

Formally Secure Compilation of Unsafe Low-level Components

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Inria Paris, Prosecco team

<https://secure-compilation.github.io>

Collaborators



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**Rob
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**Carmine
Abate**



**Boris
Eng**



**Théo
Laurent**



**Andrew
Tolmach**



**Benjamin
Pierce**

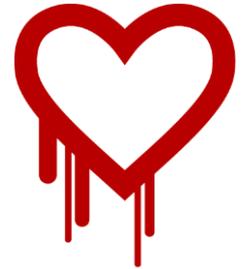


**Deepak
Garg**



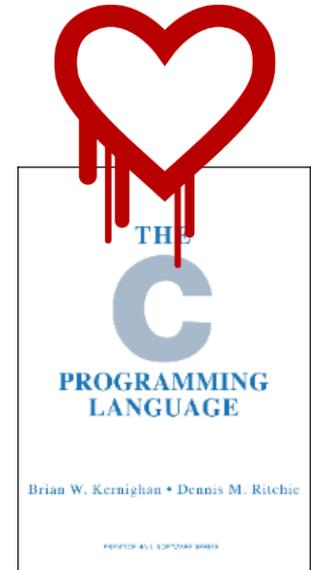
**Marco
Patrignani**

Devastating low-level vulnerabilities



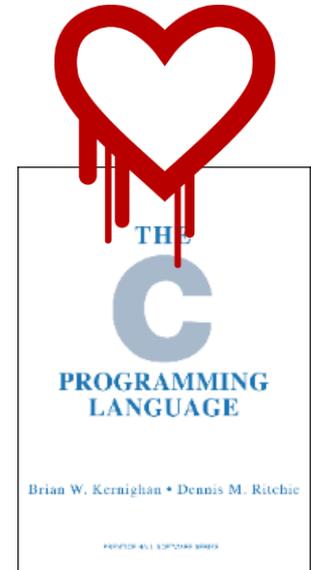
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- Inherently insecure C/C++-like languages
 - **type and memory unsafe:**
e.g. any buffer overflow is catastrophic
 - **root cause**, but challenging to fix:
 - efficiency
 - precision
 - scalability
 - backwards compatibility
 - deployment

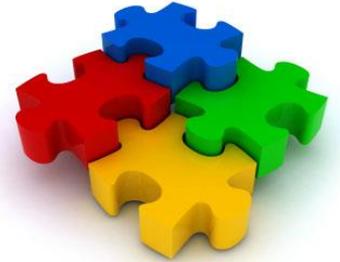


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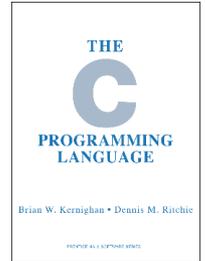
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Goal 1: Formalize this

Goal 2: Build secure compilation chains

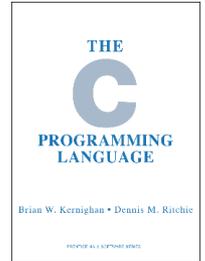
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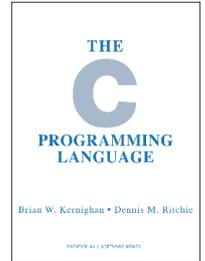
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 - component separation, call-return discipline, ...



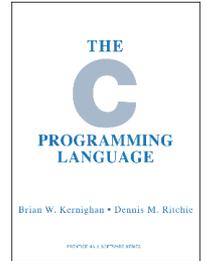
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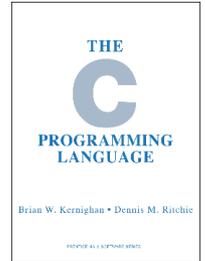
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 - software fault isolation (SFI)
 - hardware enclaves (SGX)
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 - capability machines
 - tagged architectures



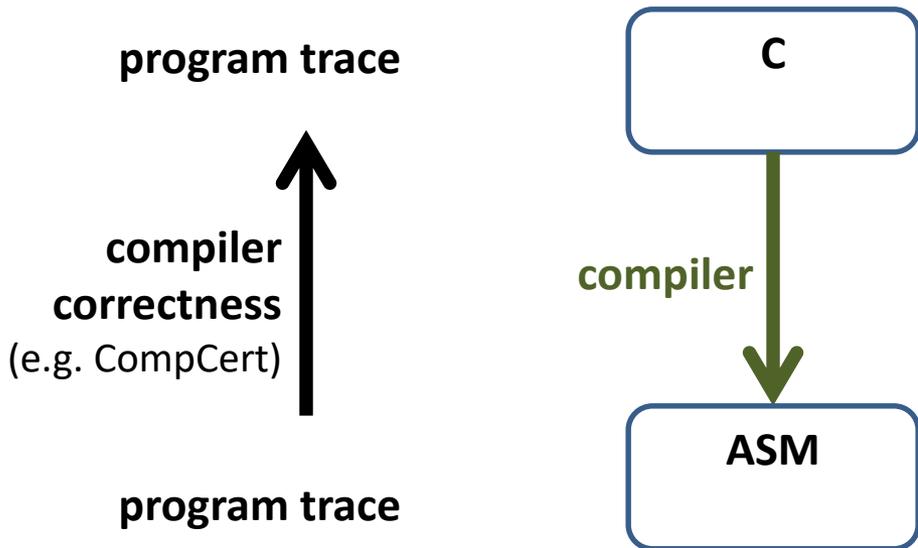
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- **Practical need for all this**
 - e.g. crypto libraries/protocols ... verified (HACL*/miTLS*) **or not**

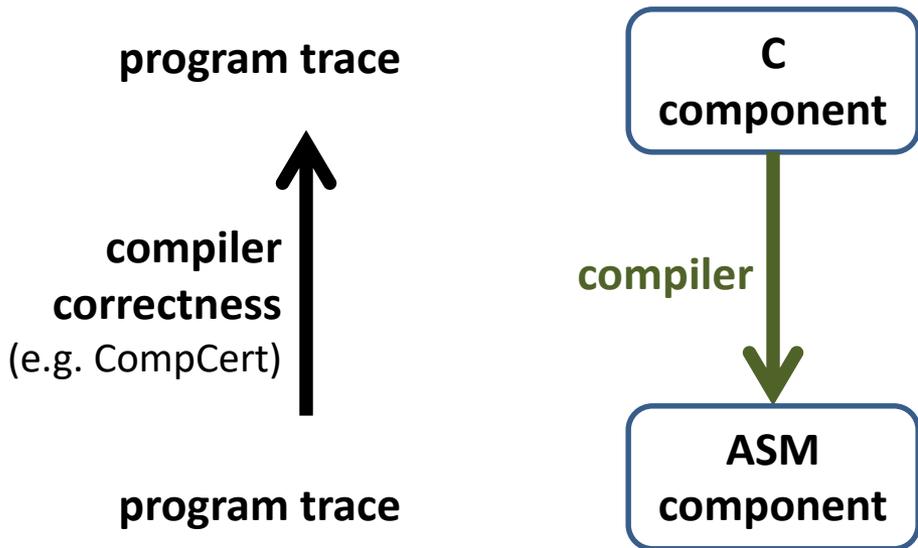


Goal 1: Formalizing the security of compartmentalizing compilation

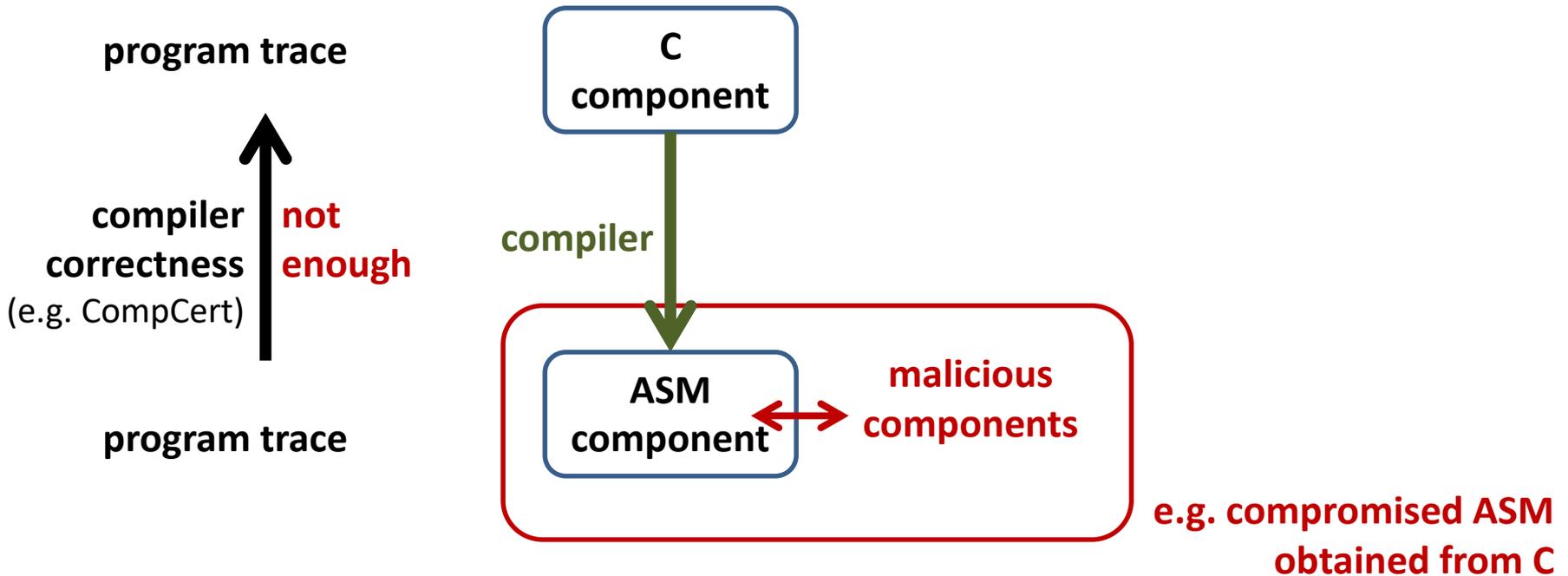
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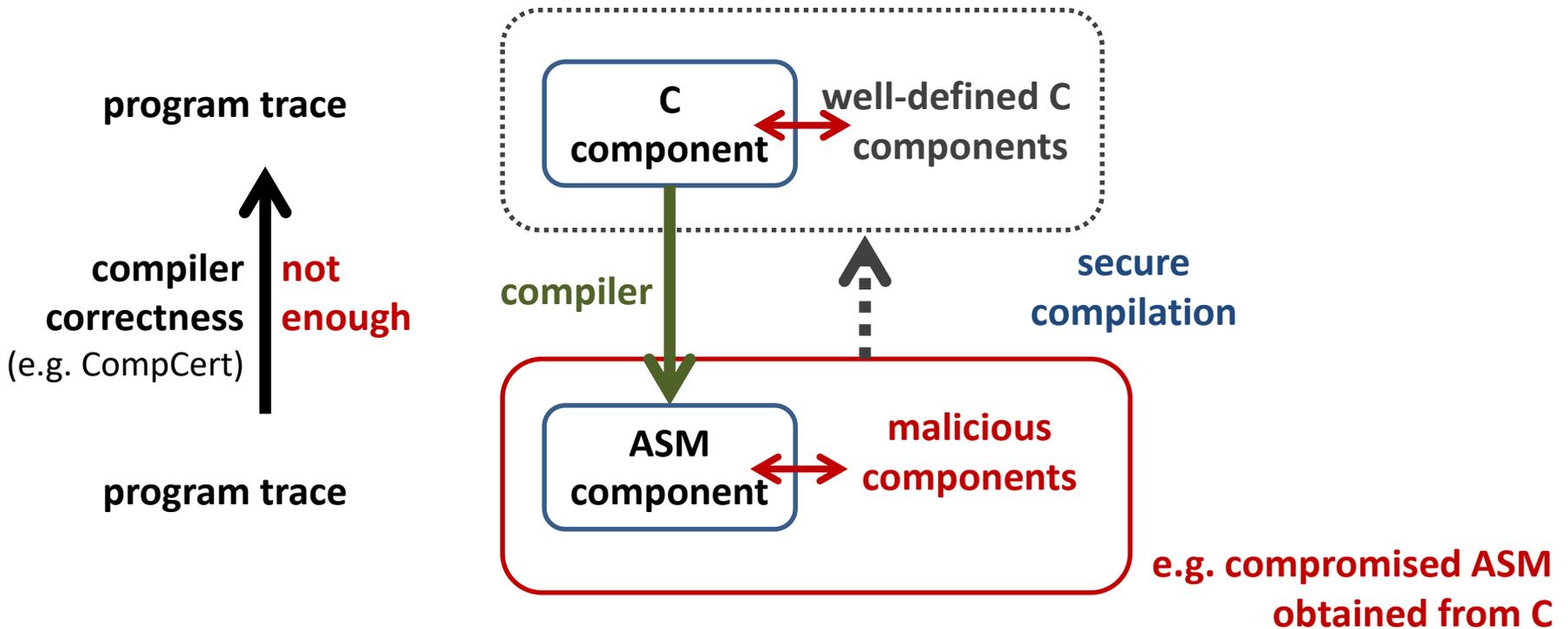
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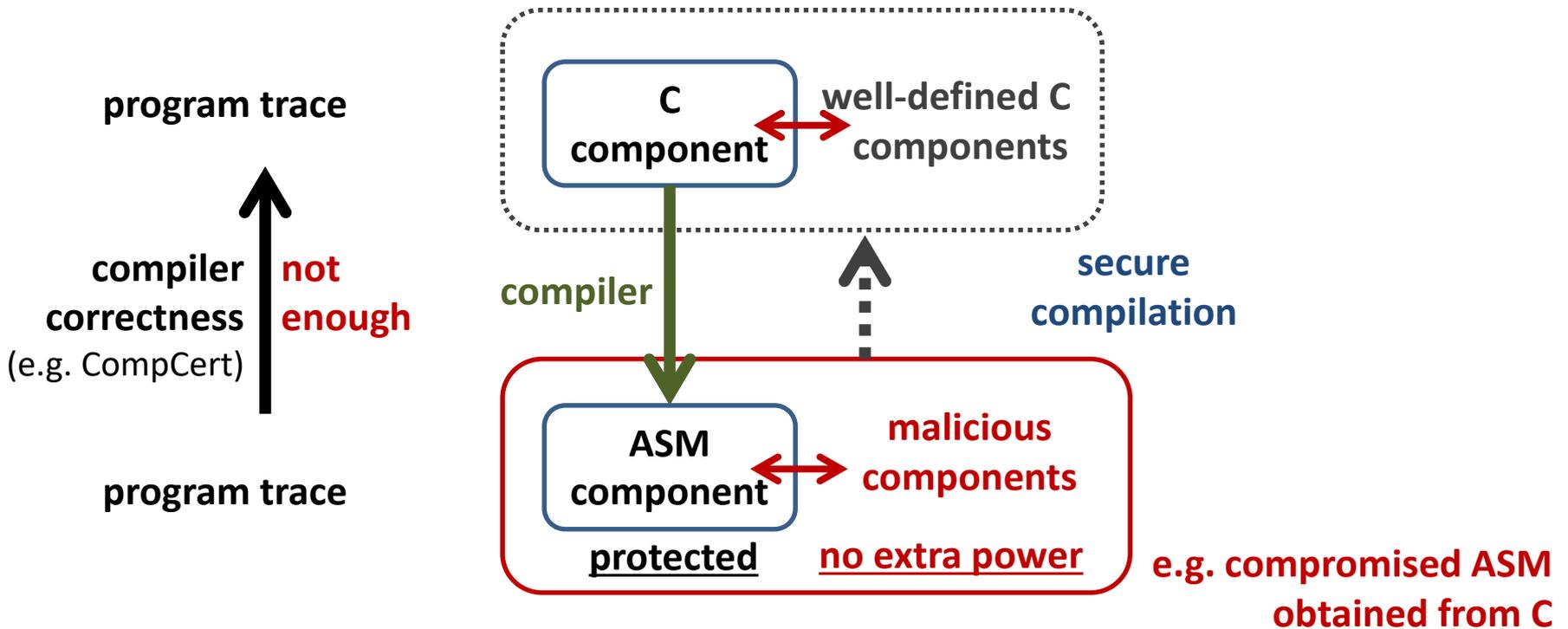
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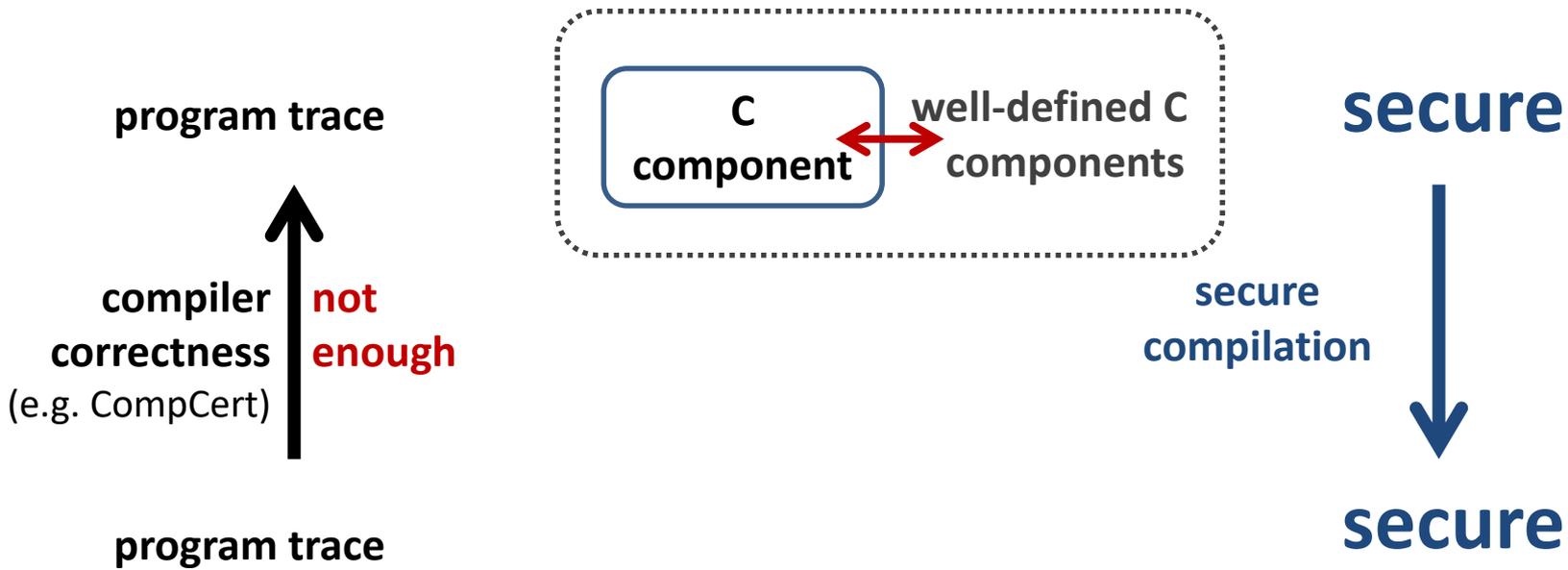
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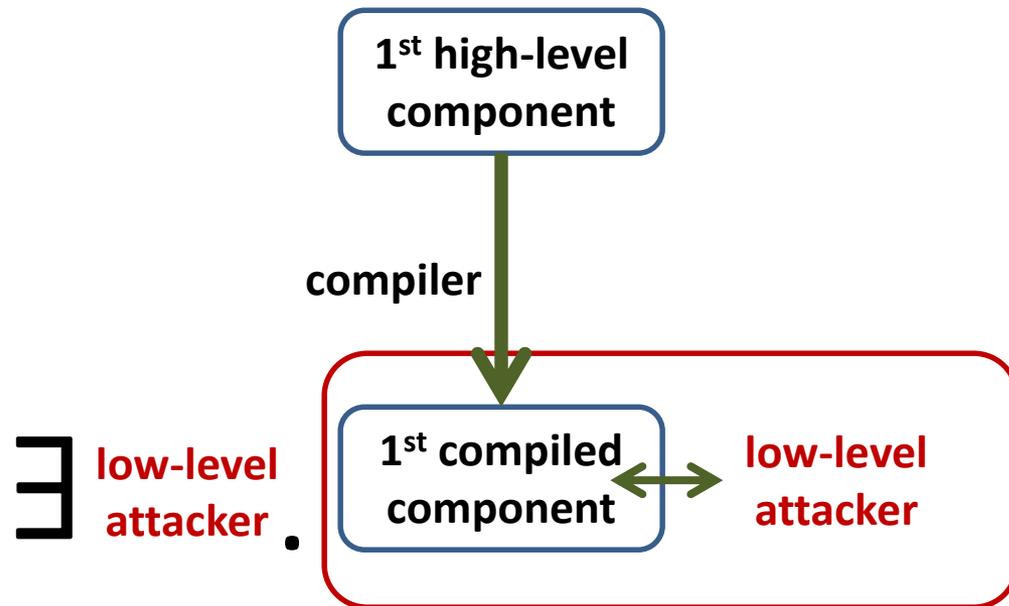
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Benefit: sound security reasoning in the source language

