

Exercise 4: Information Flow and Call Graphs

—Solution—

Deadline for uploading solutions via Ilias:
January 26, 2022, 11:59pm Stuttgart time

Task 1 Information Flow Analysis

[28 points]

This task is about dynamic information flow analysis. Consider the following JavaScript code to analyze:

```
1 let id = getId({"name": "Alice", "pass": "Password1"});
2 let accessCredentials = getAccess(id);
3
4 if (accessCredentials[0] > 1) {
5     console.error("Required access level lower than 2!");
6     console.error("Found access level = " + accessCredentials[0]);
7
8 } else {
9     let dataLength = api.getDataLength(accessCredentials[1]);
10    if (dataLength > 15) {
11        alert("The length of data surpasses max capacity");
12
13    } else {
14        let data = api.getData(id, accessCredentials[1]);
15        for (let i=0; i<data.length; i++){
16            console.log(encryptMessage({"data": data[i], "key": data[dataLength]}))
17        }
18    }
19 }
```

There are four security classes for this program which are presented in the lattice below (Figure 1).

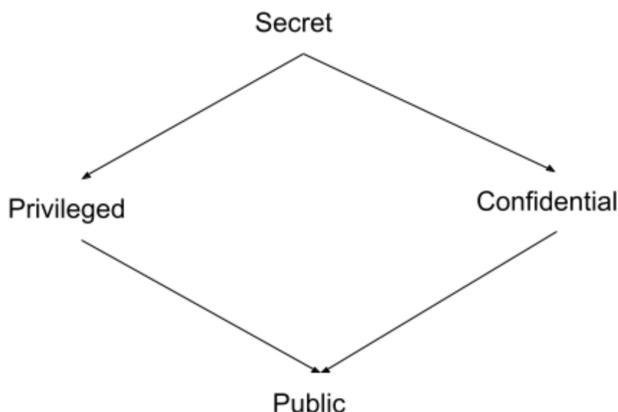


Figure 1: Lattice of security labels for Task 1.

Note that passing an argument to a function should be handled like an assignment to the formal parameter of the function. The returned values of functions `getId` and `getAccess` are presented in Tables 1 and 2 (respectively). The function `getAccess` returns an array of two values. The elements of an array can have different security labels. The first value of the array returned by `getAccess` is returned from the column `AccessGroup` in Table 2. The second value is returned from the column `Token` (in Table 2), for each given Id. As for the function `getDataLength`, it returns the value 15. The values returned by the used functions are labeled as follows:

- `getId`: Secret
- `getAccess`: Returns an array of two elements. The first element (`AccessGroup`) is Confidential while the second element (`Token`) is Secret.
- `getDataLength`: Privileged
- `getData`: Confidential
- `encryptMessage`: Public

The functions `console.error`, `console.log` and `alert` are untrusted sinks that should be reached by public information only.

Table 1: List of ids corresponding to each username and password.

Username	Password	Id
Alice	Password1	1
Bob	Password2	2

Table 2: Table of tokens and access groups for each given id.

Id	AccessGroup	Token
1	0	Token1
2	2	Token2

Subtask 1.1 Execution 1: Alice

[14 points]

Consider a dynamic information flow analysis that considers both explicit and implicit flows. Suppose an execution where the user passes the values "Alice" and "Password1" as username and password, respectively, to the function getId.

- What are the security labels of variables and expressions during the execution? Use the following template to provide your answer. For unreachable lines of code during this execution, fill the security label with *Unreachable*.

Solution:

Line	Variable or expression	Security label of variable or expression
1	id	<i>Secret</i>
2	accessCredentials	<i>accessCredentials[0]: Confidential, accessCredentials[1]: Secret</i>
6	accessCredentials[0]	<i>Unreachable</i>
9	dataLength	<i>Privileged \oplus Confidential = Secret</i>
10	dataLength > 15	<i>Privileged \oplus Confidential = Secret</i>
14	data	<i>Secret</i>
16	{"data":d,"key": data[dataLength]}	<i>Secret</i>

- Does the execution violate the information flow policy? Explain your answer.

Policy : Untrusted sinks should be reached by public information only. The only reached sink is console.log at line 16 but there was a declassification. However the implicit flow implies that the class of encryptMessage(...) is public+confidential+privileged which is equal to secret. Conclusion: The execution violates the policy.

- If there is a leakage (through untrusted sinks) during this execution, how can you modify the line(s) of code causing the leakage so that you reduce information leakage.

Avoid using the untrusted sink (console.log). Move the condition inside an anonymous function, where the returned value is not explicit. Any other solution is accepted if proven to **reduce** the leakage.

- Based on the information that you can get from the untrusted sinks during this execution, does the token of Alice allow access to data? Consider both cases where you have the source code and the other case where you don't have the source code.

In this execution, only encrypted data reached a public sink. However, not having the source code doesn't allow you to know why the encrypted data was printed and thus you can't know if Alice can access the data with their token or not. On the other side, having the source code along with the output of line 16 will allow you to know that Alice can access data with their token.

