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# Sampling Dynamic Dataflow Analyses

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Joseph L. Greathouse

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*University of Michigan*

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# Software Errors Abound

- NIST: SW errors cost U.S. ~\$60 billion/year as of 2002

A problem has been detected and windows has been shut down to prevent damage to your computer.

The problem seems to be caused by the following file: SPCMDCON.SYS

PAGE\_FAULT\_IN\_NONPAGED\_AREA

If this is the first time you've seen this stop error screen, restart your computer. If this screen appears again, follow these steps:

Check to make sure any new hardware or software is properly installed. If this is a new installation, ask your hardware or software manufacturer for any windows updates you might need.

If problems continue, disable or remove any newly installed hardware or software. Disable BIOS memory options such as caching or shadowing. If you need to use Safe Mode to remove or disable components, restart your computer, press F8 to select Advanced Startup Options, and then select Safe Mode.

Technical information:

\*\*\* STOP: 0x00000050 (0xFD3094C2,0x00000001,0xFBFE7617,0x00000000)

\*\*\* SPCMDCON.SYS - Address FBFE7617 base at FBFE5000, Datestamp 3d6dd67c

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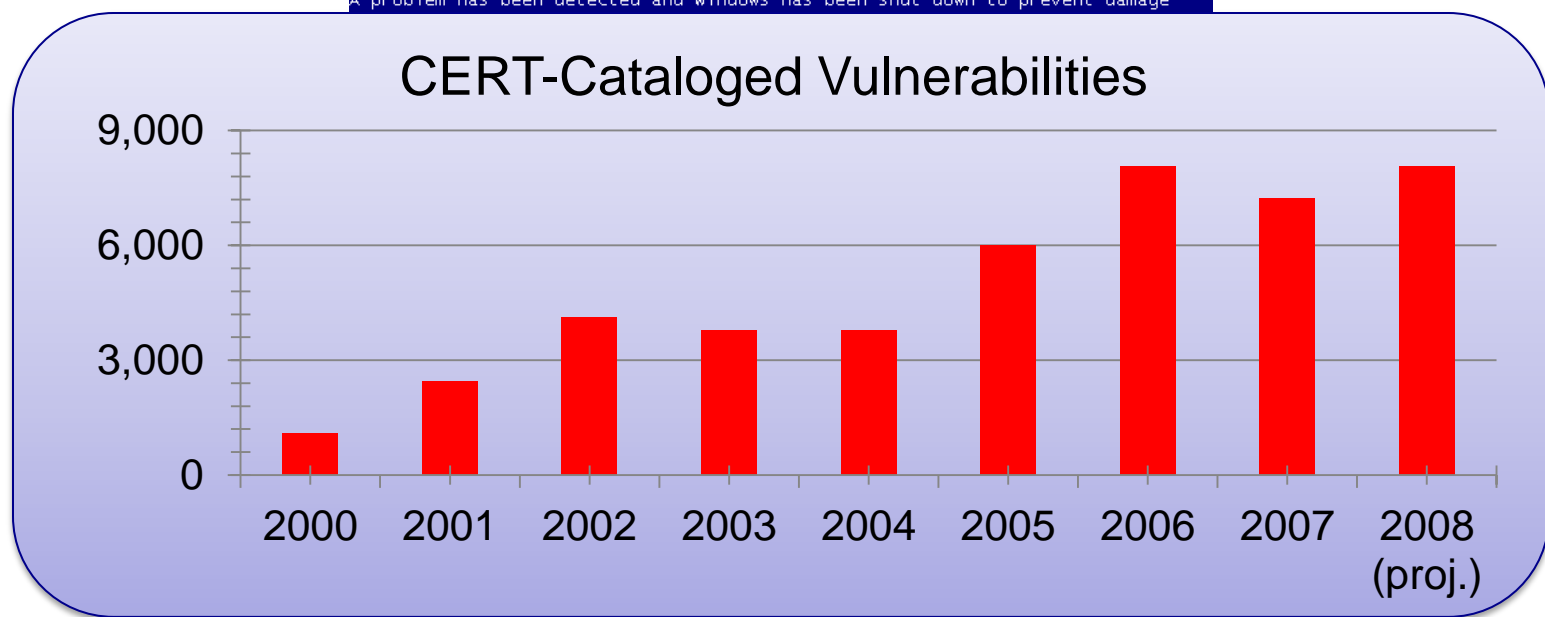
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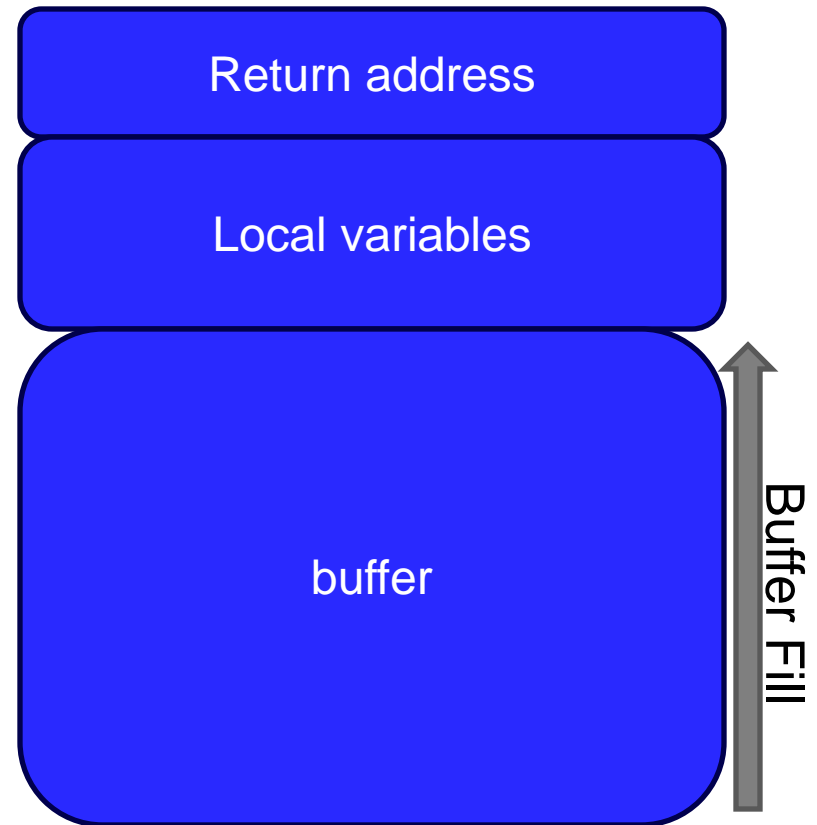
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# Security Vulnerability Example

- Buffer overflows a large class of security vulnerabilities

```
void foo()  
{  
  int local_variables;  
  int buffer[256];  
  ...  
  buffer = read_input();  
  ...  
  return;  
}
```

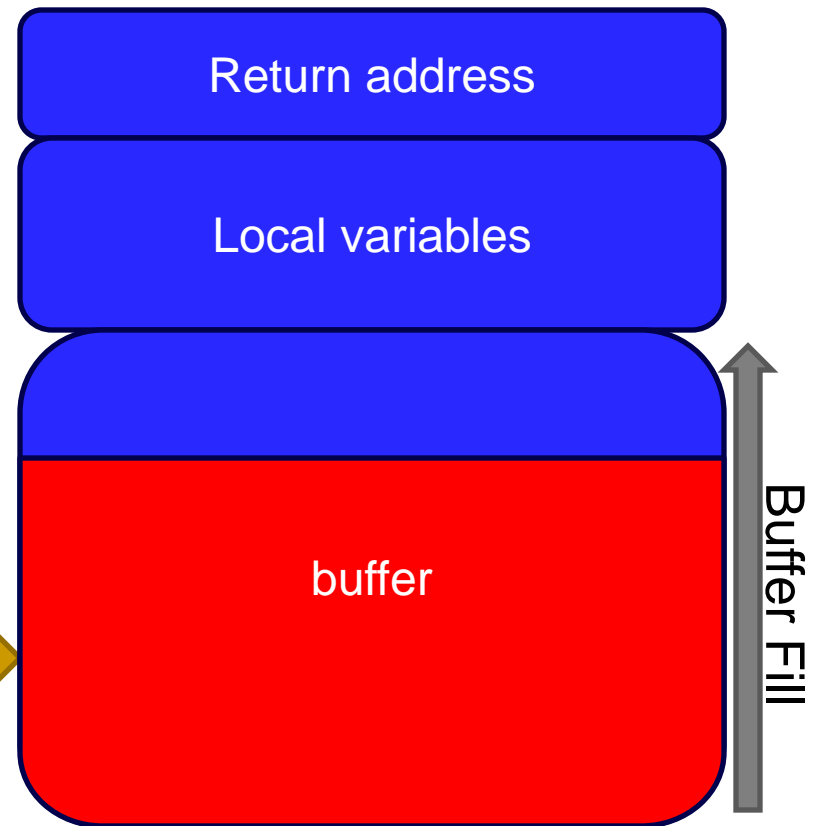


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If read\_input() reads 200 ints



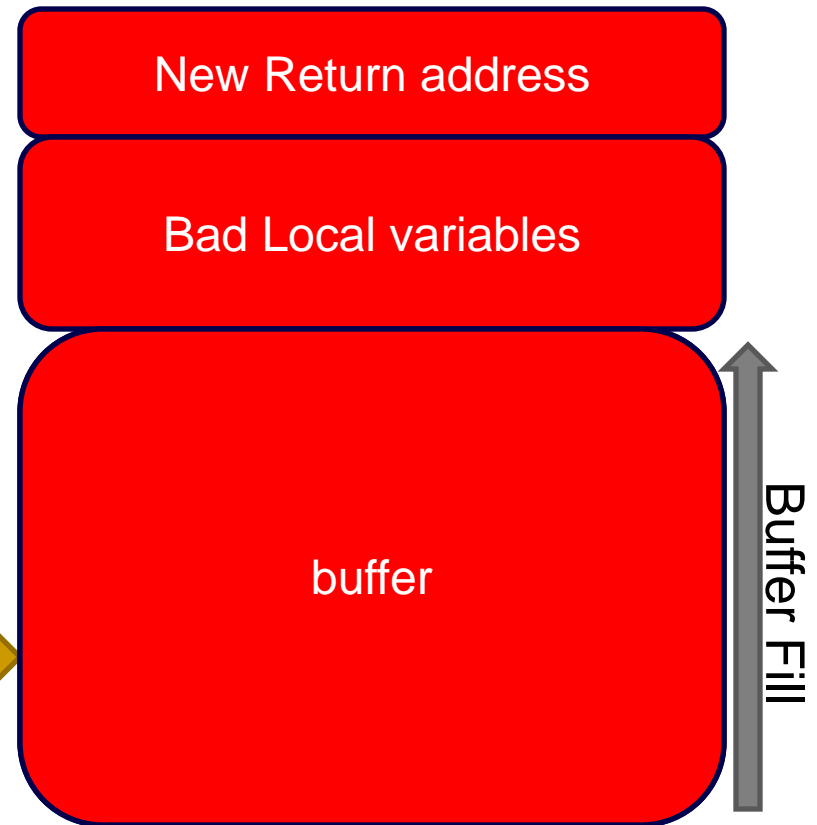


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If read\_input() reads >256 ints



# Concurrency Bugs Also Matter

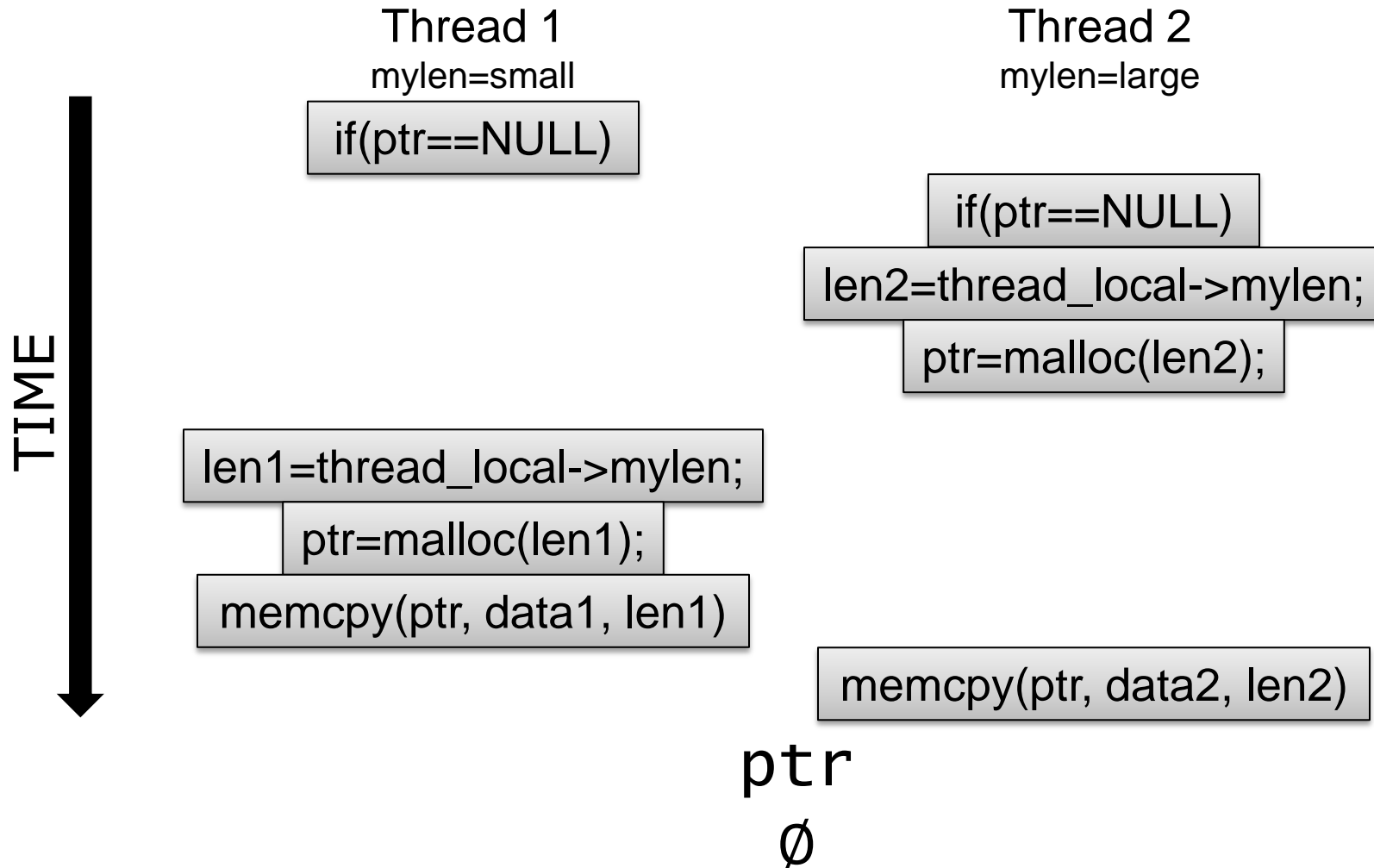
Thread 1  
mylen=small

Thread 2  
mylen=large

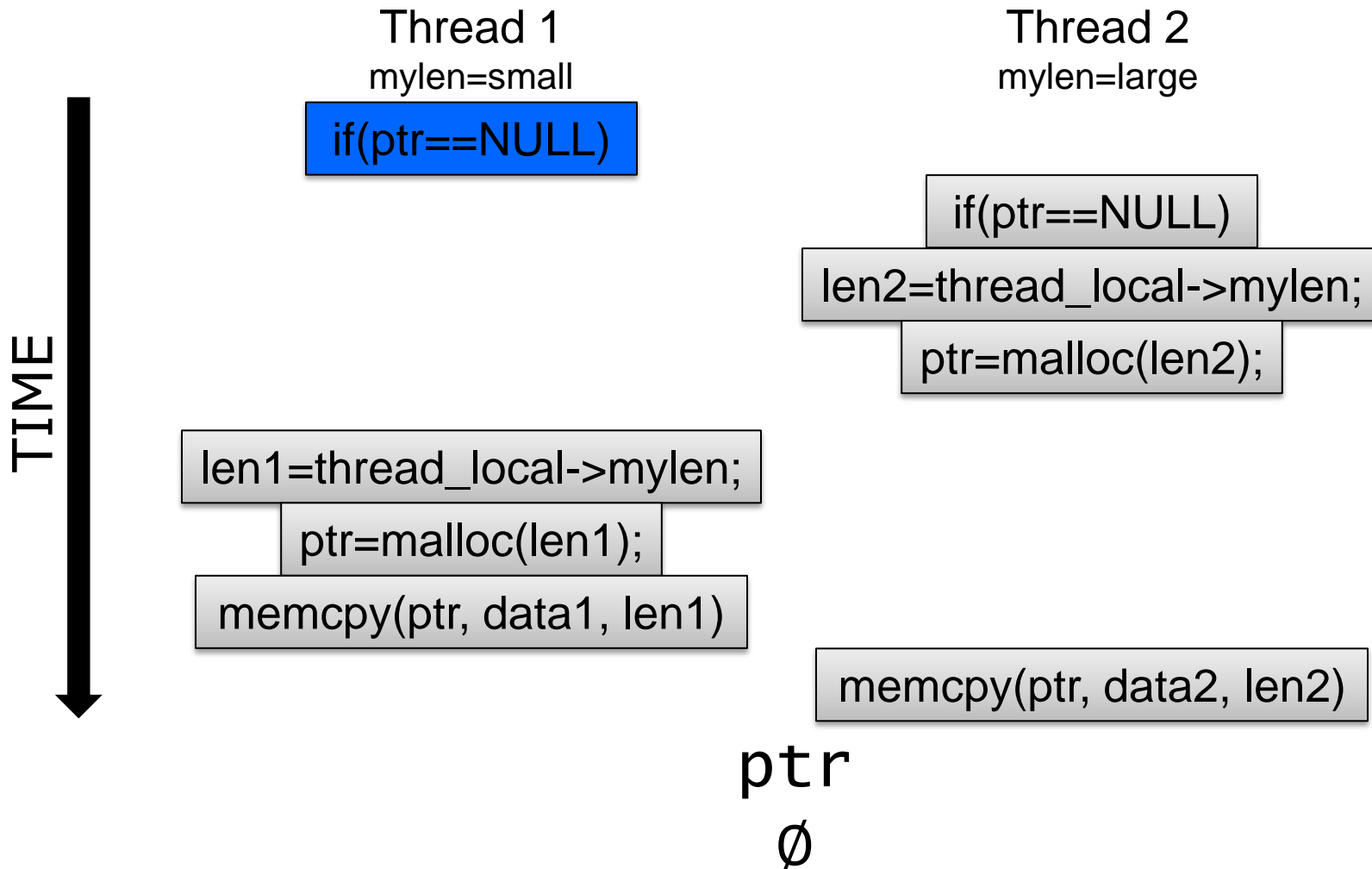
## Nov. 2010 OpenSSL Security Flaw

```
if(ptr == NULL) {  
    len=thread_local->mylen;  
    ptr=malloc(len);  
    memcpy(ptr, data, len);  
}
```

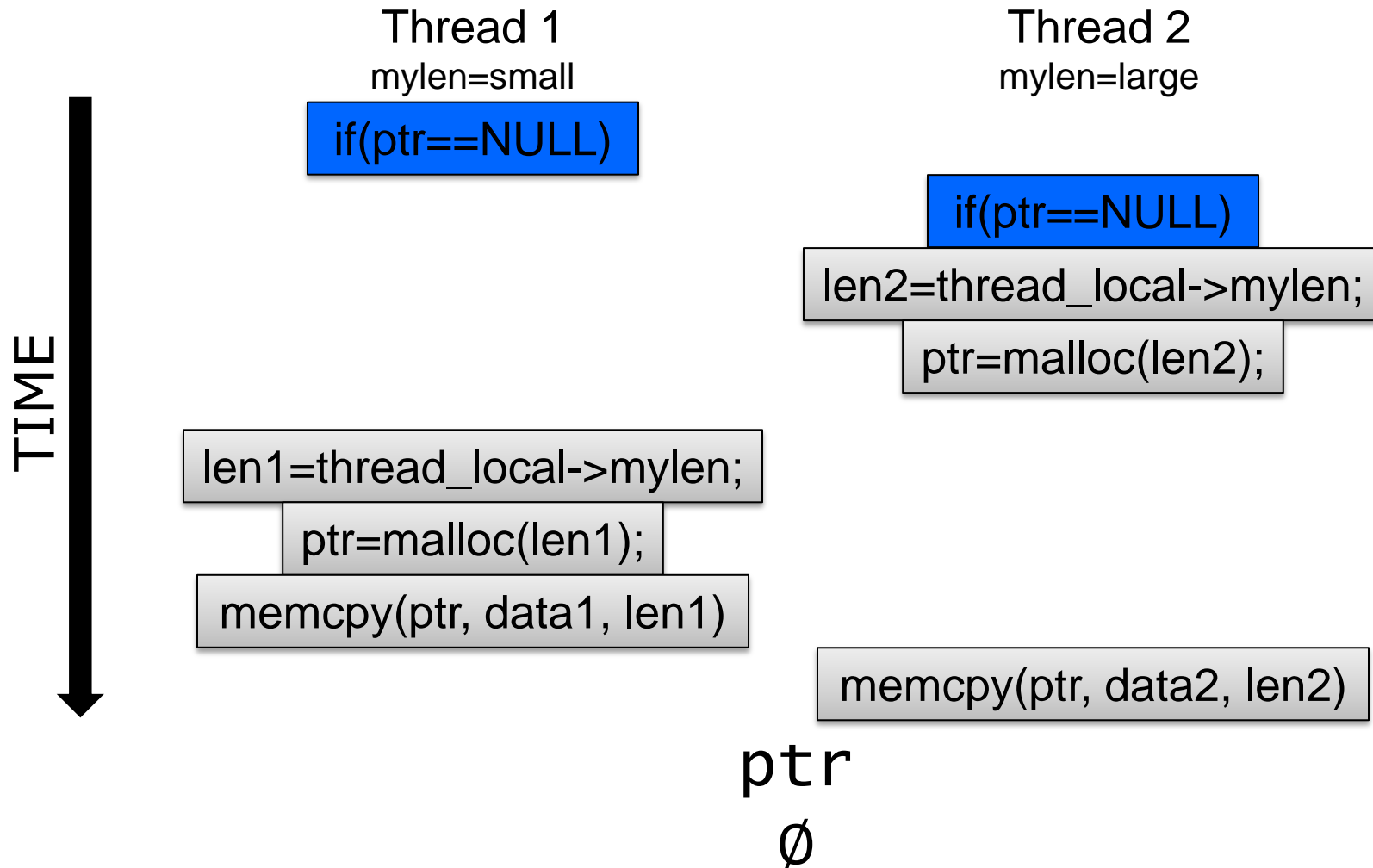
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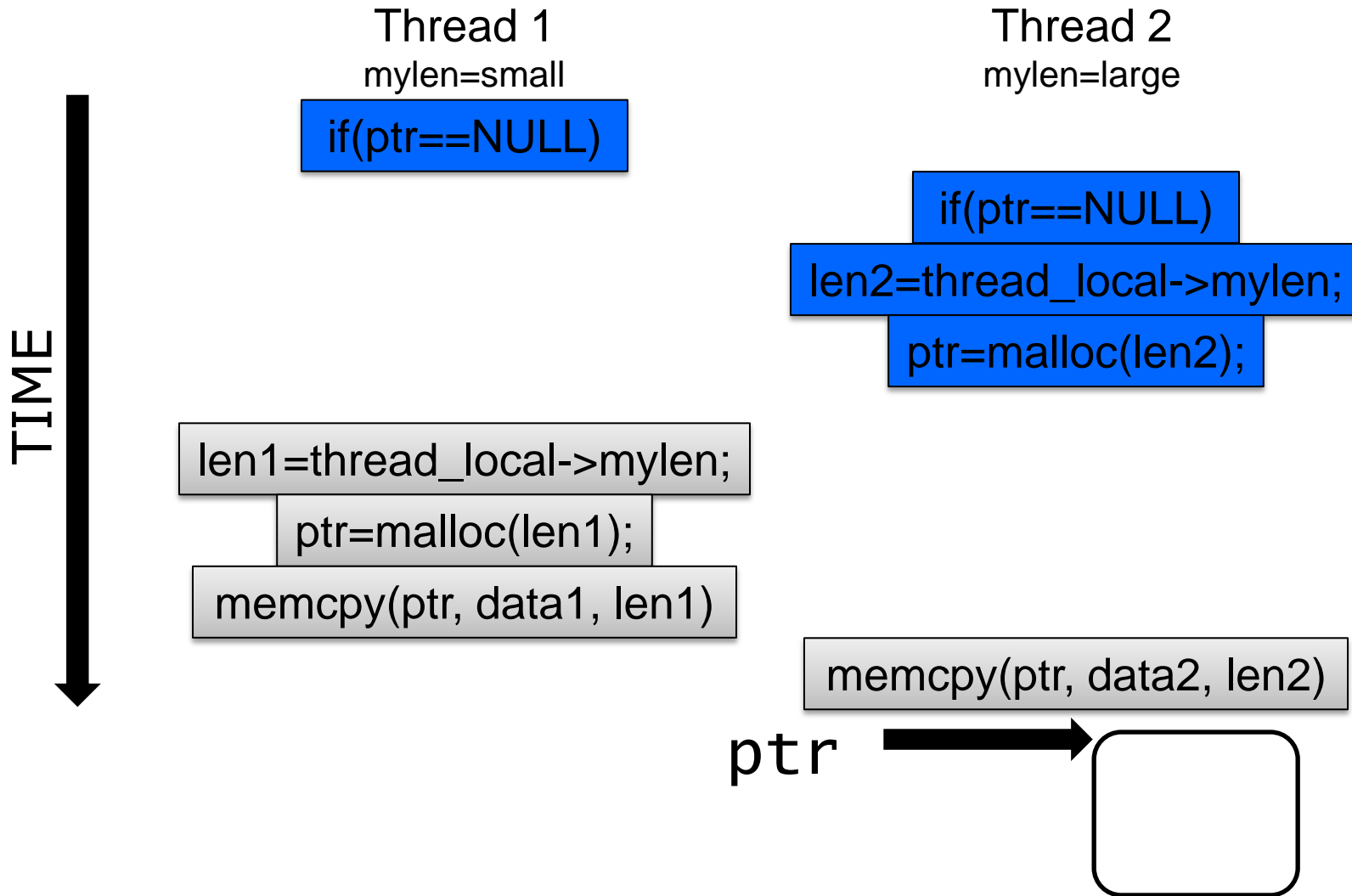
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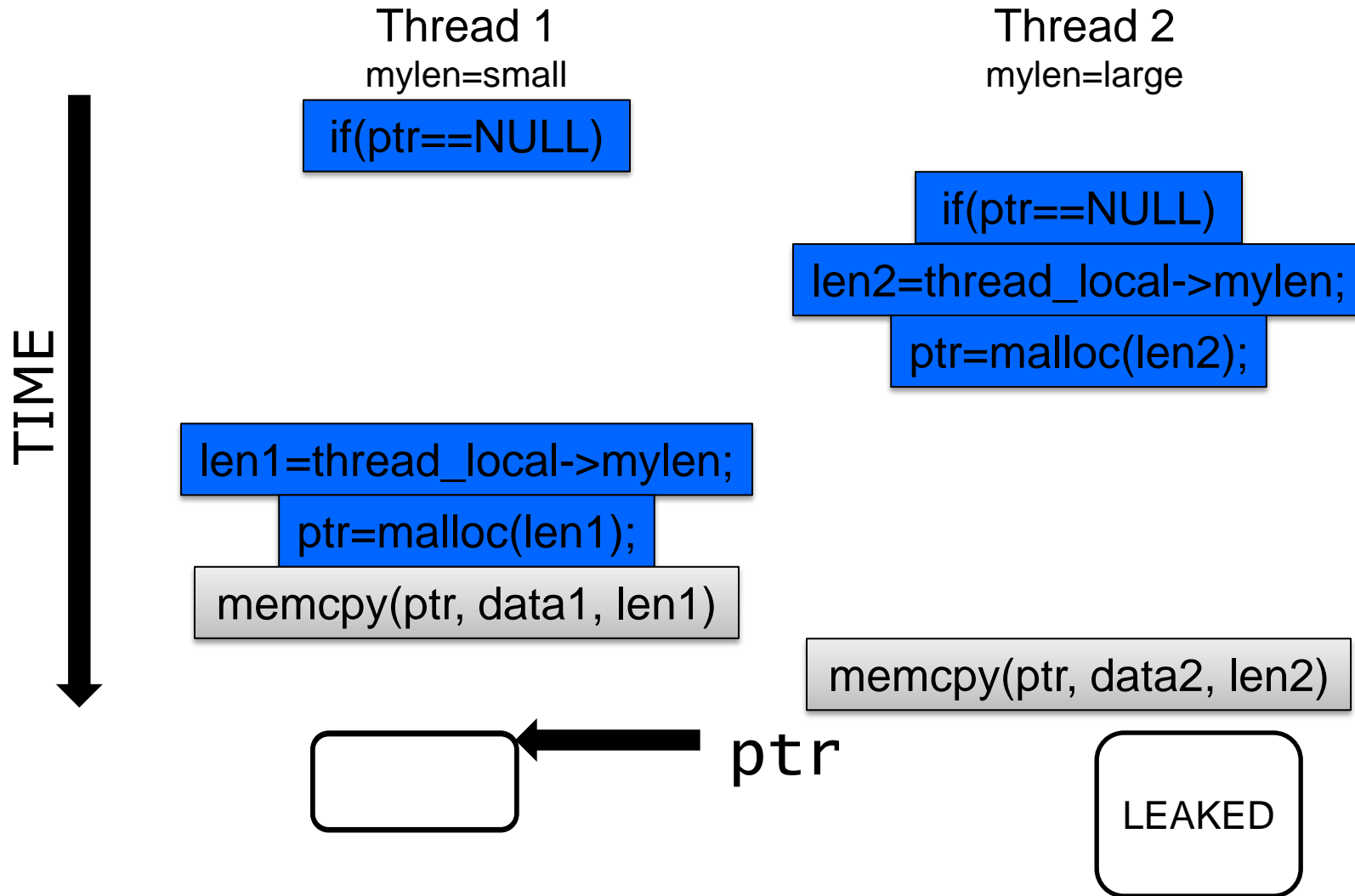
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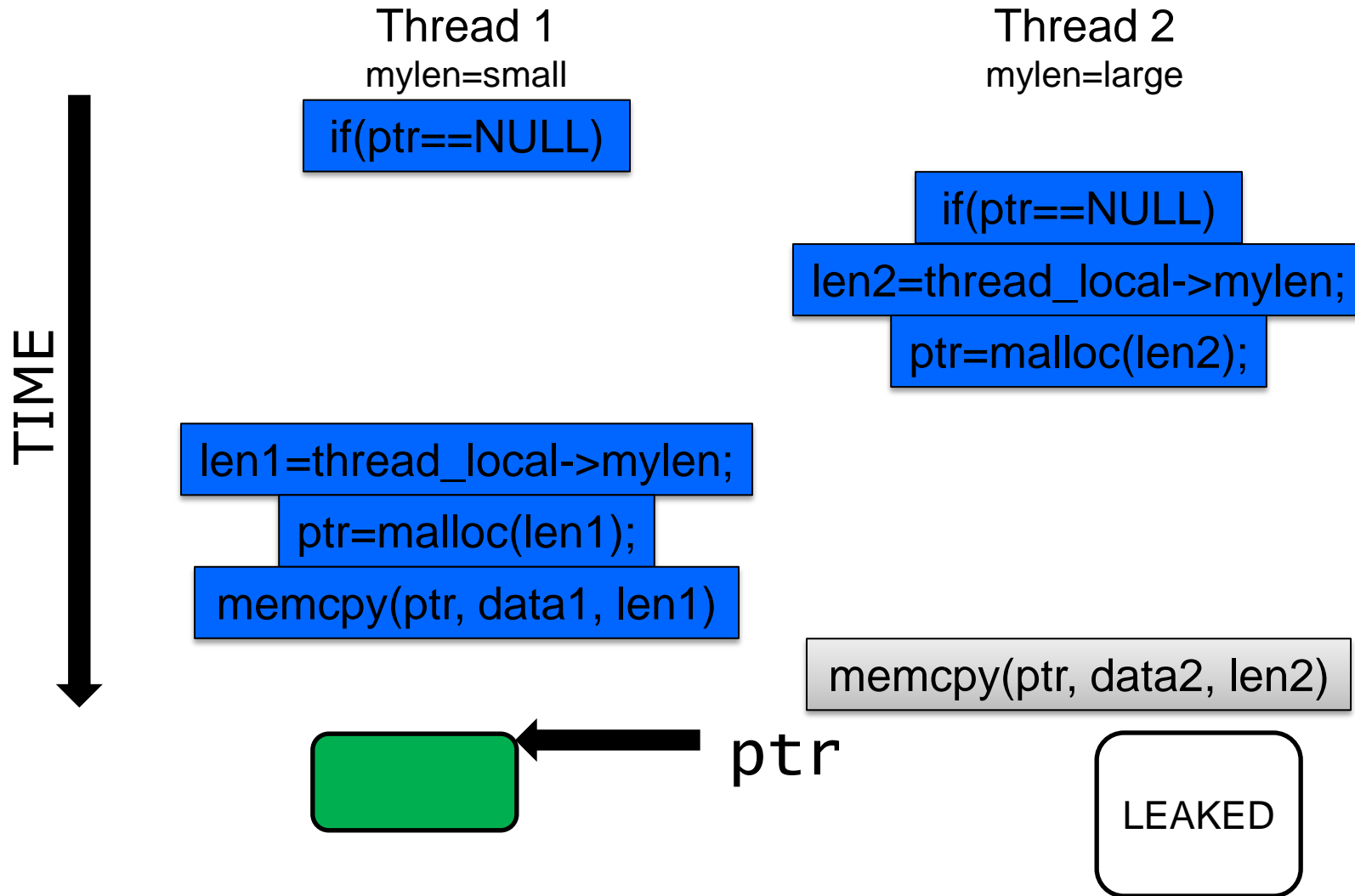
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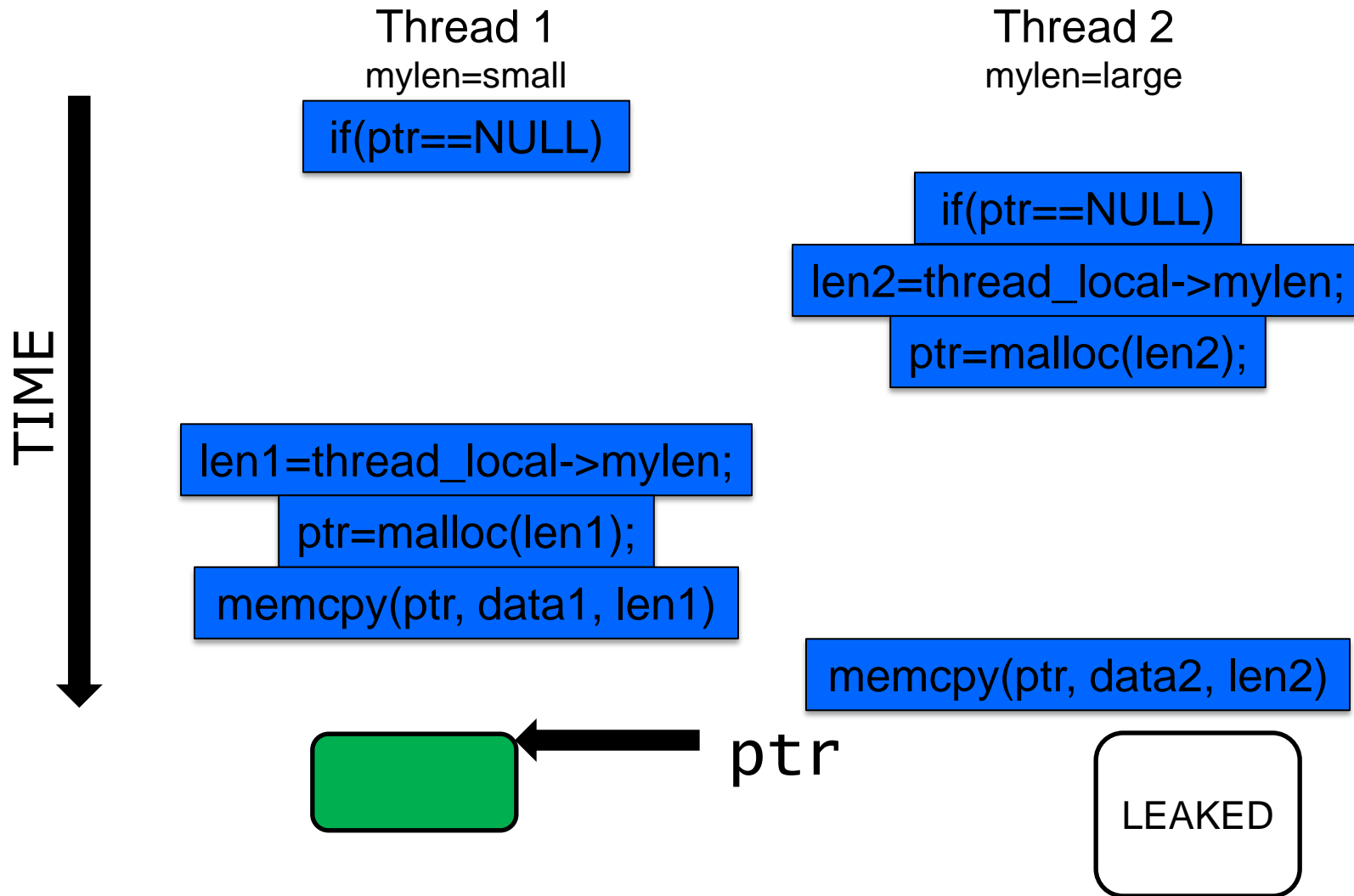


