

AN INTRODUCTION TO ABSTRACT INTERPRETATION

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2.2.1 MOORE FAMILY-BASED ABSTRACTION

See Sec. 5.1 of [POPL '79].

Reference

[POPL '79] P. Cousot & R. Cousot. Systematic design of program analysis frameworks. In 6th POPL, pages 269–282, San Antonio, TX, 1979. ACM Press. 10

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2.2 A SHORT INTRODUCTION TO ABSTRACT INTERPRETATION THEORY (SEE SEC. 5 OF [POPL '79])

Reference

[POPL '79] P. Cousot & R. Cousot. Systematic design of program analysis frameworks. In 6th POPL, pages 269–282, San Antonio, TX, 1979. ACM Press. 9, 99

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PROPERTIES

- We represent **properties** P of objects $s \in \Sigma$ as **sets of objects** $P \in \wp(\Sigma)$ (which have the property in question);

Example: the property “*to be an even natural number*” is $\{0, 2, 4, 6, \dots\}$

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COMPLETE LATTICE OF PROPERTIES

- The set of properties of objects Σ is a complete boolean lattice:

$$\langle \wp(\Sigma), \subseteq, \emptyset, \Sigma, \cup, \cap, \neg \rangle .$$

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DIRECTION OF APPROXIMATION

- Approximation from above: approximate P by \overline{P} such that $P \subseteq \overline{P}$;
- Approximation from below: approximate P by \underline{P} such that $\underline{P} \subseteq P$ (dual).

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ABSTRACTION

A reasoning/computation such that:

- only some properties can be used;
- the properties that can be used are called “*abstract*”;
- so, the (other *concrete*) properties must be approximated by the abstract ones;

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ABSTRACT PROPERTIES

- Abstract Properties: a set $\overline{\mathcal{A}} \subsetneq \wp(\Sigma)$ of properties of interest (the only one which can be used to approximate others).

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IN ABSENCE OF (UPPER) APPROXIMATION

- What to say when some property has no (computable) abstraction?
 - loop?
 - block?
 - ask for help?
 - say something!

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MINIMAL APPROXIMATIONS

- A concrete property $P \in \wp(\Sigma)$ is most precisely abstracted by any minimal upper approximation $\overline{P} \in \overline{\mathcal{A}}$:

$$\begin{gathered} P \subseteq \overline{P} \\ \nexists \overline{P}' \in \overline{\mathcal{A}} : P \subseteq \overline{P}' \subsetneq \overline{P} \end{gathered}$$

- So, an abstract property $\overline{P} \in \overline{\mathcal{A}}$ is best approximated by itself.

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I DON'T KNOW

- Any property should be approximable from above by I don't know (i.e. "true" or Σ).

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WHICH MINIMAL APPROXIMATION IS MOST USEFUL?

- Which minimal approximation is most useful depends upon the circumstances;
- Example (rule of signs):
 - 0 is better approximated as positive in “ 3 + 0”;
 - 0 is better approximated as negative in “ -3 + 0”.

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AVOIDING BACKTRACKING

- We don't want to exhaustively try all minimal approximations;
- We want to use only one of the minimal approximations;

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BEST ABSTRACTION

- We require that all concrete property $P \in \wp(\Sigma)$ have a best abstraction $\overline{P} \in \overline{\mathcal{A}}$:

$$\begin{aligned} P &\subseteq \overline{P} \\ \forall \overline{P}' \in \overline{\mathcal{A}} : (P \subseteq \overline{P}') &\implies (\overline{P} \subseteq \overline{P}') \end{aligned}$$

- So, by definition of the greatest lower bound/meet \cap :

$$\overline{P} = \bigcap \{\overline{P}' \in \overline{\mathcal{A}} \mid P \subseteq \overline{P}'\} \in \overline{\mathcal{A}}$$

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WHICH MINIMAL ABSTRACTION TO USE?

- Which minimal abstraction to choose?
 - make a circumstantial choice¹;
 - make a definitive arbitrary choice²;
 - require the existence of a best choice³.

Reference

[JLC'92] P. Cousot & R. Cousot. Abstract interpretation frameworks. *J. Logic and Comp.*, 2(4):511–547, 1992.

¹ [JLC'92] uses a concretization function.

² [JLC'92] uses an abstraction function.

³ [JLC'92] uses an abstraction/concretization Galois connection (this talk).

