

Numeric abstract domains in static analysis and constraint programming

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Journée calcul ensembliste et interprétation abstraite
GT MEA
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Semantic-based static analysis

- analyzes directly the **source code** (not a model)
- **automatic** and always **terminating**
- **approximate** (for automation and scalability)
- **sound**
 - full coverage of control and data
 - the properties inferred by the analyzer hold on the program
- **incomplete**
 - some properties can be missed by the analyzer
 - false alarms
- traditionally used in low precision settings (e.g., optimization)
- can be **made precise enough for validation** in **some contexts**
(Astrée analyzer: few or no false alarms)
- adaptable to different classes of programs and properties

- Abstract interpretation
- The Astrée static analyzer
joint work with P. Cousot's team at ENS
- Abstract constraint programming
joint work with Marie Pelleau and Charlotte Truchet

Abstract interpretation

Interval analysis example

```
int tab[1000];  
assume X in [0,1000];
```

```
I = 0;
```

```
while (I < X) {
```

```
    tab[I] = 0;
```

```
    I = I + 2;
```

```
}
```

Interval analysis example

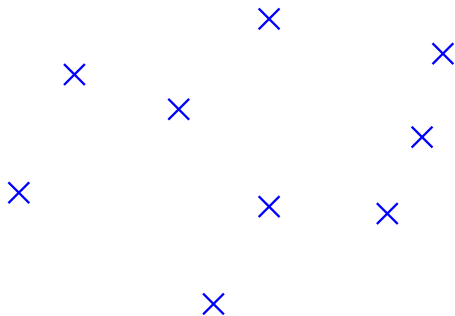
```

int tab[1000];
assume X in [0,1000];
{X ∈ [0,1000]}
I = 0;
{X ∈ [0,1000], I = 0}
while (I < X) {
    {X ∈ [0,1000], I ∈ [0,999]} •
    tab[I] = 0; // no overflow!
    I = I + 2;
    {X ∈ [0,1000], I ∈ [2,1001]}
}
{X ∈ [0,1000], I ∈ [0,1001]}

```

- **automatic inference** of invariants (including loop invariants)
- **sufficient** to prove that `tab[I]` has no overflow
- **approximate** (in fact, at •, $I \in [0, 998] \cap 2\mathbb{Z}$)

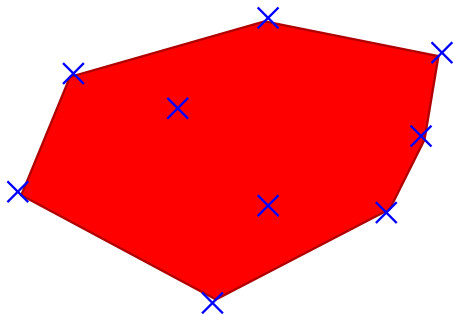
Numeric abstract domain examples



concrete sets \mathcal{D} :

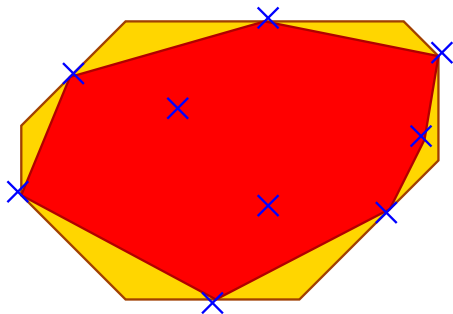
$\{(0, 3), (5.5, 0), (12, 7), \dots\}$

Numeric abstract domain examples



concrete sets \mathcal{D} : $\{(0, 3), (5.5, 0), (12, 7), \dots\}$
 abstract polyhedra \mathcal{D}_p^\sharp : $6X + 11Y \geq 33 \wedge \dots$

Numeric abstract domain examples



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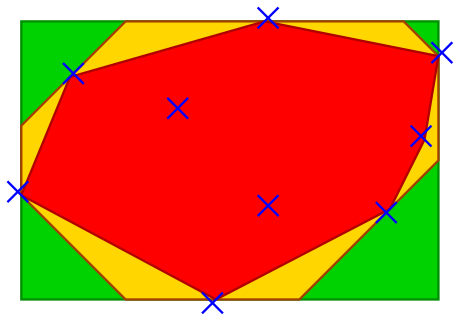
abstract polyhedra \mathcal{D}_p^\sharp :

$$6X + 11Y \geq 33 \wedge \dots$$

abstract octagons \mathcal{D}_o^\sharp :

