

# Concolic Testing

*Dynamic Symbolic Execution*

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# Overview

1 Code Example

2 Unit Testing

- Random Testing
- Symbolic Execution

3 Concolic Testing

- DART

4 Summary

# Overview

## 1 Code Example

## 2 Unit Testing

- Random Testing
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# Program Under Test

- Developers writing code [1] ...

```
1 f(int x, int y) {
2     if (x*x*x > 0) {
3         if (x > 0 && y == 10) {
4             fail();
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6     } else {
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- ... need to test

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# Unit Testing

- Ensure overall software quality
- Individual components (e.g. functions)

# Unit Testing

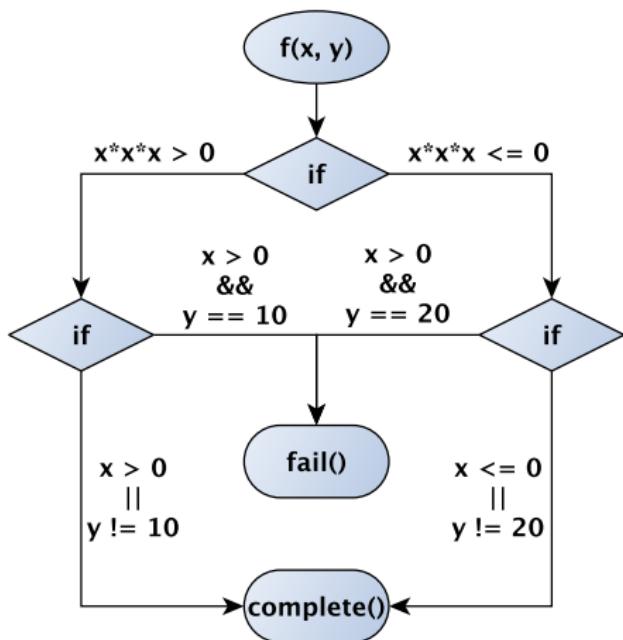
- Ensure overall software quality
- Individual components (e.g. functions)
- Goals
  - ▶ Detect errors
  - ▶ Check corner cases
  - ▶ Provide high code coverage (e.g. **path coverage**)

# Path Coverage

# Path Coverage

Code Example  $\Rightarrow$  Control Flow  $\Rightarrow$  Execution Paths

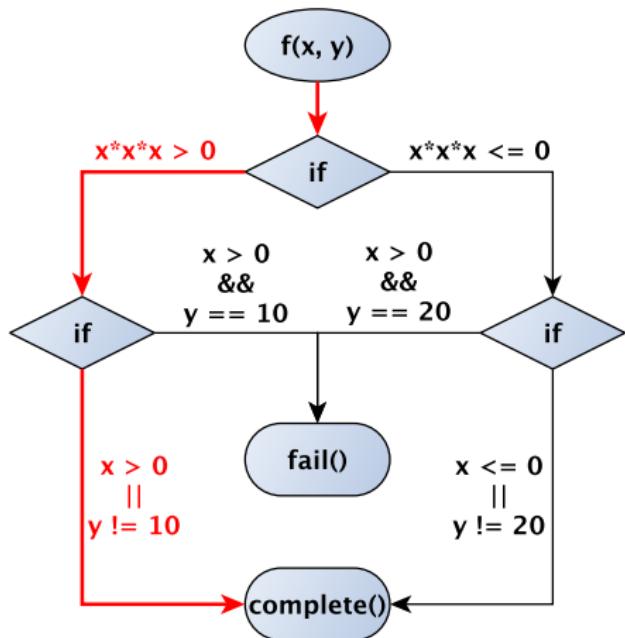