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MOORE FAMILY

- So, the hypothesis that any concrete property $P \in \wp(\Sigma)$ has a best abstraction $\overline{P} \in \overline{\mathcal{A}}$ implies that:

$\overline{\mathcal{A}}$ is a Moore family

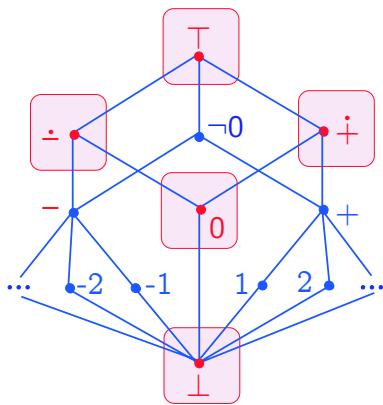
i.e. it is closed under intersection \cap :

$$\forall S \subseteq \overline{\mathcal{A}} : \bigcap S \in \overline{\mathcal{A}}$$

- In particular $\bigcap \emptyset = \Sigma \in \overline{\mathcal{A}}$.

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EXAMPLE OF MOORE FAMILY-BASED ABSTRACTION



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2.2.2 CLOSURE OPERATOR-BASED ABSTRACTION

See Sec. 5.2 of [POPL '79]).

Reference

[POPL '79] P. Cousot & R. Cousot. Systematic design of program analysis frameworks. In 6th POPL, pages 269–282, San Antonio, TX, 1979. ACM Press. 26

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THE LATTICE OF ABSTRACTIONS (1)

- The set $\mathcal{M}(\wp(\wp(\Sigma)))$ of all abstractions i.e. of Moore families on the set $\wp(\Sigma)$ of concrete properties is the complete lattice of abstractions

$$\langle \mathcal{M}(\wp(\wp(\Sigma))), \supseteq, \wp(\Sigma), \{\Sigma\}, \lambda S \cdot \mathcal{M}(S), \cap \rangle$$

where:

$$\mathcal{M}(\overline{\mathcal{A}}) = \{\cap S \mid S \subseteq \overline{\mathcal{A}}\}$$

is the \subseteq -least Moore family containing $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$.

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CLOSURE OPERATOR INDUCED BY AN ABSTRACTION

The map $\rho_{\overline{\mathcal{A}}}$ mapping a concrete property $P \in \wp(\Sigma)$ to its best abstraction $\rho_{\overline{\mathcal{A}}}(P)$ in $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$ is:

$$\rho_{\overline{\mathcal{A}}}(P) = \bigcap \{\overline{P} \in \overline{\mathcal{A}} \mid P \subseteq \overline{P}\}.$$

It is a closure operator:

- extensive,
- idempotent,
- isotone/monotonic;

such that

$$P \in \overline{\mathcal{A}} \iff P = \rho_{\overline{\mathcal{A}}}(P)$$

hence

$$\overline{\mathcal{A}} = \rho_{\overline{\mathcal{A}}}(\wp(\Sigma)).$$

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ABSTRACTION INDUCED BY A CLOSURE OPERATOR

- Any closure operator ρ on the set of properties $\wp(\Sigma)$ induces an abstraction:

$$\rho(\wp(\Sigma)).$$

Examples:

- $\lambda P \cdot P$ the most precise abstraction (identity),
- $\lambda P \cdot \Sigma$ the most imprecise abstraction (I don't know).

- Closure operators are isomorphic to the Moore families (i.e. their fixpoints).

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THE LATTICE OF ABSTRACTIONS (2)

- The set $\text{clo}(\wp(\Sigma) \longmapsto \wp(\Sigma))$ of all abstractions, i.e. isomorphically, closure operators ρ on the set $\wp(\Sigma)$ of concrete properties is the complete lattice of abstractions for pointwise inclusion⁴:

$$\langle \text{clo}(\wp(\Sigma) \longmapsto \wp(\Sigma)), \dot{\subseteq}, \lambda P \cdot P, \lambda P \cdot \Sigma, \lambda S \cdot \text{ide}(\dot{\cup} S), \dot{\cap} \rangle$$

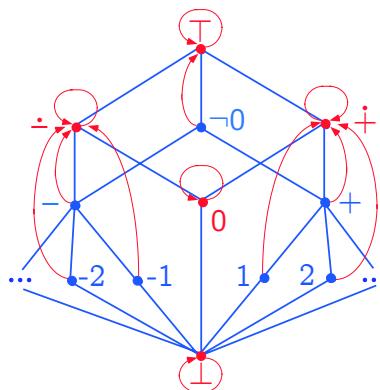
where:

- the lub $\lambda S \cdot \text{ide}(\dot{\cup} S)$ is the reduced product;
- $\text{ide}(\rho) = \text{lfp}_{\rho}^{\dot{\subseteq}} \lambda f \cdot f \circ f$ is the $\dot{\subseteq}$ -least idempotent operator on $\wp(\Sigma)$ $\dot{\subseteq}$ -greater than ρ .

