



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

informatics

Compiler Intermediate Representations

SPLV 2020 — Michel Steuwer

Outline of Lectures over the week

- **Tuesday:** Functional Intermediate Representations
 - Lambda Calculus and the Lambda Cube
 - Implementation Strategies for System F (ADTs across different PLs)
 - Compiler transformations as rewrite rules
- **Wednesday:** Imperative Intermediate Representations
 - Data-flow analysis
 - Control-Flow Graphs
 - Foundations of Single Static Assignment (SSA)
 - LLVM IR
- **Thursday:** Domain-Specific Intermediate Representations
 - MLIR — a compiler infrastructure for building domain-specific intermediate representations
 - Dataflow graphs — TensorFlow
 - Pattern-based (and functional) — RISE

Data-flow Analysis

Data-flow analysis gathers information for *each program point* by analysing the **static** code approximating its **dynamic** behaviour

- Examples:
 - Reaching Definitions
 - Initialised Variables
 - Constant Propagation
 - Sign Analysis
 - Liveness of variables



```
1 int foo(int input) {
2   int x,y,z;
3   x = input;
4   while (x > 1) {
5     y = x / 2;
6     if (y > 3) x = x - y;
7     z = x - 4;
8     if (z > 0) x = x / 2;
9     z = z-1;
10  }
11  return x;
12 }
```

Is z ever initialised?

What values are possible for y here?

Is this computation ever used?

Liveness Analysis - What & why?

- **Intuition:** A variable is *live* at a program point if its current value may be read during the remaining execution of the program, otherwise the variable is *dead*.
- Useful for *register allocation* and *dead code elimination*

```
1 int foo(int input) {
2   int x,y,z;
3   x = input;
4   while (x > 1) {
5     y = x / 2;
6     if (y > 3) x = x - y;
7     z = x - 4;
8     if (z > 0) x = x / 2;
9     z = z-1;
10  }
11  return x;
12 }
```

Legal transformation
due to liveness information



```
1 int foo_opt(int input) {
2   int x, yz;
3   x = input;
4   while (x > 1) {
5     yz = x / 2;
6     if (yz > 3) x = x - yz;
7     yz = x-4;
8     if (yz > 0) x = x / 2;
9     
10  }
11  return x;
12 }
```

y and z can be stored
in the same register

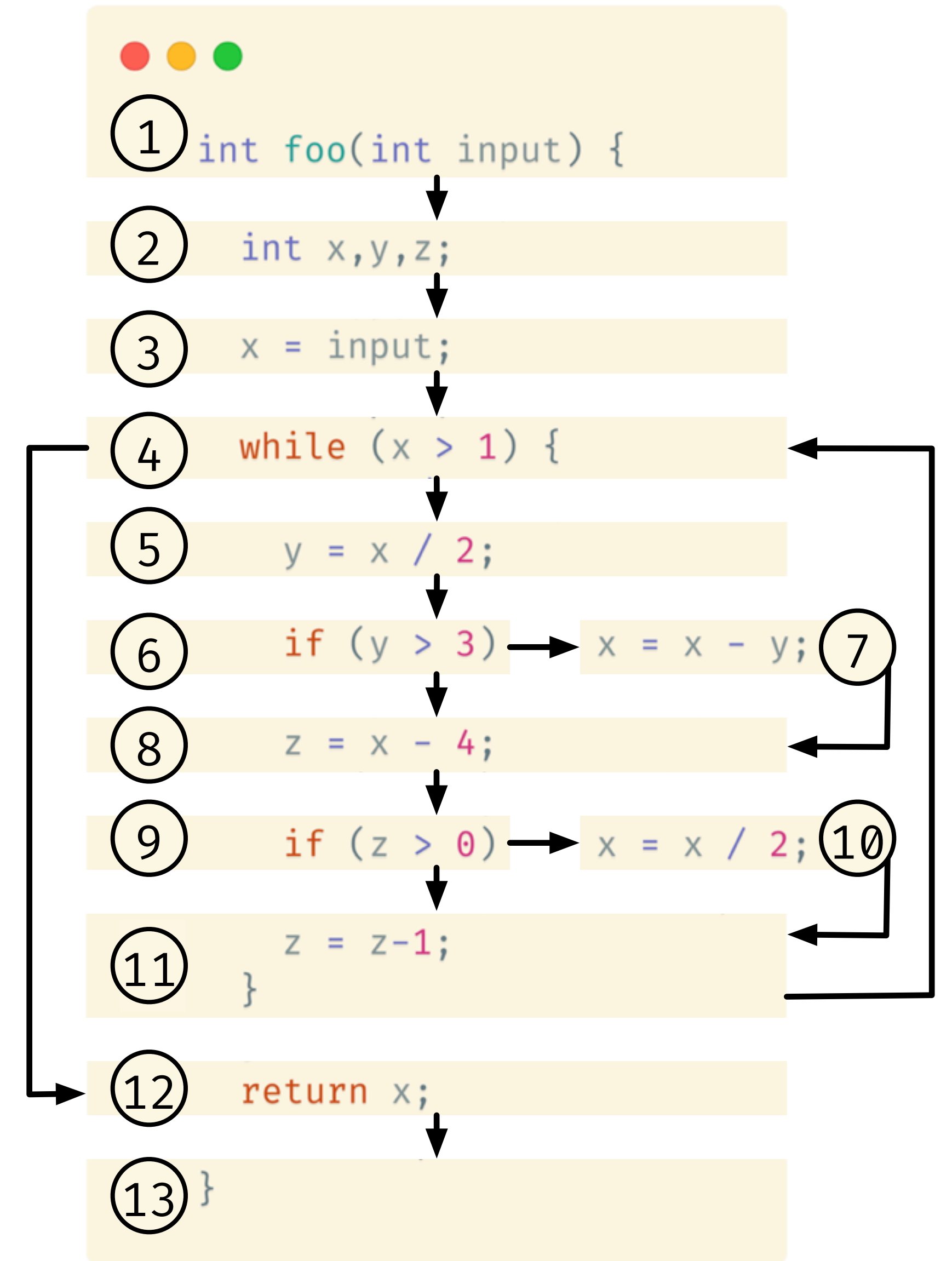
Computation
was never used

Control Flow Graphs

- **Definition:** A Control Flow Graph (CFG) is a graph who's *nodes* represent program statements and who's *directed edges* represent control flow.

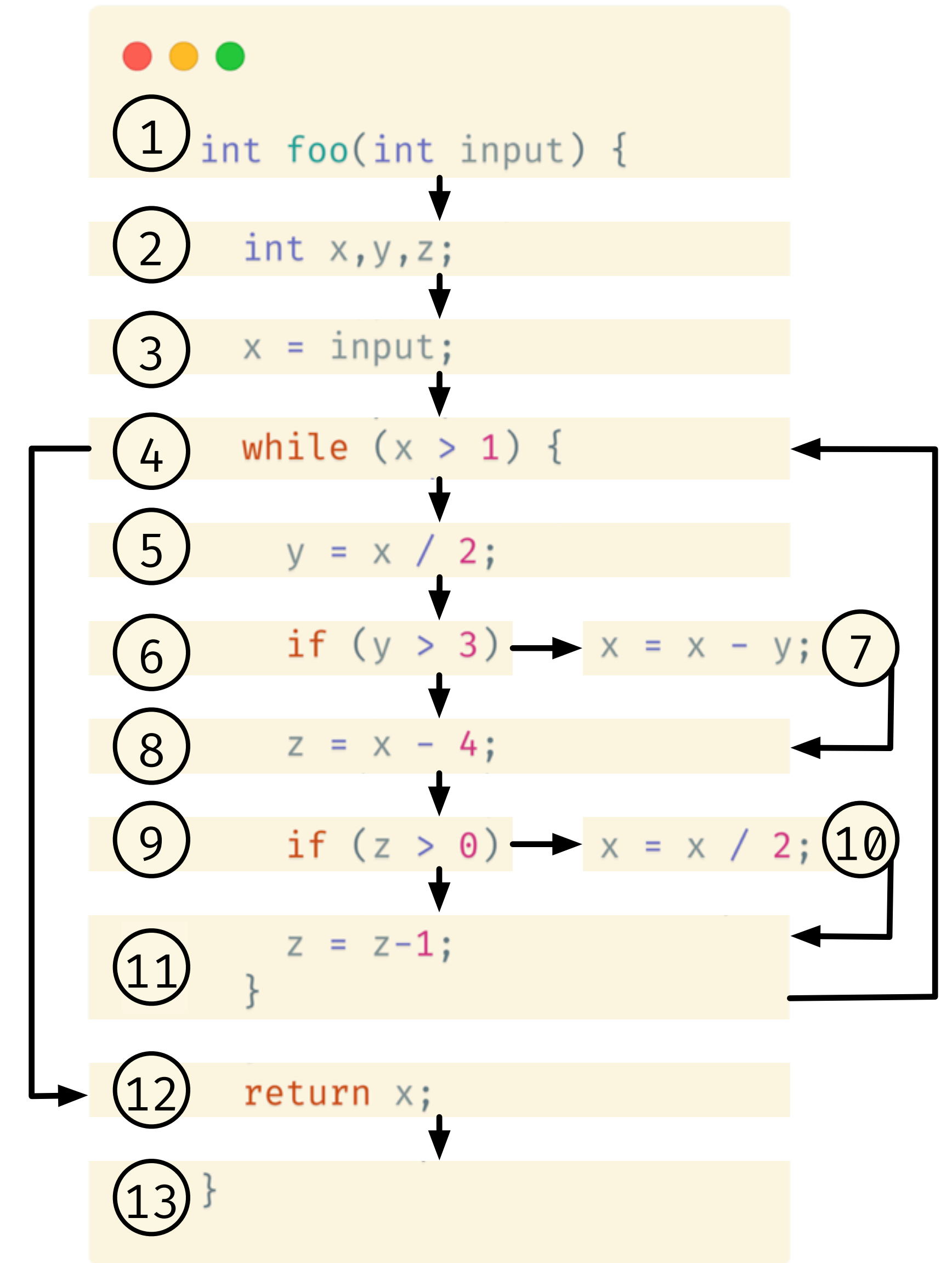
- Example:

```
1 int foo(int input) {  
2   int x,y,z;  
3   x = input;  
4   while (x > 1) {  
5     y = x / 2;  
6     if (y > 3) x = x - y;  
7     z = x - 4;  
8     if (z > 0) x = x / 2;  
9     z = z-1;  
10  }  
11  return x;  
12 }
```



Definition of def and use

- For *defining* (or *writing*) a variable we write:
 - $\text{def}_{\text{nodes}}(v)$ = set of nodes that define variable v
 - $\text{def}_{\text{var}}(n)$ = set of variables defined at node n
- For *using* (or *reading*) a variable we write:
 - $\text{use}_{\text{nodes}}(v)$ = set of nodes that use variable v
 - $\text{use}_{\text{var}}(n)$ = set of variables used at node n
- Examples:
 $\text{def}_{\text{nodes}}(z) = \{ 8, 11 \}$
 $\text{def}_{\text{var}}(4) = \{ \}$ $\text{use}_{\text{var}}(4) = \{ x \}$

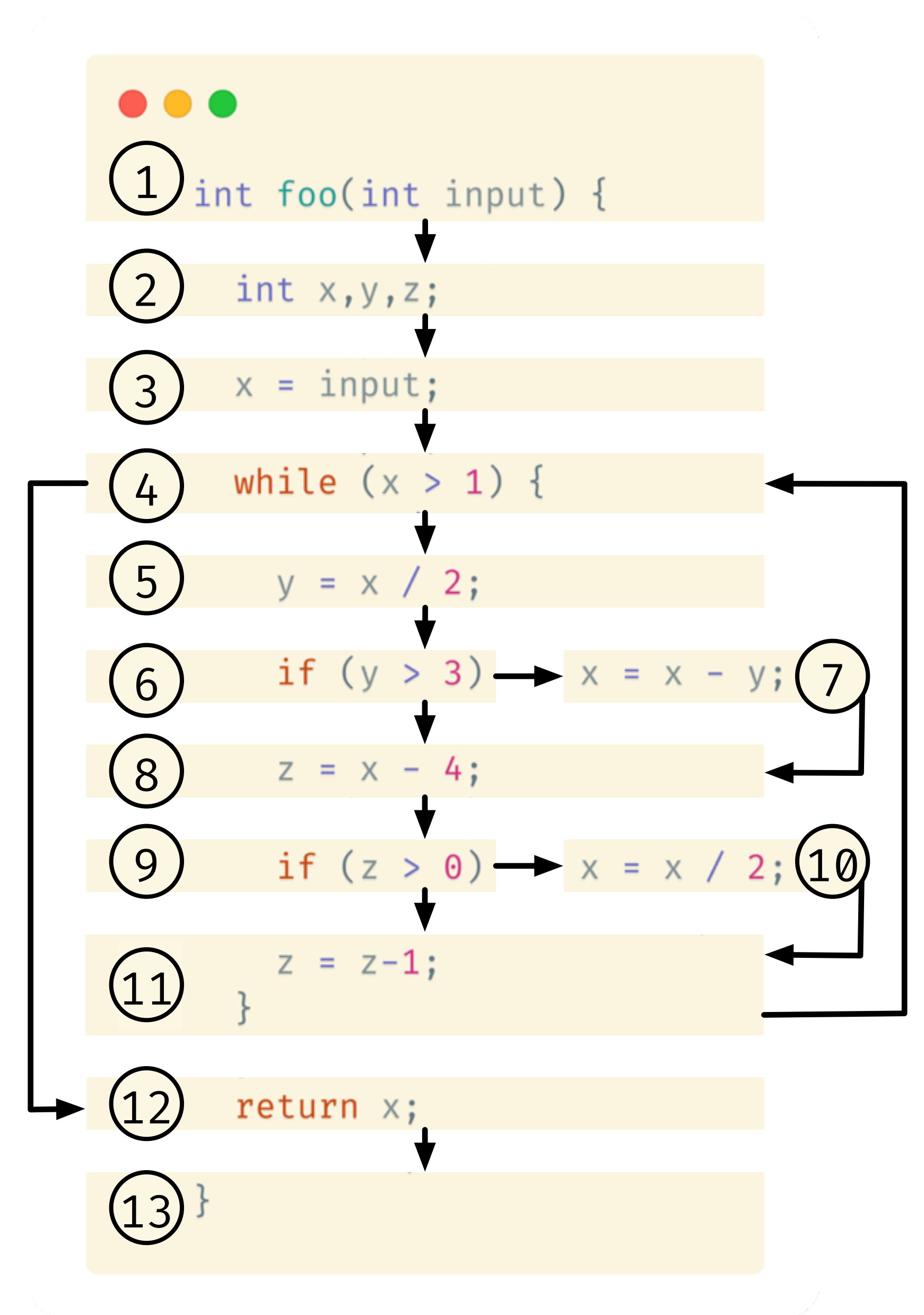


Definition of def-use chains

- The def-use chains for a variable contain all definitions and all possible uses

For variable x:

```
[x, x = input, while(x>1)]  
[x, x = input, x = x - y ]  
[x, x = input, x = x / 2 ]  
[x, x = input, return x ]  
[x, x = x - y, while(x>1)]  
[x, x = x - y, x = x - y ]  
[x, x = x - y, x = x / 2 ]  
[x, x = x - y, return x ]  
[x, x = x / 2, while(x>1)]  
[x, x = x / 2, x = x - y ]  
[x, x = x / 2, x = x / 2 ]  
[x, x = x / 2, return x ]
```



Definition of Liveness

- **Definition:**

A variable v is live *before* a CFG node n if

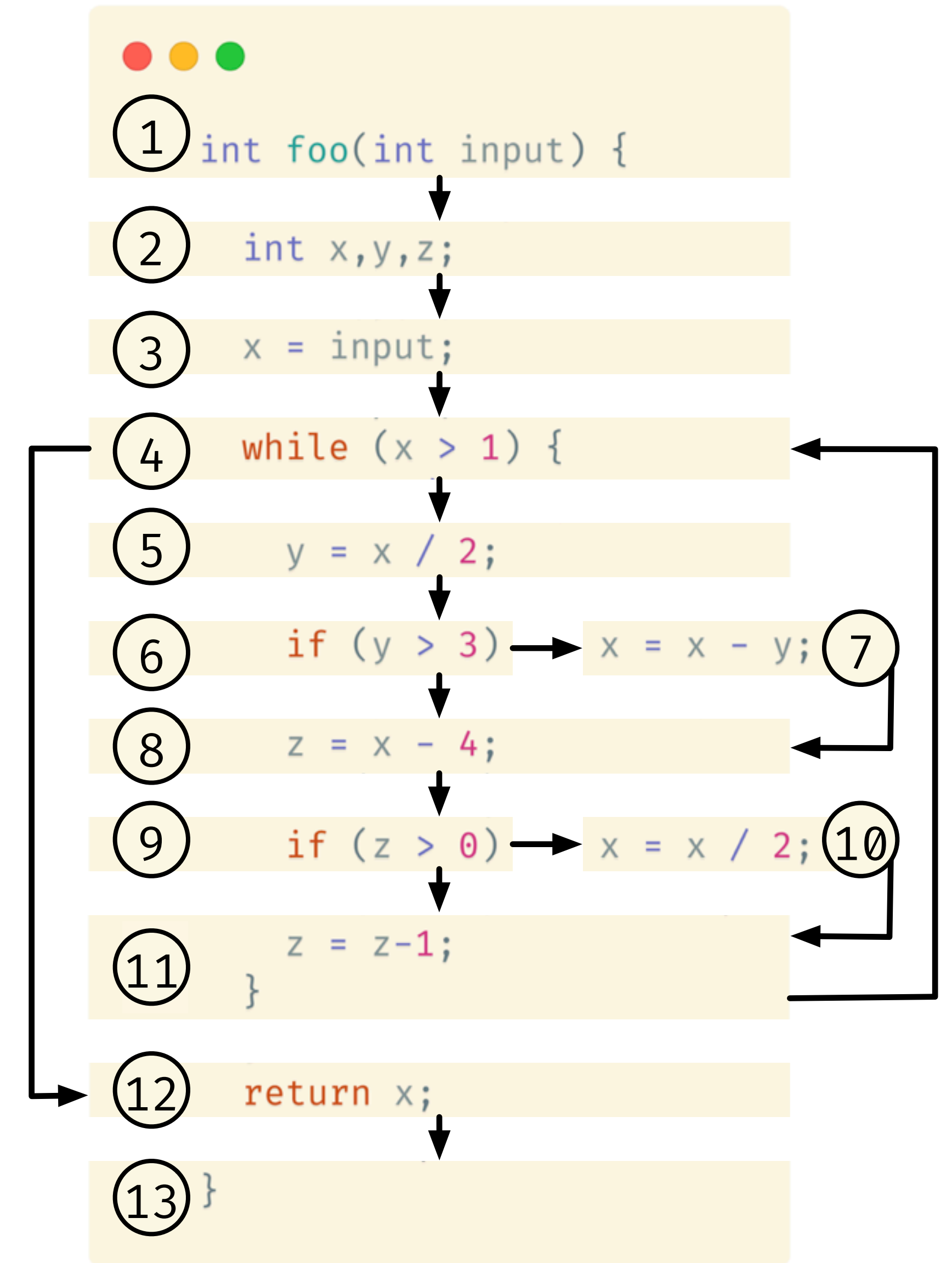
(1) $v \in \mathbf{use}_{\text{var}}(n)$, or:

(2) \exists a directed path from n to a node in $\mathbf{use}_{\text{nodes}}(v)$, and that path does not go through a node in $\mathbf{def}_{\text{nodes}}(v)$.