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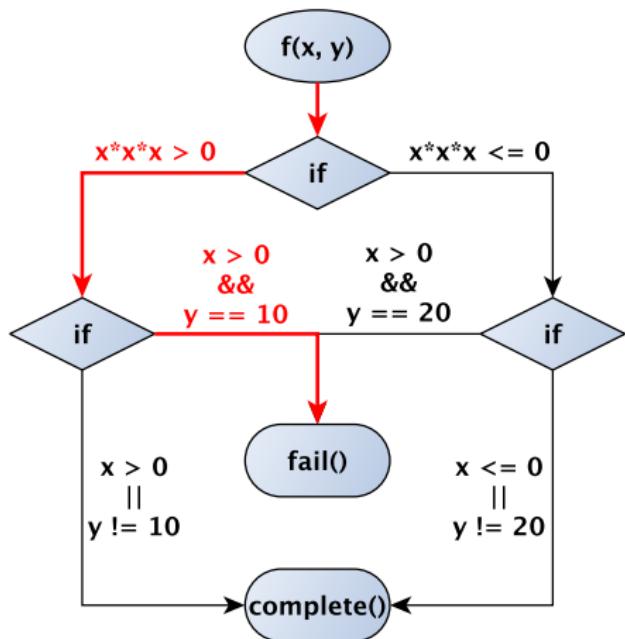
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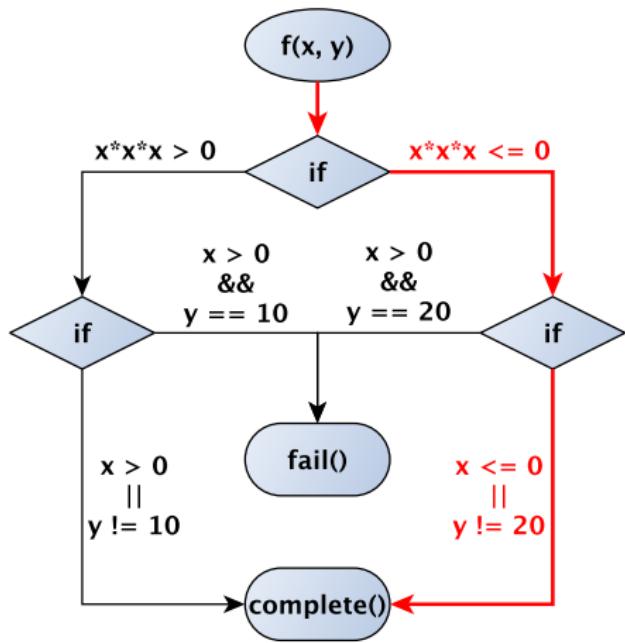
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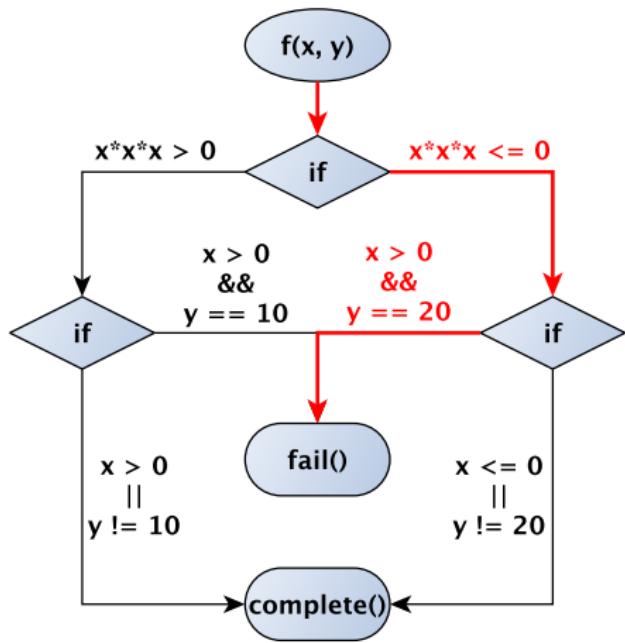
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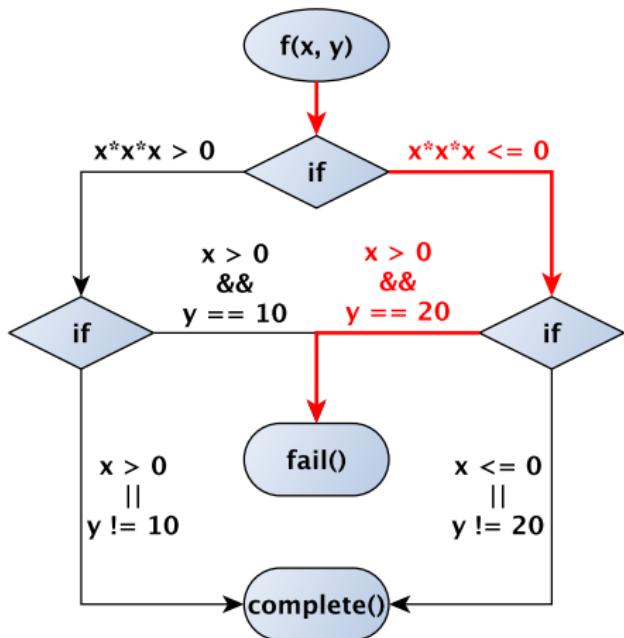
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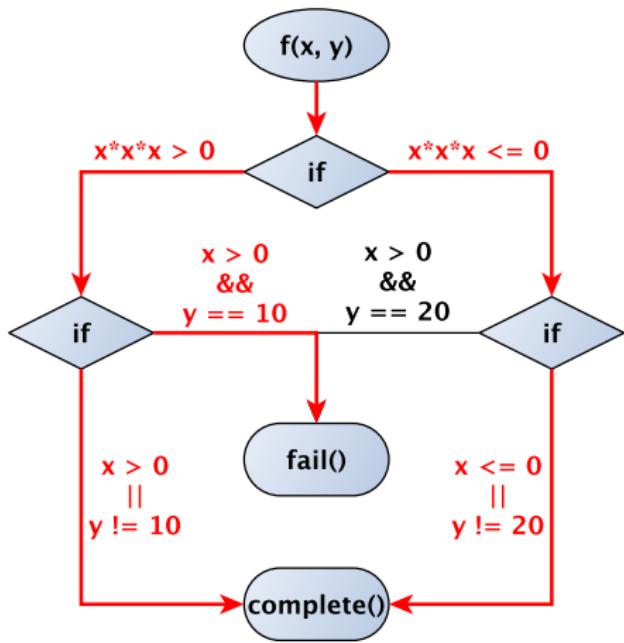
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Contradiction:  $x \leq 0 \&\& x > 0 \Rightarrow$  not executable

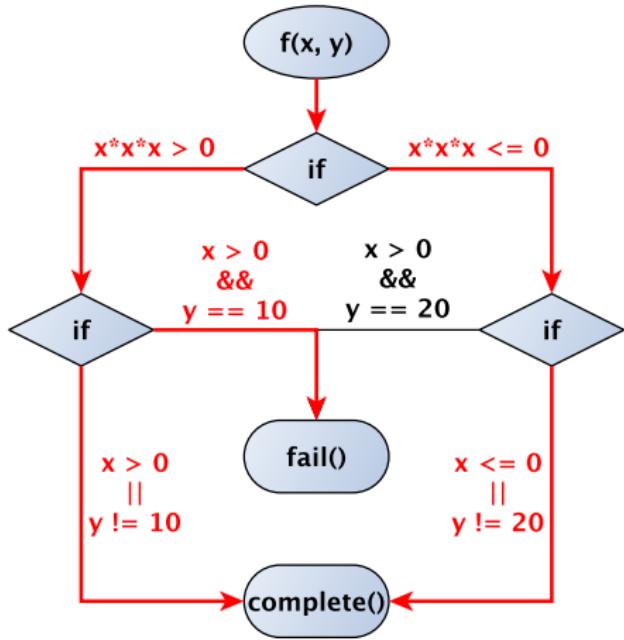
# Path Coverage

- 3 possible execution paths
- Corresponding path conditions



# Path Coverage

- 3 possible execution paths
- Corresponding path conditions
- Optimal: cover all paths
- Find input set to run program along different paths



# Random Testing

# Random Testing

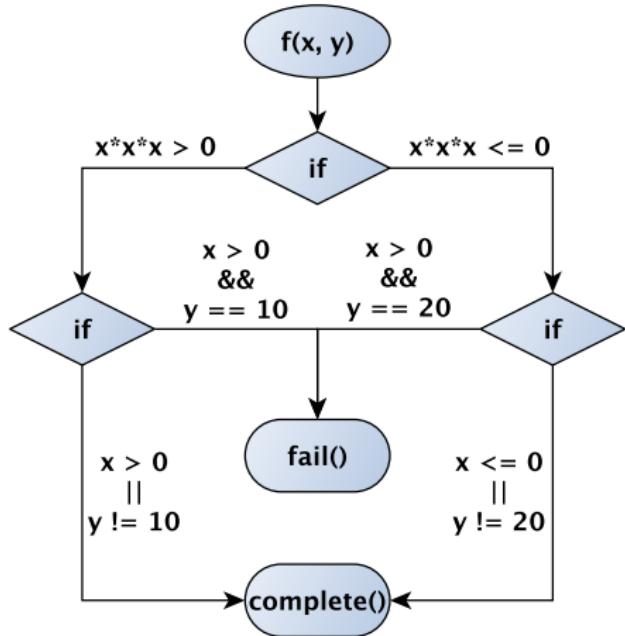
- Most naive way of testing
- Generate random inputs
- Concrete input values
- Dynamic execution of program
- Observe behavior
- Compare against expected behavior
  - e.g. output or "do not crash"

# Random Testing on Code Example

# Random Testing on Code Example

- Random inputs for

