

Abstract Interpretation, Re-Reloaded and Numerical and Structural Abstractions

Jan Midtgaard

Winter School, Day 4

<http://janmidtgaard.dk/aiws15/>

Saint Petersburg, Russia, 2015

With figures courtesy of David A. Schmidt, Patrick and Radhia Cousot

Yesterday

A first in-depth look at abstract interpretation based on Cousot-Cousot:JLP92.

- Foundations: Fixed points, Galois connections, ...
- The Galois approach and friends: closure operators, Moore families, ...
- From collecting semantics to analysis (soundness, optimality, completeness)

Analysing Plotkin's three counter machine

Today: Two parts

1. More approximation methods (Cousot-Cousot:JLP92)
 - Relational and attribute independent analysis
 - Inducing, abstracting, approximating fixed points
 - Widening, narrowing
 - Forwards/backwards analysis

 2. A catalogue of abstractions
 - Toolbox abstractions
 - Structural abstractions: sums, pairs/tuples, ...
 - Numerical abstractions: constants, intervals, polyhedra
 - Concretization-based abstract interpretation, briefly
- A retrospective on the 3 counter machine analysis

Relational vs. independent attribute analysis

Relational vs. independent attribute analysis

Definition. *We say an analysis is attribute independent, if attributes are analysed independently of each other.*

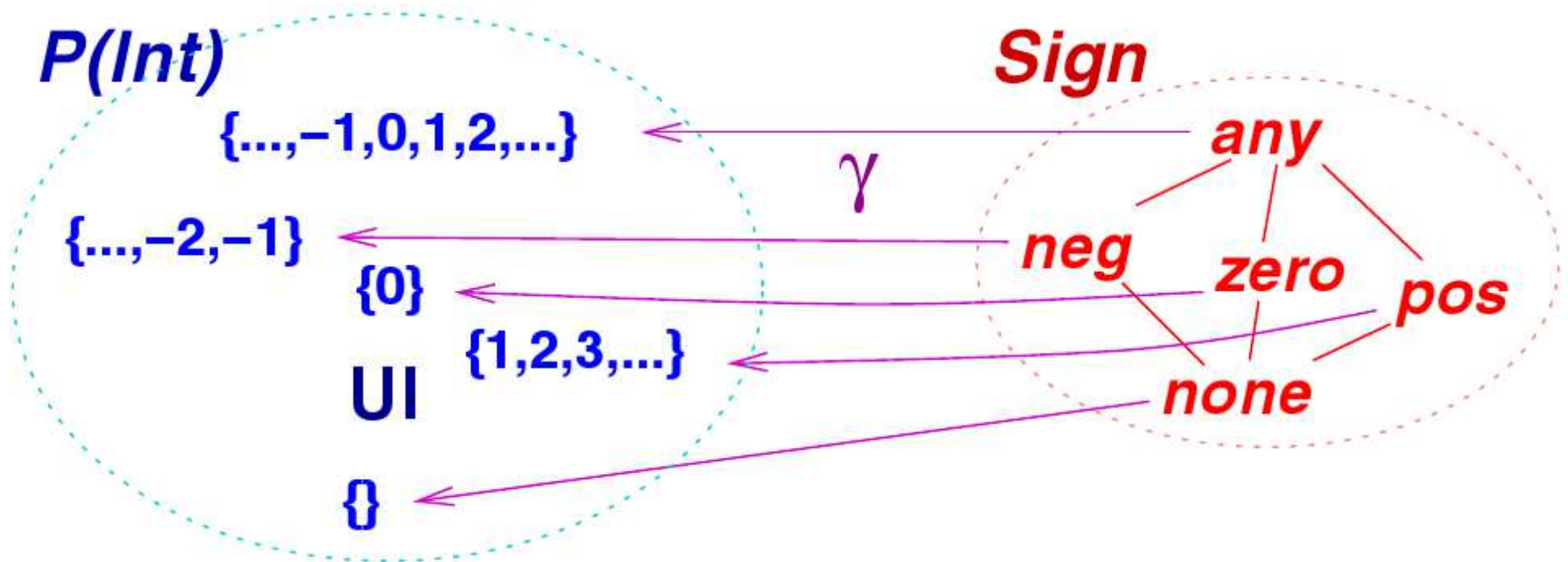
For example, the Parity analysis of x , y , and z we have developed, analyses the possible values of each variable in isolation.

Definition. *We say an analysis is relational, if it can determine relations between attributes.*

For example, imagine an analysis that can determine x is odd if and only if y is even.

The loss of information in joins

Consider the following Sign domain (a variant of the two Sign domains we studied yesterday):



Observe how γ doesn't preserve \sqcup .

Disjunctive/down-set completion

Given a Galois connection we can improve it, by considering sets of elements:

Proposition. *Given a Galois connection $\langle \wp(C); \subseteq \rangle \xrightleftharpoons[\alpha]{\gamma} \langle A; \leq \rangle$ between complete lattices: $\langle \wp(C); \subseteq, \emptyset, C, \cup, \cap \rangle$ and $\langle A; \leq, \perp, \top, \vee, \wedge \rangle$ we can replace A by $\wp_{\downarrow}(A) = \{\downarrow S \mid S \subseteq A\}$ to form another Galois connection:*

$$\langle \wp(C); \subseteq \rangle \xrightleftharpoons[\alpha^{\wp}]{\gamma^{\wp}} \langle \wp_{\downarrow}(A); \subseteq \rangle$$

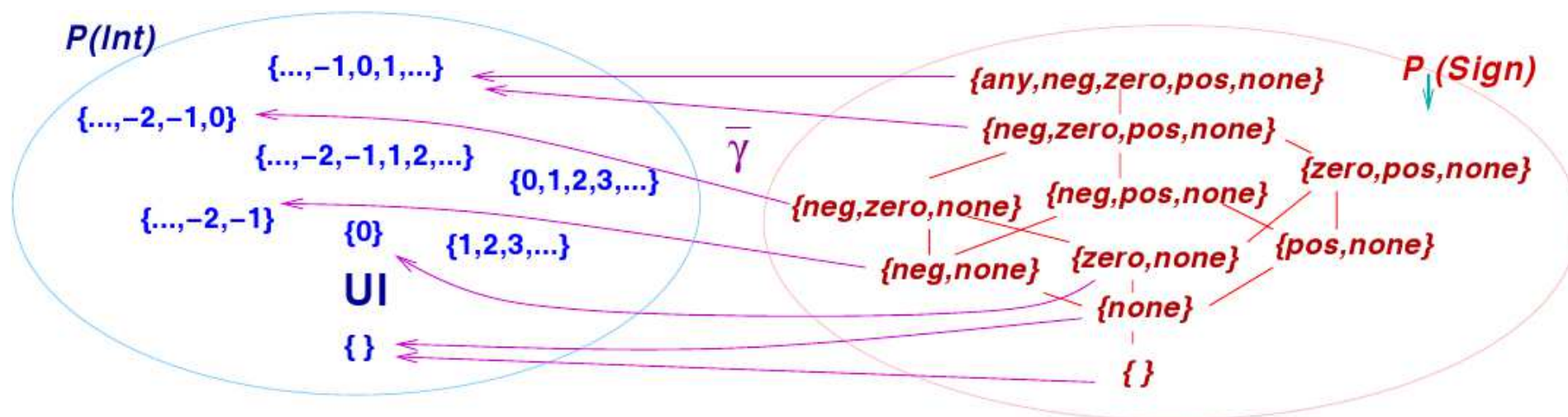
where $\downarrow S = \{a \in A \mid \exists a' \in S : a \leq a'\}$

$$\alpha^{\wp}(cs) = \cap \{as \mid cs \subseteq \gamma^{\wp}(as)\} = \downarrow \{\alpha(\{c\}) \mid c \in cs\}$$

$$\gamma^{\wp}(as) = \gamma(as) = \cup_{a \in as} \gamma(a)$$

Disjunctive completion to the rescue

The completion of the earlier Sign domain:



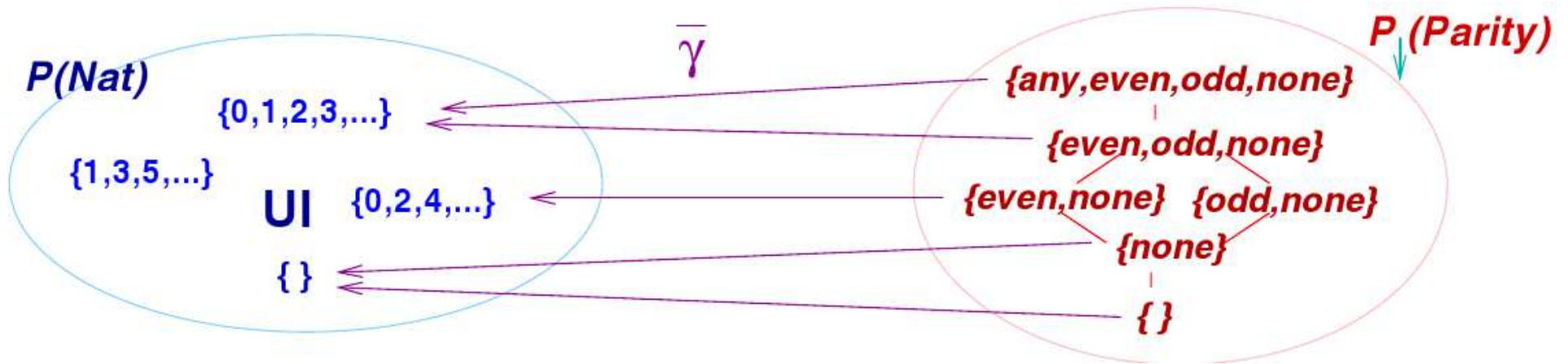
This domain is more expressive, however exponentially larger than the starting point.

In particular, it now preserves \sqcup (from Sign)

Q: What do we obtain by domain reduction?

Not always a free lunch...

Disjunctive completion may not provide an improvement:



Q: What do we obtain by domain reduction?

From attribute independent to relational analysis

Observation: Given n independent analyses, the disjunctive completion of their reduced product provides a *relational analysis*.

Example: Consider the disjunctive completion of the reduced product for Parity, for two variables x and y .

The resulting domain can express “ x is odd if and only if y is even”:

$$\begin{aligned} &\downarrow \{ \langle \text{odd}, \text{even} \rangle, \langle \text{even}, \text{odd} \rangle \} \\ &= \{ \langle \text{odd}, \text{even} \rangle, \langle \text{even}, \text{odd} \rangle, \dots \} \end{aligned}$$

Inducing, abstracting, and approximating fixed points

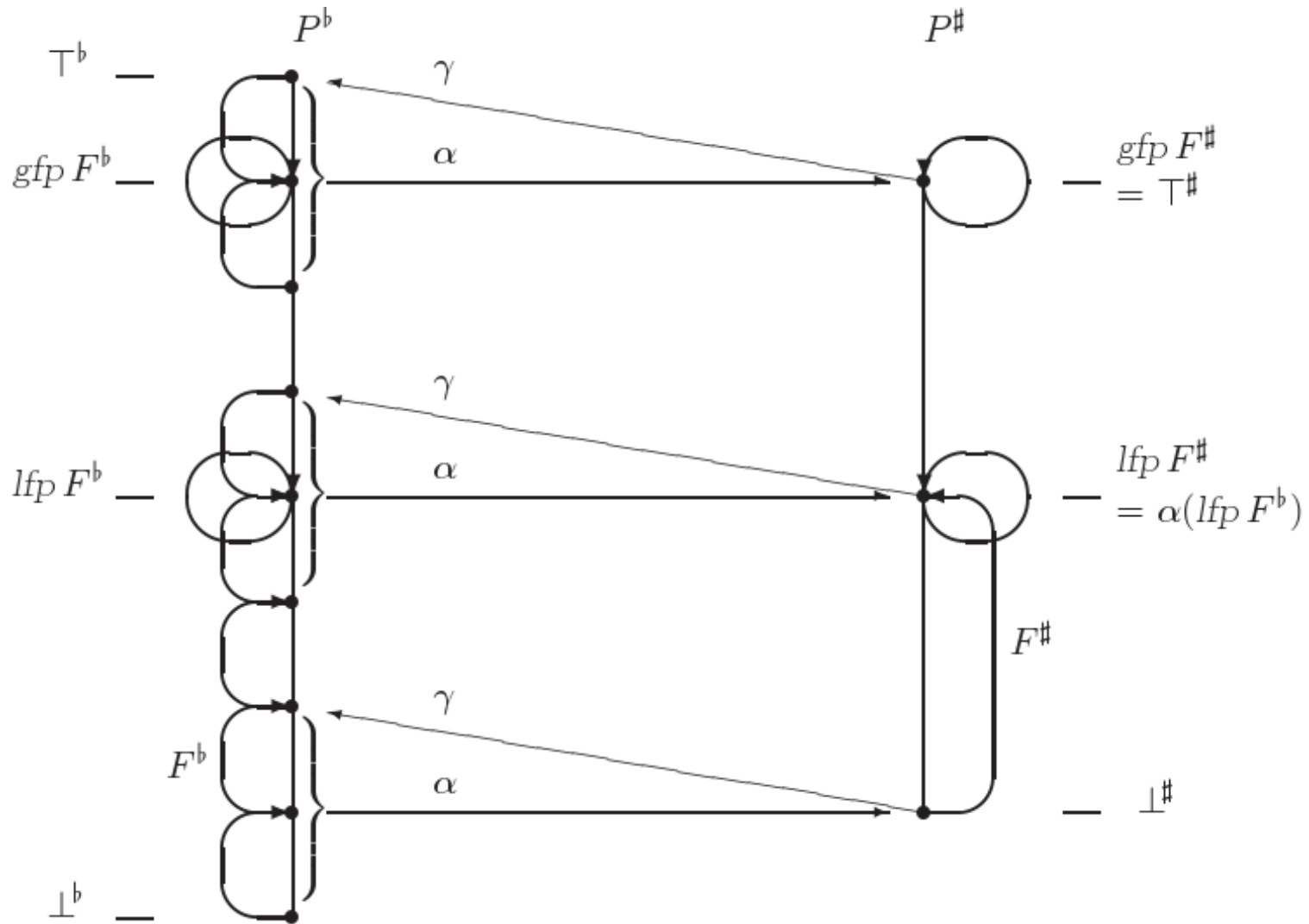
Fixed point inducing using Galois connections

