

# Floating Point Verification

## Unifying Abstract Interpretation and Decision Procedures

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2<sup>nd</sup> November 2011

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# Presentation Outline

## Part I

# Existing approaches to FP - Verification

# Manual, Semi-automated

# Decision Procedures

# Abstract Interpretation

## Part II

# Decision Procedures

# Precise

## Scalable

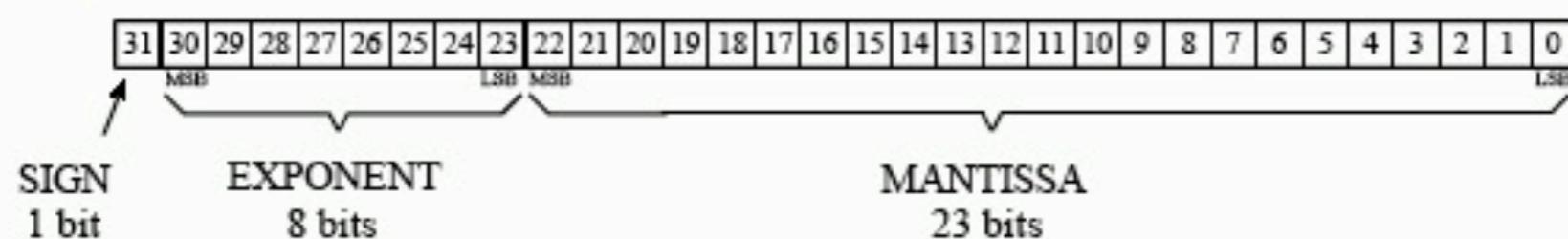
# Abstract Interpretation

# Our research

# Abstract Satisfiability

# Part I

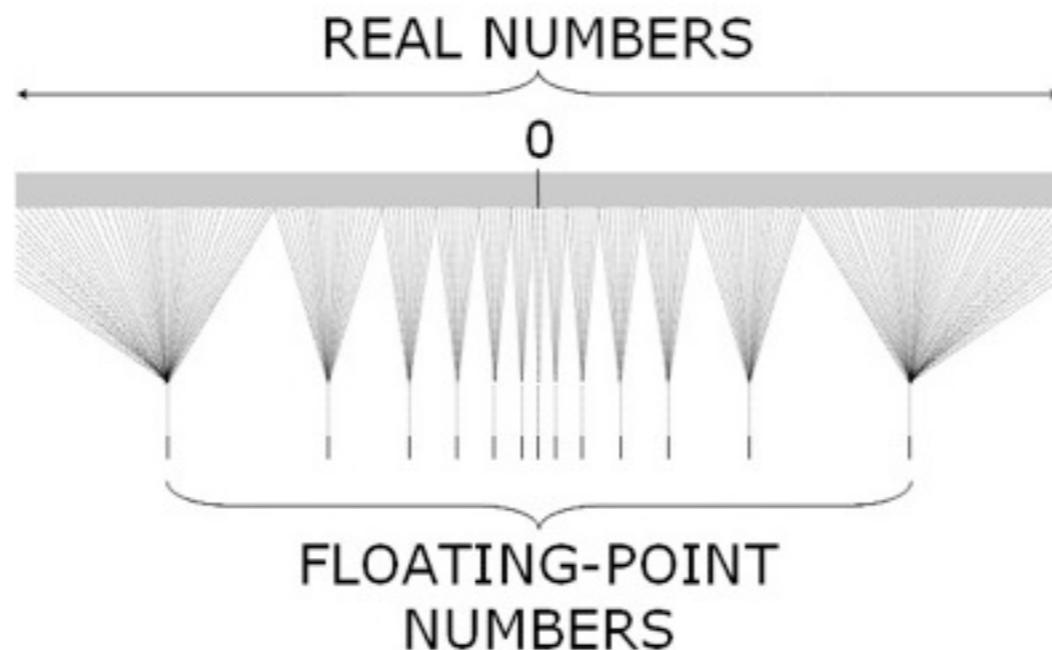
# IEEE754 Floating Point Numbers



Example 1

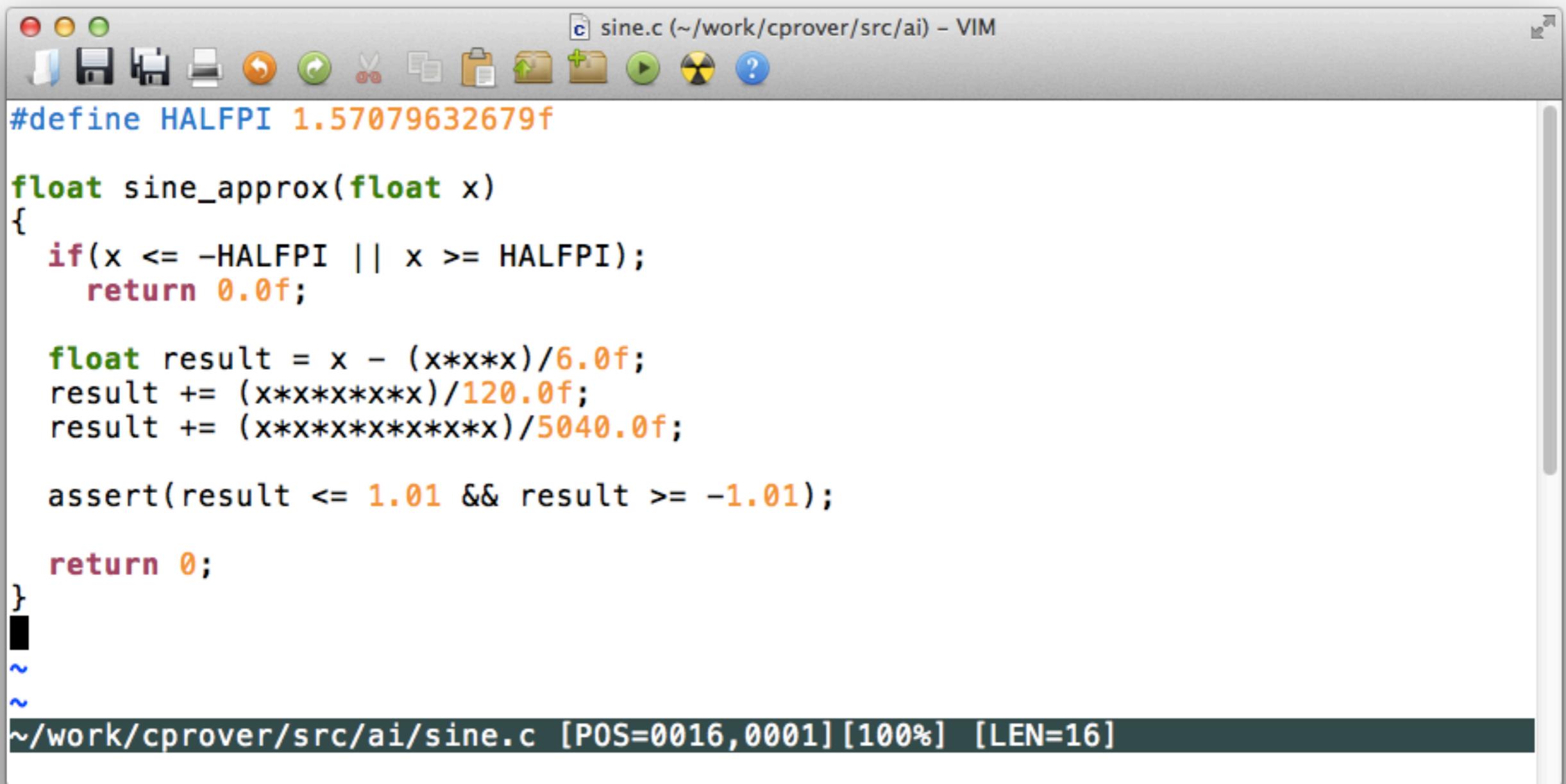
0 00000111 11000000000000000000000000000000	+ 1.75 × 2 <sup>(7-127)</sup> = + 1.316554 × 10 <sup>-36</sup>
↓      ↓      ↓	
+      7      0.75	

Special values:  $-0, +0, -\infty, \infty, NaN$



# The Pitfalls of FP

```
|   if(x < y)
|   ...
|   else if(x > y)
|   ...
|   else assert(x == y);
||           if(x > 0)
|           {
|               for(float sum = 0; sum <= N; sum+=x)
|                   ...
|               //does the loop terminate?
|           }
|
|   float r1 = a+b;
|   float r2 = b+c;
|   r1+= c; r2 += a;
|   assert(r1 == r2);
|V
|   bool b = false;
|   if(f < 1)
|       b = true;
|   if(!b)
|       assert(f >= 1);
```



A screenshot of the VIM text editor showing a C program named `sine.c`. The window title is `sine.c (~/work/cprover/src/ai) - VIM`. The toolbar contains various icons for file operations like save, open, and search. The code itself defines a macro `HALFPI` and implements a function `sine_approx` using a Taylor series expansion. A check for numerical stability is included via an `assert` statement. The status bar at the bottom shows the file path `~/work/cprover/src/ai/sine.c`, the current position `[POS=0016,0001]`, the completion percentage `[100%]`, and the length `[LEN=16]`.

```
#define HALFPI 1.57079632679f

float sine_approx(float x)
{
    if(x <= -HALFPI || x >= HALFPI);
        return 0.0f;

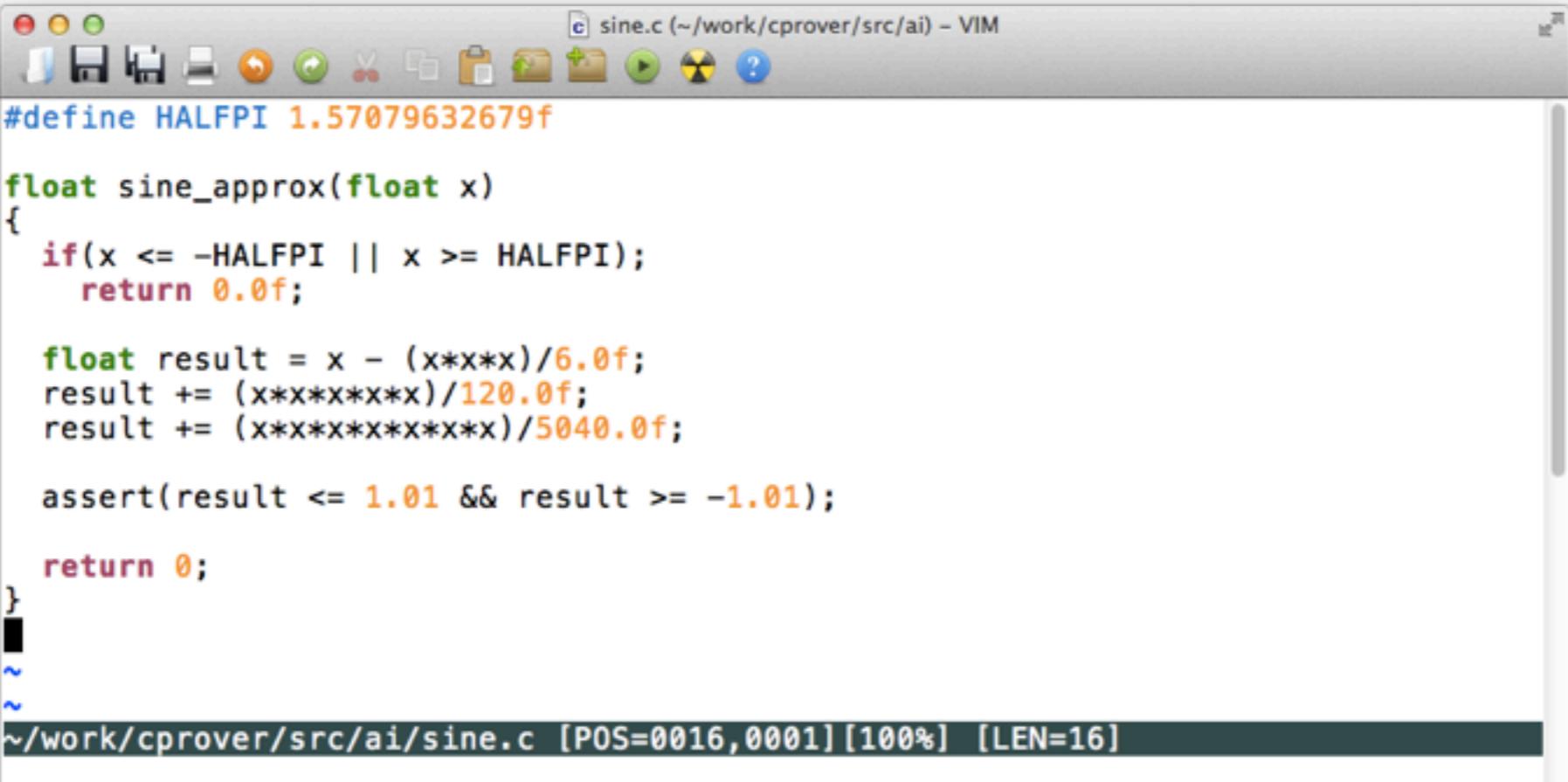
    float result = x - (x*x*x)/6.0f;
    result += (x*x*x*x*x)/120.0f;
    result += (x*x*x*x*x*x*x)/5040.0f;

    assert(result <= 1.01 && result >= -1.01);

    return 0;
}
```

Is this program correct?

# What does correctness mean?



The screenshot shows a VIM editor window with the file 'sine.c' open. The code defines a function 'sine\_approx' that calculates an approximation of the sine of a float 'x'. It uses a polynomial expansion and includes an assertion to ensure the result is within +/- 1.01. The code is as follows:

```
#define HALFPI 1.57079632679f

float sine_approx(float x)
{
    if(x <= -HALFPI || x >= HALFPI);
        return 0.0f;

    float result = x - (x*x*x)/6.0f;
    result += (x*x*x*x*x)/120.0f;
    result += (x*x*x*x*x*x*x)/5040.0f;

    assert(result <= 1.01 && result >= -1.01);

    return 0;
}
```

The status bar at the bottom of the VIM window shows the file path as `~/work/cprover/src/ai/sine.c`, position `[POS=0016,0001]`, percentage `[100%]`, and length `[LEN=16]`.

Three possible meanings:

- Result is sufficiently close to the real number result
- Result is sufficiently close to the sine function
- The assertion cannot be violated ←—————

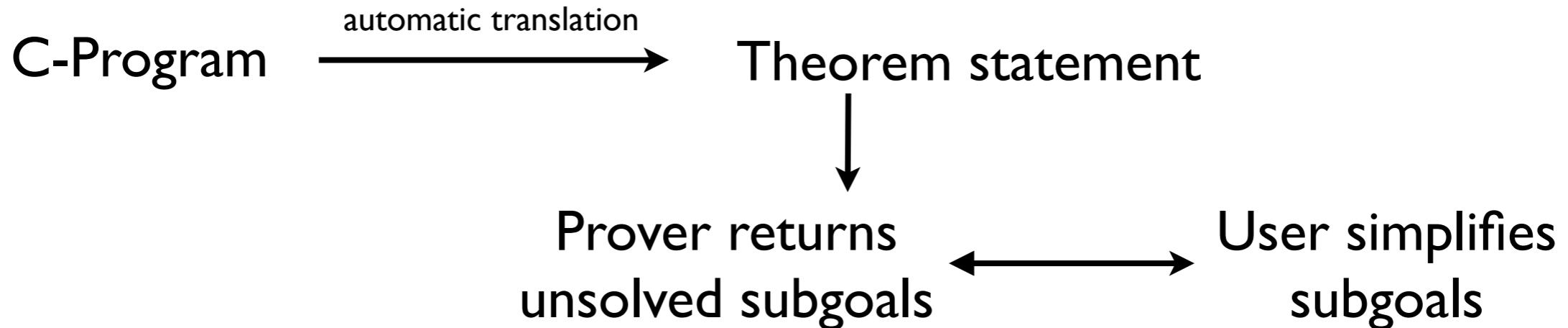
# How can we check correctness?

Manual

Abstract Interpretation

Decision Procedures

# Manual, semi-automated



- Use an interactive theorem prover
- Experts write proof scripts with machine assistance
- Potentially powerful, but expensive
- Proof scripts require expert understanding, may be much harder to write than programs

# Manual, semi-automated

User enters proof

Computer keeps track of what is left to prove

The screenshot shows the CoqIDE interface with two main panes. The left pane displays a proof script in the `intro.v` file. The right pane shows the current state of the proof, indicating 2 subgoals. The first subgoal is labeled (1/2) and contains the hypothesis `n : nat`, the lemma `IHn : forall m : nat, {n = m} + {n <> m}`, and the hypothesis `m : nat`. The second subgoal is labeled (2/2) and contains the hypothesis `S n = S m`. The proof script includes tactics like `rewrite`, `reflexivity`, `Qed`, `Lemma`, `forall`, `induction`, `destruct`, `left`, `right`, `discriminate`, `destruct`, `right; discriminate`, `destruct`, `left`, `rewrite`, `reflexivity`, `right`, `intros`, `apply`, `injection`, `tauto`, `Defined`, `Eval`, and `Definition`.

# Manual, semi-automated

This proof file has been written by [Sylvie Boldo](#)(1), following a proof presented by [Pr William Kahan](#) (2), and adapted to Coq proof checker with the help of [Guillaume Melquiond](#)(1) and [Marc Daumas](#)(1). This work has been partially supported by the [CNRS](#) grant PICS 2533.

(1) [LIP](#) Computer science laboratory UMR 5668 CNRS - ENS de Lyon - INRIA Lyon, France

(2) [University of California at Berkeley](#) Berkeley, California

```
Section Discriminant.
Variable bo : Fbound.
Variable precision : nat.

Let radix := 2%Z.

Let FtoRradix := FtoR radix.
Coercion FtoRradix : float >-> R.

Theorem TwoMoreThanOne : (1 < radix)%Z.

Let radixMoreThanZERO := Zlt_1_0 _ (Zlt_le_weak _ _ TwoMoreThanOne).
Hypothesis precisionGreaterThanOne : 1 < precision.
Hypothesis pGivesBound : Zpos (vNum bo) = Zpower_nat radix precision.

Variables a b b' c p q d:float.

Let delta := (Rabs (d-(b*b'-a*c)))%R.

Hypothesis Fa : (Fbounded bo a).
Hypothesis Fb : (Fbounded bo b).
Hypothesis Fb' : (Fbounded bo b').
Hypothesis Fc : (Fbounded bo c).
Hypothesis Fp : (Fbounded bo p).
Hypothesis Fq : (Fbounded bo q).
Hypothesis Fd : (Fbounded bo d).
```

There is no underflow

```
Hypothesis U1:(- dExp bo <= Fexp d - 1)%Z.
Hypothesis Nd:(Fnormal radix bo d).
Hypothesis Nq:(Fnormal radix bo q).
Hypothesis Np:(Fnormal radix bo p).

Hypothesis Square:(0 <=b*b')%R.
```

```
Hypothesis Roundp : (EvenClosest bo radix precision (b*b'))%R p).
Hypothesis Roundq : (EvenClosest bo radix precision (a*c))%R q).

Hypothesis Firstcase : (p+q <= 3*(Rabs (p-q)))%R.
Hypothesis Roundd : (EvenClosest bo radix precision (p-q))%R d).

Theorem delta_inf: (delta <= (/2)*(Fulp bo radix precision d) +
  ((/2)*(Fulp bo radix precision p)+(/2)*(Fulp bo radix precision q)))%R.

Theorem P_positive: (Rle 0 p)%R.

Theorem Fulp_le_twice_l: forall x y:float, (0 <= x)%R ->
  (Fnormal radix bo x) -> (Fbounded bo y) -> (2*x<=y)%R ->
  (2*(Fulp bo radix precision x) <= (Fulp bo radix precision y))%R.

Theorem Fulp_le_twice_r: forall x y:float, (0 <= x)%R ->
  (Fnormal radix bo y) -> (Fbounded bo x) -> (x<=2*y)%R ->
  ((Fulp bo radix precision x) <= 2*(Fulp bo radix precision y))%R.

Theorem Half_Closest_Round: forall (x:float) (r:R),
  (- dExp bo <= Zpred (Fexp x))%Z -> (Closest bo radix r x)
  -> (Closest bo radix (r/2)%R (Float (Fnum x) (Zpred (Fexp x)))).

Theorem Twice_EvenClosest_Round: forall (x:float) (r:R),
  (-(dExp bo) <= (Fexp x)-1)%Z -> (Fnormal radix bo x)
  -> (EvenClosest bo radix precision r x)
  -> (EvenClosest bo radix precision (2*r)%R (Float (Fnum x) (Zsucc (Fexp x)))).
```

```
Theorem EvenClosestMonotone2: forall (p q : R) (p' q' : float),
  (p <= q)%R -> (EvenClosest bo radix precision p p') ->
  (EvenClosest bo radix precision q q') -> (p' <= q')%R.

Theorem Fulp_le_twice_r_round: forall (x y:float) (r:R), (0 <= x)%R
->
  (Fbounded bo x) -> (Fnormal radix bo y) -> (- dExp bo <= Fexp y
- 1)%Z
  -> (x<=2*r)%R ->
  (EvenClosest bo radix precision r y) ->
  ((Fulp bo radix precision x) <= 2*(Fulp bo radix precision y))%R.
```

```
Theorem discril: (delta <= 2*(Fulp bo radix precision d))%R.
```

```
End Discriminant.
```

etc...