Subtask 1.2 Execution 2: Bob

[14 points]

Consider a dynamic information flow analysis that considers both explicit and implicit flows. Suppose an execution where the user passes the values "Bob" and "Password2" as username and password, respectively, to the function getId.

- What are the security labels of variables and expressions during the execution? Use the following template to provide your answer. For unreachable lines of code during this execution, fill the security label with *Unreachable*.

Solution:

Line	Variable or expression	Security label of variable or expression
1	id	<i>Secret</i>
2	accessCredentials	<i>accessCredentials[0]: Confidential, accessCredentials[1]: Secret</i>
6	accessCredentials[0]	<i>Confidential</i>
9	dataLength	<i>Unreachable</i>
10	dataLength > 15	<i>Unreachable</i>
14	data	<i>Unreachable</i>
16	{"data":d,"key": data[dataLength]}	<i>Unreachable</i>

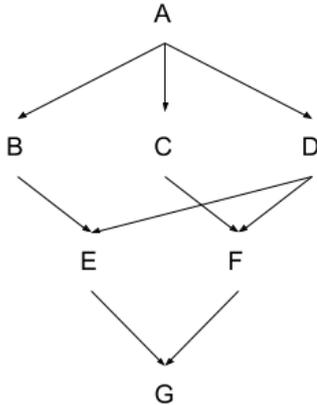
- Does the execution violate the information flow policy? Explain your answer.
Yes, because line 6 leaks a confidential information about the access credentials via an untrusted sink (`console.error`).
- If there is an information leakage (through untrusted sinks) during this execution, how can you modify the line(s) of code causing the leakage so that you reduce information leakage.
The leakage happens at line 6. All solutions should include removing the expression `accessCredentials[0]` from the error message.
- Based on the information that you can get from the untrusted sinks during this execution, does the token of Bob allow access to data? Consider both cases where you have the source code and the other case where you don't have the source code.
In this execution, line 5 and 6 were executed and the message clearly tell that the token of Bob is not enough to access the data (we reach the same conclusion in both cases).

Task 2 Universally Bounded Lattice

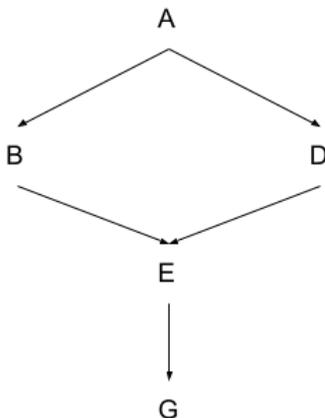
[7 points]

Consider a policy defined with the following ordering rules: $A > B$, $A > C$, $A > D$, $B > E$, $C > F$, $D > E$, $D > F$, $E > G$, $F > G$, where A, B, C, D, E, F and G are corresponding security labels.

- Draw the graph of the previously defined Lattice.