Proposition. *If $\langle C; \sqsubseteq \rangle \xrightleftharpoons[\alpha]{\gamma} \langle A; \leq \rangle$ is a Galois connection between posets $\langle C; \sqsubseteq, \sqcup \rangle$ and $\langle A; \leq, \vee \rangle$, $F : C \rightarrow C$ is such that $\text{lfp } F = \bigsqcup_{n \geq 0} F^n(\perp)$, $\alpha(\perp_c) = \perp_a$, $F^\# : A \rightarrow A$ is such that $\alpha \circ F = F^\# \circ \alpha$ then $\alpha(\text{lfp } F) = \bigvee_{n \geq 0} F^{\#n}(\perp_a)$ and $\bigvee_{n \geq 0} F^{\#n}(\perp_a)$ is a fixed point of $F^\#$. If $F^\# : A \rightarrow A$ is monotone, it is furthermore the least fixed point ($\geq \perp_a$).*

Note: this proposition concerns a *complete approximation*.

Also note: this proposition relaxes the preconditions of the stronger fixed point theorem (from yesterday).

Illustration of induced fixed point



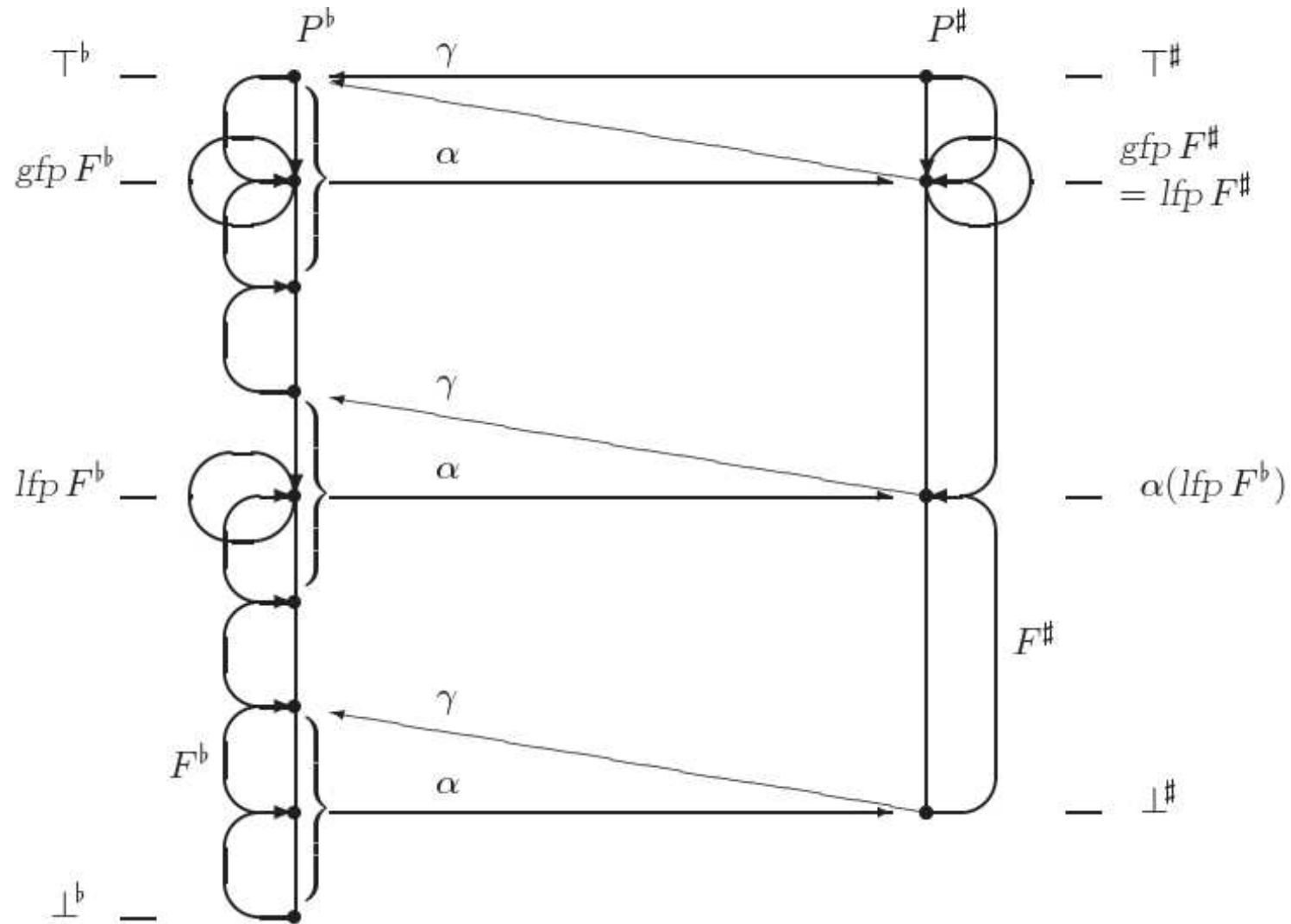
Proposition. *If $\langle C; \sqsubseteq, \perp_c, \top_c, \sqcup, \sqcap \rangle$ and $\langle A; \leq, \perp_a, \top_a, \vee, \wedge \rangle$, are complete lattices, $\langle C; \sqsubseteq \rangle \xrightleftharpoons[\alpha]{\gamma} \langle A; \leq \rangle$ and $F : C \rightarrow C$ is monotone, then $\alpha(\text{lfp } F) \leq \text{lfp}(\alpha \circ F \circ \gamma)$*

Note: this proposition concerns an *optimal approximation* (akin to what you did on Tuesday).

Proposition. *If $\langle A; \leq, \perp_a, \top_a, \vee, \wedge \rangle$ is a complete lattice, $F^\#, F^{\#'} : A \rightarrow A$ are monotone functions and $F^\# \leq F^{\#'}$, then $\text{lfp } F^\# \leq \text{lfp } F^{\#'}$.*

Read: any monotone, upward judgement of the $\alpha \circ F \circ \gamma$ composition is fine.

Illustration of approximated fixed point



Widening/narrowing reloaded

Narrowing motivation

We are after a (finite) approximation sequence $\check{X}^0 \geq \check{X}^1 \geq \check{X}^2 \geq \dots \geq \check{X}^n \geq \text{lfp } F^\#$ of the least fixed point (from above).

We could start from, e.g., $\check{X}^0 = \top$.

For the inductive step, not much is available: the previous iterate \check{X}^k and the function $F^\#$. Assuming $\text{lfp } F^\# \leq \check{X}^k$ and $F^\#$ is monotone, we want to ensure $\text{lfp } F^\# \leq \check{X}^{k+1}$.

The narrowing operator Δ simply combines the available information:

$$\check{X}^{k+1} = \check{X}^k \Delta F^\#(\check{X}^k)$$

Narrowing definition

Definition. A narrowing operator Δ satisfies the following:

- For all $x, y : (x \Delta y) \leq x$ (ensure decr. seq.)
- For all $x, y, z : x \leq y \wedge x \leq z \implies x \leq (y \Delta z)$
(keep above)
- For any decreasing chain X_i the alternative chain defined as $\check{X}^0 = X_0$ and $\check{X}^{k+1} = \check{X}^k \Delta X_{k+1}$ stabilizes after a finite number of steps.
(terminate)

Example: interval narrowing

Consider the domain of intervals: $\langle \wp(\mathbb{Z}); \subseteq \rangle \xrightleftharpoons[\alpha]{\gamma} \langle Interval; \sqsubseteq \rangle$
defined as follows:

$$Interval = \{[l; u] \mid l \in \mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty\} \wedge u \in \mathbb{Z} \cup \{+\infty\} \wedge l \leq u\} \cup \{\perp\}$$

$$[a; b] \sqsubseteq [c; d] \iff c \leq a \wedge b \leq d$$

$$\alpha(\emptyset) = \perp$$

$$\alpha(X) = [\min X, \max X] \quad \min \mathbb{Z} = -\infty \quad \max \mathbb{Z} = +\infty$$

Strictly decreasing interval chains can be infinite:

$$[0; +\infty] \supset [1; +\infty] \supset [2; +\infty] \supset \dots$$

Hence we need a narrowing operator:

$$\perp \Delta I = \perp \quad I \Delta \perp = \perp$$

$$[a; b] \Delta [c; d] = [\text{if } a = -\infty \text{ then } c \text{ else } a; \text{ if } b = +\infty \text{ then } d \text{ else } b]$$

Downward iteration with narrowing

Proposition. *If $F^\# : A \rightarrow A$ is a monotone function, and $\Delta : A \times A \rightarrow A$ is a narrowing operator and $F^\#(a) = a \leq a'$ then $\check{X}^0 = a', \dots, \check{X}^{k+1} = \check{X}^k \Delta F^\#(\check{X}^k)$ converges with limit $\check{X}^n, n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $a \leq \check{X}^n \leq a'$.*

Intuition: this decreasing chain is finite and may take us closer to $F^\#$'s fixed point from above.

Note: In a complete lattice, if all strictly decreasing chains are finite, we can use $\Delta = \sqcap$.

Widening motivation

We aim for a better initial approximation than \top .

We are after a (finite) approximation sequence $\hat{X}^0 \leq \hat{X}^1 \leq \hat{X}^2 \leq \dots \leq \hat{X}^n \geq \text{lfp } F^\#$ of the least fixed point (starting below, ending above).

We could, e.g., try to iterate *above* a standard fixed point iteration: $X^0 = \perp, X^{k+1} = F^\#(X^k)$ towards $\text{lfp } F^\#$.

