

# An Abstract Domain to Infer Ordinal-Valued Ranking Functions

"to infinity... and beyond!"

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# Outline

- **ranking functions**<sup>1</sup>
  - functions that strictly decrease at each program step...
  - ...and that are bounded from below
- **remark:** natural-valued ranking functions are not sufficient (e.g., programs with unbounded non-determinism)
- family of **abstract domains** for program termination<sup>2</sup>
  - piecewise-defined ranking functions
- instances based on **ordinal-valued ranking functions**

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<sup>1</sup>Floyd - *Assigning Meanings to Programs* (1967)

<sup>2</sup>Urban - *The Abstract Domain of Segmented Ranking Functions* (SAS 2013)

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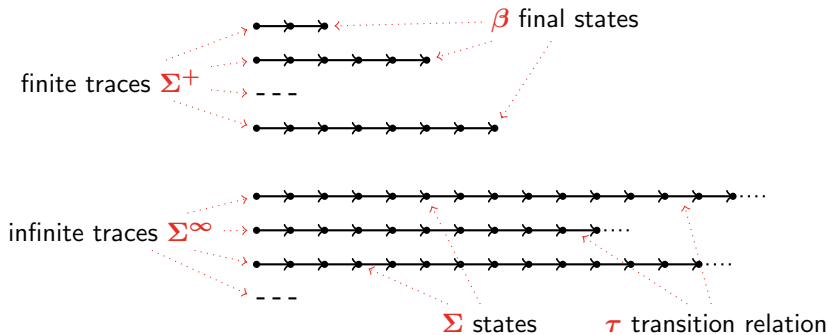
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# Termination Semantics

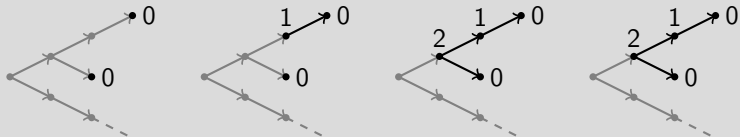
program  $\mapsto$  **trace semantics**



program  $\mapsto$  trace semantics  $\mapsto$  **termination semantics**

**idea** = define a ranking function **counting the number of program steps** from the end of the program and **extracting the well-founded part** of the program transition relation

Example



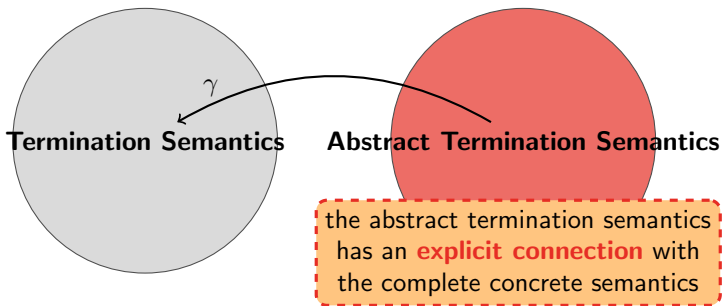
Theorem (Soundness and Completeness)

*the termination semantics is **sound** and **complete**  
to prove the termination of programs*

