

Towards an Automated Reasoning Tool for Complexity Analysis of Automated Reasoners

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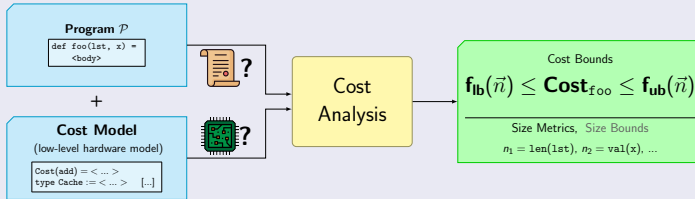
⁵STMicroelectronics, Crolles, France

WST, July 25th, 2026
FLoC26, Lisboa, Portugal

Introduction

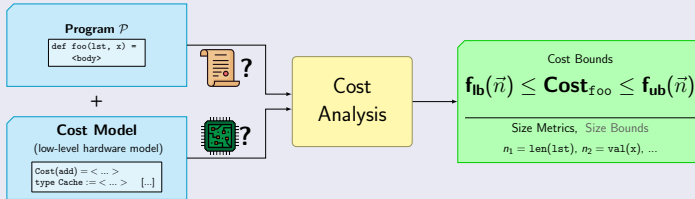
Automated Recurrence-Based Cost Analysis – Usual Setup

Cost Analysis: Bounds on Resource Consumption

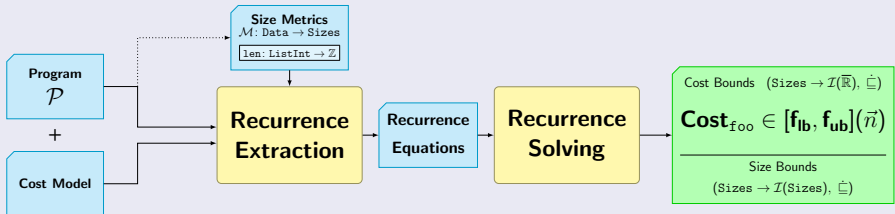


Automated Recurrence-Based Cost Analysis – Usual Setup

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Recurrence-Based Cost Analysis



Project Genesis: Manual Complexity Analysis for Arithmetic Theories

Study of $\mathcal{Pa}(2^{\mathbb{N}}(\cdot)) := \langle \mathbb{Z}, 1, +, (a \cdot x)_{a \in \mathbb{Z}}, (q \mid x)_{q \in \mathbb{N}_+}, \underline{2^{\mathbb{N}}(x)}, < \rangle$.¹

Theorem

Quantifier elimination for $\mathcal{Pa}(2^{\mathbb{N}}(\cdot))$ is in 3EXPTIME.

Proof: An algorithm, and its complexity analysis:
metrics, recurrence extraction, bounds on solutions.

Parameters of formulae. As often done for $\mathcal{Pa}$, the complexity analysis of our procedure requires the introduction of several parameters for a formula. We define functions $\text{lin}(\cdot)$, $\text{hom}(\cdot)$, $\text{heft}(\cdot)$, $\text{mod}(\cdot)$, $\mathcal{B}(\cdot)$, and $\text{alt}(\cdot)$, to track various features of a formula Φ from $\mathcal{Pa}(\lambda x.2^{|x|})$:

- $\text{lin}(\Phi)$ is the set containing the terms 0 and 2 as well as all the terms t that appear in inequalities $t < 0$ of Φ (recall that $t_1 < t_2$ is a shorthand for $t_1 - t_2 < 0$);
- $\text{hom}(\Phi)$ is the set of *homogeneous terms* obtained from the terms in $\text{lin}(\Phi)$ by eliminating their constant term c (alternatively, updating c to 0);
- $\text{heft}(\Phi)$ is the maximum number of variables in a term of Φ ;
- $\text{mod}(\Phi)$ is the least common multiple of all $q \in \mathbb{N}_+$ appearing in constraints $q \mid t$ of Φ (if the formula Φ has no divisibility constraints, then we postulate $\text{mod}(\Phi) = 1$);
- $\mathcal{B}(\Phi)$ denotes the number of occurrences of negations $\neg$ and conjunctions $\wedge$ in Φ (note that the syntax permits binary conjunction only);
- $\text{alt}(\Phi)$ is the *quantifier alternation rank* (number of quantifier blocks) of a formula Φ in prenex normal form.