⁴ M. Ward, *The closure operators of a lattice*, Annals Math., 43(1942), 191–196.

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EXAMPLE OF CLOSURE OPERATOR-BASED ABSTRACTION



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2.2.4 GALOIS CONNECTION-BASED ABSTRACTION

See Sec. 5.3 of [POPL '79]).

Reference

[POPL '79] P. Cousot & R. Cousot. Systematic design of program analysis frameworks. In 6th POPL, pages 269–282, San Antonio, TX, 1979. ACM Press. 38

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CORRESPONDANCE BETWEEN CONCRETE AND ABSTRACT PROPERTIES

- For closure operators ρ , we have:

$$\rho(P) \subseteq \rho(P') \Leftrightarrow P \subseteq \rho(P')$$

written:

$$\langle \rho(\Sigma), \subseteq \rangle \xrightarrow[\rho]{1} \langle \rho(\rho(\Sigma)), \subseteq \rangle$$

where 1 is the identity and:

$$\langle \rho(\Sigma), \subseteq \rangle \xrightarrow[\alpha]{\gamma} \langle \overline{\mathcal{D}}, \sqsubseteq \rangle$$

means that $\langle \alpha, \gamma \rangle$ is a Galois connection:

- $\forall P \in \rho(\Sigma), \overline{P} \in \overline{\mathcal{D}} : \alpha(P) \sqsubseteq \overline{P} \Leftrightarrow P \subseteq \gamma(\overline{P})$;
- α is onto (equivalently $\alpha \circ \gamma = 1$ or γ is one-to-one).

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GALOIS SURJECTION⁶

- We have the Galois surjection:

$$\langle \rho(\Sigma), \subseteq \rangle \xrightleftharpoons[\nu \circ \rho]{\iota^{-1}} \langle \overline{\mathcal{D}}, \sqsubseteq \rangle$$

- More generally:

$$\langle \rho(\Sigma), \subseteq \rangle \xrightleftharpoons[\alpha]{\gamma} \langle \overline{\mathcal{D}}, \sqsubseteq \rangle$$

denoting (again) the fact that:

- $\forall P \in \rho(\Sigma), \overline{P} \in \overline{\mathcal{D}} : \alpha(P) \sqsubseteq \overline{P} \Leftrightarrow P \subseteq \gamma(\overline{P})$;
- α is onto (equivalently $\alpha \circ \gamma = 1$ or γ is one-to-one).

⁶ Also called Galois insertion since γ is injective.

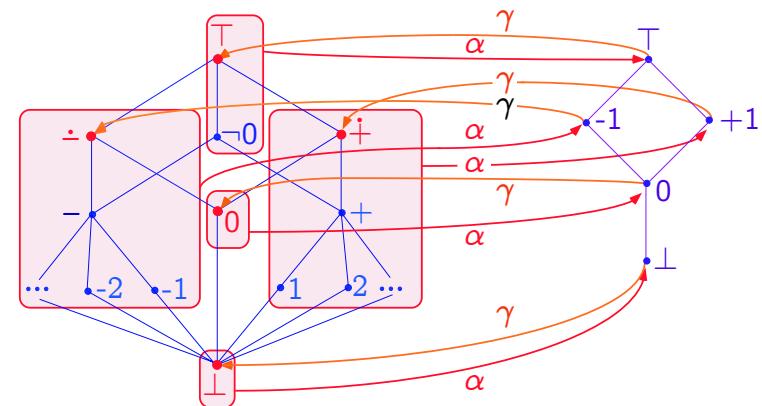
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ABSTRACT DOMAIN

- Abstract Domain:** an isomorphic representation $\overline{\mathcal{D}}$ of the set $\overline{\mathcal{A}} \subseteq \rho(\Sigma) = \rho(\rho(\Sigma))$ of abstract properties (up to some order-isomorphism ι).