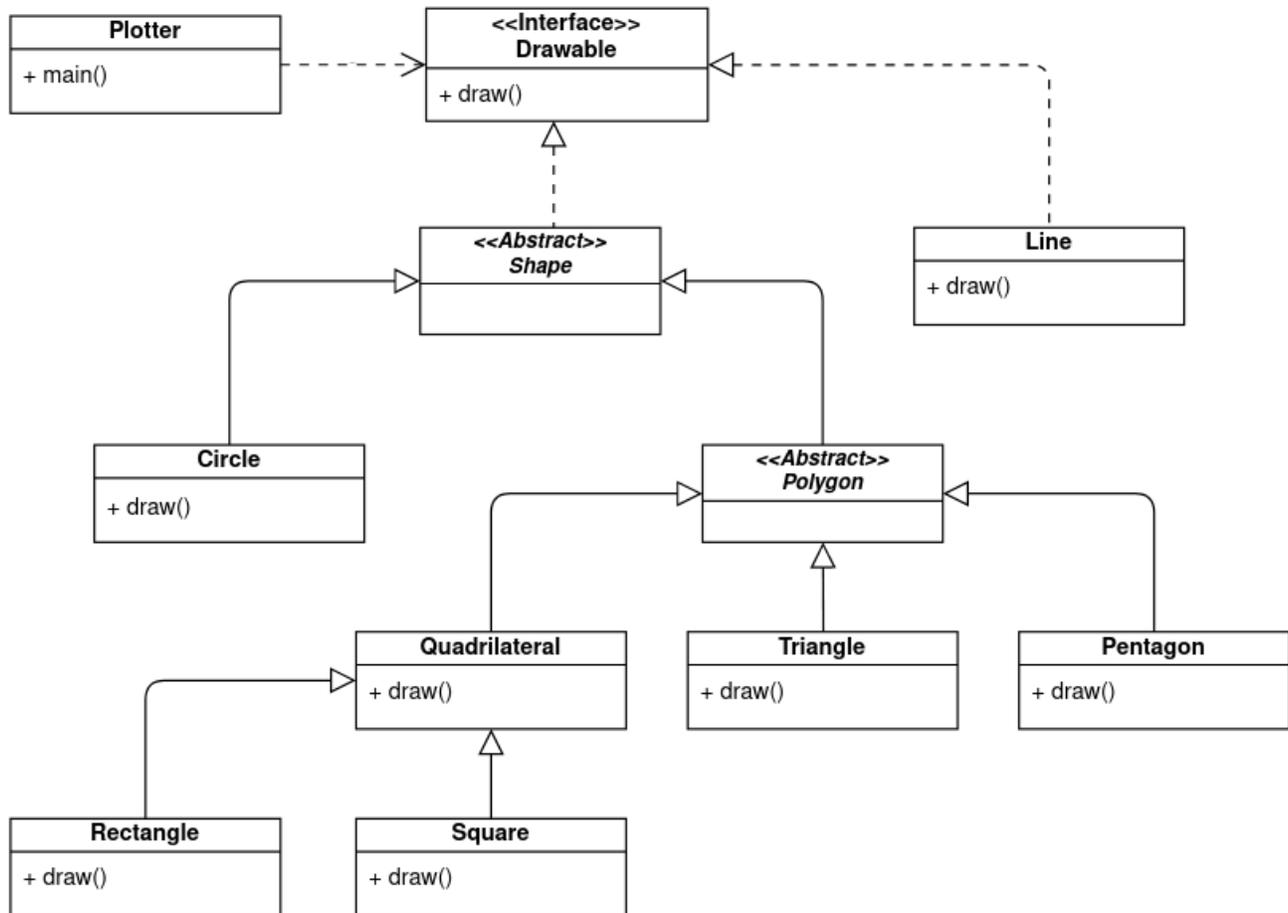
- Is it a universally bounded lattice (Explain)? Yes, because it has all the necessary characteristics: – A limited set of security classes – A partial order – A lower bound – An upper bound – A least upper bound operator – A greatest lower bound operator
- Consider a program with a policy that only uses the labels A, B, D, E, G (with same previous ordering rules). Is the lattice of this program universally bounded (Explain)? Yes, because it has all the necessary characteristics: – A limited set of security classes – A partial order – A lower bound – An upper bound – A least upper bound operator – A greatest lower bound operator



Task 3 Call Graphs: CHA, RTA and VTA [30 points]

Consider the following class diagram of a Java program:

Figure 2: Class Diagram



The implementation of the class `Plotter` is presented in the snippet of code below. All the classes and interfaces presented in the diagram are in a package called `model`. Thus, line 3 (in the code) imports all of them.

```
1 import java.util.ArrayList;
2 import java.util.List;
3 import model.*
4
5 class Plotter {
6     public static void main(String[] args) {
7         Quadrilateral quad1 = new Quadrilateral();
8         Quadrilateral quad2 = new Quadrilateral();
9         Polygon square = new Square();
10        Polygon rec = new Rectangle();
11        quad1 = (Quadrilateral)rec;
12
13        List<Polygon> polygons = new ArrayList<Polygon>();
```

```

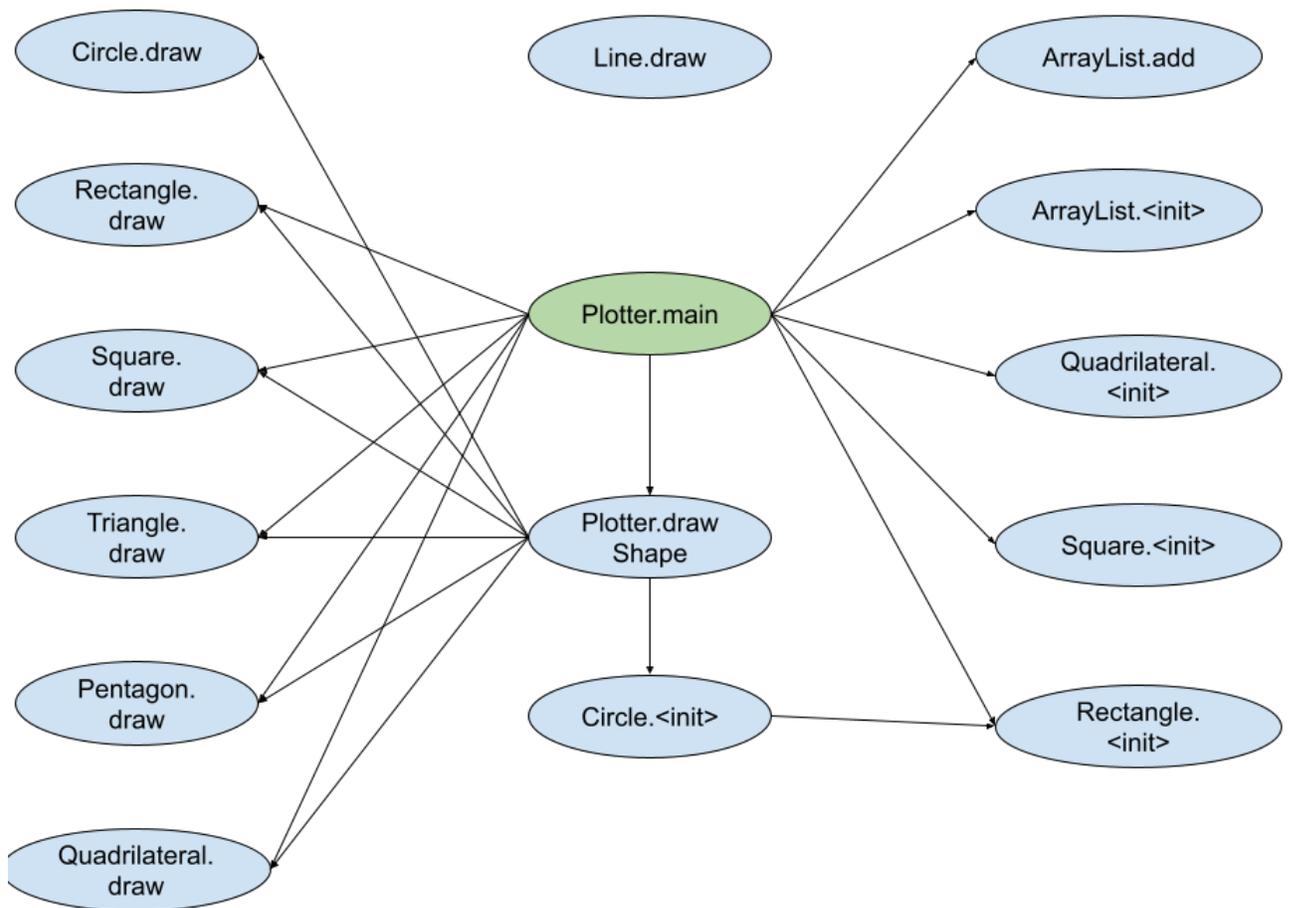
14     polygons.add(rec);
15     polygons.add(square);
16
17     quad1.draw();
18     rec.draw();
19
20     drawShape();
21 }
22 public static void drawShape(){
23     Shape c = new Circle();
24     Shape r = new Rectangle();
25     r = c;
26     r.draw();
27 }
28 }

```

Subtask 3.1 CHA Graph

[5 points]

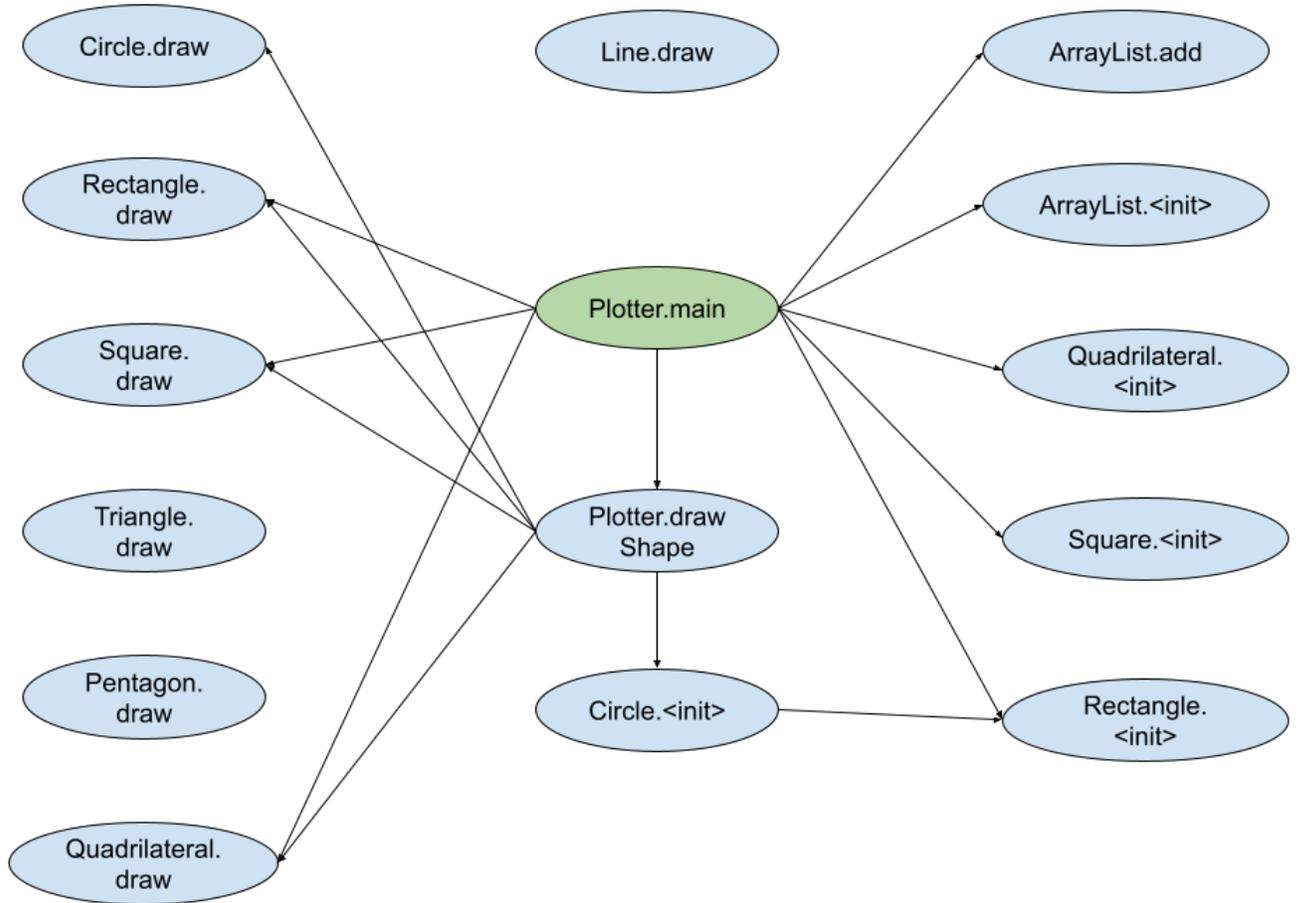
- Considering the previous class diagram in Figure 2 and the snippet of code, provide the call graph computed by the CHA (Class Hierarchy Analysis) algorithm.