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¹ *The Complexity of Presburger Arithmetic with Power or Powers.* M. Benedikt, D. Chistikov, A. Mansutti, ICALP23.

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Theorem

Quantifier elimination for $\mathcal{Pa}(2^{\mathbb{N}}(\cdot))$ is in 3EXPTIME.

Proof: An algorithm, and its complexity analysis:
metrics, recurrence extraction, bounds on solutions.

B.2 Towards a proof of Theorem 2: PresQE and Octagons

We start by deriving bounds on iterated calls to PresQE.

► **Proposition 37.** Consider $\Psi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})$ in $\mathcal{Sem}$ in which variables $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ always occur linearly, and $n \geq 1$. Let $\mathcal{F} \in \{\mathcal{QF}, \mathcal{Sem}\}$. Run Algorithm 1 from line 3 with $Q = \{(\mathbf{x}, \Psi)\}$. After the **while** loop in lines 5–10 terminates, $D = \{\psi_1, \dots, \psi_k\}$ satisfies the parameter table

	#hom	#lin	heft	$\ hom(\cdot)\ $	$\ lin(\cdot)\ $	mod	$\mathcal{B}$
Ψ	$h \geq 2$	q	v	$a \geq 2$	$c \geq 2$	$m \geq 2$	b
ψ_i	h	q	V	$a^{2^{n+1}-1}$	$a^{2^{n+1}}(c+m)$	$a^{2^{n+2}-n}m$	$b + n \cdot (2 \cdot V + 1)$
$\bigvee_{j=1}^k \psi_j$	h^{n+1}		"	"	"	$a^{h^{2^{n+2}}}m$	$k(n+1)$

where $V := \min(2^n v, n + \#z)$ and $k \leq q^n \cdot (a^{2^{n+2}} \cdot m)^{n(2V+1)}$. Moreover, the algorithm runs in time $q^{O(n)} m^{O(nV)} \cdot a^{2^{O(n)} v}$.

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Project Genesis: Manual Complexity Analysis for Arithmetic Theories

► **Proposition 42.** Consider $\Psi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z})$ in $\mathcal{Sem}$ in which variables $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_L)$ always occur linearly, variables $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_E)$ always occur in powers, and $L, E \geq 1$. Let $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{Sem}$, and run Algorithm 1 from line 3 with $Q = \{(\mathbf{x}\mathbf{y}, \Psi)\}$. At the end of the **while** loop of line 5, $D = \{\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k\}$ satisfies the following table:

	$\#hom$	$heft$	$\ \text{lin}(\cdot)\ $	mod	$\mathcal{B}$
Ψ	$h \geq 2$	$v \geq 2$	$c \geq 4$	$m \geq 4$	b
$\bigvee_{j=1}^k \theta_j$	$h^{L+1} \cdot 2^{27V^2L} \cdot \log(c \cdot m)^{V+2} + E^2$	V	$c^{2^4(L+V)} \cdot m^{2^{4V}}$	$c^{h^{2L+2}} m$	$k \cdot b'$

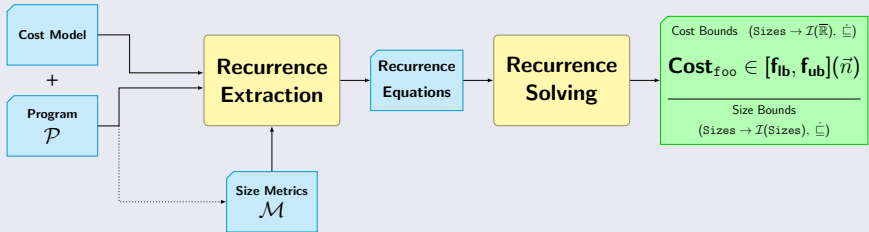
where $V := \min(2^L v, L + E + \#\mathbf{z})$, $\mathcal{B}(\theta_j) < b' := b + h \cdot 2^{35 \cdot V^2 L} \cdot \log(c \cdot m)^{V+2} \cdot E^3$ and $k \leq 2 \uparrow (h \cdot 2^{60 \cdot (L+2) \cdot V^2} (\log(c \cdot m))^{30 \cdot V^2} \cdot E^3)$. The number of quantifiers added to Π' is at most $h^{L+1} \cdot 2^{2^4 \cdot V^2 L} \cdot \log(c \cdot m)^{V+1}$. The procedure runs in $\text{len}(\Psi) \uparrow (h + \log(c \cdot m)) \uparrow \text{poly}(L, V)$.