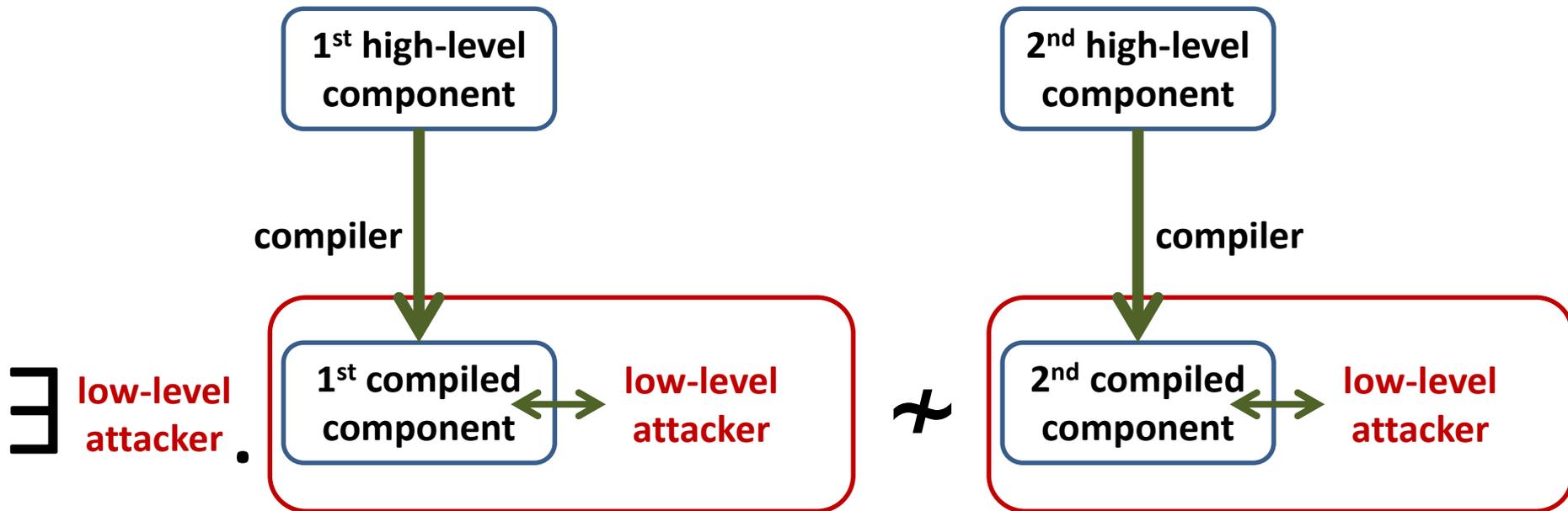
Fully abstract compilation

preservation of observational equivalence



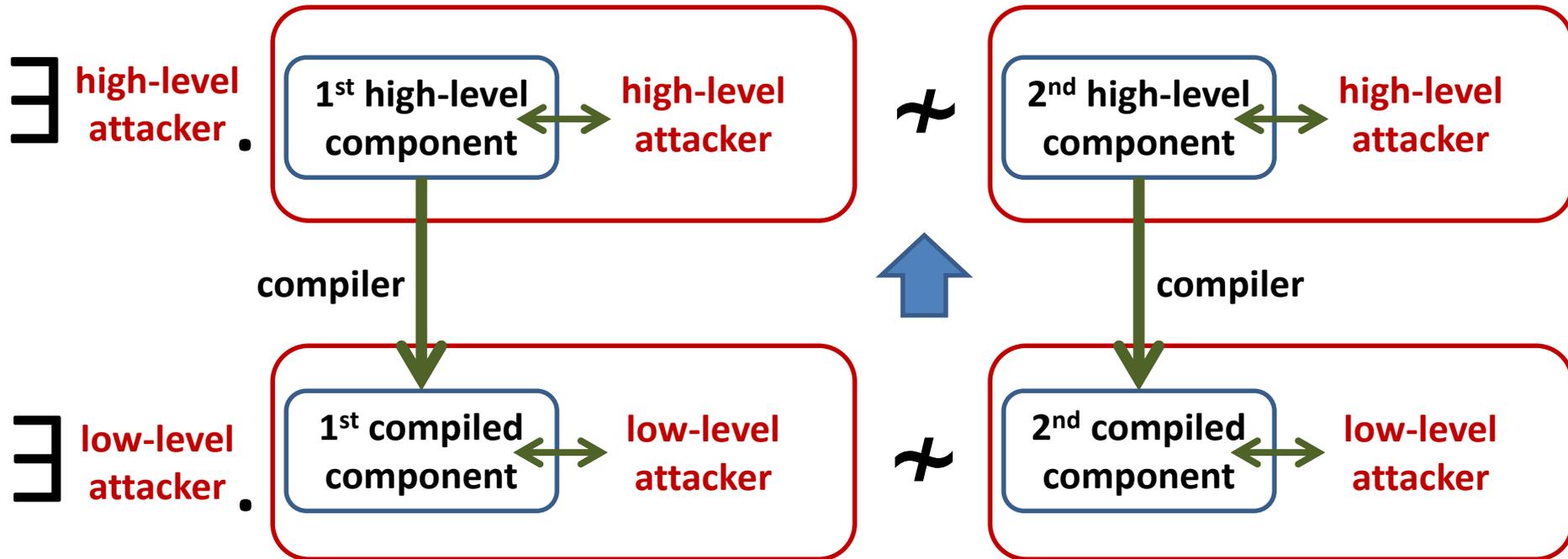
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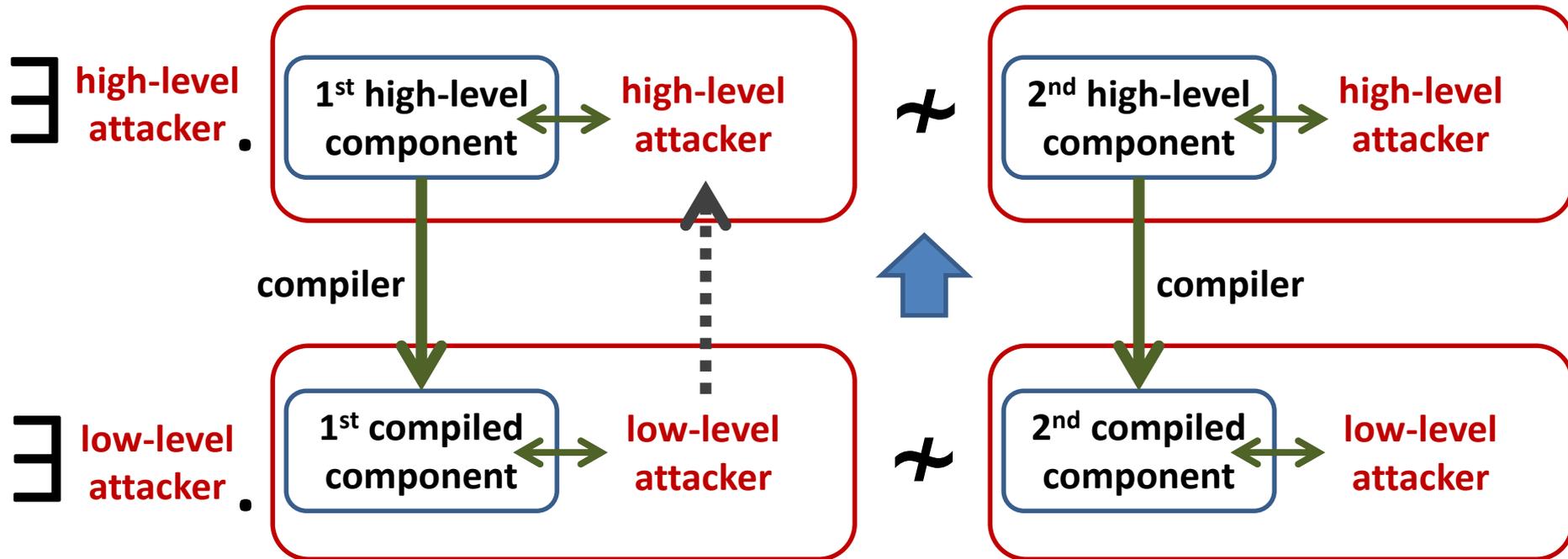
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Undefined behavior

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    char c[12];
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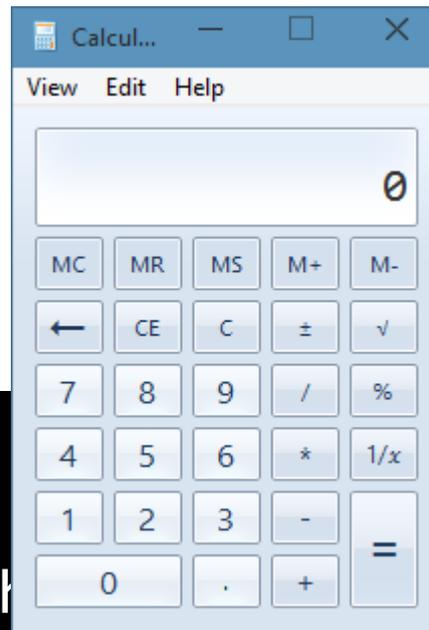
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- **Problem: observational equivalence**

 - doesn't work with undefined behavior!?**

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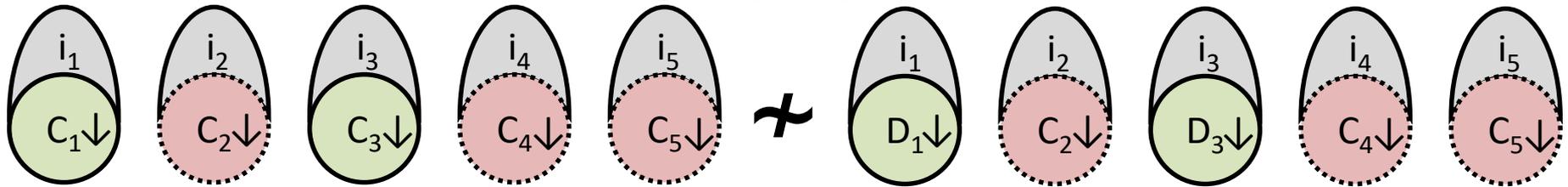
- **Can we somehow avoid undefined behavior?**

Full abstraction for mutually distrustful components

\forall compromise scenarios.