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EXAMPLE OF GALOIS SURJECTION-BASED ABSTRACTION



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GALOIS CONNECTION

- Relaxing the condition that α is onto:

$$\langle \wp(\Sigma), \subseteq \rangle \xrightarrow[\alpha]{\gamma} \langle \overline{\mathcal{D}}, \sqsubseteq \rangle$$

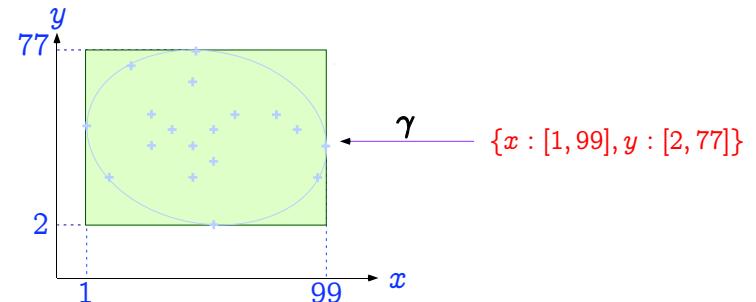
that is to say:

$$\forall P \in \wp(\Sigma), \overline{P} \in \overline{\mathcal{D}} : \alpha(P) \sqsubseteq \overline{P} \Leftrightarrow P \subseteq \gamma(\overline{P});$$

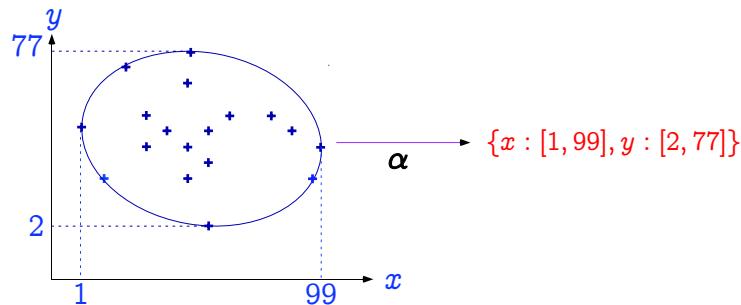
- i.e. ρ is now $\gamma \circ \alpha$;

We can now have different representations of the same abstract property.

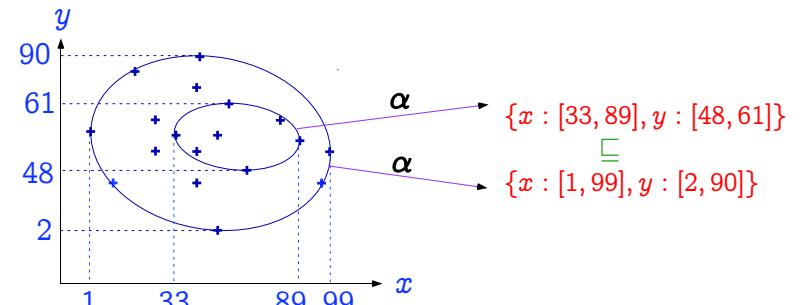
CONCRETIZATION γ



ABSTRACTION α

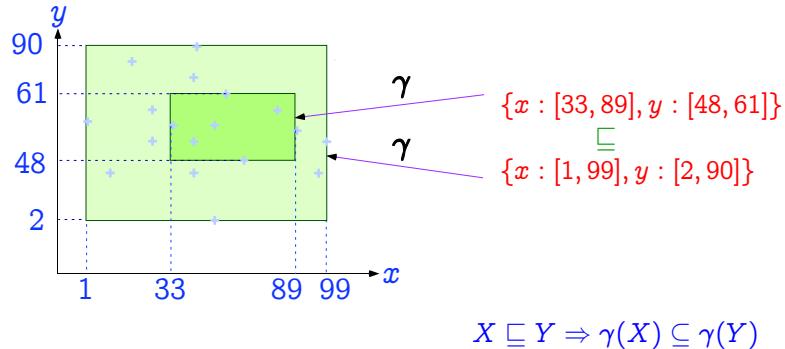


THE ABSTRACTION α IS MONOTONE



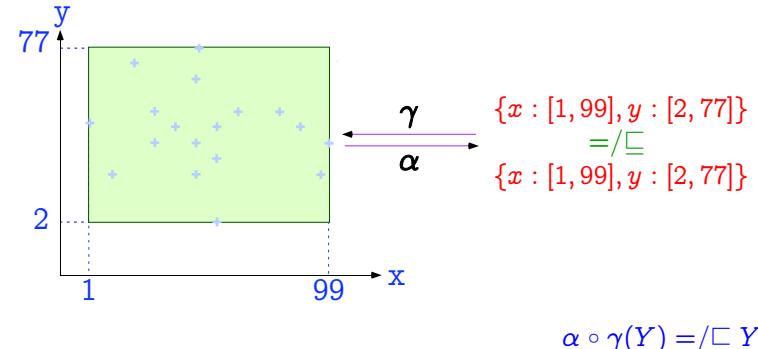
$$X \subseteq Y \Rightarrow \alpha(X) \sqsubseteq \alpha(Y)$$