```
f(int x, int y)
```

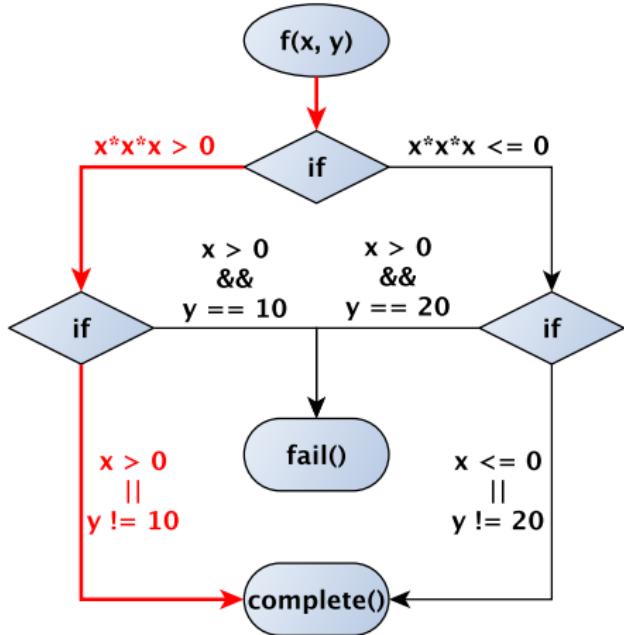


# Random Testing on Code Example

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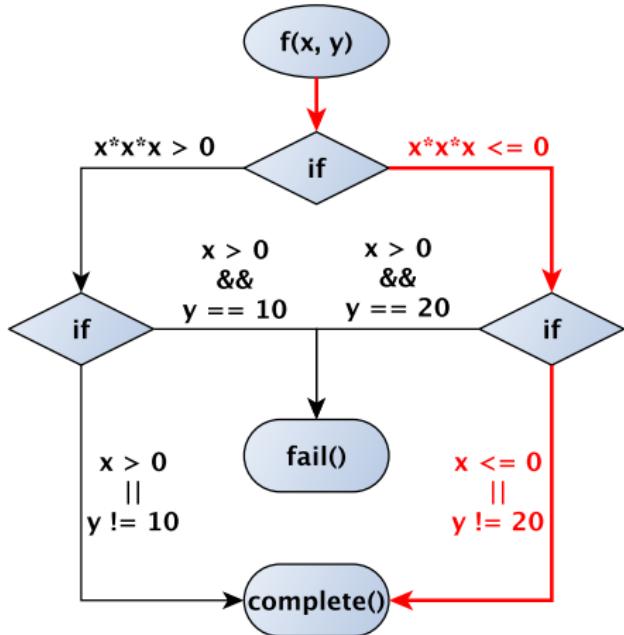
```
f(int x, int y)
```

- $x = 700, y = 500$



# Random Testing on Code Example

- Random inputs for  
`f(int x, int y)`
- $x = 700, y = 500$
- $x = -700, y = 500$



# Random Testing on Code Example

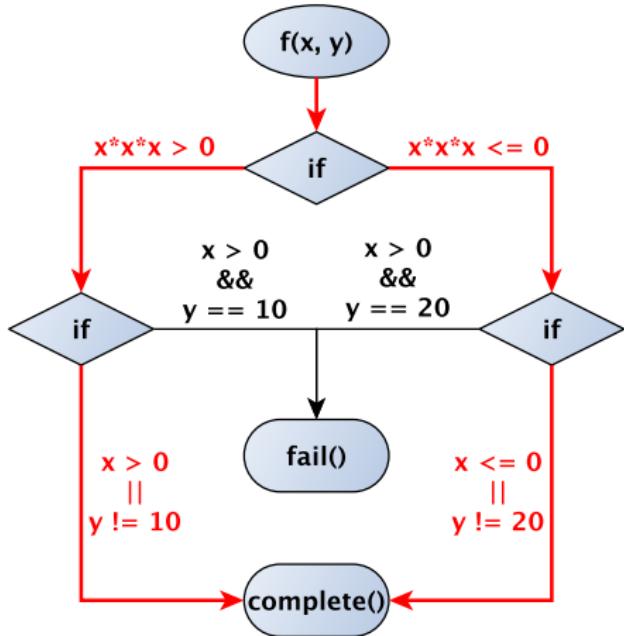
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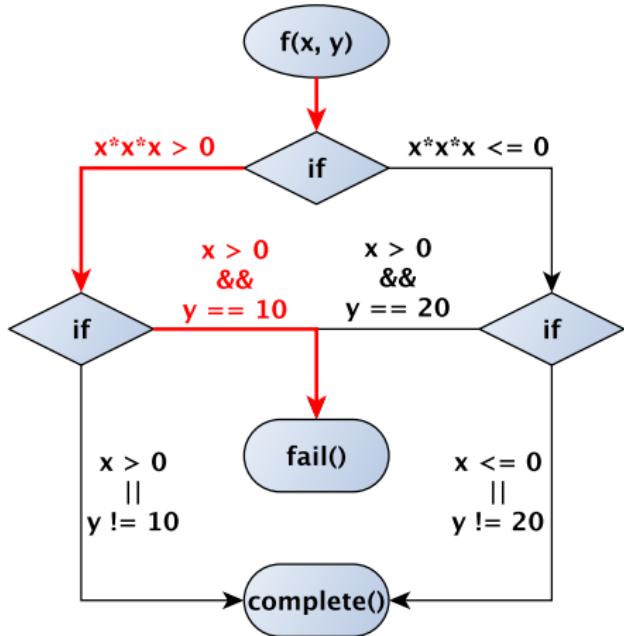
- Similar values are very likely



# Random Testing on Code Example

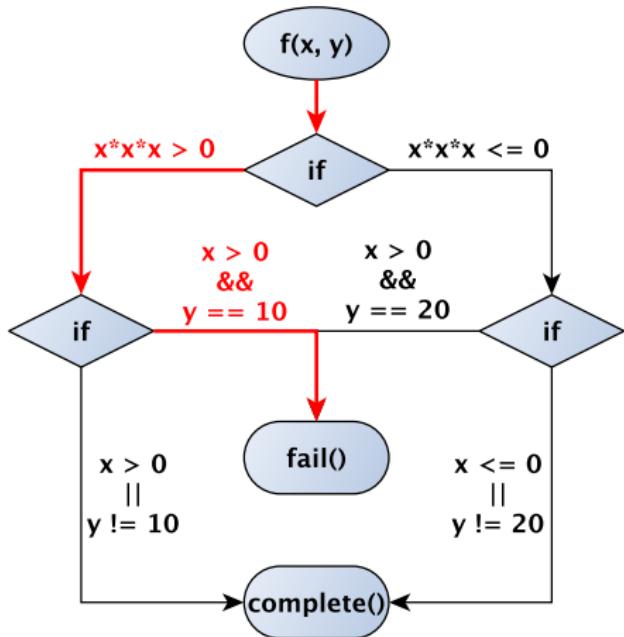
- Necessary inputs

$x > 0, y = 10$



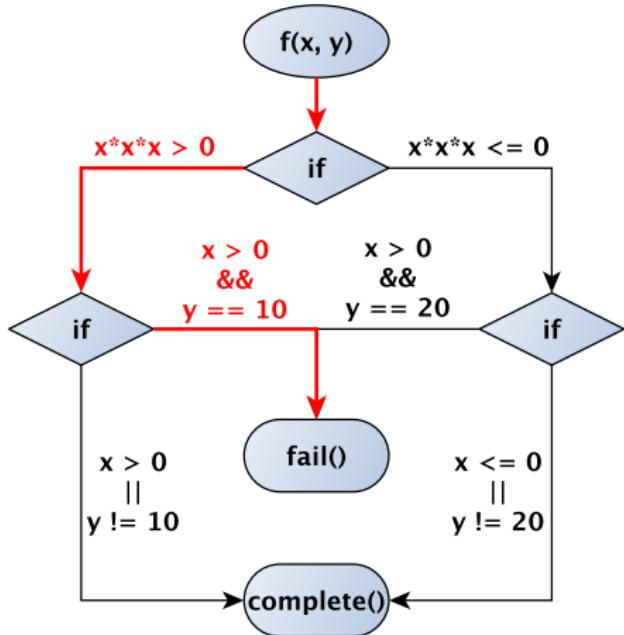
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 $x > 0, y = 10$
- Assume 32-bit integers  
 $\Rightarrow 1 \text{ out of } 2^{32}$



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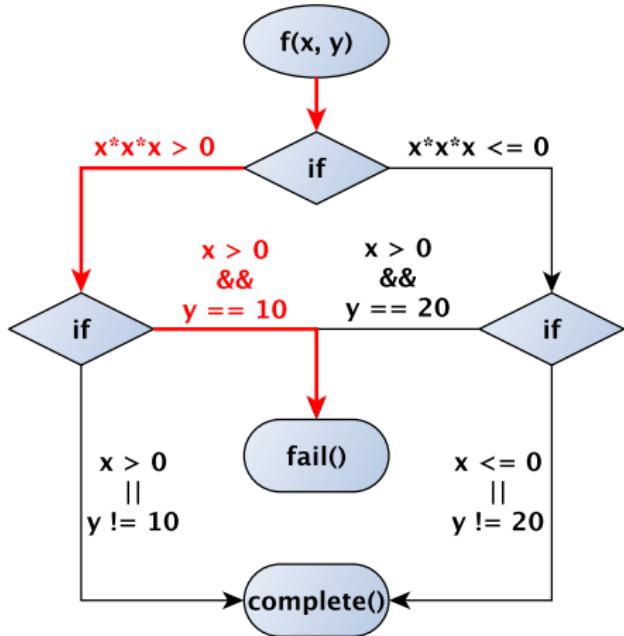


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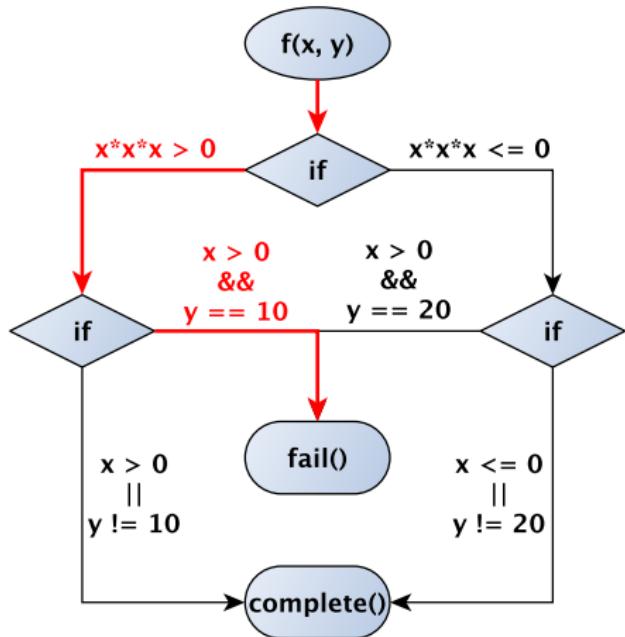
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- Long run ... ☕



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- Very low probability
- Long run ... ☕
- Another technique!



# Symbolic Execution [2] & [3]

- **Symbols** instead of concrete values

## Symbolic Execution [2] & [3]

- Symbols instead of concrete values
- Connected to path constraints (or path conditions)

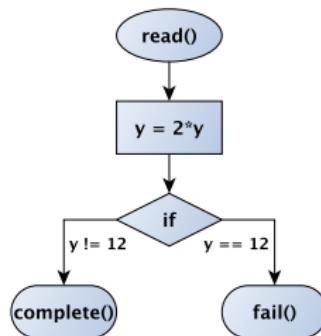
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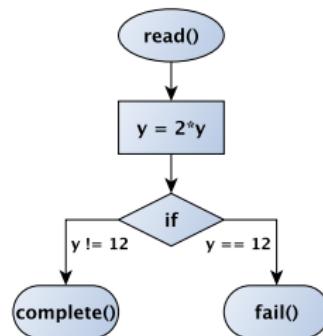
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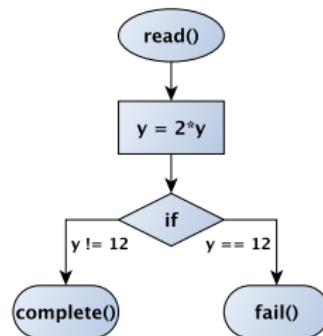
- Introduces symbol s for read()

$$y = \text{read}() \Rightarrow y = s$$

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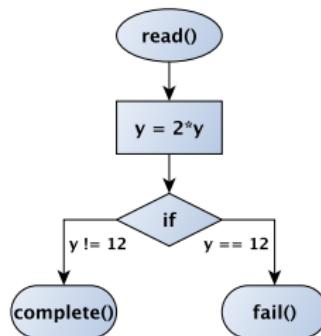
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- Branching point in line 4

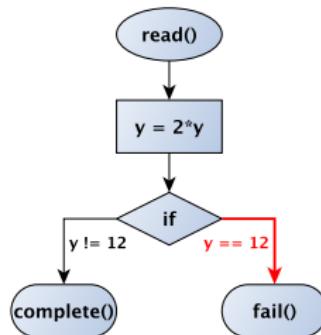
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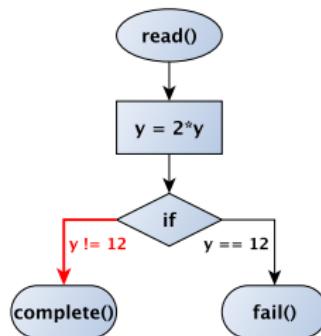
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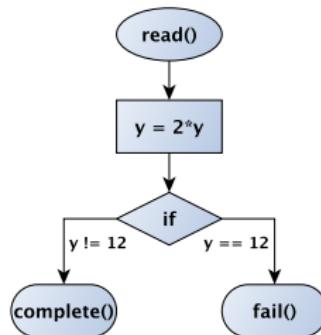
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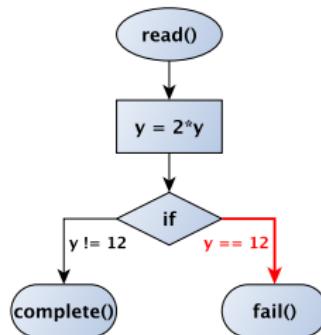


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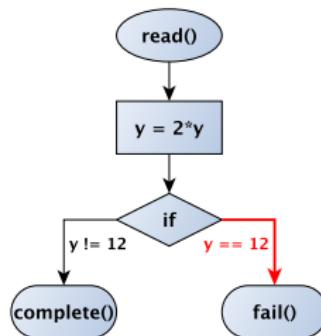