$$X + Y \geq 3 \wedge Y \geq 0 \wedge \dots$$

Numeric abstract domain examples



concrete sets \mathcal{D} :

$$\{(0, 3), (5.5, 0), (12, 7), \dots\}$$

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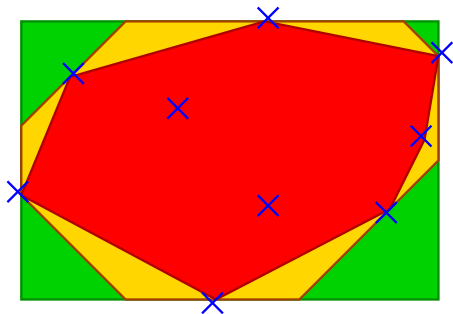
abstract octagons $\mathcal{D}_o^\#$:

$$X + Y \geq 3 \wedge Y \geq 0 \wedge \dots$$

abstract intervals $\mathcal{D}_i^\#$:

$$X \in [0, 12] \wedge Y \in [0, 8]$$

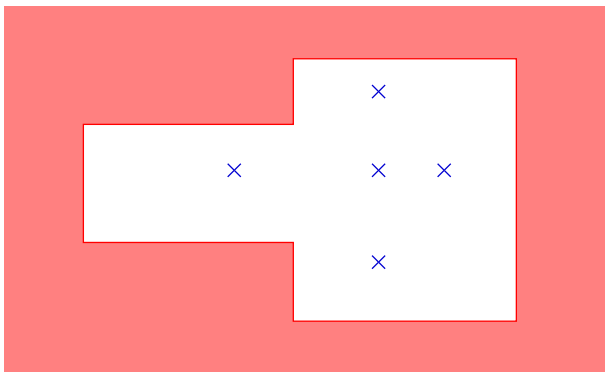
Numeric abstract domain examples



concrete sets \mathcal{D} :	$\{(0, 3), (5.5, 0), (12, 7), \dots\}$	not computable
abstract polyhedra $\mathcal{D}_p^\#$:	$6X + 11Y \geq 33 \wedge \dots$	exponential cost
abstract octagons $\mathcal{D}_o^\#$:	$X + Y \geq 3 \wedge Y \geq 0 \wedge \dots$	cubic cost
abstract intervals $\mathcal{D}_i^\#$:	$X \in [0, 12] \wedge Y \in [0, 8]$	linear cost

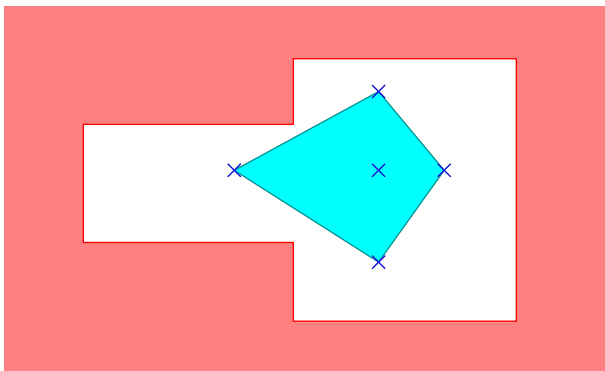
Trade-off between cost and expressiveness / precision

Correctness proof and false alarms



The program is **correct** ($\text{blue} \cap \text{red} = \emptyset$).

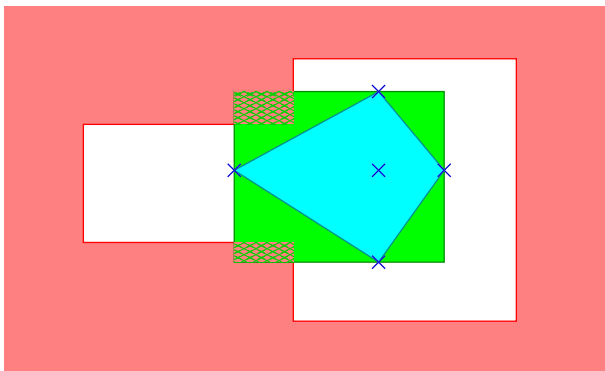
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The polyhedra domain **can prove the correctness** ($\text{cyan} \cap \text{red} = \emptyset$).