Hence start from $\hat{X}^0 = \perp$

and use the widening operator ∇ to combine the available information:

$$\hat{X}^{k+1} = \hat{X}^k \nabla F^\#(\hat{X}^k)$$

Widening definition

Definition. *A widening operator satisfies the following:*

- *For all $x, y : x \leq (x \nabla y) \wedge y \leq (x \nabla y)$*
(keep above)
- *For any increasing chain $X_0 \sqsubseteq X_1 \sqsubseteq X_2 \sqsubseteq \dots$ the alternative chain defined as $\hat{X}^0 = X_0$ and $\hat{X}^{k+1} = \hat{X}^k \nabla X_{k+1}$ stabilizes after a finite number of steps.*

Example: interval widening

Consider again the domain of intervals:

$$\langle \wp(\mathbb{Z}); \sqsubseteq \rangle \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\gamma} \\ \xrightarrow{\alpha} \end{array} \langle \textit{Interval}; \sqsubseteq \rangle$$

For intervals strictly increasing chains can be infinite:

$$[0; 0] \sqsubset [0; 1] \sqsubset [0; 2] \sqsubset \dots$$

Hence we need a widening operator:

$$\perp \nabla I = I \qquad I \nabla \perp = I$$

$$[a; b] \nabla [c; d] = [\text{if } c < a \text{ then } -\infty \text{ else } a; \text{ if } d > b \text{ then } +\infty \text{ else } b]$$

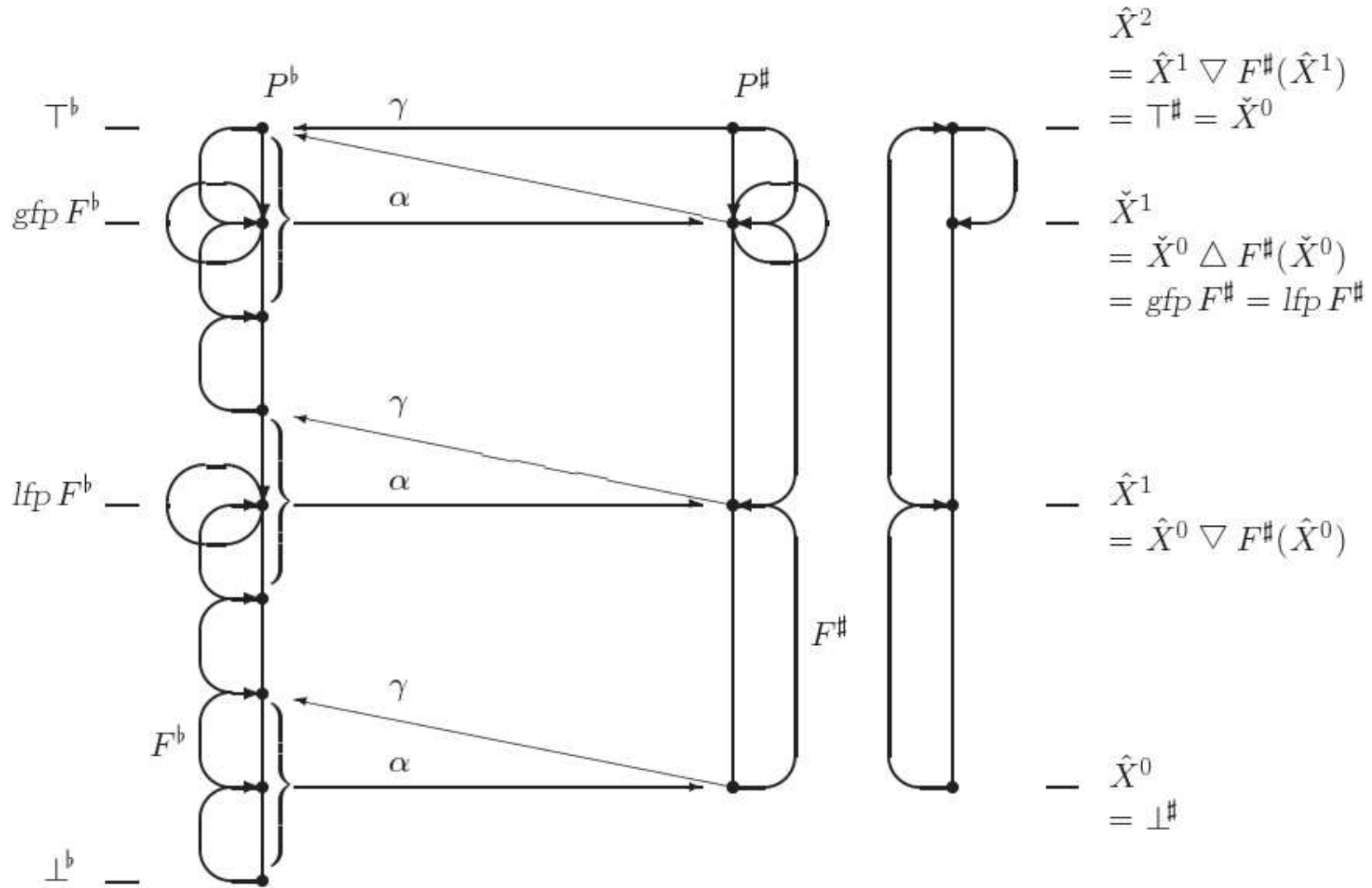
Upward iteration with widening

Proposition. *If $F^\# : A \rightarrow A$ is a monotone function, and $\nabla : A \times A \rightarrow A$ is a widening operator then $\hat{X}^0 = \perp, \dots, \hat{X}^{k+1} = \hat{X}^k \nabla F^\#(\hat{X}^k)$ converges with limit $\hat{X}^n, n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $\text{lfp } F^\# \leq \hat{X}^n$.*

Note: In a complete lattice, if all strictly increasing chains are finite, we can use $\nabla = \sqcup$.

We don't actually need to widen in such a situation.

Combining widening/narrowing iteration



Forwards/backwards analysis

Transition systems with final states

All though the transition system definition from day 1 included final states we haven't used them much:

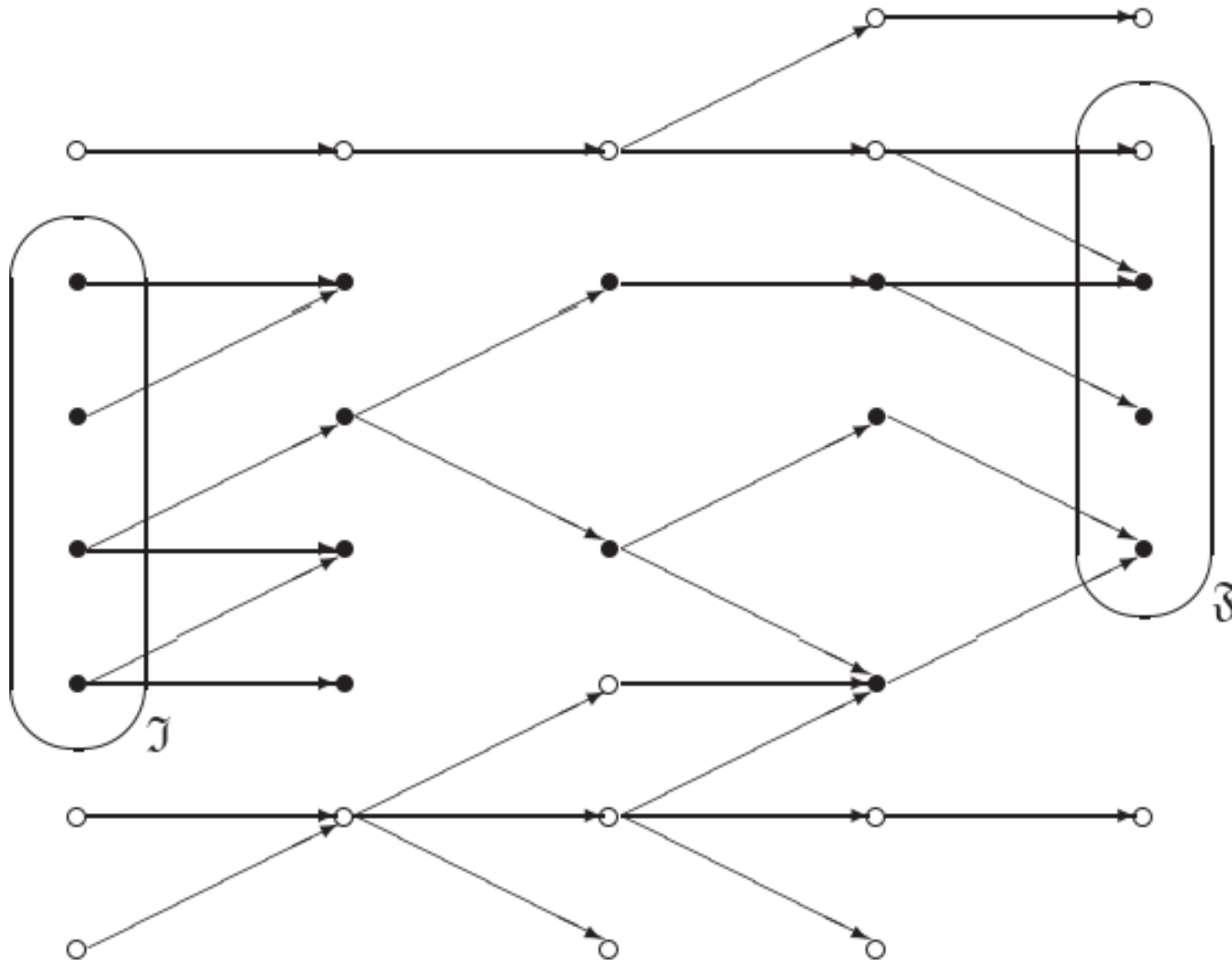
Definition. *A transition system is a quadruple*

$\langle S, S_i, S_f, \rightarrow \rangle$, where

- *S is a set of states*
- *$S_i \subseteq S$ is a set of initial states*
- *$S_f \subseteq S$ is a set of final states ($\forall s \in S_f, s' \in S : s \not\rightarrow s'$)*
- *$\rightarrow \subseteq S \times S$ is a transition relation relating a state to its (possible) successors*

Forwards collecting semantics (1/2)

Descendants of initial states (aka reachable states):



Forwards collecting semantics (2/2)

The forwards (top-down) collecting semantics can be expressed as a fixed point:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{lfp } F \text{ where } F(X) &= S_i \cup \{s \mid \exists s' \in X : s' \rightarrow s\} \\ &= S_i \cup \text{post}[\rightarrow](X) \end{aligned}$$

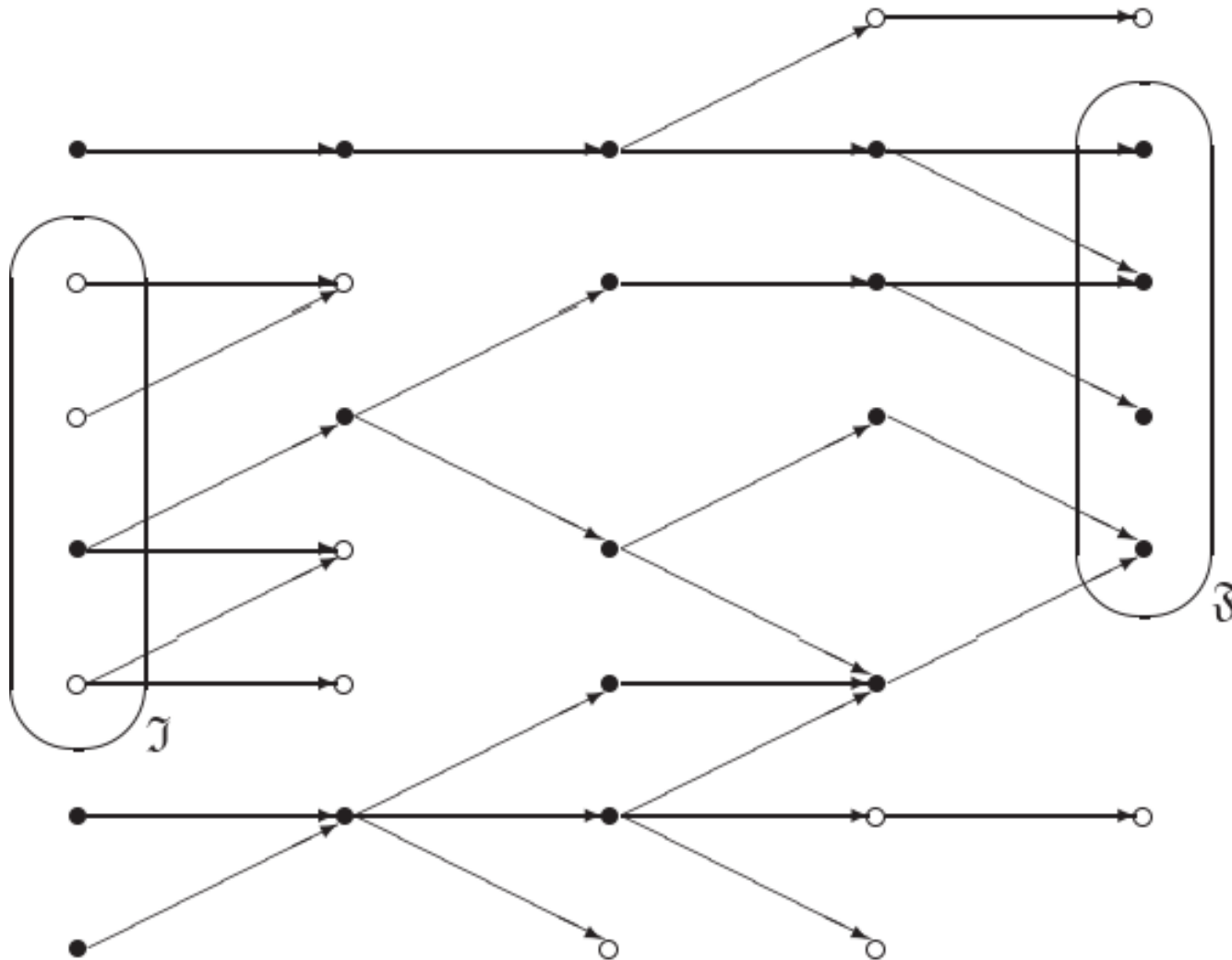
with

$$\text{post}[r](X) = \{s \mid \exists s' \in X : \langle s', s \rangle \in r\}$$

as we have already seen.