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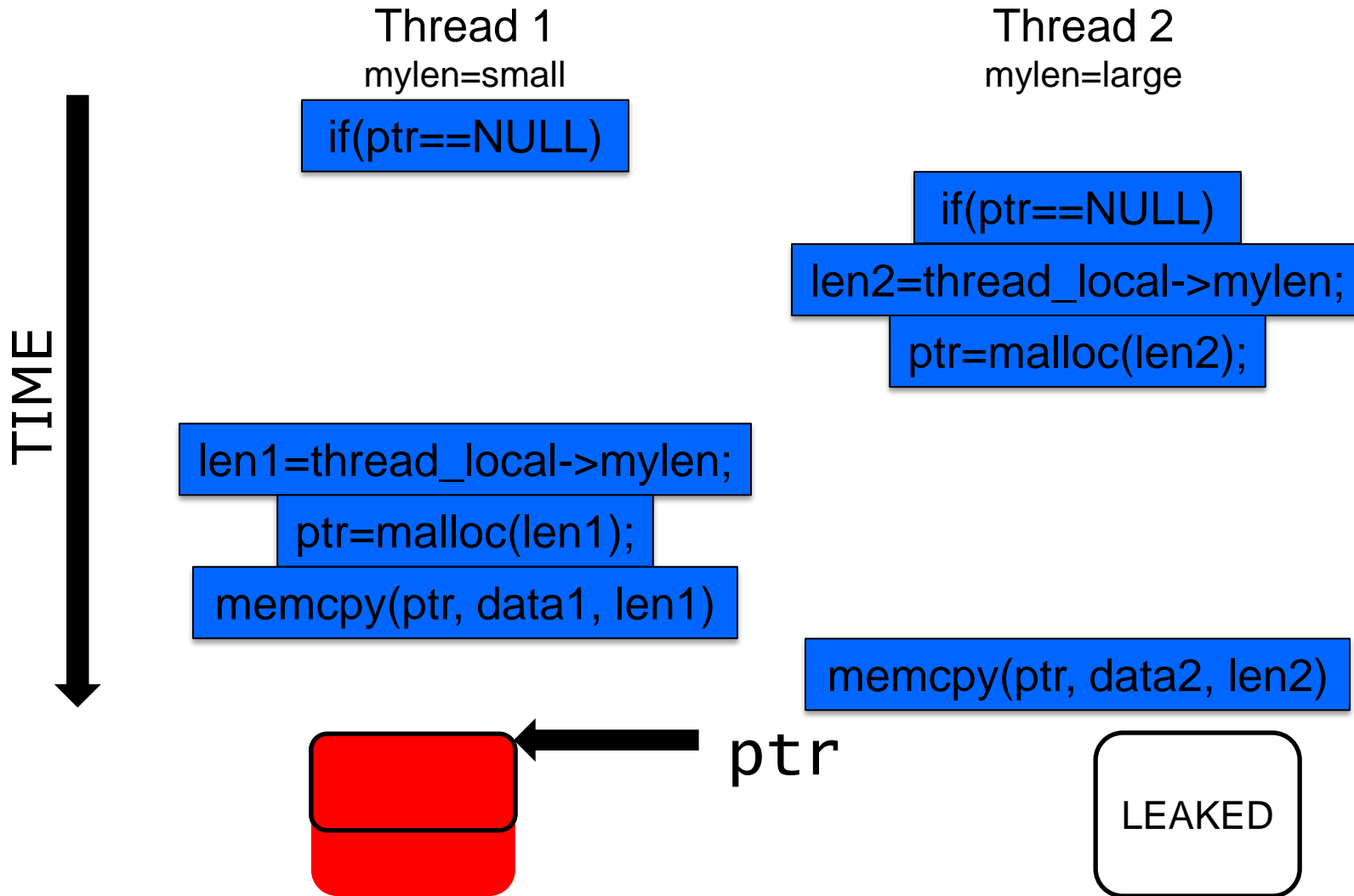




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# One Layer of a Solution

- High quality dynamic software analysis
  - Find **difficult bugs** that other analyses miss
  
- **Distribute Tests** to Large Populations
  - Low overhead or users get angry
  
- Accomplished by **sampling the analyses**
  - Each user only tests part of the program

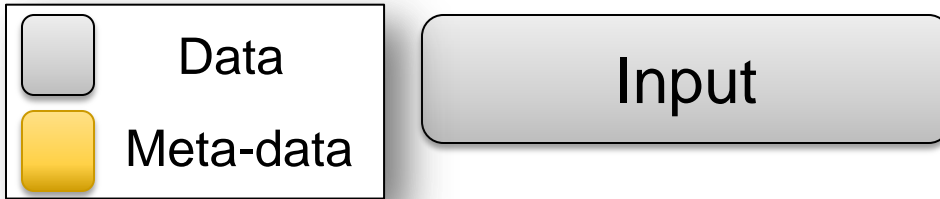
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# Dynamic Dataflow Analysis

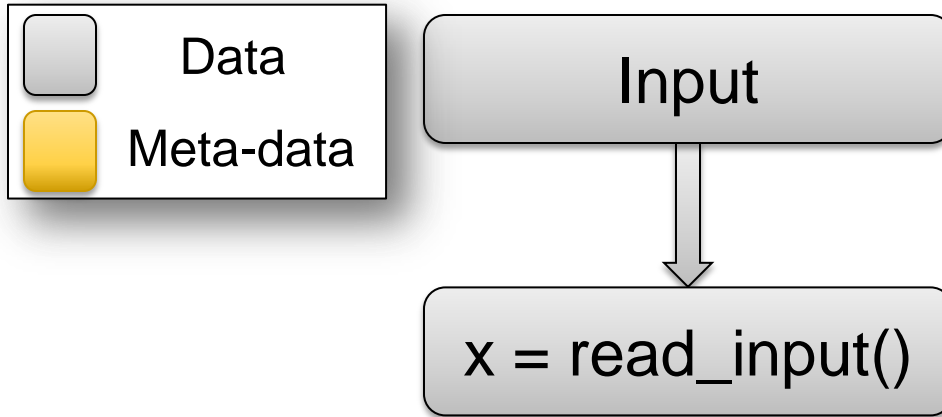
- **Associate** meta-data with program values
- **Propagate/Clear** meta-data while executing
- **Check** meta-data for safety & correctness
- Forms dataflows of meta/shadow information

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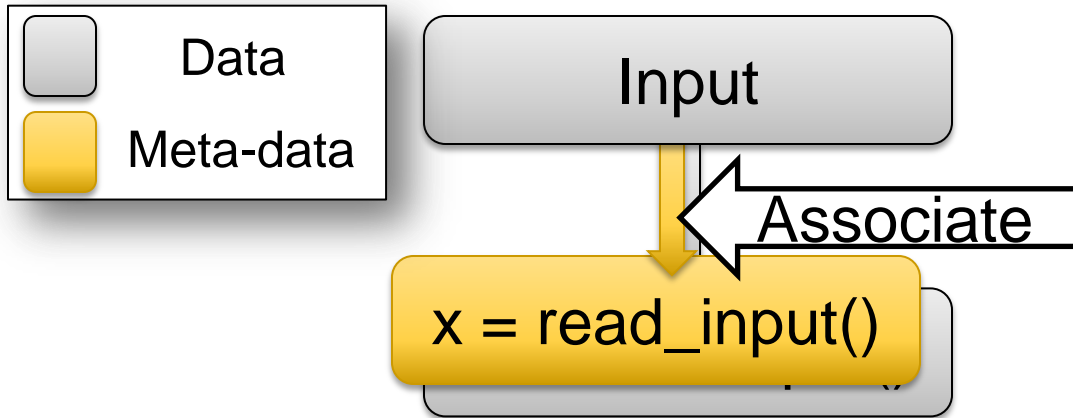
# Example Dynamic Dataflow Analysis



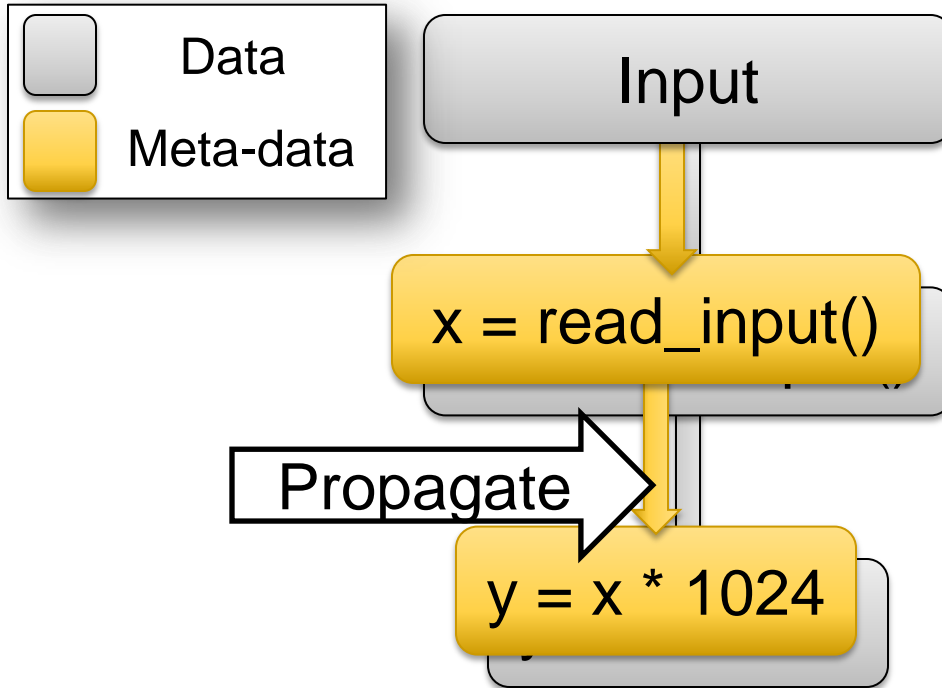
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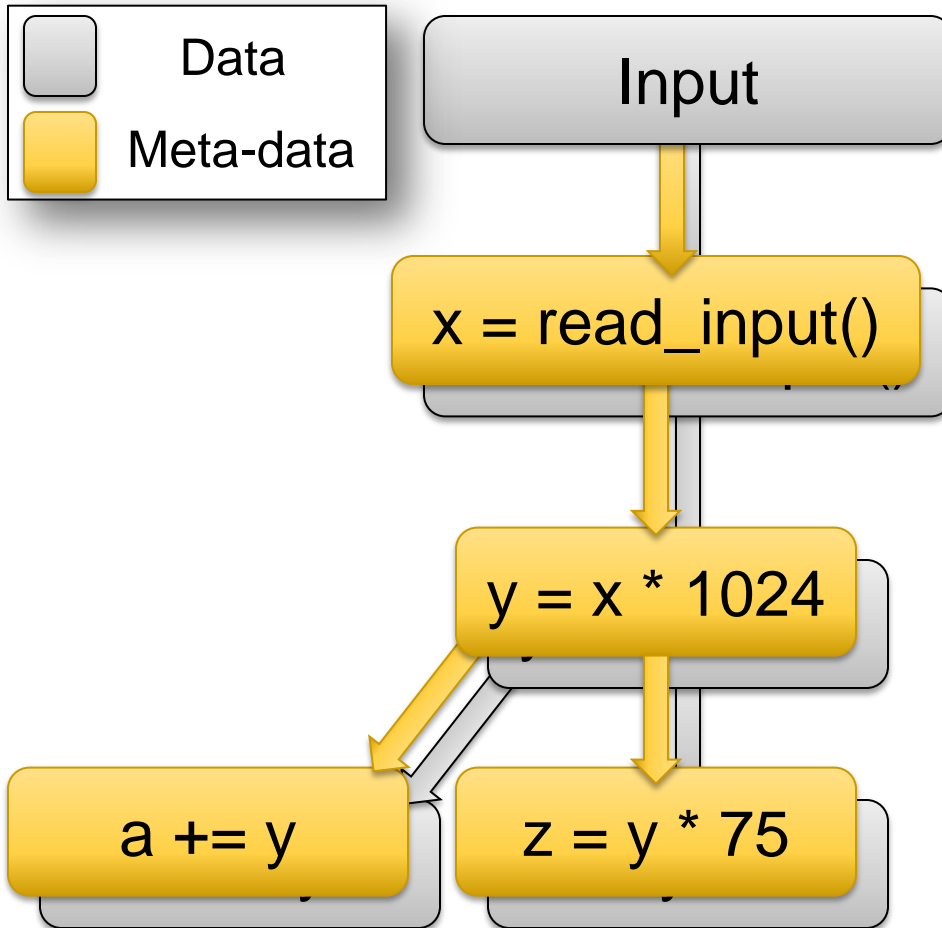


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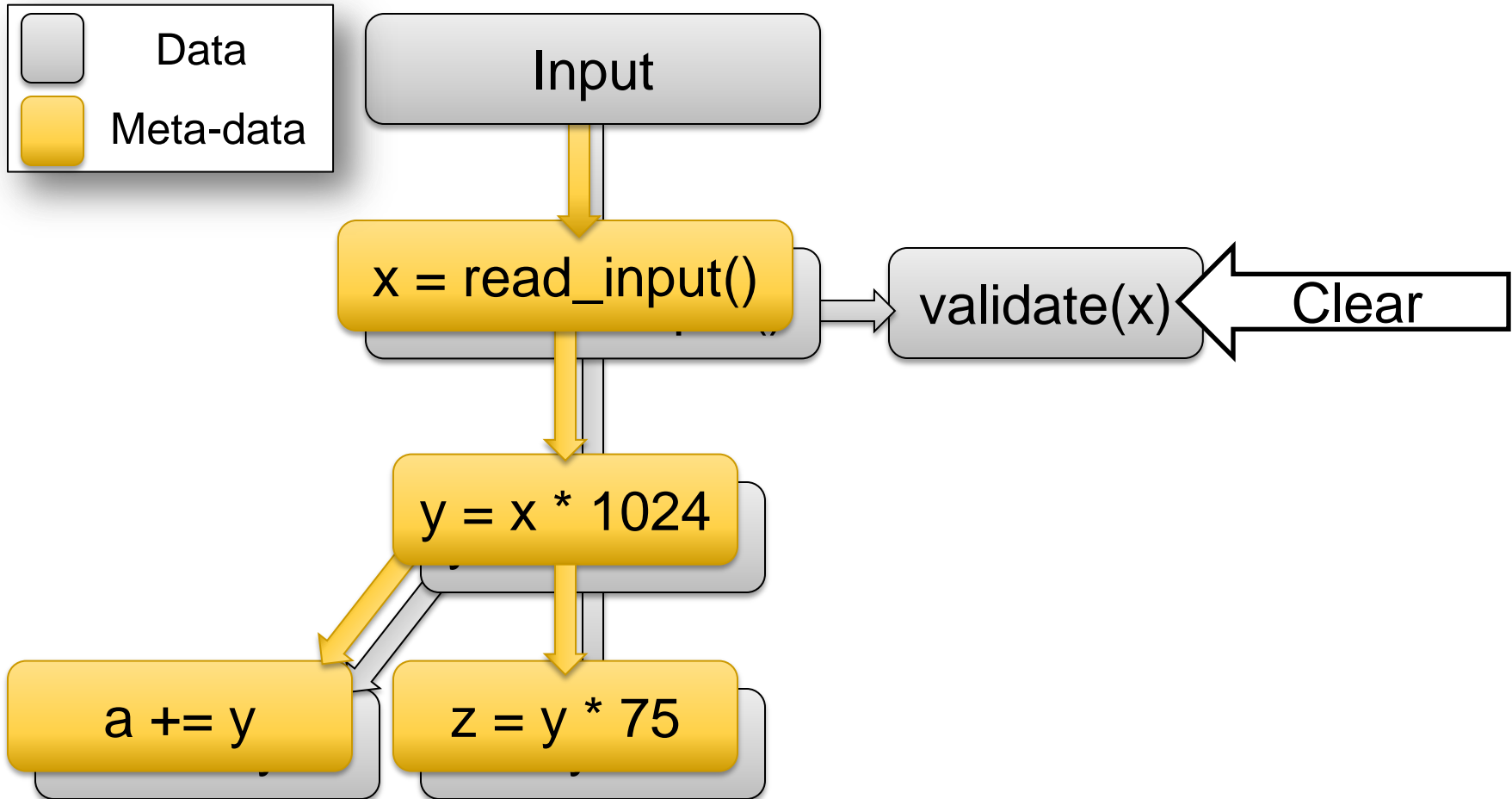




