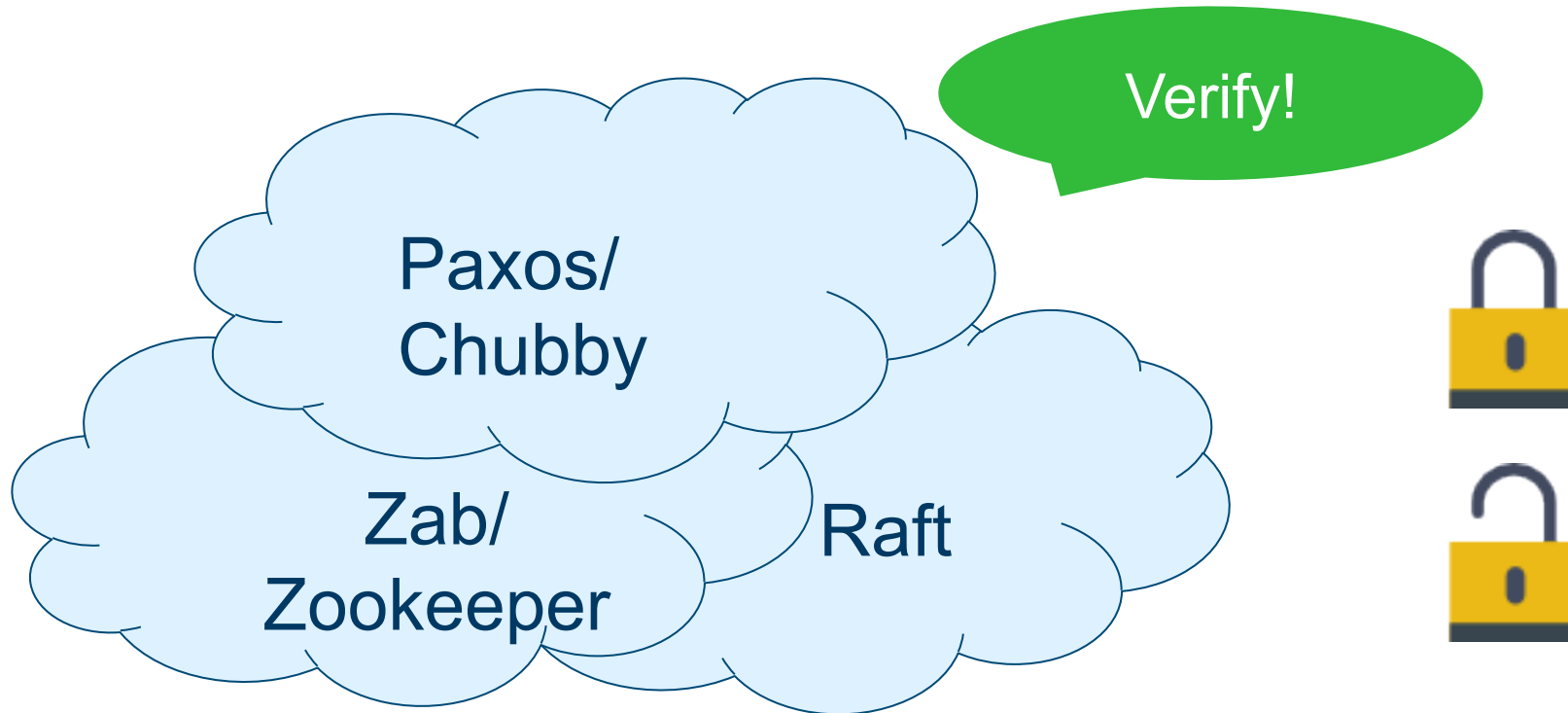


# Cardinalities and Universal Quantifiers for Verifying Parameterized Systems

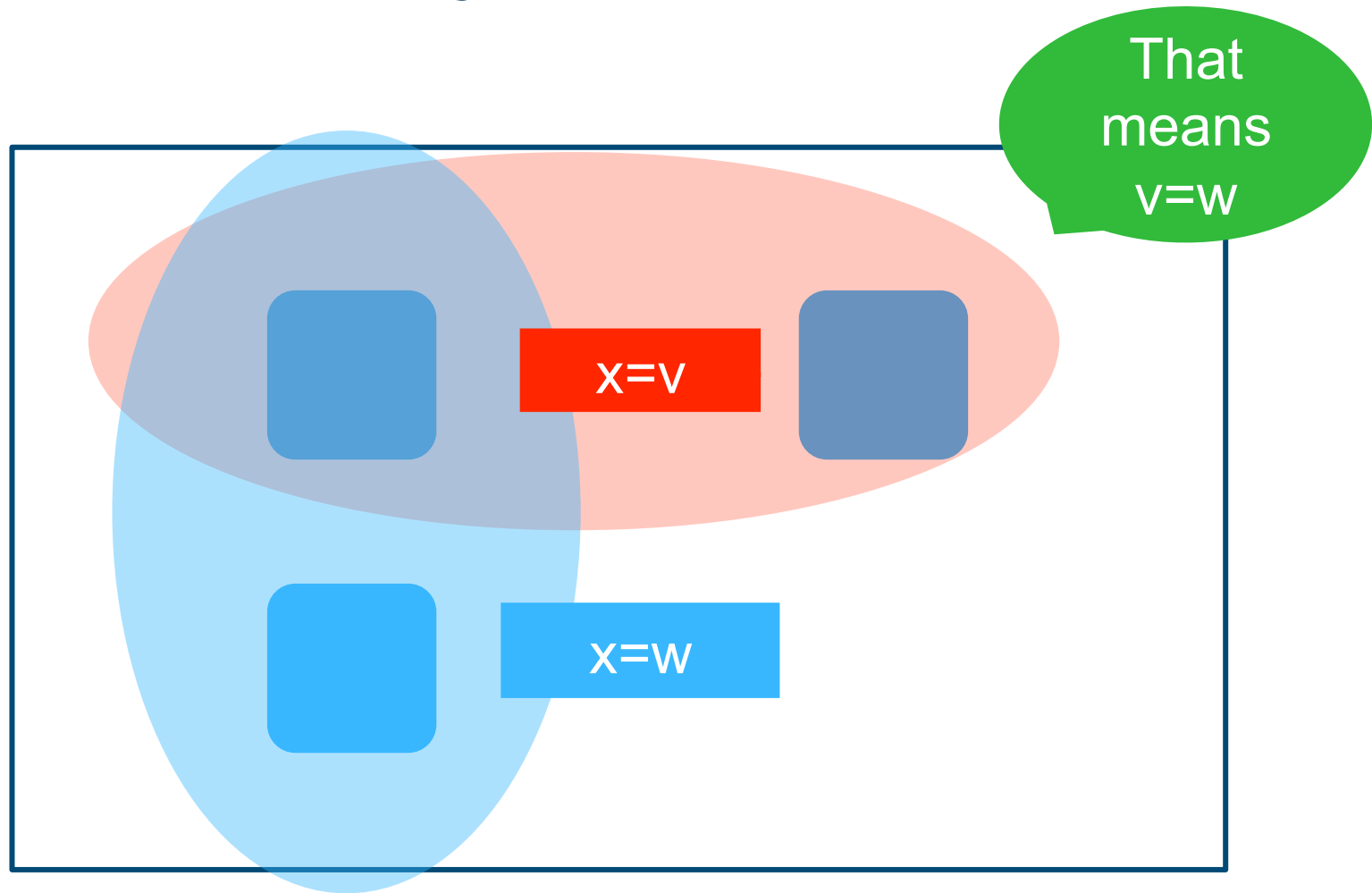
Klaus v. Gleissenthall, UC San Diego and TU Munich