Backwards collecting semantics (1/2)

Ascendants of final states:



Backwards collecting semantics (2/2)

The backwards (bottom-up) collecting semantics can also be expressed as a fixed point:

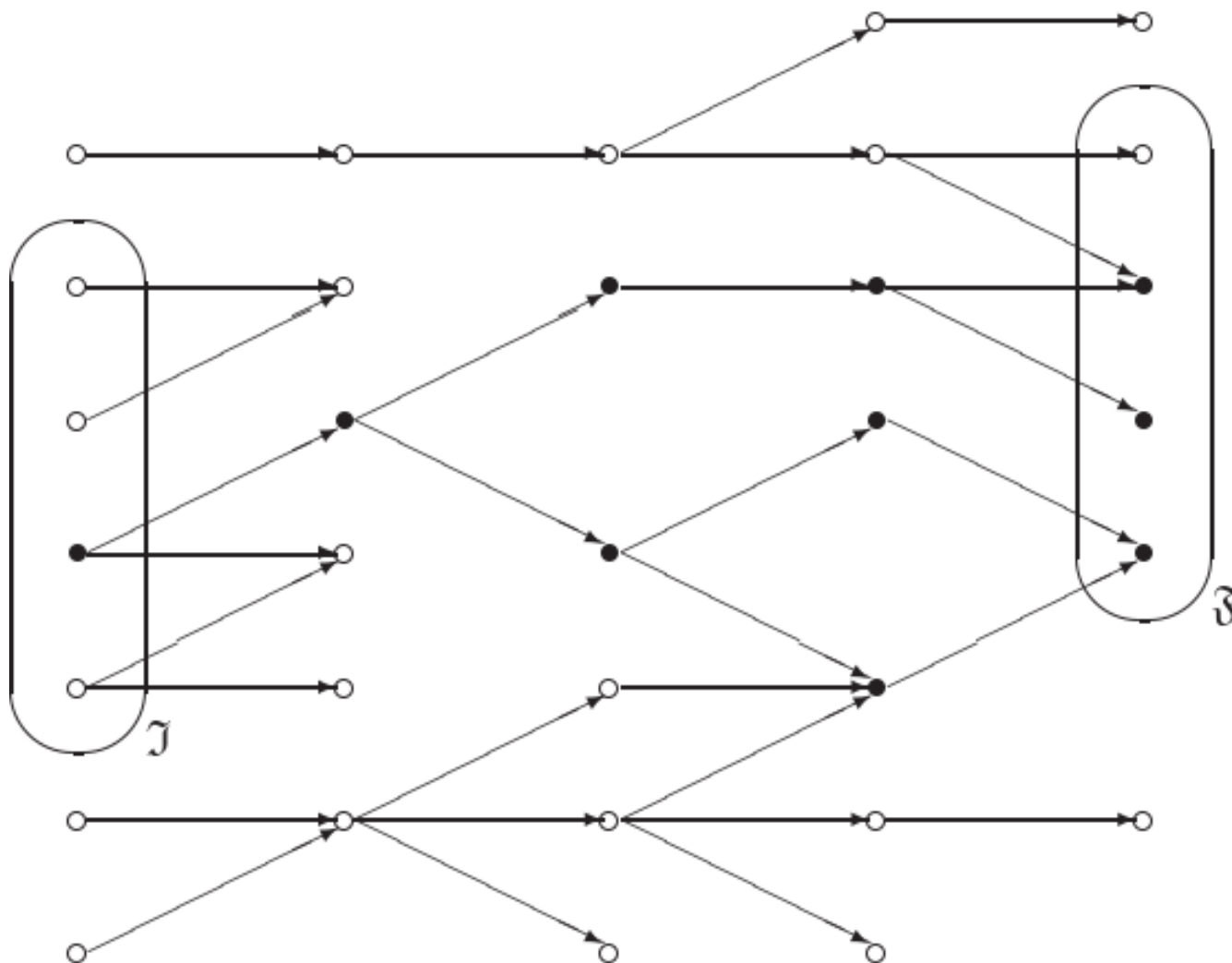
$$\begin{aligned} \text{lfp } B \text{ where } B(X) &= S_f \cup \{s \mid \exists s' \in X : s \rightarrow s'\} \\ &= S_f \cup \text{pre}[\rightarrow](X) \end{aligned}$$

with

$$\text{pre}[r](X) = \{s \mid \exists s' \in X : \langle s, s' \rangle \in r\}$$

Forwards/backwards collecting semantics (1/2)

Descendants of initial states which are also ascendants of final states:



Forwards/backwards collecting semantics (2/2)

This set of states can be expressed as the intersection of the two fixed points just defined:

$$\text{lfp } F \cap \text{lfp } B$$

The above is not computable in general, but the intuition is:

1. “run program forwards”,
2. “run program backwards”,
3. intersect.

Forwards/backwards collecting semantics in other words

We can express forwards/backward collecting semantics in several ways:

Proposition. *Given a transition system $\langle S, S_i, S_f, \rightarrow \rangle$ with $X \subseteq S$, we have*

1. $pre[\rightarrow](X) \cap lfp F \subseteq pre[\rightarrow](X \cap lfp F)$
2. $post[\rightarrow](X) \cap lfp B \subseteq post[\rightarrow](X \cap lfp B)$
3. $lfp F \cap lfp B = lfp(\lambda X. lfp F \cap B(X))$
4. $= lfp(\lambda X. lfp B \cap F(X))$
5. $= lfp(\lambda X. lfp F \cap lfp B \cap B(X))$
6. $= lfp(\lambda X. lfp F \cap lfp B \cap F(X))$

Forwards/backwards analysis

Once we move to an abstract domain, a sequence akin to the alternative characterizations is more precise:

Proposition. *If $\langle C; \sqsubseteq, \perp_c, \top_c, \sqcup, \sqcap \rangle$ and $\langle A; \leq, \perp_a, \top_a, \vee, \wedge \rangle$, are complete lattices, $\langle C; \sqsubseteq \rangle \xleftrightarrow[\alpha]{\gamma} \langle A; \leq \rangle$, $F, B : C \rightarrow C$ are monotone functions satisfying (5) and (6), $F^\#, B^\# : A \rightarrow A$ are monotone functions, such that $\alpha \circ F \circ \gamma \leq F^\#$ and $\alpha \circ B \circ \gamma \leq B^\#$, then the sequence*

- $\dot{X}^0 = \text{lfp } F^\#$ (or $\text{lfp } B^\#$)
- $\dot{X}^{2n+1} = \text{lfp}(\lambda X. \dot{X}^{2n} \wedge B^\#(X))$
- $\dot{X}^{2n+2} = \text{lfp}(\lambda X. \dot{X}^{2n+1} \wedge F^\#(X))$

satisfies for all $k \in \mathbb{N} : \alpha(\text{lfp } F \cap \text{lfp } B) \leq \dot{X}^{k+1} \leq \dot{X}^k$

Hence, we have an ascending sequence.

Forwards/backwards analysis over infinite domains

We may also need to *narrow* in order to ensure termination of the downward iteration (if descending chains can be infinite):

$$\dot{X}^0 > \dot{X}^1 > \dot{X}^2 > \dots$$

Similarly, we may need to *widen* (and *narrow*) to ensure termination of the fixed point computation in each iterate.

- $\dot{X}^0 = \text{lfp} \dots$
- $\dot{X}^{2n+1} = \text{lfp}(\dots)$
- $\dot{X}^{2n+2} = \text{lfp}(\dots)$

Part II:

Toolbox abstractions

Warm up: Collapsing abstractions

The collapsing abstraction into a two element lattice:

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha(\emptyset) &= \perp \\ \alpha(S) &= \top \quad \text{if } S \neq \emptyset \\ \gamma(\perp) &= \emptyset \\ \gamma(\top) &= S \end{aligned} \quad \langle \wp(S); \subseteq \rangle \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\gamma} \\ \xrightarrow{\alpha} \end{array} \langle \{\top, \perp\}; \sqsubseteq \rangle$$

is slightly better than the completely collapsing abstraction:

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha(S) &= \perp \\ \gamma(\perp) &= S \end{aligned} \quad \langle \wp(S); \subseteq \rangle \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\gamma} \\ \xrightarrow{\alpha} \end{array} \langle \{\perp\}; \sqsubseteq \rangle$$

Subset abstraction

Given a set C and a strict subset $A \subset C$ hereof, the restriction to the subset induces a Galois connection:

$$\langle \wp(C); \subseteq \rangle \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\gamma_C} \\ \xrightarrow{\alpha_C} \end{array} \langle \wp(A); \subseteq \rangle$$
$$\alpha_C(X) = X \cap A$$
$$\gamma_C(Y) = Y \cup (C \setminus A)$$

For example, in a *control-flow analysis* of untyped functional programs one can choose to focus on functional values (closures) and not model numbers:

$$\langle \wp(Clo + Num); \subseteq \rangle \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\gamma_C} \\ \xrightarrow{\alpha_C} \end{array} \langle \wp(Clo); \subseteq \rangle$$

(Note: by a sum $A + B$ we mean the disjoint union)

Elementwise abstraction

Let an elementwise operator $@ : C \rightarrow A$ be given.

Define

$$\alpha(P) = \{ @ (p) \mid p \in P \}$$

$$\gamma(Q) = \{ p \mid @ (p) \in Q \}$$

Then

$$\langle \wp(C); \subseteq \rangle \begin{matrix} \xleftarrow{\gamma} \\ \xrightarrow{\alpha} \end{matrix} \langle \wp(A); \subseteq \rangle$$

In particular, if $@$ is onto, we have

$$\langle \wp(C); \subseteq \rangle \begin{matrix} \xleftarrow{\gamma} \\ \xrightarrow{\alpha} \end{matrix} \langle \wp(A); \subseteq \rangle$$

For example, Parity is isomorphic to an elementwise abstraction.

Q: what would A and $@$ be in this case?

Structural abstractions

Structural?

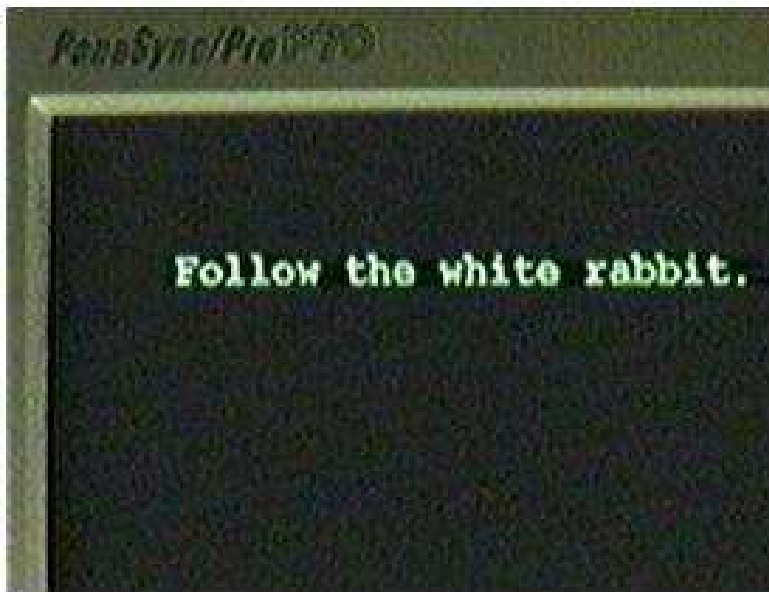
How is $State^\#$ constructed? It is possible to invent $State^\#$, and then the pair of adjointed functions. Another approach consists in inducing $State^\#$ from the structure of $State$.

—Alain Deutsch, POPL'90

Structural?

How is $State^\#$ constructed? It is possible to invent $State^\#$, and then the pair of adjointed functions. Another approach consists in inducing $State^\#$ from the structure of $State$.

—Alain Deutsch, POPL'90



Abstracting sums as a product

We can abstract sums by first utilizing a simple isomorphism:

$$\langle \wp(A + B); \subseteq \rangle \underset{\alpha}{\overset{\gamma}{\rightleftarrows}} \langle \wp(A) \times \wp(B); \subseteq_{\times} \rangle$$

where

$$\alpha(S) = (\{a \mid a \in S \cap A\}, \{b \mid b \in S \cap B\})$$

This isomorphism will typically enable further approximation.

For example, the values of a mini-Scheme language could be such a disjoint sum: closure or number

Componentwise abstraction

We can abstract a Cartesian product (e.g., the outcome of the previous isomorphism) componentwise:

$$\frac{\langle \wp(C_i); \sqsubseteq \rangle \xrightleftharpoons[\alpha_i]{\gamma_i} \langle A_i; \sqsubseteq_i \rangle \quad i \in \{1, \dots, n\}}{\langle \wp(C_1) \times \dots \times \wp(C_n); \sqsubseteq_{\times} \rangle \xrightleftharpoons[\alpha]{\gamma} \langle A_1 \times \dots \times A_n; \sqsubseteq_{\times} \rangle}$$

with

$$\alpha(\langle X_1, \dots, X_n \rangle) = \langle \alpha_1(X_1), \dots, \alpha_n(X_n) \rangle$$

$$\gamma(\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle) = \langle \gamma_1(x_1), \dots, \gamma_n(x_n) \rangle$$

and writing \sqsubseteq_{\times} for componentwise inclusion.