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- Constraint solver yields 6

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⇒ Promising for code example!

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- Non-linear constraint

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- Undecidable problem
  - for most constraint solvers
  - ⇒ Cannot reason about

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⇒ How to improve?

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- Combination of two techniques
  - ▶ Random Testing
    - ★ Concrete values
    - ★ Dynamic execution
  - ▶ Symbolic Execution
    - ★ Symbols
    - ★ Static analysis

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- Combination of two techniques
  - ▶ Random Testing
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- Concolic  $\Leftarrow$  **Concrete & Symbolic**

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- Combination of two techniques
  - ▶ Random Testing
    - ★ Concrete values
    - ★ Dynamic execution
  - ▶ Symbolic Execution
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    - ★ Static analysis
- Concolic  $\Leftarrow$  **Concrete & Symbolic**
- Symbolic Execution beside Random Testing  
 $\Rightarrow$  Execute dynamically & explore symbolically

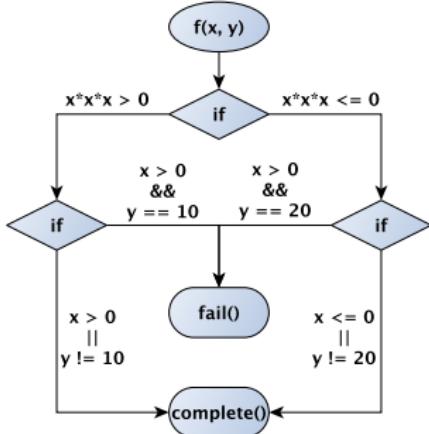
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    - ★ Dynamic execution
  - ▶ Symbolic Execution
    - ★ Symbols
    - ★ Static analysis
- Concolic  $\Leftarrow$  **Concrete & Symbolic**
- Symbolic Execution beside Random Testing
  - ⇒ Execute dynamically & explore symbolically
- Also: **Dynamic Symbolic Execution**

# DART in Action (1)

## Symbolic Execution

### Dynamic Execution



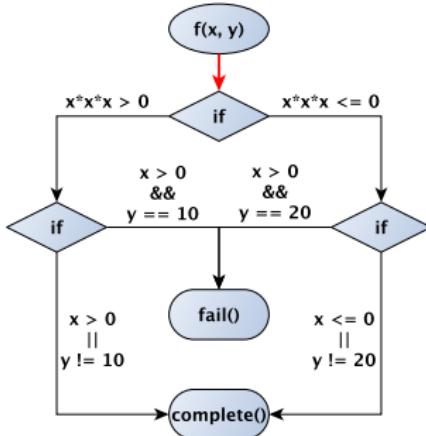
# DART in Action (1)

## Symbolic Execution

### Dynamic Execution

- Random Testing
- Random inputs

$x = 700, y = 500$



# DART in Action (1)

## Dynamic Execution

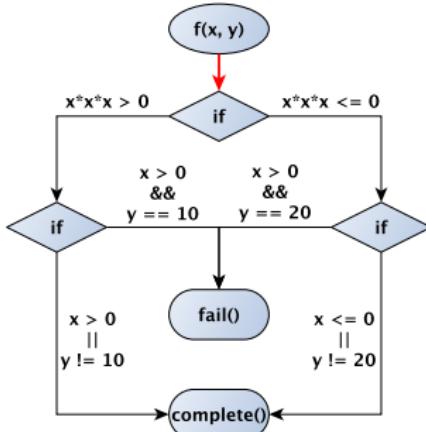
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## Symbolic Execution

- Introduce symbols

$x1 = X, y1 = Y$



# DART in Action (1)

## Symbolic Execution

- Introduce symbols

$x1 = X, y1 = Y$

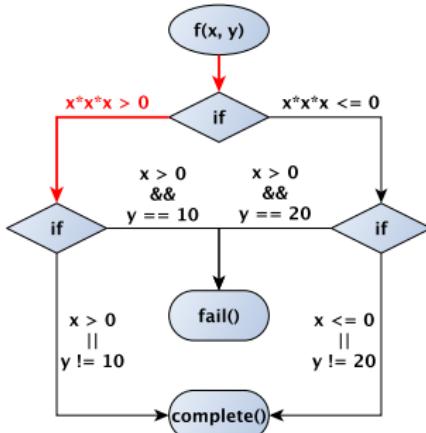
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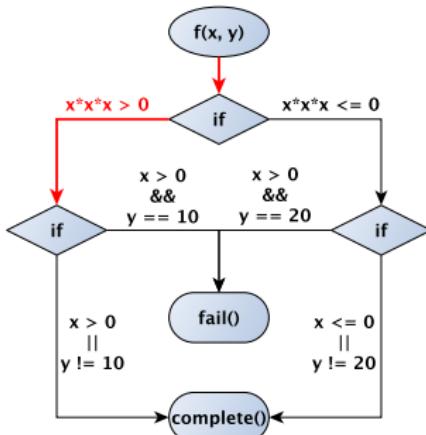
- $x*x*x > 0$