Subtask 3.2 RTA Graph

[5 points]

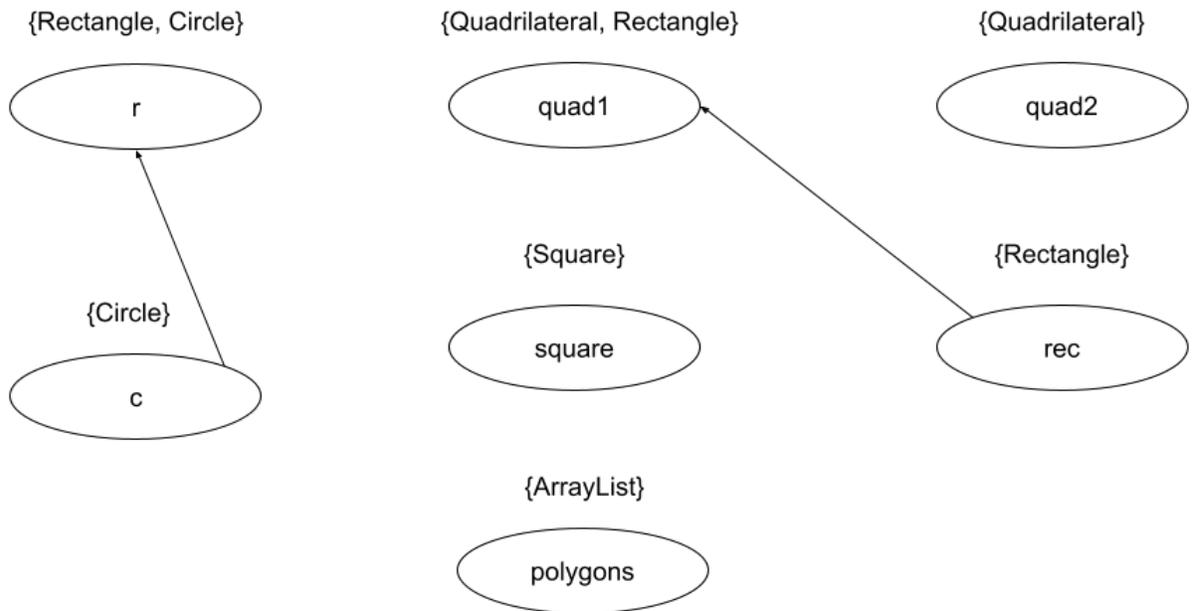
- Considering the previous class diagram in Figure 2 and the snippet of code, provide the call graph computed by the RTA (Rapid Type Analysis) algorithm.