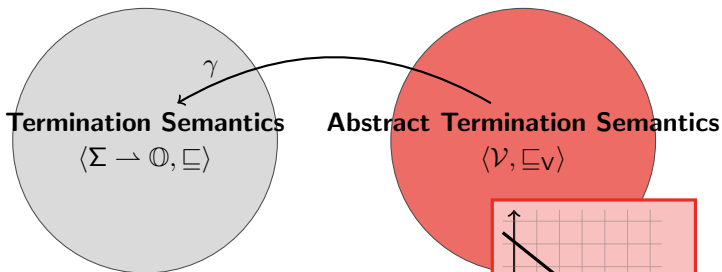




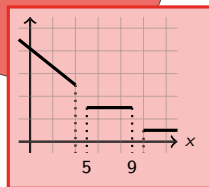
# Piecewise-Defined Ranking Functions

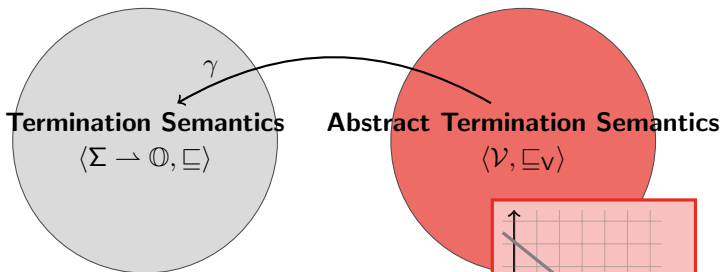


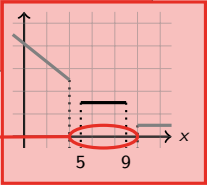
- States Abstract Domain S
- Functions Abstract Domain F
- Piecewise-Defined Ranking Functions Abstract Domain  $V(S, F)$

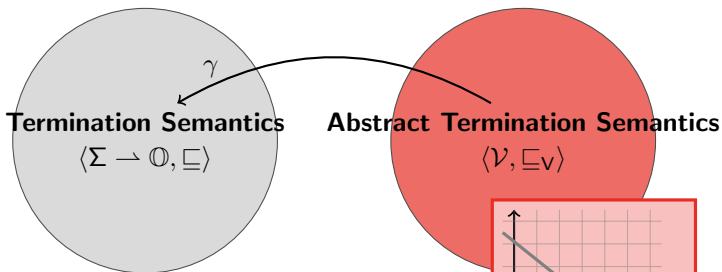


- States Abstract Domain
  - Functions Abstract Domain
  - Piecewise-Defined Ranking Functions Abstract Domain
- S  
F  
V(S, F)

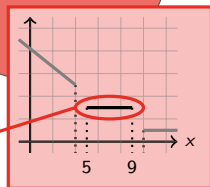


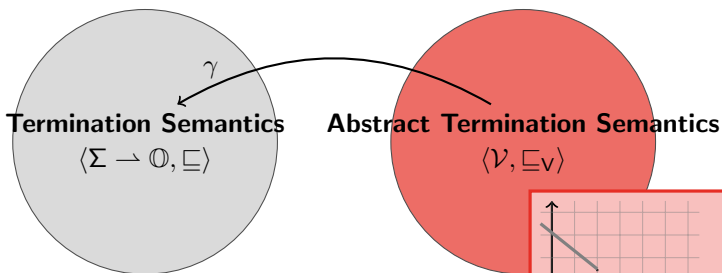


- States Abstract Domain ← 
- Functions Abstract Domain
- Piecewise-Defined Ranking Functions Abstract Domain V(S, F)

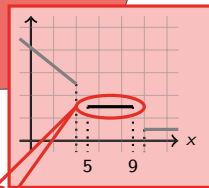


- States Abstract Domain
  - Functions Abstract Domain
  - Piecewise-Defined Ranking Functions Abstract Domain
- S  
F  
V(S, F)





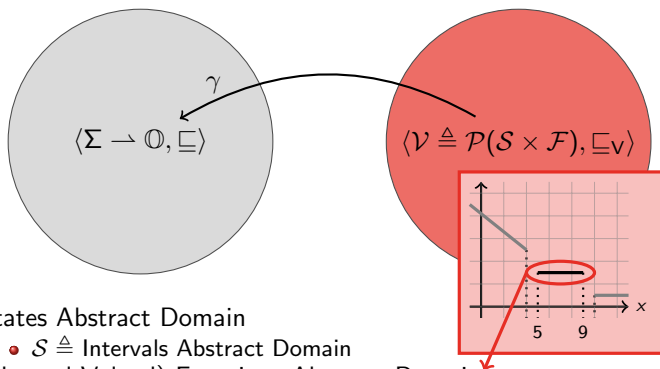
- States Abstract Domain
- **Natural-Valued** Functions Abstract Domain
- **Ordinal-Valued** Functions Abstract Domain  $\mathbf{O}(F)$
- Piecewise-Defined Ranking Functions Abstract Domain  $\mathbf{V}(S, \mathbf{O}(F))$