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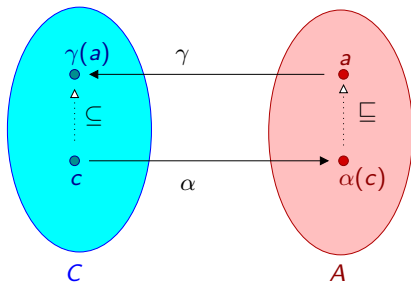
The polyhedra domain **can prove the correctness** ($\text{cyan} \cap \text{red} = \emptyset$).

The interval domain **cannot** ($\text{green} \cap \text{red} \neq \emptyset$, false alarm).

Formalization: Galois Connection

Galois Connection $(C, \subseteq) \begin{matrix} \xleftarrow{\gamma} \\ \xrightarrow{\alpha} \end{matrix} (A, \sqsubseteq)$

- $\alpha : C \rightarrow A$ (abstraction)
- $\gamma : A \rightarrow C$ (concretization)
- $\forall c \in C, a \in A : \alpha(c) \sqsubseteq a \iff c \subseteq \gamma(a)$ (duality)



$\alpha(c)$ is the **best** abstraction in A of $c \in C$

$\alpha(c)$ is the smallest a for \sqsubseteq that over-approximates c , i.e., such that $c \subseteq \gamma(a)$

Abstract operators

Abstract interpretation: (literally)

Propagate abstract properties along program execution
(evaluation by induction on the syntax)

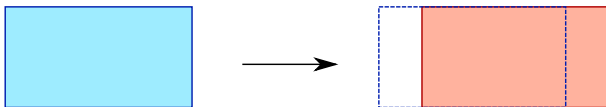
We need a sound abstract version F^\sharp of each concrete operator F !

- soundness: $F \circ \gamma \subseteq \gamma \circ F^\sharp$
- optimality: $F^\sharp = \alpha \circ F \circ \gamma$

Abstract operators: Assignments

Interval assignment: $X = X + 1$

Translation

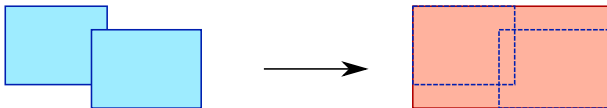


More generally: [interval arithmetic](#)

Abstract operators: Control-flow joins

Interval join: **if** ... **then** ... • **else** ... • **fi** •

Interval hull: • = • \sqcup •

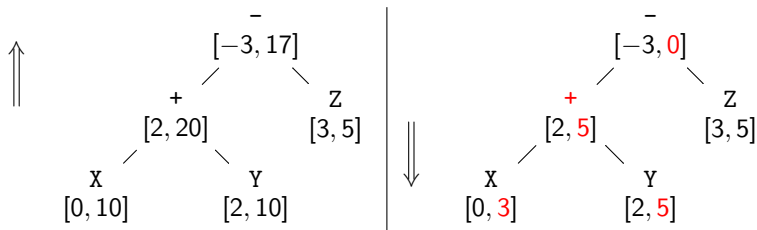


- in general: **loss of precision**
(spurious points added)
- in this case, the operator is **optimal**
(may not always be the case, for semantic or algorithmic reasons)
- **combining** optimal operators does not give an optimal operator!
(imprecisions accumulate along abstract program execution)
(e.g., **if** $x = 0$ **then** $x \leftarrow 1$ **fi**; **if** $x < 0$ **then** $x \leftarrow -x$ **fi**; **assert** $x > 0$)

\implies we may not find the tightest variable bounds

Abstract operators: Tests

$C : X + Y - Z \leq 0$ with $D_X \mapsto [0, 10]$, $D_Y \mapsto [2, 10]$, $D_Z \mapsto [3, 5]$



Algorithm:

- annotate leaves (variables) with current intervals
- evaluate the expression tree bottom-up in interval arithmetic
- intersect the root with $[-\infty, 0]$
- **refine** top down-using backward interval arithmetic
- **Similar to HC4-revise!**

Abstract operators: Loop iterations

Loop invariant $N \leftarrow [0, 1000]$; **while** $i < N$ **do** $i \leftarrow i + 1$ **od**

Iterate the loop body and accumulate: $X_{n+1}^\# = X_n^\# \sqcup \text{body}(X_n^\#)$

$i = 0, N \in [0, 1000]$

$i \in [0, 1], N \in [0, 1000]$

$i \in [0, 2], N \in [0, 1000]$

\vdots

$i \in [0, 1000], N \in [0, 1000]$

but **converges slowly!**

(may even need ω iterations)