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## Dynamic Execution

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- Random inputs  
 $x = 700, y = 500$
- $x*x*x > 0$



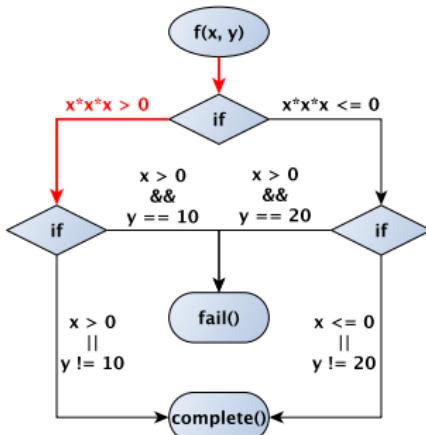
## Symbolic Execution

- Introduce symbols  
 $x1 = X, y1 = Y$
- Constrain  $x$   
 $X*X*X \leq 0$

# DART in Action (1)

## Dynamic Execution

- Random Testing
- Random inputs  
 $x = 700, y = 500$
- $x*x*x > 0$



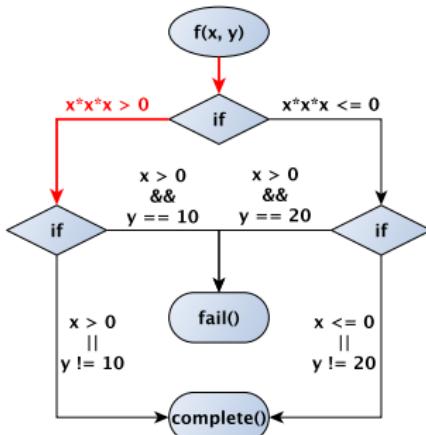
## Symbolic Execution

- Introduce symbols  
 $x1 = X, y1 = Y$
- Constrain  $x$   
 $X*X*X \leq 0$
- Solve constraint  
Non-Linear  $\Rightarrow$  Fail

# DART in Action (1)

## Dynamic Execution

- Random Testing
- Random inputs  
 $x = 700, y = 500$
- $x*x*x > 0$



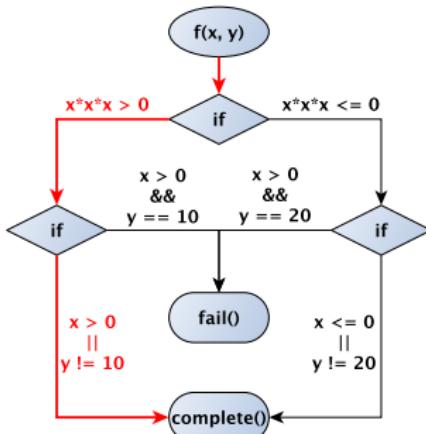
## Symbolic Execution

- Introduce symbols  
 $x1 = X, y1 = Y$
- Constrain  $x$   
 $X*X*X <= 0$
- Solve constraint  
Non-Linear  $\Rightarrow$  Fail
- Concrete fallback  
 $x1 = 700$

# DART in Action (1)

## Dynamic Execution

- Random Testing
- Random inputs  
 $x = 700, y = 500$
- $x*x*x > 0$
- $y \neq 10$



## Symbolic Execution

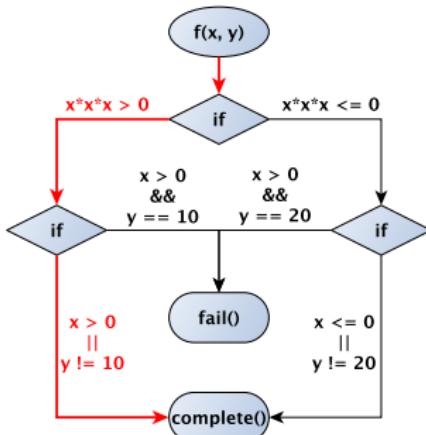
- Introduce symbols  
 $x1 = X, y1 = Y$
- Constrain  $x$   
 $X*X*X \leq 0$
- Solve constraint  
Non-Linear  $\Rightarrow$  Fail
- Concrete fallback

$x1 = 700$

# DART in Action (1)

## Dynamic Execution

- Random Testing
- Random inputs  
 $x = 700, y = 500$
- $x*x*x > 0$
- $y \neq 10$



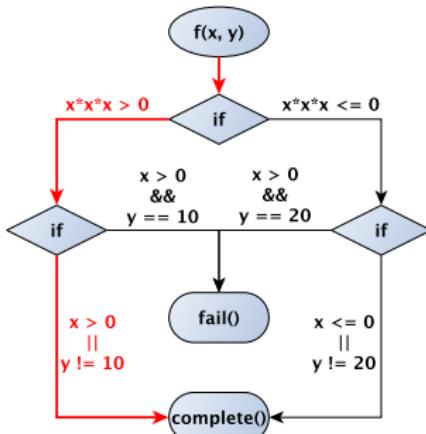
## Symbolic Execution

- Introduce symbols  
 $x1 = X, y1 = Y$
- Constrain  $X$   
 $X*X*X \leq 0$
- Solve constraint  
Non-Linear  $\Rightarrow$  Fail
- Concrete fallback  
 $x1 = 700$
- Constrain  $Y$   
 $Y == 10$

# DART in Action (1)

## Dynamic Execution

- Random Testing
- Random inputs  
 $x = 700, y = 500$
- $xxx*x > 0$
- $y \neq 10$



## Symbolic Execution

- Introduce symbols  
 $x1 = X, y1 = Y$
- Constrain  $X$   
 $X * X * X \leq 0$
- Solve constraint  
Non-Linear  $\Rightarrow$  Fail
- Concrete fallback  
 $x1 = 700$
- Constrain  $Y$   
 $Y == 10$
- Solve constraint  
 $x1 = 700, y1 = 10$

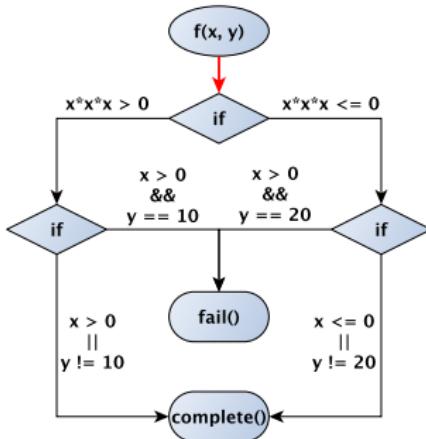
# DART in Action (2)

## Symbolic Execution

### Dynamic Execution

- Given inputs

$x = 700, y = 10$



# DART in Action (2)

## Symbolic Execution

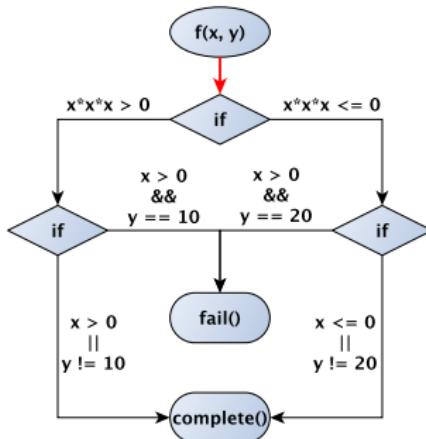
