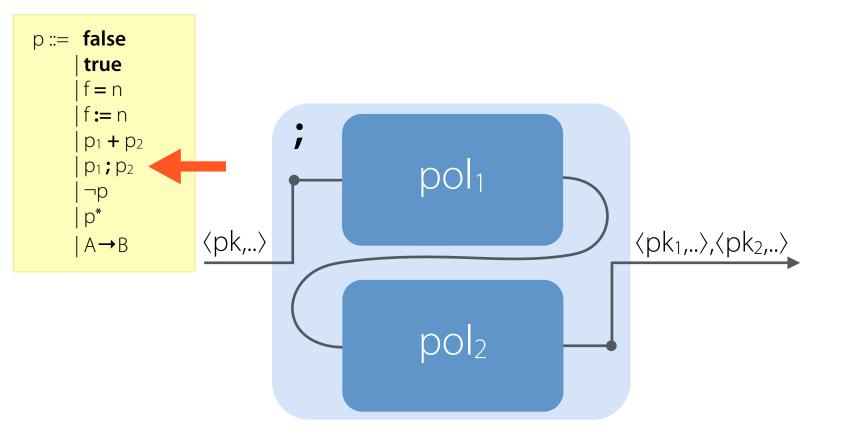
f = n copies its input if pk.f = n and otherwise drops it



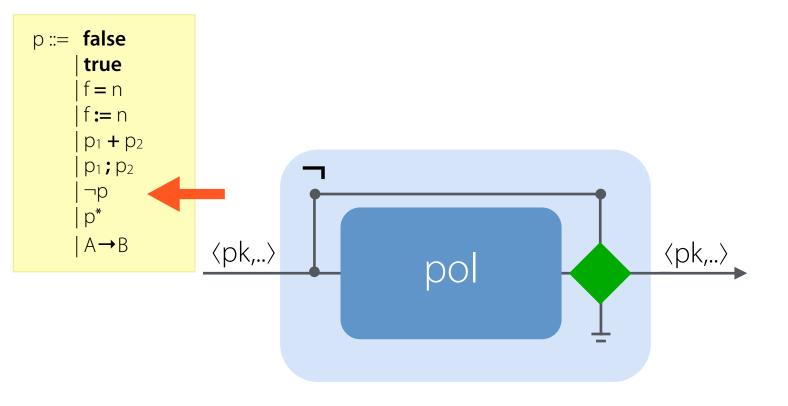
f := n sets the input's f component to n



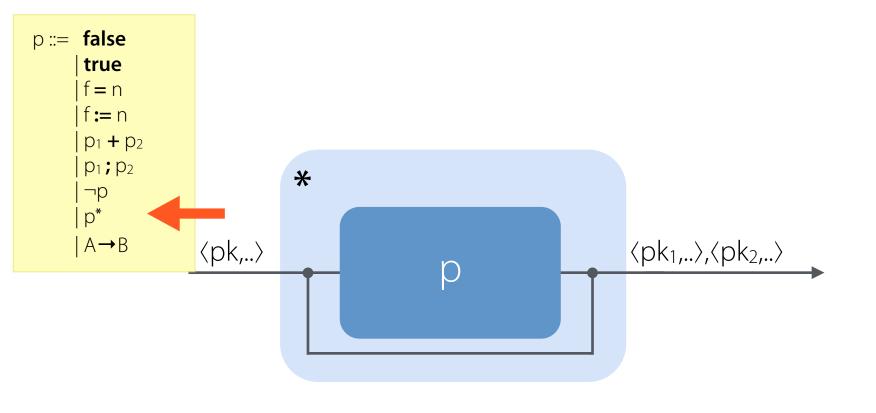
 $p_1 + p_2$  duplicates the input, sends one copy to each sub-policy, and takes the *union* of their outputs



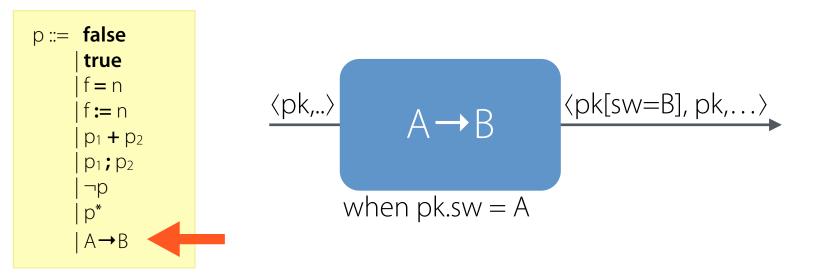
 $p_1$ ;  $p_2$  runs the input through  $pol_1$  and then runs every output produced by  $p_1$  through  $p_2$ 