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- Here, 57 pages paper,
≥ 20 pps purely of bound proofs and recurrence extraction.
 - Tedious manual proof process, that must be iterated.
 - Human ingenuity is concentrated on only some subparts of the proofs.
- Automatability potential (CAS, postfixpoints, extraction, ...)

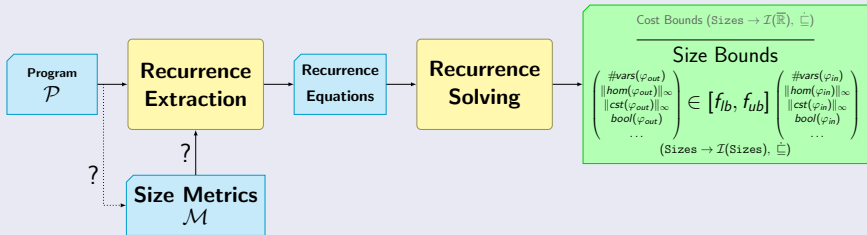
Tool-Assisted Complexity Analysis – Interactive/Automated Hybrid

For advanced *algorithms* (e.g. automated reasoning, logic processing),
complex metrics, subtle arguments, (simplified cost model), ...



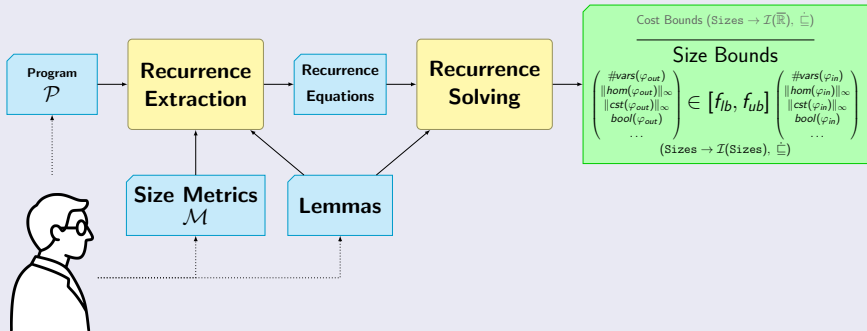
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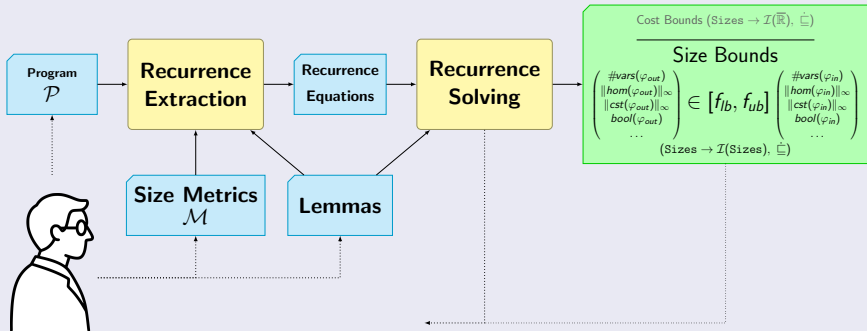
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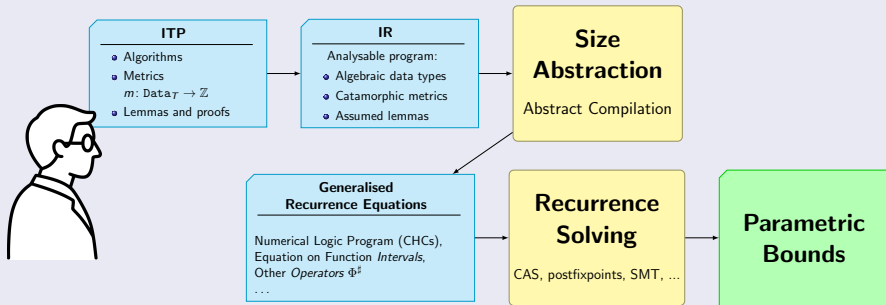


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Tool Pipeline



ITP Frontend

Example: 2-adic saturation

Saturate $S \mapsto S' := \{r \cdot 2^k \mid r \cdot 2^n \in S, r \in \mathbb{Z}, 0 \leq k \leq n\}$.