Nikolaj Bjørner and Andrey Rybalchenko,  
Microsoft Research

# Parallel / Distributed systems



# Consensus: majorities



# One third rule:

1

3

3

6

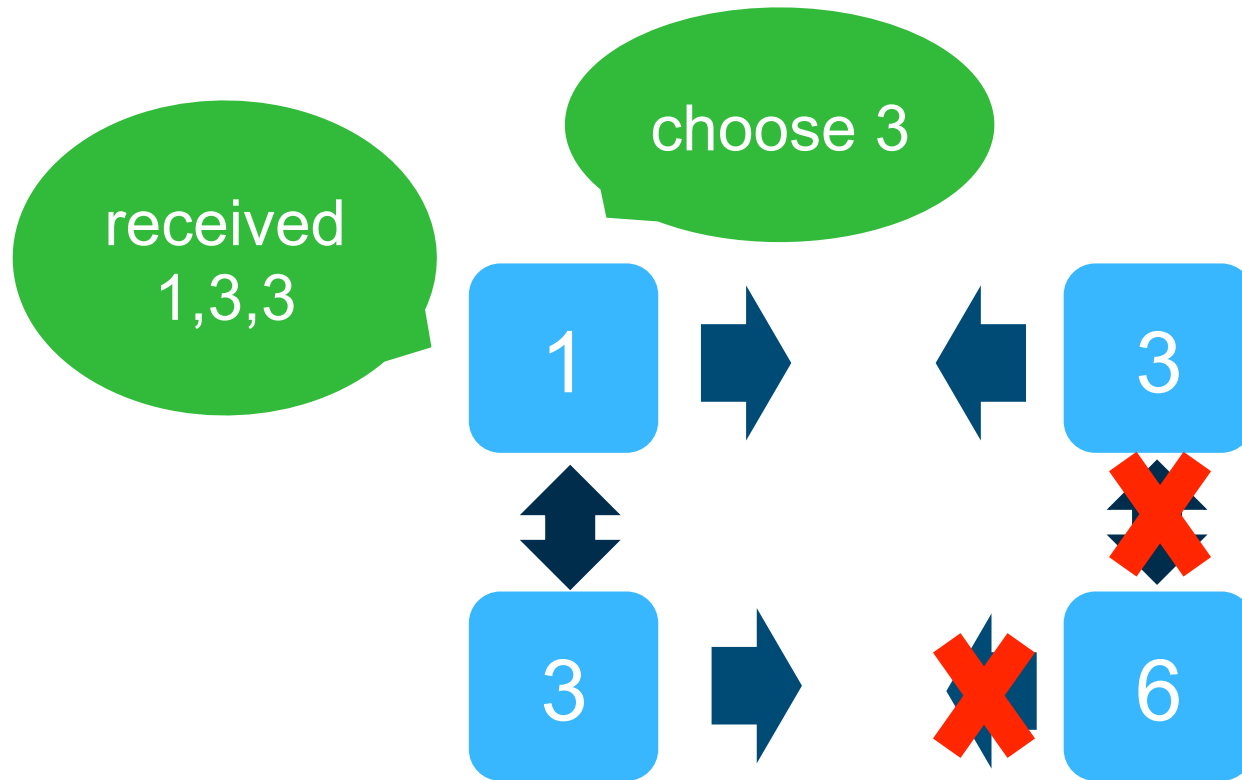
Nodes try to agree on a value

Broadcast value in each round

Update own value

Messages may be lost

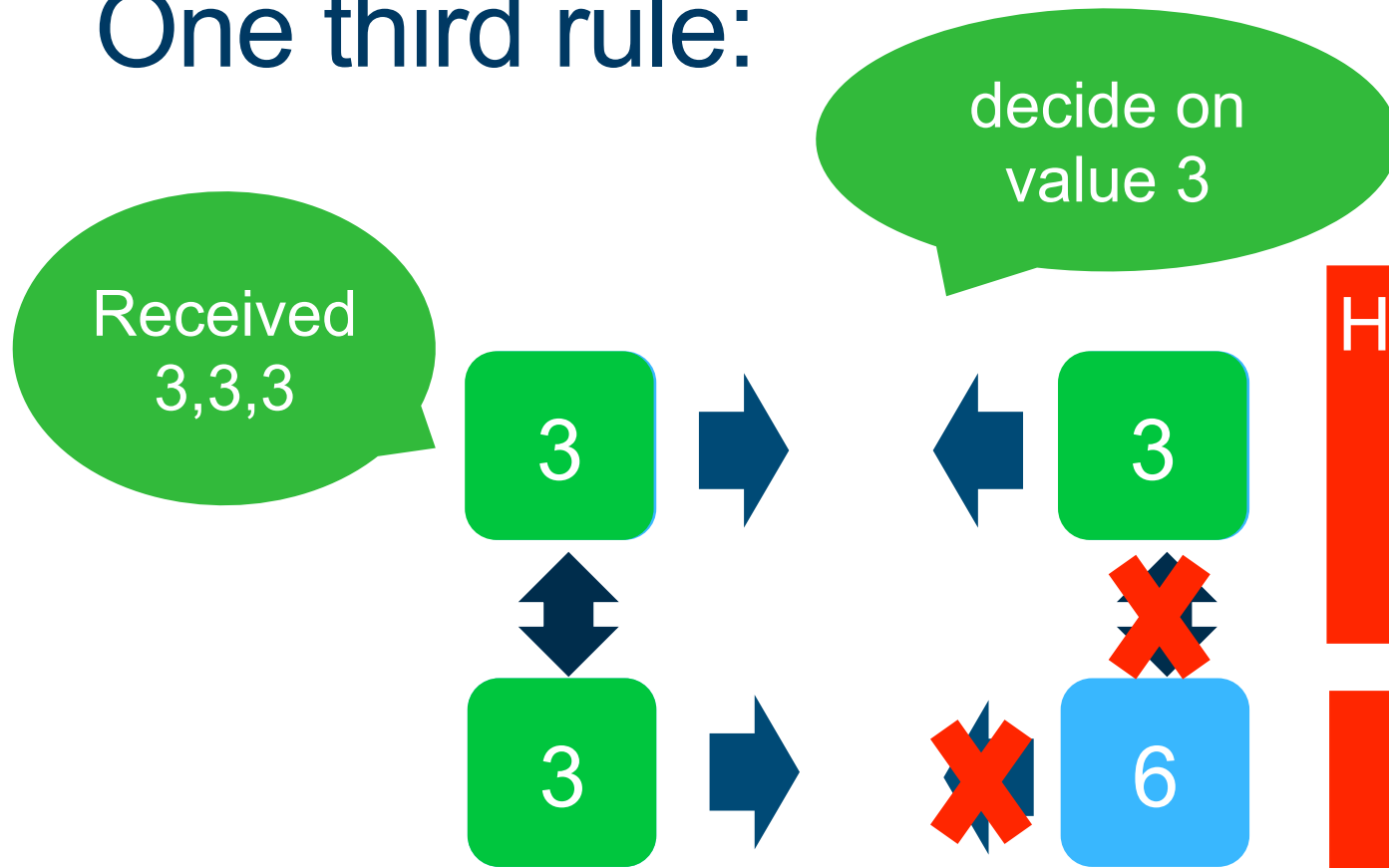
# One third rule:



Hear from  $>2/3n$   
*then*  
choose *most*  
*reveived*

$>2/3n$  share  
value  $v$  *then*  
*decide on v*

# One third rule:



Hear from  $>2/3n$   
*then*  
choose most  
received

$>2/3n$  share  
value  $v$  *then*  
decide on  $v$

# One third rule: property

We want to  
verify

forall  $p, p'$ :  $\text{decide}(p, v)$   
*and*  $\text{decide}(p', w)$  *then*  
 $v = w$

Agreement

# One third rule: invariant

Quantification:  
number of  
processes not  
known statically

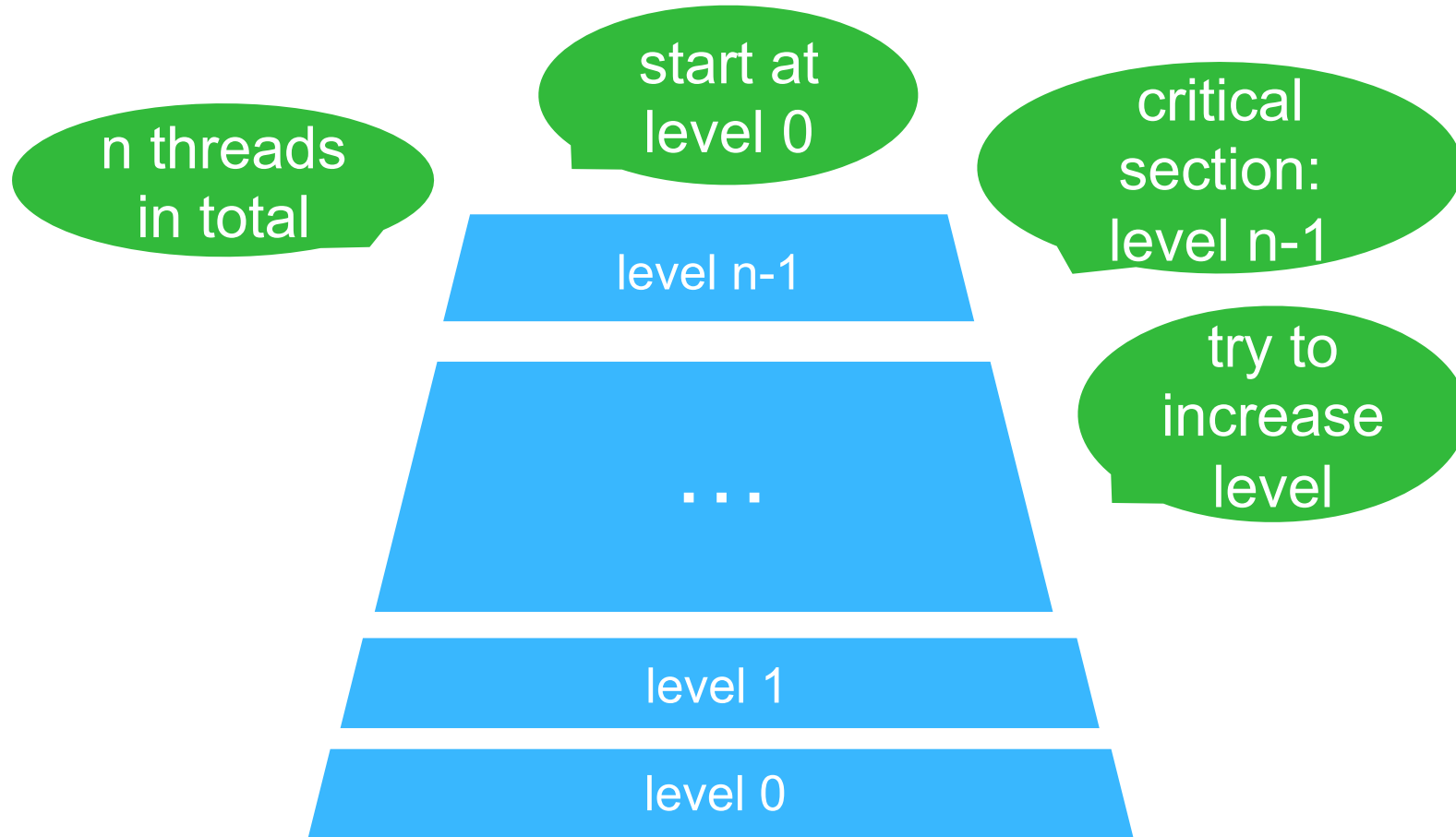
Agreement  
by: no two  
majorities

forall  $p$ :  $\text{decide}(p,v)$  *then*  
 $\#\{t \mid \text{candidate}(t)=v\} > 2/3n$