- **Examples:**

Is x live before $n = 5$? Yes, $x \in \{x\} = \mathbf{use}_{\text{var}}(5)$

Is z live before $n = 5$? No, we first hit a def at 8



Computing Liveness per node

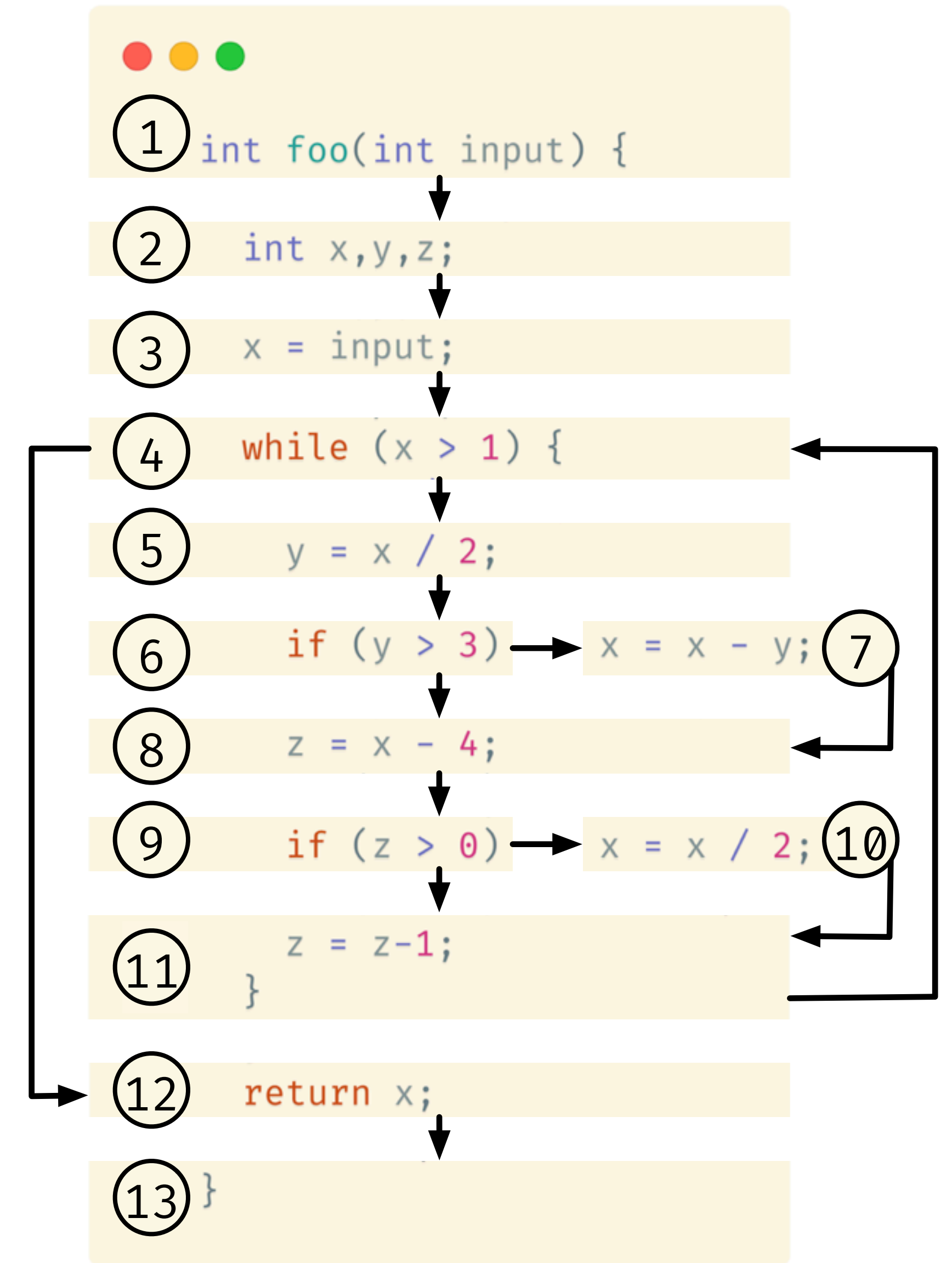
Three cases to consider for a node:

(1) **use_{var}(n)**

(2) if a variable is live at a successor of **n** then we consider it a *candidate* for **n**:

$$\text{candidates}[\mathbf{n}] = \bigcup_{s \in \text{succ}(\mathbf{n})} \text{live}[\mathbf{s}]$$

(3) if a variable is a candidate at **n** and not in **def_{var}(n)** then it is live at **n**:
candidates[n] - def_{var}(n)



Iterative fixpoint algorithm

```
for each node n in CFG:
```

```
  live[n] = {}; candidates[n] = {};
```

```
repeat for each node n in CFG in reverse top. sorted order:
```

```
  live'[n] = live[n];
```

```
  candidates'[n] = candidates[n];
```

```
  candidates[n] =  $\bigcup_{s \in \text{succ}(n)} \text{live}[s]$ ;
```

```
  live[n] =  $\text{use}_{\text{var}}(n) \cup (\text{candidates}[n] - \text{def}_{\text{var}}(n))$ ;
```

```
until live'[n] = live[n] and
```

```
  candidate'[n] = candidate[n] for all n
```

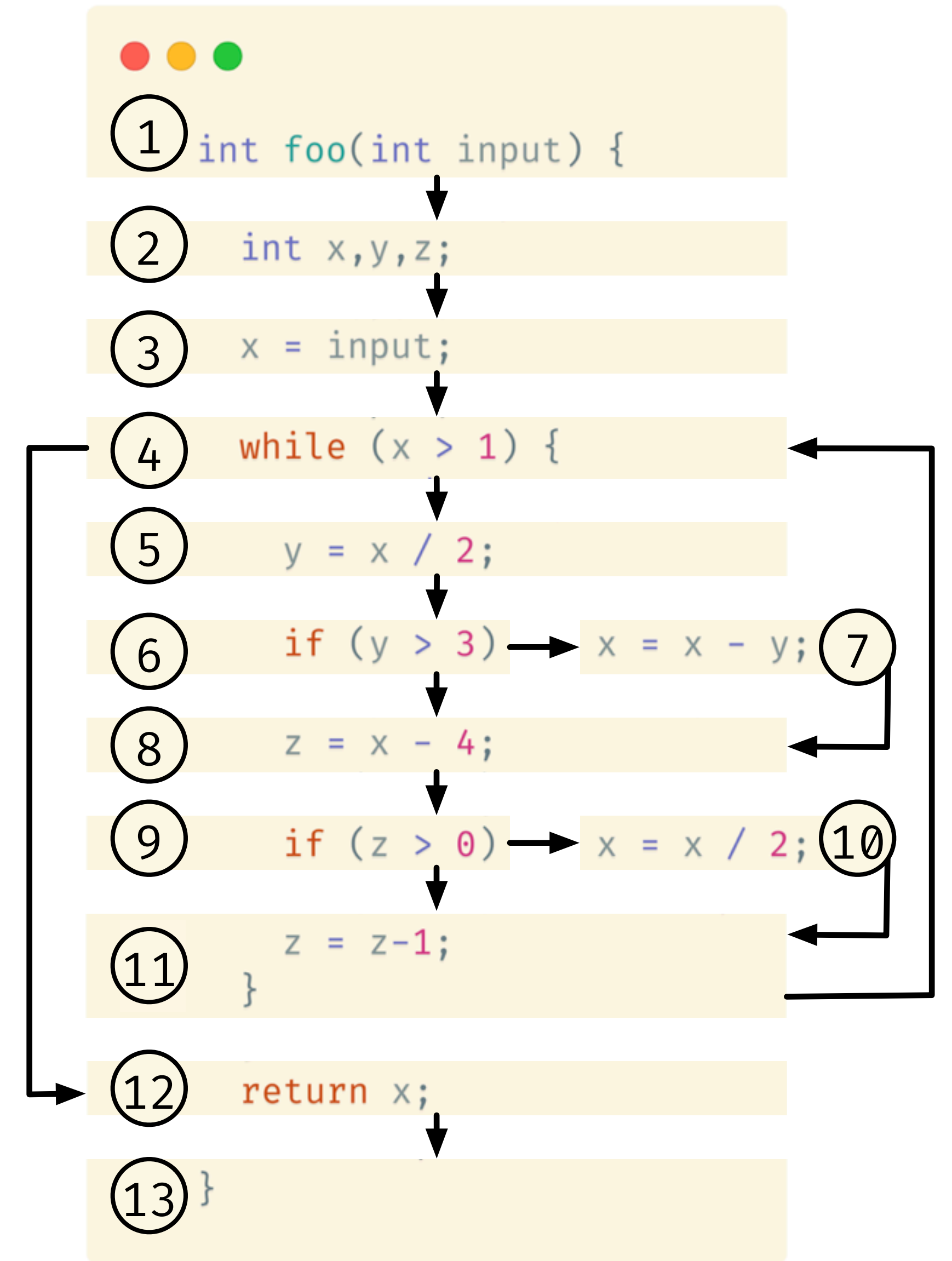
Liveness Analysis Example

1st

Node n	use _{var} (n)	def _{var} (n)	candidate[n]	live[n]
13	{}	{}		
12	{x}	{}		
11	{z}	{z}		
10	{x}	{x}		
9	{z}	{}		
8	{x}	{z}		
7	{x, y}	{x}		
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$$\text{candidates}[n] = \bigcup_{s \in \text{succ}(n)} \text{live}[s];$$

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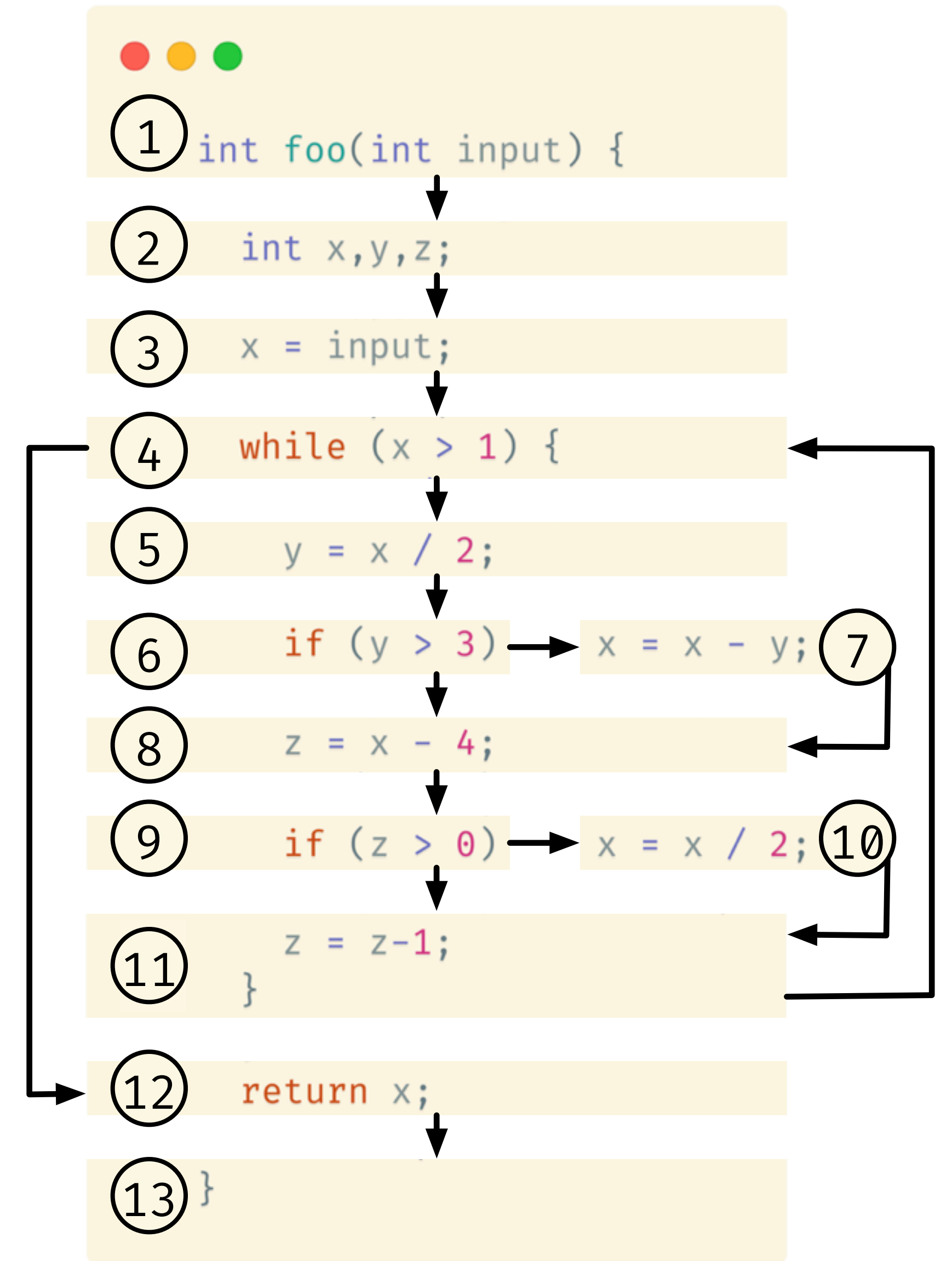
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7	{x, y}	{x}	{}	{}
6	{y}	{}	{}	{}
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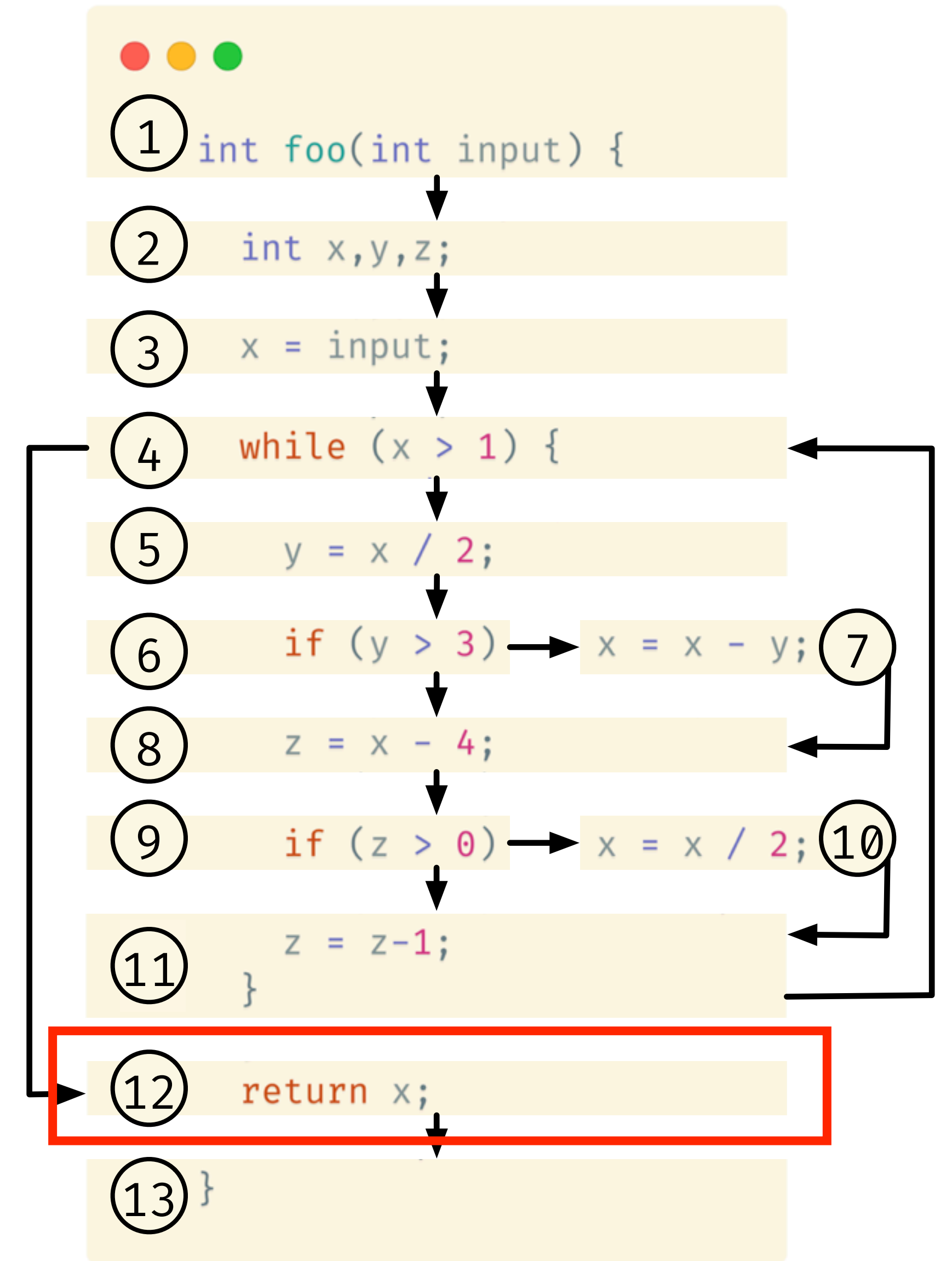
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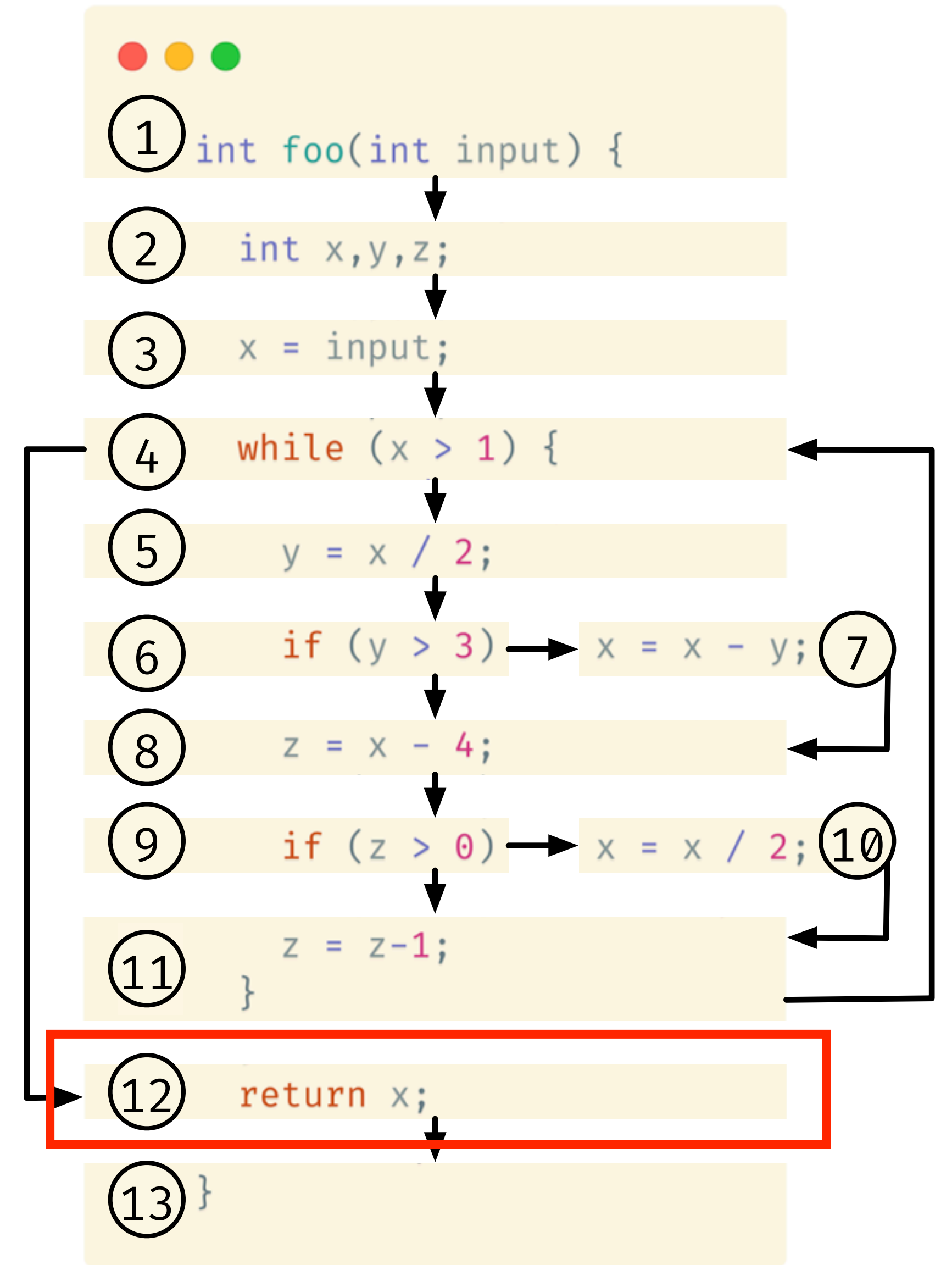
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Liveness Analysis Example