For example, we used the “triple version” ($n = 3$) for abstracting the 3 Counter Machine memory.

Abstracting pairs, coarsely

We can approximate a set-of-pairs by an abstract pair:

$$\frac{\langle \wp(C_1); \subseteq \rangle \xleftrightarrow[\alpha_1]{\gamma_1} \langle A_1; \leq_1 \rangle \quad \langle \wp(C_2); \subseteq \rangle \xleftrightarrow[\alpha_2]{\gamma_2} \langle A_2; \leq_2 \rangle}{\langle \wp(C_1 \times C_2); \subseteq \rangle \xleftrightarrow[\alpha]{\gamma} \langle A_1 \times A_2; \leq_{\times} \rangle}$$

where

$$\alpha(S) = \langle \alpha_1(\{a \mid (a, b) \in S\}), \alpha_2(\{b \mid (a, b) \in S\}) \rangle$$

For example, our transitive abstraction of the three memory registers of the 3CM boils down to this approach.

Abstracting pairs, better

Utilizing the well-known isomorphism

$$\langle \wp(C_1 \times C_2); \subseteq \rangle \xleftrightarrow[\alpha]{\gamma} \langle C_1 \rightarrow \wp(C_2); \dot{\subseteq} \rangle$$

we can approximate the set-of-pairs as a function between abstract domains:

$$\frac{\langle \wp(C_1); \subseteq \rangle \xleftrightarrow[\alpha_1]{\gamma_1} \langle A_1; \leq_1 \rangle \quad \langle \wp(C_2); \subseteq \rangle \xleftrightarrow[\alpha_2]{\gamma_2} \langle A_2; \leq_2 \rangle}{\langle \wp(C_1 \times C_2); \subseteq \rangle \xleftrightarrow[\alpha]{\gamma} \langle A_1 \rightarrow A_2; \dot{\leq}_2 \rangle}$$

where

$$\alpha(S) = \bigsqcup \{ [\alpha_1(\{a\}) \mapsto \alpha_2(\{b\})] \mid \langle a, b \rangle \in S \}$$

Abstracting pairs, relationally

Finally we can go all-in and approximate the set-of-pairs as an abstract set-of-pairs:

$$\frac{\langle \wp(C_1); \subseteq \rangle \xrightleftharpoons[\alpha_1]{\gamma_1} \langle A_1; \leq_1 \rangle \quad \langle \wp(C_2); \subseteq \rangle \xrightleftharpoons[\alpha_2]{\gamma_2} \langle A_2; \leq_2 \rangle}{\langle \wp(C_1 \times C_2); \subseteq \rangle \xrightleftharpoons[\alpha]{\gamma} \langle \wp(A_1 \times A_2) / \equiv; \subseteq \rangle}$$

where $\alpha(S) = \{ \langle \alpha_1(\{a\}), \alpha_2(\{b\}) \rangle \mid \langle a, b \rangle \in S \}$

Note: this requires a domain reduction, equating all elements with the same meaning, e.g., in $\wp(Par \times Par)$, $\{ \langle \top, even \rangle \} \equiv \{ \langle odd, even \rangle, \langle even, even \rangle \}$.

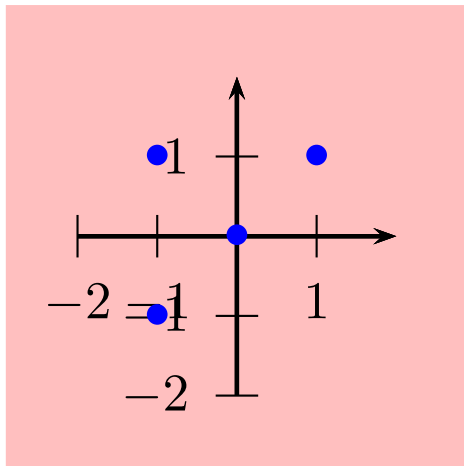
Perhaps a fun project abstracting the 3CM in this manner?

Comparing the three pair abstractions

Suppose we abstract the signs of the following set

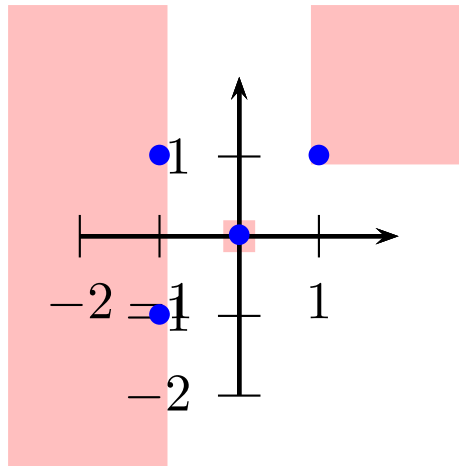
$$S = \{\langle -1, -1 \rangle, \langle 0, 0 \rangle, \langle 1, 1 \rangle, \langle -1, 1 \rangle\}$$

coarsely:



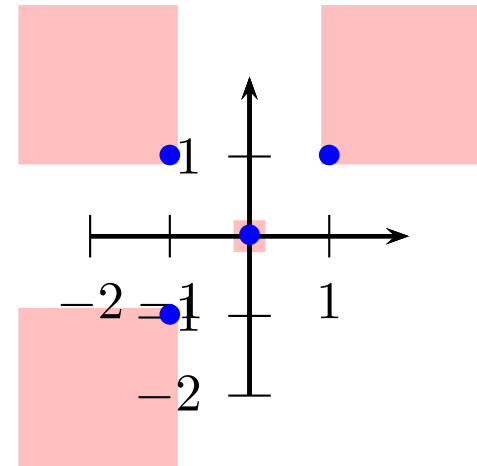
$$\alpha(S) = \langle \top, \top \rangle$$

better:



$$\alpha(S) = [neg \mapsto \top, \\ 0 \mapsto 0, \\ pos \mapsto pos]$$

relationally:



$$\alpha(S) = \\ \{\langle neg, neg \rangle, \langle 0, 0 \rangle, \\ \langle pos, pos \rangle, \langle neg, pos \rangle\}$$

A projecting abstraction

$$\overline{\langle \wp(C_1 \times \cdots \times C_n); \subseteq \rangle \xrightleftharpoons[\alpha]{\gamma} \langle \wp(C_i); \subseteq \rangle}$$

where

$$\alpha(T) = \{\pi_i t \mid t \in T\}$$

$$\gamma(E) = \{t \mid \pi_i t \in E\}$$

(which can be seen as an 'elementwise abstraction')

The 3CM analysis uses a product of three such projections.

Abstracting monotone functions

Similar to the 'better abstraction' of pairs, we can approximate monotone functions by monotone abstract functions:

$$\frac{\langle C_1; \subseteq_1 \rangle \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\gamma_1} \\ \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} \end{array} \langle A_1; \leq_1 \rangle \quad \langle C_2; \subseteq_2 \rangle \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\gamma_2} \\ \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} \end{array} \langle A_2; \leq_2 \rangle}{\langle C_1 \xrightarrow{m} C_2; \subseteq_2 \rangle \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\gamma} \\ \xrightarrow{\alpha} \end{array} \langle A_1 \xrightarrow{m} A_2; \leq_2 \rangle}$$

where $X \xrightarrow{m} Y$ are the monotone functions from X to Y and

$$\alpha(f) = \alpha_2 \circ f \circ \gamma_1$$

$$\gamma(g) = \gamma_2 \circ g \circ \alpha_1$$

For $C_1 = C_2$, $A_1 = A_2$ this reduces to an *optimal approximation of f* and how we approximate fixed points

Abstracting sequences

We can abstract a set of sequences (rather crudely) by collapsing their elements:

$$\frac{\langle \wp(C); \subseteq \rangle \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\gamma} \\ \xrightarrow{\alpha} \end{array} \langle A; \leq \rangle}{\langle \wp(C^*); \subseteq \rangle \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\gamma^*} \\ \xrightarrow{\alpha^*} \end{array} \langle A; \leq \rangle}$$

where

$$\alpha^*(S) = \alpha(\{x \mid x \in s \wedge s \in S\})$$

Numerical abstractions

Numerical abstractions

We've already come across a few numerical abstract domains: parity, signs, intervals, ...

All of these were attribute independent (or non-relational): they don't express relations between (the values of) variables.

Let's recap what we have seen and supplement with some new ones, both non-relational and relational.

What is a numerical abstract domain?

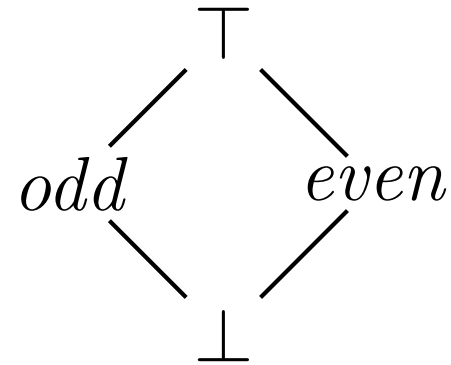
A computer-representable property, with

- top and bottom: \top , \perp
- join, meet, and ordering operators: \sqcup , \sqcap , and \sqsubseteq
- widening and narrowing operators (optional, for domains with infinite strictly incr./decr. chains)
- some primitive operations: $+$, $-$, $*$, $/$
- other basic operations: test, assignment
- with matching backwards operations (optional, for (forwards/) backwards analysis)
- a γ -function mapping elements to their meaning (mathematical, not necessarily computable)

The parity domain

$$Par = \{\top, odd, even, \perp\}$$

$$\langle \wp(\mathbb{N}_0); \subseteq \rangle \xleftrightarrow[\alpha]{\gamma} \langle Par; \sqsubseteq \rangle$$



where

$$\gamma(\perp) = \emptyset$$

$$\gamma(odd) = \{n \in \mathbb{N}_0 \mid n \bmod 2 = 1\}$$

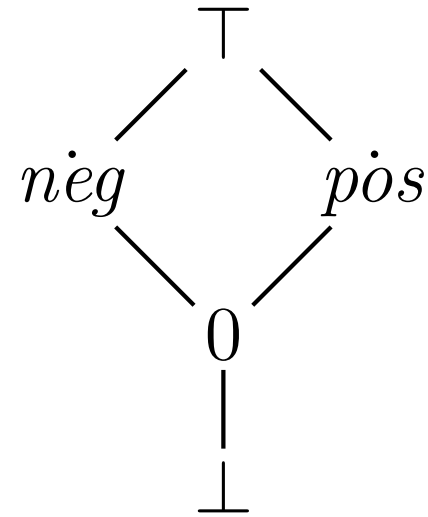
$$\gamma(even) = \{n \in \mathbb{N}_0 \mid n \bmod 2 = 0\}$$

$$\gamma(\top) = \mathbb{N}_0$$

A simple sign domain

$$\text{Sign} = \{\top, \text{pos}, \text{neg}, 0, \perp\}$$

$$\langle \wp(\mathbb{Z}); \subseteq \rangle \xrightleftharpoons[\alpha]{\gamma} \langle \text{Sign}; \sqsubseteq \rangle$$



where

$$\gamma(\perp) = \emptyset$$

$$\gamma(0) = \{0\}$$

$$\gamma(\text{pos}) = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} \mid n \geq 0\}$$

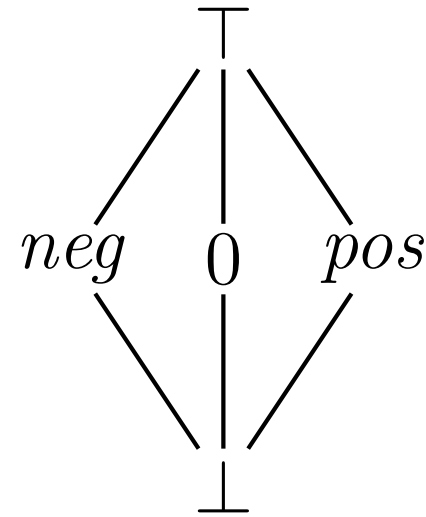
$$\gamma(\text{neg}) = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} \mid n \leq 0\}$$

$$\gamma(\top) = \mathbb{Z}$$

Another simple sign domain

$$Sign = \{\top, pos, neg, 0, \perp\}$$

$$\langle \wp(\mathbb{Z}); \subseteq \rangle \begin{matrix} \xleftarrow{\gamma} \\ \xrightarrow{\alpha} \end{matrix} \langle Sign; \sqsubseteq \rangle$$



where

$$\gamma(\perp) = \emptyset$$

$$\gamma(0) = \{0\}$$

$$\gamma(pos) = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} \mid n > 0\}$$

$$\gamma(neg) = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} \mid n < 0\}$$

$$\gamma(\top) = \mathbb{Z}$$

The improved sign domain

$$Sign = \{\top, \neq 0, \text{pos}, \text{neg}, \text{pos}, \text{neg}, 0, \perp\}$$

$$\langle \wp(\mathbb{Z}); \subseteq \rangle \xleftrightarrow[\alpha]{\gamma} \langle Sign; \sqsubseteq \rangle$$

where

$$\gamma(\perp) = \emptyset$$

$$\gamma(0) = \{0\}$$

$$\gamma(\text{pos}) = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} \mid n > 0\}$$