# Manual, semi-automated

Selection of notable work:

- John Harrison (Intel) - Verification of FP hardware and firmware using HOL
- Various formalizations of IEEE754 FP arithmetic for different theorem provers
- Boldot, Filliâtre, Melquiond et. al. - Theorem prover combined with incomplete FP prover.

# Manual, semi-automated

## Conclusion:

- Manual or semi-automated techniques can be very powerful, but require experts and large time investments
- Results have limited reusability
- Typically feasible for small system components of critical importance (e.g., Intel's verification of processor components)

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## Applications



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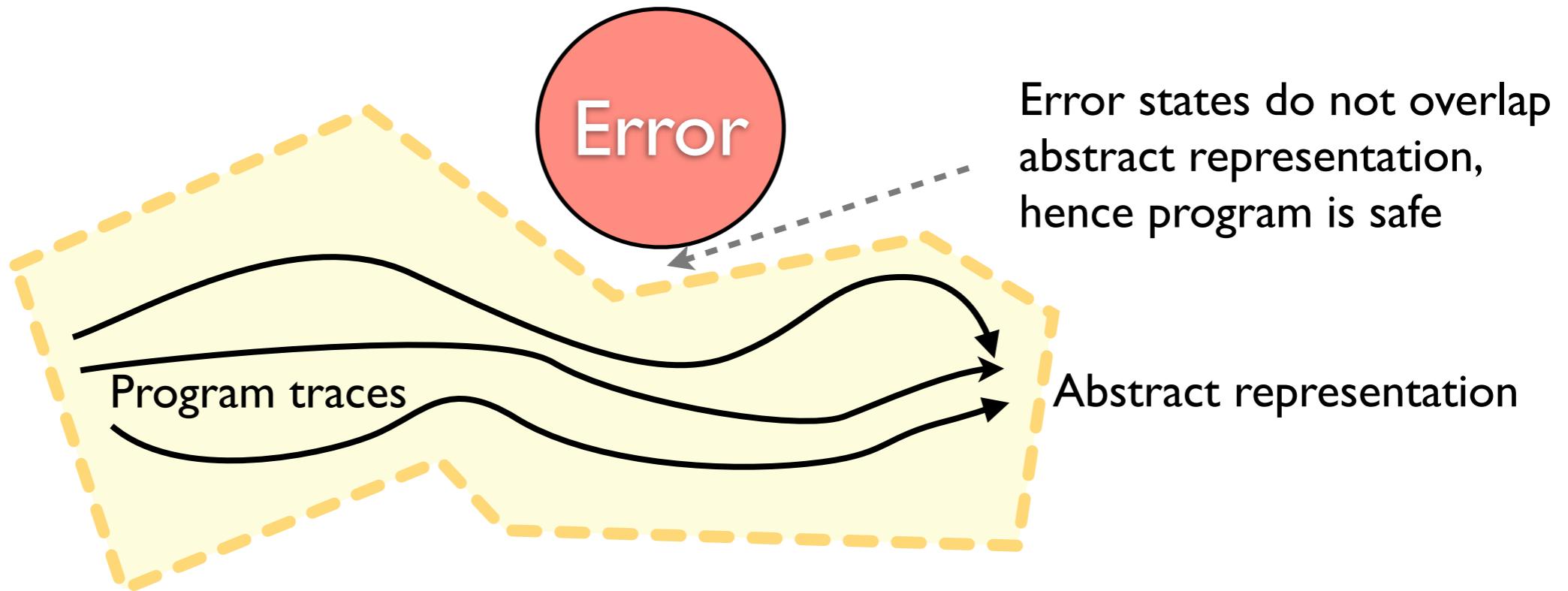
Requires experts,  
expensive, powerful

Manual

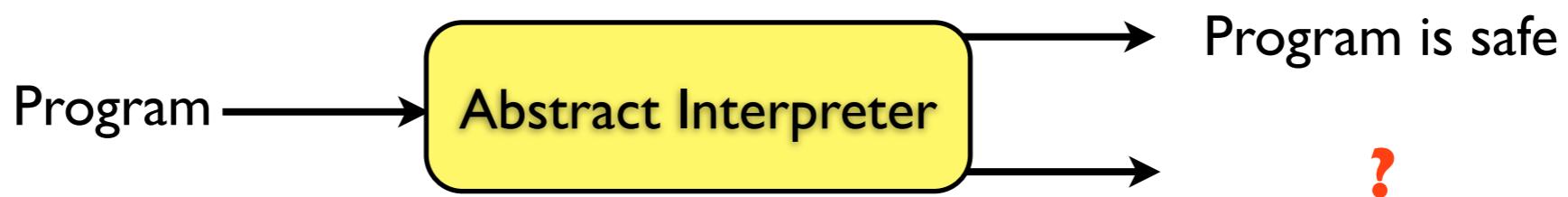
Abstract Interpretation

Decision Procedures

# Abstract Interpretation

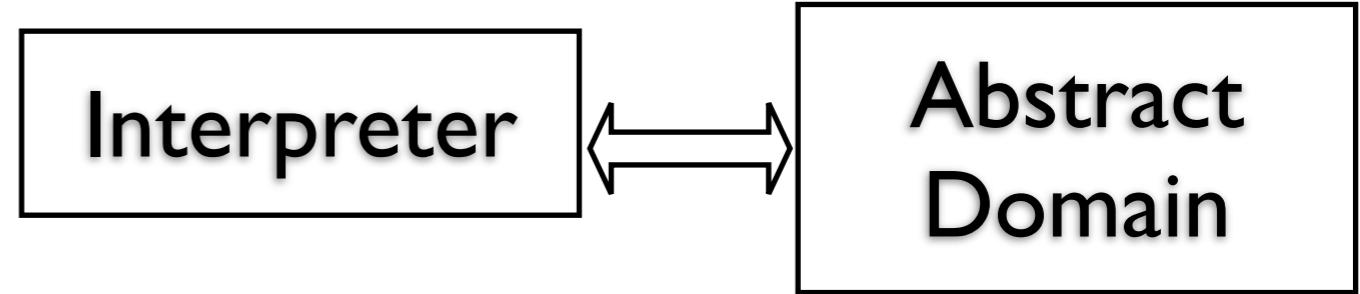


- Instead of exploring all executions, explore a single abstract execution
- Abstract execution contains all concrete executions!
- Highly efficient and scalable, but imprecise



# Abstract Interpretation

An abstract interpreter modularly uses operations provided by an abstract domain. Changing the domain changes the analysis.



## Example

### Signs domain

$$\{+, -\} \cup \{?\}$$

### Constants domain

$$\{c \mid c \in FP\} \cup \{?\}$$

```
float y = 5;  
if(x > 0)  
{  
    float z = x*y;  
    assert(z > 0);  
}
```

$$y = +$$

$$x = +$$

$$z = +$$

safe!

$$y = 5$$

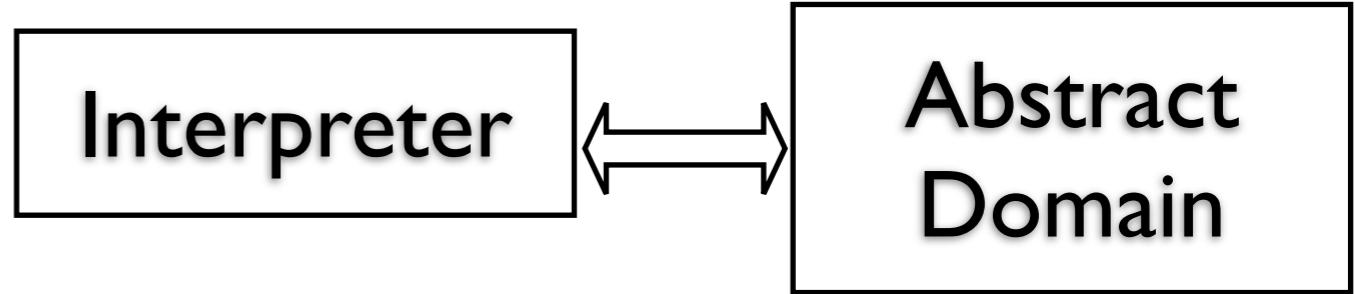
$$x = ?$$

$$z = ?$$

Possibly unsafe

# Abstract Interpretation

An abstract interpreter modularly uses operations provided by an abstract domain. Changing the domain changes the analysis.



## Example

### Interval Domain

$$\{[l, u] \mid l, u \in \text{Int}\}$$

`int x, y;`

$$x, y \in [\min(\text{Int}), \max(\text{Int})]$$

---

```
if(y < 0)
{
    x = y;
```

$$x, y \in [\min(\text{Int}), -1]$$

```
else
{
```

```
    y++;
    x = 5;
```

$$x \in [5, 5], y \in [\min(\text{Int}), \max(\text{Int})]$$

```
}
```

```
assert(x < 6);
```

$$x \in [\min(\text{Int}), 5], y \in [\min(\text{Int}), \max(\text{Int})]$$

# Abstract Interpretation

## Floating Point Intervals

$$\{[l, u] \mid l, u \in FP\} \cup \{\text{?}\}$$

The screenshot shows a VIM editor window with a C program named `sine.c`. The code implements a Taylor series approximation for the sine function. Annotations with arrows explain the abstract interpretation of variable ranges:

- `x`:  $x \in [-1.570796, 1.570796]$
- `result`:  $result \in [-2.216760, 2.216760]$
- `result`:  $result \in [-2.296453, 2.296453]$
- `result`:  $result \in [-2.301135, 2.301135]$

A final annotation states: **Potentially unsafe**.

```
#define HALFPI 1.57079632679f

float sine_approx(float x)
{
    if(x <= -HALFPI || x >= HALFPI);
        return 0.0f;                                → x ∈ [-1.570796, 1.570796]

    float result = x - (x*x*x)/6.0f;              → result ∈ [-2.216760, 2.216760]
    result += (x*x*x*x*x)/120.0f;                  → result ∈ [-2.296453, 2.296453]
    result += (x*x*x*x*x*x*x)/5040.0f;            → result ∈ [-2.301135, 2.301135]

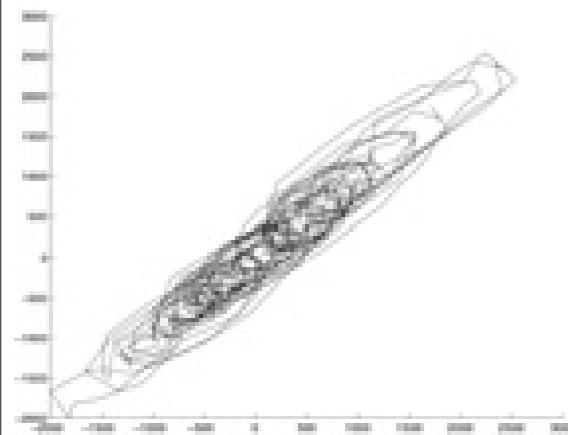
    assert(result <= 1.01 && result >= -1.01);   Potentially unsafe

    return 0;
}

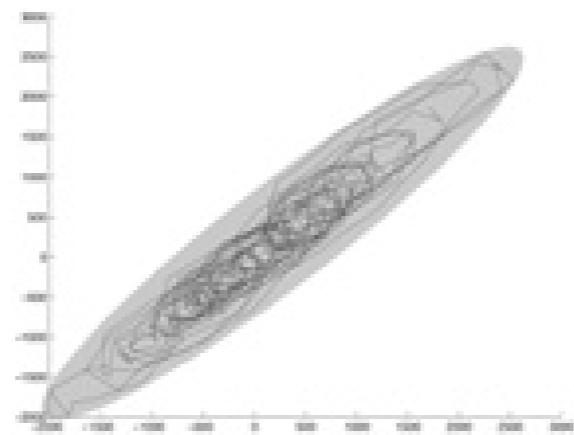
~/work/cprover/src/ai/sine.c [POS=0016,0001] [100%] [LEN=16]
```

# Astrée Abstract Interpreter

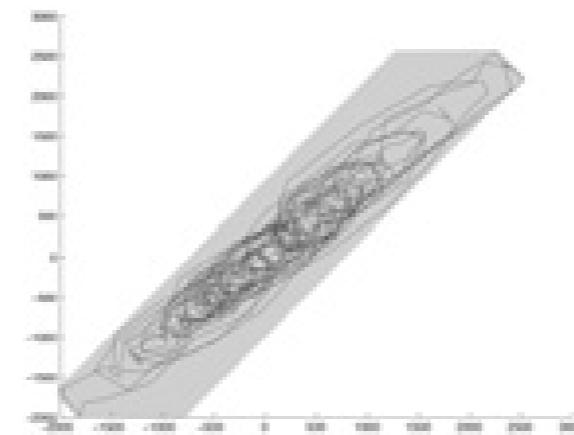
- Mature abstract interpreter by Cousot et. al
- Large number of domains
- Sold and supported by Absint GmbH
- Successful in proving correct large avionics control software: 100k lines of code in 1h -> highly scalable
- Various domains for floating point analysis:



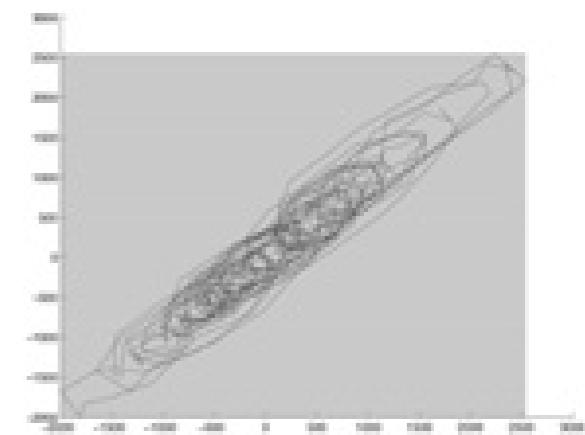
Original traces



Ellipses



Octagons



Intervals

# Abstract Domains for Floating Point

- Abstract domains are typically formulated over the real or rational numbers
- Numeric domains rely on mathematical properties such as associativity which do not hold over floating point numbers

$$(a + b) + c = a + (b + c)$$

- Solution (Minet 2004): Interpret operations over floating point numbers as real number operations + error terms

```
double d;  
float f1, f2;  
  
f1 = (float) d;    →  
f2 = f1*f2;  
  
real d;  
real f1, f2;  
  
f1 = d + round_error(FLOAT_CAST, d);  
f2 = f1*f2 + round_error(FLOAT_MULT, f1, f2);
```

# Fluctuat: Errors as First Class Citizens

- Static analyser built for FP precision analysis
- Idea: Keep track separately of three distinct values for each variable

$$(f^x, r^x, e^x)$$

FP value      Real value      FP error

- Abstract these values separately

```
float x;  
if(*) x = 1f;  
else x = 0f;
```

→ ([1, 1], [1, 1], [0, 0])  
→ ([0, 0], [0, 0], [0, 0])  
→ ([0, 1], [0, 1], [0, 0])

FP and real value are imprecise,  
but there is no rounding error

# Fluctuat: Tracking errors with Zonotopes

- Fluctuat uses zonotope abstractions which combines intervals with noise symbols

```
void foo(float x, bool b)
{
    if (!(x <= 1 && x >= 0))
        return;

    float y = 1.0f + 2*x;
}
```

Noise variables take values in  $[0, 1]$

$$x = \varepsilon_1 \quad (\equiv x \in [0, 1])$$
$$y = 2 * \varepsilon_1 + c * \varepsilon_2 + 1.0f$$

Relation to  $x$  is preserved

new error symbol  
models rounding error

```
graph TD
    A[x = ε₁] --> B[Noise variables take values in [0, 1]]
    A --> C["(≡ x ∈ [0, 1])"]
    D[y = 2 * ε₁ + c * ε₂ + 1.0f] --> E["new error symbol models rounding error"]
```

- The source of imprecisions can be precisely tracked

# Imprecision in Abstract Interpretation

- The efficiency of abstract interpreters comes at the cost of precision. Imprecision is accumulated from three sources:
  - Statements

$$x \in [-5, 5] \quad y = x * x; \quad y \in [-25, 25]$$

$$x \in [0, 1] \quad y = x; \quad x, y \in [0, 1]$$

- Control-flow

```
if(y < 0)
    x = 1;
else
    x = -1;
```

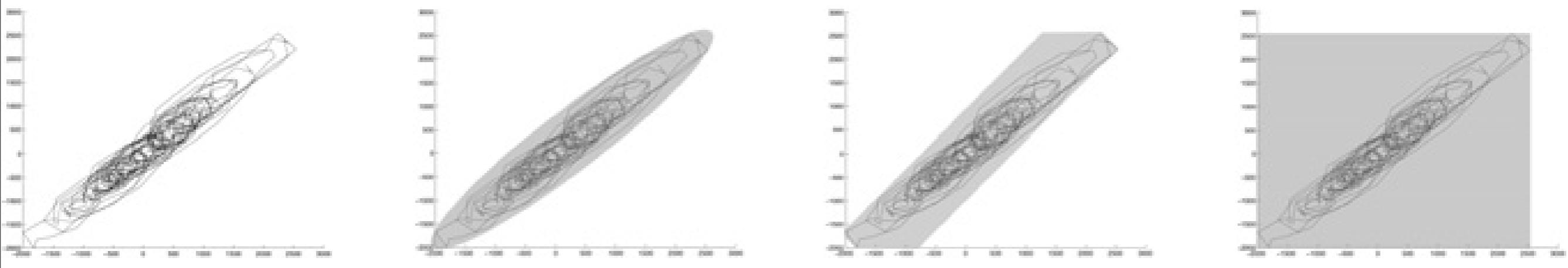
$$x \in [-1, 1]$$

- Loops

$x, y \in [1, 1]$     `while(x < 100000)`     $x \in [100001, \max(Int)]$   
                  {    $x++$ ;    $y++$ ;   }     $y \in [\min(Int), \max(Int)]$

