

Effective Abstractions for Verification under Relaxed Memory Models

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Dekker's Algorithm

initial: `flag[0] = false, flag[1] = false, turn = 0`

Thread 0:

```
flag[0] := true  
while (flag[1] = true)  
  if (turn ≠ 0)  
    flag[0] := false  
    while (turn ≠ 0) {}  
    flag[0] := true  
  
/* Critical Section */
```

Thread 1:

```
flag[1] := true  
while (flag[0] = true)  
  if (turn ≠ 1)  
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```

Spec: mutual exclusion over Critical Section

Dekker's Algorithm

Sequential Consistency

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Relaxed Model x86 TSO

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```

Sequential Consistency



Relaxed Model x86 TSO



Thread 1:

```
flag[1] := true  
while (flag[0] = true)  
  if (turn ≠ 1)  
    flag[1] := false  
    while (turn ≠ 1) {}  
    flag[1] := true  
  
/* Critical Section */
```

Spec: mutual exclusion over Critical Section

Correct Dekker's Algorithm

initial: `flag[0]` = false, `flag[1]` = false, `turn` = 0

Relaxed Model x86 TSO

Thread 0:

```
flag[0] := true
fence
while (flag[1] = true)
  if (turn ≠ 0)
    flag[0] := false
    while (turn ≠ 0) { }
    flag[0] := true
    fence
/* Critical Section */
```

Thread 1:

```
flag[1] := true
fence
while (flag[0] = true)
  if (turn ≠ 1)
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/* Critical Section */
```

Spec: mutual exclusion over Critical Section

Correct Dekker's Algorithm

initial: `flag[0]` = false, `flag[1]` = false, `turn` = 0

Relaxed Model x86 TSO



Thread 0:

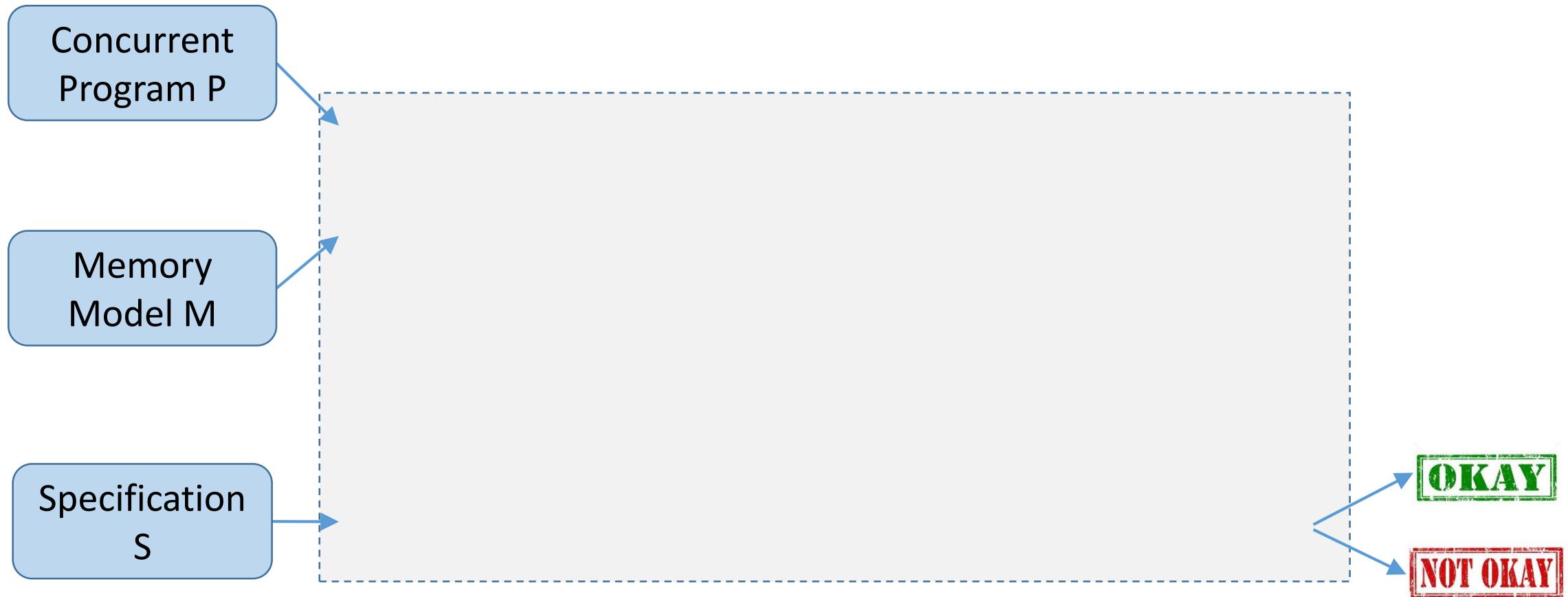
```
flag[0] := true
fence
while (flag[1] = true)
  if (turn ≠ 0)
    flag[0] := false
    while (turn ≠ 0) { }
    flag[0] := true
    fence
/* Critical Section */
```

Thread 1:

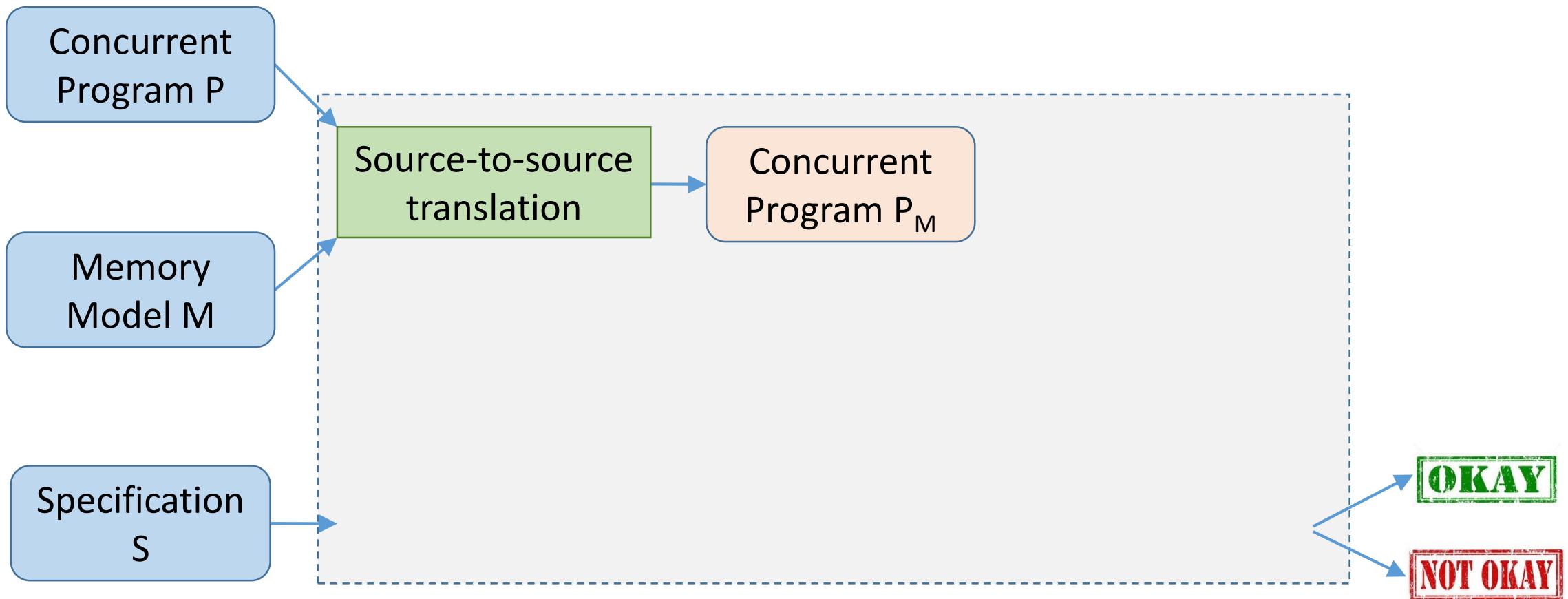
```
flag[1] := true
fence
while (flag[0] = true)
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    flag[1] := true
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```