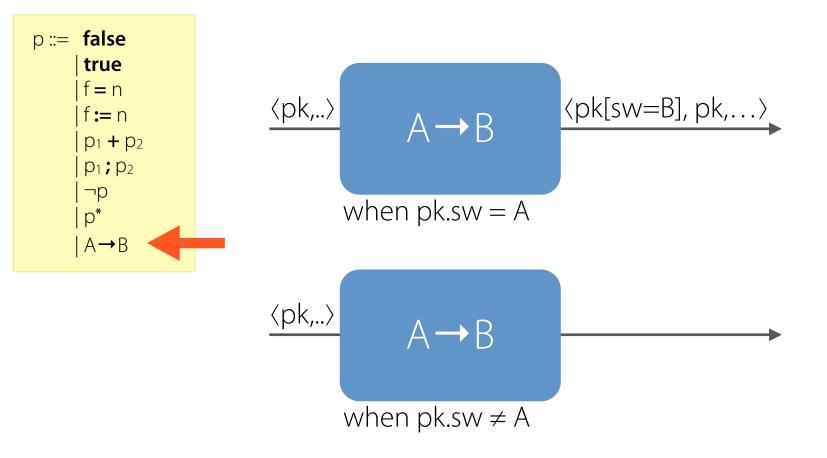
¬p drops the input if p produces any output and copies it otherwise



p\* repeatedly runs packets through p to a fixpoint



A→B duplicates the packet and moves it across the link



A→B duplicates the packet and moves it across the link

```
\llbracket p \rrbracket \in \mathsf{History} \to \mathsf{History} \mathsf{Set}
```

```
\llbracket p \rrbracket \in \mathsf{History} \to \mathsf{History} \mathsf{Set}
[true] h = { h }
```

```
\llbracket p \rrbracket \in \mathsf{History} \to \mathsf{History} \mathsf{Set}
[true] h = \{h\}
\llbracket false \rrbracket h = \{\}
```

```
[[p]] ∈ History → History Set
[true] h = { h }
[[false]] h = {}
[[f = n]] pk :: h = \begin{cases} \{pk :: h\} & \text{if } pk.f = n \\ \{\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}
```

```
[[p]] ∈ History → History Set
[true] h = { h }
[[false]] h = {}
[f = n] pk : h = \begin{cases} \{pk : h\} & \text{if } pk.f = n \\ \{\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}
[\neg p] h = \{h\} \setminus [p] h
```

```
[[p]] ∈ History → History Set
[[true] h = { h }
[false] h = {}
[f = n] pk : h = \begin{cases} \{pk : h\} & \text{if } pk.f = n \\ \{\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}
[\neg p] h = \{h\} \setminus [p] h
[[f := n]] pk :: h= { pk[f:=n] :: h }
```

```
[[p]] ∈ History → History Set
[[true] h = { h }
\llbracket false \rrbracket h = \{\}
[f = n] pk : h = \begin{cases} \{pk : h\} & \text{if } pk.f = n \\ \{\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}
[\neg p] h = \{h\} \setminus [p] h
[[f := n]] pk :: h= { pk[f:=n] :: h }
[p_1 + p_2] h = [p_1] h \cup [p_2] h
```

```
[[p]] ∈ History → History Set
[[true] h = { h }
\llbracket false \rrbracket h = \{\}
[f = n] pk : h = \begin{cases} \{pk : h\} & \text{if } pk.f = n \\ \{\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}
[\neg p]h = \{h\} \setminus [p]h
[[f := n]] pk :: h= { pk[f:=n] :: h }
[p_1 + p_2] h = [p_1] h \cup [p_2] h
[p_1; p_2] h = ([p_1] \cdot [p_2]) h
```

 $f,g \in History \rightarrow History Set$  $(f \cdot g) h = U \{g h' | h' \in f h\}$ 

```
[[p]] ∈ History → History Set
[[true] h = { h }
\llbracket false \rrbracket h = \{\}
[f = n] pk : h = \begin{cases} \{pk : h\} & \text{if } pk.f = n \\ \{\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}
[\neg p] h = \{h\} \setminus [p] h
[[f := n]] pk :: h= { pk[f:=n] :: h }
[p_1 + p_2] h = [p_1] h \cup [p_2] h
[p_1; p_2] h = ([p_1] \cdot [p_2]) h
[p^*] h = (U_i [p]^i h)
```

 $f,g \in History \rightarrow History Set$  $(f \cdot g) h = U \{g h' | h' \in f h\}$ 

```
[p] \in History \rightarrow History Set
[[true] h = { h }
\llbracket false \rrbracket h = \{\}
[f = n] pk : h = \begin{cases} \{pk : h\} & \text{if } pk.f = n \\ \{\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}
[\neg p] h = \{ h \} \setminus [p] h
[[f := n]] pk :: h= { pk[f:=n] :: h }
[p_1 + p_2] h = [p_1] h \cup [p_2] h
[p_1; p_2] h = ([p_1] \cdot [p_2]) h
[p^*] h = (U_i [p]^i h)
[A \rightarrow B] pk :: h = \{ pk[sw:=B] :: pk :: h \} \text{ if } pk.sw = A \}
                                                                otherwise
```

 $f,g \in History \rightarrow History Set$  $(f \cdot g) h = U \{g h' | h' \in f h\}$