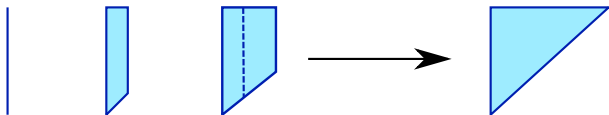
Abstract operators: Octagon widening

Loop invariant $N \leftarrow [0, 1000]$; **while** $i < N$ **do** $i \leftarrow i + 1$ **od**

\implies use a **widening operator**: $X_{n+1}^\# = X_n^\# \nabla \text{body}(X_n^\#)$

(extrapolate iterates to converge more quickly)

In the octagon domain: remove unstable constraints



$i = 0, N \in [0, 1000], i \leq N \rightarrow i \in [0, 1], i \leq N, N \in [0, 1000] \rightarrow 0 \leq i \leq N, N \in [0, 1000]$
 \implies after the loop $i \in [0, 1000]$

- widening causes additional loss of precision
- many techniques exist to improve the result (narrowing, etc.)
- **relational** (affine) loop invariants are sometimes **necessary** to infer non-relational (interval) information after the loop (in the interval domain with widening, we would get $i \in [0, +\infty]$)

Intuitions behind the widening

Inductive reasoning (philosophical logic)

- induction = generalization from a small set of observations
e.g., if the upper bound is increasing, it is probably unbounded
major cognitive process
- \neq induction in mathematics, which is deductive by nature
(apply an induction axiom)
- in philosophy, induction is **unreliable** (finite observation)
but in abstract interpretation, **widening is always sound!**

Inductive invariants

- $\text{lfp } F$ defines the **most precise invariant** (concrete semantics)
- X such that $\text{lfp } F \subseteq X$ is a (possibly less precise) **invariant**
- X such that $F(X) \subseteq X$ is an **inductive invariant**
(X is an invariant, and it can be proved to be invariant without computing $\text{lfp } F$)
- $X^\#$ such that $F^\#(X^\#) \subseteq X^\#$ is an **abstract inductive invariant**
($\gamma(X^\#)$ can be proved to be invariant in the abstract, without computing $\text{lfp } F$)

The Astrée static analyzer

The Astrée static analyzer

Astrée

Project Analysis Editors Edit Help

Example 1: scenarios

- Welcome
- Local settings
 - Preprocessing
 - Mapping to original sources
 - Reports
- Analysis options
 - Analysis start (main)
 - Parallelization
 - ABI
 - Global directives
 - General
 - Domains
 - Output
- Files
 - scenarios.c

Analyzed file: /invalid/path/scenarios.c

```

24
25
26
27
28 z = SPEED_SENSOR;
29
30
31
32
33 ptr = &arrayBlock[0];
34
35 if (uninitialized_1) {
36   arrayBlock[15] = 0x15;
37 }
38
39 if (uninitialized_2) {
40   *(ptr + 15) = 0x10;
41 }
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49 z = (short)((unsigned short)vx + (unsigned short)vy);
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61

```

Original source: C:/Pr...ples/scenarios/src/scenarios.c

```

37 /*
38  * Type cast causing overflow.
39  */
40
41 z = SPEED_SENSOR;
42
43 /*
44  * Precise handling of pointer arithmetic
45  */
46 ptr = &arrayBlock[0];
47
48 if (uninitialized_1) {
49   arrayBlock[15] = 0x15; // easy case
50 }
51
52 if (uninitialized_2) {
53   *(ptr + 15) = 0x10; // hard case
54 }
55
56 /*
57  * Precise handling of compute-through-c
58  * Note that, by default, alarms on expl
59  * deactivated (see Options->General tab)
60  */
61 z = (short)((unsigned short)vx + (unsigned short)vy);

```

Line 36, Column 0

Line 49, Column 0

File view

Errors 2 (2) Alarms 5 (5) Not analyzed 0 Coverage 100% Files scenarios.c

- Alarms
 - Overflow in conversion
 - Out-of-bound array access
 - Possible overflow upon dereference
 - Possible overflow upon dereference
 - Assertion failure
- Errors
 - Define runtime error during assignment in this context. Analysis stopped for this context.
 - Define runtime error during assignment in this context. Analysis stopped for this context.