# Imprecision in Abstract Interpretation

- For efficiency reasons, most numeric abstract domains are convex

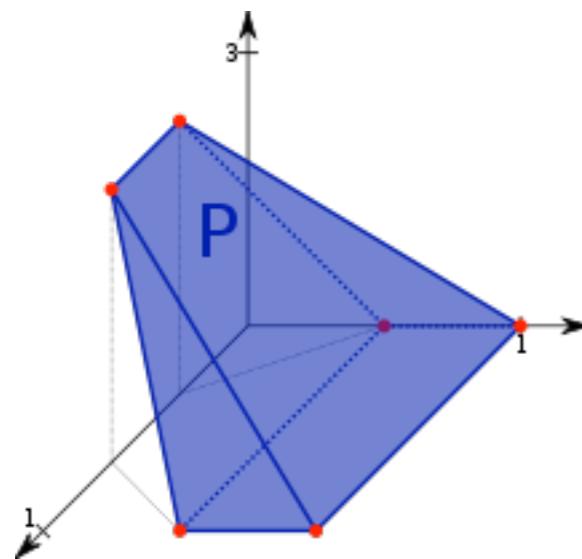


Original traces

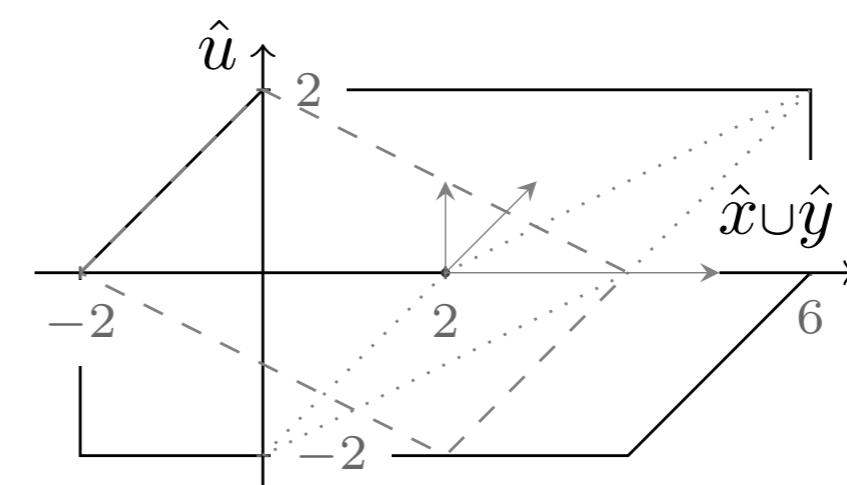
Ellipses

Octagons

Intervals



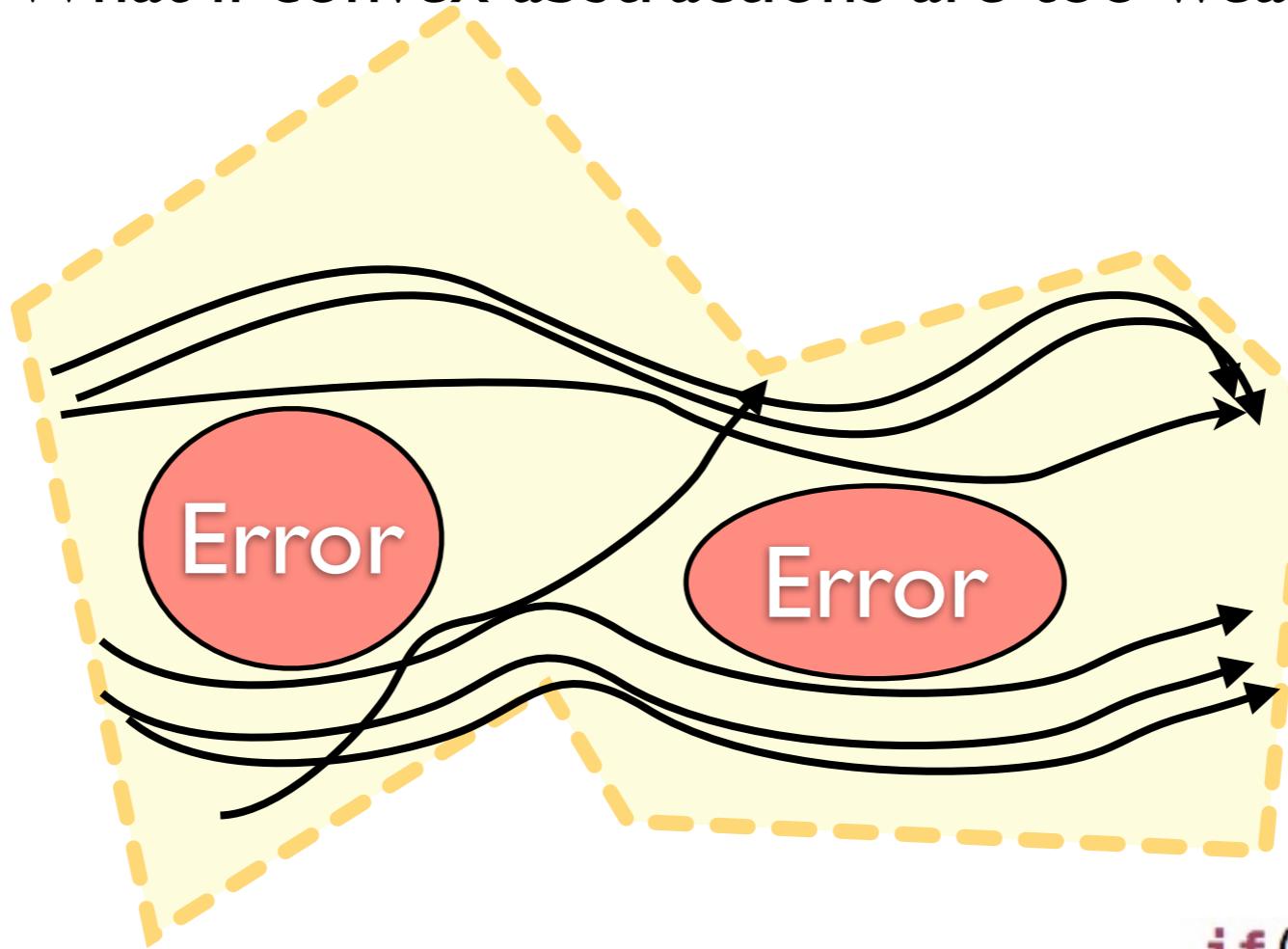
Convex polyhedra



Zonotope

# Imprecision in Abstract Interpretation

What if convex abstractions are too weak?



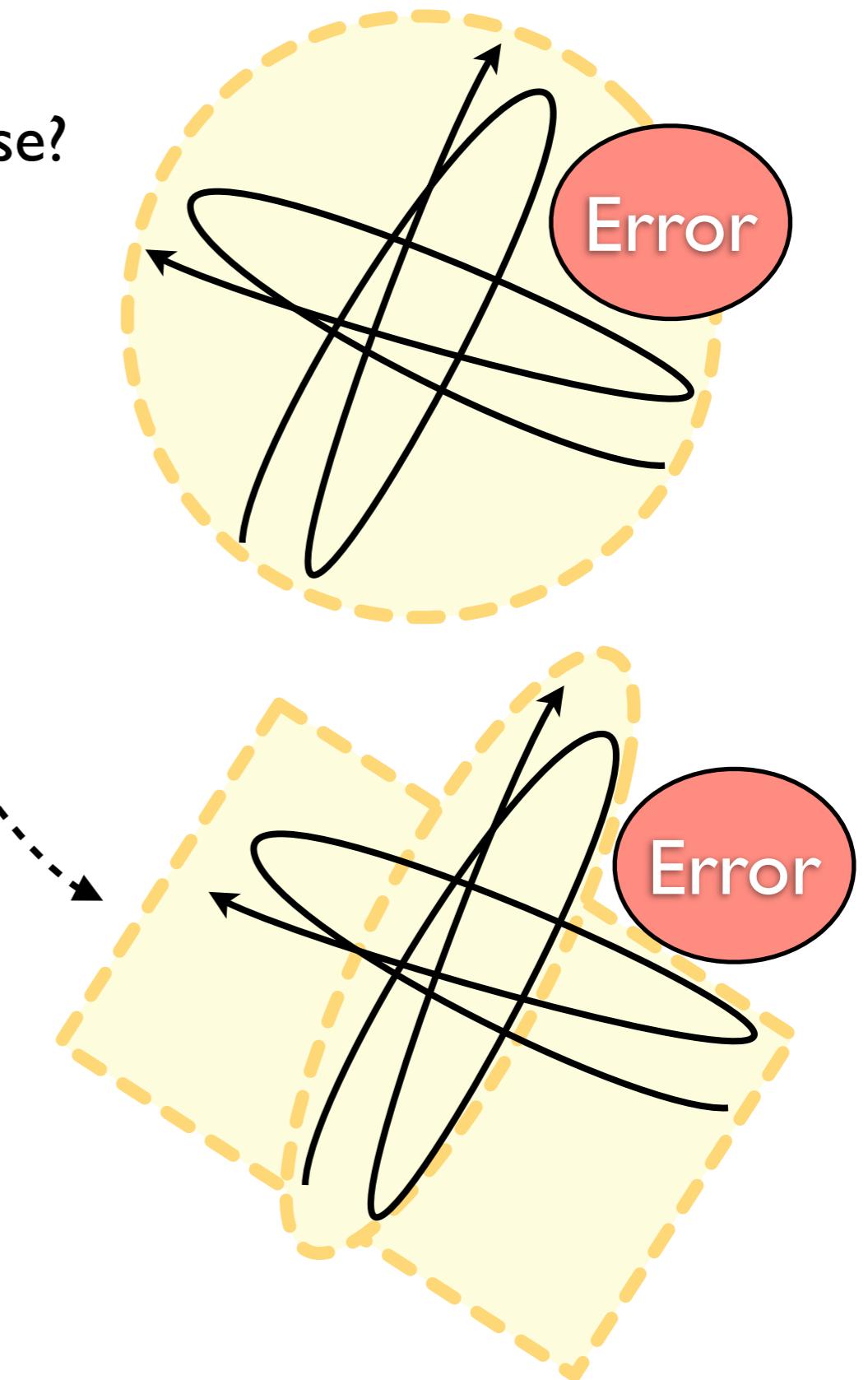
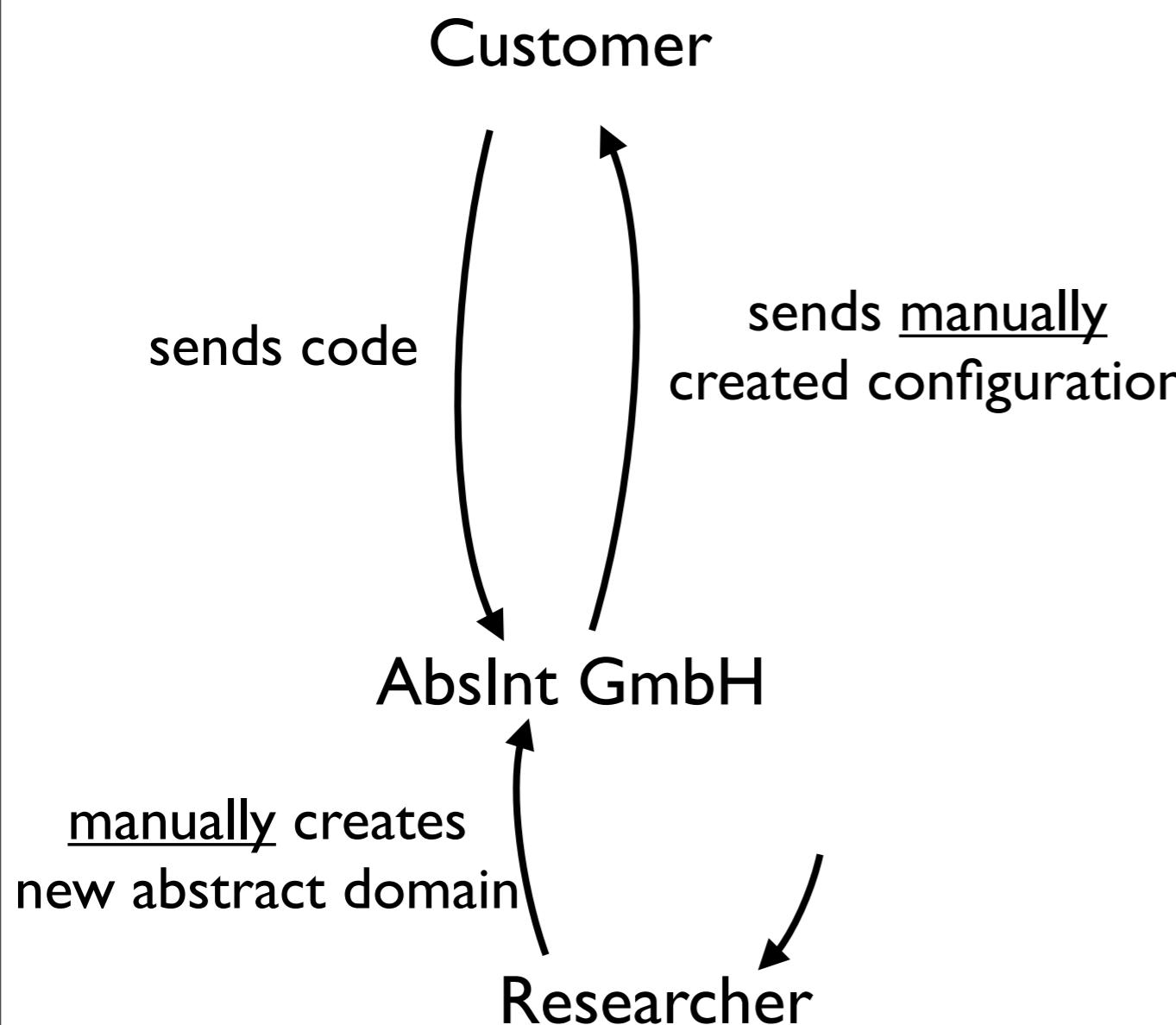
Very common scenario

```
if(*)
  x = 1;
else
  x = -1;
```

```
assert(x != 0);
```

# Handling Imprecision

What happens if the analysis is imprecise?



# Abstract Interpretation

## Conclusion:

- Very scalable
- Imprecise
- Precise results require experts and research effort
- Expert created domains are moderately reusable
- Feasible for programs with homogenous structure and behaviour (success in avionics)

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- P. Cousot, R. Cousot, J. Feret, L. Mauborgne, A. Miné, D. Monniaux and Xavier Rival. The ASTREÉ analyzer. ESOP 2005
- E. Goubault, M. Martel and S. Putot. Asserting the precision of floating-point computations: a simple abstract interpreter. ESOP 2002

Requires experts,  
expensive, powerful

Manual

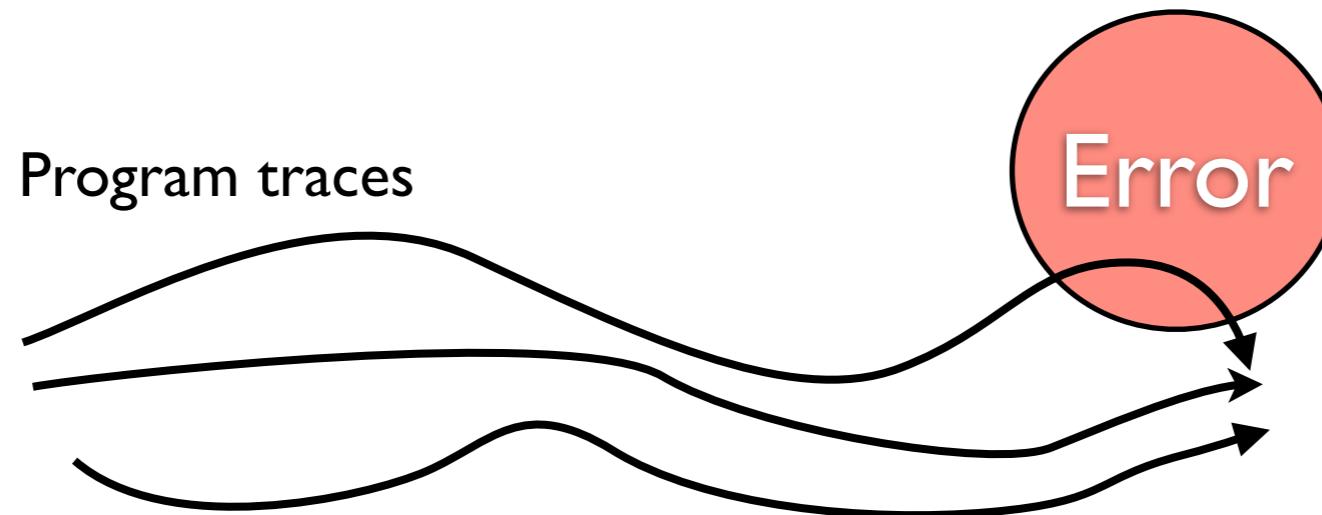
## Abstract Interpretation

Scalable and efficient.  
Precise analysis requires experts

## Decision Procedures

## Decision Procedures

- Precisely explore a large set of program traces
- For efficiency, represent problem *symbolically* as satisfiability of a logical formula

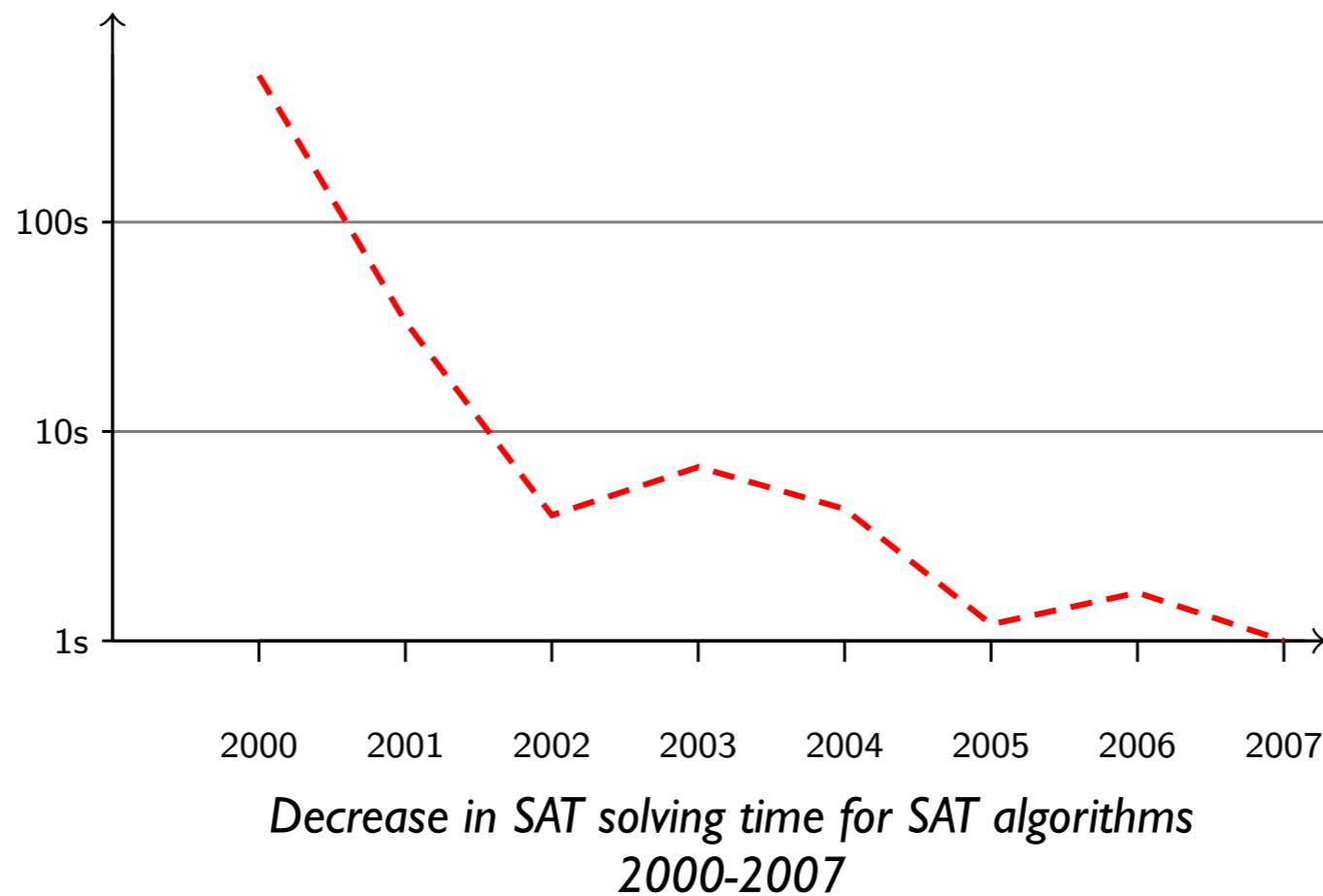


Program is safe exactly if  $isTrace(t) \wedge error(t)$  is satisfied by some  $t$

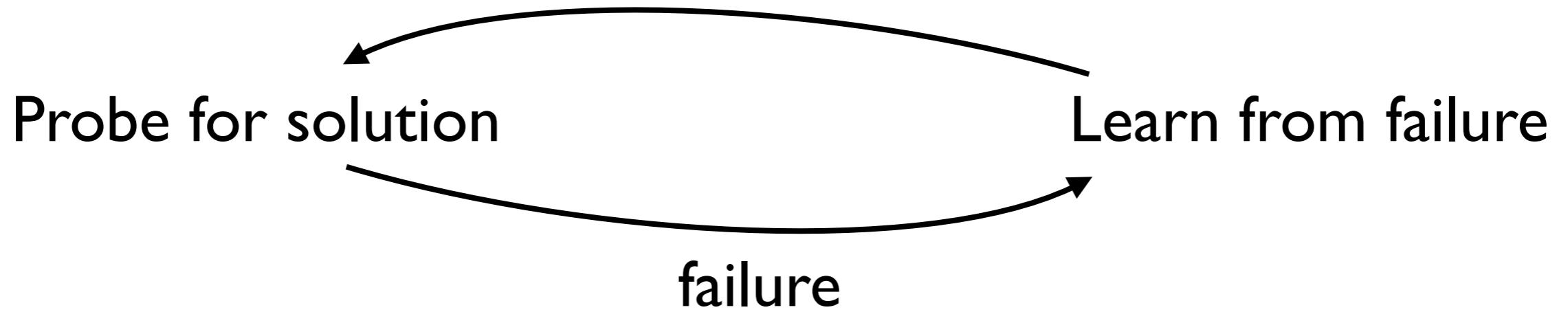
# Propositional SAT

**Propositional formula:**  $\varphi = (a \vee \neg b) \wedge (\neg a \vee b) \wedge \neg b$

Is there an assignment to a,b that makes the formula true?