Spec: mutual exclusion over Critical Section

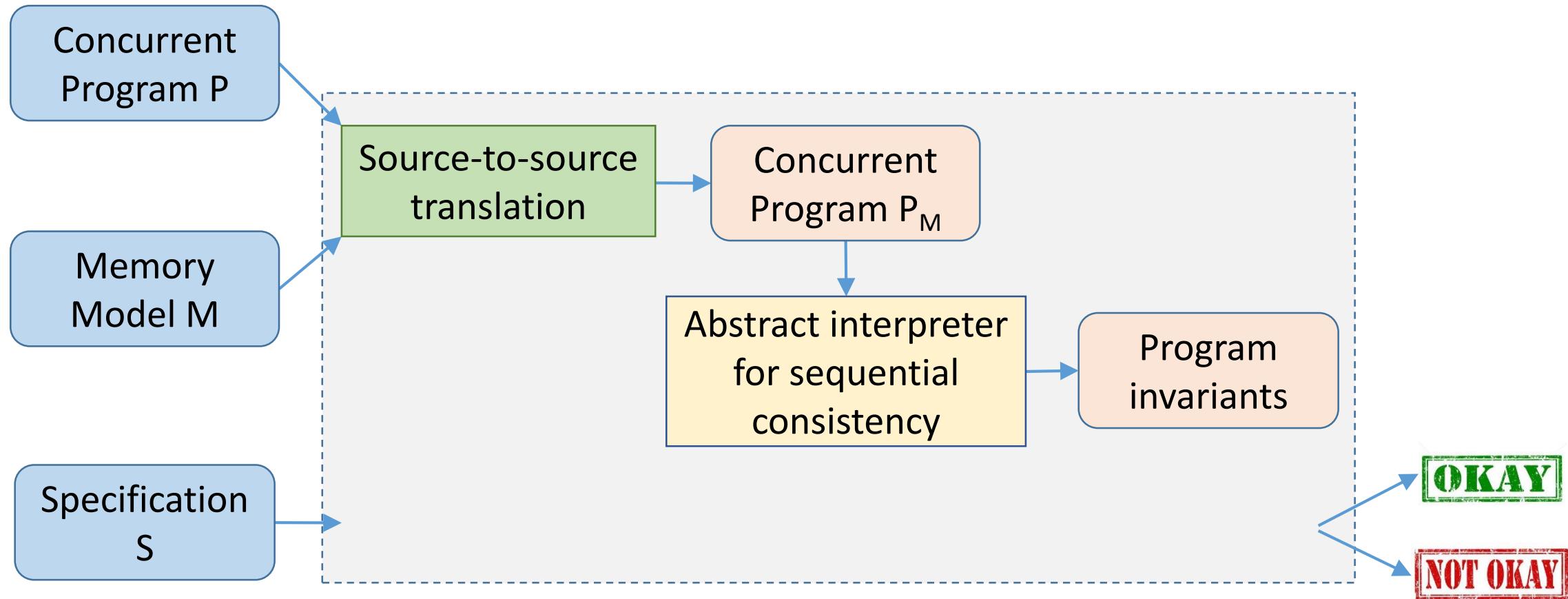
This work



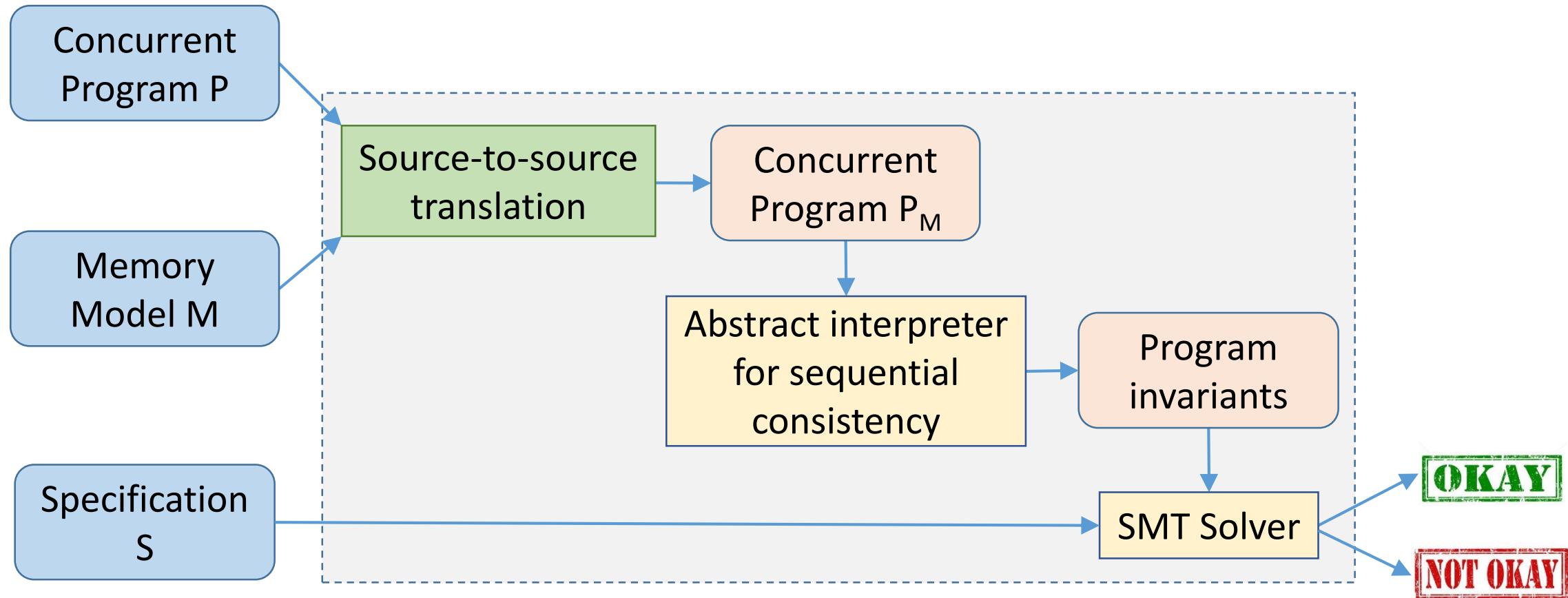
This work



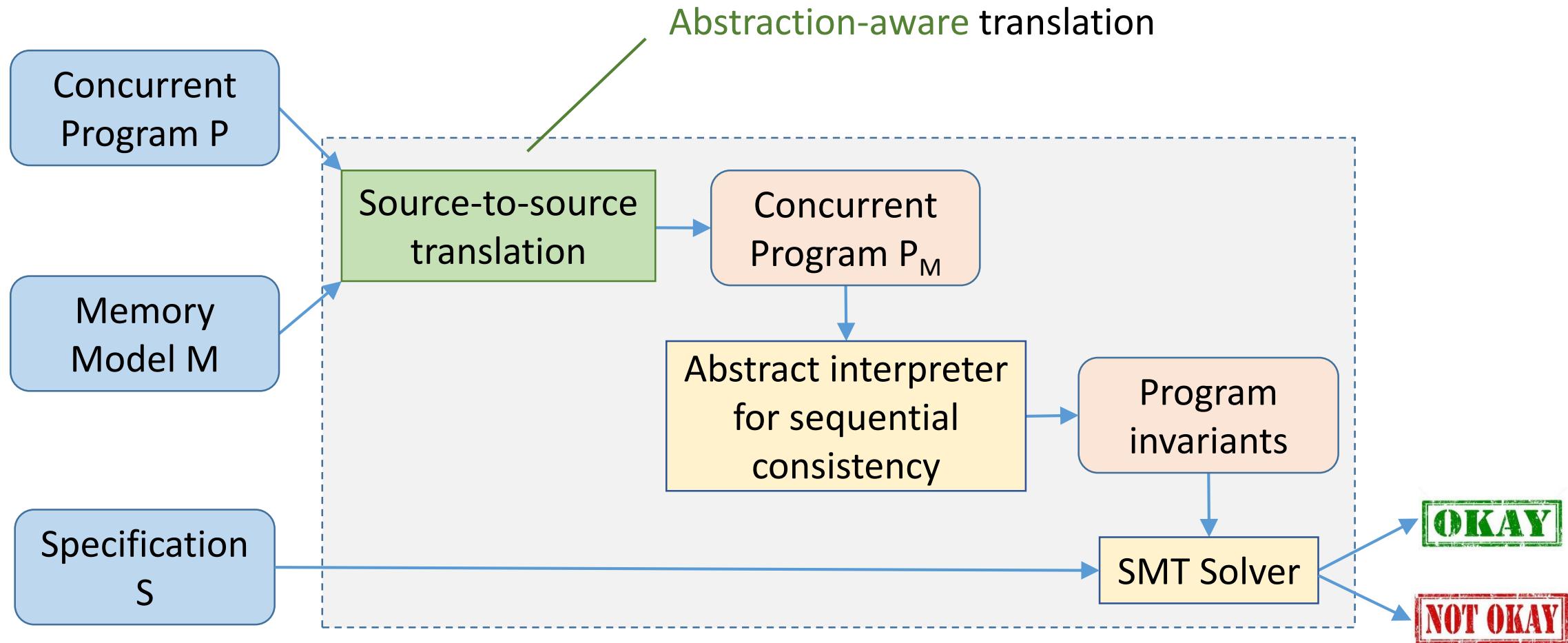
This work



This work



This work



Talk outline

Direct translation [SAS '14] ←

Abstraction-aware translation:

1. Leverage more refined abstract domain
2. Buffer semantics without shifting [Abstraction]

Evaluation

Direct translation for x86 TSO [SAS '14]

Thread 0:

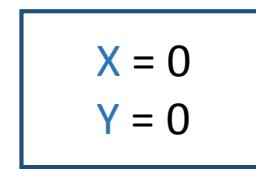


```
X := 1  
a := X  
Y := a + 1  
X := a - 1  
fence
```

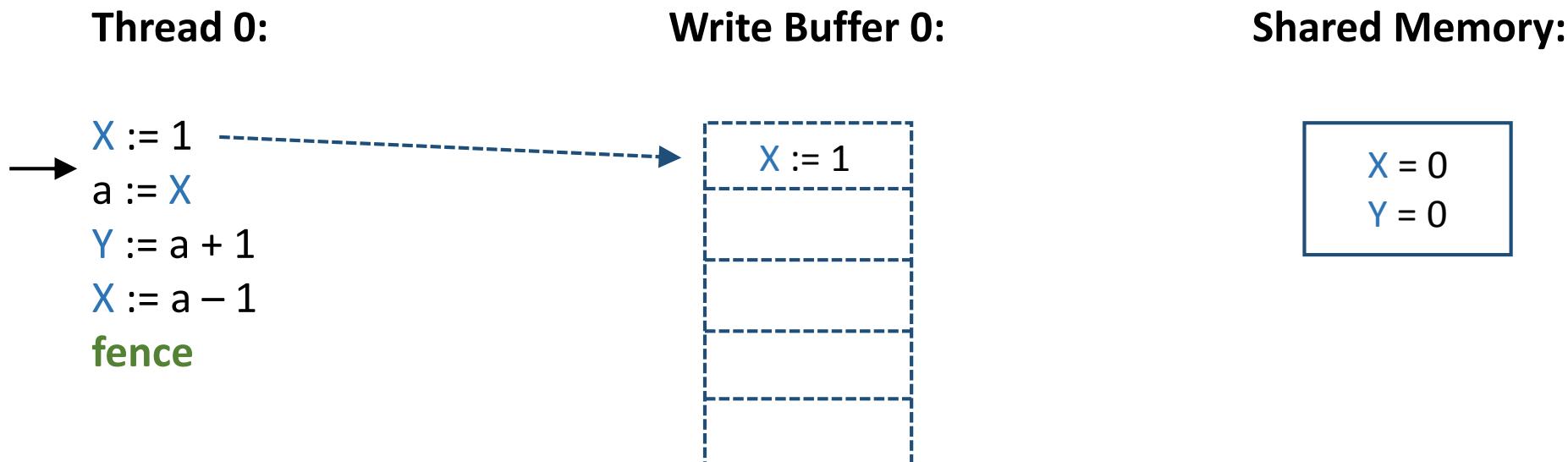
Write Buffer 0:



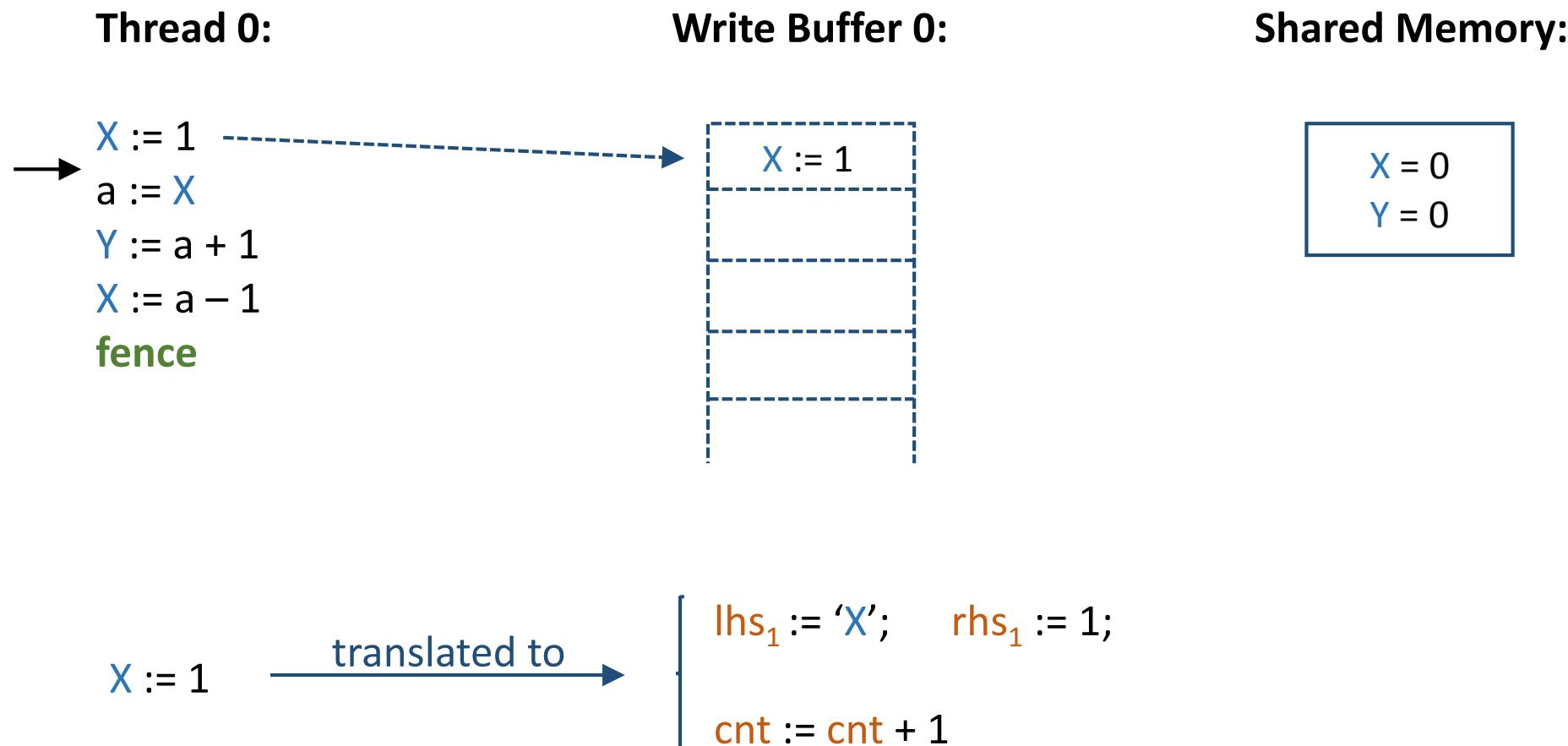
Shared Memory:



Direct translation for x86 TSO [SAS '14]



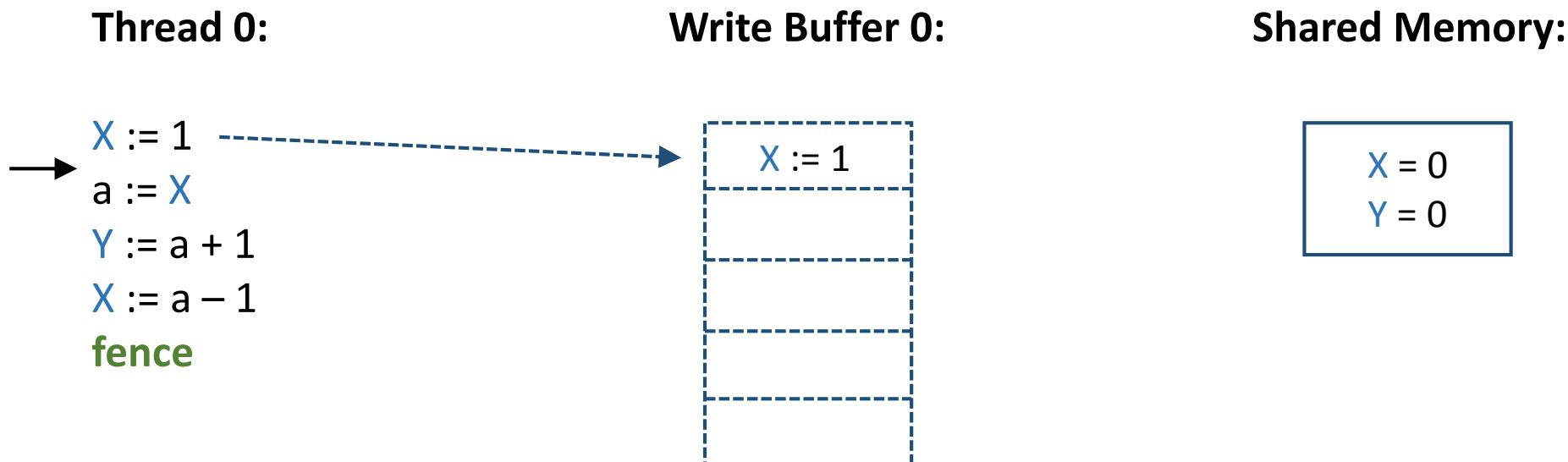
Direct translation for x86 TSO [SAS '14]