THE CONCRETIZATION γ IS MONOTONE



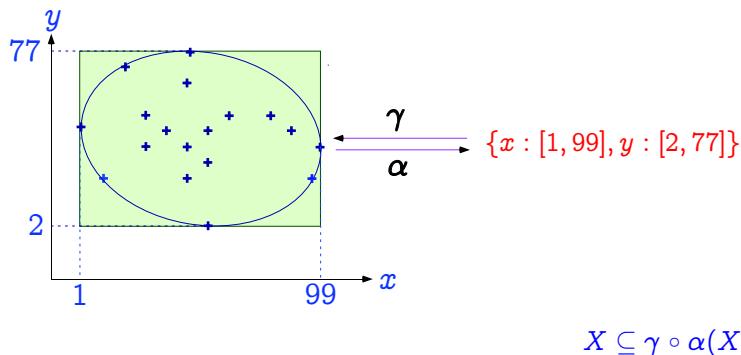
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THE $\alpha \circ \gamma$ COMPOSITION IS REDUCTIVE



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THE $\gamma \circ \alpha$ COMPOSITION IS EXTENSIVE



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COMPOSITION OF GALOIS CONNECTIONS

The composition of Galois connections:

$$\langle L, \leq \rangle \xrightleftharpoons[\alpha_1]{\gamma_1} \langle M, \sqsubseteq \rangle$$

and:

$$\langle M, \sqsubseteq \rangle \xrightleftharpoons[\alpha_2]{\gamma_2} \langle N, \preceq \rangle$$

is a Galois connection:

$$\langle L, \leq \rangle \xrightleftharpoons[\alpha_2 \circ \alpha_1]{\gamma_1 \circ \gamma_2} \langle N, \preceq \rangle$$

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2.2.5 FUNCTION ABSTRACTION

See Sec. 7.2 of [POPL '79].

Reference

[POPL'79] P. Cousot & R. Cousot. Systematic design of program analysis frameworks. In 6th POPL, pages 269–282, San Antonio, TX, 1979. ACM Press. 51

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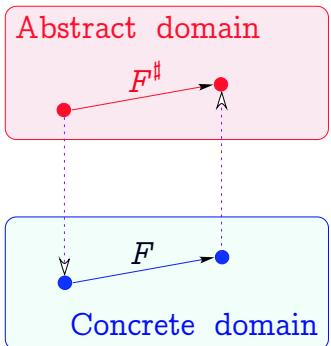
2.2.6 FIXPOINT ABSTRACTION

See Sec. 7.1 of [POPL '79].

Reference

[POPL'79] P. Cousot & R. Cousot. Systematic design of program analysis frameworks. In 6th POPL, pages 269–282, San Antonio, TX, 1979. ACM Press. 53

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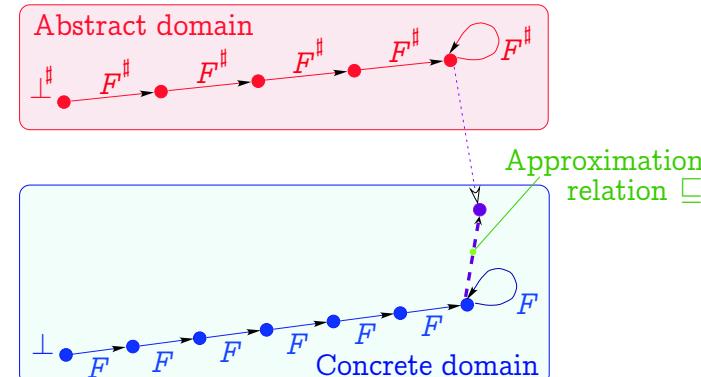
FUNCTION ABSTRACTION

$$F^\sharp = \alpha \circ F \circ \gamma \\ \text{i.e. } F^\sharp = \rho \circ F$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle P, \subseteq \rangle &\xrightarrow[\alpha]{\gamma} \langle Q, \sqsubseteq \rangle \Rightarrow \\ \langle P \xrightarrow{\text{mon}} P, \dot{\subseteq} \rangle &\xleftarrow[\lambda F^\sharp \circ \gamma \circ F^\sharp \circ \alpha]{\lambda F \circ \alpha \circ F \circ \gamma} \langle Q \xrightarrow{\text{mon}} Q, \dot{\sqsubseteq} \rangle \end{aligned}$$

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APPROXIMATE FIXPOINT ABSTRACTION



$$\alpha(\text{lfp } F) \sqsubseteq \text{lfp } F^\sharp$$

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APPROXIMATE/EXACT FIXPOINT ABSTRACTION

Exact Abstraction:

$$\alpha(\text{lfp } F) = \text{lfp } F^\ddagger$$

Approximate Abstraction:

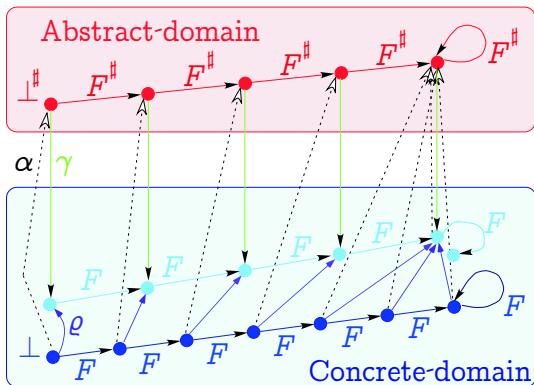
$$\alpha(\text{lfp } F) \sqsubset^\ddagger \text{lfp } F^\ddagger$$

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2.3 APPLICATION TO REACHABILITY

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EXACT FIXPOINT ABSTRACTION



$$\alpha \circ F = F^\ddagger \circ \alpha \Rightarrow \alpha(\text{lfp } F) = \text{lfp } F^\ddagger$$

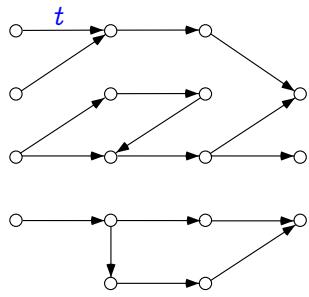
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TRANSITION SYSTEMS

- $\langle S, t \rangle$ where:
 - S is a set of states/vertices/...
 - $t \in \wp(S \times S)$ is a transition relation/set of arcs/...

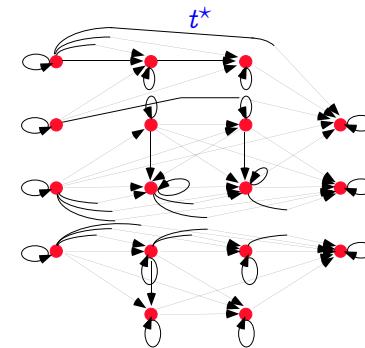
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EXAMPLE OF TRANSITION SYSTEM



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EXAMPLE OF TRANSITIVE REFLEXIVE CLOSURE



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REFLEXIVE TRANSITIVE CLOSURE

- Composition:

$$- t \circ t' \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ \langle s, s'' \rangle \mid \exists s' : \langle s, s' \rangle \in t \wedge \langle s', s'' \rangle \in t' \}$$
- Powers:

$$\begin{aligned} - t^0 &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ \langle s, s \rangle \mid s \in S \} \\ - t^{n+1} &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} t^n \circ t \quad n \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$
- Reflexive transitive closure:

$$- t^* = \bigcup_{n \geq 0} t^n$$

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REFLEXIVE TRANSITIVE CLOSURE IN FIXPOINT FORM

$$t^* = \text{lfp} \subseteq \lambda X \cdot t^0 \cup X \circ t$$

Proof

$$\begin{aligned} X^0 &= \emptyset \\ X^1 &= t^0 \cup X^0 \circ t = t^0 \\ X^2 &= t^0 \cup X^1 \circ t = t^0 \cup t^0 \circ t = t^0 \cup t^1 \\ &\dots \quad \dots \\ X^n &= \bigcup_{0 \leq i < n} t^i \quad (\text{induction hypothesis}) \end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}
X^{n+1} &= t^0 \cup X^n \circ t \\
&= t^0 \cup \left(\bigcup_{0 \leq i < n} t^i \right) \circ t \\
&= t^0 \cup \bigcup_{0 \leq i < n} (t^i \circ t) \\
&= t^0 \cup \bigcup_{1 \leq i+1 < n+1} (t^{i+1}) \\
&= t^0 \cup \bigcup_{1 \leq j < n+1} t^j \circ t \\
&= \bigcup_{0 \leq i < n+1} t^i \\
&\dots \quad \dots
\end{aligned}$$