if C_1, C_3, D_1, D_3 **fully defined** and

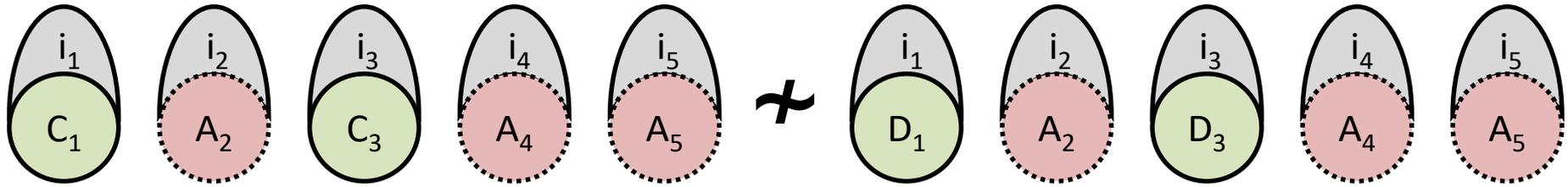
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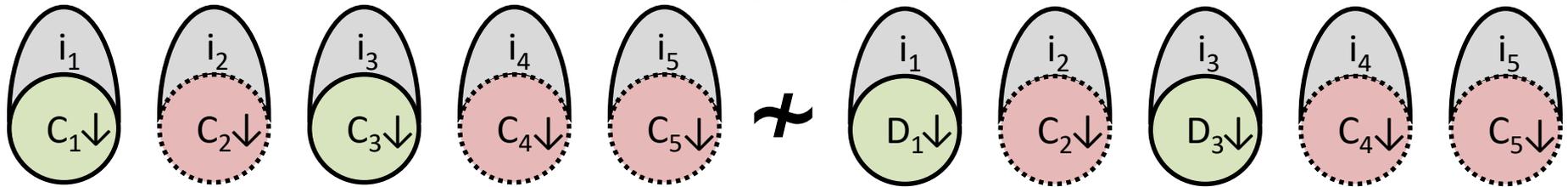
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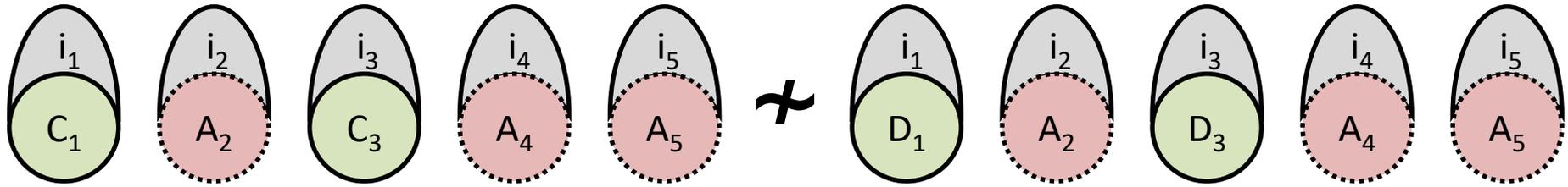
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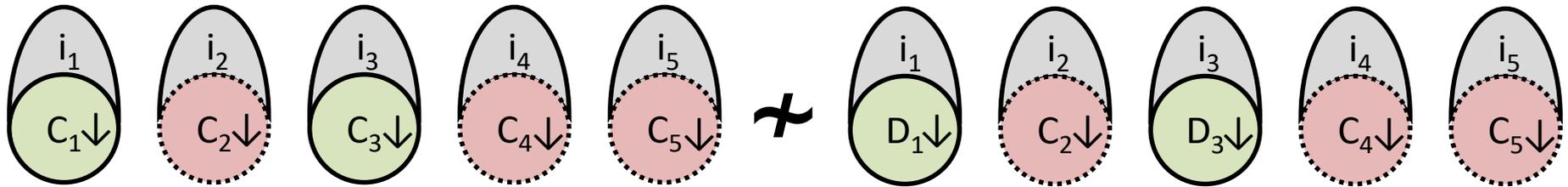
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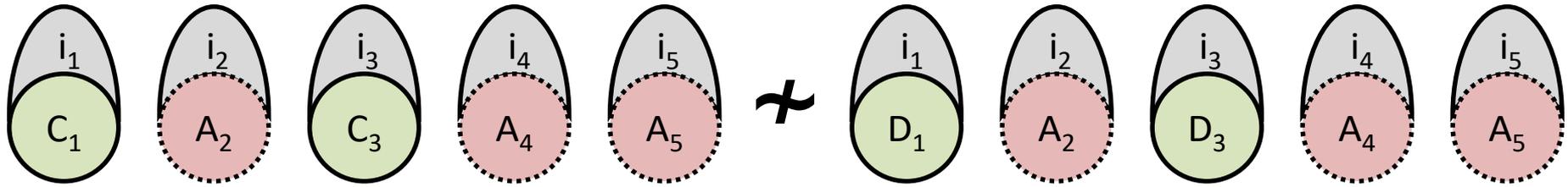


Limitation: static compromise model: C_1, C_3, D_1, D_3 get guarantees only if perfectly safe
(i.e. fully defined = do not exhibit undefined behavior in **any** context)

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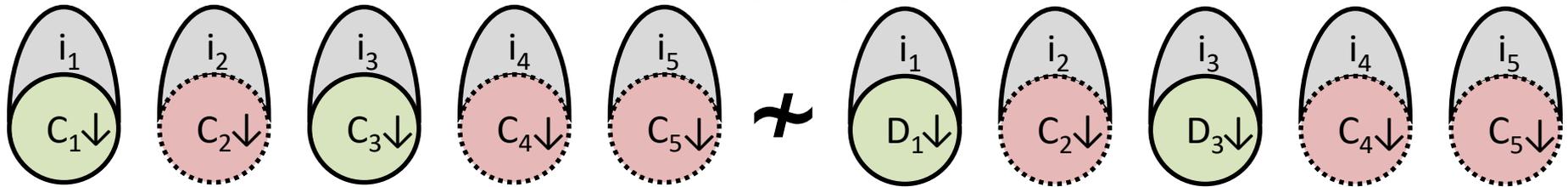
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This is the most we were able to achieve on top of full abstraction!

Static compromise not good enough

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component C0 {
  export valid;
  valid(data) { ... }
}
component C1 {
  import E.read, C2.init, C2.process;
  main() {
    C2.init();
    x := E.read();
    y := C1.parse(x);    //(V1) can UNDEF if x is malformed
    C2.process(x,y);
  }
  parse(x) { ... }
}
component C2 {
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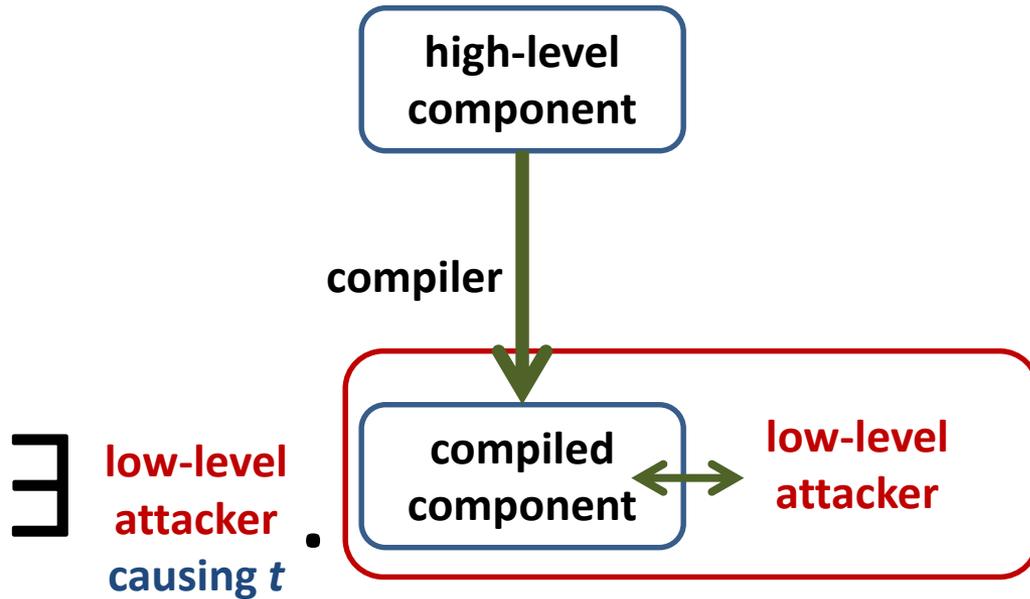
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and C_2 can't actually be compromised

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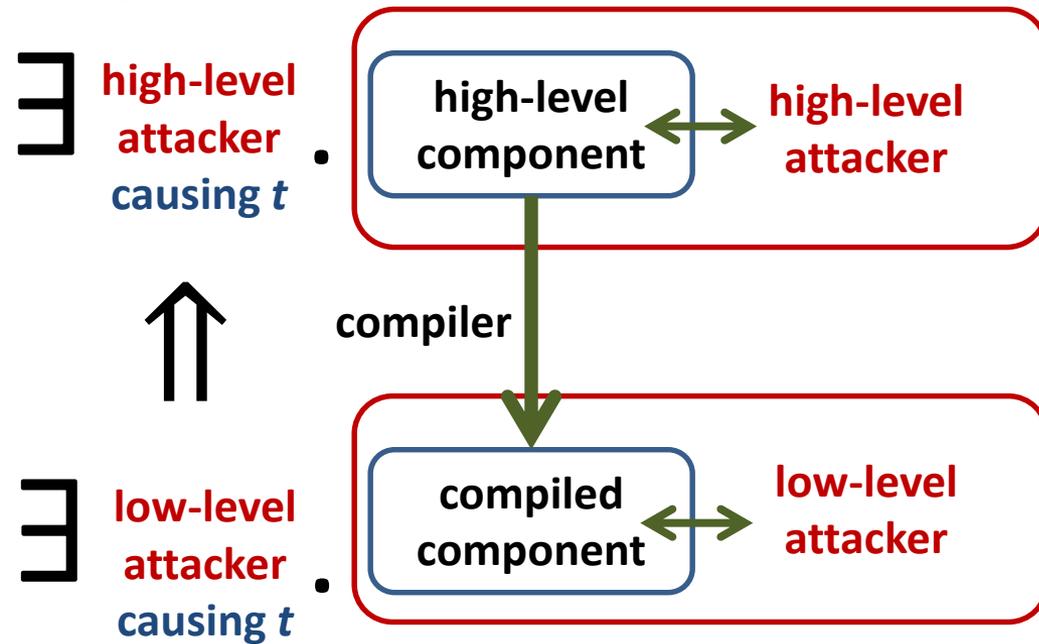
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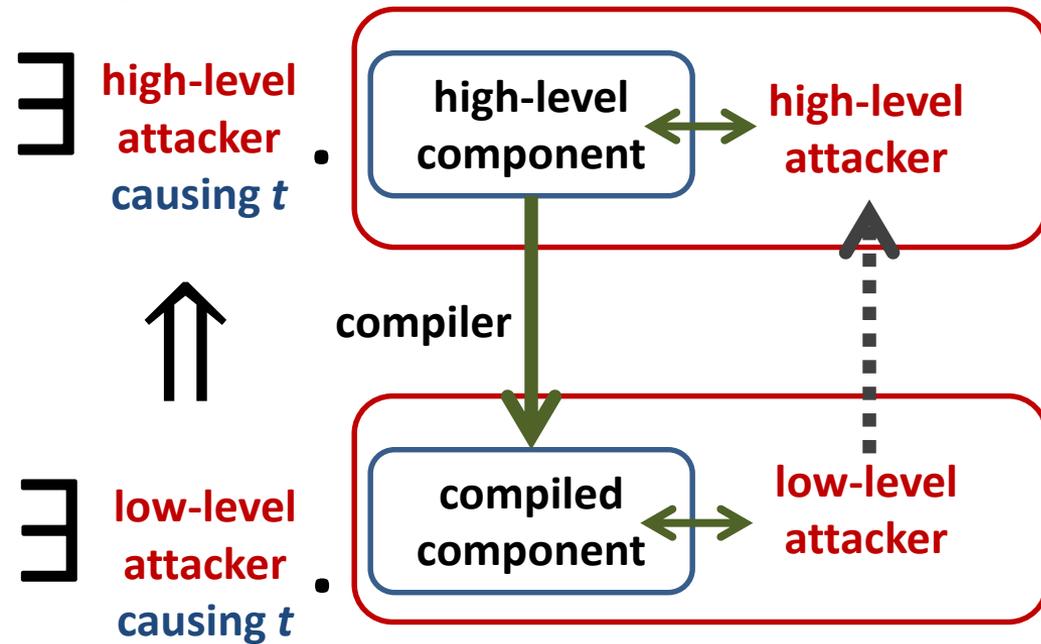
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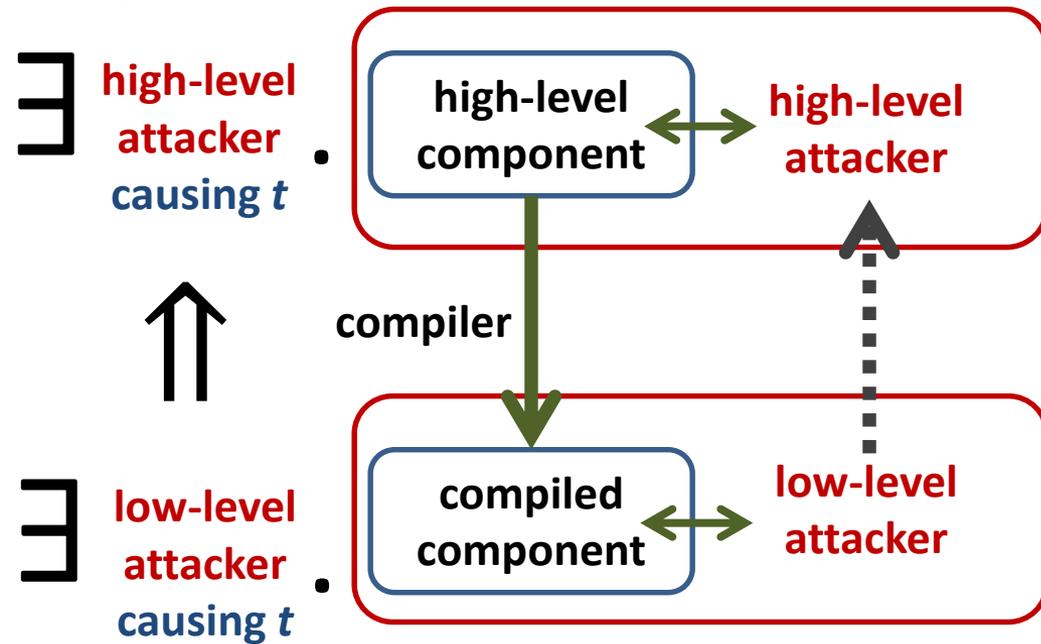
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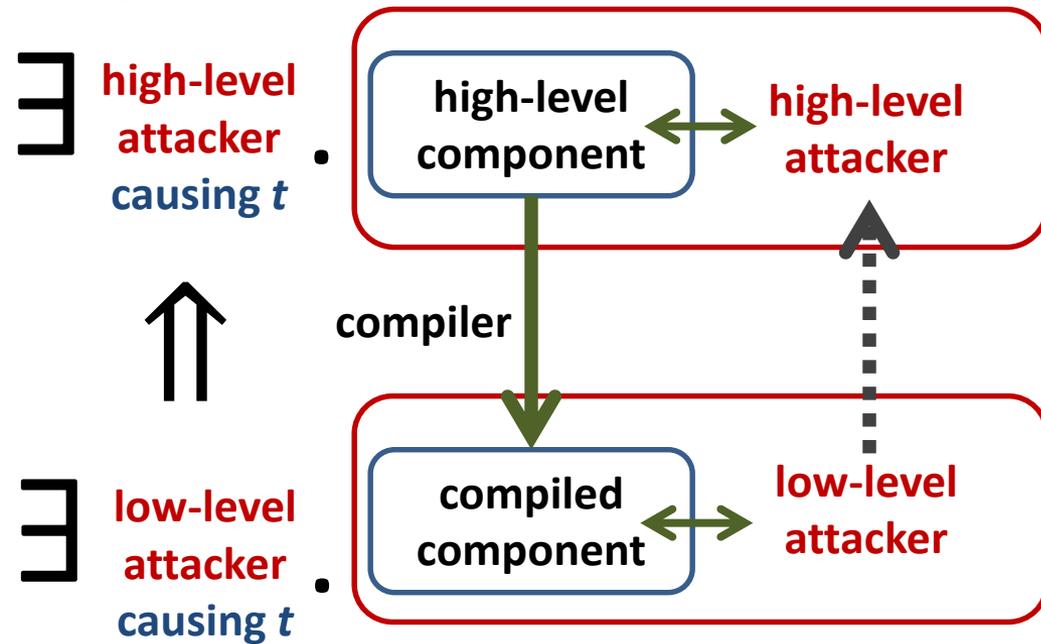
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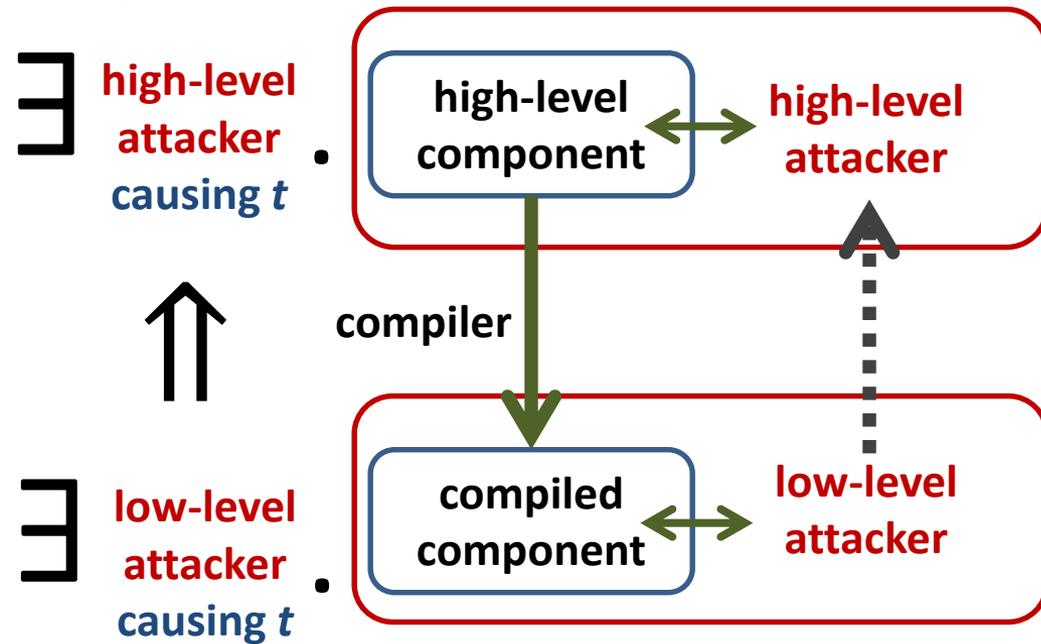
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(robust = in adversarial context)