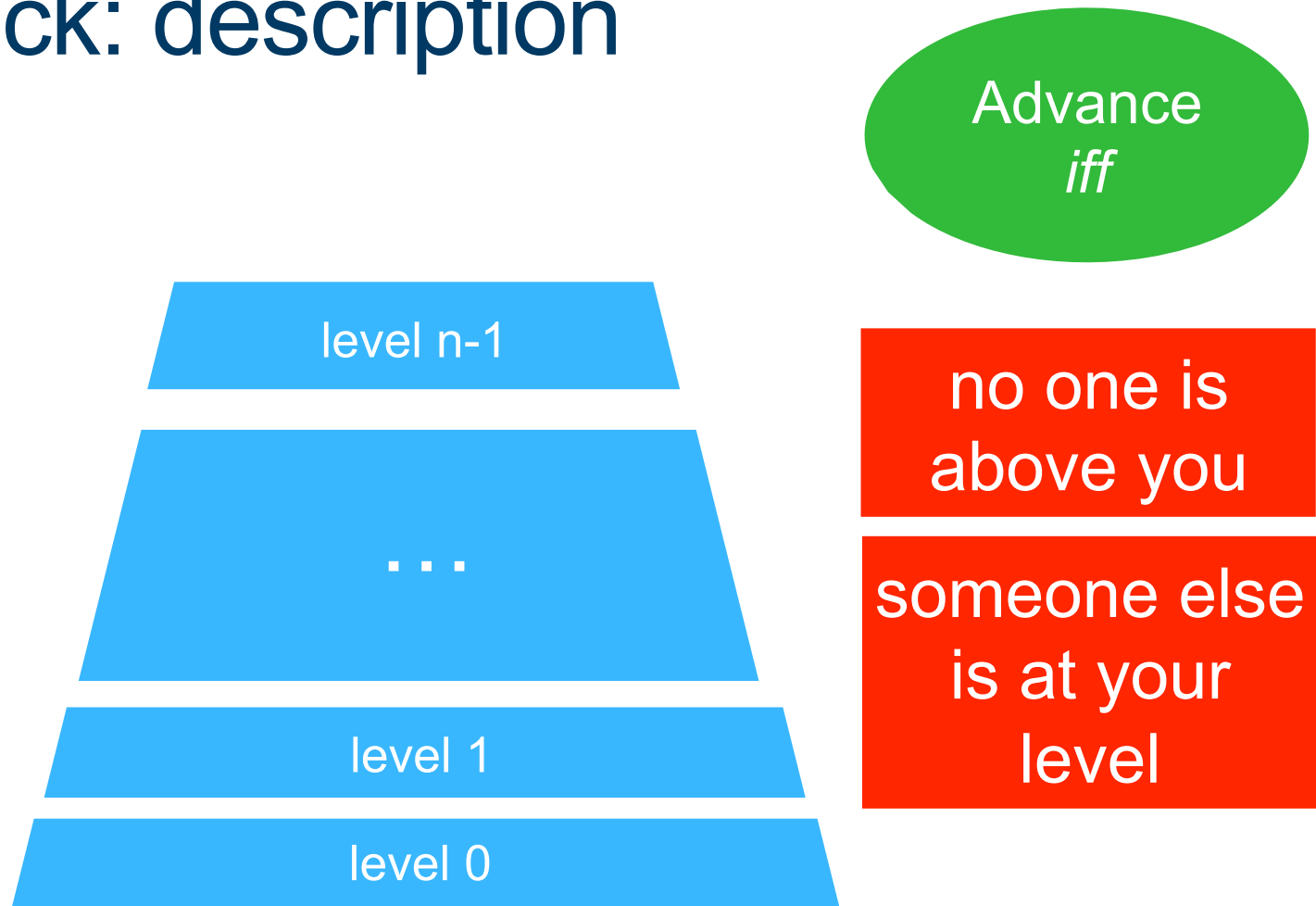
Count # of  
nodes with  
same  
candidate



# Filter lock: description



# Filter lock: description

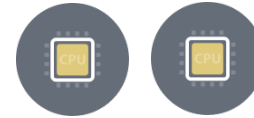


# Filter lock: description

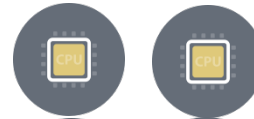
no one is above  
you

someone else is  
at your level

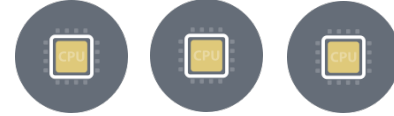
Level 2



level 1



level 0



# Filter Lock: property

Mutual  
exclusion

$$\#\{ t \mid lv(t) = n-1 \} \leq 1$$

# Filter Lock: invariant

Quantify over  
level

count  
processes at  
level

$$\forall l: 0 \leq l \leq n-1 \rightarrow \#\{t \mid lv(t) \geq l\} \leq n-l$$

Infinitely many  
cardinalities

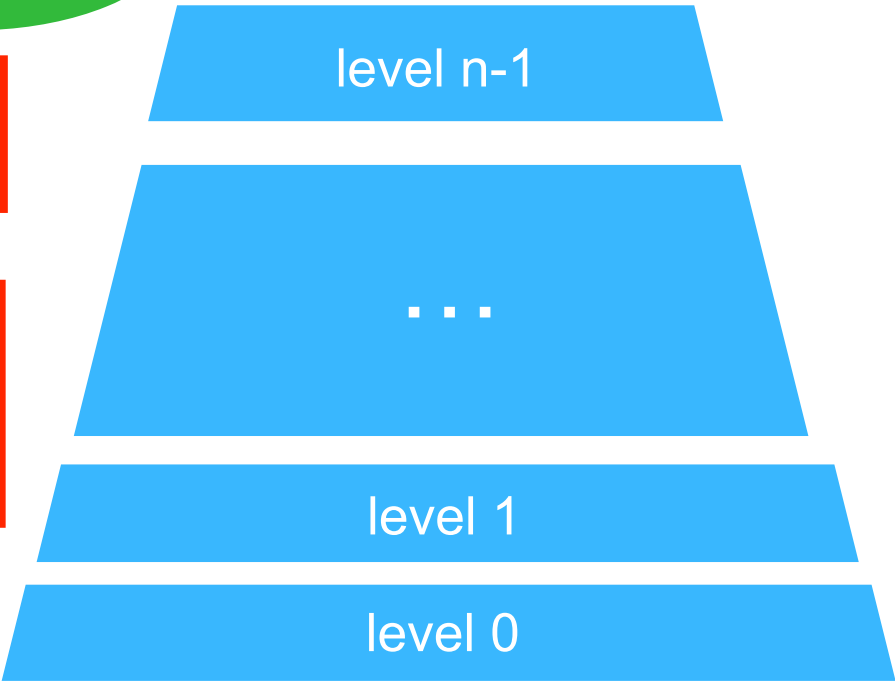
# Filter lock:

preserved under

Mutual exclusion

no one is above you

someone else is at your level



1 thread

...

n-1 threads

n threads

# Program Verifiers:

 **TACAS 2016**  
Competition on Software Verification (SV-COMP)



IntegersControlFlow



Arrays  
1. ESBMC  
2. SMACK+Corral  
3. Symbiotic

Protocol

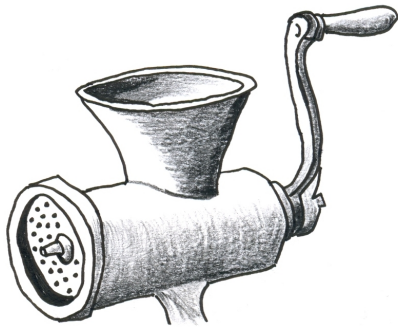
Property



Proof

# In this talk:

Sharpie



# $\pi$

Verifies  
properties  
show before

1: What to  
count

2: How to do  
the counting



# A simple example:

Some number  
n of threads

If there is a  
thread at  
location 2,  
then  $a > 0$

```
global int a=0;  
1: a++;  
2:
```