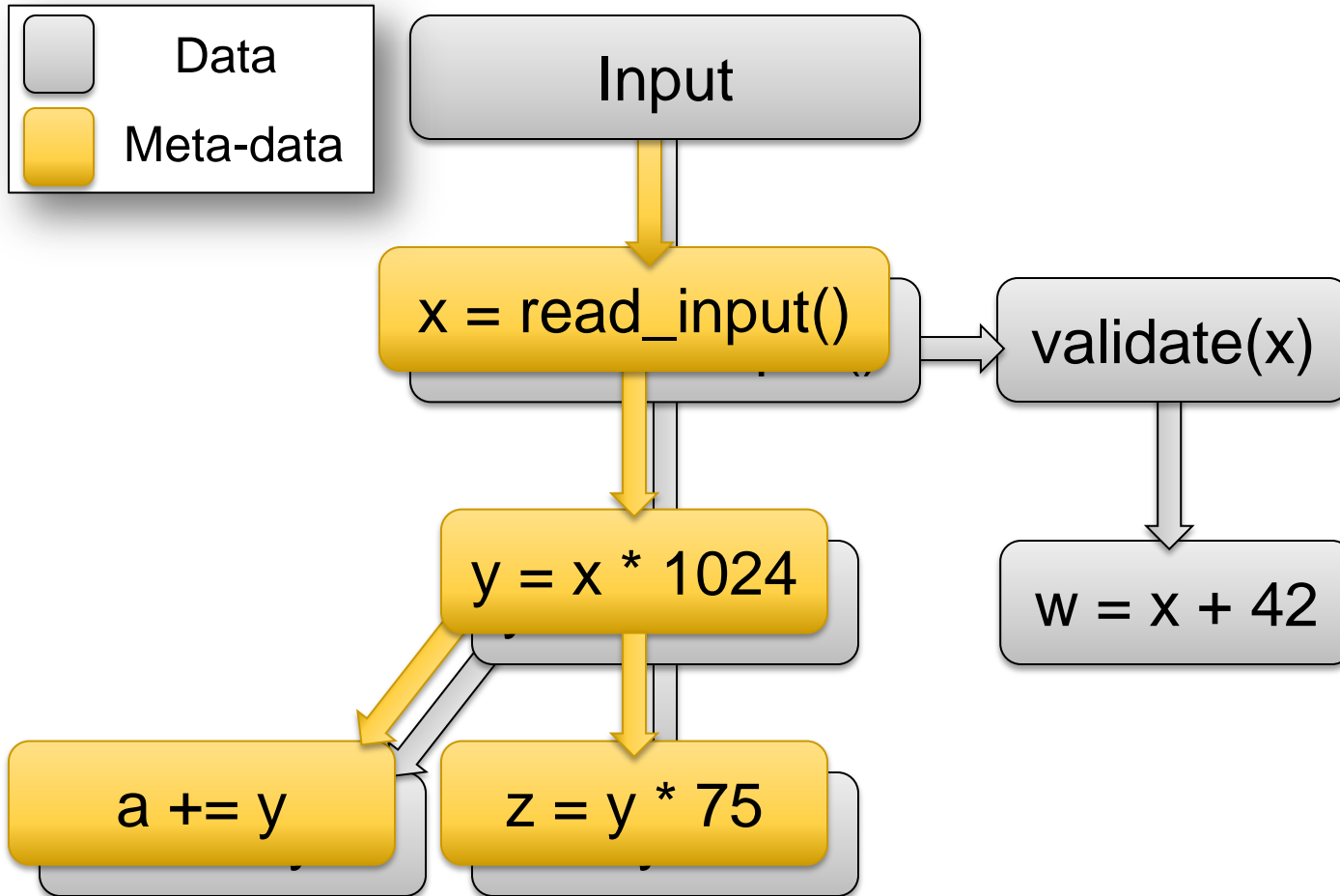
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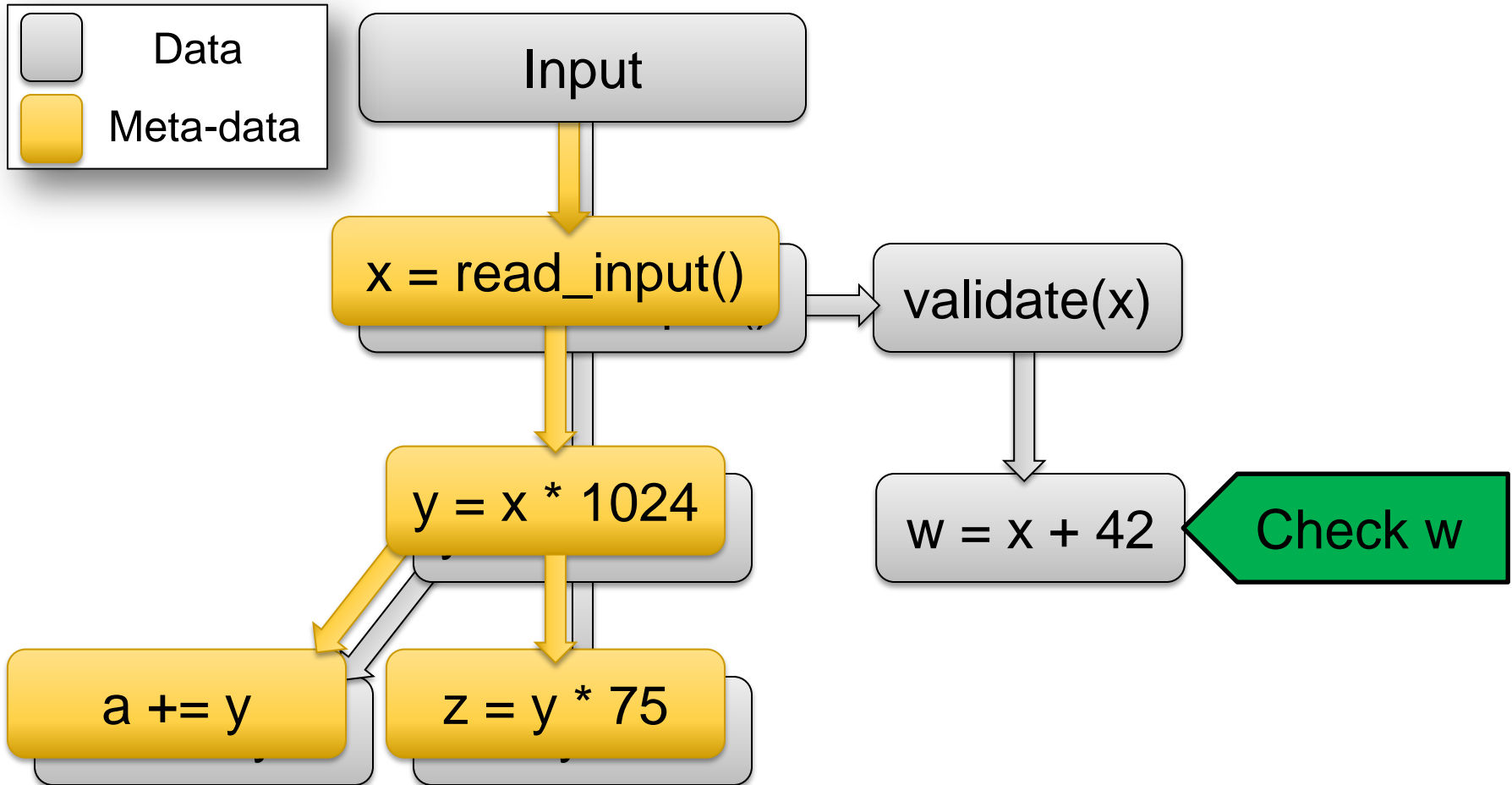
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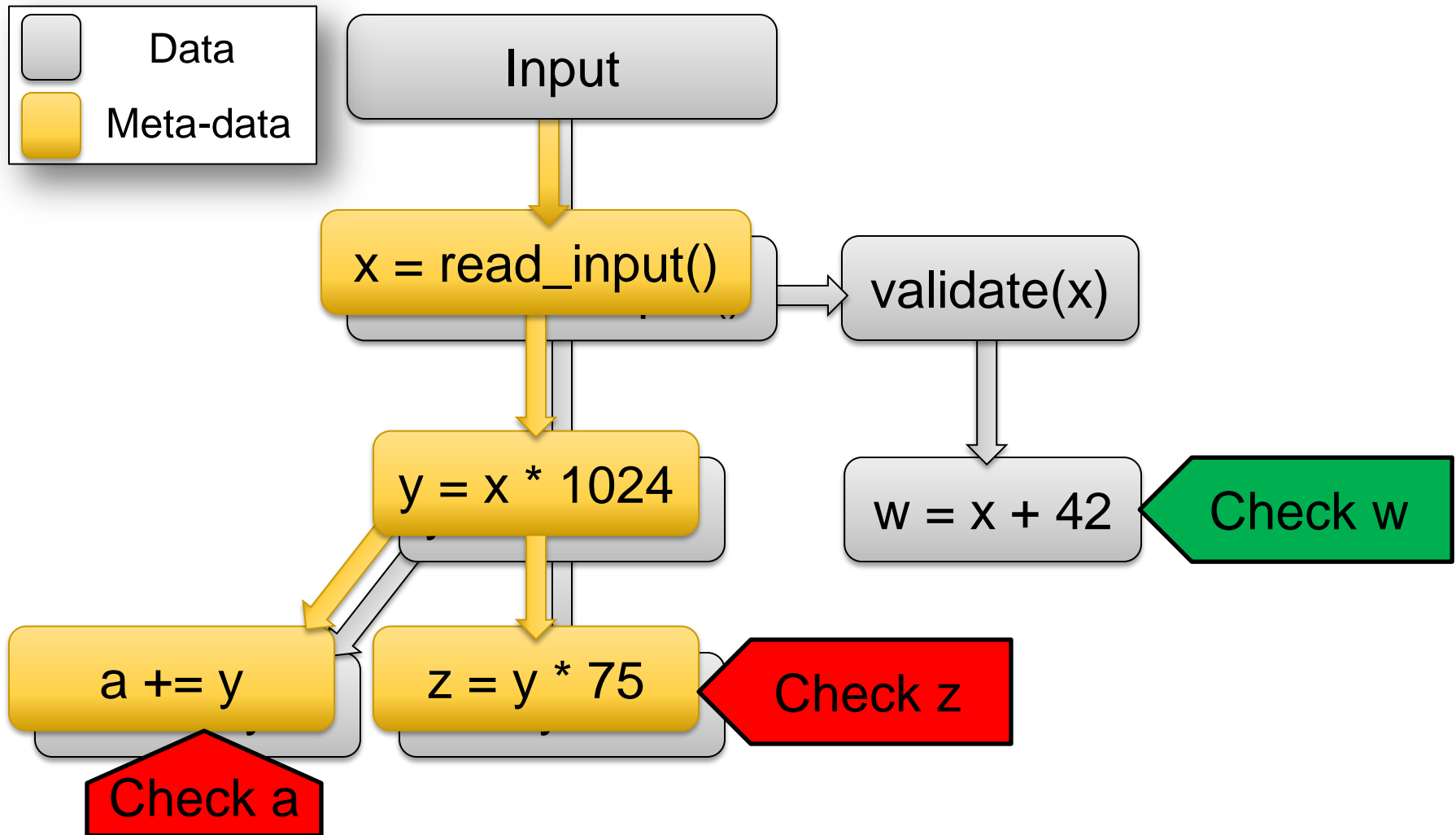
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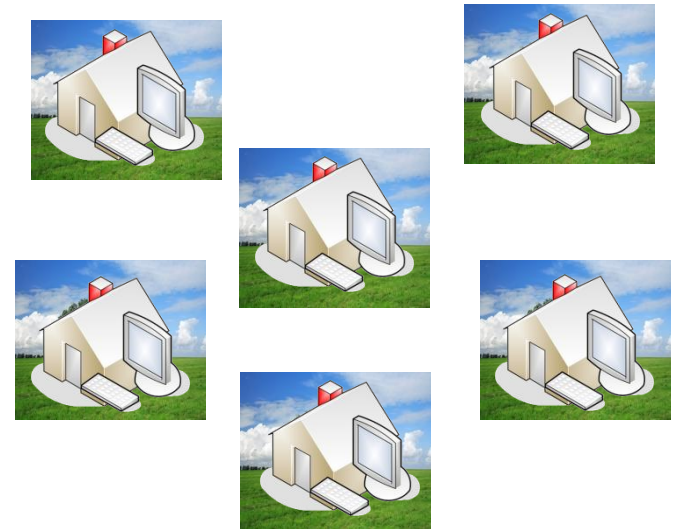
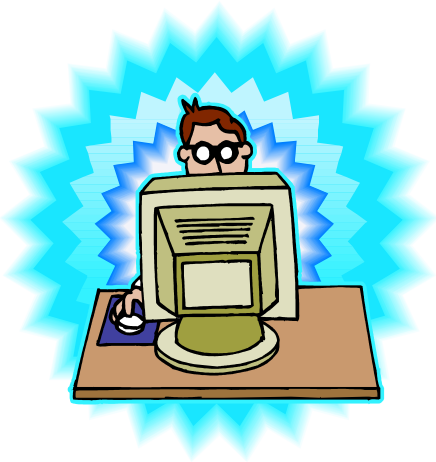


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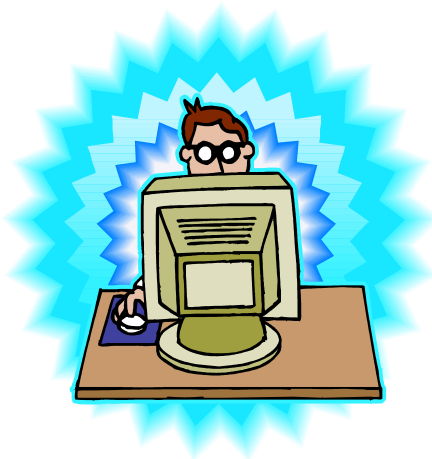
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- Split analysis across large populations
  - Observe more runtime states
  - Report problems developer never thought to test



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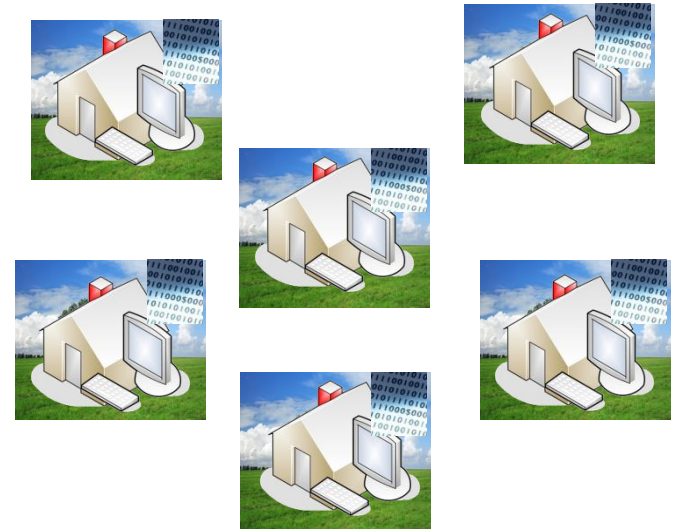
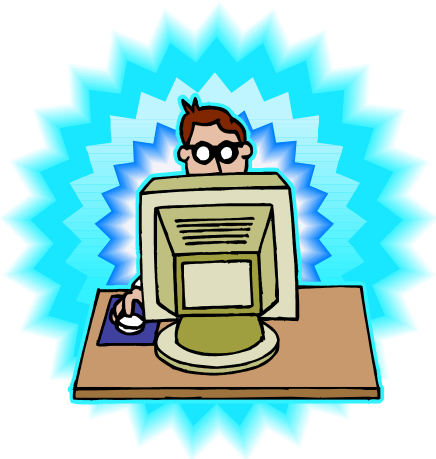
**Instrumented  
Program**

0101010  
111001001  
0010101010  
0101111010  
1110005000  
1010101010  
1001001010  
1010101010



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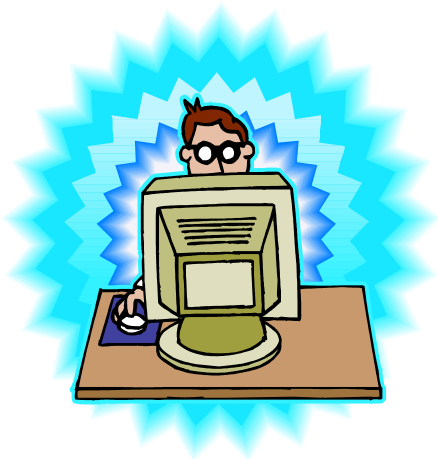
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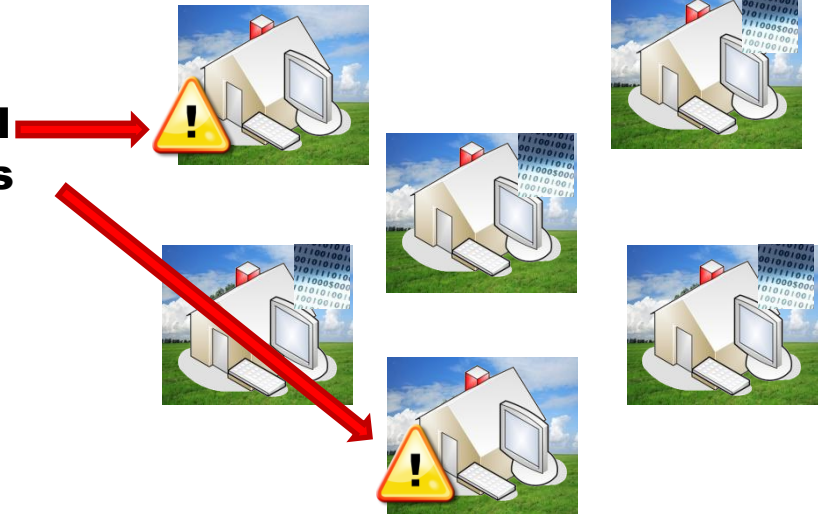


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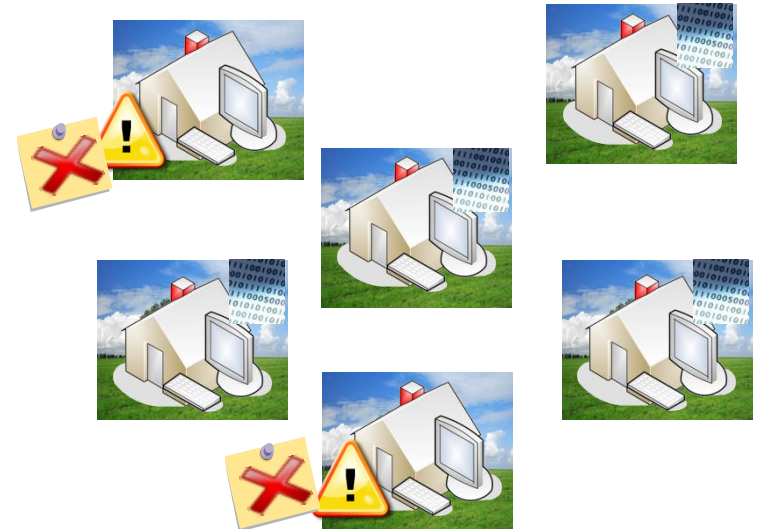
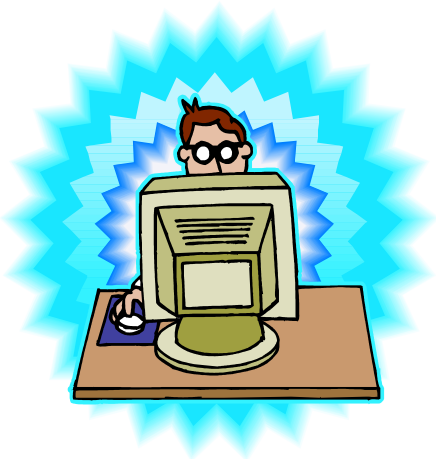


**Potential  
problems**



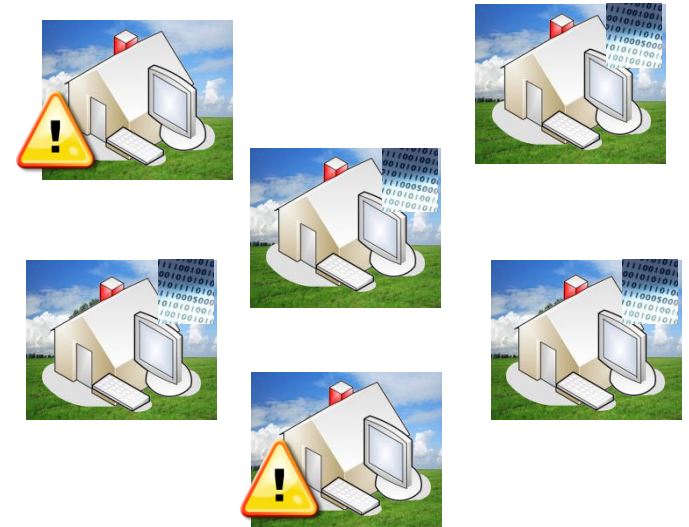
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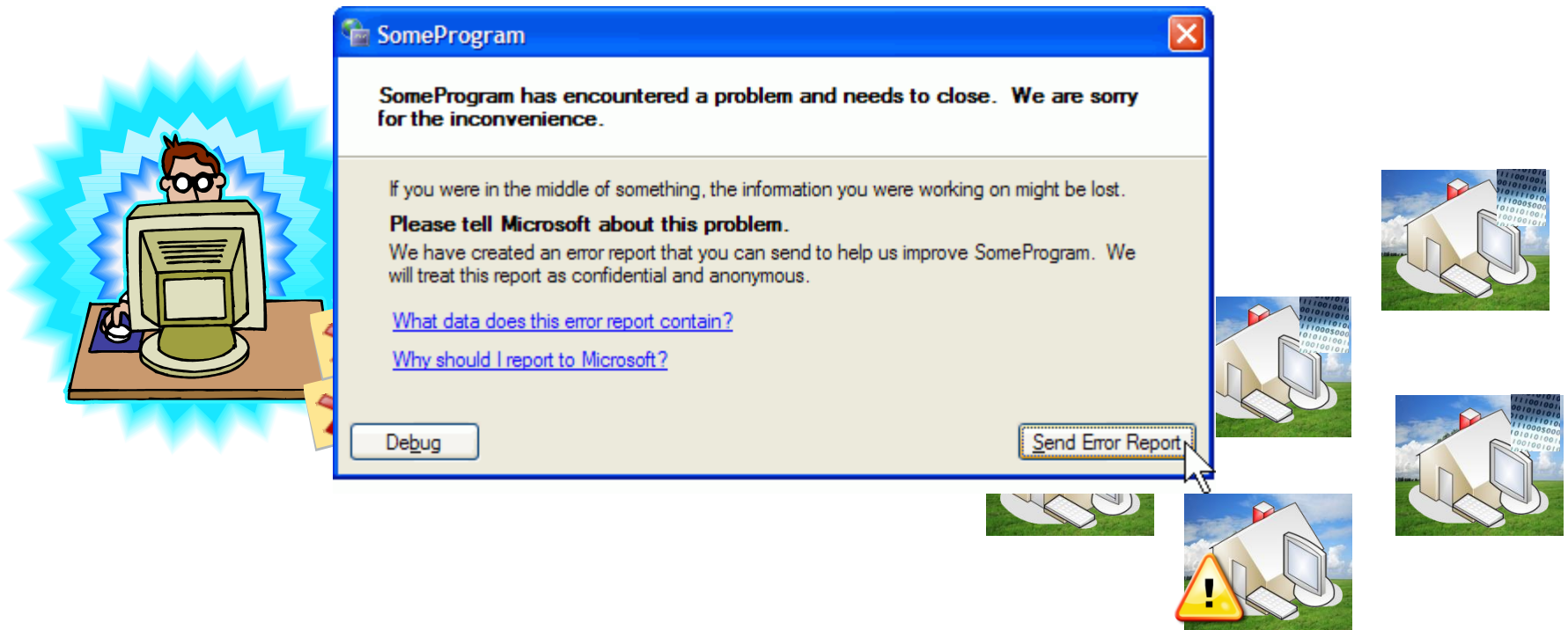
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# Problem: DDAs are Slow

- Symbolic Execution

**10-200x**

- Data Race Detection  
(e.g. Helgrind)

**2-300x**

- Memory Checking  
(e.g. Dr. Memory)

**5-50x**

- Taint Analysis  
(e.g. TaintCheck)