1st

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13	{}	{}	{}	{}
12	{x}	{}	{} → {x}	{x}
11	{z}	{z}	{}	{}
10	{x}	{x}	{}	{}
9	{z}	{}	{}	{}
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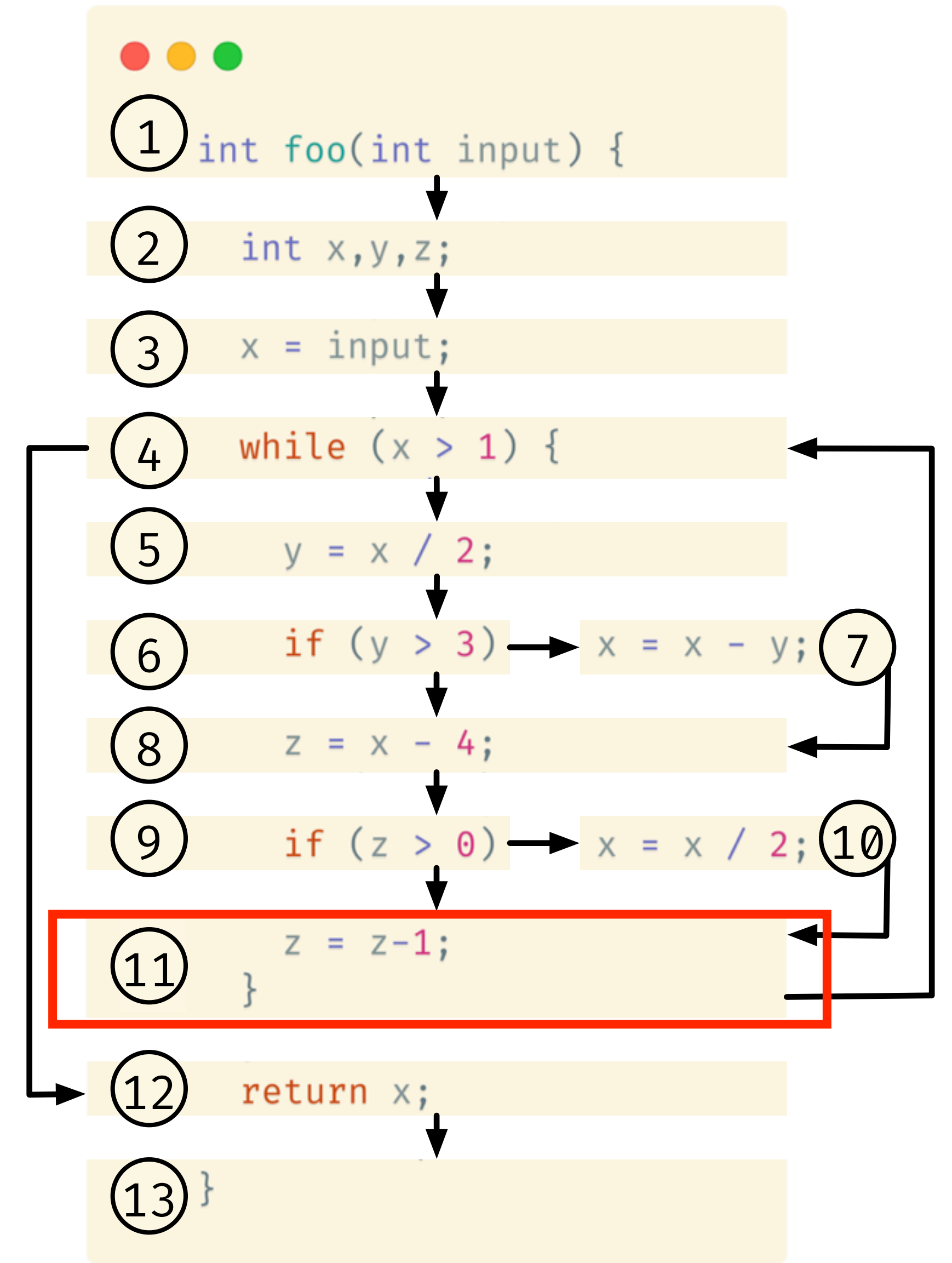
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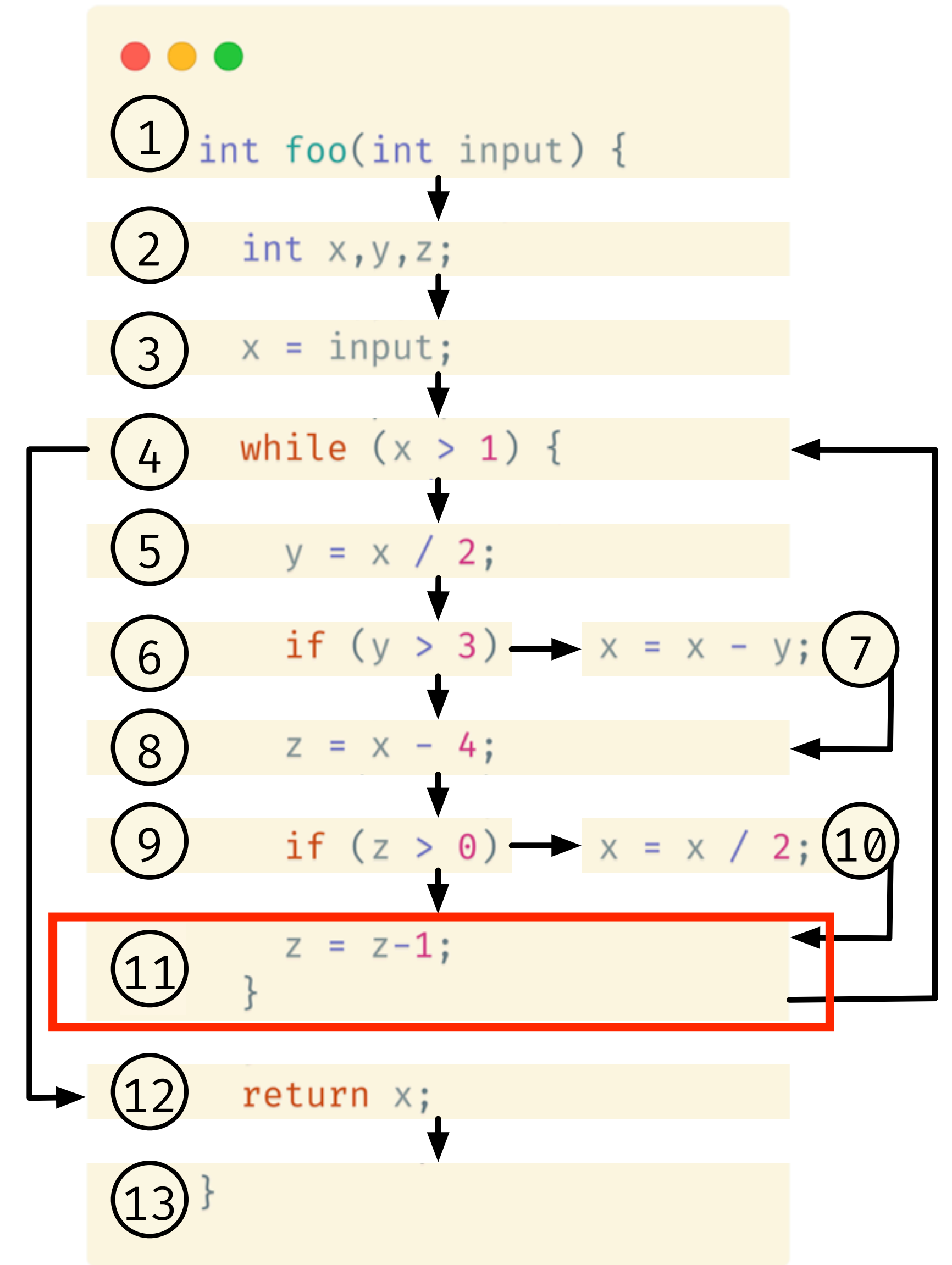
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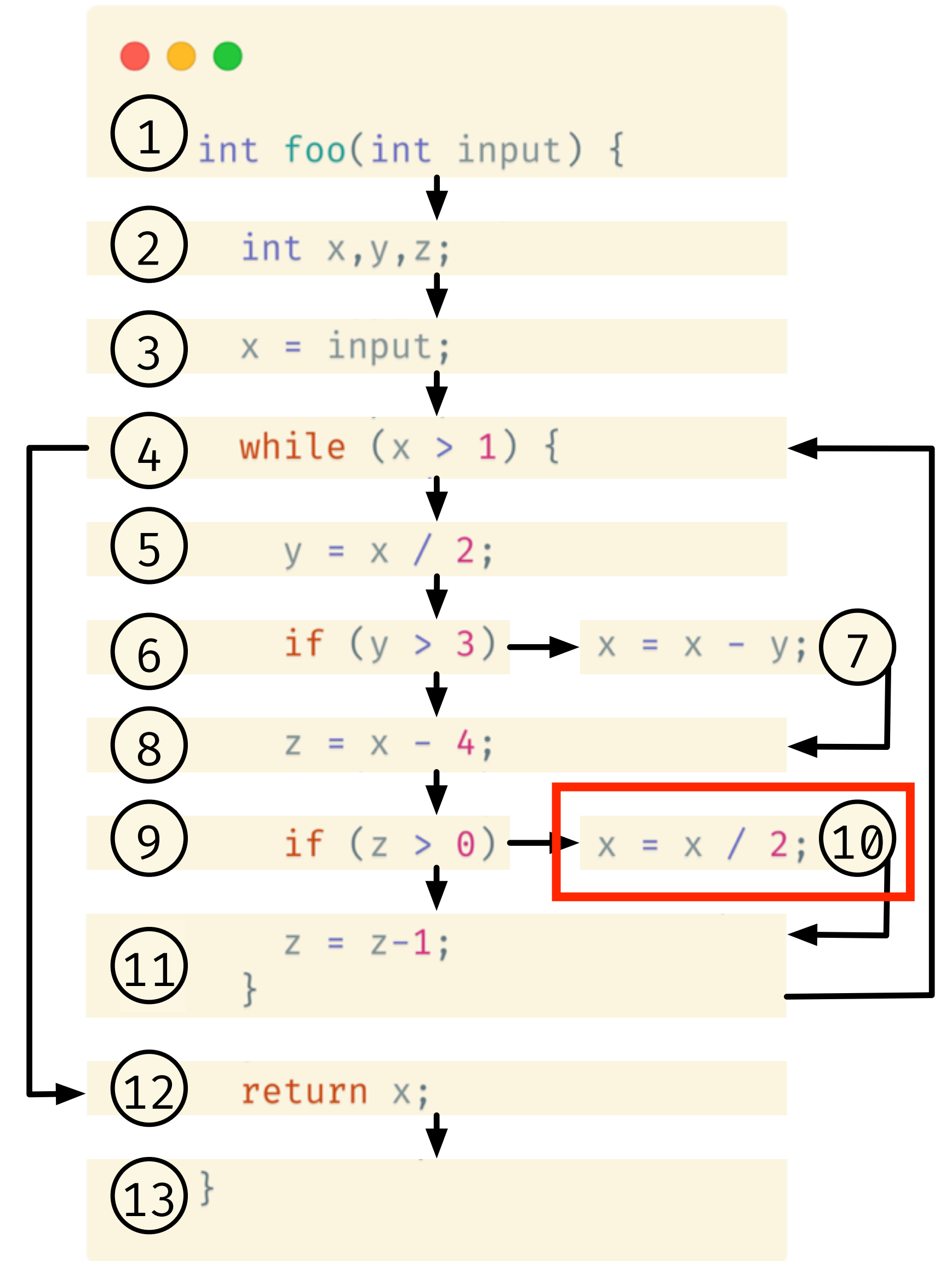
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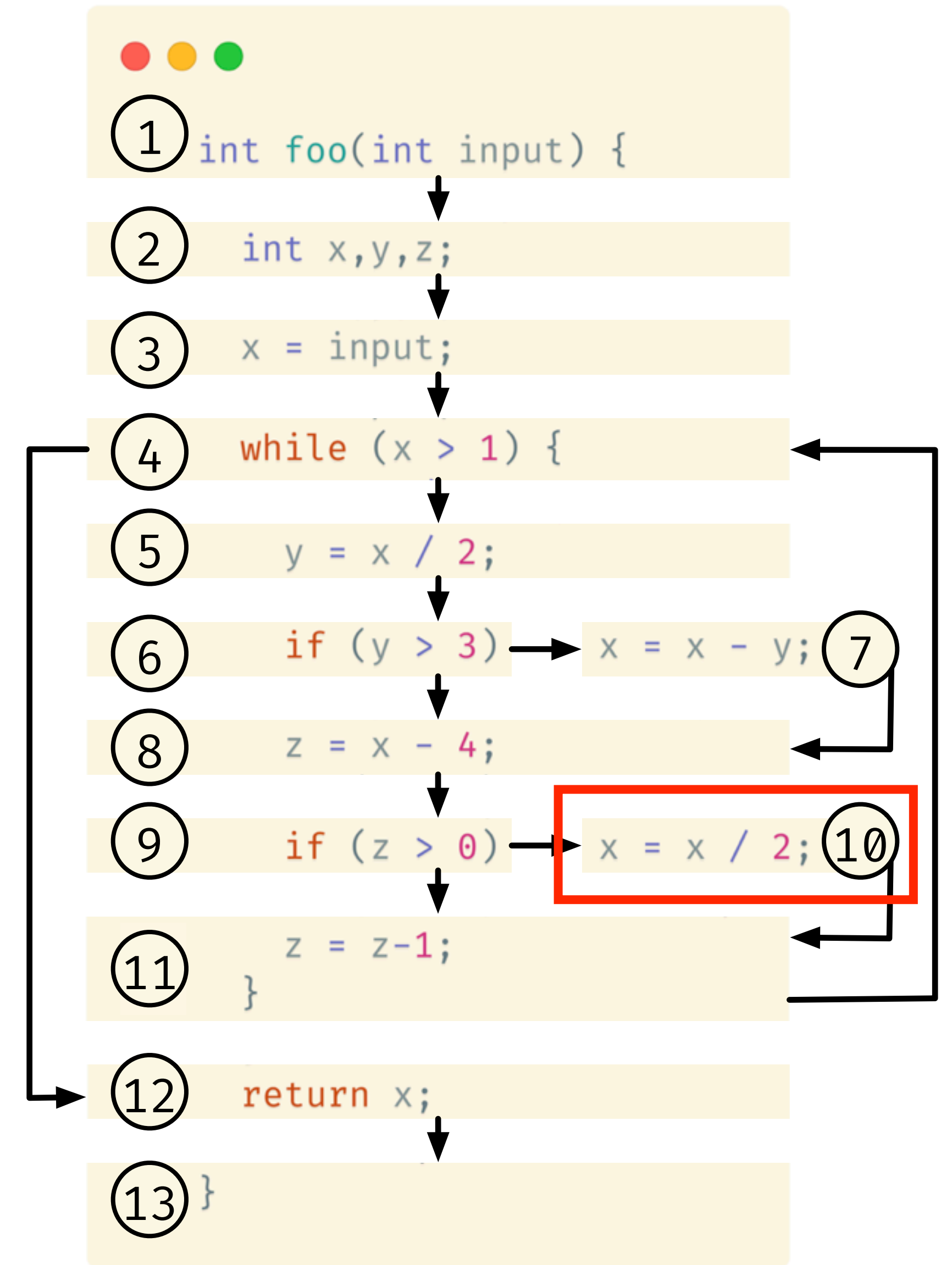