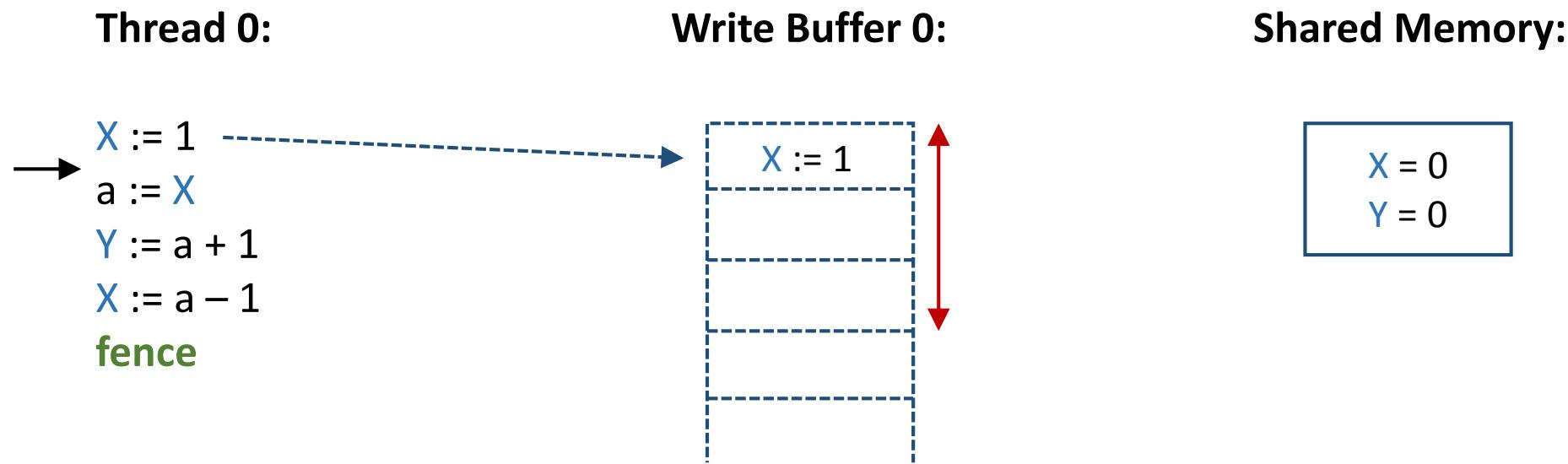
Introduce 2 local variables in **Thread 0** to encode each location of the finite buffer.

Introduce a variable **cnt**. It represents the number of elements in the buffer: $\{0 .. k\}$.

Direct translation for x86 TSO [SAS '14]



Direct translation for x86 TSO [SAS '14]



Establish a limit k for the size of the buffers for each thread. For example $k = 3$.

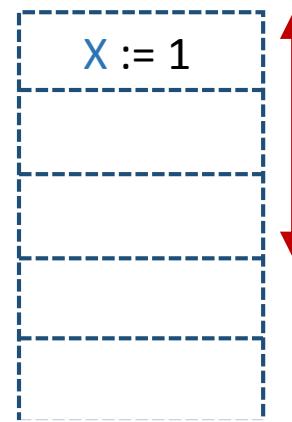
Sound abstraction.

Direct translation for x86 TSO [SAS '14]

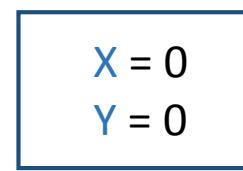
Thread 0:

```
X := 1  
a := X  
Y := a + 1  
X := a - 1  
fence
```

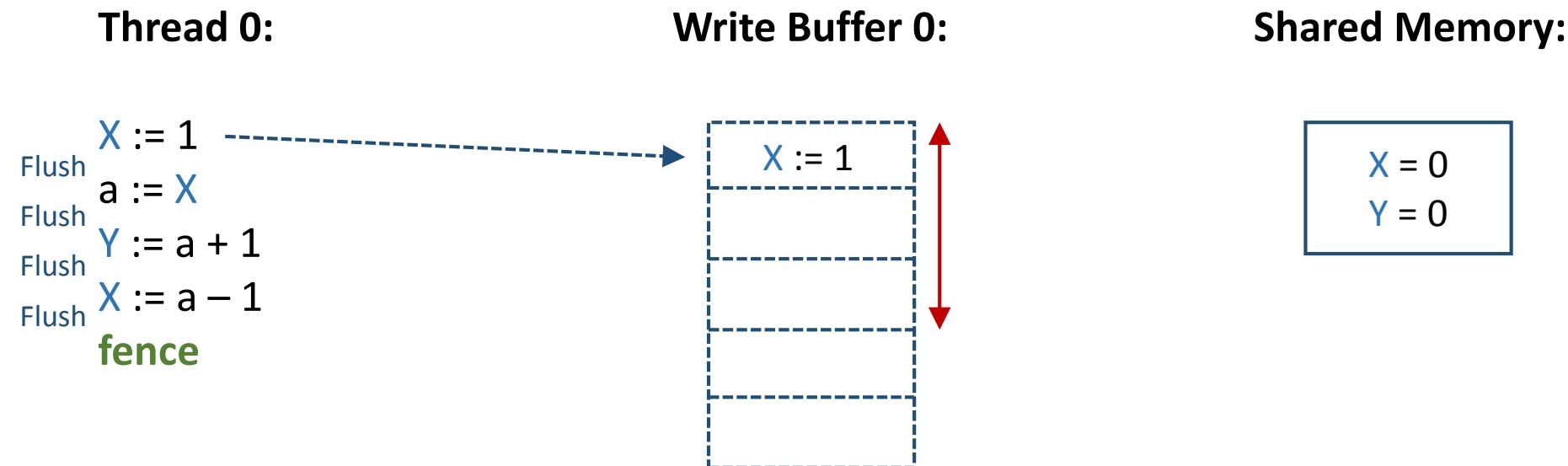
Write Buffer 0:



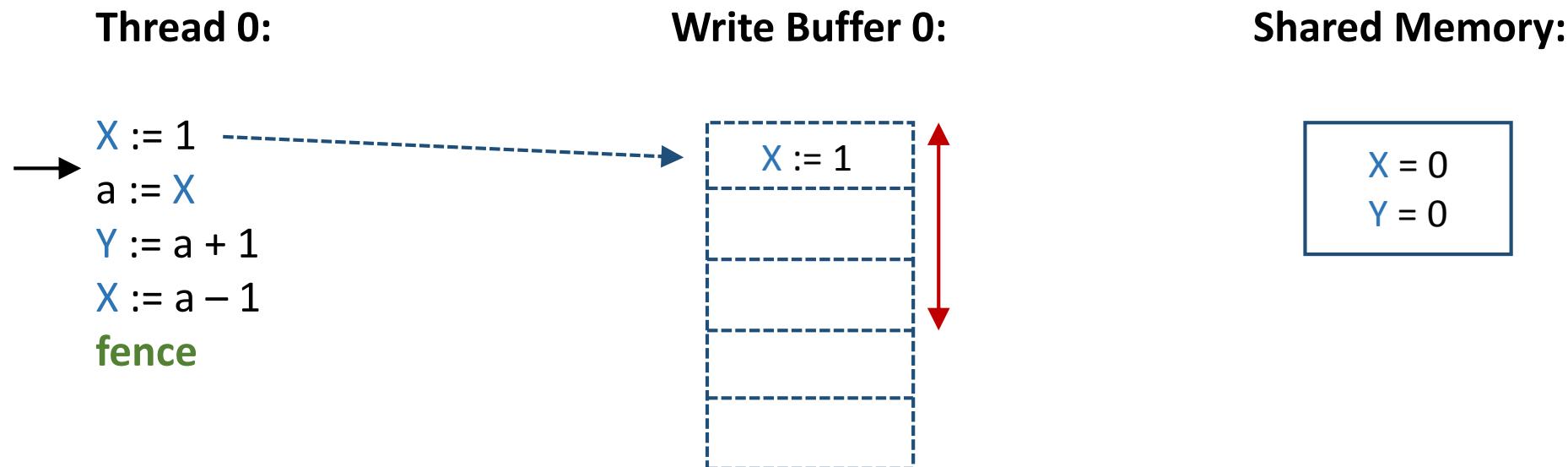
Shared Memory:



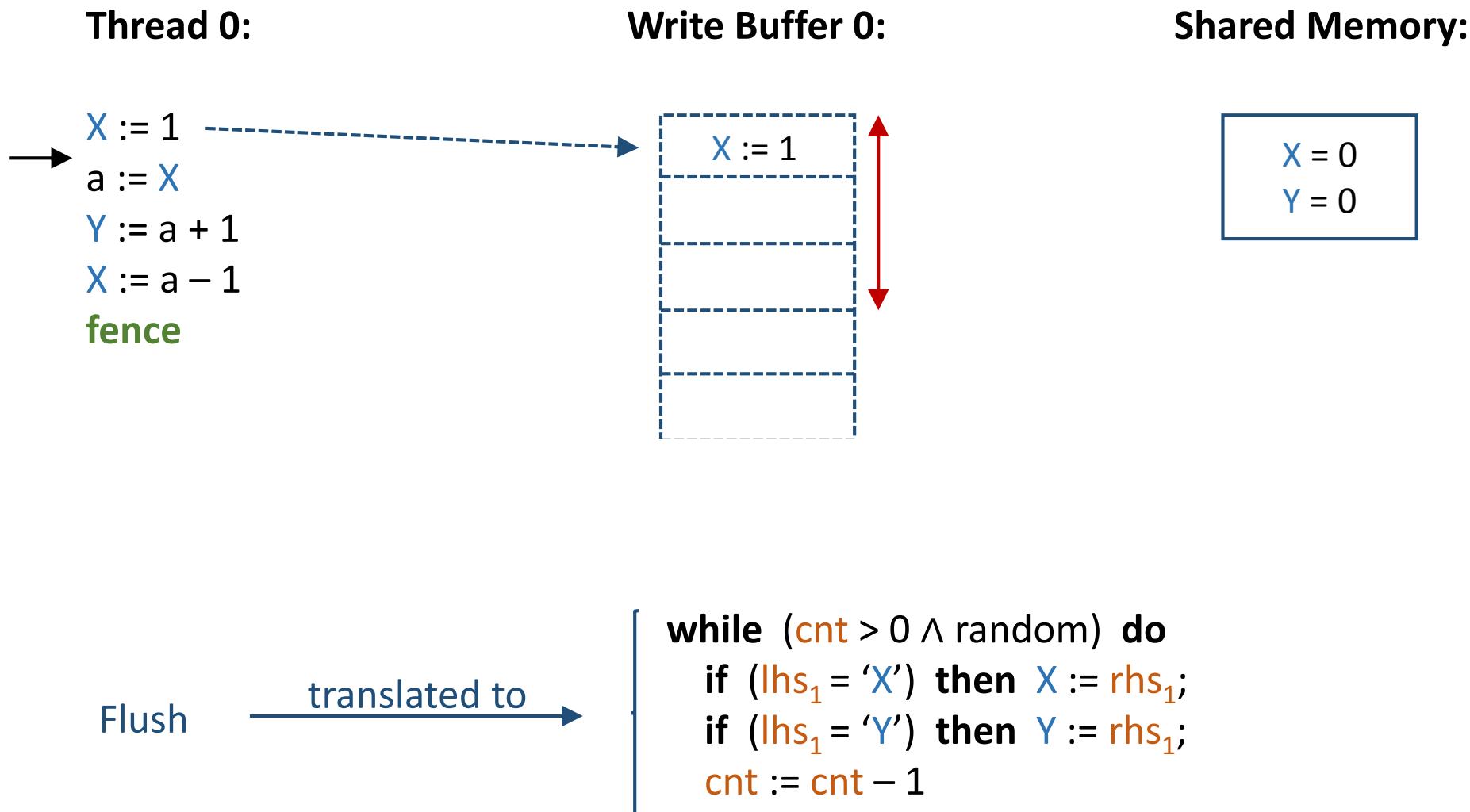
Direct translation for x86 TSO [SAS '14]



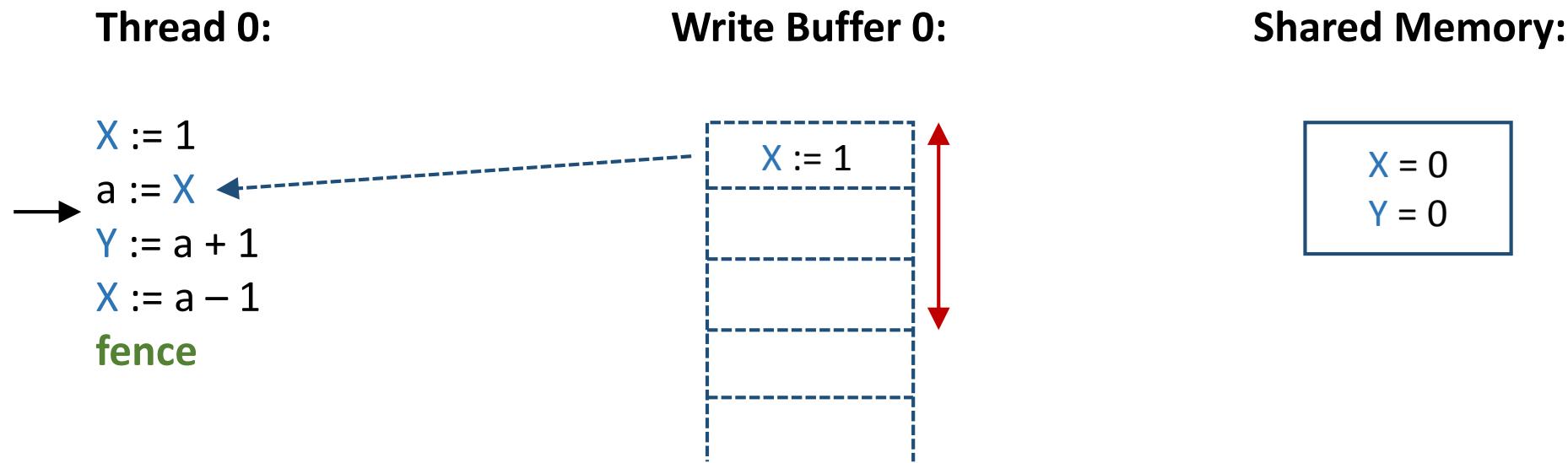
Direct translation for x86 TSO [SAS '14]