S  
F

# Natural-Valued Ranking Functions

# Affine Ranking Functions Abstract Domain

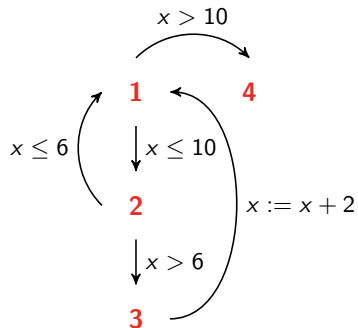


- States Abstract Domain
  - $S \triangleq$  Intervals Abstract Domain
- (Natural-Valued) Functions Abstract Domain
  - $\mathcal{F} \triangleq \{\perp_{\mathcal{F}}\} \cup \{f \mid f \in \mathbb{Z}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{N}\} \cup \{\top_{\mathcal{F}}\}$   
 where  $f \equiv f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = m_1x_1 + \dots + m_nx_n + q$
  - join  $\sqcup_{\mathcal{F}}$ , widening  $\nabla_{\mathcal{F}}$ , backward assignments  $\text{ASSIGN}_{\mathcal{F}}, \dots$

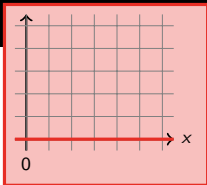


### Example

```
int : x
while 1(x ≤ 10) do
  if 2(x > 6) then
    3x := x + 2
  fi
od4
```

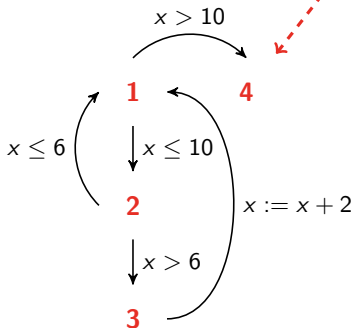


we map each point  
 to a function of  $x$  giving  
 an **upper bound** on the  
 steps before termination

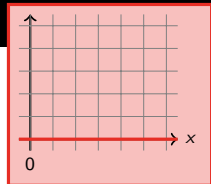


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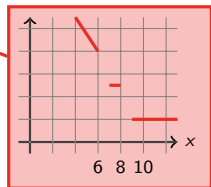
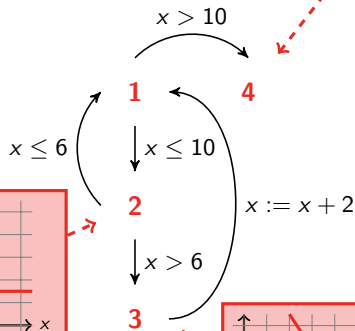
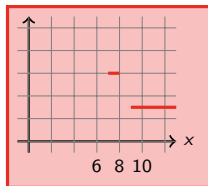


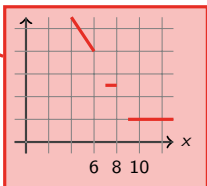
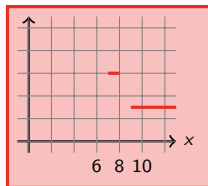
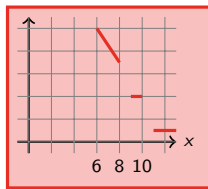
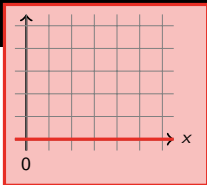
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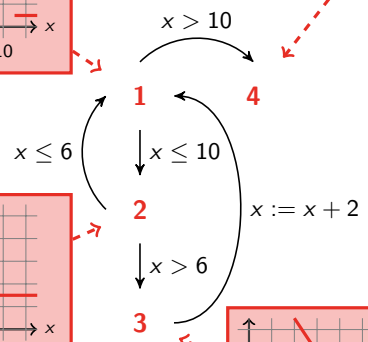


**Example**

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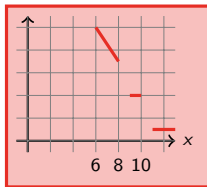
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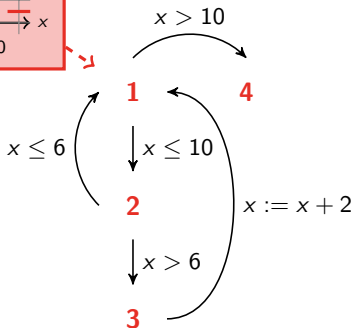
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we map each point  
 to a function of  $x$  giving  
 an **upper bound** on the  
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the analysis provides  $x > 6$   
 as **sufficient precondition**  
 for termination



# Ordinal-Valued Ranking Functions

# Ordinals

0, 1, 2, ...