Summary Warnings Log Graph Watch Messages

Errors: 2 (2)
Alarms: 5 (5)
Warnings: 1
Coverage: 100%
Duration: 30s

Connected to localhost:1059 as anonymous@ABSINT-VMWARE

The Astrée static analyzer

Analyseur statique de programmes temps-réels embarqués

(static analyzer for real-time embedded software)

- developed at **ENS**
 - | B. Blanchet, P. Cousot, R. Cousot, J. Feret,
| L. Mauborgne, D. Monniaux, A. Miné, X. Rival
- industrialized and made commercially available by **AbsInt**



Astrée

www.astree.ens.fr



AbsInt

www.absint.com

The Astrée static analyzer

Specialized:

- for the analysis of **run-time errors**
(arithmetic overflows, array overflows, divisions by 0, etc.)
- on embedded critical **C** software
(no dynamic memory allocation, no recursivity)
- in particular on **control / command** software
(reactive programs, intensive floating-point computations)
- intended for **validation**
(analysis does not miss any error and tries to minimise false alarms)

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Approximately **40 abstract domains** are used **at the same time**:

- numeric domains (intervals, octagons, ellipsoids, etc.)
- boolean domains
- domains expressing properties on the history of computations

Astrée applications



Airbus A340-300 (2003)



Airbus A380 (2004)

- size: from 70 000 to 860 000 lines of C
- analysis time: from 45mn to \simeq 40h
- 0 alarm: proof of absence of run-time error

Abstract constraint programming

Constraint satisfaction problem

Definition: Constraint Satisfaction Problem (CSP)

- $\mathcal{V} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$: set of variables
- $\mathcal{D} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} D_1 \times \dots \times D_n$: a set of initial domains
 $\forall i : D_i \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ and D_i is **bounded**
- $\mathcal{C} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{C_1, \dots, C_m\}$ set of constraints on \mathcal{V}

CSP solution:

- $\mathcal{S} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\vec{x} \in \mathcal{D} \mid \forall i : \vec{x} \models C_i\}$

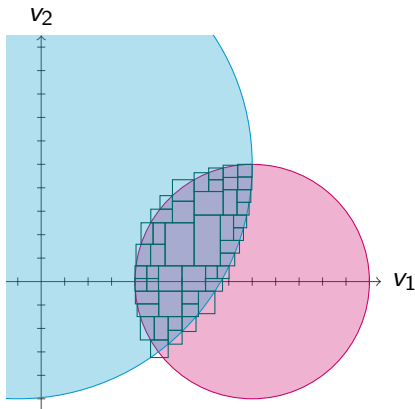
(also possible: look for a single solution instead of all solutions)

Constraint satisfaction problem solution

We would like to enumerate $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$, but this is impossible!
 \implies instead, we **cover \mathcal{S} tightly** with a finite set of **boxes**

$\mathcal{S}^\#$ set of boxes such that:

- $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \bigcup \mathcal{S}^\#$
- $\forall B \in \mathcal{S}^\# :$
 - either $B \subseteq \mathcal{S}$
 - or $\text{size}(B) \leq \epsilon$ and $B \cap \mathcal{S} \neq \emptyset$



(on discrete problems, solvers eventually enumerate \mathcal{S})

Solving

Principle:

① **Propagation:**

use constraints to shrink domains

remove domain values that are not part of a solution

⇒ consistency

② **Exploration:**

split domains

- halve an interval (continuous case)
- instantiate a variable (discrete case)

finished if the domains contain only solutions / no solution

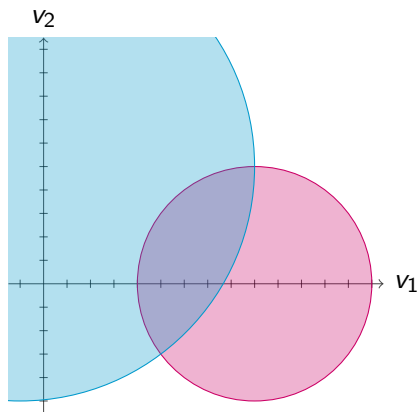
③ **Backtracking:**

iterate until we have only solutions (discrete case)

or small enough domains (continuous case)