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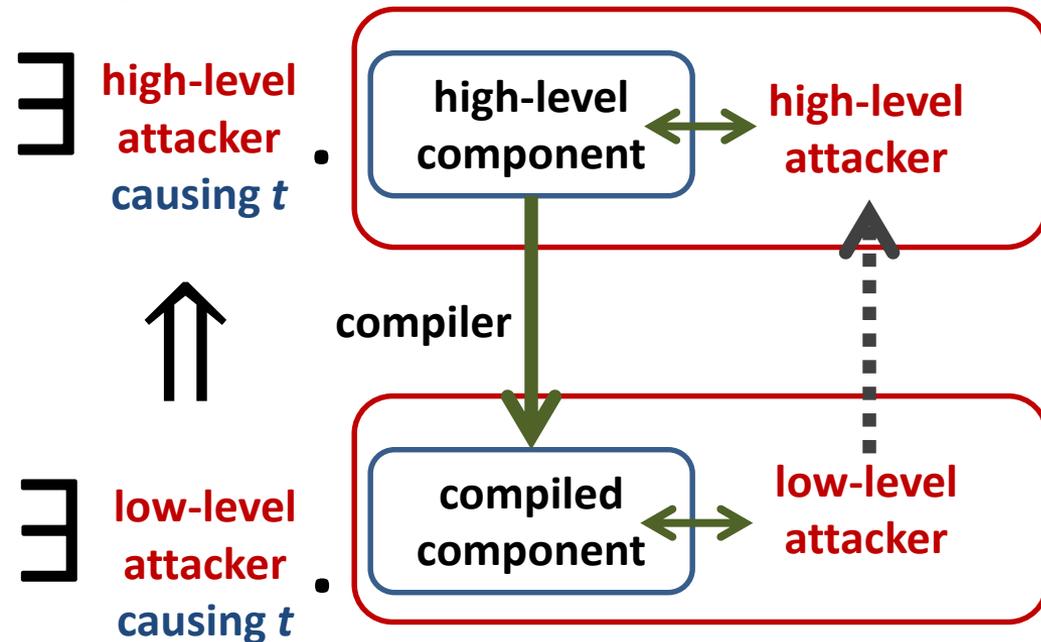
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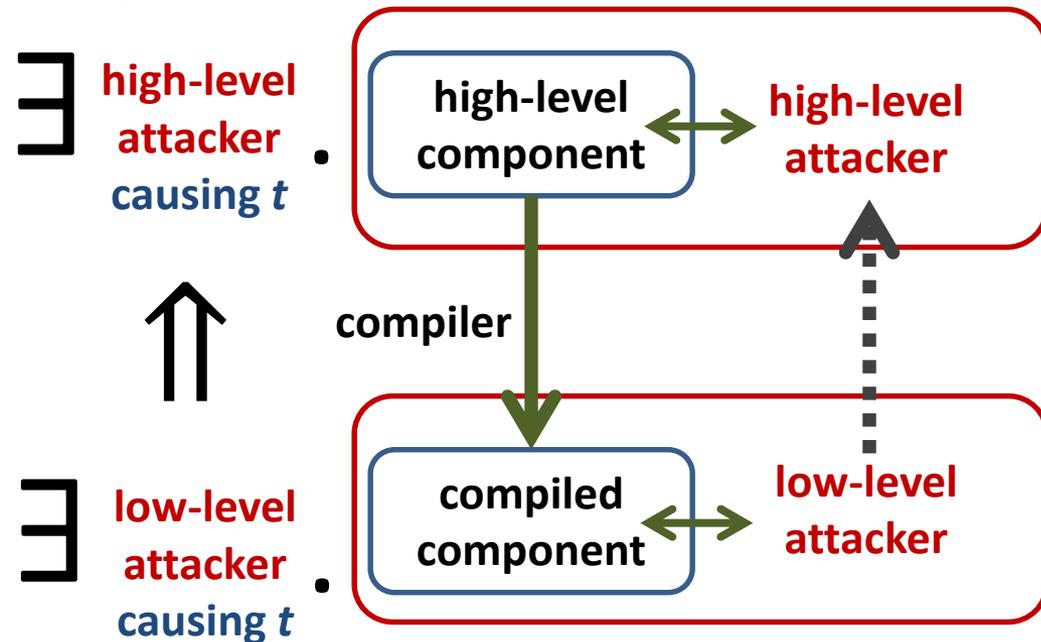
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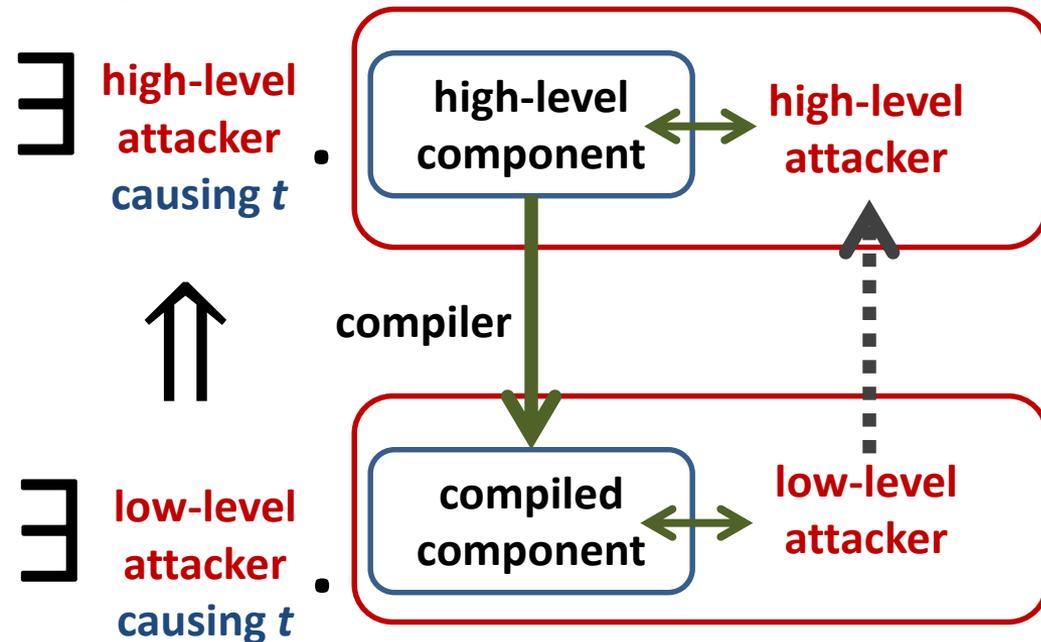
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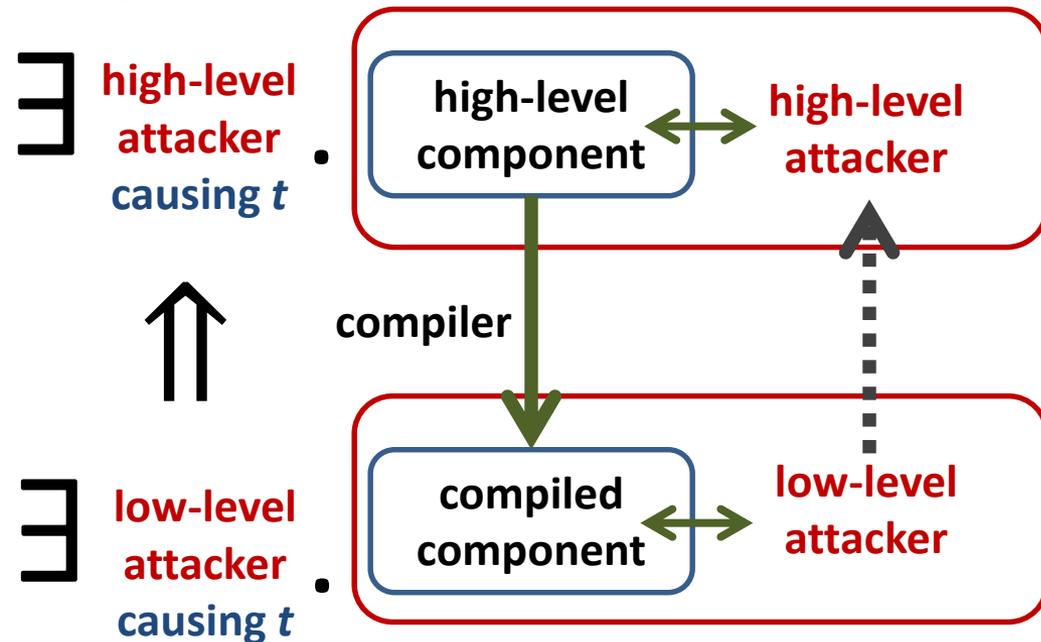
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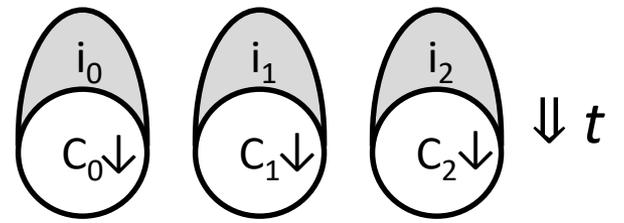
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extends to **unsafe languages, supporting dynamic compromise**

Dynamic compromise

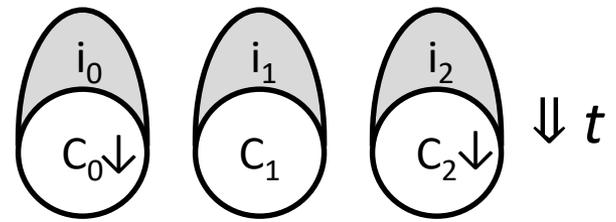
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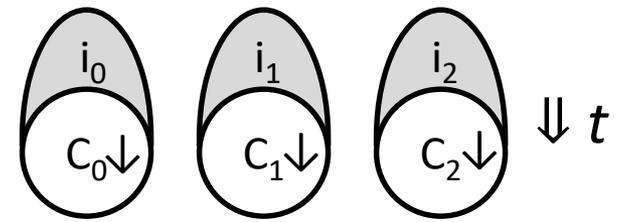


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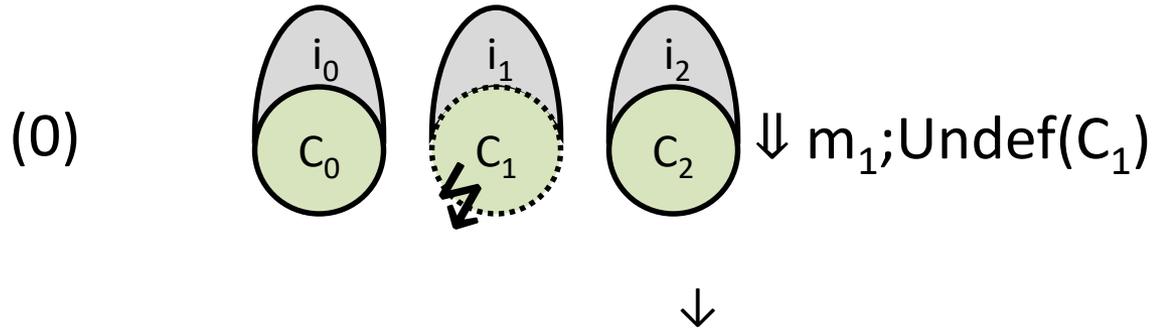