$\omega$ ,  $\omega + 1$ ,  $\omega + 2$ , ...

$\omega \cdot 2$ ,  $\omega \cdot 2 + 1$ ,  $\omega \cdot 2 + 2$ , ...

⋮

$\omega^2$ , ...

⋮

$\omega^\omega$ , ...

⋮

$\epsilon_0$ , ...

⋮

# Ordinal Arithmetic

- **addition**

$$\alpha + 0 = \alpha \quad \text{(zero case)}$$

$$\alpha + (\beta + 1) = (\alpha + \beta) + 1 \quad \text{(successor case)}$$

$$\alpha + \beta = \bigcup_{\gamma < \beta} (\alpha + \gamma) \quad \text{(limit case)}$$

- associative:  $(\alpha + \beta) + \gamma = \alpha + (\beta + \gamma)$
- not commutative:  $1 + \omega = \omega \neq \omega + 1$

- **multiplication**



# Ordinal Arithmetic

- addition
- multiplication

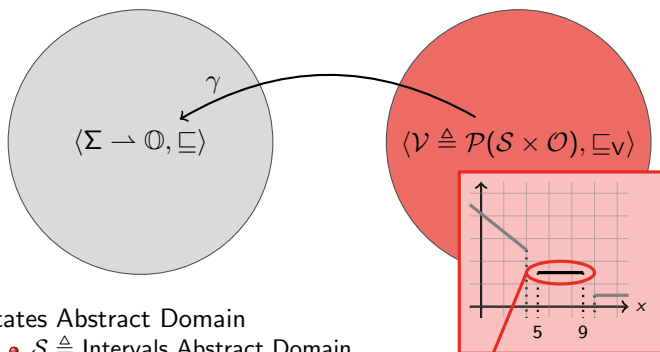
$$\alpha \cdot 0 = 0 \quad (\text{zero case})$$

$$\alpha \cdot (\beta + 1) = (\alpha \cdot \beta) + \alpha \quad (\text{successor case})$$

$$\alpha \cdot \beta = \bigcup_{\gamma < \beta} (\alpha \cdot \gamma) \quad (\text{limit case})$$

- associative:  $(\alpha \times \beta) \times \gamma = \alpha \times (\beta \times \gamma)$
- left distributive:  $\alpha \times (\beta + \gamma) = (\alpha \times \beta) + (\alpha \times \gamma)$
- not commutative:  $2 \times \omega = \omega \neq \omega \times 2$
- not right distributive:  $(\omega + 1) \times \omega = \omega \times \omega \neq \omega \times \omega + \omega$

# Ordinal-Valued Ranking Functions Domain



- States Abstract Domain
  - $S \triangleq$  Intervals Abstract Domain
- Natural-Valued Functions Abstract Domain
  - $\mathcal{F} \triangleq$  Affine Ranking Functions Abstract Domain
- Ordinal-Valued Functions Abstract Domain
  - $\mathcal{O} \triangleq \{\perp_{\mathcal{O}}\} \cup \{\sum_i \omega^i \cdot f_i \mid f_i \in \mathcal{F} \setminus \{\perp_{\mathcal{F}}, \top_{\mathcal{F}}\}\} \cup \{\top_{\mathcal{O}}\}$