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10	{x}	{x}	{z} → {x, z}	
9	{z}	{}	{}	{}
8	{x}	{z}	{}	{}
7	{x, y}	{x}	{}	{}
6	{y}	{}	{}	{}
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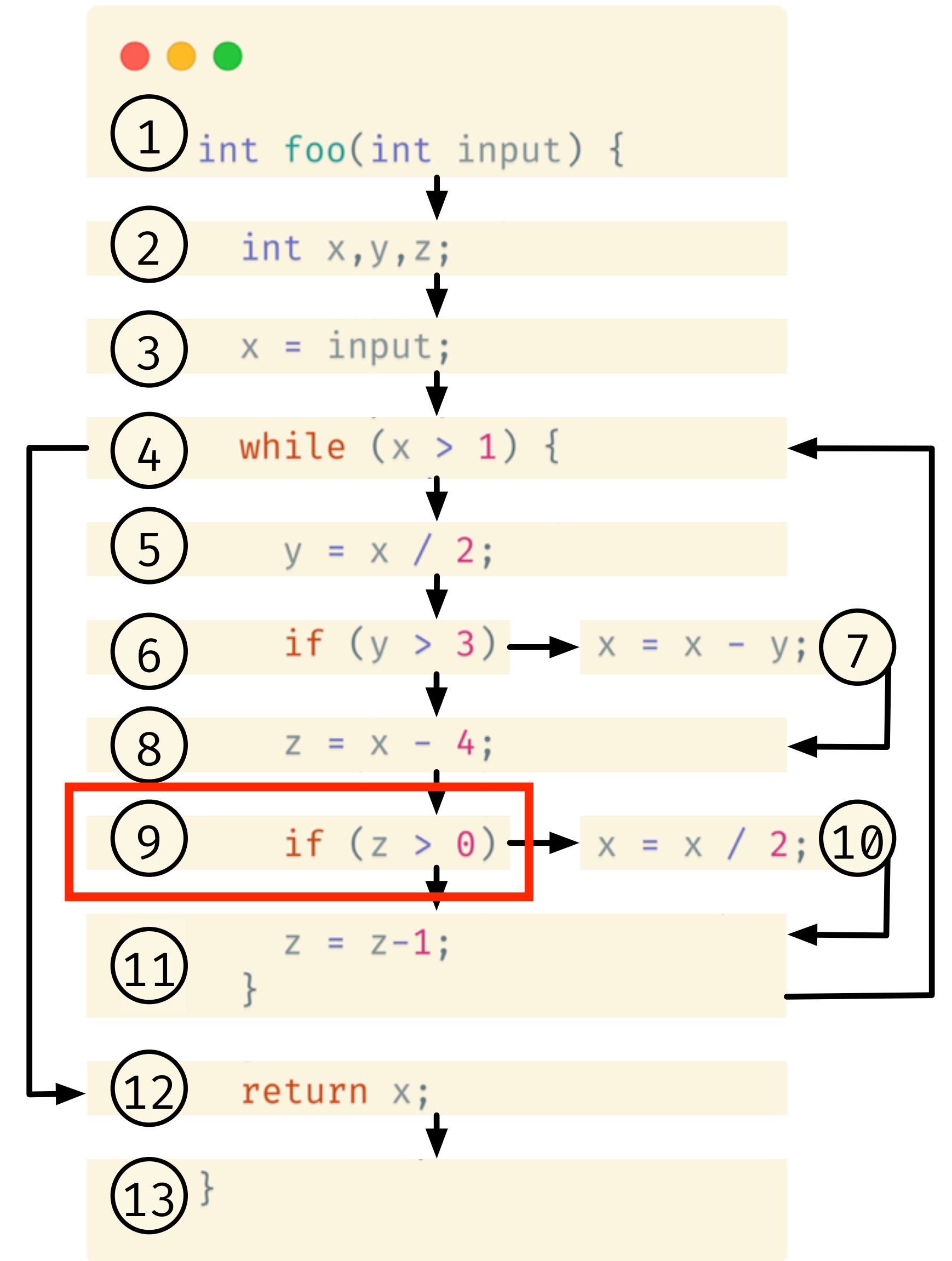
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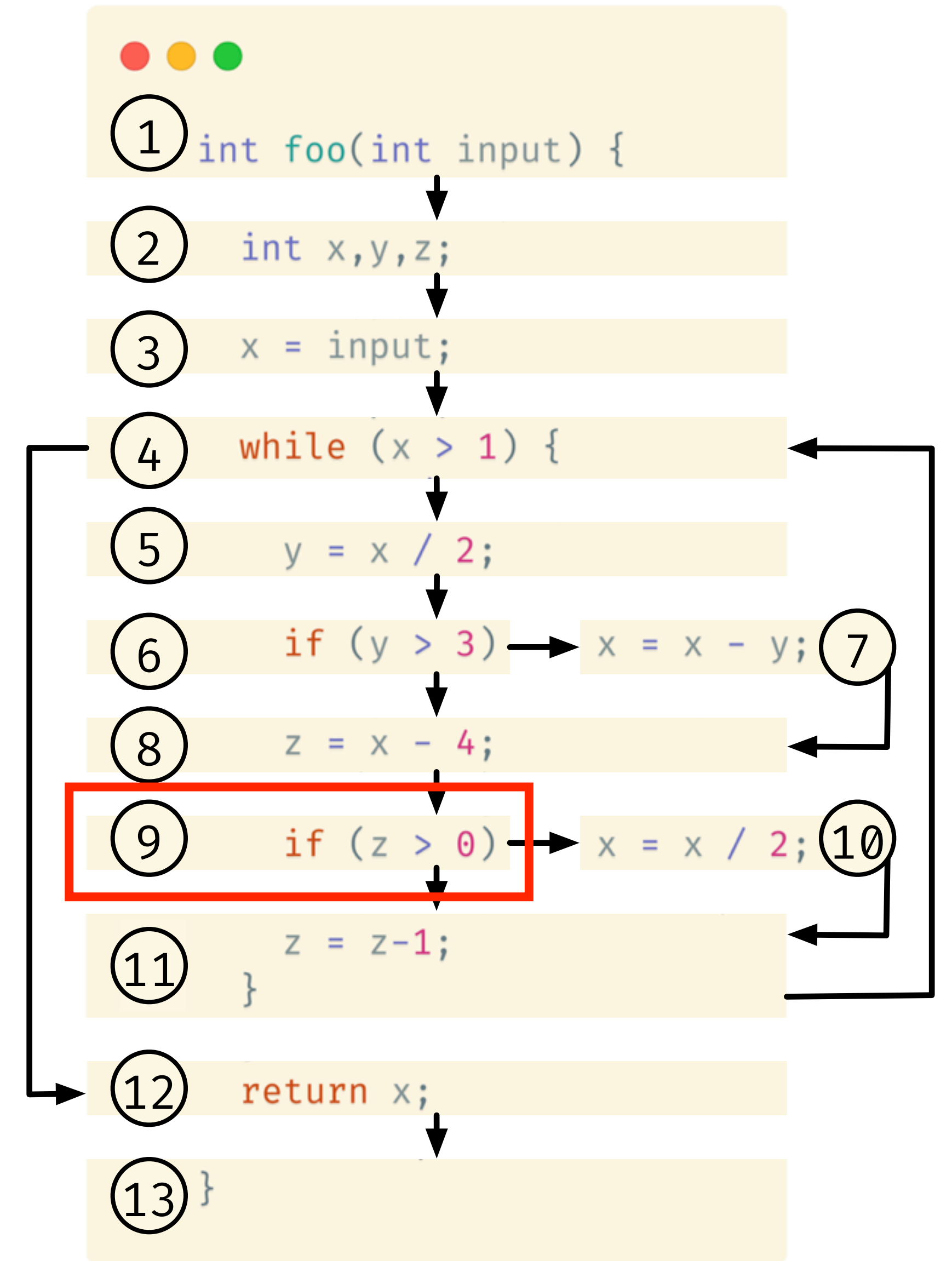
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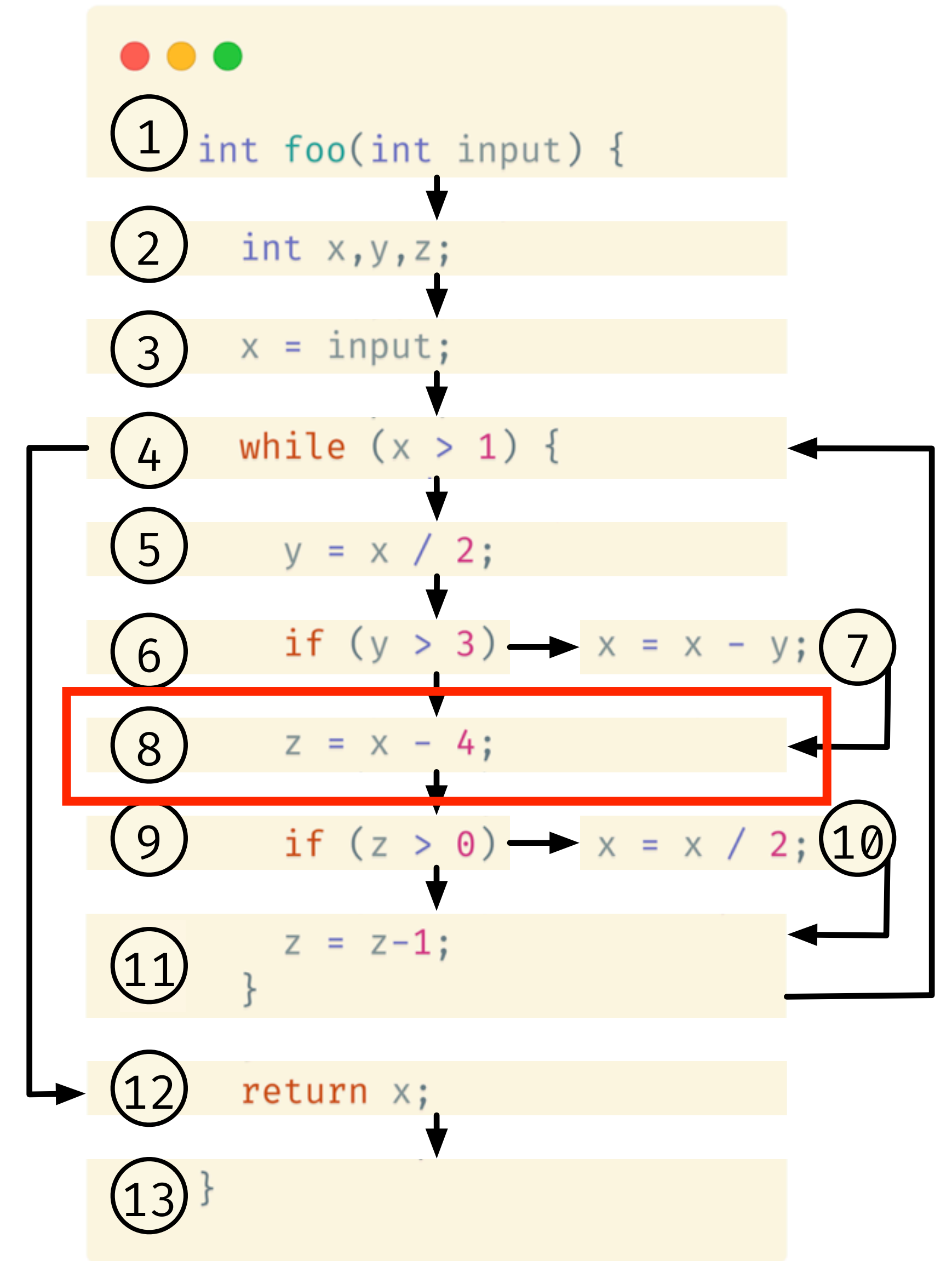
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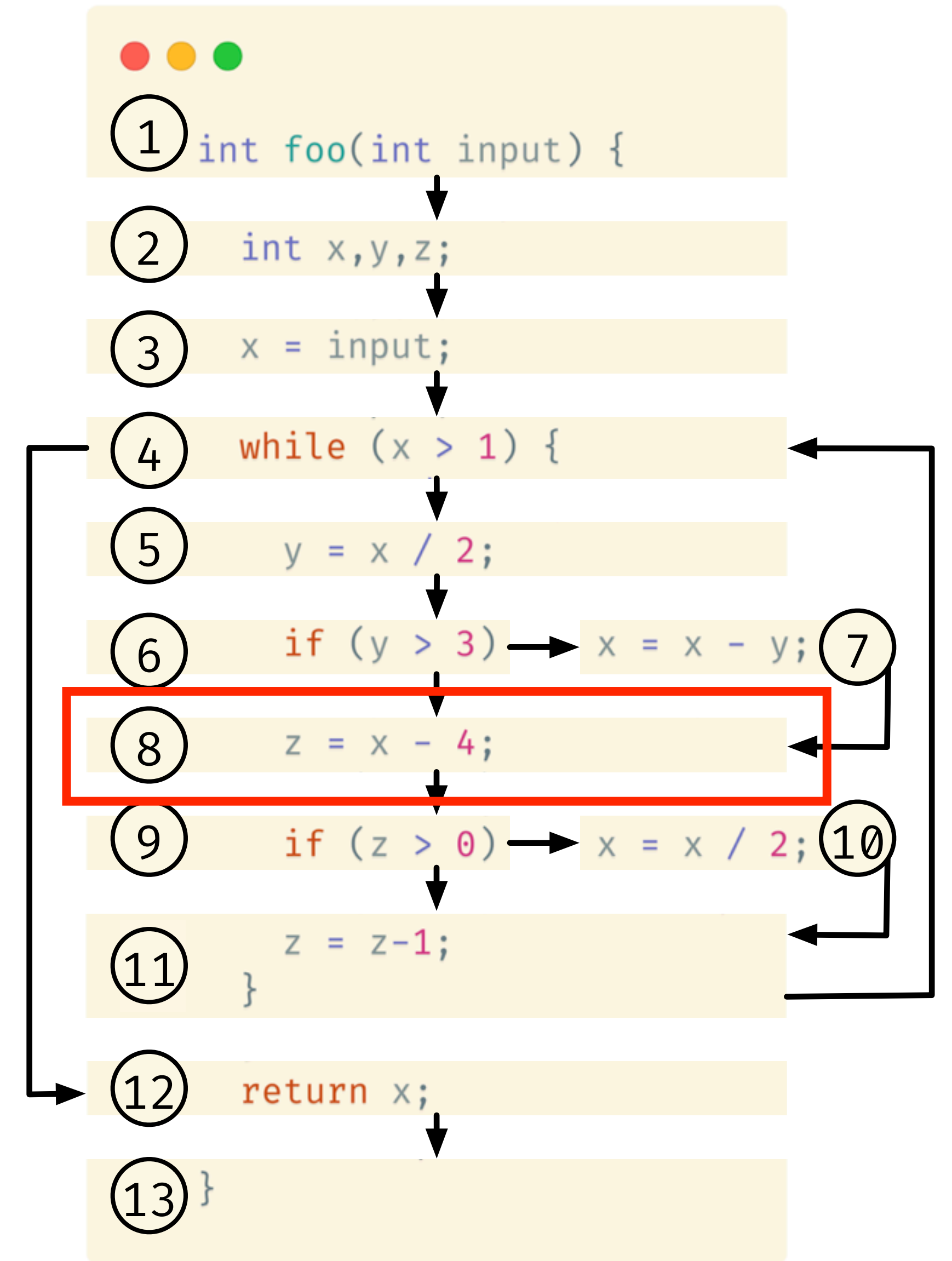
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{x, z} → {x}