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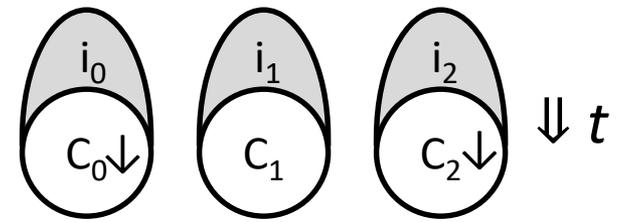
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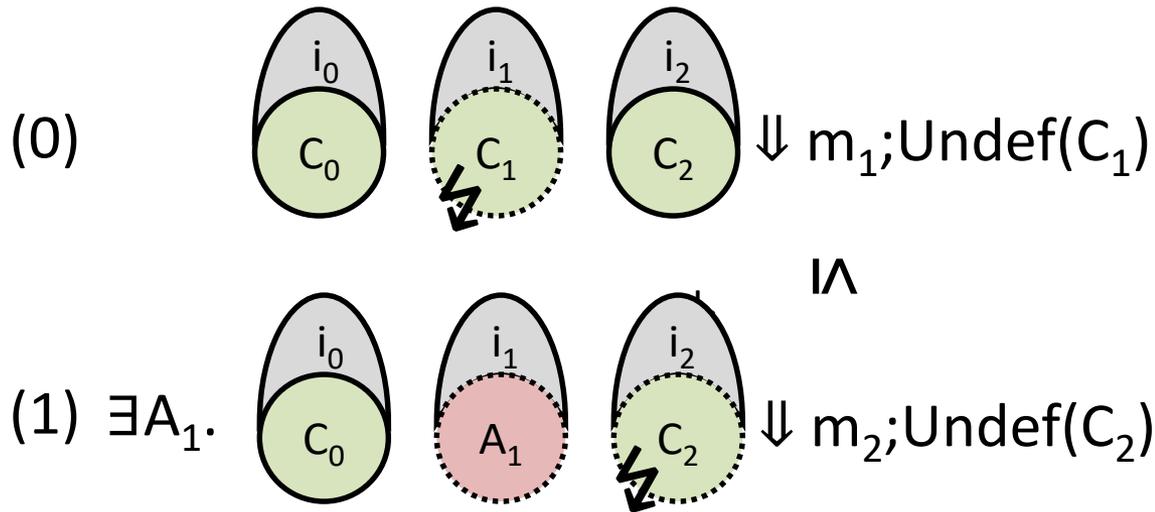
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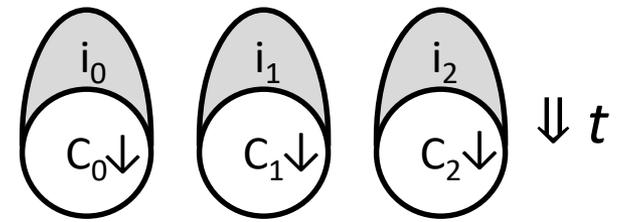
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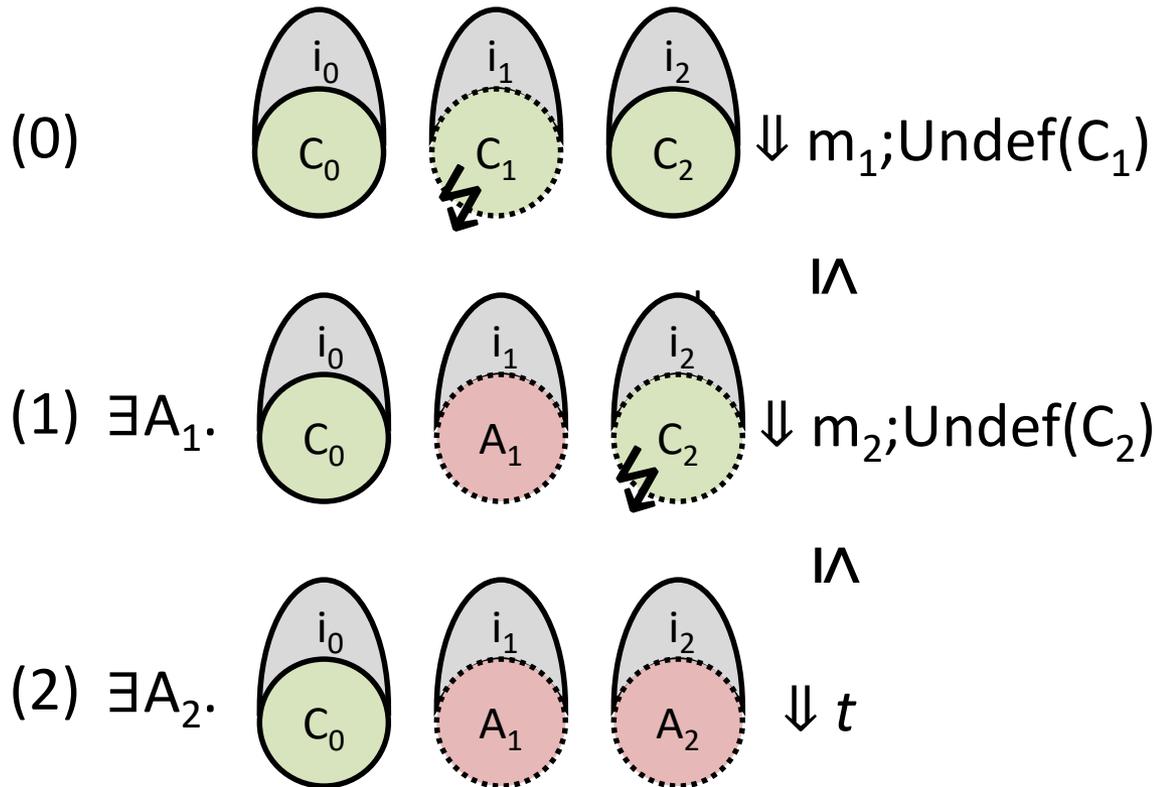
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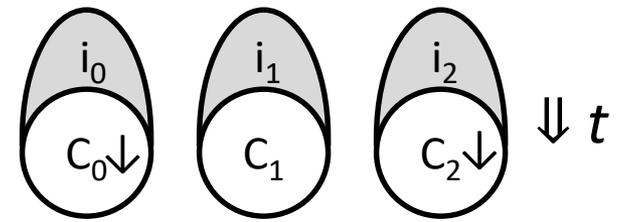
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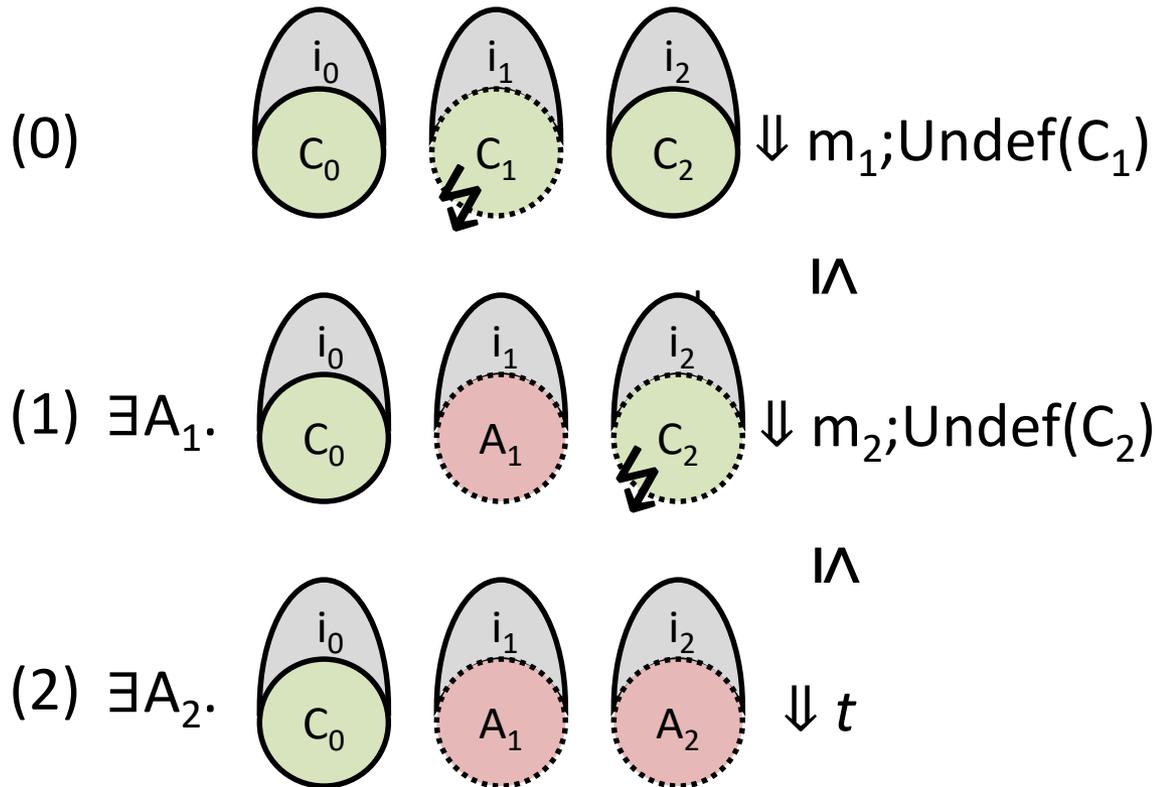
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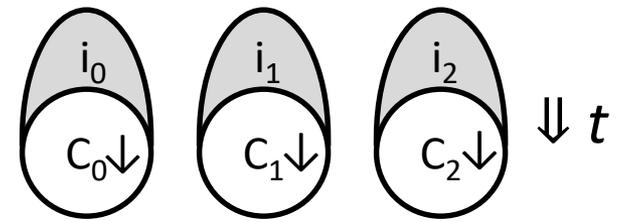
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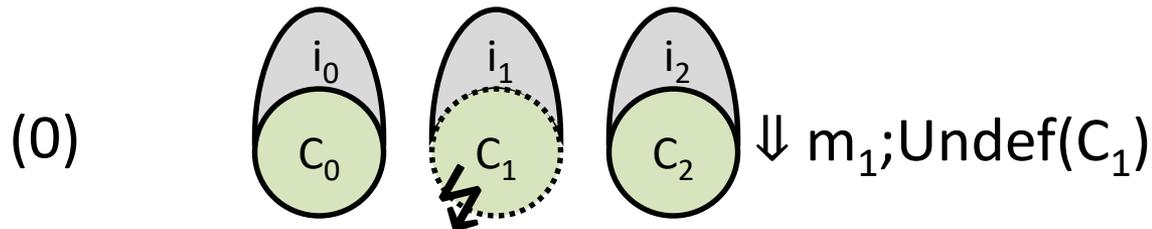
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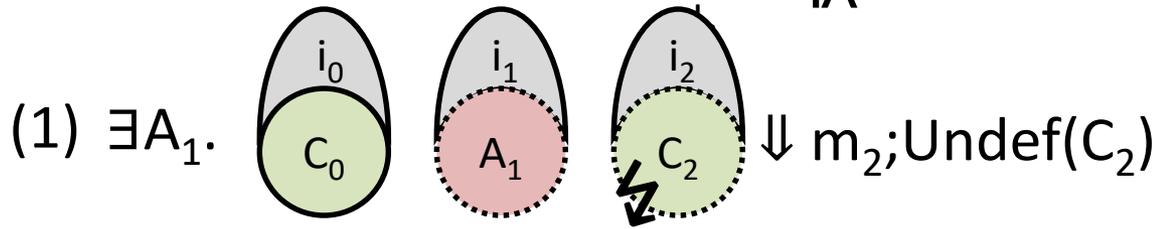
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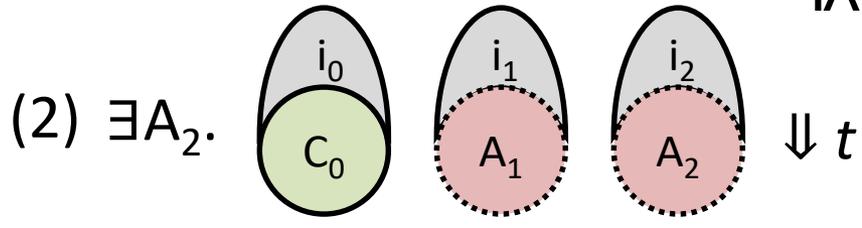
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Trace is very helpful
 - detect undefined behavior
 - rewind execution

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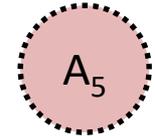
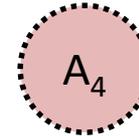
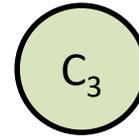
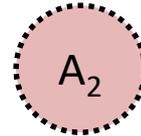
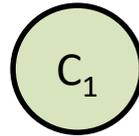
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Now we know what these words mean!

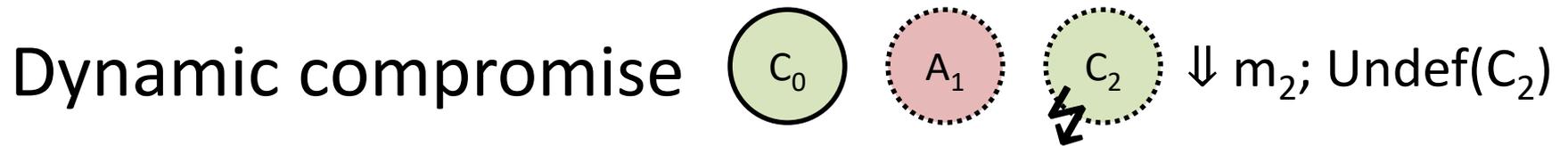
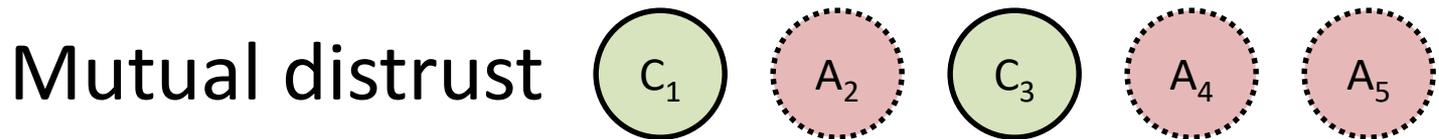
(at least in the setting of compartmentalization for unsafe low-level languages)

Mutual distrust



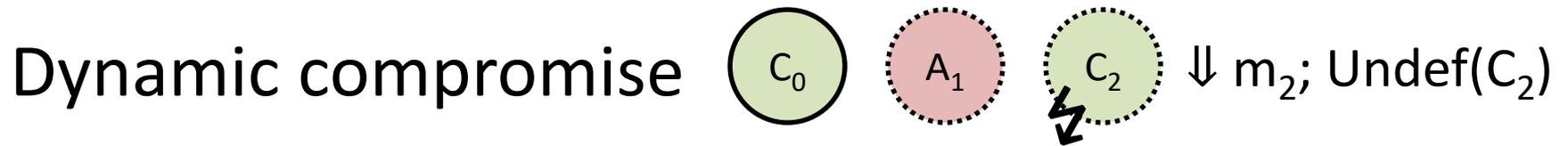
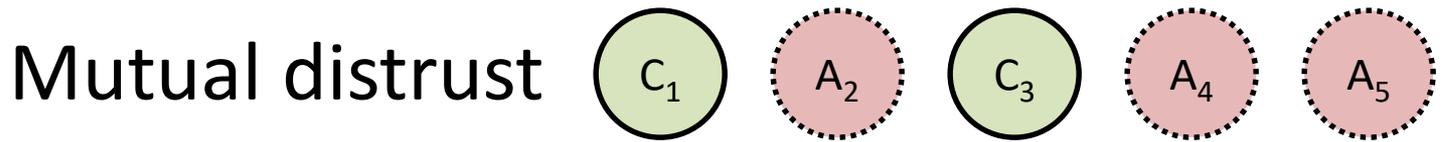
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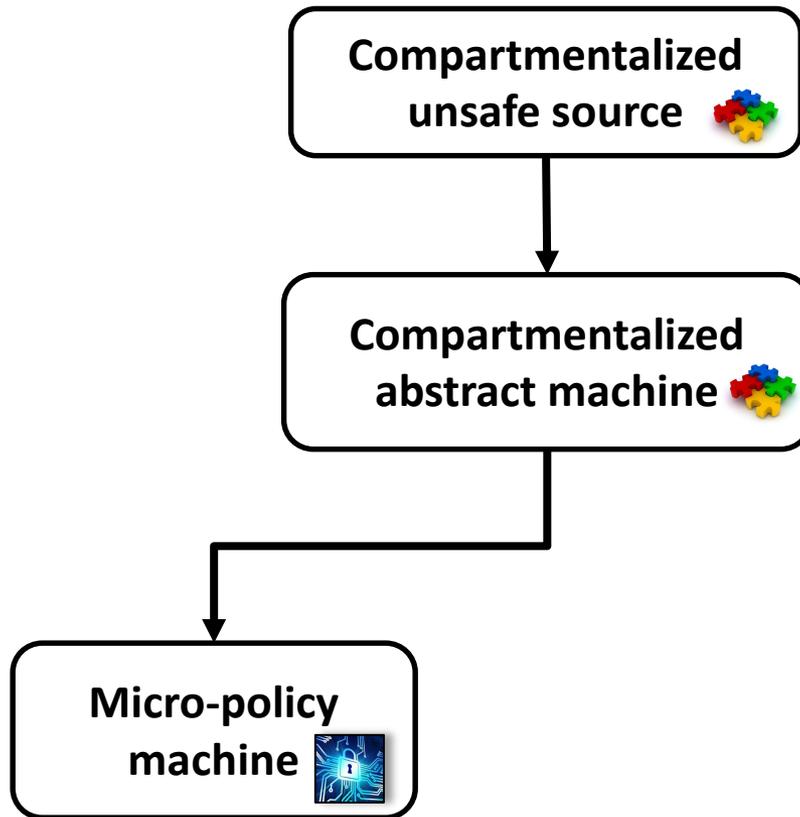