# Backward Assignments: ASSIGN<sub>0</sub>

- backward assignments amount to variable substitution

## Example

$$o \stackrel{\Delta}{=} \omega \cdot (x_1 - x_2) + x_1$$

$$\Downarrow x_1 := x_1 + x_2$$

$$o \stackrel{\Delta}{=} ?$$

# Backward Assignments: ASSIGN<sub>0</sub>

- backward assignments amount to variable substitution

## Example

$$o \triangleq \omega \cdot (x_1 - x_2) + x_1$$

$$\Downarrow x_1 := x_1 + x_2$$

$$o \triangleq + 1$$

# Backward Assignments: ASSIGN<sub>0</sub>

- backward assignments amount to variable substitution

## Example

$$o \stackrel{\Delta}{=} \omega \cdot (x_1 - x_2) + x_1$$

$$\Downarrow \quad x_1 := x_1 + x_2$$

$$o \stackrel{\Delta}{=} \omega \cdot (x_1 + x_2 - x_2) + x_1 + x_2 + 1$$

# Backward Assignments: ASSIGN<sub>0</sub>

- backward assignments amount to variable substitution

## Example

$$o \triangleq \omega \cdot (x_1 - x_2) + x_1$$

$$\Downarrow x_1 := x_1 + x_2$$

$$o \triangleq \omega \cdot x_1 + x_1 + x_2 + 1$$

# Backward Non-Deterministic Assignments

- $\text{ASSIGN}_F$  in ascending powers of  $\omega$

## Example

$$o \triangleq \omega \cdot x_1 + x_2$$

↓  $x_1 := ?$

$$o \triangleq ?$$

# Backward Non-Deterministic Assignments

- $\text{ASSIGN}_F$  in ascending powers of  $\omega$

## Example

$$o \triangleq \omega \cdot x_1 + x_2$$

↓  $x_1 := ?$

$$o \triangleq \phantom{\omega \cdot x_1} + 1$$



# Backward Non-Deterministic Assignments

- $\text{ASSIGN}_F$  in ascending powers of  $\omega$

## Example

$$o \triangleq \omega \cdot x_1 + x_2$$

↓  $x_1 := ?$

$$o \triangleq + x_2 + 1$$

# Backward Non-Deterministic Assignments

- $\text{ASSIGN}_F$  in ascending powers of  $\omega$

## Example

$$\circ \triangleq \omega \cdot x_1 + x_2$$

↓  $x_1 := ?$

$$\circ \triangleq \omega^2 \cdot 0 + \omega \cdot 0 + x_2 + 1$$

$$\omega^k \cdot \omega = \omega^{k+1} \cdot 1 + \omega^k \times 0 = \omega^{k+1}$$

# Backward Non-Deterministic Assignments

- $\text{ASSIGN}_F$  in ascending powers of  $\omega$

## Example

$$o \triangleq \omega \cdot x_1 + x_2$$

↓  $x_1 := ?$

$$o \triangleq \omega^2 \cdot 1 + \omega \cdot 0 + x_2 + 1$$

# Backward Non-Deterministic Assignments

- $\text{ASSIGN}_F$  in ascending powers of  $\omega$

## Example

$$o \triangleq \omega \cdot x_1 + x_2$$

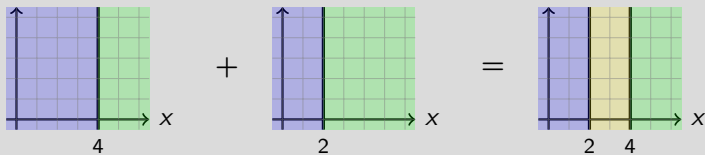
↓  $x_1 := ?$

$$o \triangleq \omega^2 + x_2 + 1$$

# Join: $\sqcup_0$

- segmentation unification

## Example



- join:  $\sqcup_0$

# Join: $\sqcup_0$

- segmentation unification
- join:  $\sqcup_0$ 
  - $\sqcup_F$  in ascending powers of  $\omega$

## Example

$$\sigma_1 \triangleq \omega^2 \cdot x_1 + \omega \cdot x_2 + 3$$

$$\sigma_2 \triangleq \omega^2 \cdot (x_1 - 1) + \omega \cdot (-x_2) + 4$$

---


$$\sigma_1 \sqcup_0 \sigma_2 \triangleq ?$$

# Join: $\sqcup_0$

- segmentation unification
- join:  $\sqcup_0$ 
  - $\sqcup_F$  in ascending powers of  $\omega$

## Example

$$o_1 \triangleq \omega^2 \cdot x_1 + \omega \cdot x_2 + 3$$

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$$o_1 \sqcup_0 o_2 \triangleq \phantom{\omega^2 \cdot x_1 + \omega \cdot x_2} + 4$$