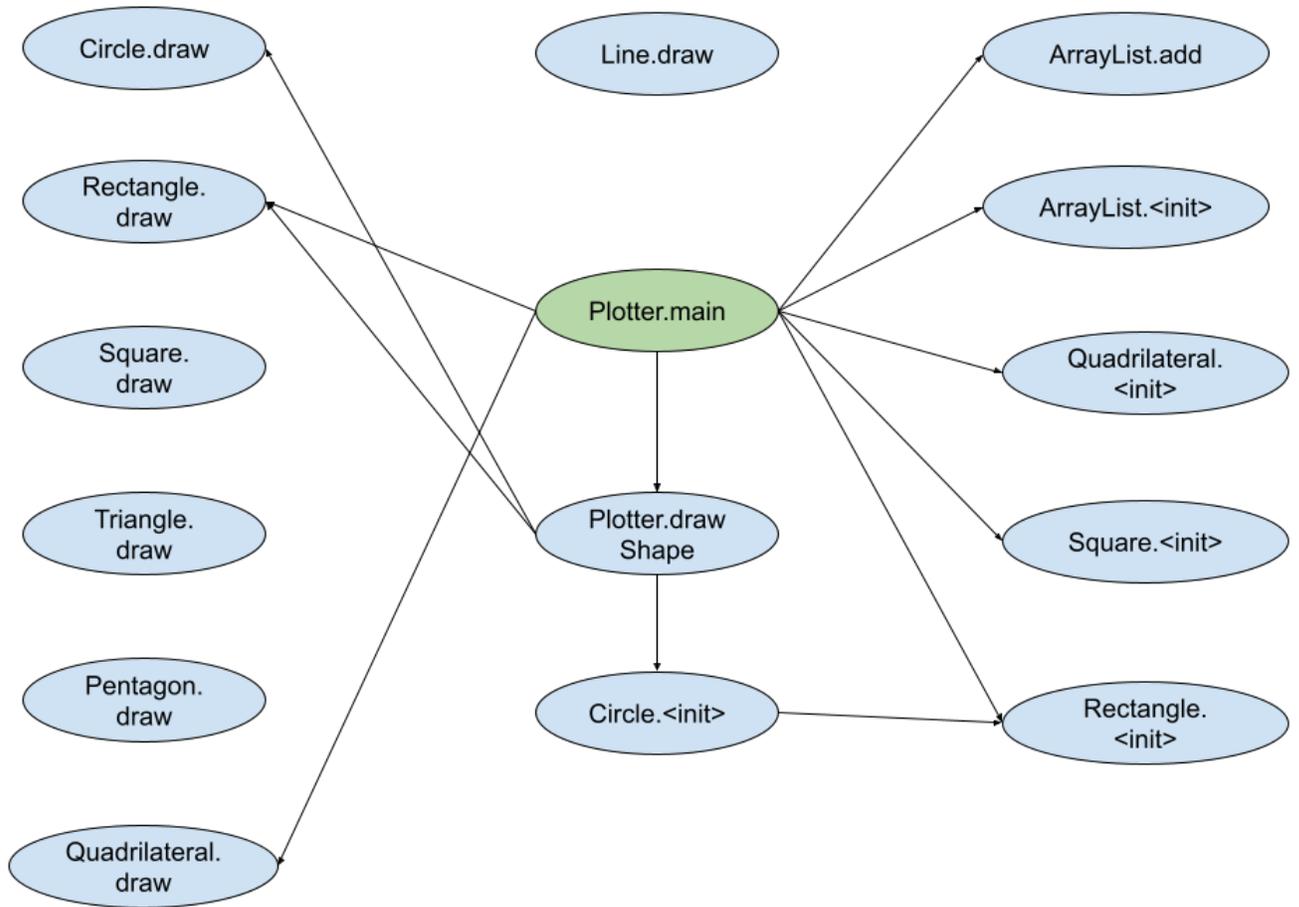
Subtask 3.3 VTA Graph

[10 points]

- Considering the previous class diagram in Figure 2 and the snippet of code, provide the type propagation graph computed by VTA (Variable Type Analysis).