- Introduce symbols

$x2 = X, y2 = Y$

## Dynamic Execution

- Given inputs

$x = 700, y = 10$



# DART in Action (2)

## Symbolic Execution

- Introduce symbols

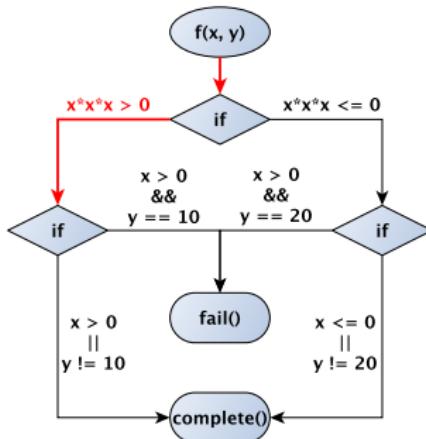
$x2 = X, y2 = Y$

## Dynamic Execution

- Given inputs

$x = 700, y = 10$

- $x * x * x > 0$



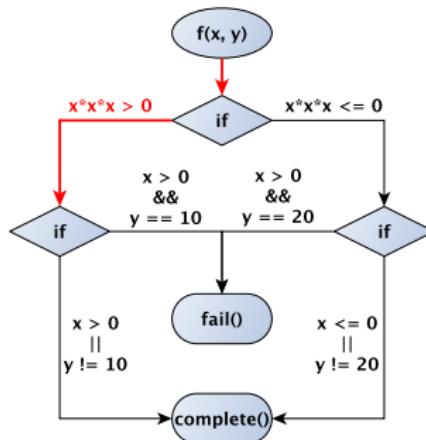
# DART in Action (2)

## Dynamic Execution

- Given inputs

$x = 700, y = 10$

- $x*x*x > 0$



## Symbolic Execution

- Introduce symbols

$x2 = X, y2 = Y$

- Constrain  $x$

$X*X*X \leq 0$

- Solve constraint  
Non-Linear  $\Rightarrow$  Fail

- Concrete fallback

$x2 = 700$

# DART in Action (2)

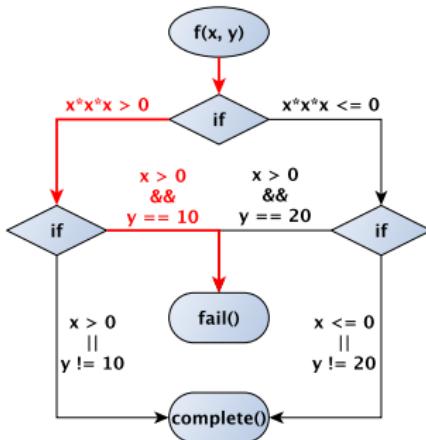
## Dynamic Execution

- Given inputs

$x = 700, y = 10$

- $x*x*x > 0$

- $x > 0 \text{ } \&\& \text{ } y == 10$



## Symbolic Execution

- Introduce symbols

$x2 = X, y2 = Y$

- Constrain  $X$

$X*X*X \leq 0$

- Solve constraint  
Non-Linear  $\Rightarrow$  Fail

- Concrete fallback

$x2 = 700$

# DART in Action (2)

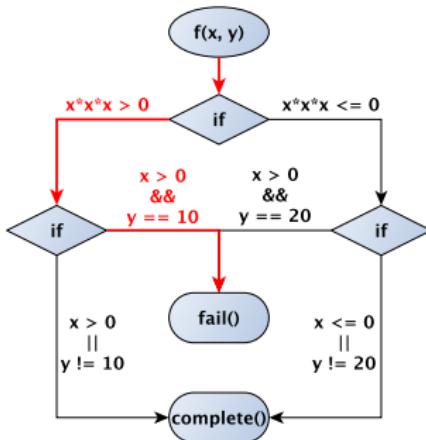
## Dynamic Execution

- Given inputs

$x = 700, y = 10$

- $x * x * x > 0$

- $x > 0 \text{ } \&\& \text{ } y == 10$



## Symbolic Execution

- Introduce symbols

$x2 = X, y2 = Y$

- Constrain  $X$

$X * X * X <= 0$

- Solve constraint  
Non-Linear  $\Rightarrow$  Fail

- Concrete fallback

$x2 = 700$

- Branch explored  
 $\Rightarrow$  Nothing to do

# DART in Action (2)

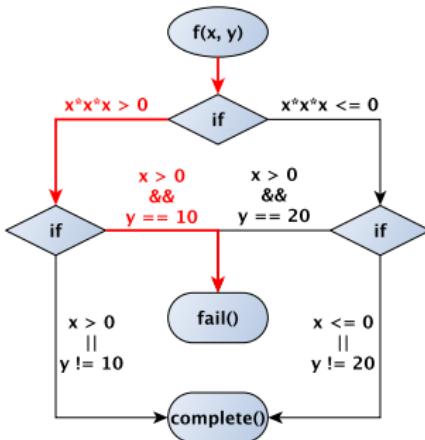
## Dynamic Execution

- Given inputs

$x = 700, y = 10$

- $x * x * x > 0$

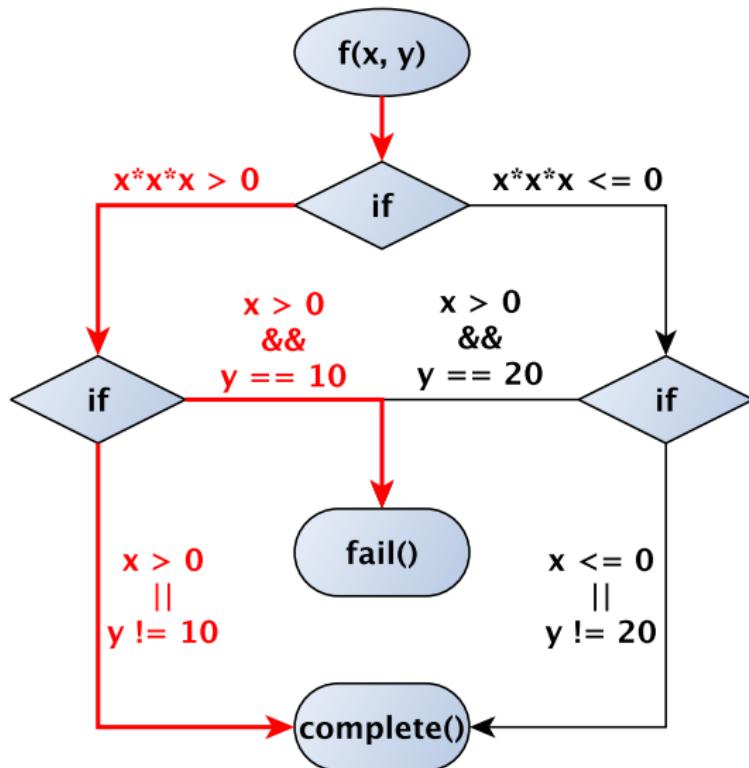
- $x > 0 \text{ && } y == 10$



## Symbolic Execution

- Introduce symbols  
 $x2 = X, y2 = Y$
- Constrain  $X$   
 $X * X * X <= 0$
- Solve constraint  
Non-Linear  $\Rightarrow$  Fail
- Concrete fallback  
 $x2 = 700$
- Branch explored  
 $\Rightarrow$  Nothing to do
- No new inputs

## DART in Action (3 ...)



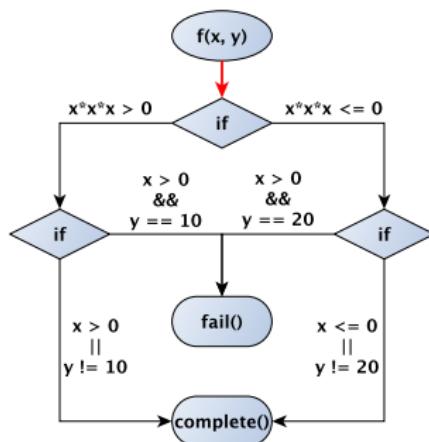
# DART in Action (N)

## Symbolic Execution

### Dynamic Execution

- Random Testing
- Random inputs

$x = -700, y = 500$



# DART in Action (N)

## Dynamic Execution

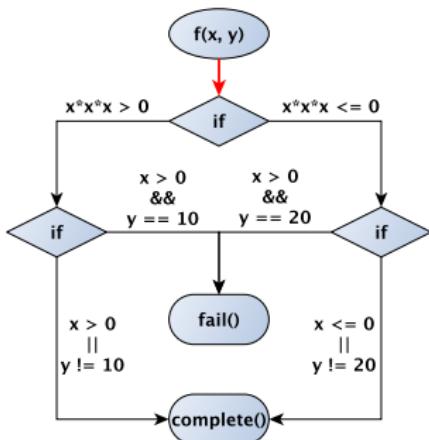
- Random Testing
- Random inputs

$x = -700, y = 500$

## Symbolic Execution

- Introduce symbols

$x_N = X, y_N = Y$



# DART in Action (N)

## Dynamic Execution

- Random Testing