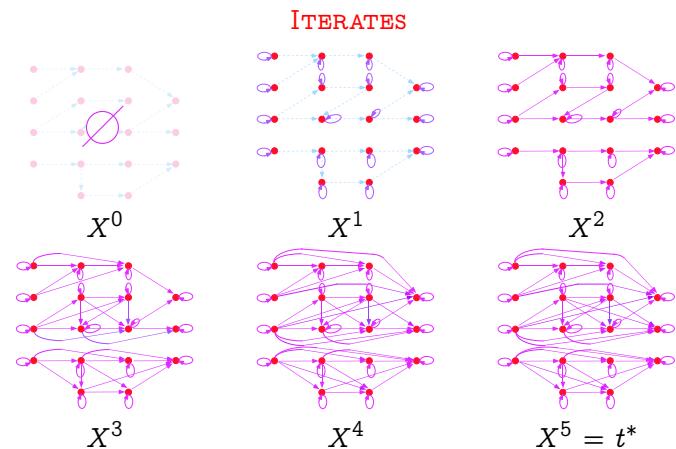
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$$\begin{aligned}
X^{\omega+1} &= t^0 \cup X^\omega \circ t \\
&= t^0 \cup \left(\bigcup_{n \geq 0} t^n \right) \circ t \\
&= t^0 \cup \bigcup_{n \geq 0} (t^n \circ t) \\
&= t^0 \cup \bigcup_{n \geq 0} t^{n+1} \\
&= t^0 \cup \bigcup_{k \geq 1} t^k \\
&= \bigcup_{n \geq 0} t^n \\
&= t^*
\end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}
X^\omega &= \bigcup_{n \geq 0} X^n \\
&= \bigcup_{n \geq 0} \bigcup_{0 \leq i < n} t^i \\
&= \bigcup_{n \geq 0} t^n \\
&= t^*
\end{aligned}$$

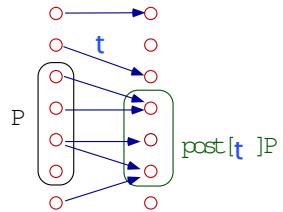
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POST-IMAGE

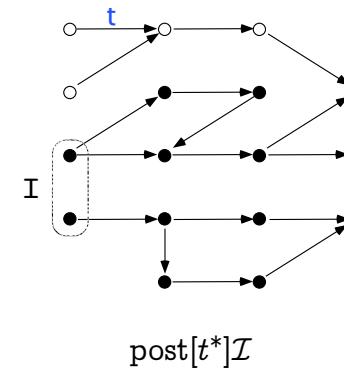
$$\text{post}[t]I = \{s' \mid \exists s \in I : \langle s, s' \rangle \in t\}$$



We have $\text{post}[\bigcup_{i \in \Delta} t^i]I = \bigcup_{i \in \Delta} \text{post}[t^i]I$ so $\alpha = \lambda t \cdot \text{post}[t]I$ is the lower adjoint of a Galois connection.

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REACHABLE STATES



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POSTIMAGE GALOIS CONNECTION

Given $I \in \wp(S)$,

$$\langle \wp(S \times S), \subseteq \rangle \xrightleftharpoons[\lambda t \cdot \text{post}[t]I]{\gamma} \langle \wp(S), \subseteq \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{post}[t]I &\subseteq R \\ \Leftrightarrow \{s' \mid \exists s \in I : \langle s, s' \rangle \in t\} &\subseteq R \\ \Leftrightarrow \forall s' \in S : (\exists s \in I : \langle s, s' \rangle \in t) &\Rightarrow (s' \in R) \\ \Leftrightarrow \forall s', s \in S : (s \in I \wedge \langle s, s' \rangle \in t) &\Rightarrow (s' \in R) \\ \Leftrightarrow \forall s', s \in S : \langle s, s' \rangle \in t &\Rightarrow ((s \in I) \Rightarrow (s' \in R)) \\ \Leftrightarrow t &\subseteq \{\langle s, s' \rangle \mid (s \in I) \Rightarrow (s' \in R)\} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \gamma(R) \end{aligned}$$

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FIXPOINT ABSTRACTION, ONCE AGAIN

Let $F \in L \xrightarrow{m} L$ and $\bar{F} \in \bar{L} \xrightarrow{m} \bar{L}$ be respective monotone maps on the cpos $\langle L, \perp, \sqsubseteq \rangle$ and $\langle \bar{L}, \perp, \sqsubseteq \rangle$ and $\langle L, \sqsubseteq \rangle \xrightleftharpoons[\alpha]{\gamma} \langle \bar{L}, \sqsubseteq \rangle$ such that $\alpha \circ F \circ \gamma \leq \bar{F}$. Then¹⁰:

- $\forall \delta \in \mathbb{O} : \alpha(F^\delta) \sqsubseteq \bar{F}^\delta$ (iterates from the infimum);
- The iteration order of F is \leq to that of \bar{F} ;
- $\alpha(\text{lfp}^{\sqsubseteq} F) \sqsubseteq \text{lfp}^{\sqsubseteq} \bar{F}$;

Soundness: $\text{lfp}^{\sqsubseteq} \bar{F} \sqsubseteq \bar{P} \Rightarrow \text{lfp}^{\sqsubseteq} F \sqsubseteq \gamma(\bar{P})$.