# Why are SAT solvers so efficient



- SAT solvers learn from failure
- SAT solvers spot relevance

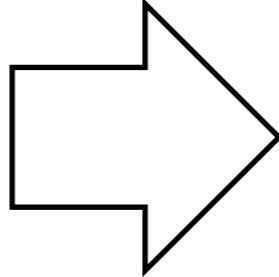
# Decision Procedures

## Example

```
int foo(int a, int b, bool c)
{
    int result;

    if(c)
        result = a/b;
    else
        result = a*b;

    if(a>0 && b>0)
        assert(result >= 0);
}
```



$$\begin{aligned} c \rightarrow (r = a /_{32} b) \\ \wedge \neg c \rightarrow (r = a *_{32} b) \\ \wedge a > 0 \wedge b > 0 \wedge r < 0 \end{aligned}$$

Can be translated to *propositional logic* using divider and multiplier circuits

$$a, b \mapsto 123456789$$

$$r \mapsto -1757895751$$

$$c \mapsto \text{false}$$

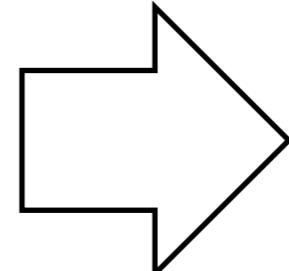
Counter-example!

The formula evaluates to true under the following assignment:

# Bounded Model Checking

Loops require unrolling  
before translation

```
int foo(int *a)
{
    int sum;
    for(int i = 0; i < N; i++)
        sum+=a[i];
    assert(sum > 0);
    return sum;
}
```

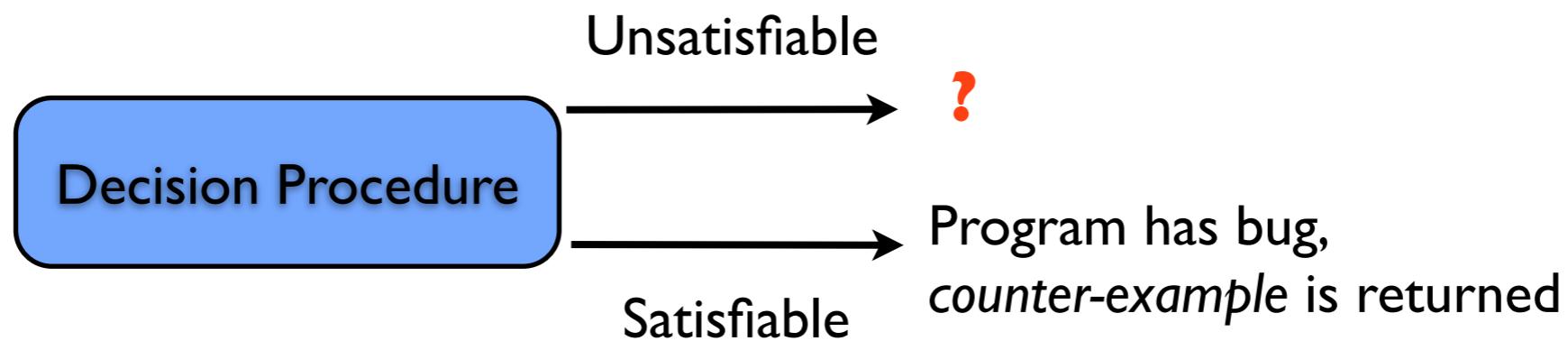
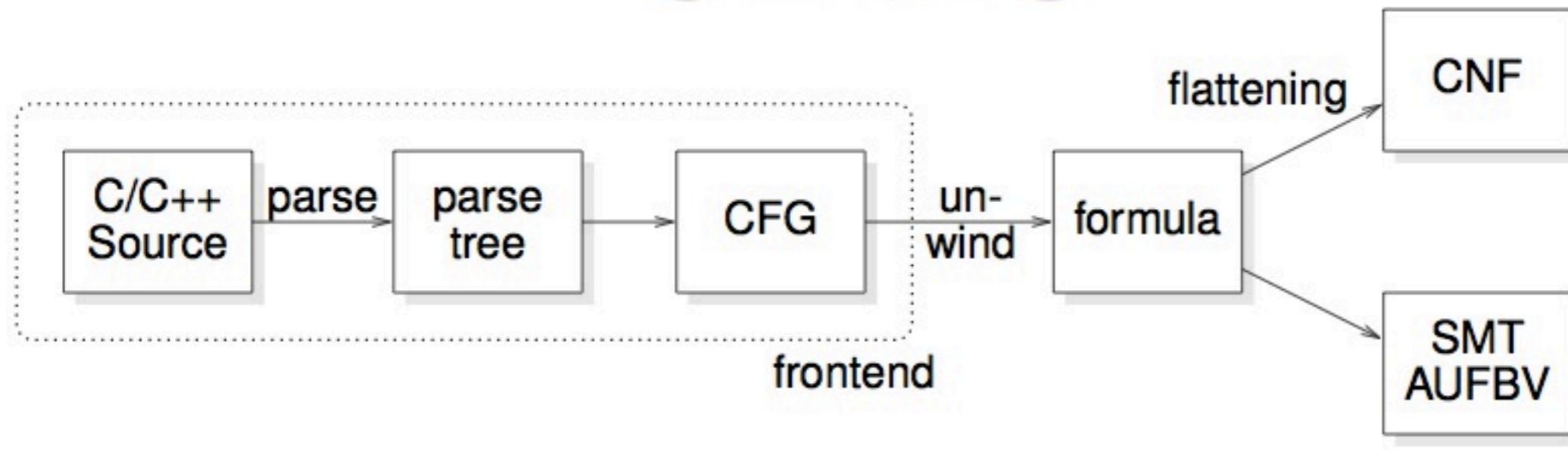


```
int foo(int *a)
{
    int sum;
    int i = 0;
    if(i < N)
    {
        sum += a[i];
        if(++i < N)
        {
            sum += a[i];
            if(++i < N)
            {
                ...
            }
        }
    }
    assert(sum > 0);
    return sum;
}
```

If the loop does not have a known fixed bound,  
the result is unrolled up to a chosen depth.

# Bounded Model Checking

# CBMC



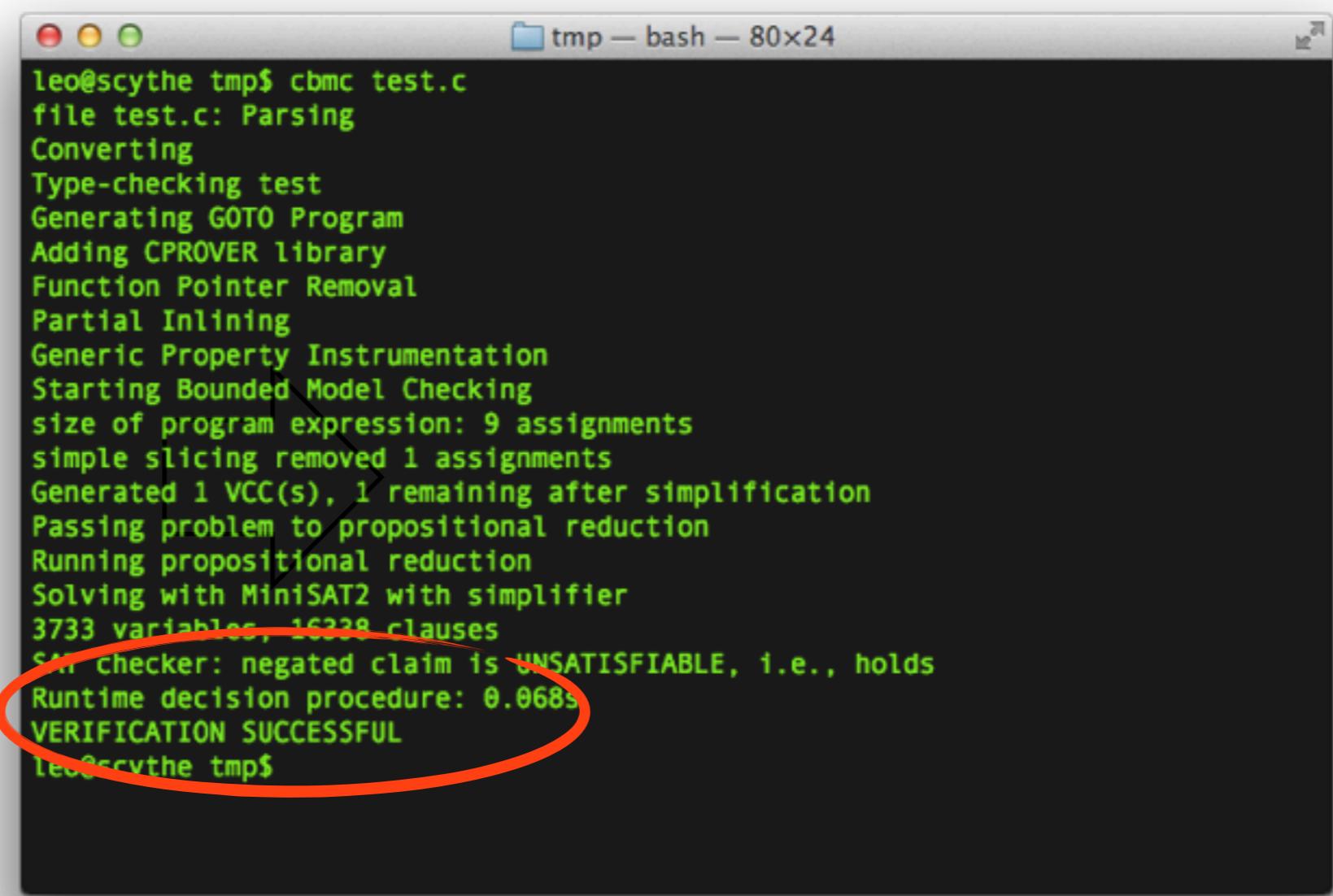
## FP support in CBMC (2008)

- CBMC implements bit-precise reasoning over floating-point numbers using a propositional encoding
- Uses IEEE-754 semantics with support various rounding-modes
- Allows proofs of complex, bit-level properties

```
int main()
{
    union {
        int i;
        float f;
    } u;

    u.f += u.i + 1;

    assert(u.i != 0);
}
```



```
leo@scythe tmp$ cbmc test.c
file test.c: Parsing
Converting
Type-checking test
Generating GOTO Program
Adding CPROVER library
Function Pointer Removal
Partial Inlining
Generic Property Instrumentation
Starting Bounded Model Checking
size of program expression: 9 assignments
simple slicing removed 1 assignments
Generated 1 VCC(s), 1 remaining after simplification
Passing problem to propositional reduction
Running propositional reduction
Solving with MiniSAT2 with simplifier
3733 variables, 16338 clauses
SAT checker: negated claim is UNSATISFIABLE, i.e., holds
Runtime decision procedure: 0.068s
VERIFICATION SUCCESSFUL
leo@scythe tmp$
```

## Scalability of Propositional Encoding

- Floating-point arithmetic is flattened to propositional logic
- Requires instantiation of large floating point arithmetic circuits

```
for(int i = 0; i < N; i++)
{
    f *= f;
}
```

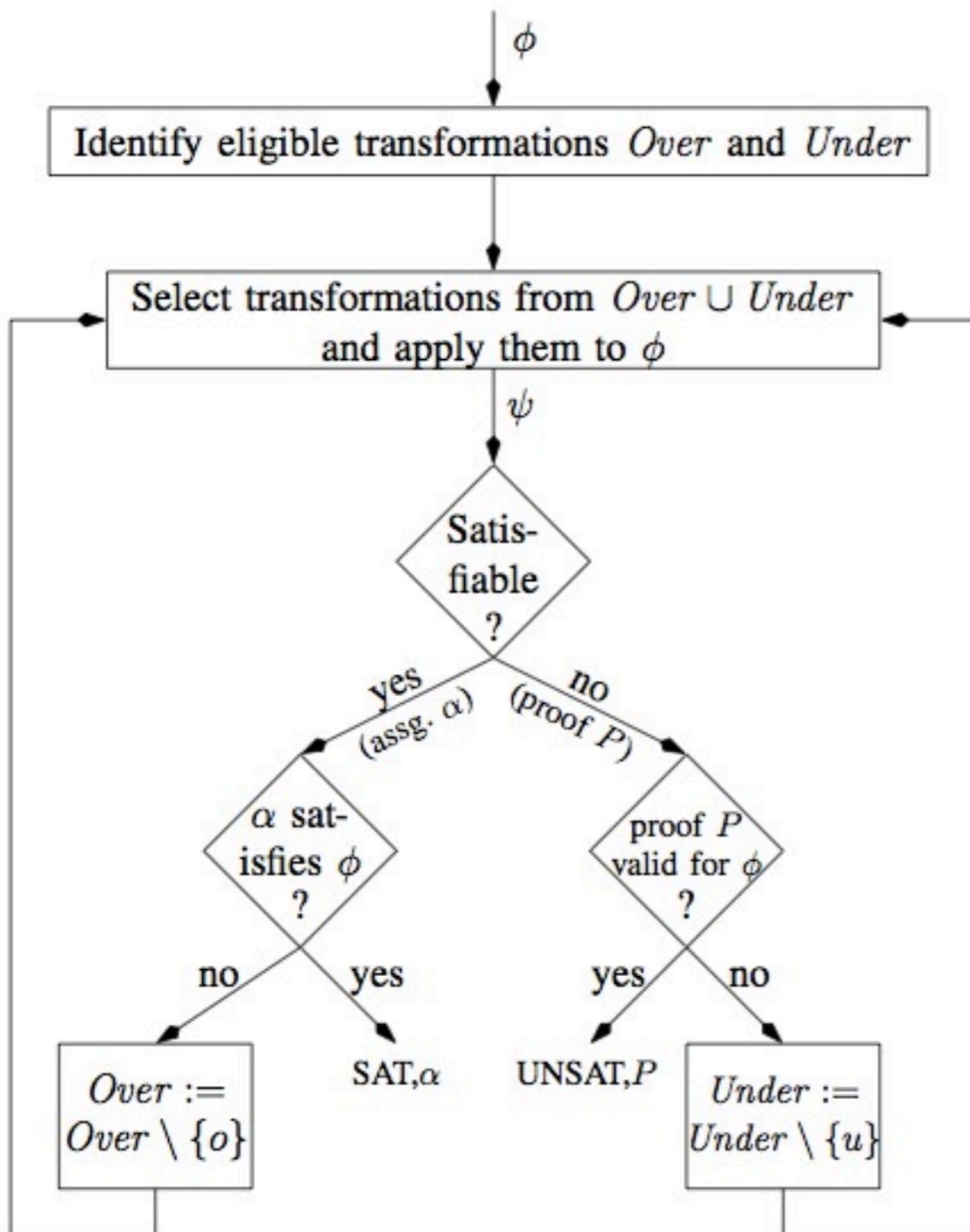
N	Nr.Variables	Memory use
5	~130000	~90MB
10	~260000	~180MB

- Resulting formulas are hard for SAT solvers and take up large amounts of memory

## Mixed Abstractions for Floating Point Arithmetic (2009)

- Use propositional abstraction to increase efficiency and ease memory requirements
- Novel mixed abstraction framework
  - Over-approximations allow more behaviours: Reduce the initial number of variables. Eases memory requirements and improves efficiency.
  - Under-approximations restrict behaviours: Allows us to quickly identify solutions.
- Integrated with CBMC and the Boolector SMT solver

# Mixed Abstractions for Floating Point Arithmetic (2009)



Benchmark	Lines of Code	Satisfiable?	No Abstr.	Mixed		
			time (s)	time (s)	#iter.	
qurt.c, claim 1	109	no	25	2	15	
qurt.c, claim 2	109	no	25	0.6	7	
qurt.c, claim 3	109	no	25	1	13	
qurt.c, claim 4	109	no	OM	478	103	
qurt.c, claim 5	109	no	25	1.2	15	
qurt.c, claim 6	109	no	25	0.6	7	
qurt.c, claim 7	109	no	6716	84	86	
sqrt.c, claim 1	51	no	24	13589	44	
sqrt.c, claim 2	51	yes	9	TO	107	
minver.c, claim 1	156	no	1	0.1	1	
minver.c, claim 2	156	yes	2	0.1	1	
sin.c, claim 1	46	no	13864	281	47	
sin.c, claim 2	46	no	13831	281	47	
sin.c, claim 3	46	no	TO	1074	63	
gaussian.c, claim 1	108	no	TO	14437	137	

Fig. 4. The Framework of Mixed Abstraction

## Related work

### Constraint satisfaction

C. Michel, M. Rueher and Y. Lebbah: Solving constraints over floating-point numbers. CP2001

B. Botella, A. Gotlieb and C. Michel: Symbolic execution of floating-point computations. STVR2006

### SMT

P. Ruemmer and T. Wahl. An SMT-LIB theory of binary floating-point arithmetic. SMT 2010

A. Brillout, D. Kroening and T. Wahl. Mixed abstractions for floating point arithmetic. FMCAD 2009

R. Brummayer and A. Biere. Boolector: An Efficient SMT Solver for Bit-Vectors and Arrays. TACAS 2009

### Incomplete Solvers

S. Boldo, J.-C. Filliâtre and G. Melquiond. Combining Coq and Gappa for Certifying Floating-Point Programs. Calculemus 2009.