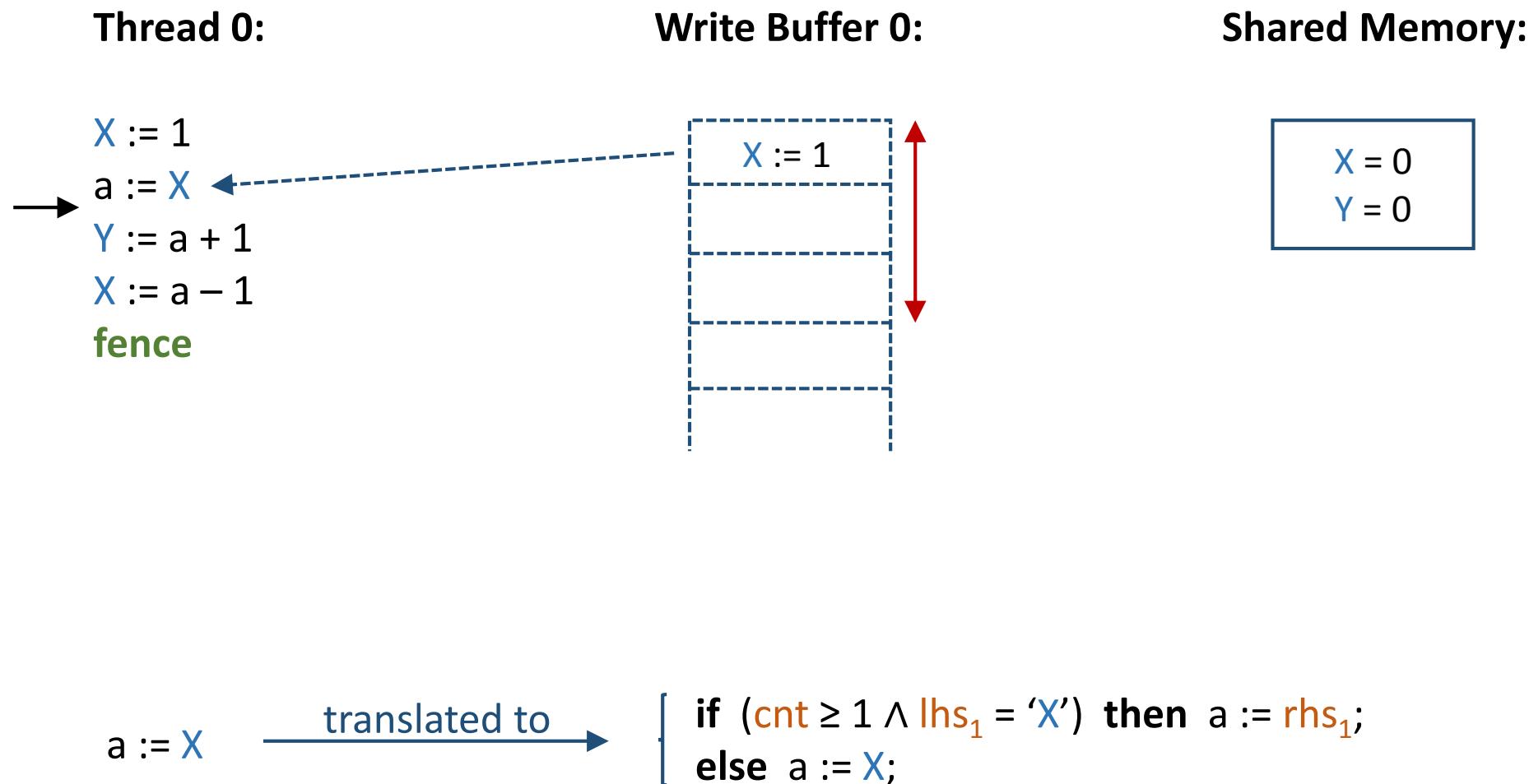
Direct translation for x86 TSO [SAS '14]



Direct translation for x86 TSO [SAS '14]



Direct translation for x86 TSO [SAS '14]



Analysis with the direct translation

Original program:

$X := 1$

translated to

Direct Translation:

```
lhs1 := 'X';    rhs1 := 1;  
cnt := cnt + 1
```

Flush

translated to

```
while (cnt > 0 ∧ random) do  
  if (lhs1 = 'X') then X := rhs1;  
  if (lhs1 = 'Y') then Y := rhs1;  
  cnt := cnt - 1
```

a := X

translated to

```
if (cnt ≥ 1 ∧ lhs1 = 'X') then a := rhs1;  
else a := X;
```

Numerical abstract interpretation:

Analysis with the direct translation

Original program:

$X := 1$

translated to

Direct Translation:

```
lhs1 := 'X';    rhs1 := 1;  
cnt := cnt + 1
```

Numerical abstract interpretation:

```
lhs1 = 'X' ∧ rhs1 = 1 ∧ cnt = 1 ∧  
X = 0
```

Flush

translated to

```
while (cnt > 0 ∧ random) do  
  if (lhs1 = 'X') then X := rhs1;  
  if (lhs1 = 'Y') then Y := rhs1;  
  cnt := cnt - 1
```

a := X

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if (cnt ≥ 1 ∧ lhs1 = 'X') then a := rhs1;  
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Numerical abstract interpretation:

```
lhs1 = 'X' ∧ rhs1 = 1 ∧ cnt = 1 ∧  
X = 0
```

Flush

translated to

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while (cnt > 0 ∧ random) do  
  if (lhs1 = 'X') then X := rhs1;  
  if (lhs1 = 'Y') then Y := rhs1;  
  cnt := cnt - 1
```

```
lhs1 = 'X' ∧ rhs1 = 1 ∧ cnt = [0, 1]  
∧ X = [0, 1]
```

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translated to

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lhs1 := 'X';    rhs1 := 1;  
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Numerical abstract interpretation:

```
lhs1 = 'X' ∧ rhs1 = 1 ∧ cnt = 1 ∧  
X = 0
```

Flush

translated to

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while (cnt > 0 ∧ random) do  
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  cnt := cnt - 1
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lhs1 = 'X' ∧ rhs1 = 1 ∧ cnt = [0, 1]  
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translated to

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∧ X = [0, 1] ∧ a = [0, 1]
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```
lhs1 := 'X';    rhs1 := 1;  
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```

Numerical abstract interpretation:

```
lhs1 = 'X' ∧ rhs1 = 1 ∧ cnt = 1 ∧  
X = 0
```

Flush

translated to

```
while (cnt > 0 ∧ random) do  
  if (lhs1 = 'X') then X := rhs1;  
  if (lhs1 = 'Y') then Y := rhs1;  
  cnt := cnt - 1
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lhs1 = 'X' ∧ rhs1 = 1 ∧ cnt = [0, 1]  
∧ X = [0, 1]
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if (cnt ≥ 1 ∧ lhs1 = 'X') then a := rhs1;  
else a := X;
```