**2-200x**

- Dynamic Bounds  
Checking

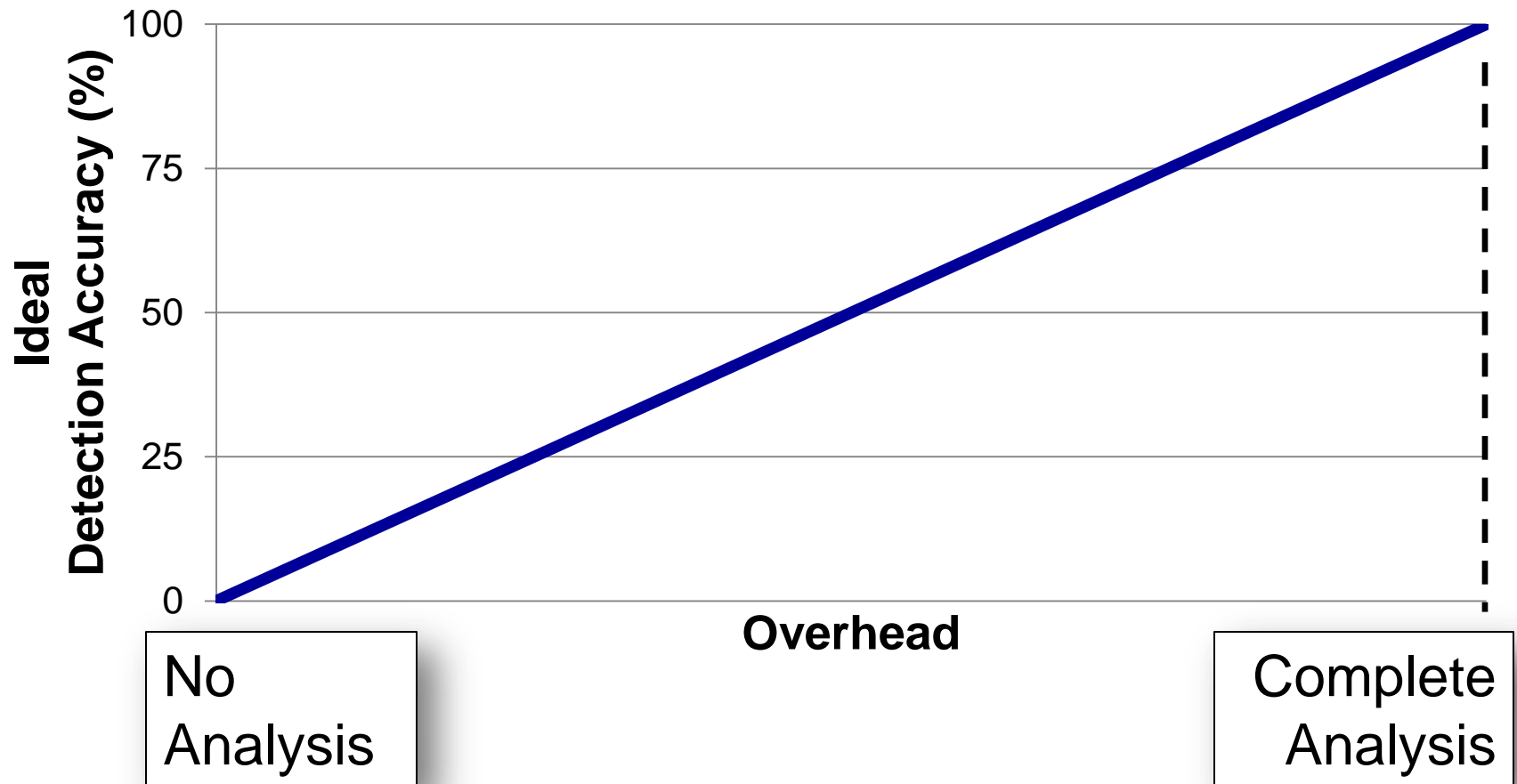
**10-80x**

- FP Accuracy  
Verification

**100-  
500x**

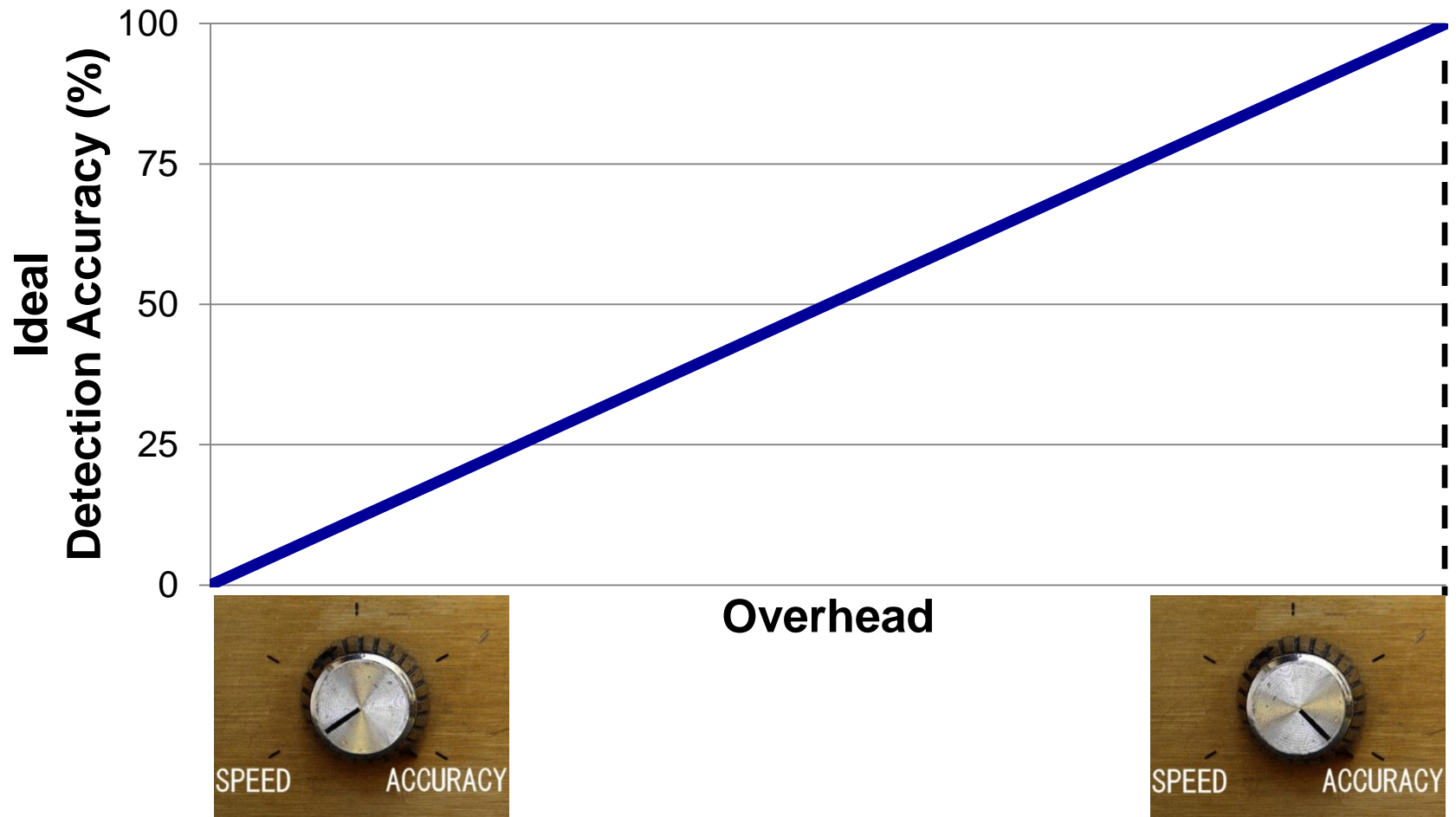
# Our Solution: Sampling

- Lower overheads by skipping some analyses

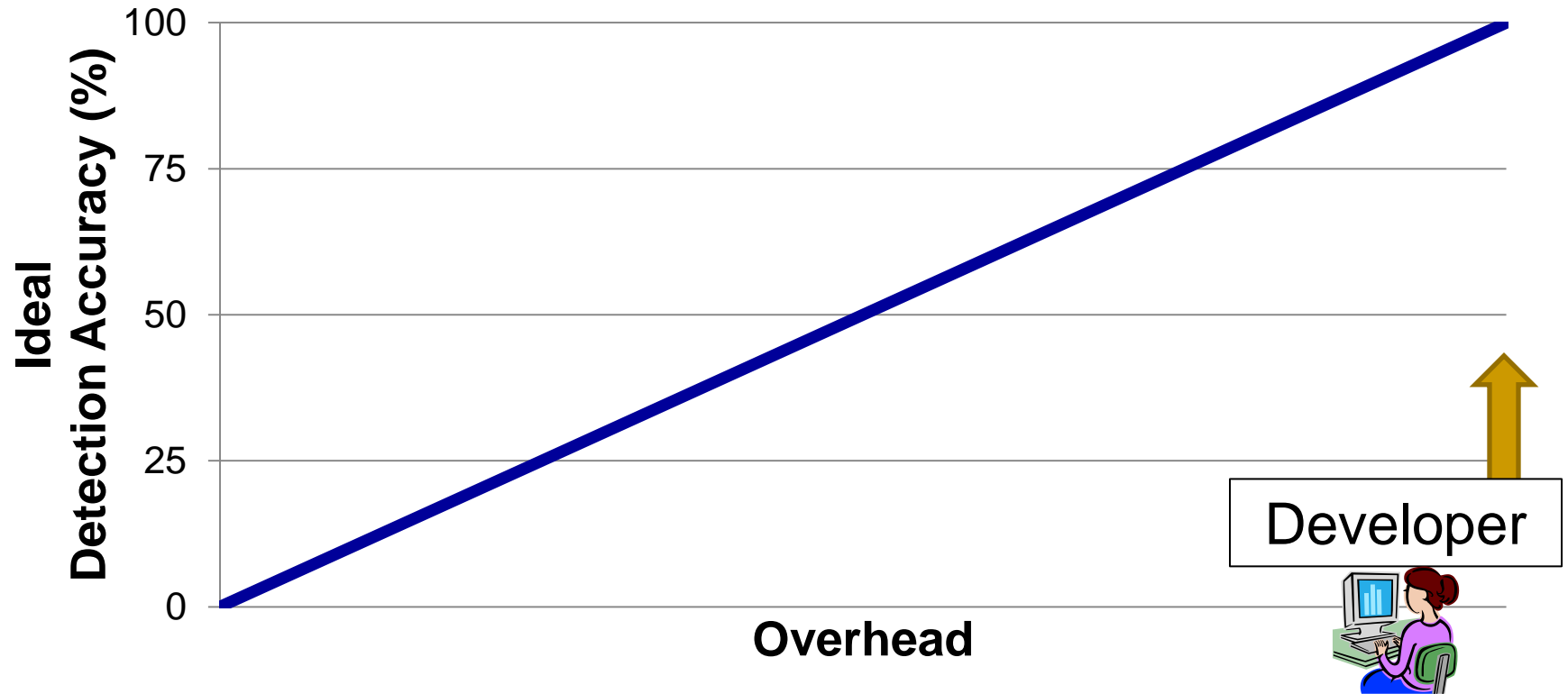


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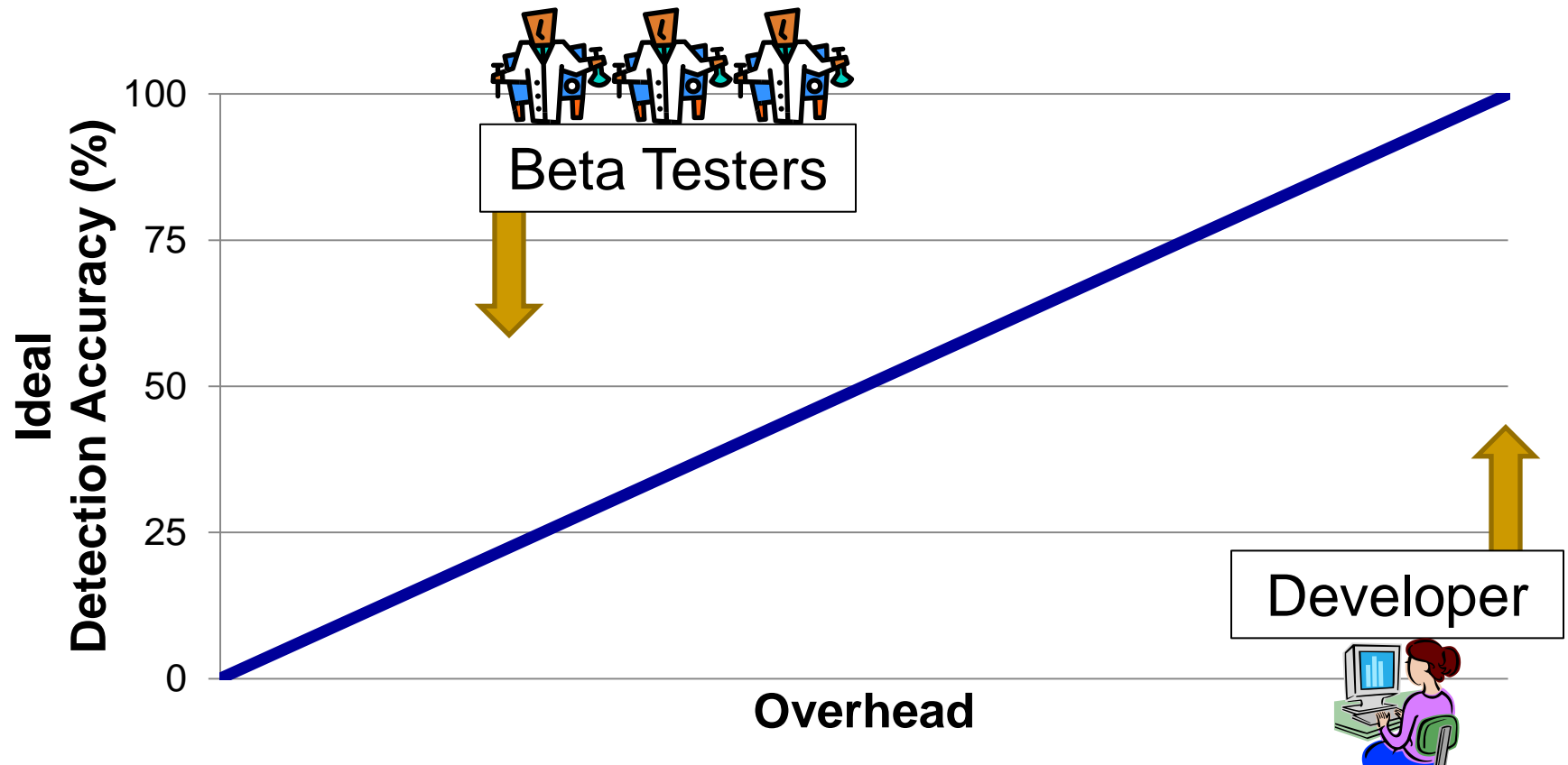


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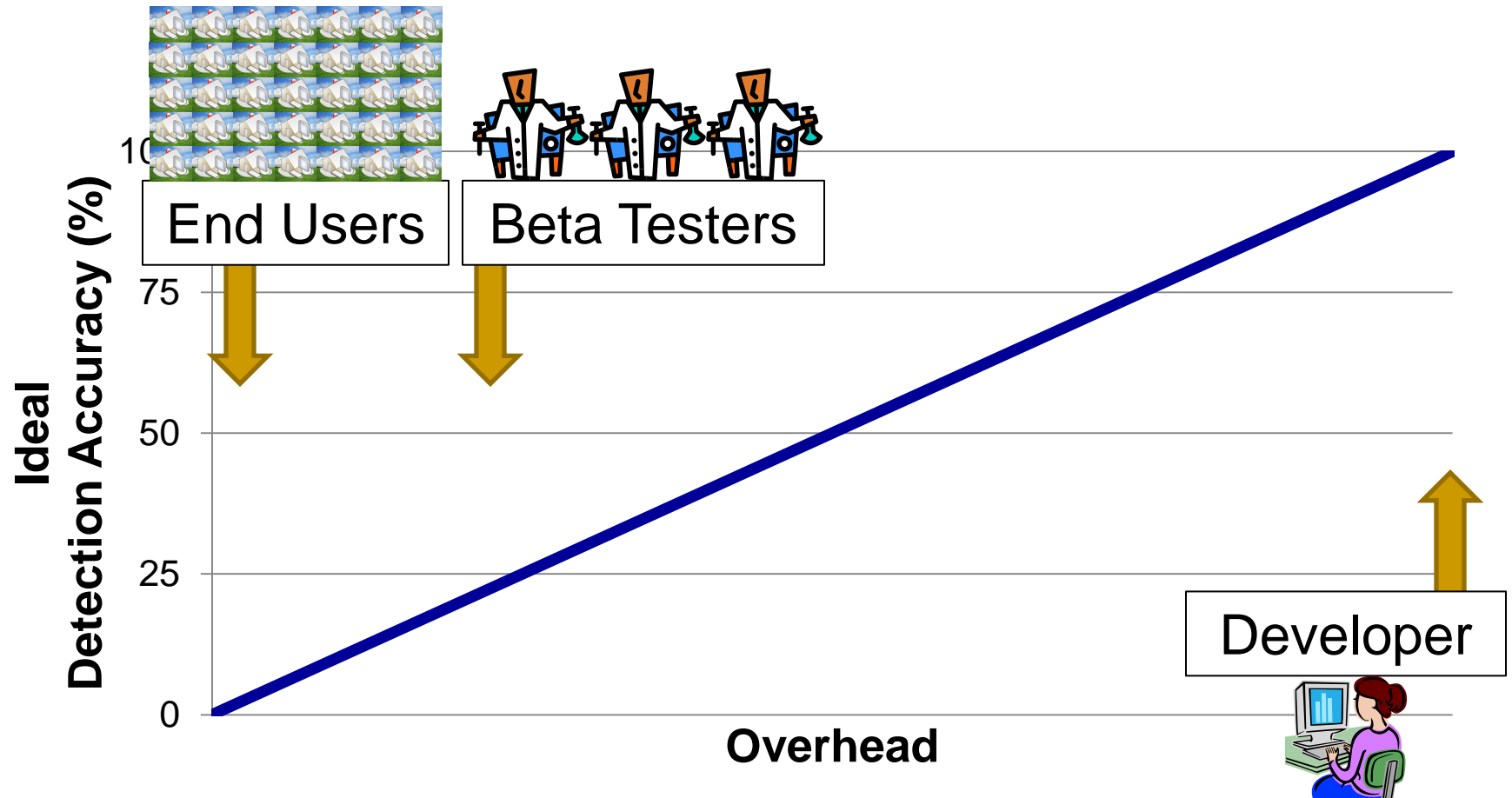




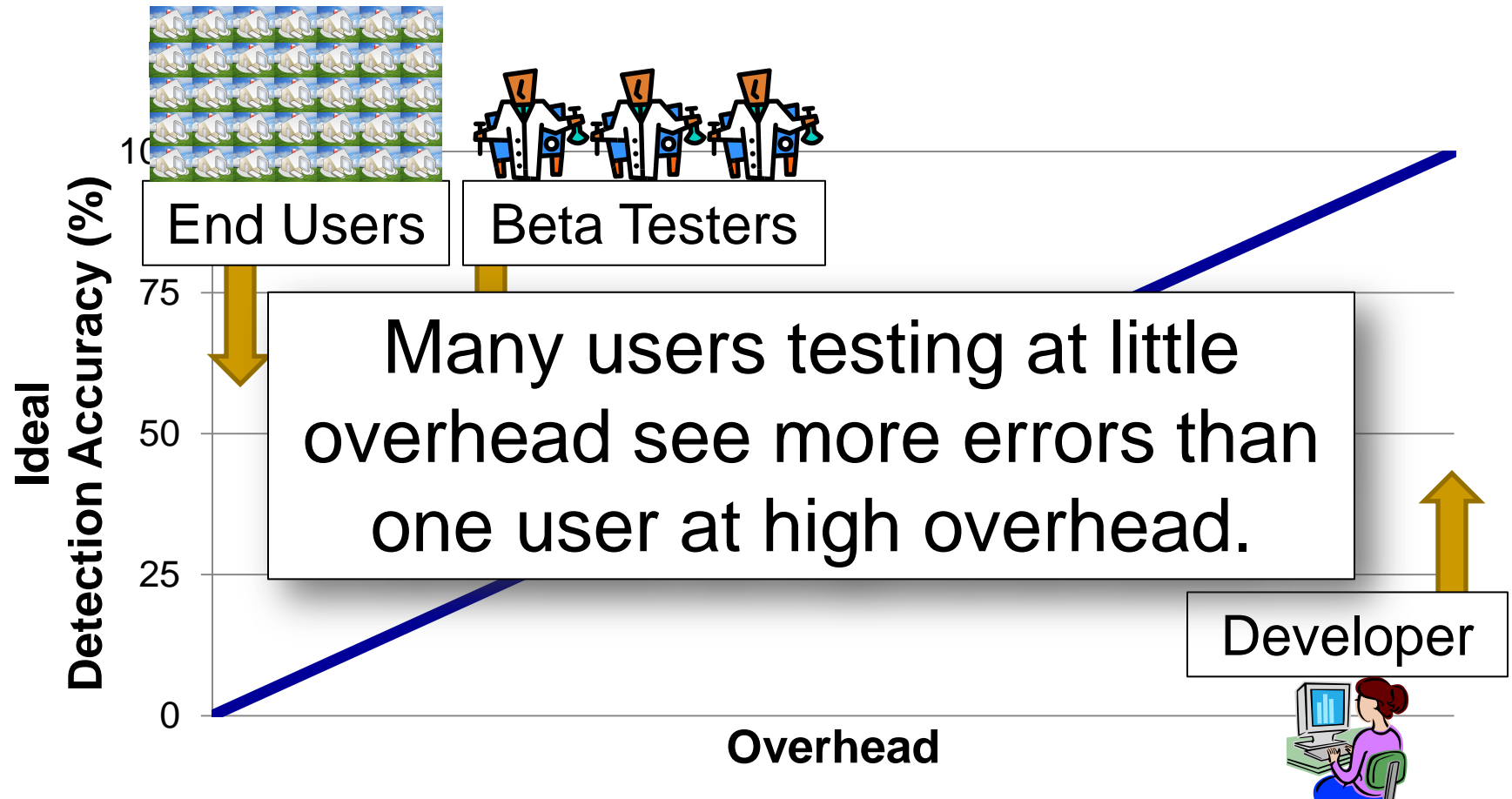
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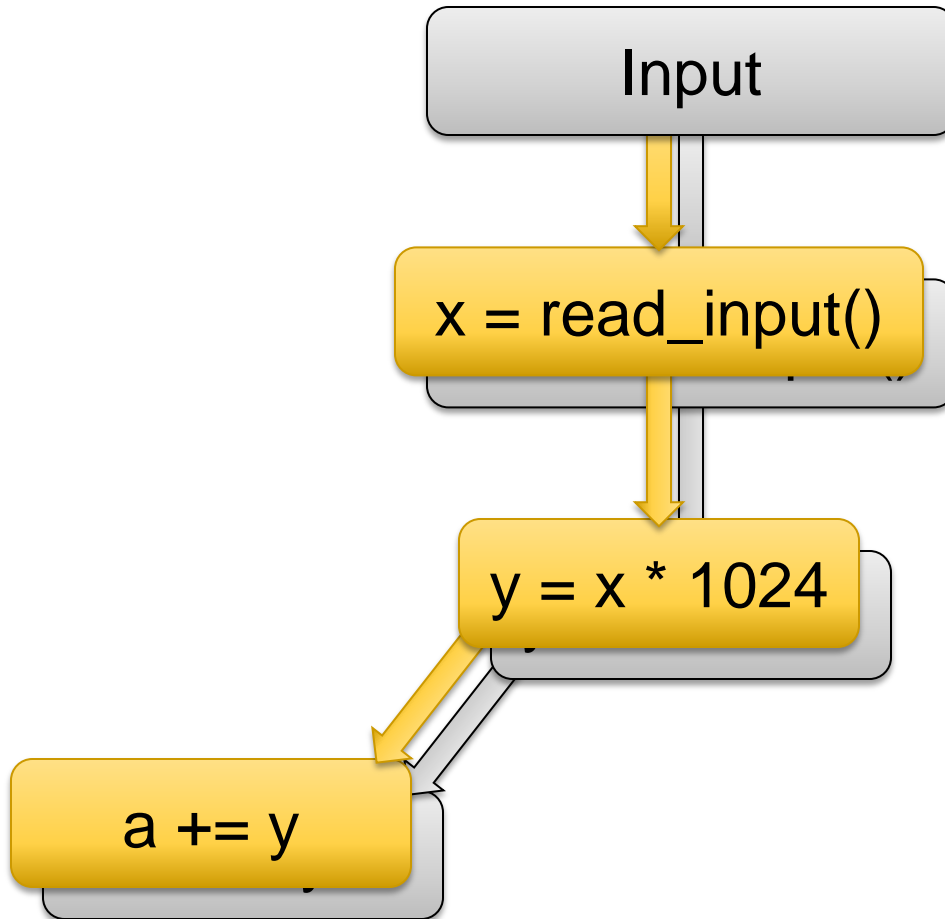
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# Cannot Naïvely Sample Code

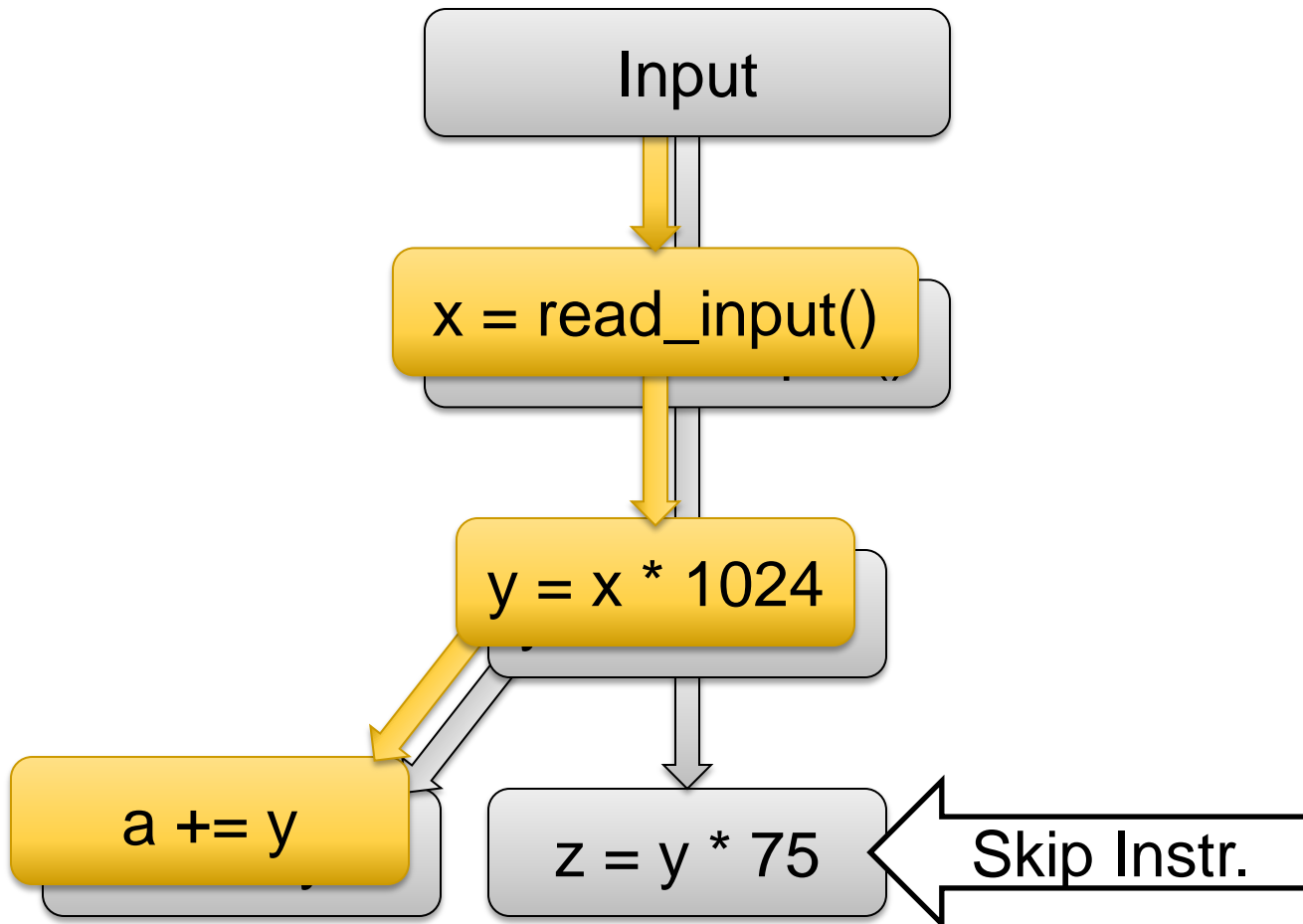


Input

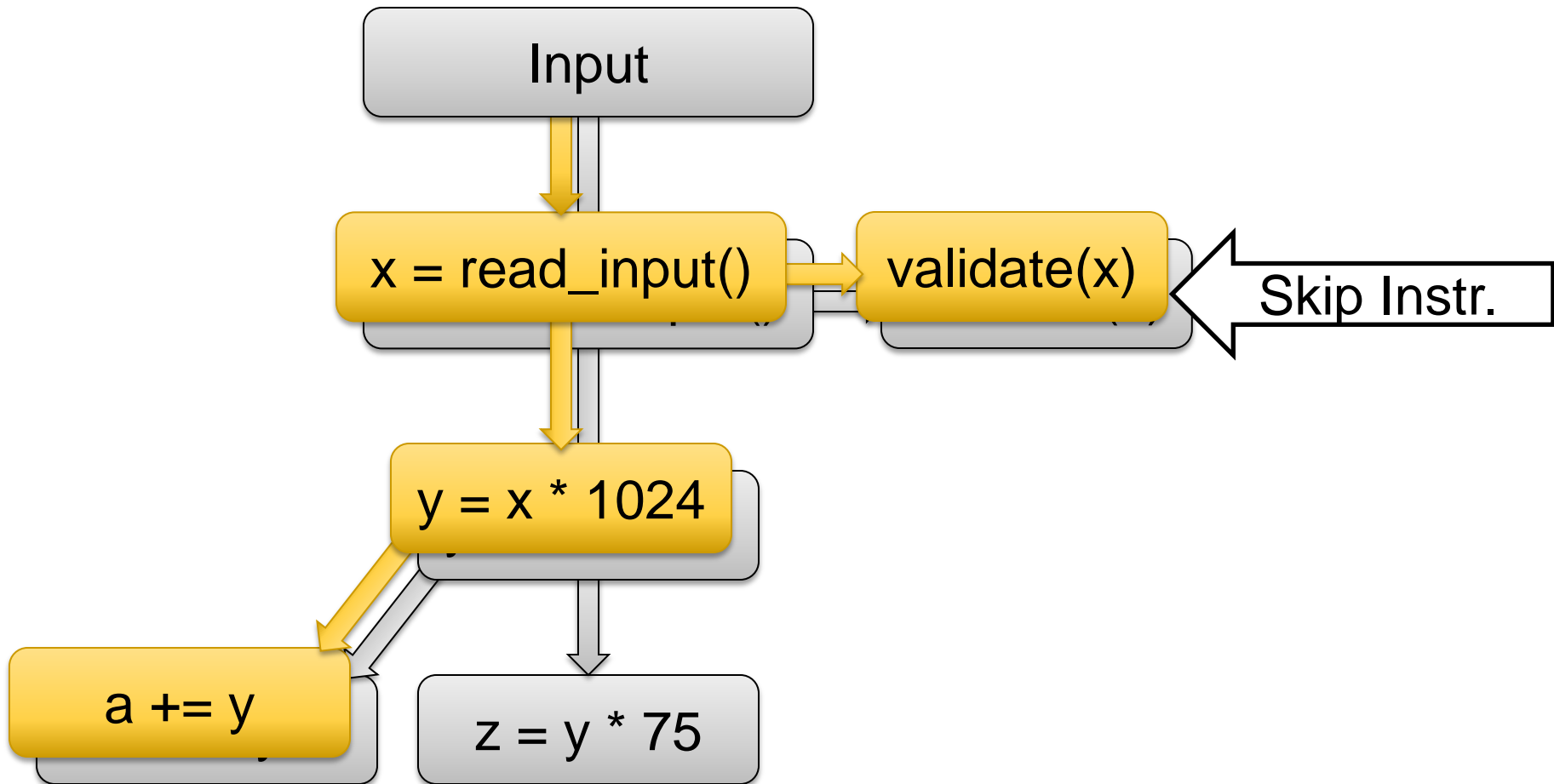
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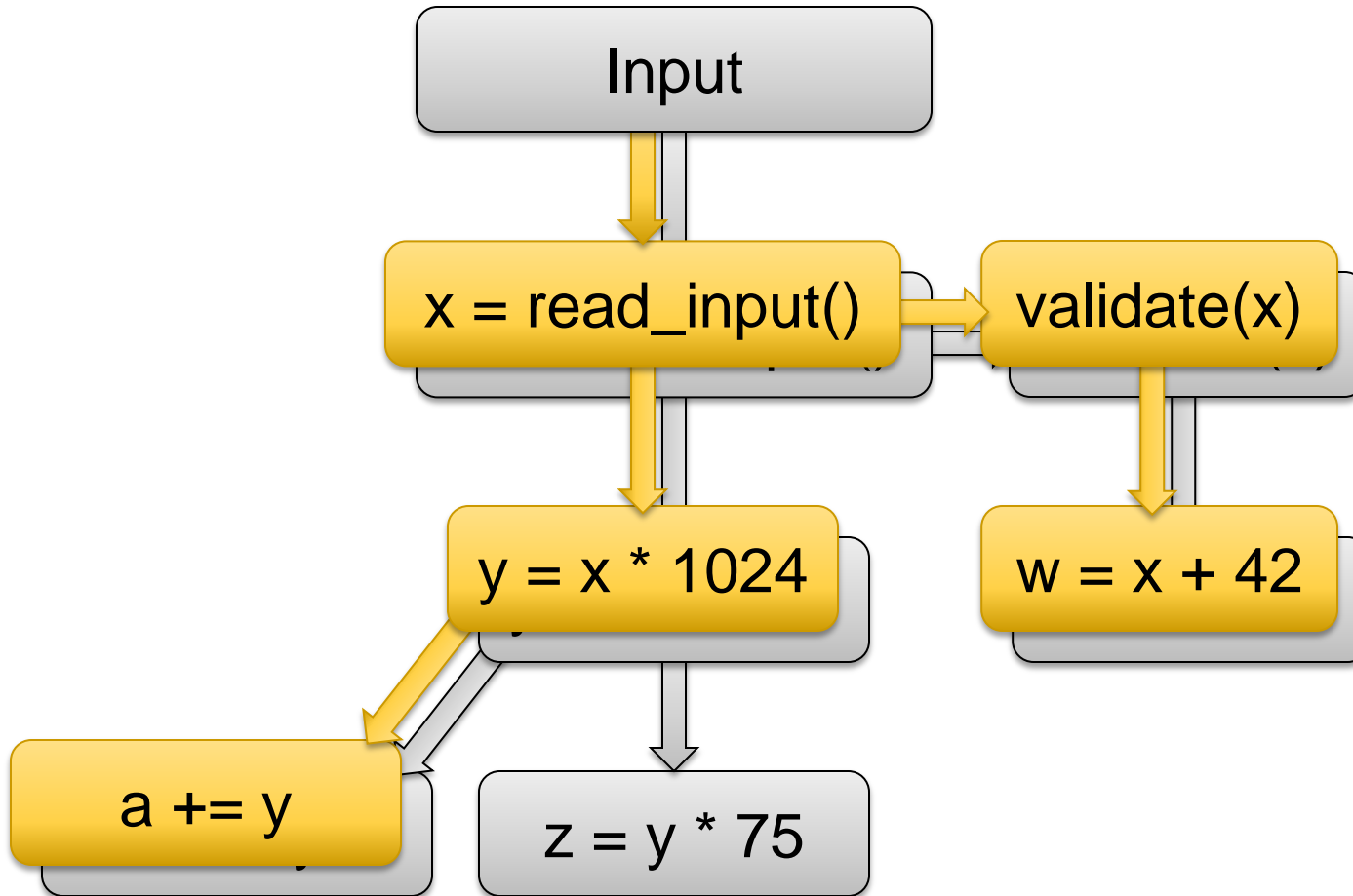
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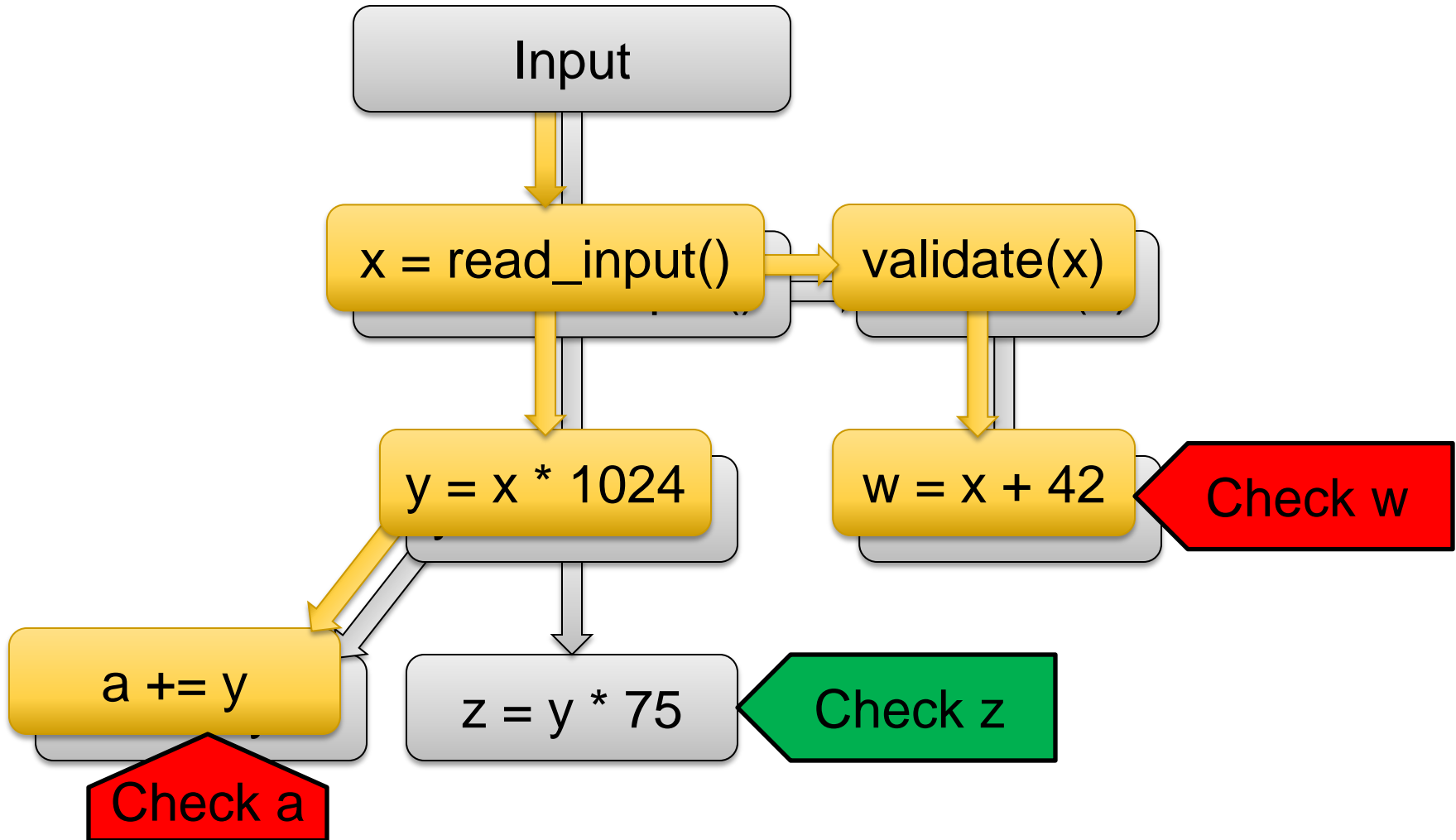