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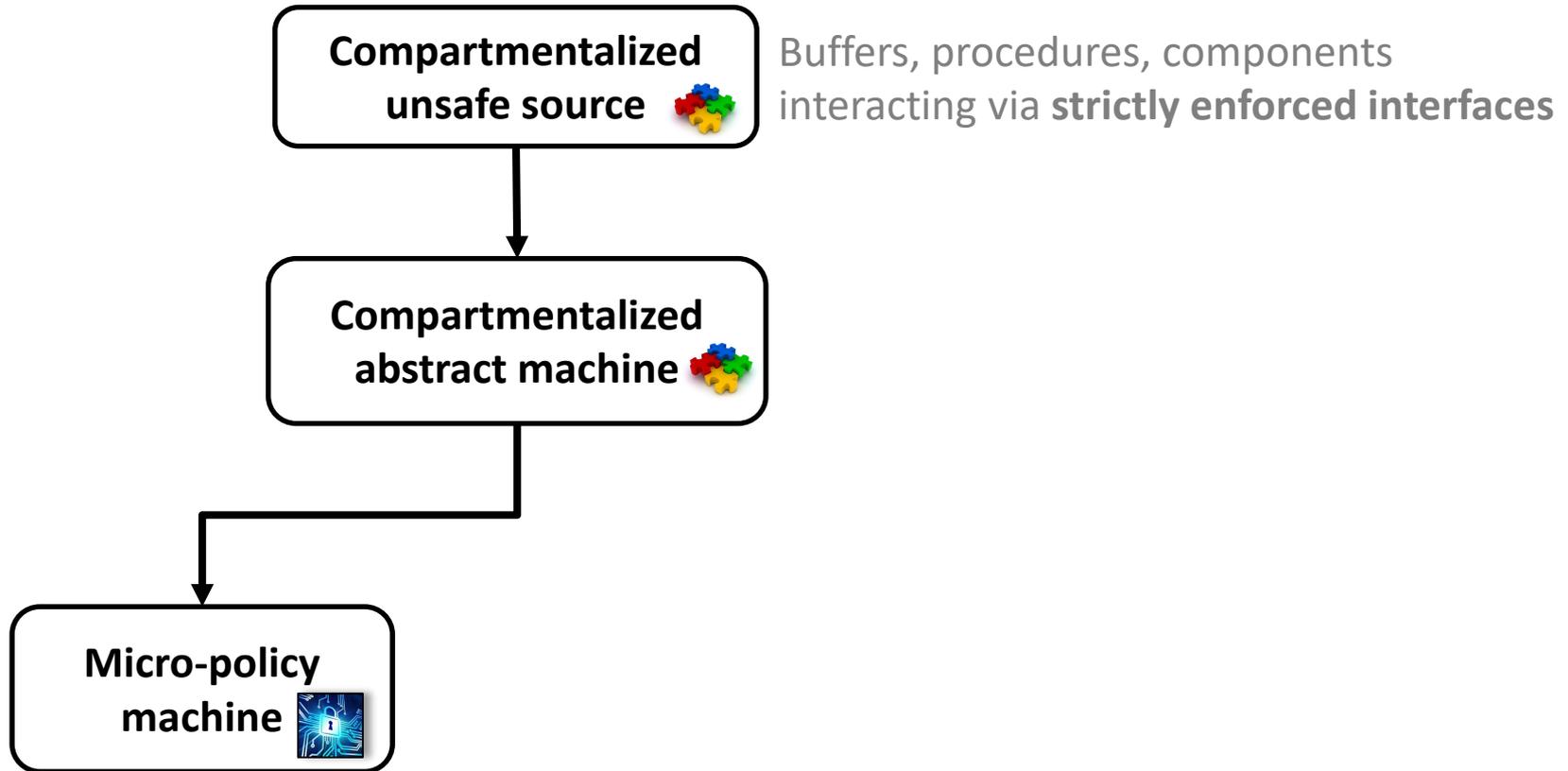
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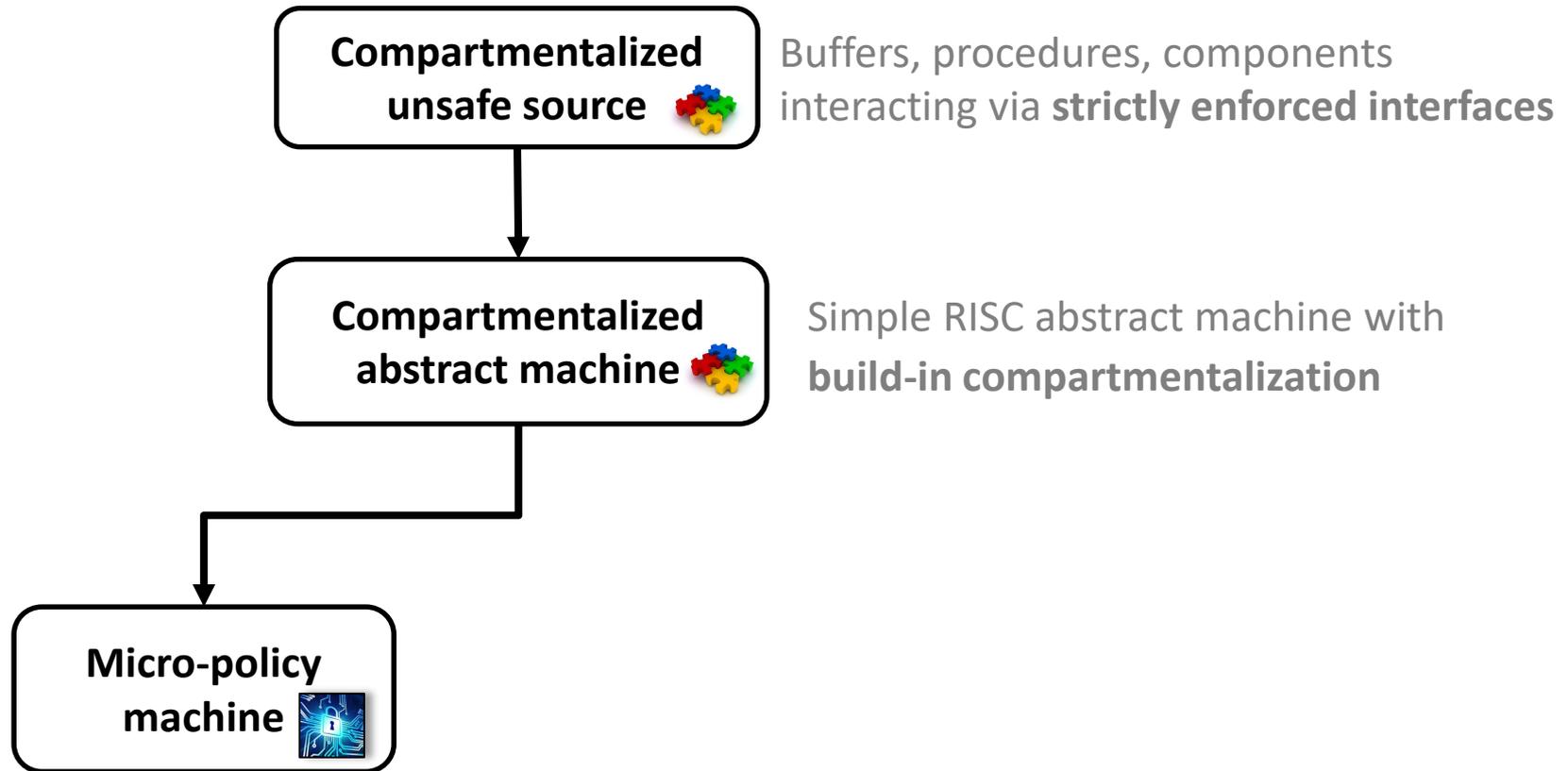
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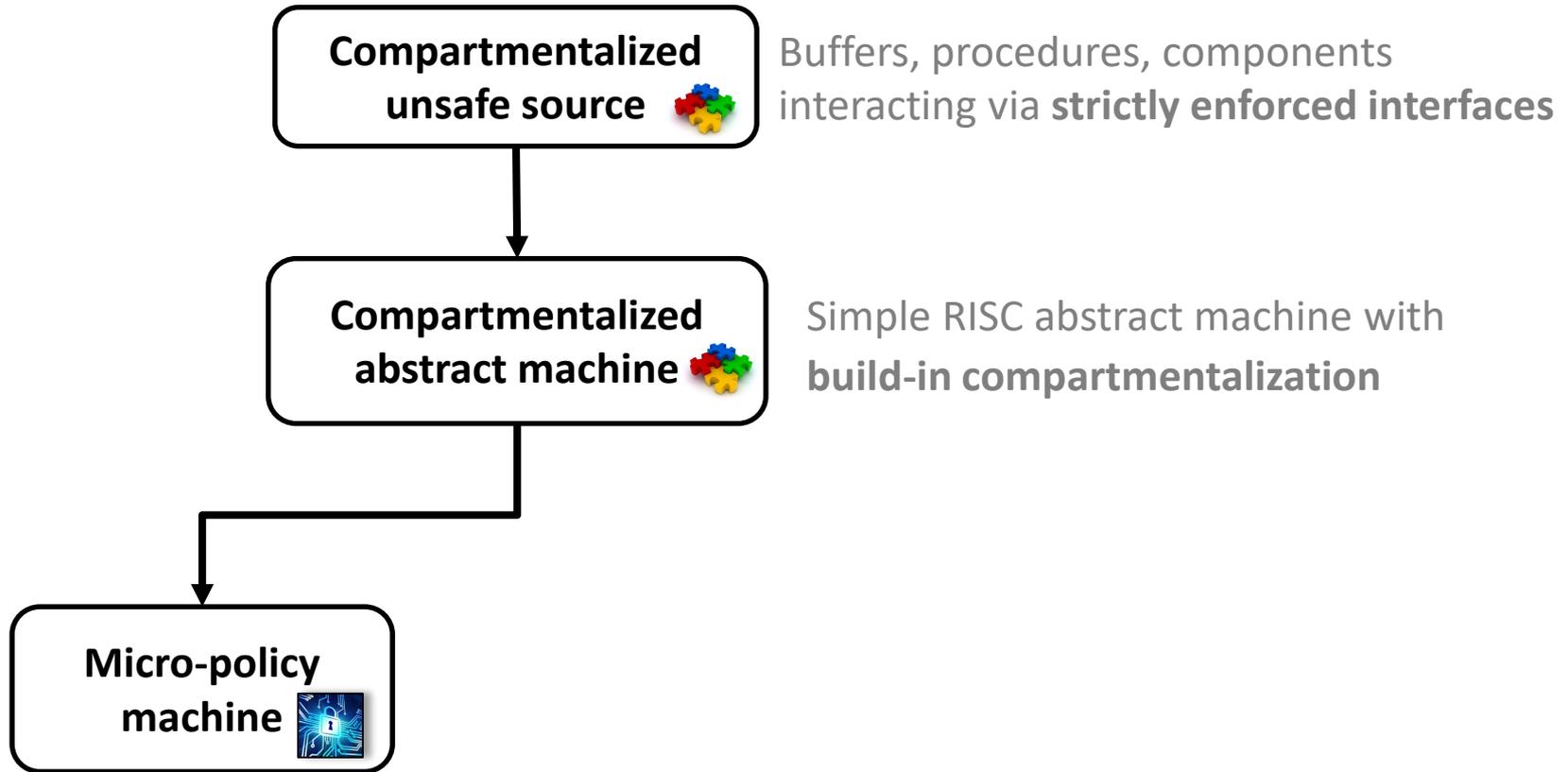
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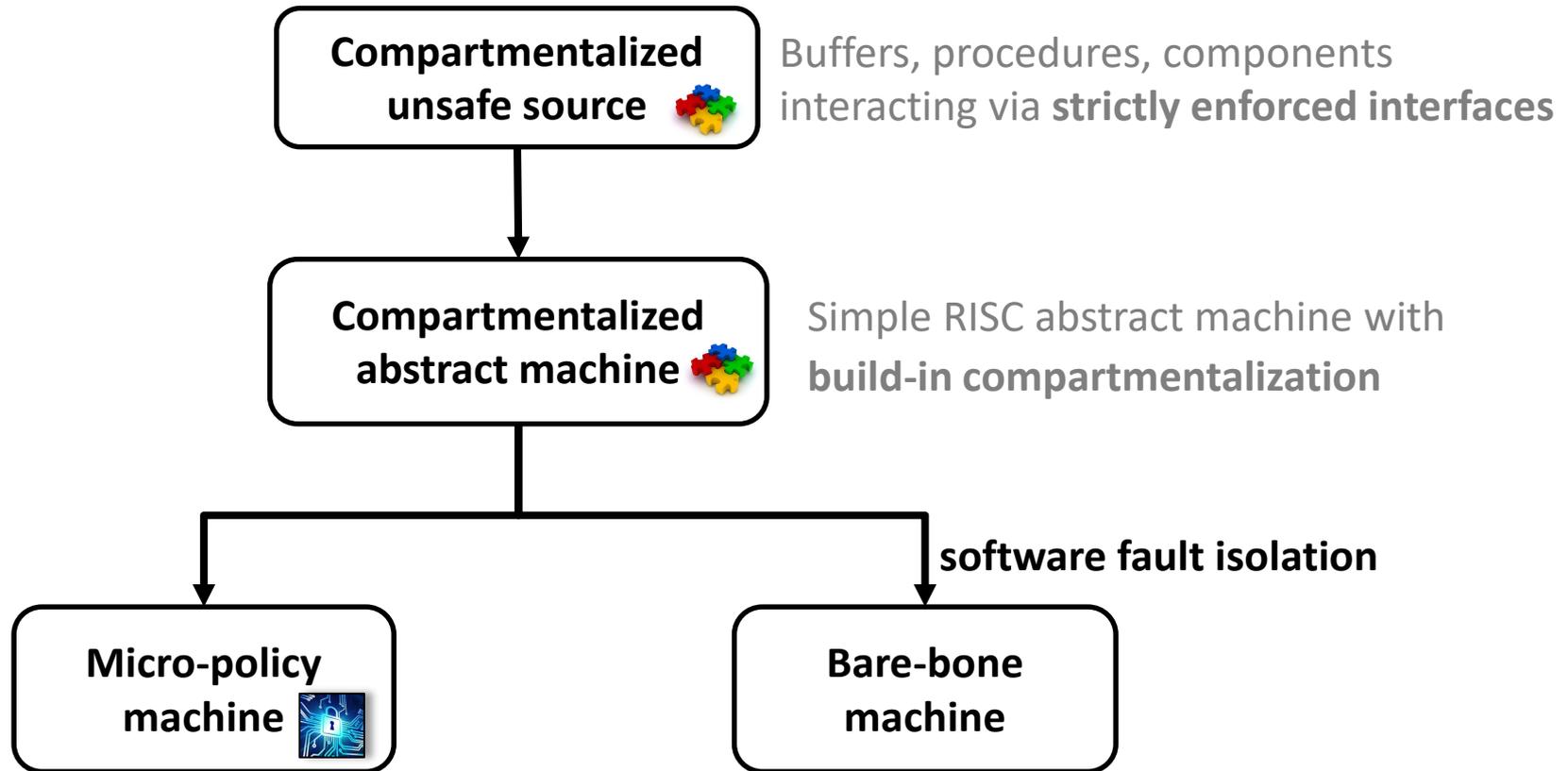
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Towards Secure Compilation Chain

(mostly)
Verified
(in Coq)



**Compartmentalized
unsafe source** 

Buffers, procedures, components
interacting via **strictly enforced interfaces**

**Compartmentalized
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Simple RISC abstract machine with
build-in compartmentalization

software fault isolation

**Micro-policy
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**Bare-bone
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- C with protected components and memory safety

- 2. Enforce secure interoperability with unsafe code**

- ASM, C, and Low*

[= safe C subset embedded in F* for verification]

Goal: achieve secure compilation at scale

Low* language
(safe C subset in F*)

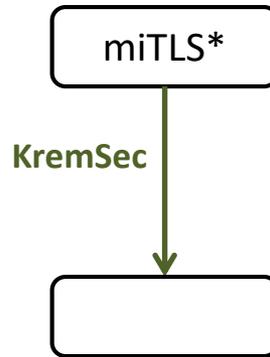
miTLS*

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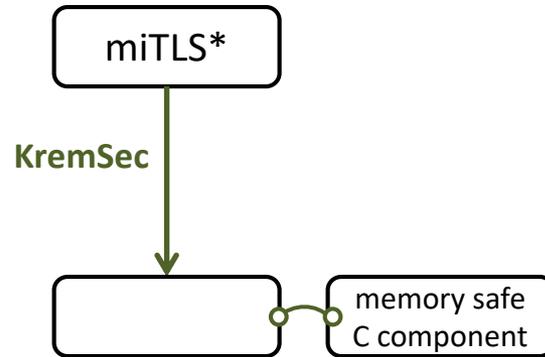
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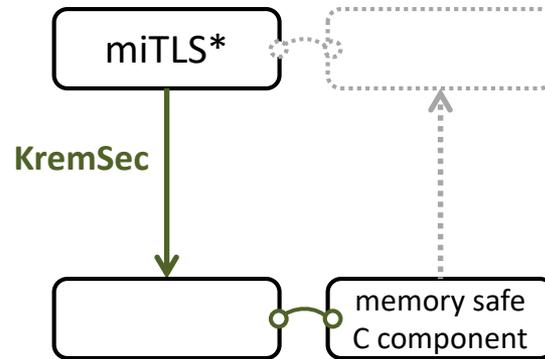
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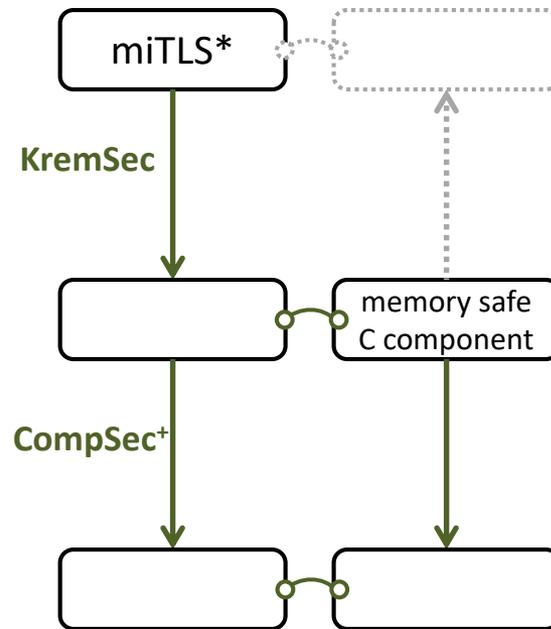