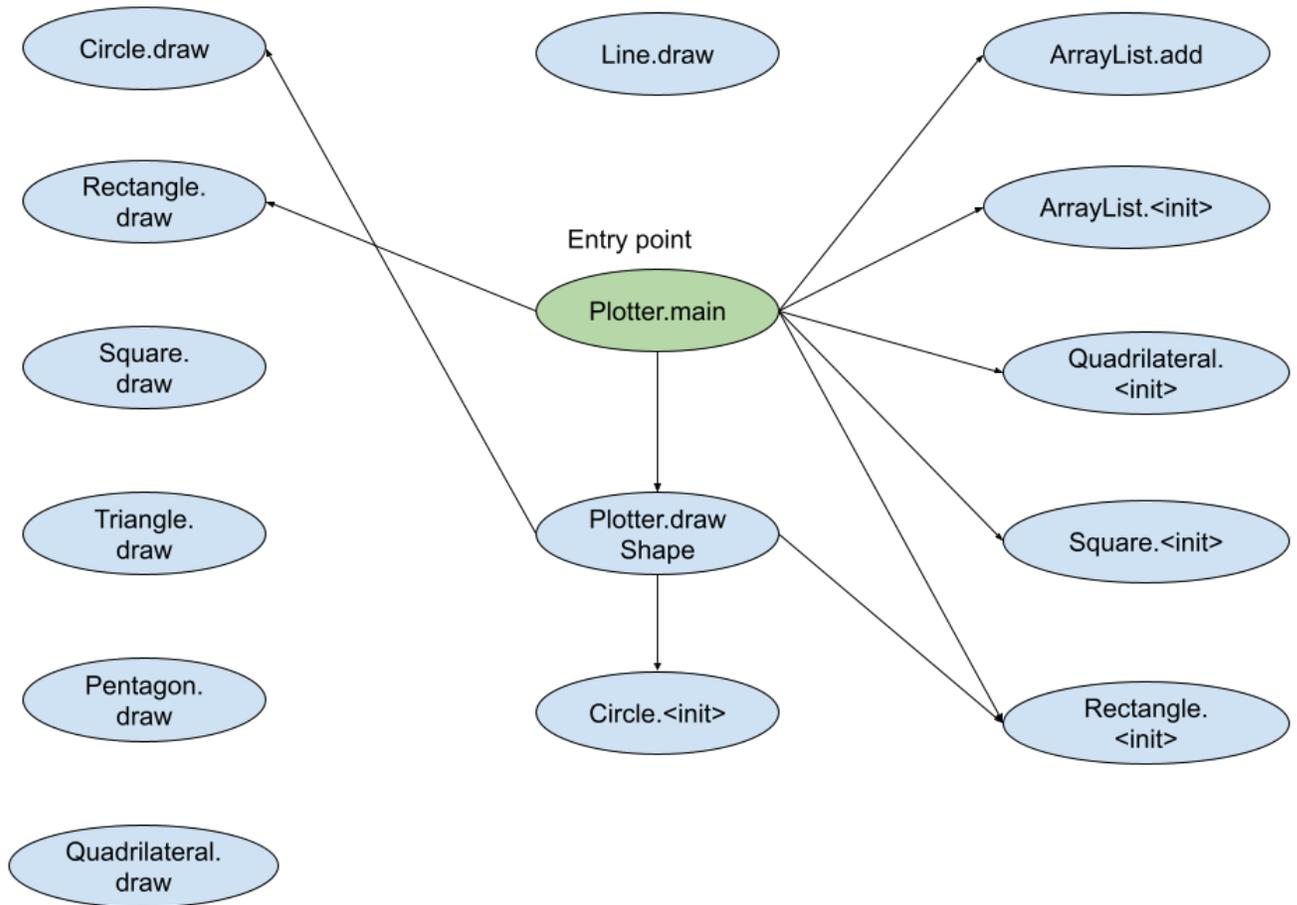
- Based on the types computed by VTA, give the call graph that VTA produces starting from the RTA graph.



Subtask 3.4 Dynamic Execution Call Graph

[5 points]

- By performing a dynamic execution of the previous program, provide the call graph representing only the calls that happen during the dynamic execution.



Subtask 3.5 Comparison Between Algorithms

[5 points]

- Using previously computed graphs, fill in the following table (Useless edges are edges that don't appear in the graph computed from dynamic execution):

Algorithm	Total number of edges	Number of useless edges
CHA	19	9
RTA	15	5
VTA	12	2

Task 4 Call Graphs: Pointer Analysis

[35 points]

Consider the following Java program:

```
1 //classes definition
2 class A{
3     public String f(){
4         return "A";
5     }
6 }
7
8 class B extends A{
9     public String f(){
10        return "B";
11    }
12 }
13
14 class C{
15     public A a;
16     public String f(A x){
17         return x.f();
18     }
19 }
20 //main...
21 public static void main(String[] args){
22     A a = new A();
23     A b = new B();
24     C c = new C();
25
26     c.a = a;
27     a = b;
28     int i = 0;
29     if (i==1) b = c.a;
30
31     String r1 = a.f();
32     String r2 = b.f();
33     String r3 = c.f(c.a);
34 }
```