- Two metrics: set cardinality $|S|$, max absolute value $a(S)$.

Example: 2-adic saturation

```
module Saturate where

import PA.Prelude as Int
import PA.Set      as Set

{-# ANN setSize "metric" #-}
setSize :: Set Int -> Int
setSize s = Set.size s

{-# ANN absMax "metric" #-}
absMax :: Set Int -> Int
absMax s = Set.fold (\n m -> Int.max m (Int.abs n)) 0 s

div2 :: Int -> Int
div2 n = n `div` 2

decrease :: Set Int -> Set Int
decrease s = Set.map div2 (Set.filter (\n -> Int.even n && n /= 0) s)

{-# ANN saturateTwos "withAssume ubSaturateTwos" #-}
saturateTwos :: Set Int -> Set Int
saturateTwos s
  | Set.null s = s
  | otherwise  = s `Set.union` saturateTwos (decrease s)

ubSaturateTwos :: Set Int -> Bool
ubSaturateTwos s = setSize (saturateTwos s) <= 2 * absMax s + 1
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- Automated: $|S'| \leq |S| \cdot (1 + \log_2(a(S)))$.

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- Two metrics: set cardinality $|S|$, max absolute value $a(S)$.
- Automated: $|S'| \leq |S| \cdot (1 + \log_2(a(S)))$.
- Human lemma (pigeonhole): $|S'| \leq 2 \cdot a(S) + 1$.
- *Combined*: $|S'| \leq |S| \cdot (3 + \log_2 \frac{a(S)}{|S|})$.

When $a(S) \approx |S| \cdot \log_2 |S|$, we get $|S'| \in O(|S| \cdot \log_2 \log_2 |S|)$.

(Non-)Catamorphic Metrics

Definition (Metric)

Any function $m : T \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ from a datatype T to integers.

For which metrics can recurrence extraction be automated?

We introduce *catamorphic metrics*.

Definition (Catamorphic Metric – informally)

A metric determined by the *sizes* of immediate subterms: for type $T = \dots \mid C_i(\dots, A_{i,j}, \dots) \mid \dots$,
 $\exists \vec{e}, \mathbf{m}_T(C_i(\dots, a_{i,j}, \dots))) = e_i(\dots, \vec{m}_{A_{i,j}}(a_{i,j}), \dots)$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F\mathcal{T} & \xrightarrow{\cong} & \mathcal{T} \\ \downarrow F\mathcal{M} & & \downarrow \mathcal{M} \\ F(\prod_{\tau} \mathbb{Z}^{k_{\tau}}) & \xrightarrow{\exists} & \prod_{\tau} \mathbb{Z}^{k_{\tau}} \end{array}$$

- Can be composed, support boolean properties, ...
- Non-trivial metrics combining *shape* and *content* information.
- Example of non-catamorphic metric: *cardinality*.
- *Overapproximate* non-catamorphic metrics, and add *lemmas*.

Lemmas and IR conversion

```
/* Interpreted by "quotient" */
```

```
type Set_int = {  
  | Set_int_Nil()  
  | Set_int_Cons(int, Set_int)  
}
```

```
/* Catamorphic overapproximation of *cardinality* metric */
```

```
metric setSize(s: Set_int) -> int {  
  let res: int = top;  
  match (s) {  
    | Set_int_Nil() => {  
      res = 0;  
    }  
    | Set_int_Cons(x, xs) => {  
      /* Interval operation */  
      res = [0, 1] + setSize(xs);  
    }  
  }  
  return res;  
}
```

```
def saturateTwos(s: Set_int) -> Set_int {  
  let res: Set_int = top;  
  if (null_Set_int(s) >= 1) {  
    res = s;  
  } else {  
    res = union_Set_int(s, saturateTwos(decrease(s)));  
  }  
  assume (setSize(res) <= 2 * absMax(s) + 1);  
  return res;  
}
```

```
def mod(a: int, b: int) -> int {  
  let res: int = top;  
  assume (((0 <= res) && (res <= (b - 1))));  
  if (((0 <= a) && (a <= (b - 1)))) {  
    assume ((a == res));  
  }  
  return res;  
}
```