# Example: in logic

initial states:

$$\forall t: pc(t)=1 \wedge a=0$$

Local variables as functions

transition relation

$$pc(me)=1 \wedge pc':=pc(me \leftarrow 2) \wedge a'=a+1$$

primed = after transition

safety

$$pc(me)=2 \rightarrow a>0$$

# Example: constraints

find:

inv

Horn clauses

$\forall t: pc(t)=1 \wedge a=0$

→

inv(a,pc)

inv(a,pc)

∧

$pc(me)=1 \wedge$   
 $pc':=pc(me \leftarrow 2) \wedge a'=a+1$

→

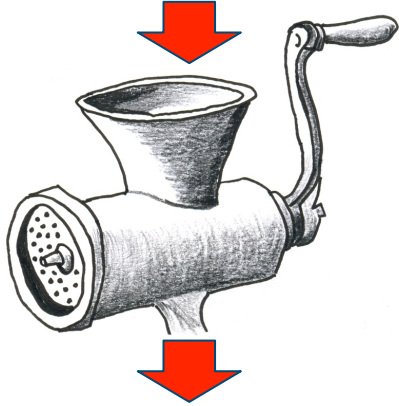
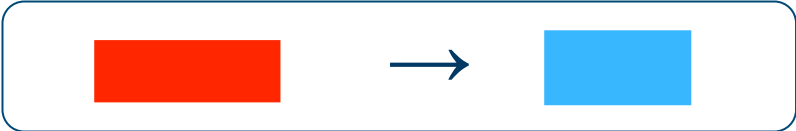
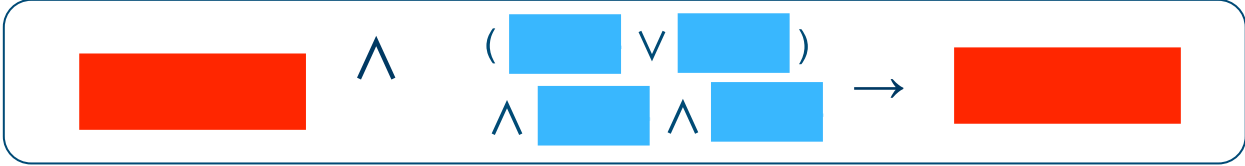
inv(a',pc')

inv(a,pc)

→

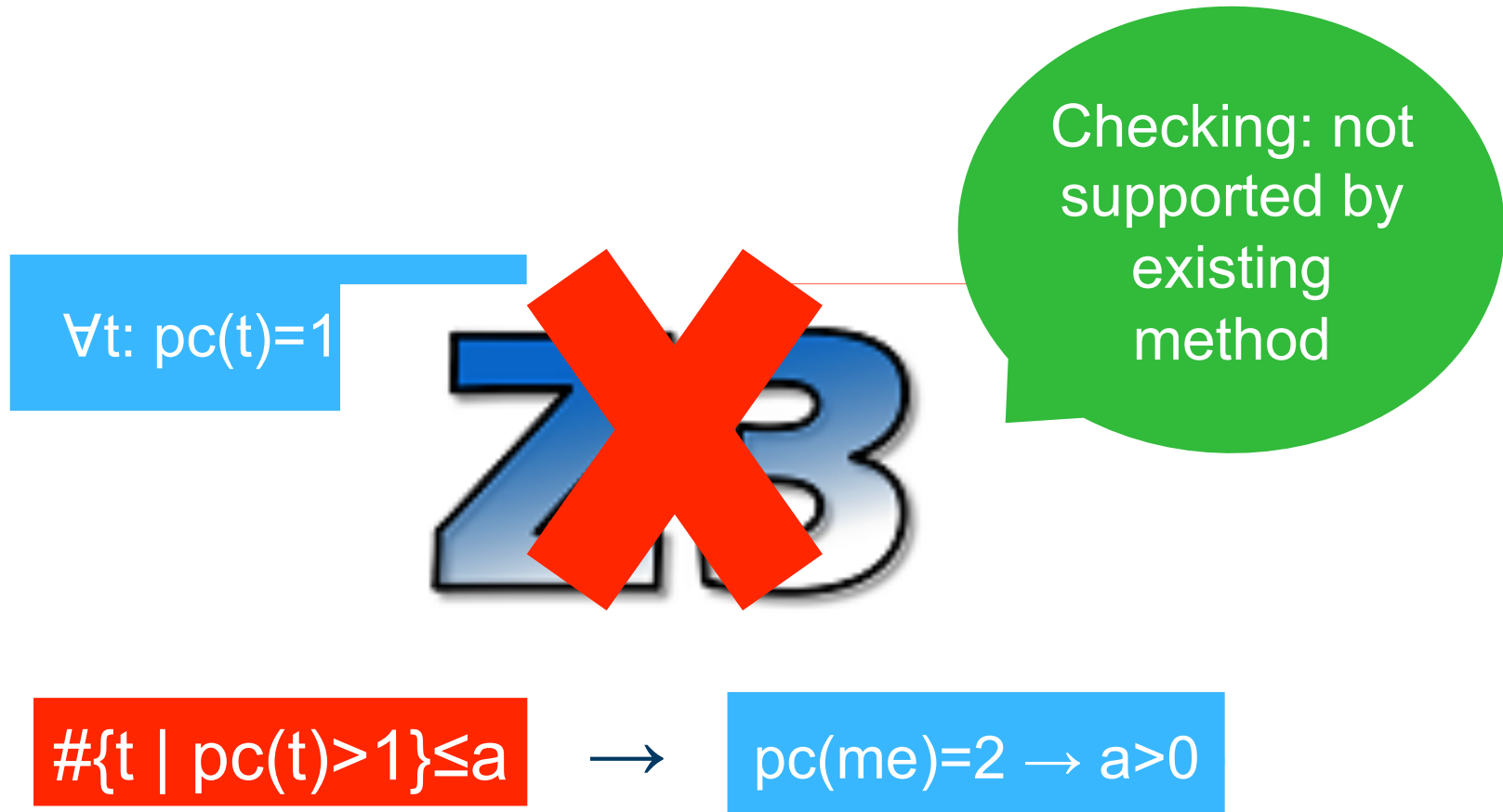
$pc(me)=2 \rightarrow a>0$

Solving:



$$\#\{t \mid pc(t) > 1\} \leq a$$

# How to count: invariant checking



$\forall t: pc(t)=1$

Z3

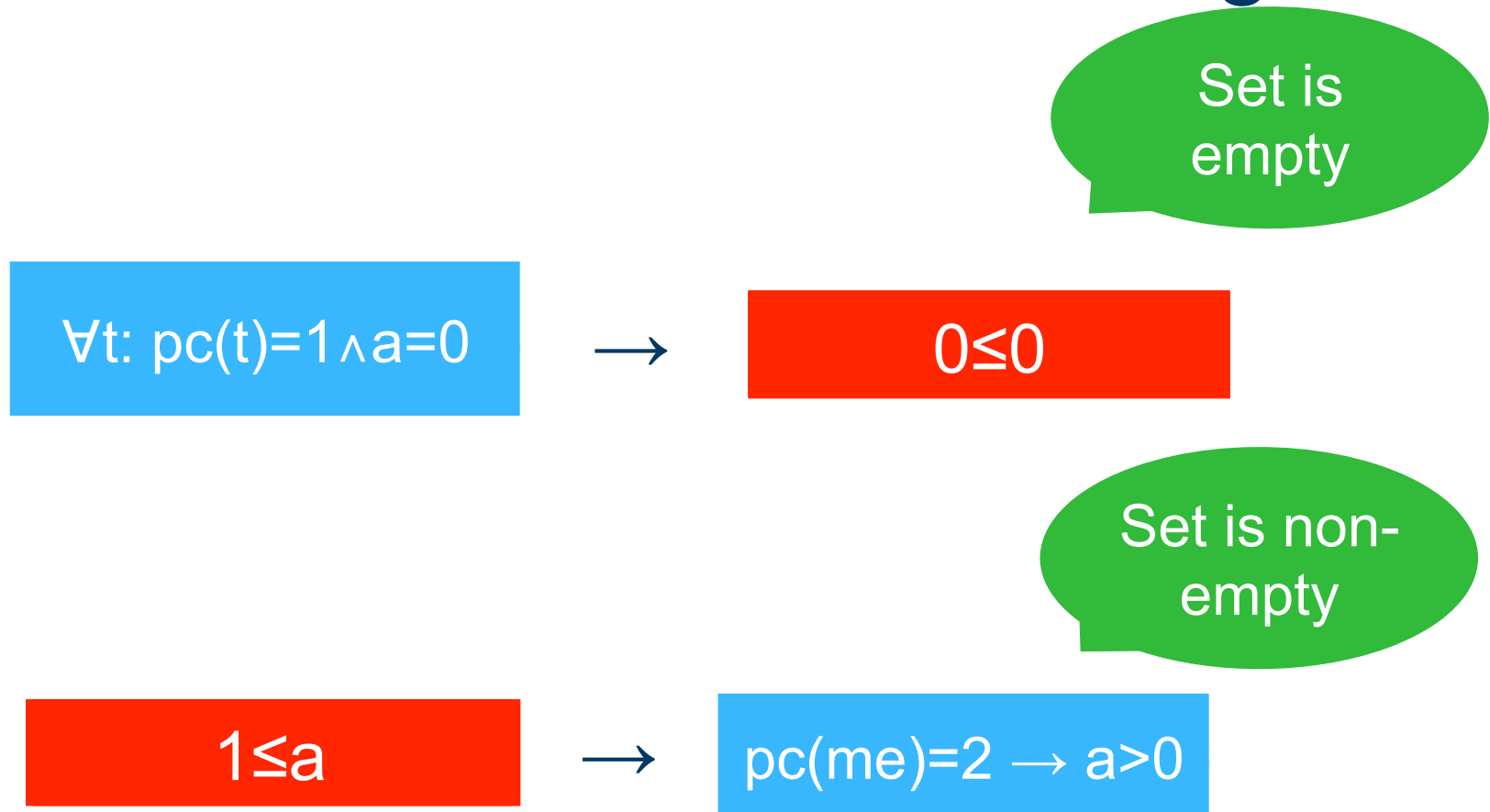
Checking: not supported by existing method