Requires experts,  
scalable, precise

Manual

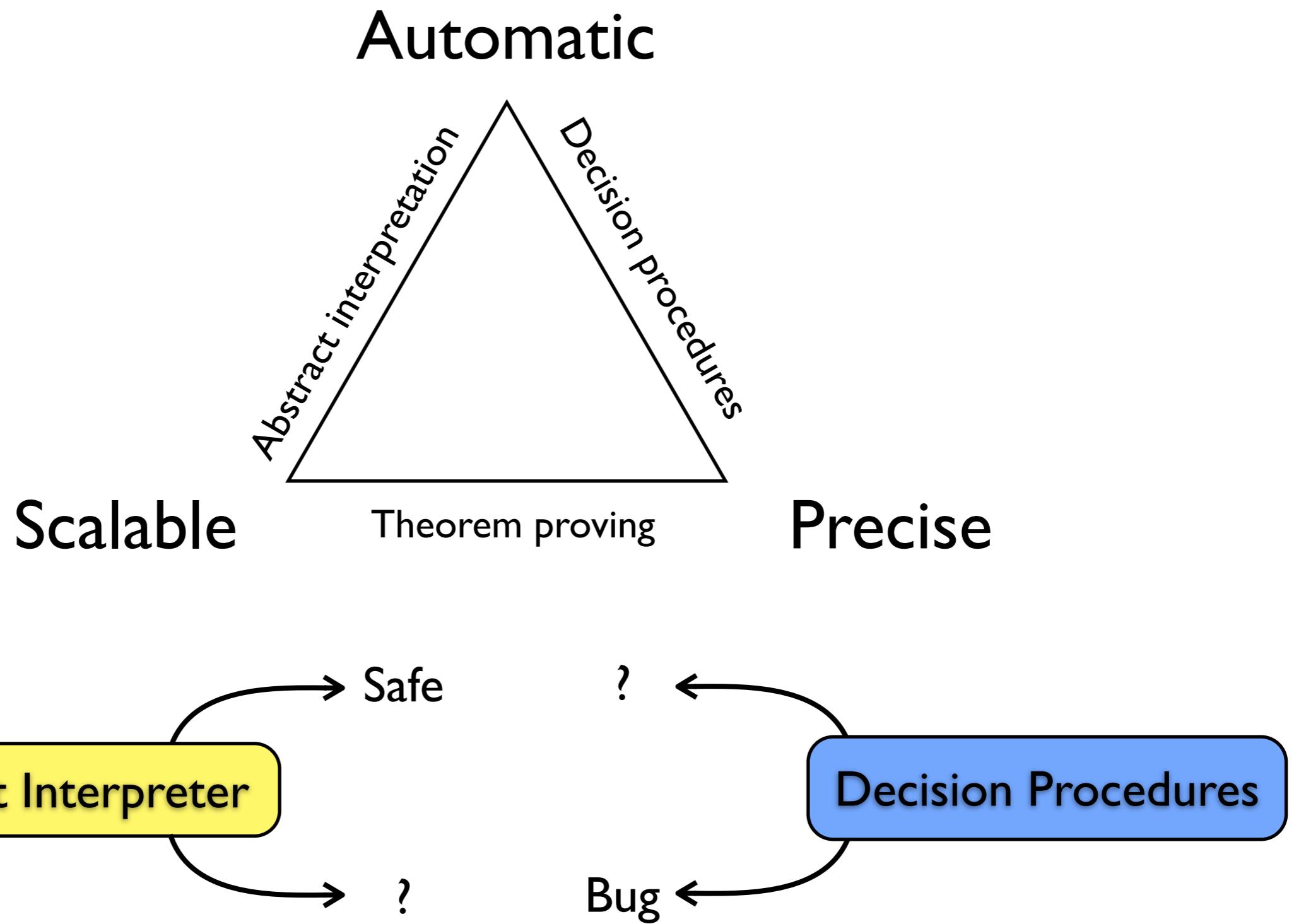
## Abstract Interpretation

Scalable.  
Precision requires experts

## Decision Procedures

Precise.  
Scalability requires experts

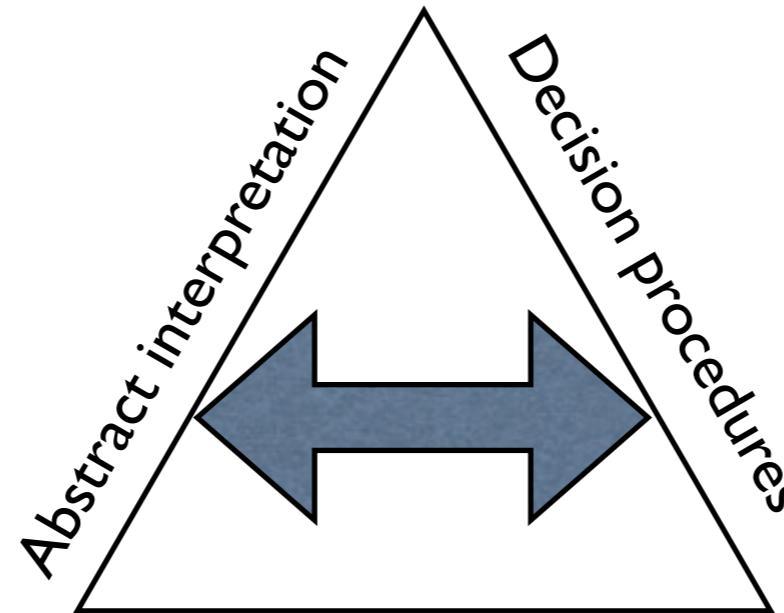
# Conclusion Part I



# Questions so far?

# Part II

# Automatic



## Scalable

## Precise

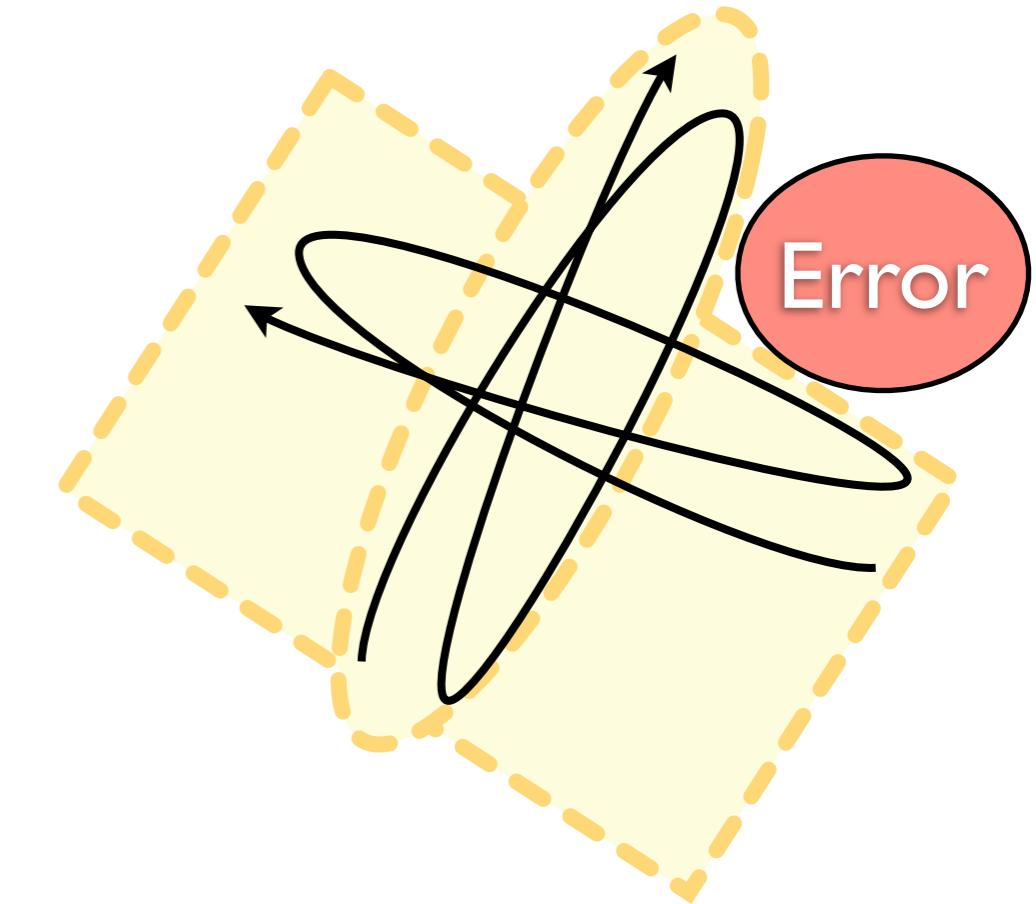
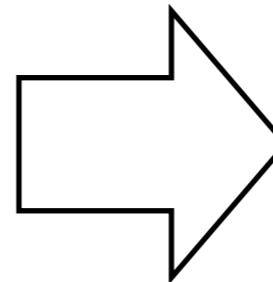
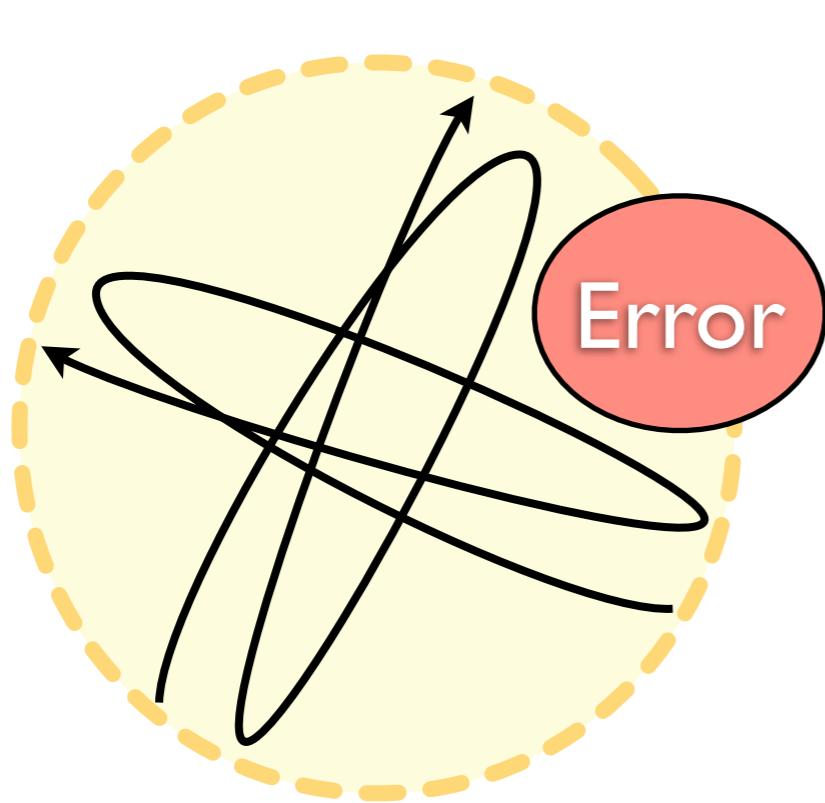
We are interested in techniques that are

- scalable
- sufficiently precise to prove safety
- fully automatic

Central insight:

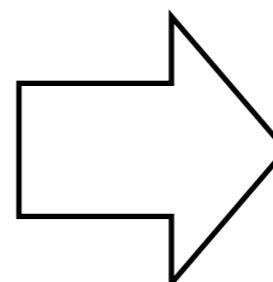
Modern decision procedure<sub>48</sub> are abstract interpreters!

# Manually adjusting analysis precision by abstract partitioning



```
void foo(int x)
{
    int y;
    if(x < 0)
        y = 1;
    else
        y = -1;
    assert(y != 0);
}
```

Potentially unsafe!



```
void foo_precise(int x)
{
    if(x < 0)
        foo(x)
    else
        foo(x);
}

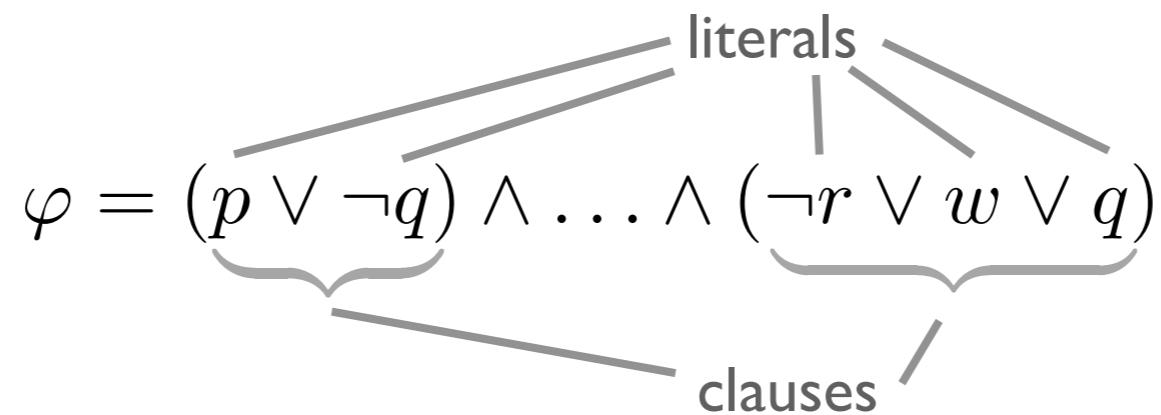
void foo(int x)
{
    ...
}
```

Safe!

# How do we find the partition automatically?

# SAT solving by example

SAT solvers accept formulas in conjunctive normal form



Their main data structure is a partial variable assignment  
which represents a solution candidate

$$V \rightarrow \{t, f\}$$

# SAT solving: Deduction

$$\varphi = p \wedge (\neg p \vee \neg q) \wedge (q \vee r \vee \neg w) \wedge (q \vee r \vee w)$$

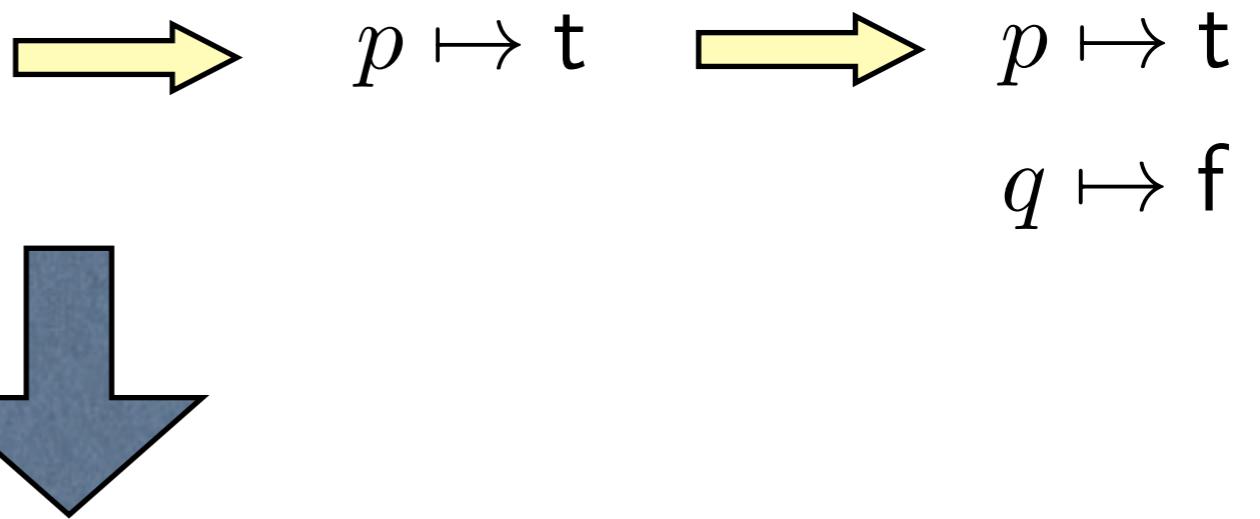
SAT deduces new facts from clauses:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \longrightarrow & p \mapsto t & \longrightarrow \\ & & p \mapsto t \\ & & q \mapsto f \end{array}$$

At this point, clauses yield no further information

# SAT is Abstract Analysis: Deduction

$$\varphi = p \wedge (\neg p \vee \neg q) \wedge (q \vee r \vee \neg w) \wedge (q \vee r \vee w)$$



```
void foo(void)
{
    bool p, q, r, w;
    if(p)
        if(!p || !q)
            if(q || r || !w)
                if(q || r || w)
                    assert(0);
}
```

The result of deduction is identical to applying interval analysis to the program:

$$\frac{p \in [1, 1]}{q \in [0, 0]}$$

Deduction in a SAT solver is abstract analysis

# SAT solving: Decisions

$$\varphi = p \wedge (\neg p \vee \neg q) \wedge (q \vee r \vee \neg w) \wedge (q \vee r \vee w)$$

SAT solver makes a “guess”

Pick an unassigned variable and assign a truth value

$$p \mapsto t$$

$$q \mapsto f$$



$$p \mapsto t$$

$$q \mapsto f$$

$$r \mapsto f$$

Now new deductions are possible

# SAT solving: Learning

$$\varphi = p \wedge (\neg p \vee \neg q) \wedge (q \vee r \vee \neg w) \wedge (q \vee r \vee w)$$

$$p \mapsto \text{t}$$

$$q \mapsto \text{f}$$

$$r \mapsto \text{f}$$

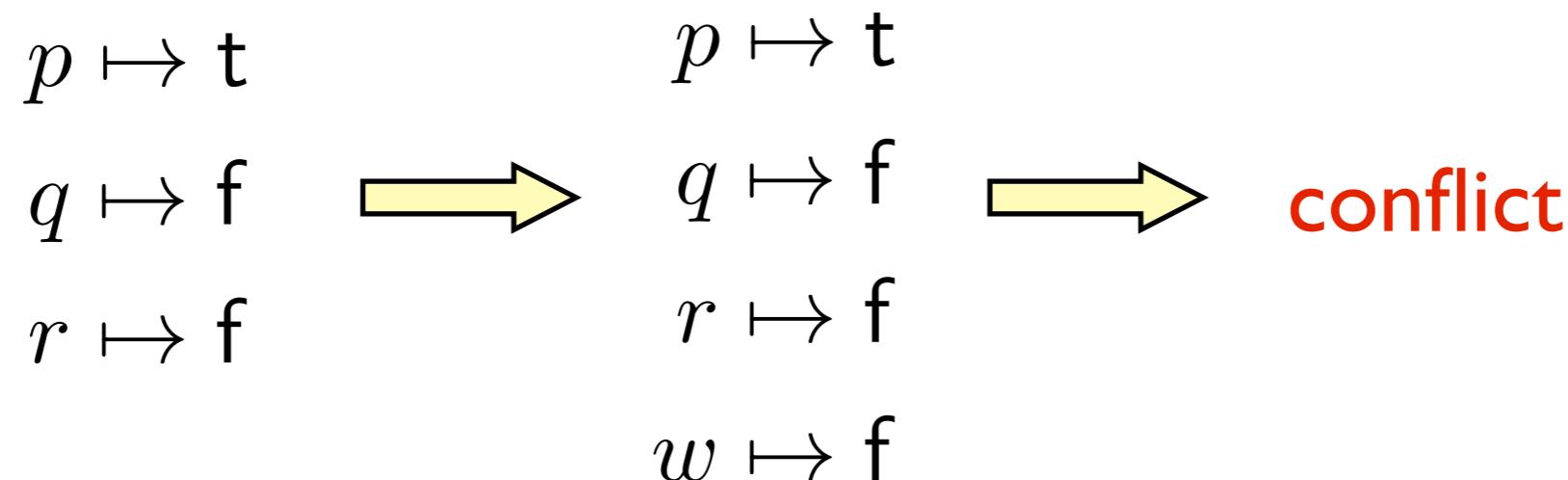
The variable  $w$  would have to be both true and false.

The contradiction is the result of  $r$  being assigned to false as part of a decision. The SAT solver therefore learns that  $r$  must be true:

$$\varphi \leftarrow \varphi \wedge r$$

# SAT solving: Learning

$$\varphi = p \wedge (\neg p \vee \neg q) \wedge (q \vee r \vee \neg w) \wedge (q \vee r \vee w)$$



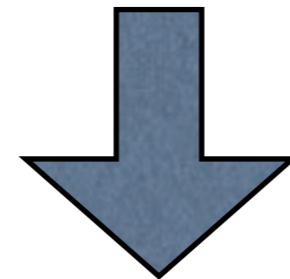
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$$\varphi \leftarrow \varphi \wedge r$$

# SAT is Abstract Analysis: Decisions & Learning

$$\varphi \longrightarrow \varphi \wedge r$$



```
void foo(void)
{
    bool p, q, r, w;

    if(p)
        if(!p || !q)
            if(q || r || !w)
                if(q || r || w)
                    assert(0);
}
```

$$\longrightarrow$$

```
void foo_precise()
{
    if(r)
        foo();
}

void foo()
{
    ...
}
```

Decisions and learning in a SAT solver are abstract partitioning

# SAT is Abstract Analysis

- Deduction in SAT is abstract interpretation
- Decisions and learning are abstract partitioning
- The SAT algorithm is really an automatic partition refinement algorithm.