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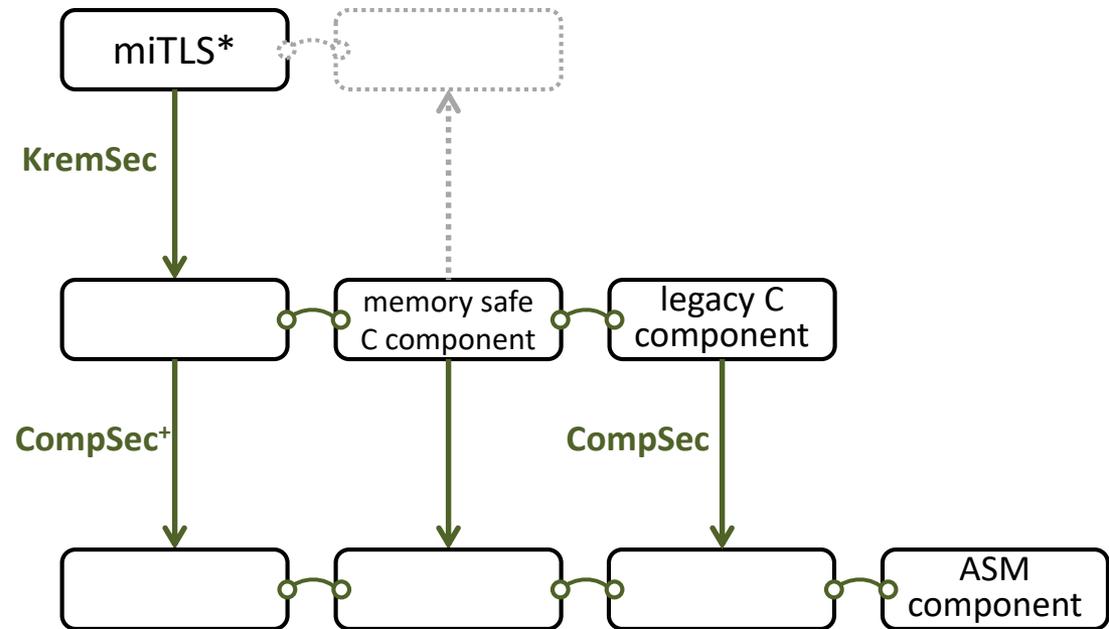


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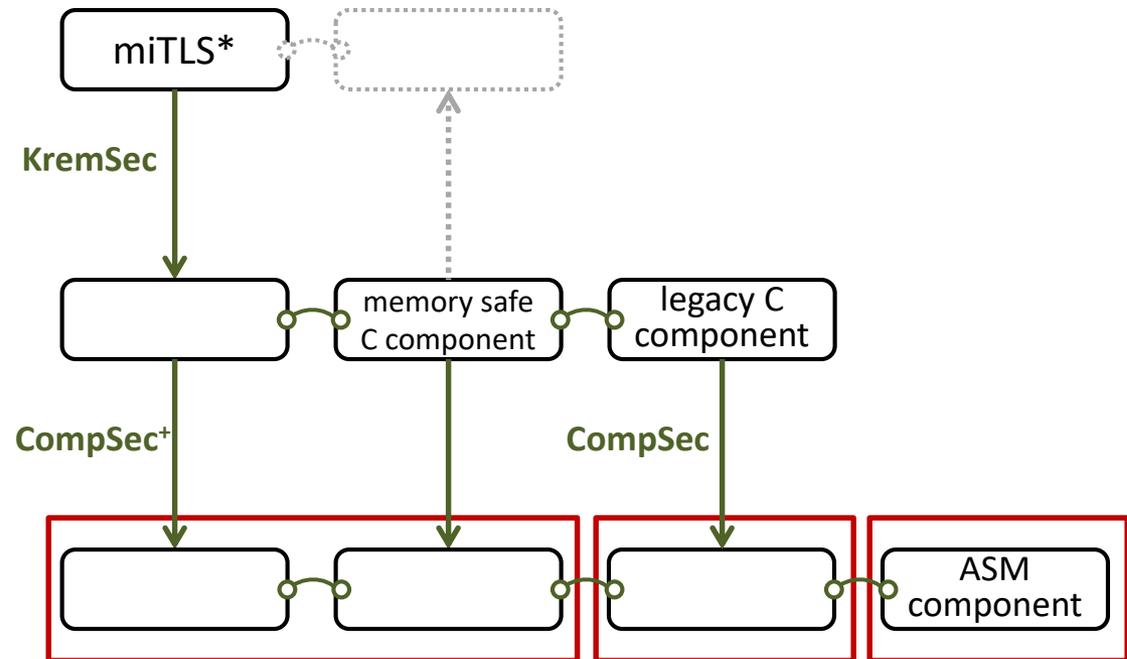


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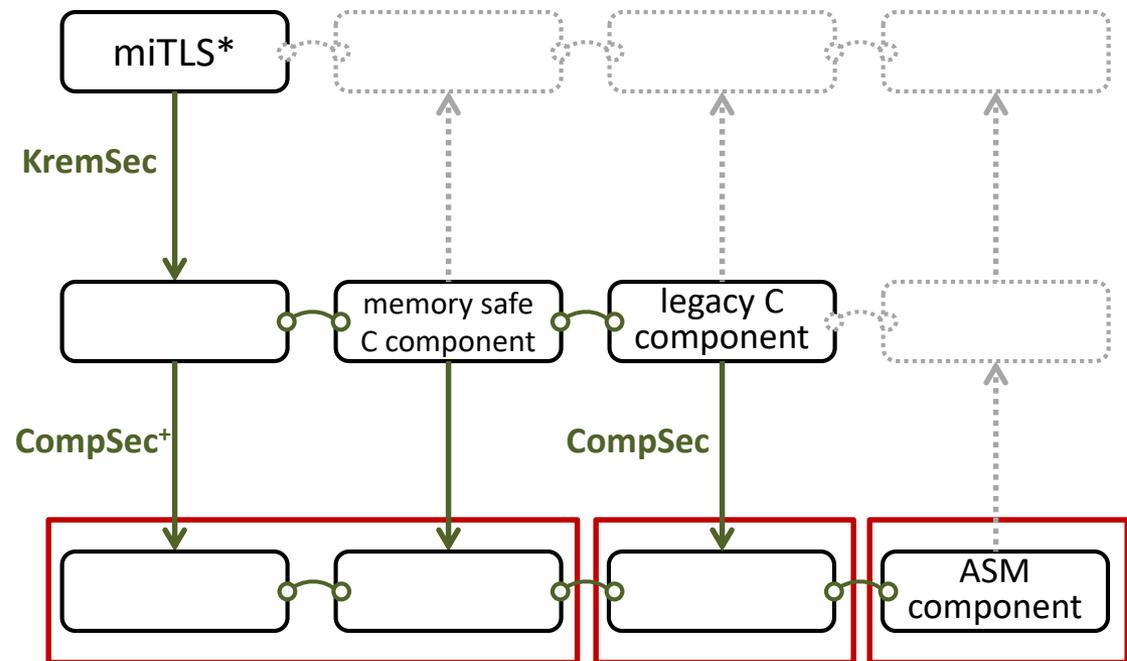
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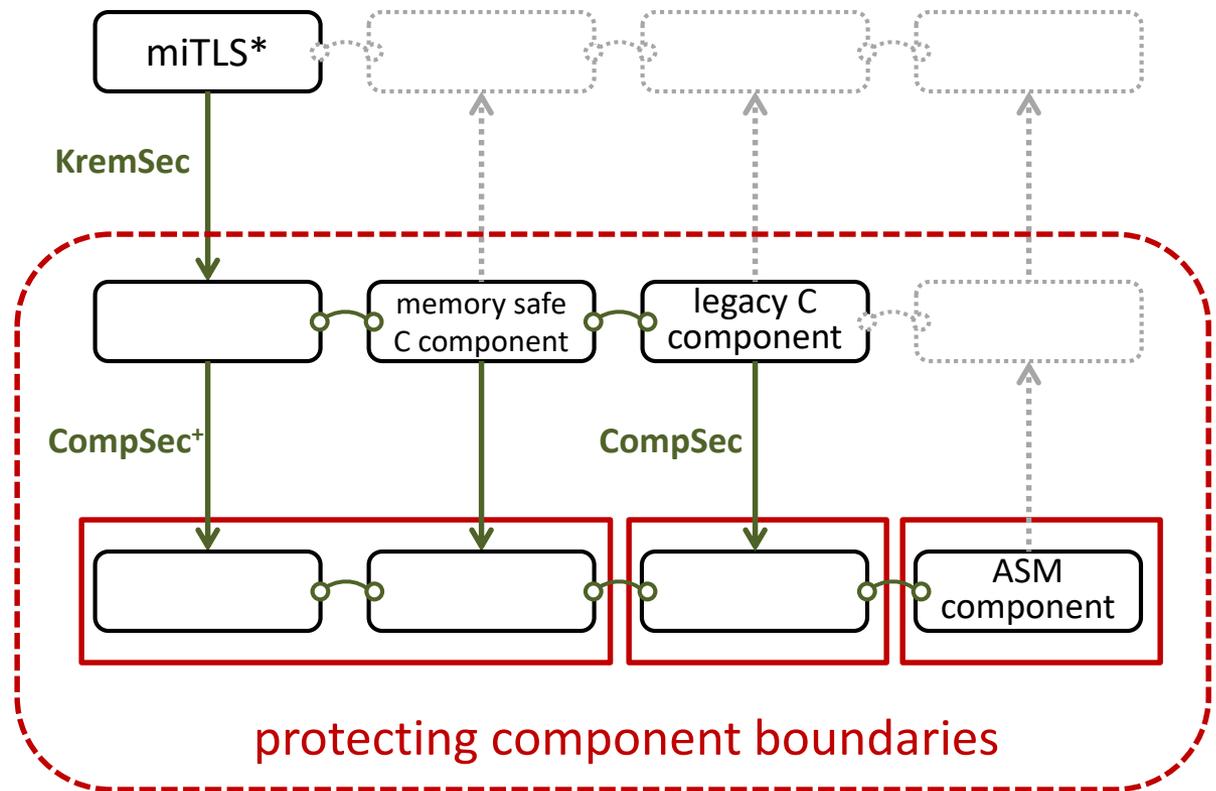
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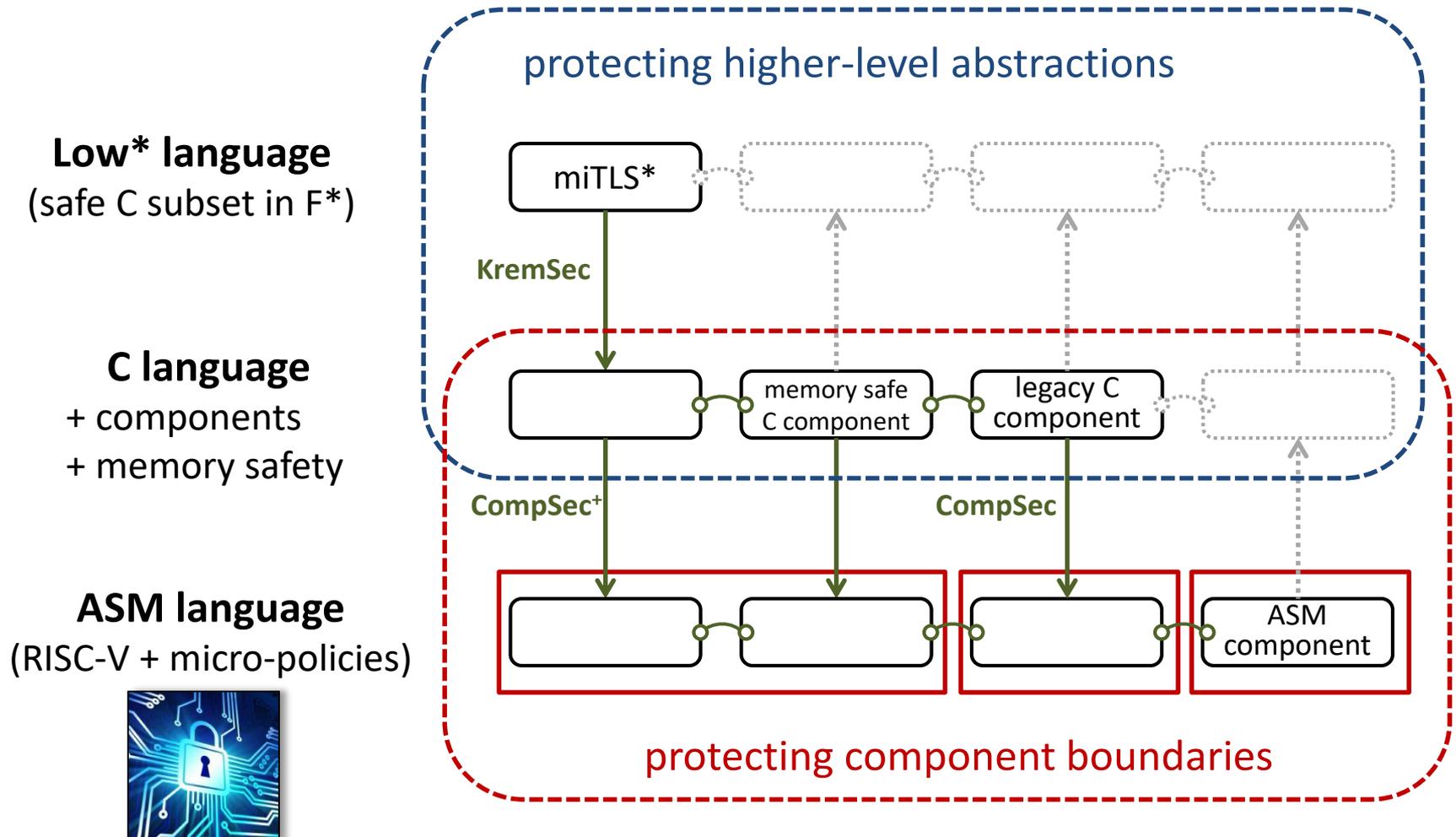
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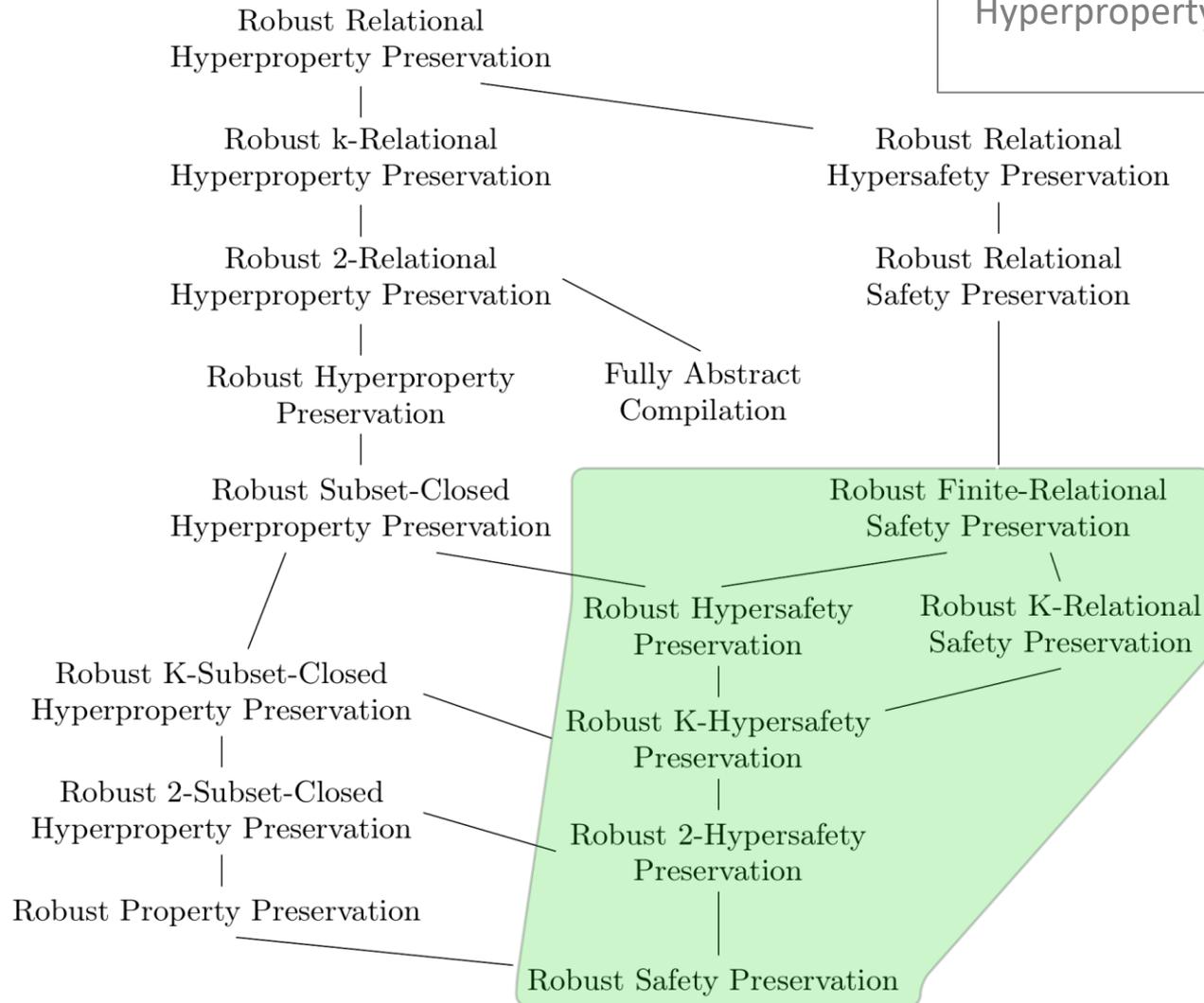