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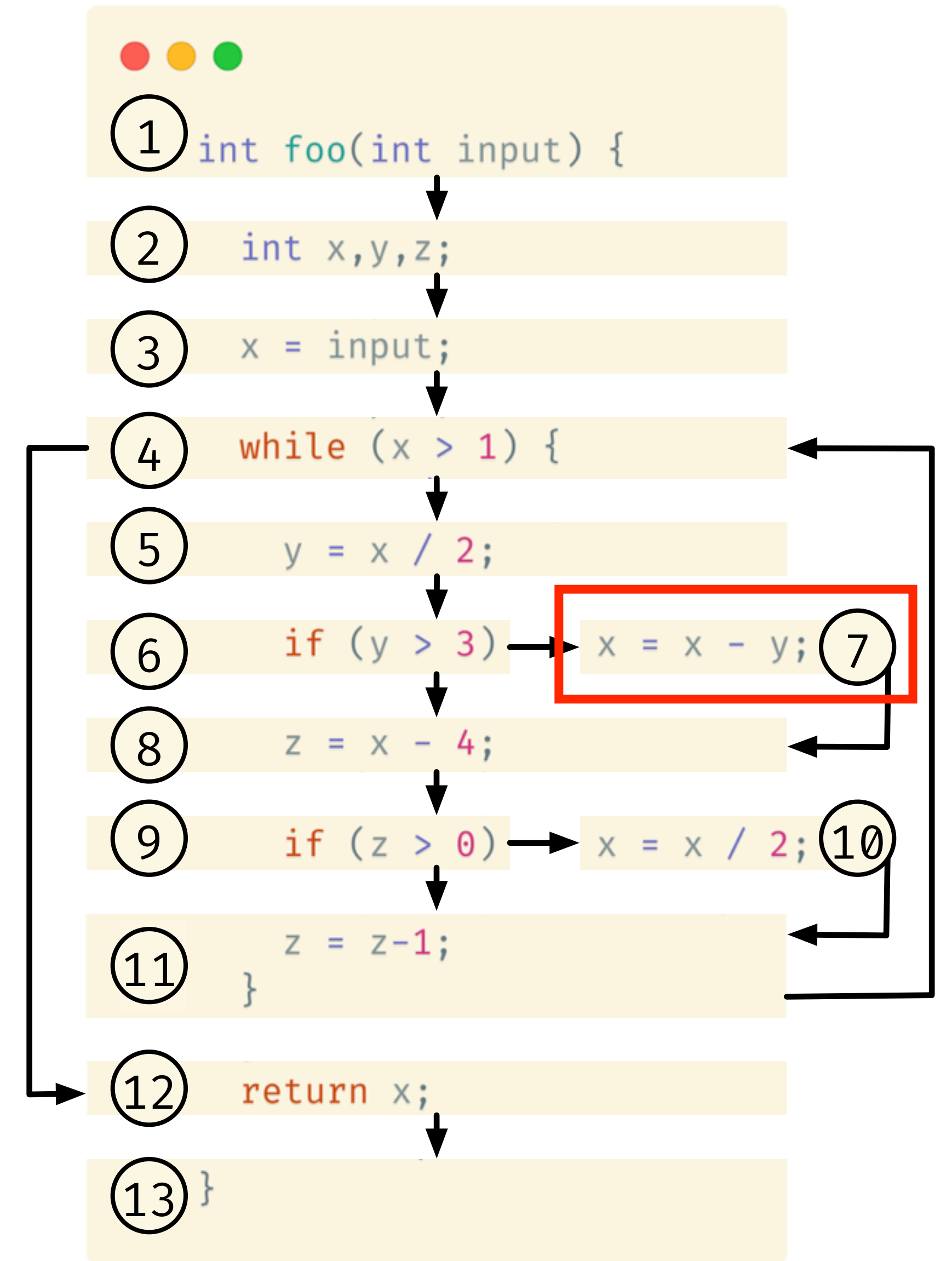
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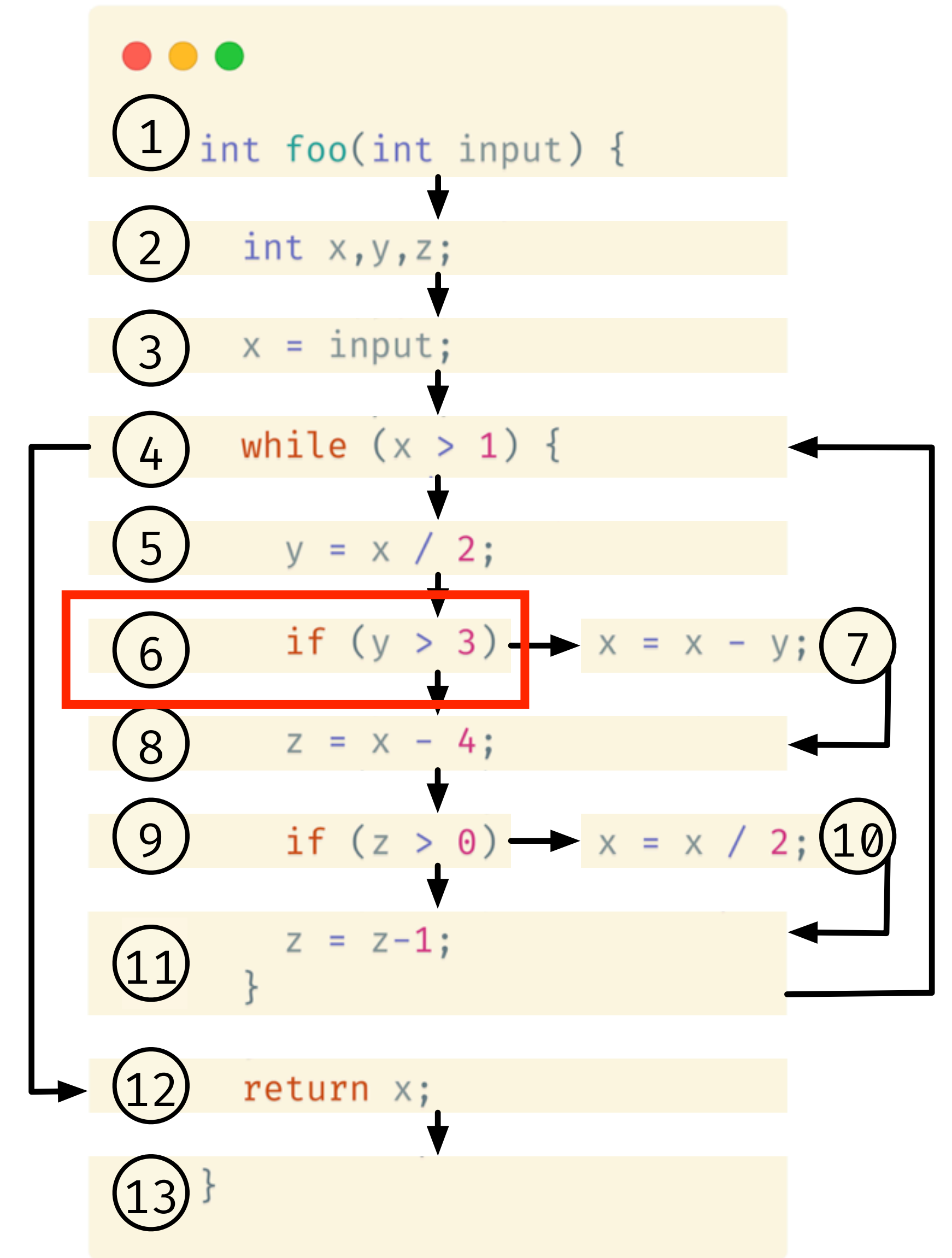
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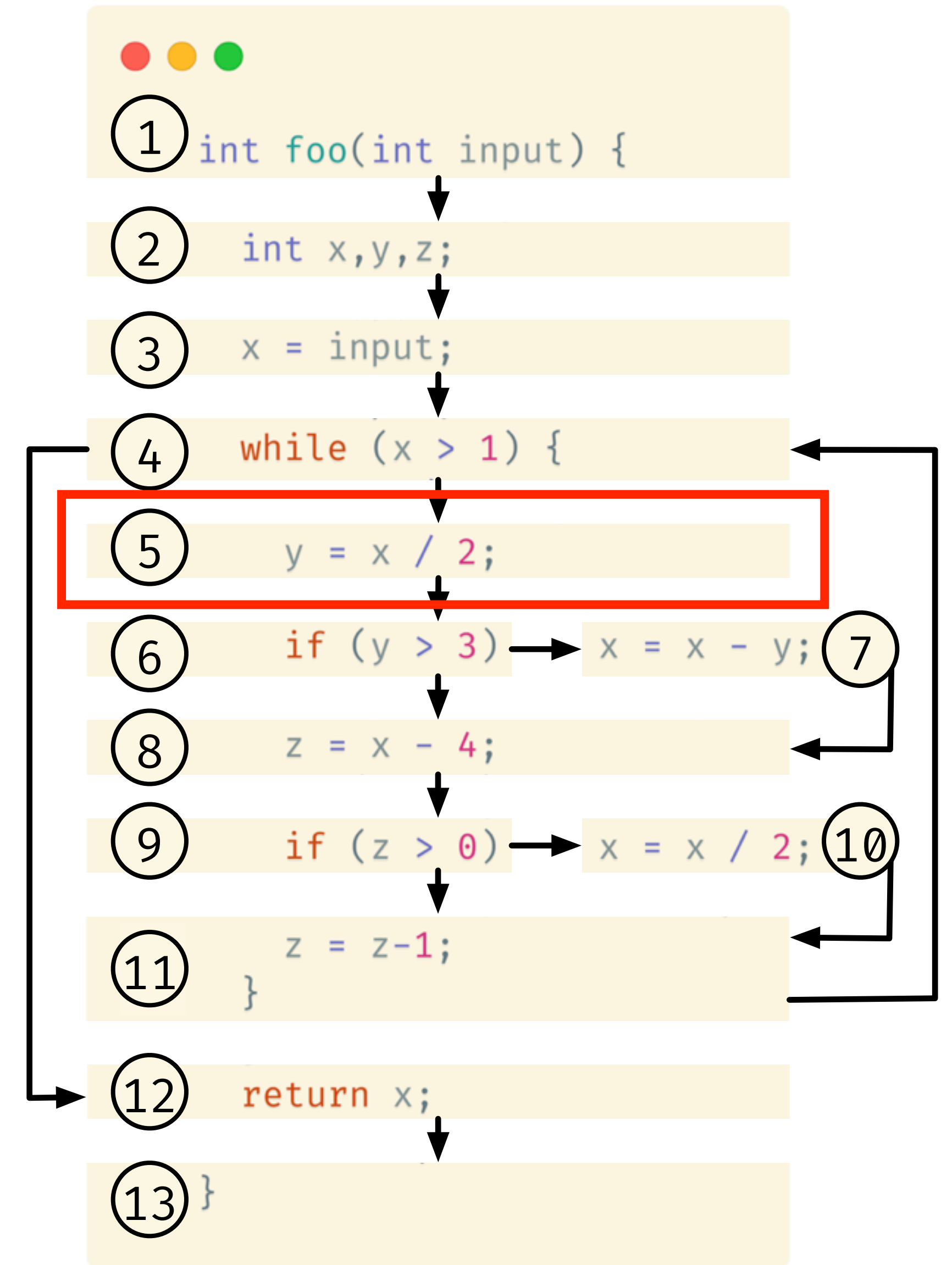
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$$\text{candidates}[n] = \bigcup_{s \in \text{succ}(n)} \text{live}[s];$$

$$\text{live}[n] = \text{use}_{\text{var}}(n) \cup (\text{candidates}[n] - \text{def}_{\text{var}}(n));$$



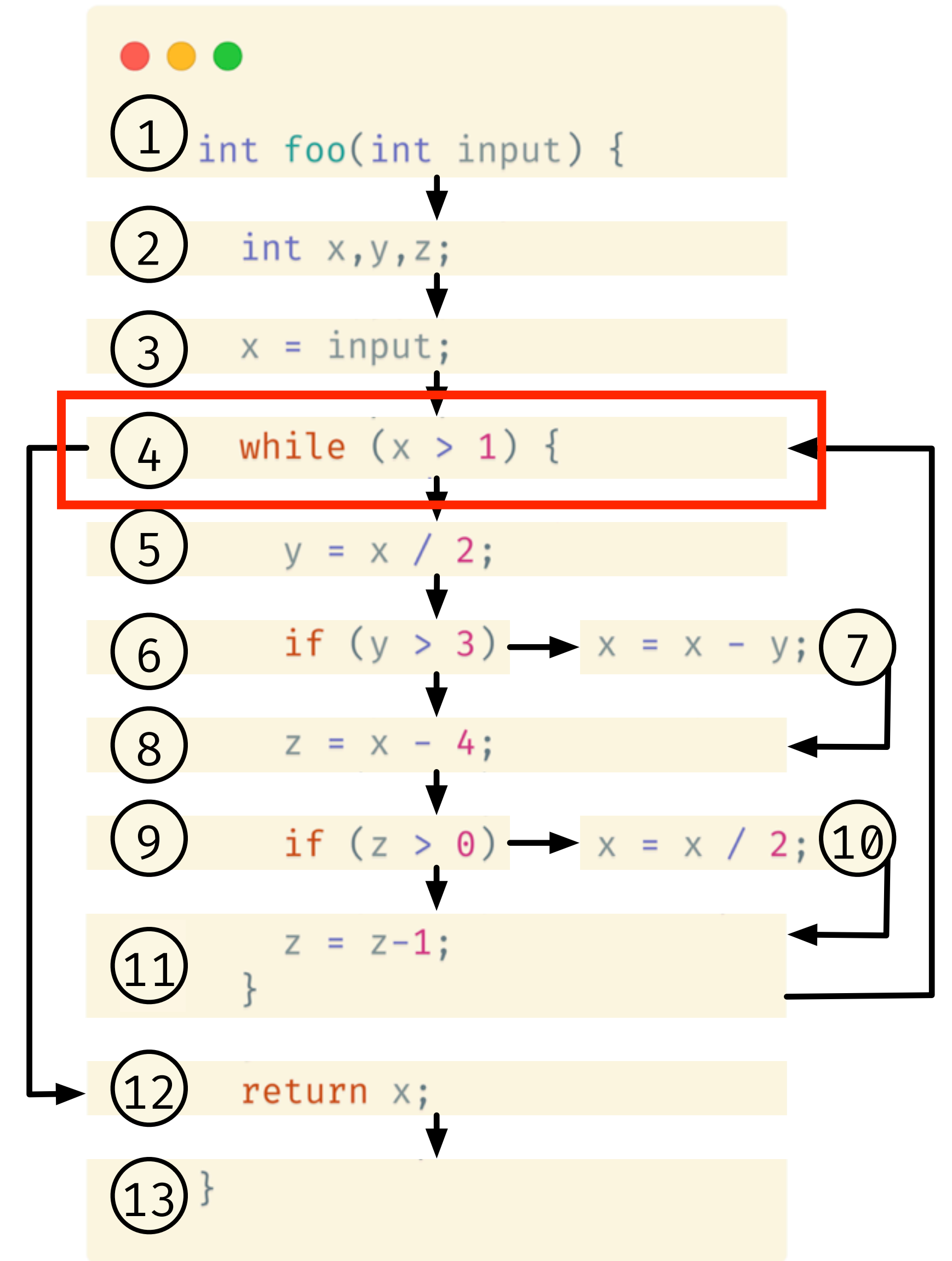
Liveness Analysis Example

1st

Node n	use _{var} (n)	def _{var} (n)	candidate[n]	live[n]
13	{}	{}	{}	{}
12	{x}	{}	{}	{x}
11	{z}	{z}	{}	{z}
10	{x}	{x}	{z}	{x, z}
9	{z}	{}	{x, z}	{x, z}
8	{x}	{z}	{x, z}	{x}
7	{x, y}	{x}	{x}	{x, y}
6	{y}	{}	{x, y}	{x, y}
5	{x}	{y}	{x, y}	{x}
4	{x}	{}	{x}	{x}
3	{}	{x}	{}	{}
2	{}	{}	{}	{}
1	{}	{}	{}	{}

$$\text{candidates}[n] = \bigcup_{s \in \text{succ}(n)} \text{live}[s];$$

$$\text{live}[n] = \text{use}_{\text{var}}(n) \cup (\text{candidates}[n] - \text{def}_{\text{var}}(n));$$



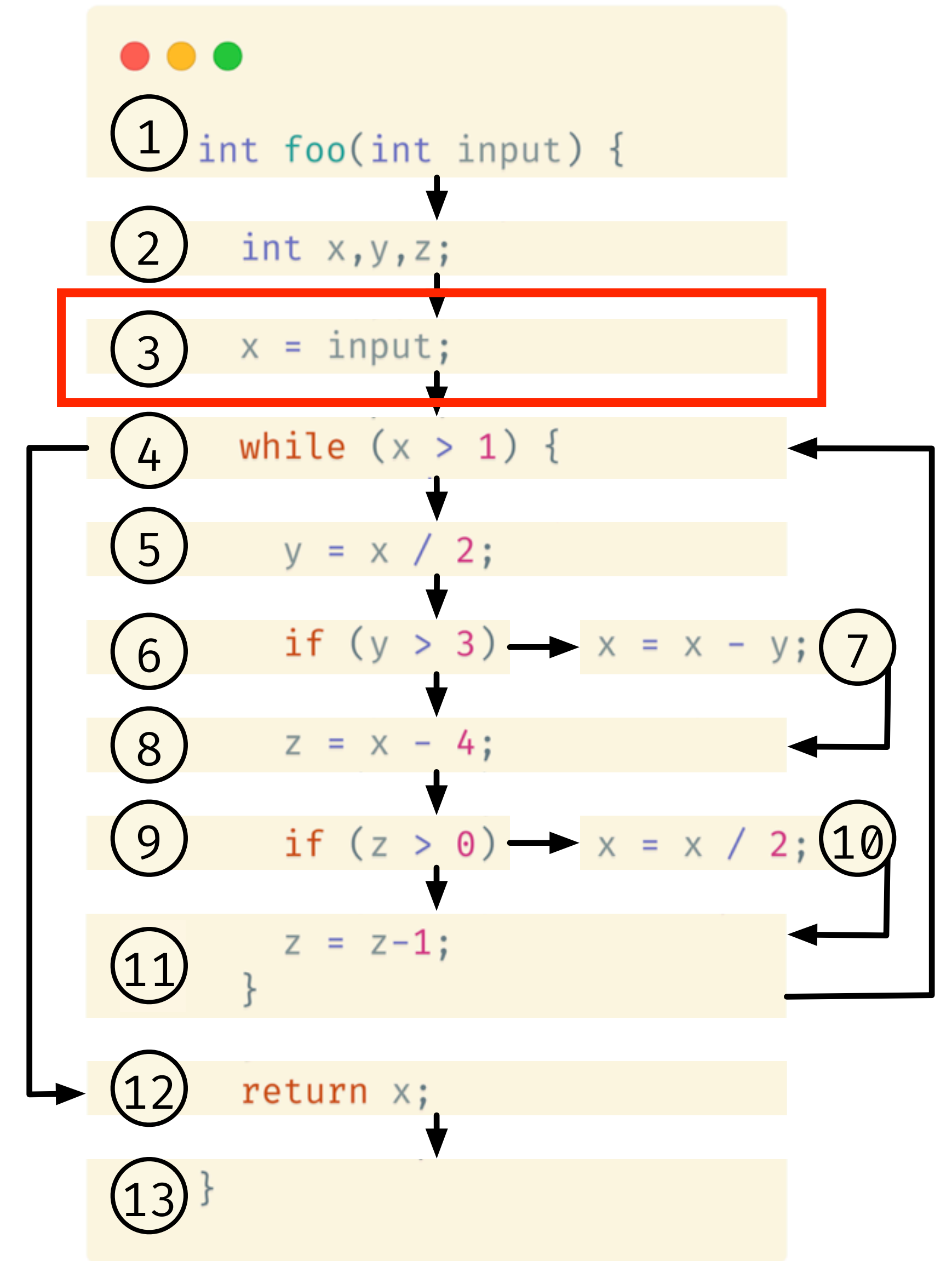
Liveness Analysis Example

1st

Node n	use _{var} (n)	def _{var} (n)	candidate[n]	live[n]
13	{}	{}	{}	{}
12	{x}	{}	{}	{x}
11	{z}	{z}	{}	{z}
10	{x}	{x}	{z}	{x, z}
9	{z}	{}	{x, z}	{x, z}
8	{x}	{z}	{x, z}	{x}
7	{x, y}	{x}	{x}	{x, y}
6	{y}	{}	{x, y}	{x, y}
5	{x}	{y}	{x, y}	{x}
4	{x}	{}	{x}	{x}
3	{}	{x}	{x}	{}
2	{}	{}	{}	{}
1	{}	{}	{}	{}

$$\text{candidates}[n] = \bigcup_{s \in \text{succ}(n)} \text{live}[s];$$

$$\text{live}[n] = \text{use}_{\text{var}}(n) \cup (\text{candidates}[n] - \text{def}_{\text{var}}(n));$$