```
def filter_even_nz(s: Set_int) -> Set_int {  
  let res: Set_int = top;  
  match (s) {  
    | Set_int_Nil() => {  
      res = Set_int_Nil();  
    }  
    | Set_int_Cons(x, xs) => {  
      if mod(x, 2) == 0 && !(x == 0) {  
        res = Set_int_Cons(x, filter_even_nz(xs));  
      } else {  
        res = filter_even_nz(xs);  
      }  
    }  
  }  
  return res;  
}
```

```
def decrease(s: Set_int) -> Set_int {  
  return map_div2(filter_even_nz(s));  
}
```

Abstract Compilation: Recurrence Extraction

Recurrence Extraction as HO Abstract Interpretation

“Recurrences are Abstractions of Programs”

Programs $\longleftrightarrow$ Operators $\longleftrightarrow$ Recurrences

Operator Semantics (and its abstractions)

$$\llbracket \text{Prog} \rrbracket_{\Phi} = \Phi_{\text{Prog}} \in \text{End} \left(\prod_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \text{Mem}_{\mathcal{V}_{f, \text{in}}} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\text{Mem}_{\mathcal{V}_{f, \text{out}}}) \right)$$

Size abstraction; $(\text{Mem} : \prod_{\tau} \mathcal{V}_{\tau} \rightarrow \llbracket \tau \rrbracket_{\mathcal{T}}) \rightsquigarrow (\text{Mem}^{\sharp} : \prod_{\tau} \mathcal{V}_{\tau} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^{k_{\tau}}).$

Numerical FOL to more usual recurrences: *effect abstraction*; $\mathcal{P} \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{I}.$

Flexibility, optimality, ...

- *Abstract compiler* (implemented in RUST)
abstract interpreter with HO domains; for recurrence extraction
 - Backends in SMT, CHC, several reeq formats, etc.
- Auxiliary analyses, verification, inference, ...
 - (Bonus: *Size lifter* for abstract domains)

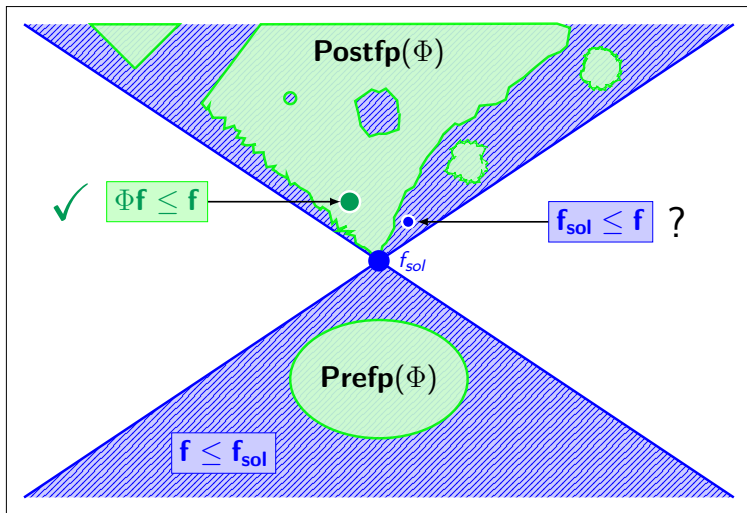
Recurrence Solving: Search and Verification of (Inductive) Bounds

Exact Recurrence Resolution and its Limitations

- “Recurrence Solving” is a powerful tool:
obtain non-linear, non-polynomial invariants.
 - But the class of problems for which exact resolution is possible is limited.
- Postfixpoint-based techniques.

Equation solving as pre/postfixpoint search [SAS24, STTT26]

Equations $\leftrightarrow$ Operators Solutions $\leftrightarrow$ Fixpoints Bounds $\leftarrow$ Pre/Postfixp



Equation solving as pre/postfixpoint search [SAS24, STTT26]

Equations $\leftrightarrow$ Operators Solutions $\leftrightarrow$ Fixpoints Bounds $\leftarrow$ Pre/Postfixp

Example

Search $f : \mathbb{N}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$f(n, c) = \begin{cases} f(n-1, 0) + n + 300 & \text{if } n > 0 \text{ and } c \geq 100, \\ f(n-1, c+1) + n & \text{if } n > 0 \text{ and } c < 100, \\ c & \text{if } n = 0, \end{cases} \rightarrow$$

Example