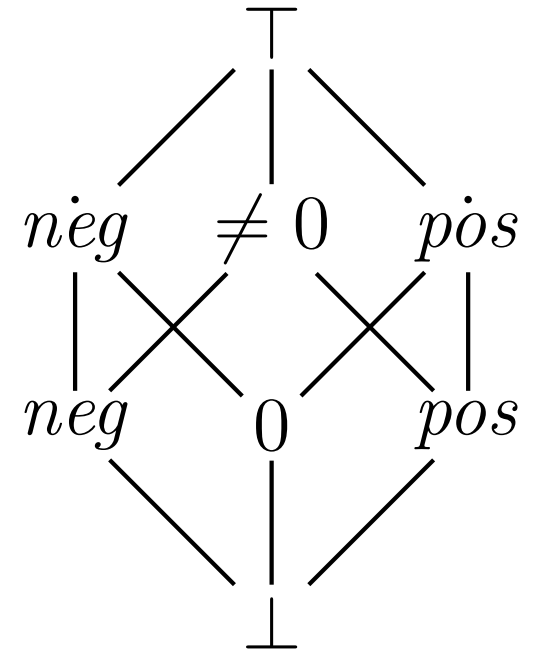
$$\gamma(\text{neg}) = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} \mid n < 0\}$$

$$\gamma(\text{p}\acute{o}s) = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} \mid n \geq 0\}$$

$$\gamma(\text{n}\acute{e}g) = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} \mid n \leq 0\}$$

$$\gamma(\neq 0) = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} \mid n \neq 0\}$$

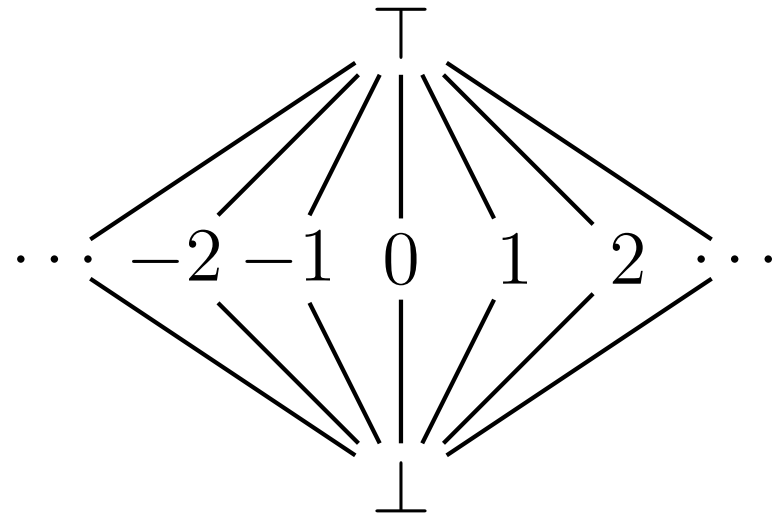
$$\gamma(\top) = \mathbb{Z}$$



The constant propagation domain (Kildall:73)

$$Const = \mathbb{Z} \cup \{\top, \perp\}$$

$$\langle \wp(\mathbb{Z}); \subseteq \rangle \xleftrightarrow[\alpha]{\gamma} \langle Const; \sqsubseteq \rangle$$



where

$$\gamma(\top) = \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\gamma(n) = \{n\}$$

$$\gamma(\perp) = \emptyset$$

$$\alpha(\{n_1, n_2, \dots\}) = \top$$

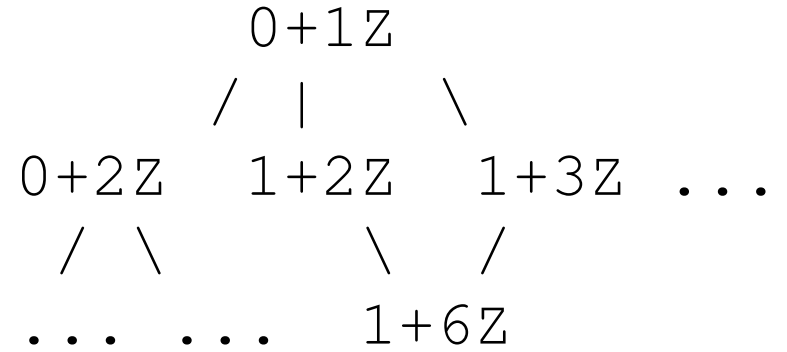
$$\alpha(\{n\}) = n$$

$$\alpha(\emptyset) = \perp$$

This domain extends naturally to string, characters, ...

Simple congruences (Granger'89)

$$Cong = \{\perp\} \cup \{a + b\mathbb{Z} \mid a, b \in \mathbb{Z} : (b = 0) \vee (0 \leq a < b)\}$$

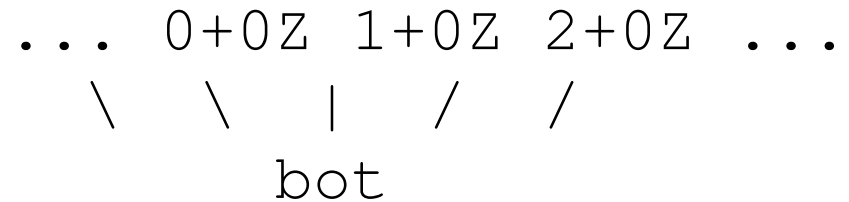


$$\langle \wp(\mathbb{Z}); \sqsubseteq \rangle \xleftrightarrow[\alpha]{\gamma} \langle Cong; \sqsubseteq \rangle$$

...

$$\gamma(\perp) = \emptyset$$

$$\gamma(a + b\mathbb{Z}) = \{a + bz \mid z \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$



$$x \equiv a \pmod{b}$$

Ordering:

$$\perp \sqsubseteq (a + b\mathbb{Z})$$

$$(a + b\mathbb{Z}) \sqsubseteq (a' + b'\mathbb{Z}) \iff (b' \mid \gcd(|a - a'|, b))$$

Simple congruences, continued

Join: $\perp \sqcup (a + b\mathbb{Z}) = a + b\mathbb{Z}$

$$(a + b\mathbb{Z}) \sqcup \perp = a + b\mathbb{Z}$$

$$(a + b\mathbb{Z}) \sqcup (a' + b'\mathbb{Z}) = (\min(a, a') + \gcd(|a - a'|, b, b')\mathbb{Z})$$

Note: there are no infinite, strictly increasing chains.

However there are infinite, strictly decreasing chains:

$$0 + 1\mathbb{Z} \supseteq 1 + 2\mathbb{Z} \supseteq 1 + 6\mathbb{Z} \supseteq 1 + 12\mathbb{Z} \supseteq \dots$$

hence we may need a narrowing...

Simple congruences, continued

Join: $\perp \sqcup (a + b\mathbb{Z}) = a + b\mathbb{Z}$

$$(a + b\mathbb{Z}) \sqcup \perp = a + b\mathbb{Z}$$

$$(a + b\mathbb{Z}) \sqcup (a' + b'\mathbb{Z}) = (\min(a, a') + \gcd(|a - a'|, b, b')\mathbb{Z})$$

Note: there are no infinite, strictly increasing chains.

However there are infinite, strictly decreasing chains:

$$0 + 1\mathbb{Z} \supseteq 1 + 2\mathbb{Z} \supseteq 1 + 6\mathbb{Z} \supseteq 1 + 12\mathbb{Z} \supseteq \dots$$

hence we may need a narrowing...

Q: what do the elements $0 + 2\mathbb{Z}$ and $1 + 2\mathbb{Z}$ represent together with \perp and $0 + 1\mathbb{Z}$?

Simple congruences, continued

Join: $\perp \sqcup (a + b\mathbb{Z}) = a + b\mathbb{Z}$

$$(a + b\mathbb{Z}) \sqcup \perp = a + b\mathbb{Z}$$

$$(a + b\mathbb{Z}) \sqcup (a' + b'\mathbb{Z}) = (\min(a, a') + \gcd(|a - a'|, b, b')\mathbb{Z})$$

Note: there are no infinite, strictly increasing chains.
However there are infinite, strictly decreasing chains:

$$0 + 1\mathbb{Z} \supseteq 1 + 2\mathbb{Z} \supseteq 1 + 6\mathbb{Z} \supseteq 1 + 12\mathbb{Z} \supseteq \dots$$

hence we may need a narrowing...

Q: what do the elements $0 + 2\mathbb{Z}$ and $1 + 2\mathbb{Z}$ represent together with \perp and $0 + 1\mathbb{Z}$?

Q: what about $\dots, 0 + 0\mathbb{Z}, 1 + 0\mathbb{Z}, 2 + 0\mathbb{Z}, 3 + 0\mathbb{Z}, \dots$ together with \perp and $0 + 1\mathbb{Z}$?

Simple congruence operations

The arithmetic operators over congruences, e.g.,
addition:

$$(a + b\mathbb{Z}) + \perp = \perp$$

$$\perp + (a + b\mathbb{Z}) = \perp$$

$$(a + b\mathbb{Z}) + (c + d\mathbb{Z}) = ((a + c) \bmod \gcd(b, d)) + \gcd(b, d)\mathbb{Z}$$

and multiplication:

$$(a + b\mathbb{Z}) * \perp = \perp$$

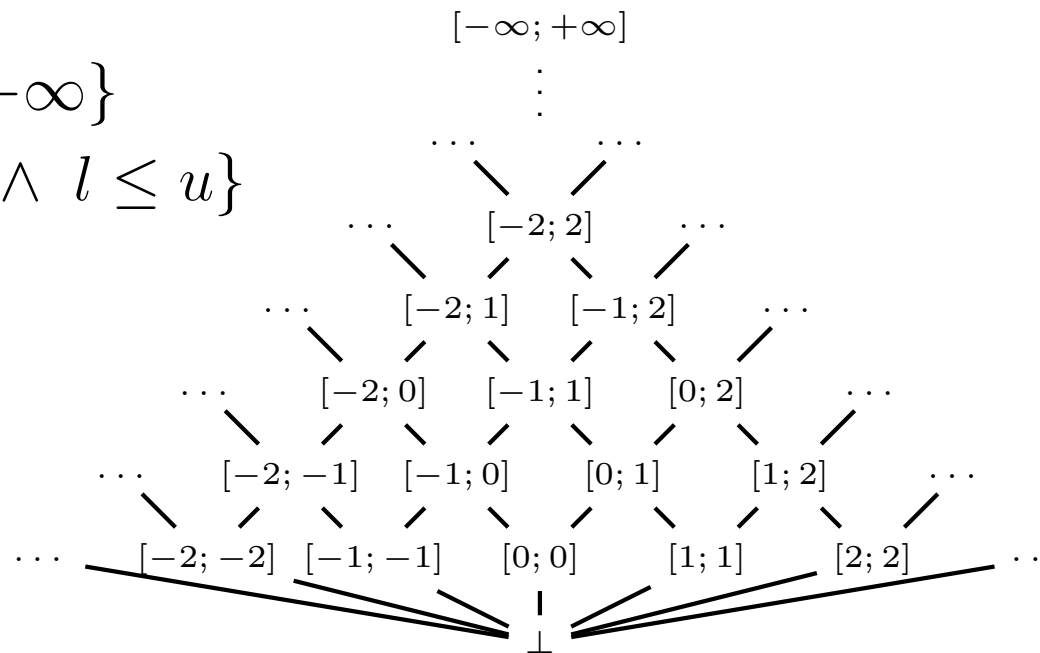
$$\perp * (a + b\mathbb{Z}) = \perp$$

$$(a + b\mathbb{Z}) * (c + d\mathbb{Z}) = (ac \bmod \gcd(ad, bc, bd)) \\ + \gcd(ad, bc, bd)\mathbb{Z}$$

Intervals (Moore'66, Cousot-Cousot'76)

$$\text{Interval} = \{\perp\} \cup \{[l; u] \mid l \in \mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty\} \\ \wedge u \in \mathbb{Z} \cup \{+\infty\} \wedge l \leq u\}$$

$$\langle \wp(\mathbb{Z}); \subseteq \rangle \xleftrightarrow[\alpha]{\gamma} \langle \text{Interval}; \sqsubseteq \rangle$$



$$\gamma(\perp) = \emptyset$$

$$\alpha(\emptyset) = \perp$$

$$\gamma([a; b]) = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} \mid a \leq n \leq b\}$$

$$\alpha(S) = [\min S; \max S]$$

Note: intervals over \mathbb{R} also work, however over \mathbb{Q} the resulting domain is not complete.