Beyond robust safety preservation

Legend Trace property = set of traces
Hyperproperty = set of sets of traces

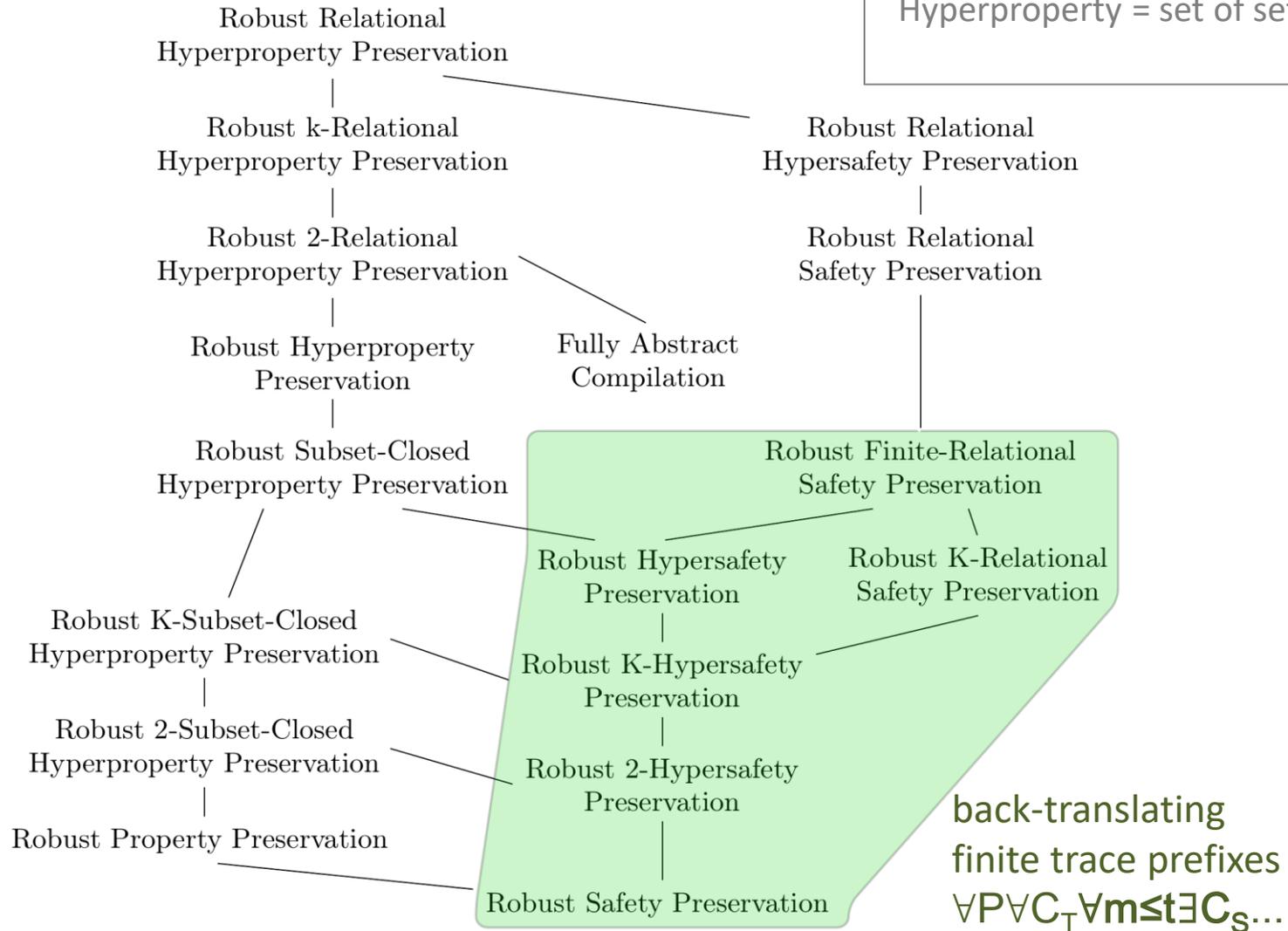
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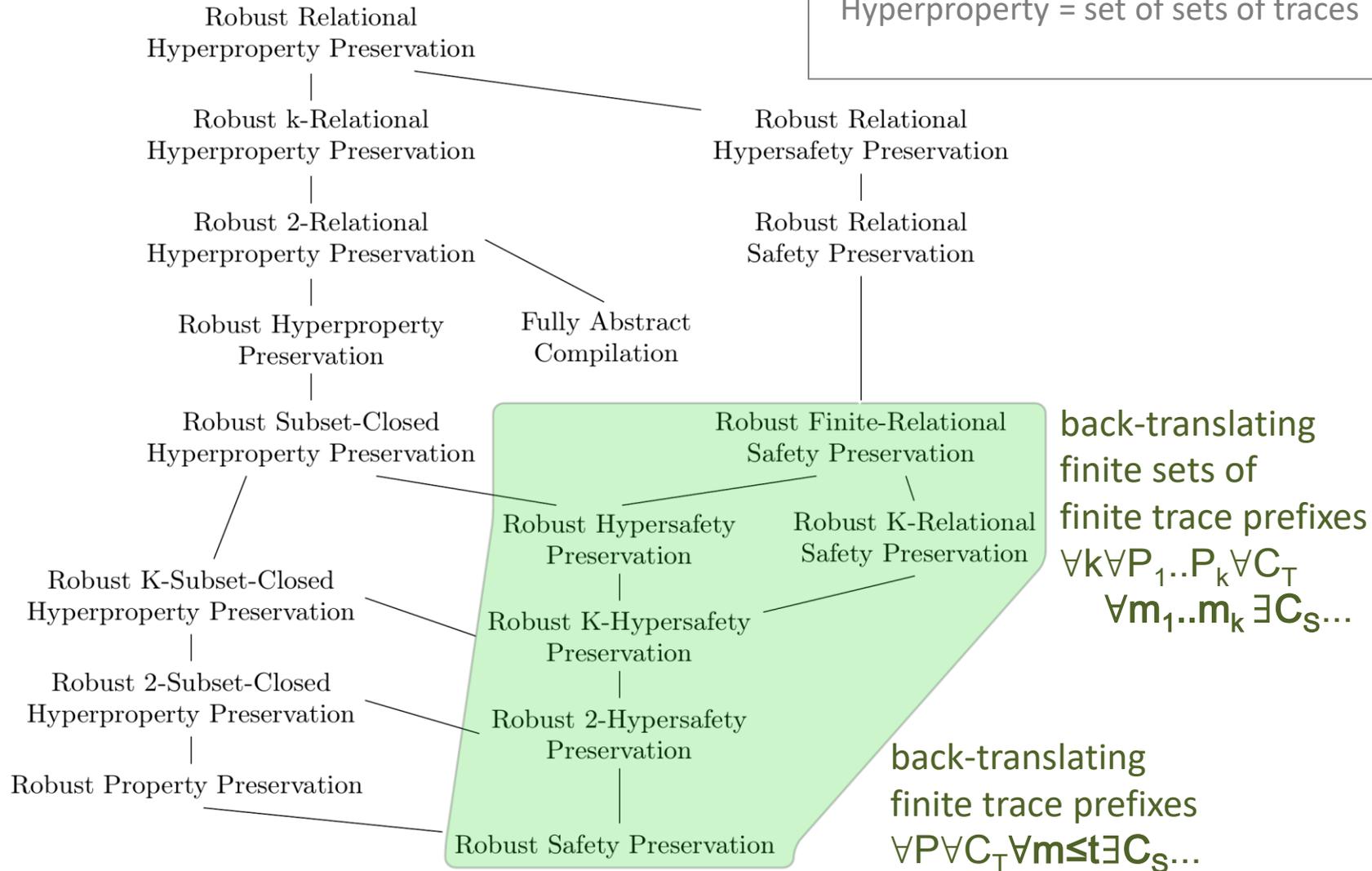
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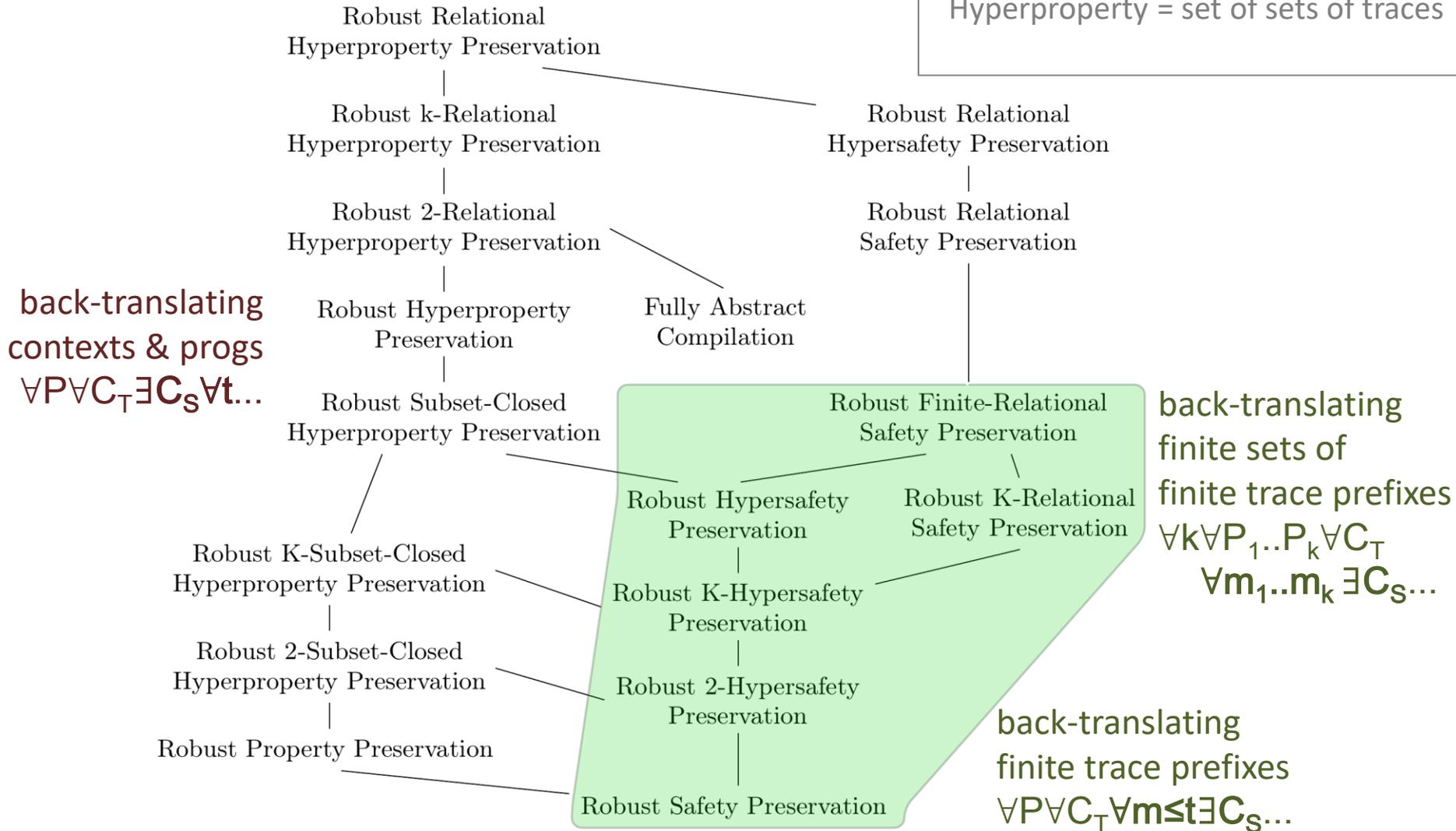
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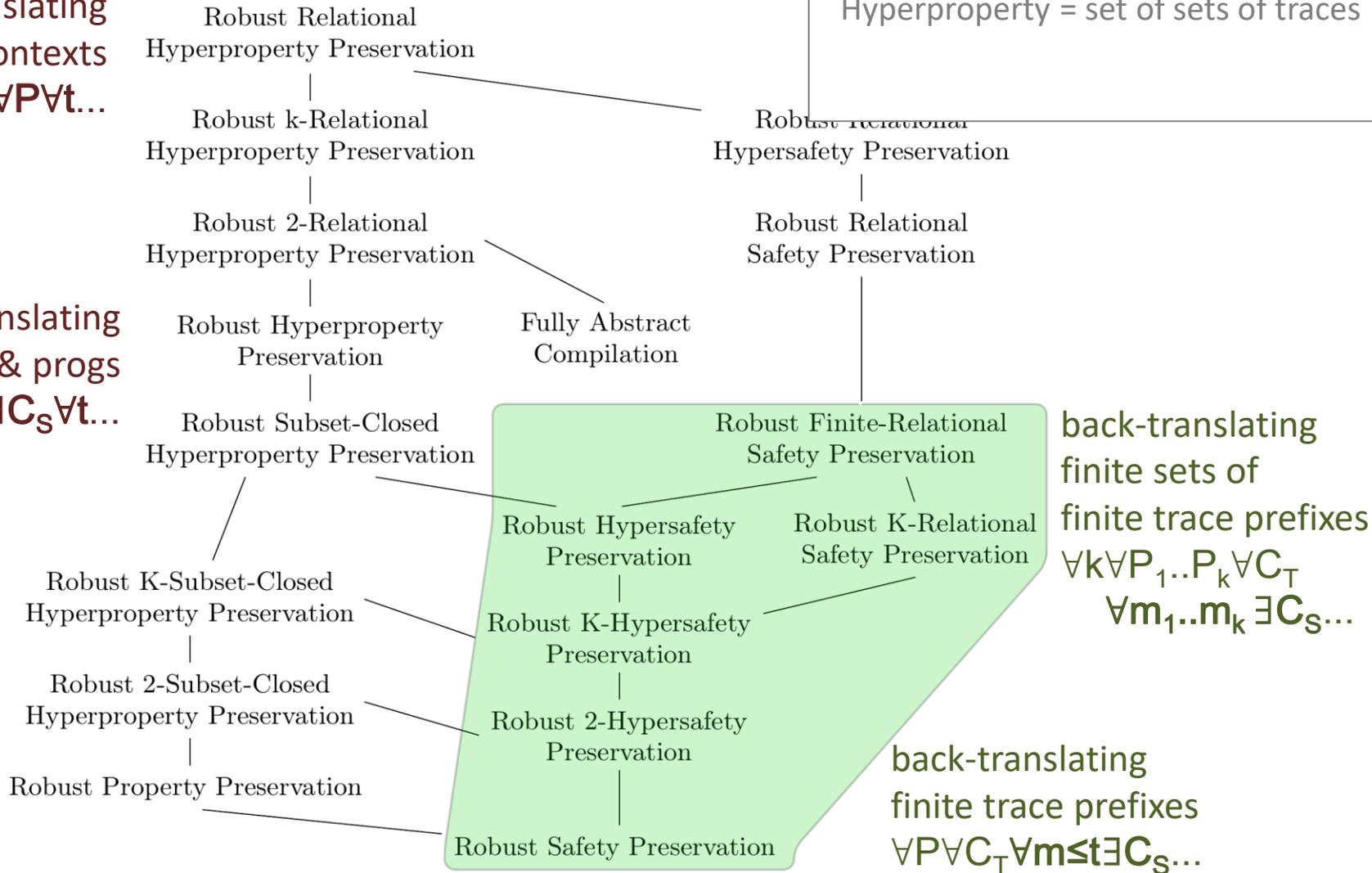


Beyond robust safety preservation

back-translating contexts
 $\forall C_T \exists C_S \forall P \forall t \dots$

back-translating contexts & progs
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- **Building a community**

- Workshop on Principles of Secure Compilation (PriSC) @ POPL
- Dagstuhl Seminar on Secure Compilation in May