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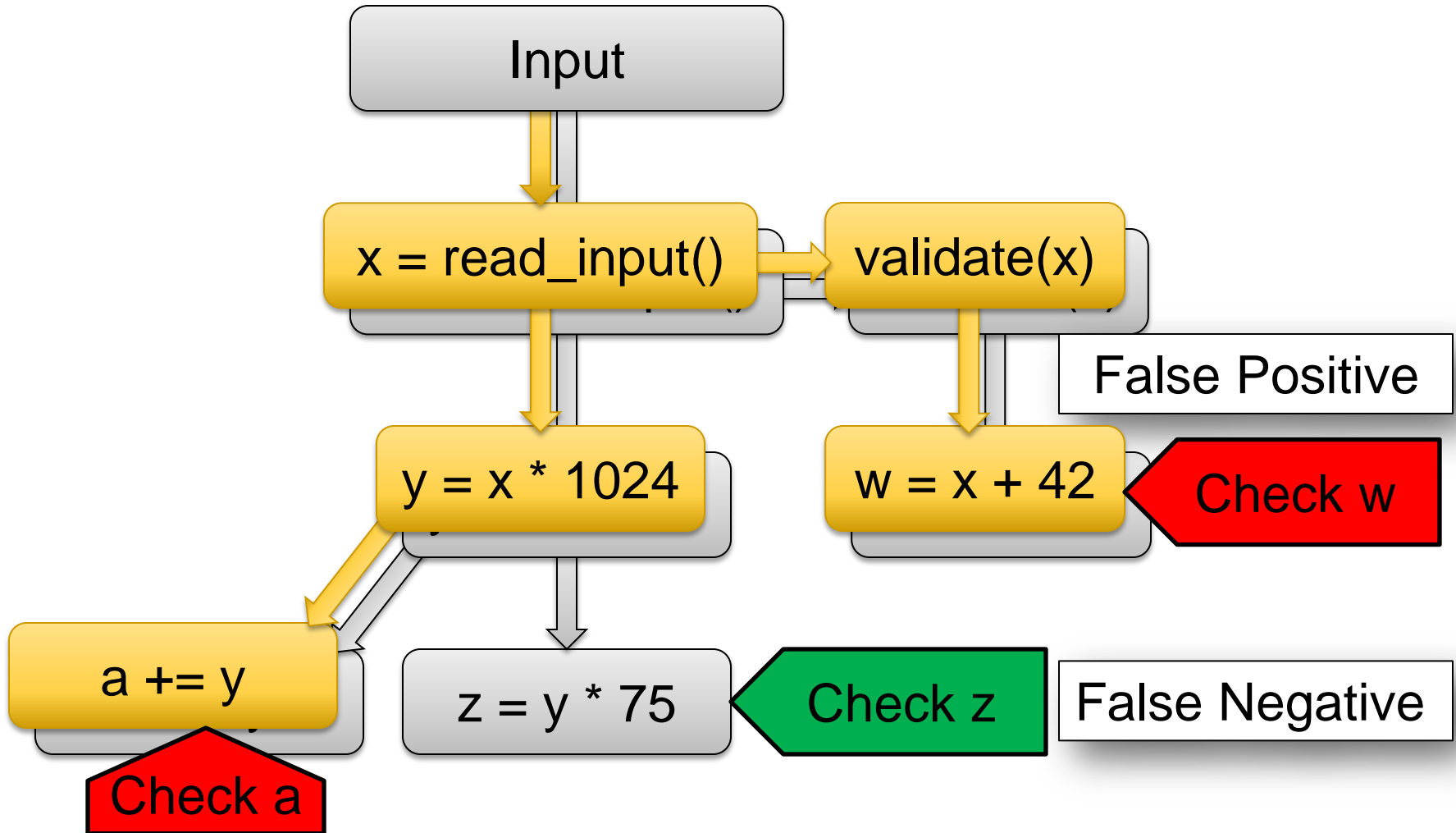




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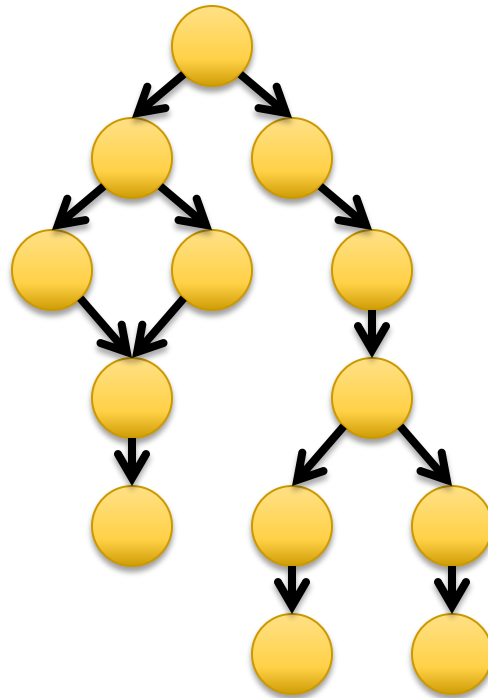


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# Our Solution: Sample Data, not Code

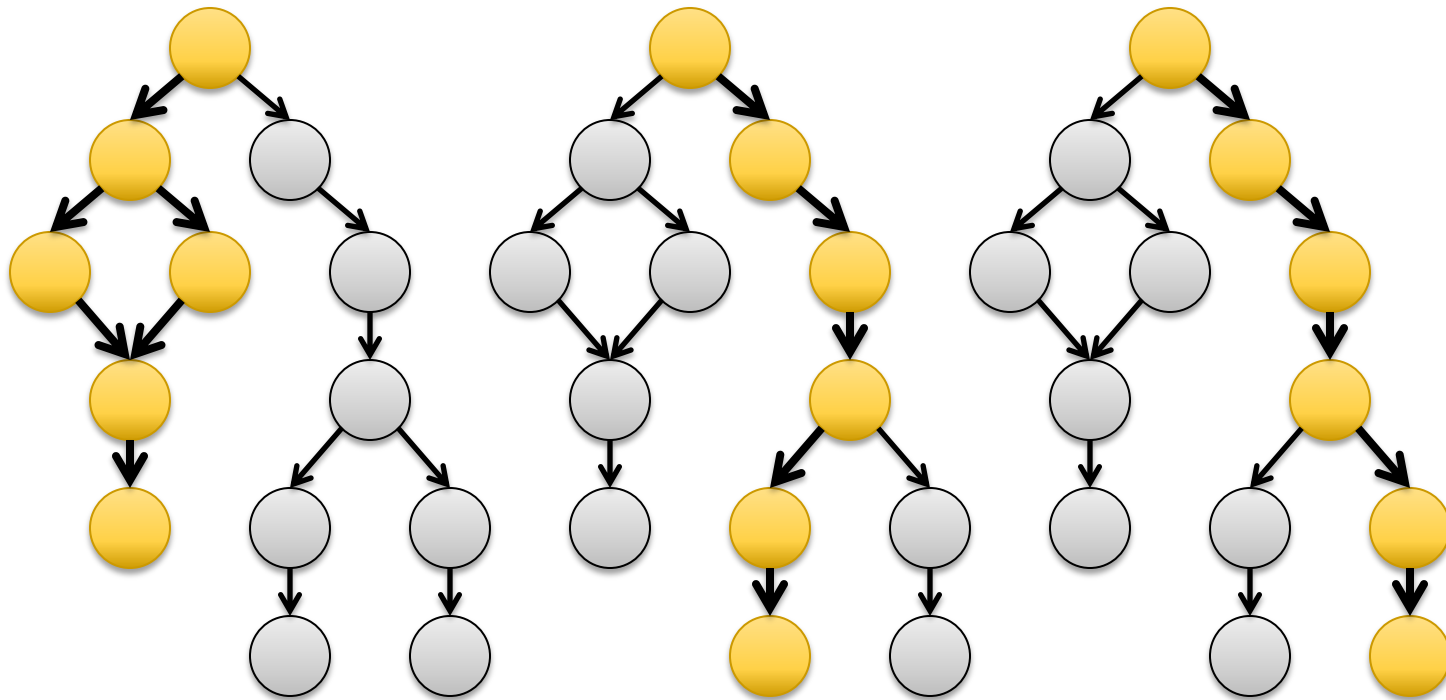
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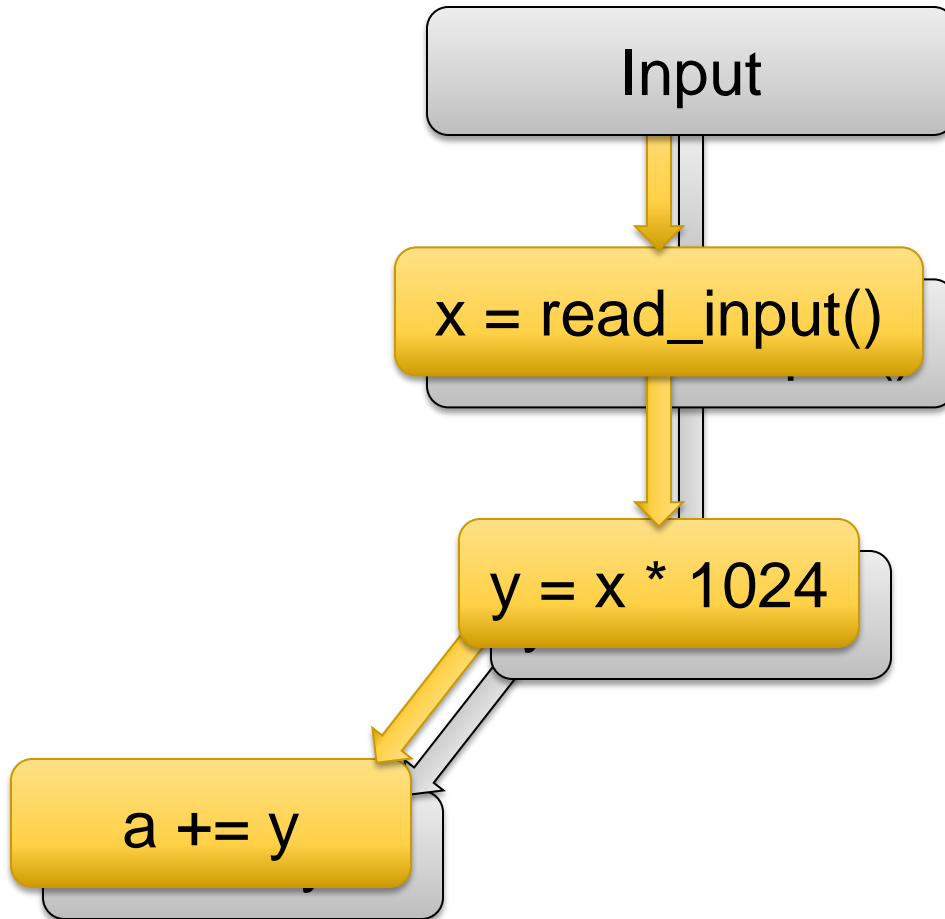
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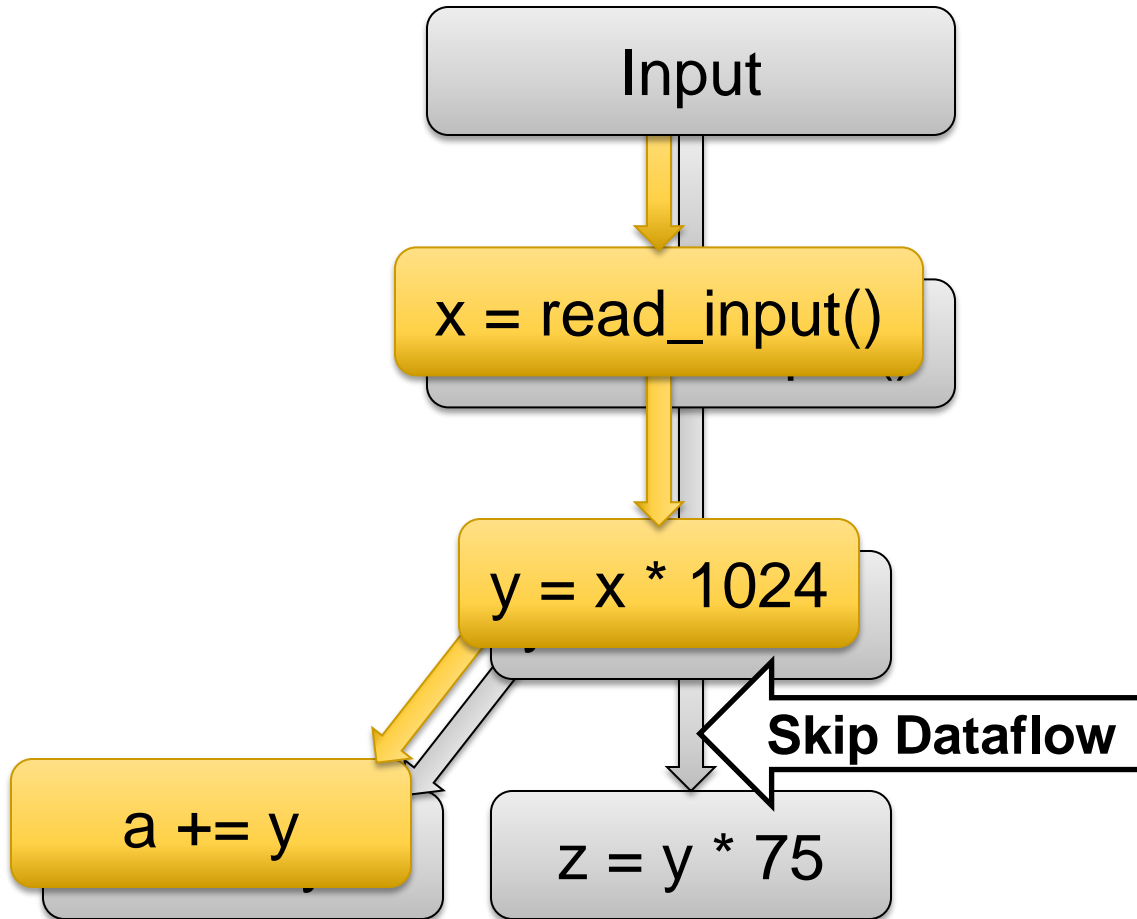


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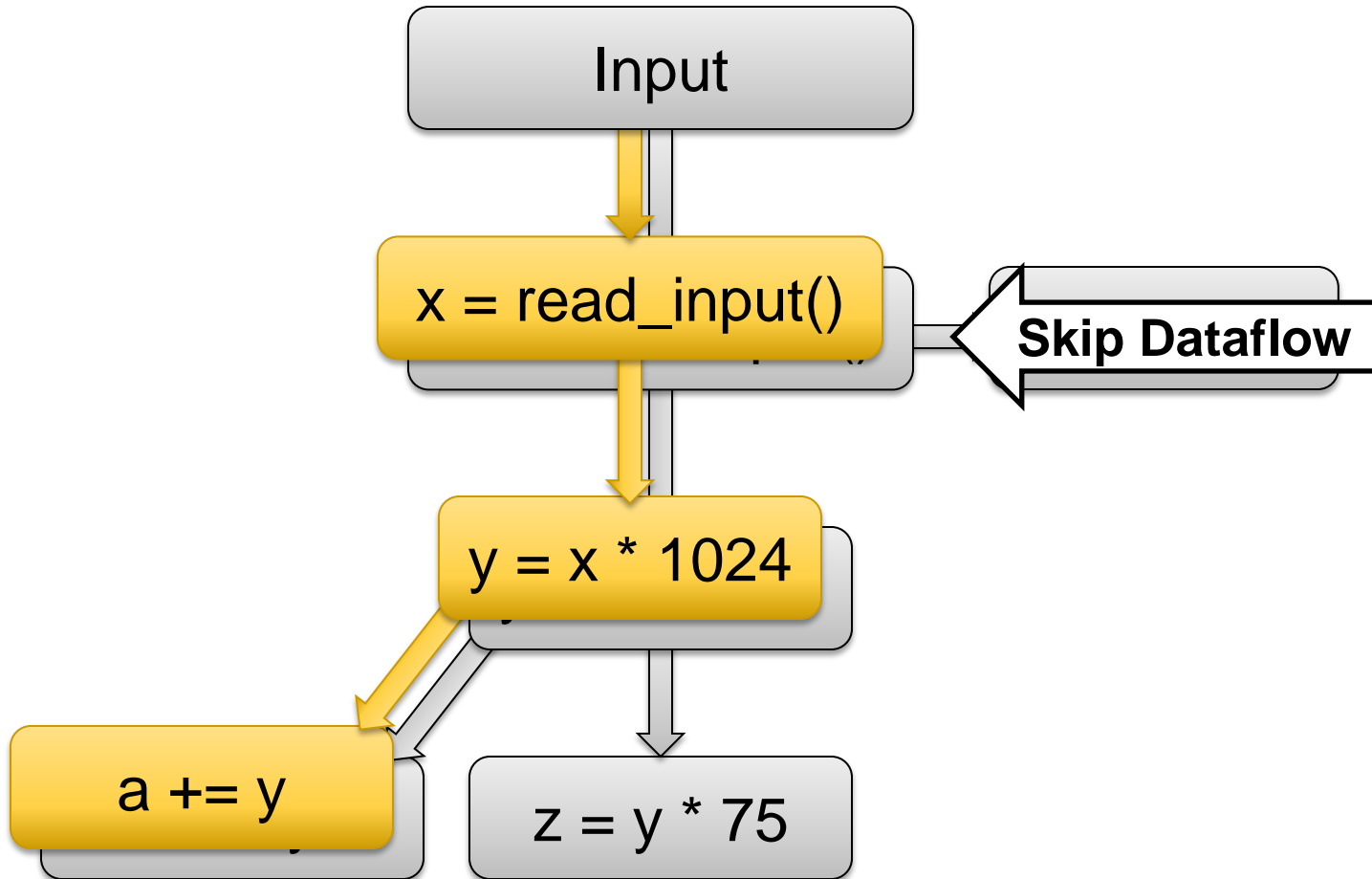
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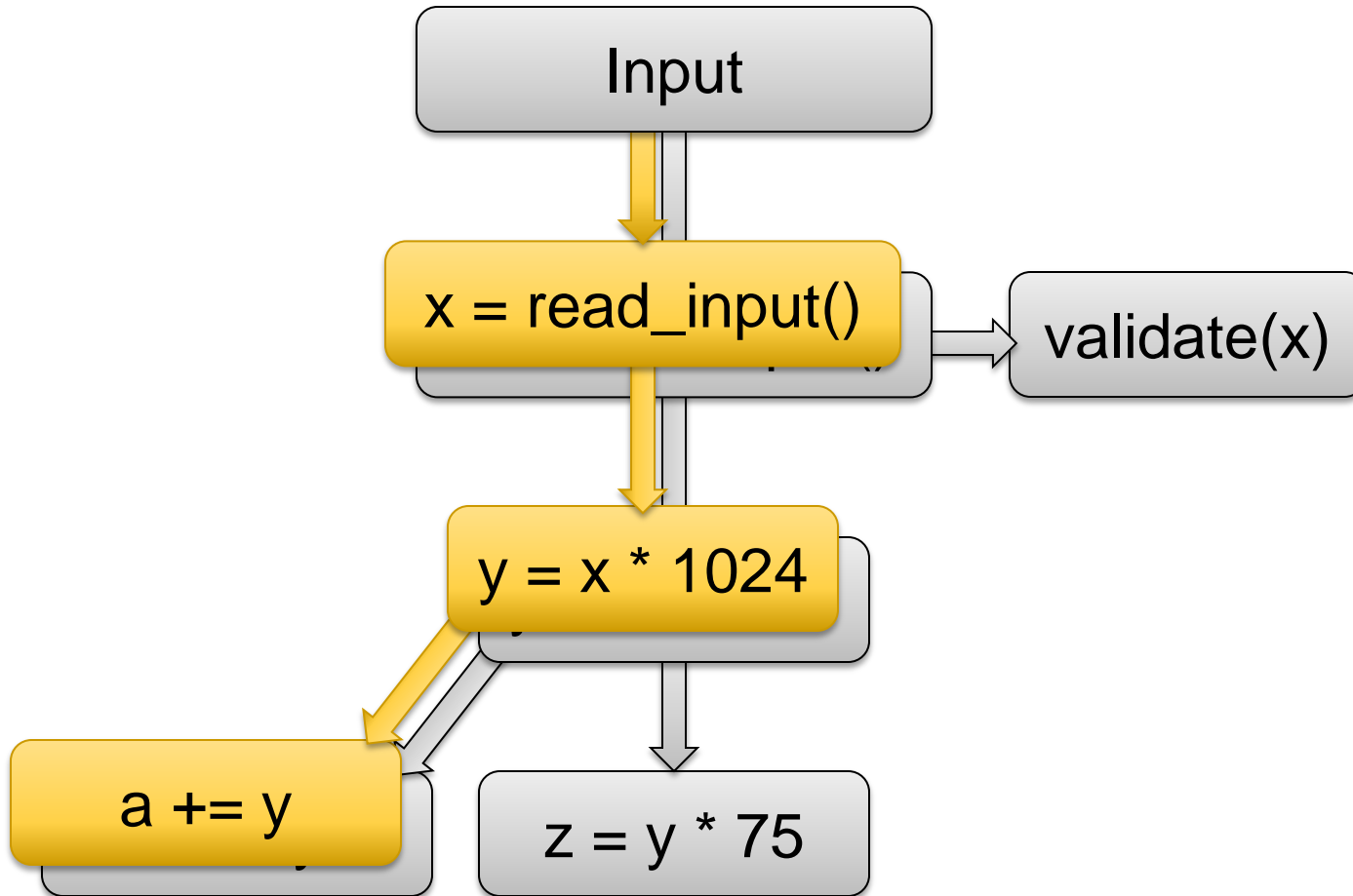


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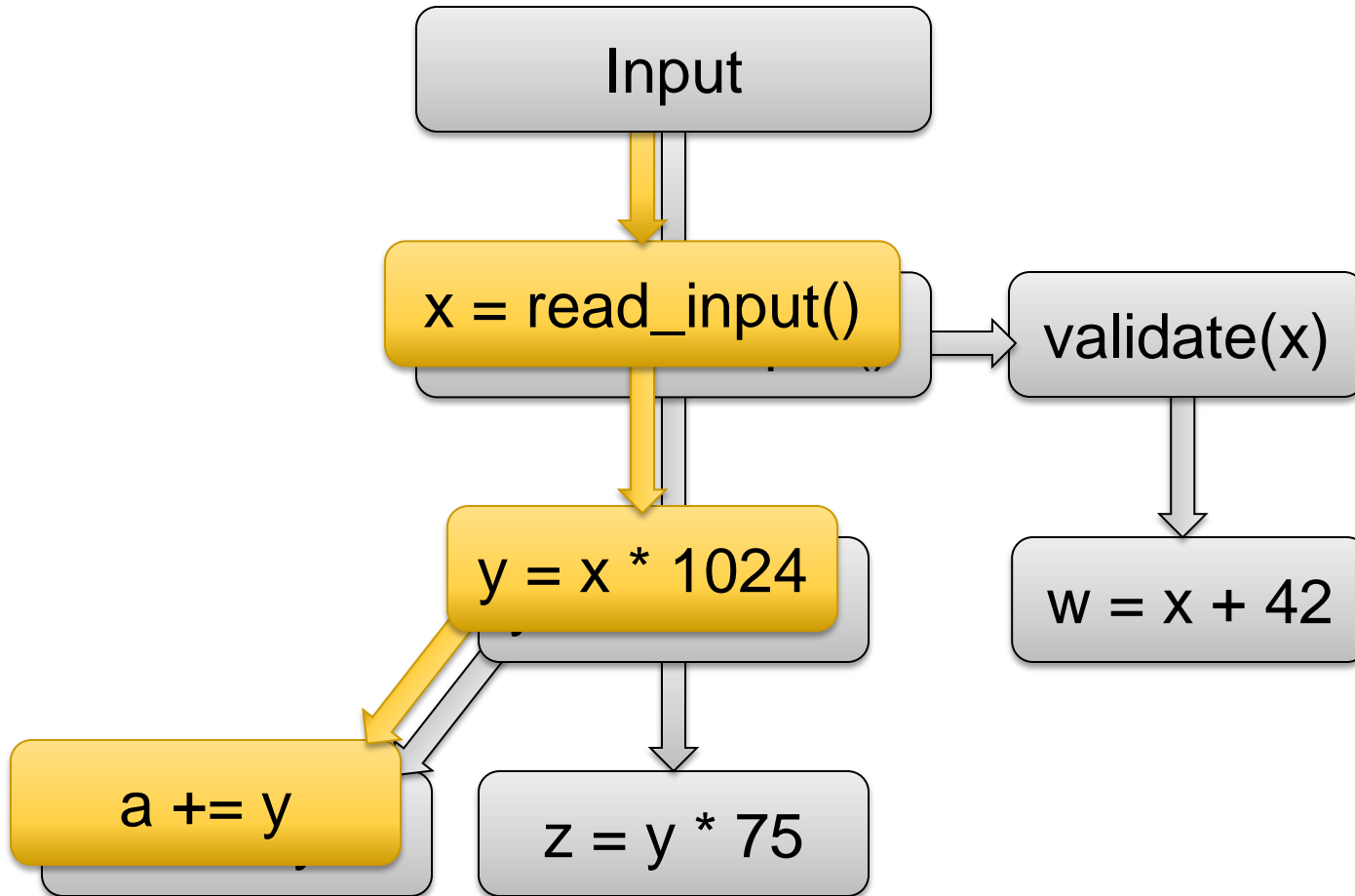