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## Example

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$$o_1 \sqcup_0 o_2 \triangleq \omega^2 \cdot 1 + \omega \cdot 0 + 4$$

$$\omega^k \cdot \omega = \omega^{k+1} \cdot 1 + \omega^k \times 0 = \omega^{k+1}$$



# Join: $\sqcup_0$

- segmentation unification
- join:  $\sqcup_0$ 
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## Example

$$\sigma_1 \triangleq \omega^2 \cdot x_1 + \omega \cdot x_2 + 3$$

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$$\sigma_1 \sqcup_0 \sigma_2 \triangleq \omega^2 \cdot x_1 + 1 + \omega \cdot 0 + 4$$

# Join: $\sqcup_0$

- segmentation unification
- join:  $\sqcup_0$ 
  - $\sqcup_F$  in ascending powers of  $\omega$

## Example

$$o_1 \triangleq \omega^2 \cdot \mathbf{x_1} + \omega \cdot x_2 + 3$$

$$o_2 \triangleq \omega^2 \cdot (\mathbf{x_1 - 1}) + \omega \cdot (-x_2) + 4$$

---


$$o_1 \sqcup_0 o_2 \triangleq \omega^2 \cdot (\mathbf{x_1 + 1}) + \omega \cdot \mathbf{0} + 4$$

# Join: $\sqcup_0$

- segmentation unification
- join:  $\sqcup_0$ 
  - $\sqcup_F$  in ascending powers of  $\omega$

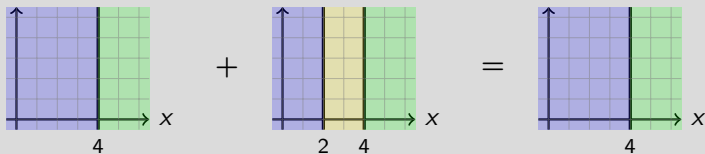
## Example

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 \sigma_1 & \triangleq & \omega^2 \cdot x_1 + \omega \cdot x_2 + 3 \\
 \sigma_2 & \triangleq & \omega^2 \cdot (x_1 - 1) + \omega \cdot (-x_2) + 4 \\
 \hline
 \sigma_1 \sqcup_0 \sigma_2 & \triangleq & \omega^2 \cdot (x_1 + 1) + 4
 \end{array}$$

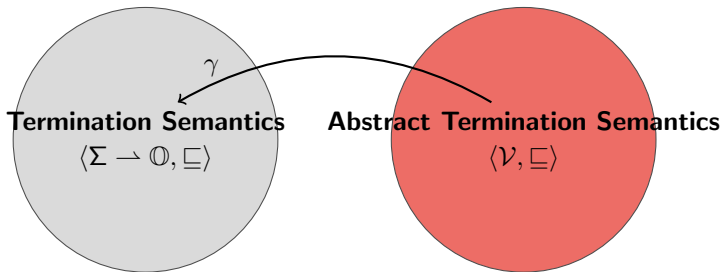
# Widening: $\nabla_O$

- segmentation left-unification

## Example



- unstable ranking functions yield  $\top_O$



### Theorem (Soundness)

*the abstract termination semantics is **sound**  
to prove the termination of programs*

Examples

## Example

```

int :  $x_1, x_2$ 
while 1( $x_1 > 0 \wedge x_2 > 0$ ) do
  if 2( ? ) then
    3 $x_1 := x_1 - 1$ 
    4 $x_2 := ?$ 
  else
    5 $x_2 := x_2 - 1$ 
od6
    
```

$$f_1(x_1, x_2) = \begin{cases} 1 & x_1 \leq 0 \vee x_2 \leq 0 \\ \omega \cdot (x_1 - 1) + 7x_1 + 3x_2 - 5 & x_1 > 0 \wedge x_2 > 0 \end{cases}$$

## Example

```

int : x1, x2
while 1(x1 ≠ 0 ∧ x2 > 0) do
  if 2(x1 > 0) then
    if 3( ? ) then
      4x1 := x1 - 1
      5x2 := ?
    else
      6x2 := x2 - 1
  else /* x1 < 0 */
    if 7( ? ) then
      8x1 := x1 + 1
    else
      9x2 := x2 - 1
      10x1 := ?
    od11
  