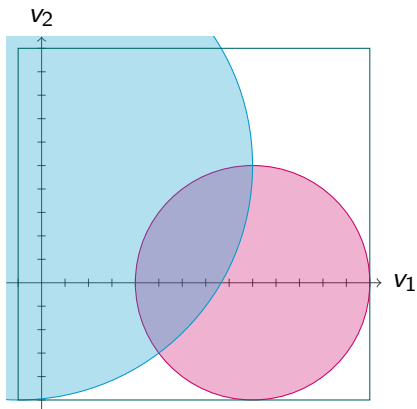
Constraint programming algorithm

- list of boxes `toExplore` := $\{ D \}$
- while `toExplore` is not empty



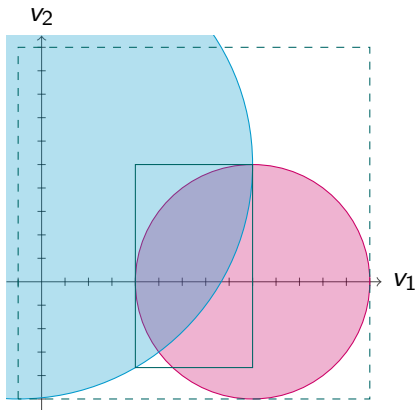
Constraint programming algorithm

- list of boxes **toExplore** := $\{ D \}$
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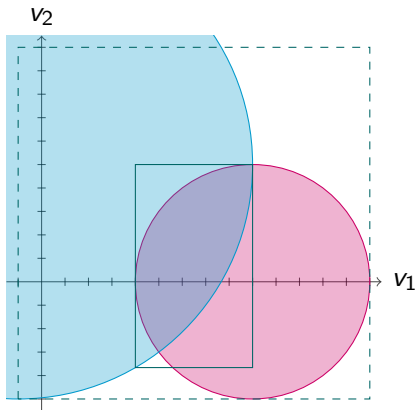
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 - **consistency**:
shrink the box using the constraints



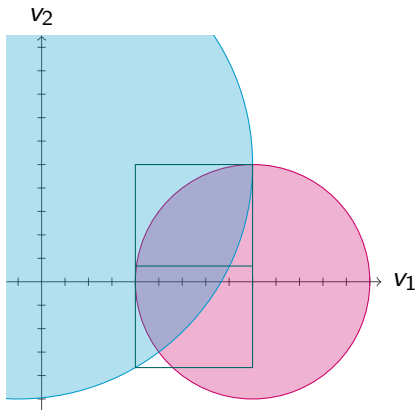
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 - if **small** or contains only solutions
shift it the solution list



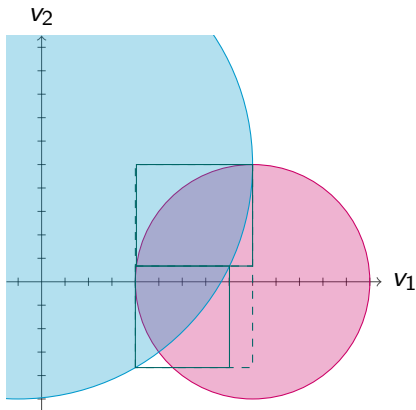
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 - else
split the box and
push the pieces into **toExplore**



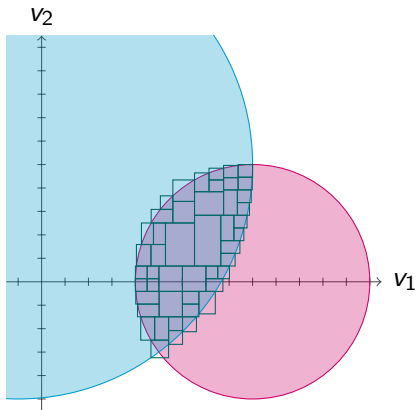
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Solving as fixpoint computation

Exact solution set:

Each constraint C_i gives rise to a filter function ρ_i :

$$\rho_i(X) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\sigma \in X \mid \sigma \models C_i\} \in \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$$

Given $\rho \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \rho_1 \circ \dots \circ \rho_k$

the exact solution set S is a (trivial) concrete greatest fixpoint:

$$S \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \rho(D) = \text{gfp}_D \rho$$

Interpreting the solving algorithm

- iterative process starting from D
- decreasing iterations over-approximating S
- termination criterion (small size, singleton)

\implies similar to **fixpoint refinement** with Δ

Consistencies as abstract domains

Interpreting consistency:

- CP domain \simeq element in an abstract domain $X^\# \in \mathcal{D}^\#$
- $X^\#$ is **consistent** $\iff X^\# = (\alpha \circ \rho \circ \gamma)(X^\#)$

Example

- **Hull-consistency:** interval abstraction with float bounds
 - $\mathcal{D}^\# \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\mathbb{F} \times \mathbb{F})^n$
 - $\alpha(X) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda i. [\max\{x \in \mathbb{F} \mid \forall x_1, \dots, x_n \in X : x_i \geq x\}, \min\{x \in \mathbb{F} \mid \forall x_1, \dots, x_n \in X : x_i \leq x\}]$
- **Arc-consistency:** Cartesian abstraction
 - $\mathcal{D}^\# \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{Z})^n$
 - $\alpha(X) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda i. \{x \mid \exists x_1, \dots, x_n \in X : x = x_i\}$