- Random inputs

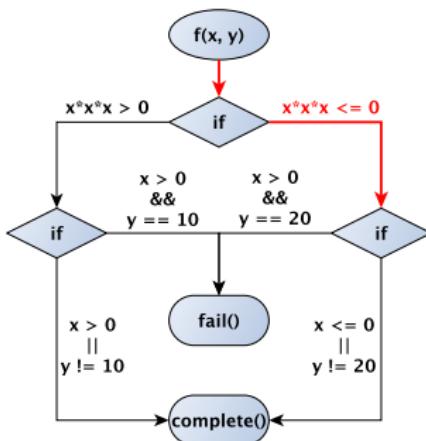
$x = -700, y = 500$

- $\text{xxx*x} \leq 0$

## Symbolic Execution

- Introduce symbols

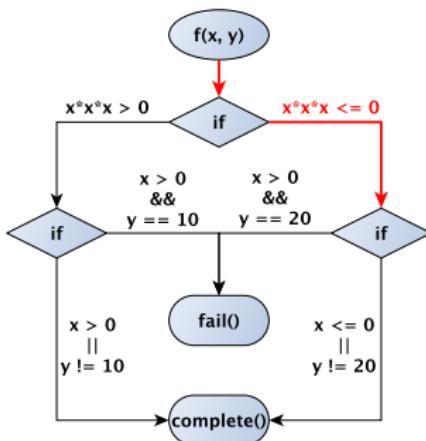
$x_N = X, y_N = Y$



# DART in Action (N)

## Dynamic Execution

- Random Testing
  - Random inputs
- $x = -700, y = 500$
- $x*x*x \leq 0$



## Symbolic Execution

- Introduce symbols  
 $x_N = X, y_N = Y$
- Branch explored  
⇒ Nothing to do

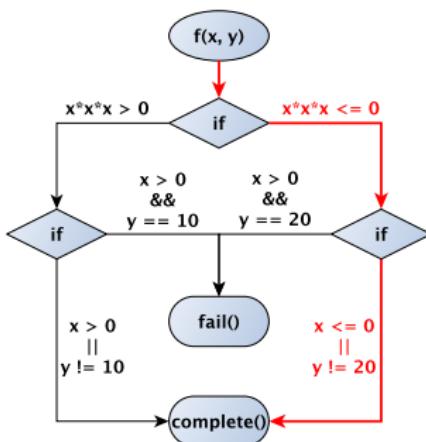
# DART in Action (N)

## Dynamic Execution

- Random Testing
- Random inputs

$x = -700, y = 500$

- $x * x * x \leq 0$
- $x < 0 \text{ } \&\& \text{ } y \neq 20$



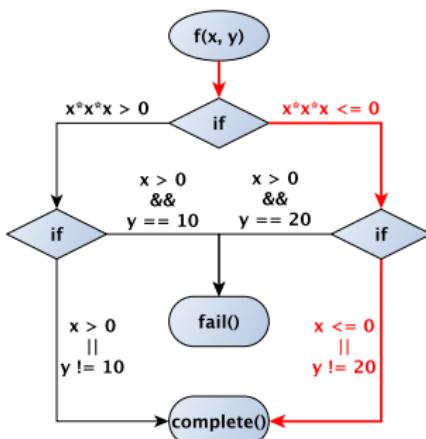
## Symbolic Execution

- Introduce symbols  
 $x_N = X, y_N = Y$
- Branch explored  
⇒ Nothing to do

# DART in Action (N)

## Dynamic Execution

- Random Testing
  - Random inputs
- $x = -700, y = 500$
- $x * x * x \leq 0$
  - $x < 0 \text{ } \&\& \text{ } y \neq 20$



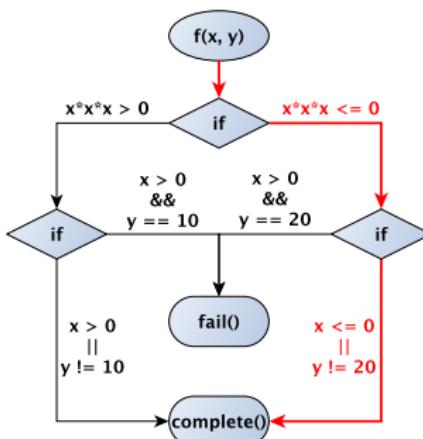
## Symbolic Execution

- Introduce symbols  
 $x_N = X, y_N = Y$
- Branch explored  
⇒ Nothing to do
- Constrain  $x, y$   
 $X > 0, Y == 20$

# DART in Action (N)

## Dynamic Execution

- Random Testing
  - Random inputs
- $x = -700, y = 500$
- $x * x * x \leq 0$
  - $x < 0 \text{ } \&\& \text{ } y \neq 20$



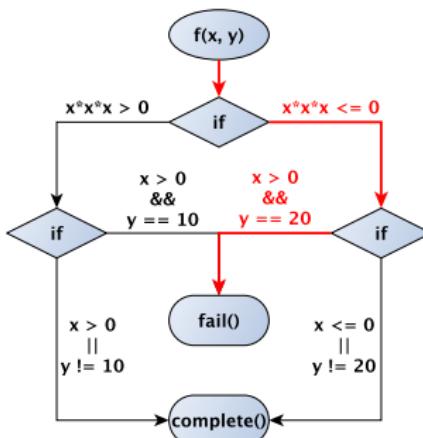
## Symbolic Execution

- Introduce symbols  
 $x_N = X, y_N = Y$
- Branch explored  
⇒ Nothing to do
- Constrain  $X, Y$   
 $X > 0, Y == 20$
- Solve constraints  
 $x_N = 700, y_N = 20$

# DART in Action (N)

## Dynamic Execution

- Random Testing
  - Random inputs
- $x = -700, y = 500$
- $x * x * x \leq 0$
  - $x < 0 \text{ } \&\& \text{ } y \neq 20$



## Symbolic Execution

- Introduce symbols  
 $x_N = X, y_N = Y$
- Branch explored  
⇒ Nothing to do
- Constrain  $X, Y$   
 $X > 0, Y == 20$
- Solve constraints  
 $x_N = 700, y_N = 20$
- Assumed path

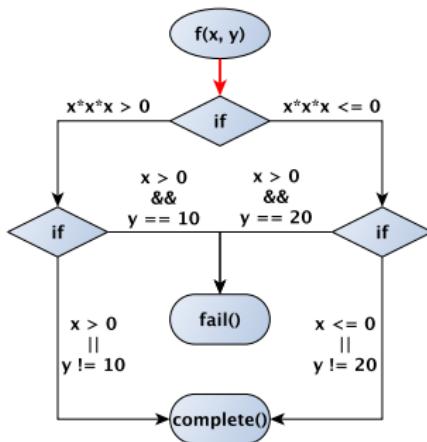
# DART in Action (N+1)

## Dynamic Execution

- Given inputs

$x = 700, y = 20$

## Symbolic Execution



# DART in Action (N+1)

## Dynamic Execution

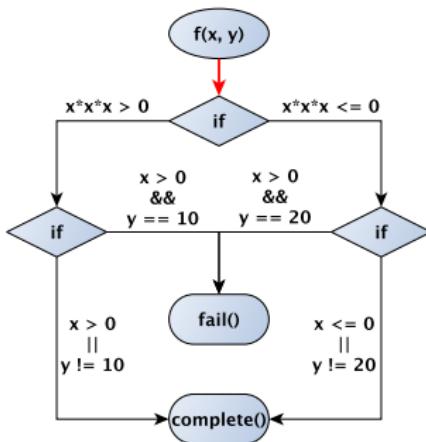
- Given inputs

$x = 700, y = 20$

## Symbolic Execution

- Introduce symbols

$x_M = X, y_M = Y$



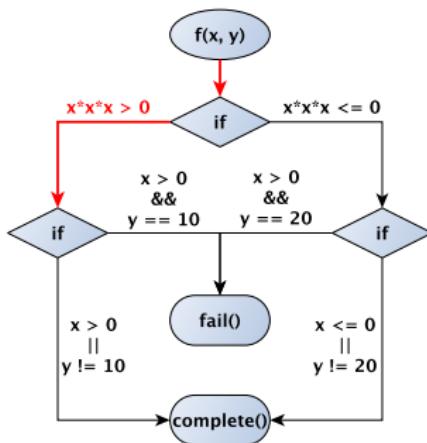
# DART in Action (N+1)

## Dynamic Execution

- Given inputs