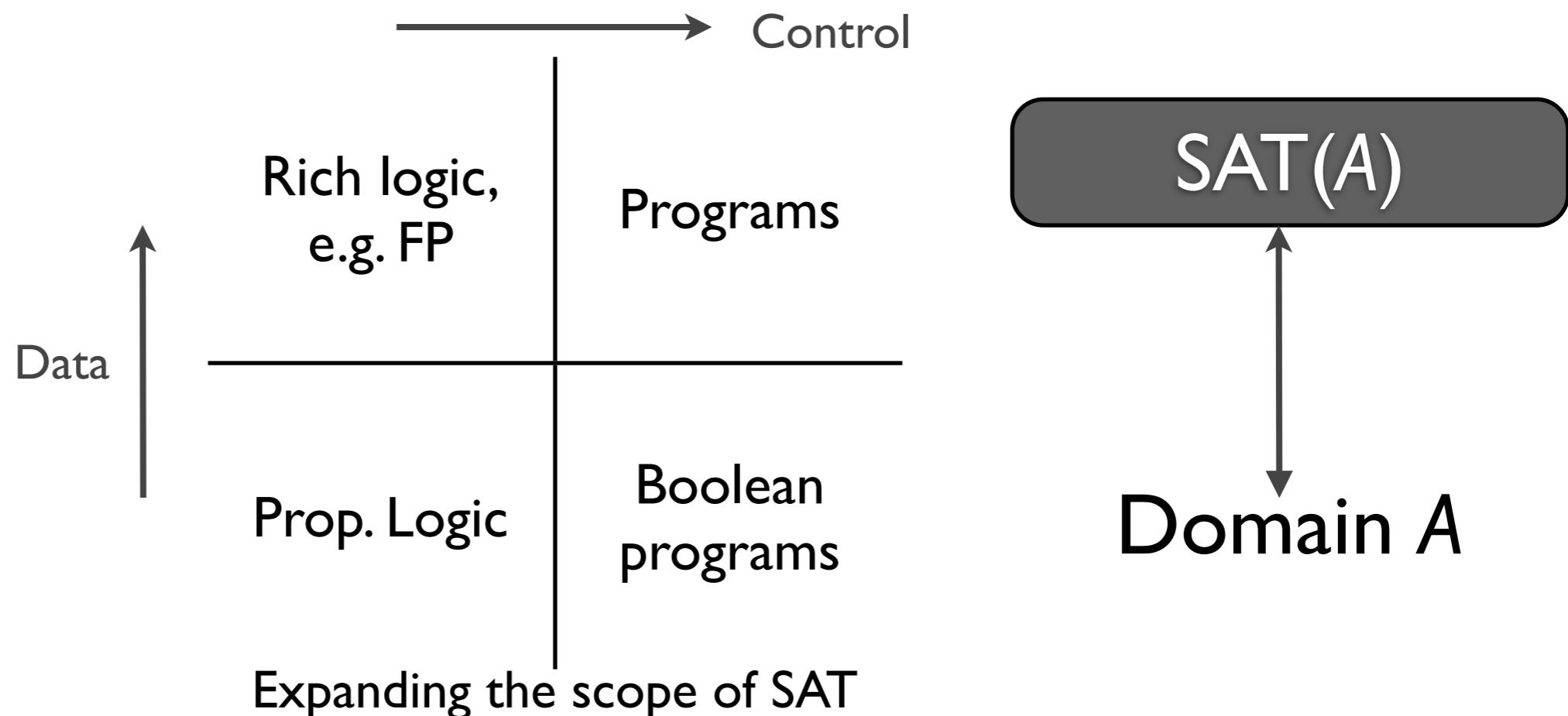
SAT(A)

Domain A

Expanding the scope of SAT

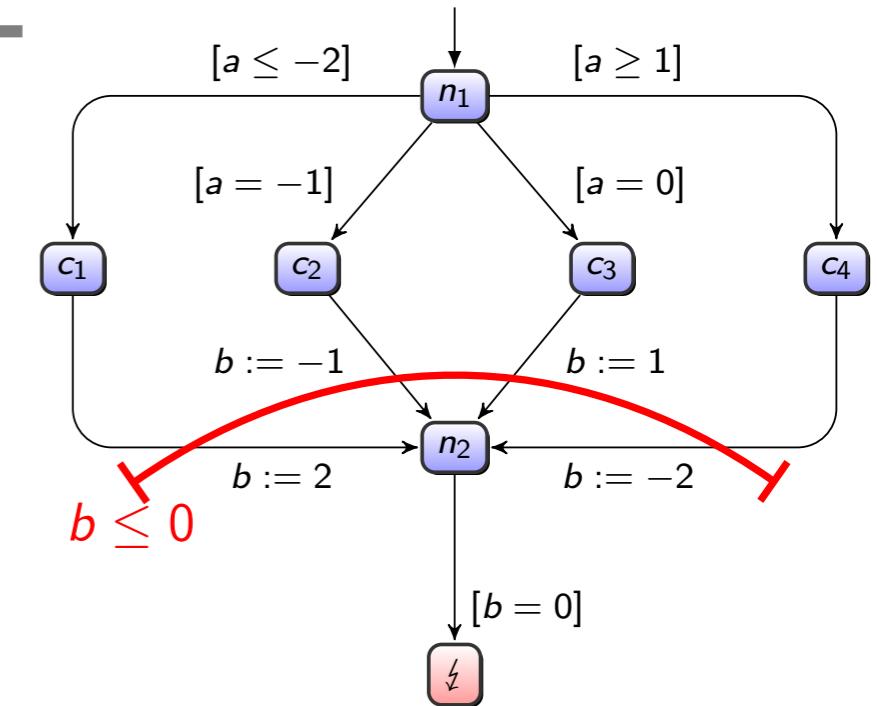
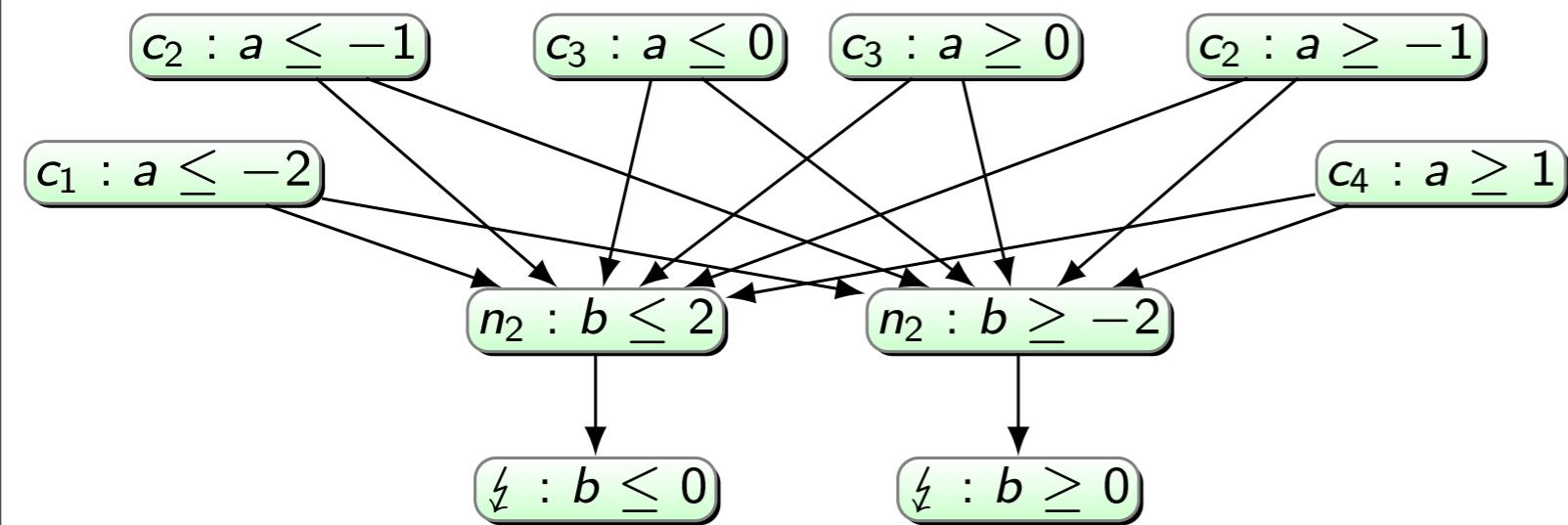
# SAT is Abstract Analysis

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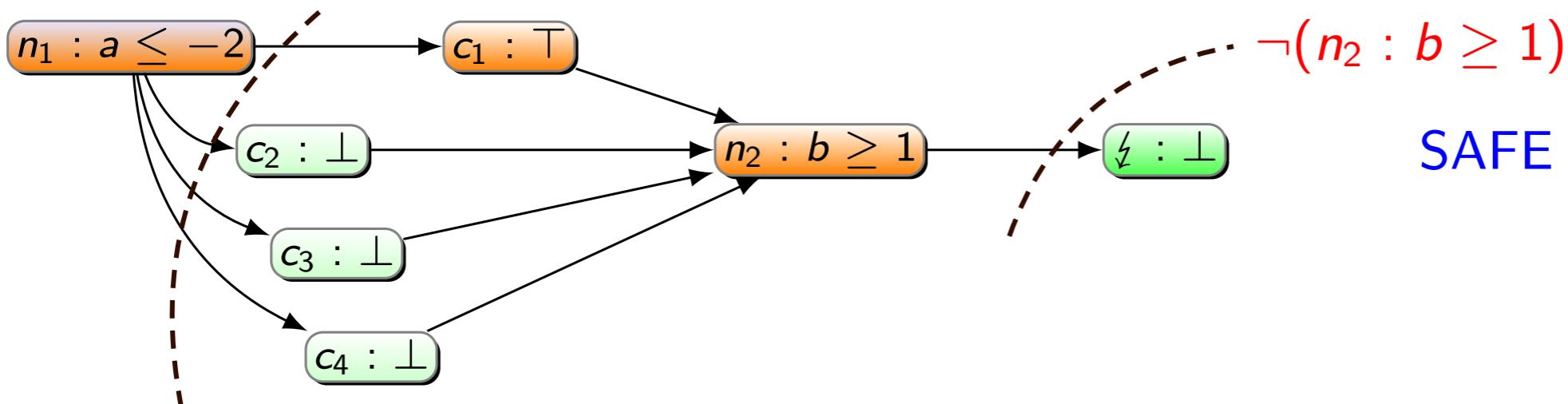


# SAT for programs

DL0



DL1



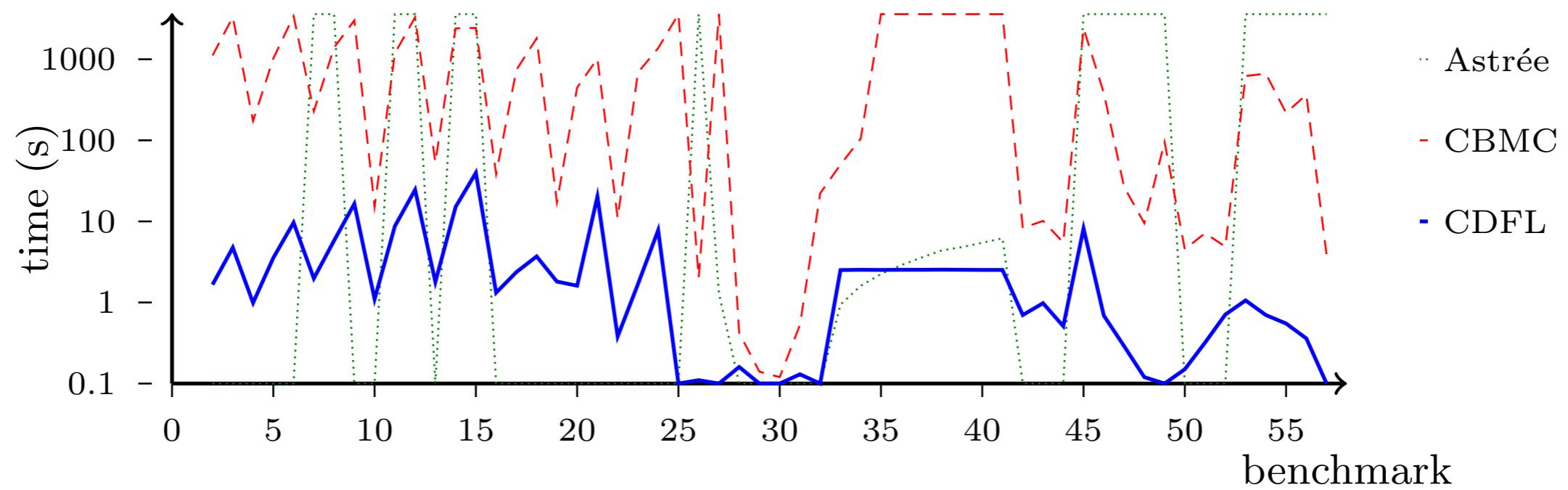
SAFE → find cut

# Prototype: Abstract Conflict Driven Learning (ACDL)

- Implementation over floating-point intervals
- Automatically refines an analysis in a way that is
  - Property dependent
  - Program dependent
- Uses learning to intelligently explore partitions
- Significantly more precise than mature abstract interpreters
- Significantly more efficient than floating-point decision procedures on short non-linear programs