```
lhs1 = 'X' ∧ rhs1 = 1 ∧ cnt = [0, 1]  
∧ X = [0, 1] ∧ a = [0, 1]
```

Problem: The analysis loses precision due to joins in the non-deterministic Flush.

Talk outline

Direct translation [SAS '14]

Looses precision with flushes,
cannot verify interesting concurrent algorithms.

Abstraction-aware translation:

1. Leverage more refined abstract domain
 2. Buffer semantics without shifting [Abstraction]
- 

Evaluation

More refined Abstract Domain

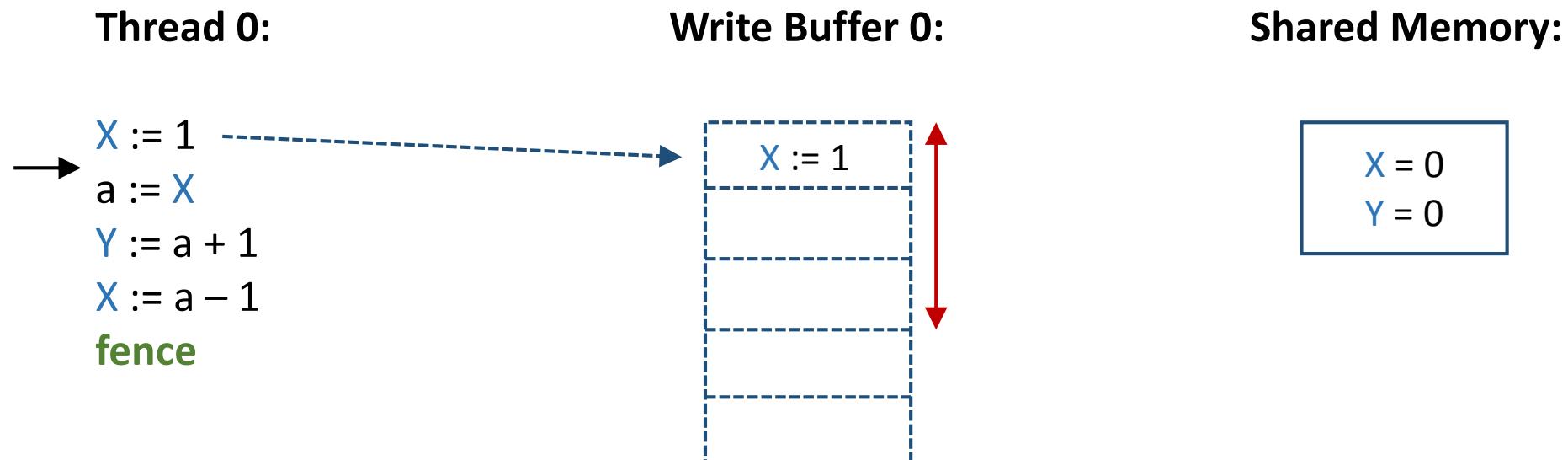
Logico-numerical abstract domain

- Concrete value is kept for the boolean variables
- Abstract value is kept for the numerical variables
- It allows disjunctions in the abstract states

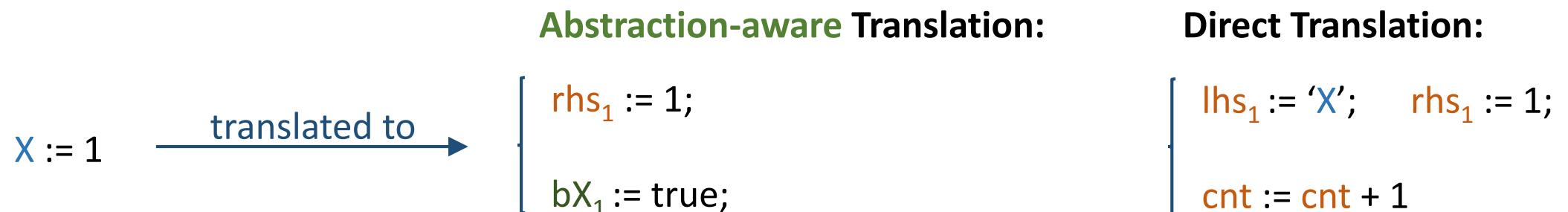
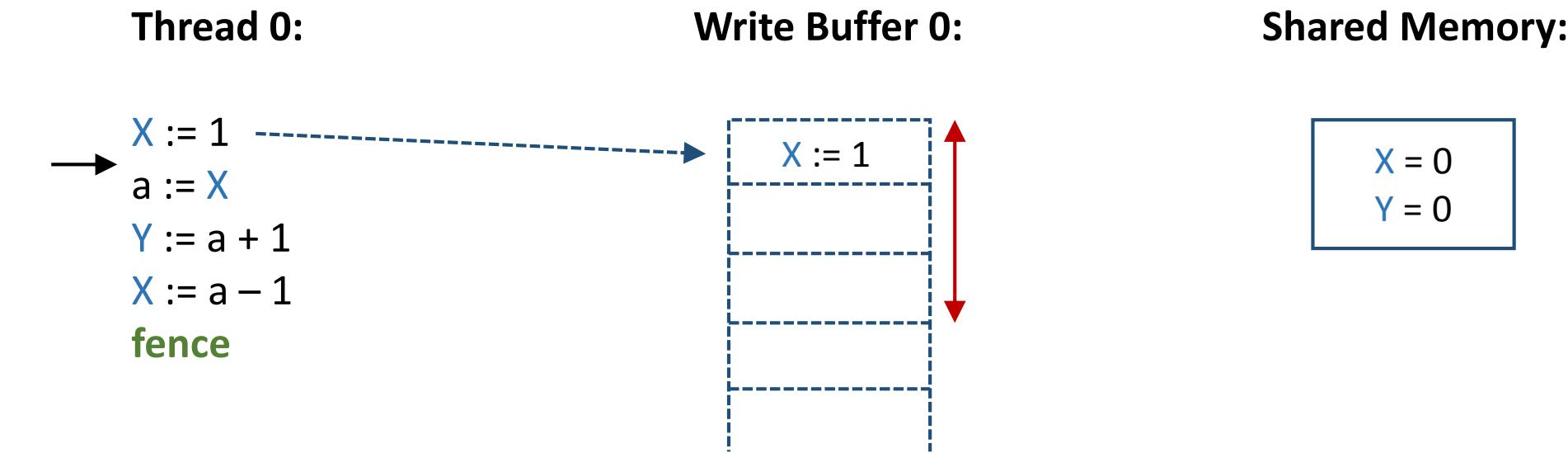
Example:

$$(b = \text{true} \wedge 2x + y \geq 4) \vee (b = \text{false} \wedge 3x - 2y \geq 7)$$

Abstraction-aware translation

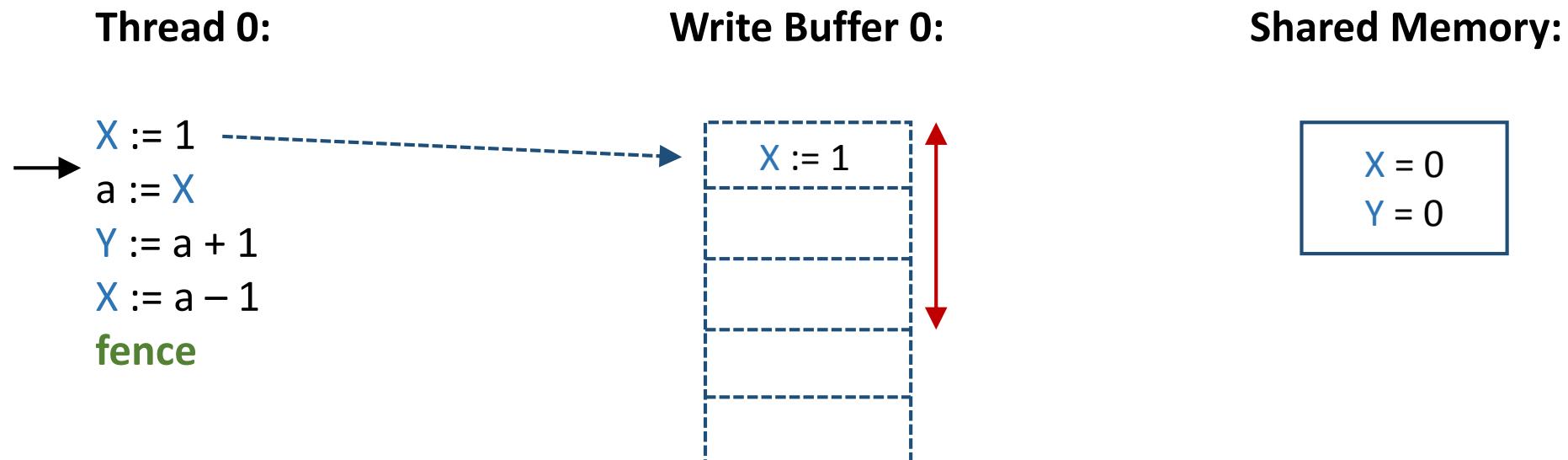


Abstraction-aware translation

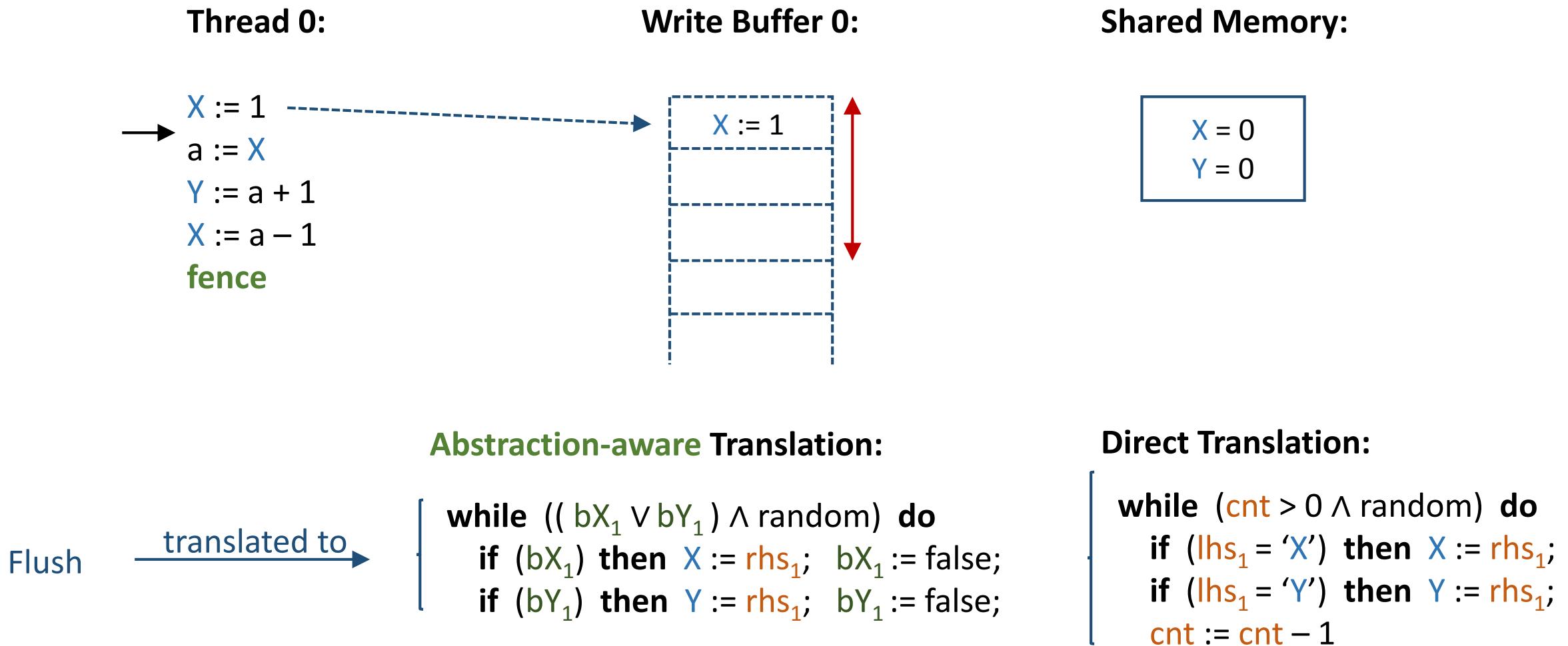


Eliminate the **cnt** counter variable and the **lhs₁**, **lhs₂**, **lhs₃** variables.
Introduce boolean variables to replace **cnt**: **bX₁**, **bX₂**, **bX₃**, **bY₁**, **bY₂**, **bY₃**.

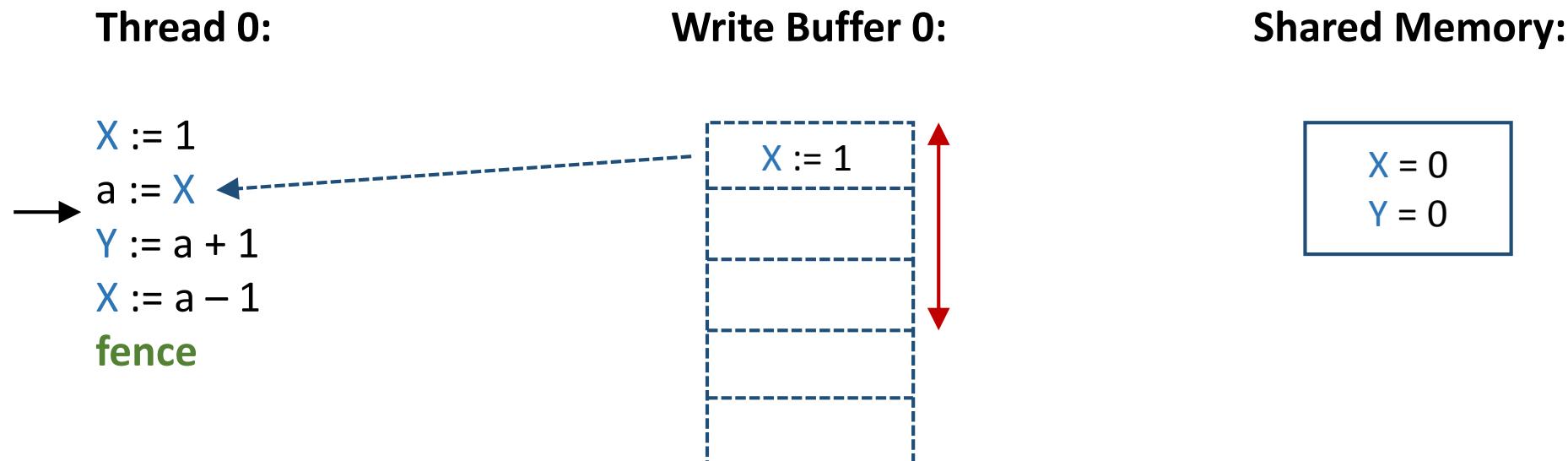
Abstraction-aware translation



Abstraction-aware translation



Abstraction-aware translation

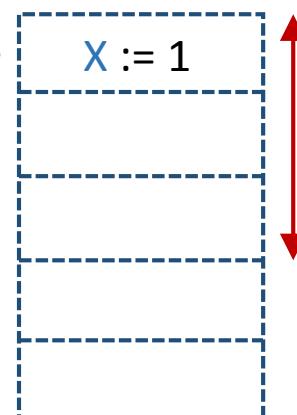


Abstraction-aware translation

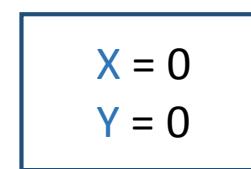
Thread 0:

```
X := 1  
→ a := X  
Y := a + 1  
X := a - 1  
fence
```

Write Buffer 0:



Shared Memory:



Abstraction-aware Translation:

$a := X$ — translated to —
[if (bX_1) then $a := rhs_1$;
else $a := X$;

Direct Translation:

[if ($cnt \geq 1 \wedge lhs_1 = 'X'$) then $a := rhs_1$;
else $a := X$;

Analysis with the abstraction-aware translation

Original program:

$X := 1$

translated to

Abstraction-aware Translation:

```
{ rhs1 := 1;  
  bX1 := true;
```

Flush

translated to

```
{ while (( bX1 ∨ bY1) ∧ random) do  
    if (bX1) then X := rhs1; bX1 := false;  
    if (bY1) then Y := rhs1; bY1 := false;
```

$a := X$

translated to