Propagation as test

Given a constraint C_i with filter ρ_i

- the consistency is the best abstraction $\alpha \circ \rho_i \circ \gamma$
- a **propagator** is a sound abstraction ρ_i^\sharp of ρ_i

Examples:

- generic test $expr \leq 0$ in the interval domain
 - two-step algorithm known as **HC4-revise** in CP
 - independently rediscovered to implement tests in AI
- to abstract $\rho = \rho_1 \circ \dots \circ \rho_n$: iterate $\rho_1^\sharp \circ \dots \circ \rho_n^\sharp$

Granger's local iterations

Split as disjunctive completion

Solvers abstract solution sets using **sets** of domains
 \implies corresponds to **disjunctive completion** in AI

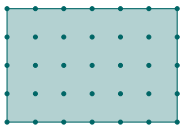
$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{P}\mathcal{D}^\# &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{P}_{\text{finite}}(\mathcal{D}^\#) \\ \gamma_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathcal{X}^\#) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \bigcup \{ \gamma(X^\#) \mid X^\# \in \mathcal{X}^\# \} \end{aligned}$$

Split operator \oplus :

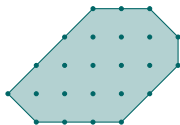
- $\oplus : \mathcal{P}\mathcal{D}^\# \rightarrow \mathcal{P}\mathcal{D}^\#$
- $\oplus(\mathcal{X}^\#)$ chooses an element in $X^\# \in \mathcal{X}^\#$
and replaces it with finitely many elements in $\mathcal{D}^\#$
- $\gamma_{\mathcal{P}}(\oplus \mathcal{X}^\#) = \gamma_{\mathcal{P}}(\mathcal{X}^\#) \implies \oplus$ abstracts the identity
- \oplus decreases for the Smyth order

$$\mathcal{X}^\# \sqsubseteq_{\mathcal{P}}^\# \mathcal{Y}^\# \stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} \forall X^\# \in \mathcal{X}^\# : \exists Y^\# \in \mathcal{Y}^\# : X^\# \sqsubseteq^\# Y^\#$$

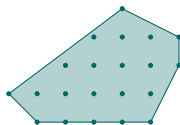
Parameter



Intervals



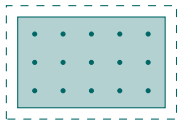
Octagons



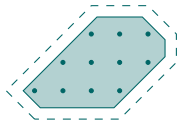
Polyhedra

Parameter: an abstract domain $\mathcal{D}^\#$ equipped with:

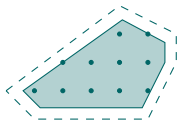
Parameter



Intervals



Octagons



Polyhedra

Parameter: an abstract domain $\mathcal{D}^\#$ equipped with:

- **test transfer functions** $\rho^\#$ for any conjunction of constraints
(approximate consistency)

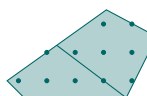
Parameter



Intervals



Octagons



Polyhedra

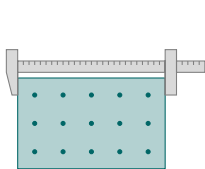
Parameter: an abstract domain \mathcal{D}^\sharp equipped with:

- test transfer functions ρ^\sharp for any conjunction of constraints (approximate consistency)

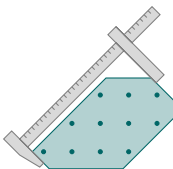
and **additionally:**

- a splitting operator $\oplus : \mathcal{PD}^\sharp \rightarrow \mathcal{PD}^\sharp$ (exploration)

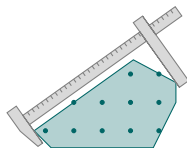
Parameter



Intervals



Octagons



Polyhedra

Parameter: an abstract domain \mathcal{D}^\sharp equipped with:

- test transfer functions ρ^\sharp for any conjunction of constraints (approximate consistency)

and **additionally:**

- a splitting operator $\oplus : \mathcal{PD}^\sharp \rightarrow \mathcal{PD}^\sharp$ (exploration)
- a size function $\tau : \mathcal{D}^\sharp \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ (termination criterion)

Interval domain

Hull-consistency for continuous solvers

- float interval abstraction: $\mathcal{D}^\# \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\mathbb{F} \times \mathbb{F})^n$