$\#\{t \mid pc(t)>1\} \leq a$

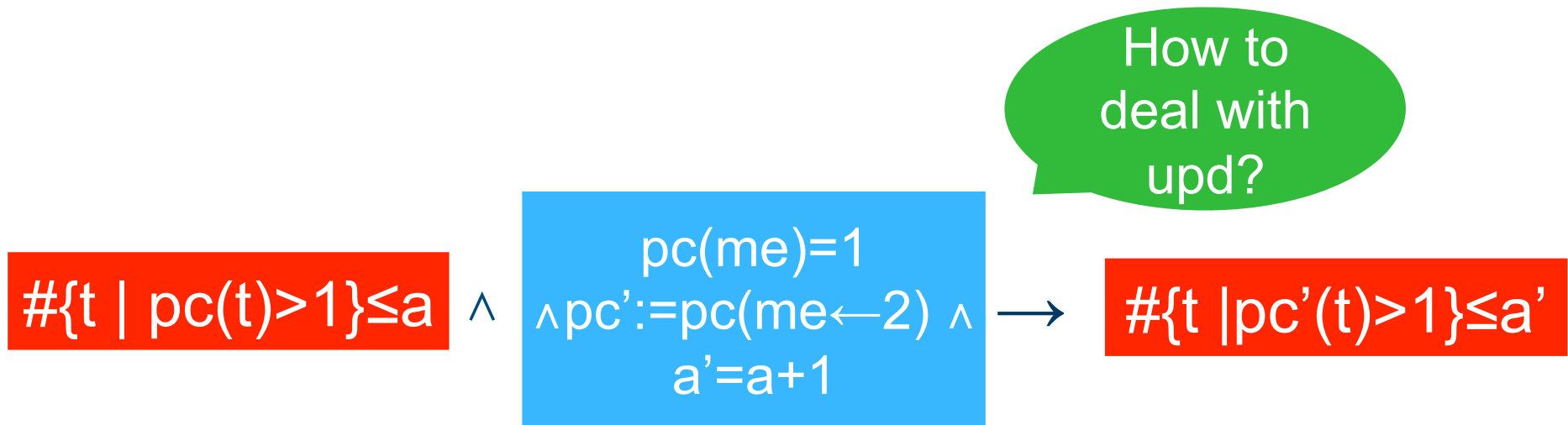
$\rightarrow$

$pc(me)=2 \rightarrow a>0$

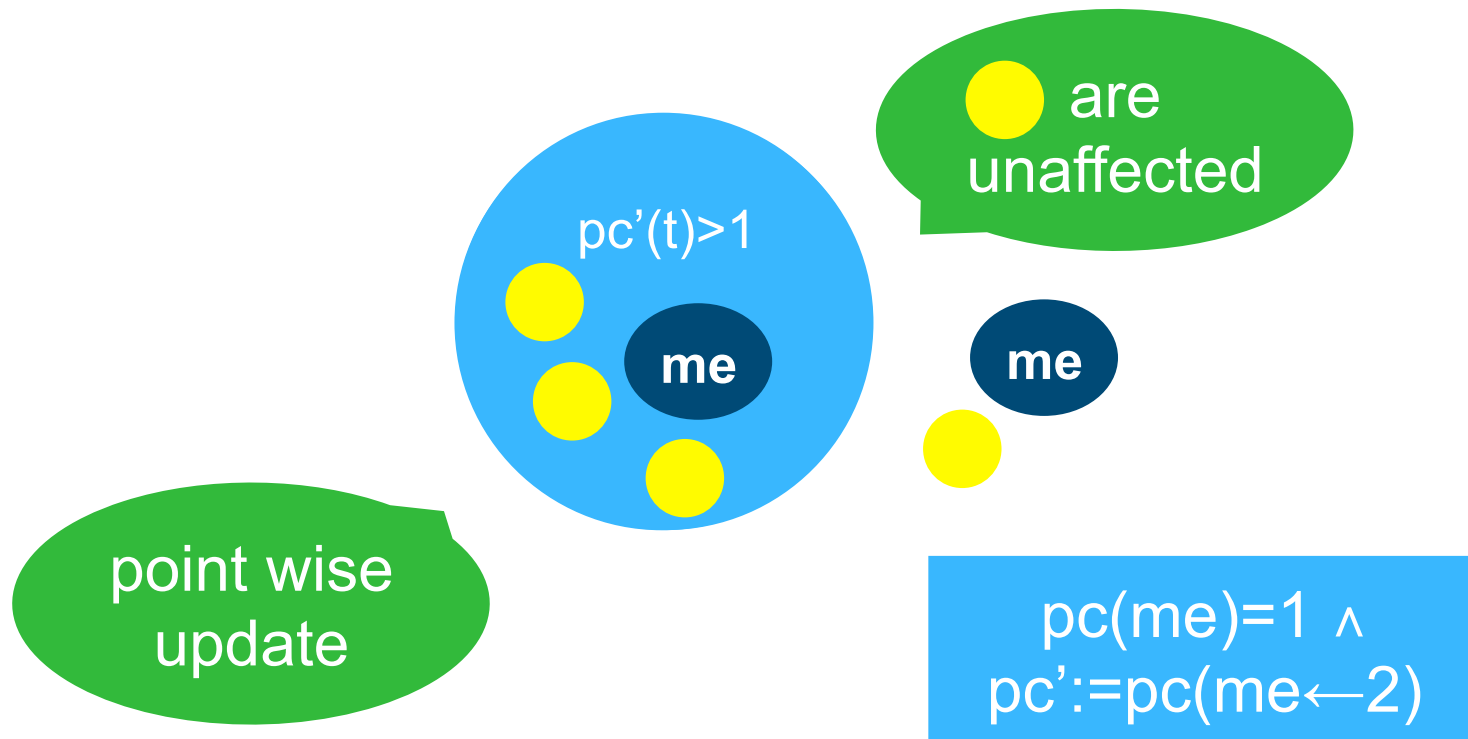
# How to count: invariant checking



# Example: point wise update



# Example: point wise update





# What to count

Find  $s$  and  $inv$

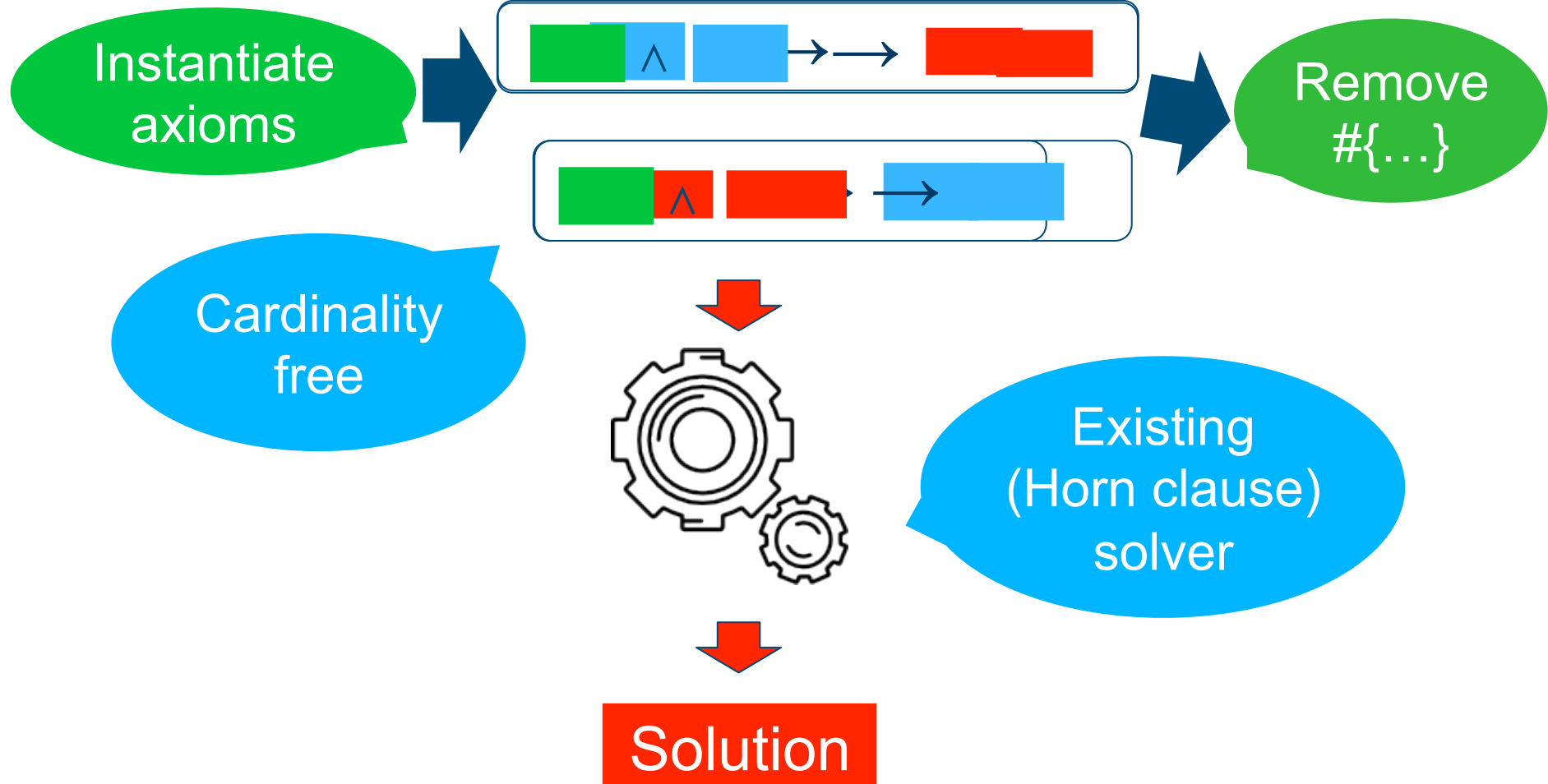
cardinality  
free

$$\# \text{ inv } \wedge \text{ inv}(a, pc, k)$$

$\# \pi$  chooses  $s$   
s.t. the proof  
goes through



# Cardinality axioms:



# Example: finding the solution

$$\#\{t \mid s(t)\} = k$$

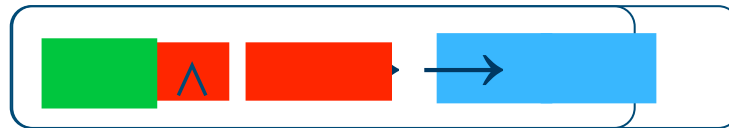
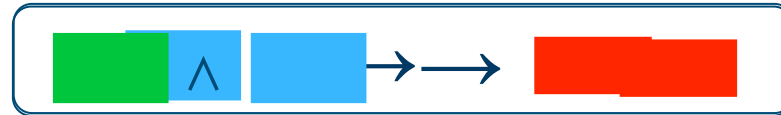
$$\forall t: pc(t) = 1 \wedge a = 0$$