```

$$f_1(x_1, x_2) = \begin{cases} \omega^2 + \omega \cdot (x_2 - 1) - 4x_1 + 9x_2 - 2 & x_1 < 0 \wedge x_2 > 0 \\ 1 & x_1 = 0 \vee x_2 \leq 0 \\ \omega \cdot (x_1 - 1) + 9x_1 + 4x_2 - 7 & x_1 > 0 \wedge x_2 > 0 \end{cases}$$



## Example

```

int : x1, x2
while 1(x1 ≠ 0 ∧ x2 > 0) do
  if 2(x1 > 0) then
    if 3( ? ) then
      4x1 := x1 - 1
      5x2 := ?
    else
      6x2 := x2 - 1
  else /* x1 < 0 */
    if 7( ? ) then
      8x1 := x1 + 1
    else
      9x2 := x2 - 1
      10x1 := ?
    
```

the coefficients and their **order** are automatically inferred by the analysis

$$f_1(x_1, x_2) = \begin{cases} \omega^2 + \omega \cdot (x_2 - 1) - 4x_1 + 9x_2 - 2 & x_1 < 0 \wedge x_2 > 0 \\ 1 & x_1 = 0 \vee x_2 \leq 0 \\ \omega \cdot (x_1 - 1) + 9x_1 + 4x_2 - 7 & x_1 > 0 \wedge x_2 > 0 \end{cases}$$

# Non-Linear Ranking Functions

## Example

```
int : N, x1, x2  
1x1 := N  
while 2(x1 ≥ 0) do  
  3x2 := N  
  while 4(x2 ≥ 0) do  
    5x2 := x2 - 1  
  od6  
  7x1 := x1 - 1  
od8
```

$$f_1(x_1, x_2, N) = \begin{cases} 1 & x_1 < 0 \\ \omega \cdot (x_1 + 1) + 6x_1 + 7 & x_1 \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

# Non-Linear Ranking Functions

## Example

```
int : N, x1, x2  
1 x1 := N  
while 2 (x1 ≥ 0) do  
  3 x2 := N  
  while 4 (x2 ≥ 0) do  
    5 x2 := x2 - 1  
  od 6  
  7 x1 := x1 - 1  
od 8
```

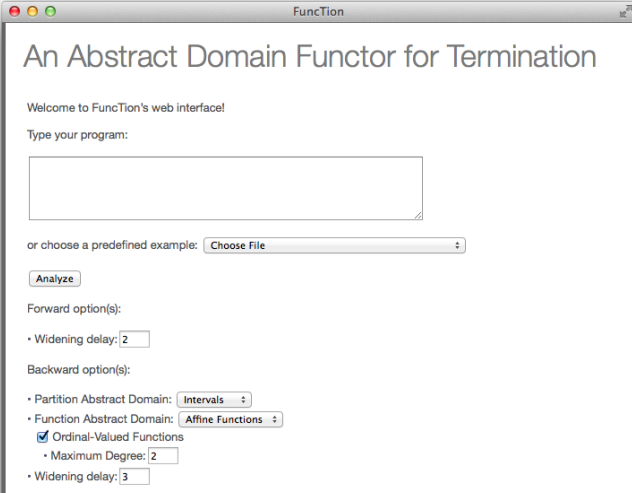
$$f_1(x_1, x_2, N) = \begin{cases} 1 & x_1 < 0 \\ \omega \cdot (x_1 + 1) + 6x_1 + 7 & x_1 \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

the loop terminates in a  
finite number of iterations

Implementation

<http://www.di.ens.fr/~urban/FuncTion.html>

- written in OCaml



The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "FuncTion". The page content includes:

- Header: "An Abstract Domain Functor for Termination"
- Welcome message: "Welcome to FuncTion's web interface!"
- Input field: "Type your program:" followed by a large empty text box.
- Dropdown menu: "or choose a predefined example:" with a "Choose File" dropdown.
- Button: "Analyze"
- Forward options: "Forward option(s):" with a "Widening delay:" input field containing the value "2".
- Backward options: "Backward option(s):" with several sub-options:
  - "Partition Abstract Domain:" with a dropdown menu showing "Intervals".
  - "Function Abstract Domain:" with a dropdown menu showing "Affine Functions".
  - A checked checkbox for "Ordinal-Valued Functions" with a sub-option "Maximum Degree:" input field containing "2".
  - "Widening delay:" input field containing "3".