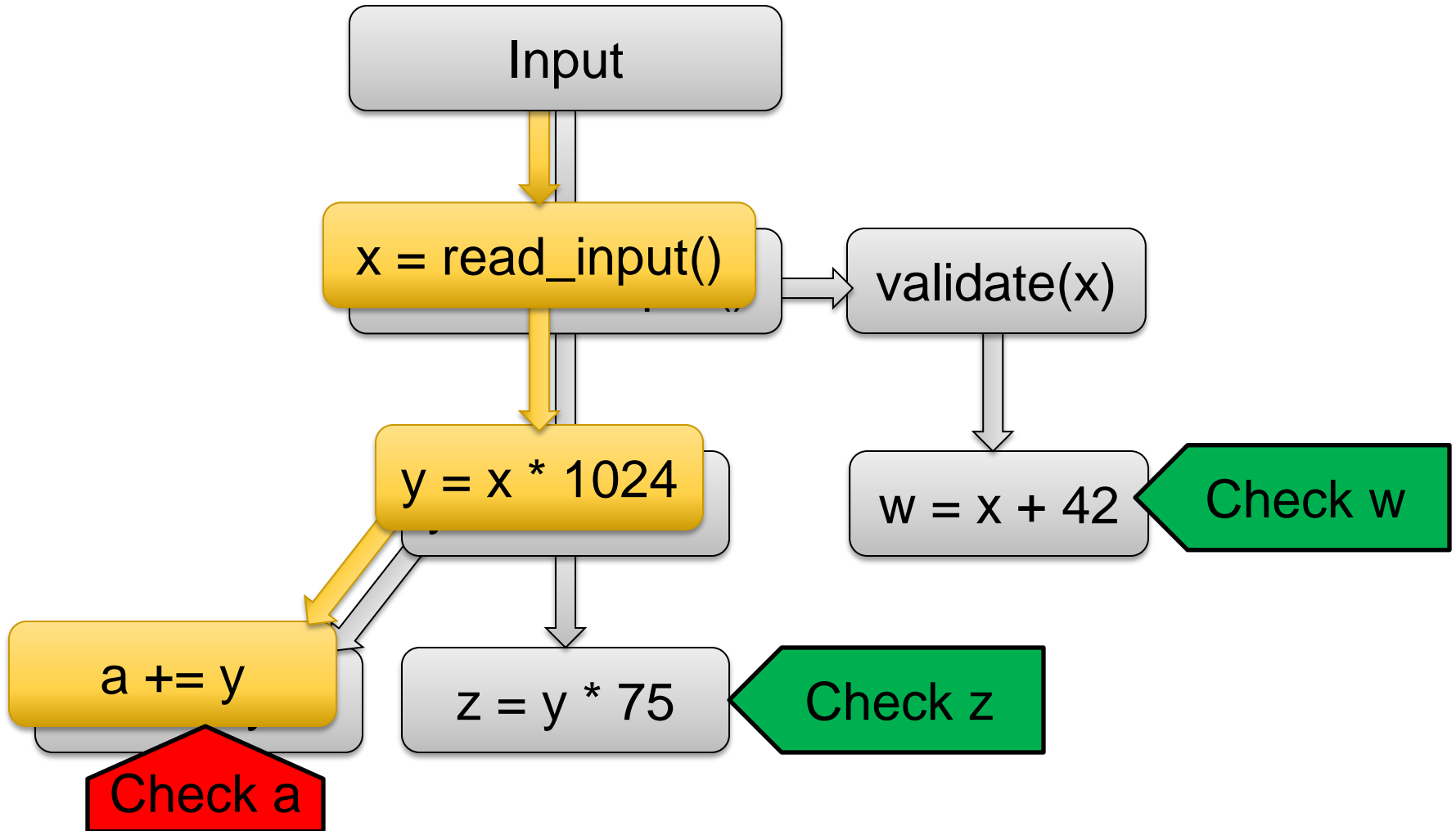
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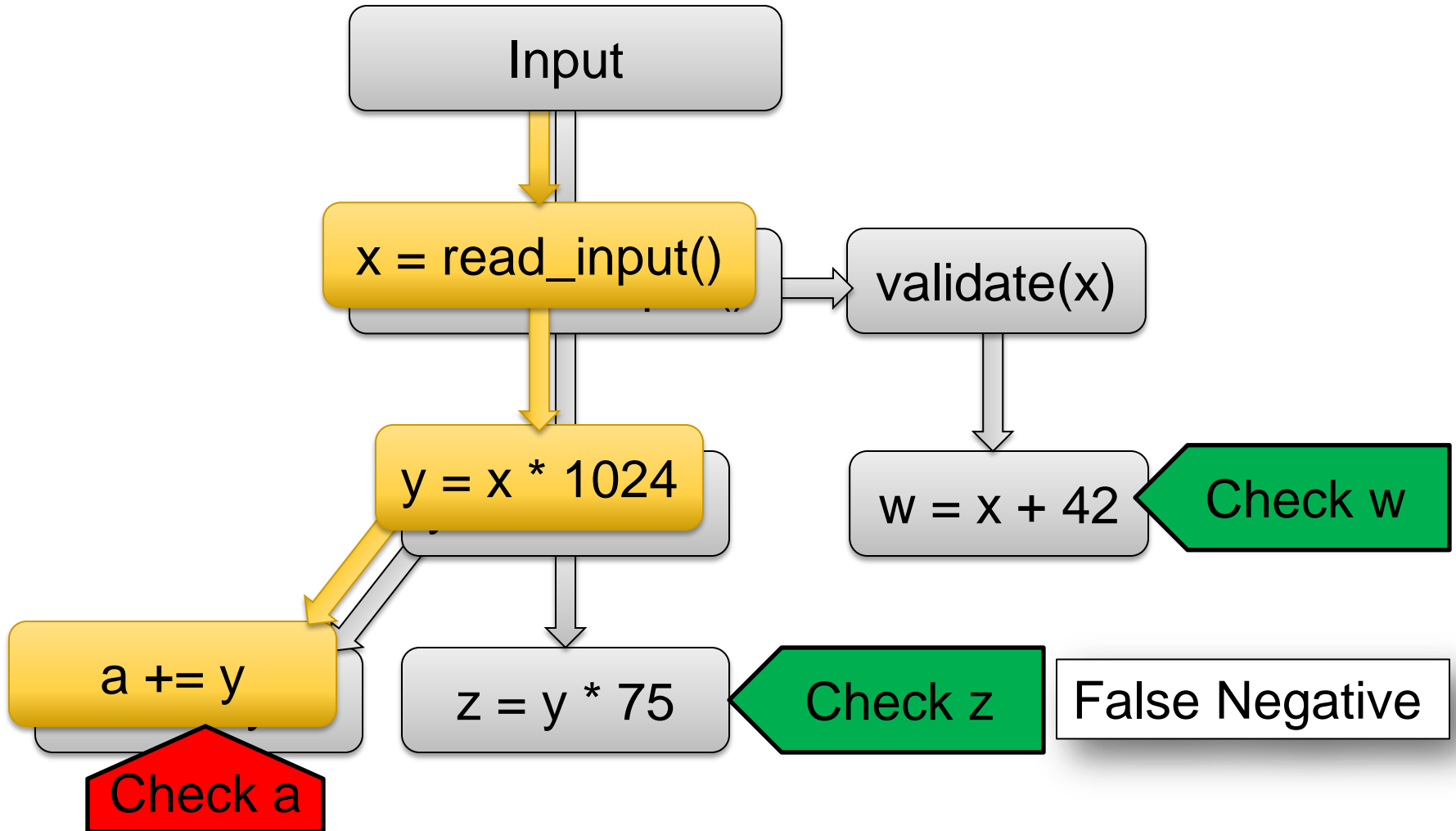
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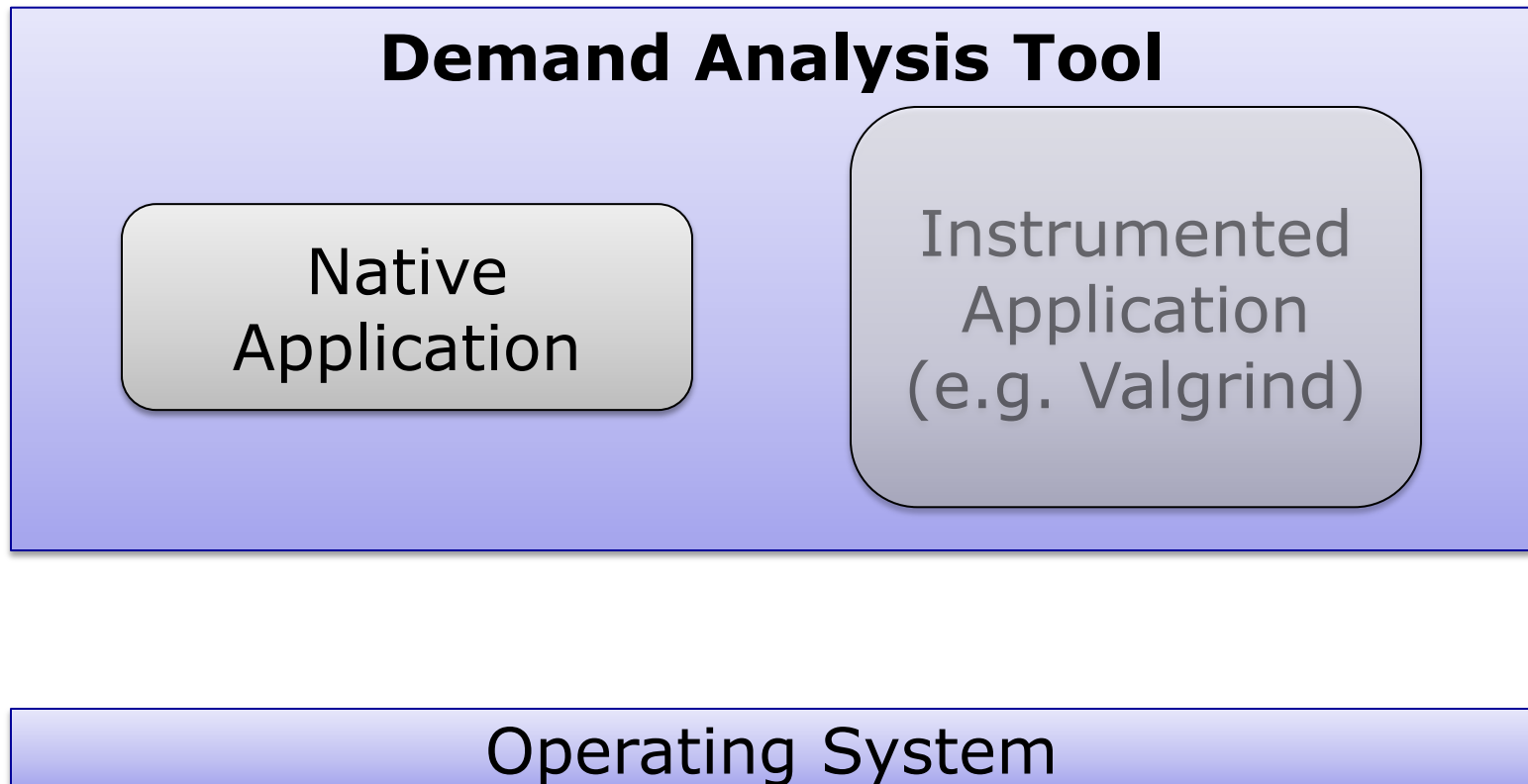


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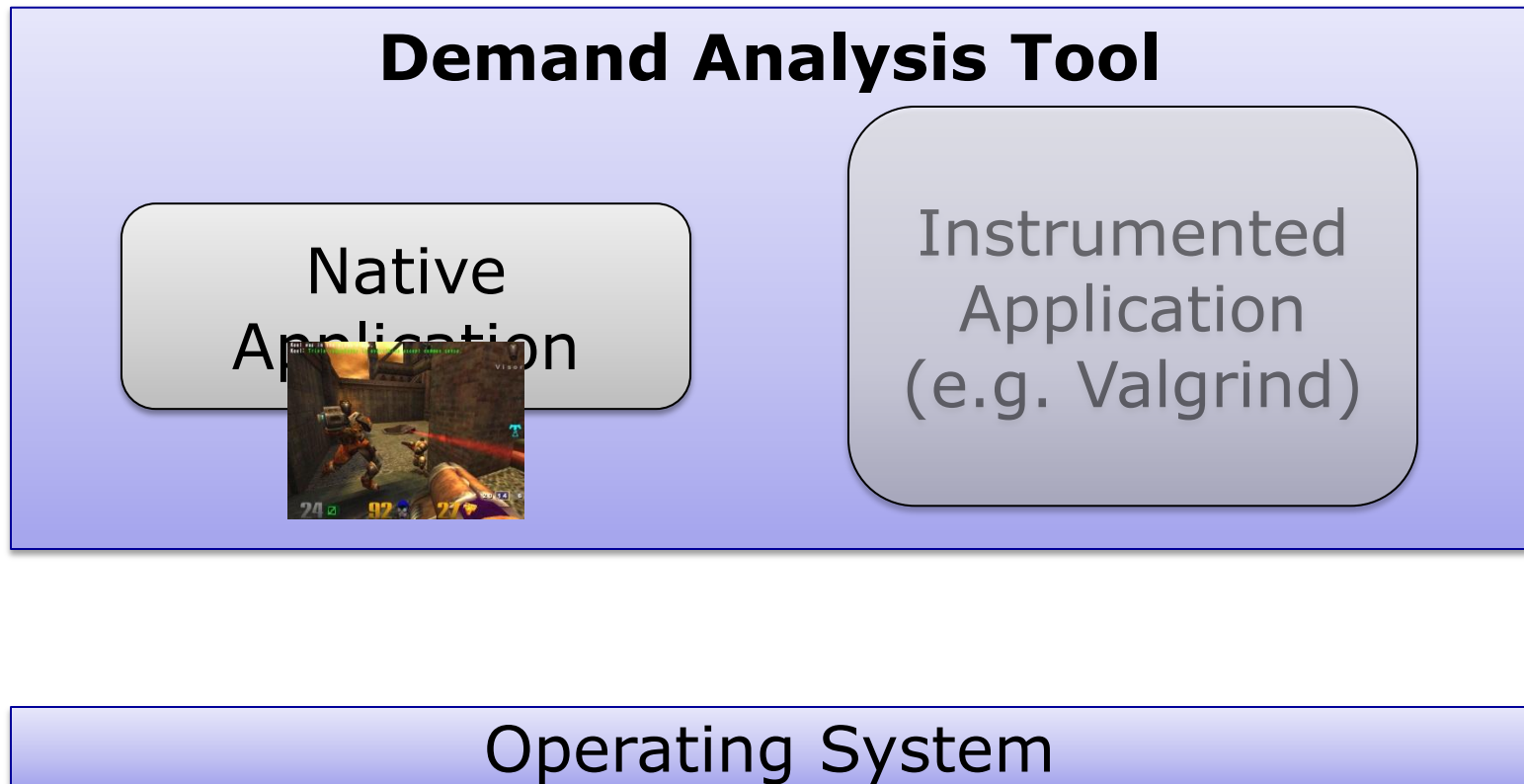
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- Start with demand analysis