Intervals, continued (2/3)

Least upper bounds:

$$X \sqcup \perp = X$$

$$\perp \sqcup Y = Y$$

$$[a; b] \sqcup [c; d] = [\min(a, c); \max(b, d)]$$

Greatest lower bounds:

$$X \sqcap \perp = \perp$$

$$\perp \sqcap Y = \perp$$

$$[a; b] \sqcap [c; d] = \begin{cases} [\max(a, c); \min(b, d)] & \text{if } \max(a, c) \leq \min(b, d) \\ \perp & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Intervals, continued (3/3)

Interval addition:

$$\perp + X = \perp$$

$$X + \perp = \perp$$

$$[a; b] + [c; d] = [a + c; b + d]$$

Widening and narrowing:

$$\perp \nabla I = I$$

$$I \nabla \perp = I$$

$$[a; b] \nabla [c; d] = \left[\begin{array}{ll} \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} -\infty & c < a \\ a & c \geq a \end{array} \right. & ; \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} +\infty & d > b \\ b & d \leq b \end{array} \right. \end{array} \right]$$

$$\perp \Delta I = \perp$$

$$I \Delta \perp = \perp$$

$$[a, b] \Delta [c, d] = \left[\begin{array}{ll} \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} c & a = -\infty \\ a & \text{otherwise} \end{array} \right. & ; \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} d & b = +\infty \\ b & \text{otherwise} \end{array} \right. \end{array} \right]$$

Interval widening example

Widening with \perp yields identity:

$$\perp \nabla [1; 100] = [1; 100]$$

Increasing upper bounds expand to $+\infty$:

$$[1; 100] \nabla [1; 101] = [1; +\infty]$$

Decreasing lower bounds expand to $-\infty$:

$$[1; +\infty] \nabla [0; 102] = [-\infty; +\infty]$$

Convex Polyhedra

Convex Polyhedra (1/2)

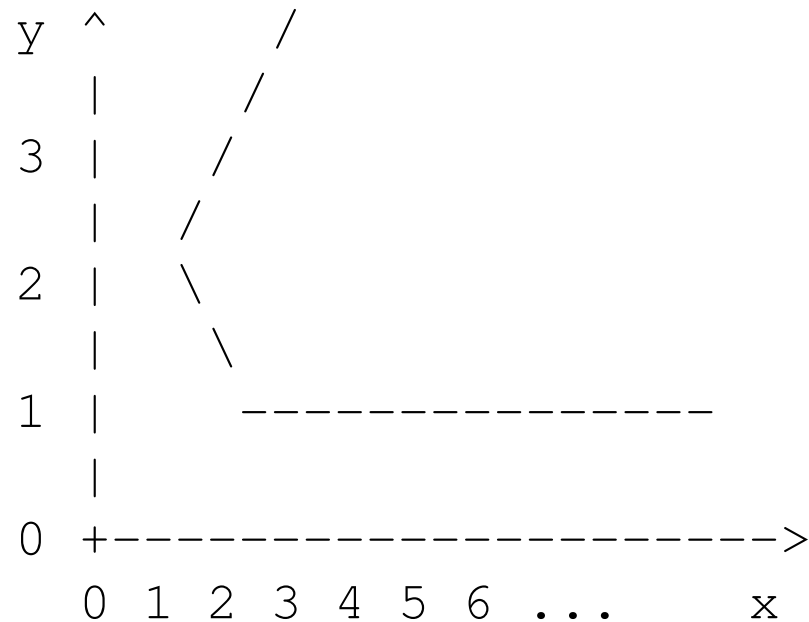
We can use inequalities to describe the relationship between numerical variables of a program, e.g.:

$$y \geq 1 \quad \wedge \quad x + y \geq 3 \quad \wedge \quad -x + y \leq 1$$

for two variables x and y .

The inequalities represent a *convex polyhedron*.

These form the abstract values of the *polyhedra* domain, which is a *relational* abstract domain.



Representation (implementation)

Convex polyhedra are represented using *double description* (with variables $X = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$):

- a *system of inequalities* (A, B) where A is an $m \times n$ matrix, B is an m vector, and

$$\gamma(A, B) = \{X \mid AX \geq B\}$$

- a *system of generators* (V, R) of vertices and rays where $V = \{V_1, \dots, V_k\}$, $R = \{R_1, \dots, R_l\}$, and

$$\gamma(V, R) = \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i V_i + \sum_{i=1}^l \mu_i R_i \mid \lambda_i \geq 0 \wedge \mu_i \geq 0 \wedge \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i = 1 \right\}$$

An domain implementation will typically translate back and forth between the two, trying to minimize the number of conversions.

Representation example

For example, we can represent

$$y \geq 1 \quad \wedge \quad x + y \geq 3 \quad \wedge \quad -x + y \leq 1$$

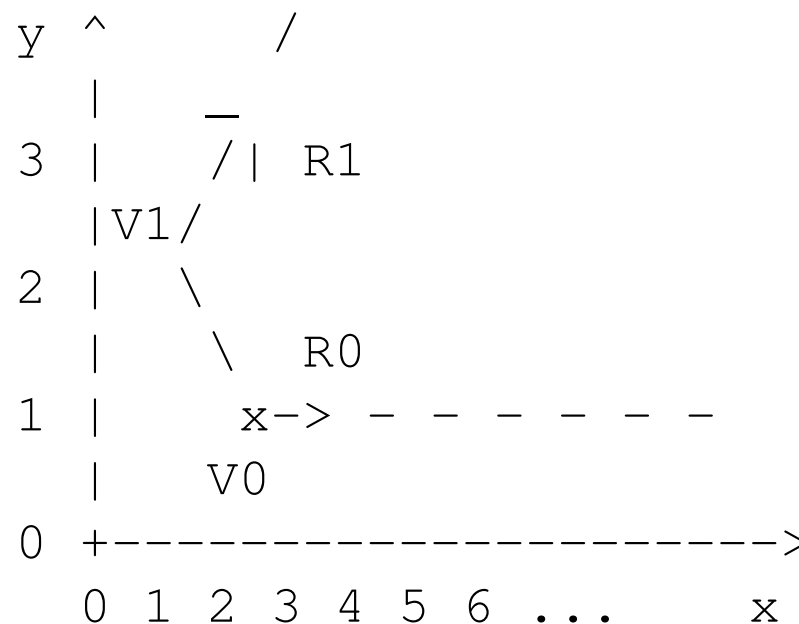
as a system of inequalities: $AX \geq B$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} \geq \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

as a system of
generators:

$$V = \{V_0 : (2, 1), V_1 : (1, 2)\}$$

$$R = \{R_0 : (1, 0), R_1 : (1, 1)\}$$



Convex Polyhedra (2/2)

Operations, some of which are easier on one representation, rather than the other:

- returns a *convex hull*, which is an over-approximation of the union of two polyhedra.

Easily expressed as a union of the corresponding generators.

- returns the polyhedron representing the intersection of two polyhedra.

Easily expressed as the conjunction of the two constraint systems.

But there is a catch. . .

The polyhedra lattice is not complete: there exists strictly infinite chains for which the limit is not in the domain. Example: a disk.

Hence for some sets, e.g., a disk, there is no best abstraction.

As a consequence the abstraction to polyhedra is not a Galois connection.

A possible relaxation is to consider only concretization functions. . .

Concretization-based abstract interpretation

Proposition. Assume $\langle C; \sqsubseteq, \sqcup \rangle$ is a poset, $F : C \rightarrow C$ is a continuous function, $\perp_c \in C$ such that $\perp_c \sqsubseteq F(\perp_c)$, and $\bigsqcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} F^n(\perp_c)$ exists.

Assume A is a set, $\gamma : A \rightarrow C$ is a function, \leq is a preorder, defined as: $a \leq a' \iff \gamma(a) \sqsubseteq \gamma(a')$, $\perp_a \in A$ such that $\perp_c \sqsubseteq \gamma(\perp_a)$, $F^\sharp : A \rightarrow A$ is a monotone function such that $F \circ \gamma \sqsubseteq \gamma \circ F^\sharp$ and ∇ is a widening operator.

Then the *upward iteration sequence with widening* is ultimately stationary with limit a , such that $\text{lfp } F \sqsubseteq \gamma(a)$ and $F^\sharp(a) \leq a$.

Alternative frameworks

If we relax the Galois connection requirement there are other options.

Cousot-Cousot “*Abstract interpretation frameworks*” (JLC92) contains a range of alternative frameworks, like the previous concretization-based one.

As an alternative, Miné suggests a framework based on *partial Galois connections*, in which α is a partial function.

Want more abstractions?

There are many more numerical abstractions, see, e.g., Miné's thesis or this link:

<http://bugseng.com/products/ppl/abstractions>

The *Two Variables per Inequality* (TVPI) domain is a restricted form of polyhedra, only expressing relations between two variables: $a_{ij}x_i + b_{ij}x_j \leq c_{ij}$

Miné's *Octagon* domain is another restricted form of polyhedra, also expressing relations between two variables: $\pm x_i \pm x_j \leq c_{ij}$

Q: what do we get by restricting to one variable per inequality?

Numerical domains, botanically

ATTRIBUTE INDEPENDENT DOMAINS (NON-RELATIONAL):

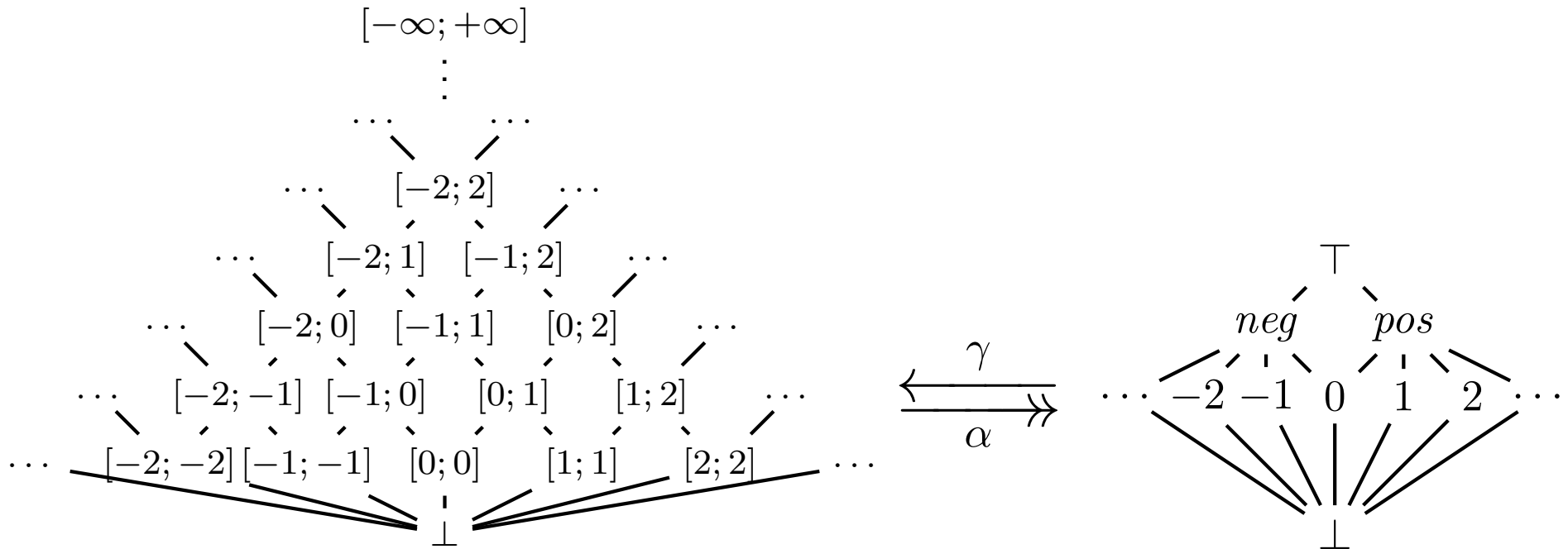
Parity, Sign, Constants, Simple Congruences,
Intervals, . . .

RELATIONAL DOMAINS:

Polyhedra, Octagons, TVPI, . . .