¹⁰ P. Cousot & R. Cousot. *Systematic design of program analysis frameworks*. ACM POPL'79, pp. 269–282, 1979. Numerous variants!

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FIXPOINT ABSTRACTION (CONTINUED)

Moreover, the *commutation condition* $\bar{F} \circ \alpha = \alpha \circ F$ implies¹¹:

- $\bar{F} = \alpha \circ F \circ \gamma$, and
- $\alpha(\text{lfp } \sqsubseteq F) = \text{lfp } \sqsubseteq \bar{F}$;

Completeness: $\text{lfp } \sqsubseteq F \sqsubseteq \gamma(P) \Rightarrow \text{lfp } \sqsubseteq \bar{F} \sqsubseteq P$.

¹¹ P. Cousot & R. Cousot. *Systematic design of program analysis frameworks*. ACM POPL'79, pp. 269–282, 1979. Numerous variants!

DISCOVERING \bar{F} BY CALCULUS

$$\begin{aligned} & \alpha \circ (\lambda X \cdot t^0 \cup X \circ t) \\ &= \lambda X \cdot \alpha(t^0 \cup X \circ t) \\ &= \lambda X \cdot \alpha(t^0) \cup \alpha(X \circ t) \\ &= \lambda X \cdot \text{post}[t^0]I \cup \text{post}[X \circ t]I \end{aligned}$$

REACHABLE STATES IN FIXPOINT FORM

$\text{post}[t^*]I$, I given

$$\begin{aligned} &= \alpha(t^*) \quad \text{where } \alpha(t) = \text{post}[t]I = \{s' \mid \exists s \in I : \langle s, s' \rangle \in t\} \\ &= \alpha(\text{lfp } \sqsubseteq \lambda X \cdot t^0 \cup X \circ t) \\ &= \text{lfp } \sqsubseteq \bar{F} ??? \end{aligned}$$

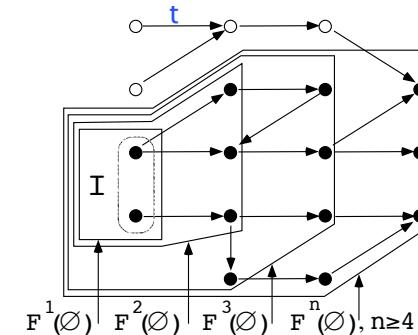
$$\begin{aligned} & \text{post}[t^0]I \\ &= \{s' \mid \exists s \in I : \langle s, s' \rangle \in t^0\} \\ &= \{s' \mid \exists s \in I : \langle s, s' \rangle \in \{\langle s, s \rangle \mid s \in S\}\} \\ &= \{s' \mid \exists s \in I\} \\ &= I \end{aligned}$$

$\text{post}[X \circ t]I$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \{s' \mid \exists s \in I : \langle s, s' \rangle \in (X \circ t)\} \\
&= \{s' \mid \exists s \in I : \langle s, s' \rangle \in \{\langle s, s'' \rangle \mid \exists s' : \langle s, s'' \rangle \in X \wedge \langle s', s'' \rangle \in t\}\} \\
&= \{s' \mid \exists s \in I : \exists s'' \in S : \langle s, s'' \rangle \in X \wedge \langle s', s'' \rangle \in t\} \\
&= \{s' \mid \exists s'' \in S : (\exists s \in I : \langle s, s'' \rangle \in X) \wedge \langle s', s'' \rangle \in t\} \\
&= \{s' \mid \exists s'' \in S : s'' \in \{s'' \mid \exists s \in I : \langle s, s'' \rangle \in X\} \wedge \langle s', s'' \rangle \in t\} \\
&= \{s' \mid \exists s'' \in S : s'' \in \text{post}[X]I \wedge \langle s', s'' \rangle \in t\} \\
&= \text{post}[t](\text{post}[X]I) \\
&= \text{post}[t](\alpha(X))
\end{aligned}$$

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EXAMPLE OF ITERATION



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$$\alpha \circ (\lambda X \cdot t^0 \cup X \circ t)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \dots \\
&= \lambda X \cdot \text{post}[t^0]I \cup \text{post}[X \circ t]I \\
&= \lambda X \cdot I \cup \text{post}[t](\alpha(X)) \\
&= \lambda X \cdot \overline{F}(\alpha(X))
\end{aligned}$$

by defining:

$$\overline{F} = \lambda X \cdot I \cup \text{post}[t](X)$$

proving:

$$\text{post}[t^*](I) = \text{lfp}^\subseteq \lambda X \cdot I \cup \text{post}[t](X) \quad (2)$$

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