$\wedge \rightarrow$

$$\text{inv}(a, pc, k)$$

$$(\forall t: \neg s(t)) \rightarrow k = 0$$

# Cardinality axioms:



$$s = pc(t) > 1$$

$$inv = k \leq a$$

# Evaluation:

cache coherence

Works on problems from the literature

Program	Card	Property	Inferred cardinalities	Time
intro [21]	✓	$(\exists t : pc(t) = 2) \rightarrow b < a$	$\#\{t \mid pc(t) = 2\}$	1.2s
bluetooth [21]	✓	$(\exists t : pc(t) = 2) \rightarrow st = 0$	$\#\{t \mid pc(t) = 2\}$	1.6s
tree traverse [21]	✓	$nodes + 1$	-	4.2s
cache [59]	✓	$\#\{t \mid pc(t) = 3\} \leq 1$	$\#\{t \mid pc(t) \geq 3\}$	0.7s
garbage collection	✓	$\#\{t \mid 2 \leq pc(t) \leq 4\} \leq 1 \wedge m = 1$	$\#\{t \mid 2 \leq pc(t) \leq 4\}$	10.1s

garbage collection

locking

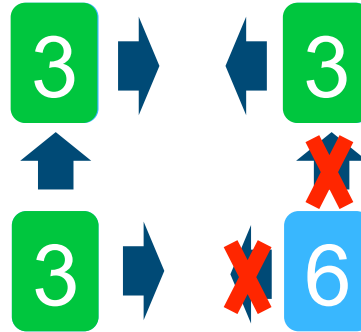
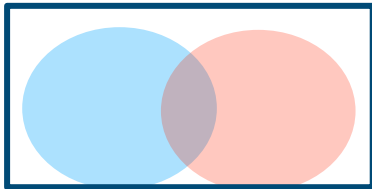
Program	Property	Inferred cardinalities	Time
ticket lock [21]	$\#\{t \mid pc(t) = 3\} \leq 1$	$\#\{t \mid m(t) \leq s \wedge pc(t) = 2\},$ $\#\{t \mid pc(t) = 3\}$ $\#\{t \mid m(t) = q\}$	20.9s
filter lock [31]	$\#\{t \mid lv(t) = n - 1\} \leq 1$	$\#\{t \mid lv(t) \geq q\}$	27.5s
one-third rule [14, 18]	see Section 2	$\#\{t \mid x(t) = x(q)\}$	0.8s

consensus

First automated cardinality proofs

# Conclusion:

Existing verifiers can't count



Verifying protocols requires cardinalities

Sharpie



# $\pi$

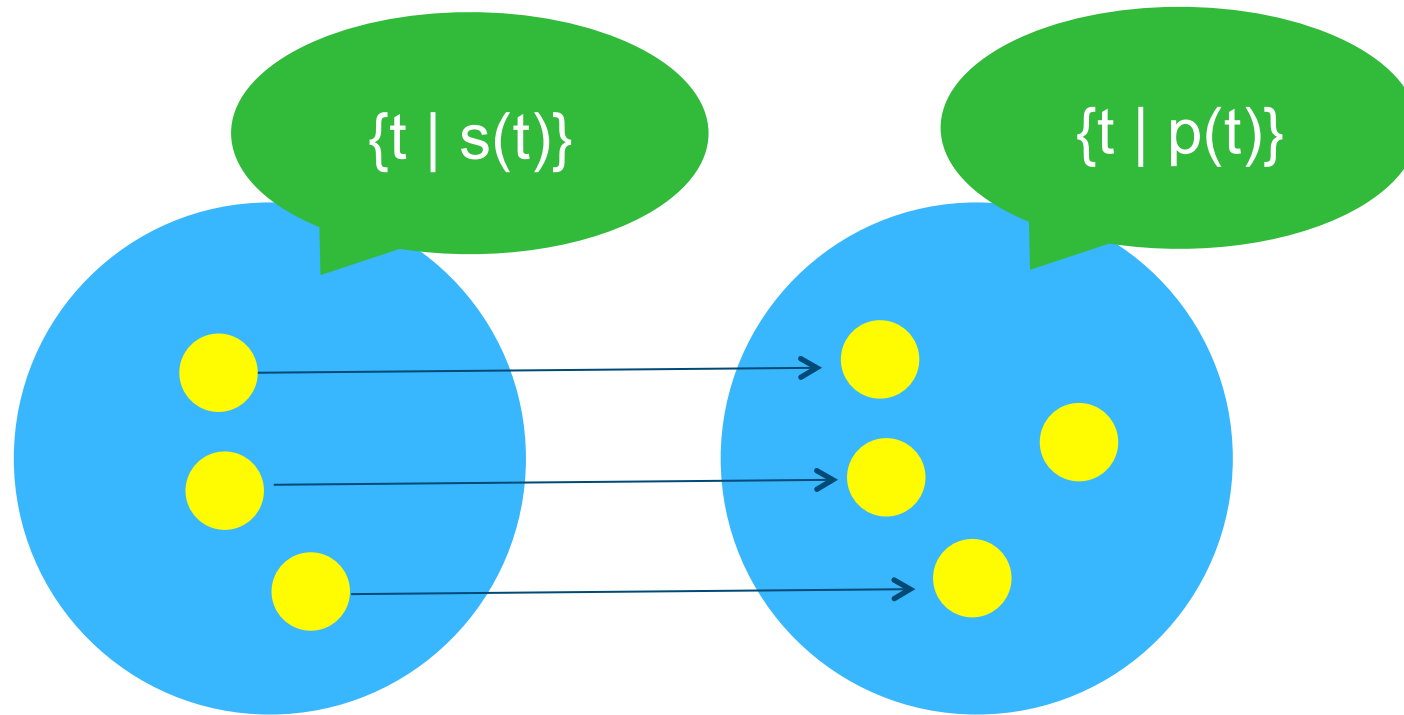
Knows how to count

Chooses what to count to complete proof

A green speech bubble with a white outline and a small tail pointing towards the bottom-left. The text "That's it!" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font in the center of the bubble.

**That's it!**

# Axioms: inequality



$$(\forall t: s(t) \rightarrow p(t)) \rightarrow k \leq l$$



# Axioms: inequality

Equality  
comparison

$$\#\{t \mid s(t)\} = k$$

$$\#\{t \mid p(t)\} = l$$

---

$$(\forall t: s(t) \rightarrow p(t)) \rightarrow k \leq l$$

# Axioms: strict inequality

$$\#\{t \mid s\} = k$$

$$\#\{t \mid p\} = l$$

$$\begin{aligned} & (\forall t: s(t) \rightarrow p(t)) \wedge \\ & (\exists t: \neg s(t) \wedge p(t)) \quad \rightarrow k < l \end{aligned}$$

Additional  
witness