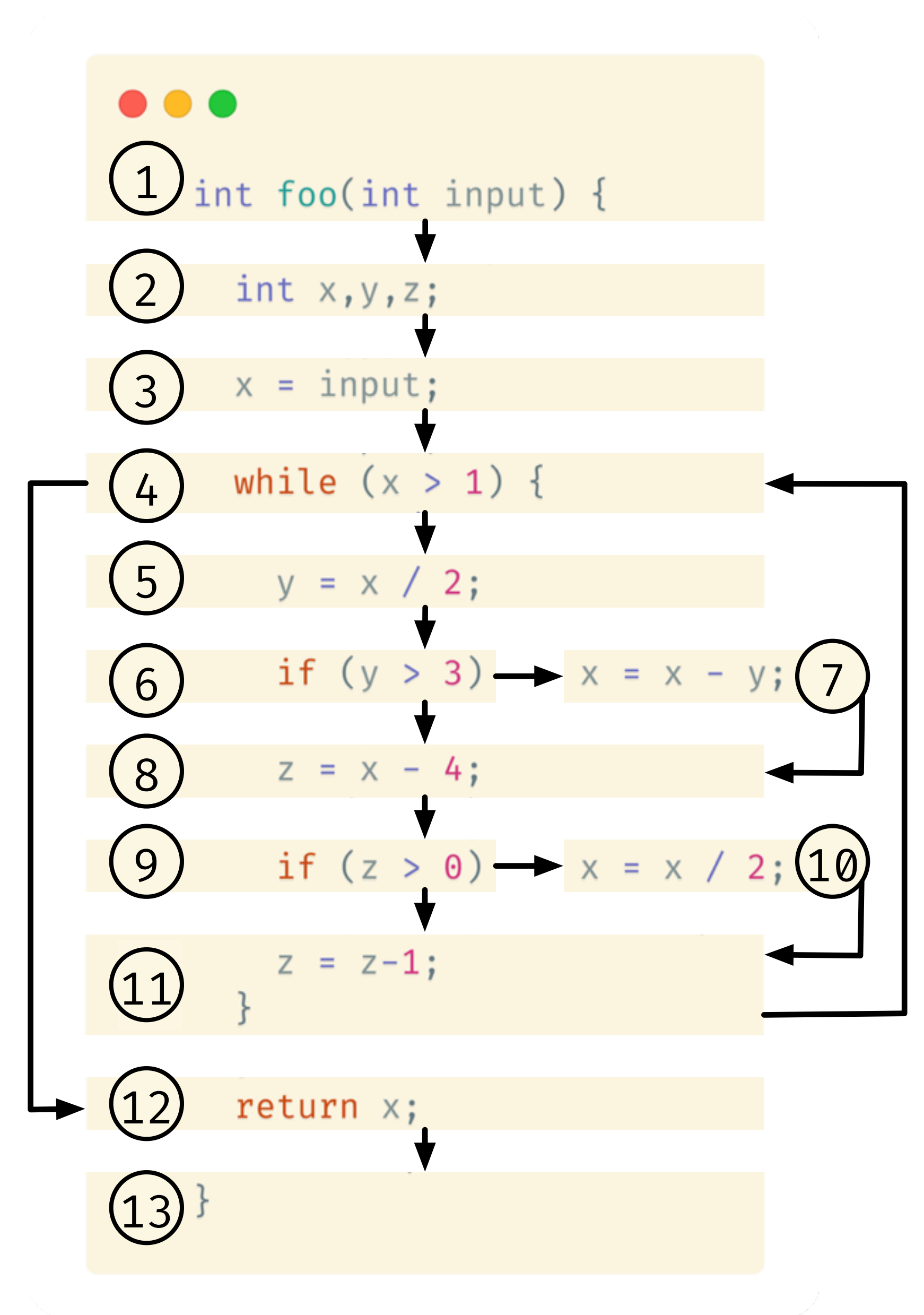


Liveness Analysis Example

1st

Node n	use _{var} (n)	def _{var} (n)	candidate[n]	live[n]
13	{}	{}	{}	{}
12	{x}	{}	{}	{x}
11	{z}	{z}	{}	{z}
10	{x}	{x}	{z}	{x, z}
9	{z}	{}	{x, z}	{x, z}
8	{x}	{z}	{x, z}	{x}
7	{x, y}	{x}	{x}	{x, y}
6	{y}	{}	{x, y}	{x, y}
5	{x}	{y}	{x, y}	{x}
4	{x}	{}	{x}	{x}
3	{}	{x}	{x}	{}
2	{}	{}	{}	{}
1	{}	{}	{}	{}

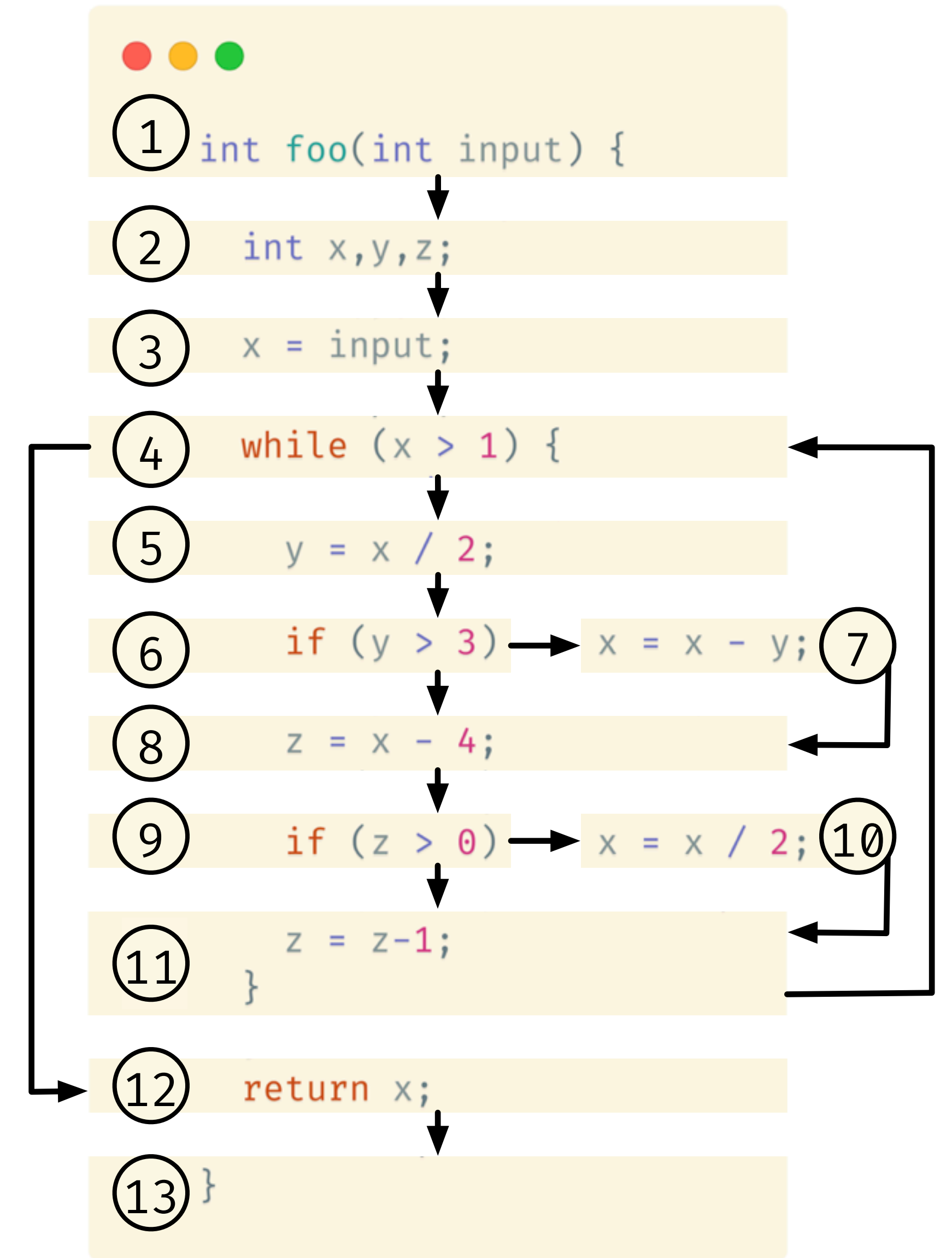
Completed fist iteration



Liveness Analysis Example

Node n	use _{var} (n)	def _{var} (n)	1st		2nd	
			candidate[n]	live[n]	candidate[n]	live[n]
13	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}
12	{x}	{}	{}	{x}	{}	{x}
11	{z}	{z}	{}	{z}	{x}	{x, z}
10	{x}	{x}	{z}	{x, z}	{x, z}	{x, z}
9	{z}	{}	{x, z}	{x, z}	{x, z}	{x, z}
8	{x}	{z}	{x, z}	{x}	{x, z}	{x}
7	{x, y}	{x}	{x}	{x, y}	{x}	{x, y}
6	{y}	{}	{x, y}	{x, y}	{x, y}	{x, y}
5	{x}	{y}	{x, y}	{x}	{x, y}	{x}
4	{x}	{}	{x}	{x}	{x}	{x}
3	{}	{x}	{x}	{}	{x}	{}
2	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}
1	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}

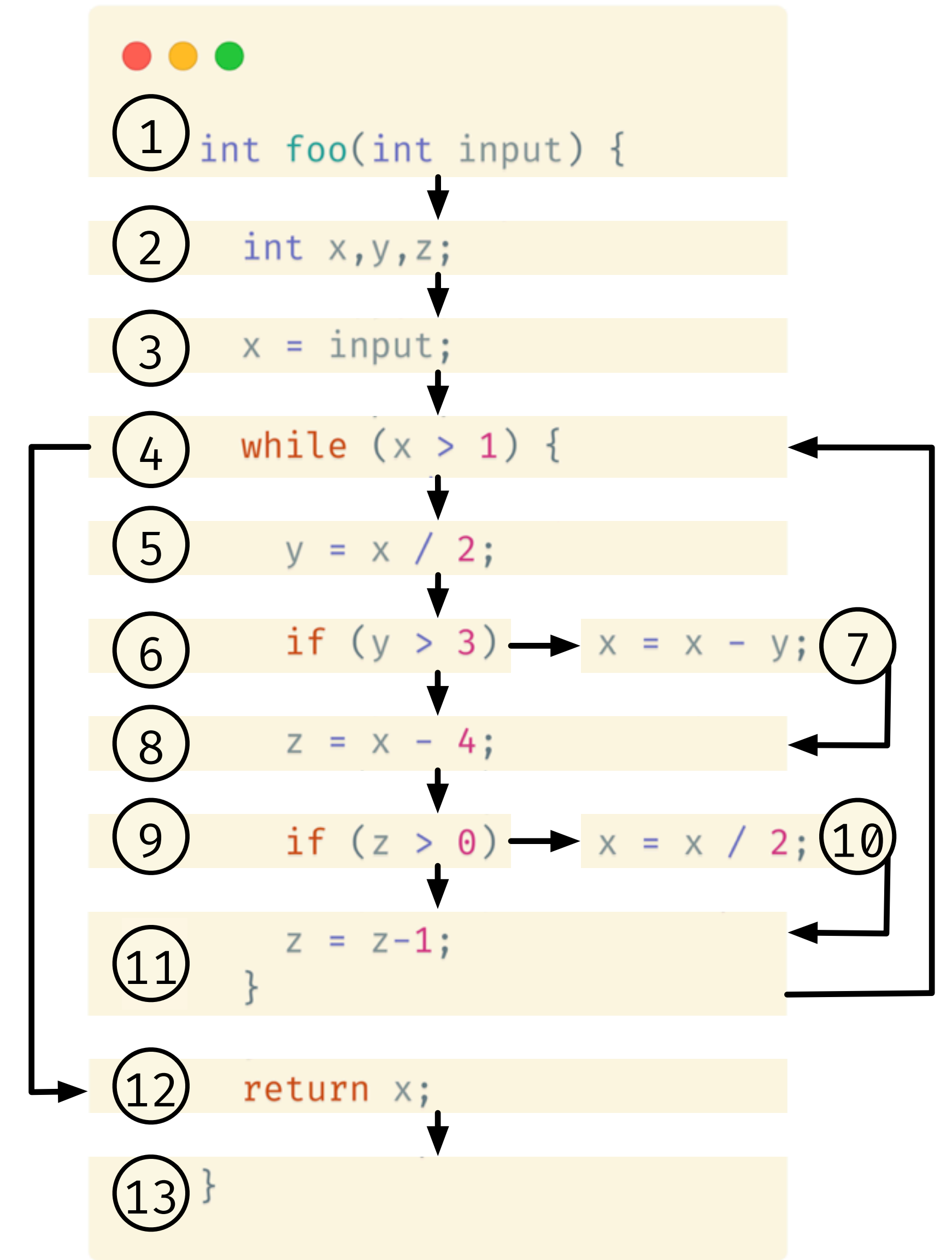
Completed second iteration



Liveness Analysis Example

Node n	use _{var} (n)	def _{var} (n)	1st		2nd		3rd	
			candidate[n]	live[n]	candidate[n]	live[n]	candidate[n]	live[n]
13	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}
12	{x}	{}	{}	{x}	{}	{x}	{}	{x}
11	{z}	{z}	{}	{z}	{x}	{x, z}	{x}	{x, z}
10	{x}	{x}	{z}	{x, z}	{x, z}	{x, z}	{x, z}	{x, z}
9	{z}	{}	{x, z}	{x, z}	{x, z}	{x, z}	{x, z}	{x, z}
8	{x}	{z}	{x, z}	{x}	{x, z}	{x}	{x, z}	{x}
7	{x, y}	{x}	{x}	{x, y}	{x}	{x, y}	{x}	{x, y}
6	{y}	{}	{x, y}	{x, y}	{x, y}	{x, y}	{x, y}	{x, y}
5	{x}	{y}	{x, y}	{x}	{x, y}	{x}	{x, y}	{x}
4	{x}	{}	{x}	{x}	{x}	{x}	{x}	{x}
3	{}	{x}	{x}	{}	{x}	{}	{x}	{}
2	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}
1	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}