$x = 700, y = 20$

- $x*x*x > 0$



## Symbolic Execution

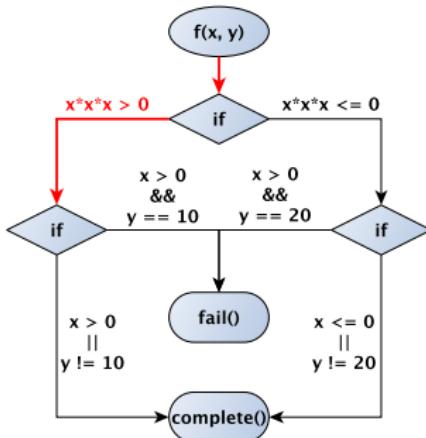
- Introduce symbols

$xM = X, yM = Y$

# DART in Action (N+1)

## Dynamic Execution

- Given inputs
- $x = 700, y = 20$
- $x*x*x > 0$



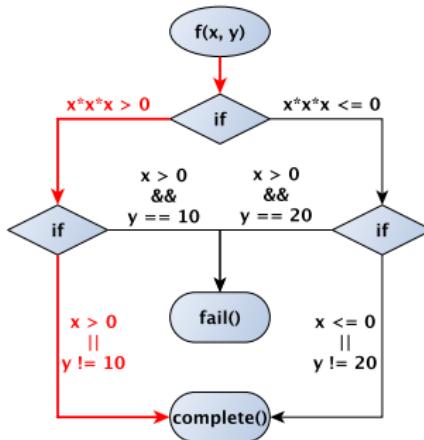
## Symbolic Execution

- Introduce symbols  
 $xM = X, yM = Y$
- Branch explored  
⇒ Nothing to do

# DART in Action (N+1)

## Dynamic Execution

- Given inputs
- $x = 700, y = 20$
- $x*x*x > 0$
- $x > 0 \&& y \neq 10$



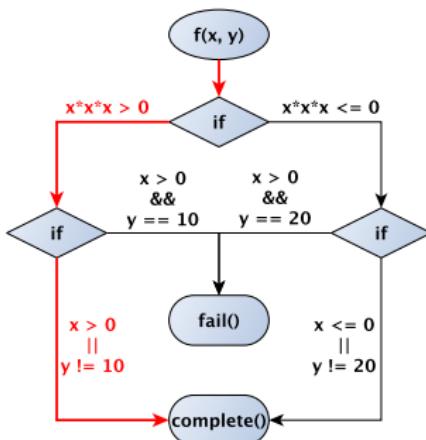
## Symbolic Execution

- Introduce symbols  
 $xM = X, yM = Y$
- Branch explored  
⇒ Nothing to do

# DART in Action (N+1)

## Dynamic Execution

- Given inputs
- $x = 700, y = 20$
- $x*x*x > 0$
- $x > 0 \ \&\& \ y \neq 10$



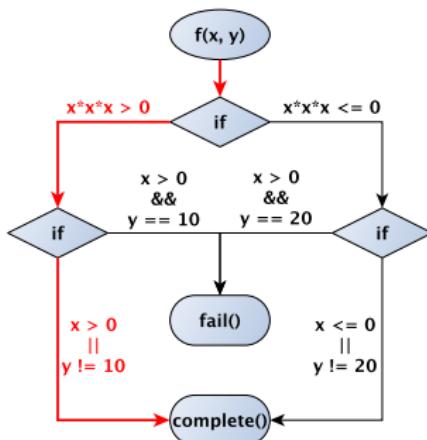
## Symbolic Execution

- Introduce symbols  
 $xM = X, yM = Y$
- Branch explored  
⇒ Nothing to do
- Branch explored  
⇒ Nothing to do

# DART in Action (N+1)

## Dynamic Execution

- Given inputs
- $x = 700, y = 20$
- $x*x*x > 0$
- $x > 0 \ \&\& \ y \neq 10$

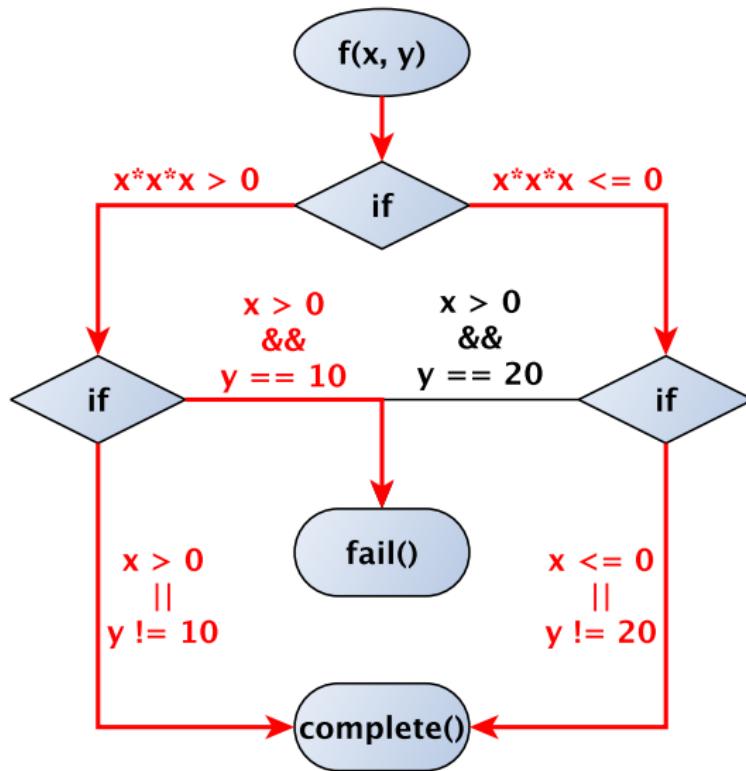


⇒ Same as 1st path!

## Symbolic Execution

- Introduce symbols  
 $xM = X, yM = Y$
- Branch explored  
⇒ Nothing to do
- Branch explored  
⇒ Nothing to do

# DART Completed



# Overview

1 Code Example

2 Unit Testing

- Random Testing
- Symbolic Execution

3 Concolic Testing

- DART

4 Summary

# Summary



- ⇒ Classification of DART
- ⇒ Drawbacks of Basic Techniques Solely
- ⇒ Improvement with Concolic Testing

# References

- [1] Patrice Godefroid, Nils Klarlund, and Koushik Sen. “DART: Directed Automated Random Testing”. In: *Proceedings of the 2005 ACM SIGPLAN Conference on Programming Language Design and Implementation*. PLDI ’05. Chicago, IL, USA: ACM, 2005, pp. 213–223. ISBN: 1-59593-056-6. DOI: 10.1145/1065010.1065036. URL: <http://doi.acm.org/10.1145/1065010.1065036>.
- [2] James C. King. “Symbolic Execution and Program Testing”. In: *Commun. ACM* 19.7 (July 1976), pp. 385–394. ISSN: 0001-0782. DOI: 10.1145/360248.360252. URL: <http://doi.acm.org/10.1145/360248.360252>.
- [3] Wikipedia. *Symbolic Execution*. June 2015. URL: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symbolic\\_execution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symbolic_execution).