# Experiments

**Benchmarks:** 38 programs (collected from publications on termination)

- 25 always terminating programs
- 13 conditionally terminating programs
- 9 simple loops
- 7 nested loops
- 13 non-deterministic programs

**Results:** proved 30 out of 38 programs

- proved 8 out of 9 simple loops
- proved 4 out of 7 nested loops
  - ordinals required for 2 out of 4
- proved 10 out of 13 non-deterministic programs
  - ordinals required for 5 out of 10

# SV-COMP 2014

SV-COMP 2014 - 3rd International Competition on Software Verification

sv-comp.sosy-lab.org/2014/index.php

Reader

**ETAPS**  
EUROPEAN JOINT CONFERENCES ON  
THEORY & PRACTICE OF SOFTWARE

**TACAS 2014**

**Competition on Software Verification (SV-COMP)**

**TACAS'14**  
**April, 2014**  
**Grenoble, France**

About SV-COMP

Important Dates

Competition Jury

Definitions and Rules

Submission

Verification Tasks

Demonstration Section

Participants

Results

Previous Results

Previous SV-COMP

3rd Intl. Competition on Software Verification held at TACAS 2014 in Grenoble, France.

The results of the 2013 competition are available in the [competition report](#).

### Motivation

Competition is a driving force for the invention of new methods, technologies, and tools. This web page describes the competition of software-verification tools, which will take place at TACAS.

There are several new and powerful software-verification tools around, but they are very difficult to compare. The reason is that so far no widely distributed benchmark suite of verification tasks was available and most concepts are only validated in research prototypes. This competition has changed this: Now there is an established set of verification tasks for comparing software verifiers, and the tools are publicized on the SV-COMP web site.

Only few projects aim at producing stable tools that can be used by people outside the respective development groups, and the development of such tools is not continuous. Also, PhD students and PostDocs do not adequately benefit from tool development because theoretical papers count more than papers that present technical contributions, like tool papers. Through its visibility, this competition wants to change this, showing off the latest implementation of the research results in our community, and give credits and benefits to researchers and students who spend considerable amounts of time developing verification algorithms and software packages.

### Goals of the Competition

- Provide a snapshot of the state-of-the-art in software verification to the community. That means to compare, independently from particular paper projects and specific techniques, different verification tools in terms of precision and performance.
- Increase the visibility and credits that tool developers receive. That means to provide a forum





## Related Work

- Ordinal-Valued and Lexicographic Ranking Functions

$$\omega^k \cdot \underbrace{f_k}_{\in \mathbb{N}} + \dots + \omega^2 \cdot \underbrace{f_2}_{\in \mathbb{N}} + \omega \cdot \underbrace{f_1}_{\in \mathbb{N}} + \underbrace{f_0}_{\in \mathbb{N}} \in \mathbb{O}$$
$$\iff (f_k, \dots, f_2, f_1, f_0) \in \underbrace{\mathbb{N} \times \dots \times \mathbb{N}}_k$$

- Lee & Jones & Ben-Amram - The Size-Change Principle for Program Termination (POPL 2001)
  - Alias & Darté & Feautrier & Gonnord - Multi-Dimensional Rankings, Program Termination, and Complexity Bounds of Flowchart Programs (SAS 2010)
  - Cook & See & Zuleger - Ramsey vs. Lexicographic Termination Proving (TACAS 2013)
- Ordinal-Valued + Piecewise-Defined** Ranking Functions  
→ **Conditional Termination**

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## Conclusions

- family of **abstract domains** for program termination
  - piecewise-defined ranking functions
  - backward invariance analysis
  - sufficient conditions for termination
- instances based on **ordinal-valued functions**
  - lexicographic orders automatically inferred by the analysis
  - analysis not limited to programs with linear ranking functions

## Future Work

- **more abstract domains**
  - relational partitioning
  - non-linear ranking functions
  - better widening
- fair termination
- other liveness properties

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Thank You!