No changes: fixpoint reached

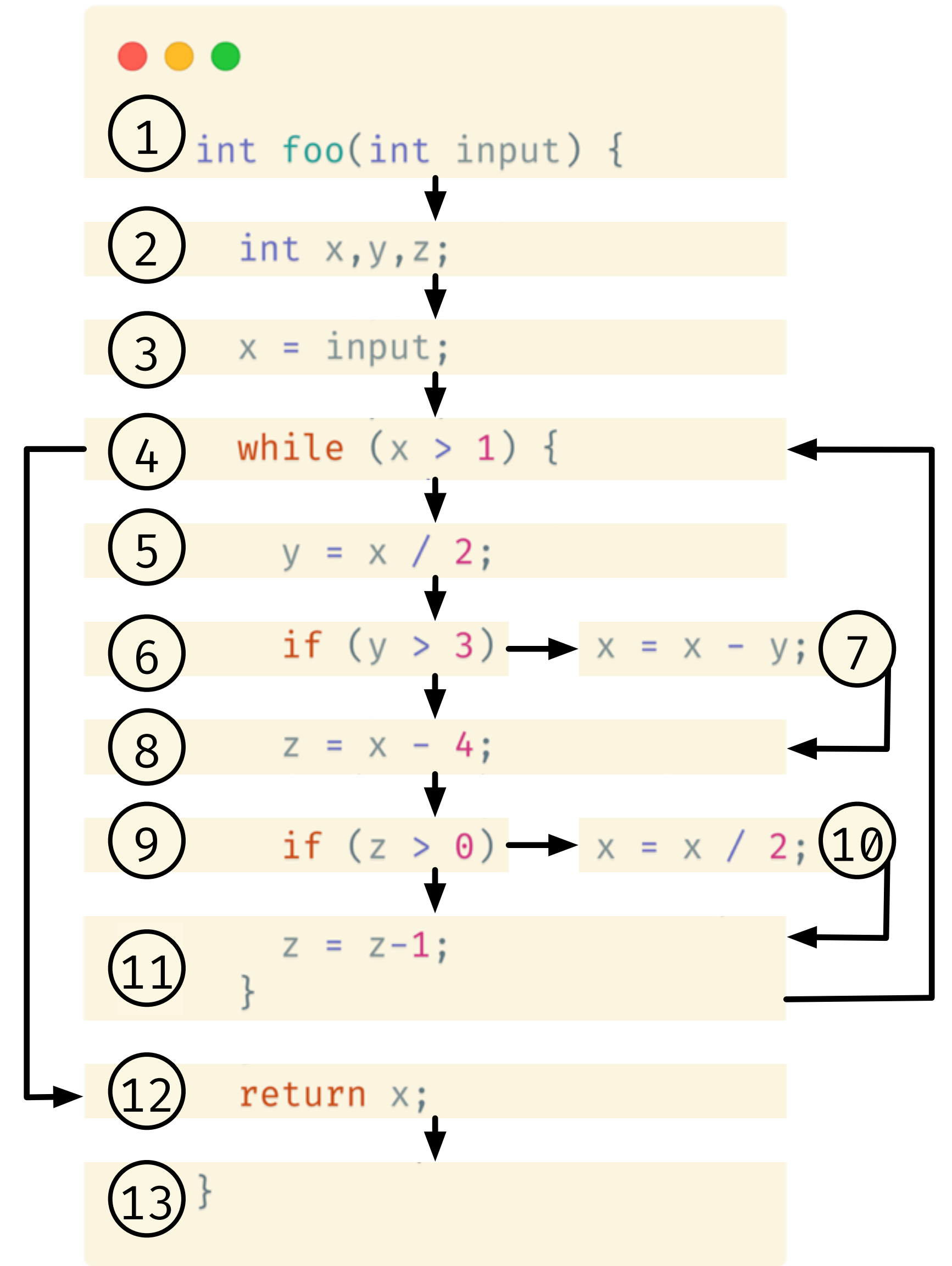


Liveness Analysis Example

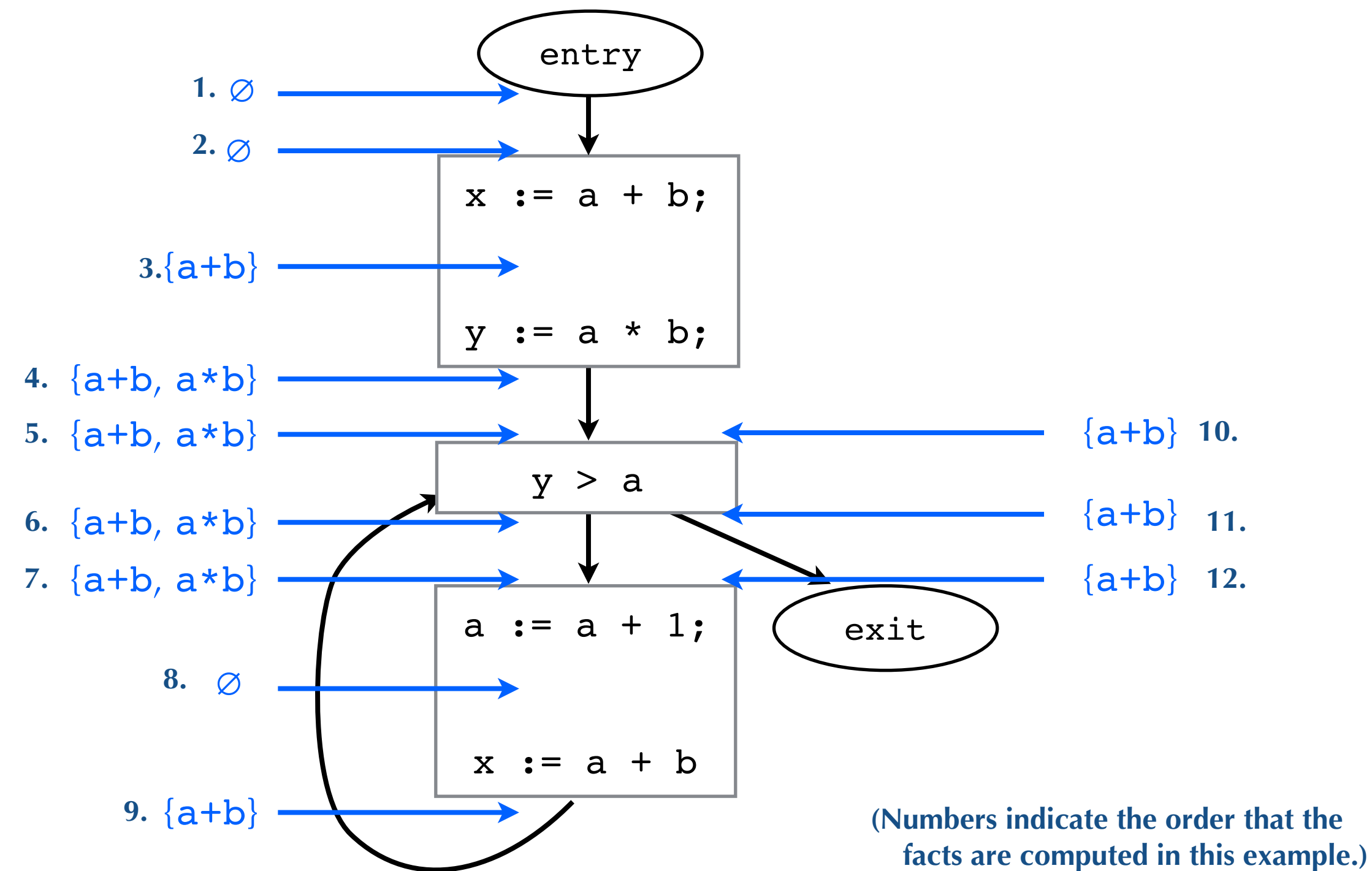
Node n	use _{var} (n)	def _{var} (n)	1st		2nd		3rd	
			candidate[n]	live[n]	candidate[n]	live[n]	candidate[n]	live[n]
13	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}
12	{x}	{}	{}	{x}	{}	{x}	{}	{x}
11	{z}	{z}	{}	{z}	{x}	{x, z}	{x}	{x, z}
10	{x}	{x}	{z}	{x, z}	{x, z}	{x, z}	{x, z}	{x, z}
9	{z}	{}	{x, z}	{x, z}	{x, z}	{x, z}	{x, z}	{x, z}
8	{x}	{z}	{x, z}	{x}	{x, z}	{x}	{x, z}	{x}
7	{x, y}	{x}	{x}	{x, y}	{x}	{x, y}	{x}	{x, y}
6	{y}	{}	{x, y}	{x, y}	{x, y}	{x, y}	{x, y}	{x, y}
5	{x}	{y}	{x, y}	{x}	{x, y}	{x}	{x, y}	{x}
4	{x}	{}	{x}	{x}	{x}	{x}	{x}	{x}
3	{}	{x}	{x}	{}	{x}	{}	{x}	{}
2	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}
1	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}	{}

No changes: fixpoint reached

y and z
are never
live together



Available Expressions



Stmt	Gen	Kill
$x := a + b$	$\{a + b\}$	
$y := a * b$	$\{a * b\}$	
$y > a$		
$a := a + 1$	$\{a + 1\}$	$\{a + 1, a + b, a * b\}$

add to set of available expressions remove from set of available expressions

Stmt	Gen	Kill
$x := v$	$\{v\}$	$\{e \mid x \text{ in } e\}$

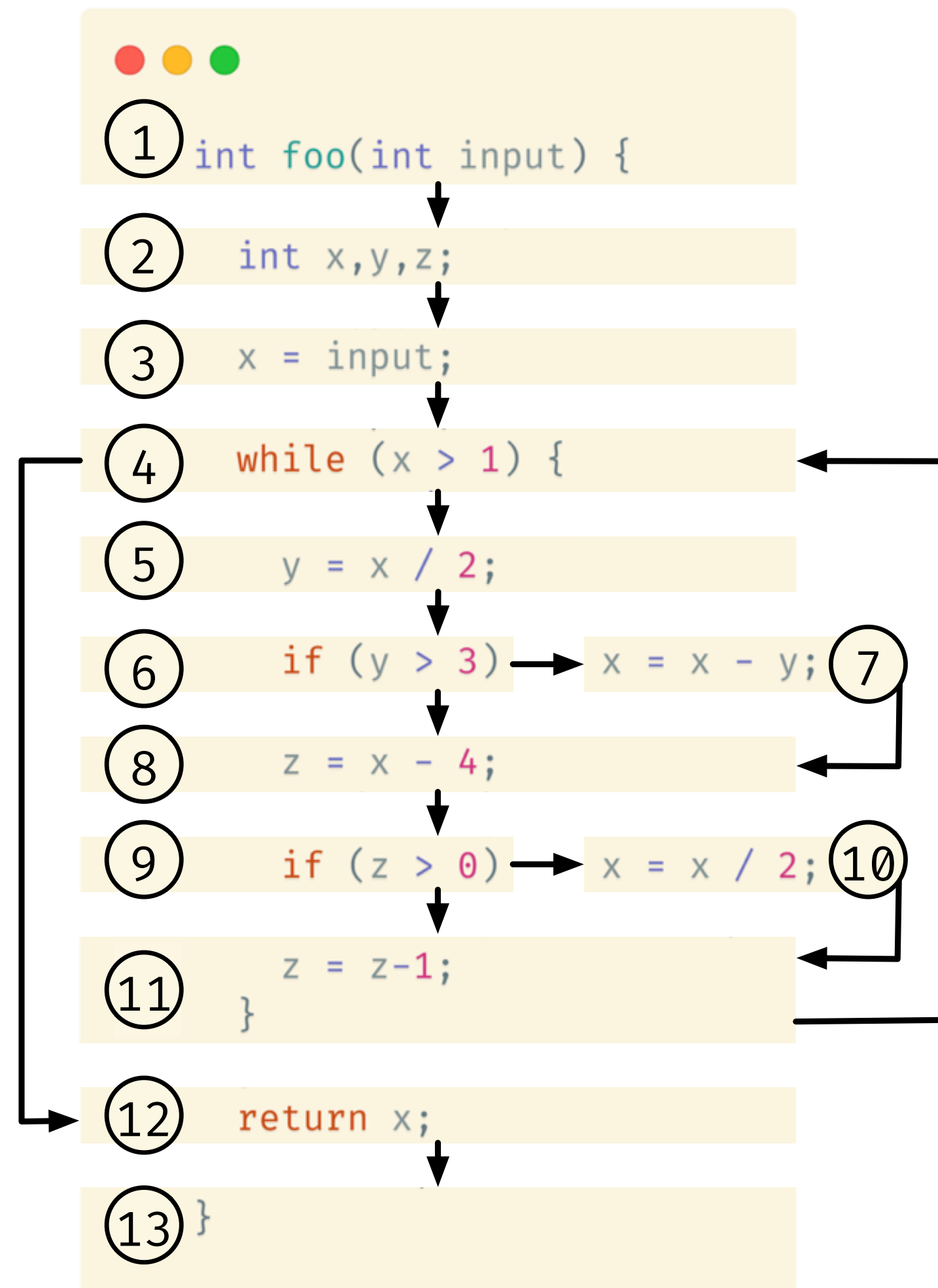
What is SSA and how does it help Data-flow analysis?

- Single Static Assignment (SSA) enforces two important properties on the IR:
 - variables are assigned exactly once
 - every variable is defined before it is used (the definition dominates all uses)
- This simplifies data-flow analysis!

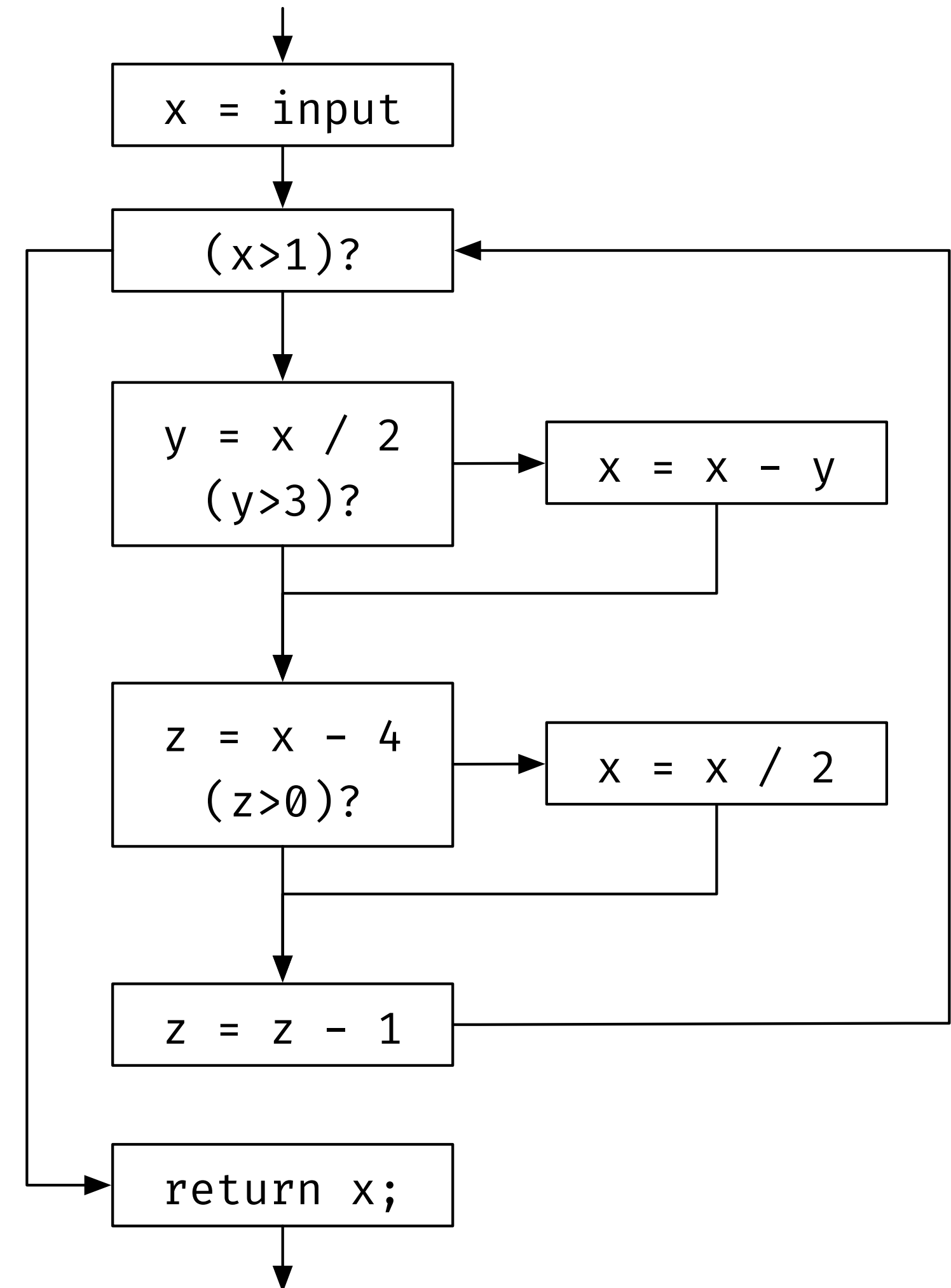
Kill set not longer required!