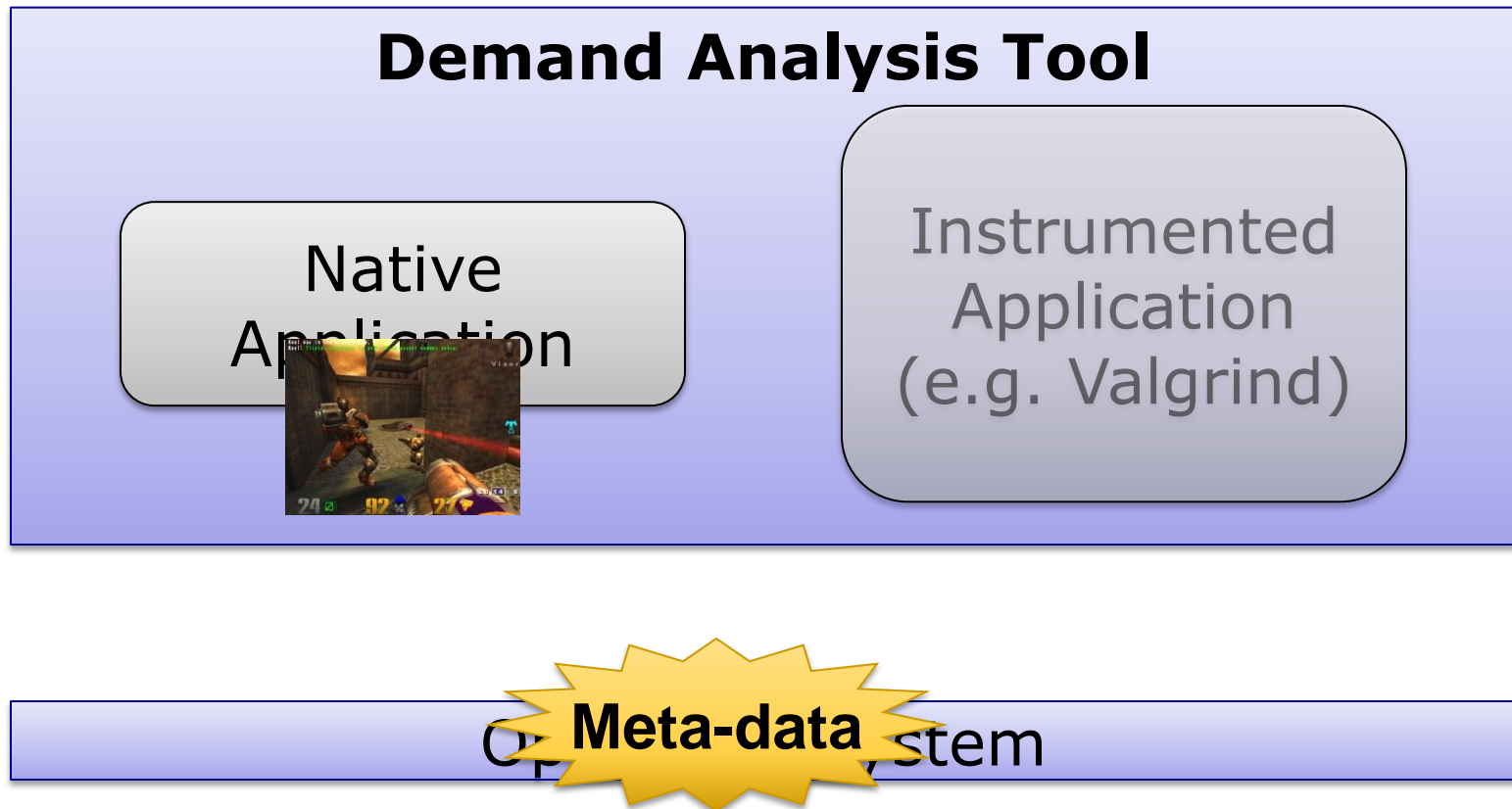
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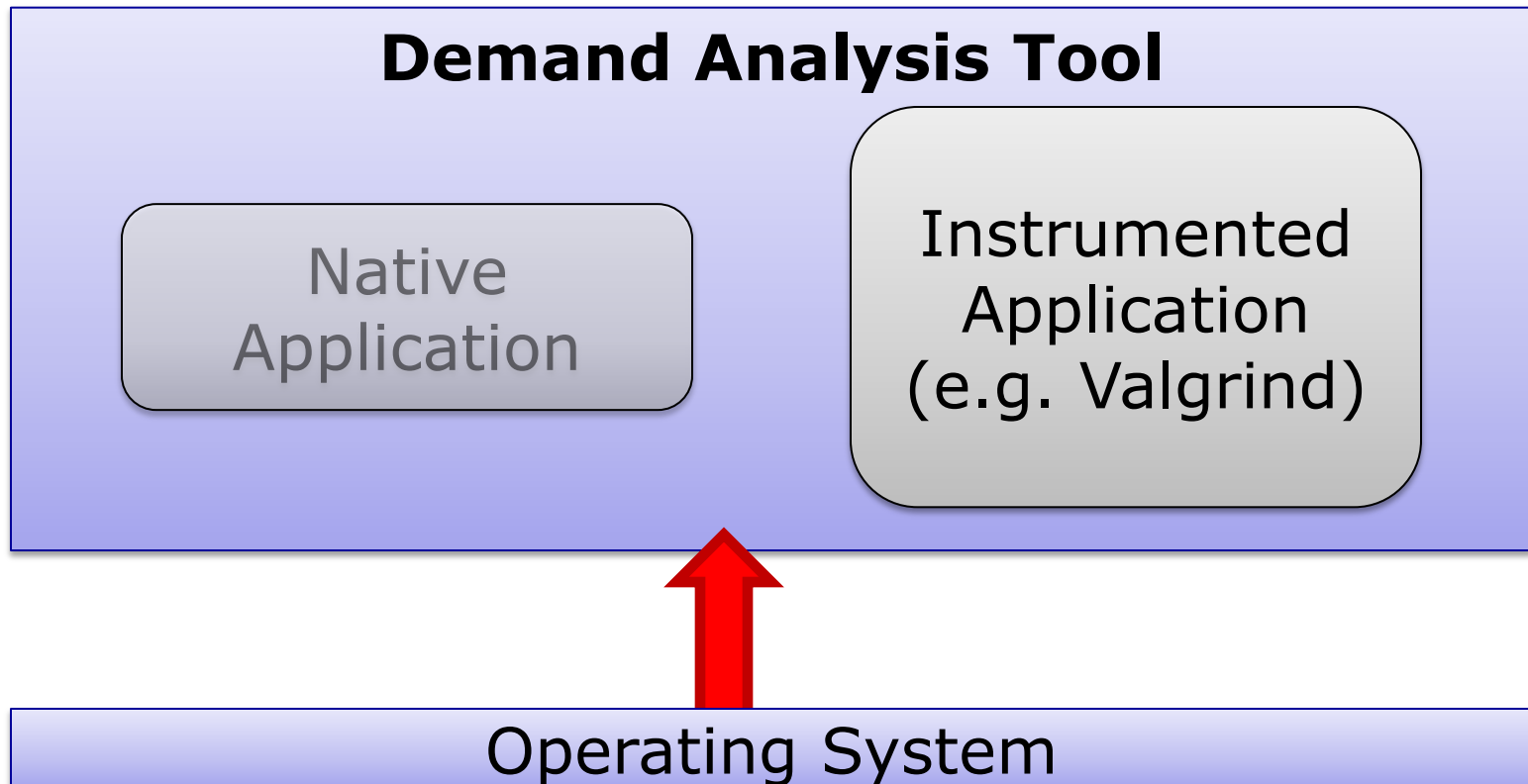
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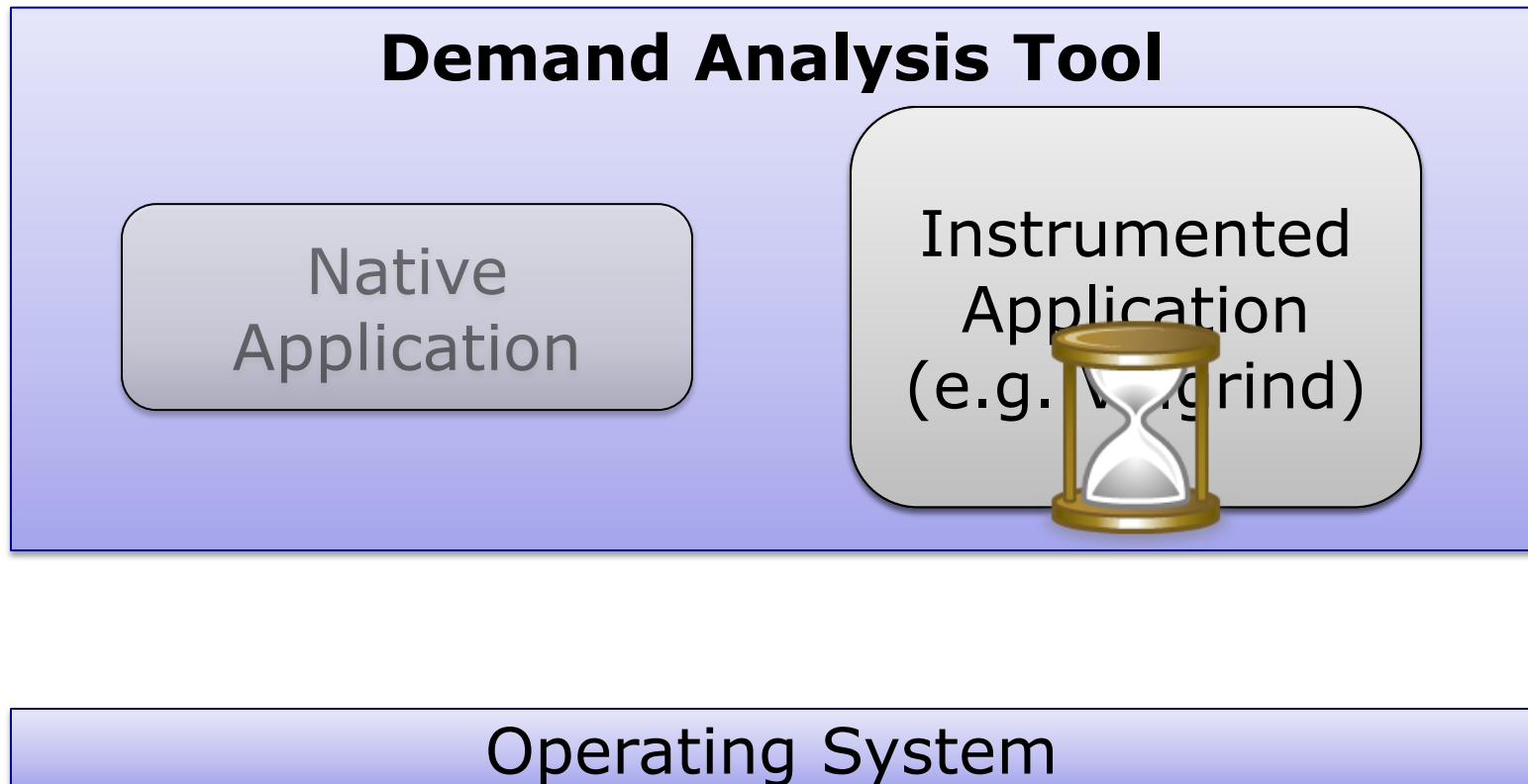
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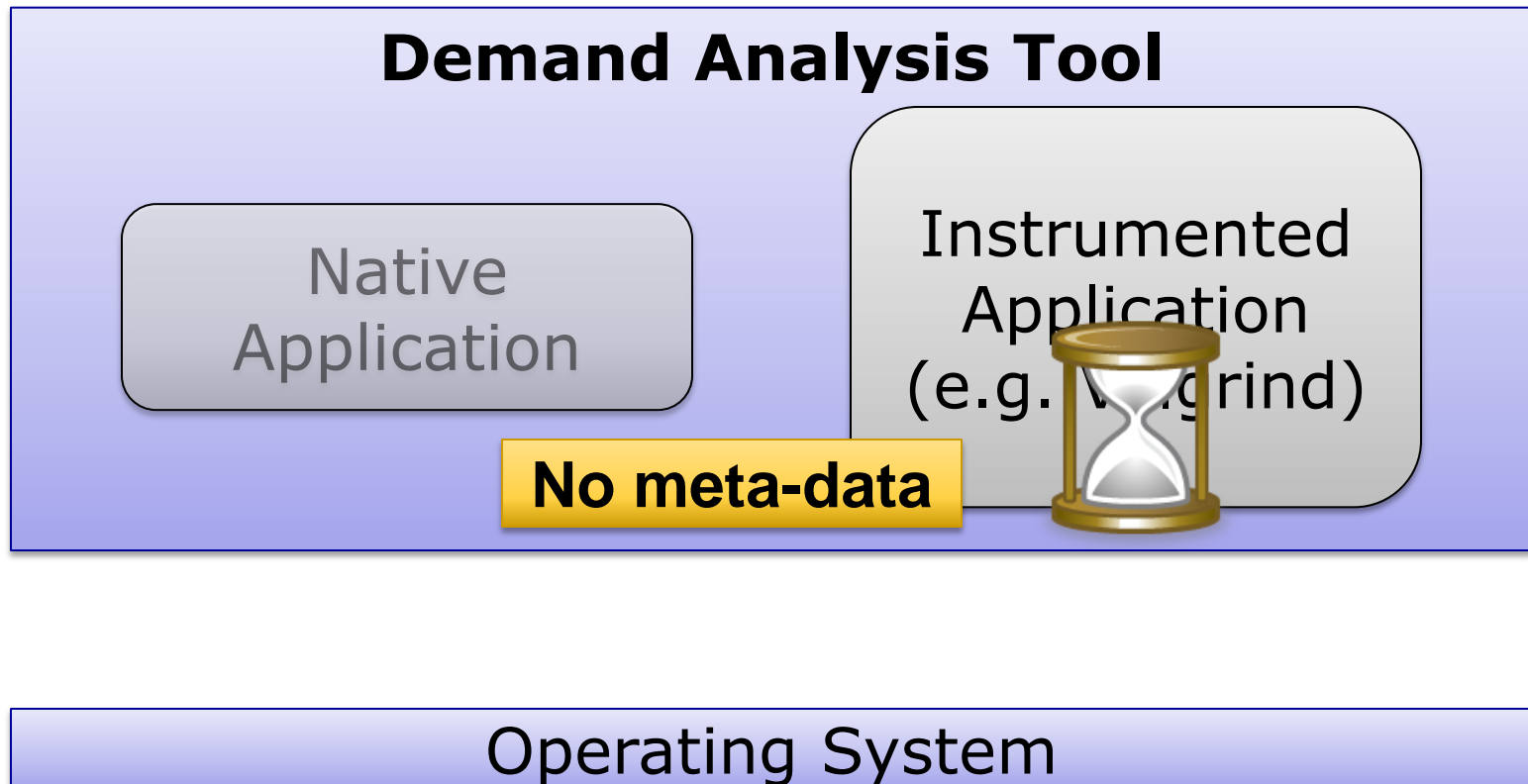
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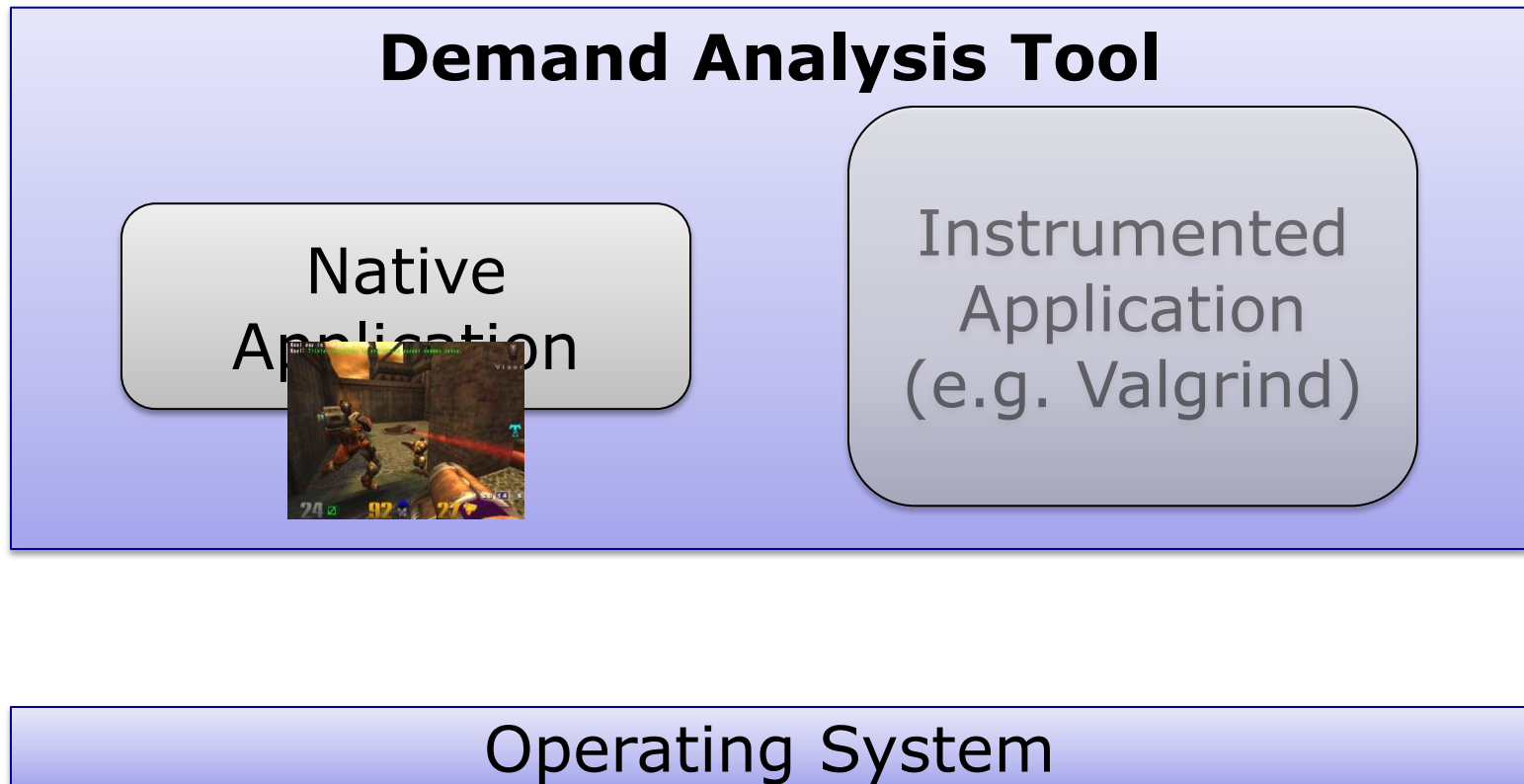
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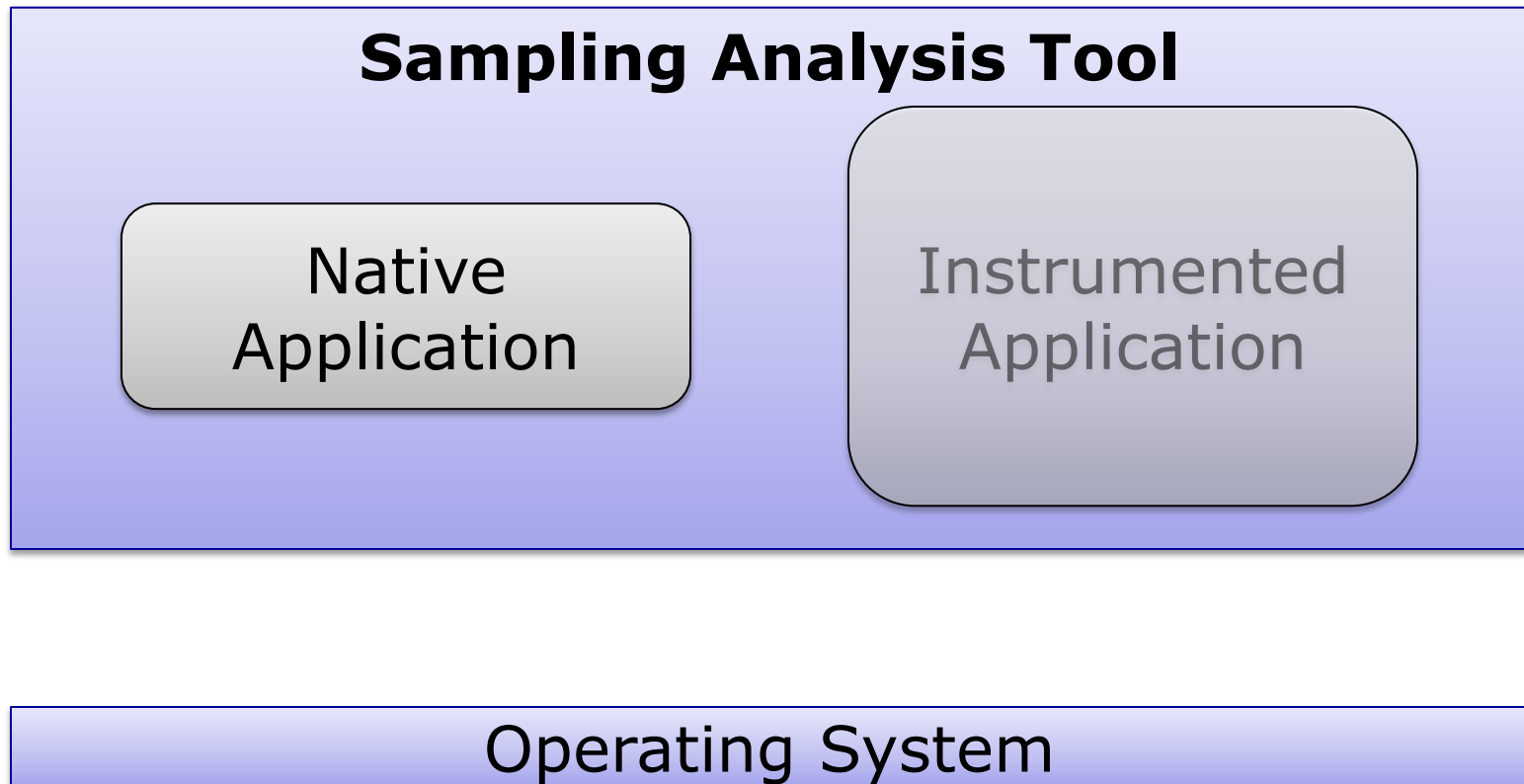
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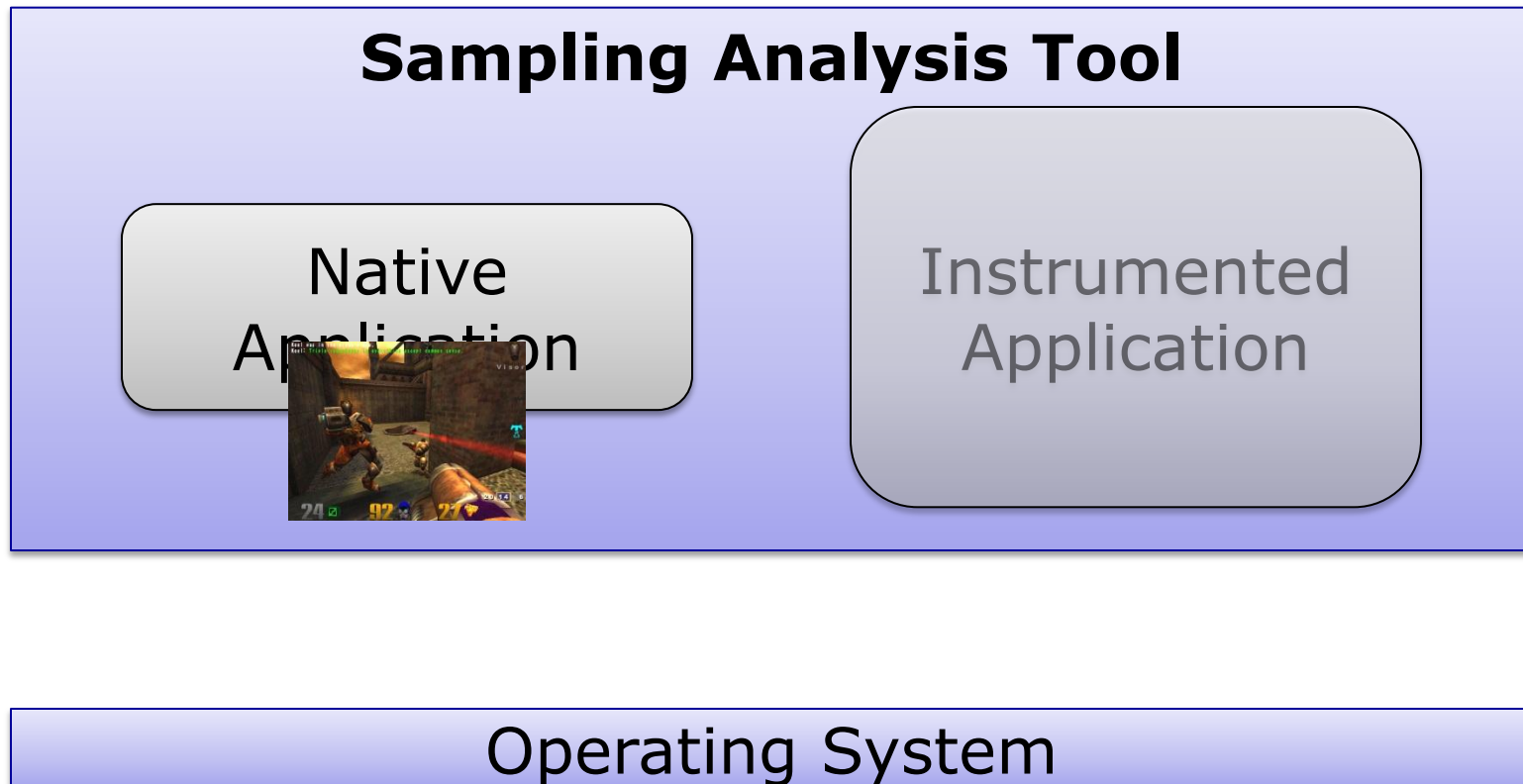
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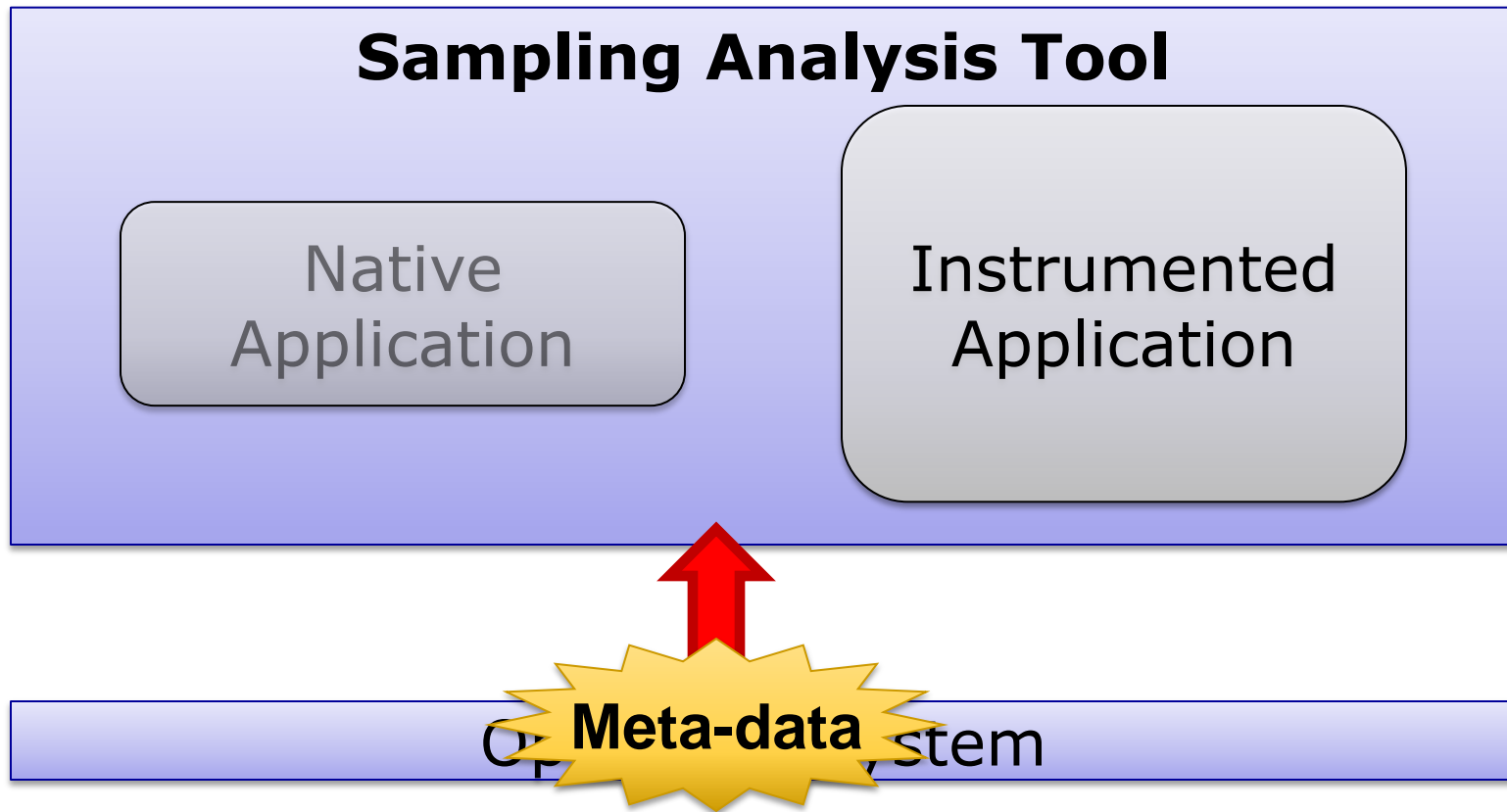
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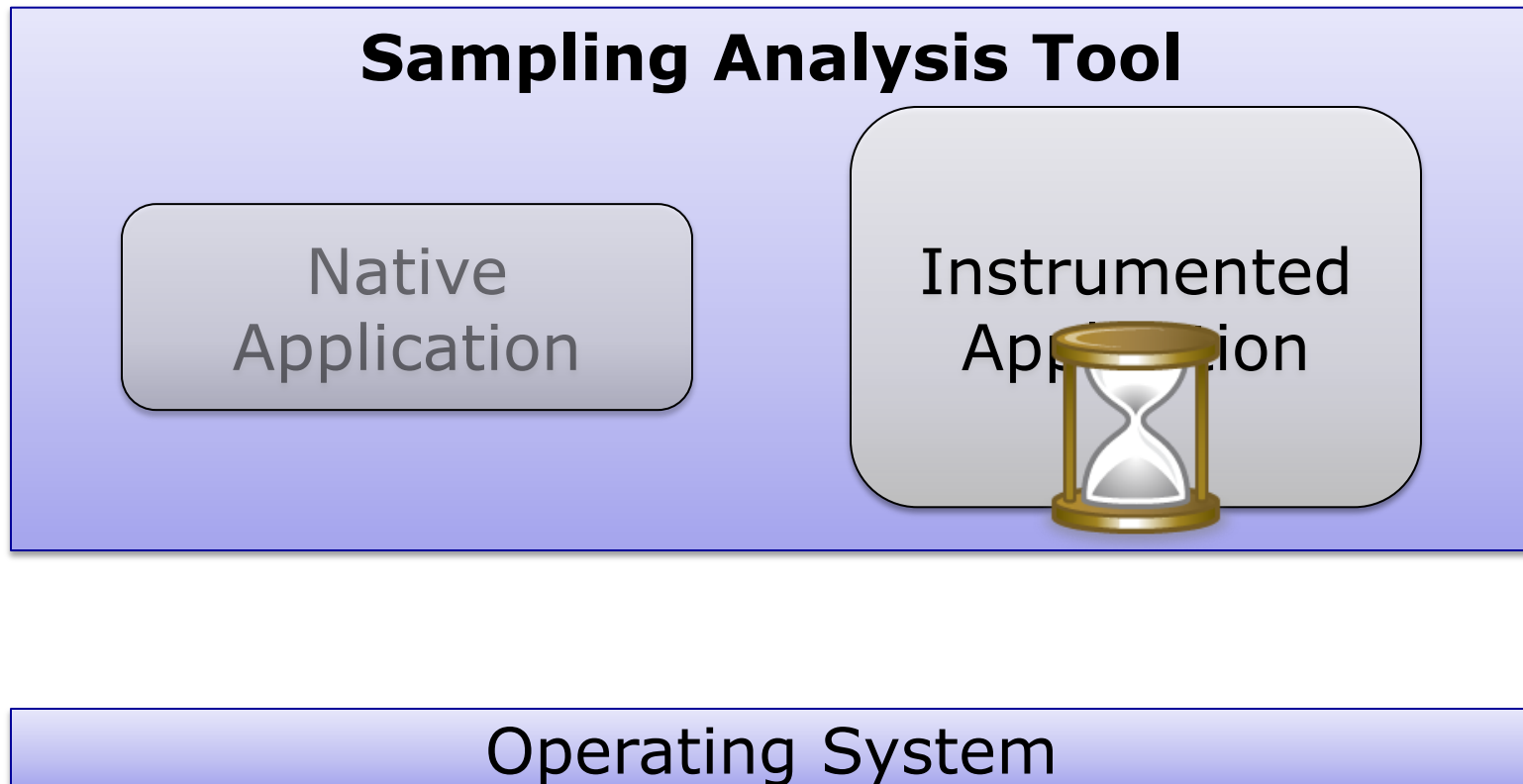
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- **Remove** dataflows if execution is too slow



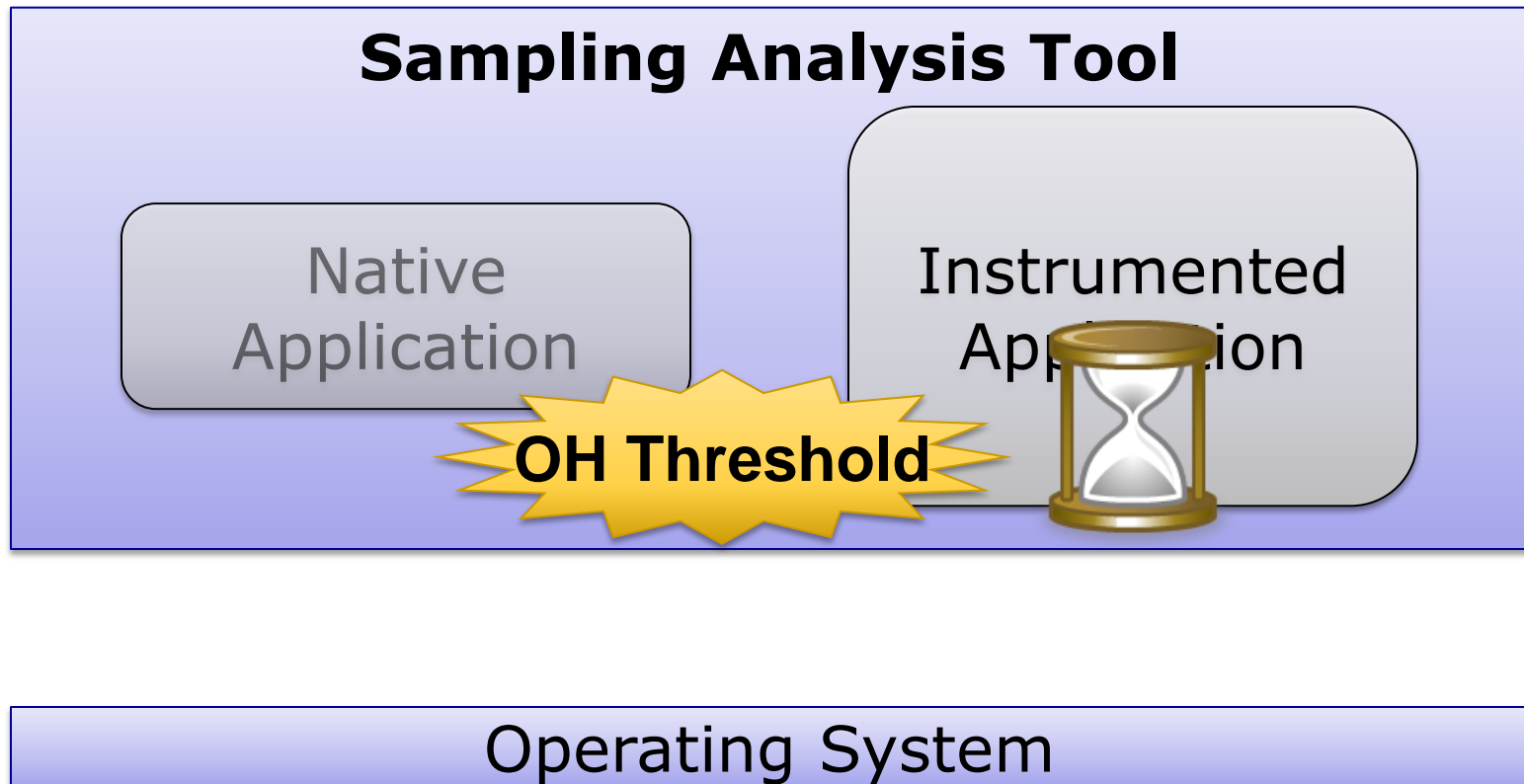
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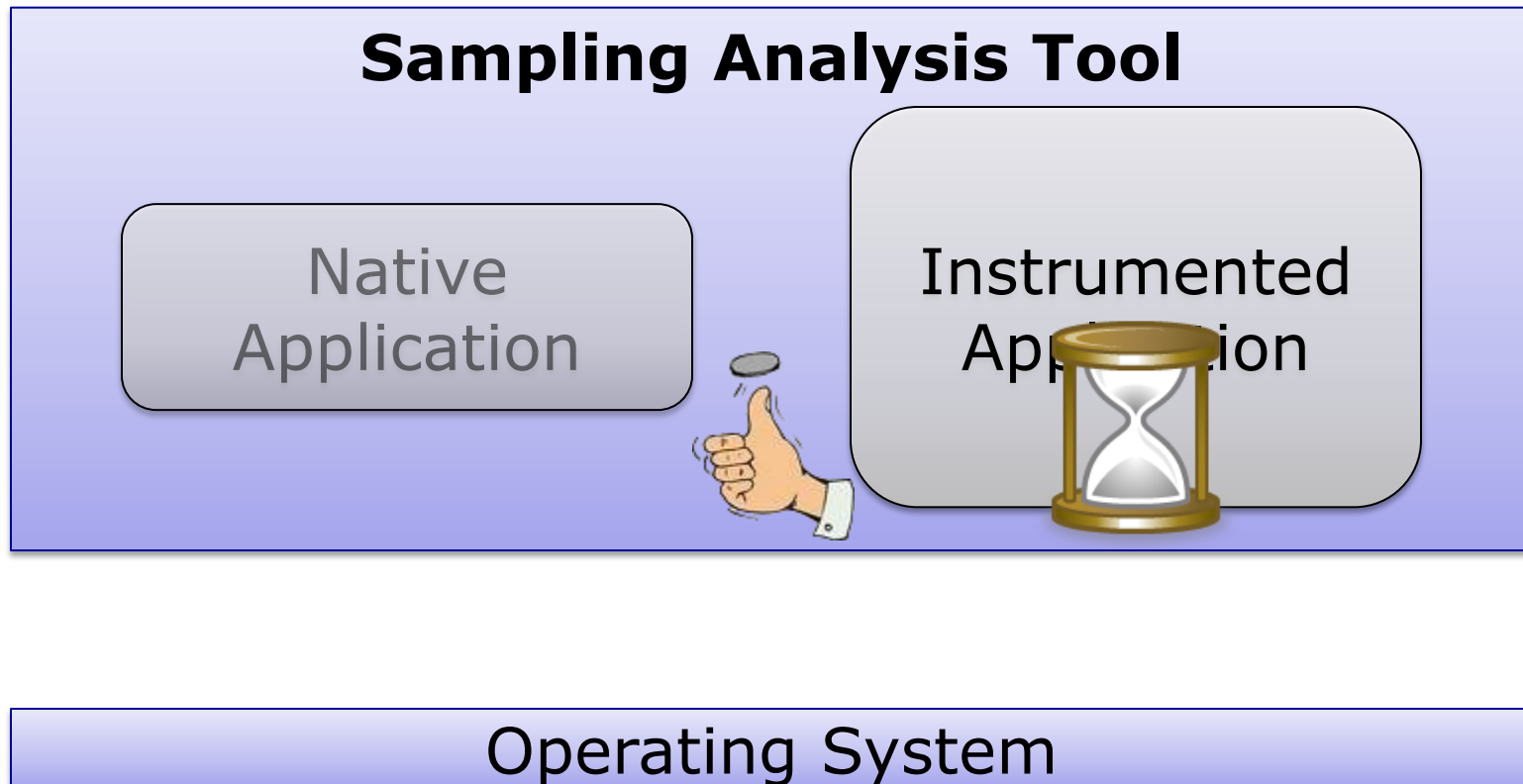
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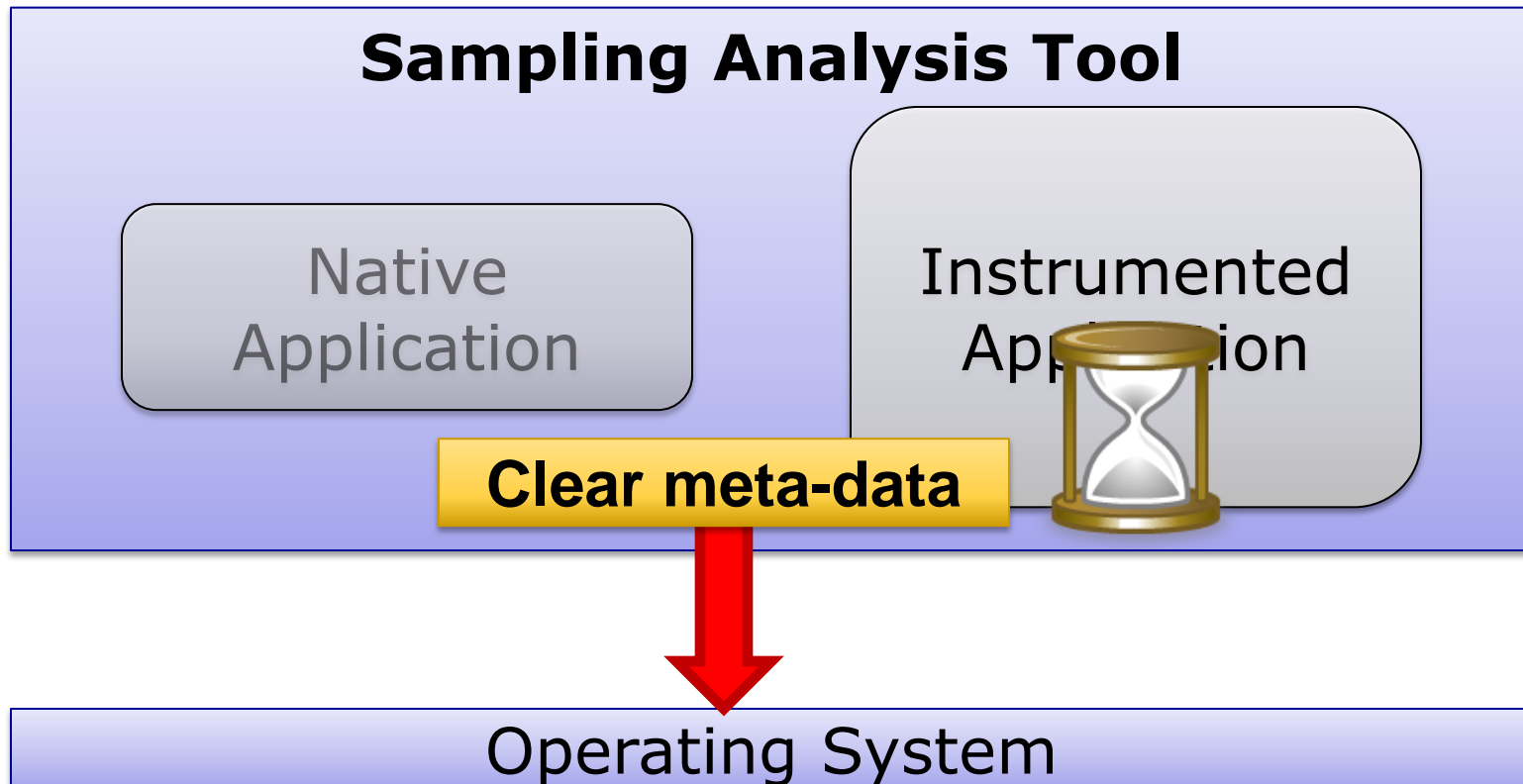
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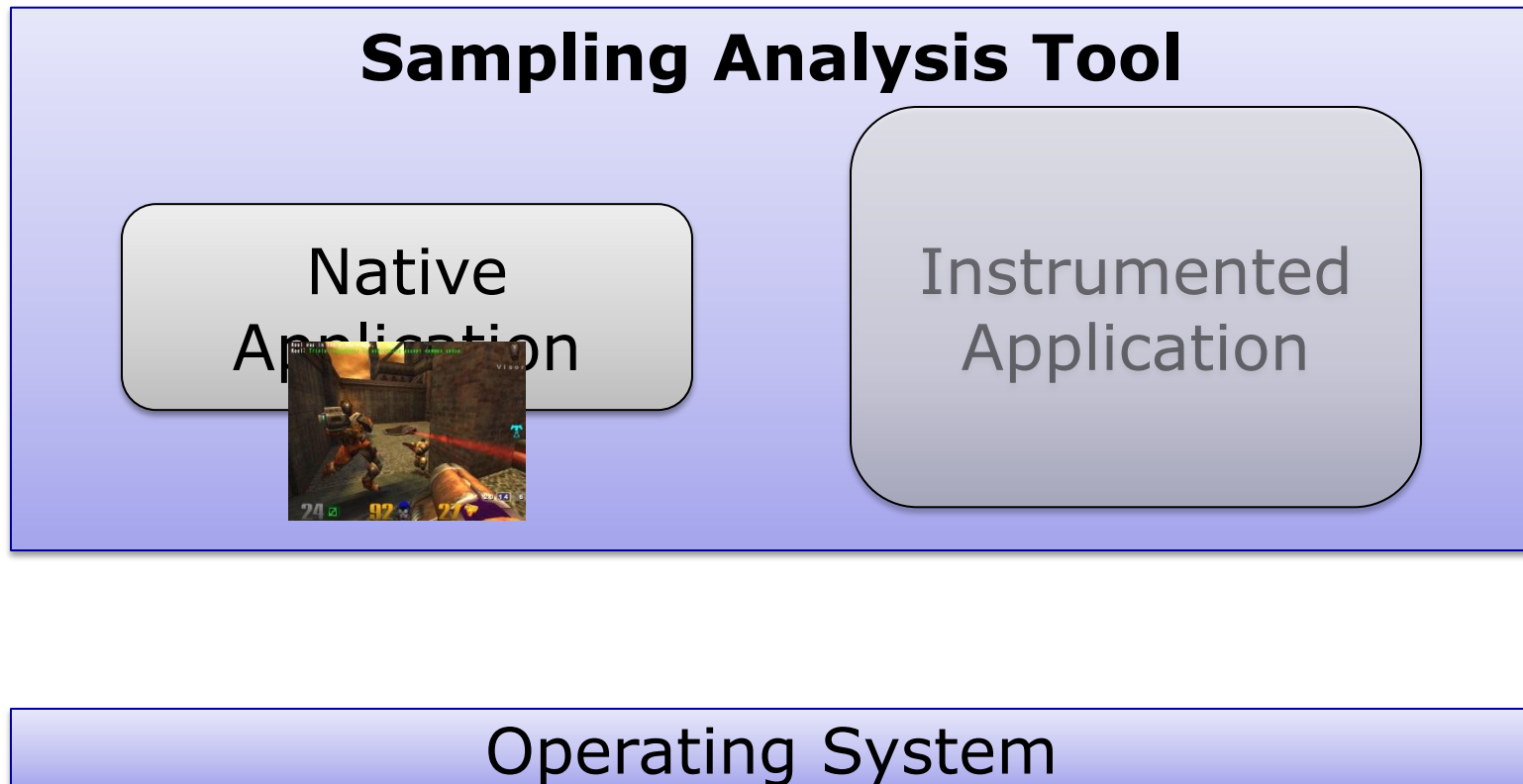
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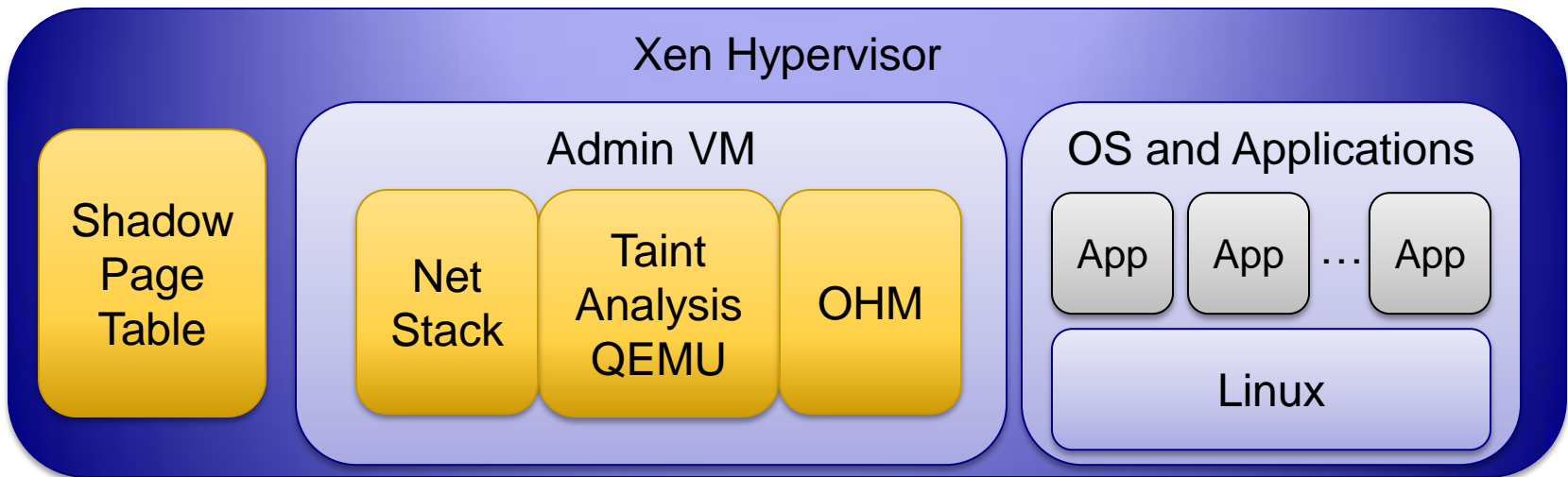
# Mechanisms for Dataflow Sampling (2)