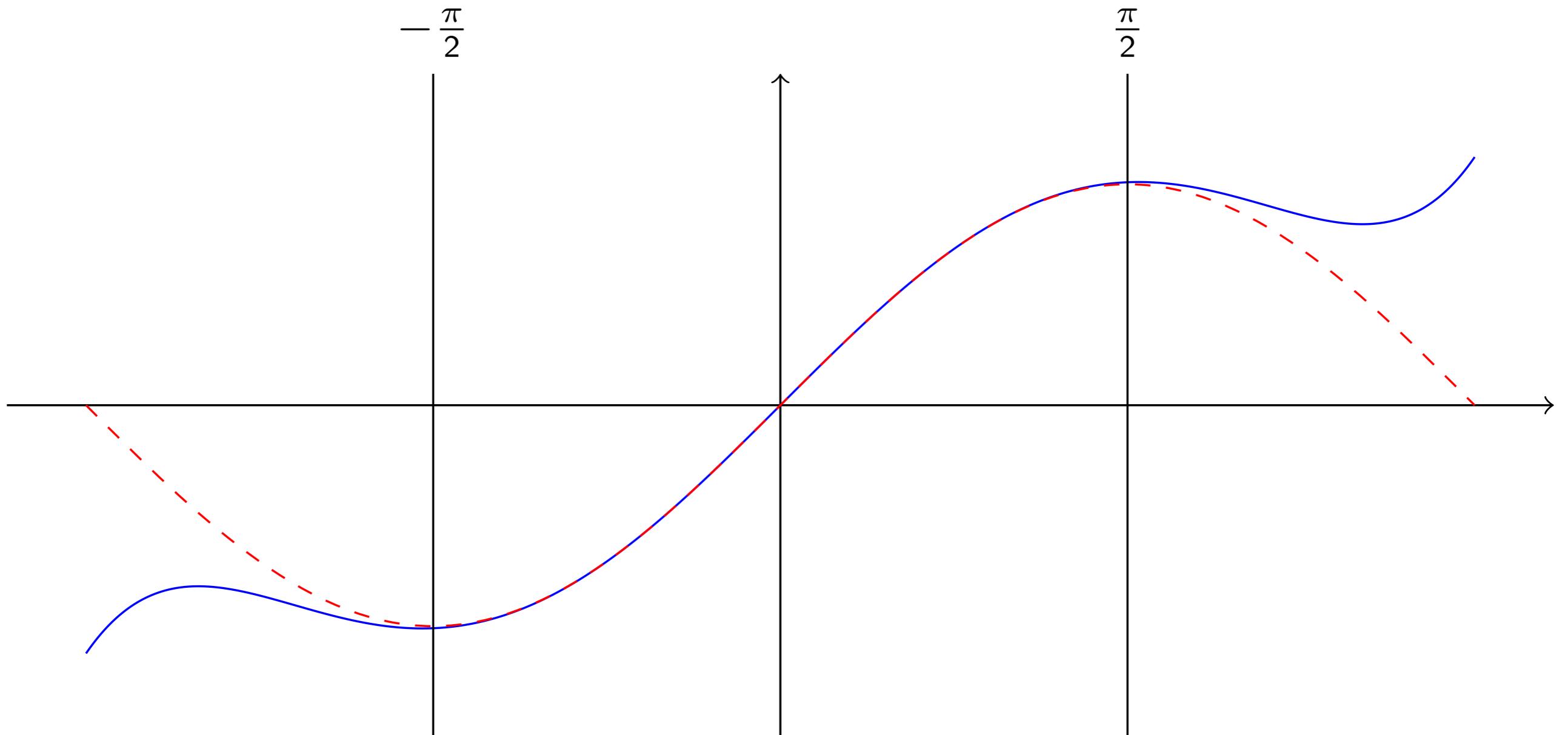
# Demo

# More results



Average speedup over CBMC ~270x

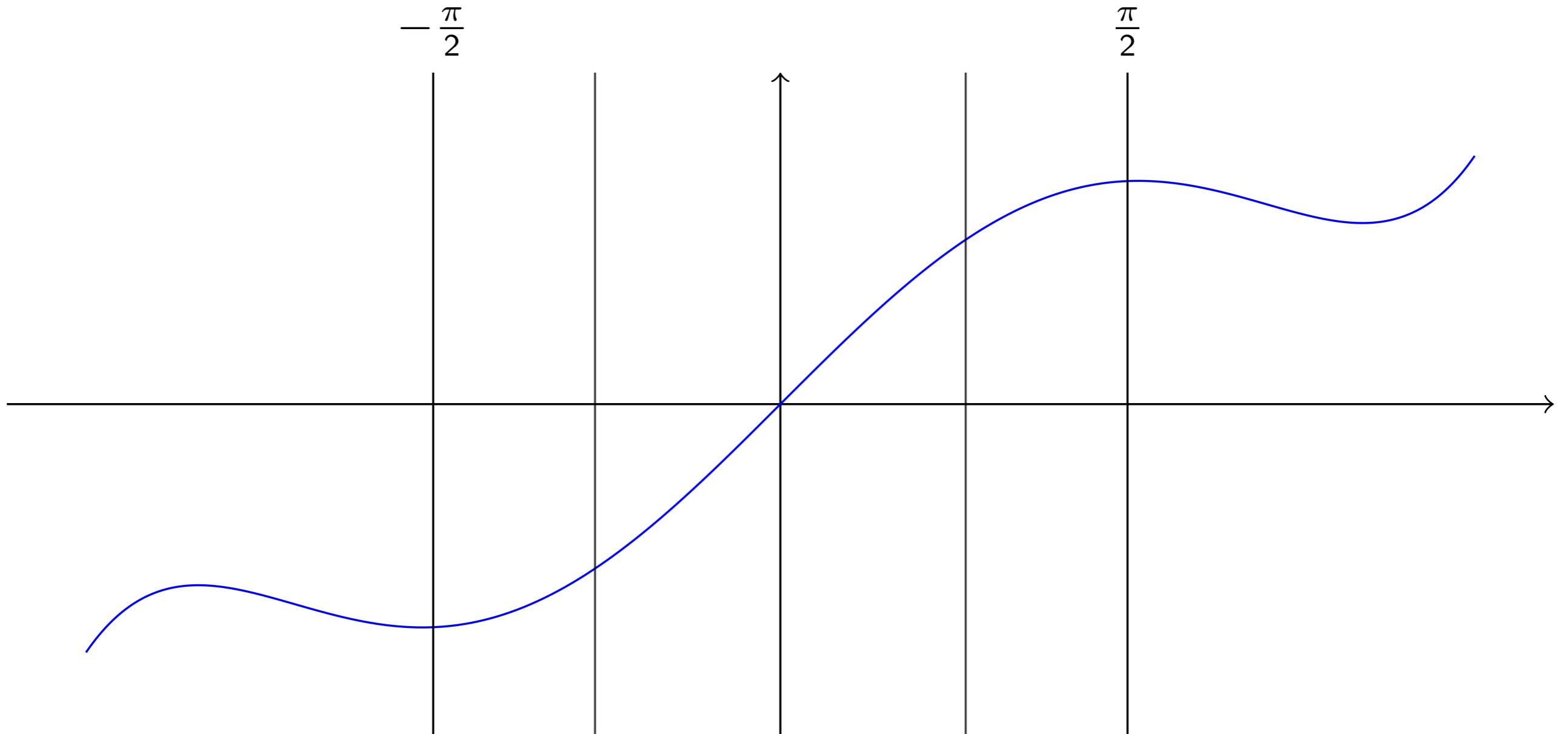
# Implementation



# Number of partitions vs. tightness of bound

result  $\leq 2.0$

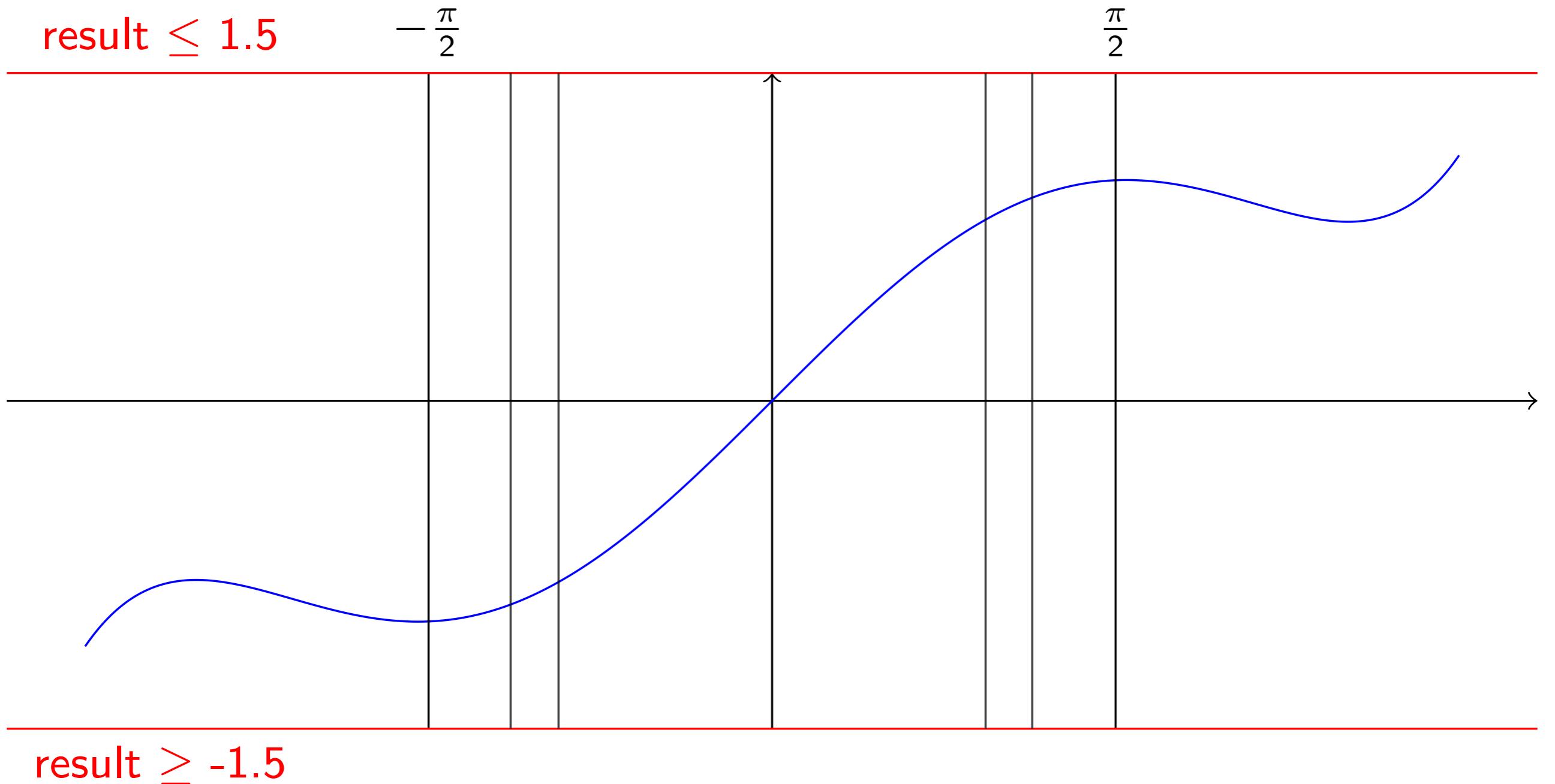
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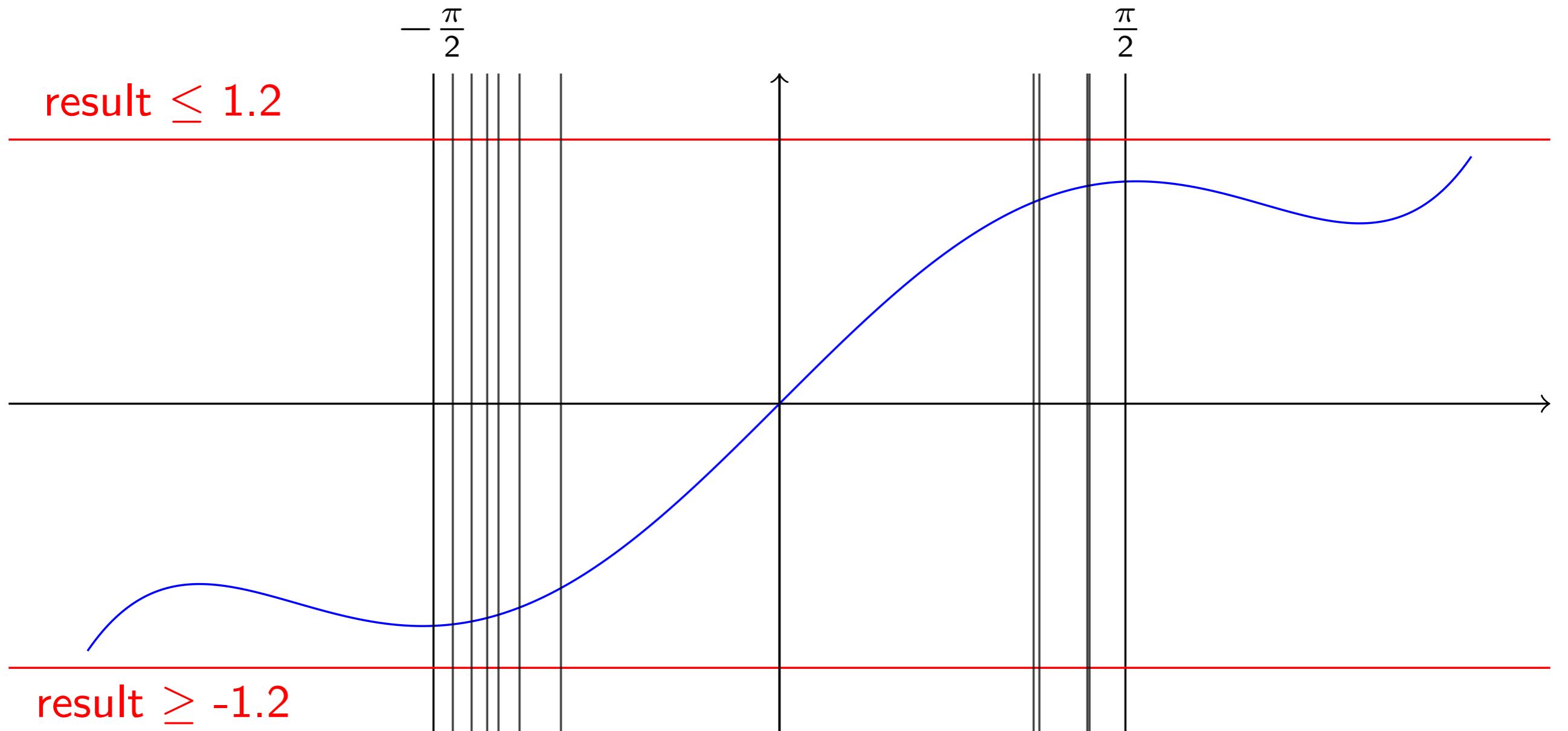
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result  $\geq -2.0$

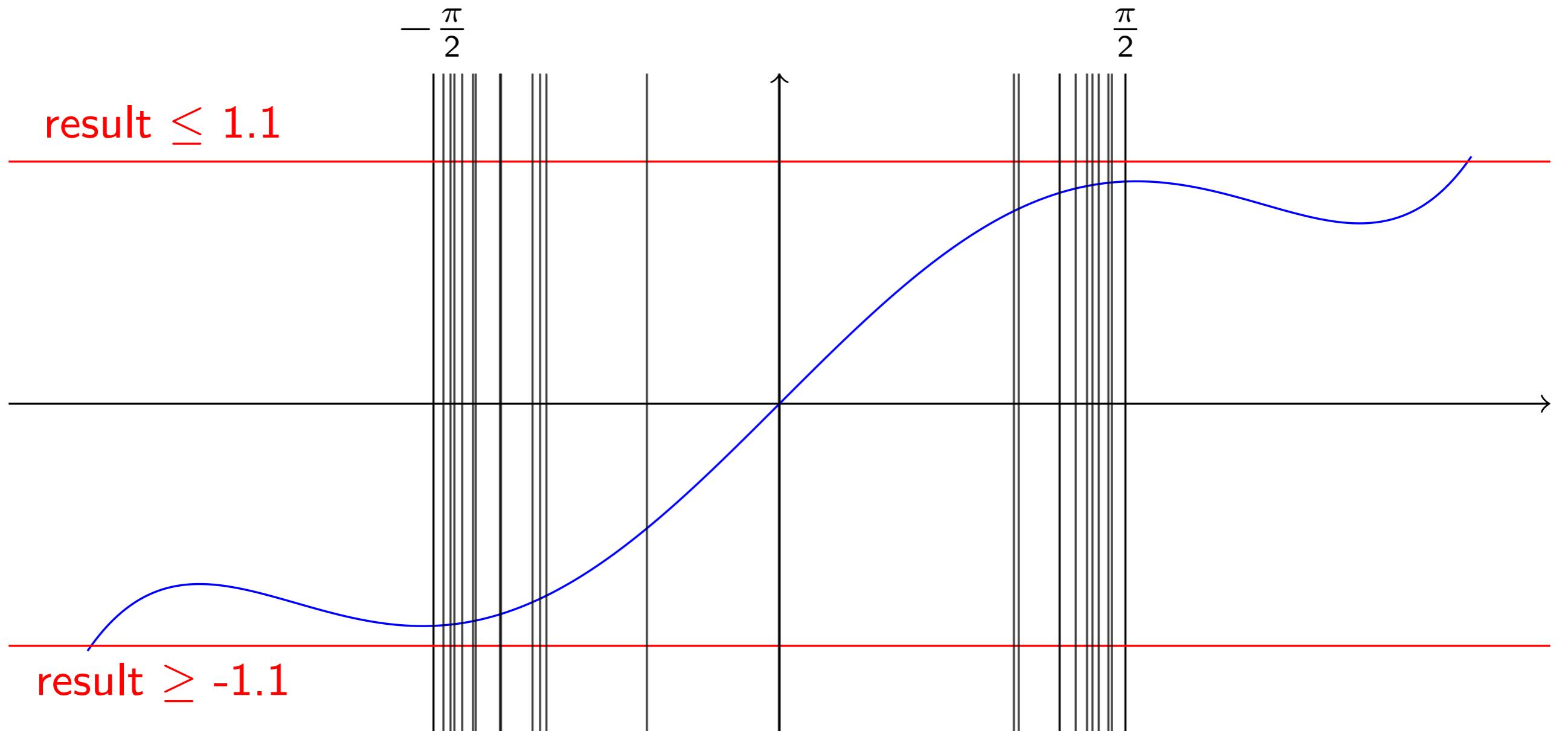
# Number of partitions vs. tightness of bound



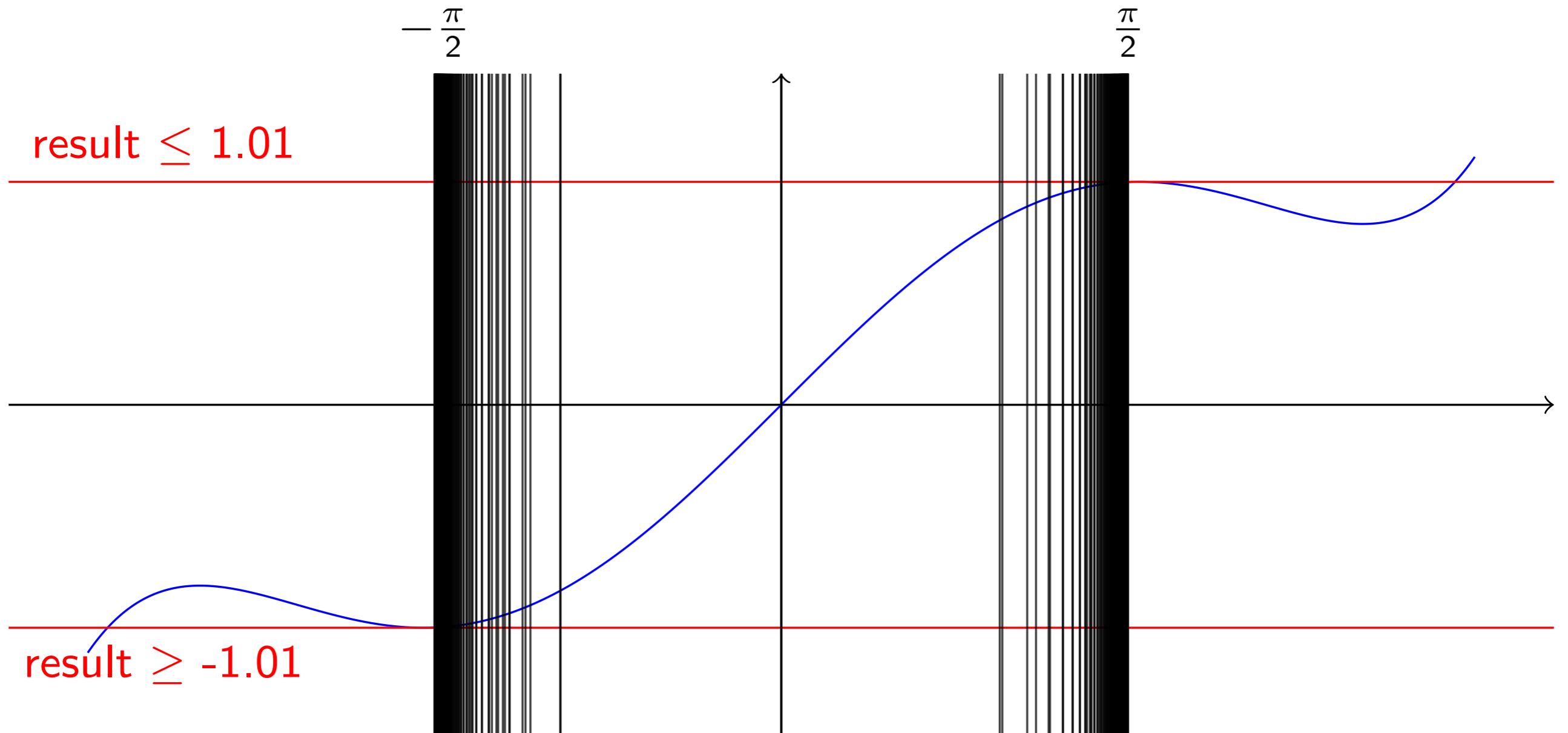
# Number of partitions vs. tightness of bound



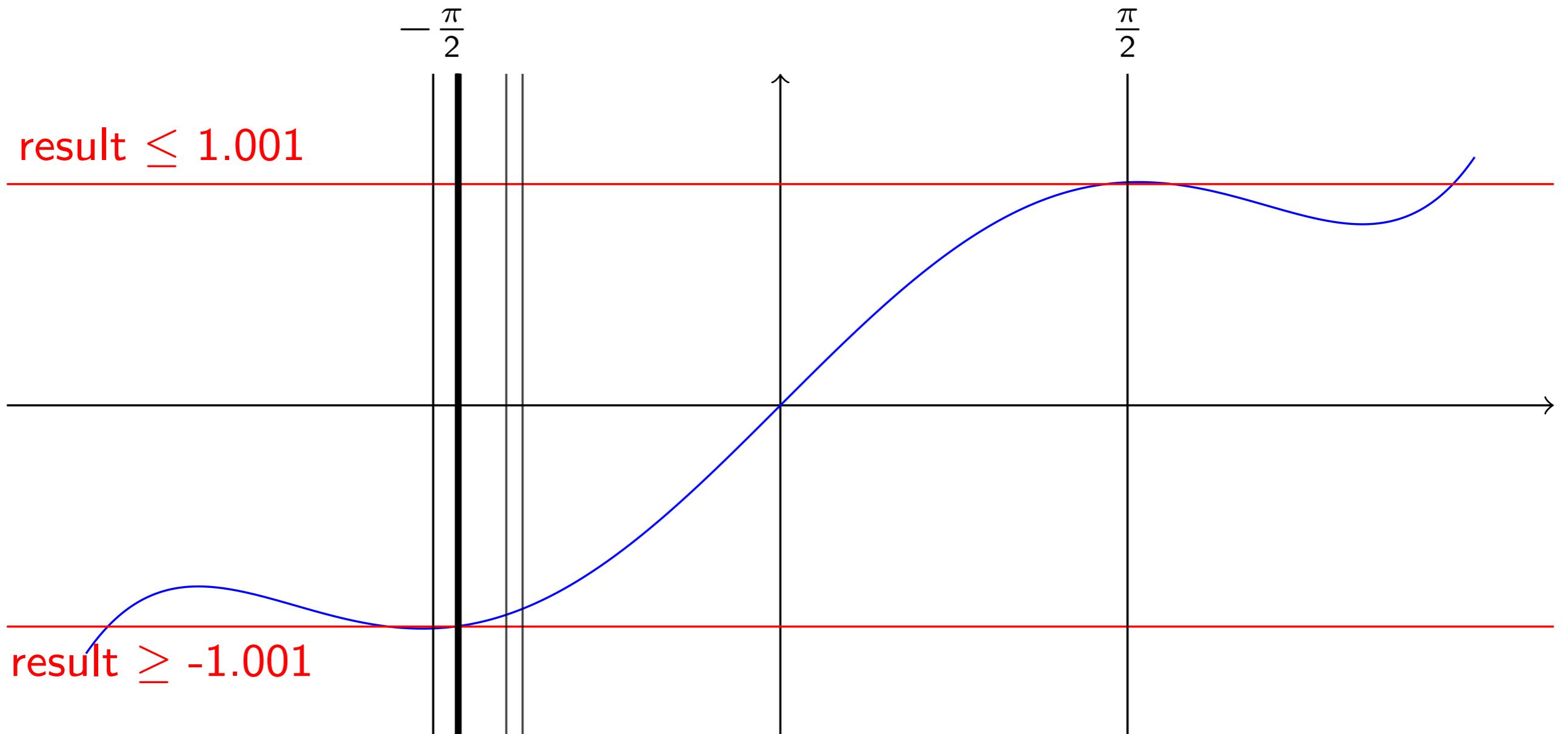
# Number of partitions vs. tightness of bound



# Number of partitions vs. tightness of bound

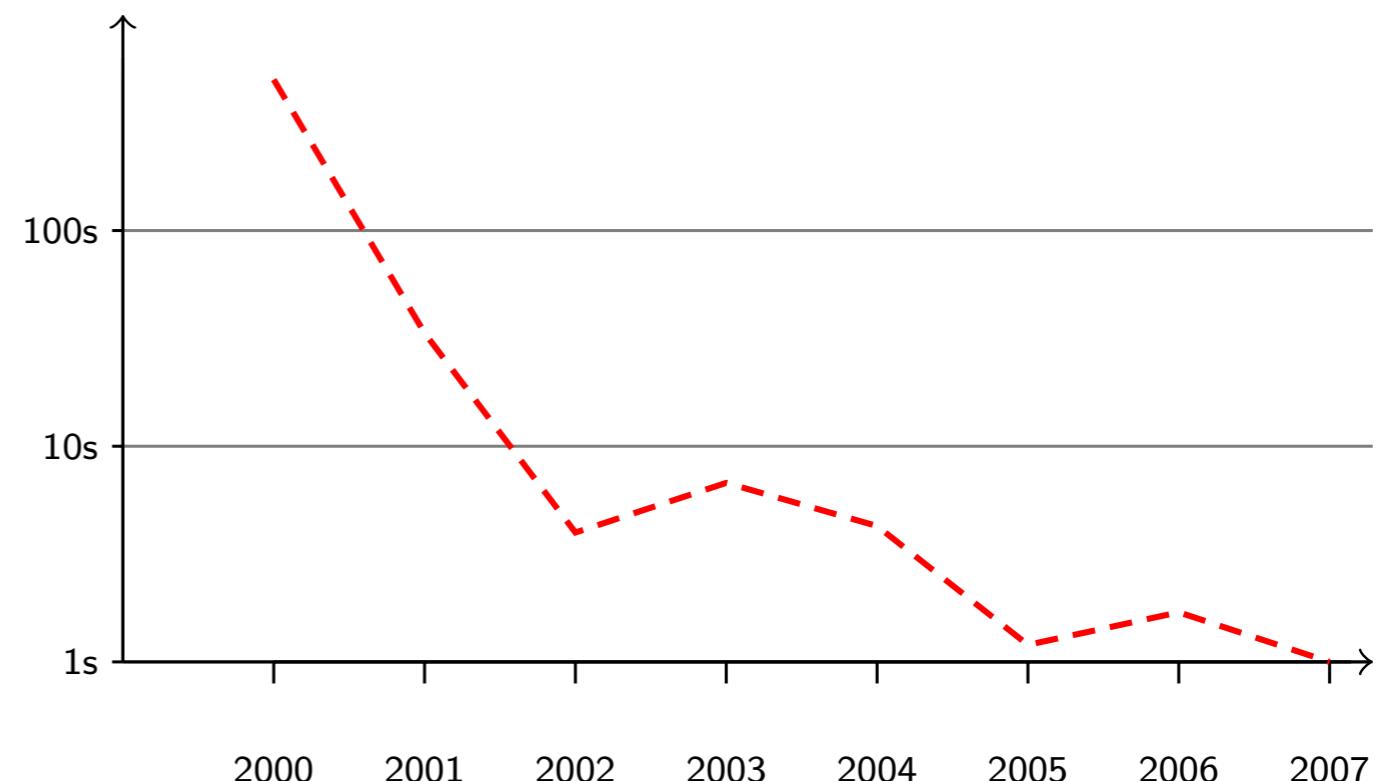


# Number of partitions vs. tightness of bound



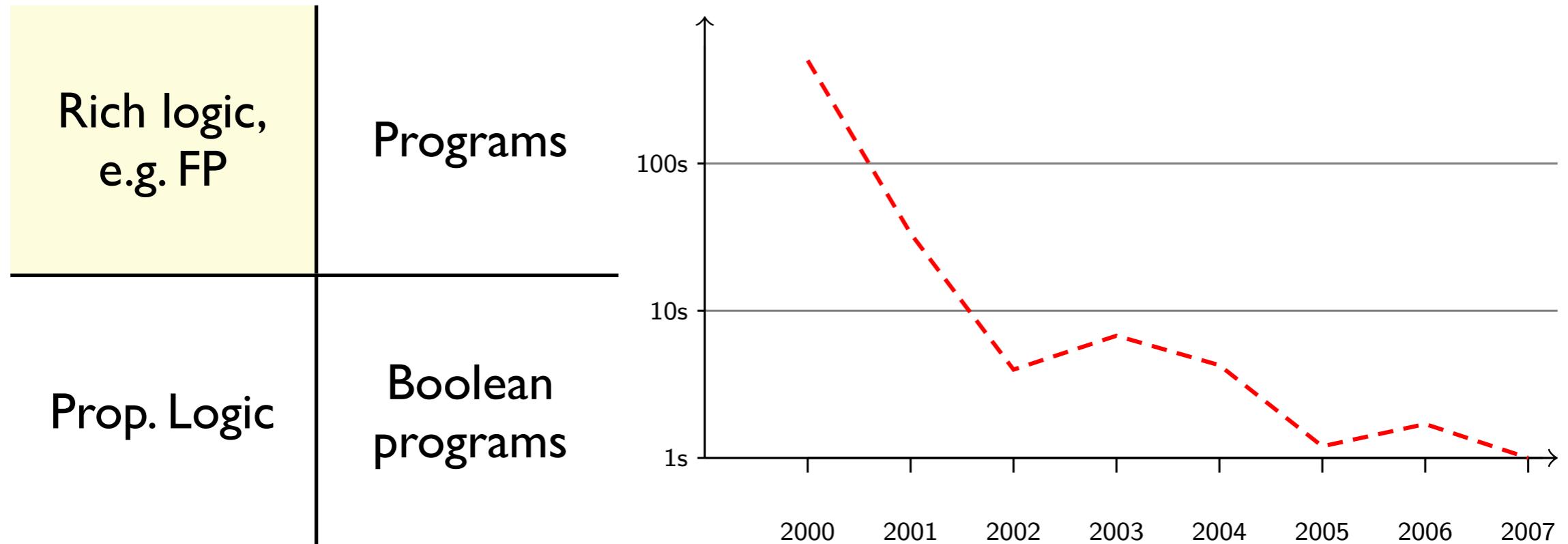
# Current and Future Work

- Develop an SMT solver for floating point logic
- Model on the success of propositional SAT:
  - Simple abstract domain
  - Highly efficient data structures