```
{ if (bX1) then a := rhs1;  
  else a := X;
```

Numerical abstract interpretation:

Analysis with the abstraction-aware translation

Original program:

$X := 1$

translated to

Abstraction-aware Translation:

$\text{rhs}_1 := 1;$
 $bX_1 := \text{true};$

Flush

translated to

while $((bX_1 \vee bY_1) \wedge \text{random})$ **do**
 if (bX_1) **then** $X := \text{rhs}_1;$ $bX_1 := \text{false};$
 if (bY_1) **then** $Y := \text{rhs}_1;$ $bY_1 := \text{false};$

Numerical abstract interpretation:

$bX_1 = \text{true} \wedge \text{rhs}_1 = 1 \wedge X = 0$

$a := X$

translated to

if (bX_1) **then** $a := \text{rhs}_1;$
else $a := X;$

Analysis with the abstraction-aware translation

Original program:

$X := 1$

translated to

Abstraction-aware Translation:

$\text{rhs}_1 := 1;$
 $bX_1 := \text{true};$

Flush

translated to

while $((bX_1 \vee bY_1) \wedge \text{random})$ **do**
 if (bX_1) **then** $X := \text{rhs}_1;$ $bX_1 := \text{false};$
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$a := X$

translated to

if (bX_1) **then** $a := \text{rhs}_1;$
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Numerical abstract interpretation:

$bX_1 = \text{true} \wedge \text{rhs}_1 = 1 \wedge X = 0$

$(bX_1 = \text{true} \wedge \text{rhs}_1 = 1 \wedge X = 0) \vee$
 $(bX_1 = \text{false} \wedge \text{rhs}_1 = 1 \wedge X = 1)$

Analysis with the abstraction-aware translation

Original program:

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translated to

Abstraction-aware Translation:

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Flush

translated to

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 if (bX_1) **then** $X := \text{rhs}_1;$ $bX_1 := \text{false};$
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$a := X$

translated to

if (bX_1) **then** $a := \text{rhs}_1;$
else $a := X;$

Numerical abstract interpretation:

$bX_1 = \text{true} \wedge \text{rhs}_1 = 1 \wedge X = 0$

$(bX_1 = \text{true} \wedge \text{rhs}_1 = 1 \wedge X = 0) \vee$
 $(bX_1 = \text{false} \wedge \text{rhs}_1 = 1 \wedge X = 1)$

$(bX_1 = \text{true} \wedge \text{rhs}_1 = 1 \wedge X = 0 \wedge a = 1) \vee$
 $(bX_1 = \text{false} \wedge \text{rhs}_1 = 1 \wedge X = 1 \wedge a = 1)$

Analysis with the abstraction-aware translation

Original program:

$X := 1$

translated to

Abstraction-aware Translation:

$\text{rhs}_1 := 1;$
 $bX_1 := \text{true};$

Flush

translated to

while $((bX_1 \vee bY_1) \wedge \text{random})$ **do**
 if (bX_1) **then** $X := \text{rhs}_1; bX_1 := \text{false};$
 if (bY_1) **then** $Y := \text{rhs}_1; bY_1 := \text{false};$

$a := X$

translated to

if (bX_1) **then** $a := \text{rhs}_1;$
else $a := X;$

Numerical abstract interpretation:

$bX_1 = \text{true} \wedge \text{rhs}_1 = 1 \wedge X = 0$

$(bX_1 = \text{true} \wedge \text{rhs}_1 = 1 \wedge X = 0) \vee$
 $(bX_1 = \text{false} \wedge \text{rhs}_1 = 1 \wedge X = 1)$

$(bX_1 = \text{true} \wedge \text{rhs}_1 = 1 \wedge X = 0 \wedge a = 1) \vee$
 $(bX_1 = \text{false} \wedge \text{rhs}_1 = 1 \wedge X = 1 \wedge a = 1)$

Invariant from
Direct Translation:

$\dots \wedge \text{rhs}_1 = 1 \wedge X = [0, 1] \wedge a = [0, 1]$

Analysis with the abstraction-aware translation

Original program:

$X := 1$

translated to

Abstraction-aware Translation:

$\text{rhs}_1 := 1;$
 $bX_1 := \text{true};$

Numerical abstract interpretation:

$bX_1 = \text{true} \wedge \text{rhs}_1 = 1 \wedge X = 0$

Flush

translated to

while $((bX_1 \vee bY_1) \wedge \text{random})$ **do**
 if (bX_1) **then** $X := \text{rhs}_1;$ $bX_1 := \text{false};$
 if (bY_1) **then** $Y := \text{rhs}_1;$ $bY_1 := \text{false};$

$a := X$

translated to

if (bX_1) **then** $a := \text{rhs}_1;$
else $a := X;$

$(bX_1 = \text{true} \wedge \text{rhs}_1 = 1 \wedge X = 0) \vee$
 $(bX_1 = \text{false} \wedge \text{rhs}_1 = 1 \wedge X = 1)$

$(bX_1 = \text{true} \wedge \text{rhs}_1 = 1 \wedge X = 0 \wedge a = 1) \vee$
 $(bX_1 = \text{false} \wedge \text{rhs}_1 = 1 \wedge X = 1 \wedge a = 1)$

Invariant from
Direct Translation:

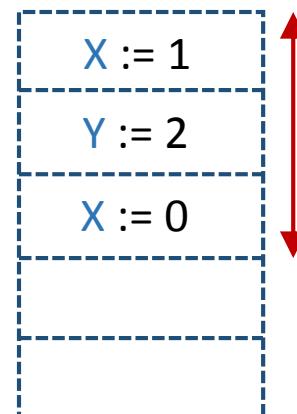
$\dots \wedge \text{rhs}_1 = 1 \wedge X = [0, 1] \wedge a = [0, 1]$

Flush with shifting

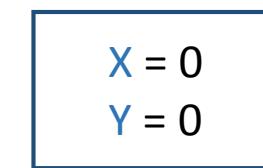
Thread 0:

```
X := 1  
a := X  
Y := a + 1  
X := a - 1  
→ fence
```

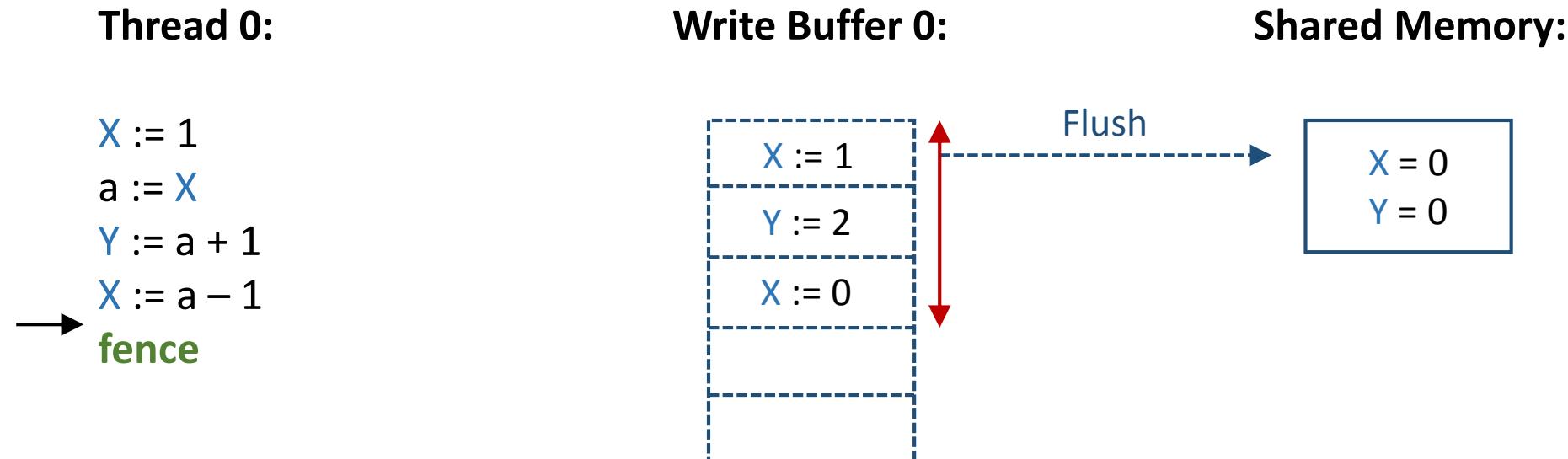
Write Buffer 0:



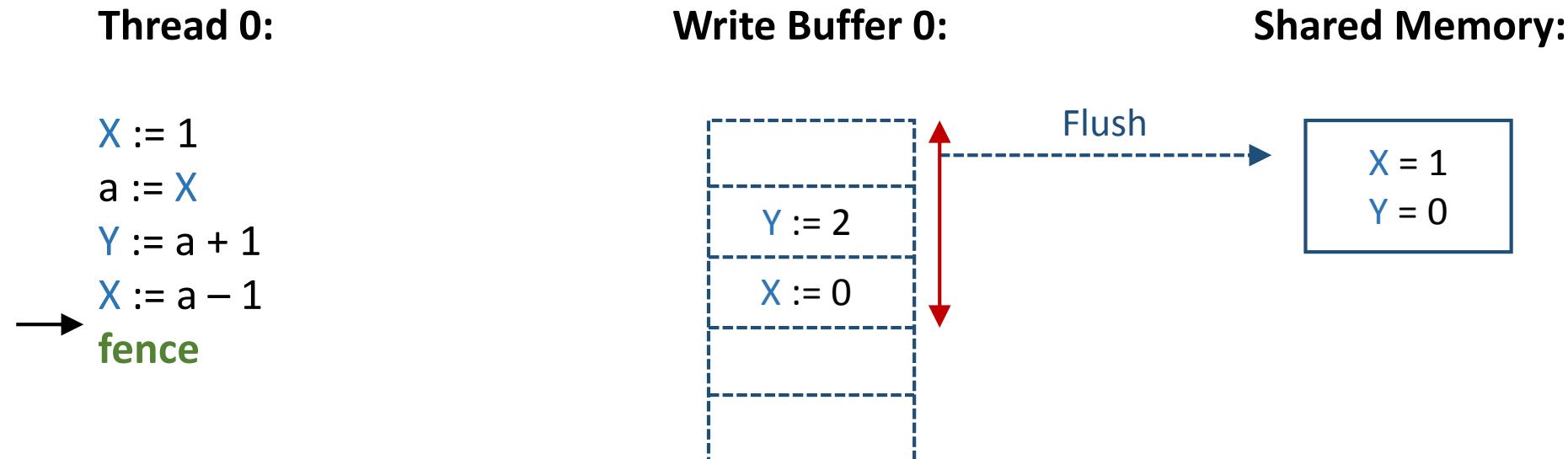
Shared Memory:



Flush with shifting



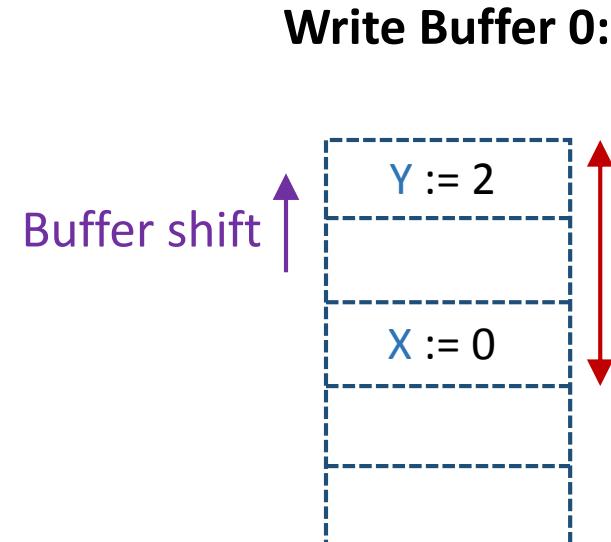
Flush with shifting



Flush with shifting

Thread 0:

```
X := 1  
a := X  
Y := a + 1  
X := a - 1  
→ fence
```



Shared Memory:

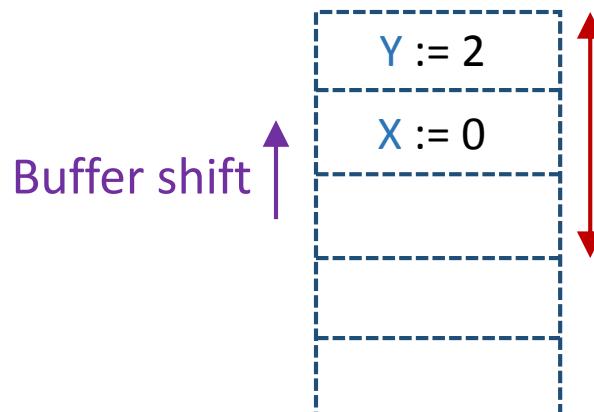
A blue-bordered box containing the assignments $X = 1$ and $Y = 0$.

Flush with shifting

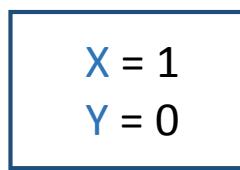
Thread 0:

```
X := 1  
a := X  
Y := a + 1  
X := a - 1  
→ fence
```

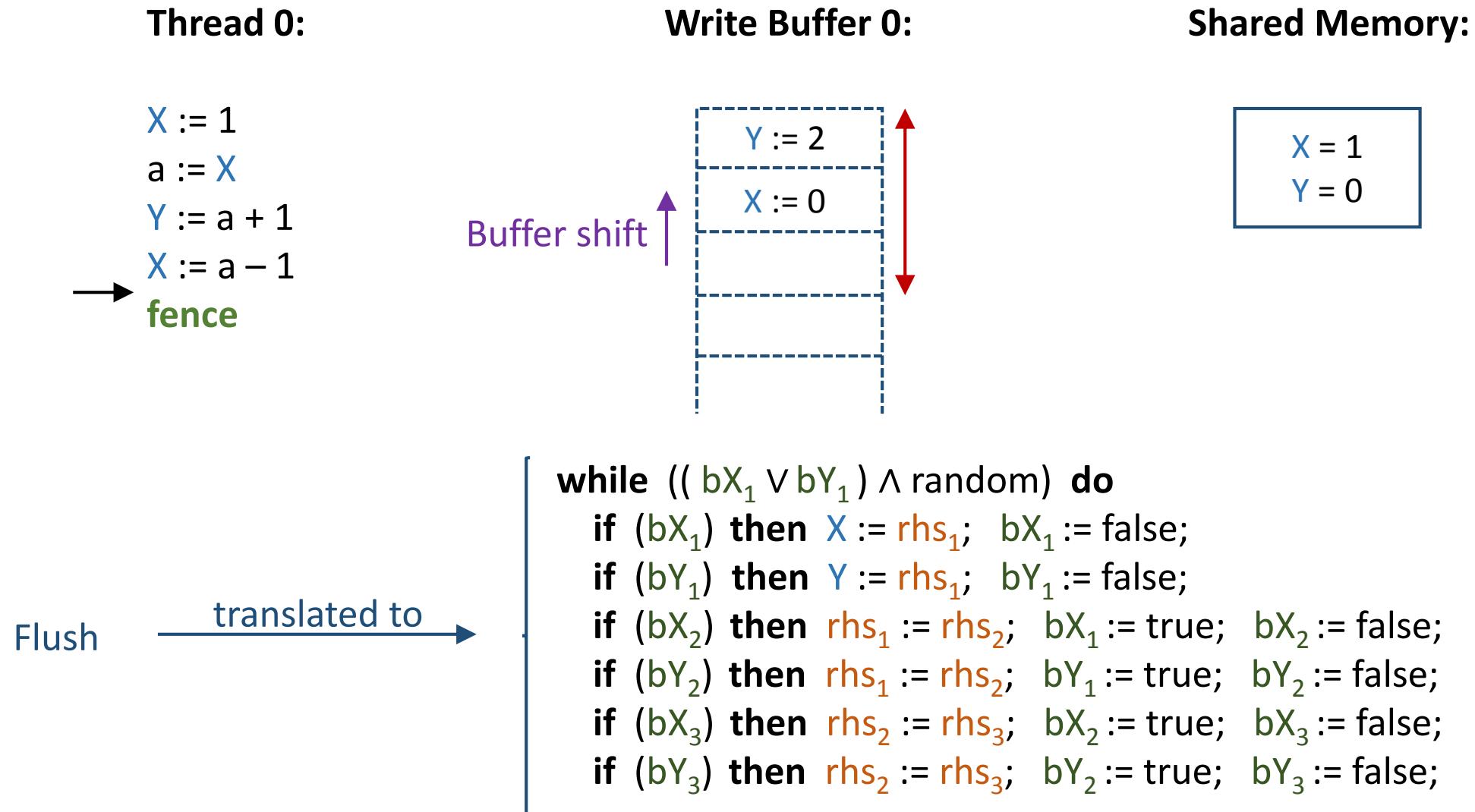
Write Buffer 0:



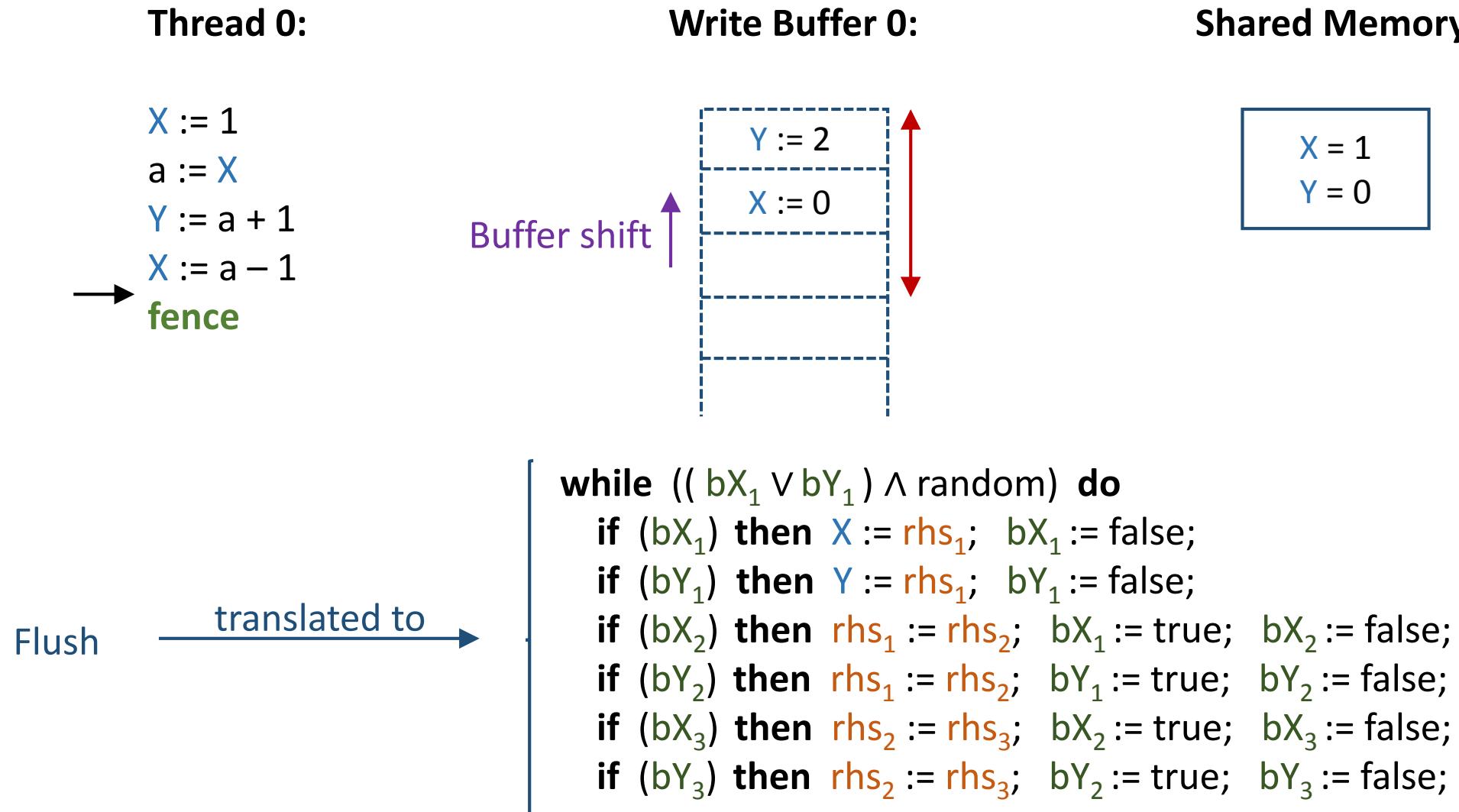
Shared Memory:



Flush with shifting



Flush with shifting



Flush procedure

Appears after each translated statement.

Its complexity is due mostly to the buffer shifting operation

Problem: This can lead to more work for the analysis and loss of precision.

Talk outline

Direct translation [SAS '14]

Abstraction-aware translation:

1. Leverage more refined abstract domain
2. Buffer semantics without shifting [Abstraction] 

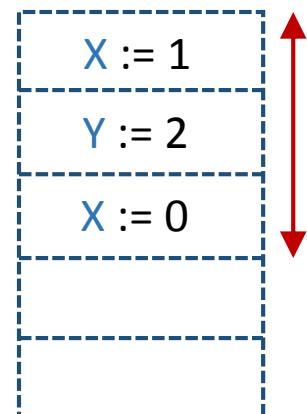
Evaluation

Flushing without shifting

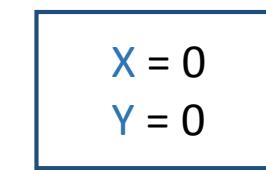
Thread 0:

```
X := 1  
a := X  
Y := a + 1  
X := a - 1  
→ fence
```

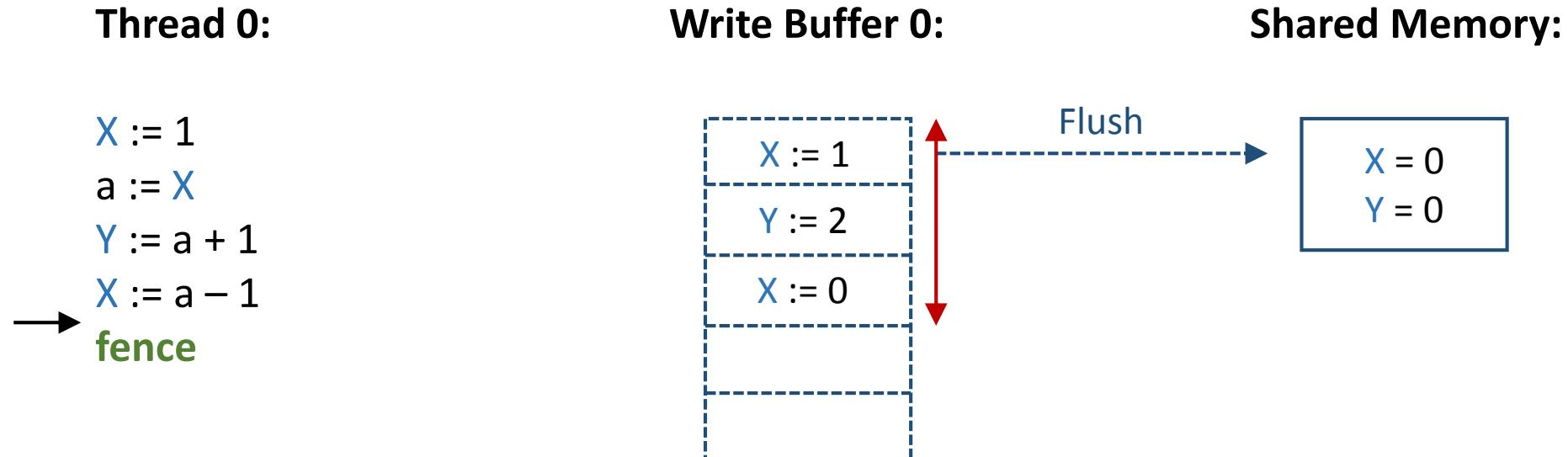
Write Buffer 0:



Shared Memory:



Flushing without shifting

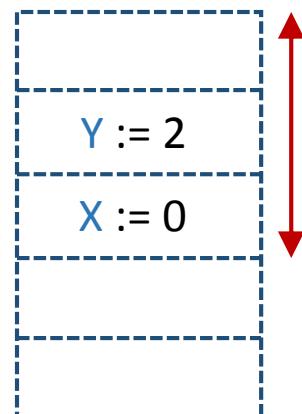


Flushing without shifting

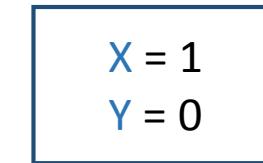
Thread 0:

```
X := 1  
a := X  
Y := a + 1  
X := a - 1  
→ fence
```

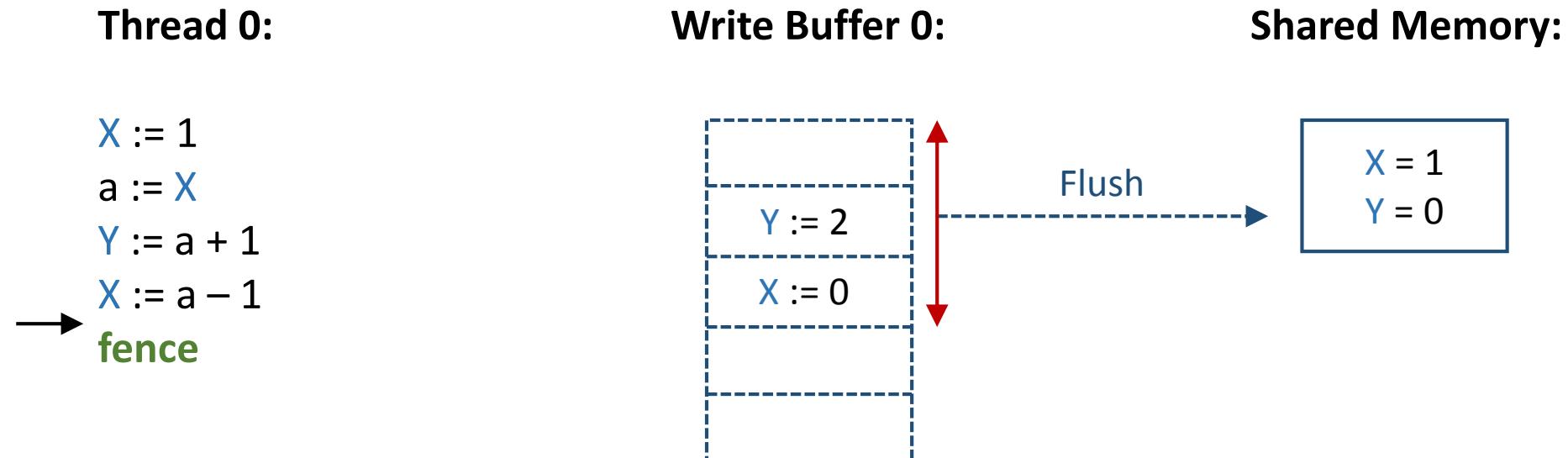
Write Buffer 0:



Shared Memory:



Flushing without shifting

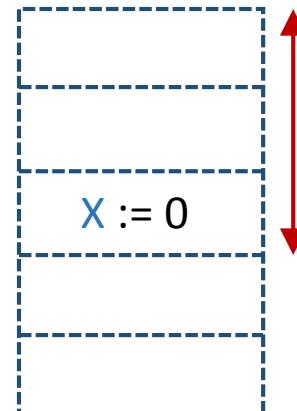


Flushing without shifting

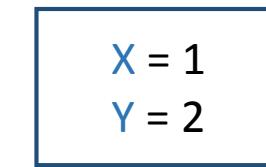
Thread 0:

```
X := 1  
a := X  
Y := a + 1  
X := a - 1  
→ fence
```

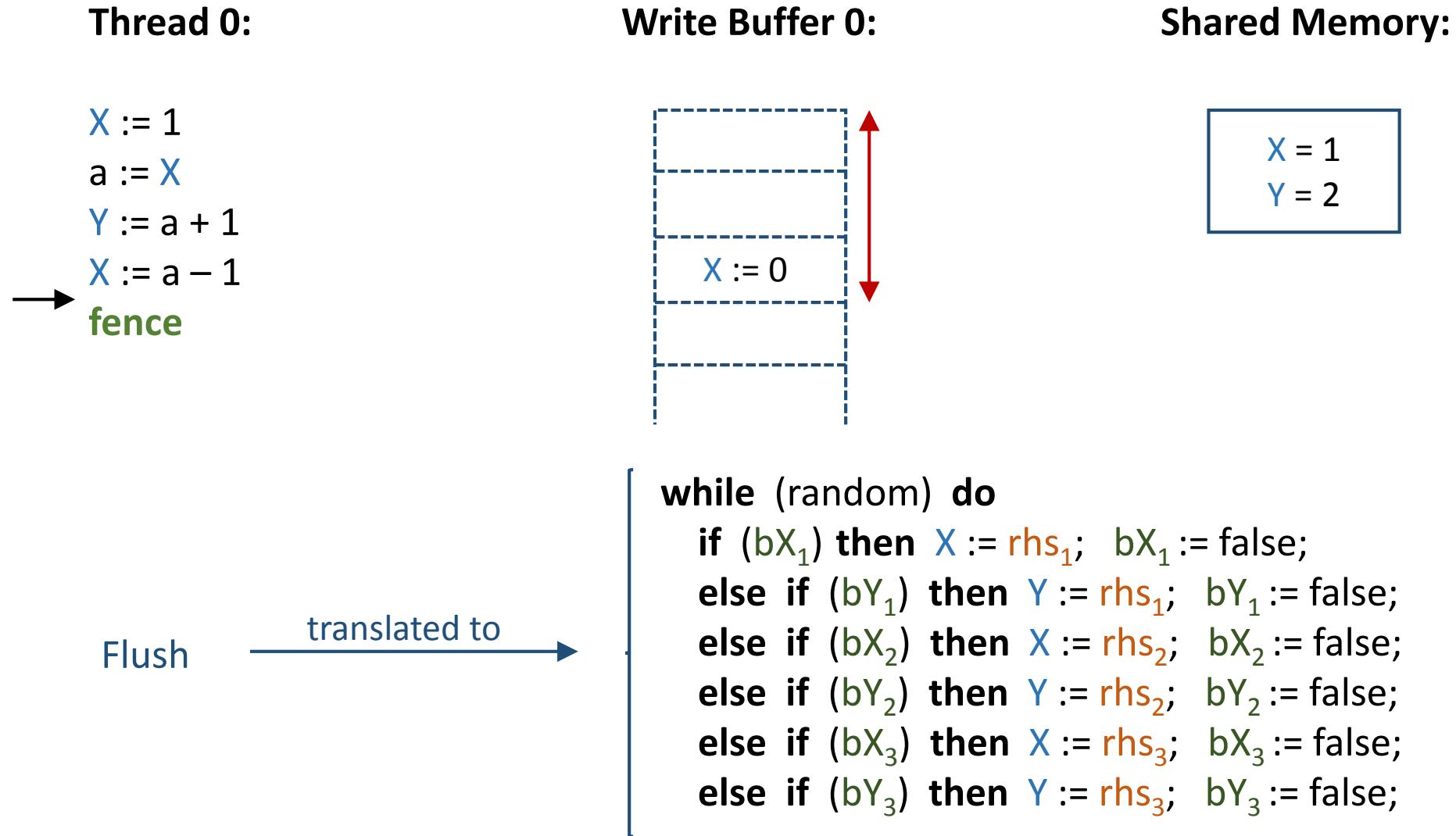
Write Buffer 0:



Shared Memory:



Flushing without shifting



Flushing without shifting

Eliminating buffer shifting:

- is sound
- is an abstraction
 - may introduce additional cases of imprecision,
not the case for any of our benchmarks

Comparing Translations

Original program:

$X := 1$ $\xrightarrow{\text{translated to}}$

Abstraction-aware translation:

```
{ rhs1 := 1;  
  bX1 := true;
```

Flush $\xrightarrow{\text{translated to}}$

```
while (( bX1 ∨ bY1 ) ∧ random) do  
  if (bX1) then X := rhs1; bX1 := false;  
  else if (bY1) then Y := rhs1; bY1 := false;  
  else if (bX2) then X := rhs2; bX2 := false;  
  else if (bY2) then Y := rhs2; bY2 := false;
```

a := X $\xrightarrow{\text{translated to}}$

```
if (bX1) then a := rhs1;  
else a := X;
```

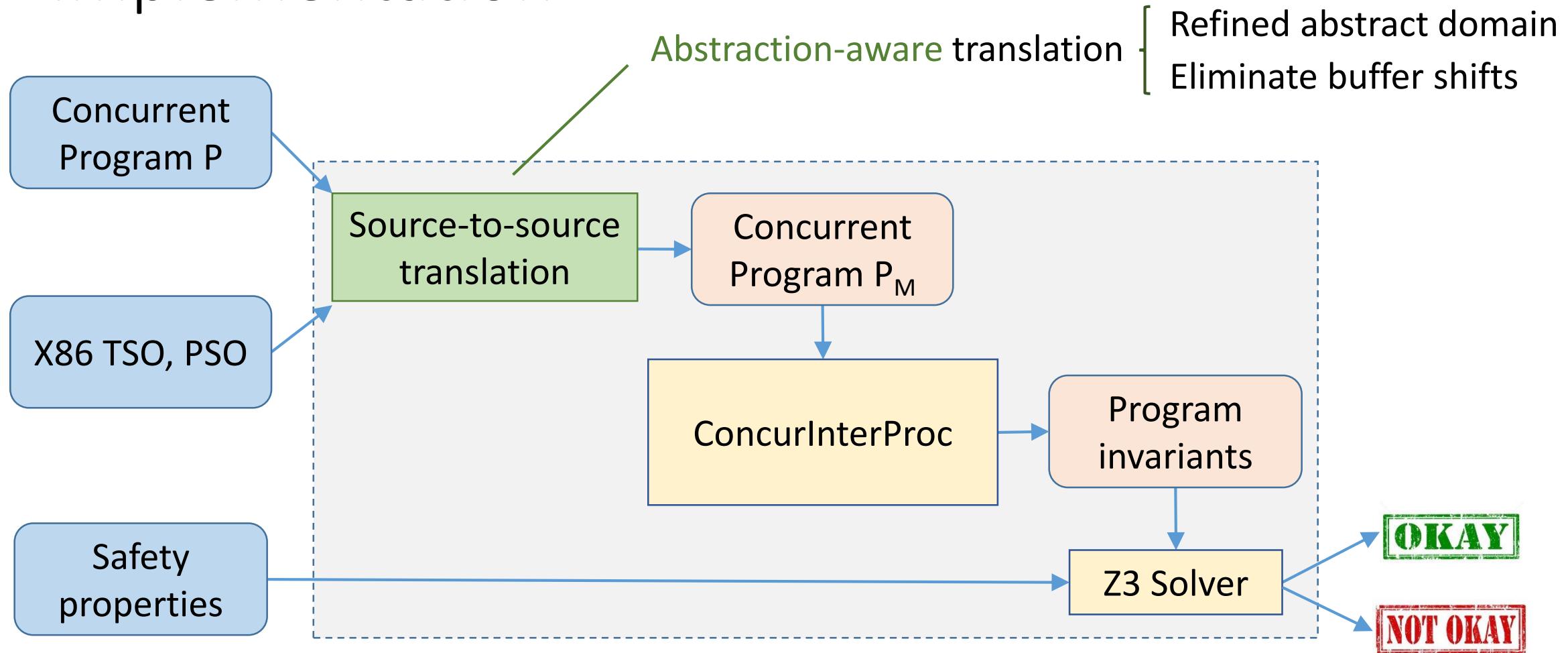
Direct translation [SAS '14]:

```
lhs1 := 'X'; rhs1 := 1;  
cnt := cnt + 1
```

```
while (cnt > 0 ∧ random) do  
  if (lhs1 = 'X') then X := rhs1;  
  if (lhs1 = 'Y') then Y := rhs1;  
  if (cnt > 1) then  
    lhs1 := lhs2; rhs1 := rhs2;  
  cnt := cnt - 1
```

```
if (cnt ≥ 1 ∧ lhs1 = 'X') then a := rhs1;  
else a := X;
```

Implementation



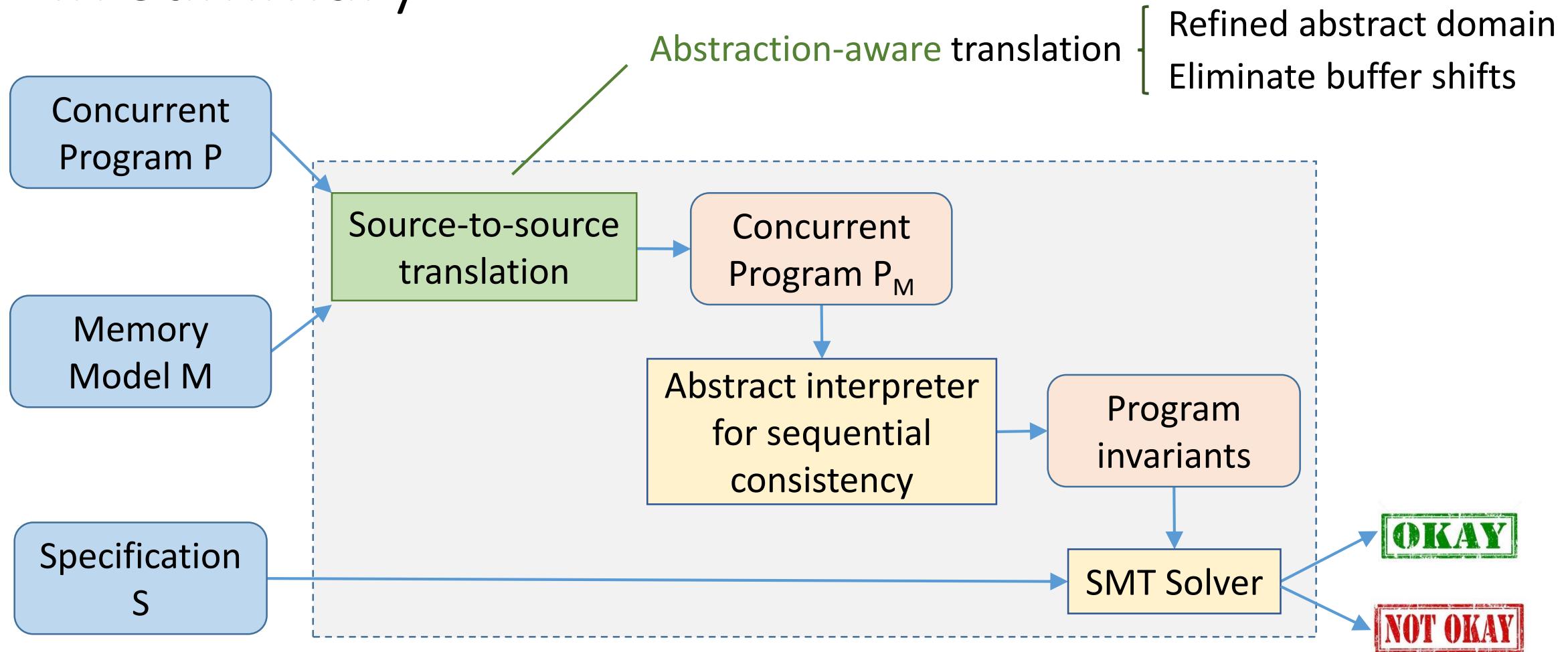
Evaluation for x86 TSO

| | Abstraction-aware Translation | | | Direct Translation [SAS '14] | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|------------|-------------|------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Program | # Fences | Time (sec) | Memory (MB) | # Fences | Time (sec) | Memory (MB) |
| Abp | 0 | 5 | 189 | 0 | 14 | 352 |
| Bakery | 4 | 1148 | 4749 | 8 | 3181 | 6575 |
| Concloop | 2 | 8 | 547 | 2 | 18 | 891 |
| Dekker | 4 | 227 | 2233 | 10 | 615 | 1004 |
| Kessel | 4 | 14 | 357 | 4 | 15 | 424 |
| Queue | 1 | 1 | 101 | 1 | 1 | 115 |
| Szymanski | 3 | 1066 | 3781 | 8 | 124 | 1770 |
| WSQ THE | 4 | 125 | 1646 | 6 | t/o | - |
| WSQ Chase-Lev | 2 | 17 | 550 | 4 | 30 | 789 |

Evaluation for x86 TSO

| | Abstraction-aware Translation | | | Direct Translation [SAS '14] | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|------------|-------------|------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Program | # Fences | Time (sec) | Memory (MB) | # Fences | Time (sec) | Memory (MB) |
| Abp | 0 | 5 | 189 | 0 | 14 | 352 |
| Bakery | 4 | 1148 | 4749 | 8 | 3181 | 6575 |
| Concloop | 2 | 8 | 547 | 2 | 18 | 891 |
| Dekker | 4 | 227 | 2233 | 10 | 615 | 1004 |
| Kessel | 4 | 14 | 357 | 4 | 15 | 424 |
| Queue | 1 | 1 | 101 | 1 | 1 | 115 |
| Szymanski | 3 | 1066 | 3781 | 8 | 124 | 1770 |
| WSQ THE | 4 | 125 | 1646 | 6 | t/o | - |
| WSQ Chase-Lev | 2 | 17 | 550 | 4 | 30 | 789 |

In summary



Additional details: www.practicalsynthesis.org/fender