Search $f : \mathbb{N}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that $f = \Phi f$, i.e. $f \in \text{Fixp}(\Phi)$, where

$$\Phi : (\mathbb{N}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow (\mathbb{N}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R})$$

$$f \mapsto (n, c) \mapsto \begin{cases} f(n-1, 0) + n + 300 & \text{if } n > 0 \text{ and } c \geq 100, \\ f(n-1, c+1) + n & \text{if } n > 0 \text{ and } c < 100, \\ c & \text{if } n = 0. \end{cases}$$

Theorem (Knaster-Tarski corollary)

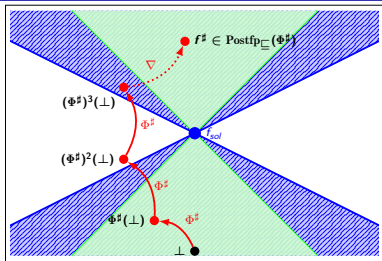
Let Φ be a **monotone equation**.

- If $f \in \text{Postfp}(\Phi)$, i.e. $\Phi f \leq f$, then $\text{lfp } \Phi \leq f$.
- If $f \in \text{Prefp}(\Phi)$, i.e. $f \leq \Phi f$, then $f \leq \text{gfp } \Phi$.

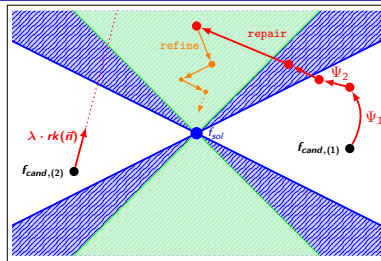
Various orders: pointwise; inclusion order for $\Phi \in \text{End}(\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathcal{I}(\mathbb{Z}))$; etc.

“Terminating Equation” $\rightsquigarrow \text{lfp } \Phi = \text{gfp } \Phi$.

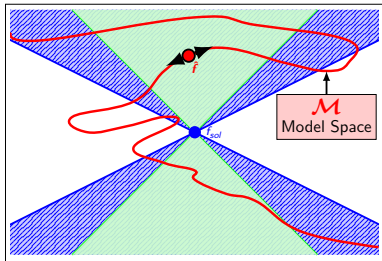
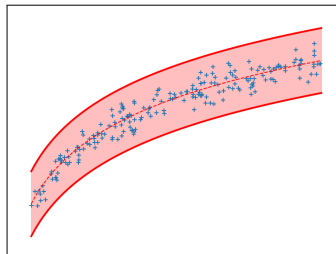
Equation solving as pre/postfixpoint search [SAS24, STTT26]



Abstract Interpretation



Geometry-based expression Repair

Search on subvarieties: **Templates**, $\forall$ -elimConstrained **Optimisation**,
with *provability constraints*

Function Comparison

A non-trivial primitive for some postfixpoint-based reasoning techniques.

$$\forall \vec{n}, \Phi(\hat{f})(\vec{n}) \stackrel{?}{\leq} \hat{f}(\vec{n})$$

Verification ?

$$\exists \vec{\alpha}, \forall \vec{n}, \Phi(\hat{f}_{\vec{\alpha}})(\vec{n}) \stackrel{?}{\leq} \hat{f}_{\vec{\alpha}}$$

Inference ??

- Classically: incomplete methods, CAS, rewritings, interval-based localisation of zeros, ...
 - For some classes of Φ and $\hat{f}$, complete methods are available (at least under real relaxation).
- Recently, promising progress in transcendental SMT (SMT with exponentials, etc.): SWINE, DREAL, METITARSKI, MATHSAT, YICES-TRA, ...

Conclusion, Discussion and Work in Progress

Next Steps

- Complete Implementation

- ITP/IR integration (+ libraries soundness proofs: “quotient” representation vs “opaque” types).
- Optimisations and further abstract domains in abstract compiler.
- Improved treatment of “execution” of non-terminating equations and parametric optimisation, for *inference* (one of the approaches).
- Plug transcendental SMT for *verification*.

- Experimental Evaluation

→ **Mechanised 3EXP proof for Presburger Arithmetic**

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→ Mechanised 3EXP proof for Presburger Arithmetic

- Future work: cost model integration, user interaction, generalisation by exploiting abstract compilation flexibility, further applications...

Thank you!

Questions?