A few connections between numerical abstractions

From intervals to a constant/sign combination



where

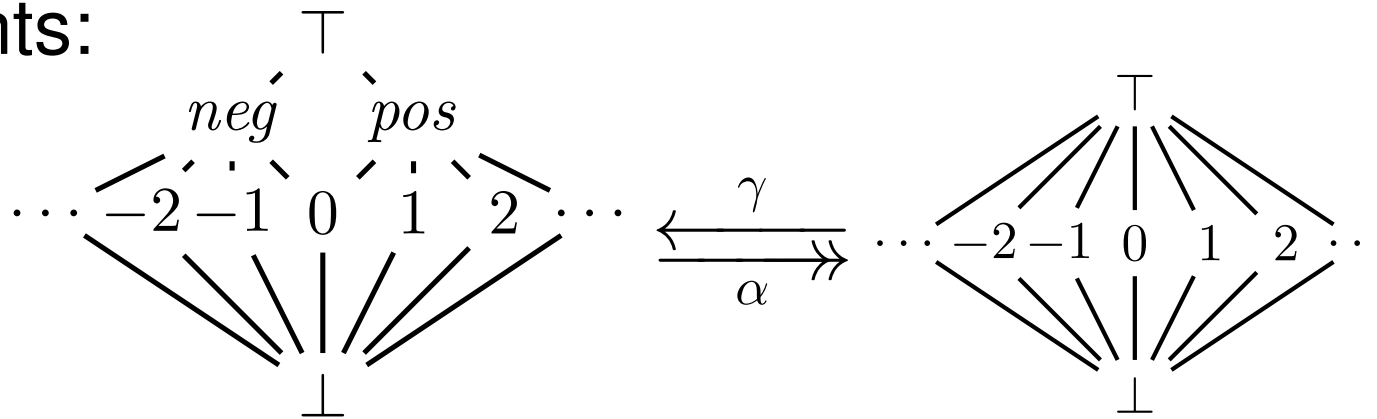
$$\alpha(\perp) = \perp$$

$$\alpha([a; a]) = a$$

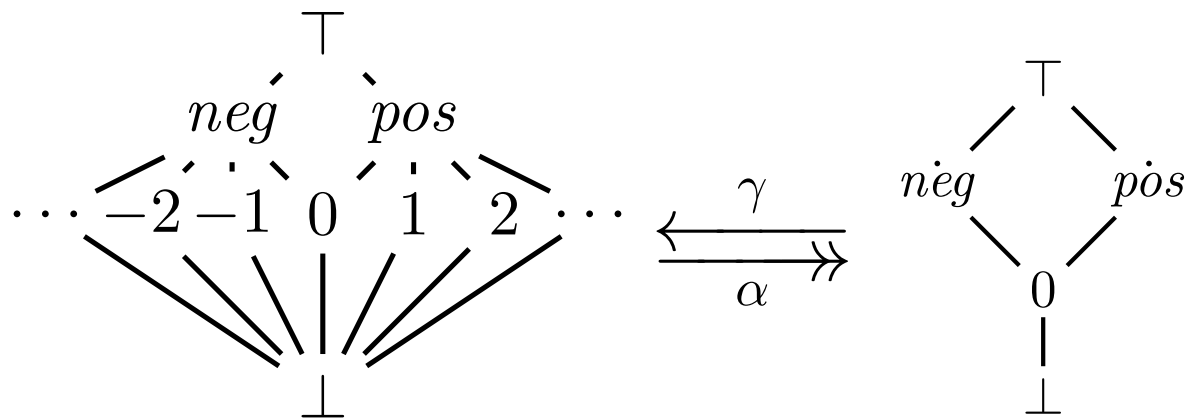
$$\alpha([a; b]) = \begin{cases} pos & \text{if } a \geq 0, a \neq b \\ neg & \text{if } b \leq 0, a \neq b \\ \top & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

From the constant/sign combination to ...

This domain can (naturally) be abstracted to both constants:

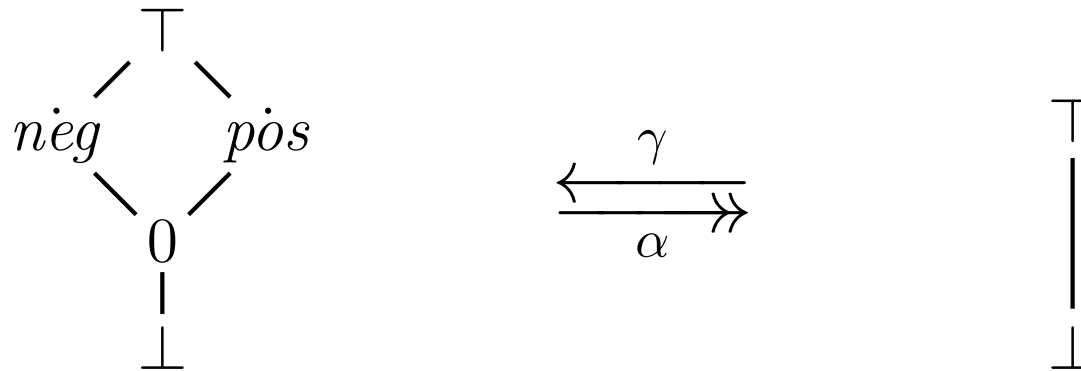


and signs:

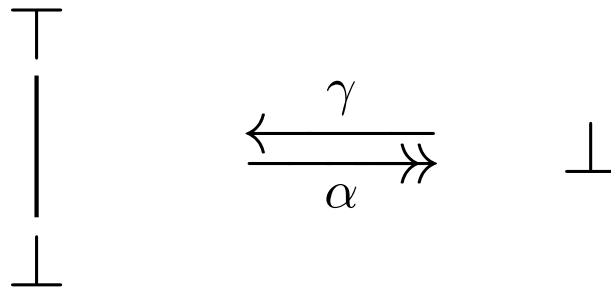


From the constant/sign combination to . . .

Both can be abstracted into a simple two-point domain:

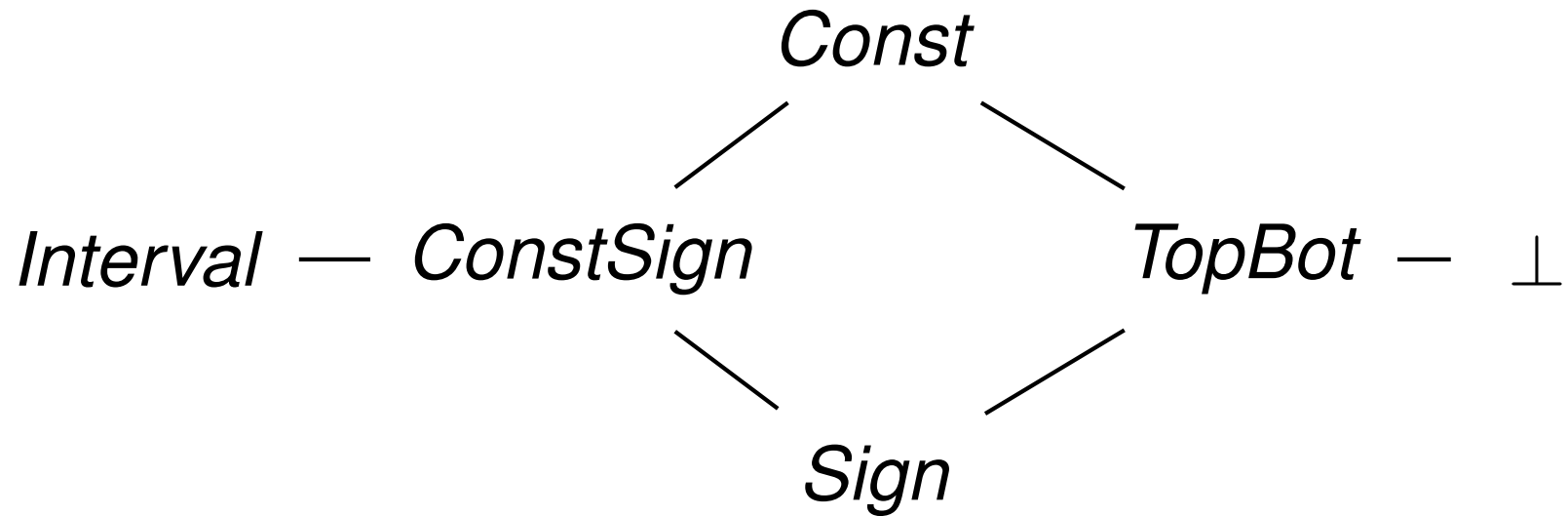


and all the way down to a one-point lattice:



Connection summary

To summarize:



A nice lattice of lattices! 😊

The 3 counter machine analysis, revisited

The 3 counter machine analysis, revisited

We arrived at an abstract transition function $F\#$, but the analysis is the least fixed point lfp of $F\#$.

Q: Which fixed point theorem(s) from this morning (slide 12+14) are we relying on?

Design choices of the analysis

The resulting analysis associates an abstract memory to each program point:

$$\wp(PC \times \mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0) \xleftrightarrow[\alpha]{\gamma} PC \rightarrow (Parity \times Parity \times Parity)$$

Design choices of the analysis

The resulting analysis associates an abstract memory to each program point:

$$\wp(PC \times \mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0) \xleftrightarrow[\alpha]{\gamma} PC \rightarrow (Parity \times Parity \times Parity)$$

Alternatively we could have abstracted the components separately as follows:

$$\wp(PC \times \mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0) \xleftrightarrow[\alpha]{\gamma} \wp(PC) \times (Parity \times Parity \times Parity)$$

Design choices of the analysis

The resulting analysis associates an abstract memory to each program point:

$$\wp(PC \times \mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0) \xleftrightarrow[\alpha]{\gamma} PC \rightarrow (Parity \times Parity \times Parity)$$

Alternatively we could have abstracted the components separately as follows:

$$\wp(PC \times \mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0) \xleftrightarrow[\alpha]{\gamma} \wp(PC) \times (Parity \times Parity \times Parity)$$

Q: how would you characterize the first analysis?

Design choices of the analysis

The resulting analysis associates an abstract memory to each program point:

$$\wp(PC \times \mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0) \xleftrightarrow[\alpha]{\gamma} PC \rightarrow (Parity \times Parity \times Parity)$$

Alternatively we could have abstracted the components separately as follows:

$$\wp(PC \times \mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0) \xleftrightarrow[\alpha]{\gamma} \wp(PC) \times (Parity \times Parity \times Parity)$$

Q: how would you characterize the first analysis?

Q: how would you characterize the second?

Design choices of the analysis

The resulting analysis associates an abstract memory to each program point:

$$\wp(PC \times \mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0) \xleftrightarrow[\alpha]{\gamma} PC \rightarrow (Parity \times Parity \times Parity)$$

Alternatively we could have abstracted the components separately as follows:

$$\wp(PC \times \mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0) \xleftrightarrow[\alpha]{\gamma} \wp(PC) \times (Parity \times Parity \times Parity)$$

Q: how would you characterize the first analysis?

Q: how would you characterize the second?

Q: how would you characterize a first projection?

$$\wp(PC \times \mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0) \xleftrightarrow[\alpha]{\gamma} \wp(PC)$$

Alternative 3 counter machine analyses?

Q: What changes if we want to switch to a different numerical abstraction (intervals, congruences, ...)?

or rather,

Q: which assumptions about Parity did we rely on?

Alternative 3 counter machine analyses?

Q: What changes if we want to switch to a different numerical abstraction (intervals, congruences, ...)?

or rather,

Q: which assumptions about Parity did we rely on?

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\varphi(\mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0) \iff \varphi(\mathbb{N}_0) \times \varphi(\mathbb{N}_0) \times \varphi(\mathbb{N}_0)}{\varphi(\mathbb{N}_0) \iff \text{Par}} \quad \frac{\frac{\varphi(\mathbb{N}_0) \iff \text{Par}}{\varphi(\mathbb{N}_0) \iff \text{Par}} \quad \frac{\varphi(\mathbb{N}_0) \iff \text{Par}}{\varphi(\mathbb{N}_0) \iff \text{Par}}}{\varphi(\mathbb{N}_0) \times \varphi(\mathbb{N}_0) \times \varphi(\mathbb{N}_0) \iff \text{Par} \times \text{Par} \times \text{Par}}}{\varphi(\mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0) \iff \text{Par} \times \text{Par} \times \text{Par}}}{PC \rightarrow \varphi(\mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0 \times \mathbb{N}_0) \iff PC \rightarrow \text{Par} \times \text{Par} \times \text{Par}}$$

Summary

Summary

1. More approximation methods (Cousot-Cousot:JLP92):
 - Relational and attribute independent analysis
 - Inducing, abstracting, approximating fixed points
 - Widening, narrowing
 - Forwards/backwards analysis

 2. A catalogue of abstractions
 - Toolbox abstractions
 - Structural abstractions: sums, pairs/tuples, ...
 - Numerical abstractions: constants, intervals, congruences, polyhedra, ...
 - Concretization-based abstract interpretation, briefly
- A retrospective on the 3 counter machine analysis