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# Prototype Setup

- Taint analysis sampling system
  - Network packets untrusted
- Xen-based demand analysis
  - Whole-system analysis with modified QEMU
- Overhead Manager (OHM) is user-controlled



# Benchmarks

- Performance – Network Throughput
  - *Example: ssh\_receive*
- Accuracy of Sampling Analysis
  - Real-world Security Exploits

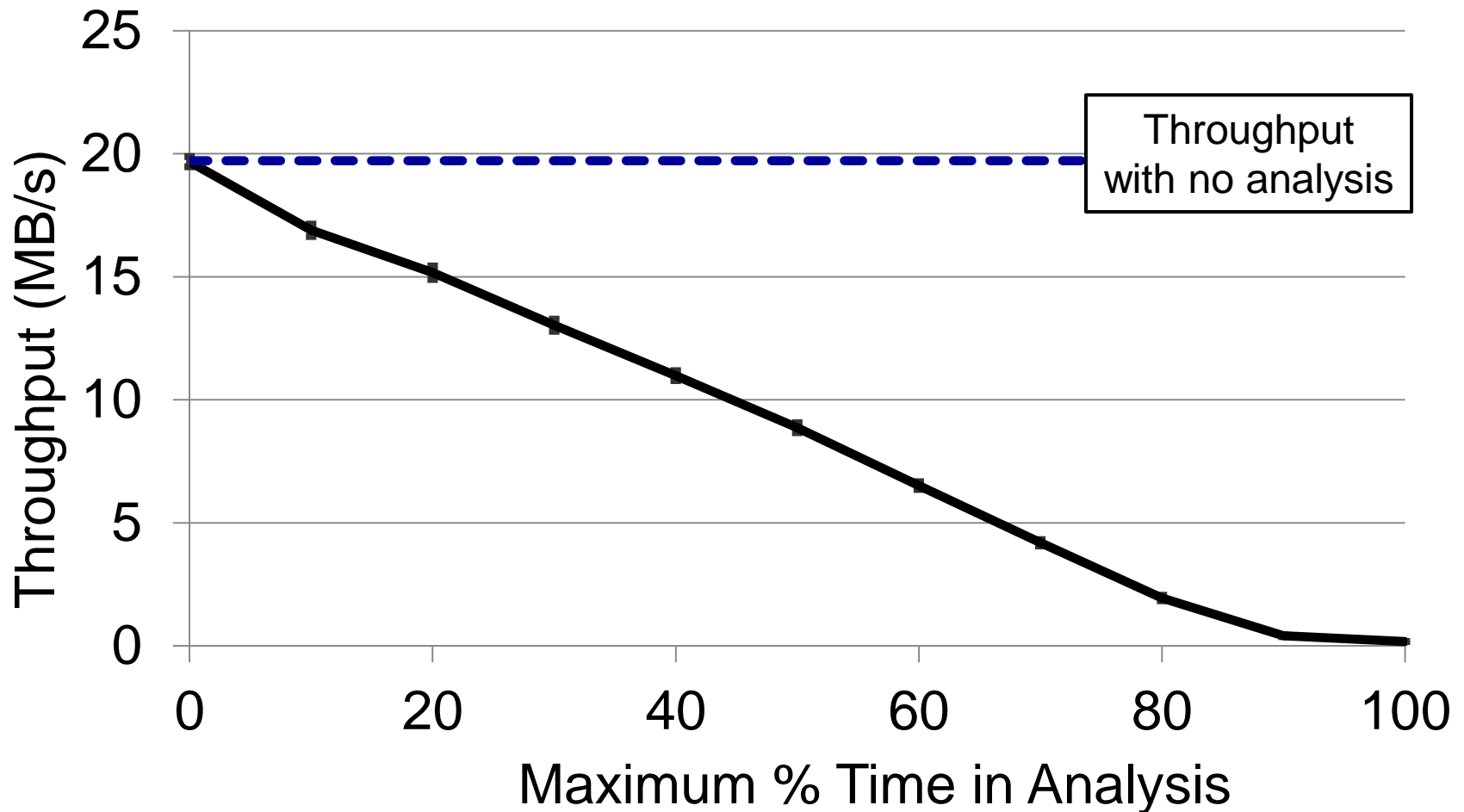
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Name	Error Description
Apache	Stack overflow in Apache Tomcat JK Connector
Eggdrop	Stack overflow in Eggdrop IRC bot
Lynx	Stack overflow in Lynx web browser
ProFTPD	Heap smashing attack on ProFTPD Server
Squid	Heap smashing attack on Squid proxy server

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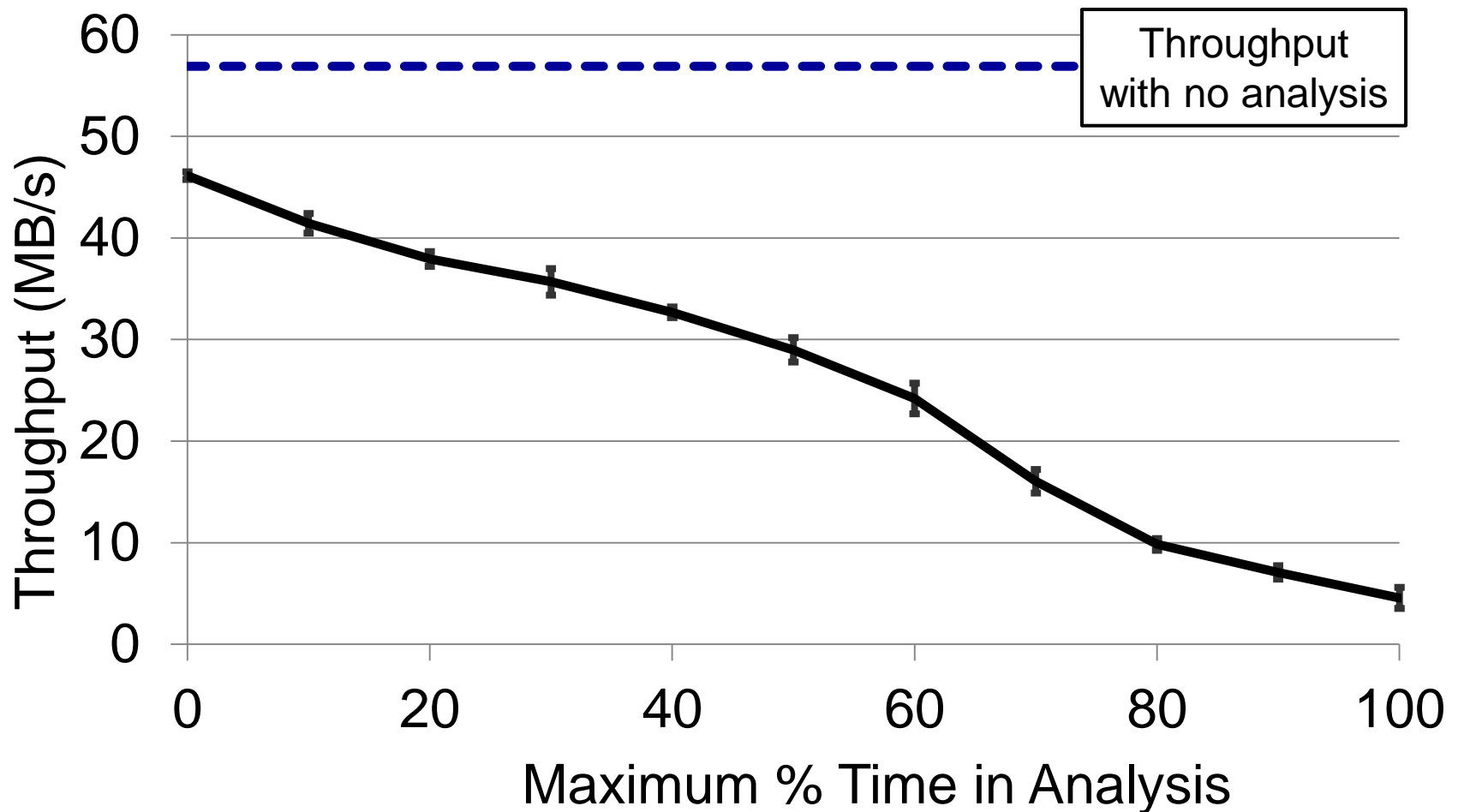
# Performance of Dataflow Sampling (1)

ssh\_receive

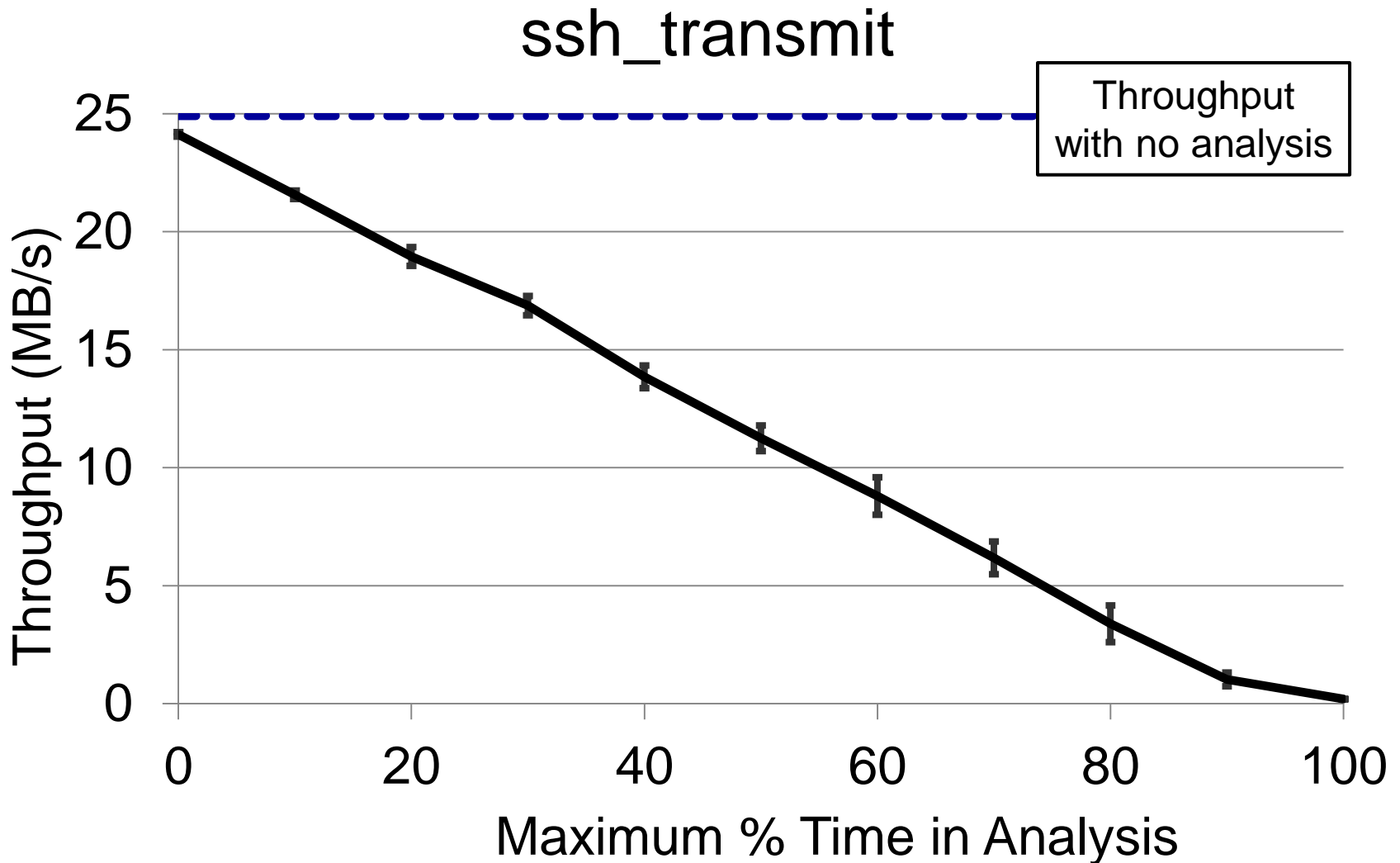


# Performance of Dataflow Sampling (2)

netcat\_receive



# Performance of Dataflow Sampling (3)





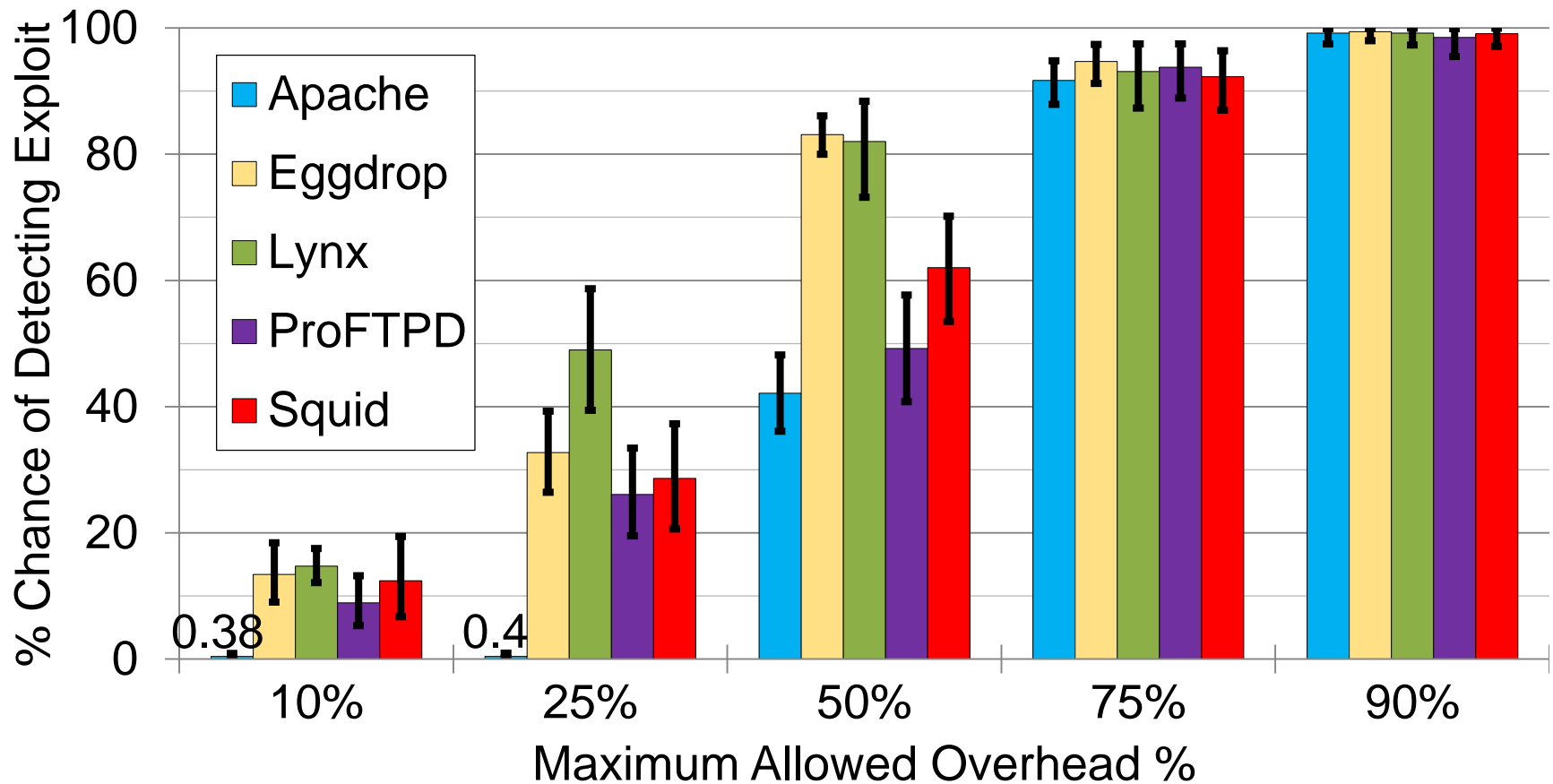
# Accuracy at Very Low Overhead

- Max time in analysis: 1% every 10 seconds
- Always stop analysis after threshold
  - Lowest probability of detecting exploits

<b>Name</b>	<b>Chance of Detecting Exploit</b>
Apache	100%
Eggdrop	100%
Lynx	100%
ProFTPD	100%
Squid	100%

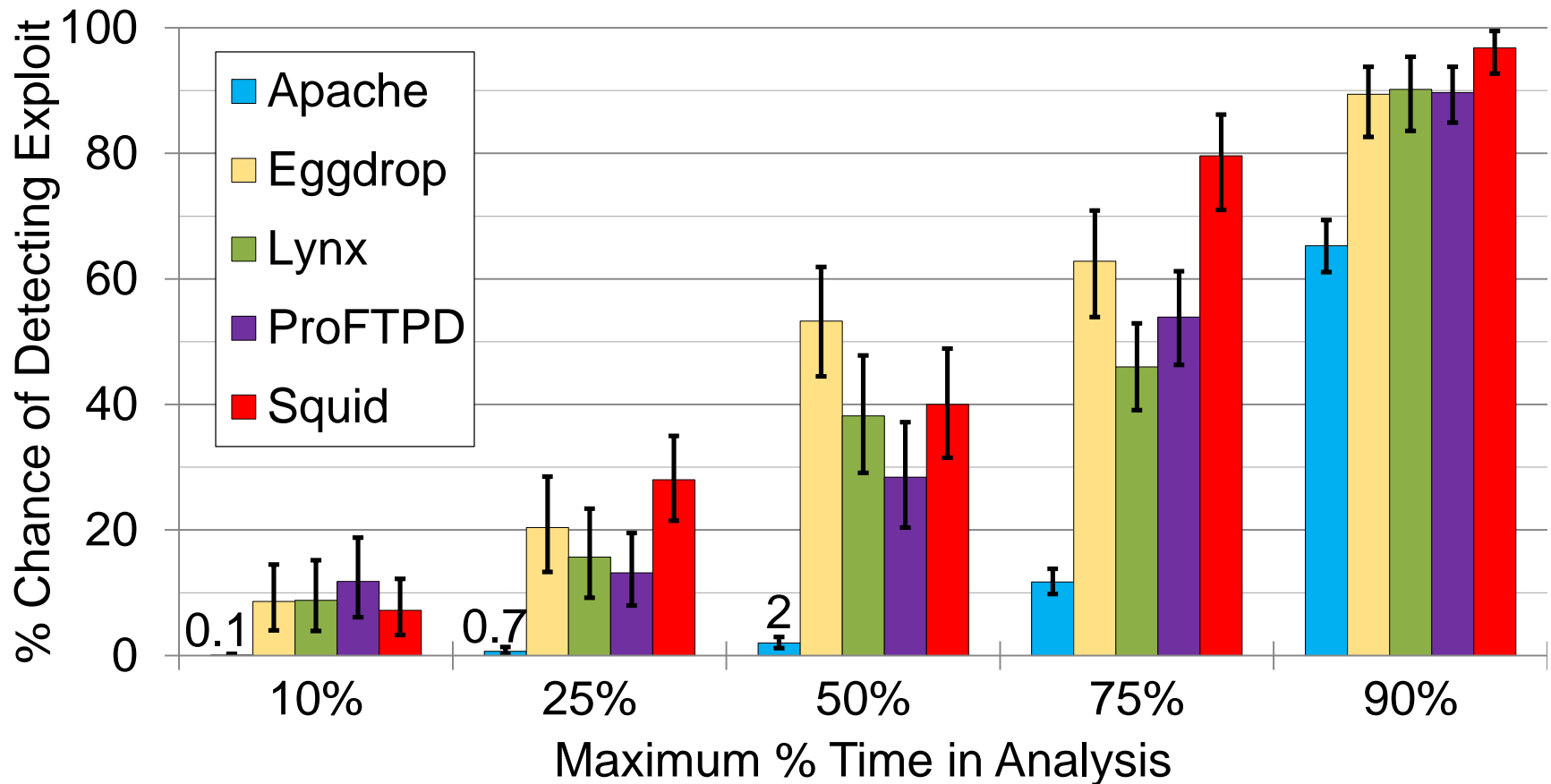
# Accuracy with Background Tasks

netcat\_receive running with benchmark



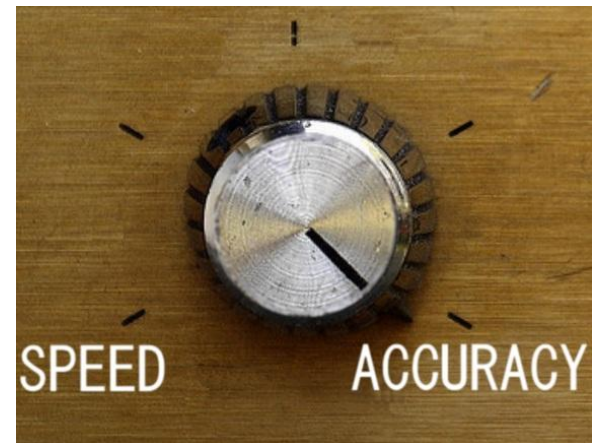
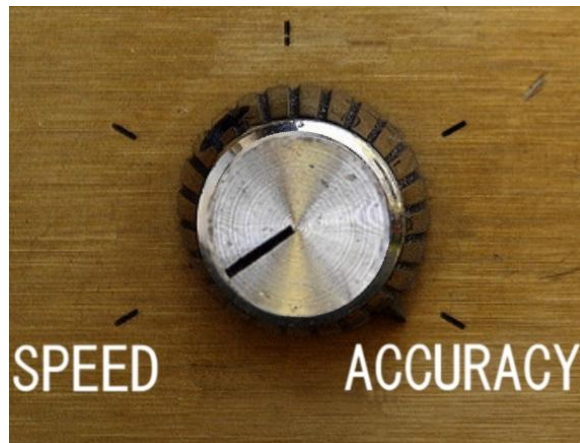
# Accuracy with Background Tasks

*ssh\_receive* running in background



# Conclusion & Future Work

Dynamic dataflow sampling gives users a knob to control accuracy vs. performance



- Better methods of sample choices
- Combine static information
- New types of sampling analysis

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# BACKUP SLIDES

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# Outline

- Software Errors and Security
- Dynamic Dataflow Analysis
- Sampling and Distributed Analysis
- Prototype System
- Performance and Accuracy

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# Width Test