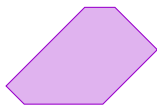
- split on variable v_i :

$$\begin{aligned} & \oplus_i ([\ell_1, h_1] \times \cdots \times [\ell_i, h_i] \times \cdots \times [\ell_n, h_n]) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \\ & \quad \{ [\ell_1, h_1] \times \cdots \times [\ell_i, m] \times \cdots \times [\ell_n, h_n], \\ & \quad [\ell_1, h_1] \times \cdots \times [m, h_i] \times \cdots \times [\ell_n, h_n] \} \\ & \text{where } m \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\ell_i + h_i)/2 \quad (\text{rounded indifferently}) \end{aligned}$$

- $\tau([\ell_1, h_1] \times \cdots \times [\ell_n, h_n]) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \max_i (h_i - \ell_i)$

Octagon domain

$$\mathcal{D}^\# \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ \alpha v_i + \beta v_j \mid i, j \in [1, n], \alpha, \beta \in \{-1, 1\} \} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$$

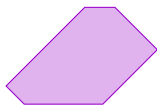


$\mathcal{D}^\#$: associates a (float) bound to each unit binary expression on V

Octagon domain

$$\mathcal{D}^\# \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ \alpha v_i + \beta v_j \mid i, j \in [1, n], \alpha, \beta \in \{-1, 1\} \} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$$

$$\tau(X^\#) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \min \left(\max_{i,j,\beta} \left(X^\#(v_i + \beta v_j) + X^\#(-v_i - \beta v_j) \right), \right. \\ \left. \max_i \left(X^\#(v_i + v_i) + X^\#(-v_i - v_i) \right) / 2 \right)$$

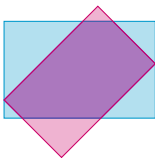


τ : size of the smallest box containing the octagon

Octagon domain

$$\mathcal{D}^\# \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ \alpha v_i + \beta v_j \mid i, j \in [1, n], \alpha, \beta \in \{-1, 1\} \} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$$

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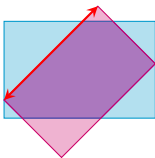


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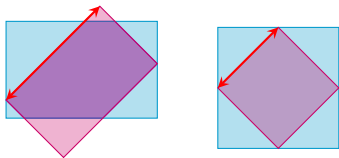


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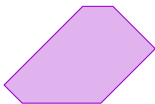
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$$\oplus(X^\#) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left\{ X^\#[(\alpha v_i + \beta v_j) \mapsto m], X^\#[(-\alpha v_i - \beta v_j) \mapsto -m] \right\}$$

$$\text{where } m \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (X^\#(\alpha v_i + \beta v_j) - X^\#(-\alpha v_i - \beta v_j)) / 2$$



\oplus : cuts in half perpendicular to the longest side

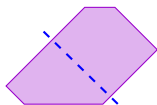
Octagon domain

$$\mathcal{D}^\# \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ \alpha v_i + \beta v_j \mid i, j \in [1, n], \alpha, \beta \in \{-1, 1\} \} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$$

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\oplus : cuts in half perpendicular to the longest side

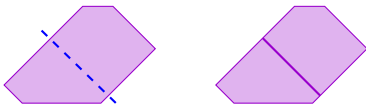
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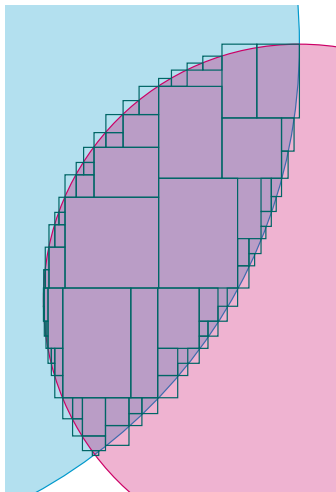
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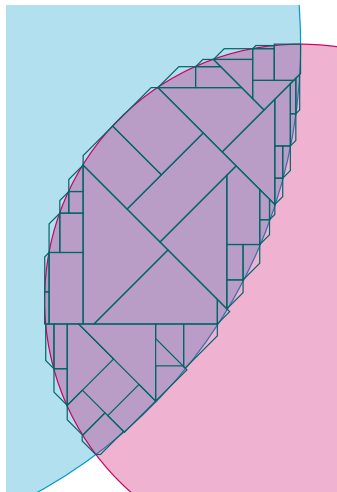


\oplus : cuts in half perpendicular to the longest side

Octagon solving example



Intervals



Octagons