Subtask 4.1 PAG: Subset-based Analysis

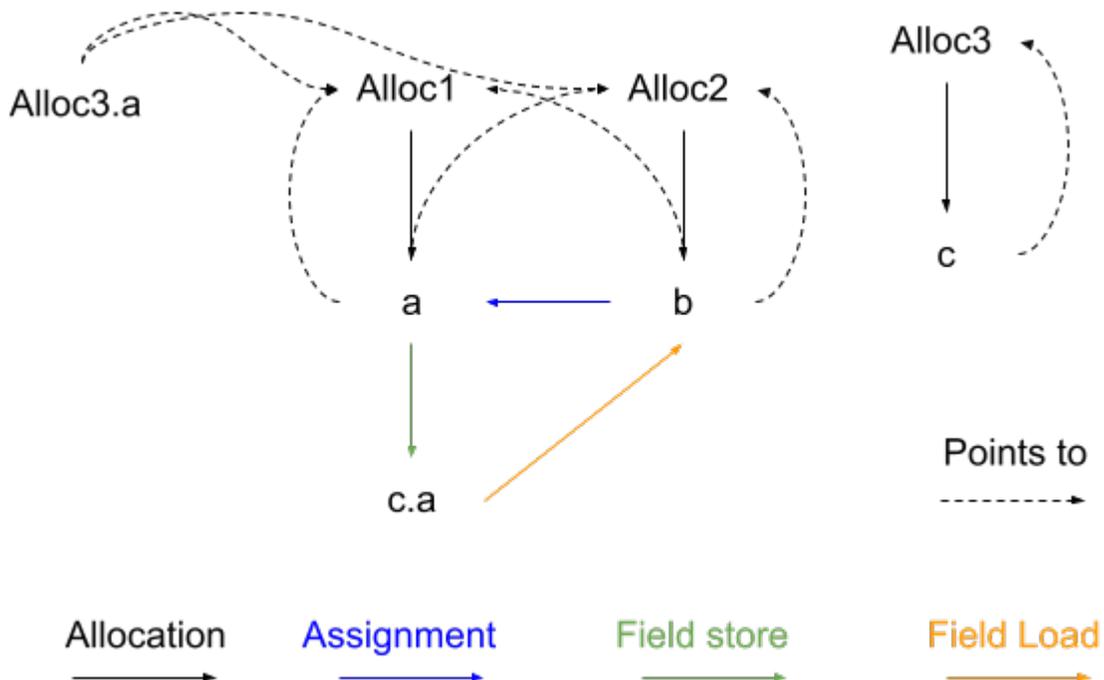
[20 points]

- Fill in the following table by specifying for each line of code the nodes and the edge connecting them as well as the type of the edge (allocation, assignment, field load or field store). For example, line 22 would produce the following:



Line	Code	Representation (nodes and edges)
22	A a = new A();	
23	B b = new B();	
24	C c = new C();	
26	c.a = a;	
27	a = b;	
28	int i = 0;	Undefined (not covered in the lecture)
29	b = c.a;	
31	String r1 = a.f();	Undefined (not covered in the lecture)
32	String r2 = b.f();	Undefined (not covered in the lecture)
33	String r3 = c.f(c.a);	Undefined (not covered in the lecture)

- Draw the pointer assignment graph for the previous program.



- Using subset based analysis and with the help of the previously drawn graph, calculate the following points-to sets (at their final state considering the entire code):

```
pts(a) = {Alloc1, Alloc2}
pts(b) = {Alloc1, Alloc2}
pts(c) = {Alloc3}
pts(c.a) = {Alloc1, Alloc2}
```

- Give the value stored in `r1`, `r2`, `r3` if it's possible to know based on the performed analysis. Otherwise explain why we can't conclude their values considering this analysis.

`r1` :it's not possible to conclude the value of `r1` since "a" points to two objects from different classes thus the returned value could be A or B. Based on this analysis we can't determine which one is returned.

`r2` :it's not possible to conclude the value of `r2` (same justification)

`r3` :it's not possible to conclude the value of `r3` (same justification).

Subtask 4.2 PAG: Ordered Equality-Based Analysis [15 points]

In this part, we will introduce a variation of the subset-based analysis algorithm. The new algorithm is given below. This algorithm calculates points-to sets edge by edge. The input of the algorithm is the list of edges ordered by their order of appearance in code which is the same order presented in the table of question one in Subtask 4.1. The second difference to the algorithm presented in the lecture is that the algorithm uses equality-based propagation¹ of pointers which means instead of adding $\text{pts}(a)$ to $\text{pts}(b)$, $\text{pts}(b)$ will be assigned $\text{pts}(a)$.

```
1 for each edge in the ordered list of edges:
2     if allocation edge Alloc -> a: pts(a) = {Alloc}
3     if assignment edge a -> b : pts(b) = pts(a)
4     if load edge a.f -> b: pts(b) = pts(a.f)
5     if store edge a -> b.f : pts(b.f) = pts(a)
```

- Using equality based analysis and with the help of the previously drawn graph, calculate the following points-to sets (at their final state considering the entire code):

```
pts(a) = {Alloc2}
pts(b) = {Alloc1}
pts(c) = {Alloc3}
pts(c.a) = {Alloc1}
```

- Give the value stored in `r1`, `r2`, `r3` if it's possible to know based on the performed analysis. Otherwise explain why we can't conclude their values considering this analysis.

```
r1 : B
r2 : A
r3 : A
```

¹Equality-based algorithms exist in the literature, but may be different from the one presented in this task.

- Is the concluded value of r2 the same as the value producing during execution? (Explain):
During the execution, the condition at line 29 will evaluate to false and the body of the if statement won't be executed. Thus, b will be always pointing to Alloc2. Hence, b.f() will return the value B and not A.

- What's the limitation illustrated by this example (The limitation of the Equality-Based propagation)?

While the algorithm presented in the lecture (subset base) is flow insensitive, this variation, however, is flow sensitive. Thus, the calculated points to sets depend on the flow of the program. As illustrated by previous questions, following an arbitrary order can lead to wrong calculations of points-to sets.