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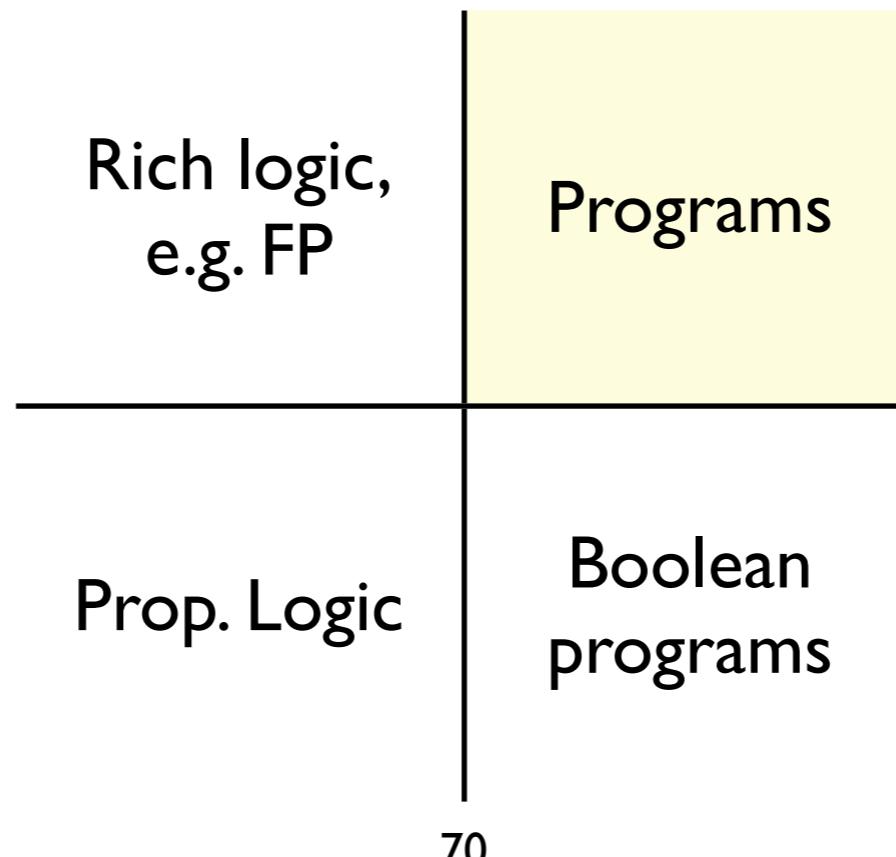


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- Reengineer prototype into a tool for floating point verification
  - Significantly improved efficiency
  - Generic interface for integrating abstract domains
  - Development and generalisation of heuristics and learning strategies

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- Reengineer prototype into a tool for floating point verification
  - Significantly improved efficiency
  - Generic interface for integrating abstract domains
  - Development and generalisation of heuristics and learning strategies



# Refining loops with ACDL

- Currently, loops cause imprecision in our analysis
- Analysis may fail to prove safety

```
void foo()
{
    int i = -1;

    while(*)
        i *= -1;

    assert(i != 0);
}
```

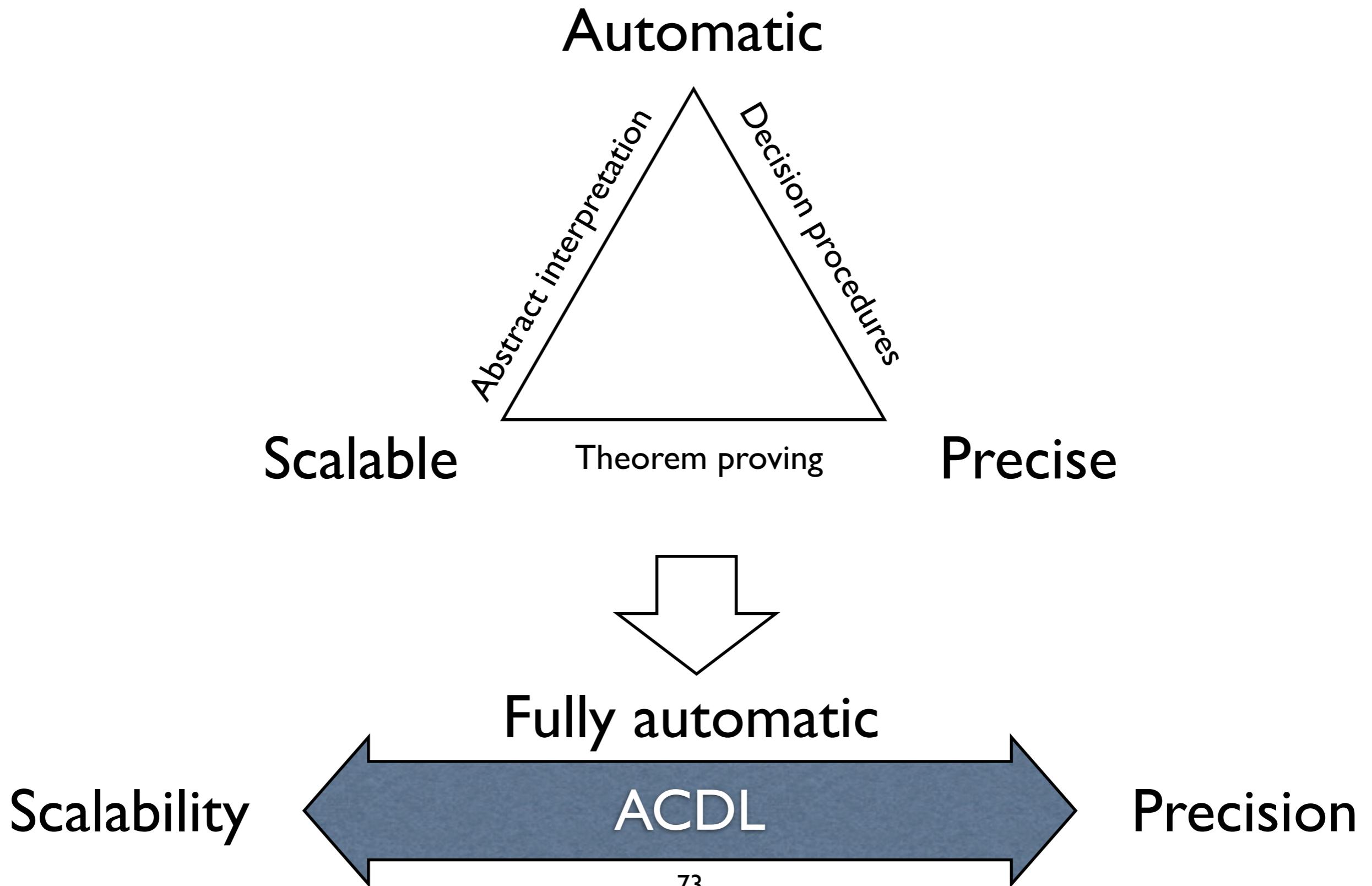
Successful analysis requires distinguishing  
between even and odd numbers of loop iterations

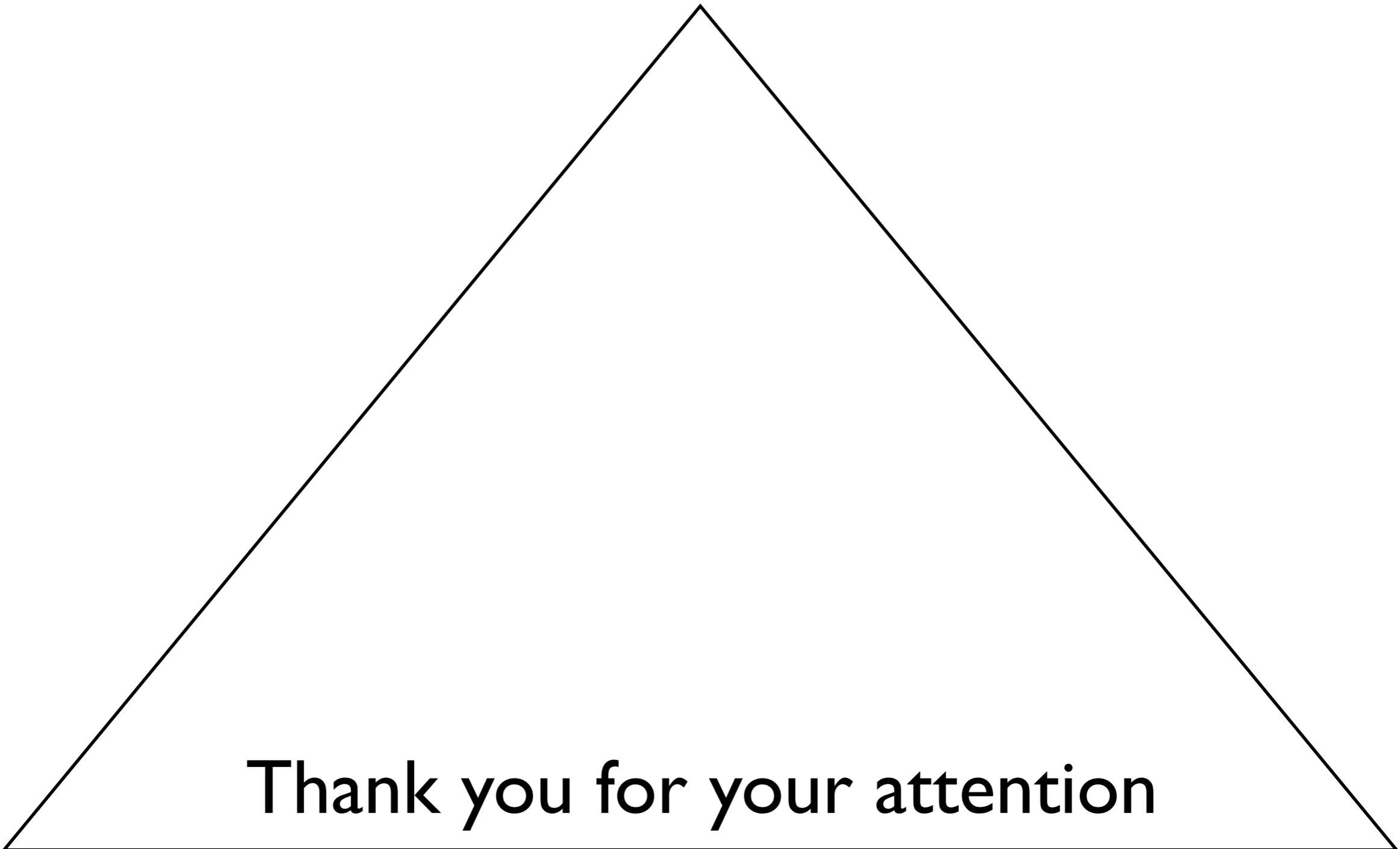
# Refining loops with ACDL

- Solution: Apply the SAT algorithm to control flow itself
  - Make decisions over control-flow (e.g., assume odd number of loop iterations)
  - Learning permanently alters control flow
- Resulting analysis can dynamically vary precision from full abstraction to precise case exploration



# Conclusion - Part II



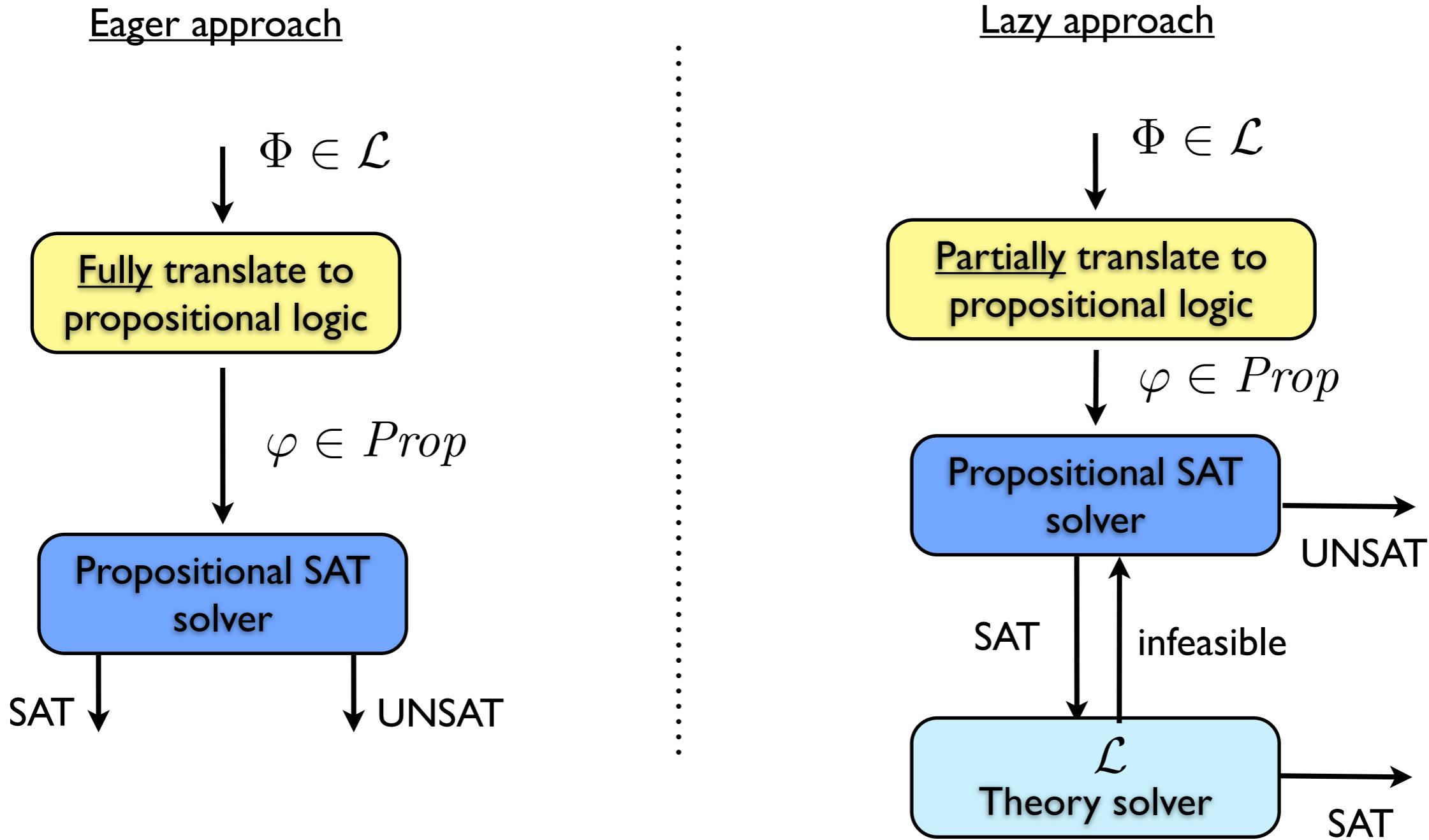


Thank you for your attention

# Additional slides

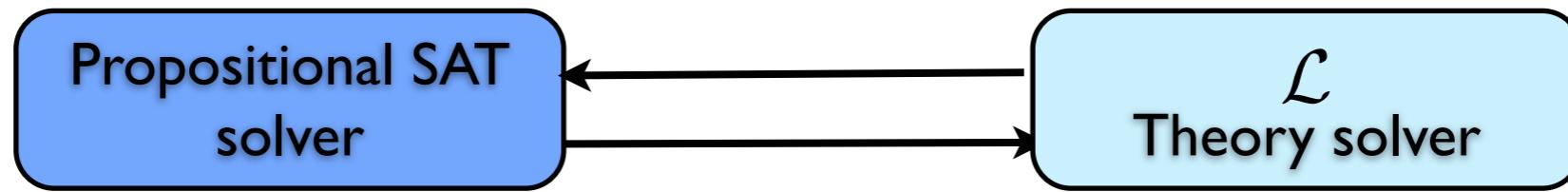
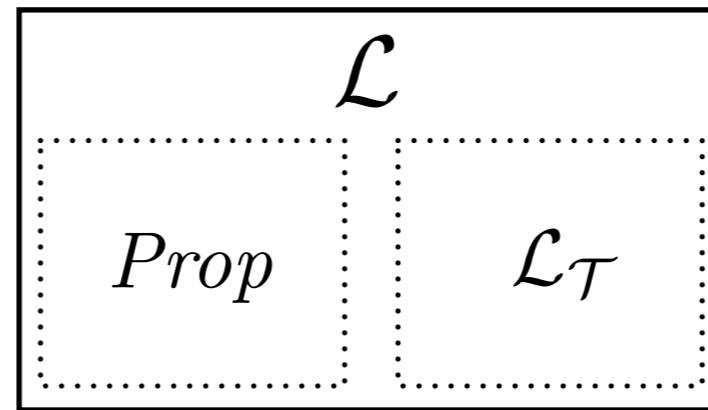
# Lazy and eager SMT

Two approaches to lift SAT to a richer logic  $\mathcal{L}$



## Limits of lazy SMT for FP

Lazy SMT works if the logic can be decomposed into an efficiently solvable theory component and a propositional component.



The approach breaks down if significant communication is necessary between the two.

Due to the non-numeric behaviour in floating-point arithmetic such as rounding, special values, etc., there is no clear decomposition. Therefore, analysis is often performed over the real numbers instead, which may lead to unsound results.

# Collected references

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S. Boldo and J.C. Filliâtre. Formal verification of floating-point programs. ARITH 2007

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## Applications



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J. O'Leary, X. Zhao, R. Gerth, C.H. Seger. Formally Verifying IEEE Compliance of Floating-Point Hardware



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