Stmt	Gen	Kill
$x := v$	$\{v\}$	

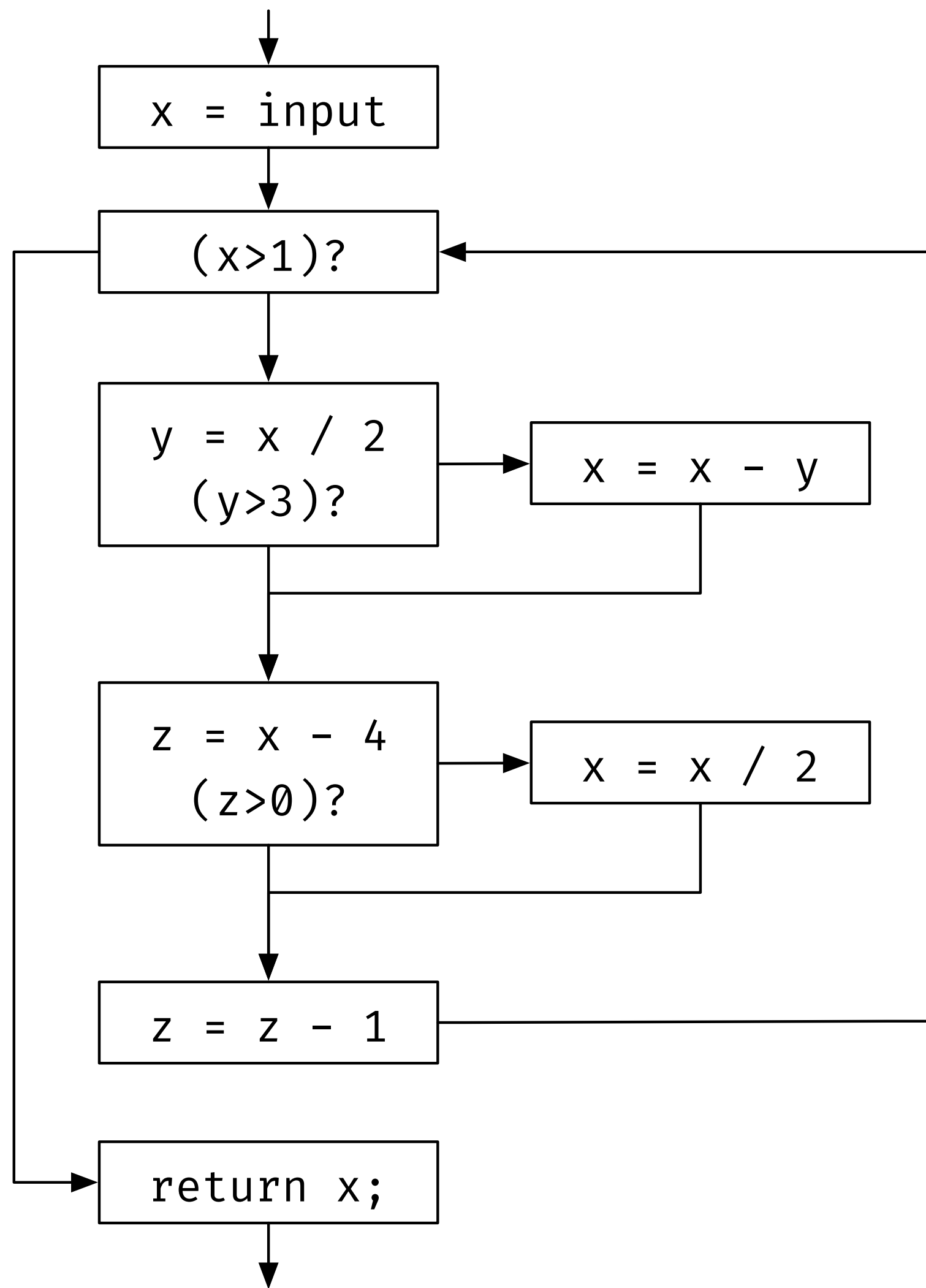
Constructing SSA



Lower control
flow to branches
→



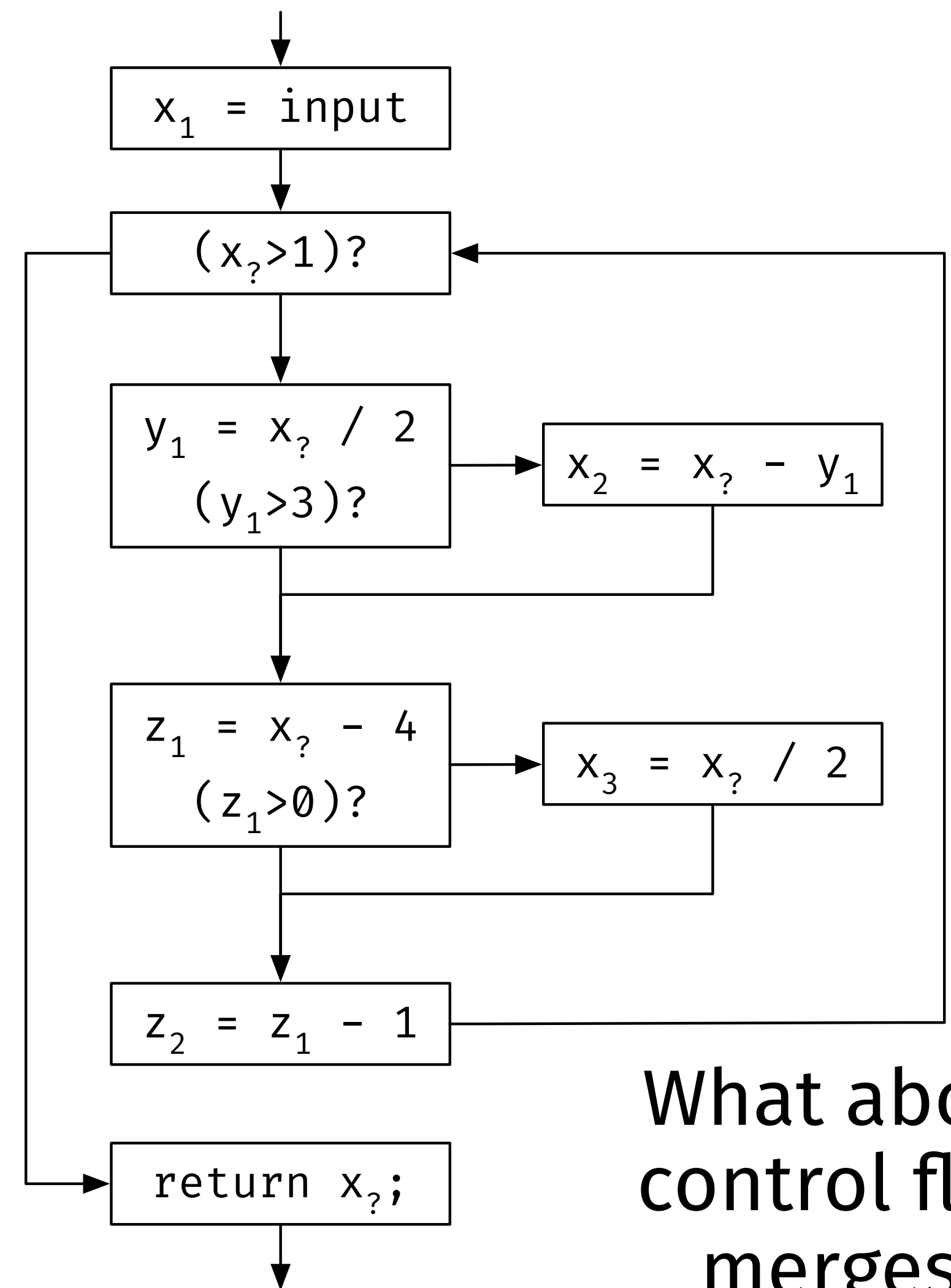
Constructing SSA



Each definition
gets a fresh name

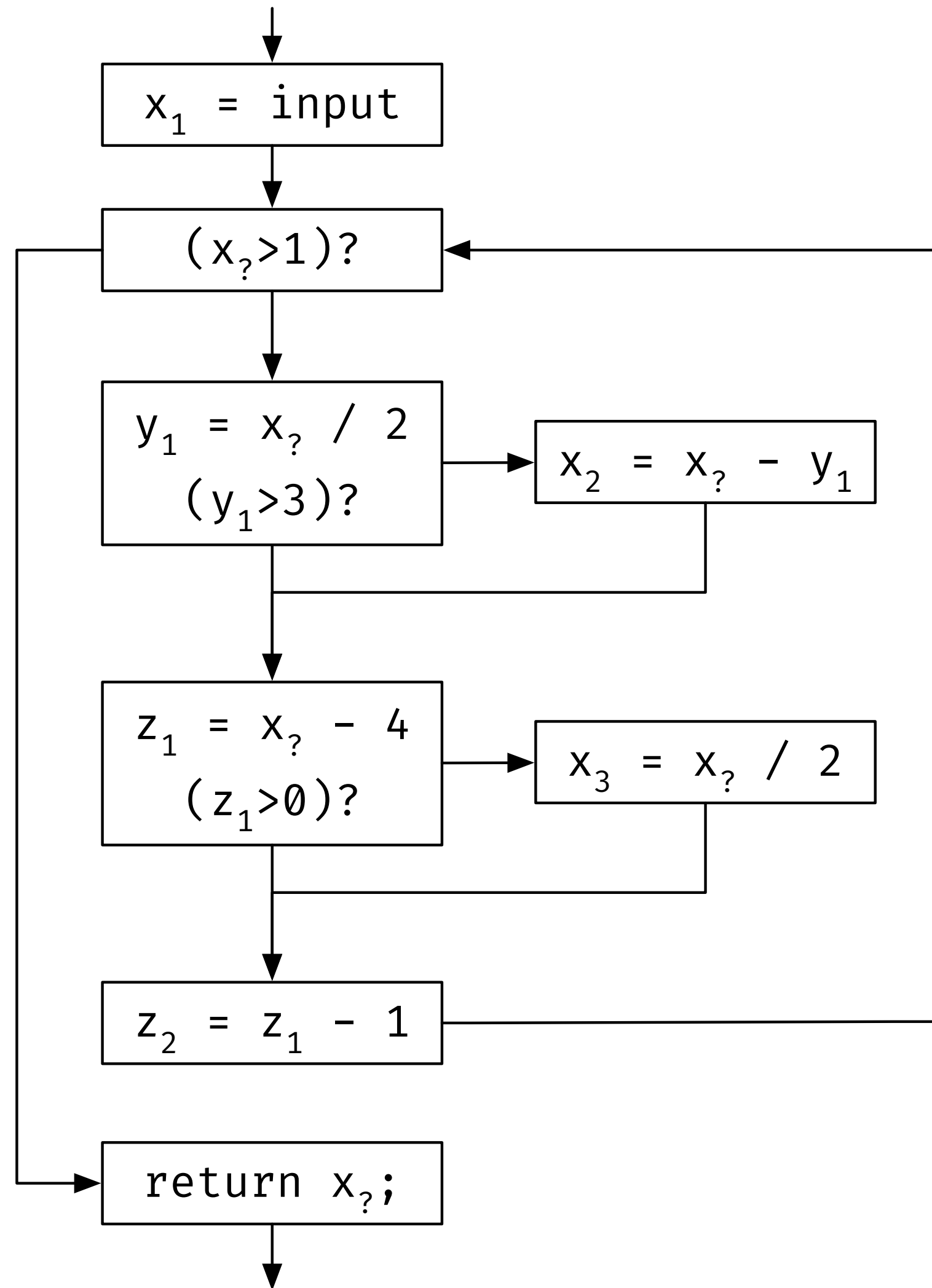


Propagate
fresh name
to uses

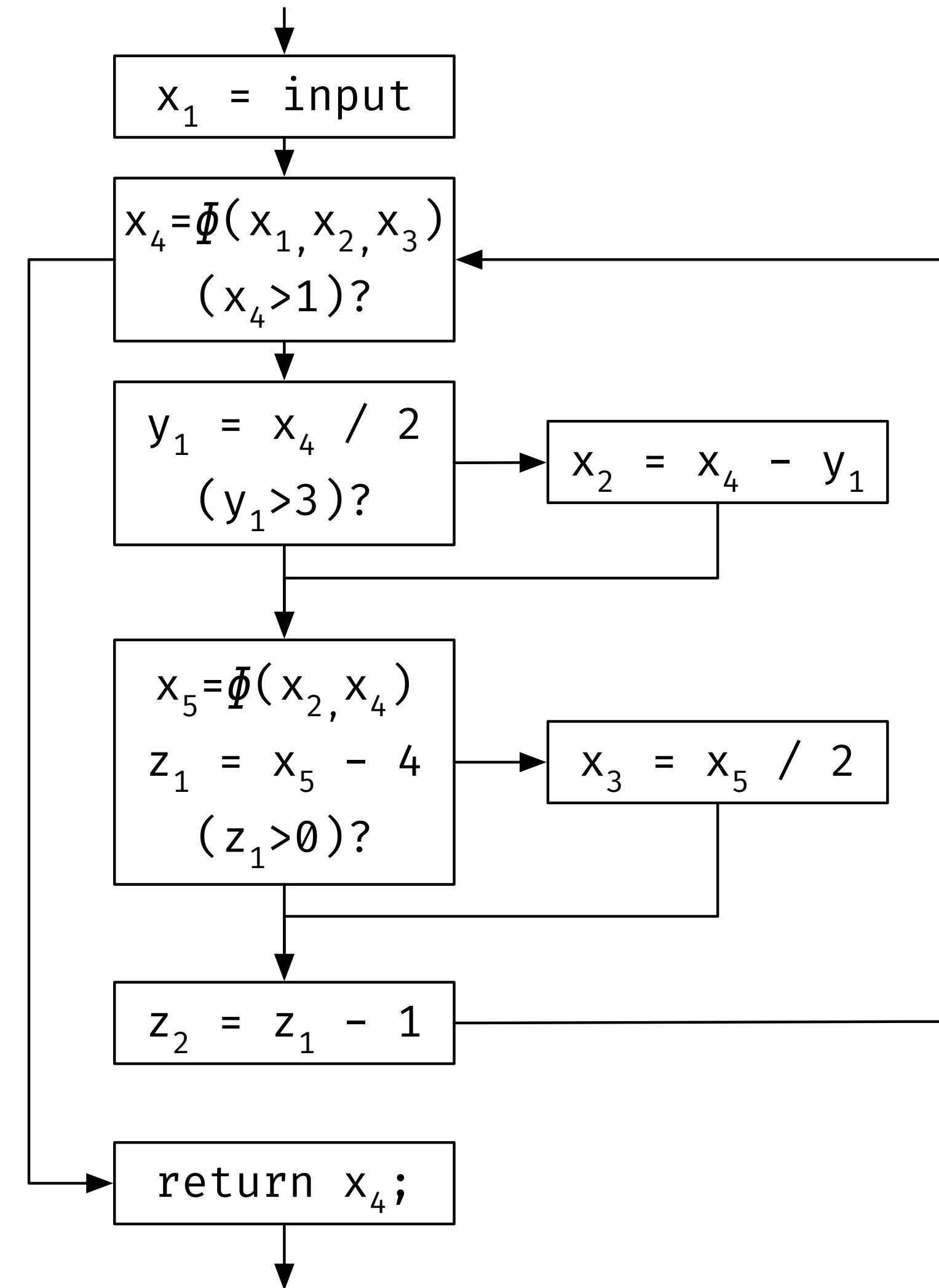


What about
control flow
merges?

Constructing SSA



Insert additional ϕ -nodes to merge control flow



Constant Folding is super easy in SSA

- For any statement $x=c$ replace use of x with c
- Replace $x=\Phi(c, \dots, c)$ with $x=c$

W = list of all SSA statements

```
while (!W.isEmpty):
  S = W.head
  W = W.tail
  if (S == `x=Φ(c, ..., c)`):
    S.replace(`x=c`)
  if (S == `x=c`):
    S.delete
    foreach T in use(x):
      replace c for x in T
    W.add(T)
```

LLVM IR - Textual representation

```
1 int foo(int input) {
2     int x,y,z;
3     x = input;
4     while (x > 1) {
5         y = x / 2;
6         if (y > 3) x = x - y;
7         z = x - 4;
8         if (z > 0) x = x / 2;
9         z = z-1;
10    }
11    return x;
12 }
```

```
; ModuleID = 'foo.c'
source_filename = "foo.c"
target datalayout = "e-m:o-p270:32:32-p271:32:32-p272:64:64-i64:64-f80:128-n8:16:32:64"
target triple = "x86_64-apple-macosx10.15.0"

; Function Attrs: noinline nounwind optnone ssp uwtable
define i32 @foo(i32 %0) #0 {
    %2 = alloca i32, align 4
    %3 = alloca i32, align 4
    %4 = alloca i32, align 4
    %5 = alloca i32, align 4
    store i32 %0, i32* %2, align 4
    %6 = load i32, i32* %2, align 4
    store i32 %6, i32* %3, align 4
    br label %7

7:                                     ; preds = %27, %1
    %8 = load i32, i32* %3, align 4
    %9 = icmp sgt i32 %8, 1
    br i1 %9, label %10, label %30

10:                                    ; preds = %7
    %11 = load i32, i32* %3, align 4
    %12 = sdiv i32 %11, 2
    store i32 %12, i32* %4, align 4
    %13 = load i32, i32* %4, align 4
    %14 = icmp sgt i32 %13, 3
    br i1 %14, label %15, label %19

15:                                    ; preds = %10
    %16 = load i32, i32* %3, align 4
    %17 = load i32, i32* %4, align 4
    %18 = sub nsw i32 %16, %17
```

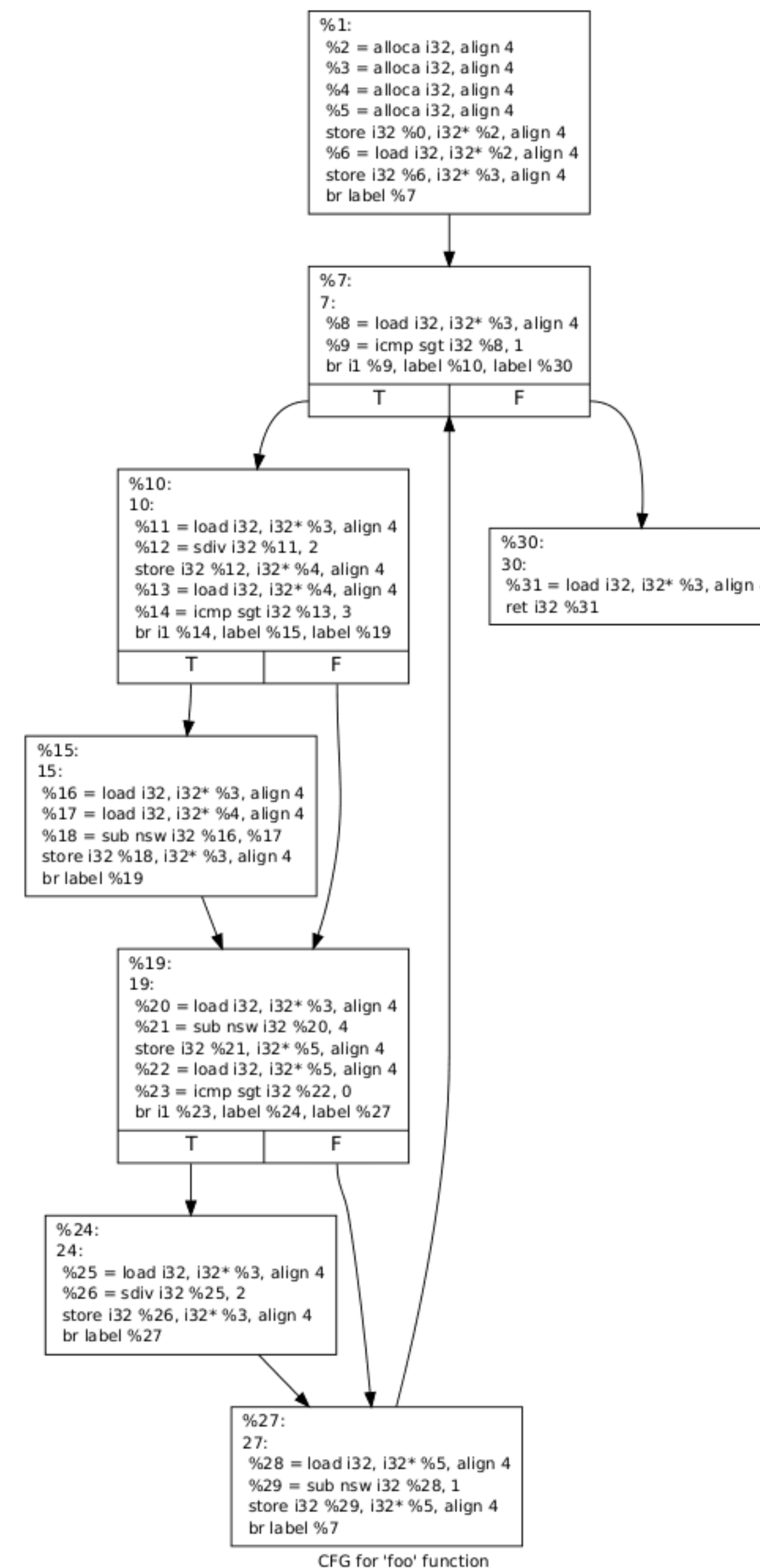
LLVM IR - Control Flow Graphs

- In LLVM's CFG nodes are *basic blocks*: groups of statements with sequential control flow
- You can let LLVM generate CFGs using the dot tool.

```
opt -dot-cfg foo.o
```



```
1 int foo(int input) {  
2   int x,y,z;  
3   x = input;  
4   while (x > 1) {  
5     y = x / 2;  
6     if (y > 3) x = x - y;  
7     z = x - 4;  
8     if (z > 0) x = x / 2;  
9     z = z-1;  
10  }  
11  return x;  
12 }
```



LLVM IR - ϕ nodes vs. load&store instructions

- load and store instructions model reading and writing from variables which reduces the number of ϕ nodes
- ϕ nodes are still used, e.g. for control flow in individual expressions:

```
int l = y || r;
```

results in:

```
%6 = load i32, i32* %4, align 4, !dbg !18  
%7 = icmp ne i32 %6, 0, !dbg !18  
br i1 %7, label %11, label %8, !dbg !19
```

8:

```
%9 = load i32, i32* %3, align 4, !dbg !20  
%10 = icmp ne i32 %9, 0, !dbg !20  
br label %11, !dbg !19
```

11:

```
%12 = phi i1 [ true, %2 ], [ %10, %8 ]  
%13 = zext i1 %12 to i32, !dbg !18  
store i32 %13, i32* %5, align 4, !dbg !17
```


References

- Prof. Stephen Chong Compiler Course at Harvard <https://www.seas.harvard.edu/courses/cs153/2018fa>
- Michael I. Schwartzbach, Lecture Notes on Static Analysis <https://itu.dk/people/brabrand/UFPE/Data-Flow-Analysis/static.pdf>
- Static Single Assignment Book <http://ssabook.gforge.inria.fr/latest/book.pdf>
- Online Compiler Explorer <https://godbolt.org/>